Project Title

Water-City Symbiosis based on Traditional Wisdom: Blue-Green Spaces Planning of Meishan New City, Sichuan Province, China

Project Statement

Meishan is a city with a long history and rich cultural heritage. It is the hometown of Su Shi, one of China's greatest poets, essayists and politicians in Song Dynasty. This project is located in Meishan New City, between Dongpo District and Pengshan District, which faces challenges such as fragile ecosystem, localized waterlogging and flooding, and the gradual disappearance of traditional culture. The locals take great pride in their traditional culture and hope to preserve and pass it on through new developments. To address these issues, our team collaborated with local government, experts, residents, and social organizations. Based on the traditional Chinese wisdom of "Water Management", we aim to reorganize the water systems, while concurrently restoring ecosystems, creating cultural landscapes, and enhancing urban development quality.

Through the three strategies of Structuring Waterways, Shaping Parks, and Symbiotic Integration, this project will create a resilient blue-green network that harmoniously integrates with urban spaces and reflects the cultural heritage of Meishan. The goal is to minimize flood risks, build a stable and healthy ecosystem, realize the poetic ideal of harmonious living for the people, and promote sustainable symbiotic growth between city and nature.

Project Narrative and Contents

Project Background

Meishan City, located in Sichuan Province, China, is the hometown of Su Shi, one of China's greatest poets, essayists and politicians in Song Dynasty. The poetry and related culture of Su Shi have world-class influence. The planned Meishan New City is located between Dongpo District and Pengshan District. It plays an important role in connecting the two districts, preserving and promoting their traditional cultural context, and meeting people's needs for a happy life. It covers a total area of approximately 14.36 square kilometers and is rich in historical and cultural resources, including Taihe Old Town, Sansu Liquor Factory, Zhao Family Courtyard, and HeXin Village Old Wharf etc. The site, formed by the Min River's alluvial deposits, includes important waterways such as Mao River, numerous scattered ponds and forested villages.

How to manage the waterways, integrate the existing fragmented ecological patches, and create an area that fosters harmonious coexiste nce between humans and nature while reflecting Meishan's unique cultural essence is a significant challenge for this region.

Site Analysis

The site is located along the Min River, the mother river of Sichuan. It features historic towns and numerous forested villages, bordered by the Longquan Mountains and Pengzu Mountains to the east and farmlands to the west, providing favorable conditions to form a distinctive landscape. The site is rich in water resources, with numerous wetlands and ponds, and the Mao River flowing through it, offering good ecological conditions.

The site gently slopes from north to south, with lower, flood-prone areas. The scattered ponds, coupled with drainage issues, highlight the need for water system management and environmental protection. Additionally, some surrounding areas lack consideration for topography, ecology, landscape, and culture in their development, leading to the challenge of ecological and traditional cultural disappearance.

Strategy

1. Structuring Waterways: Guiding by Topography, Connecting Water Systems, Creating a Resilient and Scenic Blue Network

Water systems are the core planning elements. By inheriting Su Shi's water management wisdom, this project promotes a natural, harmonious coexisting concept, fostering a balanced relationship between people, water, and the city.

(1) Water Safety: Utilizing existing water conditions, this project connects the water systems to create cascading water surfaces from north to south. Based on Min River's flood control and drainage measures, utilizing the existing topography, and integrating wetlands and rivers, we create a safe and comprehensive water system network, ensuring sustainable use of water resources and flood control.

(2) Water Ecology: By interweaving a variety of water bodies such as wetlands, lakes, rivers, and ponds, we enhance the natural regulation and storage of rainwater. Wetland filtration and regulation measures, combined with diverse water ecosystems, create a good water ecological environment.

(3) Water Landscape: Utilizing the existing topography and landscape resources with minimal disturbance, and guided by Su Shi's water management wisdom, we sculpt scenic water bodies, create picturesque and poetic water landscapes that reflect the local characteristics.

2. Shaping Parks: Interweaving Blue and Green spaces, Integrating Culture and Scenery, Creating a Meishan-style Landscape

By inheriting Su Shi's water management wisdom, this project creates an intertwined network of waterways and parks along the reconstructed waterways. Drawing inspiration from Song Dynasty landscape paintings and Su Shi's literary works, we aim to create a unique Meishan-style landscape. This approach creates scenic landscapes while solving water issues.

(1) Blue-Green Network: Focusing on water systems, we construct a coherent, multifunctional, eco-friendly blue-green network. This network, linked by greenways and corridors, enhances natural ecological functions and meets diverse citizen needs for recreation, leisure, and cultural experiences. Additionally, the construction of rain gardens, artificial wetlands, vegetated buffers, rainwater ponds, and ecological embankments can effectively regulate rainwater runoff. We aim to create a harmonious, multifunctional blue-green network.

(2) Cultural Integration: Combining landscapes with culture, guided by Song Dynasty landscape paintings and Su Shi's literary works, this project aims to craft a unique landscape based on the blue-green network, aspiring to transform over time into a region of high cultural value.

(3) Scenic Design: Drawing from the garden design techniques of Song Dynasty, we organize water systems, embankments, islands, and bridges, translating ancient aesthetics into dynamic landscapes.

3. Symbiotic Integration: Seamless Integration, Comprehensive Connection, Creating an All-Age Friendly, Poetic Dwelling Environment

This project promotes seamless integration of blue-green networks with urban spaces, facilitates interaction between people and nature through various means to build a city in nature and achieve symbiotic development.

(1) Seamless Integration: By deeply embedding the blue-green network into urban living, innovation, and recreational spaces, the project forms three attractive areas: the Southern Vitality Ring, the Central Lakeside Island, and the Northern Community Bay. Combined with the comprehensive parks, specialized parks—Urban Parks, Sports Parks, Poetry Parks, Rural Parks, and multiple community parks, we create 24 hours, multi-scenario blue-green-city units, fostering spaces where people can closely engage with, enjoy, and appreciate water.

(2) All-Age friendly Design: With an all-age friendly approach, we construct the International Climbing Center, extreme sports venues, aquatic activity areas, and camping sites within the riverside blue-green spaces, creating a youthful, fashionable sports belt. Combined with sports communities, we offer diverse sports experience scenarios. In other zones, we create children and elderly-friendly parks, forming vibrant spaces for community interaction and social participation.

(3) Poetic Residence： The design includes themed greenways and parks based on Su Shi's poetry. Features such as poetry lanterns, cultural pavements, and sculptures illustrate the evolution of Su Shi's thoughts across different periods. Additionally, a variety of Song Dynasty cultural experiences will be regularly organized, allowing people to immerse themselves in the essence of Song Dynasty and Su Shi’s culture in their daily lives.

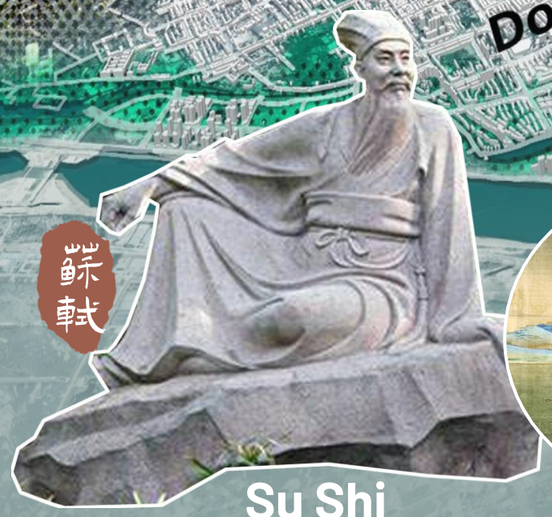
Summary

The planning enhances regional ecological benefits. The blue and green spaces will increase by 72% compared to the current state. The Tai He Comprehensive Park, built on the concept of a park community, is already constructed and open to the public. In the future, 2 comprehensive parks, 8 specialized parks, 13 community parks, and 24 blue-green-city integration units, 53.7 kilometers of various greenways, 5 child-, 7 youth-, and 6 elderly-friendly scenes will be formed, making it a beautiful home suitable for residence and work.

Currently, over 3 social organizations, more than 50 stakeholders, and over 560 respondents have participated in the planning and design. The China Meishan International Climbing Center in the fashionable sports park belt has been completed and hosted the Asian Youth Rock Climbing Championship in May, attracting hundreds of athletes and spectators from around the world. The water-city symbiosis based on traditional wisdom will continue to extend, achieving the sustainable development of the city and nature.

Project Background

Meishan is a city with a long history in Sichuan. This project is located in Meishan New City, which plays an important role in connecting the two districts, preserving and promoting their traditional cultural context, and meeting people's needs for a happy life. Based on the traditional Chinese wisdom of "Water Management", we aim to reorganize the water systems, while concurrently restoring ecosystems, creating cultural landscapes, and enhancing urban development quality.



Su Shi

Traditional wisdom in "Water Management"

Meishan is the hometown of Su Shi (also known as Su Dongpo), one of China's greatest poets, essayists and politicians in Song Dynasty. His wisdom of "water management" had a profound influence on Chinese landscape gardening.

Site Analysis

The site has abundant and diverse water resources, but also faces the challenges such as fragile ecosystem, waterlogging and flooding, environment pollution and the gradual disappearance of traditional culture.

N

Wetland

Pit pond

Mao River

Longquan Mountains

Min River

Sand stacking area

Taihe Town

Forested villages

Sand stacking area

Pit pond

Disorderly construction in peripheral regions

Advantages

Abundant and Diverse Water Resources

Mao River

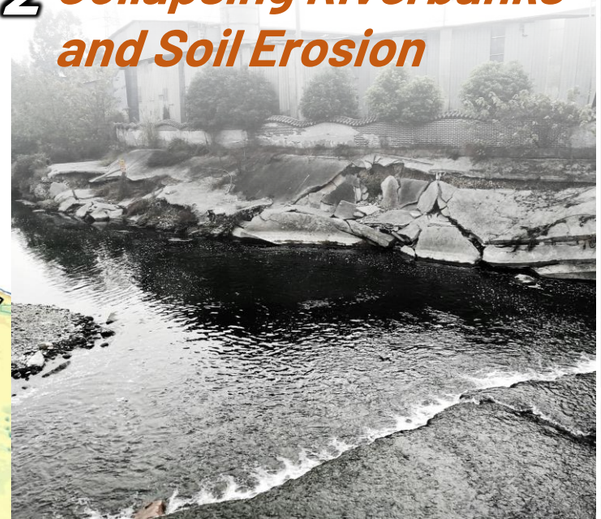
Water Resources

Forested Villages

Challenges

1 Waterlogging and Flooding

2 Collapsing Riverbanks and Soil Erosion

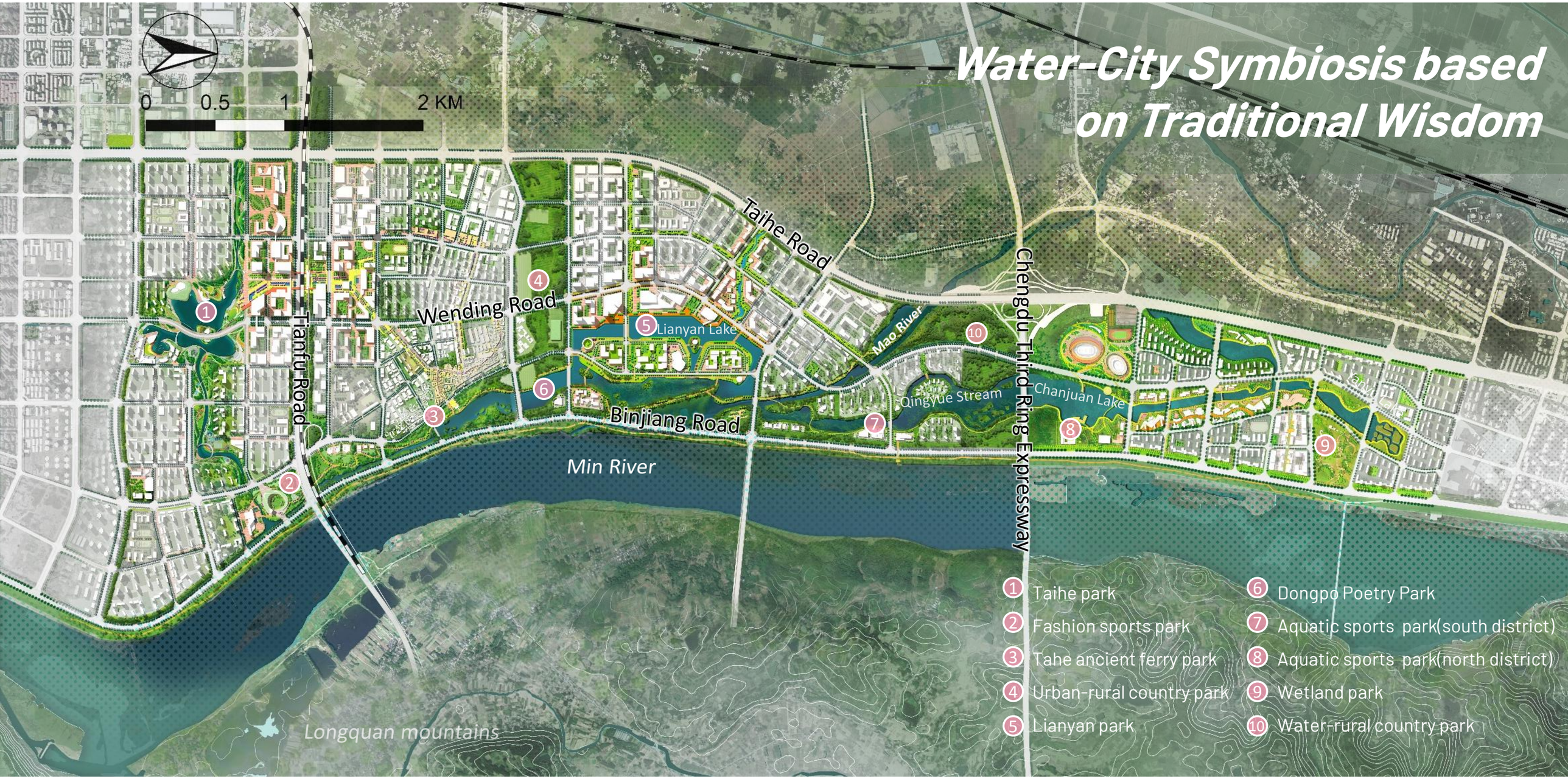


3 Environmental Pollution

4 Fragile Ecosystem

(Scattered Ponds and Disjointed Green Areas)

General strategy : Structuring Waterways, Shaping Parks, and Symbiotic Integration



1 Structuring Waterways

Guiding by Topography, Connecting Water Systems, Creating a Resilient and Scenic Blue Network.

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2 Shaping Parks

Interweaving Blue and Green Spaces, Integrating Culture and Scenery, Creating a Meishan-style Landscape.

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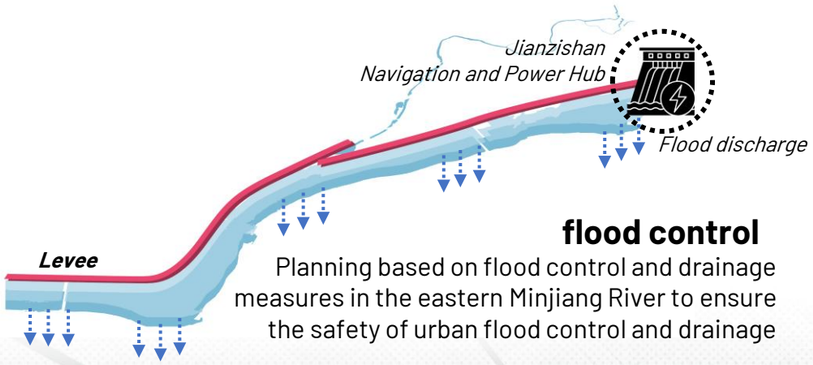
3 Symbiotic Integration

Seamless Integration, Comprehensive Connection, Creating an All-Age Friendly, Poetic Dwelling Environment.

Structuring Waterways: Connecting Water Systems guided by Topography

Water Safety

Utilizing existing water conditions, this project connects the water systems to create cascading water surfaces from north to south. Based on Min River's flood control and drainage measures, utilizing the existing topography, and integrating wetlands and rivers, we create a safe and comprehensive water system network, ensuring sustainable use of water resources and flood control.

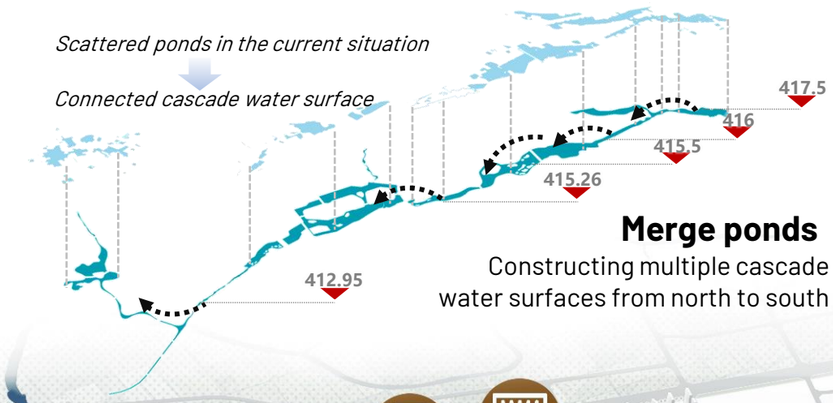


flood control

Planning based on flood control and drainage measures in the eastern Minjiang River to ensure the safety of urban flood control and drainage

Connect the water systems

Adapt to the situation and achieve connectivity between water systems

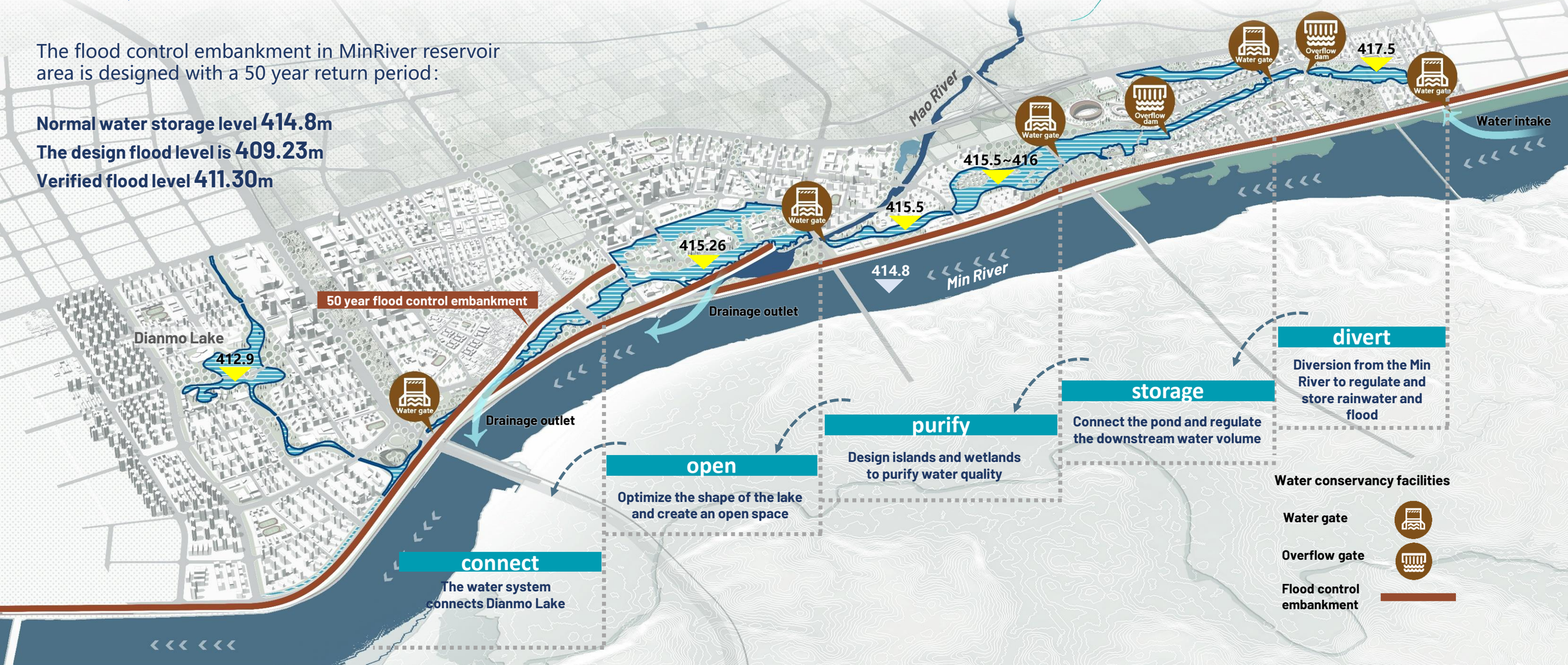


Merge ponds

Constructing multiple cascade water surfaces from north to south

The flood control embankment in MinRiver reservoir area is designed with a 50 year return period:

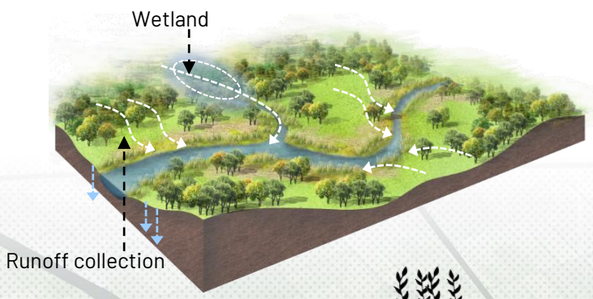
Normal water storage level 414.8m
The design flood level is 409.23m
Verified flood level 411.30m



Structuring Waterways: Creating a Resilient and Scenic Blue Network

Water Ecology

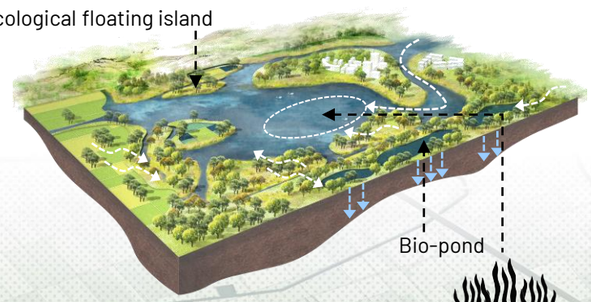
Based on the current terrain, optimize the morphology of water systems, enrich the diversity of water bodies, and create a good water ecological environment through measures such as wetland filtration and self purification, and active water regulation, to build a safe and resilient water ecological background.



River

Purifying wetlands

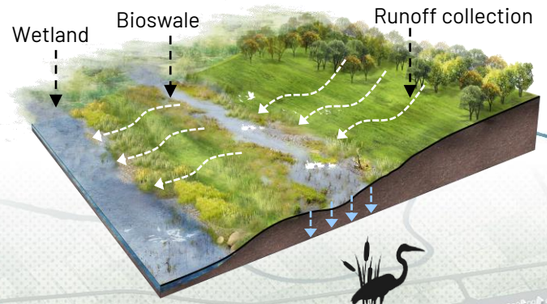
The Mao River and Min River are connected, with independent water systems to ensure smooth drainage



lake

Underwater forest

Building underwater forests, ecological floating beds etc. to enhance the overall self-purification capacity of water bodies



Wetland

Wetland ecosystem

Connect existing ponds to form a continuous wetland

Regulating wetland

Purifying wetlands

Regulating wetland

Purifying wetlands

Purifying wetlands

Bioswale

Shoal

Ecological floating island

Wetland

Country Park Habitat

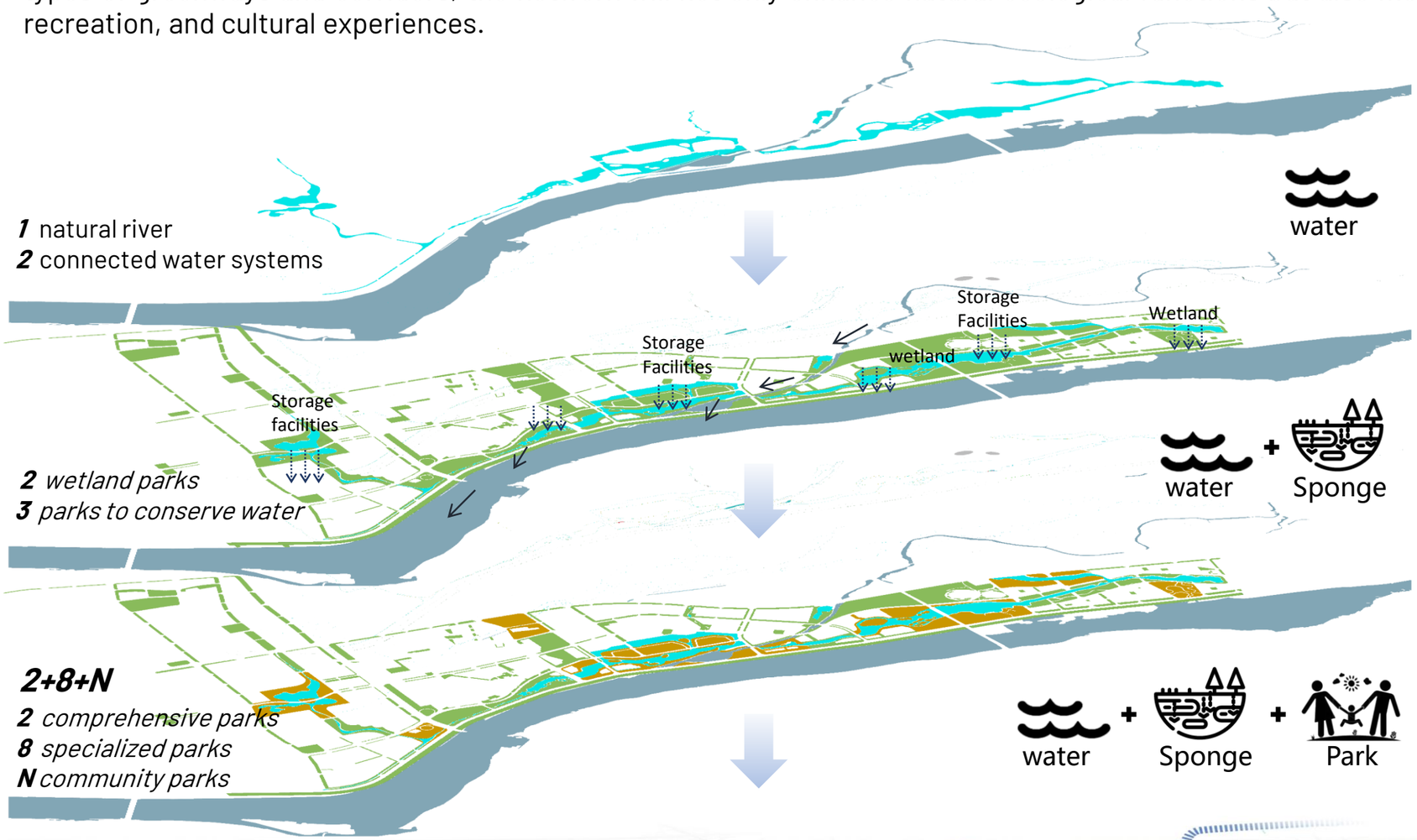
wetland habitat

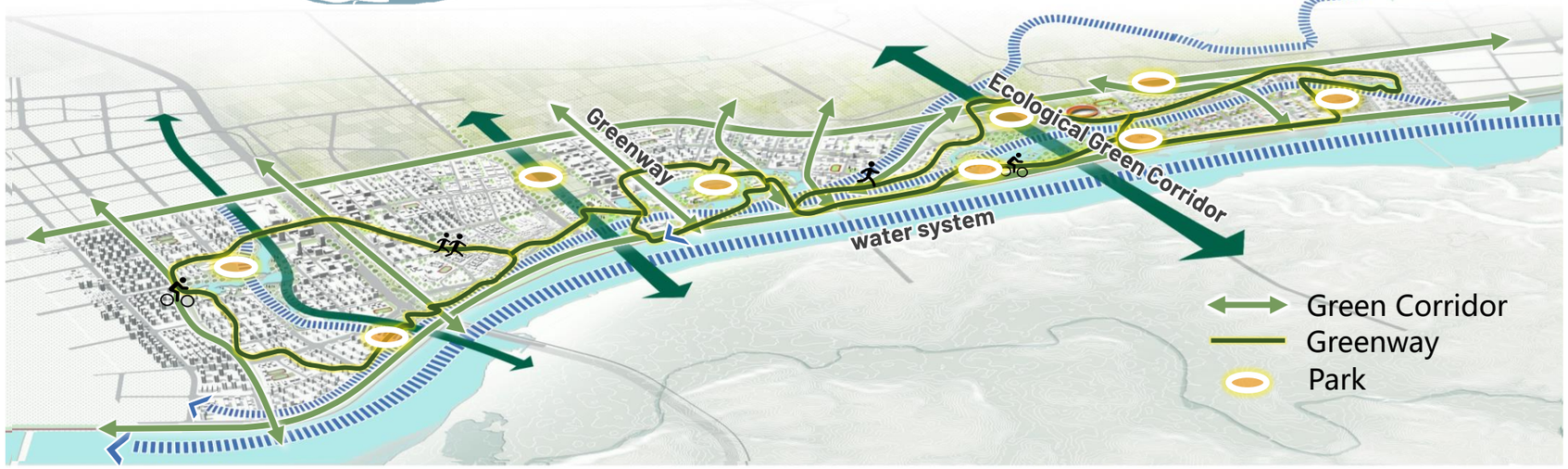
Lake habitat

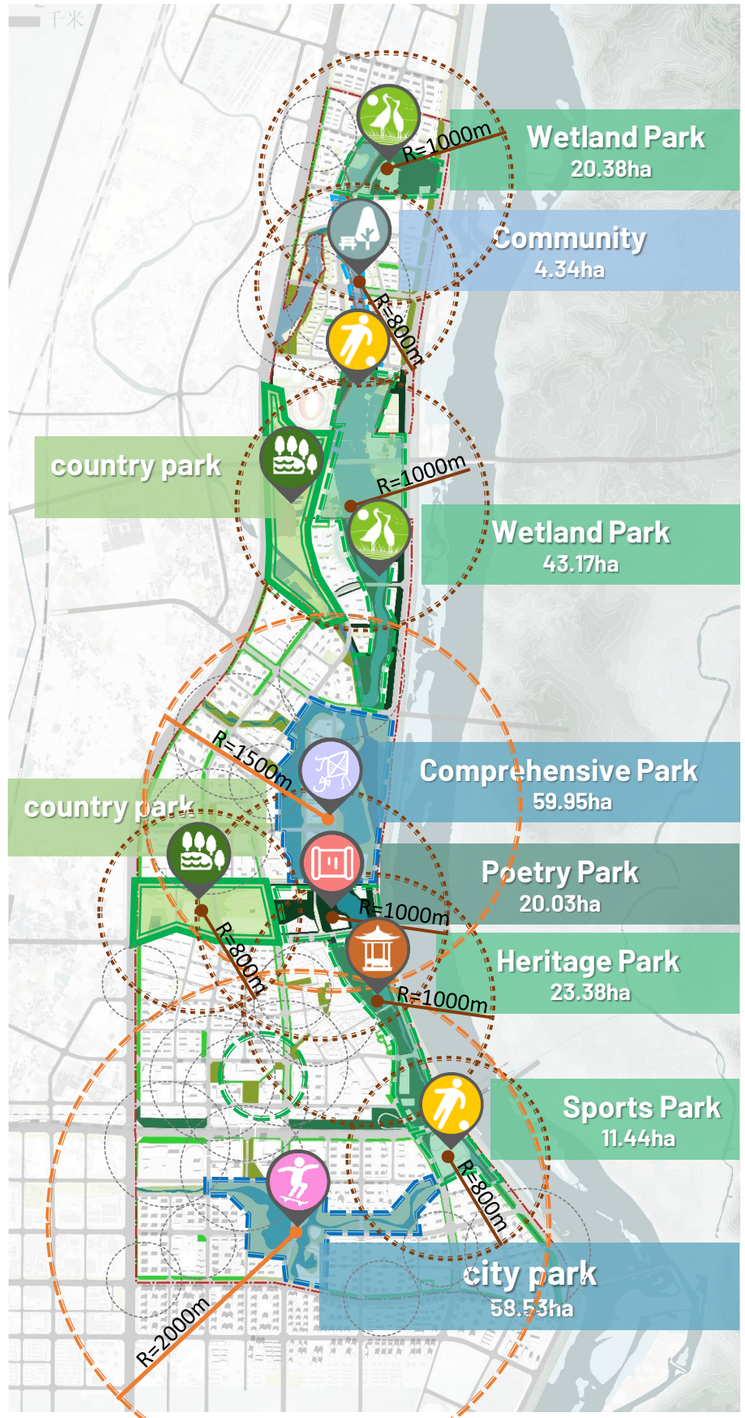
Shaping Parks: Interweaving Blue and Green Spaces

Blue-Green Network

With the water system as the core framework, we aim to create a cohesive, diverse, and eco-friendly blue-green network. By organically connecting different types of greenways and corridors, the network will not only enhance natural ecological functions but also meet the multifaceted needs of citizens for leisure, recreation, and cultural experiences.







Shaping Parks: Integrating Culture and Scenery, Creating a Meishan-style Landscape

Cultural Integration

Combining landscapes with culture, guided by Song Dynasty landscape paintings and Su Shi's literary works, this project aims to craft a unique landscape based on the blue-green network, aspiring to transform over time into a region of high cultural value.

堤 *Riverbank*

橋 *Bridge*

島 *Island*

亭 *Pavilion*

河 *River*

山 *Mountain range*

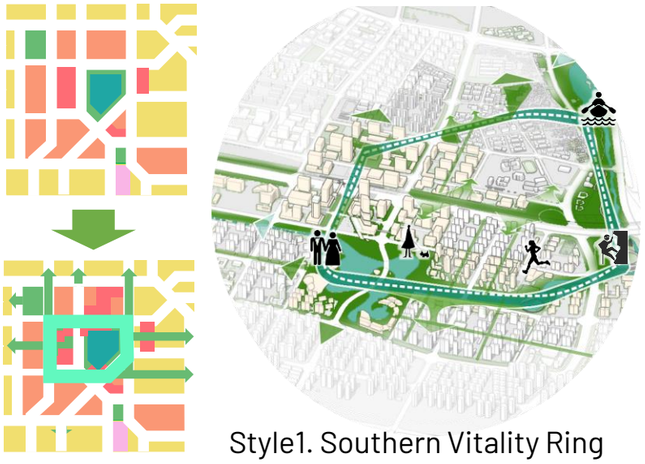
Bridge

Symbiotic Integration :Promoting Seamless Integration and Interaction between Humans and Nature

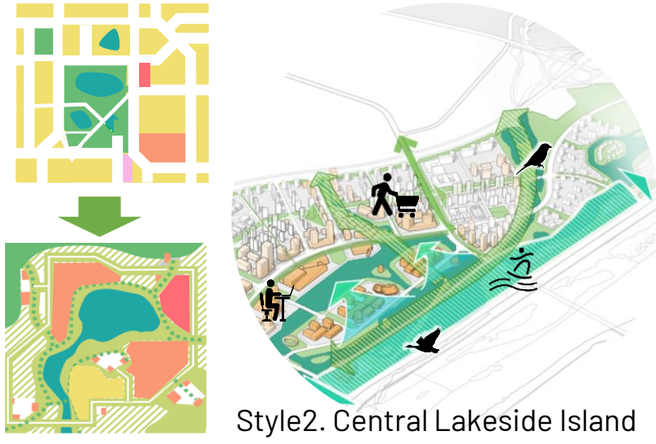
By deeply embedding the blue-green network into urban spaces, the project forms three styles of attractive areas:

By creating 24 hours, multi-scenario blue-green-city units, the project fosters spaces where people can closely engage with, enjoy, and appreciate water.

From Separation To Integration



Style1. Southern Vitality Ring



Style2. Central Lakeside Island

Style3. Northern Community Bay

6:00-10:00
Morning Run
Yoga
Tai-Chi
Go to school

10:00-12:00
Social interaction
Strolling
Working

13:00-16:00
Rock climbing
Boating
Tea
Art Exhibition

16:00-21:00
Fitness
Cycling
Shopping
Dancing

21:00-6:00
Hot Pot
Club
KTV
Hot Spring
Recuperation

Symbiotic Integration : All-age Friendly Environment for Fashionable Sports, Community Interaction and Social Participation

With an all-age friendly approach, we construct the International Climbing Center, extreme sports venues, aquatic activity areas, and camping sites within the riverside blue-green spaces, creating a fashionable sports belt. In other zones, we create children and elderly-friendly parks, forming vibrant spaces for community interaction and social participation. Some facilities have been built and become popular destinations for residents.

Along the Riverside

Photos of Ready-Built Facilities

International Climbing Center

Sports Venues

Waterfront Platform

Taihe Park

Comprehensive Benefits

Construct 23 Parks

- 2 Comprehensive Parks
- 8 Specialized Parks
- 13 Community Parks

Create 18 Friendly Scenes

- 5 Child Friendly Scenes
- 7 Youth Friendly Scenes
- 6 Aged Friendly Scenes

Form 24 Blue-Green-City Integration Units

- 7 City-Blue integration
- 13 City-Green integration
- 4 City-Rural integration

Increase Blue-Green Space by 72%

Rain garden, Sunken green space, Rain pond, Constructed wetland, Vegetation buffer zone, Ecological embankment,

Construct 53.7km Greenway

- 18.2km Urban Greenway
- 26.1km Landscape Greenway
- 9.4km Community Greenway

More than 50 Stakeholders

3 Social Organizations

Over 560 Respondents