

3 lakes  
property

best friends -  
angel canyon

connectivity

kanab downtown

four  
seasons  
motel

**KANAB-BEST FRIENDS**  
connecting the possibilities



**KANAB/BEST FRIENDS**  
connecting the possibilities

## **CAPSTONE TEAM**

### **FACULTY**

- todd johnson
- david bell

### **STUDENTS**

- donalyn bliss
- spencer burt
- christopher creasey
- kendall crockett
- mckenna drew
- david durfee
- marjorie haight
- tyler knab
- tyson murray
- joseph nielson
- stephen ormsbee
- andrew quebbeman
- alonzo rhodes
- david shirk
- darci williams
- stephen woody

## **CREDITS**

best friends animal sanctuary  
kanab city  
bureau of land management - escalante office  
dept. of landscape architecture & environmental planning  
usu college of agriculture & applied sciences  
usu cooperative extension

**KANAB/BEST FRIENDS**  
**connecting the possibilities**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>kanab downtown</b>	<b>page xx</b>
<b>four seasons motel</b>	<b>page xx</b>
<b>three lakes property</b>	<b>page xx</b>
<b>angel canyon</b>	<b>page xx</b>
<b>connectivity</b>	<b>page xx</b>

## **2017 Senior Capstone Studio**

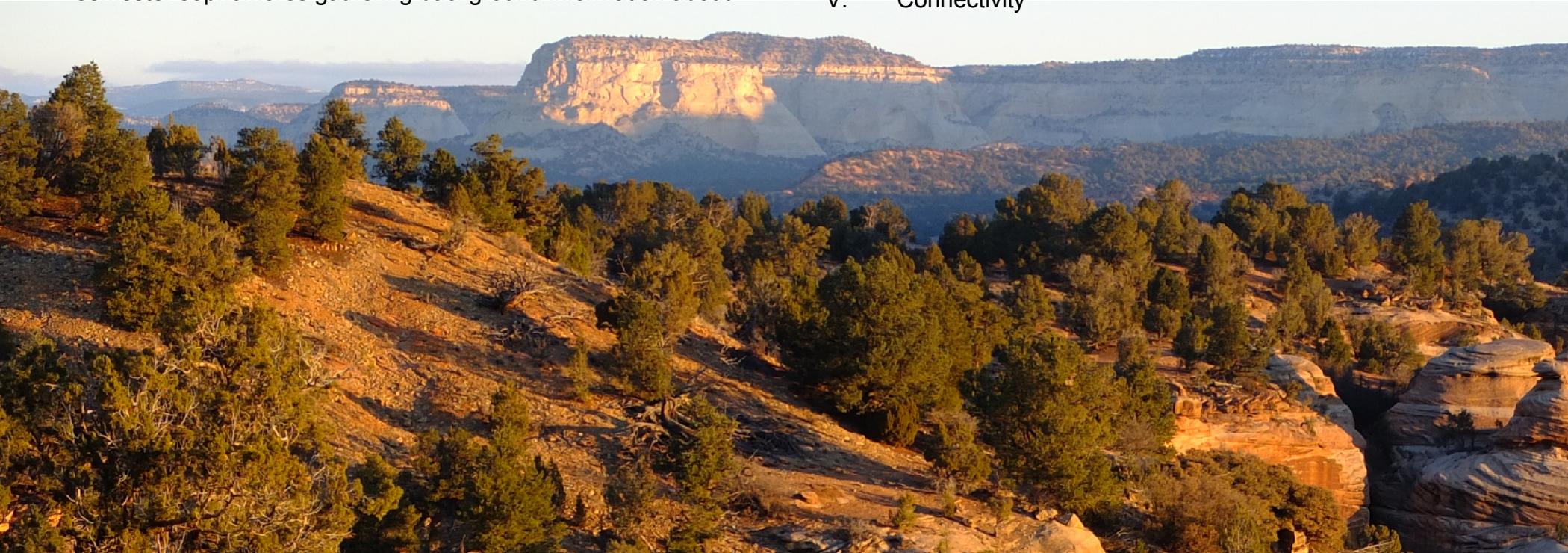
**Town of Kanab/Best Friends Animal Sanctuary  
Studio and Final Document Prepared by: The Department of  
Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning/College of  
Agriculture and Applied Sciences with USU Extension Services**

### **Studio Selection**

In the summer of 2016 the Department of LAEP was introduced to the founding members of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, UT. John Keith, a donor/contributor to Best Friends, sensed that the issues of town planning and the needs of its largest employer might benefit from student investigation. Each year the Department undertakes to tackle a large project with fall semester sophomores gathering background information about

the project and stakeholders. In January, at the beginning of the spring semester, the entire department undertook a weeklong Charrette to frame the essential questions for further design investigation by the seniors. For the remaining ten weeks, the seniors focused on deeper investigations of these issues. This document is the Compilation of the efforts of five teams attending to the following subjects:

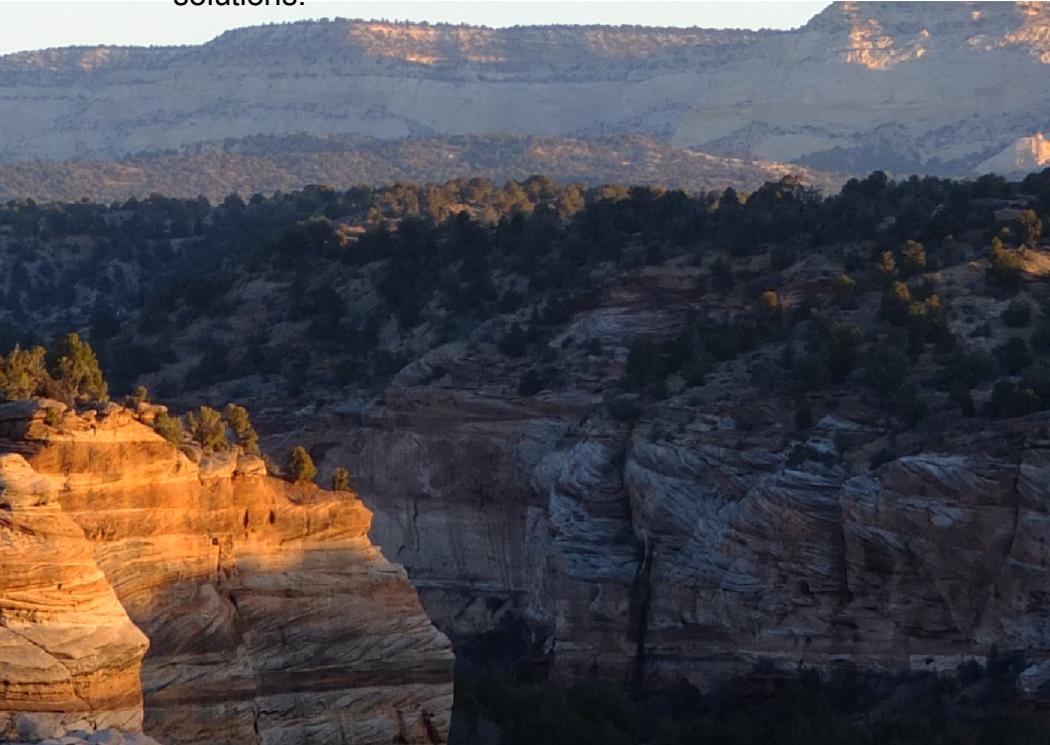
- I. Kanab Town Plan
- II. Motel Renovation at 4 Seasons Motel
- III. 400 Acre Acquisition/Employee Housing at Three Lakes
- IV. 3000 Acre Sanctuary Plan
- V. Connectivity



## Studio Culture

National Capstone Projects grew out of high school teachers wanting senior students to stay focused at the end of their final year. The tradition has evolved to feature the following learning principles and objectives:

- 1) The opportunity to investigate a dynamic/real world project.
- 2) The studio relies on the self-motivation and on the determination of students to discover project goals and solutions.
- 3) The studio operates with multiple teams in an open studio format. Collaboration is essential to finding dynamic solutions.



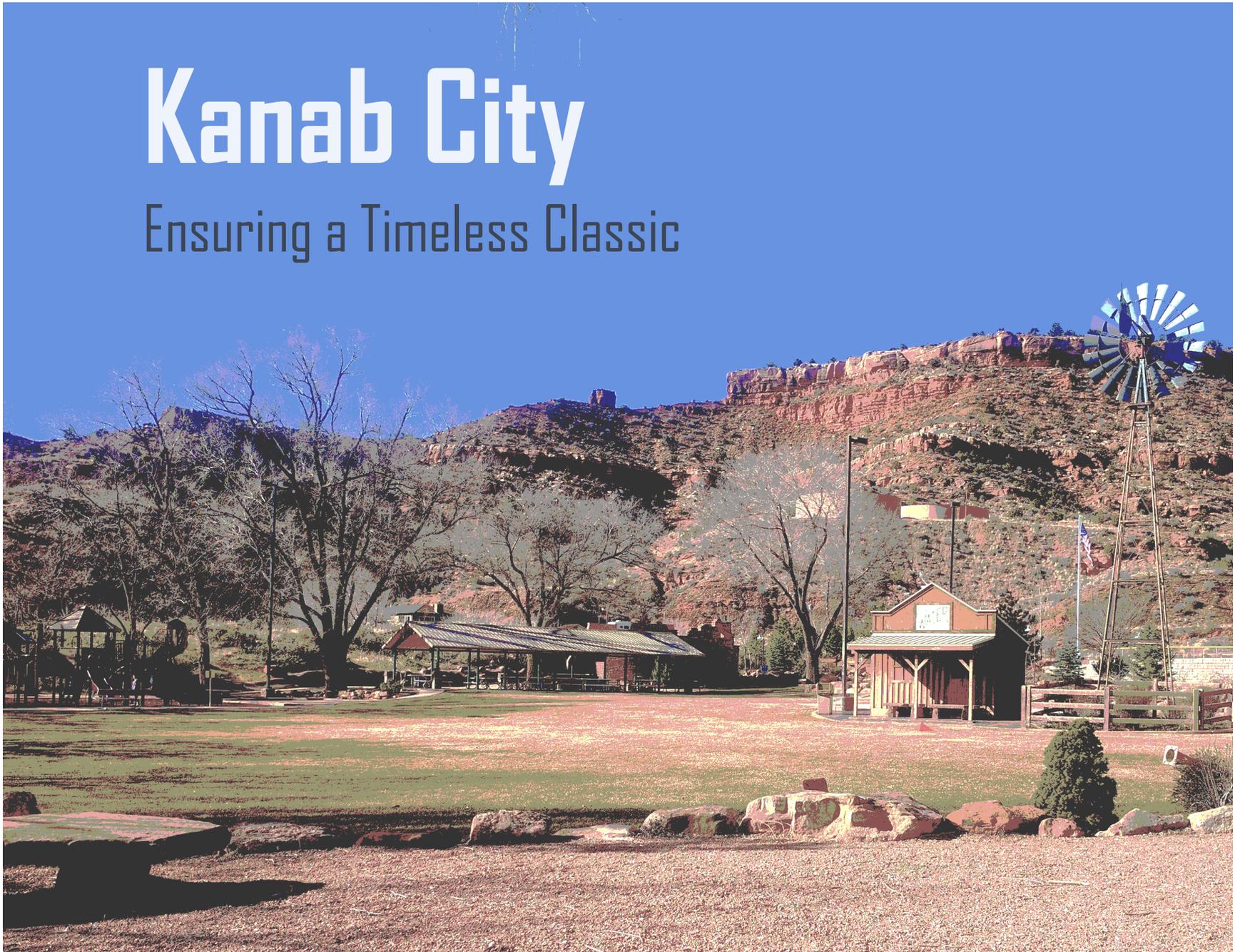
- 4) Maximum client and stakeholder involvement challenges the students to substantiate their ideas.
- 5) Capstone and Charrette studios provide an opportunity for all students across all grades to share ideas and working experiences with the entire faculty.

## Client and Stakeholder Centered

The experience of seeking feedback from clients, incorporating changes and redirecting the design, is very valuable for a practice-ready graduating student. The mayor, town manager, economic development director and community leaders have participated throughout the semester to offer the students a flavor of the town perspective. *Citizens and public officials should use this document to make the entire community more economically stable and a better place to live.*

# Kanab City

Ensuring a Timeless Classic



## **Project Statement**

A city's center street is often the backbone of retail and commerce to small rural towns. Towns that share their center street with a state highway can experience a conflict of interests. Historically, approaches to this conflict between local communities and state through-traffic have been one-sided, favoring the faster transportation of people and goods through the city. By placing the emphasis on the local citizens, we empower the community to succeed without compromising regional transportation needs. Helping to support the backbone is the community's civic center or the heart of the city. By providing quality spaces for interactions between different age groups you strengthen the entire community of Kanab, Utah.

## **Site Location**

Kanab is located on the Utah border just miles from Arizona with highway 89 serving as Center Street. Kanab's population of 4,000 is primarily of agrarian employment and tourism. They are located within an hour of five different national parks that see 17 million visitors per year. This huge influx of tourists during the summer months creates a town that is fundamentally different based on each changing season.

## **Issues**

Despite Kanab's various assets, there are some constraints that prevent certain aspects of change. Center Street for example currently has four lanes with a turn lane in the middle encourages higher vehicular speeds, but makes it dangerous for pedestrians. The average daily traffic numbers do not require two lanes each way even through the summer months when tourism is at its peak. Kanab also has a lack of a public gathering space that unifies the community. They have a lack of affordable rentals, which are currently in high demand. Last, several locals and city officials fear losing the small town feel of Kanab.

## **Project Goals Objectives**

Three main goals of this project were to 1) address the streetscape to better support the city and ultimately strengthen the economy, 2) provide recommendations for the housing shortage, and 3) help bring the community together in a public space that is successful and useful for all ages.

## **Project implementation**

We have addressed the streetscape by proposing a planted median, a combination of parallel and angled parking, installing a traffic light, installing bulb-outs, crosswalks, removing a lane each direction, and reducing speeds to 25 miles per hour. Kanab will be able to meet their goals for Center Street by implementing these elements. The preceding suggestions will help to strengthen the community by slowing traffic, increasing dwell times, creating memorable identity of the town, and increasing pedestrian safety and comfort.

We have supported the housing market with recommendations on new building locations and infill opportunities where there is existing infrastructure. We also suggest that some existing houses for sale be converted into duplexes and other rental options to maintain the current small town feel of the historic city. By considering these suggestions, Kanab's housing complications will be greatly improved and potentially invite residents of various ages and occupations.

Enhancing the city's Civic Center and surrounding spaces to include recreation opportunities such as pickle ball and horseshoe pits will provide opportunities for mingling individuals of all ages. The outdoor gathering spaces such as the amphitheater and pavilion provide opportunities for various events. The site also meets needs of the city with providing additional parking and storage for the city offices.

Several of the elements can be used for multiple activities such as the overflow parking hosting food trucks for celebrations and local farmers markets. The

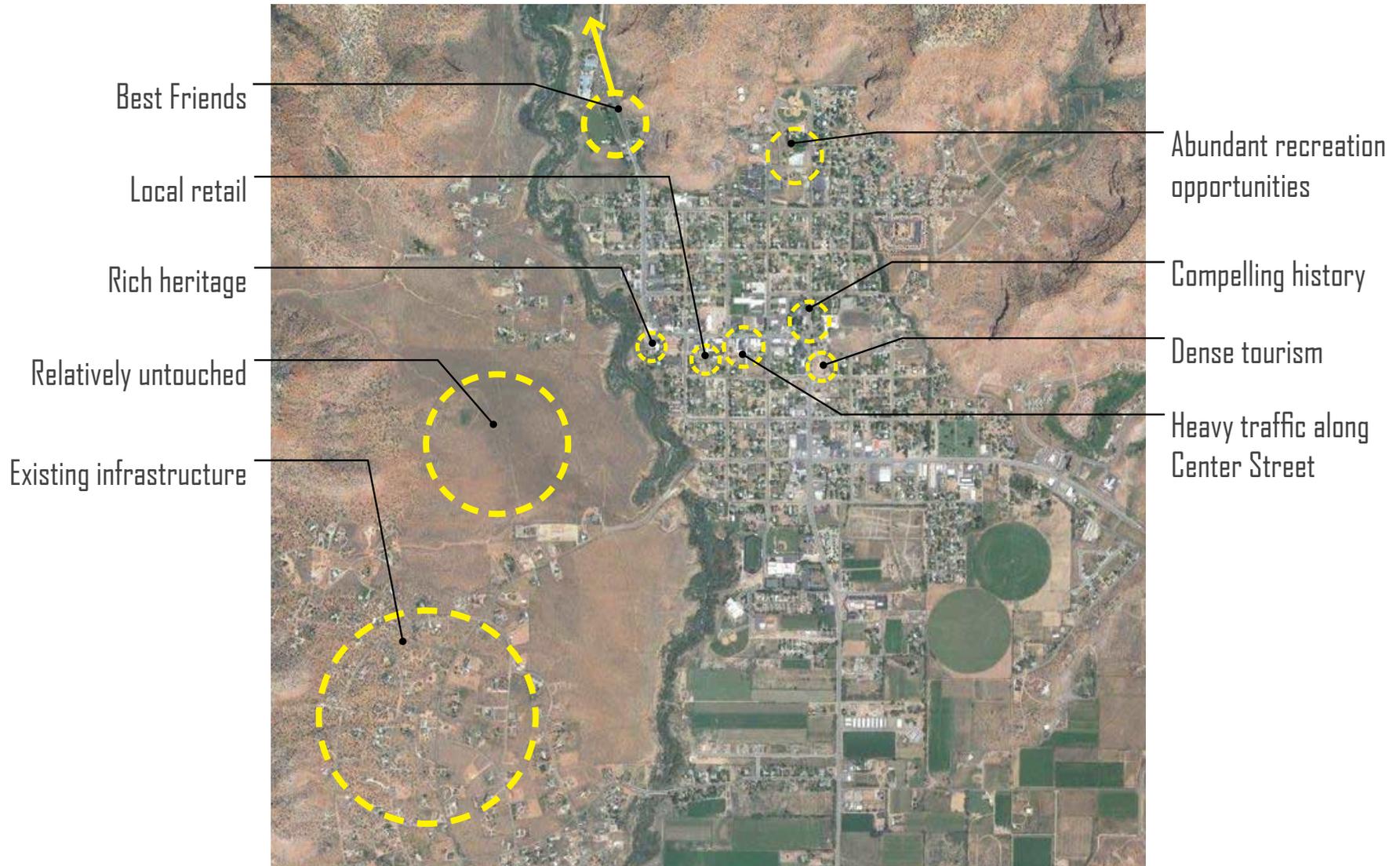
paved parking lot has been sized for three on three basketball tournaments as well as including other recreational opportunities in the surrounding area. By providing these amenities in a public community center in addition to the Center Street improvements, Kanab's downtown will spark a positive change throughout the entire city. The implementation of the preceding proposals will provide the town with a healthy economy, affordable housing options, and recreational opportunities that will help meet and exceed the goals of the beautiful and historic Kanab.

# Context



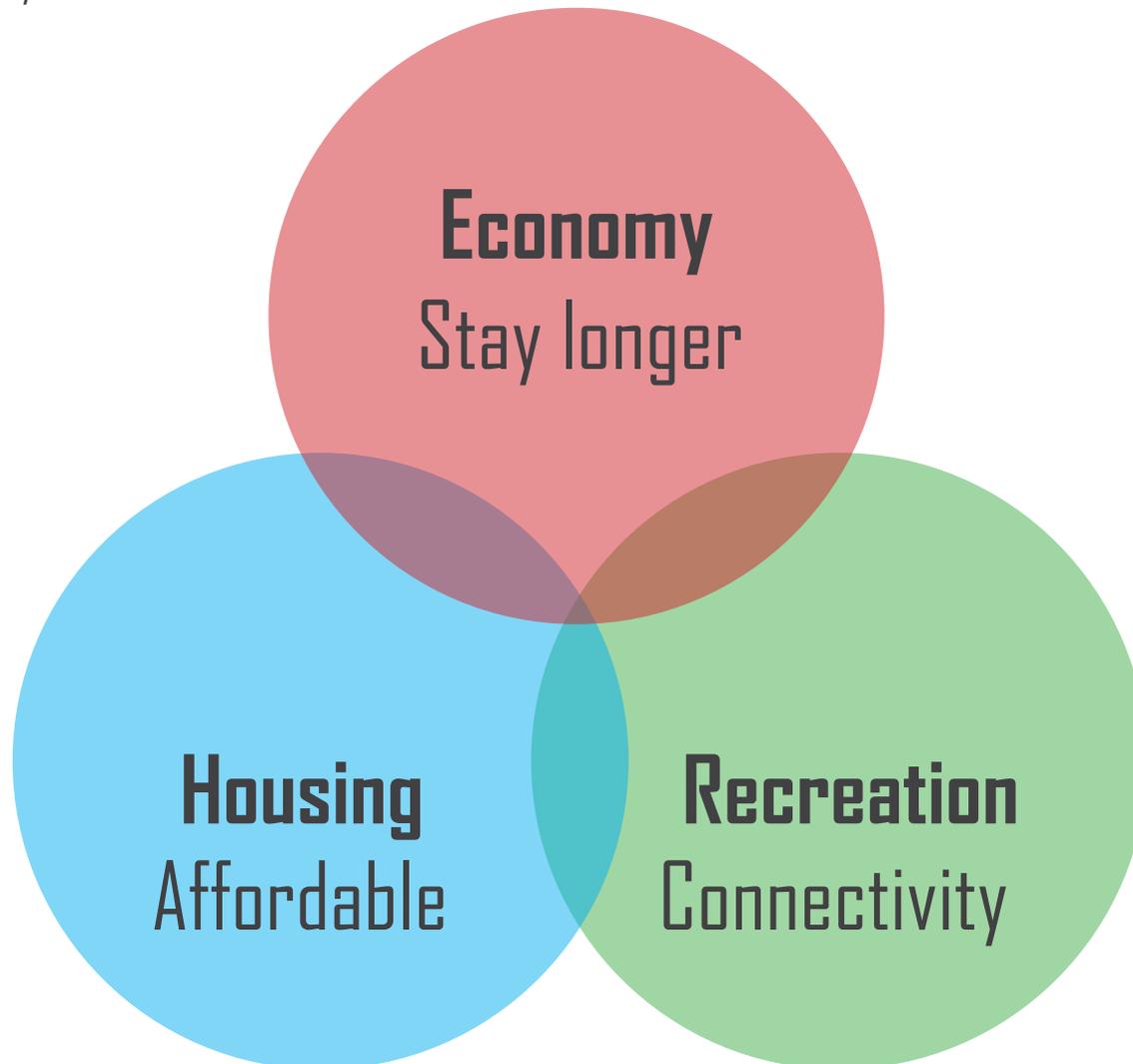
**04** | Kanab, Utah is located in southern Utah and is conveniently surrounded by several National Parks that can be reached within an hours travel. Though it is a small town, it is filled with big amenities focused around the downtown area.

# Assets

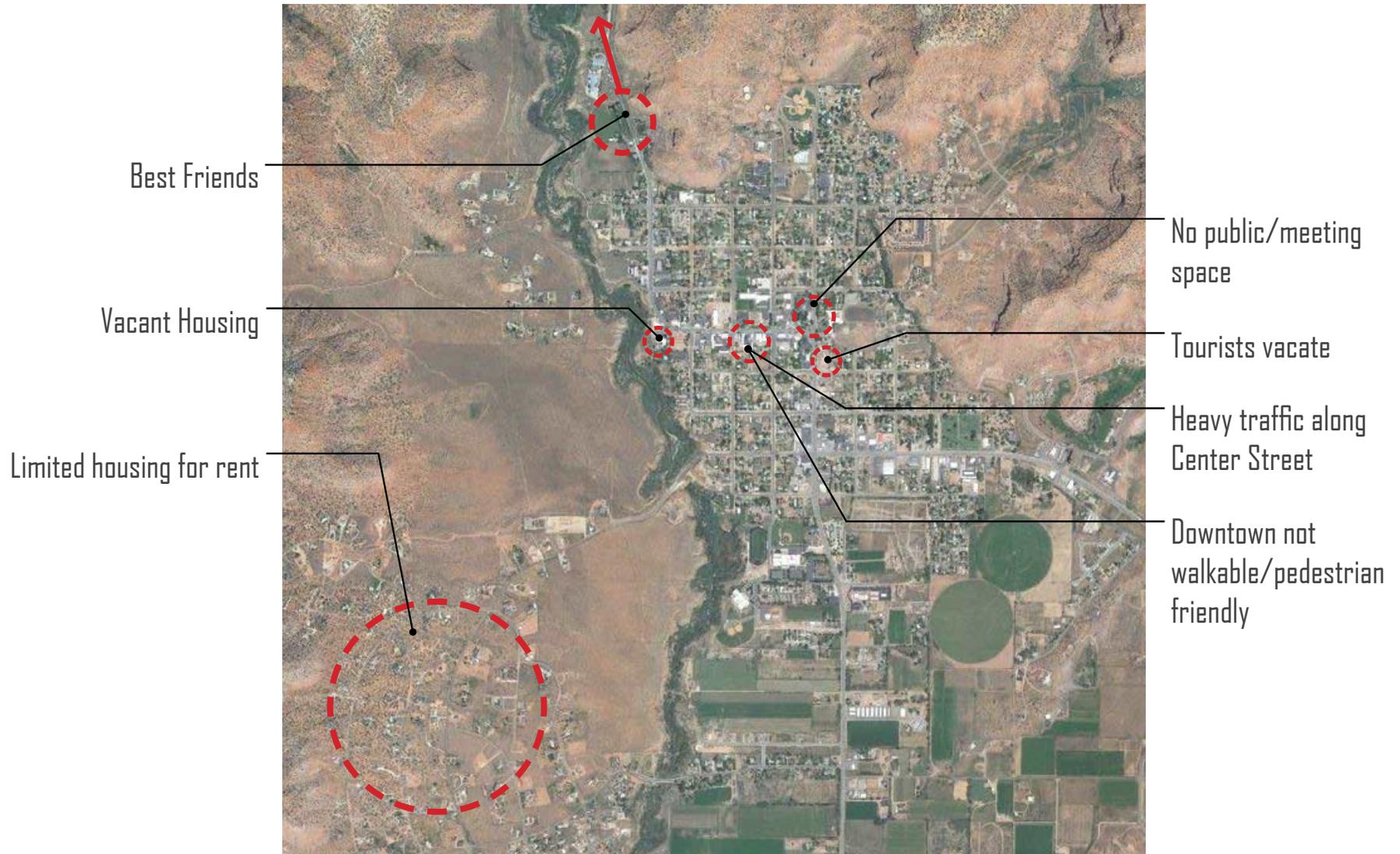


# Mutual Goals

What makes a community successful?



# Constraints



# Civic Center Master



**08** | The Civic Center site, anchoring the east end of Center Street has already begun to be developed by the city. The design team programmed the elements above to cater to the needs of the diverse community.

# Civic Center Elements

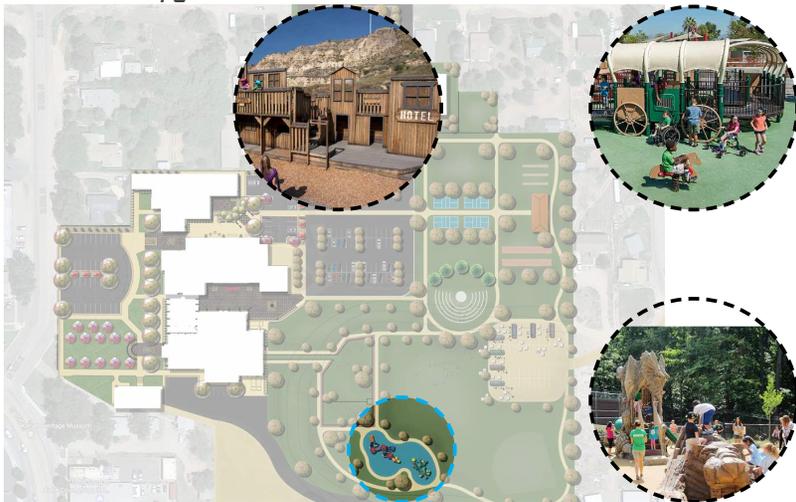
Dog Park



Informal Amphitheater



Themed Playground

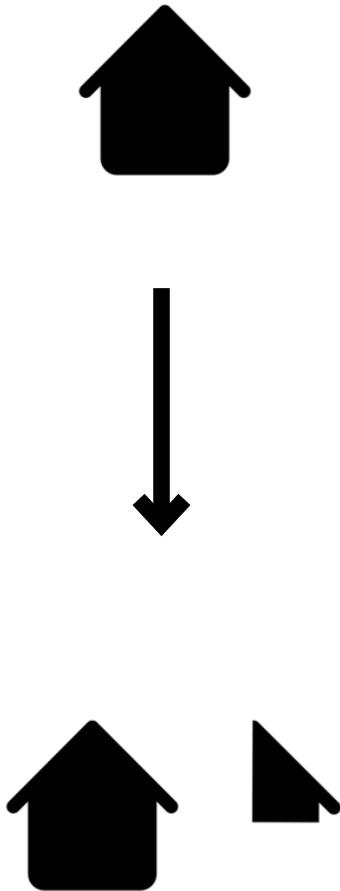


Parking/Event Space



# Housing Issues

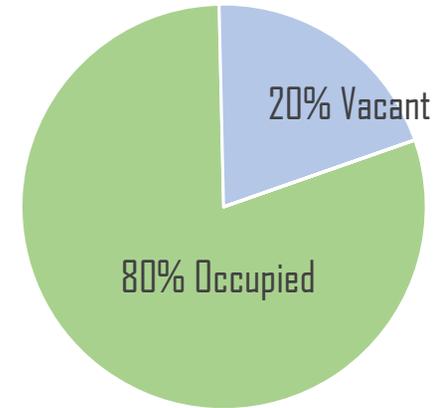
1 Population Growth



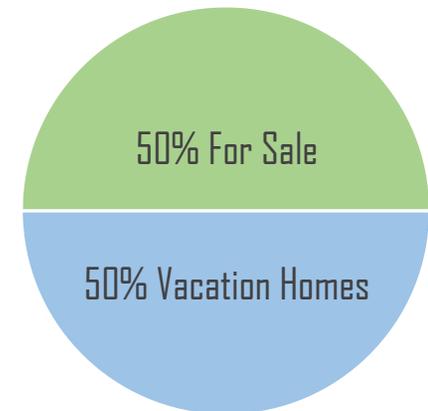
2 No Rentals



3 Housing



Vacant

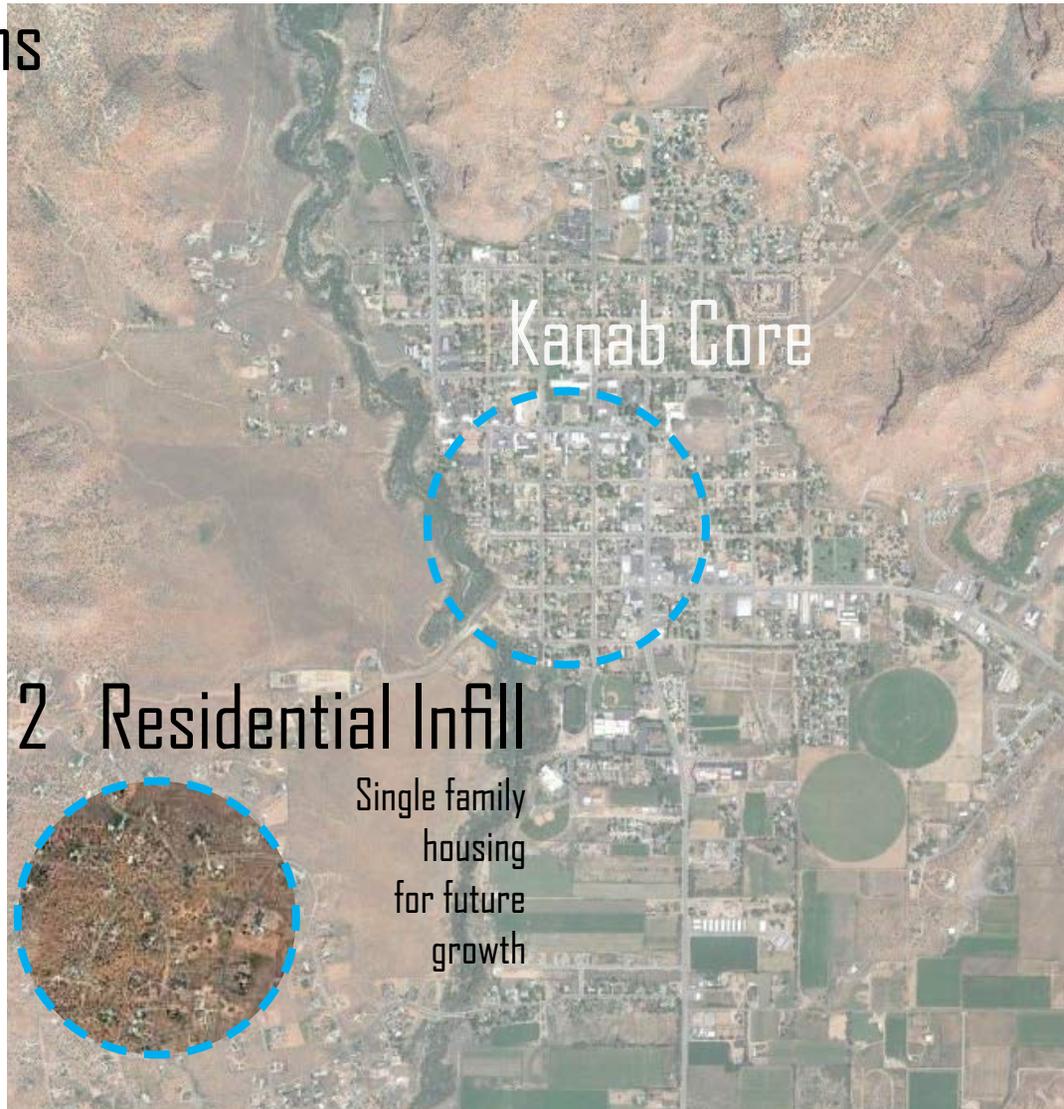


# Housing Proposal

## 1 Suggestions

Suggest subdivisions for rent out of

- a) existing vacation homes and
- b) proposed duplex/fourplex's



## 2 Residential Infill

Single family housing for future growth

## 3 Slowly

Slow infill so as not to overwhelm the small town feel and growth

**11** | Some solutions to these issues are to use existing structures to be used for rental opportunities, infill the area in the southwest of town due to its existing infrastructure, and do this slowly so as not to overwhelm the small town feel.

# Center Street Precedents



## 1st Street, Livermore, CA

2 Lanes

AADT - 9,300

Lane Width - 11 ft

Angled Parking on North and South



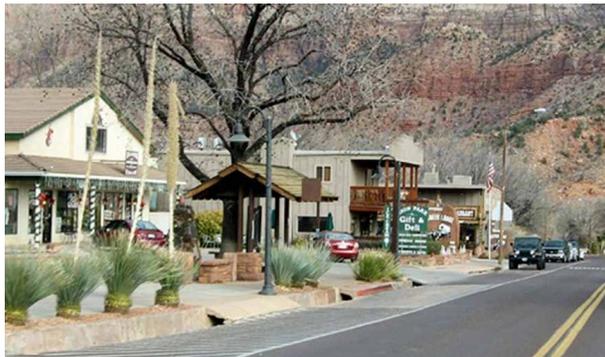
## Provo Center Street, UT

4 Lanes

AADT - 15,600

Lane Width - 9.5 ft.

Angled Parking on North, South, and Center Median



## Springdale Main, UT

2 Lanes

AADT - 3,000

Lane Width - 11 ft.

Parallel Parking on North and South

# Kanab Center Street

4 Lanes

AADT - 9,000

Lane Width - 11 ft.

Parallel Parking on North and South



**13 |** This shows a photo of the existing condition of Kanab's Center Street. It is wide, uncomfortable and slightly scary from a pedestrian perspective.

# Center Street



## Elements:

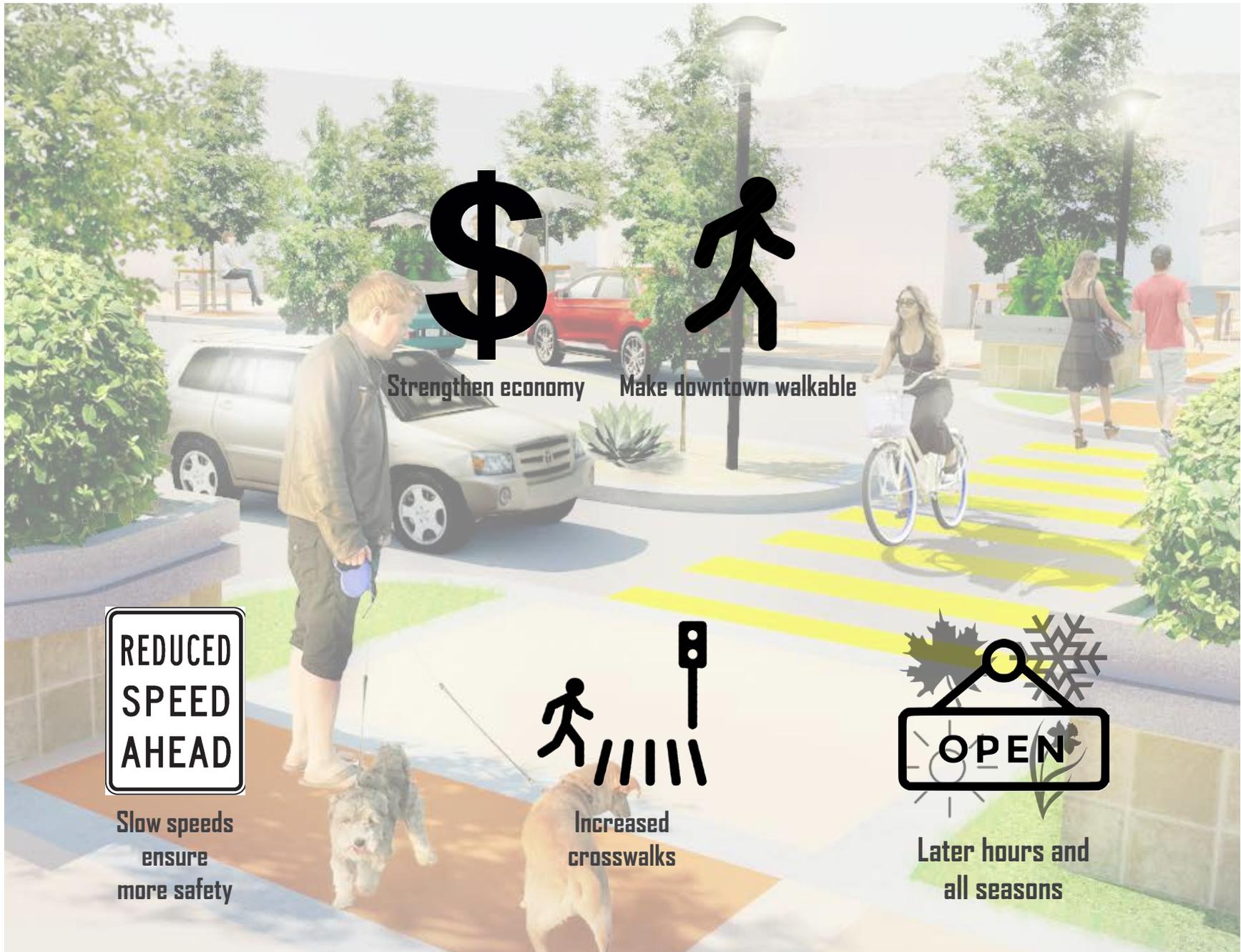
- 2 Lanes
- Planted Median
- North Side Parallel Parking
- South Side 30° Parking
- Bulb-Out
- Increased Crosswalks
- Reduce Speed to 25 MPH
- Traffic Light at Center and Main



# Center Street

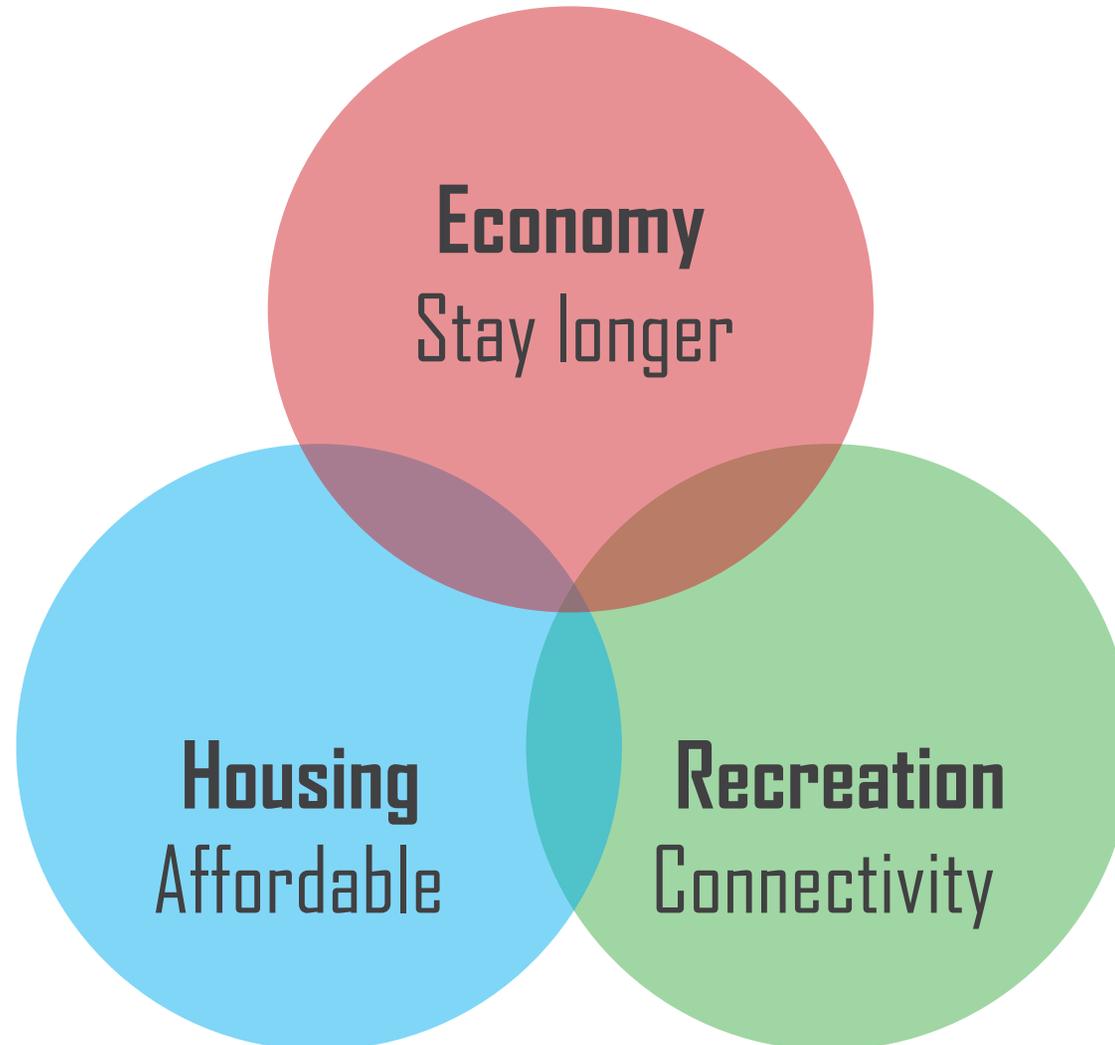


**15 |** The change along Center Street would be drastic, but this cross section shows how the lane sizes stay comfortable and give the pedestrians a much more enjoyable experience.



**16 |** By implementing all of these changes to Kanab's downtown, the team believes that the economy of the city will be strengthened and ultimately disperse into the rest of the town which will promote a stronger sense of community for locals and tourists.

# Mutual Goals



**MOTEL** | a model for the community

# Four Seasons Motel

## Kanab, Utah



## PROJECT STATEMENT

Located on the southern border of Utah is the small town of Kanab. Kanab is known for its agriculture, connections to State and National parks, and Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. This town is in need of animal friendly places to stay while visitors spend time in town, at the parks, or volunteering at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. Entering into town The Four Seasons motel has potential to be a pet destination motel. Located on site will be an updated motel, dog park, restaurant, dog daycare,

and kitten nursery.

## PROJECT NARRATIVE

The booming city of Kanab is located on the southern border of Utah. Kanab is most known for the close proximity to several state and national parks including Zion's National Park and the Grand Staircase as well as the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. Best Friends is a non-profit organization that focuses on ending the killing of domestic animals in America's animal shelters and has the overarching goal of No Kill by 2025.

The City of Kanab has a small town feel with a population of under five-thousand people. Kanab's economy relies heavily on tourism and therefore is in need of more hotel space that contributes to the character of the town. Best Friends, located six miles north of Kanab, employs 400 individuals that work and live by the same principles that the organization promotes. The landscape, Angel Canyon and Kanab Creek, run between Kanab and Best Friends and connect the two. Currently, these two entities are perceived to have different values and beliefs. Best Friends recently purchased The Four Seasons motel in Kanab that has the potential to bring these two entities together.

The recently purchased Four Seasons Motel was built in the 1970s along Highway 89 as you enter into Kanab City and is the first structure in the Historic District. Best Friends sees this run down motel as an opportunity to

benefit both the City of Kanab and provide lodging to the pet oriented visitors.

In the design of the motel, the original 41 rooms will be maintained; however, 14 rooms will transform into suites - 6 suites have outdoor dog enclosures on the bottom floor while 8 room have outdoor cat enclosures (catios) on the top floor. The updated motel lobby has large glass doors and windows to capture the views of the canyon. Behind the lobby is motel office space and large gathering room. On the motel core second floor there are business meeting rooms and a conference room. The core of the motel leads visitors to the quarter acre dog park. The dog park has a shallow pool for dogs to wade in and plenty of seating for visitors.

On the south side of the site is the run down L-Shaped structure that is beyond repair. This building is taken down and a new building will serve as a dog daycare and kitten nursery. This program element is key as the trails in Kanab and the surrounding parks do not allow dogs on their trails. Users can bring their pets here to drop them off for either hours at a time or weeks, if needed. The dog daycare will also have a pet grooming area as their currently is not a dog groomer in Kanab. The kitten nursery is designed for kittens to be bottle fed and cared for by Best Friends employees and is visible to pedestrians through the installation of large windows. The purpose of many windows on the building is for visitors to see the activities happening and intend to bridge the gap between the City of Kanab and Best Friends.

The north end of the site will have a restaurant. The structure will be renovated to be destination restaurant for all including individuals who want to bring their pets. The front of the restaurant has a two level patio that captures the view of canyon. The patio will be pet friendly to contribute to the pet destination motel. The east side of the building has employee only parking.

Adjacent to the restaurant is a crosswalk to connect to the surrounding trails. Highway 89 is a busy road and pedestrians are in need of a safe place to cross to get from one side of the road to the other. The south side of the site, as you enter historic center street, has another cross walk that connects pedestrians to Downtown Kanab and the Historic District.

The final additional to the property is the rain garden located directly out of the motel core. Rain water from the motel will be captured and stored in a series of cisterns that look like silos to contribute to the agrarian characteristics of Kanab. The extra rain water from the roof and parking lot area will be captured in a detention basin located in the front of the motel. This 0.22 acre-feet detention basin is designed for a 100-year storm with a 3-hour rainfall event. The implementation of the sustainable system will be the first of its kind in Kanab. This motel has the potential to be a model for the community through the experience, sustainable elements, and attention to history included on this site.

# Context

To Zion

Grand Staircase

Angel Canyon

Best Friends  
Sanctuary

Four Seasons  
Motel

City of Kanab

To Lake  
Powell



# Site Inventory



Motel



Back Parcel



Restaurant



L Structure



Restaurant

Back Parcel

Motel

L-Shaped Structure

# Motel Potential

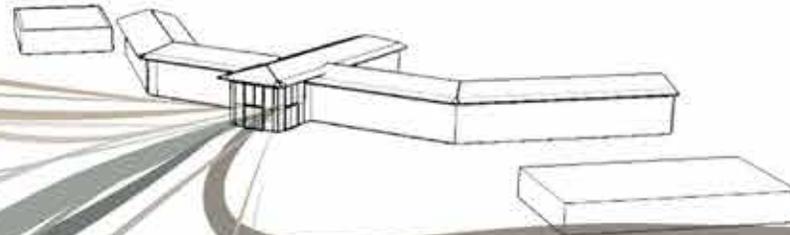
## Best Friends

- Work and Live by Principles of Best Friends
- Focus on Animal Suffrage
- Connect to Landscape
- Rely on Donors, Visitors, and Volunteers
- Founded on New Beginnings

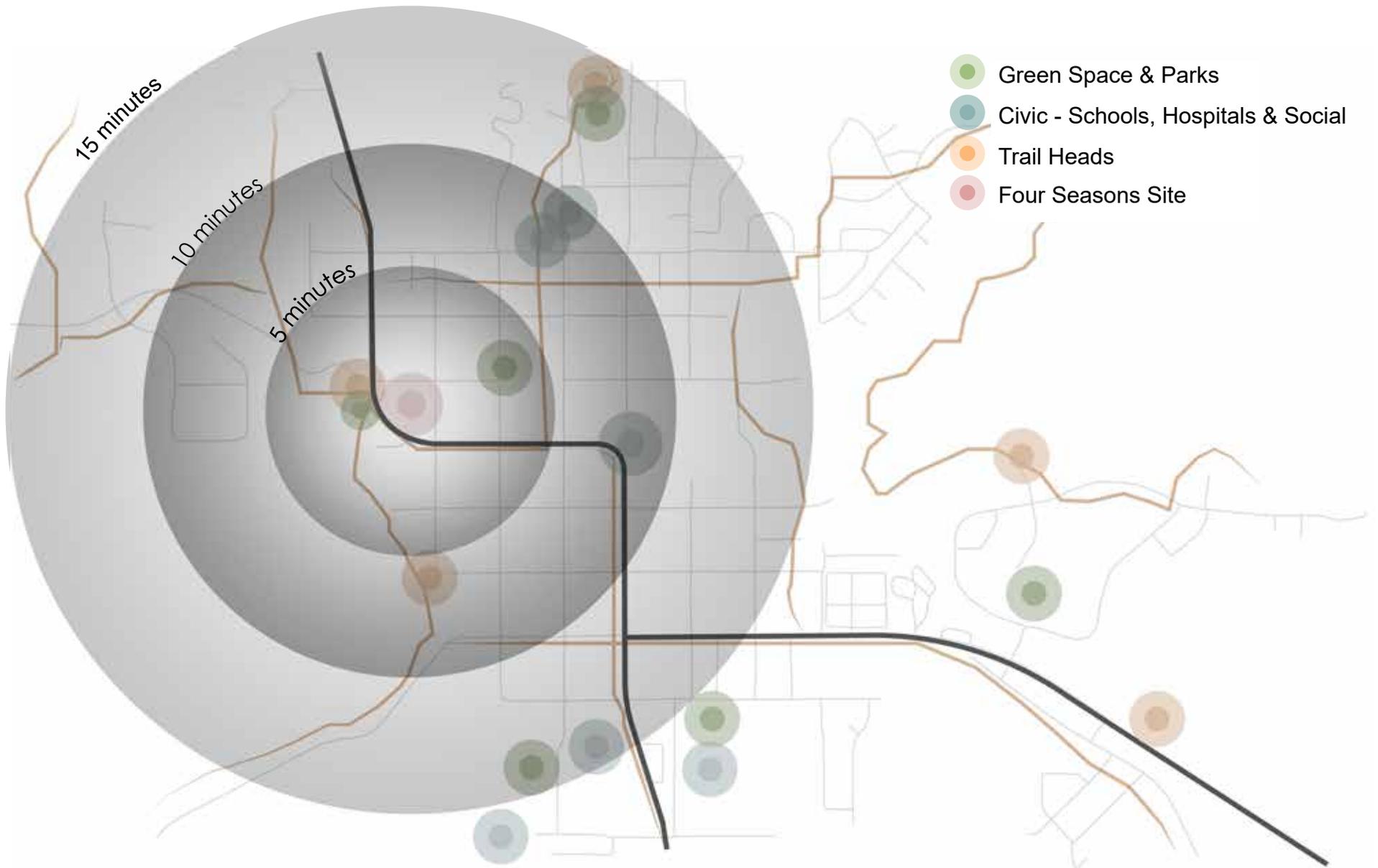
## Landscape

## City of Kanab

- Family Oriented
- Small Town Feel
- Agrarian
- Connect to Landscape
- Rely on Tourism
- Founded on New Beginnings



# Connections



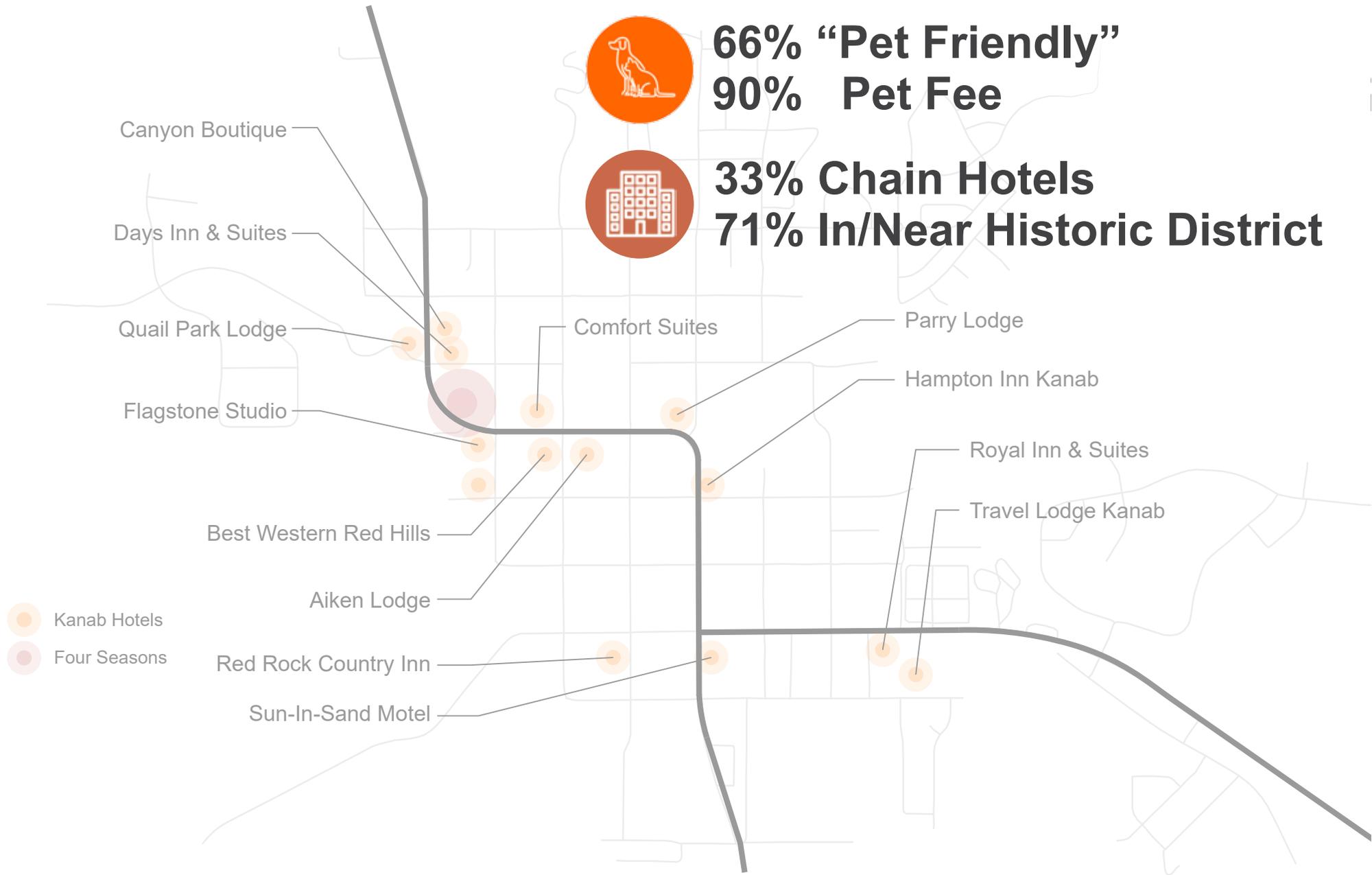
# Hotel Analysis



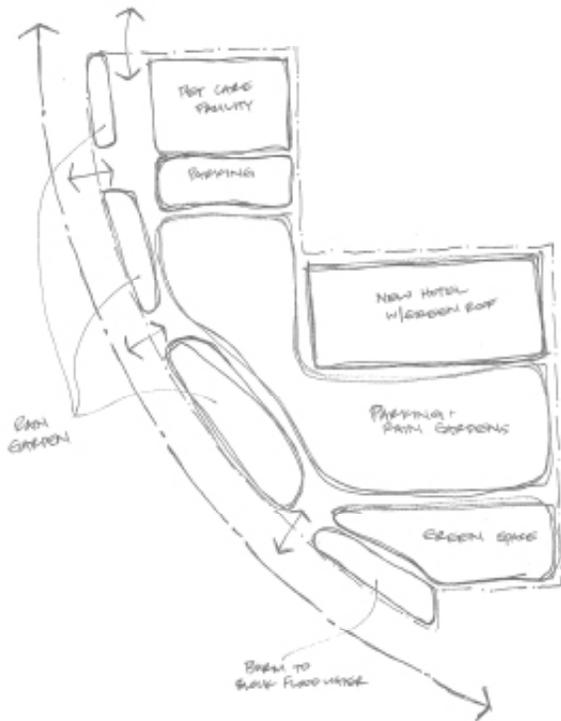
**66% "Pet Friendly"**  
**90% Pet Fee**



**33% Chain Hotels**  
**71% In/Near Historic District**

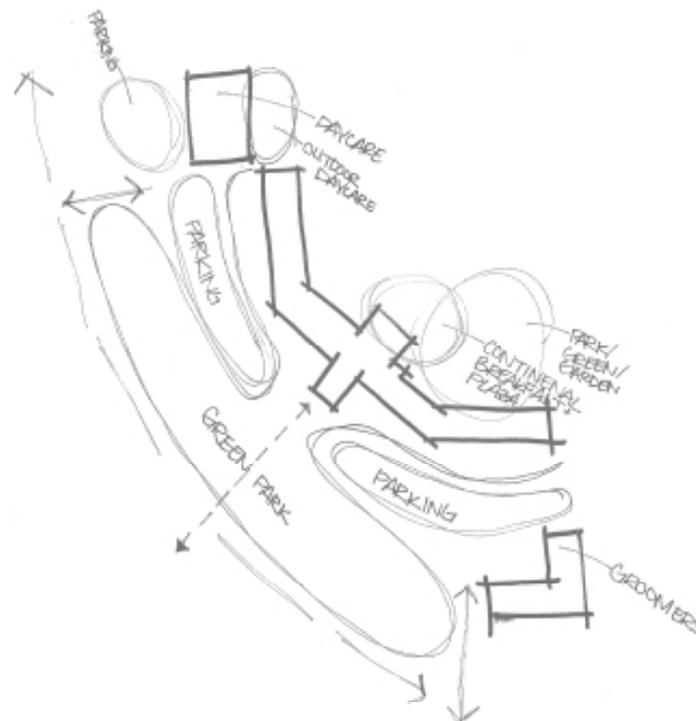


# Conceptual Alternatives



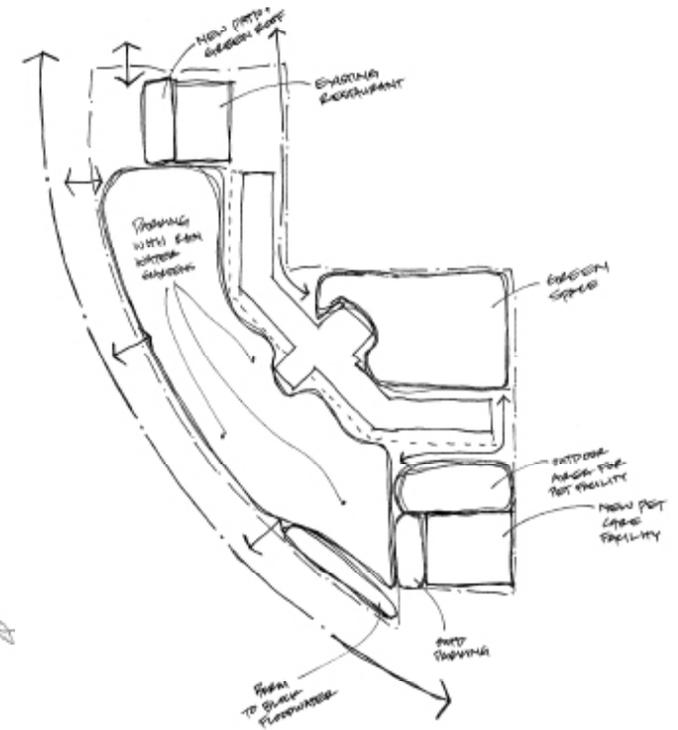
## High Impact

- Demolish Hotel
- Demolish “L-Shape” Building
- Demolish Restaurant
- Vehicular Entrances Remain
- Back Lot Purchased



## Low Impact

- Increase Green Space
- “L-Shaped” Building Repurpose
- Restaurant Repurpose
- Decrease Parking/Hardscape
- Additional Plaza Space
- Back Lot Purchase



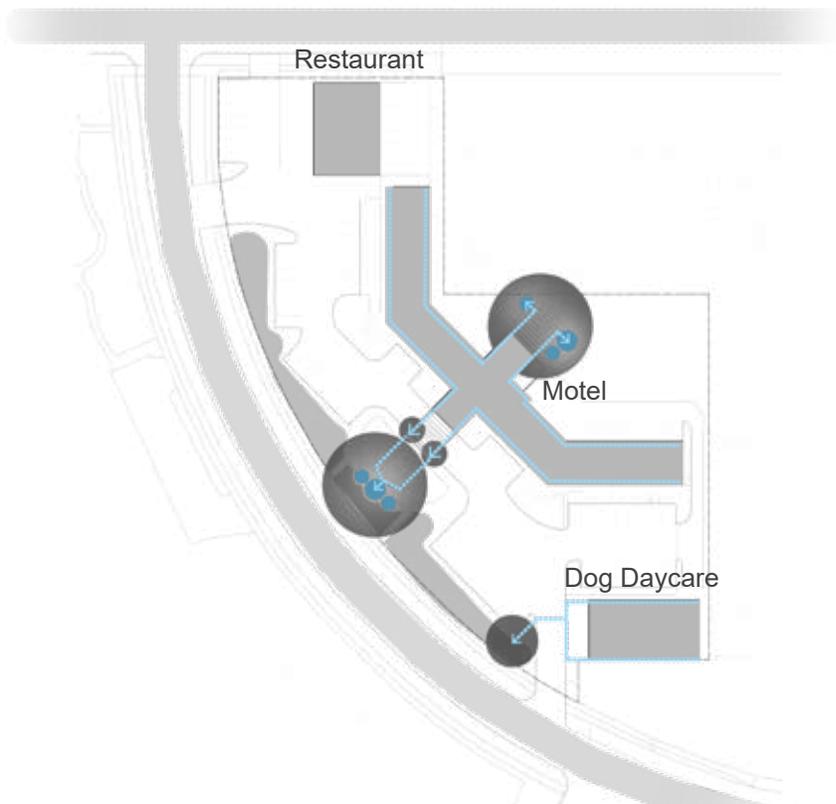
## Medium Impact

- Purchase Back Lot
- All access entrances remain
- Restaurant remain
- Patio renovation
- Demolish “L-Shaped” Building
- Back Lot Purchase

# Schematic Design



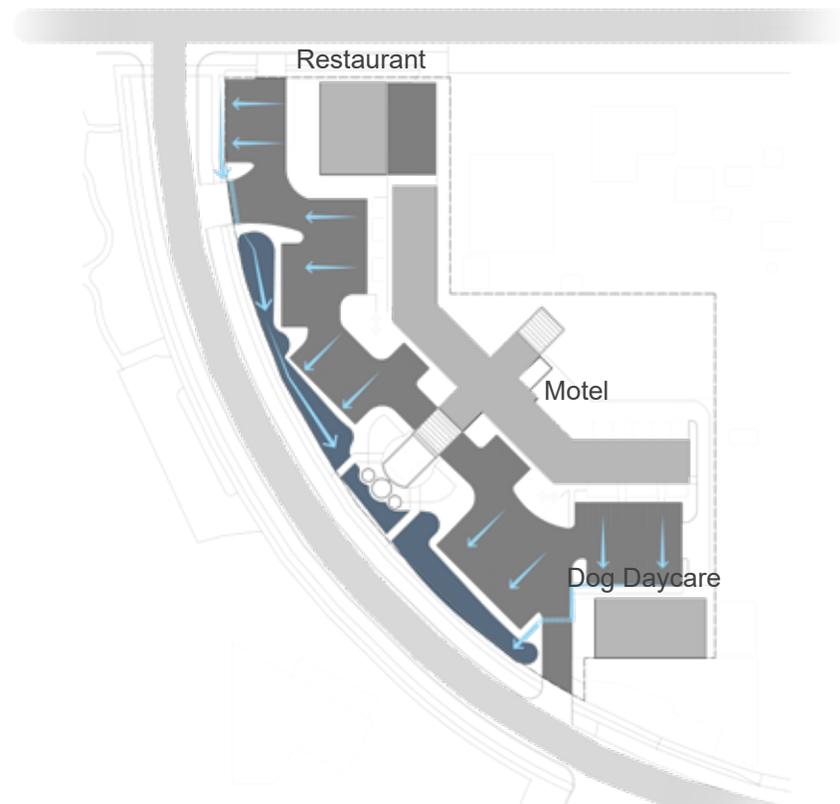
# Water Catchment



Restaurant - **Runoff deferred to north side** due to existing structural conditions

Motel - **(2) 3,750 gallon cisterns** on north and south side of motel core

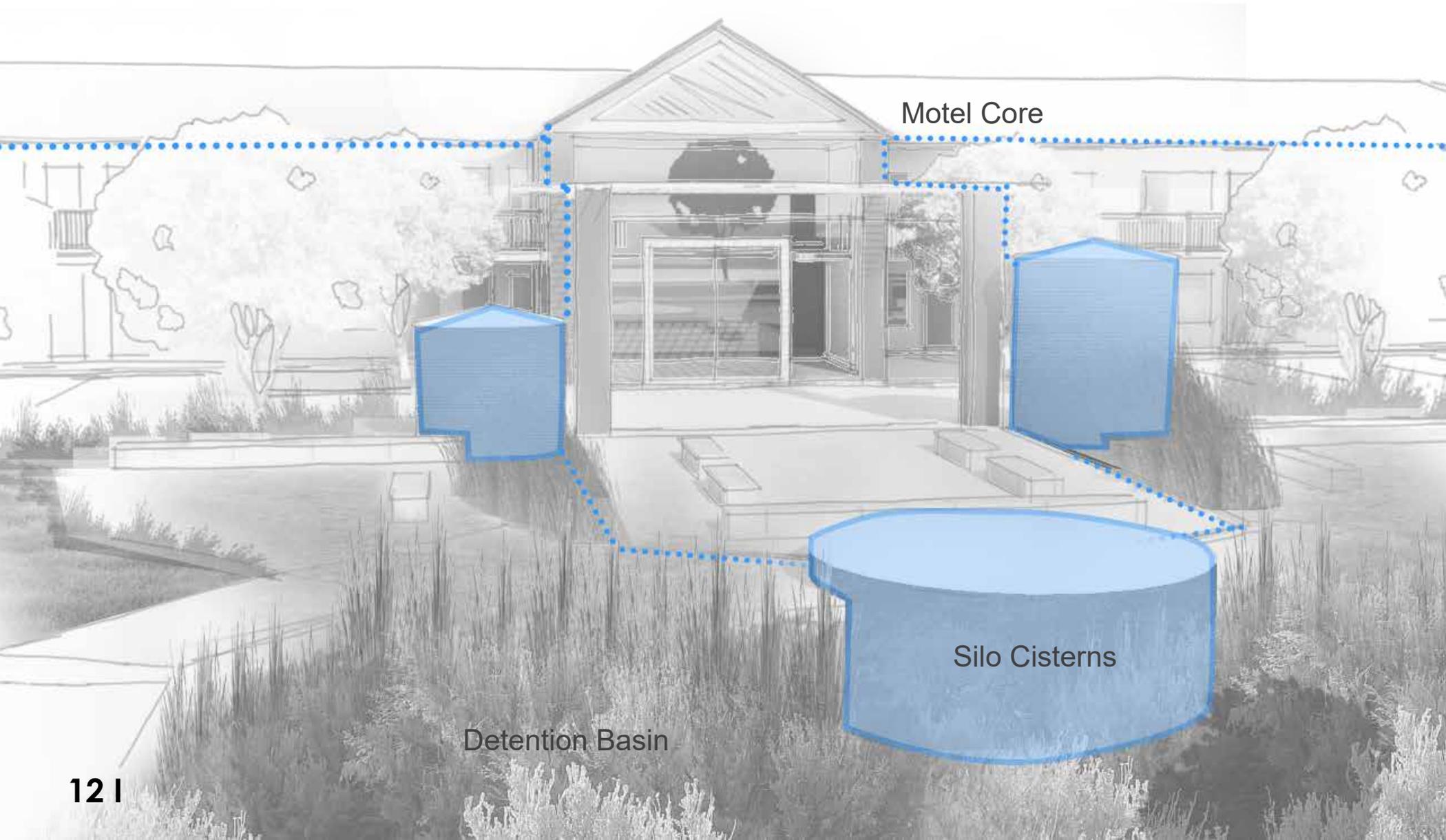
Doggie Daycare - **Rain chain** draining into detention basin



Runoff from parking lot is deferred into a system of **swales** and ultimately to a **detention basin**

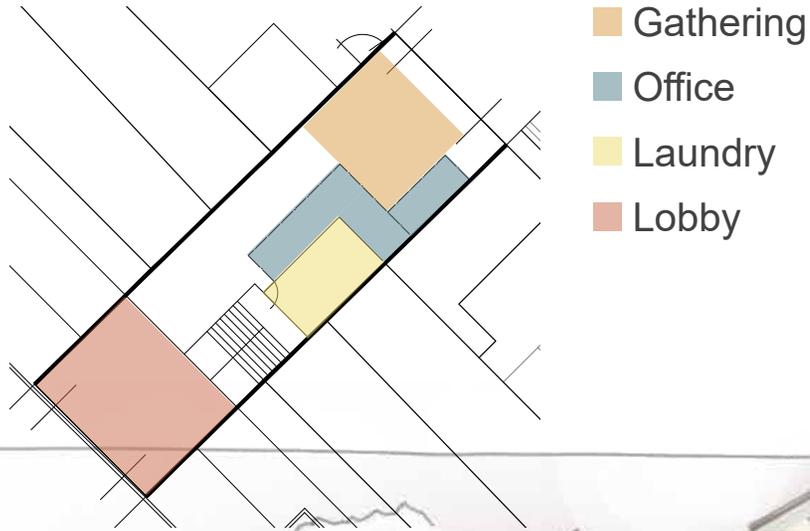
**Detention basin is 0.22 acre-feet** - designed for a **100 year storm** with a **3 hour rainfall event**

# Motel Roof Catchment



# Motel Core

## First Level of Motel



## Second Level of Motel



MOTEL | dog park

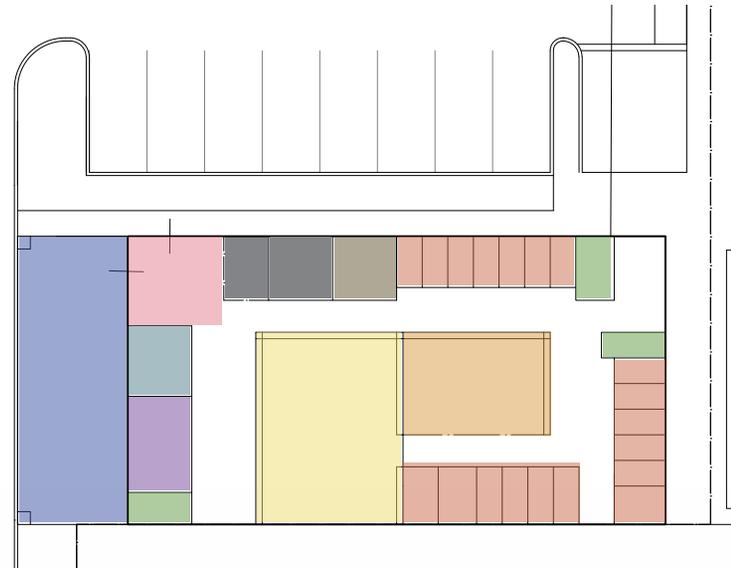
# Dog Park



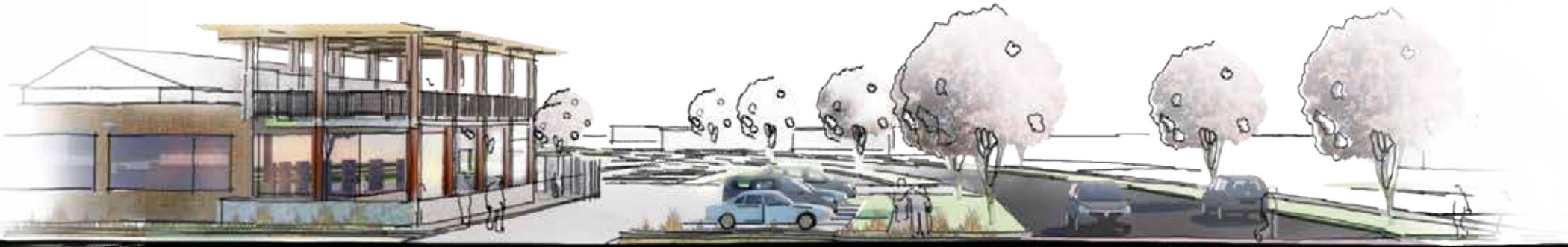
# Dog Daycare & Kitten Nursery

## Indoor Layout

- Outdoor Viewing Patio
- Lobby
- Dog Groomer
- Kitten Nursery
- Closet
- Office
- Bathroom
- Large Dog Play Area
- Small Dog Play Area
- Individual Dog Enclosures



# North Connection

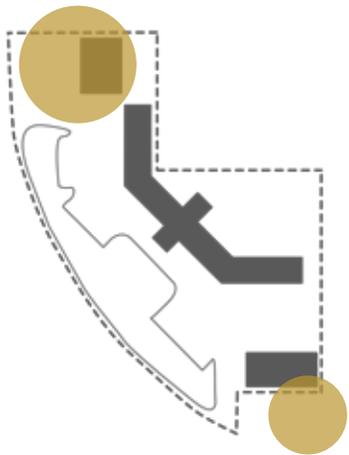


Restaurant

Entrance

Parking & Sidewalk

Crosswalk & Roadway



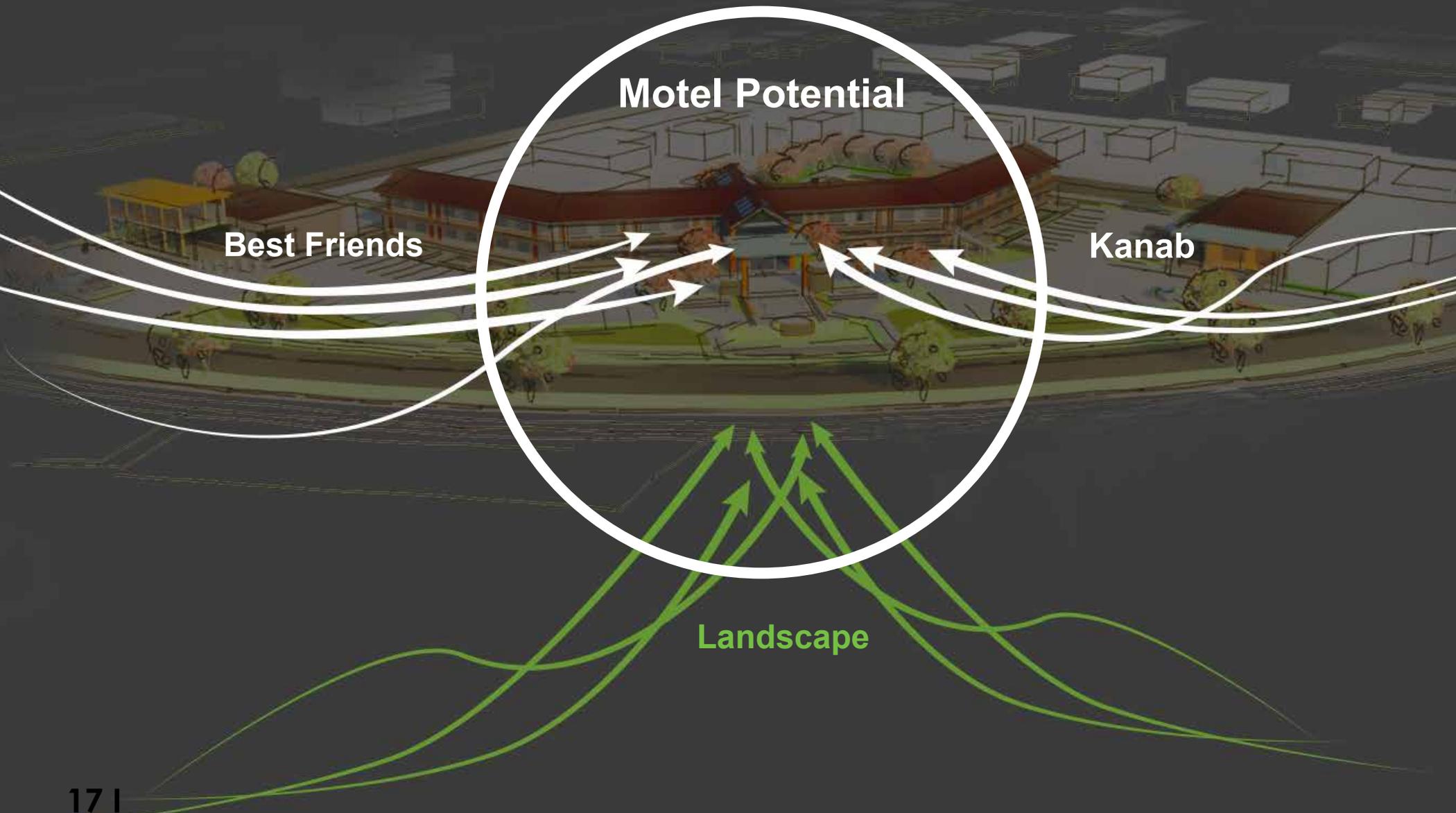
## Restaurant

- **Two Story Patio** captures view
- **Pet Friendly** Restaurant

## Two proposed crosswalks

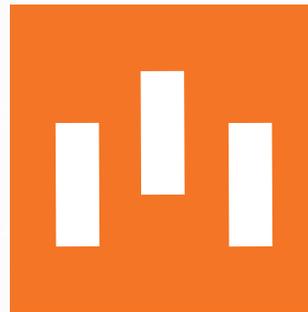
- **North** connects to **Kanab Trails**
- **South** connects to **Downtown Kanab**

# Design Results





# PAW-DRIVEN COMMUNITY



### **Project Summary:**

Synergy between work and home spheres is crucial for sustaining life work balance. Employees at Best Friends are living their dreams at work, but are faced with limited housing options in the nearby town of Kanab. Affordable rentals are hard to come by, and housing that shares the workplace values of Best Friends is non-existent.

Set adjacent to the sanctuary in Angel's Canyon in a beautiful juniper and sagebrush landscape, the Three Lakes Property is perfect for a low-impact housing solution. Analysis of the site concluded that a modular development of 20 units, with a community center, could be sustainably supported. Unpaved organic roads and restoration techniques, along with solar and rainwater catchment strategies align community values with those of Best Friends.

This Paw-Driven community goes beyond accommodating the many pets of employees at Best Friends with catteries and fenced yards at each unit, miles of trails, and community play spaces. There are also options to be had with both "teeth to the wind" and "hunkered down" home placements.

### **Narrative:**

#### **Best Friends Animal Society**

"Save Them All" is the slogan and rallying cry for the Best Friends Animal Society, each and every employee and volunteer knows it and lives by it. This means that most people who visit leave with at least a portion of that conviction. The 1600 different animals on site, along with satisfied and friendly staff, create advocates from many of the 25,000 sanctuary visitors annually. The goal is to "save them all," not only through rescue and care at the sanctuary, but through inspiring advocacy and awareness throughout the country.

Dedicated, qualified and enthusiastic staff are key to this process, and projected growth estimates a need for 100 more employees within the next ten years. Most employees are transplants from around the country and are brought to the sanctuary by their passion for animals. Unfortunately, housing options in the nearby town of Kanab are limited, and qualified employees have already been turned away due to inability to find a place to stay.

#### **Town of Kanab**

Kanab is a small tourist town with a strong Mormon influence. Residents are generally hunting, fishing, ATV riding, conservative, small town folks, contrasted with the vegetarian, animal loving, liberal, Best Friends employees from cities on the coasts. The relative minority of Best Friends employees in town creates social isolation, and diverges from the values and camaraderie at the sanctuary.

Ideal housing for employees at Best Friends is a pet-friendly rental, housing in Kanab is 90% single-family homes, and most rentals are short-term through Air bnb or a similar service. This creates the housing shortage for employees at Best Friends, which forces them into less and less desirable housing situations.

Both the psychological disconnect, and physical shortage, accentuate the need for housing that is aligned with the values at Best Friends.

#### **Three Lakes Site**

Set amongst Junipers and sagebrush, this site adjacent to the sanctuary has incredible natural assets, but also a fragile ecosystem including the endangered Kanab Amber Snail. Analysis and considerations included setbacks from the ridges to keep the scenic highway view shed intact, slope analysis, sun and wind positioning and existing trail inventory.

Due to the sensitive environment and values of Best Friends, we determined that low impact; modular housing units are the best solution to the housing need. These units were positioned on site for optimal solar exposure and to negate harsh winds. Development is well away from sensitive areas, including habitat for the Kanab Amber Snail, and existing roads are used to prevent unnecessary impact on the environment. This landscape gives so much to the community and to Best Friends, we designed in a way to give back, and protect it.

#### **Zip Kit Homes**

After concluding that modular houses would provide the best design solution, we searched for a builder that could bring real numbers to this project and take it to the next step. Zip Kit Homes, located in Mt.

Pleasant, Utah just three and a half hours from the Sanctuary, looked to be a good fit. We made initial contact with the owner of Zip Kit Homes, and set up a meeting in Mount Pleasant with executives of Best Friends.

During the meeting we were able focus in on several suitable unit types, and further developed those units to fit the needs of Best Friends Employees. Refinement led to four distinct models, the Best Friends editions of Zip Kit Homes, the Terrier, Daschund, Lab, and Dane. Each of these homes are modified to accommodate the average three dogs and two and a half cats of the Best Friends employees.

### **“Teeth to the Wind” & “Hunker Down”**

The community was designed to provide options for residents, embracing the site topography. Ten clustered houses stand more exposed to the wind and sun, but poised to take full advantage of Escalante’s Grand Staircase view from the hilltop, “teeth to the wind.” Another cluster of ten is nestled into the bowl like hillside, protected from the wind and sun, with inward views and a more “hunkered down” community feel. Each community fills the needs for different employees and gives choice to the user.

Both communities are formed by the landscape. Topography is utilized, trees are protected, and existing paths are followed. Formalized roads and landscaping are minimalized to allow this forming landscape to shine through. Each and every resident is connected to this landscape through trails, and to each other through public spaces and the community center.

### **Community Center**

Between Spot, Rufus, Fifi, Mr. Pickles, and Lassi, there isn’t much room on the couch for entertaining guests in a 400 square foot unit. This makes the community center vital for residents and guests alike.

Following the same principles of the housing units, the community center is comprised of low-impact modular structures, with large decks, sliding doors, and rooftop patios to create a strong indoor-outdoor relationship.

Not only is space for people provided, but true to the Pawdriven principle, space for pets in the form of dog runs and multiple leveled

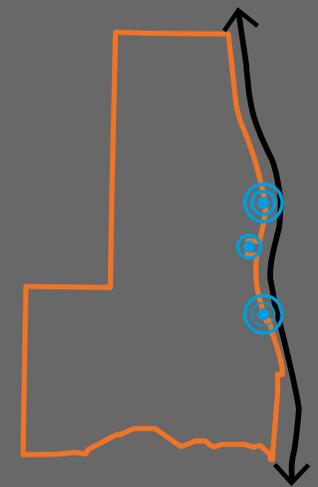
catteries are provided. This space is also strongly connected to the trail system that leads both back to the two clusters, and throughout the striking landscape, particularly the Iron Hill Trail, which provides and overlook towards Grand Staircase National Monument and the Best Friends Sanctuary.

### **Conclusion**

Employees at Best Friends are critical to maintaining and improving both animal well-being and visitor experience. This, in turn, brings more people awareness of the cause to “Save them All,” and creates more advocates for domesticated animals around the country.



**UTILIZE EXISTING  
PRIMITIVE ROADS**



**PRESERVE CRITICAL  
HABITAT**



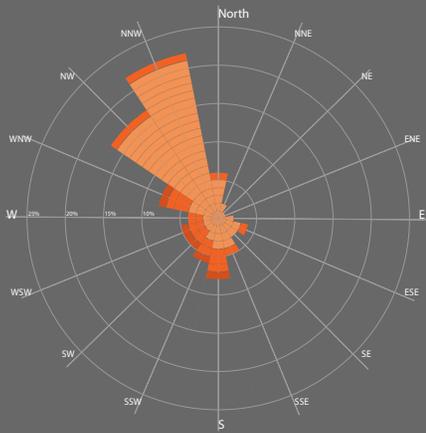
**MINIMIZE HIGHWAY  
VIEWSHED**



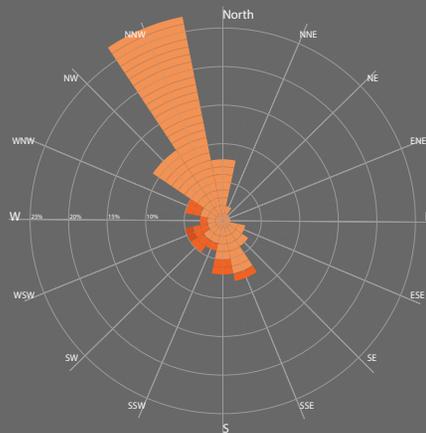
**OBSERVE EXISTING  
EASEMENTS**

**DEVELOPMENT PHASING  
AND STRATEGY**

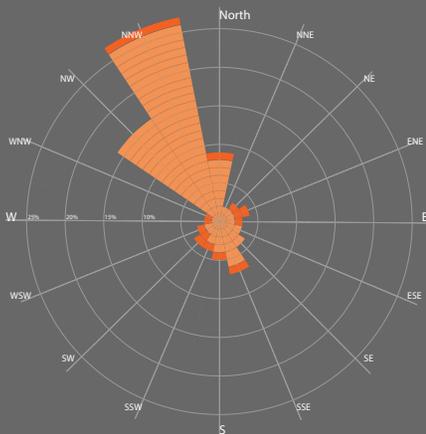
# WIND PATTERNS Kanab, Utah



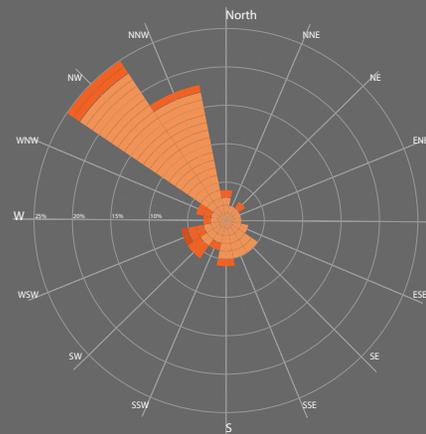
SPRING



SUMMER

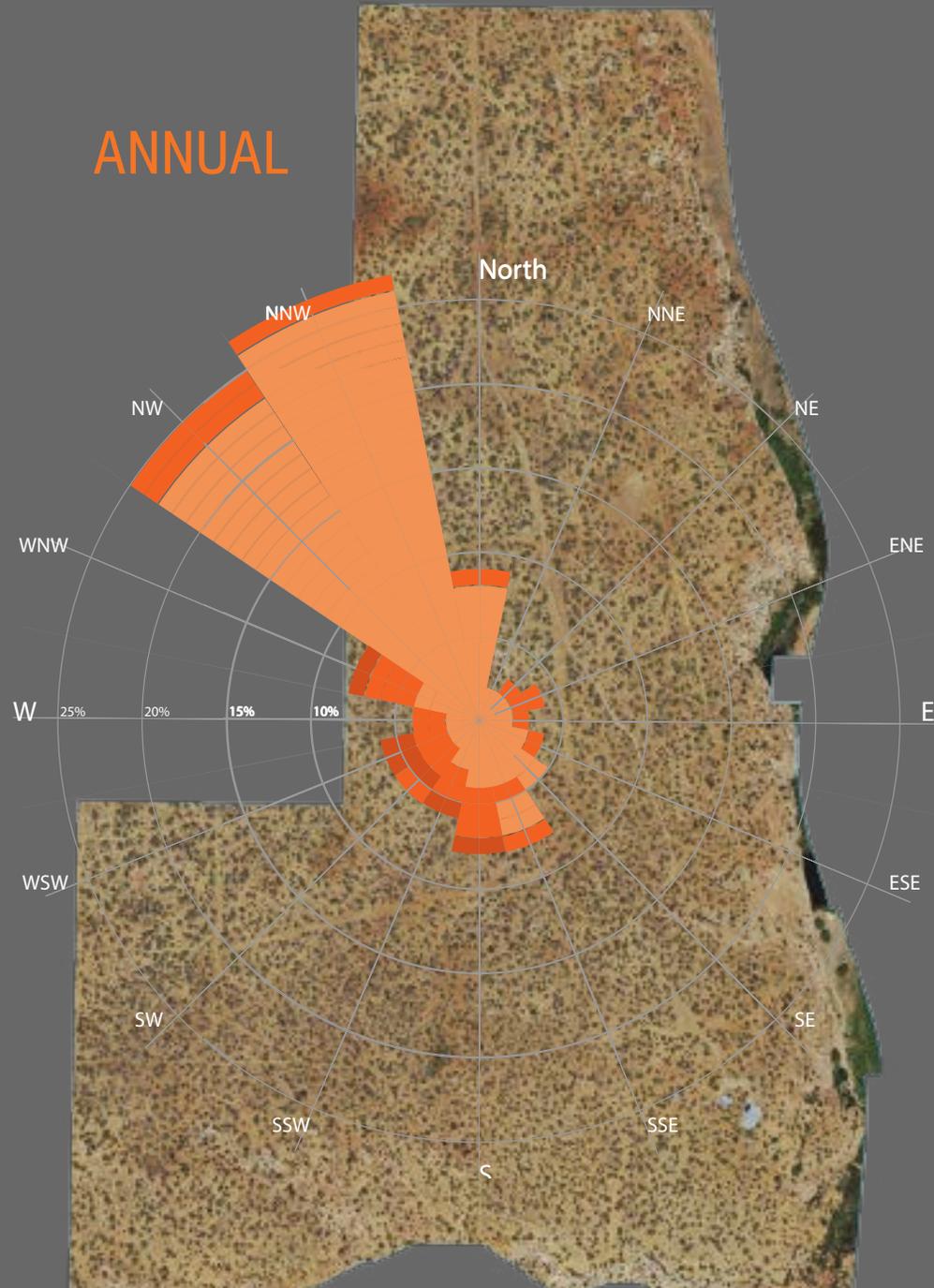


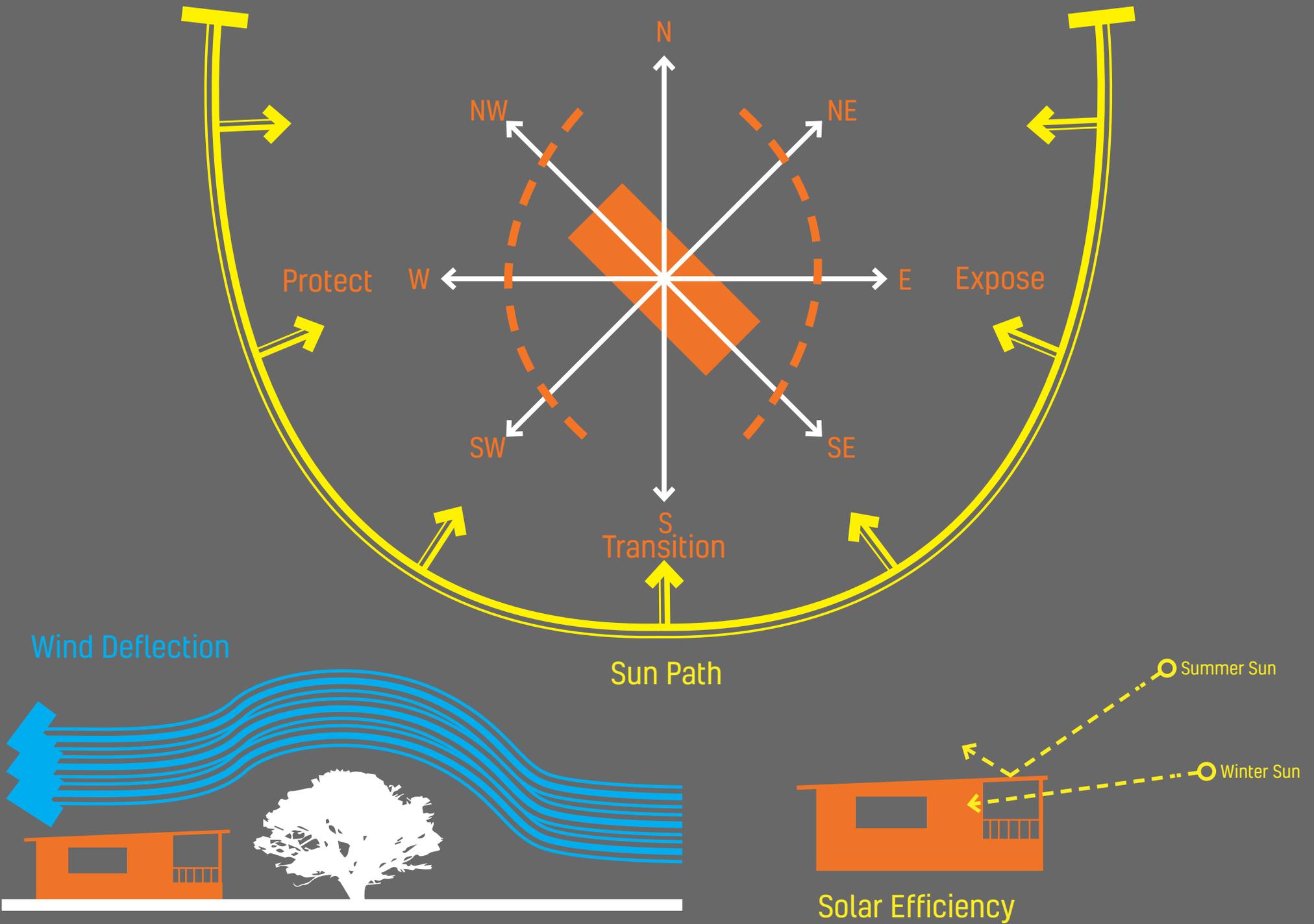
FALL



WINTER

## ANNUAL







# HOUSING TYPOLOGIES



**Terrier**



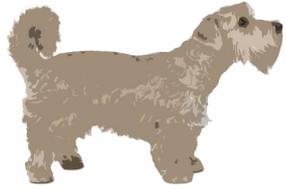
**Dachshund**



**Lab**

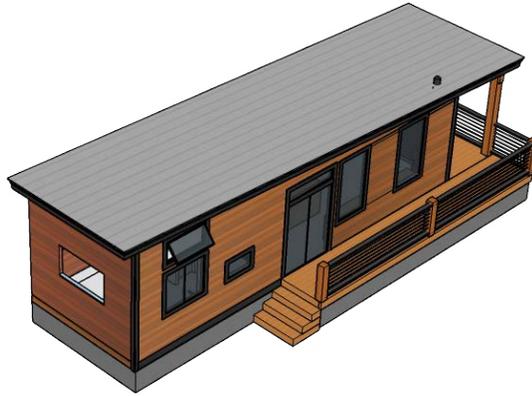


**Dane**



### THE TERRIER

400 SF  
1 BED  
1 BATH



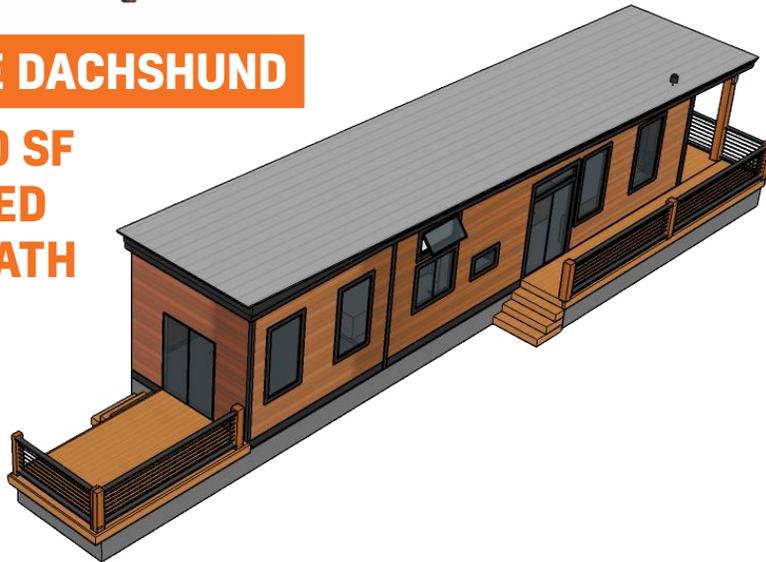
### TERRIER 2

600 SF  
2 BED  
1 BATH



### THE DACHSHUND

600 SF  
1 BED  
1 BATH



### DACHSHUND 2

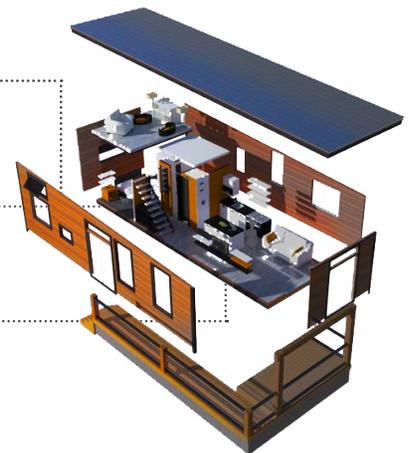
900 SF  
2 BED  
1 BATH



# THE TERRIERS

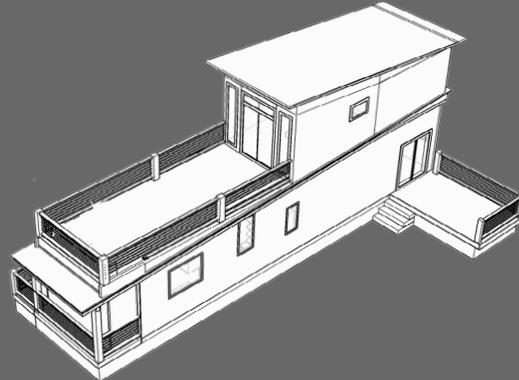
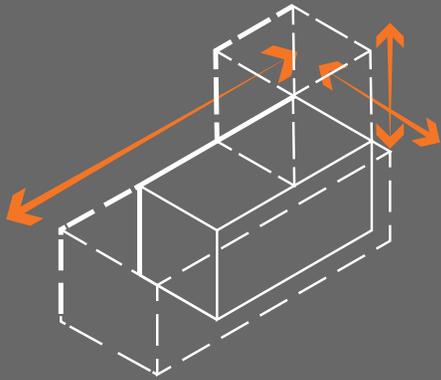
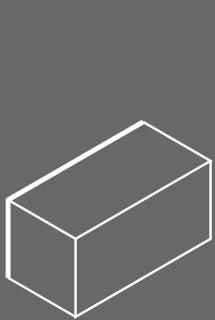


- CLADDING**
- FLOORING**
- COUNTER TOPS**





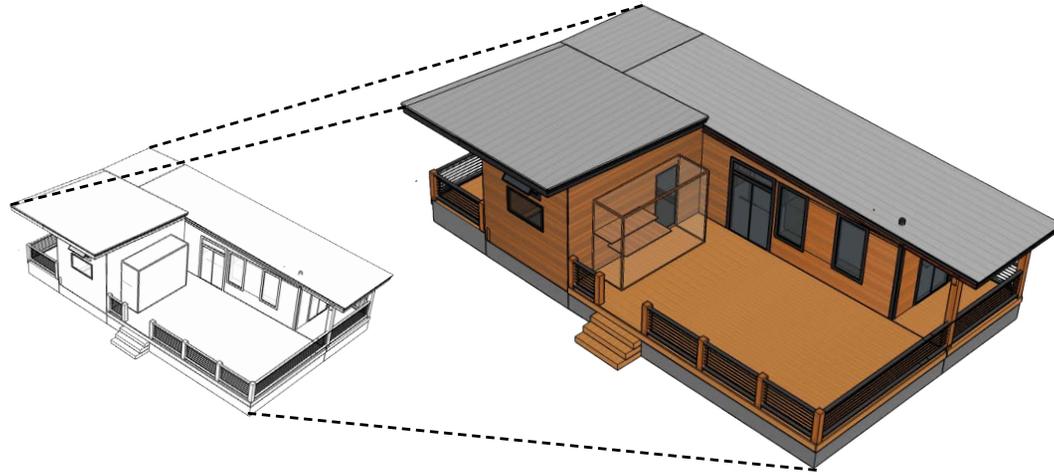
# THE DACHSHUNDS





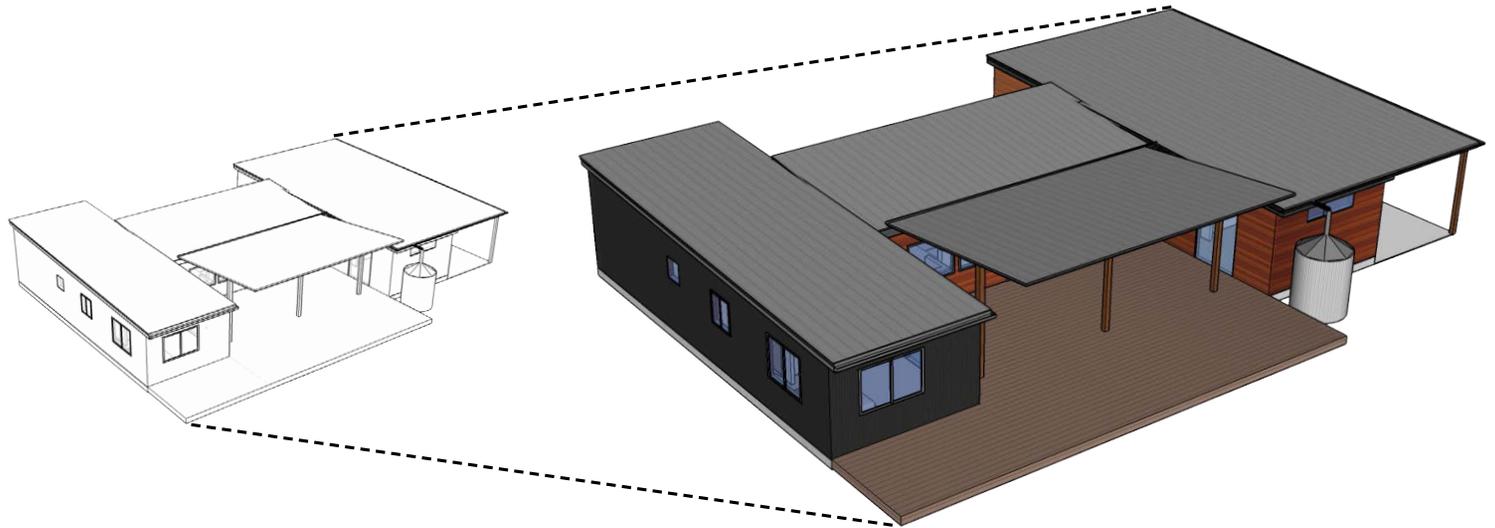
## THE LAB

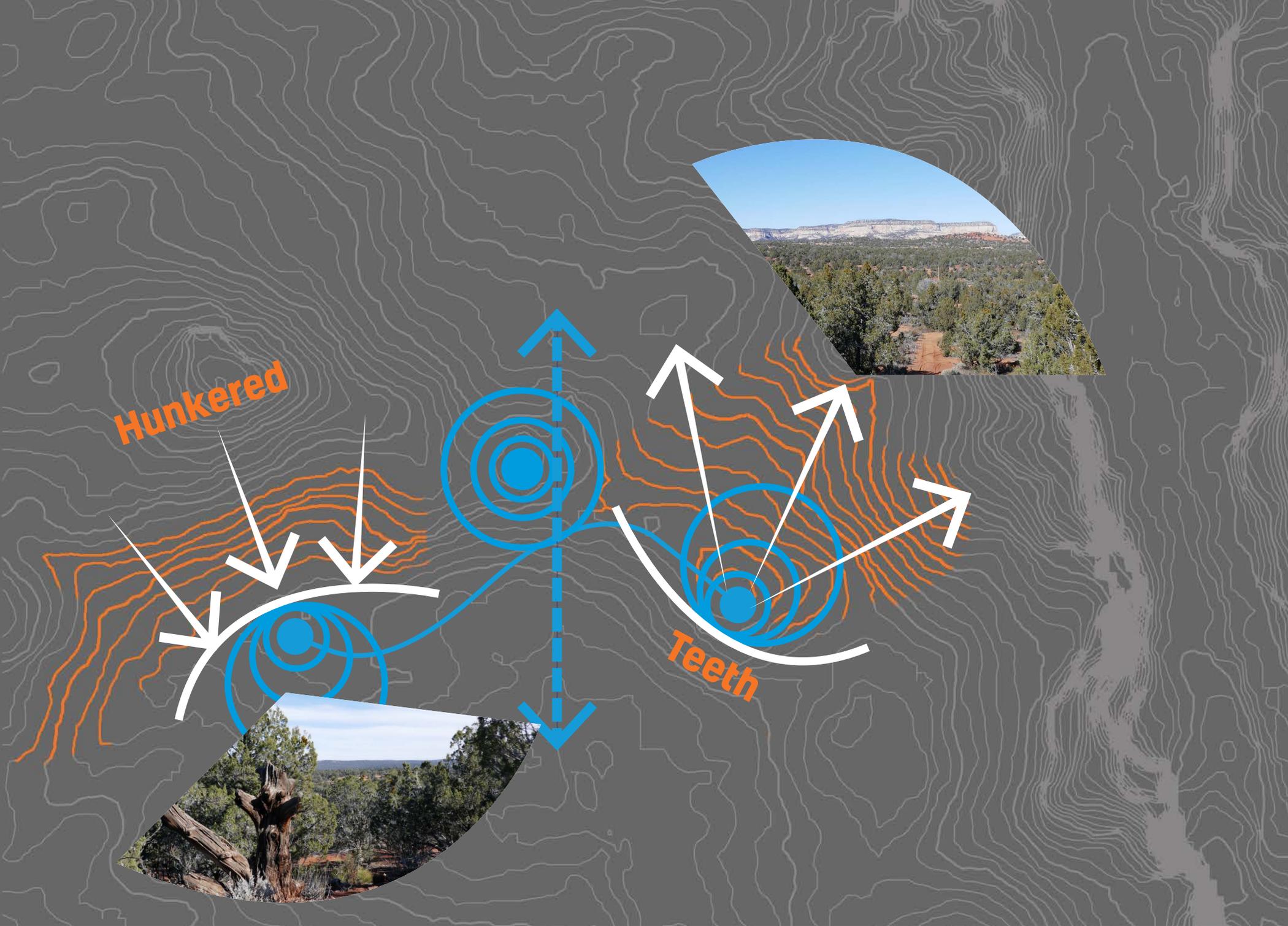
**600 SF**  
**2 BED**  
**1 BATH**



## THE DANE

**1200 SF**  
**3 BED**  
**2 BATH**



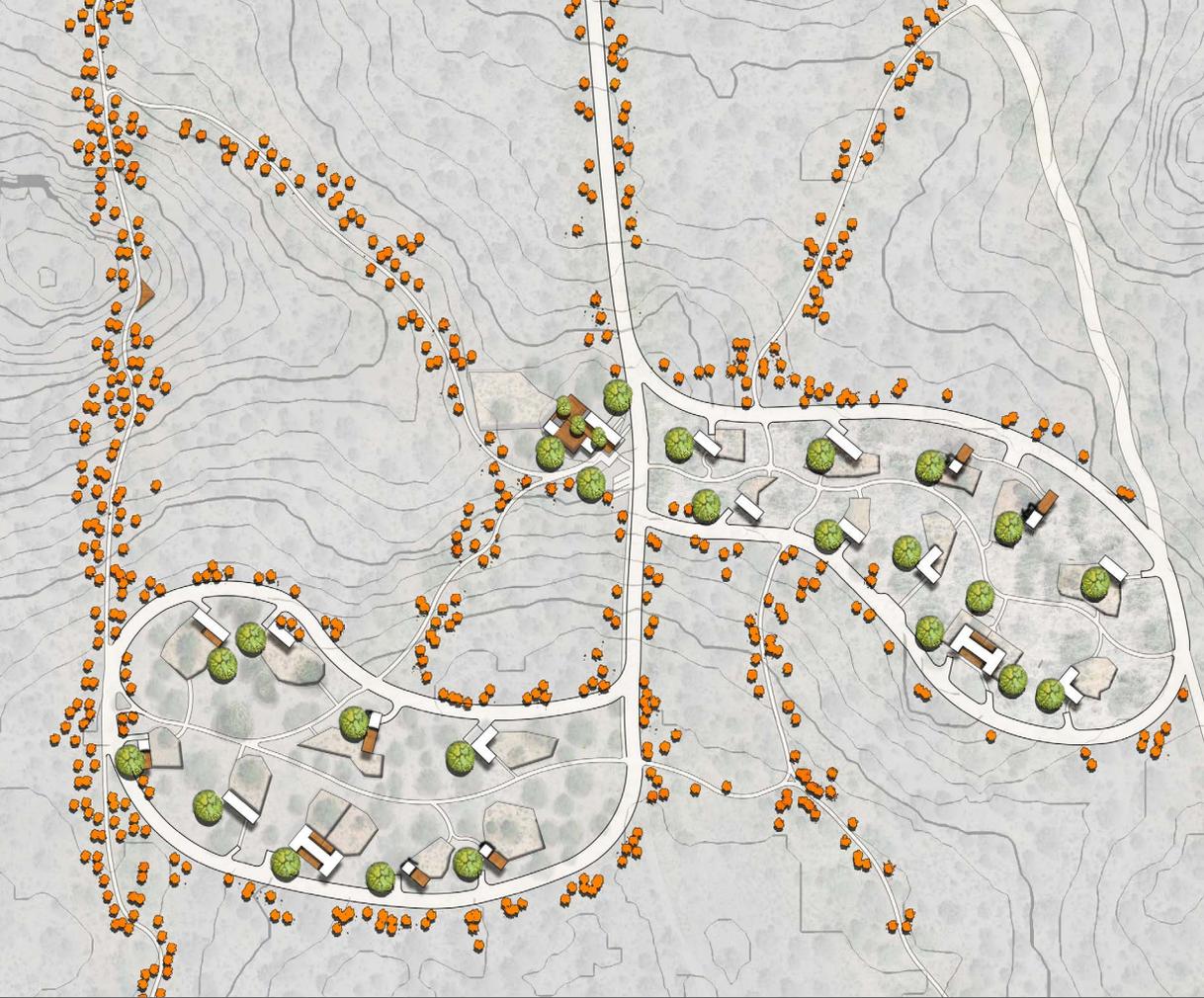


Hunkered

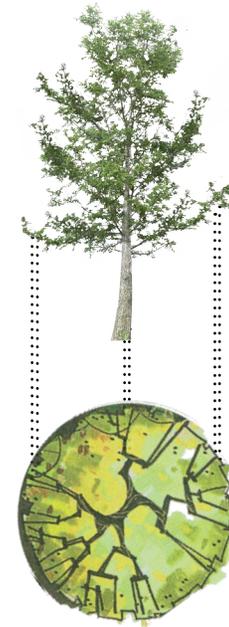
Teeth

# PAW-DRIVEN COMMUNITY

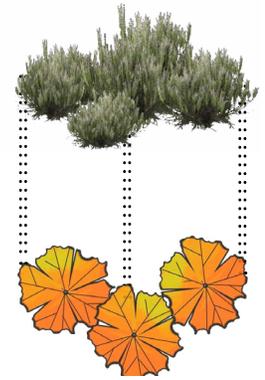




## ADDED VEGETATION



**Arizona Sycamore**  
*Plantanus wrightii*



**Big Sagebrush Community**  
*Artemisia tridentata*  
*Arctostaphylos patula*  
*Cercocarpus inticatus*  
*Ericameria nauseosa*  
*Penstemon utahensis*  
*Yucca baccata*  
*Yucca nana*



**Greenleaf Manzanita**  
*Arctostaphylos patula*



**Banana Yucca**  
*Yucca baccata*



**Littleleaf Mahogany**  
*Cercocarpus intricatus*



**Rubber Rabbitbrush**  
*Ericameria nauseosa*



**Dwarf Yucca**  
*Yucca nana*

## EXISTING SPECIES



**Utah Juniper**  
*Juniperus osteosperma*



**Big Sagebrush**  
*Artemisia tridentata*



**Piñon Pine**  
*Pinus edulis*



## GREYWATER IRRIGATION



# COMMUNITY CENTER





# NIGHT VIEWS

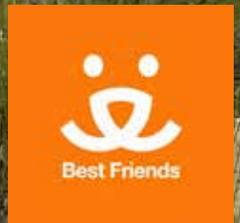


## **TRAIL RESTORATION**

# Best Friends Animal Society

---

Leveraging the Visitor Experience



## Best Friends Animal Society: Leveraging the Visitor Experience

### Project Statement

In 1984, approximately 17 million animals were killed in animal shelters throughout the United States. That same year the Best Friends Animal Society was founded; one of the most prominent no-kill animal shelters in the nation. Today, the astonishing number of cats and dogs killed in shelters has been reduced to an estimated 2 million annually. Collectively we have made significant progress, but more can be done to accomplish the Best Friends (BF) mission to end the killing of innocent animals in shelters across the United States by 2025. The Best Friends headquarters in Kanab, Utah can be designed to exceed the expectations of curious visitors and generous donors. Creating a more synergetic and meditative experience will leverage visitors into future volunteers and donors, propelling Best Friends towards completing their philanthropic mission. This planning and design investigation explores what steps can be taken to leverage their mission of “No Kill By 2025.”

### Location, Scope, and Size

The Best Friends headquarters, also known as the Animal Sanctuary, is a 3,000 acre property nestled into Angel Canyon just north of Kanab, Utah. Tremendous national parks, forests, and recreation areas such as Lake Powell, Zion National Park, and Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument encircle the sanctuary. These natural wonders draw millions of tourists to southern Utah annually, many drive through the city of Kanab and bypass BF on their way to the next destination.

Best Friends is leading by example, proactively becoming a destination of their own. By creating a conscious and compassionate community BF will retain visitors for longer periods of time. Increased visitation and exposure to the Best Friends worldview will inspire visitors to bring the vision of a better future back to their communities, increasing social wellbeing and saving those unable to speak on their own behalf.

Since the founding of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in 1984, facilities have been expanding in an organic fashion. This organic growth is, in part, due to the fact that BF is a non-profit organization reliant upon donations to expand facilities and operations. Over 33 years the sanctuary has become harder to navigate, especially for those less familiar with the property. Similarly, the animals and people of Best Friends have become more dislocated from each other as the organization develops across the 3,000 acre property.

### Context Investigation

The Colorado Plateau was home to Piute Indian tribes for thousands of years prior to Anglo-Saxon settlement in the mid 1800’s. Piute creation stories express that people were brought into this world as stewards to the environment and all living beings. Maintaining healthy relationships with ecosystems was viewed as a moral obligation and fundamental to survival.

Anglo-Saxon migration to the Colorado Plateau region was driven by the need for more cattle ranching territory and the expanding dominion of the Mormon faith. Cattle ranching industries were crucial to the economic development of Utah and were expanded in the 1870’s and 1880’s. Hundreds of movies were filmed in the area because of the favorable climate and stunning landscapes.

The landscapes in southern Utah are diverse, encompassing many of the ecosystems found throughout the west. Some of the ecosystems found on Best Friends property include: pinyon-juniper, big sagebrush, interior chaparral, and riparian corridors populated by Fremont Cottonwoods and Coyote Willow stands. Long ago this awe-inspiring landscape was tended to and maintained by the native tribes. Their environmental practices reduced the potential for destructive wildfires, maintained cleanliness of streams, and increased biodiversity. More recently land has been degraded by improper grazing practices, diversion of rivers for irrigation, and increased levels of outdoor activities.

### Design Intent

Our planning and design intervention aimed to accomplish the plan to leverage “No Kill By 2025” by addressing the unmet needs of the BF organization, visitors, donors, and environment in which they all interact. Consolidating facilities and creating a stronger appreciation for the connection between people and the environment within the Sanctuary were primary design objectives. Consolidating facilities will make the sanctuary easier to understand, and will also reduce the amount of habitat fragmentation occurring on site. Integrating natural elements into our designs will instill a greater appreciation for the natural world, and illustrate that Best Friends is taking a holistic approach to solving larger social issues.

### Design Programming

While exploring the sanctuary and working directly with clients we identified two locations that would greatly enhance the reputation and experience of Best Friends. The first location addressed is the visitor hub. As guests first visit the sanctuary they drive alongside Kanab Creek, making their way up Angle Canyon. The visitor hub is the initial interaction guests have with the Best Friends organization

so we created a memorable and heartwarming first impression. The second location is a system of trails and intricate pocket gardens known as the Gratitude Gardens. This inspiring garden is dedicated to gracious supporters of the BF mission. The Gratitude Gardens are situated on the edge of a lofty plateau, peering over Kanab Creek and beyond to the majestic Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument.

The Visitor Hub will elevate the purpose of the Animal Sanctuary by immediately capturing the attention of incoming guests. This was achieved by creating comfortable atmospheres with strong indoor-outdoor relationships, integration with surrounding natural systems, and encapsulating the Best Friends essence in one centralized location.

One of the first sights visitors come across when entering the sanctuary is the modern conference center placed eloquently into the existing pasture lands. This approachable building is the anchor for the visitor hub, drawing people into the core of the site and reinforcing circulation. It can be used to host events and conferences, drawing people in and increasing exposure for Best Friends. Additional visitor lodging and food options increase comfort and overall visitor experience. Improved trail connections invite visitors to engage and be inspired by the stunning natural landscape. New animal interaction spaces engages users with animals, letting them feel the love of Best Friends mission first hand. This is the most impactful feature added to the visitor hub, an experience inspiring guests to take action.

The Gratitude Gardens were designed to acknowledge and thank donors sustaining Best Friends cause. The gardens are an intimate destination for everybody to enjoy and many of the nooks are dedicated to significant donors to the organization. Two trail loops

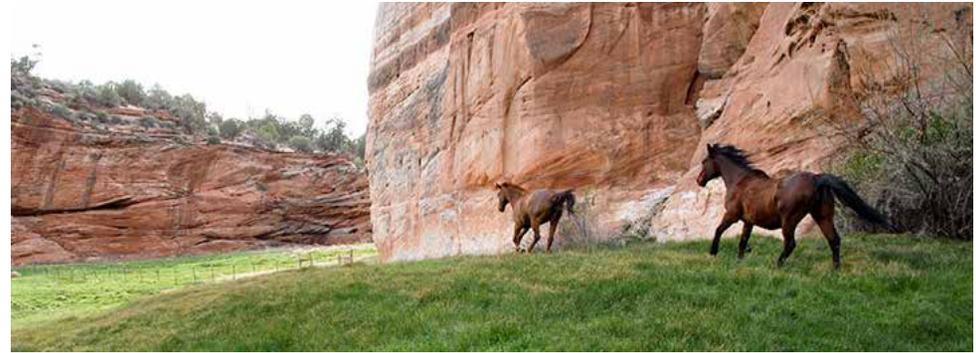
meander through native vegetation atop the scenic plateau, connecting a series of pocket gardens that surround the main entry garden. As users enter the gardens they are welcomed by a harmony of native plants. The plantings, hardscape, and scenery become more and more profound as people wander deeper into the gardens, towards the plateau edge.

Gardens and trails were woven into the existing landscape to minimize ecological disturbances. Each garden embodies the character of the land and the personalities of the donors they are dedicated to. Although each pocket garden has a unique style, the flora and hardscape selection create balance and rhythm, unifying spaces into a whole greater than the sum of its parts. All hardscape materials are collected from local sources to lessen the resulting carbon footprint. Stone gathered from nearby BLM quarries will meld into the existing landscape, making designed elements feel as though they may have been there all along. Dimitris Pikionis meticulously designed public areas surrounding the Acropolis; his masterpiece was a constant source of inspiration as we envisioned our meaningful destination. The Gratitude Gardens create an oasis prompting visitors to contemplate, meditate, and cherish the sacred lands that make up Angel canyon and Best Friends.

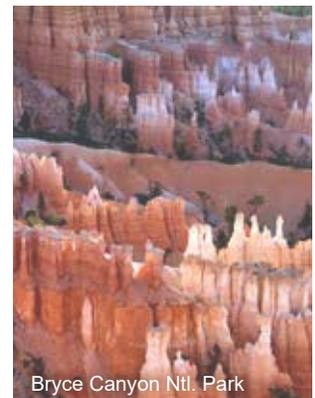
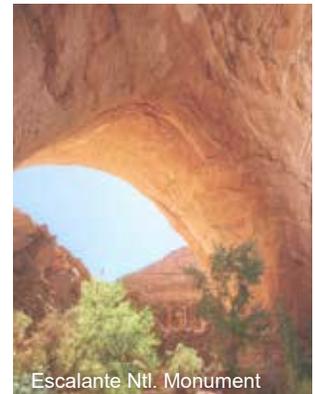
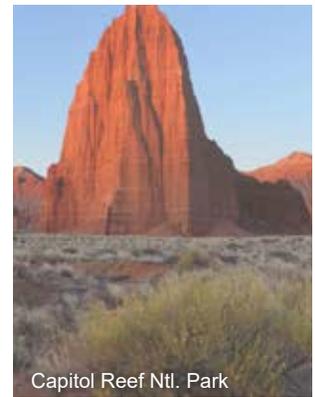
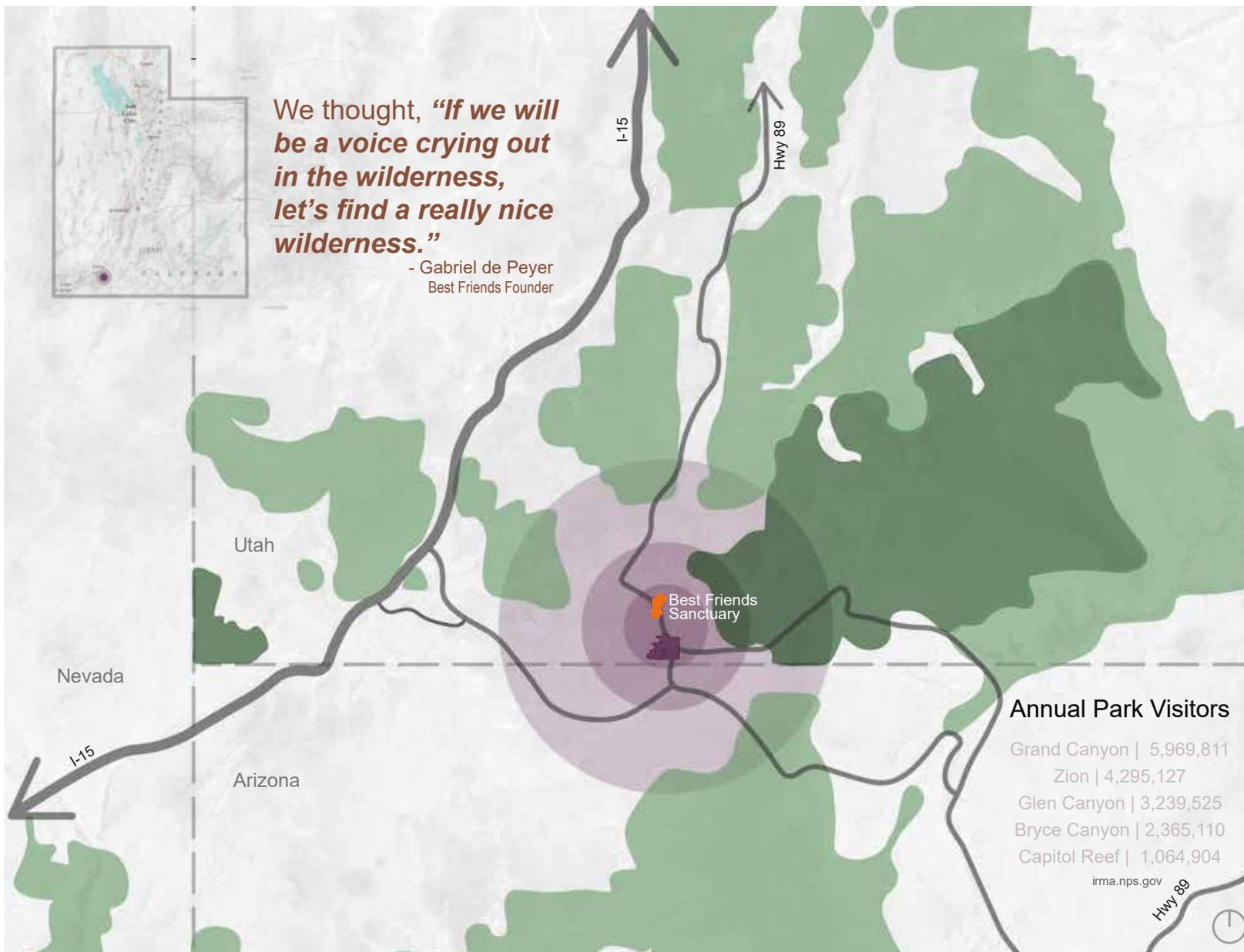
#### Closing Remarks

The elements, virtues, and assets that encompass the Best Friends Sanctuary create a profound visitor experience. This inspirational encounter with the natural world is a great opportunity to leverage visitors into volunteers, donors, employees and community initiators. Strengthening the experience creates a feedback loop that increases awareness, sparks social change, encourages higher moral standards, and

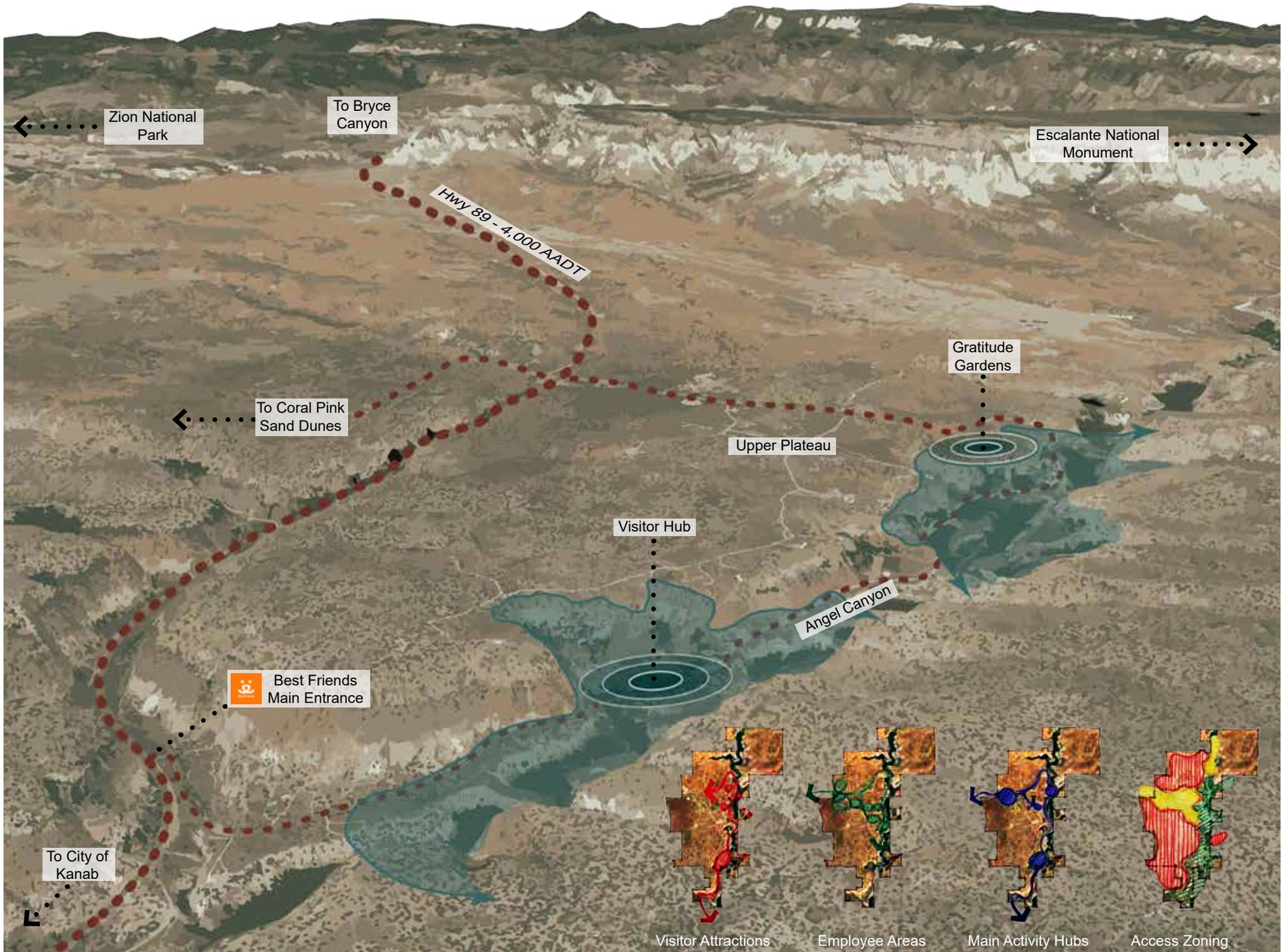
deepens our appreciation for all sentient beings. Leveraging the visitor experience will help us reach a time when the killing of pets in shelters is brought to an end.



**1 | The Goal:** Best Friends Animal Society envisions a future with no more homeless pets and absolutely no killing of shelter animals.



**2 | At The Center:** Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, is surrounded by stunning National Parks and natural wonders which attract millions of visitors every year.



**3 | The Journey:** Inviting in a greater number of visitors, while providing them with a more engaging and inspiring experience, is key in leveraging them to action.



**4 | First Encounter:** The Visitor Hub is the first, and often only impression of Best Friends that visitors get. The setting is stunning; our focus was the experience.



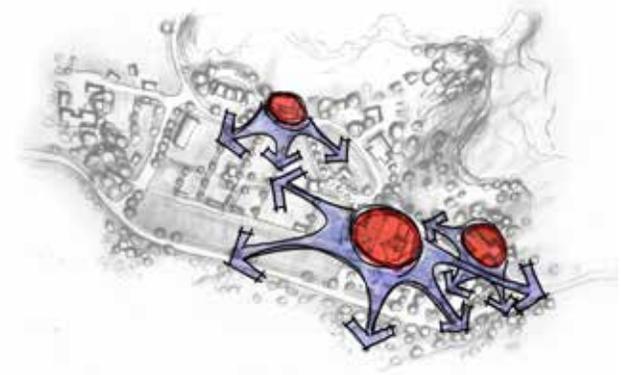
**5 | Enhancing the Experience:** A number of existing site elements were retained for their ambiance, while those which were added strengthened that experience.



Meadow Lawn Areas



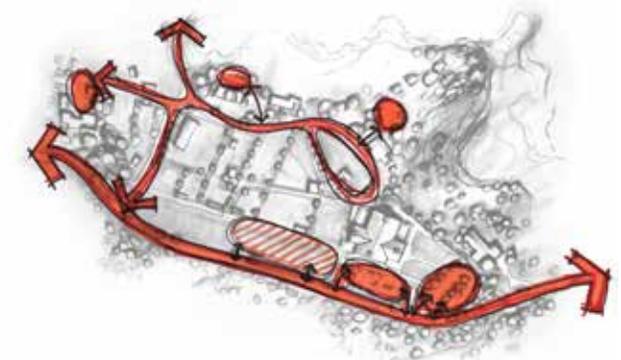
Animal Interaction Area



Key Building + View-sheds



Pedestrian Circulation



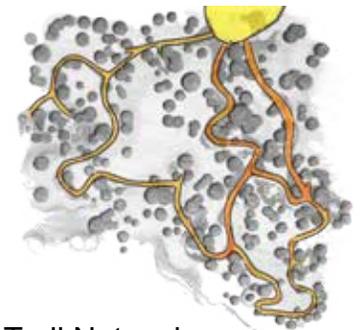
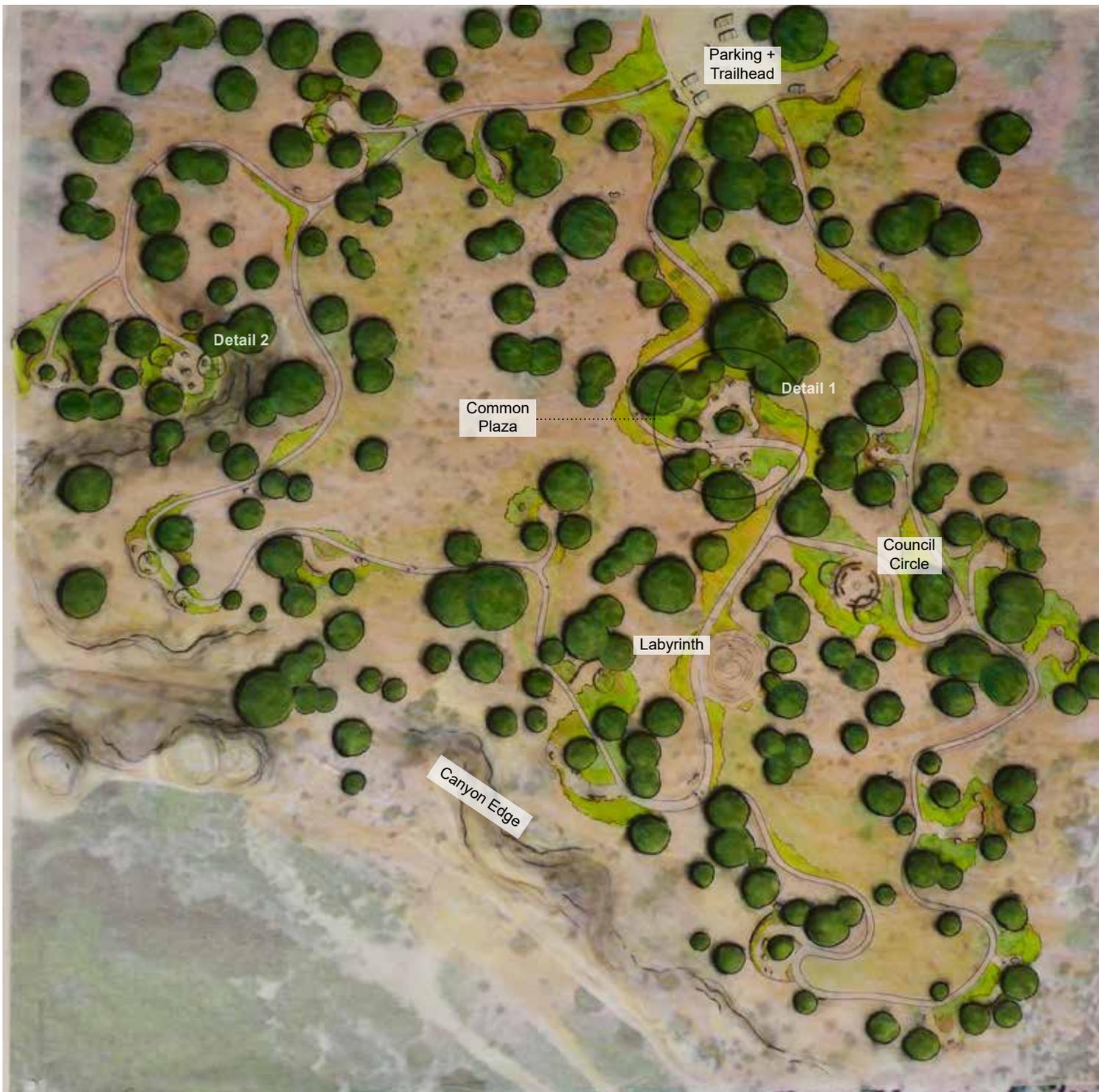
Vehicular Circulation



**7 | Inspiring Spaces:** Intimate spaces throughout the site create opportunities for connection, reflection, and inspiration.



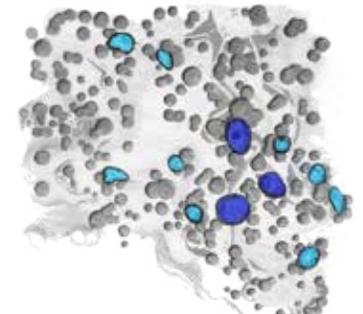
**8 | Elevated Experience:** Located upcanyon from the Visitor Hub and perched on the canyon rim, the gratitude garden aims to enlighten minds and recognize donors.



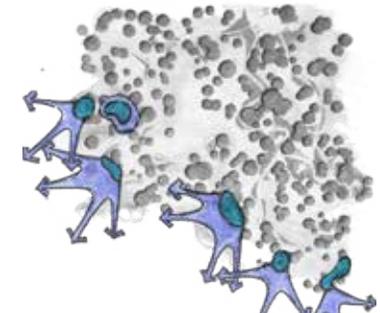
Trail Network



Welcoming Gardens

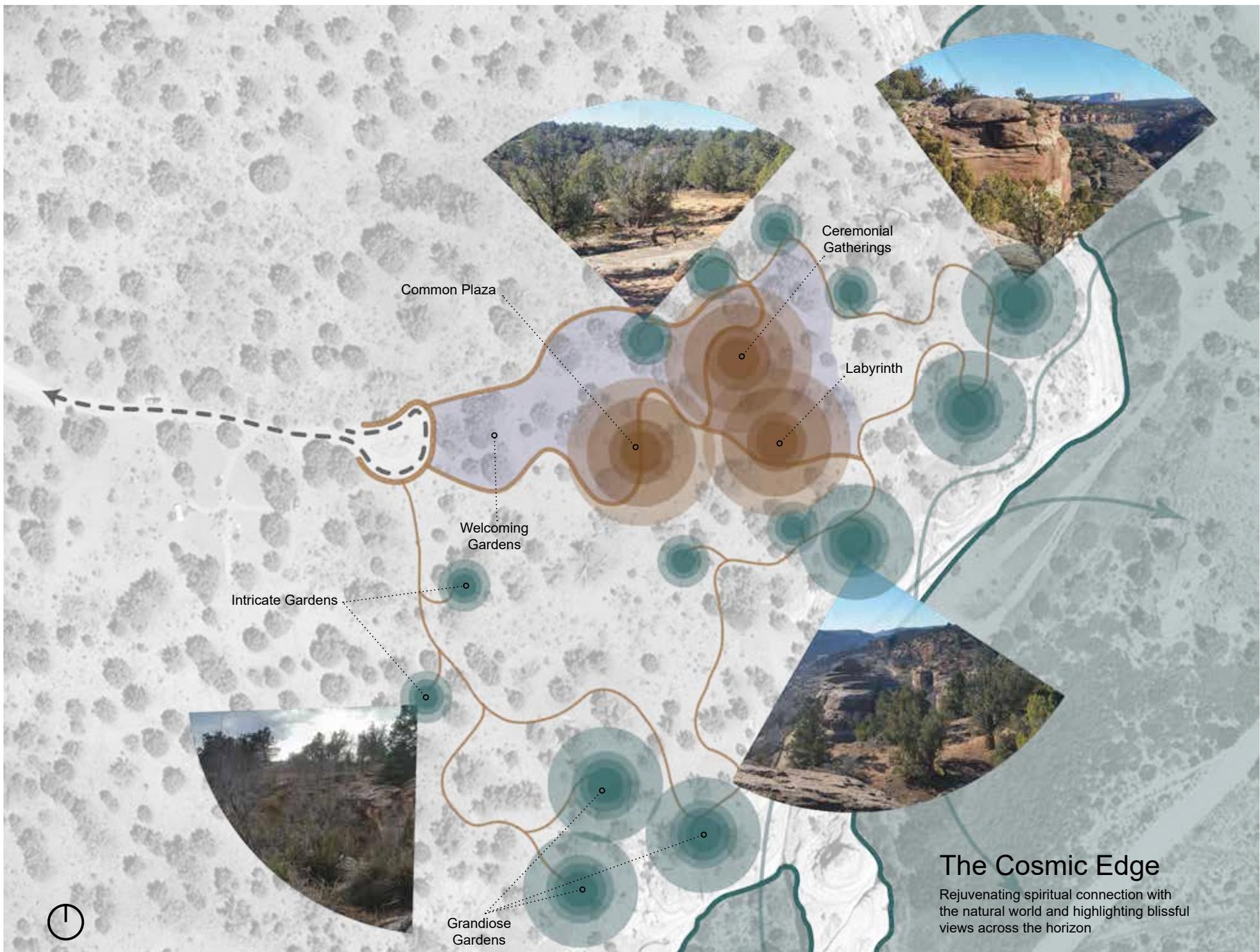


Intricate Gardens

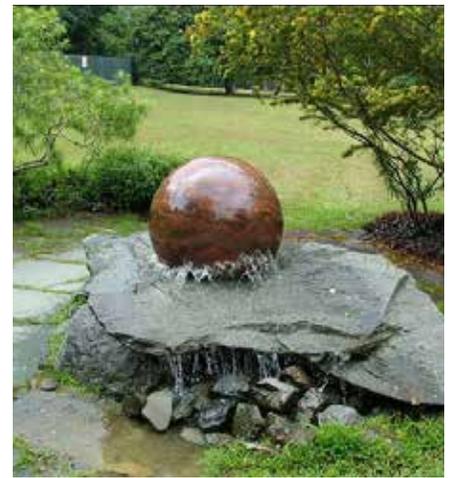


Grandiose Gardens

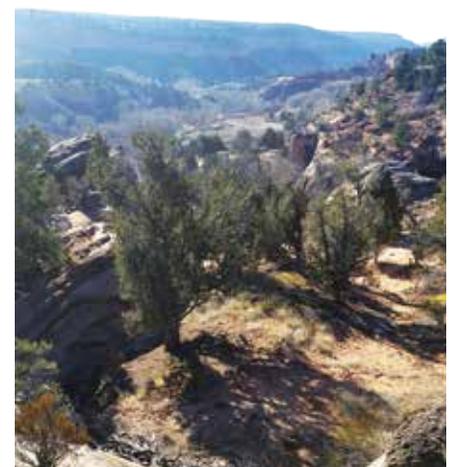
**9 | Variety of Spaces:** Spaces include intimate, public, confined, and open gardens, taking advantage of dramatic views and existing native vegetation.



**10 | Embracing the Land:** Grandiose gardens are situated on the canyon rim and recognize the highest level of donors, though all areas tie strongly into the setting.



**11 | Detail 1: Common Plaza:** The Heart of the Gardens, the plaza provides seating, a variety of spaces and a small bubbler fountain, inviting all to pause and reflect.



**12 | Detail 2: Grand Cubby:** Nestled in a natural cubby and focused out to Angel Canyon, this garden is a very secluded and reflective space.



Sagebrush



Manzanita



Claret Cup  
Cactus



Ocotillo



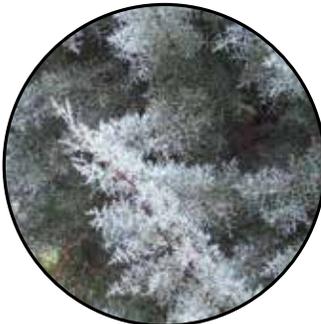
Mexican  
Feather Grass



Evening  
Primrose



Hesperaloe



Arizona  
Cypress



Yucca  
Baccata



Oklahoma  
Redbud



Mexican  
Oregano



Golden Barrel  
Cactus



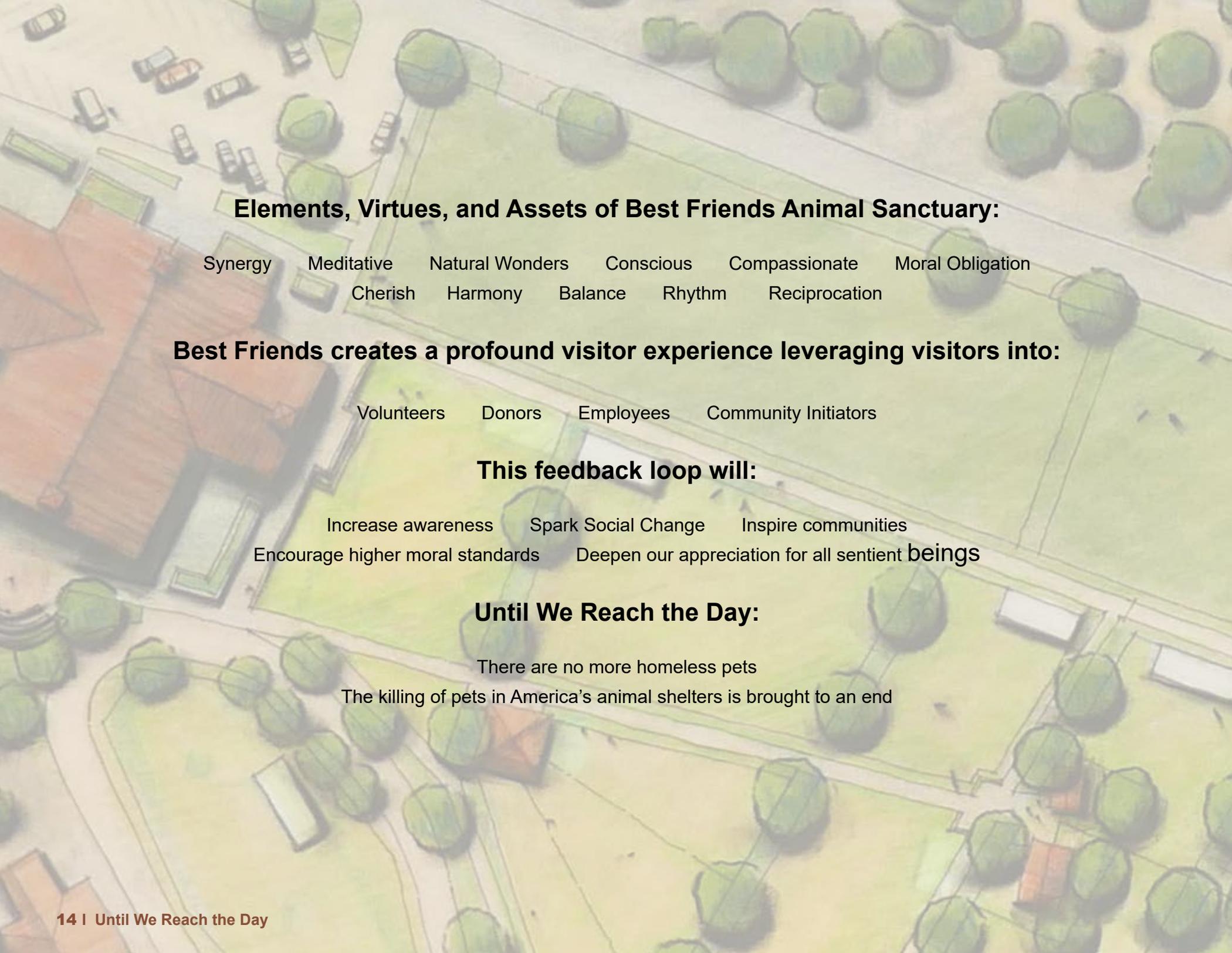
Santa Barbara  
Daisy



Datura



Arizona  
Rosewood



**Elements, Virtues, and Assets of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary:**

Synergy    Meditative    Natural Wonders    Conscious    Compassionate    Moral Obligation  
Cherish    Harmony    Balance    Rhythm    Reciprocation

**Best Friends creates a profound visitor experience leveraging visitors into:**

Volunteers    Donors    Employees    Community Initiators

**This feedback loop will:**

Increase awareness    Spark Social Change    Inspire communities  
Encourage higher moral standards    Deepen our appreciation for all sentient beings

**Until We Reach the Day:**

There are no more homeless pets  
The killing of pets in America's animal shelters is brought to an end



**Project Summary:**

The trail system development plan was created to optimize the network of connections for Kanab, Utah, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, and visitors to Kanab city. The city of Kanab, population ~4,000, sits in the beautiful red rock landscape in Southern Utah. Kanab is known as the gateway to Utah's national parks, where visitors stop for gas, but rarely stay. By creating Destination Kanab, the enhancements of local attractions and recreational opportunities will spark life into the community. This spark will continue to ignite and capture the attention of the 40,000 Best Friend's visitors and the 17 million Utah national park tourists who want to experience this newfound energy for themselves. A stronger network, both virtual and real, will strengthen Best Friends outreach for their No-Kill 2020 movement, and Kanab's potential for becoming a local and tourist hot spot.

**Narrative:**

The three types of users that we defined and analyzed were, Best Friend employees, Kanab residents, and tourists/visitors. We explored the question of what brings diverse groups of users together, and determined that values had the biggest influence. To begin, we created a list of values that best defined each user group and then compiled the shared values between two if not all three groups. These values are, preservation, kindness, destinations, the environment, outdoor recreation, health, history, wayfinding, small town, stewardship, community and many more. We chose to look more closely at the values of Stewardship, Community and History.

Ironically, it is these same three values we identified that are also causing the most friction amongst our users. A great example of this is how the City of Kanab is seeking a stronger identity. Many of the Kanab residents thrive off the recognition of old western movies that were filmed in their town, and currently are seeking to promote themselves towards a wider variety of audiences. Simultaneously, Best Friends continues to grow as a nationally known organization and expand its presence into the city of Kanab through pet friendly facilities. There seems to be no middle ground in accommodating either identity. The present state of these two forces growing in parallel rather than in a joint effort generate the friction amongst the users.

Despite their social differences, the community coalesces around a sense of belonging. In order to create this feeling, we knew that we needed to propose a design that would allow the users to co-exist, embrace their differences, and hopefully find commonalities along the way. A sense of place is often formed by the physical landscape, but forms deeper meaning through the interactions that take place within that space. We had found our answer: "Community could be formed by becoming aware of, navigating and engaging in the open space and recreational opportunities, allowing Kanab, Best Friends, and tourists/visitors to interact with each other and the beautiful landscape surrounding them."

We began researching the power of networks and landed upon The Emerald Necklace in Boston, Massachusetts. This chain of parks is connected through parkways and waterways and if any piece of open space were removed, there would be a break in the system. This profound precedent of inter-linked connections is what forms the identity of the park, and in large part what makes it a unique destination. The diversity of uses does not entirely solve social problems, but allows friction to exist and the users to co-exist despite their differences.

The backbone of the open space network, beginning with Kanab's center and Main Street, is the trails. Currently the City of Kanab has established a website and series of pamphlets pertaining to the trail system, however the level of communication is scattered and disorganized, leaving room for conflict among trail users. There is also no consolidated trail map which would provide users with a simplistic view of Kanab's opportunities. This led us to our trail development plan, which consists of improving upon promotion, awareness, and enhancement of Kanab's assets to aid in its journey of becoming a peak destination.

The power of networks is best understood at different levels of scale. Matt Brown, a leader from the city of Kanab, inspired us to further develop an organizational method to categorize our trail network. Four radiuses of 4 blocks, 4 miles, 14 miles, and 40 miles were established, with the center on Main St. being the focal point. In doing so, user experiences were identified based on each radius. 4 blocks allows a person to explore Kanab's historic district and access several trailheads, while 14 miles involved more strenuous activities, and 40

miles more day trips. Utah's slogan is the Mighty 5, for its national parks. Here the Power of 4 creates Destination Kanab.

In order to make the Destination Kanab campaign effective, we needed to capitalize on promotion, awareness and enhancement of the trail development plan.

1.) To promote Destination Kanab, we will distribute a catalog, both physical and digital that shows all trails available, to what type of users, and distance from Kanab, each singled out on its own page so that it stays clear. A compilation of the destination points will be combined on placemats that can be used at the local cafes and eateries. Social media outlets, such as a city Instagram page will provide transparency for people from all over the globe to view Kanab's destinations.

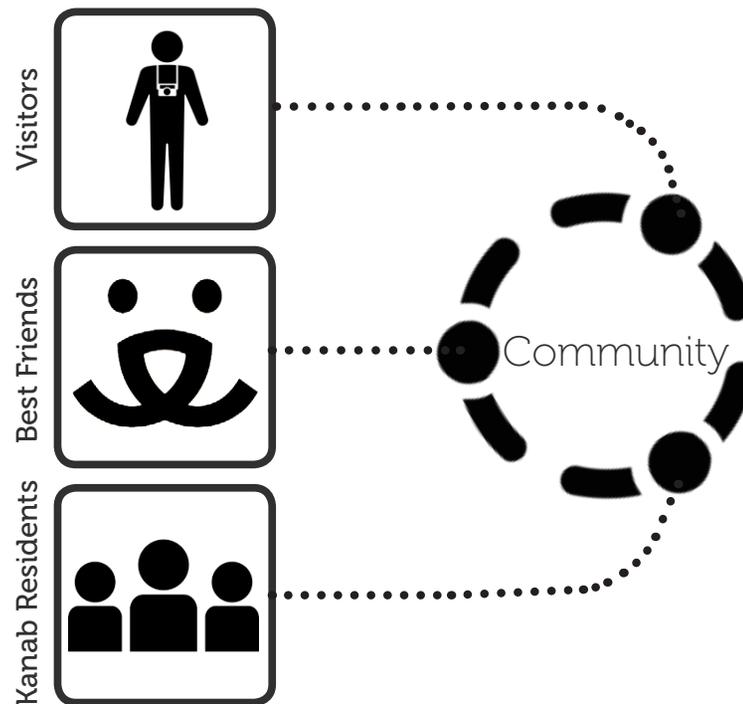
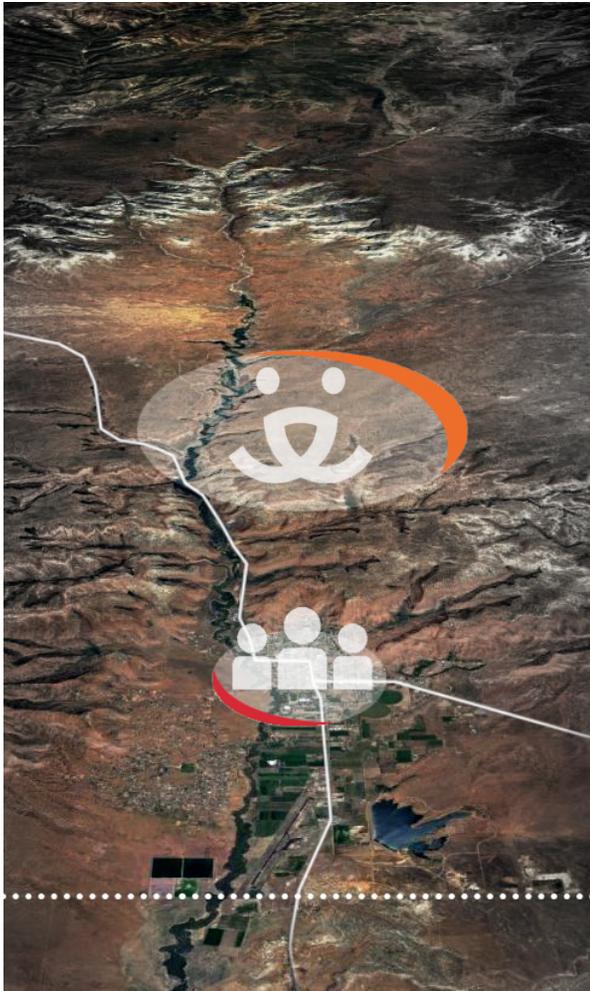
2.) Awareness is made by identifying all the opportunities and destinations that Kanab has to offer and how the user would arrive to the trailheads. This is done by clear explanation in the catalog information. Wayfinding, through billboards and captivating and consistent signage will also need to be implemented to prevent any opportunity from being missed while passing through.

3.) Enhancements will excite the community and make the destinations more appealing. To make the destinations' starts and end points enjoyable, we will need to ensure that the proper amenities are installed. These would consist of trailheads that provide restrooms, drinking water, bike racks, picnic areas, waste receptacles, phone service, parking, and informative signage to name a few. When a user feels comfortable and accommodated, their experience improves.

Kanab and Best Friends must first connect to the spirit of the landscape in order to create a deeper meaning to their trails and open space network. This feeling of belonging will have the potential to bridge the social gap between users and form a stronger community. When these experiences are shared, visitors and tourists alike will crave the Kanab destination and lengthen their duration of the stay, in turn allowing a thriving economy to develop. We uncovered the social and physical conflicts within the system connected them back to their values, and link them to their environment to create Destination Kanab.

# + Coexistence

## Power of Networks



**02** | Kanab and the Best Friends organization both coexist with in the same landscape. With any cohabiting group, different lifestyles cause friction. This open space networks optimize bringing together differences within the social groups by community and physical landscape.

# + Trails System Development Plan

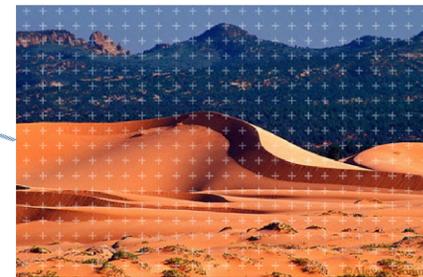
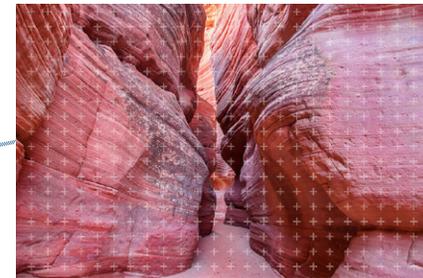
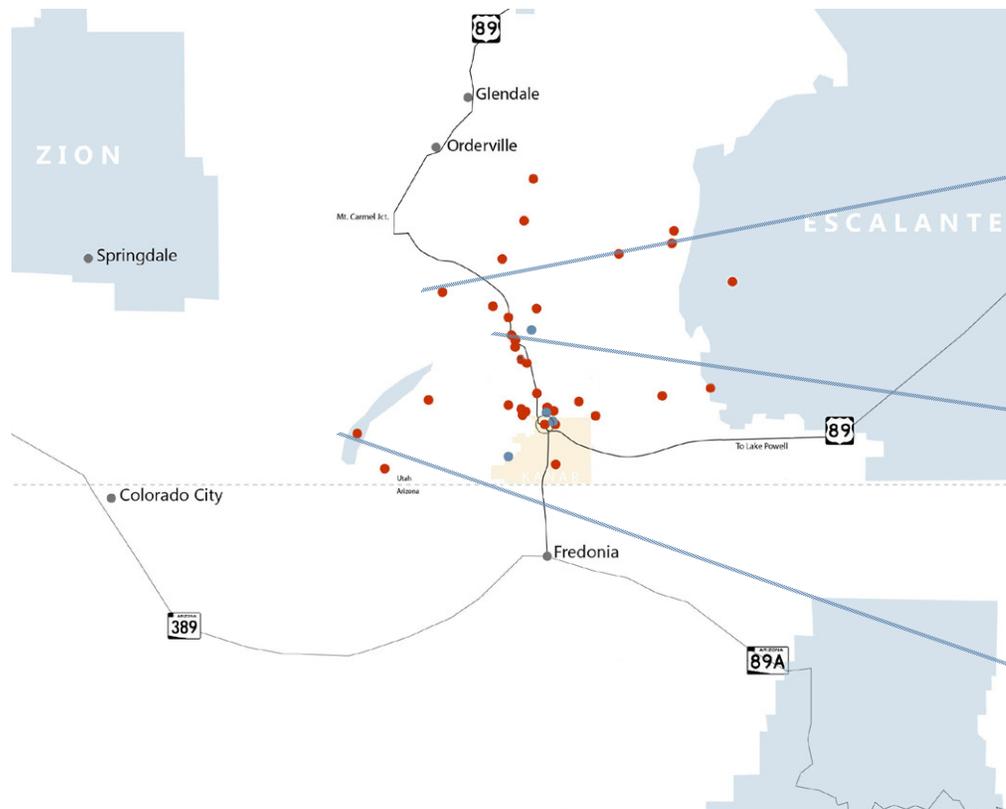
*A wholistic approach to trail design and distribution*

**Promotion:** What does Kanab have to offer?

**Awareness:** How do we get there?

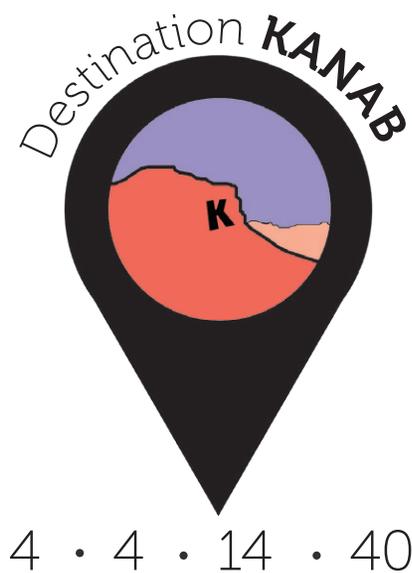
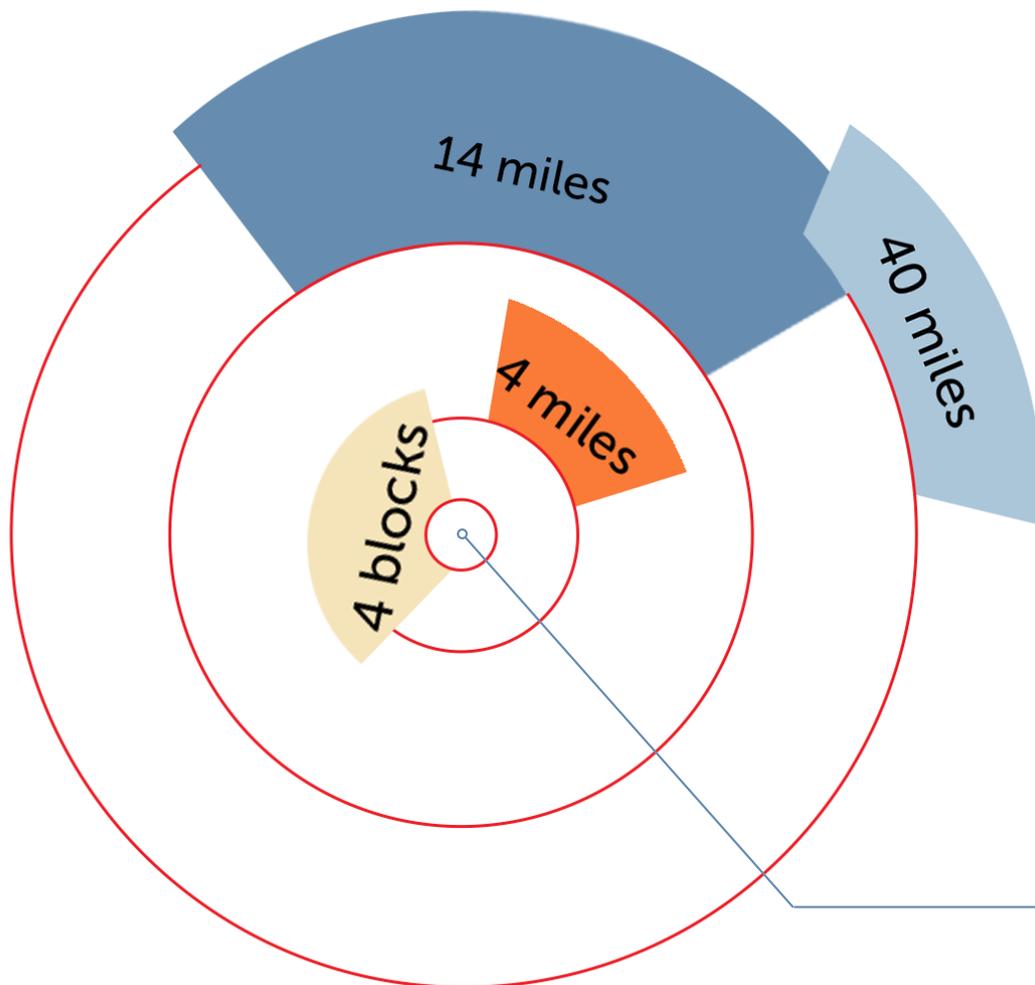
**Enhance:** What amenities and improvements are needed?

# + Friction in the Current System Promotion



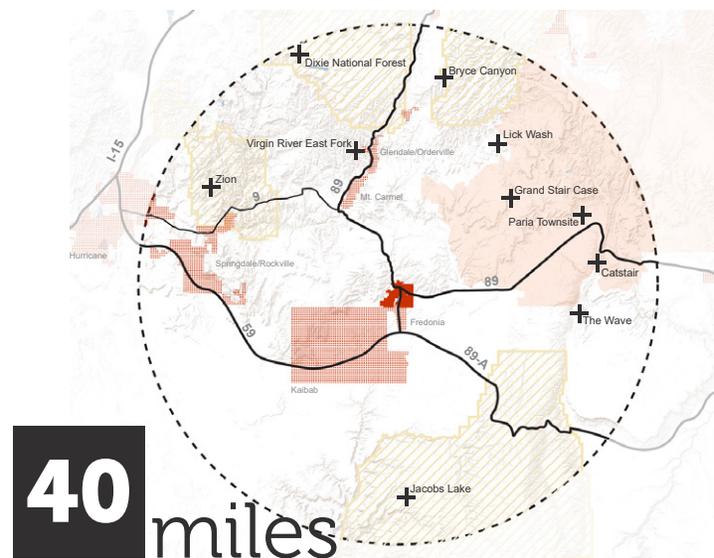
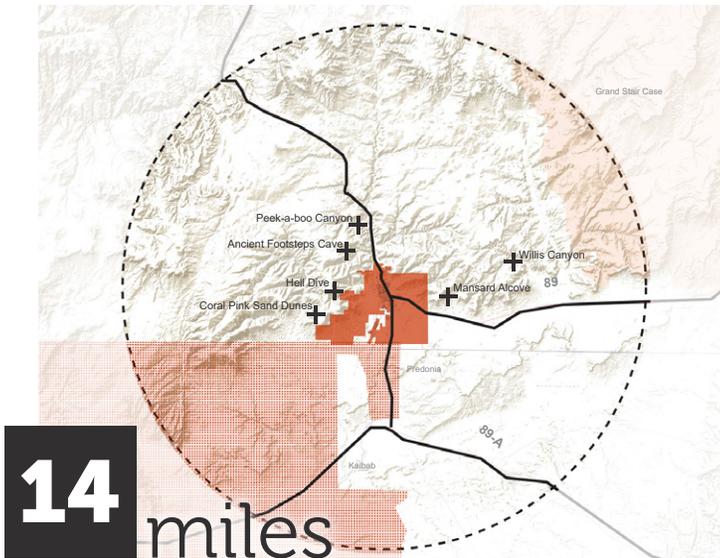
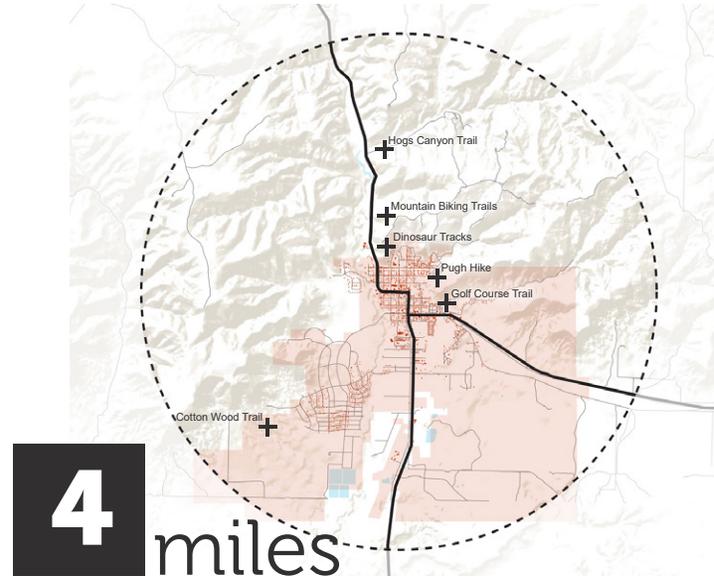
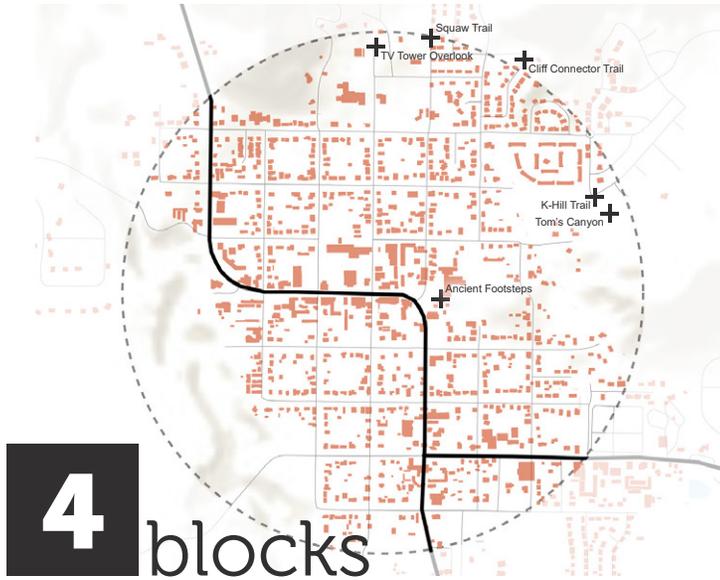
# + Destination Kanab

4, 4, 14, 40



Center and Main

# CONNECTIVITY | open space network



**06** | Various increments appeal to various user types. Within four blocks, residents and visitors have access to five trail heads. Four blocks appeal to passive recreationists while 14 miles appeals to those looking for more intense recreation.

# + Distribution Awareness



- Placemats
- Tourism Shops
- Hotels
- Billboards
- Ap
- Website



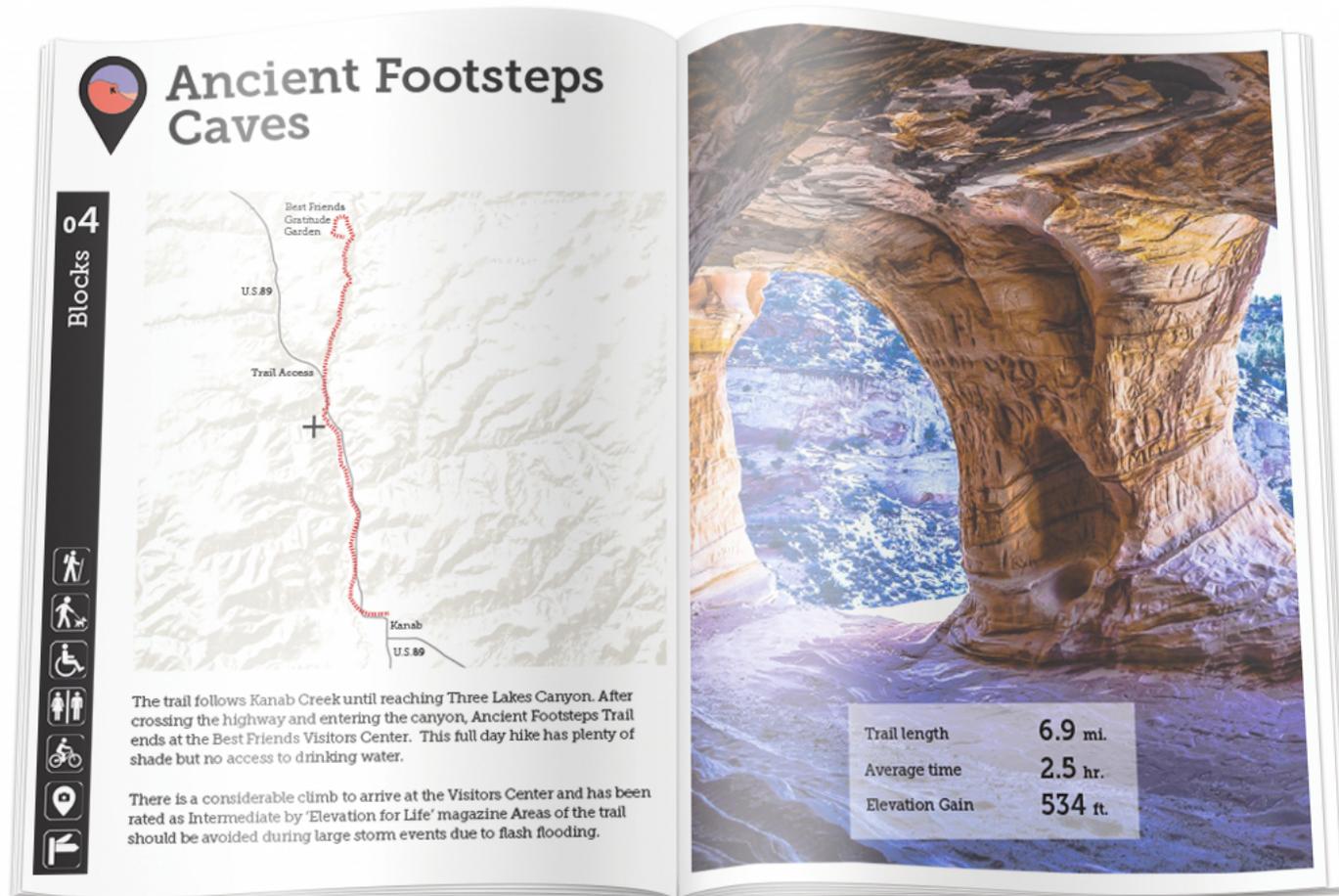
- Pet Stores
- Mail it out to residents
- Social Media
- Ap
- Website



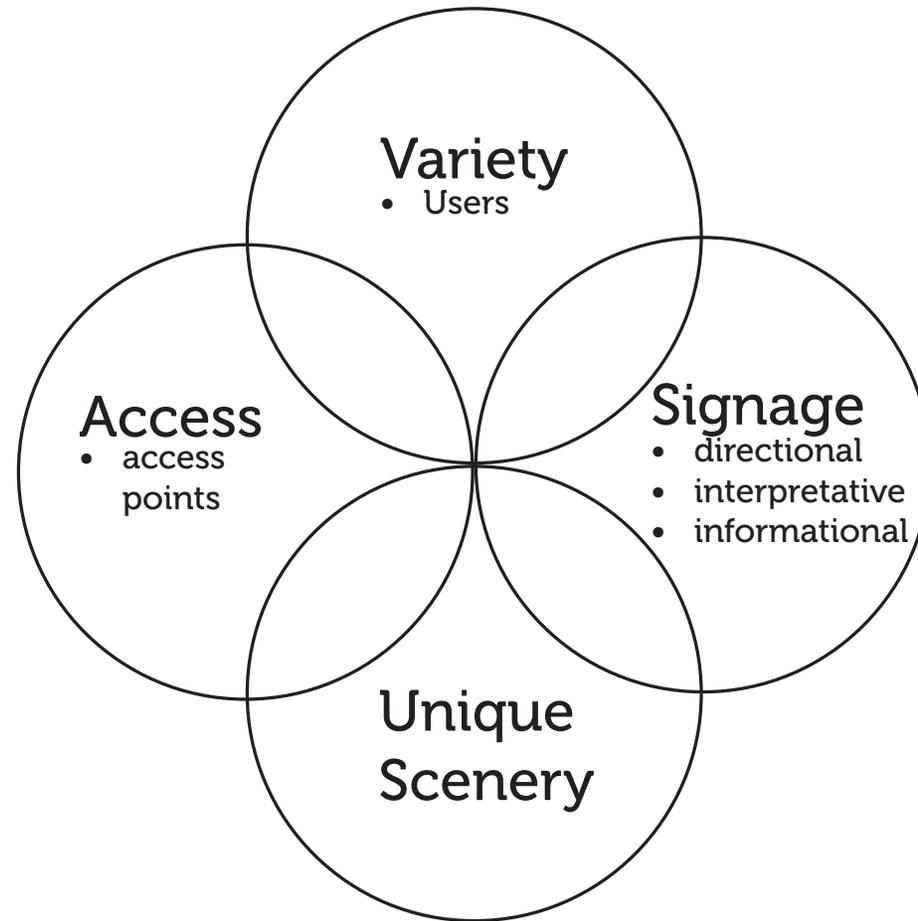
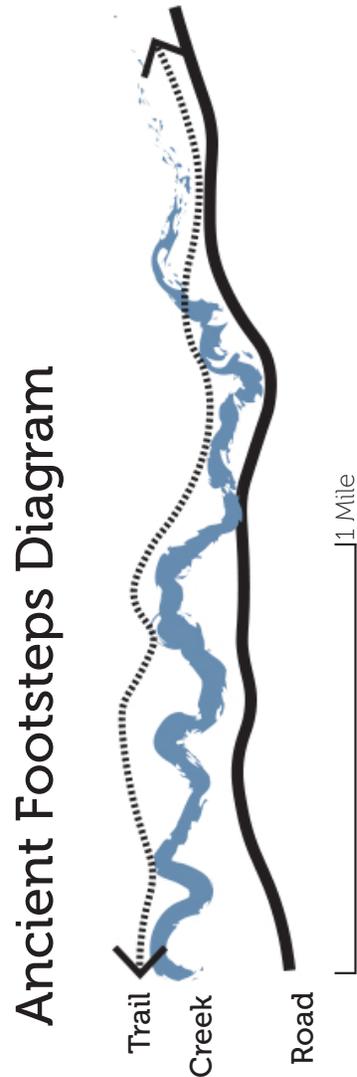
- Mail it out to residents
- Social Media
- Ap
- Website
- School programs



# + Distribution Awareness- Catalog of Trails

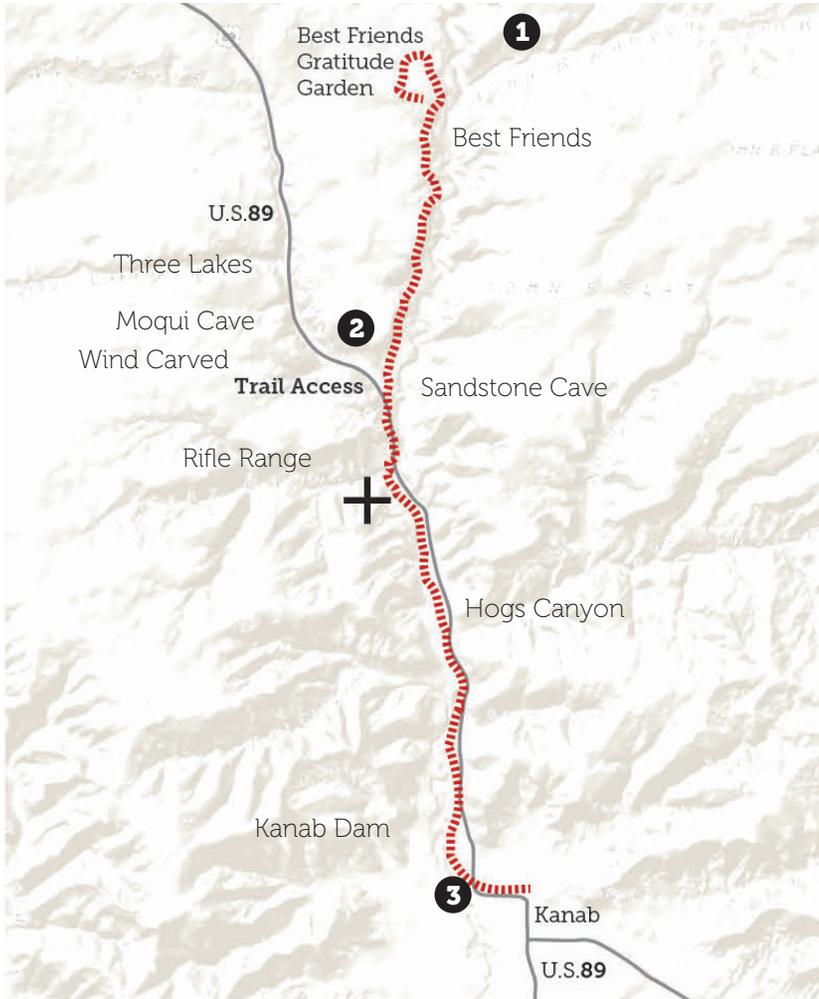


# + Ancient Footsteps Trail Enhancement Principles

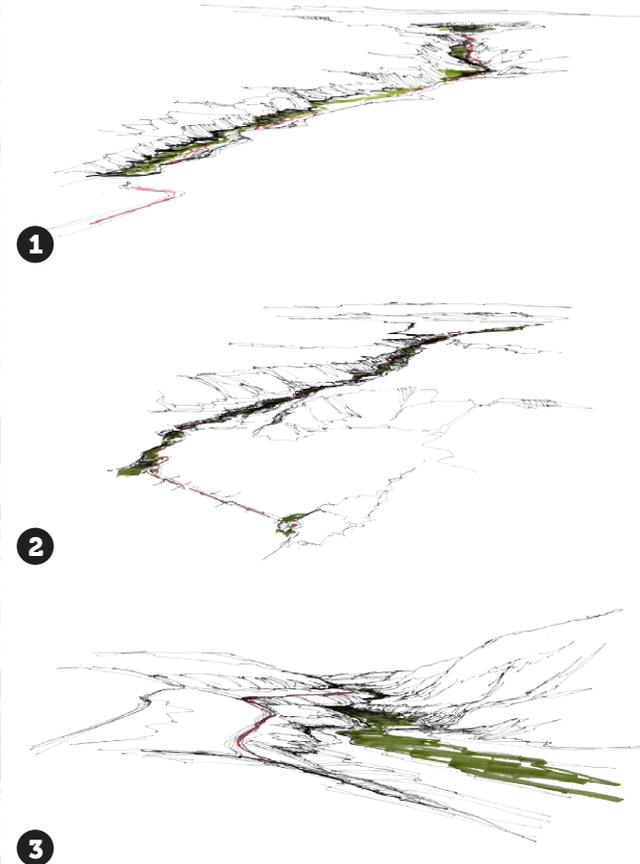


# + Ancient Footsteps Trail

## Unique Scenery-Trail Inventory



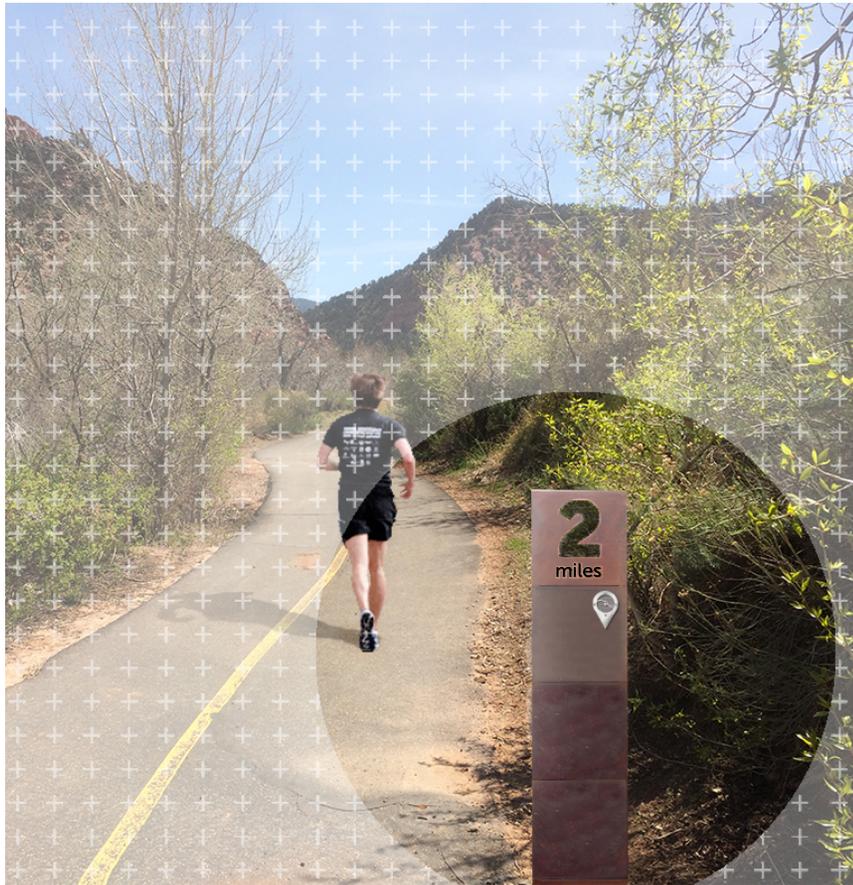
Viewpoint sketches



# + Ancient Footsteps Trail Signage-Directional



# + Ancient Footsteps Trail Signage-Informational, Interpretative

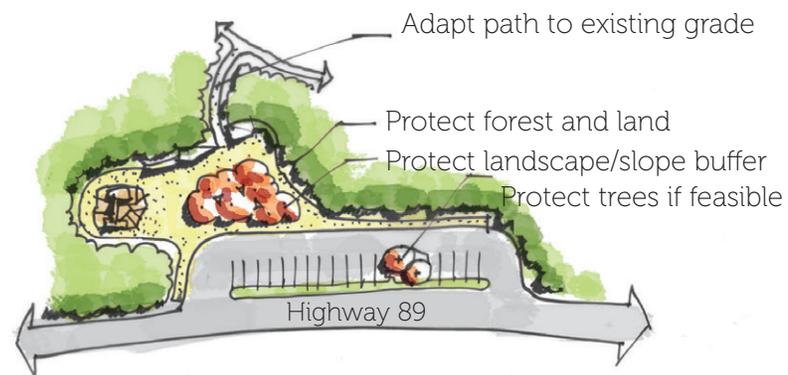


# + Ancient Footsteps Trail Access



- Kiosks
- Signage
- Benches
- Fencing/ enclosure
- Garbage cans
- Picnic tables
- Restrooms
- Drinking Fountains

## Level 1 Trail Head



Continental Divide National Trail Design Guidelines

# + Ancient Footsteps Trail

Access-Trail head example



**Connection** allows us to participate in the wider meaning of the place in which we live.

-Todd Johnson

