



## Application for URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE Review

Department of Planning and Development Review  
Planning & Preservation Division  
900 E. Broad Street, Room 510  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
(804) 646-6335

<http://www.richmondgov.com/CommitteeUrbanDesign>

### Application Type

- Addition/Alteration to Existing Structure  
 New Construction  
 Streetscape  
 Site Amenity

- Encroachment  
 Master Plan  
 Sign  
 Other

### Review Type

- Conceptual  
 Final

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Project Description (this is not a replacement for the required detailed narrative) : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Applicant Information

(on all applications other than encroachments, a City agency representative must be the applicant)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Contact (if different from Applicant): \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Submittal Deadlines

All applications and support materials must be filed no later than 21 days prior to the scheduled meeting of the Urban Design Committee (UDC). Please see the schedule on page 3 as actual deadlines are adjusted due to City holidays. **Late or incomplete submissions will be deferred to the next meeting.**

### Filing

Applications can be mailed or delivered to the attention of "Urban Design Committee" at the address listed at the top of this page. **It is important that the applicant discuss the proposal with appropriate City agencies, Zoning Administration staff, and area civic associations and residents prior to filing the application with the UDC.**

### UDC Background

The UDC is a ten member committee created by City Council in 1968 whose purpose is to advise the City Planning Commission on the design of projects on City property or right-of-way. The UDC provides advice of an aesthetic nature in connection with the performance of the duties of the Commission under Sections 17.05, 17.06 and 17.07 of the City Charter. The UDC also advises the Department of Public Works in regards to private encroachments in the public right-of-way.



Project: Kanawha Plaza Improvements  
Subject: Project Narrative  
Date: For UDC submittal, January 15, 2015

Kanawha Plaza was built over the newly constructed RMA expressway around 1980. The Plaza has been the home of very successful music concerts, small festivals and passive activities. It is accented with a gushing stepped water fountain at the street corner. The Plaza is in a state of disrepair; the concrete steps are damaged and decayed, the existing trees are overgrown, declining, or irregular. The fountain plumbing and pumps have been updated and functions well, but the concrete structure requires major renovation.

The City of Richmond is partnering with a number of private sector corporation sponsors, including Dominion Resources, who are working collectively to improve Kanawha Plaza. The goal is to renovate the park to create a safe, user friendly, attractive and semi-active outdoor amenity.

It is envisioned that the renovation will occur in multiple phases. The initial phase will involve renovating the existing Plaza and Fountain to welcome in the Richmond Road World Cycling Championship in September 2015. A conscientious and sustainable design is presented with the understanding of the construction time limitations and the desire to maintain flexibility for future expansion.

A second phase of construction desires to enlarge the Plaza by enclosing the two openings over the RMA downtown expressway. This work will require consultation with the RMA and other local stakeholders. The goal of the Phase 2 enclosure will allow construction of permanent restrooms, and create a focal point structure for video displays and food service. The timetable to accomplish and complete the second phase is undetermined.

#### Phase 1, Plaza Improvements Goal:

Improve the visibility and access to the park:

- By removing the concrete screen walls surrounding the plaza.
- Re-grading the site to improve visibility and accessibility.
- Replacing existing steps with sloped walkways and access ramps.

Provide space for a permanent concert venue with flexibility for other programs;

- Provide accessible main stage with canopy and secondary stage with canopy.
- Provide permanent parking for backstage delivery and artist access.
- Provide open lawn for spectators, sunbathers, field games and other programmed activities.

Promote everyday use and interaction: (City Experience)

- Provide designated curbside parking for food trucks and vendors. Create a secure zone from the street for patron dining.

## Kanawha Plaza Improvements

### Project Narrative

#### Page 2

- Create an accessible promenade Sculpture Garden, Exercise Workout Area with native species of trees, shrubs and groundcovers. Plant beds will be irrigated.
- Renovate and improve the existing water fountain while keeping the same powerful water flow symbolizing the James River.
- Provide WiFi, Security Cameras, LED Site Lighting, and Recorded Music for enhanced visitor enjoyment.
- Provide Bikes Racks, Welcome Signs, and Drinking fountains.
- Provide a temporary Portable Toilet Screen enclosure to conceal 3 portable units.
- The concrete pedestrian bridge is rarely used. The City of Richmond owns the pedestrian bridge and Dominion Power owns the property where the bridge terminates, both desire to remove the bridge.
- Improved lighting throughout the park will be installed to make the park safe by improving visually security and visibility at night.

#### Project expandability:

- The Corporate Partners and the City would like to expand the plaza in the near future by closing the two openings over the highway.
- As stated above, the extended Plaza area will be suitable for architectural enhancements.
- The directive from the City is that any hardscape elements that will be constructed in time for the “race” in phase one, will be permanent.
- The future activity programmed for the plaza expansion shall be complementary to the activity programmed in phase one, with minimal demolition needed.
- The highway concrete sound and safety walls for example will be simply painted, beautified since they will be demolished for the expansion of the Plaza.
- All level walking paths will be compacted crushed granite. Sloped access entry walks and ramps will be exposed aggregate, stamped concrete, or similar hardscape.
- Existing brick pavers imprinted with names of original private donors to Kanawha Plaza will be removed, stockpiled, and re-used at key locations at Plaza entrance points.

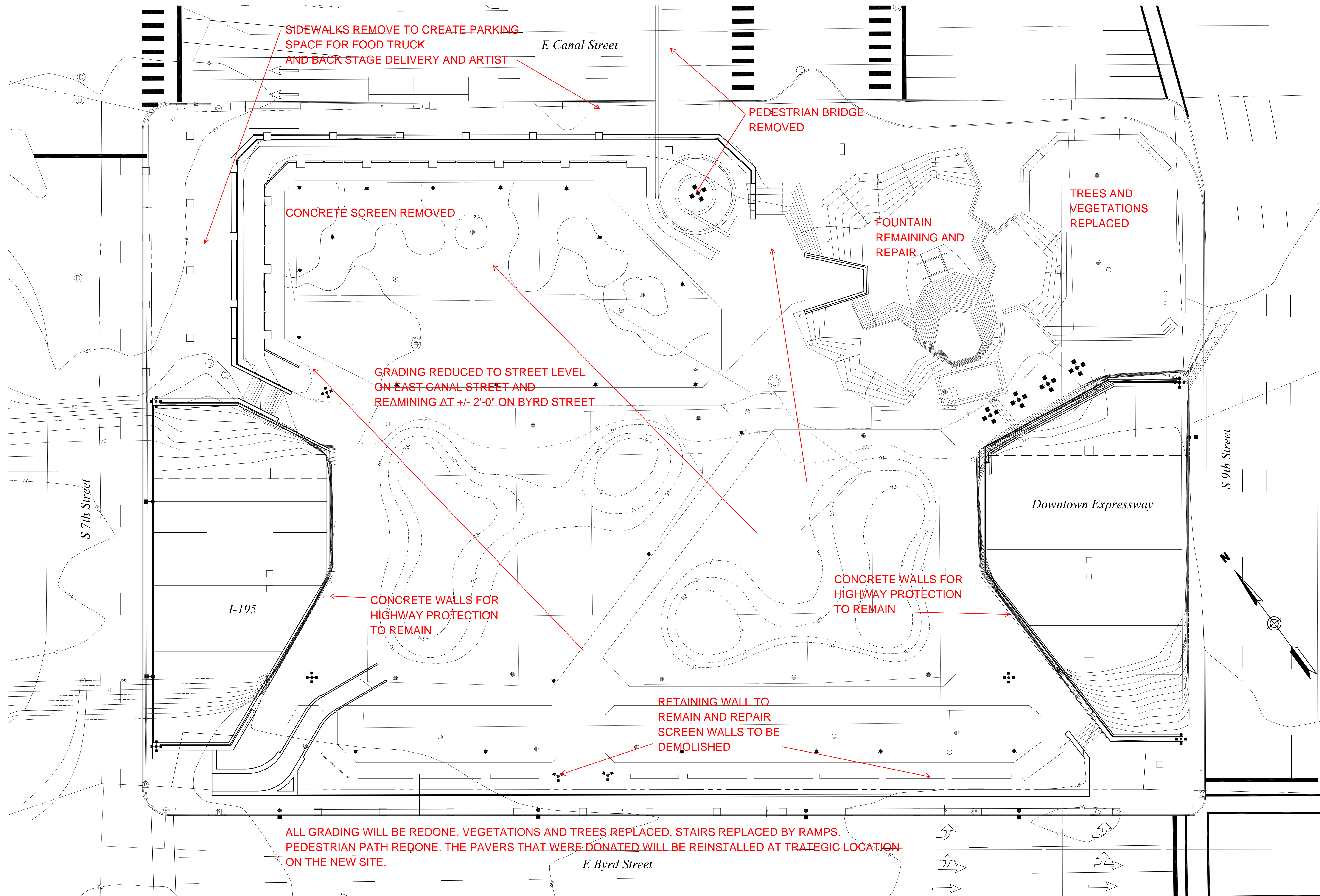
#### Project Construction Schedule (Phase 1):

- Demolition scheduled start                      May 25, 2015
- Construction scheduled start                      June 15, 2015

#### Phase I budget estimation:

three to five million dollars (\$3-5,000,000)

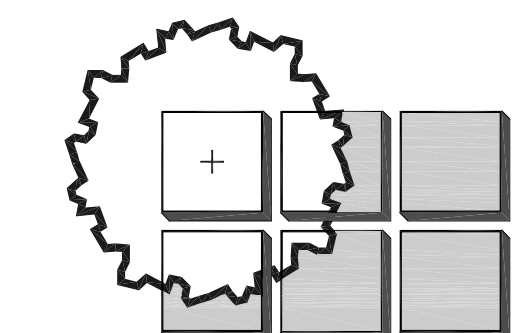




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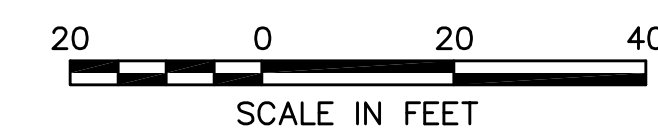
IN COLLABORATION WITH



Snead Associates, P.C.  
• Landscape Architecture •  
• Land Use Planning •  
8005 Creighton Pkwy #703  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111  
Cell(804)240-7823 Office(804) 649-8500



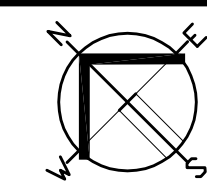
OJB THE OFFICE OF  
JAMES BURNETT  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



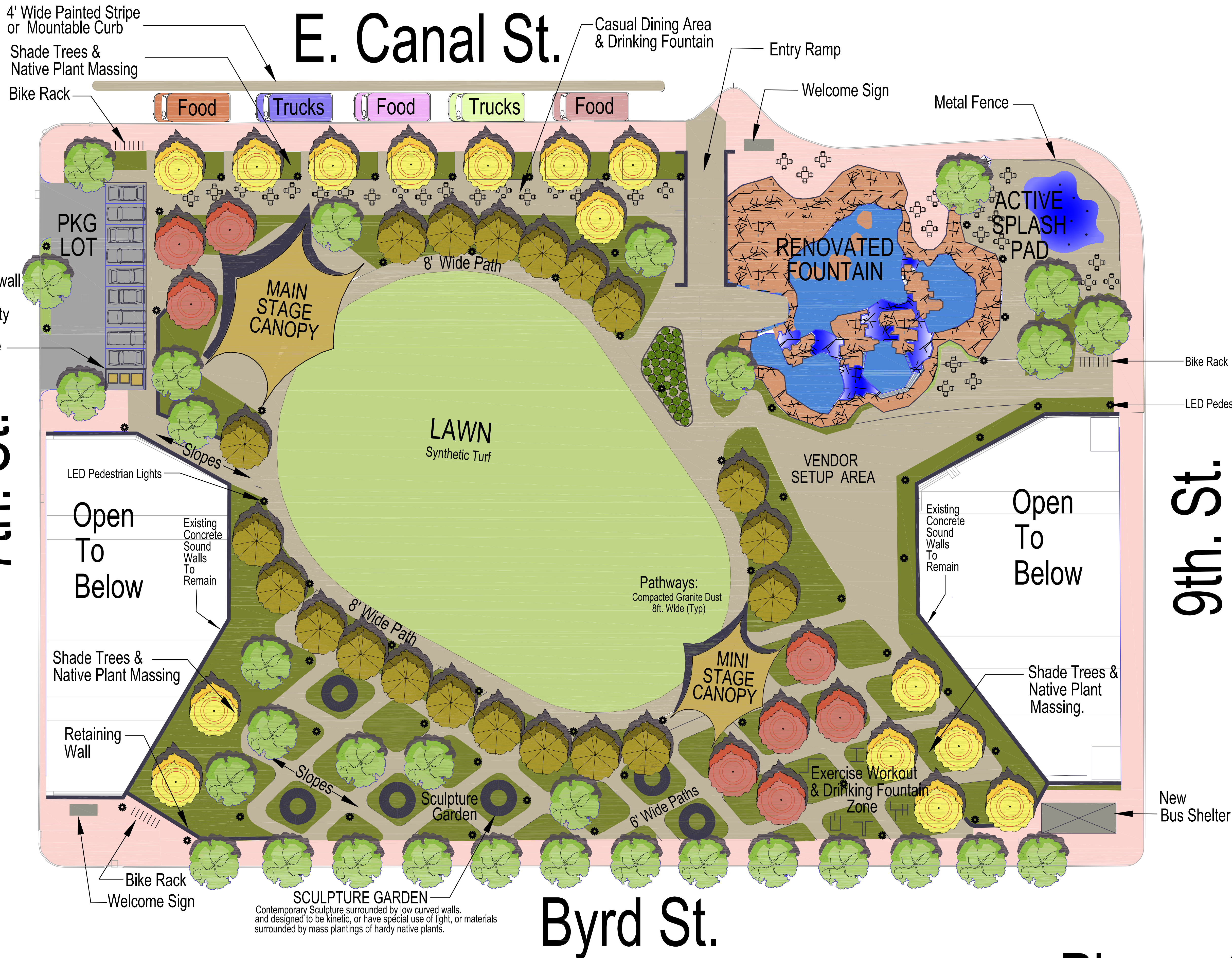
JANUARY 15, 2015

# KANAWHA PLAZA EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

RICHMOND, VA.



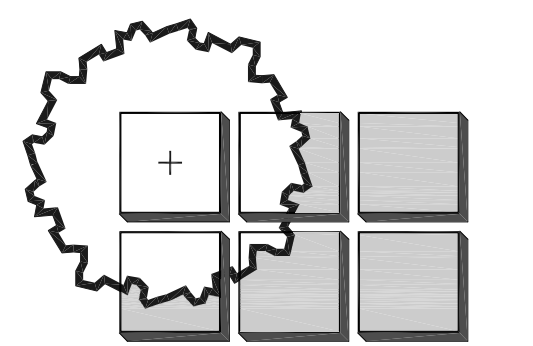




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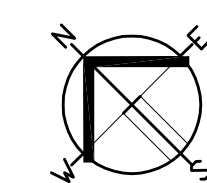
Concept Design Goal: Create an esthetically pleasing, sustainable space, that encourages activity, and is flexible and interactive.

Phase 1

JANUARY 15, 2015

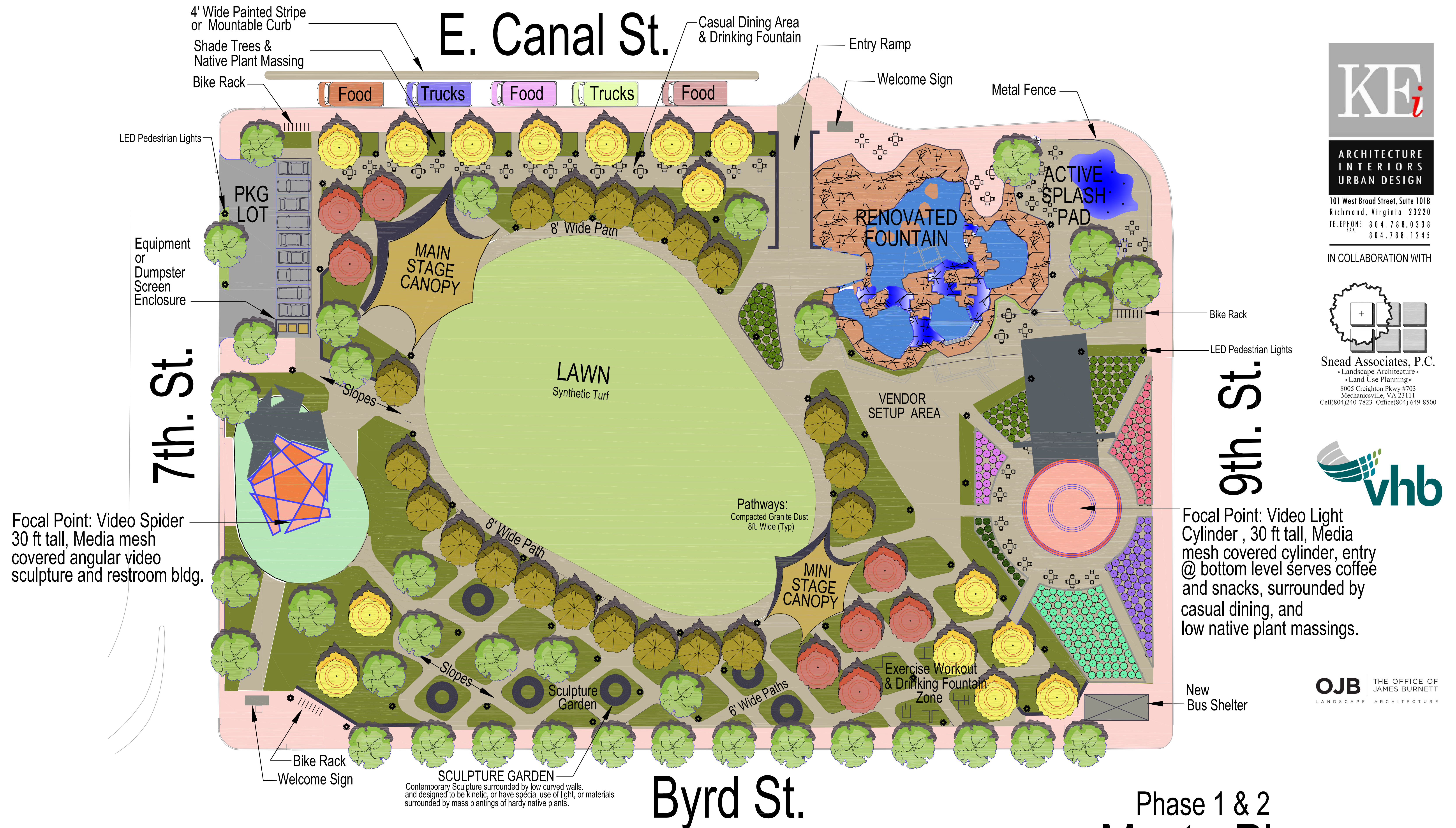
# KANAWHA PLAZA CONCEPT PLAN

RICHMOND, VA.



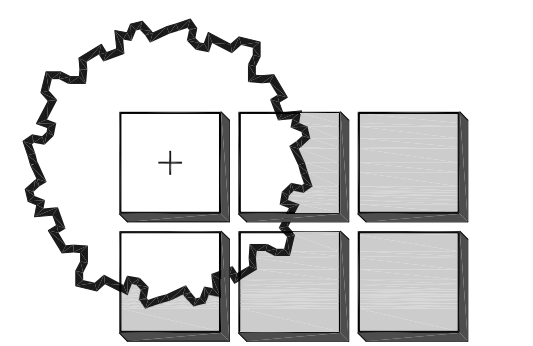
Scale: 1" = 20'





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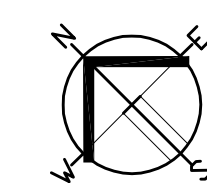
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Phase 1 & 2  
**MasterPlan**

JANUARY 15, 2015

**KANAWHA PLAZA CONCEPT PLAN**

RICHMOND, VA.



Scale: 1" = 20'