ART AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (AARB)

Project Data Sheet

Revised February 6, 2025

(Due by 3:00 p.m. on the Friday two weeks before the meeting to AARB@dgs.virginia.gov)

Date Submitted: May 22, 2026

Agency Name: Old Dominion University

Project Name, Number, and Location
Name: New Biology Building
Number: 221-18473-000
Location: 4508 Elkhorn Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia, 23529

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Current Project Status/Phase and Schedule [** must select one of the following]*

- Preliminary Design Submission: ☐
- Final Design Submission: ☒

(Status/Phase = Schematic, etc. Schedule - next milestone date) In construction / Construction Administration – Completion date November 2027

Request for Consent Agenda: Yes: ☐ No: ☒

* Please refer to the *AARB Agency Project Submission and Presentation Guidelines* – Project Submission Section for additional information and guidance on the Consent Agenda versus Regular Agenda.

PLEASE NOTE: If you did not check the box for Consent Agenda, your project will be posted on the Regular Agenda and the agency will be required to attend the meeting to make a presentation to the board on the day of the meeting. ***Presentations are not to exceed 15 minutes.***

Project Description

(Area, number of stories, building and roof forms, exterior materials, etc.) This project includes construction of a new multi-story facility to serve the teaching and research programs and services of the Old Dominion University Department of Biological Sciences and the College of Sciences.

The New Biology Building is programmed for approximately 162,851 gross square feet of new construction. The primary programmatic elements include departmental teaching lab/instructional space and research lab space for the Department of Biological Sciences as well as offices, classrooms, student study spaces and building support. The building will also house display and collections greenhouse facilities for the Kaplan Orchid Observatory, Biology research/teaching greenhouses as well as administrative offices for the College of Sciences.

The project has five occupied floors above grade and a mechanical penthouse and equipment at the roof level. It is not a high-rise building as the highest occupied floor is less than 75' above the lowest level of fire department access. (The highest occupied floor, Level 5, is proposed at elevation 78.66', approximately 70' above lowest adjacent grade of approximately 8.5'.) The combined enclosed building footprint at grade is approximately 34,750 gross square feet. The first and second floors will contain teaching spaces and a student common. The third floor is a mix of teaching and research spaces while the fourth and fifth floors focus on research.

The New Biology project received AARB final approval in September 2022 and is under construction. This resubmission addresses site paving, furnishing and planting changes to two pedestrian walkways within the Biology site to conform to the broader campus planning goals of the Monarch Walk Design Study.

The ODU Master Plan was the culmination of an 18-month process, officially approved by the ODU Board of Visitors (BOV) in June 2025. Because the new biology building was already in the design phase, it was seamlessly integrated into the plan. A major recommendation of the Master Plan—and a high priority for the BOV—is the implementation of Monarch Walk. This central walkway is designed to enhance campus safety, stormwater management, outdoor social spaces, wayfinding, and ODU's overall branding. Together with the Elizabeth River Trail, Monarch Walk will serve as the primary pedestrian thoroughfare, connecting the most heavily traveled east-west and north-south pathways on campus. The Biology building project presents a unique opportunity to implement the first phase of this foundational walkway.

Architectural Aesthetic*:*

(What does it look like and why?) The location of the biology building precludes that there is any backside to the building; it in fact has four fronts due to its prominent and engaging location at the center campus. It

sits at the intersection of two major pedestrian paths and has frontage on two prominent campus open spaces – the oval lawn and the pond.

Consistent with the University Design Standards, the new biology building will use a materials pallet of blended brick, precast, curtainwall and metal panels. Diagrammatically the building is a 5-story brick mass wrapped on two sides with a glass and metal 3 story mass, which houses the Kaplan Orchard display volume on the southwest corner (required solar position) and the research greenhouses on the third floor.

The design takes advantage of north light by positioning the research labs on the north with full glass exposure. The student commons open to the west taking advantage of the lush pond environment with a multi-story glass volume. Elsewhere punched windows provide balance to the overall composition.

Integrating Monarch Walk into the project aligns with university standards while offering a unique opportunity to distinguish it as a prominent, character-rich wayfinding feature. To achieve this distinction, a new seating standard will be introduced exclusively along Monarch Walk. Meanwhile, the landscaping, lighting, and pervious concrete pavers will conform to campus guidelines, with the pavers maintaining the same level of permeability as previously reviewed. Additionally, the intersection of Monarch Walk and the Elizabeth River Trail at the northeast corner of the Biology building presents an opportunity to create a vibrant new campus social destination.

Relationship to Approved Master Plan [** this section must contain information for Board review, do not leave blank*]
(Include the date of the master plan and how this project relates to a larger program effort, if applicable)

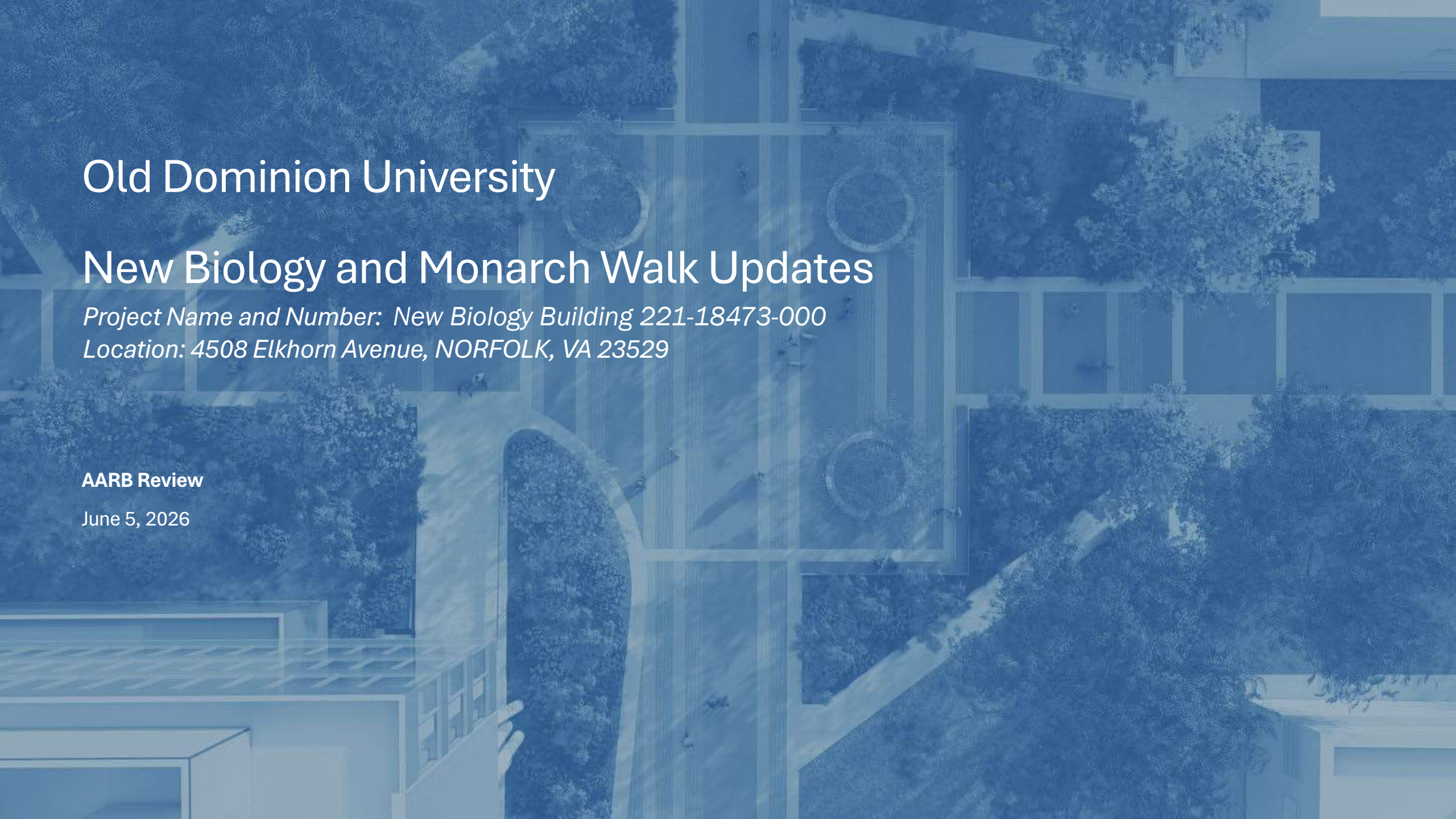
The recently adopted 2025-2035 ODU Master Plan provides comprehensive guidance on the siting of buildings, the distribution and design of landscape spaces, the coordination of campus circulation routes, and the integration of new buildings into the evolving ODU campus context. The New Biology Building occupies one of the key sites for new development in the master plan, and in large part embodies its key principles of Invigorating Learning Environments, Integrating Resilient Practices, Expanding R1 Research Activity, Creating Functional Outdoor Spaces, and Improving Student Sense of Belonging. An important recommendation of the Master Plan was made a top priority of the Board of Visitors and prompted a related planning effort to re-envision the primary East – West pedestrian path through campus – Monarch Walk – replacing the nonfunctioning elevated rail with a distinctive, shaded pedestrian spine for enhanced campus connectivity, identity and wayfinding. This sub-plan has been approved by the ODU Board of Visitors and will be presented for AARB approval in the June 2026 meeting. The design phases of the New Biology Building ODU were completed prior to the ODU Monarch Walk Plan. The minor design changes presented currently for Monarch Walk and Elizabeth River Trail pedestrian paths are intended to fulfill the full potential of this prominent building project to contribute to the broader campus goals for improved pedestrian experience, campus identity, safety, stormwater management, wayfinding, and fire access.

Existing Architectural Context
(The surrounding community, historic significance, adjacent site, the identity of the agency or institution, etc.)
The New Biology building will be located at the center of the Old Dominion University campus. The project site is bounded on the east side by a major north-south pathway, the Elizabeth River Trail, and on the north by the major east-west pathway—Monarch Walk. The site was formerly occupied by the Alfriend Chemistry Building, the Pretlow Planetarium, and the Kaplan Orchid Conservatory, now demolished as part of this project. The site is located adjacent to and will engage with an existing stormwater pond as a focus of integrating the building and site creating a teaching landscape that celebrates the story of water on ODU's

campus. Contextually the Webb University Center is located to the north, Mills Godwin Hall, current home to Biology and Phycology, to the south. The primary east entrance is adjacent to the oval lawn, and the west entrance is on a new broad terrace on the pond.

AARB History (for return presentations on the same project): [** this section must contain information for Board review, do not leave blank / if this section does not apply to your project, please indicate with N/A*]

- **Meeting Dates previously presented to the Board:** September 9, 2022
- **Previous Board comments: "***The New Biology Building, received final approval by the AARB subject to agency submission of demo/mitigation to the Board, execution of the MOU, continued consultation with DHR and consideration of the recommendations of the Board.*"*
- **Agency Response to Board Comments:** Agency has received approval of demolition and consulted with DHR.



Old Dominion University

New Biology and Monarch Walk Updates

Project Name and Number: New Biology Building 221-18473-000
Location: 4508 Elkhorn Avenue, NORFOLK, VA 23529

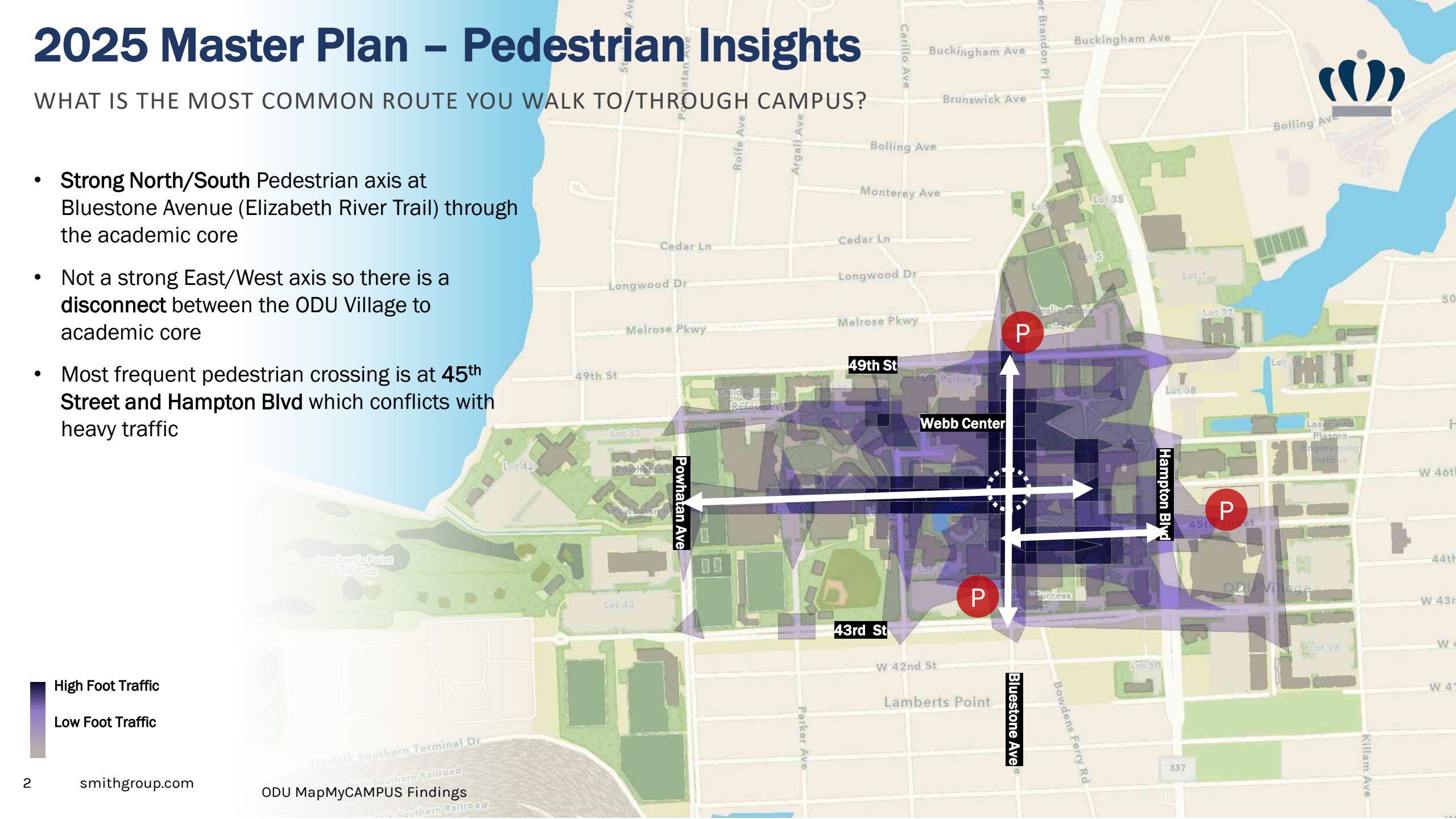
AARB Review

June 5, 2026

2025 Master Plan – Pedestrian Insights

WHAT IS THE MOST COMMON ROUTE YOU WALK TO/THROUGH CAMPUS?

- **Strong North/South** Pedestrian axis at Bluestone Avenue (Elizabeth River Trail) through the academic core
- Not a strong East/West axis so there is a **disconnect** between the ODU Village to academic core
- Most frequent pedestrian crossing is at **45th Street and Hampton Blvd** which conflicts with heavy traffic



High Foot Traffic

Low Foot Traffic

Monarch Walk Alignment – From 2025 Master Plan

Potential Phasing

Monarch Walk

Existing

Monarch Walk

MASTER PLAN VISION

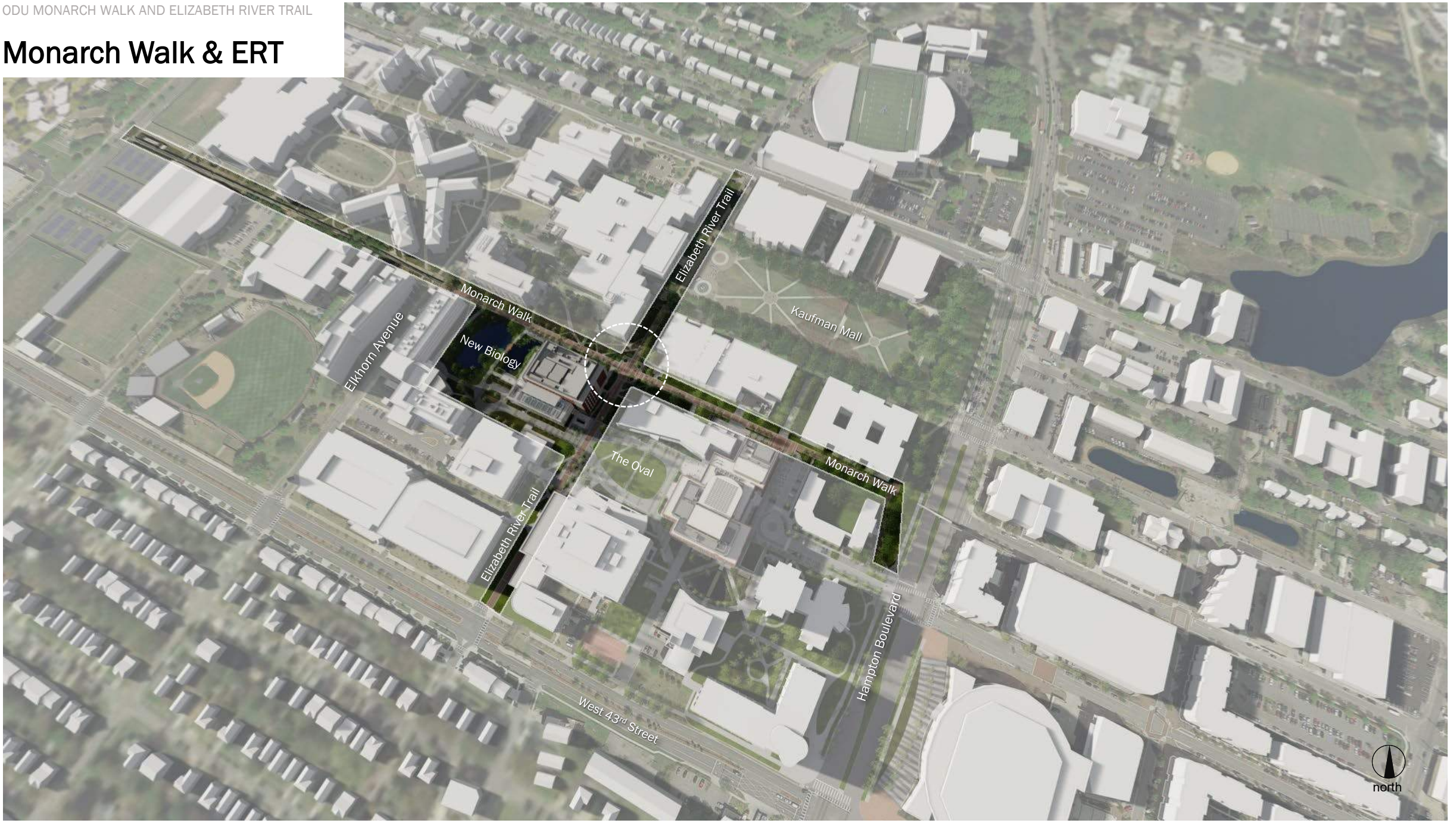
KAUFMAN MALL

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

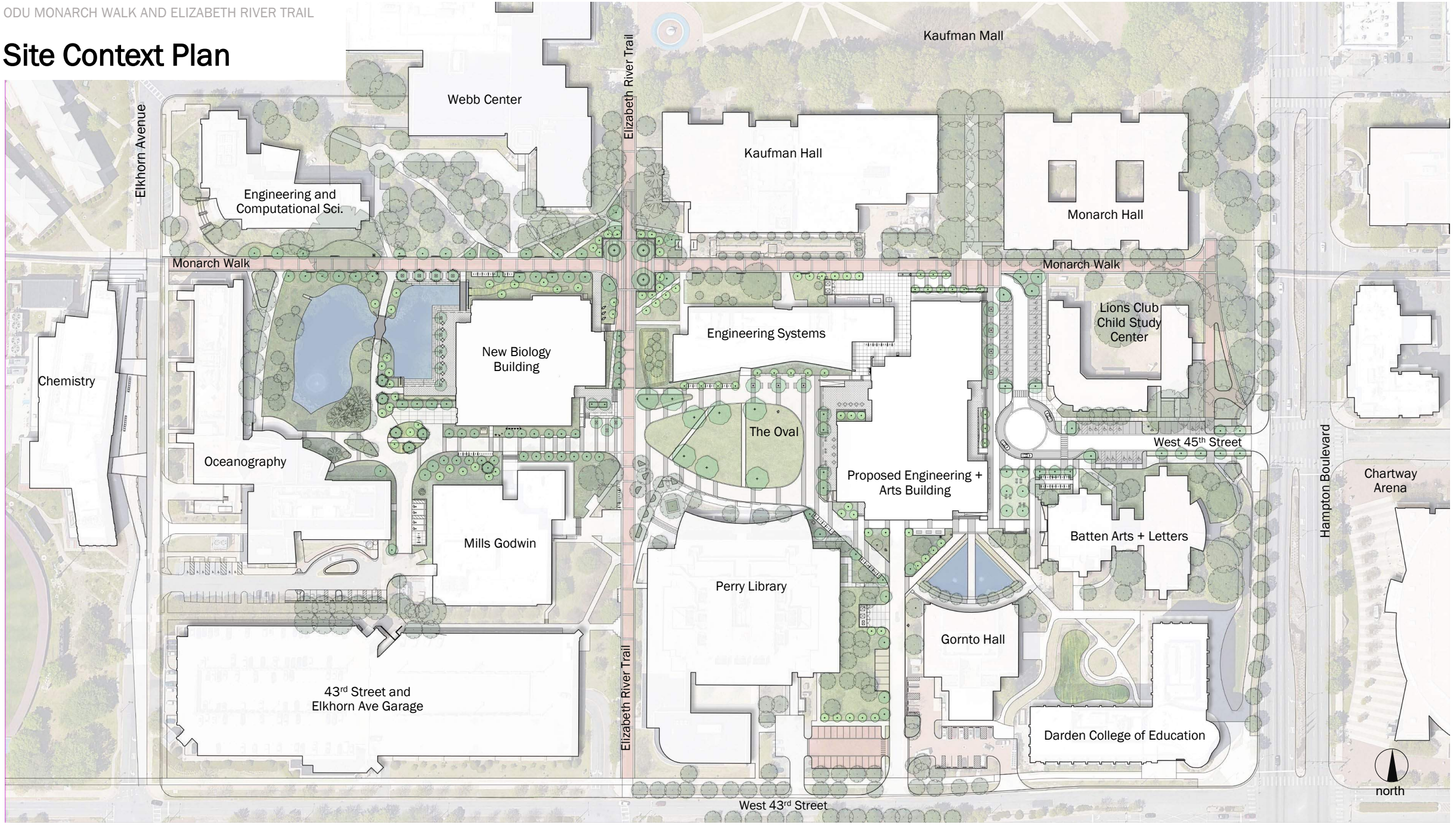
WHITEHURST BEACH

Central Campus Context

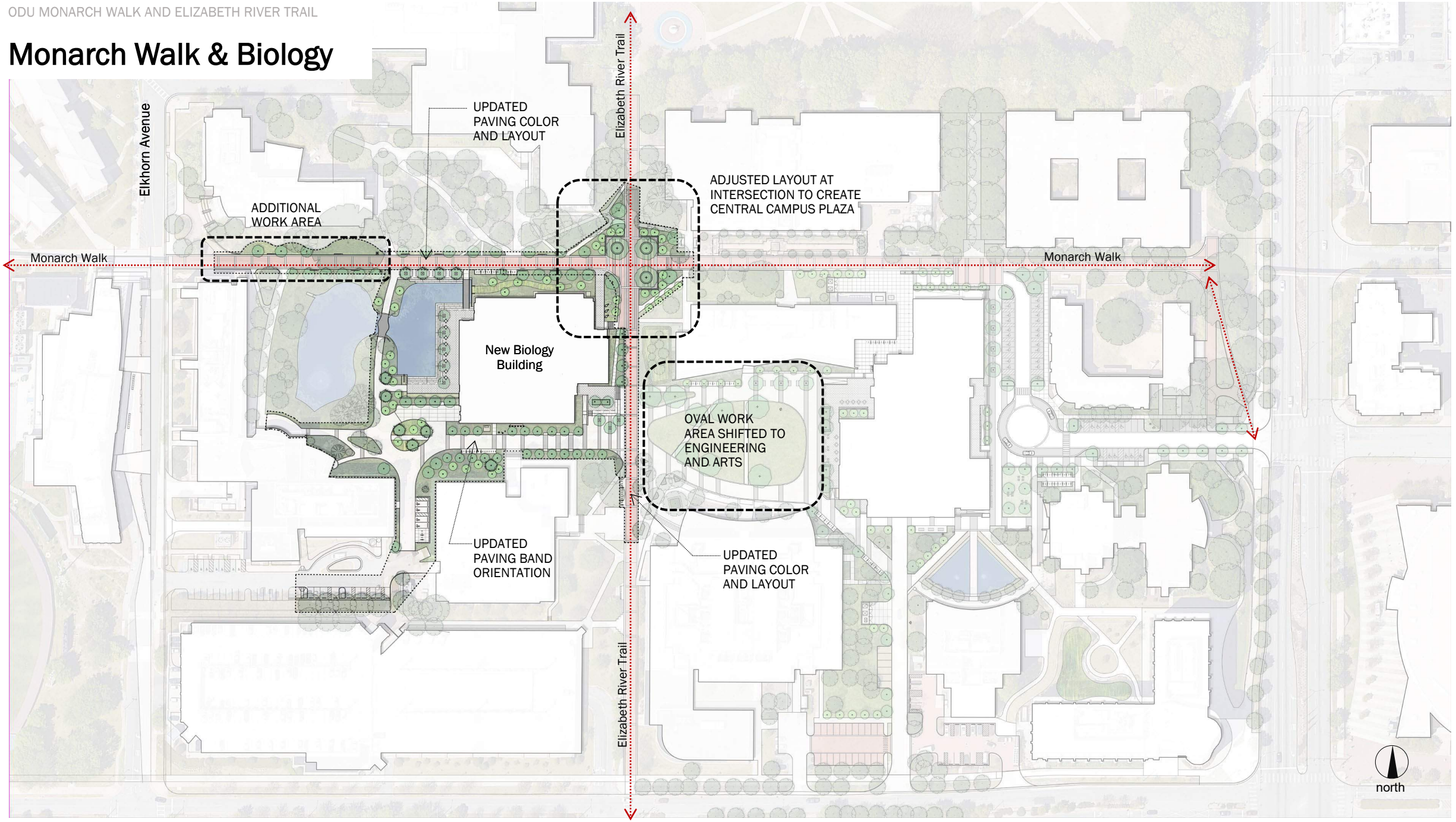
Monarch Walk & ERT



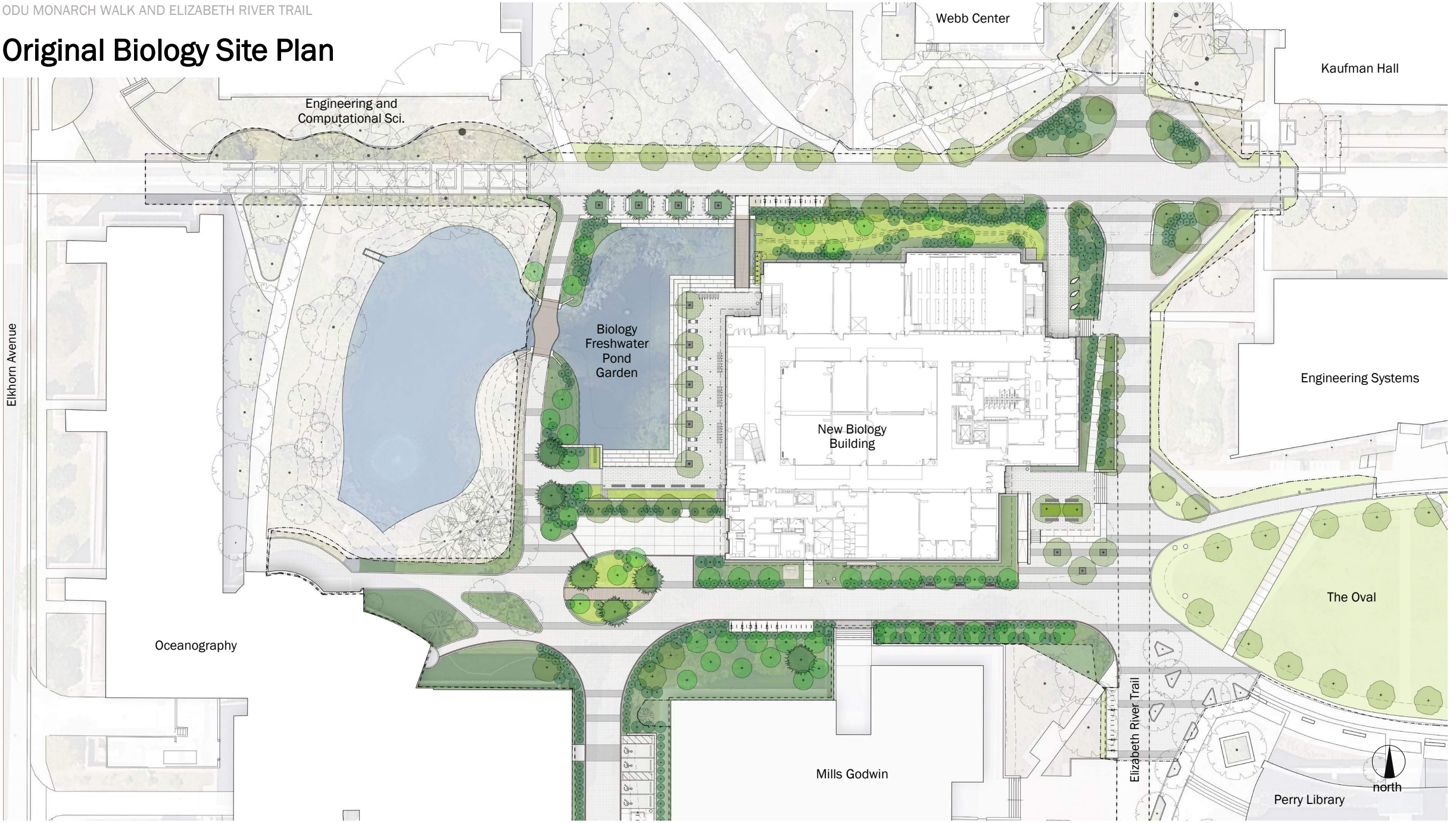
Site Context Plan



Monarch Walk & Biology



Original Biology Site Plan

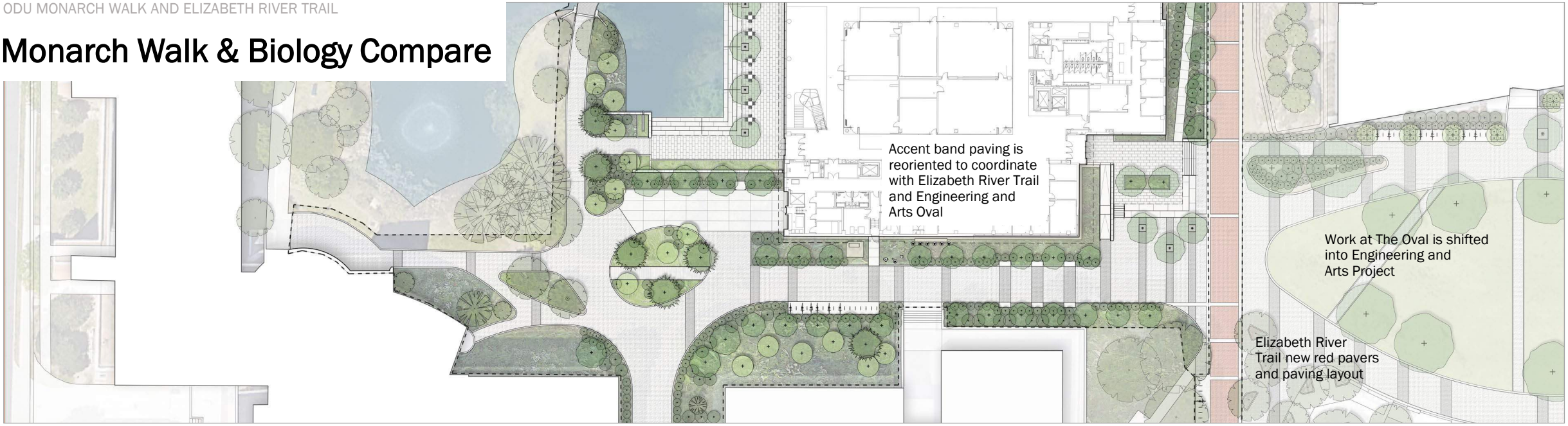


Monarch Walk & Biology Compare

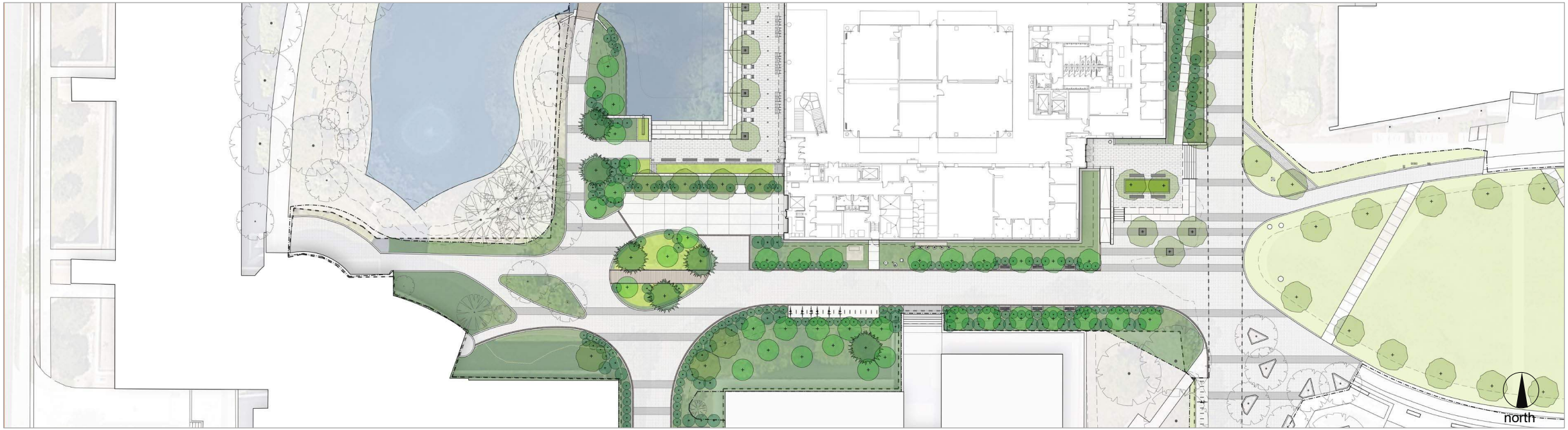
PROPOSED PLAN UPDATES

ORIGINAL PLAN

Monarch Walk & Biology Compare

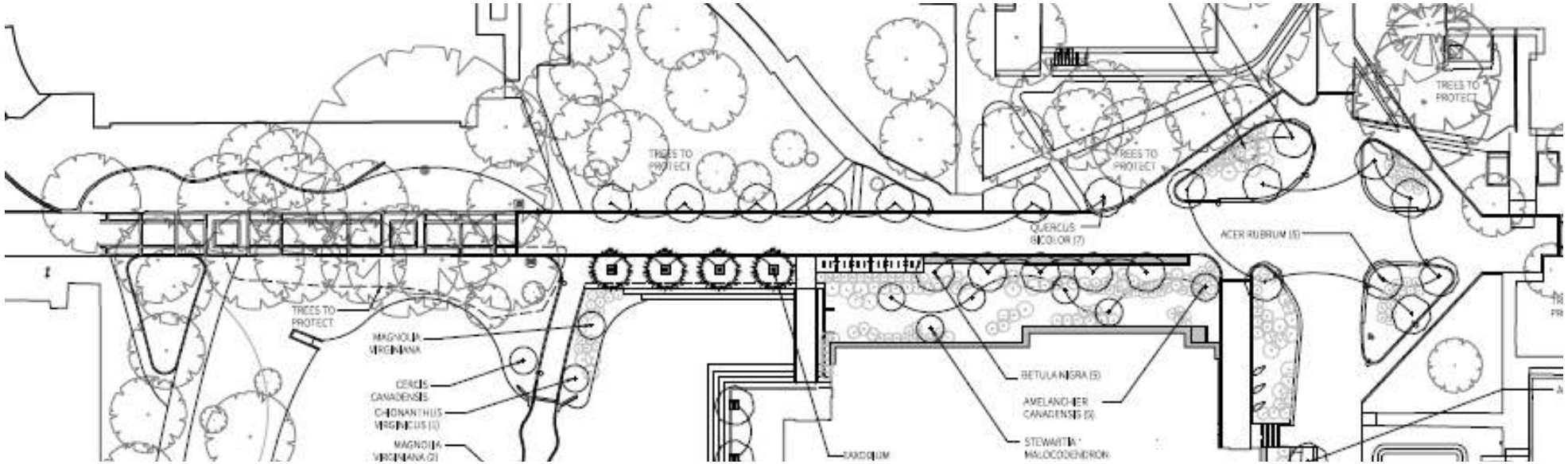


PROPOSED PLAN UPDATES



ORIGINAL PLAN

Monarch Walk Planting Revisions



PROPOSED CANOPY PALETTE

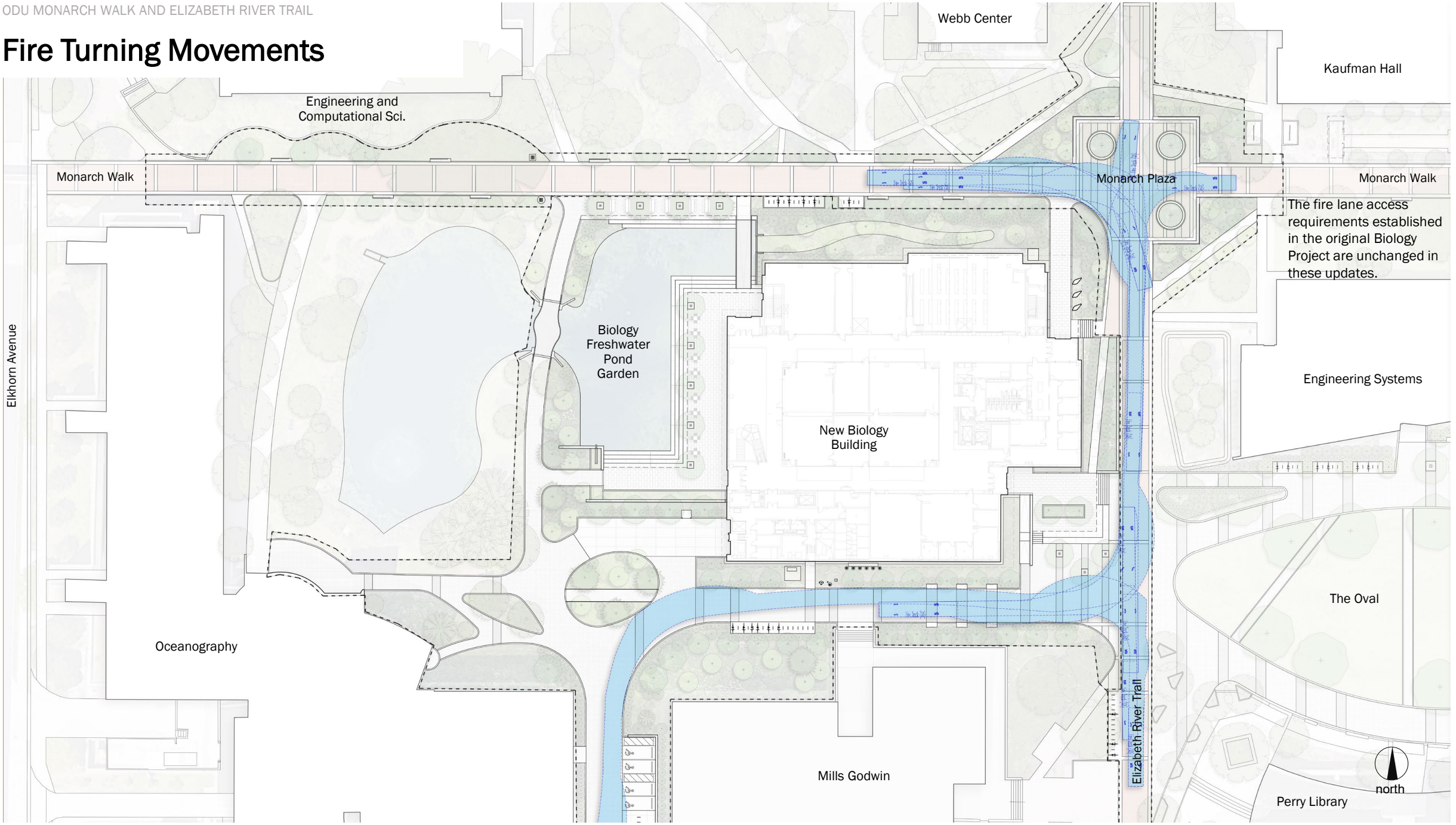
1. Nuttall Oak
2. Swamp White Oak
3. Pignut Hickory
4. Black Gum
5. Bald Cypress
6. Hornbeam
7. American Beech
8. Willow Oak

PROPOSED UNDERSTORY PALETTE

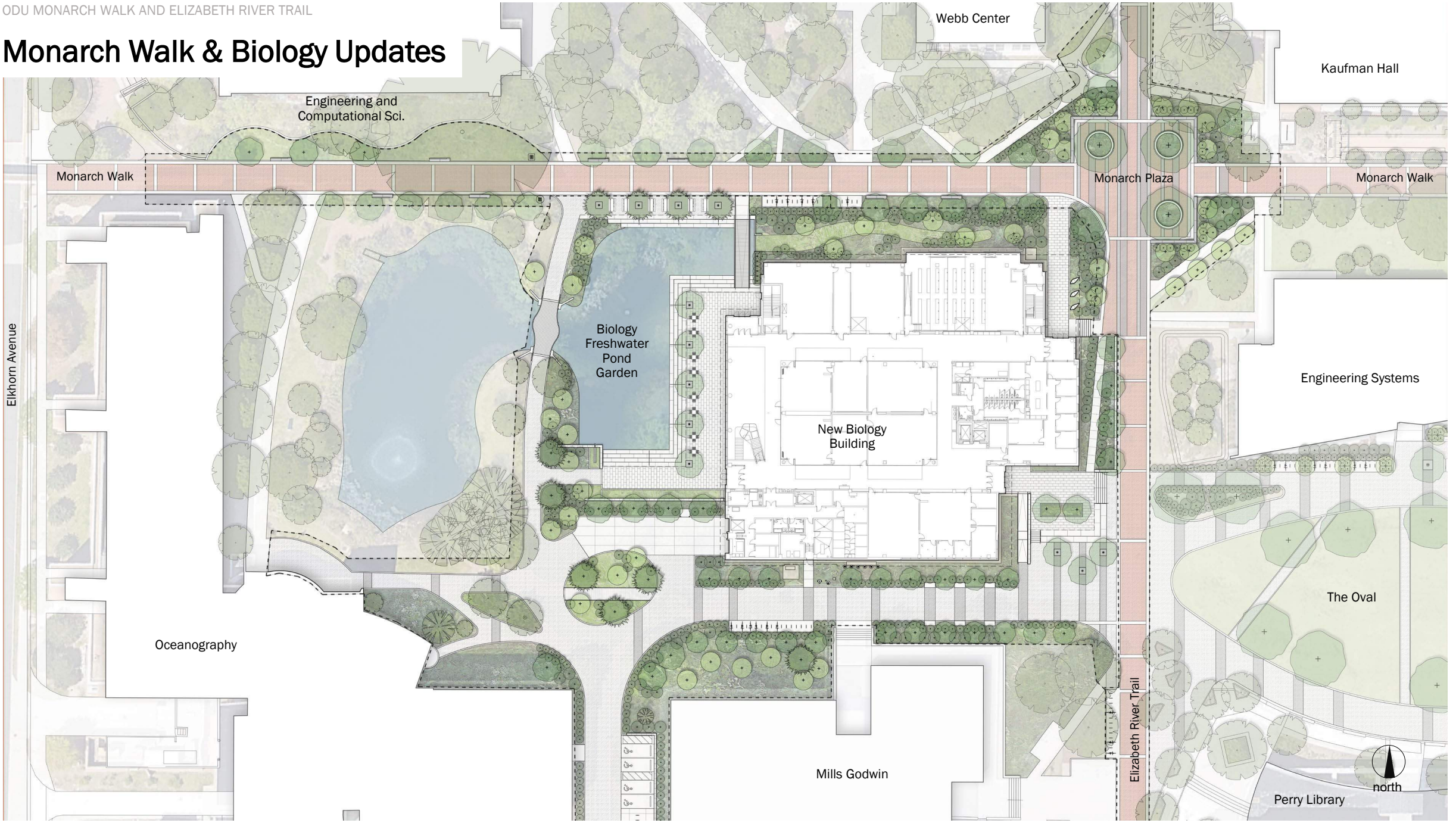
1. Serviceberry
2. Sweetbay Magnolia
3. Hybrid Small Magnolia
4. ‘First Blush’ Cherry
5. Witchhazel

The proposed planting for the New Biology Project does not substantially change due to updates associated with the new work for Monarch Walk and The Elizabeth River Trail. Some new layout and positioning is required to coordinate with updated path geometry.

Fire Turning Movements



Monarch Walk & Biology Updates



Monarch Walk & Biology

Monarch Walk at Biology Pond

Monarch/ ERT Plaza

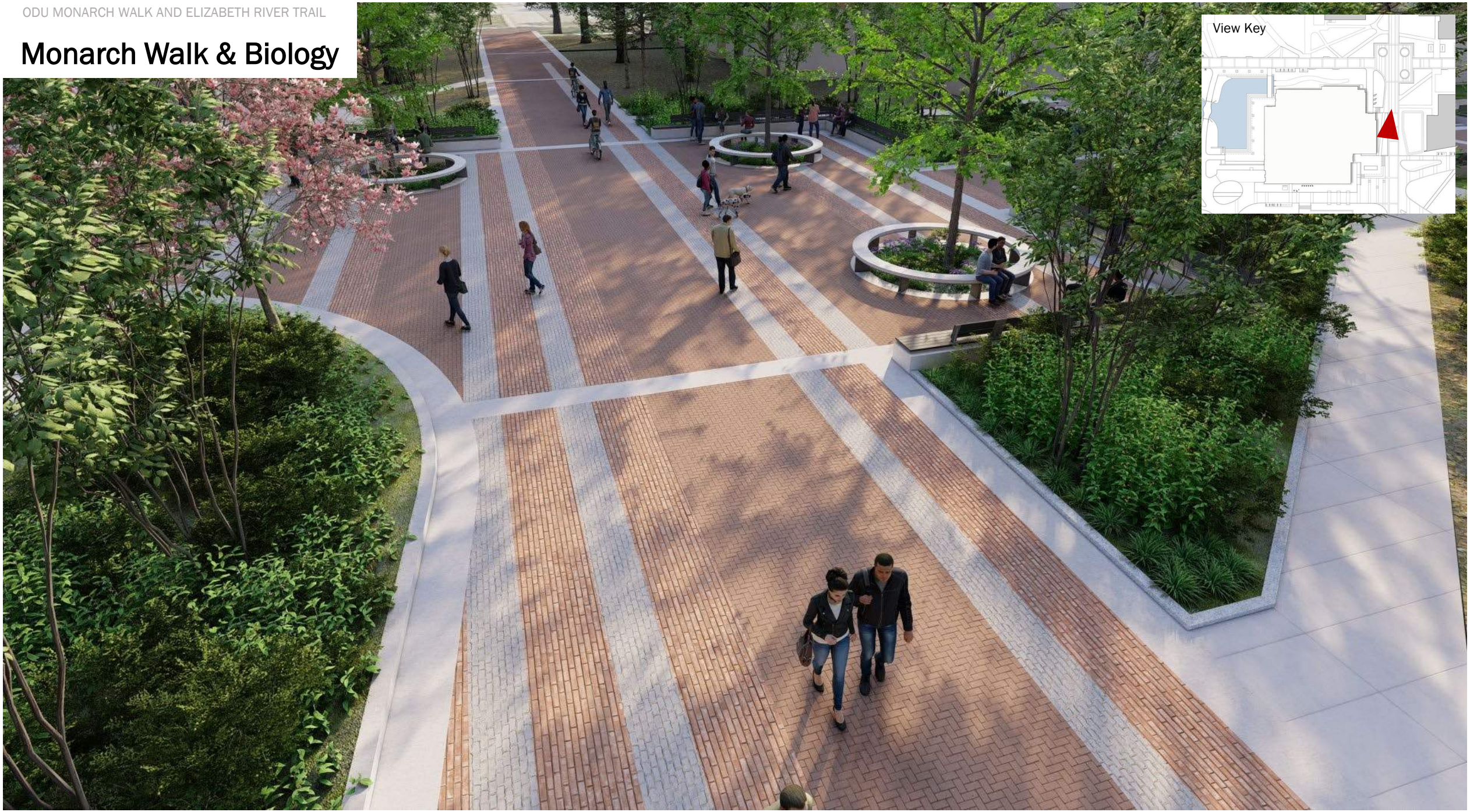
Monarch/ ERT Plaza

Monarch Walk at Biology

Monarch/ ERT Plaza

Monarch Walk from Kaufman Hall

Monarch Walk & Biology



Typical Cross Section

Site Furnishings

Link Bench Arm Detail

Link Bench on precast base by Landscape Forms – typical Monarch Walk

Model View of precast and metal circle bench at Monarch ERT Plaza

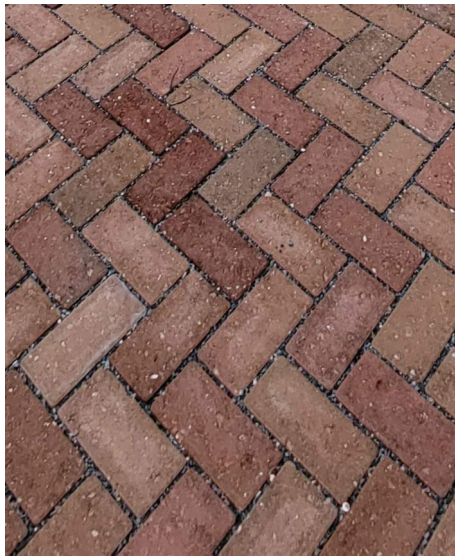
Link Bench with Custom Precast Base by Landscape Forms. To be Metal finish

Custom Link on Precast Bench by Landscape Forms-Seating material to be Metal

Site Paving Materials

ODU Standard Grey Cobble Mix

ODU Standard Dark Gray Accent Band



ODU Standard Red Mix

Accent Banding at Monarch – Elizabeth River Trail

Granite for Accent Bands, Curbing

Light Red Accent Band

APPENDIX SLIDES

Site Planting: Canopy and Understory Trees (Maintained from original Project)

Taxodium distichum – Bald Cypress

Carya glabra - Pignut Hickory

Quercus nuttalli – Nuttall Oak

Nyssa sylvatica – Black Gum

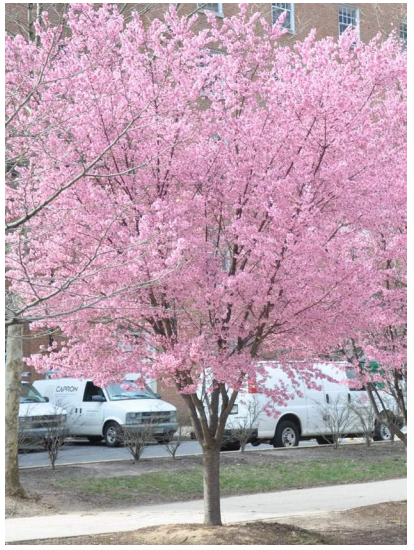
Carpinus ‘Firespire’ – Hornbeam

Amelanchier canadensis - Serviceberry

Magnolia virginiana - Sweetbay

Magnolia Hybrid – Yellow Magnolia

Prunus “First Blush’ - Cherry blooms



Prunus x Okame– Okame Cherry

Site Planting: Groundplane Plantings (Maintained from original Project)

Ceanothus americanus – New Jersey Tea

Hypericum calycinum – St John's Wort

Leucothoe axillaris – Coastal Leucothoe

Viburnum obovatum – Walter's Viburnum

Hemerocallis TBD - Daylily

Narcissus - Daffodils

Allium TBD – Allium

Amsonia ' Blue Ice' – Blue Ice Bluestar

Monarch Walk & Biology Plan