



**REVISIONING COLUMBUS PARK**  
SPRUCE GROVE, ALBERTA



One of the primary tasks of the Area Redevelopment Plan is to explore a new use and design for Columbus Park. Columbus Park is located on the southeast corner of Main Street and McLeod Avenue. Designed and constructed in the 1980's, the existing park is dated and not very functional for anything other than casual sitting.

The existing park has overgrown vegetation and features a central circular fountain with radiating planter walls. The park's main entry feature on the corner of Main and McLeod is a dark green metal portal; also highly dated in design and image.

The biggest hurdle to the success of the existing park is that it is unusable for almost anything other than casual sitting. It's time for a change.

# **Columbus Park -** A Key Component to Spruce Grove's City Centre Area Redevelopment Plan



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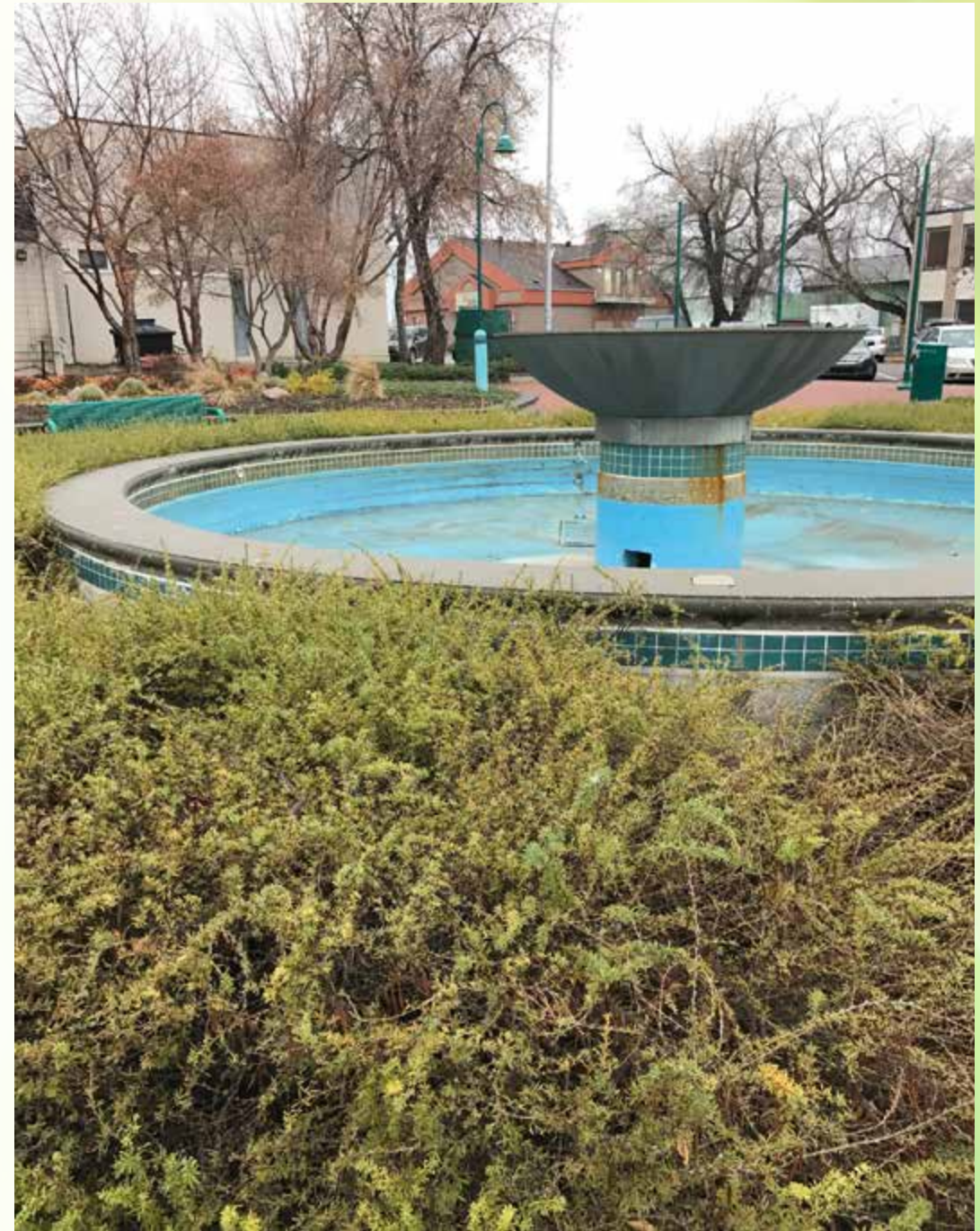


The park located at the southeast corner of Main and McLeod is highly visible, under-used, and largely unknown. Centred around a decorative fountain with dated green metal benches and entry portal, the park is a network of raised planters and overgrown vegetation. It is rife for a total facelift.

With a variety of seasonal events such as the Winterfest and weekend markets taking place on the street intersection at the McLeod and Main, the park could serve as a usable anchor for various events. In the current shape of the park, unfortunately it is unusable. As part of the Spruce Grove City Centre Area Redevelopment Plan, Cushing Terrell was tasked to create two options for the New Columbus Park. The options were designed to integrate into the new redevelopment plans of the City Centre but also create a flexible usable park.



# Today's Columbus Park



# Winterfest Street Gathering



Columbus Park Design Workshop



Columbus Park Design Workshop



Columbus Park Programming



Columbus Park Programming



Street Hockey Next to Columbus Park



Winter Use of Columbus Park



Spruce Grove Winter Festival

# Plaza Flavour



Corten posts for lighting and safety netting

# Program Elements of Plaza Examples



Passive Space



Use of Quality Materials



Simple open spaces allows for flexible venues



Simple Spaces. Broad Seating



Movable outdoor tables offer splash of colour



Small pocket park offers a glimpse of simple open space potential of Columbus Park



Institutional Level Landscape Detail



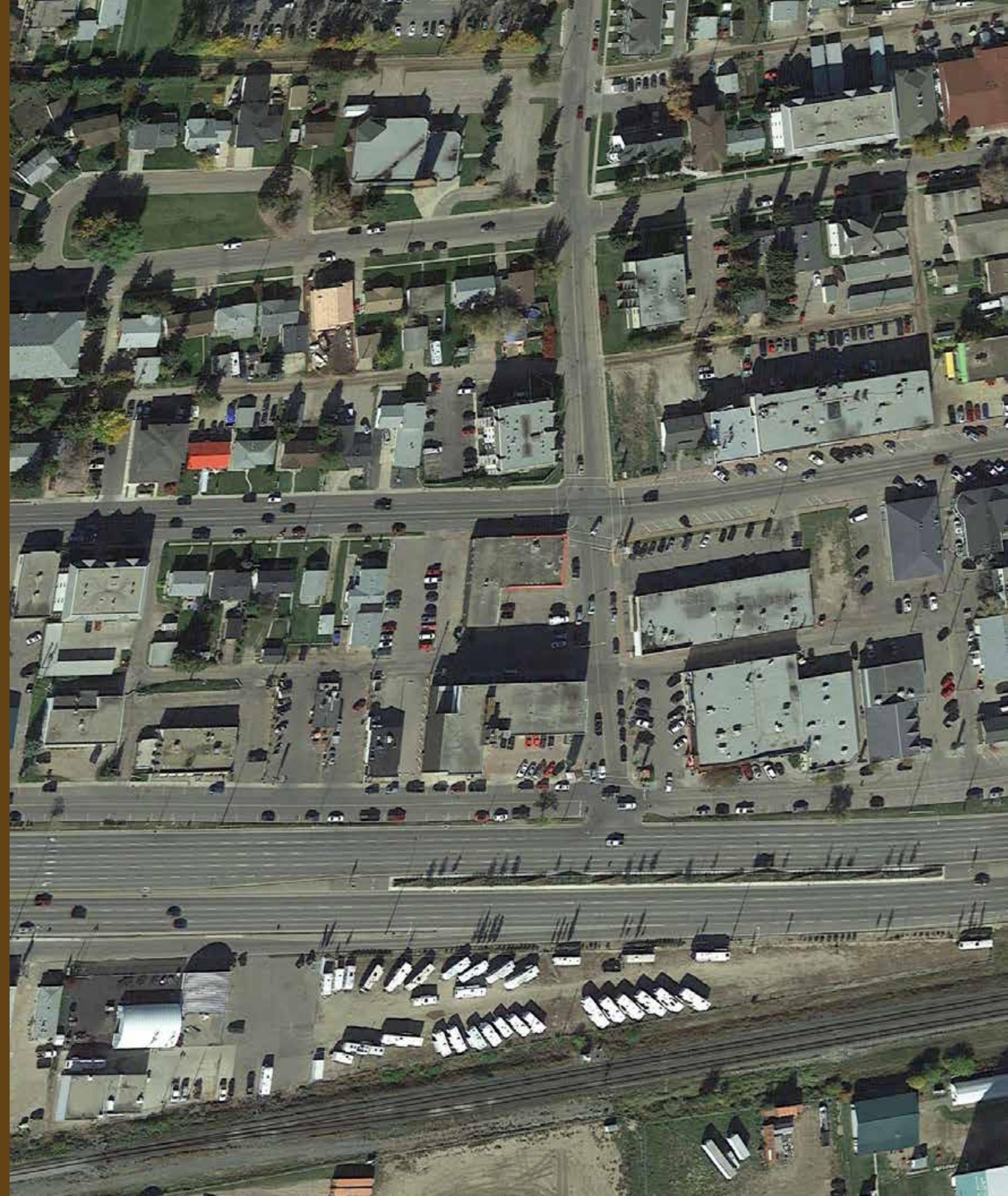
# Master Plan

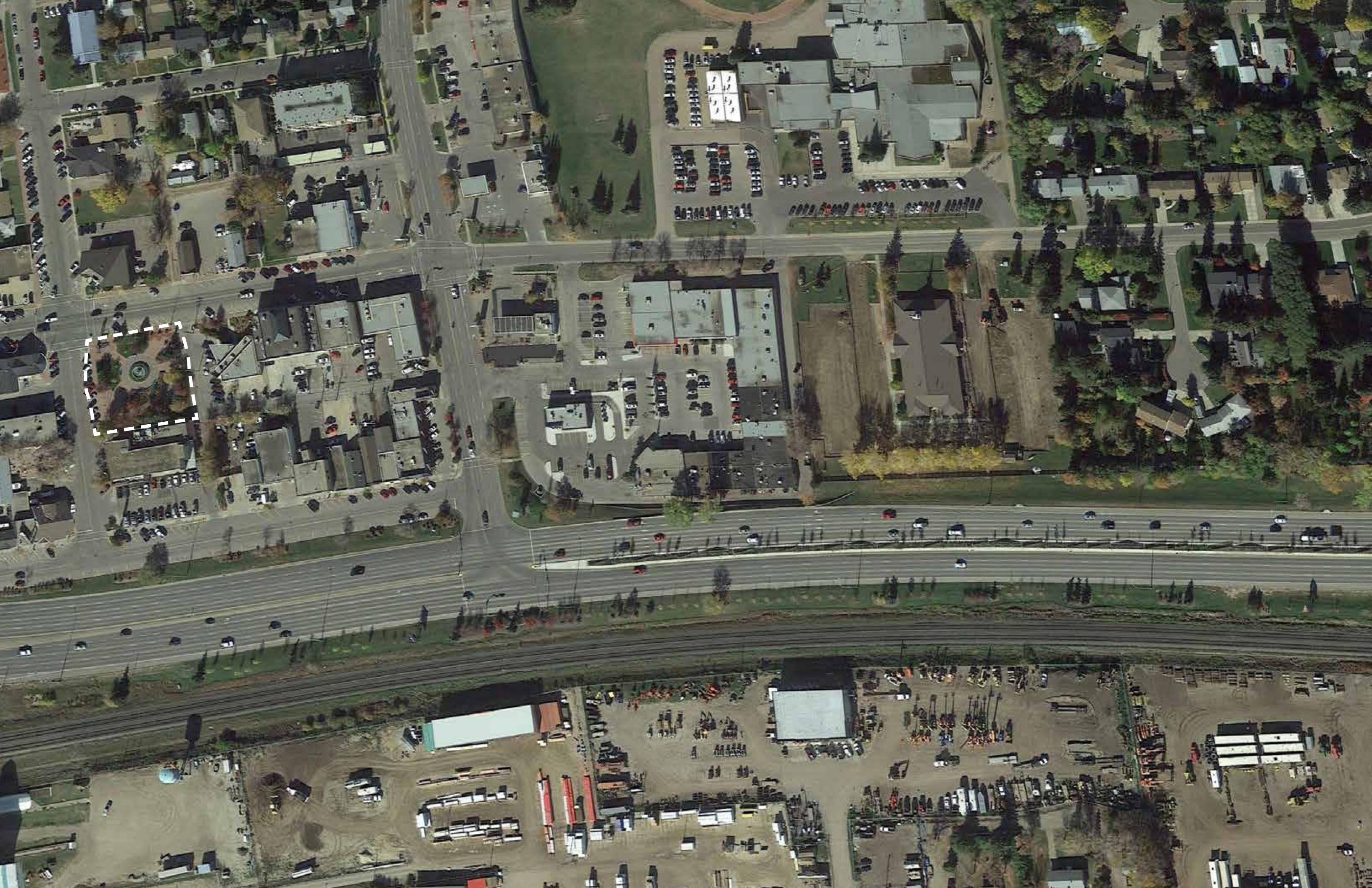


Set the stage.



**COLUMBUS PLAZA**  
SPRUCE GROVE, ALBERTA





# Columbus Plaza

## Master Plan - Option One

The first design concept for Columbus Plaza conforms to a very simple rule – open/flexible space. The overall attempt in this concept is to provide a relatively flat green space that is available for use in four seasons for a variety of events or for passive daily use. Major design components include:

- Fixed Heavy Vandal Resistant Seating
- Fire Pit
- Trees
- A Village Green
- Covered Stage

Adjacent to the plaza and working in tandem is available parking for a food truck with movable tables. Main Street and McLeod Avenue is converted into a decorative “plaza” intersection that can be shut down for events or serve as a literal ground-zero for Spruce Grove’s Downtown.

On the south side of McLeod Avenue, the sidewalk broadens to a decorative banded ten-meter wide promenade paying tribute to the festive atmosphere created by the Village Green concept of Columbus Park.

Relative to the design amenities of the plaza, a fire pit can be utilized in all four seasons. It’s location is highly visible at the northern portion of the park concept offset from the intersection at Main Street and McLeod Avenue. The fire pit is circled by standard limestone benches that are located throughout the plaza.

The basic concept of this design is a “Village Green”. The existing park is to be leveled and removed. To create the Village Green the site will be graded to have a gentle crown running east and west. The turf-sodded green will be laid over a depth of sand that has special parallel drainage systems linked throughout. The sand based lawn or Village Green is an irrigated lawn that will allow vibrant and recoverable grass able to take crowd use organized play and serve as an impact-absorbing surface for each.

Along the south edge is planted a grove of deciduous trees that border the plaza, provide screening, as well as comfortable shade.

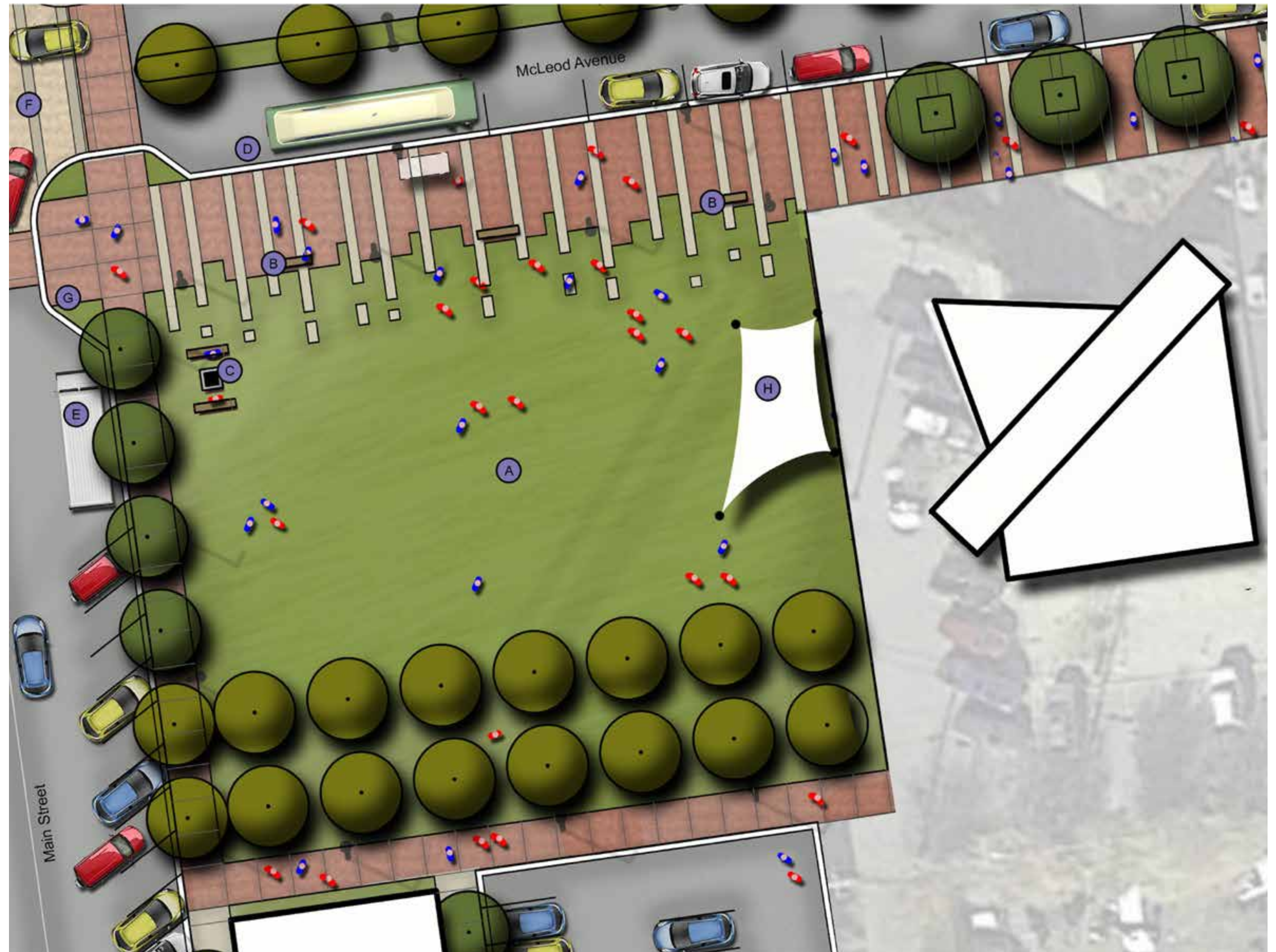
Anchoring the east side of the park is a tension fabric covered stage. The stage area is proposed to be slightly raised and outfitted with lighting, audio, and backdrop. The simplicity of the design is key to the flexibility of its function. Whereas, the existing park is busy and mostly unusable for events, this concept for Columbus Plaza is usable as an event venue, play area, and just about any passive or active activity in the city centre core.





## Legend

- (A) Columbus Plaza
- (B) Seating
- (C) Fire Pit
- (D) Bus Stop
- (E) Food Truck
- (F) Street Plaza
- (G) Bulb out
- (H) Covered Stage



# Columbus Plaza Master Plan - Option Two

Whereas, the first design option is envisioned for maximum flexibility the second design option incorporates some creative structured use. The design concept again centres around a flexible open area with the central feature as an oval concrete surface that is approximately a meter below the centre intersection of Main Street and McLeod Avenue. Radiating circular patterns of grass, decorative concrete, and crushed granite flow from around the edges of the pavement.

The central component is an oval concrete surface that can be flooded in the winter to provide an ice-skating surface. Corten steel arms provide for backdrop netting for safety yet are also attractive sculptural elements.

An ever-widening lawn path begins at the Main Street and McLeod Avenue intersection plaza and gradually circulate and slope downward to the elevation of the ice surface.

In a nod to multiple use, a sloped decorative pavement can be used for backdrop seating on the north and west side of the "rink area." This provides unstructured use by skateboarders as well as a backdrop for the tension fabric covered stage in the southeast corner of the plaza.

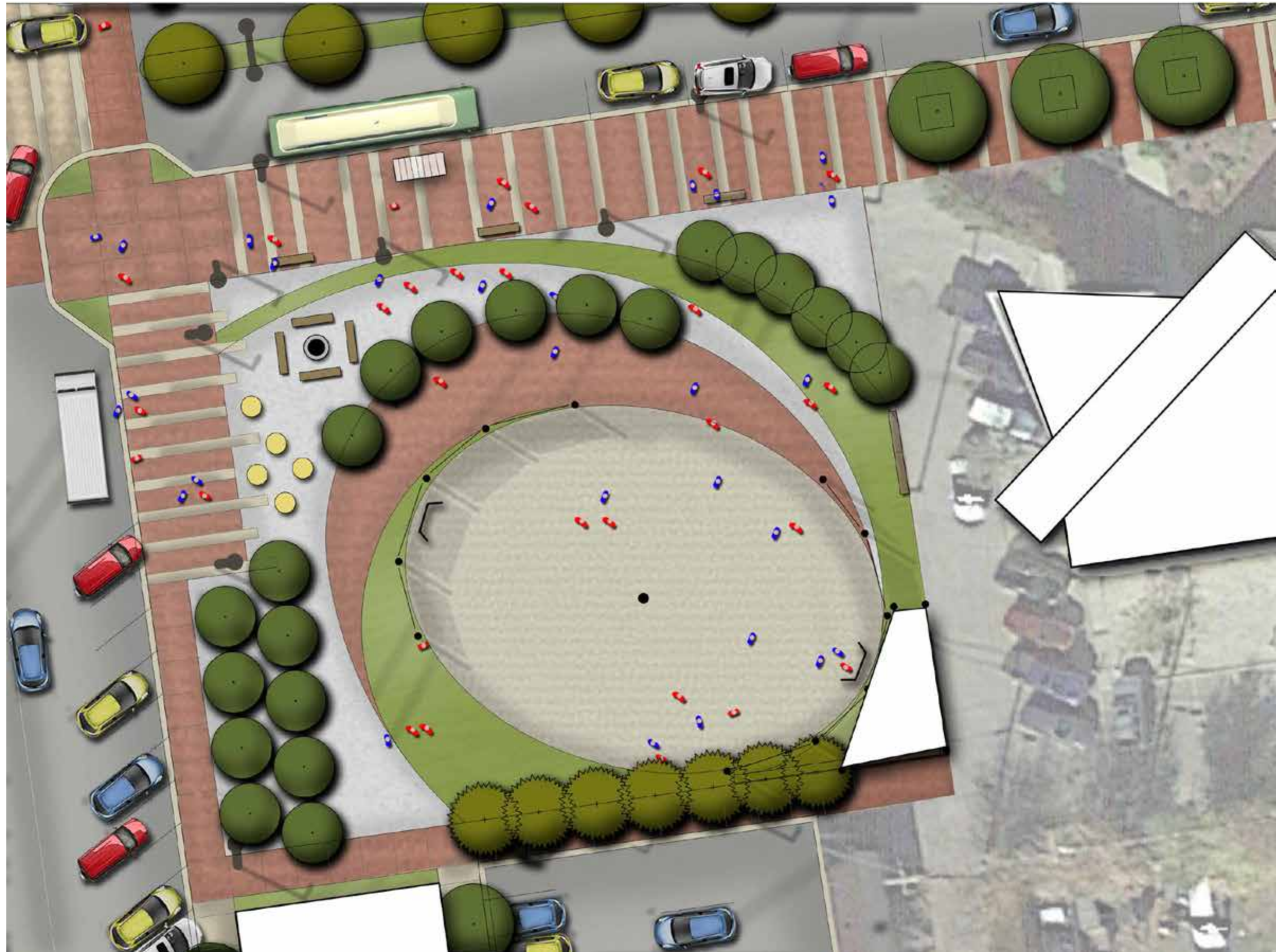
Similar programmatic features to design option #1 include limestone seating, "A Walk on McLeod" (ten-metre wide pedestrian walk), a fire pit, food truck, and associated movable tables.

While remaining a flexible open space design option #2 lands heavily to a centre active feature of the unorthodox shape of the oval skating rink.



## Legend

- (A) Plaza
- (B) Transit Stop
- (C) Food Truck
- (D) Lunch Tables
- (E) Fire Pit
- (F) Crushed Granite Surface
- (G) Sloped Decorative Concrete
- (H) Lawn
- (I) Covered Stage
- (J) Seasonal Skating Rink with Removable Hockey Netting
- (K) Concrete Surface
  - Skating - Winter
  - Skateboard - Summer
- (L) Bench
- (M) Seating Wall



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key planning strategies