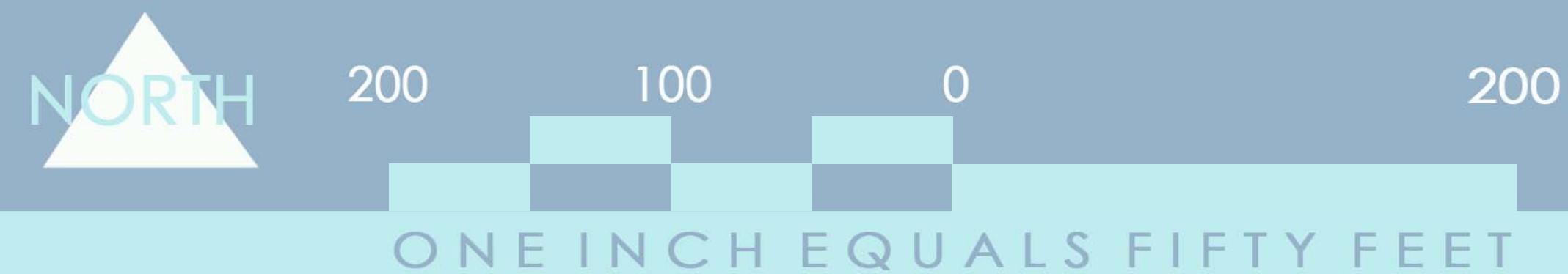
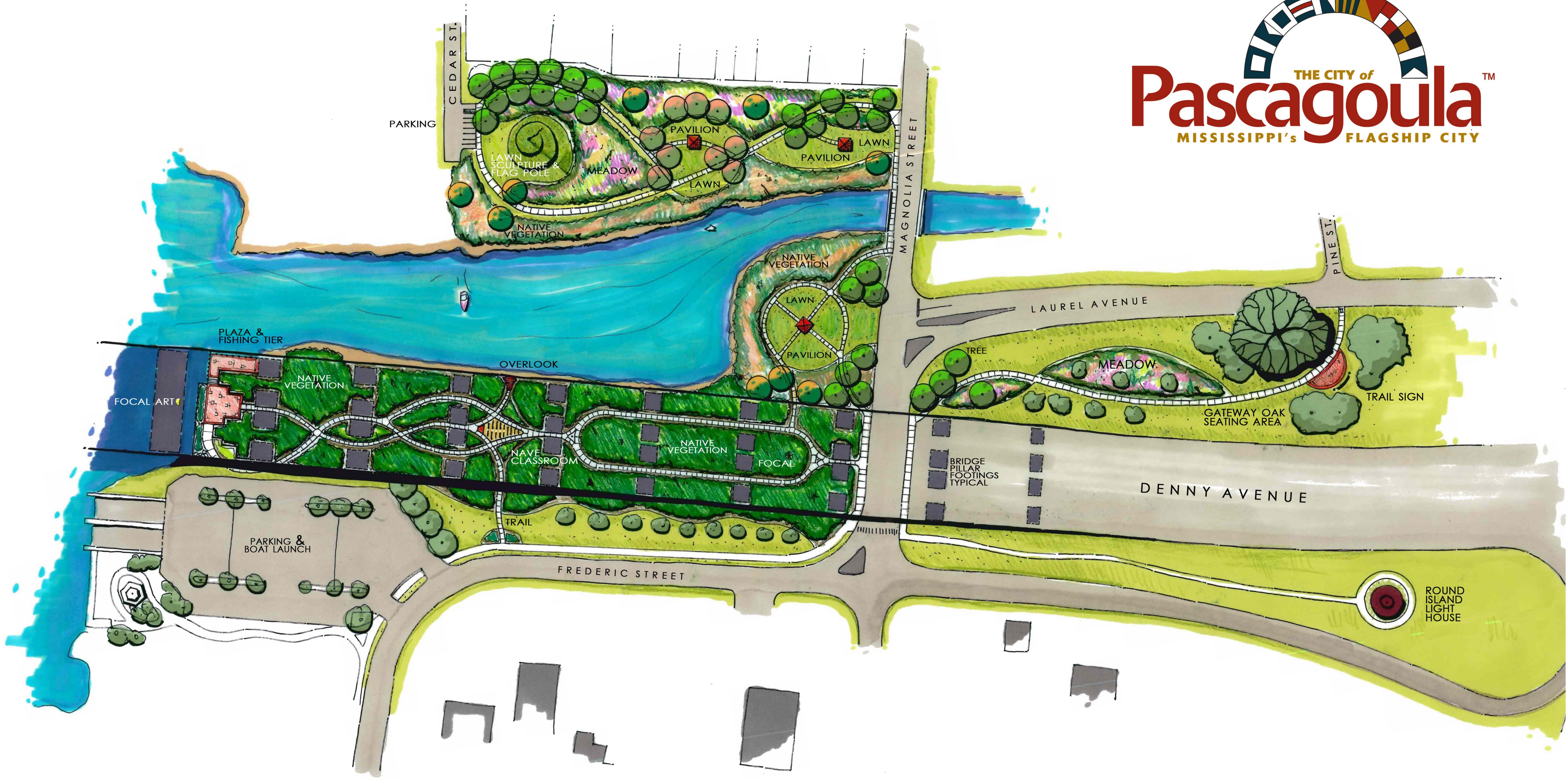


# PASCAGOULA RIVER BRIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL TRAIL



## CHRISTIAN PREUS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

The **Pascagoula River Bridge Environmental Trail** *Preliminary Master Plan* is designed to highlight the natural and built environment surrounding the Singing River at the point where the Highway 90 or Denny Avenue Bridge meets this free flowing waterway.

This walkway system will serve as a connector for many existing and future amenities, such as the Round Island Lighthouse, the Gateway Oak, the Historic Pathway, and the boat launch and parking area.

The overall project is made up of three defined areas.

The first area is under and around the Denny Avenue Bridge. The proposed design illustrates a six foot wide walkway meandering around the architectural bridge pilings, with educational signage, and seating areas along the way. There are overlooks (conceptually shown as wooden decks) that will serve as destination points for walkers and joggers to take in the views of the river. An outdoor classroom is shown, centrally located under the bridge to allow students and instructors to appreciate the "Nave" like feel created by the large corridors of arches that make up the structure of the bridge. Drainage improvements and erosion control measures will be taken to ensure that there are no ongoing issues with stormwater and erosion. Native vegetation will be used to landscape the areas around the path and under the bridge to further emphasize the environmental theme. Irrigation and water service points will also be installed to ensure the long term health and vitality of the landscaped areas. As funding allows, lighting and security kiosks shall be incorporated into the plan to provide a safe environment for all users. Slightly north of the bridge, a pavilion surrounded by a large lawn is proposed to serve as a framed focal point for drivers going west bound on Laurel Avenue while providing a more open green space for children and adults to play and picnic. Native vegetation, irrigation, and lighting will also be implemented if the property is acquired by the City of Pascagoula. Where the curb and gutter disappear, an asphalt shoulder widening is proposed to accommodate the walkway along Magnolia Street to the bridge and continuing North to the other side as noted on the drawing. Bollards are proposed along all major vehicular routes to prevent cars (except for maintenance vehicles) from accessing any point of the site.

To the East, the walkway undulates through a proposed meadow of wildflowers from the bridge up the hill to connect to Pine Street. The majestic Gateway Oak will serve as a true destination point for walkers and joggers. To celebrate the oak and provide a place for people to appreciate its beauty, a sitting area is proposed on the south east side of the tree. Benches, landscape and lighting will be used to enhance the sitting area. Behind the sitting area a sign is shown that will call attention to the area for drivers passing by along Denny Avenue.

Back to the North, the proposed asphalt walkway picks up on the other side of the creek bridge on Magnolia Street to the concrete walkway which will connect people to another parking area, as well as a play hill or lawn sculpture that will provide entertainment for young children. A large flag pole is proposed atop the hill to embrace Pascagoula's brand as Mississippi's Flagship City, and to provide a focal point from all angles of the project and the roadways. Pavilions and trees are proposed to add shelter and shade. A small restroom may be added to serve the users of this park area. Native vegetation, irrigation, and lighting are proposed to improve the aesthetics and character of the site while providing the educational component that the City would like to provide their citizens and visitors.

What is described above is the proposed long term vision for the site. Due to the minimal amount of funding available for the project at this time, the initial phase of construction is likely to involve only a portion of the project, primarily under the Denny Avenue Bridge area. This construction phase may include, but may not be limited to, the grading and drainage improvements, installation of a six foot wide concrete walk along with some asphalt shoulder widening, educational signage, as well as landscape and irrigation. Predominately all of the work will be completed with in-kind labor services from the City's Public Works department. However, there may be some assistance from contractors for irrigation and drainage installation.