

GIRTY'S WOODS

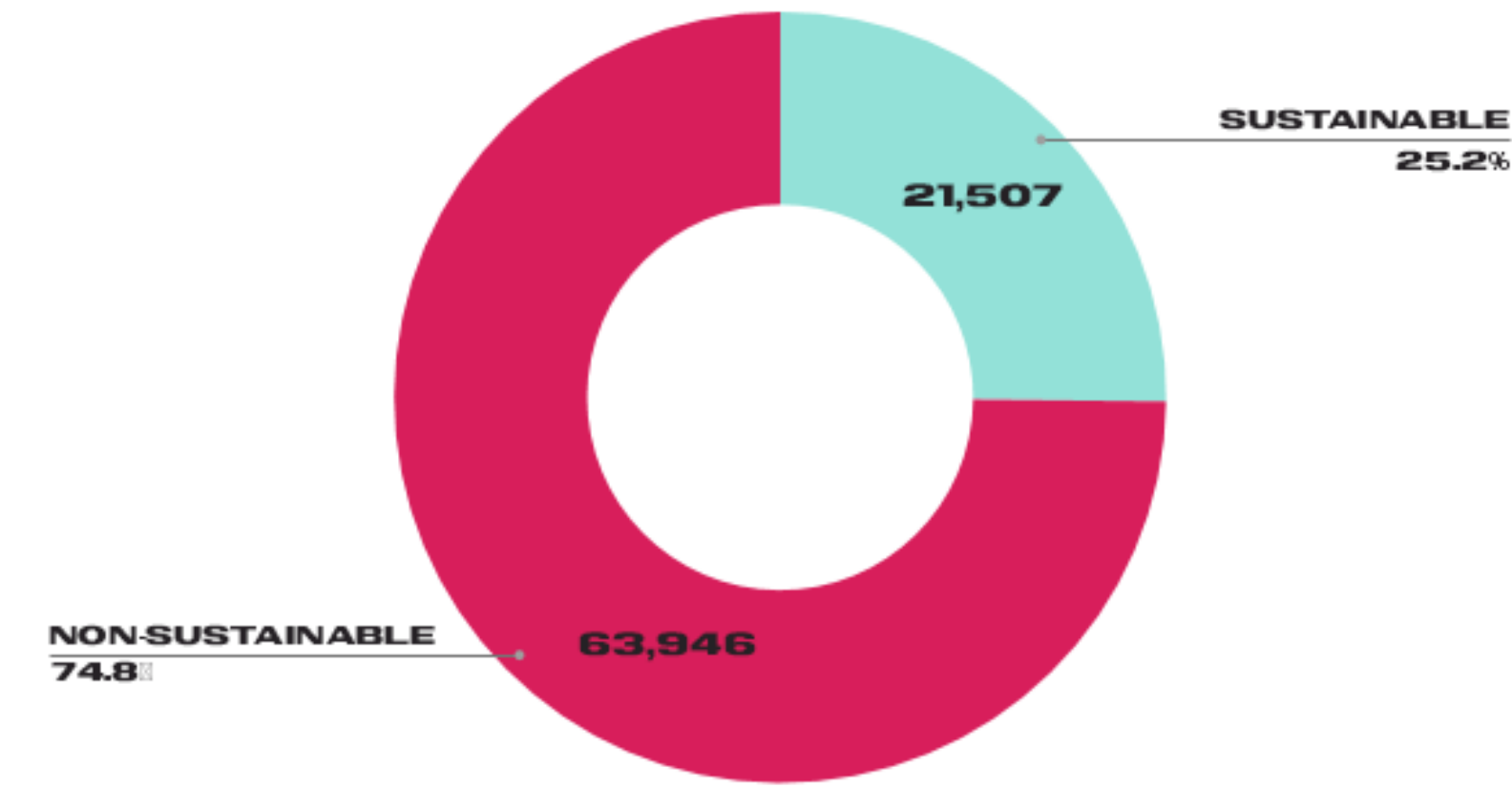
A place for future generations to preserve and love, the designs made for Girty's Woods are intended to prepare it for official use and to withstand the foot traffic of the community. Using knowledge gathered from prior research, trail restructure was conducted based on a Sustainability analysis. Designs for trail entrances were based of critiques and charrettes with community partners.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

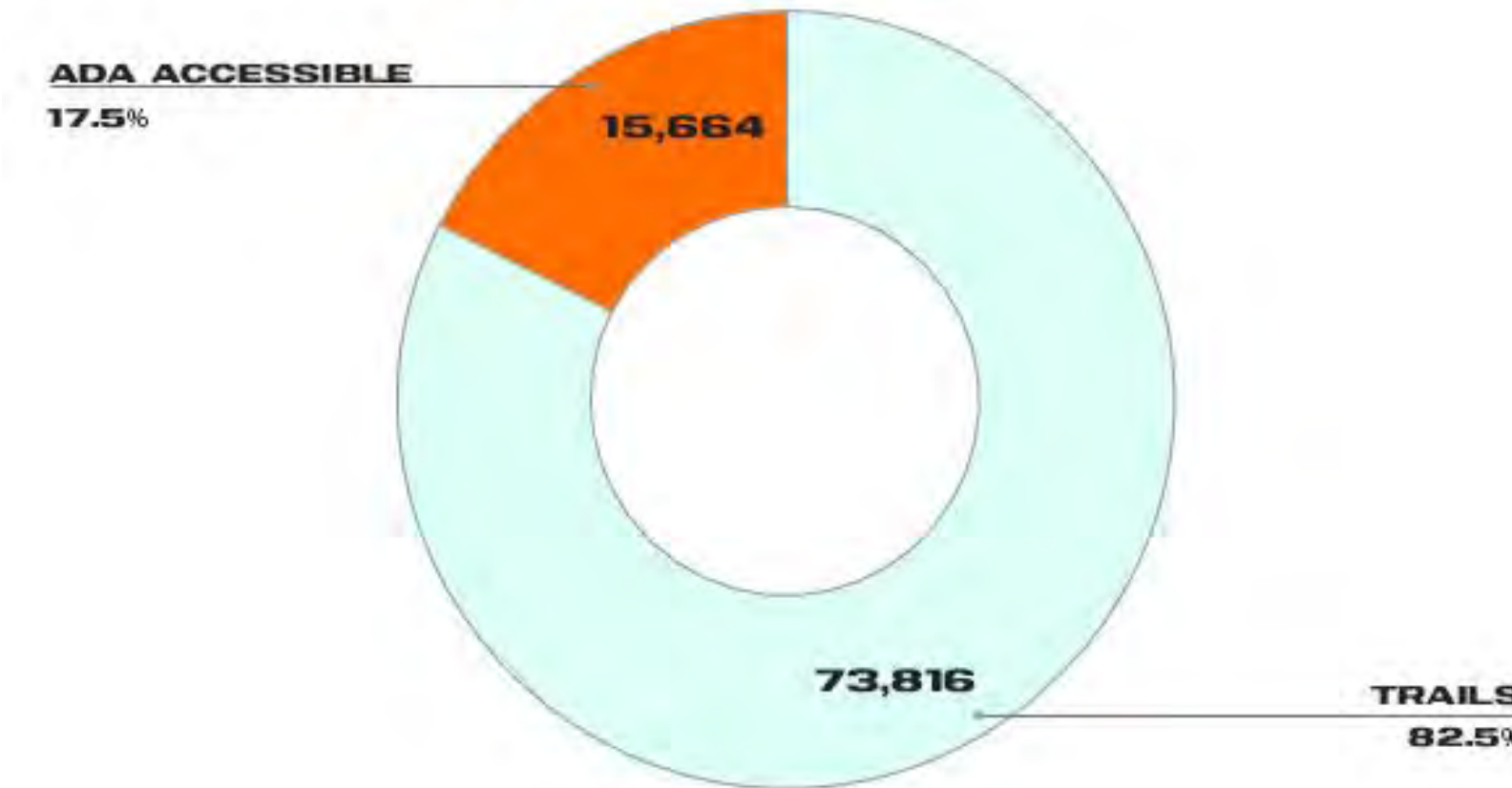


Girty's Woods has considerable existing drainage issues. With the woods being along the ridge tops of Millvale it was a direct concern and design move to realign the trails based off the rule of a trail not exceeding certain slopes and also maintaining less than 45 degrees when crossing the crest of a contour.

EXISTING TRAIL CONDITIONS (FT)



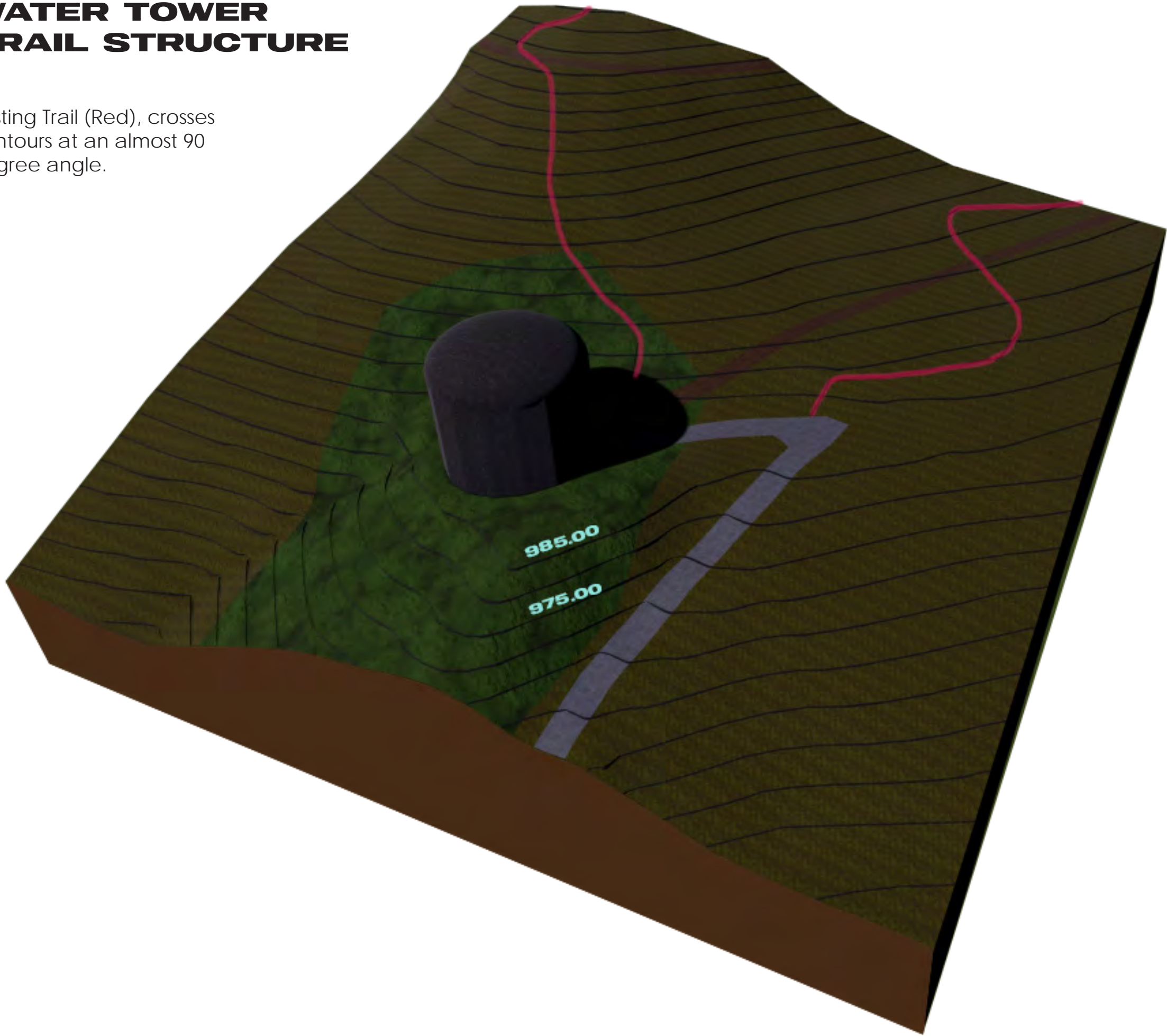
PROPOSED NEW TRAILS (FT)



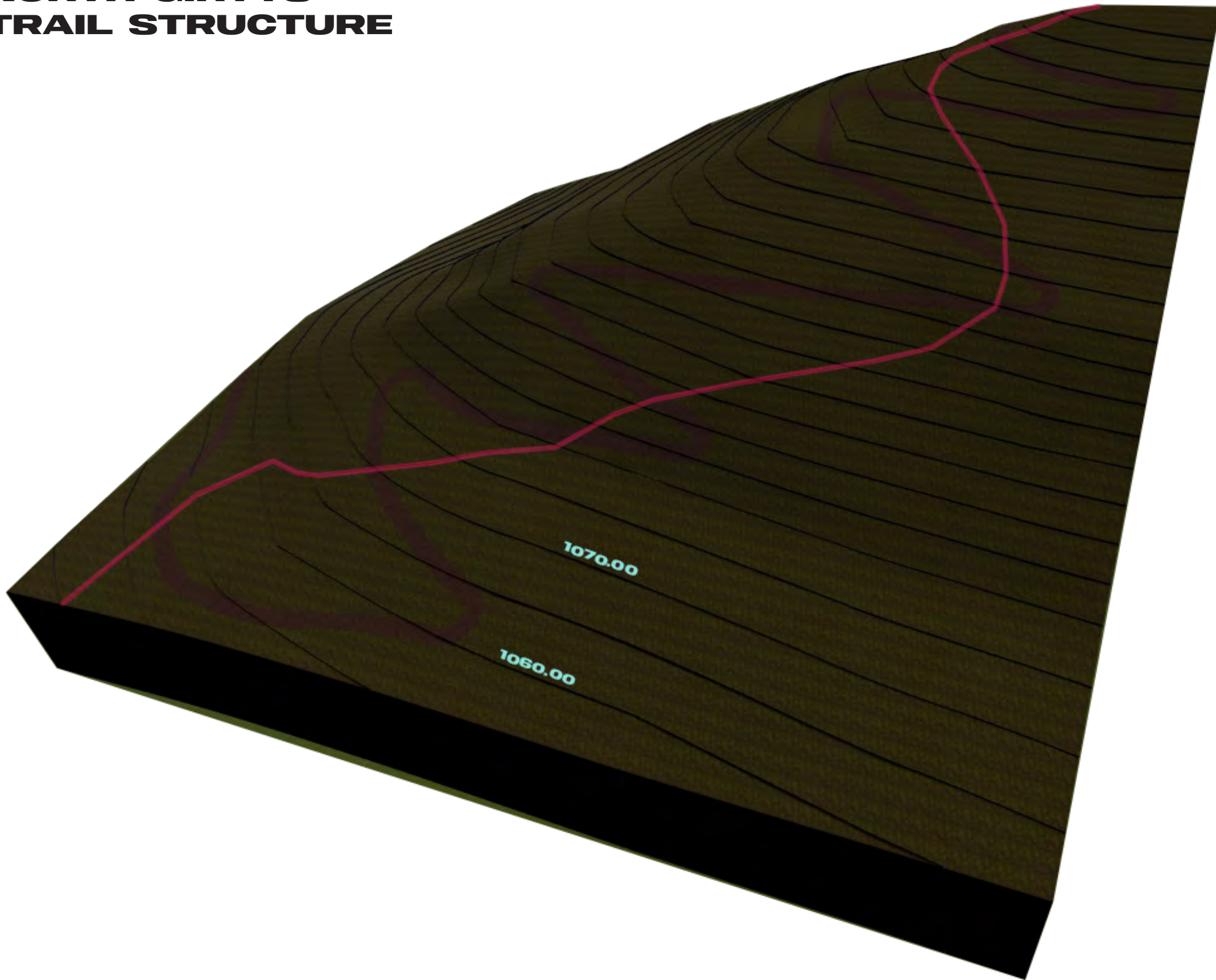
DREW REISINGER
LARCH 414
PITTSBURGH STUDIO

WATER TOWER TRAIL STRUCTURE

Existing Trail (Red), crosses contours at an almost 90 degree angle.



NORTH GIRTY'S TRAIL STRUCTURE



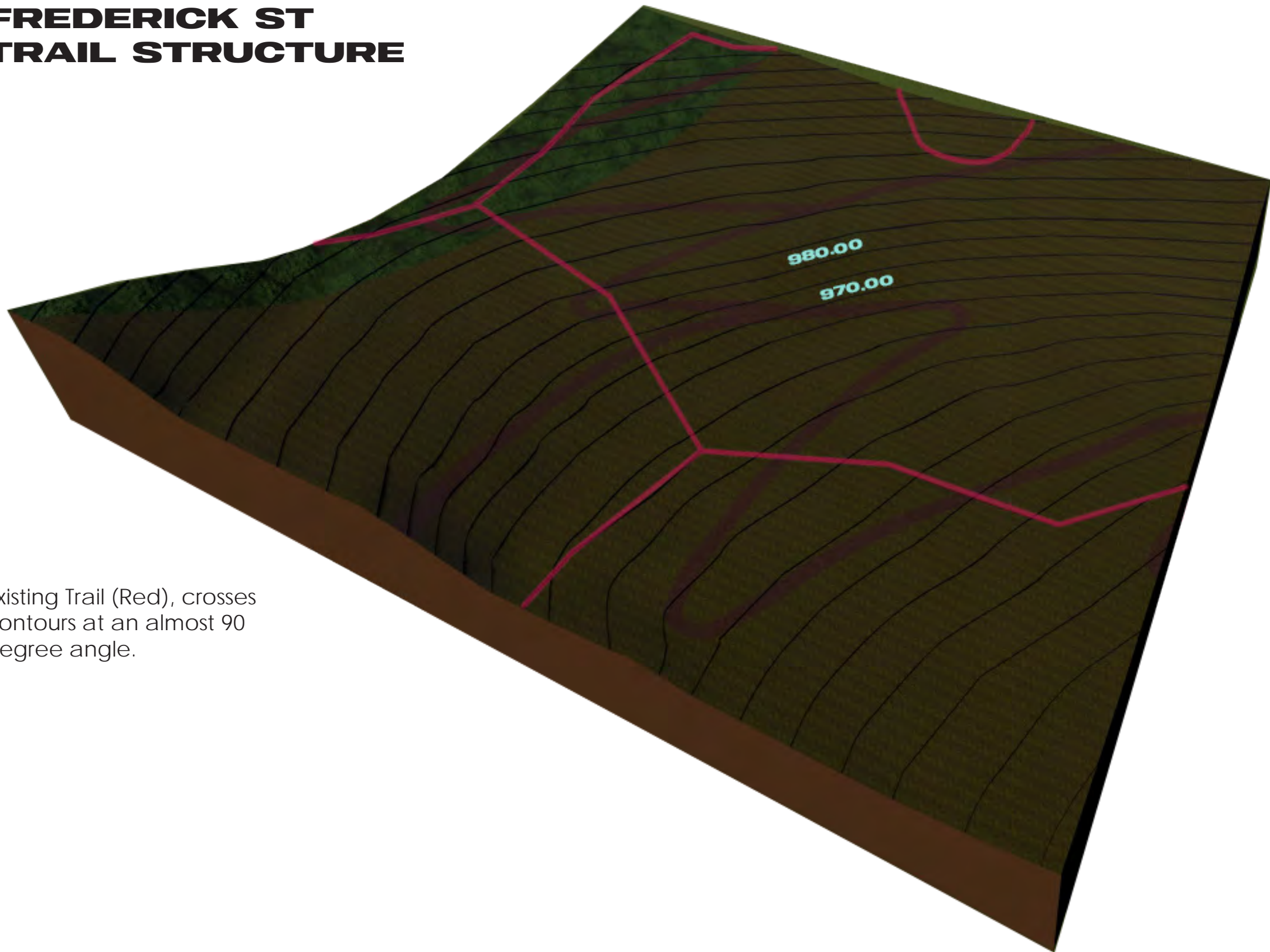
NON-SUSTAINABLE VS SUSTAINABLE TRAILS



ADA TRAILS OUT OF NEW TRAILS



FREDERICK ST TRAIL STRUCTURE



Existing Trail (Red), crosses contours at an almost 90 degree angle.

SITE DESIGN

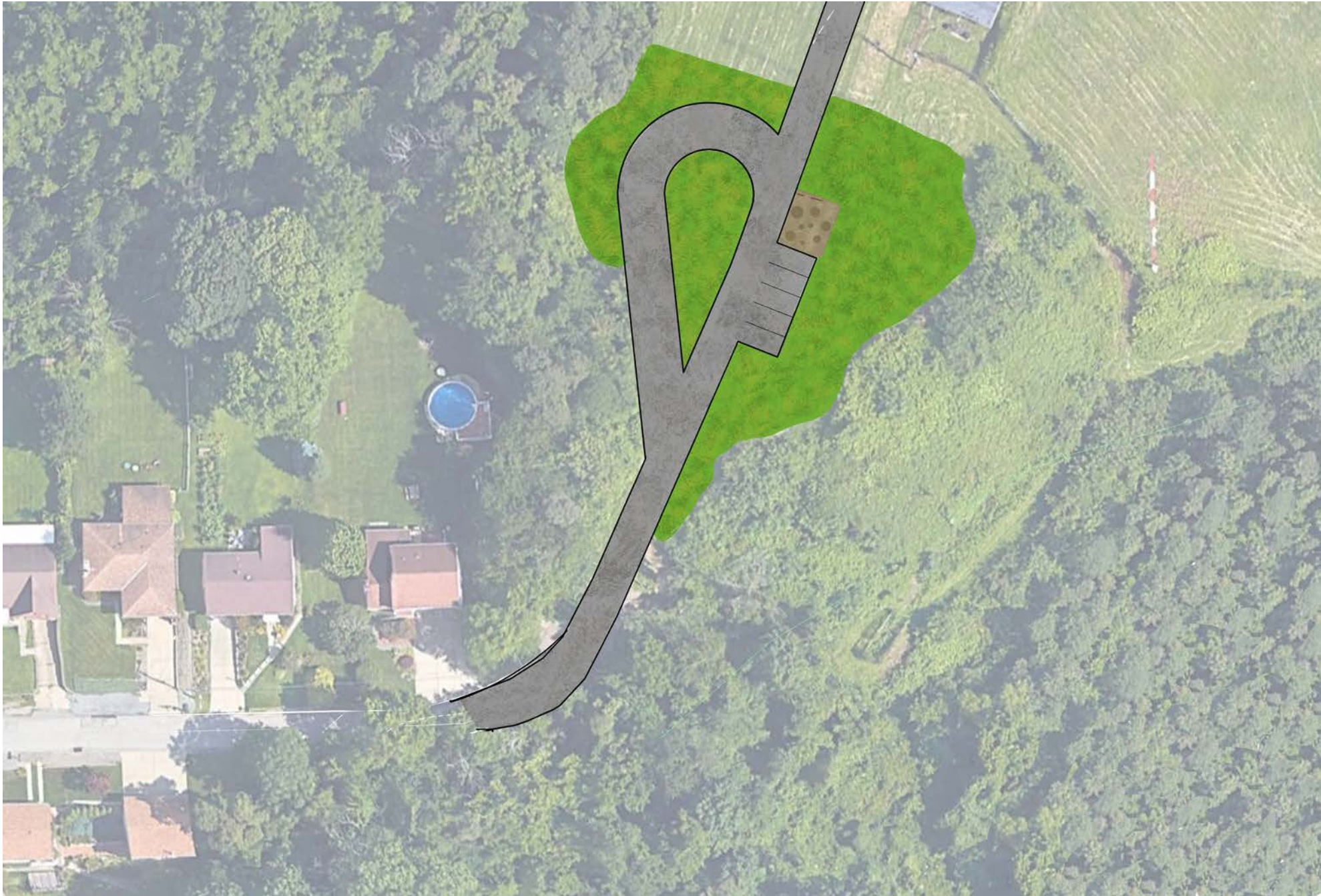
Girty's Woods has been used for generations, and many community members have their preferred entry point. Below is a Site Plan identifying the major points of entry, with Irwin Lane being the most popular and largest. Two designs are proposed with the first being Irwin main, right off the neighborhood, Irwin Main does not cross the Radio Tower lot that separates Irwin Lane and Girty's Woods. Using land from a parcel purchase, 5 parking spaces and a bus turn around with a trail head complete the design. The second design uses the gravel road through the Radio Tower lot into Girty's Woods to create a true entrance experience.

GIRTYS WOODS SITE MAP



The new trails are in orange, while the pink squares represent the axons from page 1. Each identified point of interest, represents an entrance that has been designed from major changes to only slight path and vegetation rework.

GIRTYS WOODS MAIN



Right off the neighborhood this entrance is the most immediate vehicle parking spot.

GIRTYS WOODS-ENTER GIRTYS



Further back into Girty's Woods, "Enter Girty's" allows for the user to be completely engulfed by the woods before leaving their car. Replanting what is a barren space, would be done through mass seeding, to allow for the natural forest succession to take place.



With 5 parking spots off to the right and the staging area not much further, this design takes back what is just a wild grass field to incorporate a native cold grass prairie. The vegetation will also serve as a soft barrier to prevent cars from parking along the side. Within the grass and evidently in the staging area, natural stones/boulders of sandstone and other assorted rocks line the gravel road to serve as a harsh border. Instead of wooden picnic tables that could deteriorate or be vandalized, natural stone add for a more intimate experience as users lace up their boots.



Similar to the other design, native stones and boulders are used to create a hard buffer while also providing the necessary furniture through a natural and playful way.

SITE DESIGN CONTINUED



GIRTYS WOODS-MAIN

Using only the neccessary amount of space needed from the parcel to achieve the turnaround and parking, the extra space with it will become a native cool season grass prarie/meadow.

MEADOW PLANT PALETTE



Asclepias syriaca
Common milkweed



Deschampsia cespitosa
Tufted hairgrass



Elymus hystrix
Bottlebrush grass



Elymuss virginicus
Virginia wild-rye



Hellopsi helianthoides
Oxeye sunflower



Koeleria macrantha
Praarie junegrass



Solidago rigida
Stiff leaved goldenrod

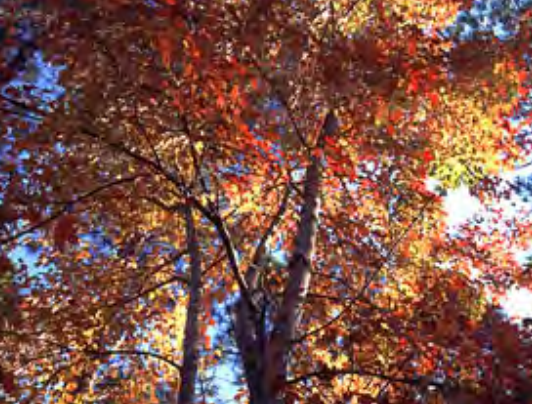


Symphyotricum novae-angliae
New England aster



Vemonia fasciculata
Ironweed

FOREST PLANT PALETTE



Acer Rubrum
red maple



Quercus Rubra
Red oak



Quercus Alba
White oak



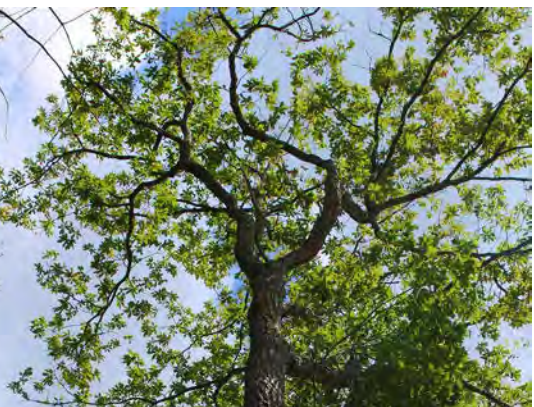
Nyssa sylvatica
Black gum



Gaultheria procumbens
Teaberry



Kalmia latifolia
Mountain laurel



Quercus montana
Chestnut Oak



Polystichum acrostichoides
Xmas fern



Sanguinaria canadensis
Bloodroot



Vaccinium corymbosum
highbush blueberry

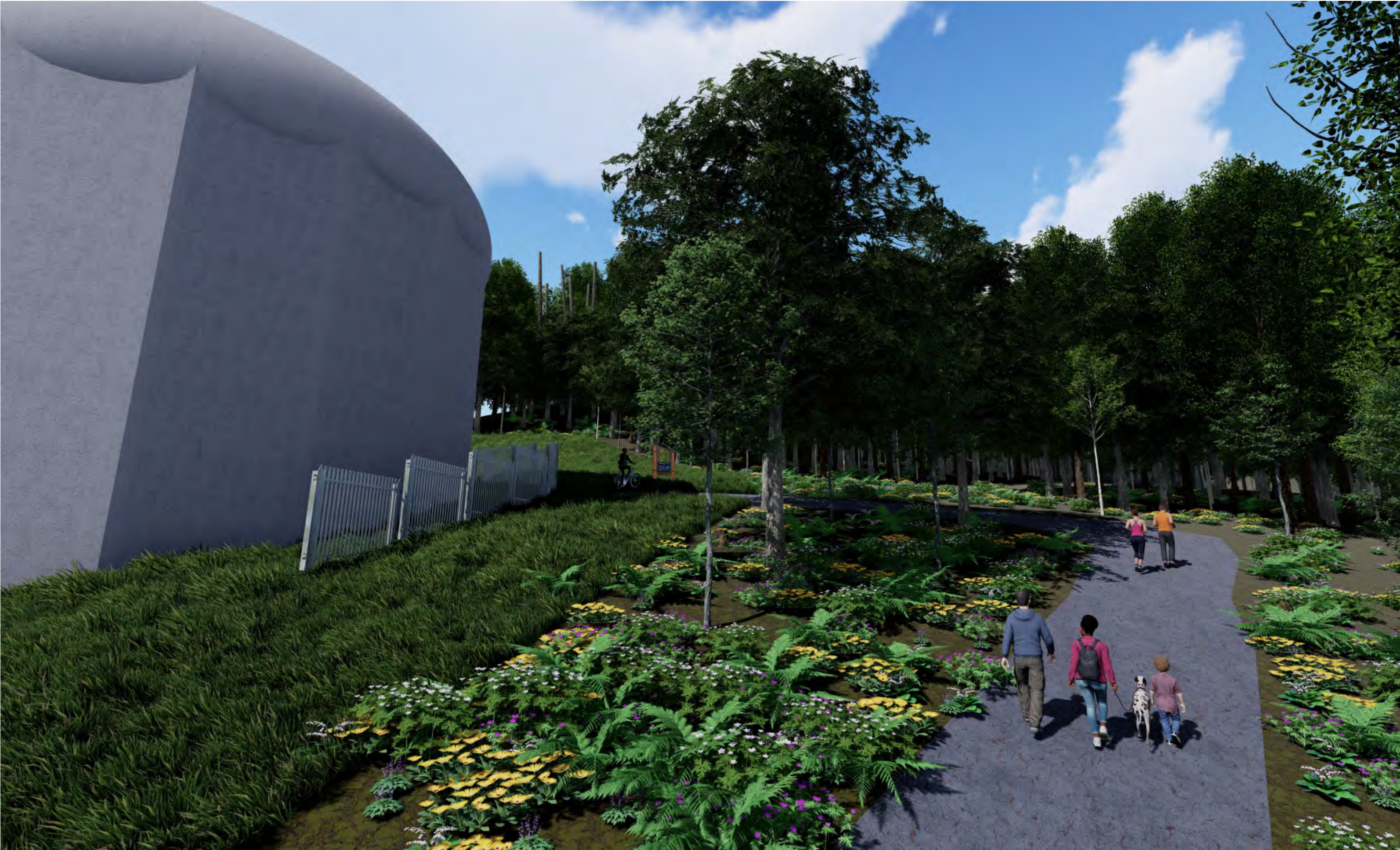
GIRTYS WOODS-ENTER GIRTYS

Stones lining the road prevent unwanted parking. Long sight lines allow for busses and cars to move freely and safely.



SITE DESIGN CONTINUED

WATER TOWER ENTRANCE

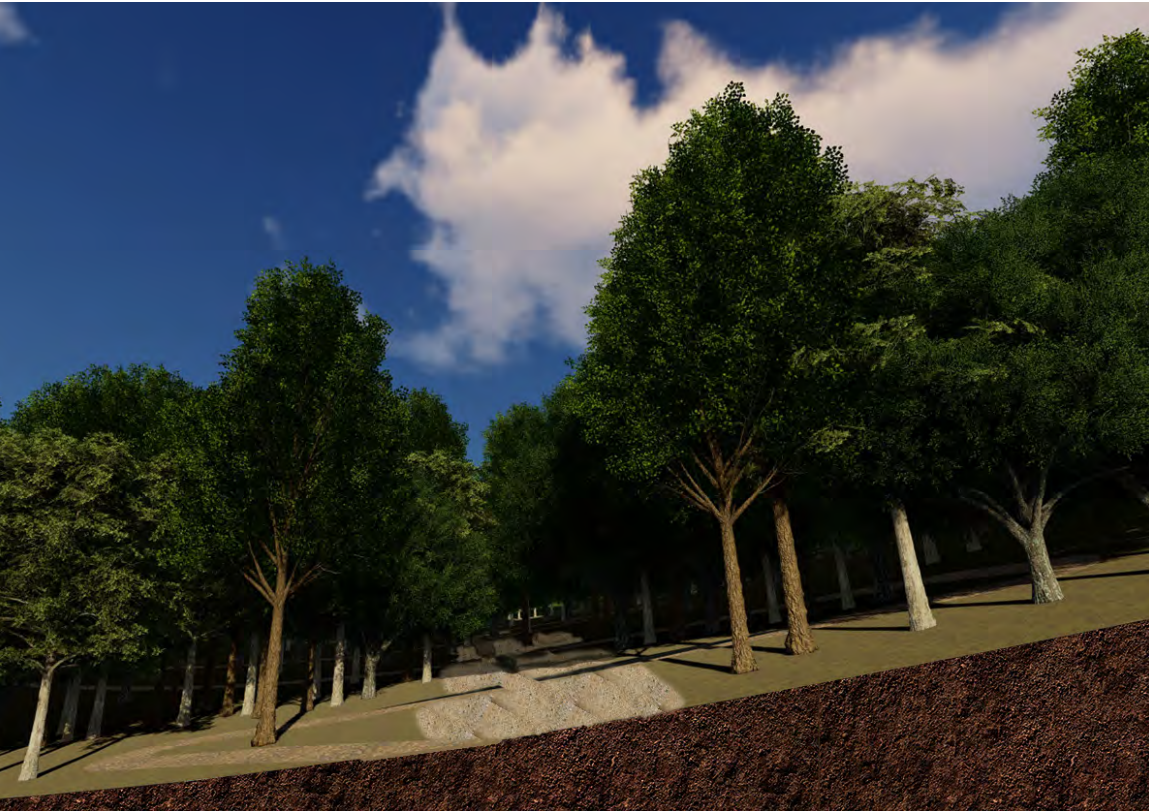


FREDERICK STREET ENTRANCE



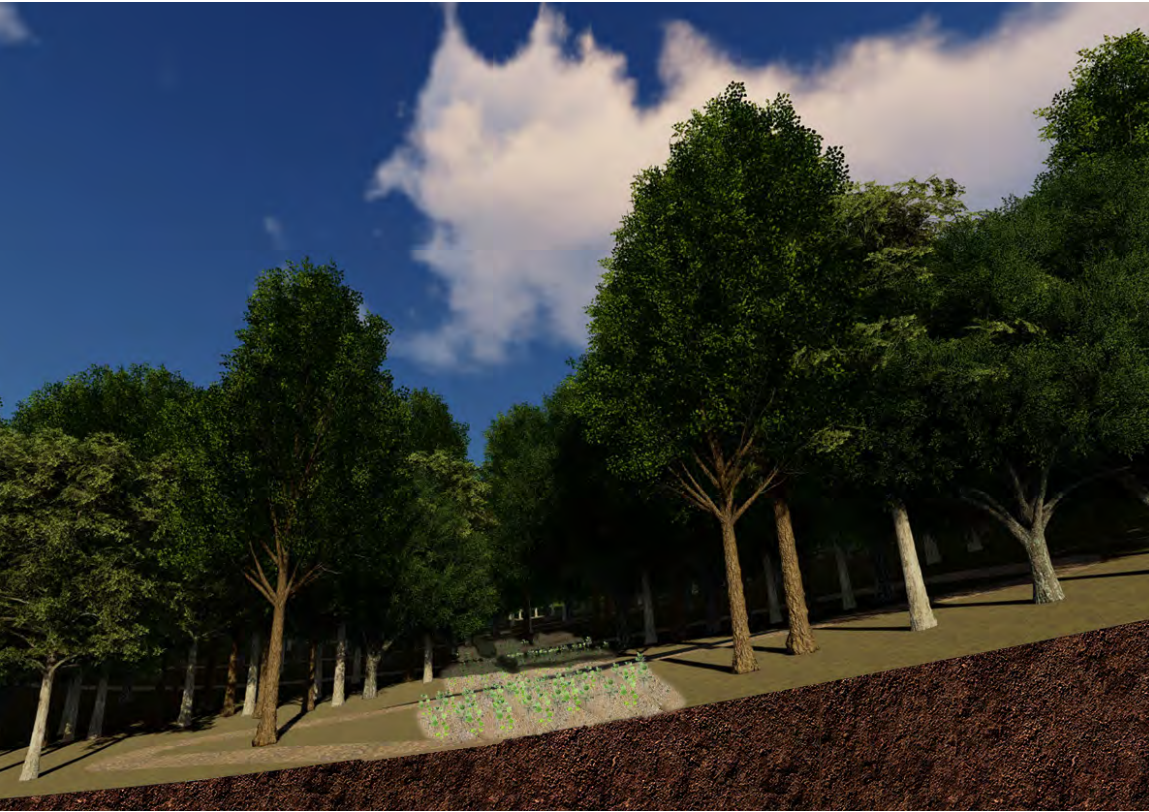
FOREST SUCCESSION

STAGE 1



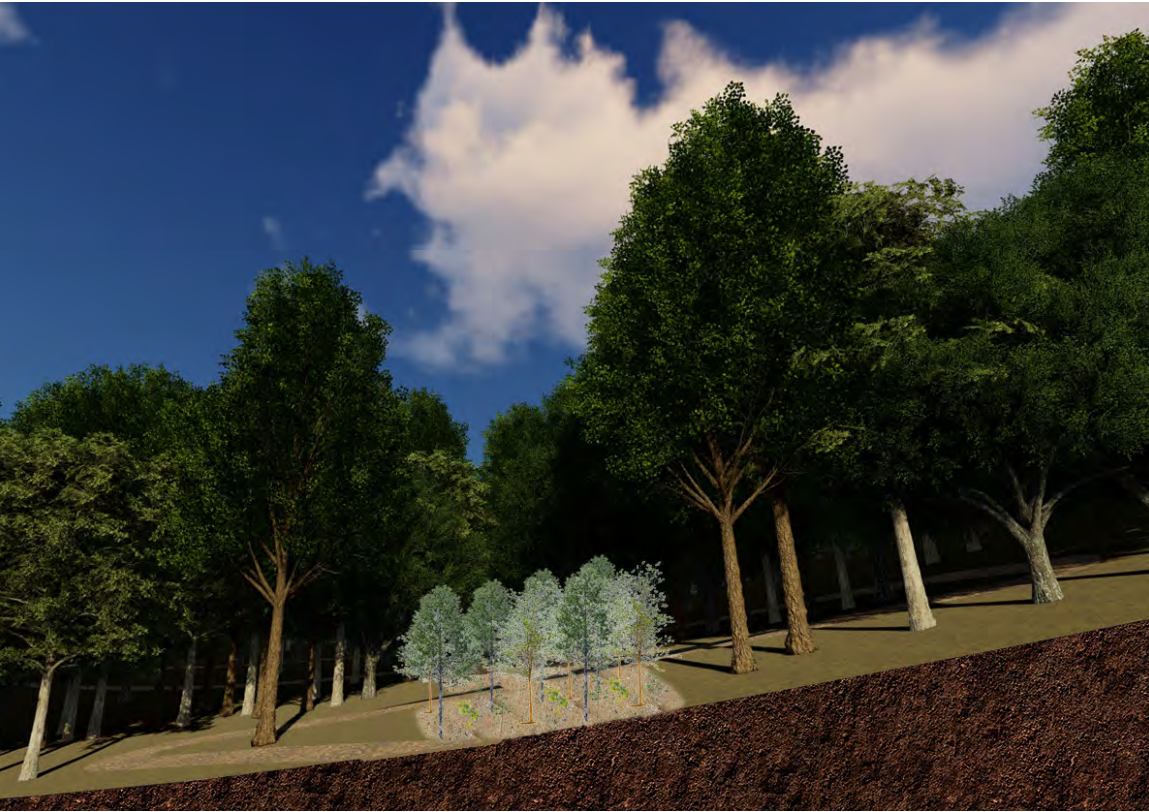
When creating new trails, old trails shall be retired and replanted. The initial stage would be seeding the old trail with a seed mixture of early, fast rooting, successional trees. There could be some seeds of the native hardwoods to help boost there mass, but the already existing hardwoods would drop their seeds in the natural process. After the seeding, a jute mat would be placed to prevent erosion and protect the seeds.

STAGE 2



In a few months, to a few years, the early successional trees would start to sprout and develop.

STAGE 3



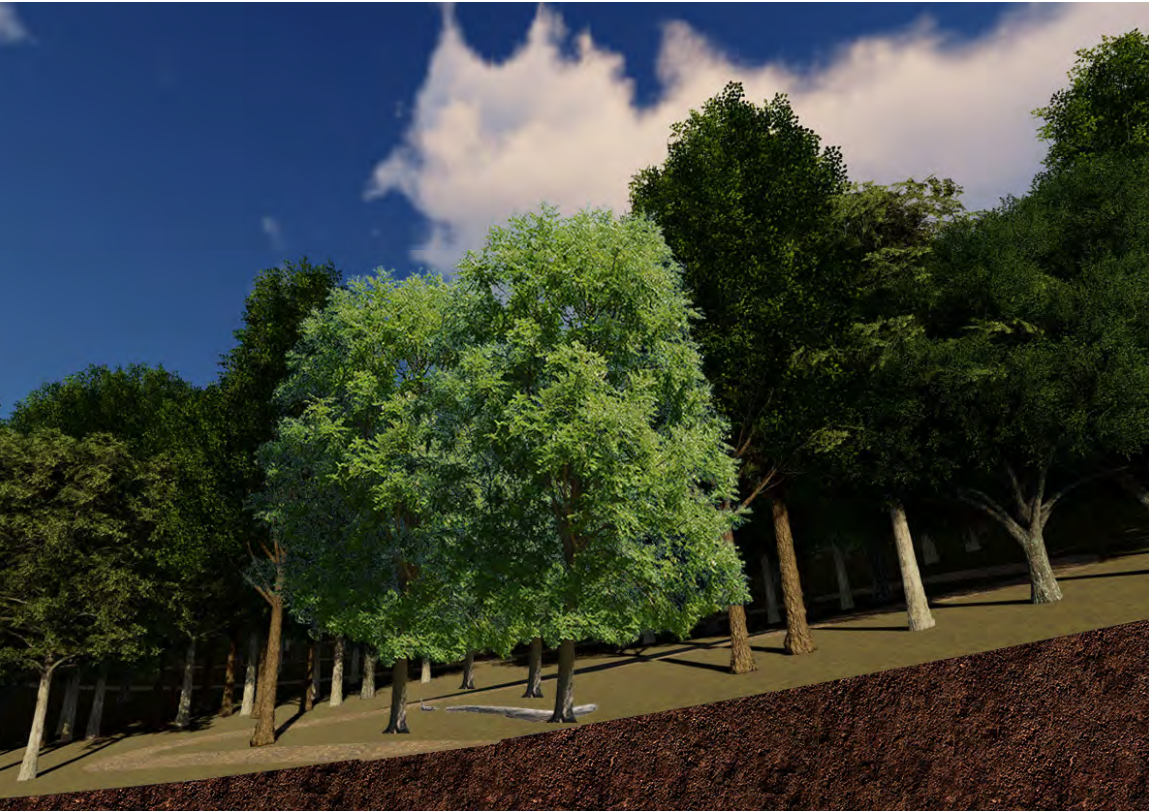
In a few years after seeding, the early successional trees would be starting to grow and take their place in the forest. It is at this point the native hardwoods are starting to sprout and provide an understory.

STAGE 4



In stage 4 which is roughly 5-8 years after seeding, the early successional trees have done their job of providing the needed shade to keep out weeds, while also allowing enough light for the native hardwoods to reach almost maturity. This is when the early successional trees shall be culled and ground into mulch.

STAGE 5



Years later the once native hardwood saplings have grown to become mature trees, holding their own in Girty's Woods. They provide habitat and mast for local animals, aswell as an experience for visitors.