THE HUMÅTAK REVITALIZATION PLAN

September 2019

A community integrated plan developed with the goal of revitalizing a village that has existed within the same bays and mountains since the beginning of time.

GUAM
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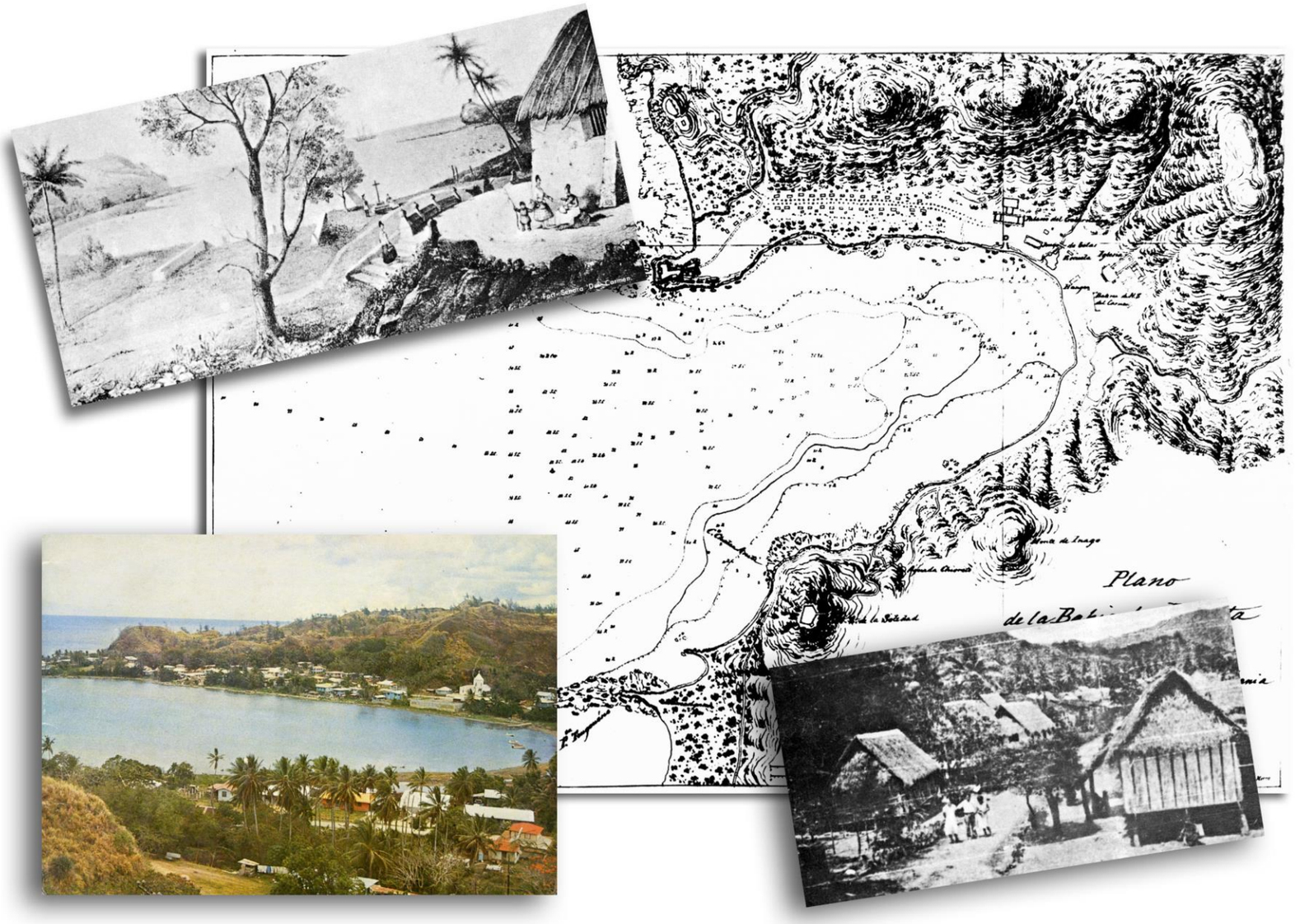
Guam & Micronesia


Plano

Thank you to the Guam Preservation Trust, Chief Program Officer Mr. Joe Quinata, and his Staff, The Umatac Mayor's Office, and the wonderful Residents of Humåtak for their time, effort, and conversations that brought life to this document.

Also Thank you to the volunteers of the American Institute of Architects Guam and Micronesia Chapter for the creative efforts contributed towards this plan to revitalize the beautiful village by the sea.

Aaron Burger, Assoc. AIA

The Humåtak Revitalization Plan

Foreword

by Mr. Joe Quinata, Guam Preservation Trust, Chief Program Officer

Historic Preservation in Guam is at a crossroad of not only keeping what provides significant meaning to a place, but also how to make communities thrive in modern times. This drive to co-exist is what makes revitalization planning a challenge but also an opportunity to engage the community to provide holistic solutions of which they will ultimately be the primary beneficiaries of any future development plans.

The village of Humåtak provides a great location in Guam to show how revitalization planning can be both respectful to the wishes of the community and also successful in planning for the future social needs of that community and their posterity. As a village lying alongside a bay which opens to the Philippine Sea, Humåtak and its people are blessed with the resources that come from its nearby mountains, lands, and rivers that surround Humåtak Bay. Moreover, it remains welcoming of the influences and contact with other civilizations which have come through its waters, adding to the historic, economic, and social fabric of what Humåtak culture has become known to be in Guam.

The Guam Preservation Trust, an advocate of historic preservation, is grateful for our partnership with the American Institute of Architects Guam and Micronesia Chapter for their expertise in capturing the needs of the Humåtak community and working along with them to develop a plan that is community oriented and flexible to be used as a tool for both short- and long-term planning. We are equally grateful for our other partners on Guam and abroad that provided resources and expertise to complement the Revitalization Plan for Humåtak.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse

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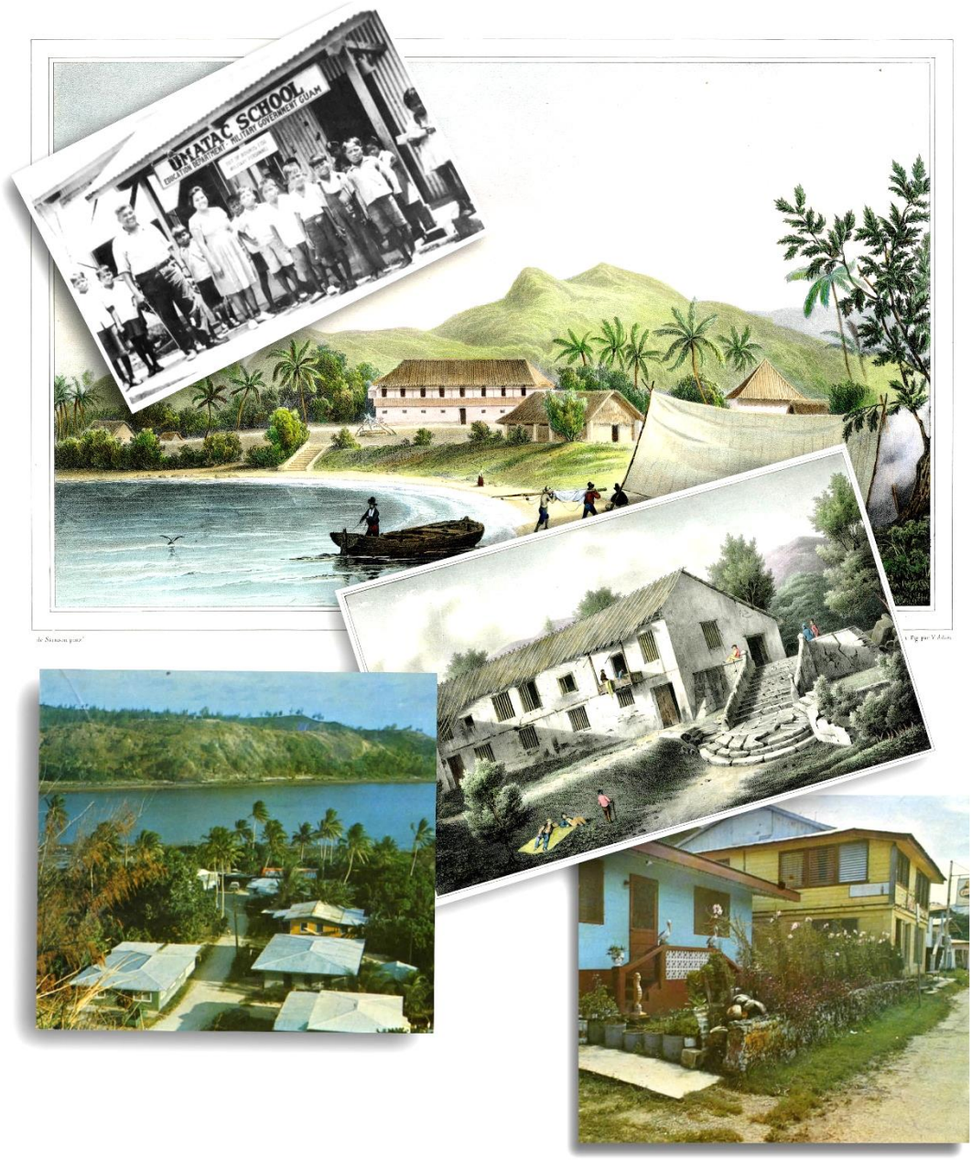
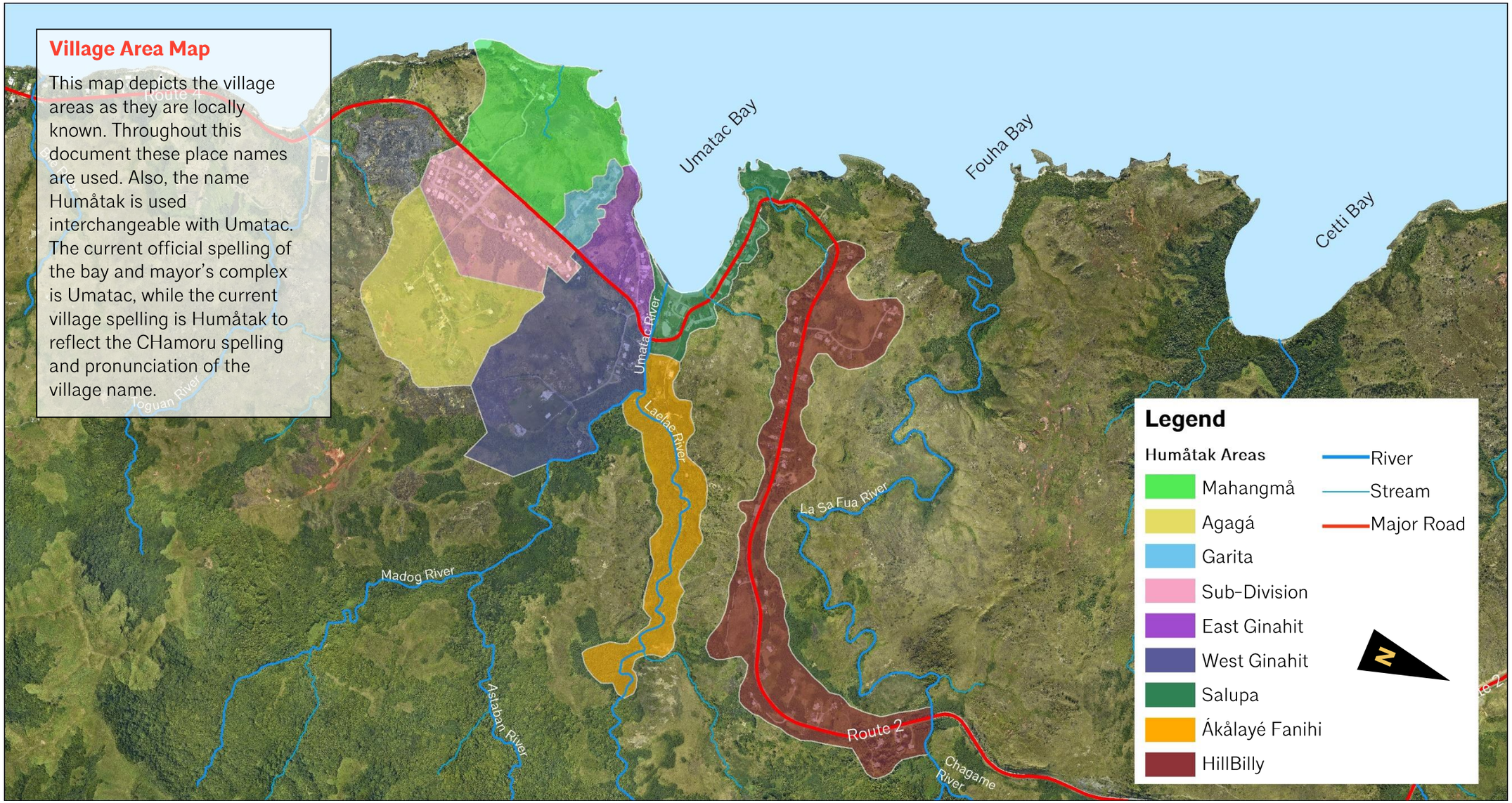


Village Area Map

This map depicts the village areas as they are locally known. Throughout this document these place names are used. Also, the name Humåtak is used interchangeable with Umatac. The current official spelling of the bay and mayor's complex is Umatac, while the current village spelling is Humåtak to reflect the CHamoru spelling and pronunciation of the village name.



Vision Statement

Through interview, survey, and investigation, a team of AIA volunteers will develop a community centric long-range planning document for the municipality of Humåtak. This document will be used as a datum, a record of consensus, that captures the desires of the community and serves as a focusing tool for current and future resources. The goal of the AIA team is to assemble a plan that will inspire the community with several conceptualized projects that reflect the aspirations of the residents and will revitalize the village throughout the 25-year plan lifecycle.

The Process of Developing the Plan

The initial phase of the process was to capture the current built environment, environmental data, historical data, and demographic data regarding Humåtak. The AIA utilized a variety of means such as structural surveys, questionnaires, document research, and focus group meetings to complete the first phase of planning.

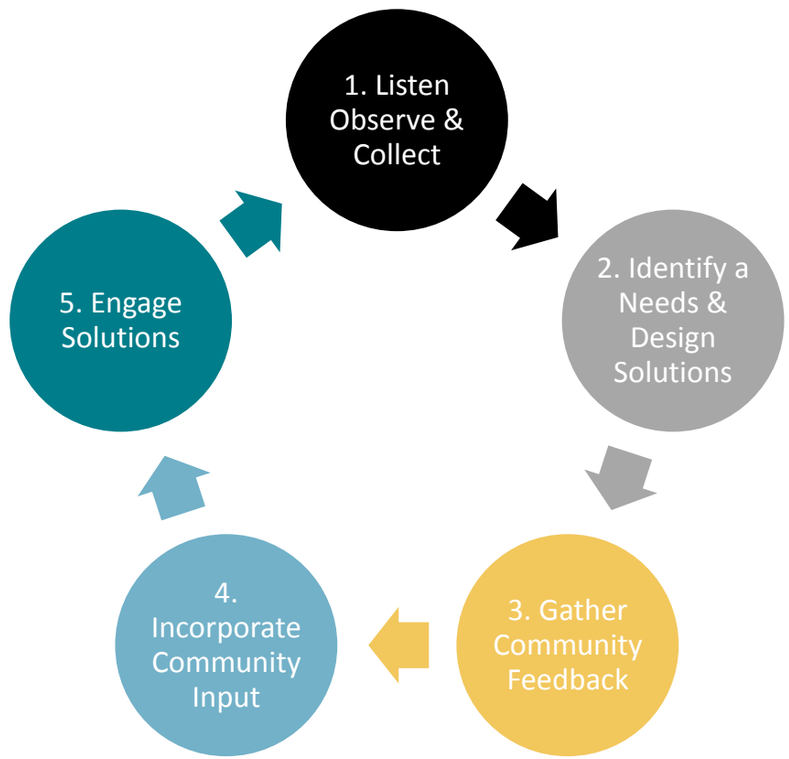
The second phase of the process was to analyze and sort the collected information in order to identify trends and common priorities of the community. From this point, the AIA team developed a broad set of goals for the revitalization plan:

1. Support and preserve the heritage and cultural value of Humåtak;
2. Provide a framework to bring unity and cohesiveness to the village's social fabric;
3. Improve the quality of life for the residents;
4. Offer recommendations for a more sustainable village;
5. Reinforce the sense of village pride and the dignity of the residents.

The third phase of the process was to conceptualize solutions to achieve these goals and present them to the community for review and revision. The scope of the solutions incorporate the built environment, community action, and laws or ordinances as a means to achieve the established goals. The review process was undertaken during village meetings, focus groups, and via social media. Then the solutions were revised in response to the village input.

The fourth phase of the plan development entailed assembling the collected information and synthesized project responses into a cohesive plan with a linear time reference for review, approval, and use by the Community. The Plan acts as a framework for the community to build on from the time of final submittal into the future.

Finally, this plan will be approved by the community of Humåtak and the Guam Preservation Trust then enacted over the next years as a tool to guide village growth and focus resources towards community goals as documented in this plan.



Phase One – Listen, Observe, and Collect

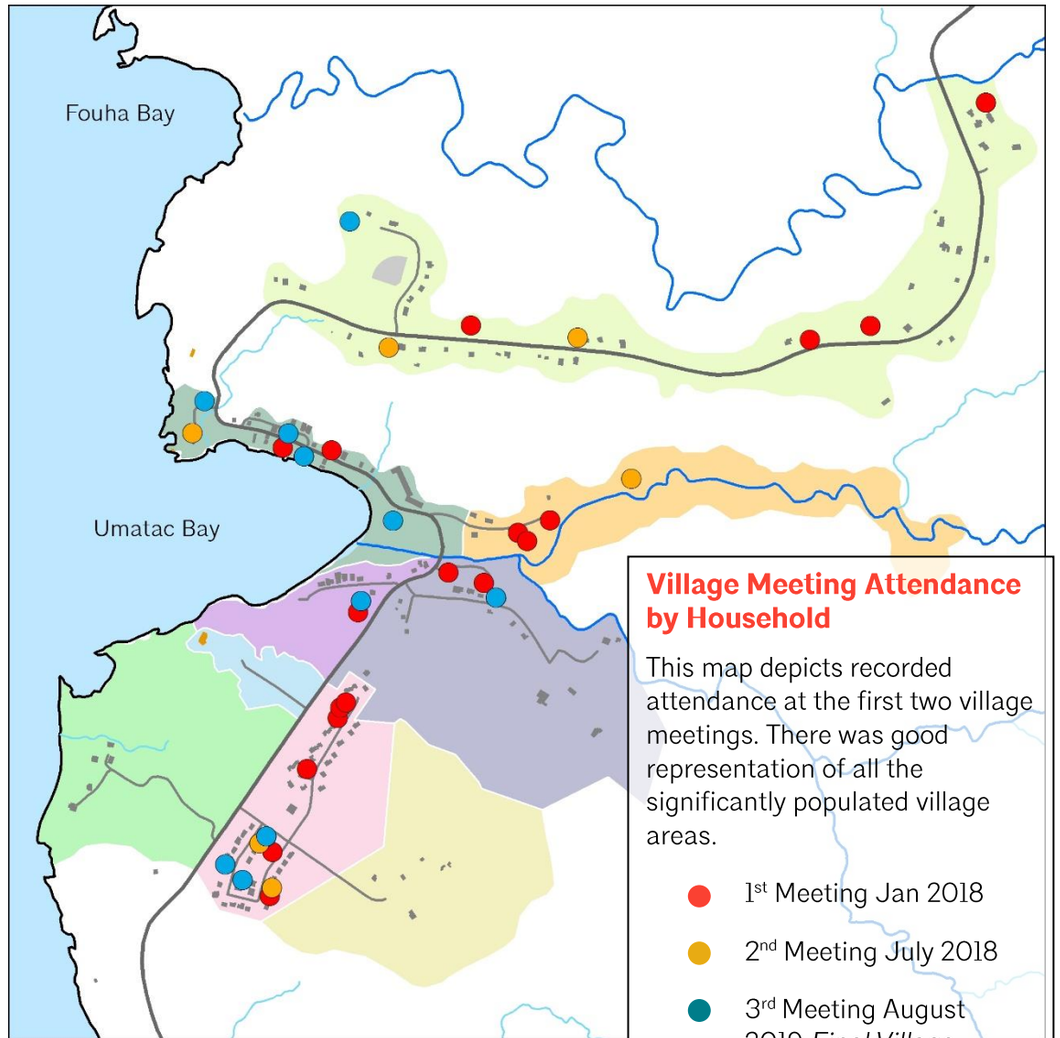
The influence of residents and the collection of information took place throughout the 18-month creation of this planning document. The AIA staff was continuously open for input and the plan was available for adjustments from all pertinent parties that would be affected by the document. The key stakeholders were the Guam Preservation Trust (GPT) who has initiated the creation of the plan, the residents of Humåtak, and lastly the governmental and non-governmental organizations that exist in Humåtak such as the Umatac Mayor's Office and the Humåtak Community Foundation. The following paragraphs describe the main sources of obtaining information

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

The bulk of topical attributes were collected using Geographic Information System data available from several local and national sources. This data was analyzed and used to create layers for maps and diagrams that steered the decision-making process. Village boundaries, historical site locations, transportation routes, topography, rivers streams and watersheds, are examples of the GIS data used.

Village Input

Soon after the project initiation between the GPT and the AIA a village meeting was held. This meeting served as an introduction and a first effort to gather village feedback through conversation and survey questionnaires which were distributed. The initial GIS data was presented in large format maps as conversation starters. Meetings and focus groups continued to be held throughout the plan compilation.



Village Meeting Attendance by Household

This map depicts recorded attendance at the first two village meetings. There was good representation of all the significantly populated village areas.

- 1st Meeting Jan 2018
- 2nd Meeting July 2018
- 3rd Meeting August 2019 *Final Village Approval*

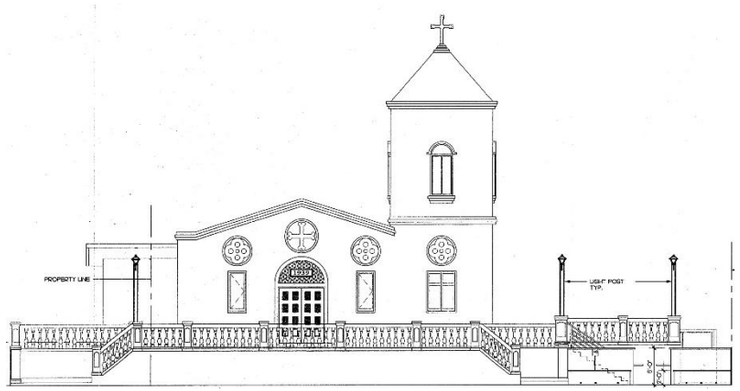
Historical Registries, Artifacts, and Documents

From Prehistory thru the Spanish era and into current times, Humåtak has served as a home for CHamoru heritage. The village has one of the most well-known historical accounts of any village on Guam. The creation legend of the CHamoru people takes place on the shores of Humåtak. The historical significance of this village cannot be understated and was a corner stone in the building of this plan. The Guam State Historic Preservation Office provided a data set that included all of the known historical sites in Humåtak and a tabular list of historic properties. There are 21 Registered Historic Places in Humåtak and 15 of those are Nationally Registered Historic Places.

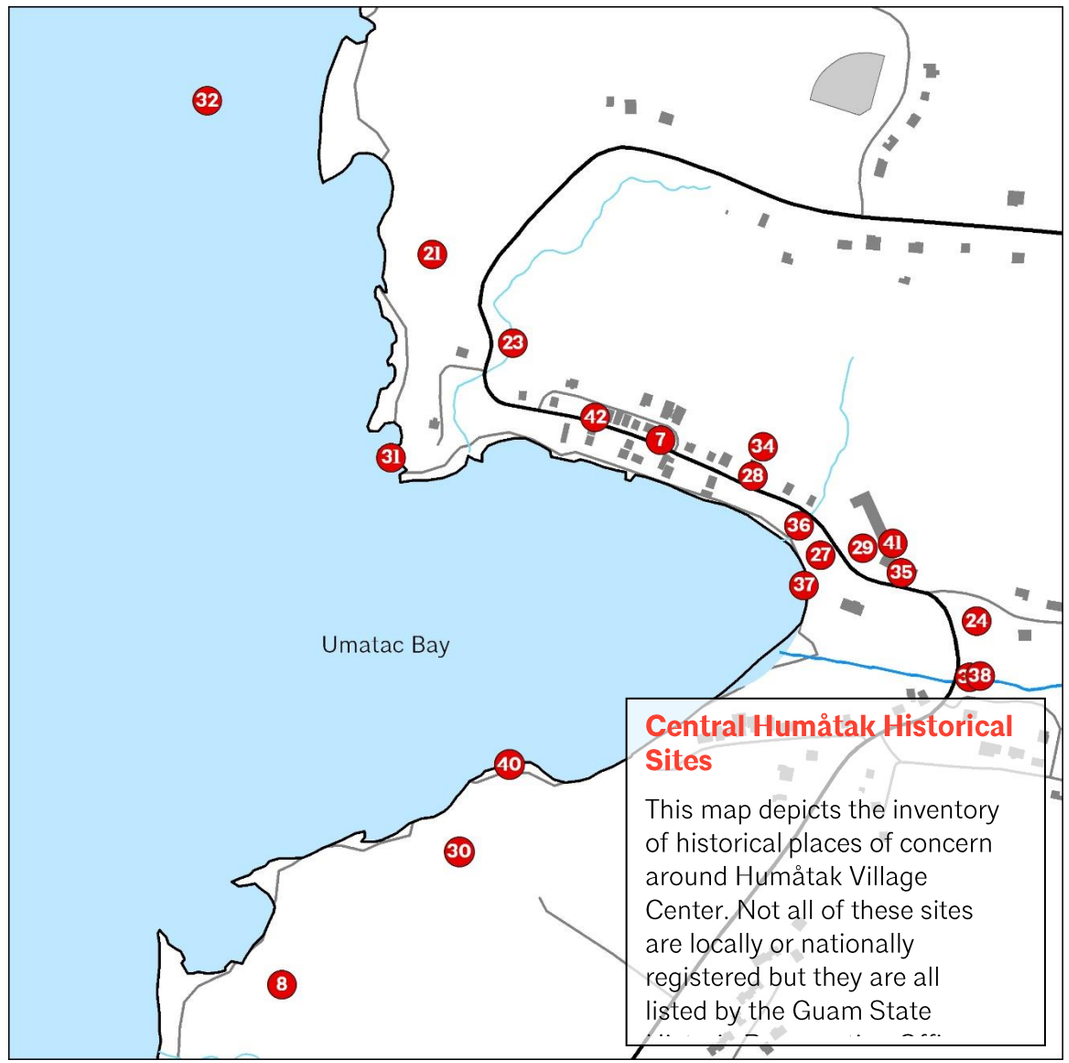
Several source documents were refenced during the construction of this plan. Some critical documents were the 1978 Guam Territorial Seashore Park executive orders, the 2014 Southern Villages Guam Architectural Survey, the Guam Statistical Yearbooks, and the Hagatna and Inarajan village plans

Site Surveys, Hikes, and Festivals

During the course of assembling the revitalization plan, the AIA volunteers experienced Humåtak in many different settings. The group was hosted by Mr. Joe Quinata and members of the Humåtak Foundation for several tours of village sites and hikes into the valleys towards the Bolanos Conservation area. Also, the annual Heritage Day festival occurred twice during the plan development which allowed the group to witness the village operating at maximum capacity while hosting the whole island. These first hand experiences provided insight into the spectrum of influences and scales required to be incorporated into the revitalization plan.



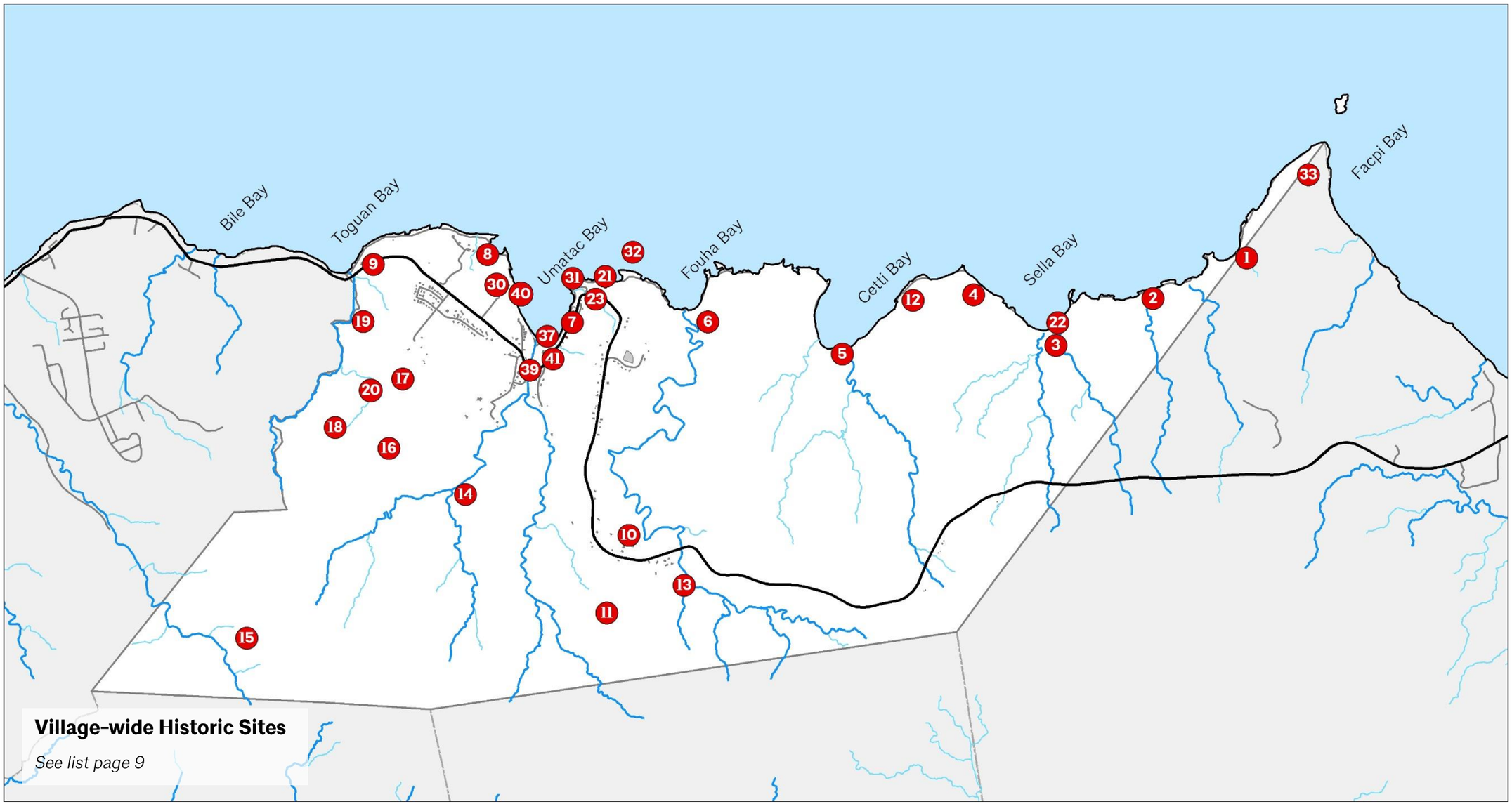
San Dionisio Church Facade



SHPO Inventory of Humåtak Historic Sites	
ID	SITE NAME
1	ACHUGAO BAY SITE
2	AGAGA BEACH
3	SELLA BAY SITE
4	ABONG BEACH
5	CETTI BAY
6	FOUHA BAY
7	UMATAC VILLAGE
8	MACHAGAN POINT
9	TOGUAN BAY
10	FUA SITE
11	UMATAC RIDGE
12	NORTH CETTI BAY
13	ALATGUE SPRING
14	MADOG RIVER
15	CRETO SITE
16	GUAM FIRST GREEN COLF COURSE (INVENTORY SURVEY) TS #1
17	GUAM FIRST GREEN COLF COURSE (INVENTORY SURVEY) TS #2
18	GUAM FIRST GREEN COLF COURSE (INVENTORY SURVEY) TS #3
19	GUAM FIRST GREEN COLF COURSE (INVENTORY SURVEY) TS #4
20	GUAM FIRST GREEN COLF COURSE (INVENTORY SURVEY) TS #5
21	FORT SAN JOSE
22	SELLA BAY SPANISH BRIDGE
23	SPANISH BRIDGE (NORTH ENTRANCE TO UMATAC)
24	THORNED BAMBOO BUSHES
25	SPANISH TRAIL REMAINS
26	SELLA BAY SPANISH OVEN
27	MAGELLAN MONUMENT
28	UMATAC CATHOLIC CHURCH
29	SAN DIONISIO CHURCH RUINS
30	FORT NUESTRA SENORA DE LA SOLEDAD
31	FORT SANTO ANGEL

ID	SITE NAME
32	JAPANESE ZERO
33	FACPI POINT
34	GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE
35	UMATAC CONVENT
36	FORT CARMEN
37	JAPANESE SUBMARINE
38	UMATAC 1958 BRIDGE
39	UMATAC PRE-1958 BRIDGE
40	UMATAC PILLBOX
41	FRANCISCO Q. SANCHEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
42	UMATAC OUTDOOR LIBRARY

This data was collected from the State Historic Preservation Office inventory. The list shown here and maps on pages 8 and 10 are depictions of the GIS data.


Bile Bay
Toguan Bay
Umatac Bay
Fouha Bay
Cetti Bay
Sella Bay
Facpi Bay
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Village-wide Historic Sites
See list page 9

Phase Two – Identify Needs and Design Solutions

After nine months of absorbing information the AIA team identified aspects of the village that could be reinforced or revitalized. Through programming and analysis, six village projects were conceptualized as solutions to meet village goals. Through internal group design charrettes these projects were planned and designed to a level of detail that could be effectively expressed and presented to the village in sketch format at the second village meeting.

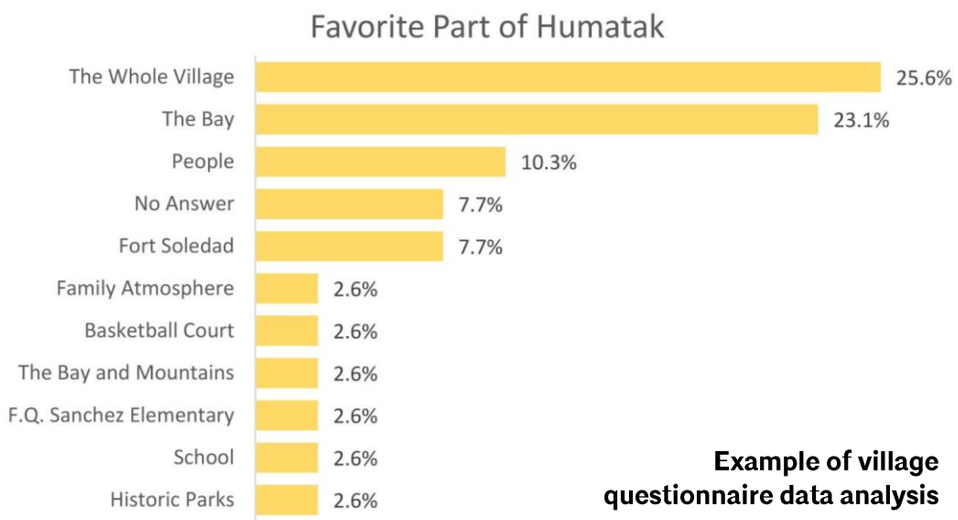
Also, during this phase, AIA volunteers met with government agencies that might have plans, or are trusted with lands in or around Humåtak. Presentations were made to the Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatics and Wildlife Resources, The Army Corps of Engineers, the State Historic Preservation Office and, The Bureau of Statistics and Plans Guam Coastal Management Program.

Phase Three – Gather Community Feedback

The projects were presented at the second village meeting in July 2018. The projects were open for critic after the presentation of all the projects by AIA volunteers. Residents were encouraged to draw or write comments on the presentation boards and discuss the projects with the team members. The final results of the editing process are captured in the six projects that make up the bulk of the creative effort of this Humåtak Revitalization Plan.

Phase Four - Incorporate Community Input

This phase took place after the village projects were presented at the second village meeting. None of the projects were rejected by the residents so they were all developed simultaneously to a level of design adequate for this plan. The community comments were incorporated into the design of each project. The conclusion of phase four is the presentation of the Humåtak Revitalization Plan at a final village meeting. This report will be reviewed, edited, and revised to meet the approval of Humåtak residents. These final results will be incorporated into the finished copy of this Revitalization Plan.



Example of village questionnaire data analysis

Looking to the Future, Guided by the Past - The Humåtak Revitalization Plan

The following statement might seem elementary but the proceeding ideas, text and plans must be viewed with the firm understanding of one concept;

The core of Humåtak village is the community of people that have existed along the bays and hills of this island for thousands of years.

After experiencing the heritage of Humåtak, it is clear that the most fitting way into the future is to let the village guide the way through a decision-making process focused around the family unit, contemplation, and approval. Through the research process of this planning exercise, episodes of outside influence on the community without local input stand out. Time has proven that without letting the immediate community take priority and taking part in the decision process the results of any village project will have undesired results and can be detrimental to the fabric of the community. In this regard, some of the conceptual projects included in this revitalization plan are not to revitalize the village through "improvements" or additions but instead to peel away the layers of influence that have dulled the shine of Humåtak or to reestablish a beneficial feature that was lost.

The main body of this plan consist of two parts. The first section is a list of projects that could be implemented by Humåtak as they see fit. The project sites are distributed throughout the village of Humåtak and vary in size and complexity. The second part of the plan is a Land Use Plan that focuses on land use zoning and how Humåtak can control how the land is used and what type of buildings or activities can exist in the village. The Land Use Plan is a good tool for communicating the villages' desires for development and industry to Government Officials.

This plan does not disregard the notion of modernization or progress, but instead strives to present the most appropriate of these concepts to the village for their approval. This plan also does not ignore the benefit of the greater island community of Guam as a whole. Humåtak is blessed with natural physical geography that defines and secludes it from other island villages but these boundaries do not exist for economic, political, or cultural influences. Because Humåtak is often visited by island residents as well as being a popular tourist destination when the village and the pride of its residents' shine Guam as a collective community can shine.

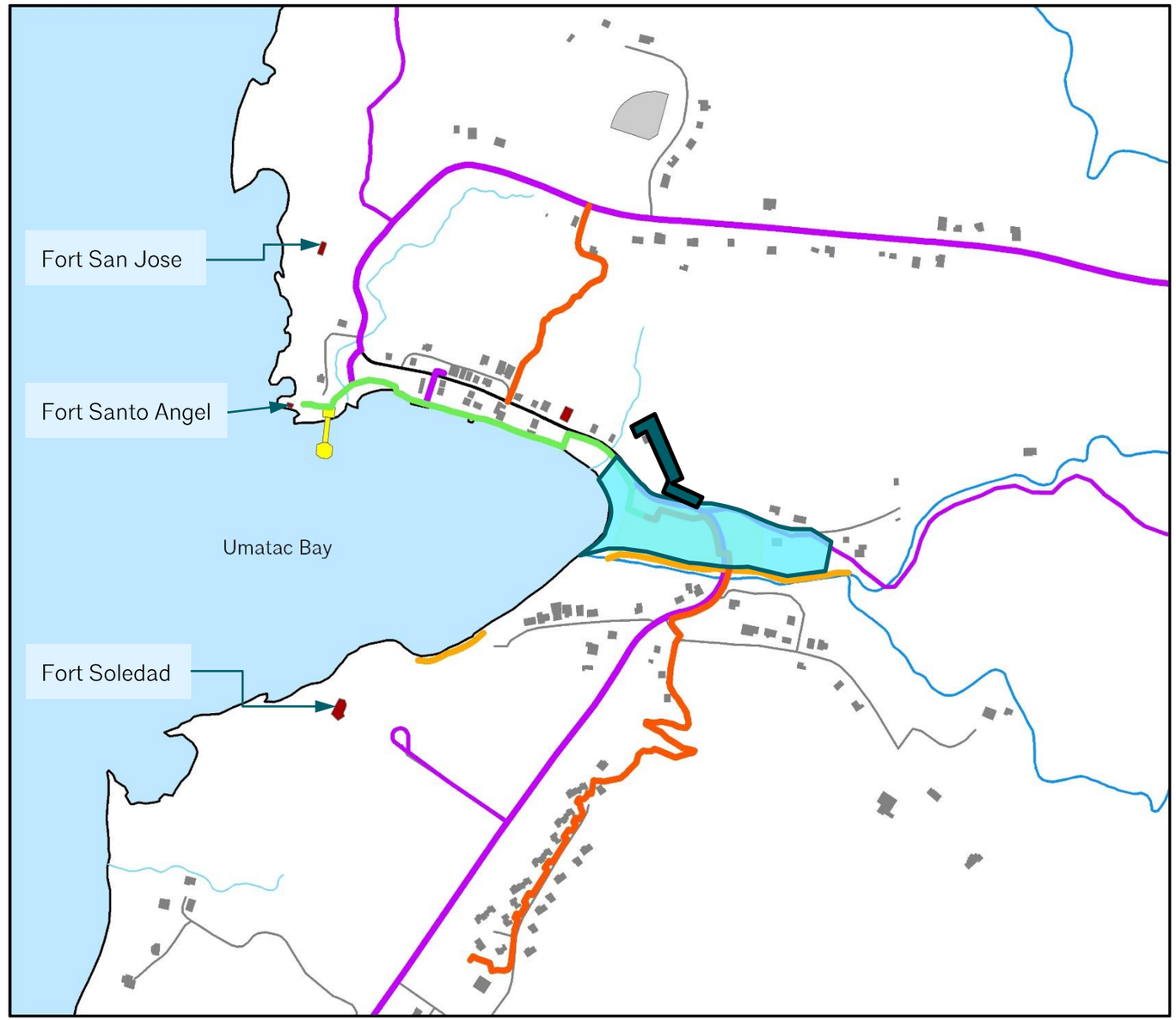
The village of Humåtak is filled with vitality today. Almost every weekend you can hear music fill the bay and see families gather. The sense of community feels as tangible as the mountains or the shimmering bay. But perhaps if you sit with a village elder, they will speak about a time when the village had an air of simple charm that is hard to find in Humåtak today. Layers of influence starting with the Spanish era and onto the Post World War II American era which lead to a change in diet, longevity, culture and lifestyle have undoubtably changed the course of Humåtak and Guam's history. What this document seeks to revitalize and promote into the future is the unique personality, and charming heritage of Humåtak.

Humåtak Village Conceptual Projects

The following collection of projects are concepts that were born out of village needs identified through research conversation and suggestion. The projects are not codependent and could be completed in any order. The feasibility varies, where some projects require little financial burden but would be immediately beneficial to the community, other projects would require more financial planning to achieve but could benefit the village for years to come.

Village Project Legend

- Renovate the Village Center
- Improve Pedestrian Circulation Around the Village Center
- Develop a Trail Network and Headquarters for Ecotourism
- Design a Bayside Walkway and Provide Beach Stabilization
- Establish Riverside Shore Stabilization
- Locate a Recreational Fishing Pier
- F.Q. Sanchez Elementary School Renovation -Considered, to be completed by others. Not included in this plan



1. Renovate the Village Center, Humåtak's Hub

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

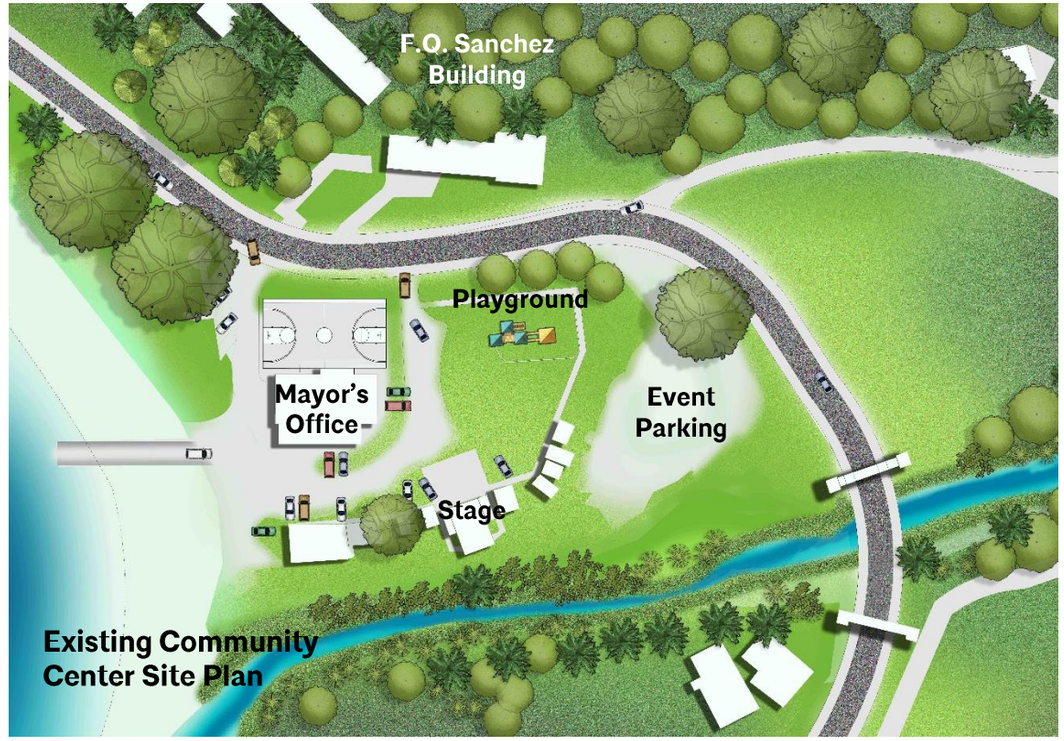
1. **Renovate the Village Center**
2. **Provide administrative space for the Mayor and his staff**
3. **Organize the site to maximize passive protection against sea level rise and flooding**
4. **Incorporate multiuse spaces for daily use and festival capacities**

The Humåtak Mayor's Office and Community Center is the natural centroid of the community. It is physically in the middle of the village population and its location at the head of Humåtak Bay makes it a desirable location to gather for recreational activities. The property also comprises one of the largest relatively flat usable areas for gathering during village events.

Currently the site consists of a single-story concrete structure with 2,100 square feet of enclosed space. It includes the Mayor's office, administrative support, indoor meeting space, a kitchen and 1,250 square feet of outdoor meeting space with overhead protection.

Also included on the site is a stage for performances constructed of a concrete slab bordered by shipping containers, a basketball court with lighting, a community playground, picnic tables, parking areas for residents and tourists visiting the bayside, and a boat ramp. The immediate shoreline is in a natural state and allows open pedestrian access to the bay.

Adjacent properties include the currently vacant F.Q. Sanchez Elementary School to the north. The Magellan Monument to the northwest and the Humåtak bridge to the southeast. The site has several access points to Route 4 and is bounded on the south by the Humåtak river.



Existing Stage

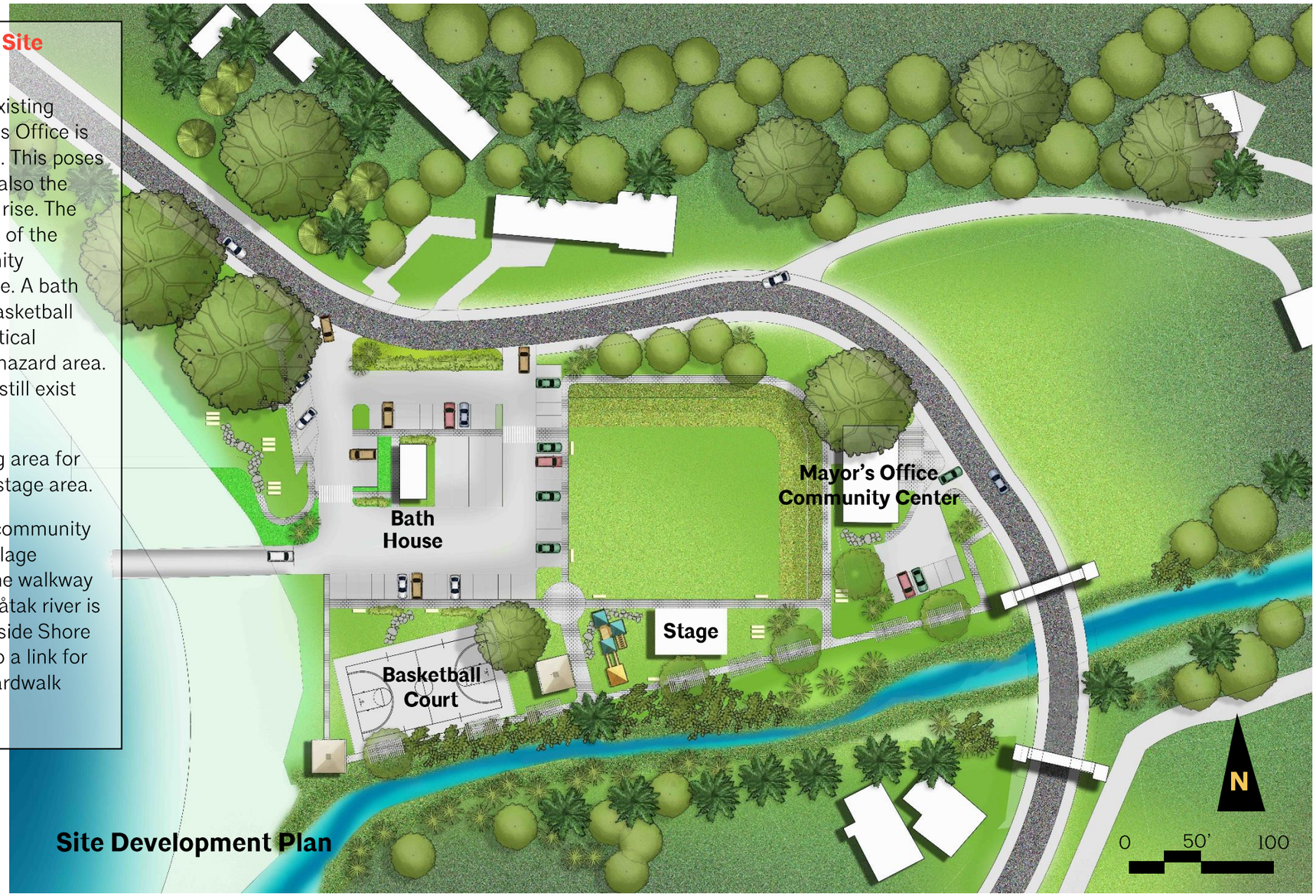
Existing Mayor's Office

Revitalized Community Center Site Development Plan

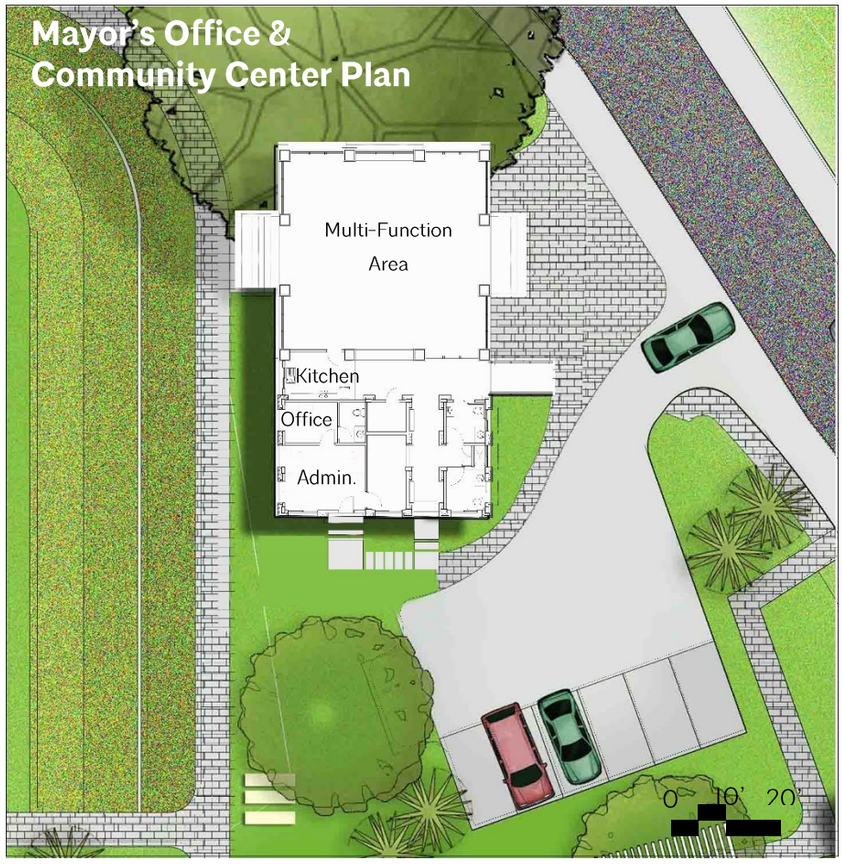
One of the critical concerns of the existing community center is that the Mayor's Office is located inside of the flood zone area. This poses hazards from typhoon flooding and also the possibility of damage from sea level rise. The plan shown here moves the function of the Mayor's office and covered community gathering space out of the flood zone. A bath house, expanded parking, and the basketball court which are durable and non-critical structures are moved into the flood hazard area. All of the same functions of the site still exist but in more strategic locations.

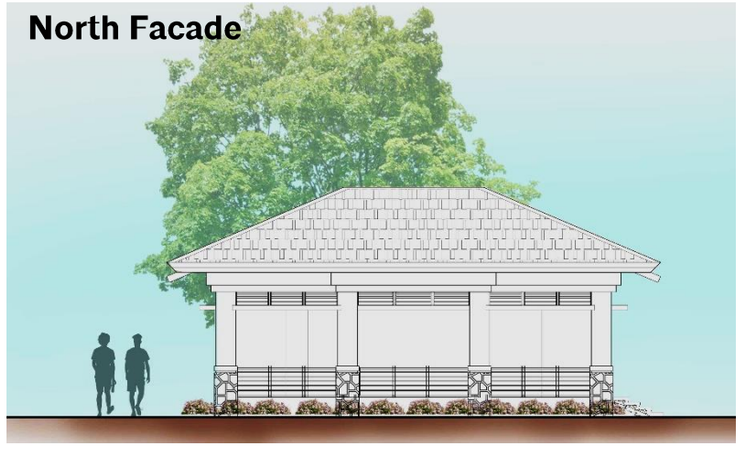
This plan also expands the gathering area for audiences around the performance stage area.

This area of Humåtak is the hub of community activity, as such several of the six village projects intersect at this location. The walkway along the northern edge of the Humåtak river is covered in further detail in the Riverside Shore Stabilization Project. This site is also a link for the Pedestrian Trail Project and Boardwalk Project.



Site Development Plan





Mayor's Office and Community Gathering Space

This plan for the Mayor's Office consists of the same square footage as the existing facility. The covered pavilion utilizes a pitched roof that connects to the historic architecture of the pre-World War II village and traces its design lineage to the thatched roofs of CHamoru homes.

The mayor's administrative space is a separate adjacent structure with a clean utilitarian design. This would be a facility with durable finishes for high public traffic and community use. The kitchen which serves the community pavilion is part of this structure.

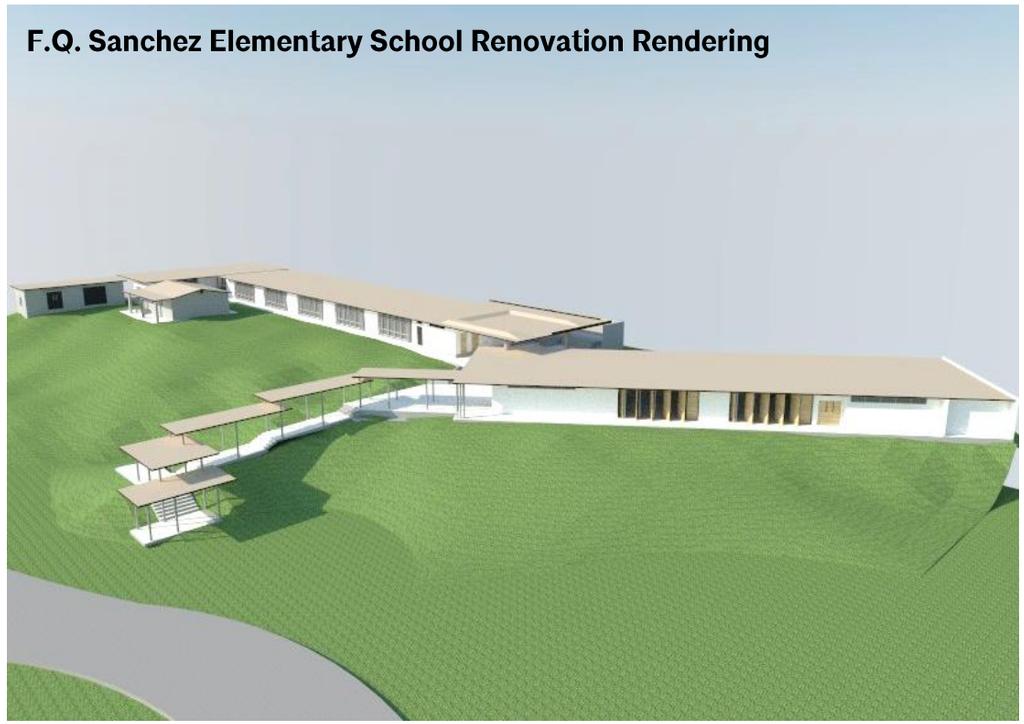
F.Q. Sanchez Elementary School Renovation

The Francisco Q. Sanchez Elementary school is currently vacant. The building was constructed in 1953 and designed by world-renowned modernist architect Richard Neutra. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. The renovation plans were designed to bring the structure back to its original modernist genre but the function of the space has yet to be determined. The school was closed due to the minimal student population of southern students. Guam Department of education decided it was more economical to consolidate the student body and bus the Humåtak students to other village schools.

The position of the school and the size of the structure have a significant impact on the center of Humåtak village and it is currently a noticeable barren spot of activity. As mentioned in other sections of this Revitalization Plan the facility will be a key element in the fabric of Humåtak once the renovation is funded and completed. The space could include some of the administrative functions of the Mayor's office, a permanent centralized location for the display of village artifacts and records, and still provide space for a charter school.

Because the renovation design has already been completed and the project is awaiting funding this project was not included in the six village projects of this plan. As the facility is a great asset to Humåtak the impact of this facility being renovated was considered in all applicable village projects that are included in the revitalization plan.

F.Q. Sanchez Elementary School Renovation Rendering



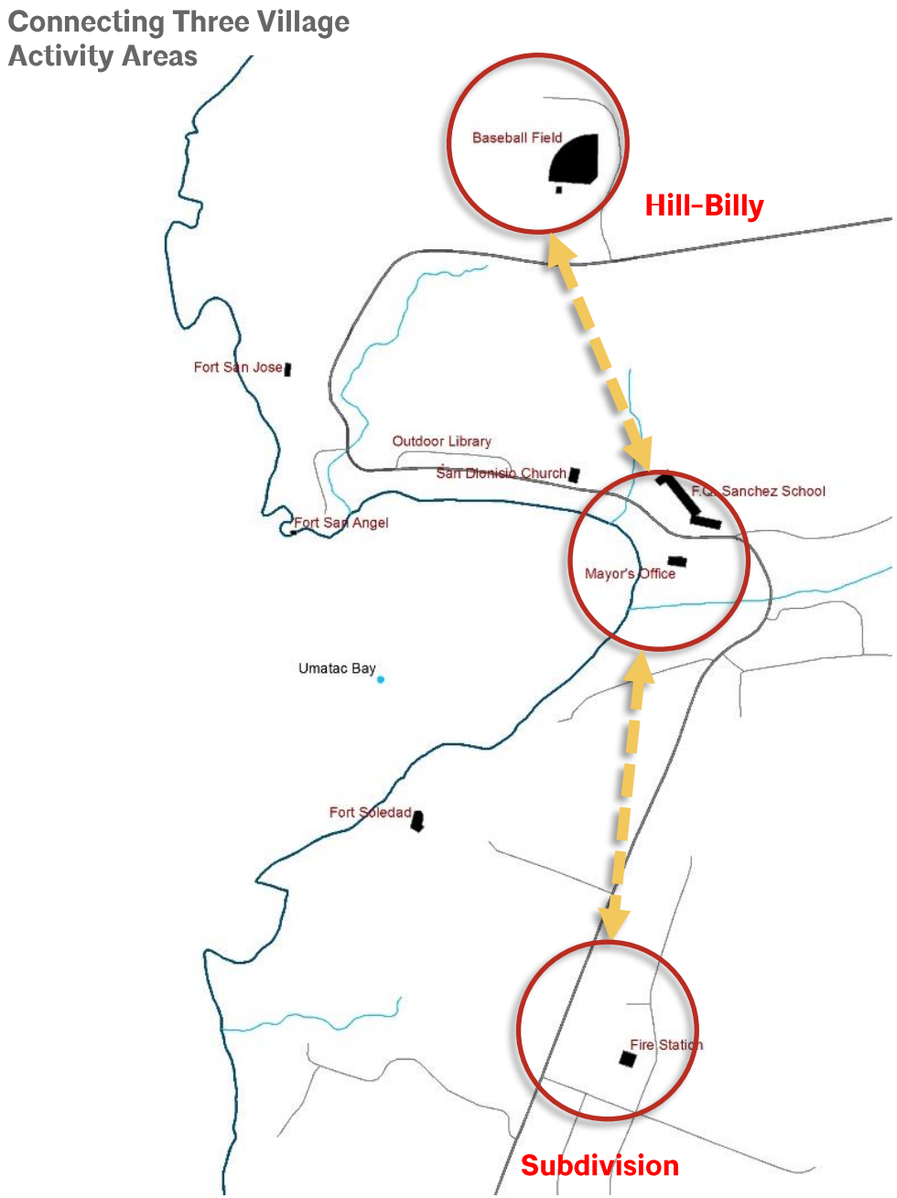
2. Improve Pedestrian Circulation Around the Village Center

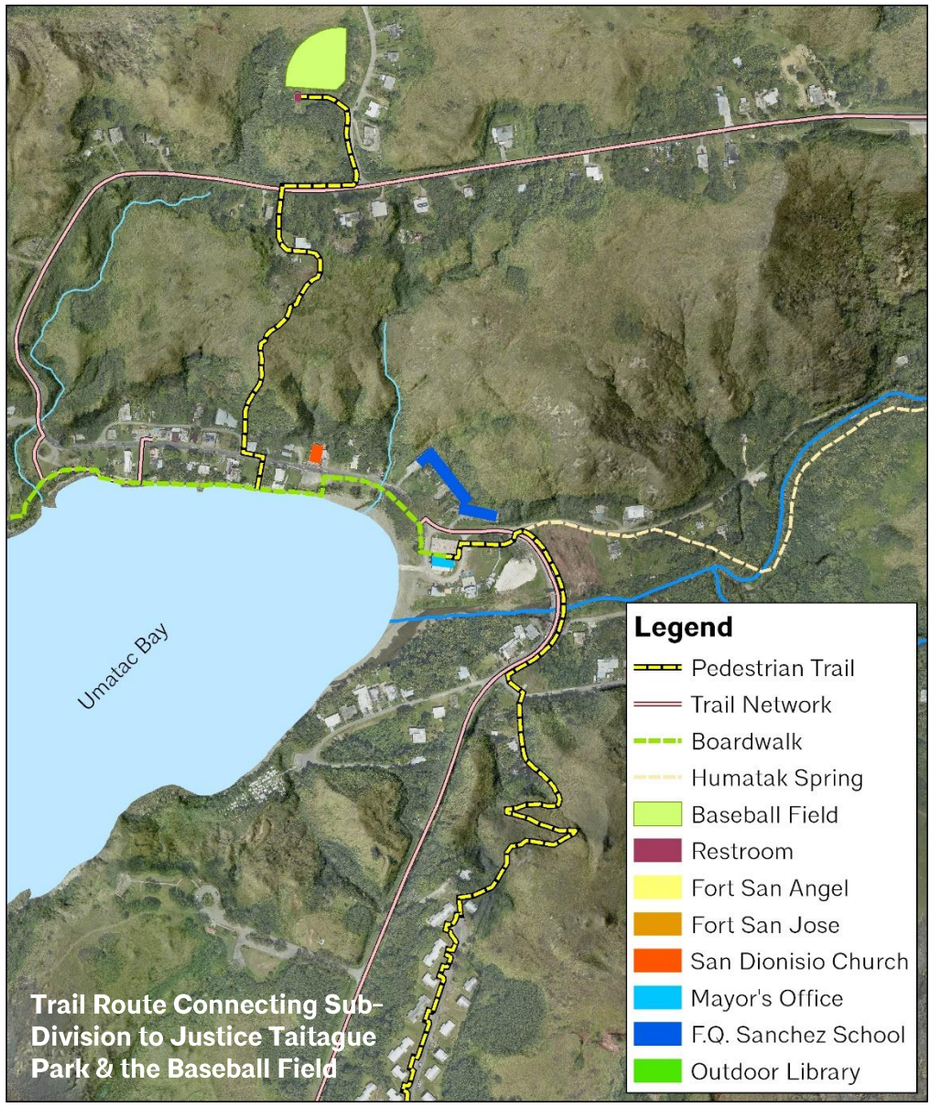
PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. **Reconnect the village with pedestrian paths**
2. **Promote social interactions along pathways**
3. **Promote health and wellness of village residents**
4. **Reduce vehicular traffic around the village center**

The main focal point of activity in Humåtak is the community property surrounding the Mayor's office and recreational facilities at Humåtak Bay. Two other projects currently underway are the renovation of the baseball field located in Hill-Billy and the creation of a gymnasium at the entrance to the subdivision. Once these projects are completed there will be three activity focus areas distributed across Humåtak's three main population centers. Currently the access between these areas is vehicular. There is a trail that exist from Hill-Billy down to the village center but it is not commonly used by most residents. For this project to succeed, the trail network needs to be easily accessible, safe, and more attractive than travelling via car. The mountainous terrain of Humåtak will require the trail to meander up and down the hillside to avoid a slope that would inhibit casual use by the residents. This project will provide a chance for more residents to engage with the less developed portions of the village and may promote an appreciation of the Humåtak's natural beauty. This could lead to increased positive pressure from the community to reduce the burning of grassland for hunting purposes. These trails will also provide safer avenues for physical activities then those which are used currently taking place by residents in the evening along Route 4 and 2.

The trails will be wide enough for two people to pass side by side and provide areas for resting, shade, and possibly small landscaped areas for gathering. The trail surface could be the natural clay soil of the area or gravel held in place with edging. The trail also should have some form of lighting to provide security and visibility of the travelers. Solutions such as solar powered lights with low impact installation and renewable energy usage would complement this projects goals.





Trail Route Connecting Sub-Division to Justice Taitague Park & the Baseball Field

Simple erosion control using large stones to divert water

Gathering & Rest Area

Positive environmental impacts of the trail should also be paramount. Erosion control will be enforced by limiting the slope of the trail with steps and switchbacks where required. If needed stormwater culverts or swales should be used to collect or divert stormwater runoff but low impact civil design should be considered first so that the total environmental impact of the trail is kept to a minimum.

This project received a lot of positive feedback during village meetings and it reinforces a community action that is already in place for some residents. The expense and resources needed to complete this project could be minimal and it would offer a great deal of positive community impact and strengthen the social fabric of Humåtak.

Community involvement in the project is important so that residents can have a sense of ownership of the trails. The community could be involved in the construction and upkeep of the trails, and the best community involvement being the use of the trails as pedestrian thoroughfares.

3. Develop a Trail Network and Headquarters for Ecotourism

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. **Convey the heritage and significance of Humåtak in a meaningful way**
2. **Make Humåtak's Cultural Sites accessible and safe for public use**
3. **Provide a cohesive style and format for cultural sites and signage throughout the village**
4. **Promote ecological and responsible tourism**

The village of Humåtak, boasting twelve registered national historic places, scenic bays, and mountain ranges, is a popular tourist destination on Guam. It attracts visitors with its ecological and recreational sites and rich cultural heritage that one can experience in various ways. Hiking trails are often self-guided experiences, a few hours-long adventures while historic sites can be appreciated from a drive by, a pit stop, or an in-depth tour during Guam History & Chamorro Heritage Day festivities. At the heart of the village is the Umatac Bay and Park where visitors take the time to interact with locals as they enjoy sports and water activities or a picnic at the park.

Humåtak's abundant and accessible attractions have been sufficient in sustaining tourist traffic in recent times. However, the overall duration of tourist stay is often too short to relay the significance and story of its place and people. By developing a headquarters and trail network for ecotourism and improving existing trail sites, this project envisions a prolonged and authentic visitor and villager experience thus creating a stronger sense of place.

Trail Headquarters

An official visitor information center or ecotourism headquarters is key to positive visitor experience and evoking local civic pride. Currently, Humåtak's only information guide to its sites is a signboard by the park. Since it is the first must-do as visitors arrive, the infrastructure must be centrally located. The ideal site would be a space off to a corner inside the Umatac Mayor's Office which allows shared management and separate function simultaneously. The space requirements should anticipate future needs and should include at minimum a kiosk, desk, seating, and storage. Its design should always reflect hospitality and Humåtak heritage. This has a potential to create job opportunities for docents and revenue from tour packages and equipment rentals.

Trail Networks

Tourism trails come in a variety of types but all have a goal in discovering and preserving assets and creating recreational activities for local people. Most existing trails in Humåtak are located in the northern part of the village and are mostly ecological trails to the bays. This project plans to create two new trails to compliment these existing trails.

The Heritage Trail

The first is a heritage trail that will highlight the remnants of Spanish and historic Humåtak life at the village center. Highlighting the old-world charm, the existing narrow roadway will be paved with brick pavers from the open area by Fort Santo Angel to the Umatac Bridge and commemorative markers at the start and end of the trail. The trail also ensures safe access to all historic sites and installing permanent interpretative signage by historic sites. The overall improvements seek to slow down traffic and increase pedestrian flow.

Example of Permanent Signage

Village Trail Network

The second trail network connects the entire village from tip to tip, providing a safe, sustainable, and seamless route to and from all areas of interest along the roadway. This trail network involves road widening for a bike lane and sidewalk on the cliff side, and a sidewalk on the mountain side. Roadside guardrails or shrubs, directional signage, and crosswalks should be placed where appropriate and necessary. The example road section on the right also includes a stormwater culvert integrated into the pedestrian pathway.

Trail Experience

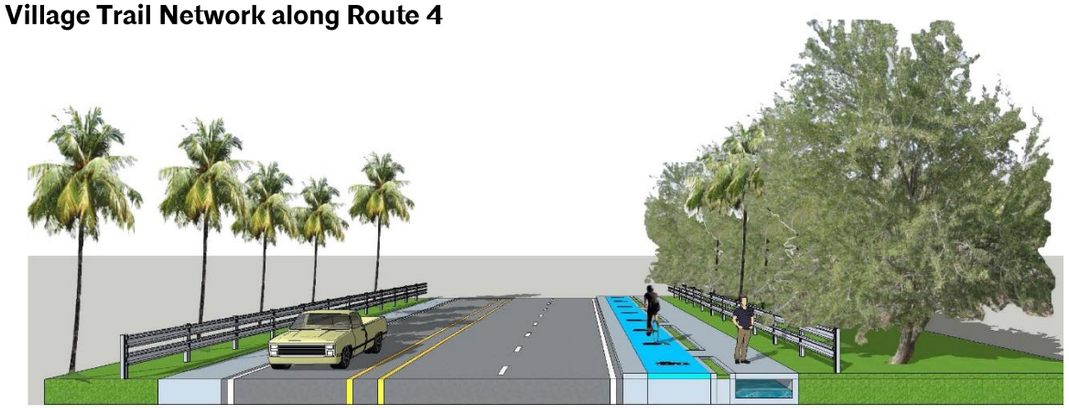
While trail networks give reasons for tourists to visit a place, trail experience determines the reasons for revisit. As trail experience encompasses before, during, and after, it is important to consider all aspects in enhancing the trail.

For experiences prior, the trail should be accessible and have available parking. Trailhead signage and kiosks should have a prominent visual presence and present and should describe at least safety precautions, trail rules, route, difficulty, and describe flora and fauna found along the trail, or other pertinent cultural or environmental attributes

Comprising a majority of the experience, it is crucial for the trail itself to be safe and comfortable. Trail management and maintenance should follow national standards on trail grade, trail surface, waymarking, litter, and trail furniture. All measures done should minimize impact on the environment.

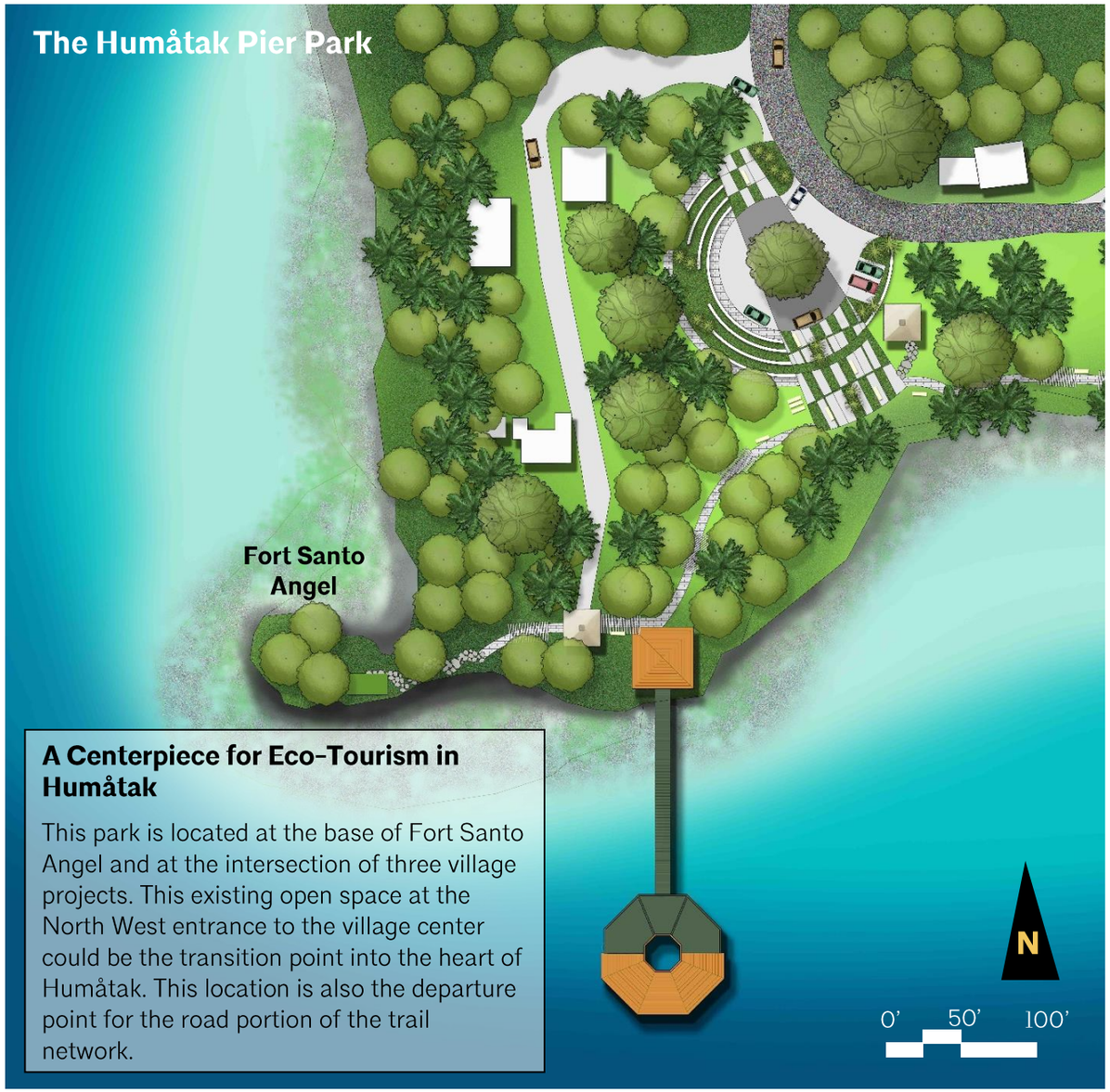
After each trail, visitors generally look for areas to refresh and rest. Toilets and shower facilities should be available for use of all at the village center. Open plazas strategically placed by Fort Santo Angel, Umatac Bay Park, and Fort Soledad will serve as areas for recreation and locations for food and entertainment.

Village Trail Network along Route 4



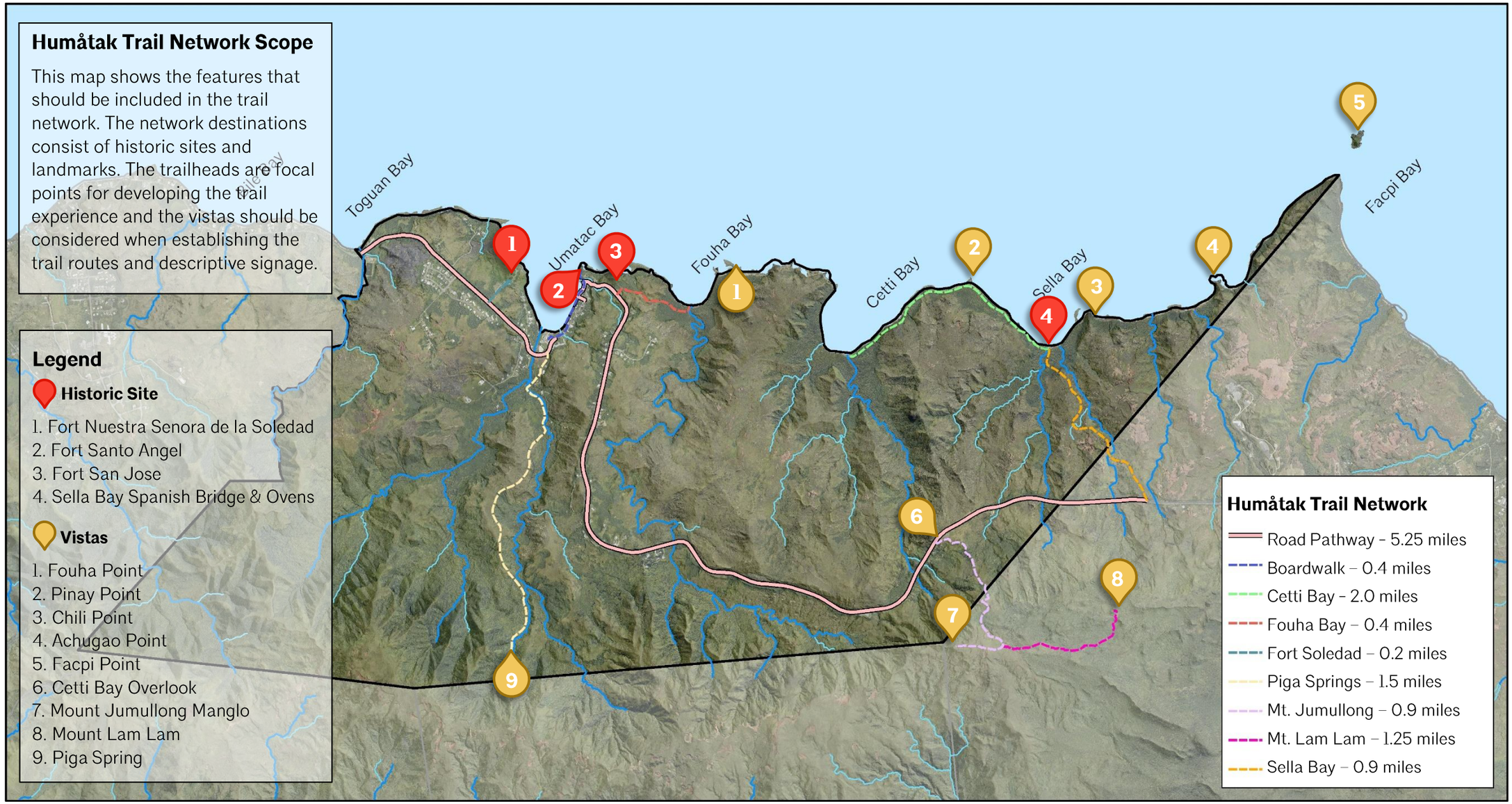
Route 4 towards Humåtak

Bike Lane &
Pedestrian Path


The Humåtak Pier Park
Fort Santo Angel
A Centerpiece for Eco-Tourism in Humåtak
This park is located at the base of Fort Santo Angel and at the intersection of three village projects. This existing open space at the North West entrance to the village center could be the transition point into the heart of Humåtak. This location is also the departure point for the road portion of the trail network.
N
0’ 50’ 100’

Entrance to the Pier Park
From Hill Billy

Entrance to the Pier Park
From San Dionisio Drive
HUMATAK


Humåtak Trail Network Scope
This map shows the features that should be included in the trail network. The network destinations consist of historic sites and landmarks. The trailheads are focal points for developing the trail experience and the vistas should be considered when establishing the trail routes and descriptive signage.
Legend
Historic Site
1. Fort Nuestra Senora de la Soledad
2. Fort Santo Angel
3. Fort San Jose
4. Sella Bay Spanish Bridge & Ovens
Vistas
1. Fouha Point
2. Pinay Point
3. Chili Point
4. Achugao Point
5. Facpi Point
6. Cetti Bay Overlook
7. Mount Jumullong Manglo
8. Mount Lam Lam
9. Piga Spring
Toguan Bay
Umatac Bay
Fouha Bay
Cetti Bay
Sella Bay
Facpi Bay
Humåtak Trail Network
Road Pathway - 5.25 miles
Boardwalk – 0.4 miles
Cetti Bay - 2.0 miles
Fouha Bay – 0.4 miles
Fort Soledad – 0.2 miles
Piga Springs – 1.5 miles
Mt. Jumullong – 0.9 miles
Mt. Lam Lam – 1.25 miles
Sella Bay – 0.9 miles

4. Design a Bayside Walkway and Provide Beach Stabilization

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

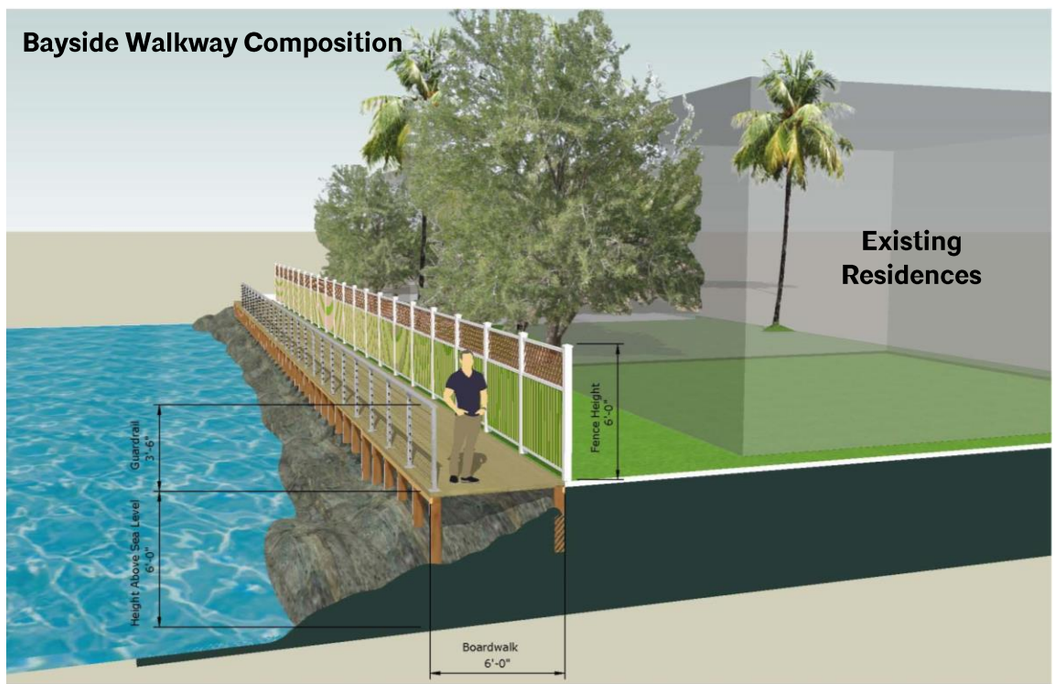
1. **Provide an off-street pedestrian walkway around Umatac Bay**
2. **Allow safe and easy access to Umatac Bay**
3. **Provide low impact environmental solutions for beach and river bank stabilization**
4. **Promote ecological and responsible tourism**

There were two sources of stimulus for this project. The first was the resident's statements that coastal erosion was a concern around the bay and the second was the identified need for safe pedestrian movement around the village center.

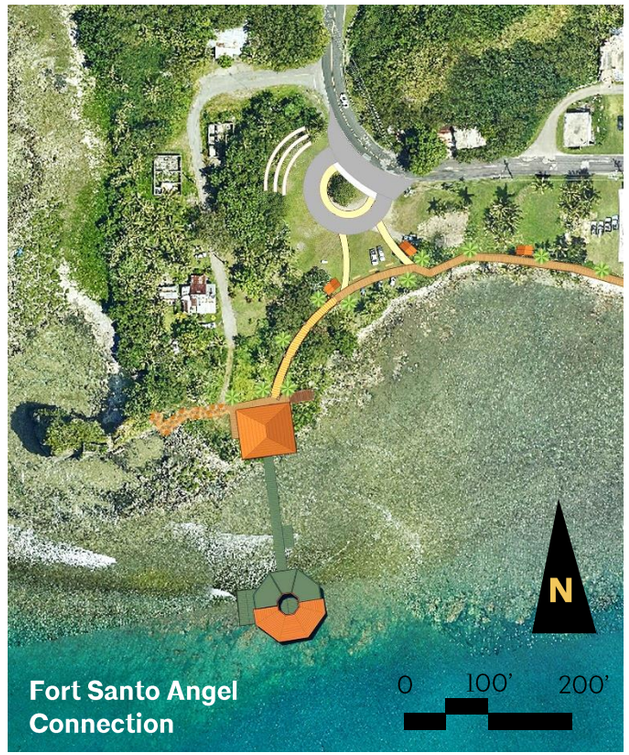
Residents shared stories of structures along the bay that no longer exist or have collapsed into the bay due to changes in the coastline and costal erosion. This concern is focused on the north shore of the bay and along the bayside of the Umatac Cemetery. To date no beach stabilization infrastructure exist around the bay. This project would create a structure along the north shore of Umatac Bay to support an elevated walking path which would also be designed to provide shoreline stabilization.

The road alignment of Humåtak has not changed since the era of the El Camino Real. As road improvements were made and the road was modernized the paved right of way pushed against the property boundaries on each side. This has created limited to no space for pedestrian sidewalks and most commonly pedestrian travel in the lanes of traffic while walking from the Mayor's office towards Fort Santo Angel which creates a hazardous traffic condition.

The primary goal of this project is to provide an alternative pedestrian path on the bay side of the private properties removing pedestrian transit from the vehicular path and simultaneously provide structural beach stabilization.

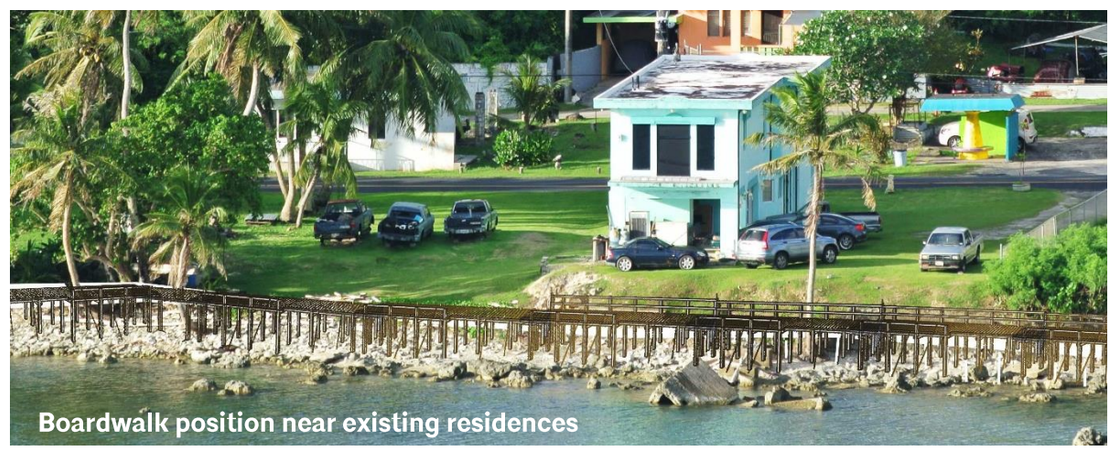


A secondary goal of this project is to connect the Community Center to Fort Santo Angel and future pier and park locations with a pedestrian path for residents and village visitors. The pathway could also be used to connect San Dionisio church and the outdoor library sites with spokes originating from the beachside walkway. The northern coastline of Umatac Bay consists mostly of rocky boulders and debris. The constructed pathway would be elevated to provide safe and level passage over the debris but where available the pathway would be built on grade. The footpath extending from the pier pavilion towards Fort Santo Angel could be constructed of stone or a material different than the beachside path so that the experience of accessing the historic masonry constructed fort begins even before ascending the staircase with a material change signaling the event.



Fort Santo Angel Connection

Provide safe access to Fort Santo Angel


Boardwalk position near existing residences

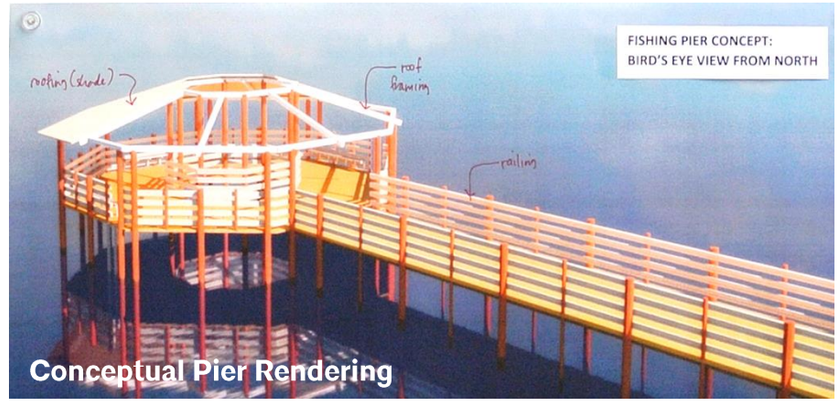
5. Locate a Recreational Fishing Pier at Humåtak Bay

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. **Construct a Pier at Umatac Bay**
2. **Provide a space for play, boat embarkment, and fishing**
3. **Construct a Pier that is durable and will withstand typhoon conditions**
4. **Do not negatively impact beach erosion**

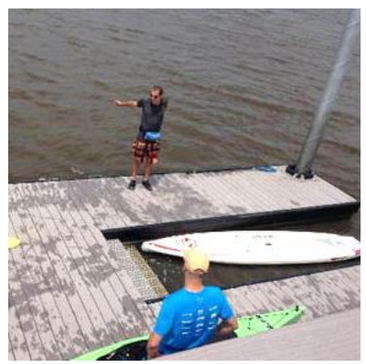
The pier project replaces a pier that existed on the same shore of Umatac Bay. The original pier served as access to a public restroom facility which eventually collapsed into the bay. Remnants can still be seen on the coast. The purpose of this pier is to provide safe and focused launching of small personal watercraft like paddle boards or kayaks and to provide an elevated fishing platform for rod and reel fishing. The location of the pier was chosen for its' easy access to deep water with limited reef crossing distance. The function of the pier is the key element to this village project. The location to the Pier Park is a secondary priority, if a more suitable location is determined due to constructability or environmental considerations that would be acceptable to project goals as long as the pier is accessible to pedestrian traffic. The stimulus for this project came from conversations with Humåtak youth who enjoyed using the Merizo pier for swimming and congregating. Similarly, besides its' utilitarian function, the pier also could become a gathering point to swim from, to enjoy the Humåtak sunsets or to get closer to the water which has supported the village with recreation and substance. The construction of the pier could also mimic the Merizo Pier as it would be exposed to the same harsh elements and typhoon conditions. Appropriate structural engineering design and calculations will be required for this project

During the information collection of the revitalization planning process, AIA conversations with the Army Corps of Engineers revealed that the Army Corps could be a possible funding source for such a pier. Also, the Army Corps should be consulted for permit and design whenever a structure is built on the shoreline or coastal waters.



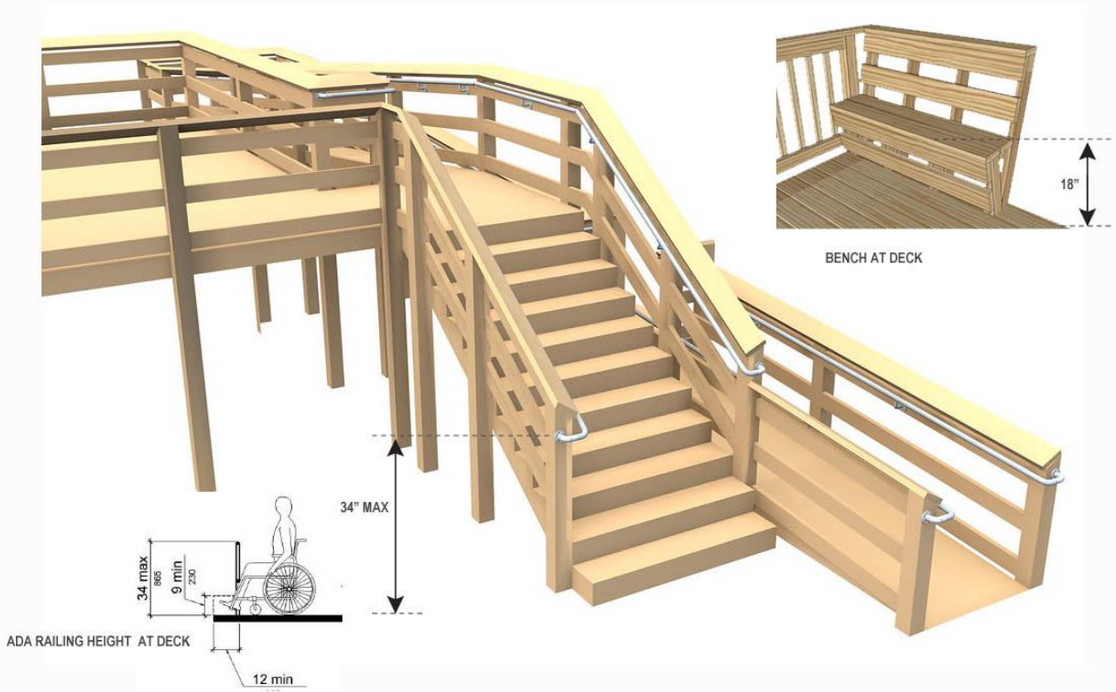
Conceptual Pier Rendering

Pier Activities: Community gathering, swimming and watersports



These photos show examples of pier railings and entrance ramps designed for accessible access and also provide the recommended height for fishing purposes.

Pier Accessible Design Considerations



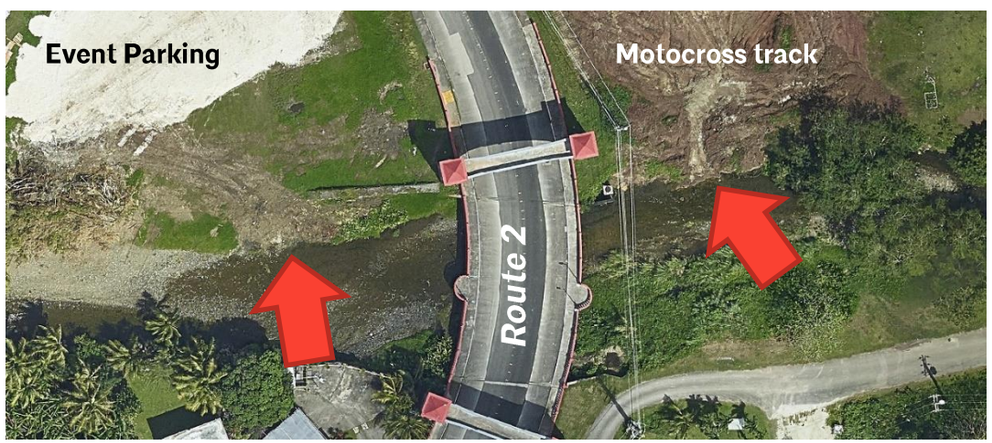
6. Establish Riverside Shore Stabilization

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

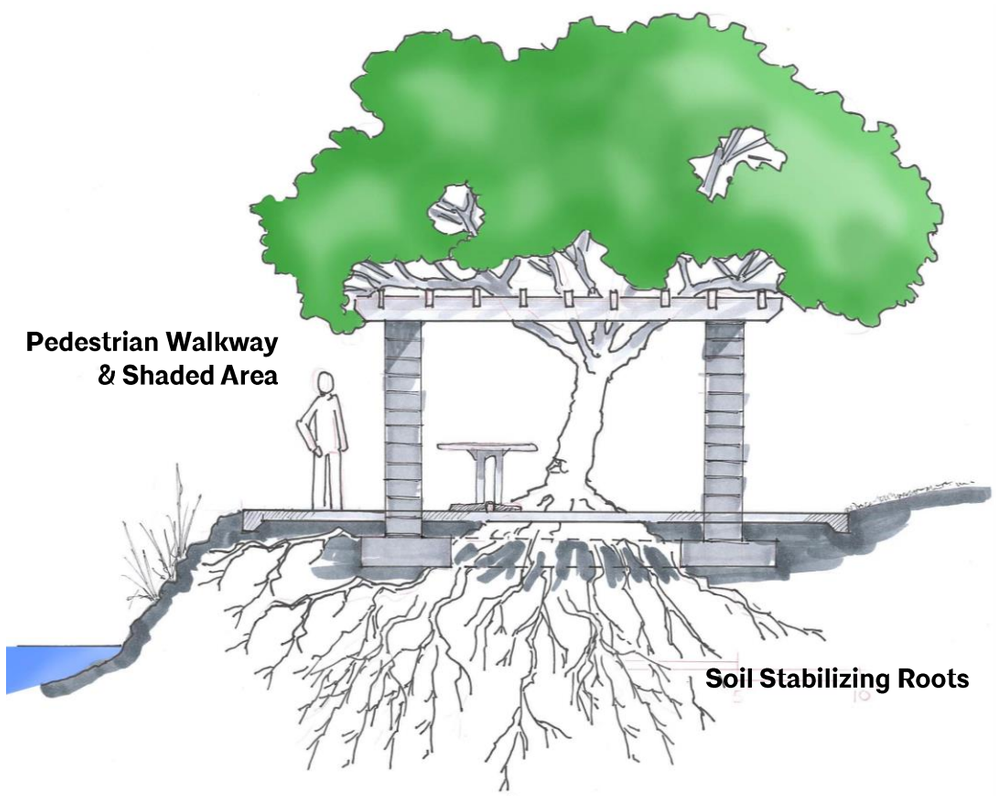
1. **Prevent sediment from washing into the Umatac River**
2. **Provide pedestrian access on improved surfaces along the riverbank**
3. **Utilize environmentally positive or low impact design**

This project serves to protect the waterways from sediment carried by stormwater runoff and to make the riverbank accessible in a way that prevents erosion from foot traffic.

The concern of sedimentation entering the waterways and washing to the sea which eventually chokes the reef was first brought to the AIA teams' attention by the Department of Agriculture Fish and Wildlife division. The Humåtak watersheds have attracted attention of environmental scientist in the recent past due to the topography of the village and the proximity to the reef environment. Burning of the hills for hunting advantages and agriculture and vegetation clearing for other activities are sources of increased runoff and sedimentation entering the stormwater system. Below is an image circa 2016 of the Umatac Bridge vicinity with two examples.



This project utilizes native banalo tress, Thespesia Populnea, roots to stabilize the soil along the riverbanks. Because of the low creeping branches of the banalo trees a trellis is used to support them to an elevation that makes the area beneath them more useable.



These shaded banalo pathways can be used along the Umatac river and even in the vicinity of salt water, as the banalo roots can survive. This tree trellis detail is shown in the Community Center Site Plan and could also extend useful pedestrian walkways out from the village center up the Umatac river for use in the Ecotourism trail network.

Banalo Trellis Examples

Flowering Banalo

Land Use Plan

Land Use Zoning

Zoning is a process of assigning what activities and building types can be constructed on a parcel of land. The definition of zoning areas is contained in the Guam Code annotated Title 21 Real Property. The types of real property zones on Guam are:

A Agricultural Zone.

R1 One-Family Dwelling Zone.

R2 Multiple Dwelling Zone.

P Automobile Parking Zone.

C Commercial Zone.

M1 Light Industrial Zone.

M2 Industrial Zone.

LC Limited Commercial Zone.

Current Humåtak Zoning

The majority of Humåtak is zoned A-Agricultural. As shown in Figure 2, Humåtak Current Zoning Map. There are C-Commercial, H-Hotel, R1- One-Family Dwelling, R2-Mutiple Family Dwelling and Planned Unit Development zones located around the village center. The Planned Unit Development Zone is the title for the zoning of the subdivision and GHURA housing as shown in Figure 1.

Zoning can be used as a tool for the residents of Humåtak to control the development of the village in the future. In order for a parcel of land to change its' zoning, the owner must undergo a Guam Land Use Commission review and a process in which the neighbors within 1,000 ft of the parcel and any concerned parties are able to voice their concerns at a village meeting. This document will outline the recommended zoning updates of Humåtak based on the input from village meetings and focus groups. This consensus can be used in the future to steer zone variance decisions

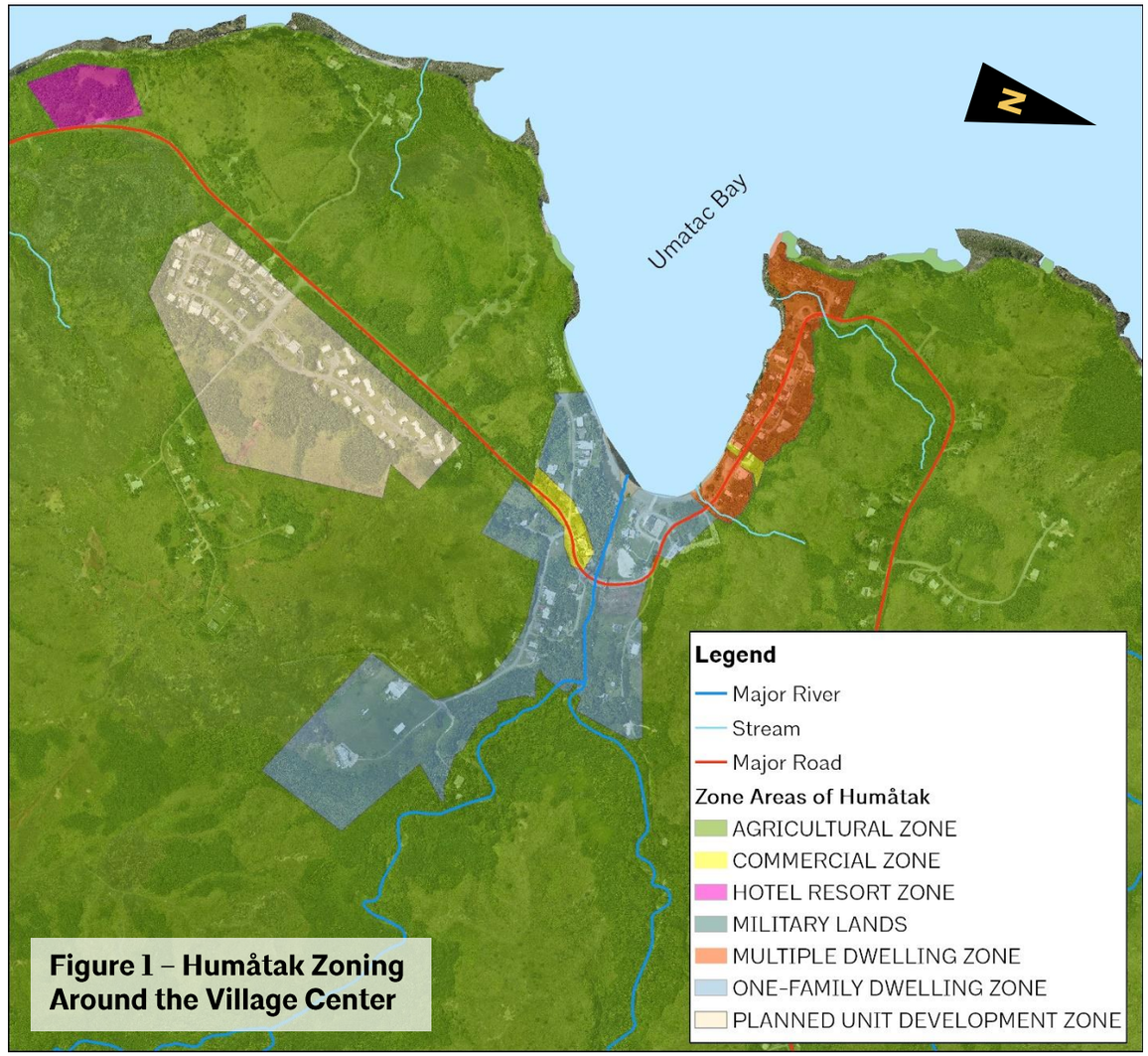


Figure 1 – Humåtak Zoning Around the Village Center

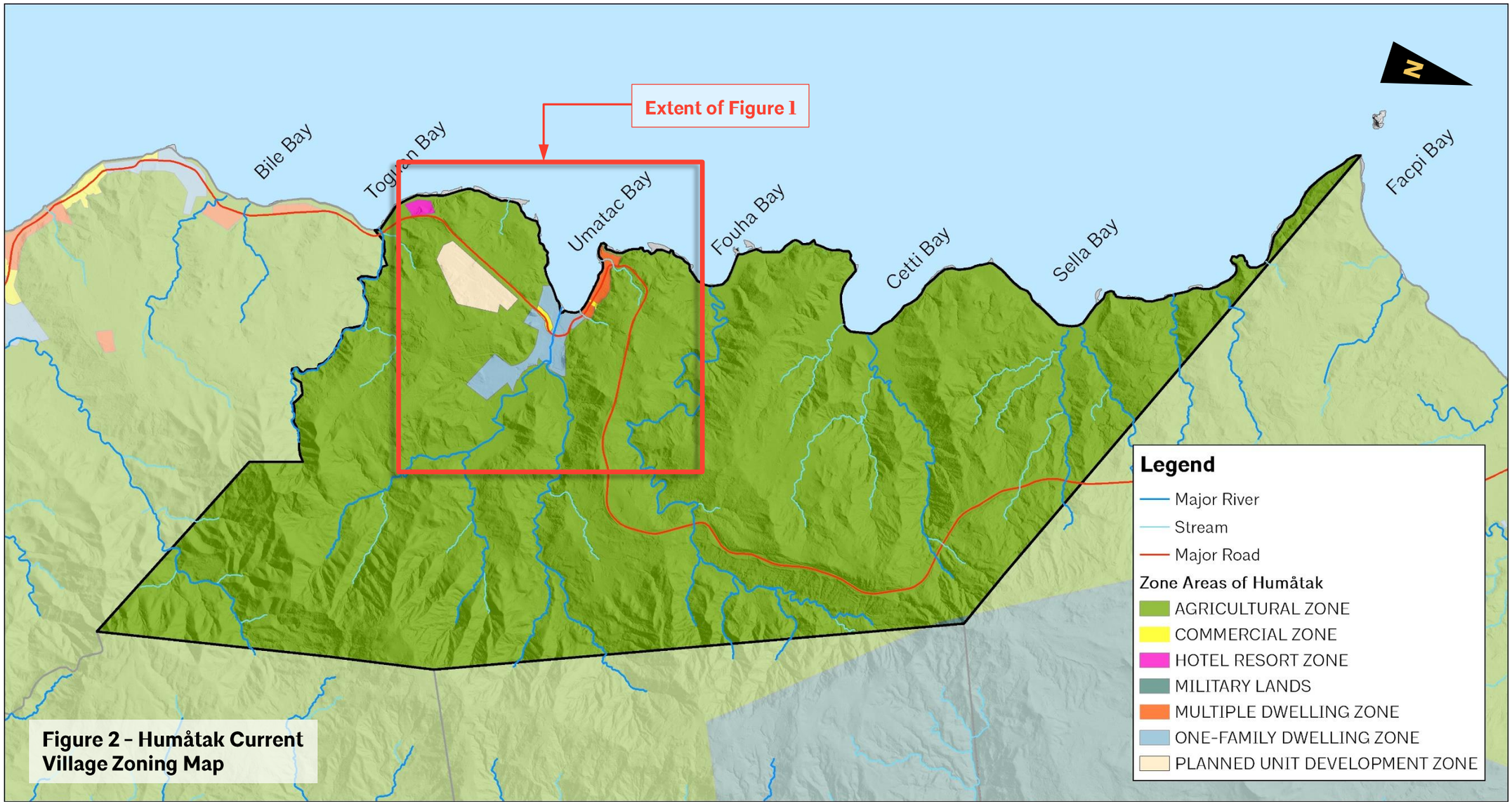


Figure 2 – Humåtak Current Village Zoning Map

Intention for Use of the Zoning Recommendations

There is an established governmental process wherein the recommendations and the Land Use plan contained within this document can become law, but it is the intention of the Guam Preservation Trust for this document to remain only as a recommendation. This plan represents a consensus of the residents and shall remain bipartisan, living, and adaptable instead of a frozen-into-law passive plan or connected with an individual political party.

The zoning and land use portion of this Revitalization Plan will focus on the following goals:

- Create an area near the village center for community farming along with public and private space to maintain village characteristics;
- Reinforce conservation efforts;
- Provide adequate area for safe and community centric housing;
- Create zoning to introduce commercial activity at an appropriate scale;
- Protect the residence vision for the landscape of Humåtak.

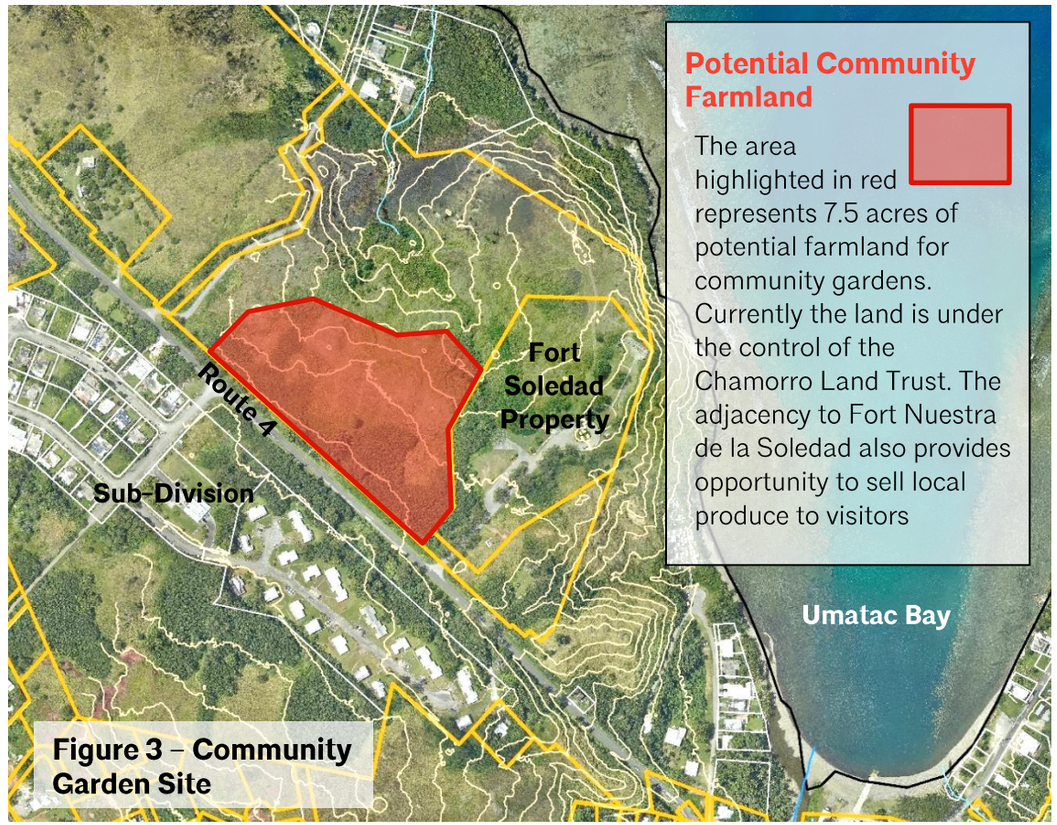


Figure 3 – Community Garden Site

Community Farms

Community farms provide opportunity for community interactions, promote healthy eating, outdoor activity, and self-sustainment. For these reasons, providing a designated area of land for community farming would be a great asset for village revitalization. According to some residents a village farm used to exist in Mahangmá in the vicinity of the area highlighted above. This area is already zoned for Agricultural use, so no zoning change is required to complete this action. Having a designated area with subdivided plots to be assigned to willing farmers would also require minimal infrastructure and resources.

Increased Commercial Opportunity

Local commerce can also help provide resilience and sustainability to Humåtak. As mentioned in the community farm topic, having a place to present and sell local produce or local merchandise to tourist could be a great asset to the local community and expand the tourism experience in Humåtak. There was previously an attempt at establishing a similar presence at Fort Soledad which was successful but did not have the capacity to endure due in part to lack of official support. The village administration could assist by establishing a commercially zoned property within the current Department of Parks and Recreation Fort Soledad property or on the adjacent Chamorro Land Trust land and establish a permanent commercial presence at this site. This site could also fill the need for a local convenience store left by the closing of Sam's store in central Humåtak. As of the summer of 2019 there is a similar commercial endeavor selling fruits and vegetables at the commercial lot near the Umatac Bridge.

Providing Room for Residential Expansion

According to our village survey data the average occupancy per household in Humåtak is four persons but there were several households with eight or more occupants. Also, according to Bureau of Statistics and Plans the census data for Humåtak has been steady for the last 50 years averaging a population of 809 residents. With a high of 897 in 1990 and a low of 732 in 1980. The 2010 census recorded the population of Humåtak at 782. These statistics show that there is no need for a significant increase in buildable lots in Humåtak but a small increase of viable building lots would be advantageous to the health of the community and to alleviate some overpopulated households.

As shown in Figure 5 a portion of Chamorro Land Trust property in Hill Billy was subdivided into separate lots but unfortunately due to the steep slopes and topography of the land the lots are not feasible to build on.

Figure 6 shows an optional subdivision of lots on more level ground which would be more feasible to build on creates lots at a quantity that is more appropriate to the requirements of the potential village population growth.

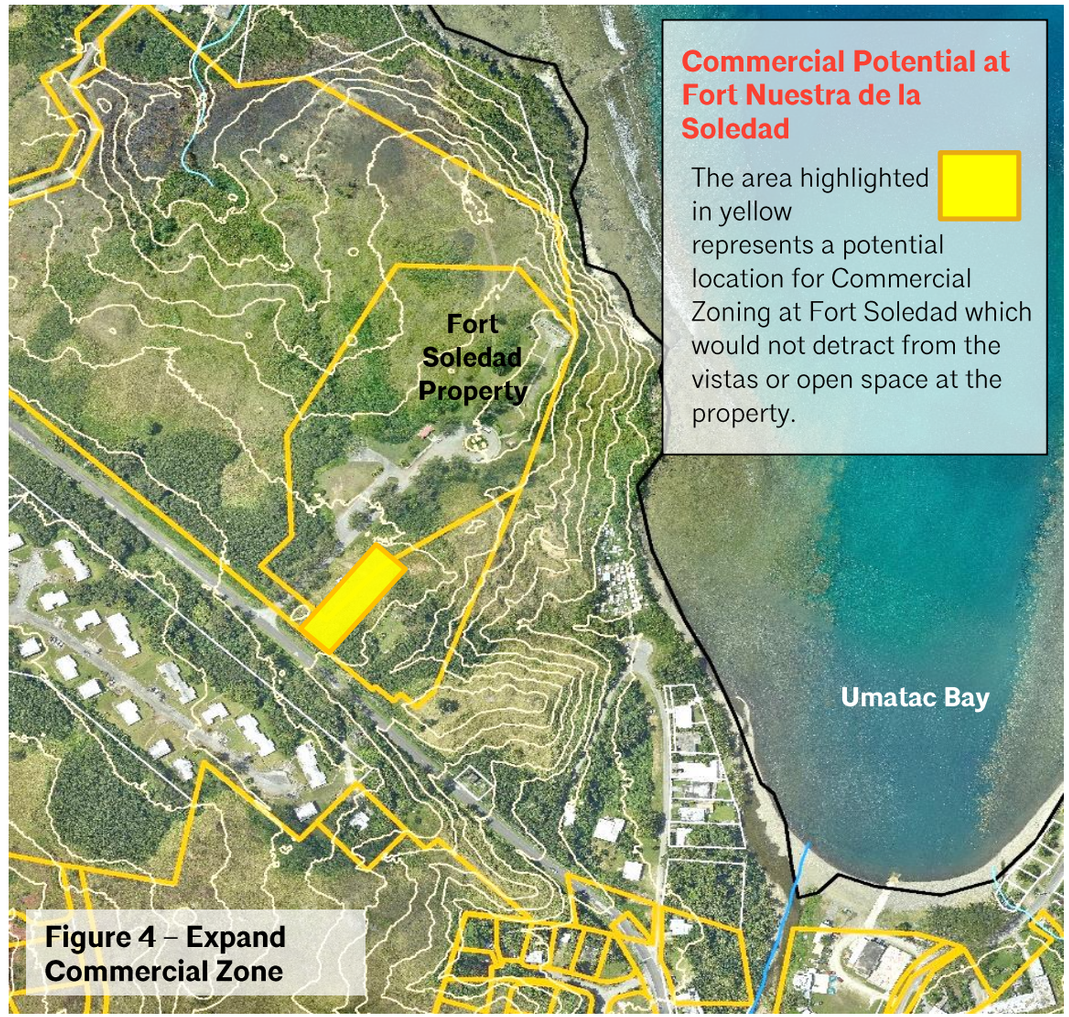
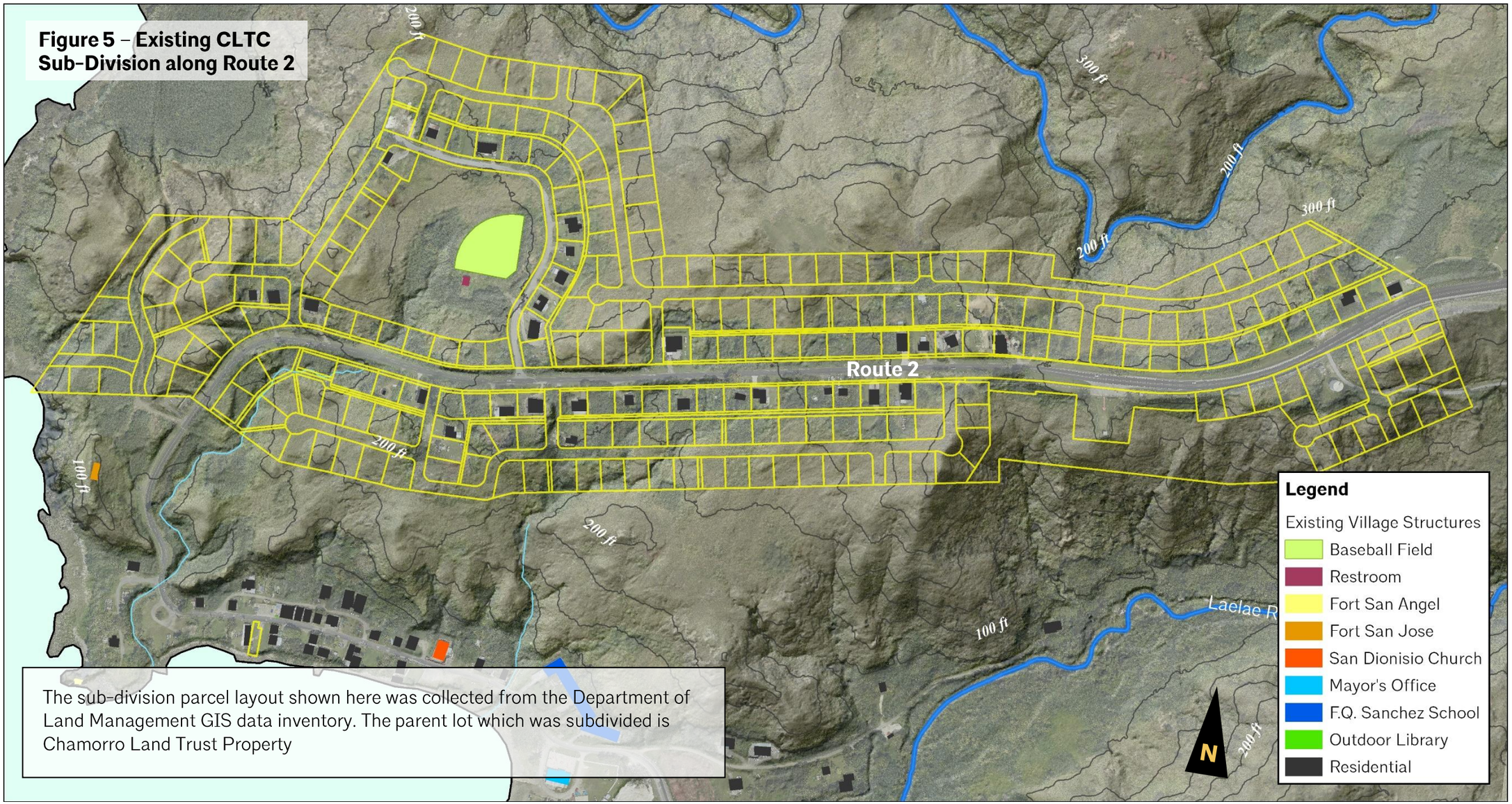
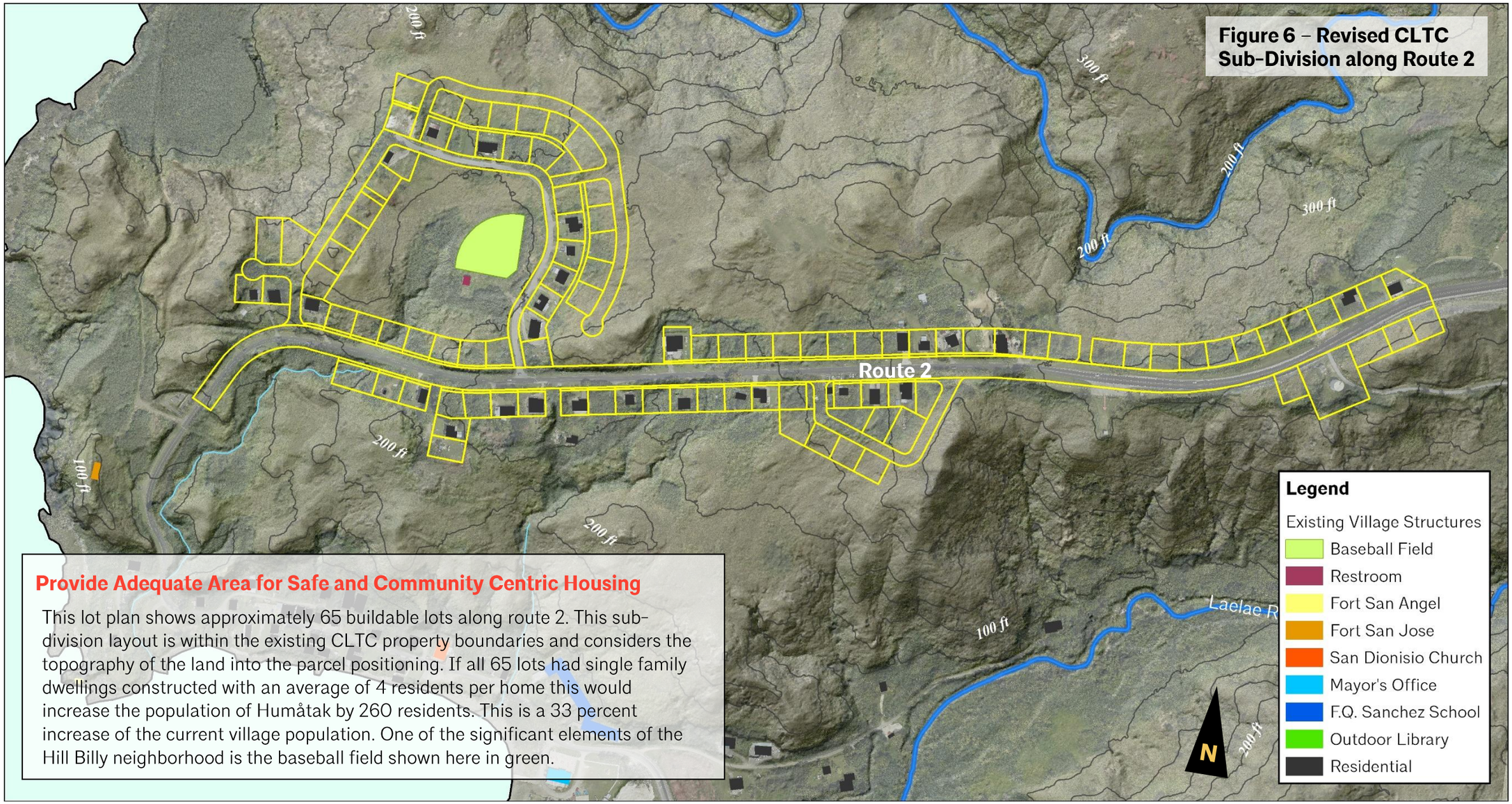


Figure 4 – Expand Commercial Zone

Figure 5 – Existing CLTC Sub-Division along Route 2



The sub-division parcel layout shown here was collected from the Department of Land Management GIS data inventory. The parent lot which was subdivided is Chamorro Land Trust Property



Provide Adequate Area for Safe and Community Centric Housing

This lot plan shows approximately 65 buildable lots along route 2. This sub-division layout is within the existing CLTC property boundaries and considers the topography of the land into the parcel positioning. If all 65 lots had single family dwellings constructed with an average of 4 residents per home this would increase the population of Humåtak by 260 residents. This is a 33 percent increase of the current village population. One of the significant elements of the Hill Billy neighborhood is the baseball field shown here in green.

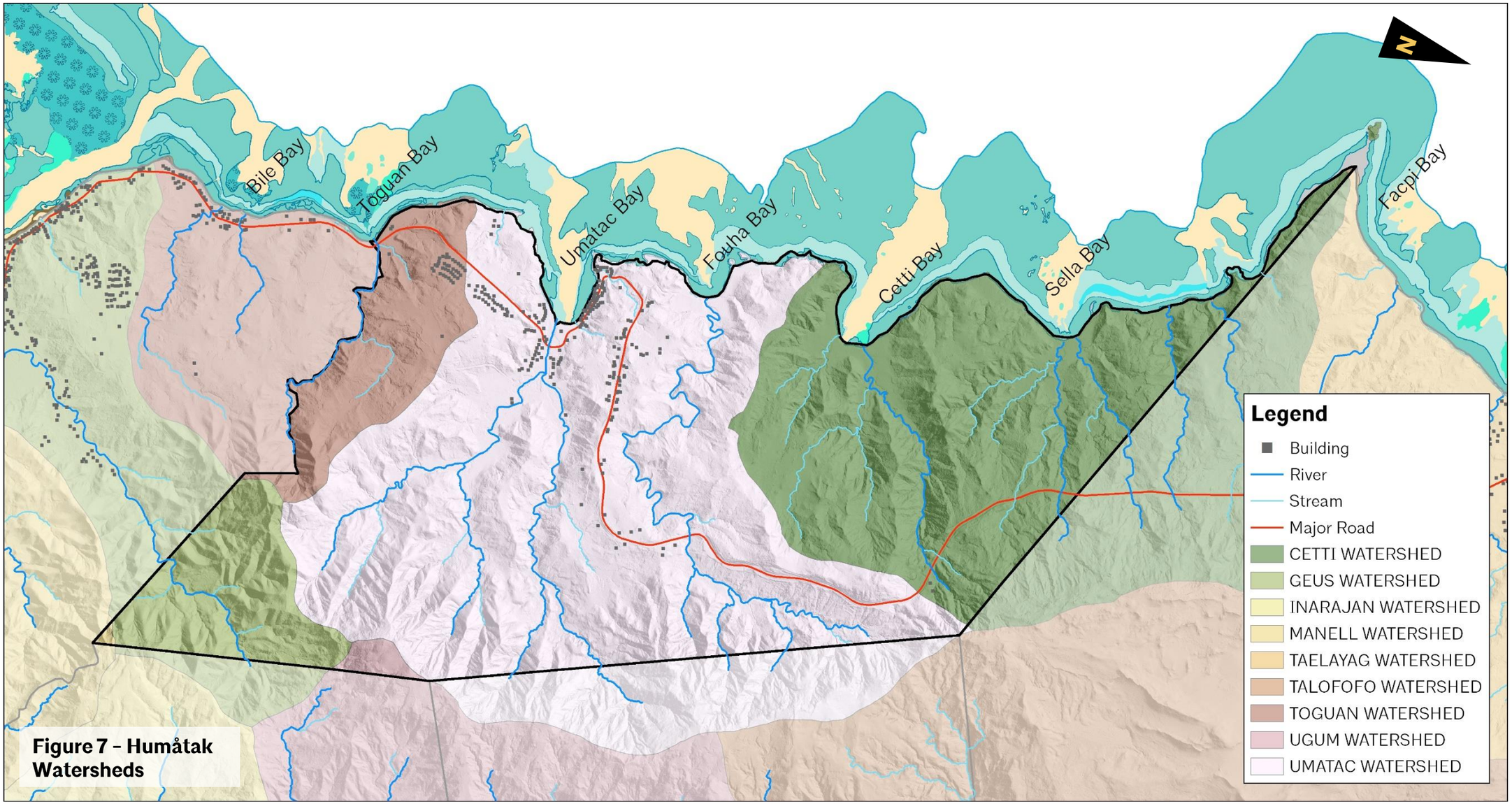


Figure 7 – Humåtak Watersheds

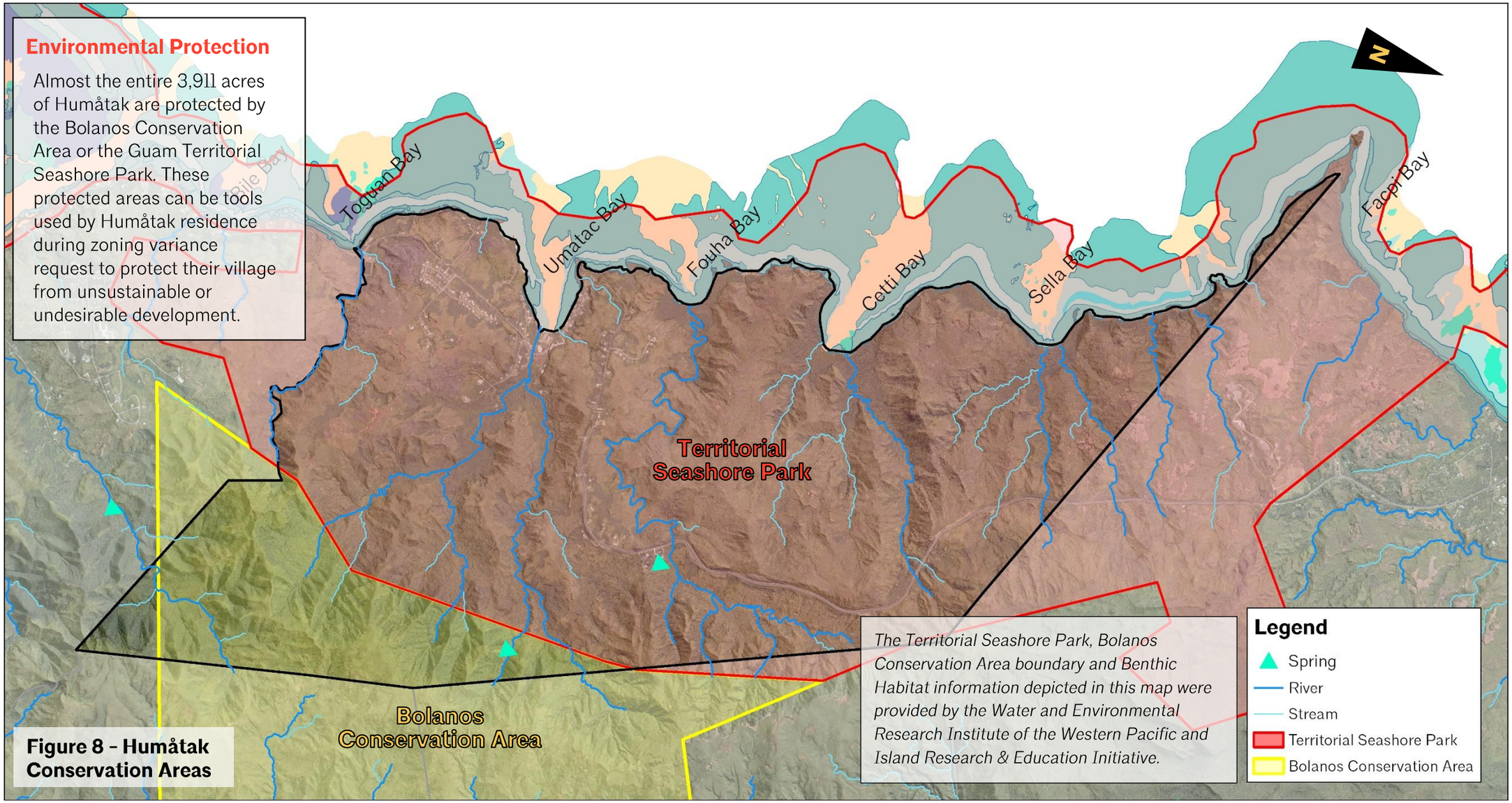


Figure 8 - Humåtak Conservation Areas

Environmental Protection in Humåtak

Guam's southern villages all receive acute environmental attention due to their large parcels of undeveloped lands, tourism attraction, and relatively pristine environmental conditions. Some of the recent environmental actions in Humåtak are the Humåtak Project, the creation of the Territorial Seashore Park, and advocacy groups like the Humåtak Community foundation. These projects and legislation are good examples of the tools required to educate Guam residents regarding their impact on the ecosystem and providing legal enforcement of environmentally protective legislation.

The Humåtak Project

According to the Humåtak project website, http://www.humatakproject.org and information gathered from the Department of Agriculture this program was led by Austin J. Shelton III, Ph.D and is focused on stabilizing watersheds and public education. As noted in Figure 7, the Umatac Watershed comprises half of the village land area and drains into Fouha and Umatac Bay. If the vegetation within this watershed is not healthy or is damaged from wildfires then soil is more easily carried by stormwater into the bays which will smother the reef. This same scenario is the focus of education programs sponsored by the Department of Agriculture promoting "Ridge to Reef" environmental impacts. Participants in this project were mainly island residents who lived outside of Humåtak. This project is a good example of how to raise awareness and gain support of local government agencies to positively impact the health of Humåtak's ecosystems.

The Guam Territorial Seashore Park

Figure 8 shows the boundary of the Guam Territorial Seashore Park in relation to the Humåtak Village boundary. The Seashore Park encompasses both land and coastal ecosystems. The Territorial Seashore Park was well documented and the extent of coral surveys and research is a good example of the level of detail needed to quantify and express a local ecosystem to protect all the contributing features of interdependent ecosystems. Unfortunately, to date none of the government agencies charged with enforcing the Seashore Park Plan are resourced to be effective contributors to the plan. The documentation of the Seashore Park has not been updated and stands neutral in the archives of the Guam Coastal Management Program. However, the designation of the Territorial Seashore Park does provide a tool for Humåtak residence to use if they wish to control the development of their land.

The Humåtak Community Foundation

According to the Humåtak Community Foundation website, https://www.humatak.com it is a non-profit, public corporation. As opposed to the Humåtak Project most of the active members and participants in this foundation are residents of the village. The Humåtak Community Foundation was very present and helpful in the completion of this revitalization plan. During both Heritage Day festivals its members were docents providing insights and facts about the village historical sights. The Foundation is also engaged in education and environmental impact activities throughout the village.

These three examples of environmentally impacting contributors present the different approaches used to preserve the ecosystems of Humåtak. Each one has varying aspects of impact and longevity but all three show a desire to protect the environment as a key focal point of Humåtak's persona as a village. The data gathered from the questionnaire surveys show that 23% of the villages count the bay as their favorite aspect of the village. The health of Humåtak's environment and the natural beauty of the village is an aspect that directly contributes to the pride and vitality of the village. The culture and heritage of Humåtak is intertwined with the sustenance gathered from the land and sea and the recreation provided by the landscape. One key aspect currently in place that provides continued support of environmental programs is the Humåtak Community Foundation Center. To provide continued revitalization of this arena of village heritage it is recommended that a facility continue to be provided for this use. The current facility is a former residence located in East Ginahit and is able to support small gatherings and a library of artifacts from the Village. The future renovation of F.Q. Sanchez School would be a very desirable location for continued support and growth of this function.

Conclusion

As Humåtak is not a densely populated village with inordinate resources for public use, planning, and strategy should be emphasized to make the most of limited available resources. This Revitalization Plan provides six village projects that can be developed and enacted as the village deems applicable as resources become available. Also, because of Humåtak's contribution to the tourism economy and recreational enjoyment of the whole island, outside contributors can be sought to assist in the financial and planning resources required for successful long-lasting endeavors within the village. Project development that is done with the appropriate scale which is sustainable by Humåtak's population will also contribute to the success of these projects.

When considering project goals immediate solutions to village requirements should be measured against long term goals of how the residents would like to exist in their village. For example, during AIA village surveys 59% of residents stated that, "the people", and "the whole village" were their favorite aspects of Humåtak. An approach to village planning and appropriation of resources which incorporates these village interest would be to prioritize projects that can connect village neighborhoods or provide spaces for gathering instead of a short-term remediation project focused on developing just one area of the village.

The process of land use planning and government develop of private lands and Chamorro Land Trust property within Humåtak should not be overlooked by village residents. The development of land within the watersheds of Humåtak will have lasting impacts on the health of ecosystems and the ability for the reefs and bays of Humåtak to provide for its residence for generations to come. Erosion and land clearing can be minimized by establishing subdivisions that are fitting to the population requirements and designed according to the topography of the land thus lowering the impact on the affected ecosystems. The implications of possible sea-level rise should be considered when developing areas around the bay and rivers of Humåtak. Several tools are already in place for the residents to utilize to control development as they deem necessary and community organizations are already in place to educate and form united opinions on how the future of Humåtak can be shaped. Providing a facility to continue youth meetings, showcase village artifacts, make learning material accessible, and provide space for multigenerational interaction is a critical element of promoting cultural education, environmental awareness, and revitalize village heritage. Residents of Humåtak have already created the foundation for self-empowerment with tools to guide and protect their future. With continued engagement of community groups, education, and appropriate infrastructure to support a strong, connected community the village of Humåtak will be able to create the future they desire.