**Community Input and Analysis**

**Etna**

Overall Niche Grade

- A+ Public Schools
- B- Crime & Safety
- B+ Housing
- B Nightlife
- A Good for Families
- B- Diversity

Climate is good, home life is nice; stay away from the teens.

*Niche User* · Mar 1 2016 · Overall Experience

Crime is primarily drug related, can also involve vandalism by wild teenagers, but beyond that, the neighborhood is safe enough to walk around at night.

*Niche User* · Mar 1 2016 · Crime & Safety

**Sharpsburg**

Overall Niche Grade

- B+ Public Schools
- B- Crime & Safety
- B+ Housing
- A Nightlife
- A Good for Families
- B- Diversity

It has the potential to be a close nit community. Too many shops close within a year. Very small town.

*Current Resident* · May 8 2017 · Overall Experience

Etna is a cozy place for new families just starting there lives to live. Etna is a growing little community. Main Street Etna is starting to grow with coffee shops and art galleries with many community events that happen about once a month.

**Niche Borough Reviews**

**Charrette Notes**

Through weeks of analysis, leading up to the community charrette, we got to know the people of Sharpsburg and Etna primarily through online formats. Seeing the biggest concerns from the community along with their vision for the space is what inspired the design of the two gateways.

The primary opportunities to emerge from analysis and charrette were:
- Habitat Restoration
- Stormwater Infrastructure
- Safety and Crime Deterrent
- A place for Teens
- A place for the communities to congregate
- Design that evokes the character of the boroughs

**Community Input | Central Portal**

Vegetation to enhance aesthetics and mitigate noise

Public art installations to add color and vibrancy

Stormwater management and best practices

Color LED lighting to liven spaces up and make it feel safer at night

Wayfinding and signage

Pedestrian access and safety in and around the site
The circulation and paving patterns were adapted from current trends to best link these two boroughs to each other as well as reconnecting them to the Allegheny which follows the larger Eco-District Plan. The borough residents are looking for a place to hold community events. The Portal has the potential to be an ideal location for these events, but would require safety measures like pedestrian-activated stop lights to make the site a viable option.

The middle “room” that serves as a transitional space held in with berms and planting for noise buffers offers respite from the noise and air pollution often associated with underpasses. In the Etna gateway, the use of art for traffic calming, done by a local artist as well as planting for filtration and lane narrowing is used to slow traffic entering Etna and offer a sense of character.
BRINGING ETNA’S CHARACTER TO THE EAST GATEWAY

EXISTING CONDITIONS

SIDE-SLOPE
- Japanese Tree Lilac
- Serviceberry
- Buzzy Blue Stem
- Eastern Red Balm
- Indian Meadow

MEADOW
- Common Yarrow
- Wild Columbine
- Switchgrass
- Purple Prairie Clover
- Stiff Goldenrod

PHTROLEMEDIATION
- Indian Grass
- Indian Mustard
- Sunflower

PLANT FAMILIES

TRAFFIC CALMING INITIATIVES
- Shade, Drought Tolerant Planting for Phytoremediation of soils
- Meadow Planting
- Traffic Calming Art by local Artist: Bernie Wilke
- Vegetated for Slope Stabilization and Water Filtration

Lack of Signage for Drivers-No Sense of Place
Lack of Biodiversity

Rocky, Urban Soils Prone to Erosion
Infrastructure Beginning to Fail

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Lack of Signage for Drivers-No Sense of Place
Lack of Biodiversity
Removable Wooden Platform to create a space that transitions between gathering space for youth and community event space
Because of the Portal’s chronic flooding, we find the need for stormwater infrastructure. The site is in the base of a flood basin and, in its current state, lacks biodiversity and proper filtration that would ease the effects of flooding. Several forms of infrastructure were designed for the site to serve as both a revelatory and interactive educational opportunity and a space that doubles as habitat and works to collect and filter stormwater.

Stacked Basins that work as a modified riparian buffer is located along the South-western strip adjacent to Pine Creek. This “re-naturalization” creates the space for micro-habitats on-site while processing stormwater, slowing water speed that later eases erosion downstream and creates an immersive space that allows people to experience this natural edge. The Revelatory design works to capture and filter runoff from the extensive overpass system and runs the water through the greenway connecting people to the Allegheny.