From ‘οίκος’ – home and ‘τόνος’ – tension, an ecotone is a transition zone where two ecosystems meet and blend to form a unique environment. While the ecotone integrates species and communities from both bordering niche views, it remains a specific yet diverse community.

ecotone is an imbrication of water and earth, of nature and culture, of city region and neighborhood, of local communities and civic assets, of the extraordinary and the mundane. ecotone is the place where Nashville’s rich history collides with its promising future to form a neighborhood with a strong identity.
**Student**
Emma studies at Fisk University’s new Sulphur Dell Building. She also works as a part-time research assistant. On sunny days, she enjoys sipping a cup of tea as she studies on the Sounds Plaza terrace. On Thursday nights, she attends baseball games with her friends before going out to her favourite bar on 3rd avenue.

**Young couple**
Leshana and Elliot have just moved into an affordable housing apartment in Sulphur Dell with their little boy Joshua. Elliot, who commutes by bus to his job as a sous-chef in a downtown restaurant, enjoys going to the market to buy fresh produce, where Joshua also takes karate classes.

**Elderly**
Langdon and Paula are a well-off retired couple who are excited about the view they have in their condominium in the Cumberland tower. They enjoy getting up early in the morning to go walking with their dog along the riverfront.

**Young family**
Jenny lives in an apartment on 5th avenue with her fiancee Travis. Very active in her community, she organizes and manages gardening activities for her block and volunteers at the museum. Travis is an enthusiastic cyclist: he bikes to his office at Pinnacle Financial Partners downtown.

**Emma**
Young family
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Using both the Walk Score and Street Smart Score tools, the neighborhood scores 66%. With the addition of restaurants, coffee shops, convenience stores, sports facilities, and offices, the new Riverfront Market and University antenna, the scores increase to an impressive 97%. Augmenting urban permeability and walkability thus directly contributes to the health of its inhabitants.

The Walk Score and the Street Smart Score are measures assessing the quality of the urban form and the mix of activities. This tool, available online, evaluates the 'walkability' of a given neighborhood with respect to a specific location, from the number, proximity and variety of shops and services located in this area. Its validity has been scientifically proven (Duncan, 2011) and has been associated with other variables measuring urban form, such as street connectivity, access to public transportation and residential density. The Street Smart Score reflects street connectivity and lot sizes in assessing walkability.

Source: walkscore.com

240,000 s.f. of productive gardens

Conforming to the principles of Nashville's last Healthy Eating, Active Living Summit, the residential blocks are designed to promote active living and healthy eating: a permeable and eventful street grid fosters sustainable forms of mobility, and productive gardens facilitate local urban agriculture.

140,000 s.f. of productive gardens

Sustainable sites incite strategies that minimize negative impacts on ecosystems and water resources; Semi-public courtyard / gardens

With permeable surfaces for courtyards, bioswales, retention basins and green roofs, the strategy for the site as a whole is to harvest runoff water on site to release the pressure on the city’s sewer system. The surface runoff is not contaminated by pollutants, thereby facilitating natural drainage while reducing the urban heat island effect and generally improving urban comfort.

500% more permeable surfaces

Indoor environmental quality promotes a better indoor air quality and access to daylight and views;

Water efficiency promotes a smarter use of water, inside and out, to reduce clean water consumption;

Neighborhood patterns & design emphasizes compact, walkable, vibrant, mixed-use neighborhoods with good connections to nearby communities;

Smart locations & linkage promotes walkable neighborhoods with efficient transportation options and open spaces.