2023 FIRST PRIZE

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LYCEUM

A traveling fellowship in Architecture

Bel Air Forest

Application ID: LF-11342

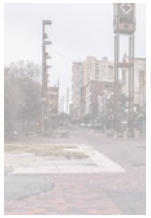
The Narrative of Bel Air Forest:

The effects of the Black Butterfly have caused the massing of urban heat islands throughout Baltimore, establishing long-term effects on public and environmental health. Redlining has removed mass amounts of forest land within the city of Baltimore. What defines an urban forest? How can a forest be embodied within Baltimore? The narrative of Bel Air Forest establishes an Urban forest with the use of the cities forest program, spreading throughout the neighborhood from Old Town Mall. The urban forest challenges the existing grid by forming a new grid determined by a forest. Using the old commercial hub of Baltimore, Bel Air Forest provides a starting point for the reforestation of Baltimore.

Program for Bel Air Forest:

The Bel Air Forest program looks to restore Bel Air Market/ Old Town Mall alongside the city's goal of 40% canopy within Baltimore. Both elements would bring a pedestrian focus to the area, strengthening youth/community programs. The reforestation plan provides new job opportunities based around horticulture, agriculture, and forestry, expanding the existing forest over time. The job opportunities would include education-based programs, establishing a school within the area. The school would generate a research program that shows the effects of urban heat islands and reforestation within Baltimore. The school would be connected to a greenhouse and a community kitchen, working alongside the Baltimore Farmers Market.

History of Bel Air Market & Analysis of Old Town Mall



1818

The Bel Air Market was constructed in 1818, having the area become the commercial center for Baltimore.

1820s

Two story row house shops lined Gay Street, just north of Bel Air Market.

1869

Gay Street was mostly storefronts with first-floor awnings that span the sidewalk.

1883

Businessmen formed a association, making improvements to Old Town by widening Gay and Orleans street.

1938

A portion of the market was demolished for parking.

1950

Interstate 83 finished construction, cutting off the surrounding neighborhoods.

1964

The city banned open air vendors along the streets surrounding the Bel Air Market.

1970s

Old Town Mall was created by closing Gay Street and building ground pedestrian walkway.

1990s

The Bel Air Market closed altogether.

Today

Today, the Farmers Market is located under Interstate 83.

1. N. Central Street
Lanes: 3 (two way)
Daily Use: 6 352
MTA Bus: City Link Lime
Local Bus: none
Commuter Bus: none

2. Hillen Street
Lanes: 3 (two way)
Daily Use: 9 091
MTA Bus: 54, 105. 154 Local Bus: 54
Commuter Bus: none

3. Gay Street
Lanes: 3 (one way)
Daily Use: 9 201
MTA Bus: RED, 54, 105, 115, 154
Local Bus: 78, 54
Commuter Bus: 210, 310, 215, 320

4. E Monument Street
Lanes: 3 (one way)
Daily Use: 11 030
MTA Bus: City Link Pink
Local Bus: none
Commuter Bus: 215

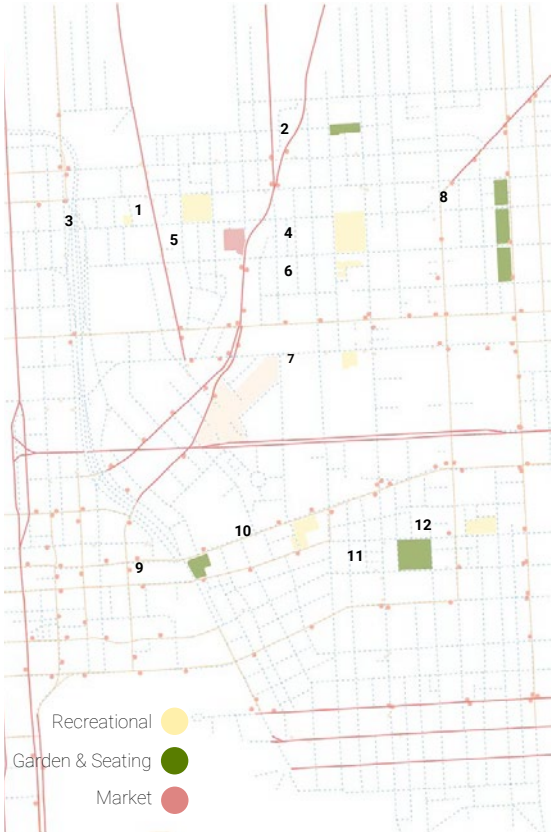
5. Orleans Street
Lanes: 5 (two way)
Daily Use: 23 772
MTA Bus: none
Local Bus: none
Commuter Bus: 320, 411

6. Ensor Street
Lanes: 4 (two way)
Daily Use: 21 331
MTA Bus: 154, 54
Local Bus: 54
Commuter Bus: none

7. Is83 Interstate
Lanes: 6 (two way)
Daily Use: 50 443
MTA Bus: none
Local Bus: none
Commuter Bus: none

8. Eager Street
Lanes: 2 (two way)
Daily Use: 1 953
MTA Bus: 120, 56, 115, 105
Local Bus:
Commuter Bus: 411, 420, 215

9. S Wolfe Street
Lanes: 2 (one way)
Daily Use: 6 262
MTA Bus: 21, City Link Gold
Local Bus: 21
Commuter Bus: 310, 320, 411, 420



1. Johnston Square Park
1.2 Hectares
Recreational, linked to School
Basketball Court & Square Mound

2. Caroline & Hoffman Park
0.43 Hectares
Recreational
Basketball & Tennis Court

3. Brentwood Village Playground
0.08 Hectares
Recreational
Kids Playground

4. Madison Square Park
1.75 Hectares
Recreational
Features: Baseball Diamond & Tree Line

5. Ambrose Kennedy Park
1.75 Hectares
Recreational & Market
Swimming Pool & Basketball Court

6. Eden & Eager Park
0.24 Hectares
Recreational & Seating
Basketball Court

7.Chick Webb Recreation Center & Pool
0.41 Hectares
Recreational
Basketball Court & Indoor Pool

8. Eager Park
2.1 Hectares
Recreational & Open Space
Kids Playground & Local Garden

9. Caroline & Hoffman Park
0.6 Hectares
Seating & Gathering Space
Shaded Area & Garden

10. Mckim Park
0.39 Hectares
Recreational
Basketball Court & Kids Playground

11. City Springs Park
1.75 Hectares
Recreational & Gardening
Features: Soccer Field & Community Garden

12. The Betty Hyatt Community Park
0.8 Hectares
Recreational
Kids Playground & Basketball Court

With the commuter routes going around Old Town Mall, the buses are limited to 310, 320 routes. The lane use for the amount of people that pass through the space is too much, only having 23 772 on Orleans Street. With no MTA or local buses on Orleans street, it indicates high car traffic.

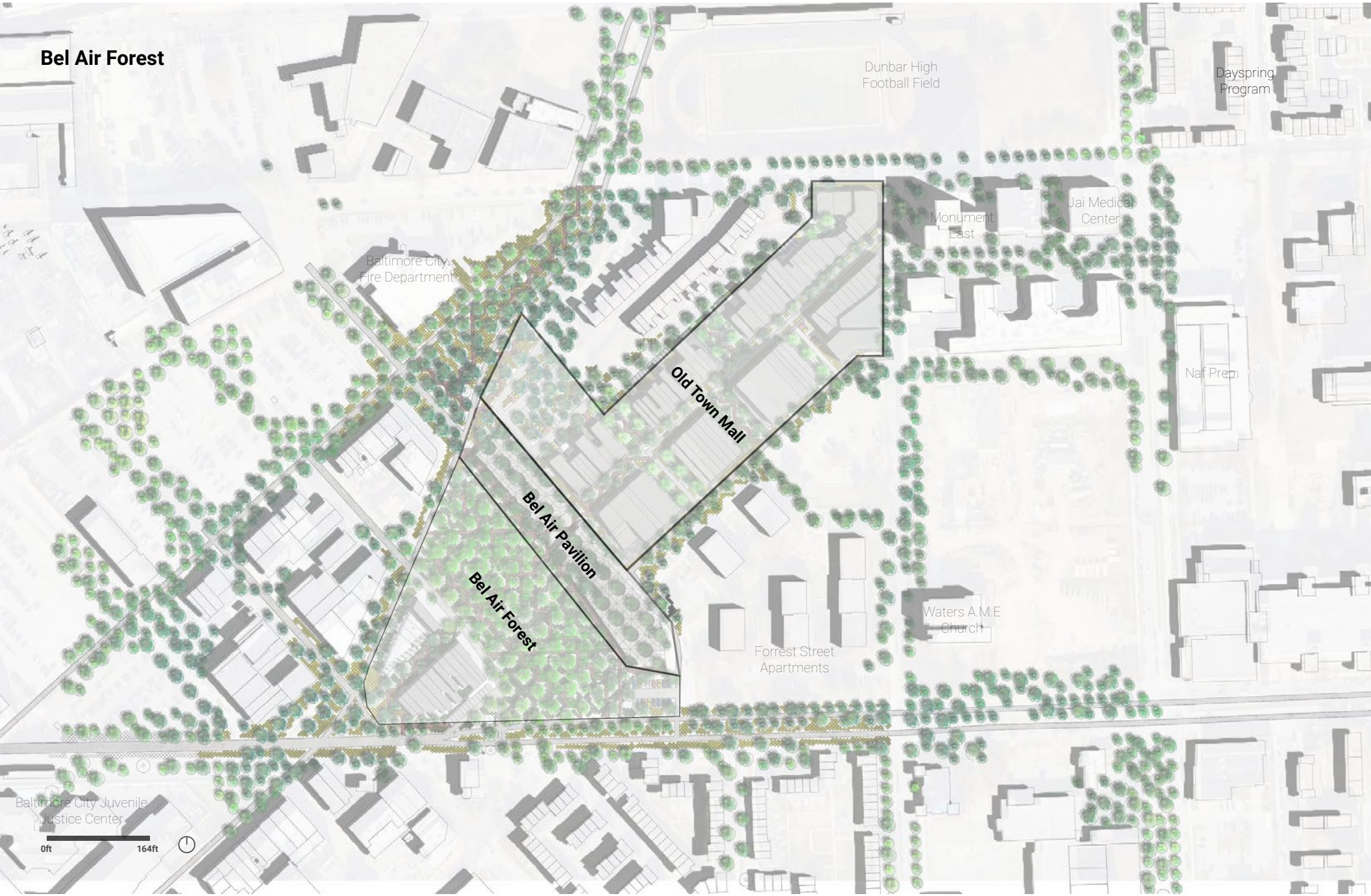
The largest greenspace is Eager Park and sits along N Wolfe Street. The park has no form of canopy, creating an undesirable space during the summer.

The greenspaces and schools connecting to Old Town Mall provide a halfway point for the surrounding area to meet. Without Old Town Mall, a void is created between the spaces, strengthening the spatial divide between the surrounding communities

Bel Air Forest Impact on Baltimore

0ft 1640ft

Northwest Bel Air Pavilion View


Bel Air Forest
Dunbar High Football Field
Dayspring Program
Monument East
Jai Medical Center
Baltimore City Fire Department
Old Town Mall
Naf Prep
Bel Air Pavilion
Bel Air Forest
Waters A.M.E Church
Forrest Street Apartments
Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center
0ft
164ft

Reforestation Plan:

The reforestation plan would impose 3 separate grids over Old Town Mall, creating a greater focus on pedestrian use. The different levels of canopy would reduce the vehicular use to one-lane, providing breathing room for both the forest and pedestrians. The forest canopy grid would use the existing dimensions for Baltimore reforestation plan, spacing trees 4.5 m apart. The second and third grid would create density and generate different spatial programs throughout the site.

Forest Canopy

Grid: Old Town
Spread: 8 m
Spacing: 4.5 m

Mid-story Canopy

Grid: City
Spread: 6 m
Spacing: 2 m

Underforest

Grid: Old Town
Width: 1.5 m
Spacing: None

Forest Path

Grid: City
Width: 2 m
Spacing: 6 m

Northwest Bel Air Forest

The planting plan uses canopy within Baltimore's streetscape and reforestation guide, working with the dimension of the gird.

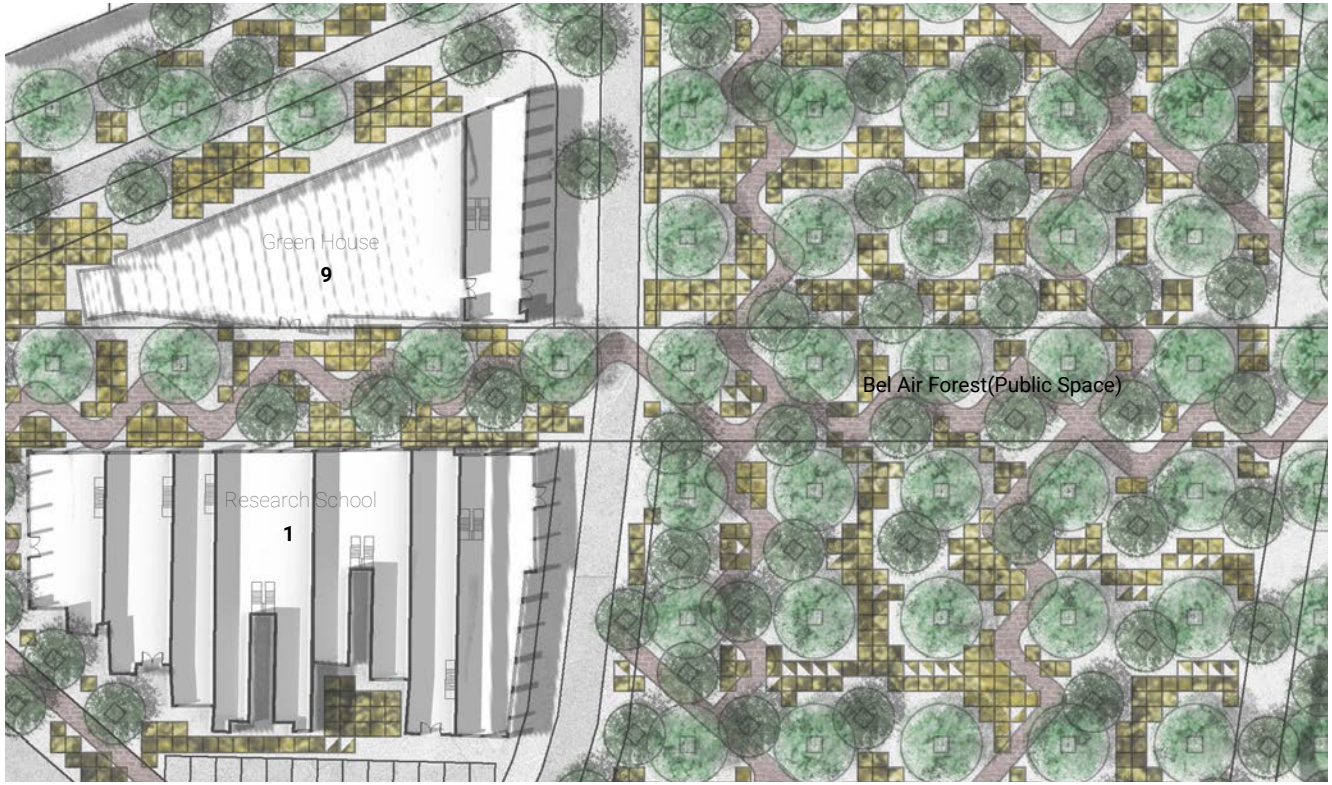
Zone	Forest	Common Name	Latino Name	Spread (ft)	Mid-Story	Common Name	Latino Name	Spread (ft)
Streetscape		Pin Oak Red Maple River Birch	*Quercus palustris* *Acer rubrum* *Betula nigra*	(25-40) (25-35) (25-35)		Allegheny Serviceberry American Hornbeam Shangtung Maple	*Amelanchier laevis* *Carpinus caroliniana* *Acer truncatum*	(15 - 40) (20 - 30) (20 - 25)
Old Town Mall		Korean Evoda American Hornbeam	*Tetradium daniellii* *Carpinus caroliniana*	(25 - 30) (20 - 35)		Japanese Tree Lilac	*Syringa reticulata*	(15 - 18)
Bel Air Pavilion		Willow Oak American Hophornbeam American Yellowwood Black Gum	*Quercus phellos* *Ostrya virginiana* *Cladrastis kentukea* *Nyssa sylvatica*	(30 - 40) (25 - 30) (25 - 35) (20 - 30)		Japanese Snowball Okame Cherry Flowering Purple Plum Sargent Cherry	*Styrax japonicus* *Prunus x incamp* *Prunus censifera* *Prunus sargentii*	(20 - 30) (15 - 20) (15 - 20) (15 - 20)
Bel Air Market		Bald Cypress	*Taxodium distchum*	(25)		Sweetbay Magnolia	*Magnolia virginiana*	(15-25)

Reforestation Planting Plan

Building Set	Building Number	Floors	Building Use	Square Footage
1	1)	3	School / Research	54 ft²
	2)	3	School / Research	151 ft²
	3)	3	School / Research	108 ft²
	4-5)	4	School / Research	151 ft²
	6)	4	School / Research	140 ft²
	7)	4	School / Research	86 ft²
	8-9)	4	School / Research	140 ft²
	10)	4	School / Research	97 ft²
	11)	3	School / Research	118 ft²
2	12)	3	Library	215 ft²
	13)	3	Apartments	226 ft²
	14)	2	Apartments	86 ft²
	15)	2	Coffee Shop / Apartments	215 ft²
3	16)	2	Restaurant / Apartments	151 ft²
	17)	4	Apartments	151 ft²
	18-20)	3	Apartments	151 ft²
	21)	2	Restaurant / Apartments	172 ft²
4	22)	2	Restaurant / Apartments	75 ft²
	23)	6	Existing	753 ft²
	24)	5	Apartments	75 ft²
	25)	4	Apartments	75 ft²
	26)	2	Restaurant / Apartments	65 ft²
5	27)	5	Grocery / Office Space	419 ft²
	28)	4	Grocery / Office Space	409 ft²
	29)	3	Coffee Shop / Office Space	86 ft²
	30 - 38)	3	Local Shops / Office Space	32 ft²
	39)	3	Local Shops / Office Space	43 ft²
6	40)	2	Physical Health Care Facility	75 ft²
	41)	2	Physical Health Care Facility	161 ft²
	42)	3	Physical Health Care Facility	215 ft²
	43-44)	3	Pharmacy	32 ft²
	45)	3	Apartments / Local Shop	32 ft²
	46)	2	Apartments / Local Shop	43 ft²
	47)	2	Apartments / Local Shop	54 ft²
	48-50)	3	Apartments / Local Shop	97 ft²
	51-53)	3	Local Shops / Apartments	118 ft²
	54)	2	Local Shops / Apartments	97 ft²
	55)	2	Apartments / Coffee Shop	54 ft²
	56)	3	Apartments / Local Shop	54 ft²
	57)	4	Apartments / Local Shop	183 ft²
	58)	4	Apartments / Local Shop	54 ft²
	59)	3	Apartments / Restaurant	108 ft²
7	60)	2	Restaurant / Apartments	86 ft²
	61)	3	Local Shops / Apartments	86 ft²
	62)	3	Local Shops / Apartments	129 ft²
	63)	3	Local Shops / Apartments	75 ft²
	64)	4	Local Shops / Apartments	118 ft²
	65)	4	Local Shops / Apartments	75 ft²
	66)	4	Local Shops / Apartments	75 ft²
	67)	3	Local Shops / Apartments	75 ft²
	68)	4	Local Shops / Apartments	65 ft²
	69)	4	Local Shops / Apartments	65 ft²
	70)	3	Local Shops / Apartments	65 ft²
	71)	2	Restaurant / Apartments	215 ft²
8	72)	2	Local Shops / Apartments	54 ft²
	73)	3	Local Shops / Apartments	215 ft²
	74)	4	Local Shops / Apartments	65 ft²
	75)	3	Local Shops / Apartments	65 ft²
	76)	3	Local Shops / Apartments	65 ft²
	77)	3	Restaurant / Apartments	269 ft²
9	78)	3	Greenhouse	517 ft²
	79)	3	Community Kitchen	248 ft²

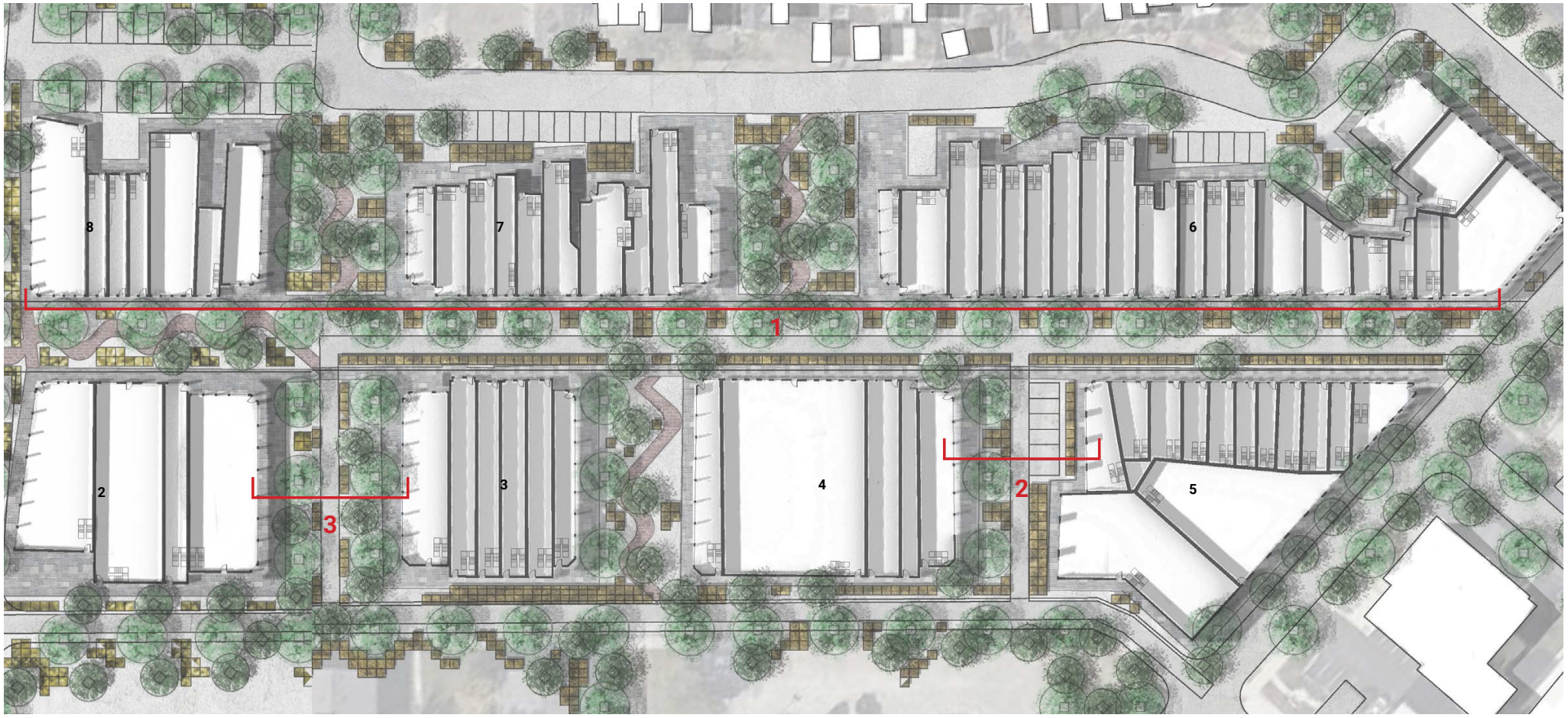
Old Town Mall Restoration:

The restoration of Old Town Mall would reintroduce the core form of the Bel Air Market The reintroduction of the built form from 1870, existing context, and the Reforestation grid; provided a sequenced spatial program, forming one identity. The spatial program was determined by the Reforestation grid, having the built form and use complementing the forest identity. For example, courtyards developed between buildings, allowed the forms facing into the space to become restaurants and coffee shops, utilizing the mid-story canopy as gathering spaces. Another example would be the corner of the site, creating an educational and research space that utilized the streetscape and open forest.



Old Town Mall School & Public Space

Old Town Mall Facade Articulation **1**

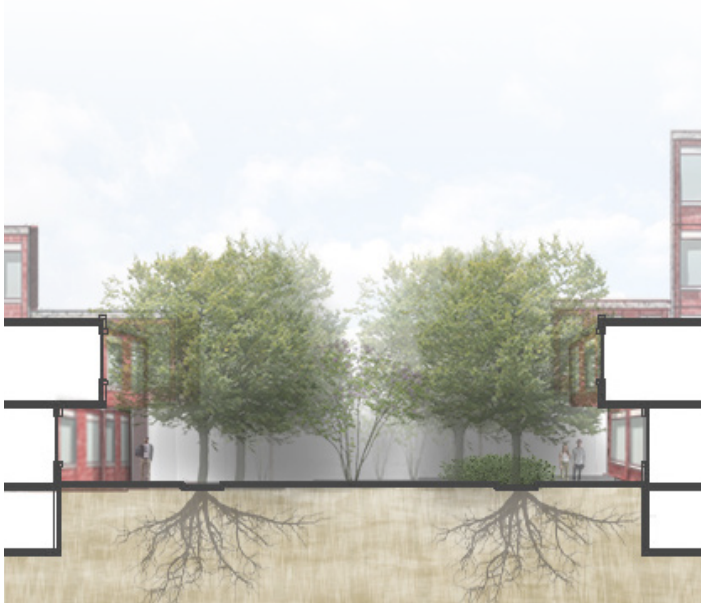


Old Town Mall Residential & Commercial Space

Courtyard Gathering Space View

0ft 20ft

Courtyard Between Building Set 4 & 5 **2**



0ft 20ft

Courtyard Between Building Set 2 & 3 **3**

Greenhouse/Community Kitchen Exterior View

Bel Air Market Restoration:

Restoring Bel Air Market would place a pavilion onto the 1870 farmers market site. The structure would be influenced by the reforestation plan, integrating the grid into the form. The Bel Air Pavilion would look to strength the site lines, having the form carved out by the forest grid system. Th pavilion would provide space for the existing farmers market underneath the 83 Express Way and other events by the community.

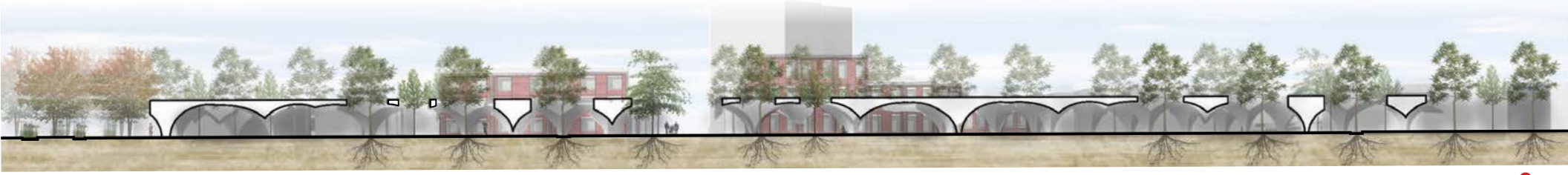
Bel Air Pavilion .....

Reforestation Grid .....

1870 Bel Air Market Form .....

0ft 20ft

1



0ft 20ft

2

Bel Air Forest View of Pavilion

Bel Air Pavilion Interior:

The interior of Bel Air Pavilion provides for numerous market stalls, creating a sense of enclosure from the surrounding Bel Air Forest. Rain runoff would feed into the roof using the water retention plan built into the columns, maintaining precipitation on warmer days. During the colder seasons, with the support of Bel Air Forest, the pavilion would provide protection from the winter winds. The pavilion when not in use from the markets provides a gathering space for other public interests such as concerts or public art displays.

Bel Air Pavilion Interior View