Interpretive Opportunities

"The chief aim of Interpretation is not instruction, but provocation."
- Freeman Tilden

Discovery Trail - Sequenced Experiential Story
- Notice the season. What do you see, smell, hear and feel? What are the animals eating?
- Whats that Smell? Soil and water chemistry
- Bird Songs at the Preserve
- Tree and Plant Textures and changes
- Rainbow of Colors - Plants and Animals what their color can tell us.
- Taste - Can you imagine what different animals eat? What does that tell us?

Entry Kiost
- History of the Silt River Preserve
- Preserve Regulations & Rules
- Preserve Map &Trail System

General Interpretive Sign Topics
- Migratory Birds
- Predators & Prey
- Water Fowl
- Raptors
- Aquatic Insects
- Native Fish Populations
- Hydrological Cycle
- How Restoration Works
- Community Supported Agriculture
- Agriculture And Wildlife
- Eagle Nests
- Cottonwood Forest Ecosystems
- Deer Seasonal Migration & Family Structure
- History Of Agriculture Colorado River Valley
- The Colorado River And Watershed

Colorado River
Future trail connection
Accessible fishing access 6
36" crusher fines accessible trail
Two-track turn around
Riparian Enhancement E
Seating & birdwatching area 5
Wildlife Blind
Cottonwood Forest Enhancement D
Raised wildlife viewing platform
River amphitheater 11
Riparian Preservation
Discourage Access to Island Seasonal Raptor Closure Naturalist Led Explorations
Bald Eagle Nest 300' Foot Setback
Riparian Preservation
Cottonwood Forest Preservation
Riparian Enhancement E
Historic Floodplain Creation C
Classroom shelter or amphitheater
Fishing dock with railing 12
2 Scope
36" crusher fines accessible trail
Raised wildlife viewing platform 4
Wetland Creation G
Future trail connection
Last Chance Ditch
Riparian Creation & Bank Restoration F
4 Acre Recreational Pond
Wildlife Blind
Outdoor Classroom & Scope 10 8
Way-Finding signs at all intersections in trail system 2
Wildlife/bird watching blind
18" Dirt single track trail
Gated trail with regulations sign
Raised wildlife viewing platform
Wetland Creation G
Historic Floodplain Creation C
Historic Floodplain Creation C
12' Dirt two-track trail
Entry Kiosk & Seating
Stabilize and restore existing barn. Utilize as agricultural interpretive center
Agricultural Restoration Hayfields A
Upland Enhancement B
Recreational dock & pond access
Picnic area
Cottonwood Forest Enhancement D
Entry Monument
Restrooms or Portable Toilet Shelter
Cottonwood Forest Preservation
Bald Eagle Nest 300' Foot Setback
Picnic & Natural Play Area 9 3
Cottonwood Forest Preservation
Cottonwood Forest Enhancement D
Agricultural Restoration Community Supported Agriculture
Agricultural Restoration Hayfields A
Agricultural Restoration Community Supported Agriculture
1
Dry Hollow Creek
New Lessee Opportunity
Rising Sun Ditch
Upland Enhancement B
Expand Swift Water Farms Operations
Small scale livestock & grazing operations, 4H partnership opportunity
Community Compost Drop Off
Maintain Agricultural Access
Future Parking Expansion
Vehicle Drop-Off
Cottonwoods planted and irrigated for shade and shelter at entrance
Maintain Agricultural Access
Preserve Parking
38 spaces, 2 accessible spaces, school bus parking
Orchards
Demonstration & Pollinator Gardens
Realigned Preserve Entry
New Culvert

Silt River Preserve Master Plan

ASPEN VALLEY LAND TRUST

SILT

scale
0 50 100 200

Legend

- Existing Vegetation
- Proposed Vegetation
- Picnic Tables
- Outdoor Gathering Area/ Amphitheater
- Bald Eagle Nest & Setback
- Raised Wildlife Viewing Platform
- Wildlife Blind
- Scope
- Outdoor Classroom
- Natural Play Equipment
- Entry Kiosk
- Benches
- Way-Finding & Interpretive Signage

A Agricultural Restoration - Hayfields
- Remediate irrigation and soil to encourage partnerships and leasing activities.
- Drill seed cover crops and aggressive cool and warm season grasses into degraded historic agricultural landscapes post goat or other noxious vegetation control efforts.
- Build ecological function contribute to restoration of the property through agricultural methods
- Overall Agricultural Study: Review irrigation/water usage needs for current operations and potential for expansion. Review how agricultural use could be used to build healthy soils for the property. Establish agricultural grazing needs and use for the benefit to promote ecological health. Discuss how to treat noxious vegetation to the extent needed for ecological restoration without detriment to agricultural practices and intentions (organic farming).

B Upland Enhancement
- Noxious Vegetation Management (adaptive management strategies to promote establishment of native vegetation)
- Drill seed woody and herbaceous vegetation to restore ecological matrix.
- Establish irrigation needs for restoration of southern fields.

C Historic Floodplain Creation
- Noxious Vegetation Management (adaptive management strategies to promote establishment of native vegetation)
- Drill seed woody and herbaceous vegetation to restore ecological matrix.
- Establish irrigation needs for restoration of northern field. Improve transport of water from the Rising Sun Ditch to the northern field portion of the property. Improve flood irrigation or implement temporary infrastructure for restoration needs

D Cottonwood Forest Enhancement
- Control noxious vegetation through adaptive means.
- Plant and fence cottonwoods to establish a multi aged stand. Modular fencing and pods of planting will mimic natural conditions.
- Establish temporary above ground restoration irrigation.
- Seed and plan under story vegetation.
- At the interface of the riparian area install willow stakes where connectivity to the ground water and hydrology exists.
- Hazard Tree Management: (in areas used for recreational activities, monitor and manage trees for removal of hazardous limbs and hazardous dead snags or standing trees)
- Design and construct viewable eagle nest wildlife trails, benches, birdwatching areas, blinds, and educational signs for wildlife viewing purposes.

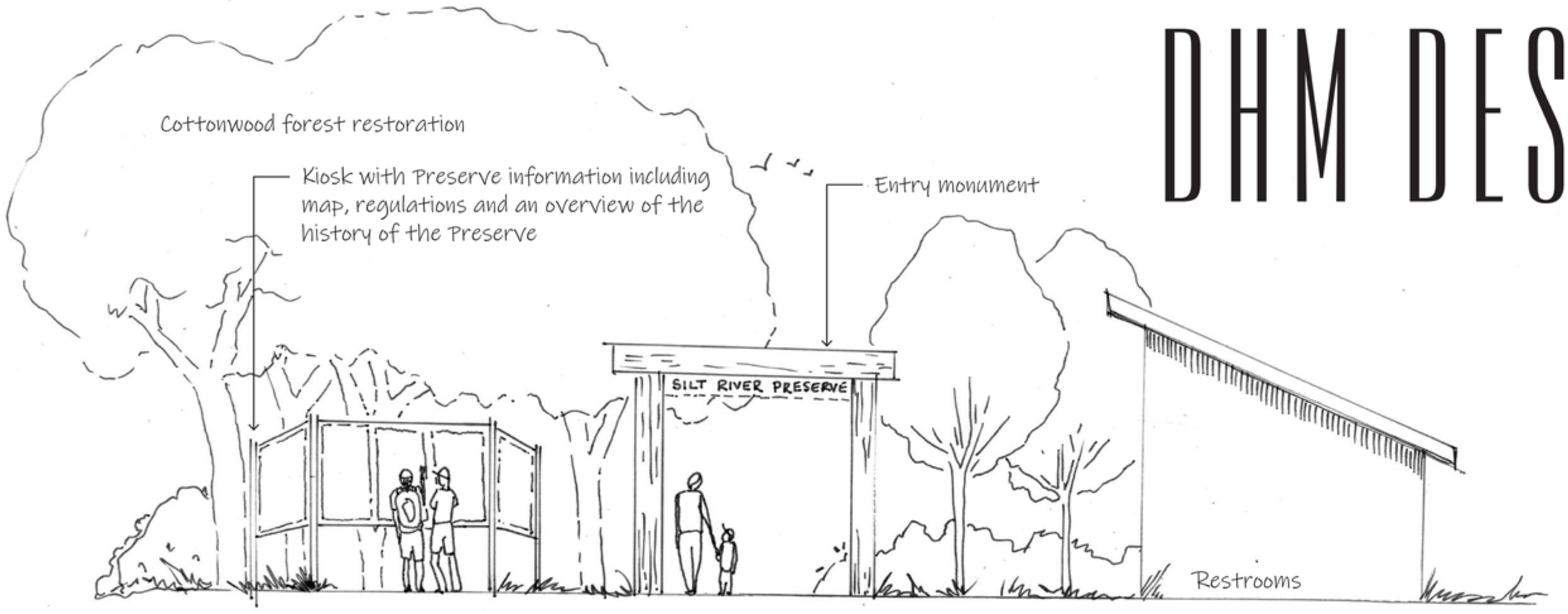
E Riparian Enhancement
- Plant a matrix of riparian woody vegetation including cottonwoods and various willow species.
- Use modular fencing to protect these areas for establishment.
- Reconfigure irrigation infrastructure for overflow from ditch systems to inundate these areas
- Create trail systems that interface with these areas with clear pathways
- Create an developed fishing access zone.
- Install bird watch areas in specified locations
- Install bird and bat boxes throughout.
- Woody Vegetation Removal and Management (remove all Siberian elm, Russian olive, and salt cedar from the property in 5 - 10 years.

F Riparian Creation & Bank Restoration
- Grade back and stabilize scoured bank
- Plant a matrix of riparian woody vegetation including cottonwoods and various willow species.
- Use modular fencing to protect these areas for establishment.
- Create trail systems that interface with these areas with clear pathways
- Create an developed fishing access zone.
- Install bird watch areas in specified locations
- Install bird and bat boxes throughout.

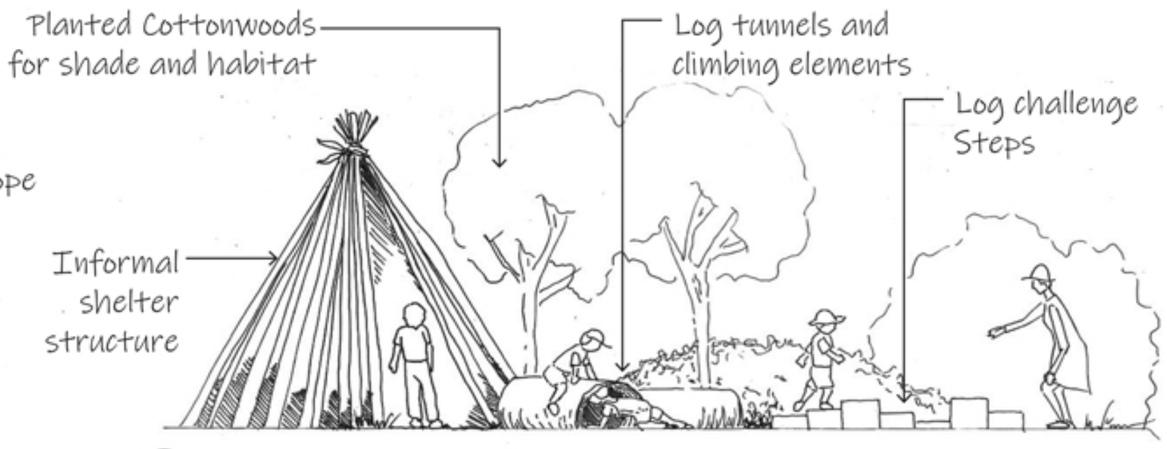
G Wetland Creation
- Create a series of marshy seasonal ponds to enhance wildlife habitat
- Redirect flow of water through pond system and utilize water to maintain hydrology in pond
- Reconfigure irrigation infrastructure for overflow of the Last Chance Ditch at west end of property. Restore the overflow ditch that was cut to divert water from the Last Chance Ditch.
- Create trail systems that interface with these areas but do not cross them.
- Install bird watch areas in specified locations
- Install bird and bat boxes throughout.
- Woody Vegetation Removal and Management (remove all Siberian elm, Russian olive, and salt cedar from the property in 5 - 10 years.

Timeline	Master Plan Activity	Implementation Priority	Volunteer Opportunity	Specialized Services Required (Design, Contractor, Expert Research/Collaboration)
0-3 Years	Agricultural Irrigation Systems: Audit agricultural irrigation systems and begin irrigate historic pasture and hayfields	1		x
	Agricultural Soil Conditions: Remediate agricultural soil conditions begin with soil testing and targeted enhancements	1		x
	Agricultural Study: Review irrigation/water usage needs for current operations and potential for expansion. Review how agricultural use could be used to build healthy soils for the property. Establish agricultural grazing needs and use for the benefit to promote ecological health. Discuss how to treat noxious vegetation to the extent needed for ecological restoration without detriment to agricultural practices and intentions (organic farming). Research and plan for agricultural operation that enhance wildlife value and use.	3		x
	Agricultural Weed Mitigation and Restoration: Drill seed cover crops and aggressive cool and warm season grasses into degraded historic hayfields and pastures	2		x
	Agricultural Weed Mitigation: Utilize a hybrid weed mitigation strategy on all agricultural lands. Use goats, times herbicide applications, burning and mowing regiments.	2		x
	Cottonwood Forest Restoration: Plant and fence cottonwoods to establish a multi aged stand. Install modular fencing around pods of planting to mimic natural conditions and prevent herbivory for establishment. Install temporary above ground irrigation. Seed all areas of bare ground with riparian seed mix.	1	x	x
	Entryway Improvements: Create picnic areas, build picnic tables, plant cottonwoods for shade and expand irrigation to this zone.	3	x	x
	Entryway Improvements: Design and install entry monument	2	x	x
	Entryway Improvements: Install new restroom facilities (Port-o-potty shelters or composting toilet systems)	2	x	x
	Entryway Improvements: Replant and irrigate cottonwoods at entrance	2	x	x
	Interpretive and Way finding Elements: Create dedicated landing page on Town of Silt Website with preserve information including; maps, regulations, interpretive information	3		x
	Interpretive and Way finding Elements: Design and have made way finding and interpretive signage	2		x
	Noxious Vegetation Management (Non-Agricultural Areas): Utilize adaptive management strategies to promote establishment of native vegetation	1		X
	Preservation Zone (Island): Limit use and access to this area. Install a seasonal closure sign for eagle nesting period near low water crossing area.	1		x
	Recreational Improvements: Design, permit and fund raise for ADA fishing access and river amphitheater	2		x
	Recreational Improvements: Expand existing trail system based off of layout of the master plan	2	x	
	Recreational Improvements: Hazard Tree Management; in areas used for recreational activities, monitor and manage trees for removal of hazardous limbs and hazardous dead snags or standing trees	1	x	x
	Recreational Improvements: Remove all fencing outside of agricultural areas.	1	x	
	Restoration Irrigation: Improve transport of water from the Rising Sun Ditch to the northern portion of the property.	1		x
	Riparian Restoration: At and around the ordinary high water mark, install willow stakes where connectivity to the ground water and hydrology exists.	2	x	x
	Riparian Restoration: Plant a matrix of riparian woody vegetation including cottonwoods and various willow species. Use modular fencing to protect these areas for establishment. Seed all areas of base ground with a riparian seed mix.	2	x	x
	Riparian Restoration: Reconfigure irrigation infrastructure for overflow from ditch systems to inundate these areas.	1		x
	Upland and Historic Floodplain Restoration: Drill seed woody and herbaceous vegetation to restore ecological matrix.	1		x
	Upland and Historic Floodplain Restoration: Improve flood irrigation across all upland and historic floodplain areas.	1		x
	Water Rights: Using help from the MCWC establish ability to use storage rights for fisheries, storage and agricultural irrigation.	1		x
	Wetland Enhancement: Reconfigure irrigation infrastructure for overflow of the Last Chance Ditch at west end of property. Restore the overflow ditch that was cut to divert water from the Last Chance Ditch.	1		x
	Wildlife Habitat Improvements: Where standing dead trees and dead fall exist and do not interfere with trail safety and recreational use. Leave on site to provide wildlife habitat.	1		x
3-5 Years	Agricultural Operations: Expand agricultural operations. Building on investments in irrigation infrastructure, soil remediation, weed mitigation and cover crop planting, actively encourage leasing partnerships on historic hayfields that support overall ecological and wildlife goals.	2		x
	Agricultural Operations: Expand agricultural operations. Partner with community organizations to support and attract CSA's interested in row crop production, small scale livestock operations, composting services etc.	2		x
	Agricultural Weed Mitigation: Utilize a hybrid weed mitigation strategy on all agricultural lands. Use goats, times herbicide applications, burning and mowing regiments.	1		x
	Bank Restoration: Design, fund raise and permit bank restoration	2		x
	Cottonwood Forest Restoration: Seed is areas of base ground and install under story vegetation in existing planting pods.	1	x	x
	Entryway Improvements: Create natural play area	3	x	x
	Entryway Improvements: Install pollinator & demonstration garden and orchard at entrance	3	x	x
	Entryway Improvements: Realign entry and parking area to accommodate 30 vehicles	1		x
	Entryway Improvements: Stabilize existing barn and utilize and interpretive opportunity	1	x	x
	Interpretive and Way finding Elements: Install outdoor classroom	2	x	x
	Interpretive and Way finding Elements: Install way finding and interpretive signage	1	x	x
	Noxious Vegetation Management (Non-Agricultural Areas): Utilize adaptive management strategies to promote establishment of native vegetation	1		x
	Preservation Zone (Island): Working with a local naturalist or wildlife organization develop a naturalist led tour of this area	2	x	x
	Preservation Zone (Riparian Area): Increase species diversity, at and around the ordinary high water mark, install willow stakes where connectivity to the ground water and hydrology exists	1	x	x
	Recreational Improvements: Build benches for seating areas where specified on plan	1	x	
	Recreational Improvements: Expand existing trail system based off of layout of the master plan	1	x	
	Recreational Improvements: Install ADA fishing access and river amphitheater	2	x	x
	Recreational Improvements: Install passive wildlife watching areas in specified locations (blinds and platforms)	2	x	x
	Riparian and Bank Restoration: Install temporary above ground irrigation system	1		x
	Riparian Restoration: Create trail systems that interface with these areas with clear pathways. Create pathways to fishing access zones that are clear and defined. Clear and defined pathways will mitigate social trails and protect riparian vegetation	3	x	
	Wetland Enhancement: Create trail systems that interface with these areas but do not cross them as laid out on master plan	3	x	
	Wetland Enhancement: Redirect flow of water through existing pond system and utilize water to maintain hydrology in wetland enhancement areas	2		x
	Wetland Enhancement: Through targeted grading, utilizing existing low swales, ponds and depressions, create a series of marshy seasonal ponds to enhance wildlife habitat	1		x
	Wetland Enhancement: Surgically install wetland plants and seed in these zones	2	x	x
	Wildlife Habitat Improvements: Install bird and bat boxes throughout preserve with aid of a wildlife biologist	1	x	x
5-10 Years	Agricultural Weed Mitigation: Utilize a hybrid weed mitigation strategy on all agricultural lands. Use goats, times herbicide applications, burning and mowing regiments.	1		x
	Bank Restoration: Create trail systems that interface with these areas with clear pathways including a fishing access zone	3	x	
	Bank Restoration: Grade back and stabilize scoured bank	1		x
	Bank Restoration: Plant a matrix of riparian woody vegetation including cottonwoods and various willow species. Use modular fencing to protect these areas for establishment	2	x	x
	Cottonwood Forest Restoration: Monitor and evaluate initial effort completed in 0-3 year range. Plant and fence additional cottonwoods to establish a multi aged stand. Install modular fencing around pods of planting to mimic natural conditions and prevent herbivory for establishment	1	x	x
	Noxious Vegetation Management (Non-Agricultural Areas): Utilize adaptive management strategies to promote establishment of native vegetation	1		x
	Noxious Vegetation Management: Woody Vegetation Removal and Management. Remove all Siberian elm, Russian olive, and salt cedar from the property	1		x
	Recreational Pond: Design, fund-raise and permit recreational pond	2		x
	Riparian Restoration: Monitor and evaluate initial effort completed in 0-3 year range. Plant a matrix of riparian woody vegetation including cottonwoods and various willow species. Use modular fencing to protect these areas for establishment. Seed all areas of base ground with a riparian seed mix	1	x	x
10+ Years	Recreational Pond: Construct recreational pond	1		x
	Recreational Pond: Create a series of paths and docs to interface with open water. Install benches, interpretive elements and picnic areas	2	x	x
	Noxious Vegetation Management (Non-Agricultural Areas): Utilize adaptive management strategies to promote establishment of native vegetation	1		x
	Wetland Enhancement: Install wetland and riparian plants and seed around recreational pond. Establish riparian planting for shade and to provide habitat all along pond edge	1	x	x

DHM DESIGN

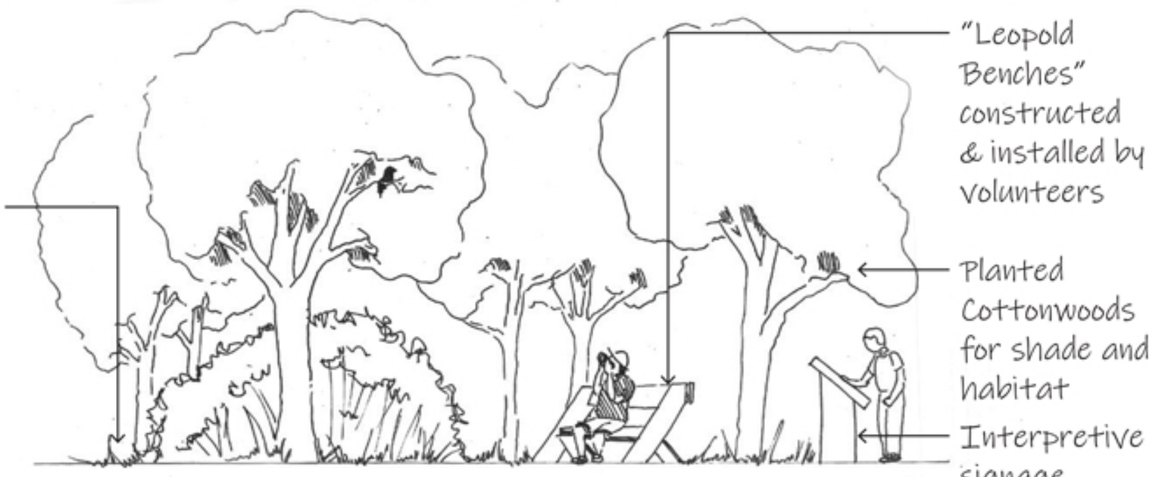


1 Preserve Entry

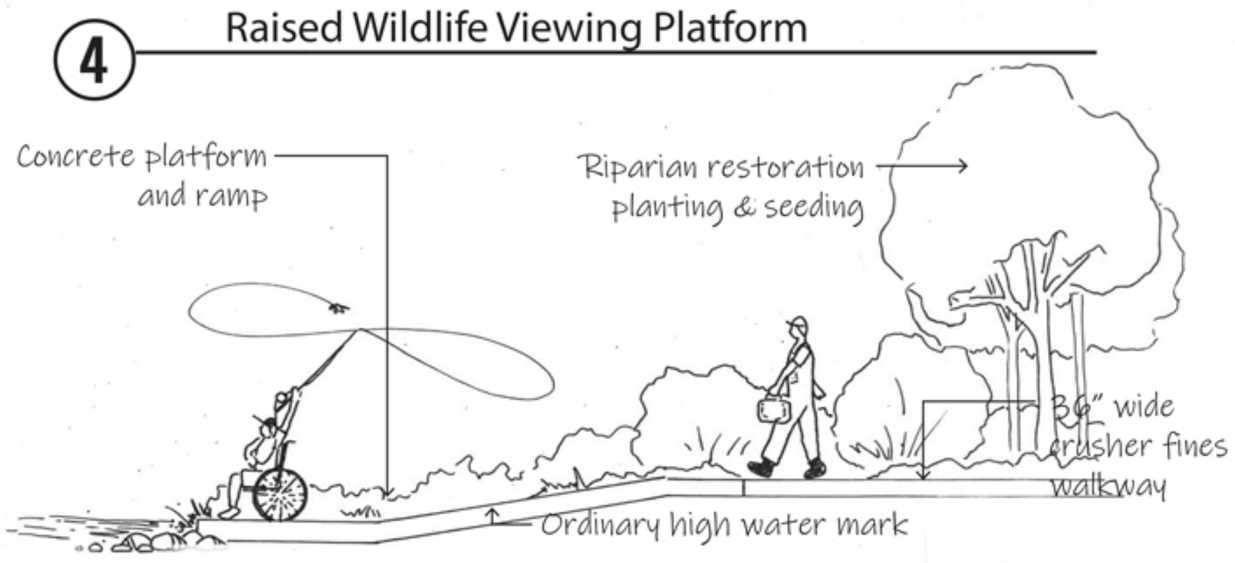


2 Way-finding and Wildlife Scope

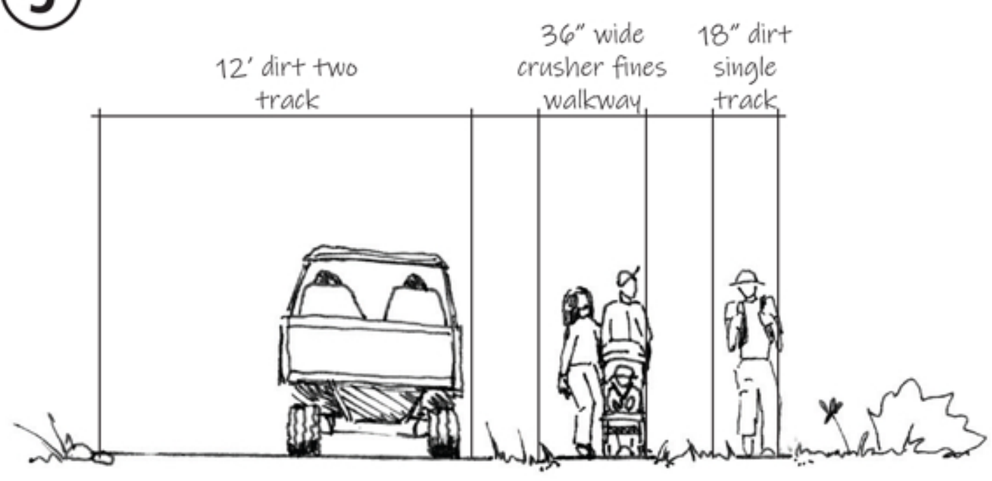
3 Natural Play Area



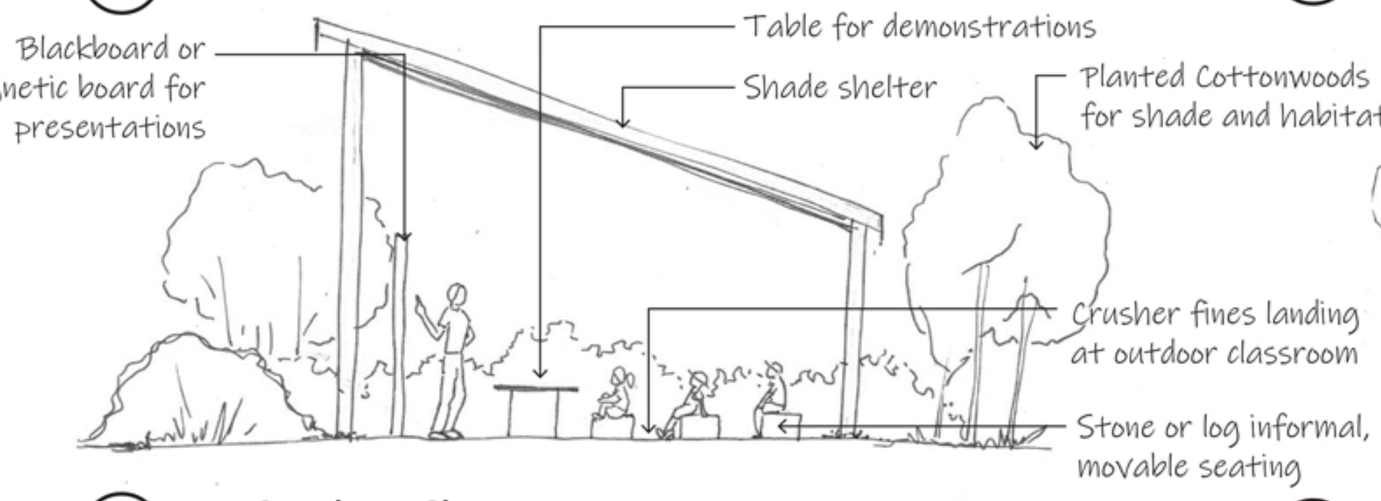
4 Raised Wildlife Viewing Platform



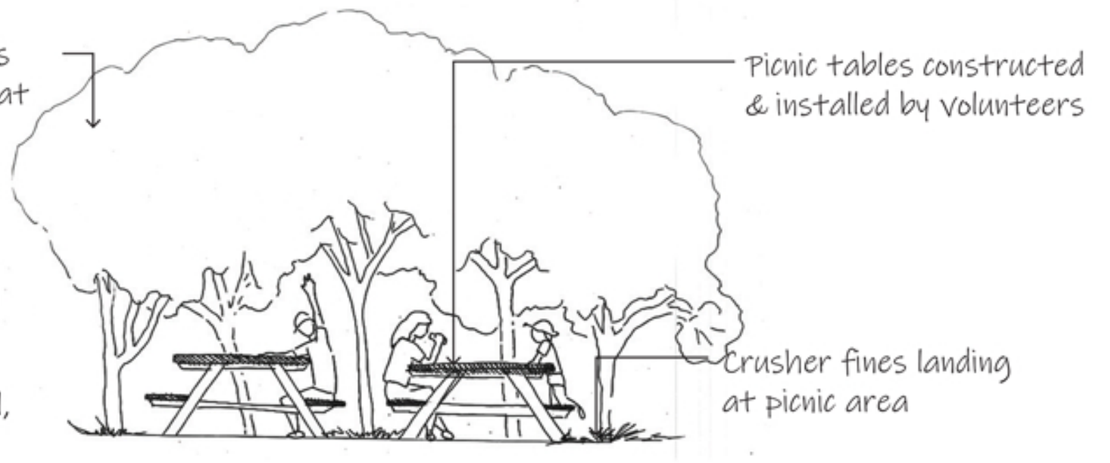
5 Seating and Bird Watching Area



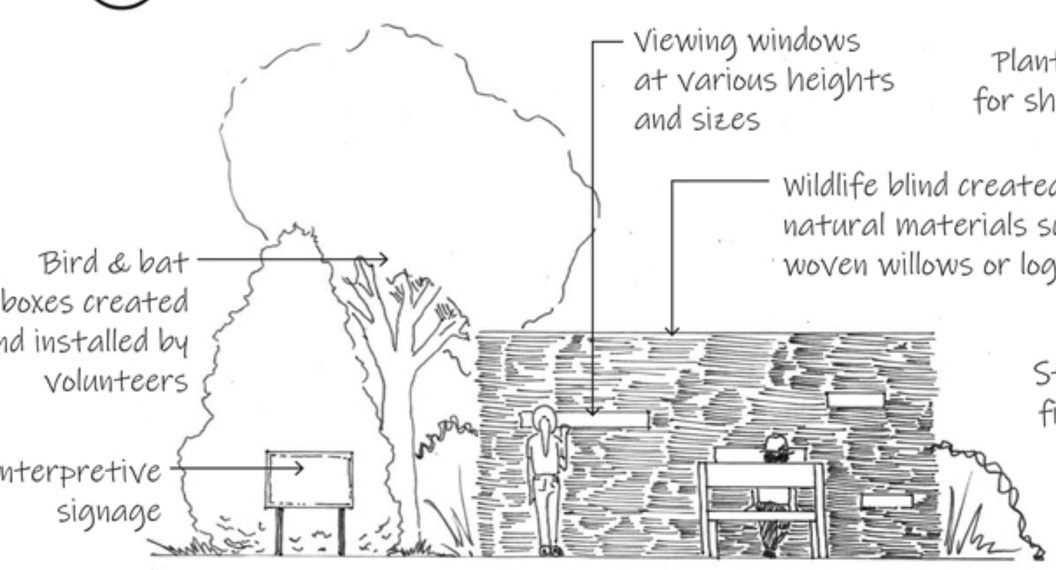
6 River Fishing Access



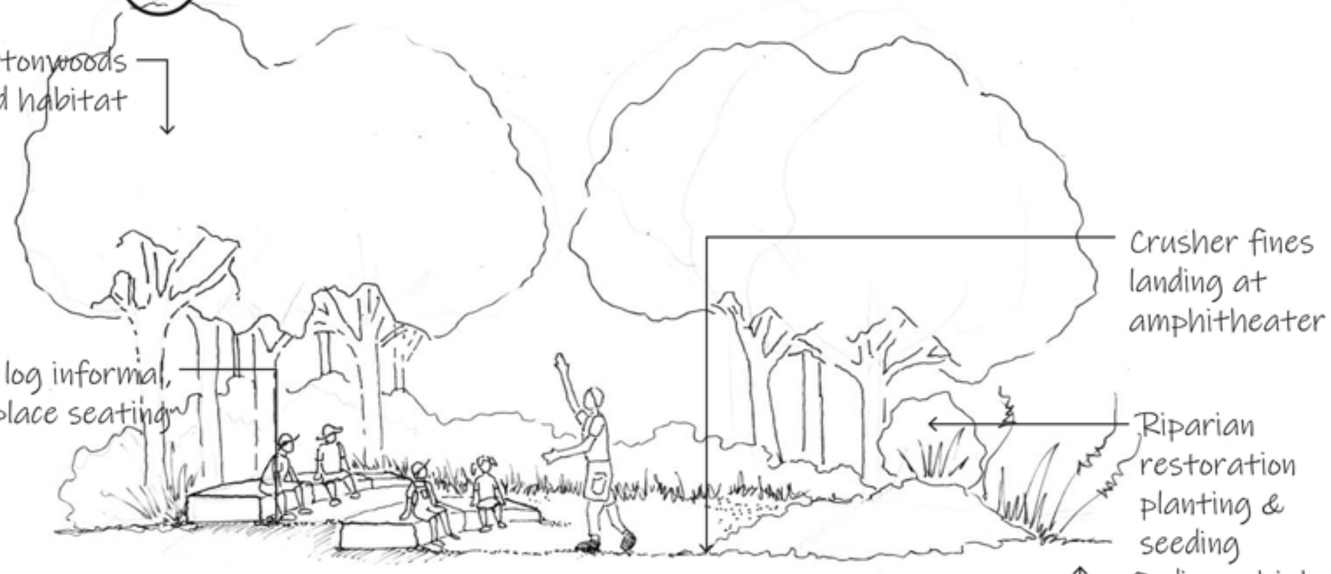
7 Trail Types



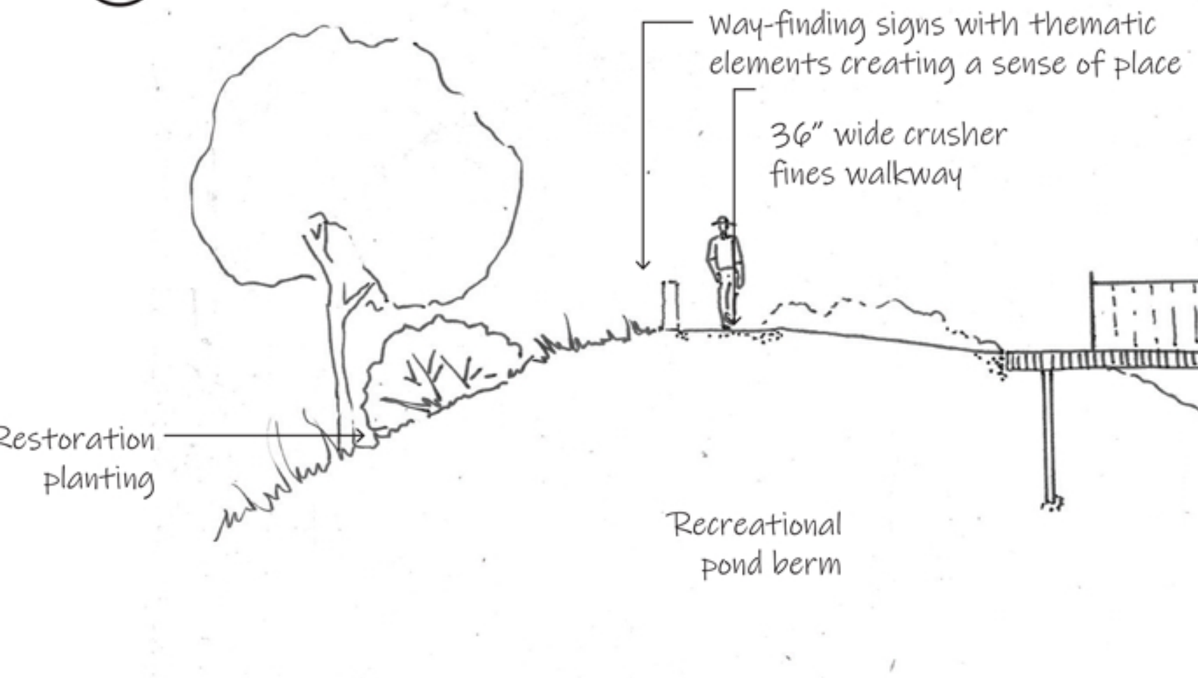
8 Outdoor Classroom



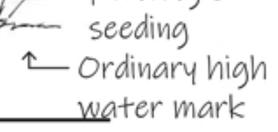
9 Picnic Area

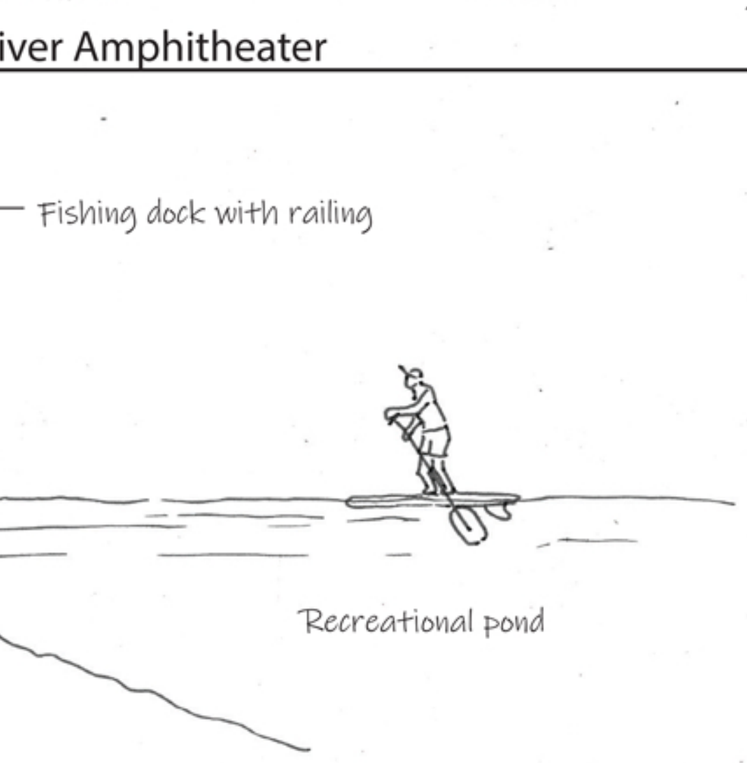


10 Wildlife Blind



11 River Amphitheater





12 Recreational Pond & Dock