PROJECT STATEMENT

Cutting between the business district and new development around the train station, the park has the potential to be a great, spiritual center of interest for San Jose. But it needs connectivity — to its urban context, programs to attract residents and visitors, and energy.

We aim to activate this entire block of park by injecting a program of growth and engagement, multiplying connections through it, and centering these connections on a super-attractor: a two-span bridge.

At night the park landscape transforms into an immersive dreamscape of light. The park is enlivened, but it is also very much about life: about energy and our shared human energy that binds us together, especially in our public spaces.

We activate the entire site as a flexible, exciting recreational urban zone connected to the surrounding downtown fabric and thus strengthening it.

1. We overlay a 40 ’hexagonal grid over the site. Each module, or cell, is on the power grid we create.

2. We program some of the cells — food stalls, maker labs, bathrooms, art sites, garden features, farmers market, etc. The phasing of these cell programs is flexible and can adjust to resources and conditions. and run paths through the site. The unprogrammed cells remain as landscaped park.

3. New paths, in loops, define zones within the park. Each loop has a programmatic focus. The loops, along with their sub-paths, include a cruciform bridge and help join the two sides of the river as well as the north and south of the site. The bridge becomes a destination in itself, with a central ring for sitting and contemplation.

4. All elements are overlaid in turn with an immersive lighting program that makes for exciting wandering at night. The lights are programmed to show us something we don’t normally notice: patterns that echo the rhythms and logic of nature herself. Displayed in energy that has been harvested on-site.

5. The roofs of the pavilions are thin, flexible-film photovoltaic panels. As each pavilion appears to emerge from the gridded landscape, its roof orients to the south to consume electromagnetic rays, converting them to usable energy. Each pavilion’s roof provides the power for its own use plus a small surplus for night-time lighting, which is stored in an on-premises battery. Power for the bridge lighting is generated by the large farmers market canopy.