

## ABSTRACT

Title of Document: SCOTTS RUN MINERS' WALK: A  
COMMUNITY OF CURATORS OF THE  
COAL HISTORY IN SCOTTS RUN, WEST  
VIRGINIA.

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Directed By: Professor Emeritus Ralph Bennett  
School of Architecture

West Virginia's coal mining history is long and rich, with many cultures intersecting with the industry. As coal mining shrank from the industry it used to be, poor families were left in the once-prosperous coal towns, unable to afford to move to find better jobs. The natural landscape had yielded to the industry, and the remnants of mining remain, evocative relics of an earlier era. As the coal companies moved on, these towns and landscapes were left at a loss for how to move forward.

This thesis investigates ways to revitalize an abandoned landscape and to engage people in their cultural history. Reading the remnants and fragments of industry, and the landscape as clearings, seams and runs, it proposes architectural interventions in six places on the site that are connected by various path types meant to encourage visitors to experience the culture and history of coal mining in West Virginia.

SCOTTS RUN MINERS' RUN: A COMMUNITY OF CURATORS OF THE  
COAL HISTORY IN SCOTTS RUN, WEST VIRGINIA.

By

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2012

## Dedication

I would like to dedicate this thesis to all the people who have ever lived in Scotts Run, today and in the past, and to all of the coal communities and families in the state of West Virginia.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my family and my fiancé Justin Cullen for the unending support, guidance and humor they gave me during this long process.

I would like to thank Professor Emeritus Ralph Bennett, Professor Caren Yglesias, Professor Hooman Koliji and Kristen Fry for their unending support and dedication during this process. Thank you all so much for everything you did.

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# Table of Contents

Dedication .....	ii
Acknowledgements .....	iii
Table of Contents .....	iv
List of Figures .....	v
1_History of Coal Mining in West Virginia.....	1
The Beginning.....	1
Types of Mining.....	5
Underground Mining.....	5
Surface Mining .....	7
Structure & Hierarchy of Coal Towns.....	8
Life with the Coal Company.....	8
Life in the Coal Town.....	10
Mining Disasters .....	11
2_History of Scotts Run Community.....	13
3_Threshold, Path & Place .....	18
Connection to Nature .....	21
4_Site analysis .....	22
Site Analysis .....	23
Rooms & Ruins .....	26
5_Program.....	30
Community Input.....	30
6_Schemes.....	32
Program Dispersal .....	32
Rooms & Ruins Selection .....	33
7_Design Strategies & Principles .....	34
Six Places Along the Path.....	34
Scotts Run Museum & Community Room.....	37
The Ruins.....	39
Miners' Light Pavilion .....	41
Pop Shop Amphitheatre.....	43
The Seam .....	45
Scotts Run Landing.....	47
Pathway & Trail Design.....	53
Connections & Valuable Space.....	54
8_Materials.....	55
9_Conclusions .....	58
Bibliography.....	60

## List of Figures

<i>Fig.1-1</i> Company Housing in Osage in 1935	4
<i>Fig.1-2</i> United Mine Workers of America Meeting in Osage in 1931	5
<i>Fig 1-3</i> Company Housing in Pursglove in 1938	9
<i>Fig 1-4</i> Mining Disasters in Scotts Run Community	12
<i>Fig.2-1</i> Thirteen Communities	14
<i>Fig 2-2</i> Doped Singer in 1935	16
<i>Fig 3-1</i> Threshold of Moonstones, Wingstones & Guardstones	19
<i>Fig 3-2</i> Threshold & Portal as Frame	20
<i>Fig.4-1</i> Monongalia County, West Virginia	22
<i>Fig.4-2</i> Morgantown & Site	22
<i>Fig.4-3</i> Topography at 10' Intervals with Pathways	23
<i>Fig.4-4</i> Main Street in Osage During the 1930s	24
<i>Fig.4-5</i> Main Street in Osage Today	25
<i>Fig.4-6</i> Shoe Shop in Osage in 1938	25
<i>Fig.4-7</i> Shoe Shop in Osage Today	26
<i>Fig.4-8</i> Natural Rooms & Manmade Ruins	27
<i>Fig.4-9</i> Christopher Coal Company Tipple in Osage	29
<i>Fig.4-10</i> View Toward Morgantown at Patriot Mining Site	29
<i>Fig.6-1</i> Clustered Program in Osage	32
<i>Fig.6-2</i> Clustered Program at Osage & Patriot Mining Site	32
<i>Fig.6-3</i> Pathway Through Site – Distributed Program	32
<i>Fig.7-1</i> Scotts Run Miners' Walk Site Plan	35
<i>Fig.7-2</i> Scotts Run Museum & Community Room	36
<i>Fig.7-3</i> Scotts Run Museum & Community Room Site Section	36
<i>Fig.7-4</i> Scotts Run Museum & Community Room Site Plan	37
<i>Fig.7-5</i> The Ruins	38
<i>Fig.7-6</i> The Ruins Site Section	38
<i>Fig.7-7</i> The Ruins Site Plan	39
<i>Fig.7-8</i> Miners' Light Pavilion	40
<i>Fig.7-9</i> Miners' Light Pavilion Site Section	40
<i>Fig.7-10</i> Miners' Light Pavilion Site Plan	41
<i>Fig.7-11</i> Pop Shop Amphitheatre	42
<i>Fig.7-12</i> Pop Shop Amphitheatre Site Section	42
<i>Fig.7-13</i> Pop Shop Amphitheatre Site	43
<i>Fig.7-14</i> The Seam	44
<i>Fig.7-15</i> The Seam Site Section	44
<i>Fig.7-16</i> The Seam Site Plan	45
<i>Fig.7-17</i> Scotts Run Landing	46
<i>Fig.7-18</i> Scotts Run Landing Site Section	46
<i>Fig.7-19</i> Scotts Run Landing Site Plan	47
<i>Fig.7-20</i> Section Through Entire Pathway (Four Segments)	48-51
<i>Fig.7-21</i> Tipple Near Scotts Run Museum & Community Room	52
<i>Fig.7-22</i> Waterfall Near Miners' Light Pavilion	52
<i>Fig.7-23</i> Pathway Section – Movement	53

Fig.7-24 Pathway Section – Lingerin	54
Fig.7-25 Trail Section	54
Fig.8-1 Harvested Materials	55
Fig.8-2 Harvested Buildings & Structures	56



# 1\_History of Coal Mining in West Virginia

## The Beginning

“Imagine a life in a place that was encompassed by the weight of an industry and subject to a century of boom and bust, repeated mass migrations and returns, cultural destabilizations and displacements, and then the final collapse of mining and the slow, inexorable emigration of the young. Imagine a history remembered not as the straight line of progress but as a flash of unforgettable images...”

- A Space by the Side of the Road by Kathleen Stewart [1]

During an exploratory trip across the Allegheny Mountains in 1742, John Peter Salley reported an outcropping of coal along a tributary of the Kanawha River. Becoming the first reference to coal in what is now West Virginia, Salley and his colleagues named the tributary the Coal River [2].

Mining became prevalent in the state during the mid-1800s. Until that point, the shortage of industrialized manufacturing processes attributed to the lack of mining growth. Only blacksmiths and settlers dwelling near the coal outcrop would use coal up until this time. Coal became a more important resource in 1810 to the people in what is now Wheeling, West Virginia, when it was used to heat homes. By 1811, coal was used by a steamboat, a first. Charcoal was replaced by coal as fuel for the salt furnaces of the Kanawha River by 1817 [2].

Coal production in the state was 300,000 tons in the year 1840; the Kanawha salt furnaces used 200,000 tons, while the rest was used by factories and Wheeling homes. Coal companies began organizing

corporations from 1840 to 1860. The state, still known as Virginia at this point, passed laws during this period, all of which were hoping to entice foreign financial investments in the coal mining industry [2].

As the Civil War began, the mines in the Kanawha Valley were closed. Shipping through the Kanawha Valley was prevented by the Confederate Troops, as they destroyed locks and dams along the river. The Elkins and Fairmont coal fields to the north (one of the largest in the state) remained active and supplied the Union coal by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, as the coal was used for heating the buildings in east and for operating railroad engines [2]. It was also during the Civil War that West Virginia became a state, admitted to the union on June 20, 1863 [3].

West Virginia's development and growth of the coal industry flourished when others began taking notice of its mineral resources. By 1880, the industry had spread to Fayette, Harrison, Ohio, Marion, Mason, Mineral, Monongalia and Putnam counties. The Fairmont Coal Company was formed in 1901 and later became the Consolidation Coal Company. Around 1852, the first advertised Pittsburgh coal was produced from the nearby Pittsburgh seam by a mine near Fairmont [2].

At first, slaves and farmers would dig the layer of overburden off by surface mining with shovels and picks. Shoveled into sacks and baskets, the coal was carried away from the mine. Carts, sleds and wheelbarrows soon were used in these situations and were often pulled by dogs, goats, mules,

oxen and sometimes men. New technologies, such as electric coal cutting and loading and hauling machinery, were not readily accepted by the companies for fear of reliability and miner job loss. However, by 1936, conveyor belts, trains and shuttle cars brought mechanization barreling to the forefront of the industry. With the new shift in the industry, two peaks stand out: 1927 production of 146,088,121 tons of coal and 1947 production of 173,653,816 tons of coal [2].

Companies built their own towns, which typically included a church, a company store, economical homes and often recreation facilities that could be used by miners and their families. These towns were created because the mines were often located far away from existing towns and cities. The company stores developed an easy advanced credit system that allowed miners to pay for goods, removing the need for the company stores to keep large amount of United States currency [2].



*Fig. 1-1* Company Housing in Osage in 1935  
Source: Library of Congress

Mines were often run by out-of-state superintendents who abused their labor force. This labor force was often made up of immigrants from southern Europe. Immigrants from England, Scotland and Wales also came to the state to work in the mines beginning in the 1850s. Inferior living conditions, coupled with long hours and inadequate medical care, spurred the first coal mining legislation in the new state of West Virginia in 1883. Inspection of safety conditions of all mines was performed by a state mine inspector, and the state union of United Mine Workers of America was created in 1890. The West Virginia Department of Mines was organized in 1905, and the Franklin

Roosevelt era ushered in the federal government's involvement in mine safety. An 8-hour work day and minimum wage requirement was established by the National Industrial Recovery Act, passed during the Depression. The NIRA, later deemed unconstitutional, condoned unions, and this allowed most of the industries to form unions. Nevertheless, the coal mining unions have worked on behalf of the miners since the 1930s to maintain coal miner safety, benefits and retirement [2].



*Fig. 1-2 United Mine Workers of America Meeting in Osage in 1931*  
Source: Library of Congress

### Types of Mining

#### Underground Mining

When coal seams are very deep underground, underground mining is the technique that is used to extract the coal. Typical underground mining methods are retreat mining, blast mining, continuous mining, longwall mining and shortwall mining [4].

Using columns to hold up the mine roof, retreat mining is one of the most dangerous mining methods used. This is due to the unpredictability of if

and when the mine roof will collapse, trapping or even crushing the miners [4].

Only accounting for about 5% of the underground mining methods in the United States, blast mining uses explosives to fracture a seam of coal. The shards of coal are then loaded on shuttle cars or conveyors and transported to a central loading and processing area. This is one of the older methods of mining [4].

Accounting for about 45% of underground mining techniques, continuous mining scrapes coal from the seam with a machine. This machine has a large rotating steel drum that is outfitted with tungsten carbide teeth [4].

With longwall mining, a complex machine with a rotating drum moves back and forth across a wide coal seam. This is one of the safer methods of coal mining, and it yields high production levels as well. Robotic controls boost the efficiency of the process, and sensors detect the amount of coal still in the seam. This type of mining is widely used, accounting for about 50% of underground mining [4].

Only used for less than 1% of underground coal mining, the shortwall mining method uses a continuous mining machine very similar to the one used with longwall mining. The mining machine also has moveable roof supports [4].

## Surface Mining

It is very inexpensive to extract coal that is near the surface. Surface mining accounts for about 40% of the worldwide coal production. Typical surface mining methods include contour mining, strip or area mining and mountaintop removal mining [4].

In hilly areas or even steep terrain, contour mining is often the method that is used. Soil above the coal seam is removed in a manner that follows the contours along a ridge or hillside. With the possibility of causing erosion and landslide problems, methods using freshly cut overburden refills the mined-out areas. When the mining operation reaches a predetermined stripping ratio, the operation is not profitable to continue and will shut down [4].

Strip or area mining is the most efficient method and is best with flat terrains. The coal is exposed by removing the soil above the coal seam in long cuts or strips. The exposed coal seam is then blasted or drilled. Once finished with that seam, another strip mining process is replicated next to it [4].

By removing mountaintops, coal seams are exposed. The method disposes of associated mining overburden in neighboring valleys and hollows. One of the most controversial methods in West Virginia due to its damage to the local ecosystem and water supply, mountaintop removal combines area and contour strip mining [4].

## Structure & Hierarchy of Coal Towns

### Life with the Coal Company

As wealthy industrialist investors purchased large expanses of land, railroads were built to transport the coal. This caused the amount of farmland throughout West Virginia to shrink, and for farmers to transition to a mining lifestyle. World War I weakened the mine worker supply, and immigration declined. Company operators looked to the African Americans from the South for work. Much of the African American population of Appalachia settled in West Virginia as mine workers. Immigrants and African Americans made up a large portion of the miner population at this point, most living in substandard housing. Generally, these mine workers were single men hired to build the railroad and housing [5].





*Fig 1-3 Company Housing in Pursglove in 1938*  
Source: Library of Congress

Many mine operators tried to provide above standard housing when labor was at its peak. In the early years of mining, however, the coal towns consisted of boarding houses and tents, and many of the houses were of the “Jenny Lind” construction type, a construction technique particular to West Virginia. Wood boards with newspaper stuffed in the cracks. Later, improvements included plastered walls [5].

Since automobiles were not commonly owned by the miners, company operators began including company stores in the coal towns. As the coal companies grew, they began to attract families. The inclusion of families

within the ranks of the coal towns also brought the need for schools, churches, better housing and recreational facilities [5].

### Life in the Coal Town

Although the coal town housing was not ideal, many of the residents found it to be adequate. The sense of community spirit in each town also helped the residents throughout their day-to-day lives. Bob Forren, a man who lived through the era of early West Virginia coal towns, stated, “Our people knowed what hardships they had gone through, what sacrifices had been made...there was a relationship at that time amongst the coal miners” [5].

Some company operators expected the residents to maintain their homes. For example, families were sometimes in charge of keeping their fences whitewashed, although the company would provide the whitewash [5].

Visiting neighbors was a common social activity and strengthened the bond between not only the miners but also their families. When family members became ill, neighbors would bring food. Radios, a common source of entertainment throughout the country, became the backdrop to playing cards, marbles and checkers at community facilities and homes. Magazines and newspapers were common, and some coal towns even had movie theatres. Baseball was a popular sport, and most towns had their own team;

having a good town team was important to company operators, so they would often pay ball-playing miners well and recruit players from other mines. Coal company-sponsored teams would often travel the region to play teams from other companies [5].

After World War II, life as a miner change drastically. Coming back from the war, miners faced the rapid development of mechanized industry. Coal demand had also dropped, but the United Mine Workers of America was still able to pay miners more than ever before. Automobiles became more affordable, and with the improvement of West Virginia roads, those lucky enough to be able to purchase an automobile had a freedom not yet known before. The more affluent and formerly isolated mining families were now able to move. This was not always the case; however, some poor families found themselves trapped in what quickly became ghost towns as the mining company and more prosperous families moved on [5].

### *Mining Disasters*

Beginning in January of 1886, records have been kept of mining disasters and fatalities in the state of West Virginia. From 1884 to 1961, a disaster was classified by fatally injuring five or more employees during one accident. Since 1961, a disaster was classified by fatally injuring three or more employees during one accident. Over the years, over 2,600 miners have been killed in the mines of West Virginia. This number only takes account of the

reported disasters with three or more miners per accident. Unfortunately, the number of deaths due to coal mining accidents is actually higher [6].

The community of Scotts Run, West Virginia, had several fatal mining accidents during its coal mining lifetime. After an explosion that spread through three sections of the Christopher No. 3 mine in Osage, one of the thirteen towns that make up Scott's Run, a total of 56 miners were killed. This happened on May 12, 1942. Two months later on July 9, 20 miners were killed when a roof fall in the Pursglove No. 2 mine caused an explosion that spread through two sections of the mine. January 8, 1943, brought more disaster to the community when a locomotive fire spread to the coal mine. A total of thirteen miners perished in this accident [7].



*Fig 1-4 Mining Disasters in Scotts Run Community*  
Source: map from Library of Congress; graphic by author

## 2\_History of Scotts Run Community

Scotts Run was a former farming community that was rapidly and relentlessly transformed into a leading coalfield in the region. As outside capital flooded the community, farm workers transitioned into mine workers; those who did not evolve with the changing industry often lost their land due to high land prices [8].

After World War I, Scotts Run coalfield was comprised of 13 communities and was a standout in the coal mining industry. Continuing until the early 1920s, the number of coalfields expanded very quickly in a geographic area that posed many obstacles. Scotts Run was connected to the larger town of Morgantown by a dirt road called Dunkard Creek Turnpike. During bad weather, Scotts Run was still accessible by the railroad. In 1905, the Dunkard Valley Traction Company built a trolley line that connected Cassville, the Scotts Run Community coal town farthest west, to Morgantown four miles away [8].



*Fig.2-1 Thirteen Communities\_Scotts Run, WV*  
Source: Ron Delaney

Community picnics often brought music and dancing to the residents of Osage, the civic node of the Scotts Run community. An orchestra was organized and a martial band performed during parades in the early 1870s. Local artisans contributed their talents to the community including wagon makers, millers, tanners, coopers and blacksmiths. After the trolley was laid to Cassville, however, many local merchants were put out of business trying to compete with the now easily-reached Morgantown merchants [8].

In 1904, 27 percent of Scotts Run was controlled by coal companies. This percentage increased drastically in the beginning of the 20th century, and by 1930, 71 percent was controlled by coal companies. This brought about many land disputes between companies and existing farming families with the coal companies eventually winning the land ownership battles. Many farmers were driven out or had to adapt to life in a coal town and as, most often, a miner. During this time, many immigrants and African Americans moved to the Scotts Run community for jobs in the mines [8].

The sudden expansion and development of coal in the Scotts Run region represented the boom and bust of coal in the early 20th century. The Fairmont field was part of the Pittsburgh coal seam, one of the largest and richest supplies of coal in the eastern United States. Many investors helped the swift development of the Scotts Run area, creating a coal region from what was once farmland [8].

By 1923, 37 mines along the Scotts Run community made the area quite an attraction to many. During the productive years, the Scotts Run communities were favorable areas for miners and their families, although they were not without their hardships. The Morgantown area provided a large labor force, decent housing, a business district and good schools. Community activities, such as music and dancing, were popular activities at the time. Company operators and the miners, however, still struggled with mine safety and health battles [8].



*Fig 2-2 Doped Singer in 1935\_Scotts Run, WV*  
Source: Library of Congress

When the coal industry in this region plunged, so did the lifestyle in the coal towns. The Scotts Run field began during the final days of traditional mining methods. Once mechanized industry began, mining jobs diminished, similar to what was happening throughout the state. Impoverished Scotts Run miners and their families caught the attention of Protestant missionaries, the American Friends Service Committee and, eventually, the Roosevelt administration. When Eleanor Roosevelt visited in August of 1933, she was met by a very desolate area. As noted in the West Virginia History journal in an article titled “The Scotts Run Coalfield from the Great War to the Great Depression: a Study of Overdevelopment”, “Stripped of its industrial glory,



Scotts Run became a bleak reminder to the public, the industry, and New Deal policymakers of the folly of unchecked development” [8].

### 3\_Threshold, Path & Place

Threshold is the “transition, the in-between and the experience of passing through” [9]. The doorway is an integral element of the built environment. Apart from large civic buildings or sacred places, the doorway often plays a background role in what we see in our surroundings. We close doors to get away from noise; we open doors to let light pour in. While transitioning through these openings, we are often unaware of the shift between spaces that Simon Unwin reminds us of in his writing. The transition between two spaces is threshold that both demarcate the separation of two spaces and it creates a sense transition.

Space and threshold work simultaneously to evoke two very different experiences. Unwin considers the threshold a place where the liner (wall or landscape) breaks to allow a glimpse through to another environment. Walls are solid masses and permit our bodies a sense of enclosure. The dichotomy between containment and penetration could not exist without the other.

As thresholds and paths intersect, these nodes become places where people interact with each other and their surroundings. These spaces along a path provide a level of compression and expansion and denote where space is exposed and flowing or where a defined point of passage is located. [9] Much as the threshold itself provides an entry into a new environment, we look back to this same entrance after we pass through to perceive a

simultaneous exit from our existing space and entrance to the one we have just abandoned. Thus, space and threshold exist simultaneous or not at all.

Thresholds are made in different ways. A door frame or change in material underfoot can signal transition. A subtle compression of space or a change in lighting can strengthen the separateness of spaces. A path leads up to a threshold. Floor patterns or a line of stepping stones can prepare the visitor for the moment of change, leading to the threshold in either an understated or obvious manner.



*Fig 3-1* Threshold of Moonstones, Wingstones & Guardstones\_Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi, Sri Lanka  
Source: author

Threshold is part of a portal that frames a vista. The portion of the view visible to the eye changes scale as the doorway is approached. From a

distance, a small part of the view is visible; as one approaches the doorway, more peripheral view is visible. If the threshold is provided by a doorway, the orthogonal lines of the frame and the natural lines of the landscape form a dialogue at different scales, a dichotomy of constrained straight lines versus irregular landscape found in nature. Whether a natural or manmade doorway, the vista of the over there can be manipulated to capture a certain view or feeling and position the viewer's body in space.



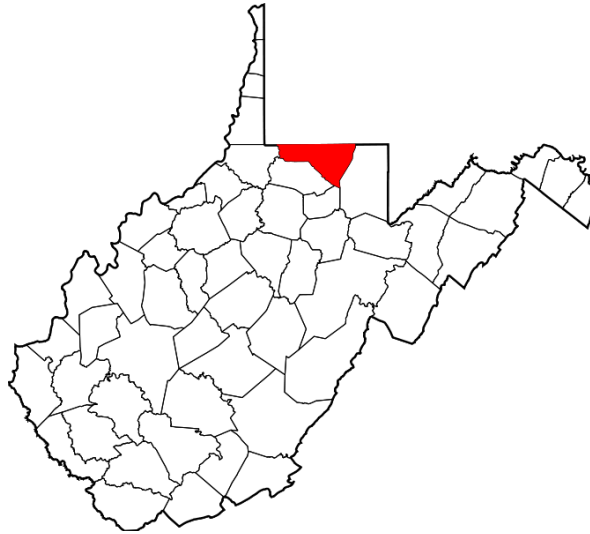
*Fig 3-2 Threshold & Portal as Frame\_Perge, Turkey*  
Source: author

### Connection to Nature

The Scotts Run area is an assortment of hills and valleys, with very little flat land. The hills and valleys themselves form a series of thresholds in a couple different ways. One could imagine that at the bottom of each hill, a threshold exists for those beginning the climb up steeper terrain. Beyond just a change in elevation, a threshold could provide a vista of the goal – the peak. As one follows the twists and bends during the ascent, a series of thresholds could still focus on the peak.

Another type of threshold is found in the natural arrangement of the hills and valleys. While winding through the landscape, a series of thresholds can be imagined. The series of thresholds can be found in both plan and section and can be formed by the natural arrangement of trees, the location of a stream or even the elevation of the topography. There is a level of playfulness in the discovery of a natural feature while winding through the landscape, especially if that natural feature creates a sense of a new space.

## 4\_Site analysis



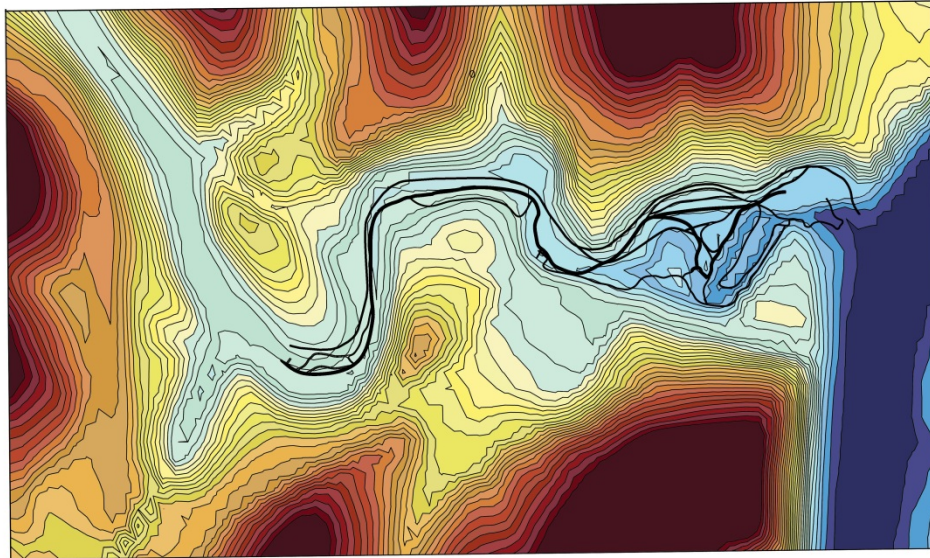
*Fig.4-1* Monongalia County, West Virginia  
Source: author



Scott's Run, West Virginia

*Fig.4-2* Morgantown & Site  
Source: map from Bing Maps; illustration by author





Topography & Pathways

*Fig.4-3* Topography at 10' Intervals with Pathways\_Scotts Run, WV  
Source: author

### Site Analysis

The thesis site is located on at the curve of the Monongahela River to the west of Morgantown. Interstate 79 runs to the west of Osage, with the exit approximately one mile to the west. The Monongahela Boulevard, one of the main routes into Morgantown, is south of the site. Nestled within a valley between two hills, the site has a dense, medium-growth tree canopy. The site boundaries are: to the west, the town of Osage; to the north, Scotts Run Road, Bertha Hill and forest; to the east, Route 100 and the Monongahela River; and to the south, Monongahela Boulevard and big box development.

Main Street in Osage is about a quarter of a mile long. In the past, stores lined both sides of the street, but today one side has been transformed into low-income apartments. Main Street used to be bustling with activity during Osage's years as a coal town but is now nearly deserted. There are a few stores that remain open including Al's Shoe Shop, which has been in business since Osage's more prosperous days. There is also an existing recording studio, "The Pop Shop", located on Main Street. Only 107 people live in Osage today.



*Fig.4-4* Main Street in Osage during the 1930s  
Source: Library of Congress





*Fig.4-5 Main Street in Osage Today*  
Source: author





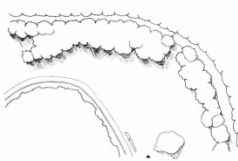


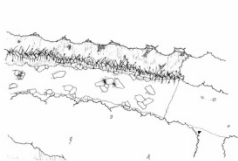


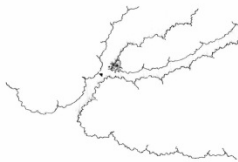

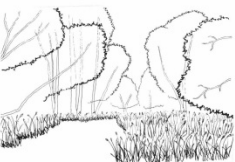
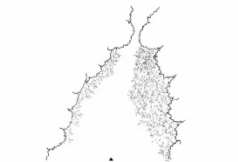
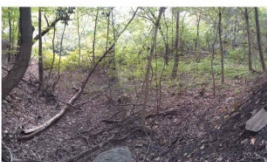




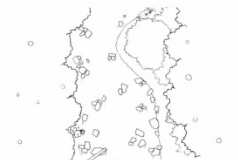

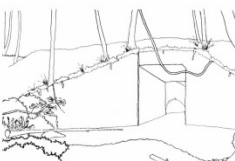
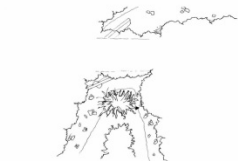
*Fig.4-6 Shoe Shop in Osage in 1938*  
Source: Marion Post Walcott, Library of Congress



*Fig.4-7 Shoe Shop in Osage Today*  
Source: Ron Delaney

### *Rooms & Ruins*

The site is composed of both natural rooms and manmade ruins. The natural rooms are made up of things such as a waterfall, a natural bowl in the landscape or clearings in the forest. Manmade ruins are coal mining remnants such as railroad tracks, a concrete bridge and coal tipples. The rooms and ruins are located across the site in obvious and hidden areas.

	photo	sketch	plan
open field			
hidden waterfall			
fork in the road			
goldenrod field			
amphitheatre			
creek & canopy			
secret bridge			

*Fig.4-8* Natural Rooms & Manmade Ruins  
Source: author

The Morris Block Company, which began in 1974, was a former mine, mining service station and tipple apparatus for trains to transport coal from nearby mines. After serving as a coal mine from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century until the late 1960s, it served as a concrete block factory and warehouse. There are two existing buildings on the site. One building is board and batten, and the other is a metal building with corrugated metal walls and roof. Neither is insulated. Both buildings are in disrepair and seem to be water-damaged. The five-story high iconic and provocative tipple is located on this site and serves a beacon for nearby residents and commuters. Other coal and concrete block paraphernalia, such as old trucks, concrete blocks, sheet metal and lumber, are located on the site.

Other places around the site became obvious nodes along the path. The open clearing near the waterfall, the bowl in the topography and the Patriot Mining site that looks across to Morgantown were clear choices for program spaces, and many other places were carved out of the existing rooms and ruins.



*Fig.4-9* Christopher Coal Company Tipple in Osage  
Source: author



*Fig.4-10* View Toward Morgantown at Patriot Mining Site  
Source: author

## 5\_Program

### Community Input

The Osage community has met many times within the last couple years to discuss the feasibility and scope of a proposed Scotts Run Community Development project. Among the programmatic needs the community has identified, master planning, a cultural arts center and low-income housing are at the top of their list. Other suggestions include a mining memorial and museum, an extension of the local Rails-Trails system, a community park/playground and a revitalization of Main Street.

After a feasibility analysis, there was an idea for a recreational and educational park that extended from the Monongahela River to Osage. At the southeast end of Main Street in Osage, a proposed museum, information center and community room initiates the path. Taking the path east toward the river begins the journey into the landscape, and most of the path follows the perceived right of way of an old historic railroad line that served the coal mines in the Scotts Run valley. Within the landscape, there are tipples, a mining memorial, an amphitheatre, a small piazza and a clearing for farmers' markets and other activities.

This project is seen as a first phase of a revitalization project for Osage. The first challenge to overcome is to attract people from Morgantown to Osage. The pathway connects Osage to the river's edge, and the program

along the path serves as recreational spaces for visitors. The most feasible options for transportation to the site are via car, bus or bike. Visitors can begin the pathway at either end. A Rails-Trails system runs through Edith Barill Park on the opposite side of the river. At a later phase, a pedestrian footbridge from Morgantown is proposed to encourage local traffic to begin at the Monongahela River node.

## 6\_Schemes

### Program Dispersal

Schemes addressing program dispersal were explored early in the project. Clustering the majority of the program at a certain nodes was proposed, either only at Osage or at both Osage and the Patriot Mining site on the river's edge. Ultimately, this seemed to disrupt the connection of the pathway between the Patriot Mining site and Osage, so the project moved away from these schemes and toward a scheme with program distributed along the path.



*Fig.6-1* CLUSTERED PROGRAM IN OSAGE  
Source: Author



*Fig.6-2* CLUSTERED PROGRAM AT BOTH OSAGE AND PATRIOT MINING SITE  
Source: Author



*Fig.6-3* PATHWAY THROUGH SITE – DISTRIBUTED PROGRAM  
Source: Author



### Rooms & Ruins Selection

During a site visit, natural rooms and manmade ruins were catalogued and evaluated for the types of program that could occur in the spaces. Once catalogued, locations of minor paths and program dispersal throughout the rooms and ruins were investigated. This helped lead to the selection of the six main nodes along the pathway.

## 7\_Design Strategies & Principles

### *Six Places Along the Path*

Using criteria such as size, access to the main path, location on the site, enclosure, sun exposure, views and accessibility, six places were chosen among the rooms and ruins to be main nodes: Scotts Run Museum and Community Room, The Ruins, Miners' Light Pavilion, Pop Shop Amphitheatre, The Seam and Scotts Run Landing.



Fig.7-1 Scotts Run Miners' Walk Site Plan  
Source: author



*Fig.7-2* Scotts Run Museum & Community Room  
Source: author



*Fig.7-3* Scotts Run Museum & Community Room Site Section  
Source: author





Fig. 7-4 Scotts Run Museum & Community Room Site Plan  
Source: author

### Scotts Run Museum & Community Room

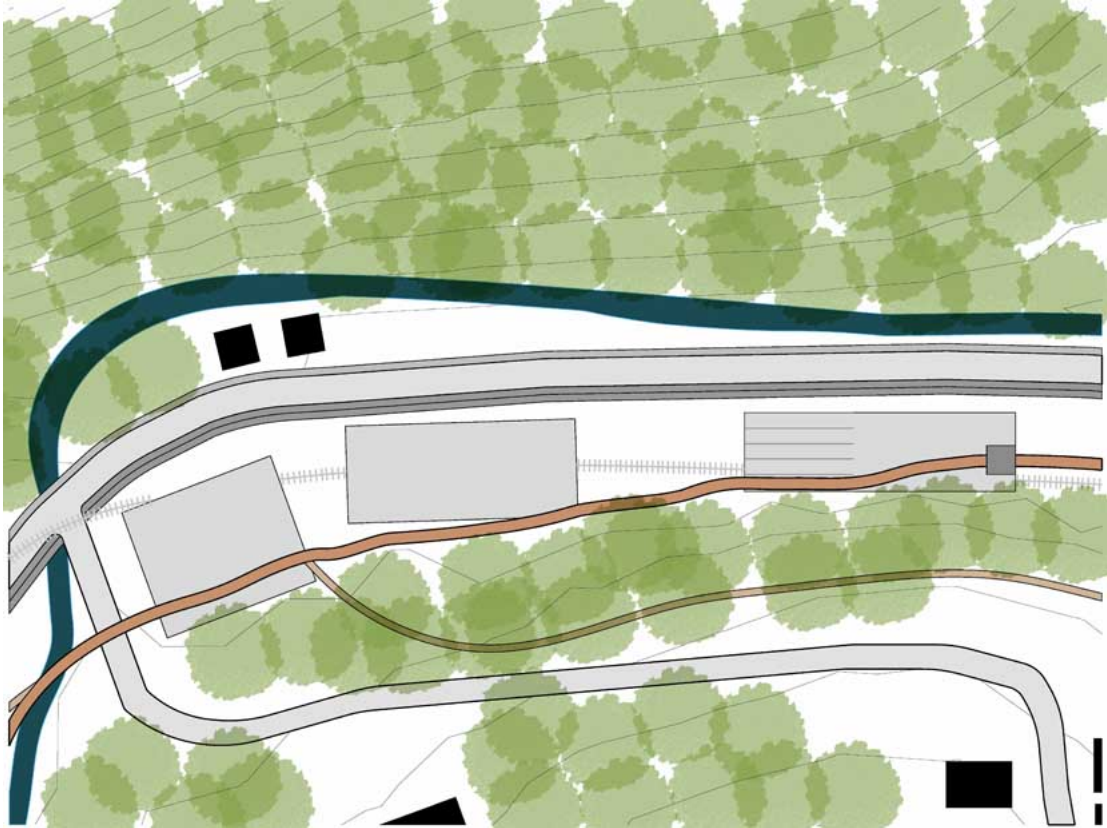
The Scotts Run Museum and Community Room is the main entrance onto the Miners' Walk. The entrance walkway divides the buildings and hangs out over the creek. The buildings wrap the beginning of the pathway, and the information building rotates slightly to line up with Main Street. The museum to the north has an open floor plan to allow for flexible display areas. The community room to the south is also a flexible space. The building forms are generated from the trusses that were harvested from the site. Corrugated metal and board and batten are used for the exterior cladding.



*Fig.7-5 The Ruins*  
Source: author



*Fig.7-6 The Ruins Site Section*  
Source: author



*Fig.7-7 The Ruins Site Plan*  
Source: author

### *The Ruins*

The Ruins are located on the Morris Block Company site. Existing on the site are the skeletons of three buildings, the mine opening, a tipple and other relics from the mining and concrete block industries. Visitors can travel up into the tipple via the main pathway. Another option is to take a hiking trail to see the mine opening up on the hill. This area is largely untouched from its industry-era state to help tell the story of mining in northern West Virginia.





*Fig. 7-8 Miners' Light Pavilion*  
Source: author



*Fig. 7-9 Miners' Light Pavilion Site Section*  
Source: author



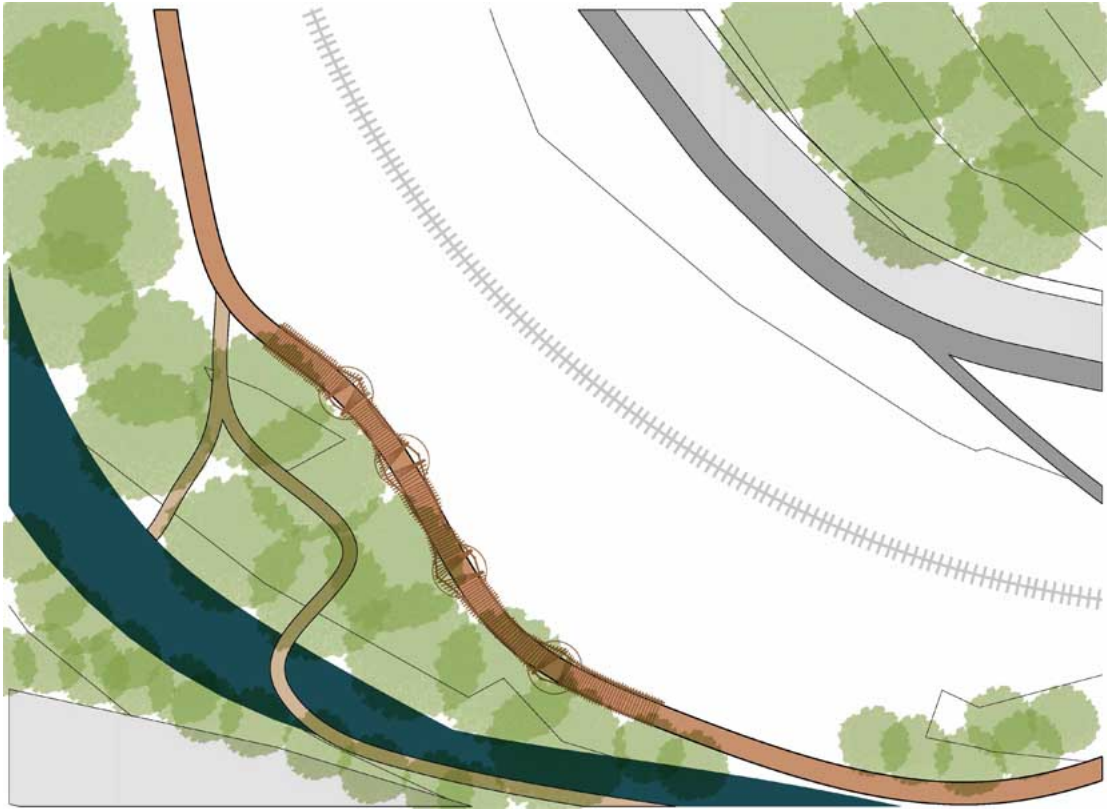


Fig. 7-10 Miners' Light Pavilion Site Plan  
Source: author

### Miners' Light Pavilion

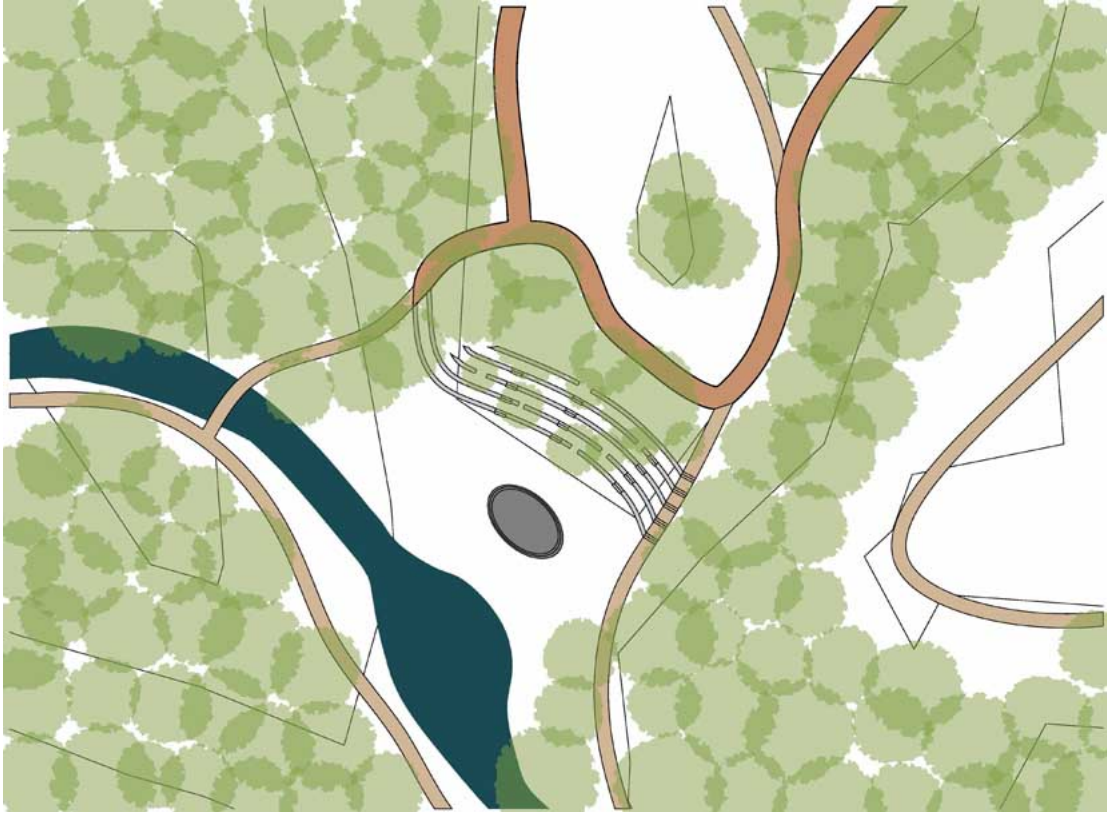
The Miners' Light Pavilion is a memorial to the coal miners that lost their lives in Scotts Run coal mines. Situated along the main path, the structure is heavy timber. The uniformity of the beams overhead and shadows on the ground is disrupted in four areas where they are split apart to create lightshafts. The four lightshafts represent the four major mining disasters in the community that killed 99 miners. Each post has the name of a miner, the date he passed away and the mine in which it happened. Plaques on the ground within each lightshaft explain more about each of the four disasters.



*Fig. 7-11 Pop Shop Amphitheatre*  
Source: author



*Fig. 7-12 Pop Shop Amphitheatre Site Section*  
Source: author



*Fig.7-13 Pop Shop Amphitheatre Site Plan*  
Source: author

### *Pop Shop Amphitheatre*

The Pop Shop Amphitheatre sits within a natural bowl in the topography. It is a more private space that is shielded from most noise. The stage sits in front of a backdrop of the creek, and the seating rises to the top of the bowl. Theatre performances, musical performances and other festivities can happen here. As with all of the places along the Miners' Walk, the amphitheatre is also accessible.

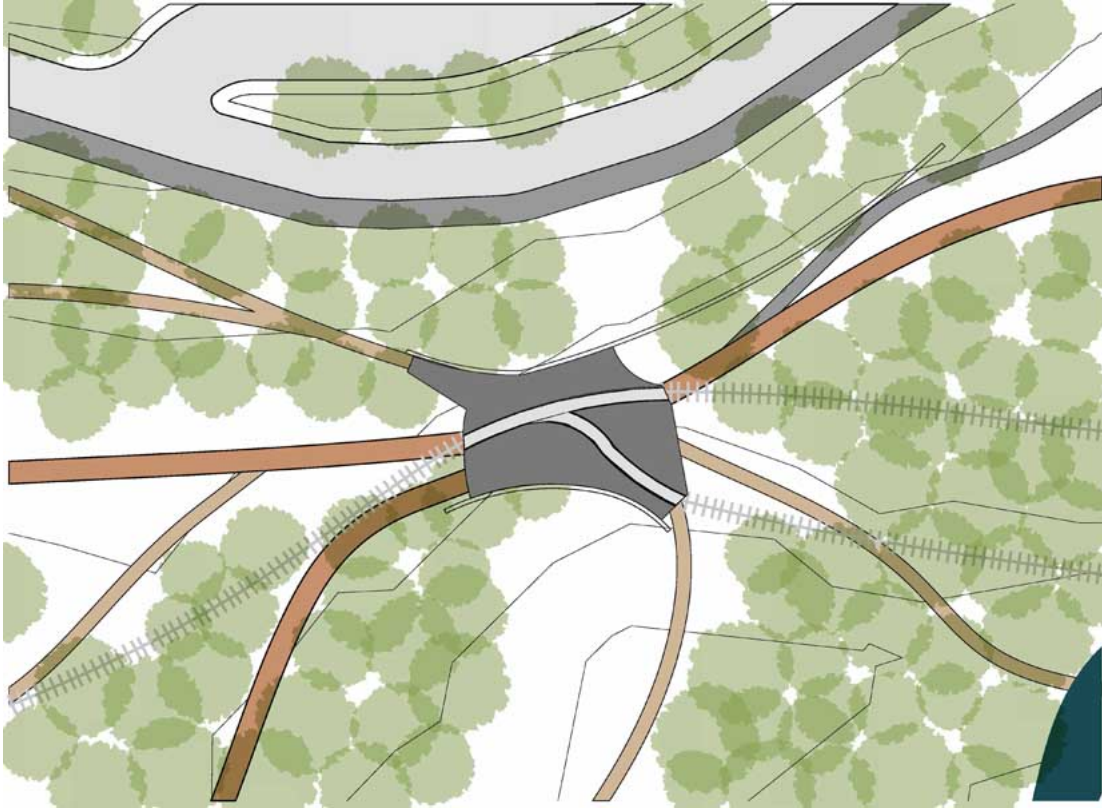




*Fig.7-14 The Seam*  
Source: author



*Fig.7-15 The Seam Site Section*  
Source: author



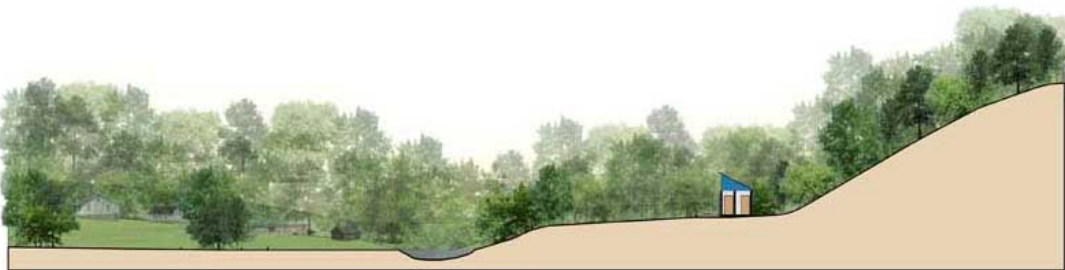
*Fig.7-16 The Seam Site Plan*  
Source: author

### *The Seam*

The Seam is located where all of the pathways meet in one place on the site. Used as a guide and filter, it creates a space for fellowship and for repose. Seat walls line the edges, and large riverstones are used exclusively as the material. Cutting through the center are railroad rails that fork off in different directions, physical reminders of the railroad line that traversed the site. Set in polished stones in the floor are markers helping visitors make their ways to the different destinations on the site.



*Fig.7-17* Scotts Run Landing  
Source: author



*Fig.7-18* Scotts Run Landing Site Section  
Source: author



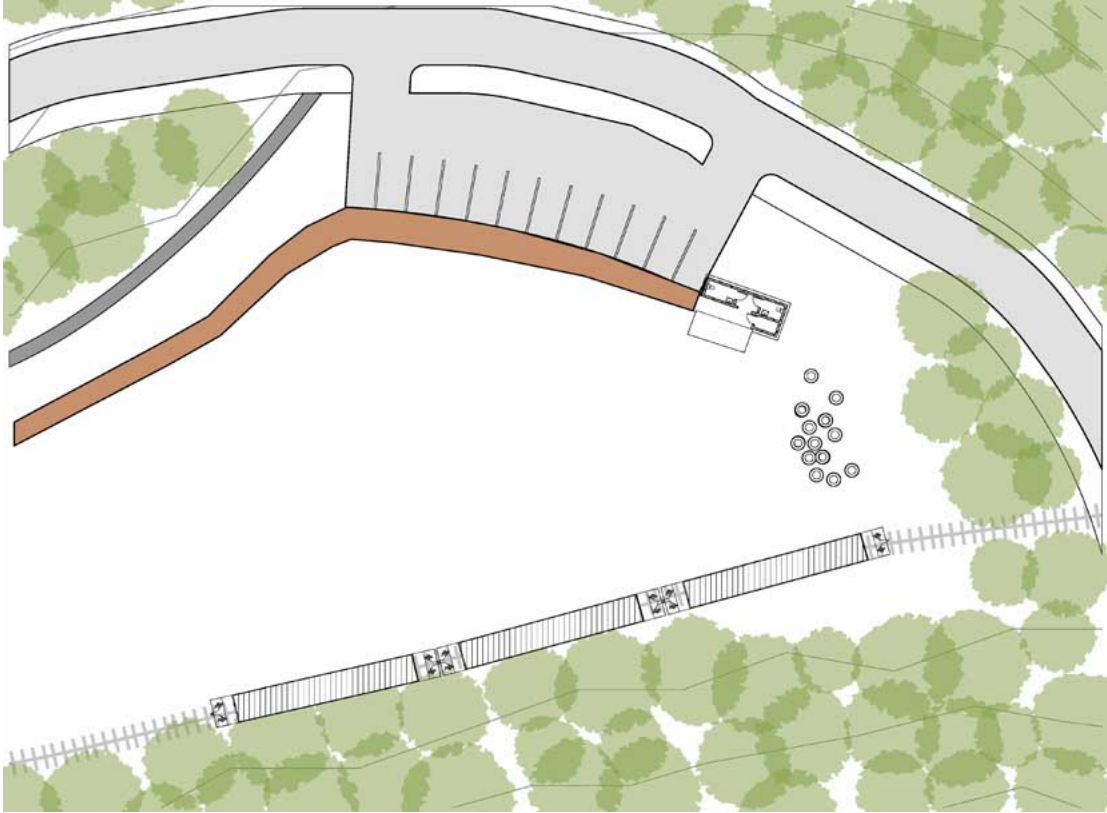


Fig.7-19 Scotts Run Landing Site Plan  
Source: author

### Scotts Run Landing

Scotts Run Landing is on the Patriot Mining site with framed views toward Morgantown. This area along the Monongahela River serves as a secondary entrance onto the site depending on where the visitors from. The space has an area for farmers' markets, as well as restroom facilities and a tire garden and old train cars on which children can play. The landing is a large flex space to accommodate whatever type of community meeting or party may be there.







Direct Light Path

Overlapping Cone Rays



The Valley

The Valley

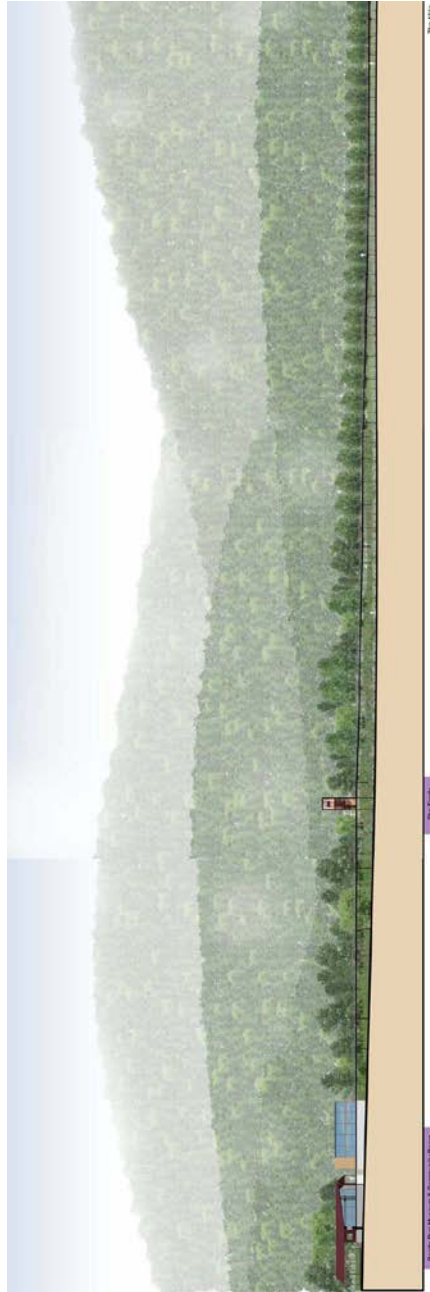


Fig.7-20 Section Through Entire Pathway (Four Segments)  
Source: author





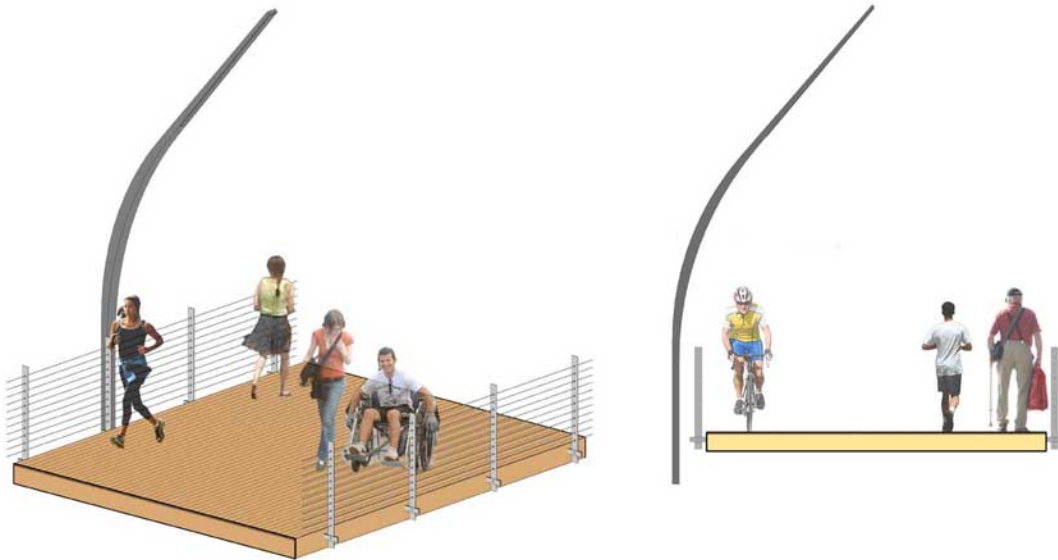
*Fig.7-21* Tipple Near Scotts Run Museum & Community Room  
Source: author



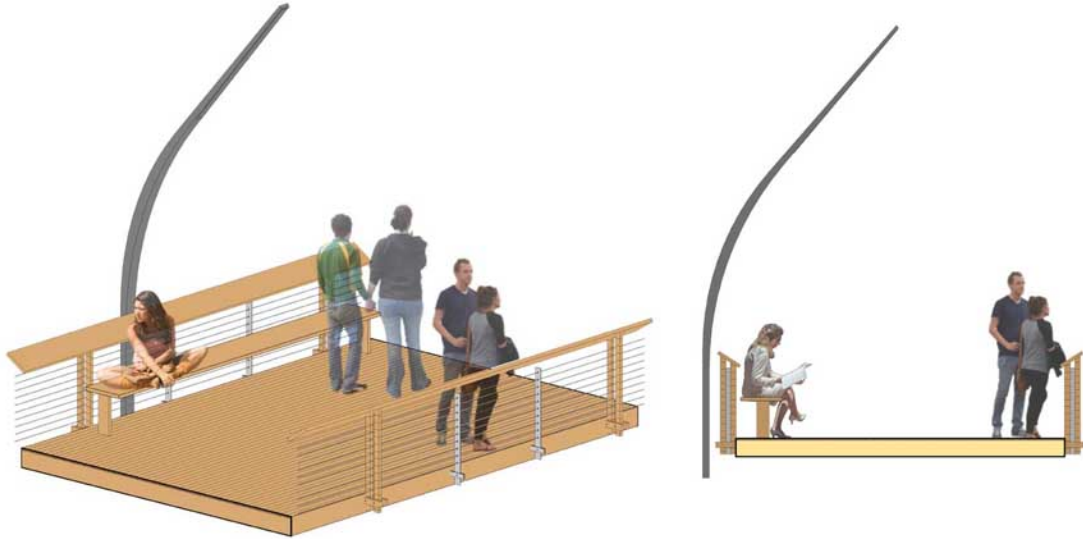
*Fig.7-22* Waterfall Near Miners' Light Pavilion  
Source: author

## Pathway & Trail Design

The main pathway is built with timber and lumber. It becomes elevated off the ground in two areas to invite the visitors to tour the tipples 15 feet in the air, harkening back to the conveyer belts that ran through the hills carrying coal from the mines to the tipples. The pathway transforms in areas of lingering and in areas of movement to accommodate the visitors traveling across the site and those visitors that are stopped leaning against the railing or sitting on the bench.



*Fig.7-23 Pathway Section - Movement*  
Source: author



*Fig.7-24 Pathway Section - Linger*  
Source: author



*Fig.7-25 Trail Section*  
Source: author

*Connections & Valuable Space*

The pathway from the city to the edge of the Scotts Run Community creates several moments of repose at every stop along the way. These nodes will create spaces valuable to Osage and the greater Scotts Run community, to Morgantown residents and to visitors from outside the area.



## 8\_Materials

Three categories of materials were used for the architectural interventions.

First, the salvageable materials were harvested from the ruins around the site. These included corrugated metal, lumber, tires, board and batten siding, trusses, concrete block and railroad rails and ties.



*Fig.8-1* Harvested Materials  
Source: author

Some buildings and structures were also harvested from the site. These included tipples, railroad bridges, footbridges, metal buildings and other relics from the coal mining and concrete block industries.



*Fig.8-2 Harvested Buildings & Structures*  
Source: author

Last, new materials that pay homage to the original buildings and structures that were on the site during the days of coal mining were also used. These include new corrugated metal, large stone for paving, new



timbers, concrete and new lumber. The Community Room utilizes yellow-tinted glass, which harkens back to the lantern used in the coal mines.

## 9\_Conclusions

The Scotts Run Miners' Walk is the first phase in an effort to revitalize a coal community with a rich history. The coal companies are long gone, and the residents of Osage are proud of their multi-cultural past. They are looking for ways to educate others on how their community has grown and evolved from its prosperous days as a coal town in north-central West Virginia.

The pathway in the park winds its way through the landscape to present natural rooms and manmade ruins to the visitors. Each secondary trail invites the visitors to encounter more rooms and ruins on their own. The open-program spaces allow for many different things to go on. These spaces change with the seasons, creating different backdrops throughout the entire year. As Morgantown grows, this scenic recreation park will continue to provide a safe and educational green space for the city.

The materials, much of which are harvested from the site, make this project feasible for a community low on funds but brimming with energetic manpower. Sustainable, low-cost efforts and low maintenance interventions are important factors for this project's success. By using harvested, economic and resilient materials, the community can easily maintain this park.

Coal mining is still a major part of the lives of West Virginians. Celebrating the life of the miners, their families and their communities is an

excellent way to educate those who would like to know more about the coal mining culture. This project seeks to do just that by presenting the visitors with a glimpse of the culture earlier in the 20<sup>th</sup> century nestled within today's world.

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