

Asiatown Park

Concept Designs

December 2022

Created for MidTown Cleveland, Inc.

SOSHL + Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative

Project Summary

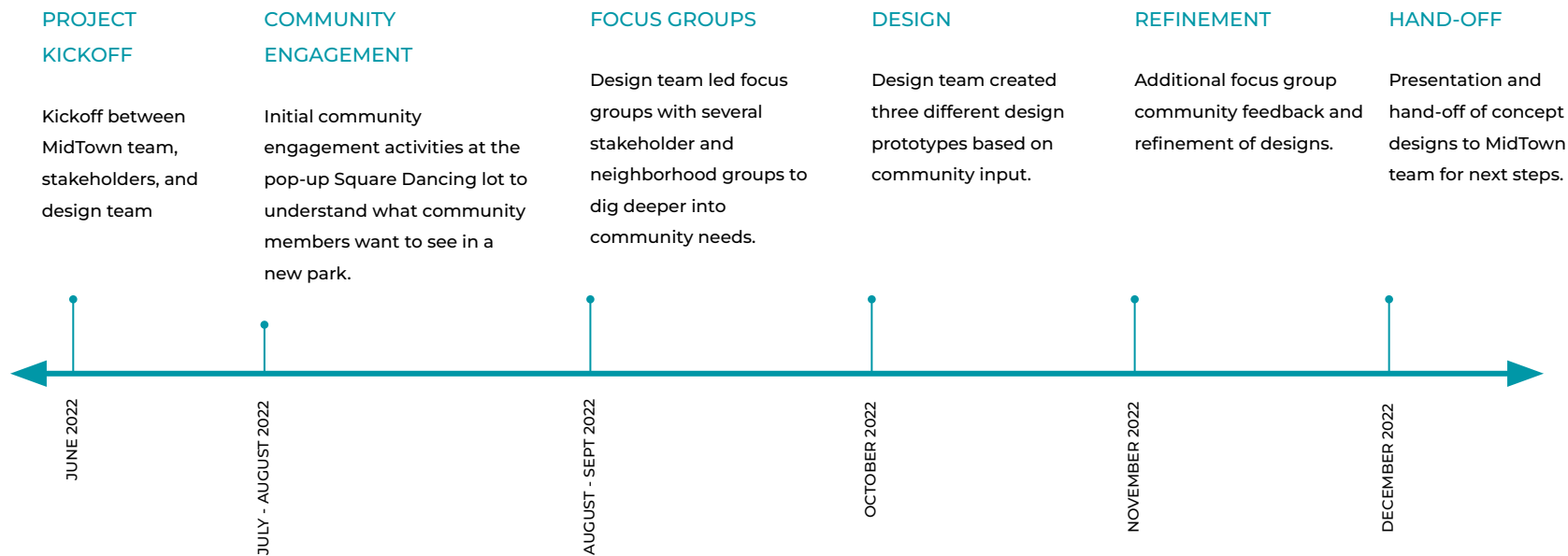
Between June and December 2022, MidTown partnered with CUDC and SOSHL Studio to create a conceptual design for a new permanent park space in AsiaTown.

The project began with deep community engagement with a diverse group of neighbors, leaders, and other stakeholders in AsiaTown.

Through this engagement and brainstorming, the design team created an initial design, which was then workshopped with community members and further modified to arrive at a final design direction.

MidTown is still exploring possible sites for the park, but the goal is to find a site along Payne Ave. between E 27th and E 39th Sts. in the heart of Asiatown.

Project Timeline



Ongoing community conversations helped inform these designs.



What We
Heard:
*Comfort
and safety
were the
most
important
needs.*

More Important
↑
↓

Shade

Bath
rooms

Trees/
plants

Benches/
rest areas

Tables +
Chairs

Safe +
Protected

Instagram
spot

Variety of
spaces

Electricity

What We Heard*: *Play and exercise areas were the most desired elements.*

* sum of community engagement and steering committee voting

MidTown Cleveland is gathering feedback on what YOU would like to see in a permanent park for the Asiatown community!

克利夫兰MidTown 在收集你们的反馈：如果建成一个社区公园，你希望里面有哪些设施？

What one element below is the MOST important to you to see in a NEW PARK SPACE?

下面哪种元素是你最希望在新建公园看到的？

Please add your vote using the sticker dots!
Green = 1st most important, Yellow = 2nd, Red = 3rd

请用贴纸投票！
绿色 = 最为重要，黄色 = 第二重要，红色 = 第三重要

1. Vote for the park elements you would most like to see below!

请在下面投出你最希望看到的公园设施！

Outdoor performance space
室外表演场地

Walking path
散步小道

Water Feature
水元素

Playground
儿童游乐场

Gardening Bed
小菜园

Sports Court
运动场

Indoor gathering space
室内聚集场所

Game tables (ex/chess)
游戏桌 (如象棋)

Drawing/creative kids area
儿童绘画/创意空间

Community bulletin board
社区布告版

Exercise Equipment
健身器材

Dog area
遛狗区域

What We Heard: *Features Comments*

Natural materials and lots
of rock paths to step on.

A dog area can just
be lawn too. It can
be multi purpose.

Hammocks!

A sign like "This is
AsiaTown" - not
necessary but would be
impressive.

Lots of pockets for people
to hang out.

A walking path for safety (antiskid),
especially in winter. Passengers/pass
bys rarely walk in this area because it
is unsafe and inconvenient.

What We Heard:

Traditional Asian designs are best suited to the AsiaTown neighborhood.



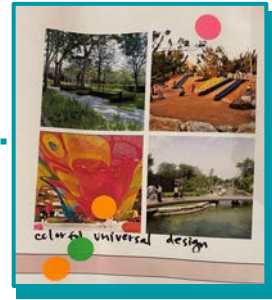
21
Traditional Chinese
Garden



10
Common US
Asiatown Style



11
Colorful Modern
Asian Design



4
Colorful Universal
Design



16
Contemporary Asian
Design Referencing
Traditional forms

What We Heard: *Aesthetics Comments*

[add] Gate to mark entry but not a typical chinatown gate.

I love the landmarks to show "ChinaTown". Show some Chinese elements such as Chinese paintings, face masks, pandas, dragons, Phoenix, but with Contemporary Asian Design.

Dragon is cool but does not need to only be traditional

Loving a mixture between the contemporary and color focused design.

A modern twist with traditional style. We could also mix in flags or diff. Asian cultural aspects (types of plants, colors, food) you could implement murals showcasing artists in the neighborhood.

What We Heard: *Public spaces you loved and would love to see referenced in AsiaTown!*



Risa Puno: Year of the Dog, Boston



Little Tokyo, Los Angeles



Solstice Steps, Lakewood Park



Eastman Reading Garden, Cleveland



Int'l District Chinatown, Seattle



Hester St. Playground, NYC



Washington Park, Cincinnati



Woods of Net, Hakone Park, Japan

"Build something for adults and they'll just go with their adult friends. Build something for the kids, and whole families will go and that'll bring the community together."

- Neighborhood parent

Design: Goals & Objectives

Joyful + Asian-Inspired

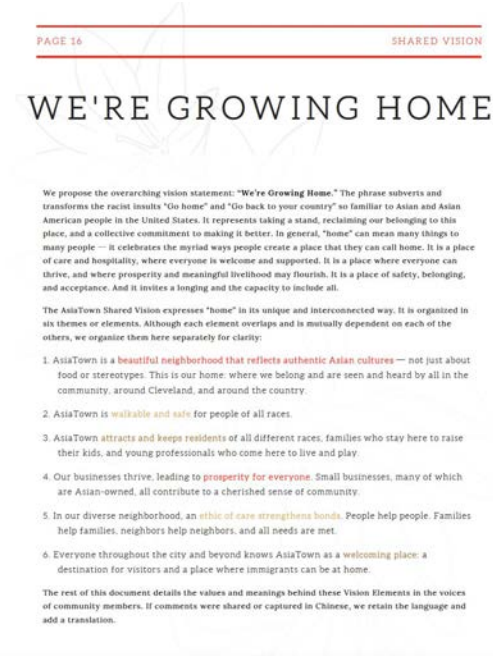
Create an inspiring, multi-generational, child-friendly park that nods to Asian culture while rooted in contemporary design.

Safe + Welcoming for All

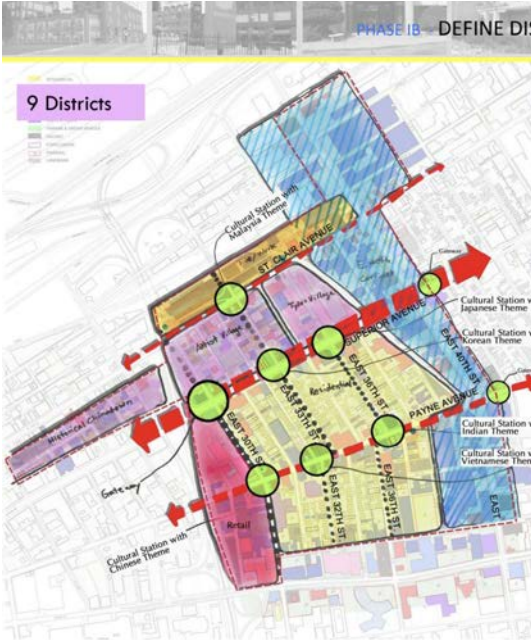
Build a safe, welcoming, and unique community gathering place to serve all facets of the Asiatown neighborhood.

Context Analysis

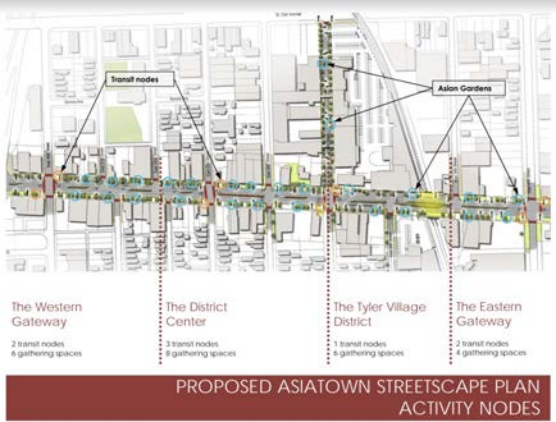
Referenced the past 10 years of planning efforts



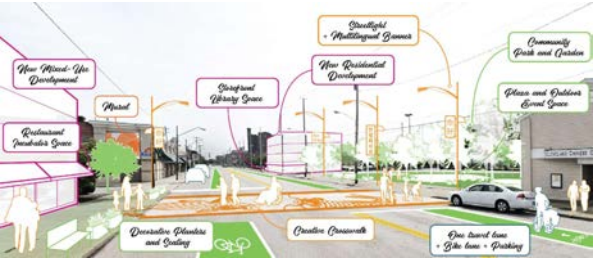
Imagine AsiaTown Visioning Report



AsiaTown Master Plan Phases 1A/B/C



AsiaTown Transportation & Streetscape Plan

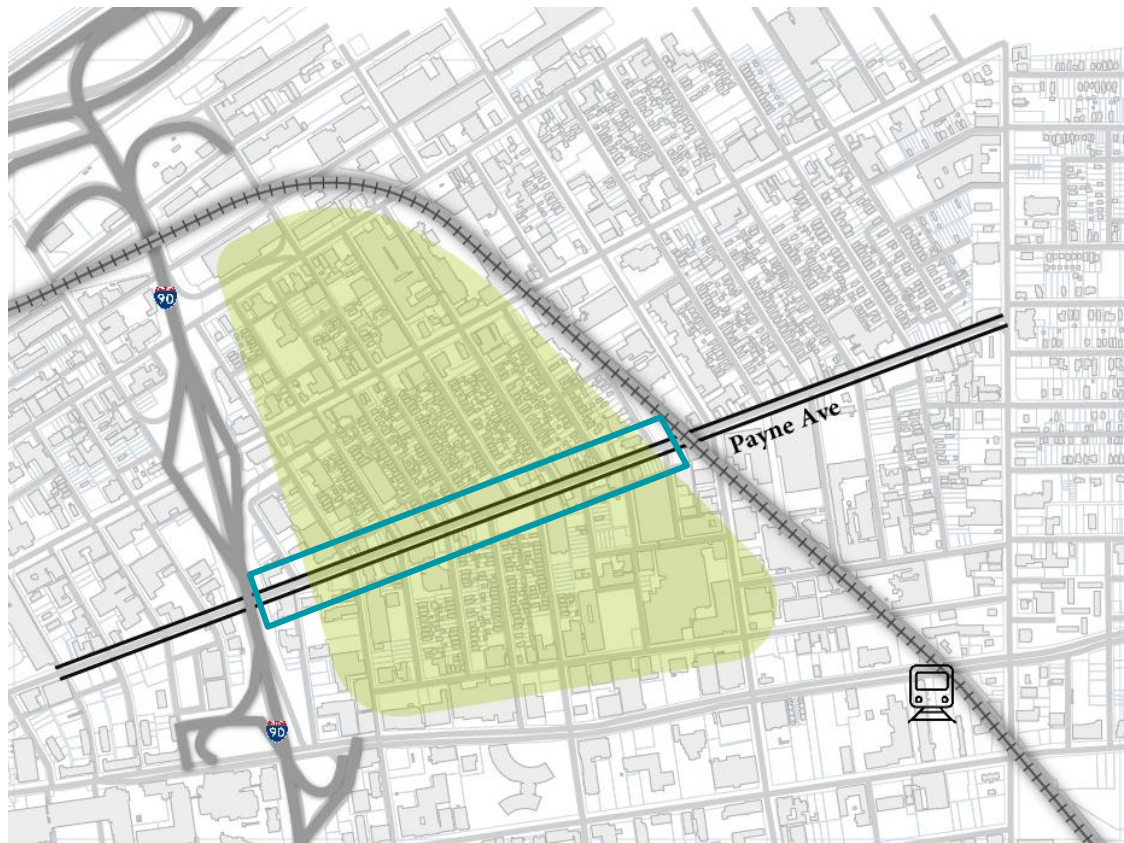


Midtown Neighborhood Vision Plan

Geography

The core of Asiatown lies between the 90 freeway at E 30th St. and the railroad overpass at E 40th St., between Perkins Ave. and St. Clair Ave. These two barriers create limitations for pedestrian access to the neighborhood, but also opportunities by creating a recognizable central spine.

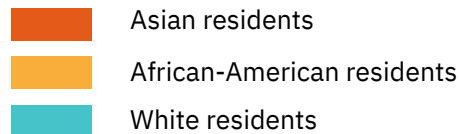
For the purposes of this work, we are conceptualizing this park as being sited on Payne Ave. between E. 30th and E. 40th Sts. to provide maximum accessibility to neighborhood residents.



Demographics

There is a strong density of residents both to the north and the south of Payne Ave., and especially a density of Asian residents around Payne Ave.

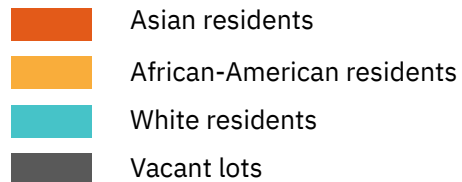
The noticeable shift in color to the right of the diagram shows the shift in demographics to the east of E 55th St.



Source: xxxx

Vacant Lots

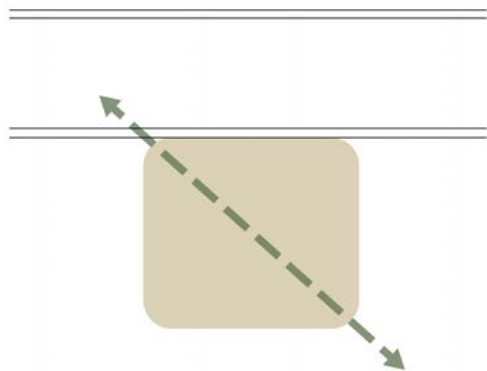
There are also a number of vacant lots along Payne Ave. in our area of focus, providing a number of possible sites for this park to find a permanent home.



Source: xxxx

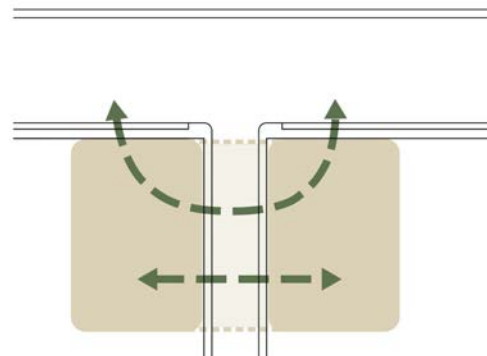
Design Concepts

Two Design Typologies



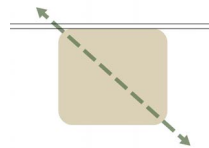
1
Diagonal

Creates a strong spine diagonally through the site, possibly creating a cut-through based on existing desire lines (taken from patterns at square dancing lot)



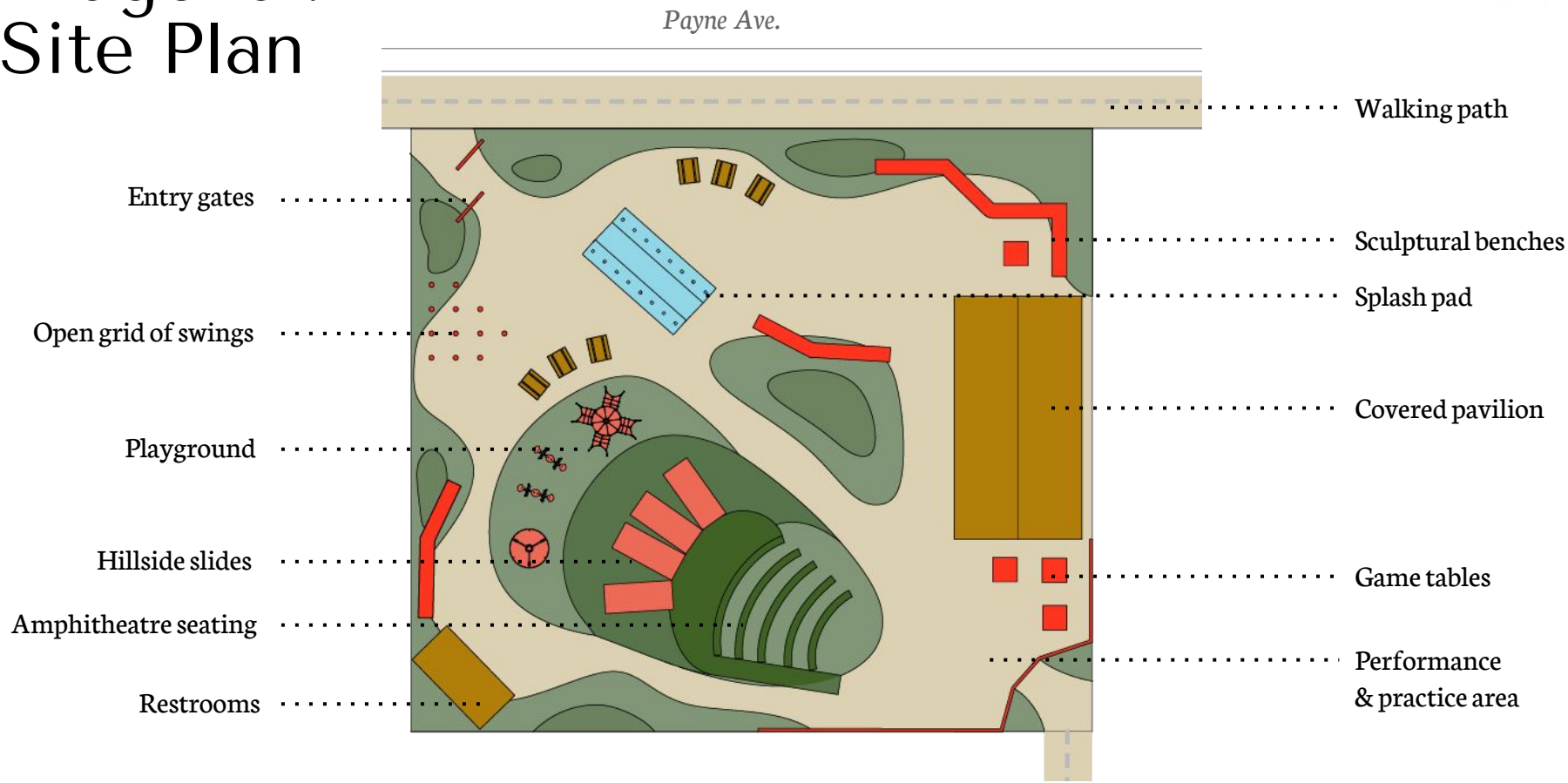
2
Straddling

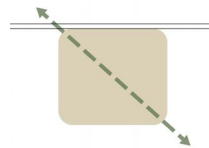
Takes the elements of the previous typologies and rearranges them on either side of a street - positing that the street can be closed for special occasions.



Design Typology 1: *Diagonal*

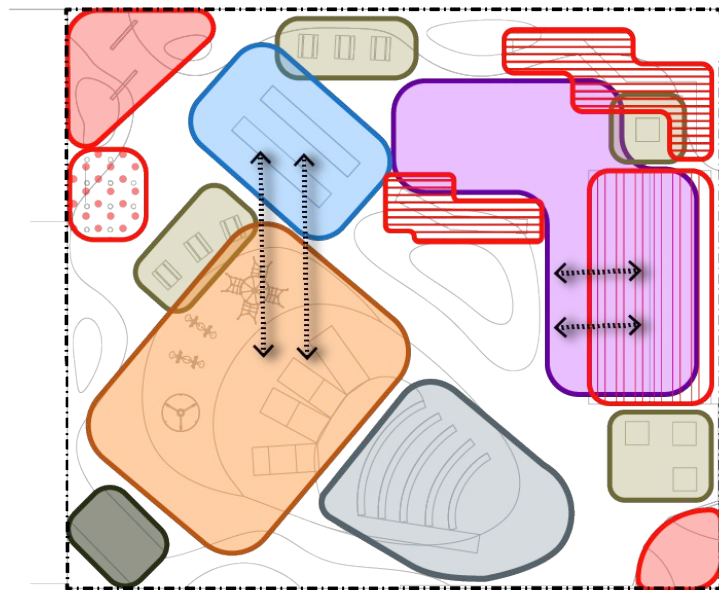
Diagonal: Site Plan



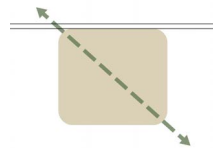


Diagonal: Functional Diagram

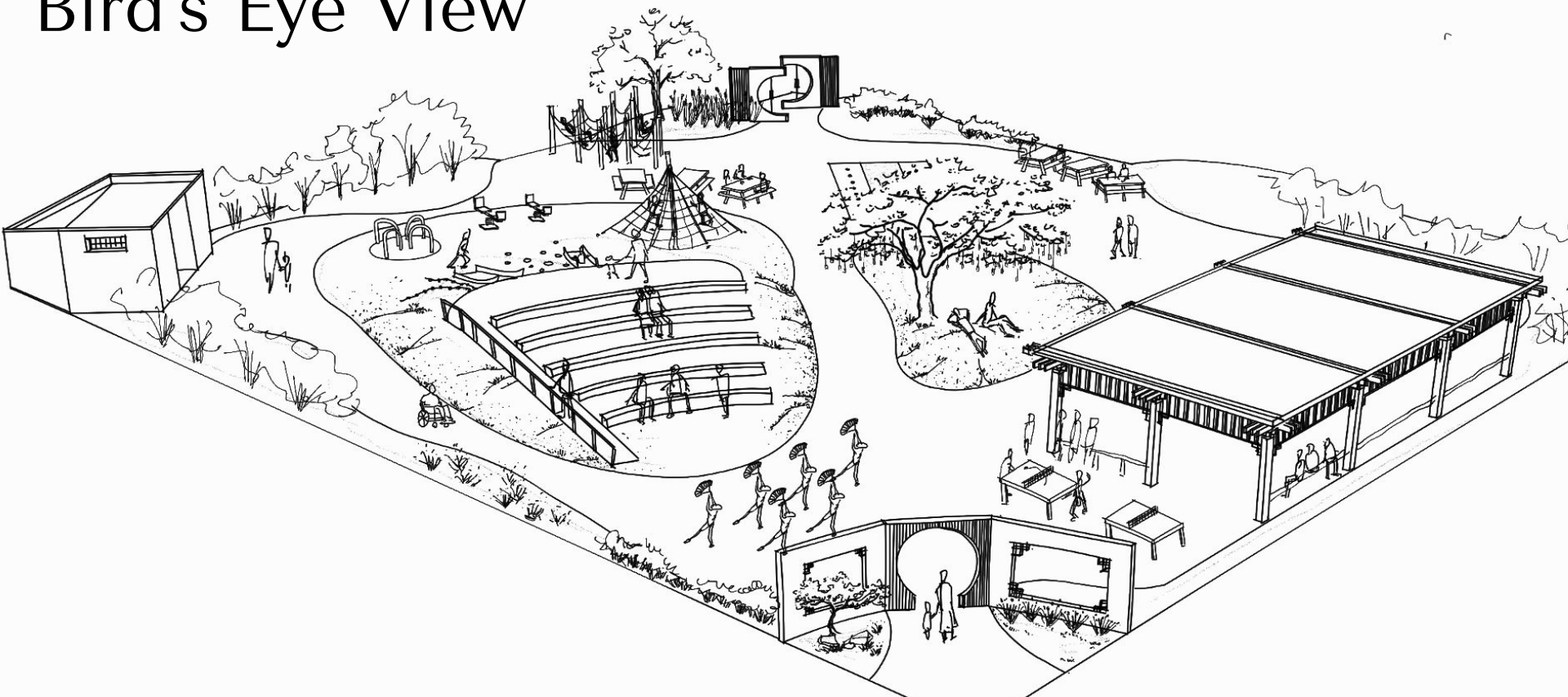
Payne Ave



- Entrance Area
- Linear Gym & Seating
- Pavilion
- Playful Seating
- Restroom
- Fountain/water feature
- Playground
- Tables (picnic & games)
- Dancing Space
- Relationship



Diagonal: Bird's Eye View







← Payne Ave. →











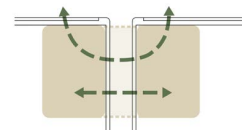






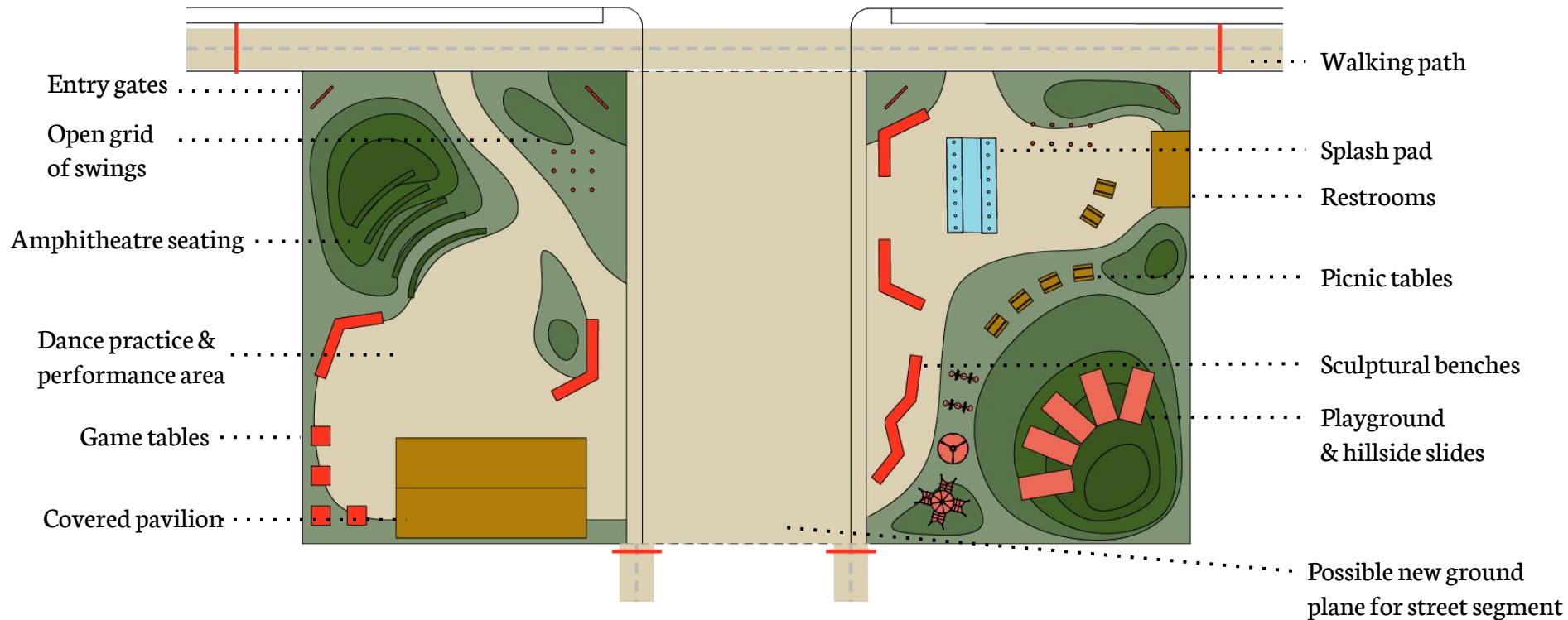


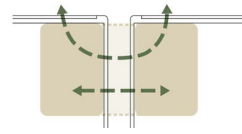
Design Typology 2: *Straddling*



Straddling: Site Plan

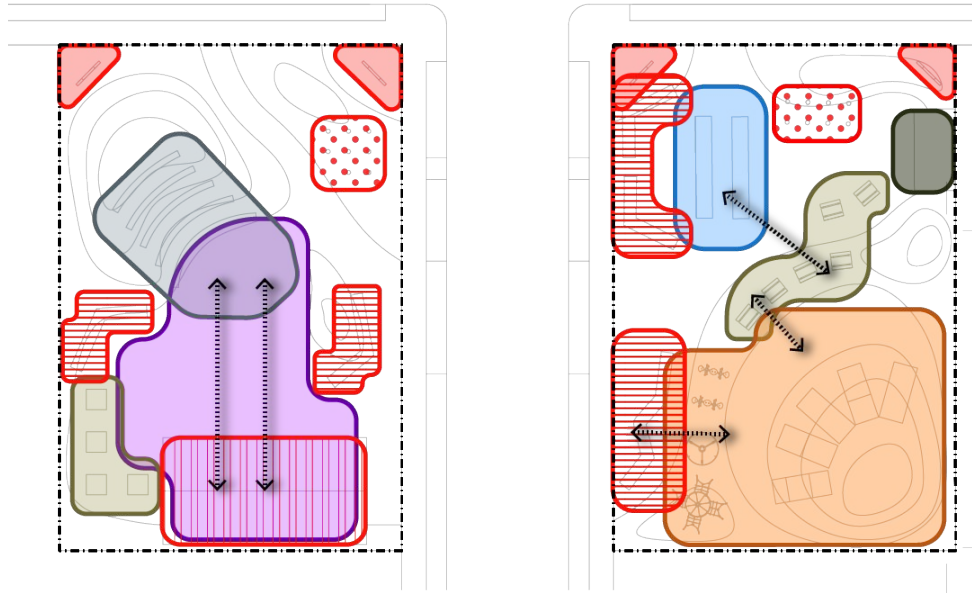
Payne Ave.



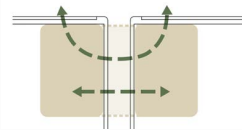


Straddling: Functional Diagram

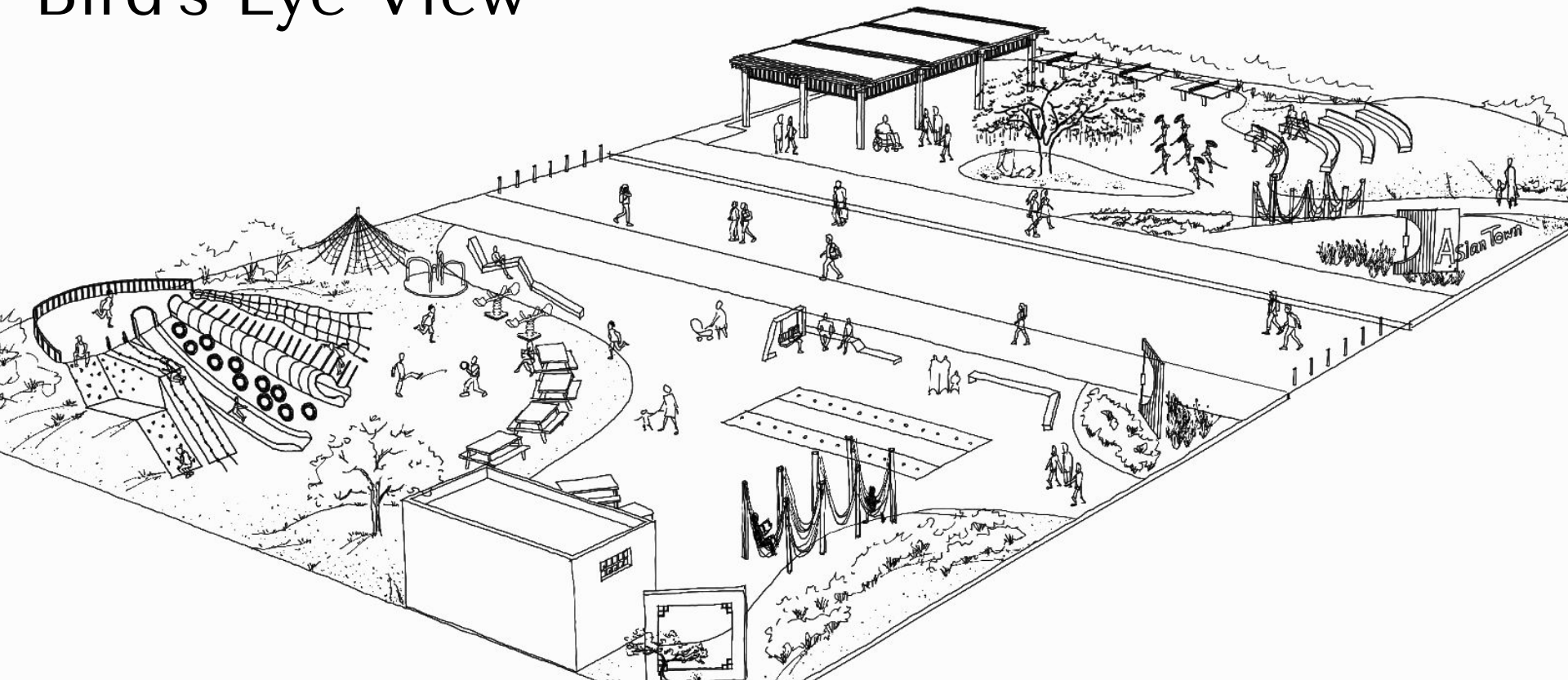
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Straddling: Bird's Eye View

















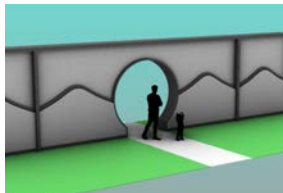






Asian Design Elements

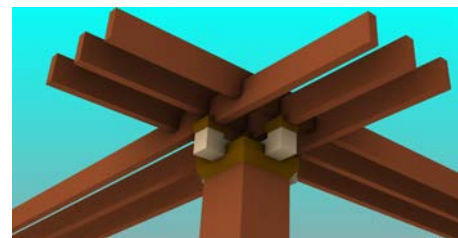
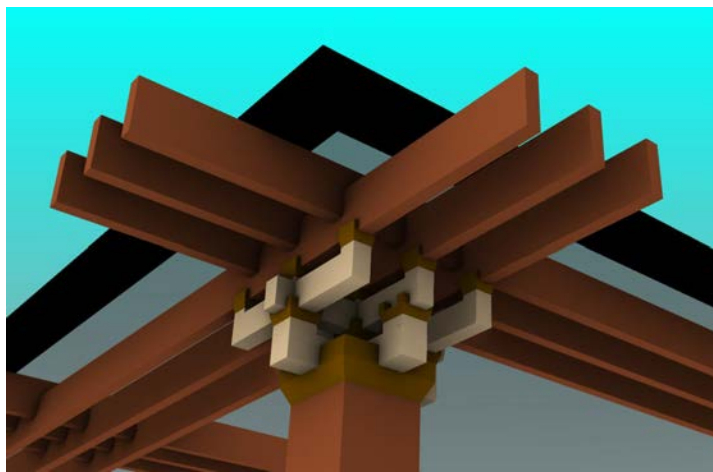
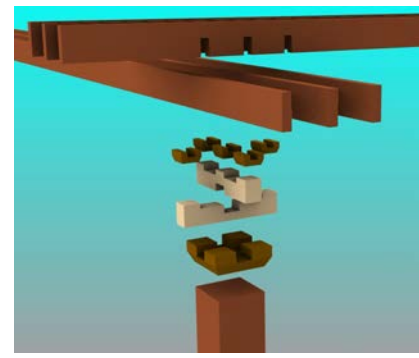
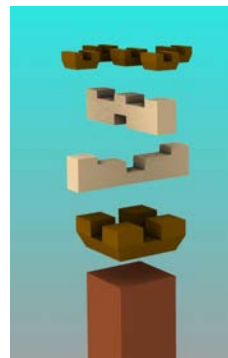
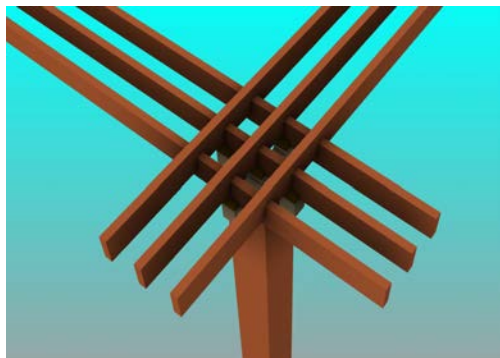
Asian Gate Design



Asian Gate Design



Asian Detail: Dougong



Pergola Design: Dougong



Asian Detail: Menmei



Asian Feature: Wishing Tree



Appendix

Sample Site Applications

Site Option 1

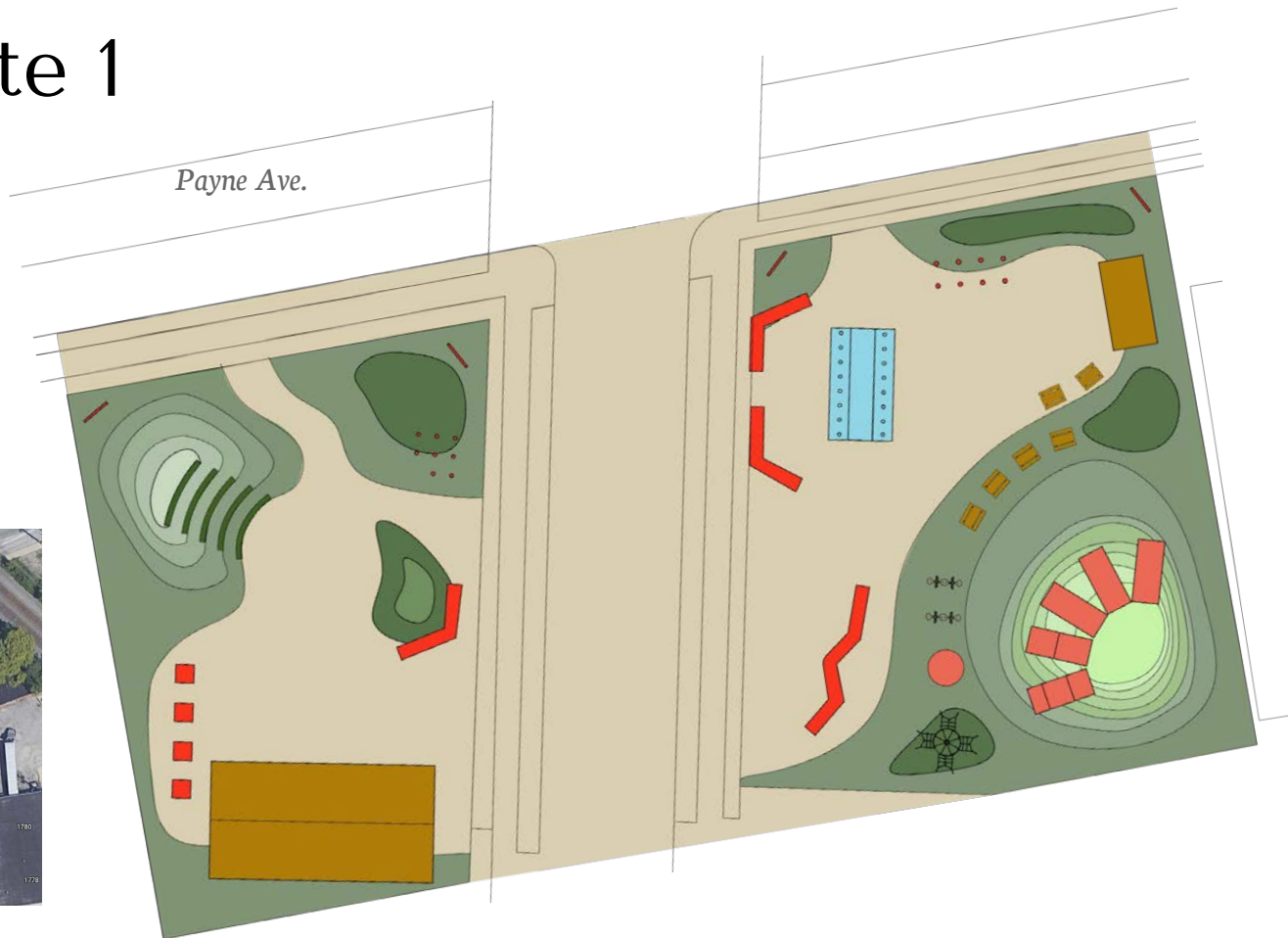
Railroad Site:

Current parking lots on
Payne Ave. straddling E.
39th St.



Straddling: Site 1 Application

To be applied to the
Railroad site at 39th St.



Straddling: Site 1 Application

Future development could hug this park from both sides, and parking could be rented for park visitors during off hours



Site Option 2

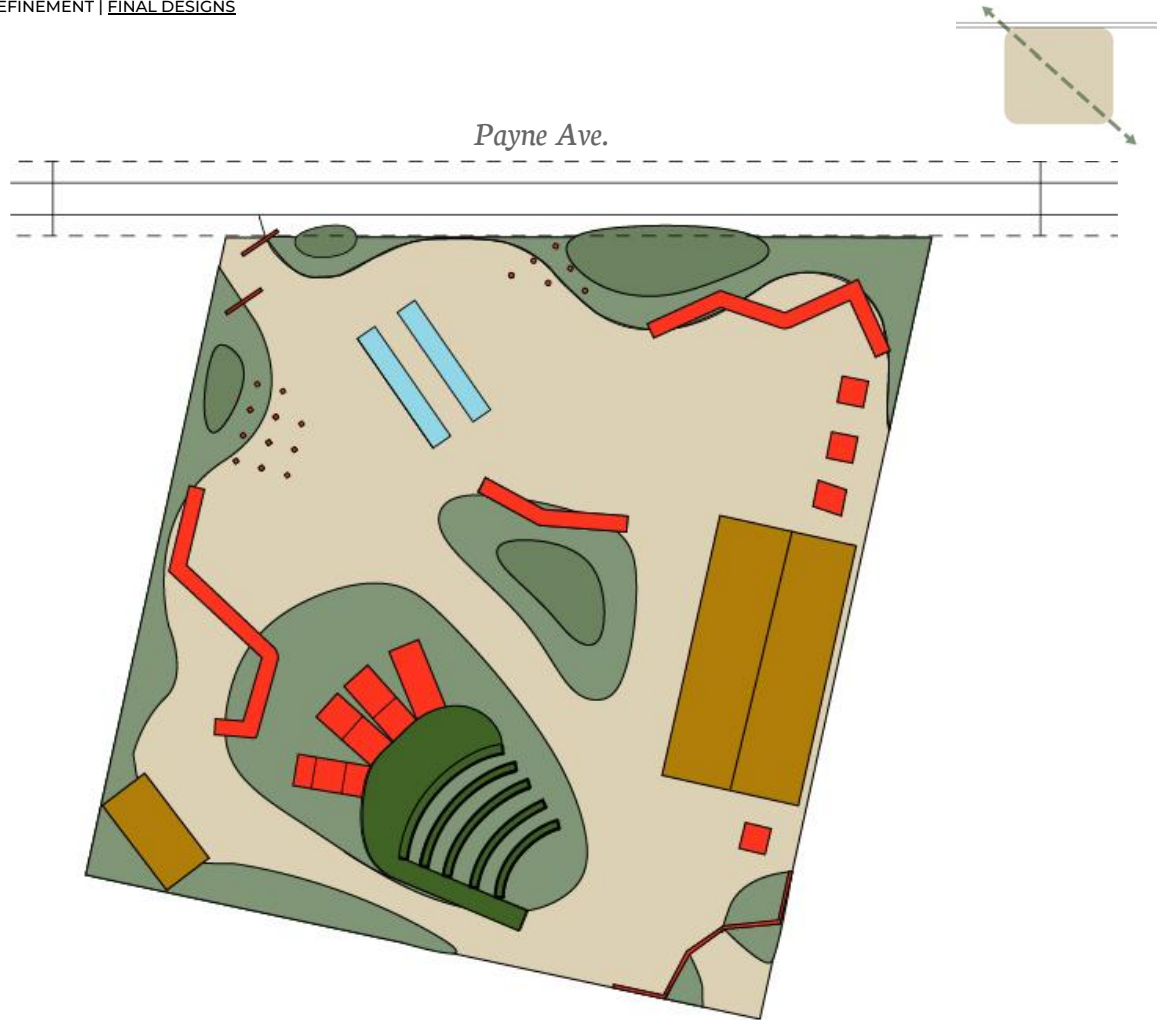
Dave's Site:

Current parking lot at
Payne Ave. and E 33rd St.



Diagonal: Site 2 Application

Applied to the Dave's site
(full width of temporary
site parking lot)



Diagonal: Site 2 Application

Future development could even embrace this green corner and expand it to connect other lots

