PRELIMINARY MASTERPLAN

Rio Grande ARTway

CARBONDALE, CO

March 17th, 2016

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The following organizations and citizens contributed to the concept and planning behind the Rio Grande ARTway Project:

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The Carbondale Clay Center --- *Jill Rappaport, Lily Larkin*

The Carbondale Public Art Commission --- *Sondie Reiff, Laurie Stevens*

Town of Carbondale --- *Laurie Stevens, Janet Buck, Jay Harrington*

Studio for Arts + Works --- *Chris Erickson, Allegheny Meadows*

Land + Shelter Architects --- *Nicole Kinsler, Andi Korber*

DHM Design --- *Bailey Haines*

Roaring Fork Transportation Authority --- *Brett Meredith*

The Valley Settlement Project --- *Eloisa Duarte*

The Carbondale Chamber --- *Andrea Stewart, Bernard Poncelet*

The Carbondale Tourism Council --- *Sarahjane Struthers*

Thunder River Theater Company --- *Lon Winston, Richard Lyon*

SOL Theater --- *Jennifer Michaud*

5Point Film Festival --- *Sarah Wood*

RE-1 School District --- *Amie Mayes*

Carbondale Library --- *Mollie Roache*

Governance Coordinator --- *David Trowel*

Mt. Sopris Historical Society --- *Beth White*

Roaring Fork Beer Company --- *Aly Sanguilly*

Sustainable Settings --- *Rose LeVan*

Aspen TREE --- *Eden Vardy*

KDNK Community Radio --- *Steve Skinner, Megan Passmore*

Dos Gringos Burritos --- *Nelson Oldham*

Aloha Mountain Cyclery --- *Darrin Broome, Nic DeGross*

Colorado Mountain College --- *Adrian Fielder, Eden Vardy*

Dolores Way Artists --- *Brad Reed Nelson, Olivia Pevec*

CCAH Board Members --- *Dan Giese, Sarah Wood*

Rainy Day Designs --- *Craig Wheeless*

Downtown Business --- *Carol Bruno (Peppinos Pizza)*

Independent Consultant --- *Laurie Bernhard*

Creative District Neighbors --- *Nickie Cannon*

People With Disabilities --- *Ro Mead*

The Roaring Foragers --- *Paul Huttenhower*

Colorado Soil Systems --- *Jimmy Dula*

Modern West Floral Company --- *Vanessa Gilbert, Tara Abbaticchio*

True Nature Healing Arts --- *Eaden and Deva Shantay*

Brent Moss Photography --- *Brent Moss*

Purpose of the Masterplan

The purpose of this Preliminary Masterplan is to create a framework for the future planning, design, and programming of the Rio Grande ARTway, a one mile long section of the Rio Grande Trail corridor through the town of Carbondale, Colorado. This Masterplan contains critical context and background reference for the project as well as early design concepts for site improvements and programming along the corridor.

Planning Process

The idea for the Rio Grande ARTway project evolved out of CCAH's public process for the Carbondale Creative District Strategic Plan. This ARTway concept has been further developed through many subsequent meetings and conversations between CCAH, RFTA, CPAC and other ARTway project partners. The framework presented in this preliminary masterplan will be used to facilitate the next round of public process. All project stakeholders and community members will have an opportunity to comment and share ideas on the plans prior to the adoption of a Final ARTway Masterplan. Upon completion of the Masterplan, project partners will work together to design, secure funding, and implement the various elements of the Rio Grande ARTway.

Next Steps

1. RFTA and CCAH will seek comment from project partners and community members on the Preliminary Masterplan.
2. A final version of the Rio Grande ARTway Masterplan will be adopted by the project partners.
3. RFTA, CCAH, and project partners will commence design development of ARTway nodes and zones.

BRENT MOSS PHOTOGRAPHY

The Evolution of the ARTway Project

Overview

The following is a list of community planning meetings, milestones, and events that led to the conceptualization and organization of the Rio Grande ARTway project.

2012 - 2013

• CCAH wins 2012 Governor's Arts Award through Colorado Creative Industries

• CCAH gathers stakeholders together to begin process of the Carbondale Creative Plan in alignment with state and national initiatives. Stakeholders include: Business, government, nonprofits, artists, designers, seniors, Latino and students.

• The Town of Carbondale commits $3500 in 2013 Budget for Carbondale Creative Plan

• CCAH collaborates on Creative Plan with The Carbondale Clay Center, Thunder River Theater, The Town of Carbondale, The RE-1 School District, The Valley Settlement Project and the Carbondale Business Chamber Association

• The Town of Carbondale finishes process of updating Carbondale Comprehensive Plan. Findings include the importance of multi-modal transportation options and arts

2013 - 2014

• CCAH receives private donation of $2500 to continue work on Creative Plan

• CCAH hires Dr. Flo Raitano, a consultant with Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) to begin alignment for application into the CCI Creative District program

• Brett Meredith is hired as RFTA Trail Corridor Manager

• True Nature Healing Arts builds healing center and gardens along a portion of the Rio Grande Trail.

• CCAH holds three stakeholder meetings to determine direction of Creative Plan. Discussion of Rio Grande ArtWay begins as part of Creative Plan.

• Town of Carbondale continues its commitment to Creative Plan with another $3500 in budget for 2014. CCAH continues collaboration with Valley Settlement Project expanding into Dia de Los Muertos celebration

• CCAH writes grant to Colorado Creative Industries for Creative District Program

• Rio Grande Project is identified through stakeholder meeting inspired by True Nature's improvements along trail

2014 - 2015

• CCAH meets with Brett Meredith from RFTA about Rio Grande Project

• CCAH continues Creative Plan with over 50 stakeholders, 3 public meetings attended by over 150 people and facilitated by DHM Design Consultants. The Rio Grande Trail is identified again.

• RFTA begins work with Aspen TREE and Rocky Mountain Permaculture on one edible landscape project along trail

• Carbondale is accepted into the CCI Creative District Program

• Artists and Designers hold meeting on potential imagery for Carbondale's future district and Rio Grande Trail

• RFTA commissions first artist to create bench for trail

• Carbondale Creative District hires Laurie Bernhardt to help facilitate stakeholder meetings

• Stakeholders break into 4 Task Forces - Wayfinding and Connectivity Task Force identifies Rio Grande Trail as priority project

• Valley Settlement Project and CCAH meet to determine best way to get Latino community more involved - The Latino Folk Art Garden is born!

• Three Middle School youth attend stakeholder meeting interested in participating in Rio Grande Project (they use the bike path frequently). They want to build benches.

• CCAH connects wood and metal workers with youth and RFTA for potential bench building projects when funding is secured.

• Carbondale Creative District Strategic Plan begins with help from state consultants, Wendell Pryor and Associates

• Town of Carbondale commits $5000 to Carbondale Creative District for 2016

• RFTA maps out potential art and landscaping sights based on RFTA right of way

• Aspen TREE holds community planting day for small edible forest on trail

• CCAH receives $10,000 from Colorado Creative Industries for Creative District activities

2016

• RFTA hires Acre Narrative Design to create a Preliminary Masterplan for the Rio Grande ARTway.

Carbondale Creative District Logo and Branding

Carbondale Creative District

(prose directly from the Carbondale Creative District Strategic Plan)

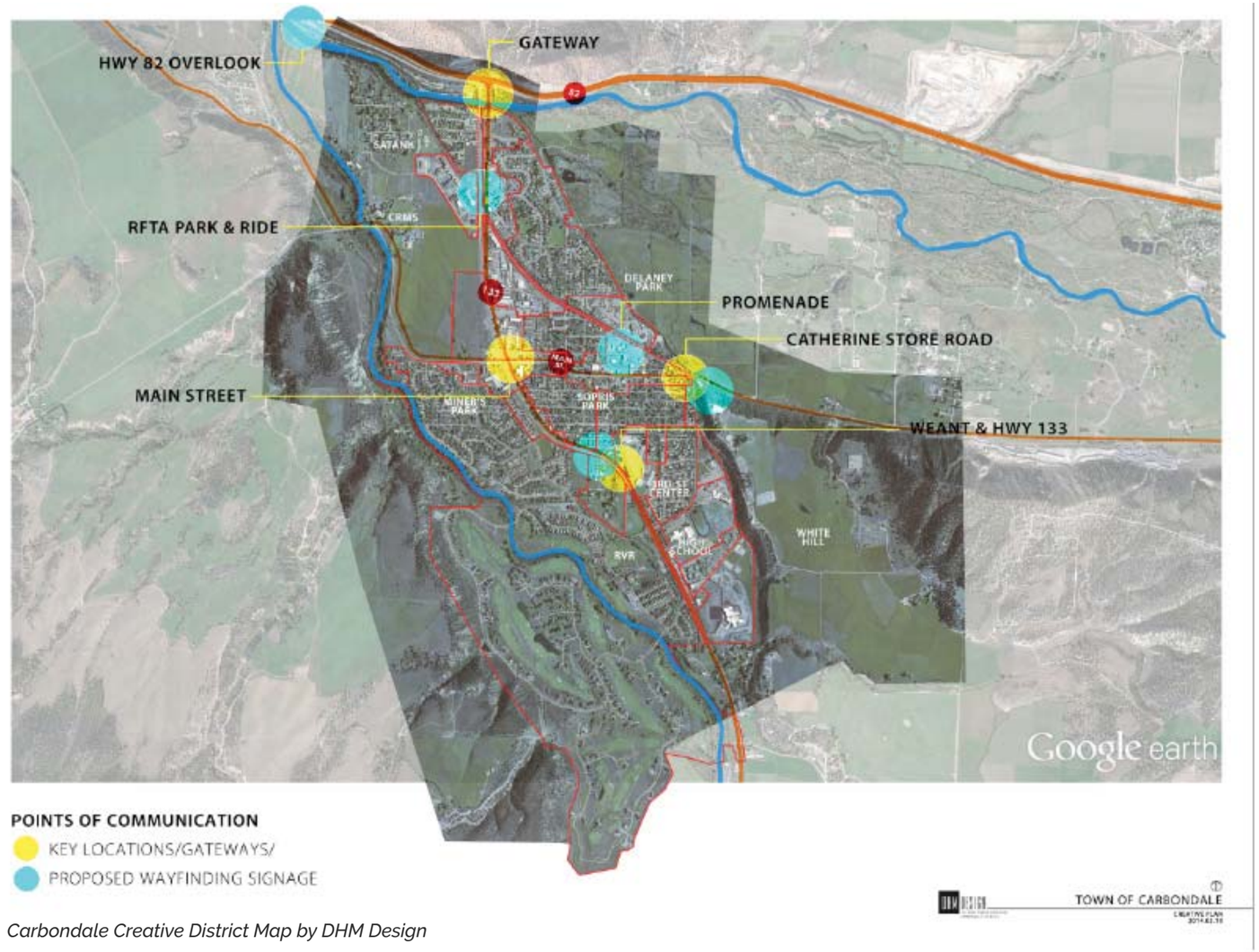
In 2012, The Carbondale Council on Arts and Humanities (CCAH) applied to the Colorado Creative District program to become a certified creative arts district. While it was not accepted into the program through the first application, CCAH have moved forward with the Carbondale Creative Plan. This plan is led by the CCAH in partnership with the Town of Carbondale. A Creative District Task Force has been developed through a strong group of local artists and stakeholders.

In 2013, CCAH hired Dr. Flo Raitano as a consultant to help define the direction of the Carbondale Creative Plan. Dr. Raitano met with individual stakeholders including government, business, artists and nonprofits to refine the direction of the Creative Plan. In 2014, Carbondale was selected by Colorado Creative Industries to begin the process of becoming a designated Colorado Creative District. CCAH has worked with DHM Design to facilitate public input and survey the public and key stakeholders to identify communication points and town gateways. A summary was created from over fifty responses and the public meeting. Several consultants have volunteered and/or been hired to assist with the strategic planning process, to analyze the data collected and further the goal of creative district certification.

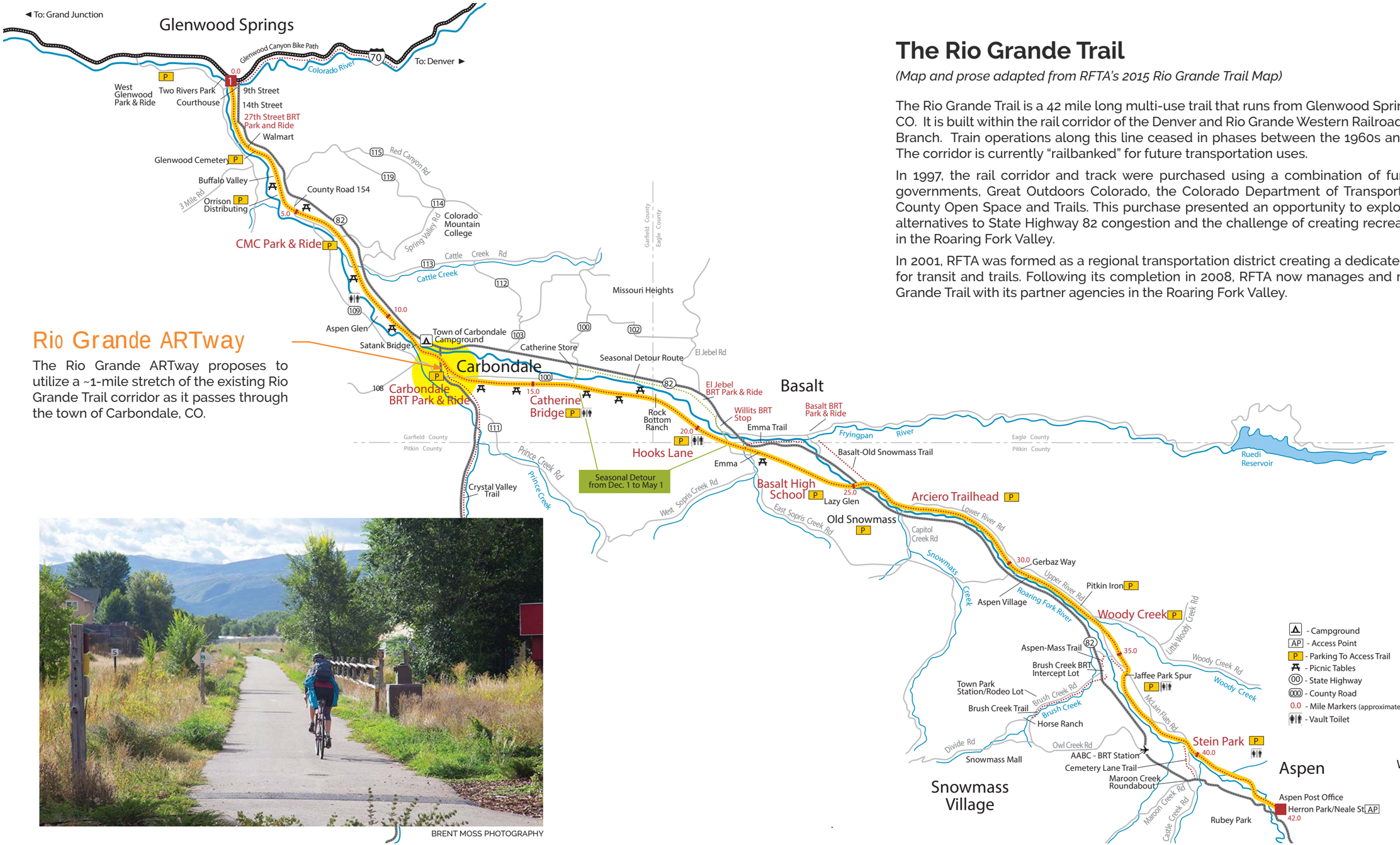
The Creative District Task Force is broken into four strategic groups: Governance, Economic Vitality, Marketing and Outreach, Connectivity and Wayfinding. A fifth committee is focusing on the Creative District logo. These groups will inform the Carbondale Creative Plan in the areas of signage, story, the Carbondale Creative Industry inventory, Marketing and Branding of the creative district and strengthening creative businesses within Carbondale. Economic Development is measured by vitality and growth, from strengthening present businesses in the creative district and greater Carbondale area, and by defining and attracting businesses that fit within the scale and scope of Carbondale's business plans and goals.

Rio Grande ARTway

The Rio Grande ARTway evolved as a sub-project of the Carbondale Creative District planning process. The ARTway will be a place based backbone for Creative District wayfinding and community connectivity.



Carbondale Creative District Map by DHM Design



Rio Grande ARTway

The Rio Grande ARTway proposes to utilize a ~1-mile stretch of the existing Rio Grande Trail corridor as it passes through the town of Carbondale, CO.

BRENT MOSS PHOTOGRAPHY

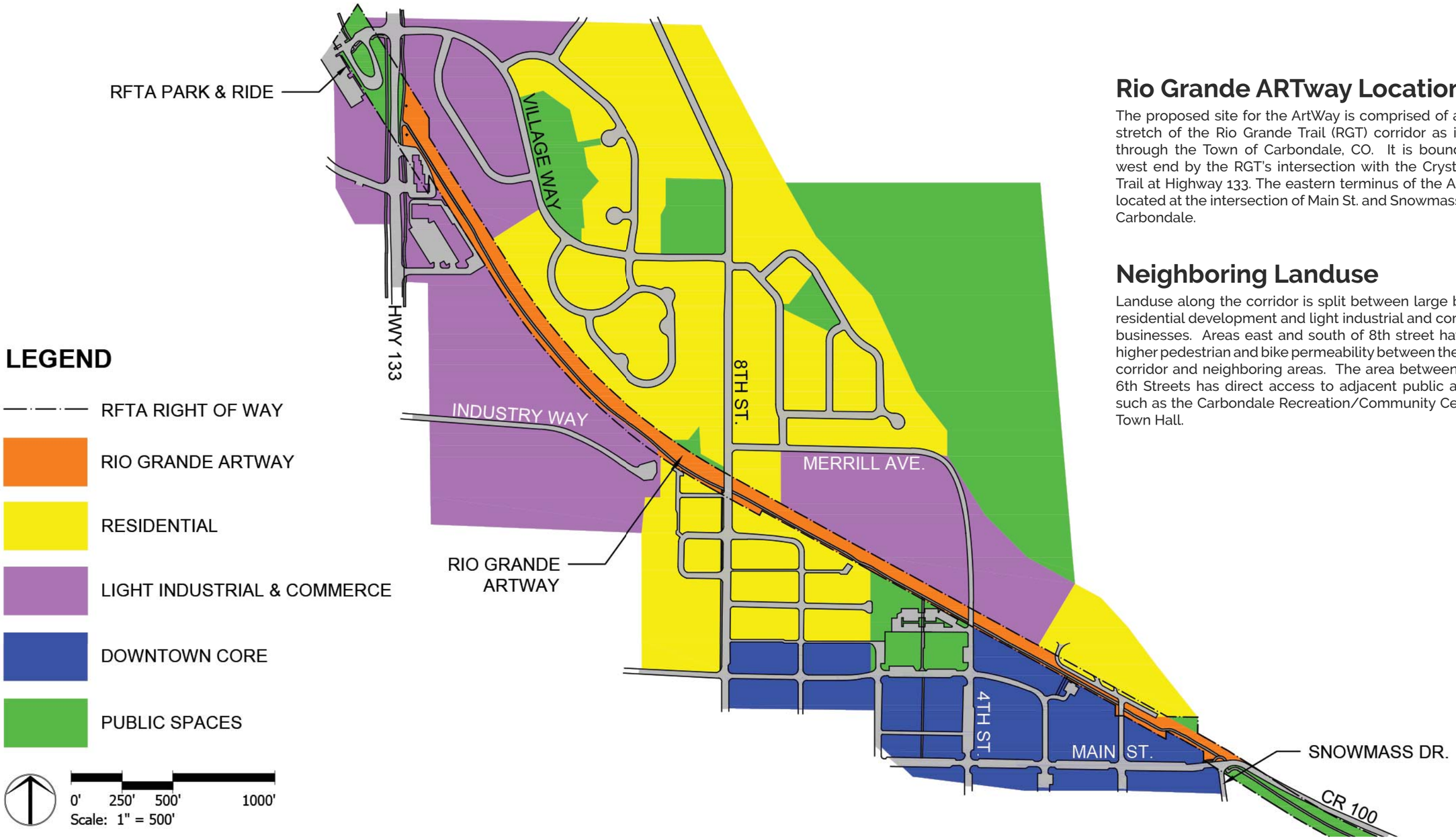
The Rio Grande Trail

(Map and prose adapted from RFTA's 2015 Rio Grande Trail Map)

The Rio Grande Trail is a 42 mile long multi-use trail that runs from Glenwood Springs, CO to Aspen, CO. It is built within the rail corridor of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad (D&RGW) Aspen Branch. Train operations along this line ceased in phases between the 1960s and the mid-1990s. The corridor is currently "railbanked" for future transportation uses.

In 1997, the rail corridor and track were purchased using a combination of funding from local governments, Great Outdoors Colorado, the Colorado Department of Transportation, and Pitkin County Open Space and Trails. This purchase presented an opportunity to explore transportation alternatives to State Highway 82 congestion and the challenge of creating recreation connectivity in the Roaring Fork Valley.

In 2001, RFTA was formed as a regional transportation district creating a dedicated funding source for transit and trails. Following its completion in 2008, RFTA now manages and maintains the Rio Grande Trail with its partner agencies in the Roaring Fork Valley.



Rio Grande ARTway Location

The proposed site for the ArtWay is comprised of a ~1-mile stretch of the Rio Grande Trail (RGT) corridor as it passes through the Town of Carbondale, CO. It is bound on the west end by the RGT's intersection with the Crystal Valley Trail at Highway 133. The eastern terminus of the ARTway is located at the intersection of Main St. and Snowmass Drive in Carbondale.

Neighboring Landuse

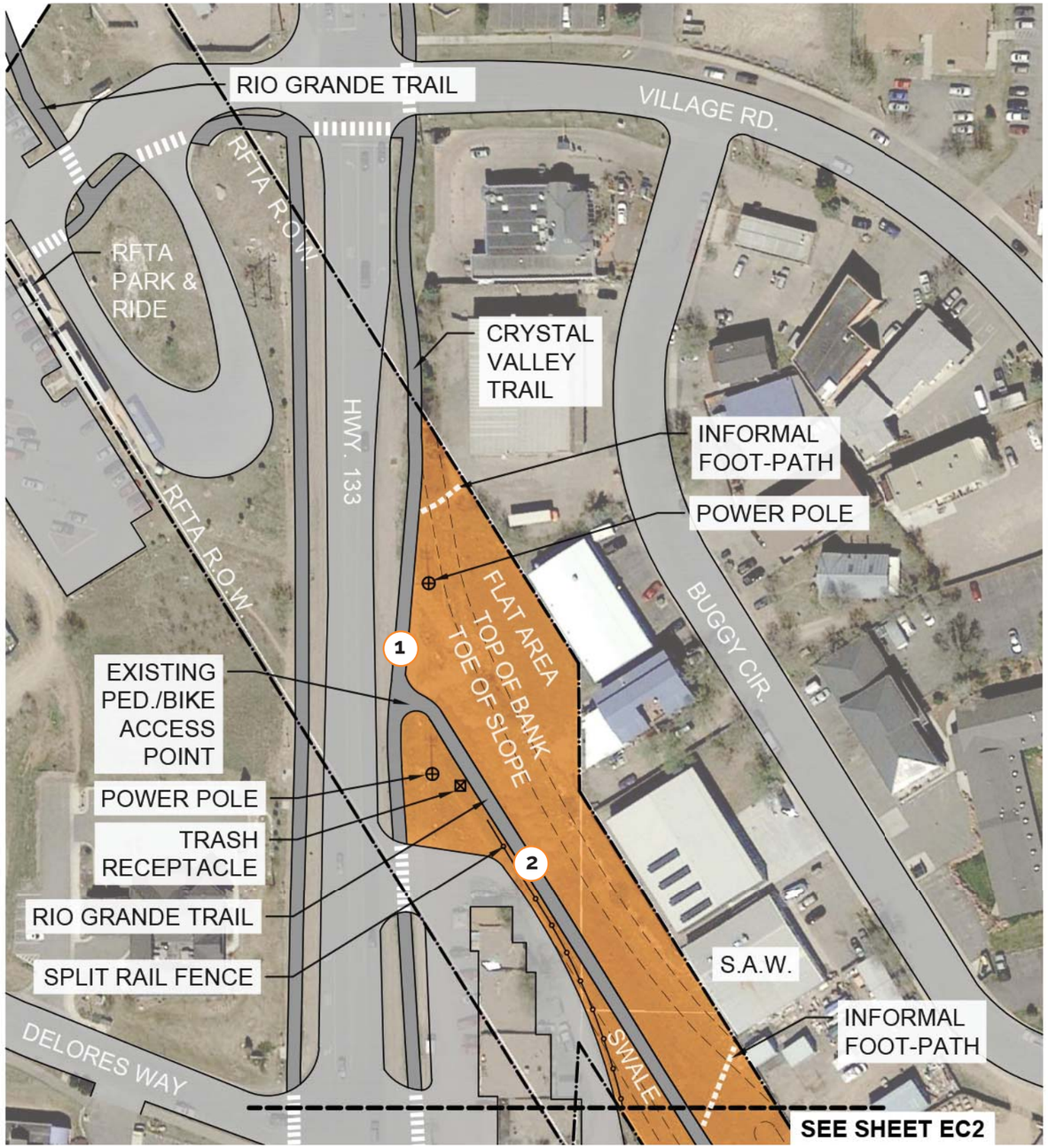
Landuse along the corridor is split between large blocks of residential development and light industrial and commercial businesses. Areas east and south of 8th street have much higher pedestrian and bike permeability between the ARTway corridor and neighboring areas. The area between 4th and 6th Streets has direct access to adjacent public amenities such as the Carbondale Recreation/Community Center and Town Hall.

LEGEND

RFTA RIGHT OF WAY

RIO GRANDE ARTWAY

0' 250' 500' 1000'
Scale: 1" = 500'



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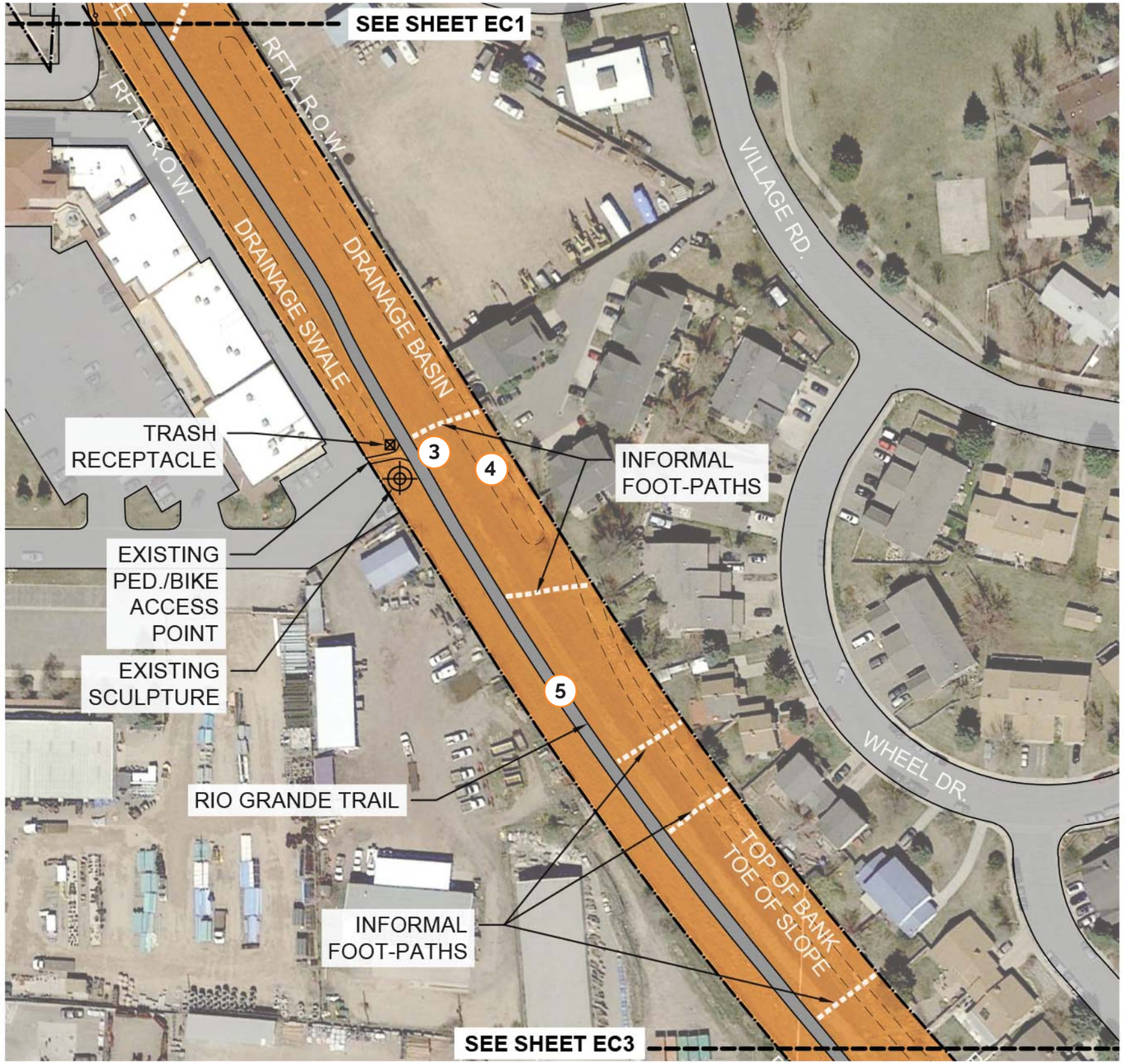
LEGEND

- PAVED PUBLIC TRAIL
- TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURE
- RFTA RIGHT OF WAY
- TRASH RECEPTACLE
- POWER POLE
- INFORMAL FOOT-PATH
- RIO GRANDE ARTWAY

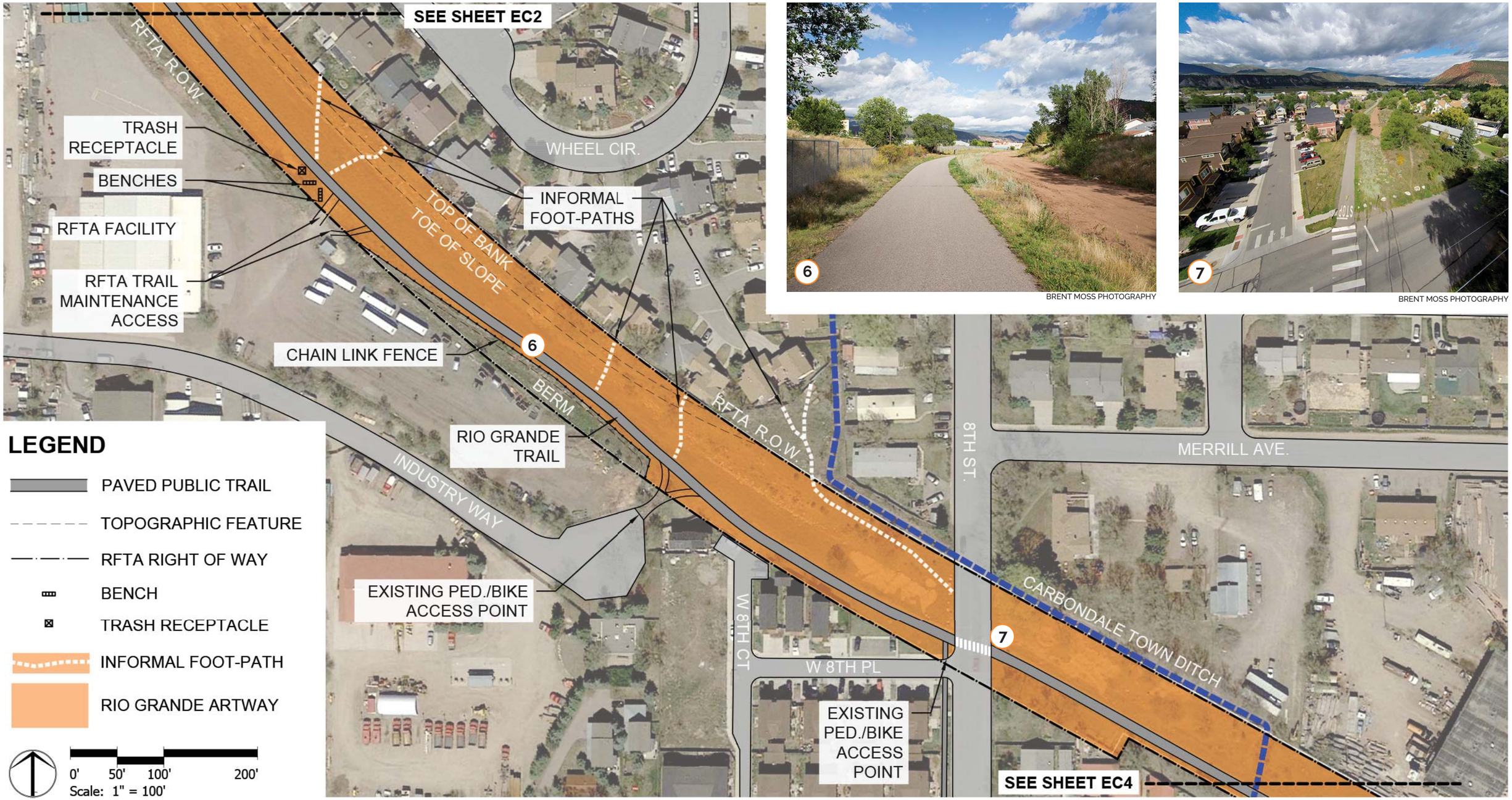
0' 50' 100' 200'
Scale: 1" = 100'



LEGEND

- PAVED PUBLIC TRAIL
- TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURE
- RFTA RIGHT OF WAY
- EXISTING SCULPTURE
- TRASH RECEPTACLE
- INFORMAL FOOT-PATH
- RIO GRANDE ARTWAY

0' 50' 100' 200'
Scale: 1" = 100'



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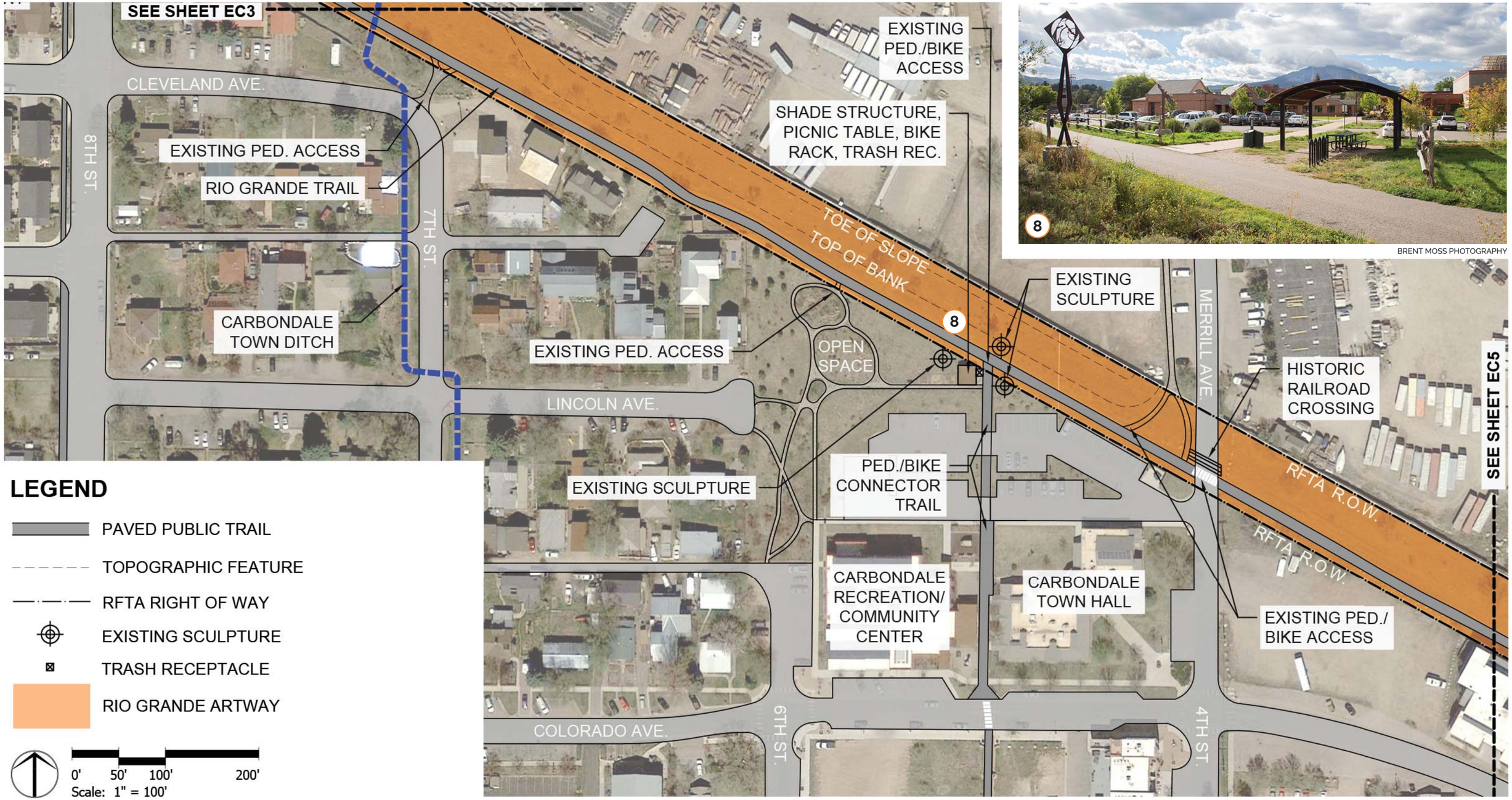

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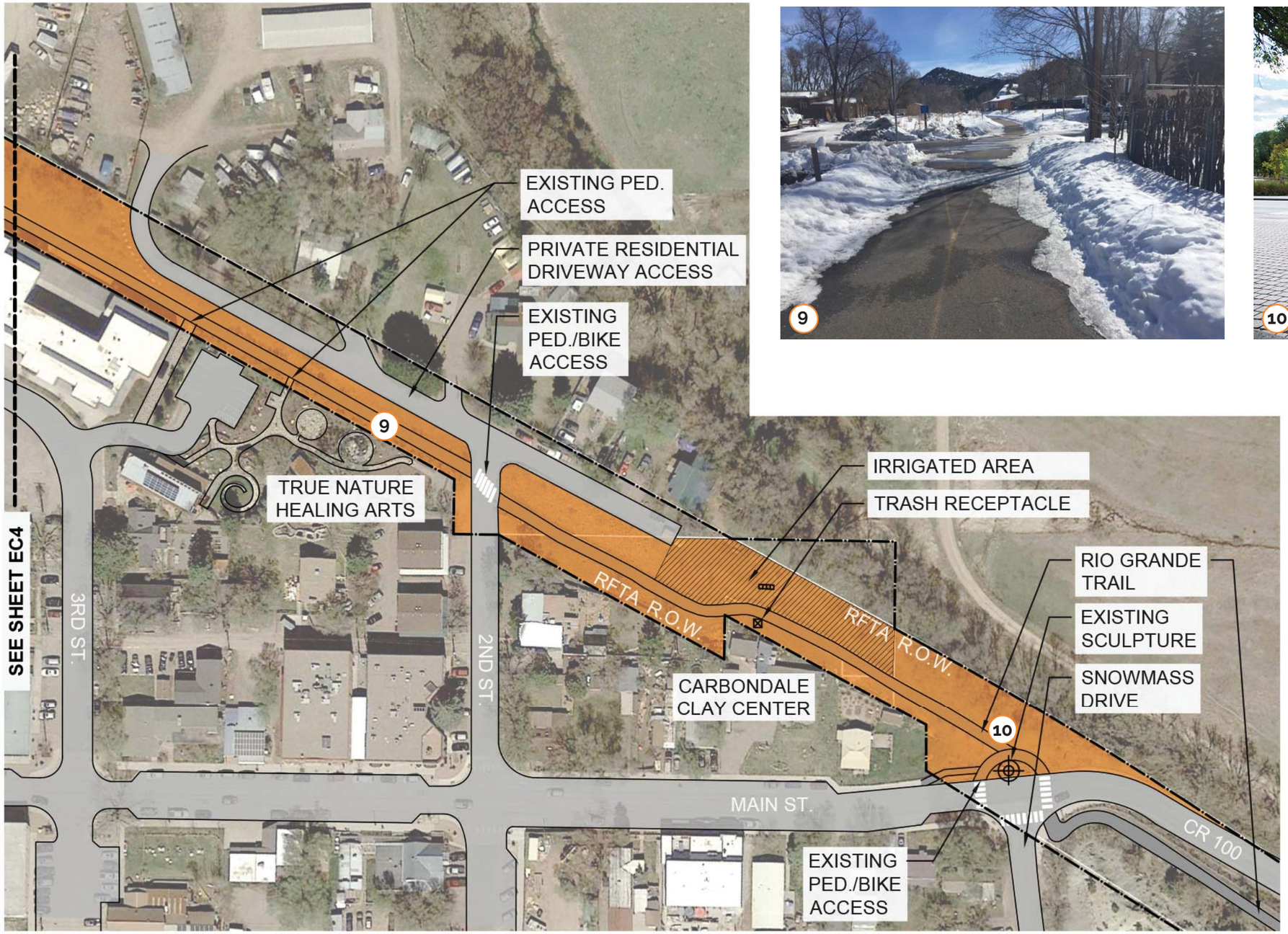


BRENT MOSS PHOTOGRAPHY

LEGEND

- PAVED PUBLIC TRAIL
- RFTA RIGHT OF WAY
- EXISTING SCULPTURE
- TRASH RECEPTACLE
- IRRIGATED AREA
- RIO GRANDE ARTWAY

0' 50' 100' 200'
Scale: 1" = 100'

Opportunities

- The Rio Grande ARTway trail segment provides a bicycle and pedestrian connection between the RFTA Park and Ride / Delores Way Creative Zone and Carbondale's Historic Downtown core.
- The ARTway follows the historic railway through Carbondale and passes the old rail depot.
- Existing ARTway trail segments contains a variety of types of spaces that can be programmed to create a wide array of experiences
- Numerous road crossings and trail junctions provide opportunities to create a pedestrian and bike wayfinding spine for the Carbondale Creative District.
- The Rio Grande Trail is well known to the broader Carbondale community. It is already a successful place that can be leveraged to include all of our diverse cultures and age groups.
- A significant amount of stone cobble and small boulders exist on site. These may be made available for project installation.
- A Town of Carbondale Irrigation Ditch crosses under and traverses along the Rio Grande Trail in the vicinity of 8th Street
- Numerous bike/ped. access points exist along the south side of the corridor. These connection points may make good locations for sculpture installations and wayfinding signage.
- Existing vegetation in the R.O.W. has created artificially narrow areas that hide and reveal spaces and views. These may be useful for framing sculptural elements and reflection zones.
- Some areas of existing fencing may provide a substrate for planting and screening undesirable views.
- The R.O.W. widens to 200' at the west end of the ARTway corridor. This provides enough space to provide a small parklet. There is an existing embankment on the north side of the paved trail. There are nice views of Mt. Sopric from the top of this embankment.
- There is an 6'-10' high embankment that runs along the bulk of the north side of the western half of the ARTway corridor. The topography of this area may offer interesting opportunities for bike singletrack trail routing.
- The bulk of the corridor is unshaded and receives ample sunlight for potential garden installations.

Constraints

RFTA constraints for the Rio Grande Trail:

- The Right Of Way (R.O.W). varies from 75' to 200' wide
- Federal rail bank status limits permanent changes (all improvements to be considered temporary)
- RFTA reserves the right to make final decisions about the corridor
- Maintenance is ongoing for invasive weeds
- Soil reconditioning may occur along the corridor in the future

Constraints specific to the Rio Grande ARTway corridor:

- Limited public access from neighborhoods to the north
- The only existing irrigation infrastructure is located in the vicinity of the Clay Center. There is no other existing irrigation in the corridor.
- There is no significant existing lighting infrastructure along the trail
- A variety of fencing types and conditions limit views along the trail corridor. Some areas of degraded fencing have an overall negative impact on the aesthetics of the corridor.
- All installation designs should avoid the large drainages north (basin) and south (swale) of the existing paved trail in the vicinity of the La Fontana Plaza.
- ARTway nstallation projects must not cause RFTA to incur a significantly increased maintenance burden.
- No trees may be planted within 25' of either side of the R.O.W. centerline
- No signage or sculptures may be installed within 3' of the existing paved trail surface so as not to impede ongoing trail maintenance and snow removal.

Connectivity

The proposed ARTway corridor currently serves as a major pedestrian and bicycle connection between Carbondale's RFTA Park & Ride & Delores Way neighborhood (west end) and the Historic Downtown Core (east end). The corridor is bisected by several streets, most notably 8th Street and 4th Street/Merrill Ave. Both of these street crossings are currently bicycle and pedestrian access points. 2nd Street also crosses the trail and provides localized public trail access. On the South side of the ARTway, there are public access points at the La Fontana Shopping Plaza, Industry Way, Cleveland Ave., the paved pedestrian downtown connector trail (between 4th and 6th Streets), and at True Nature Healing Arts. The Downtown Connector trail is an especially important access. It provides a direct linkage between the RGT and Main St. while also passing the Carbondale Recreation/Community Center, Town Hall, and the Thunder River Theatre Company. The only major public pedestrian access points from the North side of the ARTway are located at 8th St. and Merrill Ave. Many private residences that back to the ARTway have created informal footpath connections to the paved trail surface. This is particularly prevalent in the area north and west of 8th Street. Nearly all of the corridor's neighboring businesses and residences (with the exception of True Nature Healing Arts) "back" to the trail.

Vegetation

Existing corridor plant life consists of a mix of native grasses, wildflowers, and invasive plants. The most prominent existing trees are Siberian Elm (considered a "weed tree"). There are no existing trees of particular importance within the corridor. The entire corridor is managed for weeds by RFTA. RFTA has recently installed two small planting projects along the corridor; (1) Hops have been planted along the chain link fence adjacent to RFTA's property. (2) A small garden of fruit trees and shrubs has been planted in the vicinity of 8th Street.

Topography & Drainage

The existing paved trail has a very consistent and gradual downhill slope as it descends from Southeast to Northwest through the Town of Carbondale. Drainage typically runs away from the trail in either direction. Most of the prominent drainage basins and swales are on the north side of the existing paved trail. The most significant topographic features along the ARTway corridor are a 6'-10' high rock and soil embankment that runs along the northern edge of the corridor between highway 133 and 8th Street. The continuity of this embankment is interrupted by a large 200 yard long and 5'-8' deep, drainage basin proximate to the La Fontana Plaza. Additionally, there is a 6'-8' drop in elevation north of the paved trail surface in the vicinity of the Downtown Connector Trail between 4th and 6th Streets.

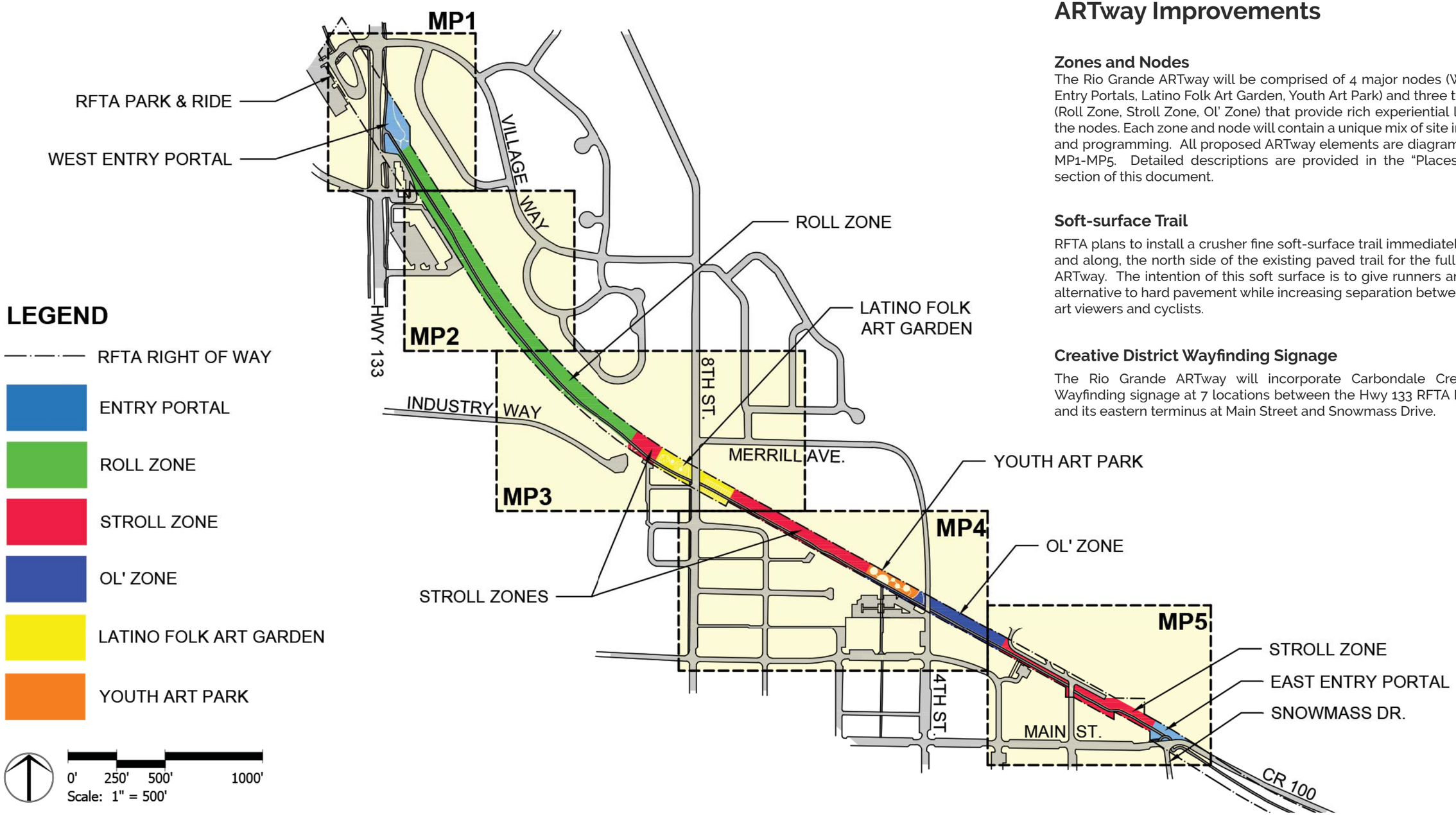
Rio Grande ARTway Vision

The Rio Grande ARTway is a creative placemaking project that reflects the cultural diversity of the community, inspires greater use of non-motorized transportation, preserves our heritage, and strengthens our core creative community.

Goals

- Give voice to Carbondale's different cultures and communities (identified as Youth, Latino, Environmentalists, Seniors, Artists, Ranchers, and Bicyclists)
- Attract bicycling and other human powered visitors from surrounding communities to the Carbondale Creative District.
- Increase and promote pedestrian and bike connectivity between Carbondale neighborhoods.
- Interpret Carbondale's rich history.
- Add Carbondale Creative District wayfinding.
- Add creative educational spaces.
- Create edible experiential landscapes.
- Add trail surface options.

"Art-flag project" renderring by Laura Stover



ARTway Improvements

Zones and Nodes

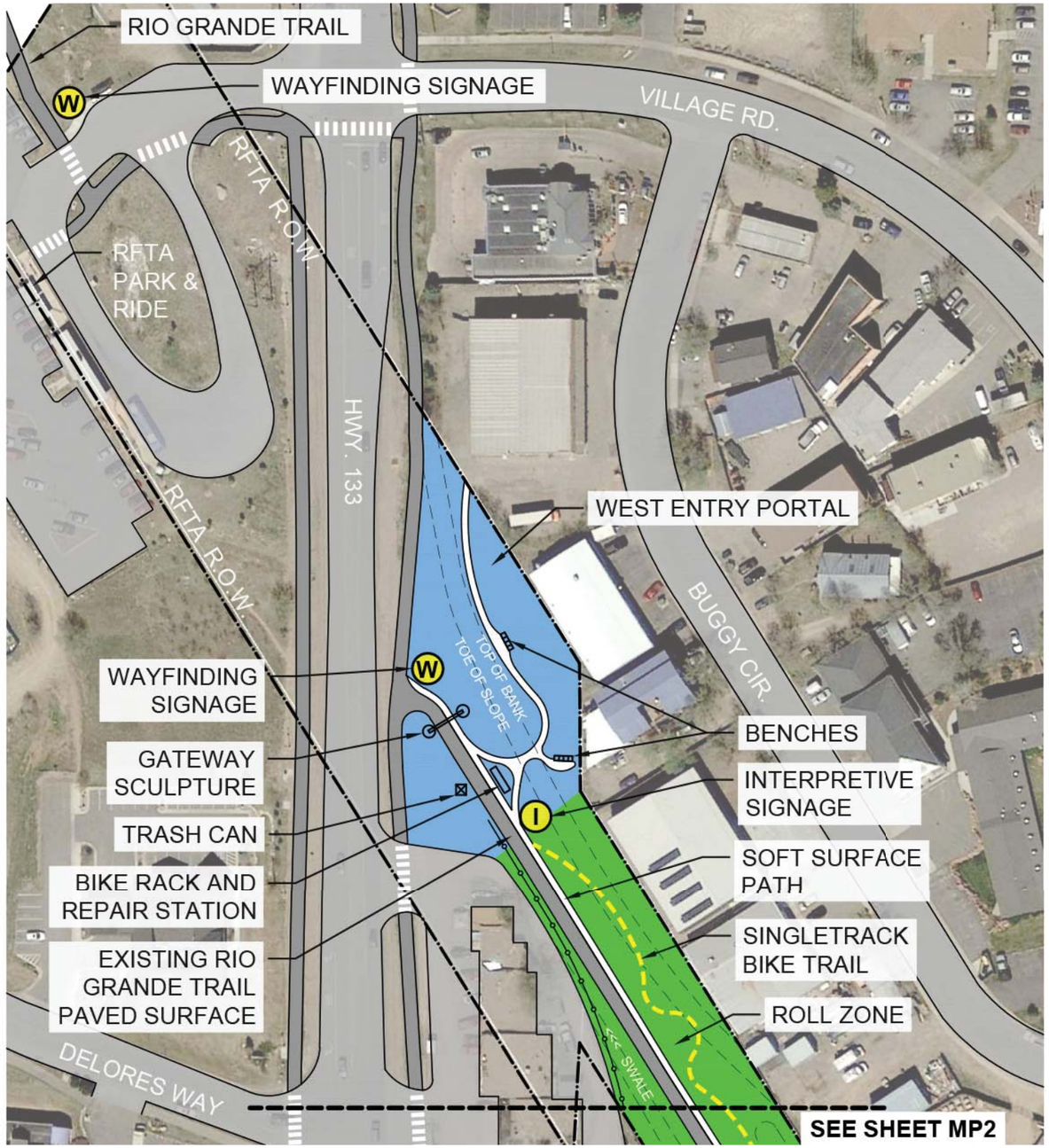
The Rio Grande ARTway will be comprised of 4 major nodes (West and East Entry Portals, Latino Folk Art Garden, Youth Art Park) and three types of zones (Roll Zone, Stroll Zone, Ol' Zone) that provide rich experiential links between the nodes. Each zone and node will contain a unique mix of site improvements and programming. All proposed ARTway elements are diagramed on sheets MP1-MP5. Detailed descriptions are provided in the "Places + Programs" section of this document.

Soft-surface Trail

RFTA plans to install a crusher fine soft-surface trail immediately adjacent to, and along, the north side of the existing paved trail for the full length of the ARTway. The intention of this soft surface is to give runners and walkers an alternative to hard pavement while increasing separation between pedestrian art viewers and cyclists.

Creative District Wayfinding Signage

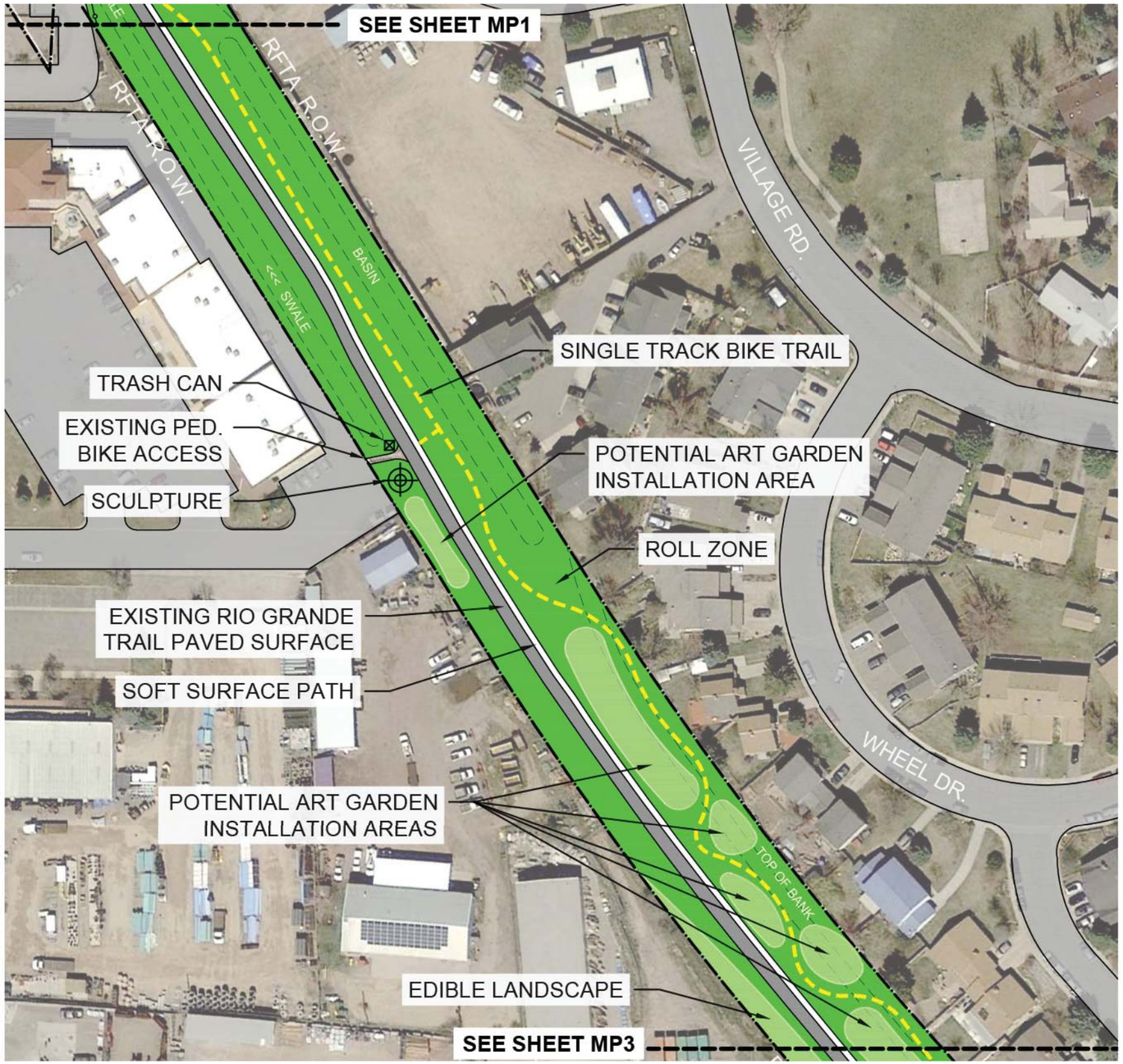
The Rio Grande ARTway will incorporate Carbondale Creative District Wayfinding signage at 7 locations between the Hwy 133 RFTA Park and Ride and its eastern terminus at Main Street and Snowmass Drive.



LEGEND

- PAVED PUBLIC TRAIL
- SOFT SURFACE PATH
- TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURE
- RFTA RIGHT OF WAY
- WAYFINDING SIGNAGE
- INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
- BENCH
- TRASH RECEPTACLE
- GATEWAY SCULPTURE
- SINGLETRACK BIKE TRAIL
- WEST ENTRY PORTAL
- ROLL ZONE

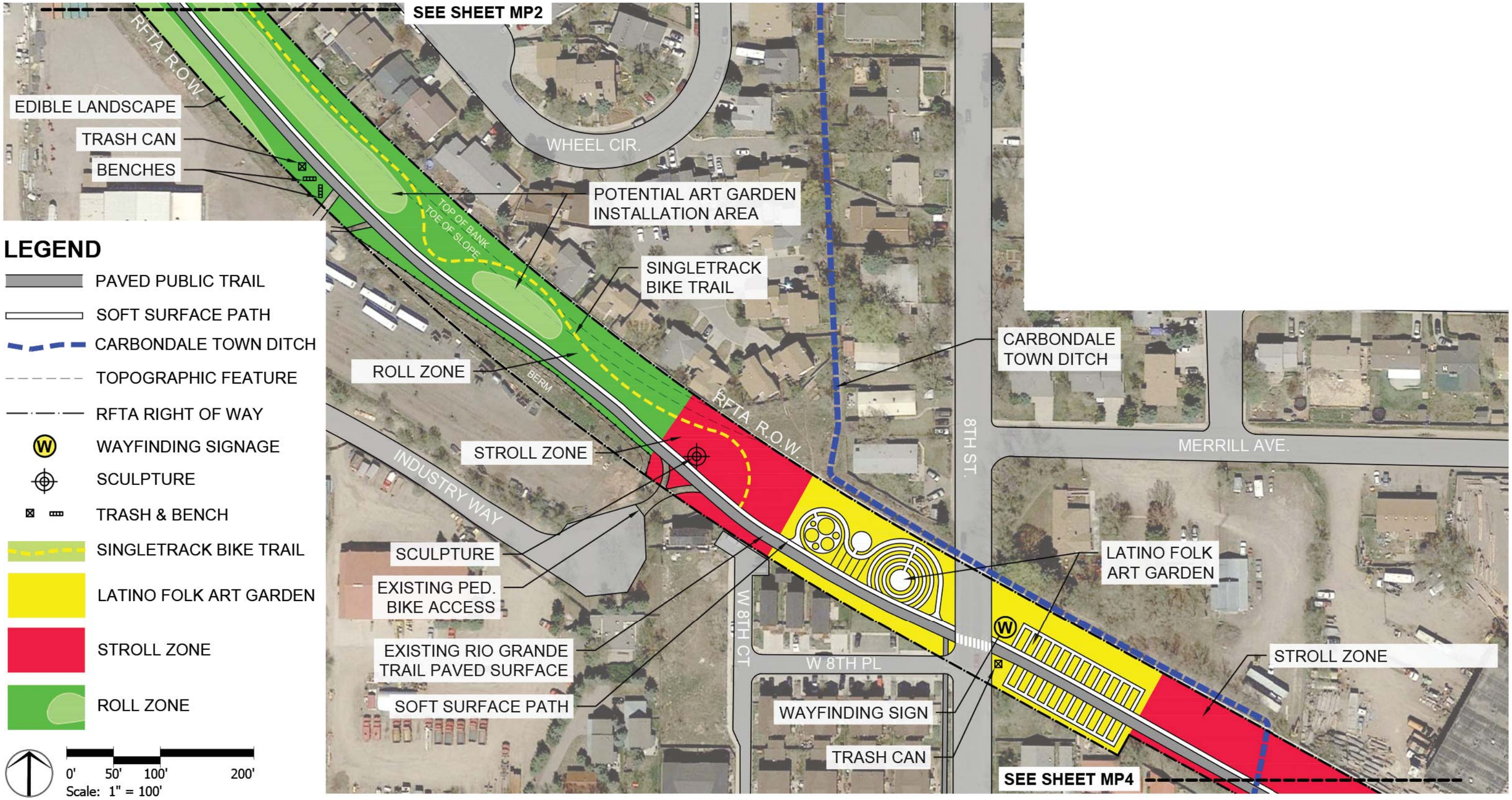
0' 50' 100' 200'
Scale: 1" = 100'



LEGEND

- PAVED PUBLIC TRAIL
- SOFT SURFACE PATH
- TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURE
- RFTA RIGHT OF WAY
- SCULPTURE
- TRASH RECEPTACLE
- SINGLETRACK BIKE TRAIL
- ROLL ZONE

0' 50' 100' 200'
Scale: 1" = 100'


SEE SHEET MP2
RFTA R.O.W.
EDIBLE LANDSCAPE
TRASH CAN
BENCHES
WHEEL CIR.
POTENTIAL ART GARDEN INSTALLATION AREA
TOP OF BANK
TOE OF SLOPE
SINGLETRACK BIKE TRAIL
CARBONDALE TOWN DITCH
ROLL ZONE
BERM
RFTA R.O.W.
8TH ST.
MERRILL AVE.
STROLL ZONE
INDUSTRY WAY
SCULPTURE
EXISTING PED. BIKE ACCESS
EXISTING RIO GRANDE TRAIL PAVED SURFACE
SOFT SURFACE PATH
W 8TH CT
W 8TH PL
LATINO FOLK ART GARDEN
STROLL ZONE
WAYFINDING SIGN
TRASH CAN
SEE SHEET MP4
LEGEND
PAVED PUBLIC TRAIL
SOFT SURFACE PATH
CARBONDALE TOWN DITCH
TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURE
RFTA RIGHT OF WAY
WAYFINDING SIGNAGE
SCULPTURE
TRASH & BENCH
SINGLETRACK BIKE TRAIL
LATINO FOLK ART GARDEN
STROLL ZONE
ROLL ZONE
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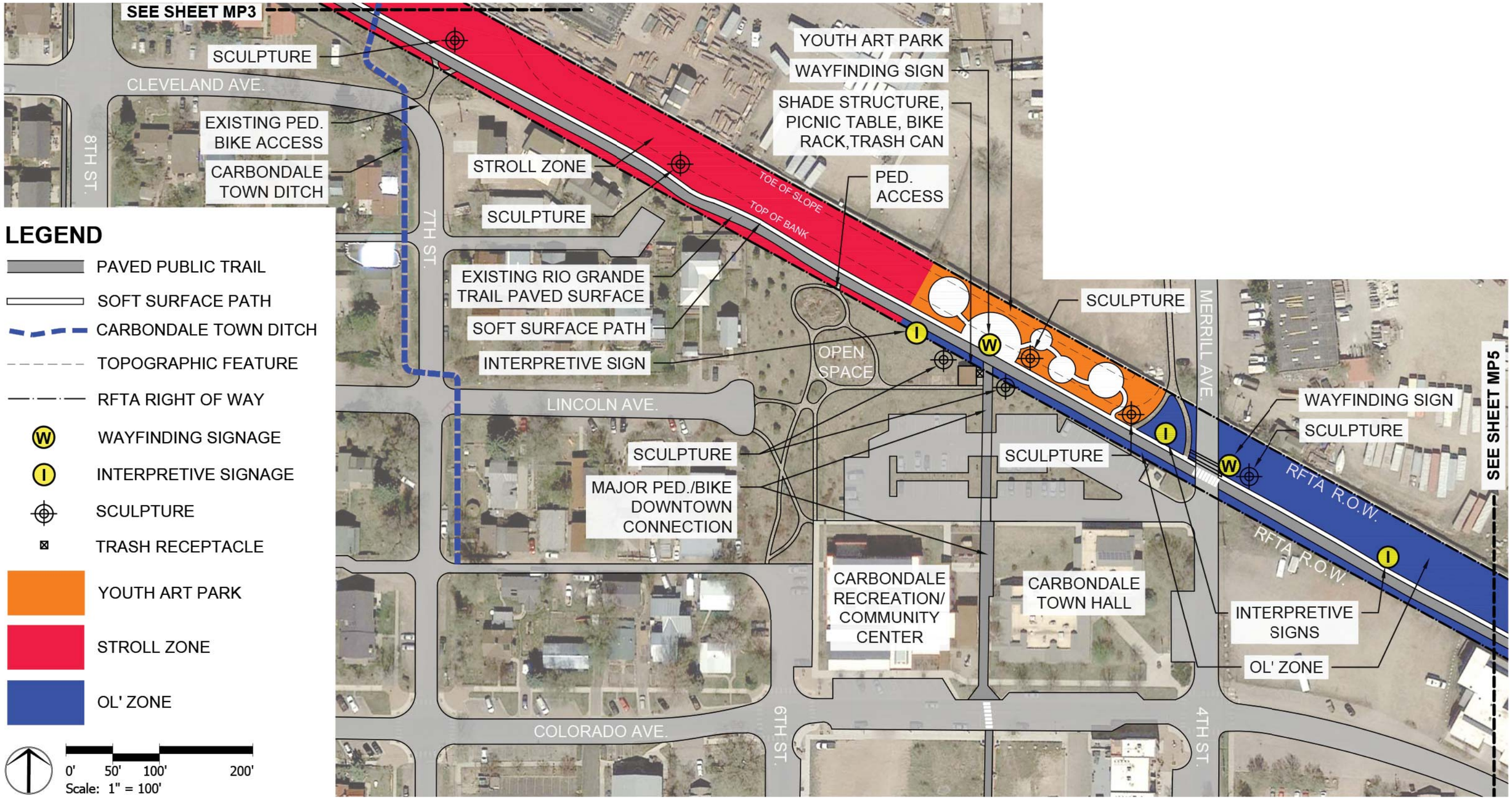
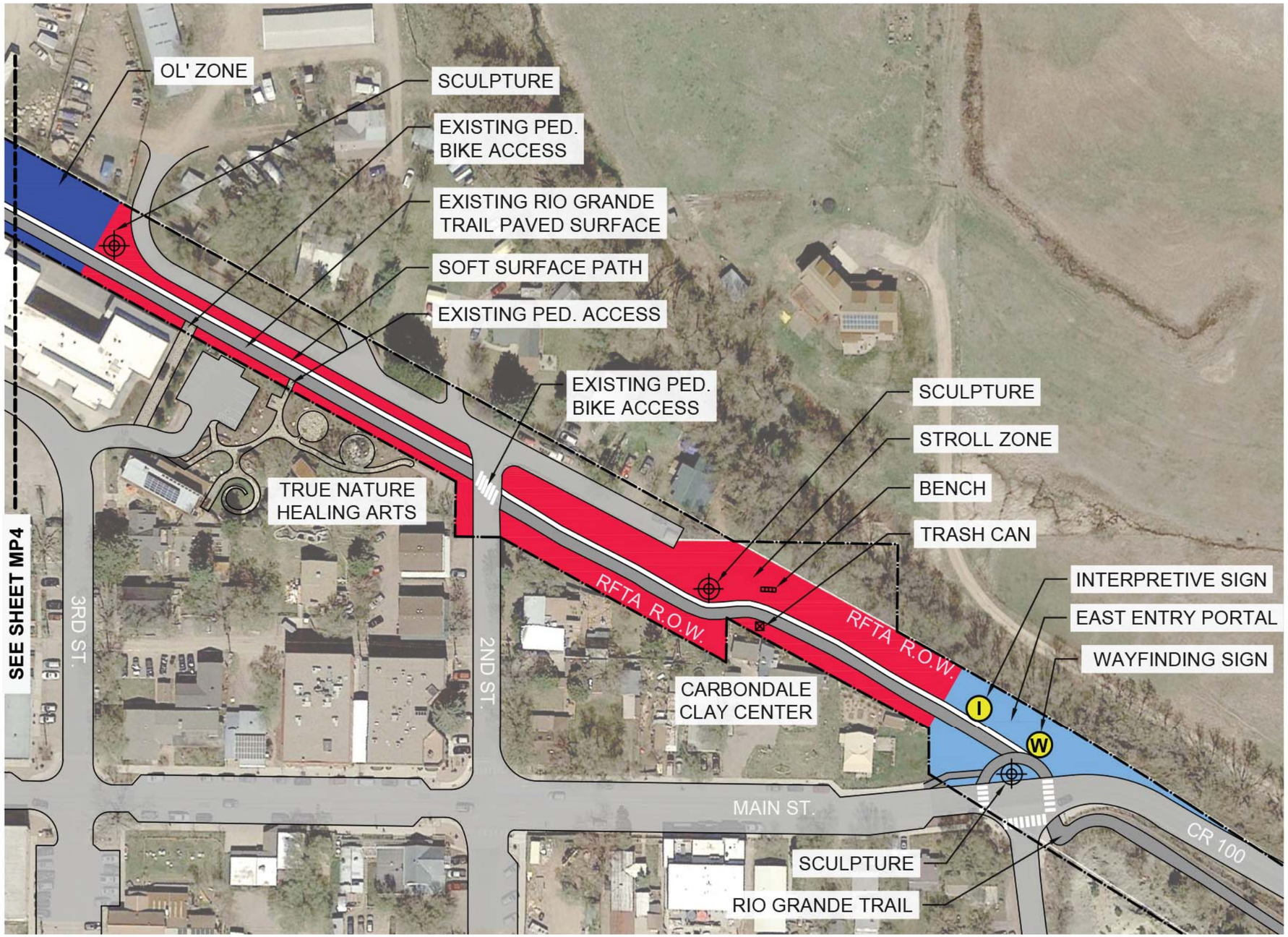
Scale: 1" = 100'


SEE SHEET MP3
SCULPTURE
CLEVELAND AVE.
EXISTING PED. BIKE ACCESS
CARBONDALE TOWN DITCH
8TH ST.
7TH ST.
STROLL ZONE
SCULPTURE
EXISTING RIO GRANDE TRAIL PAVED SURFACE
SOFT SURFACE PATH
INTERPRETIVE SIGN
LINCOLN AVE.
SCULPTURE
MAJOR PED./BIKE DOWNTOWN CONNECTION
COLORADO AVE.
6TH ST.
YOUTH ART PARK
WAYFINDING SIGN
SHADE STRUCTURE, PICNIC TABLE, BIKE RACK,TRASH CAN
PED. ACCESS
TOE OF SLOPE
TOP OF BANK
OPEN SPACE
SCULPTURE
CARBONDALE RECREATION/ COMMUNITY CENTER
CARBONDALE TOWN HALL
SCULPTURE
MERRILL AVE.
WAYFINDING SIGN
SCULPTURE
RFTA R.O.W.
RFTA R.O.W.
INTERPRETIVE SIGNS
OL' ZONE
4TH ST.
SEE SHEET MP5
LEGEND
PAVED PUBLIC TRAIL
SOFT SURFACE PATH
CARBONDALE TOWN DITCH
TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURE
RFTA RIGHT OF WAY
WAYFINDING SIGNAGE
INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
SCULPTURE
TRASH RECEPTACLE
YOUTH ART PARK
STROLL ZONE
OL' ZONE
0' 50' 100' 200'
Scale: 1" = 100'



LEGEND

- PAVED PUBLIC TRAIL
- SOFT SURFACE PATH
- RFTA RIGHT OF WAY
- WAYFINDING SIGNAGE
- INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
- SCULPTURE
- BENCH
- TRASH RECEPTACLE
- EAST ENTRY PORTAL
- STROLL ZONE
- OL' ZONE

0' 50' 100' 200'
Scale: 1" = 100'

West Entry Portal

The west entry portal will announce the arrival of the Rio Grande ARTway. This portal parklet will feature a bicycle sculpture gateway, bike rack/repair area, ARTway interpretive information, and Creative District Wayfinding. The experience will include a walking trail and seating oriented to take in the view of Mt. Sopris. This pocket park will be a short siding off the mainline where visitors can take a short rest, learn something new, and feel the energy of the Rio Grande Trail. Hardy native trees and shrubs will provide useful shade while screening adjacent industrial buildings and Highway 133.

Improvements:

- Sculptural gateway
- Wayfinding signage
- Interpretive signage
- Bike rack & repair station
- Benches
- Shade/screening vegetation
- Permaculture garden
- Short side trail

Key Collaborative Partners:

- RFTA
- CCAH
- CMC Permaculture

Project Lead: TBD

Target Completion Date: TBD

Estimated Cost: TBD

ARTway arrival

Roll Zone

The Roll Zone will feature linear art experiences and landscape installations that can be appreciated as visitors pass through the space at speed. A single-track bike trail will draw a new line of spaces, views, and trail experiences. The Roll Zone will be a landscape canvas... a dynamic public space where inspired community members can propose and execute large artistic visions.

Improvements:

- Single Track Trail
- Community garden spaces
- Community art spaces
- Edible landscapes

Key Collaborative Partners:

- RFTA
- CCAH
- Carbondale Bike, Pedestrian, and Trails Commission
- Local Bike Shops
- RFOV
- Neighboring residents and employers

Project Lead: TBD

Target Completion Date: TBD

Estimated Cost: TBD

Art and garden on the go

Stroll Zone

Stroll Zones will feature marble slab mounted sculptures... each framed differently within the ARTway landscape. These ARTway segments will encourage visitors to slow down (maybe even stop here and there) and contemplate trailside art and surroundings in an up close and personal way. Stroll Zones have been sited in areas with numerous neighborhood connections and adjacent to major programmatic nodes (Latino Folk Art Garden, Youth Art Park, True Nature Healing Arts). Their character will contribute to managing trail speeds in areas anticipated to have higher volumes of pedestrians.

Improvements:

- Slab mounted sculptures
- Short side trails
- Informal seating
- Edible landscape elements
- Wayfinding signage

Key Collaborative Partners:

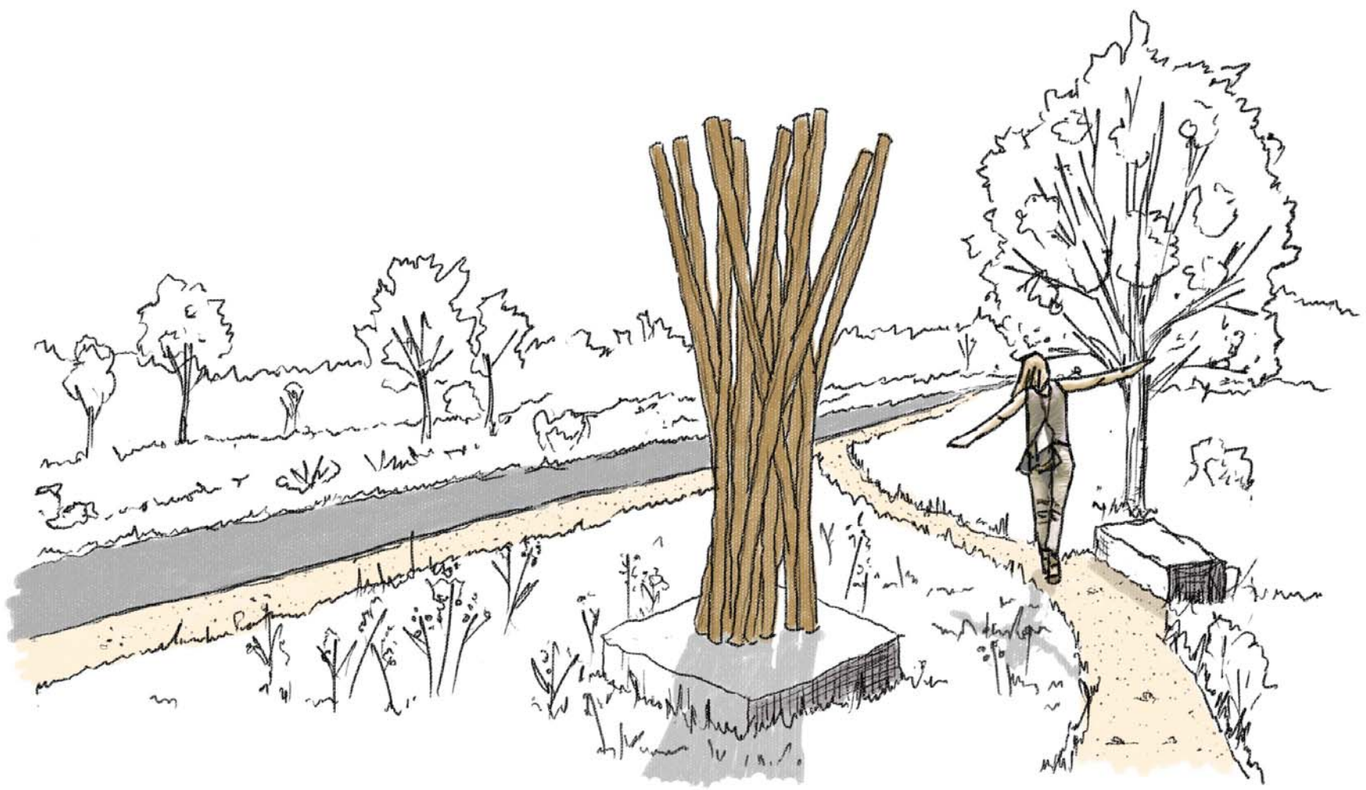
- RFTA
- CCAH
- CPAC

Project Lead: TBD

Target Completion Date: TBD

Estimated Cost: TBD

A gallery of places



Ol' Zone

Located adjacent to Carbondale's historic rail depot and downtown center, the Ol' Zone will be home to artistic expressions of Carbondale's rich history. This section of the ARTway will be structured and paced similar to the Stroll Zone but with a deliberate historic and interpretive bent.

Improvements:

- Slab mounted sculptures (local history themed)
- Historic artifacts
- Landscape diorama
- Wayfinding signage
- Interpretive signage
- Informal seating areas
- Side trails

Key Collaborative Partners:

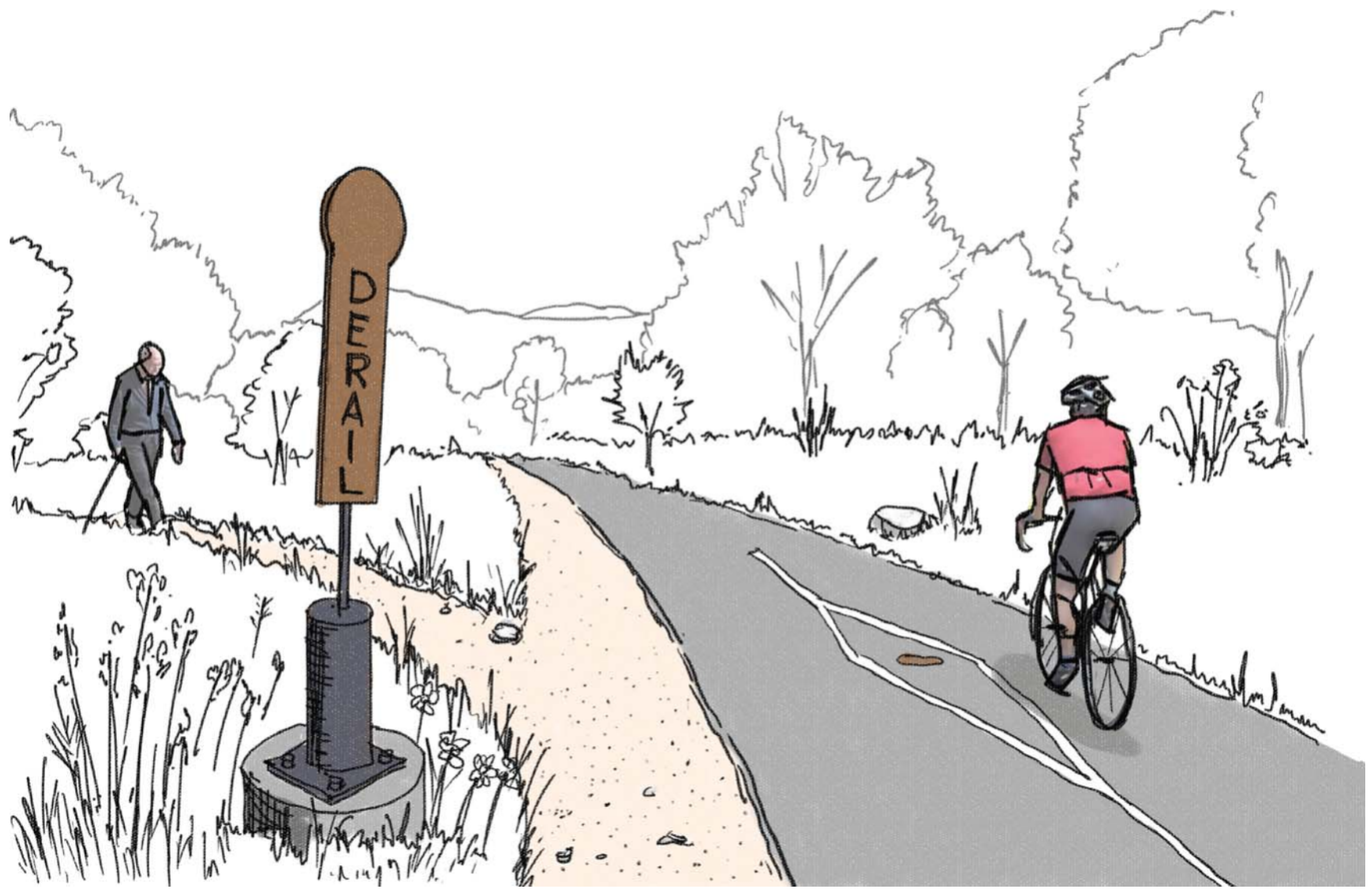
- RFTA
- CCAH
- CPAC
- Mt. Sopris Historical Society

Project Lead: TBD

Target Completion Date: TBD

Estimated Cost: TBD

A historic Carbondale experience



Latino Folk Art Garden

An artful garden and gathering space that gives voice to Carbondale's Latino community. The Latino Folk Art Garden will span the intersection of the Rio Grande ARTway and 8th Street to take advantage of proximity to a Town of Carbondale Irrigation Ditch. This cultural garden will integrate edible landscape elements with shaded seating areas and artistic expressions of the Latino community.

Improvements:

- Irrigated garden spaces
- Edible landscape
- Small gathering spaces
- Side trails
- Shade trees
- Art installations
- Benches
- Wayfinding signage

Key Collaborative Partners:

- RFTA
- CCAH
- Valley Settlement Project

Project Lead: TBD

Target Completion Date: TBD

Estimated Cost: TBD

A cultural flavorspace

Youth Art Park

The Youth Art Park will feature an informal outdoor classroom and nature play space for Carbondale Community youth. The vision is to work with local arts educators and students to create a space that encourages children to explore and make art in the outdoors using readily available natural materials. Local high school students will steward the space, maintaining it and keeping it well stocked with natural materials for younger children to create with. The Youth Art Park will be sited directly behind the Carbondale Community Recreation Center.

Improvements:

- Informal outdoor classroom
- Informal seating
- Shade trees
- Nature play areas
- Wayfinding signage

Key Collaborative Partners:

- RFTA
- CCAH
- Carbondale art educators
- Carbondale students

Project Lead: TBD

Target Completion Date: TBD

Estimated Cost: TBD

Pupils en plein air

East Entry Portal

The east entry portal will take advantage of an existing sculpture garden and connective infrastructure to announce the arrival of the ARTway in the form of Creative District wayfinding and interpretive information.

Improvements:

- Wayfinding signage
- Interpretive signage
- Informal seating area

Key Collaborative Partners:

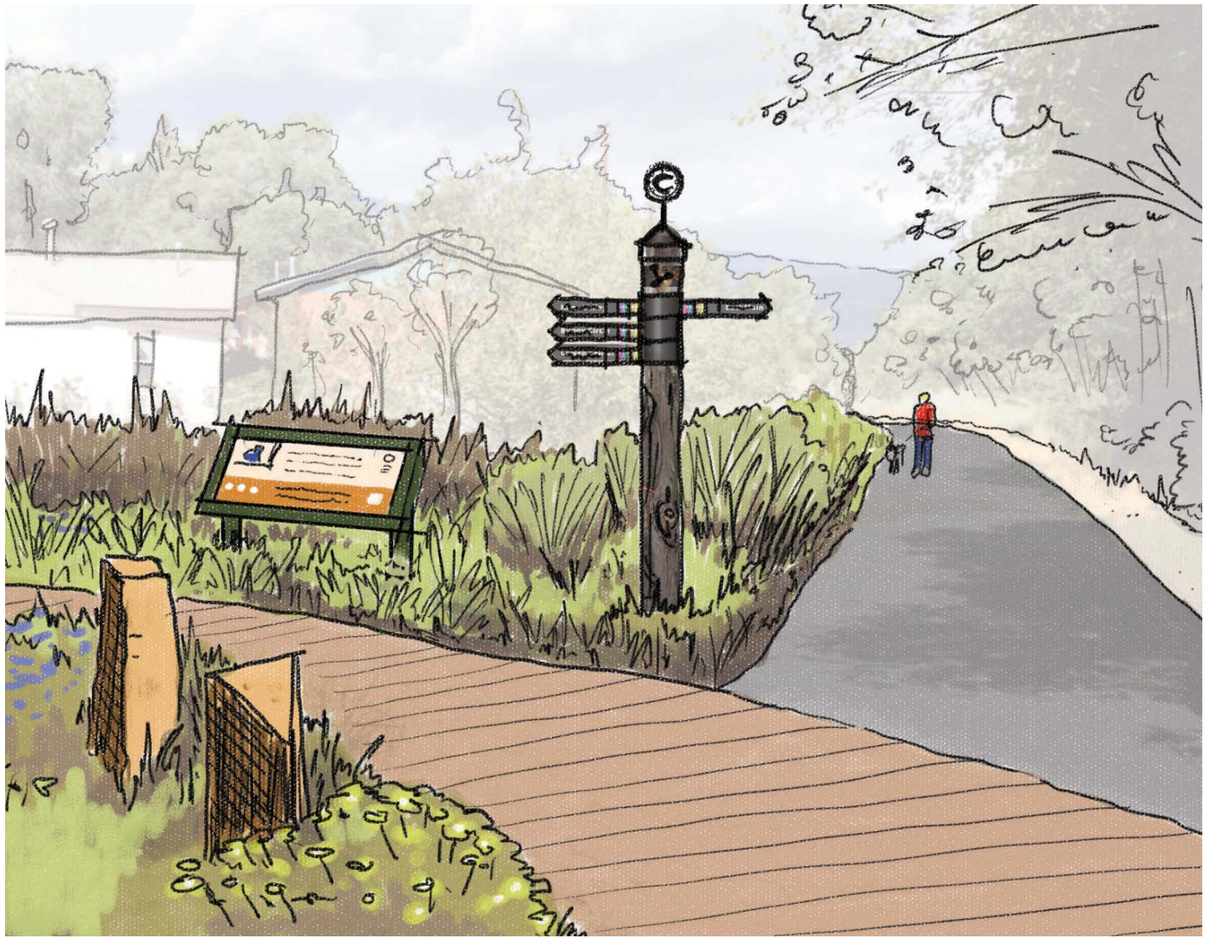
- RFTA
- CCAH

Project Lead: TBD

Target Completion Date: TBD

Estimated Cost: TBD

Creative information hub



Irrigation

Currently, irrigation infrastructure within the Rio Grande ARTway corridor is extremely limited and only exists in the vicinity of the Clay Center. Additional irrigation infrastructure will be necessary at selected locations in order to make possible the garden spaces, edible landscapes, and shade/screening vegetation indicated in this masterplan. The following is a list of potential irrigation solutions:

- Irrigate from the Town of Carbondale Ditch that traverses the ARTway in the vicinity of 8th Street.
- Tap into the Town of Carbondale potable water system for limited irrigation at the West Entry Portal, Latino Folk Art Garden and Youth Art Park.
- Partner with the ARTway's neighboring residents and businesses who may have an interest in irrigating art-garden installations proximal to their properties.

Planting

Planting along the ARTway will be limited to specific prioritized areas and is only possible if suitable irrigation can be arranged. Priority planting schemes have been identified as follows:

1. West Entry Portal: Screening Hwy 133 and industrial building while providing shaded seating areas
2. Latino Folk Art Garden: Sizable garden and two to three shade trees
3. Youth Art Park: Two to three shade trees
4. Various small edible landscapes and community garden installations along the corridor

Hardy native plant species will be selected for all screening and shading related improvements. Drought tolerant plants are suggested. Xeric garden spaces are encouraged.

Lighting

The ARTway may benefit from limited lighting at major nodes like the Latino Folk Art Garden and the Youth Art Park. Small scale solar powered lighting options are being considered.

Maintenance

There are existing maintenance issues along the Rio Grande ARTway. Some neighbors use the corridor to dispose of yard waste and store various personal items. RFTA is responsible for keeping the trail and corridor safe, clean, and weed free. The introduction of several nodes and art installations are likely to increase the maintenance burden of the corridor. The following are strategies for offsetting this burden:

- Major nodes and installations require an organizational level community partner who will take responsibility for providing maintenance specific to the node/installation. Example: The Valley Settlement Project will steward the Latino Folk Art Garden.
- CCAH to work with Carbondale Arts Educators to form a community service program where high school students maintain, supply, and update the Youth Art Park for use by younger children
- RFTA to work with the CMC Permaculture class to develop a program where students design and maintain permaculture gardens along the ARTway.
- RFTA will work with ARTway neighbors to build corridor stewardship relationships

Connectivity

The Rio Grande ARTway project seeks to improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity between all adjacent Carbondale neighborhoods. The lack of a public bike/ped. connection between the Wheel Circle/ Wheel Drive neighborhood and the ARTway limits that communities access to the amenity. A public connection in this area could:

- provide more convenient access to the ARTway for residents who do not own property directly along the corridor
- reduce the number of informal personal access paths in the Rio Grande Trail right-of-way
- activate areas of the ARTway adjacent to any new public bike/ped. connections.

The ARTway project team is interested in discussing potential solutions to this challenge.

Program Administration

The ARTway will leverage existing CCAH, CPAC, and Carbondale Creative District application processes and administration strategies for executing artistic programming and wayfinding installations along the ARTway.

Phasing and Funding

Each of the zones and nodes described in this masterplan represent a potential phase or sub-project of the broader Rio Grande ARTway vision. RFTA and CCAH will work with project partners to develop constructible designs for each sub-project. Once these plans have been developed, and cost and timing have been estimated, RFTA and CCAH will seek grant funding to implement the ARTway vision (either as a whole, or in phases). Funding for the final implementation will come from a variety of outdoor recreation and public arts based grants.

BRENT MOSS PHOTOGRAPHY