

PUBLIC MEETING 1 APRIL 29, 2021

PERCY RUHE PARK

MASTER PLAN

CITY OF ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Thank you for attending!

**The live presentation will start promptly at 7PM.
Please note this presentation is being recorded.**

During the presentation feel free to type questions in the Q&A box. We will answer question during the Q&A session of the presentation. If you are listening to sound via your phone we would ask that you keep it muted to avoid microphone feedback loops.

AGENDA

- Project Committee
- Project Team / Experience
- Project Examples
- Master Planning Process
- Project Scope / Schedule
- Site Overview
- Brainstorming
- Next Steps



THE COMMITTEE

Dave Snyder	Allentown Recreation Board	Member
Dennis Csensits	Allentown Central Catholic High School	Athletic Director
Randy Atiyeh	William Allen High School	Athletic Director
Julie Ambrose	ASD Foundation	Executive Director
Adam Polly	Lehigh Valley CoEd Softball	Director
Tanya Burrell	Majestic Storm	Owner
Susan Boyle	Neighborhood community	Resident
Wanda Bloss	Neighborhood community	Resident
Joe Palermo	Neighborhood community	Resident
John Veto	Neighborhood community	Resident
Marty McClean	Neighborhood community	Resident
Rev. Maritza Torres Dolich	Recreation Board	Translator

PROJECT TEAM

Simone Collins Landscape Architecture

- William Collins, RLA, ASLA, Principal
wcollins@simonecollins.com
- Sarah Leeper, RLA, Project Manager
sleeper@simonecollins.com
- Emma Haley, Staff Landscape Architect
ehaley@simonecollins.com



Spotts, Stevens and McCoy Engineering

- Craig Monroe, P.E.
- Addison Wechter, P.E.
- Jonathan E. Meyer, P.E.



Allentown Department of Parks & Recreation Contacts

- Karen El-Chaar, Director
Karen.El-Chaar@allentownpa.gov
- Chris Hendricks, Recreation Program Specialist
Chris.Hendricks@allentownpa.gov
- Rick Holtzman, Park Superintendent
Rick.Holtzman@allentownpa.gov



MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

WHY PLAN?

- **For public health** - parks, trails and open space are important areas where residents of all ages, ethnicity, economic status, and abilities will interact and create community building experiences
- **For ecological stewardship** - community facilities are essential green infrastructure that provide physical, spiritual & health benefits
- **To meet current needs and future growth** - of the City of Allentown's parks, open space, recreation system, and connectivity
- **To improve community competitiveness** - to attract businesses & residents

WHY PLAN?

“We recognize that a municipality’s park and recreation facilities are the most visible component of local government.

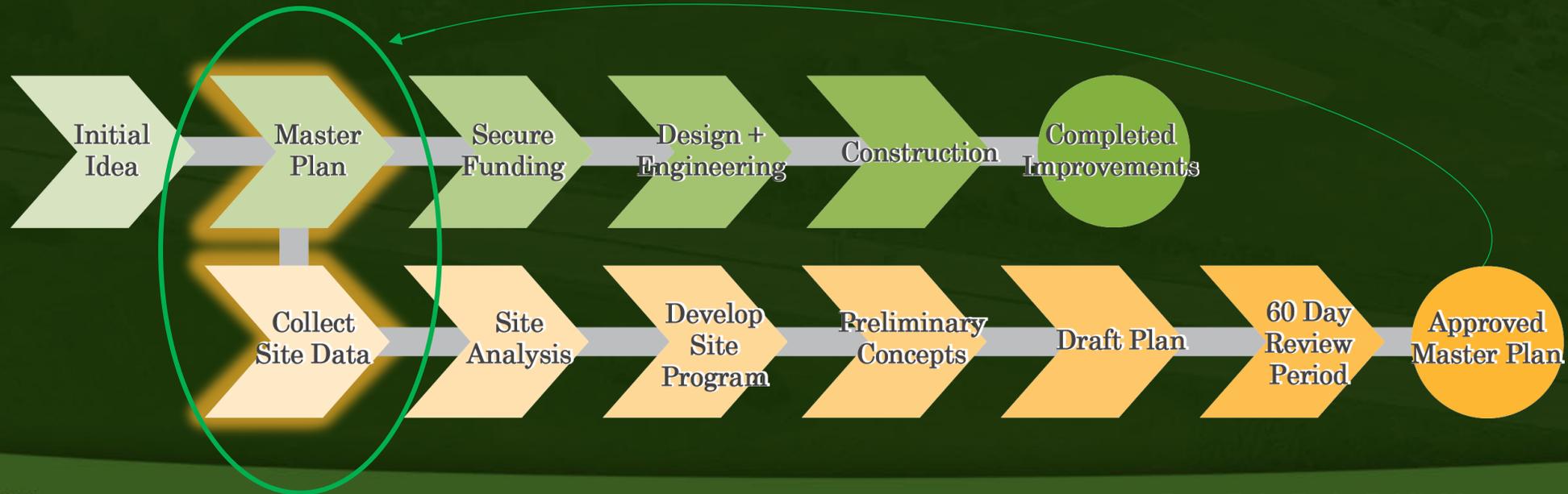
More residents will have more interactions with the city of Allentown through parks and recreation than any other part of city’s facilities and programs.”

SC parks planning philosophy



THE PROCESS OF PLANNING

- Conduct a series of sequential, rational, creative steps
- Demonstrate a transparent, open public process
- Enable multiple ways for people to interact and be heard
- Combine community ideas with funding strategies for each stage
- Empower champions
- Negotiate partnerships
- Emphasize sustainability with creativity
- Take advantage of the iterative, evolving nature of the public planning process



PROJECT SCOPE

- Public participation
- Background Information / Data
- Site Information / Analysis
- Activities & Facilities Analyses
- Structural Assessments
- Security Analysis
- Design Considerations
- Design Process & Recommendations
- Costs & Capital Program
- Maintenance & Operation Costs/
Revenue
- Plan Narrative and Report
- Base Plan – Proposed Site Development
Map



PROJECT SCHEDULE (ENTIRE STUDY)

MEETING	PURPOSE	DAY/MONTH
Study Committee Meeting #1	Project overview, initial site analysis, brainstorming	Thursday, April 22, 2021
Public Meeting #1	Project Overview / Public Brainstorming	Thursday, April 29, 2021
15 Key Persons Interviews		May – June 2021
Study Committee Meeting #2	Review Public Meeting/survey, analysis process, initial concepts	Thursday, August 26, 2021
Public Meeting #2	Analysis / Concepts	Thursday, September 9, 2021
Study Committee Meeting #3	Concept refinement, draft plan overview	Thursday, October 14, 2021
Public Meeting #3	Draft Plan Presentation	Thursday, October 28, 2021
Public Review Period	30-Day Draft Plan Review	November 2021 – December 2021
Council Presentation	Final Plan	January 2022

Transparent process

- 3 Committee Meetings
- 3 Public Meetings
- 4 Stakeholder Meetings (min)
- Up to 15 Key Person / Agency interviews
- Communications with City staff—as needed
- Web-based public opinion survey
- We encourage the community to call or email us directly

Public Participation Strategy

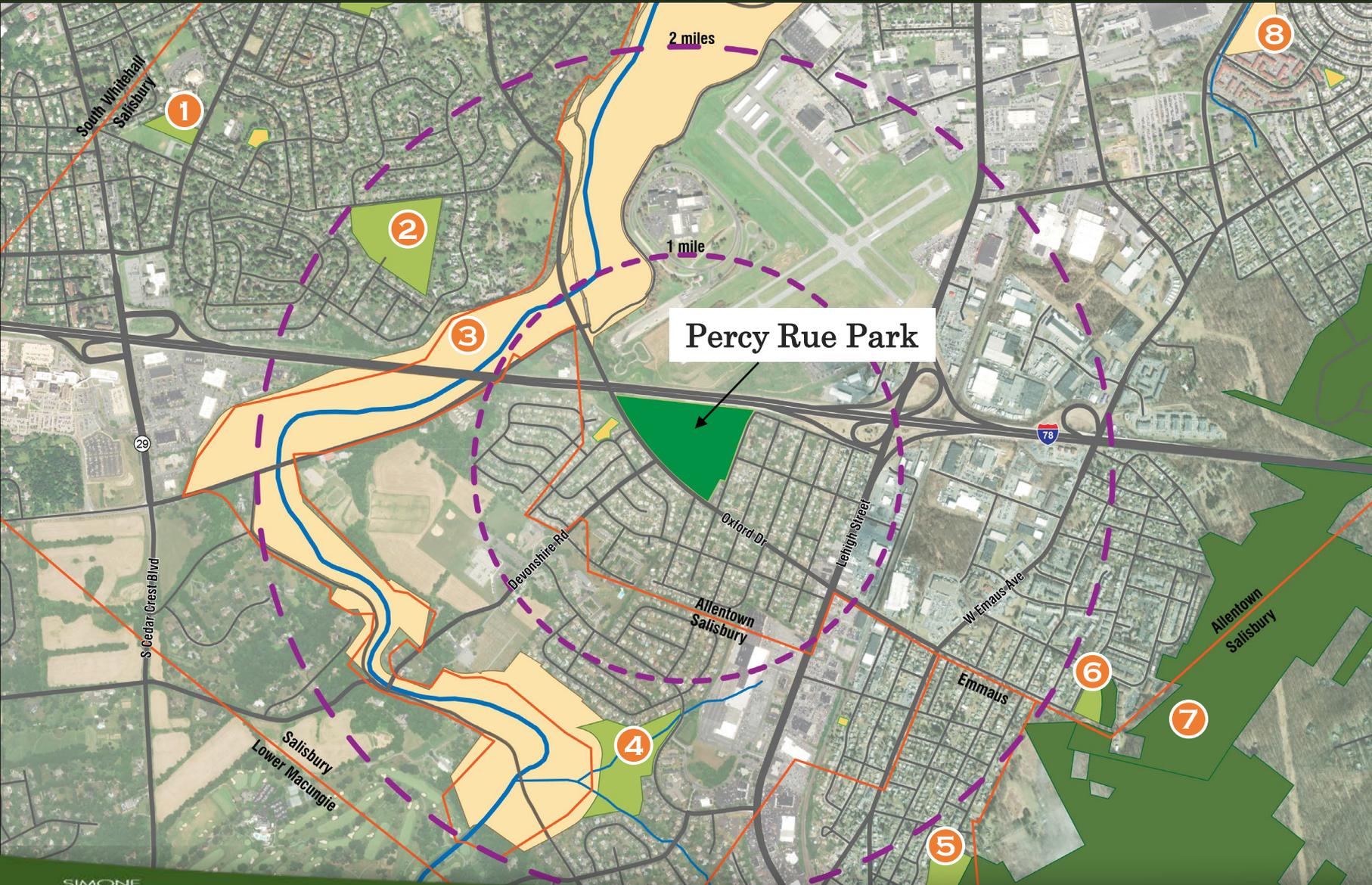
“Every voice is heard, all ideas are honored”

PERCY RUHE PARK

SITE OVERVIEW



PARK LOCATION – IN RELATION TO OTHER RECREATION FACILITIES



LEGEND

- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Mini Parks
- Large Urban Parks
- Natural Area Parks
- Stream
- Road
- Municipal Border

Area Parks

- 1 Trident Swim and Tennis Club
- 2 Lindberg Park
- 3 Lehigh Parkway
- 4 Devonshire Park
- 5 Boroline Park
- 6 Ithaca Park
- 7 Wildlands Conservancy South Mountain Preserve
- 8 Mack Pool

EXISTING CONDITIONS

PERCY RUHE SITE



- ① Memorial
- ② Concession Stand
- ③ Pavilion + Restrooms
- ④ Playground
- ⑤ Open Asphalt Area
- ⑥ Basketball Courts (3)
- ⑦ Handball Courts (2)
- ⑧ Baseball Fields (4)
- ⑨ Football Fields (2)
- ⑩ Parking (2)
- ⑪ Trail Access Point

EXISTING CONDITIONS



Memorial

Concession Stand

Pavilion + Restrooms

EXISTING CONDITIONS



Baseball Field

Additional Parking Lot

Trail

EXISTING CONDITIONS

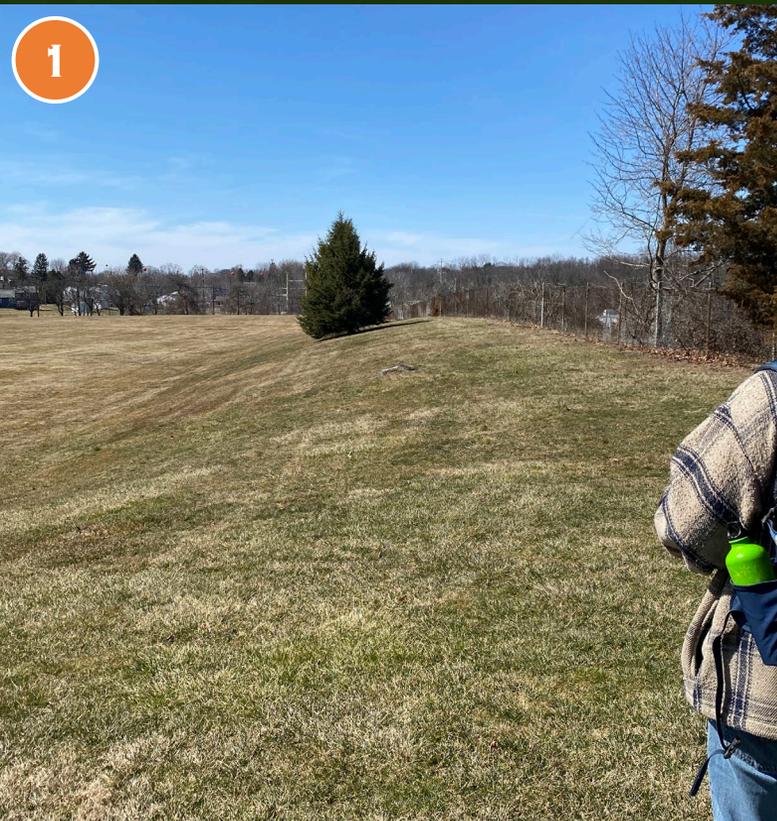


Trail Erosion

Scoreboard

Temporary Storage

EXISTING CONDITIONS

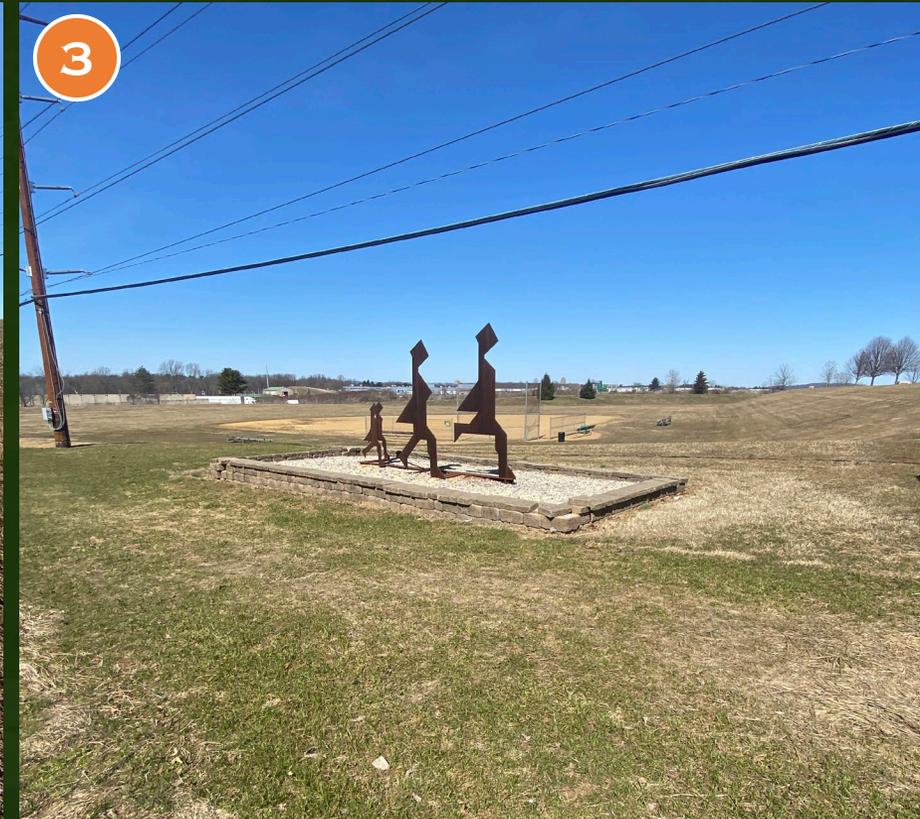
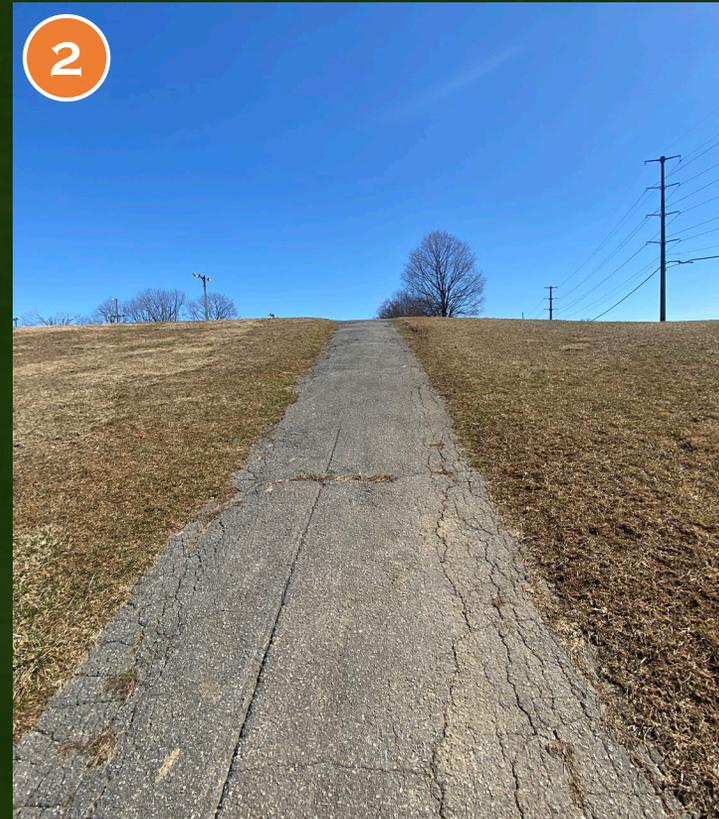


Berm

Elevation

Drainage Collection

EXISTING CONDITIONS



Baseball Field

Steep Slope

Sculpture

EXISTING CONDITIONS



Main Parking Lot

Basketball Courts

Playground Equipment

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BRAINSTORMING



Your Ideas, Comments, Suggestions...

GOALS

Goals for the project – initially broad, then specific: “Develop Priority List” or “Provide Park, Recreation, and Open Space for all ages”

Facts – Existing land use, site conditions, outstanding natural resources, adjacent properties, existing trails, nearby open space sites, partners.

FACTS

CONCEPTS

Ideas for attaining project goals – “Connect to existing trail systems”, or “Safer routes for biking” “Develop Mission Statement”

Your Ideas, Comments, Suggestions...

<u>GOALS</u>	<u>FACTS</u>	<u>CONCEPTS</u>	<u>PARTNERS</u>
MASTER PLAN	27.5 ACRES	ADA WALKWAYS	DCNR
ESTABLISH PRIORITIES	EXISTING TRAIL	UPGRADE RECREATION FIELDS	LVPC
PROVIDE FOR ALL AGES	7 SPORTS LEAGUES	"50 FOOT TALL WATER SLIDE"	ALLENTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION

PERCY RUHE PARK



NEXT STEPS

**Venues for in-person or virtual meetings to be determined*

Meeting	Purpose	Day/Month	Time
Study Committee Meeting #1	Project overview, initial site analysis, brainstorming	Thursday, April 22, 2021	7:00 - 8:30 PM
15 Key Persons Interviews		May – June 2021	
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On-line survey will be available

FILL OUT THE PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY!

- Survey link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PercyRuePark>
- Available from Today until Monday, November 1, 2021
- For more information contact the City of Allentown Department of Parks and Recreation at (610) 437-7750 or visit www.allentownparksandrec.com



Survey QR Code

City of Allentown Parks & Recreation



THANK YOU

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William Collins, RLA, ASLA, Principal
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