



Exploration of Material Cycle and System Boundary
of Trilscape in Upstate New York

Constructing Ecology in Anthropocene
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Walking, the sole of the foot and the earth briefly touches;
Pausing, legs rooted in the soil.
Lifting, falling, the alternating disruption and restoration of balance.

As one foot leaves the ground, the other waits for its return.
In the abeyance of walking,
we know the road under our feet is both an exile and home-coming.



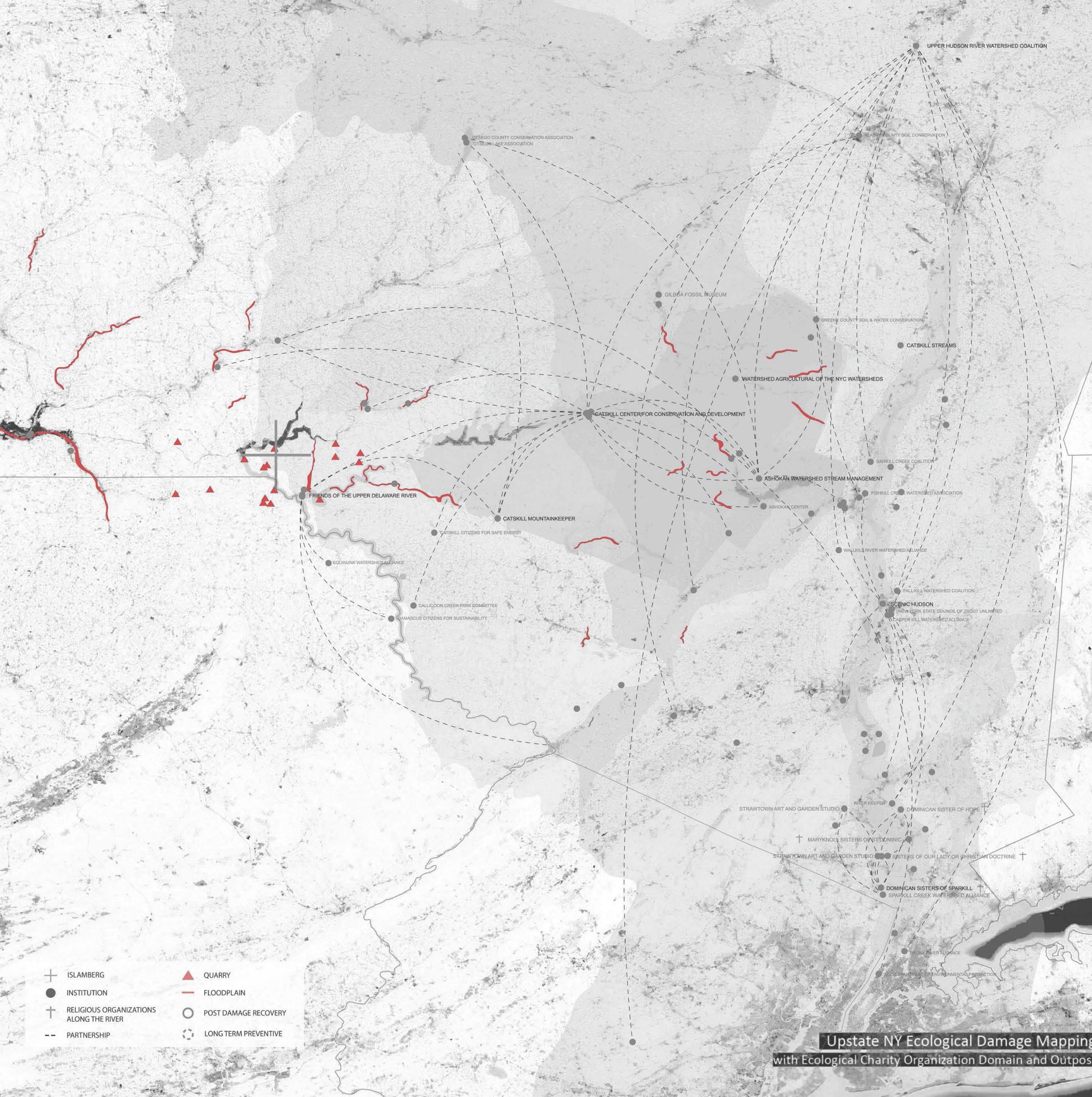
In the accumulation of each small step, we come a long way.
We measure the earth by the toil of our bodies.
In walking, we bear witness to the power of small, incremental change.





The boundaries between here and there are dissolved,
Whose experiences are they?
Are they mine or the place I was a part of?

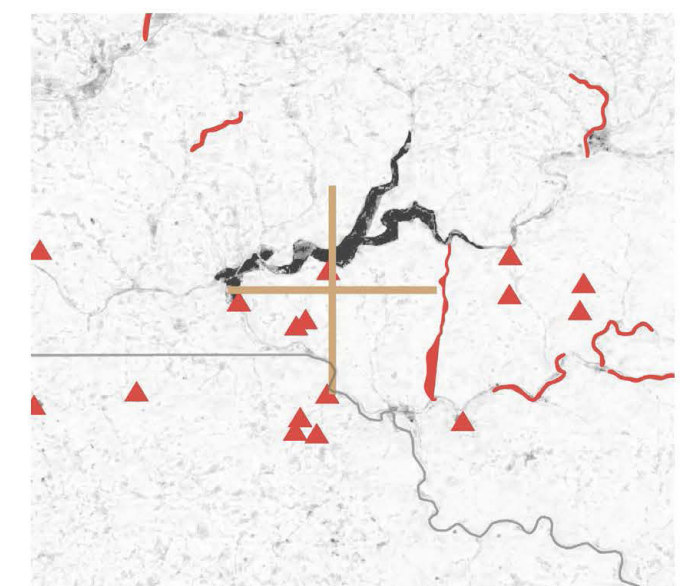
We become attuned to our surroundings, and our surroundings become part of us.
Take care to notice its ebbs and flows.
And start to feel the little differences in the soles of our feet.



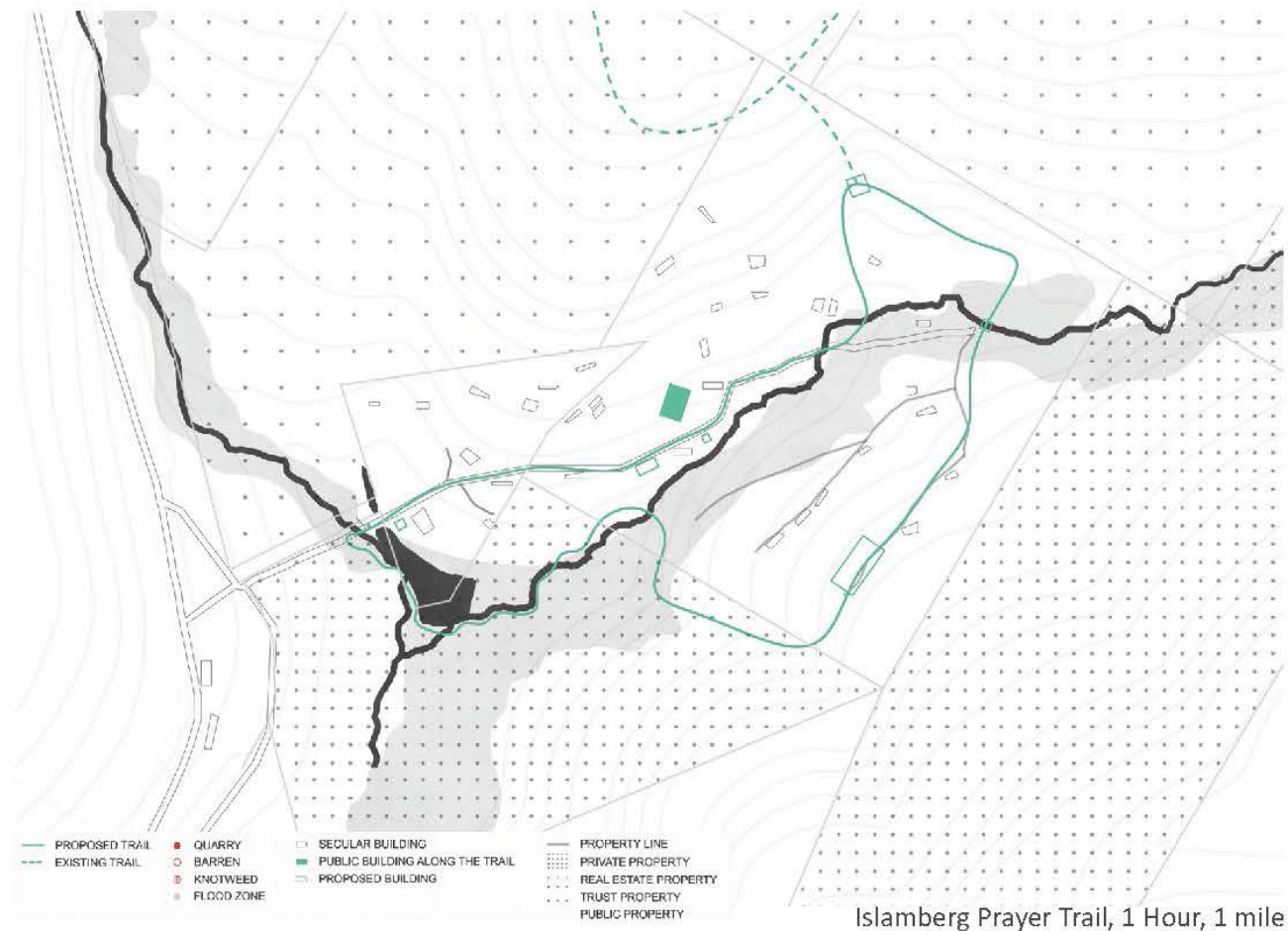
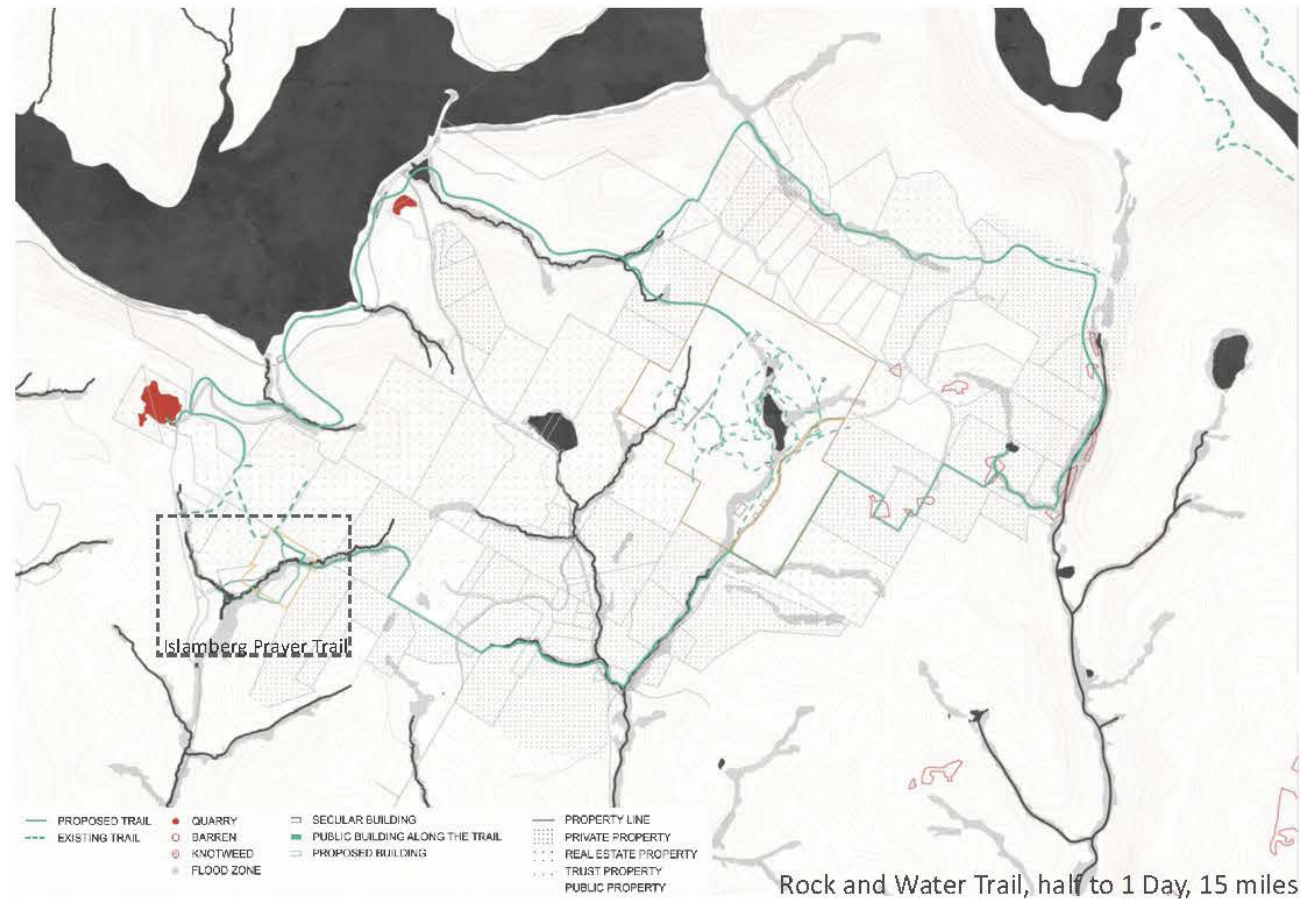
The community of Islamberg in partnership with Friends of the Upper Delaware River will work to create **a network of trails** in the region around Islamberg in Upstate NY. The trails will unfold into the surrounding countryside, **seeking a constellation of focal points for ecological restoration**, such as quarry sites, floodplains, barren areas, invasive species ridden areas. **The architectural intervention is together with the ecological restoration**, where the solution for ecological damages will be further transformed into areas that provide positive experiential qualities such as outlooks, hospitalities, bathing areas, and contemplative spiritual spaces.

Walking on the trails, one repairs damages from a quarry, restores the riparian buffer along flood zones which forms a historical connection between practice of pilgrimage and the locality surrounding Islamberg, and enables the reintegration of religious practices into the surrounding ecology of the region.

Embedded with repetitive and seasonal practices, the trails will seek to create the groundwork for both environmental and human spiritual flourishing.



Islamberg Surrounding Ecological Damage Mapping Focusing on Quarries, Floodplains and Invasive Species Area



By wayfaring from one point to the next, the pilgrims take part in the act of Trailmaking. **The trailscape becomes the practice of conservation of the land, a ritual in itself, bridging the contemporary nature-religion divide.**

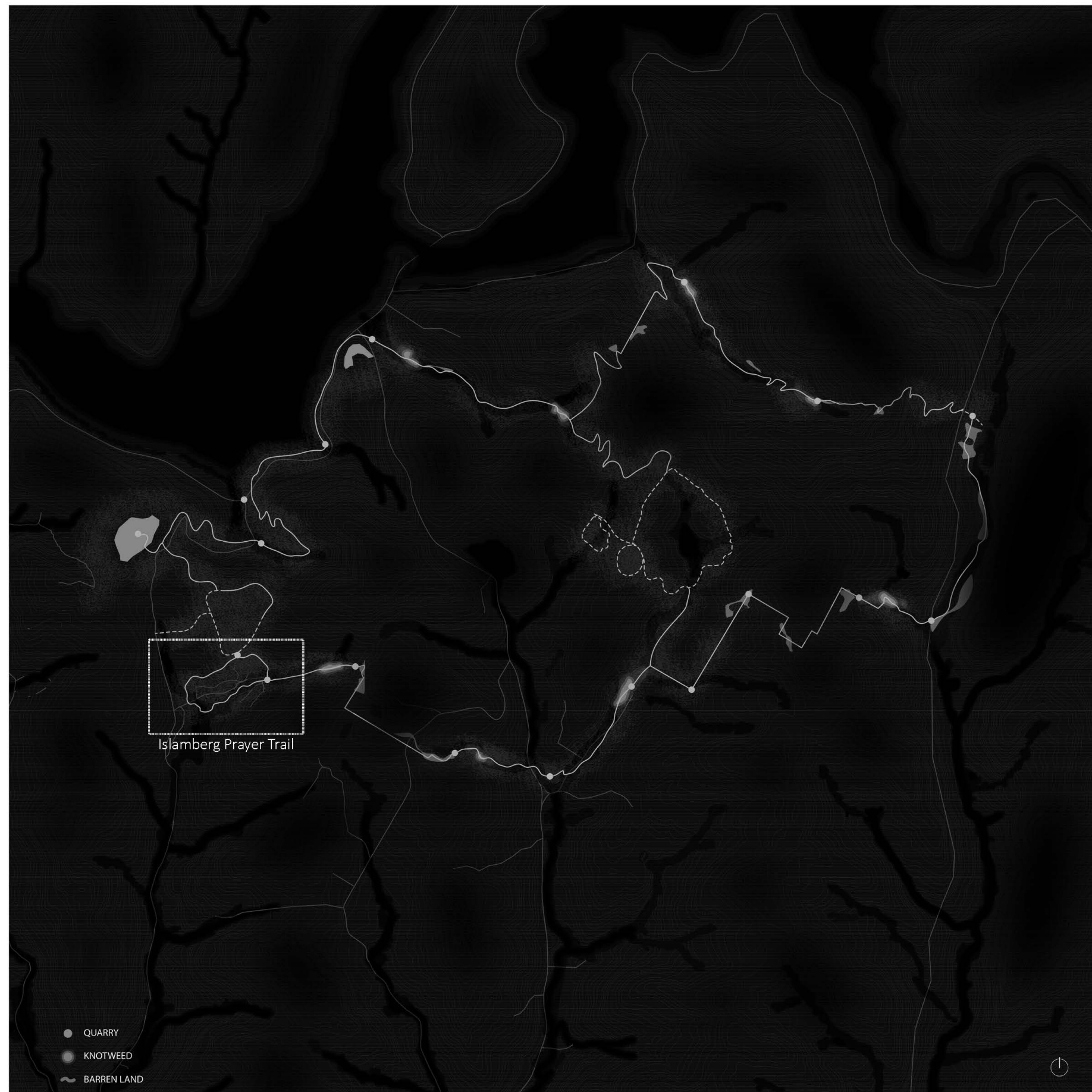
The sanctity of the trailscape arises through an **incremental and long term approach** to developing a symbiotic relationship between the pilgrims and the natural environment. The processes of wayfaring from one location to the next and creating paths which contain additional meaning derived from the **acts of healing** that take place along the way creates the foundation for the spiritual dimension of the pilgrimage. The trailscape fosters a mutually beneficial relationship between the users of the network of trails and the natural environment that the trailscape is situated within.

The network contains trails that vary by time frame. The first and smallest is that which immediately surrounds Islamberg for local residents and is traversable in about an hour. The second takes from five to ten hours to travel and stretches from the quarry near the Cannonsville Reservoir to the flood zone adjacent to Cadosia Creek. The third and longest links the aforementioned trails to an existing set of trail networks in the region, and is intended to be multi-day journey.









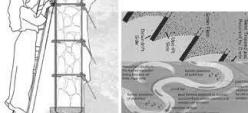

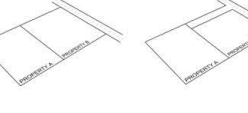



Each hiker/pilgrim carries one stone (waste from quarry) along the trail to repair the watershed
Slow but incremental process

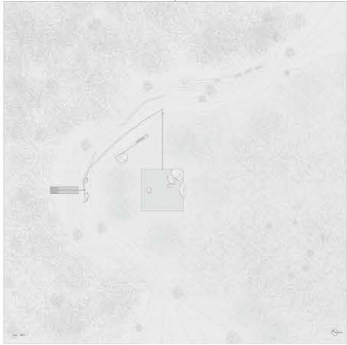


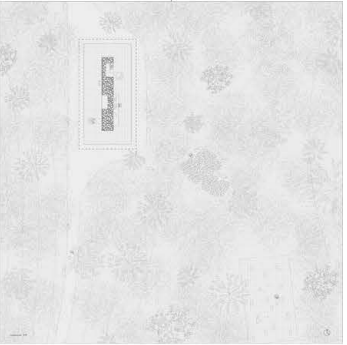
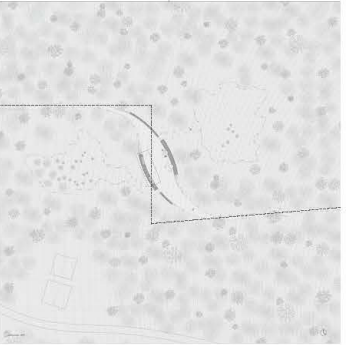
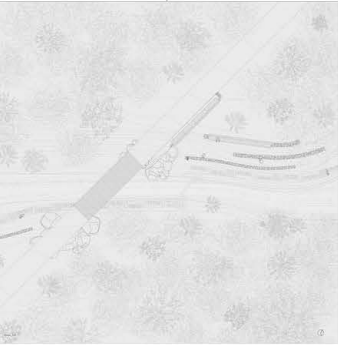


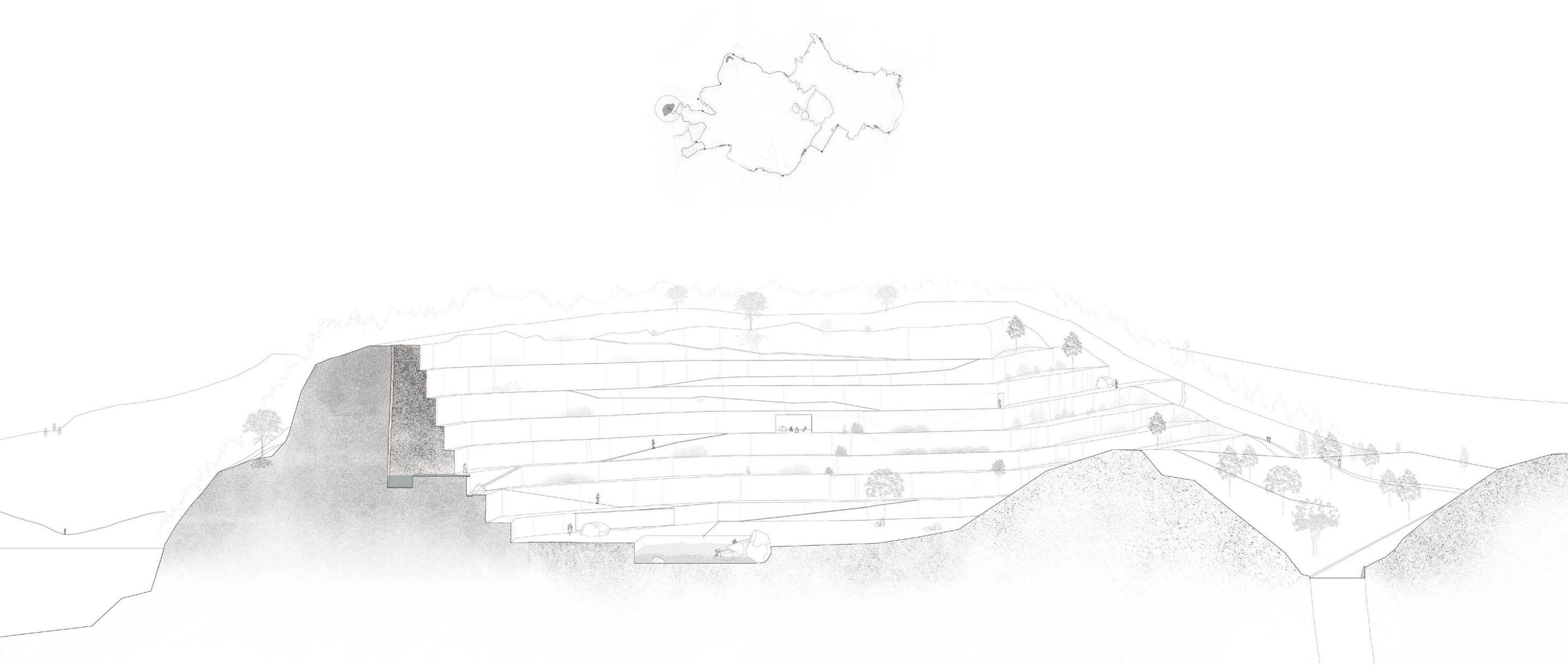


Right: Islamberg Prayer Trail, 1 hour, 1 mile
 Left: Rock and Water Trail, 1 day, 12 miles

ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE / SITE ISSUE	QUARRY	EROSION	FLOODED AREA	INVASIVE SPECIES	PROPERTY LINE	ROAD CREEK CROSSING
CONDITION						
ECOLOGICAL SOLUTION + ACTION						
SLOW INCREMENTAL PROCESS	pick up small rock from quarry waste, where rock waste can account for 60-90% of the whole excavation activity	put rock into the gabion wall that mitigates the erosion; grow and plant the seedlings in the nursery constituted of gabion walls	put rock into the gabion wall as foundation at the sharp turn of the creek to mitigate the flood	cut and dehydrate knotweed from overgrown, dried knotweed then used as architectural materials, such as screens	through Easements and Right-of-Way, linear gabion walls become inhabitable and shared at certain times for hikers and land owners	replace the culvert with bridge; plant seedling on the eroded ground at the triangular area of the road-creek crossing



ARCHITECTURE						
AS THE RESULT OF ECOLOGICAL SOLUTION AND ACTION						
PROGRAM	SHRINE IN ROCK	NURSERY	BATHHOUSE	KNOTWEED SHRINE	SHARED LINE	REST AREA

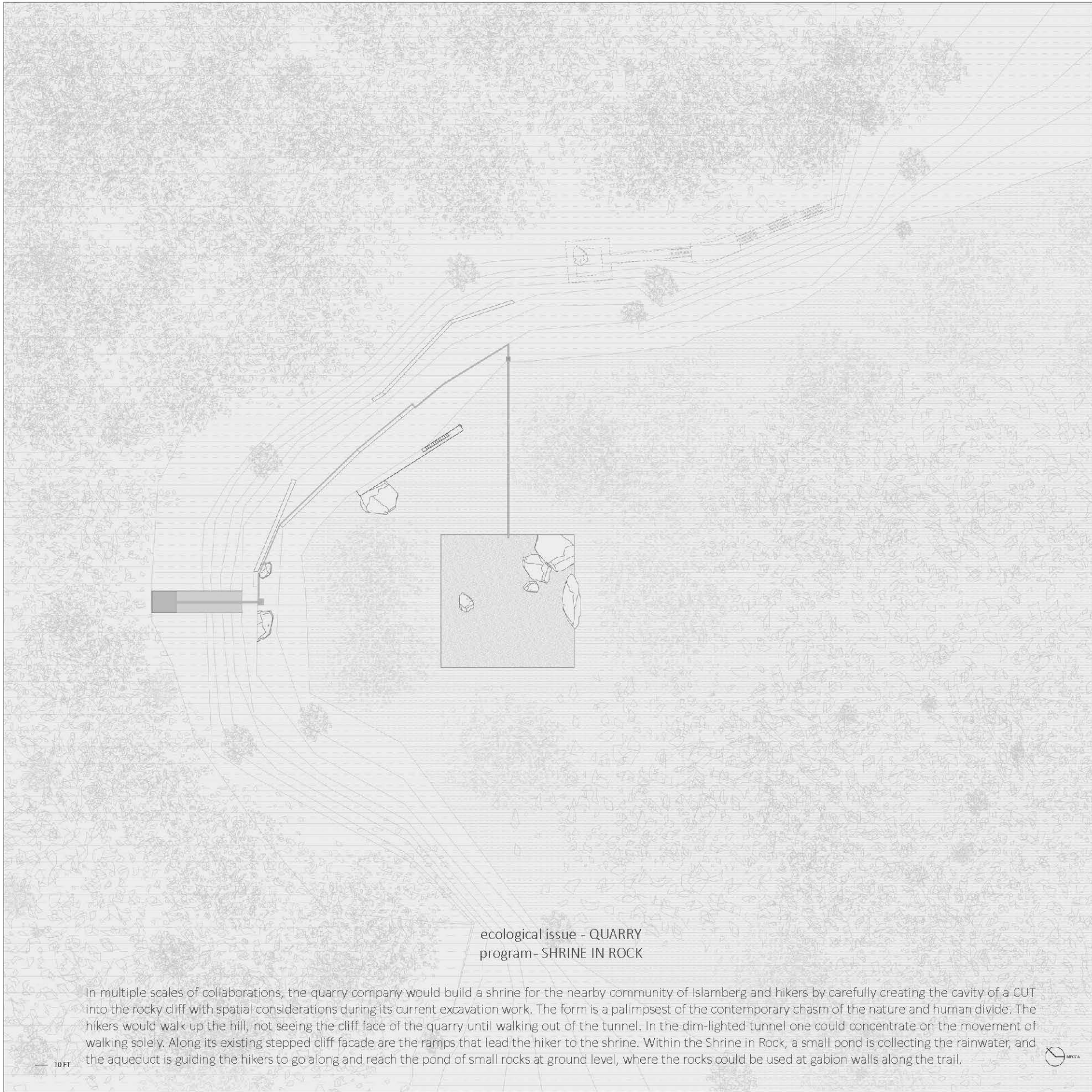


Rock and Water Trail

4-10 hours 15 miles

Quarry - Shrine In Rock

The trajectory of the trail is continued to be determined by the ecological issues and site condition along the way, this particular quarry is still functioning, yet quarry has a limited life. Among all materials extracted in a quarry, waste can account for 60% - 90%. These small rocks, one could see as piles of quarry waste (60-90%), or as valuable reusable material, that could be used for the gabion walls. In a volunteering mechanism, the hikers who enjoyed the tranquility in Shrine in Rock are encouraged to carry a small rock along the trail to the gabion wall ecological infrastructures / architectural interventions. Islamberg community would help with the nursery for re-vegetation of the quarry after it eventually achieves its lifespan.



ecological issue - QUARRY
program - SHRINE IN ROCK

In multiple scales of collaborations, the quarry company would build a shrine for the nearby community of Islamberg and hikers by carefully creating the cavity of a CUT into the rocky cliff with spatial considerations during its current excavation work. The form is a palimpsest of the contemporary chasm of the nature and human divide. The hikers would walk up the hill, not seeing the cliff face of the quarry until walking out of the tunnel. In the dim-lighted tunnel one could concentrate on the movement of walking solely. Along its existing stepped cliff facade are the ramps that lead the hiker to the shrine. Within the Shrine in Rock, a small pond is collecting the rainwater, and the aqueduct is guiding the hikers to go along and reach the pond of small rocks at ground level, where the rocks could be used at gabion walls along the trail.

10 FT



Each hiker/pilgrim carries one stone (waste
along the trail to repair the watershed
Slow but incremental process





Prayer Trail

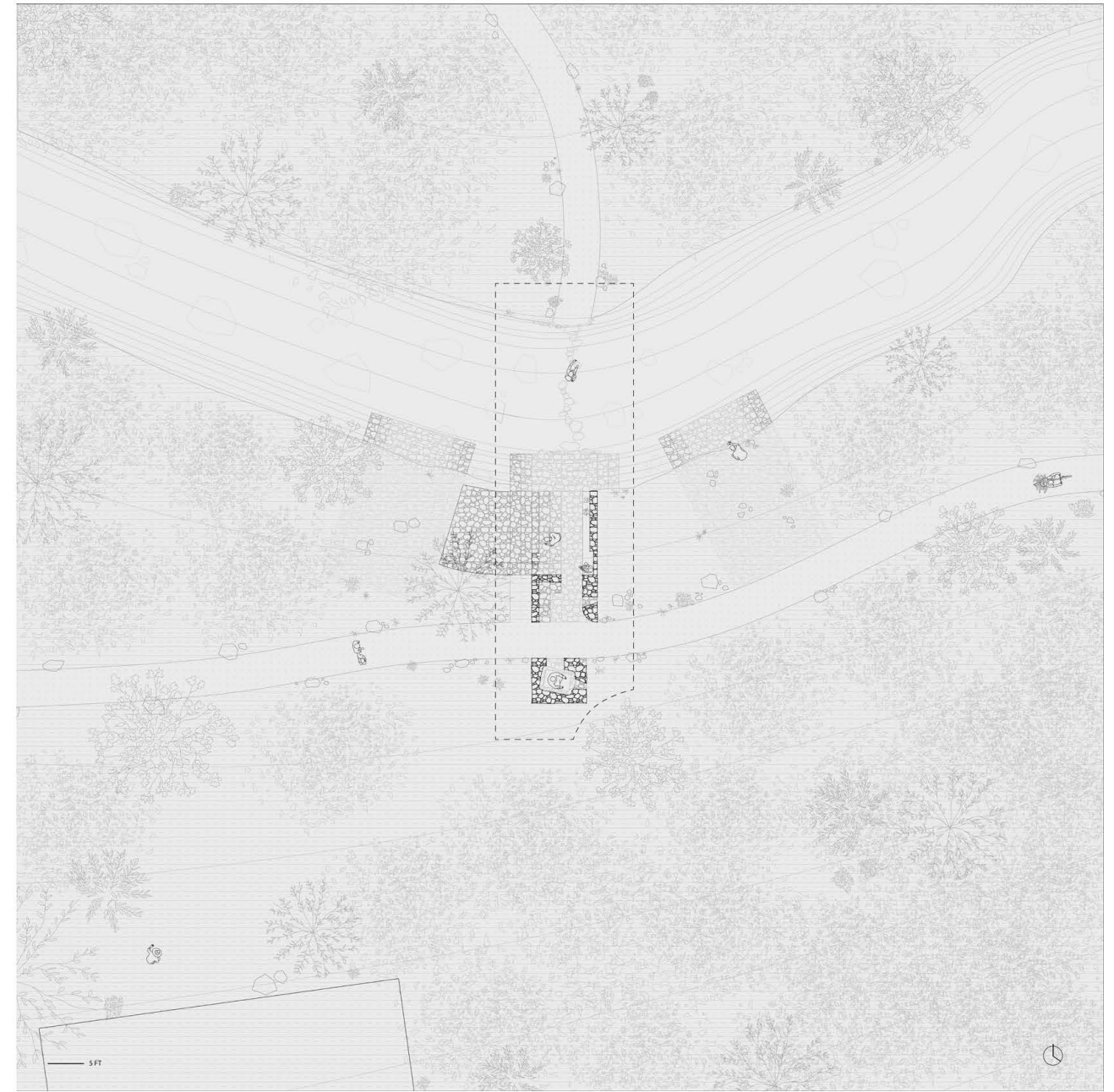
1 hour, 1 mile

The Islamberg Trail is an 1 hour prayer loop centered around the existing mosque in the village, enriching the religious life of Islamberg. Nursery, and bathhouse together with the mosque would enrich the religious life of Islamberg by creating spaces for spiritual ritual. The first stop that hikers could help with building is the gabion wall in the nursery to solve the erosion at the tangent intersection between *Prayer Trail* and *Rock and Water Trail*. The trail continues by following the creek that passes through Islamberg, where a bathhouse with gabion wall groin is located at the turn of the creek where flood is a concern in 50 years.



ecological issue - EROSION
program- NURSERY

The hikers carry the stone waste from the quarry along the trail, and fill up the pre-installed rebar boxes, the gabion wall could strengthen the ground and mitigate the erosion. These gabion walls together will enclose space for the nursery. The seeds will be planted in September; grow over 18 months, taken care of by the Islamberg community, and then ready to be moved by the hikers to the barren land. Within the gabion walls that mitigates the erosion and encloses the nursery, inhabitable spaces for pray, rest, storage, etc. are made with the malleable meshes of the wall.



ecological issue - FLOOD
program- BATHHOUSE

As the creek meanders and will move forward at those meander points, houses next to those points will face the danger of flood within 50 years. To prevent that, groins are installed at the weak points to strengthen the river bank and limit the movement of the creek by intruding in the river, perpendicular to the river bank. The insertion of the framework into the bank will be done by the construction team and later be filled up by hikers and Islamberg people with rock from the quarry. The stepped ground allows the water to flow into the bathhouse and form a basin where people could have rest or ritual of ablution.

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LOOP OF MATERIAL & LABOR

The diagram illustrates the flow of material and labor between various stakeholders and locations. The flow of material is represented by solid lines, and the flow of labor is represented by dashed lines.

Stakeholders and Locations:

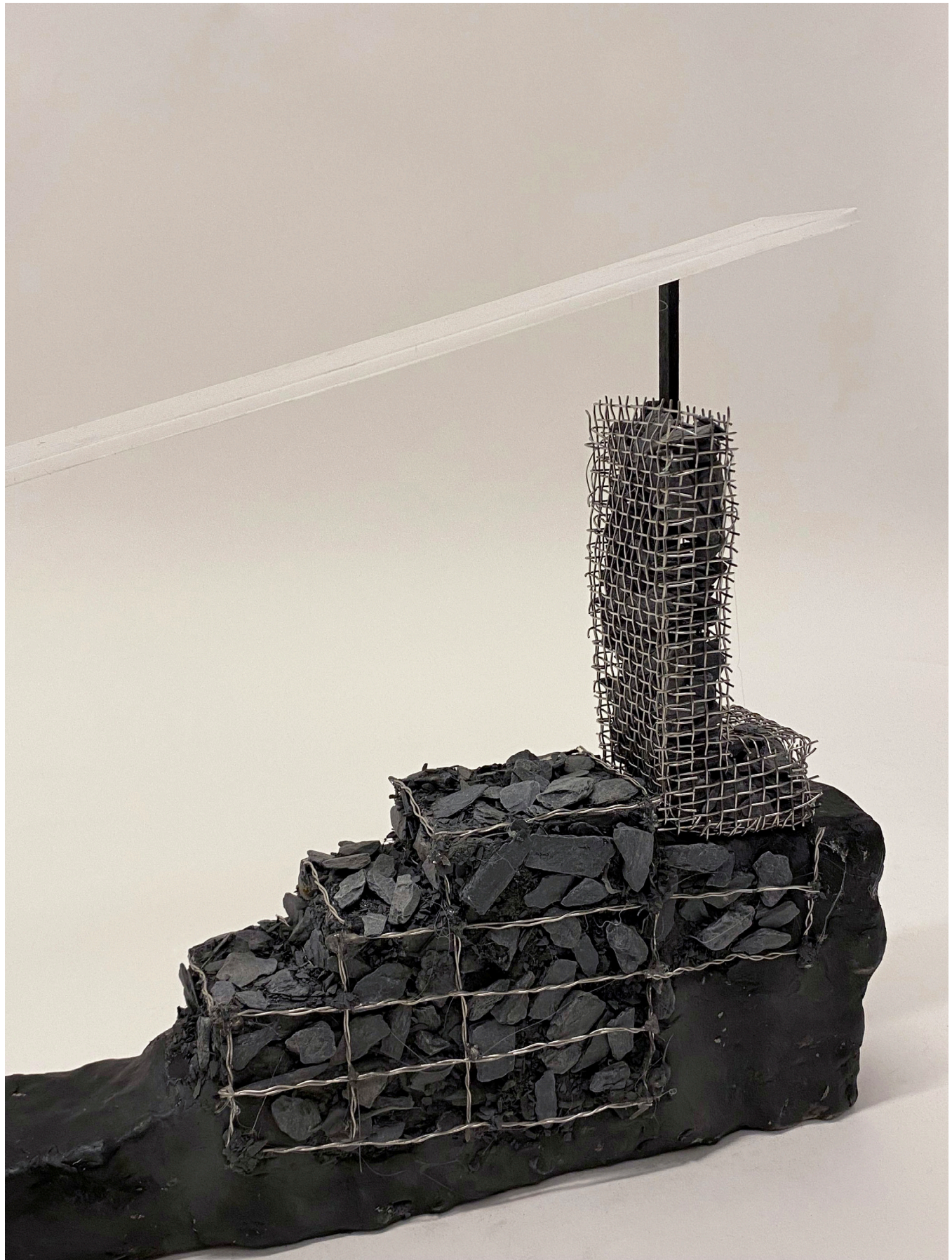
- quarry company**: Provides material (metal rebar and mesh) to the quarry.
- quarry**: Provides material (rock) to the pilgrim and hiker.
- ROCK**: Material provided by the quarry to the pilgrim and hiker.
- TREE (TAMARACK PINE TREE)**: Material provided by the nursery to the pilgrim and hiker.
- NURSERY**: Provides material (tree) to the pilgrim and hiker.
- BATHHOUSE**: Material provided by the rest to the pilgrim and hiker.
- REST**: Provides material (knotweed) to the pilgrim and hiker.
- KNOTWEED**: Material provided by the rest to the pilgrim and hiker.
- PROPERTY LINE**: Material provided by the road and creek crossing to the pilgrim and hiker.
- ROAD & CREEK CROSSING**: Material provided by the property line to the pilgrim and hiker.
- friends of upper delaware river**: Material provided by the road and creek crossing to the pilgrim and hiker.
- construction team**: Provides labor to the pilgrim and hiker.

Flow of Material (Solid Lines):

- quarry company → quarry → ROCK → pilgrim & hiker
- nursery → TREE (TAMARACK PINE TREE) → pilgrim & hiker
- rest → BATHHOUSE → pilgrim & hiker
- rest → KNOTWEED → pilgrim & hiker
- property line → ROAD & CREEK CROSSING → pilgrim & hiker
- friends of upper delaware river → ROAD & CREEK CROSSING → pilgrim & hiker

Flow of Labor (Dashed Lines):

- construction team → pilgrim & hiker
- construction team → ROCK → pilgrim & hiker
- construction team → TREE (TAMARACK PINE TREE) → pilgrim & hiker
- construction team → KNOTWEED → pilgrim & hiker
- construction team → BATHHOUSE → pilgrim & hiker
- construction team → ROAD & CREEK CROSSING → pilgrim & hiker



Walking on the trail, one carries a rock from the quarry waste to gabion walls along the flood zone to repair the ecological damage, while creating a spiritual bathing house. By wayfaring from one point to the next, the pilgrims take part in the act of Trailmaking, and the act of Healing.

The trailscape becomes the practice of conservation of the land, a ritual in itself.

