



READING PUBLIC LIBRARY

Landscape Improvements Study | Neighborhood Listening Session

November 9, 2023



TOWN OF
READING
MASSACHUSETTS

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landscape architecture | civil engineering

Reading Public Library

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AGENDA

1. Project Team Introduction
2. Project Overview
3. Site Analysis
4. Precedent Images
5. Listening & Discussion



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PROJECT TEAM INTRODUCTION

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Amy Lannon

Board of Library Trustees

Desiree Zicko

Library Landscape Committee

Ben Cares

Economic Development Director

Fidel Maltez

Town Manager

Cherrie Dubois

Board of Library Trustees

Library Landscape Committee

Joe Huggins

Director of Facilities

Kevin Cabuzzi

Assistant Director of Facilities

Andrea Hogan

Library Landscape Committee

Ryan Percival

Town Engineer

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Stephen Crisafulli, RLA

Project Manager

Meghan Donahoe

Landscape Designer

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Reading Public Library has engaged with Activitas for the development of a feasibility and design concept alternatives study for the revitalization of the library's outdoor spaces.

Elements to be considered include the following:

1. Programming Opportunities
2. Neighborhood Connections
3. Universal Accessibility
4. Signage
5. Lighting
6. Review of Existing Park Vegetation

TODAY'S OBJECTIVE

Gain input for the community's vision and core values for the space and its connection to the surrounding neighborhoods.



SUPPORTING READING PUBLIC LIBRARY'S CORE MISSION

“The Reading Public Library is a center and resource for learning and civic engagement. We provide a place and platform of, by, and for the people who can benefit as individuals as well as contribute to the well-being of the community.”

CORE VALUES

- Education
- Equity
- Accountability
- Access

VISION

“Evolving together to strengthen communication, equity, collaboration, and learning.”

PLAN OF SERVICE

“Every five years the Library goes through a strategic planning process that culminates in a long-term ‘Plan of Service’ filed with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.”

READING PUBLIC LIBRARY'S LANDSCAPE VISION

Engage with the community and stakeholders:

- Meet with BOLT and the Library Staff
- Guide public survey(s)

Conceptualize outdoor environment:

- Improve for learning activities and aesthetics

Guide future development plans:

- Raise funding for the effort
- Work with landscape architectural firms



READING PUBLIC LIBRARY'S LANDSCAPE CONCEPTS

Dedicated outdoor space for learning and engagement:

- Educational Events
 - Nature Lessons
 - Plants and Gardening
 - Outdoor Story-time

HIGHLIGHTS

Landscaping and Irrigation:

- Climate-friendly and Educational Landscape
- Bird and Pollinators
- Native Plantings
- Sustainable
- Access to water
- Easy care / maintenance

Handicap Access per Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

- Sidewalk / Walkways
- Ramps

Space for small groups:

- Study Sessions
- Book Clubs
- Discussions
- Improved Accessibility



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The background of the slide is a grayscale topographic map. It features a complex network of white contour lines of varying thickness and spacing, set against a dark gray background. The lines represent elevation changes, with some areas showing dense, concentric lines indicating hills or mountains, and other areas showing more widely spaced lines indicating flatter terrain. The overall pattern is organic and non-repeating.

Site Analysis

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SITE ANALYSIS | READING PUBLIC LIBRARY

LEGEND:

-  PROPERTY LINE
-  PARKING AREA
-  PASSIVE RECREATION
-  EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
-  GATHERING SPACE
-  PEDESTRIAN PATH
-  LIGHT POLE
-  BOLLARD LIGHT POLE
-  SITE BENCH
-  PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
-  VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
-  PEDESTRIAN ACCESS POINT
-  VEHICULAR ACCESS POINT
-  GRADE DIFFERENTIAL



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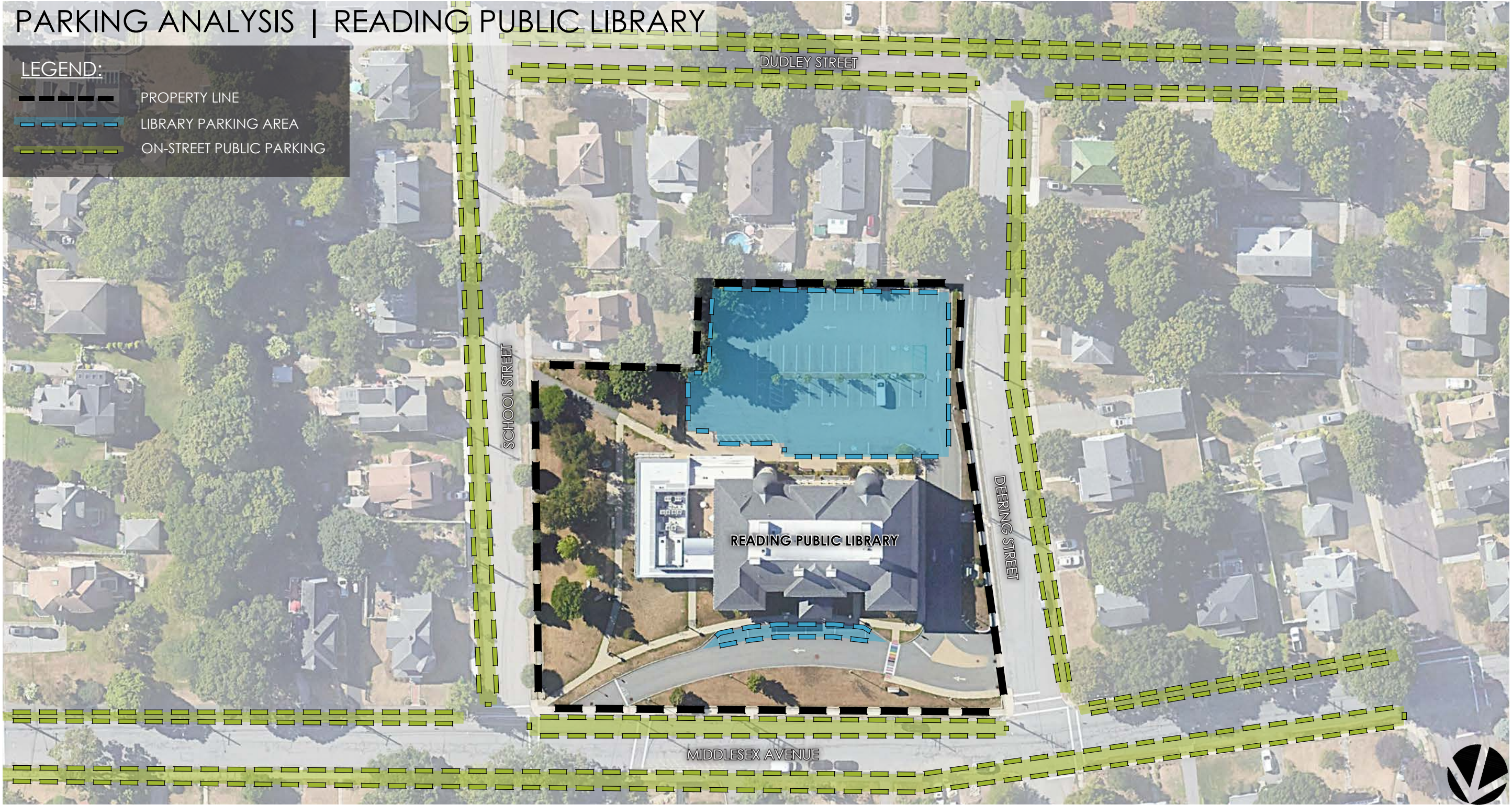
Site Analysis | Existing Conditions

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PARKING ANALYSIS | READING PUBLIC LIBRARY

LEGEND:

- — — — — PROPERTY LINE
- ▬▬▬▬▬ LIBRARY PARKING AREA
- ▬▬▬▬▬ ON-STREET PUBLIC PARKING



The background of the slide is a grayscale topographic map. It features a complex network of white contour lines of varying thickness and spacing, creating a textured, organic pattern. The lines represent elevation changes, with some areas showing dense, concentric lines and others showing more widely spaced, irregular lines. The overall effect is a detailed, abstract landscape representation.

Precedent Images

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Amphitheater / Performance Space with Accessible Route

Precedent Images | Amphitheater

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Precedent Images | Amphitheater

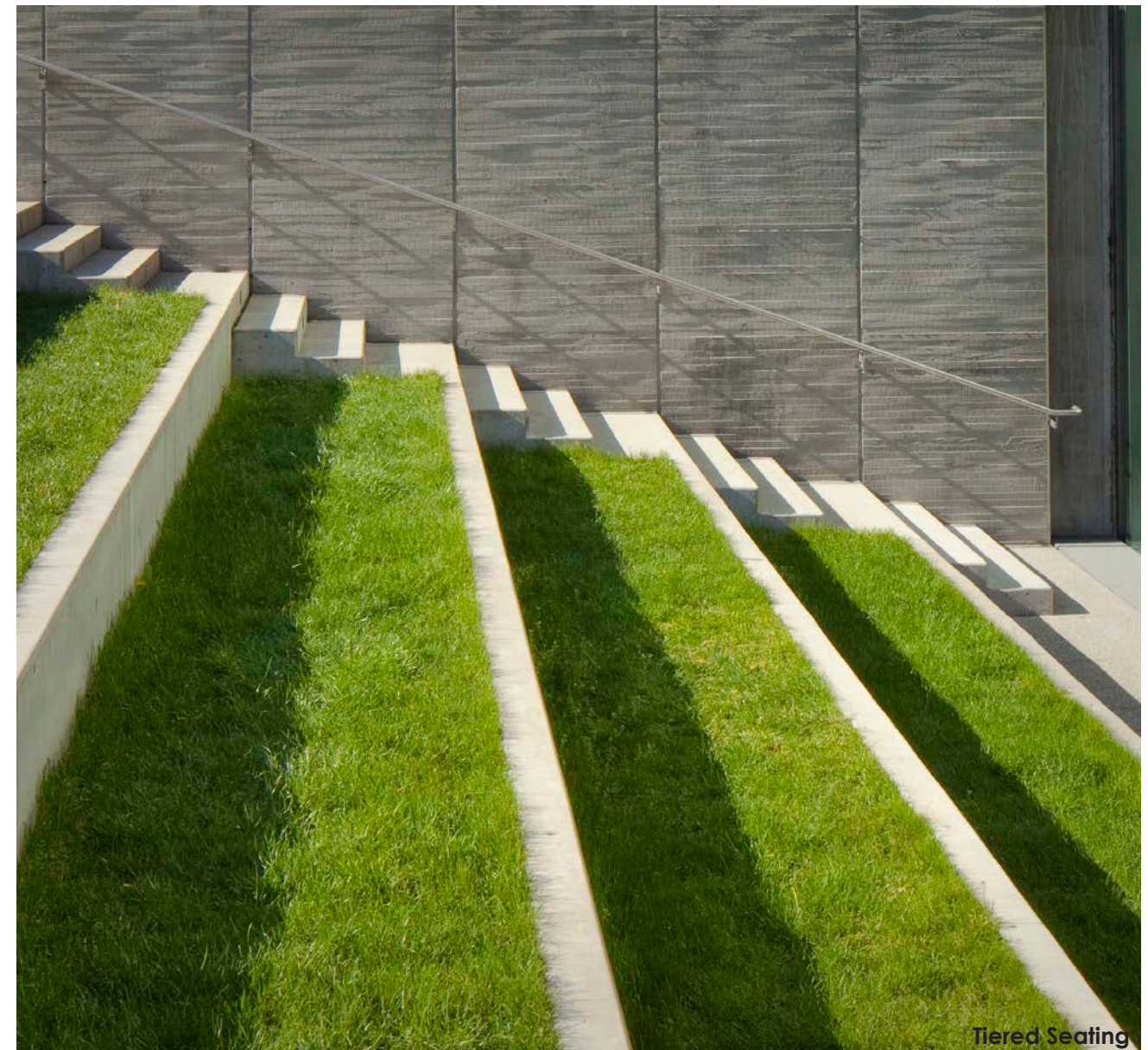
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Natural Stone Amphitheater



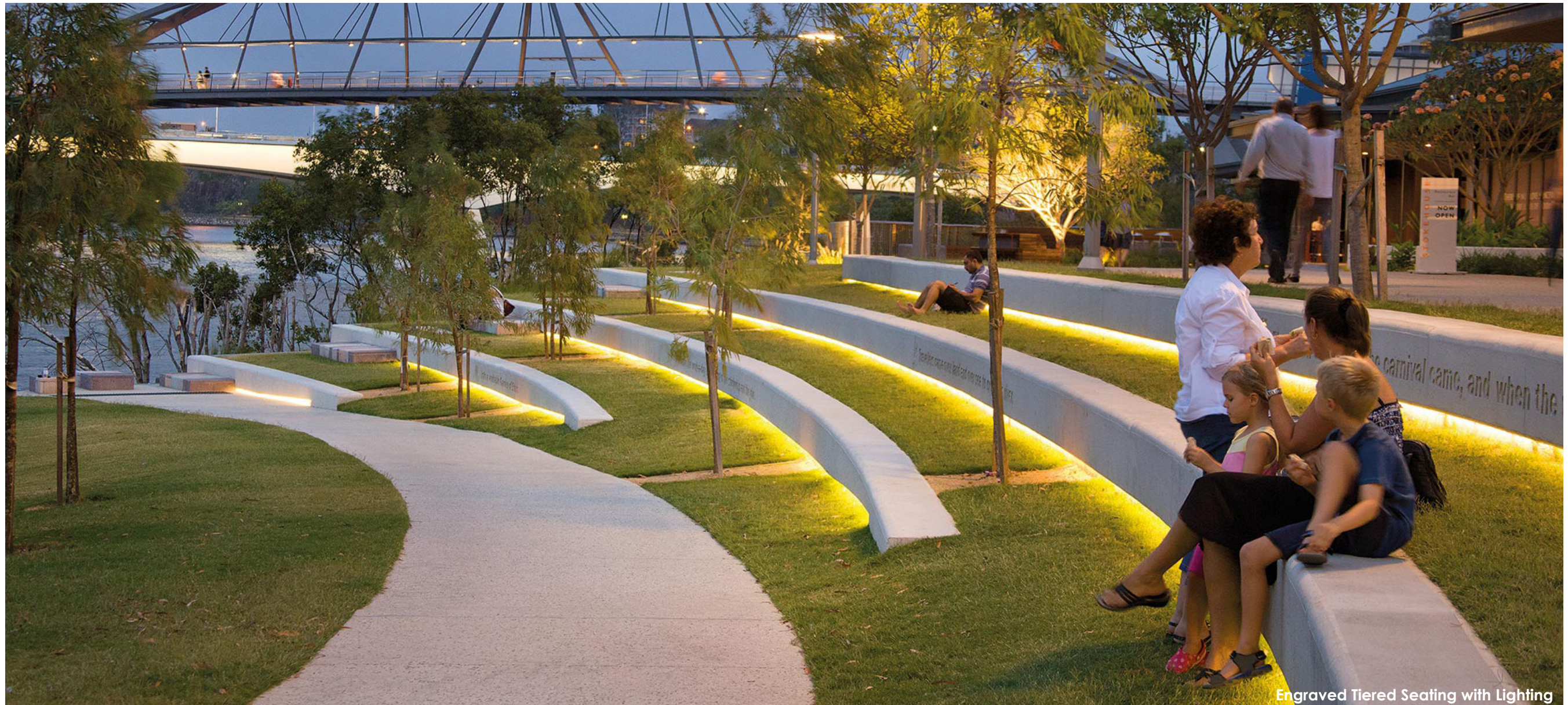
Tiered Seating

Precedent Images | Amphitheater

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Engraved Tiered Seating with Lighting

Precedent Images | Amphitheater

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Flexible Space for Festivals/Food Trucks; Dual-Purpose Seating

Precedent Images | Flexible Spaces to Accommodate Variety of Use & Seasons

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Creative Liesure Opprtunities

Precedent Images | Gathering Spaces

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Communal Gathering Spaces



Circulation in Public Gathering Spaces

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LISTENING & DISCUSSION

Help us design a great space for you.
Let us know what matters to you.



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THANK YOU!

Keep an eye out for the public survey coming soon!



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