

Market Lane Park Improvements

Community Workshop #2

The Planning Partnership

ERA Architects

Two Row Architect

November 18, 2021



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the land and water we are meeting on are territories shared by many nations for thousands of years including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is a part of Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Dish with One Spoon Wampum.

Introductions

Stakeholders

Overview and Timeline

What We Heard

Design Concepts

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3

Discussion

Stakeholders

City of Toronto

Parks Forestry and Recreation

Transportation Services

Indigenous Affairs Office

Economic Development and Culture

St. Lawrence Market

Heritage Planning

Real Estate Management

Neighbourhood

St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA

Market Square Condominium - 85 Front St. E. and 35 Church St.

Adjoining Property Owners

Project Team

The Planning Partnership

Project Lead, Landscape Architecture & Consultation

Two Row Architect

Heritage, Design and Indigenous Engagement

ERA Architect

Heritage

DEW Inc.

Water Feature Design

Gabriel Mackinnon

Lighting Design

Technical support from
engineering and costing
consultants

Objectives

Scope of Work:

To improve Market Lane Park through a design and construction process that responds to heritage, maintains pedestrian connectivity from King Street to Front Street, connects with the new St. Lawrence North building, integrates Indigenous place-keeping, and enhances park amenities. It will re imagine the fountain and address the Return of the Magri-Stecchi public art feature.

The design will evolve through consultation with stakeholders, area residents, Indigenous communities and the general public to achieve design excellence and meet the current and future needs of the community.



Timeline

Master Plan

Develop a park master plan based on the community vision

Spring-Winter 2021

Design

Develop a design based on the park's master plan

Spring-Summer 2022

Build

Build the park based on the design

Summer 2022-2023

Phase 1

Background & Analysis

Phase 2

Consultation and Concept Design

Phase 3

Detailed Design Development

Phase 4

Contract Documentation

Phase 5

Tender

Phase 6

Construction Administration

Phase 7

Close Out



we are here

Overview of Consultation

 **we are here**

Community Engagement

Phase 1

Background Review, Site Investigation and Analysis

Spring-Summer 2021



TAC

May 26



IWG

May

One-on-one conversations

May

Topic focused discussions and interviews

May

June

Phase 2A

Vision, Principles and Big Moves

Summer 2021



TAC



IWG



CRG

June 15

Indigenous Placekeeping Circle

late June

Public Workshop 1

Vision, Principles and Big Moves

June 29

Online Survey

Phase 2B

Concept Options

Fall 2021



TAC



IWG



CRG

Indigenous Placekeeping Circle

Fall

Public Workshop 2

Discuss Concept Options

Nov 18



Online Survey

Phase 2C

Preferred Concept Design

Winter 2021 - Spring 2022



TAC



IWG



CRG

Indigenous Placekeeping Circle

early Jan

Public Workshop 3

Preferred Concept

mid Jan



Online Surveys

IWG - Internal Working Group, City of Toronto
TAC - Technical Advisory Committee, City of Toronto
CRG - Community Reference Group

Conversations to Date



- City's Economic Development and Culture, Heritage Planning and Transportation Divisions
- City's Technical Advisory Committee
- Community Resource Group
- Public consultation meeting #1 of 3 (with 3 sessions)
- St. Lawrence Market
- St. Lawrence Market Precinct Advisory Committee
- Market Square Condominium representatives
- Indigenous community representatives
- Vulnerable community using the park

What We Heard – Indigenous Engagement

- Many groups **do not feel comfortable** using the park today
- The concept of **safety must apply equitably to all park users**, not just housed local residents, and including people experiencing homelessness, Indigenous and 2SLGBTQIA+
- **Place-keeping is intended to mean inclusion for all users**, not just artwork
- **Involve Indigenous communities** in the visioning process; use the opportunity to train Indigenous people through the design/construction process
- Explore **new models** of public space design and management that are more inclusive to decolonize and Indigenize broader operating systems, which is part of the Truth and Reconciliation process
- Indigenous community wants to feel and be welcome in this park and all parks - be able to **engage in cultural practices** such as smudging and drumming without being asked for permits or hearing racist comments

What We Heard – Online Survey



271 respondents

- 33% visit the park a few times a week
- most walk through the park
- most visit the park alone
- most important elements:
 - trees/shrubs/flowers
 - lighting
 - safety
- most agree the existing public art should be decommissioned and removed from the park

What We Heard – Community Resource Group



- **coordination with paving and lighting** renewal of the adjacent Market Square condominium site
- consideration of the **connections** to St. James Park and Market Street
- ensuring **accessibility** of the space and the provision of seating
- interest in having a **spill-out space** from the North Market building
- general support for the **decommissioning of the public art** feature Return of the Magri-Stechhi
- ensuring the park **doesn't try to fit in too much** in a small space
- providing **service access** for vehicles to unload material for Market vendors and set up tents in the park during Farmers Market, Antique Market
- St. Lawrence Market wants **space for programming** such as tents in the park for various sizes of events

What We Heard – Public Workshop



113 people

- Market Lane Park can be a connector among the great parks in the neighbourhood
- other parks in the neighbourhood are more appropriate for large/noisier programming
- Market Lane Park is a good place for smaller programming and food-related events
- good lighting, sight lines and a feeling of safety for all park users are important
- seating, greenery are important
- support for decommissioning and removal of the existing public art

What We Heard – Vulnerable Community

- people were sitting on the low wall around the defunct water feature
- one person has been coming for 30 years, self-identified as Indigenous, from Sagamok Anishnawbe First Nations near Sudbury, ON
- another has been in the neighbourhood for 17 years and lives nearby
- another lives in a nearby women's shelter
- one person comes to the park every day to pick up garbage

What features they want:

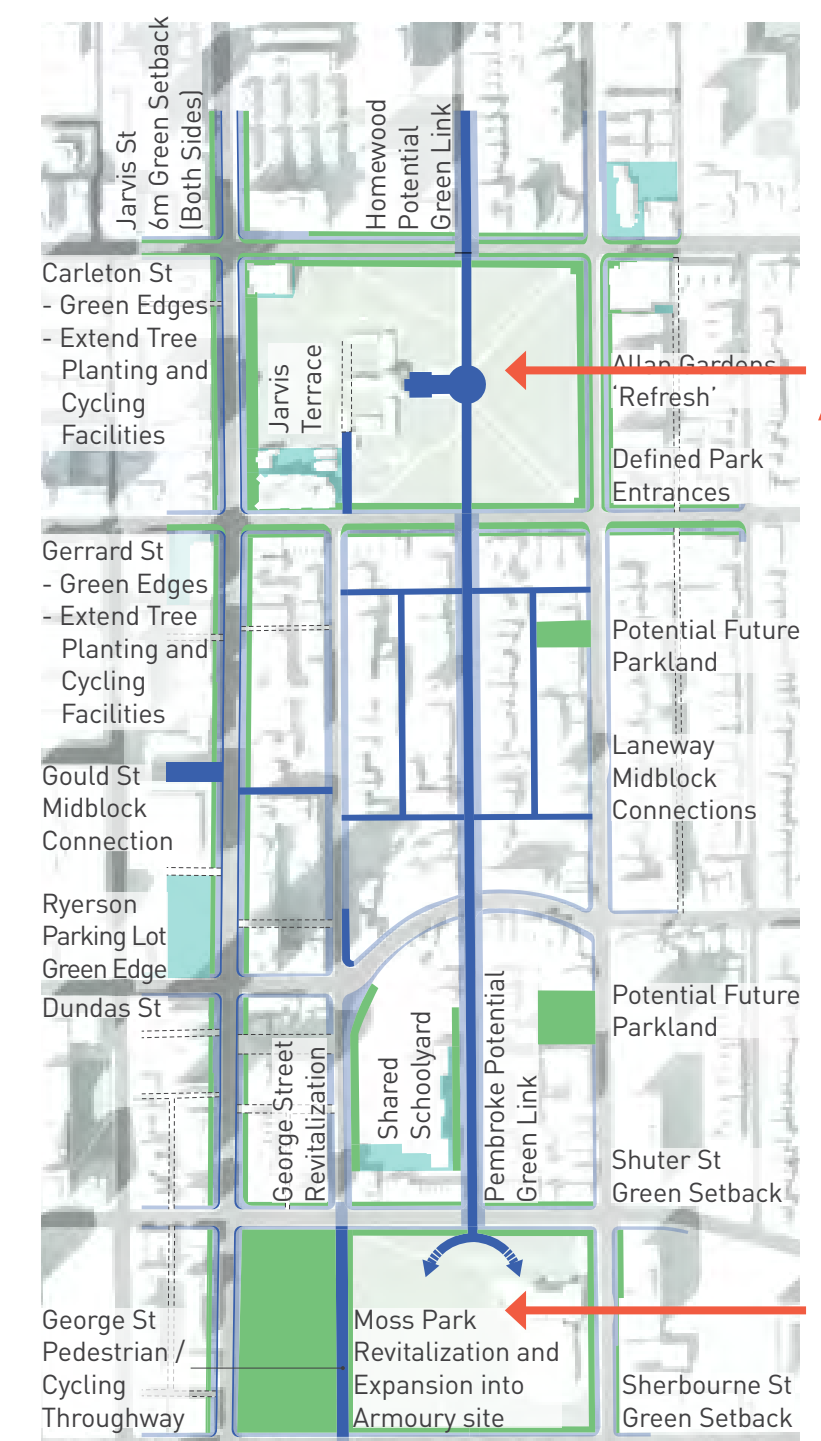
- picnic tables, benches - more seating
- drinking fountain for water
- fix the fountain
- garbage cans
- bring in drumming, more Indigenous cultural things

“My friends and I come here every day and we don't want to be held responsible for the litter.”

Design Options

Indigenous Place Keeping: A Network Opportunity

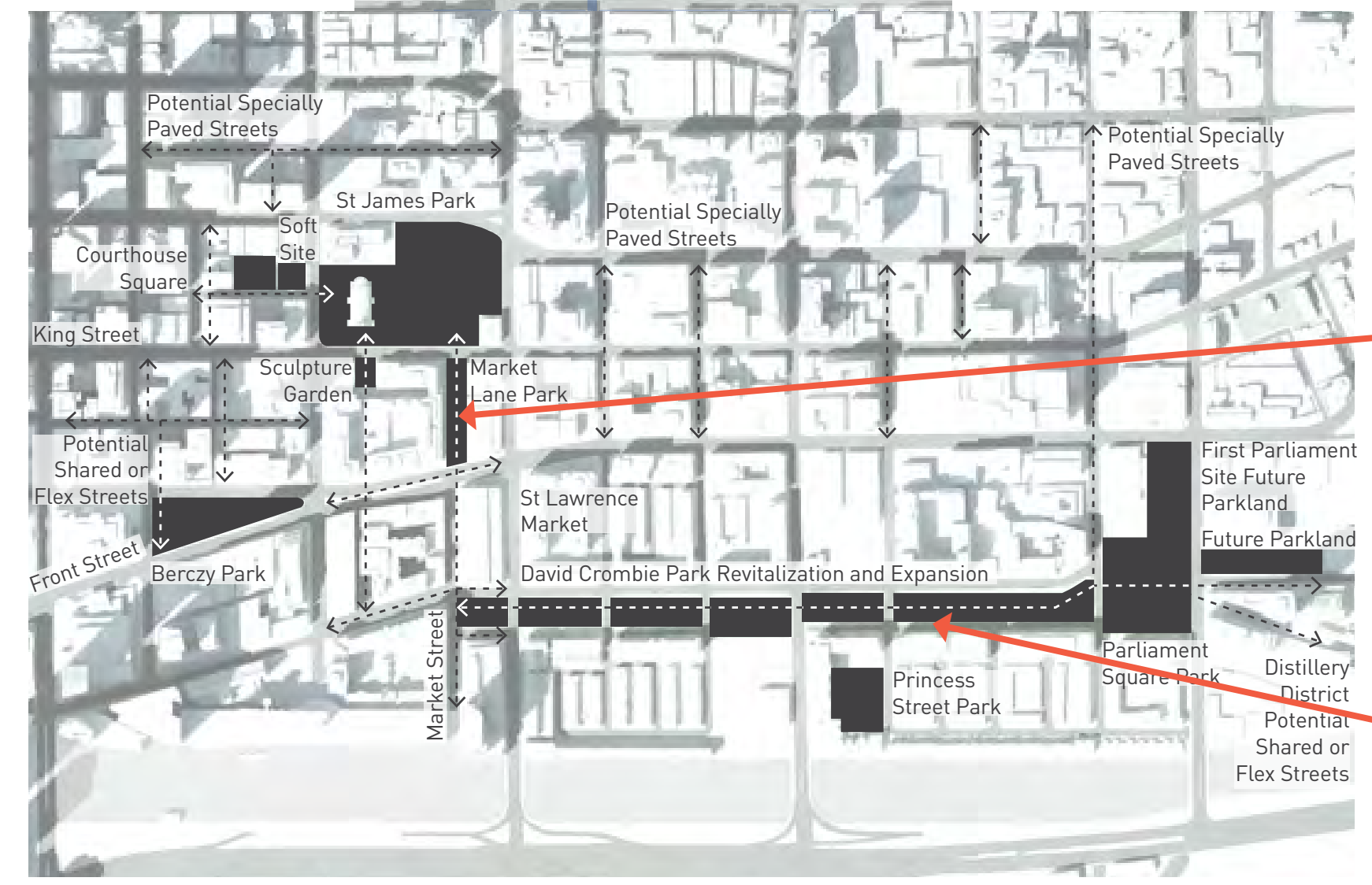
The Garden District



Allan Gardens

Moss Park

Old Town - St. Lawrence - Distillery



Market Lane Park

David Crombie Park

From the Downtown Parks and Public Realm Plan

St Lawrence Market Neighbourhood, Toronto, Canada

Heritage Themes

Evolution of the Landscape
and Indigenous Connection
with the Land



Pre 1803

Life in the Market Square



1803 - 1850

Market Changes and
the Expansion of the City



1850 - 1968

Reinvestment and
Post-industrial Planning



1969 - Present

Gathering Place

The options are consistent with the policies of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Heritage Conservation District Plan, including:

- protecting the view of St. Lawrence Market from the south end of Market Lane Park
- protecting the view of the Flatiron Building from the Front Street sidewalk
- the pedestrian circulation system through Market Lane Park is maintained
- park enhancements will protect the historical significant, and social/community value including maintaining circulation patterns, visual relationships, vegetation, and seating

Existing Tree Canopy

- Preserve existing trees wherever possible
- established, healthy canopy with strong apical growth
- 88% of trees are in good or fair-good condition
- Median Diameter of 27.5cm



Purpose of Options

- explore a range of potential design and programming ideas with all stakeholder groups and participants
- identify key ideas, themes or design concepts to carry forward to a preferred plan
- the preferred plan must balance multiple objectives and will emerge from the input of:
 - City of Toronto divisions
 - community groups
 - public
 - Indigenous communities
 - consultant team
- ultimately, the City will make the final decision about park design, weighing all inputs

Common to all Options

- maintain the existing trees
- strong Indigenous Place-Keeping presence
- provide space for gathering
- direct rainwater to the tree roots
- plenty of accessible, comfortable seating
- new, level paving including an accessible route through the park
- water feature
- new park lighting
- accommodate outdoor tents for Farmer's Market and Antique Market; as well as occasional private events
- accommodate a service route for small vehicles (vans/pickup trucks) for market deliveries and park maintenance - not for traffic
- decommission the existing public art feature Return of the Magri-Stecchi

Comparison of Options

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
	The Stitch	The Flex	The Meander
Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• takes cues from context• flexible ground plane	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• social infrastructure• adaptable• contemporary look	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• organic elements• focus on water
Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• preserve existing trees• 2 new trees• no horticulture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• preserve existing trees• no horticulture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• remove 2 small existing trees• 2 horticultural planters
Indigenous Place Keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• flexible, programmable zone at north• subtle iconography in site elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• integrated with site furniture and art elements at south	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• embedded approach to celebrating water: rainfall capture, lake shoreline dynamics, glacial remnants
Water Feature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• flush jets at south• disappear when not in use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• integrated with site furniture and art elements at south• misting/cooling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• rainwater collection throughout• integrated with boulders and plaza at south
Paving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• pattern and materials same as Market Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paving bands aligned to tree trunks and building columns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• granite cobbles in organic patterns directing the flow of water
Seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• same wood benches, metal tables and moveable chairs as Berczy Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• modular, moveable benches can be reconfigured	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• long curvilinear and organic wood benches with backs• large boulders
Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• heritage light standards from surrounding district	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• contemporary wood poles & possible special lighting effects; overhead ring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• catenary (overhead)

Option 1: The Stitch

Takes cues from neighbourhood context:

- long wooden benches and metal tables and moveable chairs similar to Berczy Park
- paving materials and patterns from Market Street to reinforce the linkage from David Crombie Park to St. James Park
- heritage lighting from the surrounding district

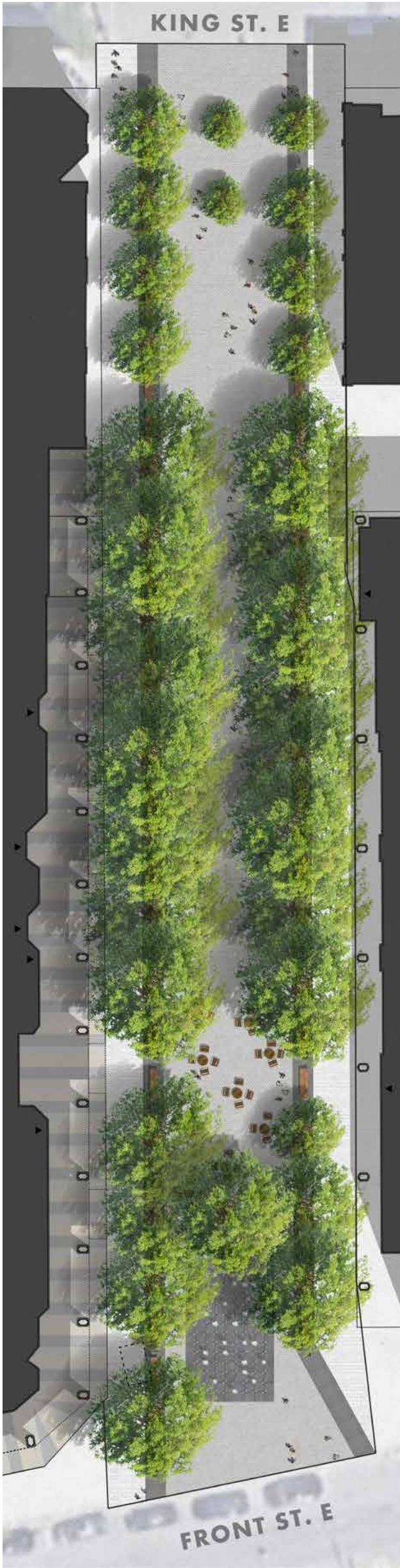
Flexible approach to the space:

- open ground plane, easily programmed for Farmer's/Antique Markets
- programming at north end actively managed by Indigenous group(s) in partnership with the City
- water feature disappears when not in use

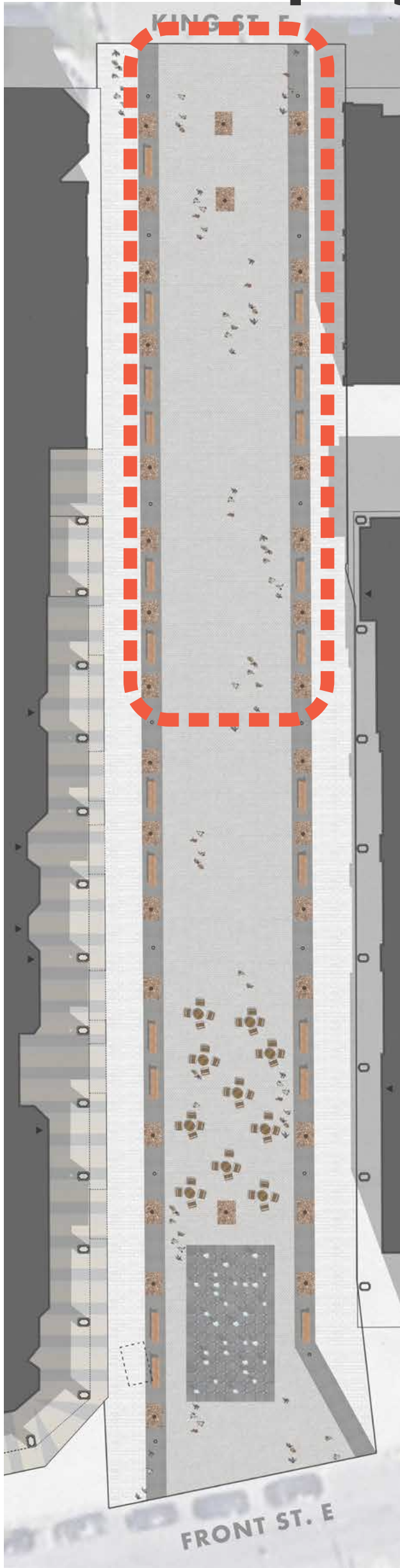


Option 1

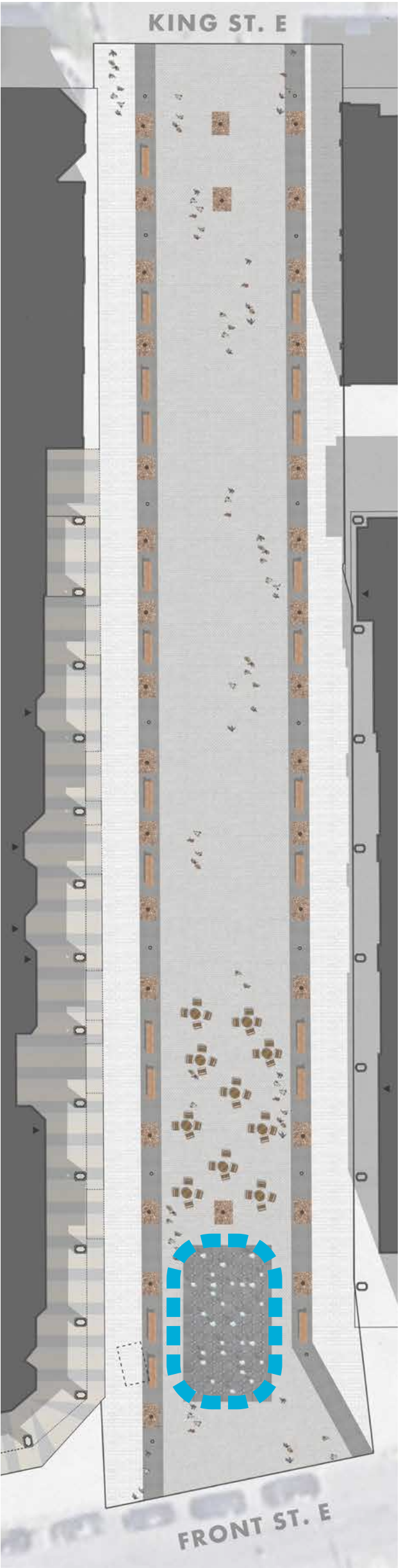
Planting



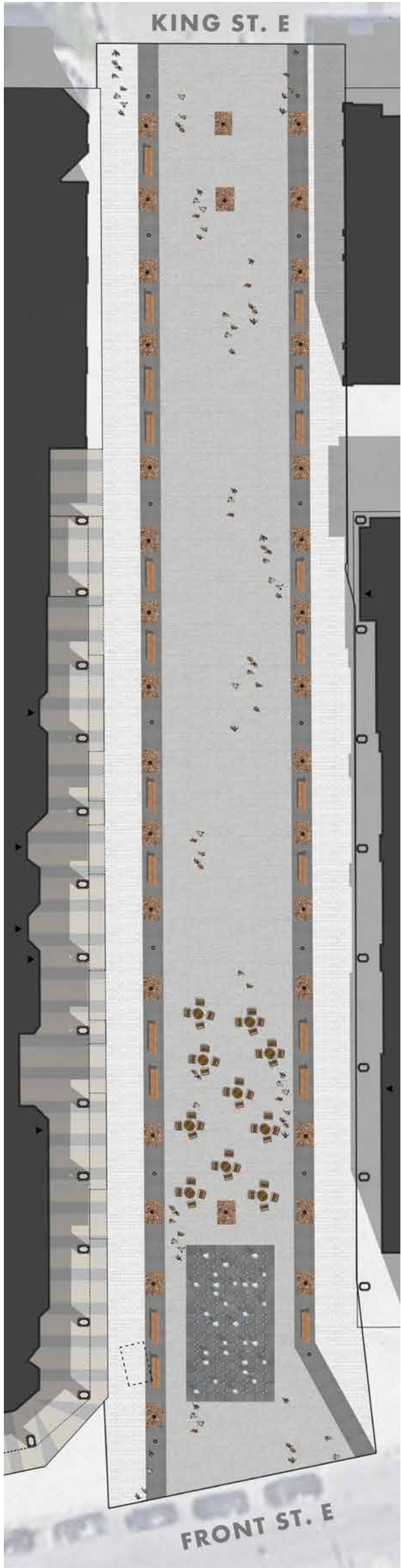
Indigenous Place-Keeping



Water



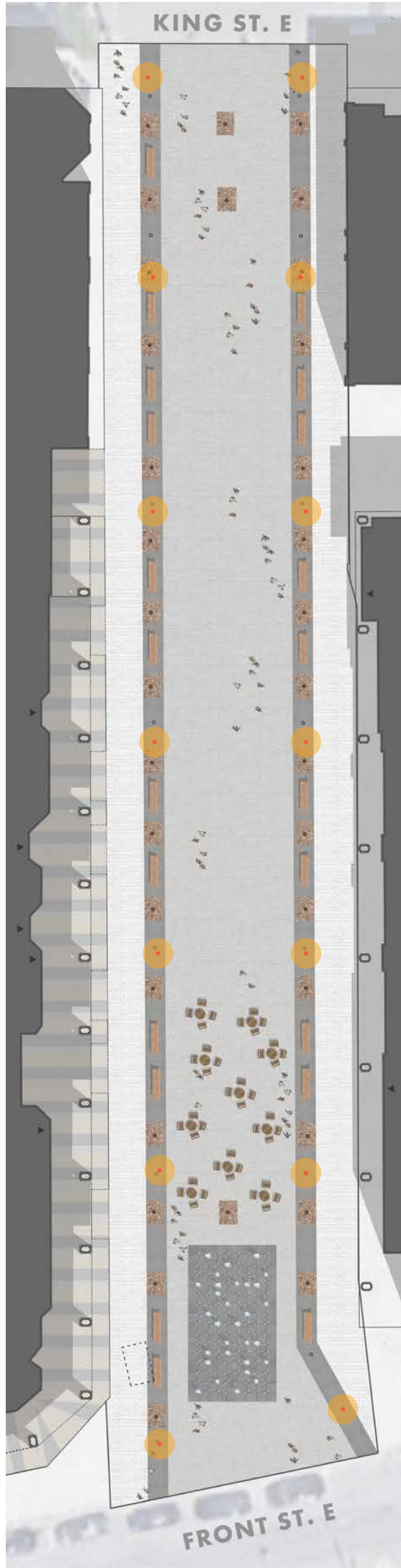
Paving



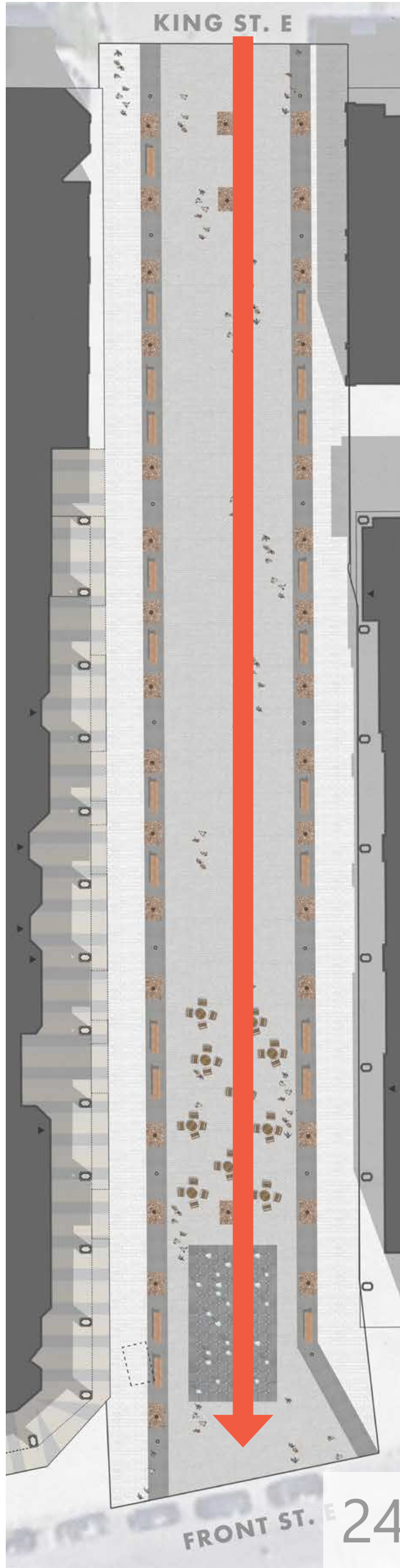
Seating



Lighting

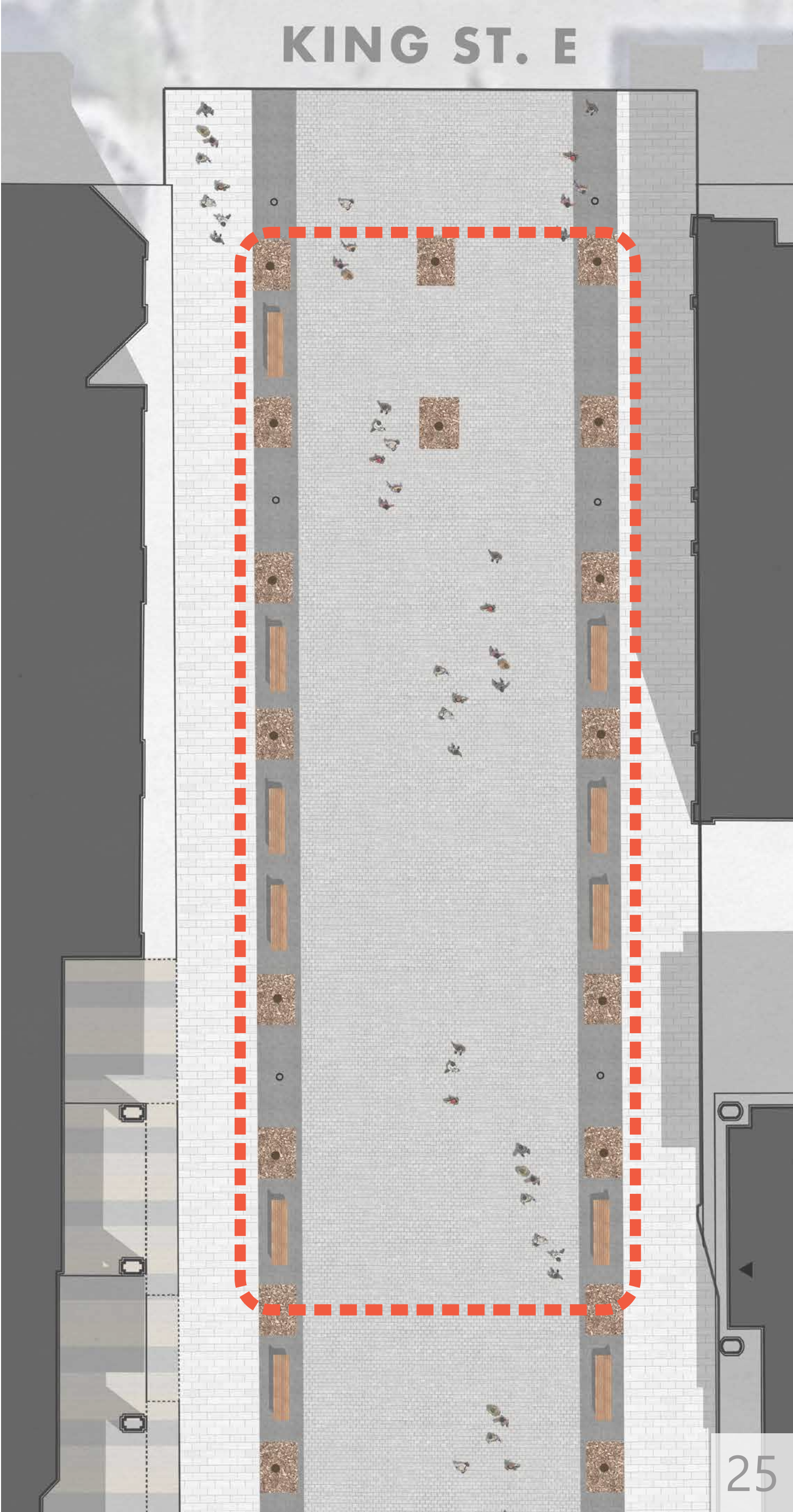


Service Route

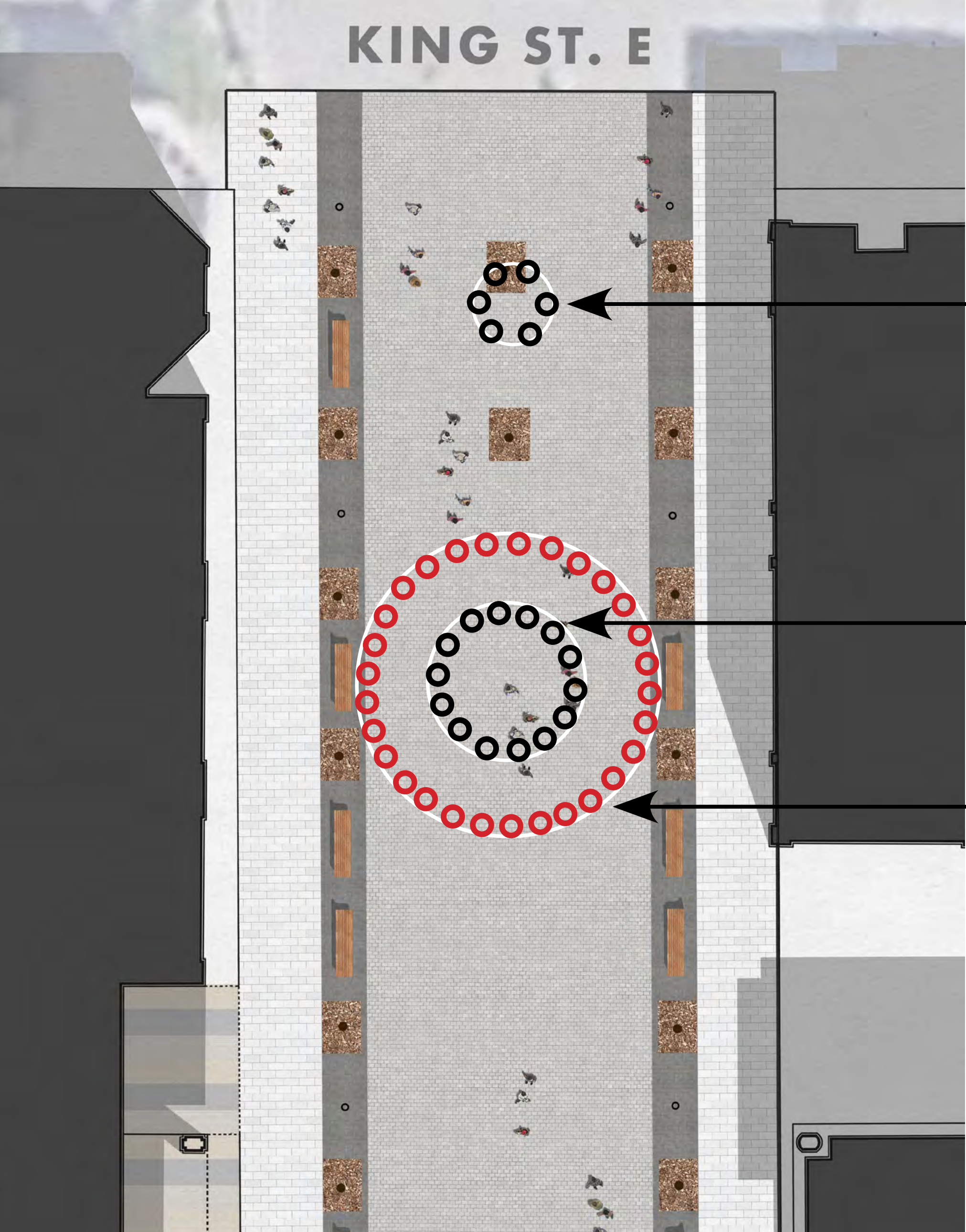


Option 1: Indigenous Programming

Example of a type of event that could occur within the park - Drum Circle



Option 1: Indigenous Programming



6 people
3m diameter circle

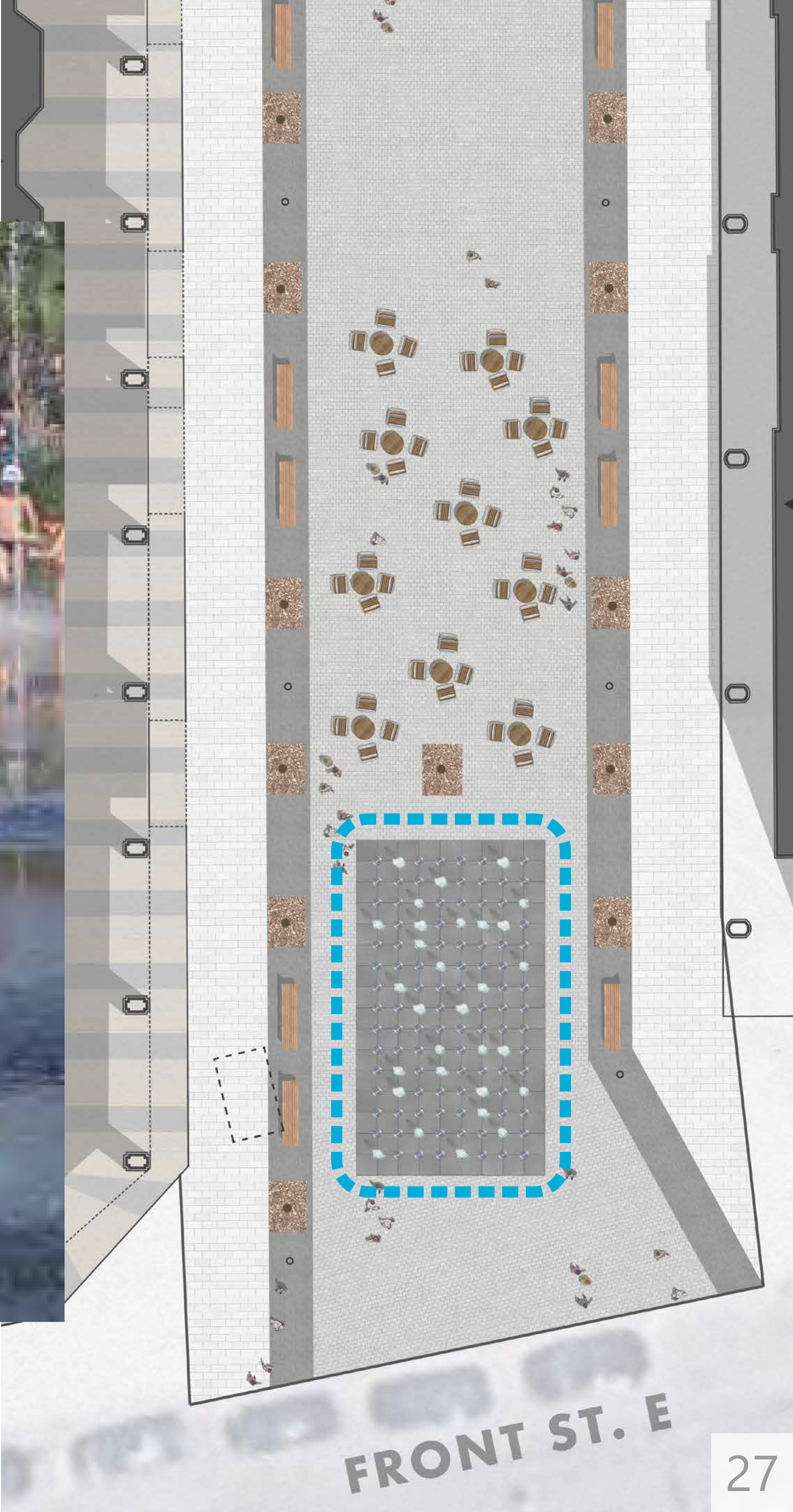
14 people
6m diameter circle

30 people
11.5m diameter circle

Option 1: Water Feature



Water jet in paving



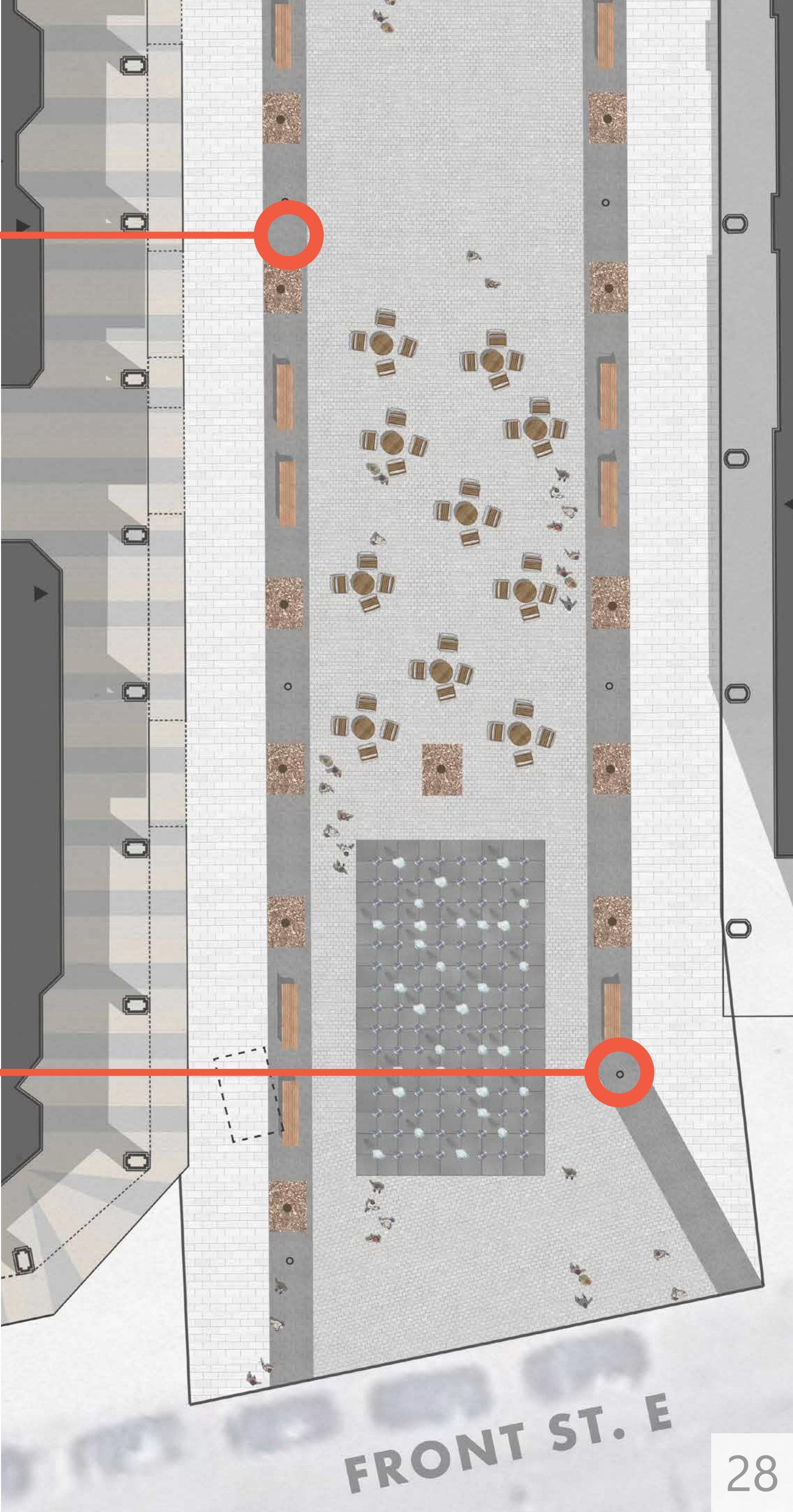
Option 1: Paving and Lighting



Market street paving materials



District heritage light fixture



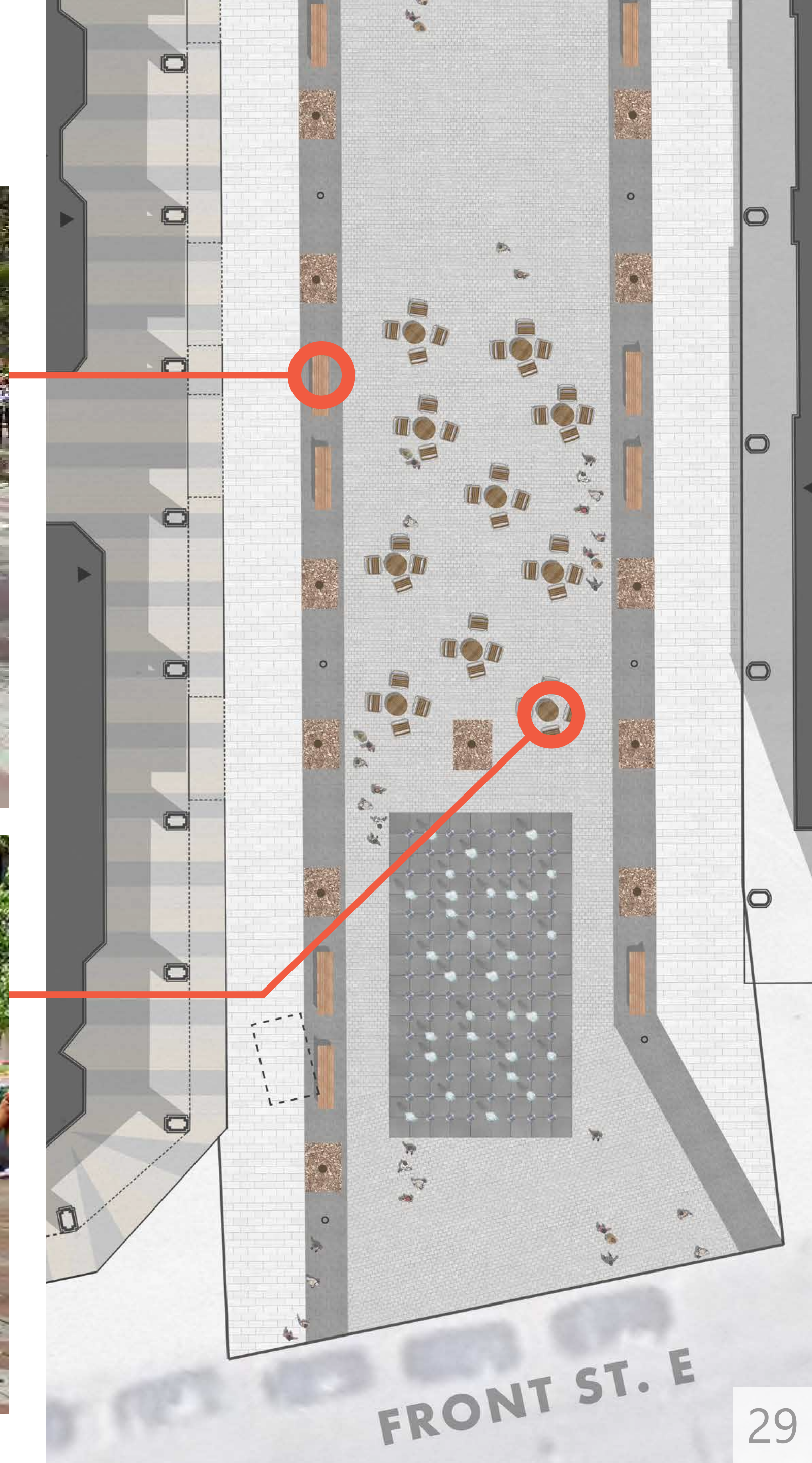
Option 1: Seating



Berczy park bench



Berczy park
moveable seating

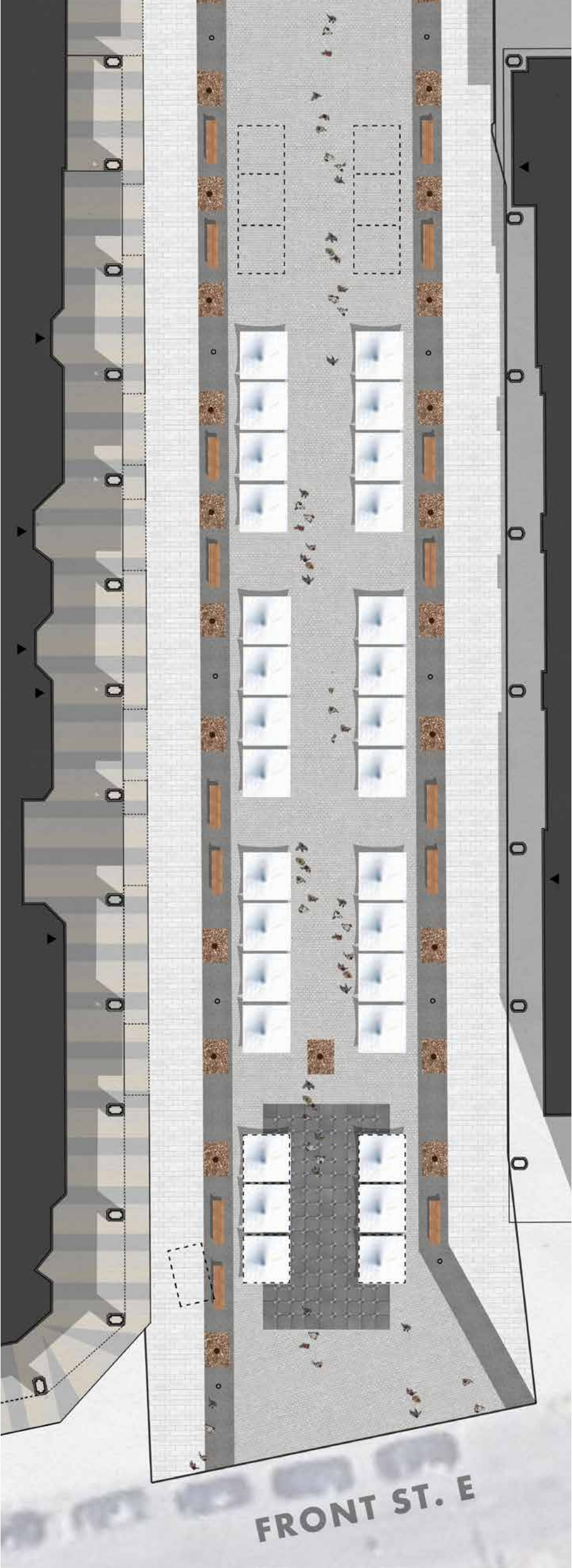


Option 1



View looking south near Front Street showing water feature and seating options

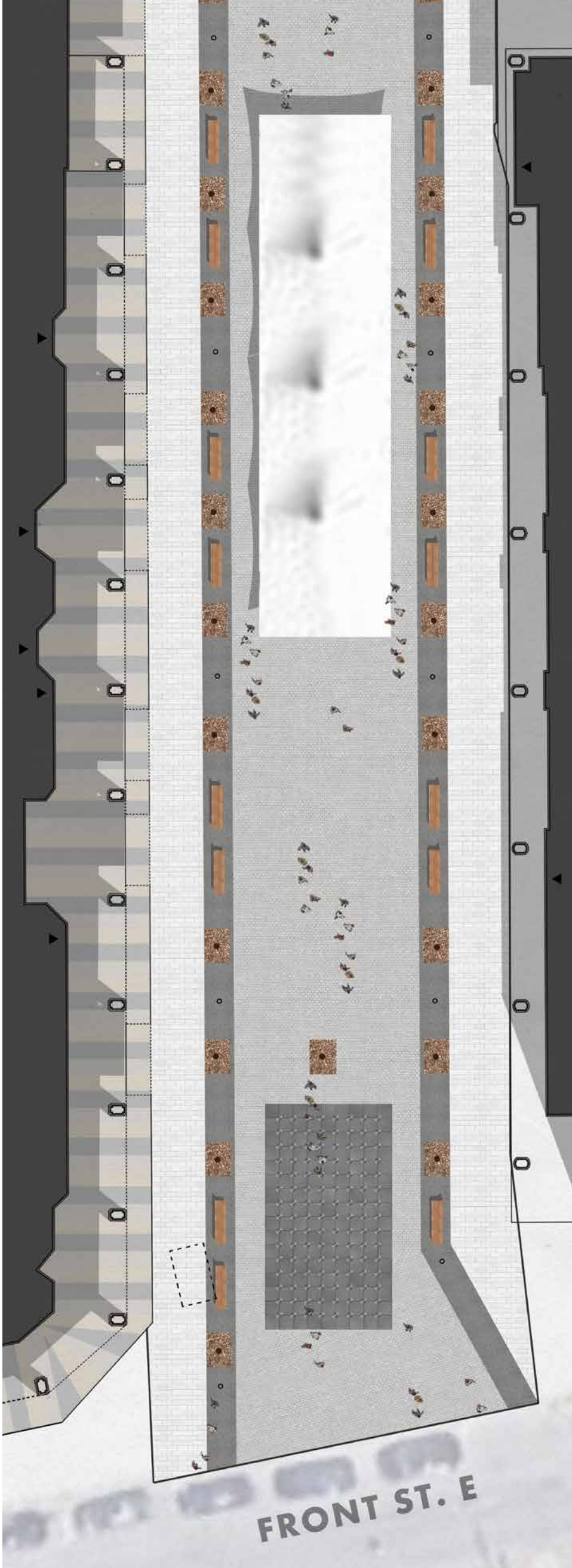
Option 1: Market Operations



Farmer's Market Tents

30 tents

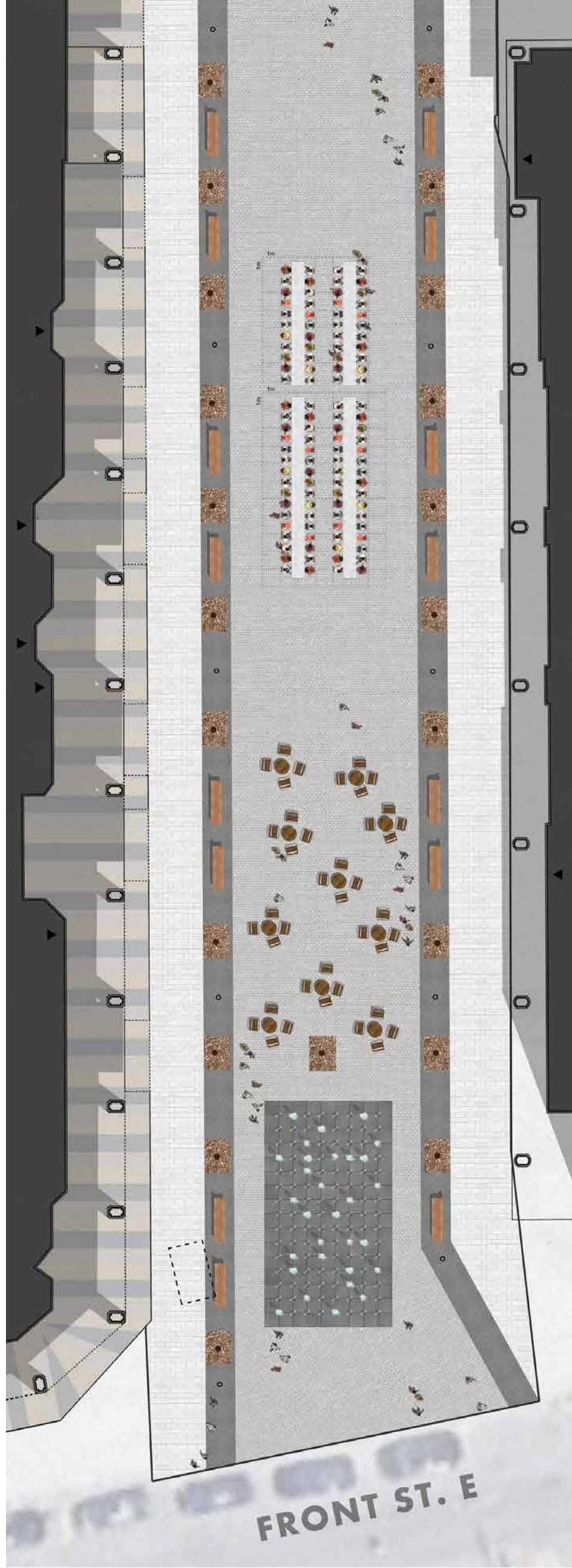
3m x 3m



Large Event Tent

380 people

9m x 36m



Dinner

100

people

7 x 18m

Option 2: The Flex - Social Infrastructure

Park amenities and elements that benefit people in some way – they are both functional and aesthetic, such as:

- warming stations (e.g. for hands)
- cooling stations (e.g. water features that mist)
- washing stations (e.g. for hands, for fruit and vegetables)
- drinking fountains and bottle filling stations
- accessible seating that is covered from the elements
- a water feature
- tables/seating for communal eating

Anyone can use them, and they can be used in a variety of ways. They help the park feel socially welcoming and that all belong.



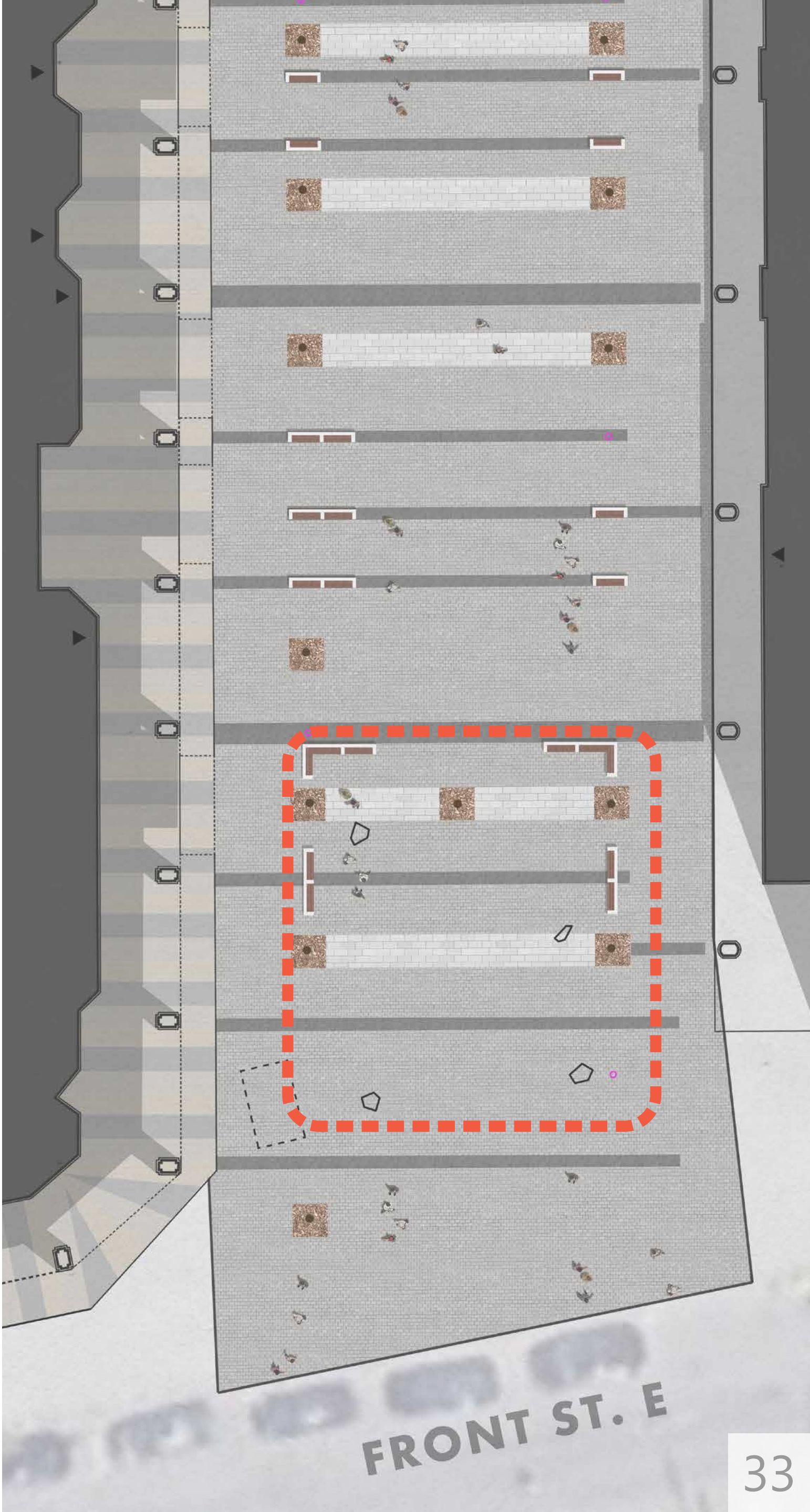
Option 2: Social Infrastructure



Counter and sinks outside Jean Talon market in Montreal



Communal seating and eating outside Jean Talon market in Montreal

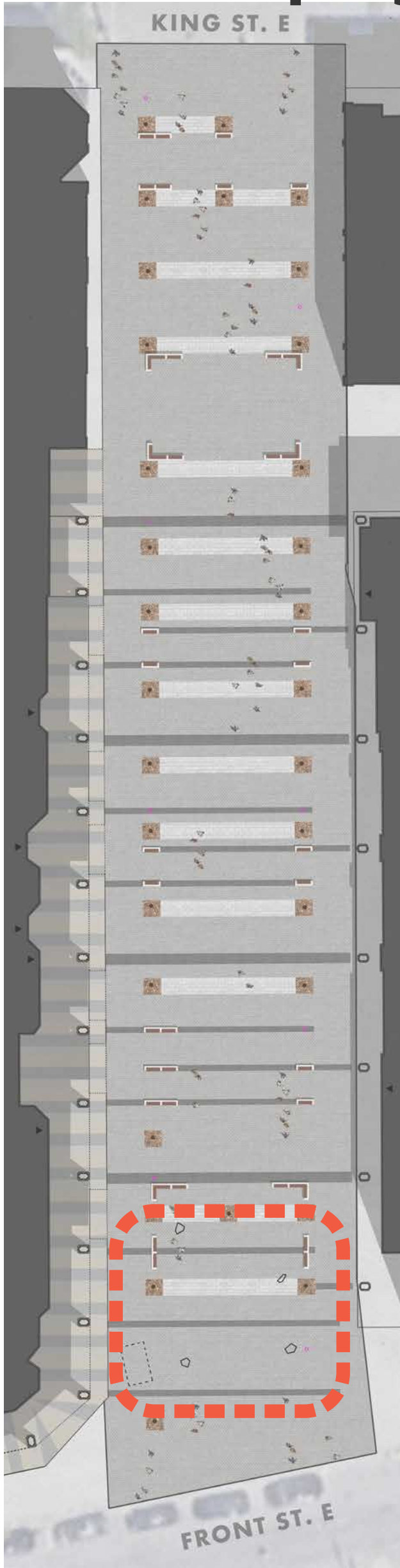


Option 2

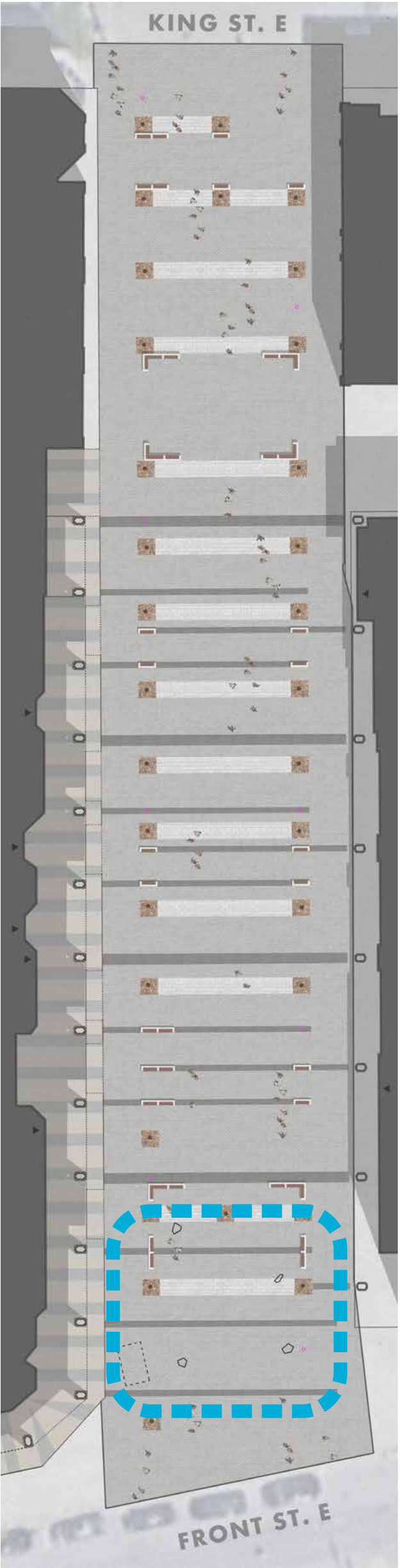
Planting



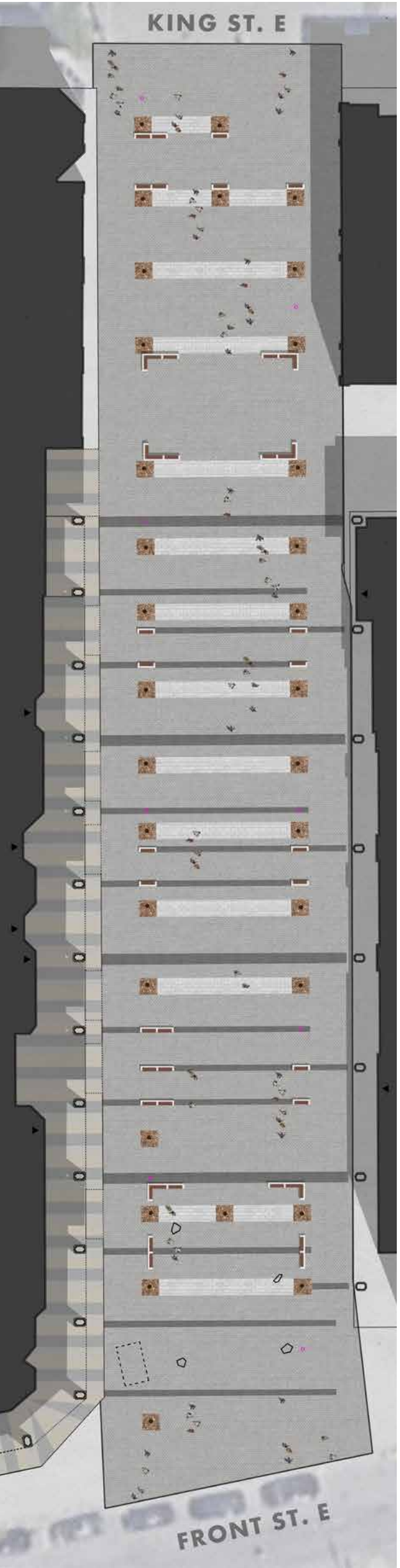
Indigenous Place-Keeping



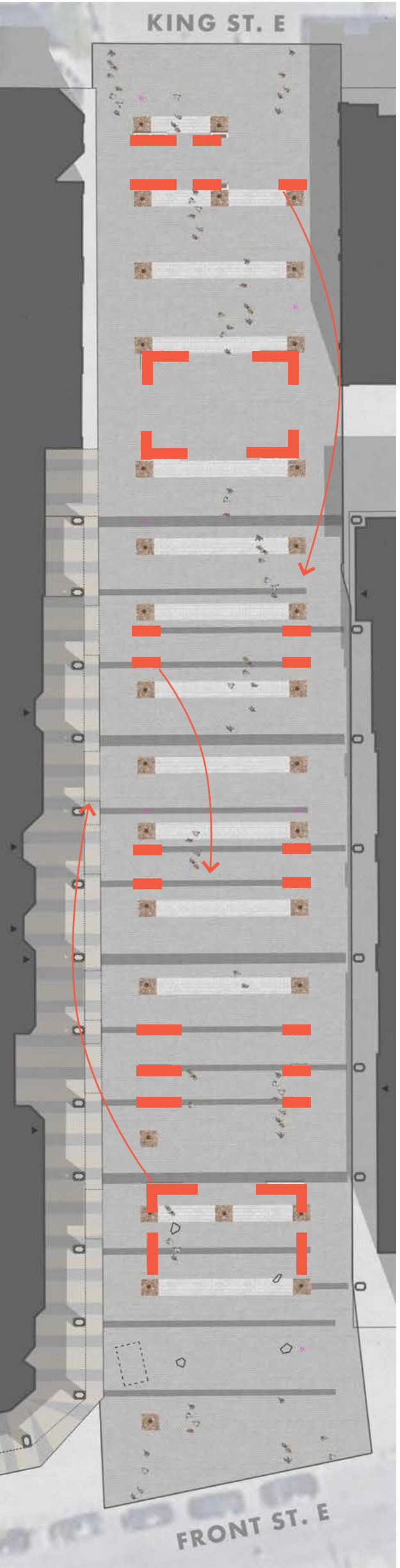
Water



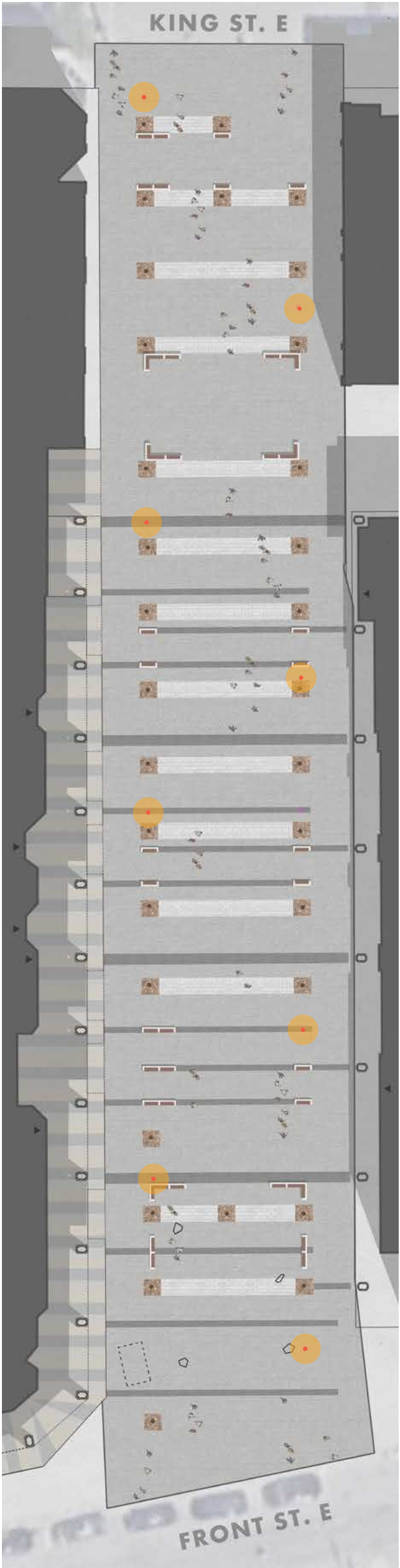
Paving



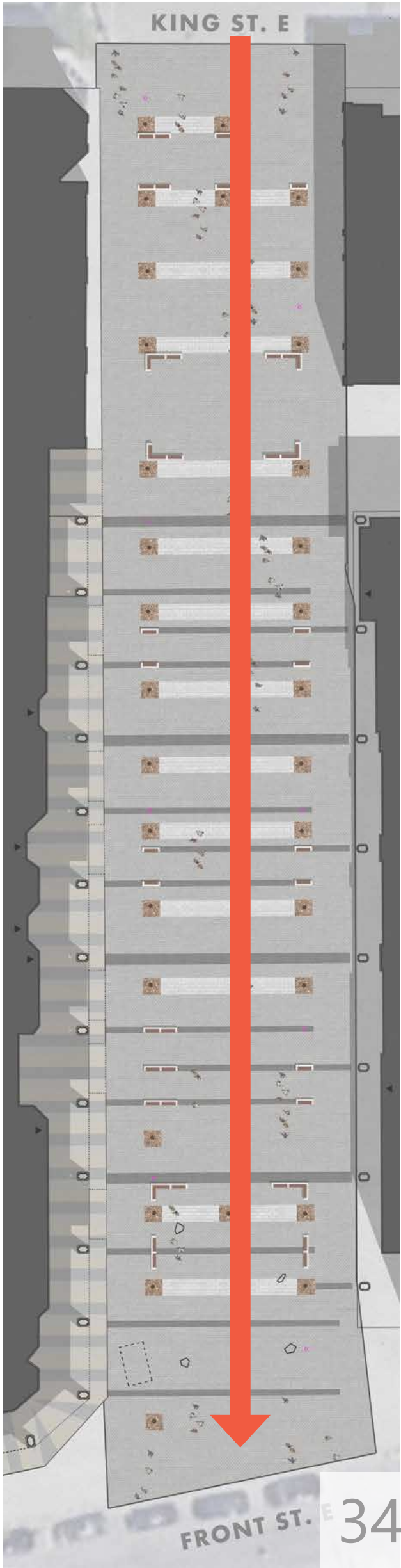
Seating



Lighting



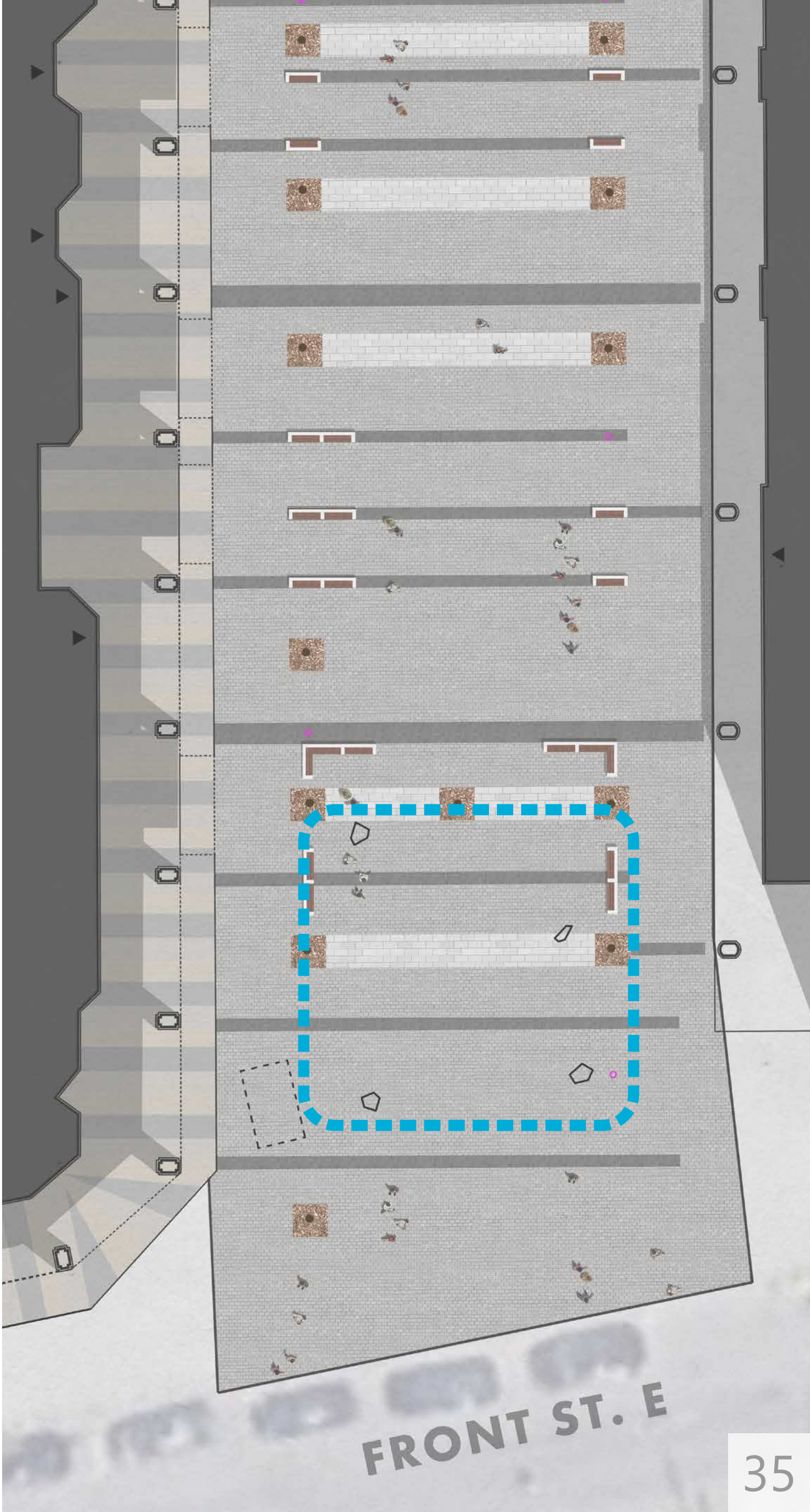
Service Route



Option 2: Water Feature



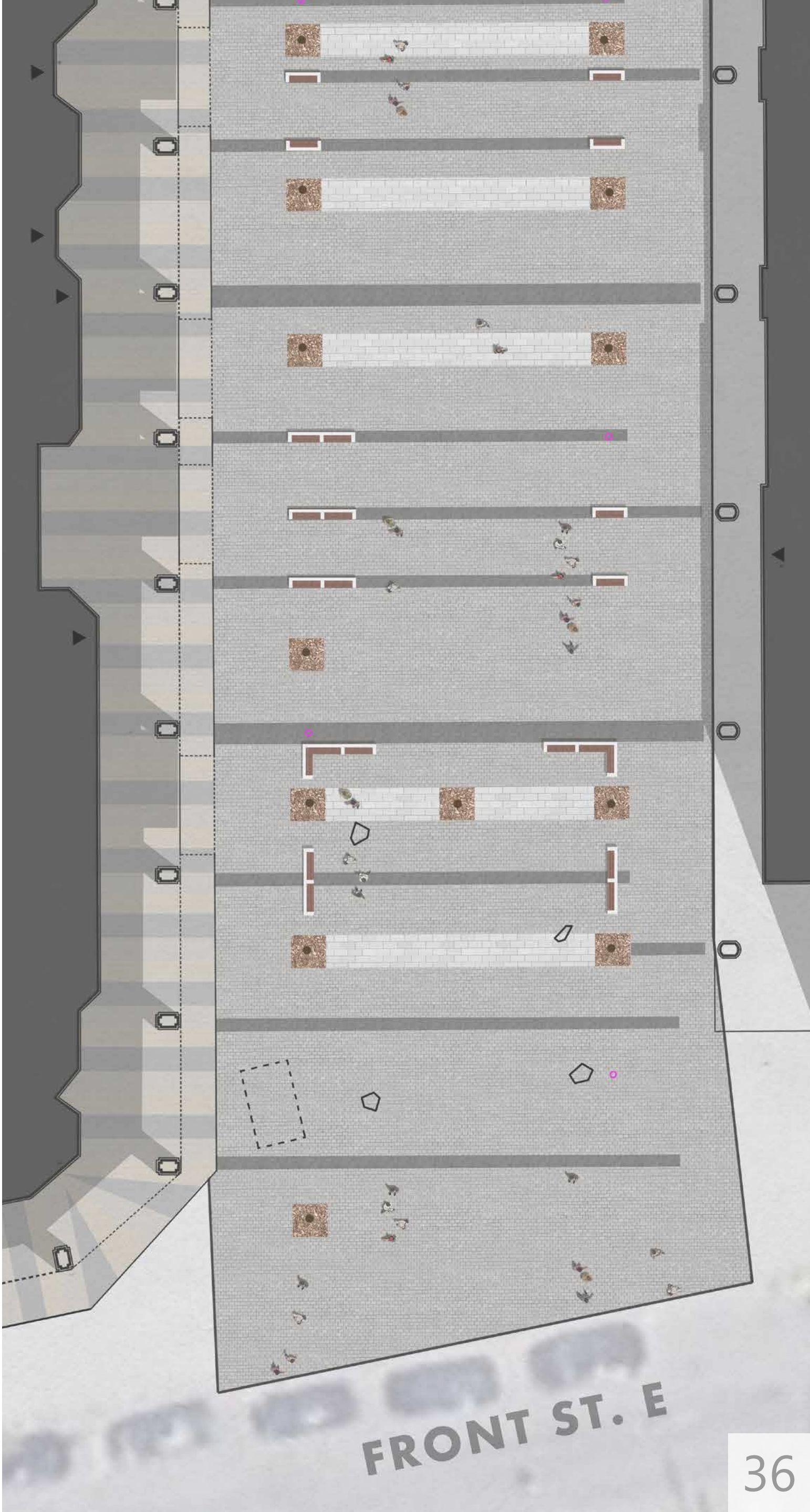
View looking North showing social infrastructure features



Option 2: Paving

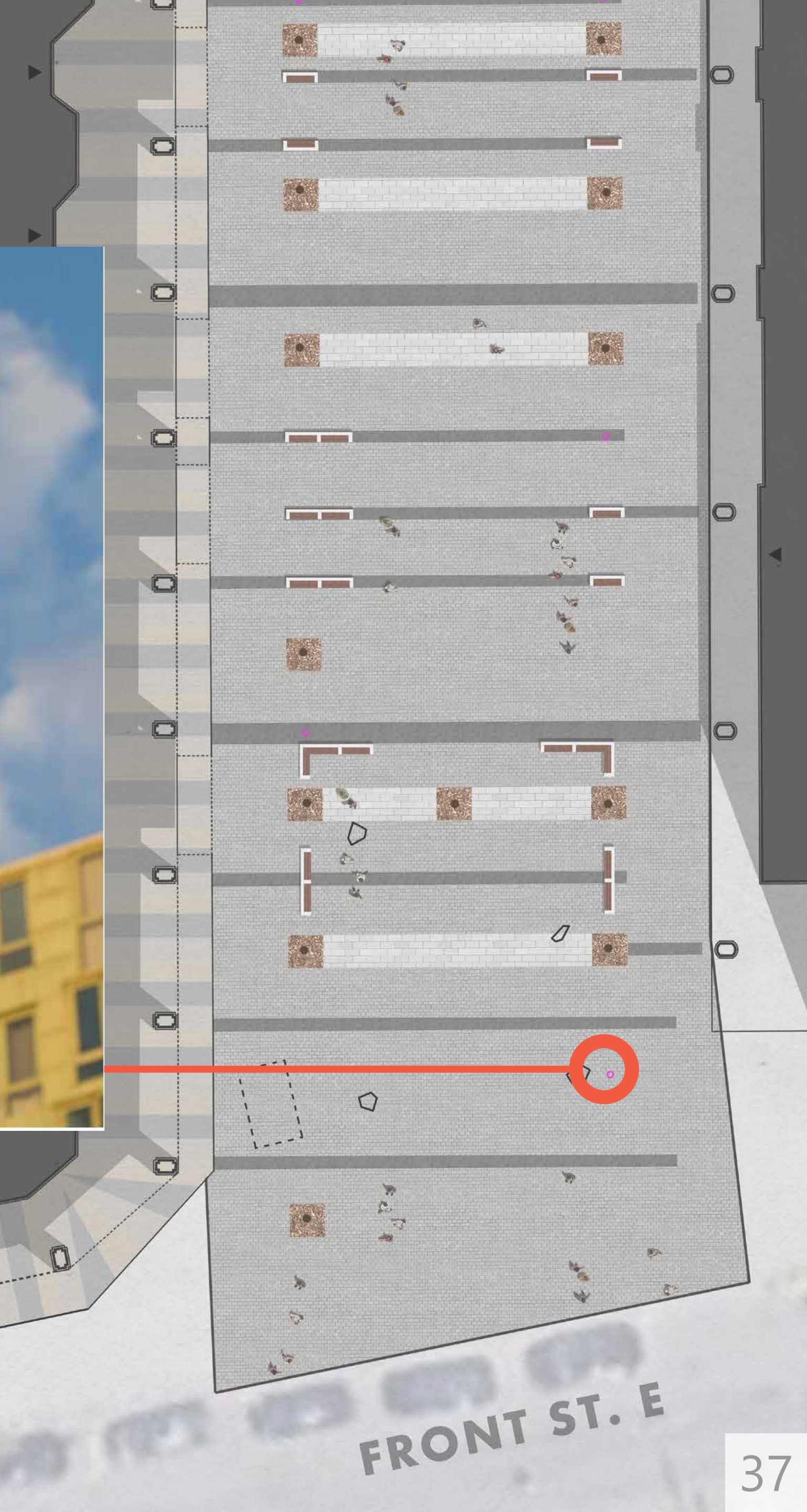


Banded paving pattern



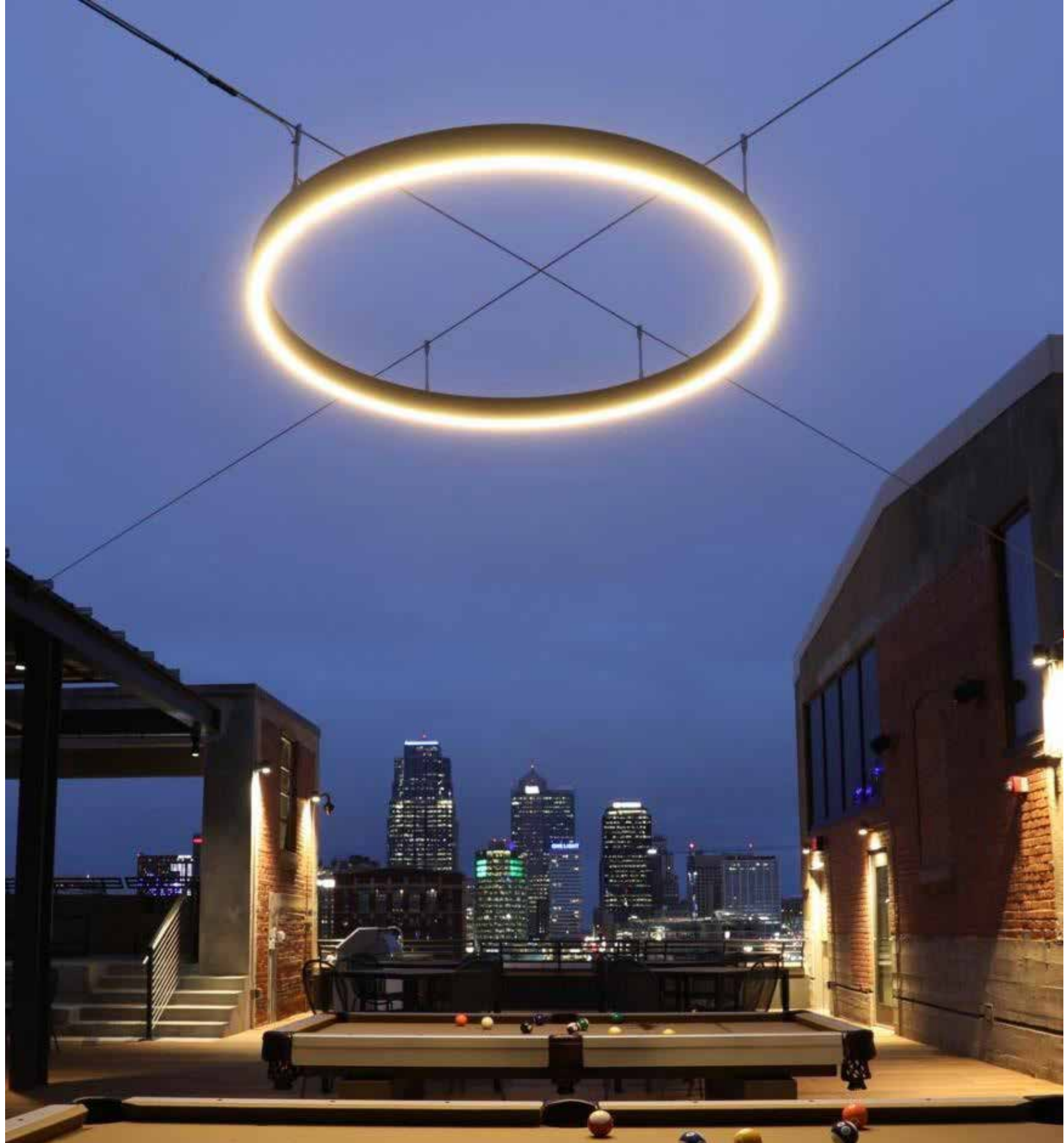
FRONT ST. E

Option 2: Lighting

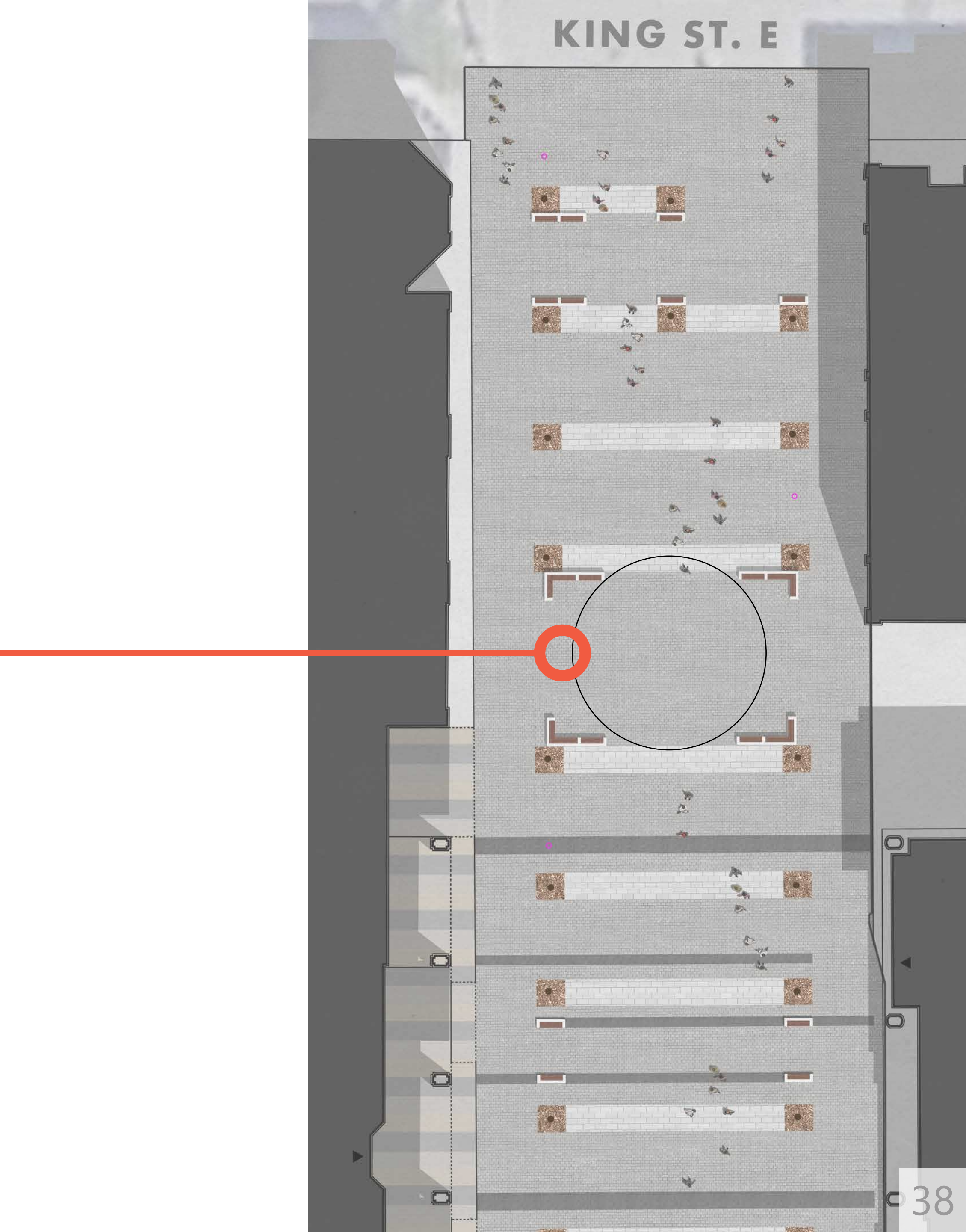


Wood poles with theatrical lighting

Option 2: Lighting



Feature catenary lighting



Option 2: Seating



Moveable seating in Quartier des Spectacles in Montreal

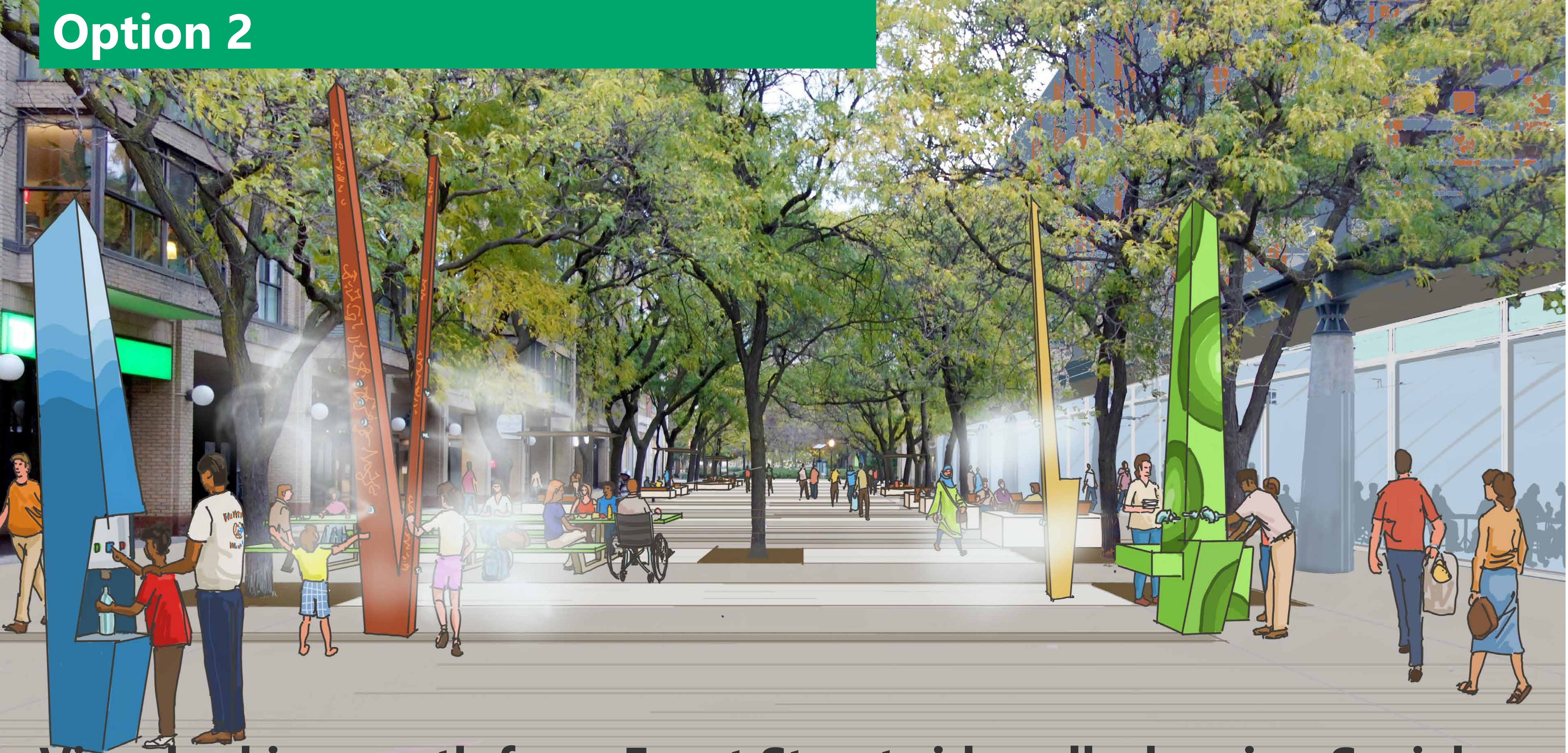


Option 2



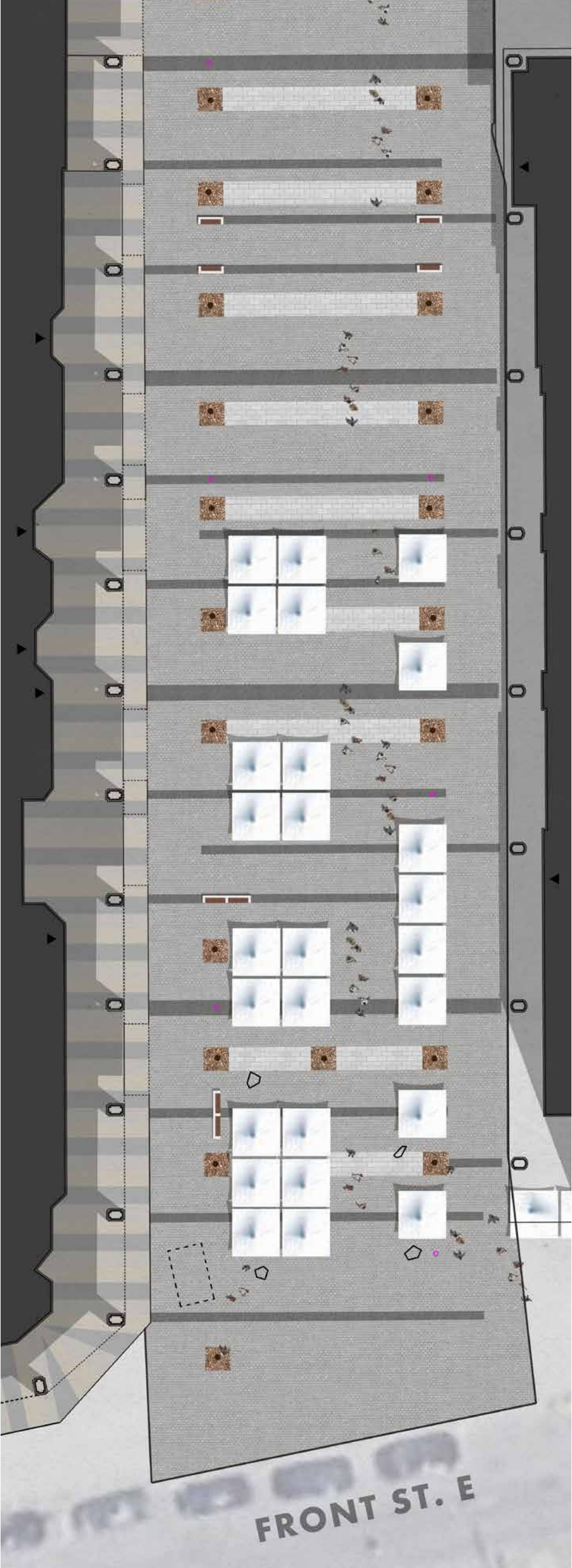
View looking north to King Street showing moveable seating, some with canopies

Option 2



View looking north from Front Street sidewalk showing Social Infrastructure integrated with water feature art elements

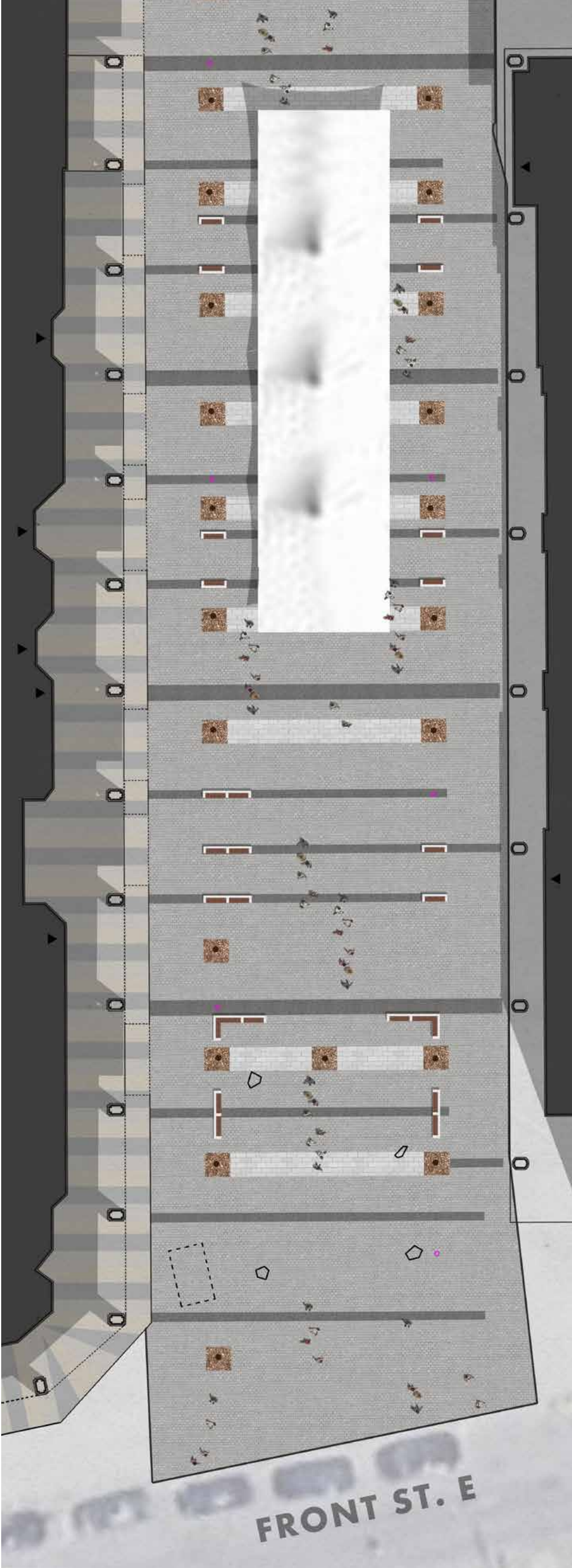
Option 2: Market Operations



**Farmer's
Market
Tents**

30 tents

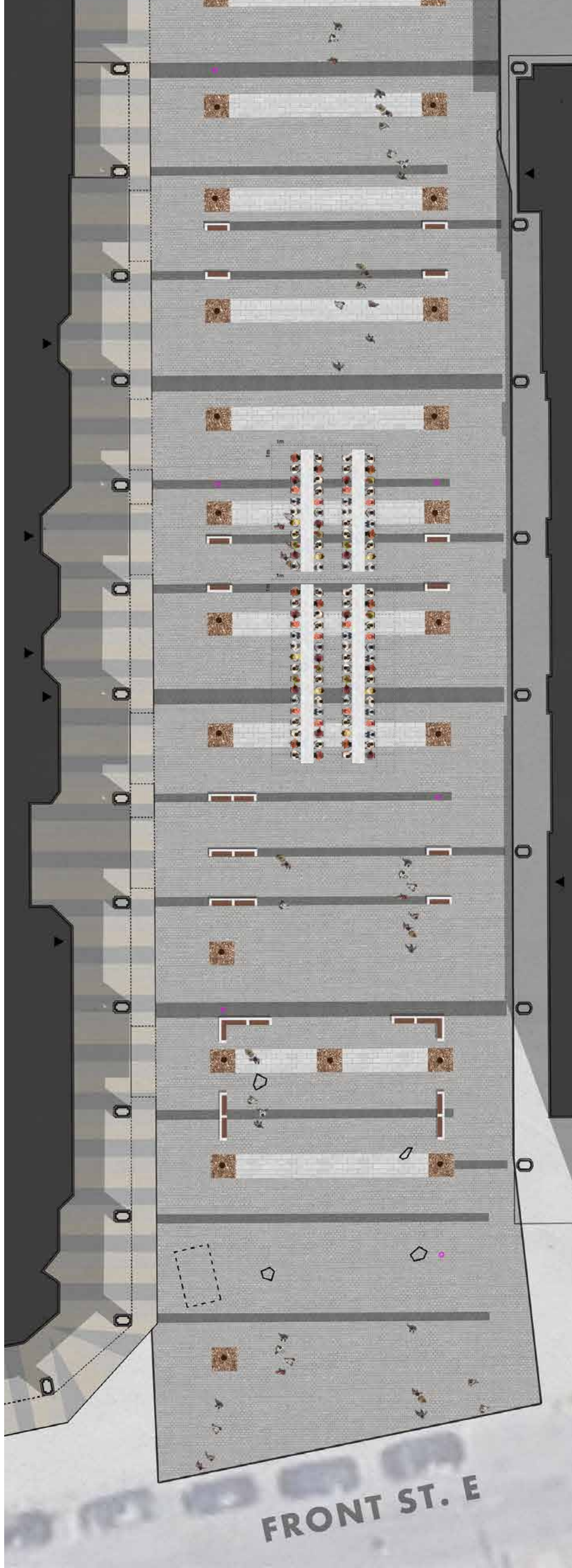
3m x 3m



**Large
Event Tent**

380 people

9m x 36m



Dinner

100

people

7 x 18m

Option 3: The Meander

Celebrates water past and present:

- rainwater is captured and directed to the tree roots by runnels or shallow drains
- artful patterns in the paving capture a small quantity of rainwater and make it visible
- large boulders for seating and play recall the glacial erratics found throughout Toronto and Southern Ontario
- the water feature ebbs and flows, recalling the changing shoreline of the lake

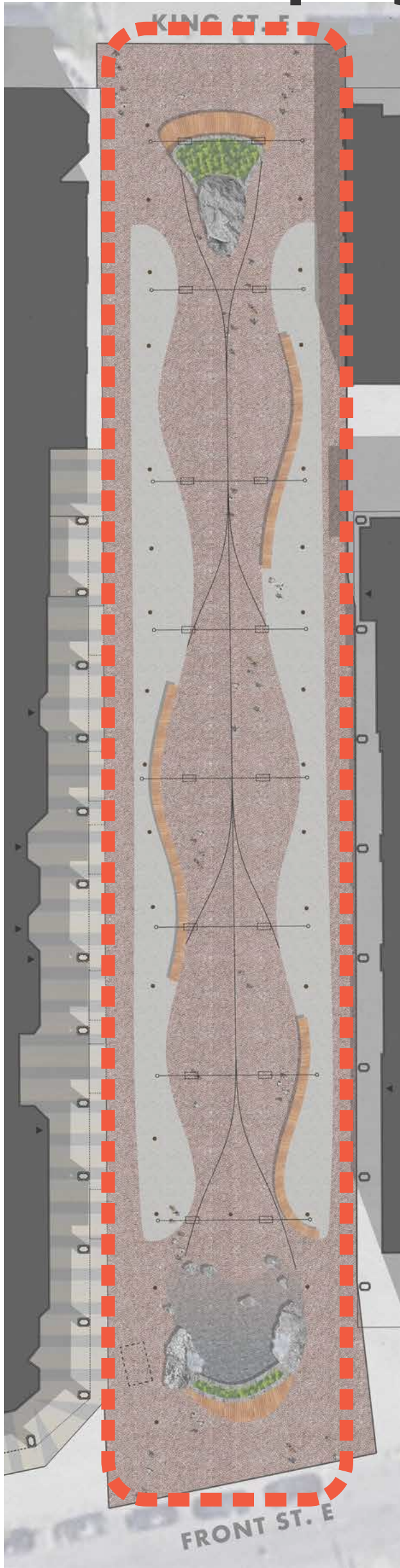


Option 3

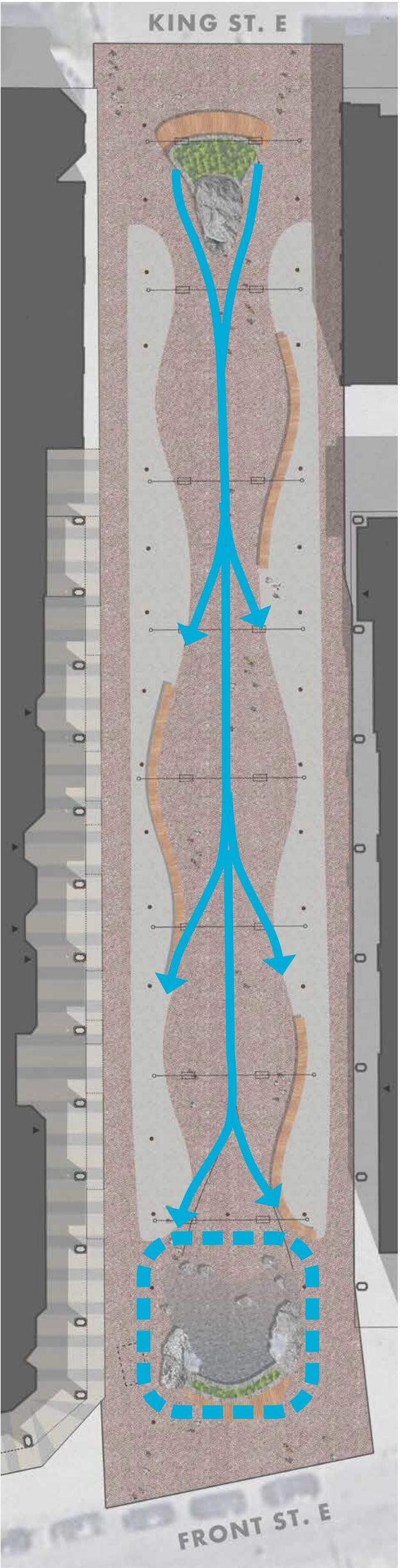
Planting



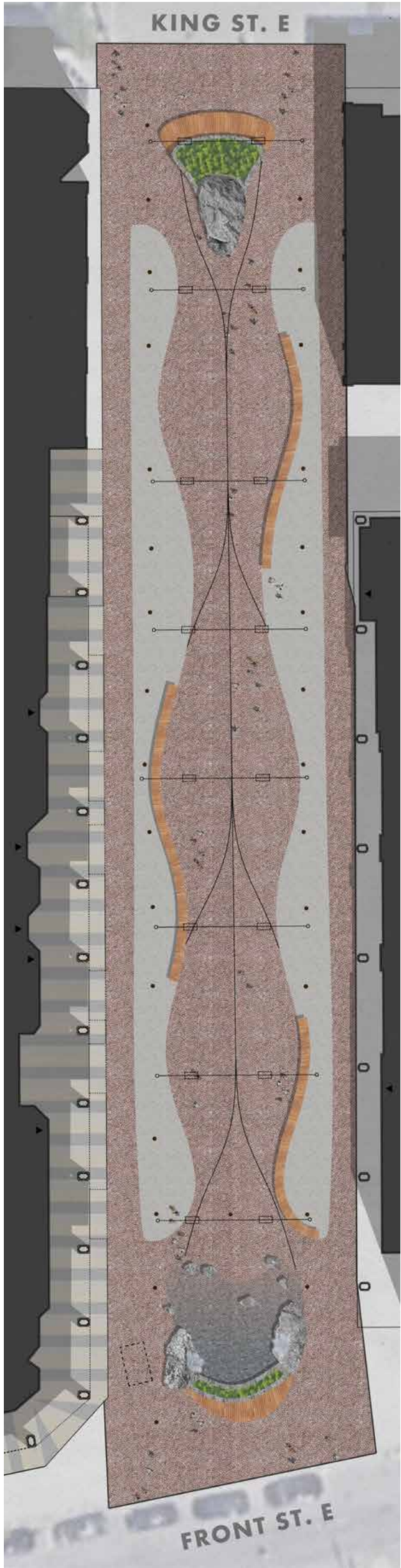
Indigenous Place-Keeping



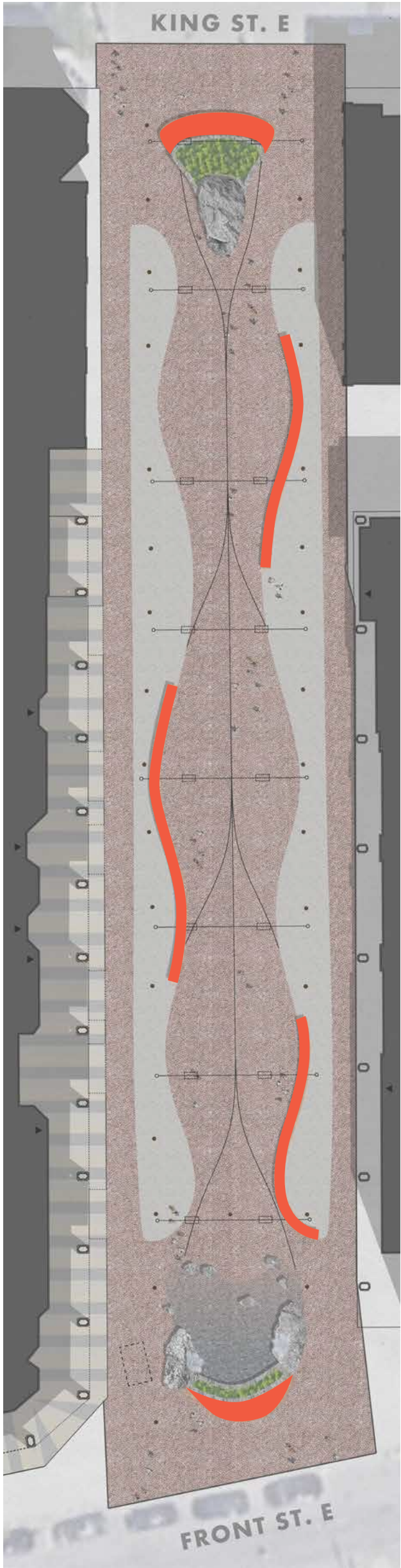
Water



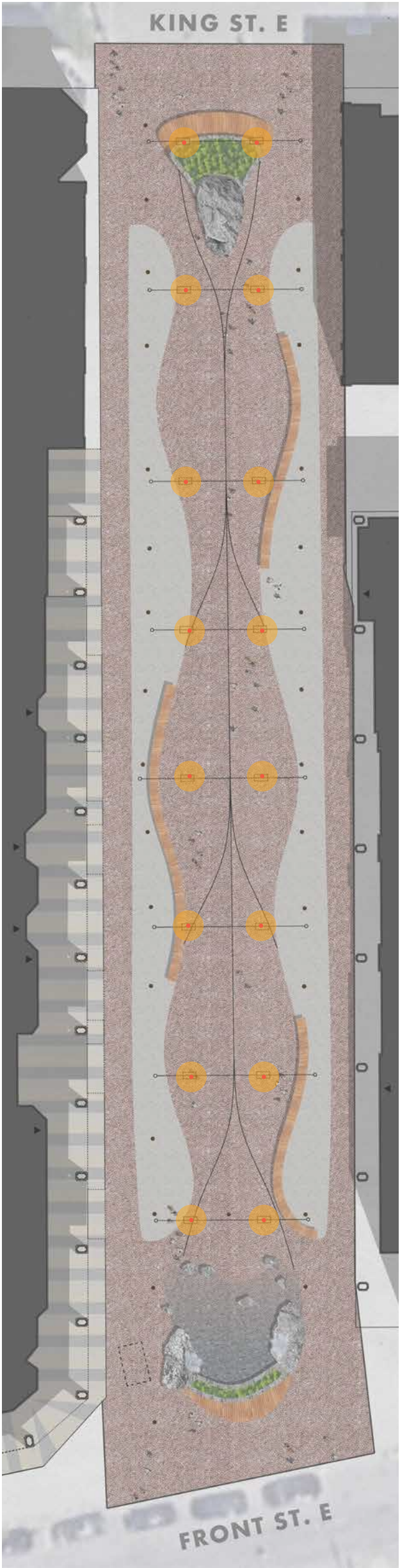
Paving



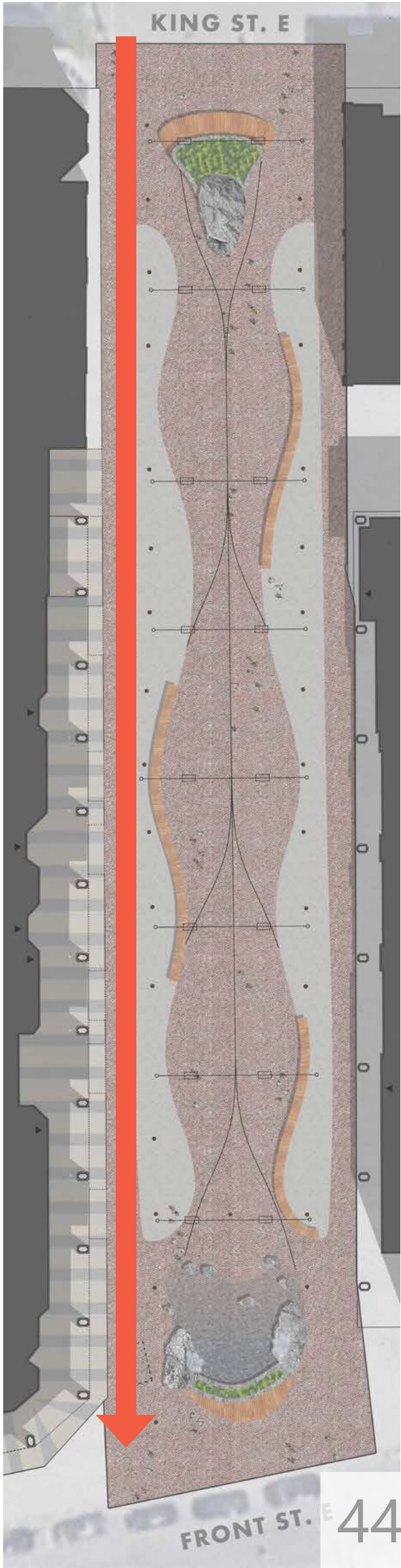
Seating



Lighting

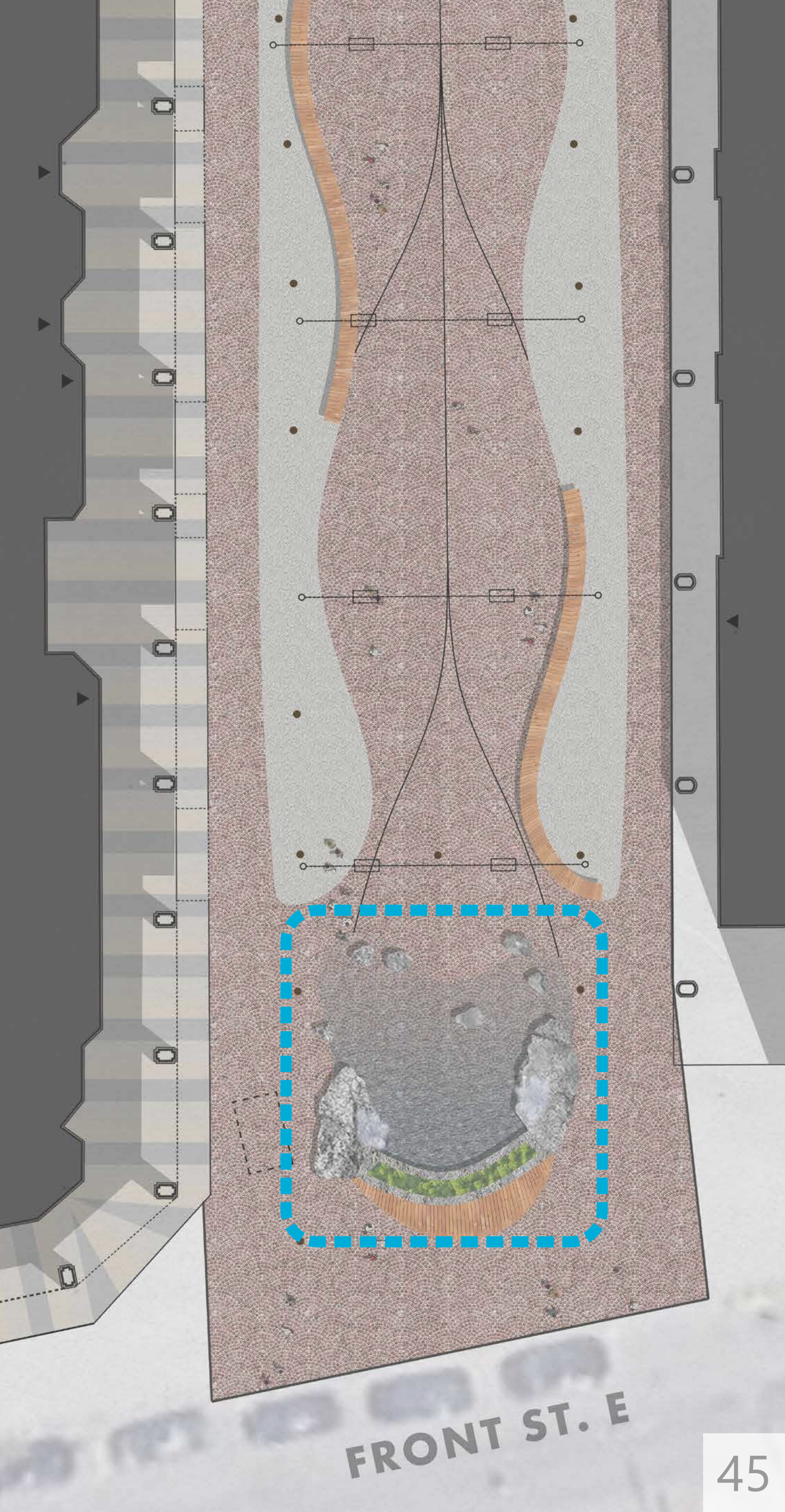


Service Route

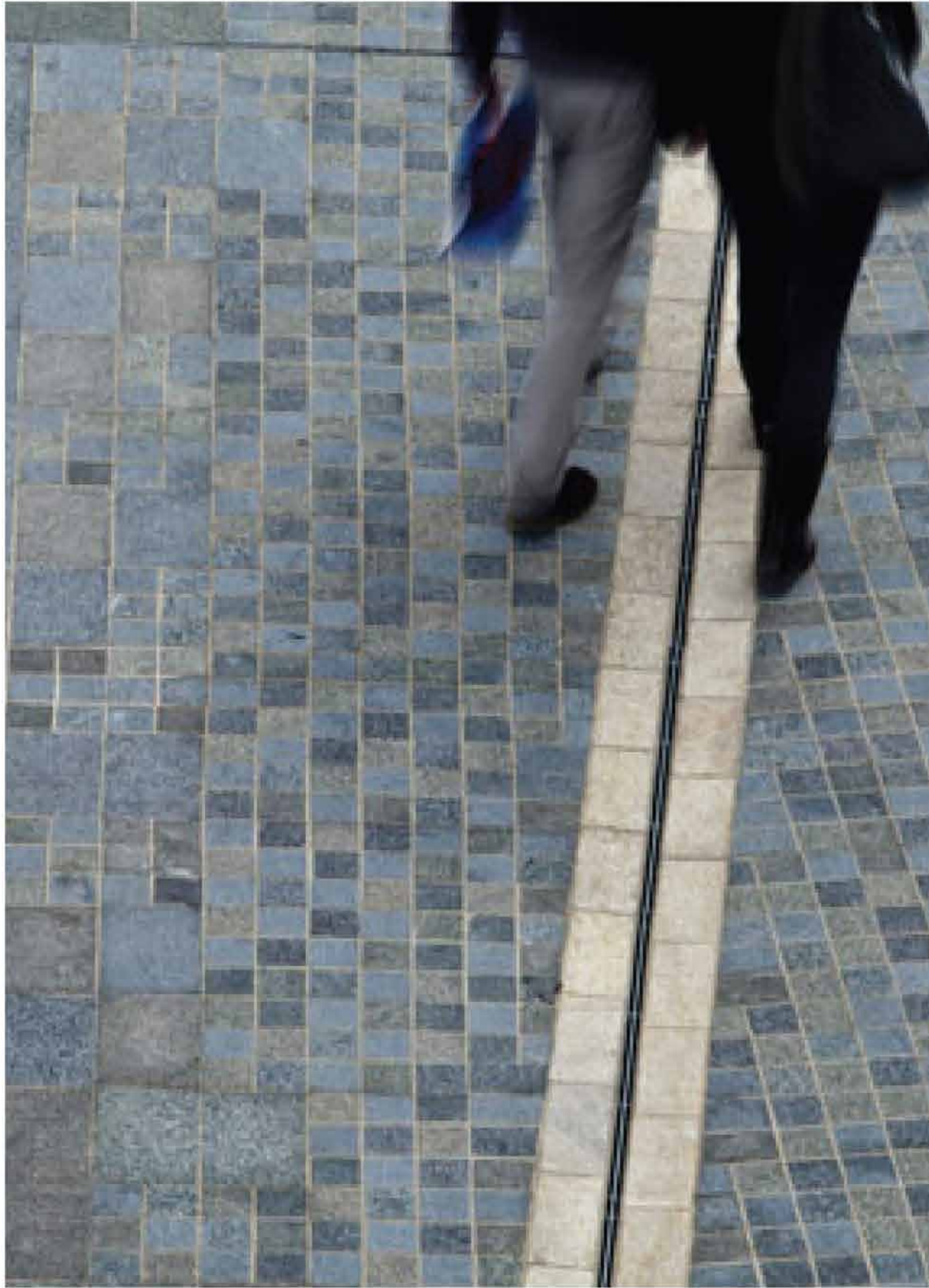


Option 3: Water Feature

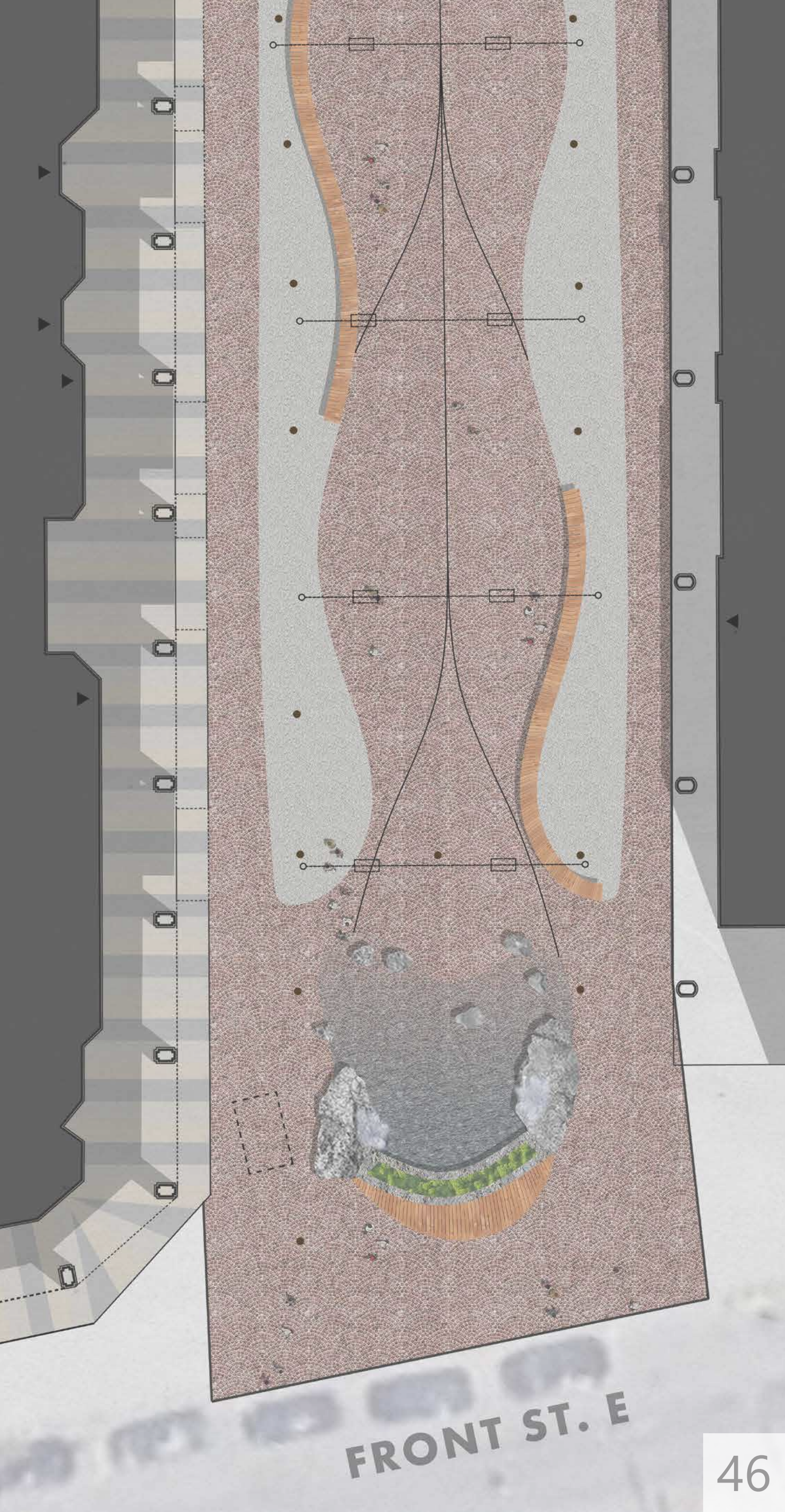
Water feature at Harvard University in Boston



Option 3: Paving



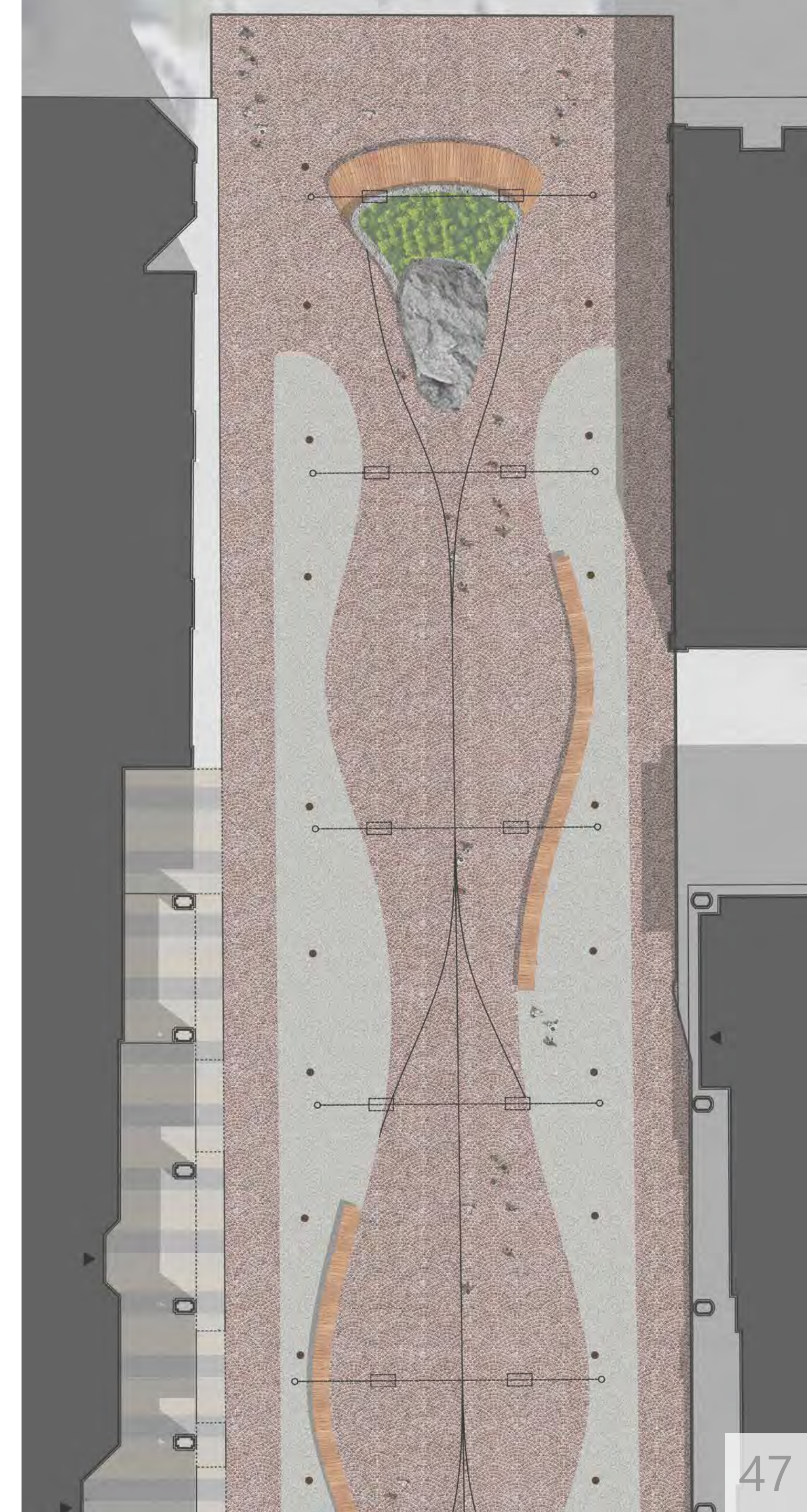
Runnels or drains capturing storm water and directing towards trees.



Option 3: Paving



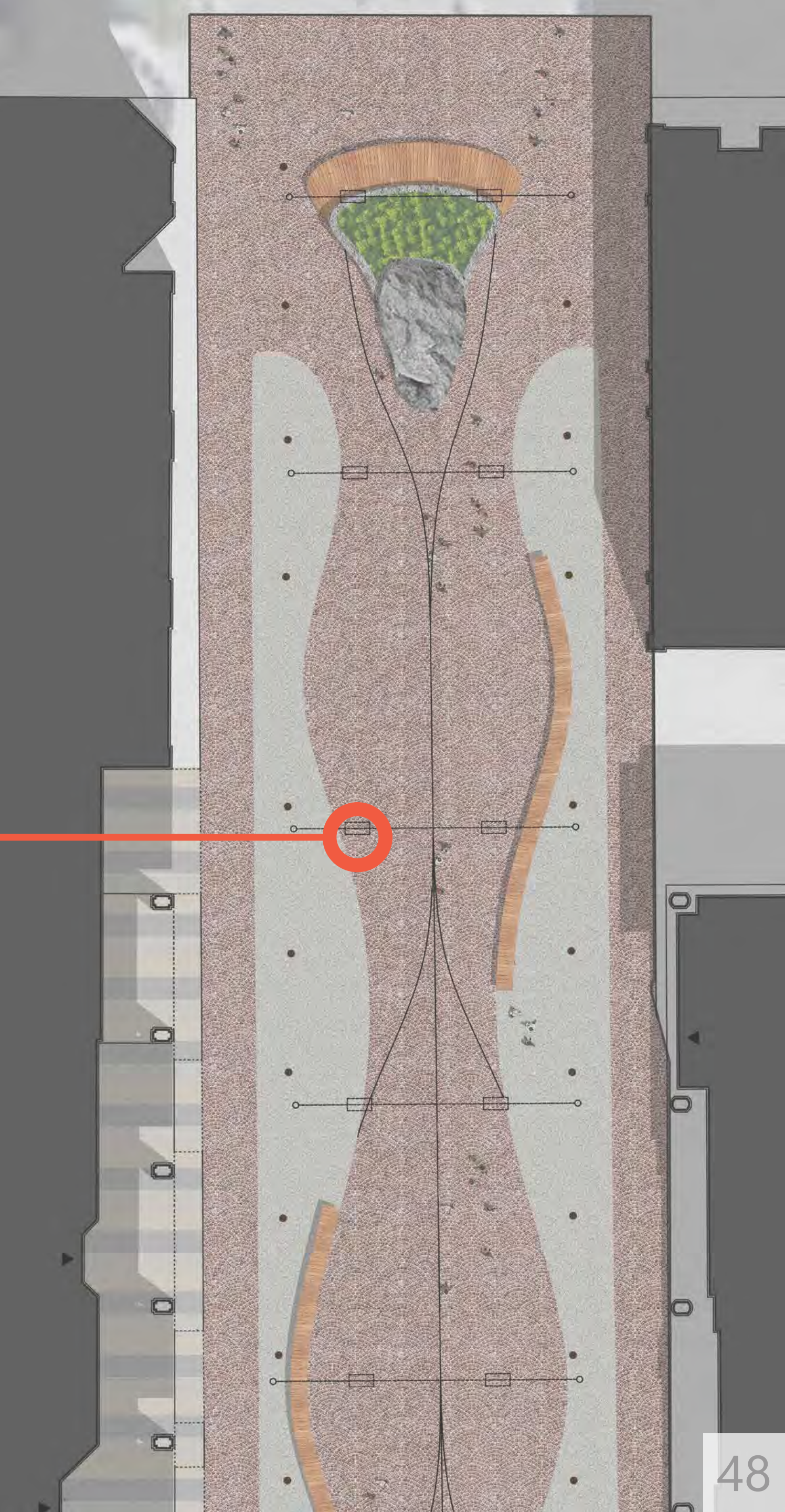
Permeable bonded granular paving in Four Freedoms Park in New York City



Option 3: Lighting



Catenary lighting



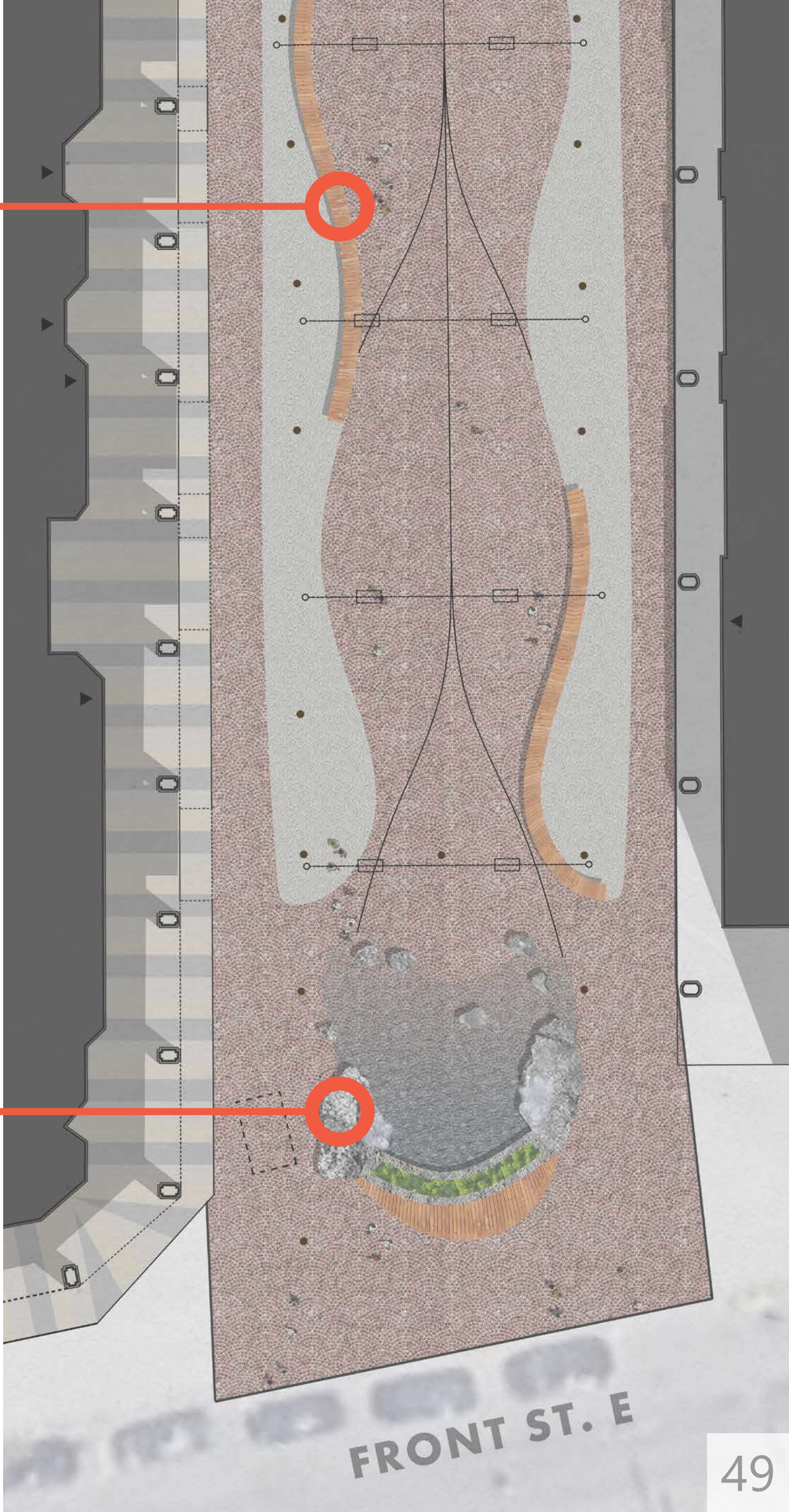
Option 3: Seating



Curvilinear wood seating



Rock Candy Boulder at Sugar Beach, Toronto

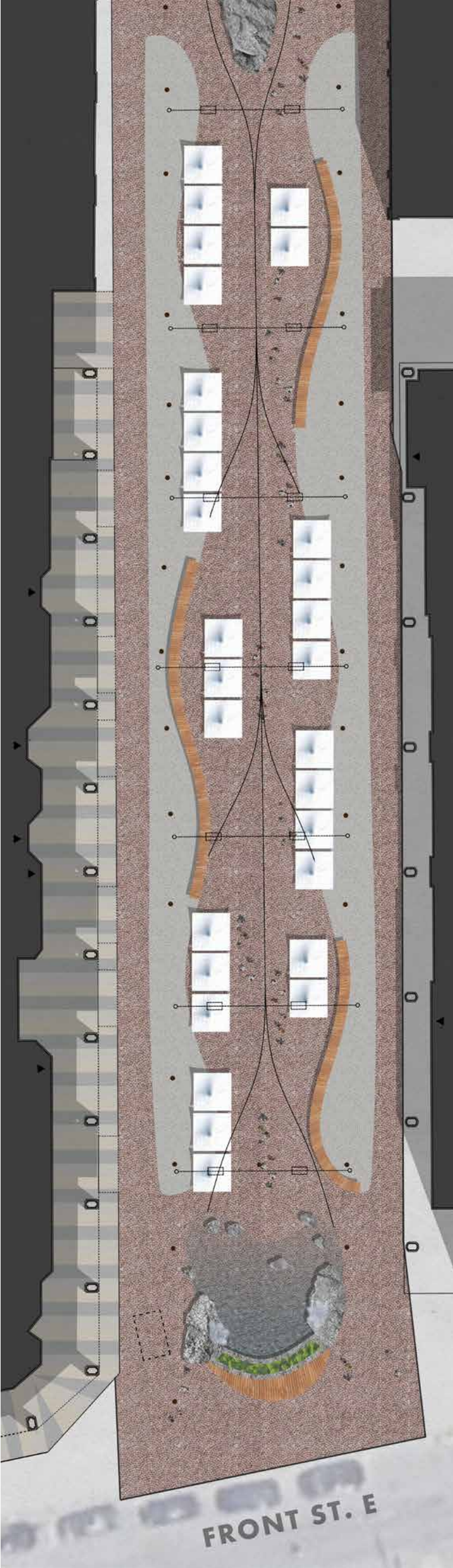


Option 3

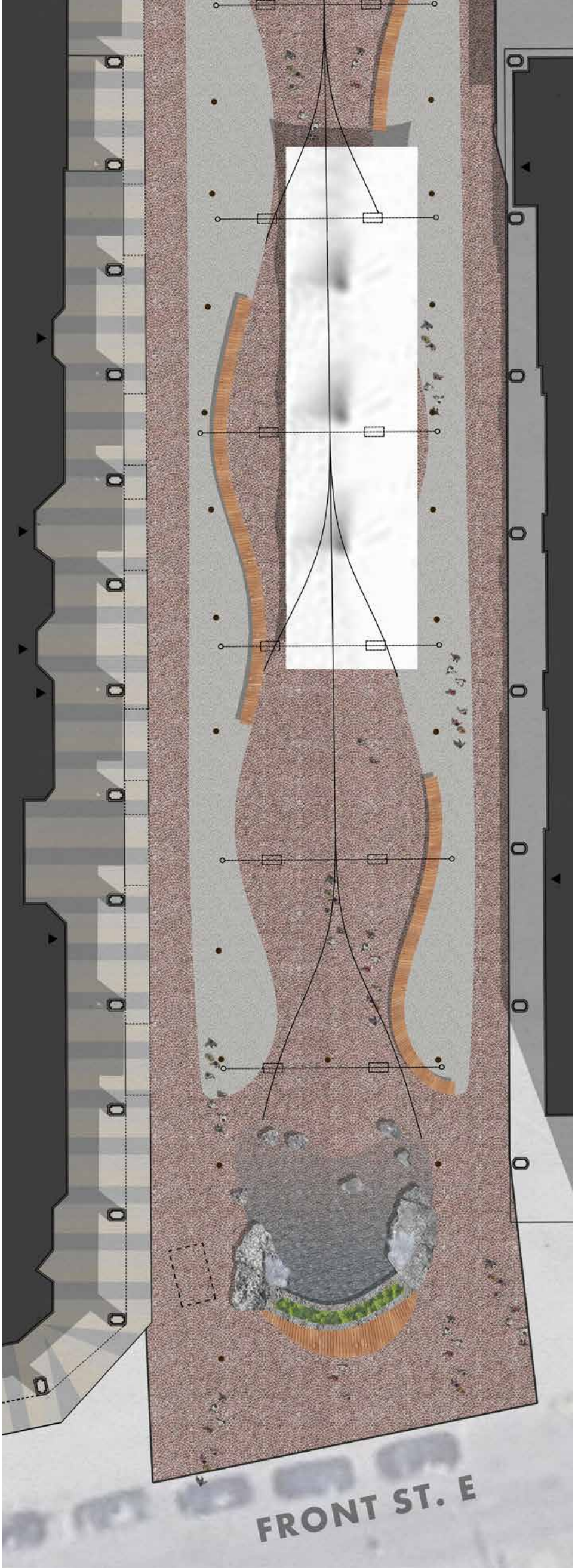


View looking south near Front Street sidewalk showing water feature with a skim of water with a wave-like action and boulders

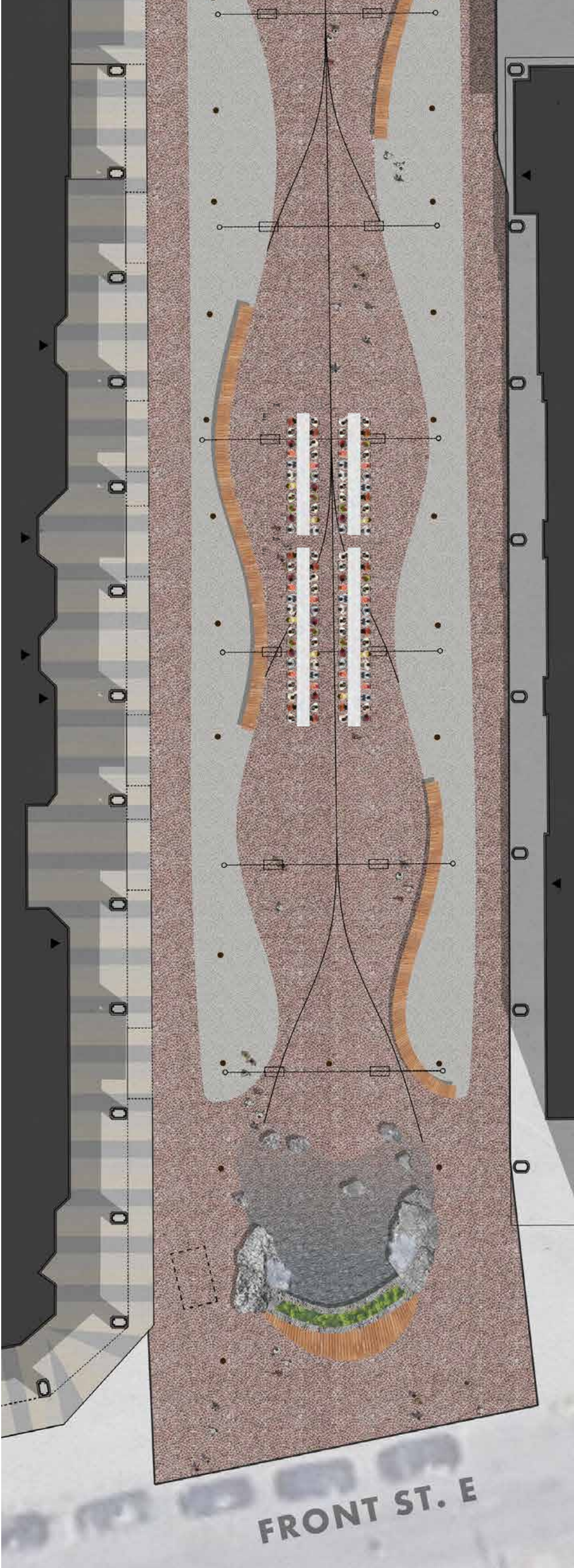
Option 3: Market Operations



**Farmer's
Market
Tents**
30 tents
3m x 3m



**Large
Event Tent**
380 people
9m x 36m



Dinner
100 people
7 x 18m

Stay informed

Check the webpage toronto.ca/MarketLanePark

Complete the survey - click the link from the project webpage

Share additional thoughts email nancy.chater@toronto.ca

Comparison of Options

Option 1

The Stitch



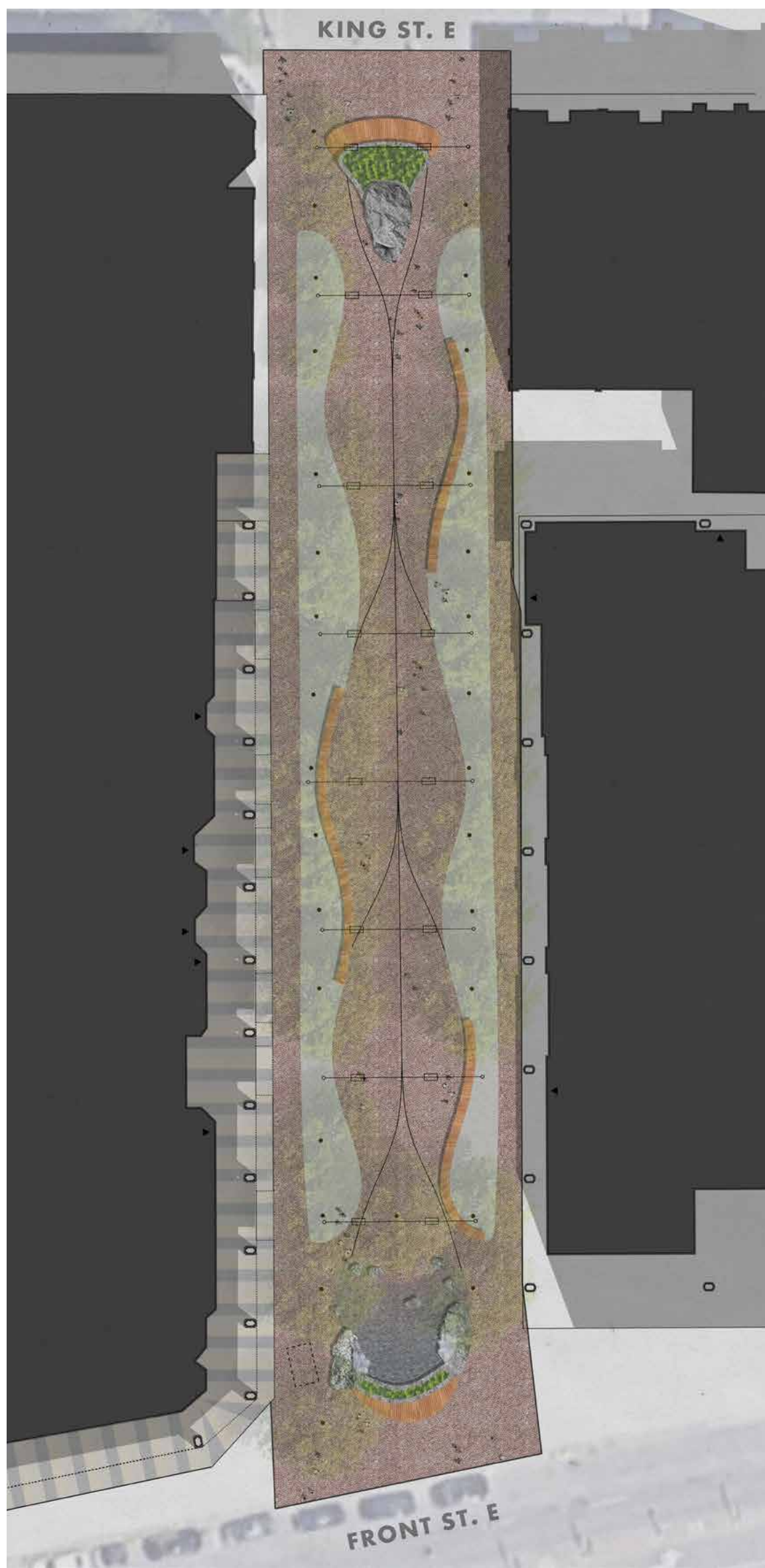
Option 2

The Flex



Option 3

The Meander



Comparison of Options

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Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• takes cues from context• flexible ground plane	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• social infrastructure• adaptable• contemporary look	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• organic elements• focus on water
Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• preserve existing trees• 2 new trees• no horticulture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• preserve existing trees• no horticulture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• remove 2 small existing trees• 2 horticultural planters
Indigenous Place Keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• flexible, programmable zone at north• subtle iconography in site elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• integrated with site furniture and art elements at south	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• embedded approach to celebrating water: rainfall capture, lake shoreline dynamics, glacial remnants
Water Feature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• flush jets at south• disappear when not in use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• integrated with site furniture and art elements at south• misting/cooling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• rainwater collection throughout• integrated with boulders and plaza at south
Paving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• pattern and materials same as Market Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paving bands aligned to tree trunks and building columns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• granite cobbles in organic patterns directing the flow of water
Seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• same wood benches, metal tables and moveable chairs as Berczy Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• modular, moveable benches can be reconfigured	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• long curvilinear and organic wood benches with backs• large boulders
Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• heritage light standards from surrounding district	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• contemporary wood poles & possible special lighting effects; overhead ring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• catenary (overhead)