



**THE**

*Village Creek*

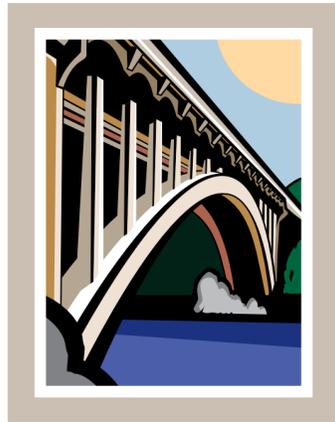
**TRAIL**  
art experience

**FOLSOM, CALIFORNIA**  
MAY 2019



# Acknowledgments

The City of Folsom extends special thanks to the John R. Cash Revocable Trust, Cindy Cash and Lou Robin.



CITY OF  
**FOLSOM**  
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

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## Romo Studios SACRAMENTO, CA

Adan Romo, Lead Artist, Designer  
Jesus Romo, Artist, Sculptor



## The Fine Art Studio of Rotblatt Amrany CHICAGO, IL

Gary Tillery - *Man In Black* Artist  
Itamar Amrany - Project & Design Manager  
Omri Amrany - Concept Visionary



## RRM Design Group SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA

Lief McKay, Landscape Architect  
Amy McKay, Designer

Back cover photo: Johnny Cash at "The Compound," his 50-acre property in Hendersonville, TN. Many thanks to Cindy Cash for providing this photograph.

# reason for this master plan

On October 4th, 2014, the City of Folsom proudly opened Phase I of The Johnny Cash Trail – a 1.2-mile segment of Class I bike trail that connects the Folsom Lake Trail by way of a new bike/pedestrian overcrossing, beautifully inspired by the architecture of the nearby Folsom Prison. The trail was completed during Phase II, in the fall of 2017, when the remaining 1.25-mile segment was constructed. With this trail crossing over Folsom State Prison property, and the history that Johnny Cash has with this city, it is a unique opportunity to honor the Man In Black through art, interpretation and education within the setting of the beautiful wooded hills of Folsom, California.

With the bike trail infrastructure in place, the City of Folsom plans to create a world-class linear public art project intended to celebrate and honor Johnny Cash, the man and his music, and the connection that will always be strong with this special city. The project includes eight sculptures and a 3-acre park which will only expand the use of the Folsom bike trail system as well as providing an extraordinary art experience for Johnny Cash fans from near and far. The Johnny Cash Trail will offer smart phone apps designed to bring each piece to life as it incorporates Cash's music, historical documentary information and interactive elements.

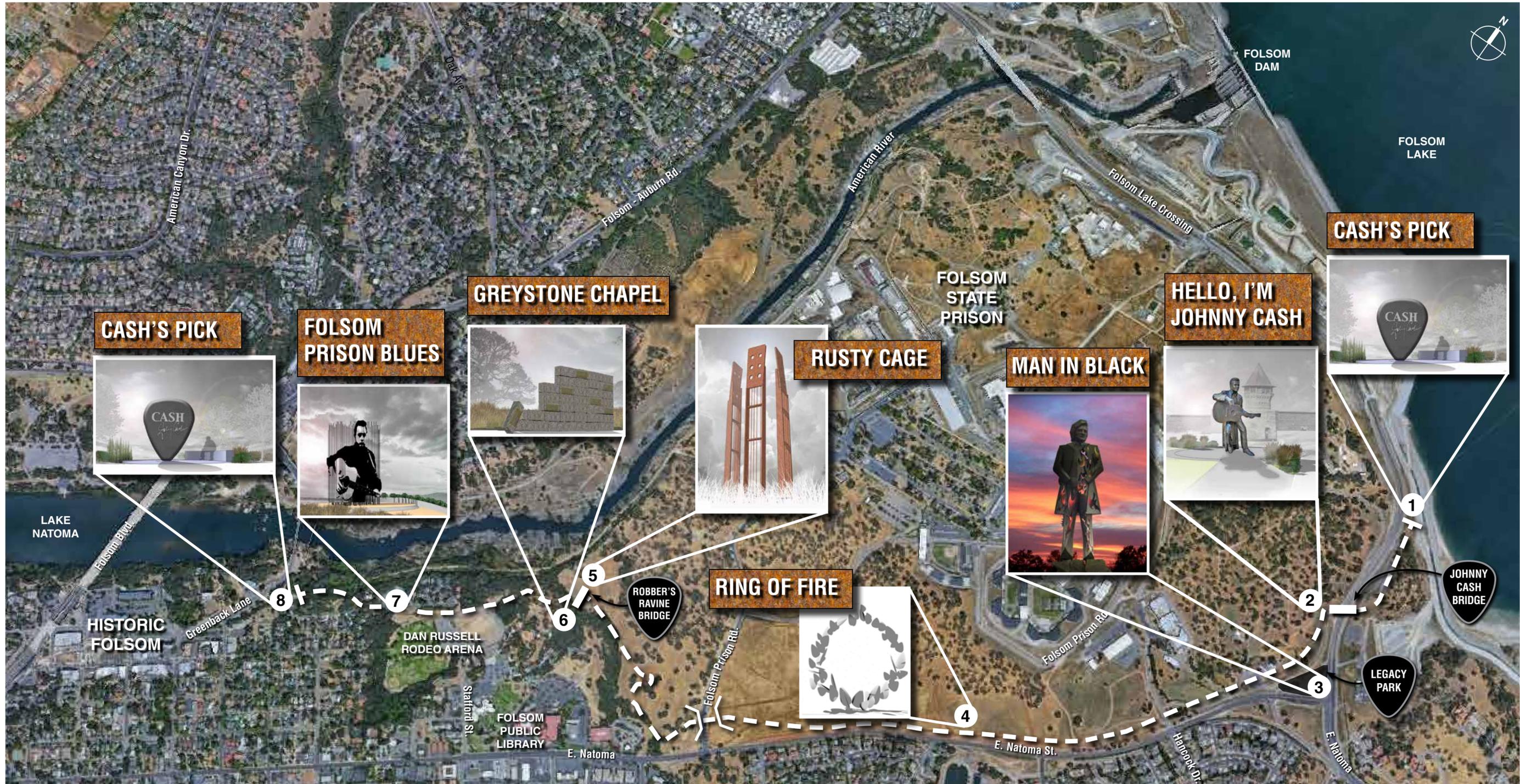
With the goal of completing the art trail in less than five years, the City of Folsom has designed an innovative fund-raising campaign for the Art Experience. This master plan is the vision for the Johnny Cash Trail Art Experience, and is the first comprehensive plan integrating art, the trail and the natural environment of the City of Folsom and its historical prison made famous by Johnny Cash.

*"The highlights of his career hold their own special memories for me. I was 10 years old when Dad played at Folsom Prison and my memory was only that I couldn't go with him even though he was in California and close to home. This was the only time he didn't take us and I didn't understand why not. I couldn't see why four little girls couldn't come along with Dad to a maximum security prison!"*

*-Cindy Cash  
Artist Selection Meeting, February 2014*



# johnny cash trail art experience



SEPTEMBER 2018

Site photos for all 8 locations can be found in the Appendix of this document, page 24.

Proposed Audio Art Component/Smart Phone App, page 22.



## cash's pick

Positioned at the northern most end of the Johnny Cash Trail, *Cash's Pick*, created by Romo Studios, is a 7' tall bronze guitar pick, featuring Johnny Cash's signature and the Cash name on one side, while the back features a trail map and information about the trail route and features. Just as Cash began every song with a pick on the strings of his guitar, this large bronze pick acts as bookends for the Johnny Cash Trail. *Cash's Pick* will be placed at the northern end of the trail, where it intersects the American River Bike Trail at Folsom Lake Crossing.

The design of this art node provides space for trail users to exit the trail, enjoy the art piece and rest. Bike racks are provided, as well as shade trees and seating. The seating opportunity occurs around the back edge of a Corten deck, accented with laser-cut details to imply the grooves of a record, with *Cash's Pick* sitting in the center. The node also features a record label art marker, which highlights the name of the art piece, the artist themselves, materials used and the date of installation. This record label art marker is inspired by the Sun Record Company, who were the first to record "Folsom Prison Blues," and played a critical role in Johnny's career.

Plant materials are based on a primarily native palette, honoring the surrounding landscape of Folsom and the backdrop of Folsom Lake, as well as providing shade for trail users on hot summer days.



*Inspired by the original Sun Record label, the first to record "Folsom Prison Blues," these 'record label art markers' accompany each art piece, noting its name, the artist, materials used and the date of installation.*



keymap

**materials**

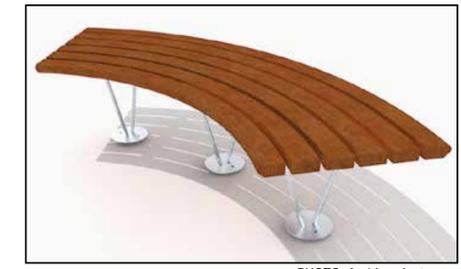


PHOTO: Archiproducts.com

Curvilinear bench encircles the Pick



PHOTO: G&C Architects, Landezine, Landscape Architecture Works  
Granite and Corten 'Rumble Strip' slows cyclists



The Corten Steel, record-shaped deck will surround Pick No. 1, and will patina with rustic red and yellow hues



Guitar pick-shaped bike racks will be available at each art node

**plant palette**



PHOTO: Landscape Plants for Western Regions  
Deer Grass



PHOTO: timelessenvironments.com  
Clustered Field Sedge



PHOTO: www.gardentheory.com  
Pozo Blue Salvia



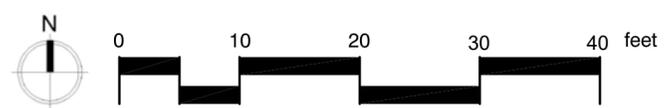
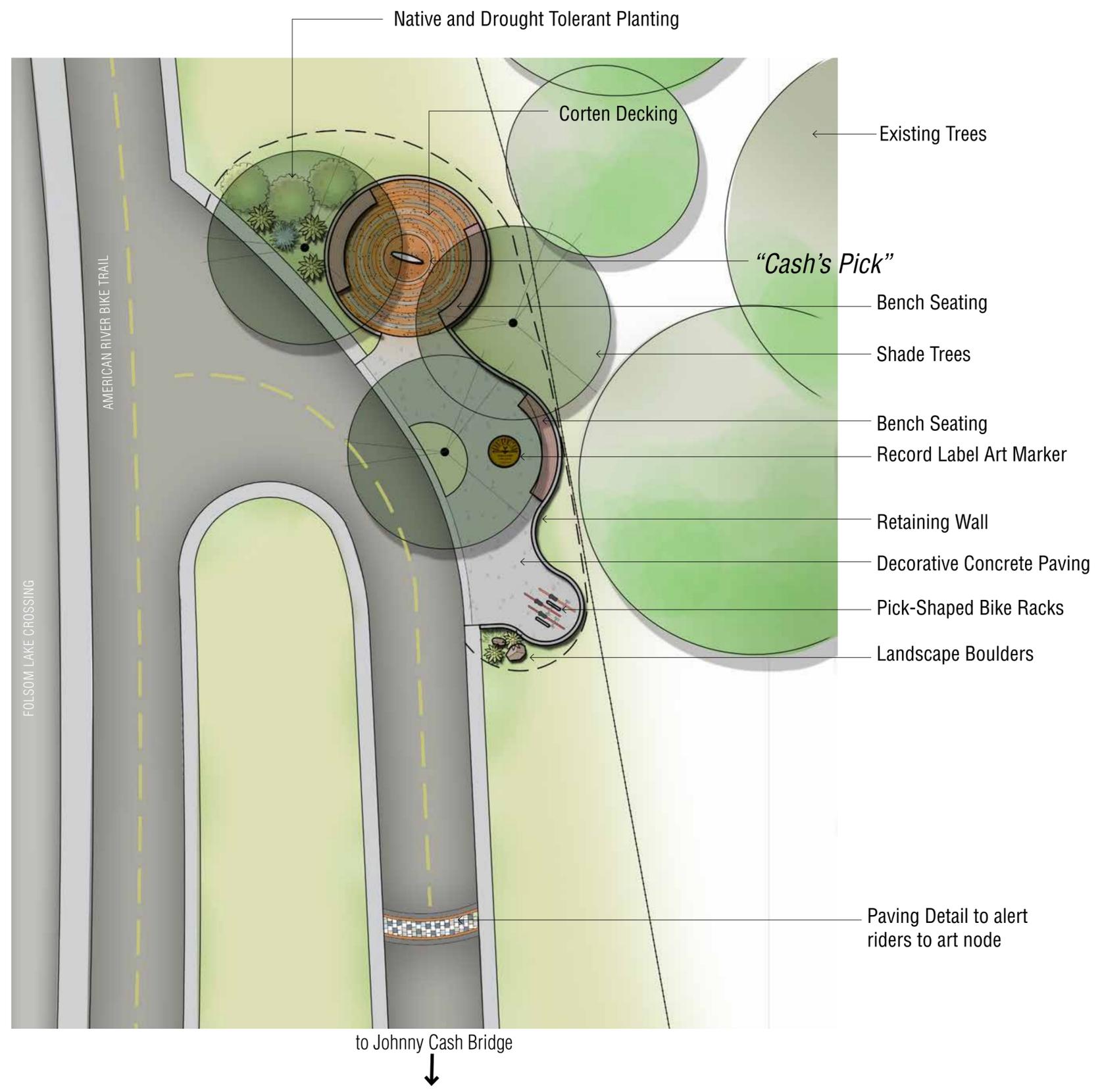
PHOTO: Sloat Garden Center  
Leather Leaf Coffeeberry



PHOTO: City of Folsom  
California Lupine



PHOTO: Jennifer Jewell, Garden Writer  
Valley Oak





## hello, I'm johnny cash

Inspired by a photo taken of Cash during the 1968 Folsom Prison concert, this life-like bronze sculpture of the musician is positioned to take full advantage of the main tower of the prison itself. This location is on Folsom Prison Road, at the intersection where Johnny was photographed all those years ago. This is a popular photo spot for Cash fans and visitors to the Folsom Prison Museum. The art piece is placed in a circular shape, implying a spotlight on the piece, and would also be up-lit at night. A small plaza, featuring a low split-face granite wall, allows for a group to gather, sit, rest and reflect and read the interpretive information and record label art marker before continuing along the trail.



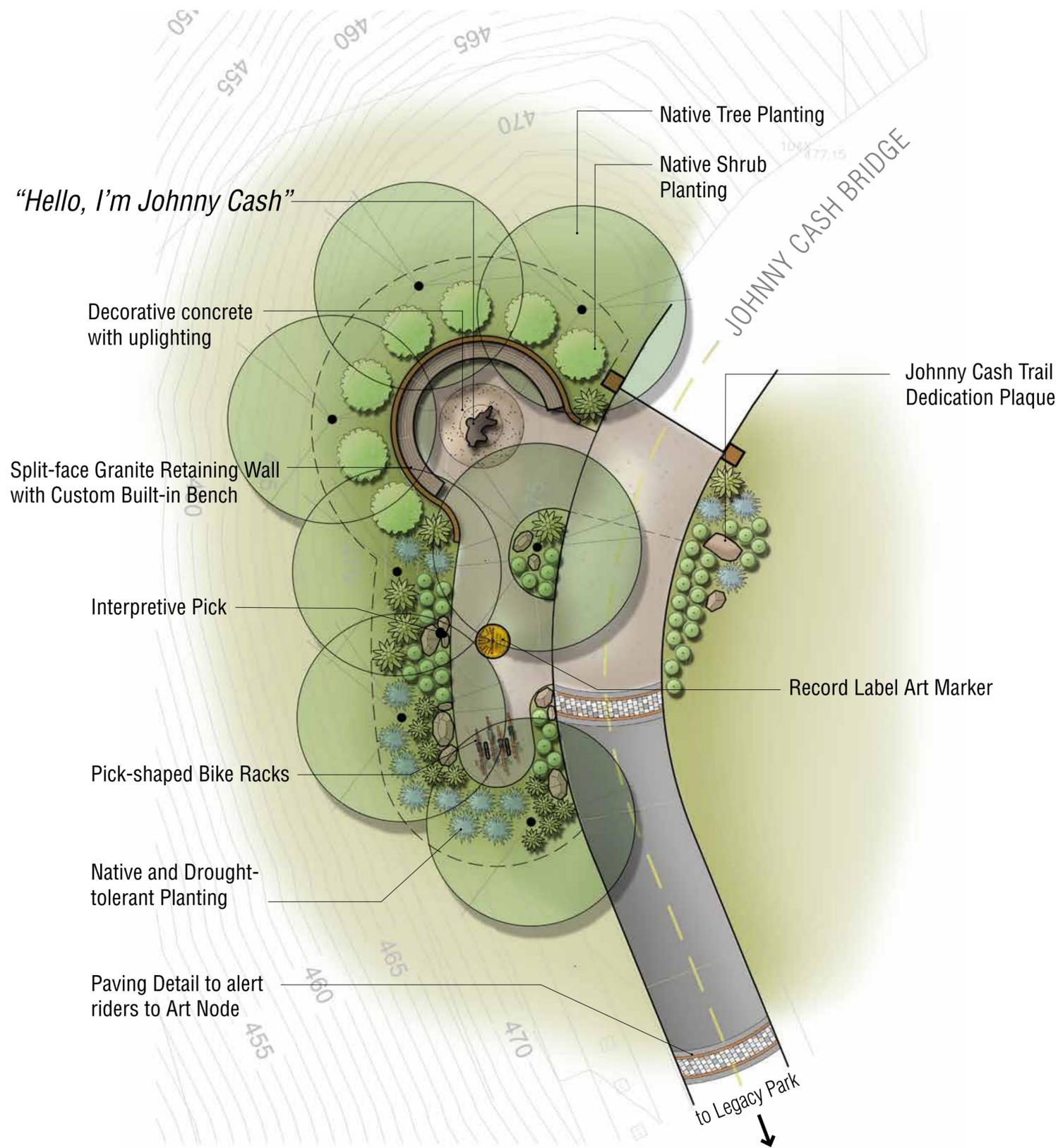
keymap



Cash performing at 1968 Folsom Prison concert



Inspired by the original Sun Record label, the first to record "Folsom Prison Blues," these 'record label art markers' accompany each art piece, noting its name, the artist, materials used and the date of installation.



materials



A split-face granite wall will define the plaza

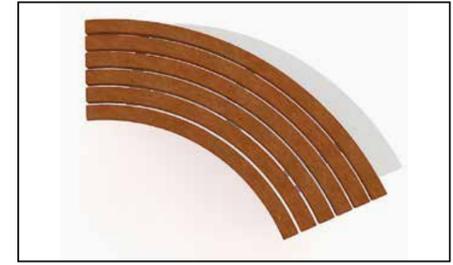


PHOTO: Archiproducts.com

Curved benches will be mounted to the stone wall and appear to 'float'



Pick-shaped interpretive signs provide key information to visitors about the art piece and setting



Guitar pick-shaped bike racks will be available at each art node

plant palette

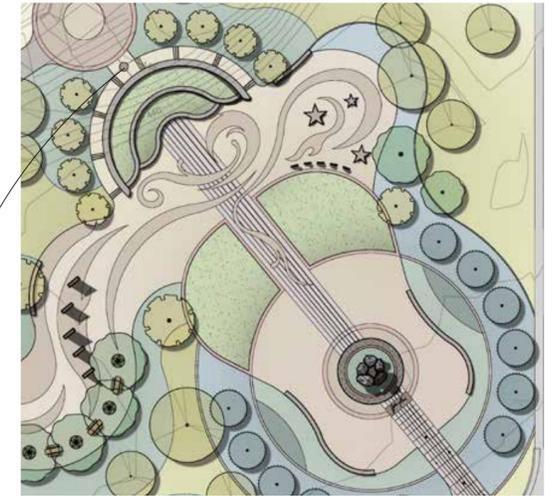


Deer Grass PHOTO: Landscape Plants for Western Regions



Clustered Field Sedge PHOTO: timelessevironments.blogspot





## *man in black*

Johnny Cash Legacy Park originated as a concept for a site-specific work for the Johnny Cash Art Trail—a sculpture at the corner of East Natoma Street and Folsom Lake Crossing. Gary Tillery, of the Fine Art Studio of Rotblatt-Amrany, imagined *Man in Black*, as a large steel piece that would rise from the site as a landmark, facing west across the hills toward Folsom Prison. Fellow artist Omri Amrany proposed a distinctive setting for the sculpture—a park where Folsom residents and visitors could come and relax.

Tillery, valuing simplicity of form, presented Cash wearing his familiar long coat, which provided a smooth “canvas” for the pattern of flame-like cut-outs intended to evoke Cash’s character and suggest one of his most famous songs. Depicting him with the long hair he wore during the middle of his career offered the chance to sculpt mass while maintaining the Cubist representation.

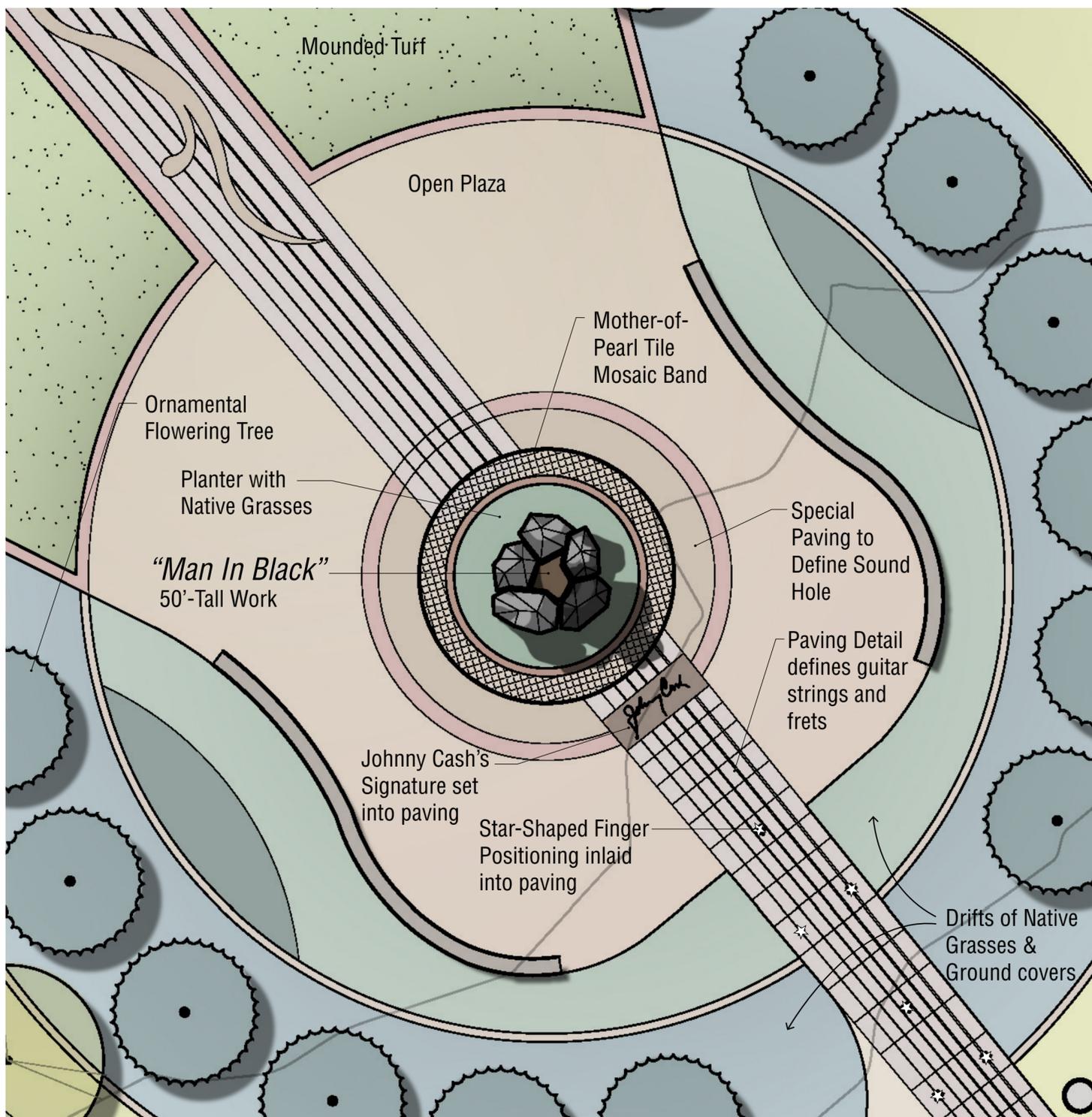
At 40’ tall, atop a 10’ granite base, the *Man in Black* landmark will be viewable from two approaching arterial streets and the new pedestrian bridge. The work will rise from the sound hole of the guitar shape that defines the main plaza of the three-acre park, collaboratively designed by RRM Design Group and Rotblatt Amrany Studio. Monumental exterior and interior lighting designed by studio artist Itamar Amrany provides detail to highlight the sculpture in the evening and nighttime, while a poetic tribute to Mr. Cash by the artist will be placed at its base. Mother of Pearl tile mosaic around the sound hole, and Cash’s signature in stainless steel set into paving provide detail to further highlight the art work. *Man In Black* is surrounded by a grove of Arkansas Black Apple trees, representing his birthplace of Dyess, Arkansas.



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*“I wanted to capture that charisma...He had a commanding presence. He was a passionate guy, full of energy, heat, life.”*

– Gary Tillery, Artist



keymap

### materials



PHOTO: MD3 Contract, Ltd.

Plaza benches take a soft, organic form



Granite boulders surround the base of **Man In Black**



A Mother-of-Pearl tile mosaic surrounds the sound hole of the guitar; imitating Cash's D-35 Martin Guitar



Steel bands embedded in the concrete mark the 'guitar strings' across the plaza and would incorporate an in-ground lighting system for a dramatic night-time effect

### plant palette



PHOTO: Landscape Plants for Western Regions  
Deer Grass



PHOTO: timelessenvironments.blogspot  
Clustered Field Sedge



PHOTO: Fresno Garden Resources  
Emerald Carpet Manzanita

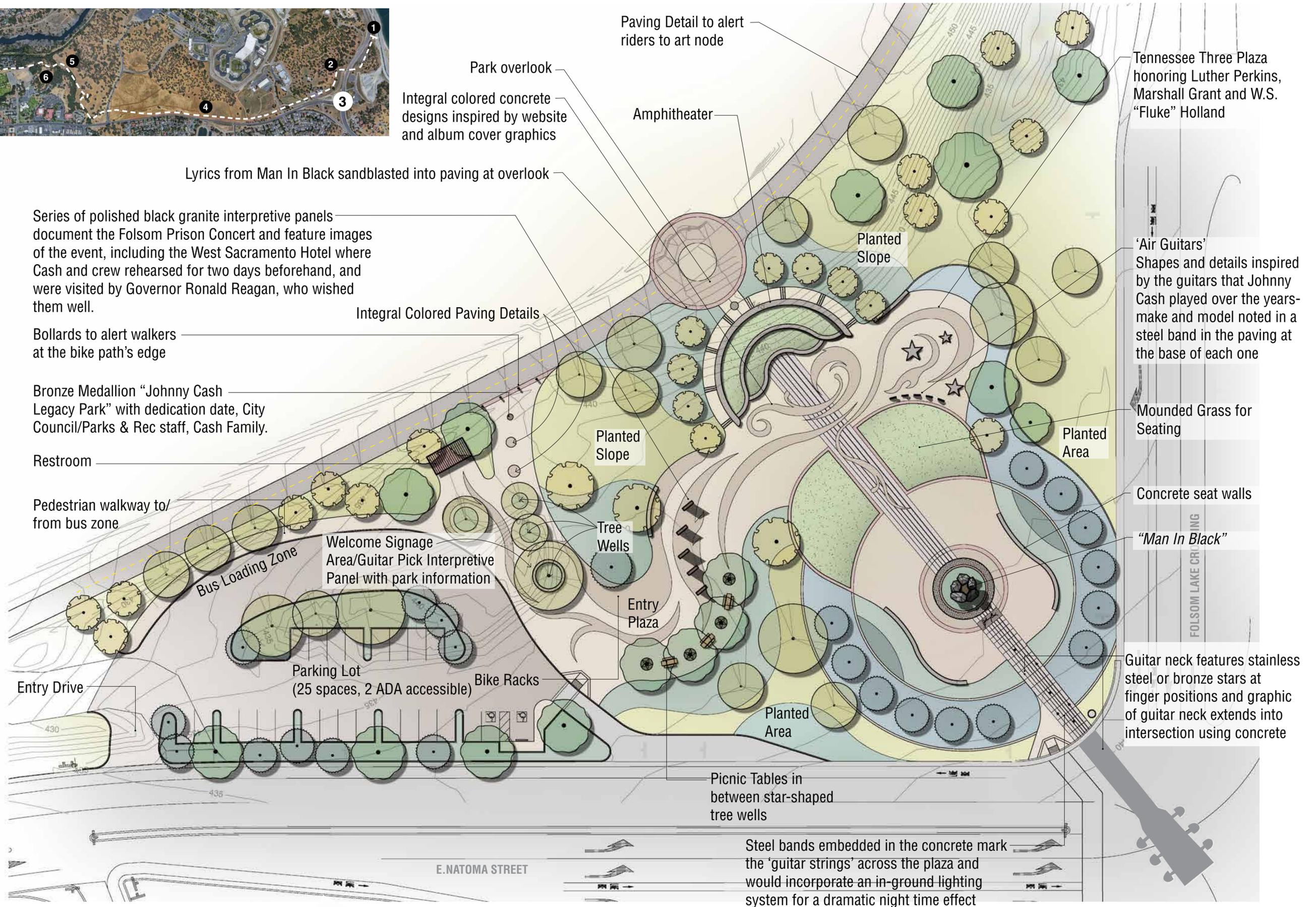


PHOTO: www.piratstudenterna.se  
Arkansas Black Apple

site three *legacy park*



keymap



# legacy park

Designed by RRM Design Group, the three-acre park along the Johnny Cash Trail offers not only a resting spot for trail users, but also the opportunity to journey through the story of Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison.

The elevated nature of the bike trail entering the park from the north side allows trail users to catch glimpses of the amphitheater, guitar shape in the ground plane, and *Man In Black* - looking towards Folsom Prison, while entering through native trees and grasses. The trail leads to the park overlook where trail users can continue along Johnny Cash Trail, or choose to stop at the park. The overlook above the park offers site lines directly down the center of the guitar-shaped plaza towards *Man In Black*. Paving finishes define the shape of Johnny's characteristic Martin D-35 guitar with depictions of frets, finger positioning stars, and stainless steel guitar strings set in paving, emitting a subtle glow at night. The neck of the guitar image, formed out of concrete, extends into the intersection of East Natoma Street and Folsom Lake Crossing, engaging traffic as it passes.

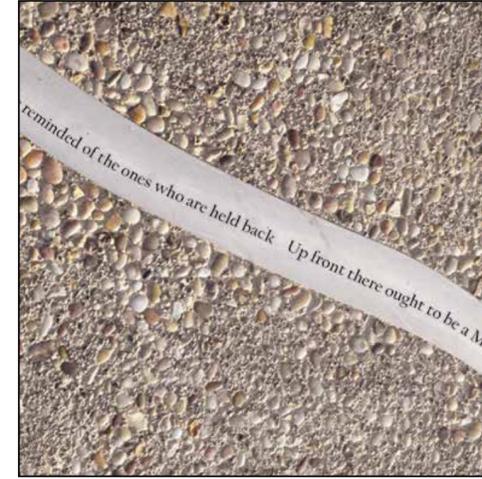
The park entry plaza features a series of interpretive panels created from polished black granite that tell the story of Cash's famous Folsom Prison concert, set atop a variety of swirling paving patterns to create a dynamic and musical feeling in the ground plane. The park also features many seating opportunities, a native plant palette including plenty of shade trees, public restroom, picnic tables and amphitheater. Making for a great photo opportunity, five guitar silhouettes made of steel plate offer park visitors the opportunity to 'play' guitar with *Man In Black* in the background. Immediately adjacent, The Tennessee Three Plaza pays tribute to Johnny's band that shared the stage with him at the 1968 Folsom concert. Three bronze stars in the pavement will honor these musicians (Luther Perkins, Marshall Grant, W.S. "Fluke" Holland). The park is served by a 25-space parking lot and bus loading area set amongst native landscaping.

## materials



PHOTO: TB Penick & Sons

Integral colored paving



Integral steel bands in paving at overlook feature lyrics from *Man In Black*

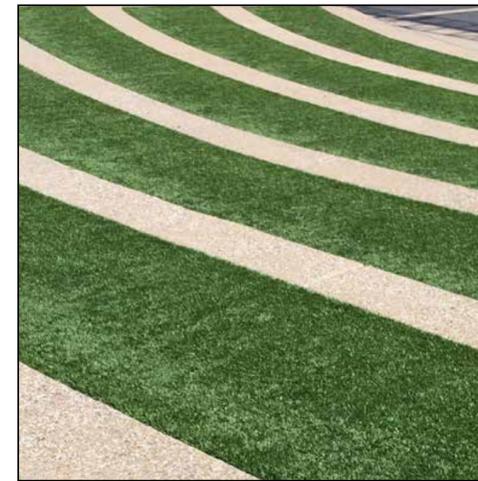


PHOTO: MD3 Contract Ltd.

Sculpted concrete seatwalls surround the plaza



Polished black granite interpretive panels greet the user in the plaza, guiding them through the story of the 1968 Folsom Concert via images and text etched into the reflective surface of the stone



Grass between amphitheater steps provide informal seating and picnicking opportunities



PHOTO: Iron Age Designs

Corten steel tree grates with custom star design will provide a weathered patina

## plant palette



PHOTO: Landscape Plants for Western Regions  
Deer Grass



PHOTO: Idyllwild Garden Club  
California Lilac



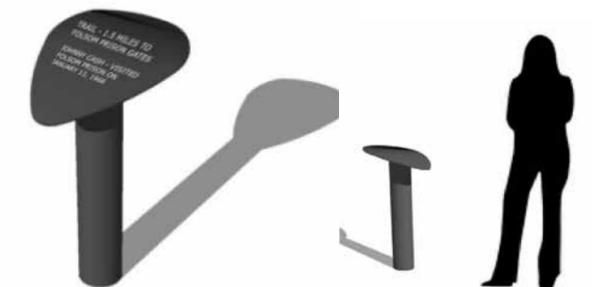
PHOTO: Jennifer Jewell, Garden Writer  
Valley Oak



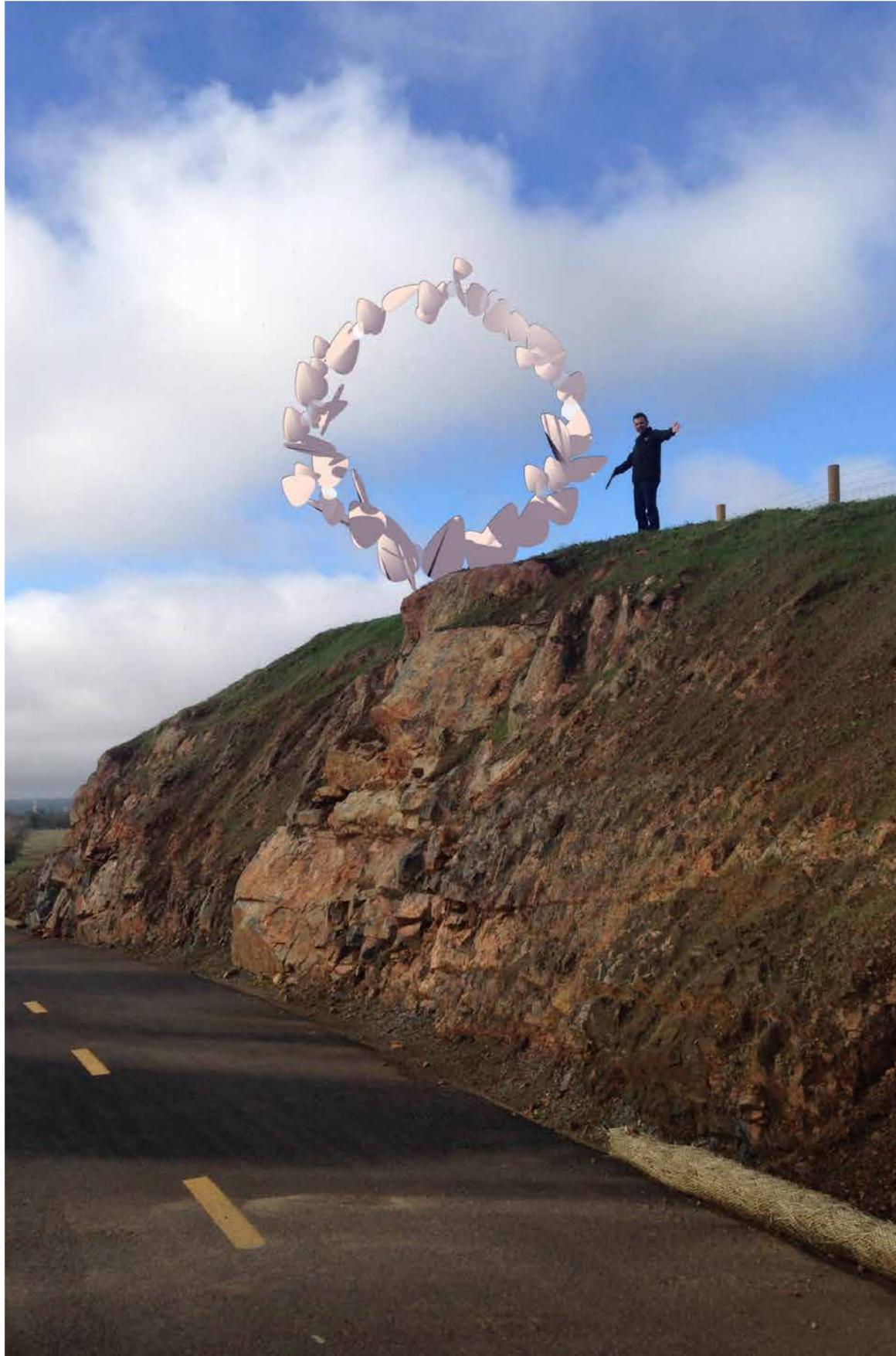
PHOTO: L. Koteen  
California Native Grass Meadow



PHOTO: Fresno Garden Resources  
Emerald Carpet Manzanita



Pick-shaped interpretive signage occurs in the park and along the trail



## ring of fire

Made of varying sizes of stainless steel picks, this Romo Studios piece appears to be floating above the trail, along a section of very steep rock face adjacent to the trail. At 12' tall, this work of art must be viewed from some distance away to get the full effect. From a distance the ring will look engulfed in flames, but upon closer inspection it will become clear that the flames are individually-sized stainless steel guitar picks.

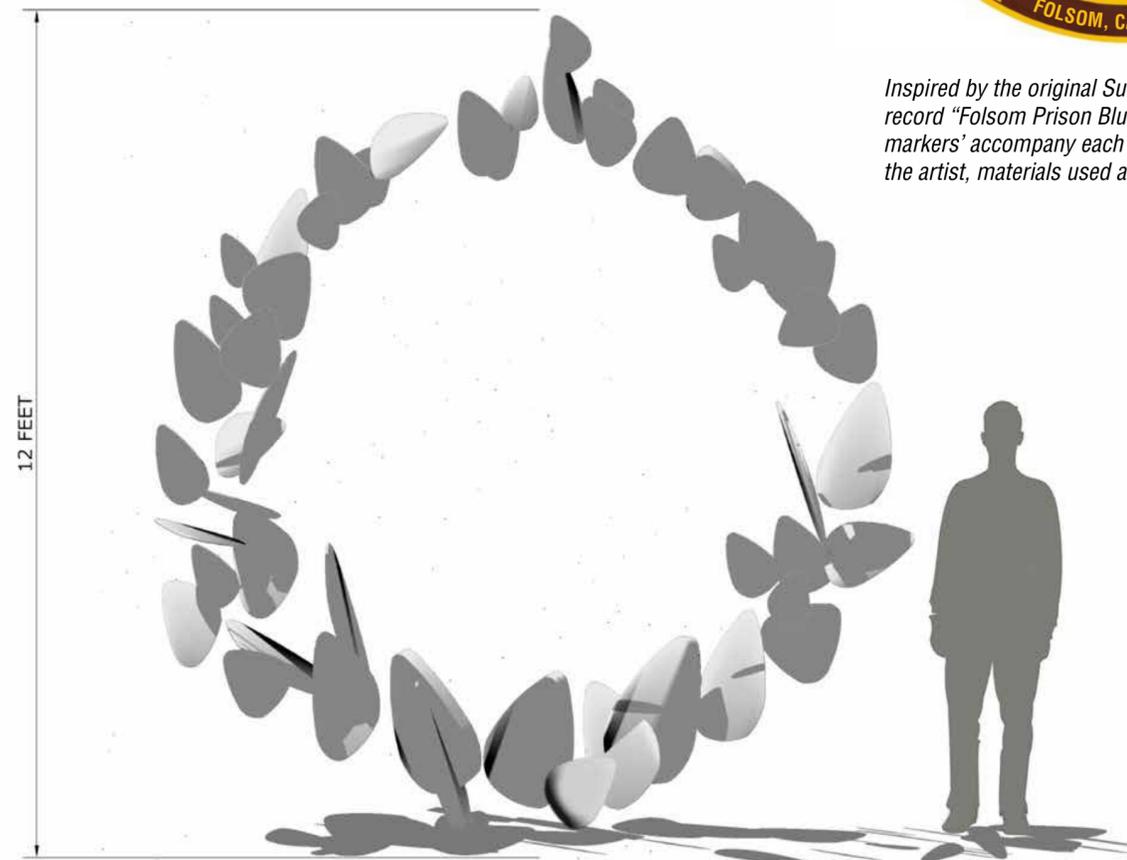
Pull-outs on either side of the *Ring of Fire* are provided for trail users to take a moment to read the interpretive pick and record label art marker safely clear of traffic. This piece is also visible from the adjacent street. At night, solar LED lighting set at the base will illuminate *Ring of Fire* and the piece will be a symbol of Cash's song and passion. The lighting will cast red, yellow and orange upon the steel picks, creating a glow similar to that of flames.



keymap



*Inspired by the original Sun Record label, the first to record "Folsom Prison Blues," these 'record label art markers' accompany each art piece, noting its name, the artist, materials used and the date of installation.*





Fencing around the pull-out areas will match the existing trail fencing



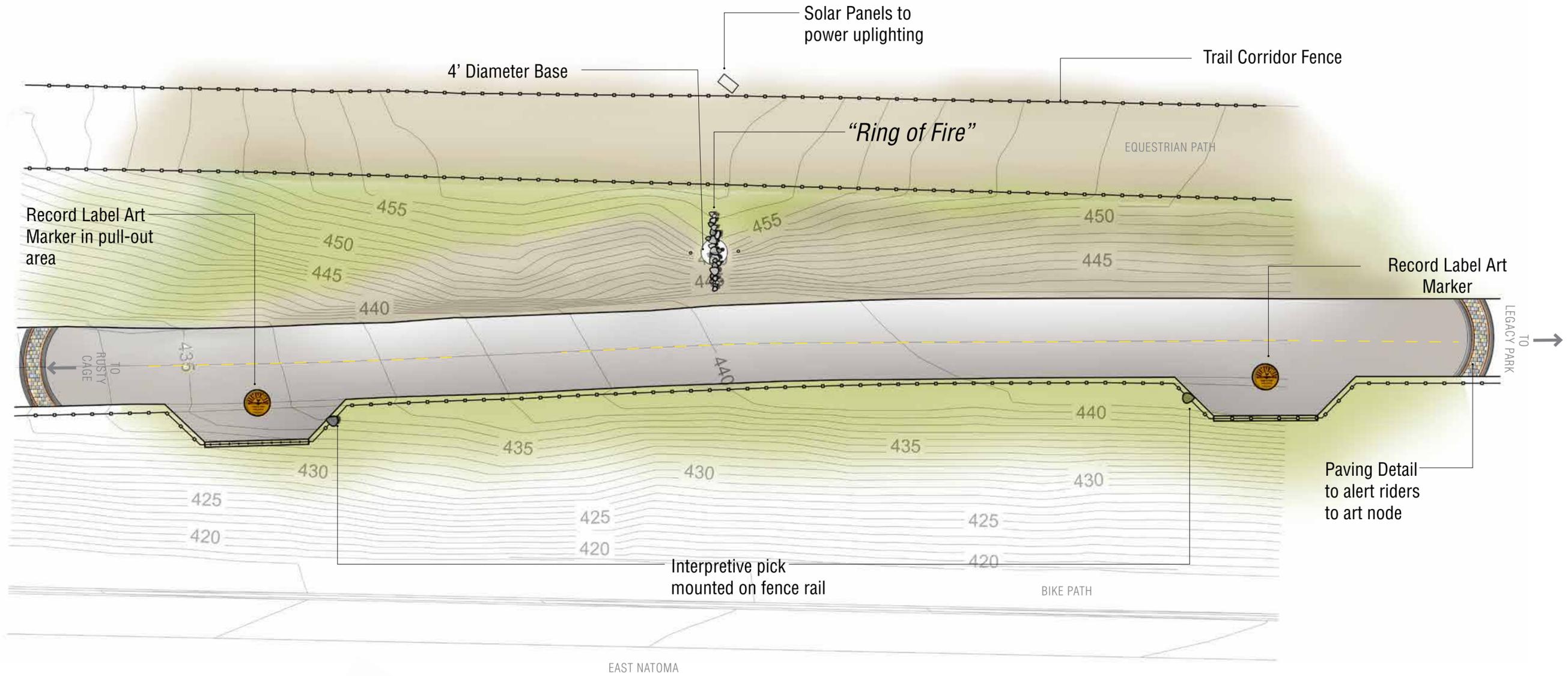
Trail corridor fencing will match the existing prison property line fencing



PHOTO: G&C Architects, Landezine, Landscape Architecture Works  
Granite and Corten 'Rumble Strip' slows cyclists



Pick-shaped interpretive signs mounted to the trail fencing at the pull-outs provide information about the art piece



NOTE: A viewing area on the accessible path on East Natoma will also be addressed when topography is available in the design development phase of the project.



## rusty cage

Towering above the bike trail, atop a grassy knoll, stands *Rusty Cage*, by Romo Studios. As if giant guitars were buried underground, the three necks of the steel *Rusty Cage* form the shape and scale of a standard cell at nearby Folsom State Prison, offering trail users the opportunity to imagine what life might feel like in the confines of such a small space. But this 'cell' affords the user a view over the rolling Folsom hills and the American River from a bench or the granite blocks scattered under the nearby oak trees.



*Inspired by the original Sun Record label, the first to record "Folsom Prison Blues," these 'record label art markers' accompany each art piece, noting its name, the artist, materials used and the date of installation.*



*Pick-shaped interpretive signs provide key information to visitors about the art piece*



*Guitar pick-shaped bike racks will be available at each art node*



PHOTO: L. Koteen  
*California Native Grass Meadow*



*Granite blocks provide informal seating*

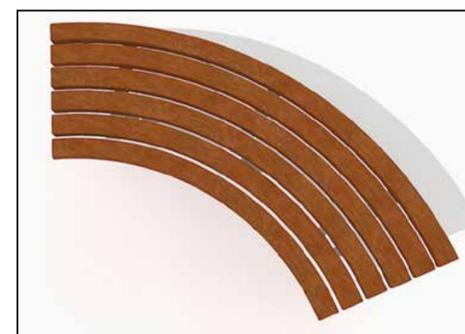
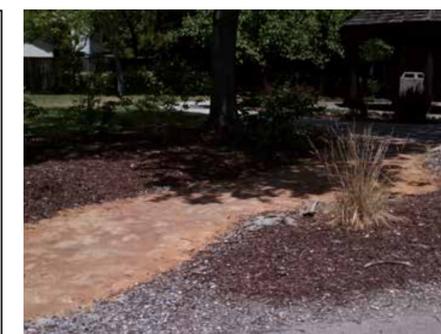


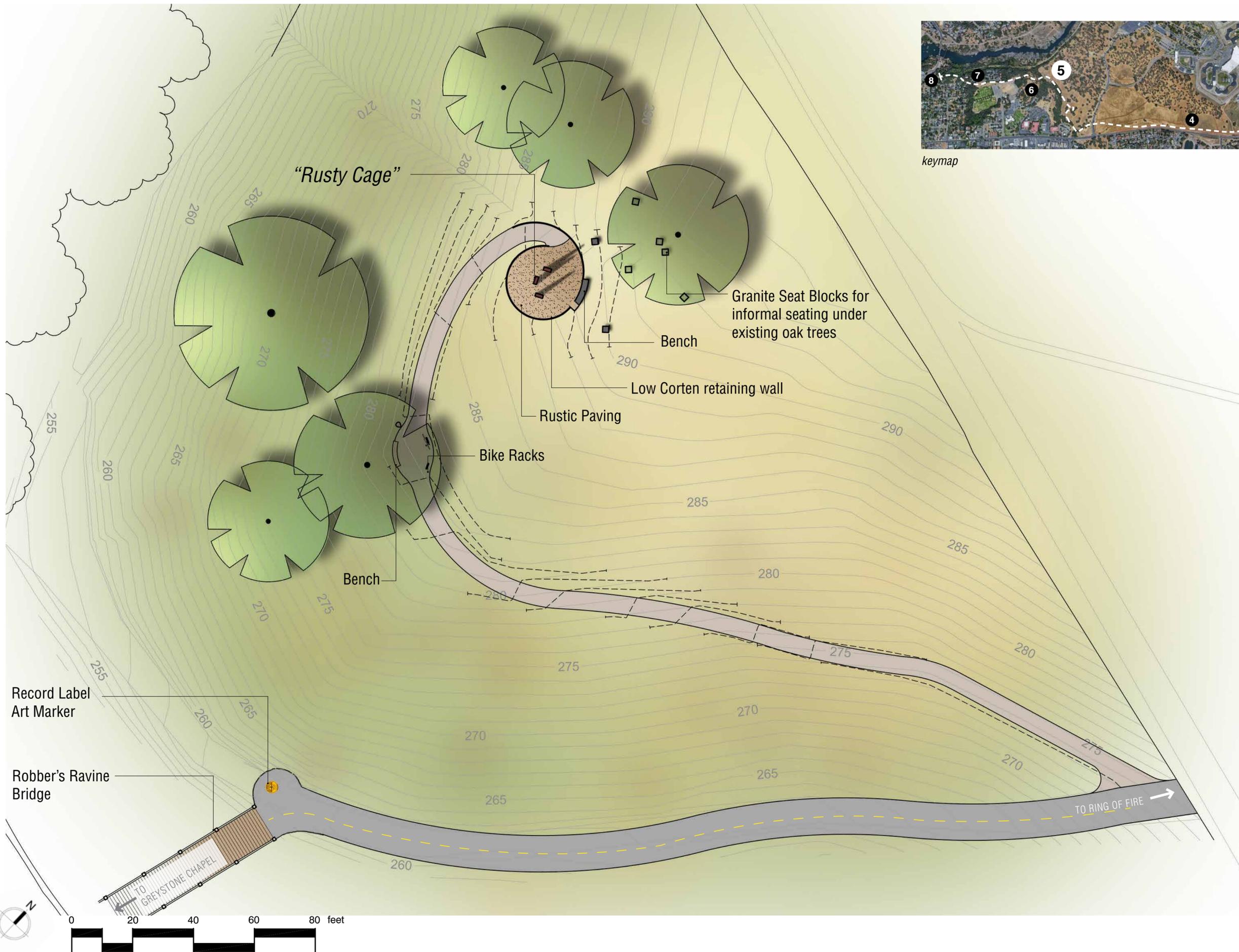
PHOTO: Archiproducts.com  
*A single curved bench will provide seating at the edge of the node*



*'Rustic' Paving treatment with natural edge*



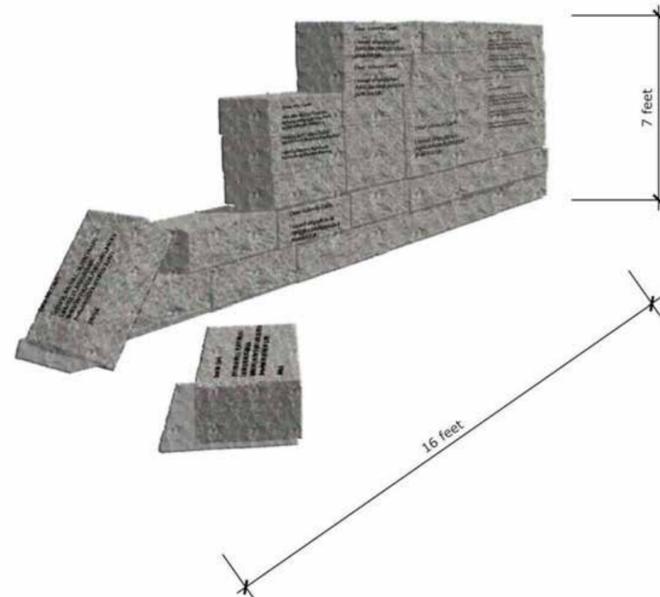
keymap





## greystone chapel

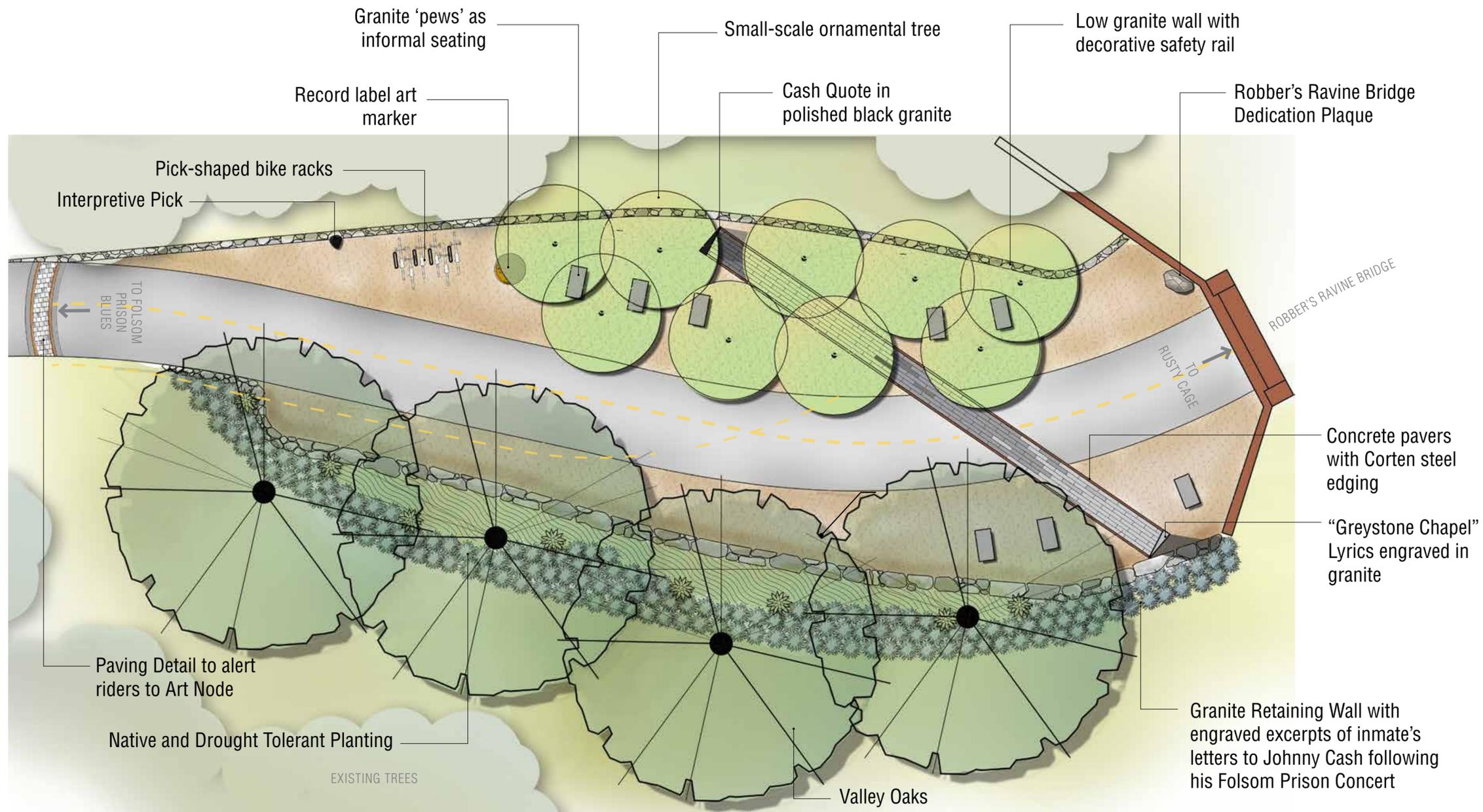
This piece celebrates Johnny Cash's ability to accept his own failures and those of others. His music was an extension of this empathy and always spoke about the truth of the human condition. No where was this more evident than at his performances at Folsom Prison. Romo Studio's *Greystone Chapel* features two tall granite plinths on either side of the bike trail, connected by a decorative paving treatment which cuts through the trail. As visitors approach the bridge, they will see featured on the facing plinth, the Greystone Chapel lyrics, by Folsom Prison inmate, Glen Sherley, while trail users coming the opposite direction will be greeted by a moving Cash quote. This node is a quiet, reflective spot, with granite seating blocks placed almost as pews would be, for resting and reflection. A granite stone retaining wall will also feature excerpts from prisoner's letters written to Cash after his Folsom concert. It is said that he inspired many of the prisoners that day, and they were moved enough to reach out to him.



keymap



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materials



'Rustic' Paving treatment with natural edge



Split-face granite blocks provide the canvas for the prisoners' letters



Concrete plank pavers cross the bike path, spanning the space between the two granite plinths featuring Cash's quote and the 'Greystone Chapel' lyrics

plant palette



PHOTO: Landscape Plants for Western Regions  
Deer Grass



PHOTO: timelessenvironments  
Clustered Field Sedge



PHOTO: www.gardentheory.com  
Pozo Blue Salvia



PHOTO: Sloat Garden Center  
Leather Leaf Coffeeberry



PHOTO: Jennifer Jewell, Garden Writer  
Valley Oak



Pick-shaped interpretive signs provide key information to visitors about the art piece



Guitar pick-shaped bike racks will be available at each art node

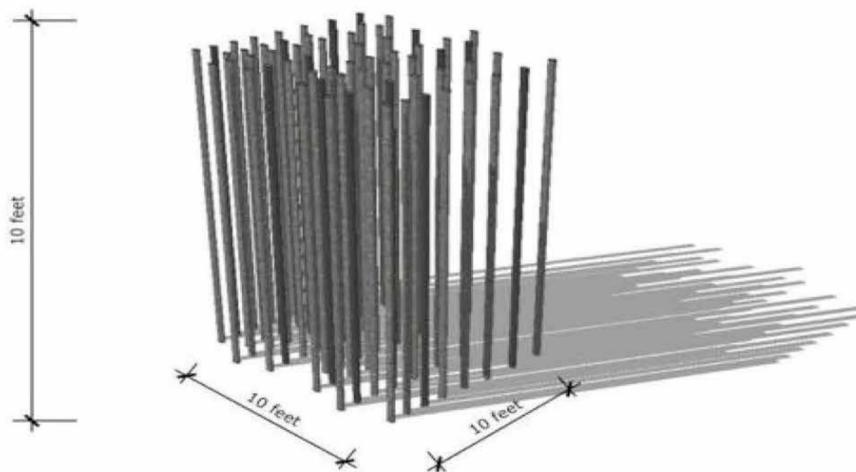




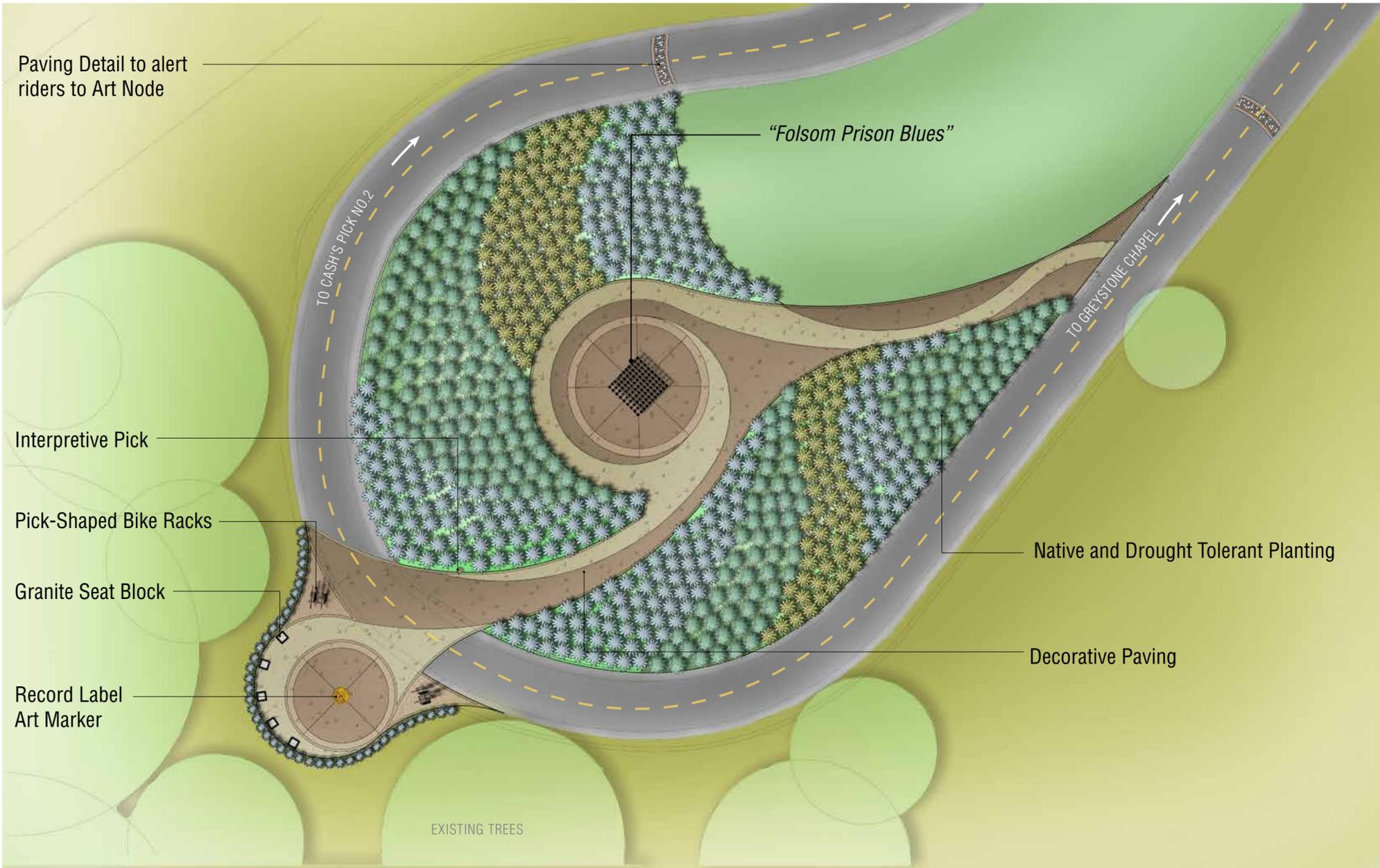
keymap

## folsom prison blues

Romo Studios' *Folsom Prison Blues* is created from many vertical poles on which are imprinted a portion of an abstract image of Johnny Cash. At first glance, the whole piece will merely look like a series of individual elements grouped together, evoking the bars found in the prison. Collectively, these 10'-tall poles portray the full picture, with the image only visible from one designated point, offering the sense of discovery to trail users as they approach from either direction. This particular art node provides a viewing point off the trail at which to see the image come into focus, read the record label art marker, and rest in the shade. Trails users can also explore the art piece up close, as the plaza surrounding the poles is accessible via a curving path, surrounded by drifts of native grasses and ground covers.



*Inspired by the original Sun Record label, the first to record "Folsom Prison Blues," these 'record label art markers' accompany each art piece, noting its name, the artist, materials used and the date of installation.*



**materials**



Granite blocks provide informal seating



PHOTO: G&C Architects, Landezine, Landscape Architecture Works  
Granite and Corten 'Rumble Strip' slows cyclists



Decorative paving treatment

**plant palette**



PHOTO: Fresno Garden Resources  
Emerald Carpet Manzanita



PHOTO: Landscape Plants for Western Regions  
Deer Grass



PHOTO: www.gardentheory.com  
Pozo Blue Salvia



PHOTO: timelessevironments.blogspot  
Clustered Field Sedge



Pick-shaped interpretive signs provide key information to visitors about the art piece



Guitar pick-shaped bike racks will be available at each art node





keymap



## cash's pick

Positioned at the southern most end of the Johnny Cash Trail, near the intersection of Greenback Lane and the American River Bike Trail, *Cash's Pick*, created by Romo Studios, is a 7' tall bronze guitar pick, featuring Johnny Cash's signature and the Cash name on one side, while the back features a trail map and information about the trail route and features. This piece marks either the end or starting point of the journey, depending on the direction of the trail user and is located near public parking.

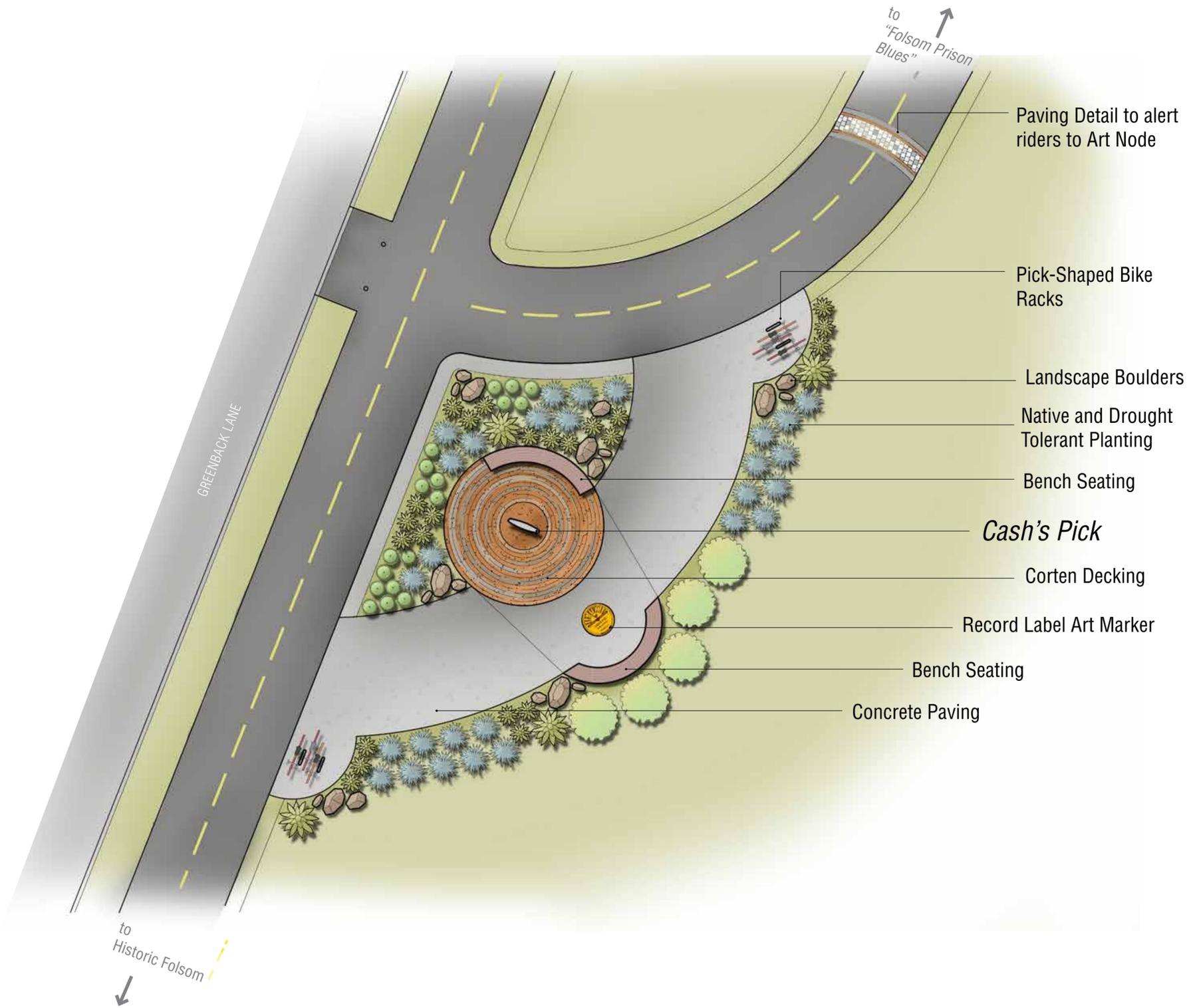
The design of this art node provides space for trail users to pause, enjoy the art piece and rest. *Cash's Pick* is placed at the center of this node, within a record-inspired Corten deck feature. The node also features a record label art marker, which highlights

the name of the art piece, the artist themselves, materials used and the date of installation. This record label art marker is inspired by the Sun Record Company, who were the first to record "Folsom Prison Blues," and played a critical role in Johnny's career.

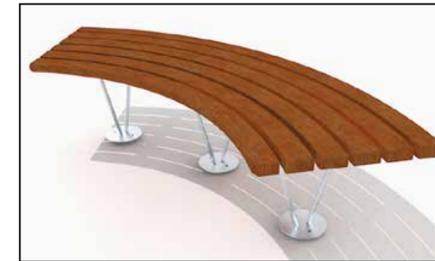
Plant materials are based on a primarily native palette, honoring the surrounding landscape of Folsom, as well as presenting a simple and soft backdrop in which to highlight the art.



*Inspired by the original Sun Record label, the first to record "Folsom Prison Blues," these 'record label art markers' accompany each art piece, noting its name, the artist, materials used and the date of installation.*



**materials**



Curvilinear bench encircles the Pick

PHOTO: Archiproducts.com



PHOTO: G&C Architects, Landezine, Landscape Architecture Works

Granite and Corten 'Rumble Strip' slow cyclists



The Corten Steel, record-shaped deck will surround Cash's Pick No. 2, and will patina with rustic red and yellow hues



Guitar pick-shaped bike racks will be available at each art node

**plant palette**



PHOTO: Landscape Plants for Western Regions  
Deer Grass



PHOTO: timelessenvironments.blogspot  
Clustered Field Sedge



PHOTO: www.gardentheory.com  
Poza Blue Salvia



PHOTO: Sloat Garden Center  
Leather Leaf Coffeeberry



California Lupine





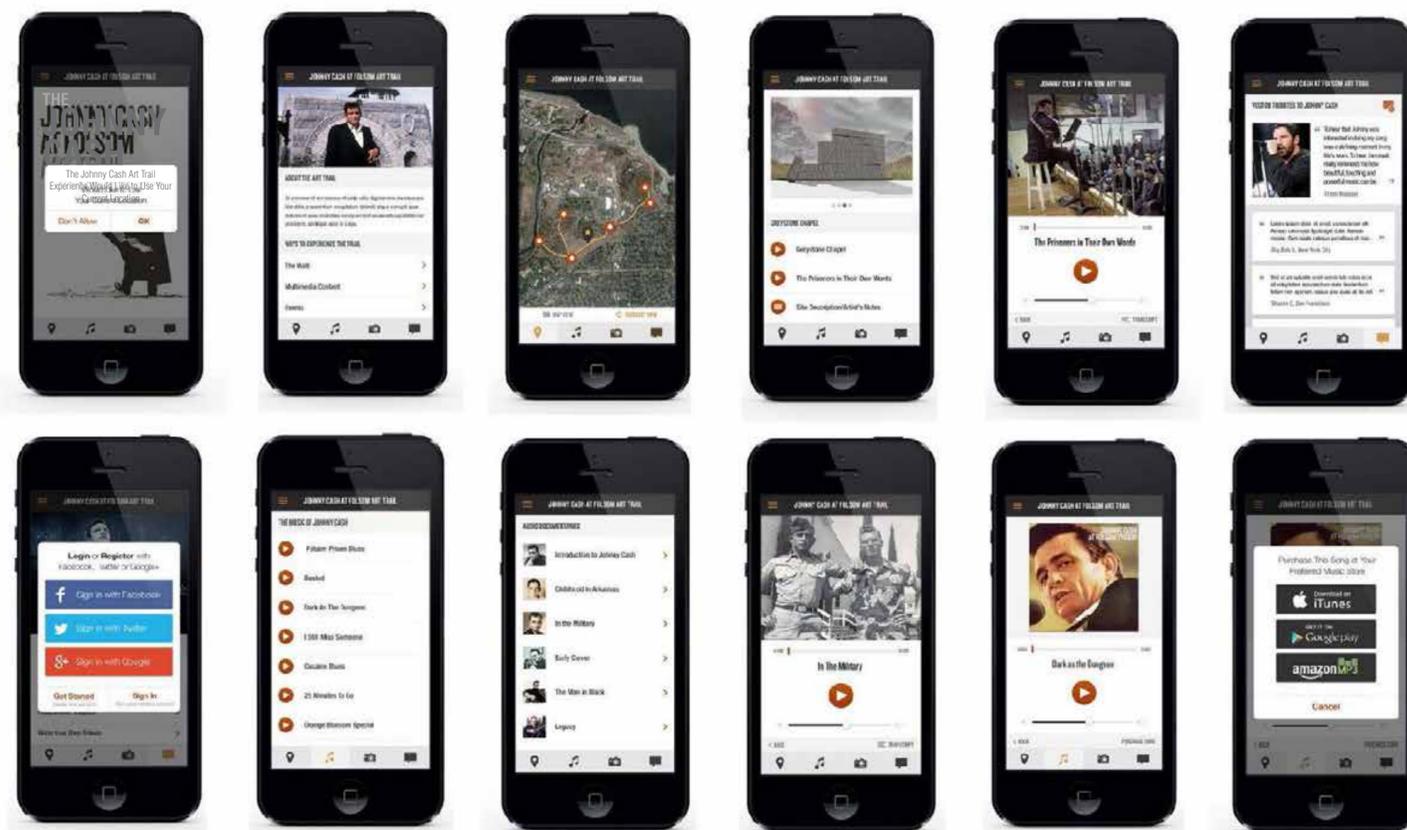
*PROPOSED*  
**AUDIO ART COMPONENT**  
DESIGNED BY ROMO STUDIOS

## The Johnny Cash App

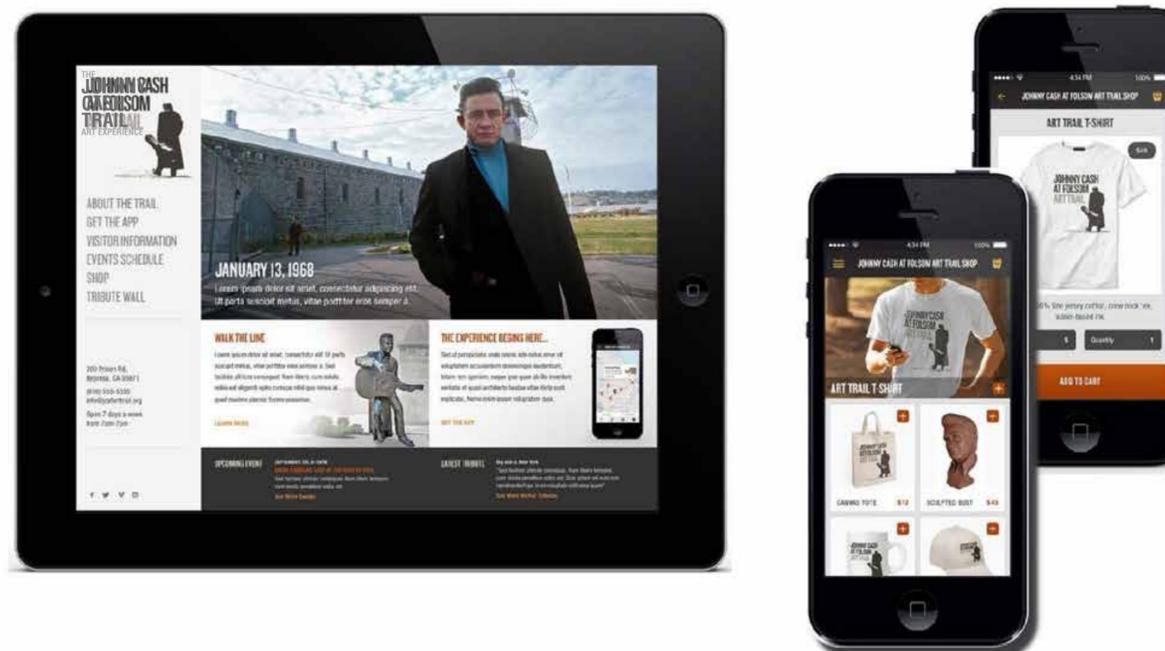
- Guided/Self-Guided tour of sites using geo-location software
- Music library
- Event listings
- Audio Documentaries
- E-commerce
- Visitor information
- Social Media Integration



ROMOSTUDIOS LLC



App allows personal engagement with the music, art, life and legacy of Johnny Cash.

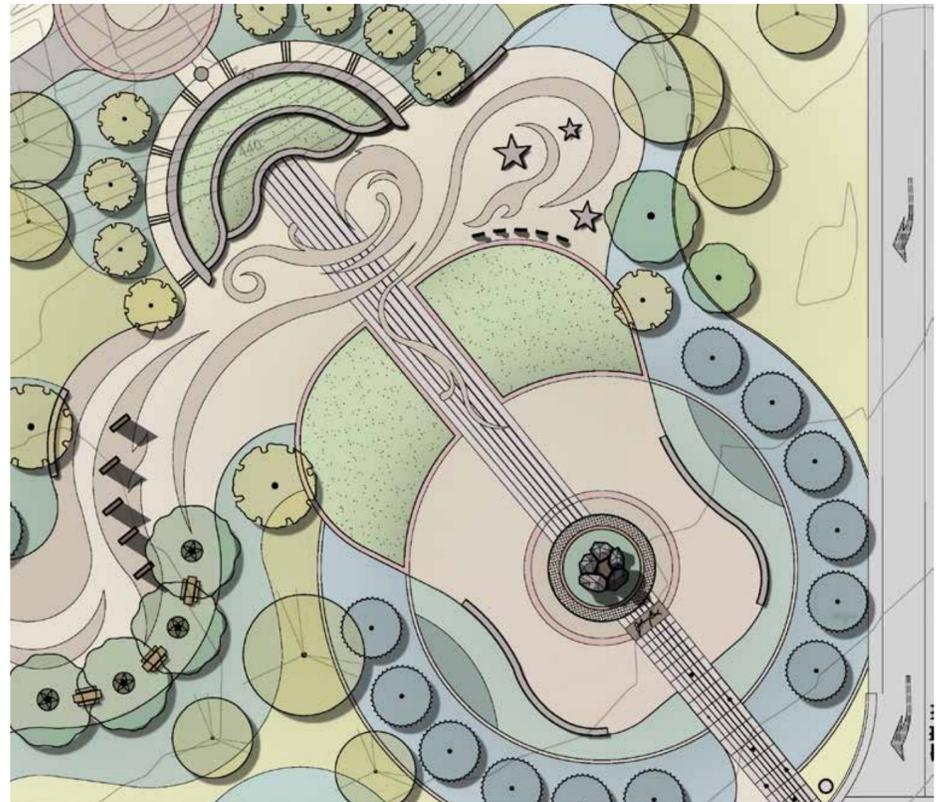
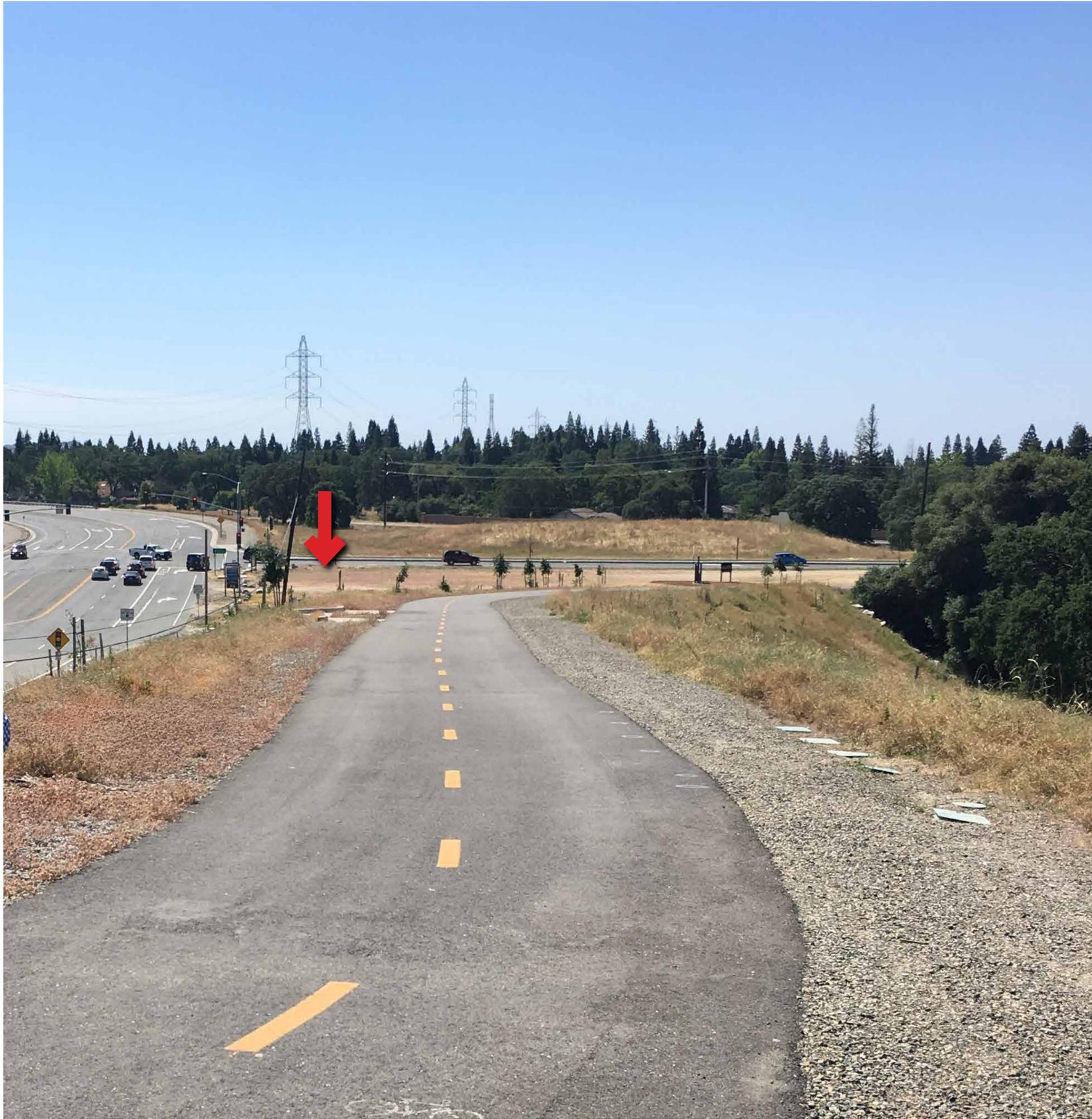


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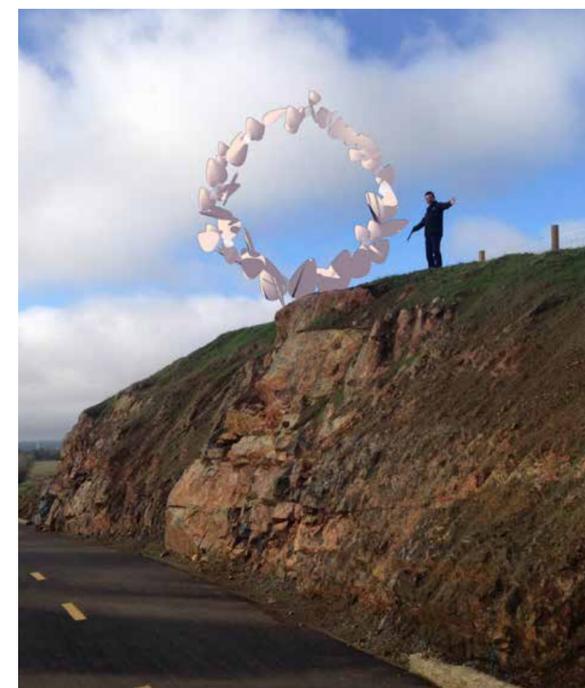


View of Folsom Lake from Pick No. 1 Site





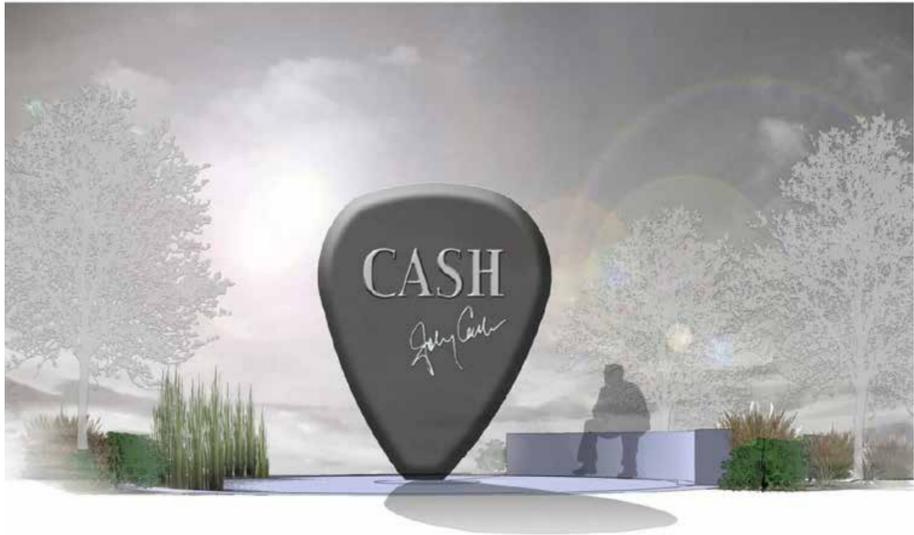












*"His connection and our family's connection will go on in a most beautiful way with the City of Folsom. Now this beauty and this connection to nature, that he loved so much, are going to be here forever."*

**-Rosanne Cash**  
*Trail Dedication, October 4, 2014*

