



Sustainability through Understanding and Reducing the Water Footprint at Georgia Institute of Technology



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Presentation Content

Why Water Reuse?

System Design

Emory University WaterHub™ Update



Proposed WaterHub Design at GT

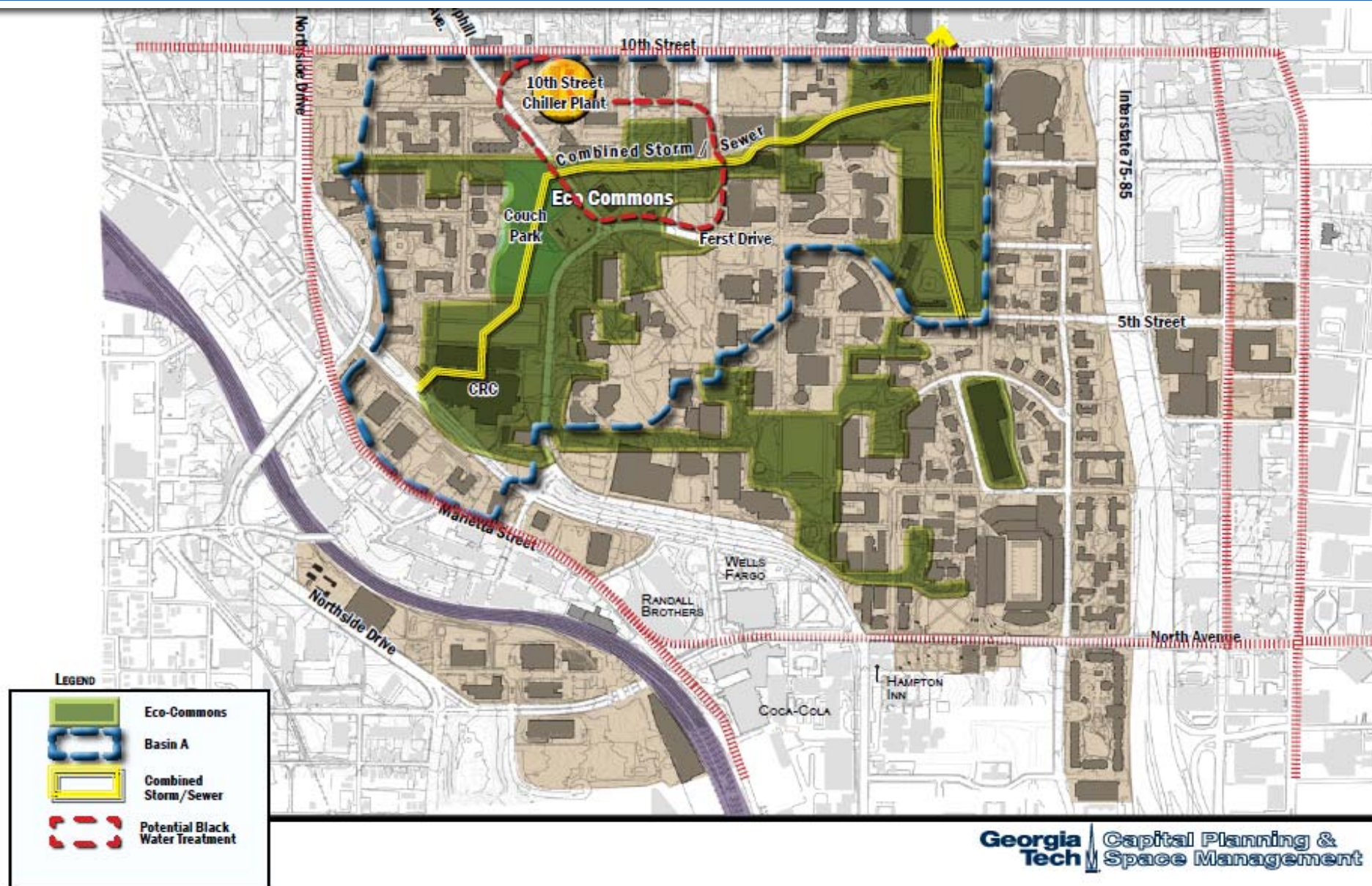


System Overview:

- 400,000 GPD ReCip / Hydroponic System
- Built into new “Eco-Commons” development, and as a component of master water and stormwater management strategy for campus
- **Phase 1:** 150,000 GPD ReCip System
 - Feeds 10th Street Chiller Plant
 - 1,200 linear ft. of water distribution piping
 - Recycles 46.5 million gallons annually
 - 30% of total utility demands
- **Phase 2:** 250–400,000 GPD Hydroponic expansion
 - Tenant build-out of new parking deck around eco-commons
 - Additional distribution added to Holland Utility Plant
 - 4,200 linear ft. of water distribution piping
 - Recycles 112 million gallons annually
 - 75% of total campus utility demands

Water-Centric Eco-Commons Includes WaterHub Technology

Eco-Commons Master Plan



A close-up photograph of a vibrant green leaf, likely from a plant like a basil or mint, showing its characteristic vein structure. The leaf is curved downwards, and a single, clear, spherical water droplet is suspended at its very tip, about to fall. The background is a plain, bright white, which makes the green of the leaf and the transparency of the water droplet stand out.

Why Water Reuse?

Local Water-Related Stresses

Aging Infrastructure

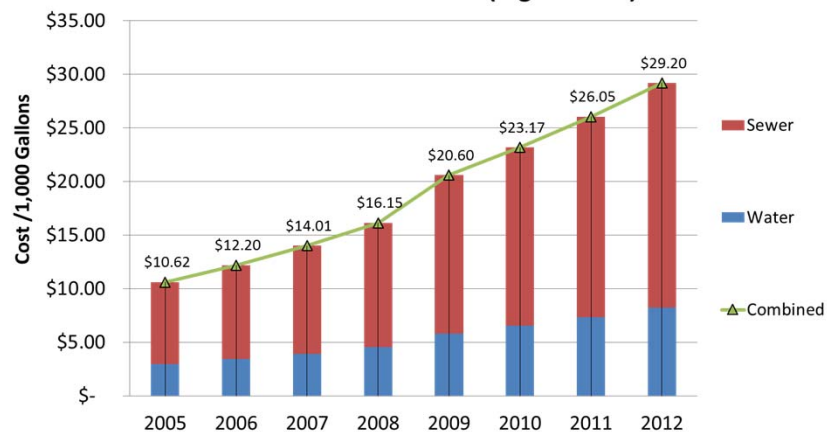


Water Scarcity



Rate Pressure 16% CAGR

Atlanta's Combined Water Rates (highest tier) 2005-2012



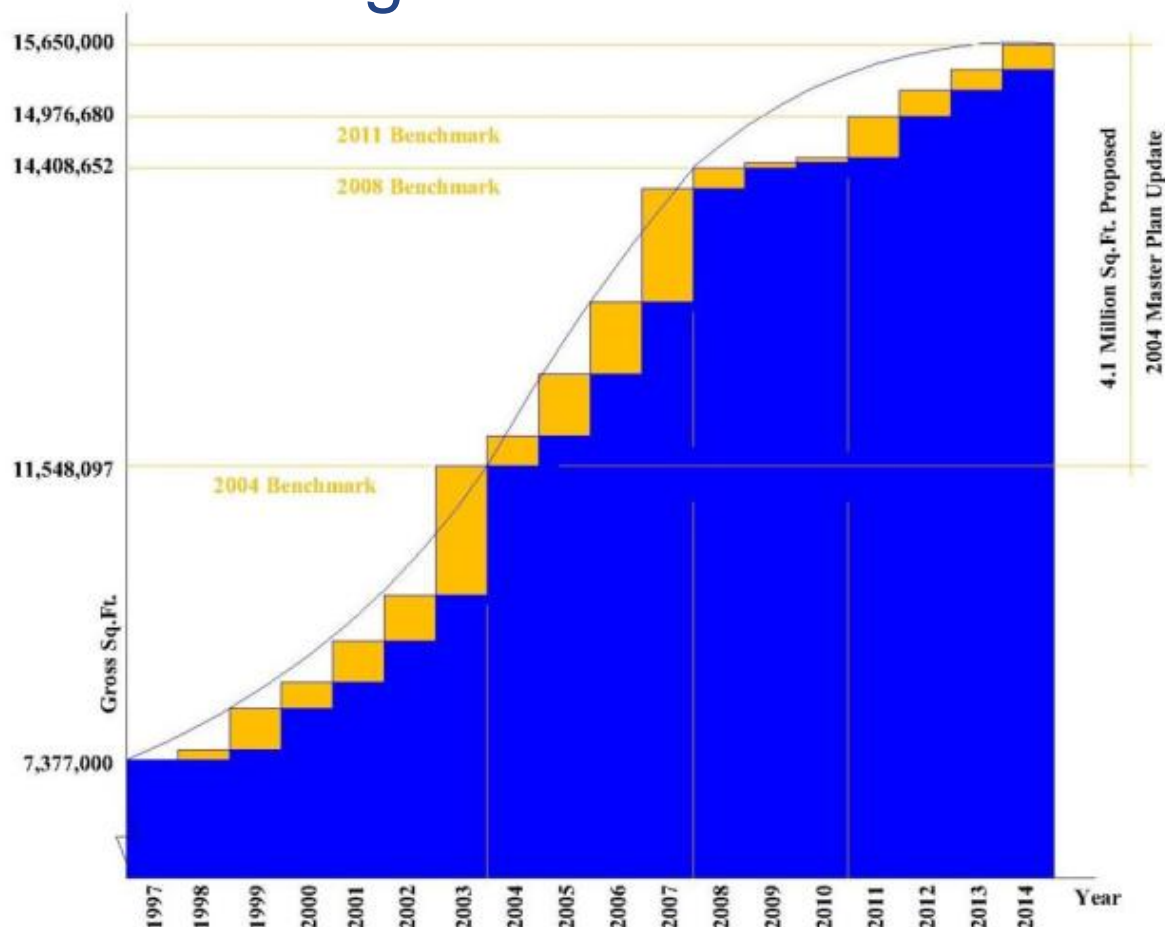
Environmental Constraints



Rate Increases Are Necessary for Infrastructure Improvements

Campus Growth

Georgia Tech – 1920



1997 - 2011

- *540,000 gsf* average growth per year
- Faculty/Staff: 161 increase per year
- UG Students: 248 increase per year
- Grad Students: 297 increase *per year*
- Total Population Growth: 706 per year

Doubling Gross Square Footage Increases Water Demands

Aging Infrastructure: A Local Concern

Huge water main break in Chamblee



Collier Drive impassable due to water main break



Massive sinkhole shuts down busy northwest Atlanta road



Water main break causes icy mess on Northside Drive



Atlanta's Water Needs Rely on a System Designed in 1875

Georgia Tech's Water Initiatives

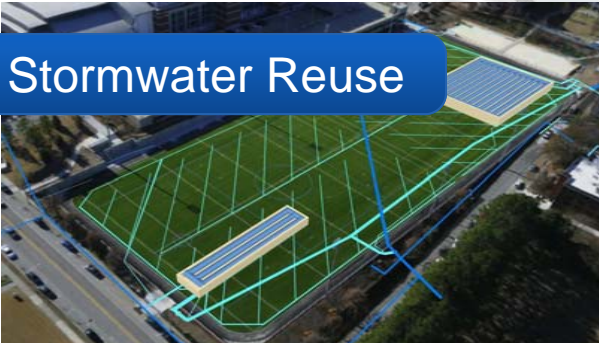
Rain Gardens / Infiltration



Master Cistern Plan



Stormwater Reuse



Strategic Imperatives Drives Project Execution for Small Yields: **Searching for Impactful Solutions**

The Evolution of Water Conservation

Simple Solutions

Stickers



Low Flow Fixtures



Building-Based Solutions

Rain Barrels



Stormwater Reuse



Campus-Wide Solutions

Reclamation and Reuse



Level of Sophistication and Impact

The Most Impactful Solution That Exists

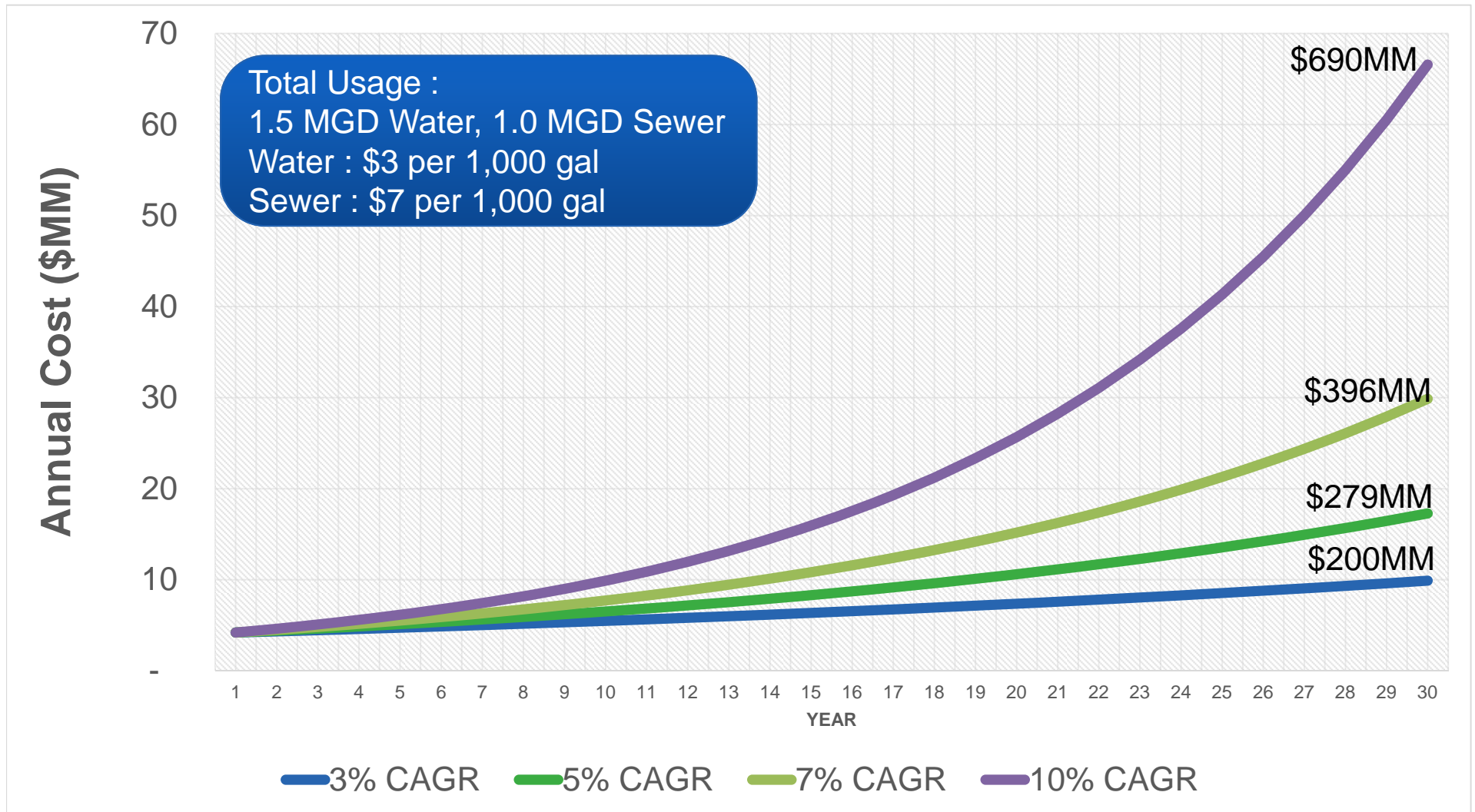


Municipal Water and Wastewater Infrastructure



Lack of Existing Capacity— Supports Decentralized Solution

30 Year Costs of Water at Various Muni CAGR's



Hundreds of Millions of Dollars Demands Executive Attention



A more sustainable water cycle: Decentralized Reclamation and Reuse

Before



After



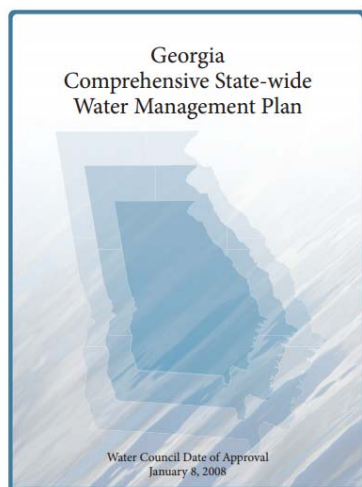
~Risk Management ~Cost Savings ~Environmental Responsibility



Local Support for Water Reuse

“The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) encourages the use of reclaimed water as a substitute for potable water for the purposes identified.”

- Georgia Department of Natural Resources, *Guidelines for Water Reclamation and Urban Water Reuse*



“Water reuse, or the use of reclaimed water is a viable water management practice that may help sustain Georgia’s water resources.”

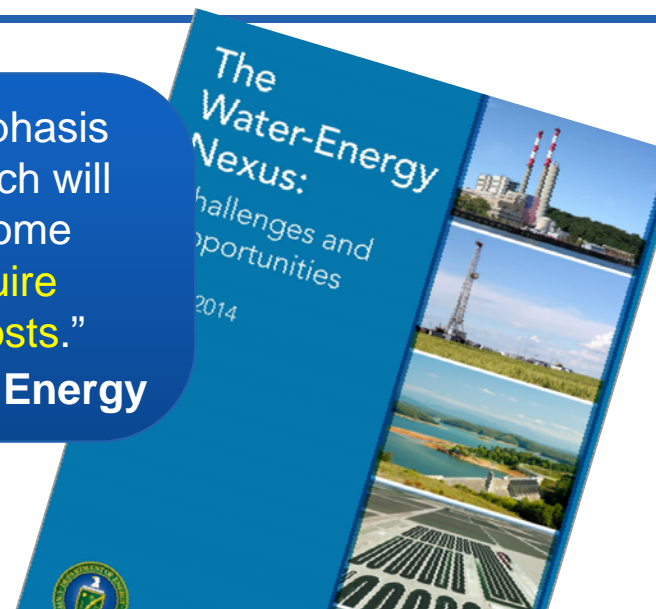
- Georgia Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Plan

Water Reuse can help Mitigate Atlanta’s Major Water Crisis

Federal Support for Water Reuse

“U.S. water and wastewater utilities are putting more of an emphasis on water reuse and improving energy and water efficiency, which will benefit both water and energy conservation. In recent years, some states have started to promote decentralized systems that require much less energy for delivery and much lower infrastructure costs.”

- US Department of Energy



“Water reuse is the reclamation of water from wastewater plants for beneficial non-potable and potable uses. As freshwater supplies are approaching or have reached full allocation, water reuse is becoming a critical part of community water supplies.”

- US Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation



Decentralized Water Treatment and Reuse is becoming Nationally Accepted

Campus Risk Mitigation

N+1 Redundancy:

- Redundant Water Supply
- Additional On-Site Storage
- Reduced Environmental Impact
- Flexibility & Resilience
 - Drought
 - Municipal infrastructure failures
- Minimum recovery time
- Insulation from rising water costs
- Optimized process water quality and treatment programs

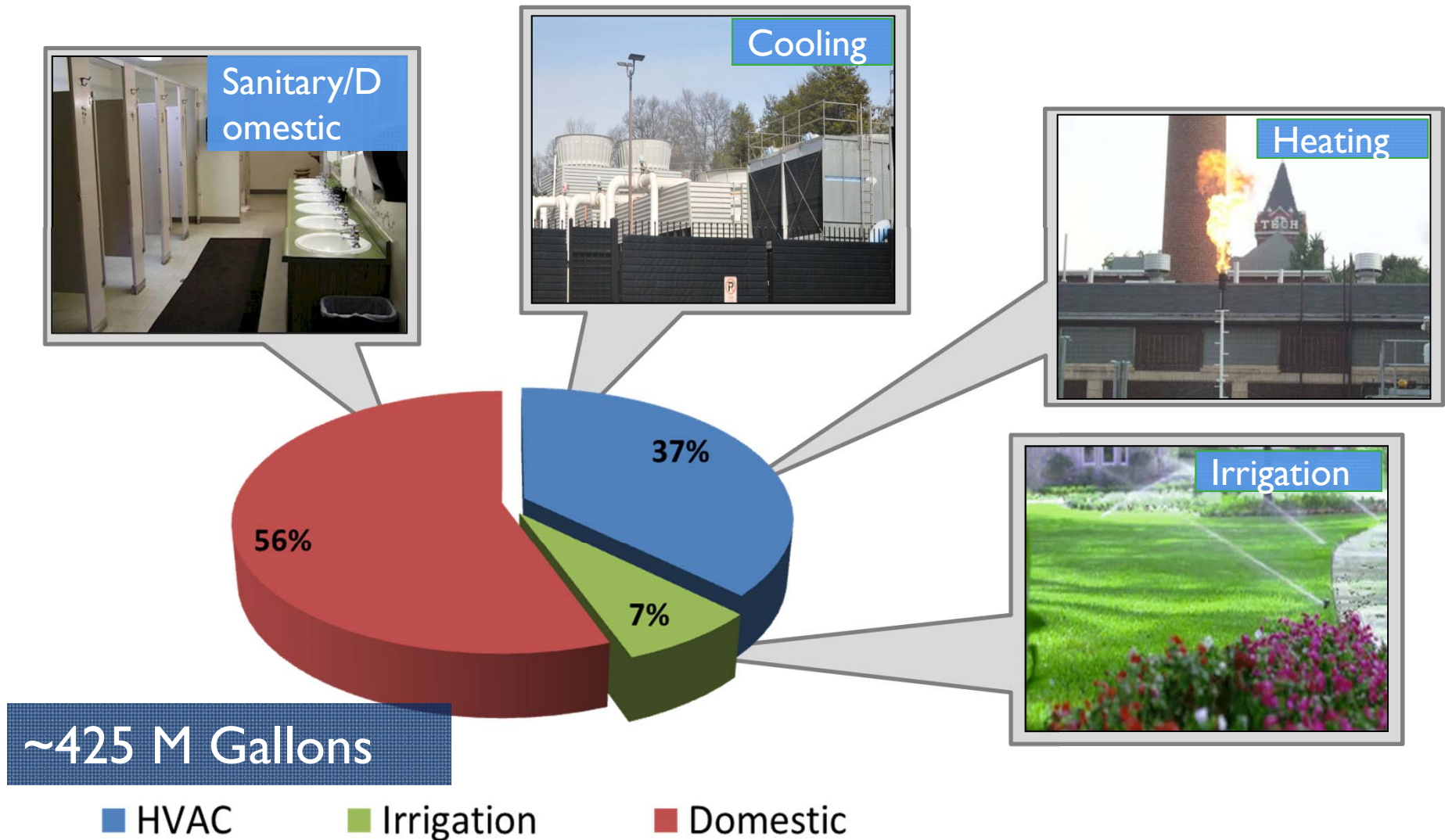


N+1: Reliable and Safe Alternatives to Potable Water



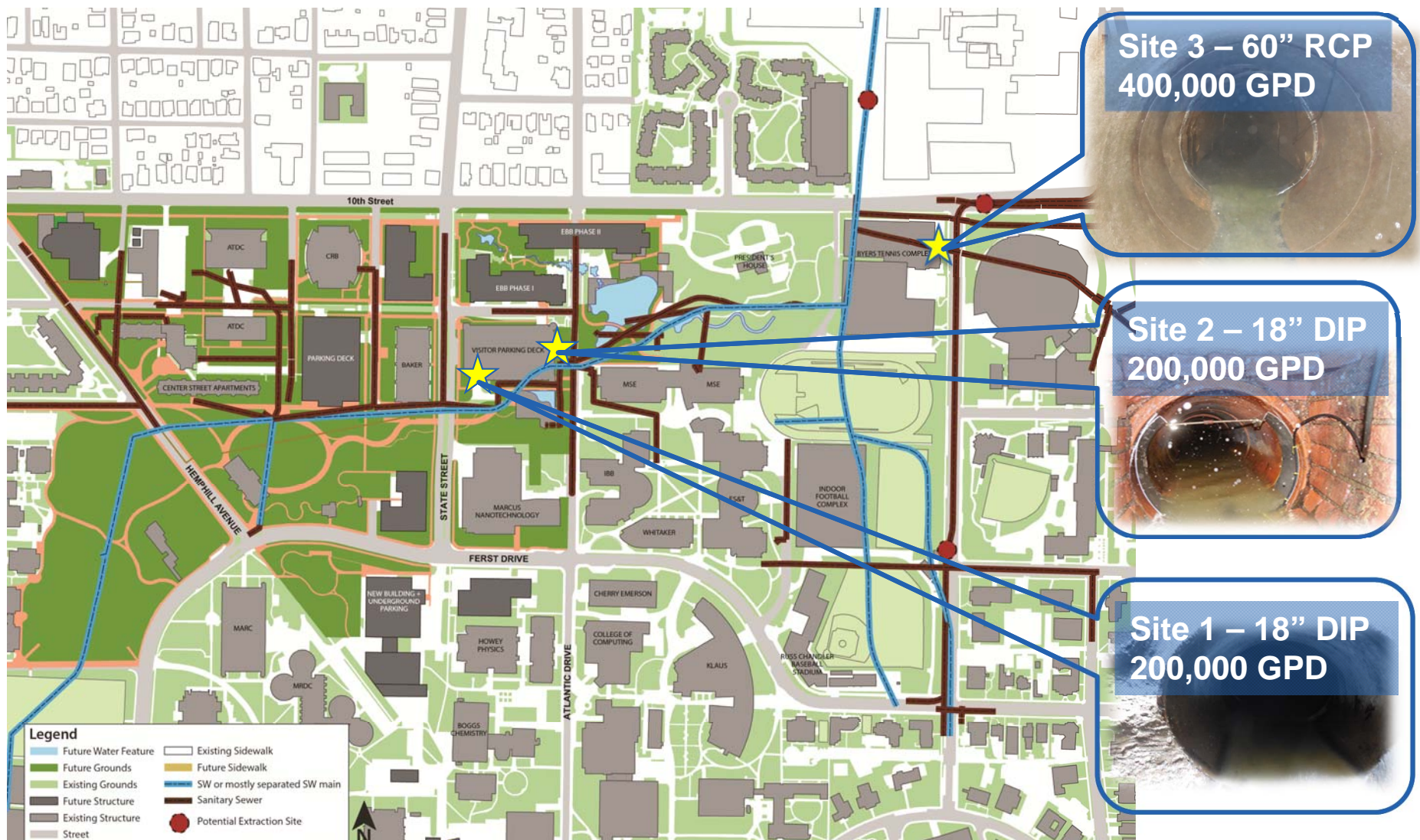
Proposed System Design

Water Use by Type



42% of Campus Water Use Considered Non-potable Demand

3- Month Flow Monitoring Study

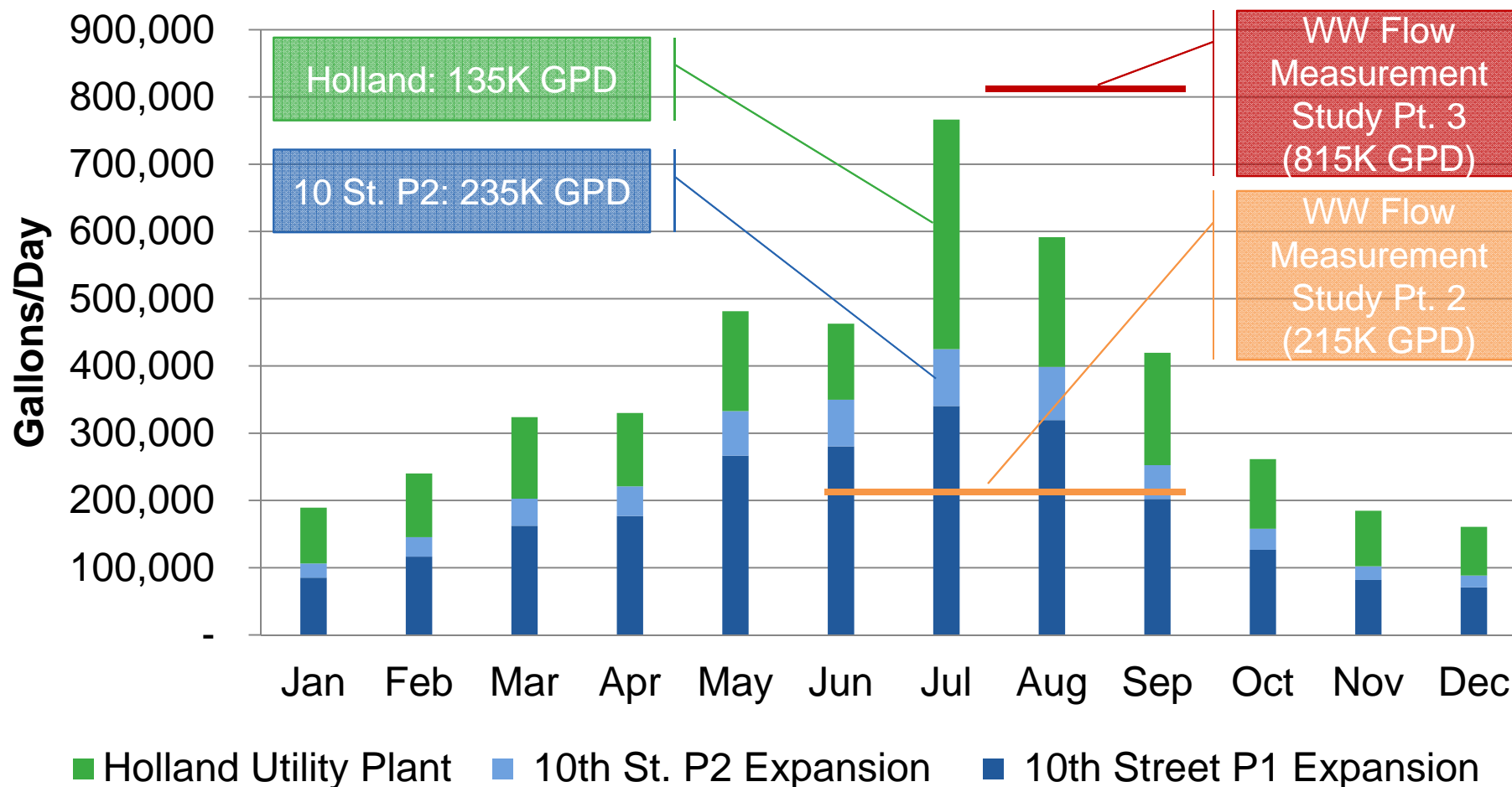


Investigated and Monitored Multiple Extraction Points on Campus



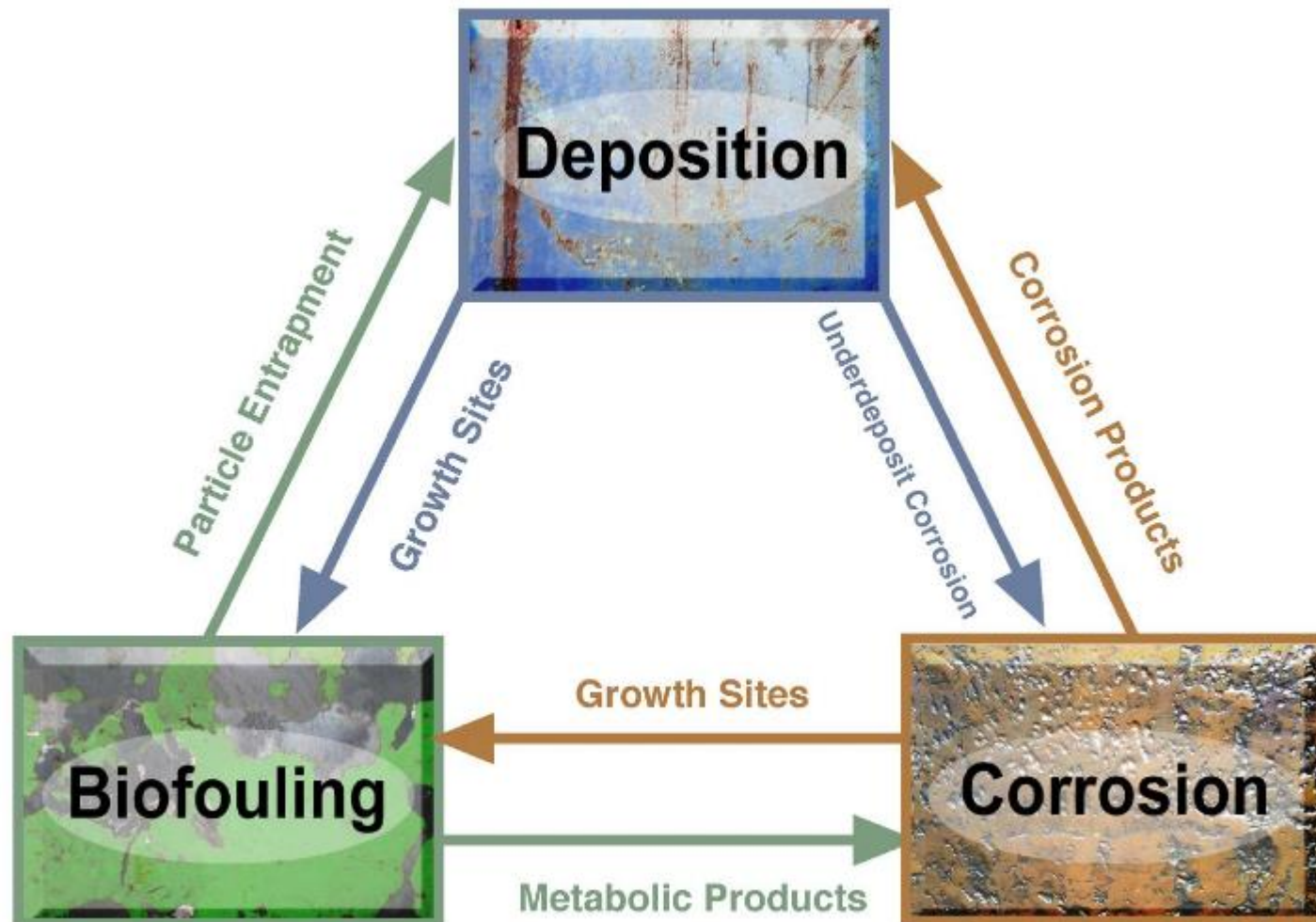
Non-potable Demand Displacement

Non-potable Water Demand vs WW Resources



Significant Resources Available to Displace Utility Water Makeup

Understanding Water Issues

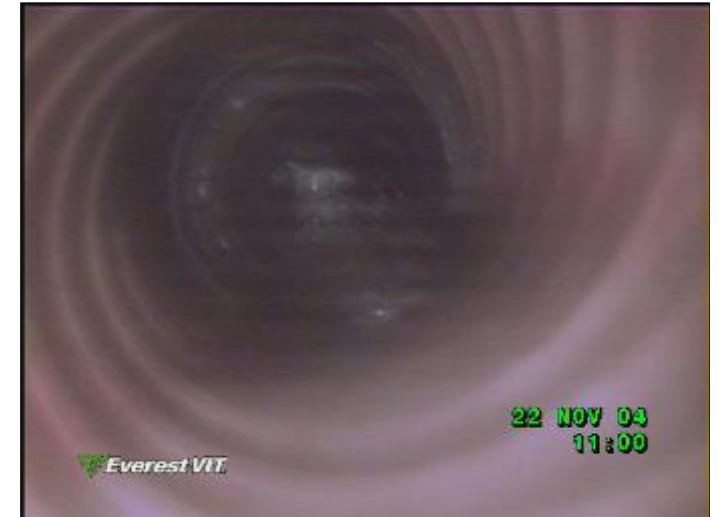
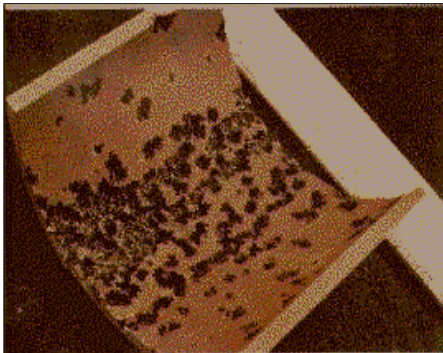
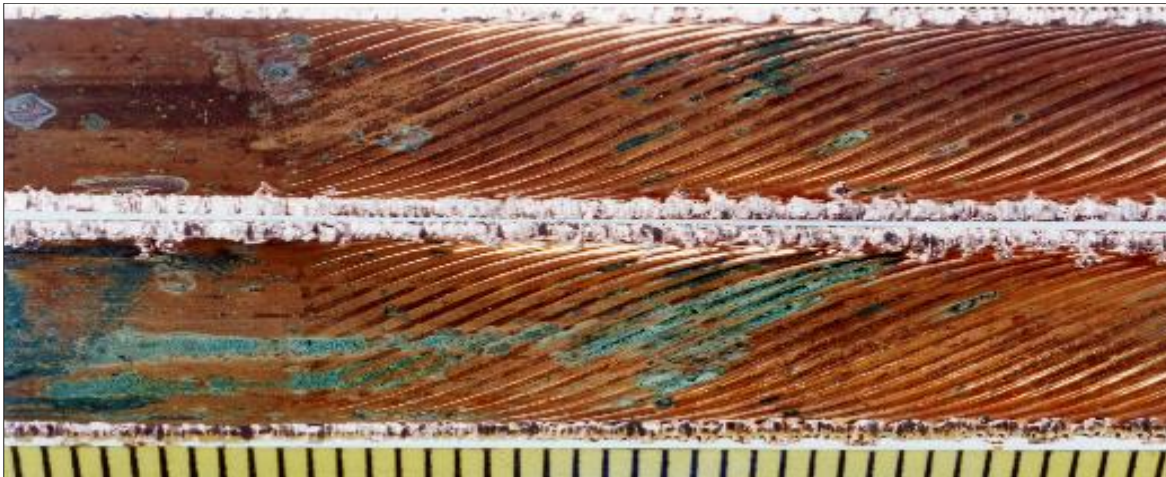


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Interdependent Results Require Systemic Solutions


Failure Analysis

- Improper monitoring yields catastrophic results



Thoughtful Design Ensures Optimum Water Quality & Results

HVAC Utility Water Audit

CoGen/Heating Utility Audit 

Client: Philip Morris

Location (Plant) Name: CMP

Chemical Treatment Supplier: Chemtreat

Treatment Rep E-mail: edwards@chemtreat.com

General System Data

of boilers: 3 Avg. Days/Year Operating: 365

Check all that apply:

- ☐ FDA regulated
- ☐ Steam humidification used
- ☐ Blowdown heat exchangers
- ☐ Steam turbines

Plant Personnel

Chief Engineer: _____

Environmental Manager: _____

Purchasing Manager: _____

Steam Production

Annual Steam Capacity (lbs): _____

Boiler Pressure (psi): _____

% Condensate Return: _____

Feedwater Temperature (°F): _____

Condensate Return Method: _____

Cooling System Utility Audit 

Client: Philip Morris Date: _____

Location (Plant) Name: Central Mechanical Plant

Chemical Treatment Supplier: Chemtreat Rep/Technician Name: _____

Treatment Rep E-mail: edwards@chemtreat.com

General System Data

of Cooling Towers: 3 # of Chillers: 6 System Volume (gal): 40-50 M

Total Centrifugal Tonnage: 20000

Please select any of the following that help describe utilization:

- ☐ AC: Absorption
- ☐ AC: Centrifugal
- ☐ Evap. Cooler/Condenser
- ☐ Cooling Water Throttled
- ☐ Air Compressors
- ☐ Air Washers
- ☐ Extruder Cooling
- ☐ Process Cooling
- ☐ Process Refrigeration
- ☐ Strainer Cycle
- ☐ Cogeneration
- ☐ Balanced Tower(s)
- ☐ Engine Jacket

Plant Personnel

Chief Engineer: _____

Environmental Manager: _____

Purchasing Manager: _____

Maintenance Manager: _____

Operation

Avg. Days/Year Operating: 365 Avg. Hours/Day Operating: 24 Cycles of Concentration: 4.5

Circulation Rate (GPM): 30000-35000 3 units CT % of Circulation (GPM to AC): _____

Steel Corrosion Rate (mpy): <1.5 mpy Copper Corrosion Rate (mpy): <.5 mpy

Most Critical Systems Tracked: _____ Max Water Temp.: <100°F



Equipment / System Review

Water Sampling Review

Chemical Mass Balance

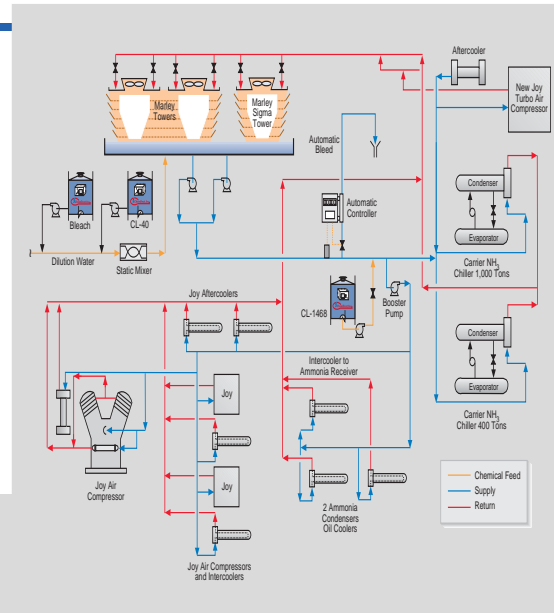
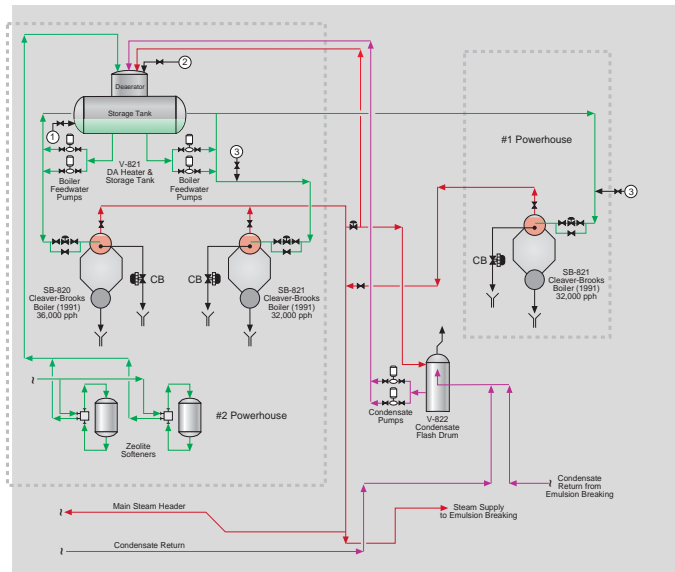


Well Controlled Systems With Extensive Oversight

Utility Assessment Overview



- Biological studies
- Corrosion studies
- Automation
- Treatability studies
- Equipment Integrity



Recommendations

- Treatment Specifications
- Conservation
- Training
- Modifications
- Mechanical



Systematic Audit of Existing Conditions to Confirm Reliability

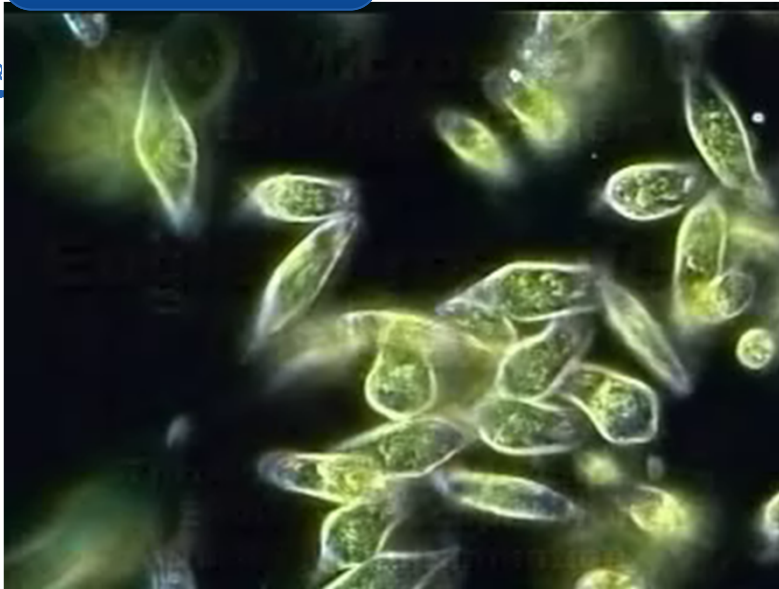
Ecological Treatment Solutions



	ReCip® Tidal Wetlands	Hydroponic and Fixed Media	Moving Bed Bioreactor (MBBR)	Membrane Bioreactor (MBR)	Conventional Activated Sludge
Capital Expense	●	●	●	●	●
Operating Expense	●	●	●	●	●
Energy Efficiency	●	●	●	●	●
Effluent Quality	●	●	●	●	●
Footprint	●	●	●	●	●
Aesthetics	●	●	●	●	●

Increased Biodiversity, Reduced Energy Requirements

Rostrifera



Collotheca



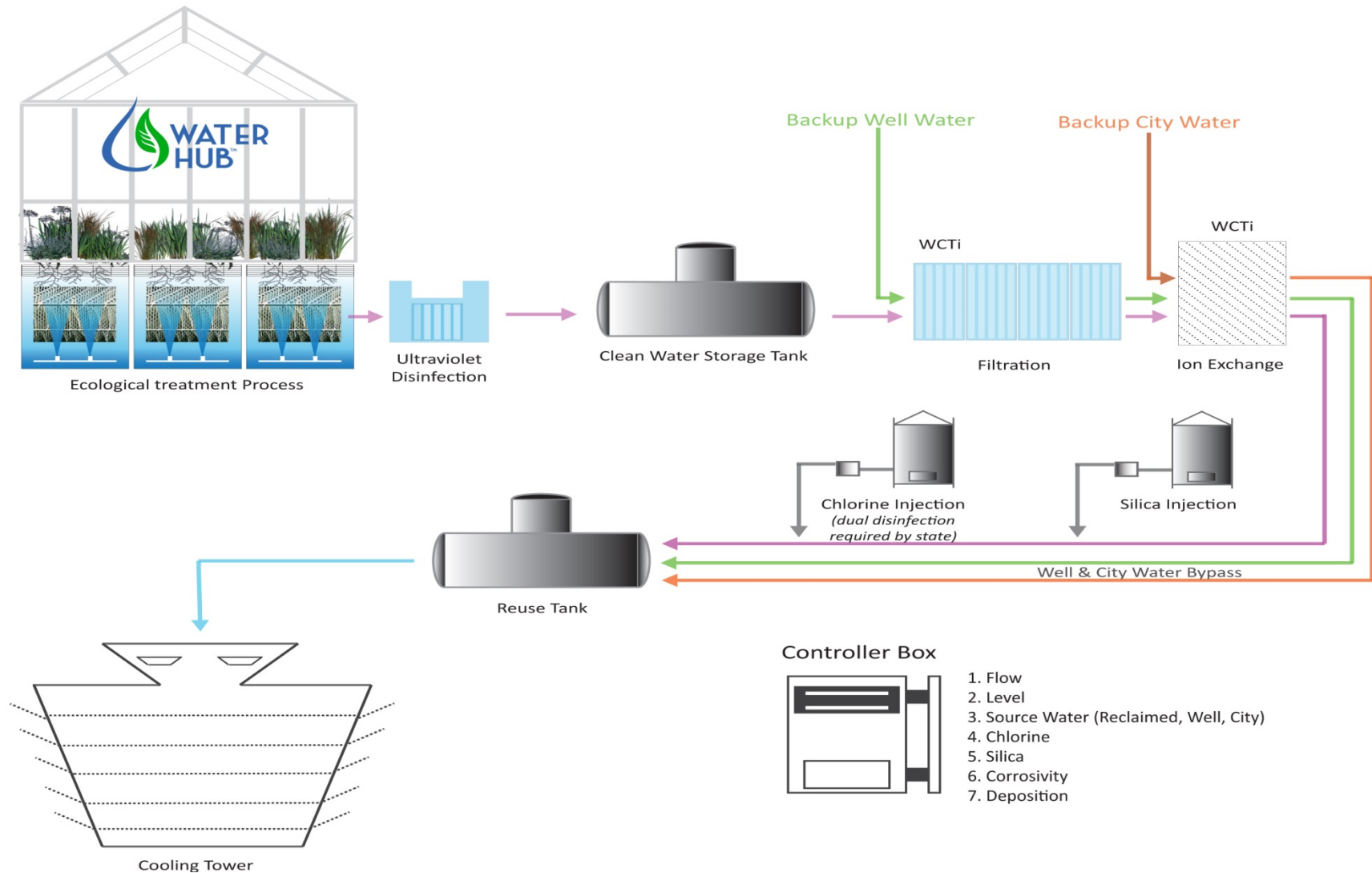
Philodina



**Aquatic
Worm**



GT Water Reuse Process Diagram



WCTI System Integrates Well into Overall Reclamation Strategy

The Future: Decentralized Urban Reuse



Turn-key solution for an increasingly urban environment

Complete Build-Out Concept

~Risk Management ~Cost Savings ~Environmental Responsibility



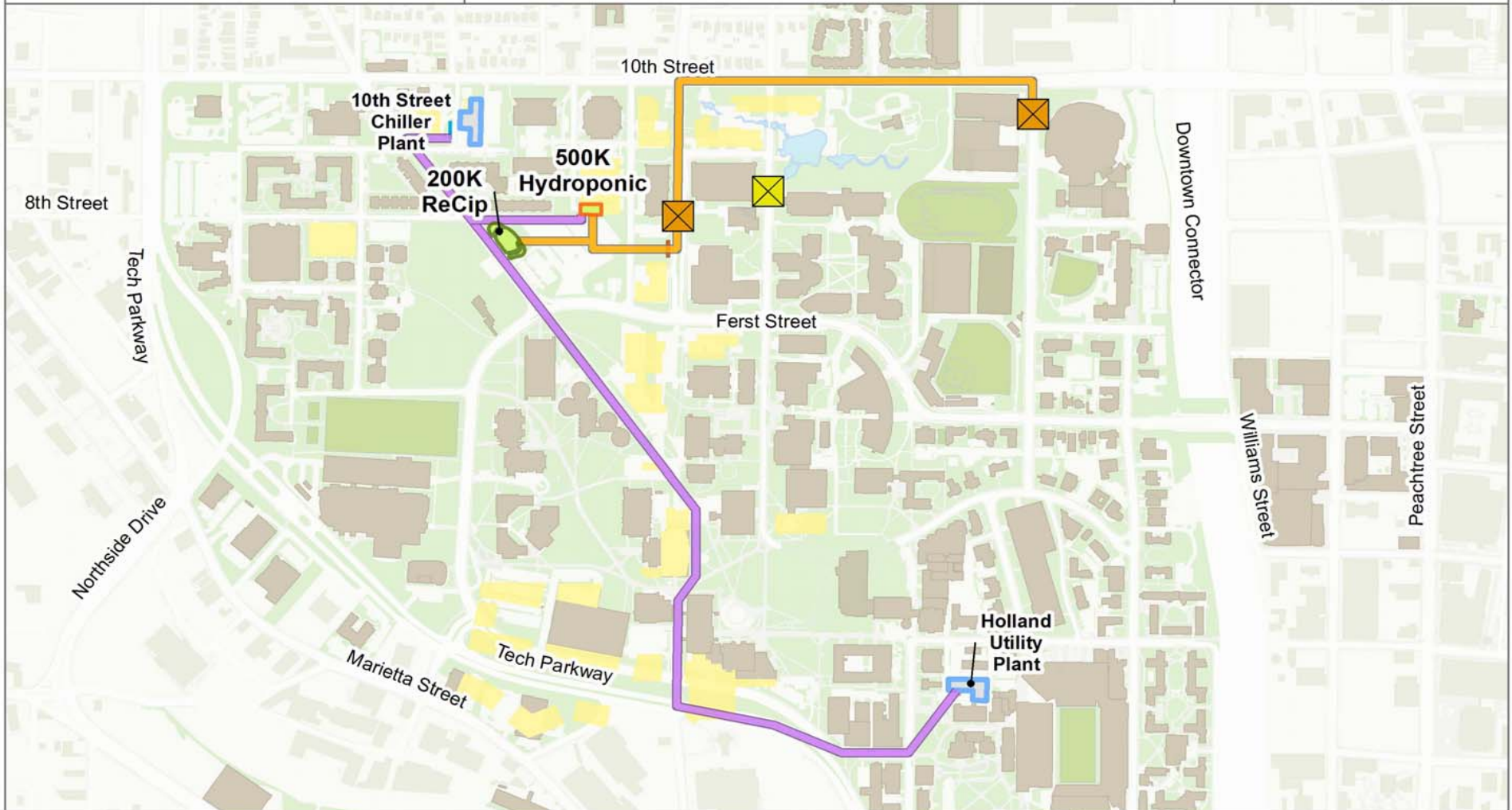
Design Helps Anchor the Centerpiece of the Eco-commons

Complete Build-Out Concept



- Risk Management
 - Cost Savings
 - Environmental Responsibility
-
- Results in 26% reduction in total campus water demand

Design Helps Anchor the Centerpiece of the Eco-commons



Revised 10/14/2014

Utility features portrayed on this map may not be survey verified.

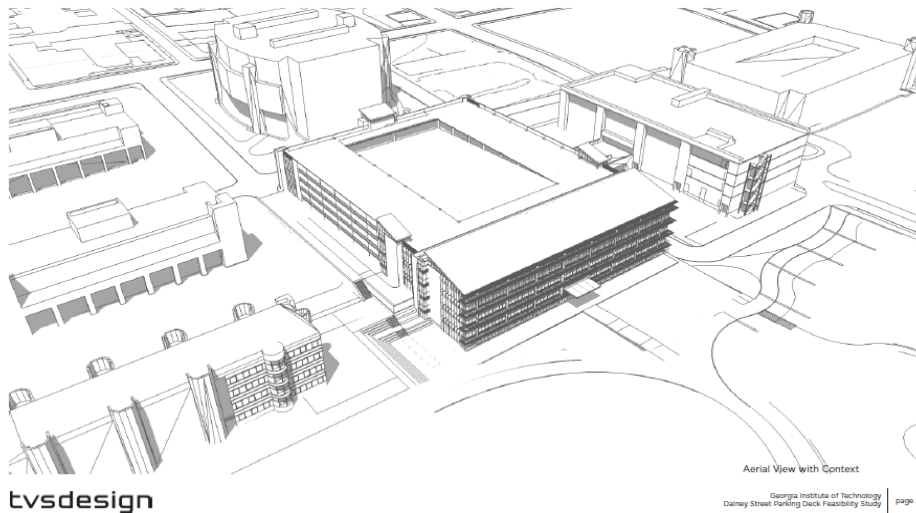


0 600 1,200 Feet

Scale: 1:8,000

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Georgia West FIPS 1002 Feet

Dalney Street Parking Deck Concept



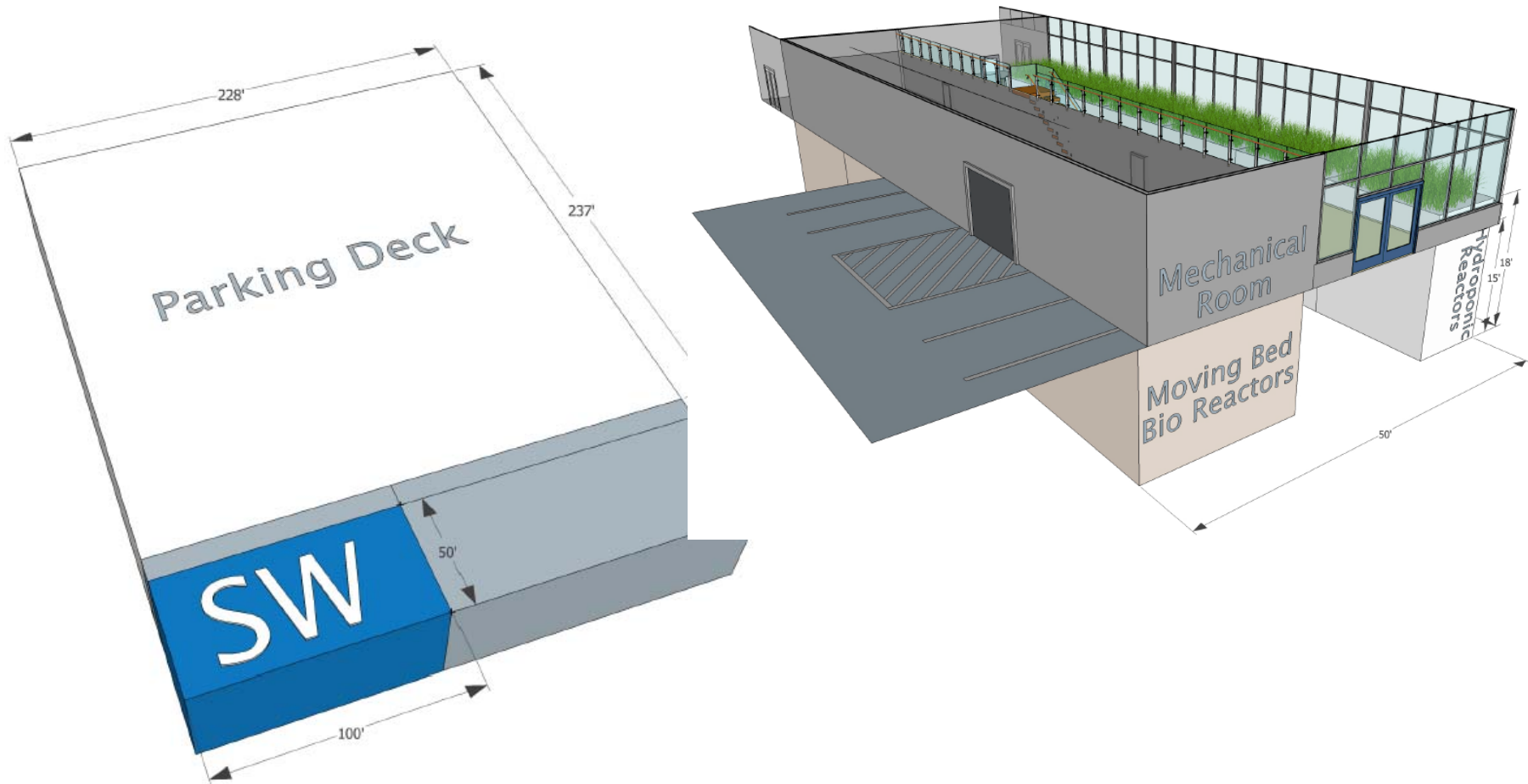
- Streamlined facility that allows for the construction of the Eco-commons Lawn
- Functional utility that provides a living, learning, laboratory
- 1,100 parking spaces and 55,000 sq. feet of glass laminated office space



Option E (w/ roof)
4-Bay N/S w/ Office Lamination
Parking Deck: Basement + 6 Levels, 1,025 spaces
Office Lamination: 4 Levels, 54,720 s.f.

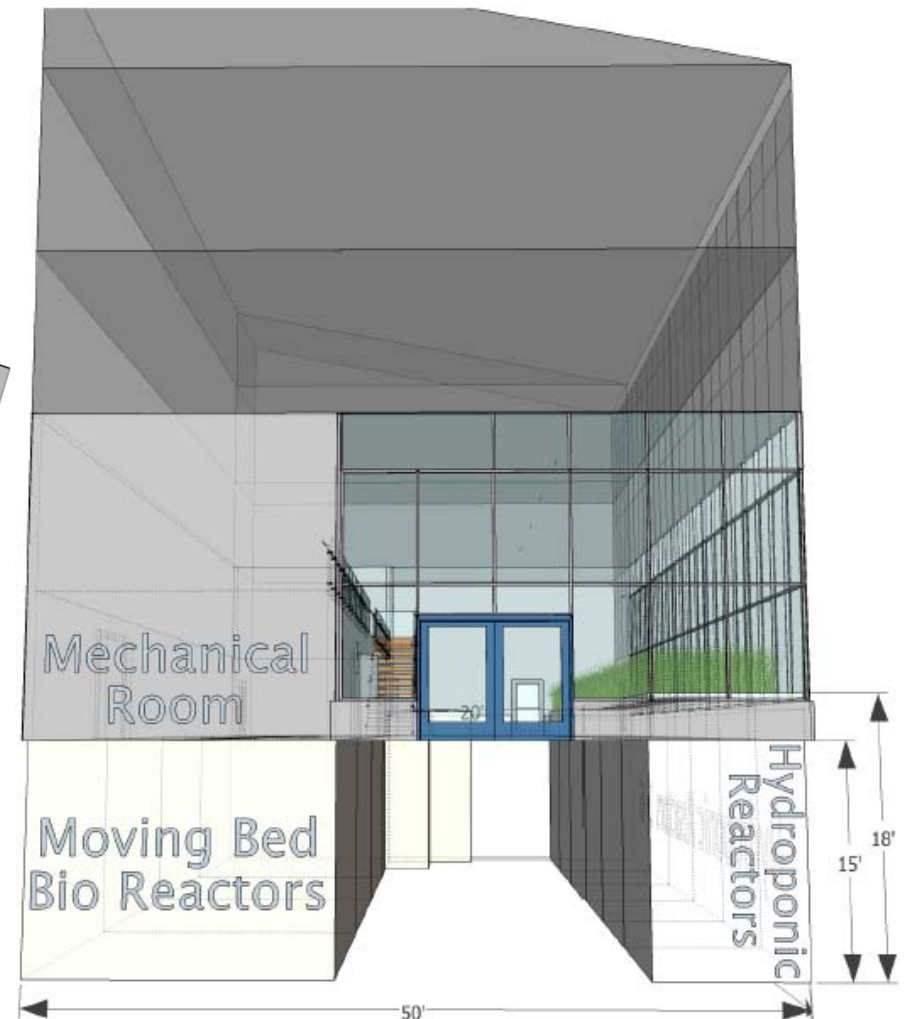
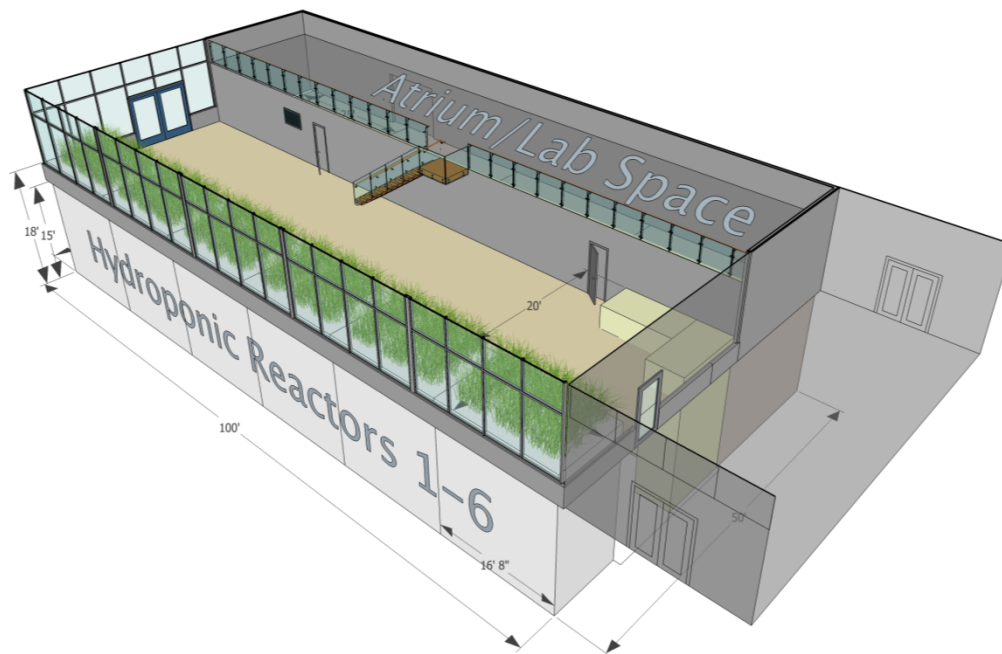
Instructional Facility that Compliments the Eco-commons

Dalney Street Parking Deck Design



Collaborative Design Between Georgia Tech and Sustainable Water

Dalney Street Parking Deck Design



A Living, Learning, Laboratory



Advantages to Phase 1 System

- 1. Significant economic savings immediately**
 - *Parking Deck design Timeline*
 - *Phase II Facility Fully Operational – 3 years best case*
- 2. Allows GT to undertake phased approach to water reuse**
 - *Utilize and review how a smaller system is working before complete system is finalized, helps influence the final build-out.*
- 3. Design provides built in redundancies**
 - *Dual extraction points*
 - *Redundant water storage capacities (primary equalization and clean water)*

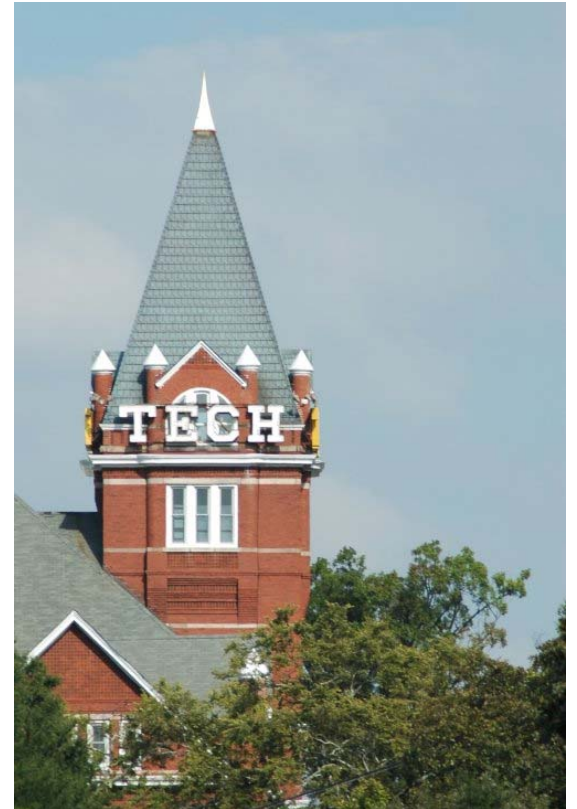
Multiple Advantages to a Phased Build-Out



Comprehensive Approach to Sustainability

“Georgia Tech as a Living Learning Laboratory”

- Education
 - Learning in the Classroom
- Research
 - Discovery in the Laboratory
- Campus
 - Practice in Managing our Campus



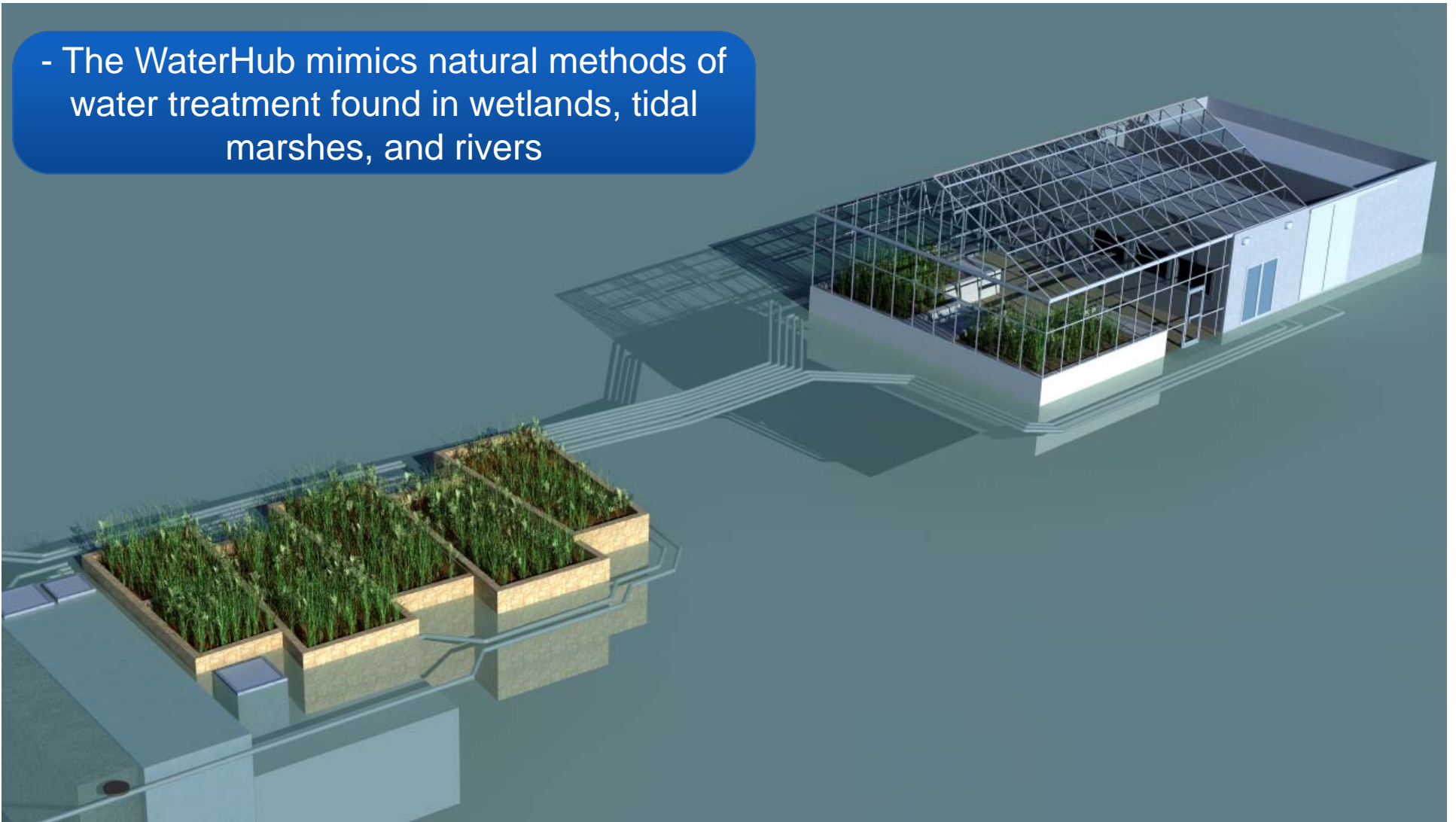
Sustainability is an Integral Component of Georgia Tech



Update at Emory University

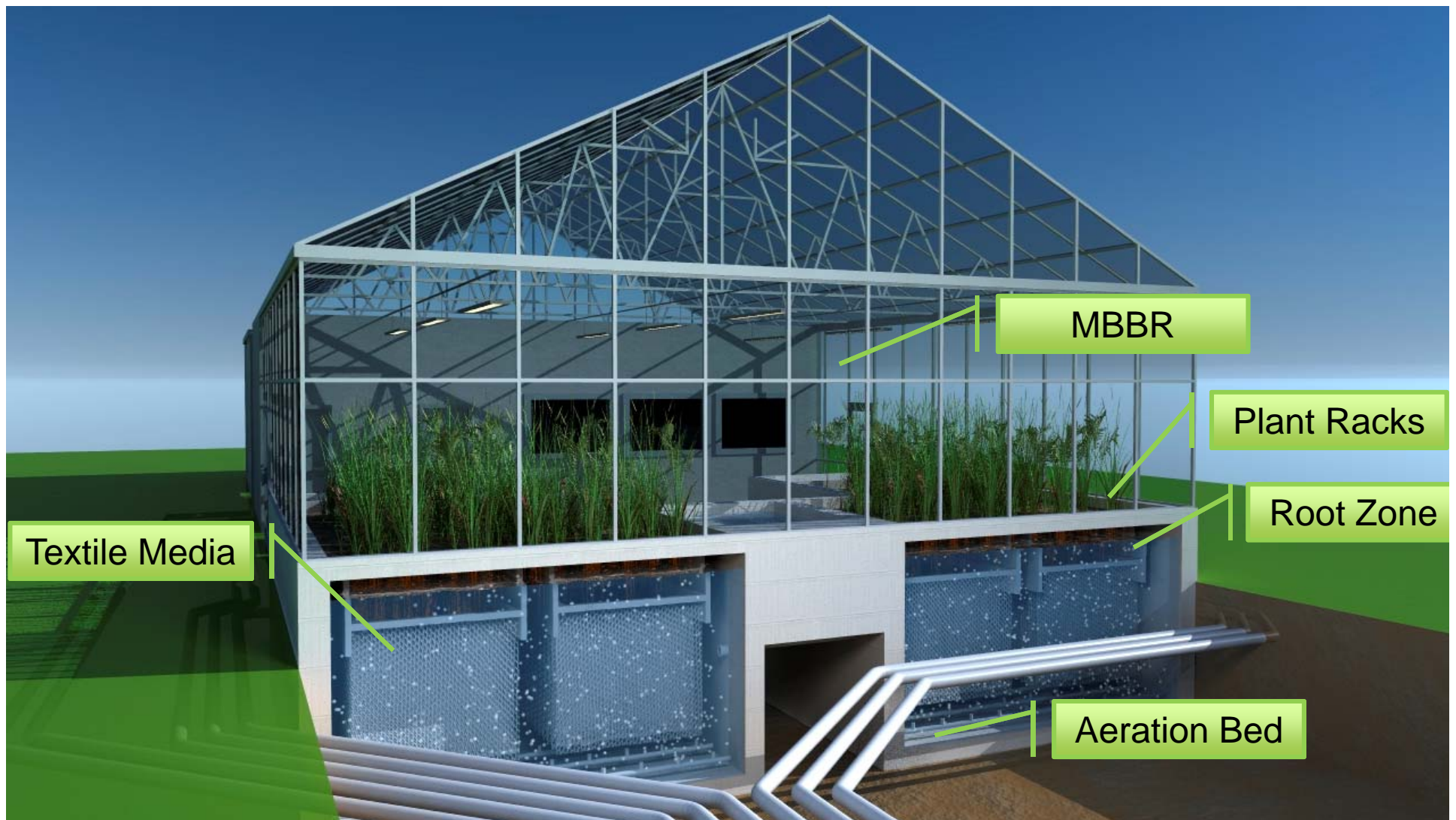
Ecological Treatment Design

- The WaterHub mimics natural methods of water treatment found in wetlands, tidal marshes, and rivers



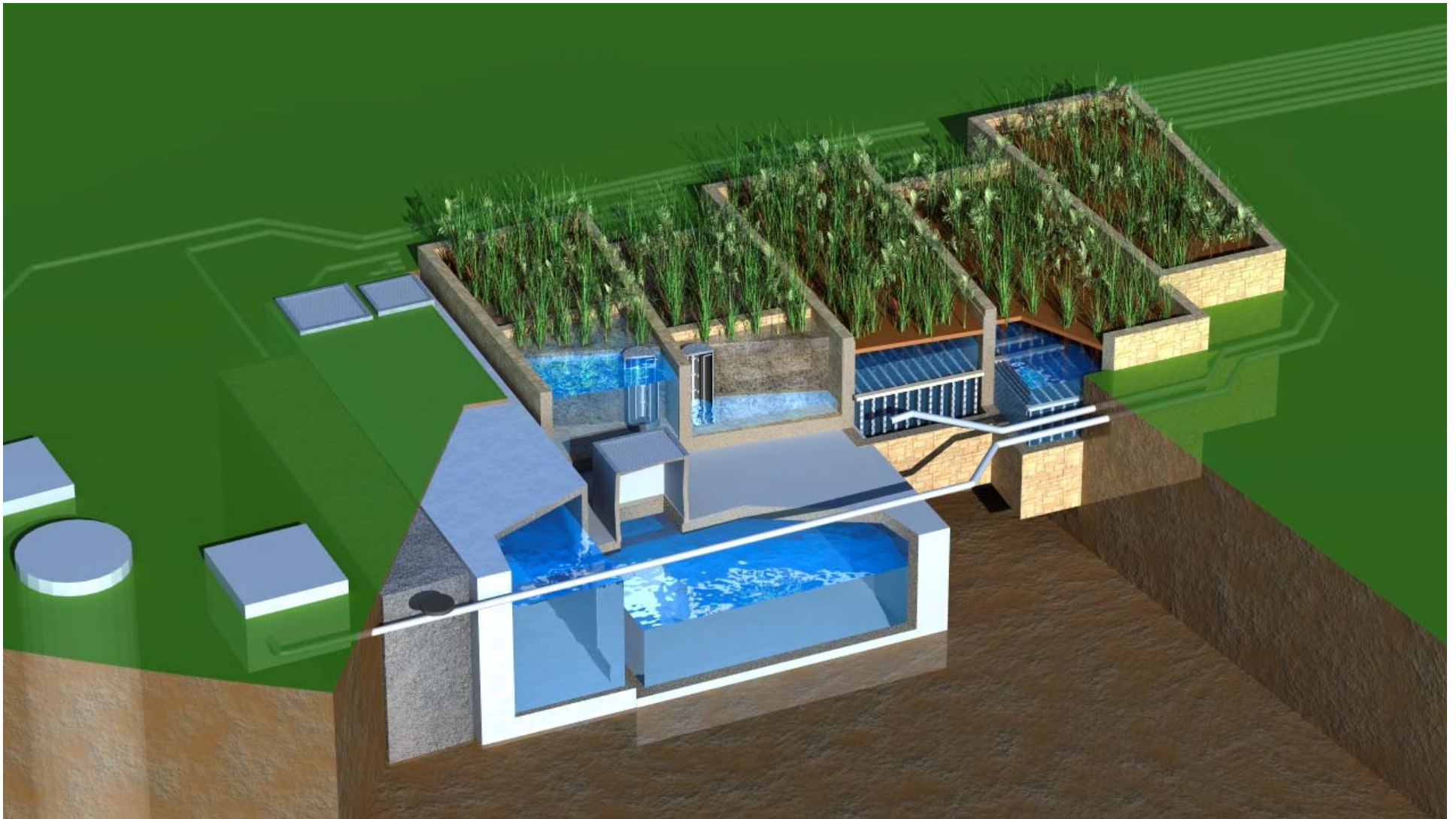
Integrated into the Built Environment

GlassHouse (Upper Site)



GlassHouse Footprint Compact and Efficient at 2,200 ft²

Outdoor System (Lower Site)



Convergence of Multiple Ecological Treatment Technologies



Emory - Aerial View: Under Construction



Small Physical Footprint, Sited in the Middle of Campus



The WaterHub at Emory University

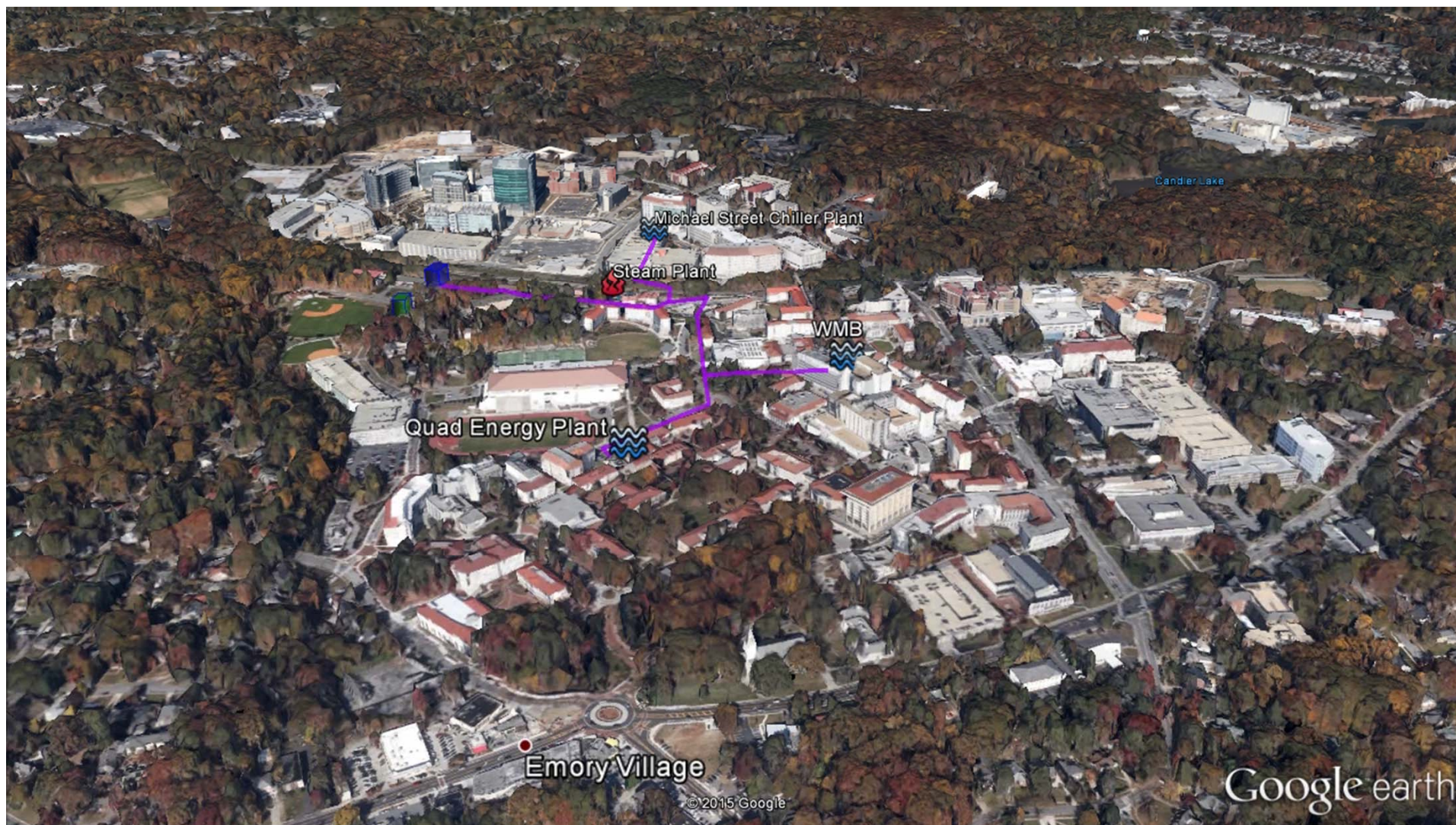


First and Only Ecological, Decentralized Reuse System in the U.S.

Time Lapse of Project



Distribution System Tour



4,425 Linear feet of distribution piping



EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Tours Emory University's WaterHub



Gina McCarthy @GinaEPA · Feb 5

.@EmoryUniversity cut water use by ~35% w/new WaterHub, saving the school big on utility costs. A model for us all!



Gina McCarthy @GinaEPA · Feb 5

.@EmoryUniversity WaterHub isn't a typical treatment facility. It filters wastewater thru plant roots & microbes clean out organic material.



Federal Validation for an Ecological Solution to Wastewater Management



EXTENDING THE LIFECYCLE OF WATER.

Nature's Idea. Our Science.
QUESTIONS?

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