

4.09 OUTDOOR EXERCISE ROOM

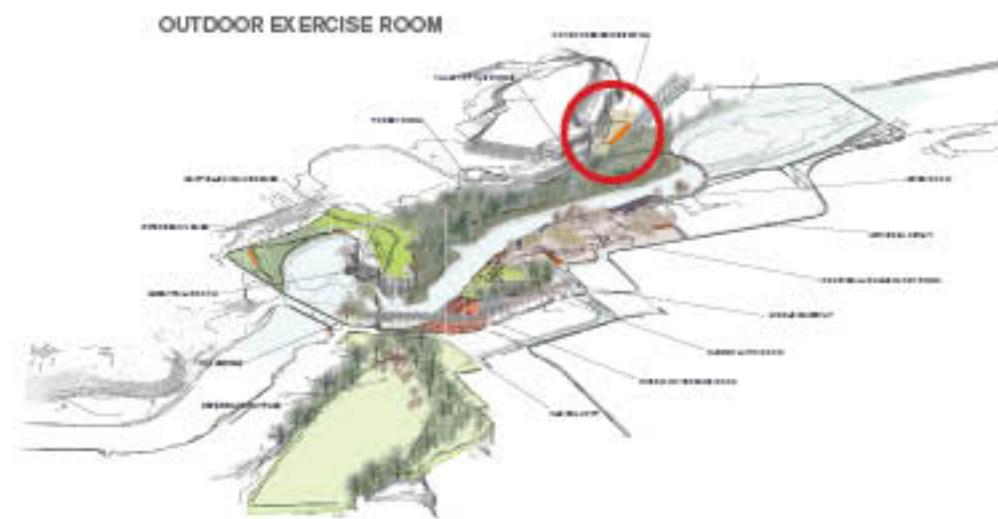
The Exercise Room is about 1 acre; it includes the Ryle Road entry drive from Ryle Avenue and a small flat area south of a derelict open pavilion structure. The Columbia textile (also referred to as the former National Silk Dyeing Mill) and Addy textile Mills, both currently abandoned and slated for reuse into mixed-use developments, have frontage on Ryle Road. There are a few newer structures to the south of Addy Mill that are still actively used, such as a car painting shop, storage facilities for the City of Paterson and an animal shelter.

To the west of the Exercise Room is a majestic 100' tall cliff, featuring multiple layers of basalt and brownstone. It is intended that the cliff may be utilized for recreation and geological education.

THE NEW OUTDOOR EXERCISE ROOM INCLUDES CLIMBING, FITNESS, RUNNING, ROPE SWINGS AND MOUNTAIN BIKING

New paving and an allée of flowering trees are proposed along Ryle Road, which will terminate at a new small parking lot and drop off area adjacent to the Outdoor Exercise Room. This room will be one of the most dramatic social spaces in the future Park. The lower reach of the basalt cliff is ideal for outdoor rock-climbing, while the open pavilion structure and flat area at the base of the cliff could serve as a fitness classroom area and spectator plaza with equipment rental facilities (bikes, rock and tree climbing gear, kayaks, and cross country skis). This room would become the main jumping off point for longer running and mountain biking trails throughout the future Park.

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0 37.5' 75' 150'
PLAN OF THE OUTDOOR EXERCISE ROOM



GROUP ACTIVITIES



HIKING



FOREST ECOLOGY



RECREATIONAL BIKING



ROPE CLIMBING



ROCK CLIMBING

OUTDOOR EXERCISE ROOM



78 *Onoclea sensibilis*

Asplenium platyneuron

Heuchera americana

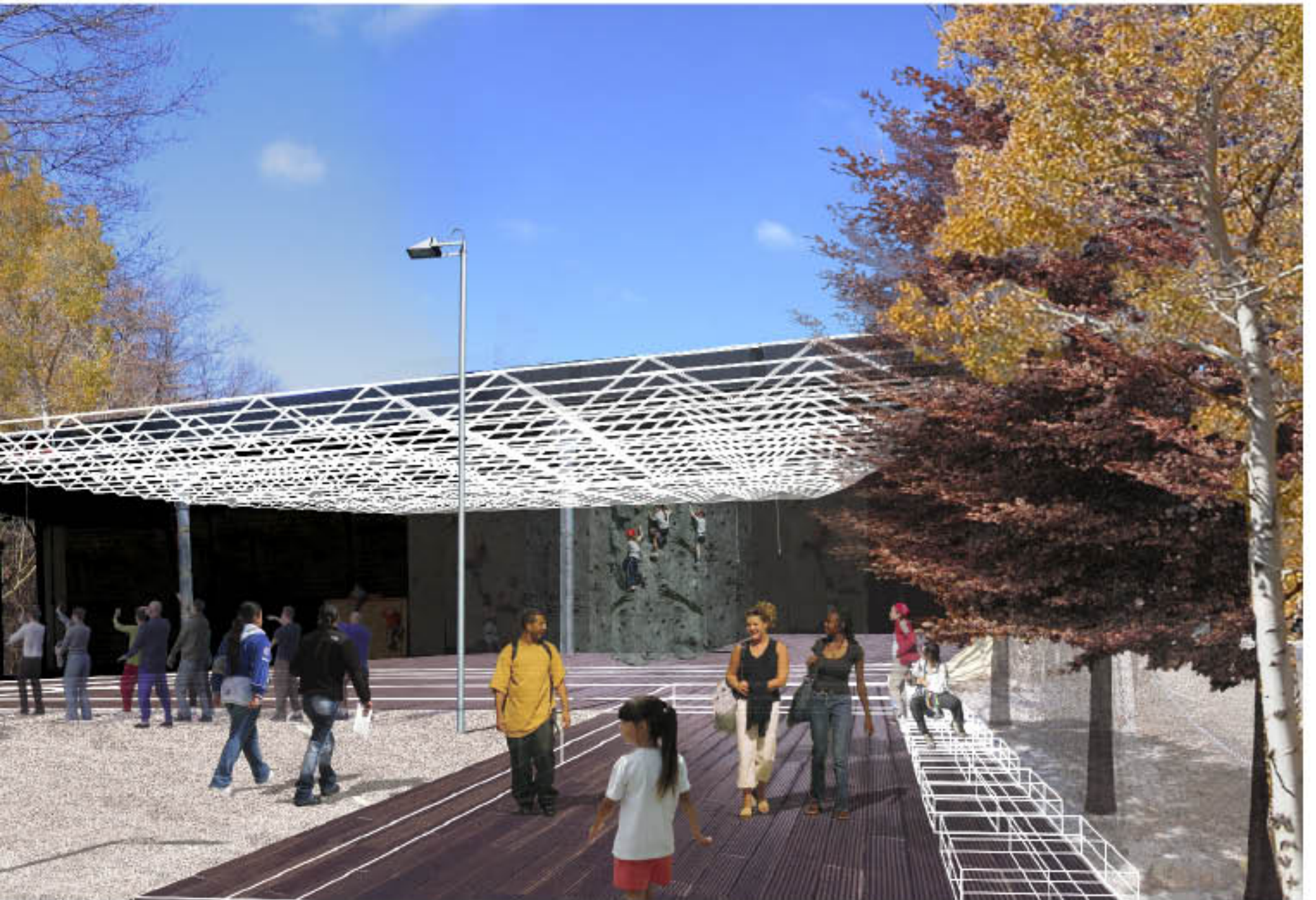
Aquilegia canadensis

Sedum ewersii





SECTION THROUGH THE OUTDOOR EXERCISE ROOM



4.10 FOREST ROOM

The Forest Room, known locally as the Valley of the Rocks, is comprised of about 5 acres of mature woodland dominated by White Oak, White Ash and White Mulberry. The forest room is bounded by 100' tall magnificent cliffs to the west and the Passaic River to the east, leaving two access points: one from Ryle Avenue and a second from Mary Ellen Kramer Park. A single path connects the two gateways.

Although this wooded area appears natural, historic photographs and research reveal that a large extent of the rock hill was quarried for sandstone and that there were a few smaller mills associated with the National Silk Dyeing Mill in the area.

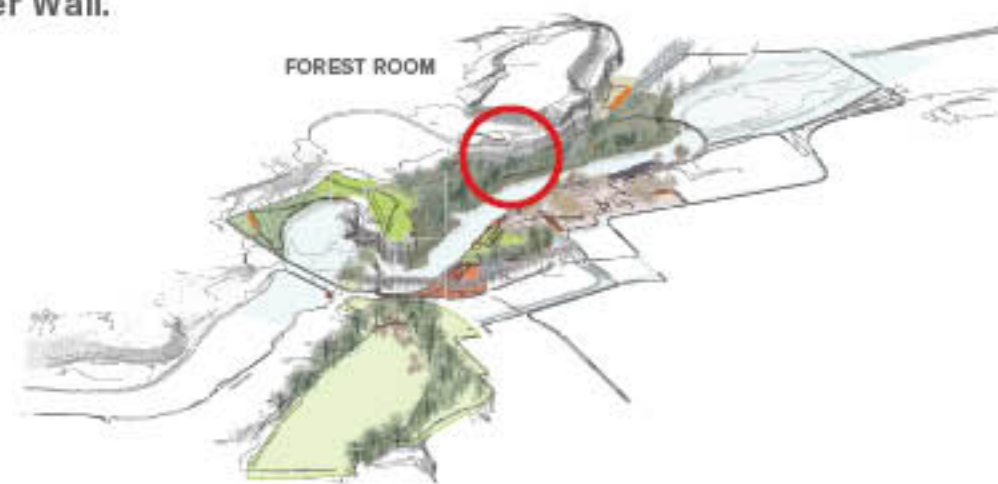
The forest ecology varies with the lay of the slopes from a vine-covered rocky cliff, to a temperate upland forest with an herbaceous under-story, to a riparian forest dominated by Norway Maple, Oak, White Ash and Mulberry trees along the Passaic River.

THE LIGHTLY RESTORED FOREST ROOM SERVES FOR WALKING, SEATING, NATURE EDUCATION AND RESTORATION

From the "Outdoor Exercise Room," the visitor moves into the spectacular Valley of the Rocks and the "Forest Room," with restored native woodland, meadow and exposed geological features.

Heading west along the woodland path, there will be an open-air education pavilion facing the cliffs designed to accommodate small groups interested in New Jersey geology, ecology and industrial history. Several small open-air learning stations will be distributed through this area with a focus on water ecology and riparian habitat.

Visitors to the "Forest Room" can continue up the hill to Mary Ellen Kramer Park or hike down along the river's rocky edge to the proposed kayak launch and further to the foot of the large promontory near the Great Falls. This perch offers sweeping views back across the river from the Hydroelectric plant to the Historic River Wall.





0 75' 150' 300'
PLAN OF THE FOREST ROOM



GROUP HIKES



NESTING GROUND



FOREST STANDS



BIRD WATCHING



LENNI LENA PE EXHIBIT



FAMILY OUTING

FOREST ROOM

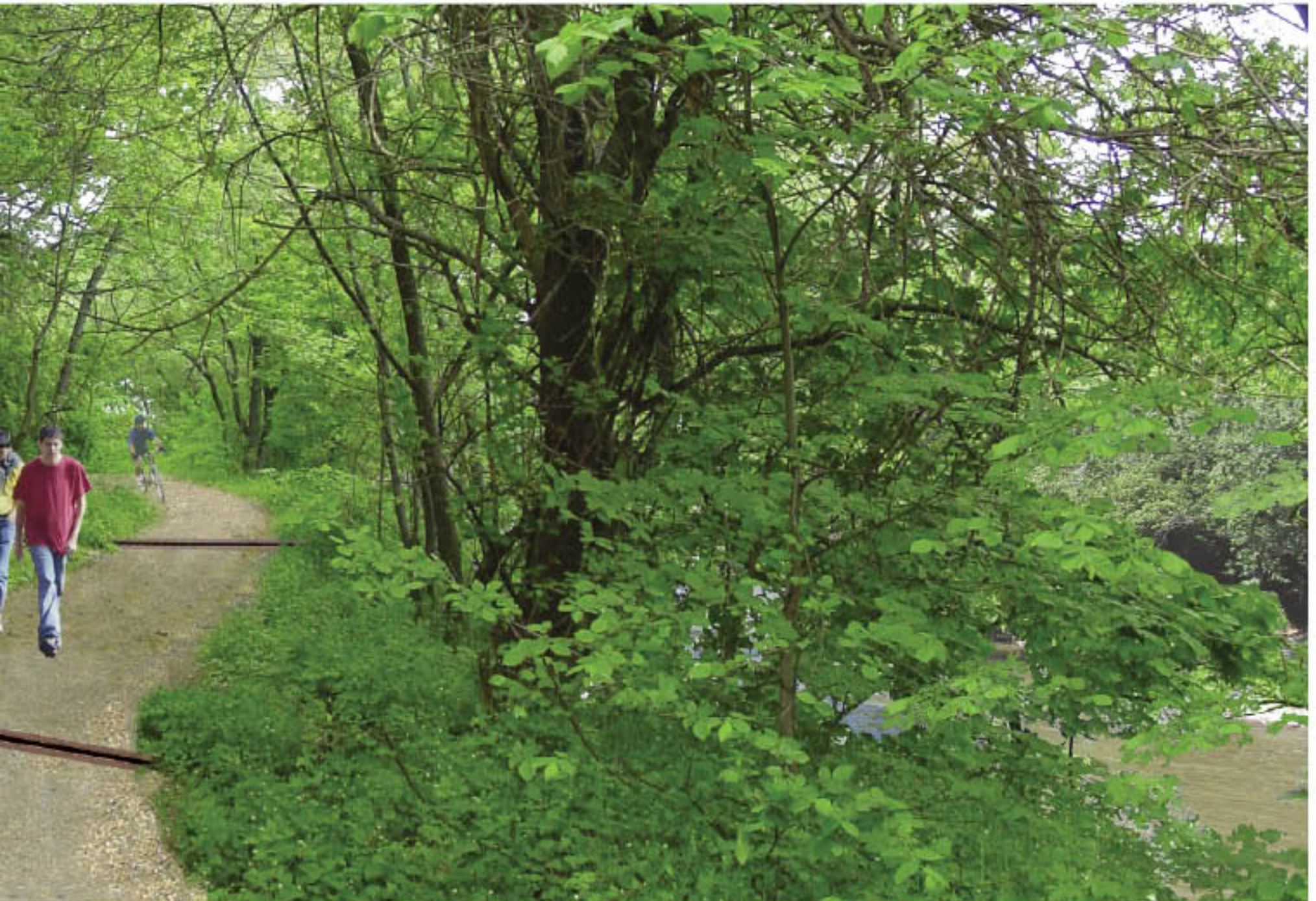


82 *Viola papilionacea* *Arisaema triphyllum* *Trillium* *Rhododendron peniclymenoides* *Pinus strobus* *Fagus grandifolia* *Cercis canadensis*





SECTION THROUGH THE FOREST ROOM



4.11 SKY ROOM / MARY ELLEN KRAMER PARK

Mary Ellen Kramer Park is situated on top of the basalt cliff overlooking the Great Falls, the upper Passaic River, Overlook Plaza and Great Falls Historic District beyond. The site has been an important public recreational landscape used by Patersonians and visitors alike at least since the time of Industrialist John Ryle's formalization of the area in the 1860's. The site gradually became an unused and ignored area, until Mary Ellen Kramer and a dedicated group of activists reclaimed the Parkland from what had been a fenced off trash dump behind the Water Company pumping station. The Park was originally opened in September, 1971 at a four-day "Great Falls Festival". The Park was renamed in her honor after her death in 1993.

Today the Park lawn is scruffy and dotted with utility boxes and run-down furnishings. The crushed stone paths are in poor condition, uneven and full of potholes. An aluminum chain link fence wraps the northeastern edge of the Park and a tall iron guardrail blocks views to the Great Falls along the southeastern edge. Albeit its current condition, Mary Ellen Kramer Park has enormous potential. The Passaic River Coalition has been instrumental in unearthing new possibilities for this site. With relatively little work this area can become a central gathering area of the new Great Falls State Park.

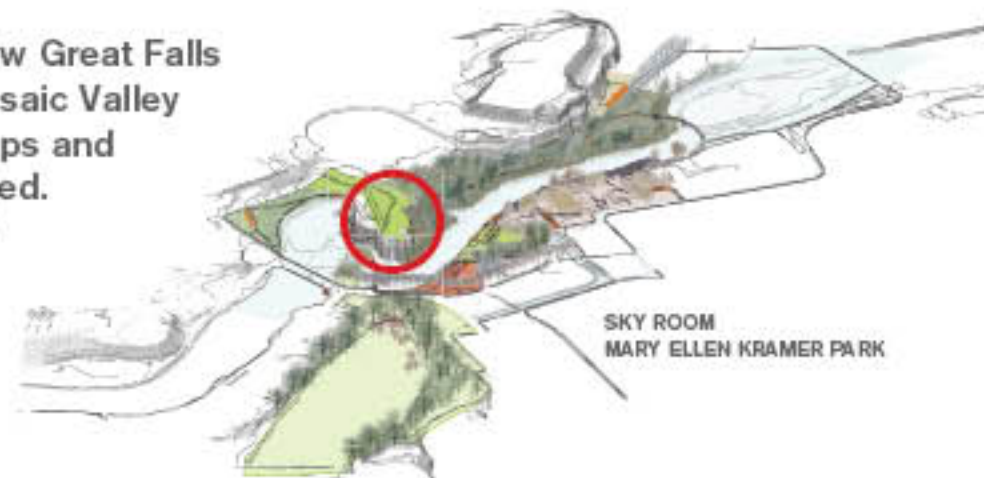
Selectively and sensitively clearing trees along the northeastern boundary of the plateau will open the Park to views downstream and across to the Quarry Room, Industrial Archeology room, and Historic District beyond. The Park's proximity to the Great Falls make it one of the most significant and visited destinations in the Park.

MARY ELLEN KRAMER PARK OFFERS A SKY LAWN AND TERRACE, SEATING, VIEWING, PICNICS AND EVENTS

Visitors to the Mary Ellen Kramer Park will find a slightly modified version of the original path layout. In place of the existing 10' path overlooking the falls, a generous 18' wide promenade fitted with seating, lighting and signage is proposed. A new path attached to the main promenade loops down towards the falls along a 3' tall refurbished stone wall, allowing for partial views of the Falls from above.

New wooden picnic tables will be aligned end-on-end, offering flexible table lengths ranging from 8' to 24' long to accommodate large groups and community events in the northeastern portion of the lawn. A new gateway and sign mark Mary Ellen Kramer Park as the primary entrance into the Park from the northwest.

Walking southwest the visitor can enter the new Great Falls Visitor Station housed in the small, vacant Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) building where maps and historical photos of the Great Falls are displayed. This visitor station also marks the entrance to the Great Falls Chasm, a 165' long staircase suspended in a natural basalt chasm above the falls.





PLAN OF MARY ELLEN KRAMER PARK



PARK ACTIVITIES



WEDDINGS



FESTIVALS



PICNICKING



FAMILY EVENTS



KITE FLYING

SKY ROOM / MARY ELLEN KRAMER PARK



Oxydendrum arboreum

Tsuga canadensis

Pinus strobus

Fraxinus americana

Flowering meadow





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SECTION THROUGH MARY ELLEN KRAMER PARK



4.12 RIVER PARK ROOM

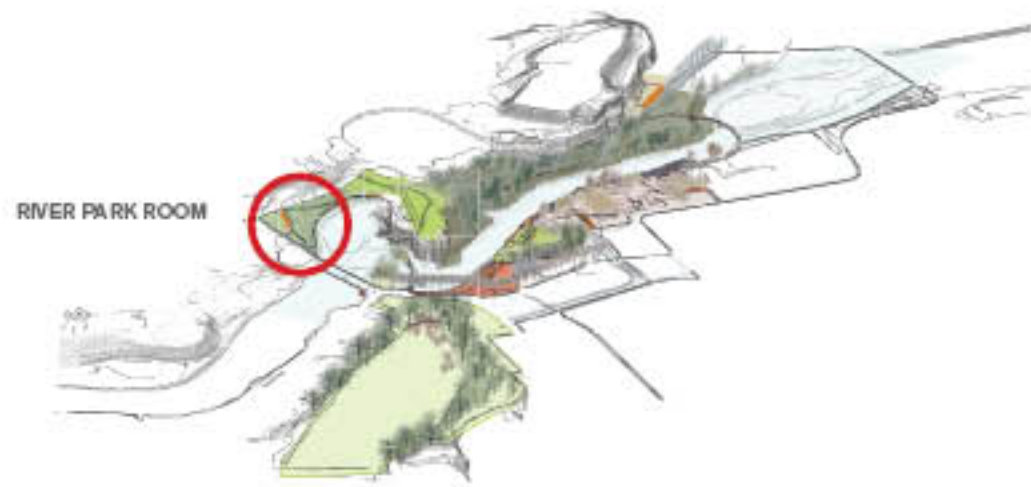
The River Park Room is a triangle-shaped Park located between Mary Ellen Kramer Park, the upper Passaic River, Maple Street and Wayne Avenue. A former Ice Cream shop and parking lot, now vacant and run-down, sit on the lot at the corner of Maple and Wayne Streets. This area is currently an undefined fringe space with no clear circulation or purpose, overgrown with scrub and woodland.

A quiet gravel walkway runs through the forest, just above the river's edge and below the vacant lot. Natural debris from the river collect along the shoreline here and birds gather in the calm waters above the falls.

THE RIVER PARK ROOM ENVISIONS A LEISURE STROLL, SEASONAL MARKET AND DRIFTWOOD BEACH

Visitors to the River Park Room may stroll along the renovated walkway through the forest above the river or along the newly created drift wood beach overlooking the old dam and the serene pool of water hovering above the falls. Following the path through the woods, with new under-story and tree plantings, leads to a new plaza on the now-vacant lot at the corner of Maple and Wayne Streets, fitted with a seasonal produce market pavilion and grove of flowering trees. Consideration may also be given to rehabilitating the existing commercial structure as a visitor station or multi-purpose space to support Park programming.

From here, the visitor has a few choices: they may walk back towards Mary Ellen Kramer Park where they can get access to the Great Falls Room, or continue across the Wayne Avenue Bridge to the Upper Raceway Park or the Overlook Plaza.





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0 25' 50' 100'
PLAN OF THE RIVER PARK ROOM



SEASONAL MARKET



SEASONAL FOOD



FOOD CONCESSION



BEACH SCULPTURES



DRIFTWOOD BEACH



FISHING

RIVER PARK ROOM



Quercus pubescens



Acer saccharinum



Platanus occidentalis



Ageratina altissima



Cornus Florida





SECTION THROUGH THE RIVER PARK ROOM



4.13 GREAT FALLS ROOM

The Great Falls Room is perhaps the most dramatic space in the Park. A 77' tall, naturally formed chasm of hard basalt rock shapes a spectacular fall of white water, producing mist clouds and even rainbow effects in the pool below.

The Falls are somewhat elusive; they are inaccessible, viewed mostly from a few select locations above and from the Overlook Park. One of the best views is from the pedestrian footbridge that crosses the chasm.

Early 20th century photos show an old dam at the crest of the Falls, controlling the overflow and velocity. The Paterson Municipal Utilities Authority has commissioned the research and preparation of a report to assess the case for the dam's restoration as an important interpretive feature of the use of the river and also to protect and improve the view at the same time.

The design team, together with the New Jersey Geological Survey, assessed the feasibility of two alternatives—a Great Falls Tunnel and a Great Falls Chasm Stairs—which are presented in the following pages. The second alternative was deemed as the most viable. Further information on the assessment can be found in Appendix D. The plans for each alternative follow.

GREAT FALLS TUNNEL - ALTERNATIVE 1 FALLS OBSERVATION, GEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

From the Forest Room, the visitor can take a path along the river, through a dramatic tunnel cut in the basalt cliff and enter the "Great Falls Room", the most sublime space for experiencing the majestic power of the falls up close and from below.





PLAN OF THE GREAT FALLS TUNNEL, ALTERNATIVE 1



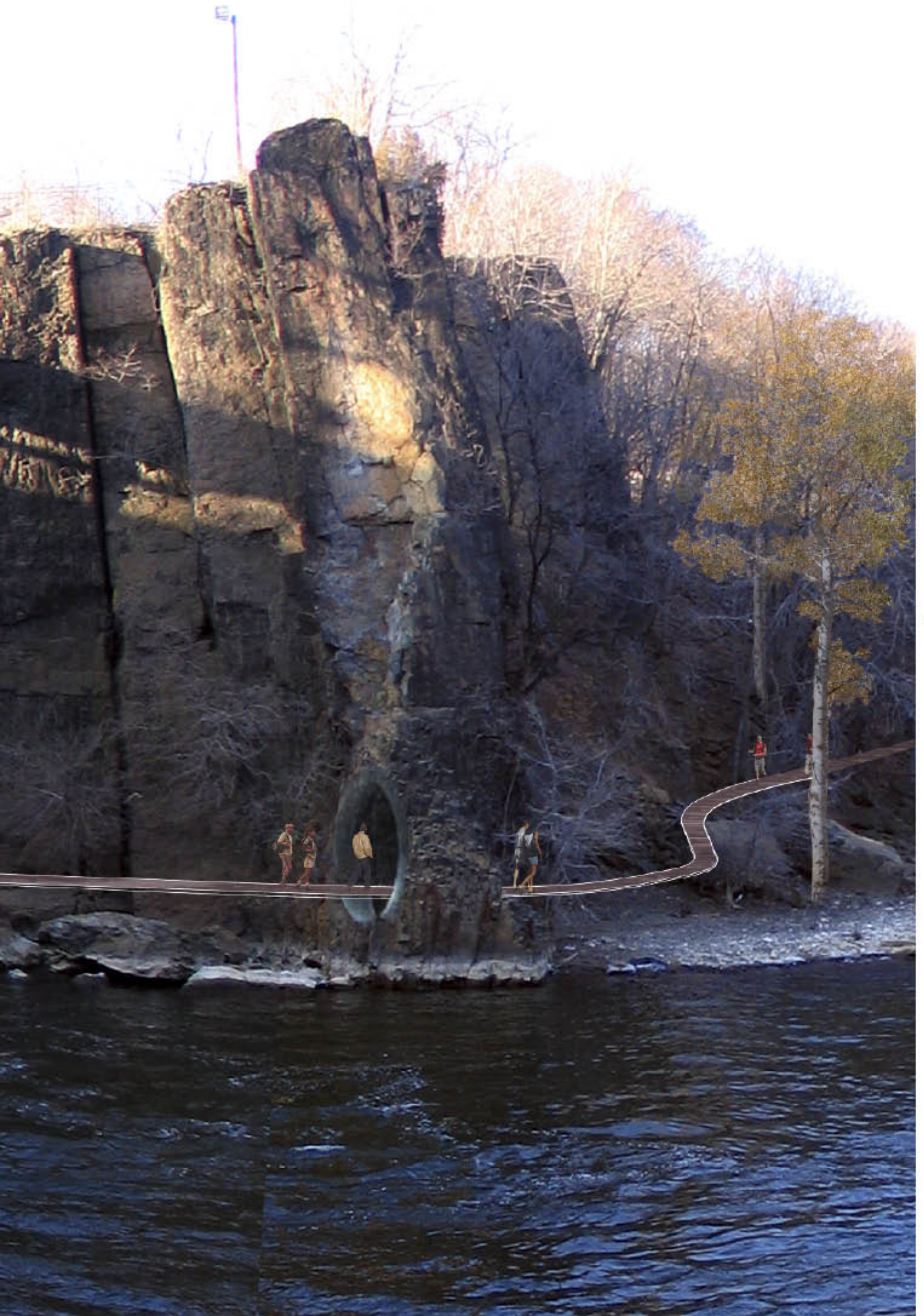
FALL WATCH



FALL SPRAY

GREAT FALLS TUNNEL - ALTERNATIVE 1
FALLS OBSERVATION, GEOLOGICAL EDUCATION



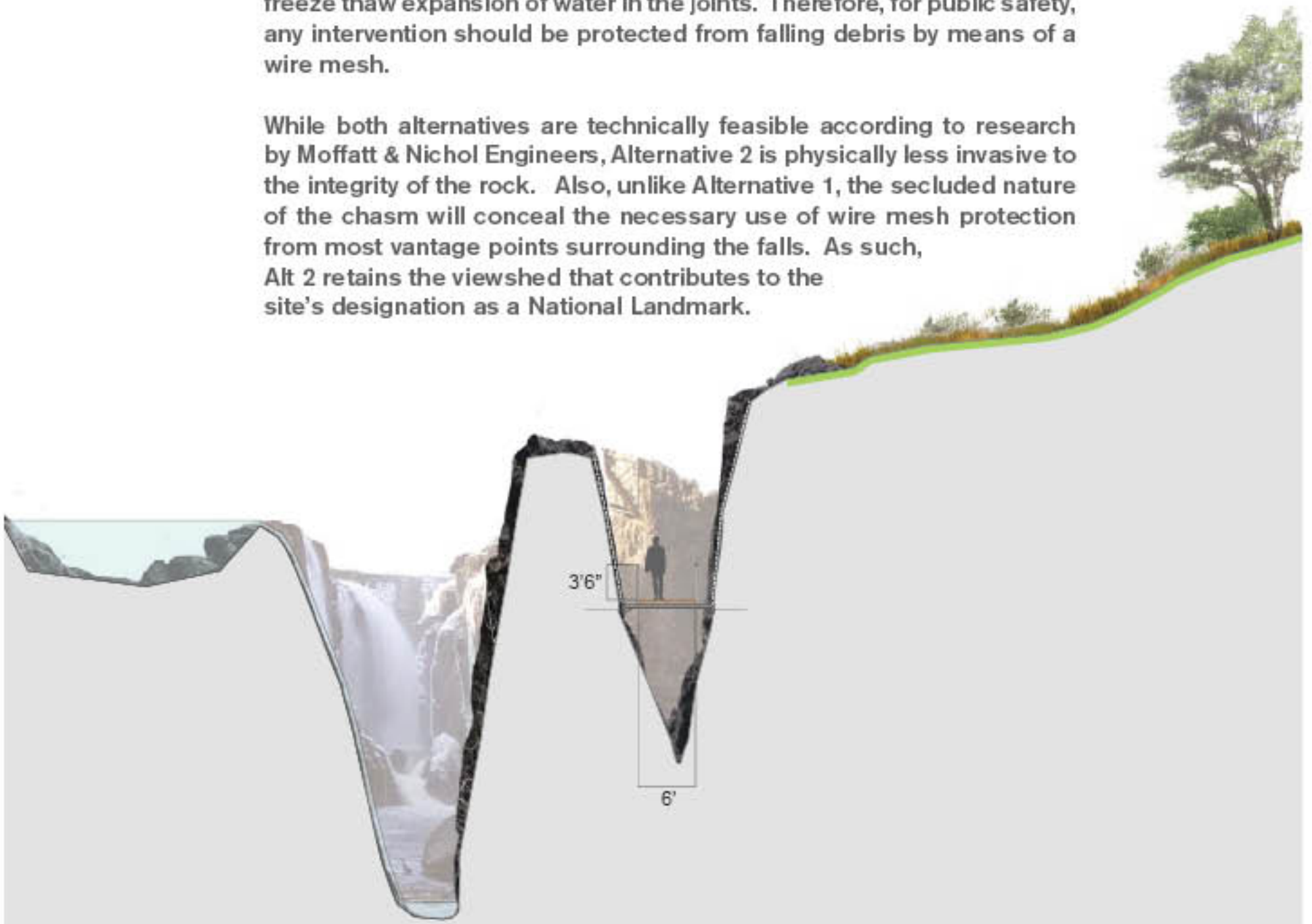


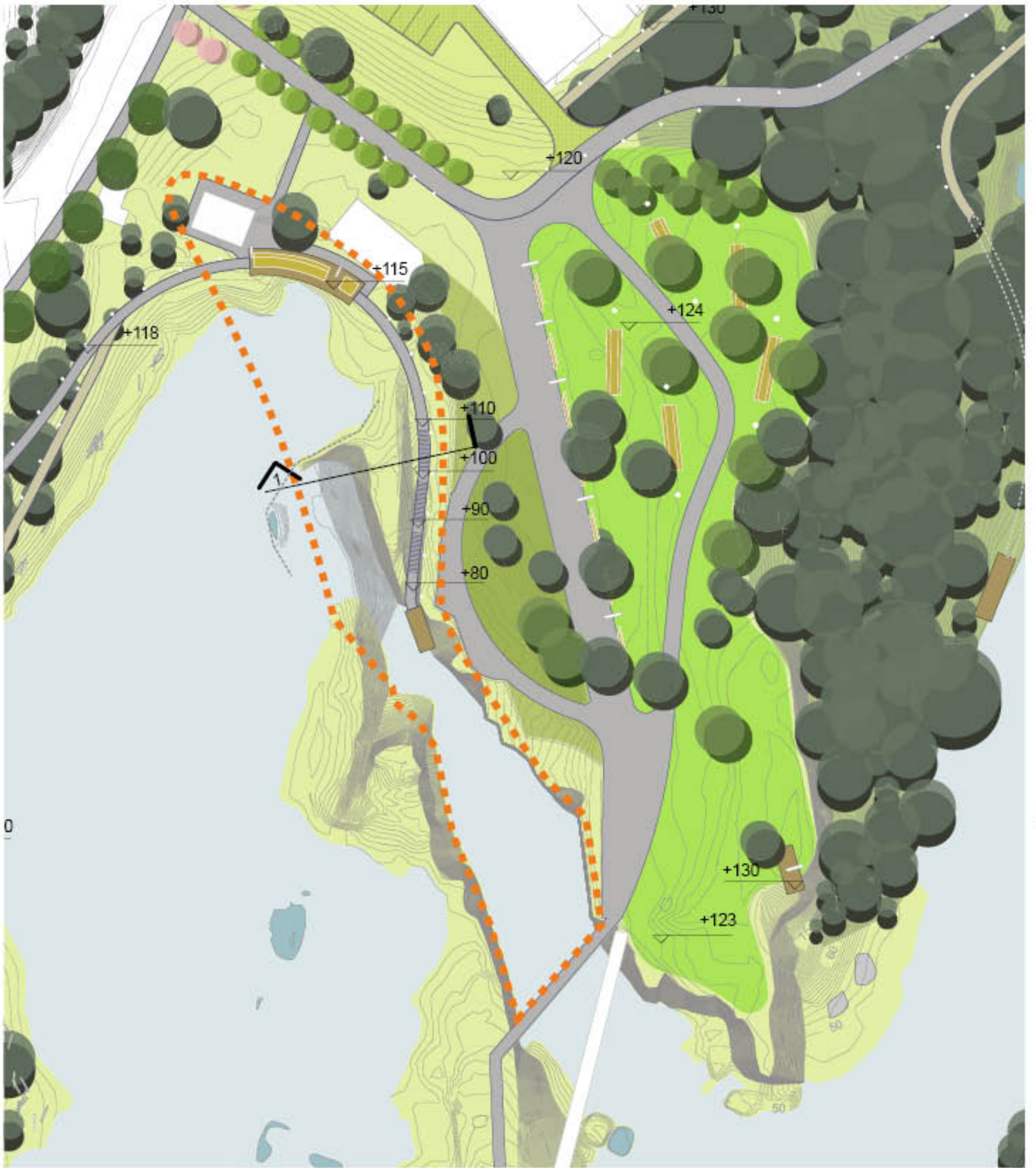
GREAT FALLS CHASM STAIRS - ALTERNATIVE 2 FALLS OBSERVATION, GEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Alternatively the visitor can pass through Mary Ellen Kramer Park and the new Great Falls Visitor's Station, into the Great Falls Chasm. A natural chasm, now hidden behind PVWC buildings and an iron guardrail, plunges down from the Mary Ellen Kramer Park plateau towards the rushing water of the falls. Taking advantage of this stunning feature, a dramatic 165'-long staircase is suspended in the chasm, leading to a small platform cantilevered yards away from the thundering water and white mist of the falls. Imagine that for a nominal fee, the visitor receives a clear rain poncho and a brochure allowing access to the Great Falls Room.

As mentioned earlier the basalt is a hard rock and as a result cannot be easily excavated. Likewise, because the basalt rock is jointed and fractured, it is likely to loose small to large sections periodically due to freeze thaw expansion of water in the joints. Therefore, for public safety, any intervention should be protected from falling debris by means of a wire mesh.

While both alternatives are technically feasible according to research by Moffatt & Nichol Engineers, Alternative 2 is physically less invasive to the integrity of the rock. Also, unlike Alternative 1, the secluded nature of the chasm will conceal the necessary use of wire mesh protection from most vantage points surrounding the falls. As such, Alt 2 retains the viewshed that contributes to the site's designation as a National Landmark.





PLAN OF THE GREAT FALLS CHASM STAIRS, ALTERNATIVE 2

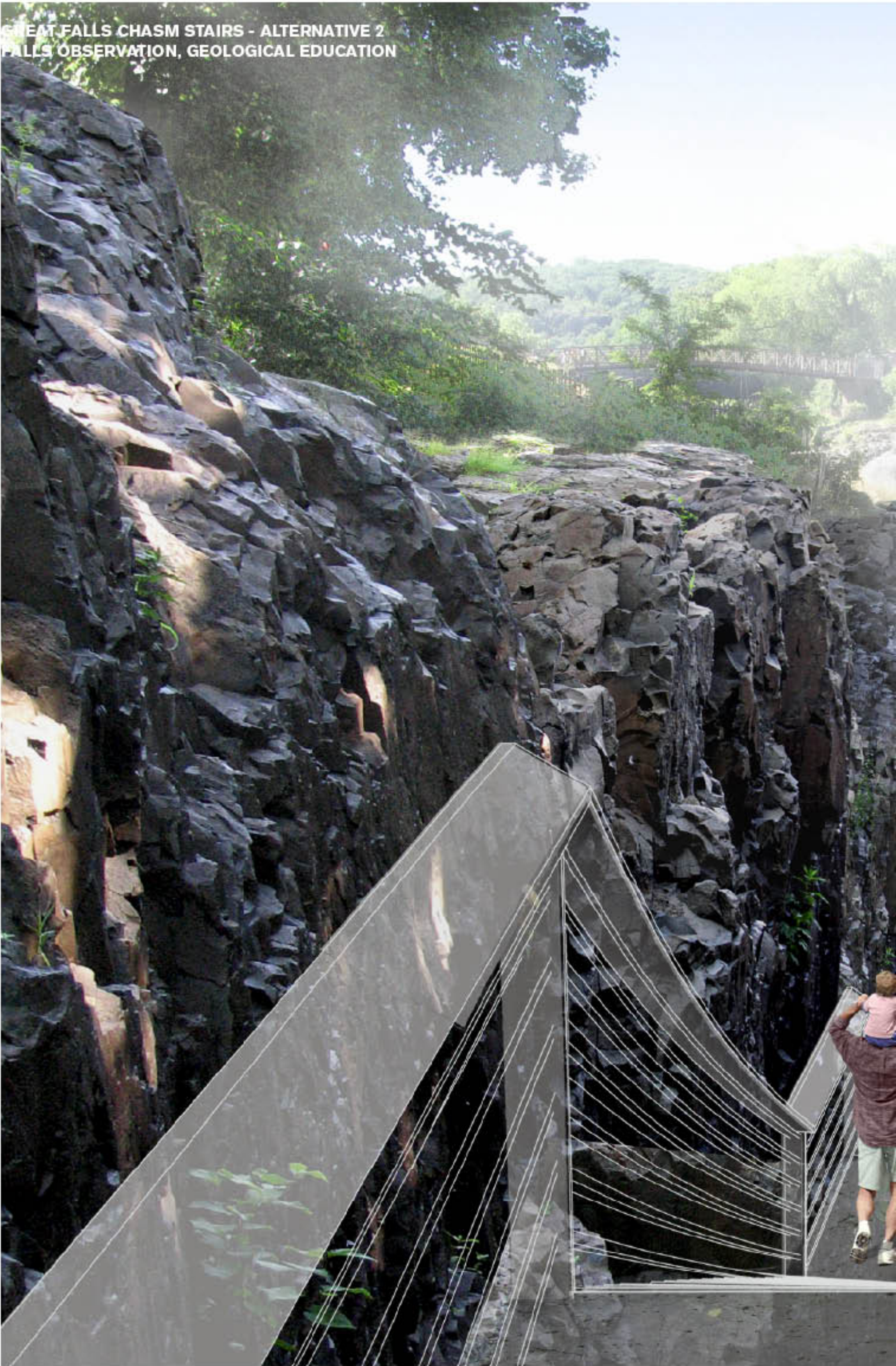


FALL WATCH



FALL SPRAY

GREAT FALLS CHASM STAIRS - ALTERNATIVE 2
FALLS OBSERVATION, GEOLOGICAL EDUCATION





4.14 THE LANDING

The Landing extends between the footbridge over the falls and Spruce Street. The area is currently enclosed by an ad hoc chain link fence, separating visitors from the upper Hydroelectric Power Plant facilities on one side and the River on the other.

The Landing surface today is a mix of asphalt, crushed stone and sparse lawn. It is a space one goes through merely to get somewhere else, hardly welcoming.

THE LANDING IS A PARK ENTRANCE PLAZA FOR GATHERING, ORIENTATION, RIVER OBSERVATION AND SUNNING

The location of the Landing makes it a primary gateway to the Park. Tours through the Hydro-electric plant will begin here and it is the main entrance from the Stoney Road neighborhood and Libby's Lunch. The Landing receives visitors coming from inside the Park as well, such as Mary Ellen Kramer Park, the amphitheater, Overlook terrace and Upper Raceway Park. The Landing plaza includes a lawn, observation deck, flowering tree grove, new lounge seating, lighting and a small information kiosk. The development of the Landing, however, must happen in balance with the safety, truck access and maintenance needs of the Hydroelectric Plant.

The Landing functions as a gathering plaza that collects groups and informs visitors before they proceed on their journey into the Park. The Landing can also provide an entry way into the Hydroelectric Plant. The Paterson Municipal Utilities Authority received a grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust to develop an interpretive plan for the site.





PLAN OF THE LANDING



HYDROELECTRIC PLANT



HYDROELECTRIC PLANT TOURS



LEISURE GATHERING



FLOWERING TREE PLAZA



SUN LOUNGE



MAGNIFYING GLASS

THE LANDING



Crataegus crus-galli



Malus 'Pink Spires'

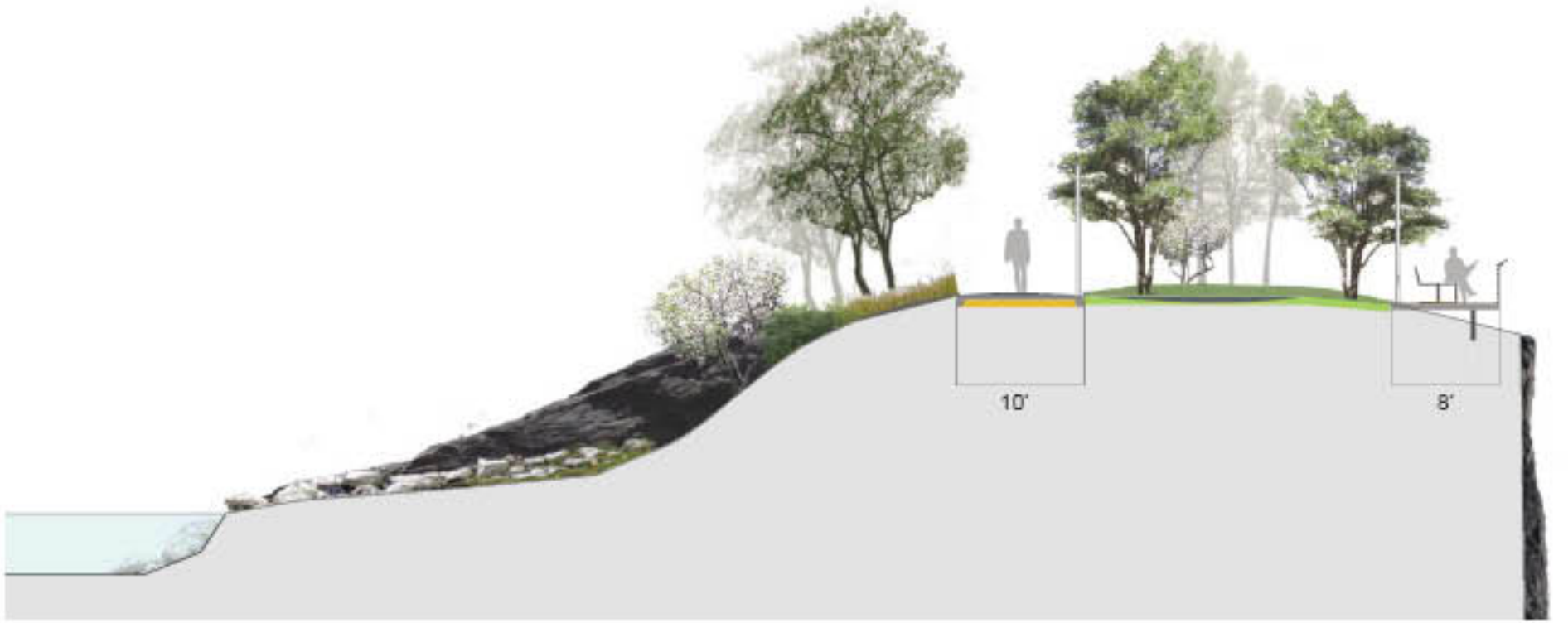


Prunus serotina



Tsuga canadensis





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SECTION THROUGH THE LANDING



4.15 UPPER RACEWAY AND RESERVOIR

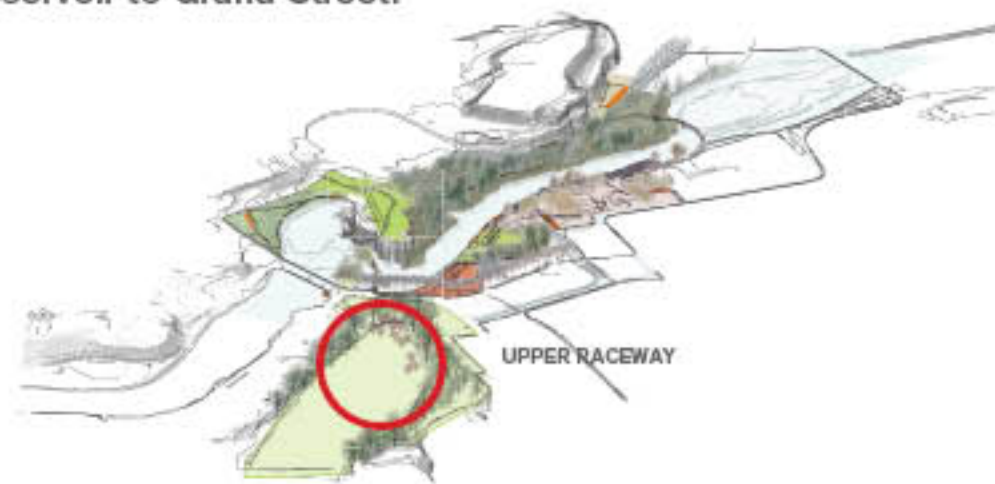
The Upper Raceway Park and Reservoir comprise 15 acres of the restored raceways, pathways, densely wooded slopes, and a community pool.

The Upper Raceway was a part of the 1820's realignment of the raceway system to supply power to additional mills along Spruce Street. The Upper Raceway follows the contour of the hill eastward for about 800' before it drops 10' and turns back along Spruce Street to the Middle Raceway. There is a spillway connecting the Upper and Middle raceway near the Ivanhoe Wheelhouse on Spruce street where the majority of water flow is now channeled, leaving stagnant water throughout the rest of the Upper Raceway. The path parallel to the channel is in good shape, however trails leading to the community pool and around the reservoir are obscured and overgrown.

THE UPPER RACEWAY IS A RENOVATED PARKLAND, SPACE FOR LEISURE, RECREATION AND SWIMMING

From the Landing visitors cross Spruce Street and head to the Upper Raceway where they may follow various trails that loop around and connect back to Overlook Plaza.

Visitors may begin by following the Raceway channel, veering to the right up the wooded slope to the existing Lou Costello Community Pool and reservoir. A proposed 12' wide by 250' long sun deck sits between the pool and the reservoir, fitted with sundeck chairs and shade umbrellas. North of the pool, a small existing open space has been expanded to form a wide informal lawn peppered with flowering fruit trees and moveable sunning chairs to facilitate passive recreation and relaxation. A new footpath follows the perimeter of the lawn, continues into the woods to an overlook deck where one can observe the Overlook Plaza, the cliffs surrounding the falls, the Upper Raceway and the Great Falls Historic District beyond. From there a path leads down the hill back to the Landing or the visitor can walk around the other side of the Reservoir to Grand Street.





LEISURE SUNBATHING



SUN DECK



COMMUNITY GATHERING



SWIMMING POOL



FAMILY OUTING



HIKING



CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

PLAN OF THE UPPER RACEWAY AND RESERVOIR

UPPER RACEWAY AND RESERVOIR



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Prunus serotina



Carya glabra



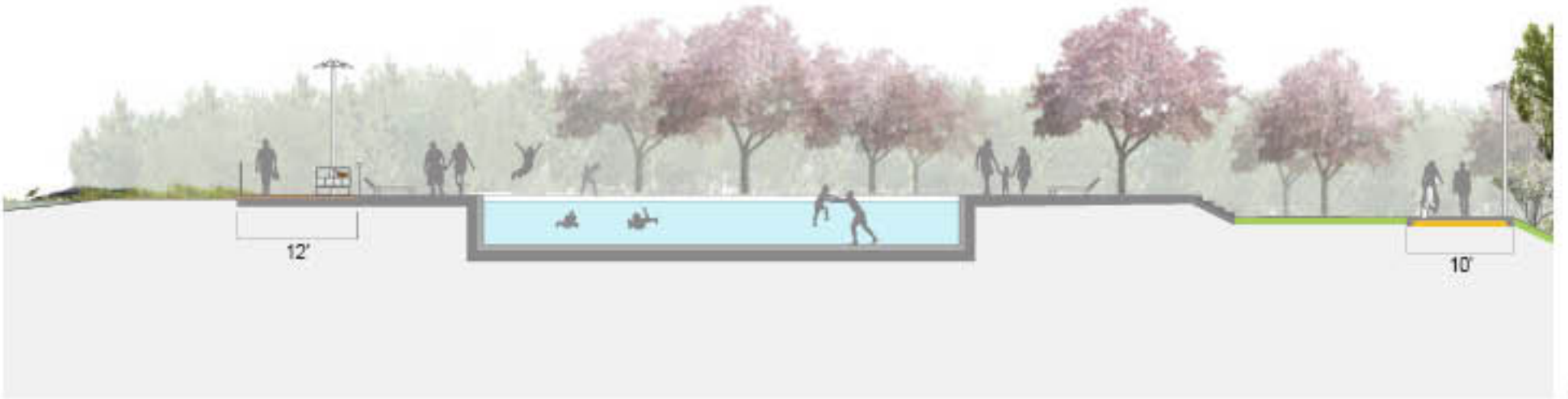
Quercus velutina



Triodanis perfoliata



Apocynum cannabinum



SECTION THROUGH THE UPPER RACEWAY AND LOU COSTELLO POOL

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