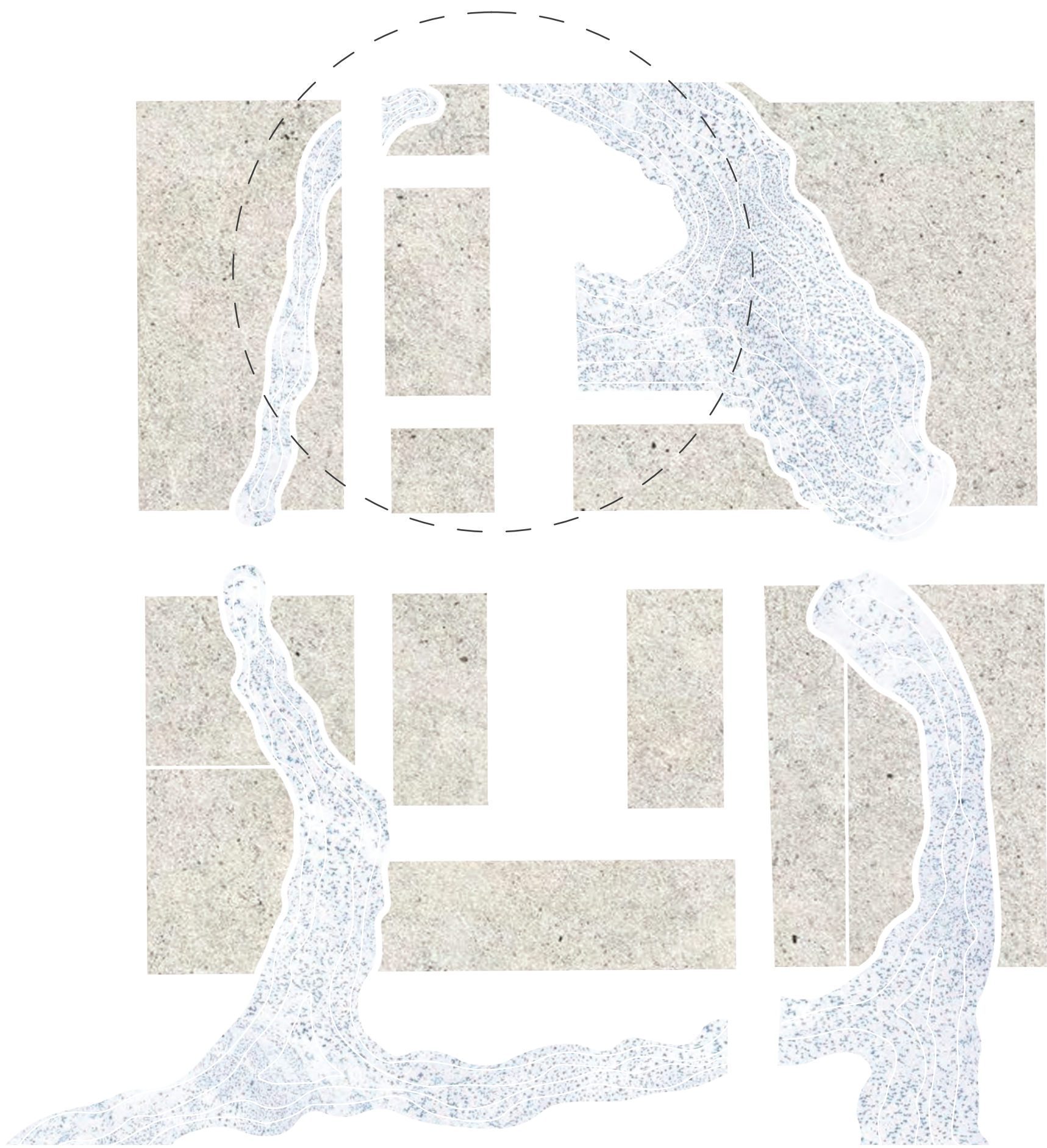


THE ANCHOR

Where the river and land converge: celebrating Perth's history in the trades.



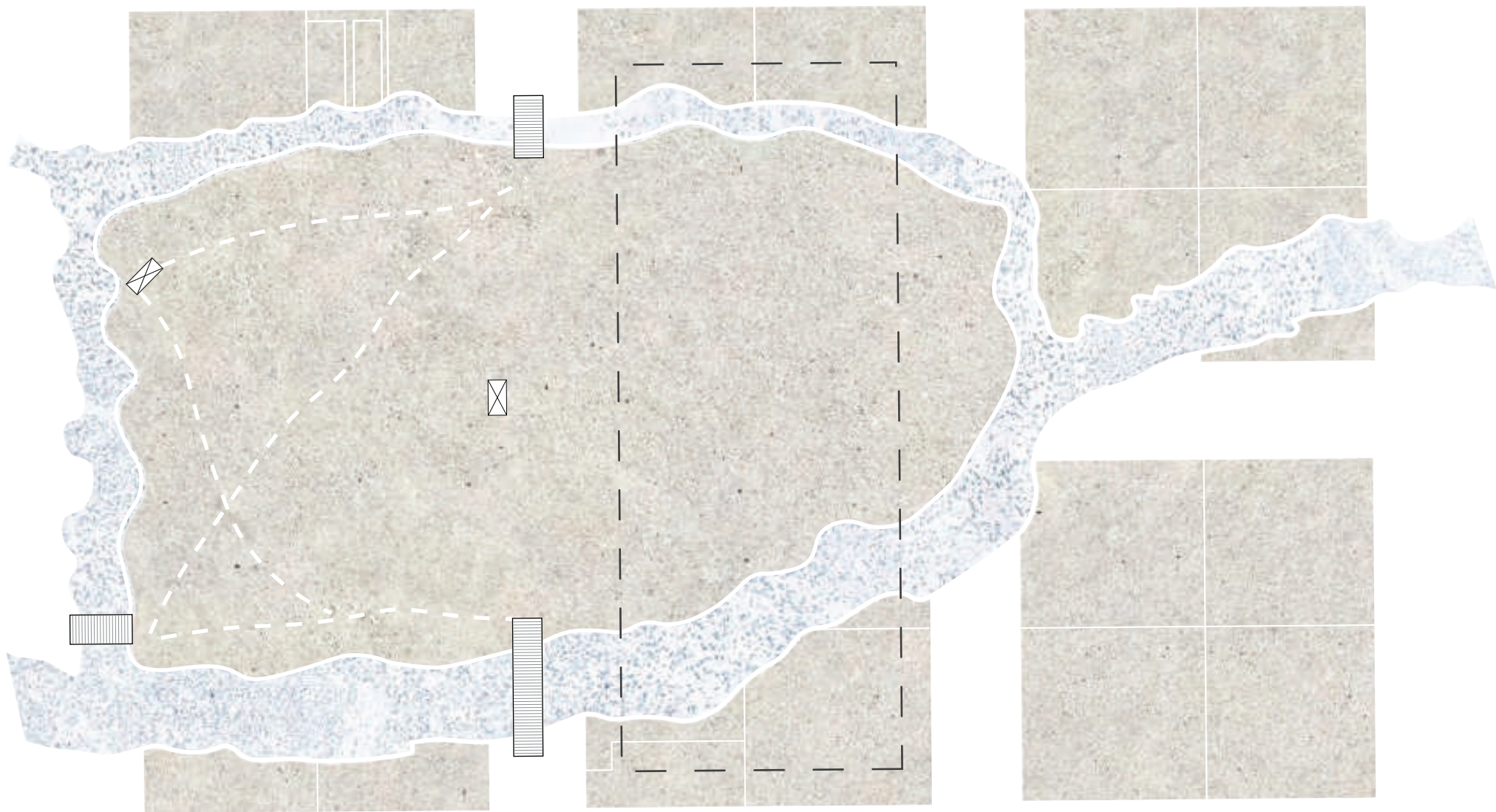
TOWN SQUARE WITH RIVER INFILL (1879)



BUILDING THE COURTHOUSE (1887)



BUILDING A WALL FOR THE TAY RIVER (2019)



TOWN SQUARE ON COCHBURN ISLAND (1822)



STONE



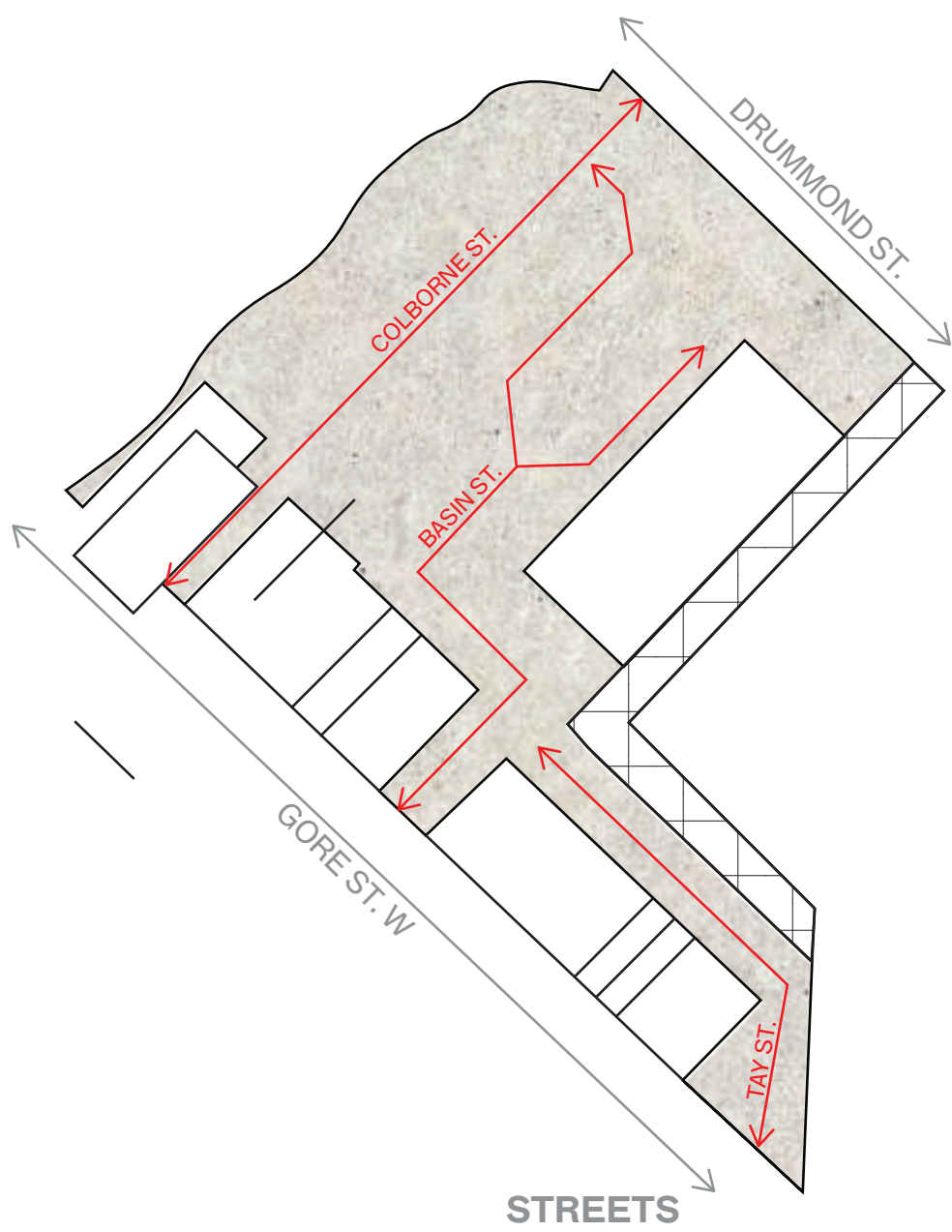
TIMBER



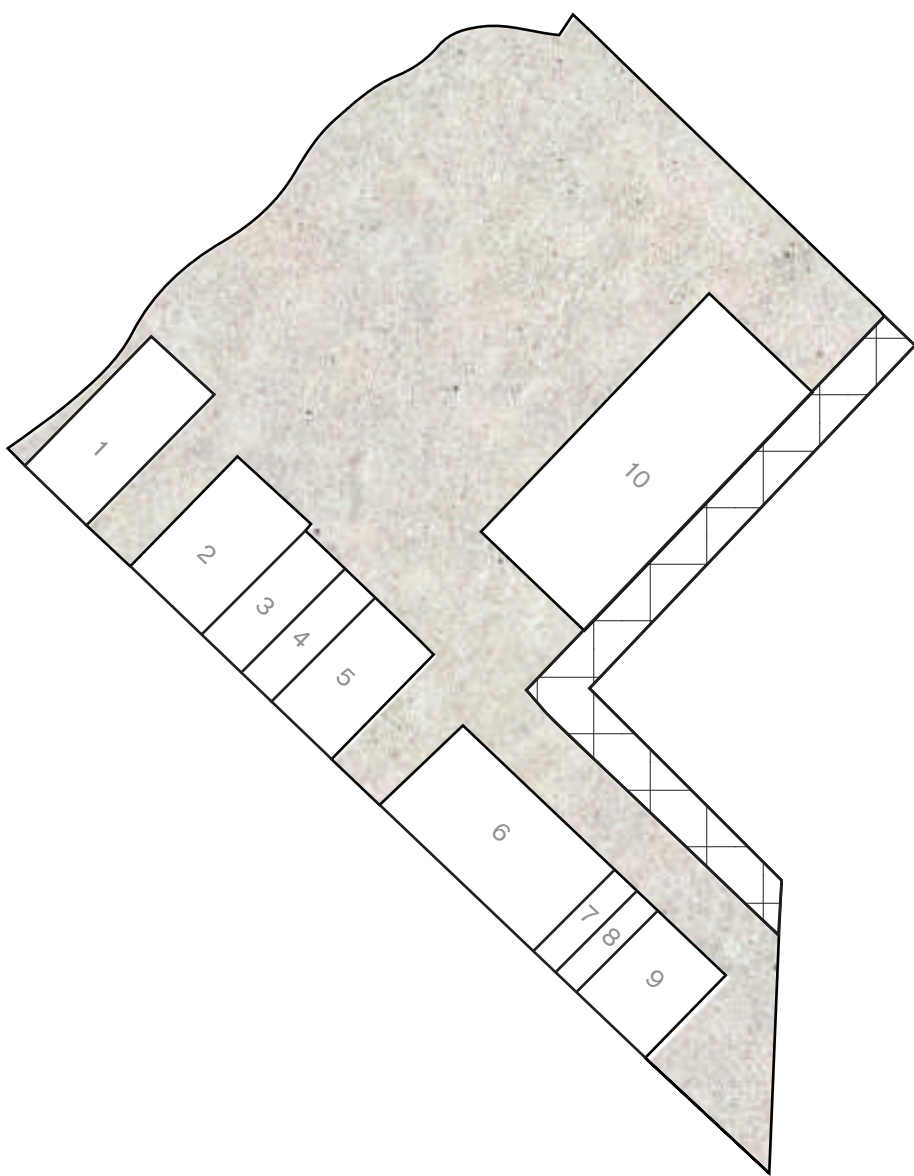
MEADOW



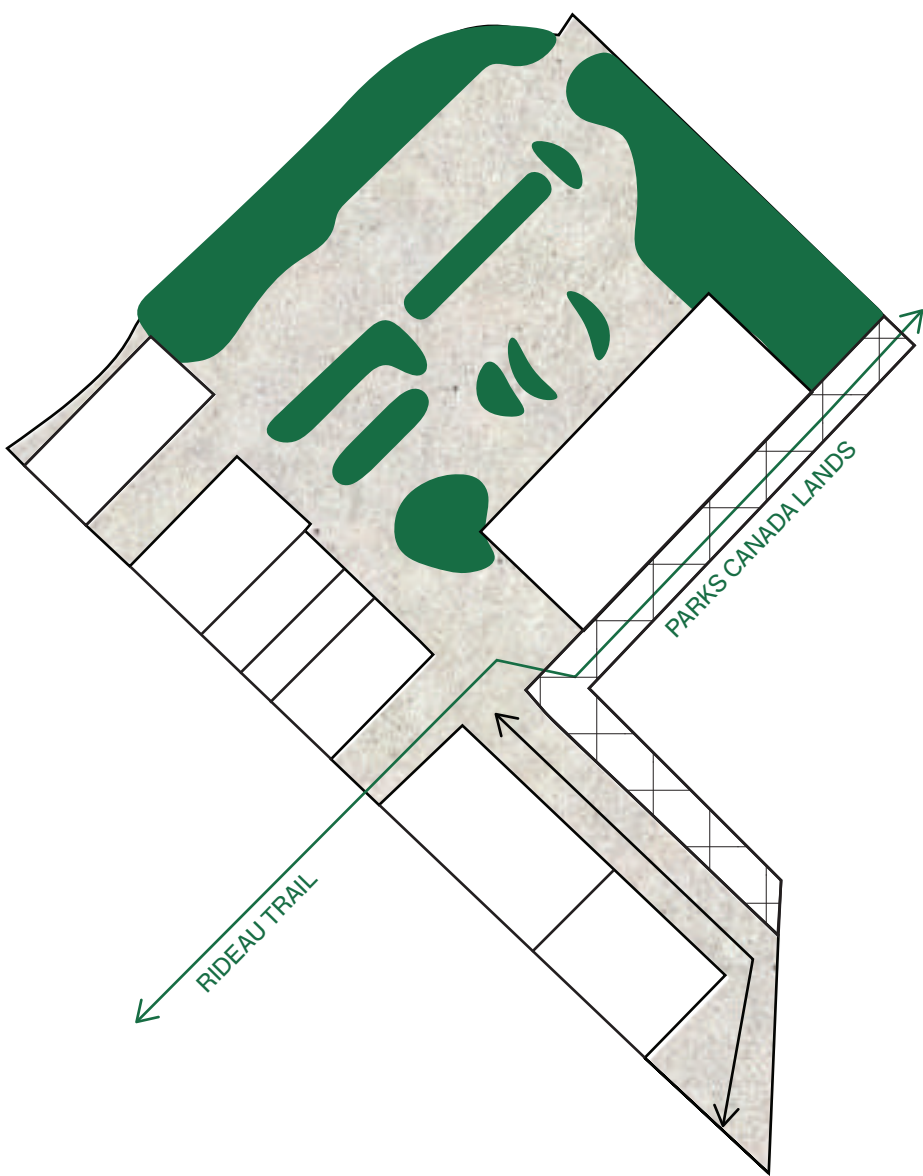
RIVER



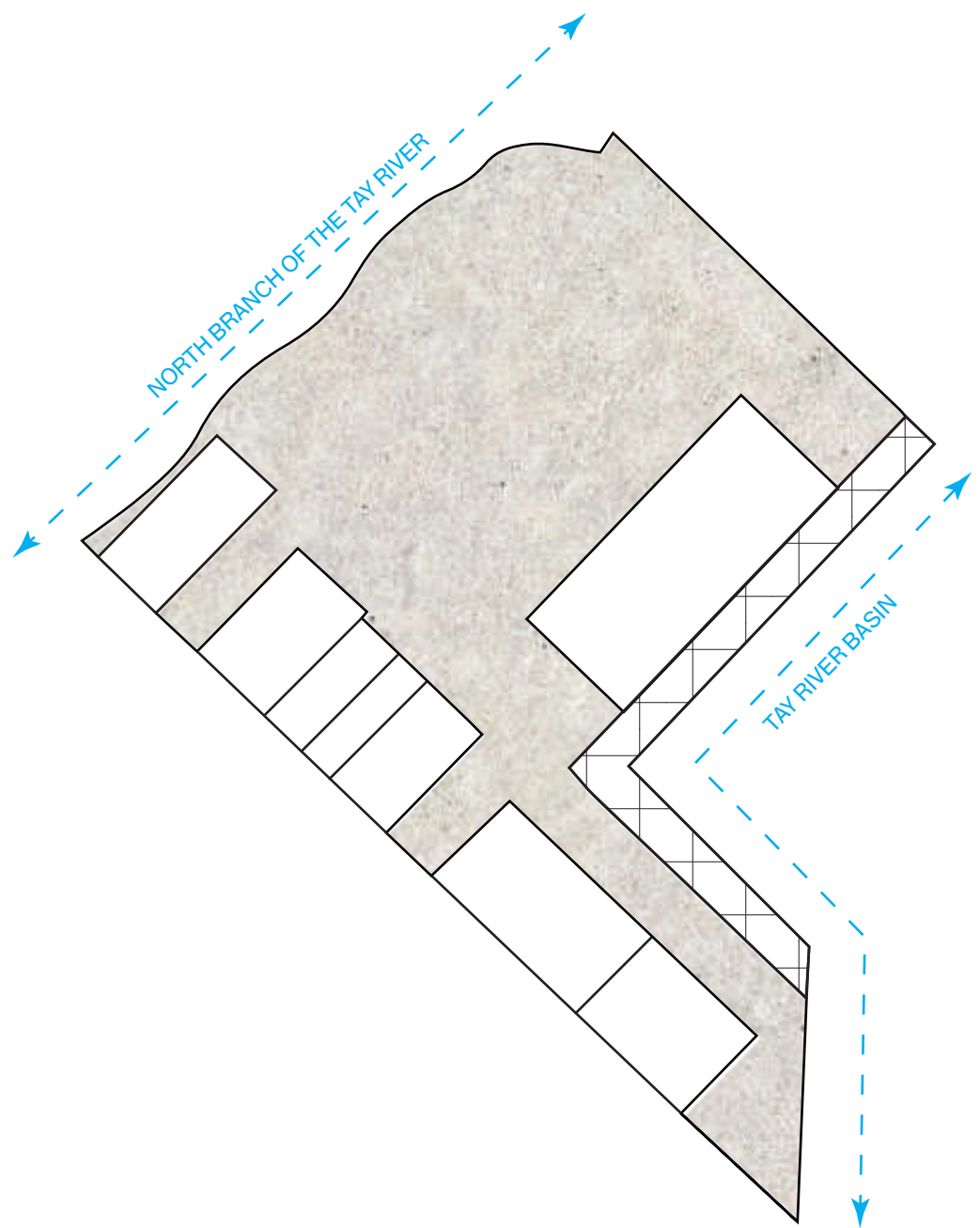
STREETS



EXISTING PROPERTIES



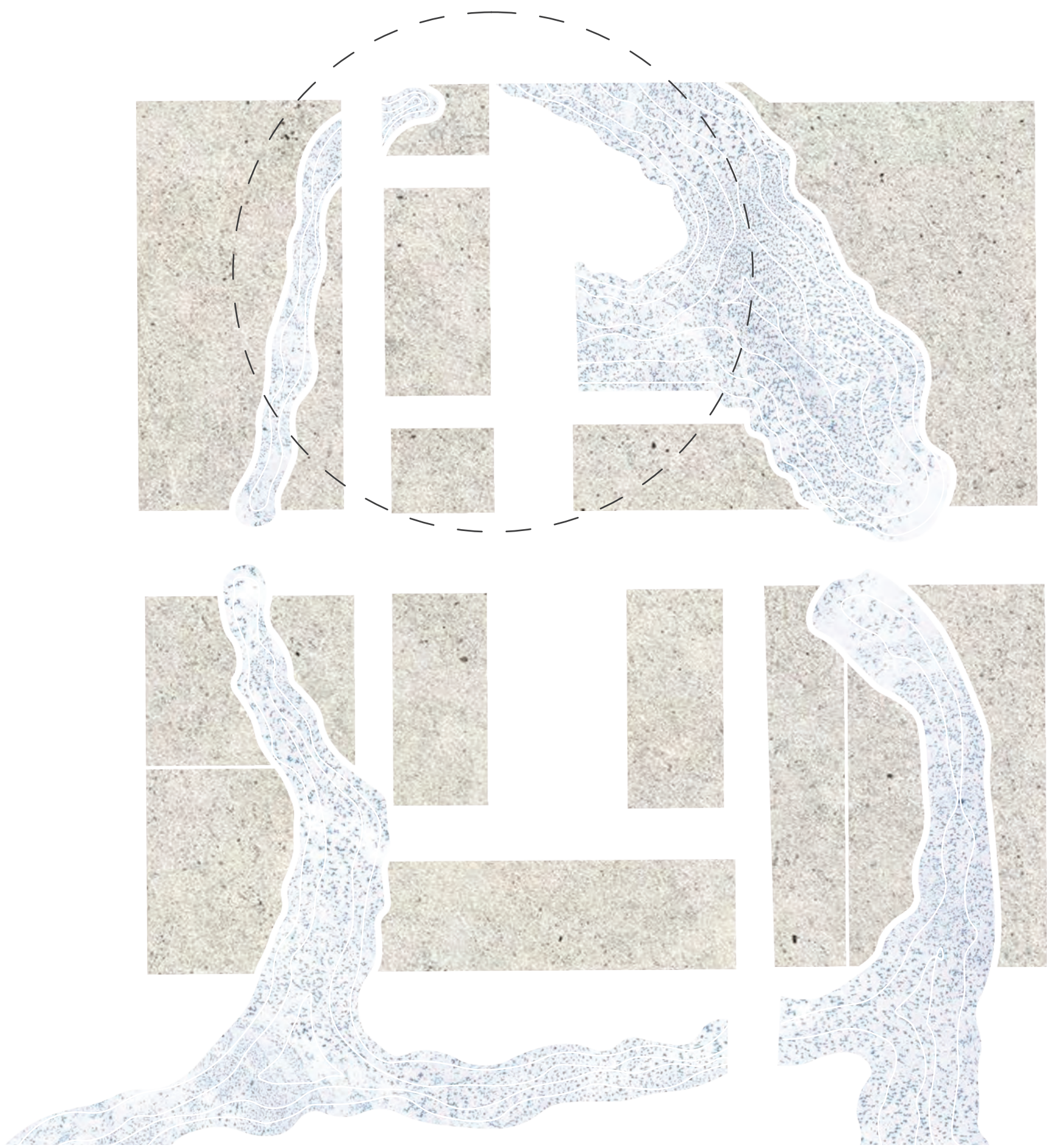
GREEN SPACE



WATER

THE ANCHOR

Where the river and land converge: celebrating Perth's history in the trades.



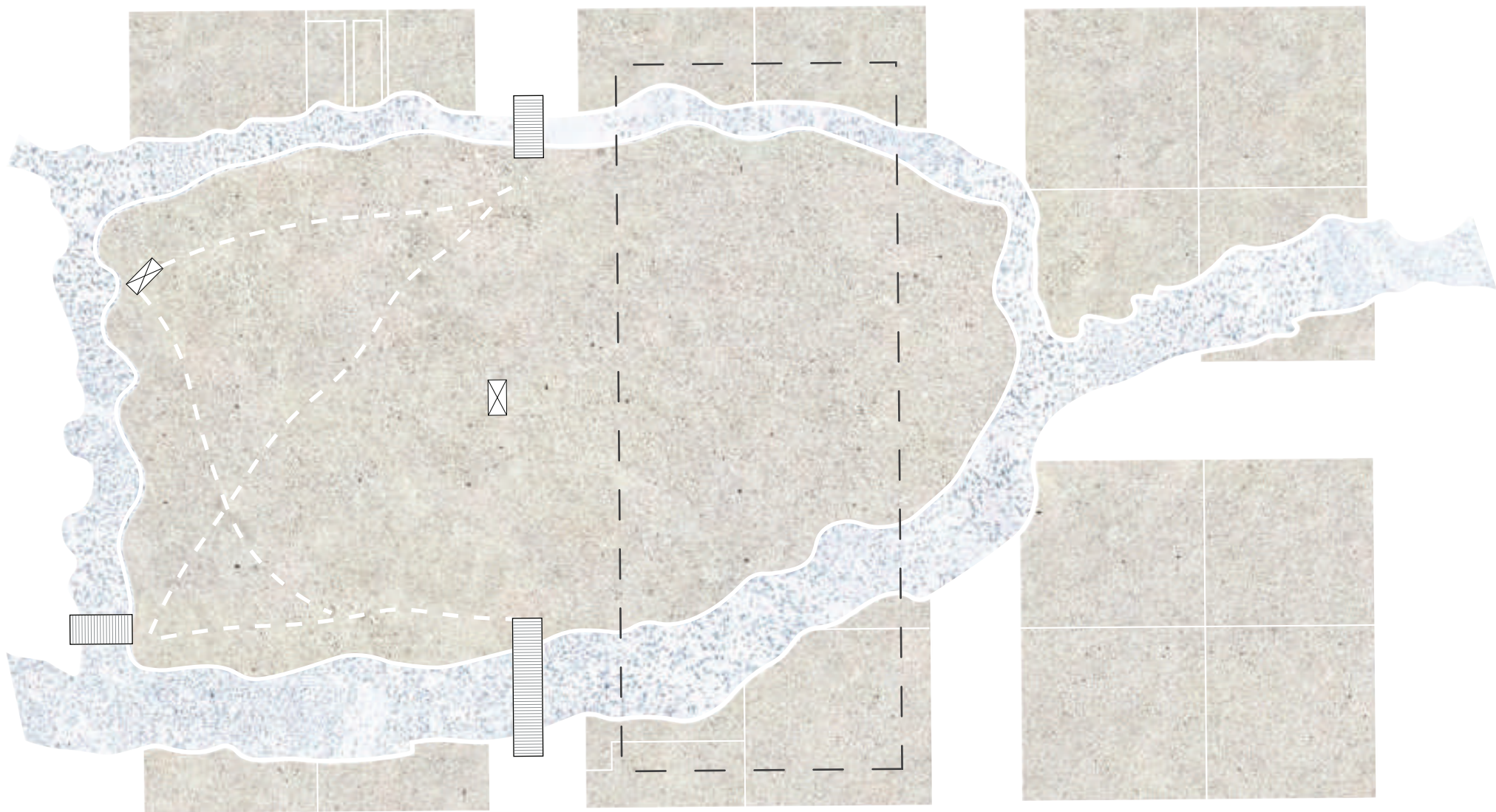
TOWN SQUARE WITH RIVER INFILL (1879)



BUILDING THE COURTHOUSE (1887)



BUILDING A WALL FOR THE TAY RIVER (2019)



TOWN SQUARE ON COCHBURN ISLAND (1822)



STONE



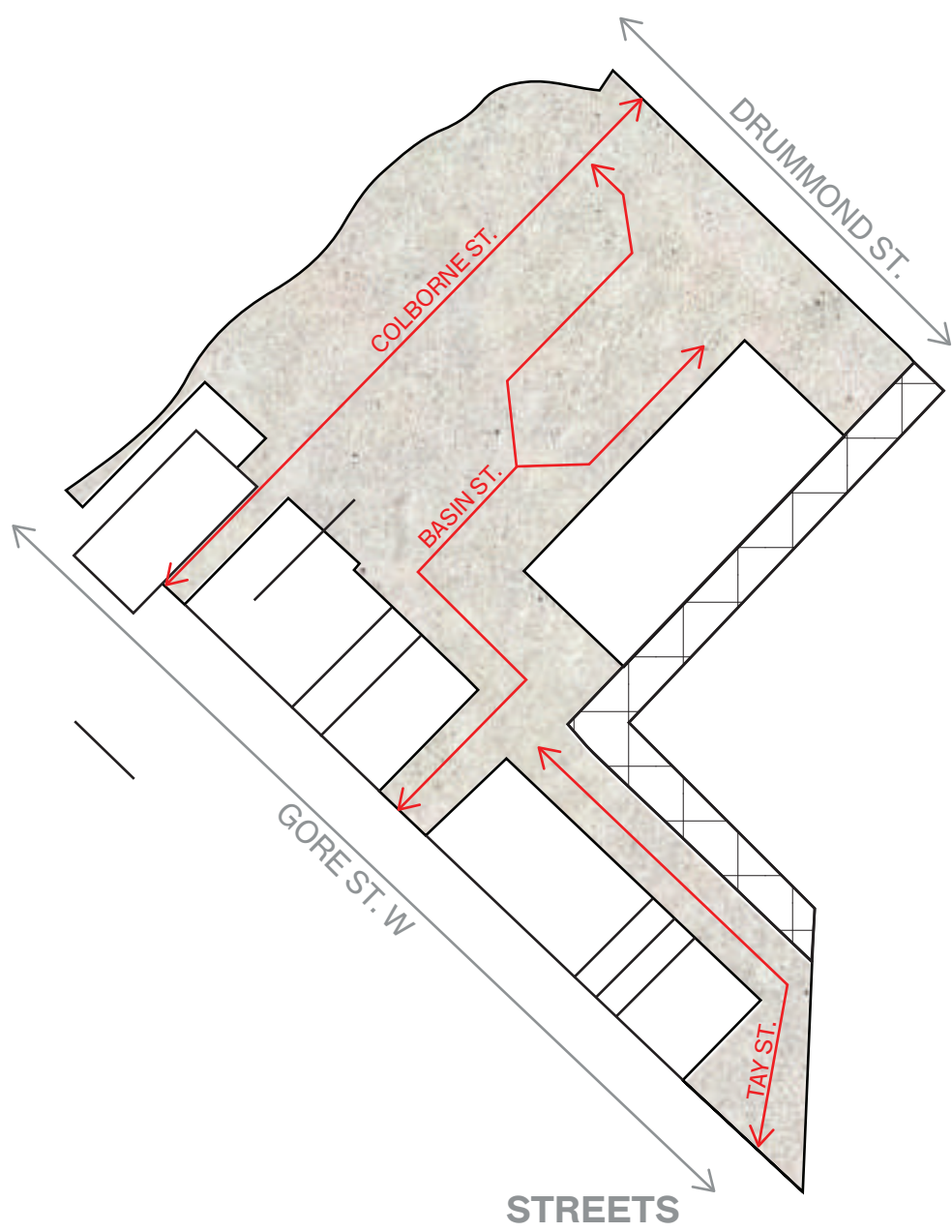
TIMBER



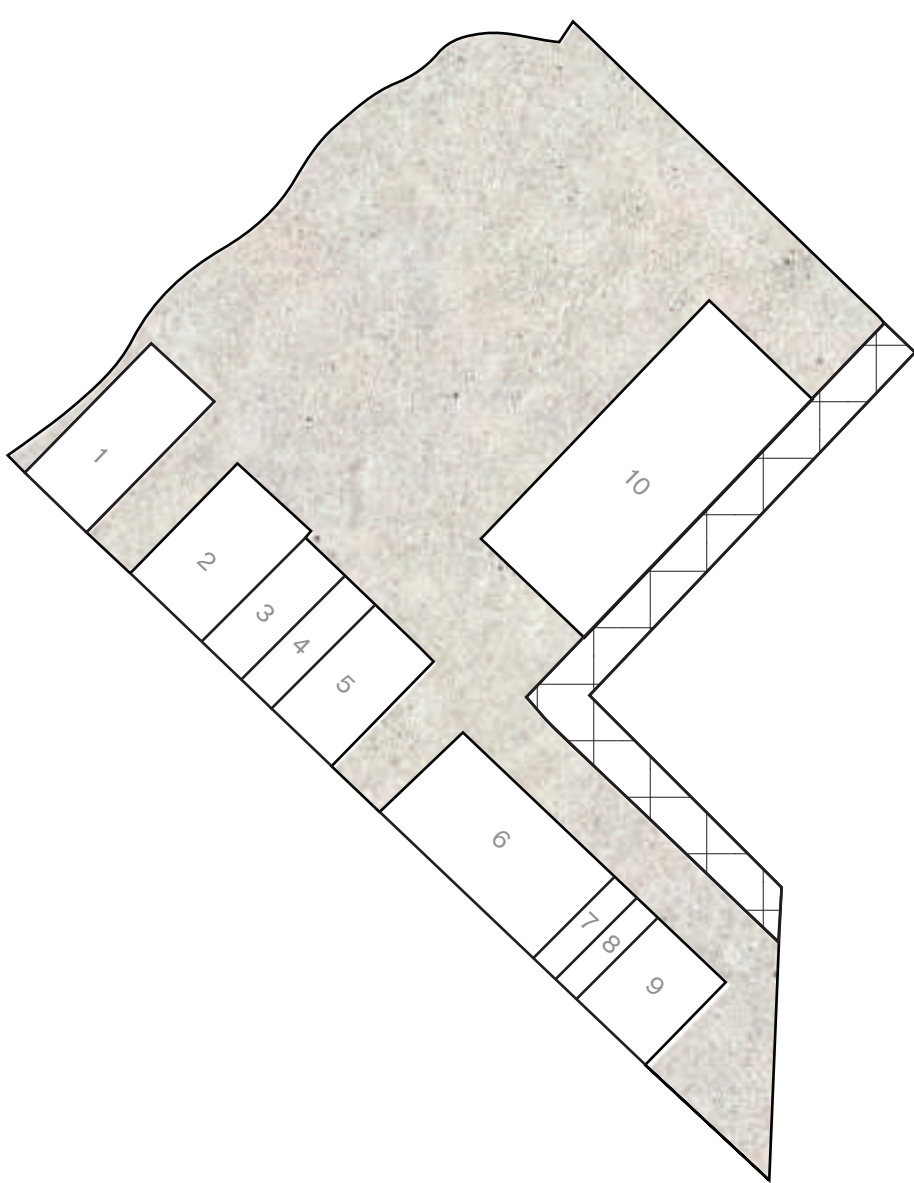
MEADOW



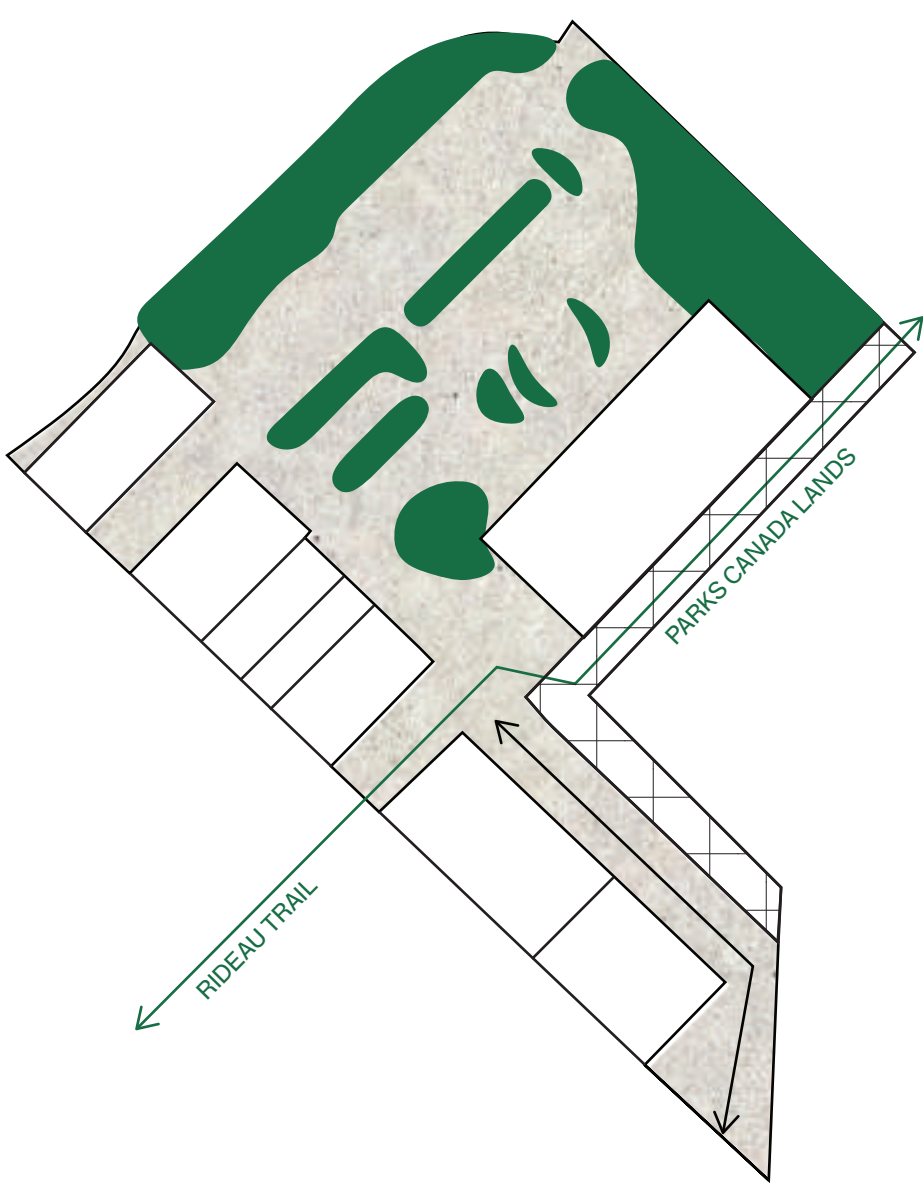
RIVER



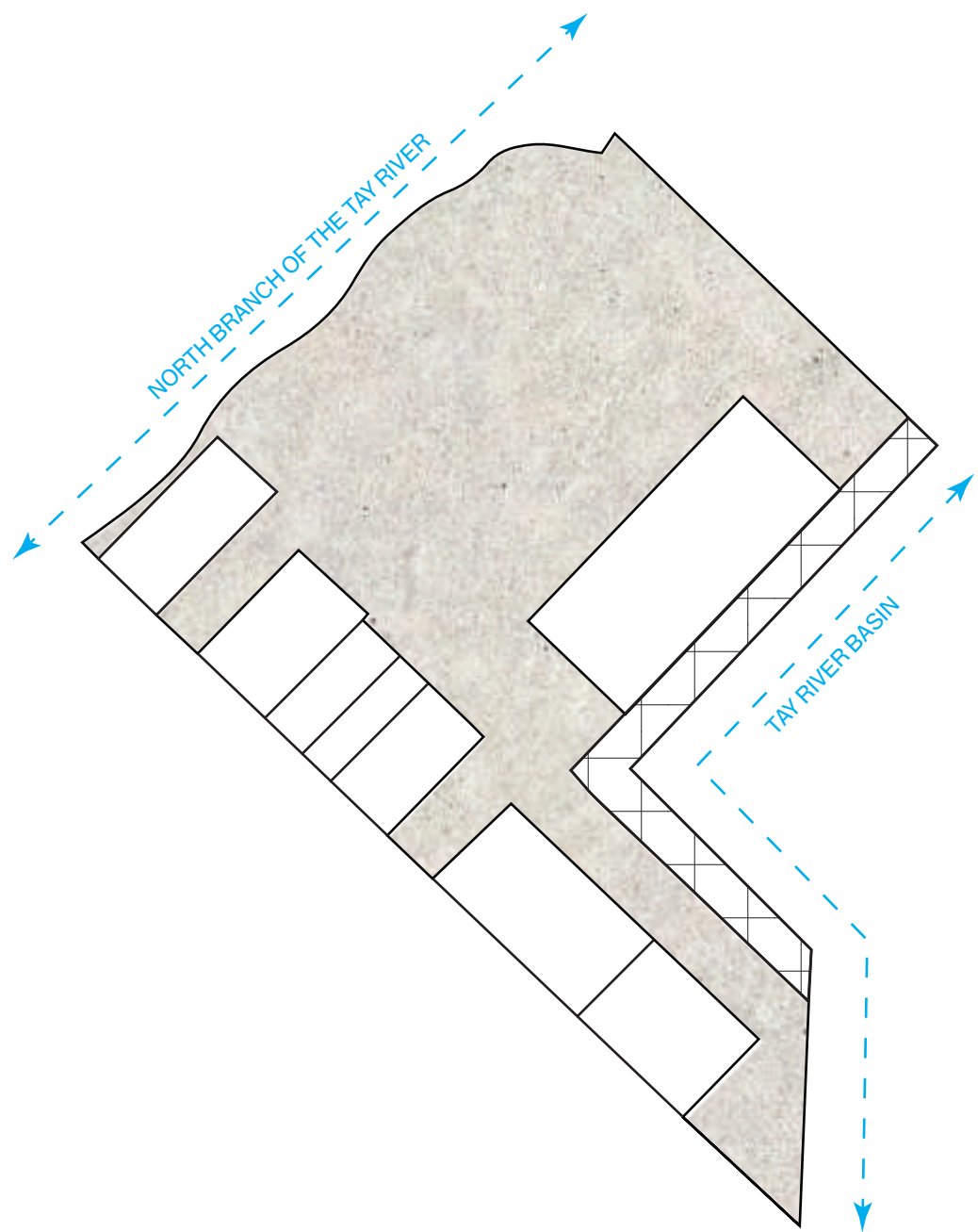
STREETS



EXISTING PROPERTIES



GREEN SPACE



WATER

The Anchor

From its founding, Perth has been shaped by two main forces: the river and the trades. The Tay River, along with carpentry, blacksmithing, stonework, and agriculture, continues to anchor the town today. These aren't just parts of Perth's history; they remain visible in its limestone buildings, timber structures, and more, however, as training programs close and opportunities for hands-on learning decline, these traditions risk fading into the background.

This project reimagines the town square as a place where that heritage can stay active. Instead of focusing on a single monument, the design works through the ground itself. A continuous paved surface forms the base of the square, creating a strong, simple foundation. The paving is made up of a mix of locally inspired stone types, arranged in patterns that move across the space in waves and bursts. These patterns loosely reference the flow of the Tay River and the spread of Ontario meadows, giving the square a sense of movement while still feeling open and flexible.

The surface is designed to support different kinds of activity without being overly defined. Changes in pattern and tone suggest areas for gathering, walking, or pausing, but don't lock the space into one use. This allows the square to host markets, workshops, performances, or just everyday use. Small lights are set into the ground, creating a soft glow at night. They help guide movement through the space and make it feel safe and welcoming after dark.

A narrow water feature runs through the square, quietly connecting back to the river. It isn't a large fountain, but more of a thin line that people can walk along, step over, or gather around. In the summer, it invites interaction and play, while in the winter it becomes more of a visual trace. This keeps it simple and low-maintenance, while still making the presence of water felt in the space.

Around the edges, native plants and meadow-like planting areas soften the square and connect it to the local landscape. Trees provide shade and mark out spaces to sit or gather, without closing the square off. The result is a balance between open space and more intimate areas, making it flexible for both larger events and everyday use.

At its core, the project is about making space for trades to be seen and shared again. Instead of treating heritage as something fixed, the design supports it as something ongoing. Perth's identity isn't just something to preserve, it's something that can continue to grow and change, grounded in its past but open to new possibilities.