A RESTORATIVE SPACE FOR ALL
PEDESTRIAN NORTH CANAL STREET

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Sharpsburg has been adaptive to industrial advancements throughout history. The historic canal, which was previously located on Canal Street, was once used for carrying freight and passengers. It created a valuable location for light industry and trade businesses with convenient access to downtown Pittsburgh. The canal was also used for community events like public skating and gatherings, making North Canal Street a hub for history and culture. Sharpsburg has been adaptive to industrial advancements throughout history, and eventually, the canal was turned into a railroad which separated the town in half. For a while, Sharpsburg’s community felt the division through separate firehouses, churches, schools, but since the introduction of the highway Sharpsburg has been working through mediums like community events to reestablish the feeling of unity. Modern day Sharpsburg still has remnants of historic businesses but has turned them into new business ventures like the Hitchhiker Brewery and Dancing Gnome Brewery.

North Canal Street has the opportunity to become Sharpsburg’s downtown Main Street to draw commerce, socialization, and culture to the area. The location and context of this site provides a perfect opportunity for the full pedestrianization of this one block, one-way street. Conscious community and ecological design can shape a more vibrant and utilized space for people and wildlife alike. New business planning and façade treatment will facilitate commerce and growth while also providing the community with a variety of dining and commercial opportunities.

The proposed design for North Canal Street will create a town center for Sharpsburgers to call their own. With global concerns for climate change and sea level rise, Pittsburgh could become a haven for those seeking refuge from climate disasters, and Sharpsburg should be prepared for this. Creating a center for people to gather and socialize will provide opportunities for cultures and people to mesh in the new coming world.
Utilize the main street opportunity on North Canal to draw the community and visitors to Sharpsburg’s local economy and businesses. By adding in affordable food markets, restaurants and food related events, Sharpsburg can honor its rich culinary history and H.J. Heinz. Foster community building and growth through a more involved downtown experience, growing business and personal interactions. Create a space for local events to occur, making Sharpsburg a hub for beer, food, art, and culture. Establish ecological design to increase tree cover, pedestrian, and bike access, and connect to the riverfront. Create an environment for a multiplicity of businesses to thrive, ensuring a variety of opportunities.
North Canal Street could be Sharpsburg's new Main street, a center for commerce, community, and growth. The existing façade structures on this street provide an opportunity to drive the notorious Pittsburgh architectural character and main street design. Following the construction of the Historic Pittsburgh City Hall in 1872, designed in the French Manner style, the city began to take on similar styles which were Romanesque, Gothic, and Eclectic, taking some influence from Greek Revival. These styles implement classic and intricate ornamentation, most notably utilizing the column, which is one of the most recognizable elements of the classic design. While there is little information about the façade design of each building on North Canal while the buildings were in these styles, there are still plenty of precedents around the city and even Slobozian to create a vibrant main street.

Even though there is little evidence of what historic North Canal Street looked like in the years of Romanesque and Gothic design, there are some pictures of the bank that once stood at the center of Heinz Memorial Plaza. Considering this building is the anchor point for the street and can be seen when approaching from Main Street, the façade should be a statement. Efforts to recreate historic façades is already a practice in Pittsburgh through programs created by Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh and many others.
GROUND MATERIALS AND FURNISHINGS

GROUND MATERIALS PALETTE

- Brick
- Street Grate
- Concrete
- Permeable Pavement
- Natural Stone

PALETTE

- Guyasuta Statue
- Hinz Memorial
- Rain Garden Fountain
- Garden Boxes
- Wood Seal
- Stone Wall
- Gravel Barrier
- Planting
- Rain Garden
- Fountain

GREEN BUS STOP

Existing Street Lamps

Bike Racks

Moveable Outdoor Tables

Tree Grates

RIDGETOP MATERIALS AND FURNISHINGS

- Glass Elevators
- Outdoor Bar
- Spiral Staircase
- Bike Racks
- Tree Grates

UNIQUE SEATING OPPORTUNITIES

- Shaded Seating

BUILDING AUXILIARY UTILITIES

- Building Auxiliary Utilities

- Unique Seating Opportunities
A HAVEN FOR BIRDS, BEES, AND BUTTERFLIES

URBAN WILDLIFE

A HAVEN FOR BIRDS, BEES, AND BUTTERFLIES

ROOFTOP GARDEN PLANTING

- Bee Balm
- Butterfly Milkweed
- Blazing Star
- Golden Alexanders
- Viburnum

STREET TREE

- Black-Eyed-Susan
- Smooth Blue American-Aster
- Little False Bluestem
- Great Blue Lobelia

BUTTERFLY GARDEN PLANTING

- Ironweed
- Wand Panic Grass
- Gray Goldenrod
- Golden Alexanders
- Blazing Star

ROOFTOP HAVENS

- Bird-Safe Windows

The sky is for the birds, so the rooftops of North Canal Street will be too. Often, urban environments can be dangerous for wildlife, especially birds as buildings rise into their place in the clouds. North Canal will become a haven for birds and bees as the rooftops transform into habitats through green roofs and bird-safe furnishings. Hives and bird houses will provide safety for wildlife in an ever-changing environment, while bird-safe windows will protect birds from collision. Collisions with transparent surfaces like windows has impacted bird populations because they cannot distinguish what is a safe space for them to fly. The glass instillation over the street will not only draw the birds in through desirable colors and design, but will also warn the birds that they are entering an urban space that may not be safe. This is especially a problem at night, as wildlife will move towards light, including urban light pollution, so the glass instillation will also provide a warning for birds flying overhead in the dark.
CAPTURING RAIN WATER ON SITE

A TIERED APPROACH

Conscious rainwater drainage design is going to become an even more pressing issue in Sharpsburg as the sea levels continue to rise. North Canal Street is currently bordering the floodplain, so in the coming years stormwater will need to become a priority in every aspect of design. Reducing rainwater through a tiered system will reduce runoff from rooftops to street, thus, significantly reducing street runoff. Rainwater is captured through a variety of planting strategies and materials in order to increase transpiration and evaporation while increasing biodiversity in an urban environment.

GREEN ROOFS AND WALLS
REDUCING ROOFWATER RUNOFF

EXTENSIVE GREEN ROOFS
- Allium Senecios
- Sedum Spurium
- Thymus
- Dianthus
- Deltoides

WALL PLANTERS
- Allium Monanthum
- Sedum Tourance
- John Cree
- Thymus
- Dianthus

GREEN WALLS

FACILITAING WATER MOVEMENT

CAPTURING RAIN WATER ON SITE

UTILIZING RAINWATER
TO ENVIGORATE URBAN
GREEN DESIGN...

...WHILE REDUCING STORMWATER RUNOFF INTO PITTSBURGH’S ALLEGHENY RIVER

34% OF SHARPSBURG’S BUILDINGS ST IN THE FLOODPLAIN
SITE DRAINAGE- CHANGE
REDDUCING ROOF RUNOFF

The gutter and storm drain running down the center of the street will facilitate stormwater movement throughout the planting communities, designed to hold water in the rain gardens and street trees. The planting strategies will allow a lower water table, so stormwater will be able to stay on site and go through the transpiration and evaporation process. The water cycle is an important factor for sea level rise and the heat island effect, so the water held on site will keep runoff out of the Allegheny River and lower the ground temperature, creating a more comfortable space for people and wildlife to enjoy street.

GROUNDWATER SYSTEM
STORM GUTTER
RAIN GARDEN
STORM DRAIN
SEWER DRAIN
TRANSPIRATION/EVAPORATION
RAIN GARDEN PLANTING

Black Tupelo
NYSSA SYLVATICA

Sea Lavender
Limonium latifolium

Fountain Grass
Pennisetum alopecuroides

Candytuft
Iberis sempervirens

Sea Thrift
Armeria maritima

Blue Fescue Grass
Festuca spp.

Meadow Phlox
Phlox maculata

A SPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY TO GATHER AND CELEBRATE EVENTS

PARKING DESIGN

A SPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY TO GATHER AND CELEBRATE EVENTS

EVENTS

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Thank you to Sharpsburg’s Community and Partners.