



# Aqueduct Reimagined Open House 11 AM - 3PM





# AQUEDUCT

Remagined



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# Introducing the Aqueduct Reimagined Project

**ROC THE RIVERWAY**  
BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE



City of Rochester, NY  
Malik D. Evans, Mayor  
Rochester City Council



NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY  
Department of  
Transportation



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## Project Team

### Local and State Agencies



**City of Rochester, NY**  
**Malik D. Evans, Mayor**  
**Rochester City Council**

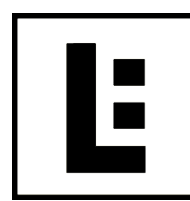


Department of  
Transportation

### Consultants



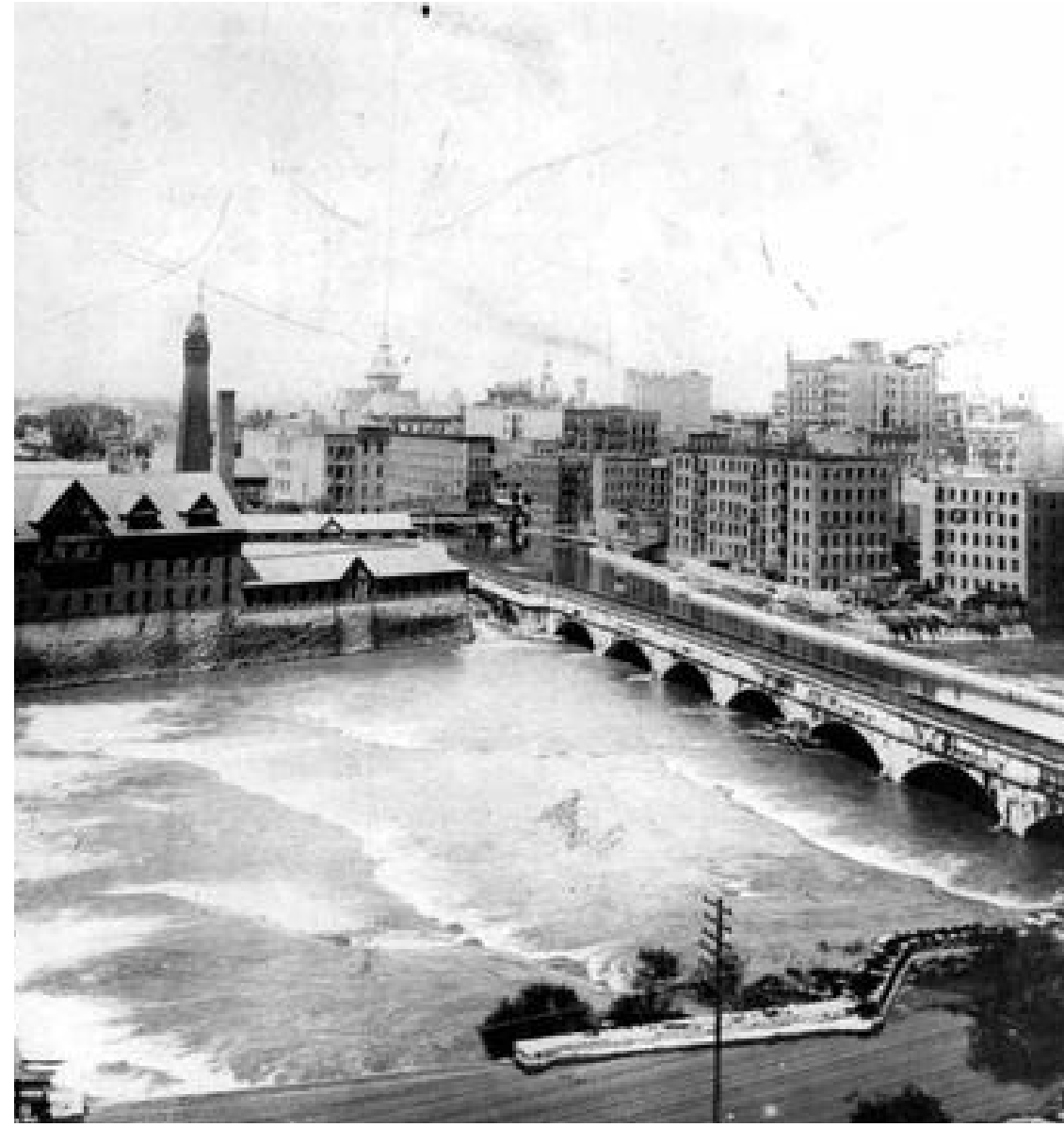
Dr. Jessica  
Lieberman



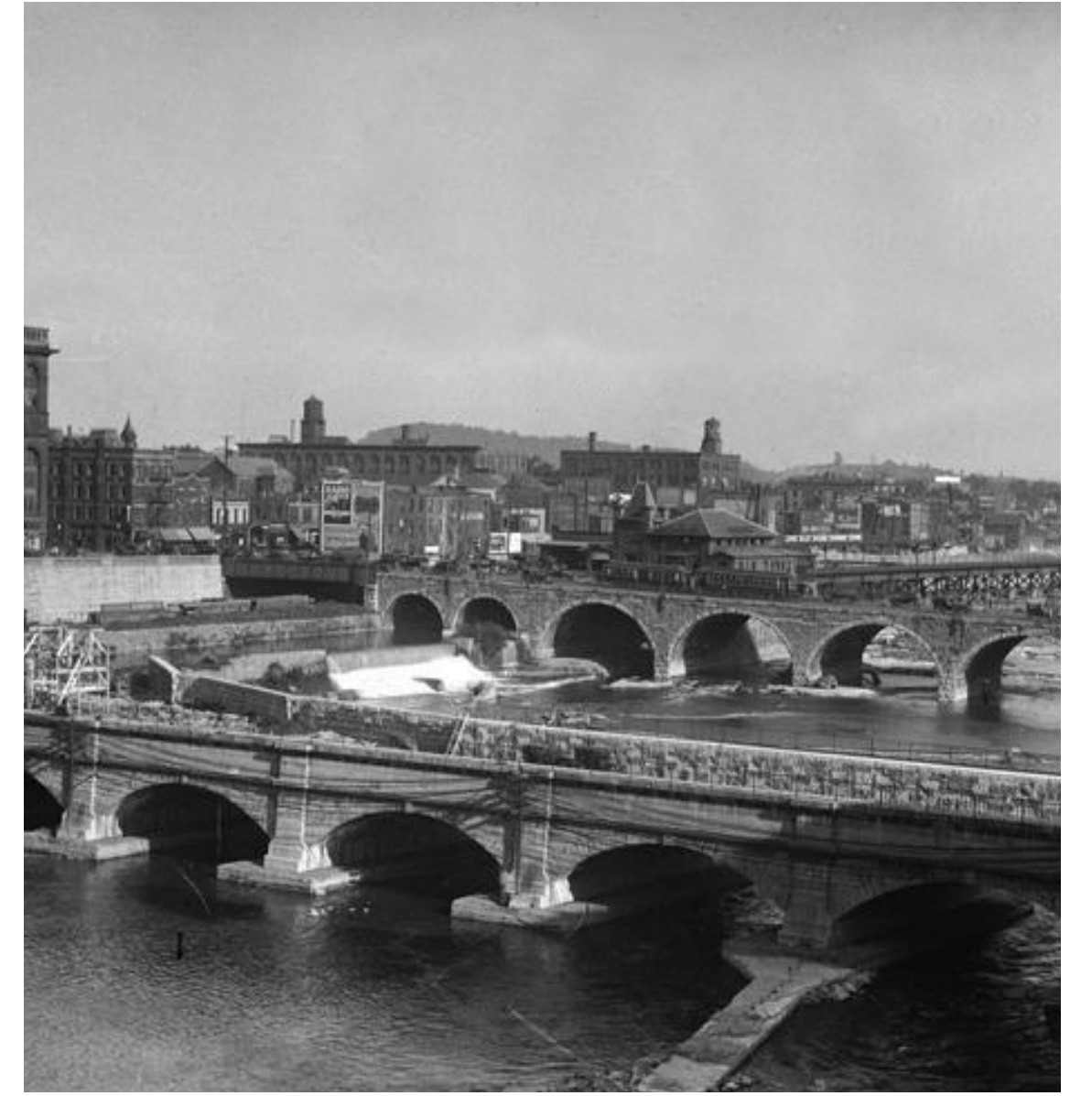
### Advisory Committees

Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) and Community Advisory Community (CAC) include representatives from:

- Neighborhood Associations
- Downtown Business and Property Owners
- Schools and Universities
- Real Estate Developers
- Community Based Organizations and Initiatives:
  - 9th Floor Artists Collective
  - Action for a Better Community
  - AIA Rochester
  - Aqueduct 50 East Broad
  - Black Girls Do Bike
  - Center City Community Coalition (C4)
  - Center for Disability Rights, Inc.
  - Center for Teen Empowerment
  - City Parks Alliance
  - Community Design Center of Rochester
  - Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
  - Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives
  - From Up Above (FUA) Krew
  - Genesee River Alliance
  - Landmark Society of Western NY
  - Rochester Area Community Foundation (RACF)
  - Rochester Downtown Development Corporation (RDDC)
  - ReConnect Rochester
  - Rochester and Genesee Valley Railroad Museum
  - RocPaint Division
  - Urban League of Rochester
  - Visit Rochester
  - WALL/THERAPY
- Other Agencies:
  - Monroe County Department of Transportation
  - Monroe County Department of Environmental Services
  - Empire State Development
  - Rochester District Heating
  - RG&E
  - Rochester Water Bureau
  - Rochester Street Lighting
  - Monroe County Pure Waters
  - US Army Corps of Engineers
  - NYS Canal Corporation



The Second Erie Canal (1890)



The Second Erie Canal (1922)



Barges on the Second Erie Canal (1897)



Rochester Subway (1924)



Broad Street Bridge (1925)



# Aqueduct Reimagined is the Centerpiece of the ROC the Riverway Vision Plan (2018)

The ROC the Riverway Vision Plan (2018) consolidates more than two dozen transformational projects along the Genesee River into a unified strategy.

## Primary Objectives

- Enhance the City's potential for attracting State and private investment along the Genesee River
- Produce seamless multi-modal access along both sides of the river via the Genesee Riverway Trail and neighborhood connections to the trail
- Create dynamic public spaces, including a multi-use gathering space as the centerpiece of downtown
- Provide a massive boost to downtown's ongoing resurgence and spur private development and job creation
- Repair and maintain critical infrastructure, and remediate waterfront brownfield sites
- Increase boating activity in the water south of Douglass-Anthony Bridge (I-490)

## Design Principles

- Focus on design that is oriented to pedestrians, bicyclists, boaters, and recreational enthusiasts
- Re-orient buildings to the water and adjacent public spaces
- Focus first on public spaces and facilities that serve citizens and visitors
- Improve connectivity to, from, along and across the river
- Create numerous opportunities for public art, historic interpretation, whimsical installations, and environmental stewardship – all united to create a sense of urban 'play' and celebration of the river



10. Library North Terrace



8. Arena on the River



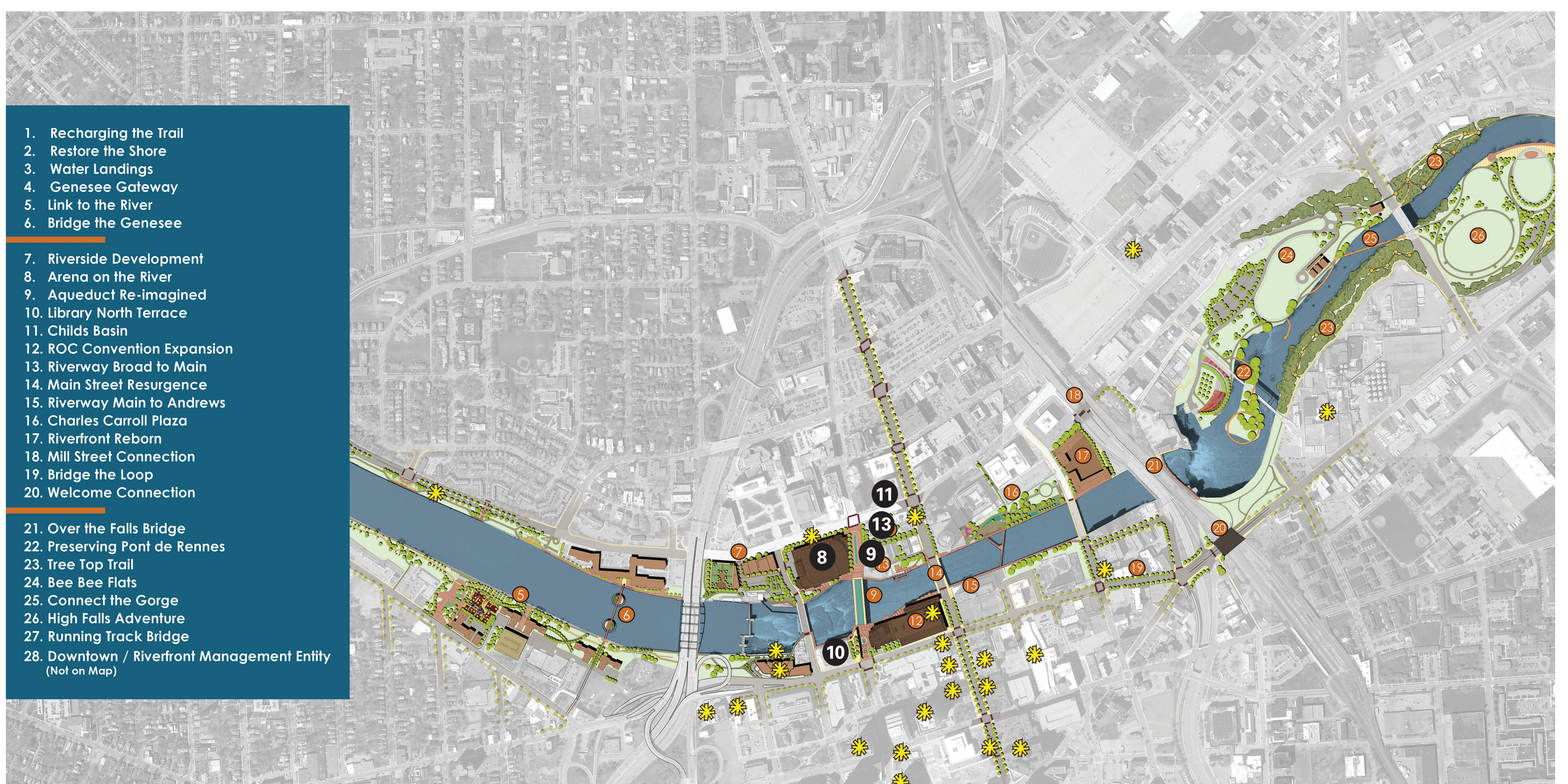
11. Child's Basin



13. Promenades Court to Main



9. Aqueduct Reimagined



1. Recharging the Trail
2. Restore the Shore
3. Water Landings
4. Genesee Gateway
5. Link to the River
6. Bridge the Genesee
7. Riverside Development
8. Arena on the River
9. Aqueduct Re-imagined
10. Library North Terrace
11. Childs Basin
12. ROC Convention Expansion
13. Riverway Broad to Main
14. Main Street Resurgence
15. Riverway Main to Andrews
16. Charles Carroll Plaza
17. Riverfront Reborn
18. Mill Street Connection
19. Bridge the Loop
20. Welcome Connection
21. Over the Falls Bridge
22. Preserving Pont de Rennes
23. Tree Top Trail
24. Bee Bee Flats
25. Connect the Gorge
26. High Falls Adventure
27. Running Track Bridge
28. Downtown / Riverfront Management Entity (Not on Map)



## Project Boundaries



The Project Boundaries, highlighted in yellow, includes street improvements on Aqueduct Street and South Avenue between Main and Court Street. The vehicular deck of Broad Street Bridge is to be demolished alongside partial removal and reuse of the subway deck.



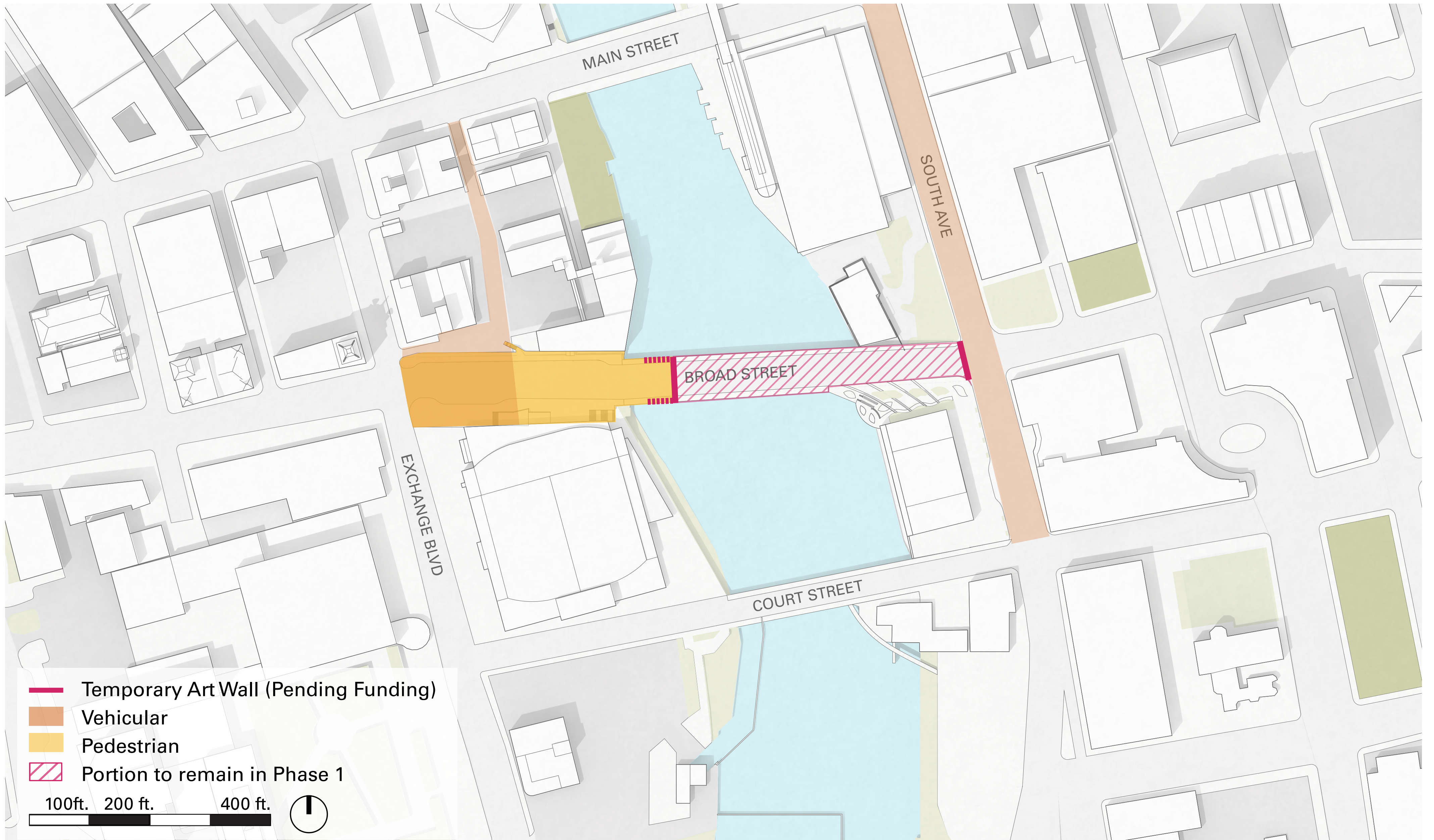
The Aqueduct from Court Street Bridge



Subway Tunnel



## The Project in Two Phases



The project is divided into two phases. Phase 1 consists of street redesign of Aqueduct Street and South Avenue alongside partial removal and reuse of the west portion of Broad Street Bridge and the Subway Tunnel. Phase 2 will include the full removal of Broad Street Bridge and the transformation of the Aqueduct.



Subway Tunnel East End



Aqueduct from War Memorial



## Existing Conditions

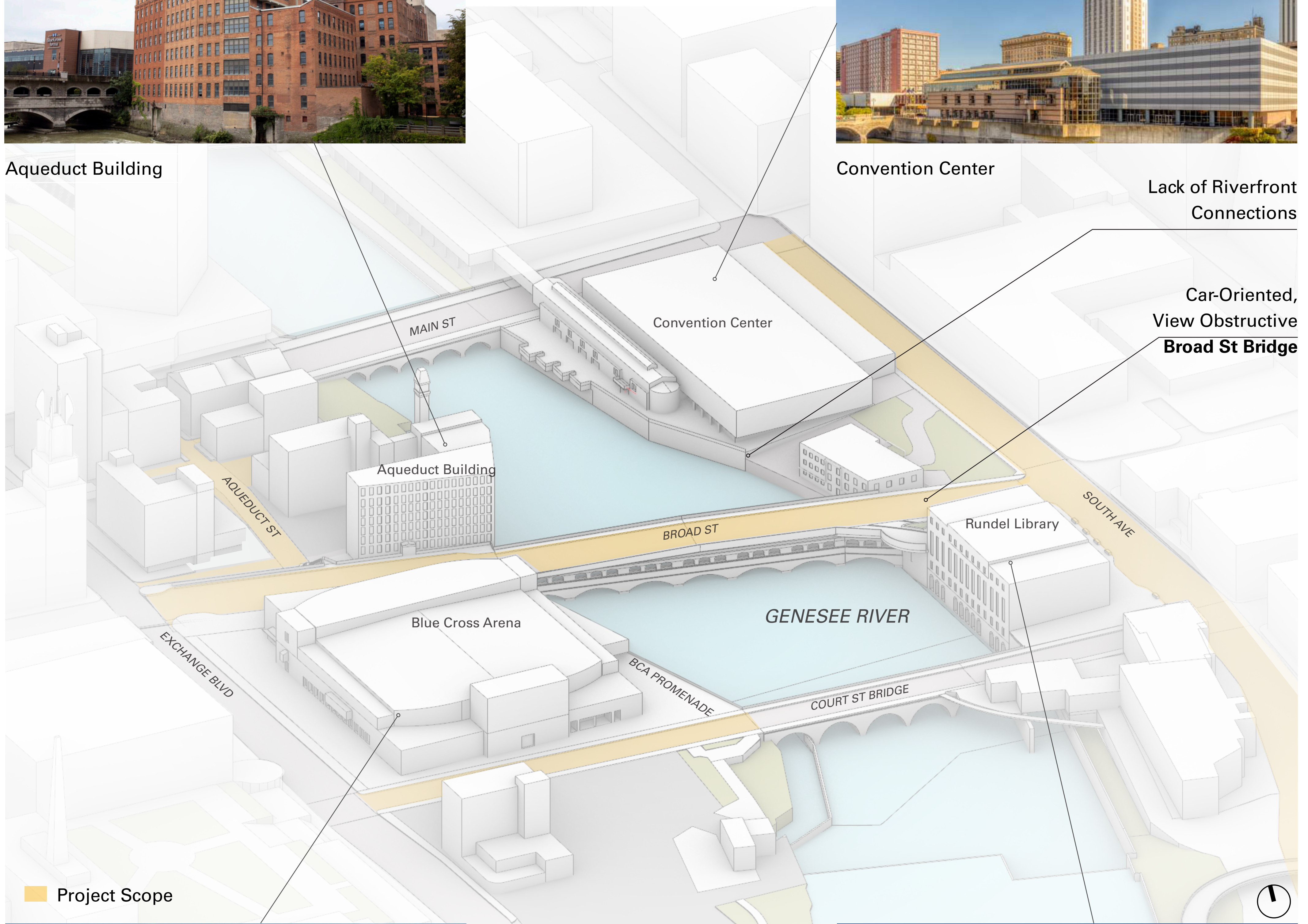
The Aqueduct today is composed of two levels: an abandoned subway tunnel filled with graffiti and a car-oriented Broad Street Bridge above. The Aqueduct Building, Blue Cross Arena, Rochester Convention Center, and Rundel Memorial Library sit at the four corners of the site.



Aqueduct Building



Convention Center



Project Scope



Blue Cross Arena



Rundel Library



## Project Goals

- Reveal the Aqueduct (Remove upper deck)
- Reimagine South Avenue
- Build Riverfront Promenades
- Reconstruct Aqueduct Street

## Project Parameters

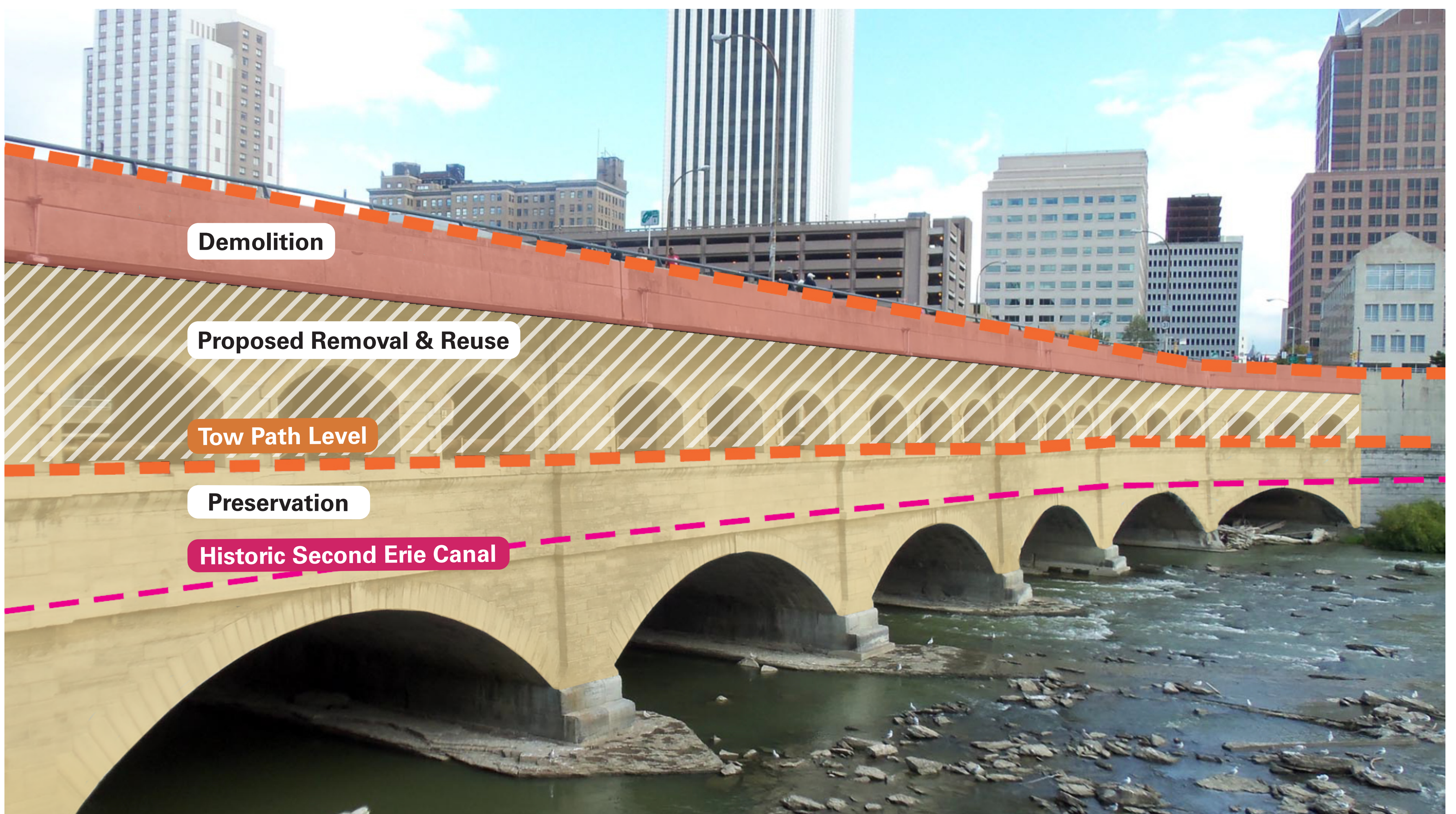
The following parameters have been determined for the project:

- Vehicular deck will be removed
- Broad Street will not be re-watered
- The Aqueduct must be a vibrant all-seasons public space.

**The Reimagined Aqueduct must be a place that considers...**



**Other considerations and ideas are open for discussion!**

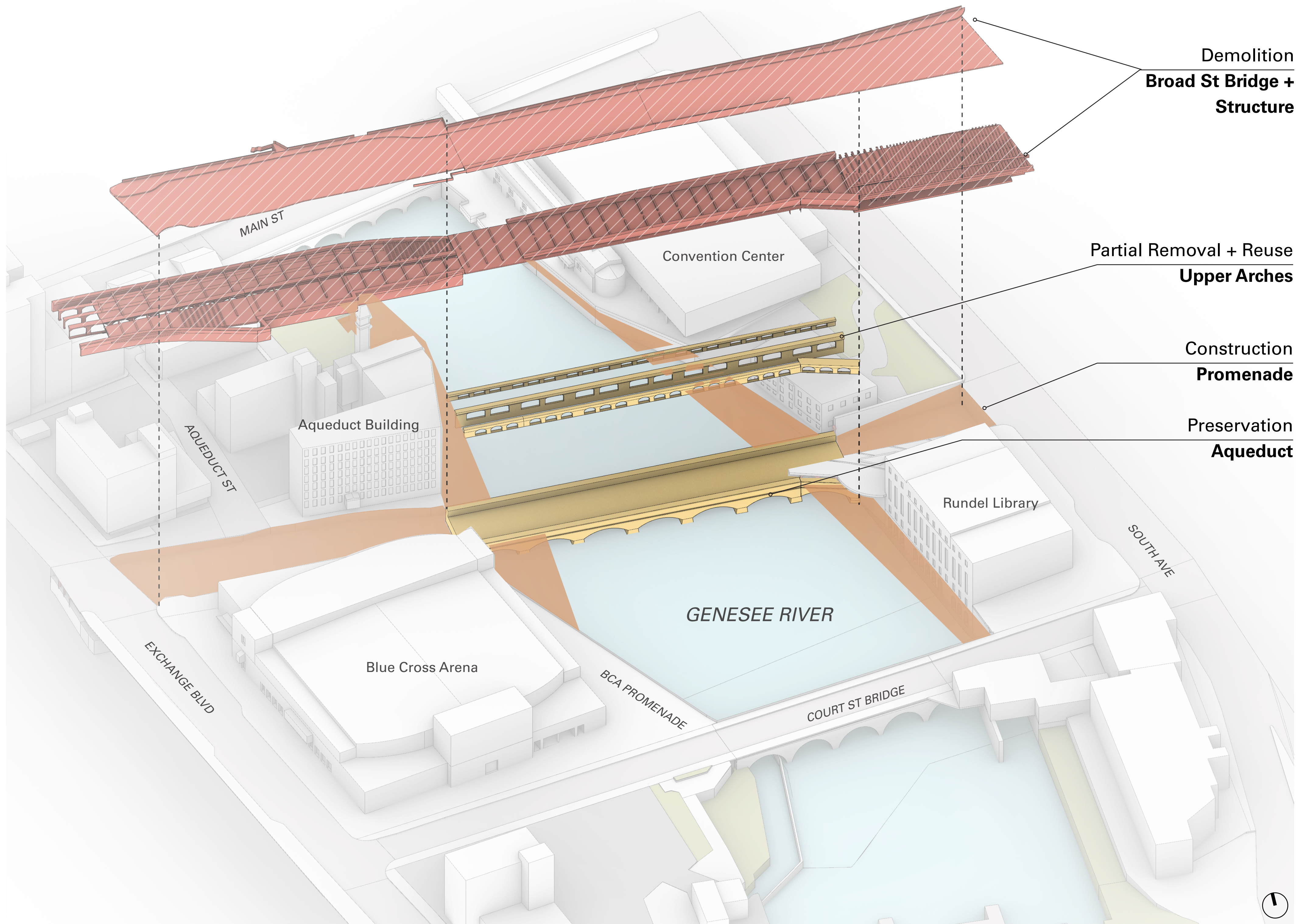
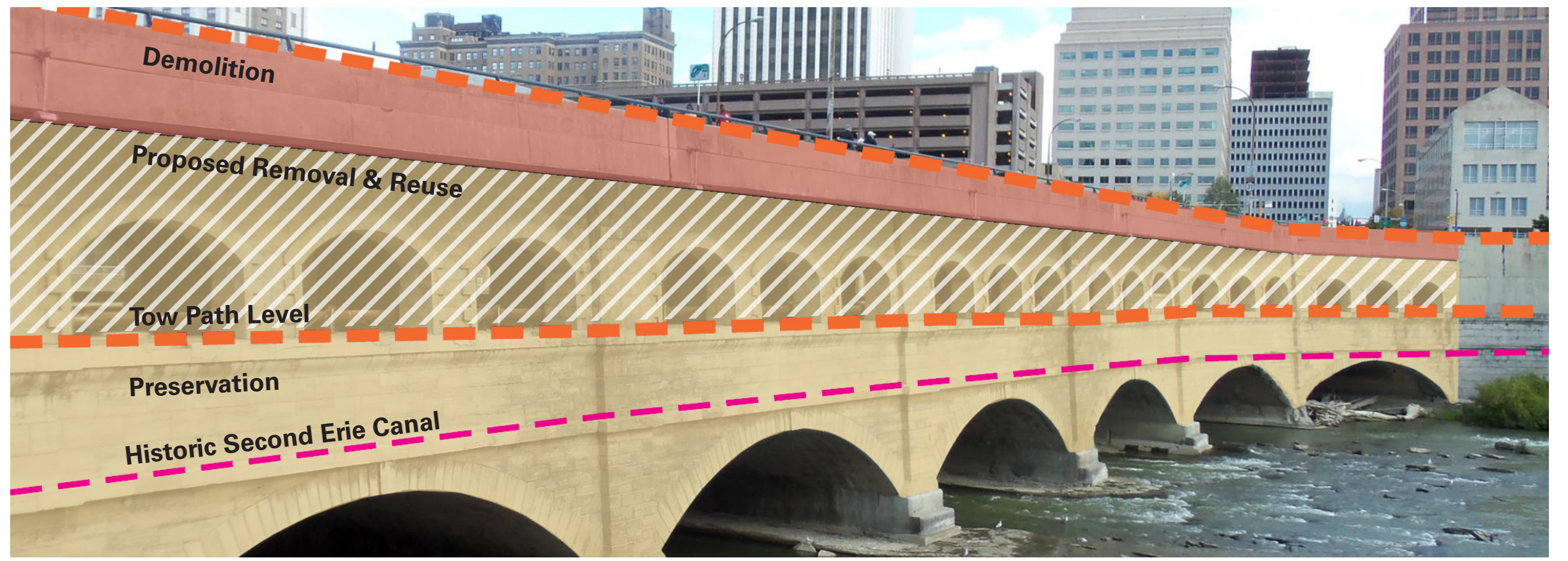




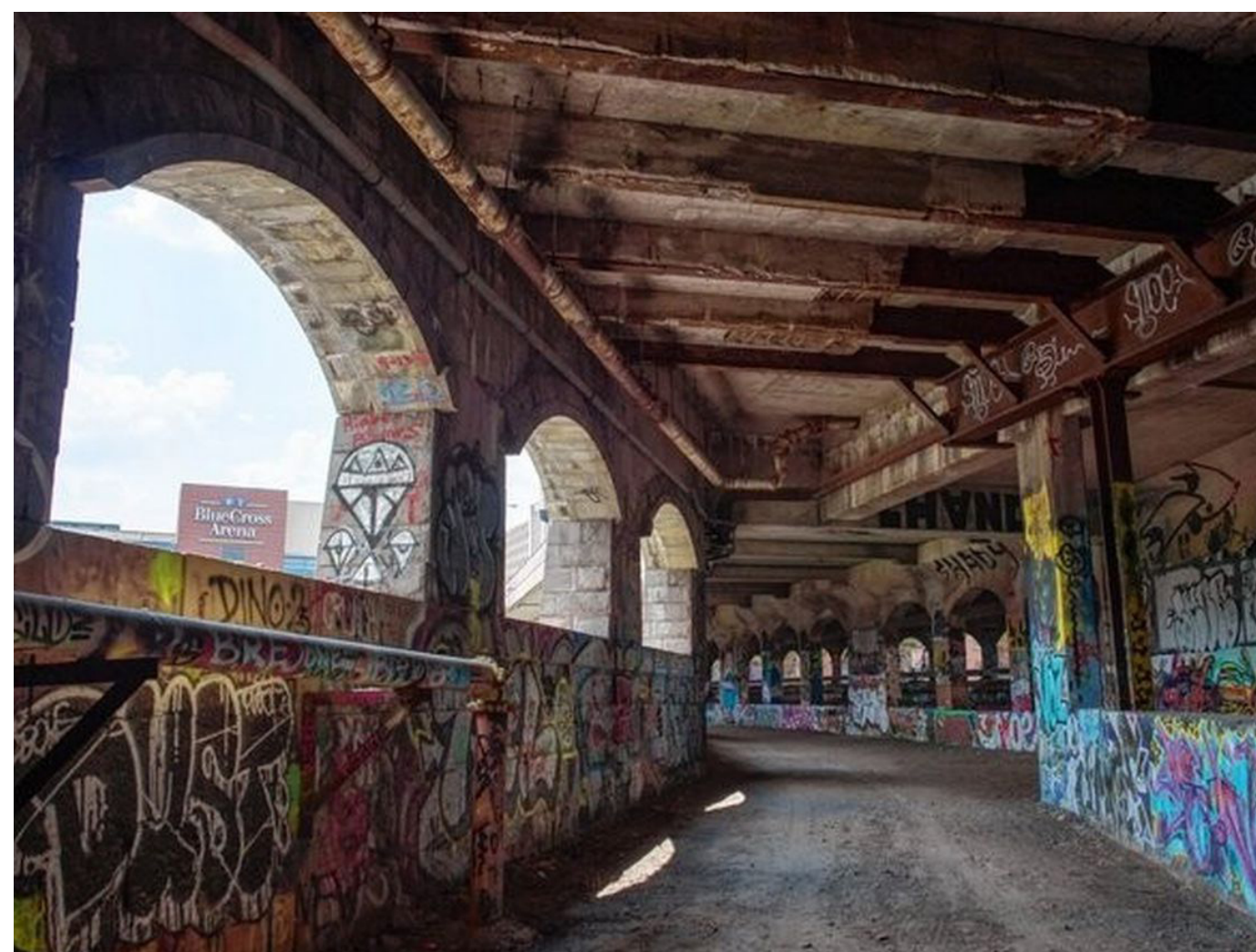
## Project Scope

The project includes demolition of Broad Street Bridge and Structure to create a pedestrian and bike-centric public space, partial removal and reuse of the Upper Arches, construction of Riverfront Promenades, and preservation of the Aqueduct.

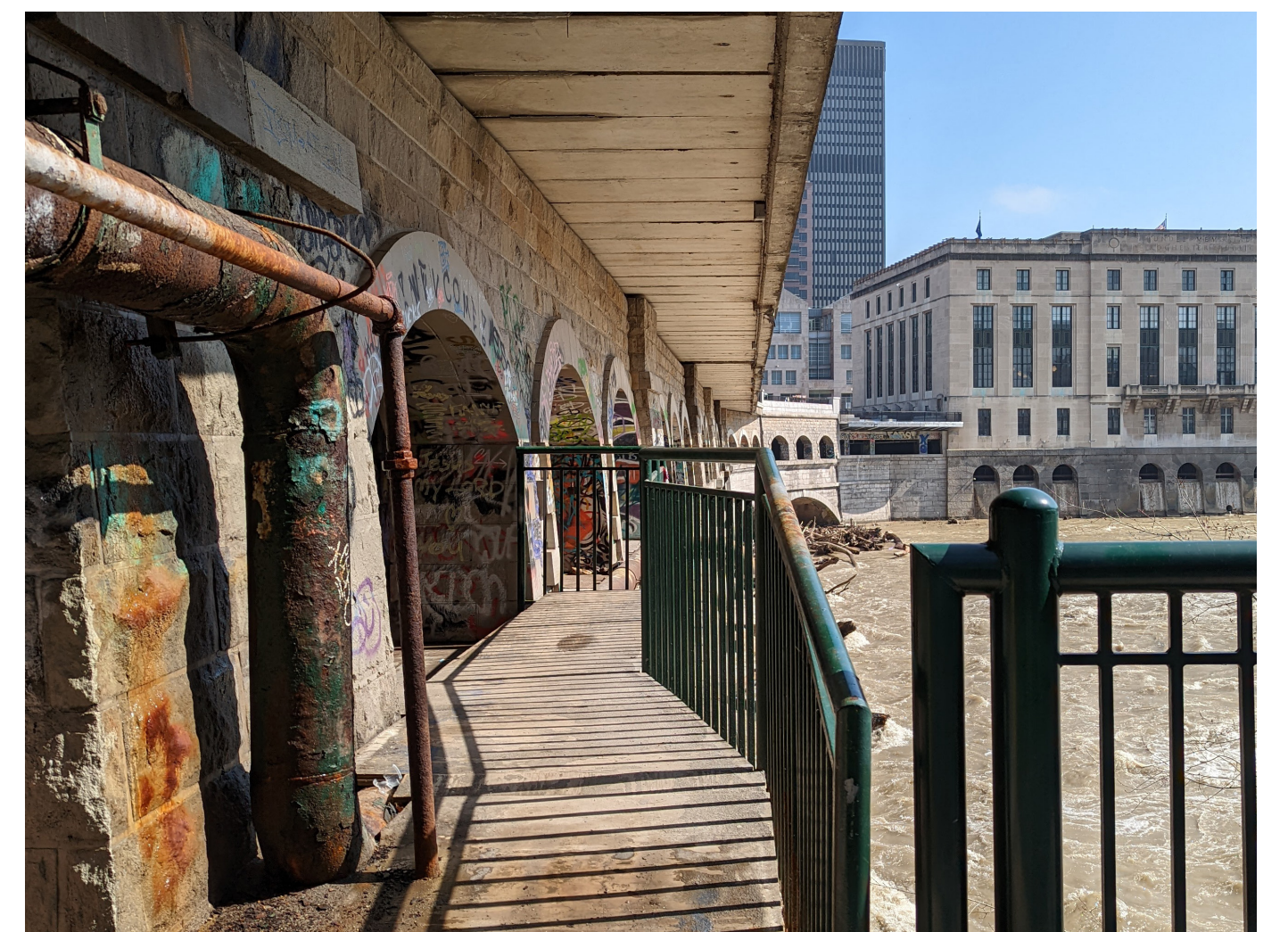
- Demolition
- Partial Removal & Reuse
- Construction



The Aqueduct from Court Street



Subway Tunnel



The Aqueduct from War Memorial

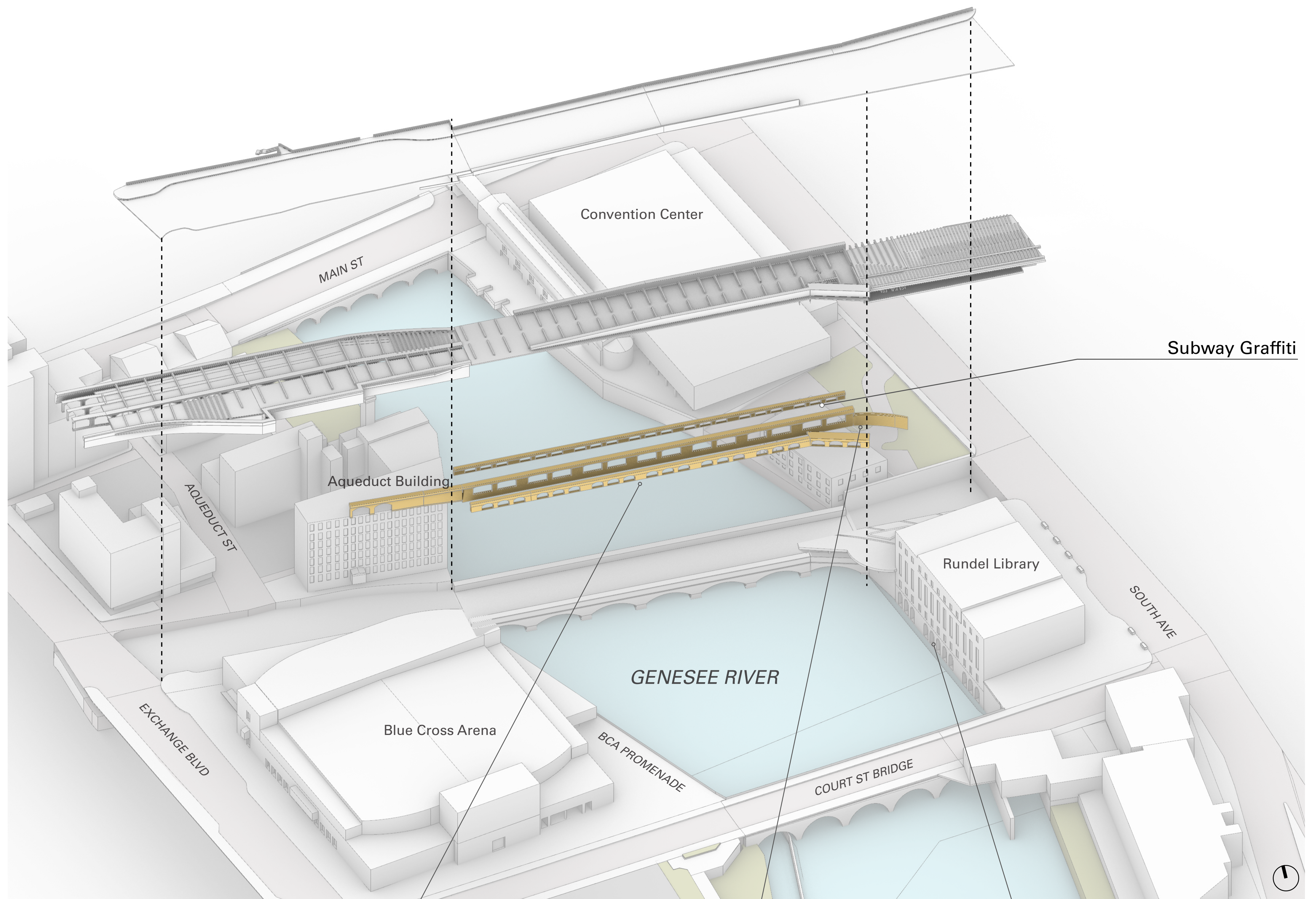


## Art & Graffiti

Ever since it was abandoned in the late 1970s, the subway tunnel has become a unique space for Graffiti Writers. By the 1990s, 'Krews' or groups of graffiti artists formed and today's FUA KREW was born. Global form of expression drove cities to develop their own style, and the influential "Rochester Style" was established.



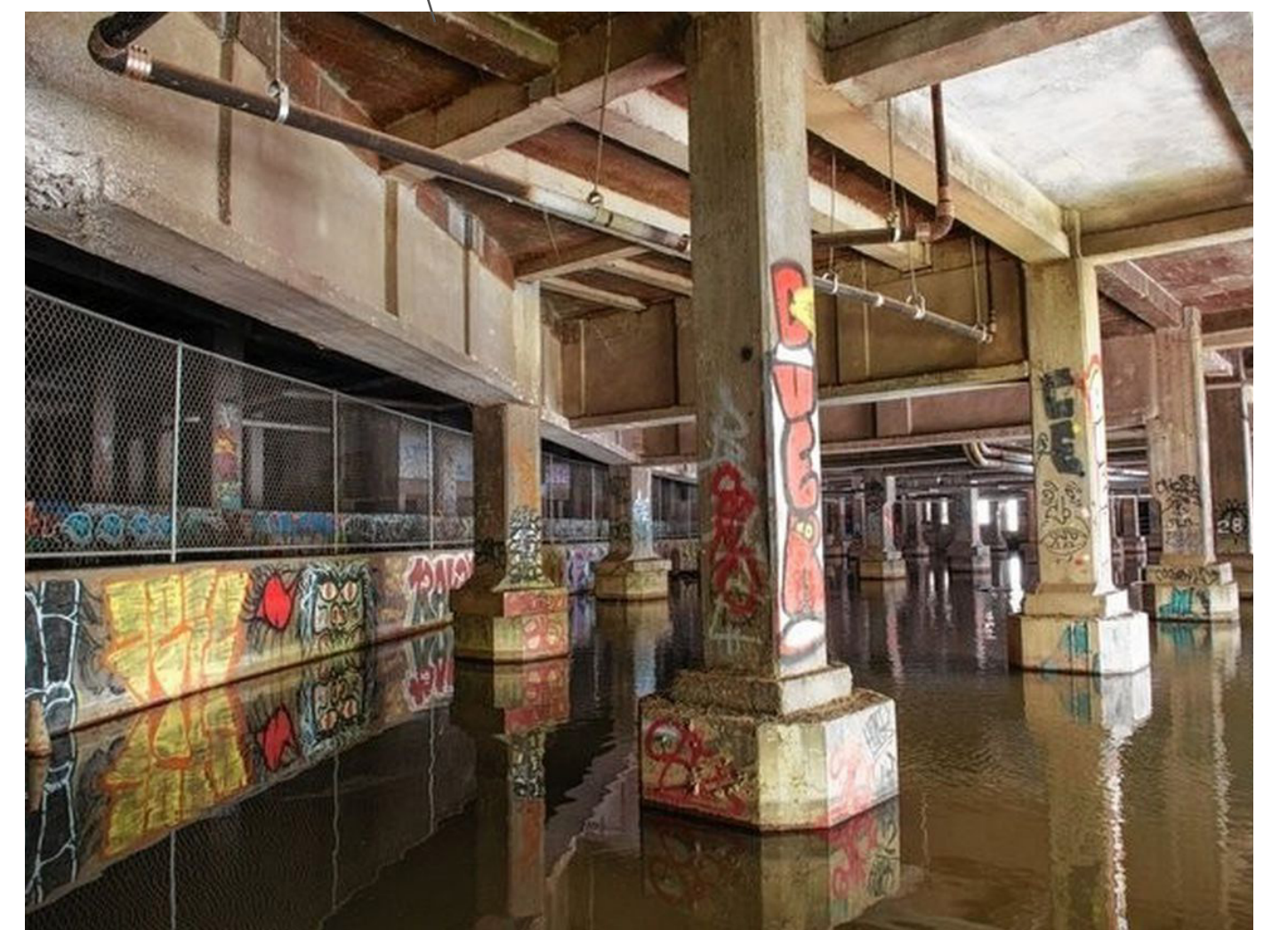
■ Graffiti



Subway Tunnel Looking East



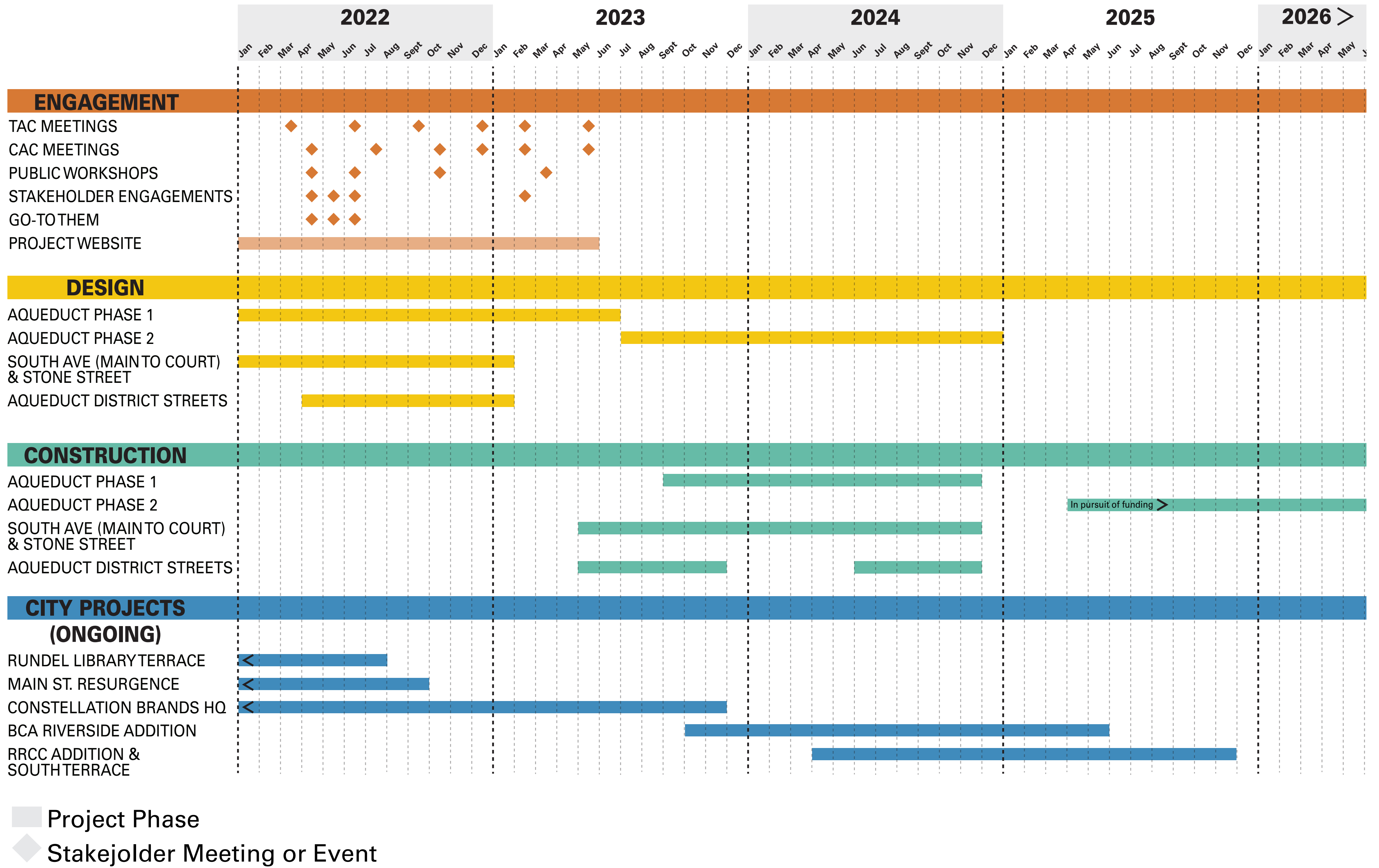
Early Bones Work



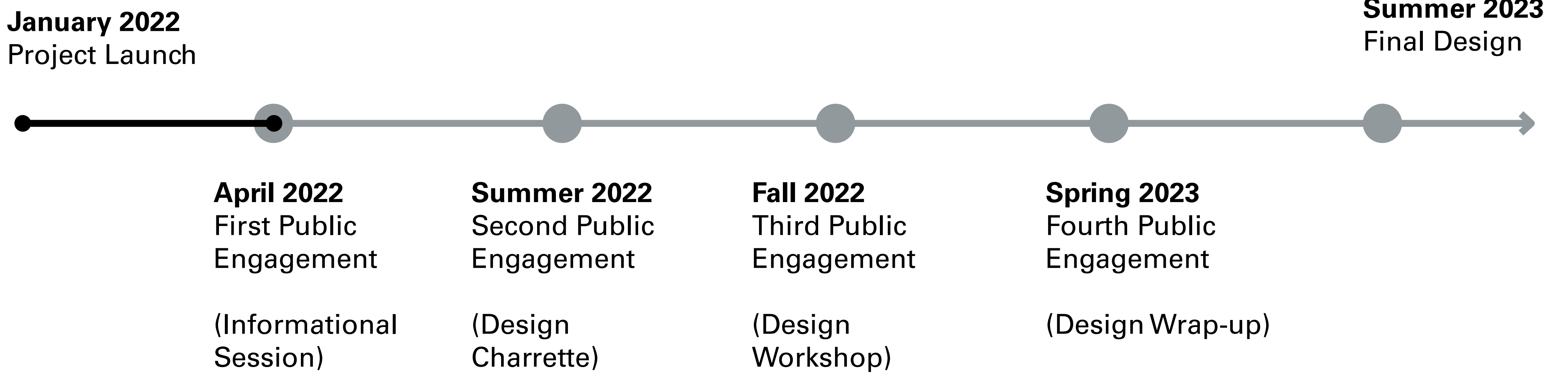
Rundel Library Foundation



# Project Schedule



## Engagement Timeline





# Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

## Objectives

- Attend regular meetings (approx. every 8 - 10 weeks)
- Act as representatives of State and City technical departments and organizations
- Share perspectives with Consultant Team
- Provide feedback, direction and insights on design materials
- Assist with promotion of meetings, workshops and special events

## Representation

- 9th Floor Artists Collective
- Action for a Better Community
- AIA Rochester
- Andrews Terrace
- Aqueduct 50 East Broad
- Black Girls Do Bike
- Brown Square Neighborhood
- Center City Community Coalition (C4)
- Center for Disability Rights, Inc.
- Center for Teen Empowerment
- City Parks Alliance
- Community Design Center of Rochester
- Constellation Brands
- Corn Hill Neighborhood
- Changing of the Scenes Neighborhood (COTS)
- Dinosaur BBQ
- Dutton Properties
- East Avenue Neighborhood
- Eastman School of Music
- Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
- Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives
- From Up Above (FUA) Krew
- Gallina Development Corporation
- Genesee River Alliance
- Jay and Orchard Street Neighborhood Association (JOSANA)
- Landmark Society of Western NY
- Neighborhood of the Arts
- NYS Canal Corp
- Park Avenue Neighborhood
- Pearl-Meigs-Monroe Neighborhood
- Pegula Sports and Entertainment
- Rochester Area Community Foundation (RACF)
- Rochester City School District (RCSD)
- Rochester Downtown Development Corporation (RDDC)
- ReConnect Rochester
- RG&E
- Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)
- Rochester and Genesee Valley Railroad Museum
- Rochester Public Library
- Rochester Riverside Convention Center
- RocPaint Division
- Marketview Heights Neighborhood
- South Wedge Neighborhood
- Southeast Towers
- St. Mary's Catholic Church
- Susan B. Anthony Neighborhood
- Times Square Building
- Upper Falls Neighborhood
- Urban League of Rochester
- Visit Rochester
- WALL/THERAPY
- Wilder Building

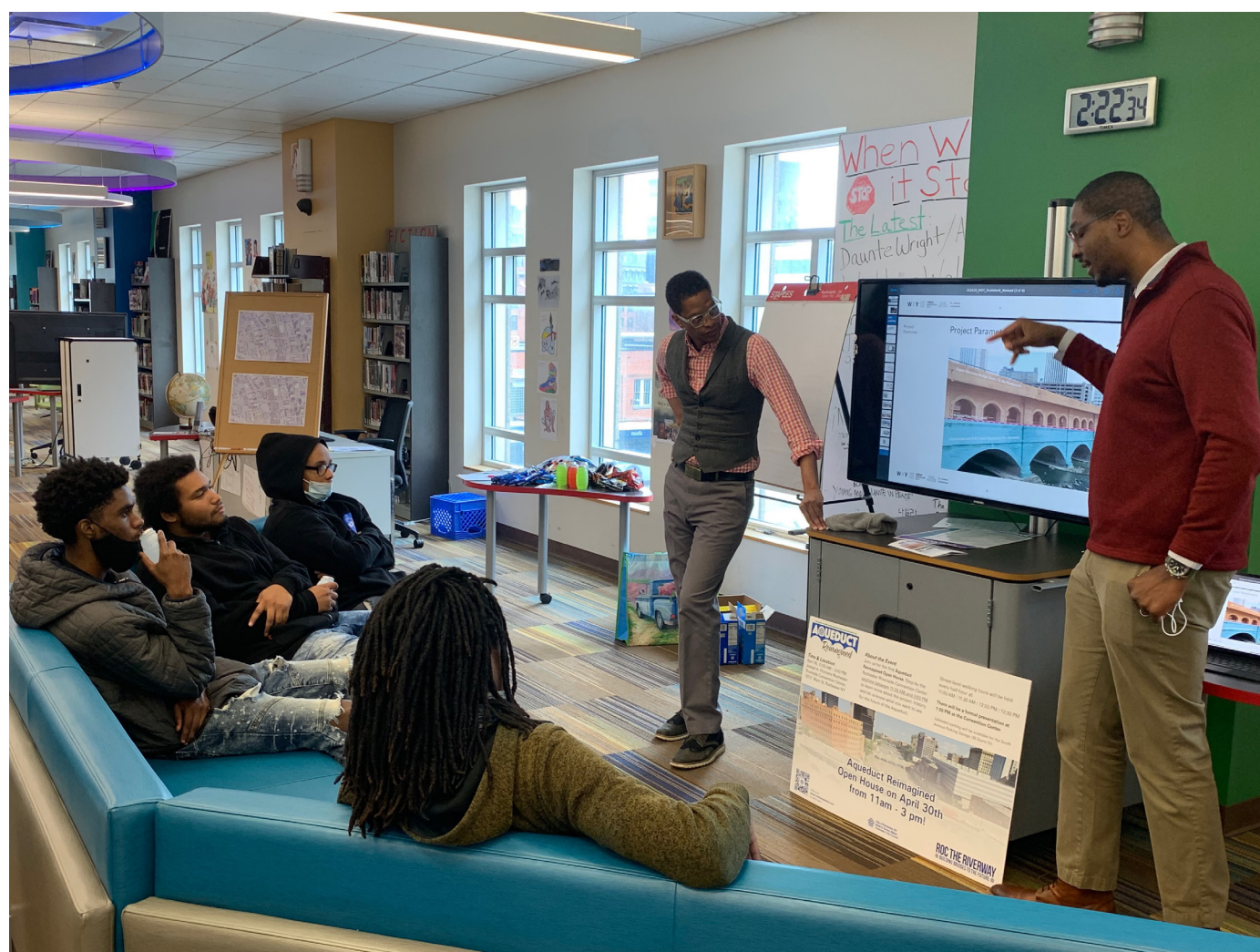
# Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

## Objectives

- Attend regular meetings (approx. every 8 - 10 weeks)
- Act as representatives of local neighborhood groups, businesses and local organizations – build trust and support
- Share perspectives with Consultant Team
- Provide feedback, direction and insights on design materials
- Assist with promotion of meetings, workshops and special events

## Representation

- **City of Rochester**
  - Mayors Office
  - Department of Environmental Services
  - Department of Neighborhood and Business Development
  - Zoning
  - Planning
  - Street Design
  - Bridges
  - Landscape Architecture
  - Architectural Services
  - Construction
  - Buildings and Parks
  - Division of Environmental Quality
  - Department of Youth and Human Services
  - Special Events
  - Fire
- **NYS Department of Transportation**
- **Monroe County Department of Transportation**
- **Monroe County Department of Environmental Services**
- **Empire State Development**
- **Rochester District Heating**
- **RG&E**
- **Rochester Water Bureau**
- **Rochester Street Lighting**
- **NYSDEC Region 8**
- **Monroe County Pure Waters**
- **US Army Corps of Engineers**
- **NYS Canal Corporation**



Youth Engagement Event



Community Advisory Committee (CAC)



Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)



Neighborhood Outreach



Pop-Ups



Youth Engagement Event



## Precedent: Chicago Riverwalk

**Location:** Chicago, IL

**Completion:** October 2016

**Overall Dimensions:**  
Riverwalk expanded by  
20'-25' wide; 1.25 Miles long

**Cost:** \$419.5M

The Chicago Riverwalk project is an initiative to reclaim the Chicago River for the ecological, recreational and economic benefit of the city.



Before



After



### What Do You Like Most About This Precedent?

(for instance, seating, shading, access to the water, vegetation, water activities, etc.)



## Precedent: Queens Quay

**Location:** Toronto, Canada

**Completion:** 2006-2015

**Overall Dimensions:**

Pedestrian promenade is 13-23' wide for West portion and 20-26' wide on East portion; 1.74 miles long

**Cost:** \$128.9M

Queens Quay is the main East-West street running along the Toronto waterfront. This reconstruction expanded bike trail connectivity and improved pedestrian access to the waterfront including newly constructed recreation facilities.



Before



After



## What Do You Like Most About This Precedent?

(for instance, play elements, seating, materiality, etc.)



## Precedent: The Highline

**Location:** New York, NY

**Completion:** October 2014

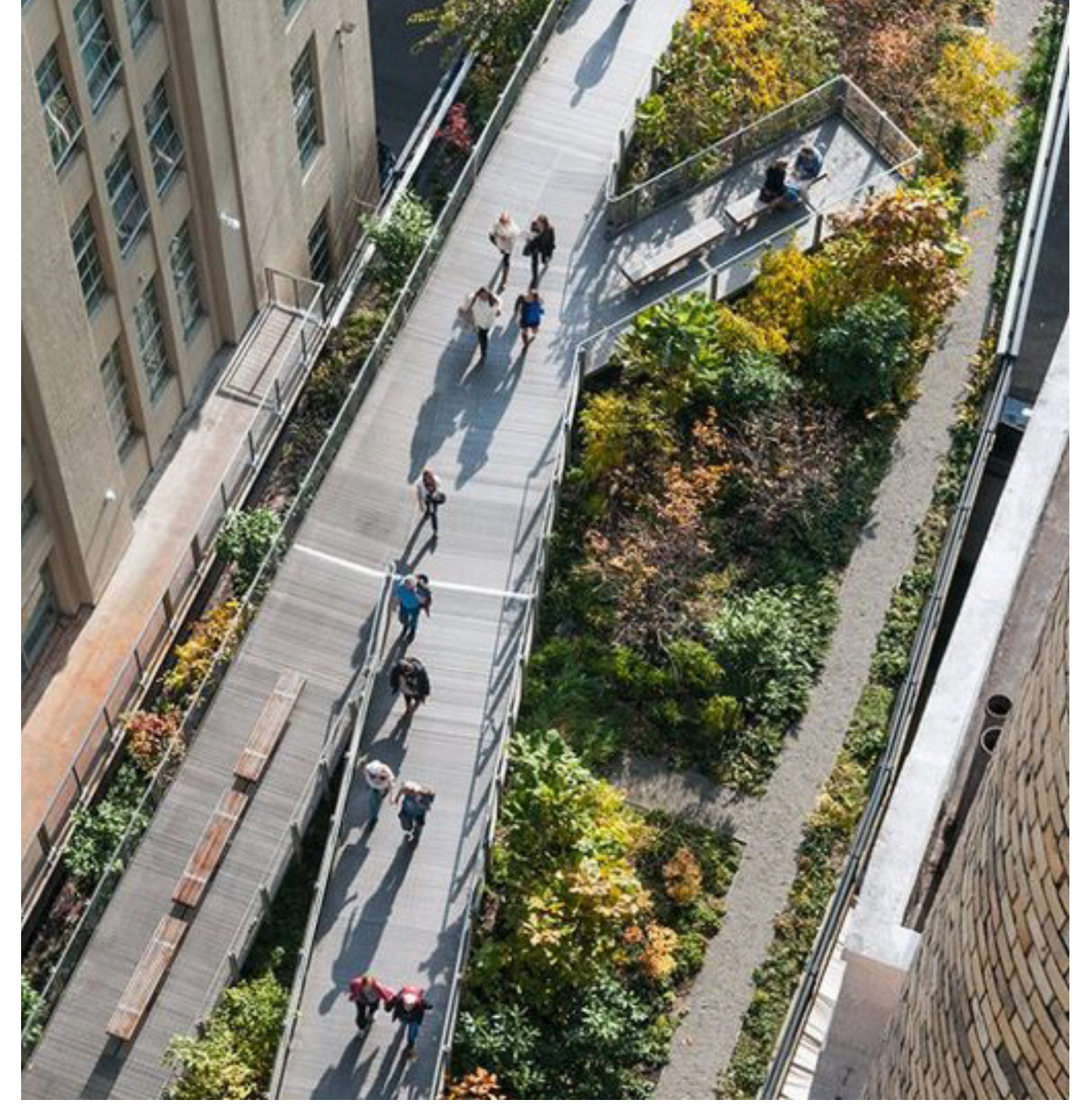
**Overall Dimensions:**  
30'-50' wide; 1.5 Miles long

**Cost:** \$152M

The High Line is an elevated linear public park and greenway built on an historic freight rail line elevated above the streets on Manhattan's West Side. The High Line opened in 2009 as a hybrid public space where visitors experience nature, art, and design.



Before



After



### What Do You Like Most About This Precedent?

(for instance, seating, vegetation, views, programming. etc.)



## Community Stakeholders

The project team recognizes that a successful inclusive design requires deep partnership with local stakeholders and community members who will gain a sense of ownership and provide a multi-faceted vision for the Aqueduct.



City of Rochester



Adjacent Property Owners



Street Artists



Downtown Businesses



Youth and Students



Residents and Neighborhood Associations



Local and State Agencies



Traditionally Underrepresented Voices



Programmers

**Who Else Should Be Engaged in the Process?**





# The Aqueduct History & Present

**ROC THE RIVERWAY**  
BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE



City of Rochester, NY  
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Rochester City Council



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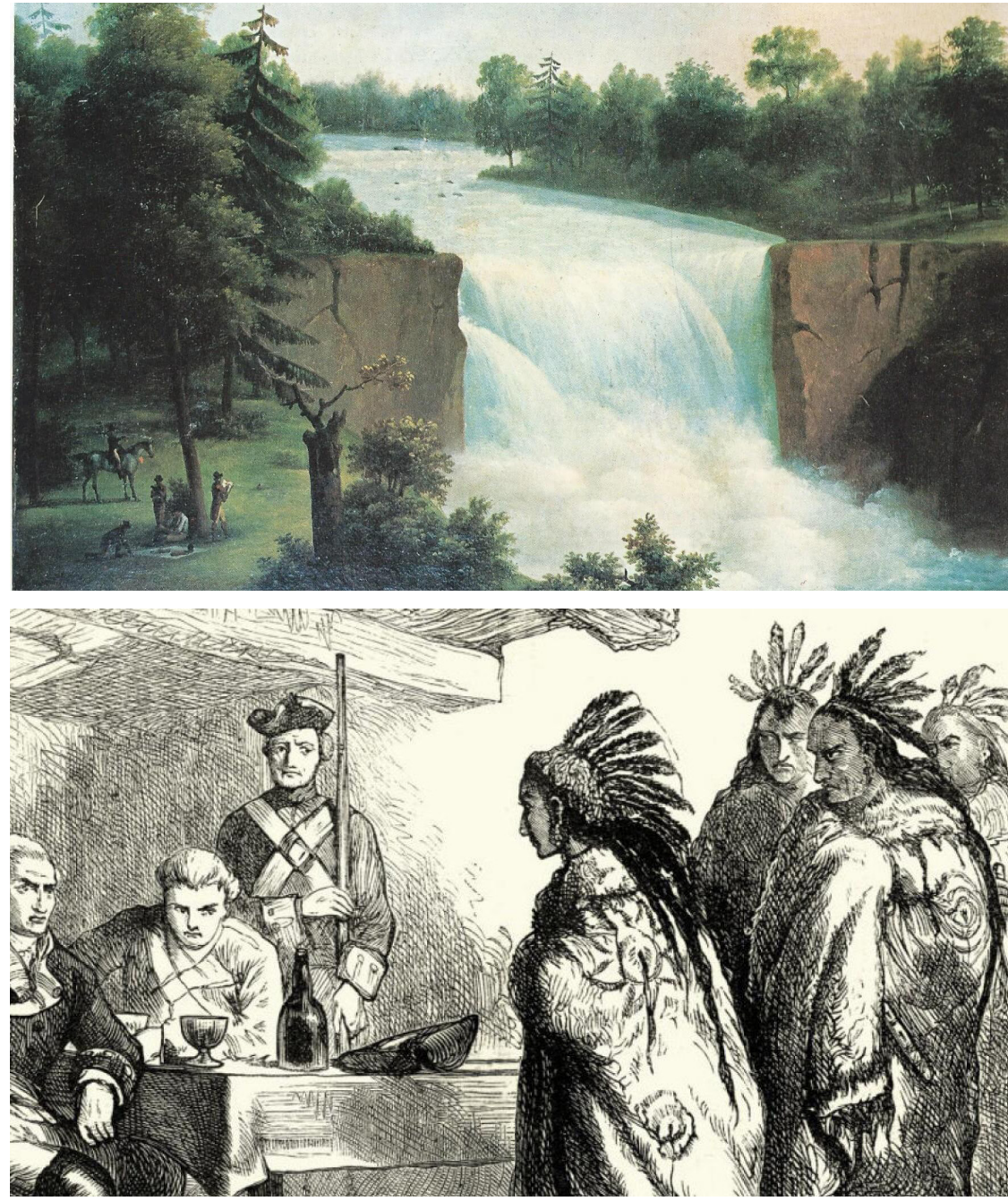
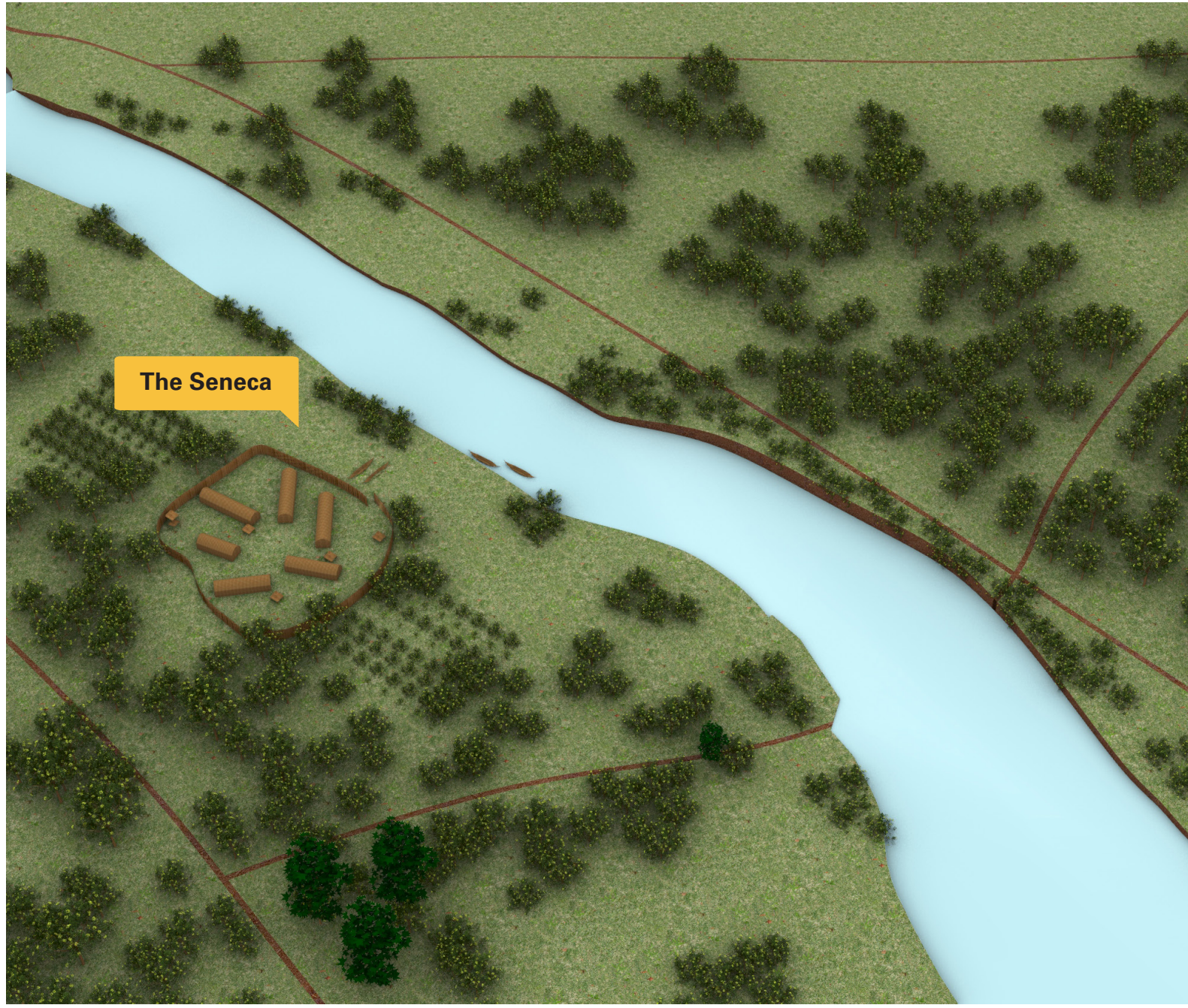


# The Evolution of the Aqueduct



SCAN ME  
TO KNOW  
MORE ABOUT  
AQUEDUCT  
HISTORY!

Pre-1820s



## Indigenous Roots

Rochester's "recent" geological history can be traced to the Laurentide Ice Sheet only 13,000 years ago that carved out the area and developed most of today's topography. The Seneca settled in the area as early as 12,000 years ago, around 10,000-8,000 BC. But in 1782, a series of treaties after the Revolutionary War forced the Iroquois off their lands.

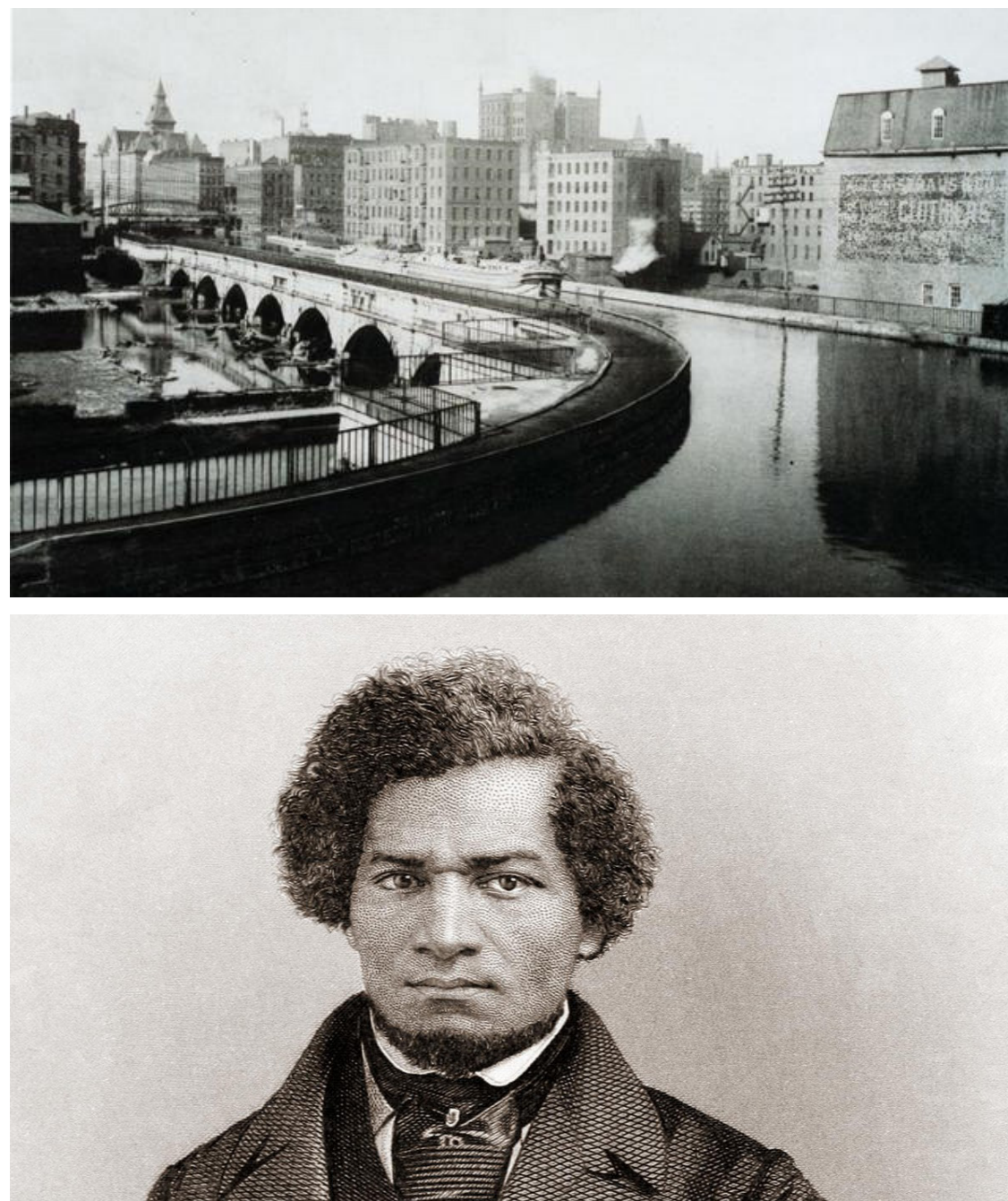
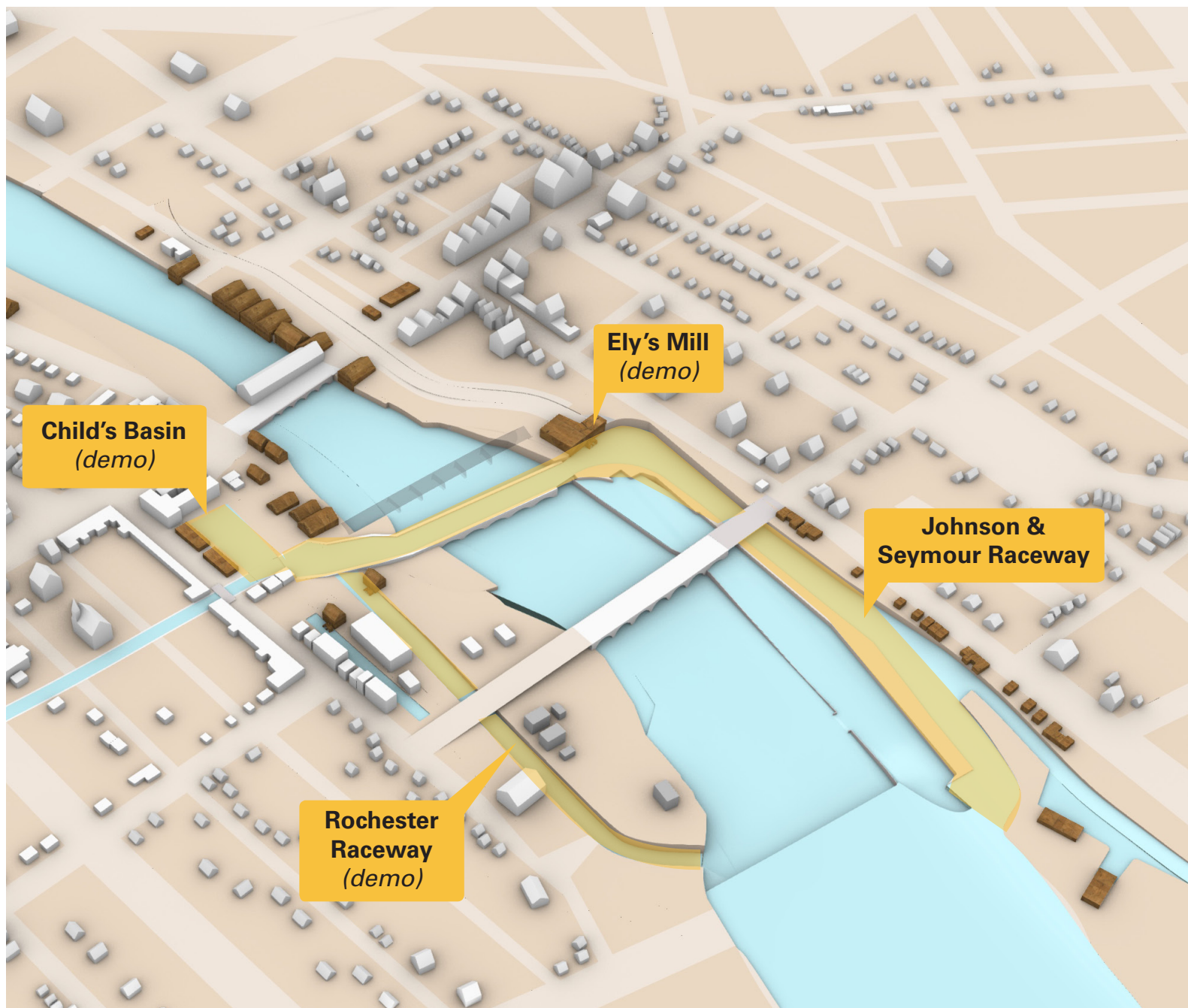
1820s



## The Erie Canal

Water has been a means of profit for the city since its inception. With the routing of the Erie Canal through the center of the city, and the construction of dams along the Genesee, Rochester has systematically created infrastructure to harness the power of water to bring industry and people in. In the 1820s, Irish immigrants, freed blacks and slaves began constructing the Erie Canal in Rochester.

1830s



## The Aqueduct

The Genesee is known for its devastating floods. By the 1830s, the Erie Canal suffered significant flood damage and was rerouted and replaced by the second aqueduct. Industry continued to boom and Child's Basin became an important ship-building hub. The second half of the 19th C., saw prominent abolitionists and suffragists such as Frederick Douglass and Susan B Anthony, who lived, worked, and promoted their ideas in Rochester.

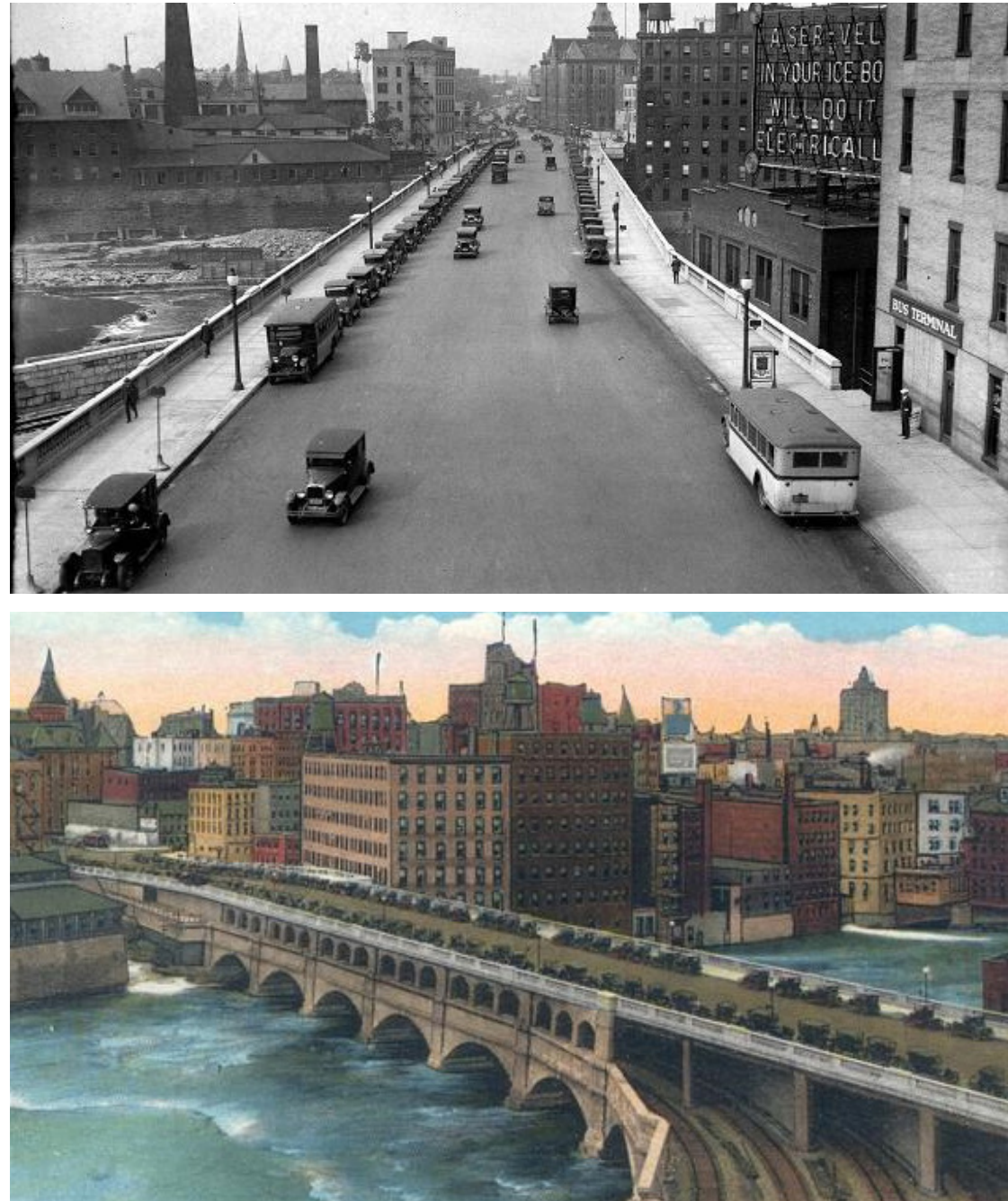
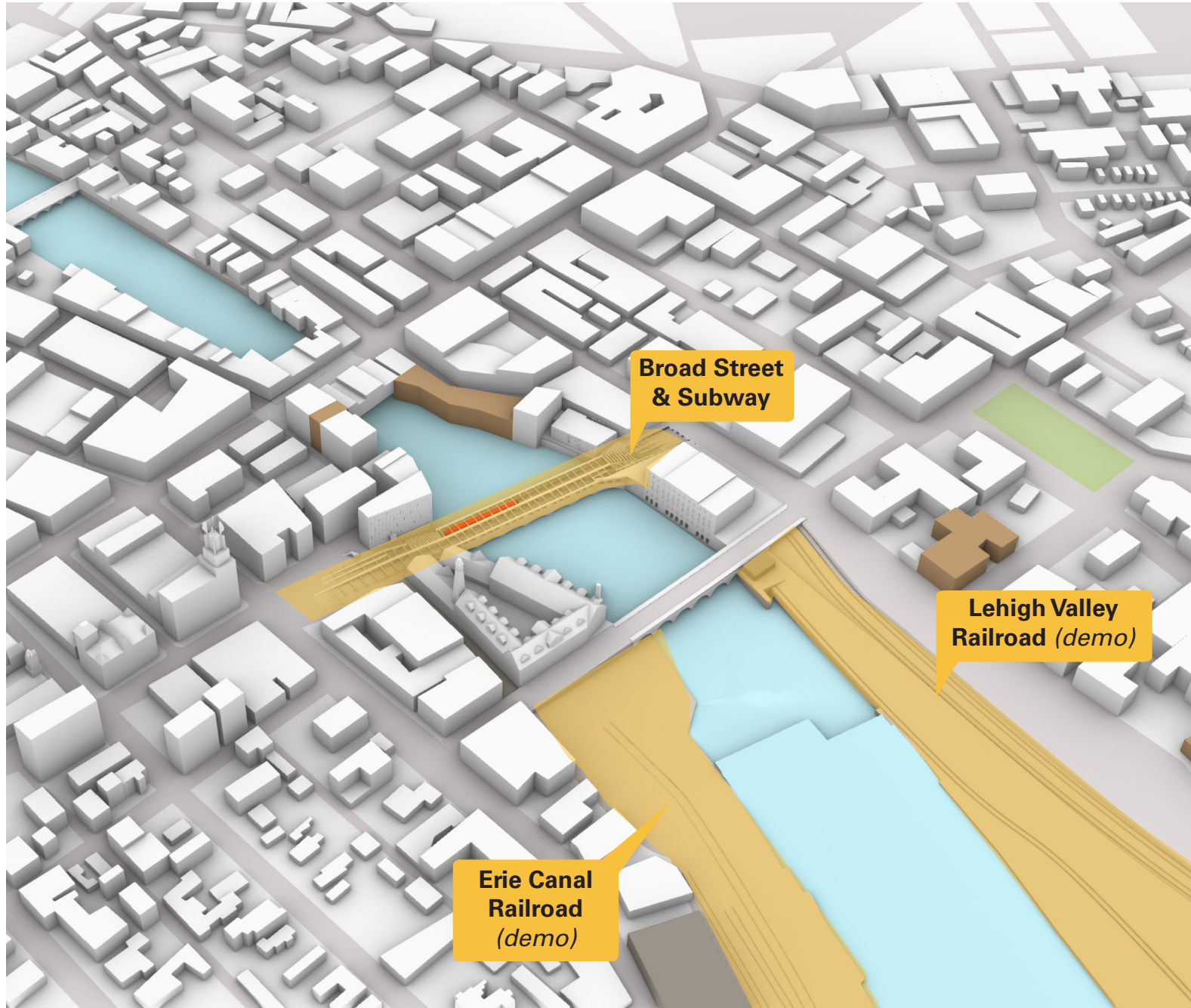


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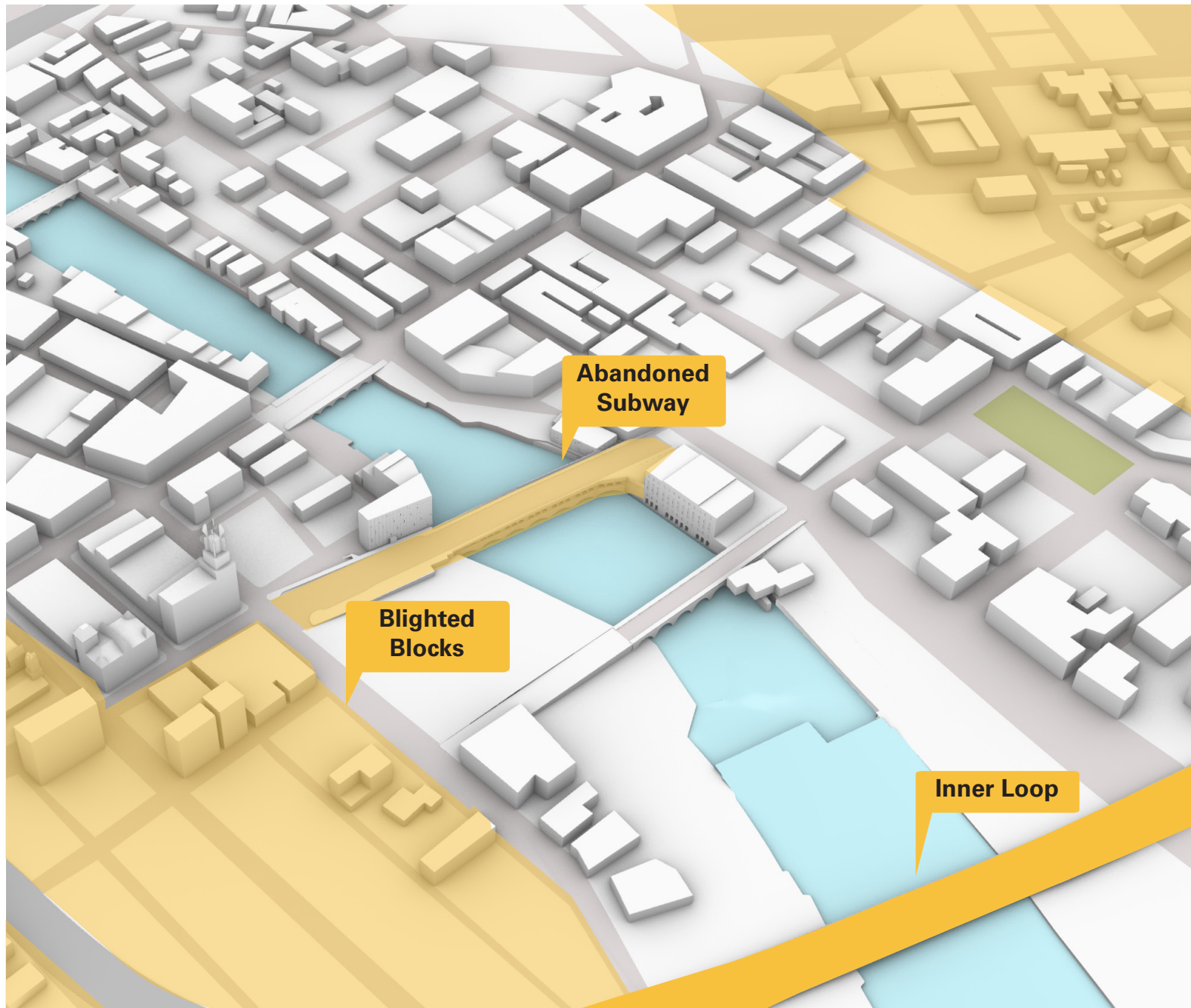
1930s



## Broad Street & Subway

With the development of the railways, buses, and automobile, use of the canal came to a halt. By the 1920s, the Interurban Bus Company merged five trolley lines that connected Rochester, and automobile numbers grew ten-fold within two years. The city made plans to build Broad Street for cars and a subway deck on the old aqueduct bed to serve as interchange tracks for the five railways in Rochester.

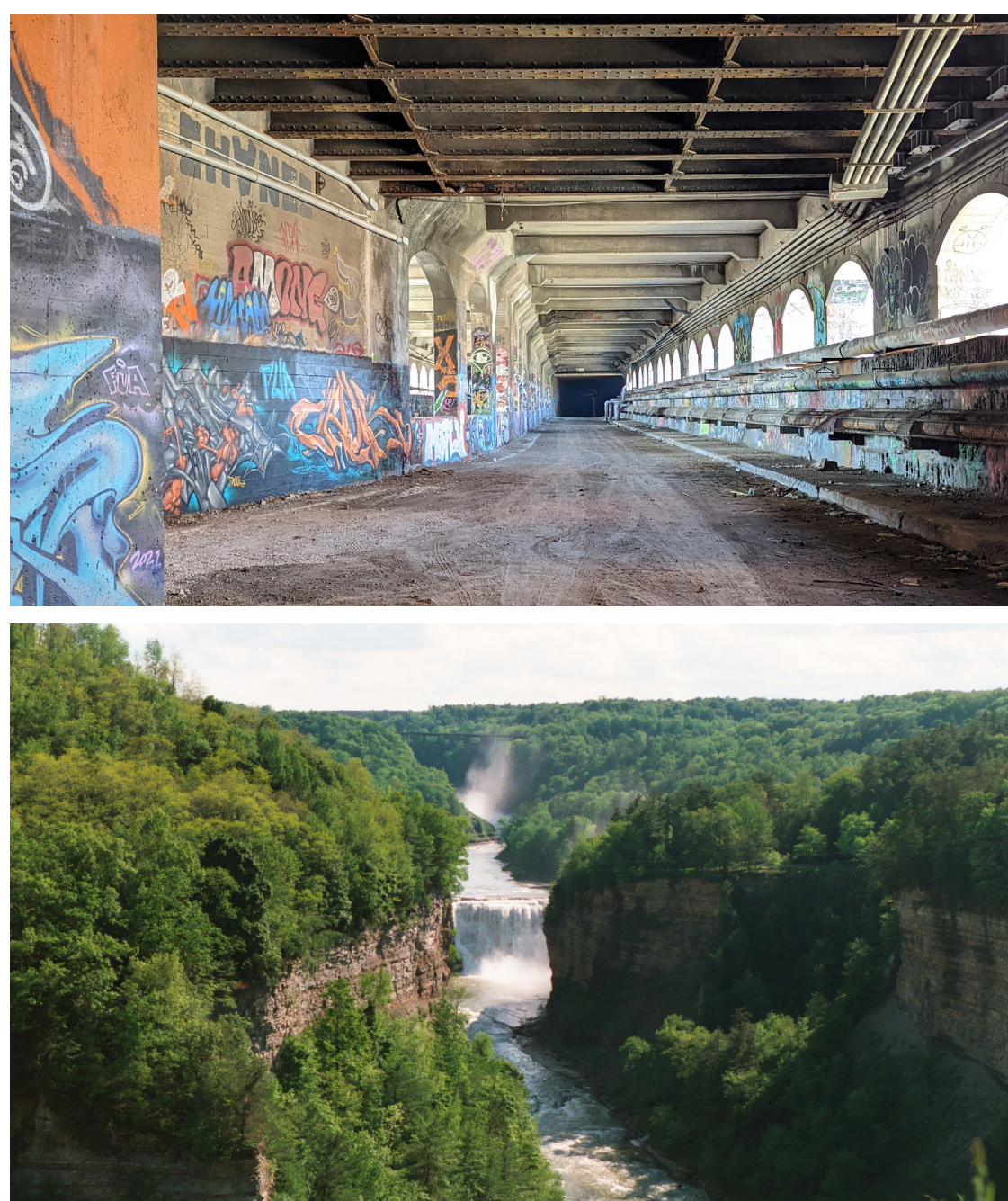
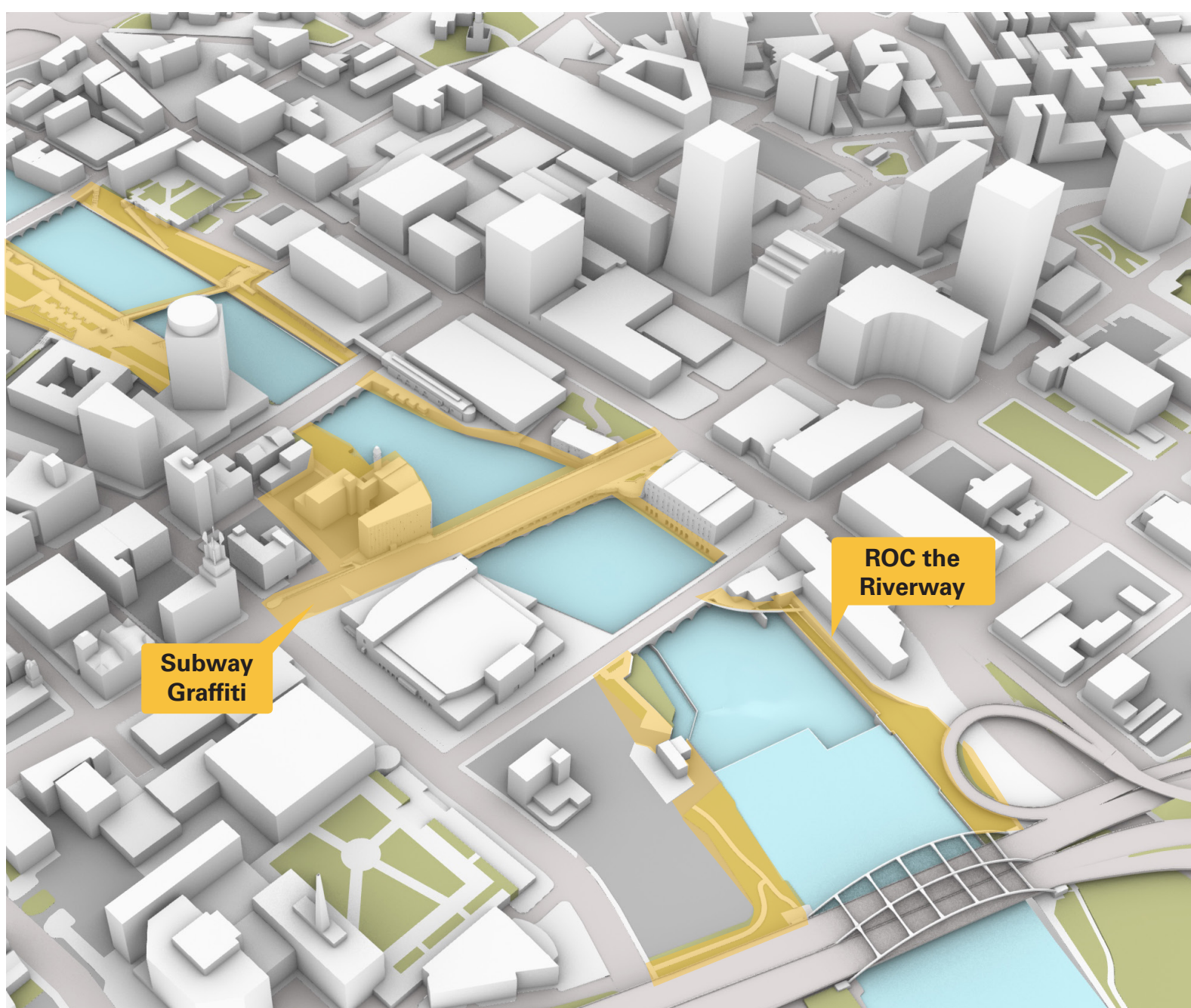
1950s



## Urban Renewal

Suburbanization and White Flight in Monroe County was coupled with a series of urban renewal projects that destroyed many historic areas of the city to make way for highways. The subway was abandoned in the 1950s and the Inner Loop was designed to reconnect the suburban white-flight population to the heart of the central business district. The Urban Renewal project destroyed thousands of buildings and displaced countless families and

Today



## The Riverway: Reclaimed

The subway and canal bed are defunct but have been repurposed for other innovative uses. Graffiti in Rochester dates back to the '60s with the emergence of the 'Rochester Style' in the 1980s. By 2020, the population of Rochester hovered around 206,000. After years of use as an industrial sewer, the river is slowly healing and Investment is again being made along the Genesee.



# The Historical Significance of the Area

The Aqueduct did not develop in isolation and is surrounded by buildings with a rich history, spanning more than two hundred years. The adjacent buildings contain historical significance that contributed to the cultural, economic, mobility, and social development of Rochester

### National Register Listed Properties

1. Main Street Bridge
2. East Main Street Historic District
3. Wilder Building
4. Central Trust Company Building
5. Arcade Mill
6. Herald Building
7. Times Square Building
8. Gannett Building
9. Second Genesee Aqueduct
10. Rundel Memorial Library
11. National Casket Company
12. Court Street Bridge
13. Lehigh Valley Railroad Station

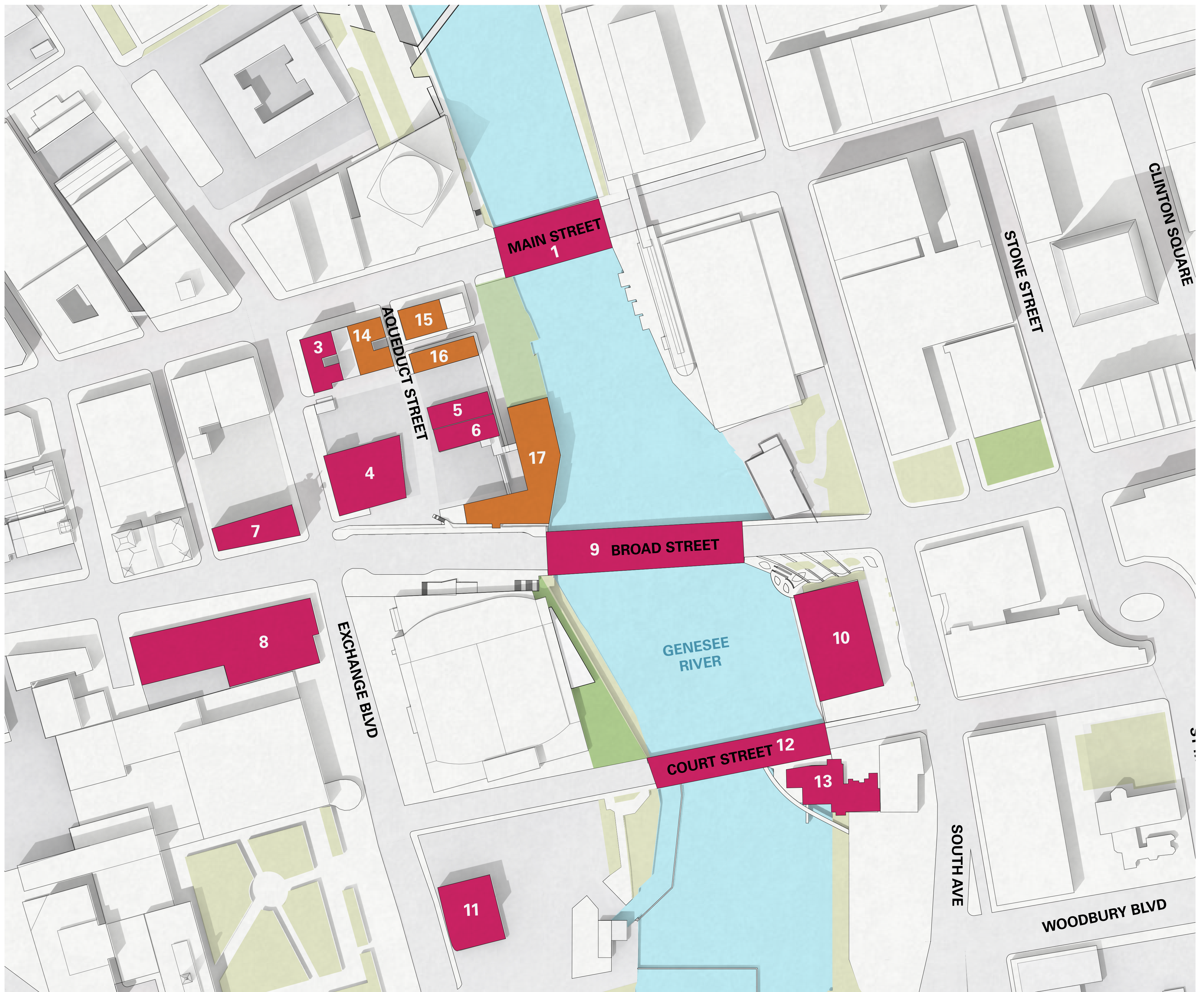
### National Register Eligible Properties

14. Talman Building
15. 31 East Main Street
16. 12-16 Aqueduct Street
17. Aqueduct Building

- National Register - Listed Properties
- National Register - Eligible Properties
- Genesee River
- Open Spaces









SCAN ME TO KNOW MORE ABOUT AQUEDUCT HISTORY!

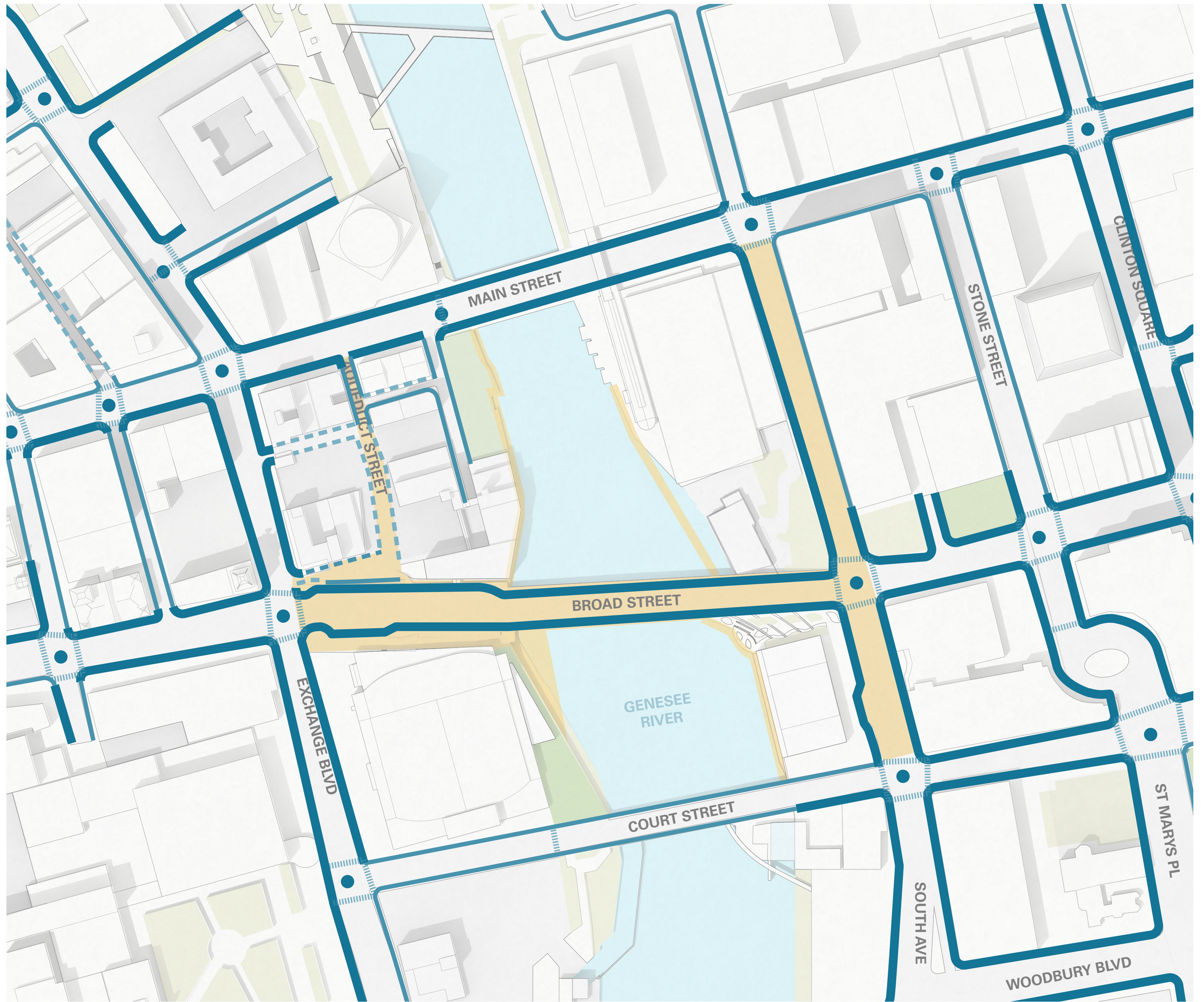




## Promenades: How Will Pedestrians Be Impacted?

Broad Street Bridge consists of sidewalks greater than 12 feet that remains clear of the streetlamps, and occasional planters and seating.

-  Sidewalk > 12'
-  Sidewalk 5-12'
-  Sidewalk <5'
-  Crosswalk
-  Signaled Intersections
-  Project Scope



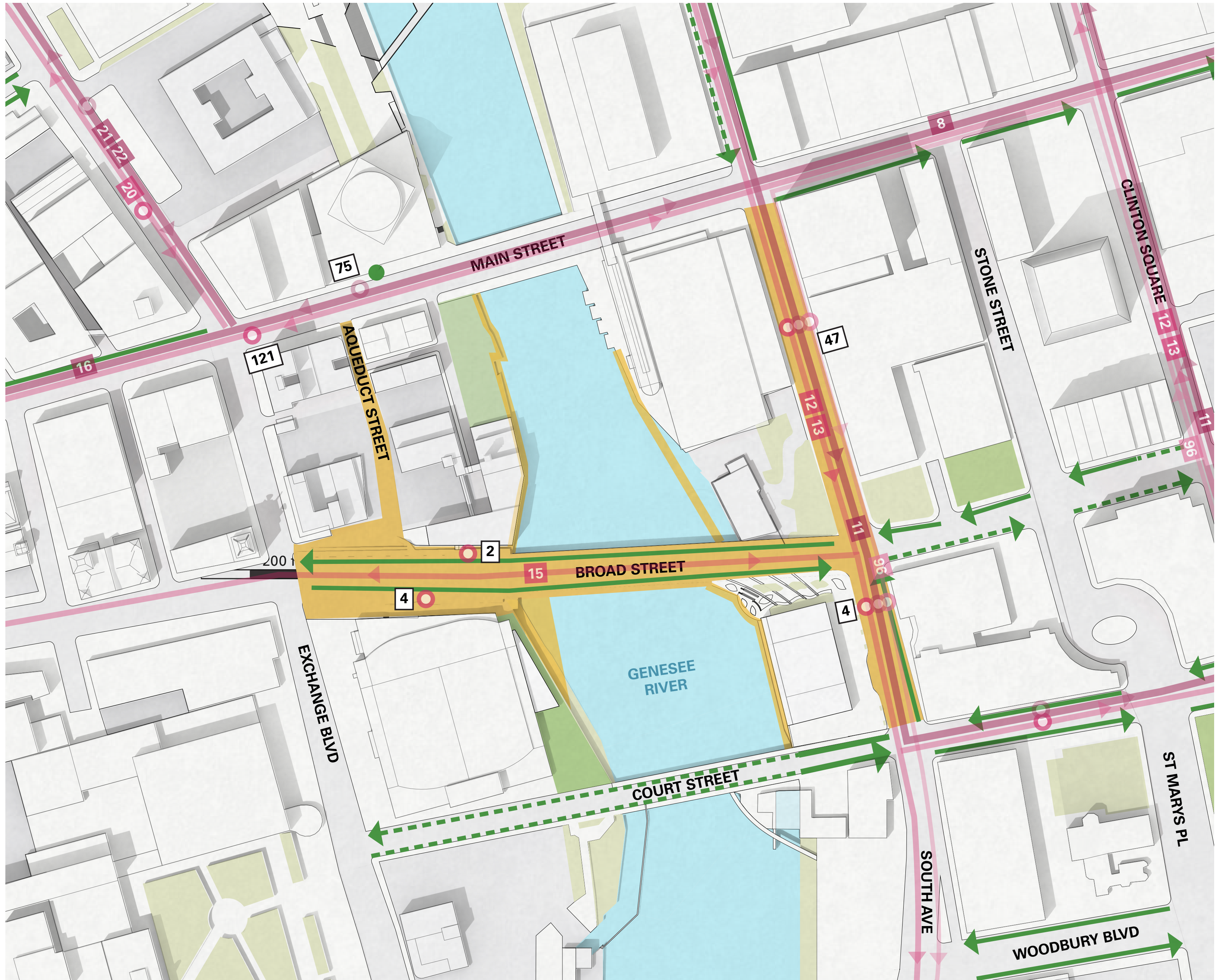
What Would Make the Area More Walkable and Inviting?



## Mobility: How Will Cyclists and Transit Riders Be Impacted?

Broad Street Bridge consists of unprotected bike lanes in both direction. Bus lines travel both ways with bus stops in front of the Blue Cross Arena and Aqueduct Building.

- Bike Shared use
  - Bike - Not Protected
  - Frequent Bus Service
  - Commuter Service
  - Bus Stop
  - Project Scope
- 100ft. 200 ft. 400 ft.



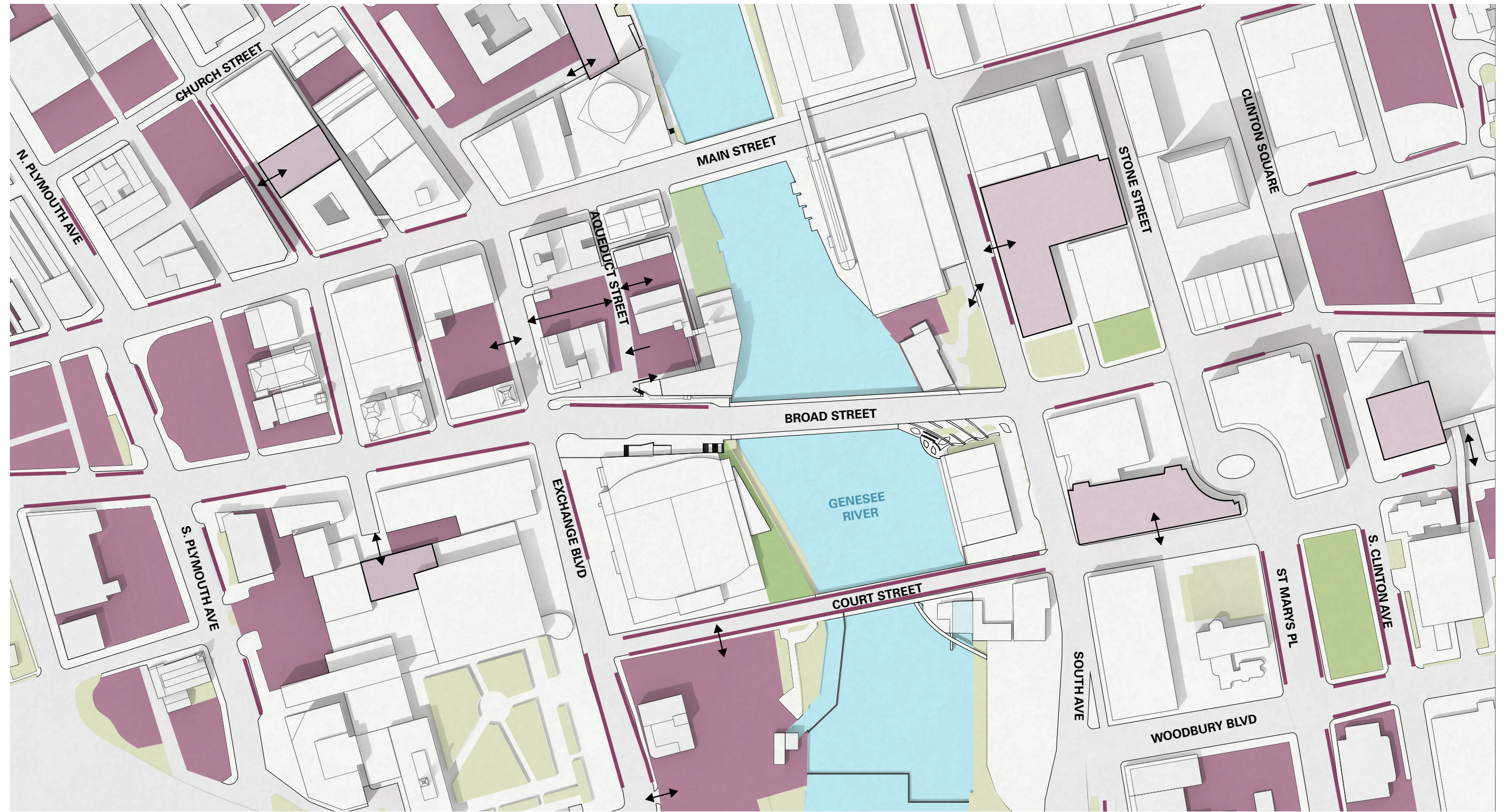
What Would Make the Area More Inviting for Cyclists and Transit Riders?



## Mobility: How Will Drivers Be Impacted?

Broad Street Bridge and South Avenue from Main to Court Street both have substantial average daily traffic (ADT) counts from between 8,600 and up to 15,000 vehicles per day. **Excess capacity in the surrounding streets will absorb displaced vehicular traffic.**

- Entrances & Exits
- Surface Parking
- Parking Garages
- On Street Parking
- >10,000 ADT
- 5,000-10,000 ADT
- <5,000 ADT
- Project Scope





**What is a Part of Rochester's History that You Feel Most Connected To?**



## How Can the Aqueduct Transformation Improve the Quality of Life for Rochestarians Living, Working, or Visiting this Area?



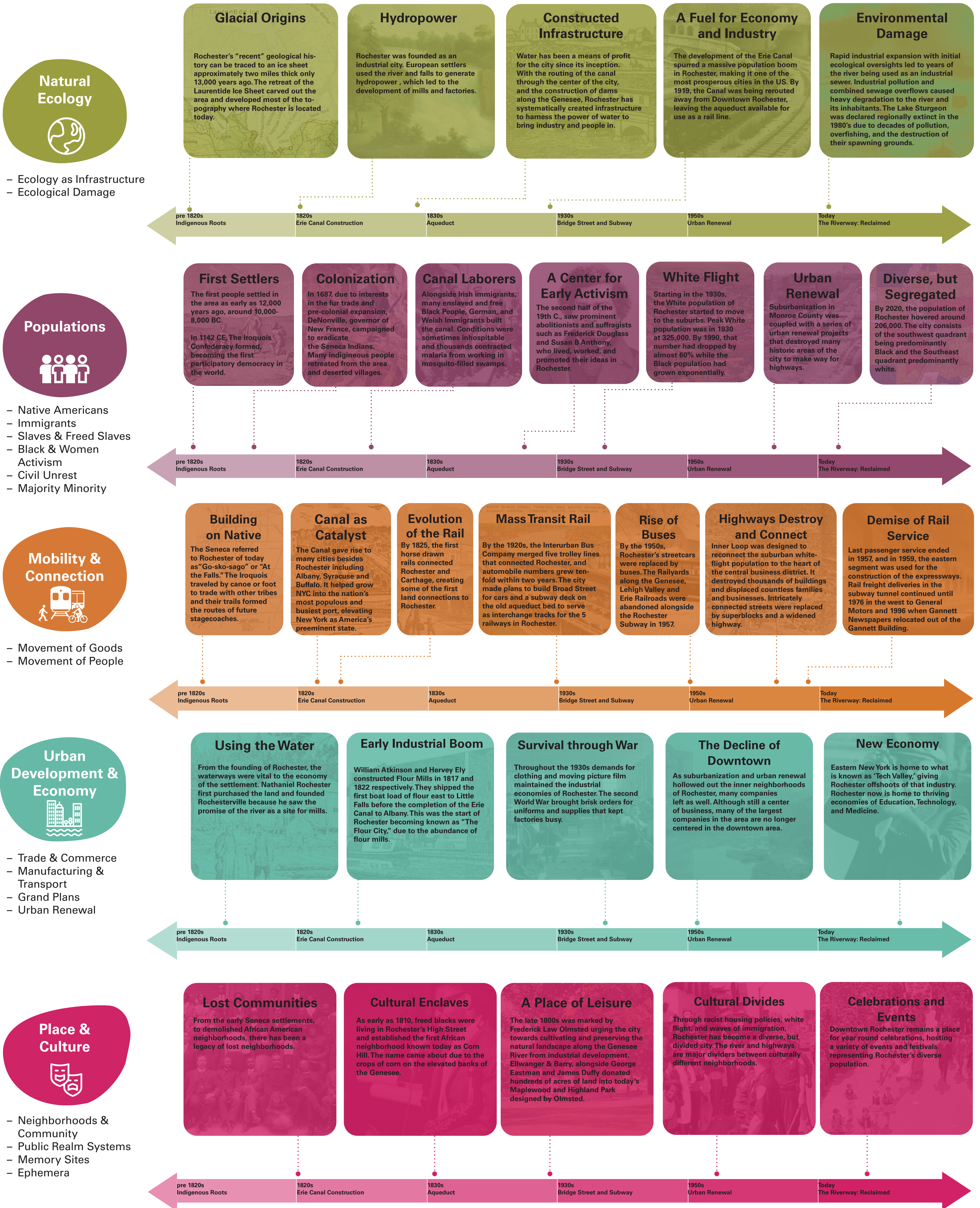


# Five Lenses on Rochester's History



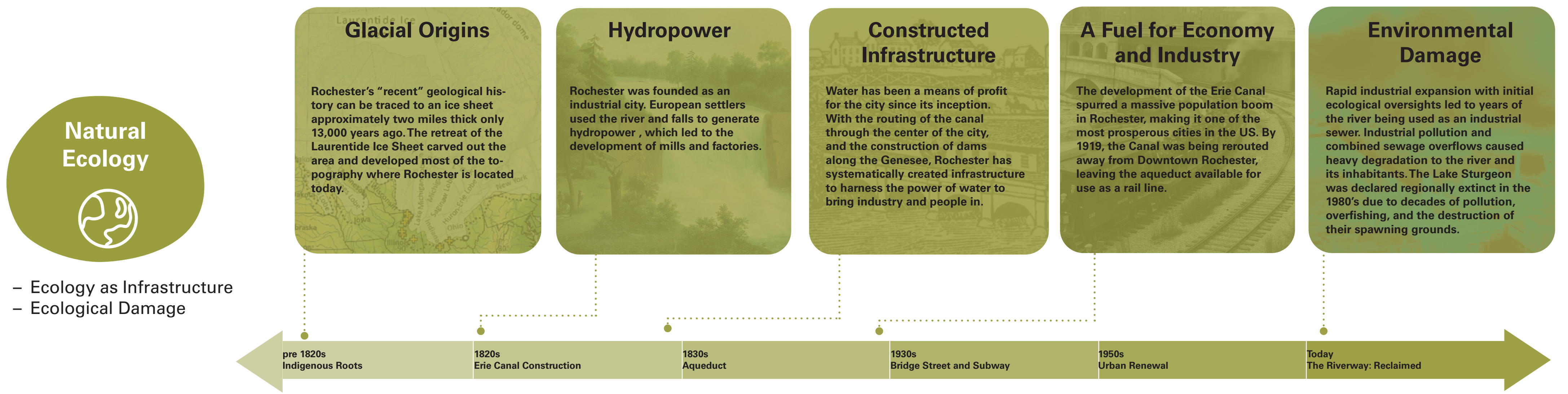


# Thematic Overview





# The Power of the River



## How Can This Project ...

### Better Connect Downtown and the River?

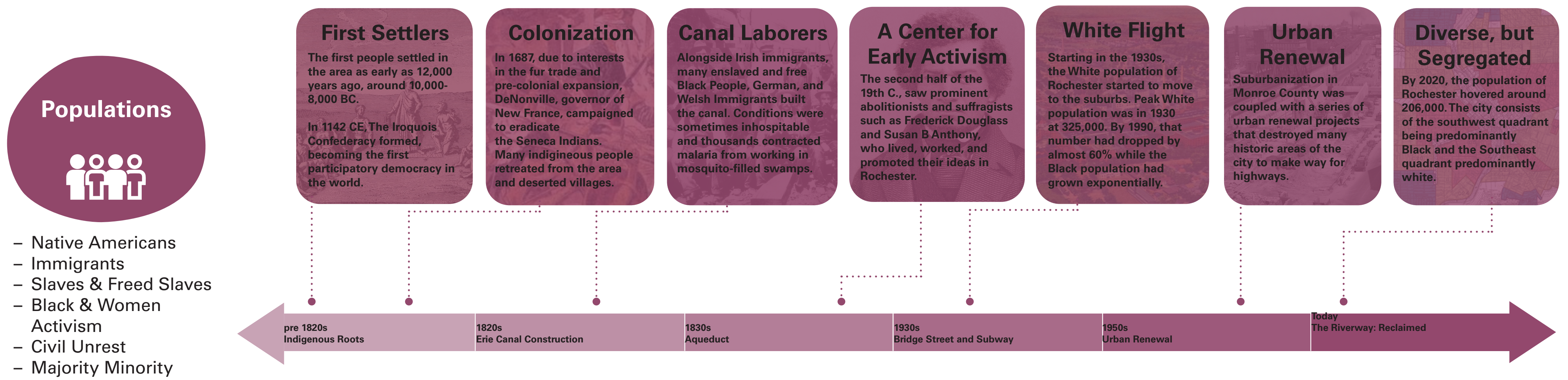
### Connect People to Nature?

### Support the Biodiversity of the Area?

### Educate the Youth on Rochester's Nature?



# Diversity is in Our DNA



What Must the Aqueduct Project Consider in Order to Draw the Most Diverse Range of Users?

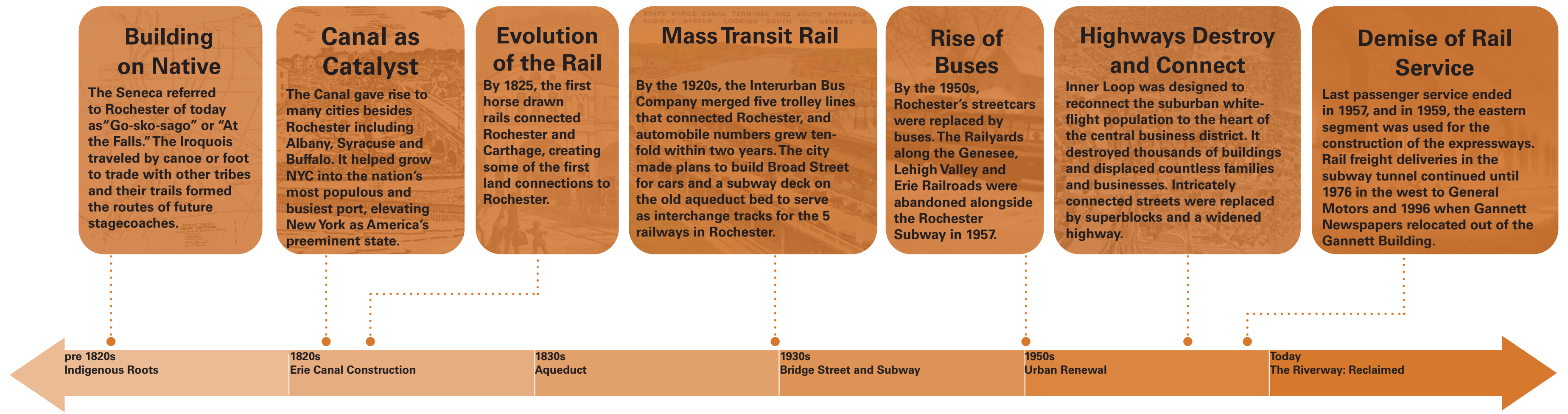
Who Should the Aqueduct Project Be Designed For?





## Mobility & Connection

- Movement of Goods
- Movement of People



## How Can the Design Encourage People to Cross the River from the East or West?

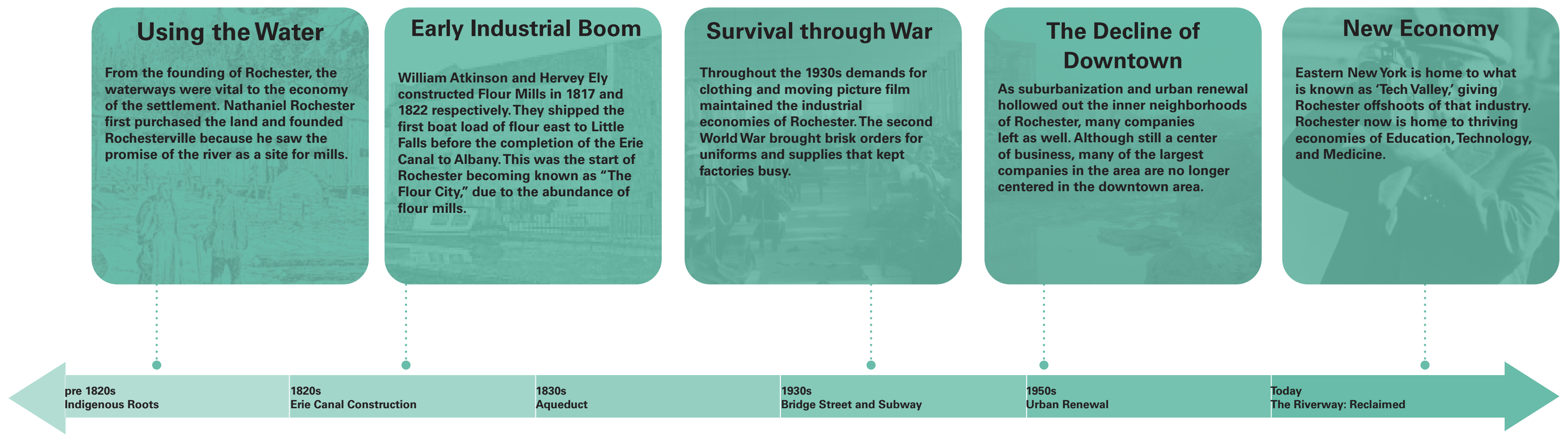
## How Can the Aqueduct Project Better Connect Surrounding Neighborhoods?



# Economic Boom, Bust, Boom



- Trade & Commerce
- Manufacturing & Transport
- Grand Plans
- Urban Renewal

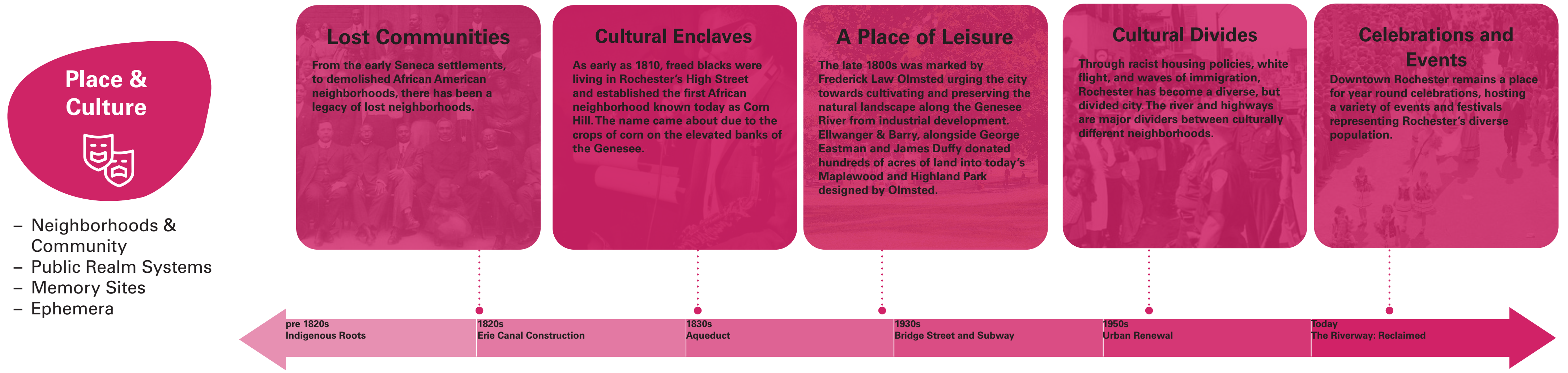


How Do You Think a Public Space Like the Aqueduct Project Can Contribute to the Local Economy?

What Would Make this Site an Attraction for Workers, Residents, and Tourists?



# Culture Protected, Culture Restored



**What Cultures, Histories, Traditions and Identities (Past, Lost/Erased, and Present) Should Be Considered as Part of the Design and Programming of the Aqueduct?**

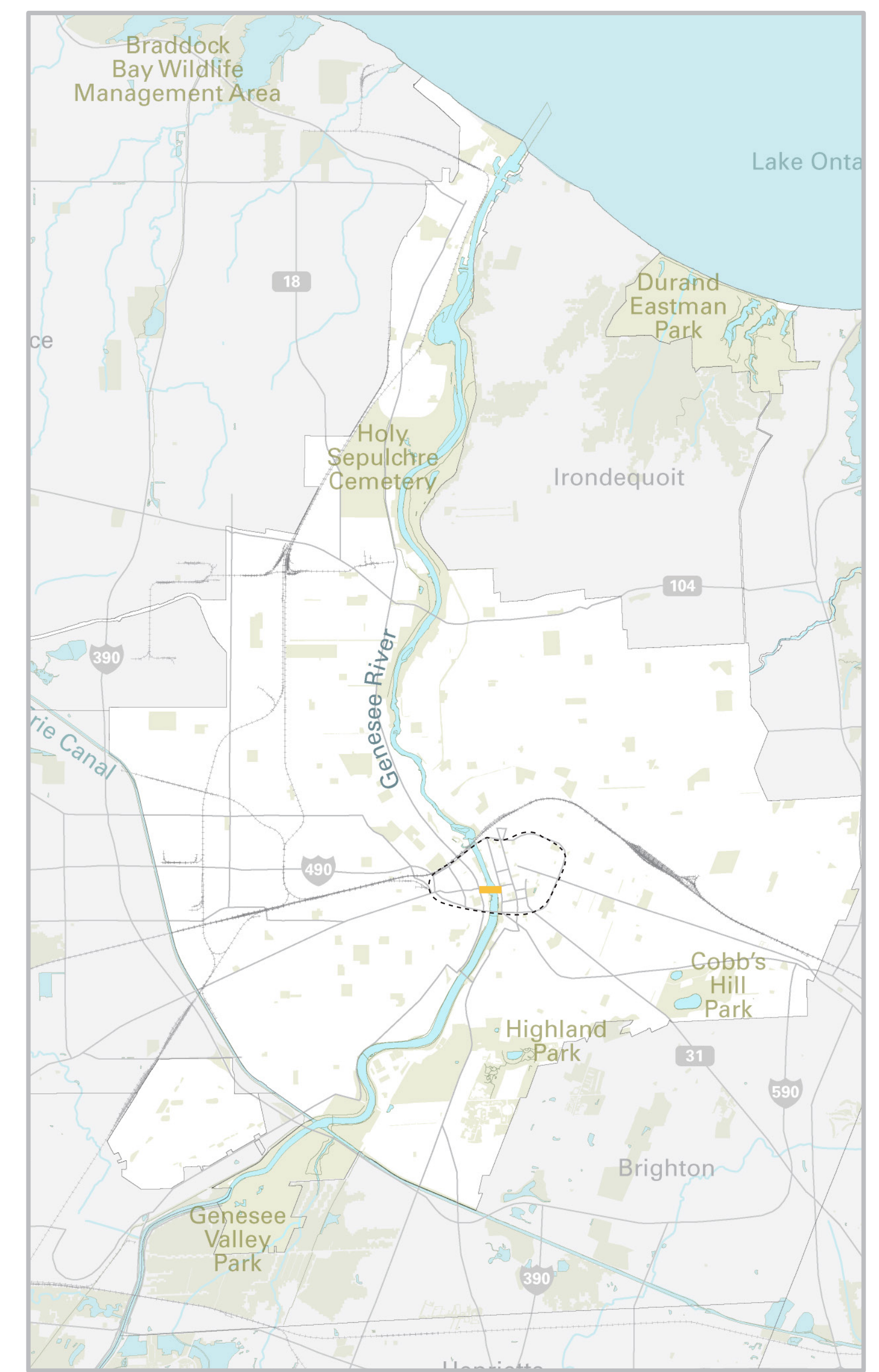
**How Can this Transformation Make the Area Feel More Welcoming and Inviting to You?**





**On the Map, Draw a Line Along a Route You Typically Walk and Place a Colored Dot to Indicate:**

- Place of Residence
- Place of Work
- Recreational Destination
- Place you Avoid





# Create Your Own Space for Play

Use your imagination to create a space to explore and play on the Broad Street Bridge!



Natural Elements



Slides



Water Feature



Shade & Canopy



# Record Your Feedback

Have an idea, feedback or a story you want to verbally share with the team?

Stop here to record your ideas, thoughts, and stories. With your permission, the video may be shared on the project website.



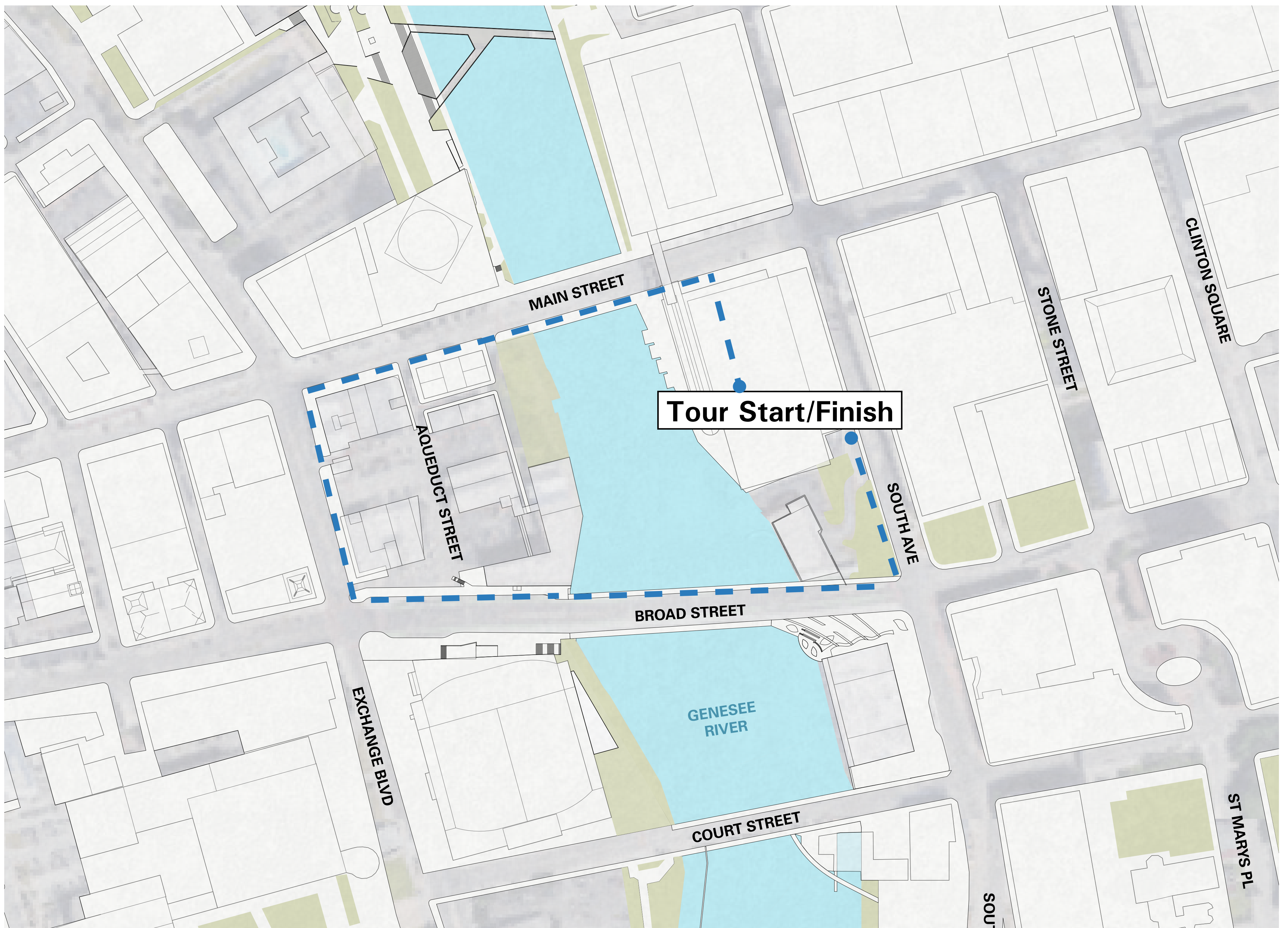


# Walking Tour

Meet here to participate in a street-level walking tour of the project area! Tours are available at the following times:

**11:00 AM // 11:30 AM // 12:00 PM // 12:30 PM**

If you have any special needs, please speak with one of the team members in advance of the tour.





## What Do You Hope the Aqueduct Transformation Could Achieve?

(for instance, preserve historical and cultural assets, revitalize the Genesee river waterfront, boost local economy, etc.)



## How Should the Aqueduct Transformation be Different/Unique from Other Public Spaces?



## How Do You Envision Rochester's Newest Public Space?



# AQUEDUCT

## Reimagined

Building Bridges to the Future!



**ROC THE RIVERWAY**  
BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE



City of Rochester, NY  
Malik D. Evans, Mayor  
Rochester City Council



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