

TURN TO THE RIVER

CITY PLAZA LANDSCAPE DESIGN CONCEPT

May 25, 2016





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Turn to the River is a multi-year project of Art Spaces - Wabash Valley Outdoor Sculpture Collection, Inc. to connect downtown Terre Haute with the Wabash River through public art and design.

The four-square block government campus which contains Terre Haute City Hall, Vigo County Courthouse, and the Vigo County Security Center, is the primary connecting area between the downtown and the river.

This concept document focuses primarily on the part of that property that lies directly between the City Hall and the Courthouse. Public art, potentially including a water feature, space for modest-sized public events, shaded seating, coordinated and attractive wayfinding and amenities that integrate aspects of the city and county cultural history will animate the area, and offer an accessible and inclusive governmental plaza to serve the city and county. Designs will interact seamlessly with the walking promenade, parking lot and existing historical features.

A designed public walking promenade will follow the original axis of both Wabash Avenue and Historic National Road U.S. 40, directing people to the river, and include trees, landscaping and other features. Designs will be tailored to give pedestrians a sense that the river is nearby, and that the walkway will lead them there.

The City has re-designed the parking lot to include porous surfaces to capture storm water flow, trees to provide shade, better organized signage and attractive landscape elements. Clear indicators at the locations where the pedestrian way intersects with the parking lot will encourage safe passage through the lot.

To soften the harsh look of the security center fencing, landscaping will brighten the environment and offer new points of visual interest. If the Security Center is relocated, and the building repurposed, the landscaping opportunities in that area will increase and will be revisited in the design.

Art Spaces anticipates beginning implementation of Turn to the River in 2017.

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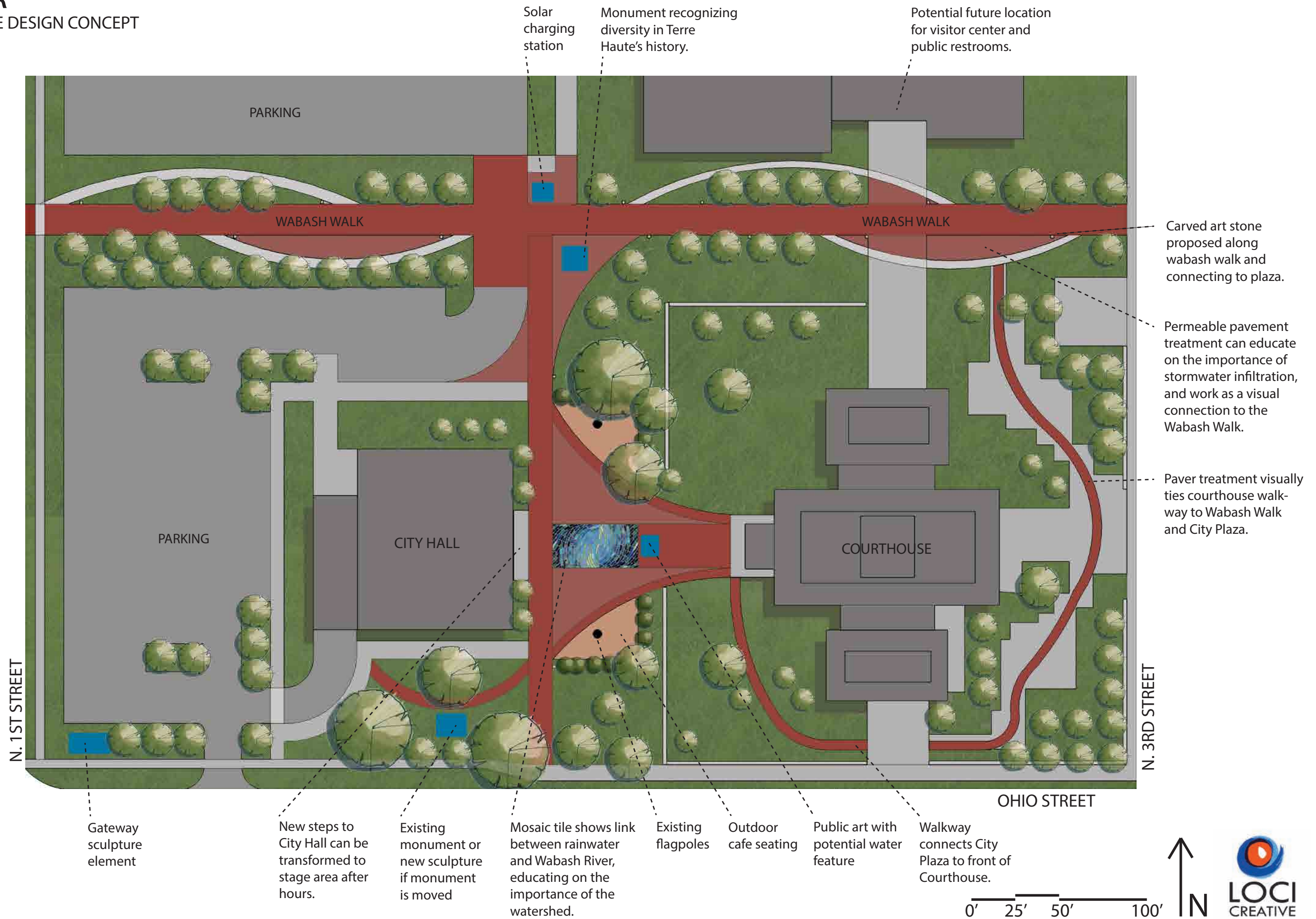
The proposed design for the City Plaza, located between Terre Haute City Hall and the Vigo County Courthouse, functions as a visual connection between the historic buildings. The design also works to connect visitors along the proposed "Wabash Walk" to the plaza.

The plaza design simplifies the flow of pedestrian traffic, allowing for pedestrians to walk in and around the plaza as they go from one building to another, from the parking areas to the buildings, or from the Wabash Walk to the plaza.

The continuation of materials proposed along the Wabash Walk, such as pavement treatment and artistic stone elements, are carried through to the remainder of the site in order to provide visual continuity throughout and to encourage pedestrians to explore the area.

A centralized sculpture is proposed between the Courthouse and City Hall to provide a focal point. The sculpture can be constructed to provide a water feature, but also provide visual interest. A centralized mosaic educates on the Wabash watershed.

SITE PLAN



Gateway sculpture element

New steps to City Hall can be transformed to stage area after hours.

Existing monument or new sculpture if monument is moved

Mosaic tile shows link between rainwater and Wabash River, educating on the importance of the watershed.

Existing flagpoles

Outdoor cafe seating

Public art with potential water feature

Walkway connects City Plaza to front of Courthouse.

AFTER



BEFORE



TURN TO THE RIVER

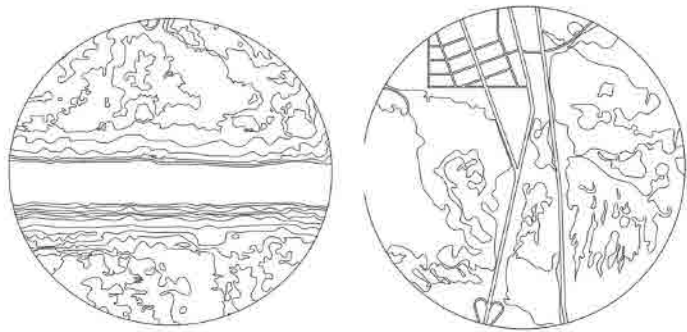
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DESIGN PALETTE

SITE AMENITIES

Bike rack design is another opportunity to tie site elements to the river theme through a curvilinear form. Carved stone can be incorporated along the Riverwalk with references to the river theme. A solar charging station will allow pedestrians to charge devices along the Riverwalk.



HARDSCAPE MATERIALS

Hardscaping materials will be used to tie in the architecture and monument features with the more modern sculptures and site amenities. Traditional materials such as limestone can be used for seat walls. Unique finishes on concrete can add a modern touch. Traditional brick can also multi-task as permeable pavers.



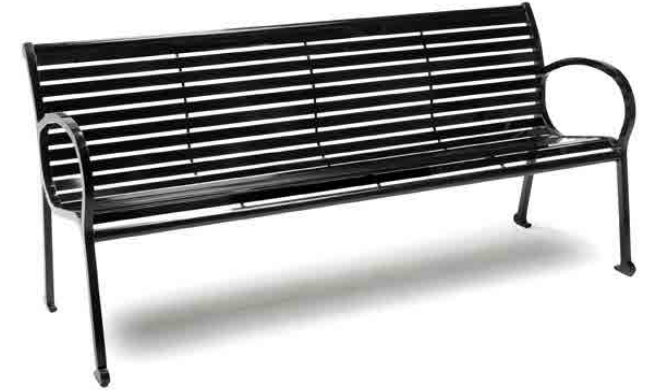
LIGHTING

The traditional street lamps in the downtown area can continue to be used throughout the site to compliment the existing design palette; however, more modern lighting elements should also be incorporated to mark the Wabash Walk and distinguish it from other spaces.



SEATING

Some traditional seating elements can be used on the peripheries of the site to tie in with the more traditional architecture and amenities, such as the lighting. Complementary modern seating that invokes the river or water motifs will distinguish the Wabash Walk and City Plaza as unique spaces. Cafe style seating that is fixed to the ground offers casual outdoor meeting space while remaining secure.



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WAYFINDING

A comprehensive wayfinding plan should be designed to clearly identify all sites and sculptures along the Wabash Walk. The signage can become sculptural elements themselves, and incorporate historical or environmental information.



BIOSWALES

Green space along the Wabash Walk and parking lot areas can also function to store and filter stormwater runoff while adding natural vegetation.



MULTI-FUNCTIONAL PARKING LOT

The parking lot area can serve many functions in addition to parking cars. The addition of an awning would add shade for festivals and farmers' markets. Solar panels above the awnings would add an additional energy source and could be showcased as a demonstration piece.

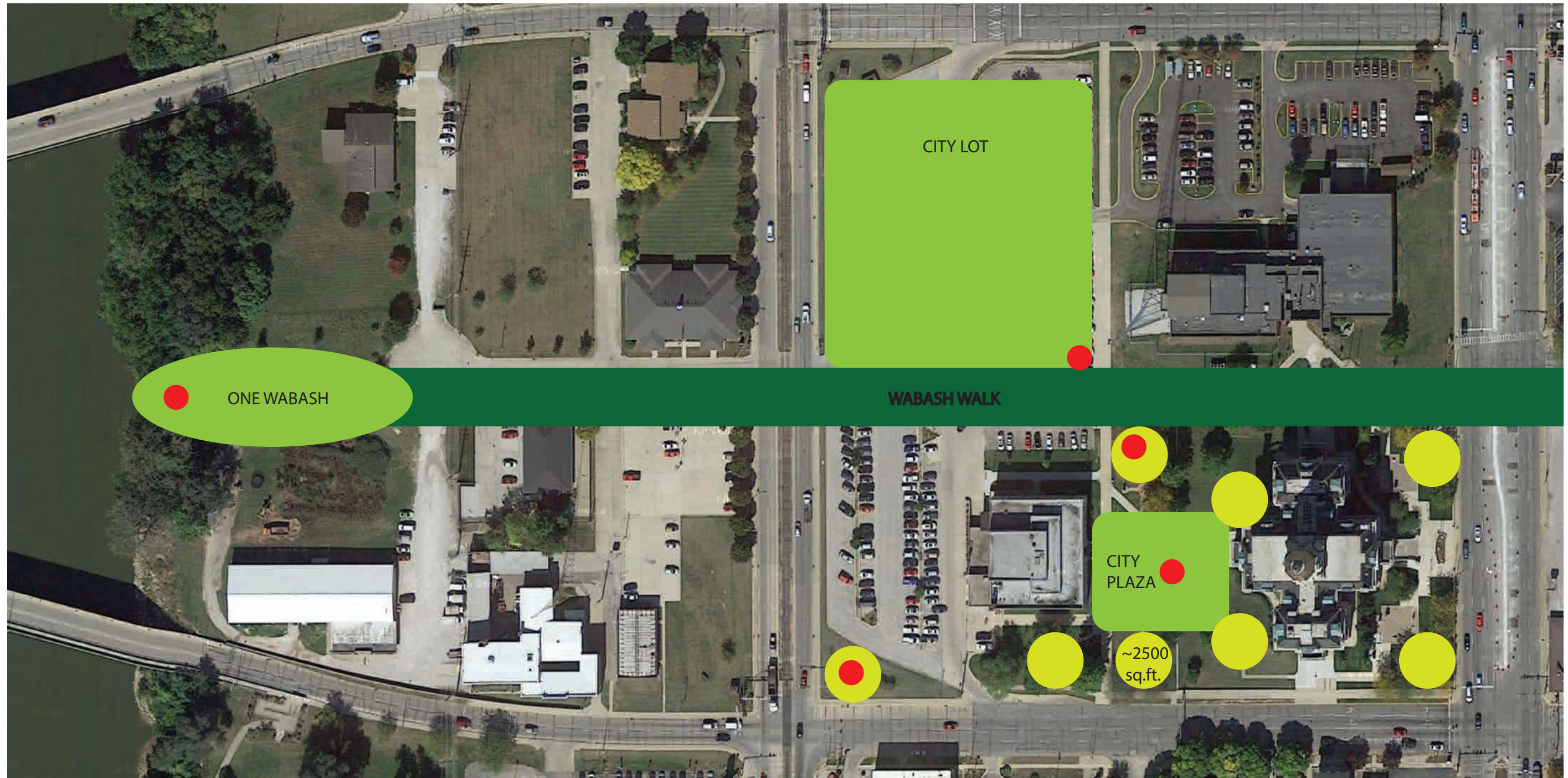


DESIGN PALETTE

CIGARETTE WASTE RECEPTACLES

Stations for disposal of cigarette butts are relatively inexpensive and can be designed to match the site amenities. Signage that educates on the connection between cigarette butts and river health could help curb littering. Recycling stations for cigarette waste is also an option some cities are exploring.





ONE WABASH
 0.5 acres (~22,000 sf)
 typical size: 100-500 people

Wabash River overlook
 festivals

CITY LOT
 1.75 acres (~76,000 sf)
 typical size: 500-2000 people

parking
 farmers' markets
 art festivals
 movie nights
 food trucks

CITY PLAZA
 0.4 acres (~17,500 sf)
 typical size: 50-300 people

small stage performances
 community gathering space
 intimate tent/tabling events
 public demonstrations

INTIMATE GATHERINGS
 ~2500 sf
 typical size: 1-50 people

picnics
 meetings
 small gatherings
 monuments
 sculptures

ART ELEMENTS

sculptures
 interactive art
 installations