



# NORTHFIELD BRIDGE SQUARE

Design Updates

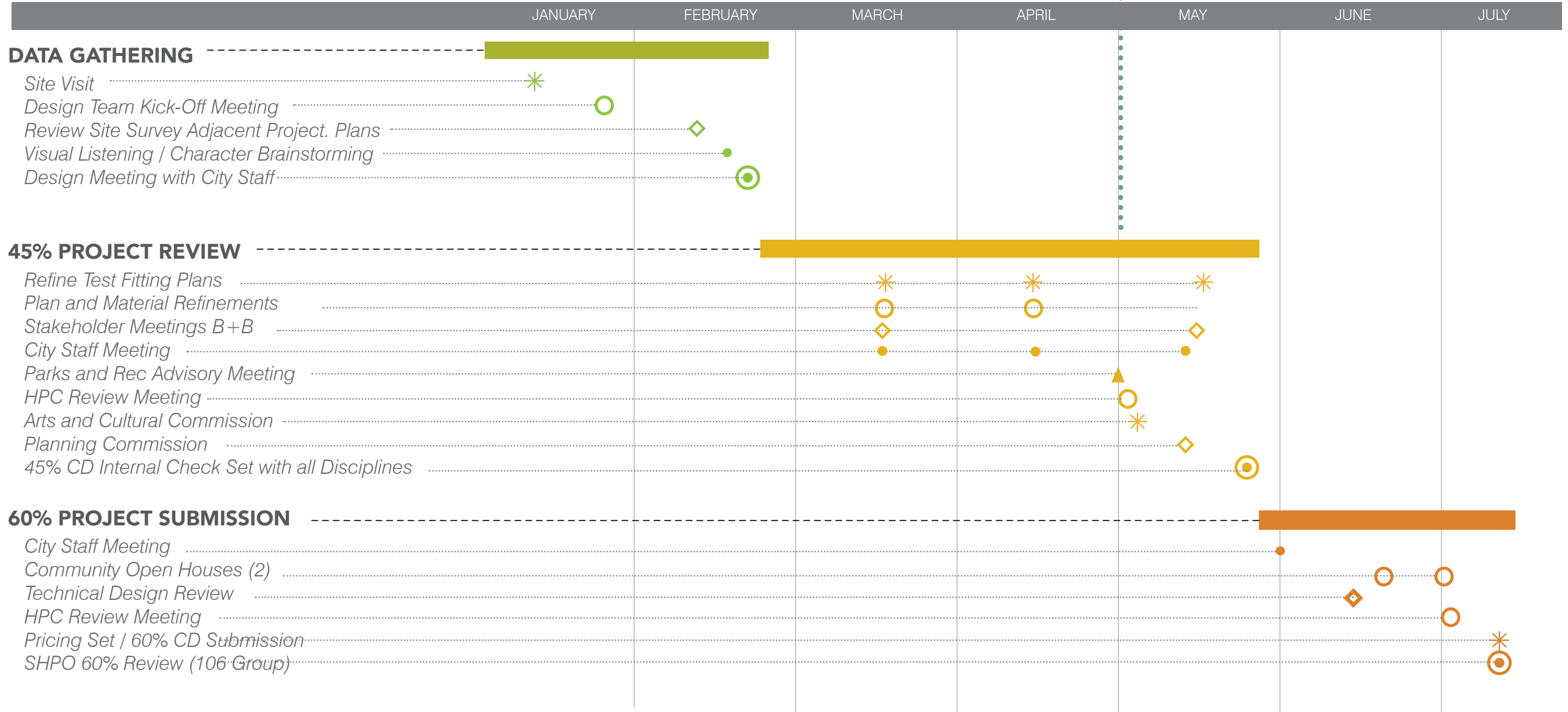
DF/ DAMON FARBER

City Of  
**Northfield**  
Minnesota

# SCHEDULE

WE ARE HERE

2023



# SCHEDULE

Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Monday, May 1st

Heritage Preservation Commission

Wednesday, May 3rd

Arts and Cultural Commission

Monday, May 8th

Planning Commission

Thursday, May 18th

Stakeholder engagement meetings

Ongoing

Internal 45% Check Set

May 25th

ROM Cost Estimate

June 8th

Mayor and City Council

June 20th for Council Meeting or June 13th Working Session

Heritage Preservation Commission

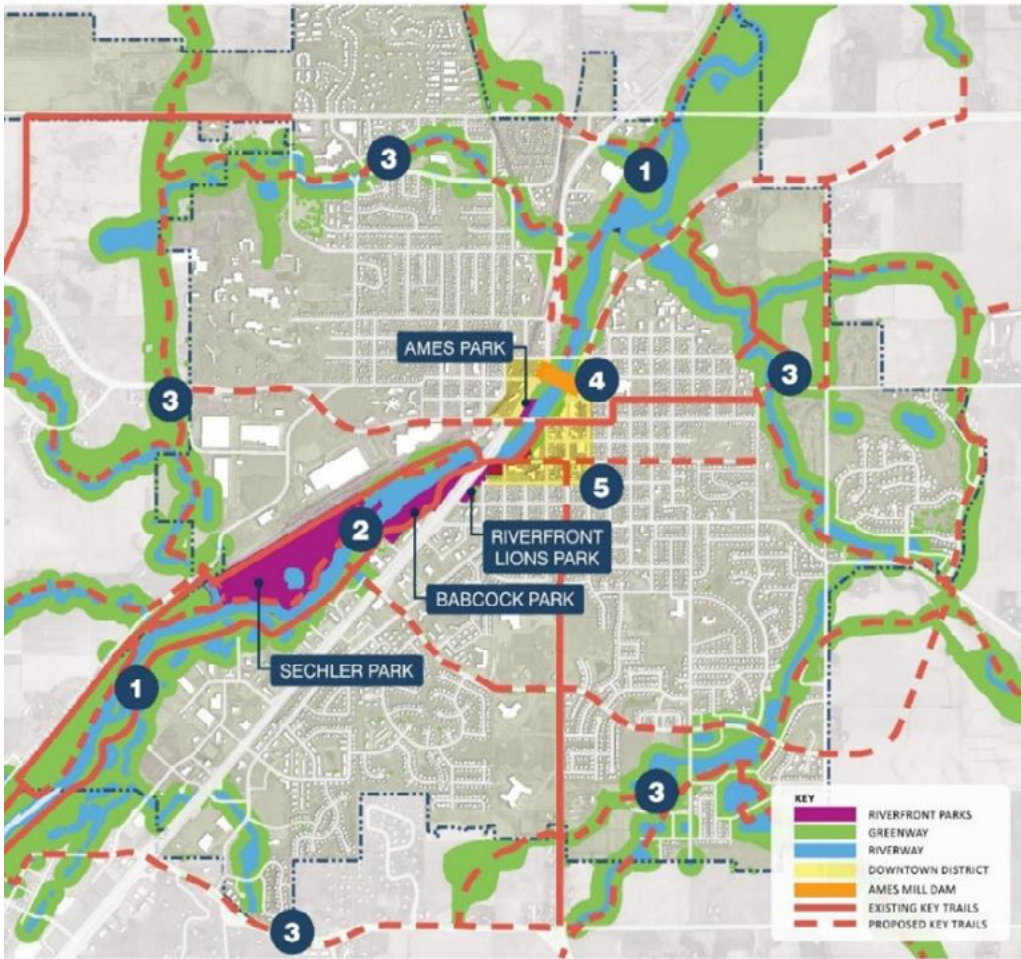
Wednesday, July 5th

**60% Documentation Final**

**July 19th**

# RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT ACTION PLAN

## NORTHFIELD'S CANNON RIVER REGIONAL PARK EXPERIENCE



### THE 2020 RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT ACTION PLAN

#### ESTABLISH

#### ESTABLISH NORTHFIELD'S CANNON RIVER REGIONAL PARK

Northfield is on the cusp of realizing a tremendous opportunity to build on the four completed conceptual park diagrams as the basis for a unified Regional Park Master Plan. This will focus on environmental restoration, recreation and connectivity as the hallmarks for a local and regional park destination. With potential partners including nearby cities, Rice and Dakota Counties, and the Cannon River Watershed Partnership, Northfield is well-positioned to apply for formal designation as a Regional Park in Greater Minnesota.

**Immediate Actions:**

- Begin the master plan process with the goal of submitting by the June 30th, 2021 deadline.

#### ENHANCE

#### ENHANCE + ACTIVATE YOUR RIVERFRONT PARKS

Key to a successful application as an exciting, charismatic regional park are the unique natural features and history of recreational opportunities that create a true destination. The four city parks in Northfield have very distinct identities based on location, context, and expressed park-user needs. With a common focus on the Cannon River, complemented by the historic downtown and other nearby parks, Northfield's riverfront parks are the cornerstone of a compelling new recreational and ecologically restored system.

**Immediate Actions:**

- Develop all elements of Ames Park as a first priority.
- Start planning for multi-use building at Babcock Park.
- Reevaluate relocation of roads and dog-park from Babcock Park.
- Develop canoe/kayak water access.

#### COMPLETE

#### COMPLETE YOUR LOCAL + REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM

As important as the district qualities found within the four city owned parks are the connections between them and to the larger regional trail system. It's noteworthy that the system of trails in the Cannon Valley and beyond comprise one the most beautiful, diverse and extensive systems in the entire state. Making links within the city's borders should be completed, safe, local connections to surrounding neighborhoods and the colleges should be developed for locals and visitors alike.

**Immediate Actions:**

- Plan/install a comprehensive wayfinding system.
- Connect Ames Park to Sechler Park.
- Complete the Mill River State Trail.
- Add bike lanes to downtown bridges.
- Allow temporary trail on City land along west side of river.

#### EXPLORE

#### EXPLORE AMES MILL DAM RECONSTRUCTION OPTIONS

There is excitement building around the possibility that the Ames Mill Dam might play an important role in restoring the health, continuity and variety of the Cannon River State Water Trail. Designated as a wild and scenic river, the Cannon still suffers from environmental degradation and human intervention. A reconstruction for the existing dam has the potential to be both a restorative feature and significant recreational resource attraction.

**Immediate Actions:**

- Conduct the dam study recommended by DNR staff.
- Assess alternatives for the future of the dam.
- Apply for grant funding (design + construction).

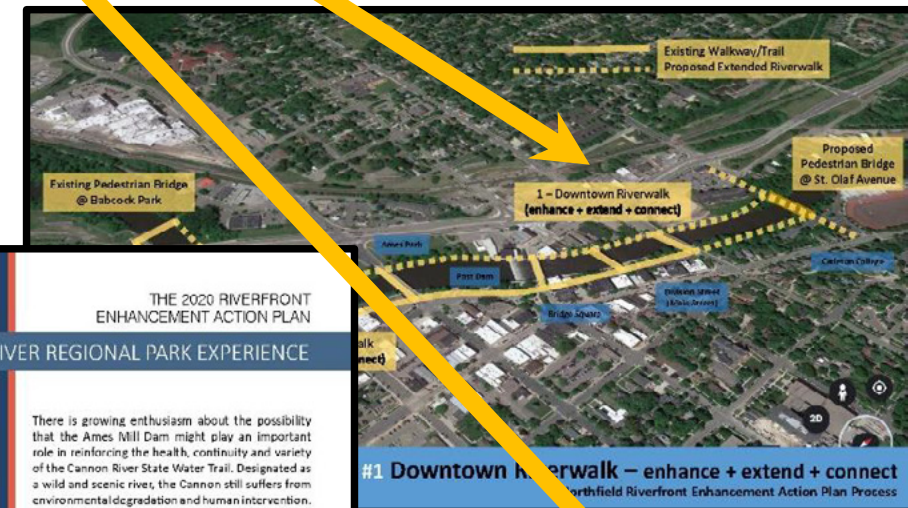
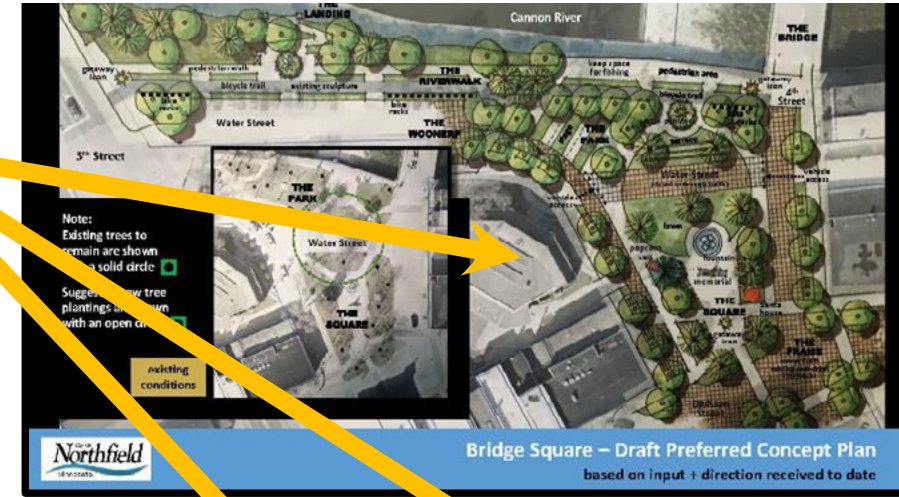
#### PROMOTE

#### PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT + TOURIST DESTINATION

Northfield is a beautiful and thriving community, possessing attributes that many communities would love to have. The city has the opportunity to build on its successes and make a change to become a year-round destination for recreation, nature, arts and culture. But, this effort is not simply a parks plan. It is also an economic development strategy that benefits both the local community and attracts a regional audience. Proposed park improvements must align with broader Regional Park Master Plan objectives.

**Immediate Actions:**

- Explore incentives to improve river-side of downtown buildings.
- Work with one of more businesses as pilot projects.
- Apply for grant funding.



### THE 2020 RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT ACTION PLAN

## NORTHFIELD'S CANNON RIVER REGIONAL PARK EXPERIENCE

### AMES MILL DAM RECONSTRUCTION FEASIBILITY STUDY

There is growing enthusiasm about the possibility that the Ames Mill Dam might play an important role in restoring the health, continuity and variety of the Cannon River State Water Trail. Designated as a wild and scenic river, the Cannon still suffers from environmental degradation and human intervention. The Ames Mill Dam, admittedly an attractive feature downtown, inhibits the natural processes of the river and limits recreational possibilities. A reconstruction of the existing dam has the potential to be both a restorative feature and significant recreational regional attraction.

A preliminary study of the dam reinforces the idea that an exciting and rare whitewater experience could be created with the combination of a smaller, navigable dam and weir and a constructed whitewater course. Research has begun that outlines the potential for transferring the privately held dam to the City of Northfield. More study needs to be completed and discussion with Post properties should be ongoing to fully evaluate the implications of an eventual transformation.

*Anticipated dam maintenance and repair provides an opportunity to expedite reconstruction efforts*

### PUBLIC REALM FRAMEWORK COMPONENTS

- 1) Downtown Riverwalk (The Loop)
- 2) Bridge Square Renovation/Expansion
- 3) Ames Park Rejuvenation
- 4) Babcock Park Rejuvenation
- 5) Foot Bridge @ Saint Olaf Avenue
- 6) Downtown Parking
- 7) Riverfront Improvements 2nd To 4th
- 8) Rebuild Streets In 'West' Downtown
- 9) Extension of Sixth Street
- 10) Hwy 3 Improvements
- 11) Extend Urban Forest to Downtown
- 12) Ames Mill Dam Reconstruction

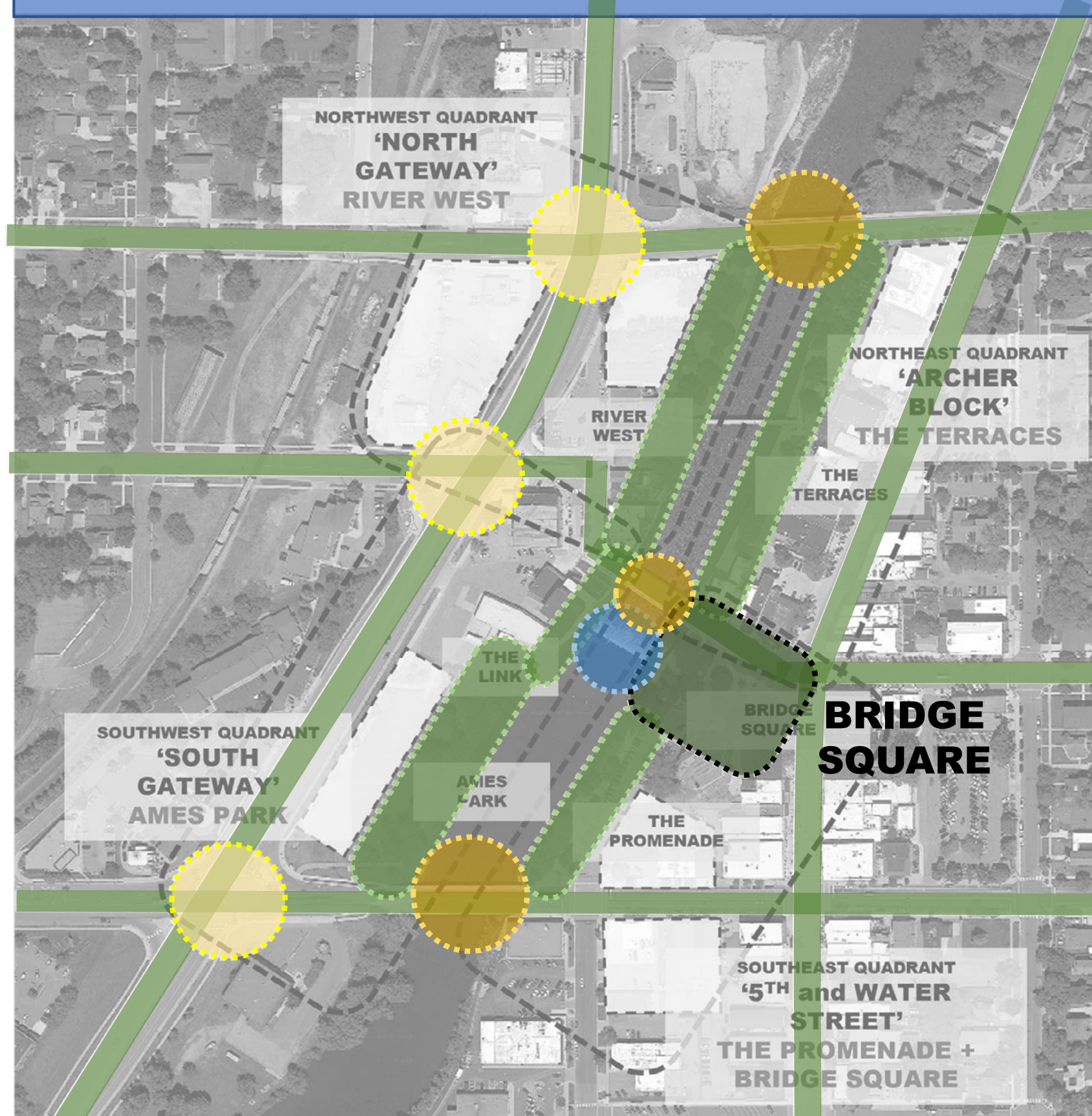
... and Add the **Downtown Riverwalk**

**NORTHFIELD VISION FRAMEWORK 2022**

**BUILD:PUBLIC** [this is the Public Realm Framework]

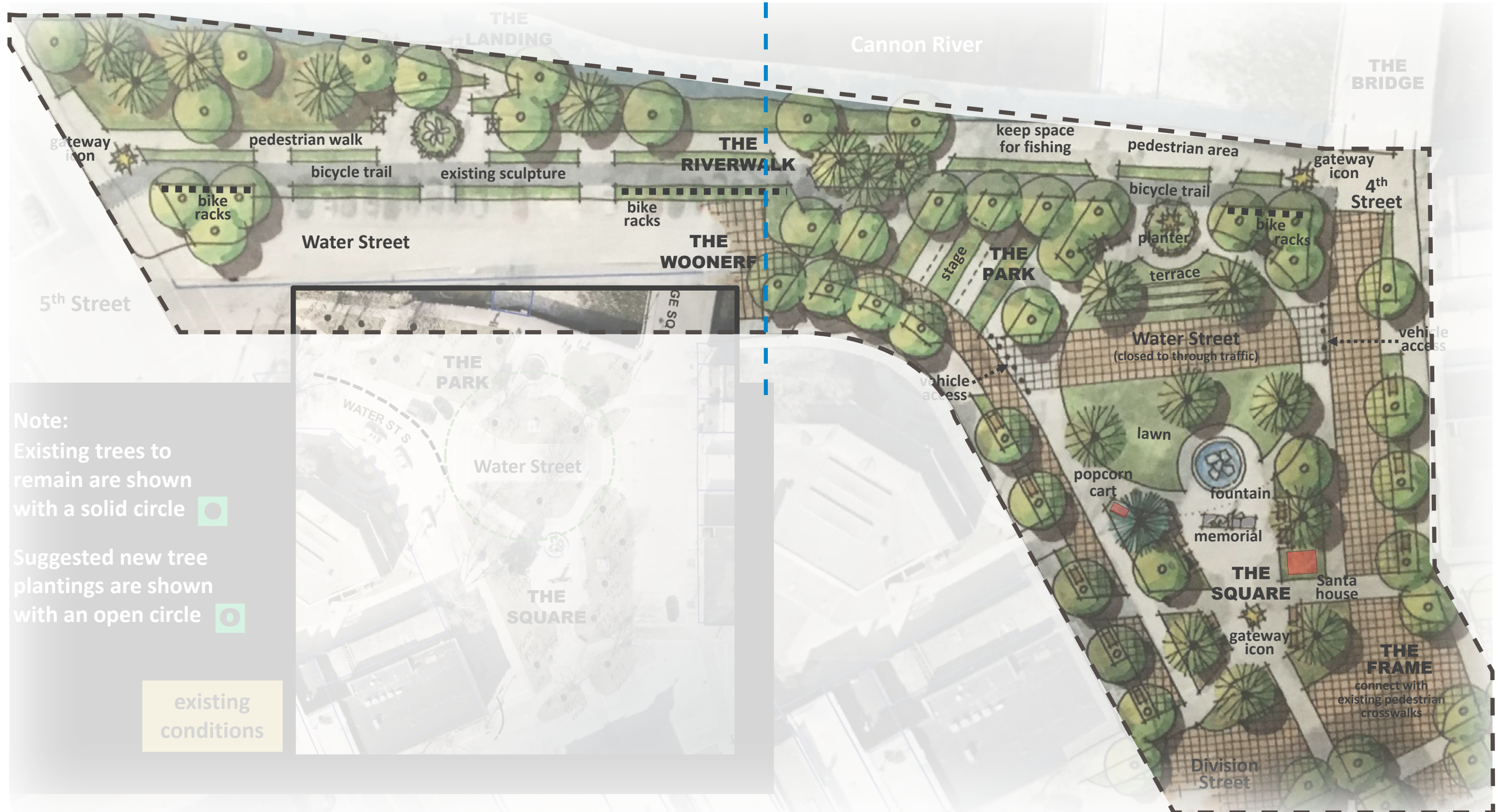
# IMPLEMENT PRIMARY ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES . . . HOW??

Establish Regional Destination + Enhance Parks + Complete Trails +  
Explore Dam Options + Promote Tourism and Economic Development



# CONCEPT PLAN

PHASE 2 | PHASE 1

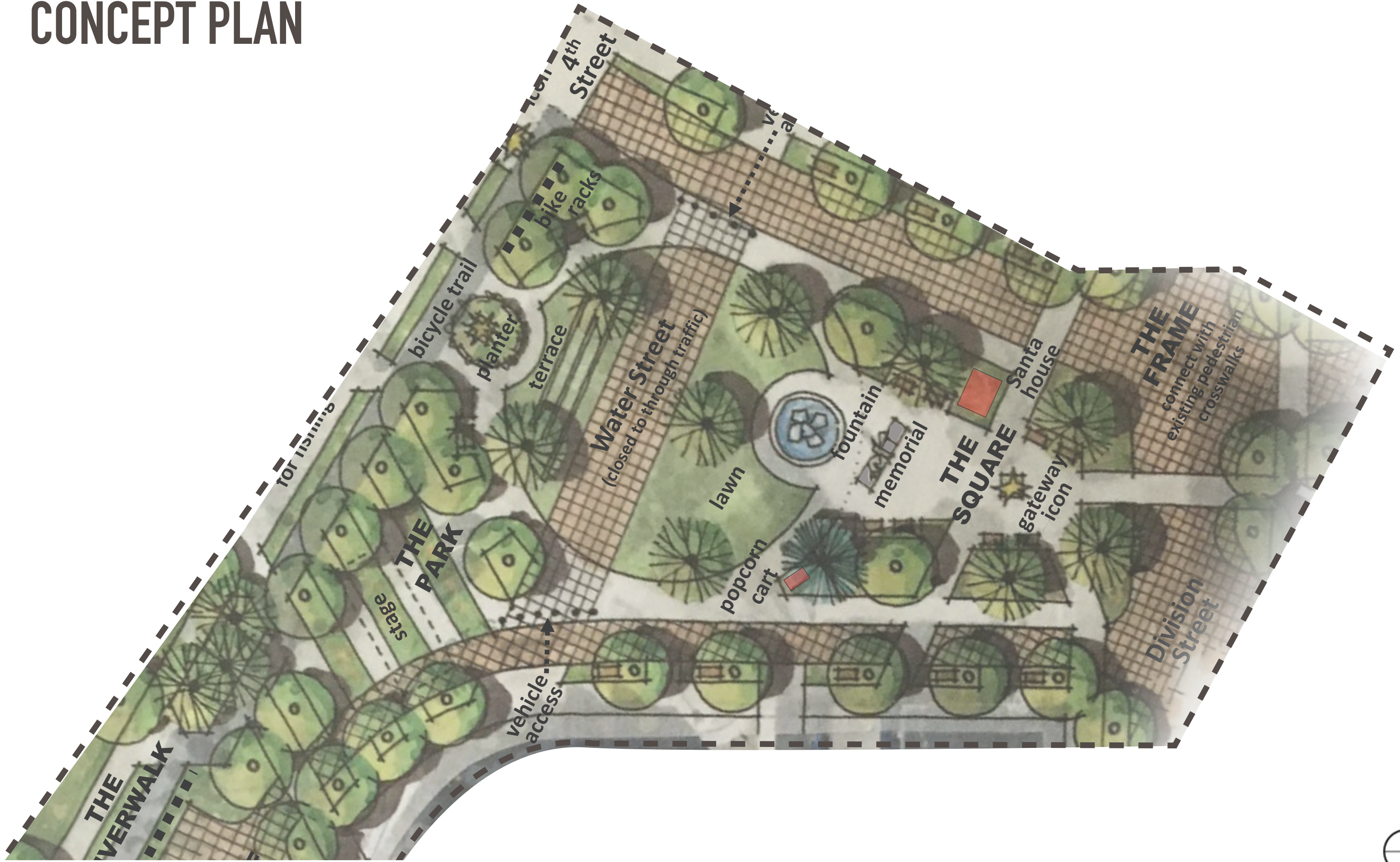


Note:  
Existing trees to remain are shown with a solid circle

Suggested new tree plantings are shown with an open circle

existing conditions

# CONCEPT PLAN



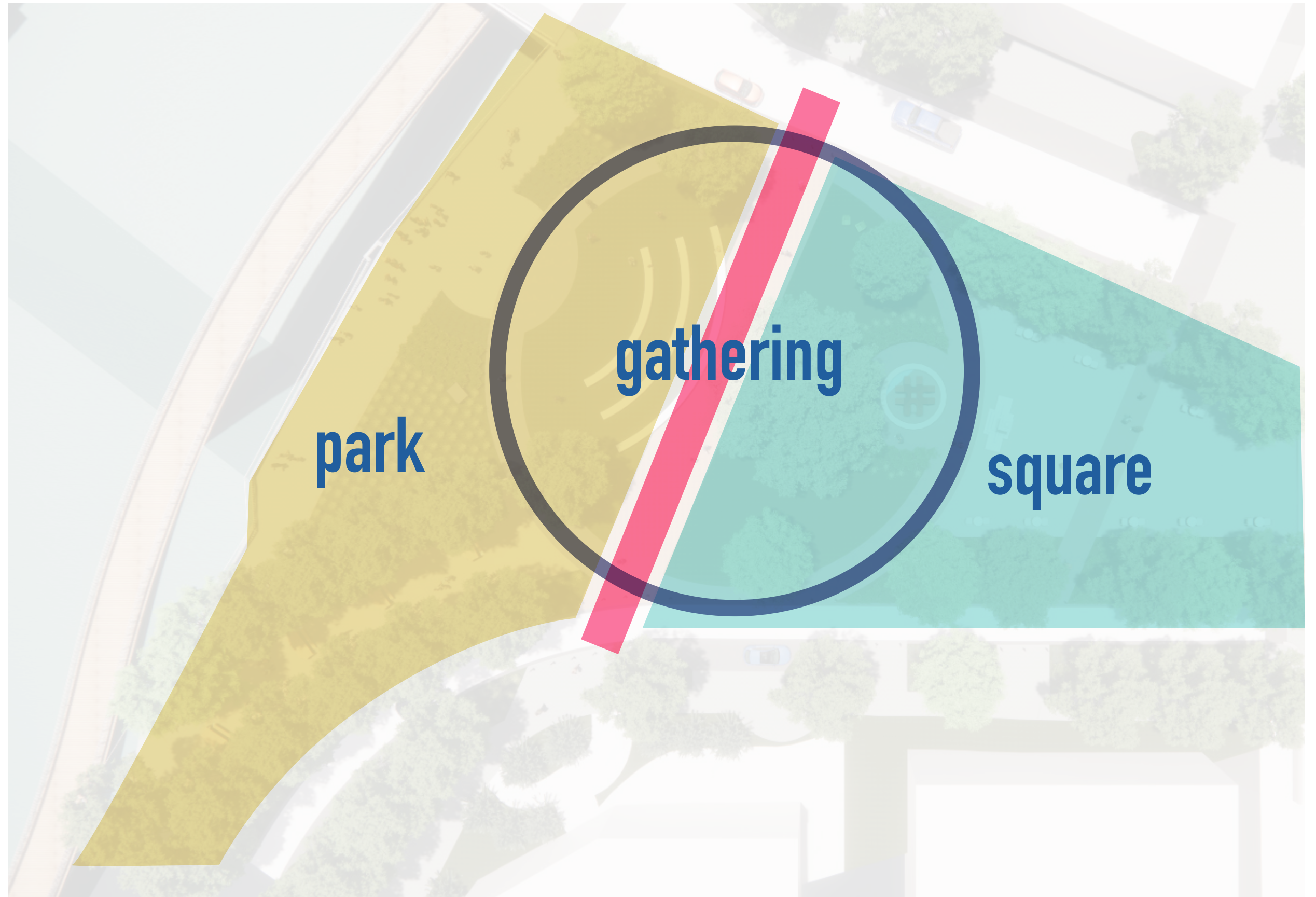
An aerial photograph of a city street grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent grid. The text "SITE PLAN" is centered in the image. The background shows a dense urban area with a river and a bridge. The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

# SITE PLAN



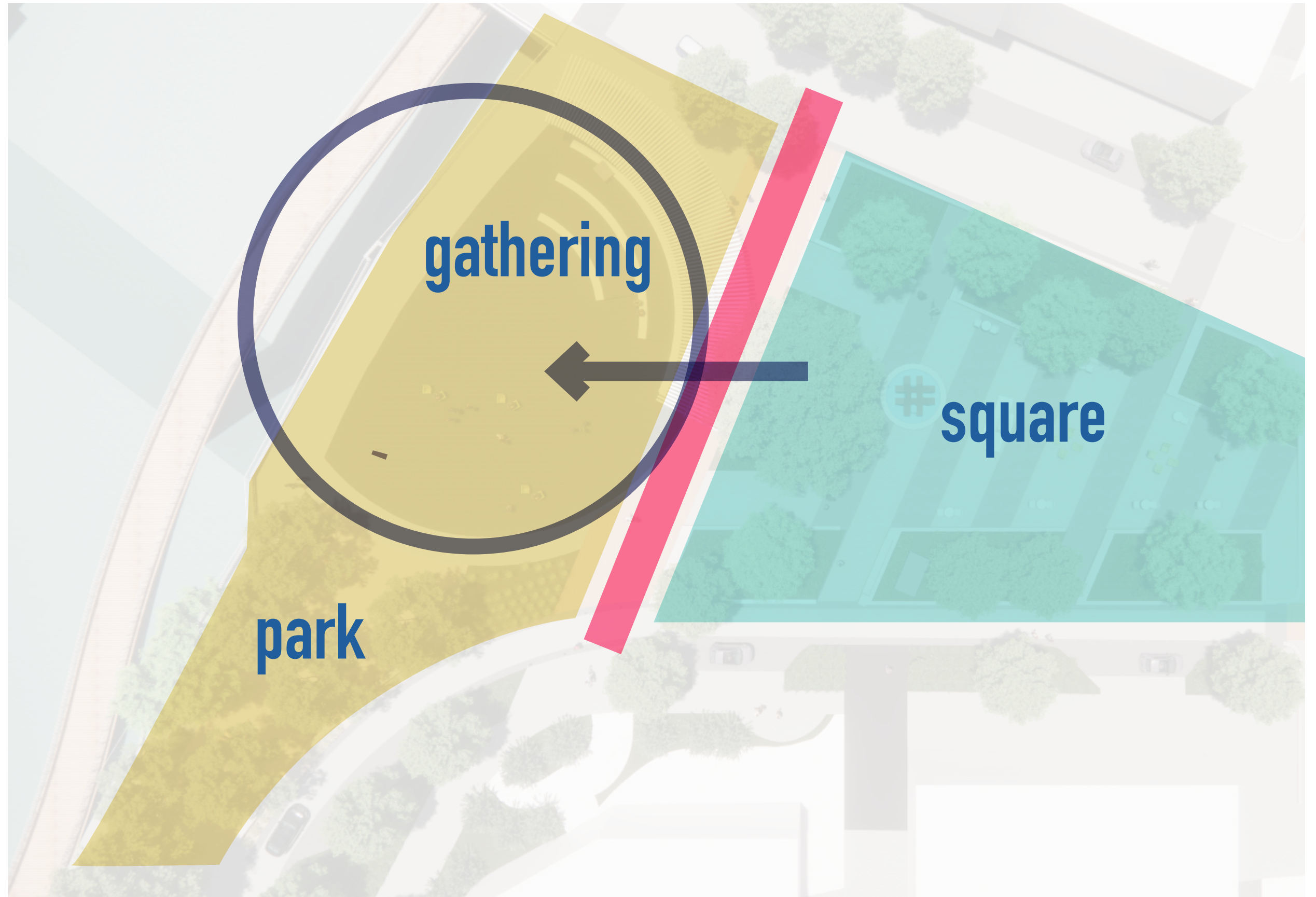
# CONCEPT DESIGN

Water Street disrupts layout and divides the large gathering space in two.



# CONCEPT- SHIFT

Shifting the circular gathering space allows for the two distinct spaces to be created and enhanced function and flexibility.



# HISTORIC-STATUS UNDERSTANDING

- Period Of Significance : Designed Historic Landscape + Commerce 1855-1945
- Bridge Square is inventoried as a contributing resource for the Northfield Commercial Historic District
  - Two contributing sites: Bridge Square and Riverside Park
  - One contributing structure: Civil War Monument
- Character defining features could be:
  - Circulation system
  - Spatial Relationships and orientation (asymmetrical triangular perimeter)

# HISTORIC-STATUS UNDERSTANDING



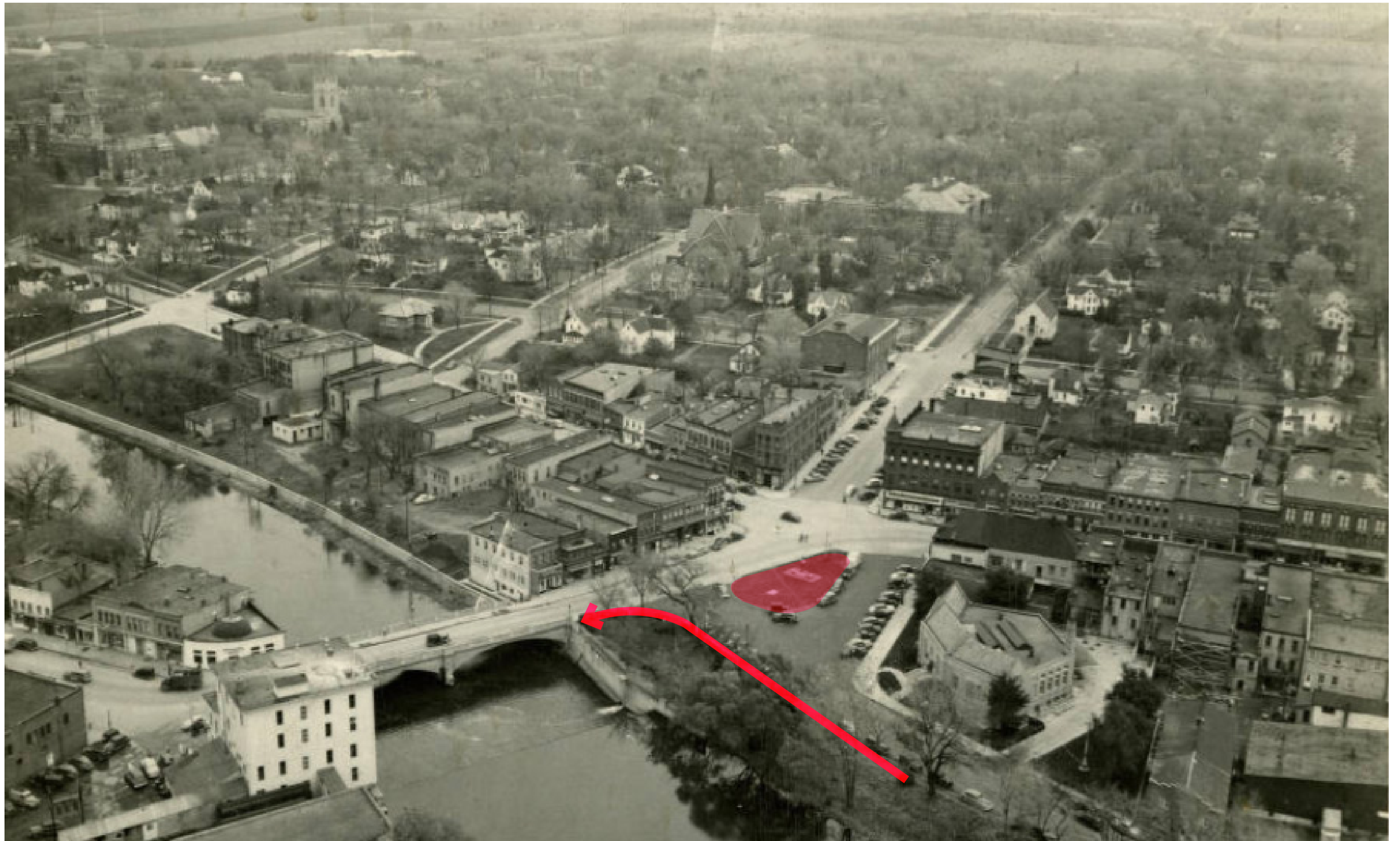
1938



1950



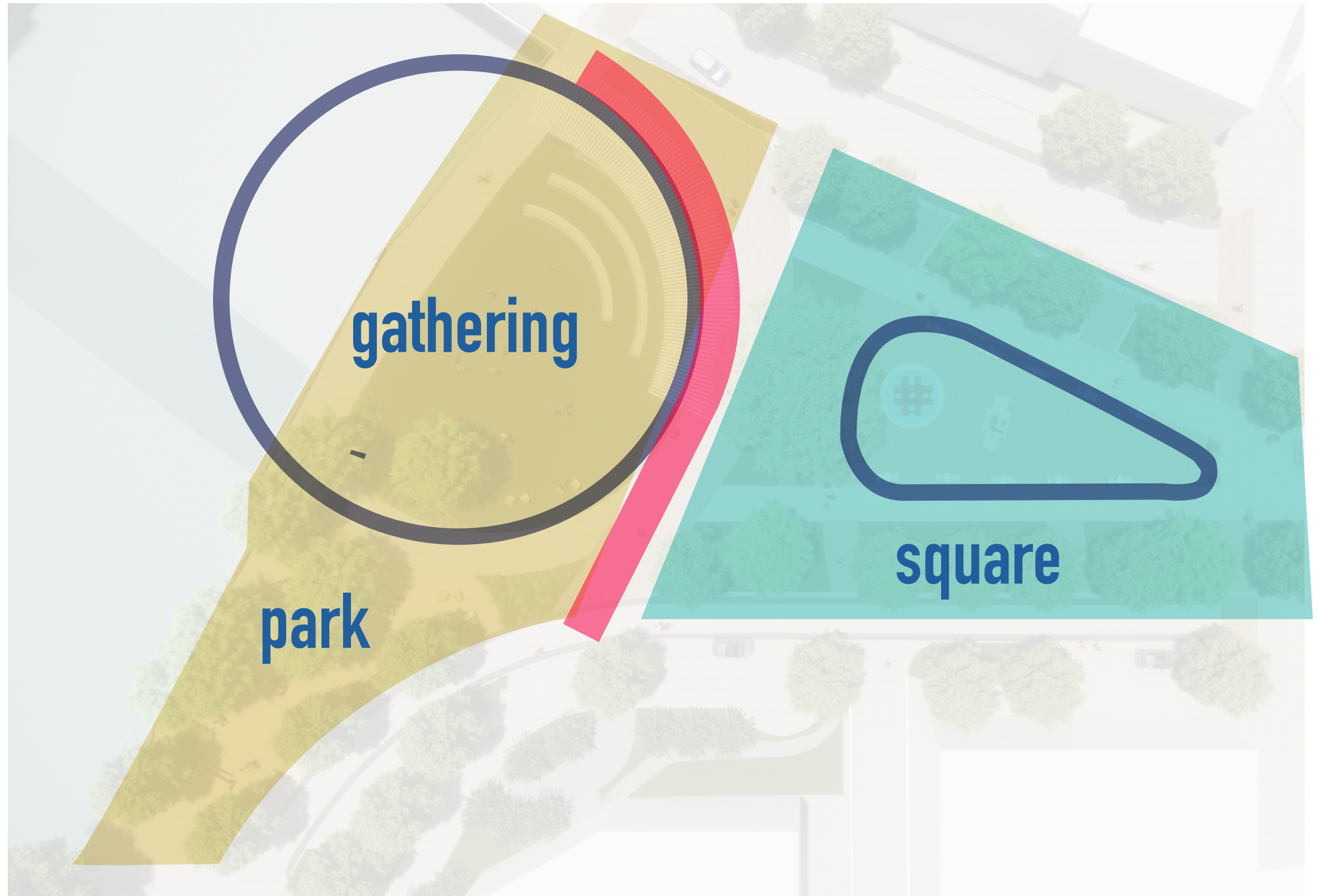
*Carleton Digital Collections, early/mid 1940's*



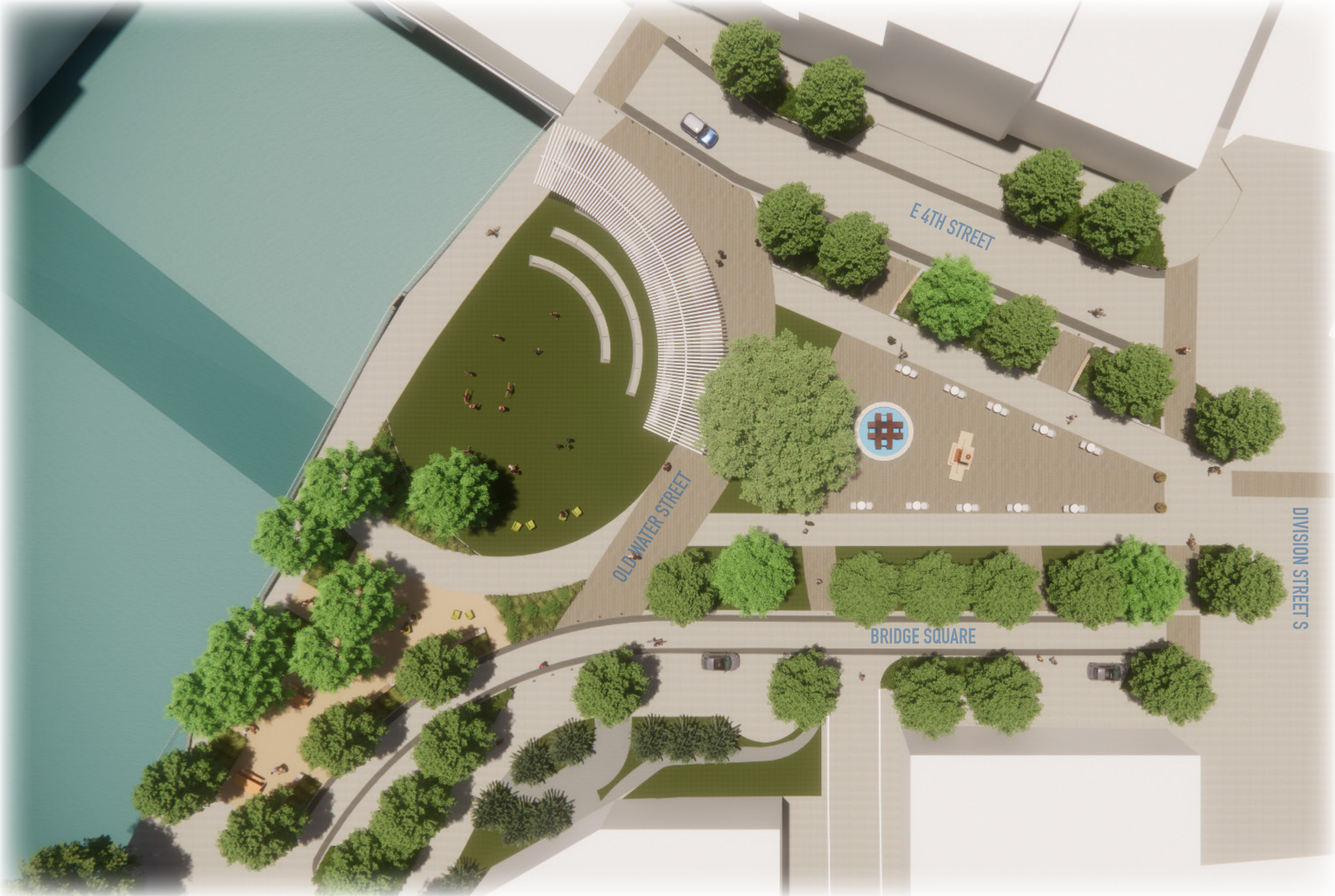
*Carleton Digital Collections, early/mid 1940's*

# CONCEPT- SWEEP

Further integrate Water Street and the historic triangle into the design of the space.

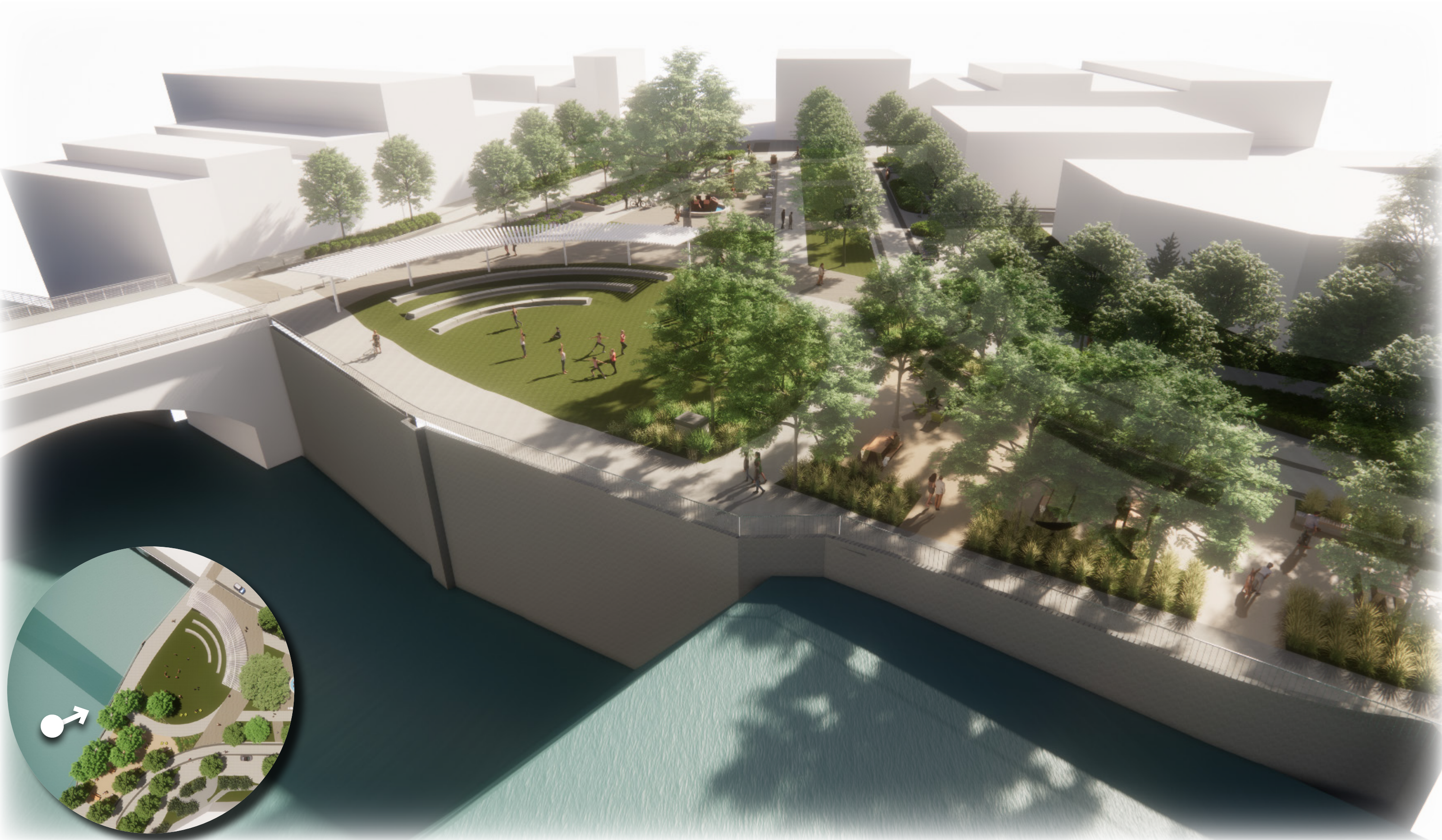


# SITE PLAN

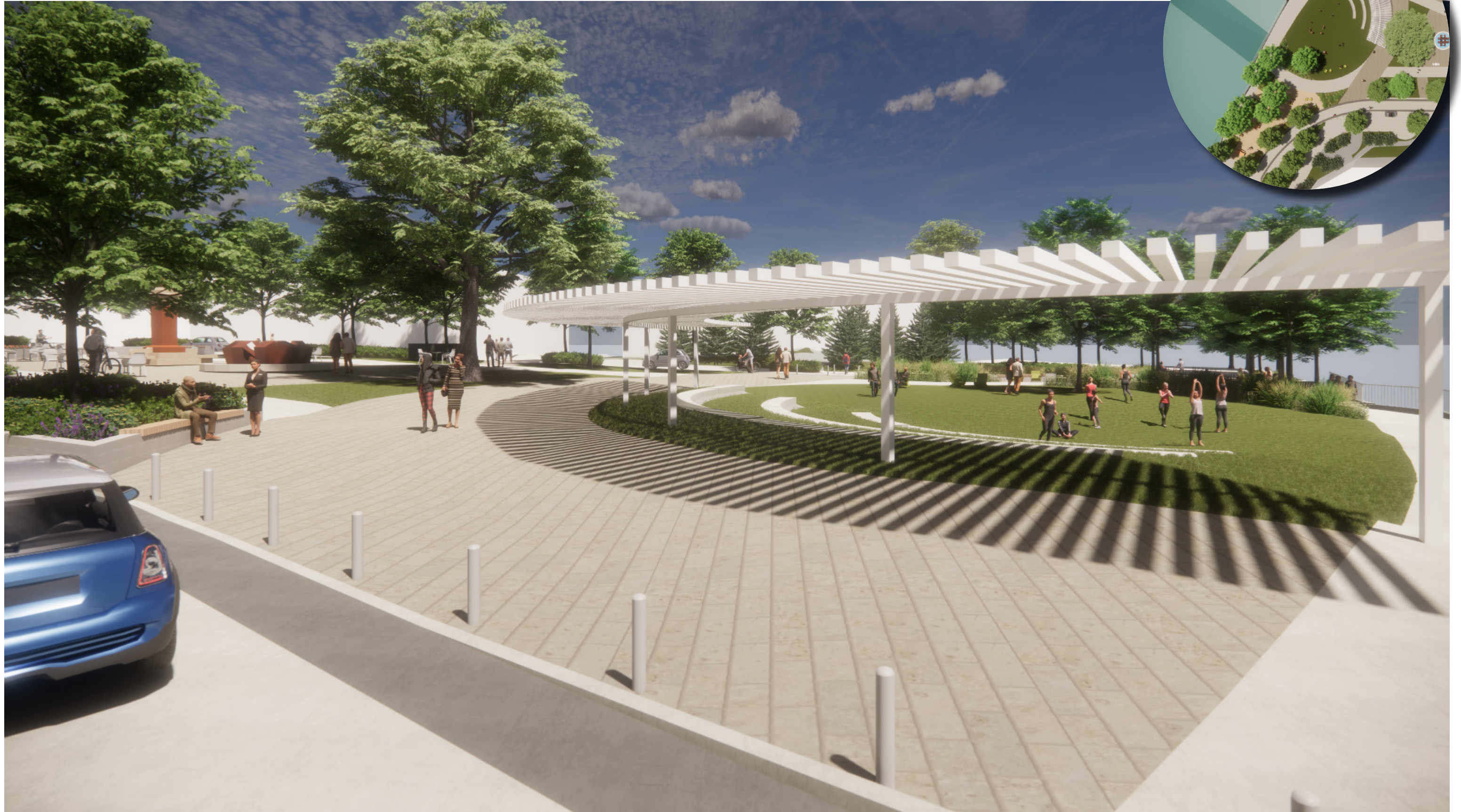




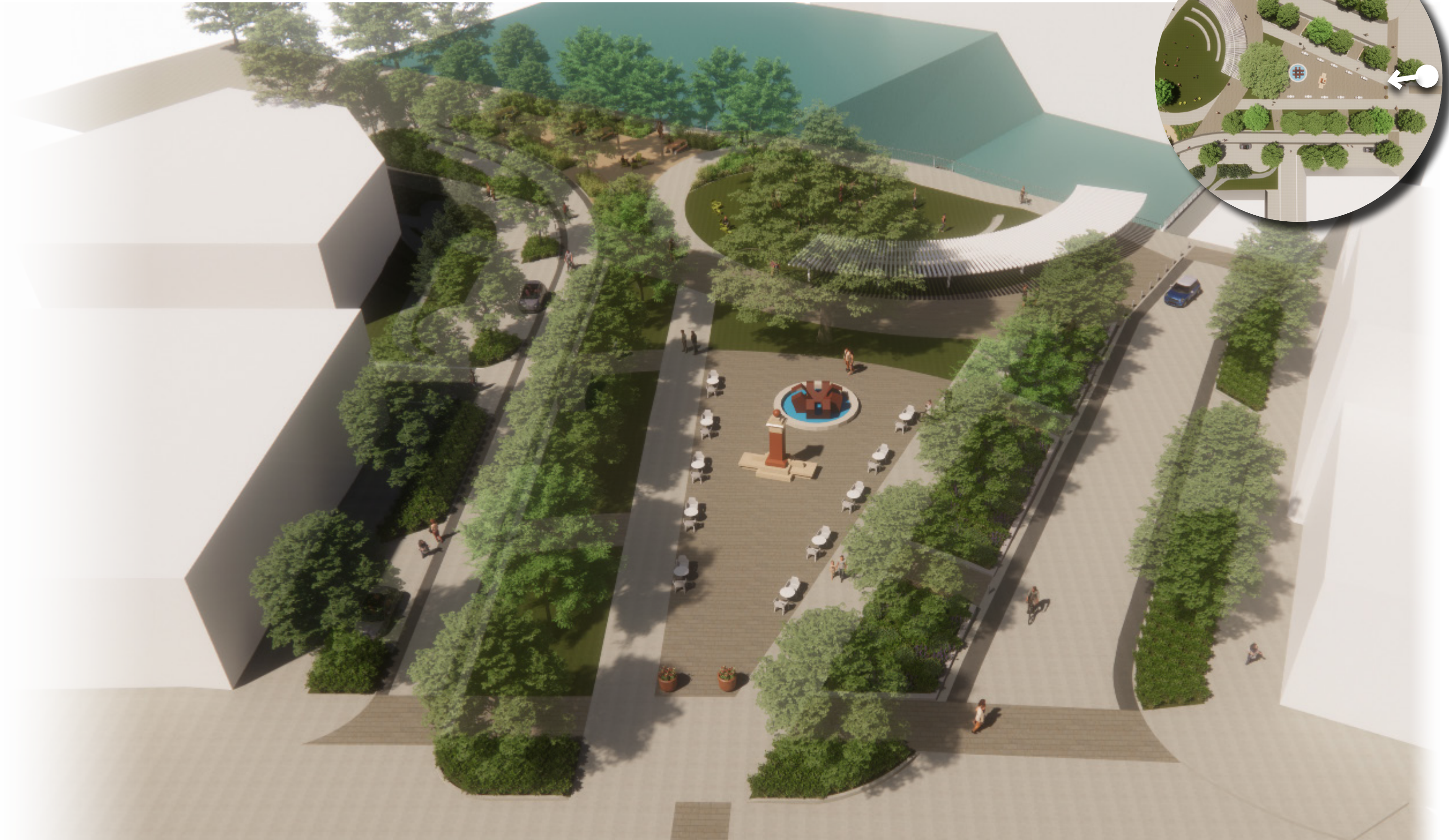
# AERIAL- FACING EAST



# PARK ENTRY



# SQUARE



# VIEW TO RIVER- EXISTING



# VIEW TO RIVER- PROPOSED



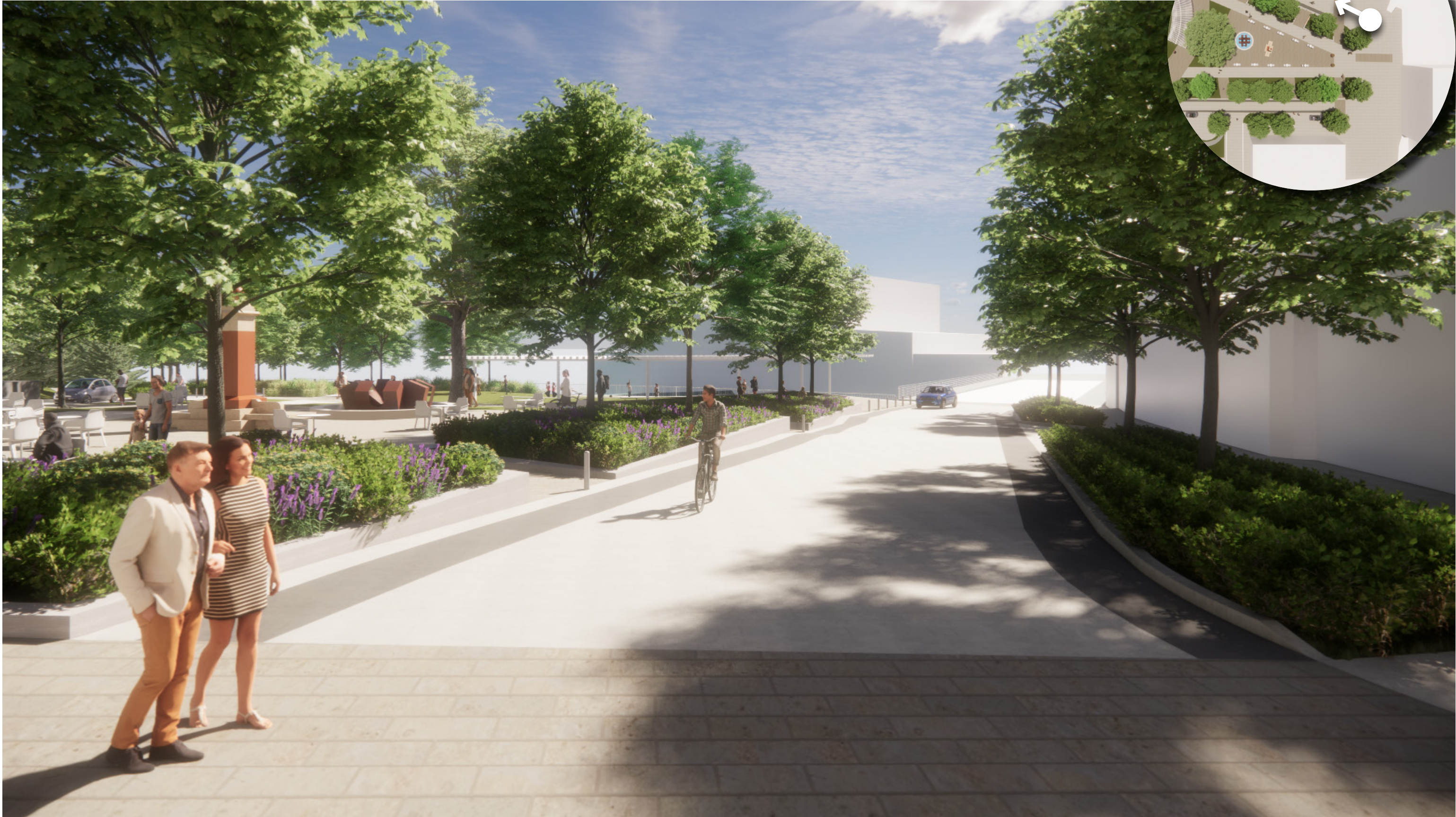
# RIVER TERRACE



# SOUTH ENTRY / LIVING STREET

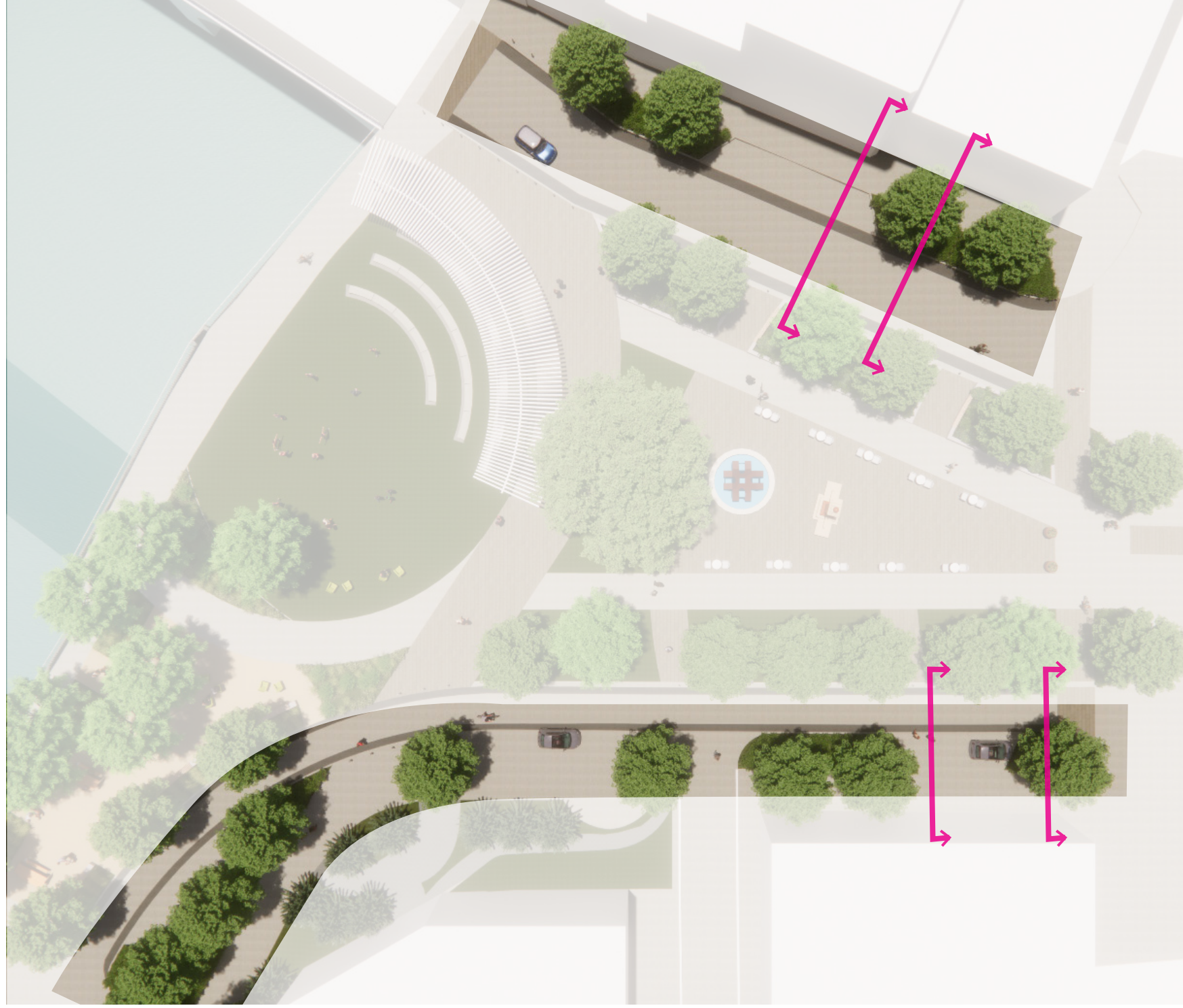


# LIVING STREET





# LIVING STREETS | STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



stormwater trench



enhanced moments

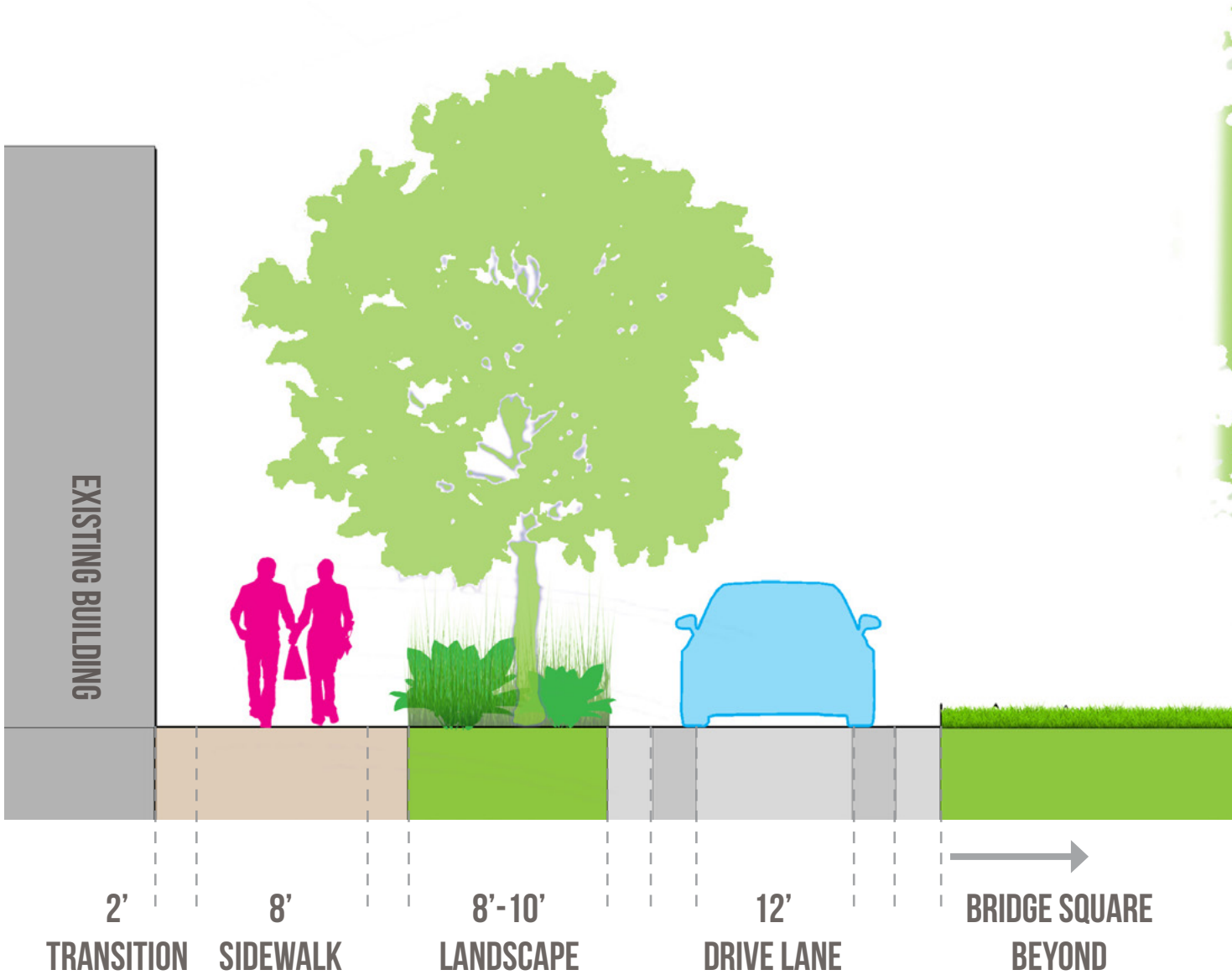


paving extending

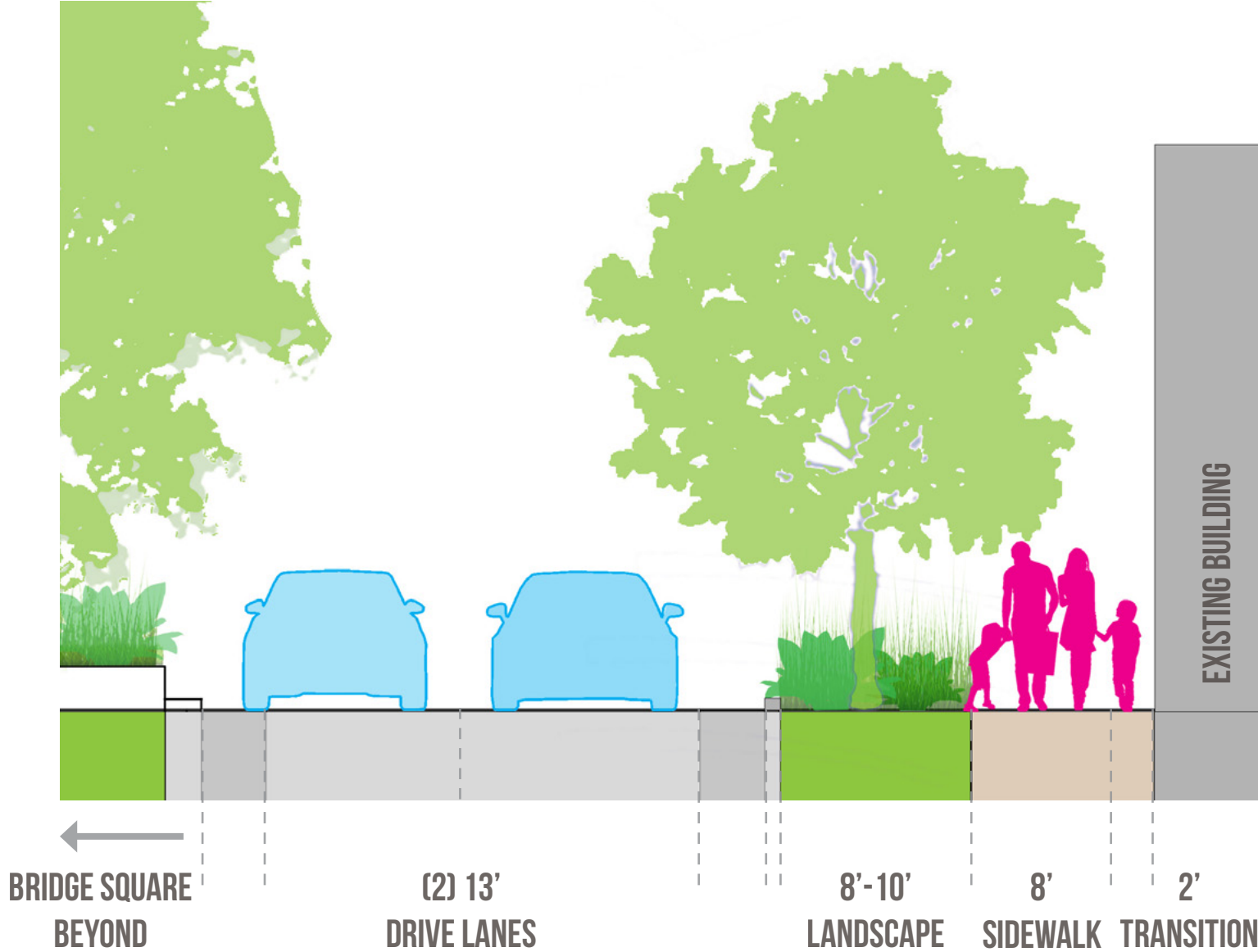


# LIVING STREETS | SECTIONS

BRIDGE SQUARE STREET  
ONE-WAY TRAFFIC

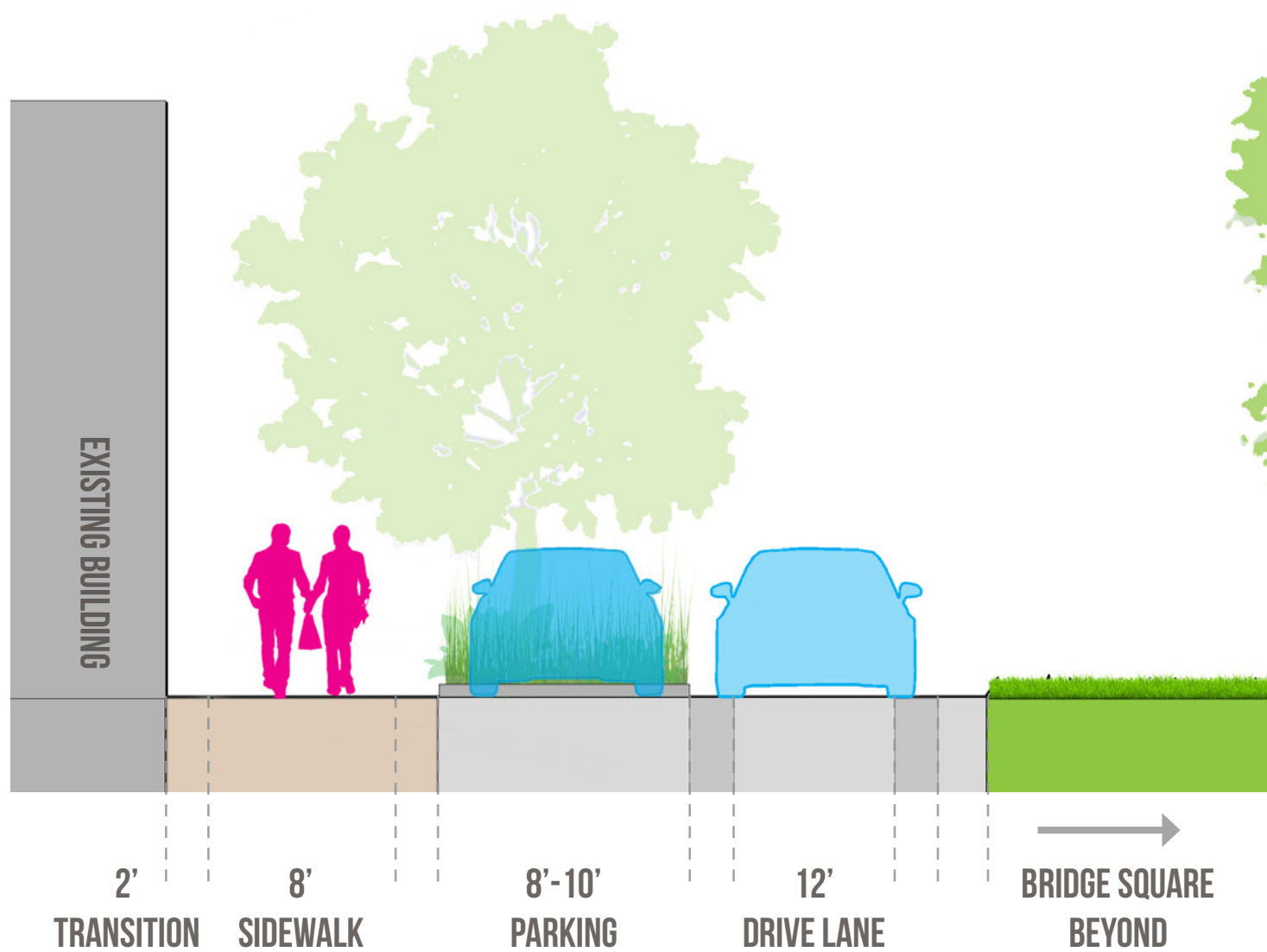


4TH STREET  
TWO-WAY TRAFFIC

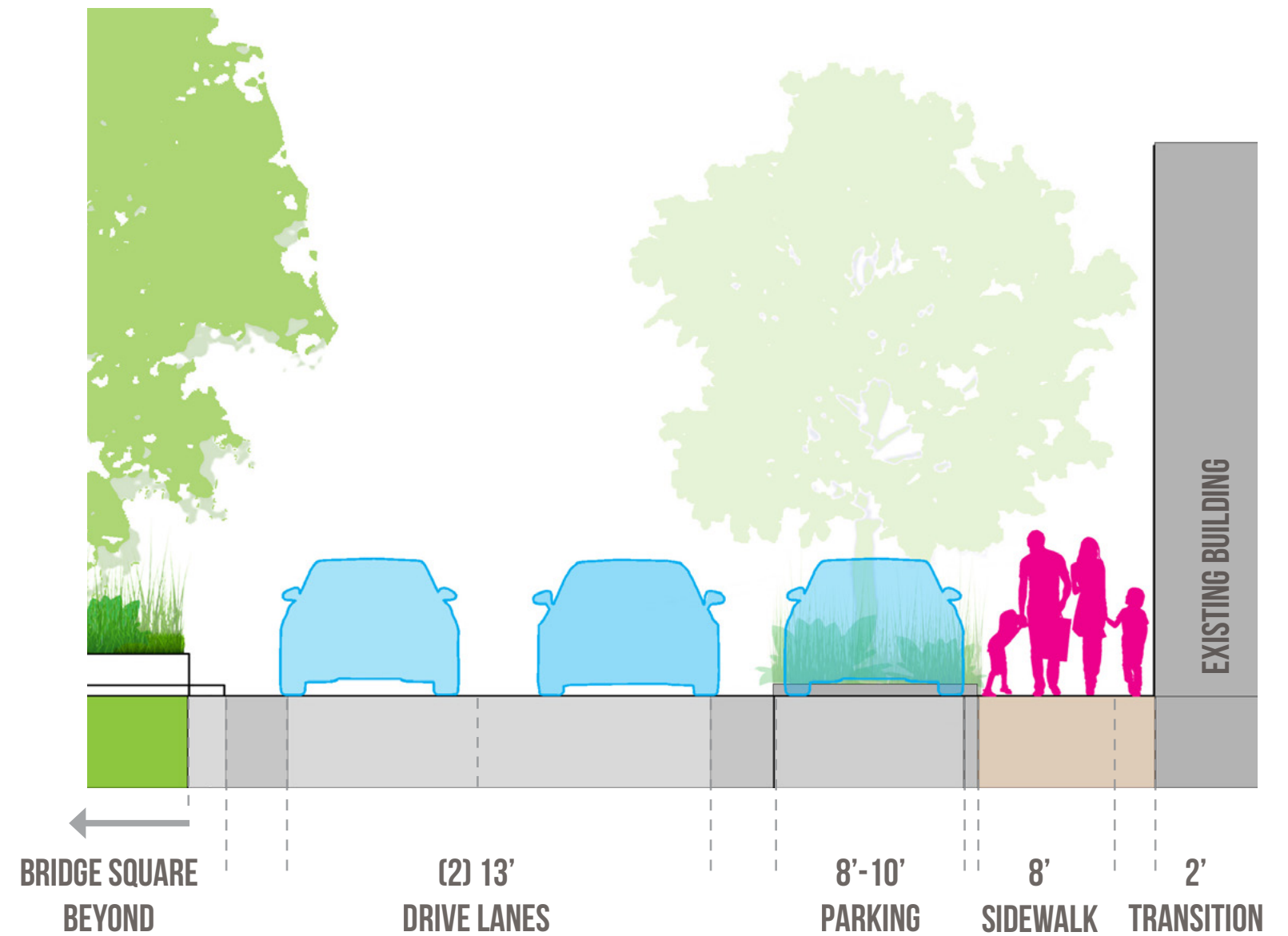


# LIVING STREETS | SECTIONS

BRIDGE SQUARE STREET  
ONE-WAY TRAFFIC

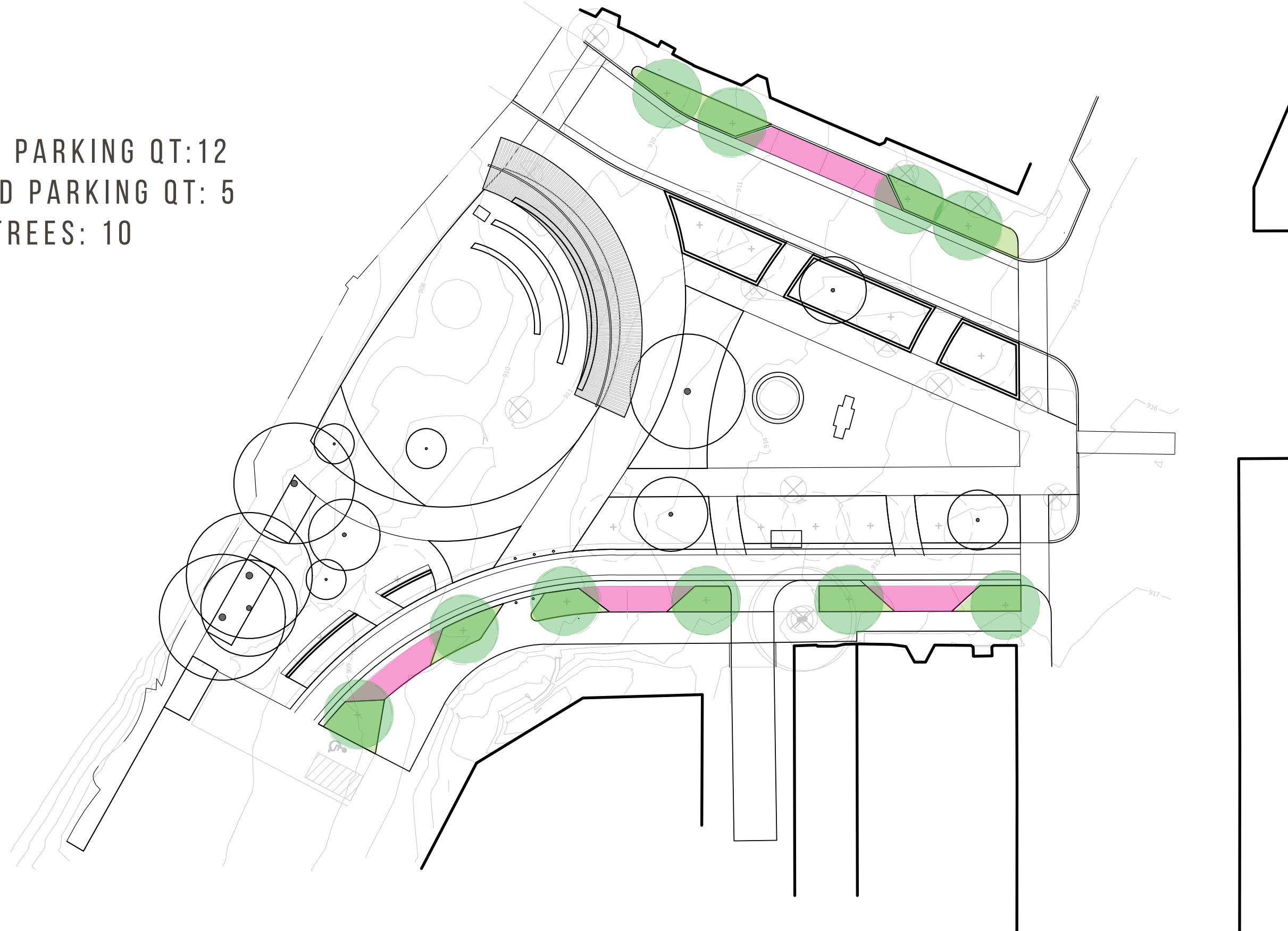


4TH STREET  
TWO-WAY TRAFFIC



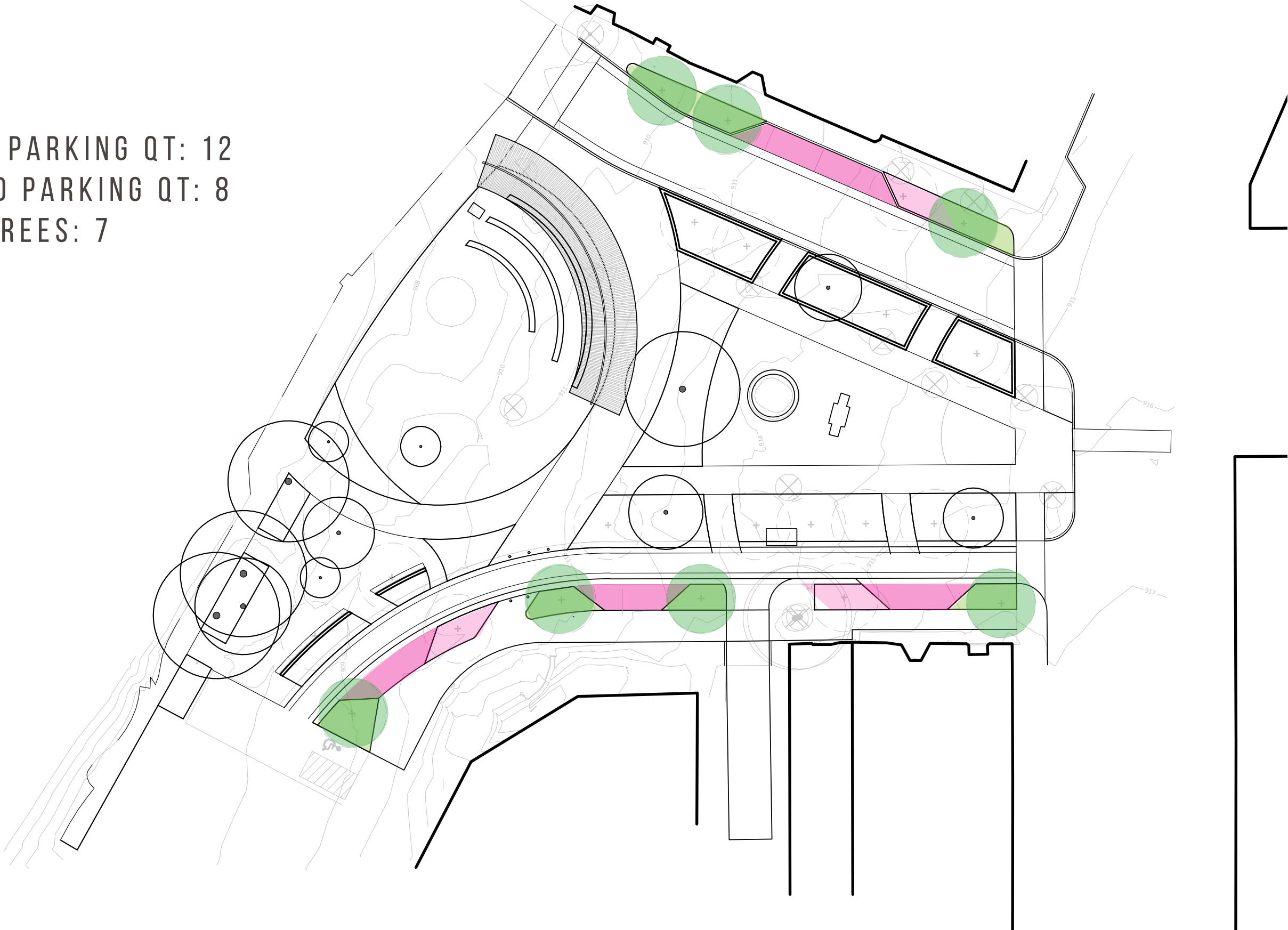
# PARKING

EXISTING PARKING QT: 12  
PROPOSED PARKING QT: 5  
STREET TREES: 10

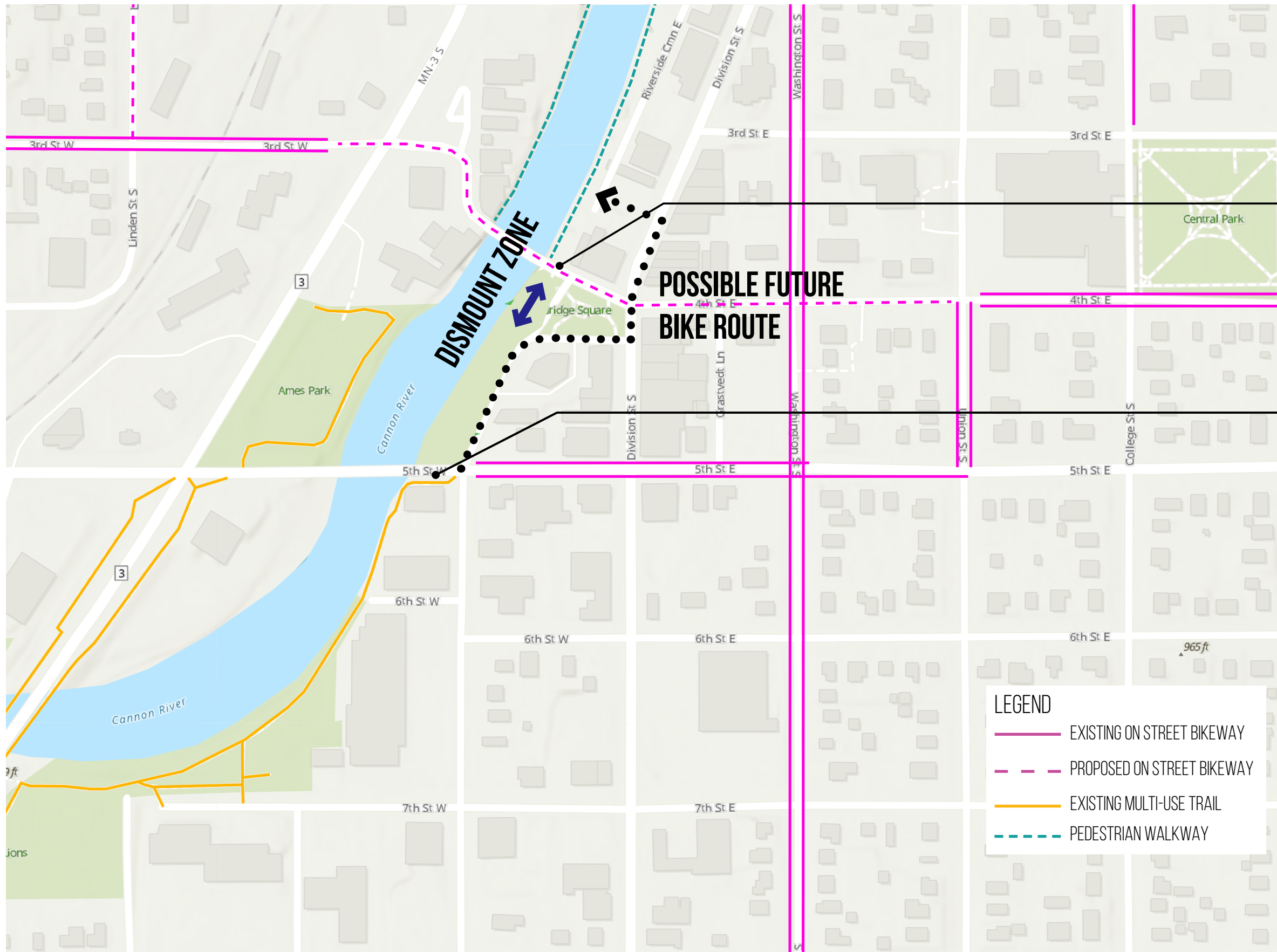


# PARKING alternative

EXISTING PARKING QT: 12  
PROPOSED PARKING QT: 8  
STREET TREES: 7



# EXISTING + PROPOSED BICYCLE NETWORK



STAIRWAY



MULTI-USE TRAILS  
(9' WIDTH)



# TREE PROTECTION



# PROGRAMMING





# VINTAGE BAND



# RIVERWALK MARKET 76 STALLS



DJJD

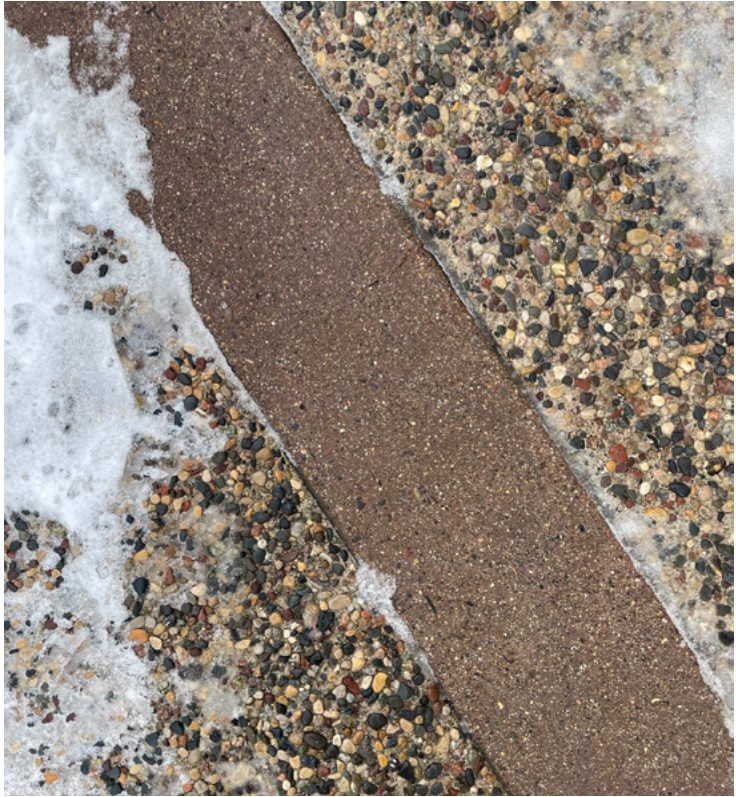
106 STALLS / 13 FOOD TRUCKS



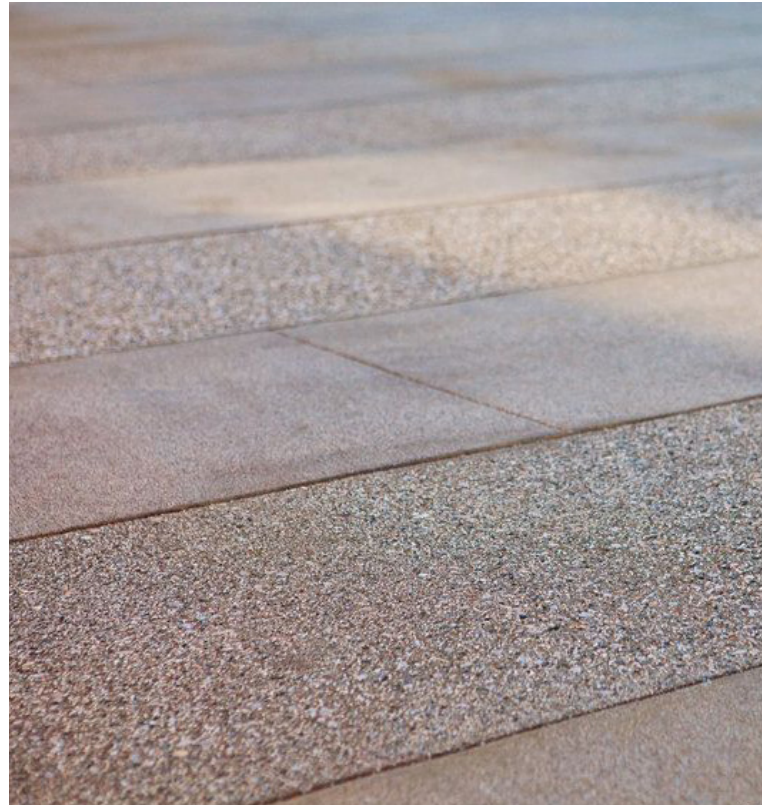
# ELEMENTS AND MATERIALS



# EXISTING MATERIALS



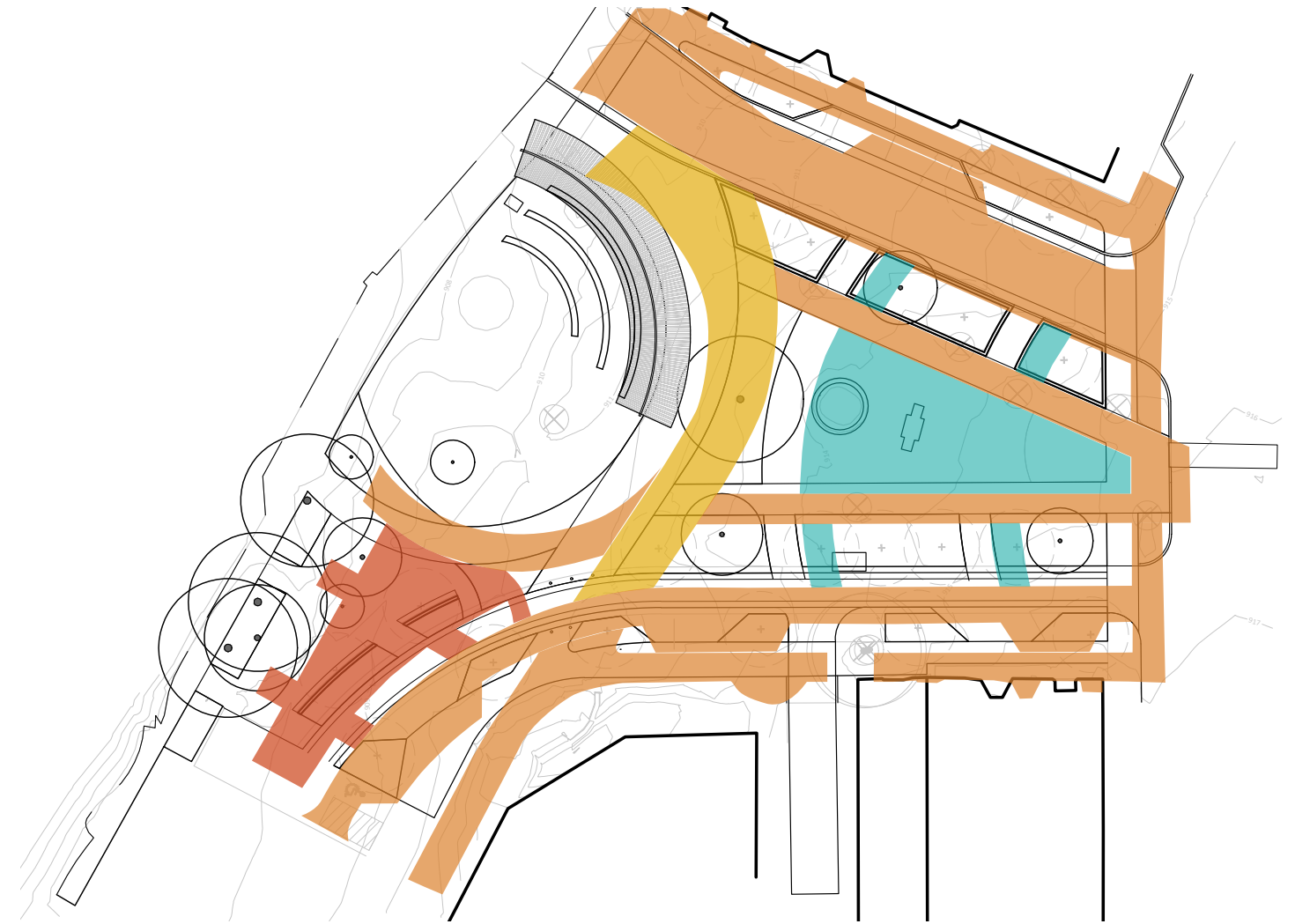
# HARDSCAPE PROPOSED



topcast concrete - saw-cut edges



crushed stone



pavers for historic water st



pavers in square

# STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS SEATING

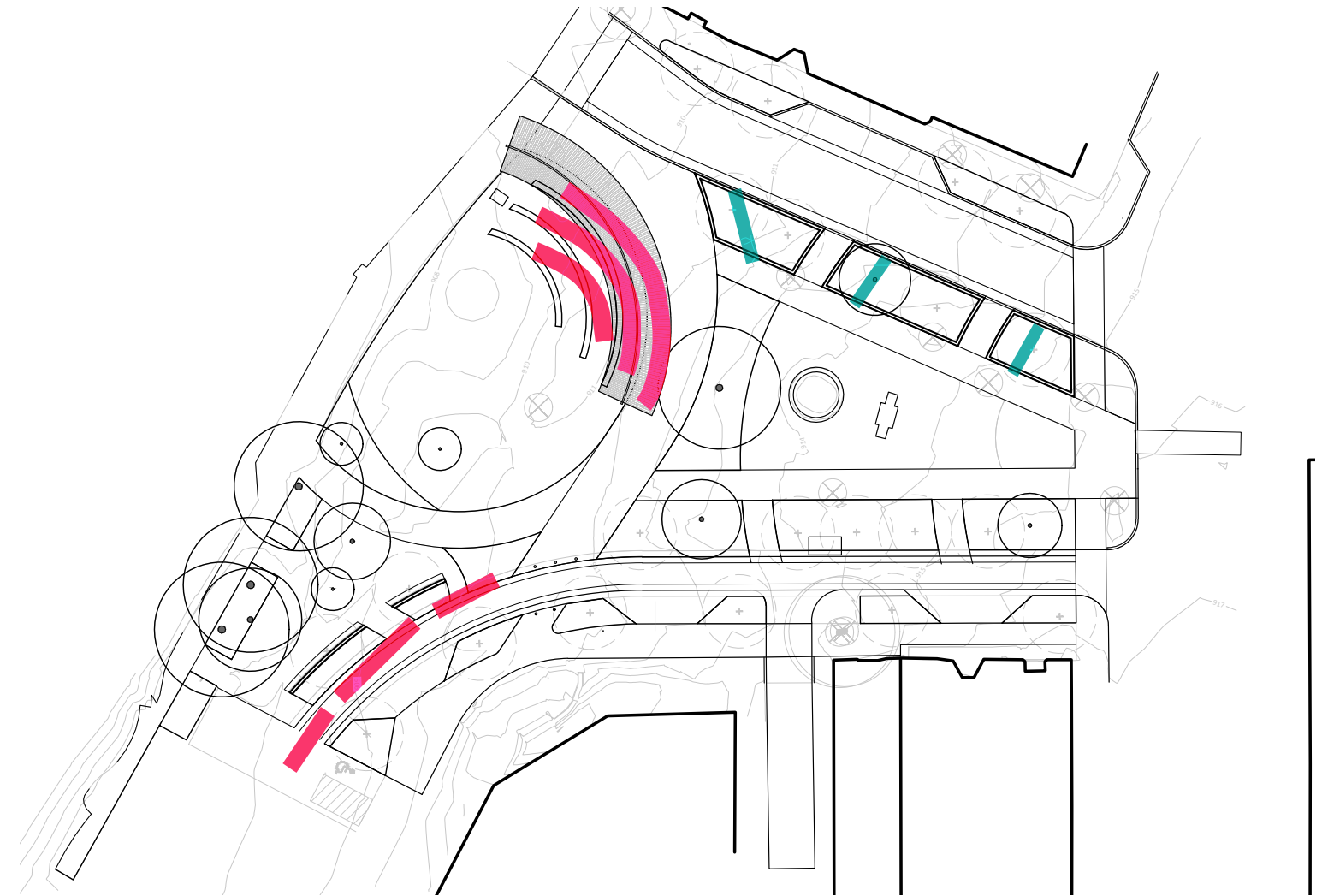


precast - buff



maintenance edge

wall seating



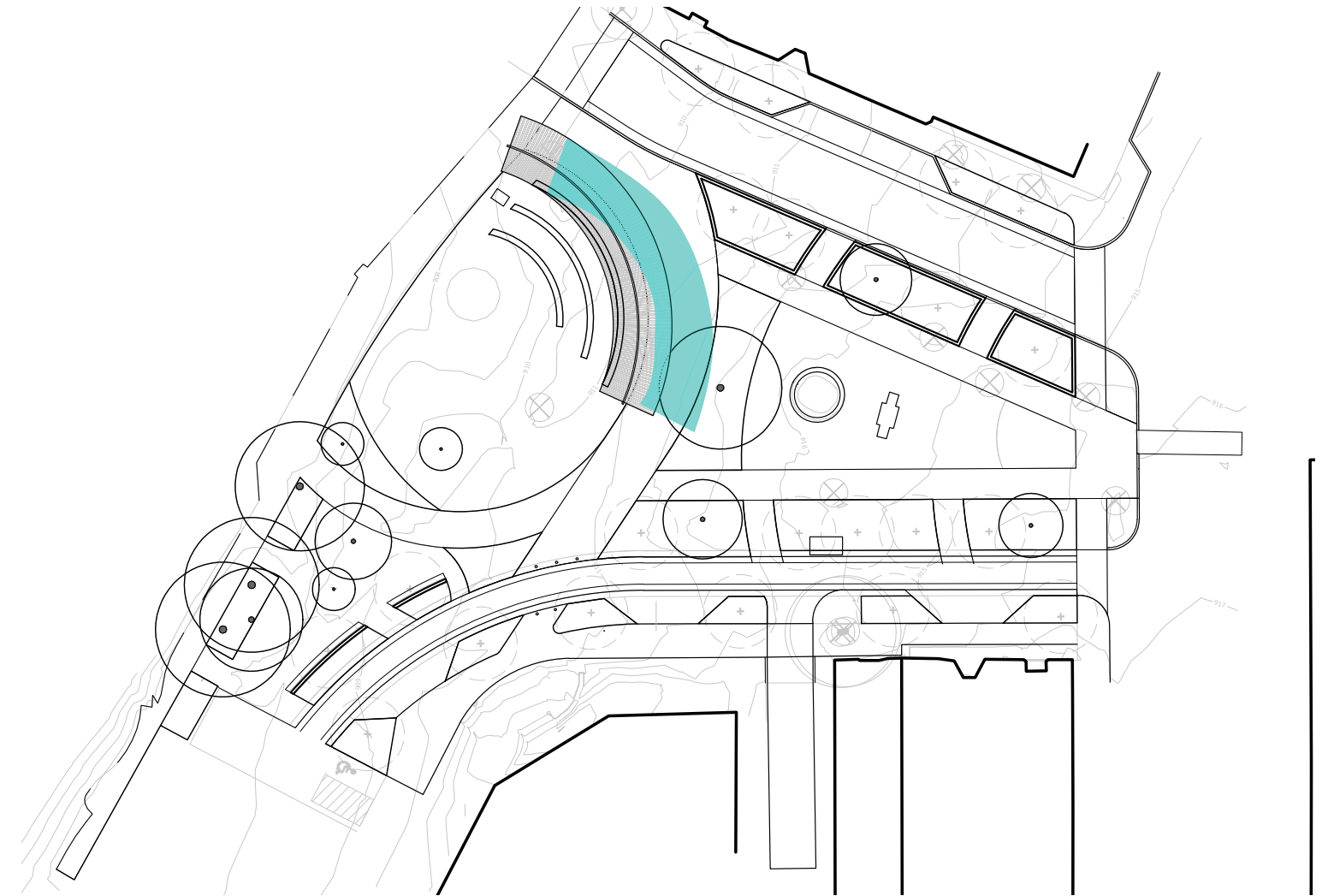
seat walls



# STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS SHADE



aluminum slats



timber slat



solid overhead



# LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS TREES



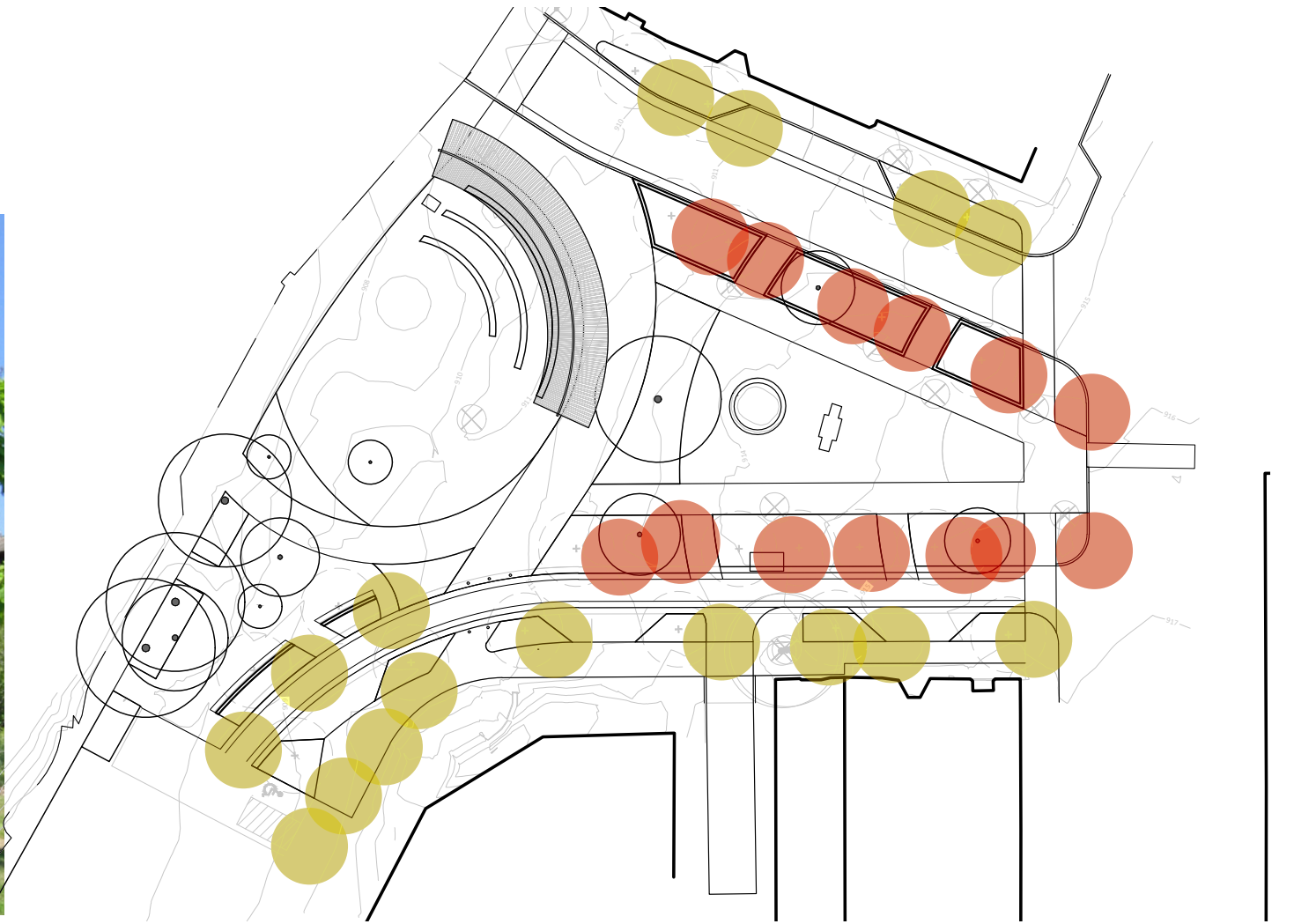
Aspen



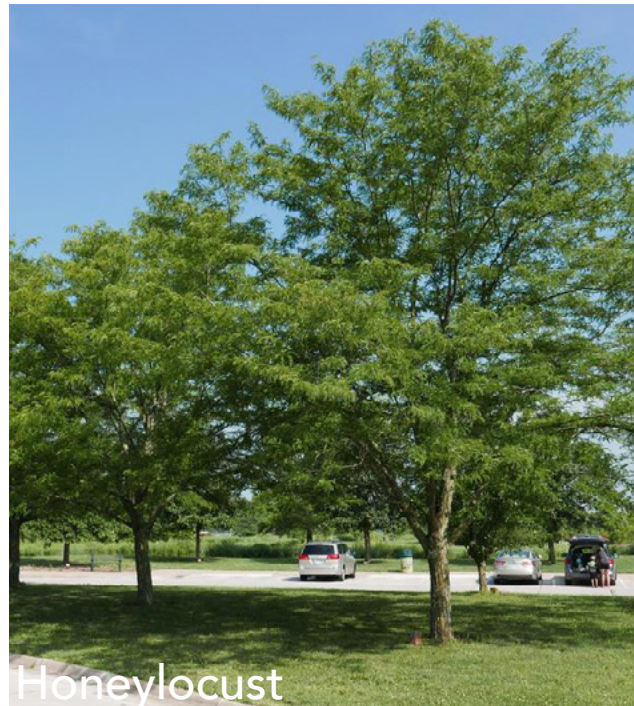
Serviceberry



Catalpa



square trees



Honeylocust



Littleleaf Linden



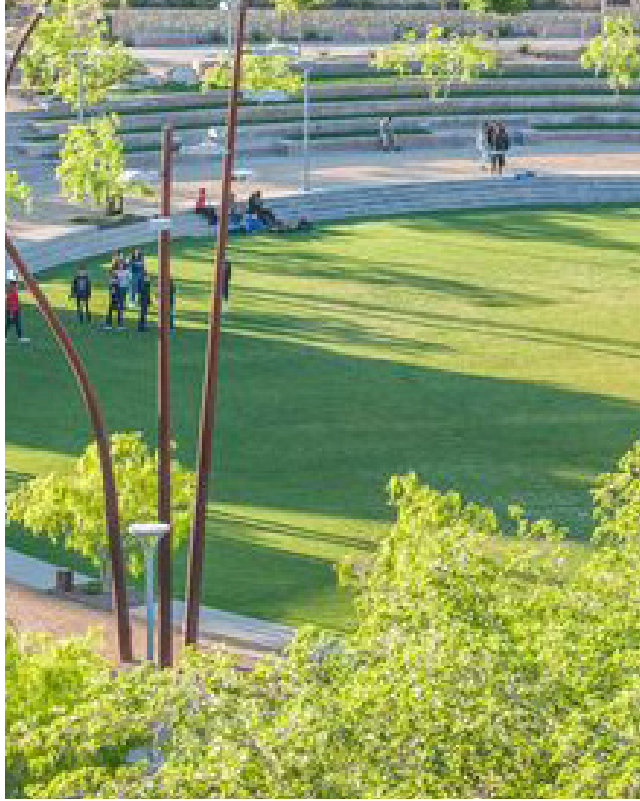
Kentucky Coffeetree



Hophornbeam

street trees

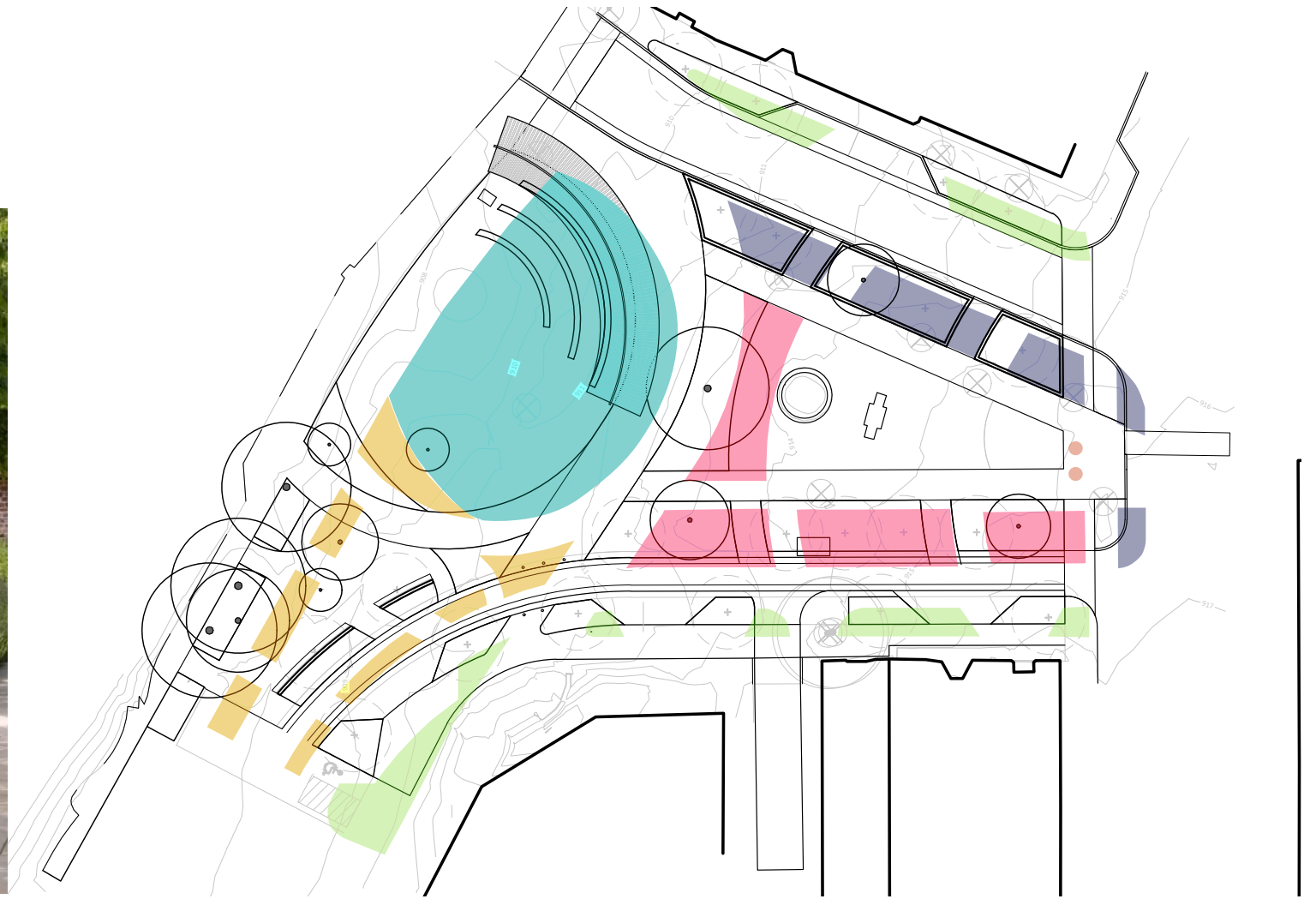
# LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS PLANTING



full sun grass



shade perennial



landscape bed



shade tolerant grass



annual planter option

