



ALLERTON  
PARK & RETREAT CENTER

# HATCH-WESTERMAN FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY

U19020

Monticello, Illinois



HITCHCOCK  
DESIGN  
GROUP  
creating better places



W. GARY SMITH  
DESIGN



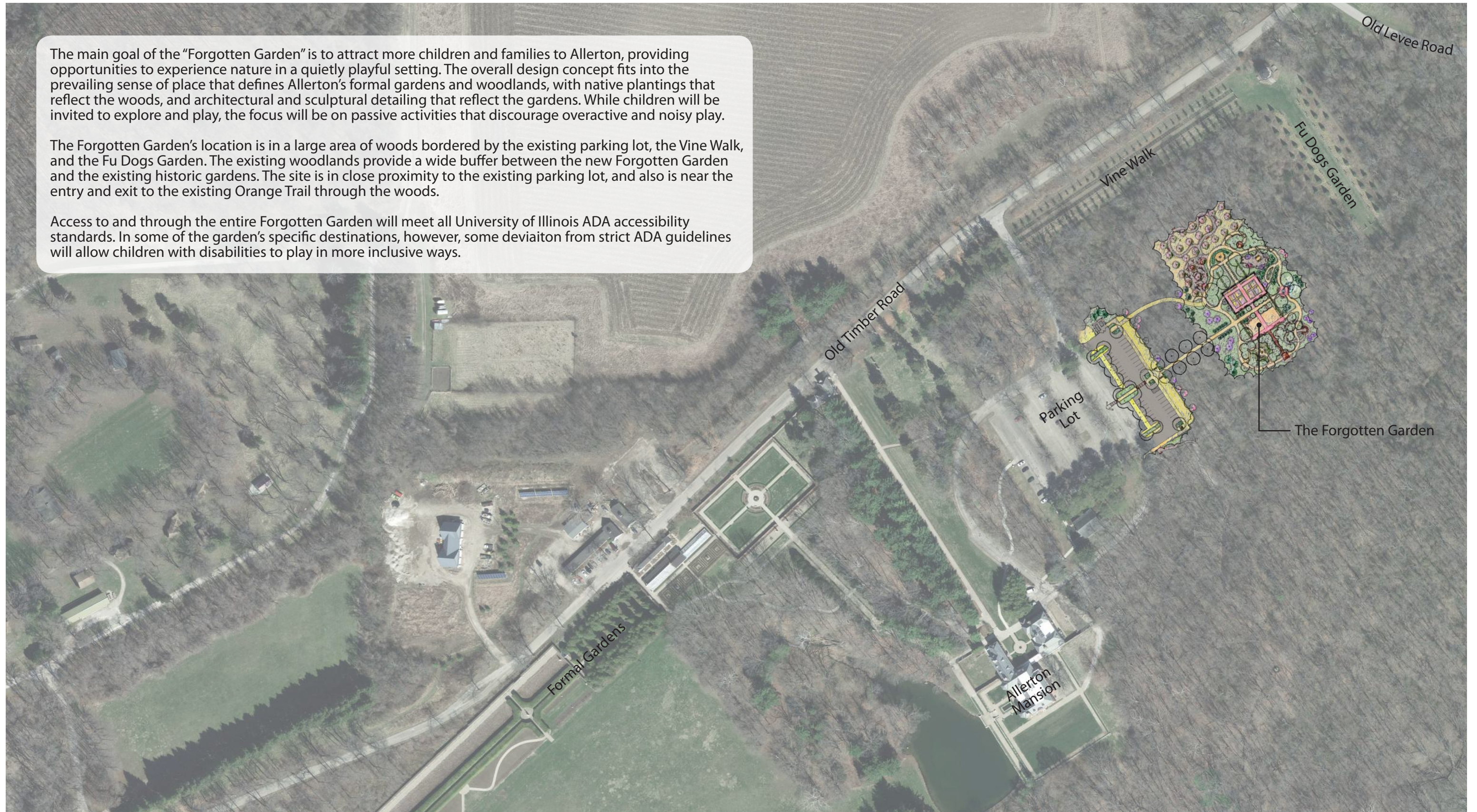




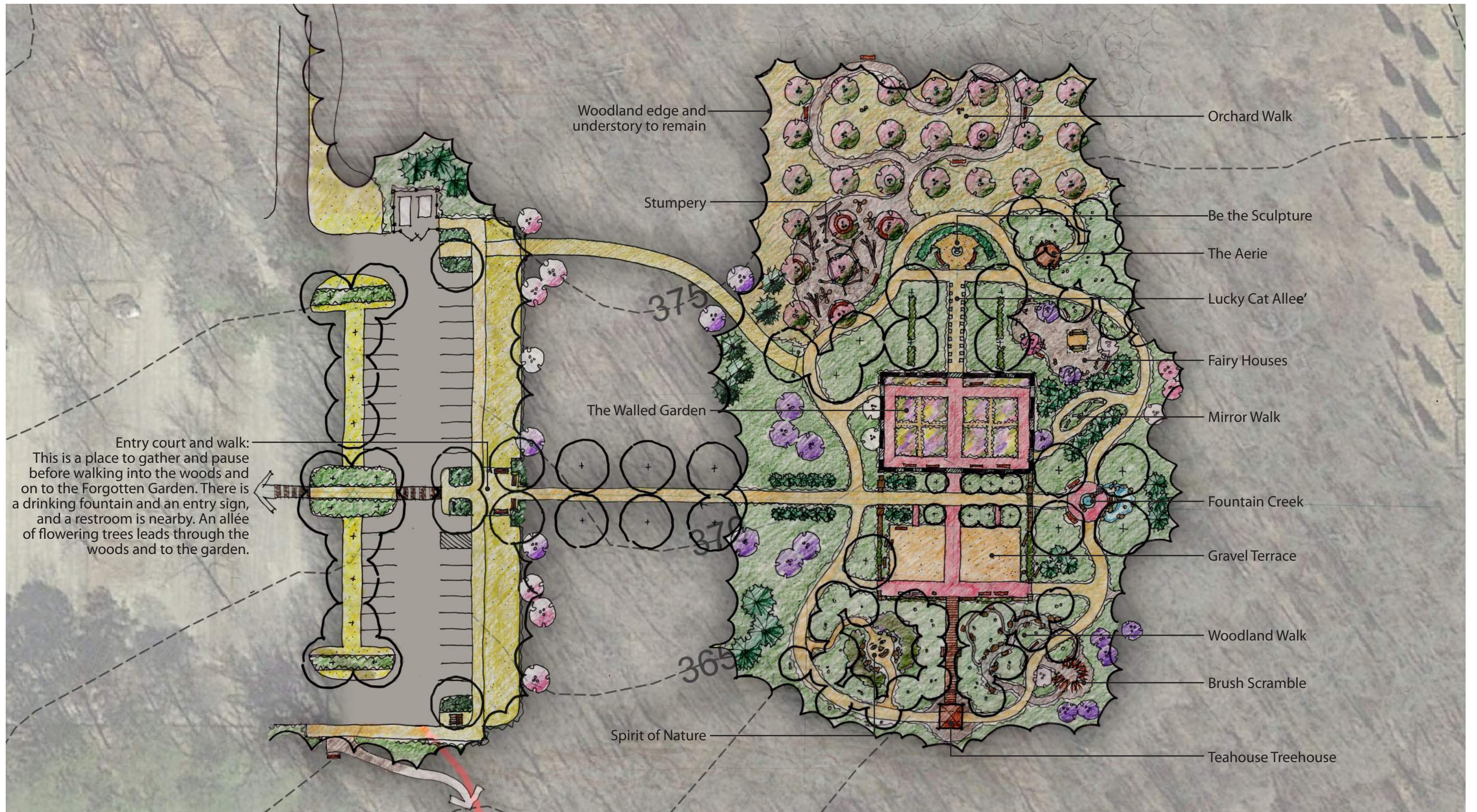
The main goal of the "Forgotten Garden" is to attract more children and families to Allerton, providing opportunities to experience nature in a quietly playful setting. The overall design concept fits into the prevailing sense of place that defines Allerton's formal gardens and woodlands, with native plantings that reflect the woods, and architectural and sculptural detailing that reflect the gardens. While children will be invited to explore and play, the focus will be on passive activities that discourage overactive and noisy play.

The Forgotten Garden's location is in a large area of woods bordered by the existing parking lot, the Vine Walk, and the Fu Dogs Garden. The existing woodlands provide a wide buffer between the new Forgotten Garden and the existing historic gardens. The site is in close proximity to the existing parking lot, and also is near the entry and exit to the existing Orange Trail through the woods.

Access to and through the entire Forgotten Garden will meet all University of Illinois ADA accessibility standards. In some of the garden's specific destinations, however, some deviation from strict ADA guidelines will allow children with disabilities to play in more inclusive ways.



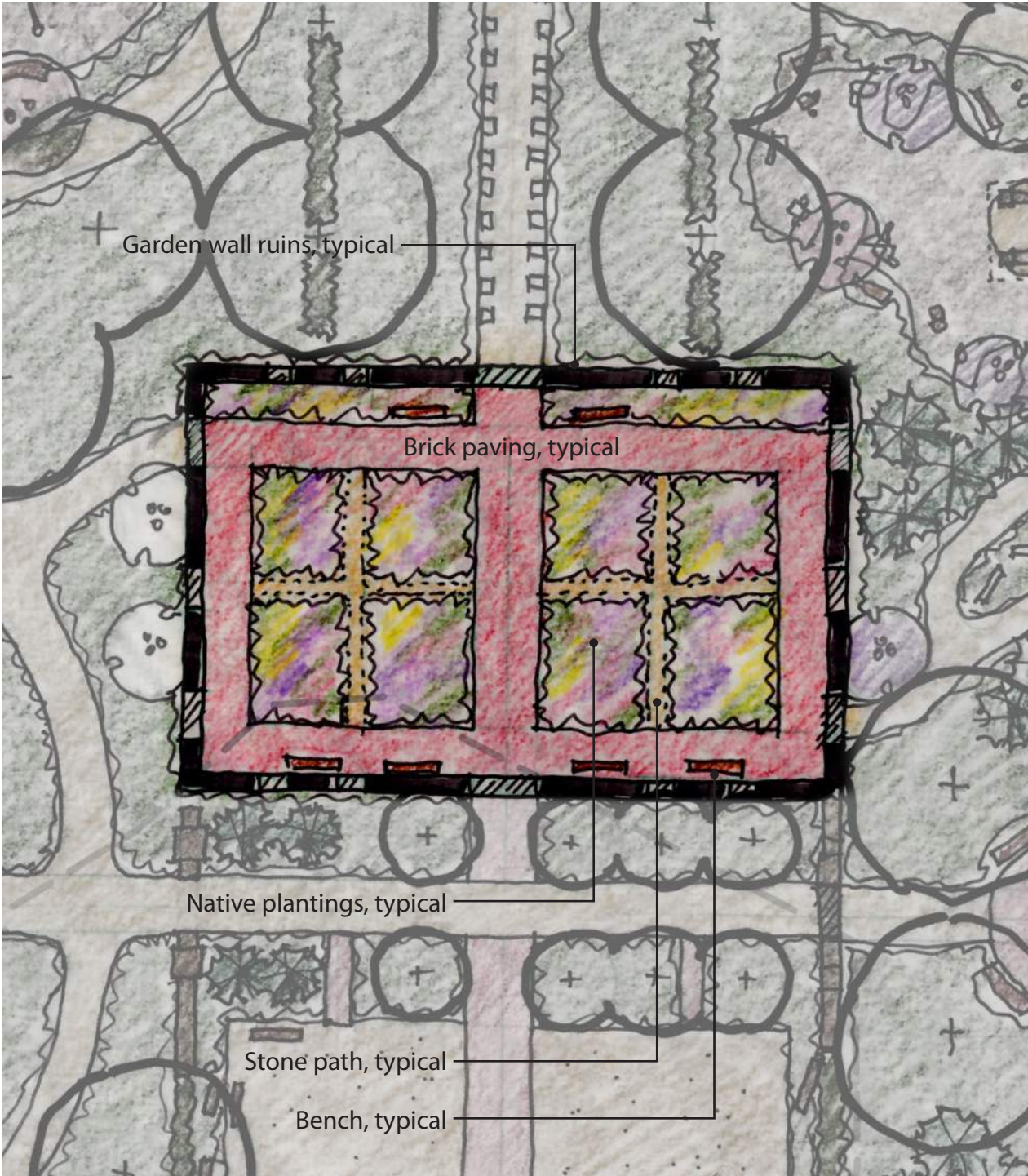






**The Walled Garden**

The central feature in the garden’s backstory, it’s where the “ruined” formal garden now has been filled with native wildflowers and grasses. It will be a haven for butterflies and birds. The old masonry walls appear to have fallen down, with the piles of stone now serving as climbing rocks where kids can play. A child-size “tunnel” of tall native grasses runs through the center, while grownups can rest on benches around the edges and watch the children play.



The Jewel Box sketch



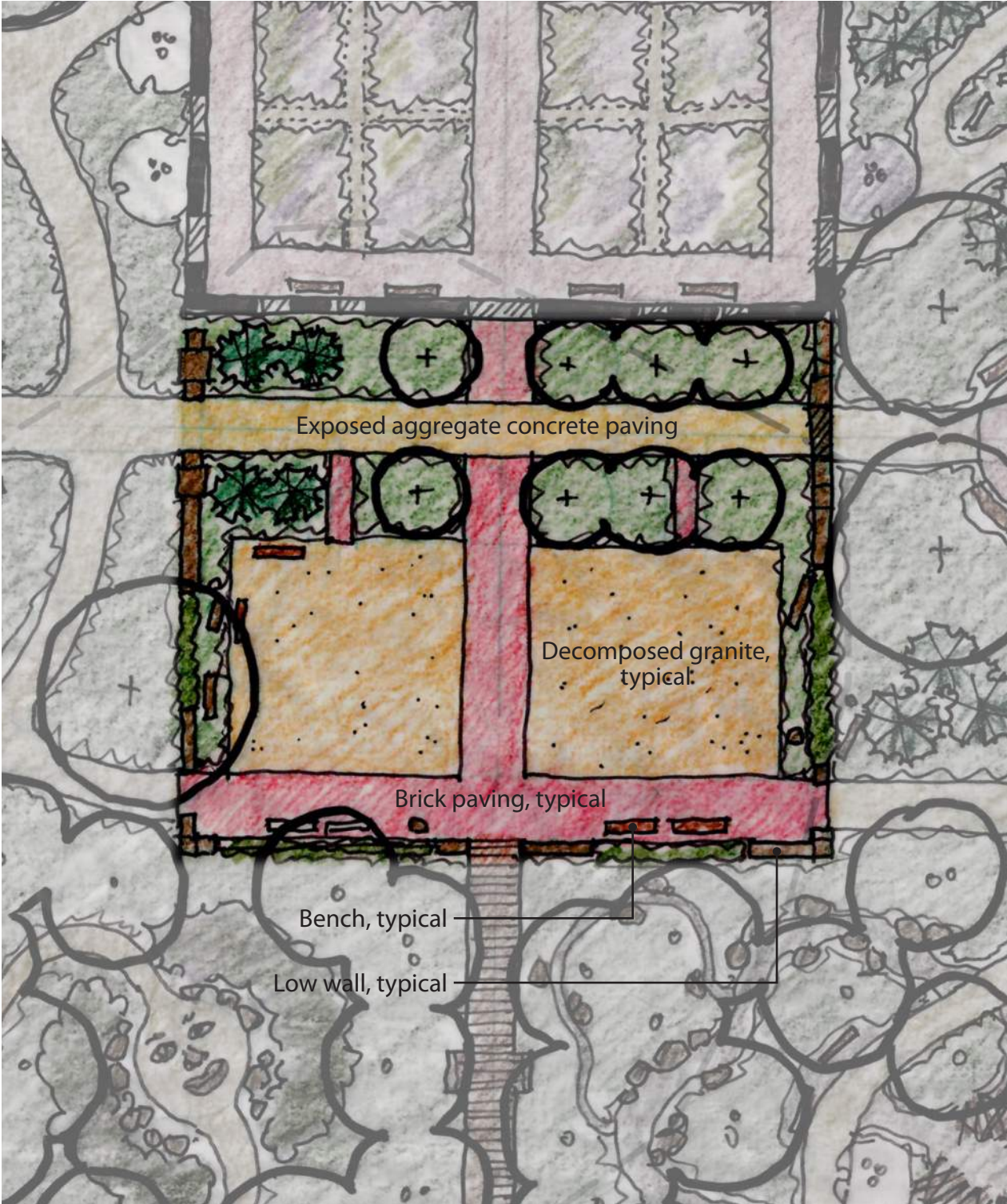
Native plantings



Garden wall ruins



**Gravel Terrace**  
This is a simple open court paved with compacted gravel, surrounded by herbaceous borders and benches. It is an unstructured open space where different activities can be staged, with enough room to accommodate two temporary tents.



Gravel court with in ground tent anchors



Seasonal event space

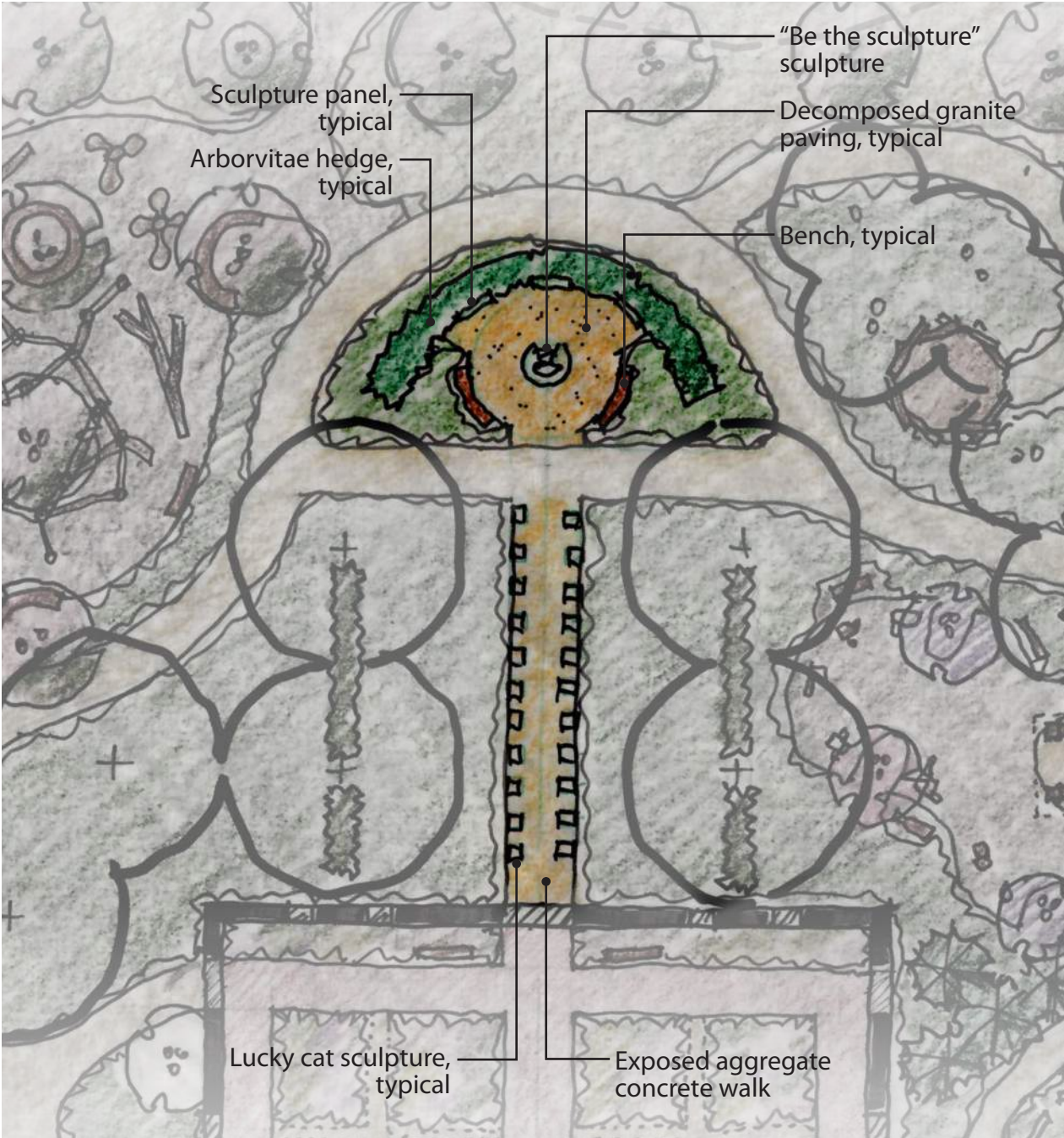


Special event space



Be the Sculpture

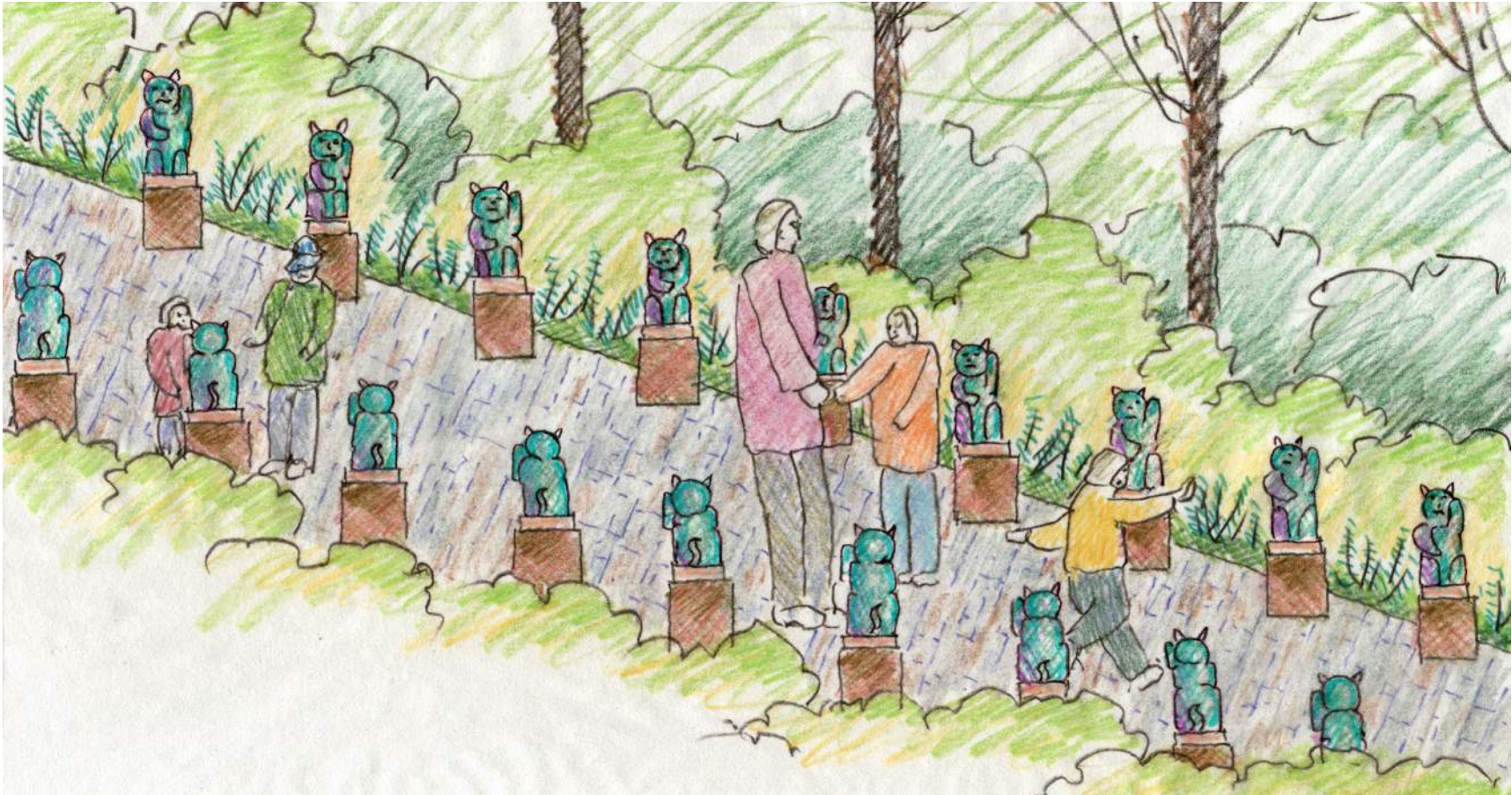
At first glance this statue appears to be a classical Greek torso, such as you might expect to find at other locations throughout Allerton. However, on close inspection you discover that it is only the façade of a statue. You can stand behind it and place your head and arms to complete the statue – a perfect photo opportunity.



Gravel court



"Be the sculpture" sculpture



Lucky cat Allee'

Lucky Cat Allee'

A humorous child-size reinterpretation of the Fu Dog Garden, this feature includes eleven pairs of Chinese "lucky cat" sculptures. The pathway is narrow, and the plinths are low enough for kids to touch and enjoy the sculptures.

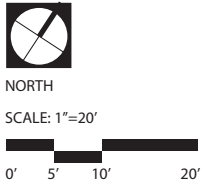


Be the Sculpture and Lucky Cat Allee'  
Hatch-Westerman Family and Children's Play Area Feasibility Study

Allerton Park & Retreat Center - Monticello, Illinois

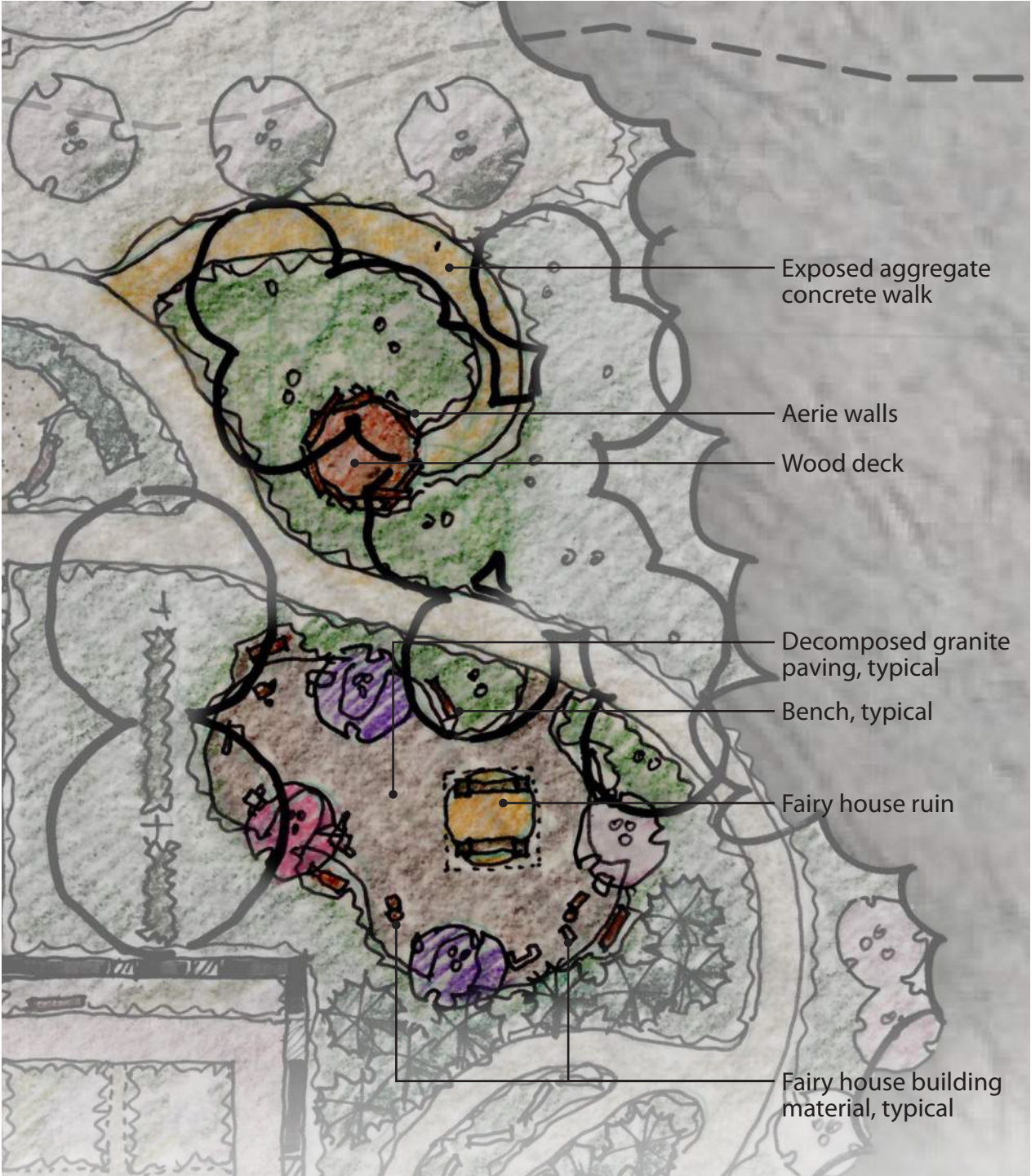


W. GARY SMITH  
DESIGN





**The Aerie**  
 A ramp leads up to a giant bird's nest – 4 feet above the ground – with a view down to the gardens below.



**Fairy Houses**  
 Here is a place where materials are provided so that kids can build their own small “fairy house.” At the center is a child-size pavilion, for shade and protection from rain.



Aerie wood deck



Aerie walls made from existing vines



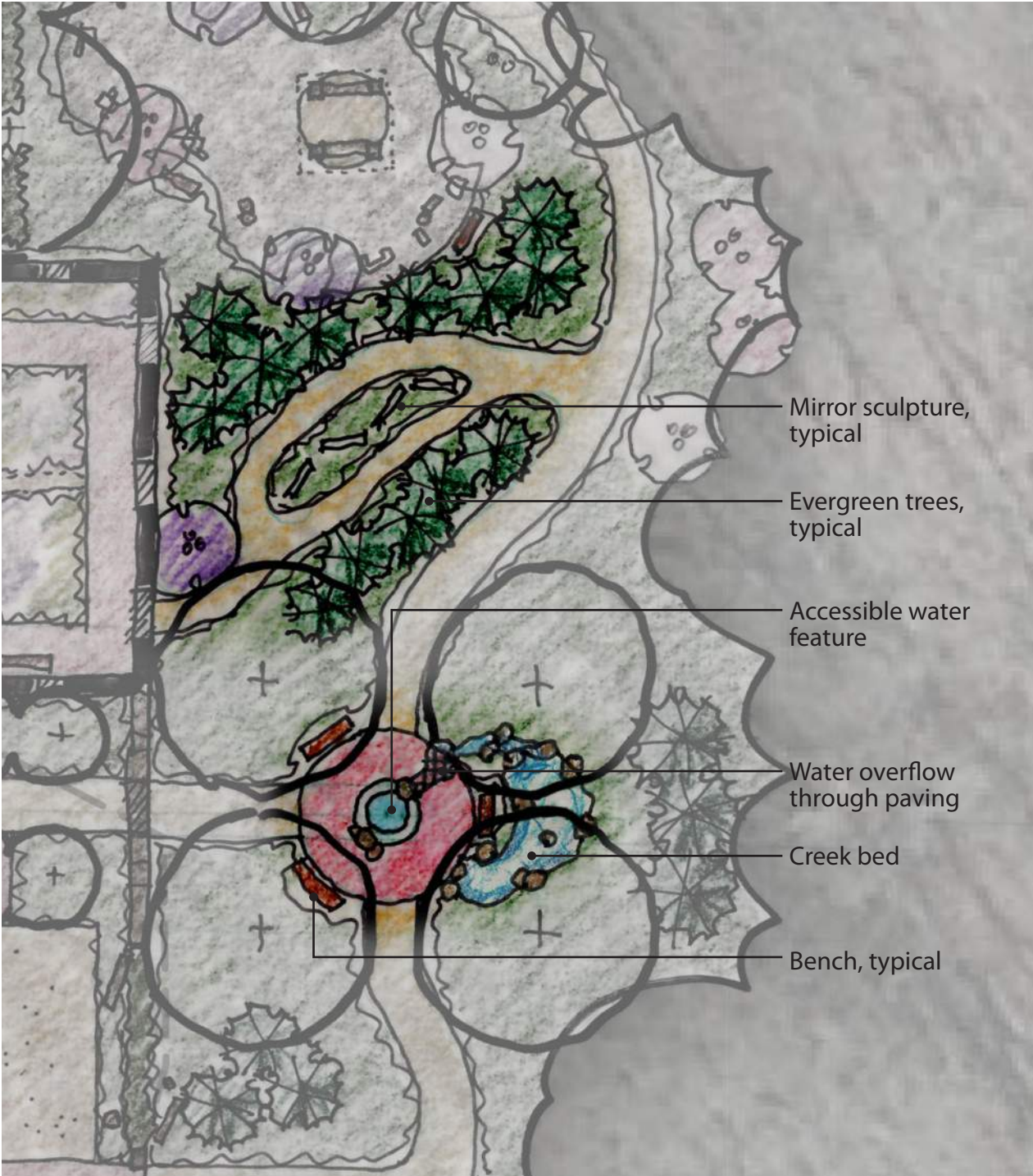
Fairy house ruin



Fairy house precedent images



**Mirror Walk**  
 Dense walls of native shrubs surround a grouping of stainless steel mirrors, where kids can find themselves reflected in nature.



**Fountain Creek**  
 This simple recirculating water feature includes a formal gardens fountain that cascades into a small natural "creek" where kids can splash and play.



Evergreen trees



Mirror sculpture



Water overflow through paving



Accessible water feature



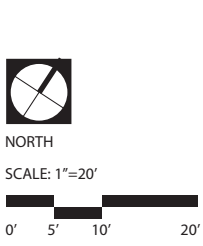
Creek bed



# Mirror Walk and Fountain Creek

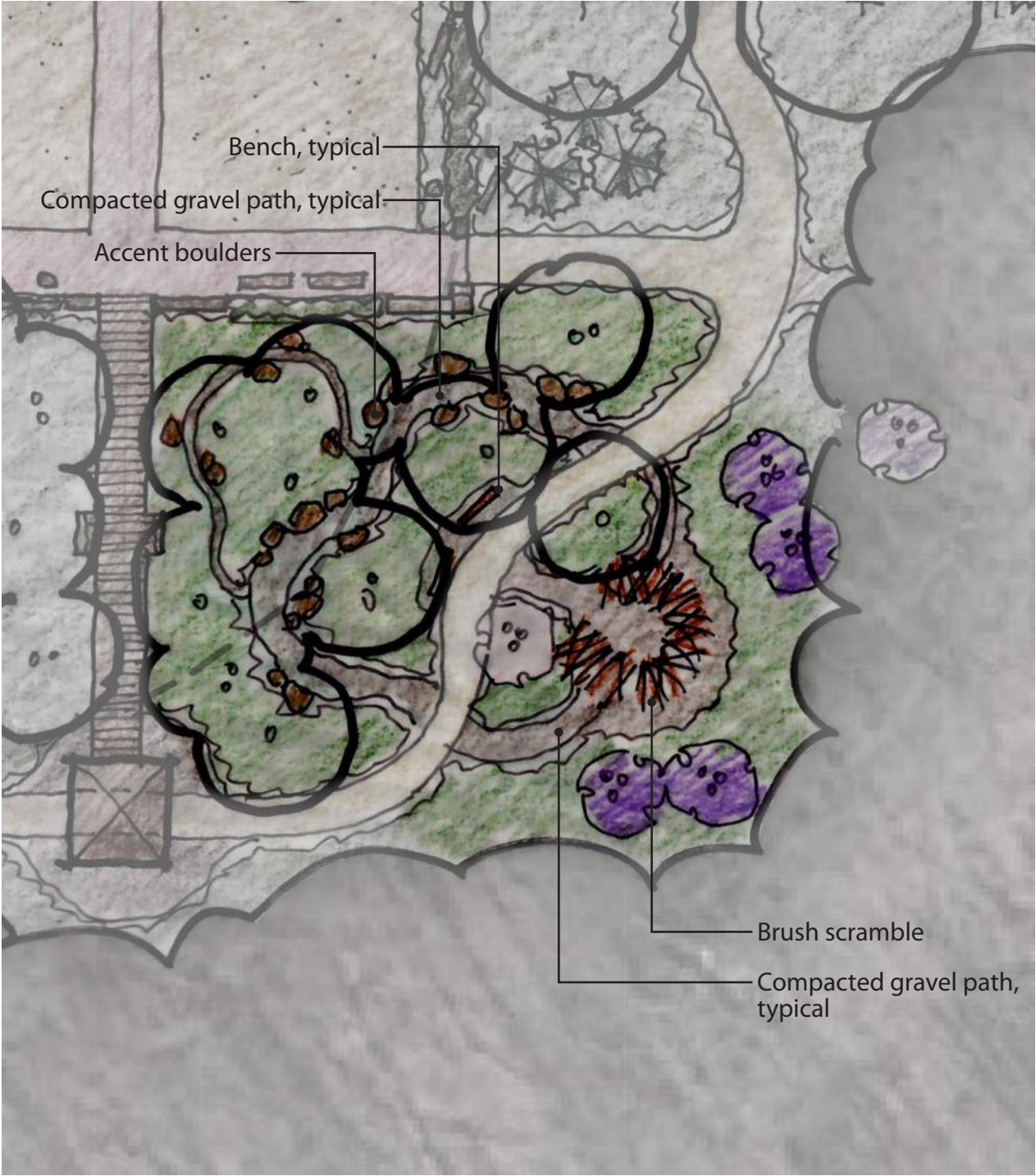
## Hatch-Westerman Family and Children's Play Area Feasibility Study

Allerton Park & Retreat Center - Monticello, Illinois





**Woodland Walk**  
 This is a small meandering walkway, off the major path, with small seats where kids can sit and feel removed from the rest of the garden.



**Brush Scramble**  
 What appears to be nothing more than a big pile of brush, actually has a tunnel going through it where kids can pretend they are animals in their natural habitat.



Woodland walk



Woodland walk



Accent boulders



Brush scramble



Brush scramble

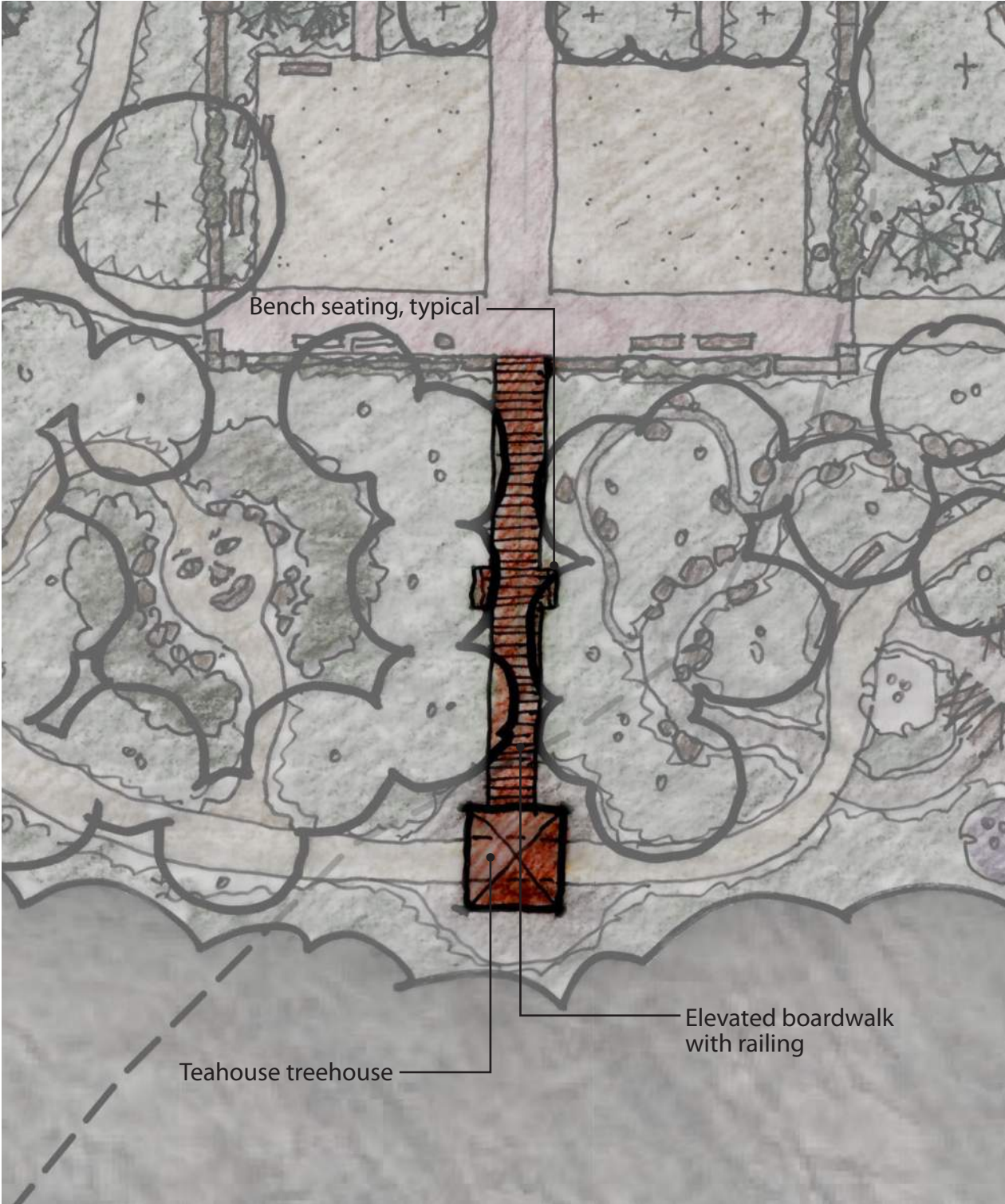


Brush scramble



**Teahouse Treehouse**

A gently sloping ramp leads up to a covered pavilion among the treetops, with a view down the slope and into the woods. It's latticework detailing makes reference to the latticed pavilion that is adjacent to the Peony Garden.



Teahouse precedent



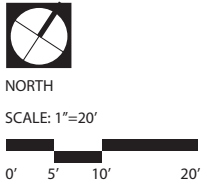
Teahouse precedent



# Teahouse Treehouse

## Hatch-Westerman Family and Children's Play Area Feasibility Study

Allerton Park & Retreat Center - Monticello, Illinois





**Spirit of Nature**  
When you enter a dense thicket of shrubs, you will find the spirit of nature – a sculptural face – coming up from the forest floor.



Sumac grove

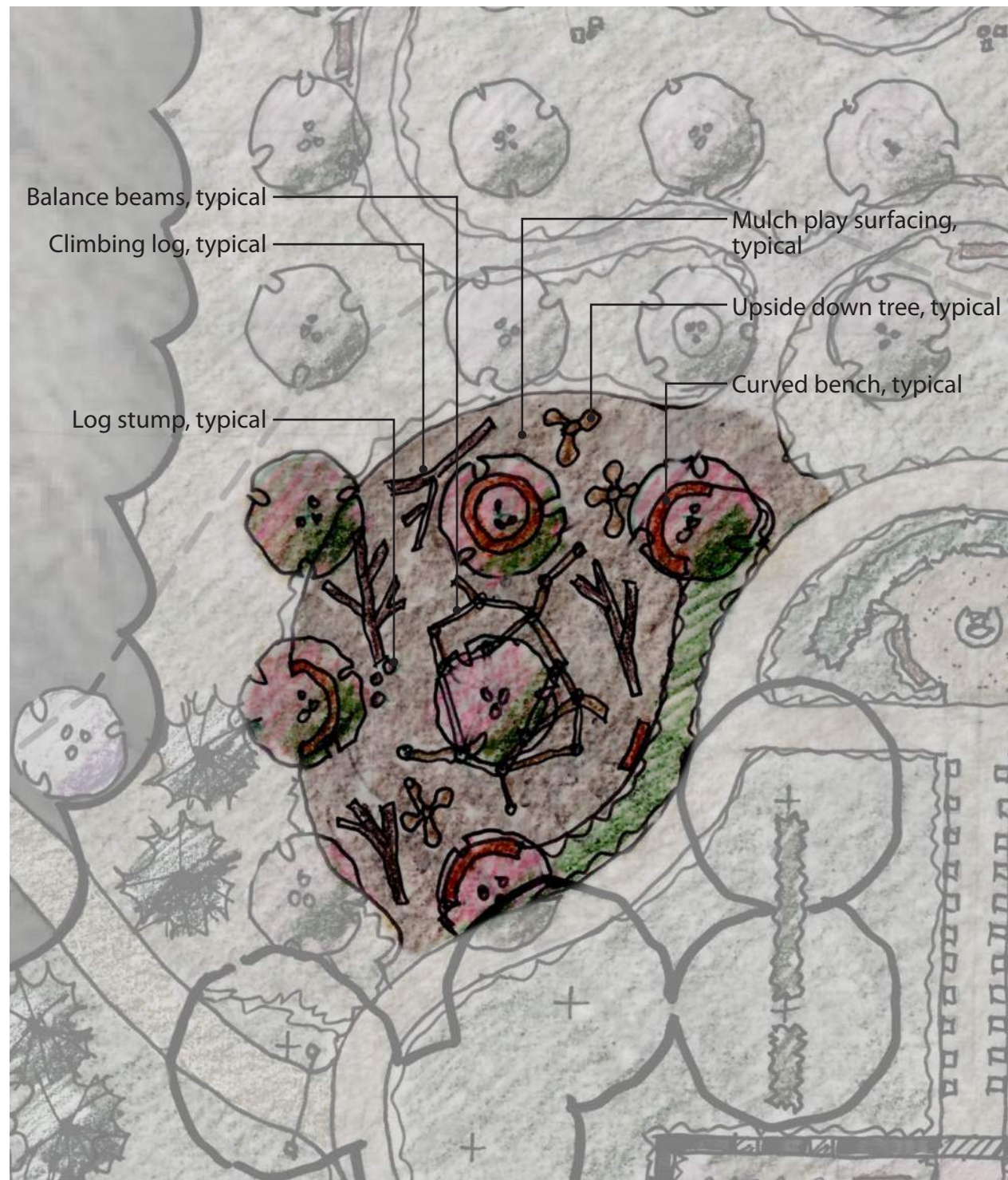


Boulder council ring



Spirit of nature sculpture





**The Stumpery**  
 Reminiscent of a feature you might find in an 18th century English estate garden, the Stumpery is an artistic arrangement of fallen tree trunks and branches. It provides a place for kids to practice motor skills such as balancing and climbing, or to roll over logs and search for insects and worms.



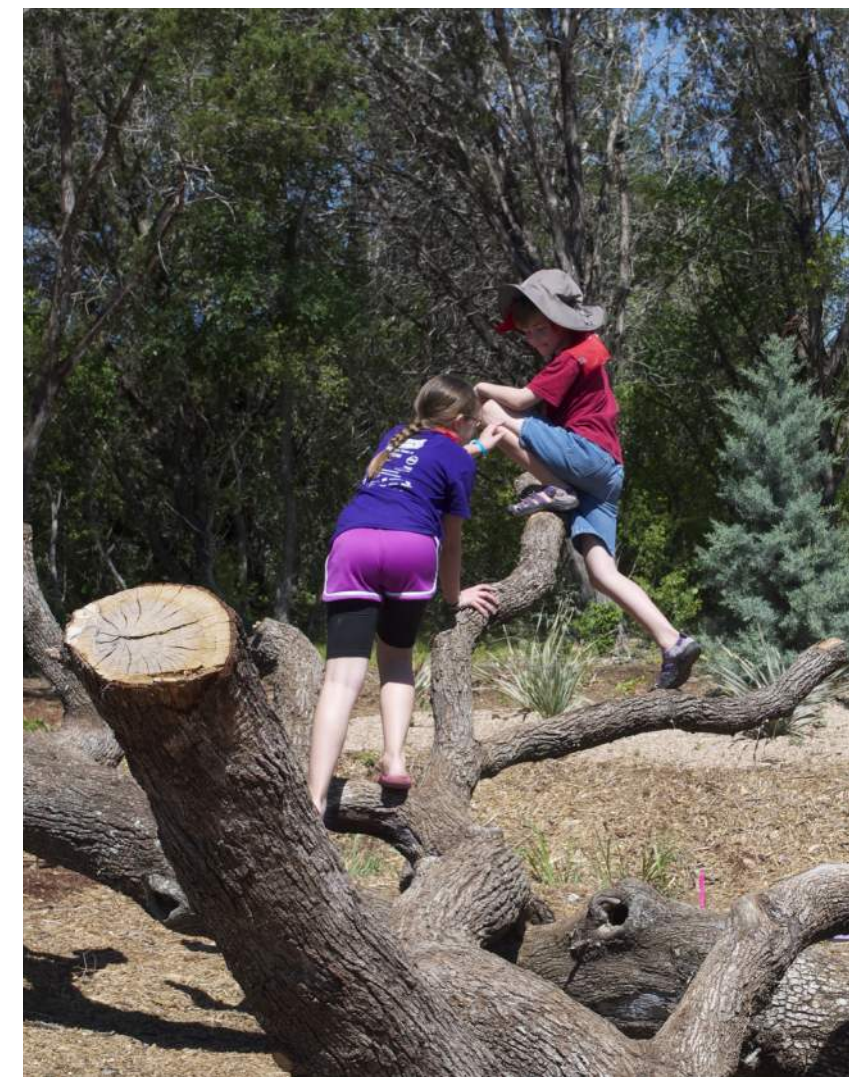
Log stumps



Upside down trees



Balance beams

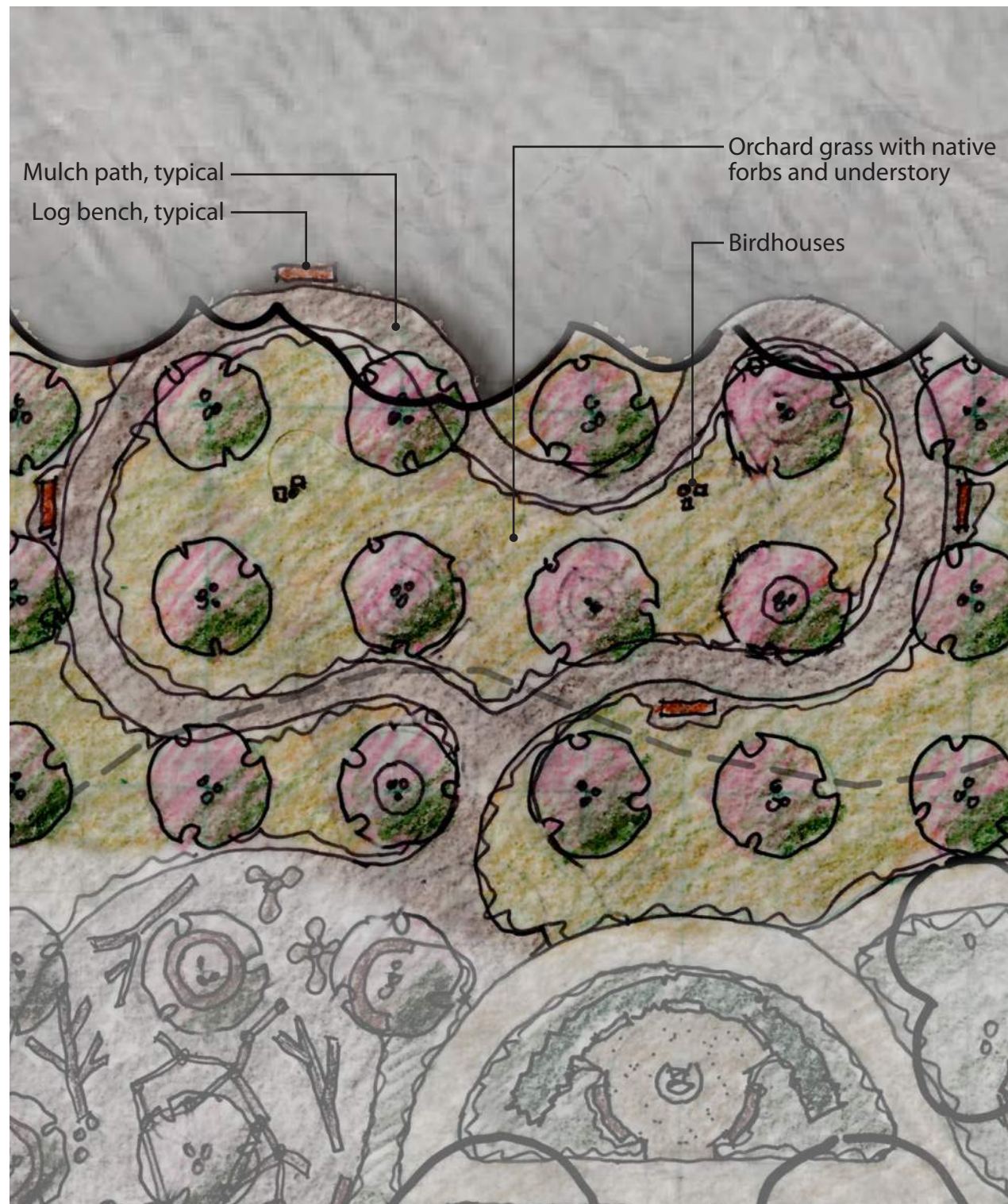


Climbing logs



Curved bench





### The Orchard Walk

Following the "abandoned garden" theme, this appears to be an old orchard that has become filled with a native meadow. A curving pathway leads through the orchard to a few benches in a quiet resting place.



Orchard grove



Birdhouse



Log bench

## The Orchard Walk

### Hatch-Westerman Family and Children's Play Area Feasibility Study

Allerton Park & Retreat Center - Monticello, Illinois



