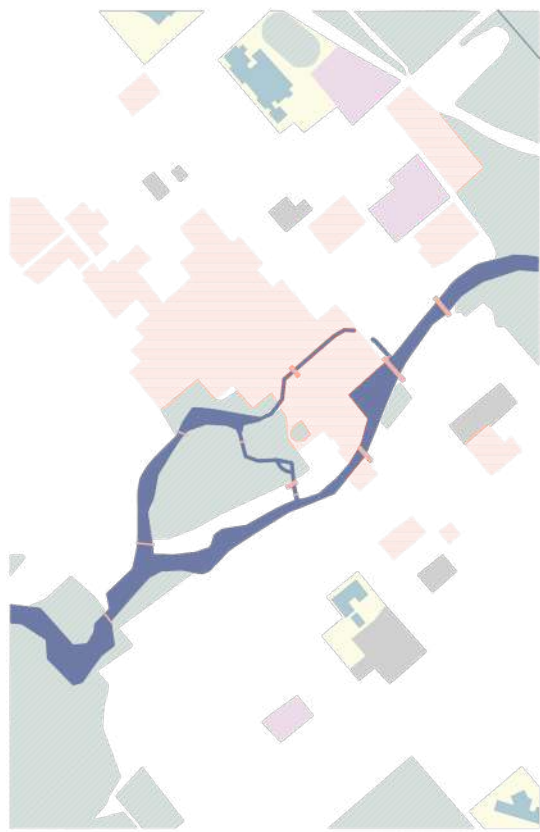
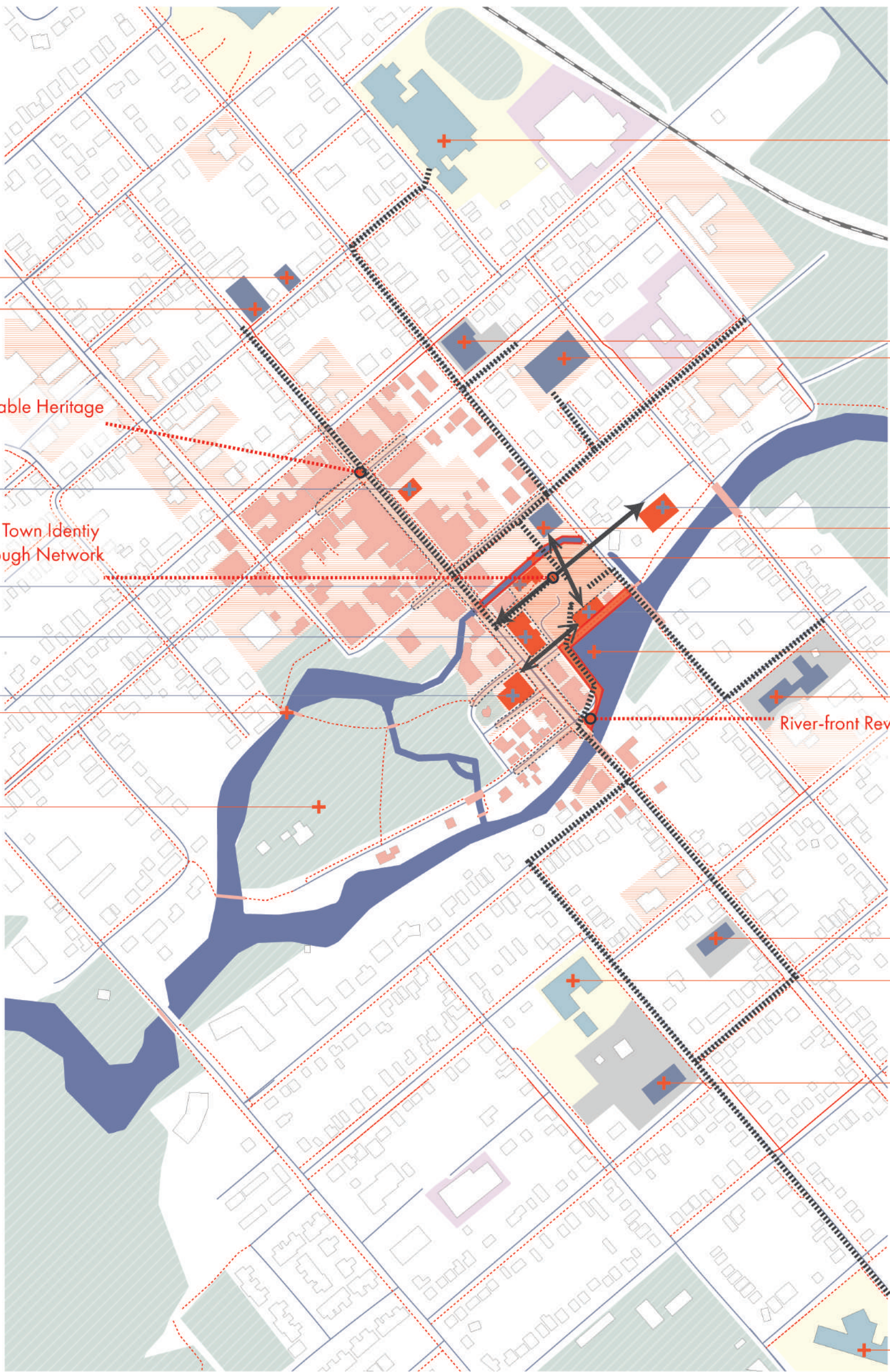


WATER AS COMMON GROUND

The river that formed the town becomes its public ground



Latent Urban Fabric and Opportunity

Perth already contains a diverse mix of housing, civic uses, and small industries within a compact footprint. The opportunity lies in connecting these dispersed elements through a shared spatial framework.



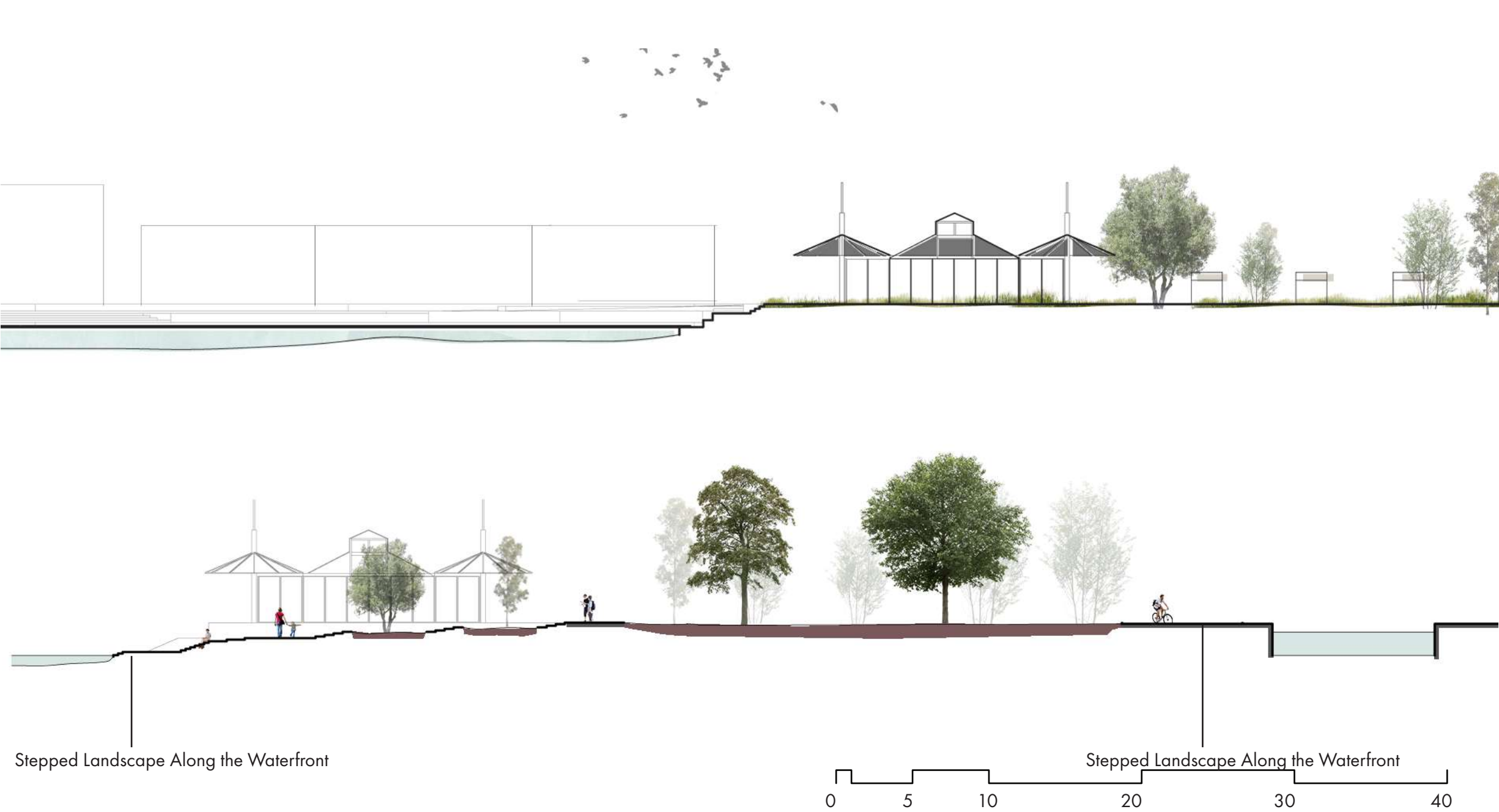
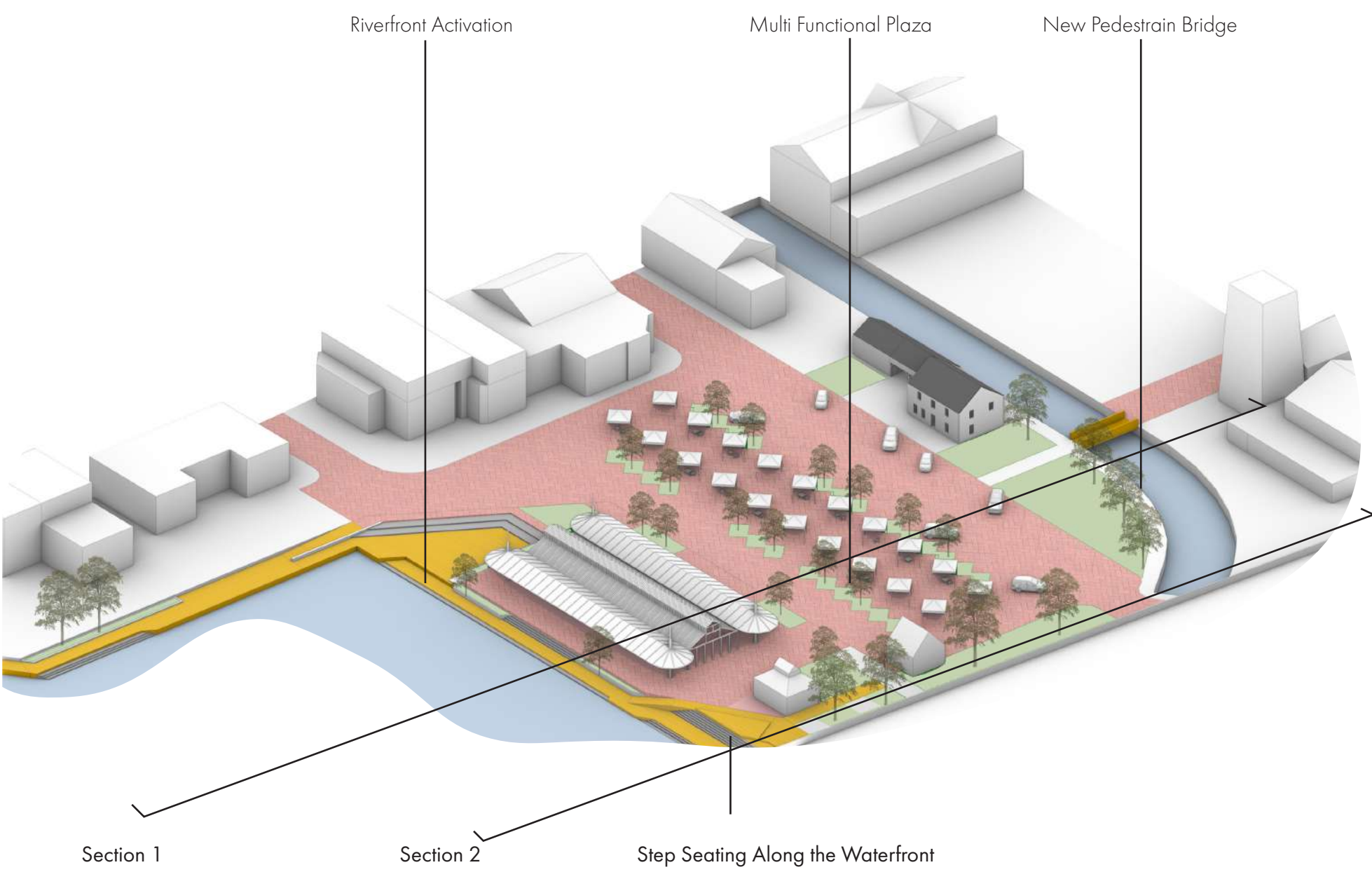
Water as the Origin of the Town

Perth originally developed along the Tay River, where early industries and civic landmarks shaped the town's public realm. Over time, the river shifted from a central organizer to a spatial edge.



A New Civic Energy for a Growing Community

The Ta Basin has the potential to become Perth's primary civic gathering space. By concentrating community programs and events along the river, the waterfront can become a shared social and economic catalyst.





Master Plan 1:300
Legend:
1. Crystal Palace
2. Public Washroom
3. Activated Water-Front Walkway
4. Step Seating
5. Pedestrian Entry Point
6. Vehicle Entry Point
7. Purposed Relocated Red-house
8. Paved Square
9. Temporary Market Tent, with Hidden Tent
10. Proposed New Pedestrian Bridge
11. Parking on Paved square with Parking Guide Line
12. Picnic Area
13. Perth & District Union Public Library

WATER AS COMMON GROUND

Design Statement

Perth is already a remarkable town. Situated along the Tay River, it possesses a rare combination of historic character, walkability, and a vibrant civic life. Its compact scale allows residential neighbourhoods, schools, local businesses, and cultural institutions to exist within close proximity. This fine grain urban fabric supports everyday encounters and reinforces a strong sense of community that defines Perth's identity.

Water played a fundamental role in shaping this structure. The Tay River and its branches formed the framework through which the town first emerged. Early industry, civic institutions, and religious landmarks developed along the river's edge, creating a sequence of public places that supported both economic activity and social life. The river was not simply a natural feature, but the organizing spine of the town.

Over time, however, this relationship has weakened. While Perth remains rich in cultural anchors and civic programs, the riverfront today often functions more as an edge condition than as a central connector. Yet the spatial structure that once organized Perth remains visible. Heritage buildings, public institutions, and cultural landmarks continue to align along the waterways and are linked through a network of small streets and pedestrian routes.

From a land use perspective, Perth remains surprisingly complete. Within a relatively small footprint, residential areas, schools, light industrial sites, civic buildings, and mixed use parcels coexist in close proximity. This diversity of programs creates a flexible urban environment capable of supporting a wide range of daily activities. Many of these spaces, however, remain underused or disconnected from the broader public life of the town.

This proposal builds upon Perth's existing strengths rather than replacing them. It repositions the Tay River as the shared civic ground of the community by strengthening pedestrian connections along the waterfront and reconnecting key cultural and civic sites. Underused parcels surrounding the basin are reorganized into a collective public landscape that supports markets, seasonal events, and everyday recreation.

At the center of this strategy is the creation of a new civic square along the river basin. Rather than acting as a singular plaza, the square extends along the waterfront, linking existing institutions, pedestrian routes, and gathering spaces. This new framework transforms the riverfront into an active destination for residents and visitors alike.

This renewed civic focus also supports Perth's future growth. By concentrating community programs and cultural events along the river, the project creates an inclusive public environment that welcomes residents, visitors, and people of all ages and backgrounds. The waterfront becomes a shared space for everyday use as well as seasonal activities, strengthening social interaction across the community. At the same time, this increased public life supports tourism, local businesses, and employment opportunities connected to culture, events, and the waterfront economy.

Together, these interventions restore the Tay River as Perth's common ground, reconnecting water, public life, and community identity while reinforcing the qualities that already make Perth an exceptional town.