

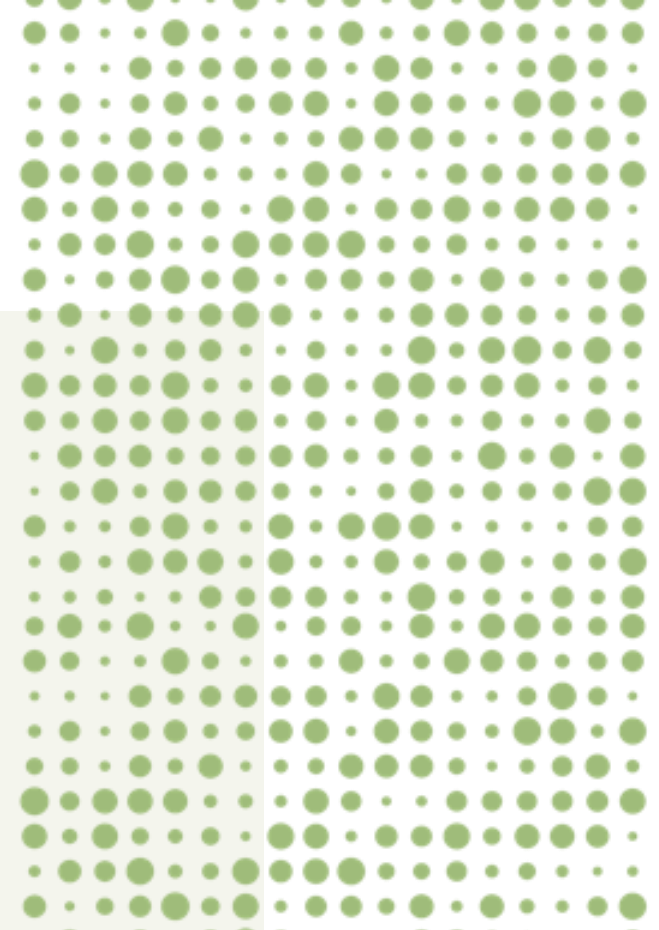
# University of West Florida Engagement with EPA Region 4

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# Delimiting the Case Study

- Covers engaging students in planning for superfund site redevelopment between September, 2017 and May, 2019
- Sites in question:
  - Escambia Wood-Pensacola
  - American Creosote Works Inc.-Pensacola Plant
- Stakeholders Engaged:
  - Escambia County, FL Staff and Commissioners
  - City of Pensacola, FL Staff
  - Two Private Firms
- Semesters Covered:
  - Spring 2018
  - Summer 2018
  - Fall 2018
  - Spring 2019



# Establishing Engagement

- Students worked in teams
  - Two to six depending on enrollment
  - Subdivided scope of work according to number of teams
  - Students chose teams by preference with justification
    - No one rarely got beyond their 3<sup>rd</sup> choice
- Assigned Professional Advisors to Teams
  - Successful with only a few teams
    - Time Constraints
    - Nature of Engagement



# Spring 2018: Escambia Wood – Engagement with County Staff

- History and Current Conditions
- Current Stakeholder Mapping and Engagement
- Best Practices
- Potential Investor Mapping and Engagement
- Options and Feasibility
- Design Considerations

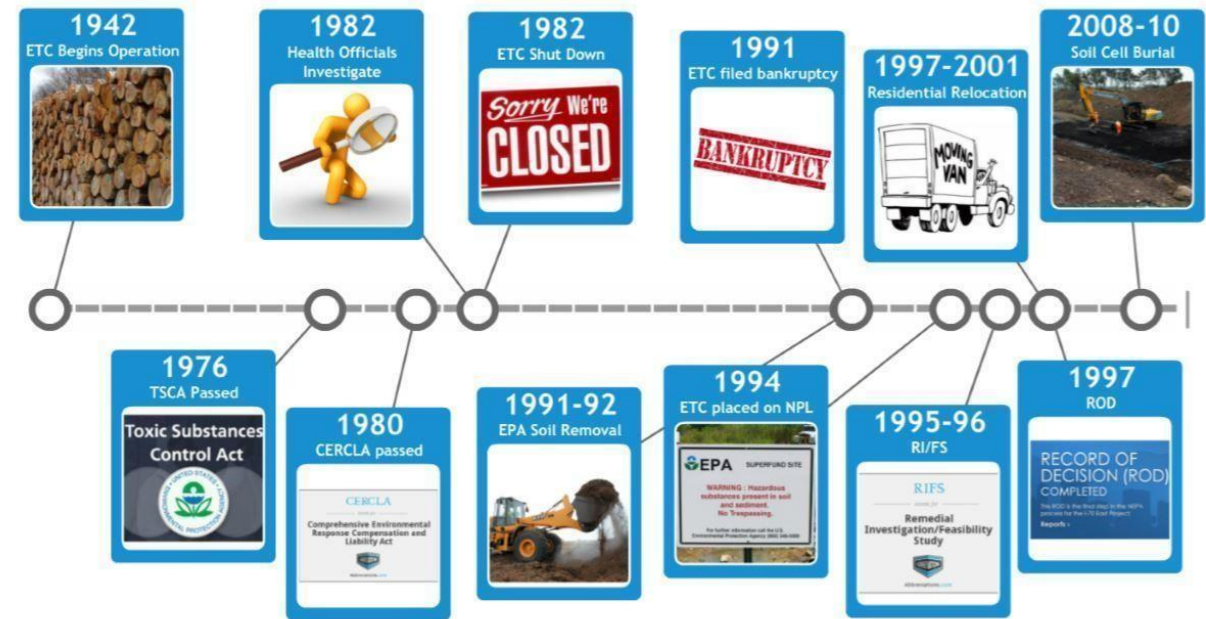




# Spring 2018: Escambia Wood – Engagement with County Staff



Site Visit

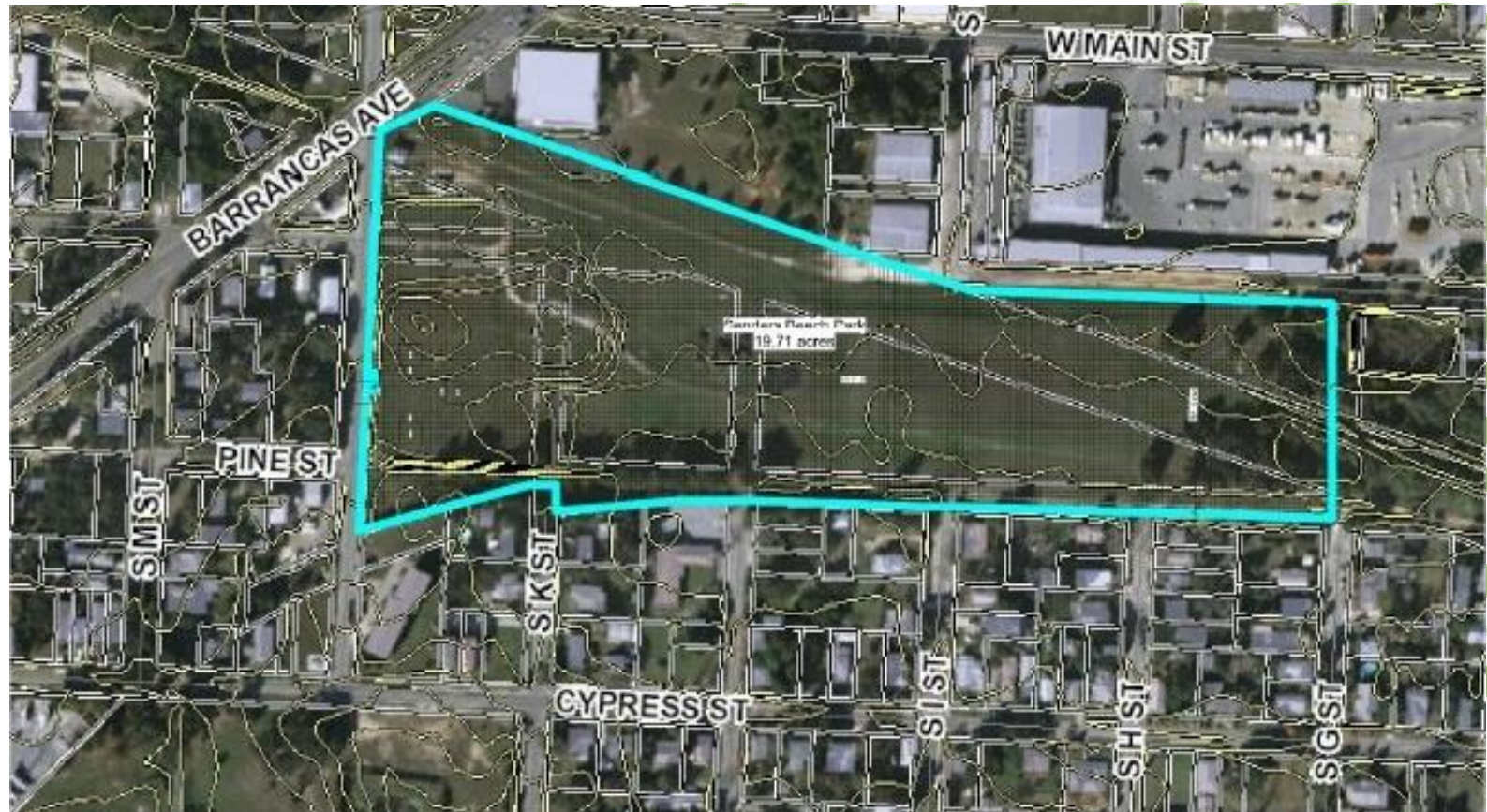


Timeline of Escambia Wood Site: 1942-2010



# Summer 2018: American Creosote Works (ACW) – Collaborative Engagement with City Staff and a Private Firm

- Staff wanted a design for a passive park
- Students had no prior design experience
- Partnered with local architects to produce final design
- Architects engaged with students 4 times over the course of 5 weeks for about 3 hours each time





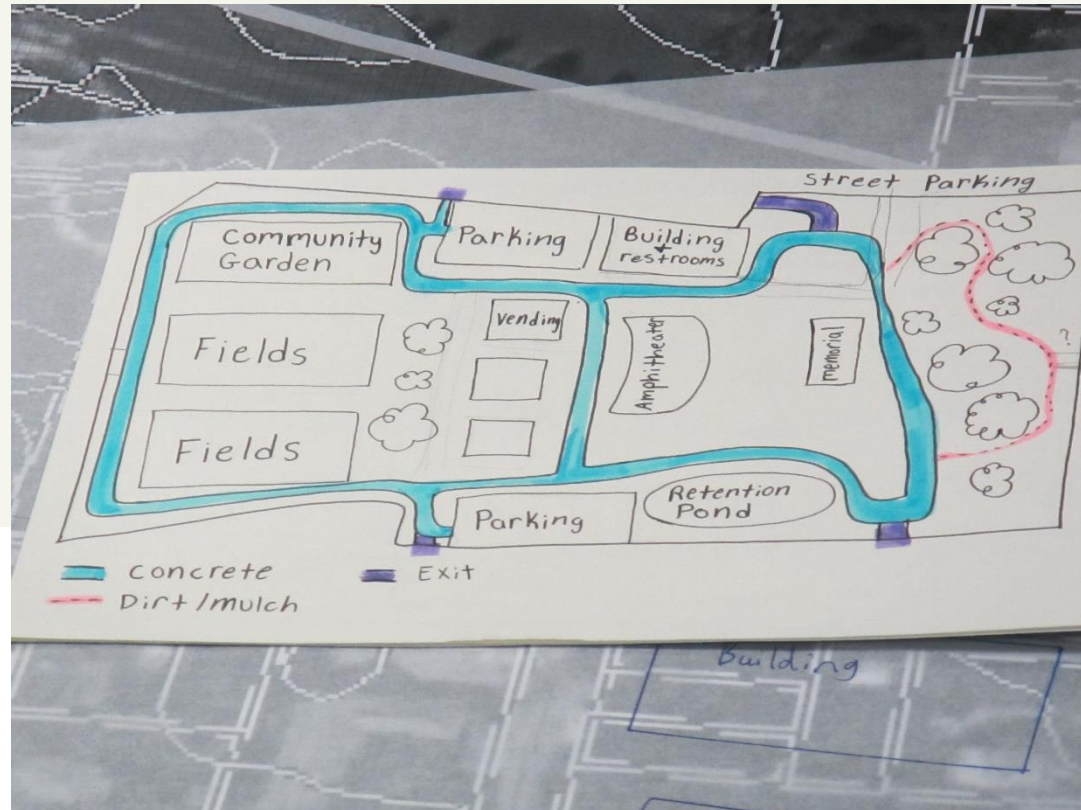
# Summer 2018: American Creosote Works (ACW) – Collaborative Engagement with City Staff and a Private Firm

- Institute
- Amphitheater
- Best Practices
- Concessions,  
Memorial, Restroom
- Trails
- Landscaping



# Summer 2018: ACW– Collaborative Engagement with City Staff and Private Firm

## Students' Initial Concept Design



## Architects' Final Professional Rendering





# Fall 2018: Escambia Wood – Engagement with County Commissioners

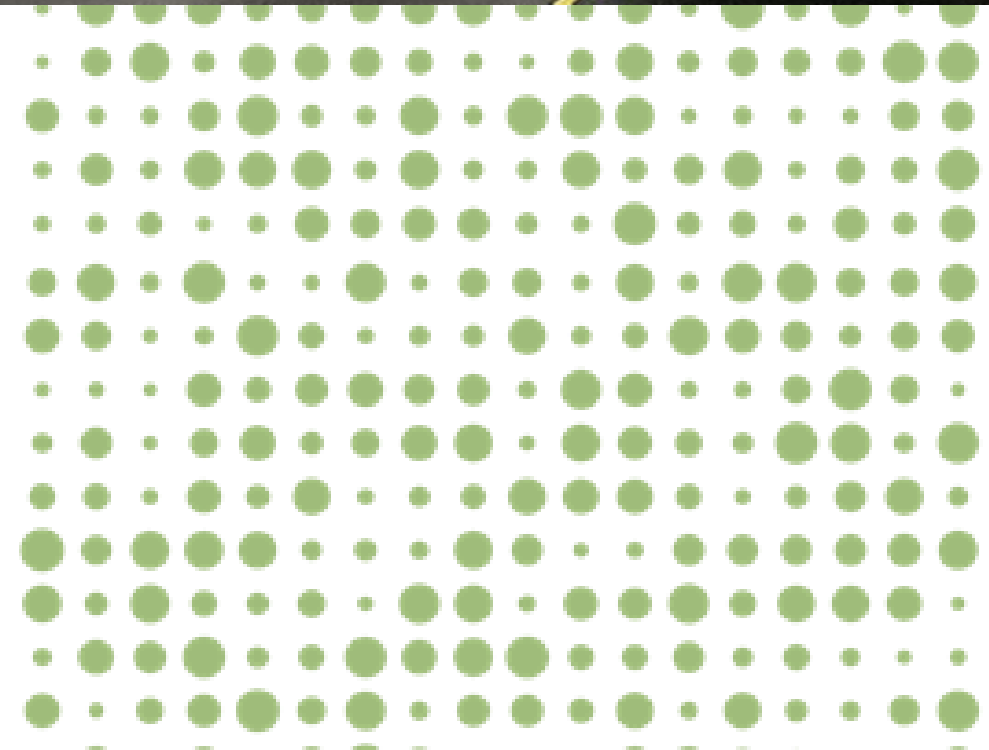
- To ascertain their collective vision for the redevelopment
- Five student teams to engage with each of the County Commissioners
- All commissioners wanted to see site redeveloped
- Differing opinions as to exactly what kind of redevelopment



# Spring 2019: Escambia Wood – Engagement with Private Firm



- Technology Review
- Financial Modelling and Project Financing
- Legal
- Environment and Land Use
- Community/Stakeholder Engagement
- Funding and Financial Incentives







# Takeaways/Lessons Learned

- Recognize the varying needs of community partners
- Start planning for engagement early
- Manage expectations
- Use visioning to stimulate discussion
- Connect engagement activities to course content
- Provide students opportunities for autonomy and opportunities to demonstrate learning
- Be flexible and prepare for long term engagement
- Say yes to new experiences and remember that good work often begets more opportunities

# Acknowledgements

- Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences-Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering, University of West Florida
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- Escambia County, FL
- City of Pensacola, FL
- All students who enrolled in the following courses:
  - Environmental Management and Planning: Spring 2018 and Spring 2019
  - Environmental Aspects of Urban Growth: Summer 2018
  - Urban Planning: Fall 2018