THE ST. CHARLES INITIATIVE

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE FOX RIVER VALLEY

St. Charles Initiative Update

In Partnership with the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley

St. Charles Initiative

- City Council approved a memorandum of understanding with Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley in November 2018.
- An independent advisory committee comprised of St. Charles community leaders and residents.
- This public-private partnership provides funding for capital projects, programs and other improvements through charitable donations and endowments as an alternative to tax-based sources.

CITY OF ST. CHARLES
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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF THE FOX RIVER VALLEY

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THE ST. CHARLES INITIATIVE

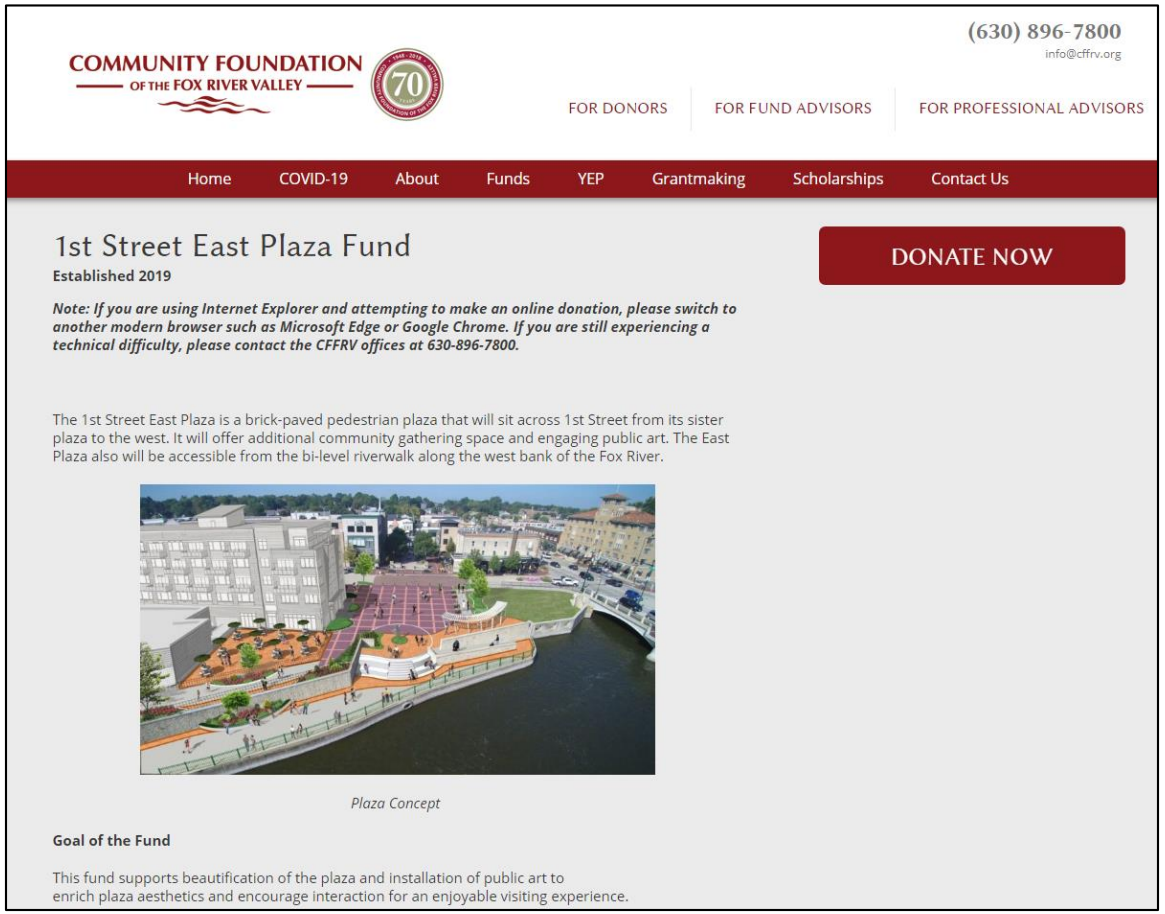
Public/Private Partnership

St. Charles Initiative

- Members

  Emir Abinion
  Cris Anderson
  Ed Bessner
  Julie Christman
  Sara Corcoran
  John Hoscheit
  Conrad Hurst
  Raymond Rogina
  Tom Russe
  Lora Vitek (Chair)
  Steve Waszkowiak

- Activities
  - Meeting monthly since October 2019.
  - Identified projects of interest.
  - Website created for donations.
  - Immediate focus on the First Street Plaza.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE FOX RIVER VALLEY

(630) 896-7800
info@cffrv.org

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1st Street East Plaza Fund

Established 2019

DONATE NOW

Note: If you are using Internet Explorer and attempting to make an online donation, please switch to another modern browser such as Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome. If you are still experiencing a technical difficulty, please contact the CFFRV offices at 630-896-7800.

The 1st Street East Plaza is a brick-paved pedestrian plaza that will sit across 1st Street from its sister plaza to the west. It will offer additional community gathering space and engaging public art. The East Plaza also will be accessible from the bi-level riverwalk along the west bank of the Fox River.

Plaza Concept

Goal of the Fund

This fund supports beautification of the plaza and installation of public art to enrich plaza aesthetics and encourage interaction for an enjoyable visiting experience.

First Street Plaza

Property Purchase
City Council made the decision to purchase the Manor Hole property for public use.

Fundraising Strategy
It was recognized that in order to raise funds, a drawing/concept would facilitate communication regarding the opportunity for potential donors.

Design Concept
Contract with Serena Sturm Architects and St. Charles Initiative Advisory Committee members meet weekly to develop a design concept for review by City Council.

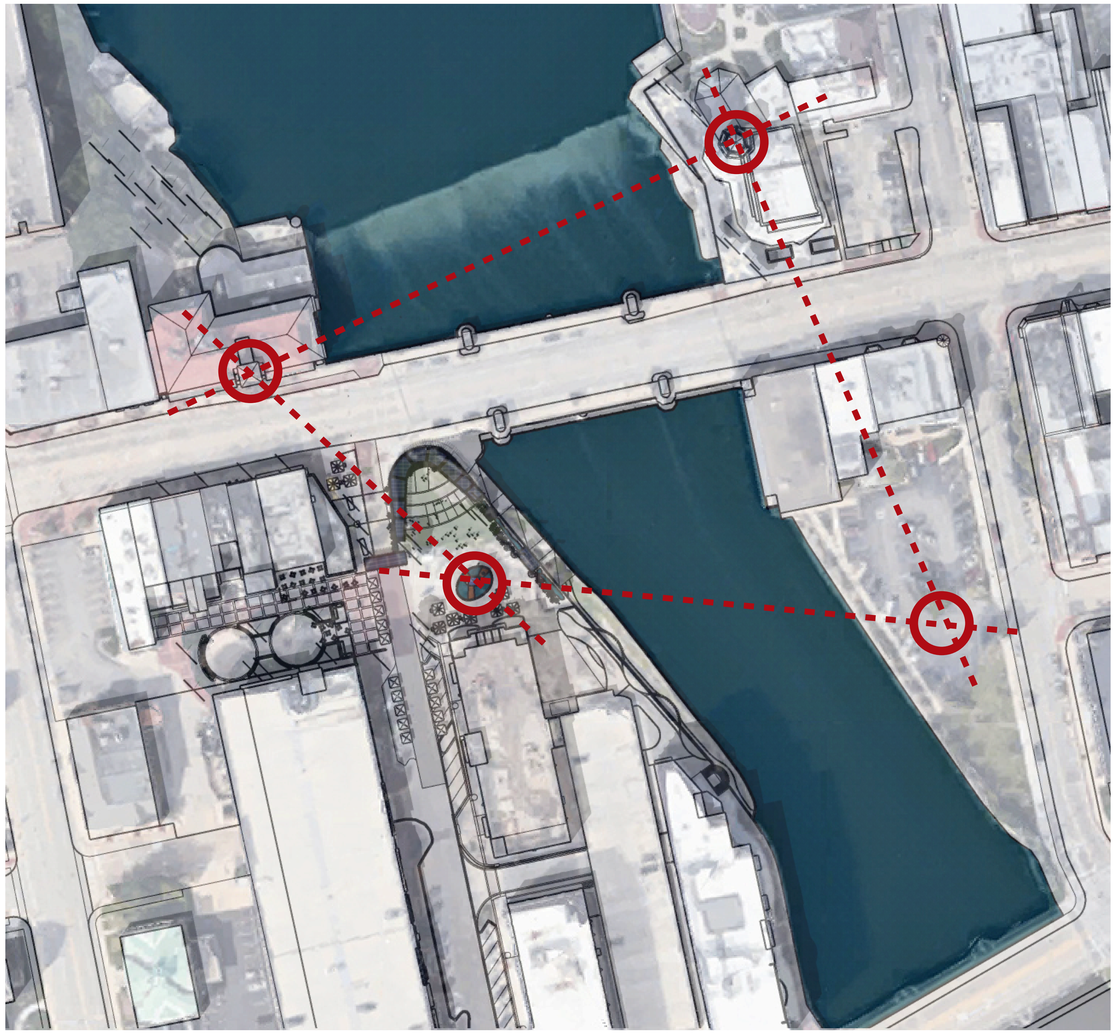
City Council Feedback
City Council members provide feedback on the plaza concept and approach.

Vision statement:

"A unique gathering place that celebrates the natural beauty and heritage of St. Charles."

“A unique gathering place that celebrates the natural beauty and heritage of St. Charles”

First Street Plaza emphasizes cultural continuity, urban regeneration, environmental responsibility and community engagement.



Vision and Urban Analysis - Elevated Places

Vision and Urban Analysis - Gathering Places

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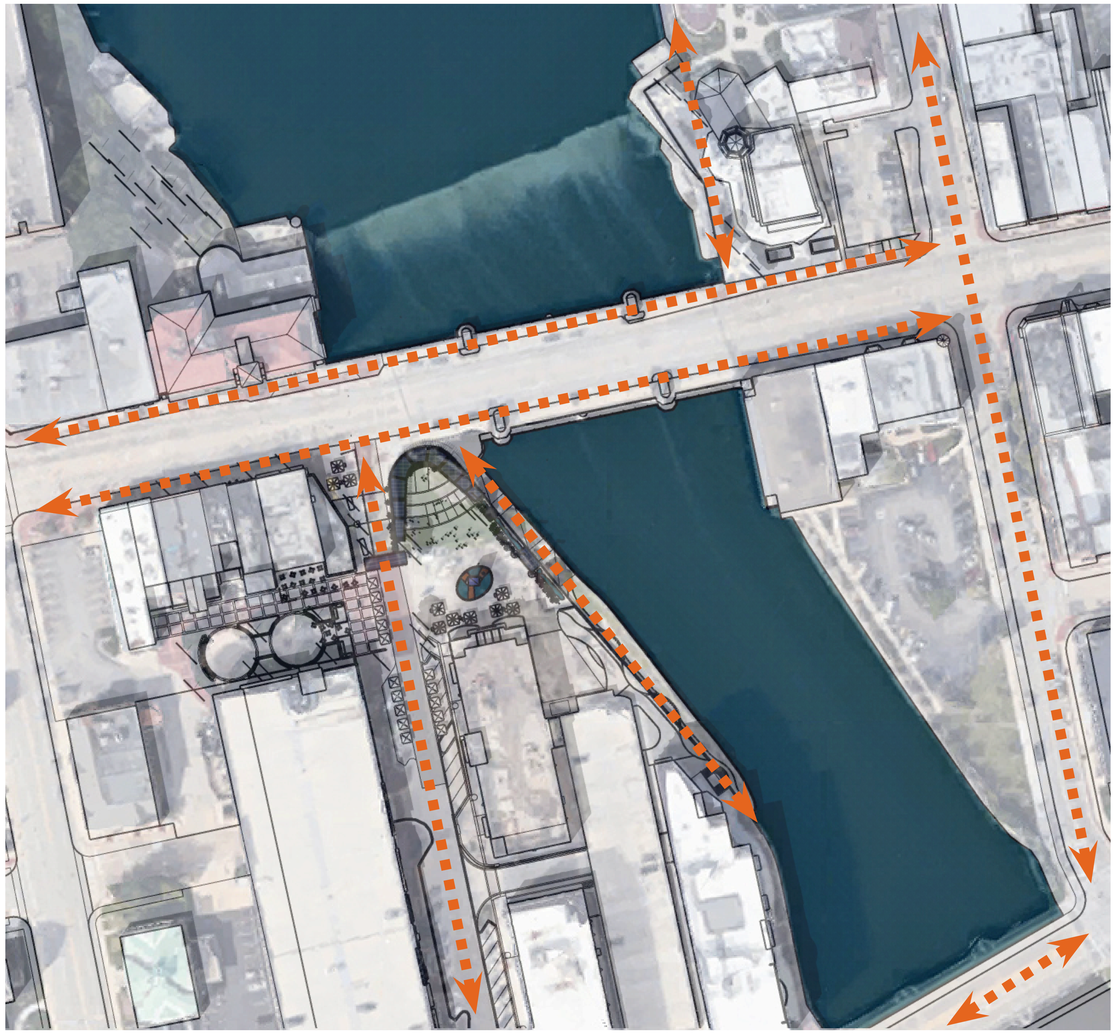
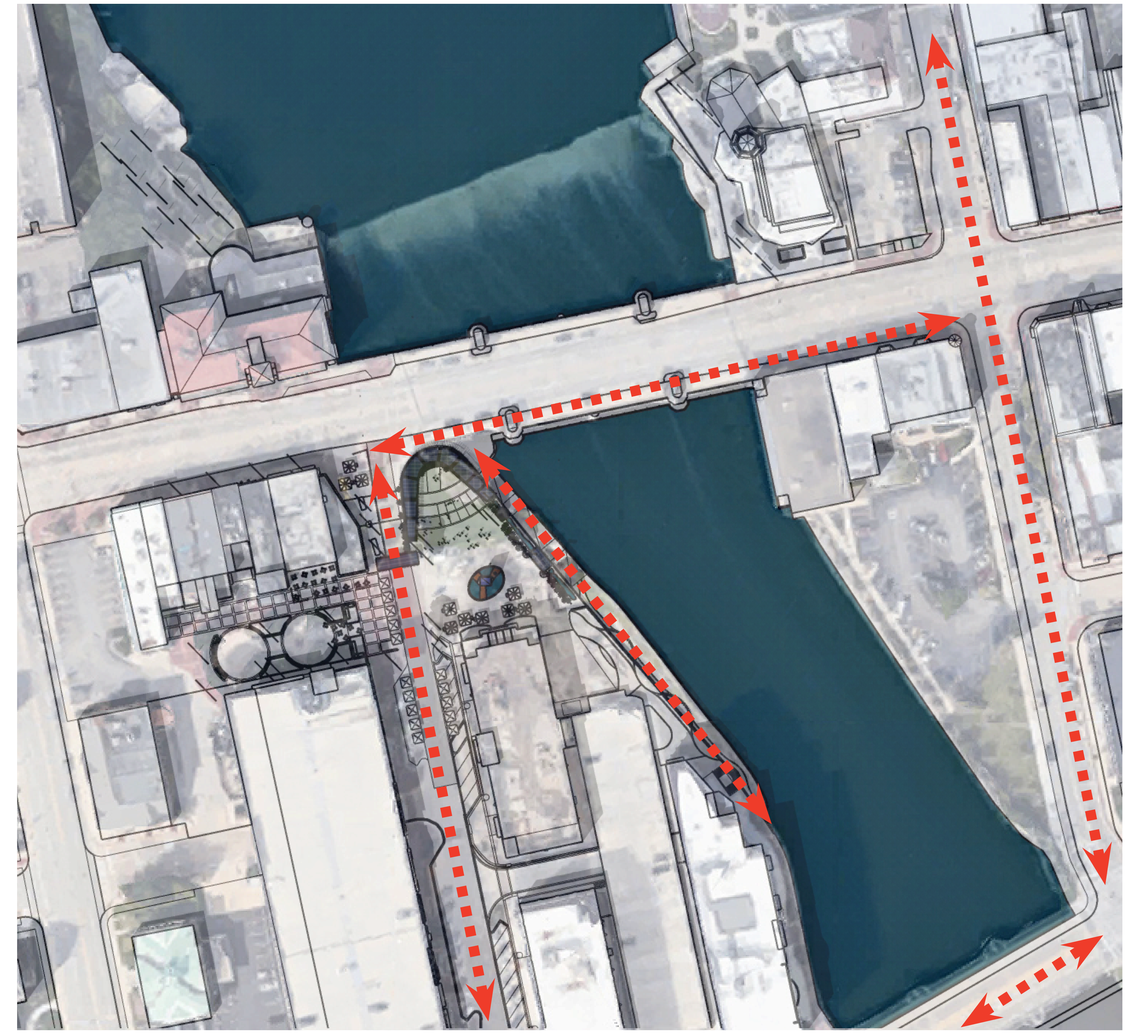


Vision and Urban Analysis - Pedestrian Connectors



Vision and Urban Analysis - Cycling Connectors

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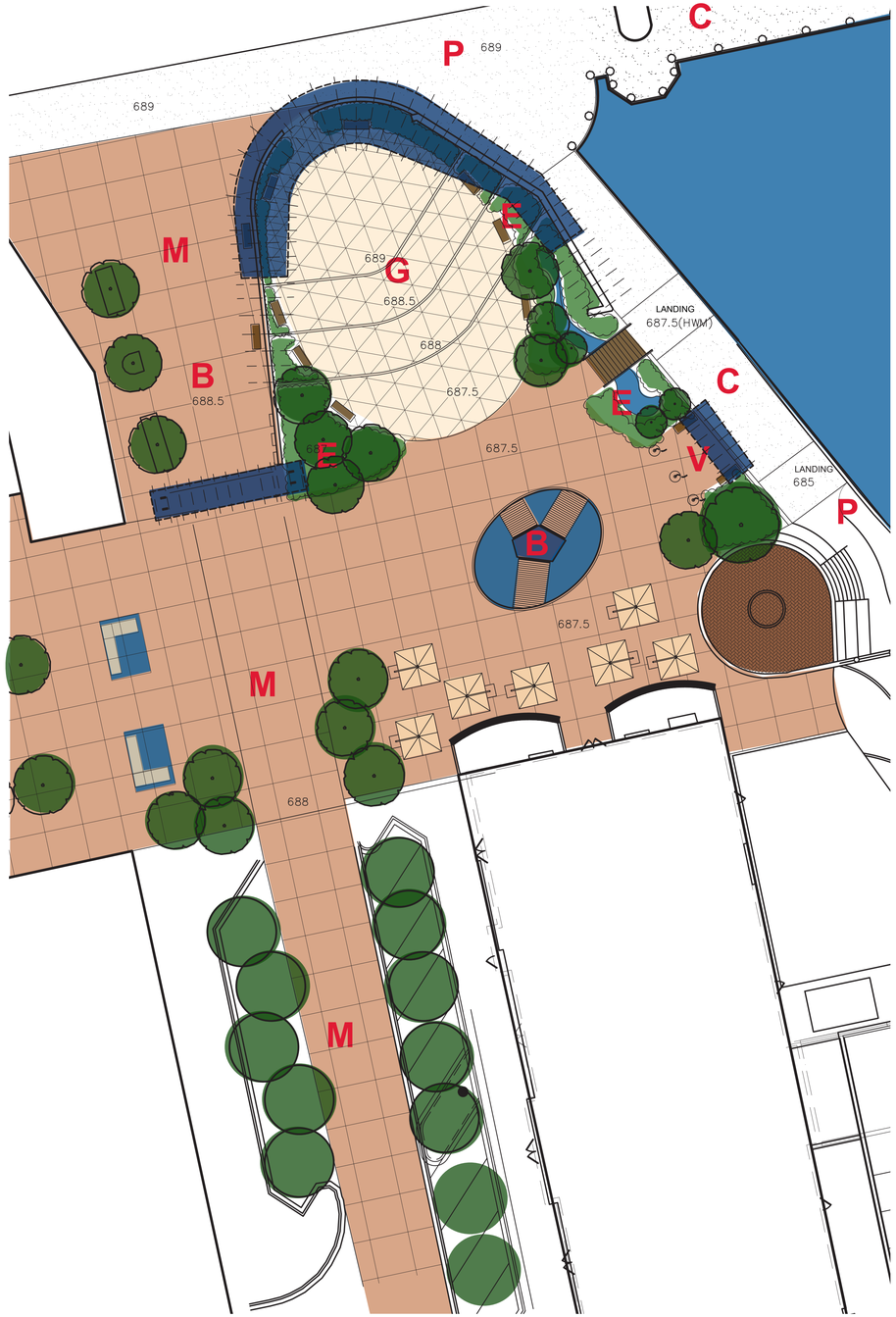
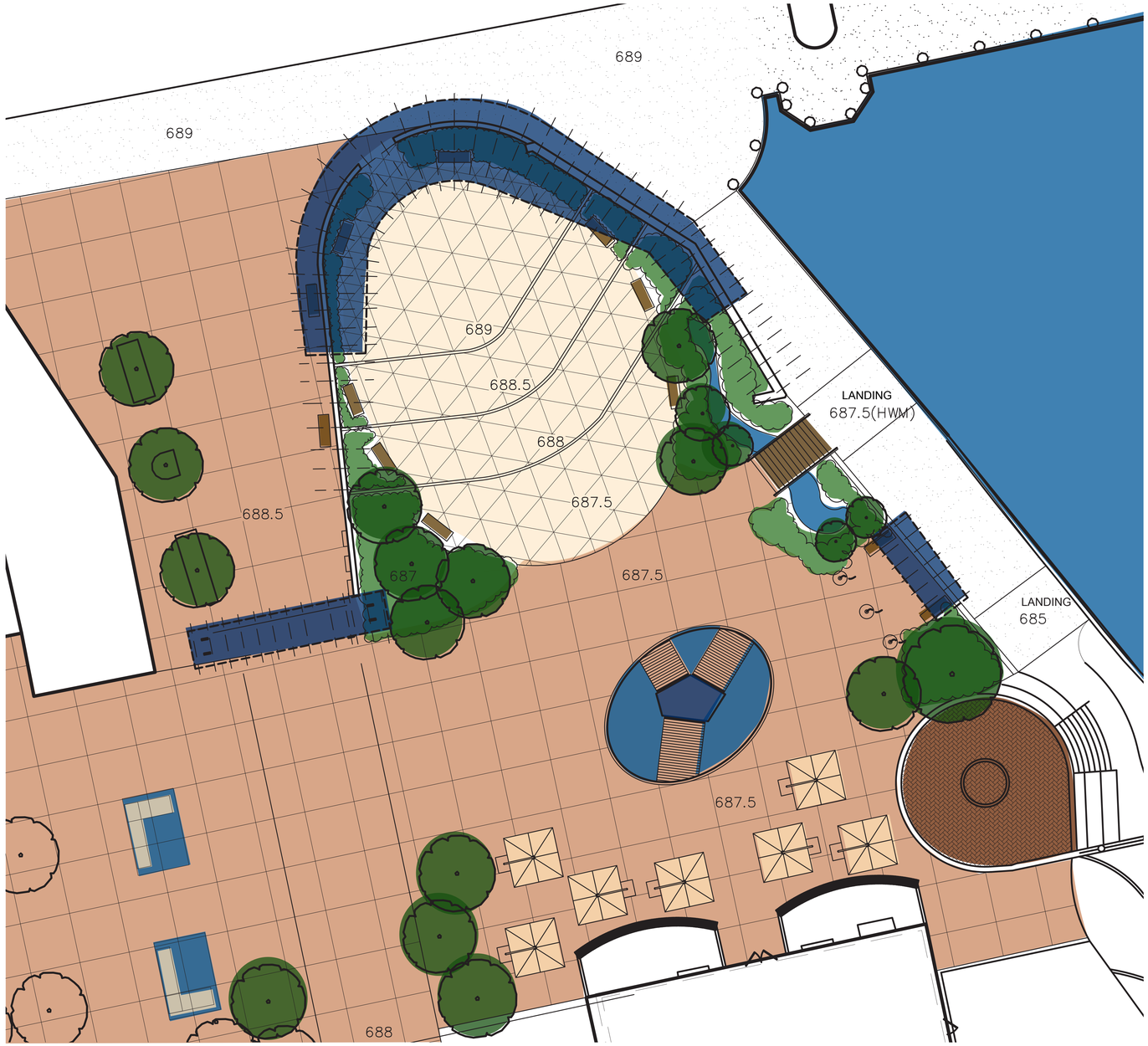


KEY

E - Enhance quality of local ecology
G - Supports various forms of gathering
B - Reinforcement of city heritage and beauty
C - Connectivity between river and bridge
C - Connectivity between each side of the river
C - Connectivity of north/south sides of Main St
V - Visual connectivity of multiple high value sites
P - Encourage pedestrian and cyclist traffic
M - Encourage street markets and activity



Synthesis Concept

. **Ramping riverwalk** connects to Main Street Bridge

. **Expanded bridge** Walkway improves pedestrian and cycling connectivity to East Side of River

. **Ramp and bridge walkway** expansion provide expanded pedestrian platform at Plaza and Main Street

. **Retains the history of the Manor Restaurant** by retaining it's wall holding the new park in place

. **Graceful sweeping terrace** provide space for gathering and community events

. **Raingardens and mini-swales** provide stormwater collection and cleansing opportunities

. **Solar panel canopies and shade trees** provide comfortable seating and local energy

. **Entry element** located at the First Street/Main Street marks the place and welcomes the community and it's visitors.

. A strong focal statement **reflects the elevated places** of the Community - City Hall and the Heritage - Baker Hotel

. **Extension of plaza** First Street from Main to Walnut envisioned as a vehicle-free place making way for leisure and community activities.

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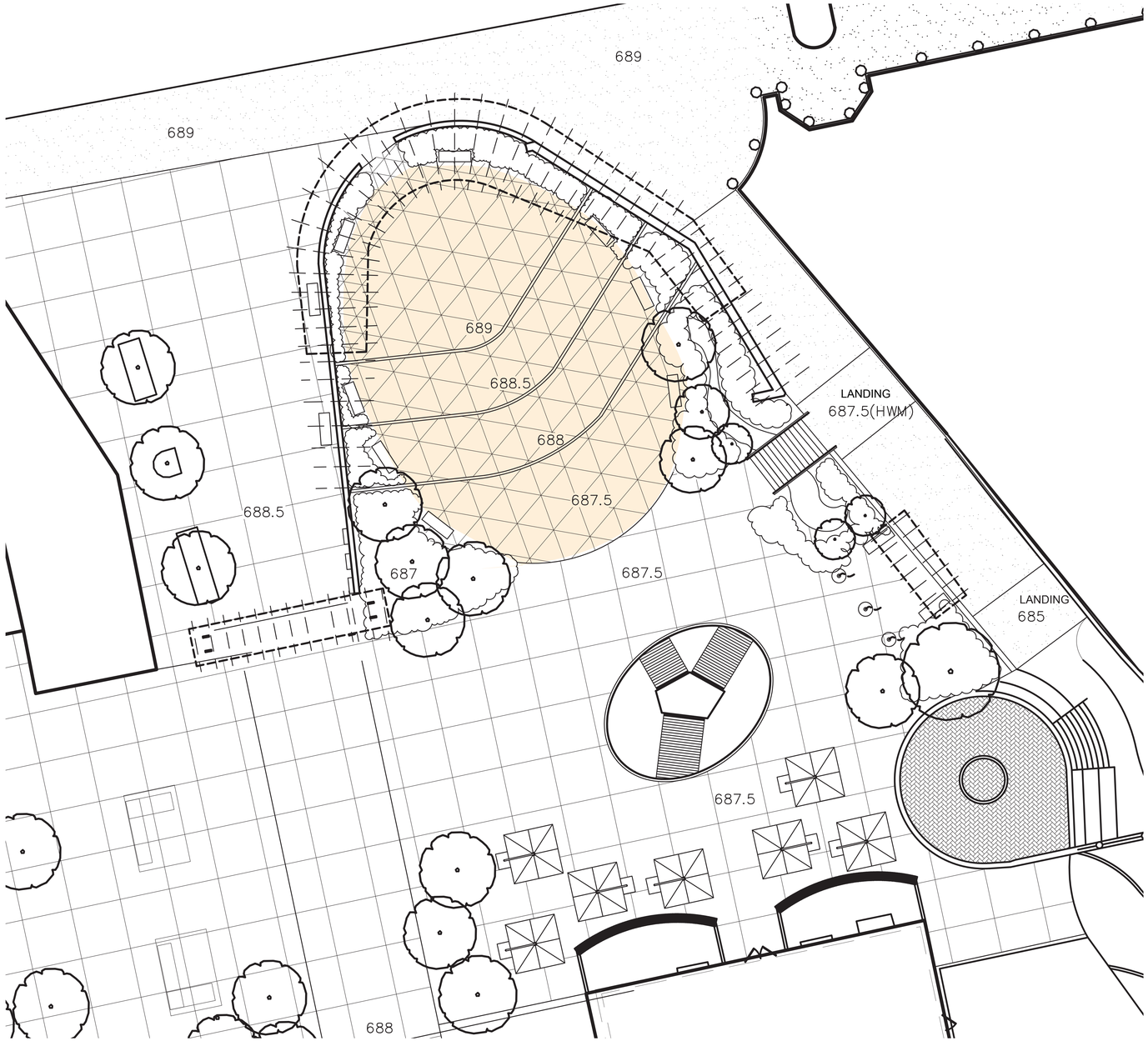

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Preliminary Plaza Concepts - Main Gathering Feature

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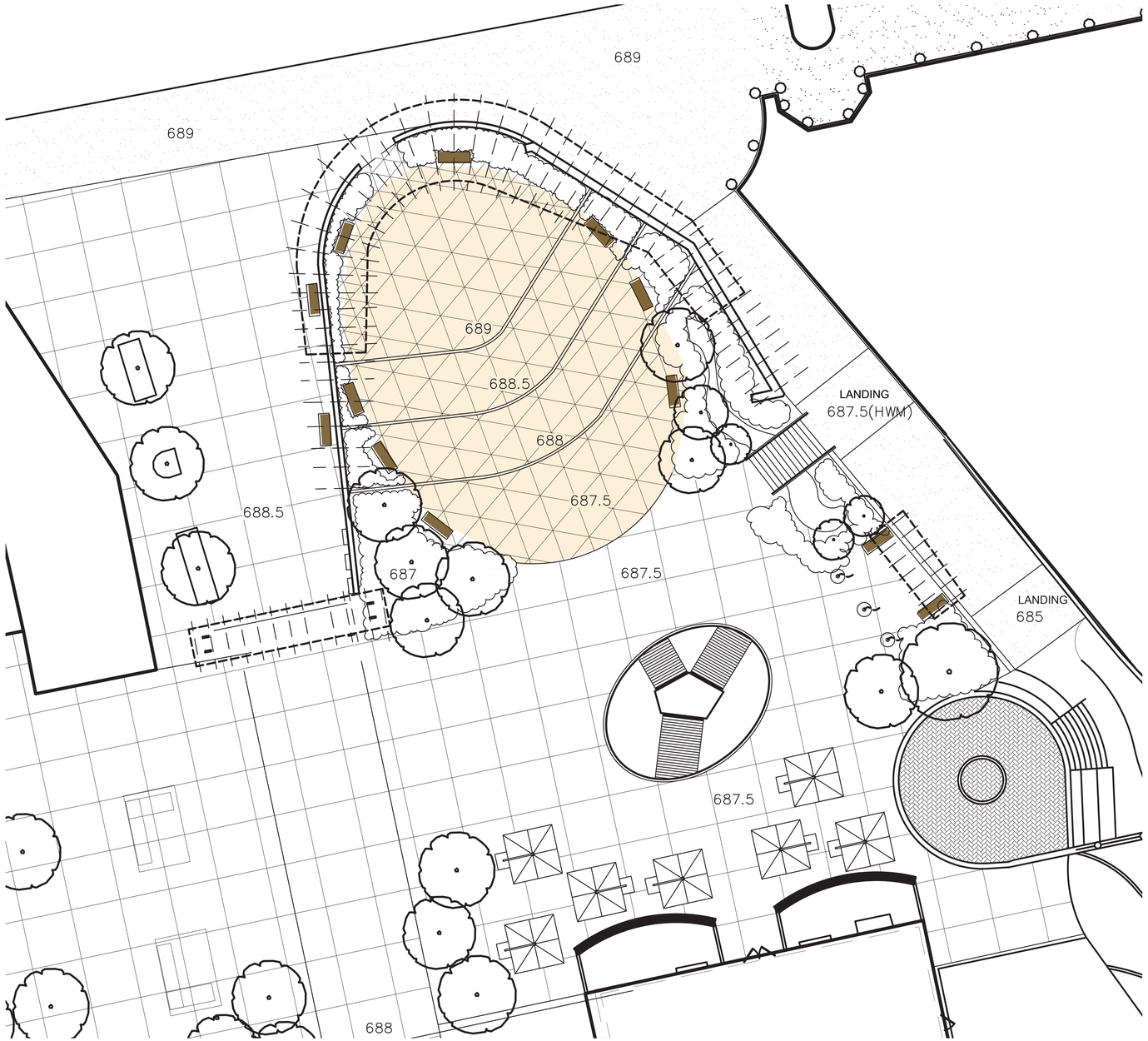

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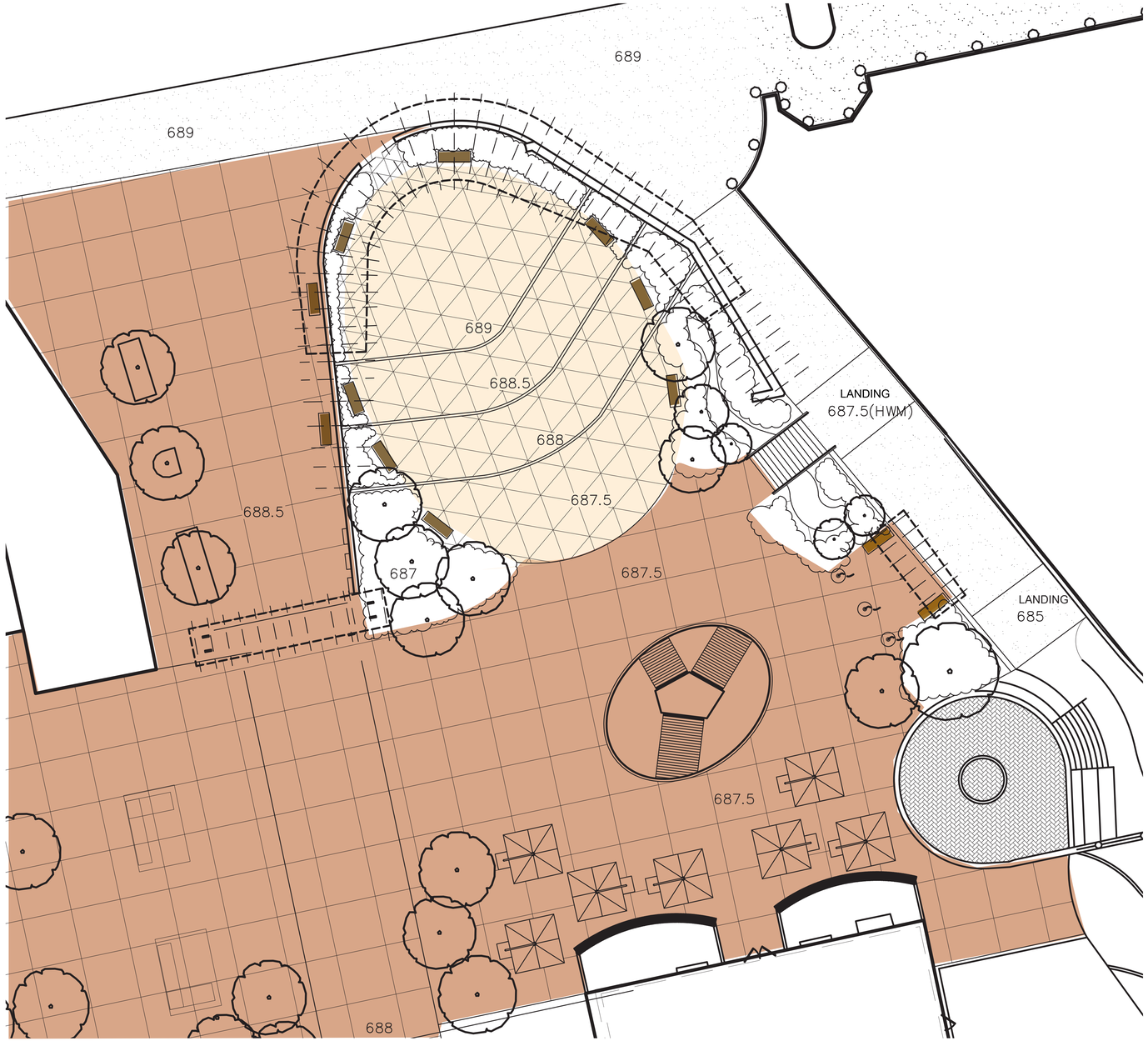

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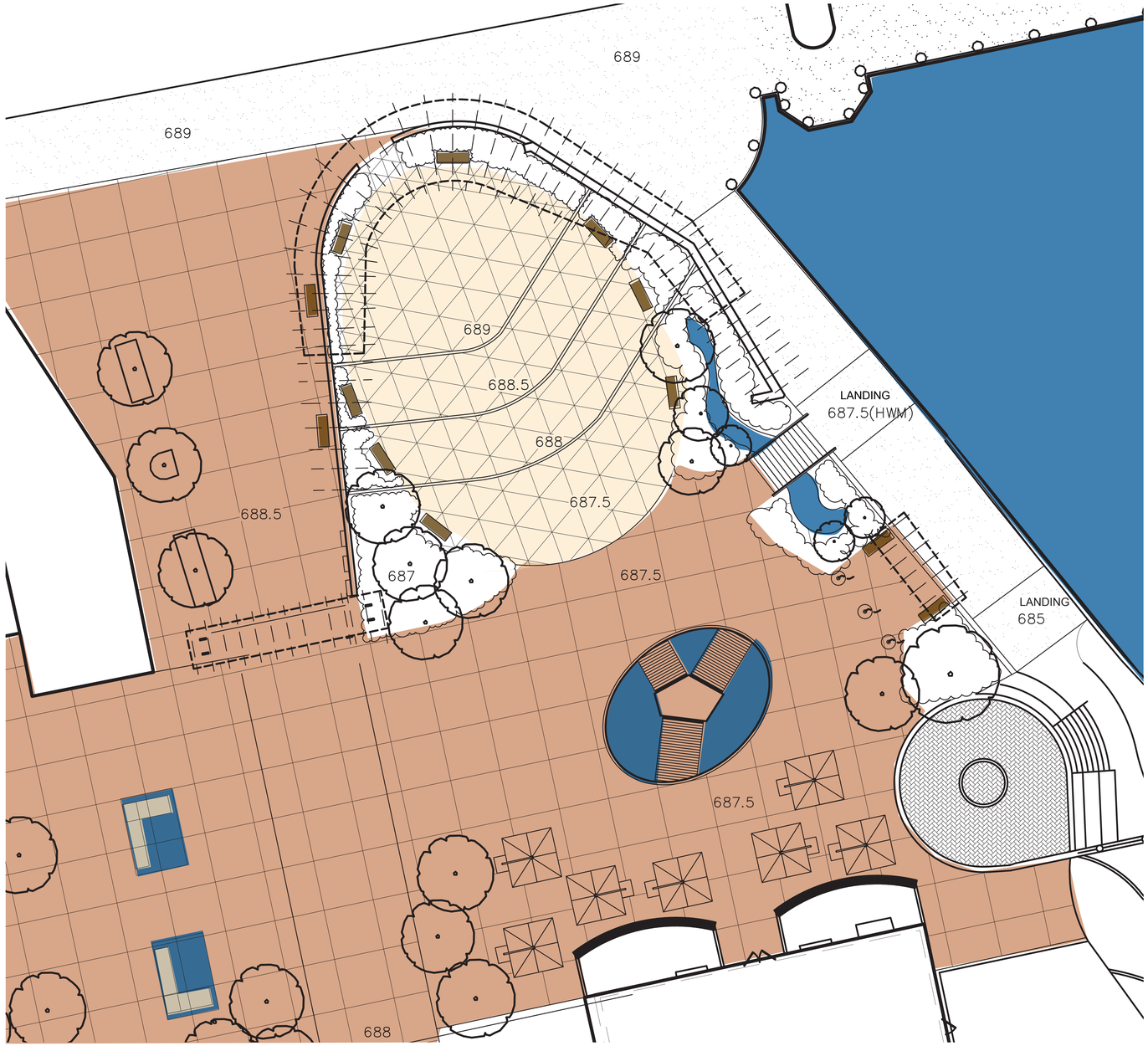
Preliminary Plaza Concepts - Expanded Plaza



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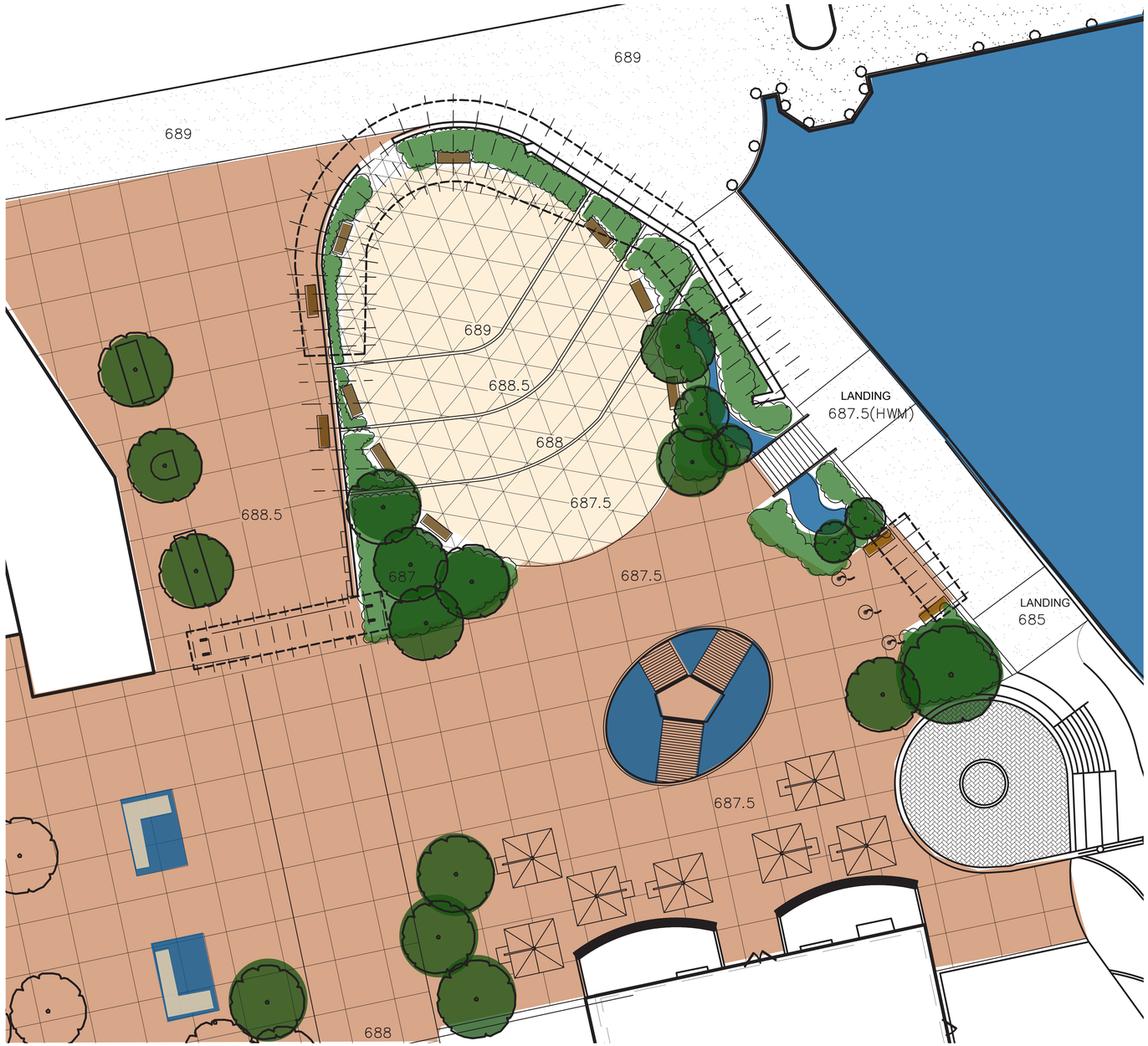

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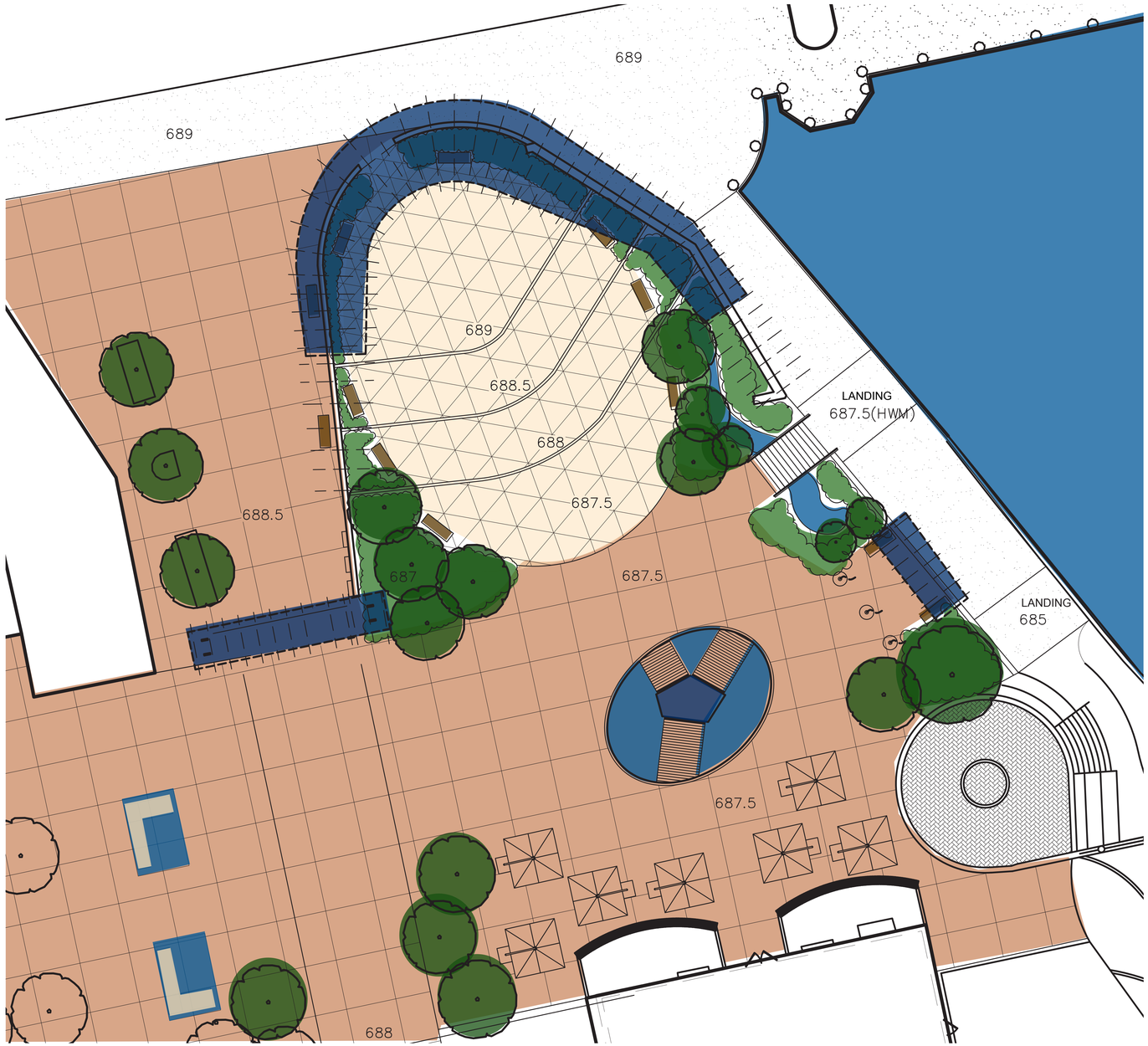

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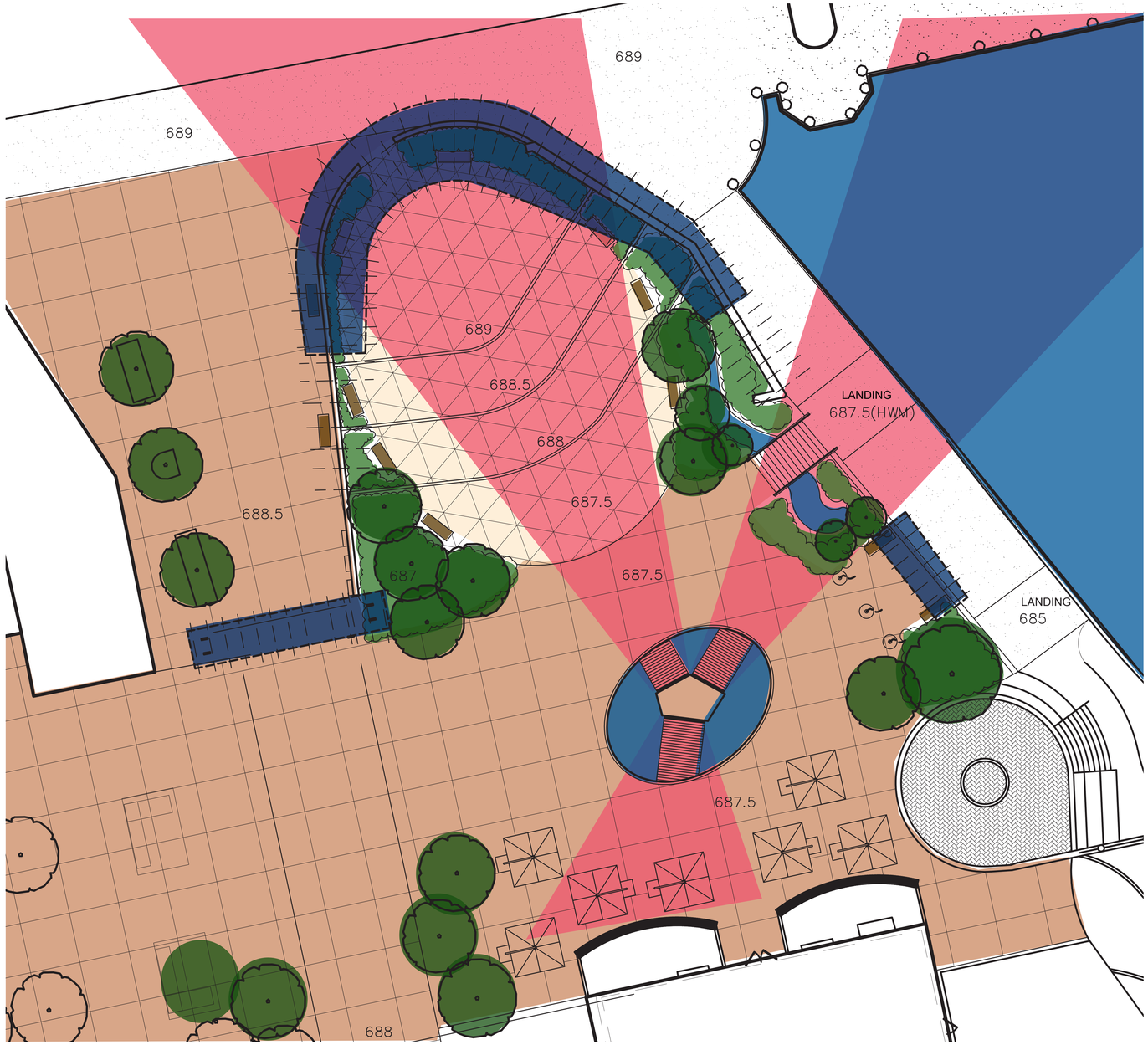

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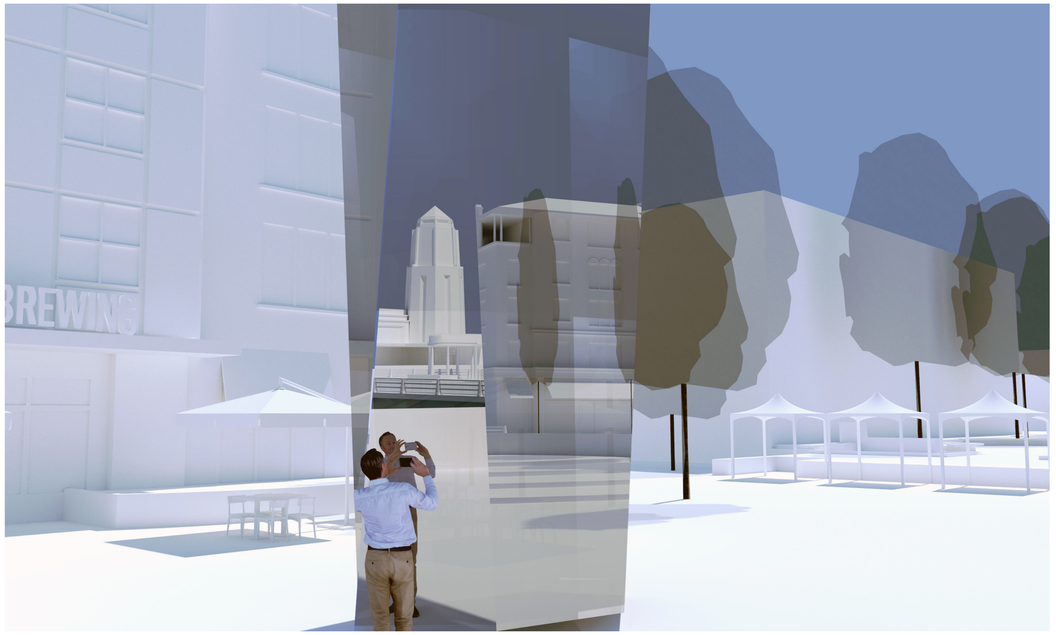
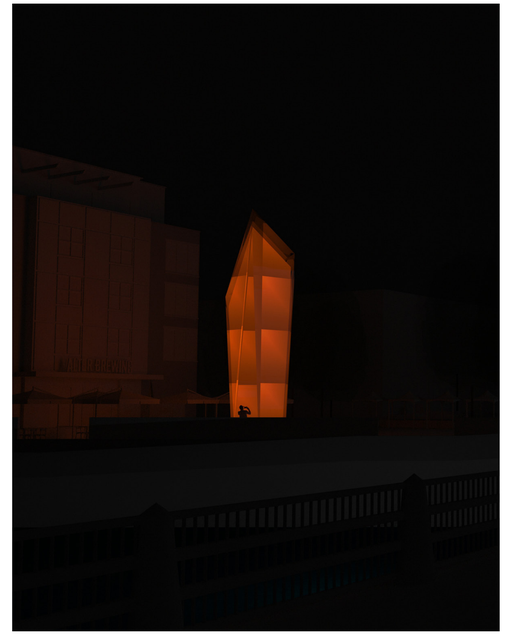


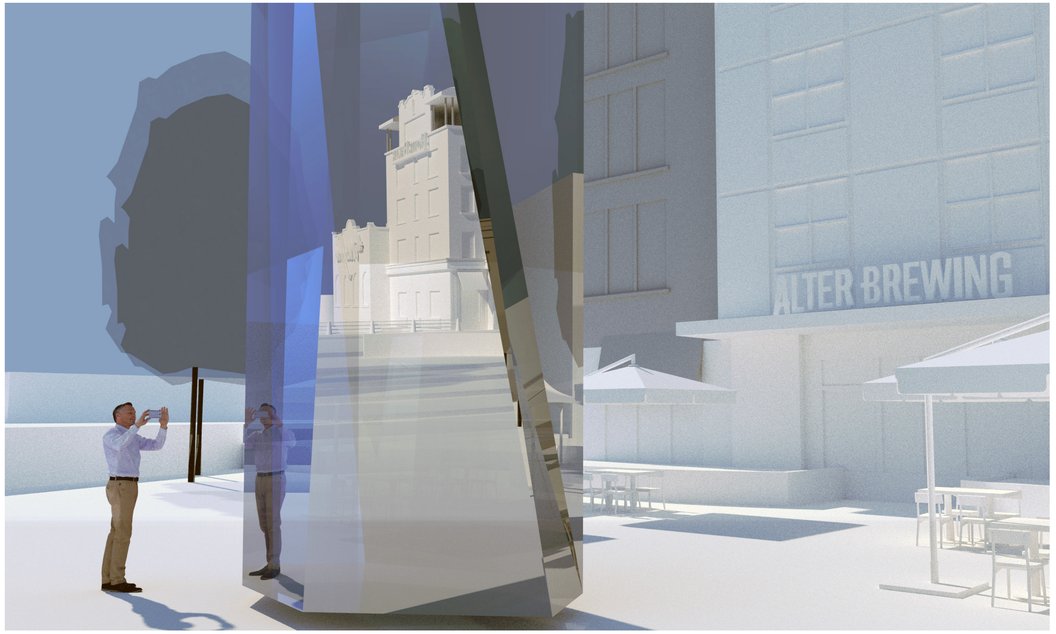


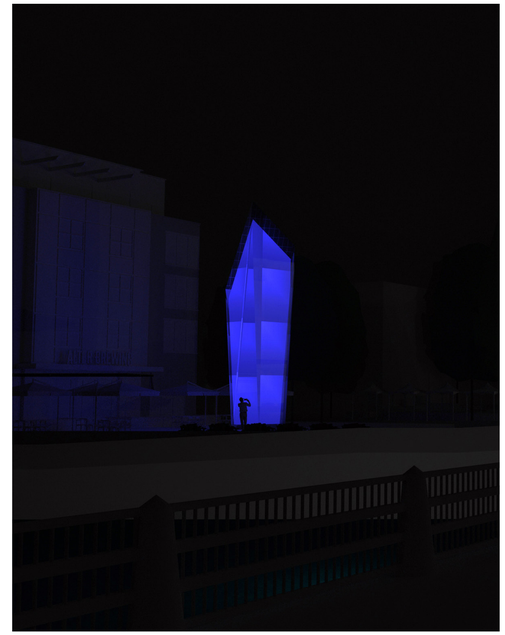
Honoring Community and Heritage by Creating an “Elevated Place”

Drawing inspiration from the Vietnam memorial in DC, and Cloud Gate (the “Bean”) in Chicago:

The unique idea behind this iconic glass sculpture is the combination of reflectivity during the day glowing flame at night.

During the day, one can simultaneously see the old and the new. During the night, the tower illuminates the plaza with festive color to commemorate special activities and holidays.





Preliminary Plaza Concepts - Integrating Past and Present

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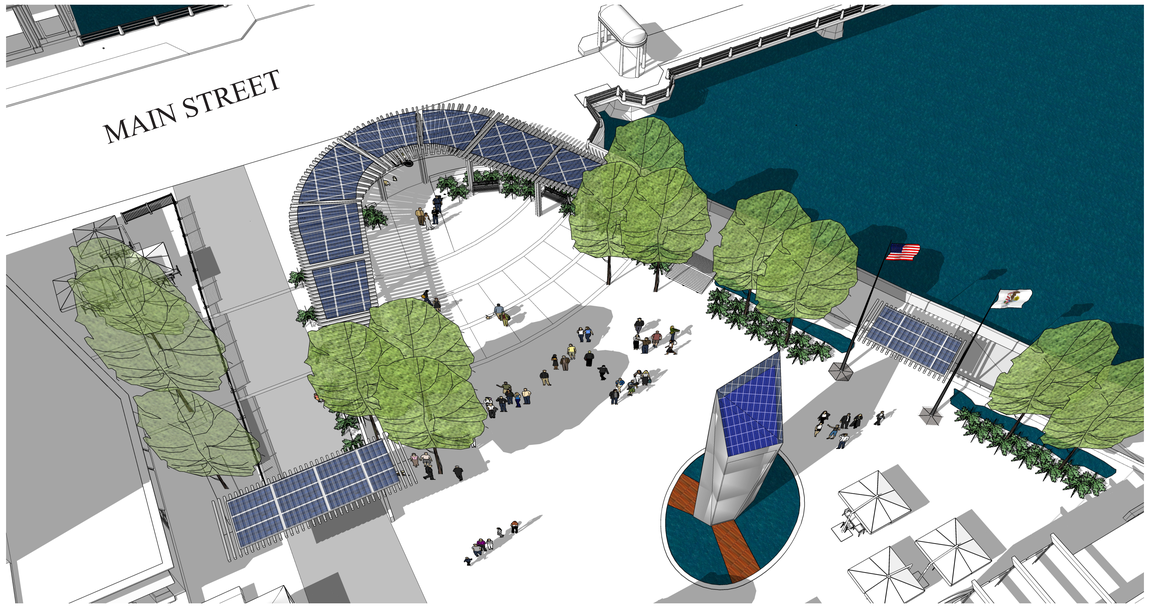

First Street Plaza emphasizes cultural continuity, urban regeneration, environmental responsibility and community engagement.

Preliminary Plaza Concepts - A Place for People

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Simple, Elegant, Flexible Space - Potential Uses

First time and repeat residents and visitors' interest

Community Events

- St. Patrick's Day/Parade overflow
- Earth Day event, Arbor Day event
- May Day Festival
- Summer Solstice Mini Stonehenge
- Art fair/festival
- Farmers market
- Food and Drink Festival, "Taste of St Charles"
- Food Truck Night/Lunch
- Scarecrow Festival, October Fest
- Trick or Treat at downtown businesses
- Winter Solstice
- Intense holiday decorations, Holiday Lighting Ceremony, Put up a big tree
- Holiday Market, Kris Kringle Mart, Caroling
- Electric Light Parade Viewing
- Holiday Activity, including Santa
- Winter carnival/festival
- Ice Skating, warming hut
- Town ceremonies
- Start/Finish community 5k-10k runs

Business or Local Organization Sponsored Events

- Garden party plant sale
- Easter bunny visits for children
- Music, Small Instrumental Performances, Weekly summer live music venue
- Once a month festivals or gatherings during summer (street closed, bands).
- SC Craft beer fest
- Wind down Wednesday.
- Fridays on the Plaza
- Farm to Table community dinner (Prairie Farms style in town)
- Wine Festival
- Visual Arts (jugglers, chalk art, etc)
- Pottawatomie Summer Camp destination
- Storytime collaboration with the Library
- Monday morning reading for children/parent-guardian program
- Evening "star watch" with guest speaker
- Community rummage sale
- Collaboration of yoga studios and...one big group class
- Homecoming bonfire photos ops
- "Jingle While you Run" 5K - The plaza would be the start and finish of the race - Could do races for every season
- Winter solstice event---hot buttered rum party
- Snowperson building contest, Ice sculpture contest
- Scheduled fund-raising events
- Sculpture park

Family/Individual Activities

- Prom/Homecoming pics
- Red Carpet walk
- Wedding photos
- Enjoy Art Work (Still, Kinetic)
- View and appreciate Land and River
- Learn from History Plaques
- Enjoy Fountains/Water features
- Gather and Sit
- Lunch/Dinner picnics, bring their own food carry out from nearby restaurants
- Chess/checker/game/card tables

Next Step

- City Council input on First Street Plaza design concept and approach

Future Work Efforts

- Refinement of the design
- Engineering/Permitting
- Establish cost estimates for amenities and timing for project
- PUD plan review by Plan Commission, P&D Committee, City Council approval
- Determine which aspects the City will financially support
- Fundraising
- Construction

Estimated 12 months until functionally useful