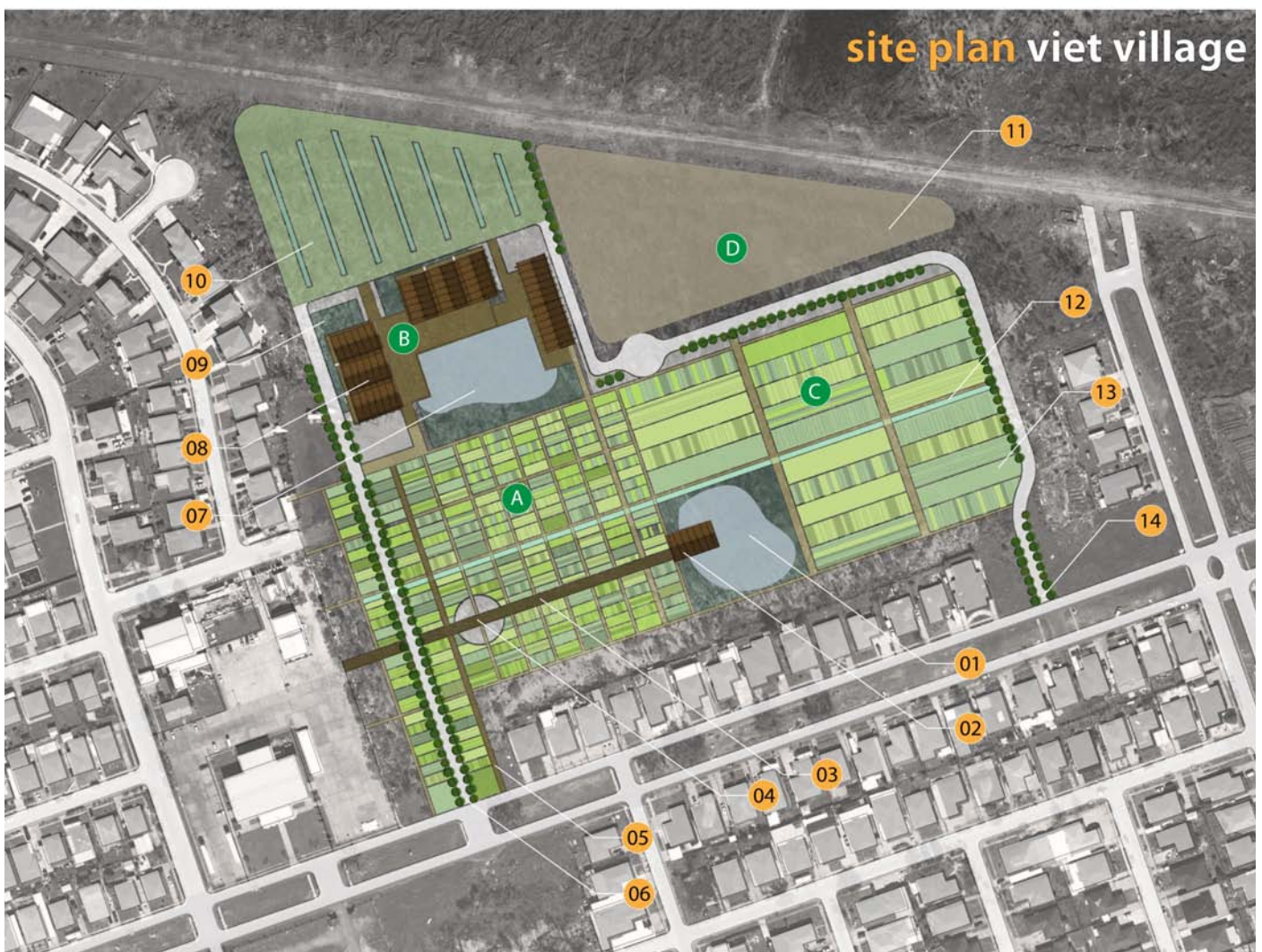


introduction and site plan viet village

Viet Village Urban Farm is an urban farming project located in New Orleans East, an area hard hit by Katrina. The design team assisted the community with the design of the environmental infrastructural systems needed to support an organic urban farming operation, the design of a market area to serve as a community resource and economic catalyst for the community and the development of a flexible, strategic plan for seeking funding for the project and incorporating various labor resources.

Viet Village is a thriving Vietnamese-American community located in New Orleans East that was established in the mid-1970's. One of the first activities of the early Vietnamese in New Orleans was the establishment of home-based gardens to grow the traditional fruits and vegetables that weren't available locally. These gardens were informal and widely scattered across the community: in vacant lots, along the edge of levees, in backyards, anywhere that had decent soil and access to water. Before the devastation of Katrina, there were over 30 acres being farmed throughout the community. There was also a well-established tradition of informal markets in the community, developed as an outlet to sell produce the local growers did not consume in their homes.



There are 4 main areas on the farm: **A** small plots that are located near the church and elderly housing across the street, **B** the market located at the back of the site due to a land-lease arrangement with the City of New Orleans, **C** commercial plots located near **D** the livestock farm to share back of house infrastructure and service roads.

- 01 Central Reservoir
- 02 Community Pavilion
- 03 Central Boardwalk / Linear Market
- 04 Children's Play Area
- 05 Pedestrian Entrance from Street
- 06 Public Vehicular Entrance
- 07 Secondary Reservoir / Market Pond

- 08 Market Buildings
- 09 Rain Gardens for Market Runoff
- 10 GrassPave Event Parking with Bio-swales
- 11 Livestock Farm Operation / Composting
- 12 Central Bio-Filtration Canal
- 13 Commercial Lots
- 14 Service Entrance

New Orleans, LA



- 01 Central Business District and French Quarter
- 02 Viet Village- New Orleans East
- 03 Lake Pontchartrain
- 04 Mississippi River
- 05 Site



Viet Village, New Orleans East

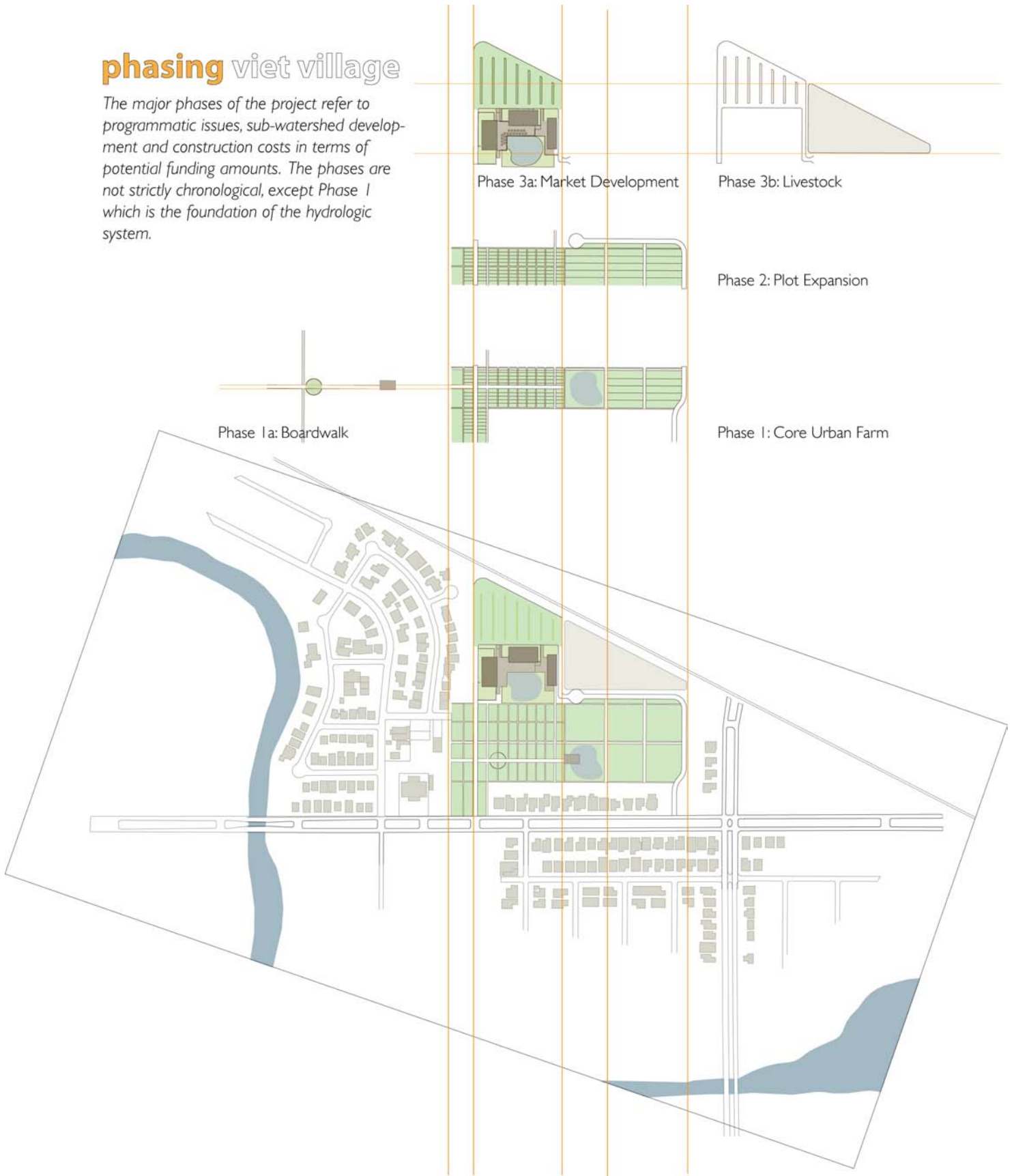


This Site Aerial Perspective was developed early in the process to help the community see the potential of the full development of their ideas for the farm.

The Viet Village Urban Farm project represents an effort to reestablish the tradition of local farming in this community after Katrina. New Orleans East was one of the most damaged areas of the city during the storms of 2005. In response to the devastation, the community has organized around the idea of creating an urban farm and market as the center of the community. The farm, located on 28-acres in the heart of the community, will be a combination of small-plot gardening for family consumption, larger commercial plots focused on providing food for local restaurants and grocery stores in New Orleans, and a livestock area for raising chickens and goats in the traditional Vietnamese way. The proposed market on the site will provide a location for the individual farmers to supplement their income as well as serve as a central meeting space for the larger Vietnamese community along the Gulf Coast. Based on the history of the markets in the area before Katrina, as many as 3,000 people are expected to come to the site for a Saturday market, perhaps more on traditional festival days. Specialty vegetables and foods used in Vietnamese cuisine will be sold at the market. Local Vietnamese restaurants will have a space to sell prepared food during market days as well.

phasing viet village

The major phases of the project refer to programmatic issues, sub-watershed development and construction costs in terms of potential funding amounts. The phases are not strictly chronological, except Phase 1 which is the foundation of the hydrologic system.



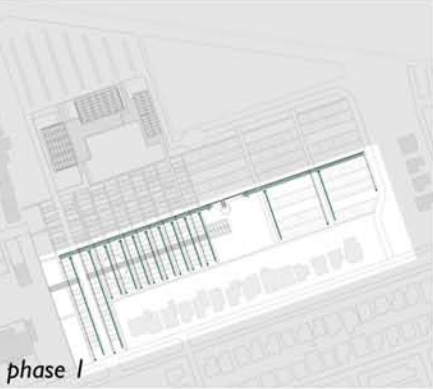


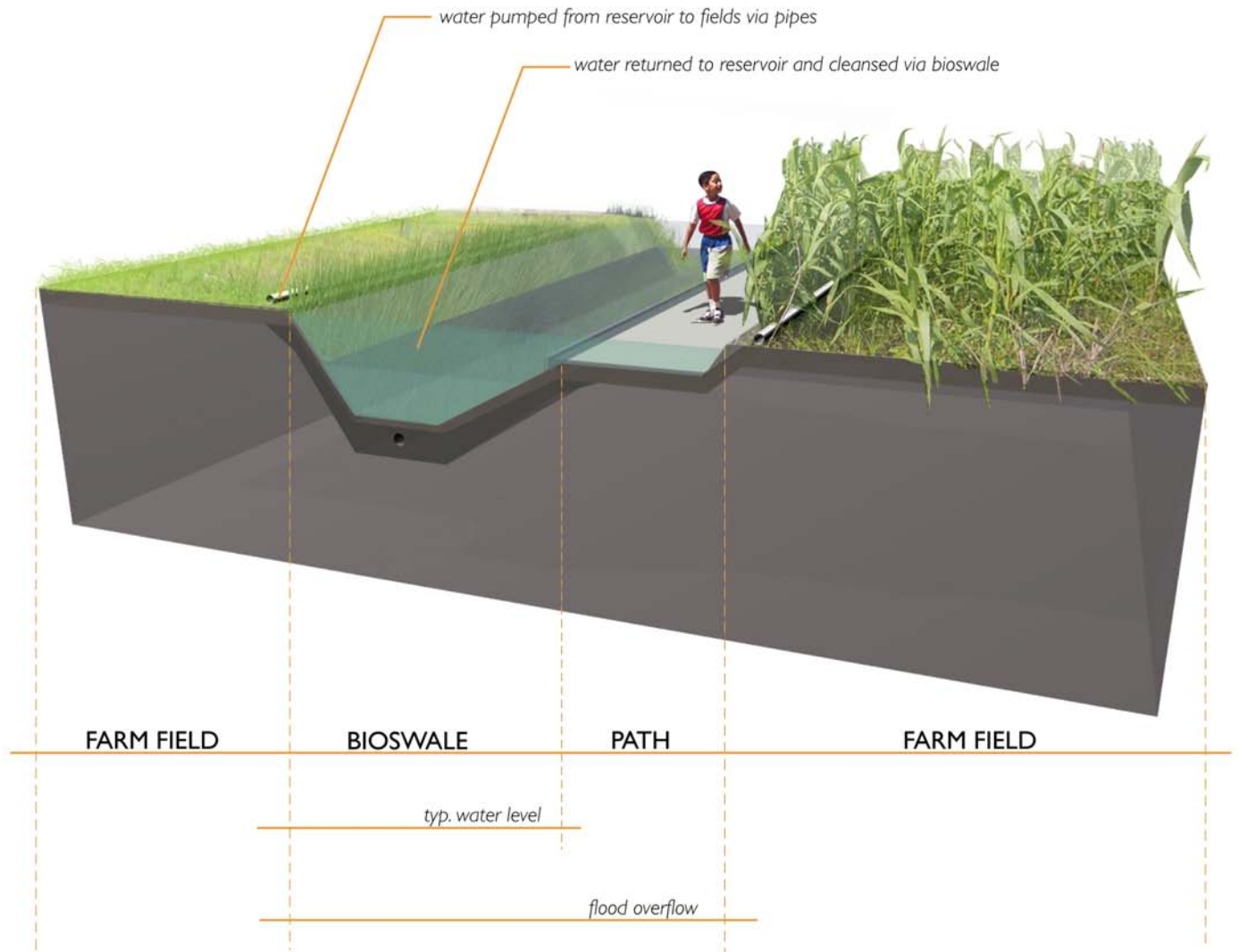
Phase 1: perspective of main boardwalk running through farm plots.
The Central Reservoir and Community Pavilion are in the distance.



Phase 2: perspective looking toward Market.

- 01 central bioswale
- 02 resevoir 1
- 03 wind mill and water pump
- 04 water access points for fields
- 05 wetland garden
- 06 grass paver parking lot with bioswales
- 07 resevoir 2

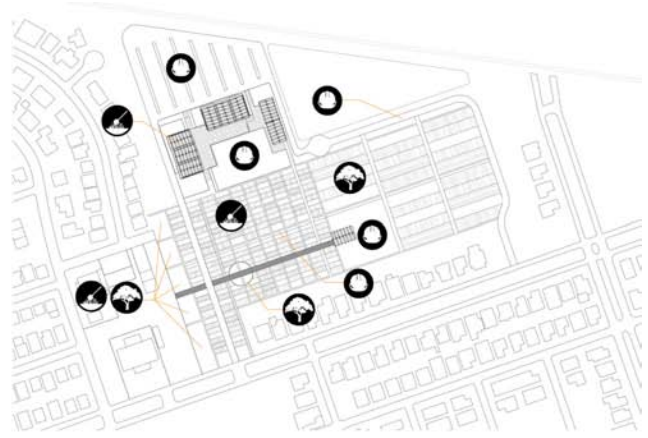




The site, a portion of which was donated by the City of New Orleans, has significant water and soil issues. It is located in an area with a high water table and frequent flooding during storm events. The site is essentially flat and lacks positive drainage. At the beginning of analysis for the project, the movement of water across the site quickly became one of the key considerations for how the site is to be developed. Water for irrigation of the crops needs to have multiple access points, especially in the areas of small community garden plots where 40-50 individual access points are needed. The runoff from irrigation must be drained back to the central location through a series of bio-swailes to aid in water cleansing. A secondary system for stormwater runoff during heavy rains must be established to prevent the farm sites from flooding and ruining the crops. The soil on the site, the locally notorious Kenner Muck, is a poorly draining soil that exists throughout this entire area of New Orleans. The slow permeability and great depth of this soil series requires careful consideration of how the water on the site operates to prevent waterlogged soils.

labor resources viet village

In addition to site issues, the project has a complex array of funding and labor resources that it must coordinate to complete the project. Understanding the different sources of funding the community was pursuing and the nature of the funding agencies was a key piece of analysis in this process. The group had resources ranging from high school students that wanted to volunteer a weekend to work on the project to large foundations and government organizations with sophisticated applications and funding rules. The community needed to develop a strategic plan that could integrate these resources in a way that was complementary.



UNSKILLED VOLUNTEER



- planting trees
- constructing playground equipment
- constructing farm plot fences
- building paths and bridges



SKILLED VOLUNTEER



- clearing the site
- maintaining compost
- constructing boardwalk
- constructing windmill
- constructing market structures



PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTING

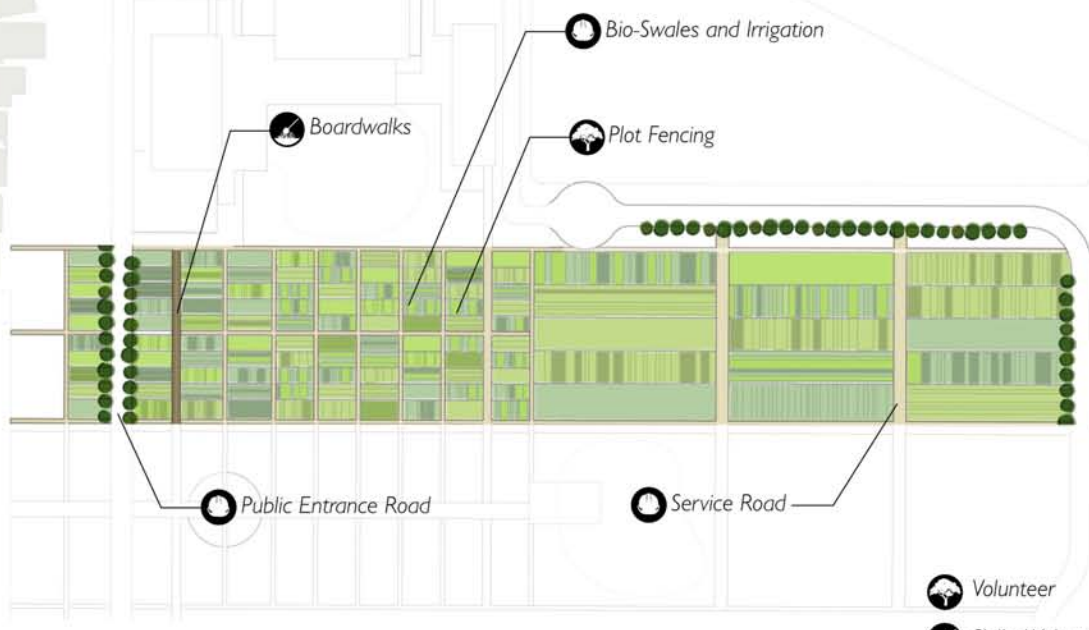


- road construction
- soils testing
- water infrastructure construction
- digging reservoirs

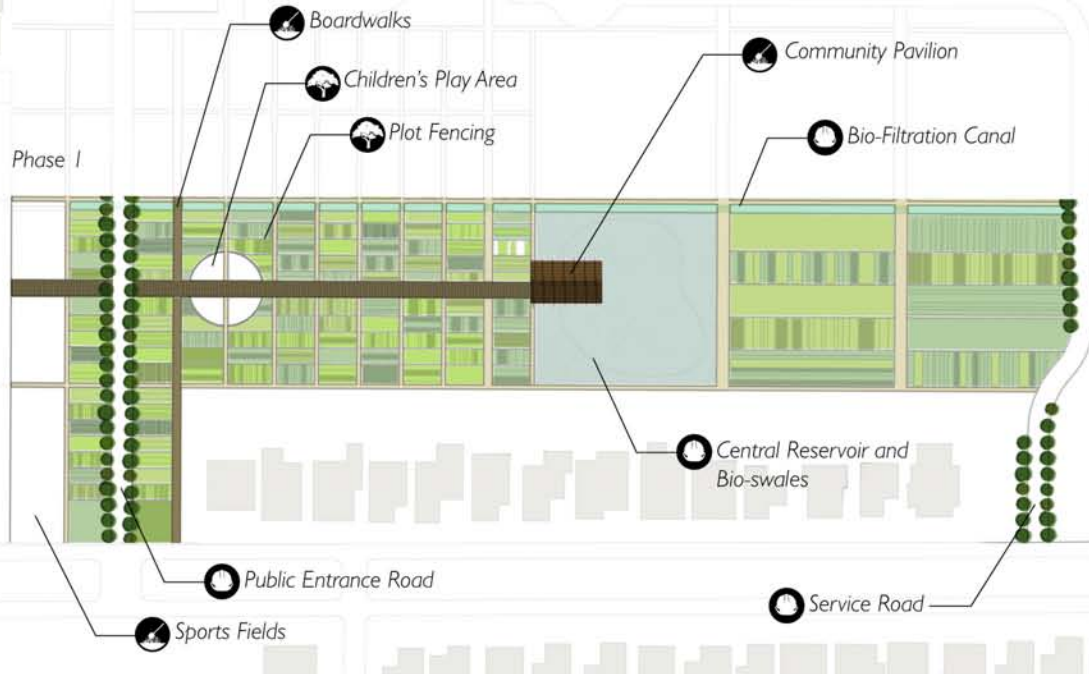
COMMUNITY + PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION



02 phase 2



01 phase 1



Site / Technical Issues

All green waste generated on the site will be composted for general farm and gardening use, and in future will be available for commercial sale. In future this facility can be expanded to recycle waste from the surrounding community as a means of expanding the commercial side of this operation.



Conditions, methods, and guidelines for poultry farming have been too extensively researched by the University of Montana Environmental Studies Program to be mentioned here, but an exhaustive document given to the MQVN CDC will help guide them in the set-up and management of the poultry farming on site.



Parking is placed at the rear of the site to be near the market as well as to limit its impact on the site and surrounding neighborhood. Paving materials across the site will maintain a low environmental impact, using resourceful technologies to handle drainage, particularly potentially harmful runoff.



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The plan is organized rationally to try and make most efficient use of the area, maximize productivity and create inviting and attractive spaces for community use. The different uses are located to take advantage of site features.

The main public entry to the site comes off Alcee Fortier closest to the Mary Queen of Vietnam Church. From the entry a processional avenue leads directly to the market facilities clustered in the north-west quadrant of the site. The market includes a major parking area and outdoor plazas and eating areas. Around the main avenue and immediately east of it the main community gardens are grouped. These are laid out like agricultural plots and smaller groups of plots share shaded pavilions and small storage sheds. Also in this part of the site are a playground for small children and a sports field for older children. The eastern part of the site is largely devoted to commercial agriculture with a livestock area for raising poultry along the northern boundary and commercial agricultural plots organized around a small lake used for water management and irrigation. At the eastern site entrance is another small area of community garden plots allowing easy access to residents from further east of the site.



Chương trình được tổ chức và sắp xếp hợp lý để sử dụng đúng chức năng khu vực, tạo lực sản xuất tối đa, và tạo sức thu hút cho việc sử dụng khu vực với cộng đồng. Khu vườn được chia ra thành những khu vực để tận dụng hình thái của khoảng đất.

Con đường chính để vào khoảng đất nằm trên đường Dwyer sát bên nhà thờ Maria Nữ Vương Việt Nam. Từ cổng chính vào là một hành lang dẫn thẳng vào khu vực chợ quần tụ ở góc phía tây bắc của khoảng đất. Khu vực chợ gồm có một khoảng đất đậu xe lớn và các quầy trường và khu vực ăn uống. Quanh con đường chính và sát phía đông của con đường này là một khu vực quần tụ các vườn. Các vườn được chia ra thành những mảnh nhỏ. Cứ một số mảnh nhỏ này lại sử dụng chung một mái nhà với những nhà kho nhỏ. Cũng trong khu vực này còn có những sân chơi cho các trẻ nhỏ và một sân vận động cho các thanh thiếu niên. Vùng phía đông của khoảng đất hầu hết được dành cho những ruộng đồng công nghiệp với một khu dành cho súc vật để nuôi gà quanh một cái hồ dùng để quản lý nước và dẫn thủy nhập điền. Tại cổng phía đông của khoảng đất còn có một quần tụ những vườn nhỏ để những người làm vườn sống gần đó để ra vào hơn.

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community viet village

excerpts from Project Book developed to facilitate funding and community involvement. Written in English and Vietnamese.....

pictures from community meeting



meetings were simultaneously translated into Vietnamese to assist members of the community.