

AQUEDUCT

Reimagined



Public Meeting #1
April 30, 2022

ROC THE RIVERWAY
BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE



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

Richard Perrin, DES Commissioner
Holly Barrett, City Engineer
Kamal Crues, Project Manager

Who's in The Room

- Team Introductions

Bergmann



WXY Architecture + Urban Design



Urban American City



Team
Introductions



Jessica Lieberman, PhD
Visual Culture Professor | **RIT**



Team
Introductions



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Rethinking the Aqueduct

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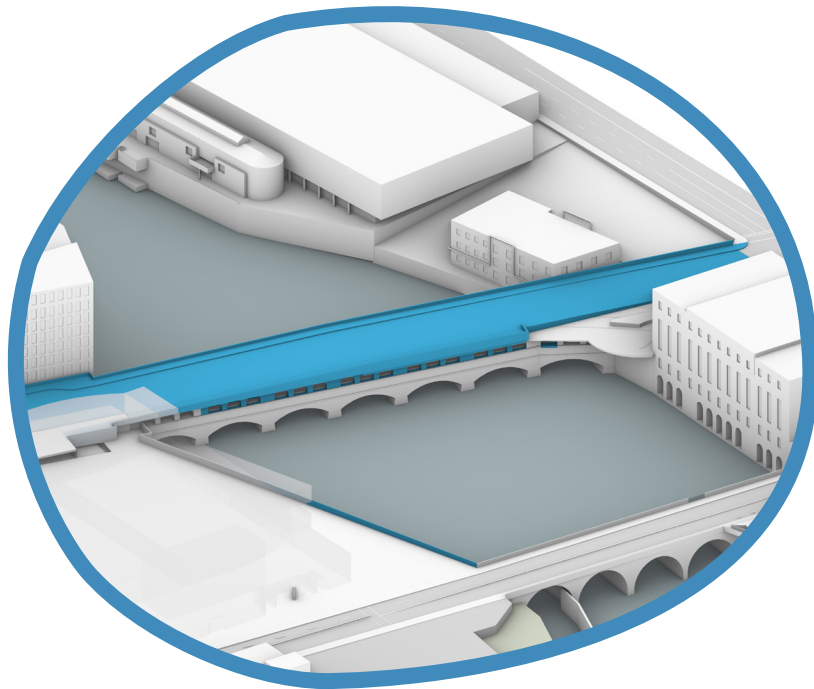
Next Steps

Rethinking the Aqueduct

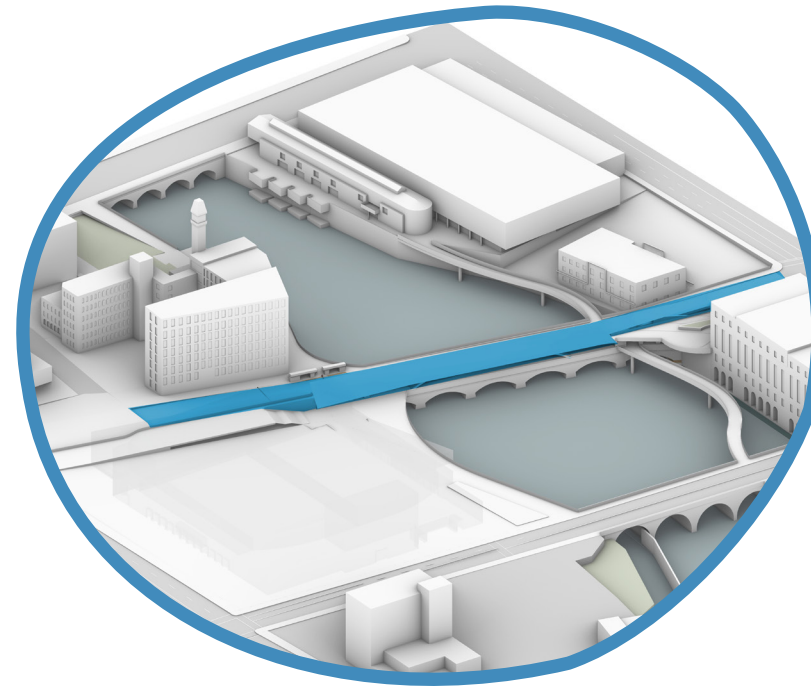
- **Project Overview**
- **Opportunities**
- **Vision & Goals**

Project Definition & Scope

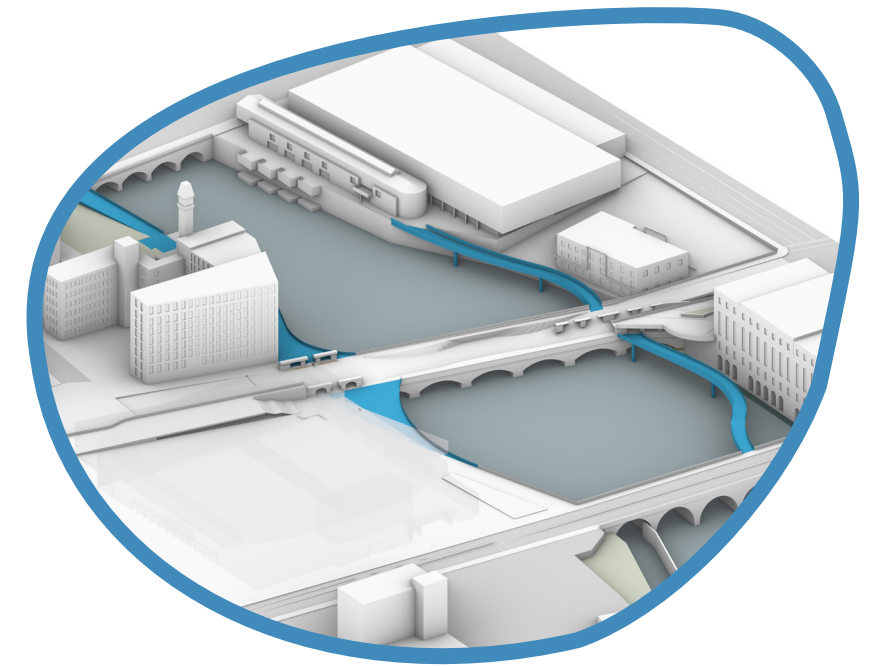
The project consists of three main components as defined by the Mayor's vision:



**Revealing the
Aqueduct / Broad
Street Bridge Removal**



**Aqueduct
Reconfiguration**



**Riverfront
Promenades**

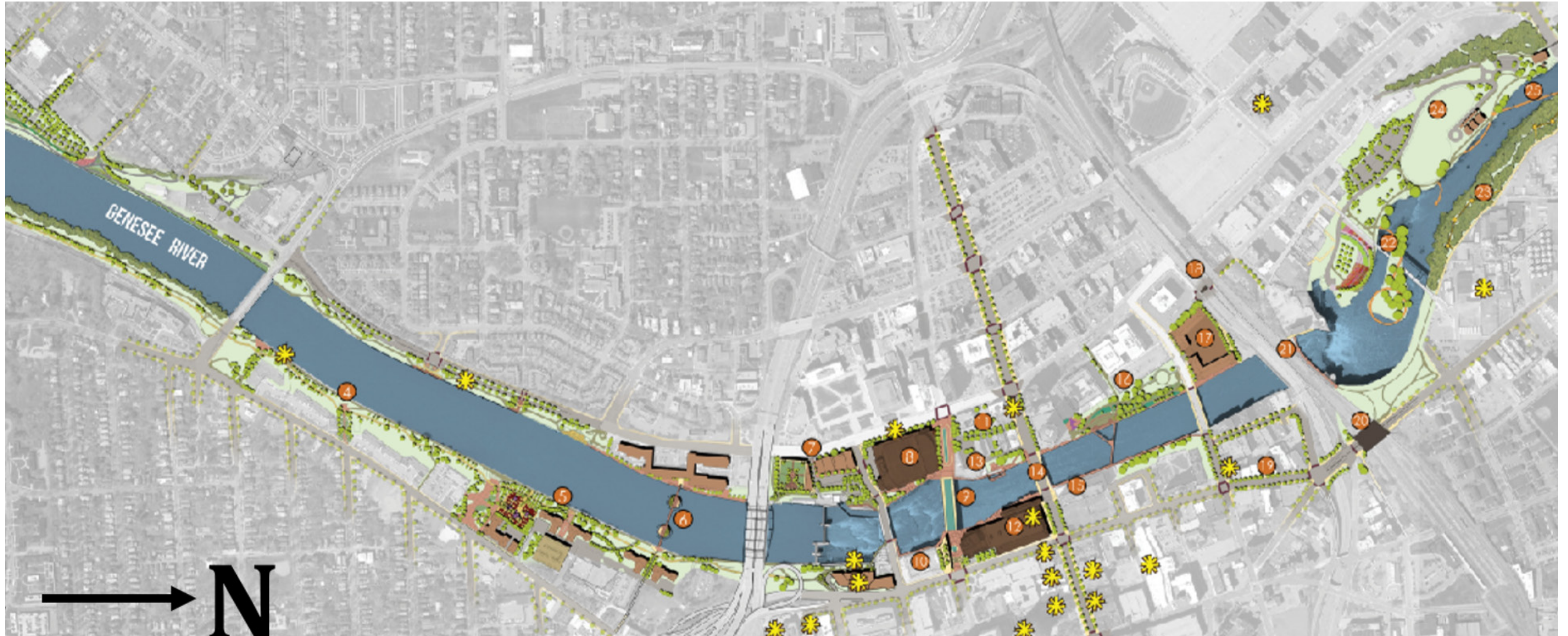
ROC THE RIVERWAY

 BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE 



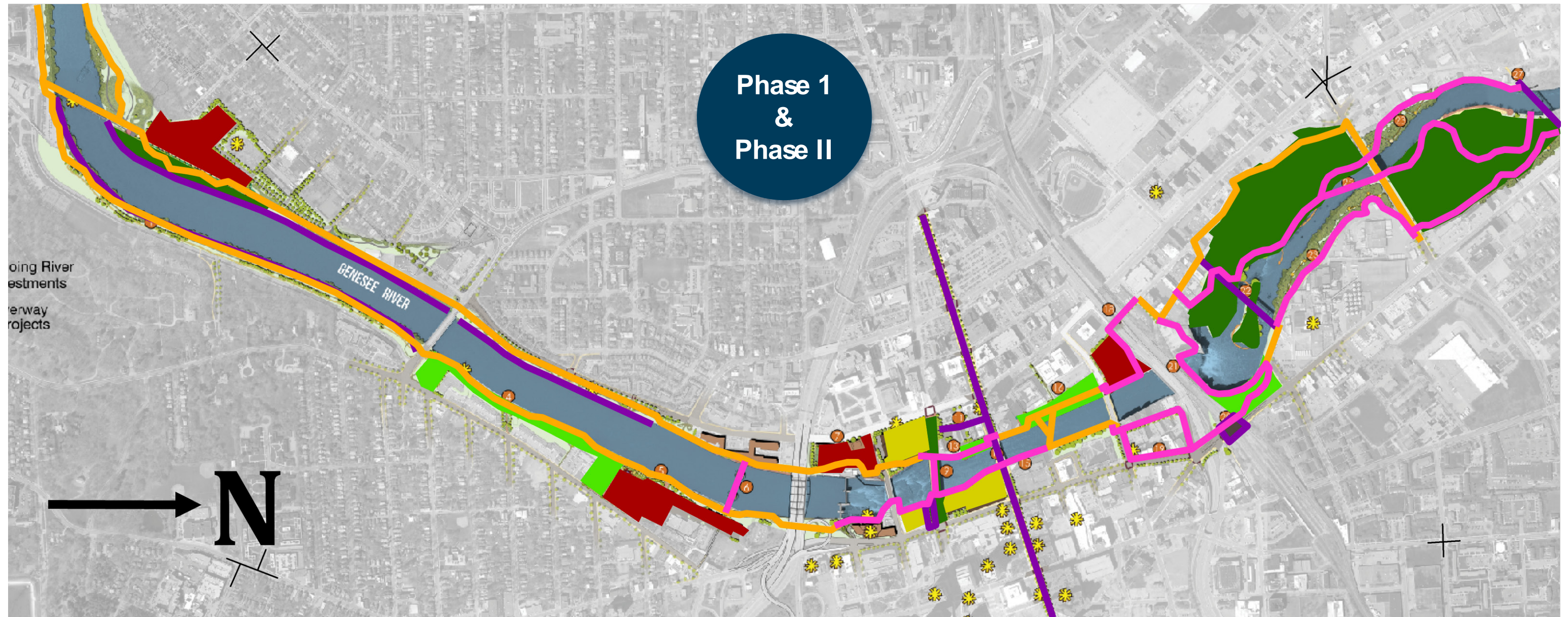
Roc the Riverway Vision Plan

- Leverage over \$800M of recent public & private investment
- \$500M RTR investment >> \$2.8B economic impact



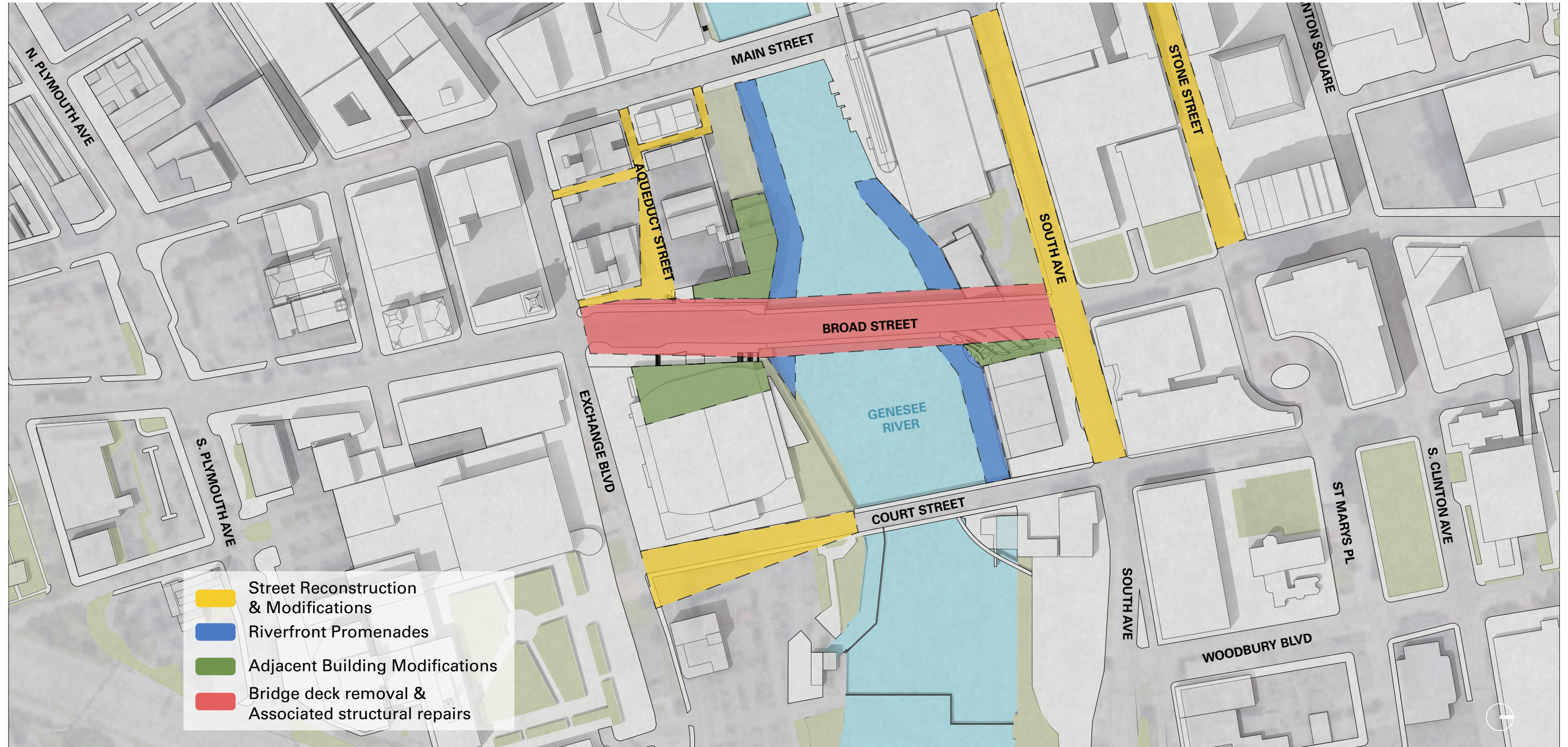
Roc the Riverway Vision Plan

- Park improvements
- New parks / public spaces
- Trail upgrades
- New trail connections
- Infrastructure improvements
- Public facility upgrades
- Private development sites



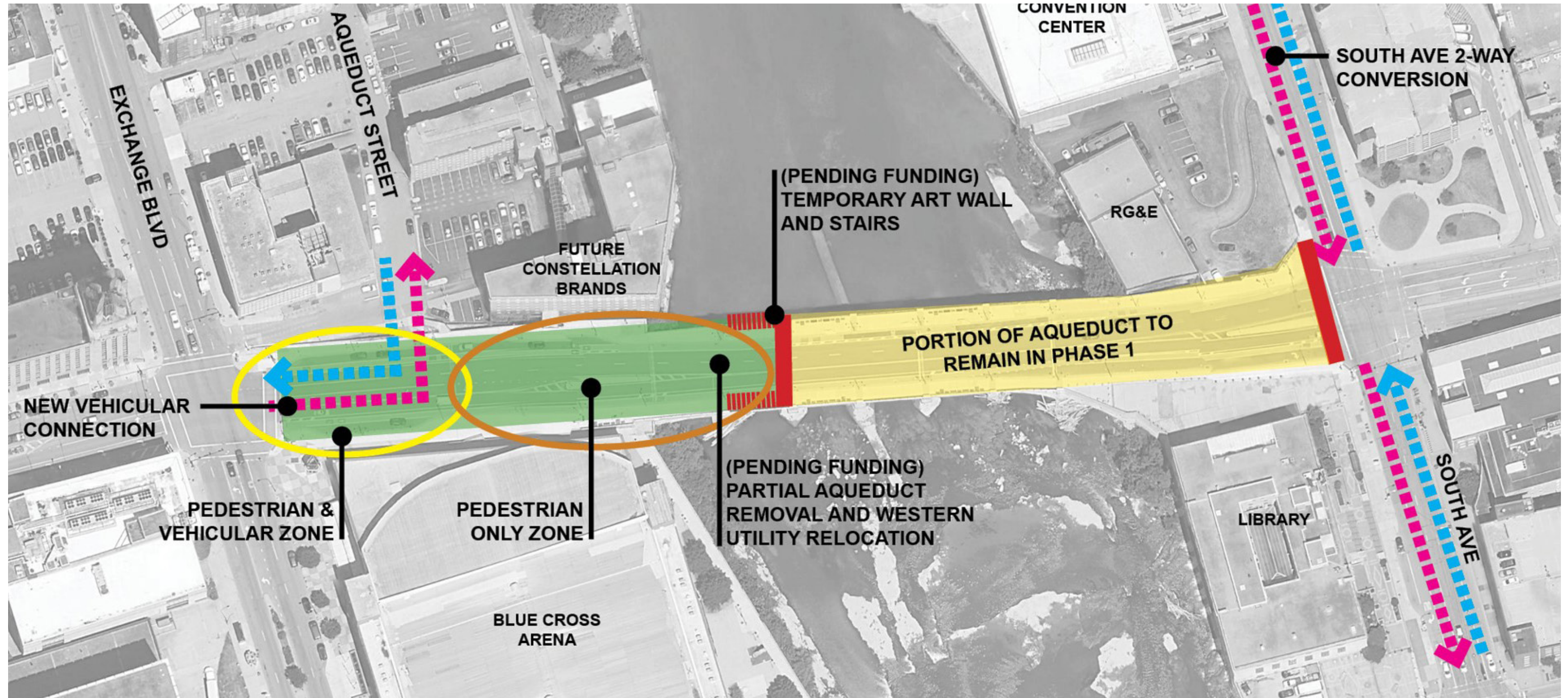
Aqueduct Reimagined

Project Extent

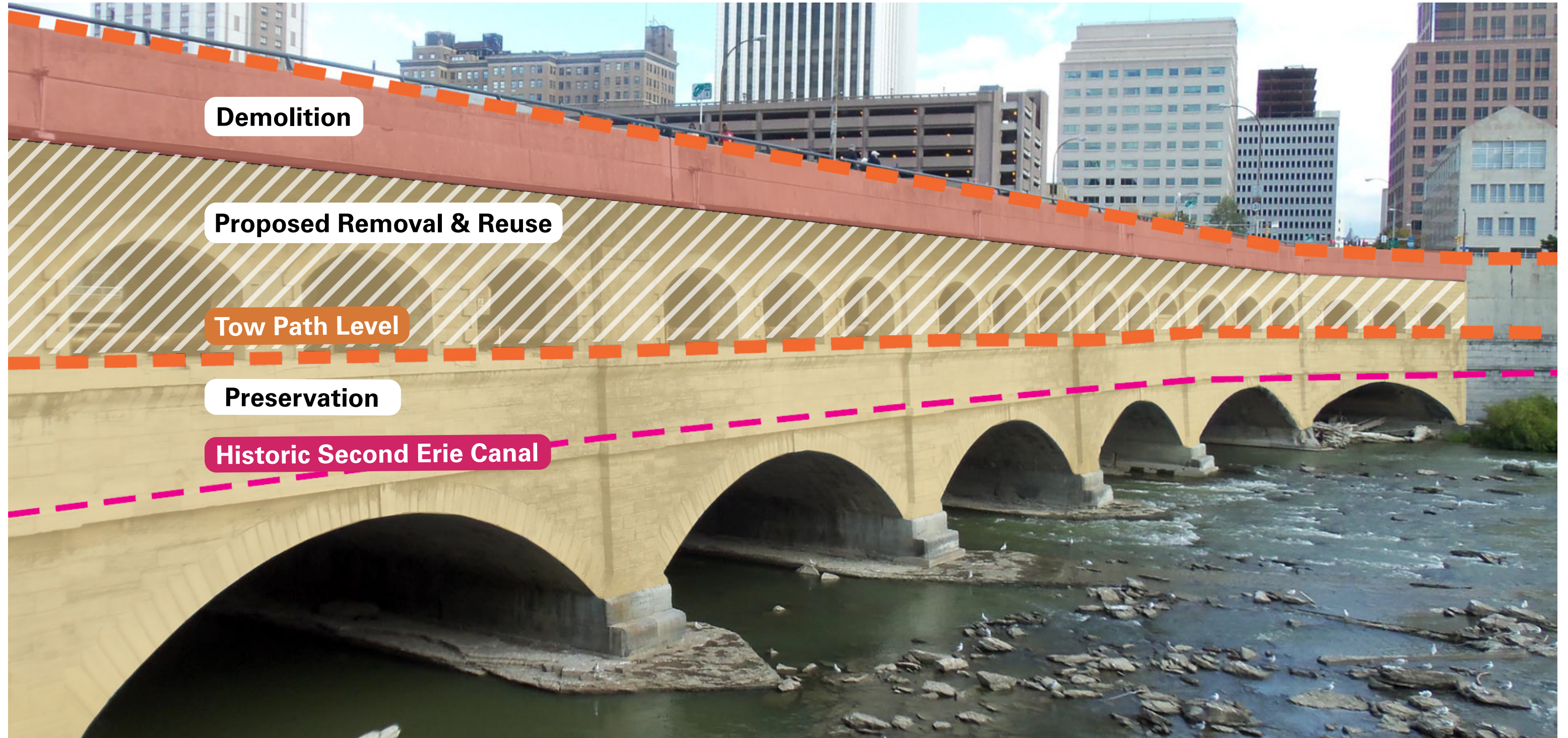


Project Phasing

Early Phase 1 – West End



Project Parameters



Existing Conditions: Today's Aqueduct

Urban Design Analysis

The Site Today



Aqueduct from War Memorial



Subway Tunnel



Childs Basin Mural from War Memorial

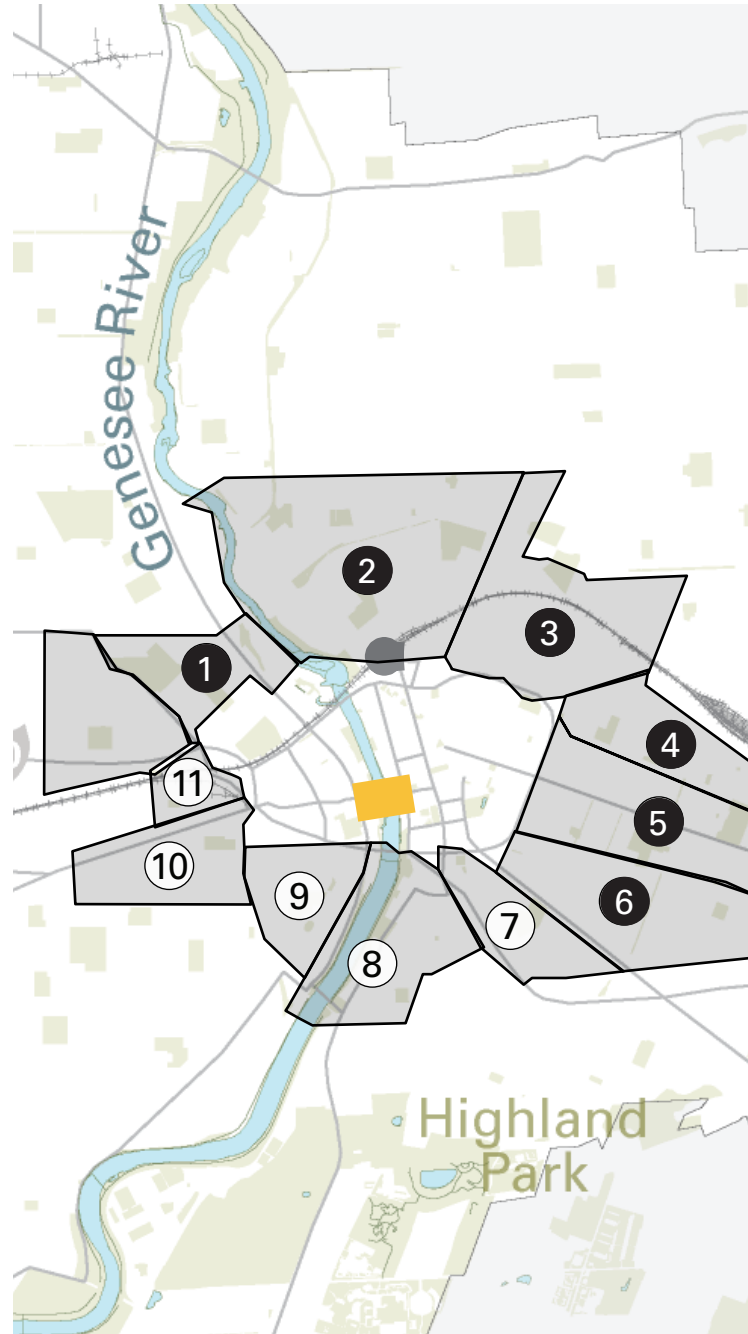


Aqueduct Building from Main Street Bridge

Rochester Neighborhoods



Surrounding Neighborhoods



Neighborhood Map



1. Brown Square



2. Upper Falls



3. South Marketview Heights



4. Neighborhood of the Arts (NOTA)

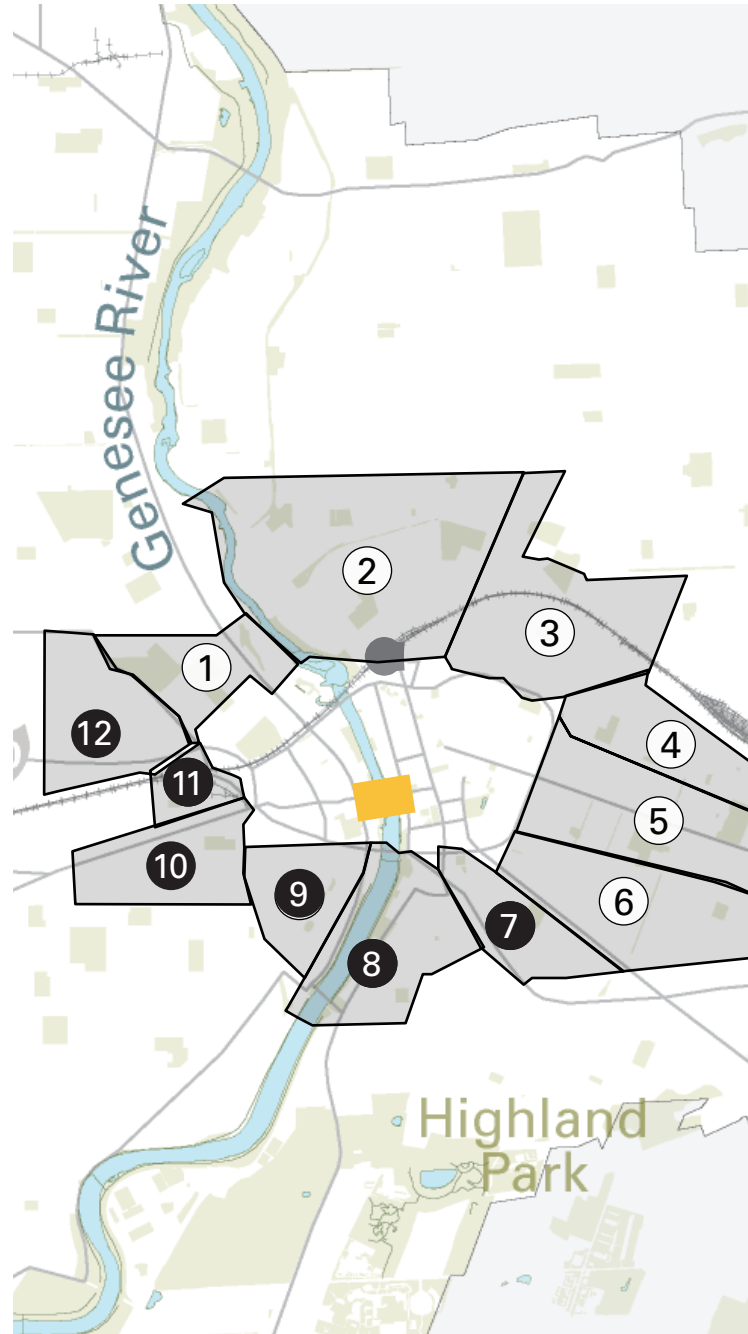


5. East Avenue



6. Park Avenue

Surrounding Neighborhoods



Neighborhood Map



7. Pearl-Meigs-Monroe



8. South Wedge



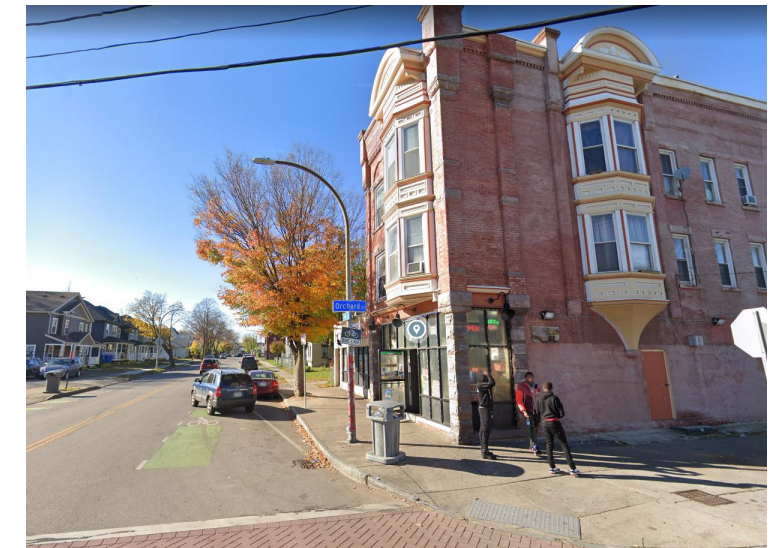
9. Corn Hill



10. Changing of the Scenes (COTS)

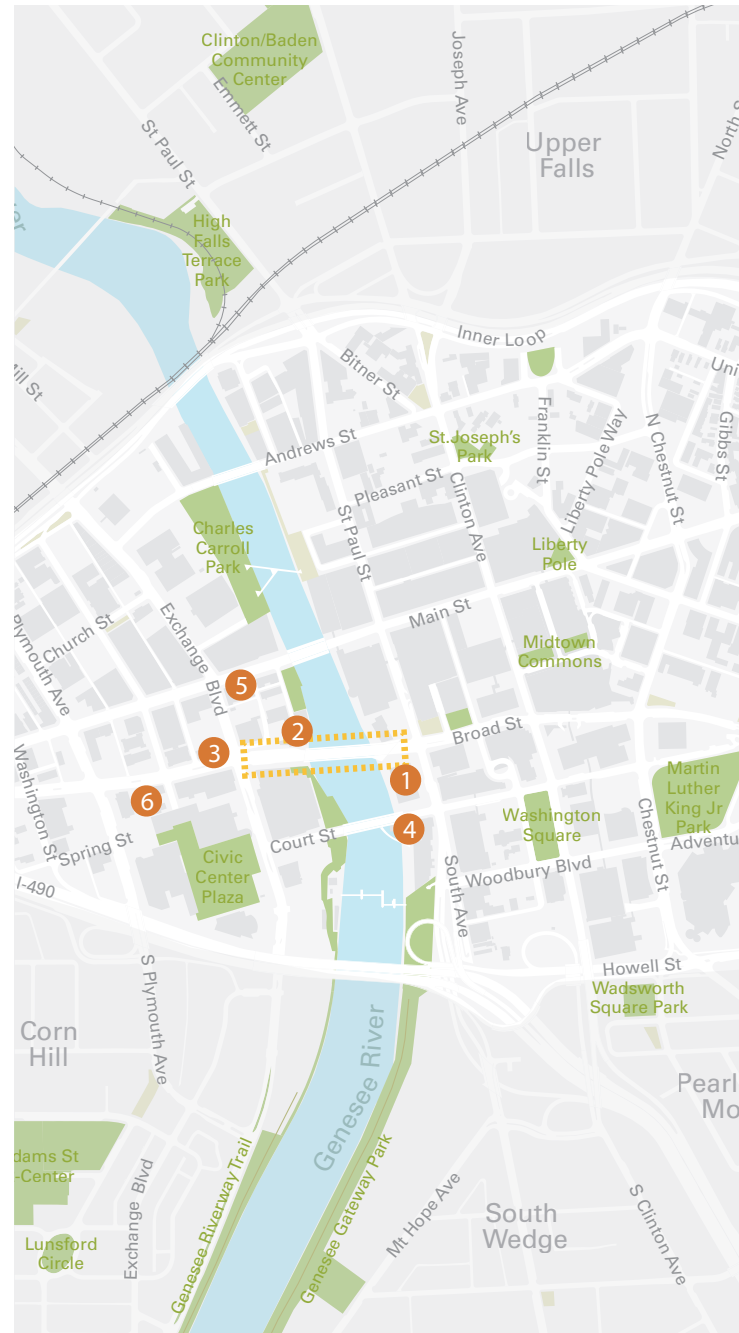


11. Susan B. Anthony



12. Jay-Orchard Street Area Neighborhood (JOSANA)

Existing Overview: Landmark Buildings



Landmark Buildings Map



1. Rundel Memorial Library



2. Aqueduct Building



3. Times Square Building



4. Lehigh Valley Railroad Station

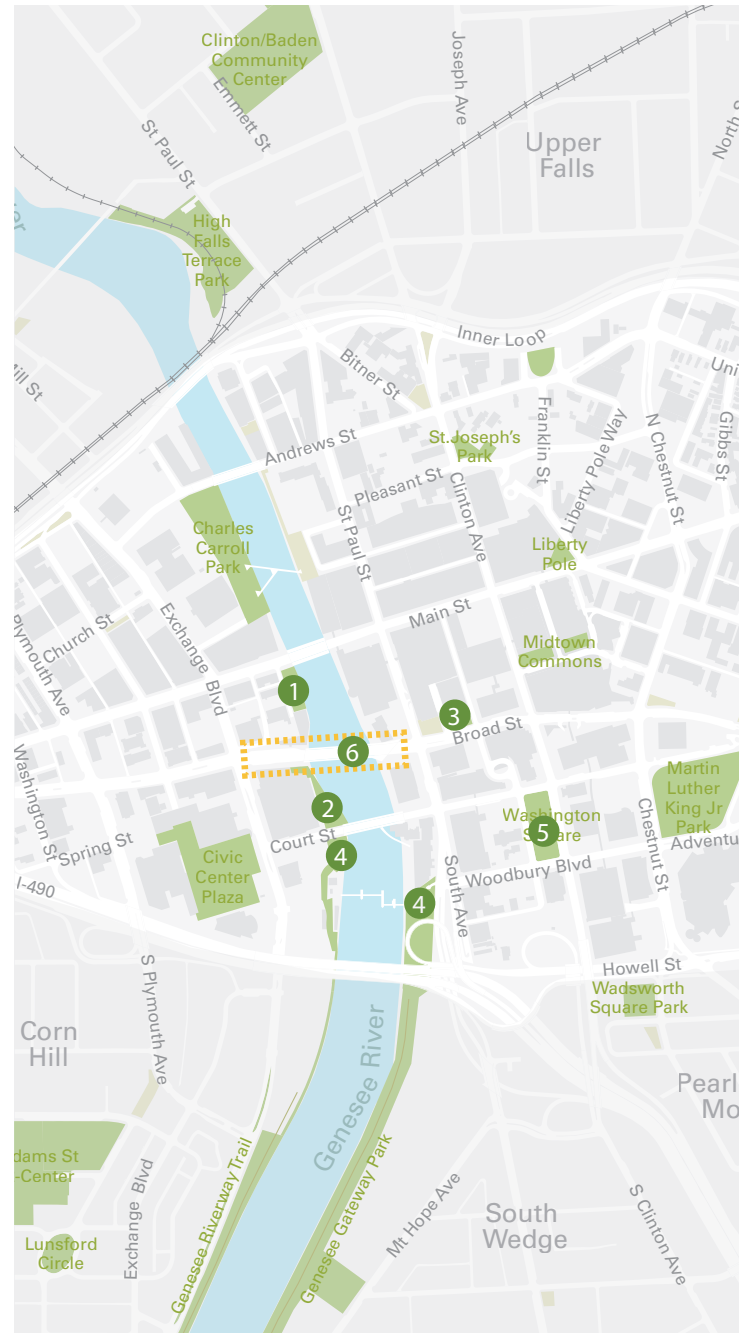


5. Frederick Douglass Newspaper Office



6. Ebenezer Watts Building

Existing Overview: Open Spaces



Open Spaces Map



1. Aqueduct Park



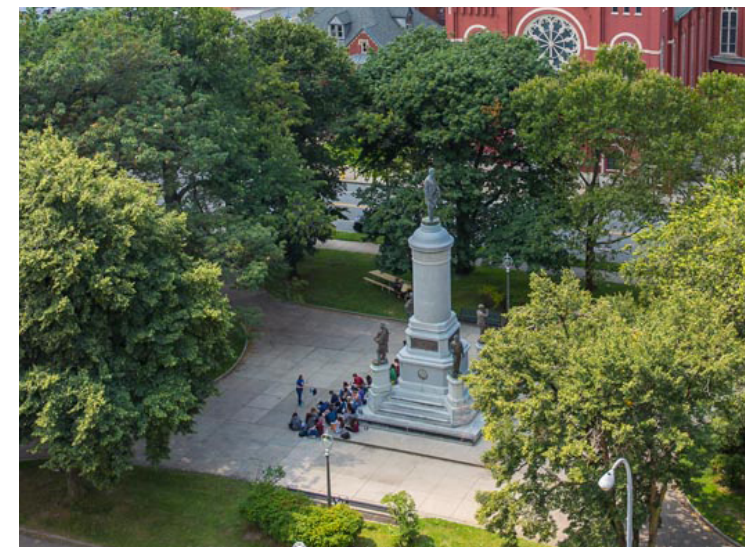
2. Blue Cross Arena Memorial Park



3. Cornerstone Park



4. Genesee Riverway Trail

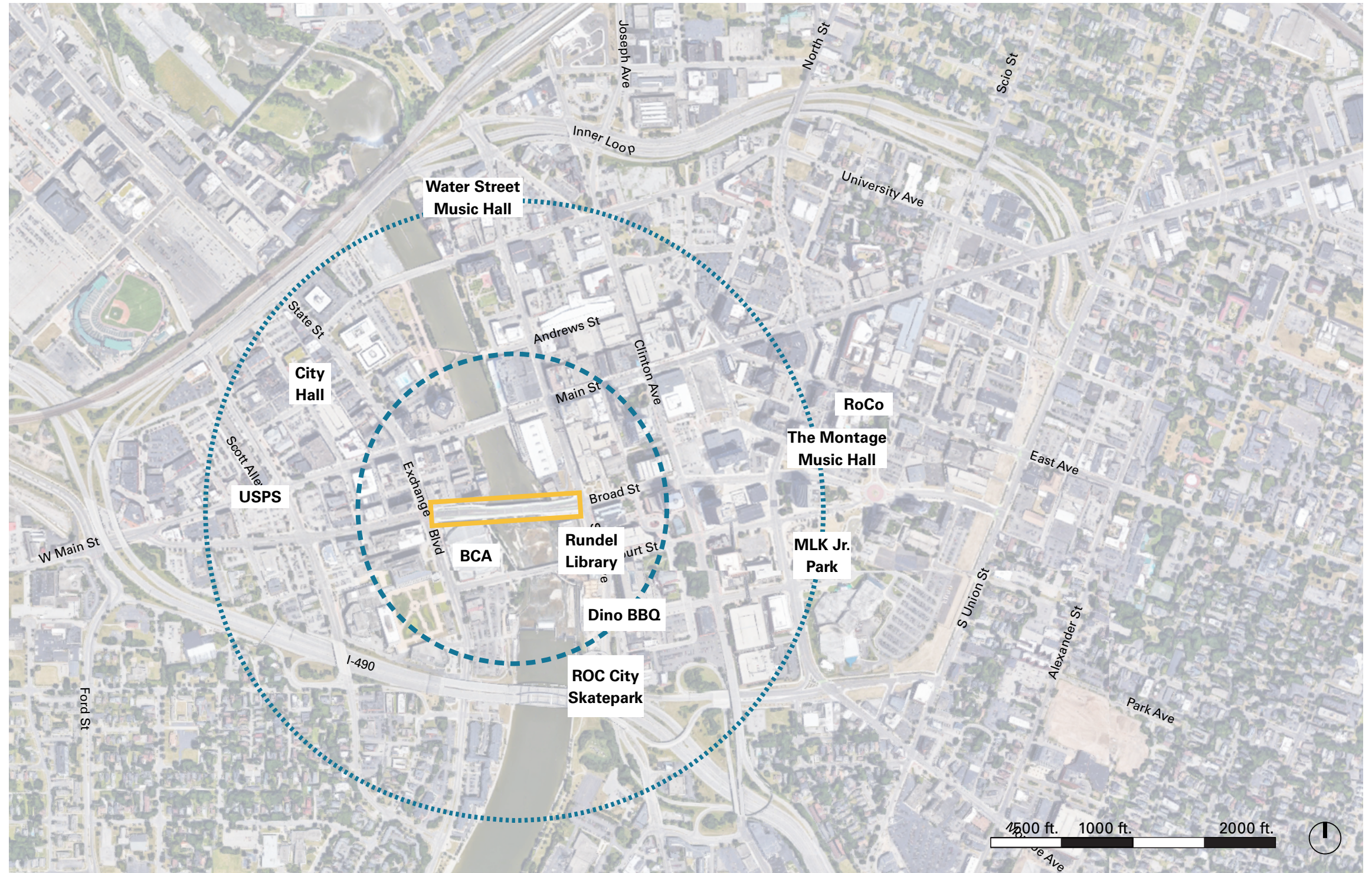


5. Washington Square Park

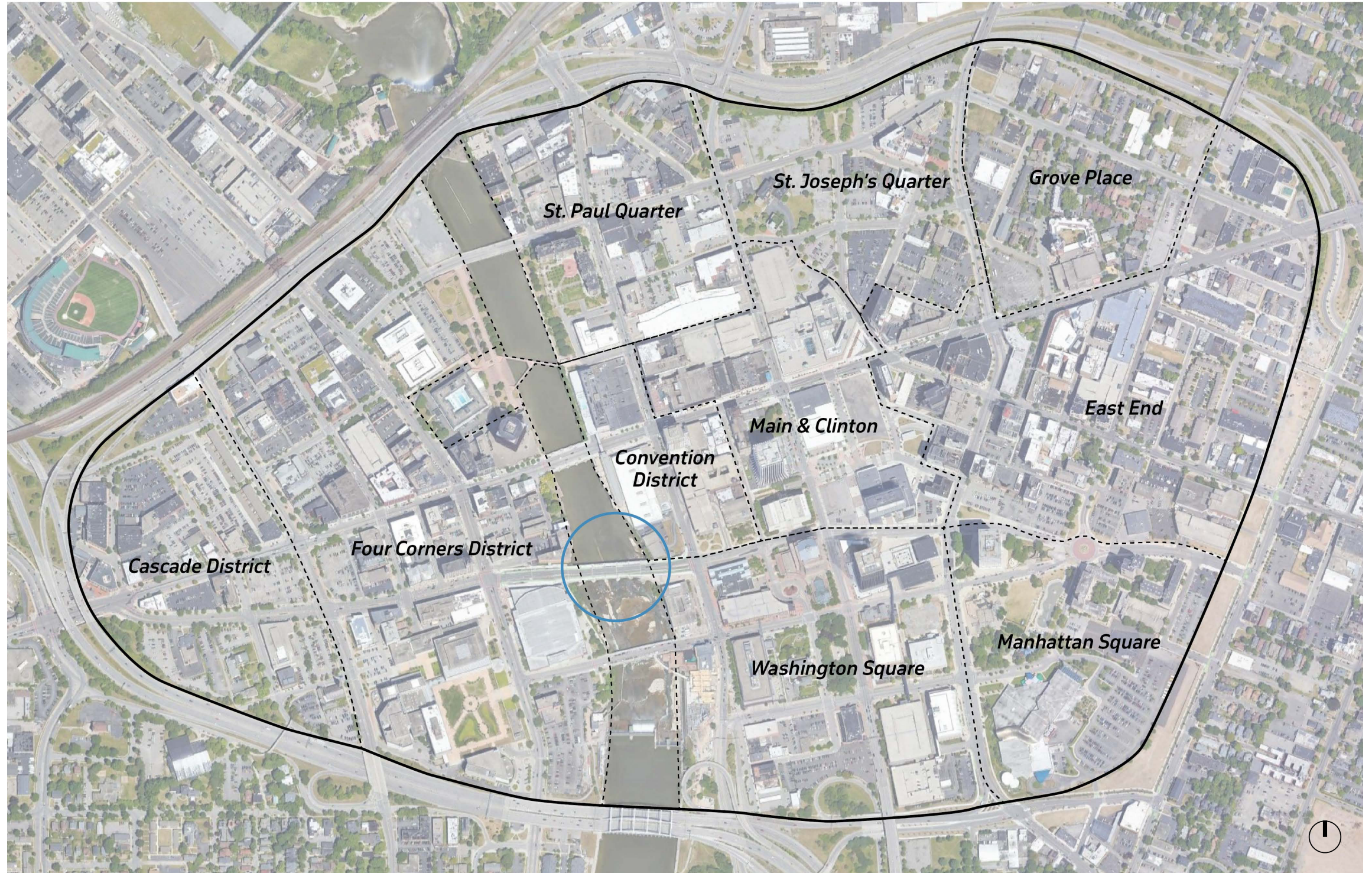


6. Rochester Abandoned Subway

Walking Radii



Downtown Neighborhoods



 Project Boundary

Existing Conditions

Shared Use



Bike Lane - Not Protected



Bike Lane - Fully Protected



Bike Path Under Construction

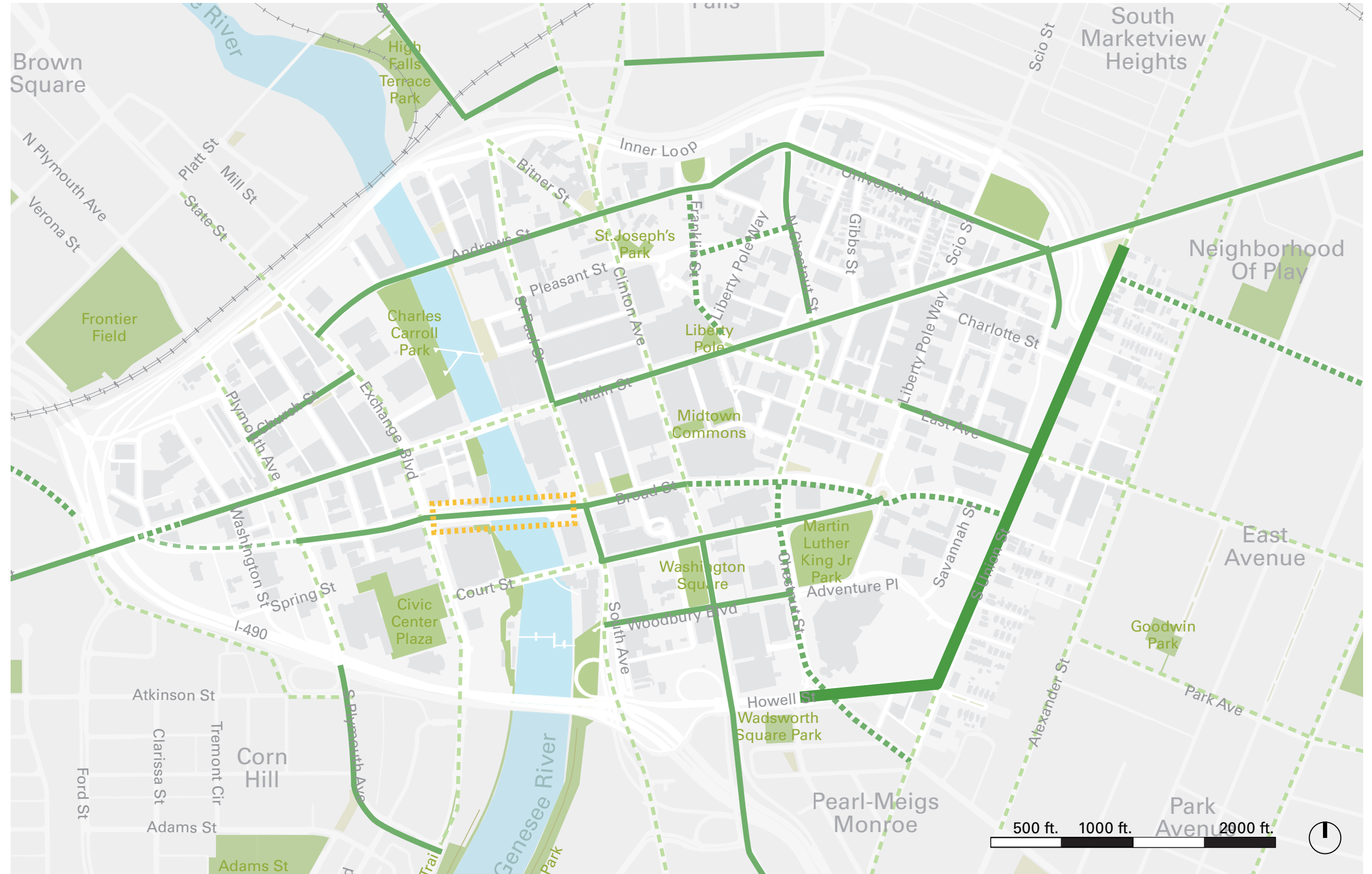
Bike Path Planned

Genesee River

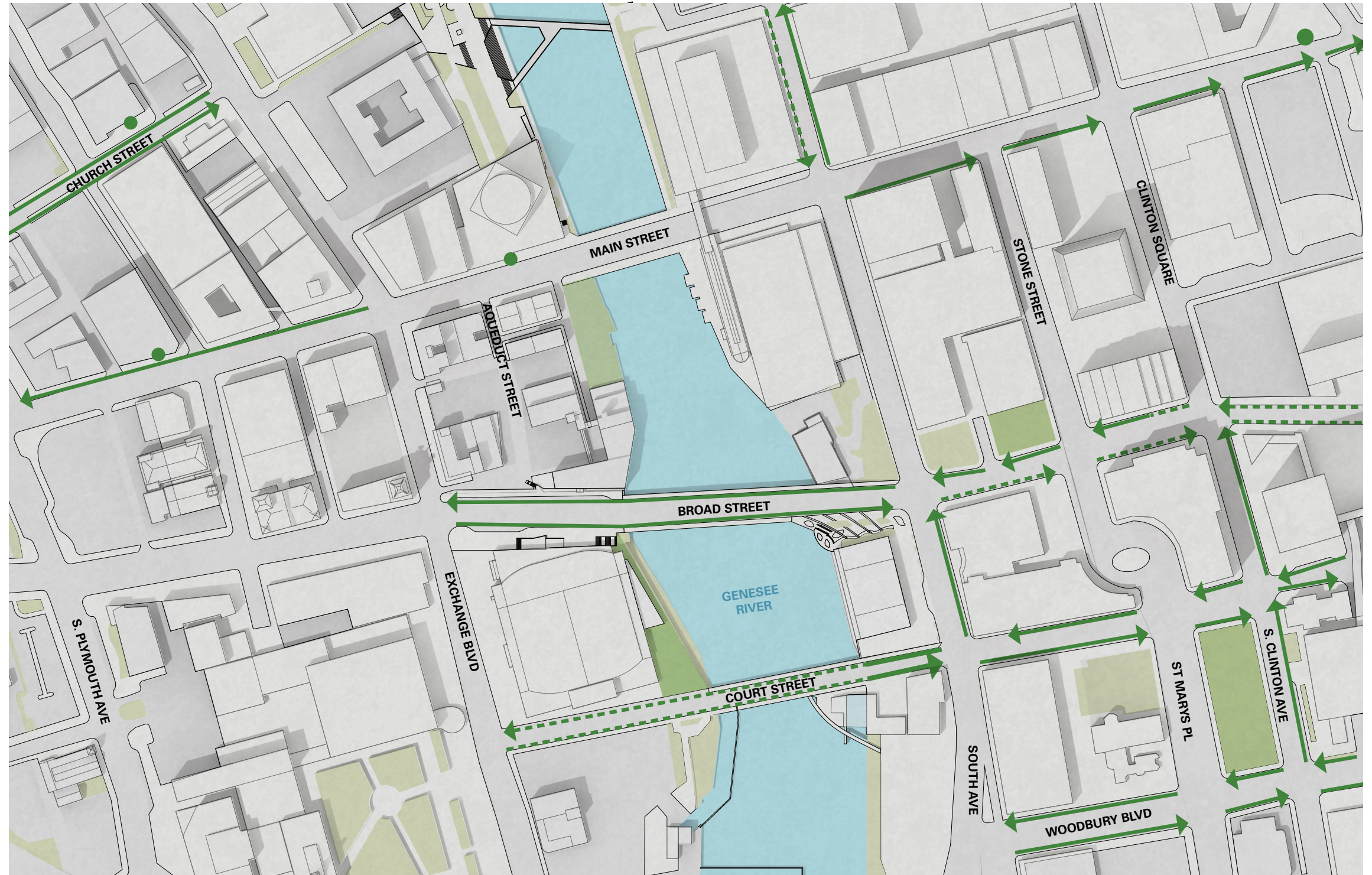
Open Spaces

Project Boundary

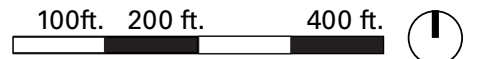
Bike Network



Bike Network






- Bike Lane
- Shared Use
- Bikeshare Stations
- Genesee River
- Open Spaces

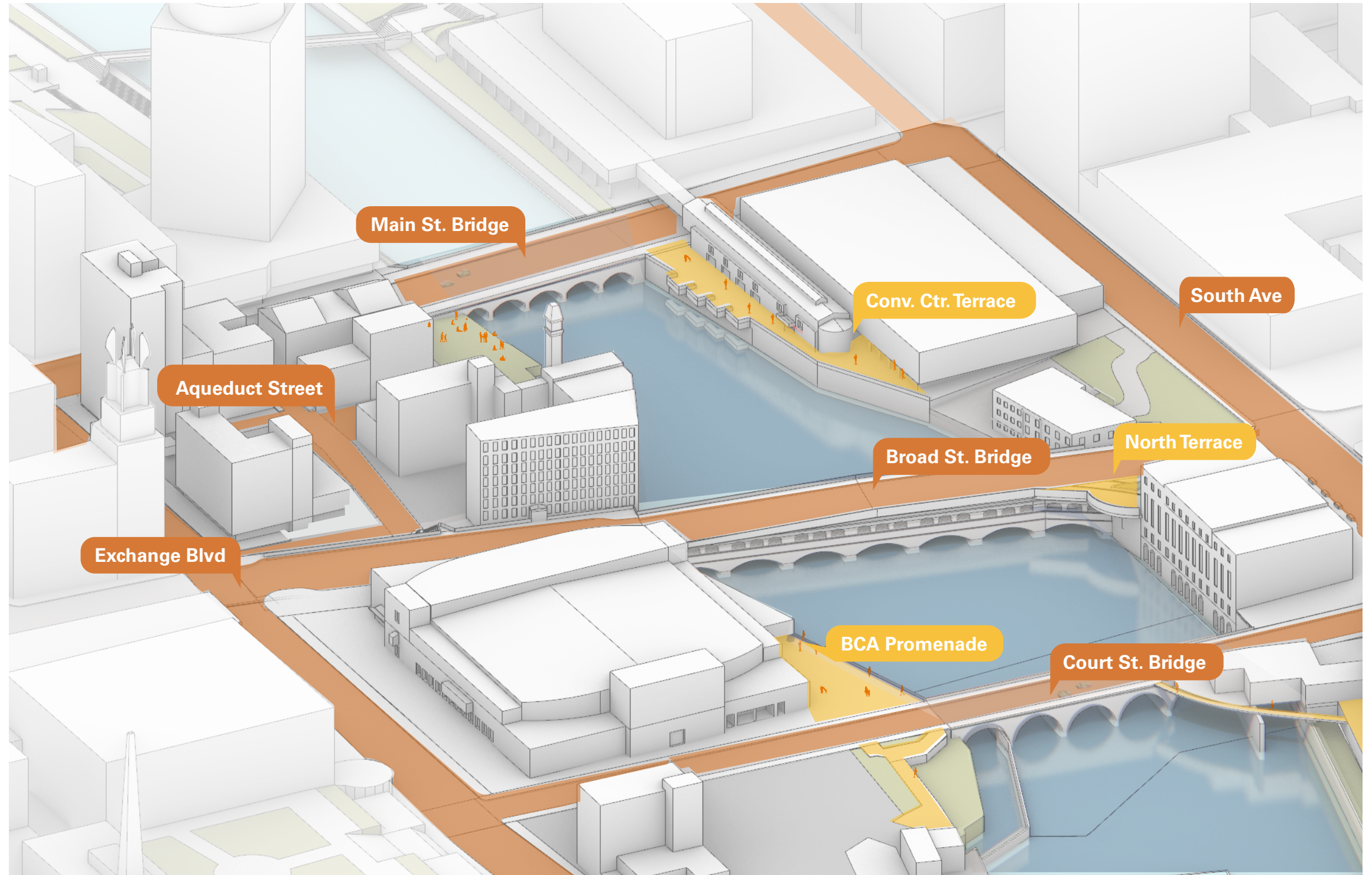




Project Boundaries



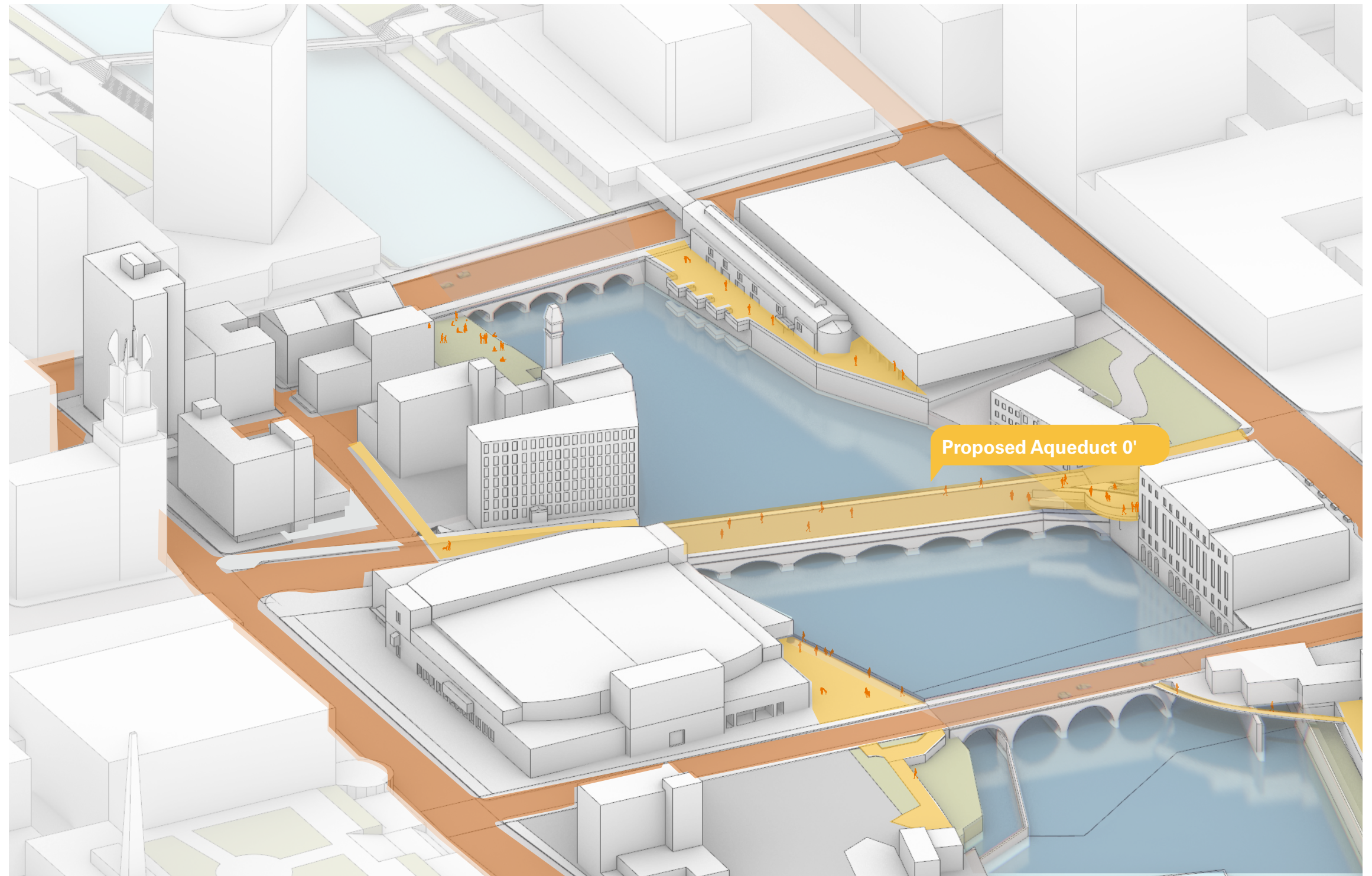
-  Project Scope
-  Selective Demo
-  Existing Overlooks



Project Levels - Existing



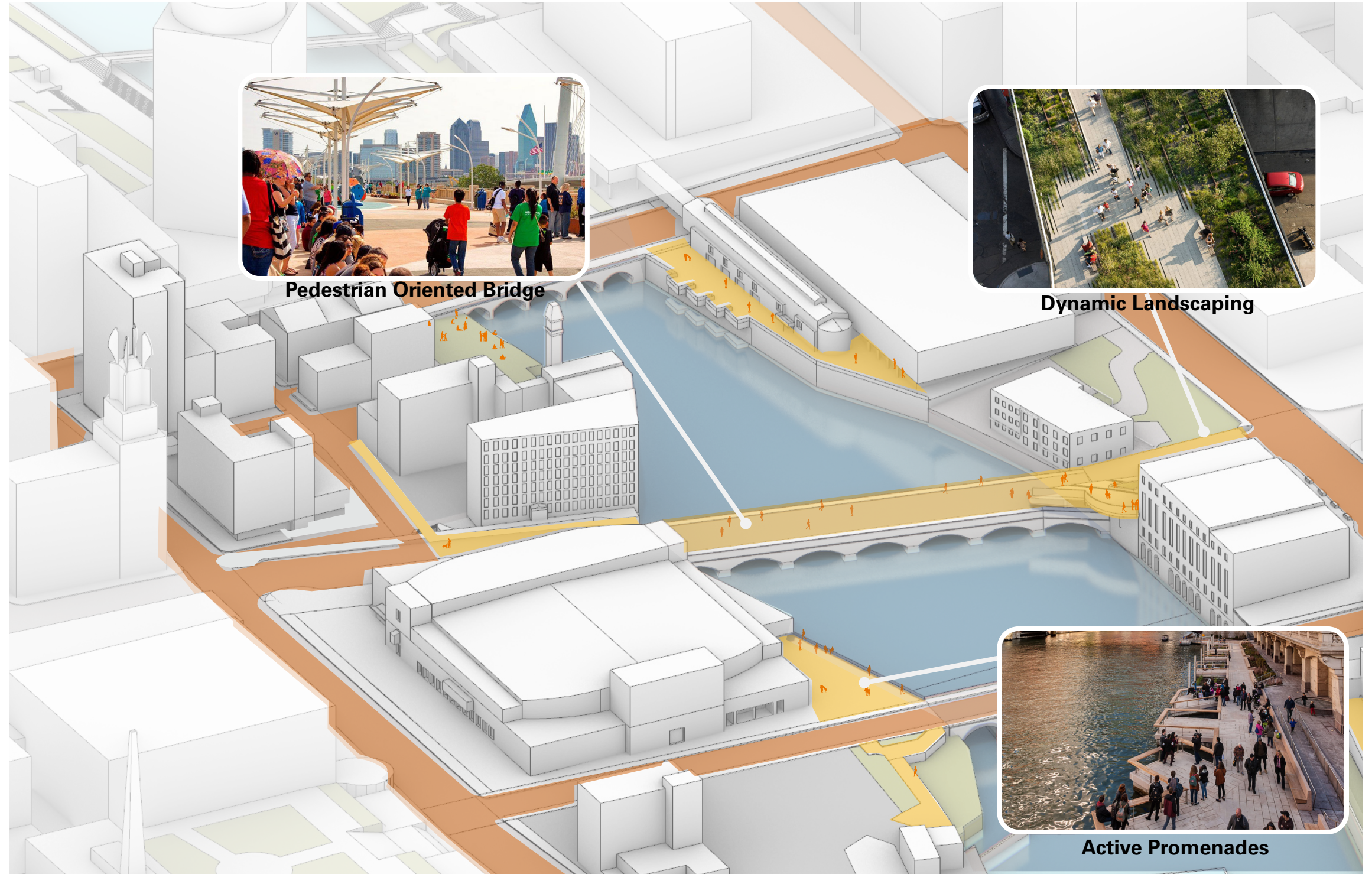
-  Vehicular Access
-  Pedestrian



Project Levels - Remove Vehicular Deck



-  Vehicular Access
-  Pedestrian

Project Opportunities



-  Vehicular Access
-  Pedestrian

Active Promenades Riverwalk, Chicago



Before

Active Promenades Riverwalk, Chicago



Before



After

Active Promenades Riverwalk, Chicago



Pedestrian Oriented Bridge Continental Avenue Bridge, Dallas



Before

Pedestrian Oriented Bridge Continental Avenue Bridge, Dallas



Before



After

Pedestrian Oriented Bridge Continental Avenue Bridge, Dallas



Multimodal Enhancements Queens Quay , Toronto Waterfront



Before

Multimodal Enhancements Queens Quay , Toronto Waterfront



Before

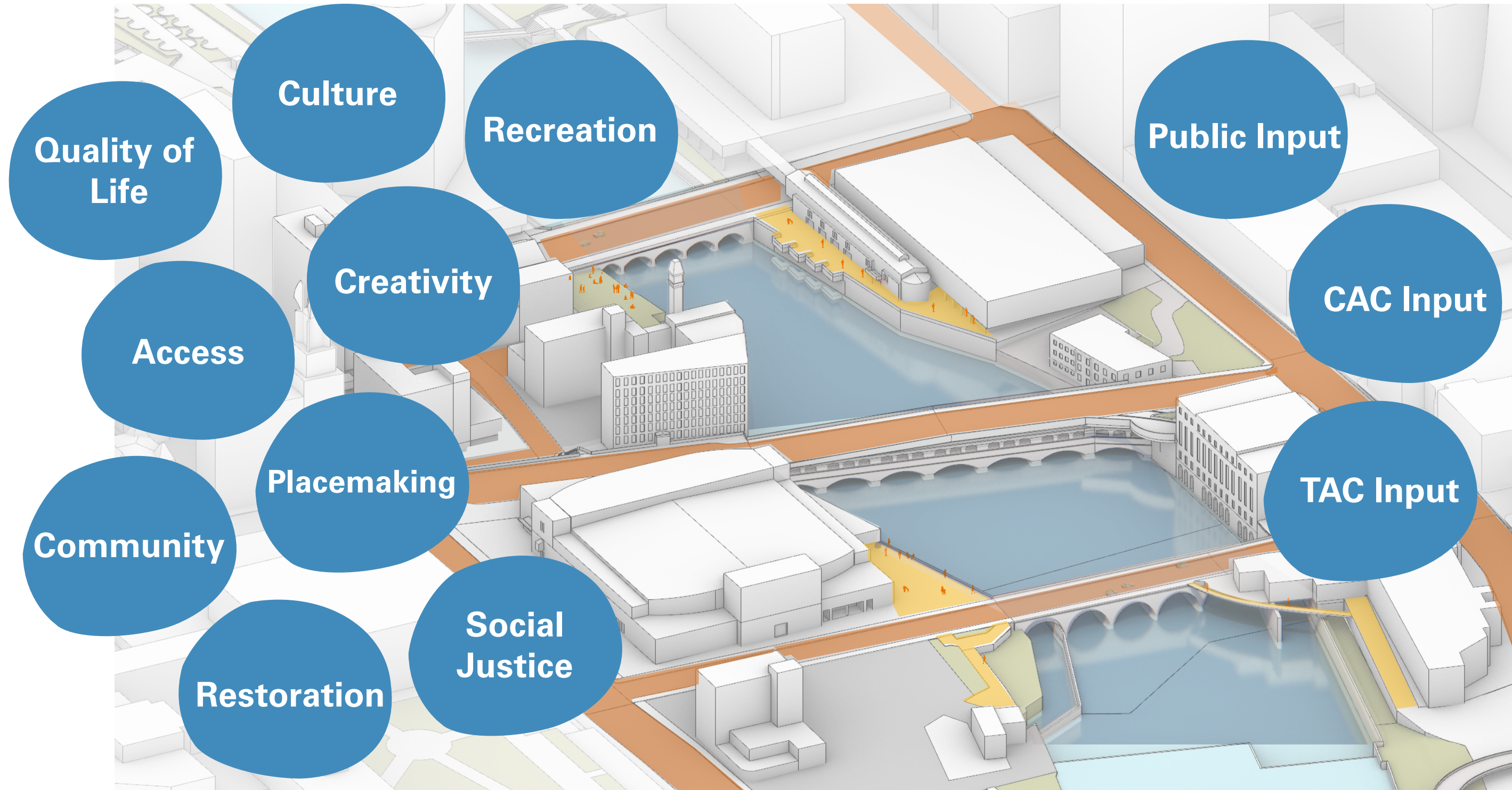


After

Dynamic Landscape Queens Quay , Toronto Waterfront



What Can/Must Be Accomplished?

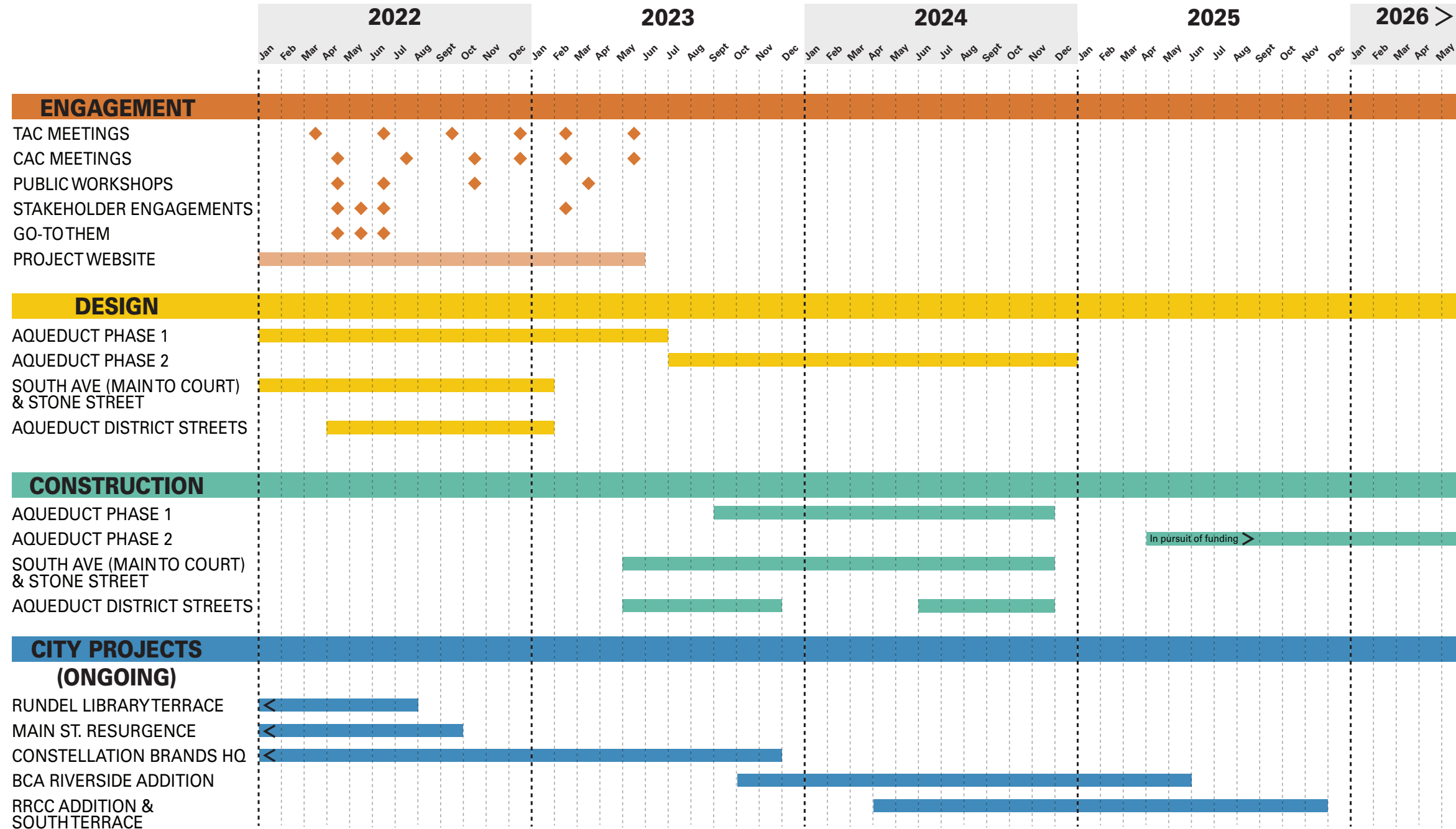


Project Process

- **Schedule**
- **Engagement**

Project Timeline

Design to Construction

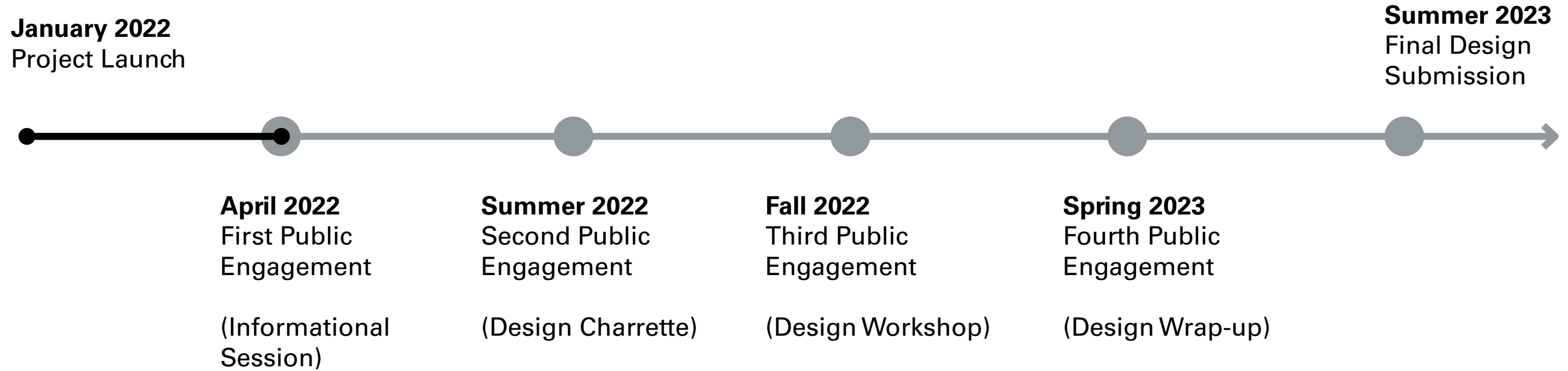


Project Phase
 Stakeholder Meeting or Event

Engagement Timeline

	2022												2023					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
City Team Coordination Meetings	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Technical Advisory Committee Meetings			•			•			•			•		•			•	
Community Advisory Committee Meetings				•			•			•		•		•			•	
Stakeholder Meetings (excl. Constellation mtgs)				•	•	•								•				
Go To Them Engagement				•	•	•												
Pop Up Events						•					•					•		
Public Wokshops																		
Informational Session				•														
Design Charette						•												
Design Workshop										•								
Design Wrap Up															•			
Project Website			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Engagement Timeline



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

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

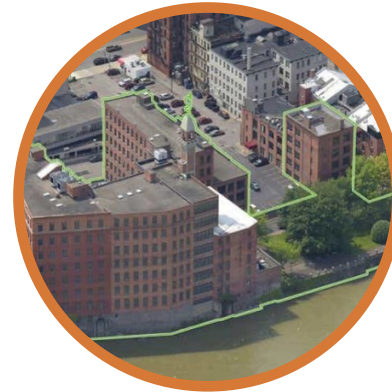
– **NYS Department of Transportation**

- **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**

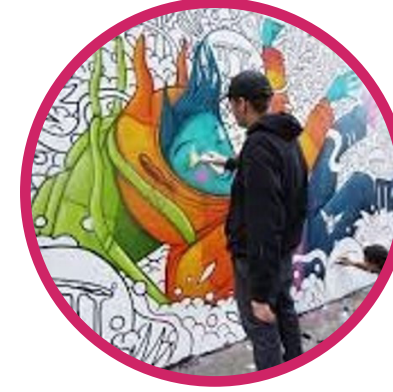
Community Stakeholders



City of Rochester



Adjacent Property Owners



Street Artists



Downtown Businesses



Youth & Students



Surrounding Neighborhoods



Local/State Agencies - TAC



Traditionally Underrepresented Voices



Programmers

Engagement Channels

Rochester residents will be able to provide input through various channels throughout the design development process.



Methods for Engagement



Pop-Ups



Youth Outreach



Small Businesses Interviews



Temporary Urban Art Installations

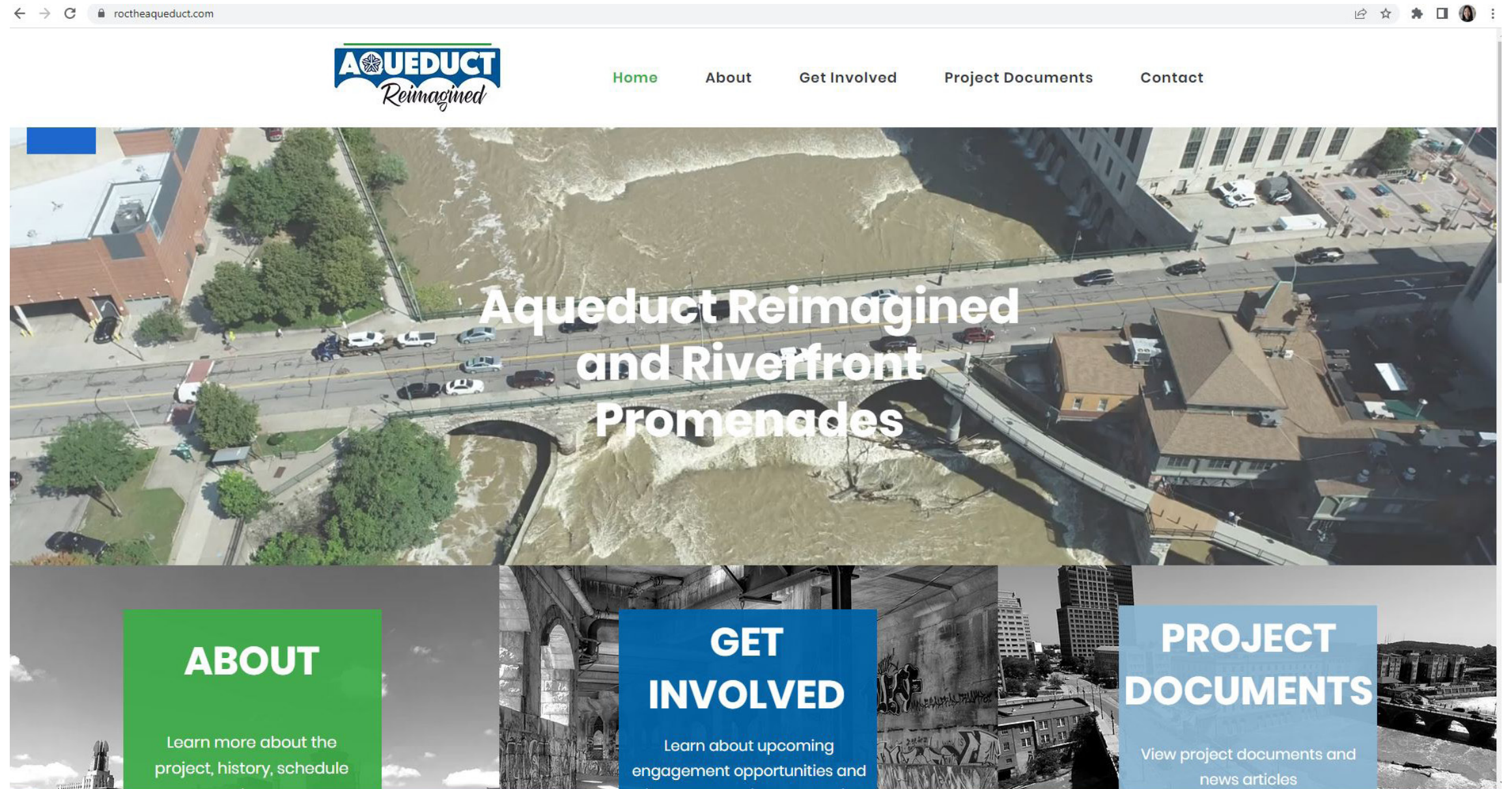


Community Programming



Neighborhood Outreach

Our Website is Live



<https://www.roctheaqueduct.com/>

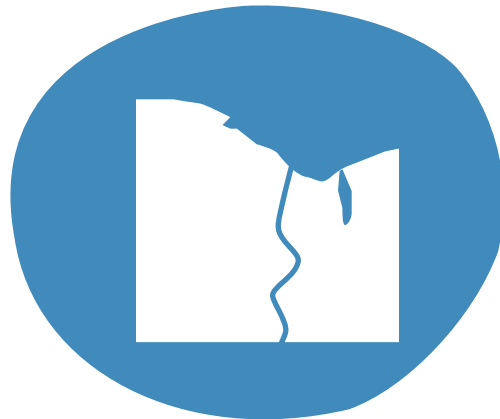
Project Themes

- Scales
- Lenses
- History

The analysis extends across five scales from the regional to the local.



State



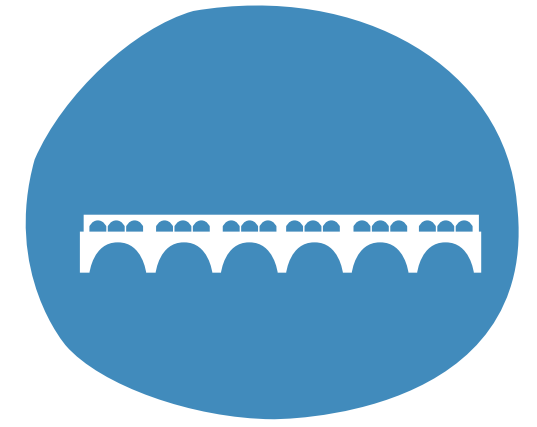
Regional



Urban/
Metropolitan



Downtown



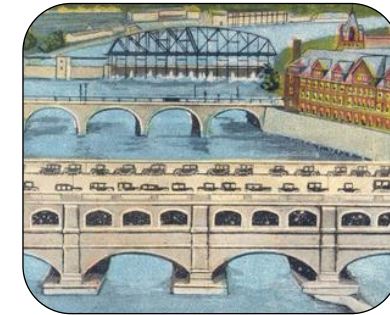
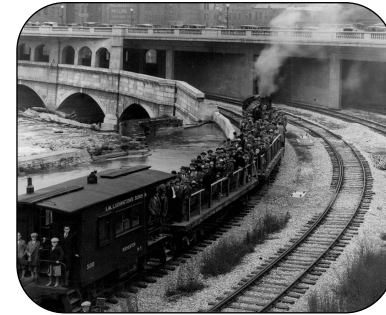
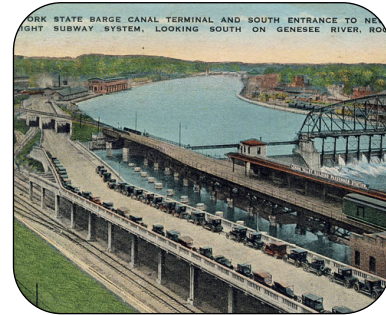
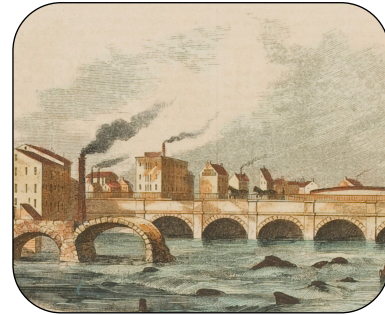
Project Site



The project was investigated through five thematic lenses:



The history of Rochester and the aqueduct is defined by six key periods:



Indigeneous
Roots

Erie Canal
construction

Aqueduct

Bridge Street
& Subway

Urban
Renewal

The Riverway:
Reclaimed

Previous and Ongoing Planning Efforts

- NYSDOT Initial Project Proposal (IPP)
- SHPO Letter (January 2009)
- Aqueduct Master Plan (May 2009)
- Traffic Planning Study (October 2010)
- Aqueduct Master Plan Addendum (April 2011)
- Environmental Impact Statement
- Downtown Revitalization Analysis
- Roc the Riverway
- Innerloop Planning
- Others

WXY



**URBAN
AMERICAN
CITY**

DUN
WOODĒ

**Dr. Jessica
Lieberman**

Thematic Overview



Natural Ecology



Population



Mobility & Connectivity



Urban Development & Economy



Place & Culture

Thematic Overview



Natural Ecology

- Ecology as Infrastructure
- Ecological Damage



Populations

- Native Americans
- Immigrants
- Slaves & Freed Slaves
- Black & Women Activism
- Civil Unrest
- Majority Minority



Mobility & Connection

- Movement of Goods
- Movement of People



Urban Development & Economy

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



Place & Culture

- Neighborhoods & Community
- Public Realm Systems
- Memory Sites
- Ephemera



The Power of the River

Ecology as Infrastructure

The Genesee River & falls
put Rochester on the map,
but years of industrial
uses caused **Ecological Damage**

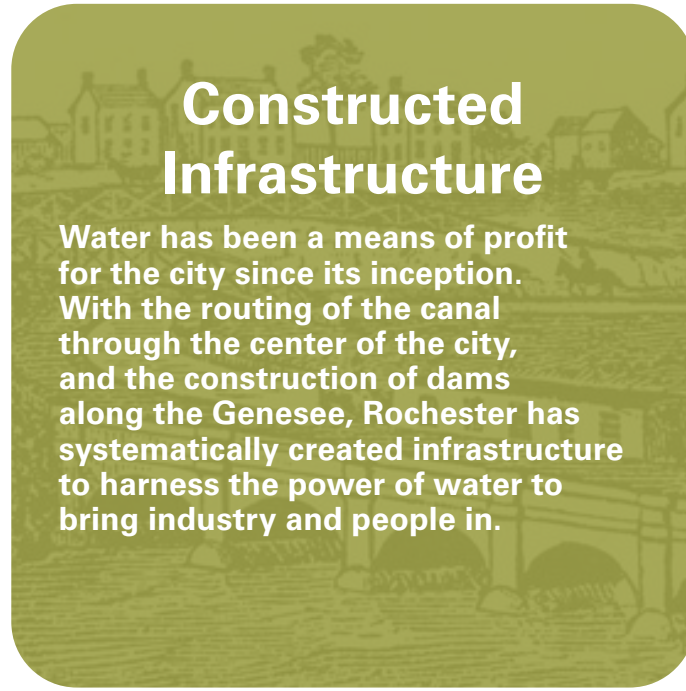
Glacial Origins

Rochester's "recent" geological history can be traced to an ice sheet approximately two miles thick only 13,000 years ago. The retreat of the Laurentide Ice Sheet carved out the area and developed most of the topography where Rochester is located today.



Constructed Infrastructure

Water has been a means of profit for the city since its inception. With the routing of the 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.



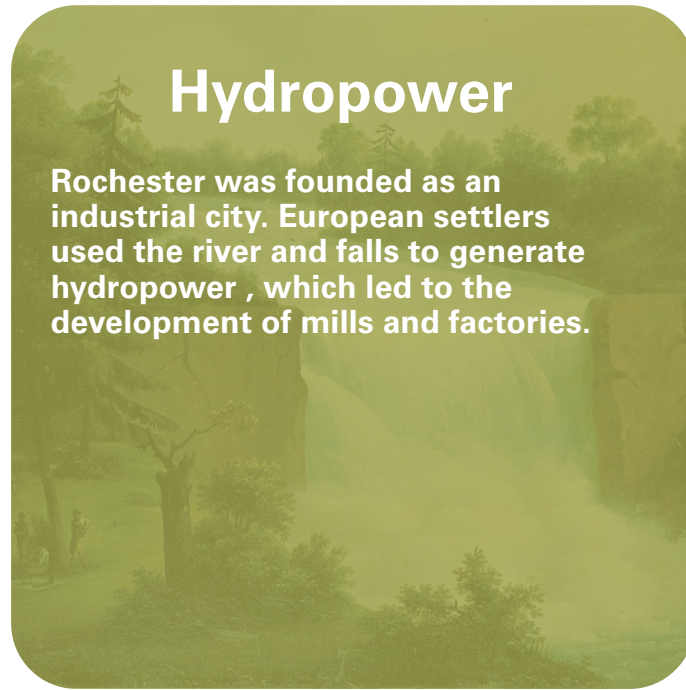
Environmental Damage

Rapid industrial expansion with initial ecological oversights led to years of the river being used as an industrial sewer. Industrial pollution and combined sewage overflows caused heavy degradation to the river and its inhabitants. The Lake Sturgeon was declared regionally extinct in the 1980's due to decades of pollution, overfishing, and the destruction of their spawning grounds.



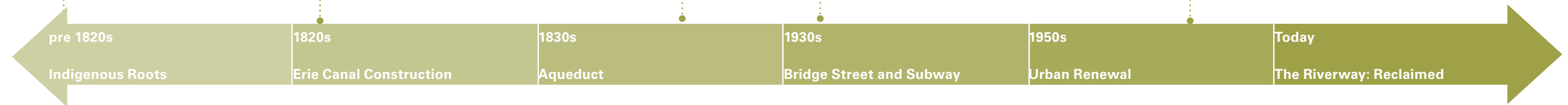
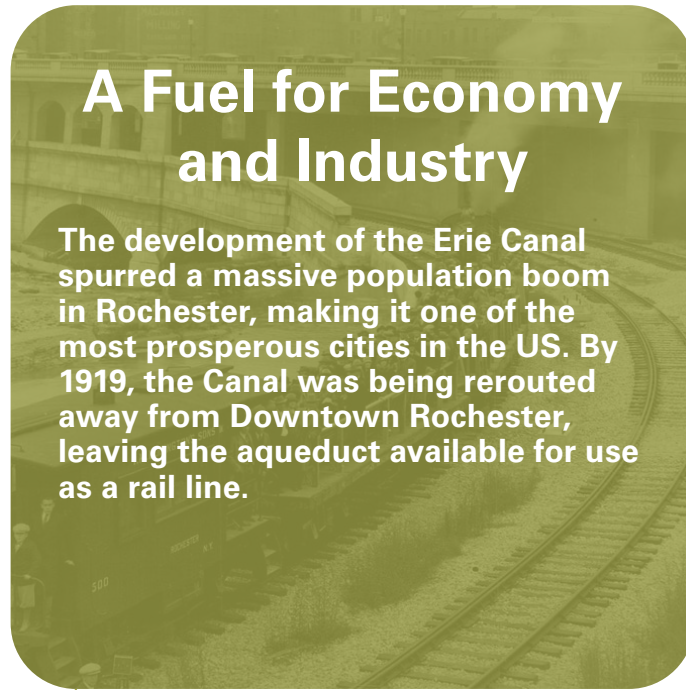
Hydropower

Rochester was founded as an industrial city. European settlers used the river and falls to generate hydropower, which led to the development of mills and factories.



A Fuel for Economy and Industry

The development of the Erie Canal spurred a massive population boom in Rochester, making it one of the most prosperous cities in the US. By 1919, the Canal was being rerouted away from Downtown Rochester, leaving the aqueduct available for use as a rail line.



The first Erie Canal Aqueduct crossed the Genesee in 1823, north of today's structure.

1820s

1700s

1800s

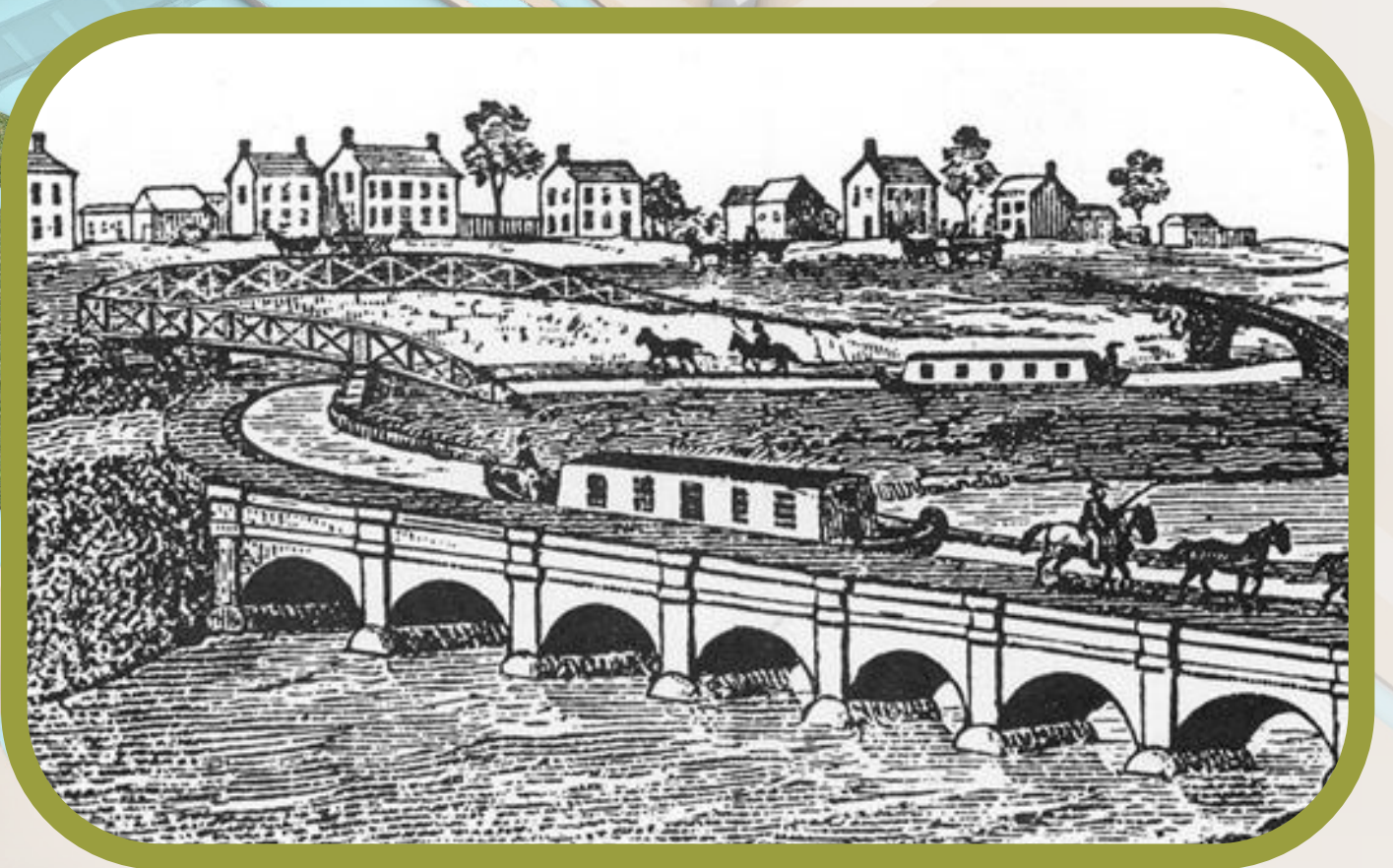
1900s

2000s

The Erie Canal

The Erie Canal

First Aqueduct built in 1823 was built out of sandstone and could only accommodate one boat at a time. Eventually it leaked and was demolished in the 1830s.



1830-1920

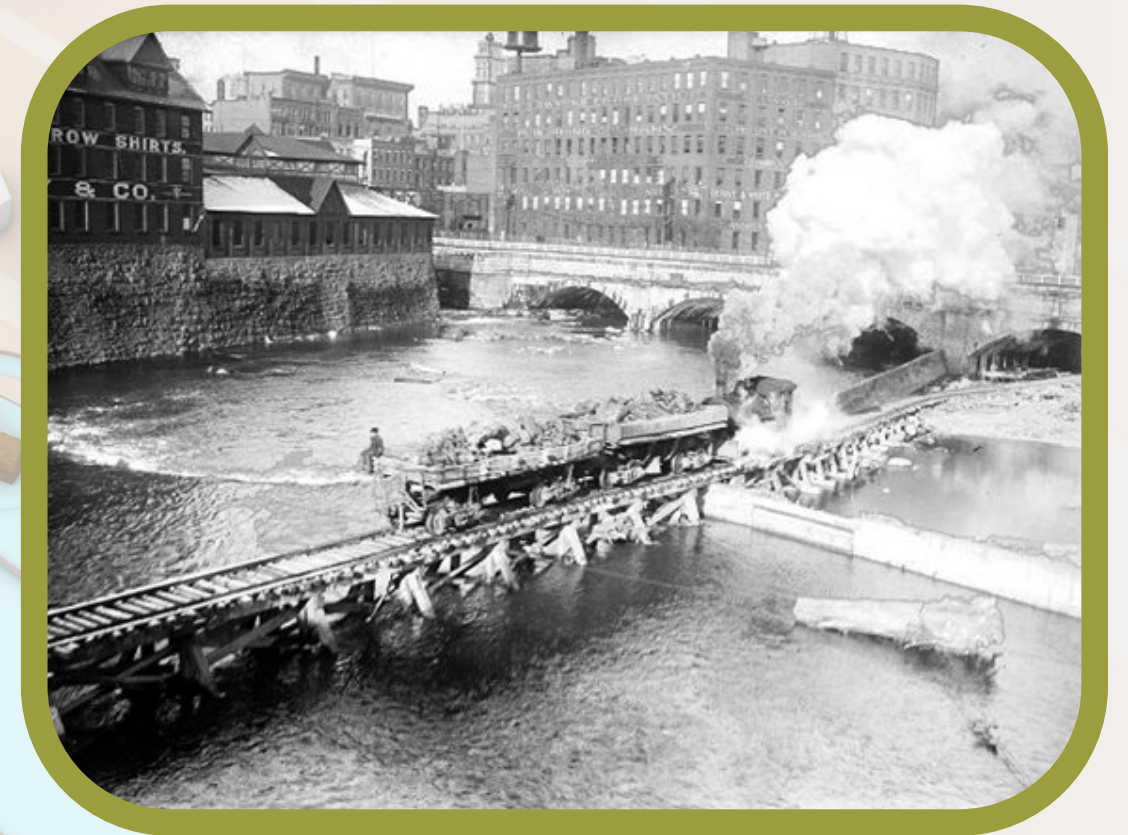
Frequent flooding necessitated the development of dams to regulate the Genesee's water level and flow.

Flood Control

The Genesee was infamous for its devastating floods. The worst flood occurred in March of 1865, where the west bank, being significantly lower than the east, was overwhelmed by floodwaters. Between 1914-1919, the city dredged the Genesee River bed at High Falls by 16 feet. In 1926, Court St Dam was constructed to regulate water levels in the nearby Erie Barge Canal and Rochester Gas & Electric's hydropower plant.



The above picture shows a canal boat sitting in the aqueduct during the 1865 flood. The buildings with the awnings in the right rear are on the north side of the Main Street bridge. Remember that today Broad Street has been build on top of the aqueduct.
Source: Rochester Public Library



Great Flood of 1865 on the Aqueduct. This view is looking east to west, across the 1857 Main Street bridge, toward Buffalo Street which is covered with water. The dome is the second Monroe County Courthouse (1851-1894). To the right are the buildings which lined the north side of the Main Street bridge. The south side of the bridge wasn't lined with buildings until the late 1870's.
Source: Rochester Public Library

1700s
1800s
1900s
2000s

After years of use as an industrial sewer, the Genesee is slowly healing.

Today

1700s

1800s

1900s

2000s

River Health

Years of use as an industrial sewer and un-naturalized site has caused heavy degradation to the river. In 2003, efforts to clean up the river began, and in 2004, 1,900 juvenile lake sturgeons were reintroduced to their natural habitat. By 2018, all data point to a flourishing sturgeon population. The Genesee River Wilds is an annual event celebrating the accessibility of the river for kayaking and floating.



River Pollution, taken at Douglass Anthony Bridge.
Source: rochestersubway.com



Genesee River 2010
https://rochesterenvironment.com/genesee_river.htm



**What memory do you have
of being on or near the river?**

What did you do, see, hear, or smell?



Diversity is in our DNA

We acknowledge the presence of, harms to, and contributions of the past and present peoples of Rochester. The layered identities and histories of these residents, workers, and visitors define the DNA of this City.

First Settlers

The first people settled in the area as early as 12,000 years ago, around 10,000-8,000 BC.

In 1142 CE, The Iroquois Confederacy formed, becoming the first participatory democracy in the world.

Colonization

In 1687, due to interests in the fur trade and pre-colonial expansion, DeNonville, governor of New France, campaigned to eradicate the Seneca Indians. Many indigenous people retreated from the area and deserted villages.

A Center for Early Activism

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.

Urban Renewal

Suburbanization 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.

Anti-Native

In 1782, a series of treaties after the Revolutionary War forced the Iroquois off their lands.

Canal Laborers

Alongside Irish immigrants, many enslaved and free Black People, German, and Welsh Immigrants built the canal. Conditions were sometimes inhospitable and thousands contracted malaria from working in mosquito-filled swamps.

White Flight

Starting in the 1930s, the White population of Rochester started to move to the suburbs. Peak White population was in 1930 at 325,000. By 1990, that number had dropped by almost 60% while the Black population had grown exponentially.

Diverse, but Segregated

By 2020, the population of Rochester hovered around 206,000. The city consists of the southwest quadrant being predominantly Black and the Southeast quadrant predominantly white.

pre 1820s

1820s

1830s

1930s

1950s

Today

Indigenous Roots

Erie Canal Construction

Aqueduct

Bridge Street and Subway

Urban Renewal

The Riverway: Reclaimed

Pre-1820s

The area was home to the Seneca, one of the first participatory democracies in the world.

1700s

1800s

1900s

2000s



The Haudenosaunee

The Seneca joins four others to form the Iroquois Confederacy, also known as Haudenosaunee or "People of the Longhouse," forming the first participatory democracy in the world.



Leaders from the five Indian tribes gather around Dekanawidah to form the Iroquois Confederacy, c 1570.
Source: Smithsonian Institution.

The Erie Canal was built on the backs of immigrants, free black and slave labor.

Who built the Canal?

Construction was contracted out to local landowners, who hired laborers for under \$1 per day. Alongside Irish immigrants, many enslaved and free Black People, German, and Welsh Immigrants built the canal. Conditions were sometimes inhospitable and thousands contracted malaria from working in mosquito filled swamps.



Irish builders of the Erie Canal.
Source: Maryann Tracy

1820s

1700s

1800s

1900s

2000s

Between 1940 and today, Rochester has become a majority minority city, while the surrounding area remains overwhelmingly White.

1950s



1700s

1800s

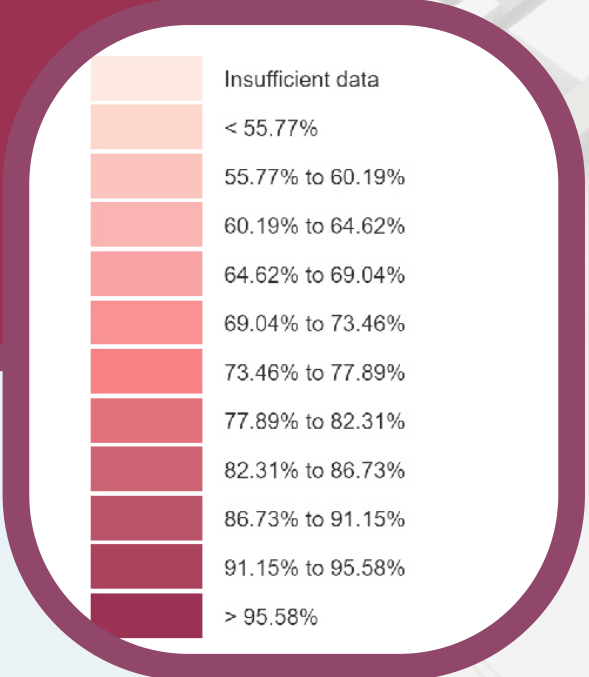
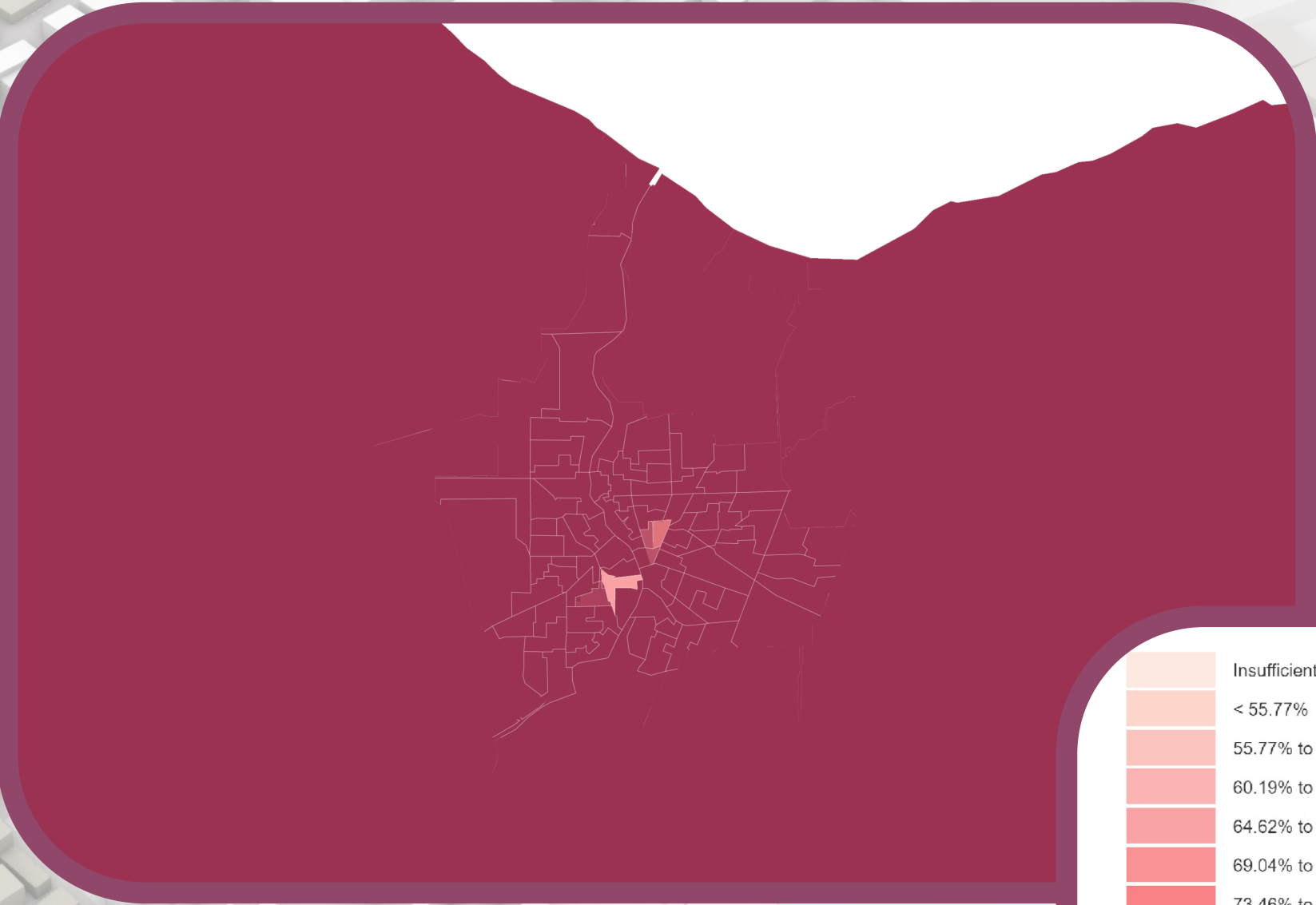
1900s

2000s



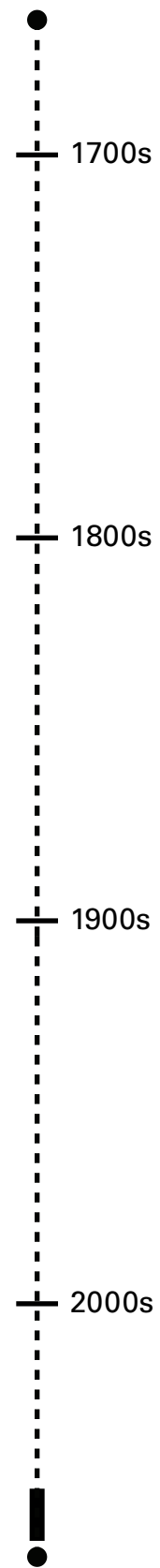
White Flight

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Connecting Across the Genesee's Racial Divides

Today

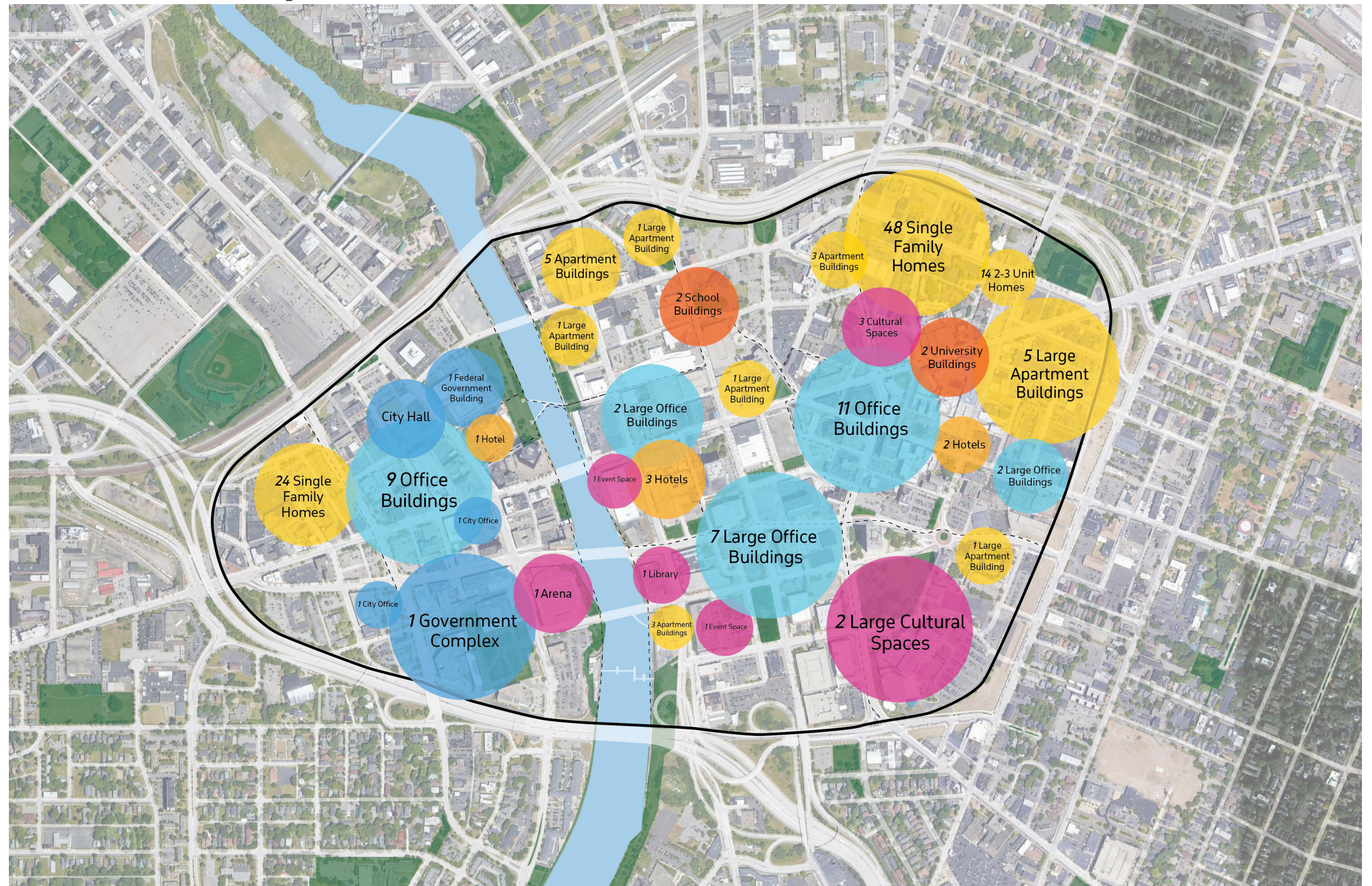


Today

A Civic Space for the Many Populations of the City

Rochester Population: 211,328
Rochester Employees: 590,000
Annual Regional Visitors 1,500,000
Downtown Residents: 4,985
East 4,352
West 633

- Schools
- Residences
- Government Buildings
- Office Buildings
- Event Spaces
- Hotels





What must the Aqueduct project consider (values) or include (features) in order to draw the most diverse range of users?

Who needs to be included?



Crossroads of the City

The Genesee and the Aqueduct
are the historic crossroads for
the **Movement of Goods** and
the **Movement of People** and
define the center of the City.

Canal as Catalyst

The Canal gave rise to many cities besides Rochester including Albany, Syracuse and Buffalo. It helped grow NYC into the nation's most populous and busiest port, elevating New York as America's preeminent state.

Evolution of the Rail

By 1825, the first horse drawn rails connected Rochester and Carthage, creating some of the first land connections to Rochester.

Mass Transit Rail

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 5 railways in Rochester.

Highways Destroy and Connect

Inner Loop was designed to reconnect the suburban white-flight population to the heart of the central business district. It destroyed thousands of buildings and displaced countless families and businesses. Intricately connected streets were replaced by superblocks and a widened highway.

Building on Native Footpaths

The Seneca referred to Rochester of today as "Go-sko-sago" or "At the Falls." The Iroquois traveled by canoe or foot to trade with other tribes and their trails formed the routes of future stagecoaches.

Automobile Boom

As cars were becoming more popular in the 1920s, an upper deck above the aqueduct was built for road traffic, while the lower remained in use by the subway.

Rise of Buses

By the 1950s, Rochester's streetcars were replaced by buses. The Railyards along the Genesee, Lehigh Valley and Erie Railroads were abandoned alongside the Rochester Subway in 1957

Demise of Rail Service

Last passenger service ended in 1957, and in 1959, the eastern segment was used for the construction of the expressways. Rail freight deliveries in the subway tunnel continued until 1976 in the west to General Motors and 1996 when Gannett Newspapers relocated out of the Gannett Building.

pre 1820s

1820s

1830s

1930s

1950s

Today

Indigenous Roots

Erie Canal Construction

Aqueduct

Bridge Street and Subway

Urban Renewal

The Riverway: Reclaimed

1920s

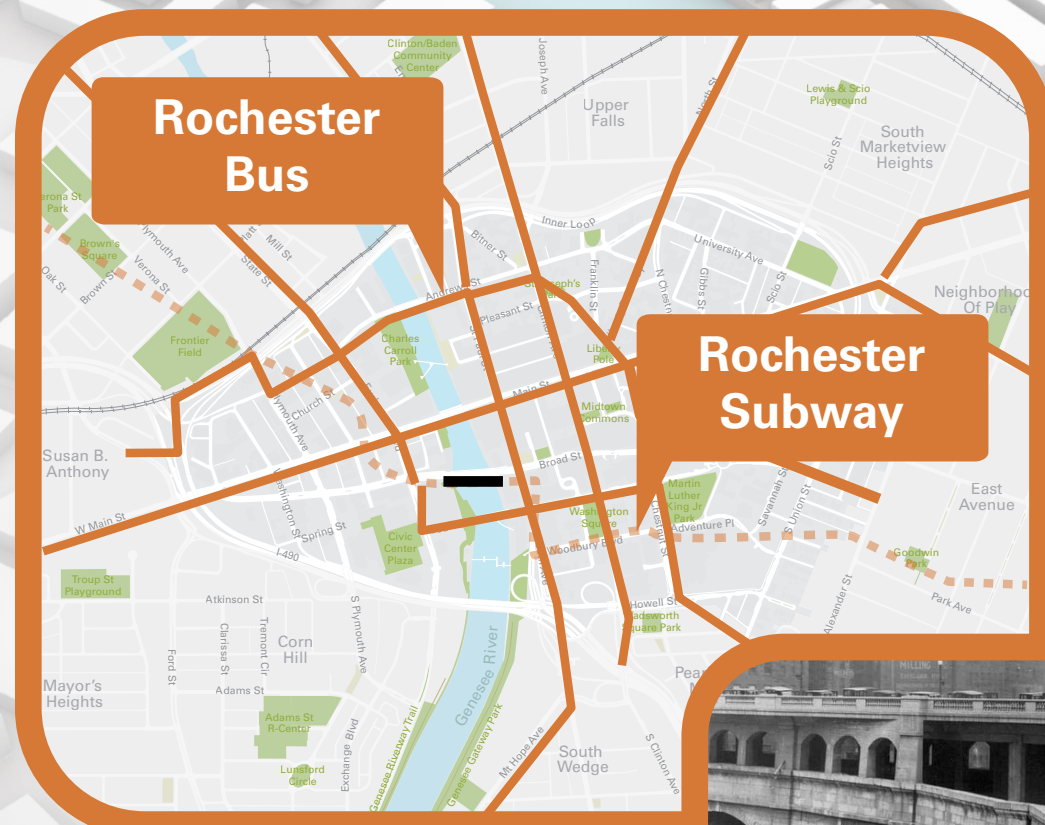
In the 1920s, the Broad Street Bridge became part of the Rochester mass transit system.

1700s

1800s

1900s

2000s



Mass Transit

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Source: Democrat and Chronicle

1920s

An upper deck was built for road traffic, and the former canal path was used for rail.

1700s

1800s

1900s

2000s

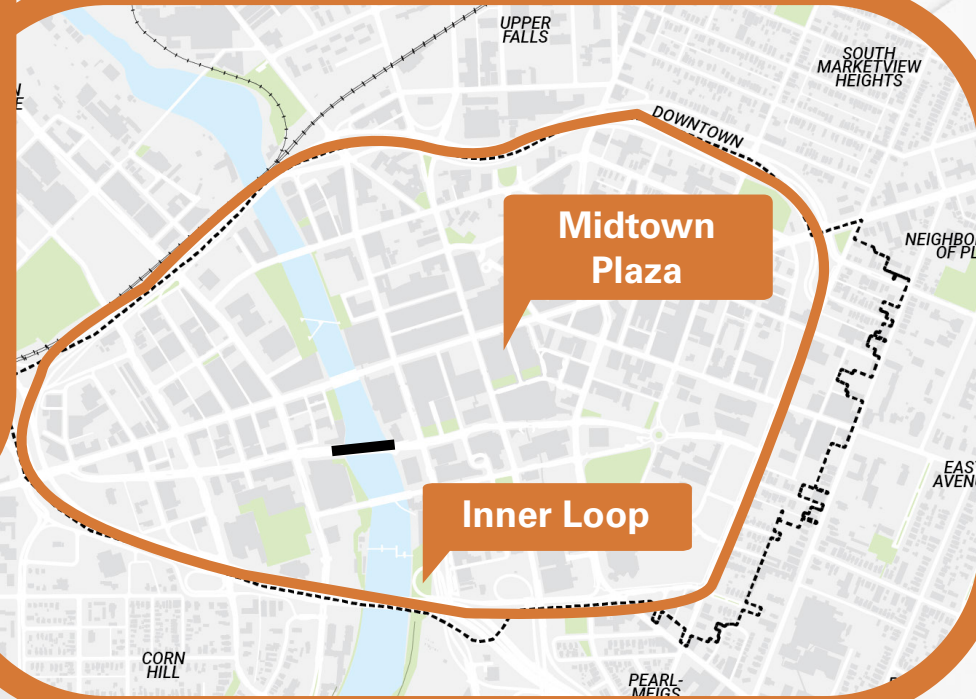


Source: rochester subway.com

The Inner Loop was built to connect to white suburbanites but gutted Rochester's core.

The Inner Loop

Inner Loop was designed to reconnect the suburban white-flight population to the heart of the central business district. It destroyed thousands of buildings and displaced countless families and businesses. Intricately connected streets were replaced by superblocks and a widened highway.



Source: Rochester Public Library, 1960

1950s

1700s

1800s

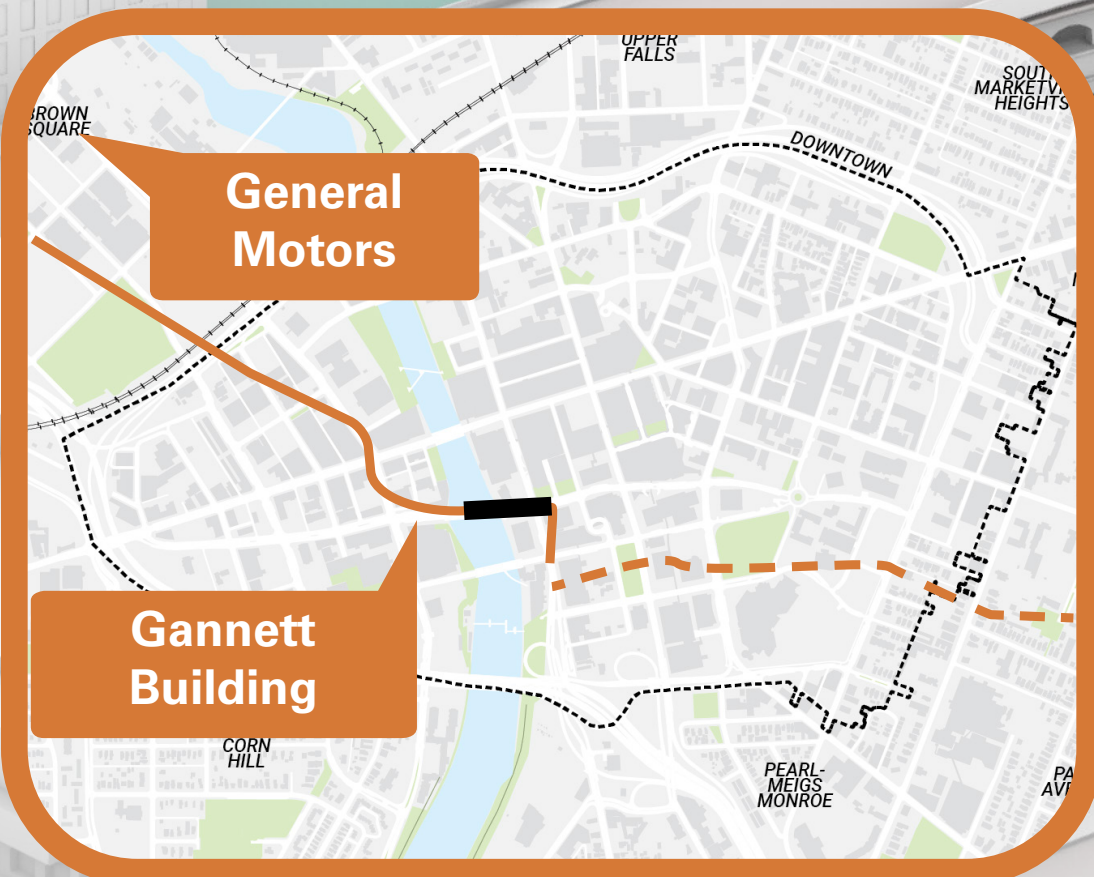
1900s

2000s

Rail service on the bridge ended in 1957.
Freight service ended in 1976.

Abandoned Subway

Last passenger service ended on 1957, and in 1959, the eastern segment was used for the construction of the expressways. Rail freight deliveries in the subway tunnel continued until 1976 in the west to General Motors and 1996 when Gannett Newspapers relocated out of the Gannett Building.



The Inner Loop has been filled. Investment is again being made along the Genesee.

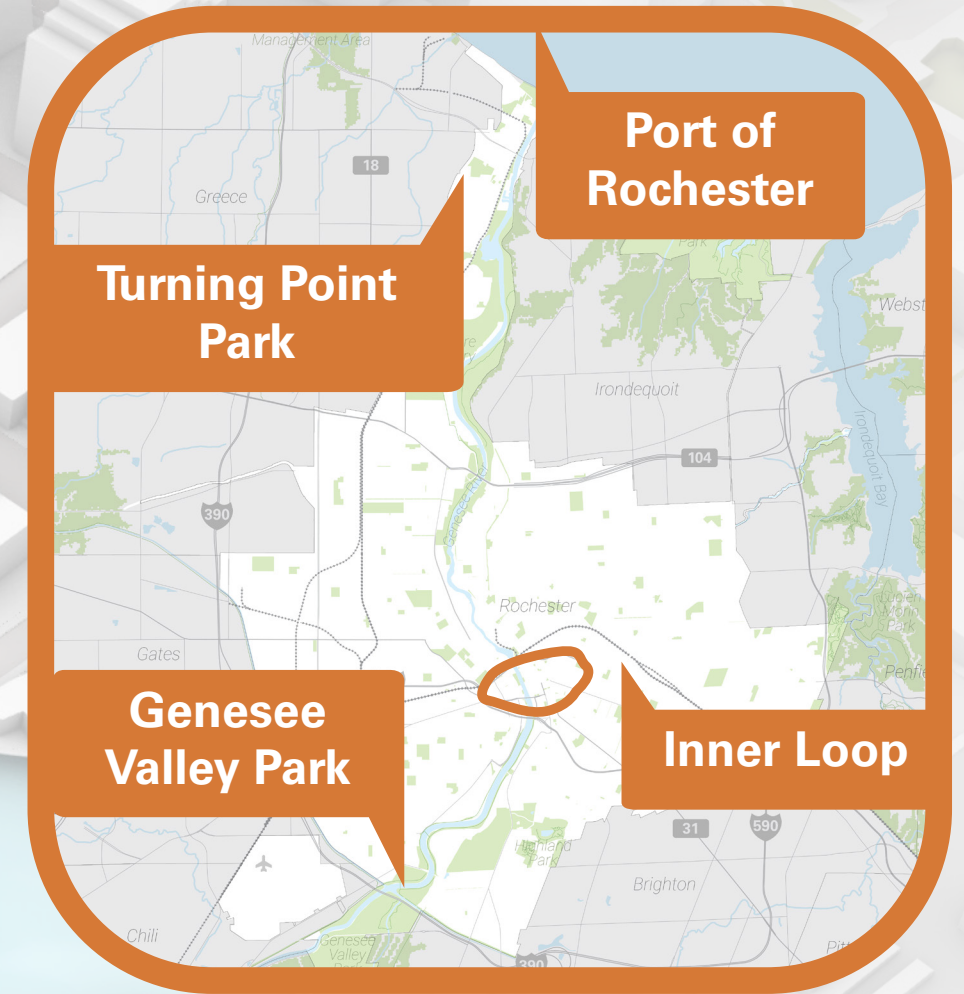
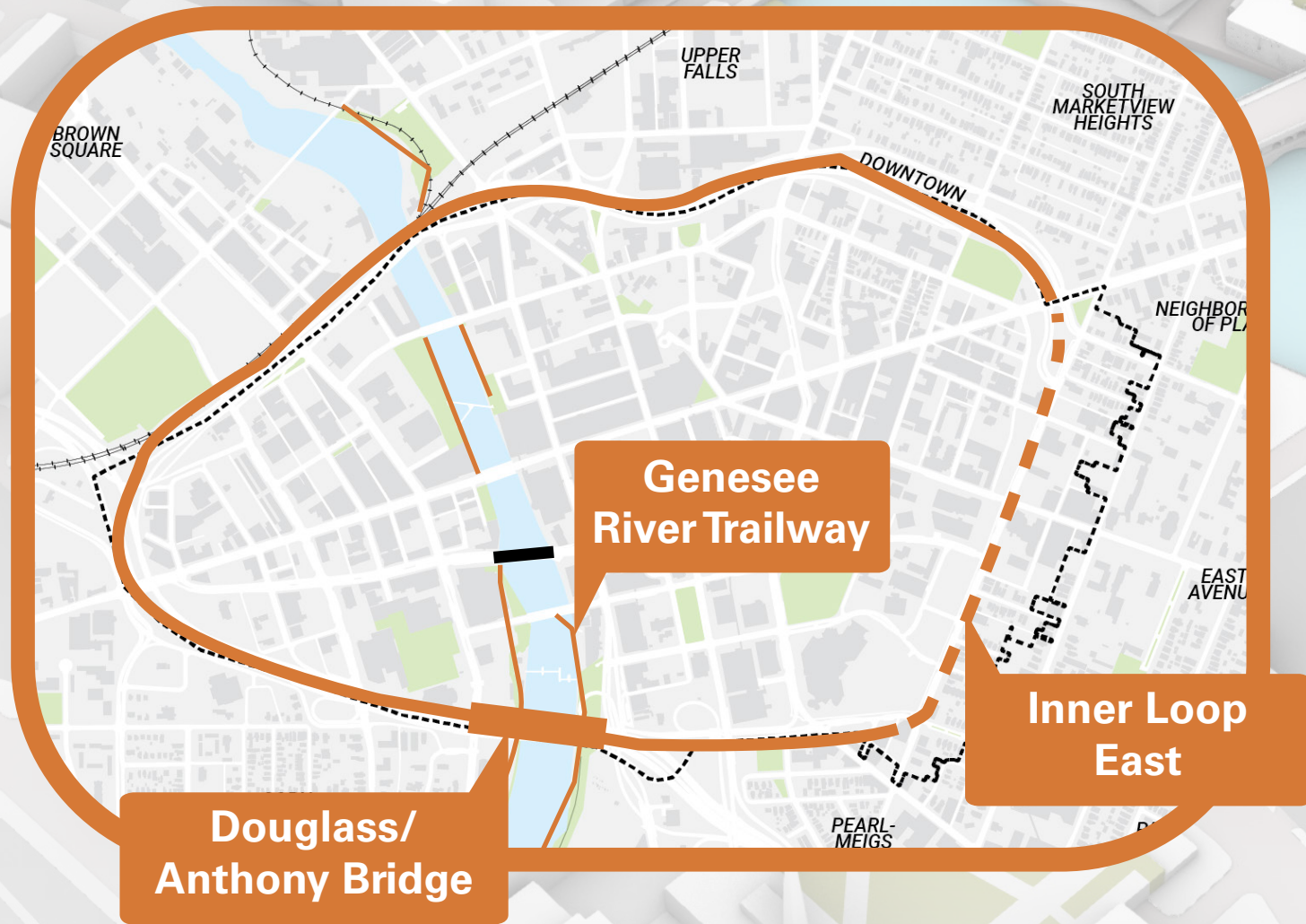
Today

1700s

1800s

1900s

2000s





What would make the downtown more walkable or bikable, encouraging people to cross the river from the east or west?



Economic Boom. Bust. Boom

From an powerhouse of trade, commerce,
and manufacturing,
to decline, "renewal" and disinvestment,
to rebuilding and reimagining for the
future.

Using the Water

From the founding of Rochester, the waterways were vital to the economy of the settlement. Nathaniel Rochester first purchased the land and founded Rochesterville because he saw the promise of the river as a site for mills.

Survival through War

Throughout the 1930s demands for clothing and moving picture film maintained the industrial economies of Rochester. The second World War brought brisk orders for uniforms and supplies that kept factories busy.

New Economy

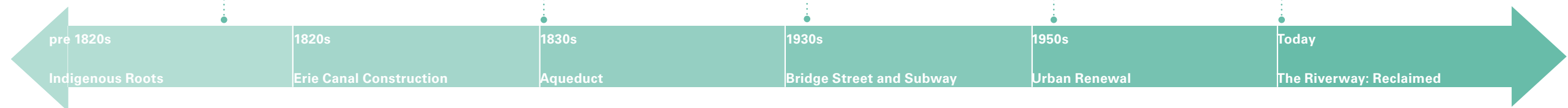
Eastern New York is home to what is known as 'Tech Valley,' giving Rochester offshoots of that industry. Rochester now is home to thriving economies of Education, Technology, and Medicine.

Early Industrial Boom

William Atkinson and Hervey Ely constructed Flour Mills in 1817 and 1822 respectively. They shipped the first boat load of flour east to Little Falls before the completion of the Erie Canal to Albany. This was the start of Rochester becoming known as "The Flour City," due to the abundance of flour mills.

The Decline of Downtown

As suburbanization and urban renewal hollowed out the inner neighborhoods of Rochester, many companies left as well. Although still a center of business, many of the largest companies in the area are no longer centered in the downtown area.



1830-1920

Many manufacturers settled in Rochester. Future innovators also made it their home.

1700s

1800s

1900s

2000s

Corinthian Hall (1849)

Monroe County Courthouse (1822)

City Hall (1889)

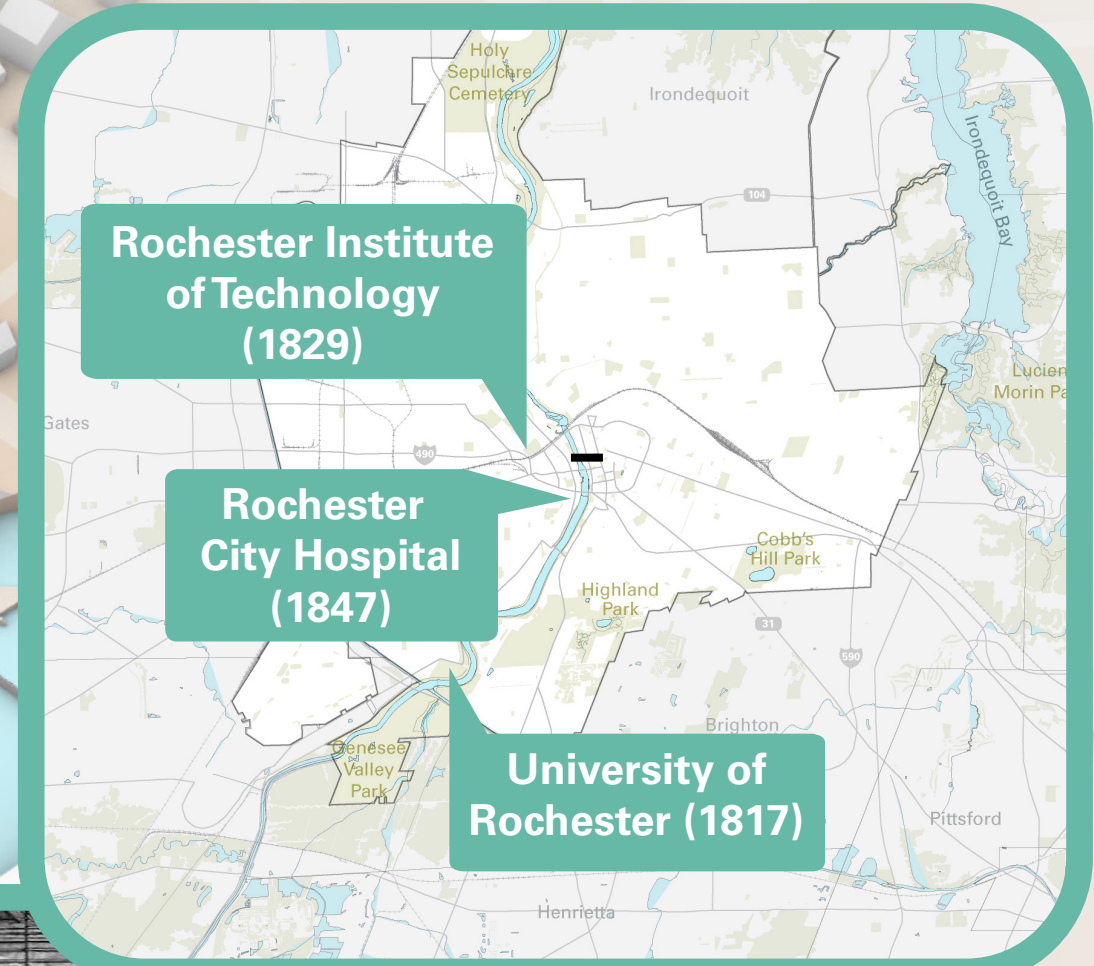
Rochester Institute of Technology (1829)

Rochester City Hospital (1847)

University of Rochester (1817)



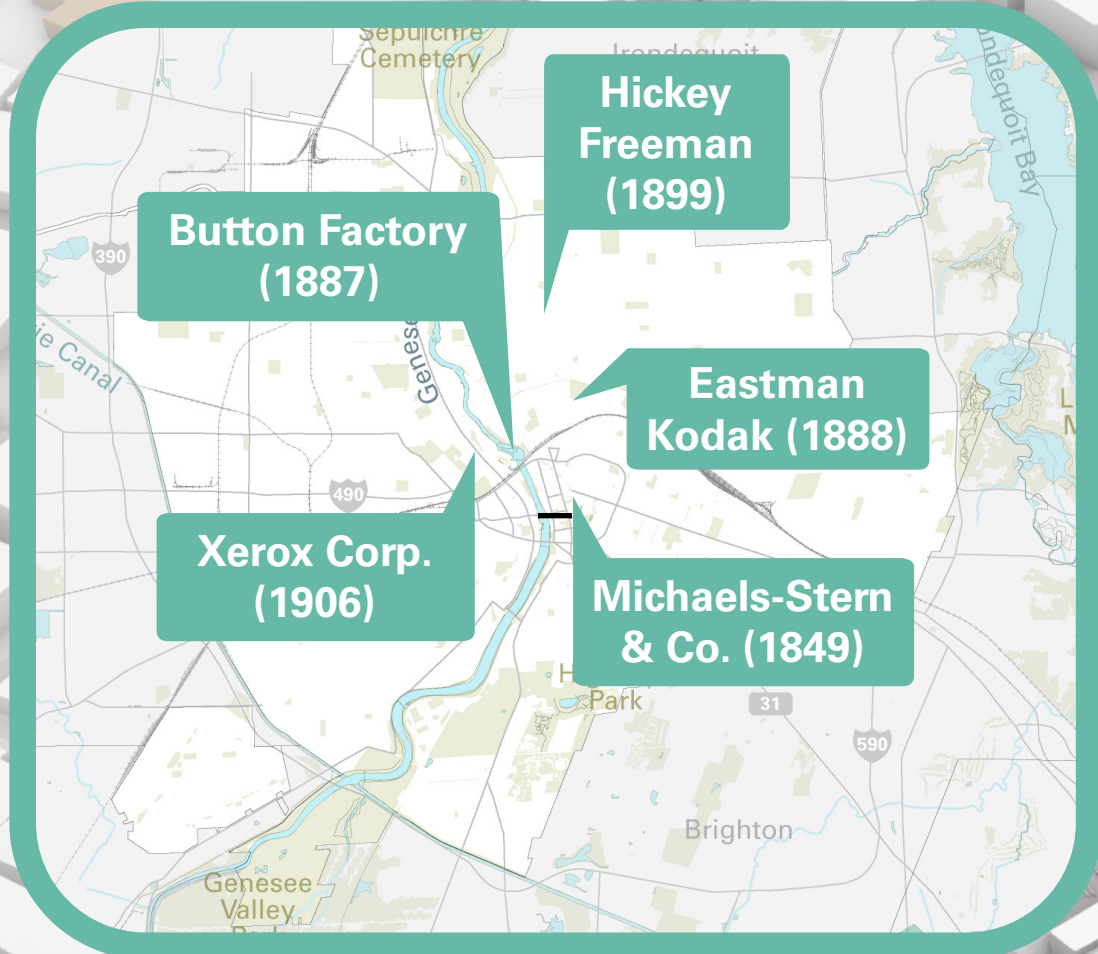
Corinthian Hall
Source: Rochester Public Library



1830-1920

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1700s
1800s
1900s
2000s



Bausch & Lomb (1853)

Gannett Newspapers (1906)

Kimball Tobacco Factory (1881)



George Eastman, creator of the box camera.
Source: Getty Image

Employment by Occupation and Industry

Rochester Metropolitan Area

Employment by Industries

537k
2019 VALUE
± 11,427

3.49%
1 YEAR GROWTH
± 2.85%

From 2018 to 2019, employment in Rochester, NY grew at a rate of 3.49%, from 518k employees to 537k employees.

The most common employment sectors for those who live in Rochester, NY, are Health Care & Social Assistance (91,500 people), Educational Services (75,376 people), and Manufacturing (63,930 people). This chart shows the share breakdown of the primary industries for residents of Rochester, NY, though some of these residents may live in Rochester, NY and work somewhere else. Census data is tagged to a residential address, not a work address.

Data from the Census Bureau ACS 1-year Estimate.



Employment by Occupations

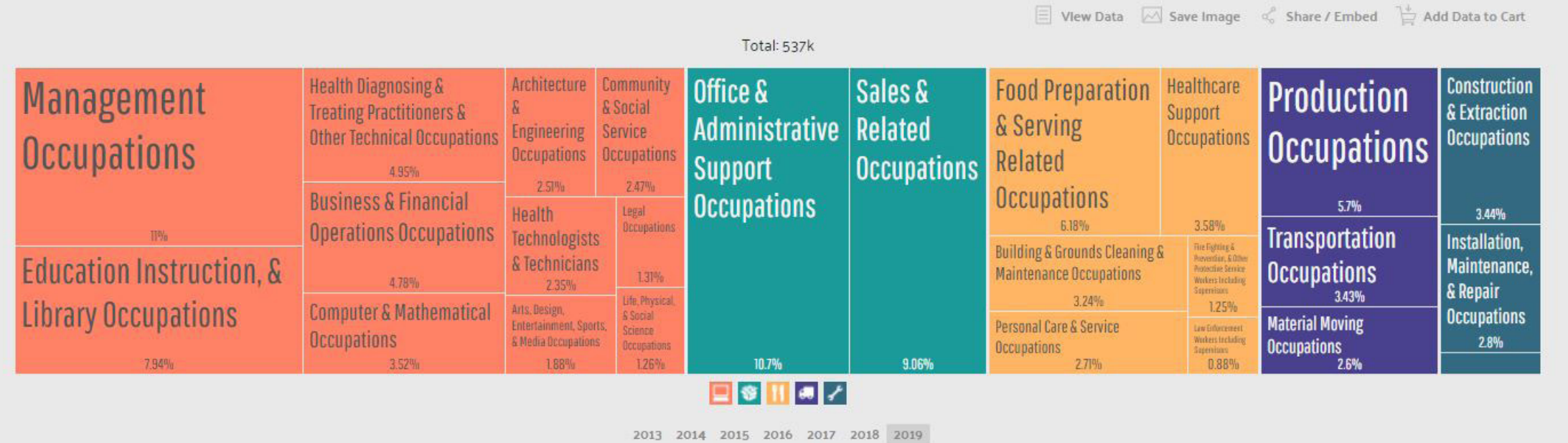
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The most common job groups, by number of people living in Rochester, NY, are Management Occupations (58,924 people), Office & Administrative Support Occupations (57,499 people), and Sales & Related Occupations (48,625 people). This chart illustrates the share breakdown of the primary jobs held by residents of Rochester, NY.

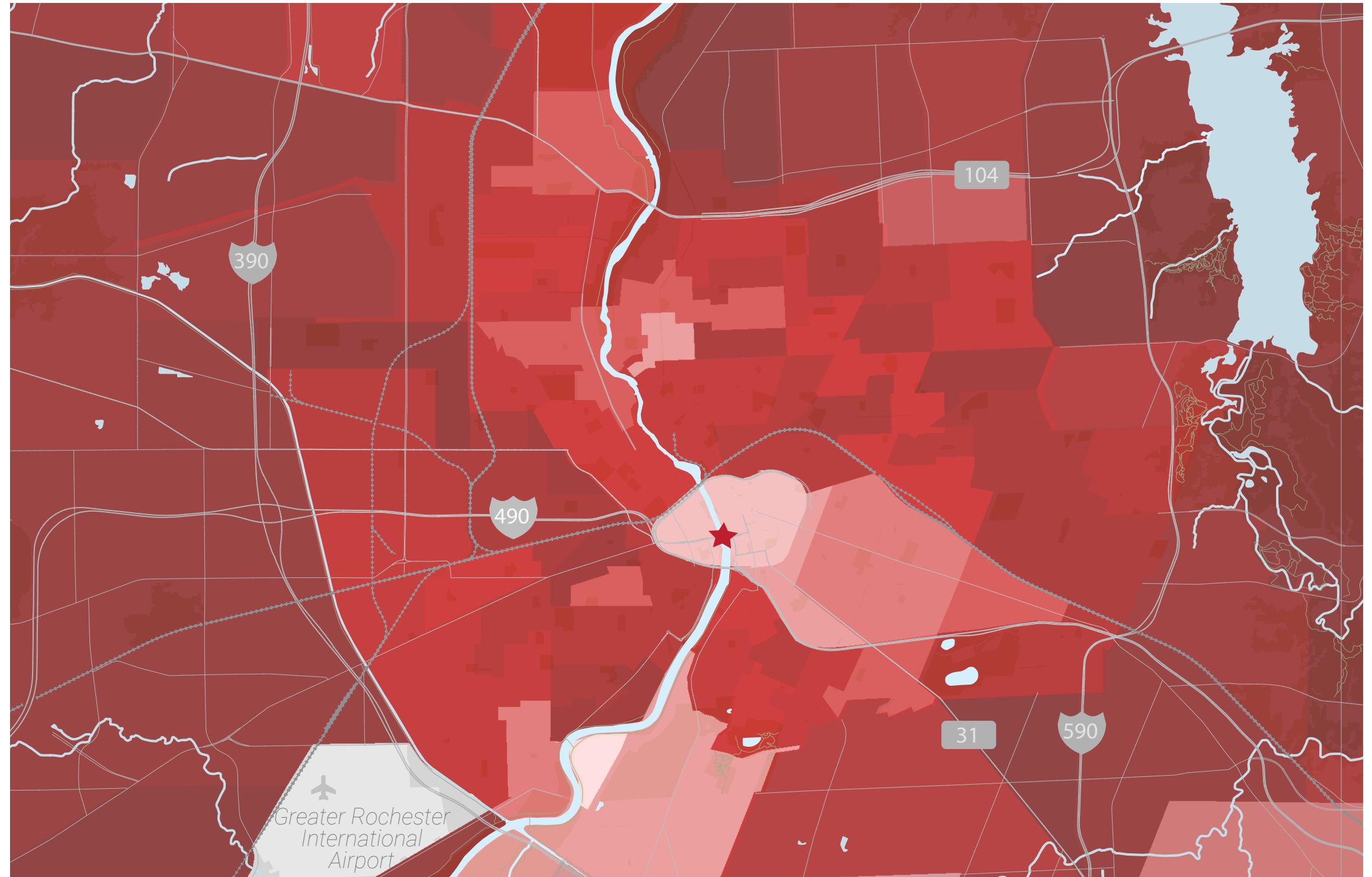
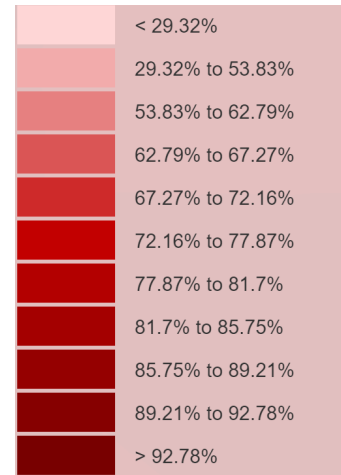
Data from the Census Bureau ACS 1-year Estimate.



Population

People in Downtown Rochester live there for a shorter time than those in other parts of the City.

Housing

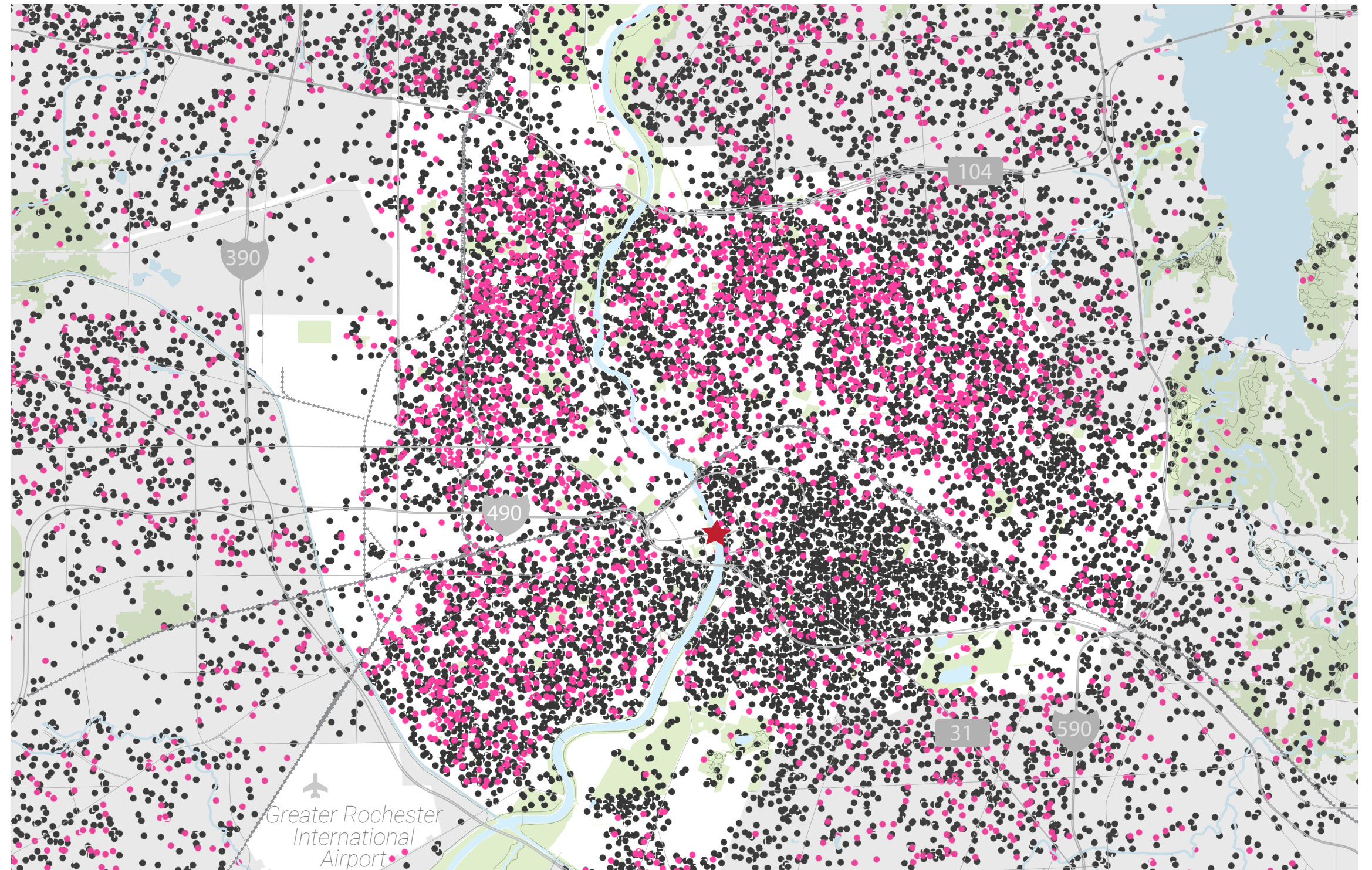


Population

Rochester Downtown & Neighborhoods

The Aqueduct is surrounded by neighborhoods with high concentrations of families with children.

Households in the areas to the north, east, and west of Downtown have a combined average of 37% with children, compared to 27% for all of Monroe County.



Population

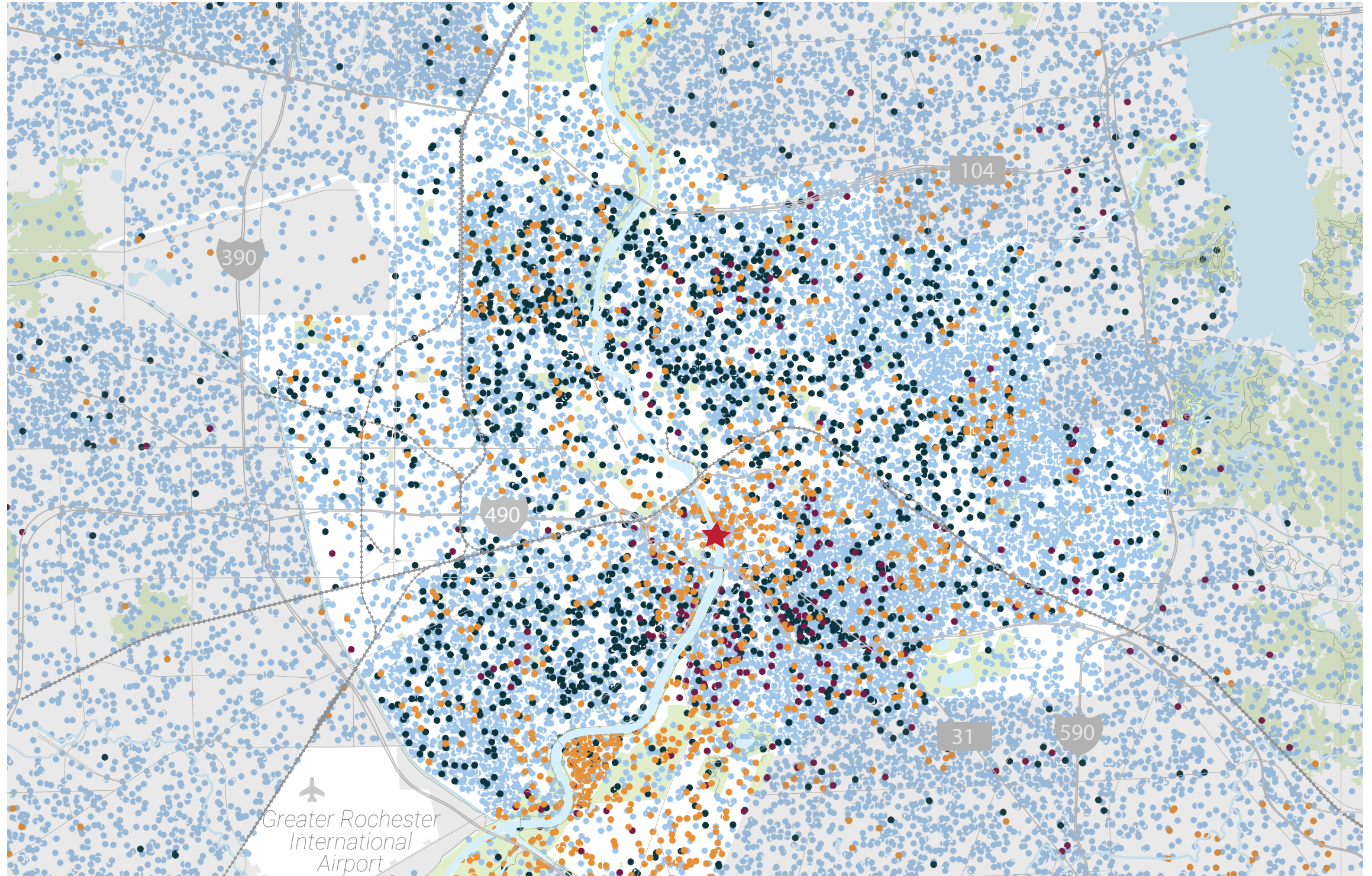
The vast majority of people travel by car, though many people within the city also walk, bike, or take public transit.

Monroe County	Rochester
88.57%	79.5%
2.9%	8.84%
0.5%	1.1%
3%	6.35%

1 Dot Represents 5 People

- Car
- Public Transportation
- Bike
- Walk

Mobility





**How do you think a public space like the
Aqueduct project can contribute to the local
economy?**



Culture Protected

Culture Restored

The river as a space
for Place-keeping
and Place-making for
acknowledgement,
healing, celebration, and
reconciliation

Lost Communities

From the early Seneca settlements, to demolished African American neighborhoods, there has been a legacy of lost neighborhoods.

Cultural Enclaves

As early as 1810, freed blacks were living in Rochester's High Street and established the first African neighborhood known today as Corn Hill. The name came about due to the crops of corn on the elevated banks of the Genesee.

Celebrations and Events

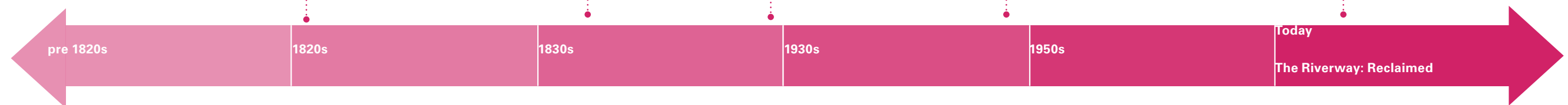
Downtown Rochester remains a place for year round celebrations, hosting a variety of events and festivals representing Rochester's diverse population.

A Place of Leisure

The late 1800s was marked by Frederick Law Olmsted urging the city towards cultivating and preserving the natural landscape along the Genesee River from industrial development. Ellwanger & Barry, alongside George Eastman and James Duffy donated hundreds of acres of land into today's Maplewood and Highland Park designed by Olmsted.

Cultural Divides

Through racist housing policies, white flight, and waves of immigration, Rochester has become a diverse, but divided city. The river and highways are major dividers between culturally different neighborhoods.



The subway/canal bed are defunct but have been repurposed for other innovative uses.

Today

1700s

1800s

1900s

2000s

Graffiti

Graffiti dates back to the 60s with the rise of Hip Hop. In the 1980s CHANGE and POSE were the kings of Graffiti in Rochester, followed by RANGE who pioneered the aerosol medium. By the 1990s, 'Krews' or groups of graffiti artists formed and today's FUA KREW was born.



Source: Manuel, 2011

Today

180 years of Aqueduct stories in the lives of Rochesterians.



1842-1918
The Erie Canal

1927-1998
Railway

1927-1958
Subway

Community
Art Space

1800

1900

2000

← 76 years

← 104 years

2022
● Aqueduct Reimagined

What role does Graffiti play in Rochester?

"I am Here"

Personal Expression

1970s

Art moved into galleries, prestigious exhibitions spread through major cities. Evolution to complex letterforms, WILDSTYLE.

"I have a Voice"

Social Commentary

1980s

Global form of expression drove Cities to develop their own style, hence the "Rochester Style." Broken Window Theory and police Vandal Squad was formed.

"This is My Community"

Community Involvement

1989

Major clampdown across the US. Idea of graffiti as a felony developed.

2004

Public perception shifted back to galleries. Art of political activism and social justice for underrepresented communities emerged alongside dramatic evolutions of technique and style.



What cultures, histories, traditions and identities (past, lost/erased, and present) should be considered as part of the design and programming of the Aqueduct?

Ecology

What memory do you have of being on or near the river?

What did you do, see, hear, or smell?

Populations:

What must the Aqueduct project consider (values) or include (features) in order to draw the most diverse range of users?

Who must we be sure to include?

Mobility

What would make the downtown more walkable or bikable, encouraging people to cross the river from the east or west?

Place/Culture

What cultures, histories, traditions and identities (past, lost/erased, and present) should be considered as part of the design and programming of the Aqueduct?

Economy

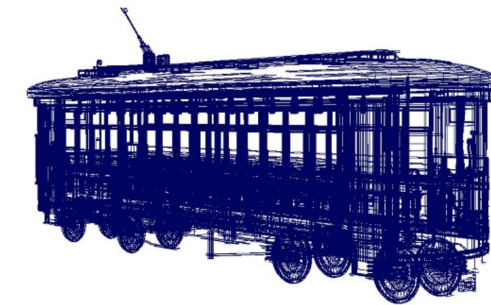
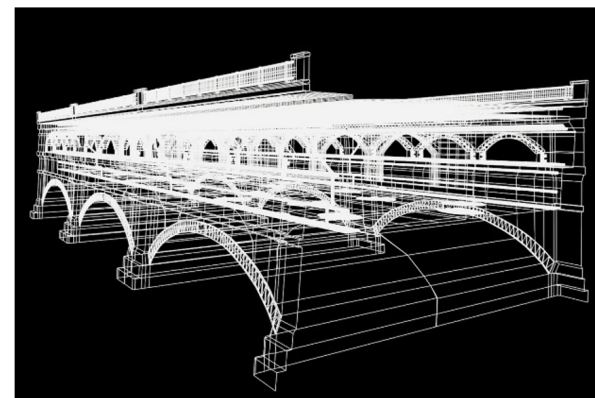
How do you think a public space like the Aqueduct project can contribute to the local economy?

Next Steps

- Primary Tasks
 - Data Collection & Analysis
 - Permitting
 - Environmental Impacts
 - Right-of-Way Analysis
- Work in Progress
 - Traffic Analysis
 - South Ave. Conversion
- Public Engagement - April 30th

Primary Tasks

- Survey
- Structural Analysis
- Traffic Counts & Capacity Analysis
- Crash Data and Analysis
- Soil Investigations
- Hydraulic Analysis
- Pavement Evaluation
- Utilities
- Environmental Considerations
- Visual Arts and Subway Cataloging



Work in Progress

- Assess new traffic patterns
- East Broad Street Closure
- South Avenue Two-Way Conversion
- Traffic counts: April data collection
- 23 intersections, 11 continuous count locations
- Draft Traffic Analysis Report (early June)

Traffic Analysis



Discussion Break

Q&A

Comments

ROC THE RIVERWAY
BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE



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

Richard Perrin, DES Commissioner
Holly Barrett, City Engineer
Kamal Crues, Project Manager



BERGMANN
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS PLANNERS

**URBAN
AMERICAN
CITY**

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WXY architecture + urban design

Dr. Jessica
Lieberman