KANAB-BEST FRIENDS

- Best Friends - Angel Canyon
- 3 Lakes Property
- Connectivity
- Kanab Downtown
- Four Seasons Motel

connecting the possibilities
KANAB/BEST FRIENDS
connecting the possibilities

CAPSTONE TEAM

FACULTY
• todd johnson
• david bell

STUDENTS
• donalyn bliss • tyson murray
• spencer burt • joseph nielson
• christopher creasey • stephen ormsbee
• kendall crockett • andrew quebbeman
• mckenna drew • alonzo rhodes
• david durfee • david shirk
• marjorie haight • darci williams
• tyler knab • stephen woody

CREDITS
best friends animal sanctuary
kanab city
bureau of land management - escalante office
department of landscape architecture & environmental planning
usu college of agriculture & applied sciences
usu cooperative extension
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2017 Senior Capstone Studio
Town of Kanab/Best Friends Animal Sanctuary
Studio and Final Document Prepared by: The Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning/College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences with USU Extension Services

Studio Selection
In the summer of 2016 the Department of LAEP was introduced to the founding members of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, UT. John Keith, a donor/contributor to Best Friends, sensed that the issues of town planning and the needs of its largest employer might benefit from student investigation. Each year the Department undertakes to tackle a large project with fall semester sophomores gathering background information about the project and stakeholders. In January, at the beginning of the spring semester, the entire department undertook a weeklong Charrette to frame the essential questions for further design investigation by the seniors. For the remaining ten weeks, the seniors focused on deeper investigations of these issues. This document is the Compilation of the efforts of five teams attending to the following subjects:

I. Kanab Town Plan
II. Motel Renovation at 4 Seasons Motel
III. 400 Acre Acquisition/Employee Housing at Three Lakes
IV. 3000 Acre Sanctuary Plan
V. Connectivity
Studio Culture

National Capstone Projects grew out of high school teachers wanting senior students to stay focused at the end of their final year. The tradition has evolved to feature the following learning principles and objectives:

1) The opportunity to investigate a dynamic/real world project.
2) The studio relies on the self-motivation and on the determination of students to discover project goals and solutions.
3) The studio operates with multiple teams in an open studio format. Collaboration is essential to finding dynamic solutions.
4) Maximum client and stakeholder involvement challenges the students to substantiate their ideas.
5) Capstone and Charrette studios provide an opportunity for all students across all grades to share ideas and working experiences with the entire faculty.

Client and Stakeholder Centered

The experience of seeking feedback from clients, incorporating changes and redirecting the design, is very valuable for a practice-ready graduating student. The mayor, town manager, economic development director and community leaders have participated throughout the semester to offer the students a flavor of the town perspective. Citizens and public officials should use this document to make the entire community more economically stable and a better place to live.
Kanab City
Ensuring a Timeless Classic
Project Statement

A city’s center street is often the backbone of retail and commerce to small rural towns. Towns that share their center street with a state highway can experience a conflict of interests. Historically, approaches to this conflict between local communities and state through-traffic have been one-sided, favoring the faster transportation of people and goods through the city. By placing the emphasis on the local citizens, we empower the community to succeed without compromising regional transportation needs. Helping to support the backbone is the community’s civic center or the heart of the city. By providing quality spaces for interactions between different age groups you strengthen the entire community of Kanab, Utah.

Site Location

Kanab is located on the Utah border just miles from Arizona with highway 89 serving as Center Street. Kanab’s population of 4,000 is primarily of agrarian employment and tourism. They are located within an hour of five different national parks that see 17 million visitors per year. This huge influx of tourists during the summer months creates a town that is fundamentally different based on each changing season.

Issues

Despite Kanab’s various assets, there are some constraints that prevent certain aspects of change. Center Street for example currently has four lanes with a turn lane in the middle encourages higher vehicular speeds, but makes it dangerous for pedestrians. The average daily traffic numbers do not require two lanes each way even through the summer months when tourism is at its peak. Kanab also has a lack of a public gathering space that unifies the community. They have a lack of affordable rentals, which are currently in high demand. Last, several locals and city officials fear losing the small town feel of Kanab.

Project Goals Objectives

Three main goals of this project were to 1) address the streetscape to better support the city and ultimately strengthen the economy, 2) provide recommendations for the housing shortage, and 3) help bring the community together in a public space that is successful and useful for all ages.
Project implementation

We have addressed the streetscape by proposing a planted median, a combination of parallel and angled parking, installing a traffic light, installing bulb-outs, crosswalks, removing a lane each direction, and reducing speeds to 25 miles per hour. Kanab will be able to meet their goals for Center Street by implementing these elements. The preceding suggestions will help to strengthen the community by slowing traffic, increasing dwell times, creating memorable identity of the town, and increasing pedestrian safety and comfort.

We have supported the housing market with recommendations on new building locations and infill opportunities where there is existing infrastructure. We also suggest that some existing houses for sale be converted into duplexes and other rental options to maintain the current small town feel of the historic city. By considering these suggestions, Kanab’s housing complications will be greatly improved and potentially invite residents of various ages and occupations.

Enhancing the city’s Civic Center and surrounding spaces to include recreation opportunities such as pickle ball and horseshoe pits will provide opportunities for mingling individuals of all ages. The outdoor gathering spaces such as the amphitheater and pavilion provide opportunities for various events. The site also meets needs of the city with providing additional parking and storage for the city offices.

Several of the elements can be used for multiple activities such as the overflow parking hosting food trucks for celebrations and local farmers markets. The paved parking lot has been sized for three on three basketball tournaments as well as including other recreational opportunities in the surrounding area. By providing these amenities in a public community center in addition to the Center Street improvements, Kanab’s downtown will spark a positive change throughout the entire city. The implementation of the preceding proposals will provide the town with a healthy economy, affordable housing options, and recreational opportunities that will help meet and exceed the goals of the beautiful and historic Kanab.
Kanab, Utah is located in southern Utah and is conveniently surrounded by several National Parks that can be reached within an hour's travel. Though it is a small town, it is filled with big amenities focused around the downtown area.
Kanab has local assets that will help to drive the future growth of the city.
After analysis of the downtown, the design team found that their goals matched the goals stated in Kanab’s general plan. These include strengthening the economy, providing affordable housing options, and providing several recreational opportunities.
Before beginning design, the team noticed constraints placed on the town that may have limited the decisions for proposals.
Civic Center Master

The Civic Center site, anchoring the east end of Center Street has already begun to be developed by the city. The design team programmed the elements above to cater to the needs of the diverse community.
These proposals for the civic center design are hoped to be the most influential on the growing population of people and animals in Kanab.
Several housing issues are present in Kanab including population growth with limited room for growth, very few places available for rent, and a large portion of vacant houses that are not being sold.
Some solutions to these issues are to use existing structures to be used for rental opportunities, infill the area in the southwest of town due to its existing infrastructure, and do this slowly so as not to overwhelm the small town feel.

1. Suggestions
   - Suggest subdivisions for rent out of
     a) existing vacation homes and
     b) proposed duplex/fourplex’s

2. Residential Infill
   - Single family housing for future growth

3. Slowly
   - Slow infill so as not to overwhelm the small town feel and growth
Center Street Precedents

1st Street, Livermore, CA
2 Lanes
AADT - 9,300
Lane Width - 11 ft
Angled Parking on North and South

Provo Center Street, UT
4 Lanes
AADT - 15,600
Lane Width - 9.5 ft.
Angled Parking on North, South, and Center Median

Springdale Main, UT
2 Lanes
AADT - 3,000
Lane Width - 11 ft.
Parallel Parking on North and South

Being the backbone of the city, Center Street also serves as a state highway and is therefore controversial. These are examples of other main routes that have similar statistics to Kanab’s Center Street and have been successfully renovated to become more pedestrian friendly.
Kanab Center Street

4 Lanes
AADT - 9,000
Lane Width - 11 ft.
Parallel Parking on North and South

This shows a photo of the existing condition of Kanab’s Center Street. It is wide, uncomfortable and slightly scary from a pedestrian perspective.
The design team’s master plan proposal shows elements that would slow down traffic and make the downtown district much more walkable and potentially draw more business to the shops along the street.
The change along Center Street would be drastic, but this cross section shows how the lane sizes stay comfortable and give the pedestrians a much more enjoyable experience.
By implementing all of these changes to Kanab’s downtown, the team believes that the economy of the city will be strengthened and ultimately disperse into the rest of the town which will promote a stronger sense of community for locals and tourists.
By providing suggestions for these three goals, the design team believes that Kanab will become a more engaged community and make a comfortable place for locals and tourists of all ages to enjoy.
Four Seasons Motel
Kanab, Utah
PROJECT STATEMENT

Located on the southern border of Utah is the small town of Kanab. Kanab is known for its agriculture, connections to State and National parks, and Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. This town is in need of animal friendly places to stay while visitors spend time in town, at the parks, or volunteering at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. Entering into town the Four Seasons motel has potential to be a pet destination motel. Located on site will be an updated motel, dog park, restaurant, dog daycare, and kitten nursery.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

The booming city of Kanab is located on the southern border of Utah. Kanab is most known for the close proximity to several state and national parks including Zion’s National Park and the Grand Staircase as well as the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. Best Friends is a non-profit organization that focuses on ending the killing of domestic animals in America’s animal shelters and has the overarching goal of No Kill by 2025.

The City of Kanab has a small town feel with a population of under five-thousand people. Kanab’s economy relies heavily on tourism and therefore is in need of more hotel space that contributes to the character of the town. Best Friends, located six miles north of Kanab, employs 400 individuals that work and live by the same principles that the organization promotes. The landscape, Angel Canyon and Kanab Creek, run between Kanab and Best Friends and connect the two. Currently, these two entities are perceived to have different values and beliefs. Best Friends recently purchased The Four Seasons motel in Kanab that has the potential to bring these two entities together.

The recently purchased Four Seasons Motel was built in the 1970s along Highway 89 as you enter into Kanab City and is the first structure in the Historic District. Best Friends sees this run down motel as an opportunity to
benefit both the City of Kanab and provide lodging to the pet oriented visitors.

In the design of the motel, the original 41 rooms will be maintained; however, 14 rooms will transform into suites - 6 suites have outdoor dog enclosures on the bottom floor while 8 room have outdoor cat enclosures (catios) on the top floor. The updated motel lobby has large glass doors and windows to capture the views of the canyon. Behind the lobby is motel office space and large gathering room. On the motel core second floor there are business meeting rooms and a conference room. The core of the motel leads visitors to the quarter acre dog park. The dog park has a shallow pool for dogs to wade in and plenty of seating for visitors.

On the south side of the site is the run down L-Shaped structure that is beyond repair. This building is taken down and a new building will serve as a dog daycare and kitten nursery. This program element is key as the trails in Kanab and the surrounding parks do not allow dogs on their trails. Users can bring their pets here to drop them off for either hours at a time or weeks, if needed. The dog daycare will also have a pet grooming area as their currently is not a dog groomer in Kanab. The kitten nursery is designed for kittens to be bottle fed and cared for by Best Friends employees and is visible to pedestrians through the installation of large windows. The purpose of many windows on the building is for visitors to see the activities happening and intend to bridge the gap between the City of Kanab and Best Friends.

The north end of the site will have a restaurant. The structure will be renovated to be destination restaurant for all including individuals who want to bring their pets. The front of the restaurant has a two level patio that captures the view of canyon. The patio will be pet friendly to contribute to the pet destination motel. The east side of the building has employee only parking.

Adjacent to the restaurant is a crosswalk to connect to the surrounding trails. Highway 89 is a busy road and pedestrians are in need of a safe place to cross to get from one side of the road to the other. The south side of the site, as you enter historic center street, has another crosswalk that connects pedestrians to Downtown Kanab and the Historic District.

The final additional to the property is the rain garden located directly out of the motel core. Rain water from the motel will be captured and stored in a series of cisterns that look like silos to contribute to the agrarian characteristics of Kanab. The extra rain water from the roof and parking lot area will be captured in a detention basin located in the front of the motel. This 0.22 acre-feet detention basin is designed for a 100-year storm with a 3-hour rainfall event. The implementation of the sustainable system will be the first of its kind in Kanab. This motel has the potential to be a model for the community through the experience, sustainable elements, and attention to history included on this site.
Site Inventory

Motel
Back Parcel
Restaurant
L-Structure
Back Parcel
L-Shaped Structure
Motel Potential

Best Friends
- Work and Live by Principles of Best Friends
- Focus on Animal Suffrage
- Connect to Landscape
- Rely on Donors, Visitors, and Volunteers
- Founded on New Beginnings

Landscape

City of Kanab
- Family Oriented
- Small Town Feel
- Agrarian
- Connect to Landscape
- Rely on Tourism
- Founded on New Beginnings
Hotel Analysis

- 66% “Pet Friendly”
- 90% Pet Fee
- 33% Chain Hotels
- 71% In/Near Historic District
Conceptual Alternatives

**High Impact**
- Demolish Hotel
- Demolish “L-Shape” Building
- Demolish Restaurant
- Vehicular Entrances Remain
- Back Lot Purchased

**Low Impact**
- Increase Green Space
- “L-Shaped” Building Repurpose
- Restaurant Repurpose
- Decrease Parking/Hardscape
- Additional Plaza Space
- Back Lot Purchase

**Medium Impact**
- Purchase Back Lot
- All access entrances remain
- Restaurant remain
- Patio renovation
- Demolish “L-Shaped” Building
- Back Lot Purchase
Schematic Design

- **A** Rain Garden
  - Rain Water Cistern
  - Detention Basin
- **B** Motel
  - 41 Rooms & 45 Parking Stalls
  - 6 Dog Enclosures & 8 Catios
- **C** Dog Park
  - Shallow Dog Pool
  - Outdoor Patio
- **D** Dog Daycare & Kitten Nursery
- **E** Restaurant
  - Two Story Patio
- **F** Crosswalk
  - Connect to Downtown
  - Connect to Trails
Restaurant - **Runoff deferred to north side** due to existing structural conditions

Motel - (2) **3,750 gallon cisterns** on north and south side of motel core

Doggie Daycare - **Rain chain** draining into detention basin

Runoff from parking lot is deferred into a system of **swales** and ultimately to a **detention basin**

**Detention basin** is **0.22 acre-feet** - designed for a **100 year storm** with a **3 hour rainfall event**
Motel Roof Catchment

- Motel Core
- Detention Basin
- Silo Cisterns
Motel Core

First Level of Motel
- Gathering
- Office
- Laundry
- Lobby

Second Level of Motel
- Confrence Room
- Business Center
- Viewing
Dog Daycare & Kitten Nursery

Indoor Layout

- Outdoor Viewing Patio
- Lobby
- Dog Groomer
- Kitten Nursery
- Closet
- Office
- Bathroom
- Large Dog Play Area
- Small Dog Play Area
- Individual Dog Enclosures
North Connection

Two proposed crosswalks
- **North** connects to **Kanab Trails**
- **South** connects to **Downtown Kanab**

Restaurant
- **Two Story Patio** captures view
- **Pet Friendly** Restaurant

Restaurant Entrance
Parking & Sidewalk
Crosswalk & Roadway
Design Results

Motel Potential

Best Friends

Kanab

Landscape
PAW-DRIVEN COMMUNITY
Project Summary:
Synergy between work and home spheres is crucial for sustaining life work balance. Employees at Best Friends are living their dreams at work, but are faced with limited housing options in the nearby town of Kanab. Affordable rentals are hard to come by, and housing that shares the workplace values of Best Friends is non-existent.

Set adjacent to the sanctuary in Angel’s Canyon in a beautiful juniper and sagebrush landscape, the Three Lakes Property is perfect for a low-impact housing solution. Analysis of the site concluded that a modular development of 20 units, with a community center, could be sustainably supported. Unpaved organic roads and restoration techniques, along with solar and rainwater catchment strategies align community values with those of Best Friends.

This Paw-Driven community goes beyond accommodating the many pets of employees at Best Friends with catteries and fenced yards at each unit, miles of trails, and community play spaces. There are also options to be had with both “teeth to the wind” and “hunkered down” home placements.

Narrative:

Best Friends Animal Society

“Save Them All” is the slogan and rallying cry for the Best Friends Animal Society, each and every employee and volunteer knows it and lives by it. This means that most people who visit leave with at least a portion of that conviction. The 1600 different animals on site, along with satisfied and friendly staff, create advocates from many of the 25,000 sanctuary visitors annually. The goal is to “save them all,” not only through rescue and care at the sanctuary, but through inspiring advocacy and awareness throughout the country.

Dedicated, qualified and enthusiastic staff are key to this process, and projected growth estimates a need for 100 more employees within the next ten years. Most employees are transplants from around the country and are brought to the sanctuary by their passion for animals. Unfortunately, housing options in the nearby town of Kanab are limited, and qualified employees have already been turned away due to inability to find a place to stay.

Town of Kanab

Kanab is a small tourist town with a strong Mormon influence. Residents are generally hunting, fishing, ATV riding, conservative, small town folks, contrasted with the vegetarian, animal loving, liberal, Best Friends employees from cities on the coasts. The relative minority of Best Friends employees in town creates social isolation, and diverges from the values and camaraderie at the sanctuary.

Ideal housing for employees at Best Friends is a pet-friendly rental, housing in Kanab is 90% single-family homes, and most rentals are short-term through Air bnb or a similar service. This creates the housing shortage for employees at Best Friends, which forces them into less and less desirable housing situations.

Both the psychological disconnect, and physical shortage, accentuate the need for housing that is aligned with the values at Best Friends.

Three Lakes Site

Set amongst Junipers and sagebrush, this site adjacent to the sanctuary has incredible natural assets, but also a fragile ecosystem including the endangered Kanab Amber Snail. Analysis and considerations included setbacks from the ridges to keep the scenic highway view shed intact, slope analysis, sun and wind positioning and existing trail inventory.

Due to the sensitive environment and values of Best Friends, we determined that low impact; modular housing units are the best solution to the housing need. These units were positioned to keep the scenic highway view shed intact, slope analysis, sun and wind positioning and existing trail inventory.

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Zip Kit Homes

After concluding that modular houses would provide the best design solution, we searched for a builder that could bring real numbers to this project and take it to the next step. Zip Kit Homes, located in Mt.
Pleasant, Utah just three and a half hours from the Sanctuary, looked to be a good fit. We made initial contact with the owner of Zip Kit Homes, and set up a meeting in Mount Pleasant with executives of Best Friends.

During the meeting we were able focus in on several suitable unit types, and further developed those units to fit the needs of Best Friends Employees. Refinement led to four distinct models, the Best Friends editions of Zip Kit Homes, the Terrier, Daschund, Lab, and Dane. Each of these homes are modified to accommodate the average three dogs and two and a half cats of the Best Friends employees.

“Teeth to the Wind” & “Hunker Down”

The community was designed to provide options for residents, embracing the site topography. Ten clustered houses stand more exposed to the wind and sun, but poised to take full advantage of Escalante's Grand Staircase view from the hilltop, “teeth to the wind.” Another cluster of ten is nestled into the bowl like hillside, protected from the wind and sun, with inward views and a more “hunkered down” community feel. Each community fills the needs for different employees and gives choice to the user.

Both communities are formed by the landscape. Topography is utilized, trees are protected, and existing paths are followed. Formalized roads and landscaping are minimalized to allow this forming landscape to shine through. Each and every resident is connected to this landscape through trails, and to each other through public spaces and the community center.

**Community Center**

Between Spot, Rufus, Fifi, Mr. Pickles, and Lassi, there isn’t much room on the couch for entertaining guests in a 400 square foot unit. This makes the community center vital for residents and guests alike.

Following the same principles of the housing units, the community center is comprised of low-impact modular structures, with large decks, sliding doors, and rooftop patios to create a strong indoor-outdoor relationship.

Not only is space for people provided, but true to the Pawdriven principle, space for pets in the form of dog runs and multiple catteries are provided. This space is also strongly connected to the trail system that leads both back to the two clusters, and throughout the striking landscape, particularly the Iron Hill Trail, which provides and overlook towards Grand Staircase National Monument and the Best Friends Sanctuary.

**Conclusion**

Employees at Best Friends are critical to maintaining and improving both animal well-being and visitor experience. This, in turn, brings more people awareness of the cause to “Save them All,” and creates more advocates for domesticated animals around the country.
The employee housing sites for an animal sanctuary should be environmentally friendly and gorgeous!
Architecture and site relationships must respect climate. In the high deserts of Southern Utah wind is both friend and foe depending on the season.
Comfort and solar orientation can optimize energy conservation, and happiness.
Like the animals they serve, employees want choice of size and style.
Matching product size and features offers choice and encourages diversification of the community (serving both animals and humans.)
All aspects of architecture and site planning can be adjusted for animal lovers and environmentalists.
Tubular or houseboat like, the efficient form stresses views in all 360 degrees and from the second story.
Other forms and side relationships suit the variety of topographic and solar circumstances.
With extraordinary views in all directions, there is choice for two distinct experiences; "teeth to the wind," and "hunkered down."
Site designs evolve accordingly with specific attention to dog runs, trail access and topography. The centralized community building allows residents to stretch out and share ideas.
The plant palette is built around indigenous communities and reinforces water and pedestrian pathways.
The Community Center is a place for all residents to meet, to enjoy the marvellous landscape, to talk shop, or simply socialize.
In the desert southwest, being outdoors a night is a spiritual experience; the sacrament of the night sky!
To walk is to be healthy, for both two and four legged creatures. this is the credo of the "Paw-Driven" community.
Best Friends Animal Society: Leveraging the Visitor Experience

Project Statement

In 1984, approximately 17 million animals were killed in animal shelters throughout the United States. That same year the Best Friends Animal Society was founded; one of the most prominent no-kill animal shelters in the nation. Today, the astonishing number of cats and dogs killed in shelters has been reduced to an estimated 2 million annually. Collectively we have made significant progress, but more can be done to accomplish the Best Friends (BF) mission to end the killing of innocent animals in shelters across the United States by 2025. The Best Friends headquarters in Kanab, Utah can be designed to exceed the expectations of curious visitors and generous donors. Creating a more synergetic and meditative experience will leverage visitors into future volunteers and donors, propelling Best Friends towards completing their philanthropic mission. This planning and design investigation explores what steps can be taken to leverage their mission of “No Kill By 2025.”

Location, Scope, and Size

The Best Friends headquarters, also known as the Animal Sanctuary, is a 3,000 acre property nestled into Angel Canyon just north of Kanab, Utah. Tremendous national parks, forests, and recreation areas such as Lake Powell, Zion National Park, and Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument encircle the sanctuary. These natural wonders draw millions of tourists to southern Utah annually, many drive through the city of Kanab and bypass BF on their way to the next destination.

Best Friends is leading by example, proactively becoming a destination of their own. By creating a conscious and compassionate community BF will retain visitors for longer periods of time. Increased visitation and exposure to the Best Friends worldview will inspire visitors to bring the vision of a better future back to their communities, increasing social wellbeing and saving those unable to speak on their own behalf.

Since the founding of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in 1984, facilities have been expanding in an organic fashion. This organic growth is, in part, due to the fact that BF is a non-profit organization reliant upon donations to expand facilities and operations. Over 33 years the sanctuary has become harder to navigate, especially for those less familiar with the property. Similarly, the animals and people of Best Friends have become more dislocated from each other as the organization develops across the 3,000 acre property.

Context Investigation

The Colorado Plateau was home to Piute Indian tribes for thousands of years prior to Anglo-Saxon settlement in the mid 1800’s. Piute creation stories express that people were brought into this world as stewards to the environment and all living beings. Maintaining healthy relationships with ecosystems was viewed as a moral obligation and fundamental to survival.

Anglo-Saxon migration to the Colorado Plateau region was driven by the need for more cattle ranching territory and the expanding dominion of the Mormon faith. Cattle ranching industries were crucial to the economic development of Utah and were expanded in the 1870’s and 1880’s. Hundreds of movies were filmed in the area because of the favorable climate and stunning landscapes.
The landscapes in southern Utah are diverse, encompassing many of the ecosystems found throughout the west. Some of the ecosystems found on Best Friends property include: pinyon-juniper, big sagebrush, interior chaparral, and riparian corridors populated by Fremont Cottonwoods and Coyote Willow stands. Long ago this awe-inspiring landscape was tended to and maintained by the native tribes. Their environmental practices reduced the potential for destructive wildfires, maintained cleanliness of streams, and increased biodiversity. More recently land has been degraded by improper grazing practices, diversion of rivers for irrigation, and increased levels of outdoor activities.

**Design Intent**

Our planning and design intervention aimed to accomplish the plan to leverage “No Kill By 2025” by addressing the unmet needs of the BF organization, visitors, donors, and environment in which they all interact. Consolidating facilities and creating a stronger appreciation for the connection between people and the environment within the Sanctuary were primary design objectives. Consolidating facilities will make the sanctuary easier to understand, and will also reduce the amount of habitat fragmentation occurring on site. Integrating natural elements into our designs will instill a greater appreciation for the natural world, and illustrate that Best Friends is taking a holistic approach to solving larger social issues.

**Design Programming**

While exploring the sanctuary and working directly with clients we identified two locations that would greatly enhance the reputation and experience of Best Friends. The first location addressed is the visitor hub. As guests first visit the sanctuary they drive alongside Kanab Creek, making their way up Angle Canyon. The visitor hub is the initial interaction guests have with the Best Friends organization so we created a memorable and heartwarming first impression. The second location is a system of trails and intricate pocket gardens known as the Gratitude Gardens. This inspiring garden is dedicated to gracious supporters of the BF mission. The Gratitude Gardens are situated on the edge of a lofty plateau, peering over Kanab Creek and beyond to the majestic Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument.

The Visitor Hub will elevate the purpose of the Animal Sanctuary by immediately capturing the attention of incoming guests. This was achieved by creating comfortable atmospheres with strong indoor-outdoor relationships, integration with surrounding natural systems, and encapsulating the Best Friends essence in one centralized location.

One of the first sights visitors come across when entering the sanctuary is the modern conference center placed eloquently into the existing pasture lands. This approachable building is the anchor for the visitor hub, drawing people into the core of the site and reinforcing circulation. It can be used to host events and conferences, drawing people in and increasing exposure for Best Friends. Additional visitor lodging and food options increase comfort and overall visitor experience. Improved trail connections invite visitors to engage and be inspired by the stunning natural landscape. New animal interaction spaces engages users with animals, letting them feel the love of Best Friends mission first hand. This is the most impactful feature added to the visitor hub, an experience inspiring guests to take action.

The Gratitude Gardens were designed to acknowledge and thank donors sustaining Best Friends cause. The gardens are an intimate destination for everybody to enjoy and many of the nooks are dedicated to significant donors to the organization. Two trail loops
meander through native vegetation atop the scenic plateau, connecting a series of pocket gardens that surround the main entry garden. As users enter the gardens they are welcomed by a harmony of native plants. The plantings, hardscape, and scenery become more and more profound as people wander deeper into the gardens, towards the plateau edge.

Gardens and trails were woven into the existing landscape to minimize ecological disturbances. Each garden embodies the character of the land and the personalities of the donors they are dedicated to. Although each pocket garden has a unique style, the flora and hardscape selection create balance and rhythm, unifying spaces into a whole greater than the sum of its parts. All hardscape materials are collected from local sources to lessen the resulting carbon footprint. Stone gathered from nearby BLM quarries will meld into the existing landscape, making designed elements feel as though they may have been there all along. Dimitris Pikionis meticulously designed public areas surrounding the Acropolis; his masterpiece was a constant source of inspiration as we envisioned our meaningful destination. The Gratitude Gardens create an oasis prompting visitors to contemplate, meditate, and cherish the sacred lands that make up Angel canyon and Best Friends.

Closing Remarks

The elements, virtues, and assets that encompass the Best Friends Sanctuary create a profound visitor experience. This inspirational encounter with the natural world is a great opportunity to leverage visitors into volunteers, donors, employees and community initiators. Strengthening the experience creates a feedback loop that increases awareness, sparks social change, encourages higher moral standards, and deepens our appreciation for all sentient beings. Leveraging the visitor experience will help us reach a time when the killing of pets in shelters is brought to an end.
The Goal: Best Friends Animal Society envisions a future with no more homeless pets and absolutely no killing of shelter animals.
We thought, “If we will be a voice crying out in the wilderness, let’s find a really nice wilderness.”

- Gabriel de Peyer

Best Friends Founder

At The Center: Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, is surrounded by stunning National Parks and natural wonders which attract millions of visitors every year.
The Journey: Inviting in a greater number of visitors, while providing them with a more engaging and inspiring experience, is key in leveraging them to action.
First Encounter: The Visitor Hub is the first, and often only impression of Best Friends that visitors get. The setting is stunning; our focus was the experience.
Enhancing the Experience: A number of existing site elements were retained for their ambiance, while those which were added strengthened that experience.
Elements of Experience: Key goals focused around increasing animal-visitor interaction opportunities while improving legibility and amenities.
Inspiring Spaces: Intimate spaces throughout the site create opportunities for connection, reflection, and inspiration.
Elevated Experience: Located upcanyon from the Visitor Hub and perched on the canyon rim, the gratitude garden aims to enlighten minds and recognize donors.
**Variety of Spaces:** Spaces include intimate, public, confined, and open gardens, taking advantage of dramatic views and existing native vegetation.
Embracing the Land:

Grandiose gardens are situated on the canyon rim and recognize the highest level of donors, though all areas tie strongly into the setting.

The Cosmic Edge

Rejuvenating spiritual connection with the natural world and highlighting blissful views across the horizon.

Welcoming Gardens

Common Plaza

Labyrinth

Intricate Gardens

Ceremonial Gatherings

Grandiose Gardens

The Cosmic Edge

Rejuvenating spiritual connection with the natural world and highlighting blissful views across the horizon.
Detail 1: Common Plaza: The Heart of the Gardens, the plaza provides seating, a variety of spaces and a small bubbler fountain, inviting all to pause and reflect.
Detail 2: Grand Cubby: Nestled in a natural cubby and focused out to Angel Canyon, this garden is a very secluded and reflective space.
Plants That Make a Place: Not wanting to detract from the beautiful native palette, all plants were selected based on their compatibility with the existing landscape.
Elements, Virtues, and Assets of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary:

Synergy       Meditative       Natural Wonders       Conscious       Compassionate       Moral Obligation

Cherish       Harmony       Balance       Rhythm       Reciprocation

Best Friends creates a profound visitor experience leveraging visitors into:

Volunteers       Donors       Employees       Community Initiators

This feedback loop will:

Increase awareness       Spark Social Change       Inspire communities
Encourage higher moral standards       Deepen our appreciation for all sentient beings

Until We Reach the Day:

There are no more homeless pets
The killing of pets in America’s animal shelters is brought to an end
Project Summary:

The trail system development plan was created to optimize the network of connections for Kanab, Utah, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, and visitors to Kanab city. The city of Kanab, population ~4,000, sits in the beautiful red rock landscape in Southern Utah. Kanab is known as the gateway to Utah's national parks, where visitors stop for gas, but rarely stay. By creating Destination Kanab, the enhancements of local attractions and recreational opportunities will spark life into the community. This spark will continue to ignite and capture the attention of the 40,000 Best Friend's visitors and the 17 million Utah national park tourists who want to experience this newfound energy for themselves. A stronger network, both virtual and real, will strengthen Best Friends outreach for their No-Kill 2020 movement, and Kanab's potential for becoming a local and tourist hot spot.

Narrative:

The three types of users that we defined and analyzed were, Best Friend employees, Kanab residents, and tourists/visitors. We explored the question of what brings diverse groups of users together, and determined that values had the biggest influence. To begin, we created a list of values that best defined each user group and then compiled the shared values between two if not all three groups. These values are, preservation, kindness, destinations, the environment, outdoor recreation, health, history, wayfinding, small town, stewardship, community and many more. We chose to look more closely at the values of Stewardship, Community and History.

Ironically, it is these same three values we identified that are also causing the most friction amongst our users. A great example of this is how the City of Kanab is seeking a stronger identity. Many of the Kanab residents thrive off the recognition of old western movies that were filmed in their town, and currently are seeking to promote themselves towards a wider variety of audiences. Simultaneously, Best Friends continues to grow as a nationally known organization and expands its presence into the city of Kanab through pet friendly facilities. There seems to be no middle ground in accommodating either identity. The present state of these two forces growing in parallel rather than in a joint effort generate the friction amongst the users.

Despite their social differences, the community coalesces around a sense of belonging. In order to create this feeling, we knew that we needed to to propose a design that would allow the users to co-exist, embrace their differences, and hopefully find commonalities along the way. A sense of place is often formed by the physical landscape, but forms deeper meaning through the interactions that take place within that space. We had found our answer: “Community could be formed by becoming aware of, navigating and engaging in the open space and recreational opportunities, allowing Kanab, Best Friends, and tourists/visitors to interact with each other and the beautiful landscape surrounding them.”

We began researching the power of networks and landed upon The Emerald Necklace in Boston, Massachusetts. This chain of parks is connected through parkways and waterways and if any piece of open space were removed, there would be a break in the system. This profound precedent of inter-linked connections is what forms the identity of the park, and in large part what makes it a unique destination. The diversity of uses does not entirely solve social problems, but allows friction to exist and the users to co-exist despite their differences.

The backbone of the open space network, beginning with Kanab’s center and Main Street, is the trails. Currently the City of Kanab has established a website and series of pamphlets pertaining to the trail system, however the level of communication is scattered and disorganized, leaving room for conflict among trail users. There is also no consolidated trail map which would provide users with a simplistic view of Kanab’s opportunities. This led us to our trail development plan, which consists of improving upon promotion, awareness, and enhancement of Kanab’s assets to aid in its journey of becoming a peak destination.

The power of networks is best understood at different levels of scale. Matt Brown, a leader from the city of Kanab, inspired us to further develop an organizational method to categorize our trail network. Four radiuses of 4 blocks, 4 miles, 14 miles, and 40 miles were established, with the center on Main St. being the focal point. In doing so, user experiences were identified based on each radius. 4 blocks allows a person to explore Kanab’s historic district and access several trailheads, while 14 miles involved more strenuous activities, and 40
miles more day trips. Utah's slogan is the Mighty 5, for its national parks. Here the Power of 4 creates Destination Kanab.

In order to make the Destination Kanab campaign effective, we needed to capitalize on promotion, awareness and enhancement of the trail development plan.

1.) To promote Destination Kanab, we will distribute a catalog, both physical and digital that shows all trails available, to what type of users, and distance from Kanab, each singled out on its own page so that it stays clear. A compilation of the destination points will be combined on placemats that can be used at the local cafes and eateries. Social media outlets, such as a city Instagram page will provide transparency for people from all over the glove to view Kanab's destinations.

2.) Awareness is made by identifying all the opportunities and destinations that kanab has to offer and how the user would arrive to the trailheads. This is done by clear explanation in the catalog information. Wayfinding, through billboards and captivating and consistent signage will also need to be implemented to prevent any opportunity from being missed while passing through.

3.) Enhancements will excite the community and make the destinations more appealing. To make the destinations' starts and end points enjoyable, we will need to ensure that the proper amenities are installed. These would consists of trailheads that provide restrooms, drinking water, bike racks, picnic areas, waste receptacles, phone service, parking, and informative signage to name a few. When a user feels comfortable and accommodated, their experience improves.

Kanab and Best Friends must first connect to the spirit of the landscape in order to create a deeper meaning to their trails and open space network. This feeling of belonging will have the potential to bridge the social gap between users and form a stronger community. When these experiences are shared, visitors and tourists alike will crave the Kanab destination and lengthen their duration of the stay, in turn allowing a thriving economy to develop. We uncovered the social and physical conflicts within the system connected them back to their values, and link them to their environment to create Destination Kanab.
Kanab and the Best Friends organization both coexist with in the same landscape. With any cohabiting group, different lifestyles cause friction. This open space networks optimize bringing together differences within the social groups by community and physical landscape.
Trails System Development Plan

A wholistic approach to trail design and distribution

Promotion: What does Kanab have to offer?

Awareness: How do we get there?

Enhance: What amenities and improvements are needed?
The design team used imagery on Google Earth to find unique areas in Kanab. Kanab has incredible destinations within close proximity. Currently, local destinations are bypassed by the national parks making Kanab a gateway rather than a destination.
The design team developed a trail system based on radii from Center and Main St. Kanab. A campaign, “Destination Kanab” was created as a way to develop and distribute the consolidated trail system for locals and visitors.
Various increments appeal to various user types. Within four blocks, residents and visitors have access to five trail heads. Four blocks appeal to passive recreationists while 14 miles appeals to those looking for more intense recreation.
The design team looked at ways to create awareness for Kanab’s unique destinations. The team consolidated the trails and looked at ways to distribute it to the three users as a consolidated system to give users choice.
Distribution
Awareness- Catalog of Trails

Ancient Footsteps Caves

The trail follows Kanab Creek until reaching Three Lakes Canyon. After crossing the highway and entering the canyon, Ancient Footsteps Trail ends at the Best Friends Visitors Center. This full day hike has plenty of shade but no access to drinking water.

There is a considerable climb to arrive at the Visitors Center and has been rated as Intermediate by ‘Elevation for Life’ magazine. Areas of the trail should be avoided during large storm events due to flash flooding.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Trail length</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Average time</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevation Gain</td>
<td>534 ft.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A new trail was designed, “Ancient Footsteps” as a precedent for trail enhancement principles to be used on existing and proposed trails. The trail is a physical connection of the city of Kanab and Best Friends.
Sketches show the unique viewsheds along the canyon with various destinations.
The design team gave various examples of signage along the trail, all including the logo, as a way to increase awareness with trail users.
Informational signage can inform recreational users about distance along the trail or unique vegetation. Interpretative signage creates unique educational opportunities along the trail and connect residents to the history of the place.
Pull-off points were determined considering road access, slope, and dimensional constraints. Amenities at trails depended on use type and distance.

Ancient Footsteps Trail
Access

- Kiosks
- Signage
- Benches
- Fencing/enclosure
- Garbage cans
- Picnic tables
- Restrooms
- Drinking Fountains

Level 1 Trail Head

Adapt path to existing grade
Protect forest and land
Protect landscape/slope buffer
Protect trees if feasible

Continental Divide National Trail Design Guidelines
Ancient Footsteps Trail
Access - Trail head example
Connection allows us to participate in the wider meaning of the place in which we live.
-Todd Johnson