

# Market Lane Park Improvements

## Preferred Concept

## Public Workshop #3

March 28, 2022

The Planning Partnership

ERA Architects

Two Row Architect





# 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.**

# Opening Remarks

**Kristyn Wong-Tam**

City of Toronto, Councillor



**Introductions**

**Overview and Timeline**

**Stakeholders**

**Three Design Concept Options**

**What We Heard**

**Preferred Concept**

**Discussion**



# 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 and the public right of way in front of the North Market building 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.

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 2021-Spring 2022

## Design

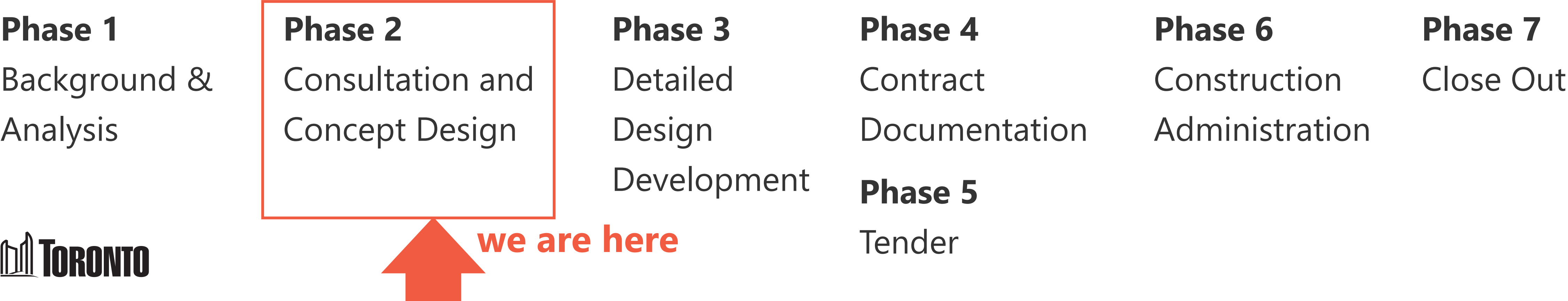
**Develop a design based on the park's master plan**

Summer-Fall 2022

## Build

**Build the park based on the design**

Fall 2022-2023



# Overview of Consultation

 **we are here**

Community Engagement

## Phase 1

Background Review, Site Investigation and Analysis

Spring-Summer 2021



May 26



May

One-on-one conversations

May

Topic focused discussions and interviews

May June

## Phase 2A

Vision, Principles and Big Moves

Summer 2021



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



Indigenous Placekeeping Circle

Fall

Public Workshop 2  
Discuss Concept Options

Nov 18



Online Survey

## Phase 2C

Preferred Concept Design

Winter 2021 - Spring 2022



Indigenous Placekeeping Circle

March 9

Public Workshop 3  
Preferred Concept

March 28



Online Surveys

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



# 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**

**CreateTO**

## Neighbourhood

**St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association**

**St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA**

**Market Square Condominium - 80 Front St. E. and 35 Church St.**

**Adjoining Property Owners**

# 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 #2 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 – Phase 1 + 2 Indigenous Engagement

## Phase 1

- Many **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 - be able to **engage in cultural practices** such as smudging and drumming without being asked for permits or hearing racist comments

## Phase 2

- Need access to electrical outlets for programming such as Inuit soap stone carving demonstrations
- Interest in approach to planting - use of native medicinal plants
- Prefer a vertical water feature
- Is there an opportunity to change the name of Market Lane Park?
- Like the suspended lights, big rocks, misting and cooling stations
- Interest in opportunity for signage to identify special plants, interpretation of history, etc.

# 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.”*



# What We Heard – Phase 2 Public Workshop Concept Options



## 120 people

- Water feature: some love the features, some say not suited to this space, love the water stations, concerned about winter operation
- Seating: need arm rests, like the furnishings used in Berczy Park
- Accessibility beyond the boundaries of the Park
- Concern about safety, noise, parameters for programming (size, number, location)
- Infrastructure and maintenance: need power, love the water stations, need high level of maintenance

# What We Heard – Phase 2 Community Resource Group



- Concern about trees, popping pavers, survivability
- Consider including streetscape enhancements close to the Park
- Plans should show entry points to North Market
- Support the idea of Indigenuos programming, but best to consider within context of larger parks nearby
- Support for hand warming station and sink
- Some agree with idea of heritage themed lighting others don't agree



# What We Heard – Phase 2 Community Resource Group

## **Special follow up meeting in response to specific concerns for type, location, amount of programming planned for the Park**

Reviewed Council direction regarding the North Market building and the associated programming of indoor and outdoor spaces

Reviewed the role of the S. Lawrence Market management team and the St. Lawrence Market Precinct Advisory Committee in programming

Confirmed that guidelines will be developed for programming through consultation with the community/stakeholder groups in the area over the next few months by the St. Lawrence Market management team

# Design Options

# 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

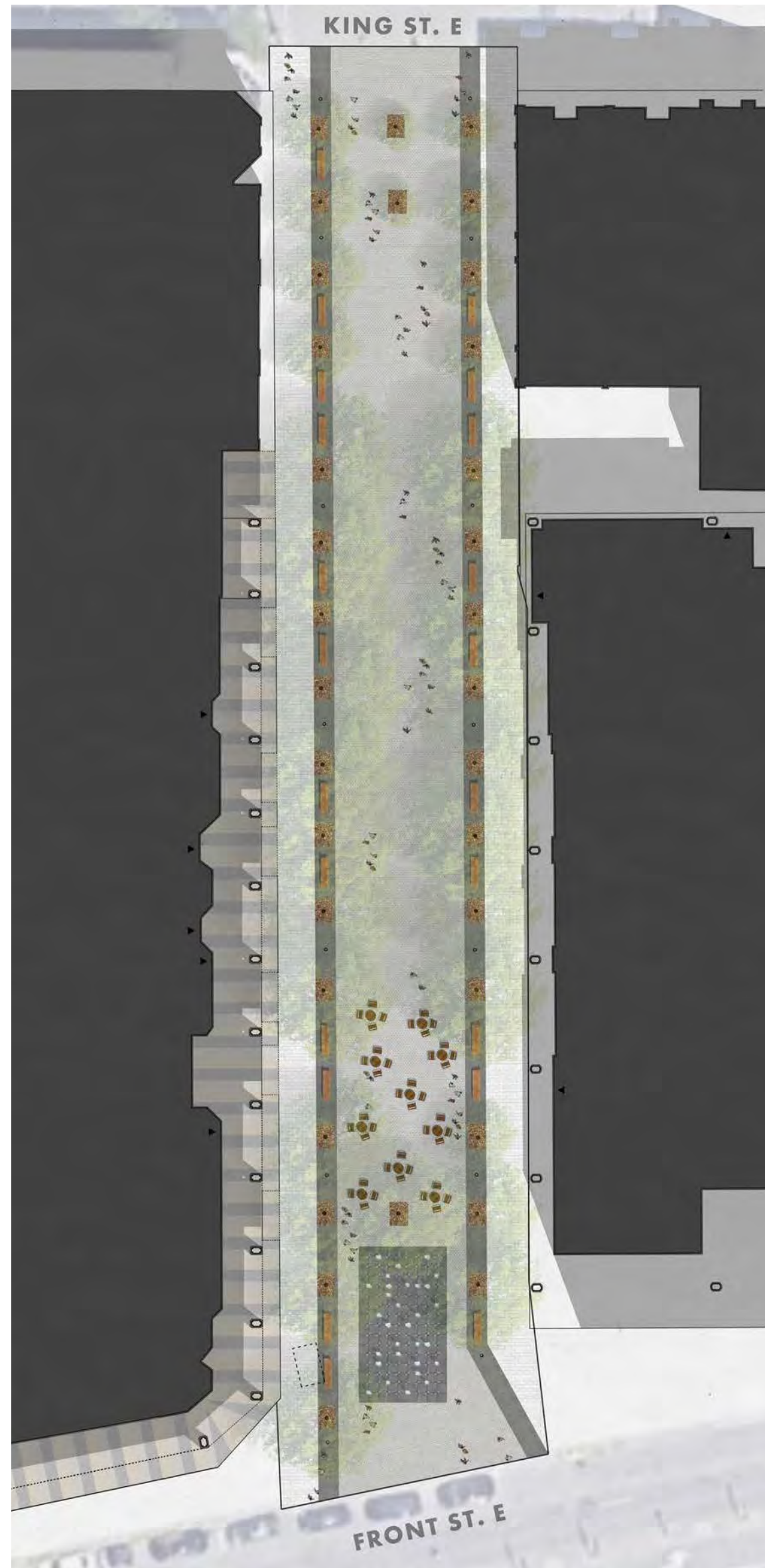
- strong tree strategy
- strong Indigenous Place-Keeping presence
- provide space for gathering
- direct rainwater to the tree roots
- plenty of accessible, comfortable seating
- new, level paving including an accessible route through the park
- water feature
- new park lighting
- accommodate outdoor tents for Farmer's Market and Antique Market; as well as occasional 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
- enhance pedestrian promenade character of the park, with entry features at each end.



# Recap the Options

Option 1

## The Stitch



Option 2

## The Flex



Option 3

## The Meander





# 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



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



# 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



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



# 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



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



# What We Heard About the Options

## Overall rating of each concept option

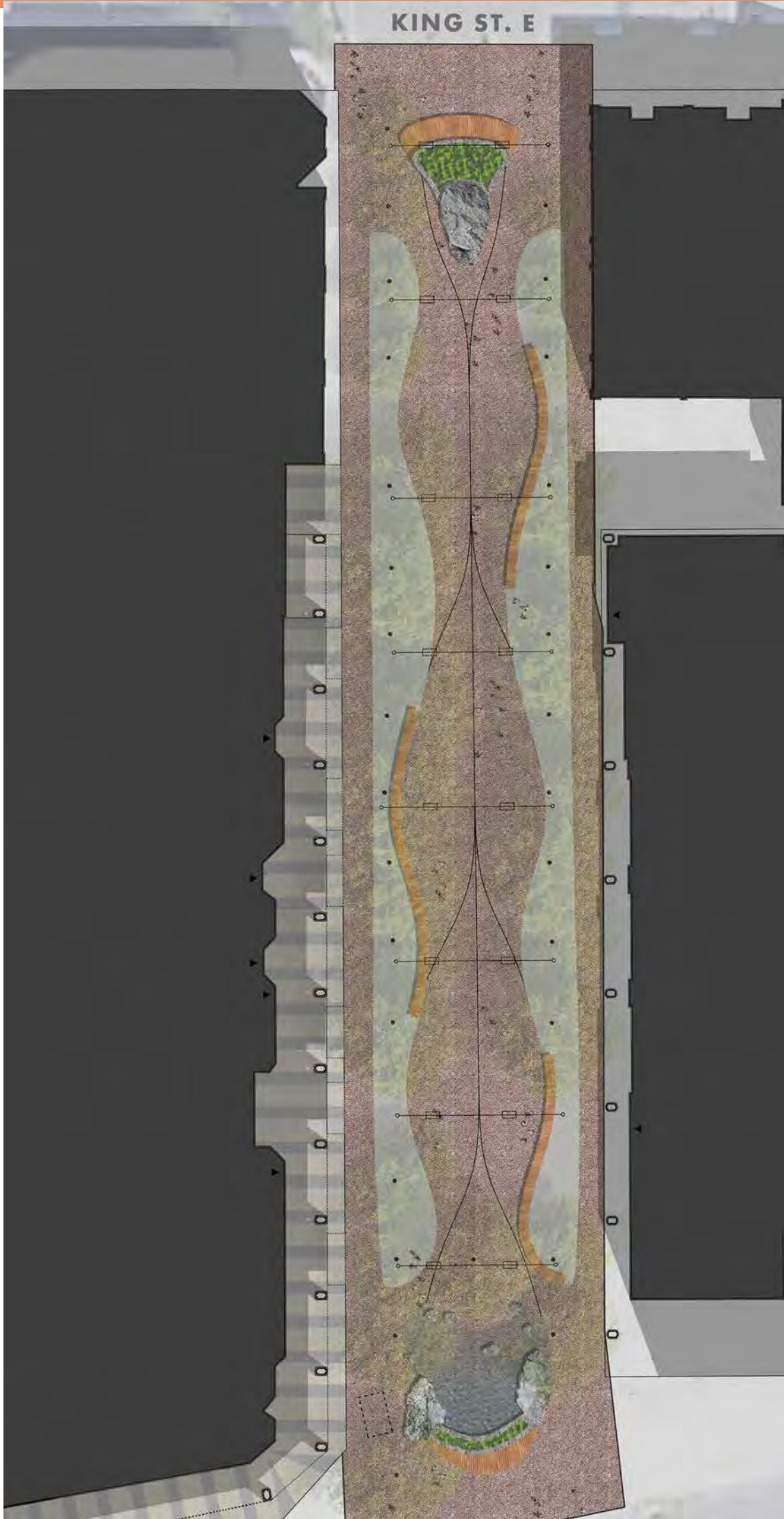
**Option 1 - The Stitch**  
49% 4 stars or higher



**Option 2 - The Flex**  
32% 4 stars or higher



**Option 3 - The Meander**  
68% 4 stars or higher





# What We Heard About the Options

## On Line Survey Result (499 respondents) Most Preferred Element

Most Preferred Water Feature - Concept 3



👍 65%

Most Preferred Planting - Concept 1



👍 92%

Most Preferred Paving - Concept 1



👍 79%

Most Preferred Indigenous Place-Keeping - Concept 3



👍 74%

Most Preferred Furniture and Lighting - Concept 1



👍 82%



# 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: Mid-Park

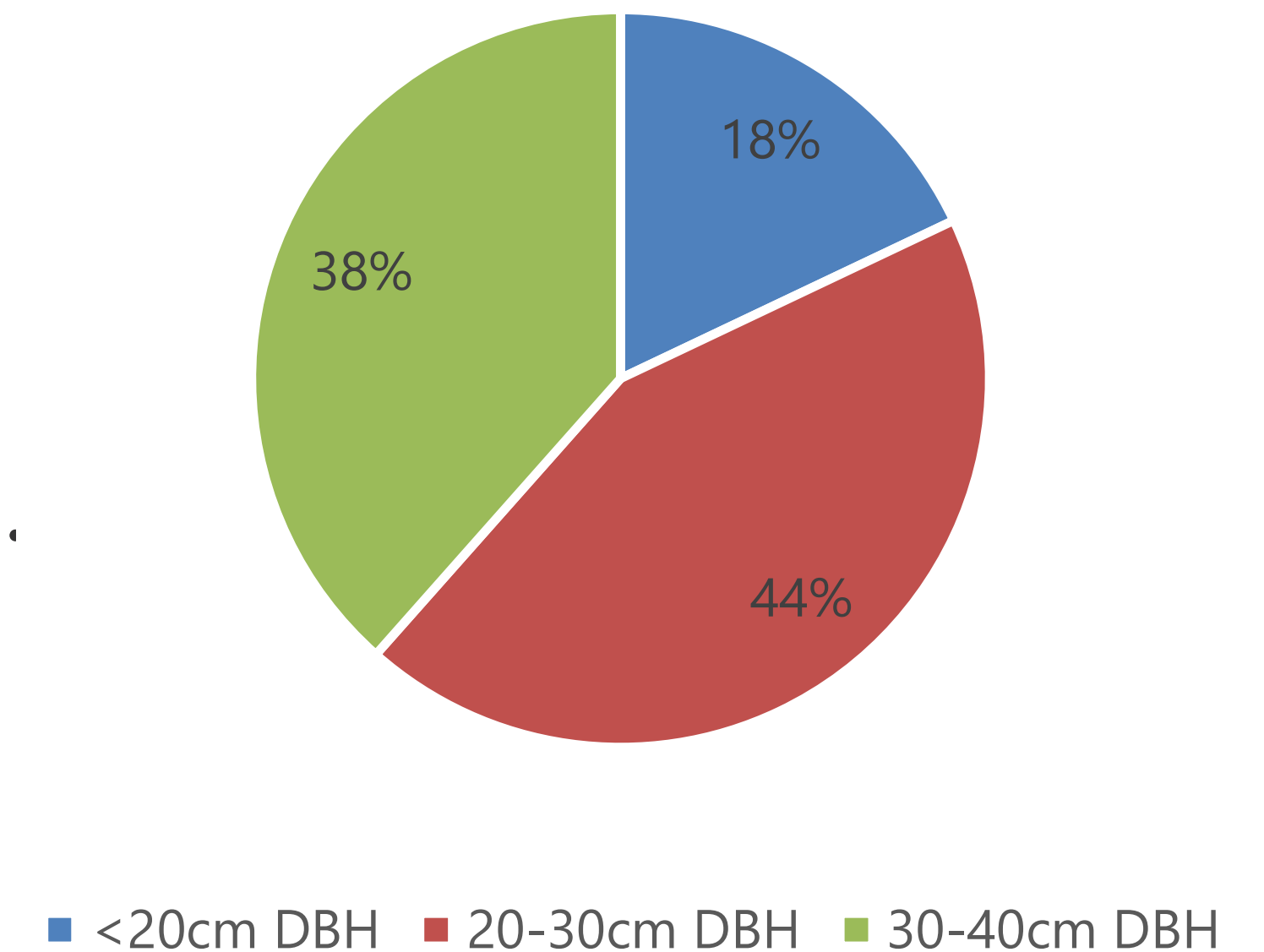




# Existing Tree Canopy

- Market Lane Park has an established canopy of Thornless Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis*), with one Linden (*Tilia cordata*).
- The existing trees are well suited to the current and proposed park function as a busy pedestrian space with primarily hard surfacing, and shade from adjacent buildings.
- Honey Locust are among the most urban tolerant trees, with good shade, salt and drought tolerance, and proven performance in compacted and alkaline urban soils.
- As medium-sized trees they create a green ceiling for Market Lane Park that responds to the human scale.
- Compound leaves with small leaflets allow filtered light into the park better than species with large leaves and dense canopies.

Existing Tree Diameter





# Planting

- Continuous tree canopy (canopy closure) is an asset which develops over time, and should be maintained.
- The planting strategy will prioritize preserving groups of healthy trees. Any tree removals for new programming will be phased and strategically located away from the highest quality tree canopy.
- Planting at the north and south entrances will introduce species diversity to the site, while the continuous green ceiling of Honey Locust canopy will be maintained in the park interior.
- This planting strategy will include the small number of trees that require replacement due to poor health.

## Phase 1

Lowest Quality Canopy;  
Opportunity for Replacement  
& Suspended Pavement

## Phase 3

High Quality Canopy;  
Augment Soil and Maintain  
Mature Canopy;  
Innovative Approach to  
Increasing Soil Volumes

## Phase 2

Canopy Impacted  
by Construction;  
Strategic Approach to  
Replacement  
& Suspended Pavement



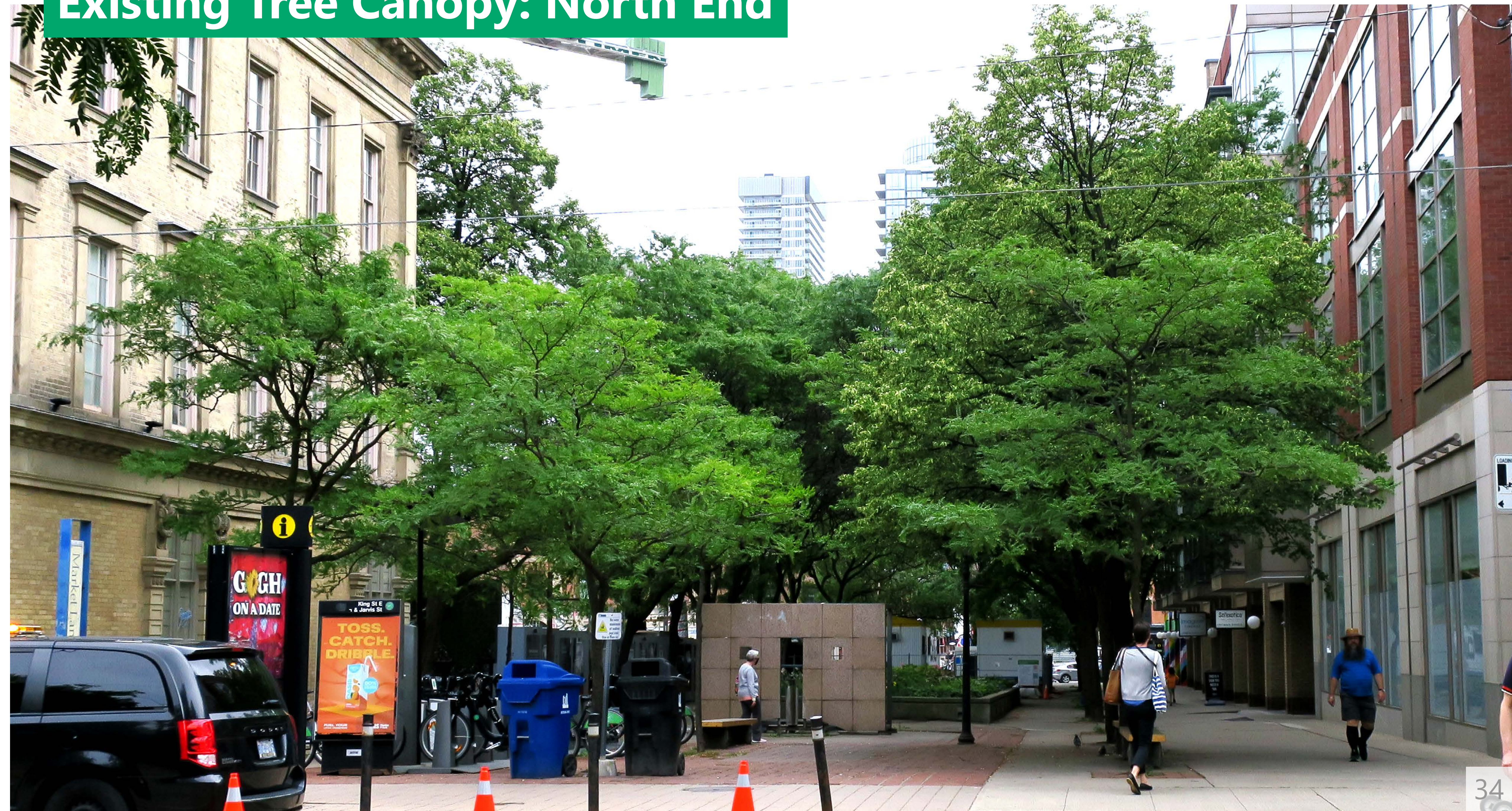


# Planting Soil

- The existing soil profile and tree root locations will be determined through excavation, root exploration and testing.
- This testing will inform the tree preservation and soil improvement strategy. Soil around trees to be preserved will be improved.
- It is expected that the existing soil is compacted and tree roots are constrained, so the approach will lead with soil testing, and incorporate current best practices for improving soil health, increasing available soil volume, and preventing future soil compaction (exposing roots with pneumatic soil excavation, introducing suspended pavement, root paths and more connected soil volume).
- Areas of new tree planting will have new high quality soil to support future tree growth, as well as sustainable stormwater solutions.



# Existing Tree Canopy: North End





# Existing Tree Canopy: South End





# Programming for St. Lawrence North Market and Market Lane Park

## 2004 Council Adopted recommendations regarding development parameters:

- Market activities should be encouraged to spill out into the adjacent park
- Market carts, provision of arts and entertainment, celebration of special festivals, unique market activities
- Market Complex should be....an open and public space where impromptu and spontaneous, centre of festivity

## 2008 Council Endorsed the strategy to redevelop the St. Lawrence Market North

## 2017-2021 St. Lawrence Market Strategic Plan

The North Market Building:

- Permanent home on the ground floor for the weekly Farmers Market
- Will be programmed and may be used for a variety of purposes throughout the day, 7 days a week
- Presents opportunity to find new integrations among the North Market, Market Lane Park, South Market and Market Street

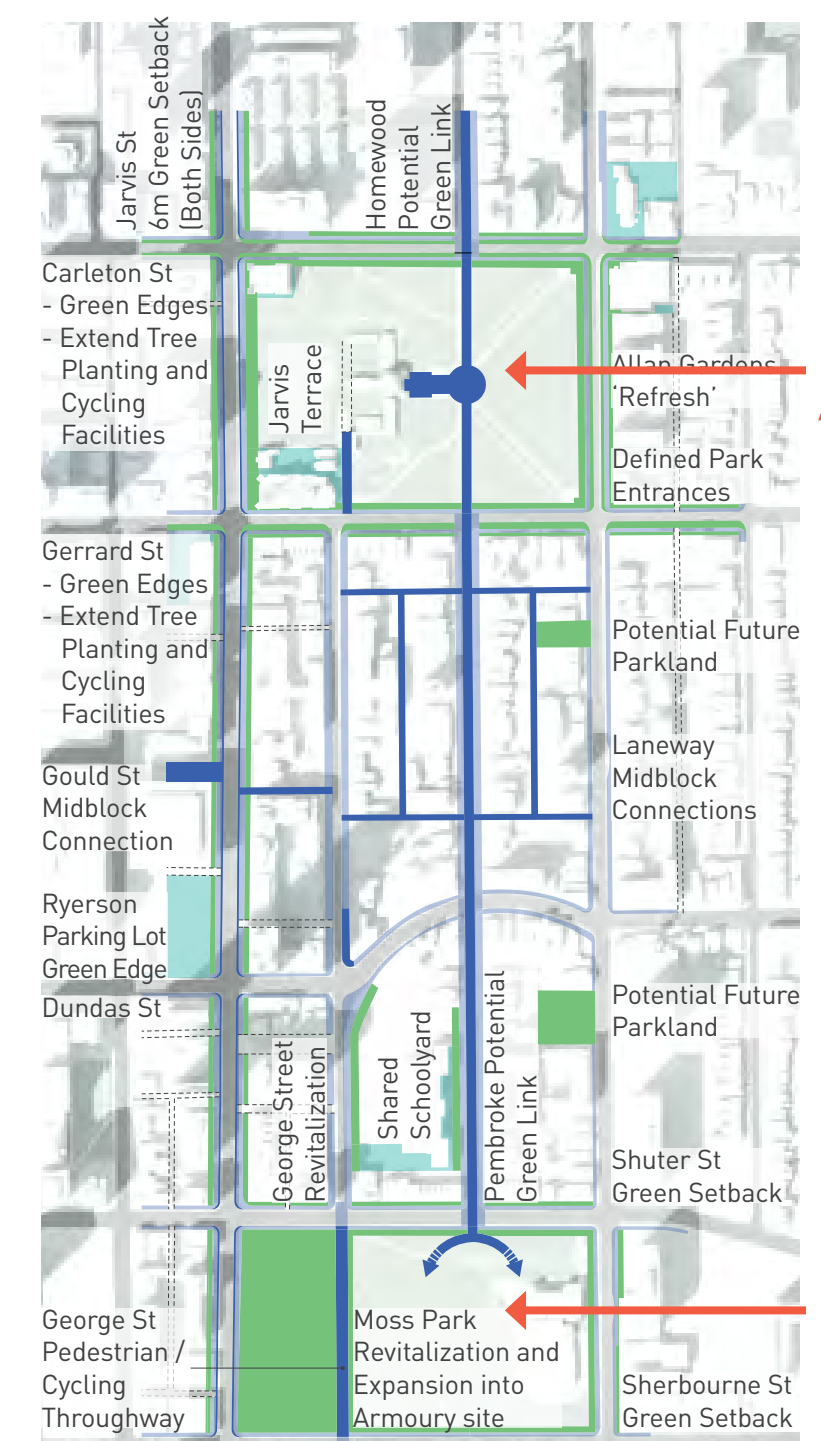
## 2017-2021 St. Lawrence Market Strategic Plan – excerpts from the document

- Provide vibrant and welcoming spaces for **community gathering and celebration**
- Work with City Parks to improve Market Lane Park in a way that complements the redeveloped North Market and **serves as a central public open space for the Complex**
- Create **spaces for creativity and innovation in arts and culture, to complement the core food-related programming** of the Complex
- ensure that the Complex has public spaces **for people from all walks of life** to gather and enjoy a festive and dynamic atmosphere.



# 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



# Context for Indigenous Place-Keeping in Park Design

## The City of Toronto is implementing a Reconciliation Action Plan

The Reconciliation Action Plan is being developed to map and guide the actions that the City of Toronto will take from 2022 to 2032 and beyond to achieve truth, reconciliation and justice to the extent that it remains consistent with the self-identified needs of Indigenous communities in Tkaronto.

The commitments found in this Reconciliation Action Plan build on and are guided by:

- strategic directions provided in the City's [Statement of Commitment to Aboriginal Peoples](#) (2010),
- Calls to Action set out by the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#)'s final report (2015),
- principles detailed in the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (2007), and
- Calls for Justice outlined by the [National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#) (2019 )



# Context for Indigenous Place-Keeping in Park Design

The Action Plan is City wide, across divisions and involves numerous initiatives. For Parks Forestry and Recreation, this includes Indigenous Place-Keeping in parks and ravines

## **15. Support Indigenous Place-Keeping**

Indigenous place-making and place-keeping is integral to truth, reconciliation and justice in that it creates and nurtures space, in process and policy, for ceremony, teaching and community; strengthens Indigenous connections with lands and waters; and builds cultural competency and capacity for land-based Indigenous engagement.

The outcomes of place-making and place-keeping initiatives are varied and all are critical for the health and well-being of Indigenous Peoples.



# Emerging Preferred Concept



# Emerging Preferred Concept - "Shoreline Meander"







View looking south from King Street showing north entrance to the Park



# Indigenous Place Keeping - Potential Indigenous-led Program

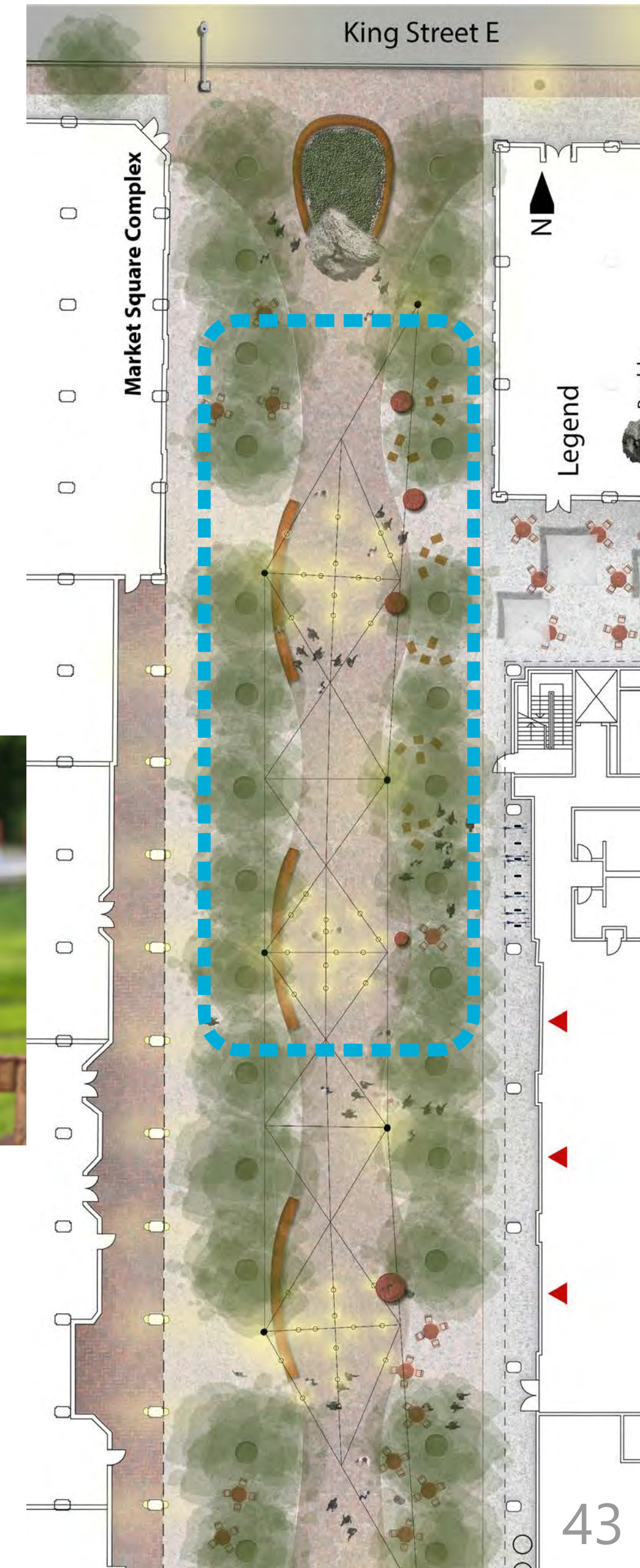
Many locations for Indigenous led programming are being explored for Ontario Place and Centre Island

Indigenous history incorporated into City Hall's Spirit Garden, and the Butterfly Garden

Quayside will include an Indigenous Cultural Centre

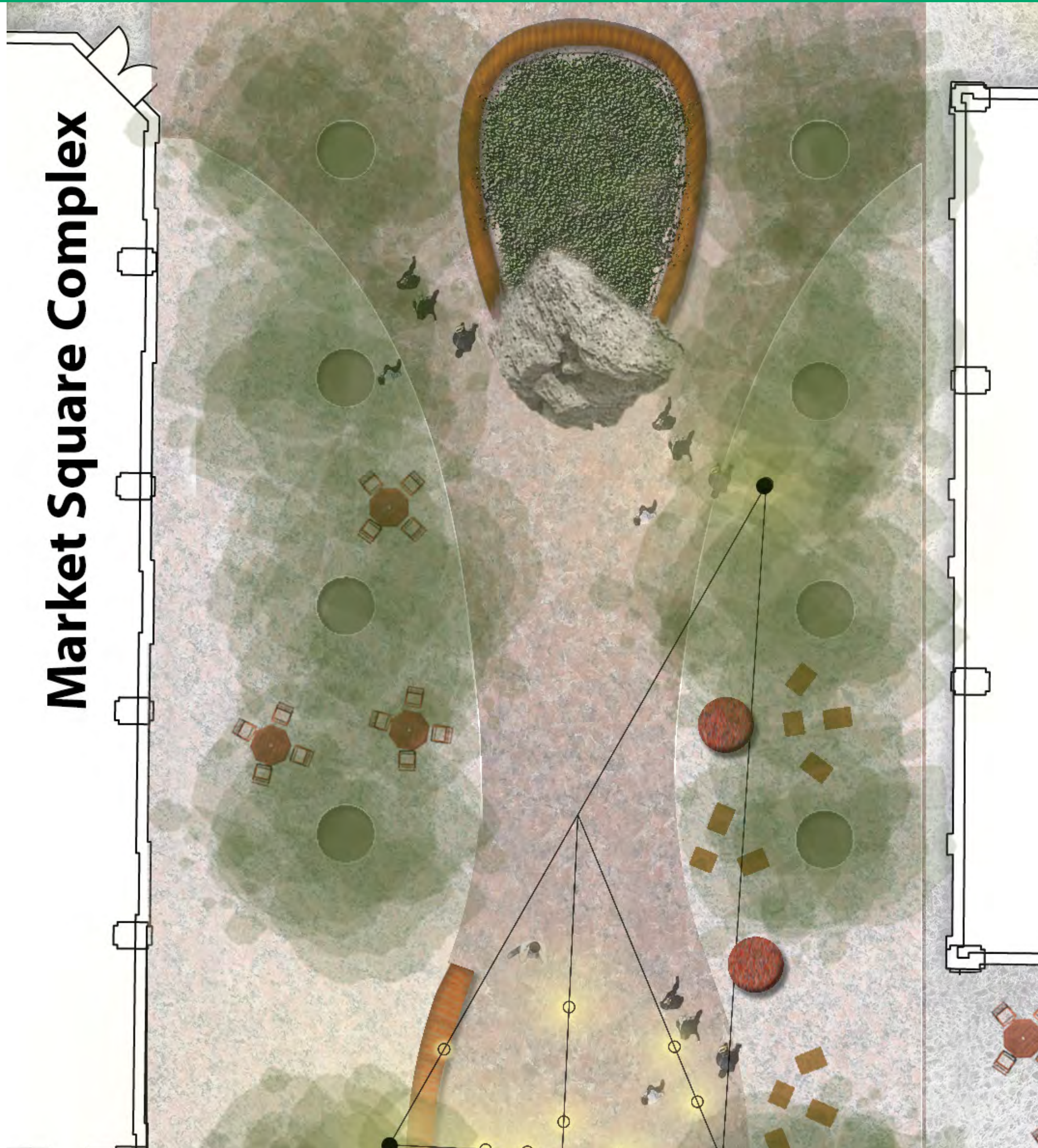
Market Lane Park is ideal for:

- Indigenous food vendors
- Indigenous Fashion Week
- Indigenous Arts programs and theatre
- Indigenous cultural practices, such as story circle, ceremony, smudging, carving





# Indigenous Place Keeping - North Planter



Baneberry  
Canada Anemone  
Nodding Wild Onion

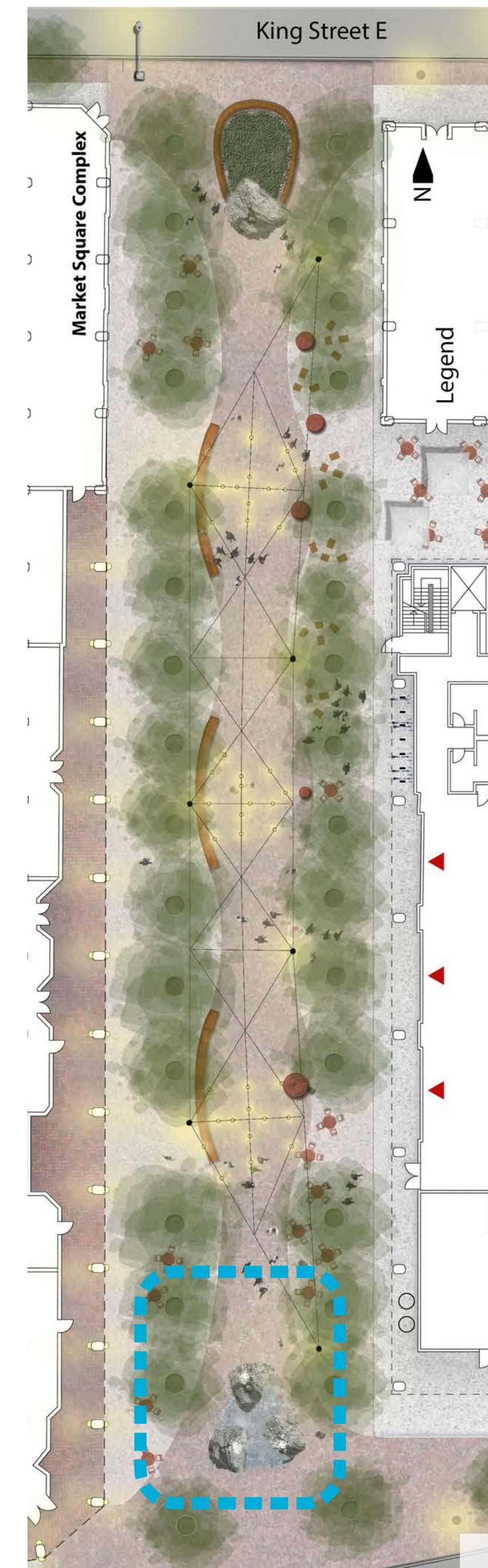




# Water Feature



Bubbling water will flow down from the large boulders

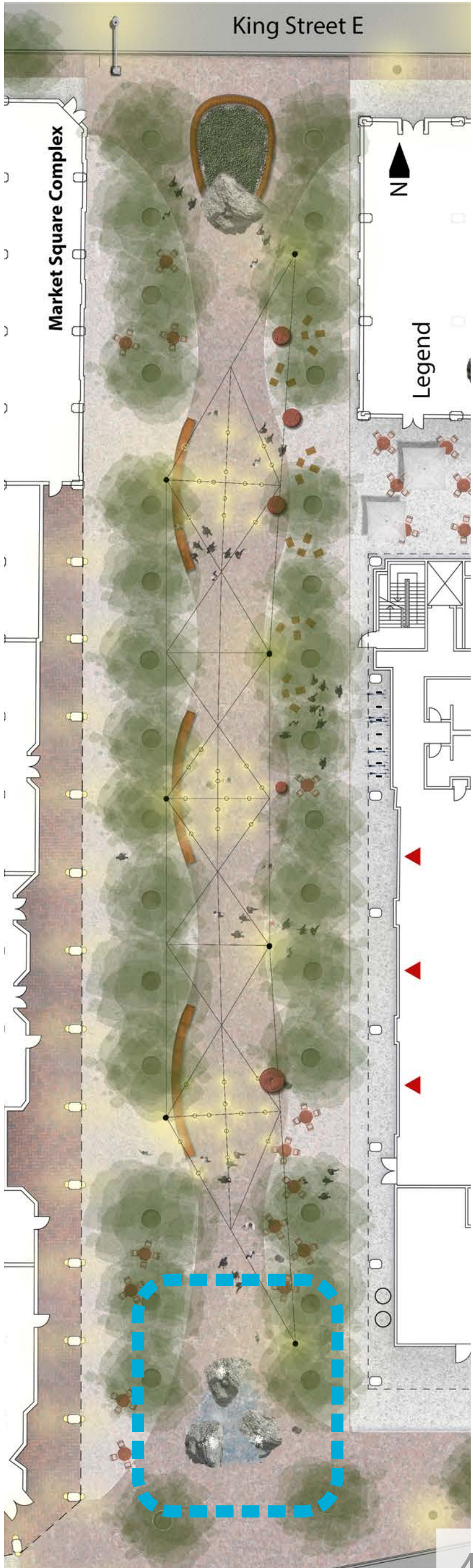




# Water Feature



Cooling mist emerging from the water feature

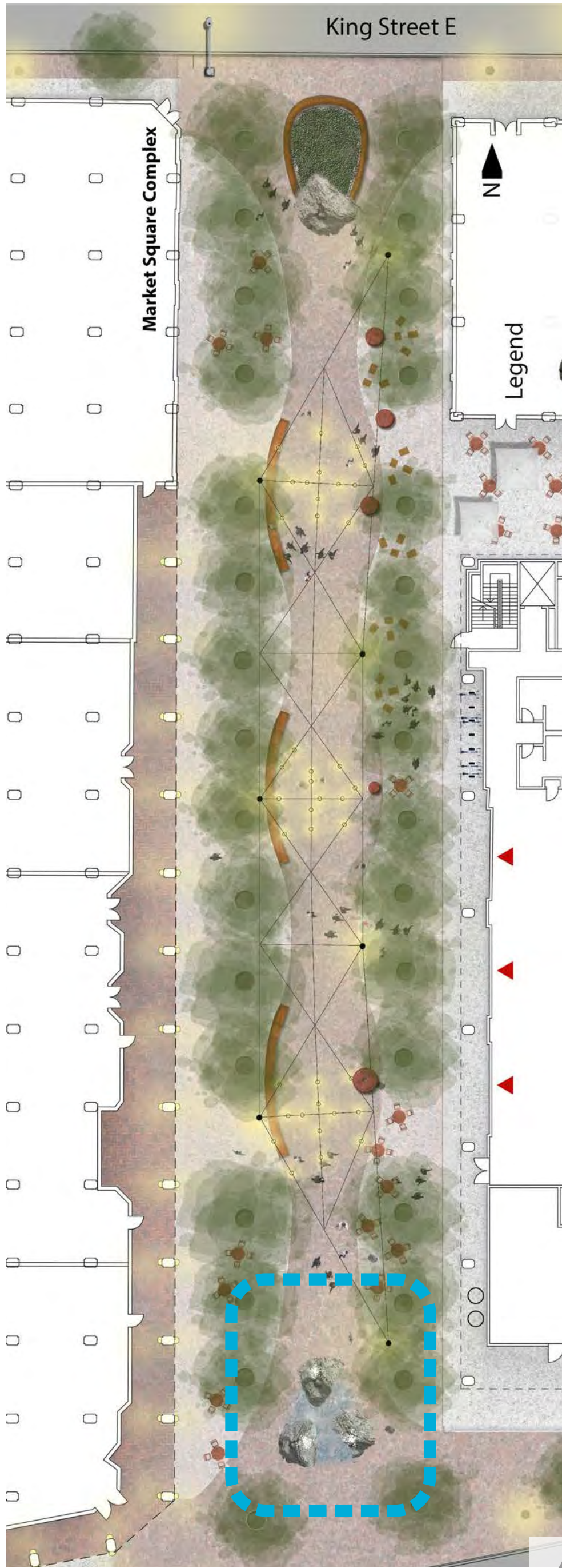




# Water Feature



Water bubbles out of paving creating a shallow pool/skiff of water







**View looking north from Front Street sidewalk showing rock boulders, water feature and seating**



# Paving

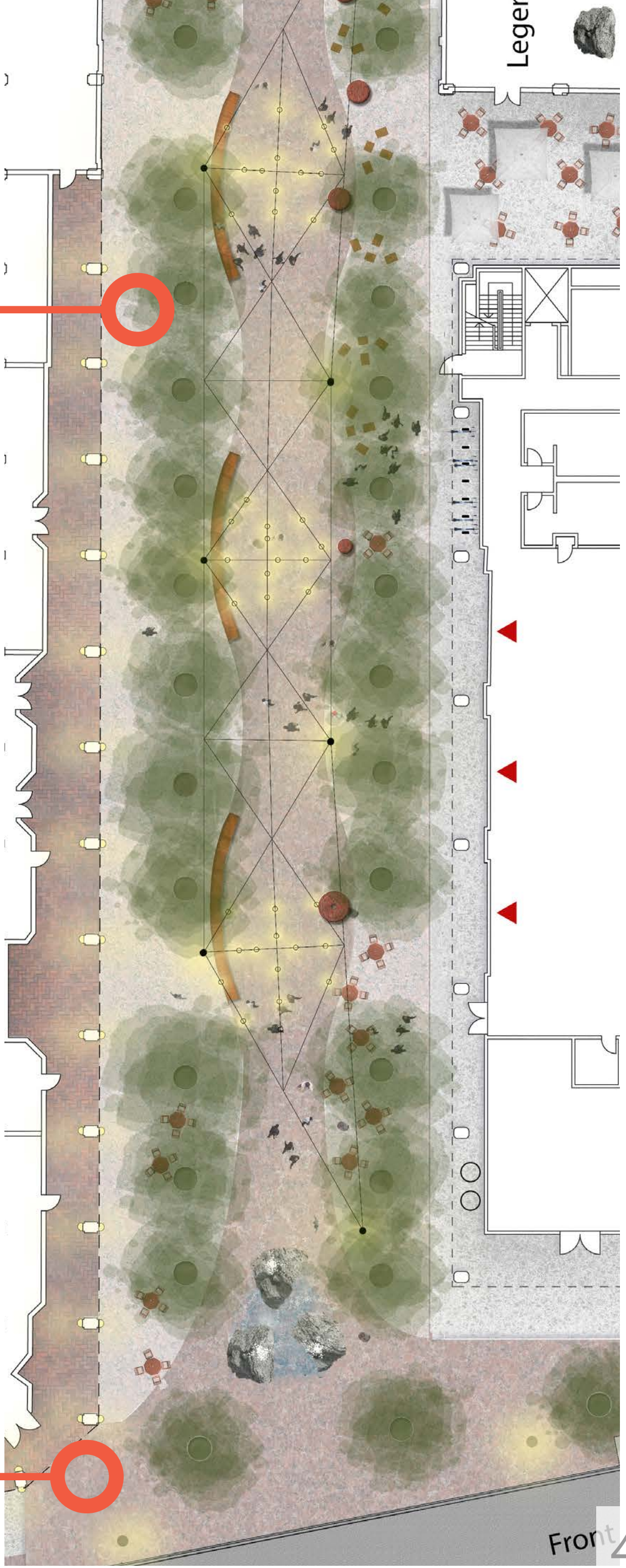


Market Street Paving



Bonded Aggregate Permeable Paving

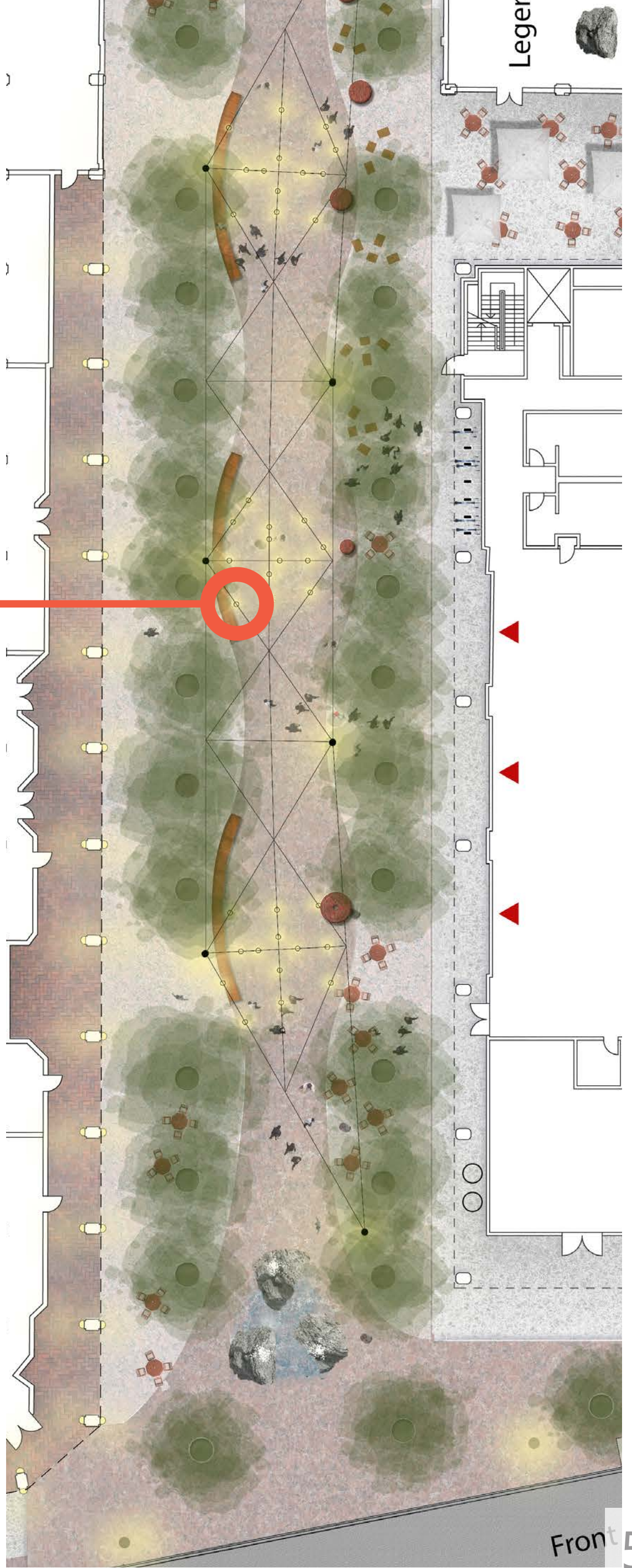
Berczy Park Paving





# Seating

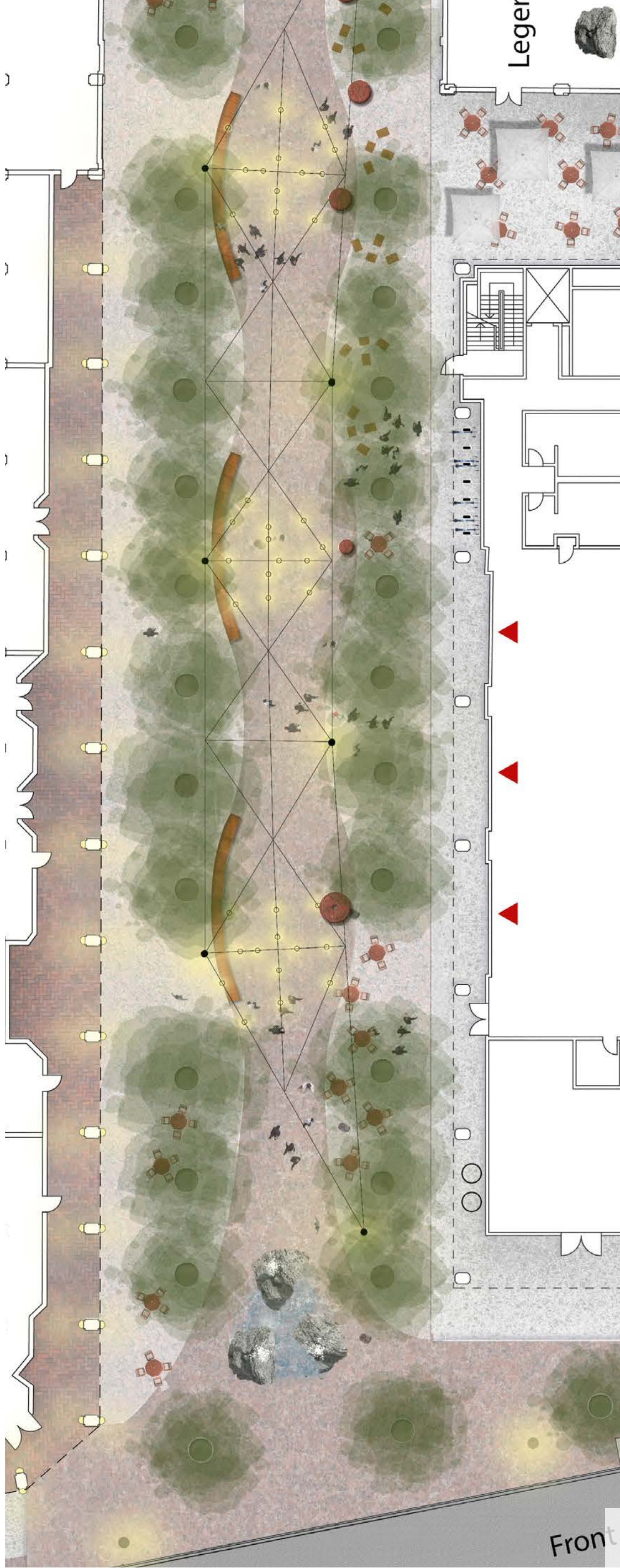
Berczy Park Benches





# Seating

Berczy Park moveable tables and chairs

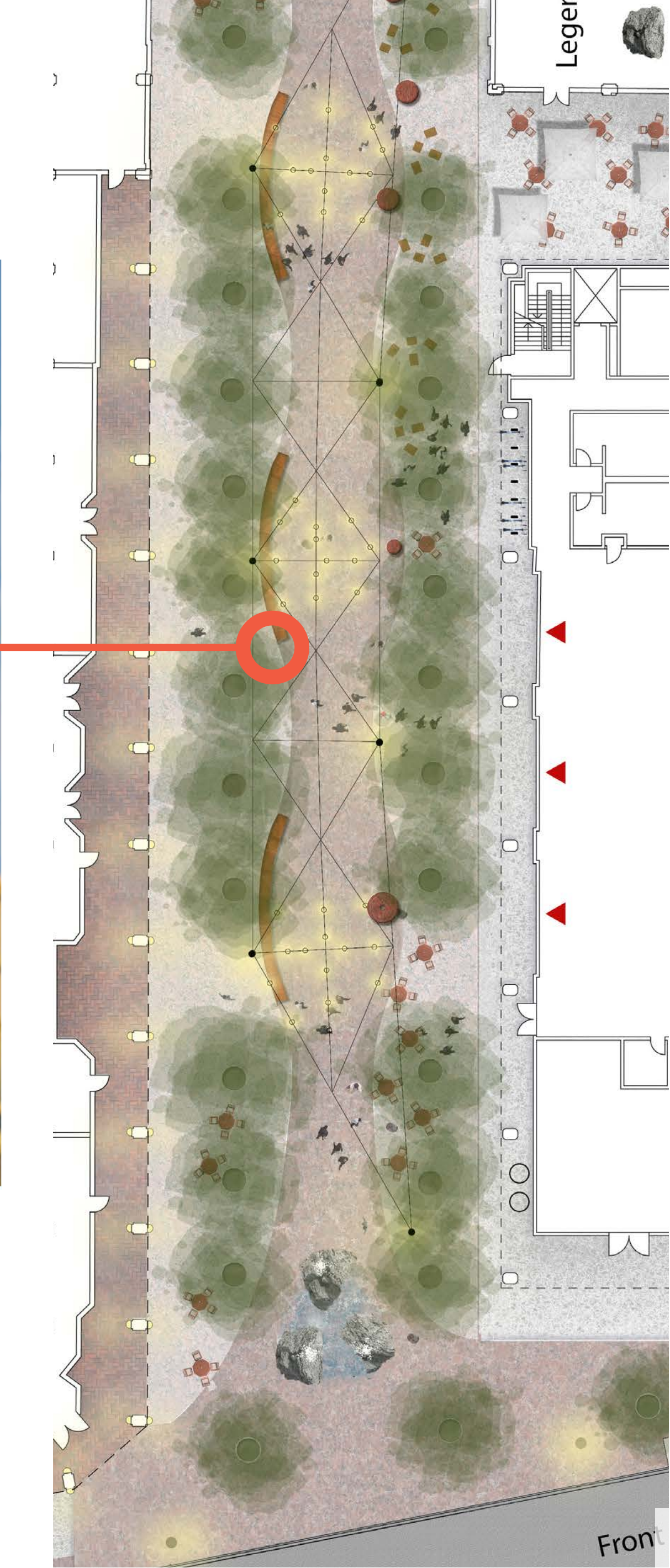




# Lighting

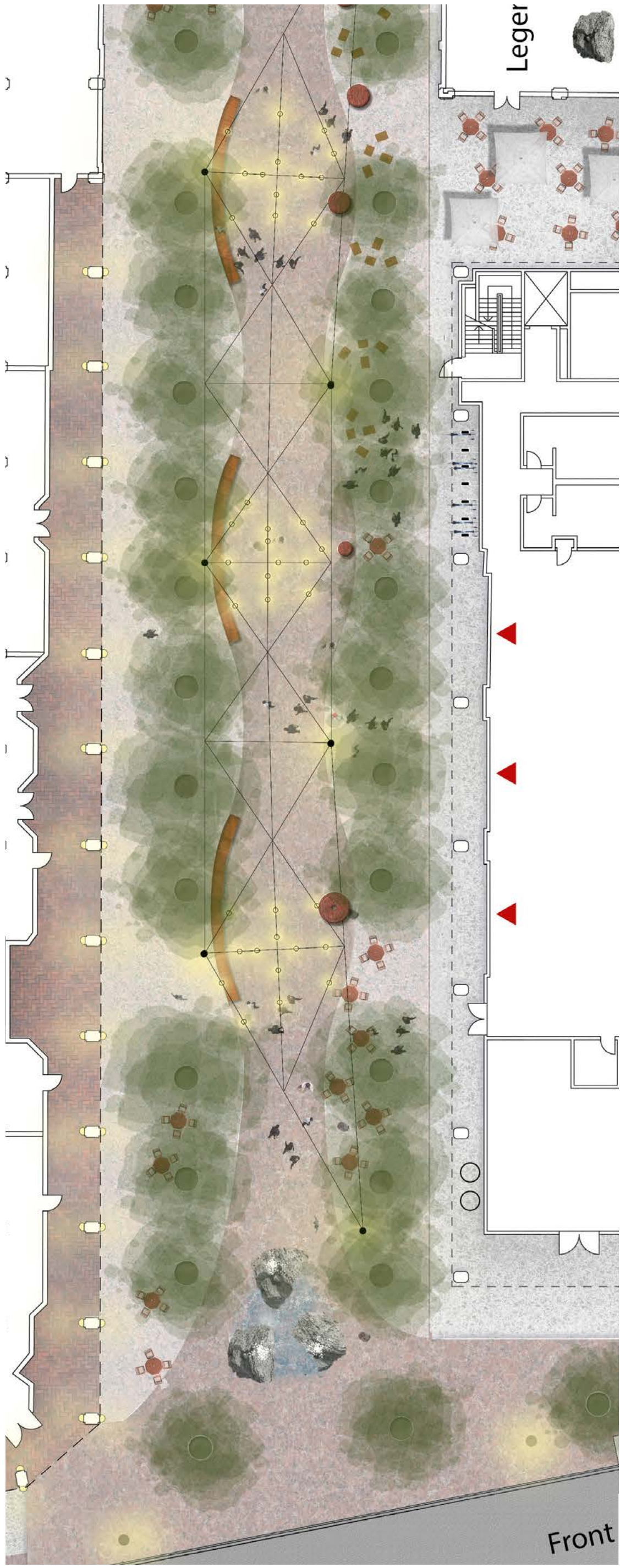


Pedestrian-height wooden light poles will be the main source of lighting in the park.





# Lighting - Catenary (overhead) Lights

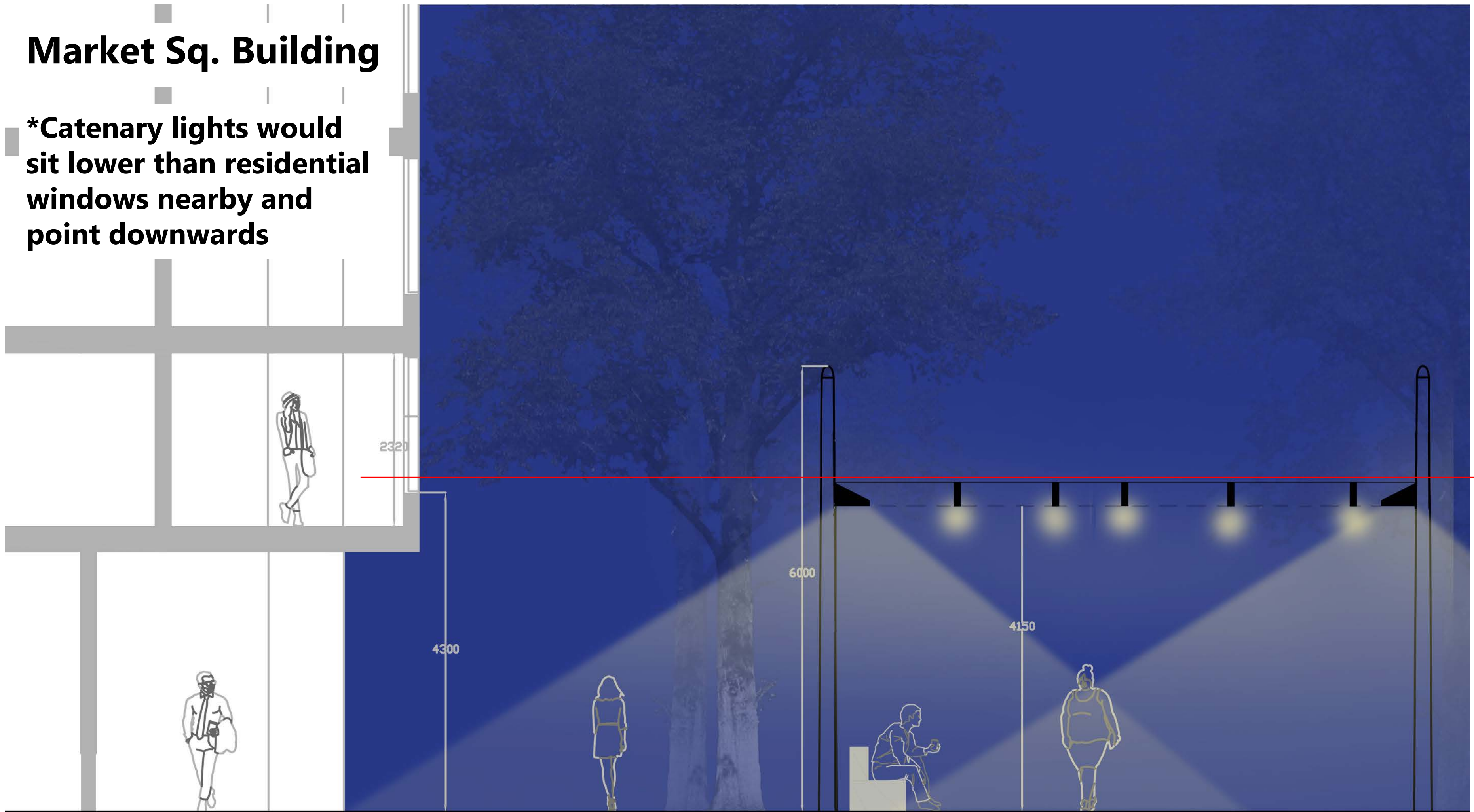




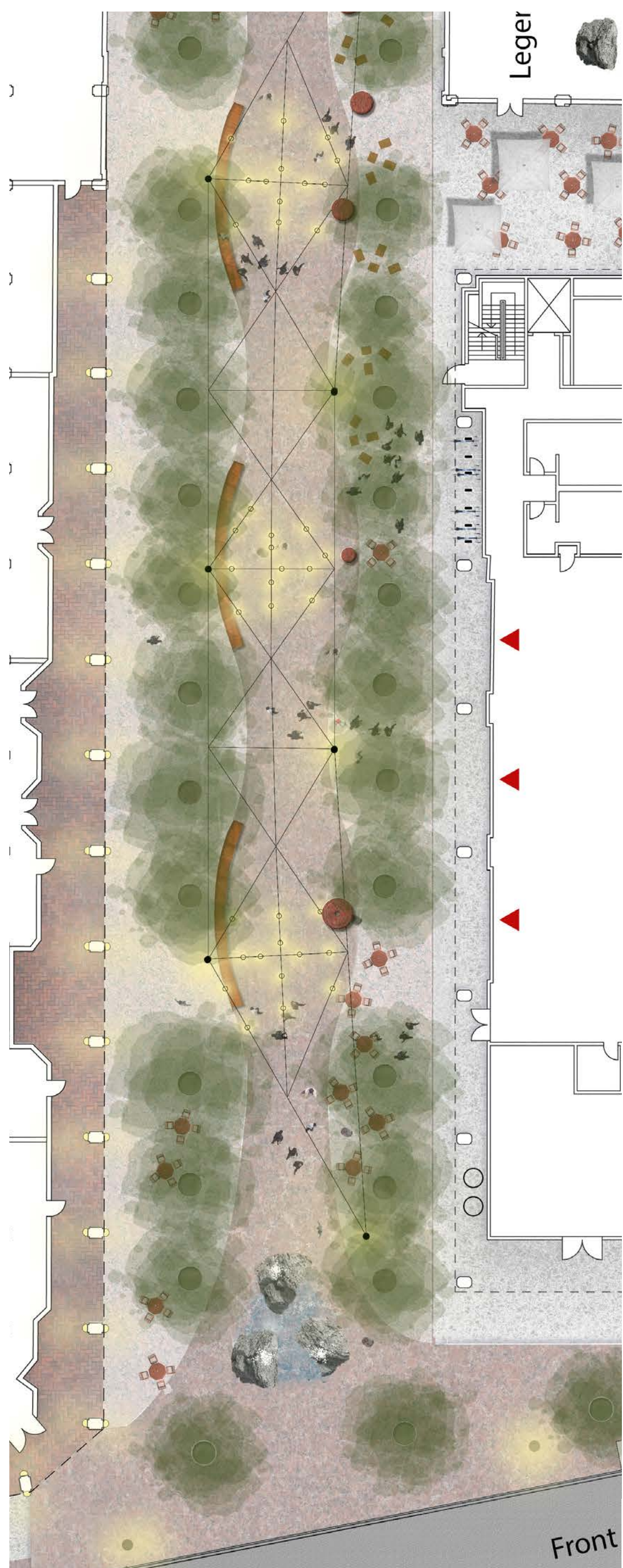
# Lighting - Catenary (overhead) Lights

## Market Sq. Building

\*Catenary lights would sit lower than residential windows nearby and point downwards



\*A second source of light be provided by catenary (overhead) lights

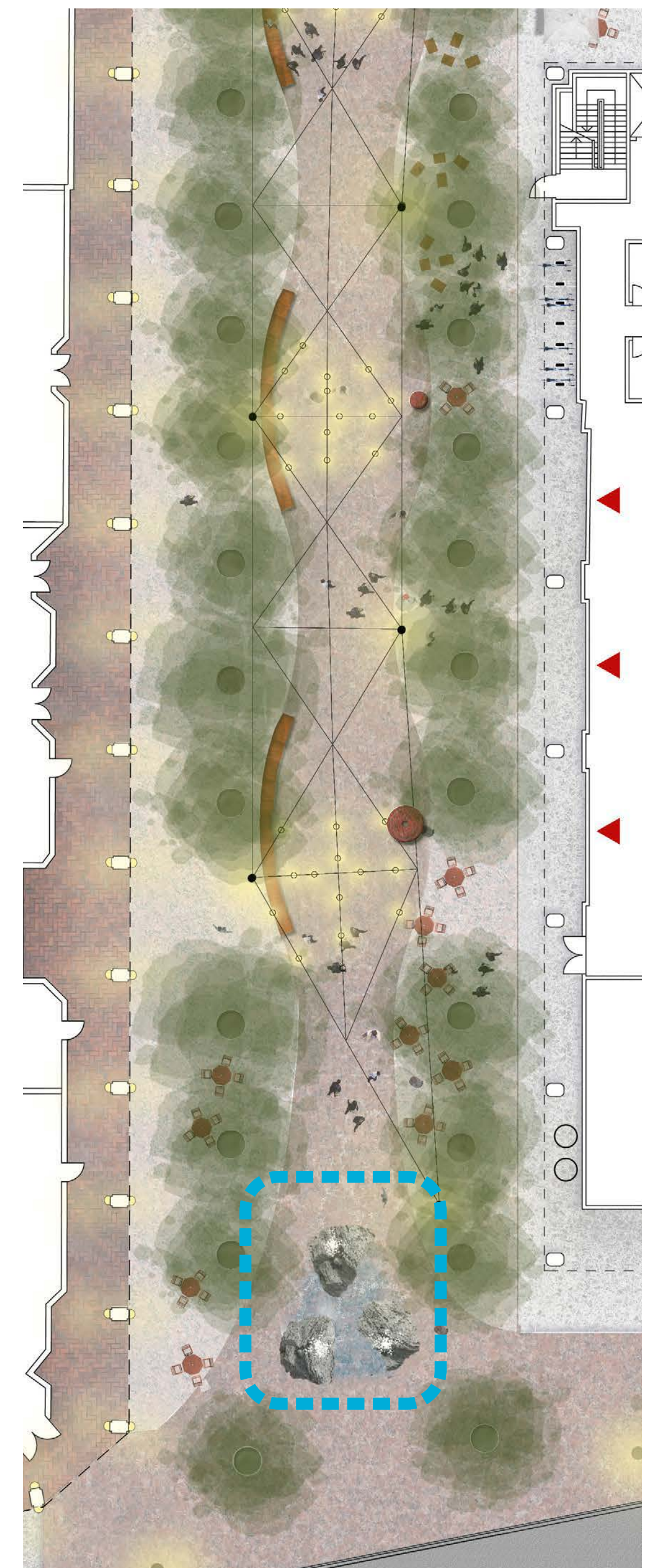




# Glacial Erratics



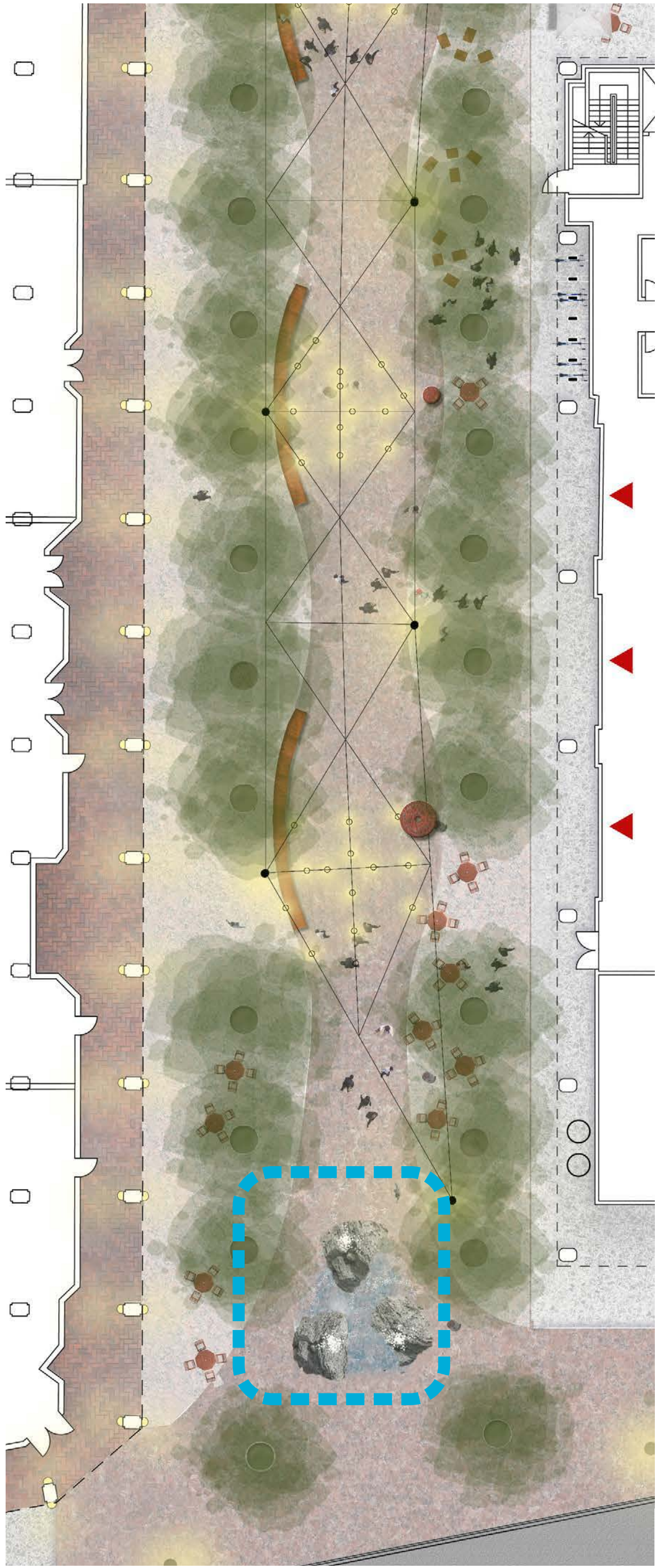
Glacial erratics are stones and rocks that were transported by a glacier and then left.





# Glacial Erratics

Glacial erratics are stones and rocks that were transported by a glacier and then left.

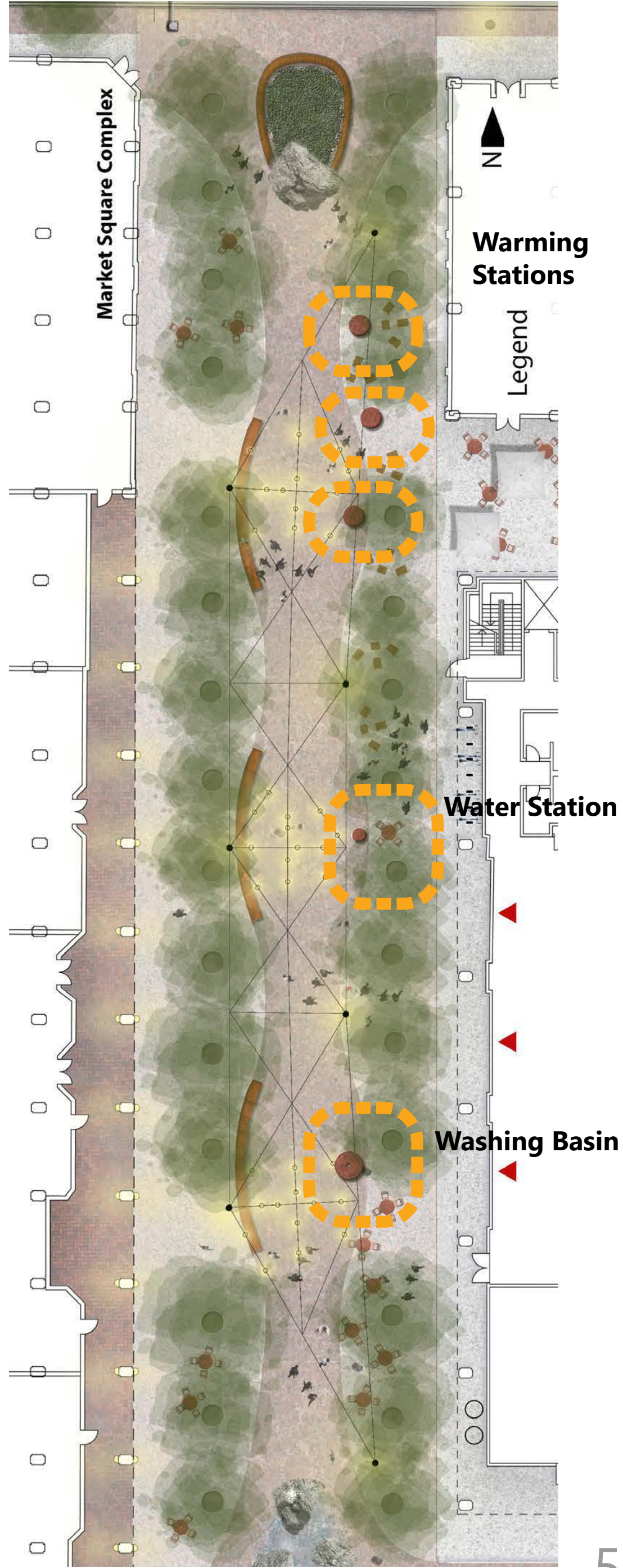




# Social Infrastructure



Park amenities provide a range of functions through the seasons such as hand warming, misting/cooling, drinking water and a public wash basin.







**View looking south towards Front Street showing seating, washing station, lighting**



# Market Operations



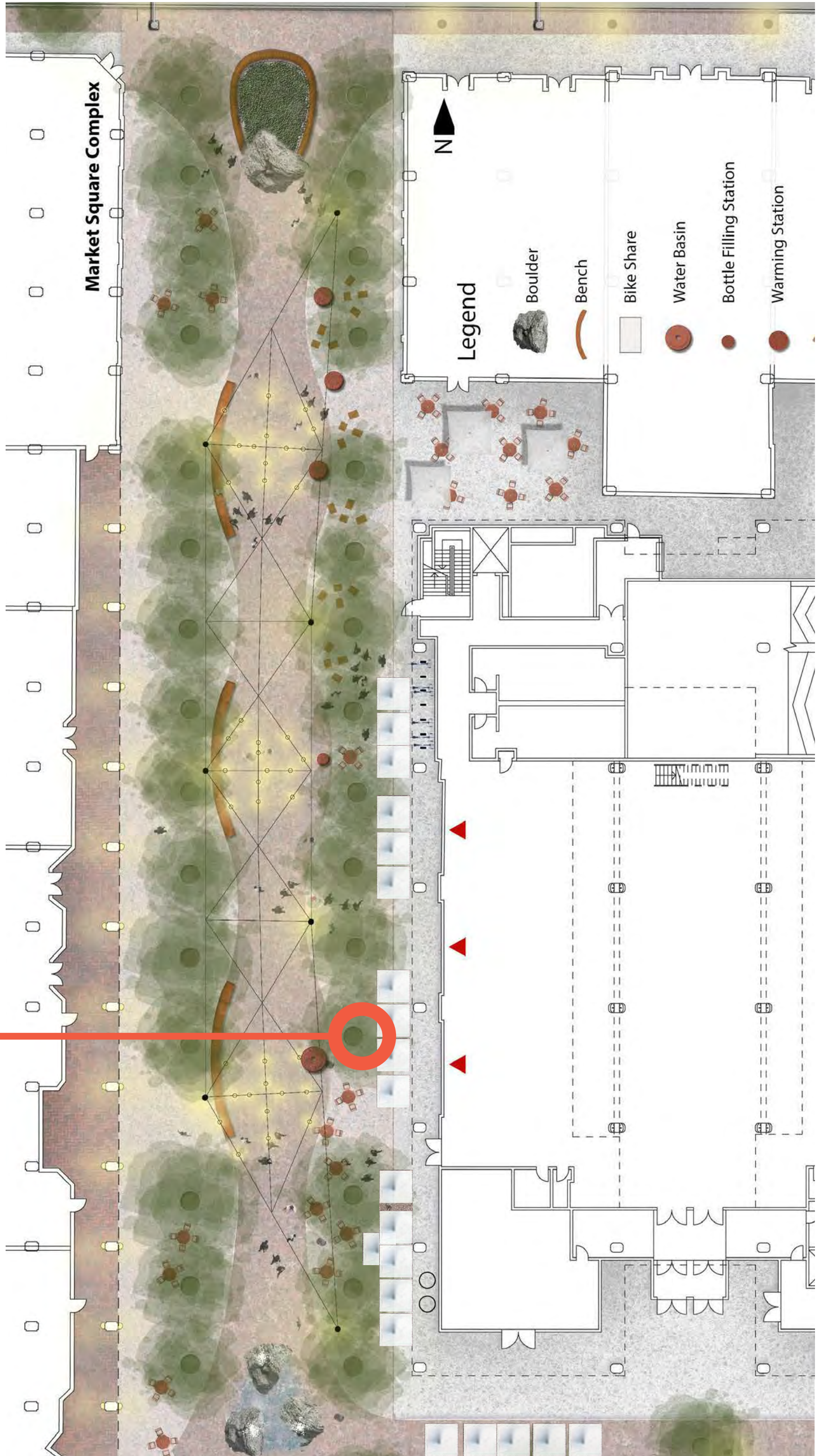
## Farmer's Market Tents

20 tents

3m x 3m



Potential layout of Market Vendor tents in the park.







View looking south of the central promenade





View looking north from Front Street





View looking south from King Street



## Stay informed

Check the webpage

**[toronto.ca/MarketLanePark](https://toronto.ca/MarketLanePark)**

Complete the survey

**click the link on the project webpage**

Share your thoughts

**[nancy.chater@toronto.ca](mailto:nancy.chater@toronto.ca)**