

# Prefontaine Fountain

## Schematic Design Options for Rehabilitation

Prepared For:



**Seattle**  
Parks & Recreation

By:



PARTNERSHIP  
**berger**

# PREFONTAINE FOUNTAIN & SURROUNDING OPEN SPACE REHABILITATION

## PROJECT GOALS

Prefontaine Fountain's existing condition is overcome with a variety of issues of violent crime, visibility and safety, creating a space that no longer facilitates itself as a public resource but as a public burden. The goals below outline the variables the project team is working to resolve, guiding design strategies that honor the past while implementing solutions to present day problems.

### ADDRESS AGING INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

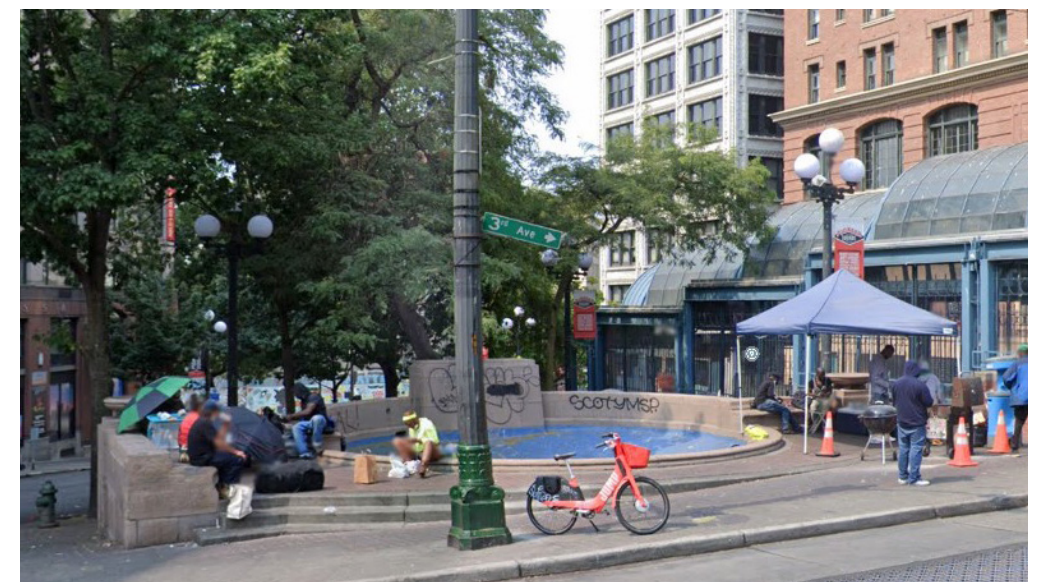
1. New plumbing services.

### ADDRESS PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

2. Wall heights in combination with street slopes create hiding spots and lack of visibility.
3. Fountain bowl feature encourages garbage accumulation.
4. Fountain in its current position is most susceptible for vandalism and vagrancy.

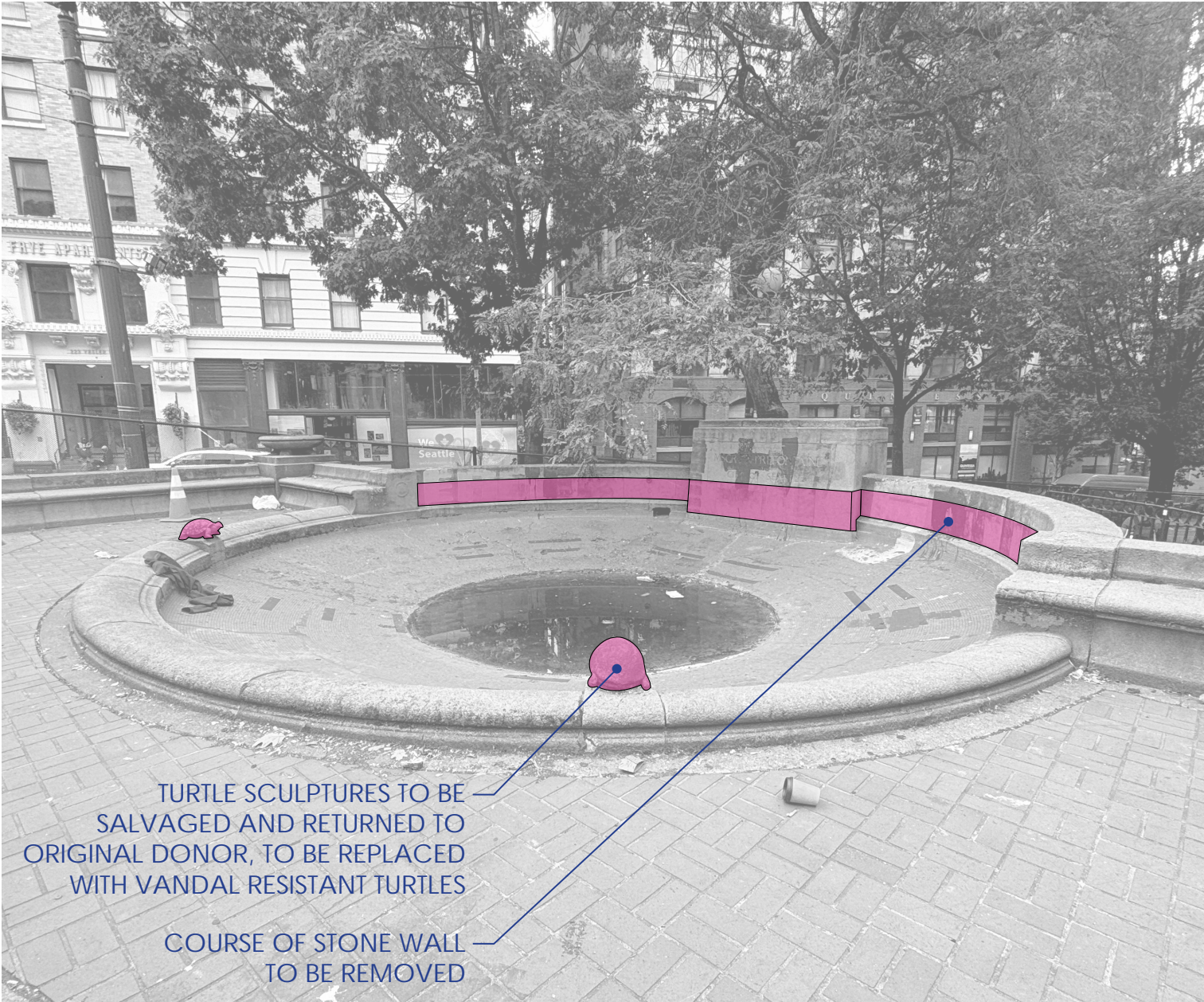
### CREATE A USER-FOCUSED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

5. Existing structure blocks access through the site, causing users to avoid the area.
6. Re-establish community investment in the space.
7. Original turtles are broken and are not suitable vandal-resistant elements.
8. Opportunity for new commemorative plaque.
9. Three trees internal to the Prefontaine Place property are in poor health condition and must be removed. Opportunity for one new tree(TBD). Street trees to remain.



PREFONTAINE FOUNTAIN & SURROUNDING OPEN SPACE REHABILITATION

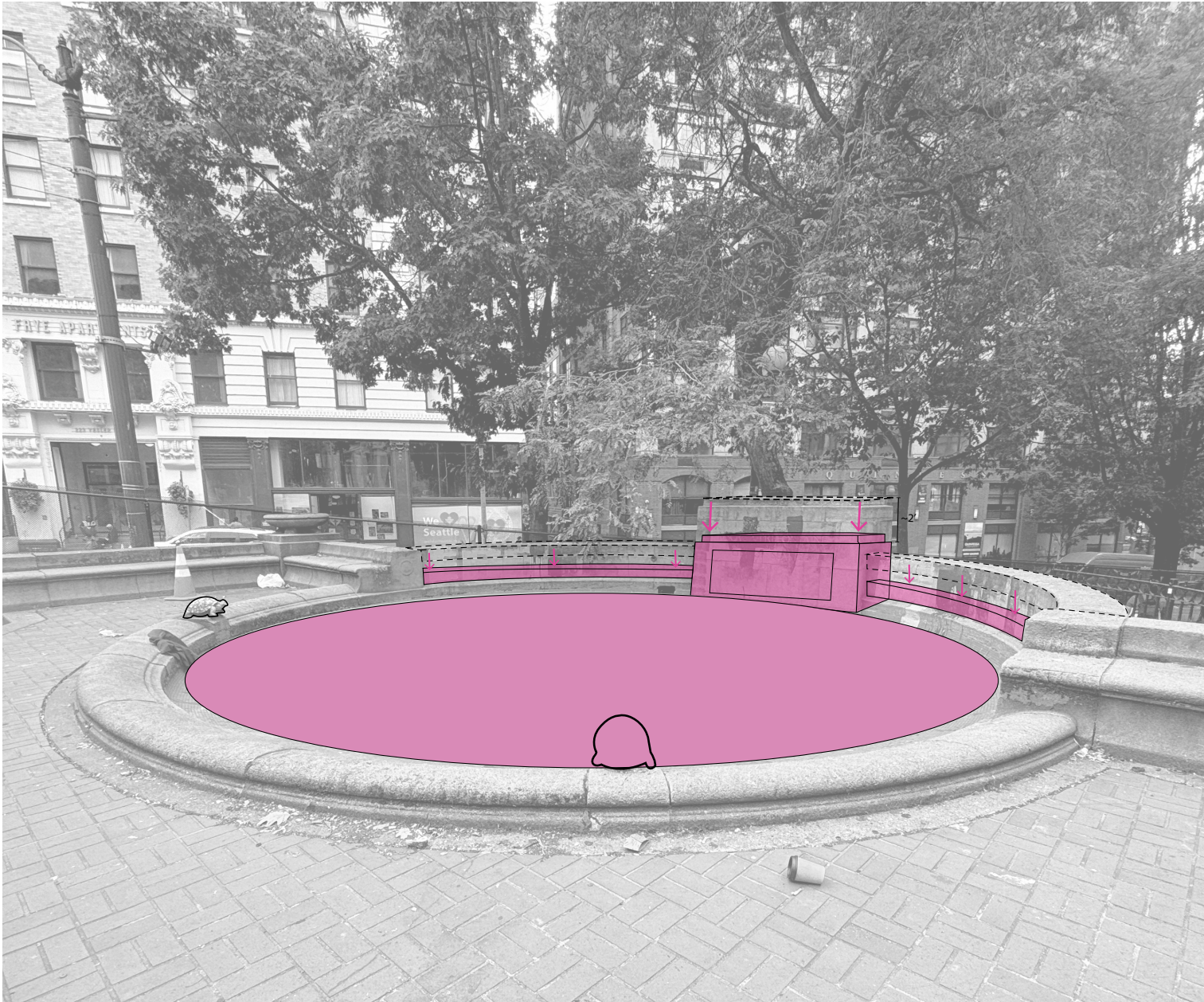
WALLS & STRUCTURE - REDUCING HEIGHT



TURTLE SCULPTURES TO BE  
SALVAGED AND RETURNED TO  
ORIGINAL DONOR, TO BE REPLACED  
WITH VANDAL RESISTANT TURTLES

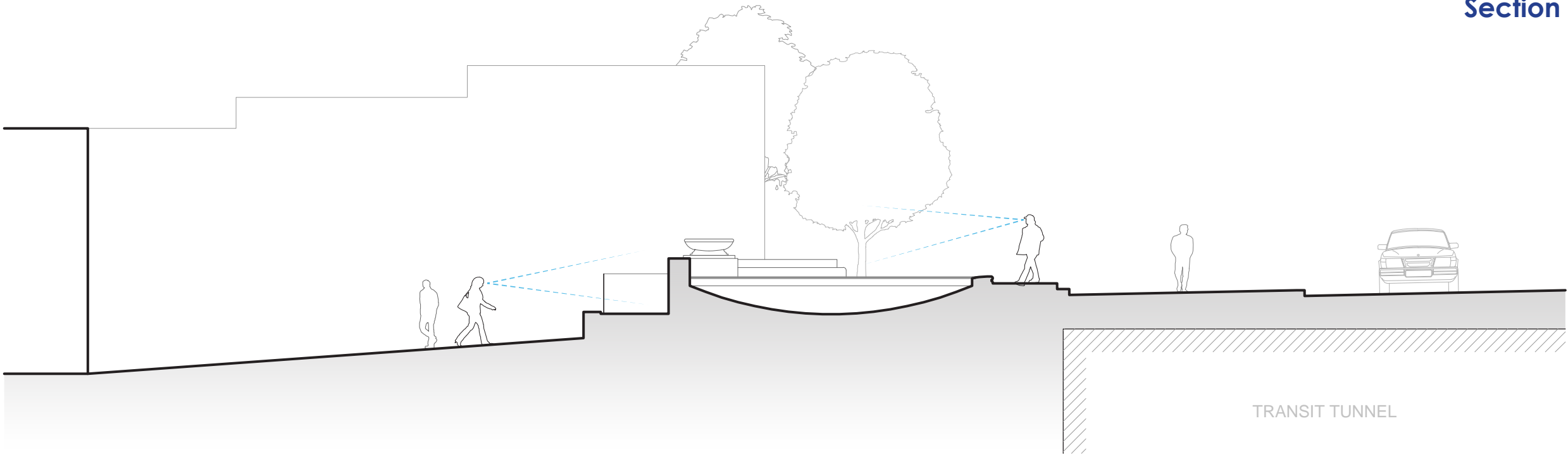
COURSE OF STONE WALL  
TO BE REMOVED

EXISTING WALL PORTIONS IDENTIFIED FOR REMOVAL

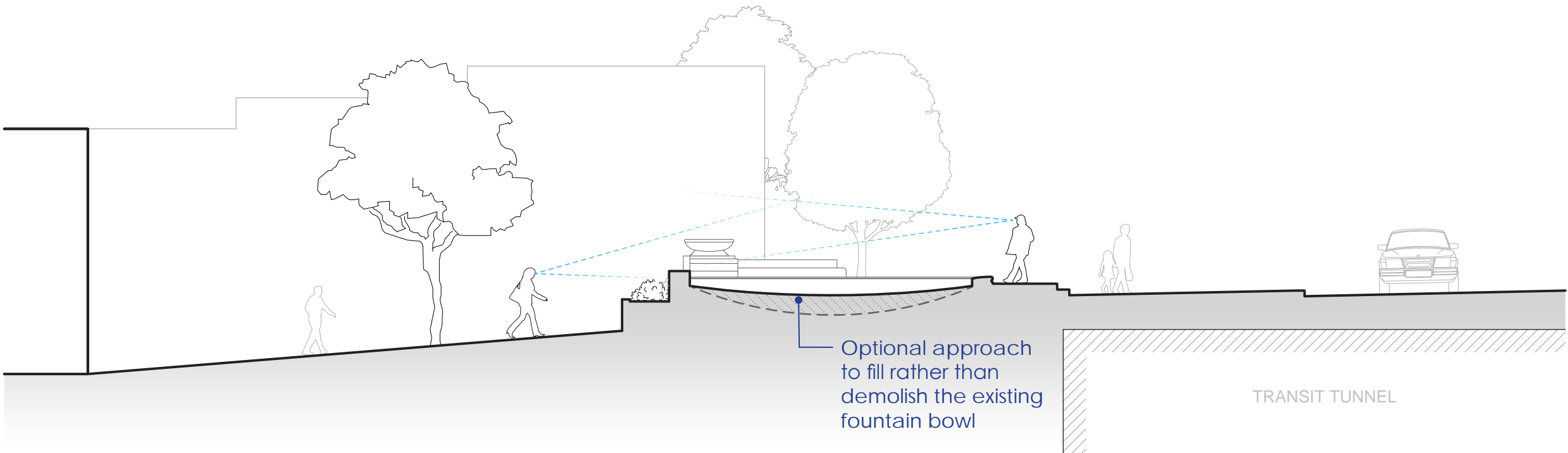


PROPOSED CONCEPT - STRATEGIC REDUCTION OF WALLS, LOWERING THE BACK  
WALL STONE CAP COURSE AND OVERALL MONUMENT HEIGHT

PREFERRED SCHEMATIC DESIGN  
SITE SECTION COMPARISON WITH VIEWSHEDS | Section Elevation 'A'

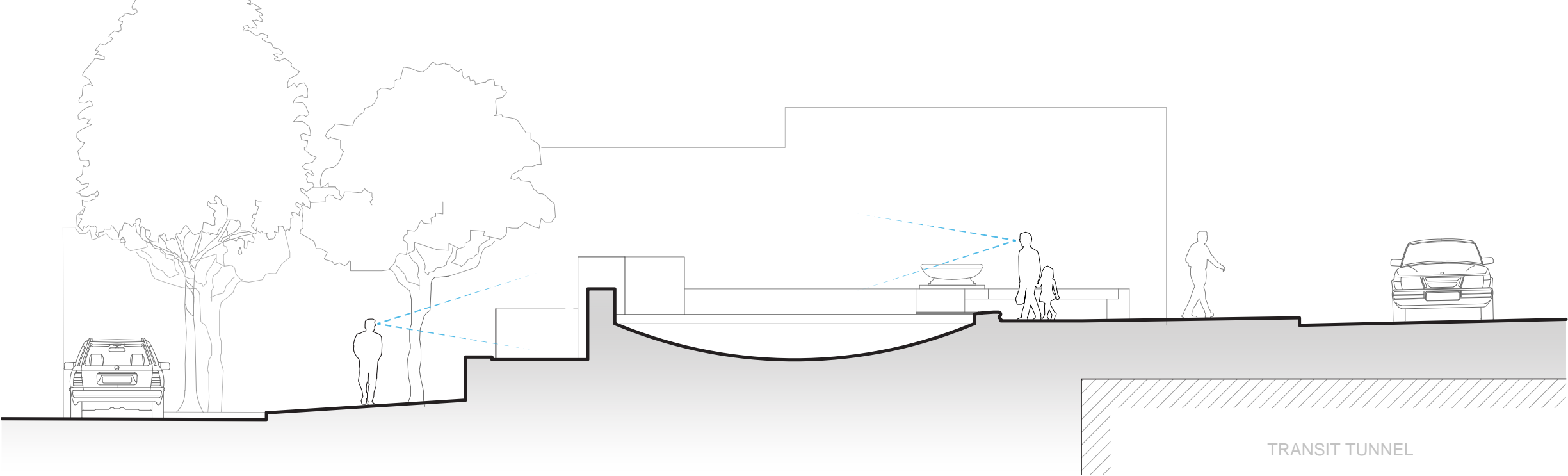


SECTION ELEVATION 'A' | EXISTING CONDITIONS

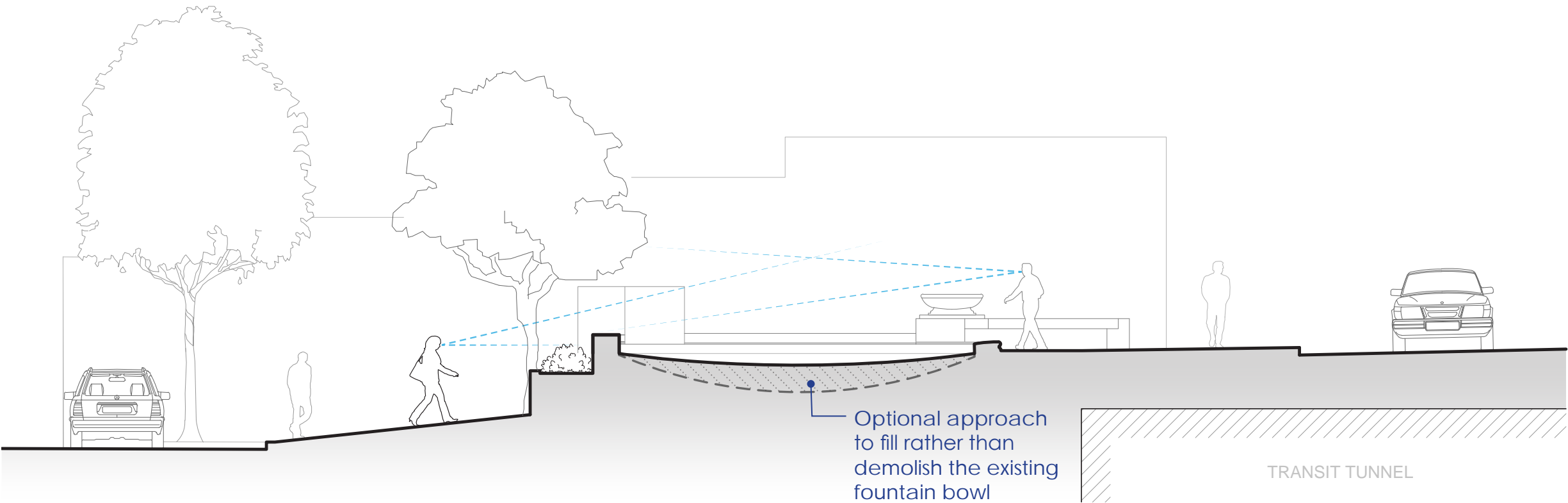


SECTION ELEVATION 'A' | PROPOSED CONDITIONS  
(SHOWN WITH SHALLOW BOWL/MISTER PROFILE)

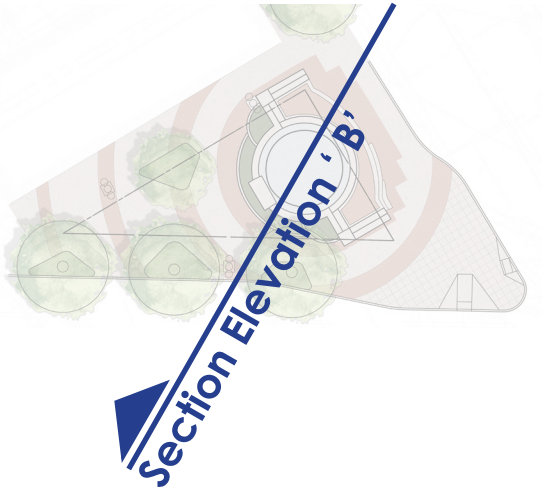
PREFERRED SCHEMATIC DESIGN  
SITE SECTION COMPARISON WITH VIEWSHEDS | Section Elevation 'B'



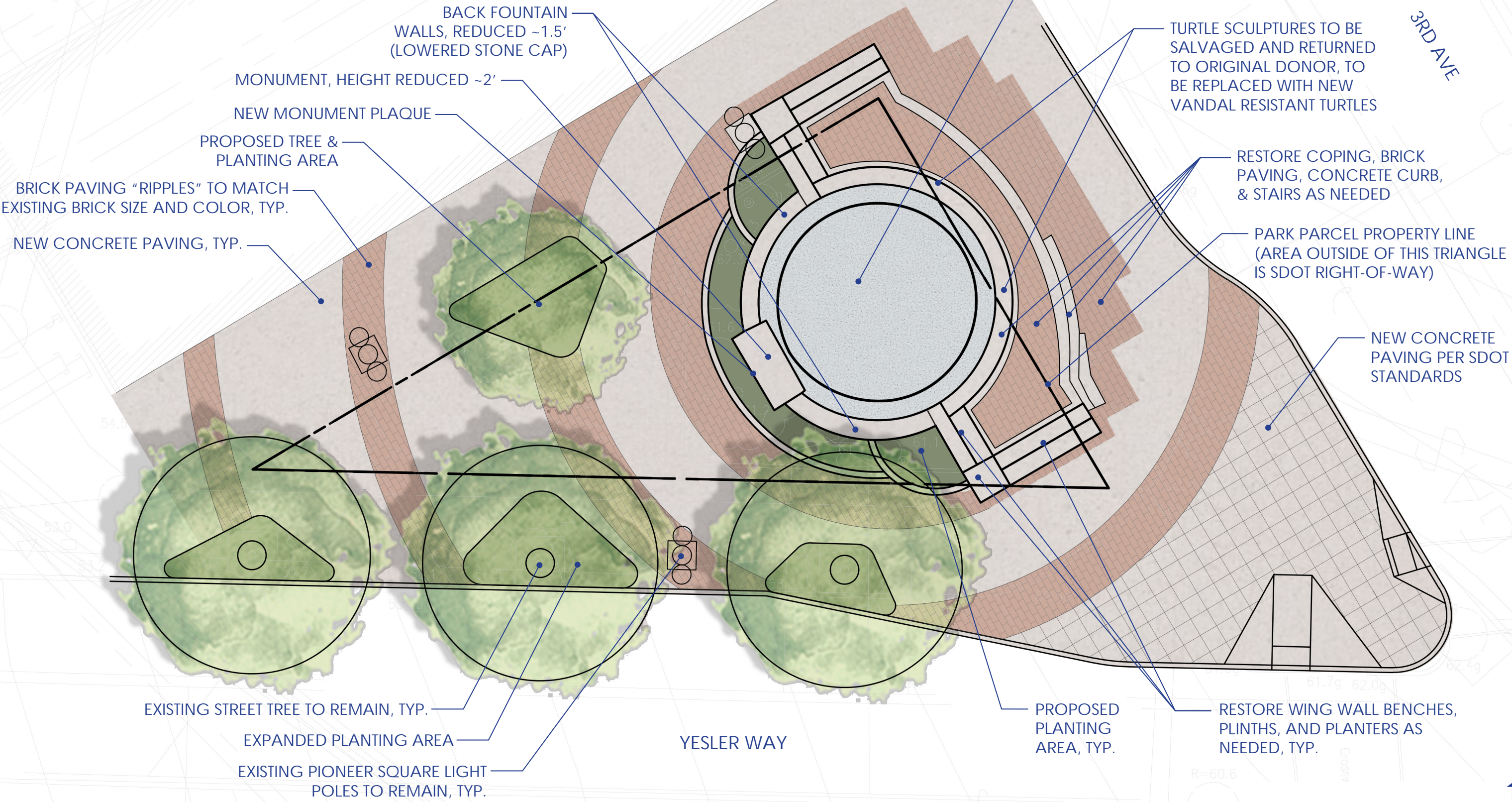
SECTION ELEVATION 'B' | EXISTING CONDITIONS



SECTION ELEVATION 'B' | PROPOSED CONDITIONS  
(SHOWN WITH SHALLOW BOWL/MISTER PROFILE)



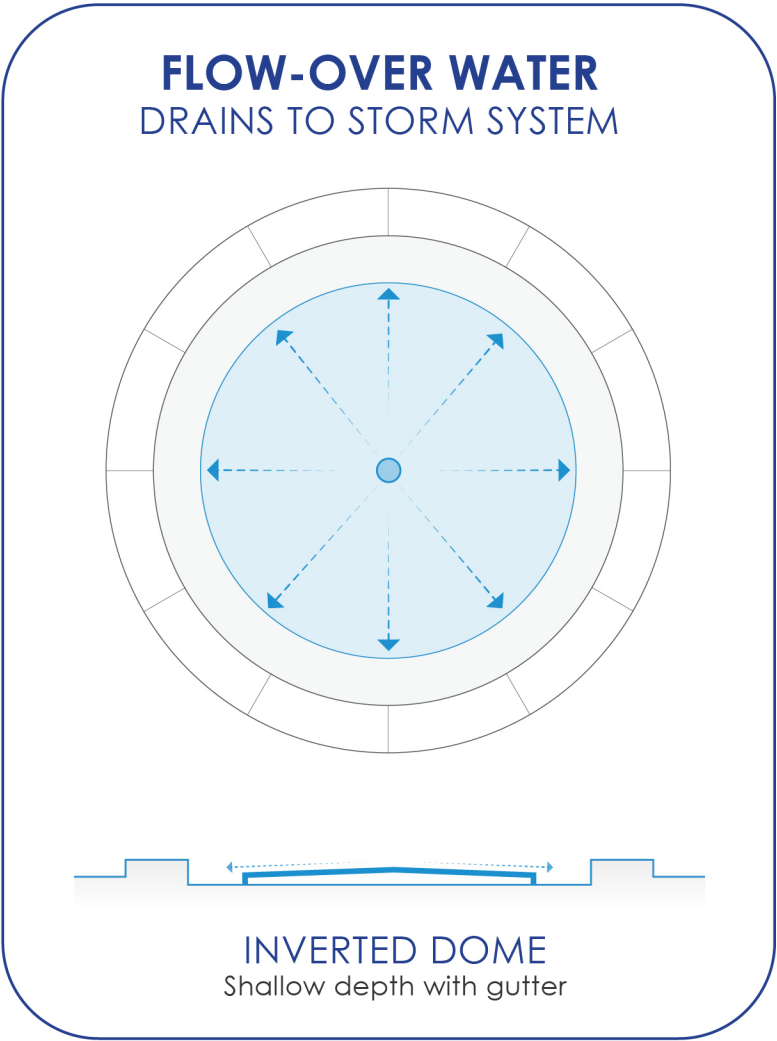
PREFERRED SCHEMATIC DESIGN  
SITE PLAN



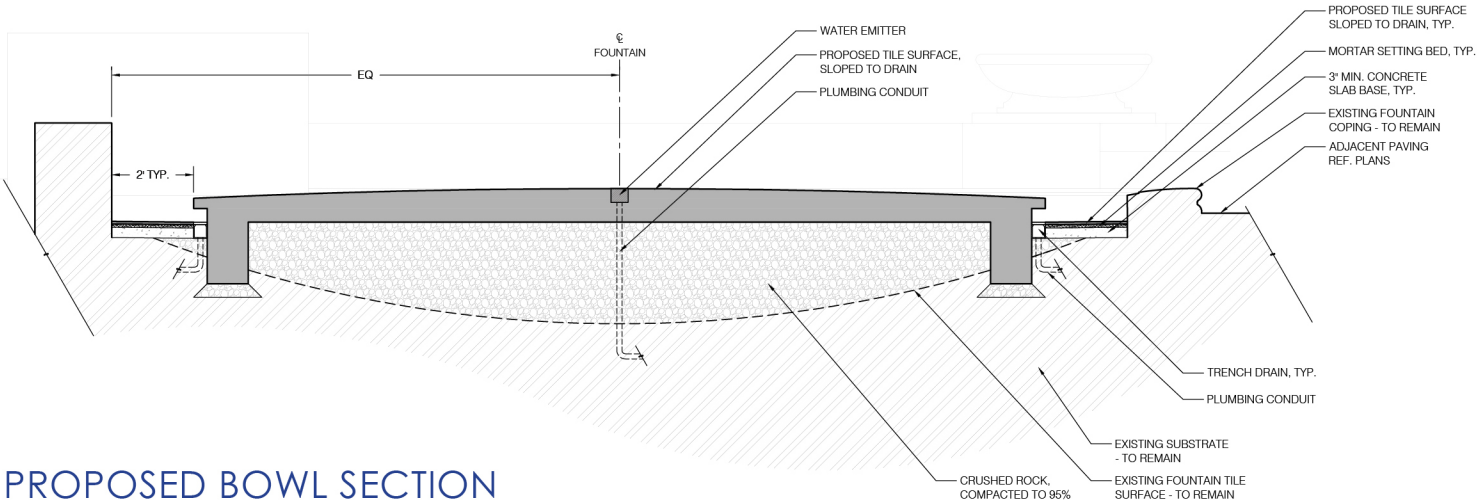
PREFONTAINE FOUNTAIN & SURROUNDING OPEN SPACE REHABILITATION

PERSPECTIVE - FLOW-OVER WATER

VIEW OF FOUNTAIN AREA ALONG 3RD AVE



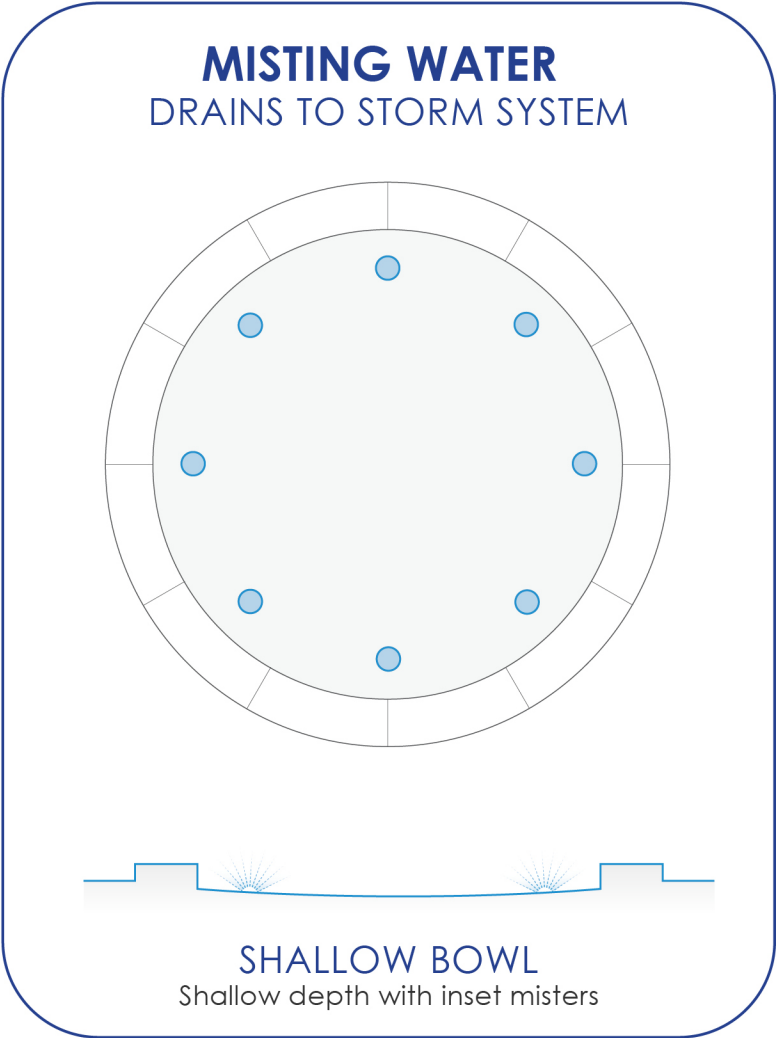
- INVERTED DOME WITH TILED GUTTER, ARTIST COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITY TO EMULATE A TURTLE SHELL PATTERN WITH TEXTURE
- LOWERED STONE CAP TO REDUCE BACK FOUNTAIN WALL HEIGHT
- REDUCED HEIGHT MONUMENT
- COPING TO REMAIN
- STONE WING WALL SEATING TO REMAIN



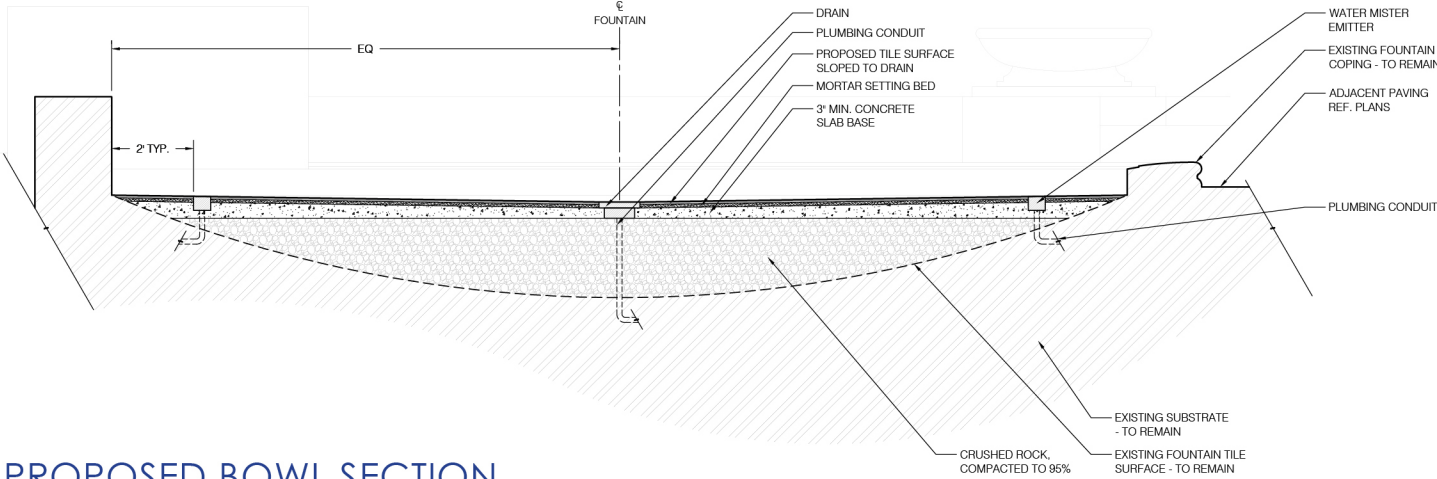
PREFONTAINE FOUNTAIN & SURROUNDING OPEN SPACE REHABILITATION

PERSPECTIVE - MISTING WATER

VIEW OF FOUNTAIN AREA ALONG 3RD AVE



- SHALLOW, TILED BOWL
- LOWERED STONE CAP TO REDUCE BACK FOUNTAIN WALL HEIGHT
- REDUCED HEIGHT MONUMENT
- COPING TO REMAIN
- STONE WING WALL SEATING TO REMAIN

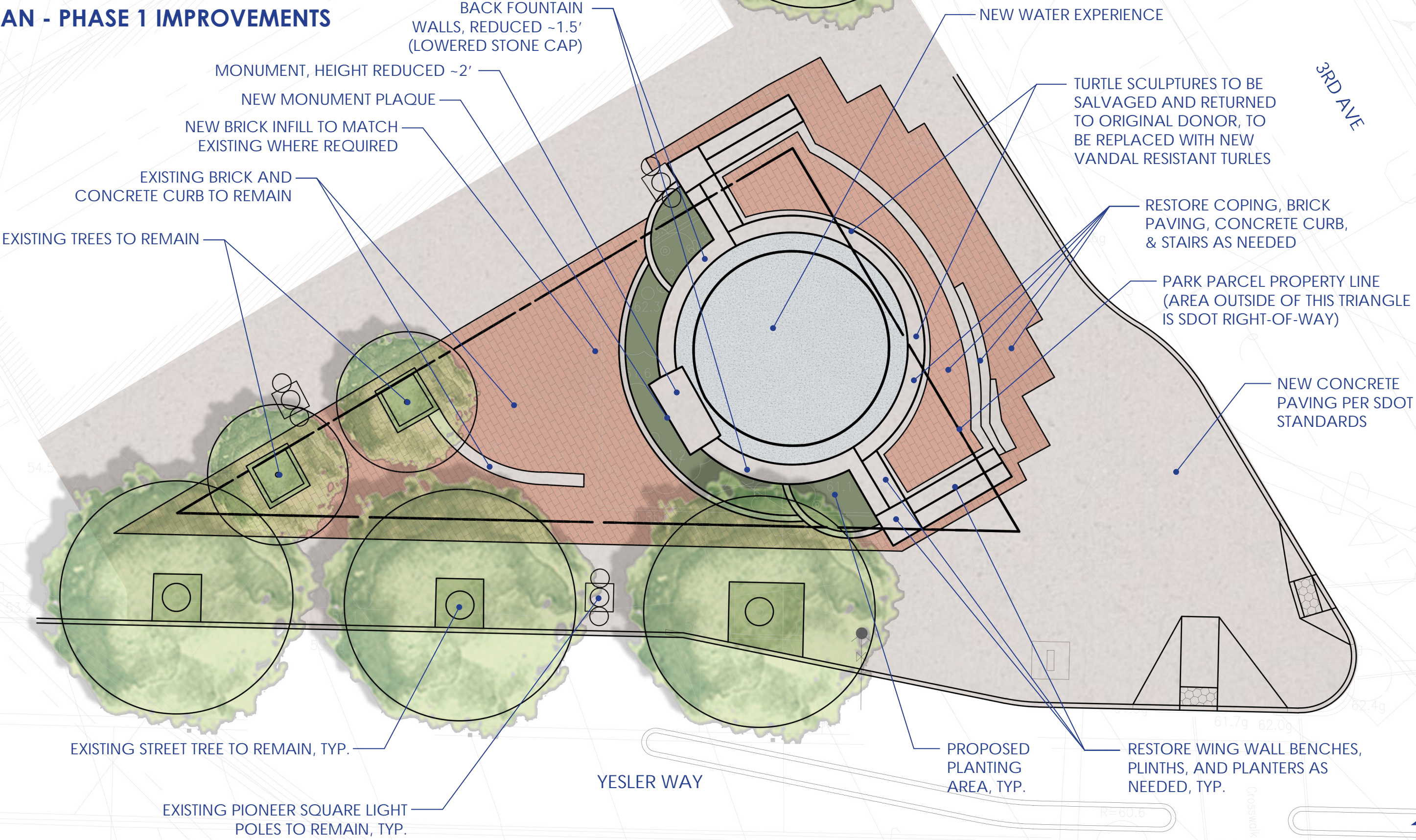


PROPOSED BOWL SECTION

PREFONTAINE FOUNTAIN & SURROUNDING OPEN SPACE REHABILITATION  
PERSPECTIVE - VIEW OF FOUNTAIN AREA BETWEEN YESLER WAY AND PIONEER SQUARE STATION HEADHOUSE



PREFERRED SCHEMATIC DESIGN  
SITE PLAN - PHASE 1 IMPROVEMENTS



# APPENDIX: LETTERS OF SUPPORT EXHIBITS

# ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

---

February 25, 2025

Morteza Behrooz  
OOC CPC Supervisor  
Seattle Parks and Recreation  
100 Dexter Ave N  
Seattle, WA 98109

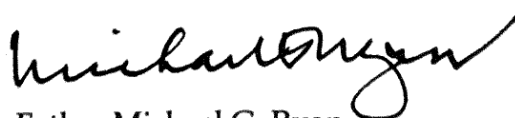
Dear Mr. Behrooz,

On behalf of the Catholic Church in Western Washington, I want to write to express our unreserved support for the efforts of the City of Seattle to re-envision and rehabilitate the Prefontaine Fountain in downtown Seattle. The design which you shared with our team at the Archdiocesan Chancery and Cathedral respects the wishes of Father Prefontaine in providing a fountain for the people of Seattle, and promises to be a beautiful, inviting, and safe place for residents and visitors to enjoy. Our sincere hope is that the improvements to the Prefontaine Fountain can proceed as planned, and that Father Prefontaine's legacy to the people of Seattle can thus be renewed for a new generation.

We also hope that it will be possible to place a plaque letting people know a little about Father Prefontaine, who was an extraordinary figure in Seattle's early history. Father Prefontaine was the first parish priest in Seattle. He established Our Lady of Good Help Church at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Washington in 1869, and served as pastor there for the next 35 years. Even though the first Catholic bishop of Washington State famously told him that "Seattle is a lost cause," Prefontaine believed in the future of the city, and was convinced it would become the center of commerce and industry in the state. In 1896, Father Prefontaine was the first to recommend to the newly-appointed Bishop Edward O'Dea to move the seat of the diocese from Vancouver to Seattle, which ultimately led to the building of St. James Cathedral. Father Prefontaine had friends from many walks of life, among them Kikisoblu or "Princess Angeline," the daughter of Chief Seattle, whose funeral services he led. A suggested text for the plaque is attached.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is further input or information we can provide.

Sincerely yours,



Father Michael G. Ryan  
Pastor, St. James Cathedral

cc: Edward Foster, Seth Dalby, Archdiocese of Seattle

*Suggested text for the plaque:*

**Msgr. Francis Xavier Prefontaine (1838-1909) was the first resident Catholic priest in the city of Seattle. A firm believer in the future of Seattle, he built the city's first Catholic church, Our Lady of Good Help not far from this spot at 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and Washington St. He ministered to the spiritual needs of many of Seattle's pioneers, including Kikisoblu (Princess Angeline), daughter of Chief Seattle. In his will, Father Prefontaine left funds for the creation of a fountain for all the people of Seattle to enjoy.**

## Behrooz, Morteza

---

**From:** mary dunnam <marydunnam@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 7, 2025 4:45 PM  
**To:** Behrooz, Morteza; Sheffer, Andy; Schwindeller, Mike PLA; Campbell, Colin  
**Cc:** Winnie Stratton; Barbara Wright  
**Subject:** Support for the Renovation of the Prefontaine Place Fountain  
**Attachments:** 2025-02-04\_Prefontaine Fountain\_PREFERRED Concept.pdf

---

**CAUTION: External Email**

---

To Whom It May Concern,

*“This letter is at the request of Seattle Parks and Recreation with regards to the proposed designs for Prefontaine Place Fountain. The Committee of 33 is supportive of the proposed schematic design (attached below), however we ask that the precast decorative turtles, that have been vandalized, be returned to the Committee of 33”.*

*Thank you,  
Mary Dunnam  
President of the Committee of 33*