

Margaret Ave Park

Concept 1: Common Thread

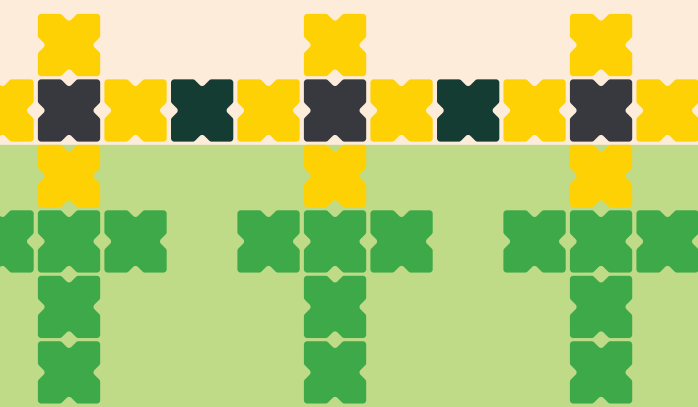
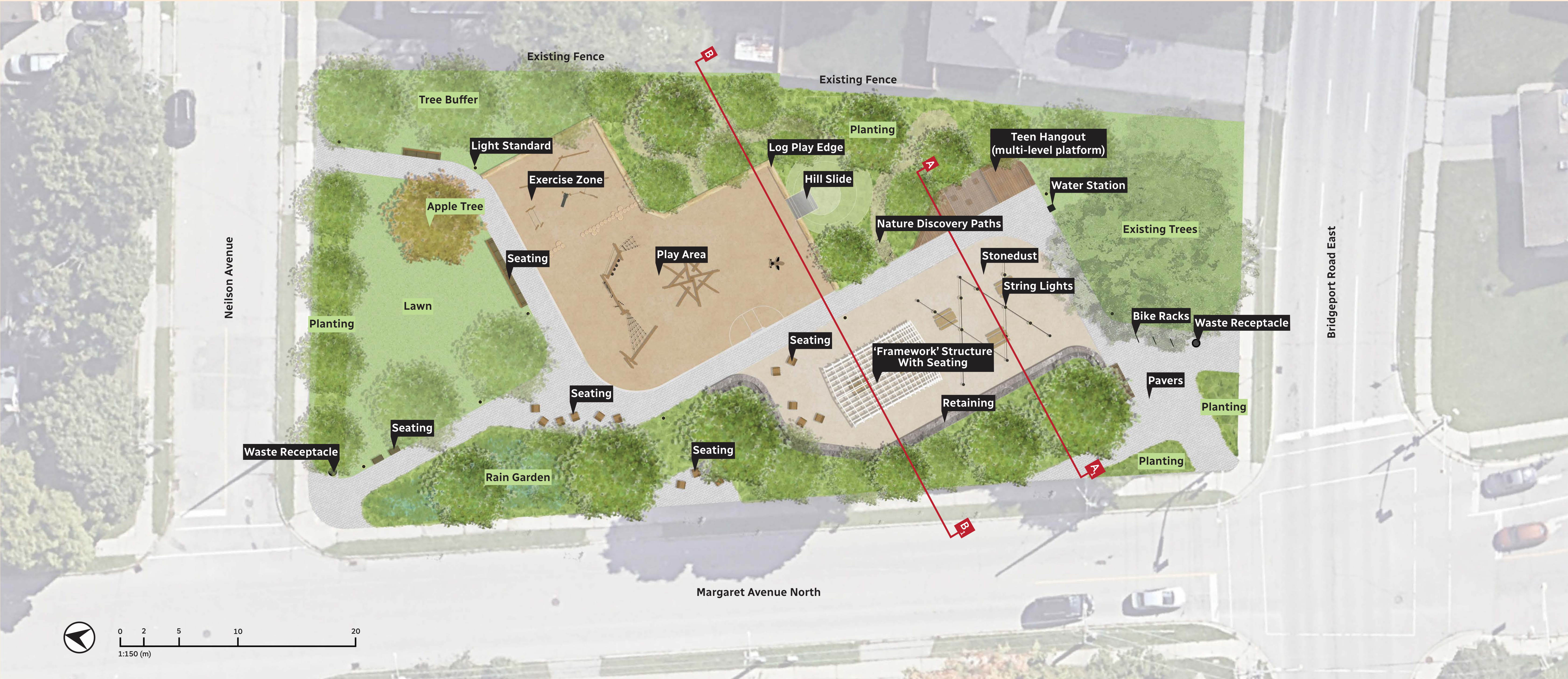
About 'Common Thread'

Common Thread imagines Margaret Ave Park as a dynamic, inclusive, and future-ready public space rooted in community and ecological intelligence. This bold vision transforms the park into more than a place - it becomes a living framework for connection, creativity, and resilience. At its heart is The Thread, a unifying path that stretches from Bridgeport Road East to Neilson Avenue, weaving together the entire site. More than just a path of circulation, The Thread acts as a spine for social life and interaction. A central commons anchors the park as a flexible gathering space for both everyday use and community events. String lights hanging overhead create a welcoming atmosphere, while the 'Framework' structure offers filtered shade and visual identity inspired by the neighbourhood's mid-century 'strawberry box' homes. Youth are empowered through a dedicated space tailored to teenagers, designed as a multi-level platform that is open, safe, and purpose-built to support social interaction.

Environmental resilience is embedded throughout the landscape. Along Margaret Avenue, a vibrant green edge of trees and pollinator planting brings nature to the forefront. At the site's low point near Neilson Avenue, a rain garden supports stormwater infiltration and habitat creation, revealing the power of passive systems to address urban water challenges. Common Thread is envisioned as a thriving, green social node - richly planted, pollinator-friendly, and climate-adaptive.

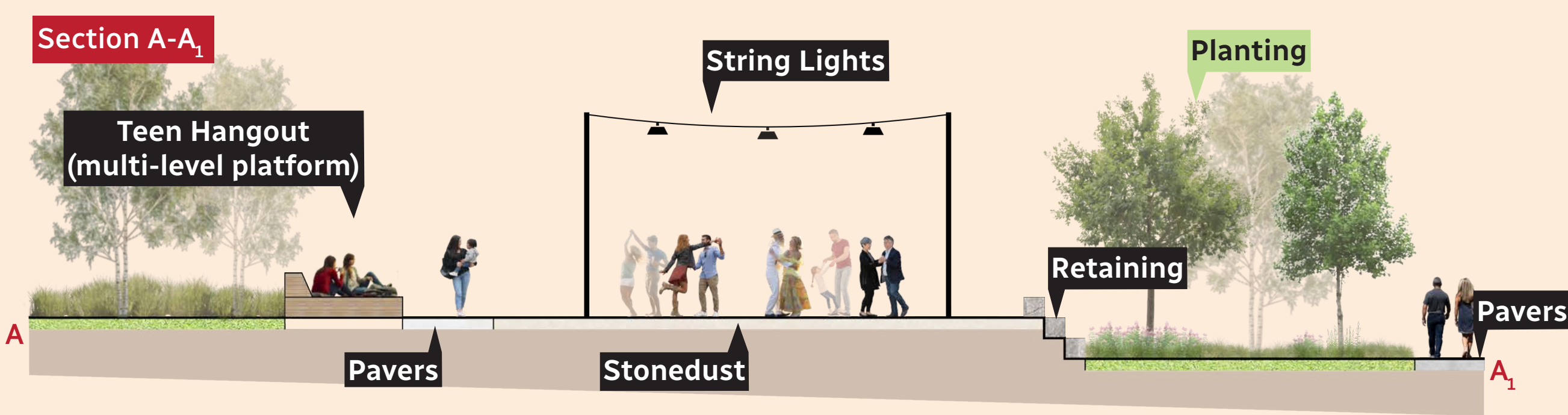
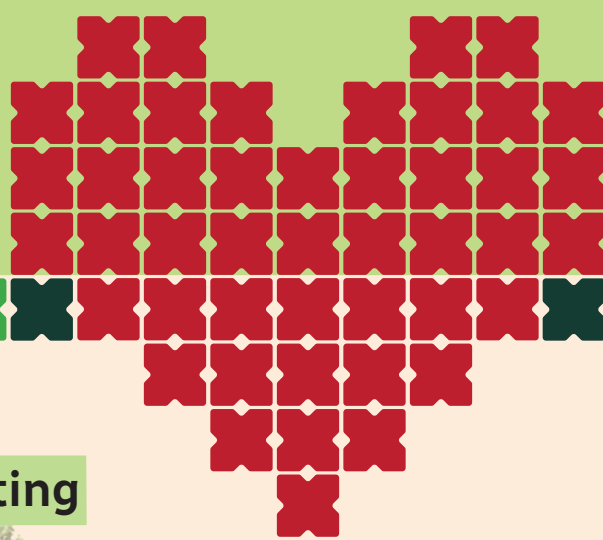


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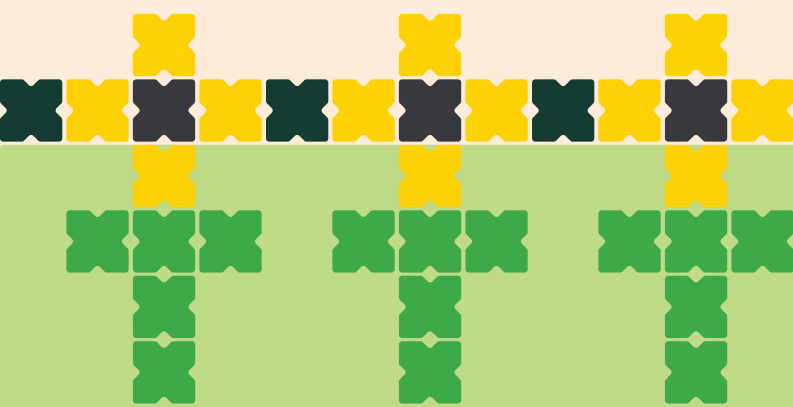
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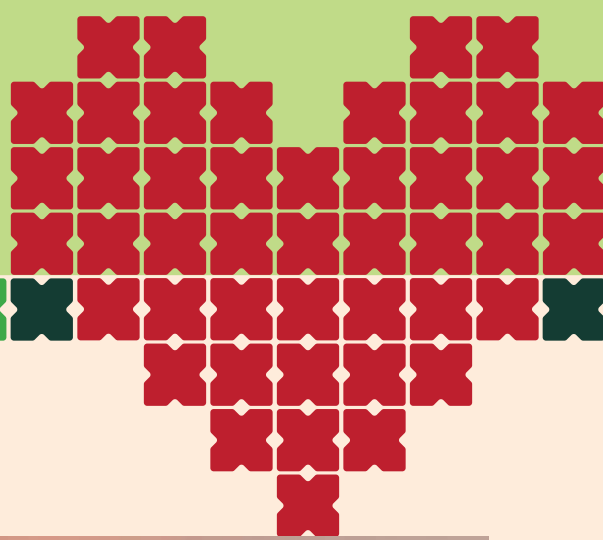


View of sidewalk seating along Margaret Avenue



View of apple tree + open lawn



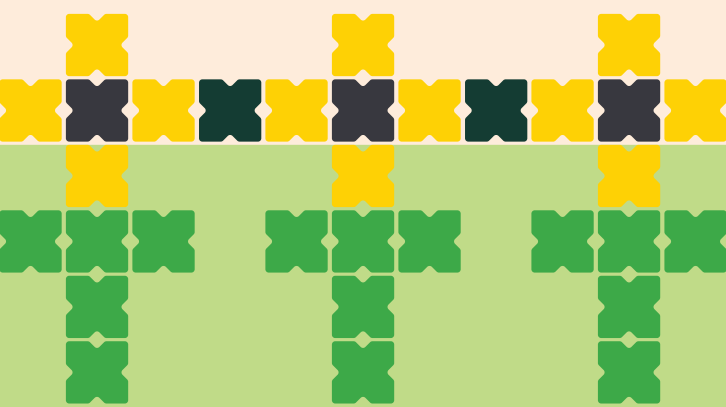
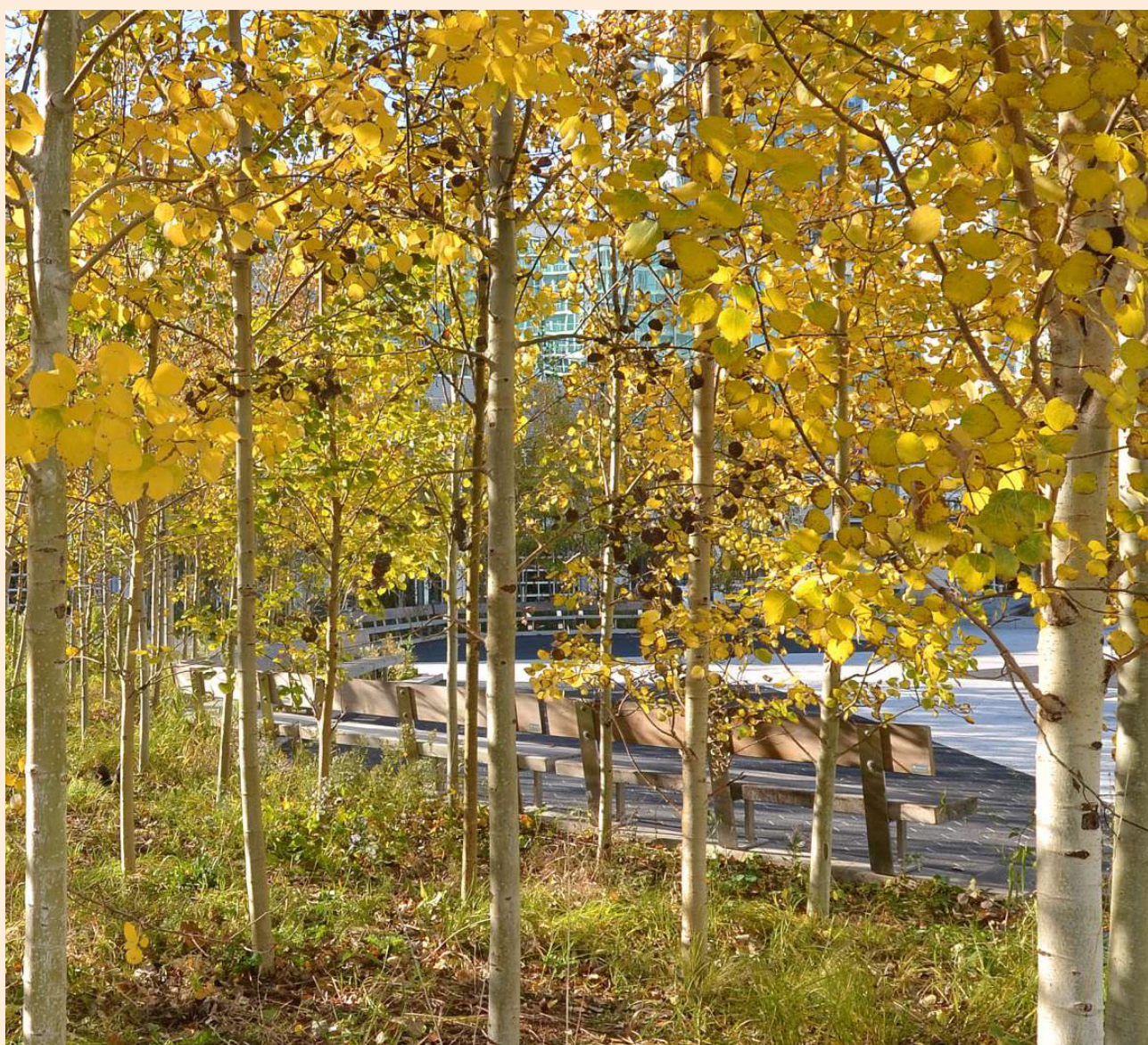
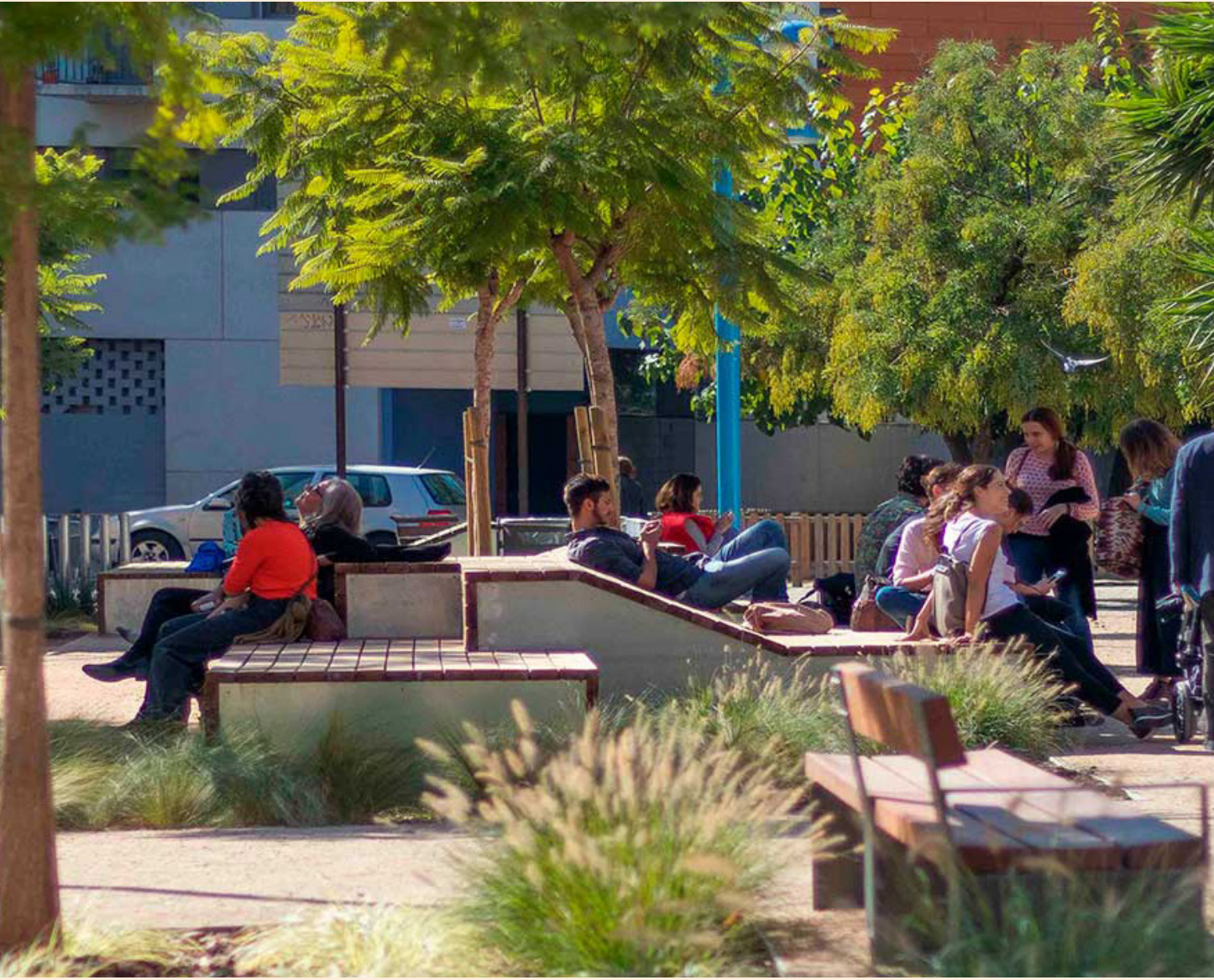
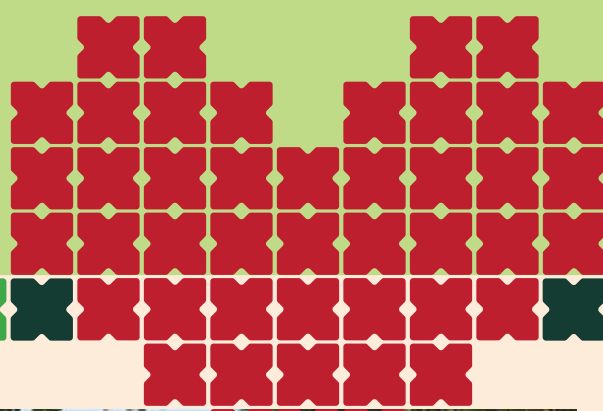


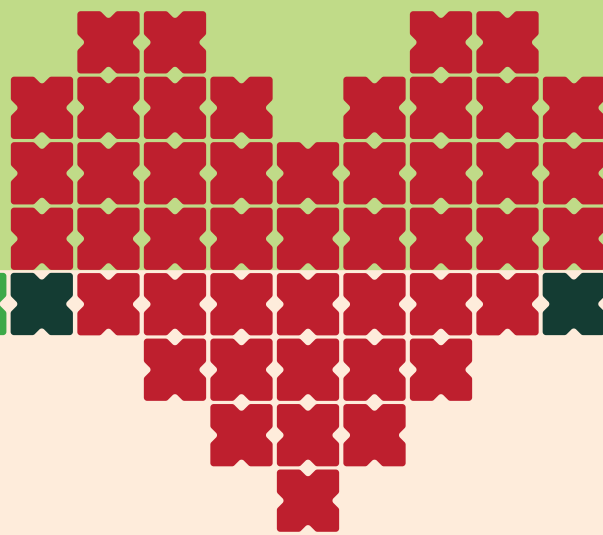
View of the 'Framework' structure and gathering space



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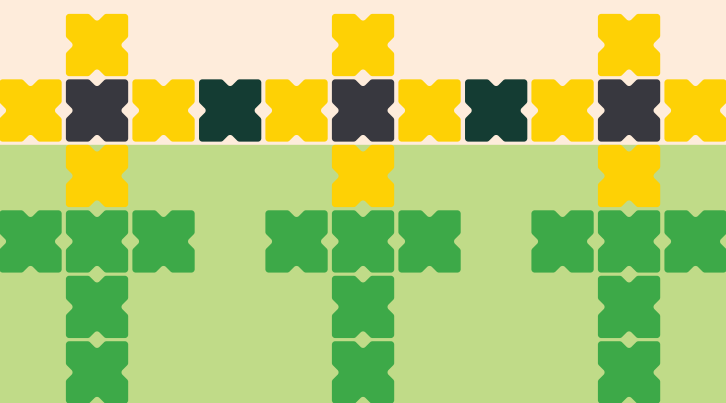
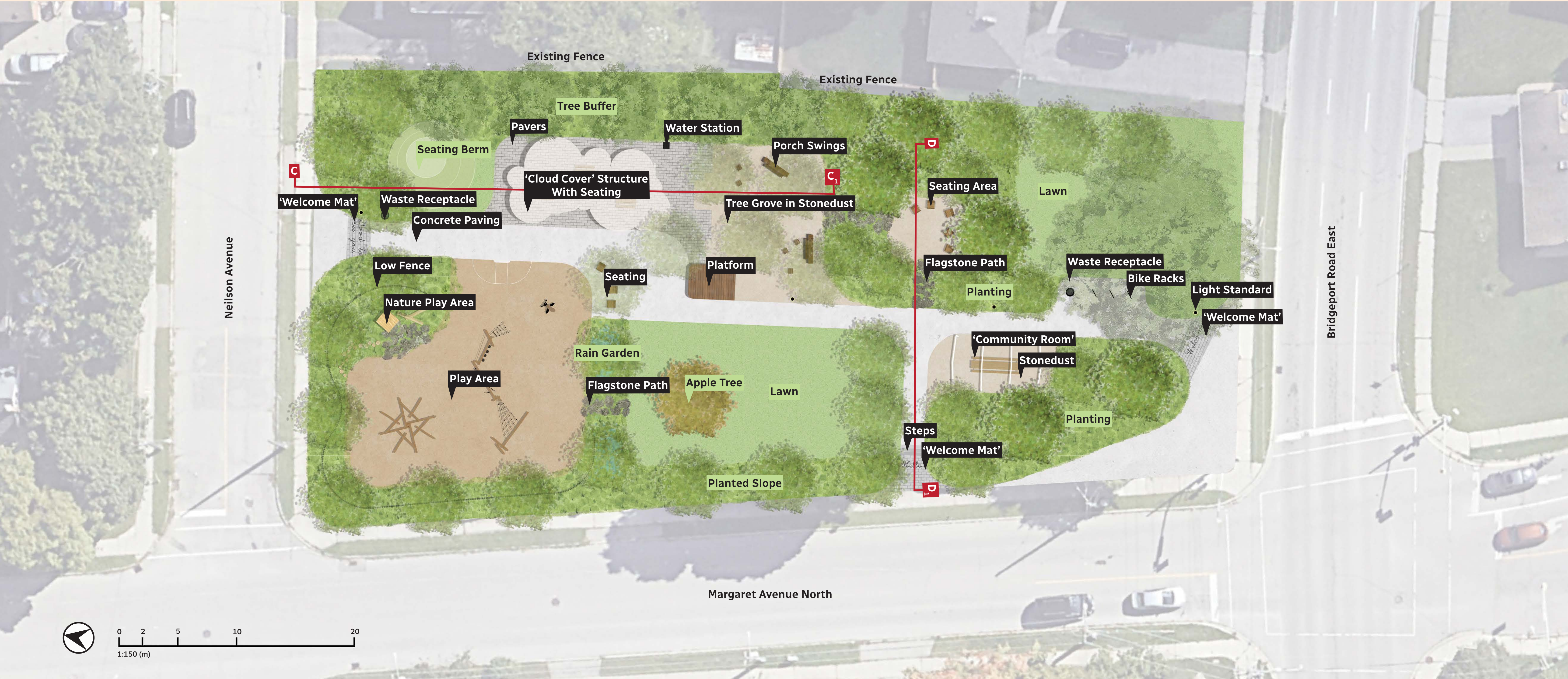
About ‘Floorplan as Siteplan’

The Floorplan as Siteplan concept transforms Margaret Ave Park into a richly layered landscape. The site becomes an abstract home for the community to play, connect, and find belonging in a space that feels both familiar and visionary. The design organizes the park into a series of “rooms” linked by a strong, hallway-like path. Entering at Neilson Avenue, visitors encounter ‘Cloud Cover’ - a whimsical structure that offers shelter while adding playful character to the park. A room of its own, the tree grove creates a leafy canopy overhead, where porch swings and wood-topped seating make for a relaxed, comfortable place to spend time. The playground merges with areas of nature play, surrounded by a low fence and plantings that provide visual interest and separation from the street.

Edges between rooms are softened yet defined through expressive, layered planting that adds legibility while inviting pollinating species and supporting the park’s ecological health. Lush vegetation cools the space and brings richness, motion, and texture to every step. Each park entrance features a ‘welcome mat’ - a distinctive surface treatment inlaid with friendly greetings, creating an inviting first impression for visitors. Materials are chosen for their warmth, durability, and tactile quality: stone, wood, and aggregate underfoot ground the park experience, borrowing from the surrounding residential landscape and reinforcing the park’s role as an extension of home.

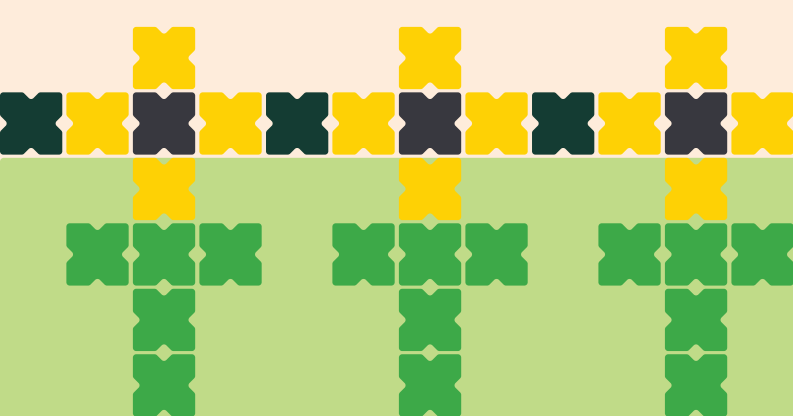
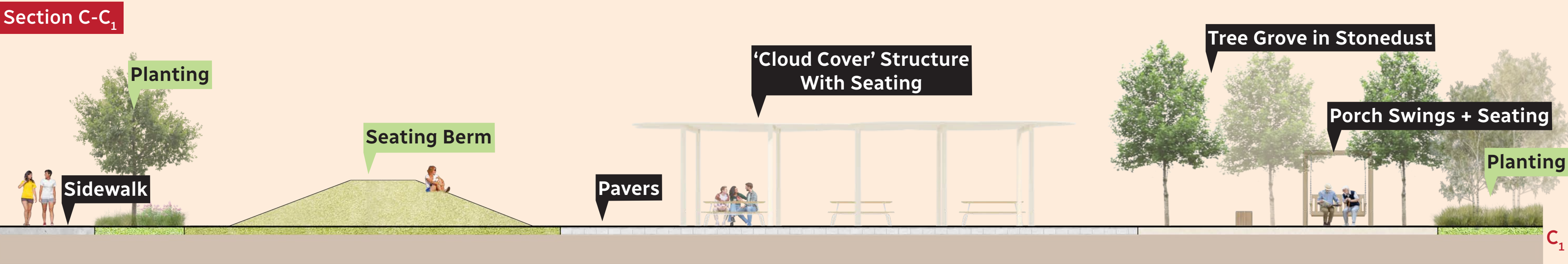


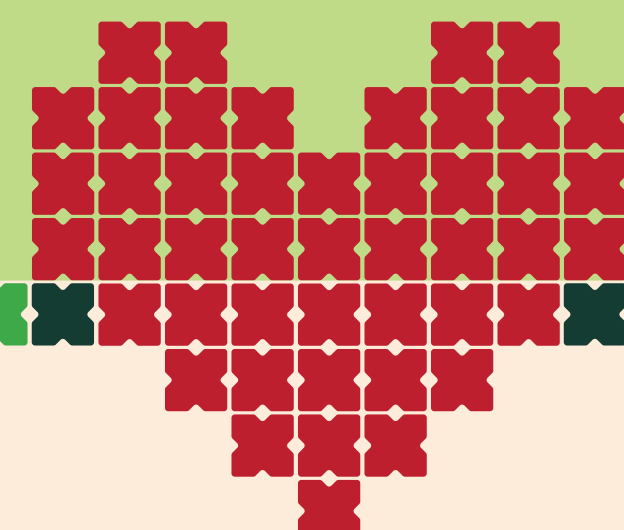
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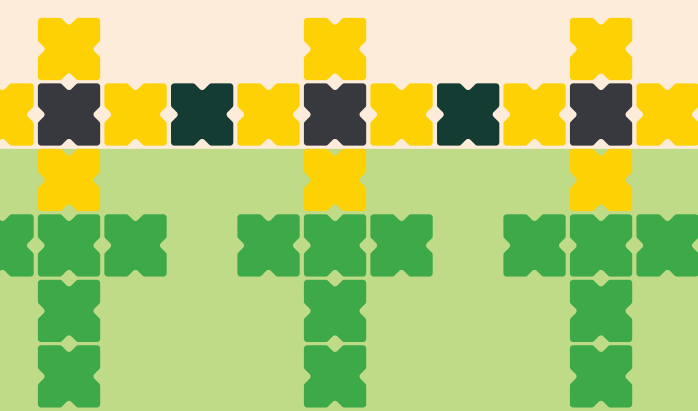
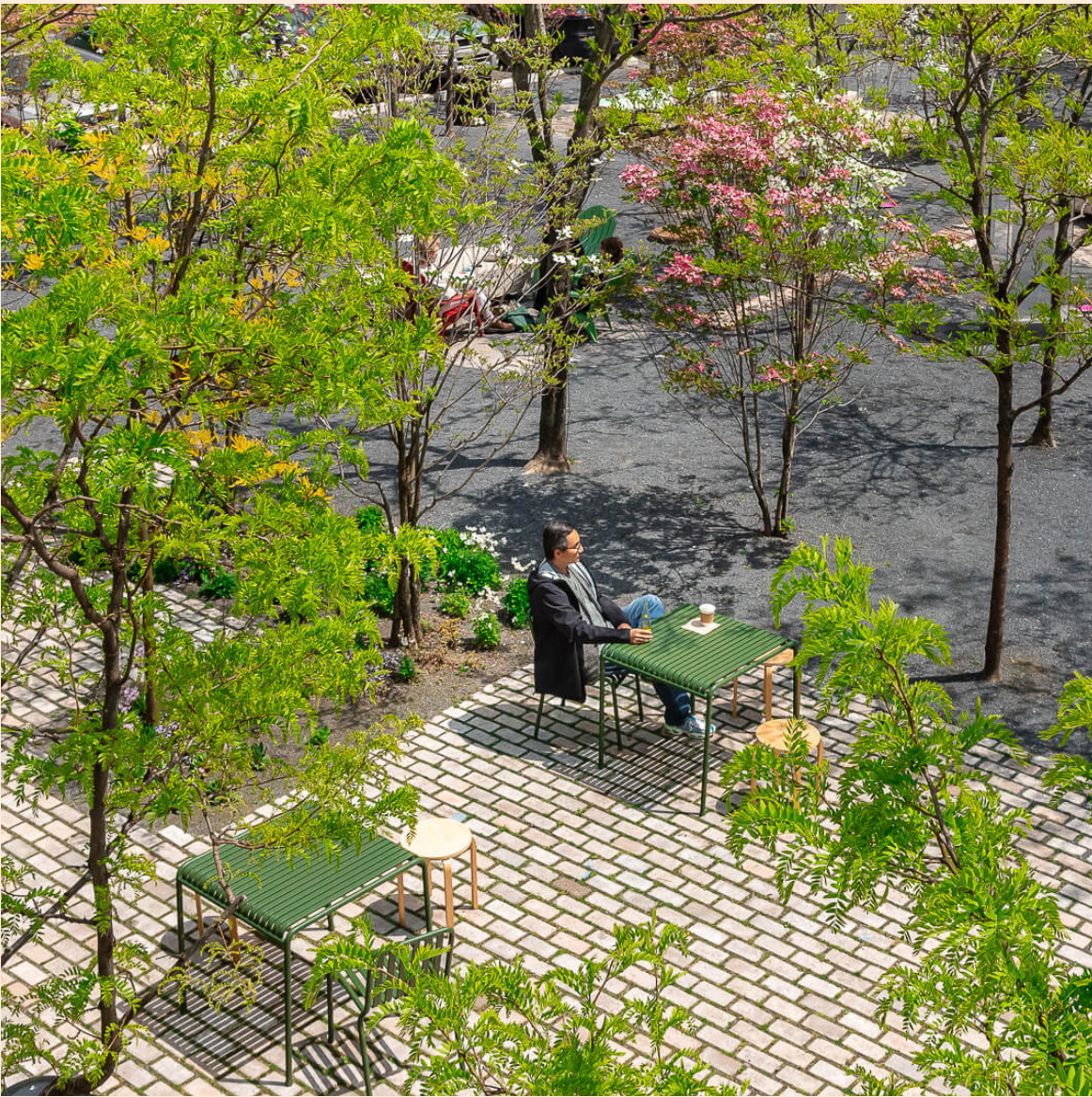
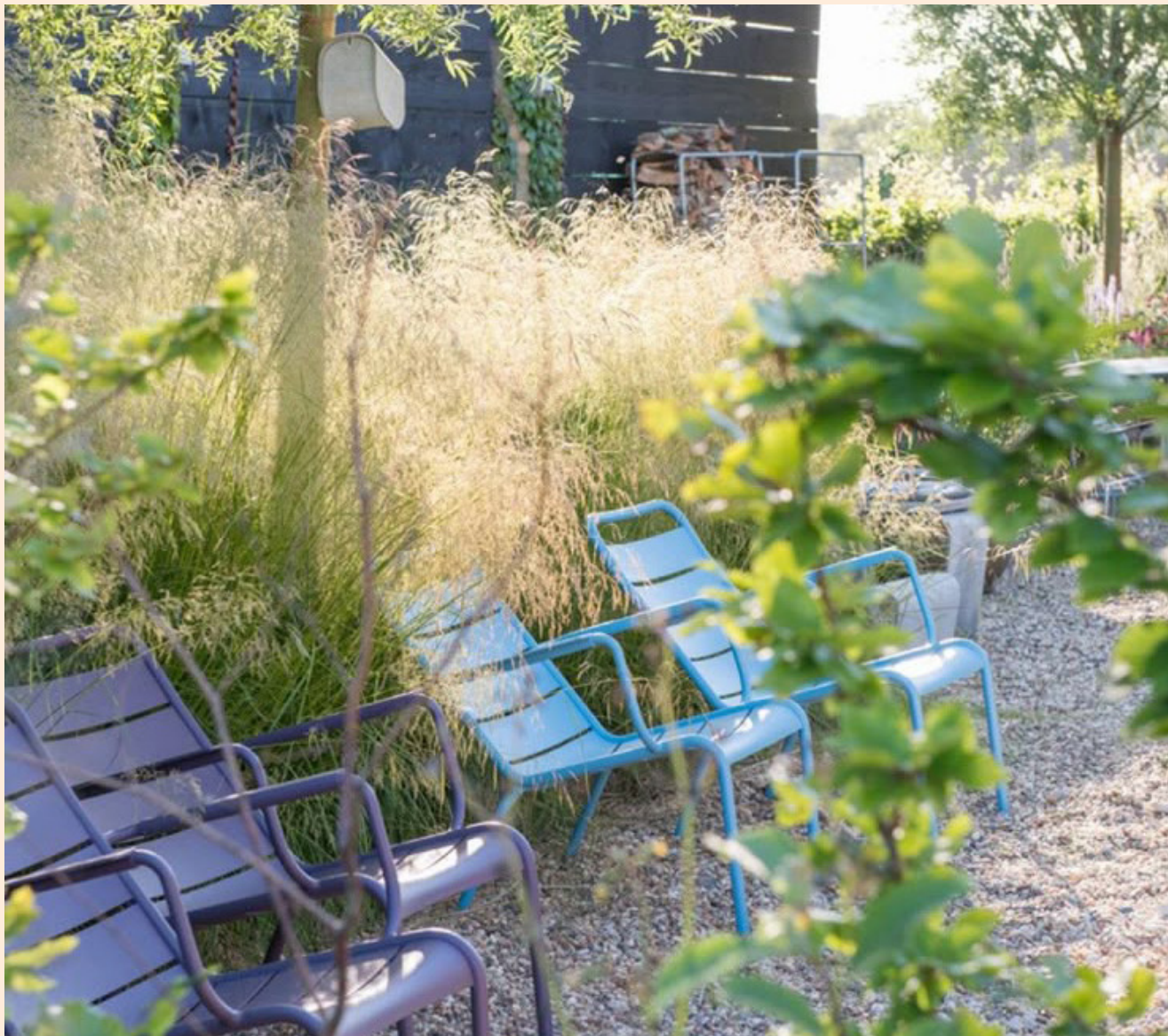
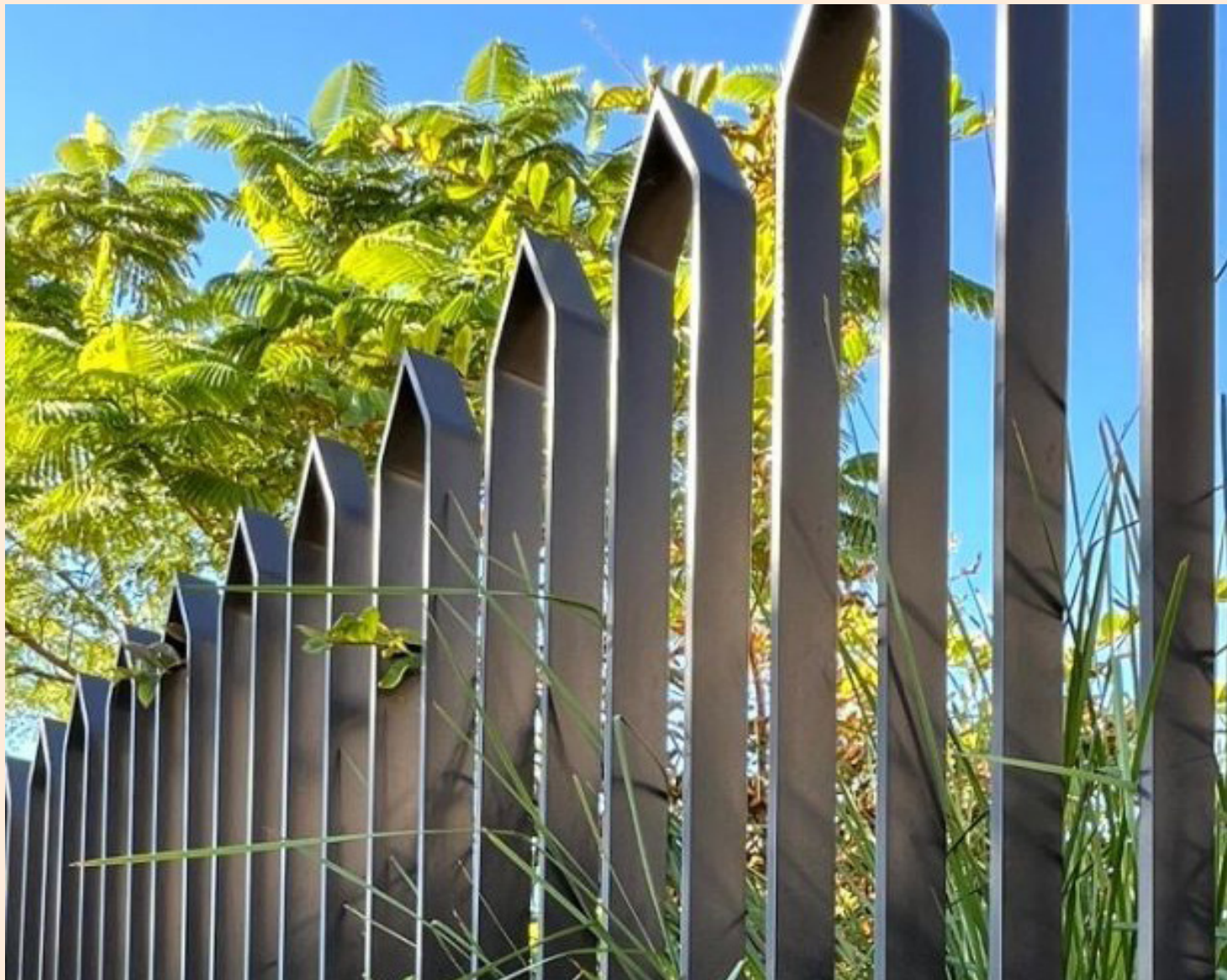
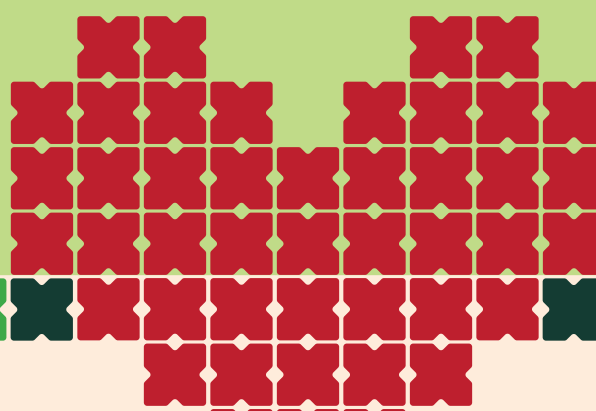
Concept 2: Floorplan as Siteplan

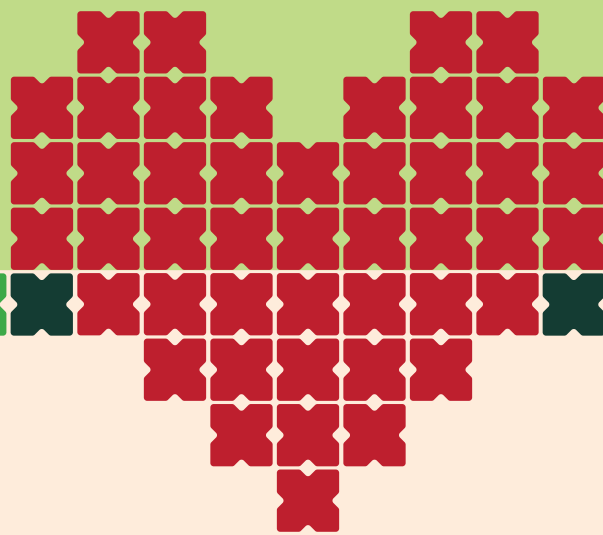




View of the tree grove and porch swings





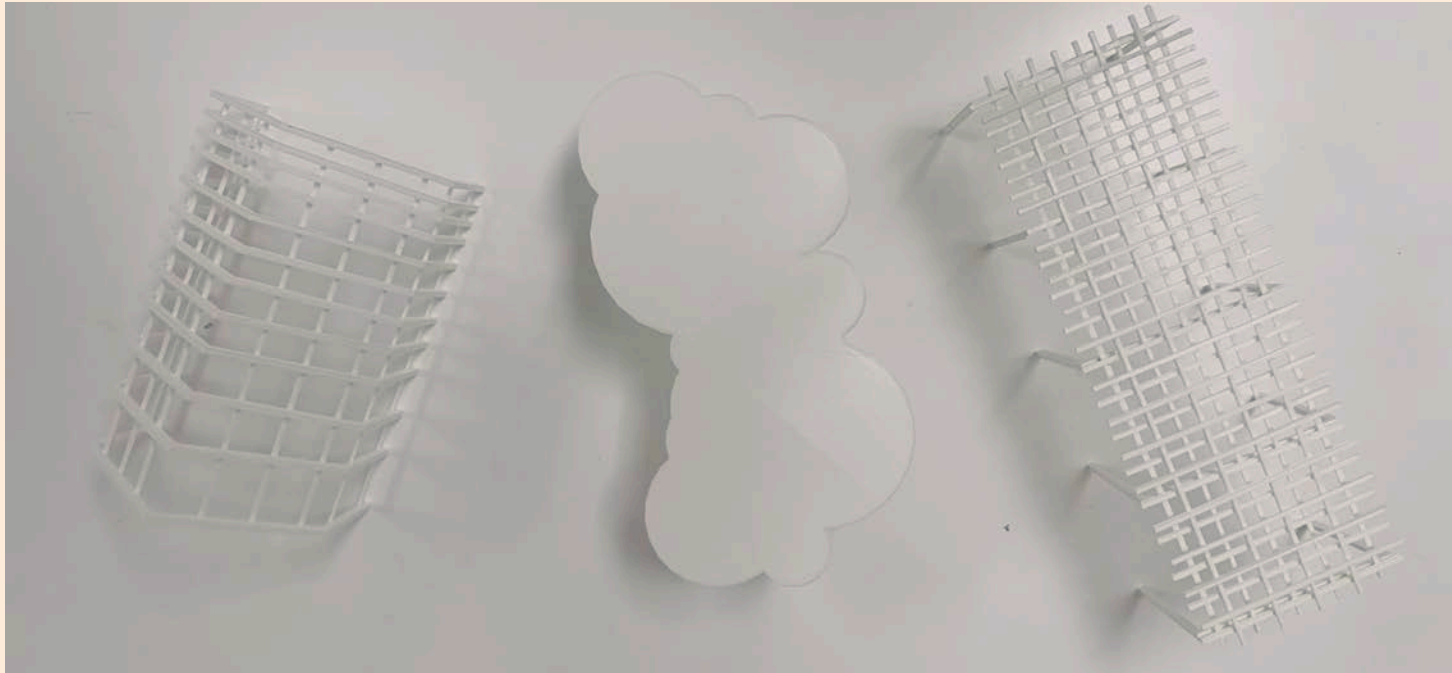


Shade and Form at Margaret Ave Park

These three models represent early ideas for a new shade structure in your park. Each one explores a different way to create shelter, invite gathering, and reflect something about the character of this neighbourhood. They are not finished designs, but starting points. Each model offers a different way to think about how form, structure, and meaning can come together in public space.

The final pavilion will be shaped through continued design development, input from the community, and the practical realities of construction and budget. These models are not presented as answers, but as questions. What does it mean to build lightly? To honour memory? To frame the everyday?

At its heart, this project is about creating something unique to this place. A structure that belongs here and that you can be proud of. Not a monument, but a marker. Not a story written about you, but a narrative shaped with you. Something that speaks to your experiences, your aspirations, and the quiet strength of the community you are building every day.



Cloud Cover

Softness, light, and the atmosphere of memory

A thin, white-painted steel surface floats above a simple structural frame. Its outline is sinuous and irregular, shaped to resemble a drifting cloud when viewed from above. The surface is quiet and continuous, offering shelter without weight, and presence without enclosure.

Cloud Cover explores atmosphere as architecture. It creates a space that is both defined and open, where light and shadow pass easily and people move freely beneath. This concept speaks to the intangible aspects of place: how mood, memory, and weather shape the way we experience our surroundings. It is less about formality and more about feeling. It suggests that public space can be soft, slow, and shaped by grace. It is also unavoidably playful & distinct, an expressive piece that will become a visual beacon within the neighbourhood.

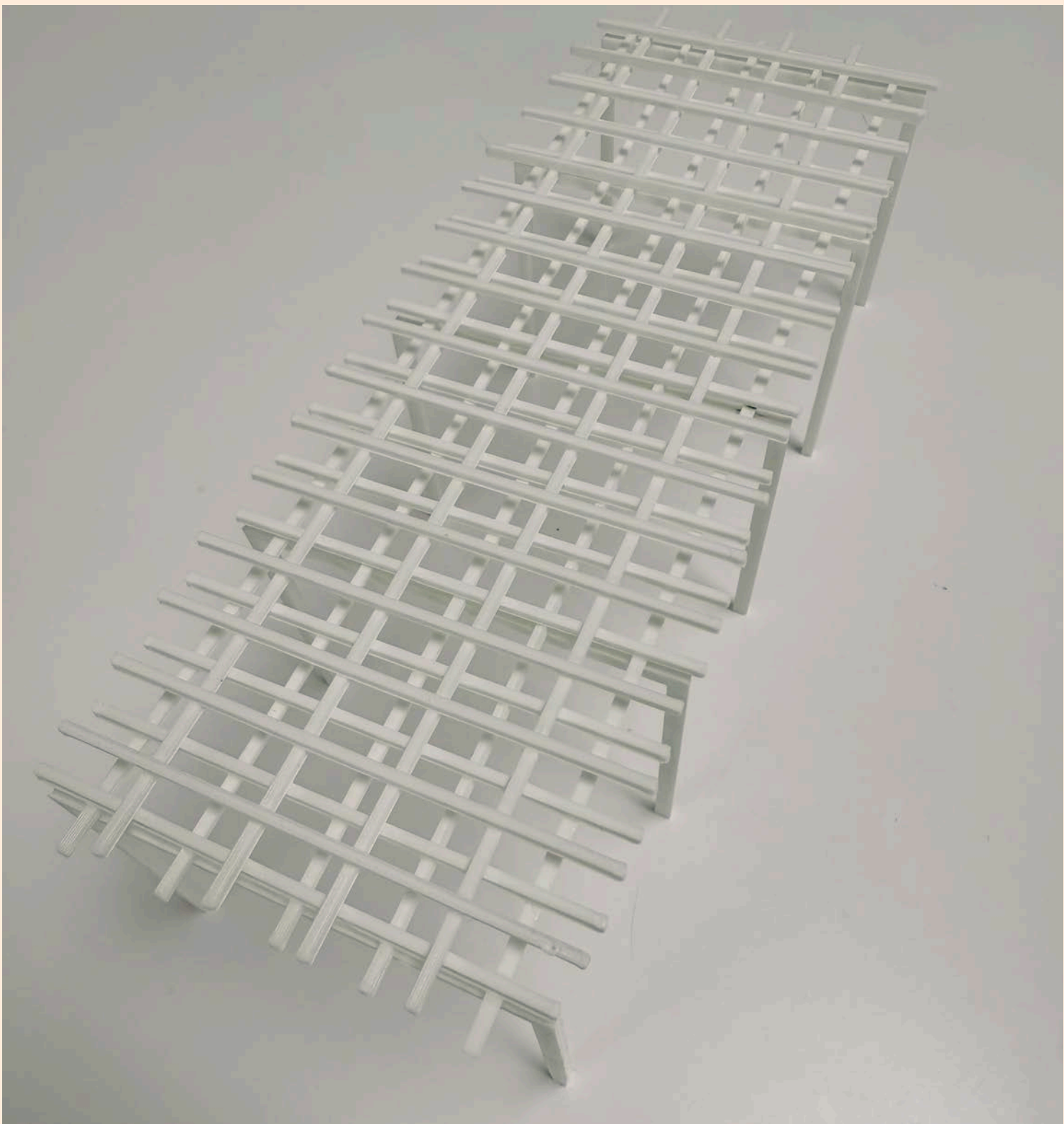


Woven Stories

Layered histories expressed through structure

Woven Stories is a linear structure made of white-painted steel, composed of a series of interlaced elements arranged in alternating directions. As each layer is offset and repeated, the structure takes on the character of a woven textile. Patterns of light and shadow shift throughout the day, animating the space beneath.

This concept draws on the metaphor of weaving to speak to the layered history of the neighbourhood. Each beam can be seen as a thread, a life, an event, a memory, crossing others to form something larger than itself. Woven Stories is not a monument to a single narrative, but a frame for many overlapping ones. It acknowledges that neighbourhood identity is not fixed or singular, but built up over time through shared experience.



Framework

A familiar form made open and adaptable

Framework is a skeletal structure composed of repeating steel ribs supported by four base frames. It draws its proportions and profile from the 'strawberry box' homes that define much of the surrounding neighbourhood; modest, pitched-roof houses built with repetition and economy in mind.

Stripped of its walls and infill, the form becomes something else entirely. It is a memory of shelter, an echo of domestic life, and an open invitation for future use. Its clarity makes it adaptable: a frame to support gathering, activity, or pause. It resists excess, relying instead on recognition and restraint. Framework celebrates the ordinary, reminding us that everyday forms carry deep meaning when seen with care.

