



GUTHRIE

The Elbow Recreational and Cultural Area

City of Guthrie
Association of Central Oklahoma Governments
OU Institute for Quality Communities

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CERI: Community Economic Resiliency Initiative

In 2021, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) initiated the Community Economic Resiliency Initiative (CERI) to offer municipalities the opportunity to develop plans that model strategic investment, sustainable economic recovery, and long-term resiliency in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACOG partnered with the University of Oklahoma Institute for Quality Communities (IQC) and Oklahoma Main Street Center to collaborate in shaping the program and providing services to communities selected to participate in CERI. Through a competitive application process, three cities were selected.

This document compiles recommendations based on research and engagement carried out by the OU Institute for Quality Communities in response to these community-driven proposals.

El Reno: The City of El Reno sought a corridor study of Route 66 west of downtown El Reno, known as Sunset Drive. The IQC team conducted regular steering committee meetings, stakeholder interviews with local institutions, design workshops for the public and for high school students, and additional research. The process resulted in “three pillars” for Sunset Drive including safety, economic development, and public image. These goals were explored through proposals for new streetscapes and development patterns.

Guthrie: The City of Guthrie sought a plan for a new cultural and recreational area for “The Elbow,” an area west of downtown that was previously an African American community before it was condemned after a century of flooding. The IQC team conducted extensive historical research and interviews. The process resulted in recommendations for cultural and recreational trails in the Elbow, as well as an augmented reality platform for experiencing the Elbow’s history. Additional urban design recommendations are proposed to tie the recreational area to downtown Guthrie and beyond.

Harrah: The City of Harrah sought a plan for its downtown, known as “Sweeney Switch.” The IQC team conducted monthly steering committee meetings and attended two local festivals to engage with residents, in addition to research and data collection. The process resulted in “five big moves” to advance Sweeney Switch, covering urban design, development, and parking strategies.

Acknowledgements

The following people were instrumental in the development of the Elbow Recreational and Cultural Area.

PROJECT LEAD & AUTHOR **Sarah Little, PhD**, Associate Professor, the University of Oklahoma Gibbs College of Architecture

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A special thanks to Justin who applied for the CERI grant and has been a wonderful project partner ever since.

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Heady Coleman
Justin Fortney
Joe Mack
Dana Mosman
Evelyn Nephew
Constance Scott

The members of the Steering Committee lovingly worked to tell the story of the former residents of the Elbow community. They conducted interviews, tracked down former residents, and kept interest in the project going since 2017.

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Steering Committee members participating in a vision statement exercise. Source: Author

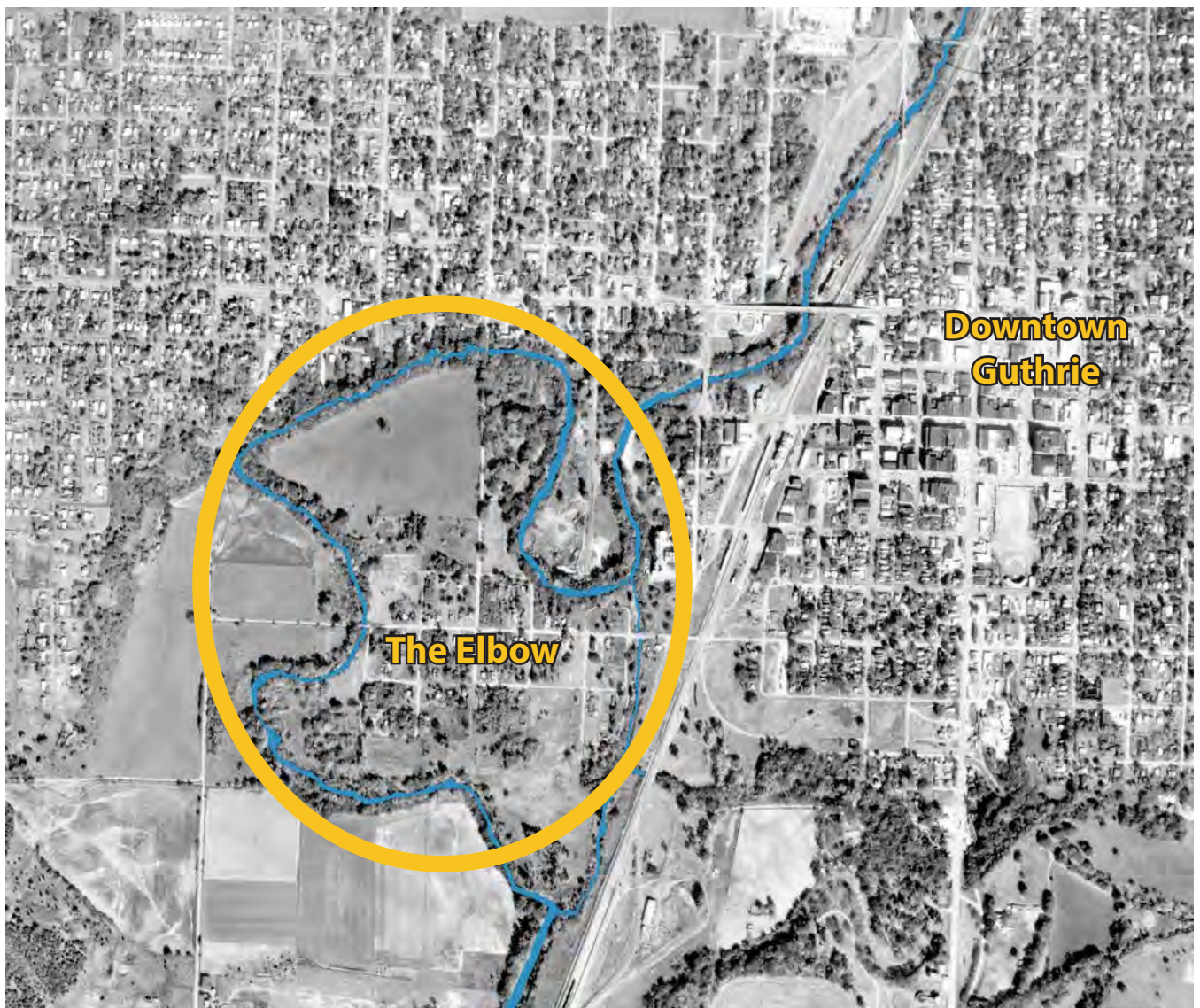


Land Acknowledgement

Let this project become the beginning of your journey to recognize and acknowledge the cause and effect of displacement and create ways to work toward reconciliation.

The project is about honoring people who lost their homes and the community they created. While the reasons for displacement differ, I want to acknowledge the ancestors of the Wichita Tribe who inhabited Oklahoma from the 1500s-1700s and were displaced by European colonizers. I want to acknowledge the ancestors of the Creek and Seminole tribes who lived in present-day Logan County before they lost their land in the Reconstruction Treaties of 1866 for supporting the Confederacy in the U.S. Civil War.

The Elbow and Downtown Guthrie in a 1970 aerial photograph. Source: Author



Project Introduction

“Come learn the history that was washed away.”

—*Steering Committee Member*

The area known as the Elbow in Guthrie, OK was previously an African American community that was condemned after a century of flooding. Some residents accepted buyouts and relocated in the 1980s, while others decided to stay in their homes even after bridges washed out in the 1990s cutting off vehicular access.

To foster economic resilience, the City of Guthrie proposed to develop the area as a Recreational and Cultural Area to honor the residents of the Elbow who were displaced. The site’s location in the floodplain both simplified and complicated the project. The recreational nature of the project was straightforward as building of permanent structures cannot occur within floodplains. Therefore, recreational amenities were limited to trails and multipurpose fields. The former street network would be revived as a greenway system and the property owned by the City would be cleared of understory growth and maintained as multi-purpose areas when possible.

While the floodplain simplified the recreational component, it complicated the cultural objectives of the project. Traditionally, our society builds museums and erects monuments and statutes to honor history and culture. Unfortunately, the traditional methods of memorializing were not available since no structures can be built within a floodplain. While some projects may opt to incorporate signage within floodplains, this option was deemed unacceptable since even ‘cheaper’ signage is too expensive to replace annually or biannually due to frequent flooding of the Cottonwood Creek. The recent attention around augmented reality provided a vehicle to honor cultural significance within a floodplain. The community is re-created virtually. Visitors to the site will walk the former streets of the Elbow reimagined as greenway trails, gaze upon virtual re-creations of the buildings while viewing historic photos and listening to interviews of former residents and their descendants.

Augmented Reality

Augmented reality transposes virtual reality onto reality.

The best example of augmented reality is Pokémon GO, a smartphone app where gamers try to catch mythical creatures. While looking through a smartphone, these creatures which are created using virtual reality appear as if they are in front of you; however, in reality, they only appear in the app. Other uses of augmented reality have emerged. For example, furniture makers are offering apps where you can place virtual pieces of furniture into a room.



View of augmented reality as demonstrated by Pokémon GO.
Source: bit.ly/3t045i2

Vision Statement

Over the course of a century, memorabilia of Elbow residents were washed away by the flood waters of Cottonwood Creek, but the memories and history live on within the hearts and minds of Guthrie residents. While most historic structures have disappeared, the Elbow is not forgotten. The plan for the Elbow Recreational and Cultural Area (working name) presents visitors with a more complete history of Guthrie. Looking through a smartphone or similar device, visitors are transported back in time. The long-abandoned street network of the Elbow is restored as recreational trails that lead visitors past virtually re-created buildings that once stood proudly along the streets. Visitors hear interviews from previous residents and their descendants detailing their experience in the Elbow.

—Created by the members of the Elbow Steering Committee

Thick Description

“Telling the story that was once lived to move forward with the stories yet to be told.”

—Steering Committee Member

To re-create the Elbow virtually, an understanding of the history of the residents and place is needed. In qualitative research, a thick description is a method of reporting ethnographic data that resonates with the reader; it's more than simply reporting actions or behavior. Thick description provides an accounting of the research participants' thoughts, emotions, and motivations behind their actions and behaviors. It's through the complete or 'thick' telling of the human experience that the reader finds common ground with the participants through creating verisimilitude, or "truthlike statements that produce for readers the feeling that they have experienced, or could experience, the events being described" (Denzin, 1989).

Little and Rice (2021) proposed a framework for which to create a thick description. The framework uses the common acronym of the 5W's (who, what, where, when, and why) to organize the thick description. While the 5W's acronym is used often in reporting current events in the news, a thick description does not simply report action; therefore, the 5W's become a framework with which to organize the verisimilitude of the thick description. For the Elbow project, three time periods are important to examine in order to tell the story. The thick description begins by examining the circumstances surrounding the settling of the Elbow community, then stories of the actual community life that the residents built are shared. Lastly, accounts of the flooding that lead to the condemning of the community and the relocation of the residents.

Site History

Any historic account of life in Oklahoma is complicated. For some Oklahomans, this land was the home and hunting grounds of their ancestors. For other Oklahomans, this land represented their ancestors' hopes and dreams of a new life during westward expansion. Regardless, our history is riddled with myriad tales of displacement; some are of voluntary relocation, and some are of forceable removal. The goal of the Elbow project is to contribute to the understanding of the history of displacement in Guthrie, which served as the Territorial capital. The project seeks to give a public voice to the former residents and their descendants about their lived experience in the Elbow. Whenever possible, direct quotes from interviews are utilized to tell the story. Additional sources are used but only to position their experience within a historical context.

Race in the Oklahoma Territory

The end of the Civil War in the U.S. brought about two distinct actions that would eventually designate Oklahoma as a place where African Americans could prosper: Special Field Order No. 15 and the Reconstruction Treaties of 1866. First, General William T. Sherman, the famed Union general who successfully captured Atlanta, GA and Savannah, GA

during the Civil War, issued Special Field Order No. 15 on January 16, 1865, 4 days after consulting with a group of 20 leaders within the Black community in Savannah, GA (Gates, 2013). In the Field Order, Sherman confiscated 400,000 acres from Confederate landowners along the South Carolina and Georgia coastline to be redistributed to freed slaves. After Sherman's march in Georgia, thousands of Black refugees followed his regiment. Unable to protect the refugees during an active campaign, Field Order No. 15 provided Sherman with the means to support the displaced freed people. Under the advice of Congress, Lincoln established the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, which was called the Freedmen's Bureau, on March 3, 1865, to issue legal titles for forty-acre plots of land to freed people.

After Lincoln's assassination on April 14, 1865, Andrew Johnson, who was sympathetic to Southern landowners, assumed the role of President and overturned Sherman's directive in the fall of 1865 citing that the Field Order applied to wartime only (Myers, 2020). Although efforts toward reparations for freed people failed, Sherman's Special Field Order No. 15 planted the seeds of the reality of Black sovereignty in the possibility of land ownership and all-Black communities.

The second action at the end of the Civil War that was significant for African Americans was the Reconstruction Treaties of 1866 between the U.S. government and Native

All-Black Towns in Oklahoma

More historically all-Black towns occurred in Oklahoma than in any other U.S. state.

An interesting feature of Sherman's Special Field Order No. 15 was Section Two, which stated that on reassigned lands, *"no white person whatever, unless military officers and soldiers detailed for duty, will be permitted to reside; and the sole and exclusive management of affairs will be left to the freed people themselves...By the laws of war, and orders of the President of the United States, the [Black] is free and must be dealt with as such"* (Gates, 2013).

This section of the Special Order may have been the catalyst for the dream of Black sovereignty. The idea of an all-Black town gained traction in Oklahoma. In fact, more historically all-Black towns occurred in Oklahoma than in any other U.S. state. In total, more than 50 all-Black towns were settled throughout Indian Territory, and later

Oklahoma, between 1865-1920. Can you imagine being an African American who was just coming out of slavery at the end of the Civil War being presented with this idea of an all-Black town? It's no surprise that the dream of Langston was being promoted in the South given the negative influence of Jim Crow era laws on every facet of daily life for African Americans. 'Jim Crow' is a pejorative term for a Black man and came to represent any state law with the intention of mandating segregation or denying the right to vote. While slavery was abolished after the Civil War with the passing of the 13th amendment in 1865, Jim Crow era laws in the South during Reconstruction ensured that African Americans' standing within society continued as second-class citizens. They were forced to use 'separate but equal' facilities, which in reality, were often substandard or non-existent. They were no longer slaves, but they were far from free.

1830s-1840s
Trail of Tears

April 12, 1861
Civil War begins

Jan. 12, 1865
Sherman meets w/ Black leaders

Jan. 16, 1865
Field Order No. 15 issued

March 3, 1865
Freedmen's Bureau established

April 9, 1865
Civil War ends

April 14, 1865
Assassination of Lincoln

“Land was golden. That’s where you could break the cycle of poverty.”

–Dr. Bob Blackburn, former Executive Director, Oklahoma Historical Society²

²Quoted during an interview with Nia Clark. <https://www.dreamsofblackwallstreet.com/post/black-wall-street-1921-episode-1-the-five-civilized-tribes>

American tribes. When the Five Tribes (Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole) were forcibly removed from the southeast U.S. and relocated during the 1830s and 1840s, they brought slaves with them to Indian Territory. By the start of the Civil War in 1861, approximately 10,000 slaves were held in bondage by Native American tribes; however, treatment of slaves differed from tribe to tribe (Reese, n.d.). The Choctaw and Chickasaw mirrored a more traditional arrangement of master/slave as seen on Southern plantations, while the Creek and Seminole often intermarried with slaves. The Cherokee did not marry slaves but had a more cordial relationship than the Choctaw and Chickasaw. The ownership of slaves propelled the tribes into the Civil War (Huston, n.d.). With the defeat of the Confederacy, the Five Tribes were forced to sign Reconstruction Treaties where they received amnesty for crimes against the U.S. but lost considerable tribal lands regardless of their level of support for the Confederacy (Pennington, n.d.). The Treaties also abolished slavery and gave the freed people tribal rights which varied according to the affiliated tribe. Essentially the treatment of freed people mirrored the treatment they received while in bondage. The Seminole, Creek, and Cherokee agreed to give the freed people full citizenship into the tribe and

therefore unqualified rights, which meant access to land and political participation; while the Choctaw reluctantly adopted them into the tribe, but freed people experienced limited rights and the Chickasaw never resolved the issue of integrating freed people into their roles (Reese, n.d.).

The General Allotment Act of 1887 created the Dawes Commission to dissolve tribal governments and oversee the enrollment and land allotment processes. While enrollment and allotment processes were vehicles for land ownership of African Americans, e.g., freed people, the processes were based on forced colonization of indigenous people. The Five Tribes tried to limit the number of freed people allowed on their rolls. Since the Dawes Commission had no authority to override tribal governments, the process dragged on for years. The Curtis Act of 1898 stripped tribes of any governmental autonomy imposing a Euro-centric view of land ownership on the tribal members, but it also gave freed people access to the courts to challenge the obstruction of their rights to citizenship.

“Land is golden. That’s where you could break the cycle of poverty” –Dr. Bob Blackburn, former Executive Director, Oklahoma Historical Society. Land is golden. Having access

Fall 1865
Freedmen's Bureau ends

1866
Reconstruction Treaties w/
the Five Civilized Tribes

1887
General Allotment Act (Dawes Act)

April 22, 1890
Langston, OK founded

1898
Curtis Act

April 22, 1899
Land Run in Unassigned Lands

June 1, 1903
Bockfinger v. Foster
Claiming the Elbow

to land ensures generational wealth. While the promise of '40 acres and a mule' failed with the dissolution of Sherman's Field Order No. 15, the allotment process from the Reconstruction Treaties of 1866 provided a golden opportunity of land ownership for African Americans, but it was at the expense of the Native American culture. While it had failed in the South, African Americans could potentially own land in Oklahoma.

Below: Freed people camped at Fort Gibson to enroll (15805, Aylesworth Album Collection, OHS).

Chickasaw freed people filing on allotments at Tishomingo (3759, W.P. Campbell Collection, OHS). Source: <https://bit.ly/3Kplz80>



The Dawes Act eventually became a vehicle for African American land ownership while imposing a Euro-centric view of property onto Native Americans. Source: <https://bit.ly/3NOZZMx>

Black Exodus to Oklahoma

African Americans were moving to Oklahoma in droves for the promise of land. Newspaper articles from around the country describe the hopefuls as destitute traveling with nothing but the clothes on their backs (see below). Regardless of their condition while traveling, they prospered in the Oklahoma Territory. The New York Times reported on the amount of wealth accumulated by African Americans in 1891 (see below). The realized promise of land in Oklahoma created opportunities that African Americans were denied historically and ended cycles of

poverty. Interestingly, African Americans cared for their own. More prosperous settlers financially helped new arrivals until they gained their bearings. This tradition of caring for your own continued for another 100 years within the Elbow Community.

Langston seems to be at the heart of the Black movement to secure land in Oklahoma. Salesmen traveled throughout the Jim Crow South during Reconstruction pitching the dream of Langston, an all-Black town, to freed slaves. Available plots of land were advertised in the Langston City Herald (see right).

From the St. Louis Globe Democrat:

BOUND FOR OKLAHOMA

Newport, Arkansas March 30, 1890. A group of [Blacks], of all ages and sexes, passed through this town today, bound for Oklahoma. They all come from Crittendon County and are in destitute condition. They do not blame the people of the county they came from but say they hope to better their condition in Oklahoma, the "land of the [Blacks]."

IMMIGRATING TO OKLAHOMA

Hopkinsville, Kentucky March 22, 1890. Another party of about sixty [Blacks] left the vicinity for Oklahoma last night, making in all several hundred who have emigrated from here to that territory in the last few weeks. If the reports they send back are favorable hundreds more [Blacks] will leave here for the same place this spring.

Excerpts from the New York Times:

THE BLACKS IN OKLAHOMA

Topeka, Kansas April 8, 1891. Is Oklahoma really overrun with [Blacks], and has there been an influx of pauper [Blacks] from the South? So many conflicting answers have been given in response to these two questions that it was impossible to arrive at the truth...

In order to determine the truth, the Times representative determined to visit the territory and see what was to be seen, and to learn from interested persons as much of the truth as they could be prevailed upon to surrender....[2000 Blacks] is probably more nearly the correct figure, as an inspection of the city revealed many black faces, and an examination of many of the little houses in the suburbs showed a number of [Black] families comfortably situated. That these [Blacks] are not all paupers is shown by

their bank deposits where they have some ranging from \$200 to \$1,000. In one bank alone sums aggregating over \$15,000³ have been deposited by the [Black] settlers.

Many have gone to that territory with nothing except the rags they wore, but they have never become public charges. They have been cared for by persons of their own race until they were in such condition that they could help themselves and help others...

In the meantime, almost every train brings in [Blacks] from the South, who remain. Agents from Georgia and Arkansas have in vain sought to induce some of these blacks to return as laborers. They will not go. They send glowing accounts back to their friends of the new land, and a stream of immigrants constantly increases. So far, there has been but little trouble; what the future may bring no one even pretends to guess. In fact, nobody will think of it, except the blacks themselves. The latter firmly cherish the idea that they may possibly found here a state in which they will predominate and have the controlling power.

The war of races in Oklahoma is sure to come, but it will not be fought with guns and knives. The weapons will be the plow and the hoe, which will be wielded by each race upon its own lands. It remains to be seen whether the hot sun of Oklahoma will favor the black cuticle of the cotton and tobacco grower or the white skin of the corn and wheat raiser.

³2022 equivalences for 1890 monetary figures: \$6,200, \$31,000, and \$468,000, respectively.

The location for Langston was selected because of the proximity to the Kiowas land that would be open for settlement in fall of 1891 (see next page). Langston would become a pipeline shipping supplies to African Americans settling Kiowa land. Therefore, Langston became a headquarters for Black settlers in Oklahoma to gather before seized Native American lands opened for settlement.

Unfortunately, not everyone was excited about the Black exodus to Oklahoma. White settlers viewed the influx of African Americans as threatening their future land claims. The more people present to stake a claim equates to more competition to get a prime claim or even get a claim at all. Racial tensions boiled over several times. On September 18, 1891, cowboys wanting to settle the Cimarron Valley attacked Blacks in Langston who they feared would be

In every issue of the Langston City Herald, the local newspaper of Langston, OK, available plots of land were advertised. Source: Oklahoma Territorial Museum

THE LANGSTON CITY HERALD.

SAY MISTER!

Do you read?
Does any one of your family read?
Are you inclined to foster race institutions?
Don't you want to know of the doings of your people else where?
Wouldn't you like to hear a true, impartial and unprejudiced report when you do hear?
Wouldn't you like to read a paper that credits the Negroes with what they do?
Wouldn't you like to read a paper that doesn't delight in showing up the bad deeds laid at the feet of our people and leaving the good ones lay dormant?
Would you like to keep up with the lynching, whipping burning at the stake and out rages brutally heaped upon our law abiding citizens?
Would you like to inspire the intellectuality of your off springs, and crown their heads with wisdom?
Would you like to train them to perfect their wonderful conceptions by having them read good race literature and acquaint themselves with the characteristics of our great Negroes?
Would you like to combine your efforts and help to establish business for the employment of your sons and daughters?
If you have an interest in your children and the race and imbued with the propensities named above, you will send us 8 Yearly subscribers and obtain a copy for yourself One Year free, or send 3 names and obtain the paper One Year for \$1.25 each, to R. Emmett Stewart, Ed. and Bus. Man'g'r of THE HERALD Langston City, Okla.

LANGSTON CITY

OKLAHOMA TER.

THE ONLY DISTINCTIVELY NEGRO CITY IN AMERICA.

FOUNDED BY E.F. MCGABE, OCT. 22, 1897.

Excerpts from the New York Times:

THE BLACKS IN OKLAHOMA

Topeka, Kansas April 8, 1891. Twelve miles northeast of Guthrie, on the eastern border of Oklahoma, was found the little "city" of Langston, the inspiration of E.P. McCabe, the only [Black] state officer Kansas ever had, who is now treasurer of Guthrie County.

McCabe proposes to establish at Langston a distinctly [Black] city and has for months, through colonization societies, been working in the southern states to secure a population for this new black Mecca. He has secured a number of families and has sold many lots. Some thirty dwelling houses and a small store comprise the nucleus of what the [Blacks] hope to make a great city. There are nearly 200 persons already there, and not a white face is to be found in the place. Black carpenters work on a dozen new houses in course of erection, while masons, bricklayers, and other mechanics are making preparation for their future work. They have a black doctor, a black preacher, and a black school teacher, the latter presiding in a unpretentious little building already dignified by being called "the academy." Adjoining the town site, 83 acres of land have been broken up, and will this year be used as a cooperative garden by the entire colony.

When asked what they were going to live on until something was raised, the general reply was that they "did not come here a paupers," and that they brought money enough with them to live on for some time.

The principal object in establishing this town on the eastern border was to be near the lands of the Kiowas, which are expected to be open to settlement before fall. When these lands are opened, Langston will be the supply depot for all of the black race, and there will be repeated the experiment, already a success, that was made in the black-jack country in the northwest part of the territory, and under more favorable circumstances, as the new town is situated in a much more productive country.

competition for prime claims (see right). The following summer tensions came to a boiling point on June 12, 1892, when Guthrie almost experienced a tragedy like the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921. Under similar conditions as Tulsa, two African American men were accused of assaulting a white woman. While the accused were in jail awaiting a trial, a lynch mob gathered demanding vigilante justice (see right). By the next morning, tensions had dissipated, and disaster was averted. No details are available as to why the events did not end in tragedy like the Tulsa Race Massacre in 1921.

The People who Settled the Elbow

What emerges from this historic investigation is an understanding of the importance of land ownership in breaking the cycle of poverty. While the promise of '40 acres and a mule' never came to fruition for former slaves in the southern U.S., land ownership in Oklahoma was possible for African Americans through the land run process or through the allotment process for the freed people of the 5 Civilized Tribes. Oklahoma boasting the greatest number of all-Black towns in the country is testament to the promise of Oklahoma to African Americans.



E.P. McCabe was the first African American to be elected to a political office in Kansas and founded Langston, OK. Source: Oklahoma Territorial Museum

Langston, OK provides a significant piece of the historic puzzle in understanding the conditions that lead to the founding of the Elbow. The dream of Langston, OK, a town to be developed, owned, and operated solely by African Americans, was being promoted to freed people across the Jim Crow South by traveling salesmen who sold train tickets to Guthrie, the last stop on the Santa Fe line. Many travelers did not have the funds for the trip to Langston from Guthrie and camped in abandoned railcars near the depot or along the Cottonwood Creek. They worked in Guthrie to save the money for the trip. As reported in The New York Times, these stranded African American travelers

supported each other. More established settlers took care of the newly arrived travelers until they got established.

The road was not always easy for African Americans in the Oklahoma Territory. They faced racial injustice as evidenced in the violence initiated by cowboys over land claims in the Cimarron Valley in 1891 and the threat of a reported race war or more accurately a lynching/race massacre the following year in 1892 similar to the Tulsa Race Massacre in 1921. In the midst of racial turmoil, African Americans in Guthrie turned inward forming a community that took care of their own. It was this community of travelers moving toward a brighter future who settled the Elbow.

From the Record-Union, Sacramento, CA:
WAR BETWEEN COWBOYS AND [BLACKS]

Guthrie, O.T., Sept. 18, 1891. A deputy Sheriff just arrived, and brings the news of a race war in progress just on the line of the Iowa reservation. The town of Langston was founded several months ago, and is inhabited solely by [Blacks]. There are several thousand of them there, more are arriving daily on the line of the new lands. The [Blacks] contemplate settling in a body in the Cimarron Valley as soon as the lands are opened. A gang of cowboys from the Cherokee strip also have their eyes on the locality, and that any [Black] who attempts to settle there will be killed. Yesterday the cowboys visited Langston, got into a row, and attempted to shoot Eggleston, editor of the Herald. Last night they returned, all drunk, and fired a score of shots into a crowd of [Blacks] on the streets. Several received slight wounds. The cowboys left swearing they would return today and wipe out the town. The [Blacks] have all armed themselves, and if they do return, many will likely be killed, Officers left for the scene.

From The New York Times:
THE "NEW" OKLAHOMA LANDS

Guthrie, Oklahoma September 19, 1891. Excitement grows hourly greater among the people who will make the race for homes in the Indian lands which will be opened to settlement next Tuesday. There are several causes for excitement, chief among them being the large number of [Blacks] who have gathered by hundreds at Langston, the Oklahoma [Black] colony, who intend to move en masse upon the Cimarron Valley, the best, perhaps, of all the new lands, and settle there, to the exclusion of all other settlers. Many white settlers among them being numbers of cowboys, object to the

[Blacks'] plans, and will take desperate chances to preempt choice claims in the very face of the [Black] host.

From the Morning Call, San Francisco, CA:
FEAR OF A RACE WAR.

Guthrie, O.T. June 12, 1892. Reeves Brothers' place on Second street is the rendezvous of the vigilance committee and the place is crowded with fathers and husbands. Republicans and Democrats alike take the stand that the [Blacks'] reign is at an end in Oklahoma. The city is actually alive with armed men who are ready to fight to the death if needs be.

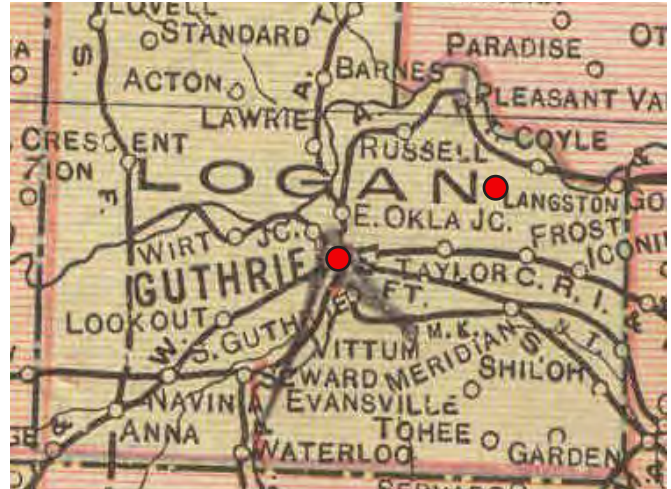
E. P. McCabe, a [Black] and the ex-State Auditor of Kansas, is held responsible for the crimes being committed and for the violence feared. He cannot be found to-night an [sic] is evidently in no way desirous of showing up.

At 2 this (Monday) morning a large number of men is parading the streets, and there is no telling what may happen. The Sheriff and police are resolute, and the excitement is intense. Bands of [Blacks] are congregated on every corner, and trouble at the jail seems certain, as another mob has assembled in that vicinity.

All the whistles in town are blowing, and there are shouts and yells from every quarter of the city. The town of 10,000 people is a pandemonium, and the yell of a determined mob is momentarily expected. No power on earth seems able now to save the imprisoned man's life. The electric lights have been extinguished, and it seems now that the worst may happen. Captain Cooper, one of Payne's original Oklahoma boomers, reached here to-night at 11 o'clock with 17 men, and they are determined that nothing short of lynching will satisfy them.

Settlement of the Elbow

The best account of the settling of the Elbow community comes from Fanny Frances Allen (see below). As part of the efforts of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the Great Depression of the 1930s, people were interviewed about their lived experience. Mrs. Allen was interviewed on October 12, 1937, about her arrival to Oklahoma after the Land Run of 1889. The interview is provided by the Western History Collection at the University of Oklahoma.



Guthrie, OK was the last train stop on the journey to Langston. In the late 1890s / early 1900s, the remaining 13 miles to Langston was a tremendous distance. Source: Library of Congress

WPA interview with Fanny Allen (1937)

"Two of the daughters of Joe and Fanny Allen were married and they stayed in Mississippi; but Fanny and Joe and the seven younger children came on the train to Guthrie, three years after the "Run".

There was another "run" the very night that they arrived and if they had only understood about it, Joe could probably have gotten some lots free for their new home. It was this way. The new town of Langston had been promoted and hundreds of [Blacks] from the south had been persuaded to come to the new town, which was to be the [Blacks'] own city. Salesmen had gone through the South selling passage this far but when the emigrants reached Guthrie most of them were out of money and had no way to get their families or household goods the remaining distance to Langston, which was about thirteen miles. So they lived in empty box cars or in anything they could find along the tracks. There had been a contest on about a quarter section of bottom land just west of the Santa Fe tracks as to whether it was to be a homestead or a part of the town. This claim had been filed on by a man named Bockfinger¹. The very night that the Allens got off the train at Guthrie, the Supreme Court decision had been handed down that this quarter section was to be a part of the city.

The word spread like wild-fire among the stranded [Blacks] and they set out at once to

stake lots across the tracks.

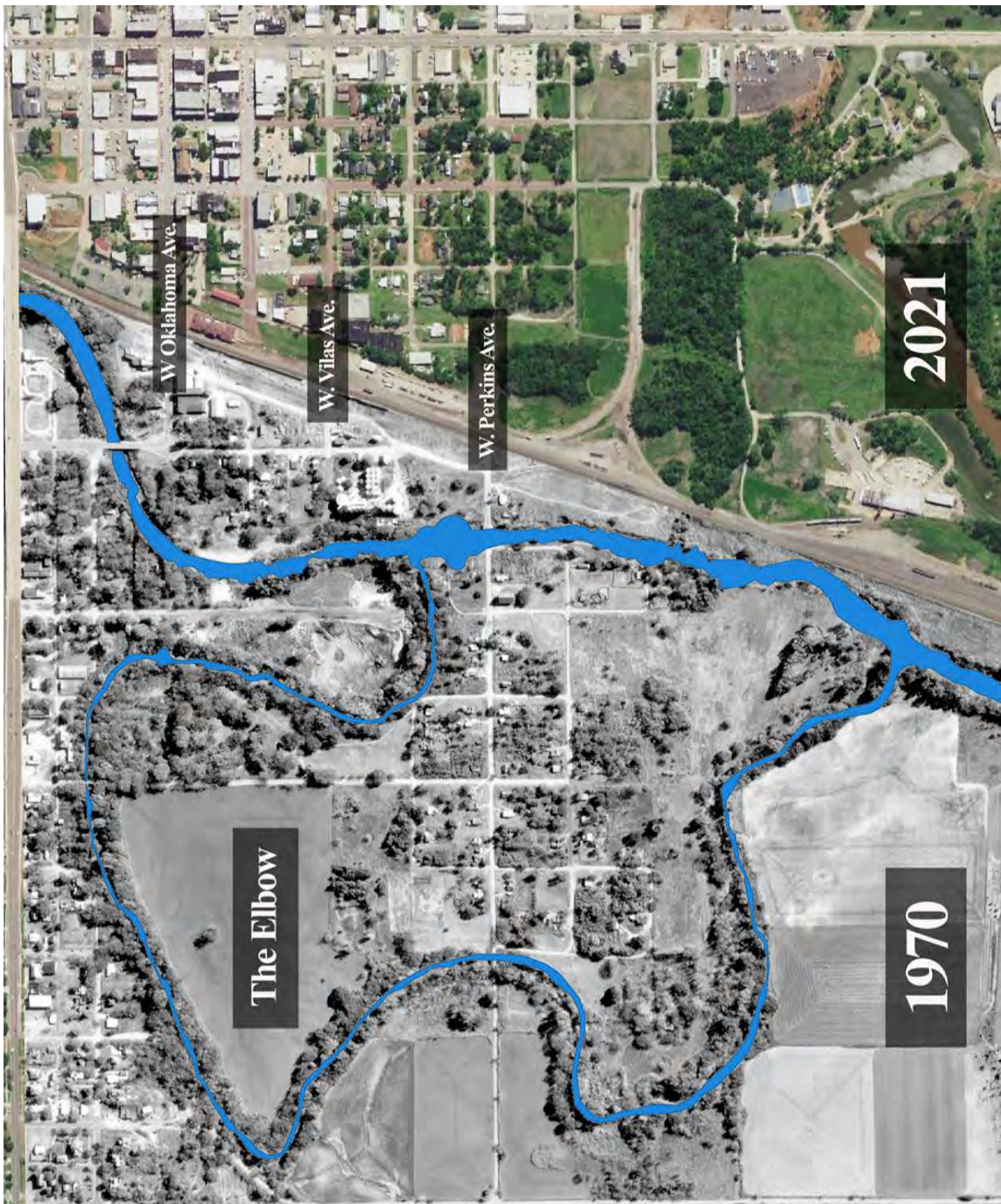
By morning when most of the white people who had been thinking of locating in the new addition heard of the decision, there was a [Black] on every lot. Thus the Elbow, so named for the shape of the Cottonwood River at that point, became over night the [Black] section of Guthrie.

But the Allens did not know what was going on. Fanny Allen kept seeing people hunting sticks and tearing red cloth into squares and running off; but she didn't understand what they were doing.

Joe Allen got work on the railroad helping to keep up the right-of-way and moved his family into an empty wheat house by the tracks. There was a big wheat house in which three other families who had arrived with them made their home, but the Allens preferred a smaller house to themselves. They lived there a year, then bought some lots on East Grant Street and built a small house, where Fanny still lives."

¹ *Bockfinger v. Foster*, 190 U.S. 116 (1903). <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/190/116/>.

An aerial photograph from 1970 of the Elbow juxtaposed on a 2021 aerial photograph of Guthrie. W. Perkins Ave originally extended into the Elbow neighborhood. Source: Author





Historic photograph of a bridge over Cottonwood Creek. Year unknown. Source: Bob Chada

The Elbow Community

The story of the Elbow should be told by the people who lived there. With this mission in mind, the members of the Steering Committee diligently worked to collect interviews of former residents and their descendants. From the interviews collected to date, a picture of life in the Elbow emerges. The community that evolved in the bend of the Cottonwood Creek became an independent city within the Guthrie city limits. The Elbow provided everything the residents needed; it was an area of bountiful plenty. The flood deposited soils provided nutrients for prolific vegetable gardens, the flowing waters of Cottonwood Creek supplied fish, and the verdant woods of the Elbow gave shelter to deer, rabbits, and squirrels. Elbow residents grew, fished, or hunted their meals. According to Tawny Galbraith, trips to the grocery store were made only to purchase salt, pepper, and flour. The Elbow provided everything else.

Residents looked out for each other. They would freely share whatever food or supplies they had with no expectation of return. Yugee Lee Mack recalls visiting Romaine Glover as a young boy growing up in the Elbow. On her back porch, she prepared a spread of food every day that would rival a Thanksgiving meal. Visitors were

encouraged to get a plate or a platter and load up with collard greens, corn bread, fried and baked chicken, baked ham, mashed potatoes, and homemade rolls. Yugee recalls, *"I don't know where she found the time because she worked at the hospital. But there was always food like that every single day. Every day. That's one of the things that the people in the Elbow did. They would feed you."*

The generosity showed among fellow Elbowians, as they were called in town (Guthrie), was extended to others. Yugee Mack tells the story of seeing an unknown man in his aunt's yard one Saturday morning. When he and his cousin told his aunt of the stranger's presence, she collected various items around the house, including needle and thread and food, and secured them in a piece of linen and took it out to the man. Yugee eventually learned that the man was a hobo, a traveler who stowed away on freight trains searching for odd jobs around the country. Given the proximity of the train depot to the Elbow and the generosity of the Elbow residents, the presence of hobos is no surprise. As mentioned previously, the founders of the Elbow took care of their own. *The New York Times* reported in 1891 of African Americans traveling to Oklahoma, *"Many have gone to that territory with nothing except the rags they wore, but they have never become public charges. They have been cared for by persons of their own race until they were*

in such condition that they could help themselves and help others.”

While many of the families in the Elbow were related, many were not; however, the community evolved as if all residents were part of a larger family. The Elbow family. Tawny Galbraith and Yugee Mack recall memories of being children in the Elbow and the communal approach to disciplining. A child who misbehaved in the Elbow would be reprimanded by any nearby adult. By the time that child reached home, so did the tales of their misdeeds, and they were reprimanded again.

While the memories of life in the Elbow are enchanting, this idyllic life was frequently disrupted by catastrophic flooding of the Cottonwood Creek. After a century of flooding, the area was condemned, and residents relocated to higher ground.



A volunteer cleans up the Noble Park Pavilion after a flood in 1968. Source: The Logan County History



Lincoln School in the Elbow appeared on a Sanborn Map from 1926, although according to interviews, the school was not open in the 1950s. Source: Jennifer Ammons

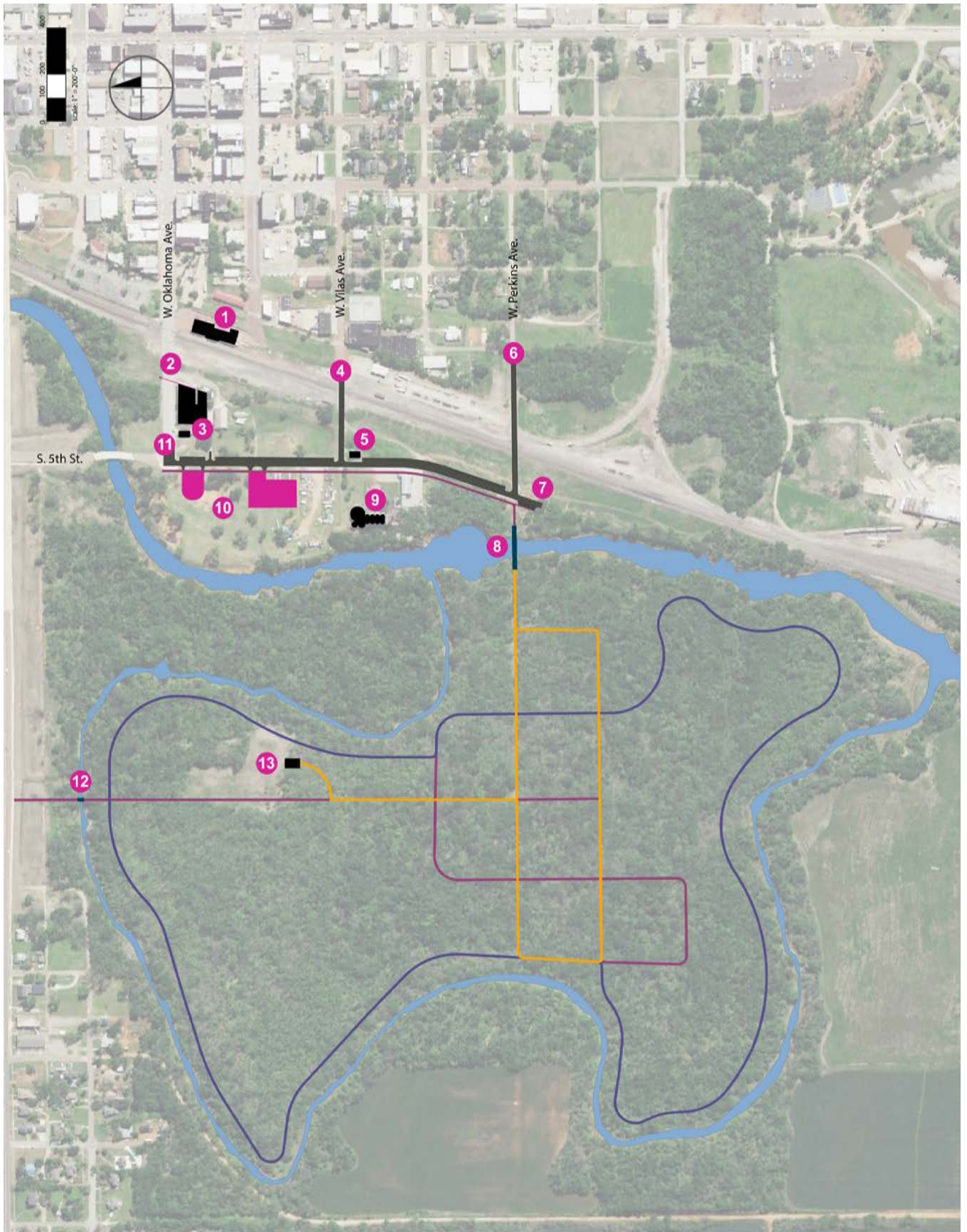
Recommendations

Connecting the Elbow to thriving Downtown Guthrie is key to ensure the success of the cultural and recreational development. An entrance mural and archway greet visitors arriving to the Elbow from Downtown. The artwork showcases another side to Guthrie providing a more nuanced picture of a wonderful town. An inviting mural on the existing silo draws attention to the Elbow. Repairing the urban fabric along S. 5th St would provide 150+ parking spaces and extending W. Perkins Ave. across the railroad tracks restores the connections from the Elbow to Downtown. All added parking is perpendicular parking on the eastern side of S. 5th St. The western side of S. 5th St. is reserved for pedestrians and bicyclists. Developing a food truck court and farmers' market on City owned land enhances the pedestrian experience.

The former street network of the Elbow is converted to a greenway trail offering 4.5 miles for tourists and Guthrie residents. The trail system is separated into 3 trails. The Historic Elbow trail leads visitors down a 1.25-mile path through the virtual re-creation of the Elbow. The Cottonwood Trail meanders with the Creek forming a 2.25-mile loop. The City Trail connects the Elbow Recreational and Cultural Area to the surrounding City of Guthrie offering an additional 1-mile trail. The trail system offers easy hiking experiences through the shady grove of large, mature trees that have grown for decades in the Elbow. Constructing the trails of accessible material, such as compacted decomposed granite, and offering accessible parking at the Elbow, expands trail usage to people of all abilities.

- 1** **Santa Fe Depot.**
 - 2** **Entrance.** *A mural and accompanying sculptural arch mark the transition from Downtown to the Recreational and Cultural Area. (Placemaking opportunity)*
 - 3** **Existing buildings that could be redeveloped to enhance the Elbow.**
 - 4** **Repair the Urban Fabric.** *Extend W. Vilas Ave. to connect to S. 5th St.*
 - 5** **Existing building that could be redeveloped to enhance the Elbow.**
 - 6** **Repair the Urban Fabric.** *Extend W. Perkins Ave. to cross S. 5th St. to connect to the Elbow.*
 - 7** **Accessible Parking.** *With accessible trails, the Elbow provides an opportunity to connect people of all abilities with nature.*
 - 8** **Pedestrian Bridge.** *A pedestrian bridge capable of accommodating emergency vehicles brings people across the Cottonwood Creek into the Elbow. (Placemaking opportunity)*
 - 9** **Silo Mural.** *Repurposing the existing silos with a mural will attract attention to the Elbow. (Placemaking opportunity)*
 - 10** **Food Truck Court and Farmers' Market.** *Develop City-owned land to attract people from Downtown to the Elbow area. The northern site could be developed as a food truck court and the southern site could house a farmers' market/pop-up shops. (Placemaking opportunity)*
 - 11** **Repair the Urban Fabric.** *West of the railroad, the urban fabric of Guthrie has been damaged from years of flooding. S. 5th St is reimaged as a junction between Downtown and the Elbow providing trail access and 150+ parking spaces.*
 - 12** **Pedestrian Bridge.** *A pedestrian bridge connects S. 9th St. to the Elbow. (Placemaking opportunity)*
 - 13** **Existing Picnic Shelter in Noble Park.**
-  **Historic Elbow Trail.** *Leads through the augmented reality Elbow (1.25 mi).*
 -  **Cottonwood Trail.** *Jogging trail that follows Cottonwood Creek (2.25 mi).*
 -  **City Trail.** *Connects to trails within Guthrie (1 mi).*

The Elbow Recreational and Cultural Area plan highlighting placemaking opportunities.
Source: Author



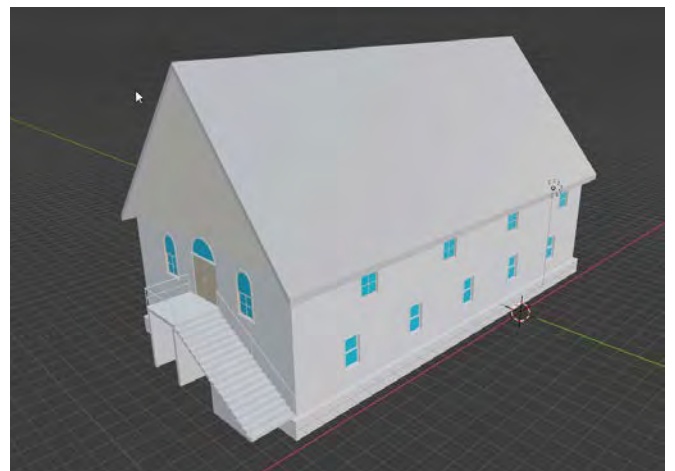


An entrance mural and archway greets visitors to the Elbow Recreational and Cultural Area. Focusing on leisure as the theme for the entrance showcases another side of Guthrie and expands the tourism potential. Source: Author

The story continues...

Currently, few virtual structures contain great detail given the lack of available photographic evidence of the Elbow, but the Steering Committee continues to collect interviews and photographs to add to and continue to build the augmented reality model.

Historic image of Mt. Zion Baptist Church on the southeast corner of W. Perkins Ave. and S. 7th St. and the virtual re-creation of the structure. Source: Guthrie News Leader (historic photo); Bobby Reed (VR image)



Student Projects

In spring 2022, LA 5525: Intermediate Studio and LA 5545: Advanced Studio students developed design projects within the City of Guthrie. Each student conducted a needs assessment identifying areas where Guthrie could foster economic resilience and developed a project to address the opportunities they identified.

Connecting Guthrie: Trail Master Plan
Trolley Route
Downtown Streetscape
Guthrie Square
Green Space in SE Guthrie
Infill Development to Address Food Insecurity

Melisa Seward
Peyton Kroh
Brett Karp
Rajith Kumar Kedarisetty
Emma Mangum
Mickey Walkup

OU Landscape Architecture students hear the history of the Excelsior Library from Evelyn Nephew. Source: Justin Fortney

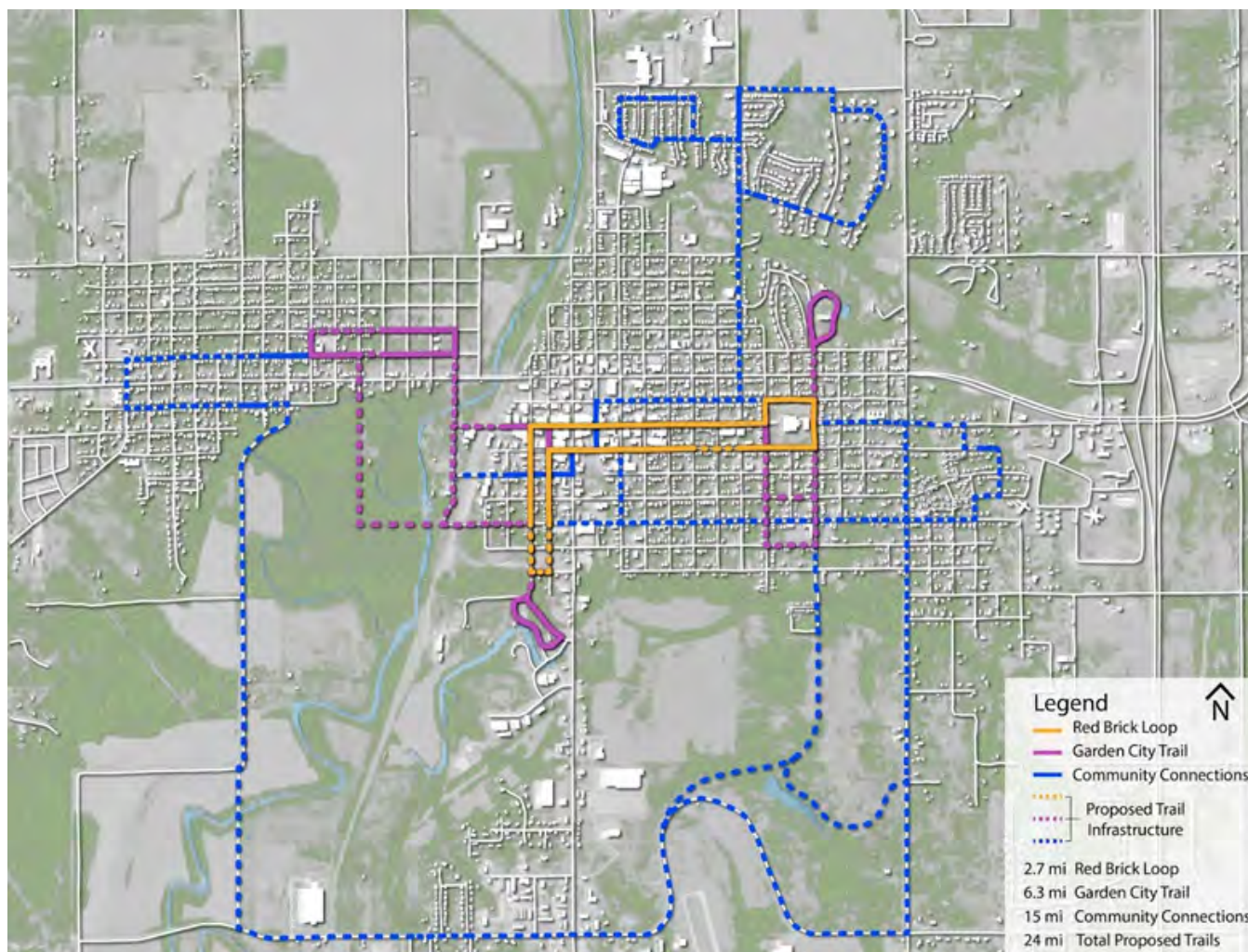


Connecting Guthrie: Trail Master Plan

Melisa Seward

The Guthrie trails master plan (Figure 1) aims to improve connectivity to local destinations, increase safety and accessibility for all trail users, support economic development, and enhance the quality of life for the community. An expanded trail network, in combination with a complete network of sidewalks and bike routes, could dramatically increase safe and convenient opportunities for residents and visitors to walk and bike, leading to increased physical activity among the community. My goal was to create a successful trail network that will result in increased access and connections to many local destinations. It will provide residents and visitors with more travel options and presents a safe, comfortable, efficient, and enjoyable way for people to get around. The Guthrie Trail network will provide residents and visitors access to local parks, destinations of cultural and historical significance, and all the everyday connections that the community makes for work, school, shopping, and entertainment. Transportation and recreational amenities that the

Figure 1: Guthrie Trail Master Plan. Connect the dots of Guthrie and engage residents and visitors with nature. Source: Melisa Seward

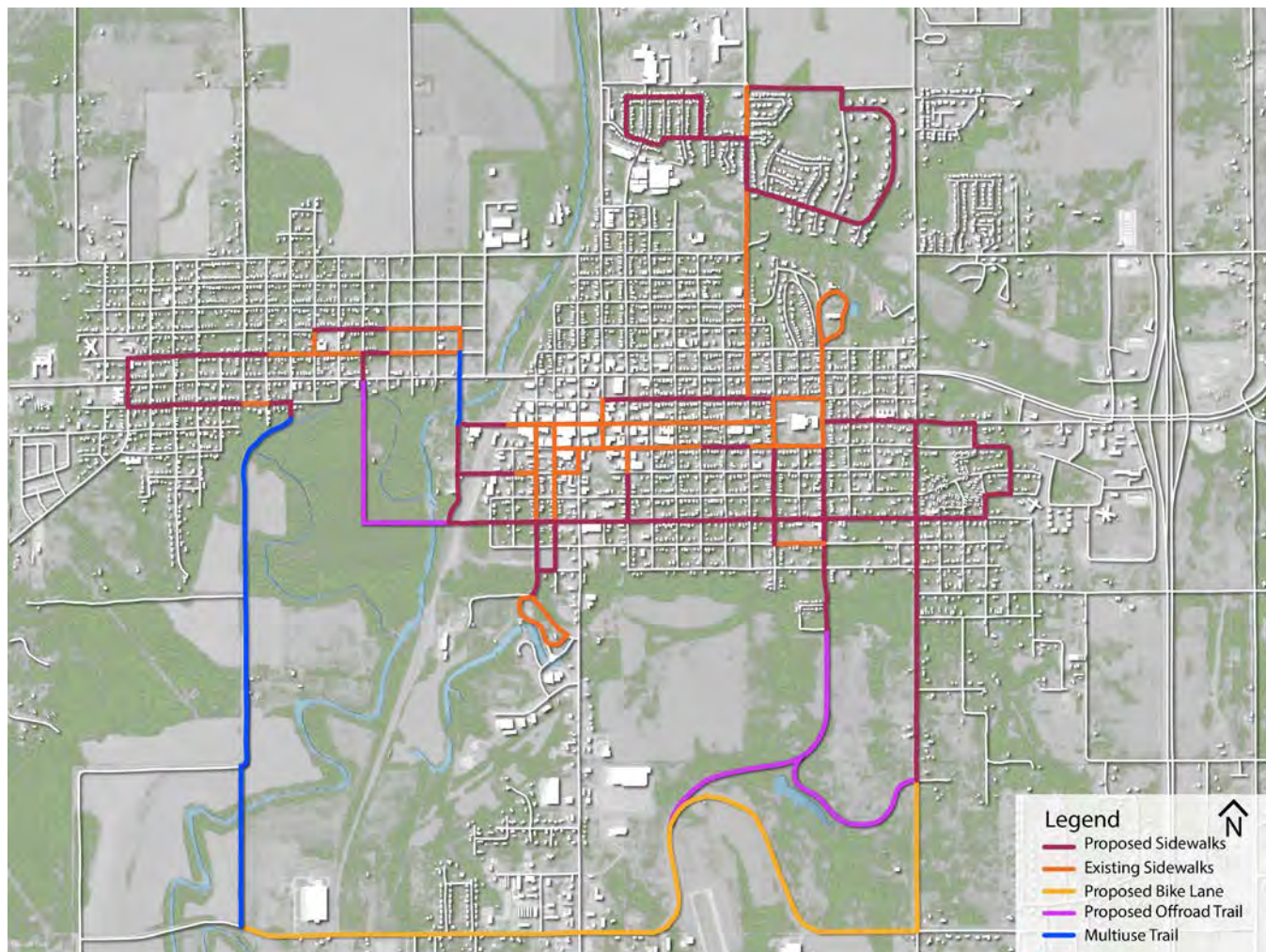


network provides are good incentives for residents and business owners to invest in property, bringing more people to the community and increasing tourism.

By going through a trails analysis, I have identified the key connections and proposed routes that will serve a wide range of users. The Red Brick Loop (Figure 1) will provide the community with destinations of historical significance along the historic red brick roads of Guthrie with the trail being approximately 2.7 miles long. The Garden City Trail (Figure 1) will provide residents and visitors safe connections to many local existing and proposed parks along with the proposed elbow project. The Garden City Trail is about 6.3 miles long in total. Community Connections trail (Figure 1) will provide connections to everyday needs such as work, school, shopping, and food. It is the longest trail with a total of 15 miles. Altogether, 24 miles of trails are proposed to grow the connection of Guthrie residents and visitors to nature.

Through an analysis of existing trail network, I was able to pin down exactly what areas need improvement (Figure 2). The Red lines are proposed sidewalks because there are no clear connections between the abruptly stopping sidewalks in certain areas of Guthrie. The Orange lines are existing sidewalks where I observed and took many photos on the trail to have an accurate trail master plan. The Yellow line is where Industrial Road is and many grocery stores, which is why its important to implement bike lanes, which I will talk more about later. The purple is the proposed offroad trails where the residents have more of an opportunity to escape urban life and embrace nature. The Blue line is the multi-use gravel trail with rows of trees on each side.

Figure 2: Guthrie Existing and Proposed Trail Network Analysis. Explaining the difference between proposed trail infrastructure and existing infrastructure. Source: Melisa Seward



An intersection on Park Street and Noble needs some improvements (Figure 3). With Highland Park being such a huge attraction for not only tourists but residents too, a crosswalk should be placed to provide a safe crossing from the historic area to Highland Park.



Figure 3: Garden City Trail Intersection. A view of an urban intersection where there are proposed crosswalks to provide a safe connection from central Historic Guthrie on the Garden City Trail to Highland Park. Source: Melisa Seward

By commuting around on a bike, the proposed community connection route creates a safe traveling option and increases daily activity with having something to do during the day (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Community Connection. Industrial Road will have proposed bike lanes to invite the community to become more physically active and provide more travel options to support their everyday needs such as food or going to work. Source: Melisa Seward

By following the community trail leaving the semi urban area you will be able to ride upon the natural gravel and clay soil trail. Along the trail is filled with Oklahoma wildlife since Guthrie is a part of a major corridor for many bird species in Oklahoma (Figure 5).



Figure 5: Community Connection embracing Nature. Following down Industrial Road you will come upon a more natural part of the Community trail which can provide an escape from everyday life and an opportunity to engage with nature and even bird watch.
Source: Melisa Seward

The Waterfront Community Connection is a part of the Communication trail along the reservoir. This waterfront trail creates a space that allows for many outdoor activities, such as picnicking, fishing, flying a kite, or maybe just riding through on your bike (Figure 6).

Overall, the trail provides opportunities for Guthrie residents and visitors to connect with their community and everything Guthrie has to offer.



Figure 6: Waterfront Community Connection. On a nice sunny day people could ride down by the waterfront on the community connection trail to interact with the water or stop to have a picnic on their way back from the grocery store. Source: Melisa Seward

Trolley Route

Peyton Kroh

The historic trolley route has been rethought as another way to reduce vehicle traffic in downtown Guthrie and grow the city's access to public transportation (Figure 1). Visitors can park their cars in west Guthrie at the Elbow

Project and use the trolley system to travel around town. The goal for the trolley route was not just to grow public transportation, but also create interest points with each stop. This project features unique styles for each shelter inspired by their different locations. They have a progression of styles that honor the historic district and past of Guthrie but also look forward to new styles for the city.

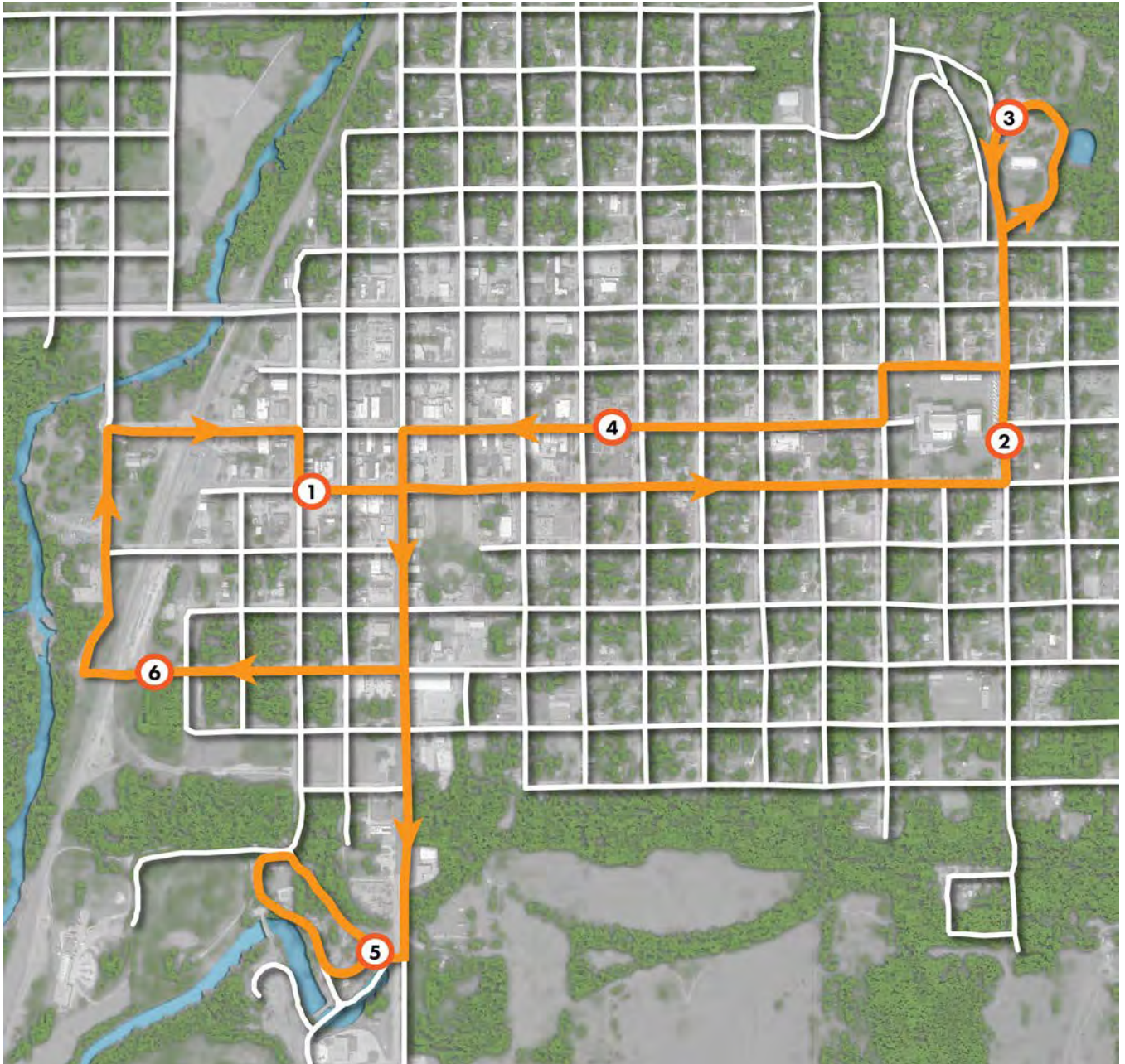


Figure 1: The reimagined Historic Trolley Route includes stops at 1) the State Capitol Publishing Museum, 2) the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, 3) Highland Park, 4) the Oklahoma Territorial Museum, 5) Mineral Wells Park, and 6) the Elbow Project. Total travel time is approximately 30 minutes. Source: Peyton Kroh

This first stop, Harrison Ave, takes visitors to the State Capitol Publishing Museum (Figure 2). Since it's in the historic district, the structure imitates the character of the surrounding area with green cast iron (Figures 3 + 4). This shelter also connects with the trail system, so it provides bike racks and shelter for cyclists and pedestrians coming from that direction.



Figure 2 (left): This stop is located in a currently empty lot across the street from the State Capitol Publishing Museum. Source: Peyton Kroh

Figure 3 (below): The shelter features sculptural iron detail. Source: Peyton Kroh

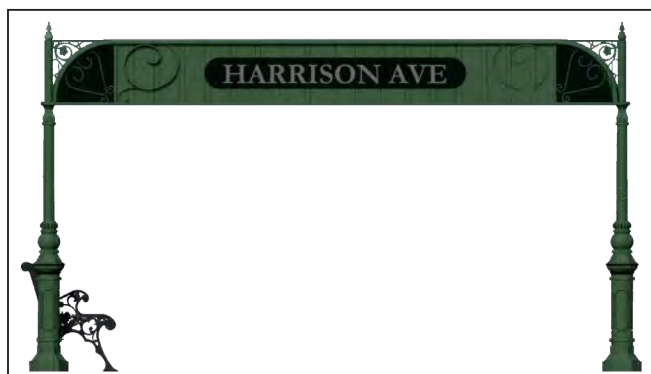


Figure 4: Pedestrians and cyclists enjoy the shelter, drawing attention to the red stone wall and historic mural to its south. Source: Peyton Kroh



Figure 5: The stop is at the end of the park loop, at the site of some existing sidewalks and landscaping. Source: Peyton Kroh

The stop at Mineral Wells Park is also in the historic district (Figure 5), and thus respects the character of the surrounding park (Figure 6). The structure highlights Guthrie's stone architecture and features the recognizable arch built around Guthrie by the architect Joseph Foucart (Figure 7).



Figure 7: This structure's arch and wall lamps recall Guthrie's famous historic architecture. Source: Peyton Kroh



Figure 6: Mineral Wells Park visitors rest at the stone structure that echoes its natural setting. Source: Peyton Kroh

The Oklahoma Avenue stop takes visitors to the Oklahoma Territorial Museum (Figure 8). As it is outside the historic district, the design highlights a different historic style from around Guthrie: mid-century modern architecture. This structure features sculptural concrete elements (Figures 9 + 10). Thus, it takes inspiration from Guthrie's history beyond the Victorian aesthetic.



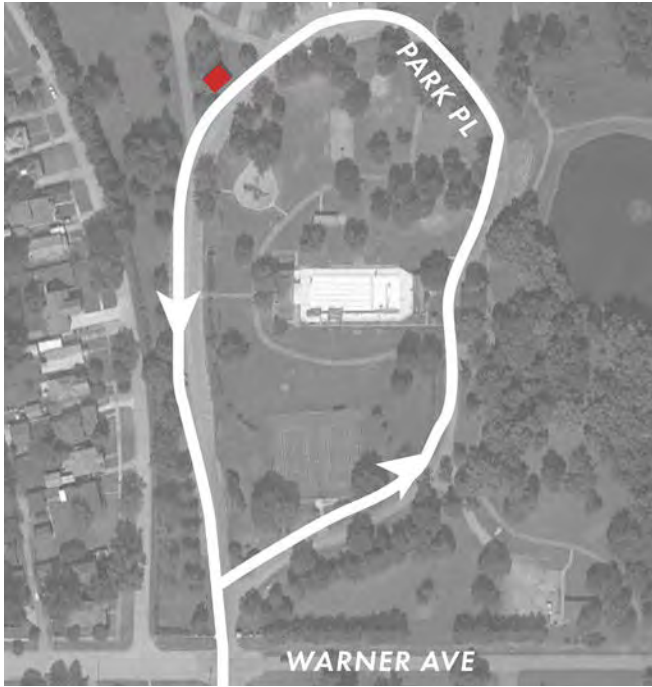
Figure 8 (above): The shelter projects from the east section of the building, allowing the trolley to pull right in front of the museum. Source: Peyton Kroh



Figure 9 (right): Mid-century geometric forms and V-shaped supports characterize this structure. Source: Peyton Kroh



Figure 10: The shelter matches the Territorial Museum's concrete facade and attaches to a recess on the side of the building which provides a bench. Source: Peyton Kroh



The stop at Highland Park, Park Pl, reinterprets the Works Progress Administration style of architecture found around the area (Figure 11). The red stone of Highland Hall and other New Deal is difficult to come by today, but we can still take inspiration from this resourceful style that uses inexpensive and local material. In this case the shelter is made of reused glass bottles and concrete structure (Figure 12). And, since this stop is at a park, the intent for this shelter is to be colorful and playful so it also features different hues of glass and swings for people to use while they wait (Figure 13).



Figure 11 (above): Park Pl stop is located down the street from Highland Hall. The trolley travels around the park loop, providing visitors with enough time to notice the arrival of the trolley before it stops. Source: Peyton Kroh

Figure 13 (right): Swings offer a fun place to rest while waiting for the trolley. Source: Peyton Kroh



Figure 12: The glass bottle structure of the Highland Park stop casts colored lights on the park-goers and features a mid-century sloped roof. Source: Peyton Kroh

Moreover, these trolley stops can also be a way to attract a different type of tourist - those interested in oddities & roadside attractions. These are a big draw for many people. For example, there are clearly some well-known locations through Oklahoma such as the soda bottle at Pops in Arcadia and the Blue Whale in Catoosa. This idea can create another iconic landmark for Guthrie & draw people in that may not stop just for historic architecture.

The Drexel St. stop is just beyond the Scottish Rite Temple on the east side of town (Figure 14). This is a prime location to bring people into Guthrie off the highway. The stop is also supposed to be playful with a whimsical structure and swings (Figure 15). The metal UFO sculpture framing the water tower in the background could act as a photo opportunity and nods to iconic roadside attractions popular across the United States (Figure 16).

Figure 14: Located across Drexel St. to the east of the temple. Source: Peyton Kroh



Figure 15: The structure is, all at once, a bus shelter, roadside attraction, playground, and sculpture. Source: Peyton Kroh

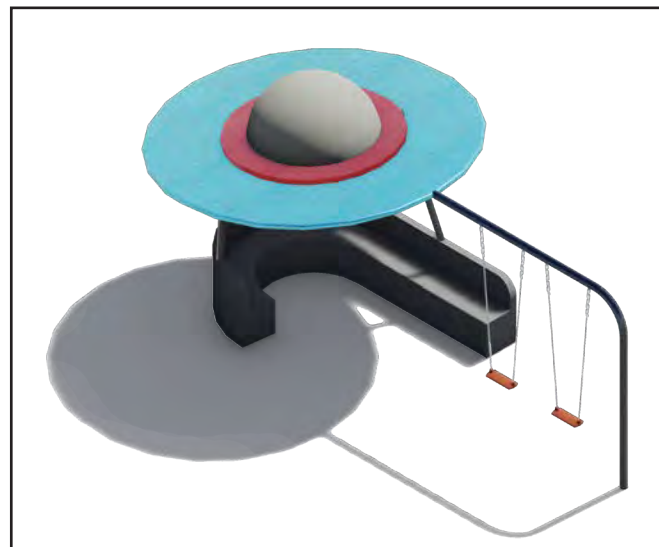


Figure 16: The Drexel St stop's UFO provides shade and could light up at night for another whimsical touch. The stop frames a water tower and buildings that have the character of 'roadside' America. Source: Peyton Kroh



Downtown Streetscape

Brett Karp

With decades old Victorian architecture and a plethora of places listed on the historical preservation registry, downtown Guthrie is the heart of Guthrie tourism. Oklahoma Ave. alone has 5 historical markers west of Division St. and is home to most of the Victorian architecture downtown, indicating that it is a prime location for preservation and historically accurate films. Cleveland Ave., and Harrison Ave. have less historical prominence, allowing for renovations that can make the streets more pedestrian friendly and economically resilient. This potential for downtown Guthrie is what attracted me to make the streetscapes the focal point of my project. Since Cleveland Ave. and Harrison Ave. are so similar, I decided to combine them into the category of “Event Streets,” while Oklahoma Ave. separates itself with its rich character, leaving it by itself as the sole, “Cinema Lane.” The existing streets prioritize motorized vehicles for roughly 70 percent of the street via angled parking and motorized vehicle only lanes, leaving about 30 percent of the street to pedestrians (Figure 1). The existing conditions of Guthrie’s downtown streetscapes leaves little room for pedestrians, no accessibility to alternative modes of transportation, and many opportunities to restore the streets to their original condition.

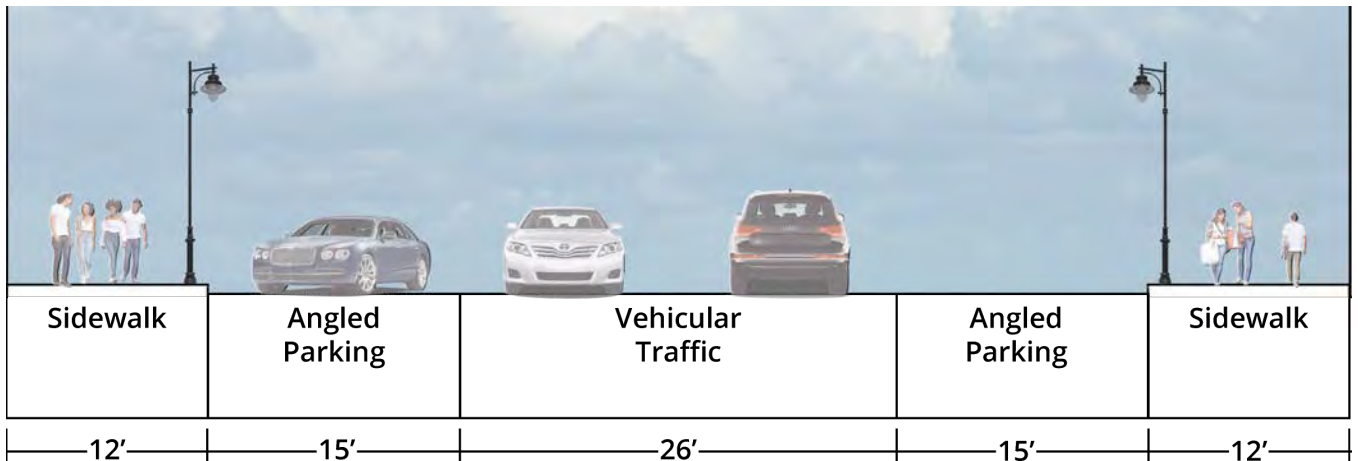


Figure 1: Downtown Guthrie’s existing streetscape showing the lack of pedestrian space. Source: Brett Karp

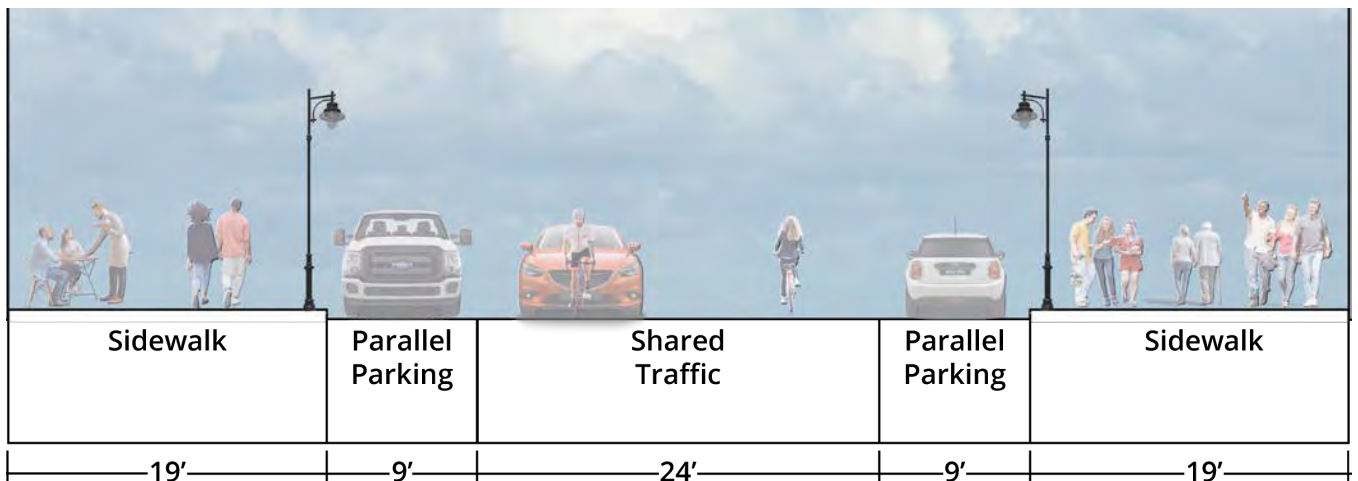


Figure 2: The Oklahoma Ave re-design provides more space for pedestrians and less for motorized vehicles. Source: Brett Karp

With that in mind, I propose making changes to all 3 downtown streets to transform them into Event Street and Cinema Lane. For Cinema Lane, or Oklahoma Ave., I took a flexible approach to enhancing the historical preservation, emphasizing the pedestrian experience, and increasing its economic resilience through extending the sidewalks, adding parallel parking, and reducing the lane widths (Figure 2). By replacing the existing angled parking with parallel parking, it will reduce parking by about 20 percent per block, but it also allows for the sidewalks to be extended in order to create a more pedestrian friendly

experience (Figure 3). The proposed changes also include shortening the car lanes and making them shared lanes with bikes to encourage healthier, more environmentally friendly transportation modes. By shortening the widths of the shared lanes, it encourages lower speed limits that will make for a more pedestrian and bicycle friendly downtown. In addition to enhancing the pedestrian experience, I propose removing the existing asphalt to expose the red brick underneath, increasing the historical character. By exposing the red brick we'd be reviving the street to reflect the original look and feel of early downtown Guthrie and making it more attractive for filming (Figure 4).

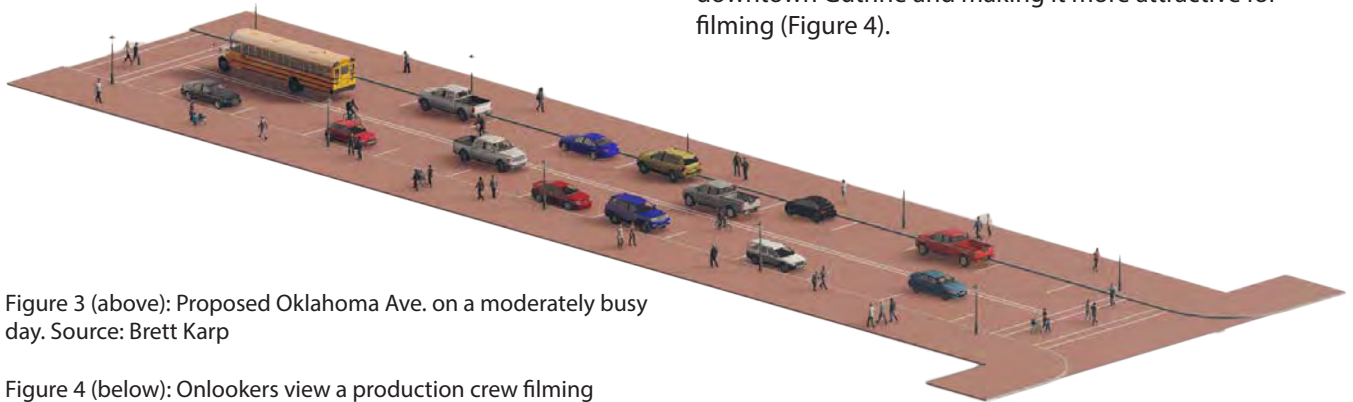


Figure 3 (above): Proposed Oklahoma Ave. on a moderately busy day. Source: Brett Karp

Figure 4 (below): Onlookers view a production crew filming Footloose 2 on Oklahoma Ave./Cinema Ln. Source: Brett Karp



For the event streets, Cleveland Ave. and Harrison Ave., I chose to make more changes to enhance the pedestrian experience and increase economic resiliency. This plan also has extended sidewalks, parallel parking, reduced lane widths, and shared lanes, however it includes a bioswale down the center of the street as well (Figure 5). The bioswale utilizes curb cuts to allow for the streets stormwater runoff to be captured and treated by a combination of native plants, bioretention soil, and gravel before depositing into Cottonwood Creek (Figure 6). The bioswale also includes native oak trees that will provide

large amounts of shade for the street, increasing thermal comfort for pedestrians and cyclists, all without blocking the views of the surrounding Victorian architecture (Figure 7). Like Cinema Lane, I propose exposing the red brick underneath the asphalt, and doing so will allow for a smooth transition from busy commercial corridor to vibrant event venue, making the street feel as though it was always meant for pedestrians (Figure 8).

Figure 5 (below): Proposed Event Streets design with streetscape updates, including a bioswale to capture and treat stormwater runoff. Source: Brett Karp

Figure 6 (right): A diagram of the bioswale and its many layers that will help filter out stormwater runoff toxins before discharging the treated runoff into the Cottonwood Creek. Source: Brett Karp

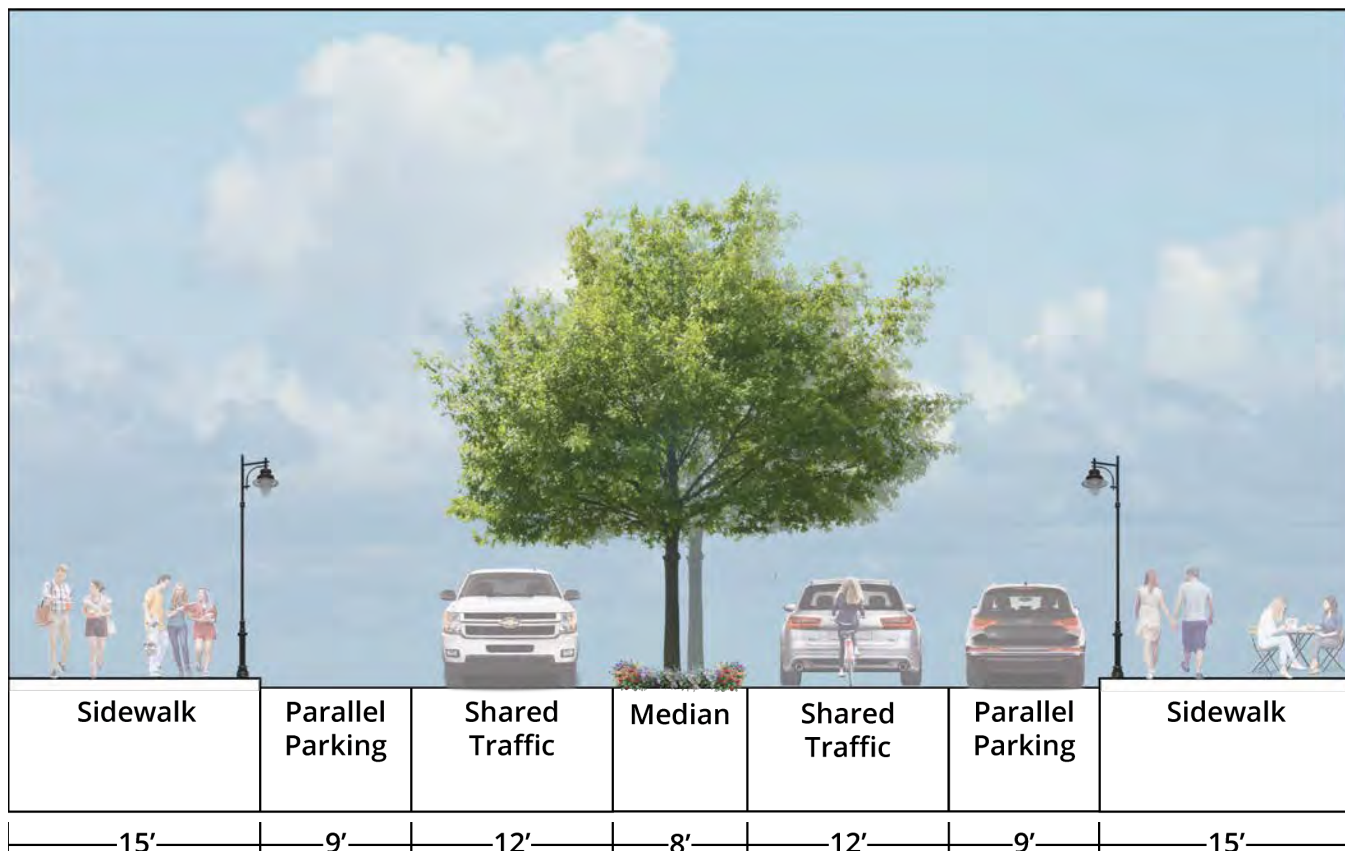
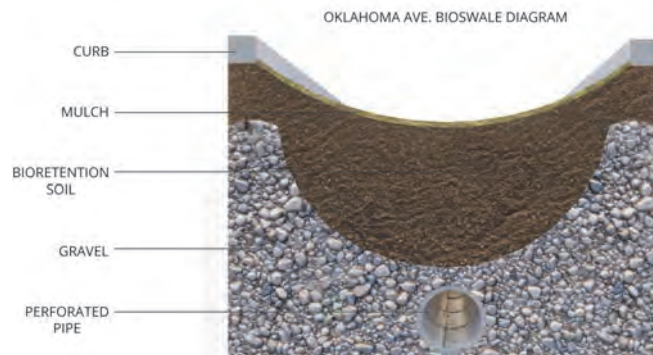




Figure 7: Drivers, bikers, and pedestrians alike enjoying a lovely day before Red Brick Nights kicks off. Source: Brett Karp

Figure 8: Guthrie coming alive for their 7th annual Red Brick Nights. Source: Brett Karp



Guthrie Square

Rajith Kumar Kedarisetty

Just east of Downtown Guthrie is The Rock Stadium, one of the best high school stadiums in the country. North of the stadium across E. Harrison Ave. is a vacant site brimming

with potential (Figure 1). Guthrie Square capitalizes on the proximity to The Rock and Downtown to house a vibrant city plaza.

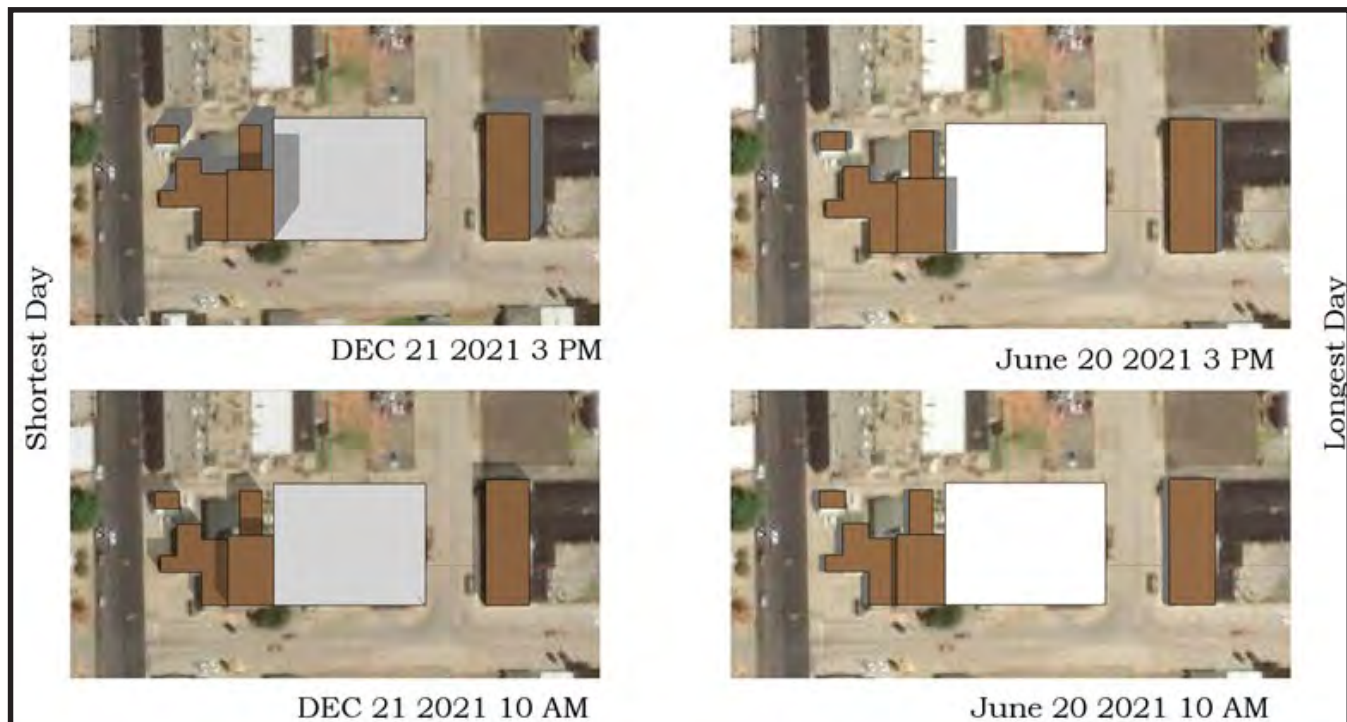
While the location is perfect for a plaza, the existing conditions are not very hospitable to visitors. The lot is very exposed and offers no shade (Figure 2). The design of Guthrie Square creates a pleasant experience for visitors by offering a shady respite in the City.



LOCATION

Figure 1 (above): The site is located at the corner of E. Harrison Ave and S. Wentz St. Source: Rajith Kumar Kedarisetty

Figure 2 (below): An analysis on the shortest and longest day demonstrate no shade is available. Source: Rajith Kumar Kedarisetty



Shortest Day

DEC 21 2021 3 PM

June 20 2021 3 PM

DEC 21 2021 10 AM

June 20 2021 10 AM

Longest Day

The main concept of the Square is to create a community gathering place which is used as multipurpose event space (Figure 3). Designing a public space means contemplating the aspects of everyday life in the city and creating places for gatherings, relaxation, and enjoyment. These spaces can be used in different ways, depending on who interacts with them. Including plants, benches, and spaces for culture, arts, and performances is essential to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Guthrie.

Guthrie Square is a project that attempts to strengthen the character of the Blue Jay Nation and people of Guthrie as a community. The intention of this public square is to provide a gathering place before and after sporting events, as well as movie nights and festivals year-round.

Most of the materials used in the site are permeable which contribute to Low Impact Development. There are a series of oak trees planted on the northern and southern sides of the site providing shade for the seating underneath. The site can be accessed by bikes, electronic scooters, and by trolley.



Right: The beloved blue jay has a prominent role in the plaza. Conceptual sketch of the Blue Jay Monument. Source: Rajith Kumar Kedarisetty



Figure 3: Guthrie Square creates a destination beyond game day. The Central Event Area hosts many exciting activities year-round. Source: Rajith Kumar Kedarisetty



The giant iconic blue jay monument welcomes you into the site and is a place to take pictures. The interesting signage attracts people walking and driving through in vehicles. Source: Rajith Kumar Kedarisetty



People visiting downtown can stop at the Guthrie square in the afternoon for food trucks and can sit under the natural tree shade and relax during their break from work. The food trucks can be useful during community events or gatherings. Source: Rajith Kumar Kedarisetty



The central event area is flexible and used for multipurpose events. It will feature a stage and large LED screen on the west side of the site. It can be used for the gameday tailgating, pep rallies, music performances, community events and gatherings at all times of the day and night. Source: Rajith Kumar Kedarisetty

Green Space in SE Guthrie

Emma Mangum

Cottonwood Park and Sand Plum Park were developed for the City of Guthrie, Oklahoma after conducting a citywide needs analysis which ultimately determined a need for green space and food access in Southeast Guthrie. This area has many vacant lots that at one point had houses on them before being demolished. Two vacant lots in this area were chosen based on their size, proximity to Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, and Faver School, and their connections to a proposed trail network (Figure 1). These two parks would create a smaller local park system within the larger Guthrie city park system and equitable access to greenspace for the surrounding community.



Figure 1: Vacant lots in SE Guthrie provide an excellent opportunity to increase access to green space. Source: Emma Mangum

Coming into Cottonwood Park (Figure 2) from its corner entry off Springer Avenue and Park Street (Figure 3), visitors are greeted with a multipurpose lawn area and a looping pathway around the rest of the park. Headed left from this entry point, there is a playground and an earthen digging pit (Figure 4). Children can let loose at the playground and use real tools such as shovels and buckets in the digging pit. Adjacent to these two areas is a seating area with benches and a picnic table. Parents can watch their children in the comfort of the trees' shade and visitors can enjoy a bite of lunch here.



Figure 2: Plan of Cottonwood Park which focuses on recreation. Source: Emma Mangum

Inspiration for this park comes from two notable destinations in Guthrie: the Cottonwood River and Highland Park. The Cottonwood River has a history of flooding in Guthrie and the Elbow, an area within the bend of this river, once held a historically significant African American community. Southeast Guthrie is an area with a large African American population, and this park acknowledges and pays homage to the people that lived in the Elbow.

The second source of inspiration for this park comes from Highland Park. This park has a low wall constructed with red sandstone quarried from the park's construction. Red sandstone is no longer available as a building material, so at Cottonwood Park there is a scaled down interpretation of this wall made of brick and natural stone. This wall provides security from the street for park visitors.



Figure 3: Entry to the park from E Springer Avenue and S Park St. The multipurpose lawn can be used for socialization, sports, or reading under the shade of a tree. Source: Emma Mangum



Figure 4: The playground and digging pit provide an area where children can climb, run, or dig in the soft earth. The seating area serves as a viewing area of the playground for parents and the picnic table provides visitors a place to enjoy lunch. Source: Emma Mangum

The next park I proposed for Southeast Guthrie is Sand Plum Park (Figure 5). Named after the sand plum bushes that are found throughout Oklahoma, this park focuses on providing access to locally grown food through its many varieties of fruit bearing plants and the onsite greenhouse and its accompanying garden beds. With multiple entrances from S Capitol Street, E Grant Avenue, and from Faver School, Sand Plum Park has multiple connections to the surrounding community.

On the western half of Sand Plum Park, there are a variety of fruit producing plants that visitors can harvest from free of charge. These plants include common grocery store fruits such as apples and pears, and more unusual fruits such as golden currants and American persimmons. At least one fruit tree, shrub, or groundcover at the park is in season every month of the growing season, from April to November (Figure 6). In the center of this half of the park is



Figure 5: Plan of Sand Plum Park which focuses on addressing food insecurity. Source: Emma Mangum

Figure 6: Edible crops grown in the western half of the park are in season every month from April to November. Source: Emma Mangum



a commons area (Figure 7) where visitors can have lunch, talk about their harvest, or have larger gatherings at the gazebo. This commons area also has a small lawn area where park patrons can sit in the shade of trees or have a picnic in the grass.

The eastern half is more agriculture focused and is intended to be used in connection with Guthrie High School's FFA and horticulture class. The greenhouse can

be used to germinate seeds or grow more sensitive plants such as houseplants while the arc shaped garden beds can be used for growing vegetables or flowers for local florists (Figure 8). The goal of this area of the park is to provide hands-on experience for these students and also an economic opportunity for them when they sell the plants and vegetables they grow to the public or local businesses.



Figure 7: A view of the commons area coming from the entry off E. Grant Avenue. The trees around the perimeter of the area provide edible fruits and the moveable chairs and tables give visitors flexible seating. Source: Emma Mangum



Figure 8: The on-site greenhouse and garden beds provides an educational and economic opportunity for high school students. The greenhouse which is heated and cooled allows students to grow plants year-round. Source: Emma Mangum

Infill Development Mickey Walkup

The City of Guthrie has an interesting relationship regarding grocery stores and their accessibility. Though Guthrie offers its residents big box grocery stores, such as Walmart and Homeland, both stores reside along highway roads and require that residents own a car to reach the locations. In fact, most food-providing locations (that fit the legal definition of a grocery store) require transportation of some form, including their farmer's market that resides on the east-edge of town. The United States Census Bureau estimates that 18 percent of Guthrie's population is earning poverty-level income, 22 percent of residents are over 65 years old, and 13 percent of residents (under the age of 65) live with disability. These individuals are all at higher risk of experiencing food insecurity because they may not be able to afford, or be legally able, to own a car. The current system in the

City of Guthrie suggests that most residents commute to work and buy groceries on their way back home, which is an efficient method for many but at the expense of those who do not own a car. People eat what they have access to and what they have access to is often dictated by the city planning/infrastructure around them. After speaking with city council, the pandemic created an increase in both population growth and revenue because of increasing trends of remote work. Therefore, the City of Guthrie should begin offering more urban grocery stores for their growing population and fill the gap on food insecurity. My proposed solution is to both open more urban grocery stores in underutilized locations (figure 1) and grow food within Guthrie city limits (figure 2).



Figure 1: Plan view of proposed site 2. This site would provide revenue-generating buildings without sacrificing parking. Source: Mickey Walkup

Site 1: Highland Park

Highland Park currently has a public swimming pool that leaks an estimated 10,000 gallons of water daily. Guthrie City Council suggested to retrofit the swimming pool into a food-producing site while saving money that is regularly spent on water. My proposal is to create a Victorian-inspired greenhouse on top of the swimming pool and beautify the surrounding land to become another tourist destination (figure 2). The 30'x100' greenhouse would provide the City of Guthrie between 1-25 pounds of food per square foot, with a profit potential of up to \$20 per square foot. The greenhouse design combines both the aesthetic of Victorian greenhouses with materials both available of the time period (steel) and location (red brick) while incorporating new materials that will weather Oklahoma's extreme weather events (Lexan/polycarbonate). Food produced in the greenhouse could then be sold to local grocery stores, restaurants, and farmers markets. The greenhouse could also be an extension of local high schools to provide students work experience and knowledge of growing their own food.

Site 2: E Oklahoma Ave

E Oklahoma Avenue has a parking lot with an accompanying empty lot. The site (710 E Oklahoma Ave.) is across the street from Guthrie Junior High School, ~700 ft. from Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, less than half a mile from Highland Park, and walking distance (1/4 mi.) for thousands of Guthrie residents (figure 1). My proposal is to have this site converted into a revenue-generating lot, comprised of four building lots, that has the potential of becoming a mixed-use urban site (figure 3). These buildings can comprise of grocery stores, coffee shops, restaurants, and/or businesses that provide city residents both food and entertainment. My design includes a grocery store, coffee shop, bakery, and restaurant (figures 3-6). In theory, these buildings can utilize food from the greenhouse and provide residents farm-to-table food, catering, and dining experiences. The parking lot is moved to the back, so no parking is sacrificed to create the design (figures 1, 3-5). The center is left spacious, but welcoming, to promote longer stays and comfortable outdoor seating (figure 5).



Figure 2: Perspective rendering of a proposed design for a Victorian greenhouse in Highland Park. Design inspiration comes from Guthrie's 1800's-era historical district and available materials. Site location is atop of Highland Park's public swimming pool that was leaking over 10,000 gallons of water per day. This image conveys how a greenhouse would blend into the currently existing site and be a tourism attraction for visitors of the park and Guthrie. Source: Mickey Walkup



Figure 3: Perspective rendering of E Oklahoma Avenue. Image shows the center seating area, coffee shop, and a two-story grocery store. This image showcases what residents would see while driving past this location on E Oklahoma. Source: Mickey Walkup



Figure 4: Perspective rendering of E Oklahoma Avenue. Image shows the opportunities of murals, plant design, and large walking spaces that will meet the demand of higher vehicular/pedestrian traffic. Source: Mickey Walkup



Figure 5: Perspective rendering of the coffee shop front and center seating area with plant fountain/reflecting pool. Materials include concrete, brick, and peastone. Fine textured plants line the beginning of the parking lot to screen out vehicles. Image shows how the center of the site location can be a tourist attraction of its own. Source: Mickey Walkup



Figure 6: Perspective rendering of a two-story restaurant and rooftop bar with living wall. Image showcases how this E Oklahoma lot could provide Guthrie residents 24-hour entertainment and generate additional revenue. Source: Mickey Walkup

Funding & Implementation

The report recommends a variety of actions, largely related to public spaces, trails, landscaping, and cultural heritage. Funding and implementation will require a variety of funding sources, including city funds, government and non-profit grants, donations, and private sector participation. Some implementation measures rely on non-profit organizers and volunteers.

These pages list relevant grants and programs, including those outside the City of Guthrie, that can support the projects.

Funding & Resources Guide	
Type of Project	Funding and Resources
<p>Heritage & Cultural Preservation</p> <p>(Cultural programs, attractions, and experiences)</p>	<p>African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund The National Trust for Historic Preservation offers grants of \$50,000 to \$150,000 to projects that preserve buildings, museums, and landscapes representing African American cultural heritage.</p> <p>Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Supports collections, exhibits, programs, and capacity building to document Oklahoma history. Grants of \$1,000 to \$20,000 available to local government and non-profits.</p> <p>Oklahoma Humanities Council Variety of grants ranging from \$1,500 to \$20,000 for projects that explore human culture, history, diversity, public spaces, and justice.</p>
<p>Interim Design Recommendations & Special Programs</p> <p>(Short-term placemaking, streetscapes, public art, events, activations, etc.)</p>	<p>Local Financial Support Donors and sponsors for special programs may include local businesses, service providers, banks, utility providers, nearby auto dealerships, charitable foundations, etc.</p> <p>Local Volunteerism and In-Kind Labor Don't forget the value of in-kind contributions of materials, equipment, and labor from skilled local workers for programs and interim design changes.</p> <p>Placemaking Grant The National Association of Realtors provides funds up to \$5,000 for eligible parks, trails, and play/fitness areas projects. Applicants must coordinate with the local Realtor Association to apply. The placemaking grant offers up to two levels of funding.</p> <p>AARP Community Challenge The AARP Community Challenge provides grants to fund public places and transportation-related projects. Public places and transportation-related projects include the following: 1) open spaces, 2) parks, and 3) bike/walk mobility.</p> <p>Community Arts Grants The Oklahoma Arts Council provides matching funds for programs, artist fees, and more which could support programs, organizations, or public art projects.</p>

Funding & Resources Guide

Type of Project	Funding and Resources
<p>Long-Term Design Recommendations</p> <p>(Permanent streetscapes, trails, plazas, etc.)</p>	<p>Municipal Funding General Obligation Bonds or regular funds from the City of Guthrie may be a source of funding for permanent trail and park enhancements.</p> <p>Air Quality Small Grant Program ACOG manages a competitive grant program for transportation projects that address long-term reductions in emissions that contribute to ground-level ozone and improve regional air quality.</p> <p>Federal Transportation Funds ACOG can distribute federal transportation funds for local projects based on regional planning goals and priorities. This includes the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) which can fund sidewalks, bike lanes, trails, community improvements, environmental landscapes, and more.</p> <p>Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department - Division of State Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land & Water Conservation Fund: Reimburses up to 50% of expenses from projects that include acquisition of land and/or development of outdoor recreation facilities. Facilities might include sports facilities, playgrounds, campgrounds, trails, swimming facilities, splash pads, etc. • Recreational Trail Program: Matching grants for local governments for the development or renovation of public outdoor recreational trails and amenities. <p>TSET Healthy Incentive Grants - Communities Sponsored by Oklahoma’s Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust, The TSET Healthy Incentive Grants for Communities provides funds to construct public facilities related to health and wellness. In efforts to promote physical activity opportunities and improve the quality of life among residents, eligible projects include 1) walking trails, 2) sports/recreational facilities, and 3) farmers market.</p>

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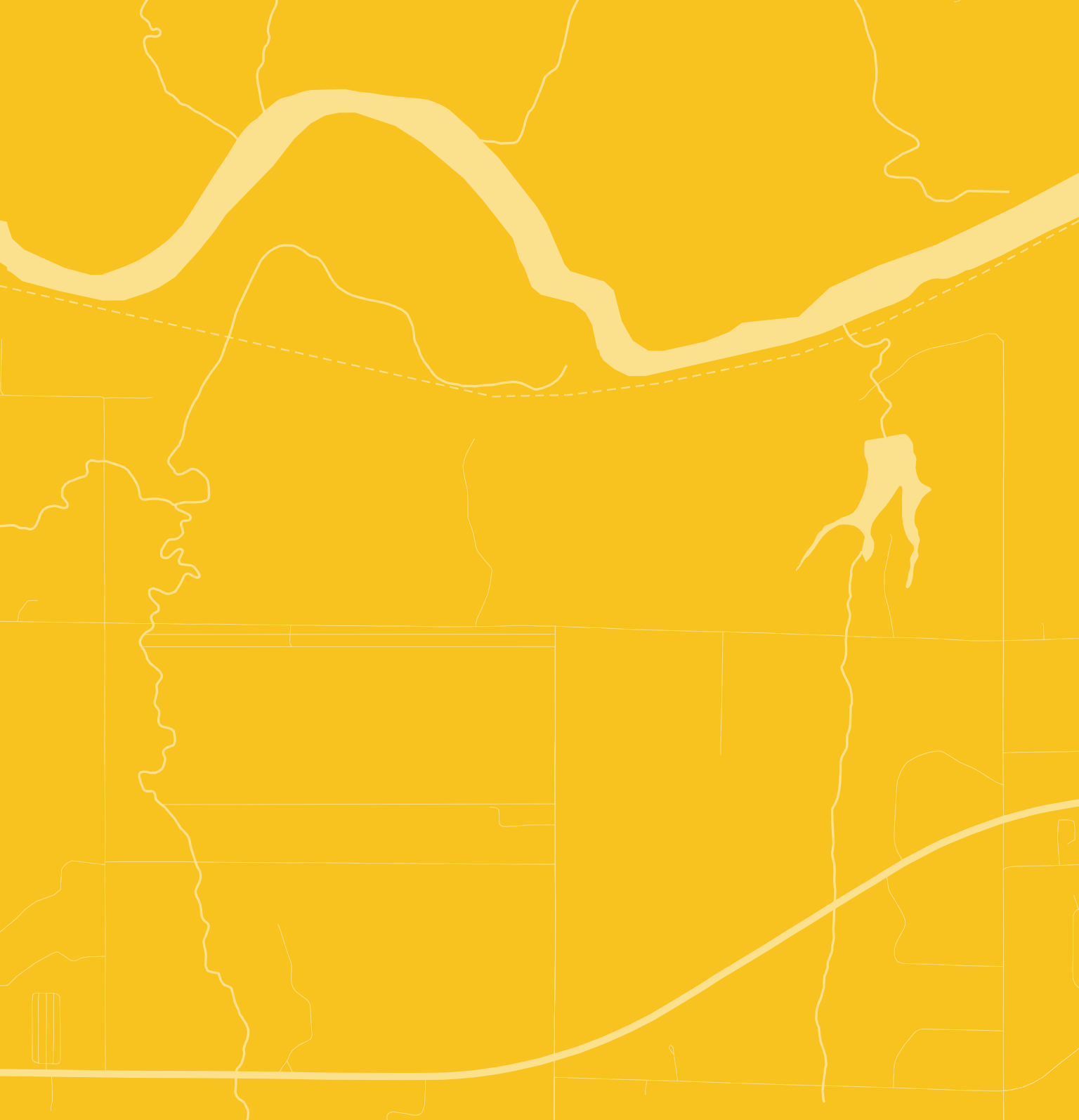
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University of Oklahoma Landscape Architecture students present to the City of Guthrie on May 2, 2022.

From left to right: Ron Frantz (OU), Brent Wall (OU), Sarah Little (OU), Mark Sweeney (ACOG), Justin Fortney (City of Guthrie), Emma Mangum (OU), Melisa Seward (OU), Brett Karp (OU), Shane Hampton (OU), Rajith Kumar Kedarisetty (OU), and Peyton Kroh (OU). Not pictured: Dan Kassik (City of Guthrie) and Christopher Bluth (ACOG).



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