THE NEW HEART - Uniting a Divided Campus Through Green Infrastructure

SITE CONTEXT

Environmental

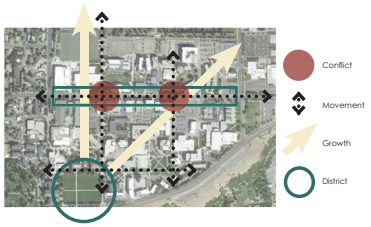
Located at the convergence of two major ecoregions, the Great Basin and the Rocky Mountains, Utah State University recieves intense winter snowfall and extreme lack of summer rainfall. Coupled with gravelly loam, maintaining adequate irrigation to the landscape is difficult.

The sterile, bleak, and artificial nature of Aggie Boulevard acts as a physical and environmental barrier between campus. Furthermore, the many hours of idling cars is a major contributor to campus CO_2 emissions and other pollutants.

Cultural

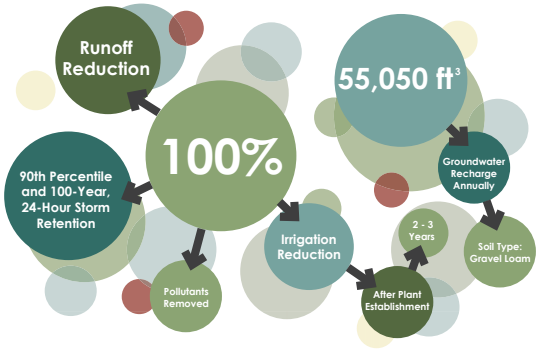
Utah State University continues to focus expansion northward and eastward. As such, the "heart" of campus has gradually transitioned away from the historic quad district, now awkwardly situated in the southwest corner of campus. This growth pattern has established Aggie Blvd. as the new center, despite being a major barrier.

Campus has grown into two distinct districts segmented by Aggie Blvd. This drastic and harsh barrier prevents easy movement between buildings, clogs local transportation routes, and lacks recognizeable identity.

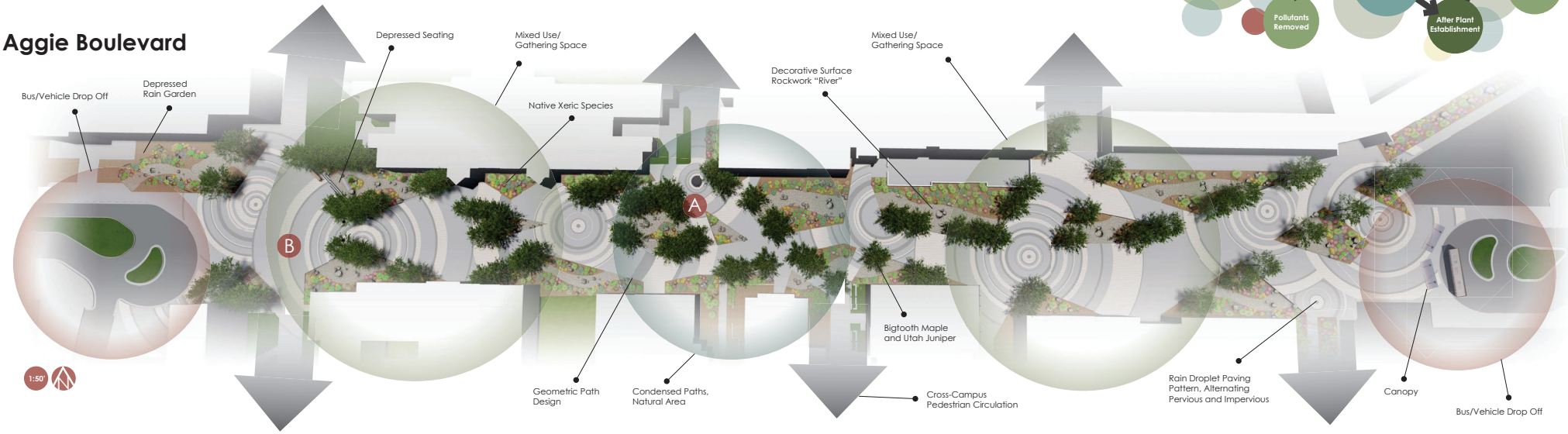


PROJECT GOALS

- **Recharge** groundwater after treatment
- **Reduce** impermeable iurface Area
- **Retain** design storms
- **Eliminate need** for supplemental irrigation after establishment period
- Emphasize **native xeric** planting
- Improve **circulation** and accessibility
- Create a new cultural center **(Heart)** of campus

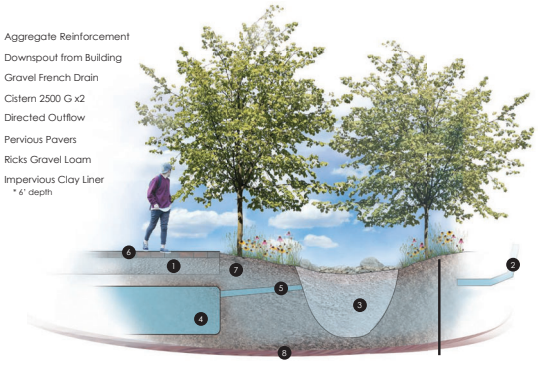


Aggie Boulevard



SECTION VIEW

1. Aggregate Reinforcement
2. Downspout from Building
3. Gravel French Drain
4. Cistern 2500 G x2
5. Directed Outflow
6. Pervious Pavers
7. Ricks Gravel Loam
8. Impervious Clay Liner
   * 6" depth



PERSPECTIVES

Design Program

Our solution seeks to establish Aggie Blvd. as the new "heart" of campus not just physically, but culturally as well. We propose embracing the shift in campus development, and **cultivating the corridor into a contemporary "quad"** to better suit the needs of campus functionality by closing the road to through traffic with roundabouts.

This will provide a safer, greener, and more aesthetically pleasing option for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well create a unique opportunity to establish a storm-water management system that collects, filters, and provides irrigation to this newly created campus amenity.

The dual functionality of this project will result in an efficient, green, and revolutionary concept for storm-water management, water-wise western US landscape design, civic engagement, and campus functionality.