



**STERLING NATURE CENTER**  
**DESIGN CONNECT | SPRING 2017 | FINAL REVIEW**

BACKGROUND | ANALYSIS | OUTREACH | PRESERVATION | PROGRAM | DESIGN | MOVING FORWARD

# CLIENTS AND OBJECTIVES

## PRIMARY CLIENTS:

- Cayuga county
- Sterling Nature Center



## ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS:

- Friends of Sterling Nature Center
- Local schools / educators
- Community Members

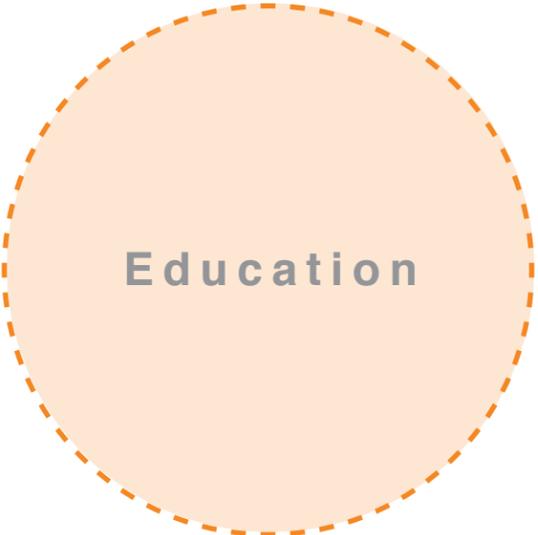
## OBJECTIVES:

- Design a new 5,000sqft interpretive building that meets the spatial and programmatic needs of the SNC
- Select a site for the new interpretive center
- Consider the use of green technology
- Develop a site plan that integrates the building into the natural landscape
- Consider landscape interventions and Programming that supports the SNC's mission of environmental education

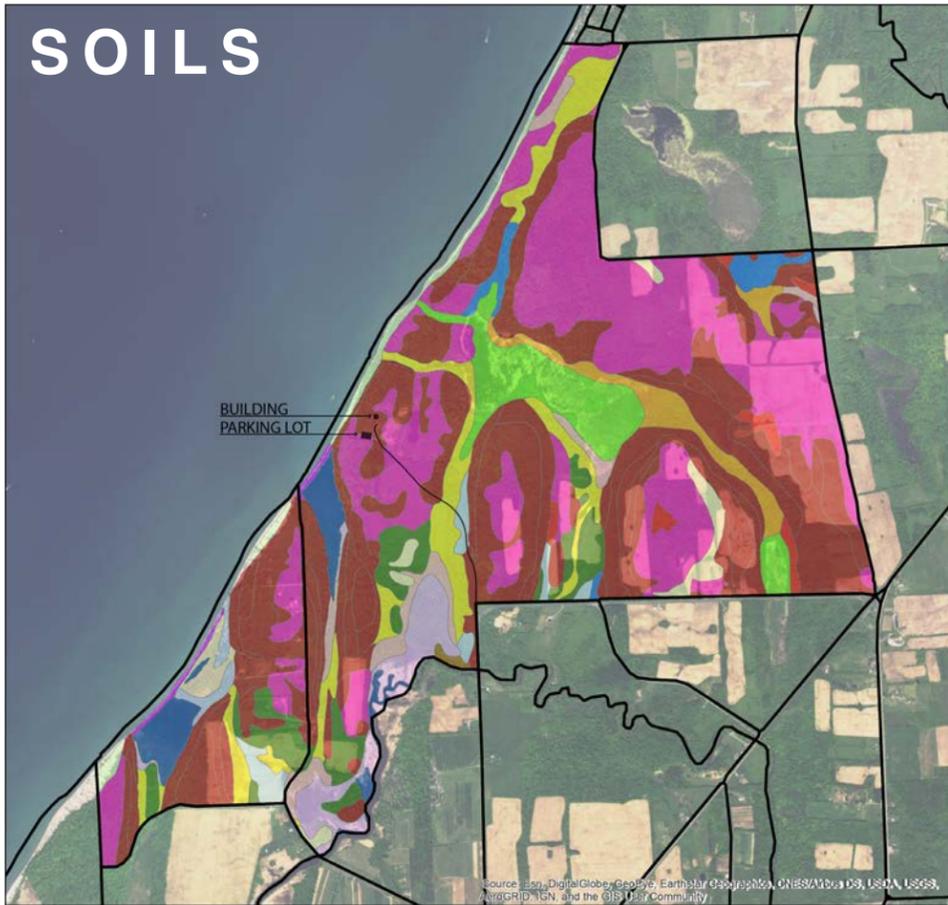
# STERLING NATURE CENTER: MISSION

## VISION STATEMENT

“The Sterling Nature Center, located on the shore of Lake Ontario, provides 1,428 acres of diverse habitat, offering opportunities for all to experience and learn about nature through a variety of activities and programs.”



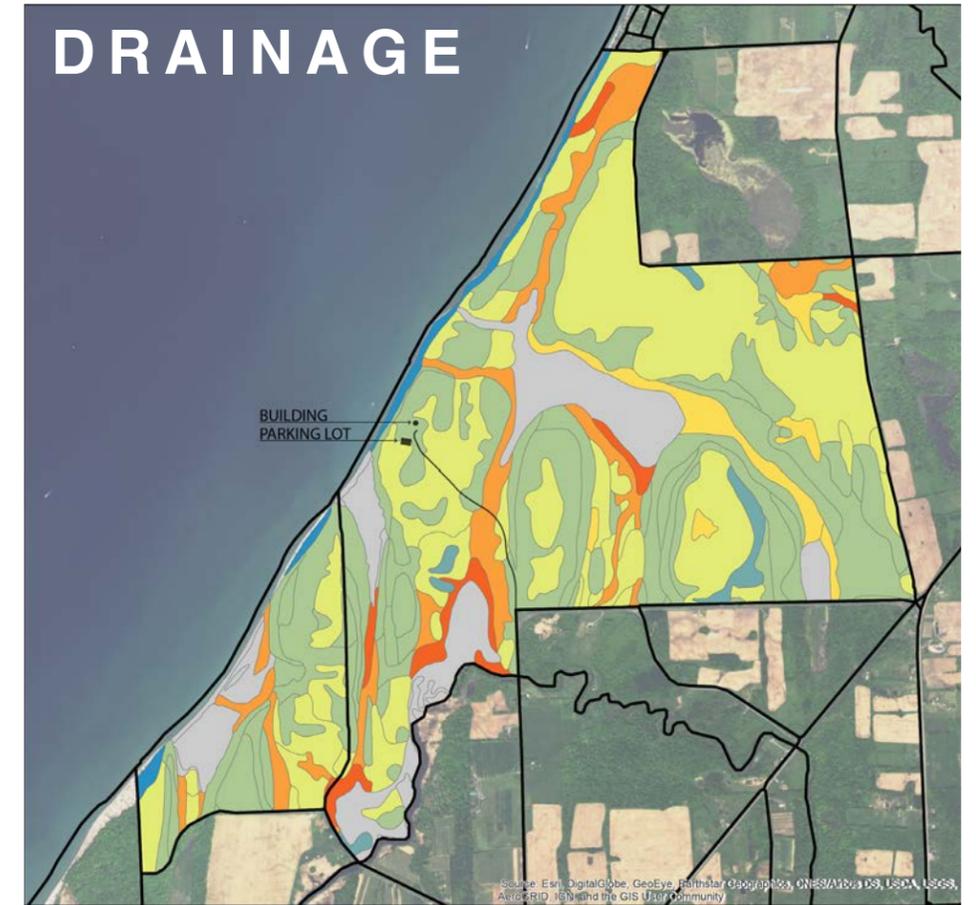
# SITE MAPPING



- Alden mucky silt loam
- Alluvial land
- Alton gravelly sandy or cobbly loam
- Aurora, Farmington, and Benson very ro
- Collamer silt loam
- Fredon loam
- Freshwater marsh
- Galen fine sandy loam
- Ira gravelly loam
- Lake beaches
- Lamson fine sandy or mucky fine sandy
- Muck, deep
- Niagara and Canandaigua silt loams
- Niagara fine sandy loam
- Scriba gravelly loam
- Sloan silt loam
- Sodus gravelly loam
- Water
- Williamson silt loam

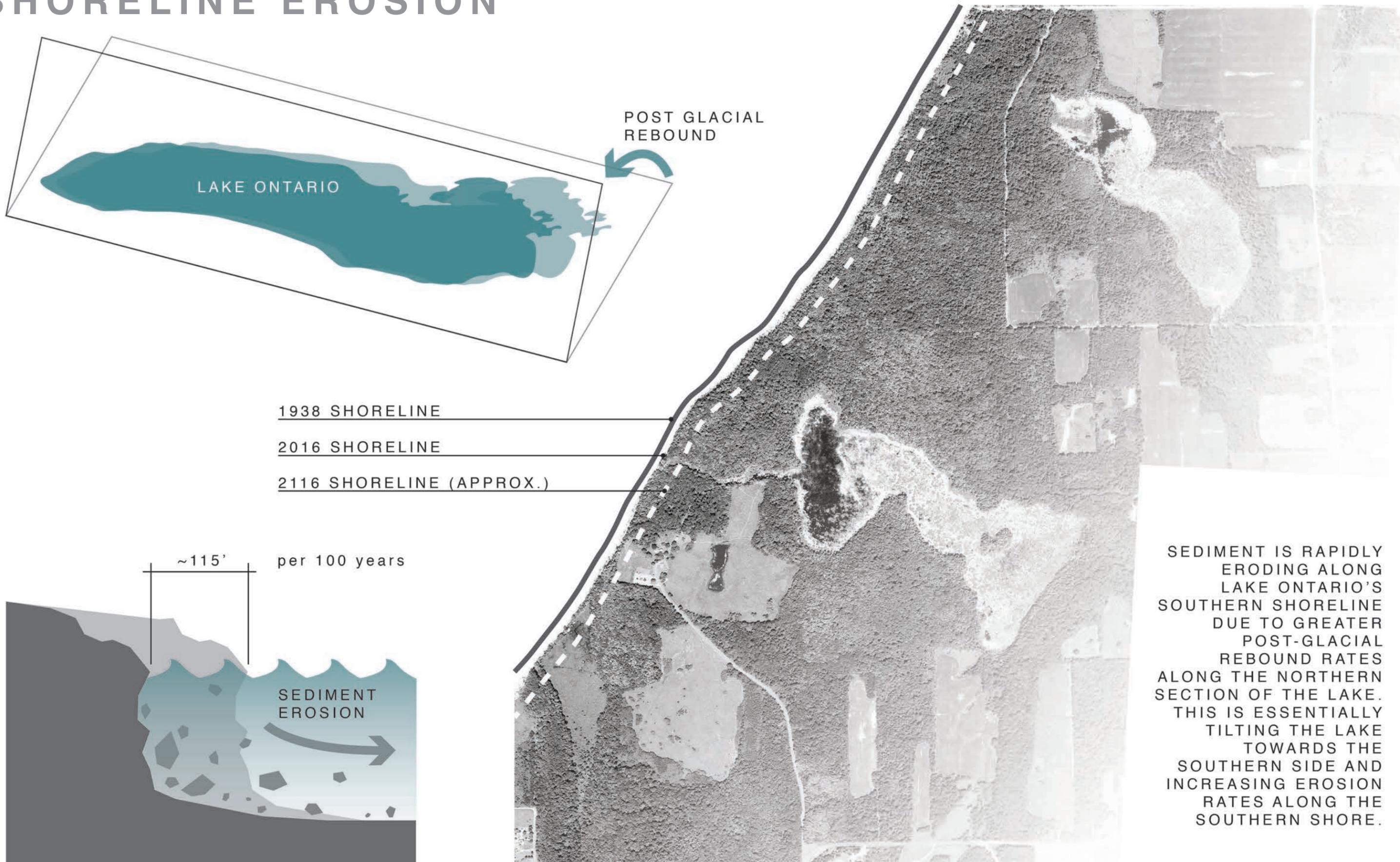


- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Prime farmland if drained
- Not prime farmland



- Excessively Drained
- Very Well Drained
- Well Drained
- Moderately Well Drained
- Somewhat Poorly Drained
- Poorly Drained
- Very Poorly Drained
- Other

# SHORELINE EROSION



# SITE VISIT 02-26-2017

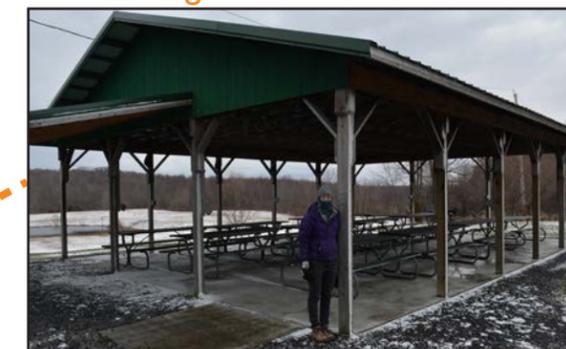
## - MAJOR TAKEAWAYS

- Clients needs in terms of programing
- Discussed and analyzed four possible building sites
- Learned about the constraints of the existing structure
  - Asbestos siding
  - Leaking roof
  - Lacks space for events due to building structure
  - County will no longer support the building due to health and safety reasons

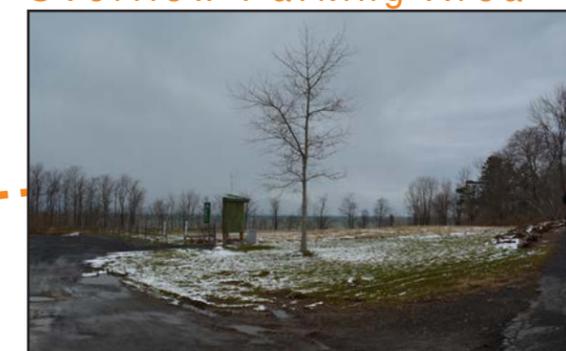
Building Site Option 1  
Existing Visitor Center



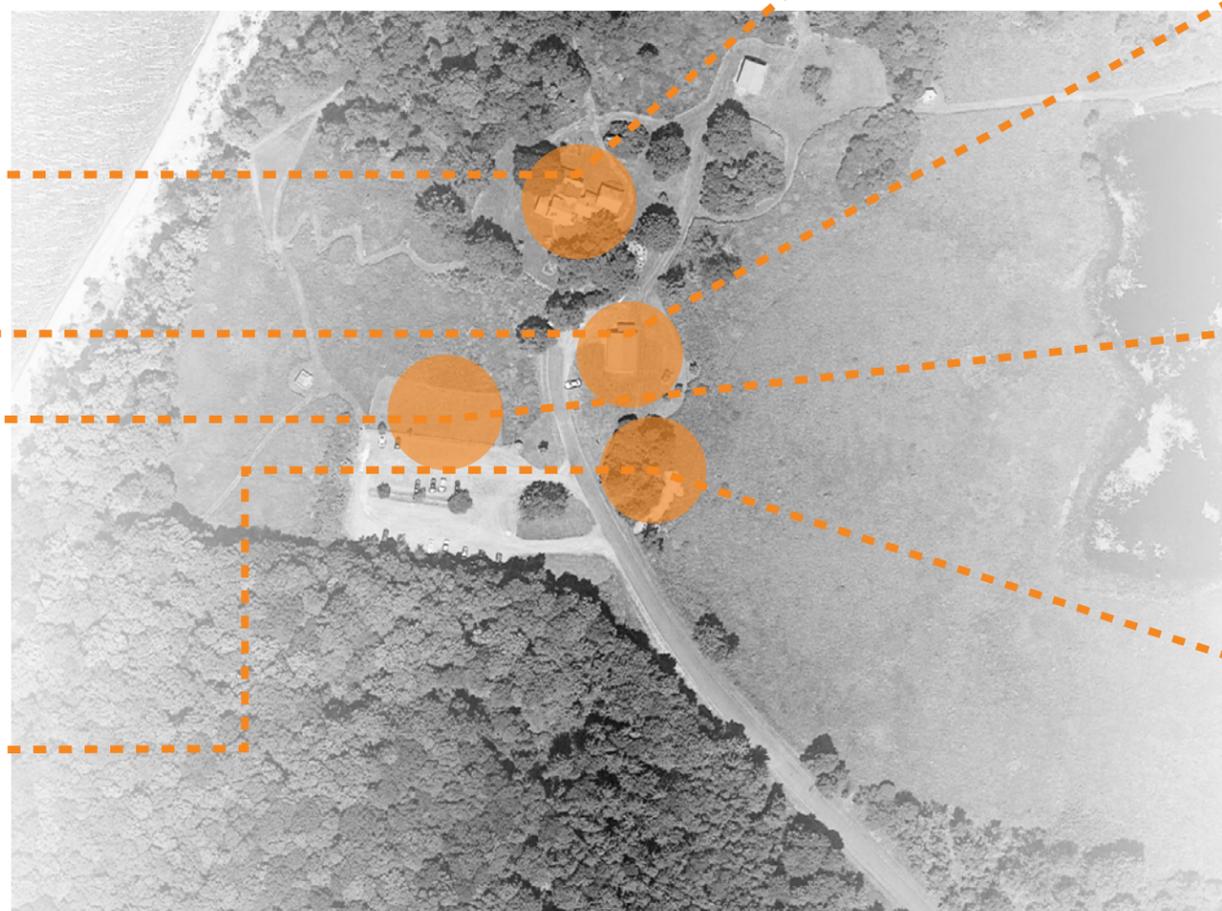
Building Site Option 2  
Existing Picnic Shelter



Building Site Option 3  
Overflow Parking Area



Building Site Option 4  
Across from Parking



Building Site Option 1  
Existing Visitor Center

Building Site Option 2  
Existing Picnic Shelter

Building Site Option 3  
Overflow Parking Area

Building Site Option 4  
Across from Parking

# COMMUNITY MEETING 03-25-17



Gained feedback on the two different concepts



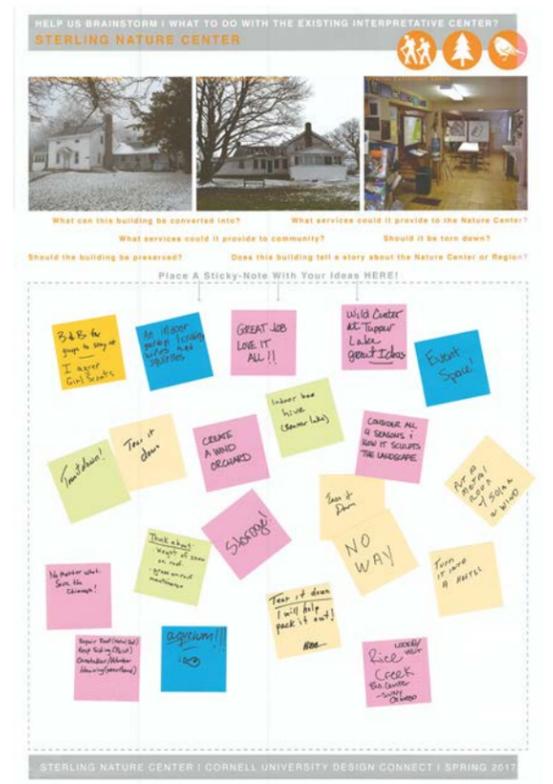
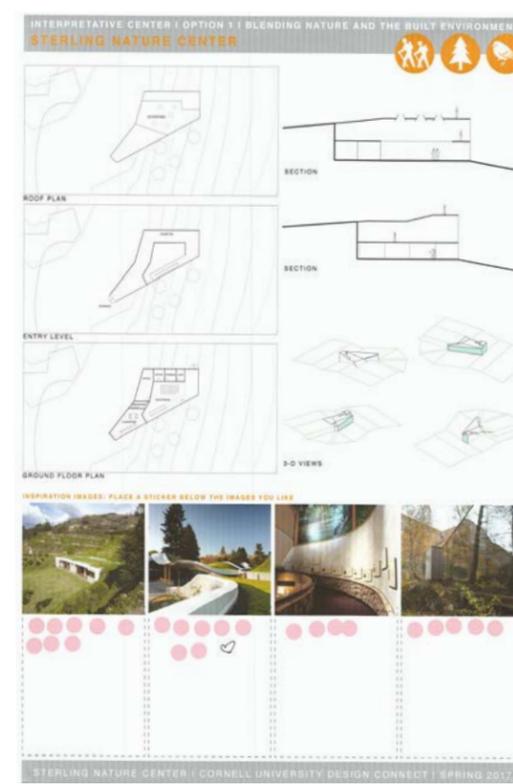
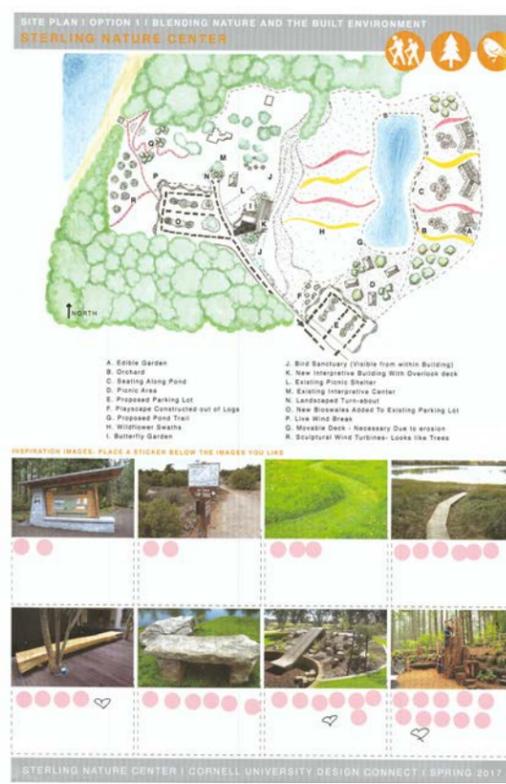
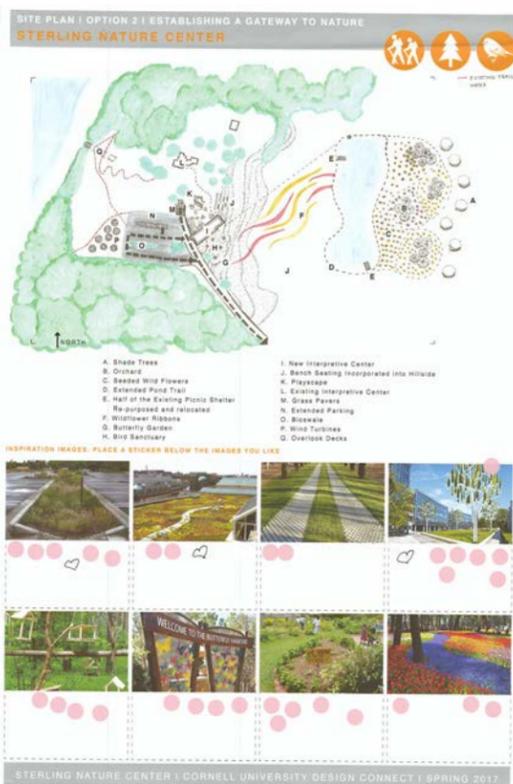
Learned that there is a large interest in green building technologies



Discovered more about the sites history



Gaged community opinions on what to do with the existing interpretative center



# HISTORIC STRUCTURE

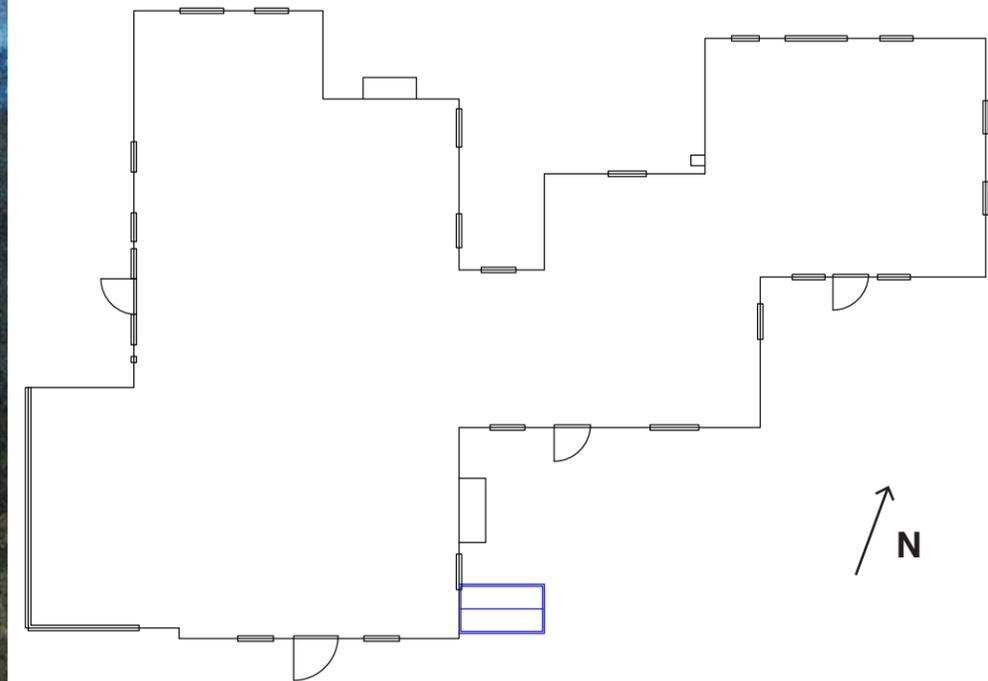
- Original building constructed ca. 1860
  - Georgian, one-and-one-half story, hall-and-parlor house delineated by chimneys at either end
- The current building is the result of many phases of construction
  - Today, most of the exterior elements removed
  - Some of the windows on the main (south) facade, likely covered up when the building was re-sided.
  - The east and west wings are later phases; additions on the rear (north) facade mostly date to the 20th century
- Main (south) facade viewed by visitors entering the site largely retains historic character
  - Most character defining feature - “river rock” stone chimneys
  - These stones were collected from the shore of Lake Ontario, intimately tying the building to its landscape.



East Facade



South Facade



# PRESERVATION PLAN

- Rehabilitation of the historic building will retain it as a useful resource for the SNC.
  - Can serve as an auxiliary building for classes and group activities coordinated by the SNC.
  - Use as a rental facility for professional and enthusiast groups to hold meetings and events, as well as private party rentals, such as weddings or other family gatherings.
  - As an income-producing property, the structure will qualify for federal and state preservation incentives programs that could help fund the rehabilitation.
- Rehabilitating the Jensvold House will also preserve the historic character of the site, since it is the only intact building that testifies to the areas decades of use as farmland

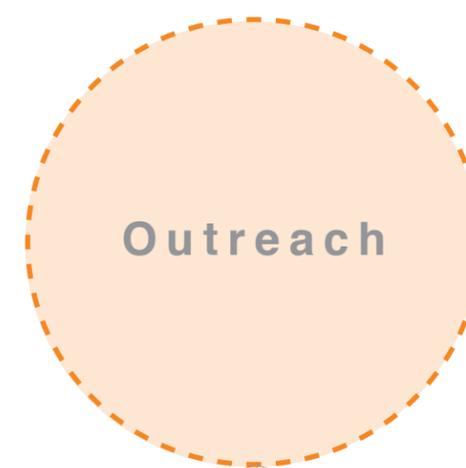
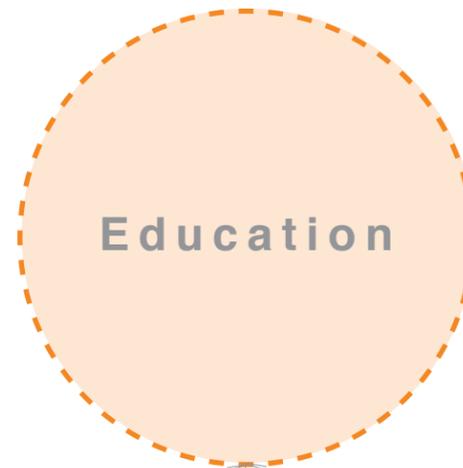
## PRESERVATION PLAN

Project	Cost
Asbestos Removal	\$20,000
New Roof	\$15,000
Trusses	\$12,000
Residing	\$8,000
Widows	\$4,000
Interior	\$60,000

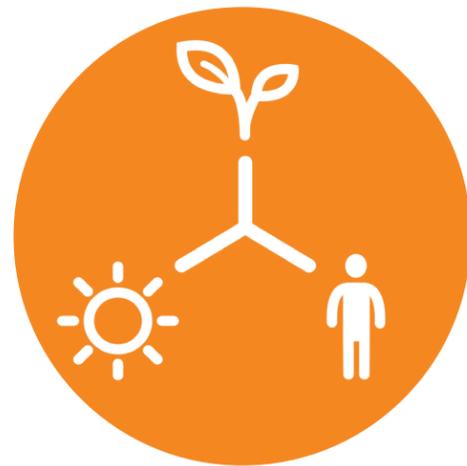
**PRESERVATION TOTAL = \$119,000**

# PROGRAM

## MISSION



## PROGRAMMING



Highlight Local Ecosystems



Create Environmental Stewards



Connect With Local Schools



Cultural Events



Revenue Generation

# MASTER PLAN

Lake Ontario

## STRUCTURES

- A. Existing Visitor Center
- B. Existing Storage
- C. Purposed Visitor Center

## SITE PROGRAM

- D. Flexible Event Space
- E. Expanded Parking
- F. Education Nodes
  - F1 Aquatic Ecosystems
  - F2 Green Infrastructure
  - F3 Regional Landscape
- G. Mowed Path
- H. Playground
- I. Wind turbine Trees
- J. Orchard

Existing Pond





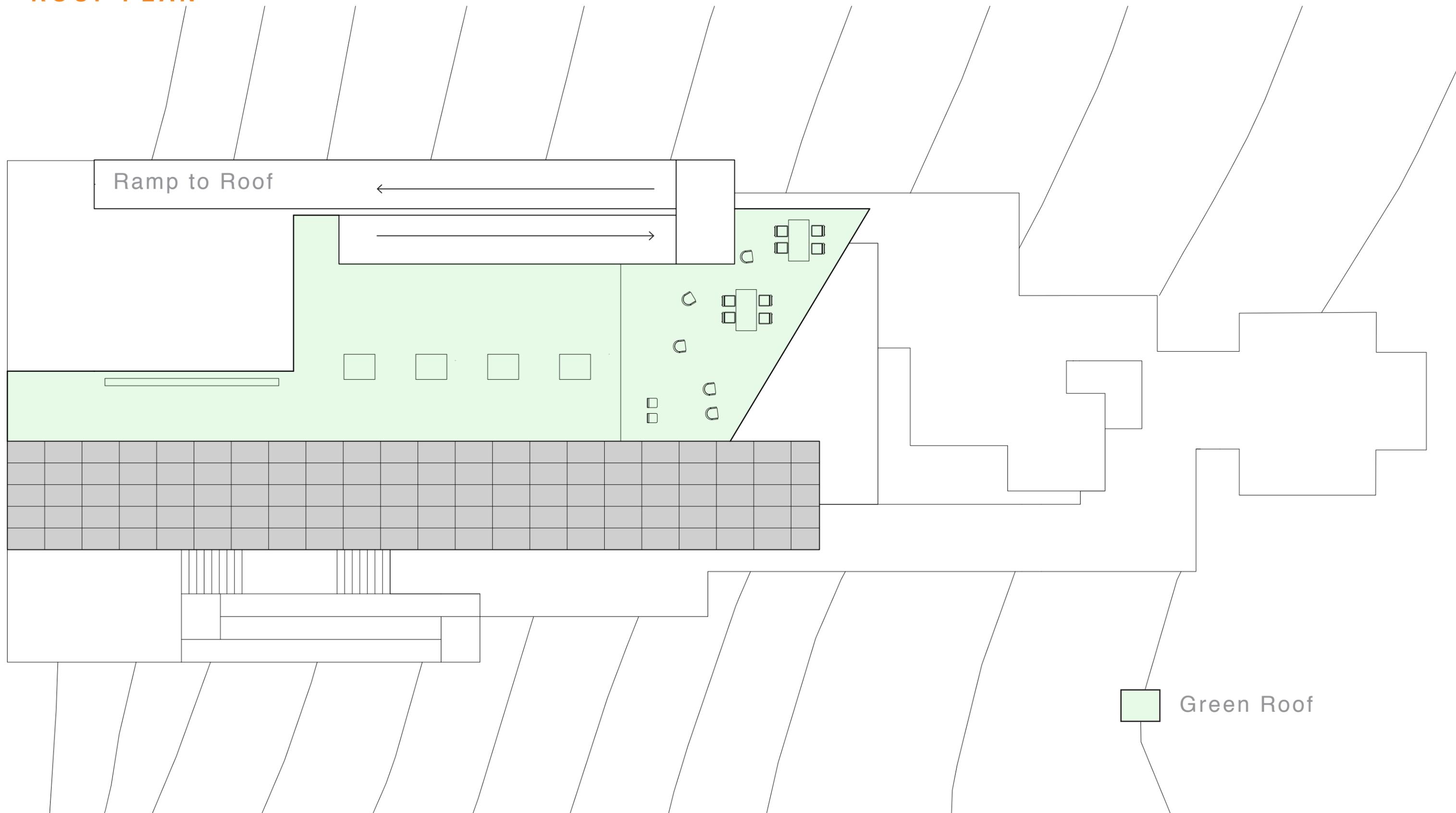
# NEW INTERPRETIVE BUILDING

EXTERIOR VIEW: BIRDSEYE OF BUILDING



# NEW INTERPRETIVE BUILDING

## ROOF PLAN



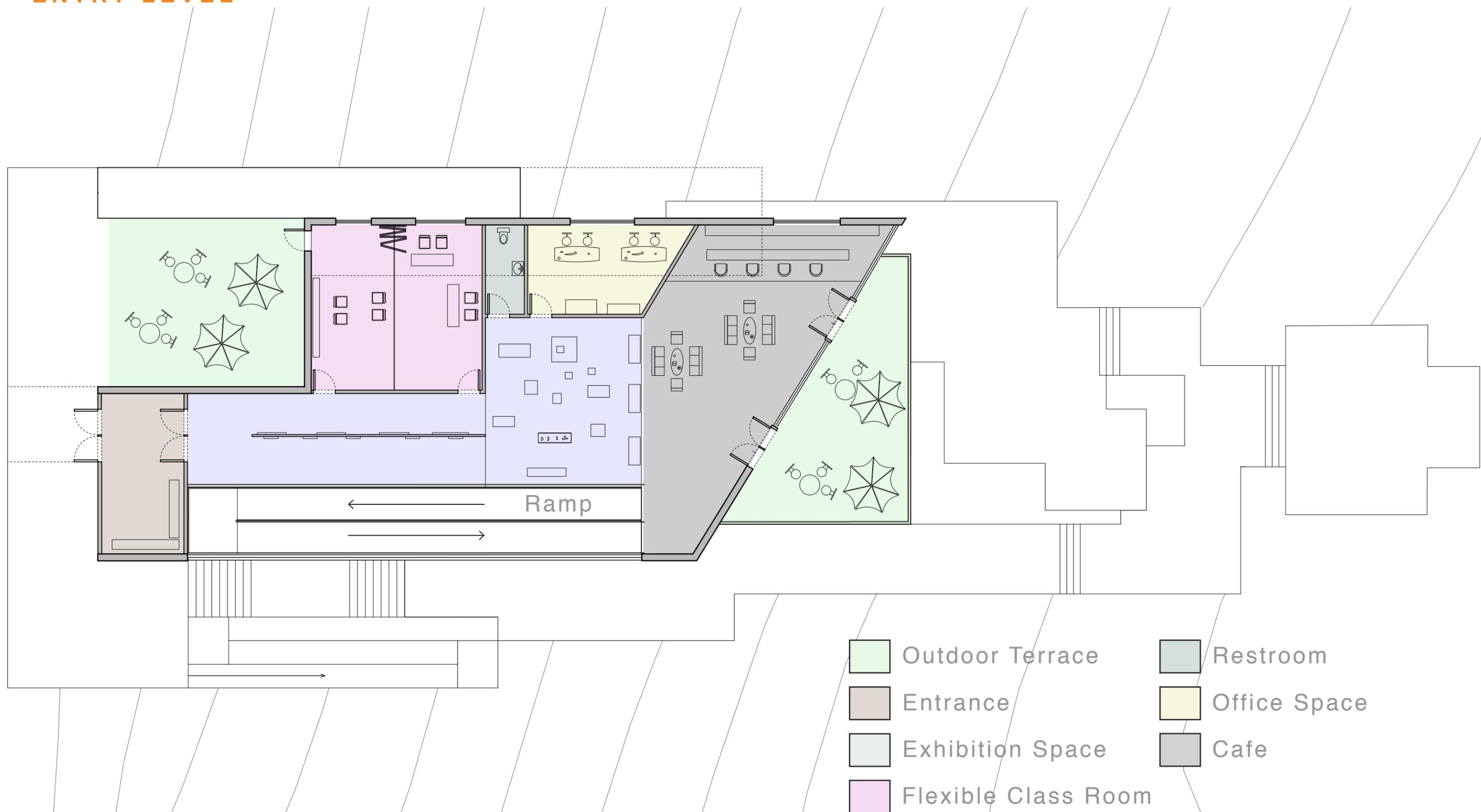
# NEW INTERPRETIVE BUILDING

ENTRANCE



# NEW INTERPRETIVE BUILDING

## ENTRY LEVEL



# NEW INTERPRETIVE BUILDING

INTERIOR VIEW: INSIDE BUILDING ENTRANCE



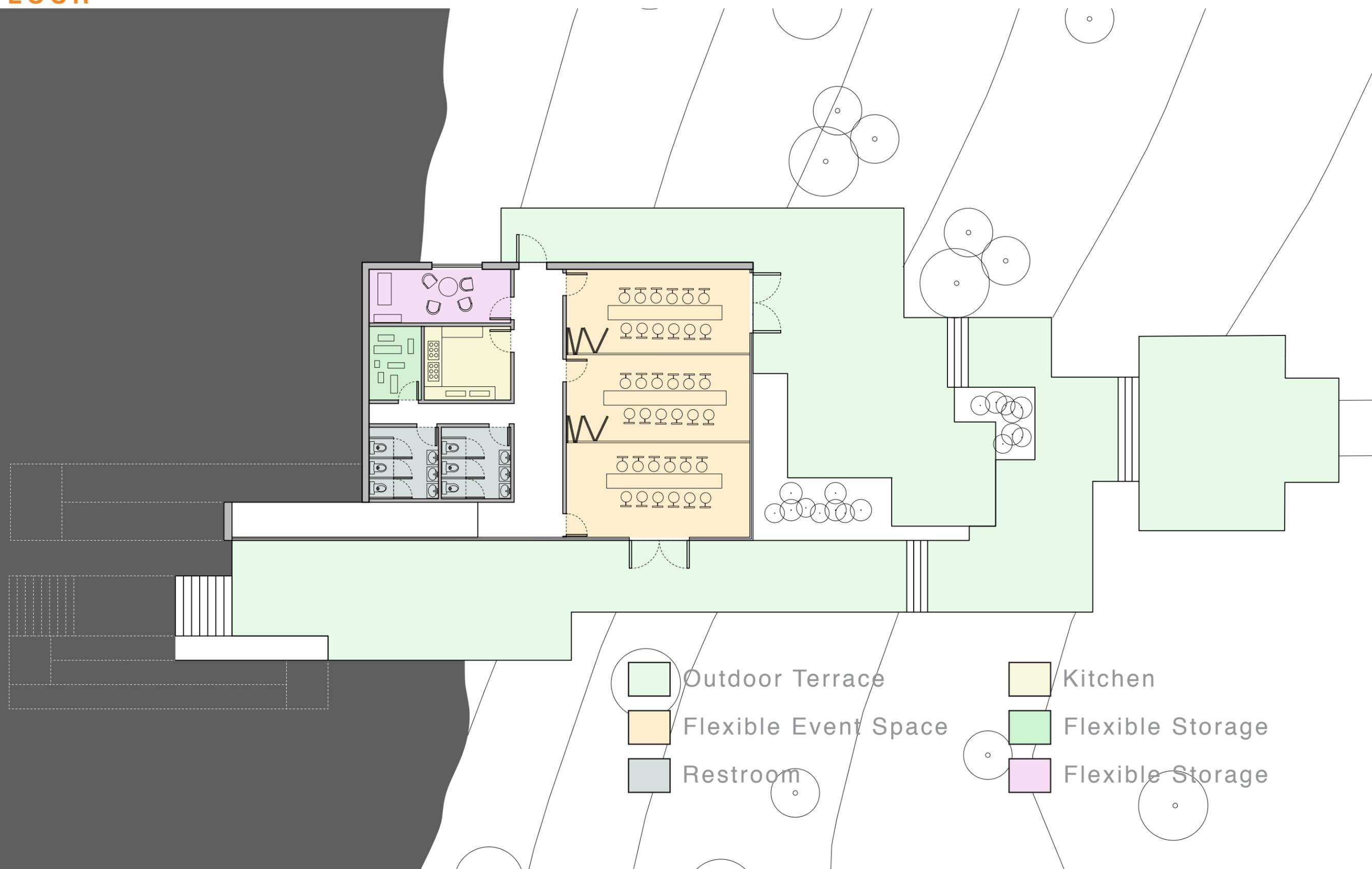
# NEW INTERPRETIVE BUILDING

INTERIOR VIEW: CAFE AND TERRACE



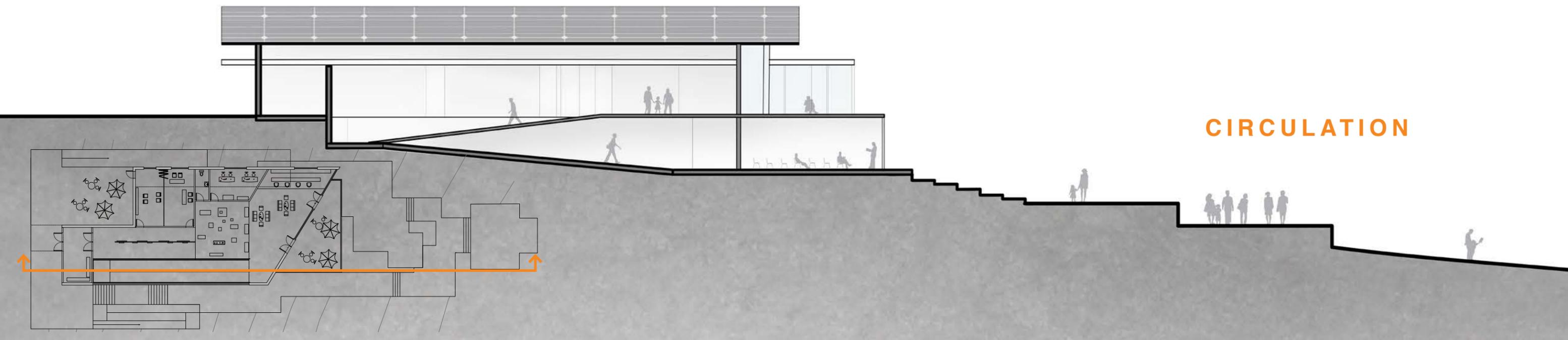
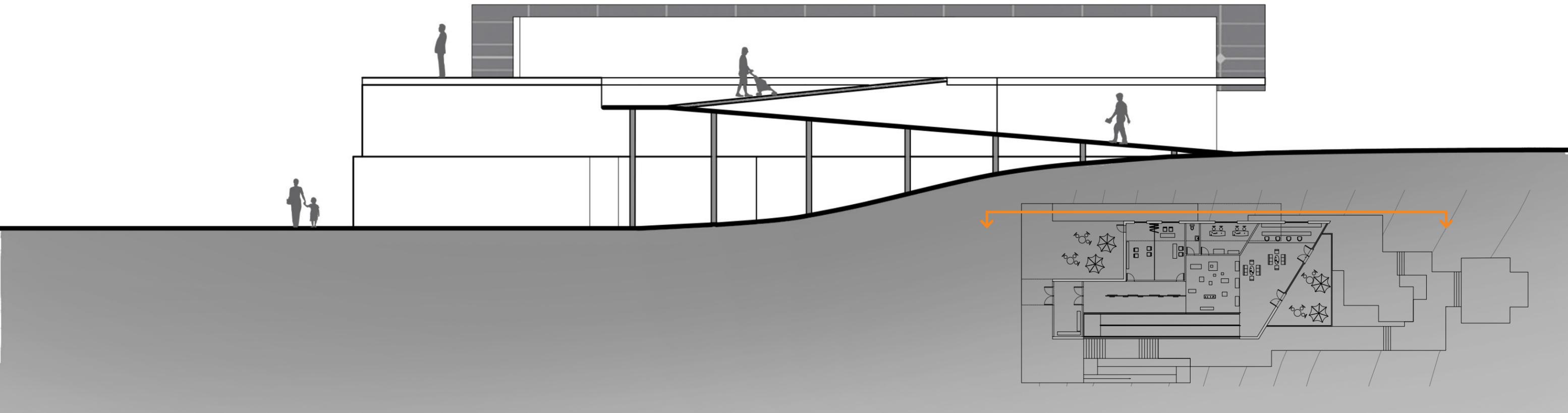
# NEW INTERPRETIVE BUILDING

## BOTTOM FLOOR



# NEW INTERPRETIVE BUILDING

## RAMP TO ROOF

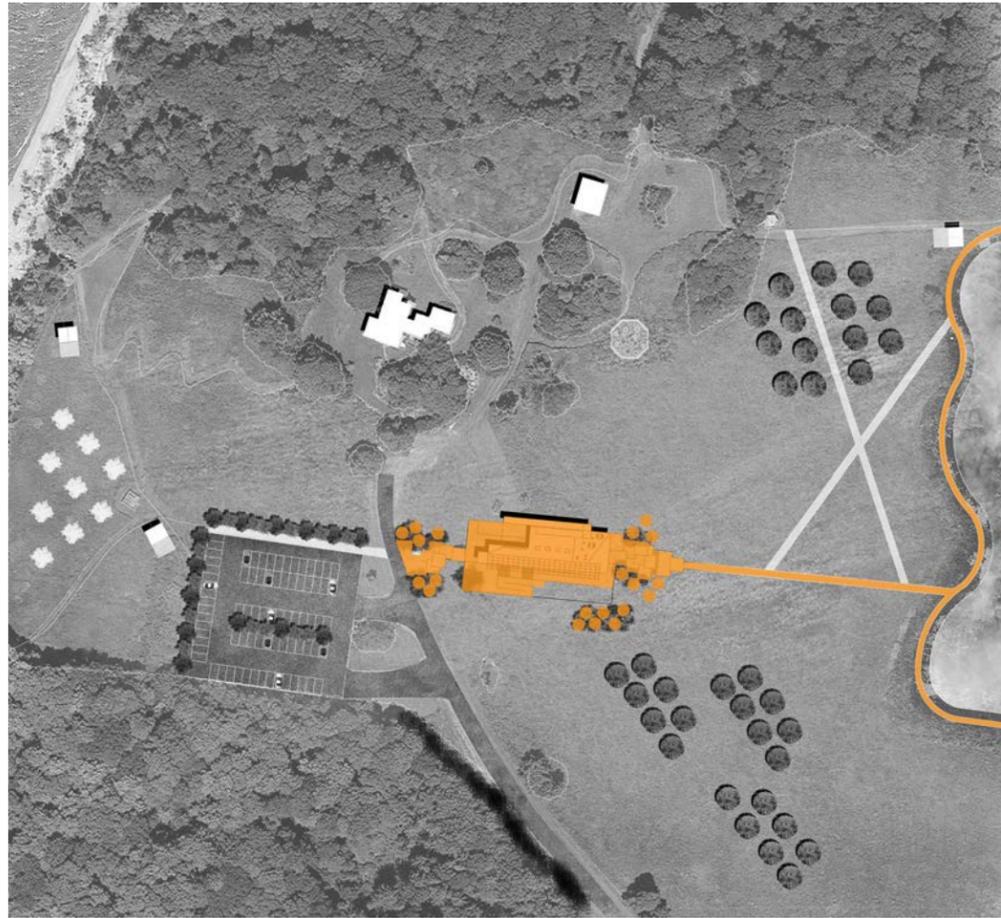


# FLEXIBLE EVENT SPACE



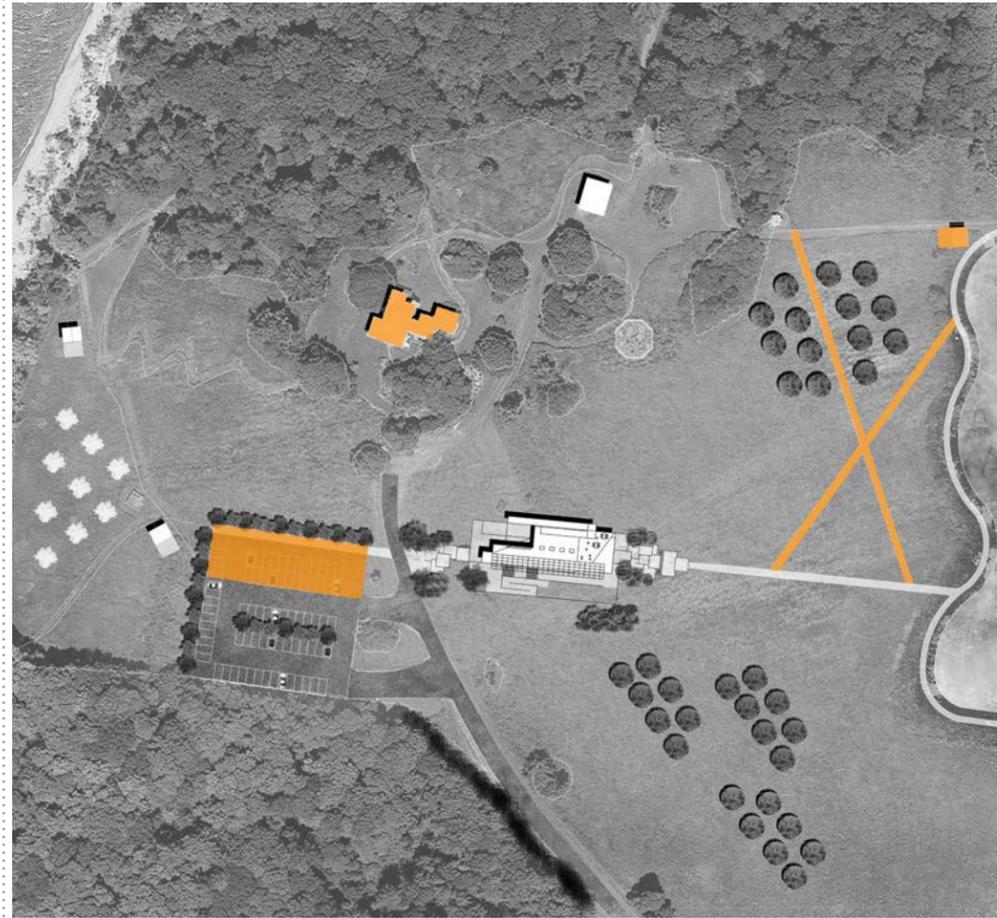
# PHASING

## PHASE 1: NEAR FUTURE



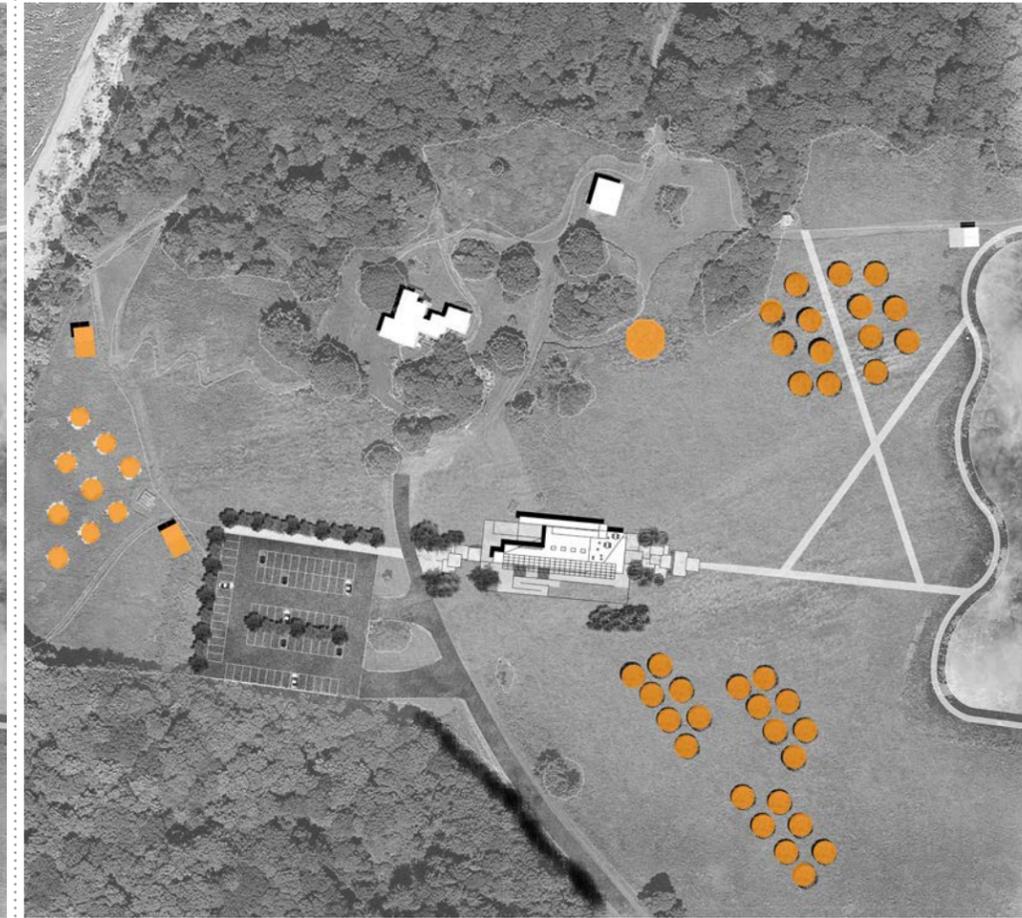
- New Interpretive Center
- Mowed Pond Path
- Entrance Plaza and Event Terrace

## PHASE 2: FUTURE



- Renovations to Existing Structure
- Parking Lot Expansion
- Aquatic Education Node

## PHASE 3: EXTENDED FUTURE



- Playground
- Orchard Trees
- Green infrastructure Node
- Regional Landscape Node
- Wind Turbine Trees

# COST ESTIMATES

## PHASE 1: NEAR FUTURE

<u>Program Element</u>	<u>Cost</u>
New Interpretive Center	\$1.8-\$2.2 Million
Mowed Pond Path	\$0.00
Entrance Plaza and Event Terrace	\$60,950

**PHASE 2 TOTAL = \$2,260,000**

## PHASE 2: FUTURE

<u>Program Element</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Renovations to Existing Structure	\$60,000
Parking Lot Expansion	\$119,000
Aquatic Education Node	\$5,000

**PHASE 2 TOTAL = \$154,000**

## PHASE 3: EXTENDED FUTURE

<u>Program Element</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Playground	\$3,000
Green infrastructure Node	\$5,000
Regional Landscape Node	\$5,000
Wind Turbine Trees	\$56,000

**PHASE 3 TOTAL = \$69,000**

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## PHASE 1: NEAR FUTURE

Program Element	Grant
New Interpretive Center	Youth Conservation Services- Department of Defense
Mowed Pond Path	_____
Entrance Plaza and Event Terrace	_____

## PHASE 2: FUTURE

Program Element	Grant
Renovations to Existing Structure	Environmental Protection Fund Grant Program for Parks, Preservation and Heritage (EPF)
Parking Lot Expansion	Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
Aquatic Education Node	Youth Engagement, Education, and Employment (Fish & Wildlife Services)

## PHASE 3: EXTENDED FUTURE

Program Element	Grant
Playground	_____
Orchard	Fruit Tree Orchard Grant
Green infrastructure Node	positiveNRG Environment Grant Program
Regional Landscape Node	Great Lakes Restoration (Fish & Wildlife Services)
Wind Turbine Trees	Habitat Enhancement, Restoration and Improvement (Fish & Wildlife Services)

# THANK YOU

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Jim D'Angelo- Director of Sterling Nature Center  
David Nelson- Cayuga County Planning  
Friends of Sterling Nature Center  
Cayuga County  
Professor Michael Tomlan  
Design Connect Board

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