

## Urban Revitalization

Urban Revitalization is a movement to revitalize the urban centers of our cities, specifically the downtown districts where economic and cultural activity have traditionally taken place. This movement is a reaction to the urban abandonment which began in the early 1990's. Low oil prices and abundant natural resources aided society in moving to suburban neighborhoods and strip mall shopping center, creating masses of sprawl development along highways and interstates.

## Siloam Springs Arkansas

Siloam Springs Arkansas a small scale community of 15,000. It has historic and cultural importance to the area and has served the smaller surrounding communities as a destination place for economic trades, cultural and community events, and higher education through John Brown University.

**Existing Population**  
14,872 as of 2009 census  
37.2% growth since 2000

**Design Estimated Population**  
21,806 2040  
14,872 2009 census  
31.79% increase over 31 years

**Transportation**  
8% walk  
31% carpool  
55% car alone  
6% other

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**Downtown Units**  
128 units  
+/- 20 units  
62 units for housing  
29 detached residential

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**Unit Density**  
9.63 acres  
128 units  
13.2 units per acre

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## Key Issues

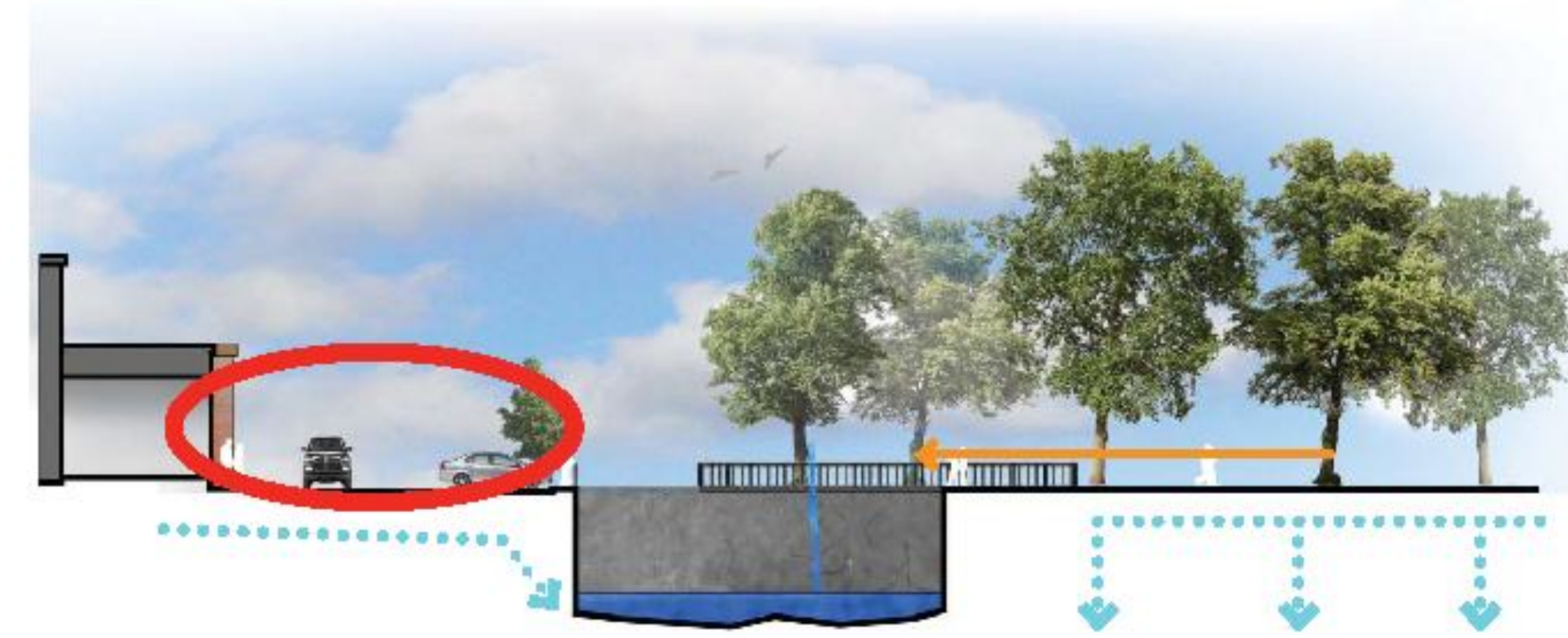
- Strip mall development and suburban flight of economic activity
- Rural building and road codes in urban development
- Downtown located in low lying topographic area transected by Sager Creek
- Engineered flood walls along creek bank to prevent flooding
- Spring and creek water quality levels unsafe for drinking
- Disregard and mismanagement of greenspaces
- Loss of sidewalk zone to vehicular street

## Sectional Study of Twin Springs Park

In addition to a master plan and other supporting documents a sectional analysis study ensure successful resolution of existing site conflicts and constraints. This aspect of the design process represents the master plan in a visually familiar format.

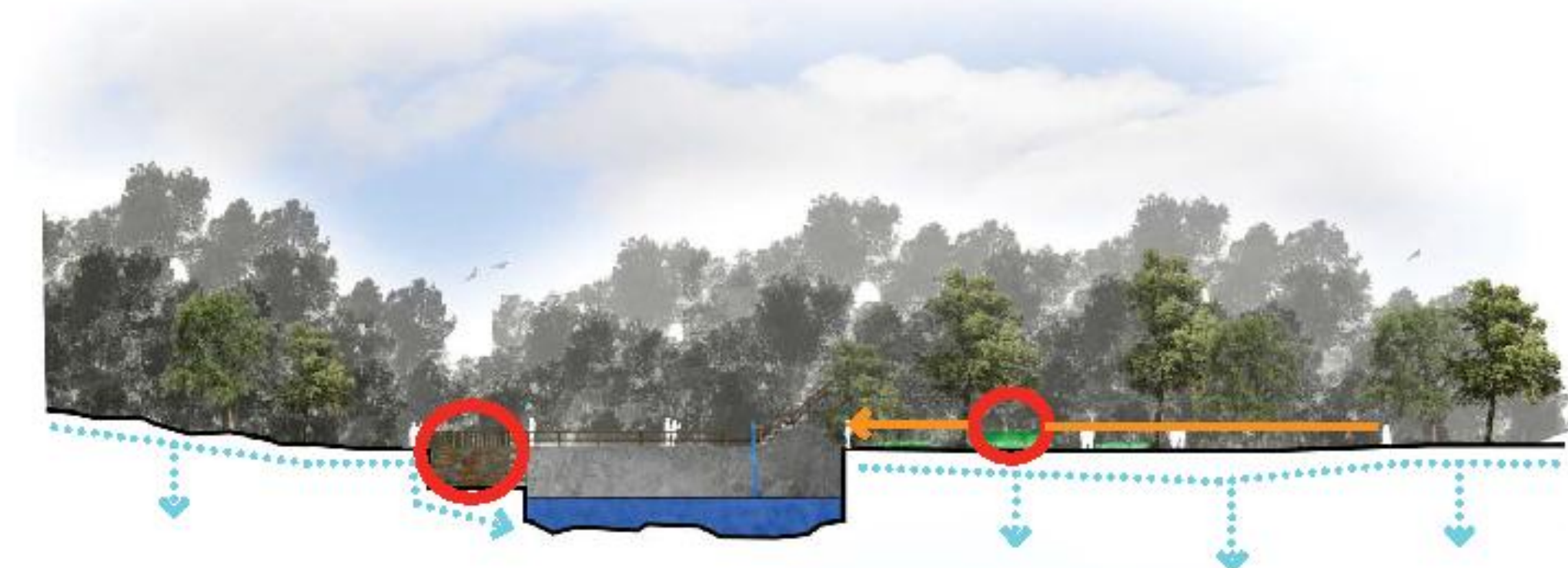
### Section a – a

**Existing Conditions** - The site have been completely taken over by the vehicular dominance of the streets and downtown development. Sager Creek is treated like a drainage ditch with deep floodwalls and no celebration or activity around the waterway.



### Section b – b

**Existing Conditions** - Twin Springs Park has the portion of floodwall which has the greatest elevation change from the top-of-wall to top-of-water. Sager Creek is all but hidden from sight until nearly at the floodwalls edge, this visual disconnection also prevents a relationship to Twin Springs from occurring.



## Sustainability

### Natural System

**Sager Creek** - Floodwalls widened to better mitigate flooding and terraced with a series of planting containment levels which would filter runoff and serve as a managed ecological buffer zone.

**Greenspaces** - Introducing sloping levels and pervious paving to park areas allows for greater percolation to occur and offset storm water overload.

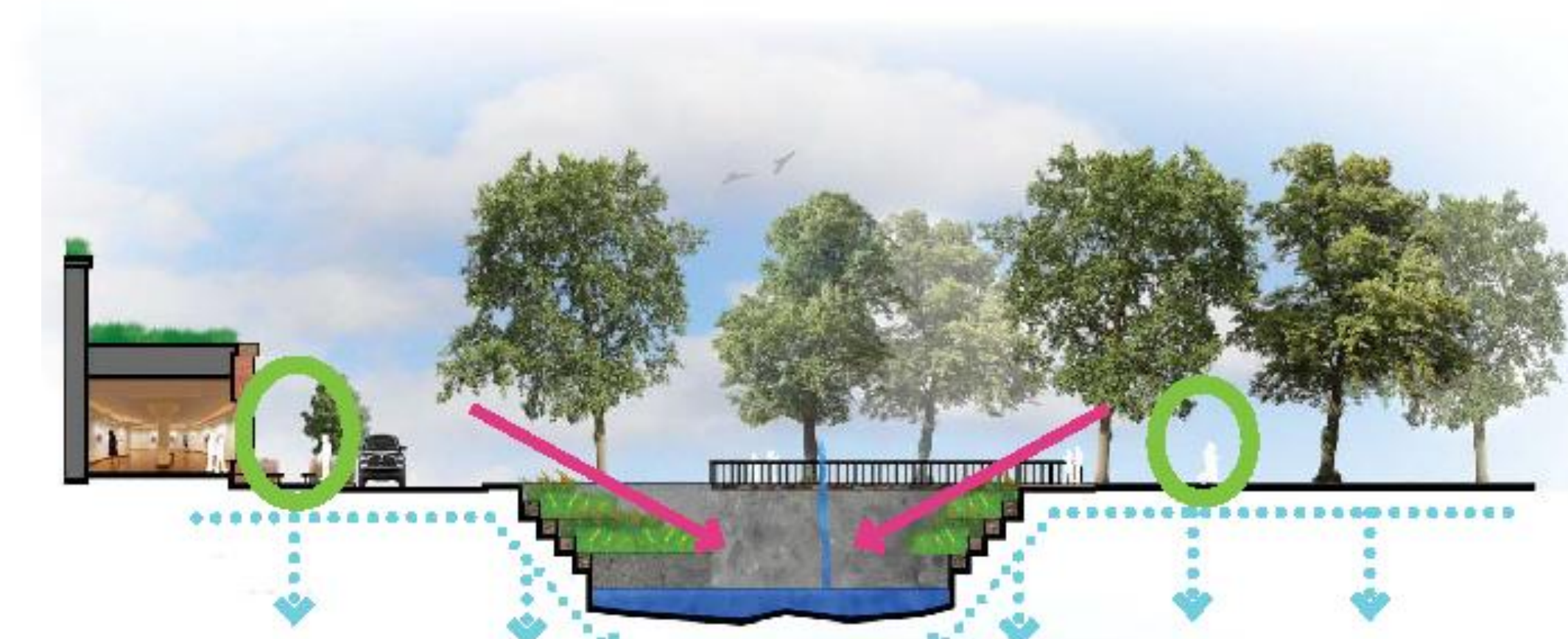
### Social System

Streets - Larger pedestrian space enables passive interaction to occur with the surrounding urban environment, greenspaces, and other pedestrians

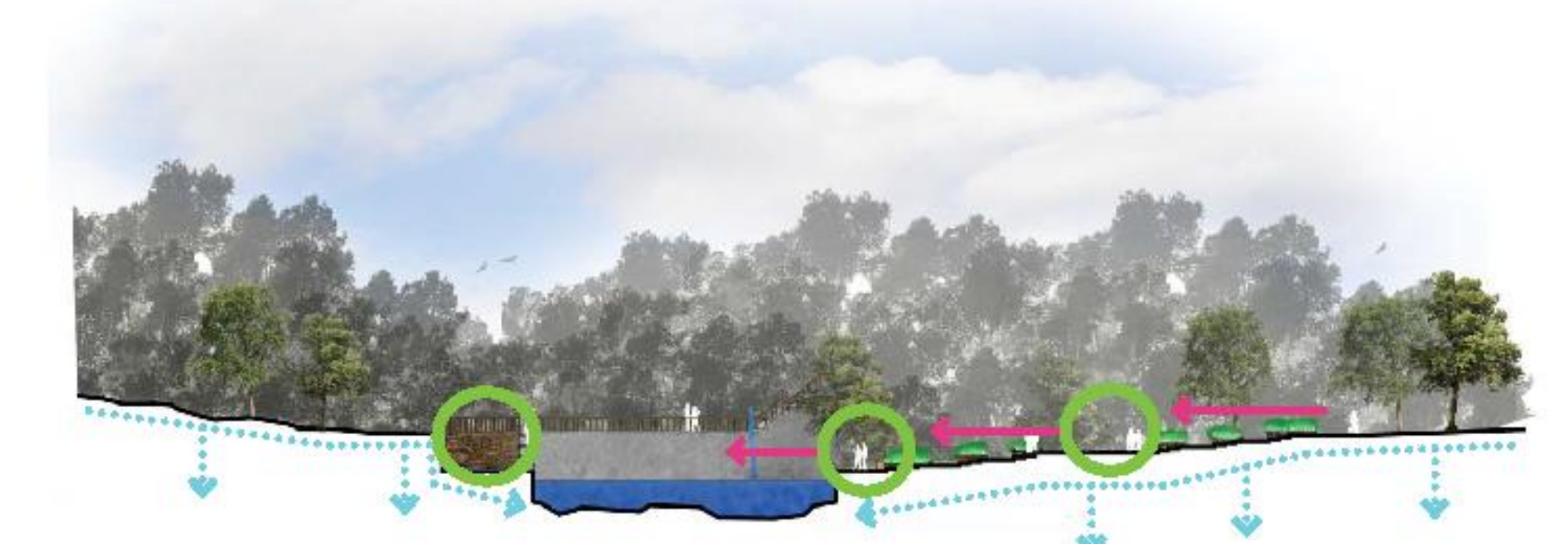
### Diagram Key.

- Conflicting Subspaces
- Successful Subspaces
- Incomplete Views
- Attractive Views
- ... Water Percolation.

**Design Recommendations** - The site have been completely taken over by the vehicular dominance of the streets and downtown development. Sager Creek is treated like a drainage ditch with deep floodwalls and no celebration or activity around the waterway.



**Design Recommendations** - Twin Springs and the show garden have been renovated, the terraced and expanded show garden create a sequential experience with clear, strong views of Sager Creek and Twin Springs.



### Built System

**Streets** - Redesigned streets will be shrunk down in width and on street parking will be incorporated in order to slow down traffic and create larger sidewalk space. In doing so, street trees can be planted and room for outdoor interaction and pedestrian activity is enhanced.

**Buildings** - Redevelopment of old buildings encourages smart development practices and recycling of current facilities instead of building out and causing more suburban sprawl.

### Social System (cont.)

Greenspaces - Enhancing site elements and restoring visual and physical access to Sager Creek provides a sense of place and direct connection with the natural elements

## Design Principles

- 1.) Provide a place for interaction with the natural elements of Siloam Springs**
  - a) Varying forms of access to the stream
  - b) Incorporation and connection of walking trail system
  - c) Restoration or renovation of springs access areas
  - d) Expand uses and activities within greenspaces
  - e) Introduction of formal elements abstractly representing natural elements
- 2.) Enhance pedestrian and vehicular flow and mitigate conflicts**
  - a) Design a cohesive streetscape
  - b) Provide human scale elements
  - c) Provide round the clock safety and accessibility
- 3.) Create a pedestrian focused walkable downtown**
  - a) Expand and enhance existing mixed developments, restaurants, shops, service businesses, residential
  - b) Provide single overnight stay
  - c) Introduce alternative modes of transportation
  - d) Remove the need for vehicle use and limit the presents of vehicles
- 4.) Revitalize and preserve the culture and history of Siloam Springs.**
  - a) Maintaining and restore existing historic features of buildings
  - b) New buildings to have facades with traditional historic motifs and design
  - c) Reuse and redevelopment of currently vacant buildings and commercial spaces
  - d) Redesign of city park and twin springs park
- 5.) Enhance and expand Development for downtown Siloam Springs**
  - a) Infill of vacant building spaces
  - b) Redevelopment and amenities zoning goals
  - c) New development encourages mixed use spaces
  - d) Encourage new local businesses

## Methodology

The project was conducted over two semesters under the guidance of a Landscape Architecture faculty advisor with additional input by other faculty and a third party serving as project client.

- Literary research
- Precedence study
- Graphic and visual analysis of site
- Site design recommendations
- Written summary

## Acknowledgements

- Kimball Erdman, Studio Professor
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