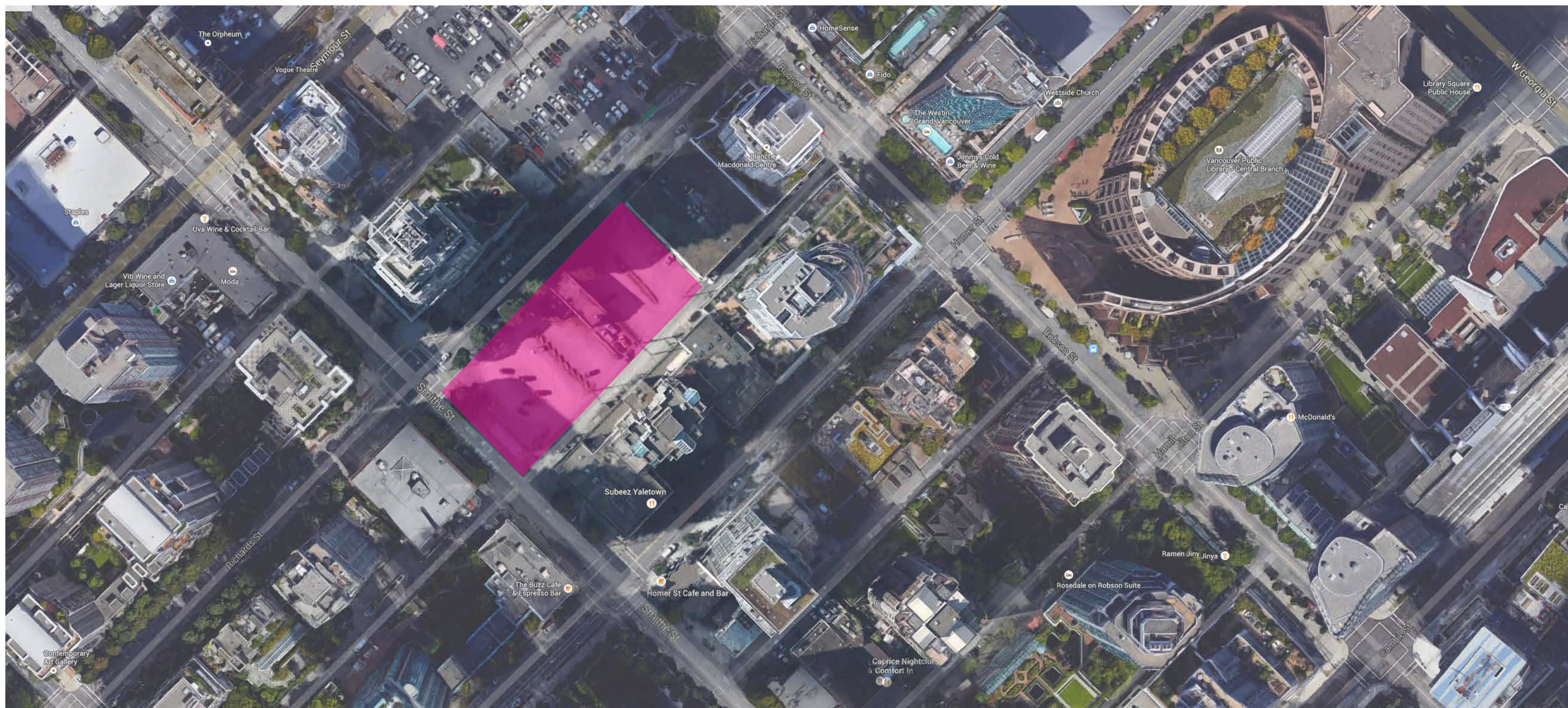


WELCOME

to the Public Open House for the future park at Smithe and Richards

We are transforming a PARKING LOT into a PARK...

The Site



The Vancouver Park Board is undertaking an exciting design process that will create a new park at the intersection of Smithe and Richards Streets by 2017. We've undertaken extensive engagement with the community throughout the process, and today we are presenting the final Preferred Concept.

We want to hear your input on the preferred concept!

Based on community input received on four conceptual park design options in the fall of 2015, we have created a Preferred Concept. Today we want to hear your input before the preferred concept is presented to the Vancouver Park Board for approval. Please fill out an online questionnaire!

How will the park fit into the bigger picture?

The new park will help meet the Vancouver Park Board's vision to connect people in Vancouver to green space, active living, and community.



Elements of the Vancouver Park Board's Strategic Plan

Stay involved!

 **Online Questionnaire:** vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards

 @ParkBoard #SmitheRichards

 SmitheRichards@vancouver.ca

 facebook.com/ParkBoard #SmitheRichards

 3-1-1

THE PROCESS

Your Input in the Process

Thank you for attending today's open house! We value your time and contributions to this process.

The community input we receive today will help to make any final revisions to the Preferred Concept before it is presented to the Vancouver Park Board for adoption. We are also gathering input through an online questionnaire and our stakeholder discussions with a formed Park Design Focus Group.

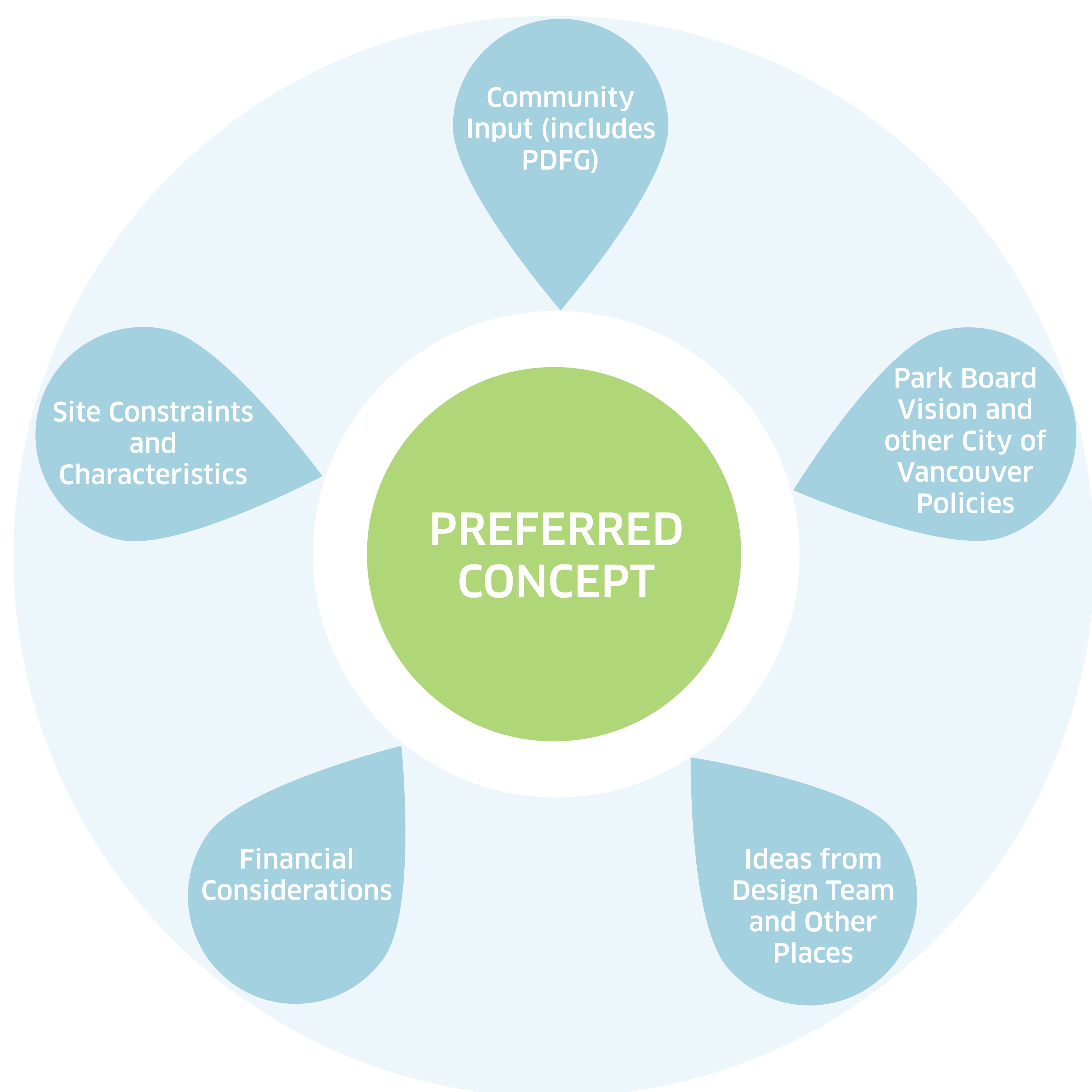
PDFG* (Park Design Focus Group)

The Park Design Focus Group is a selected group of individuals and representatives who reside, work or have involvement within an organization in proximity to the new Park site.

Throughout the Park design process a number of meetings have been scheduled with PDFG to allow the Park design team to share ideas and considerations and listen to valuable insights and experiences for their local knowledge of the site and surrounding area.

Making Decisions

The Preferred Concept was developed with the following inputs:



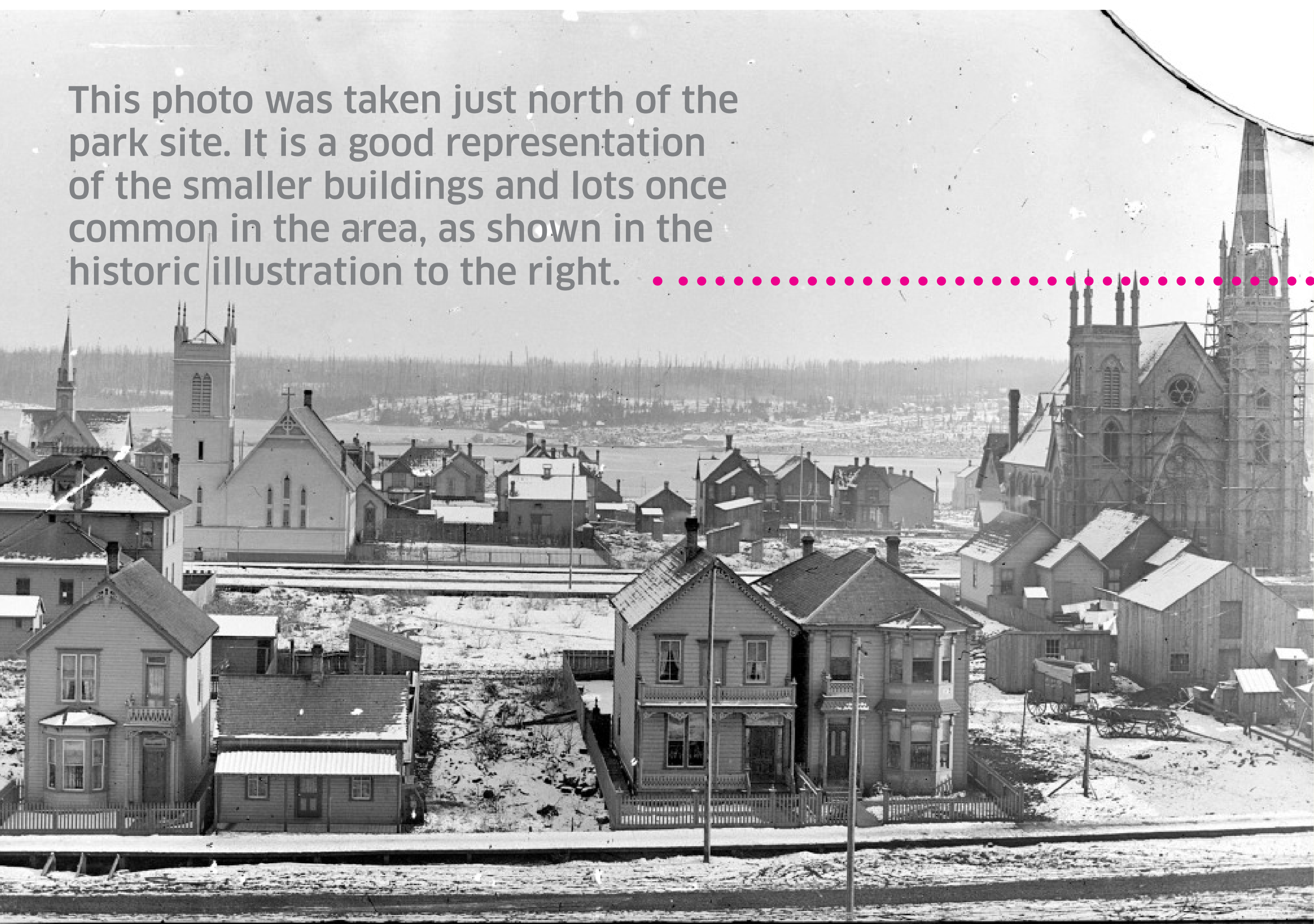
The Process



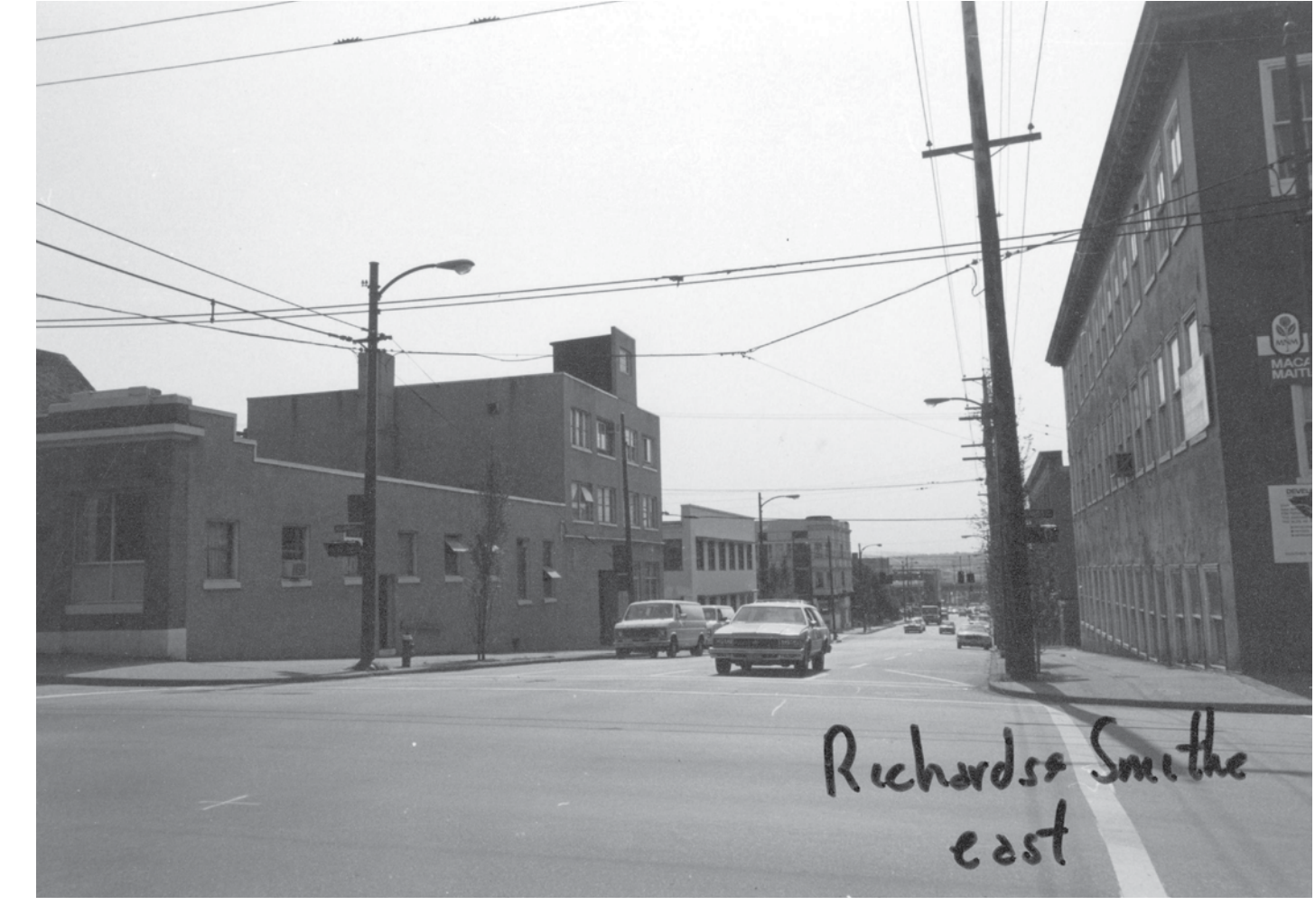
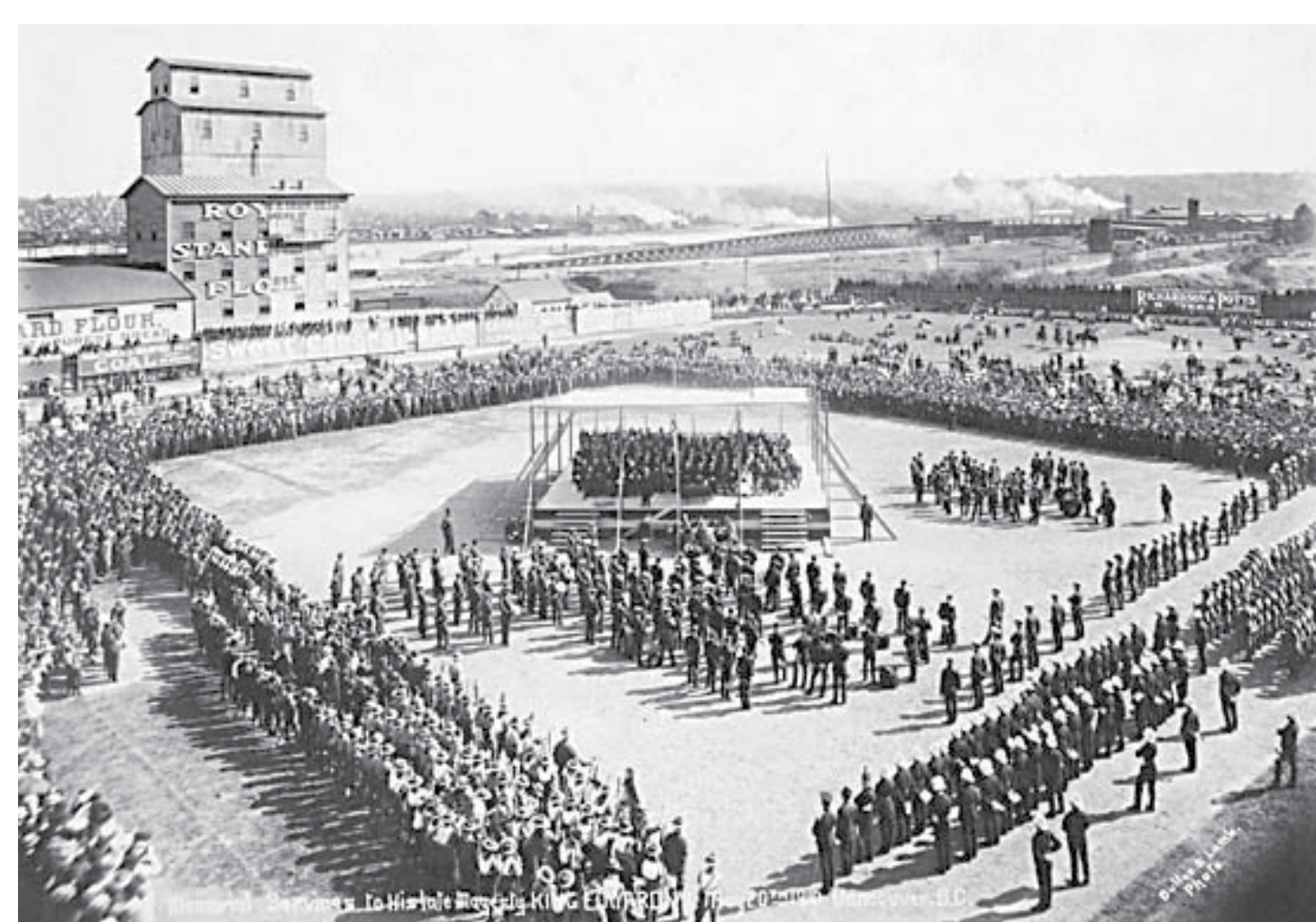
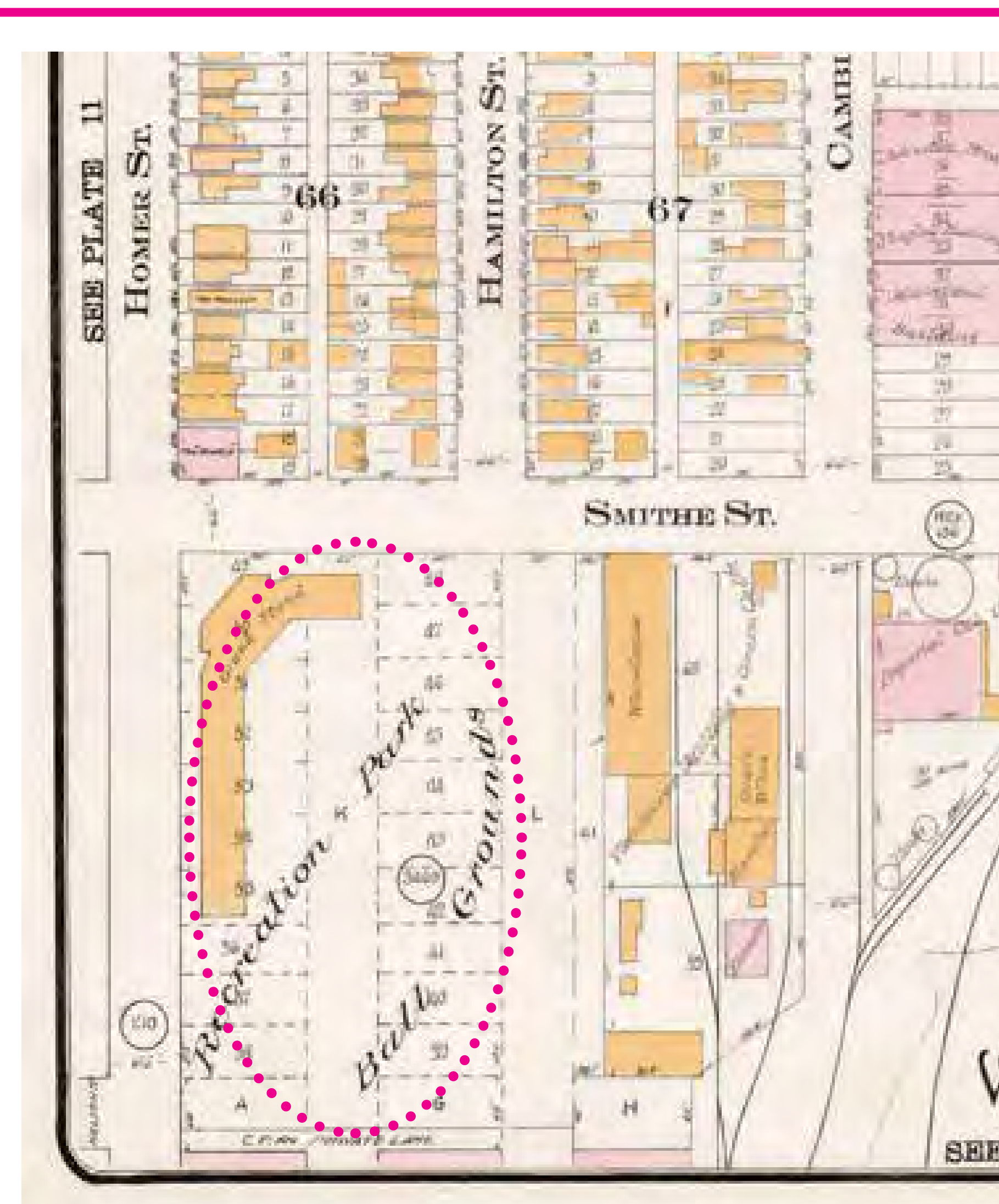
THE SITE

Looking back...

This photo was taken just north of the park site. It is a good representation of the smaller buildings and lots once common in the area, as shown in the historic illustration to the right.



...to have been from roof of New York block, old Holy Rosary on Richards St, St Andrew's Presbyterian, Richards + Georgia, Baptist Church, s.e. Nat...
...out St between Georgia + Dunsmuir in foreground. Street railway stables to west, slaughter house to east of Westminster Ave bridge. Forest beyond. Capt...



Intersection of Smithe and Richards (1970s)



These photos and map are from around 1900. They depict the location and types of events that took place at Recreation Park. Located at the corner of Smithe and Homer Streets, this park was just a stone's throw from the future park location.

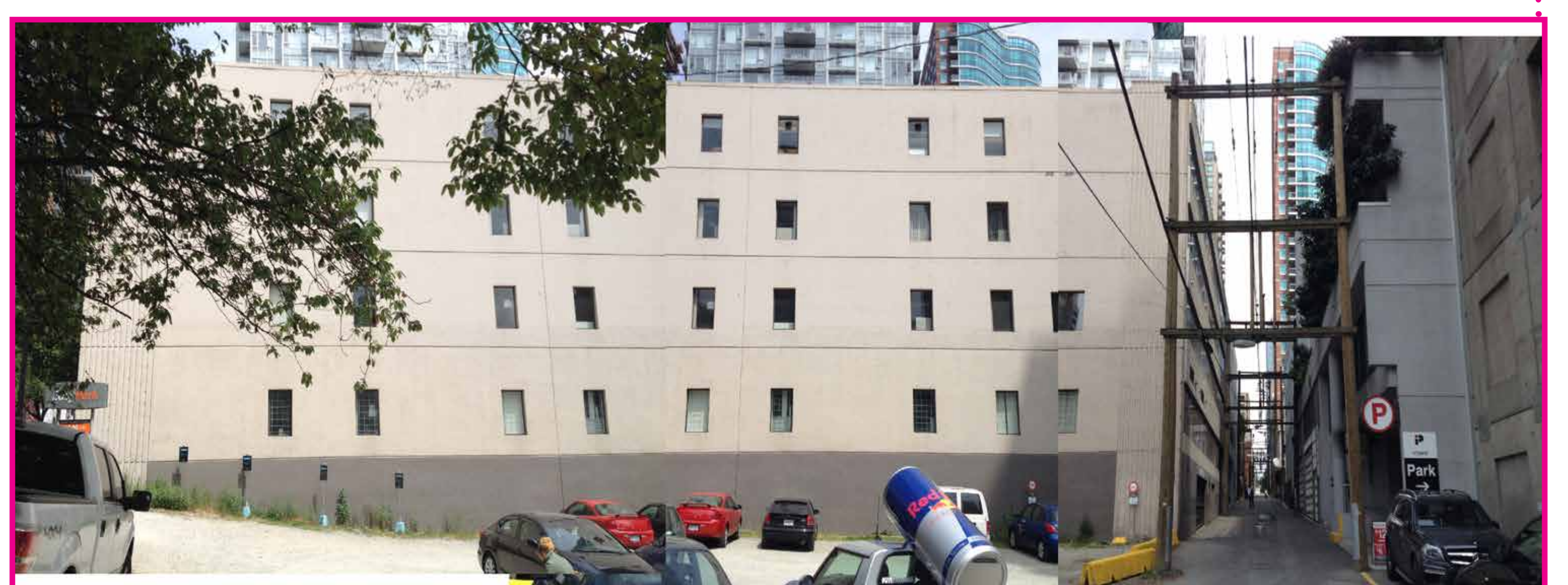
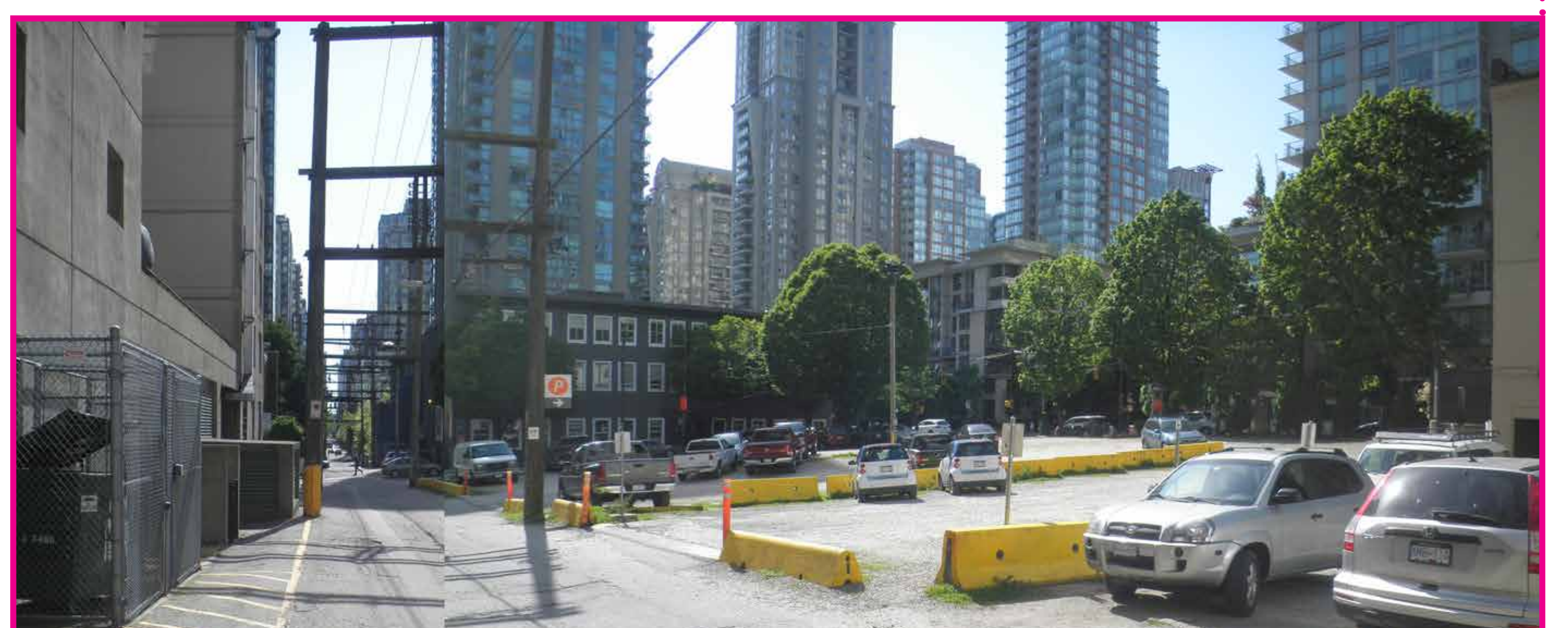
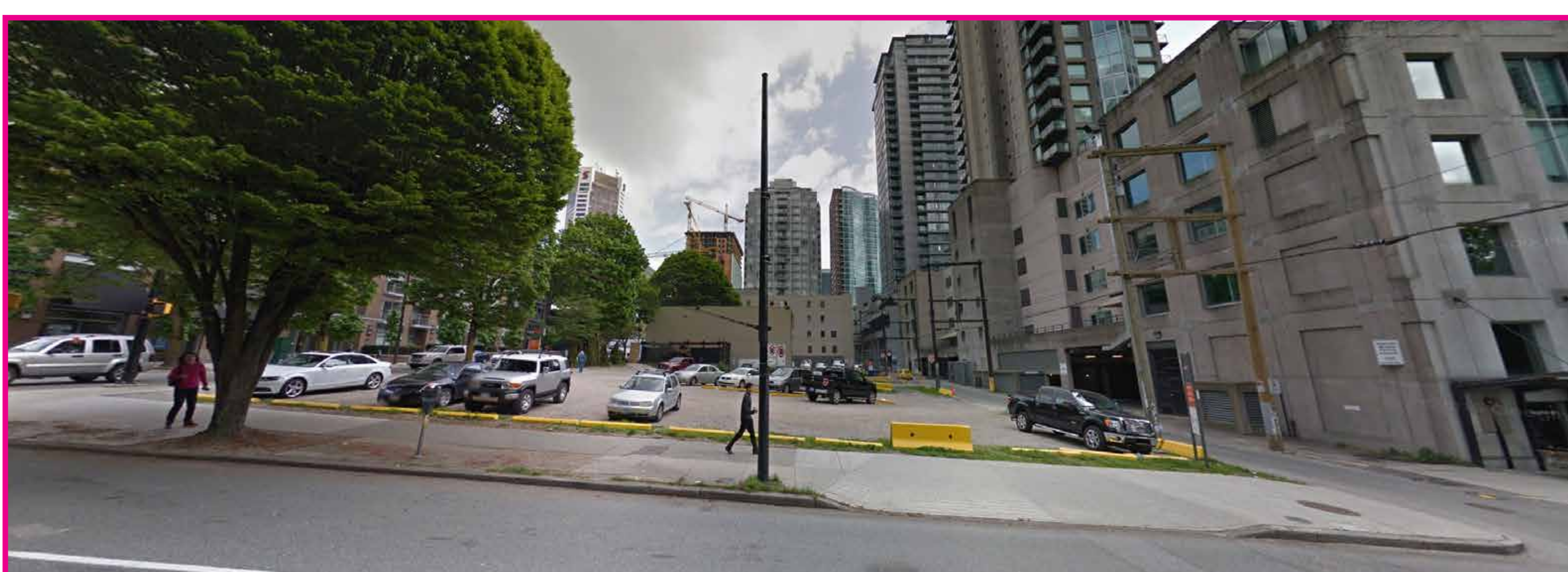
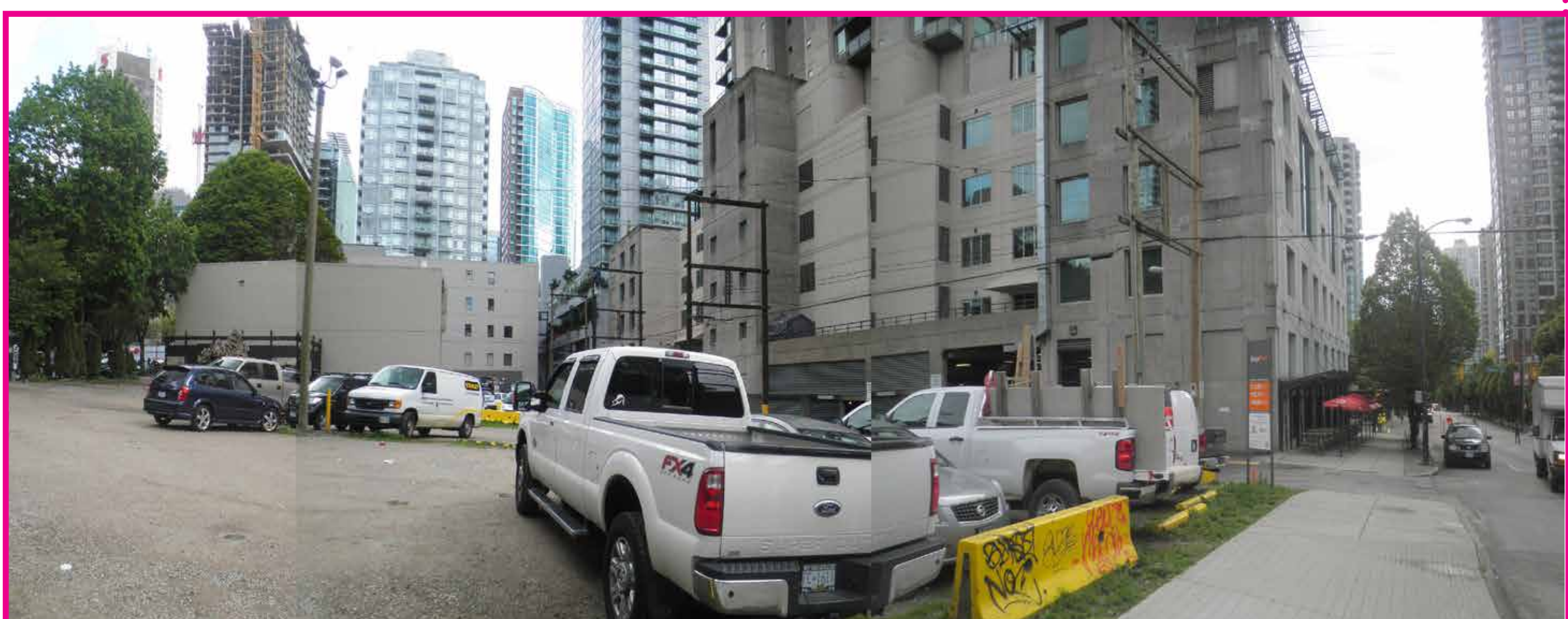
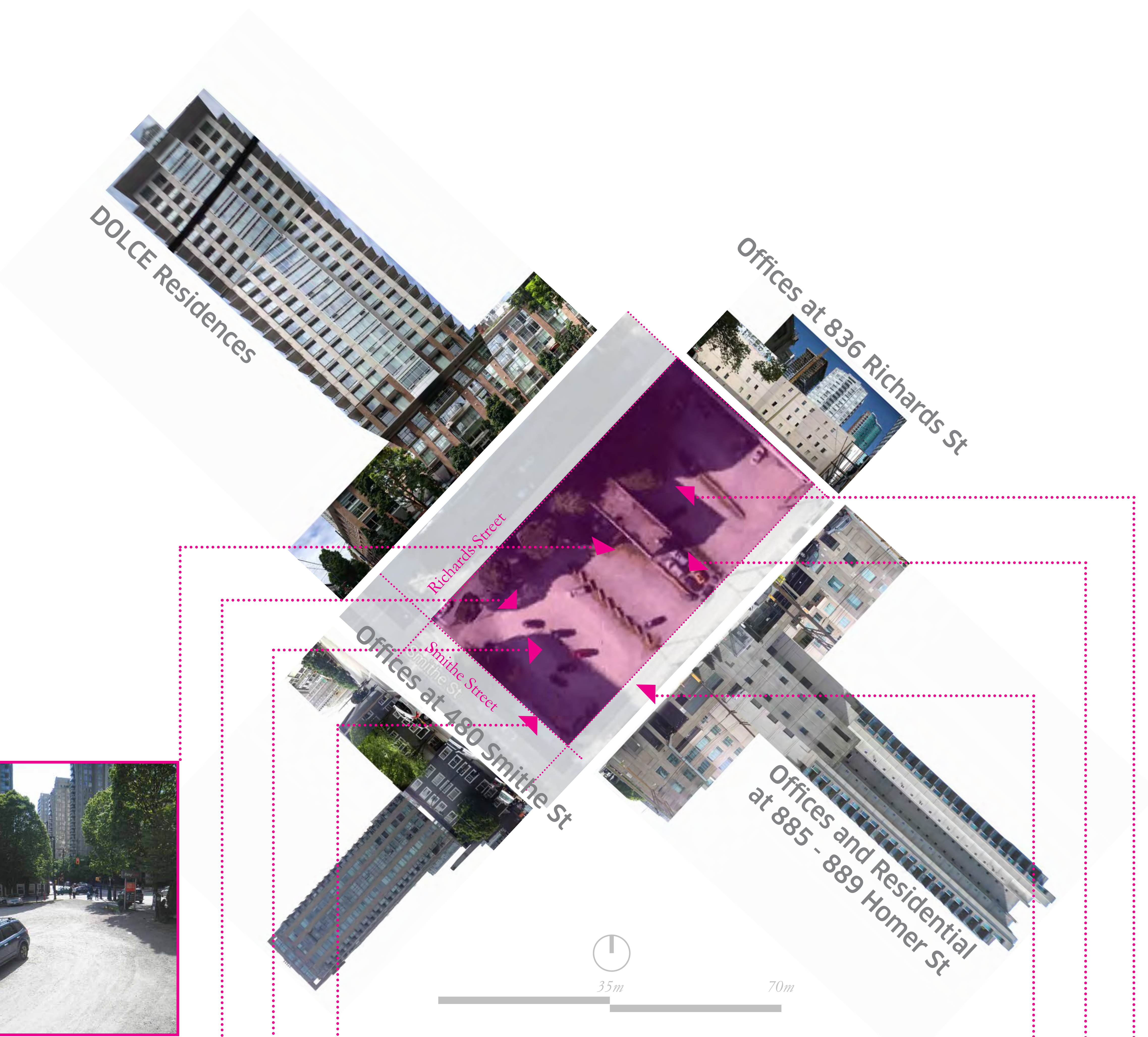


Demolition of the building at the south part of the site at Smithe Street (early 2000s)

THE SITE

Today...

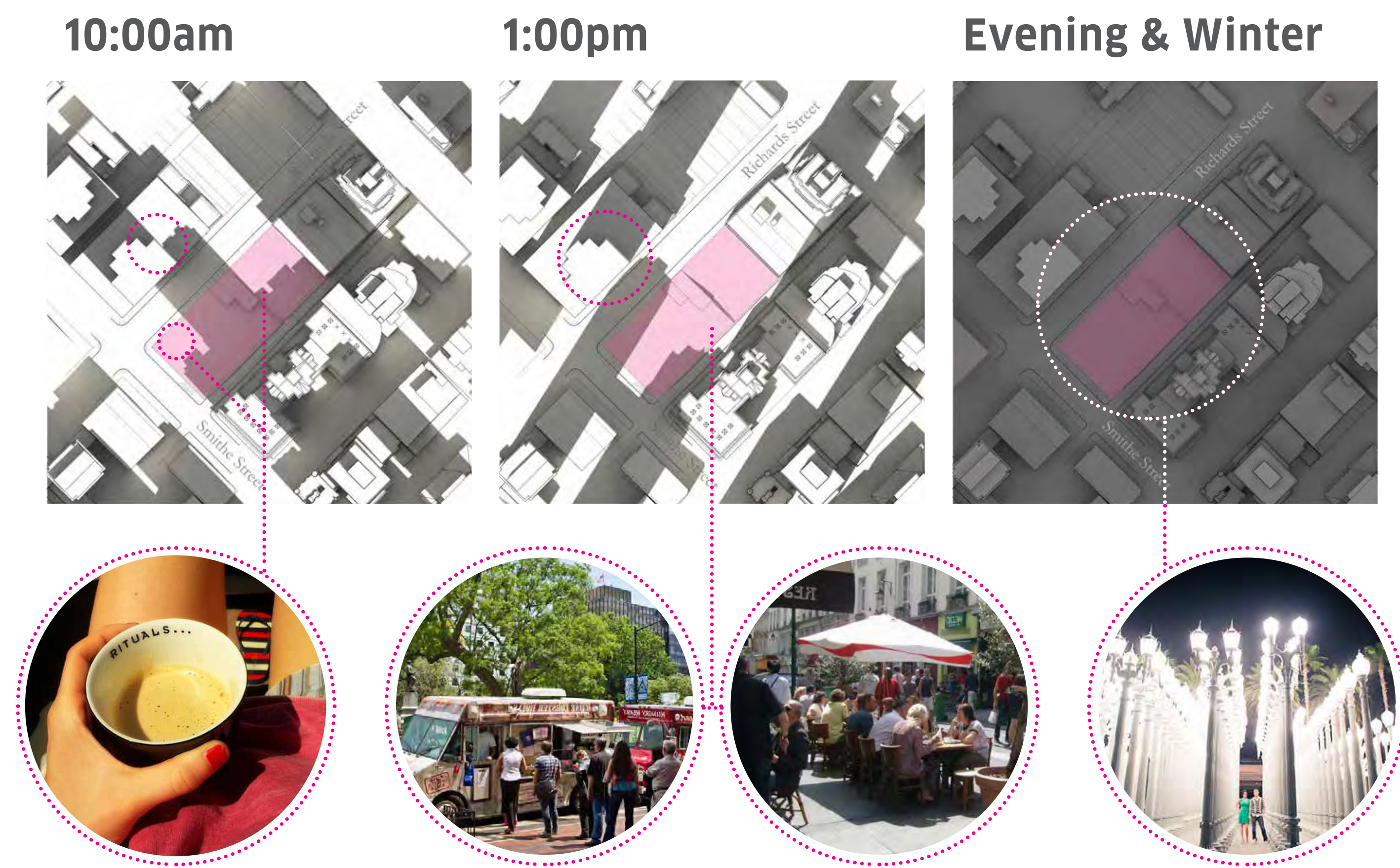
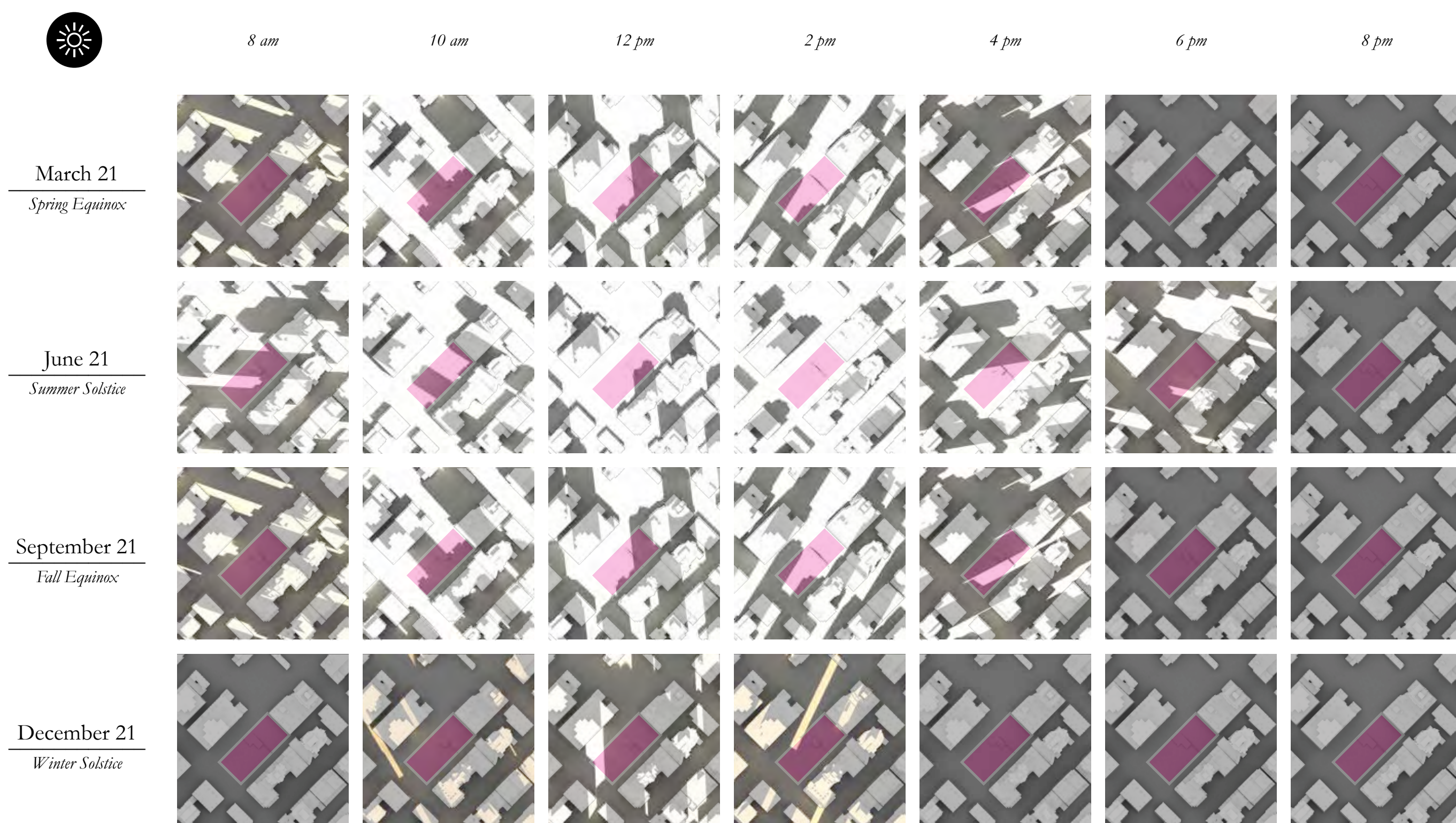
The site is a parking lot surrounded by condo towers and retail units at street level. A service lane, which is a prominent characteristic of the site, runs along the eastern edge.



THE SITE

Characteristics

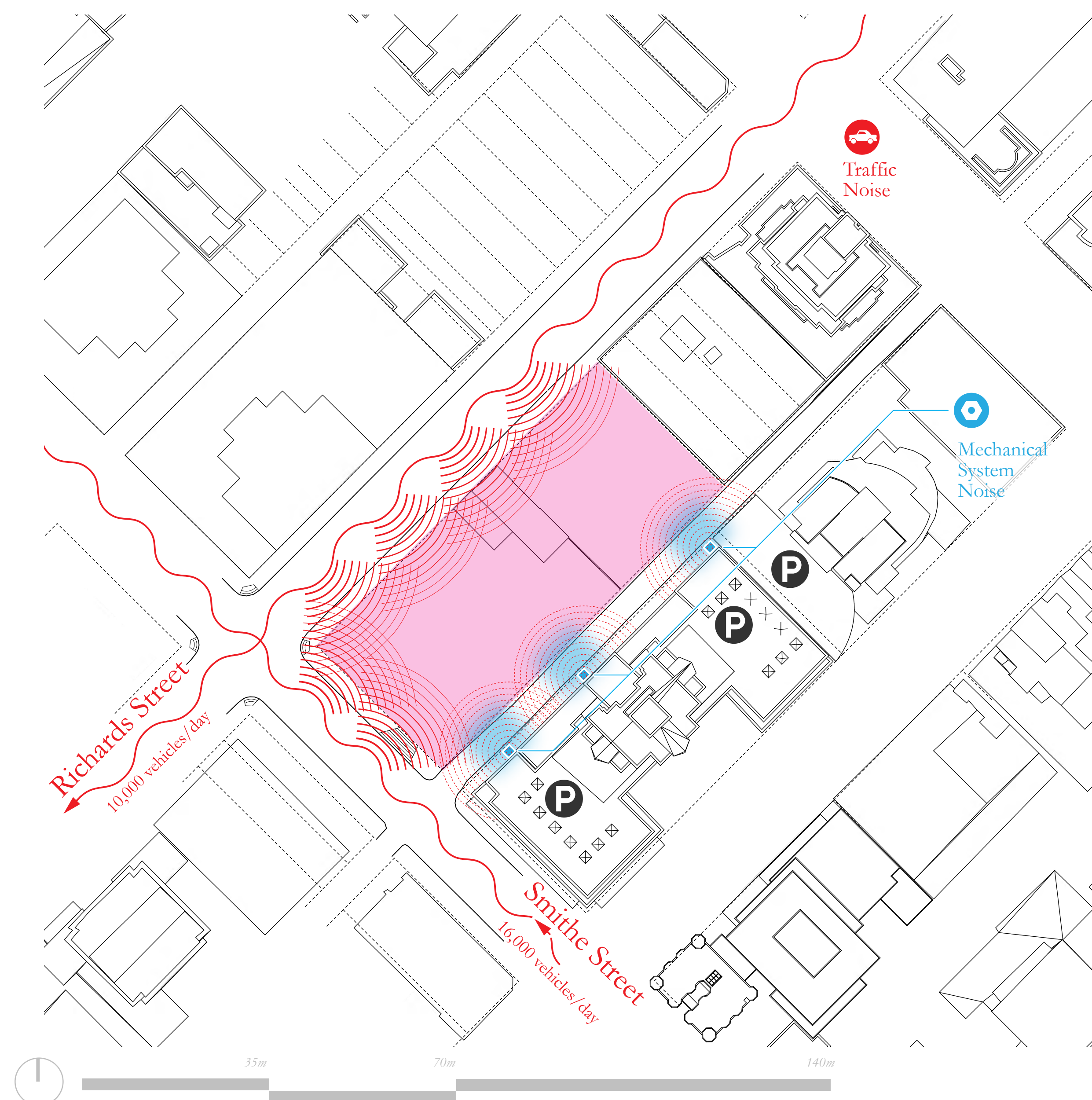
Solar Access: The site has sunny spots that move across the space throughout the day, with the exception of winter months.



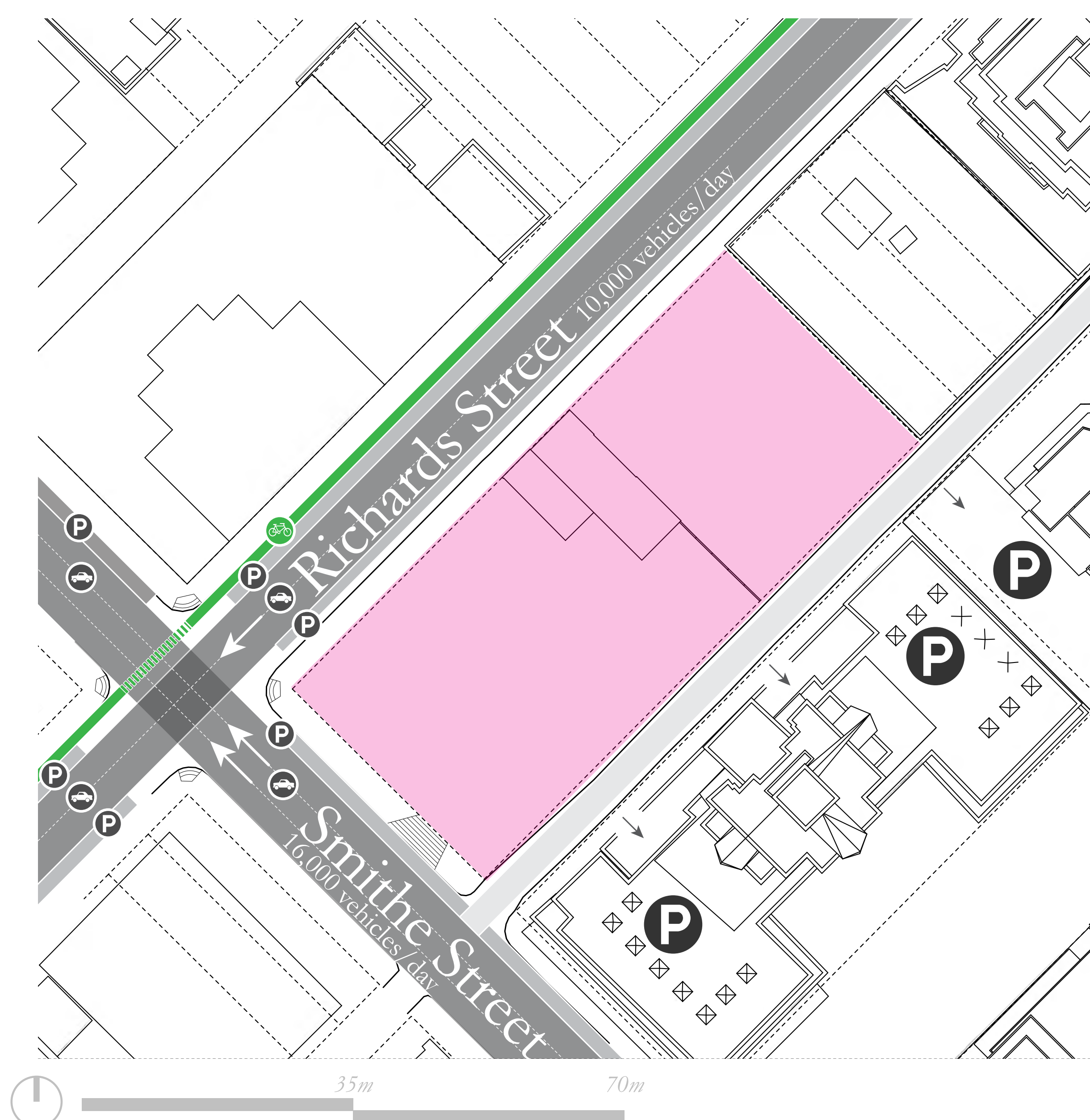
Slope: The site slopes significantly from Richards down toward the alley at Smithe.



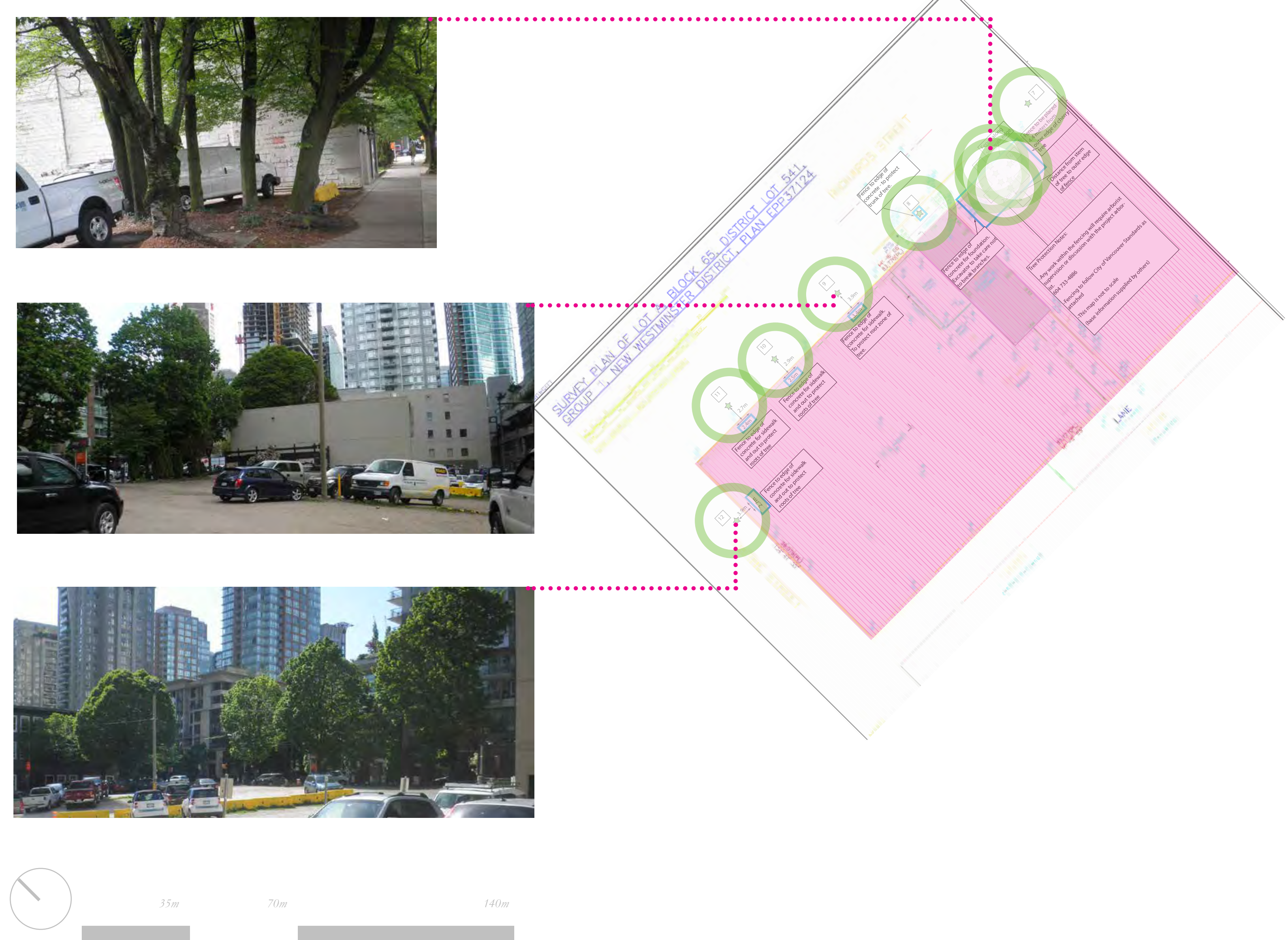
Noise: There is considerable traffic noise on the site.



Vehicular Circulation and Traffic: Thousands of vehicles pass by the site via Smithe and Richards Streets.



Vegetation: There are 12 mature trees on the site, primarily along Richards Street.



WHAT WE HEARD

INPUT FROM PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1

Hundreds of residents attended the first public event and participated in the online questionnaire to share their priorities and ideas for the future park. The top themes relating to park qualities are:



GREEN

Participants would value green spaces and lush landscaping including tree canopy, biodiversity, and use of indigenous plant species in the future park.



PLAY

Participants would value opportunities for play, including for young children. Examples provided include interactive art, physical play, performance spaces, and other ideas.



SCALE AND COMFORT

Participants like the idea of a comfortable park scale and opportunities for lingering (e.g. seating).



FOOD AND ENGAGING EDGES

Participants like the idea of being able to purchase a coffee or food in the park, and they favour other activities and design elements that serve to draw passersby into the park.



PROGRAM

Participants support the idea of having a range of organized activities take place to activate the park space.

WHAT WE HEARD

INPUT FROM PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

Hundreds of residents provided input on four concept options at the open house and through the online questionnaire.

WHAT PEOPLE LIKED ABOUT EACH

CONCEPT 1 - CONNECTIONS



40%
of questionnaire
participants like
this best

Participants liked:

- connections with the back lane
- secret garden (i.e. smaller green space near Richards)
- large open green area

Participants didn't like:

- food trucks/vehicles in the park

CONCEPT 2 - BACK DECK



20%
of questionnaire
participants like
this best

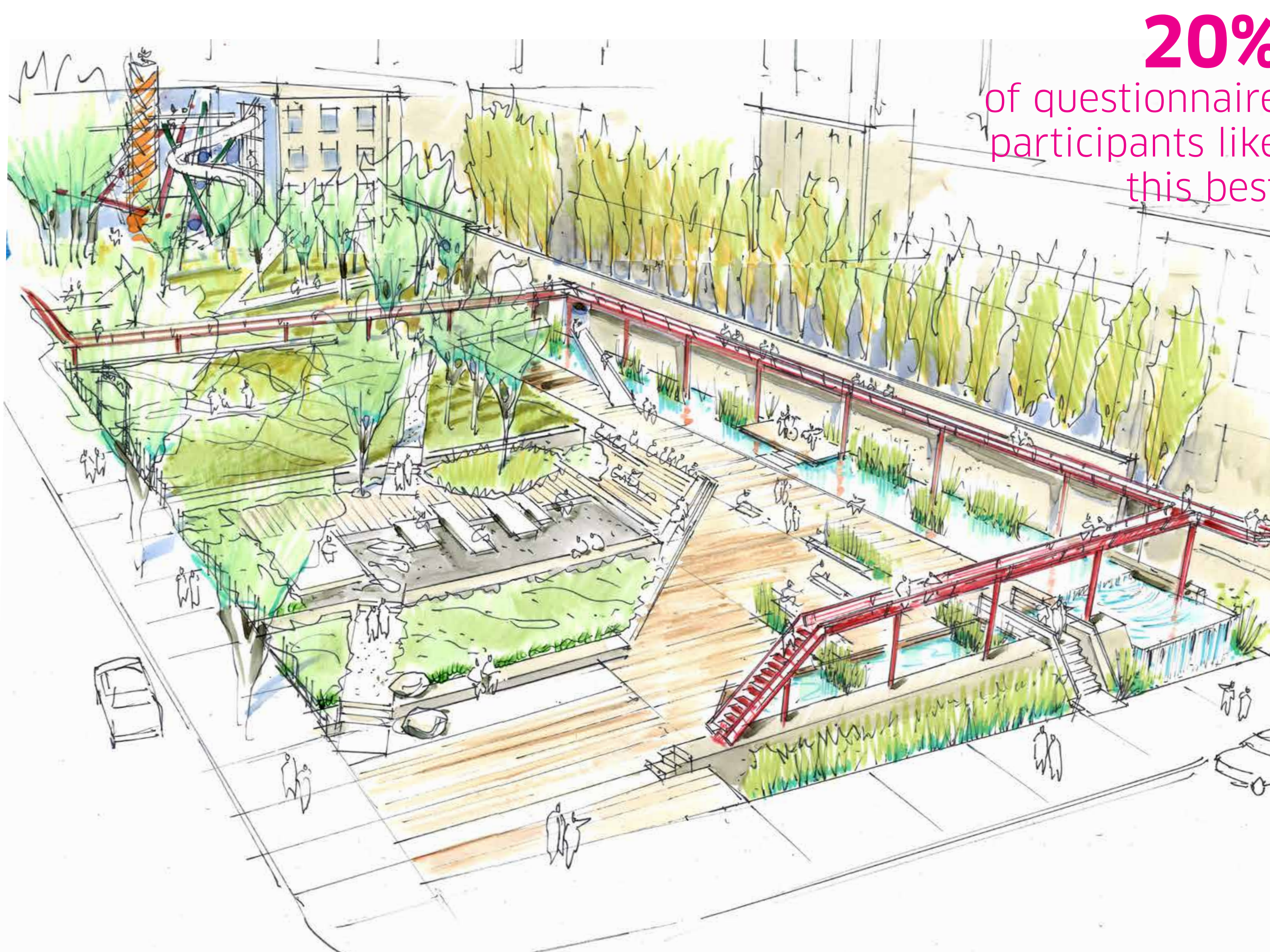
Participants liked:

- activity terraces
- water feature
- coffee kiosk and other food-related destinations (PDFG)

Participants didn't like:

- less green near Smithe (i.e. compared to Concept 1)

CONCEPT 3 - HERE AND NOW



20%
of questionnaire
participants like
this best

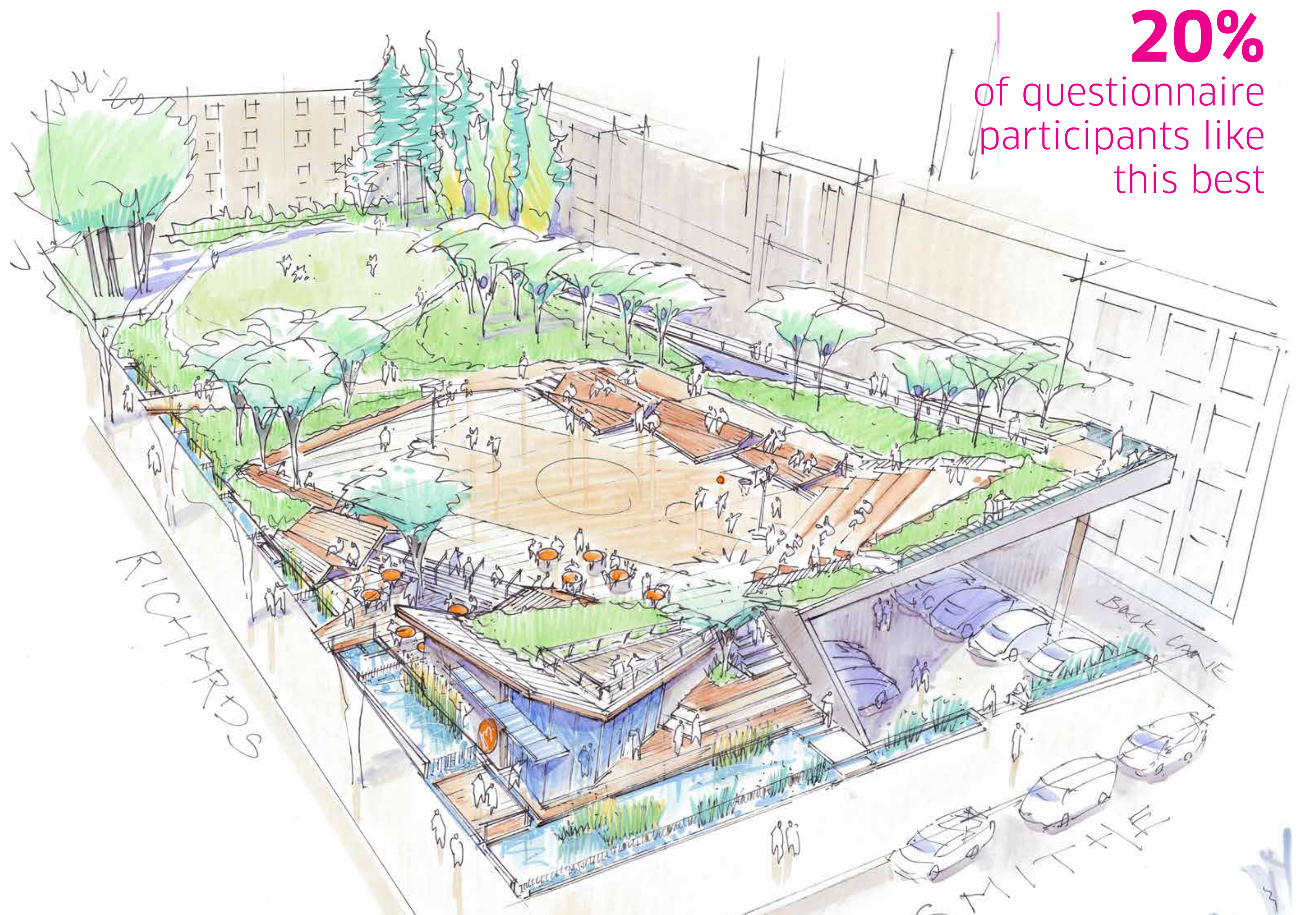
Participants liked:

- captured and celebrated rain water
- elevated pathway with views (PDFG)

Participants didn't like:

- wall along the laneway

CONCEPT 4 - CONSTRUCTED

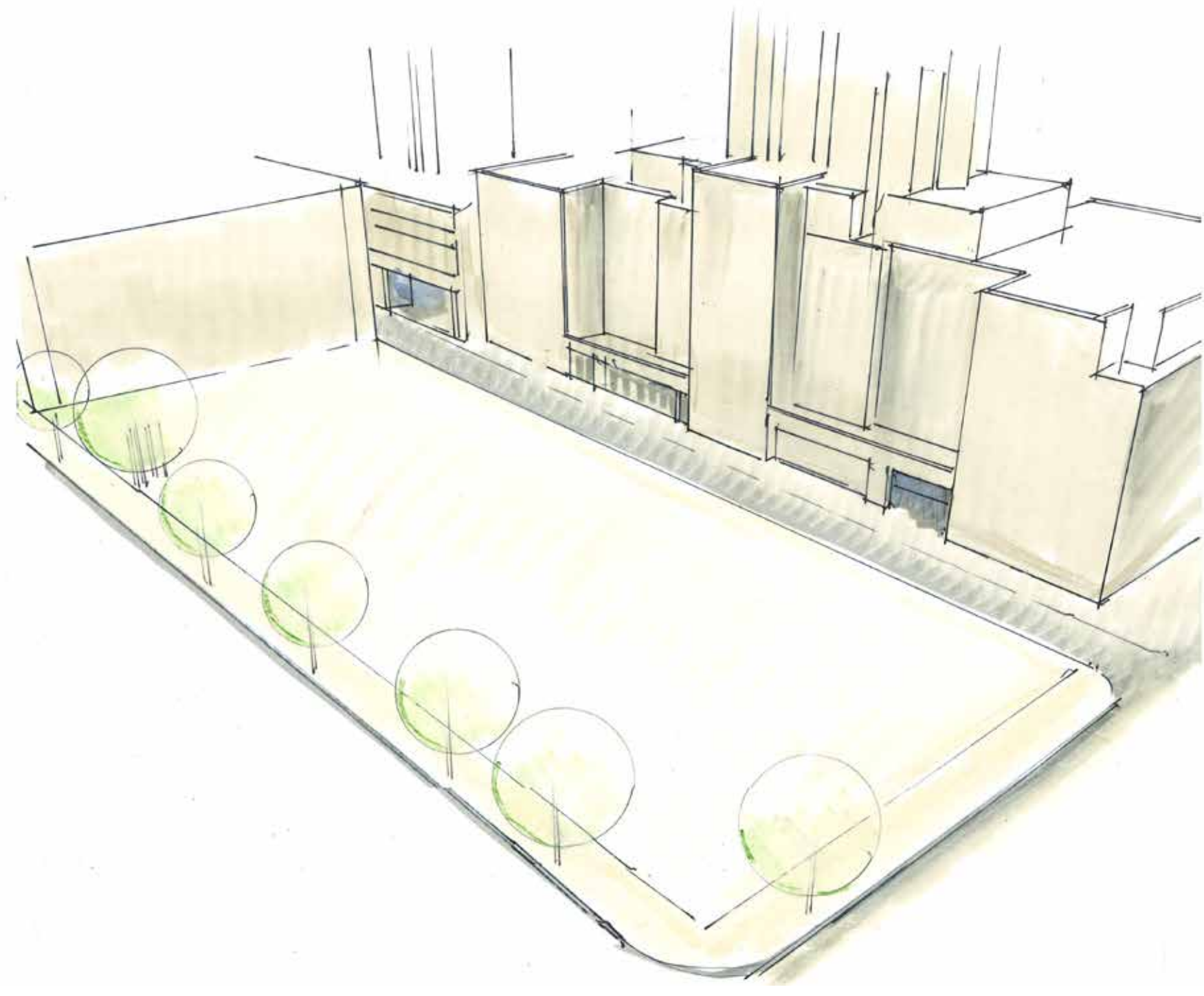


20%
of questionnaire
participants like
this best

Participants liked and disliked:

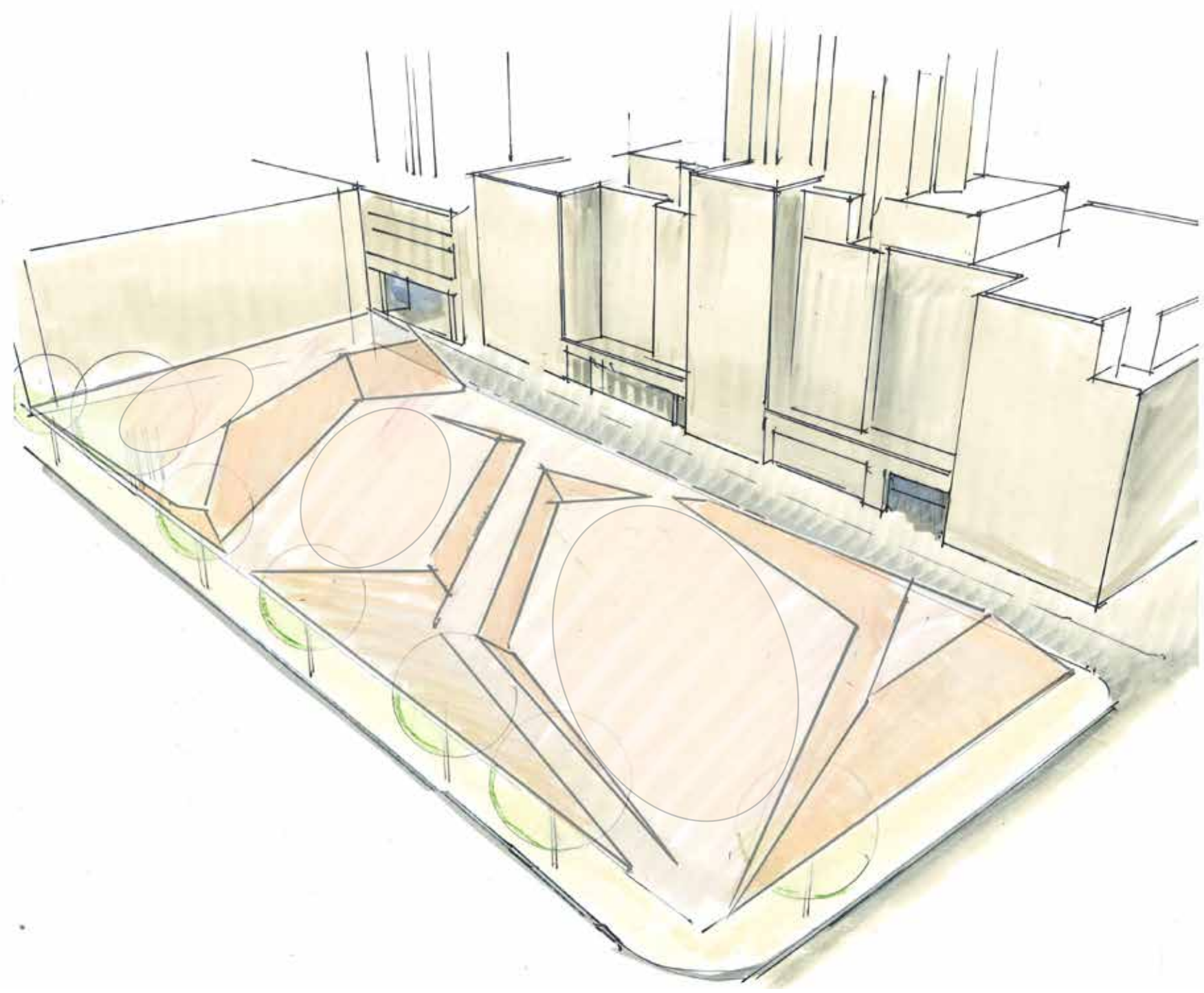
- an equal number of participants liked and disliked the hidden/underground bike or car parking

PUTTING IT TOGETHER



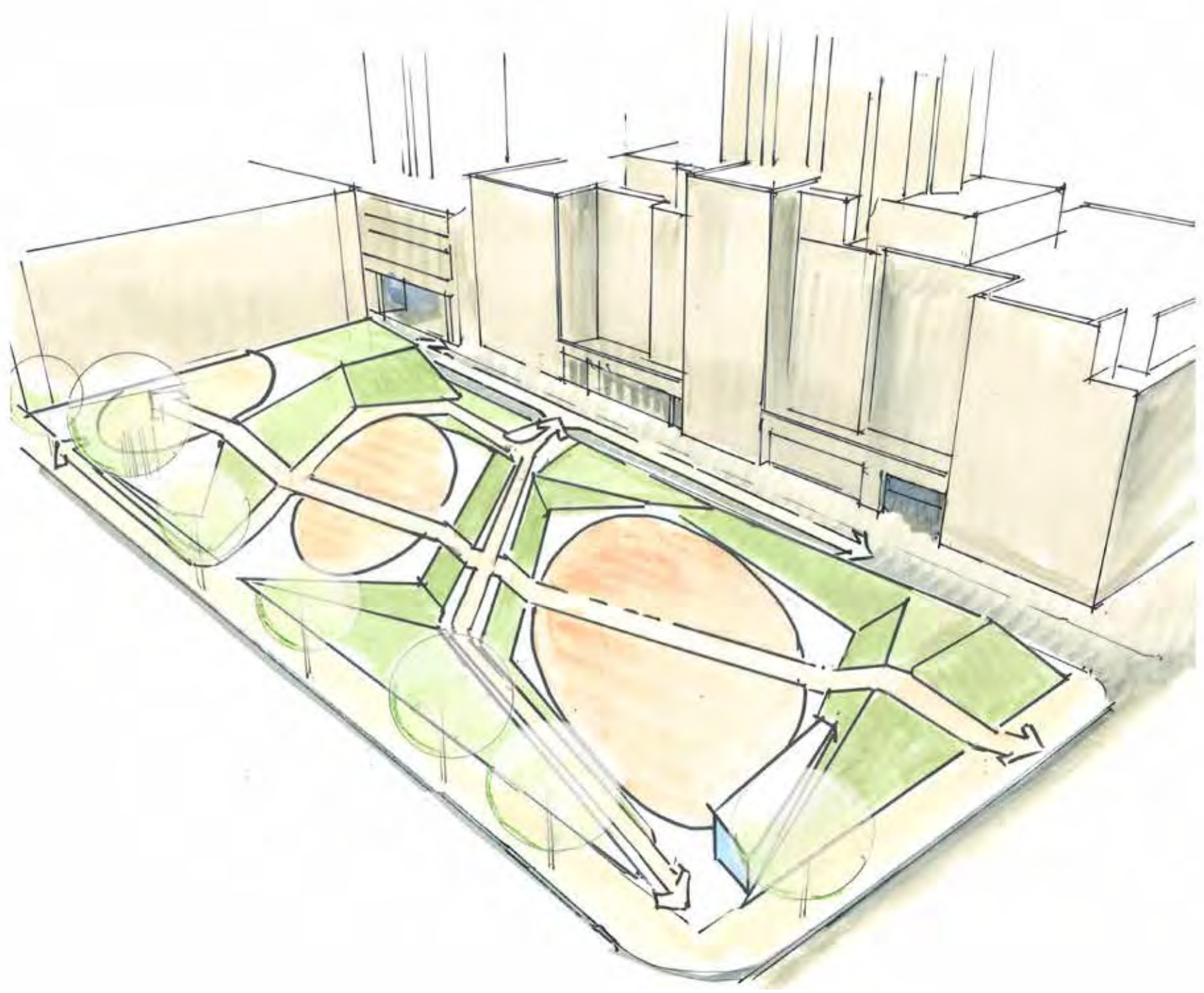
existing site

- Empty site, with a **5 meter slope** from the north to the south (Smithe Street)
- Existing **trees** are maintained



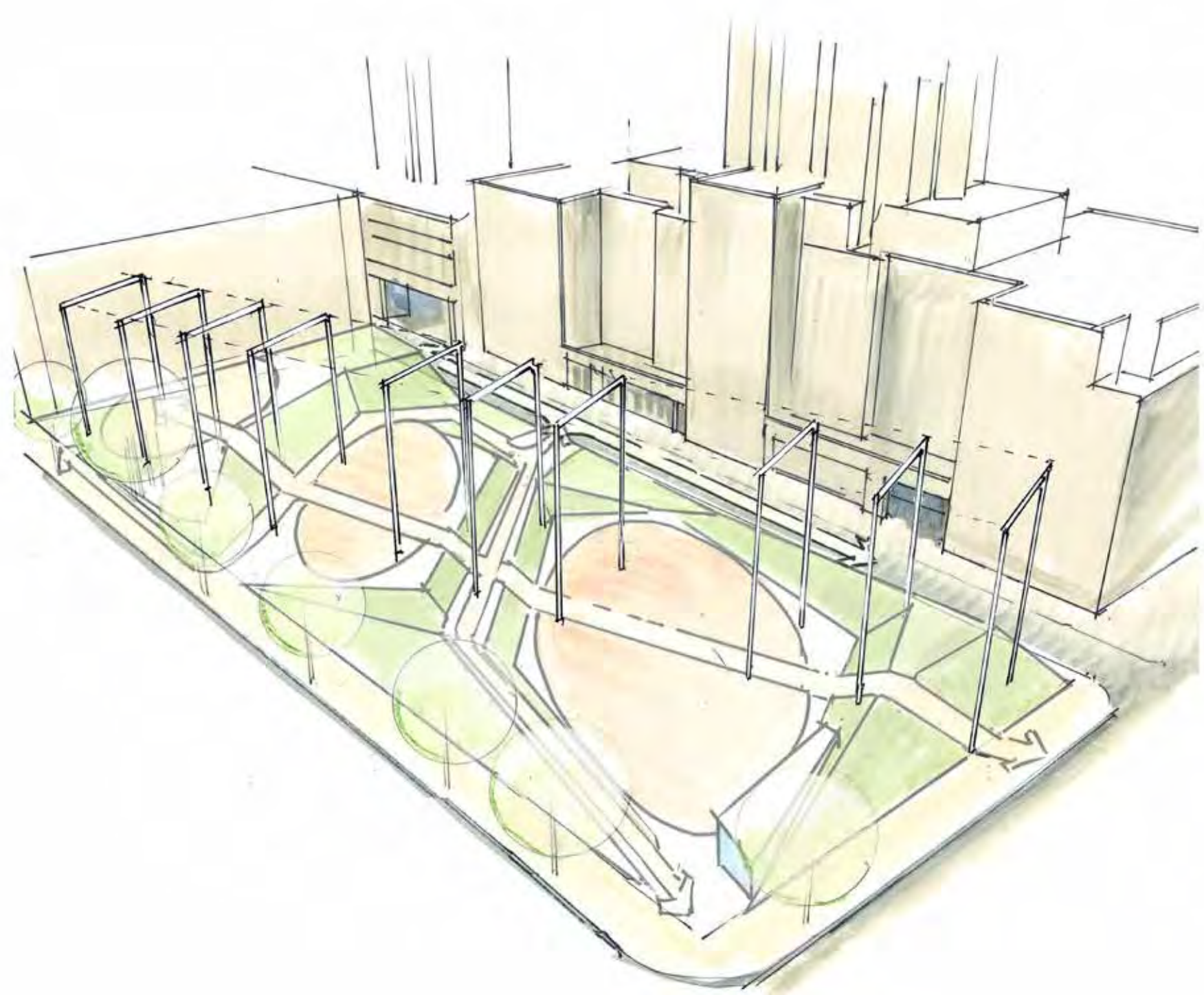
terraced landform

- Creation of **usable flat areas** due to the sloped site
- Berms and earthworks **create definition** for the site, and **buffer noise** from buildings and traffic



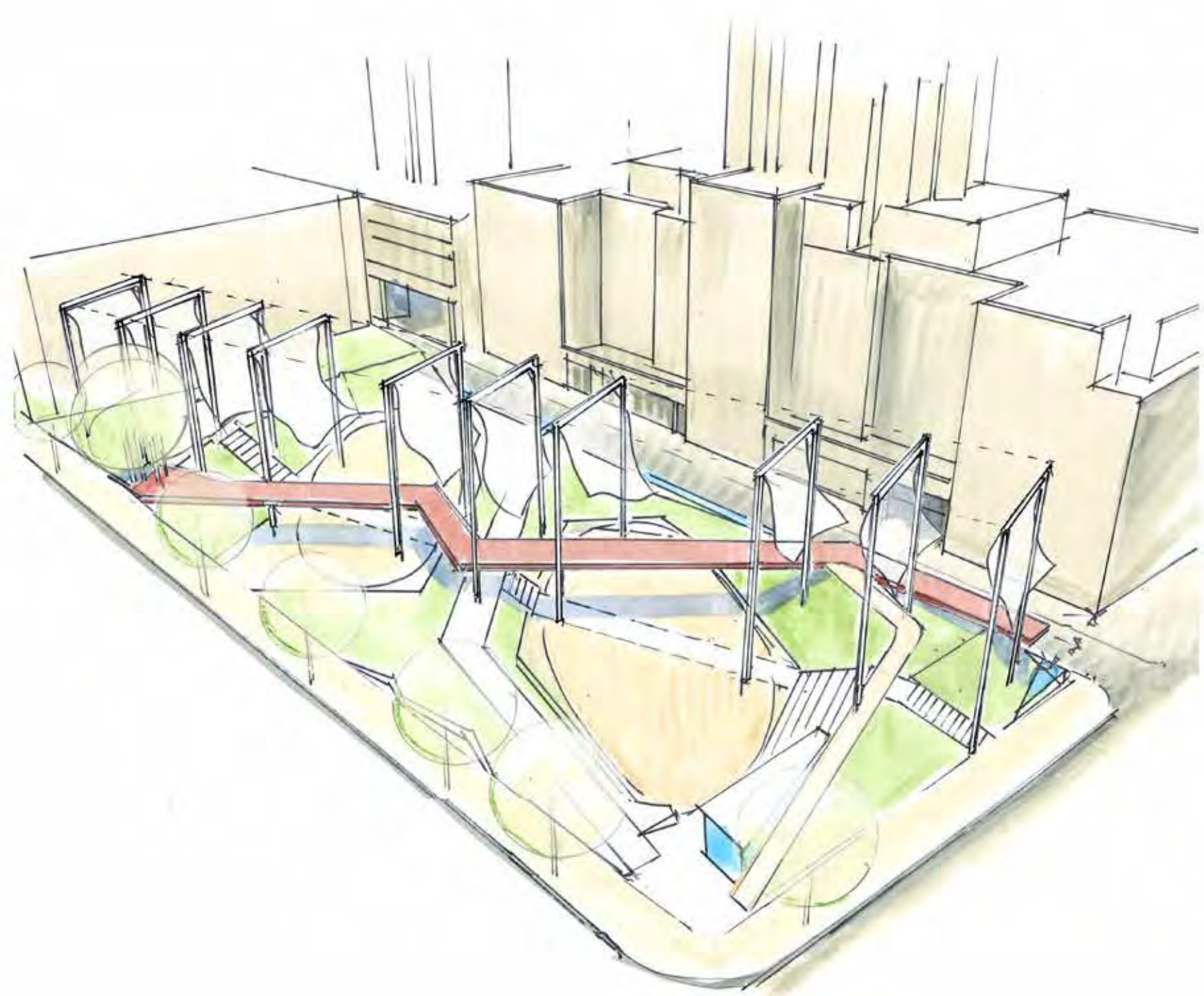
green and connected

- Plenty of **lush greenery**, with plantings making up **over half of the site**
- Plantings strategically situated in raised areas - away from foot traffic and pet waste - to promote a **durability**
- Three **distinctive terraces** create spaces for diverse park activities
- A path connects the top (north) to the bottom (south), creating a new, **direct route** from Richards to Smithe
- Meandering, universally accessible pathways link all the areas in the proposed **'barrier-free'** park design



scale and transformation

- **"Skyframes"** are tall slender structures that create a more **intimate and comfortable human scale** against tall neighbouring buildings
- They can be curated with **diverse types of art**, as well as suspended lighting and more, that can change over time
- Skyframes hold contextual and **historic reference points**, placed on earlier residential lines and by marching southward as a gateway to the historic site of former "Recreation Park" on Homer and Smithe
- Skyframes are intended to help the Park stay **current, interesting, and memorable**, regularly transforming the space and creating a **unique sense of place** that puts this Downtown park on city and international maps

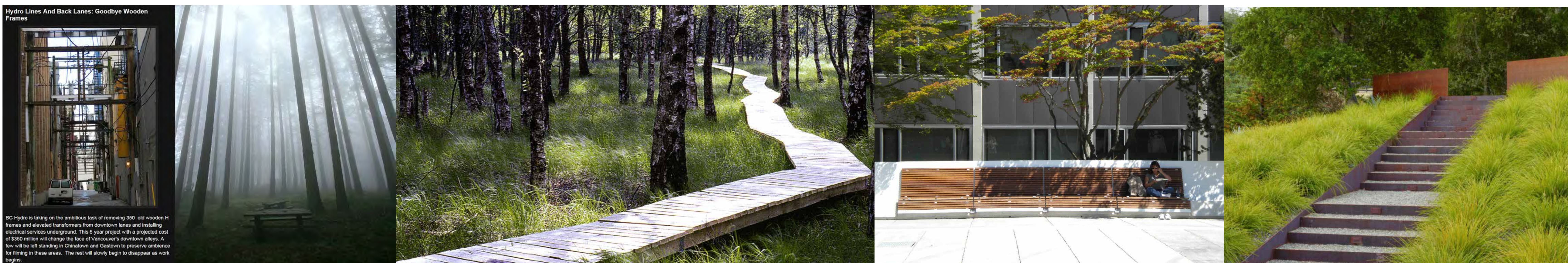
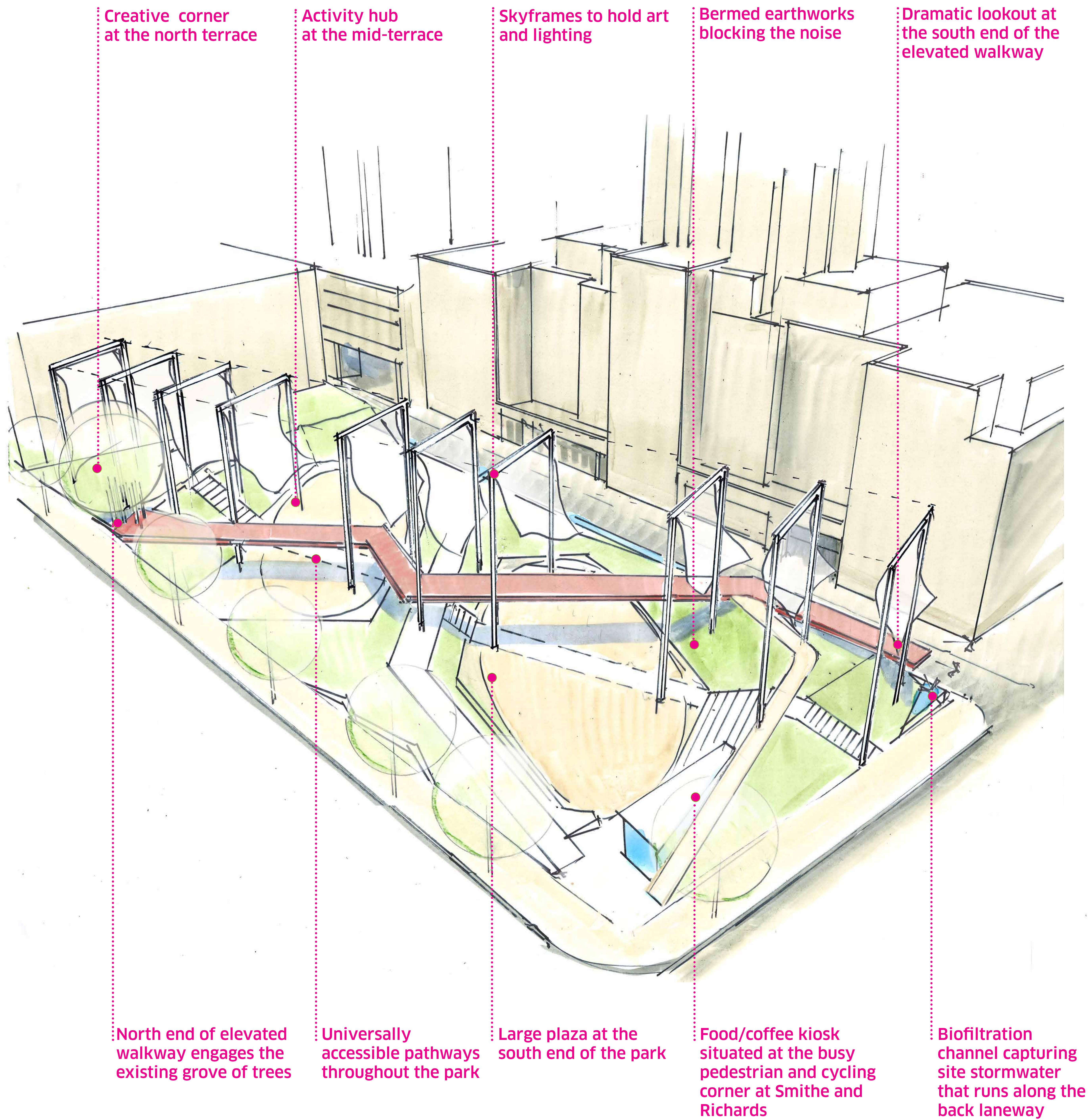


identity and program

- An **elevated walkway** creates a bold feature that weaves through the park, providing a unique and barrier-free journey across the entire park
- The elevated walkway acts as a **playful armature**, from which swings, hammocks, and slides can be hung
- With downward views, it encourages **"eyes on the park"** and **sense of safety**
- It ends in a cantilevered lookout over Smithe Street, which creates a **strong visual impression** for people traveling along that street, announcing the park and creating a **gateway experience**

BUILDING THE CONCEPT

The following are the building blocks of the Preferred Concept, which combine the preferred elements of the four concepts.



SUNSHINE IN THE PARK

Sun and shade will vary in the park throughout the day and year. There will be patches of sunshine mid-morning all year, and in early evening in the summer. The site will be covered in plenty of sunshine at mid-day, except in winter.

These are the sun and shade characteristics in the park in June, September, December, and March.

JUNE 21 (SUMMER SOLSTICE)



10:00 am

MARCH/SEPTEMBER 21 (EQUINOX)



DECEMBER 21 (WINTER SOLSTICE)



10:00 am



2:00 pm



2:00 pm



6:00 pm

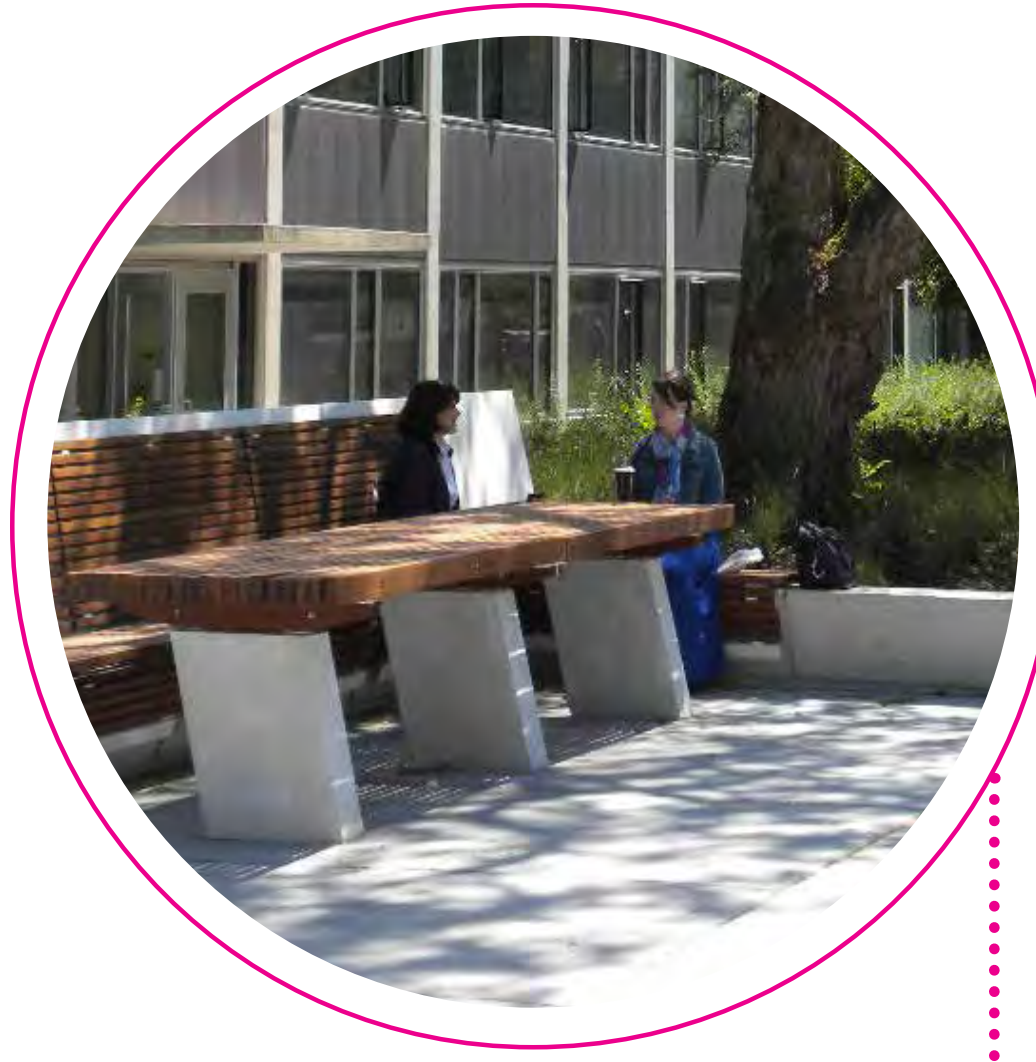


6:00 pm

CONCEPT INGREDIENTS

Creative Corner

- This **quiet space** is at the high point of the park, with views and shade dappled seating
- It would feature a **community long table** for meals, reading, and more
- It could also include **art exhibits** and other activities



Lush and Biodiverse Naturescapes

- There are lots of diverse, native trees and other plants, creating a **lush, green landscape**
- These are in areas protected from primary activity areas, creating durability for this busy downtown area
- They offer **informal seating edges** along pathways



Back Lane and Rain Water

- A **bio-filtration channel** near the back lane collects, conveys, and cleans rainwater before it enters the storm system and ultimately False Creek
- It also creates a **beautiful green amenity** that links that park and laneway with a shared edge



Active Play Area

- In the centre of the park, this terrace has good **visual and physical connections** to the rest of the park
- It would have custom play equipment and offer **active play experiences for children of all ages**



Playful Water Feature

- This central water feature is located in the largest open space in the park
- When on, it can **activate this space** on a daily basis
- When off, it can make space for **other activities**



Programmable Space / Peoples' Plaza

- The lowest and largest terrace benefits from the **most direct sunshine**
- Beyond the playful waterjets, this hard surfaced area is designed to accommodate **diverse activities**, ranging from table tennis to makers fairs
- Whimsical **hammocks and swings** will be suspended from the elevated walkway above



Sunny Seating Terraces

- This terraced seating areas is integrated into the **coffee kiosk roof** and overlooks the park
- These offer **great views** of life in the park, while doubling as an **amphitheater** during events
- A similar terraced seating area is situated near the Creative Corner in the north



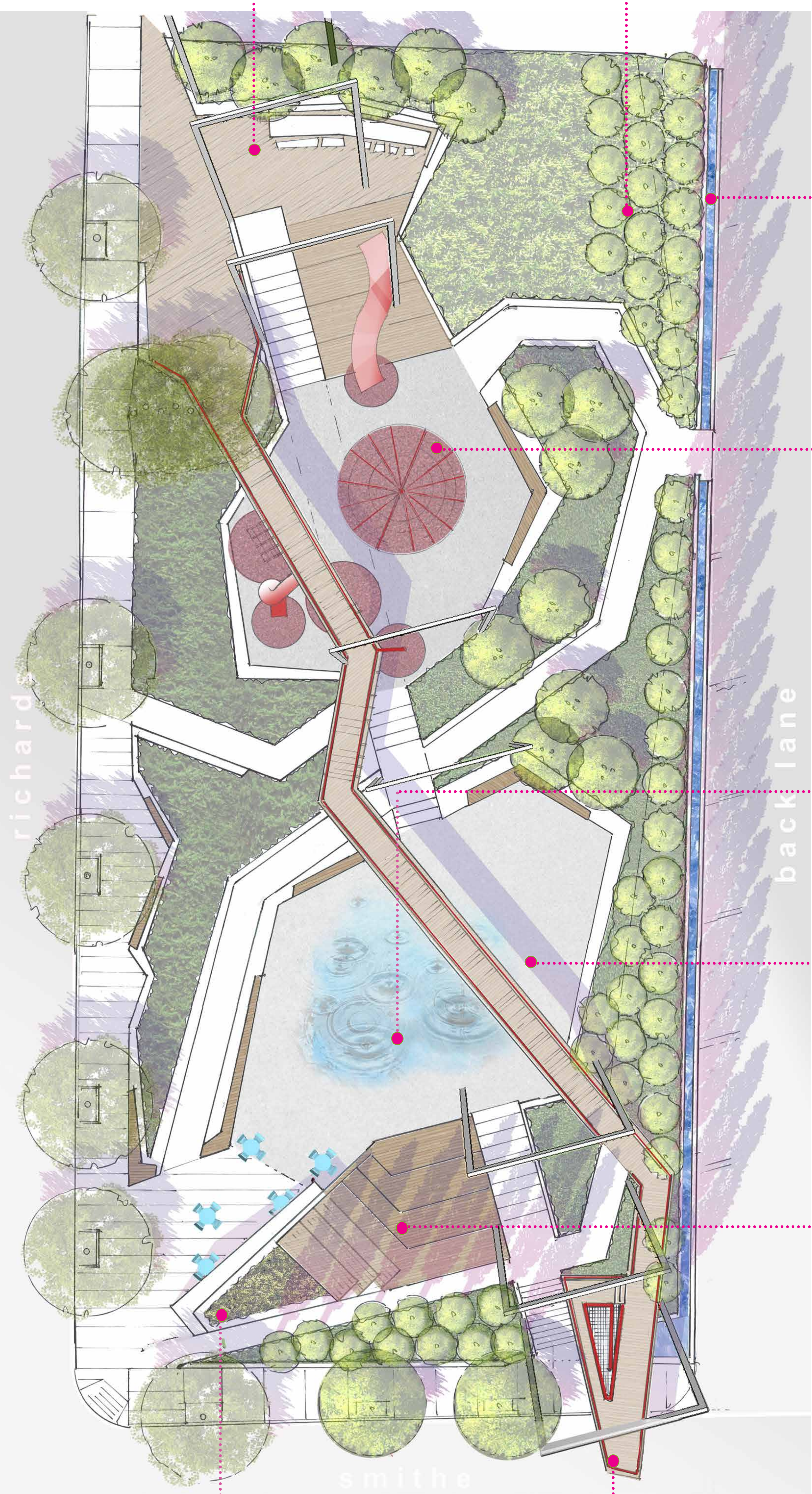
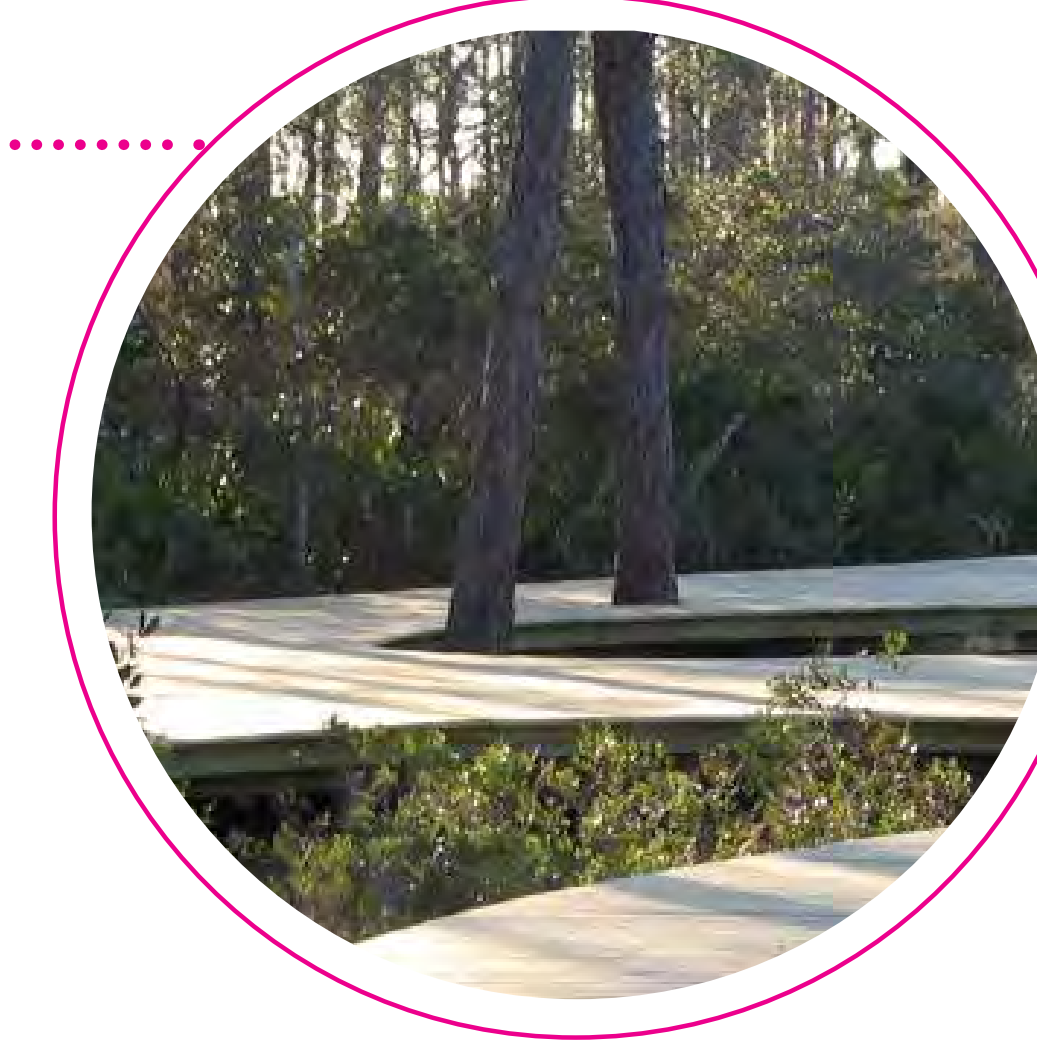
Coffee and/or Food

- A small coffee and/or food kiosk at the corner will **invite passersby** into the park
- It will create people-activity, creating both **social experiences** and a **sense of safety**

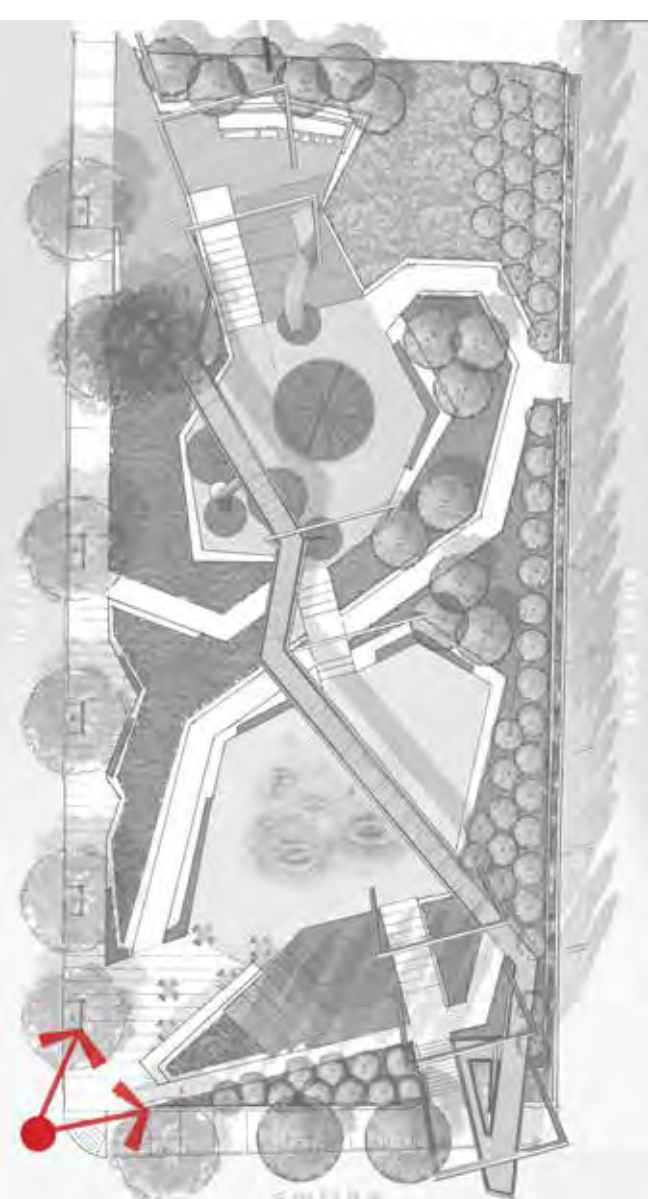
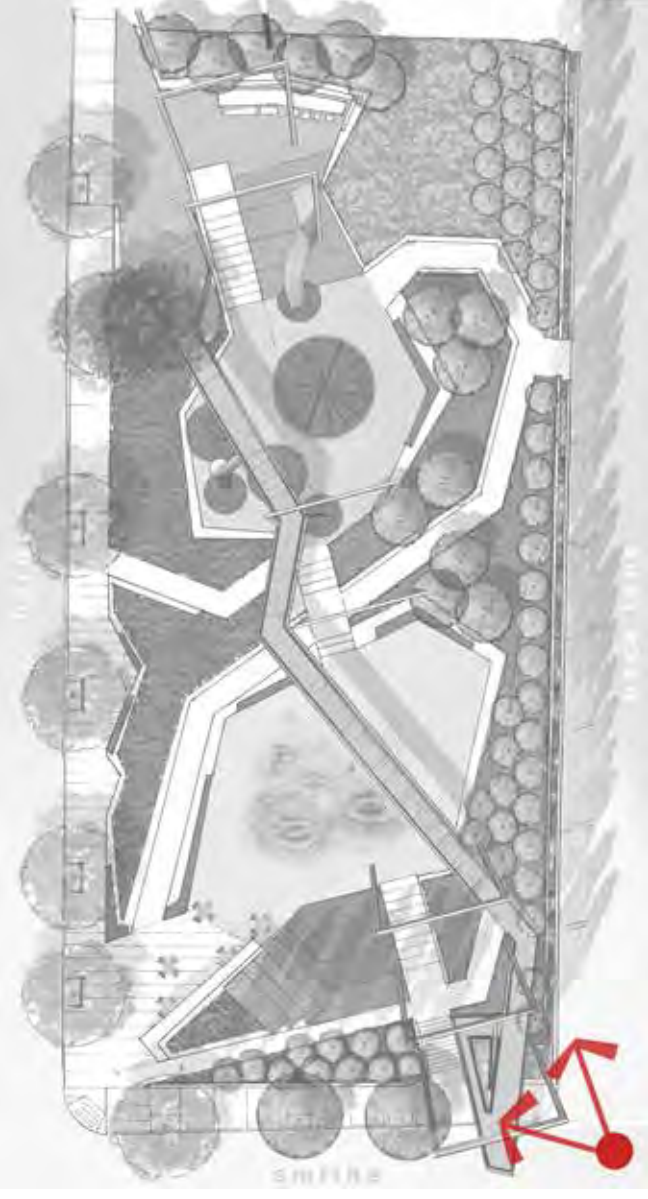


Elevated Journey and Views

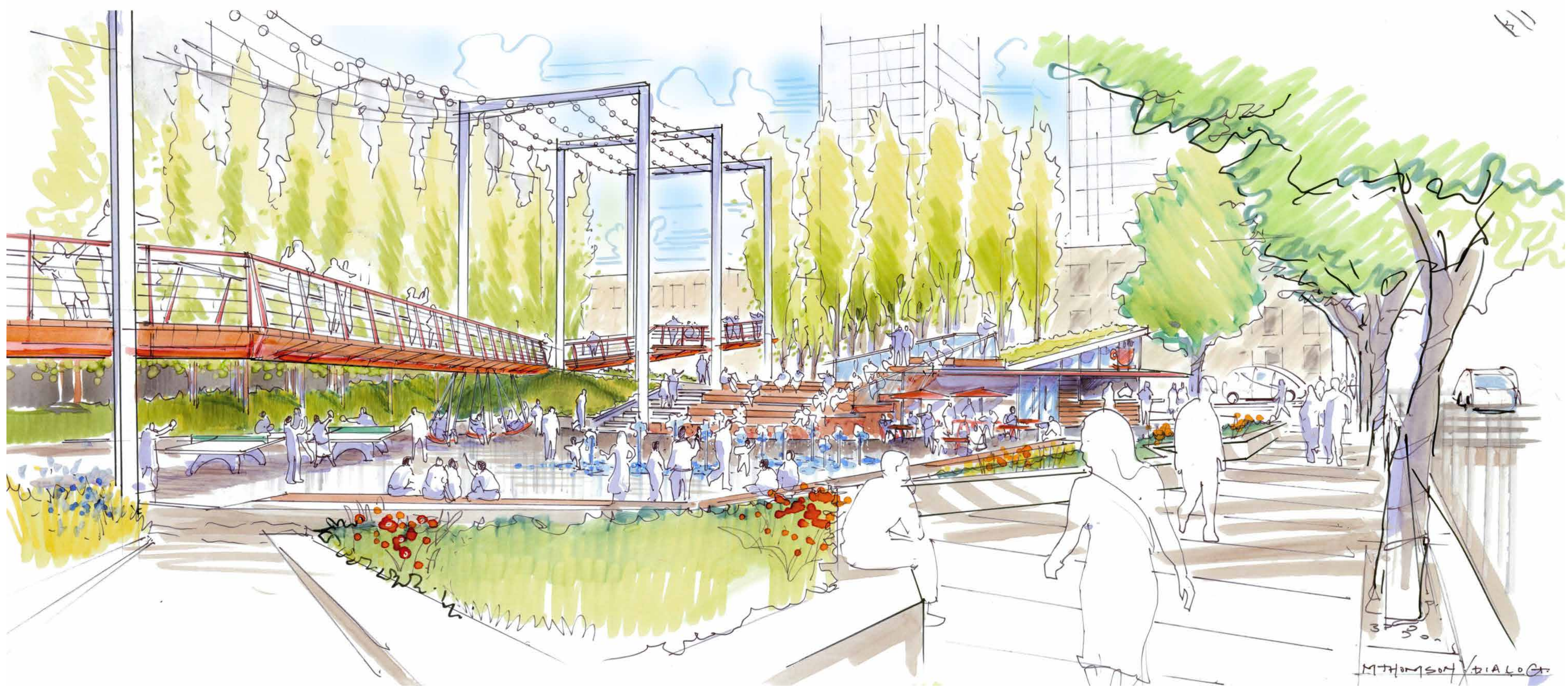
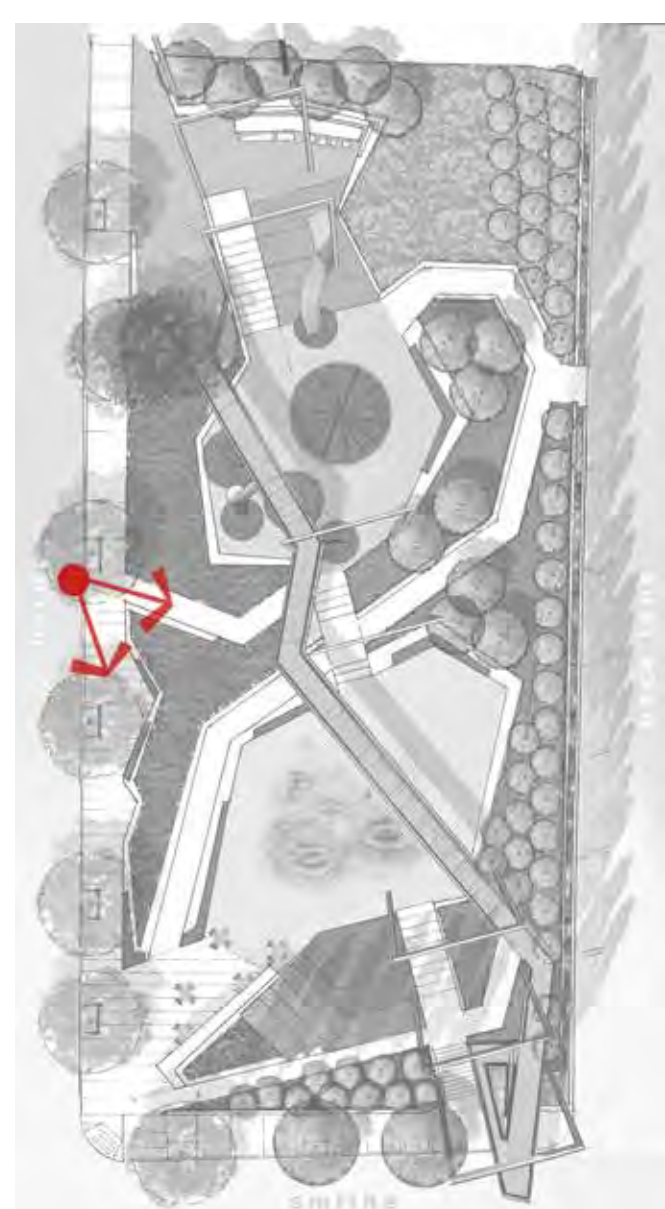
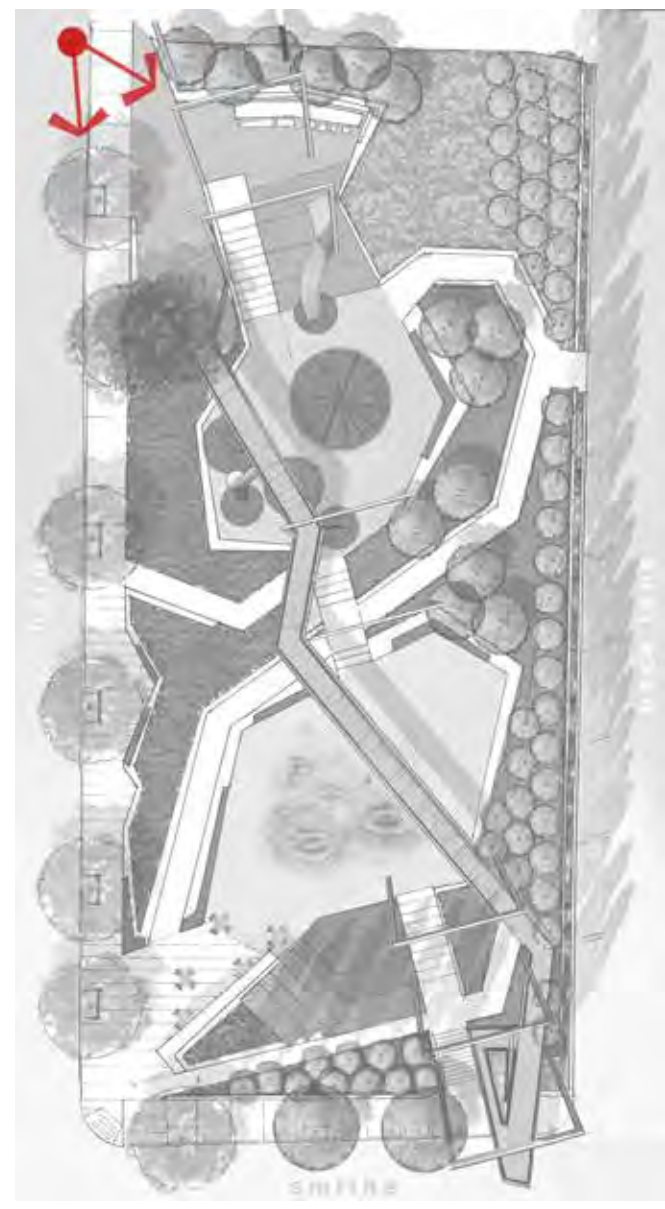
- An **elevated, barrier-free walkway** provides a short cut through the site
- It offers many raised vantage points above the park, providing views and **supporting safety** through "eyes on the park"
- This unique structure creates a **"wow" moment** for passersby on Smithe Street, creating a strong sense of arrival in the Downtown from the east



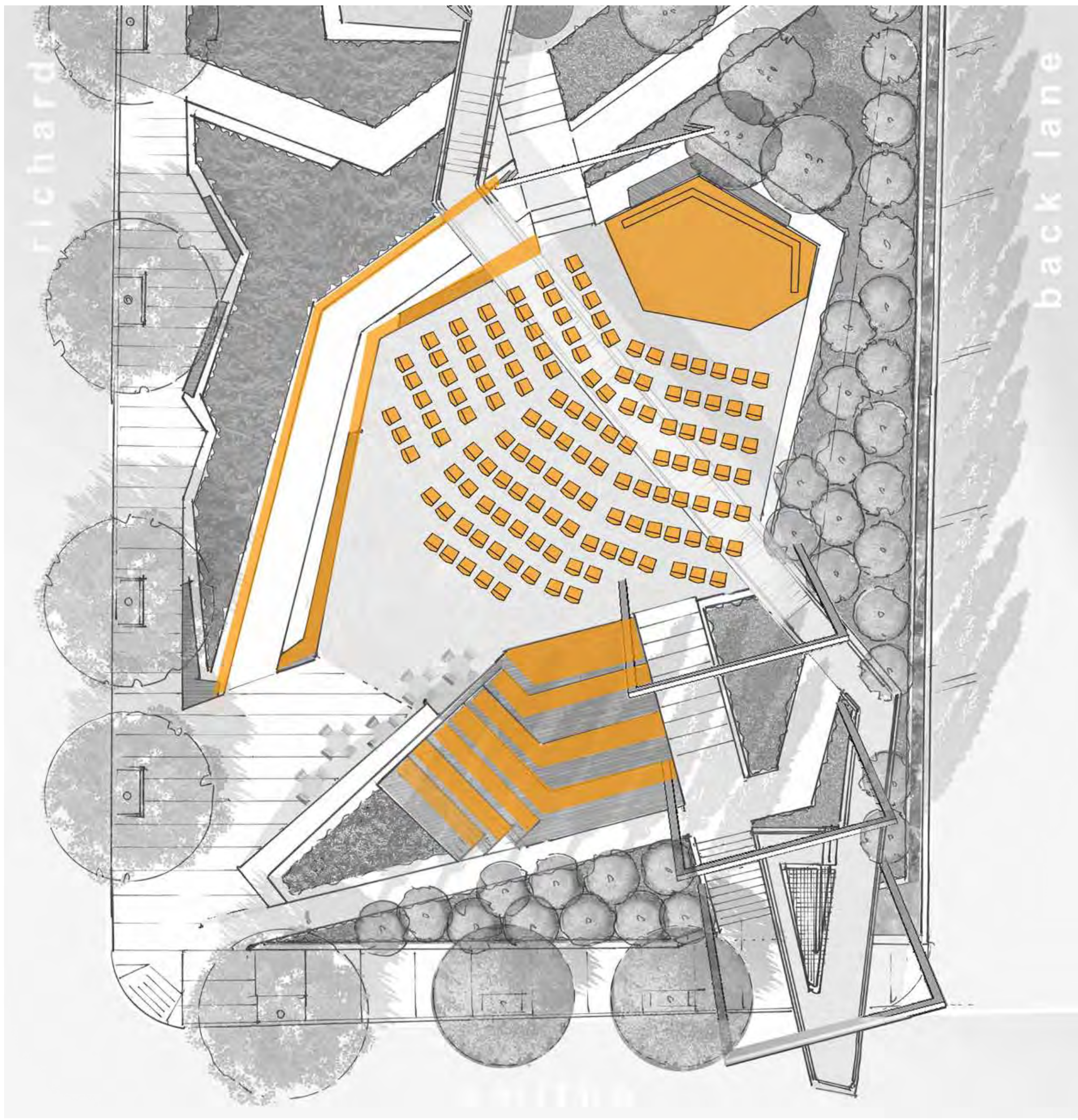
LOOK AND FEEL



LOOK AND FEEL



POTENTIAL PROGRAMS



Staged Events

- The lower plaza space would be designed to **easily and quickly adapt** to accommodate small staged events, such as acoustic music, theatre or poetry readings
- The types of potential staged events would have to take into consideration the relatively small size of space and be **respectful of nearby residential buildings**
- The elevated walkway would allow for **maintained pedestrian circulation** through the park, and would also provide **views onto the event below** and enable **event lighting** to be attached to the underside of the walkway structure

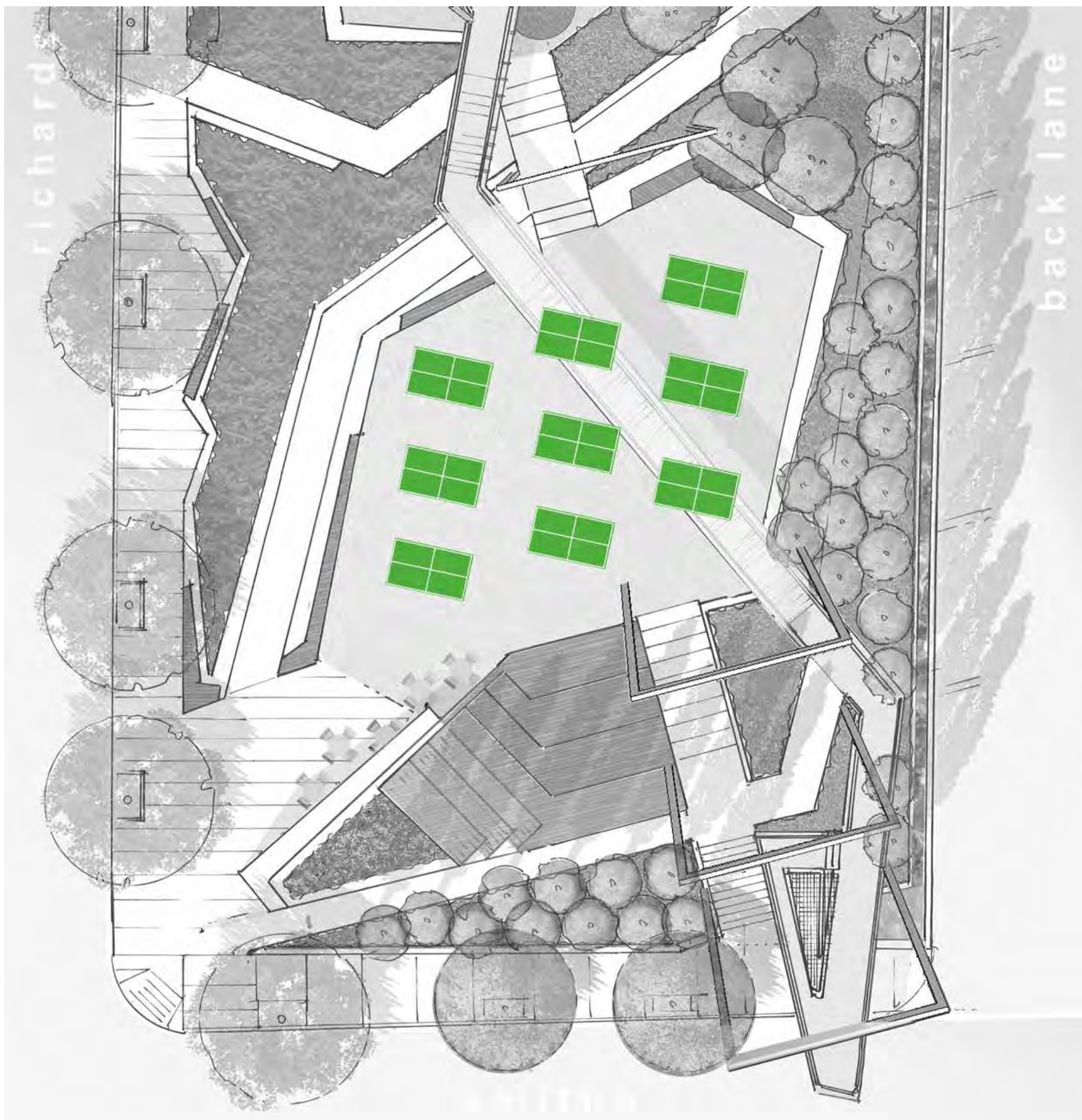
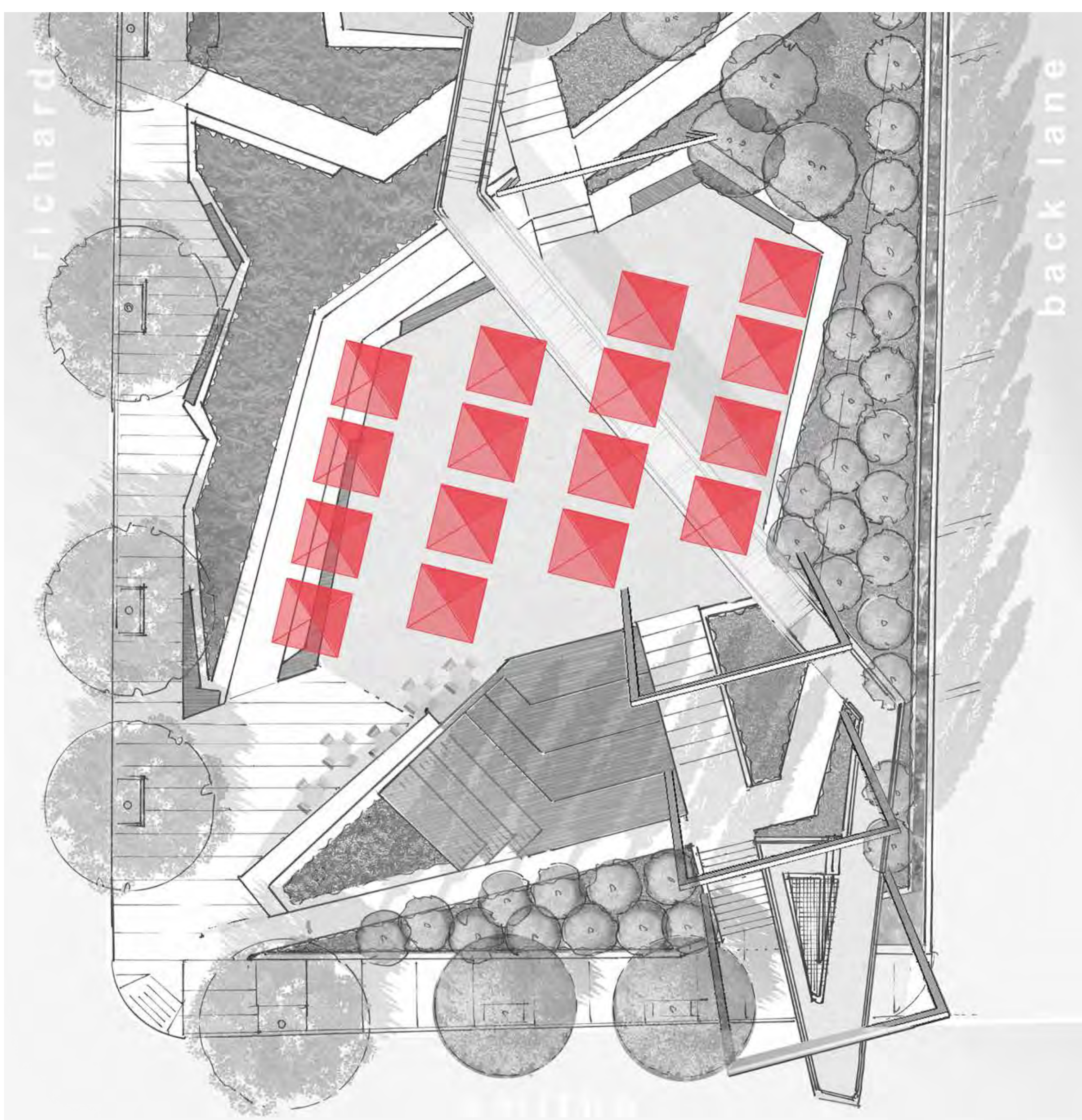


Table Tennis Tournaments

- One or two outdoor **ping pong tables** could be located in the park to informally engage park users on a daily basis
- Storage for folding tables and table tennis equipment could be integrated into the coffee/food kiosk, enabling **organized events or multiple players** to participate



Makers Fairs & Farmers Markets

- The central location of the park and its close proximity to residential buildings also create a prime location for **small seasonal enterprises** to situate temporary stalls on certain weekends or evenings



WHAT'S NEXT?

Using Your Input

Thank you for attending today's open house! We value your time and contributions to this process. Please fill out a questionnaire to share your input.

The community input we receive will be incorporated into revisions to the Preferred Concept before it is presented to the Vancouver Park Board for approval. We are also gathering input through stakeholder discussions.

Other inputs that will influence decision-making include:



Stay Involved!



Online Questionnaire:
vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards



@ParkBoard #SmitheRichards



facebook.com/ParkBoard #SmitheRichards



SmitheRichards@vancouver.ca



3-1-1

The Process

