

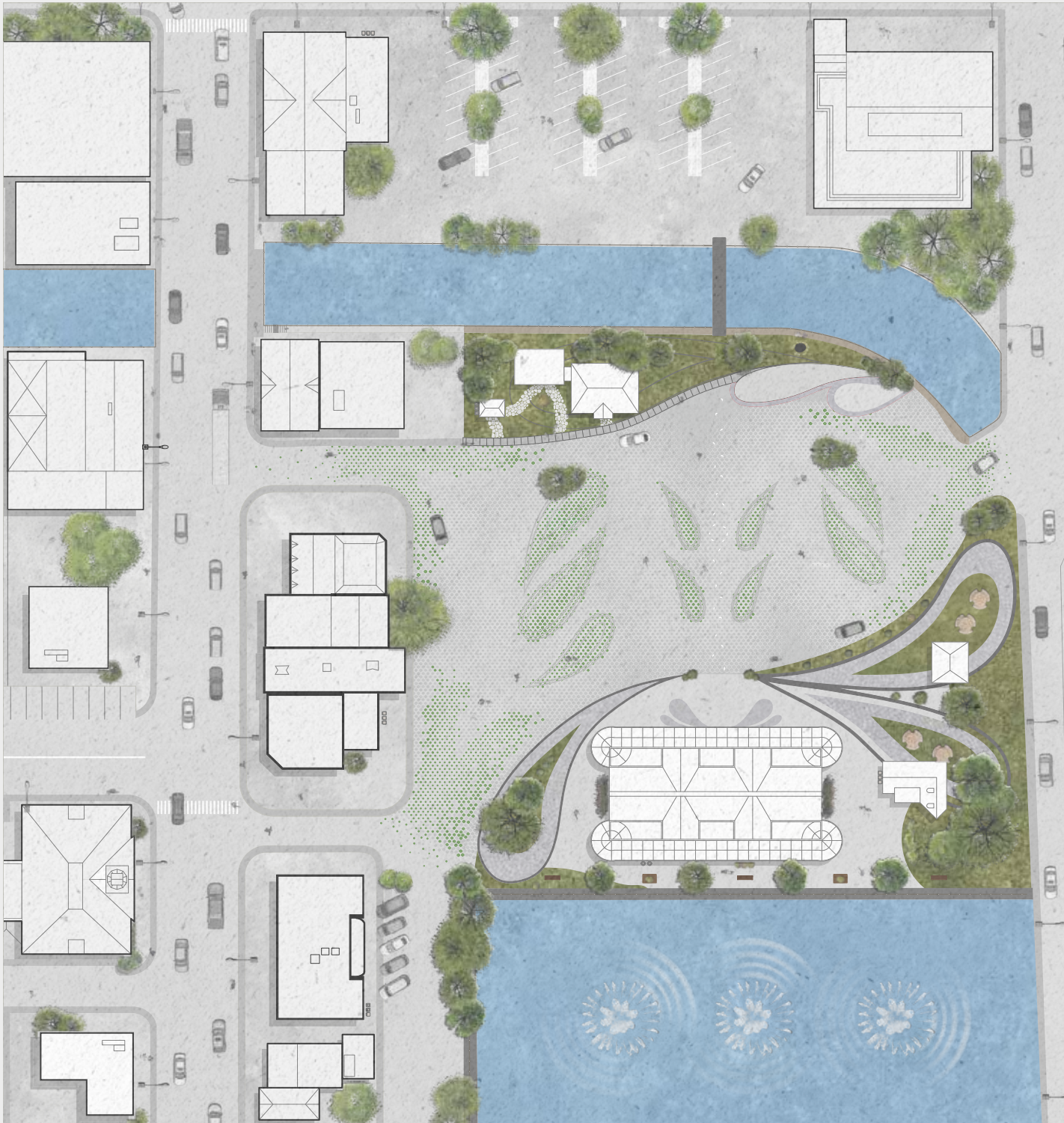
Pavement Ripples



The organic, leaf-like forms and the clear integration of the water elements suggest a design that softens the typical rigid grid of a parking lot. Drawing from Perth's historical relationship with the Tay Canal, the design translates the river's fluid energy into a revitalized civic anchor.

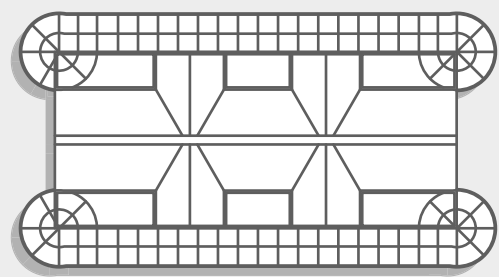


Plan View

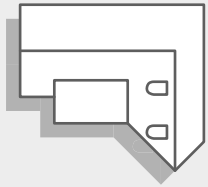


Plan View With Cars

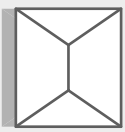
- 1. Crystal Palace
- 2. Public Washroom
- 3. The Mammoth Cheese
- 4. Public Washroom, Covered Open Area for Events, Red House.
- 5. Perth Public Library
- 6. Bridge
- 7. Memorial Rock



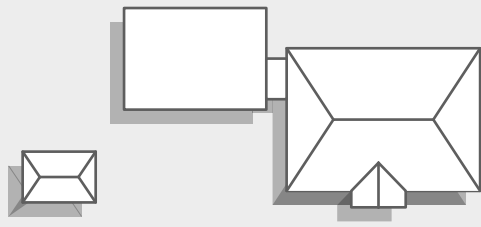
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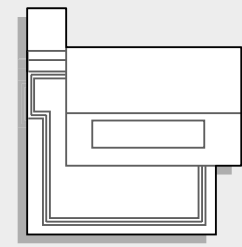
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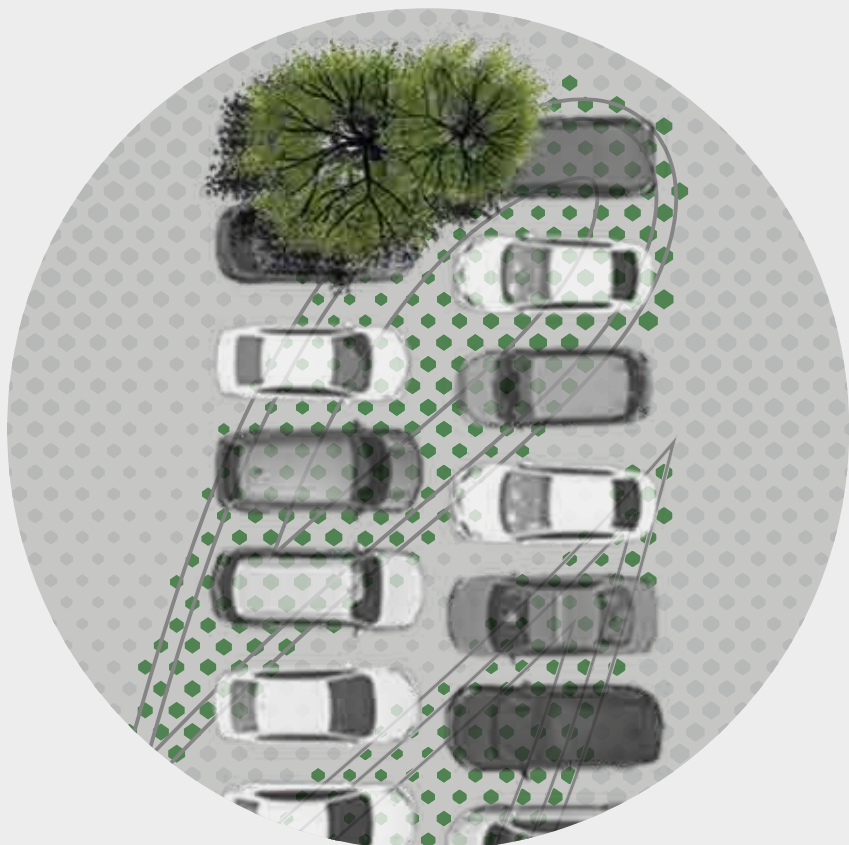
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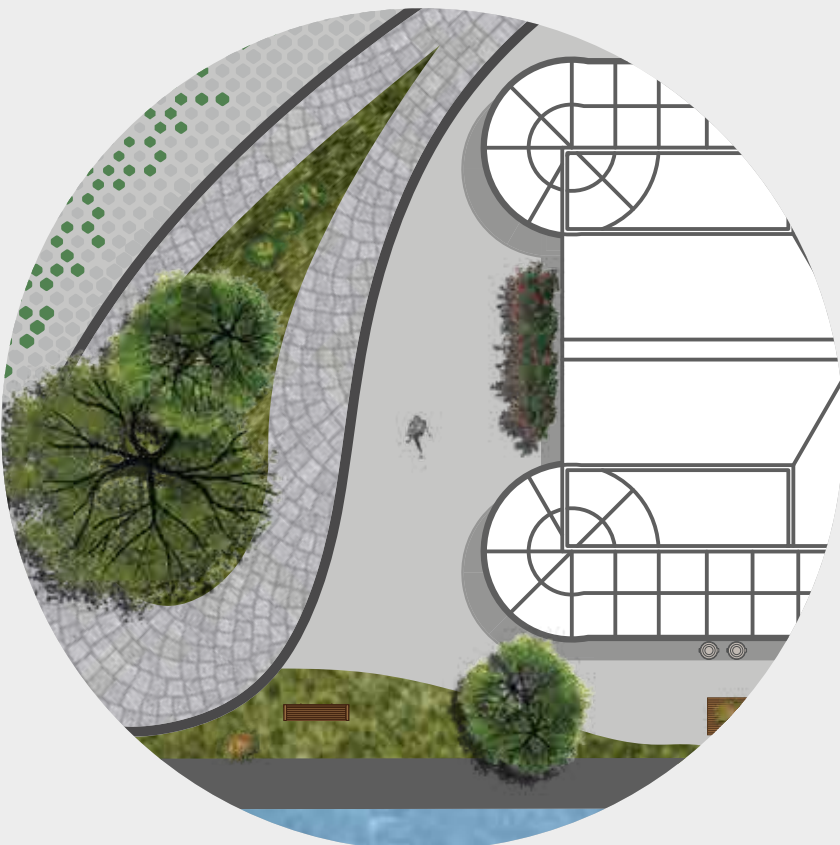
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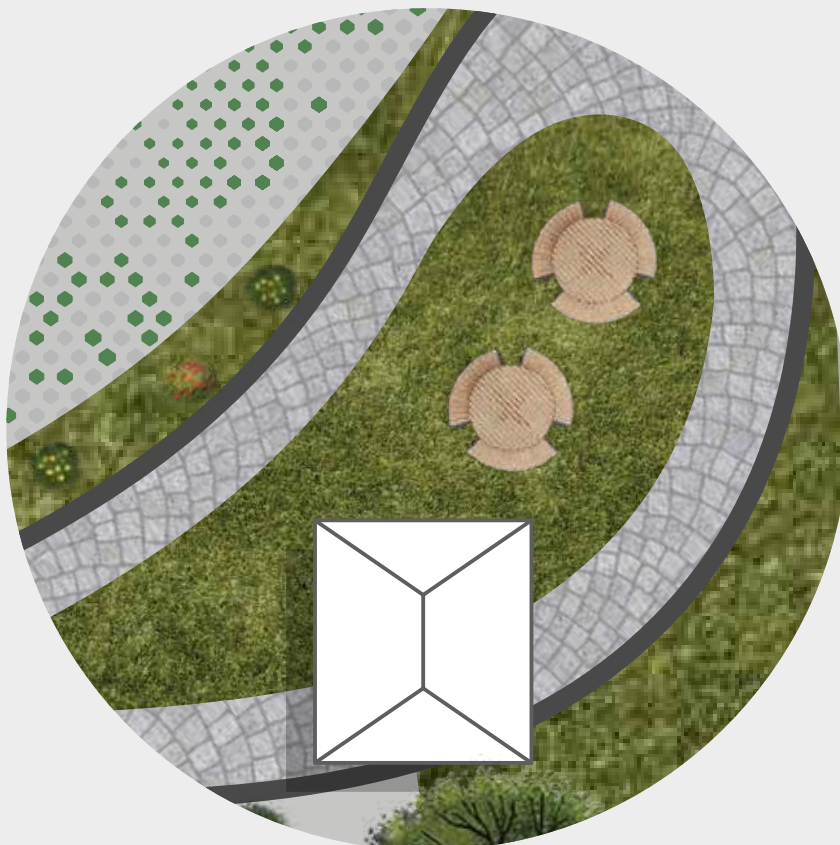
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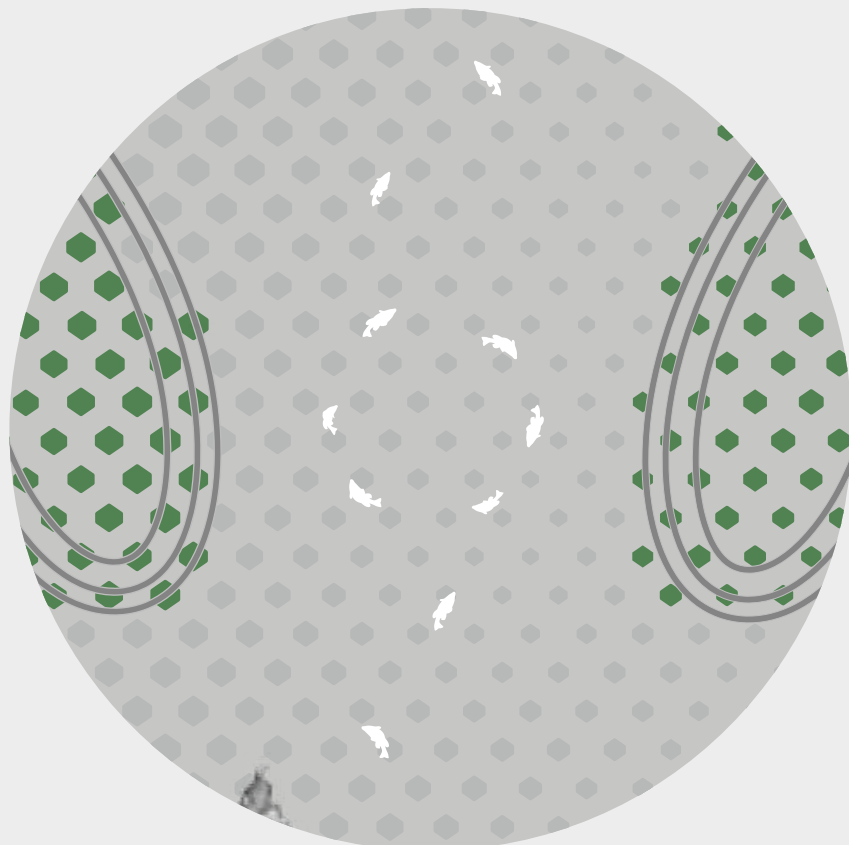
Permeable diamond lattice weaving grass through pavement



Flowing towards the International Friendship Fountains



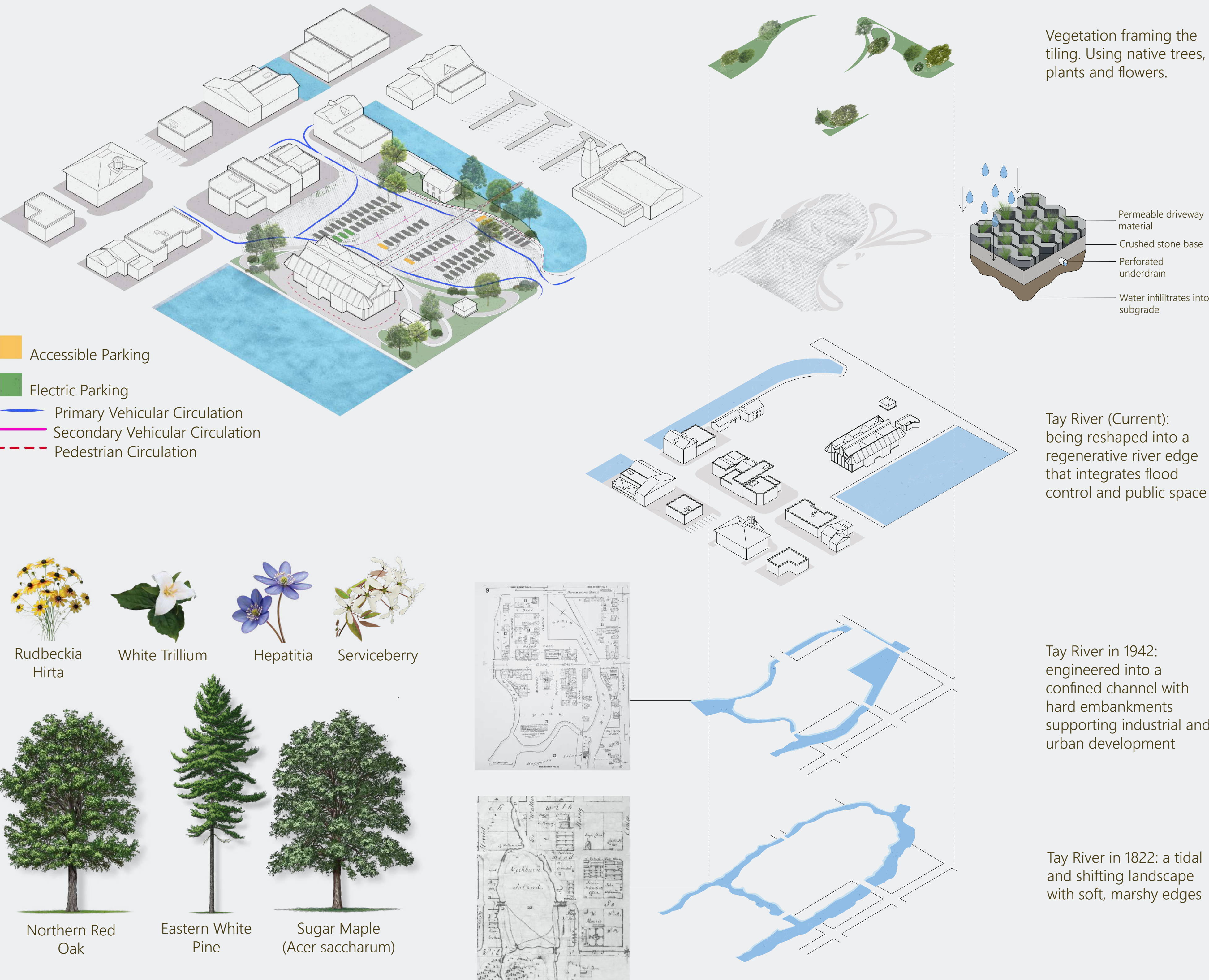
Social picnic tables within the green ripples



Central fish passage recalling the river's flow



Prioritizing accessibility, this bridge connects the site to the Perth Public Library. Built with local Potsdam Sandstone, the structure blends into its surroundings, honoring historical masonry while providing a seamless pedestrian link across the Tay River.



Examples of vegetation native to Perth, Ontario

These elements would be incorporated into the landscape and design

Pavement Ripples

This proposal reimagines the parking lot in front of the Crystal Palace as a vibrant, community-centred public square that is rooted in the town's historical and ecological identity. The main source of inspiration was the evolution of the Tay River; the design translates the river's shifting forms and flows into a landscape framework that guides circulation, spatial organization and experience.

The concept at its core is an interpretation of the river's transformation in time, having the narrative be embedded in both the hardscape and landscape. The key elements, such as pathways, planting zones and gathering spaces, follow organic river-like geometries which structure movement intuitively.

Community engagement played a central role in developing the design. During our site visit in Perth, we spoke with locals, and a few key priorities emerged: the desire for more focus on a flexible environment for children and families and for pedestrian safety. The design shifts from a conventional parking lot to a focus on public needs.

For starters, with feedback from residents, there was a response to moving away from a typical concrete parking lot. The materiality and technique chosen was an eco-friendly permeable parking that uses a modular grass-paver system, safe for all demographics. This strategy provides many environmental and social advantages.

Rainwater is able to infiltrate directly into the ground, which reduces stormwater runoff and allows an efficient drainage system. The planted surface also helps with water quality by naturally filtering pollutants. The grass-paver system reduces the *urban heat island effect* significantly when compared to asphalt. The space is cooler and more comfortable during warmer months, which is crucial when there may be activities where people would be barefoot.

Visually, the permeable surface softens the appearance of the parking lot, blurring the lines of infrastructure and landscape. The increase of vegetation at a micro-scale reinforces the square's identity as a public green space and a parking lot, not exclusively one or the other. From a user perspective, the parking area doubles as an event space when needed without the visual or physical constraints of a paved surface.

Observations revealed that people would frequently directly cut across the existing lot due to the absence of clear sidewalks. We also noticed a significant lack of pedestrian accessibility, as the site is flanked by two main streets that are difficult to cross. The design responds to this by proposing a pedestrian bridge that connects the parking site directly to the Local Public Library. This creates a safe, accessible link between two key civic spaces. These paths and connections are integrated into the river-inspired geometry, which ensures that circulation is legible.

This proposal is a multi-functional square that is capable of hosting markets, tourists, events and everyday social activity without interrupting the everyday needs of its residents. The blending of ecological strategies, historical narrative and community input transforms this utilitarian space into a meaningful civic landscape. This proposal aims to provide this parking lot with a public space that reflects the evolving story of Perth.