

Welcome

Over the past 6 months
our community has come
together to envision a new
library for San Juan Island.

We talked, we designed, we
learned and we collaborated.

See the process, dream
possibilities, and stay involved.

Public Meeting #1

October 22nd, 2025

150 people came together in October to answer and discuss these questions:
“I LOVE OUR LIBRARY BECAUSE...” and “I WISH OUR LIBRARY COULD...”

We heard:

- The Library is very loved by the community.
- A new library would be welcomed if it could have more parking, meeting rooms, cozy quiet spaces, etc...
- The community has questions about how a new library would be funded.
- People use the library for so many different reasons beyond checking out books.

What the SJIL team shared:

- A history of the capital project efforts to date.
- Lessons learned.
- The creation of a steering committee.
- A list of priorities determined by the library staff.
- A description of the current library programs.



Community Priorities

Design/Architecture/Features:

- Rustic, low maintenance, energy efficient
- Natural light
- Fireplaces
- Seamless transition from indoors to outdoors
- Not a cold, steel structure
- Art reflecting the Pacific Northwest and our Indigenous heritage
- Allows for future expansion

Outdoor space and green area:

- Spaces for family enjoyment and events.
- Covered, heated outdoor spaces for meetings and performances
- Food & drink allowable and WiFi available

Interior spaces:

- Room for children, tweens, and teens, visible but soundproof
- Homework spaces and support
- More meeting spaces, large and small
- Break-out rooms that are tech-supported
- Video editing facilities
- Rooms for listening to recordings, tapes, hi-fi
- Expanded collections
- Cafe

Site:

- Walking distance for school children and elderly
- Larger parking lot
- EV chargers
- Covered bike parking
- Use of outdoor spaces for Library functions
- Handicapped access

SJIL priorities:

- Serve the Next Generations of Islanders
- Small and Large Meeting Rooms
- Active Gathering Spaces
- Cozy Quiet Spaces
- Expanded Collections Storage
- Central Location
- Expanded Youth Services
- Expanded Staff Space
- Tech- Friendly
- Adequate Parking



Values

As a part of the community engagement process, San Juan Island Library has identified the following values as core to the project:

Sustainability

Create a lasting project that will serve future generations on multiple levels: Social, Economic, Environmental.

Cultural Celebration

Acknowledgment of the Indigenous history rooted in the San Juan Islands. Intentional paths to celebrate this.

Plan for the Future

Flexibility, planning for future generations' needs with programs and spaces.

Maintain & Improve What People Already Love

Assurances that the cozy, helpful, active and joyful environment currently felt by the community will migrate to the new space and even be improved.

Intergenerational

Foster interactions between different age groups that influence creativity, knowledge exchange, problem solving, and collective well-being.

Reflection of Place

A new facility that will be a reflection of the community's history, future and also of the island itself.

Placemaking

A place where all are welcome and public services are provided. A place of pride for the community and where community feels welcome to gather, engage, focus, learn and play.

Collaboration with Community Partners

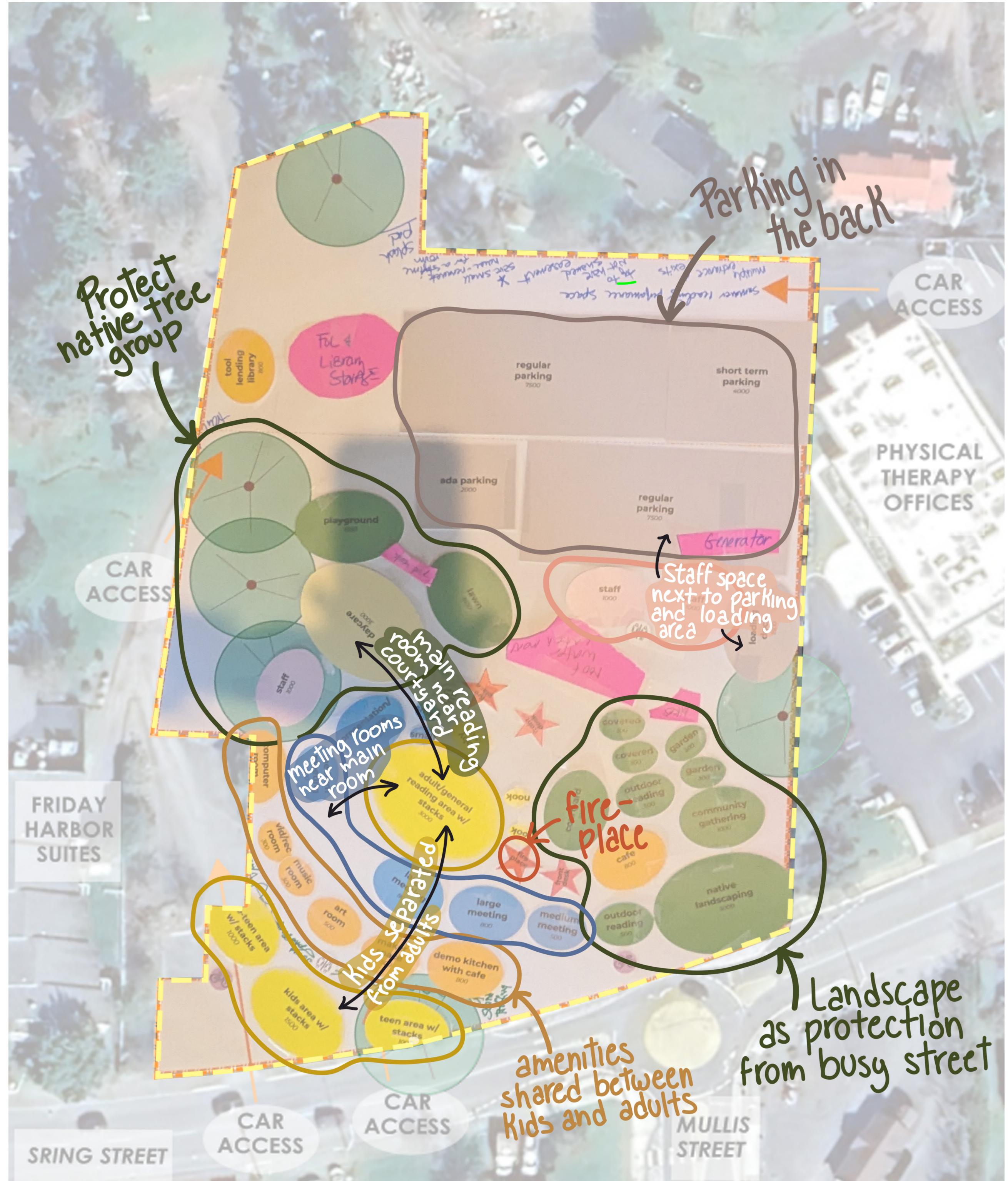
Intentional paths to meeting community needs with SJIL partners. Together is stronger.

Public Meeting #2

Participatory Design Workshop November 18th, 2025

18 groups worked separately to think about the site and begin exploring where specific library functions should be.

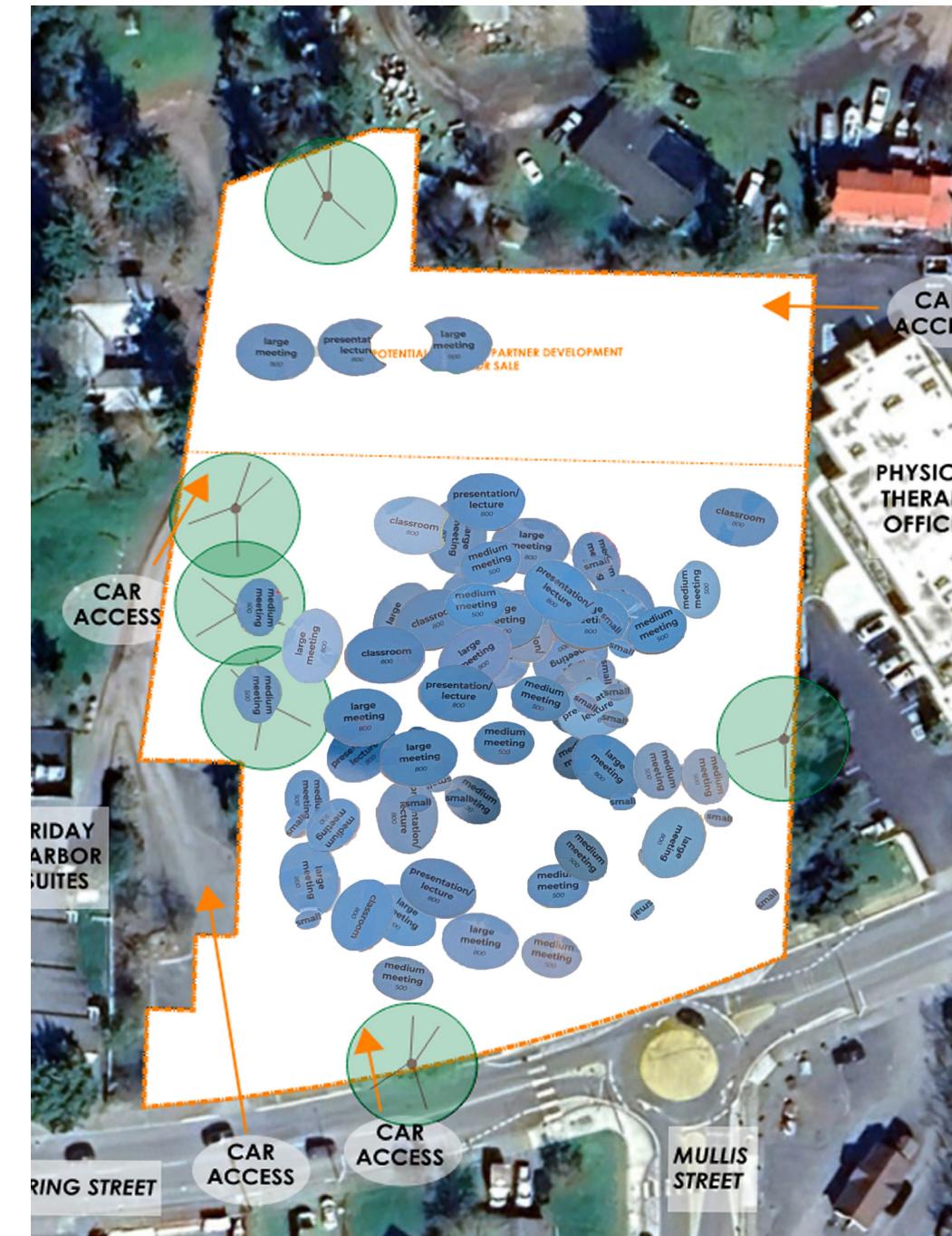
The design team took each groups' design and isolated the different types of elements to see where patterns started to emerge.



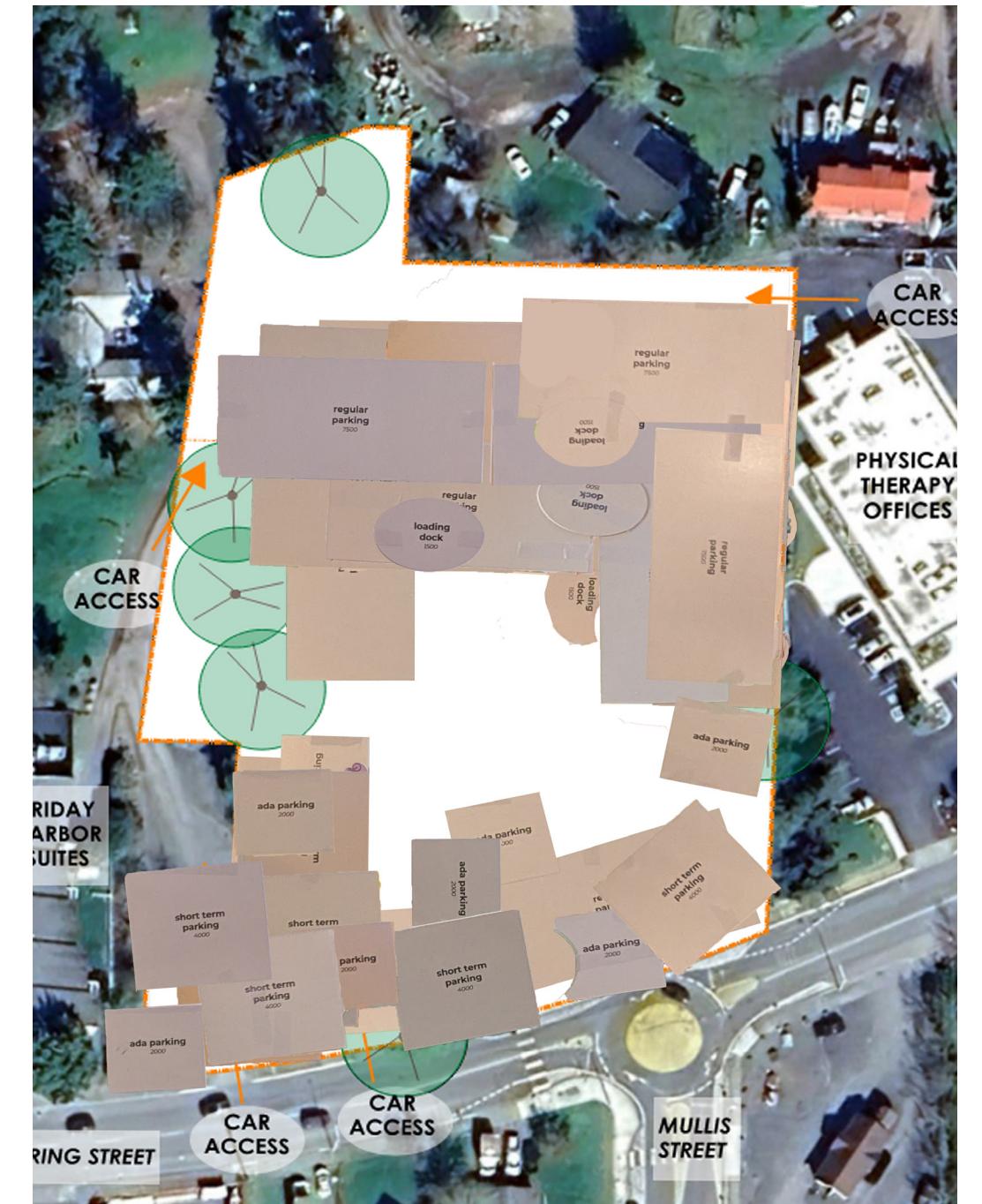
Example of how a community design exercise is informing the library design.



Reading Rooms are gathered in the center of the site.



Meeting Rooms are gathered near the center, but also on the edges- indicating the desire to access them separately.



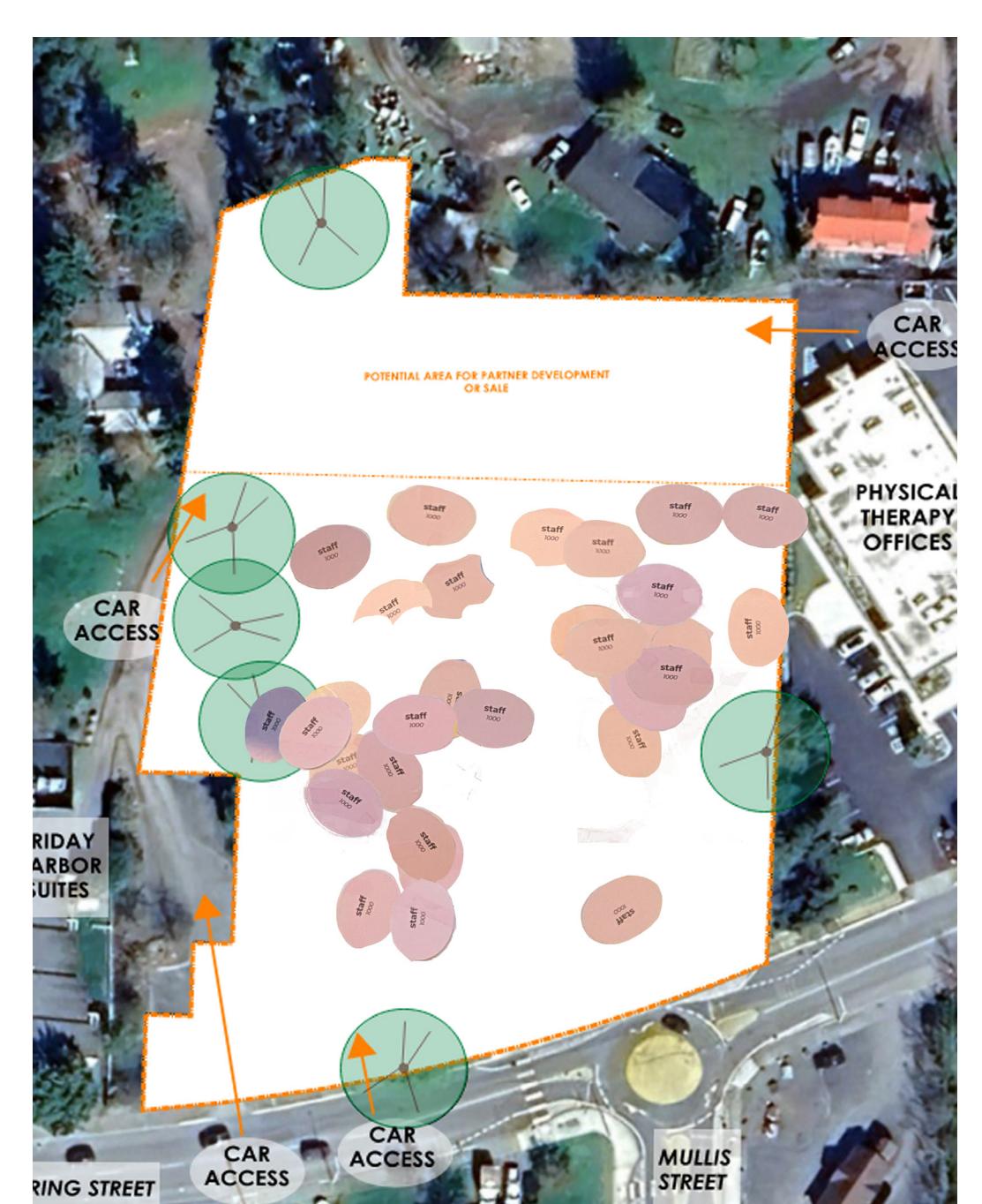
Parking is split into short term parking at the front and long term parking towards the back.



Landscape is used as protection from Spring Street and the existing grove of trees is mostly retained.



New program elements were scattered throughout the site- often as separate elements from the library.



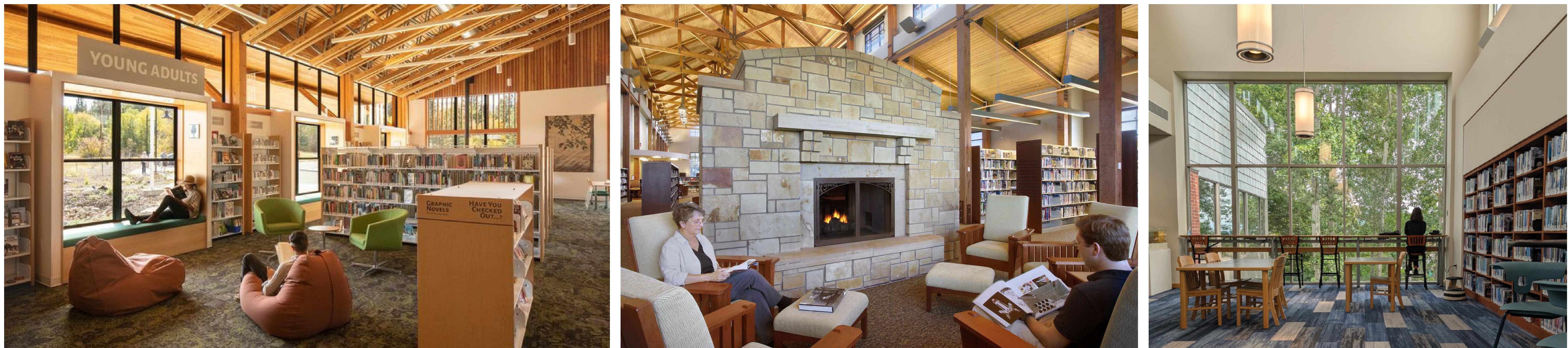
Staff space is located near the entry area and also adjacent to the parking in the rear- for loading access.



Design you liked

A series of image boards were presented to the community in order to begin determining an architectural language that felt “right”.

Reading/chatting/collaborating atmospheres you liked:



warm - comfortable - inviting - gathering - fireplace-
natural light - calm - quiet - pleasant

Outdoor spaces that resonated with you:



indoor/outdoor connection - contemplative - native landscape -
openness - playfulness

Design you liked

**Building style & materials
you were drawn to:**



connection to surrounding landscape - canopies - warm materials- craftsmanship - rhythm - scale - openness

Design Workshop

December 16th, 2025

The Design Team, Library Staff & Library Board convened to continue developing the design ideas from the public design meeting. A number of Steering Committee members observed.

Two teams formed to look at two different site conditions:

- 1: Keeping the driveway entirely on the property.
- 2: Utilizing current easements to keep portions of the driveway off the property.

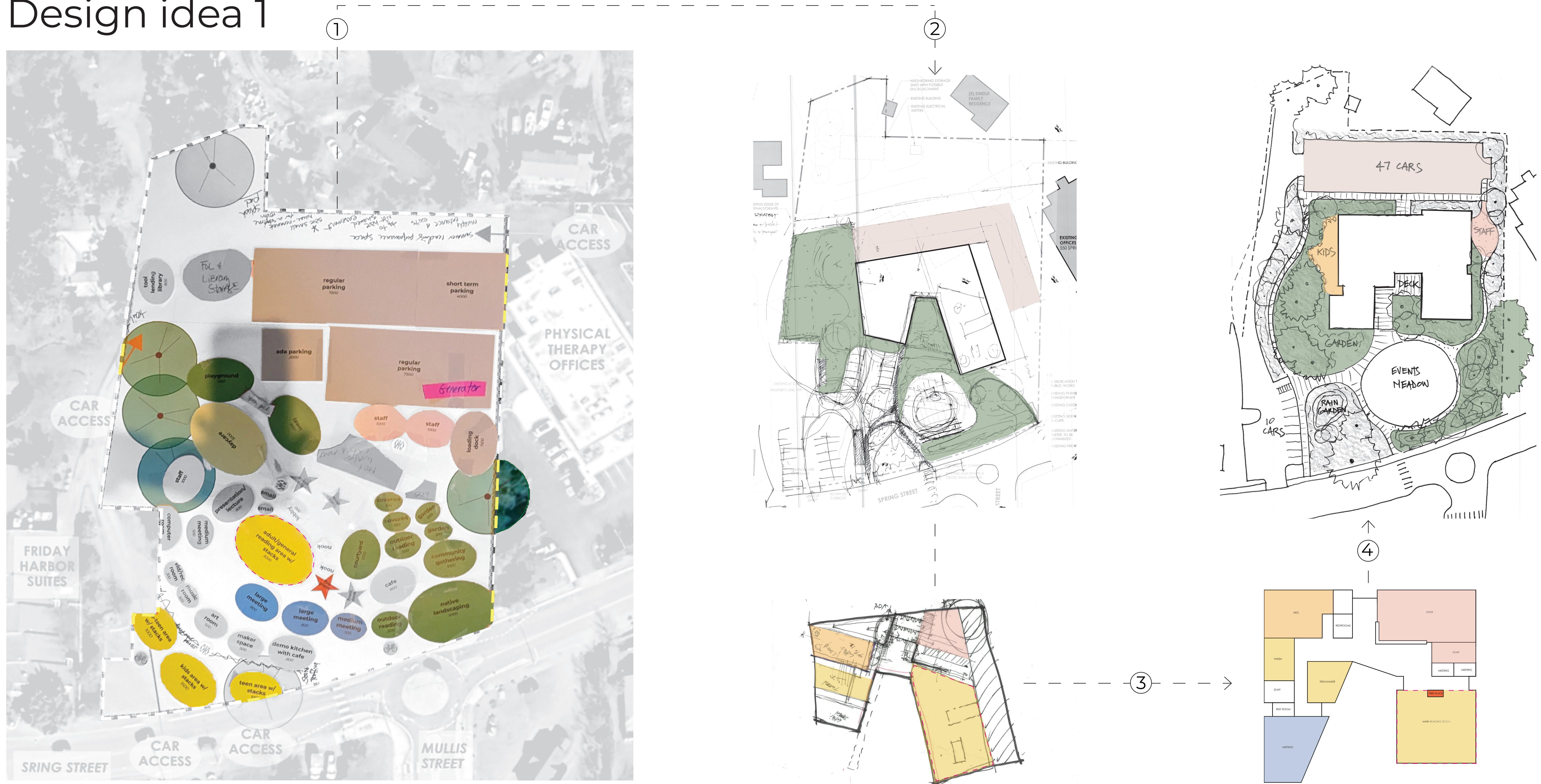


This walking tour of the site helped explain the features and limitations of the site.

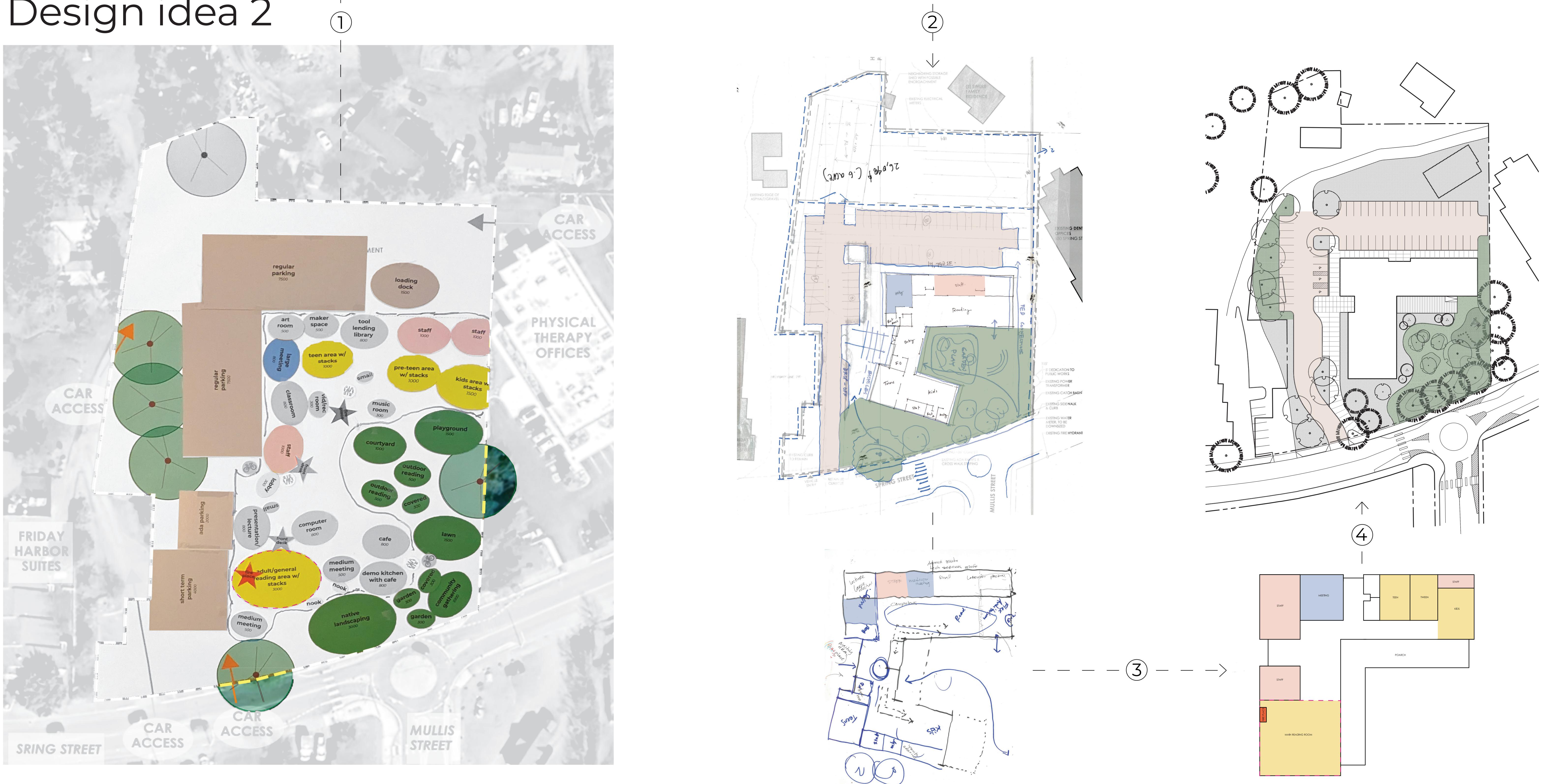


Design Process

Design idea 1



Design idea 2



Parking

Green space

Staff area

Kids and Teens area

Fireplace

Meeting rooms

Main reading room

Design Idea 1

17,000 square feet - 61 parking spaces



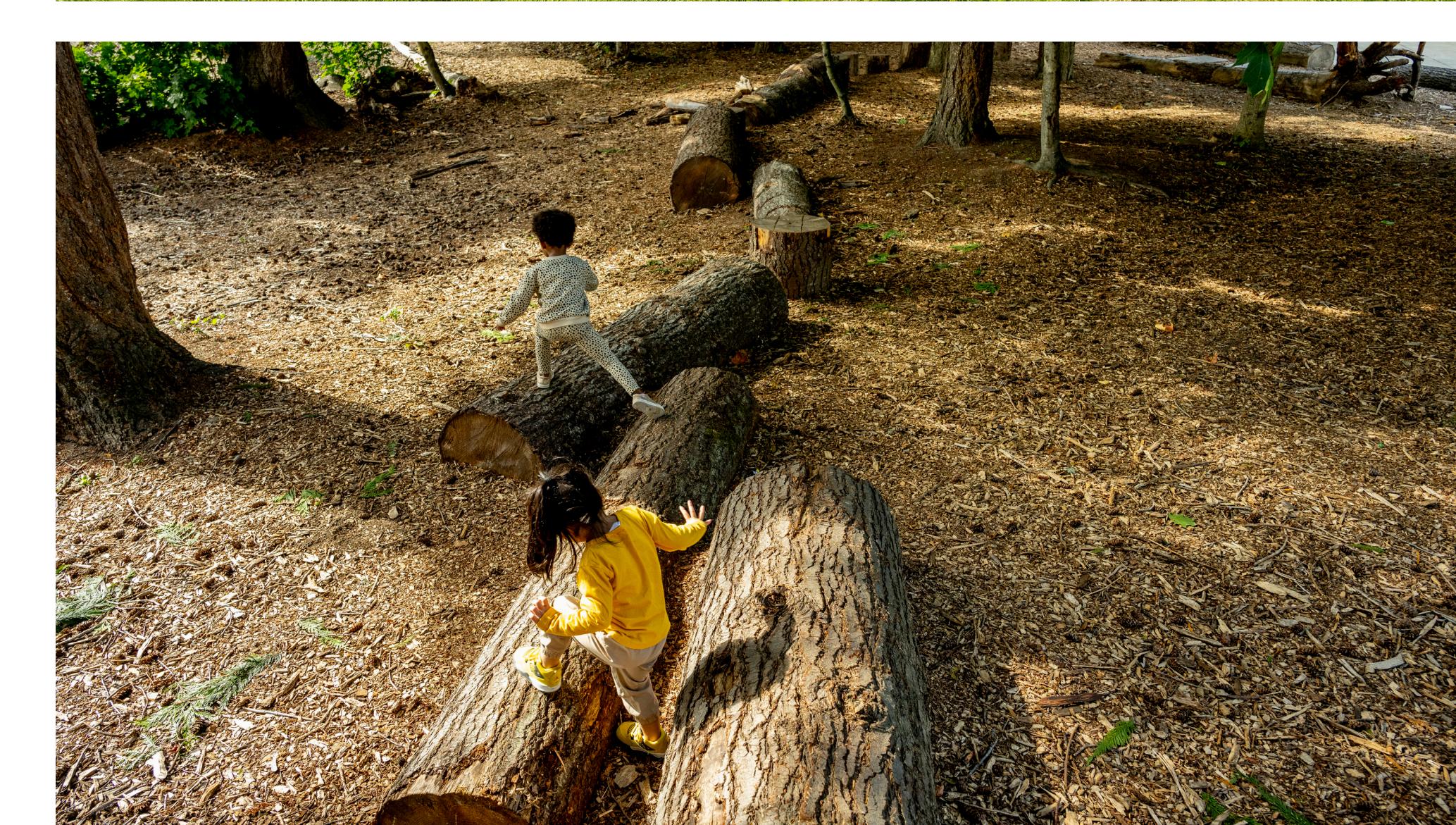
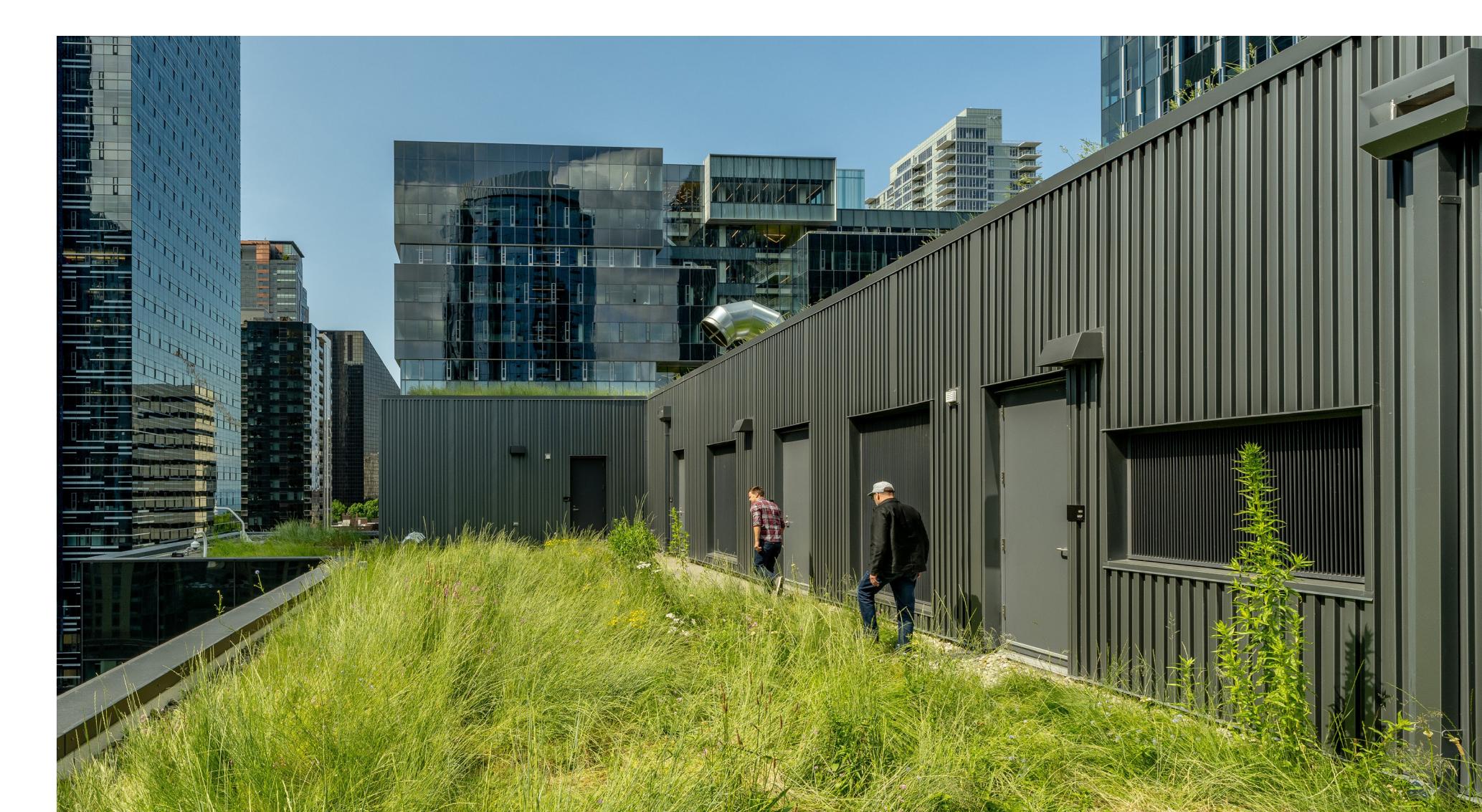
Design Idea 1



View of entry courtyard



View from Spring Street



These images show examples of how some of the exterior spaces might look and feel.

Design Idea 2

14,000 square feet - 54 parking spaces



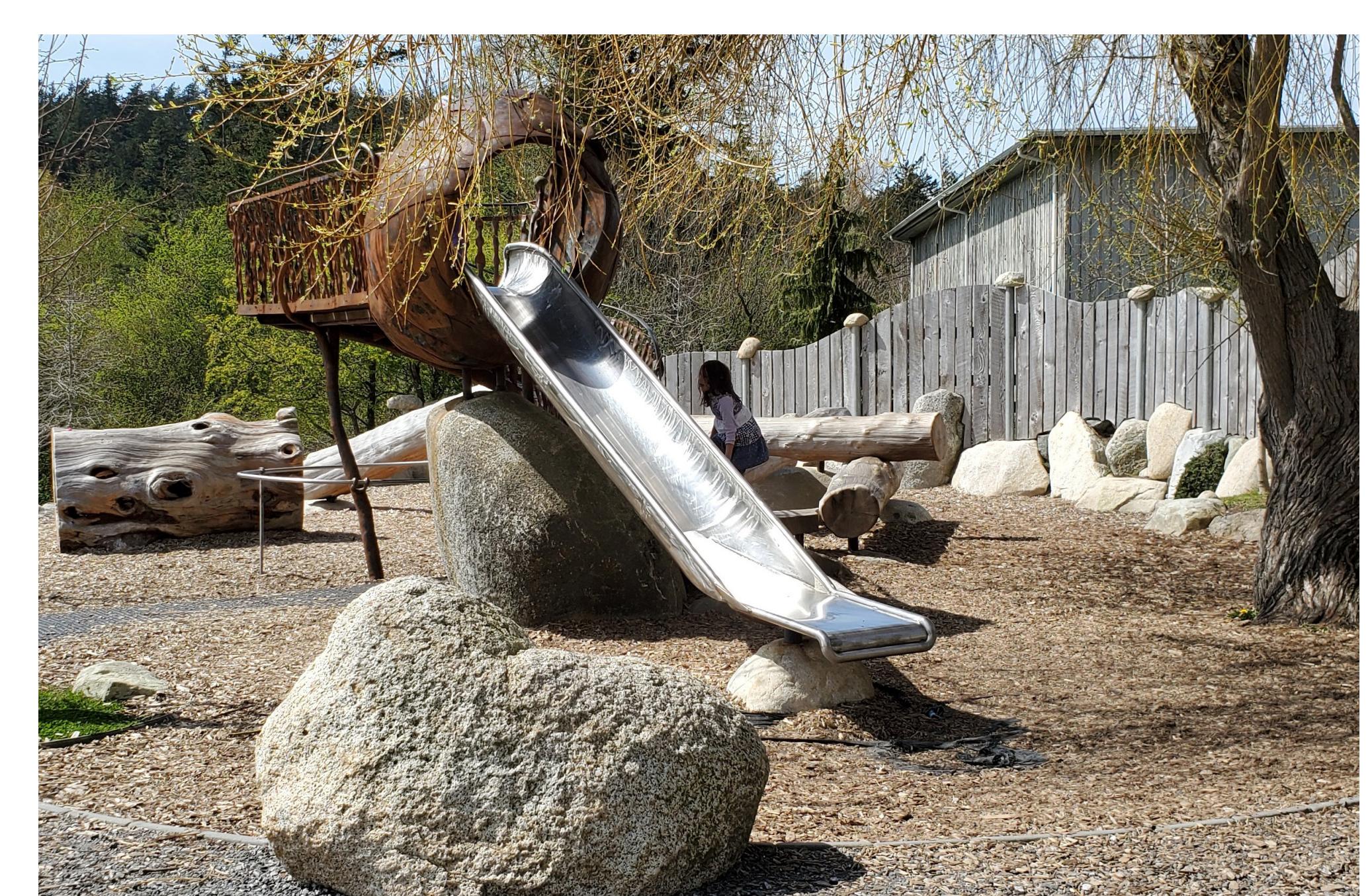
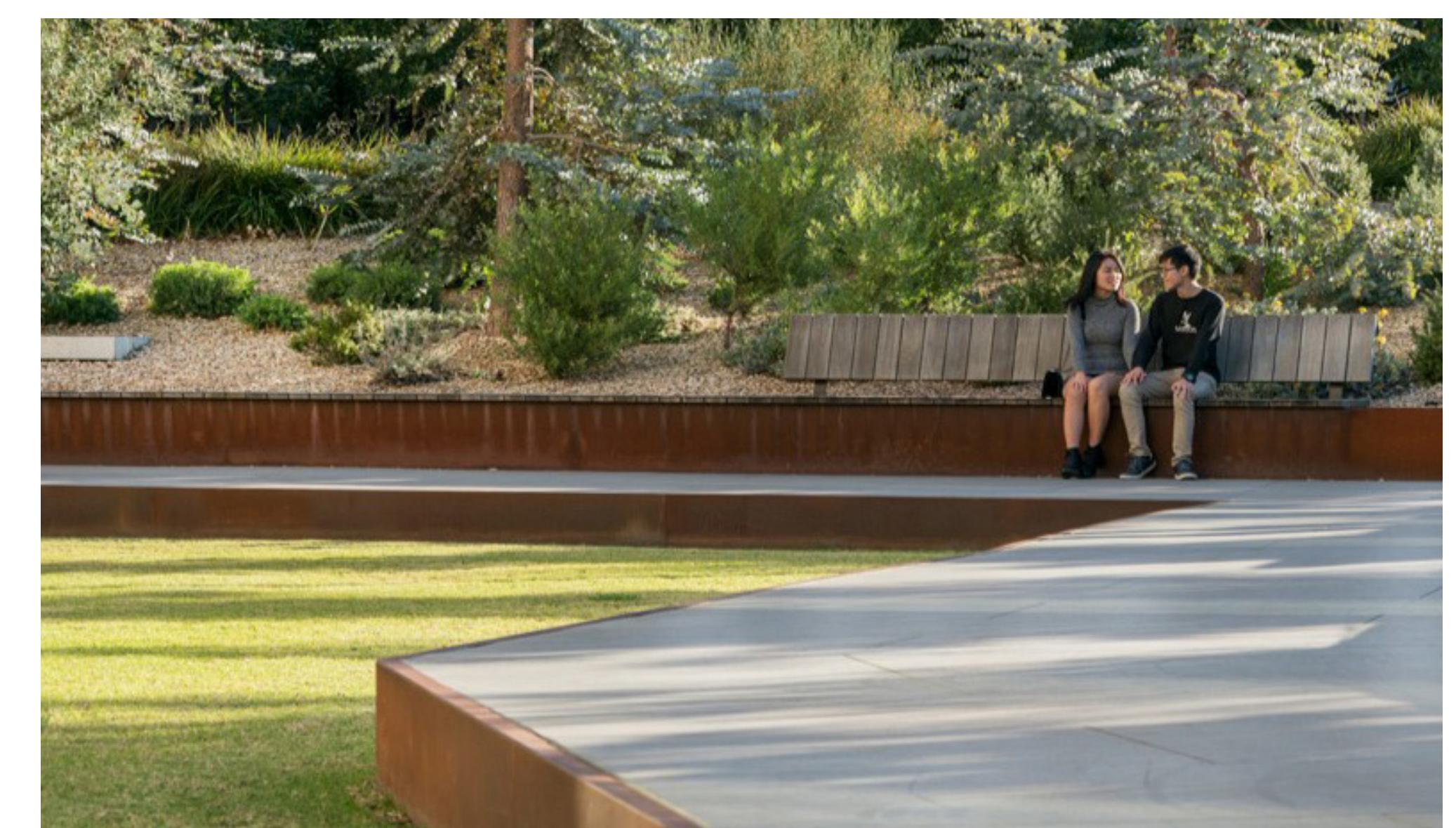
Design Idea 2



View from Spring Street



View from play area



About this Design:

- Car circulation and parking occurs entirely on the property.
- A smaller courtyard/plaza.
- The playground is adjacent to the main outdoor gathering space.
- The north parcel of the property is reserved for sale or partner opportunities, or could be available for future building expansion.
- The L shaped building can be entered from the west or the north.
- The reading room has plenty of east facing windows for natural light.
- One large and small meeting room.

These images show examples of how some of the exterior spaces might look and feel.

Next Steps

Where do we go from here?

- The Library will develop a project timeline.
- The San Juan Island Community Foundation is partnering with the Library to develop a comprehensive fundraising plan to support pre-construction and construction costs for the entire building project.
- The library will hire a Development Director to assist with fundraising for the building project and to grow philanthropic support for sustaining library programs and services far into the future.
- The design teams will remain engaged with the library team to assist with any documentation, visualization or design strategy needs while project budgets and cost estimates are established.
- The Steering Committee will continue to gather feedback and maintain project momentum.
- The library will continue to host informal gatherings to share progress as available.

Feedback

We want to hear your feedback! Please keep in mind that neither of these designs is final. The final design will be a mix of the two possibilities.

Please provide any feedback you have for either design in the columns below:

Design Idea 1

Design Idea 2