

Play Streets:

Integrating Safe and Engaging Play Opportunities for Children into the Streetscape network of Lowertown St. Paul, Minnesota



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“Findings suggest that despite convenient access, good maintenance, and organized recreational ‘programs’, parks are grossly underused. The problem of the non-use of existing facilities appears to be a symptom of the fact that only recently have children’s needs been understood to be an important factor in environmental design”
(Grabow & Salkind)

“Several studies reveal that children who are old enough to go outside their home unaccompanied spend a lot of time on the pavements, streets and other areas of their immediate neighborhood, through the course of their daily transactions these places become colonized by children and converted into their home bases”

(Matthews, H., & Limb, M.)

“Playgrounds, no matter how novel and stimulating, are conceived by adults to isolate and contain children within public spaces and, in so doing, contribute to a process of childhood ghettoization”

(Matthews, H., & Limb, M.)

**What problems do urban
environment currently
face?**

Problems in our Streetscapes



Narrow Sidewalks limit pedestrians and reduce safety

Lack of barriers between pedestrian and car traffic

No retail/cafe space

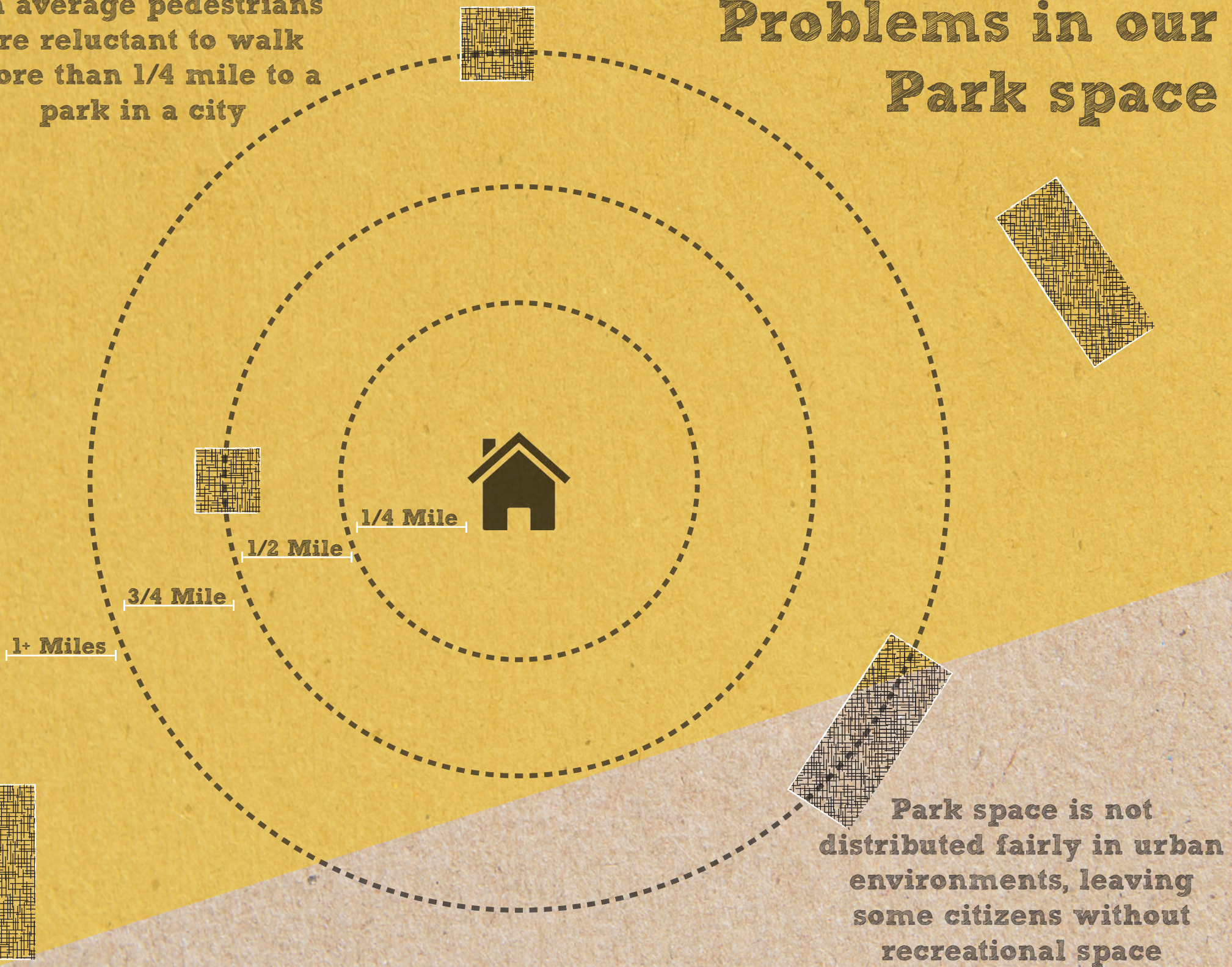
Absence of seating

Insufficient lighting

Many urban streetscapes are missing elements that make them "complete streets" this lessens pedestrian traffic and therefore makes the street less safe

Problems in our Park space

On average pedestrians are reluctant to walk more than 1/4 mile to a park in a city



Park space is not distributed fairly in urban environments, leaving some citizens without recreational space

**Playscapes have become static
and cookie-cutter and do not
meet the needs of the children
who use them.**

Problems in our Playscape design



Cases Studies



Project Name: Los Trompos

Location: High Museum of Art Atlanta, Georgia, Atlanta

Designer: Hector Esrawe and Ignacio Cadena



Project Name: Urban Play

Location: London

Designer: Multiple firms



Project Name: Musical Seesaws

Location: Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois

Designer: Impulse Design



Los Trompos

Activated under utilized space

Created a central gathering area

Provided amenities for both passive
and active activities

Encouraged
Spontaneous play

Provides alternative
activities throughout
everyday city life

Aided in social
interactions between
community members

Brought community
together in the cold of
winter to play

Promotes local
interactive art

Creates a city
attraction

Brings play into everyday life

Community interaction and
connection

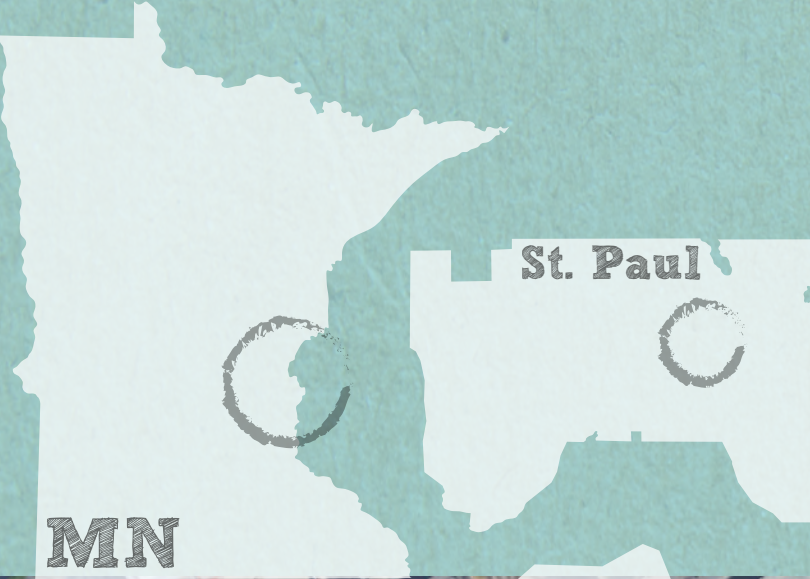
Activates underutilized space
Connecting the dots

Urban Play

Musical Seesaws

**How can we integrate play
into the urban fabric to
better accommodate the
children who live in the
city?**

Site Location



Why St. Paul, Minnesota?

Big City, Small town

Cultural Center

Community Driven

Diverse

Family Oriented

Highly Residential

Winter Activities

Child Amenities



**What problems does St.
Paul Currently face?**



Small Sidewalks with no
safety precautions



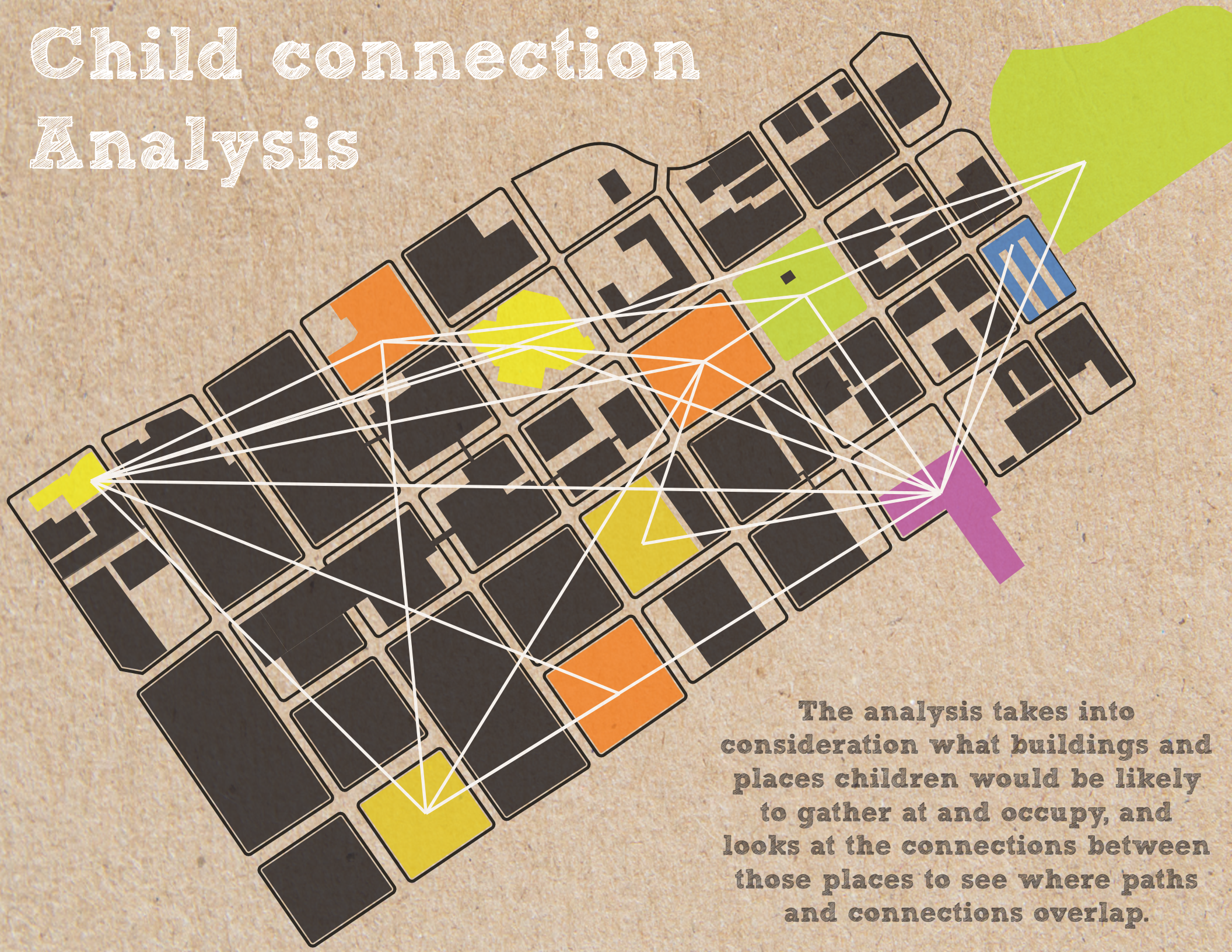
**Large Streetscapes with no
amenities**

Under Utilized Space



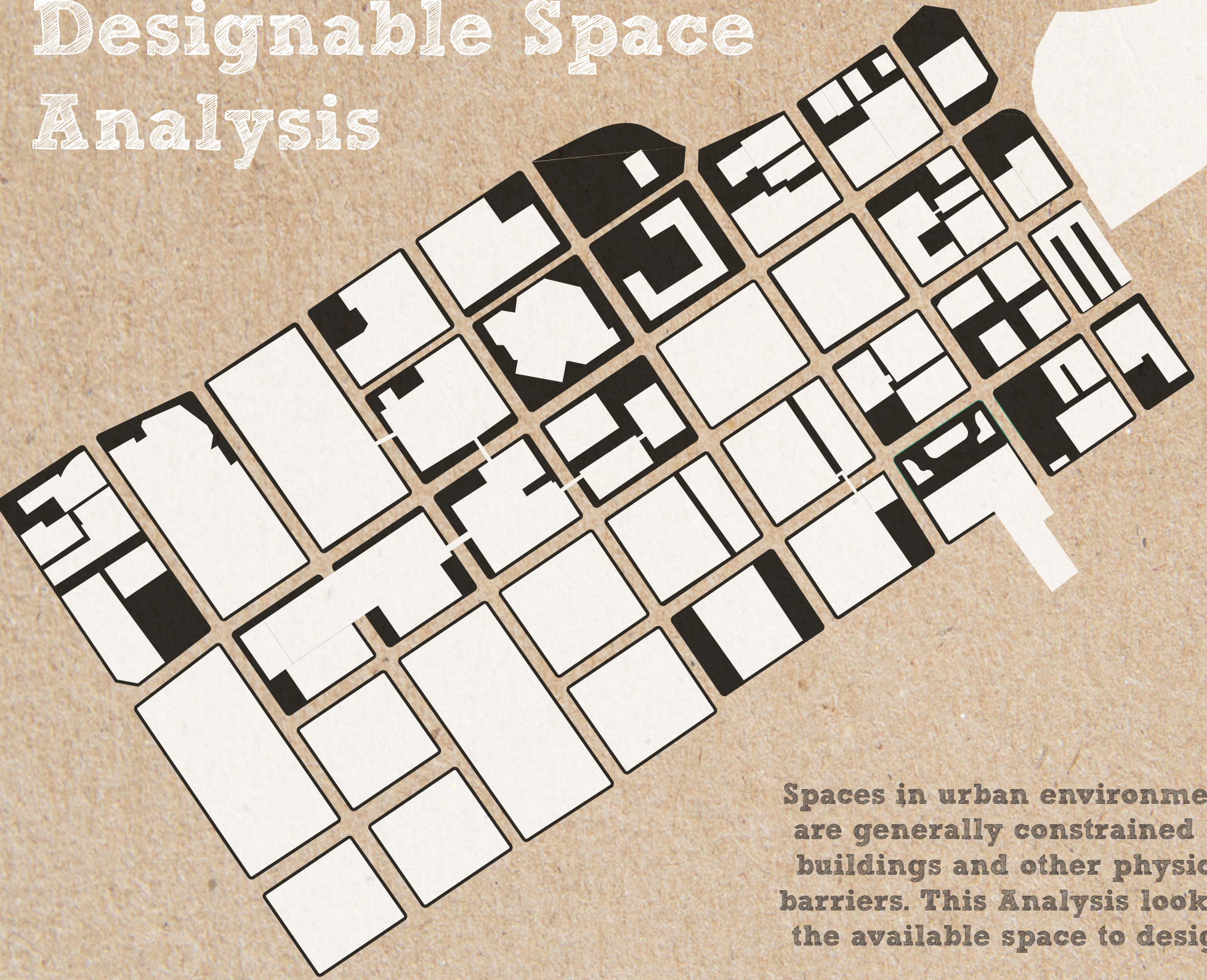
Site Analysis

Child connection Analysis



The analysis takes into consideration what buildings and places children would be likely to gather at and occupy, and looks at the connections between those places to see where paths and connections overlap.

Designable Space Analysis



Spaces in urban environments are generally constrained by buildings and other physical barriers. This Analysis looks at the available space to design.

Safety Analysis



6-7



4-5



2-3



<2



Street Corridor Safety

High Pedestrian Traffic	1
Two Lanes of Traffic	-1
One Lane of Traffic	-1
Traffic Speed / Above 25 mph	-1
Traffic Speed / below 25 mph	1
Lighting	1
Crosswalks	1
Pedestrian Traffic	1
Perceived Safety	1
Sidewalks	1

Typologies

  10' Streetscape Storefront typology

  10' Streetscape Open typology

  20' Streetscape Storefront typology

  20' Streetscape Open typology

  Alley typology

  Open Space typology

  Pocket Park



PLAY PROGRAM

OBSERVE

SKATE

WALK

RUN

CLIMB

JUMP

DRAW

TALK

BALANCE

SPLASH

TOUCH

CREATE

LISTEN

CRAWL

SWING

WEAVE

THROW

SKATE







HANG








MANIPULATE

HIT



Master Plan

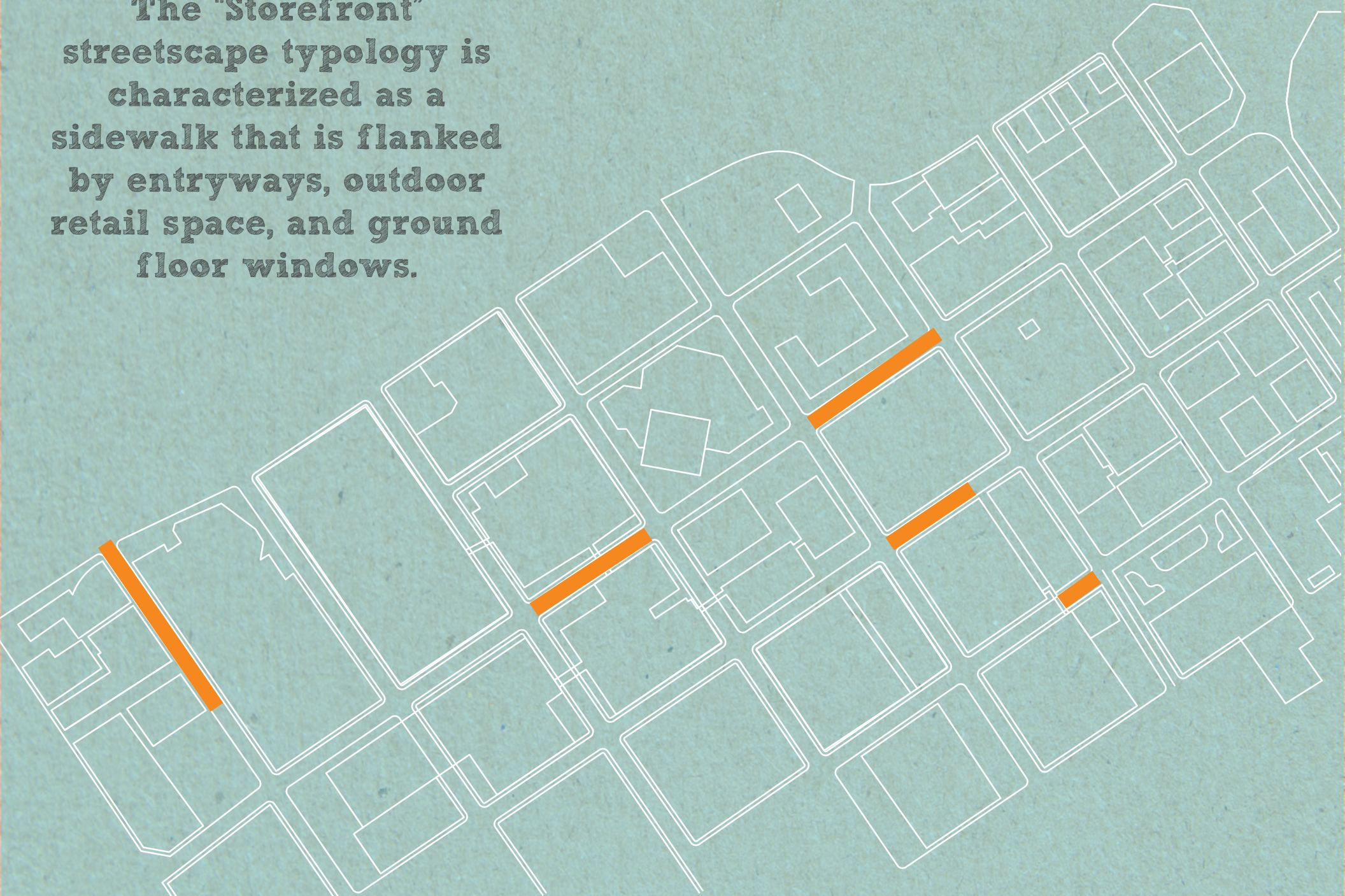
-  Museum
-  Education
-  Performing Arts
-  Food
-  Retail
-  Transportation

-  10' Streetscape Storefront typology
-  10' Streetscape Open typology
-  20' Streetscape Storefront typology
-  20' Streetscape Open typology
-  Alley typology
-  Open Space typology
-  Pocket Park



10' Storefront Typology

The “Storefront” streetscape typology is characterized as a sidewalk that is flanked by entryways, outdoor retail space, and ground floor windows.

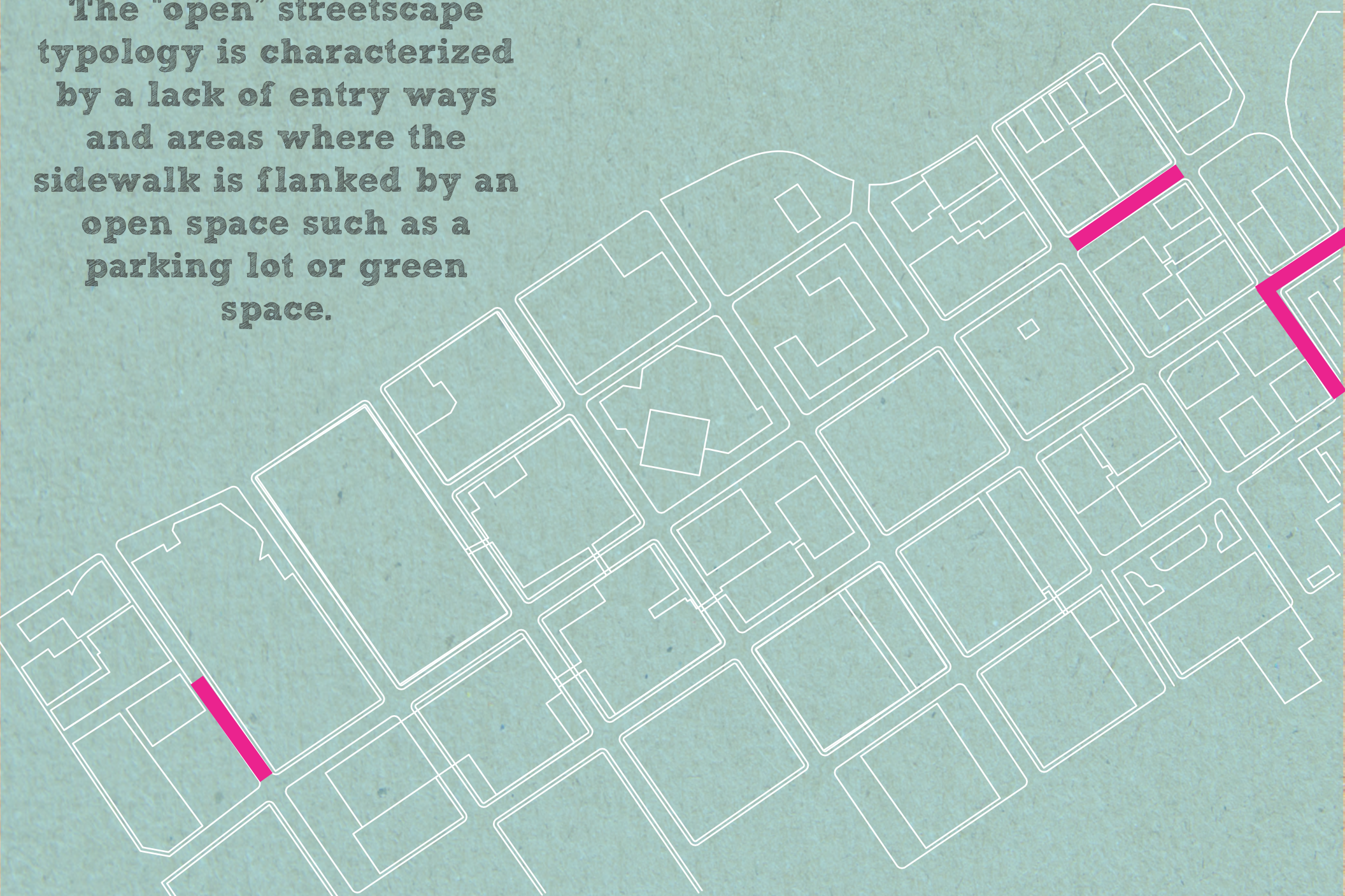


10' Storefront



10' Open Typology

The "open" streetscape typology is characterized by a lack of entry ways and areas where the sidewalk is flanked by an open space such as a parking lot or green space.



10' Open



20' Open Typology

The “open” streetscape typology is characterized by a lack of entry ways and areas where the sidewalk is flanked by an open space such as a parking lot or green space.

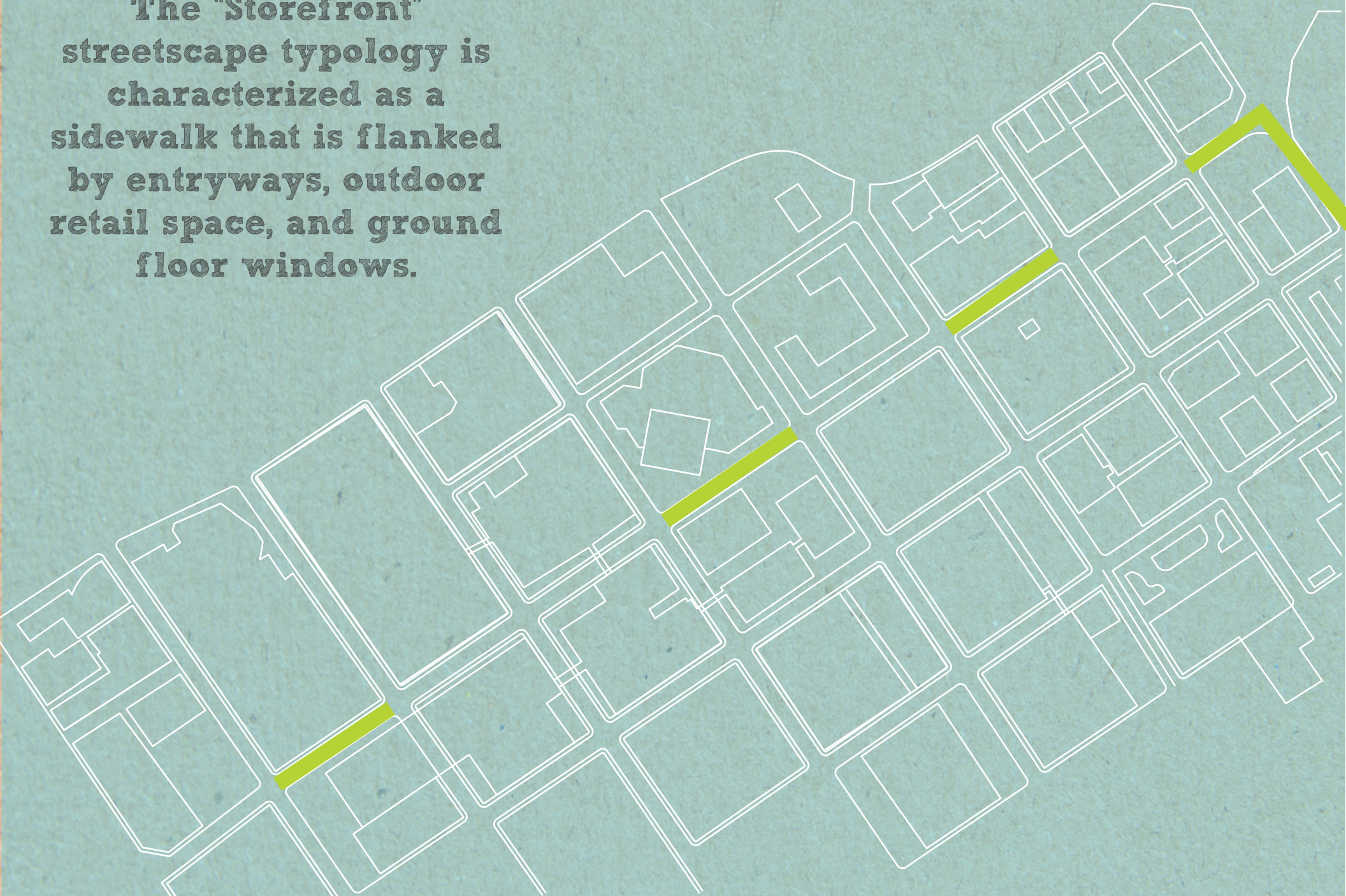


20' Open



20' Storefront Typology

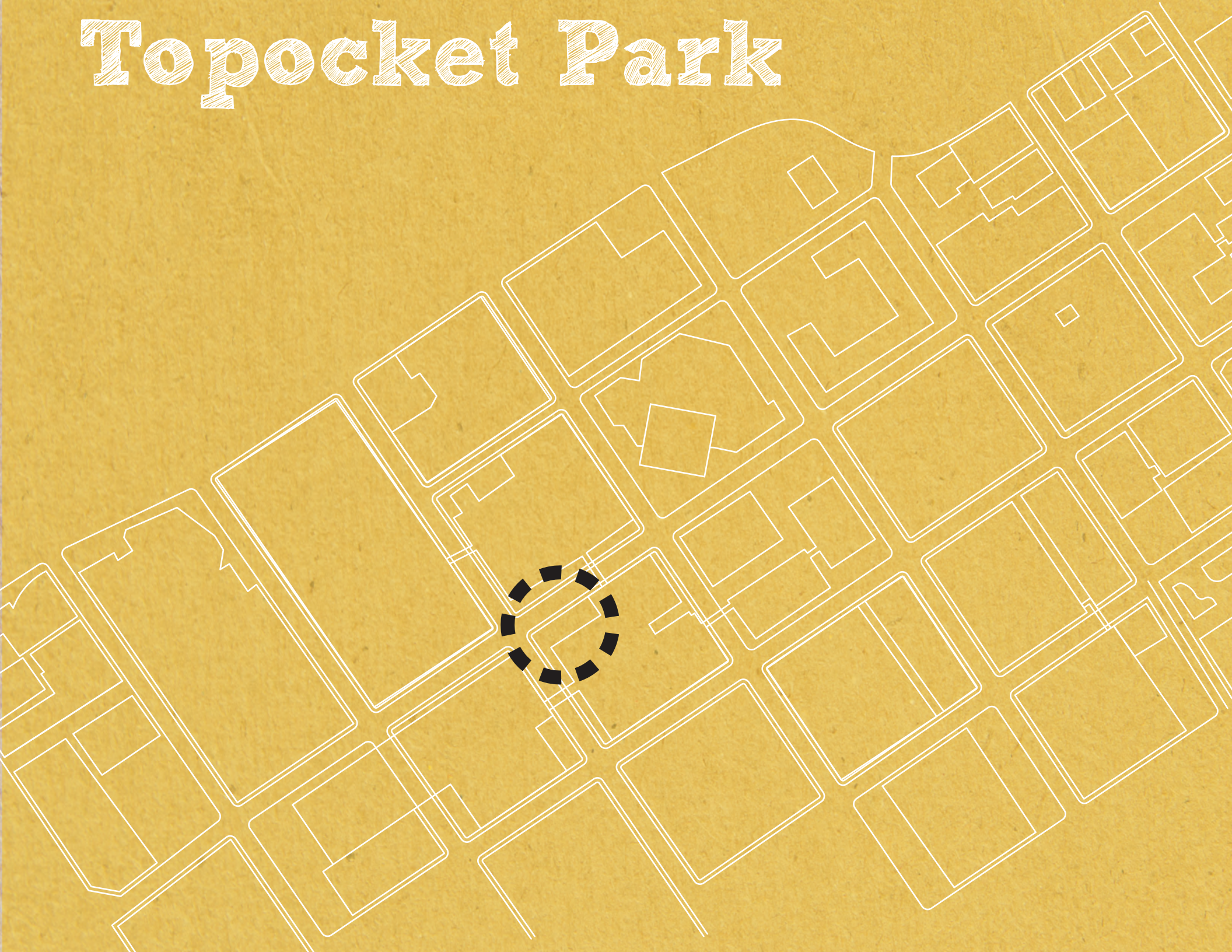
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20' Storefront



Topocket Park





Topocket Park



Way finding Bollards

Boulevard Linden

Seating

Street Lamp

3' Raised stone planters
Little Blue stem planting

+3

+5

+4

+4

+5

+3

Recycled Rubber ground plane for safety

+6

Recycled Rubber mounds

Rock climbing grips

+5

Existing Maple trees

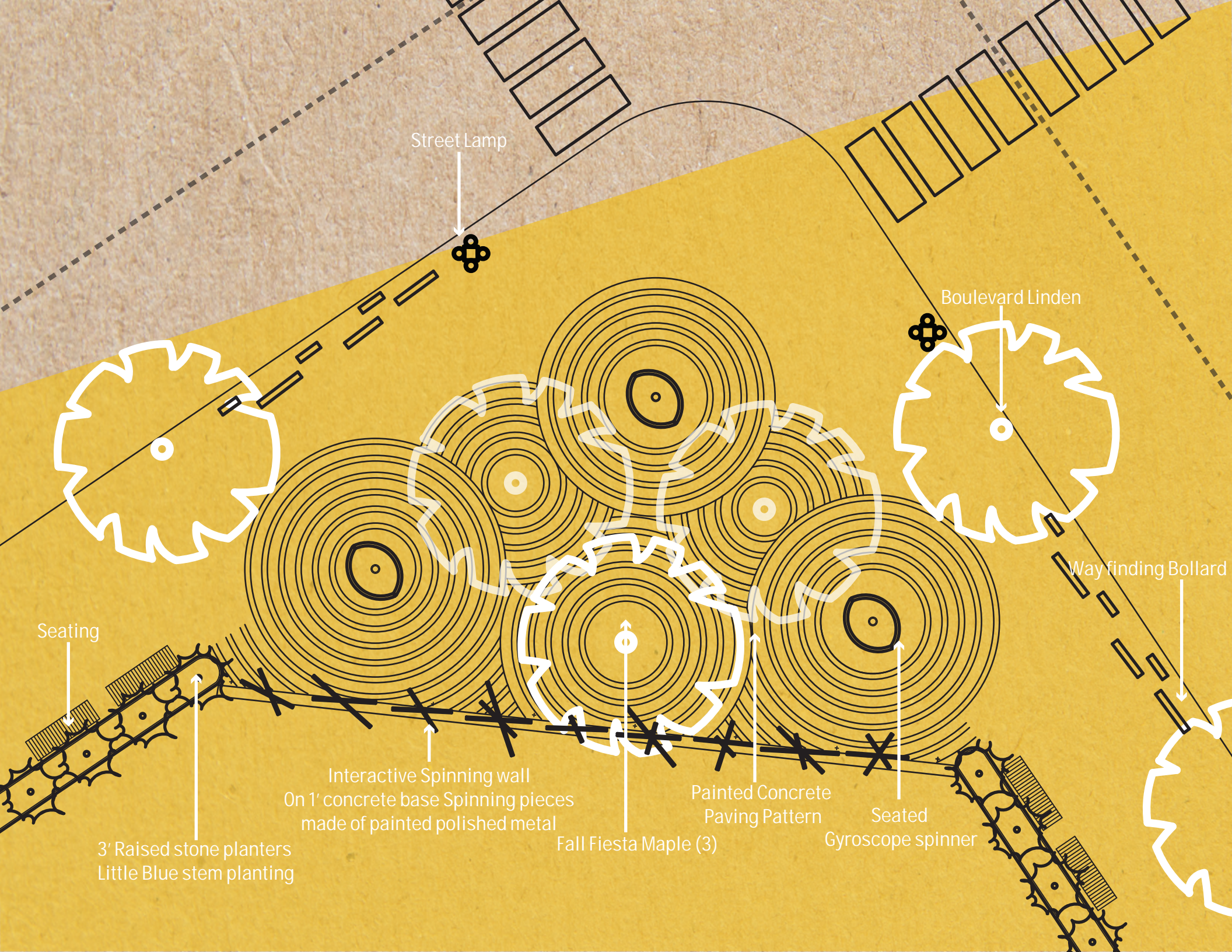
In ground lighting

Gyrosco pocket Park





Gyroscopocket Park



Street Lamp

Boulevard Linden

Wayfinding Bollard

Seating

Interactive Spinning wall
On 1' concrete base Spinning pieces
made of painted polished metal

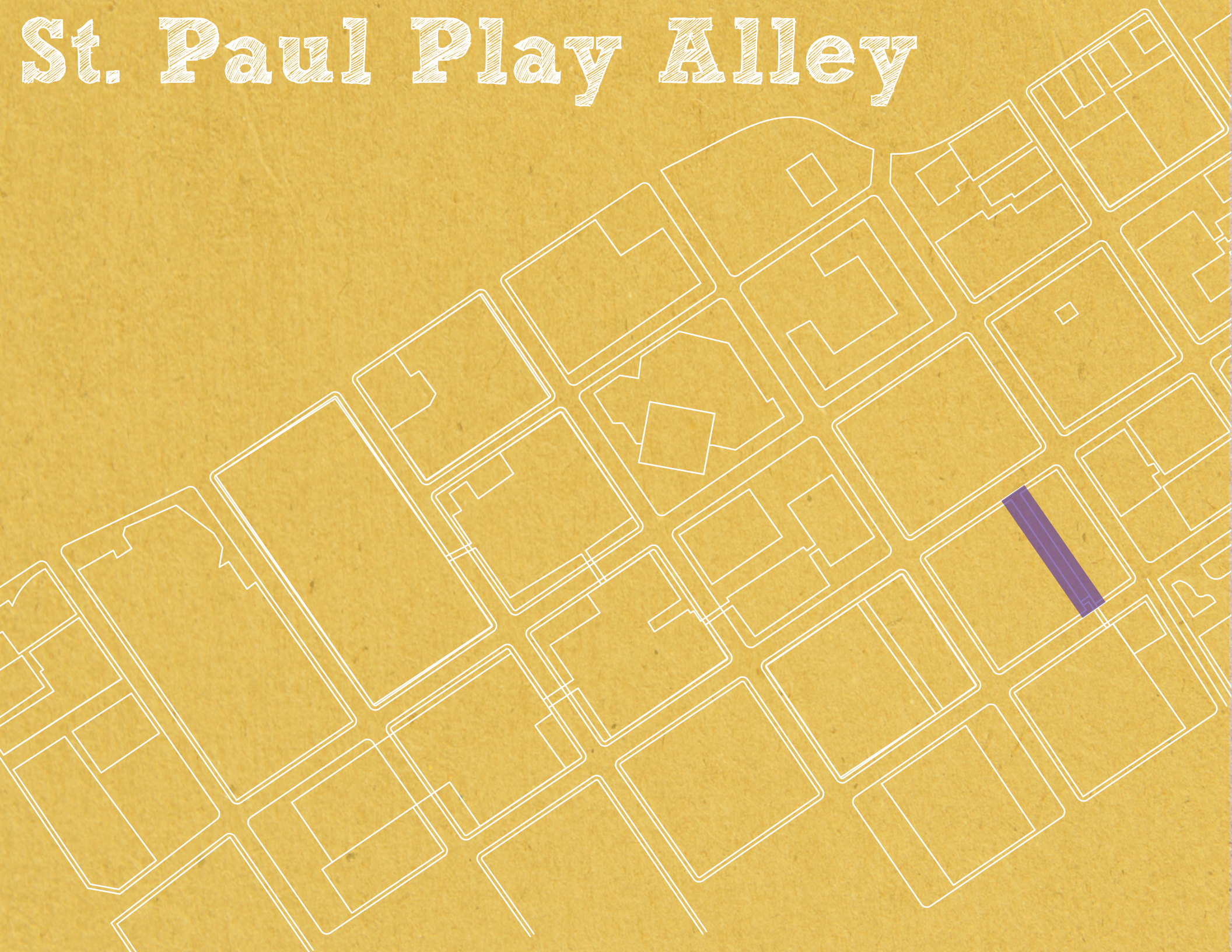
Painted Concrete
Paving Pattern

Seated
Gyroscope spinner

3' Raised stone planters
Little Blue stem planting

Fall Fiesta Maple (3)

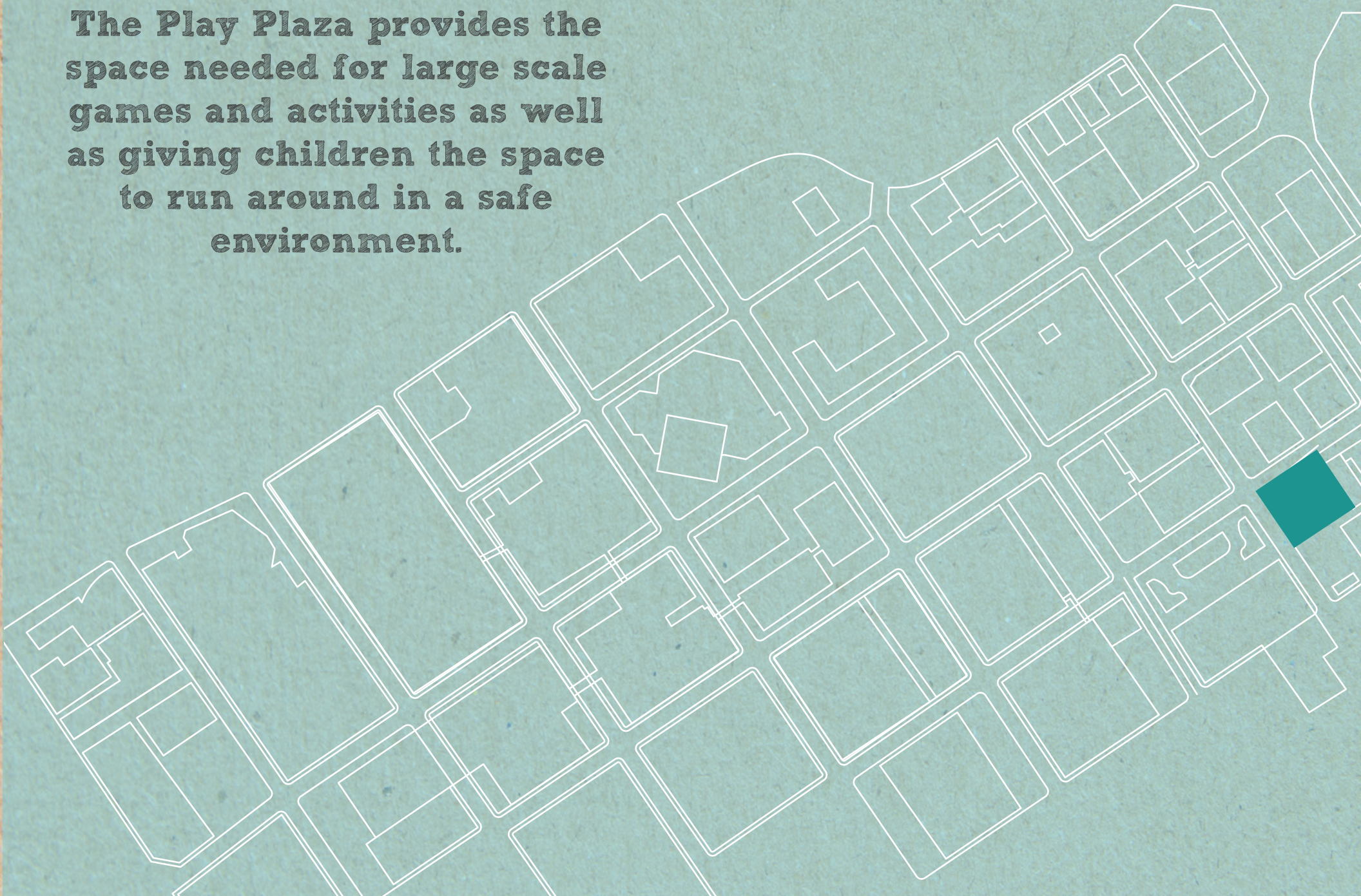
St. Paul Play Alley





Play Plaza

The Play Plaza provides the space needed for large scale games and activities as well as giving children the space to run around in a safe environment.



Play Plaza



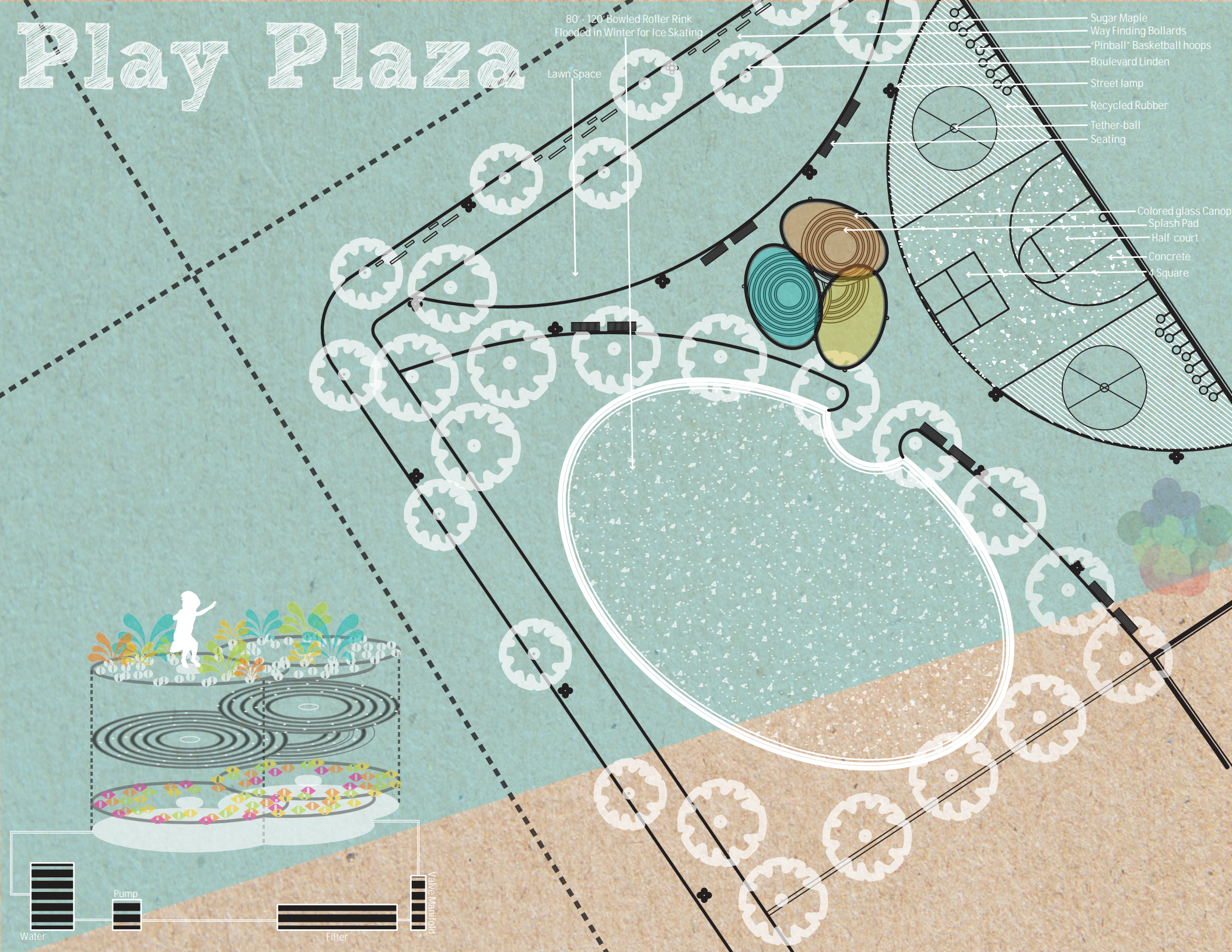
Play Plaza

80' - 120' Bowled Roller Rink
Flooded in Winter for Ice Skating

Lawn Space

- Sugar Maple
- Way Finding Bollards
- "Pinball" Basketball hoops
- Boulevard Linden
- Street lamp
- Recycled Rubber
- Tether-ball
- Seating

- Colored glass Canopy
- Splash Pad
- Half court
- Concrete
- 4 Square



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Conclusion

Thank you!
Any Questions?