

You feel at home in Winterville.

It is a city of houses and yards blending seamlessly without fences or defined borders. Rather than a traditional town square of brick buildings lining the sidewalks, the center of Winterville is a collection of historic homes and small stores now housing city hall, the police station and the library around a central lawn. Flanked by the depot venue and a popular park, this area is where the community gathers. The central lawn should be embraced as the community's backyard, adding back porches, a firepit and lighting for atmosphere.



With the addition of back porch “stages”, the summer concert series at the bookstore could take full advantage of the large lawn behind it. Adding a central fire pit would serve as a social draw, and children would still have plenty of open space to play. String lights between the porches and the trees give a soft glow..



Public restrooms are needed in town, and should be in a central, visible location for visitors. City Hall would be a good host for a restroom addition and could be less expensive than constructing a separate building. A mural improves the plain side of the building and promotes Winterville's local art culture.



The historic blacksmith's shop should be preserved. Rehabilitating it for a new use, such as a coffee shop, would cater to Firefly Trail users and provide a stable, long-term use for the structure. Picnic areas and umbrella tables invite lingering and conversation for visitors and residents alike.

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First impressions matter.

The visual character of Winterville is diminished by the generic highway architecture of Five Points. Business improvements should reflect the residential character of the community.



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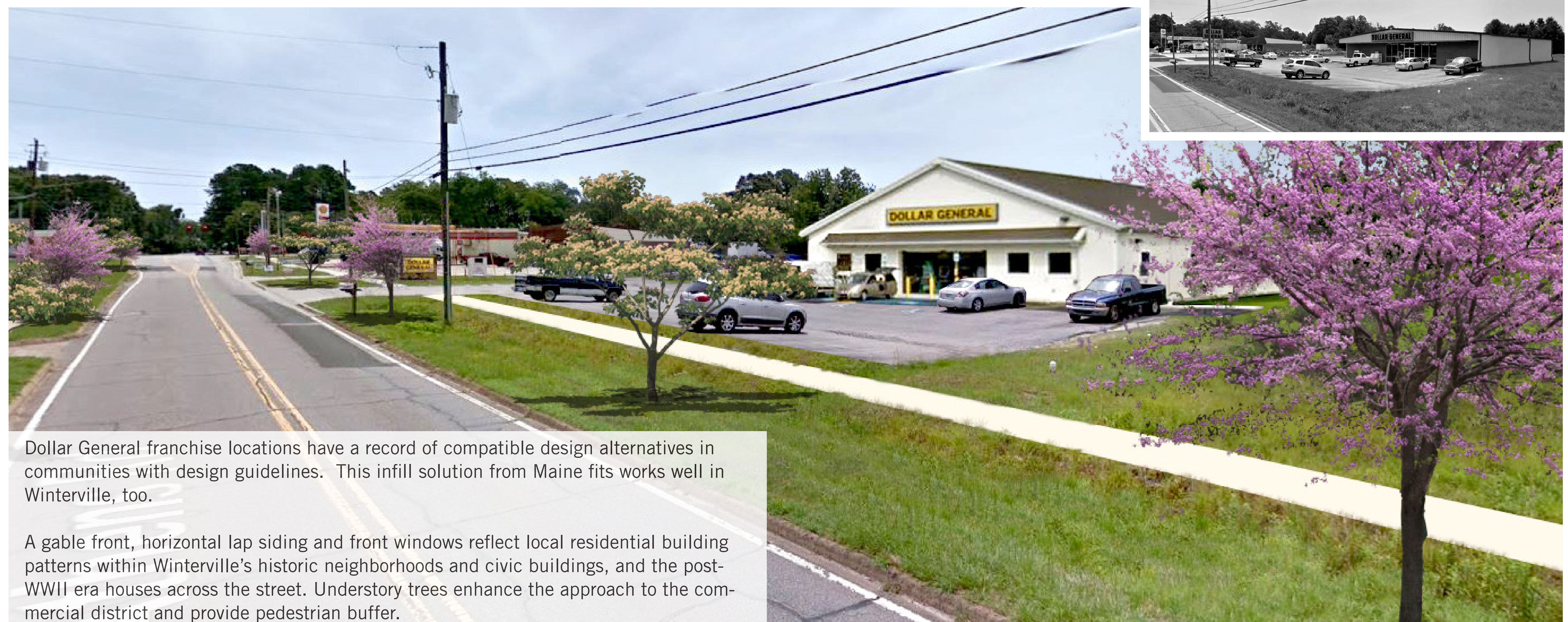
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This mid-century auto repair building is well-poised to cater to cyclists riding the Firefly Trail. It offers a prominent location for bike rentals, repairs, a shuttle, plus food & beverages – a smart business model that has seen success in other bike trail cities. Crosswalks and sidewalks are added for safety, while planting beds with marigolds highlight the city's signature flower and soften the parking lot.



Existing buildings detract from Winterville's character.



Dollar General franchise locations have a record of compatible design alternatives in communities with design guidelines. This infill solution from Maine fits works well in Winterville, too.

A gable front, horizontal lap siding and front windows reflect local residential building patterns within Winterville's historic neighborhoods and civic buildings, and the post-WWII era houses across the street. Understory trees enhance the approach to the commercial district and provide pedestrian buffer.

Art is the community's center.

Winterville High School and Auditorium were the center of civic life until the school closed in 1956. Sixty years later, the preservation award-winning complex returns as a center for community and culture.



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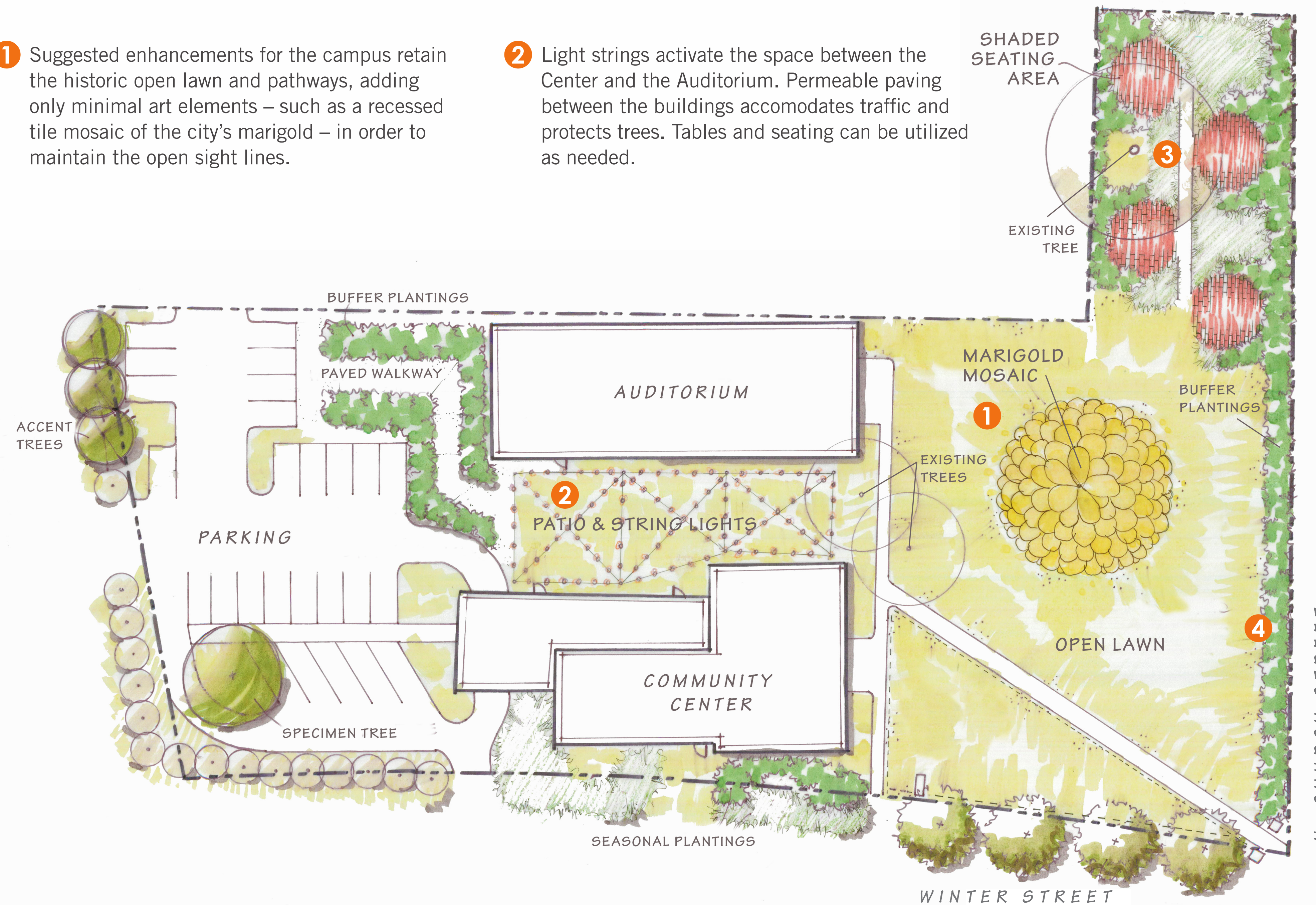


1 Suggested enhancements for the campus retain the historic open lawn and pathways, adding only minimal art elements – such as a recessed tile mosaic of the city's marigold – in order to maintain the open sight lines.

2 Light strings activate the space between the Center and the Auditorium. Permeable paving between the buildings accommodates traffic and protects trees. Tables and seating can be utilized as needed.

3 A large oak completely shades the front lawn of the old classroom building and cannery next to the Auditorium. While this building is currently used by another organization, the front lawn is still part of the arts complex's visual character and should be considered as a whole. Circular areas of grouped seating are paved with brick and enclosed by large shrubs, providing a conversation area set apart from the arts complex, but visually tied to the lawn.

4 Low plantings and trees enclose the front lawn and provide a buffer along the streets. Planting beds and understory trees can break up the bareness of the asphalt lot.



Make lasting connections.

The Firefly Trail will become a recreational draw for Winterville and the cities it connects. Expanding a network of walking paths entices Firefly travelers to explore. Regular walking routes provide an opportunity for residents to stay active and connected.



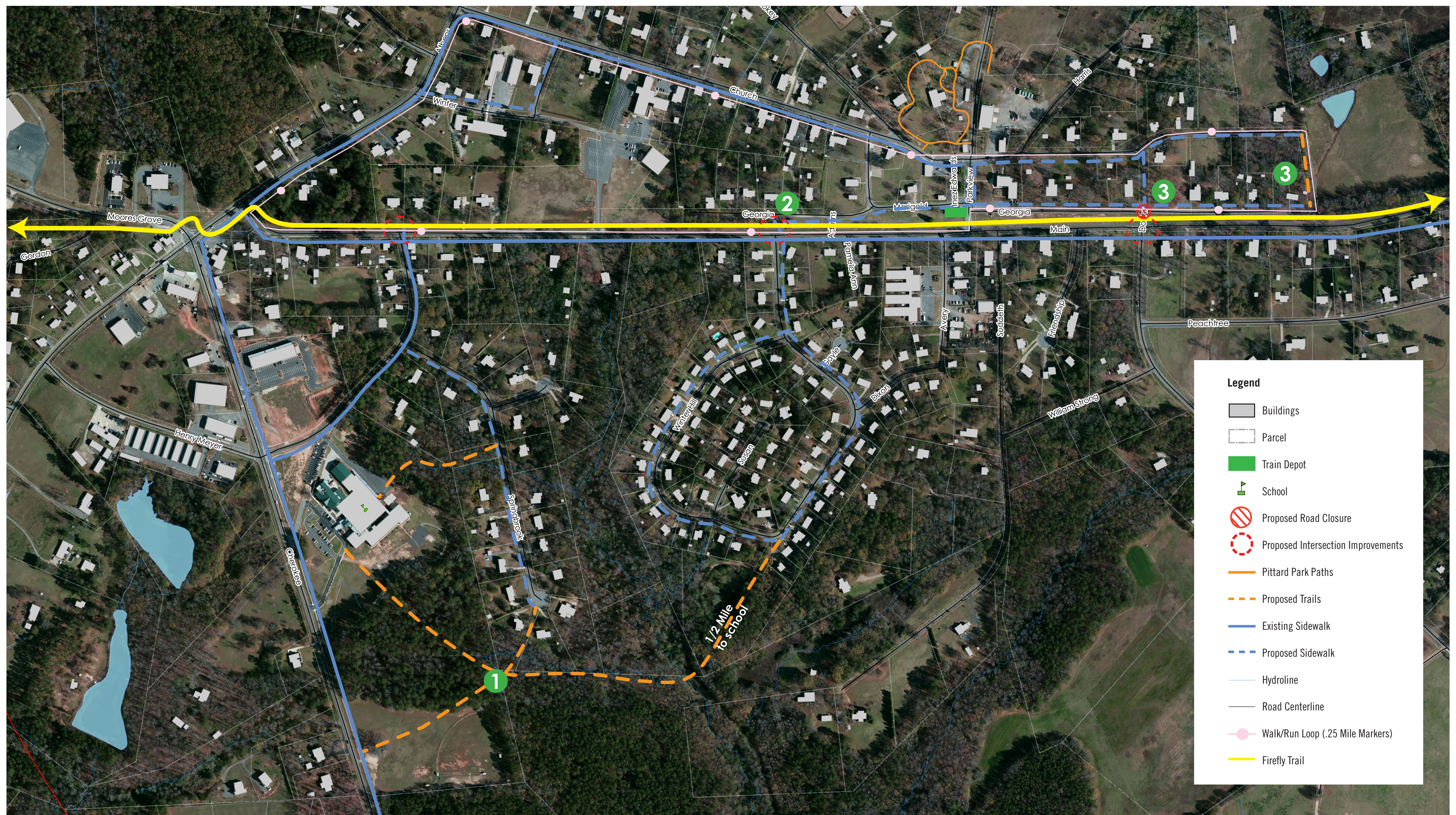
Connect adjacent neighborhoods to the elementary school and the ballfields through woodland paths. Wooded trails provide a safe route to school as well as outdoor educational opportunities for teachers and their students.



Slow traffic speeds and provide safe crossings on Main Street with street trees and lighted crosswalks at popular junctures.



Closing the short segment of Dozier St between Main St and Georgia Ave would eliminate the neighborhood cut-through from Robert Hardeman Rd. Connecting the terminus of Georgia Ave and Church St with a foot path would provide a 1-mile walking loop from there to the library and back.



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Bring color to blank spaces.

The elementary students' mural at the Farmers Market has proven what a delight public art can bring to buildings and areas that need brightening. Continue this trend for other spaces in town that appear neglected.



1 The former fire station serves as a storage warehouse for the Friends of the Winterville Library's bookstore next door. The long, blank side of the building faces the town center lawn and is very visible from City Hall and the Depot. Consider adding a community mural on the cinderblock facade to add color, interest, and a tribute to the active arts community in Winterville. Varying the facade, trim and door colors will add subtle accents to the building elements without distracting from the historic home-turned-bookstore beside it.

2 The Harris Lane side of the community garden is suffering from erosion and neglect outside the fence. Adding low planting beds and hardy, seasonal plants will beautify the edge of the garden space with the same care and attention that has been given to the garden itself.

3 Add color and interest to the Fire Station with a new coat of traditional firetruck red paint and fun signage.



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