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Portfolio 2010

Academic work from 2007-2009 at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois

Appreciation

Visitors will gain cultural appreciation for the Midewin site, post-industrial art, and innovative ecological practices through creation of museums, educational displays, constructed wetlands and spatial experiences.



ReCreation

Unused arsenal buildings will be gradually demolished. The materials will then be reclaimed to create bike paths, art and other features.

Former building sites will be evaluated for prairie restoration feasibility and the path will eventually connect to other regional greenways.

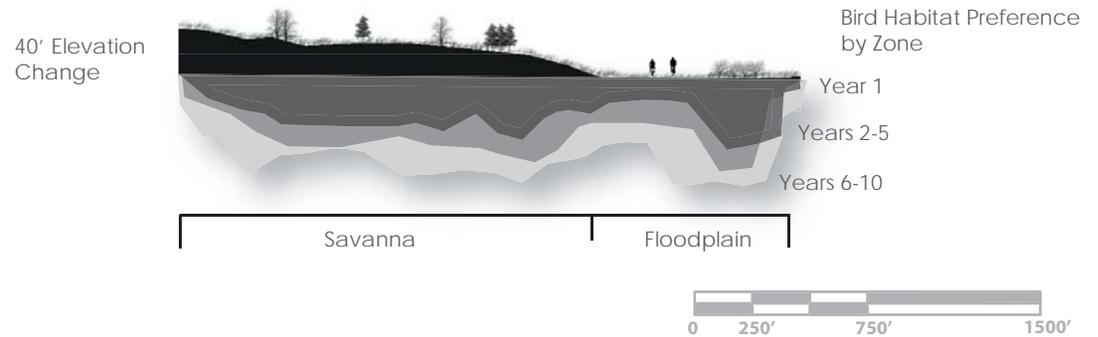
Education

Researchers will be brought on-site to document wildlife patterns in each room/spatial zone.

These patterns will then be translated into physical art arrangements of reclaimed or new objects, and will provide Midewin with quantifiable wildlife data.



Illustrative section describing 1 of 3 spatial conditions on-site, and corresponding attractiveness to bird populations over time

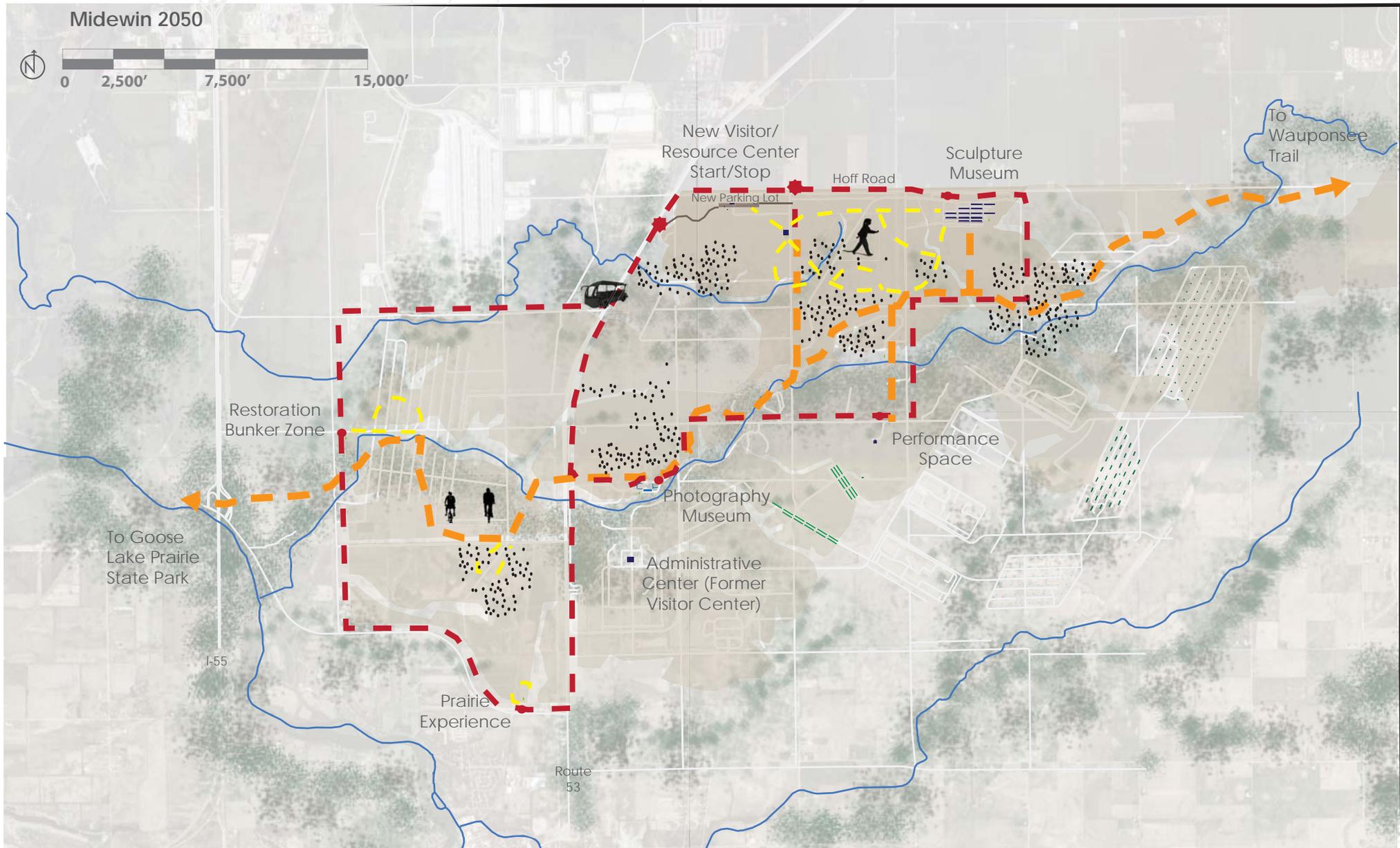


Example Wildlife Research Patterns



Project: Master Plan for Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Utilizing GIS mapping technology, this semester-long studio project analyzed and proposed future identity for this 18,000 acre former military arsenal site. This proposal begins with artists coming to the site to document it, and moves to create a post-industrial art museum on-site. Researchers will document wildlife patterns in quadrants, and sculptural elements will be placed to represent these patterns in a physical display. Dilapidated, unsafe structures on-site would be demolished, and the materials re-used on-site for path and sculptural elements.

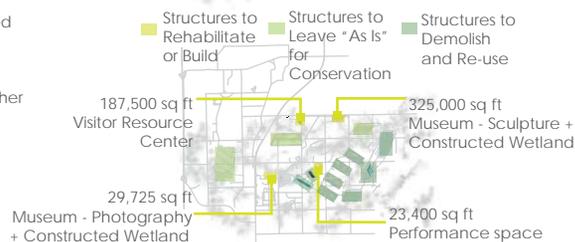


Project: Master Plan for Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie (continued)

This master plan shows the eventual state of Midwin. Circulation paths are primarily located along the 100-year flood plain, providing a variety of spatial experiences. Due to the vast scale of Midwin, the circulation paths indicate a hierarchy of bikes as the main user, followed by solar electric shuttle tours, then pedestrians. Some former arsenal structures will be re-purposed as spaces to house post-industrial art forms and a new visitor center will be built on high ground and will provide event and educational spaces.



Siting and Views



Structures

187,500 sq ft Visitor Resource Center

29,725 sq ft Museum - Photography + Constructed Wetland

325,000 sq ft Museum - Sculpture + Constructed Wetland

23,400 sq ft Performance space

Mixed Use Community Space
Amphitheater, 92,664 sq ft

Mixed Use Developments

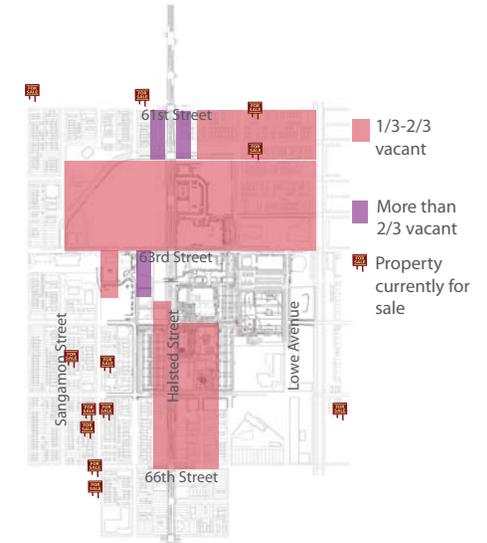
Low-Rise Condos - 4th-9th floor, 336,000 sq ft
 Roof Garden - 4th floor, 21,600 sq ft
 Parking - 1st-3rd floor, 324,512 sq ft
 Retail - 1st floor, 108,000 sq ft

Entertainment Complex

Green roof - 57,600 sq ft
 Bowling Alley - 5th floor, 57,600 sq ft
 Movie Theater - 4th floor, 57,600 sq ft
 Parking - 1st-3rd floor, 136,800 sq ft
 Retail - 1st floor, 36,000 sq ft



Amphitheater Perspective



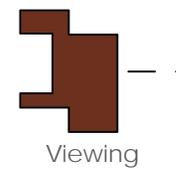
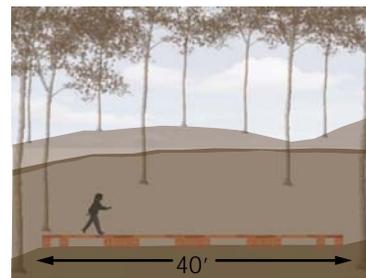
Vacant Land Analysis



Entertainment Complex Section

Project: Transit-Oriented Development for Englewood

To continue redevelopment momentum in the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago, analysis was conducted on a vacant site and the surrounding community. Deficiencies such as vacant lots, lack of grocery stores and entertainment options were some of the main issues that were addressed. A new entertainment complex with mixed use development was proposed with a community amphitheater, in order to activate the space for families, Kennedy King college students, commuters and community groups.



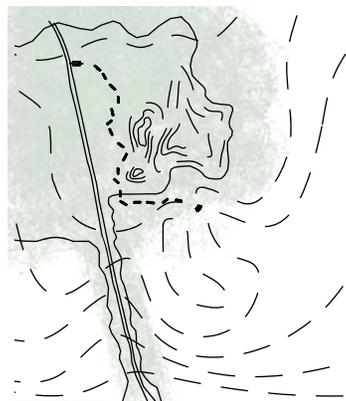
Boardwalk module types driven by existing forest conditions



Year 1

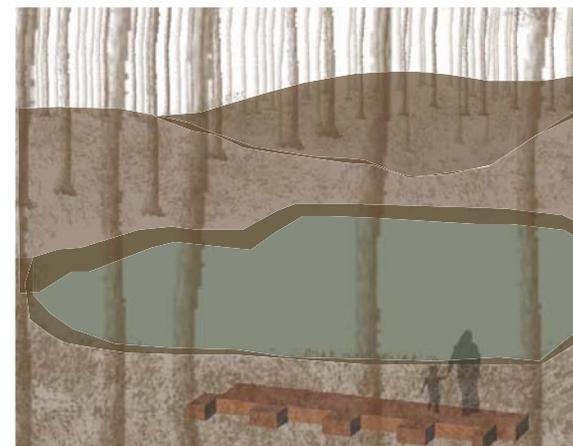


Year 6



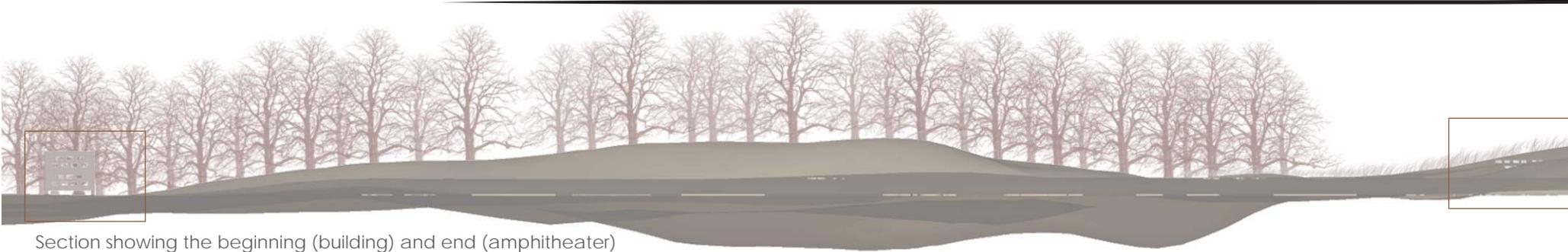
Year 11

Old growth forest expansion and incremental boardwalk movements



Project: Forest Floor Education at RARE Research Reserve in Cambridge, Ontario

This second year studio project involved bringing the public to a formerly private site, and through an old growth forest. The goal was to instill appreciation, while incurring minimal damage to the existing ecologies. This proposes a system of site specific, disconnected boardwalks, allowing the visitor to experience several ways of navigating through the forest. Boardwalk modules will be re-arranged as the site evolves, and these movements will leave outlines in their previous locations, where the forest will regenerate differently, revealing the element of human occupation.



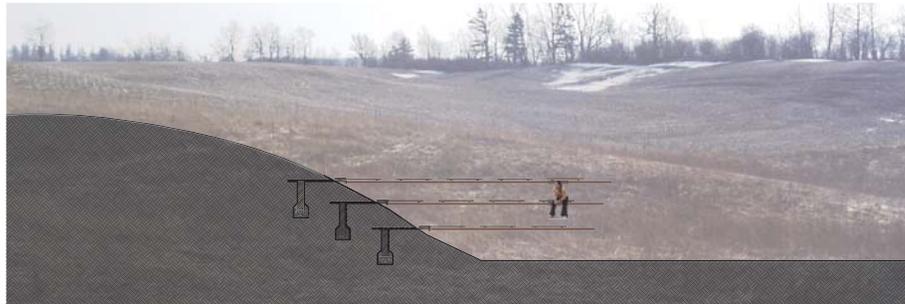
Section showing the beginning (building) and end (amphitheater) node locations and the changing topography between them



Building section showing raised structure that allows forest floor to continue to grow beneath, and glass courtyard for viewing scientific research in progress



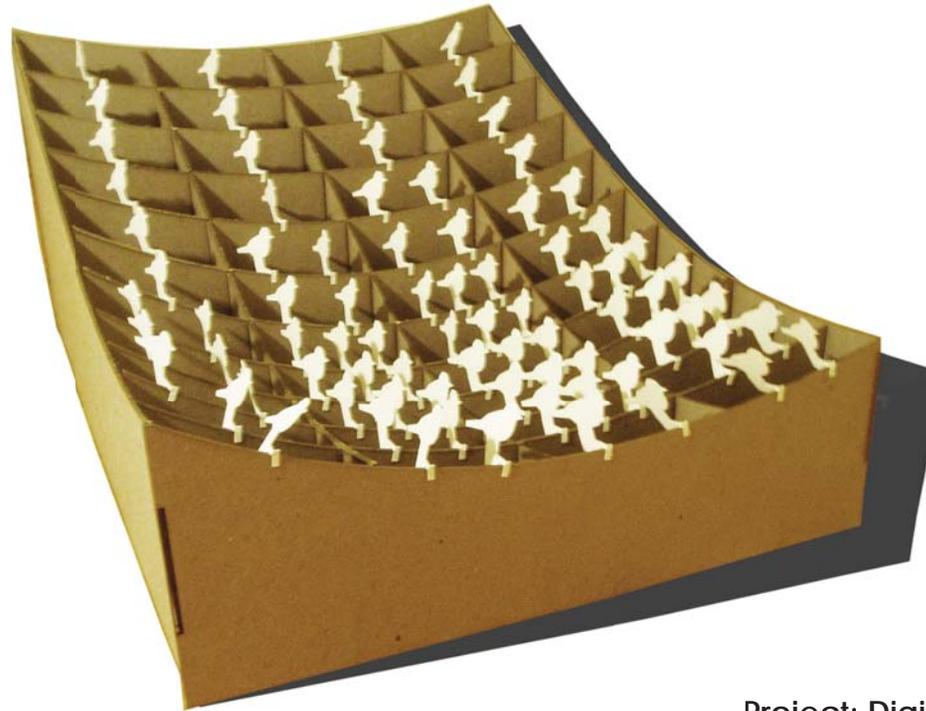
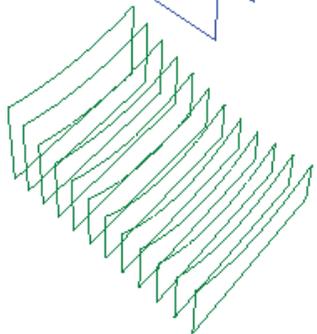
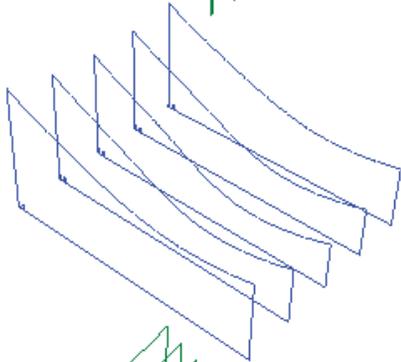
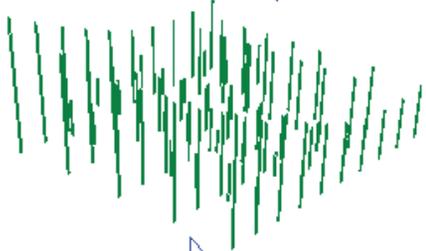
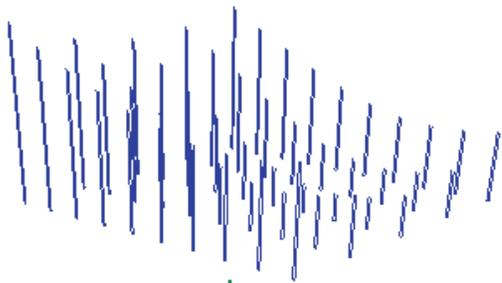
Conceptual models documenting forest experiences



Section of amphitheater spatial condition and construction method

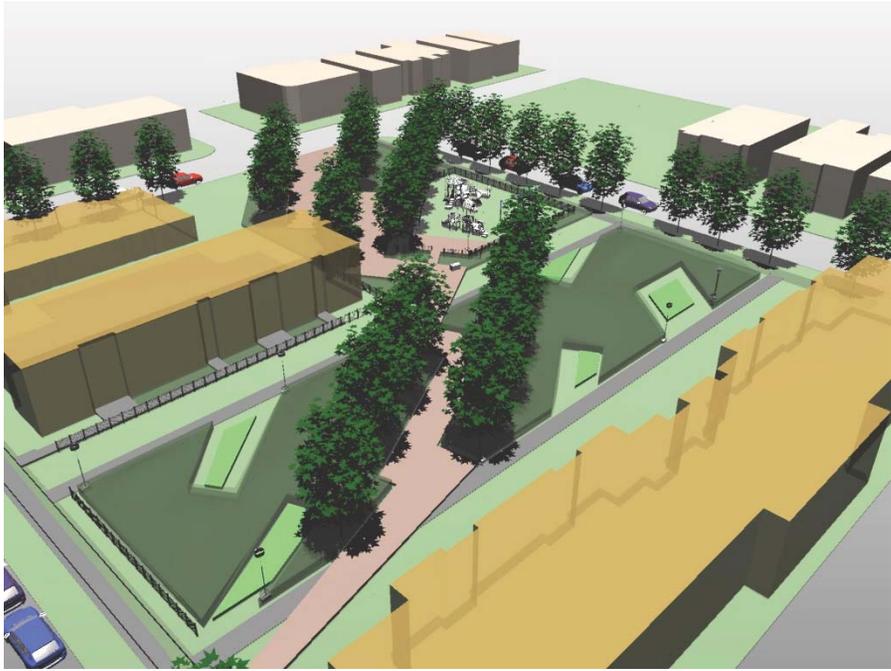
Project: Forest Floor Education at RARE Research Reserve in Cambridge, Ontario (continued)

The new route through the old growth forest begins at the end of the existing path where the new research center will stand. Visitors pass through this building as a threshold to the changing landscape on the other side. The new route ends at an amphitheater that is built into the existing topography of the "buffer zone" just outside the forest. This offers an area for rest and reflection, and over time will become increasingly filled with pioneer plant communities as the forest expands.



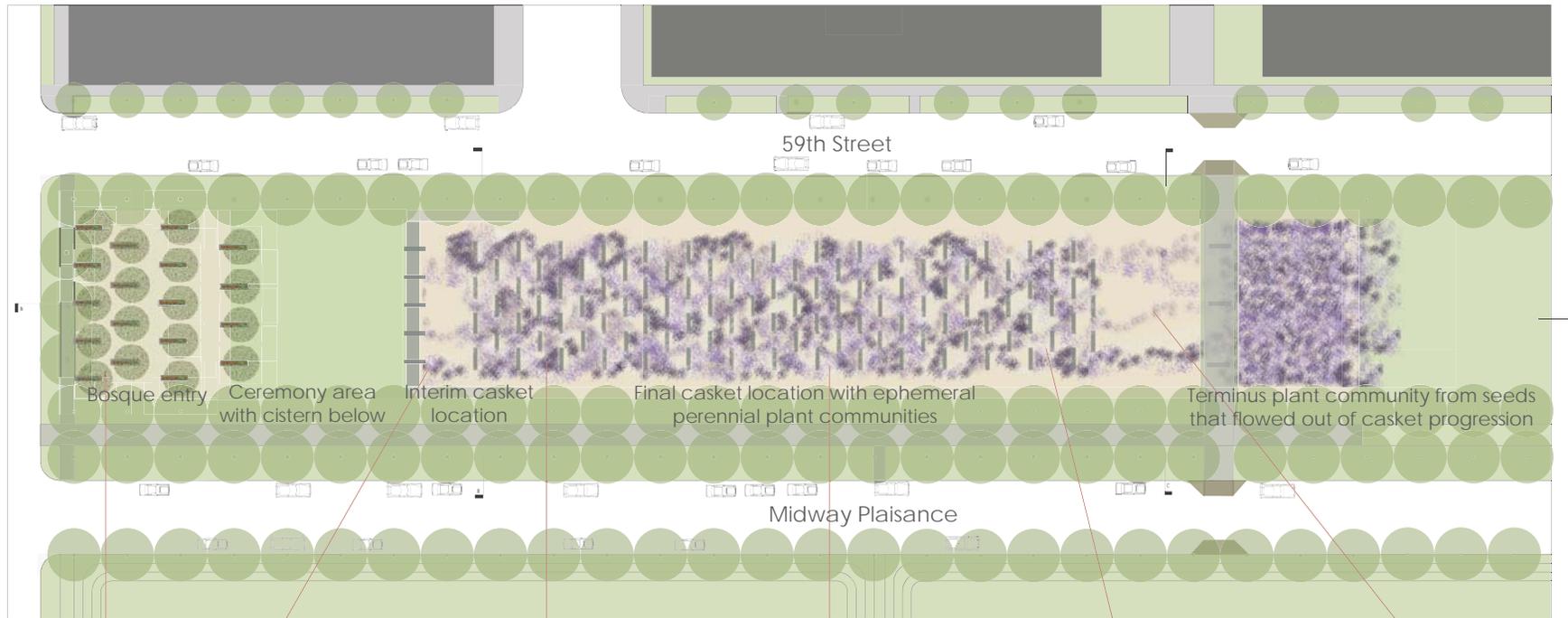
Project: Digitally Modeling a Nature-Based System

This digital media project involved planning and creation of a Rhino model, which was subsequently laser cut. Distances were calculated from a chosen point, and criteria for a system were correlated to this. This model represents Chicago bird watching sites with one, two or three birds representing density of birds based on distance from the lakefront.



Project: Reinventing Community - A Park for University Village

This project involved designing a park for the new Roosevelt Square development, keeping in mind several existing elements, and was to include an on site stormwater management component. This design approach attempts to capture the history of the Taylor Street site as the former location of the Riis Elementary School. The jagged paths, which are lined with seatwalls, pay homage to the destruction of Riis, and have a northeasterly orientation, meant to capture views of the Chicago skyline.



Blue and silver plant selections to represent death and rebirth



Project: Meaningful Progression - A Cemetery for Body Donors

To honor those who have donated their bodies to science, this first year studio project involved designing a cemetery which closely examines the progression of an individual urn to its final location. This approach involves moving a casket from a holding area above a cistern during an annual ceremony, and placing it into a recessed basin. Collected rainwater is then released from the void, and families disburse seeds into it, which are carried throughout the site, creating plant communities which speak of each year, changing as a result of casket placement and climatic conditions.



Project: Meaningful Progression - A Cemetery for Body Donors
(continued)

In order to determine how and where ephemeral plant communities will take place with the movement of the cistern water, a model was built out of MDF and various configurations of 'casket' shapes were closely observed over different time intervals. Cooking spices were used to represent perennial seeds. The result was shadow-like formations around the casket structures that were then interpreted into the digital site renderings.