

53238660_LARGE PROJECT

Beech Bluff County Park activates abandoned farmland in a burgeoning Raleigh suburb. The park maintains working fields along the road, accommodates recreation in the middle ground, and establishes trailheads to a forested stream valley on the north half of 300-acres. The park center is at the forest's edge – a trailhead to a forest canopy walk above the stream. Another trailhead is near a playground shelter, the roof of which mimics the topography. An agricultural shelter supports educational harvesting programs. All six structures in the park demonstrate passive and active sustainability strategies, offsetting 75% of energy demand in the park.



- 01 park center
- 02 playground shelter
- 03 agricultural shelter
- 04 maintenance
- 05 small shelters



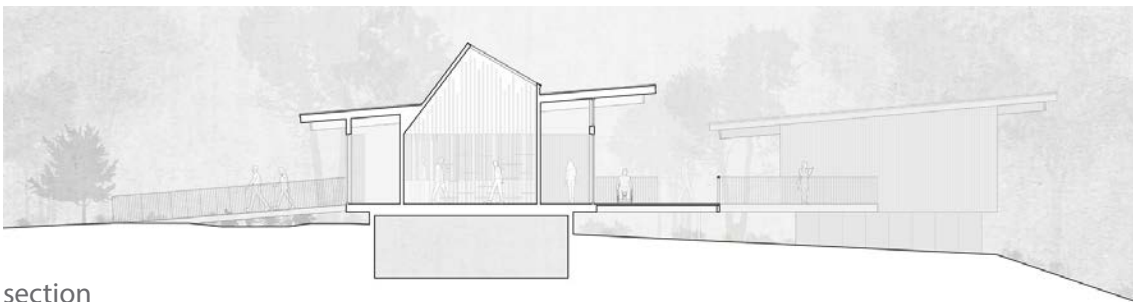
park center plan



The park center is two buildings joined by an elevated deck. Visitors enter on a breezeway bridge. The breezeway leads to a forest overlook, the larger deck, and the canopy walk. The main building houses a lobby, exhibits, and offices, and the secondary building houses classrooms. The park center is powered by photovoltaics, utilizes a geothermal heating and cooling system and demonstrates responsible storm water management. Broad roof overhangs and an ideal solar orientation compliment these active sustainability strategies.

- 01 breezeway bridge
- 02 forest overlook
- 03 canopy walk
- 04 lobby
- 05 exhibits
- 06 classrooms
- 07 office suite
- 08 meeting room
- 09 restrooms
- 10 storage/mechanical





section

The park center is lifted above grade and connected by an expansive elevated deck. The building form borrows from the best of agrarian building traditions - an intelligent solar orientation, broad and simple roofs, a breezeway, and functional articulations above the roof, which in this case are three north-facing light monitors.

park center

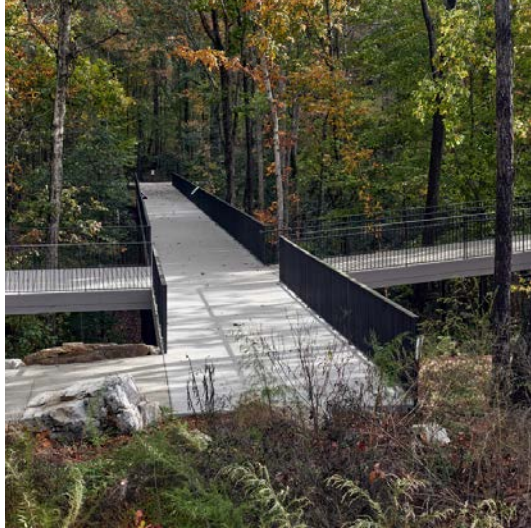


Park center spaces include a lobby, agriculturally themes exhibits, and a forest overlook a that provides a view of the canopy walk. The exhibit spaces are anchored by an experiential "husk" - a passage between juxtaposed exhibits about the natural landscape and farming traditions that reaches to the sky.





canopy walk



The park center deck is a trailhead to a canopy walk accessing the northern half of the 300-acre park. The canopy walk is over 200' long and passes 40' above the valley stream. The walk is a delicate extension of the park center experience into the forest.



canopy walk



park center rear

maintenance building



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agricultural education shelter



small shelter

Five other structures were designed for the park - a playground shelter, an agricultural education shelter, two small shelters, and a maintenance building. These structures all possess the DNA of the type of agrarian buildings that once dominated this landscape, with a direct expression of structure, thin and broad roofs of various shapes, and deference to the land.



playground shelter



The playground shelter has become a favorite destination of park visitors. The structure is tucked against the forest edge and has a roof that deforms in response to the topography. The playground landscape starts at the arrival side of the shelter and moves under the roof, spilling down to a play area that is surrounded by the forest.



playground shelter





playground shelter



The playground shelter roof is draped above the landscape to create a dynamic outdoor space for parents to gather while their children play. During the day, sunlight reflects off the concrete surface below the roof to create a gradient glow. In the evening, lights near the bathrooms create a warm glow that reaches across the underbelly curve of the roof. The torqued roof structure is designed to exist entirely within the plane of the roof, allowing columns to disappear cleanly into the wood soffit.

park center

