

# Ground Reconsidered

August 30, 2023

Alex Smith  
The Philadelphia Art Commission  
One Parkway, 1515 Arch Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Alex Smith,

We are writing to request time on the Art Commission agenda for Wednesday, September 13, for Concept Approval for improvements to the courtyard at Wynnefield Library, 5325 Overbrook Avenue. These improvements are a part of the City of Philadelphia's Rebuild initiative.

Wynnefield Library is a Free Library of Philadelphia site located in the Wynnefield neighborhood of northwest Philadelphia at the intersection of 54<sup>th</sup> Street and Overbrook Avenue. The scope of this project is limited to upgrades to the courtyard located between the library and the adjacent John C. Anderson Cultural Center.

The current construction budget is approximately \$286,000. Proposed upgrades include new seating areas, partial wall replacement, the addition of emergency egress gates, new landscaping, new hardscaping, and renovations to make the courtyard entrance ADA accessible.

Thank you for your attention. Please let me know if you need any additional information.  
Sincerely,



Julie A. Bush, ASLA

Cc: Kirby Jackson, Rebuild  
Lindsay Stanislaw, GR





# WYNNEFIELD LIBRARY

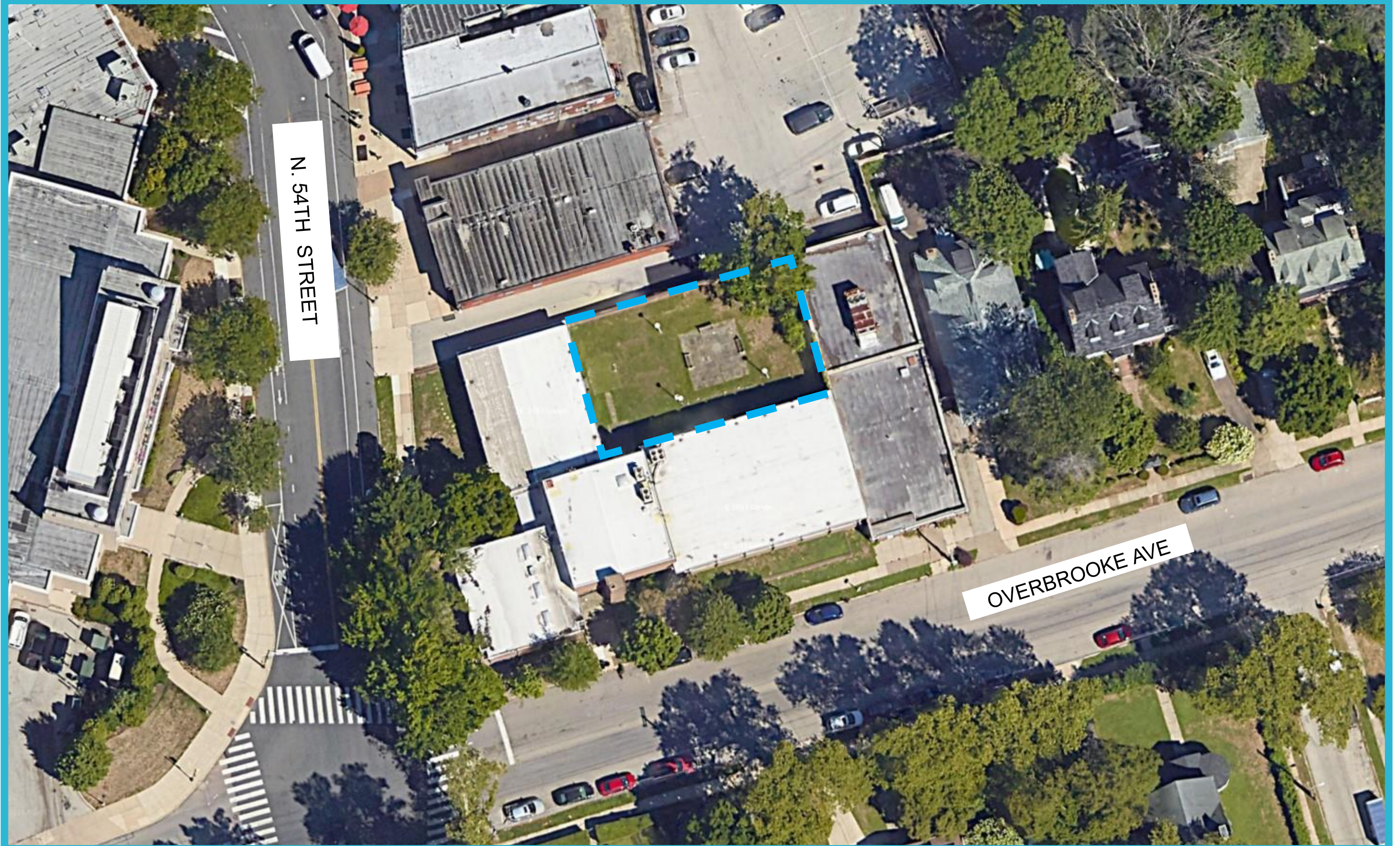


**Rebuild**  
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WYNNEFIELD LIBRARY

Ground **Reconsidered**





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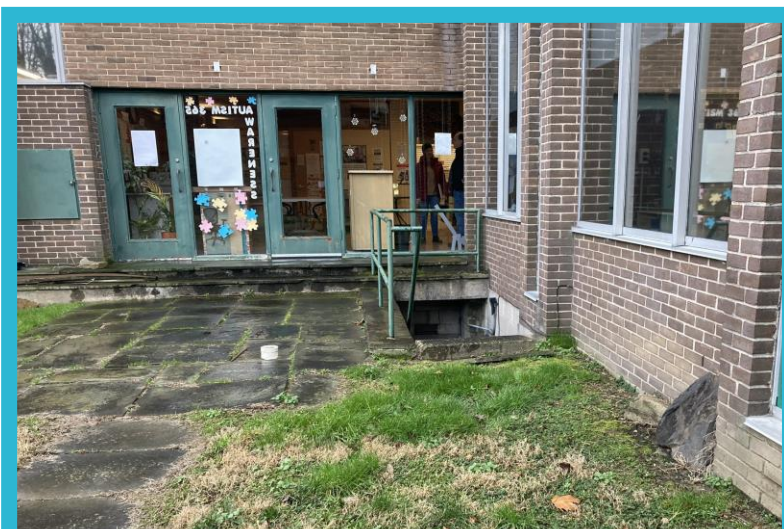
WYNNEFIELD LIBRARY — Existing Conditions

Ground Reconsidered

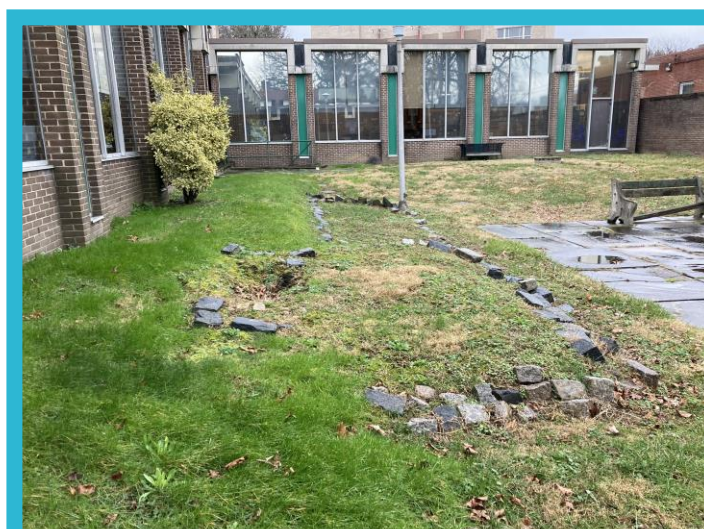




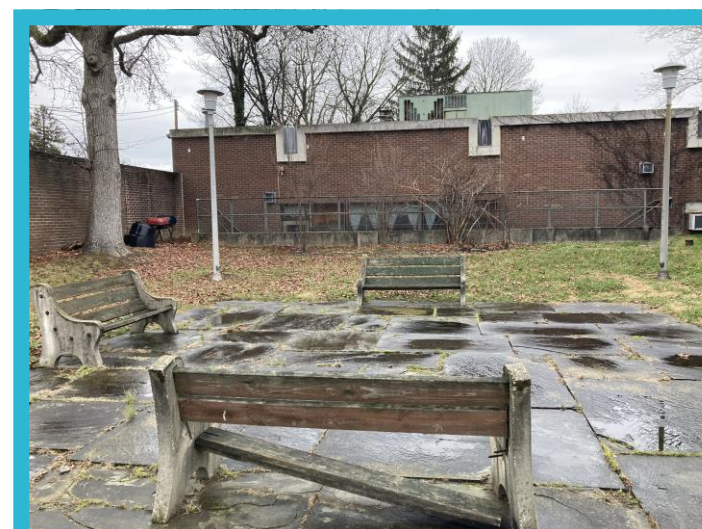
Looking south toward Children's Wing from Adult Wing



Main Library Doors



Smooth grade and reuse cobbles as curbing



Looking toward Cultural Center;  
Reuse flagstone pavers



Courtyard Wall – to be removed  
between existing expansion joints





Community Meeting 6/1/2023  
Presentation of Concept Options and Community Survey

## Courtyard Improvements

How do you want the courtyard to **look and feel**? What kinds of **plants, furniture, or other elements** would you want to have in the space?

*Some inspiration:*



Shed for storage



Comfortable benches,  
seating, durable in the  
weather

ADA-height/accessible

Shade

Library gardening club, wants space for gardening and to continue composting

Proper electricity, lighting for events. Outlets in strategic spots.

Water feature  
can be  
meditative.  
Maybe somet  
kids can build

Tall, flowering plants outside of JCA's window, improve view from the center

Seating for families and individuals – groups or single

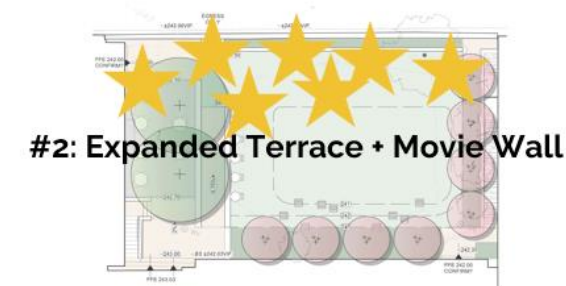
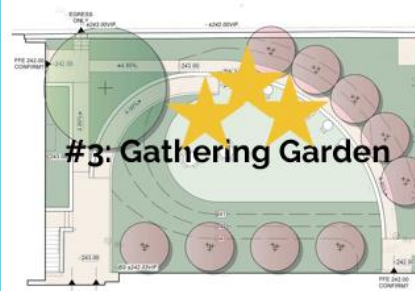
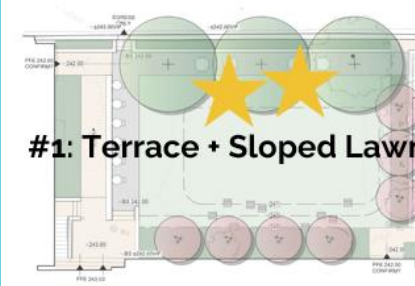
Perennials –  
hydrangeas, azaleas  
(low-maintenance)

Native flowering plants, support pollinators

Bees (at other libraries)

Auto-watering  
system for pla

**Which of the courtyard designs would you like to see explored further?**



## Courtyard Improvements

**In the future**, how would you like to **use** the courtyard?

Like the cement area because it's versatile – can put many chairs in the space, tables from inside. Have it as a safe, cemented area where it currently is.

## Environmental space, not just concrete

Areas to rest, comfortable seating (not a stone bench), take in nature

Amphitheater that could be used for a variety of things. Solar lighting, lighting for evening programming.

Yoga classes

Shade

Knitting group to sit outside and knit

Community partners (Franklin Institute, Zoo, Girls Scouts) – have electricity out there

Gardening, growing food and plants. Portable beds that could be rolled out of the way during events. Teach younger children how to grow food.

Space to be rented out, can be income for JCA and Library

Show movies  
outdoors

Working with community partners, programming, Philly Goat Project (goat storytime, goat voga)

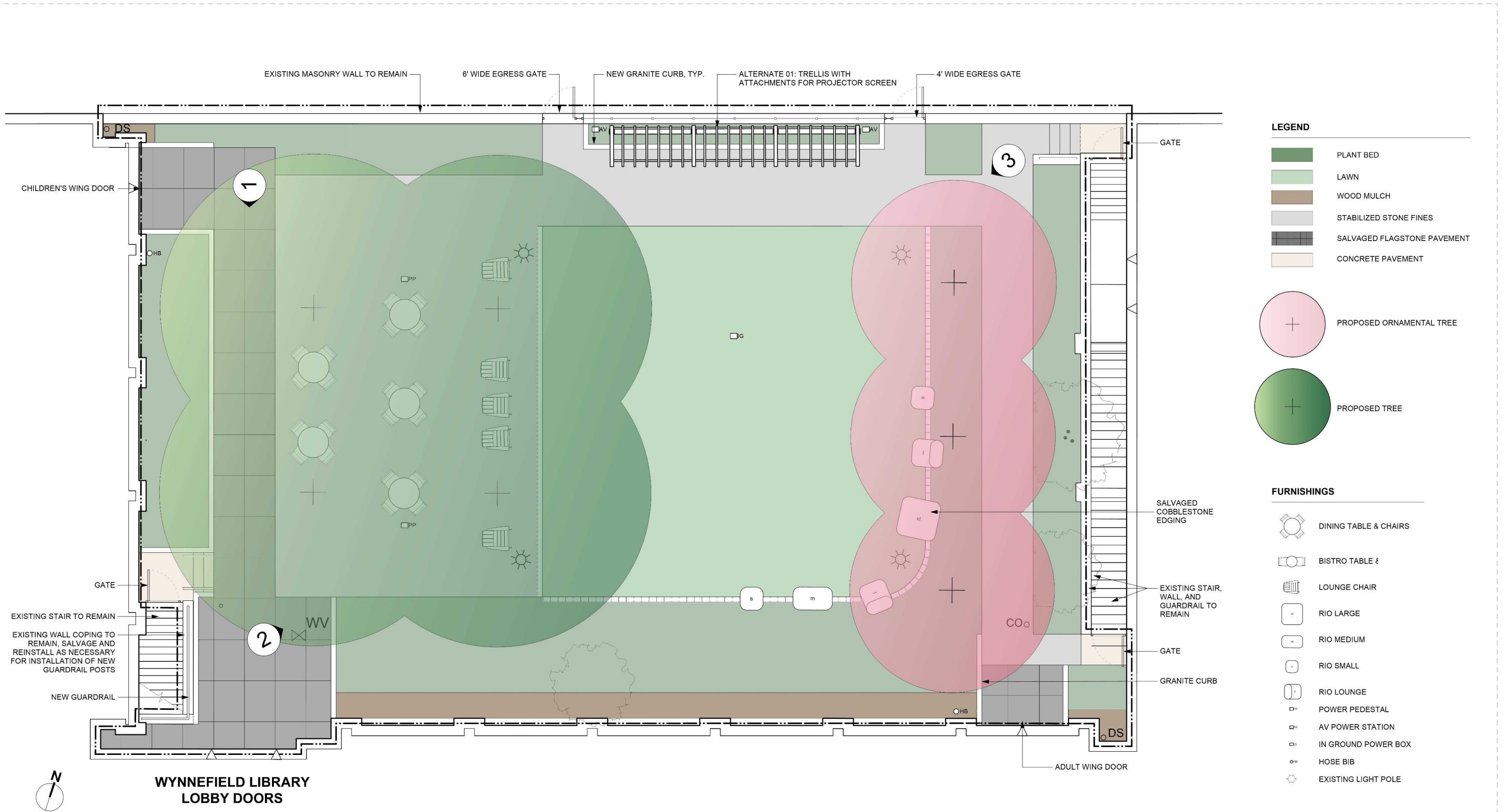
Community resource fairs, tabling with food, water ice, pretzels

Continue storytimes, have them on a larger level. After school program, more activities outside. Science programs that could go outside.









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WYNNEFIELD LIBRARY - Proposed Site Plan

**Ground Reconsidered**





LANDSCAPE FORMS:  
PARC CENTER, 36" DIA TABLE &  
CHAIR WITH ARMS



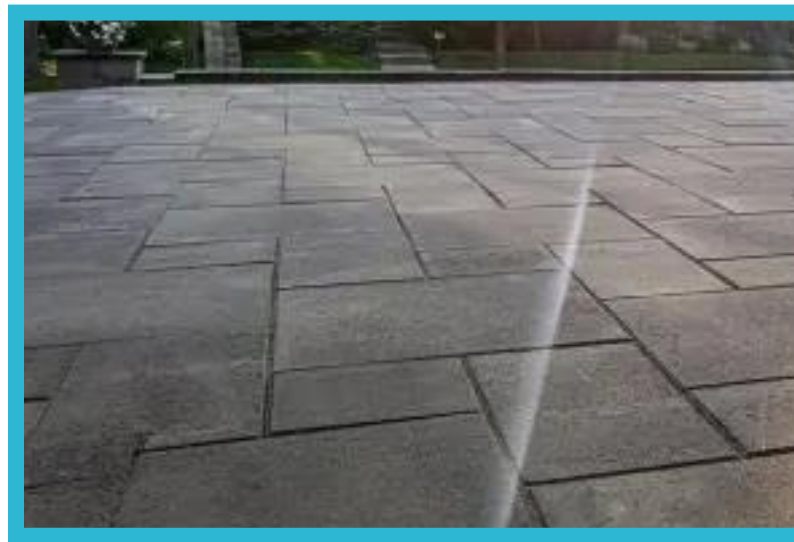
LOLL:  
LOLLY GAGGER TALL LOUNGE  
CHAIR



MD3 CONTRACTS:  
FIRST IMPRESSIONS, RIO SERIES: RIO  
LARGE, RIO MEDIUM, RIO SMALL & RIO  
LOUNGE



COBBLE CURB



FLAGSTONE

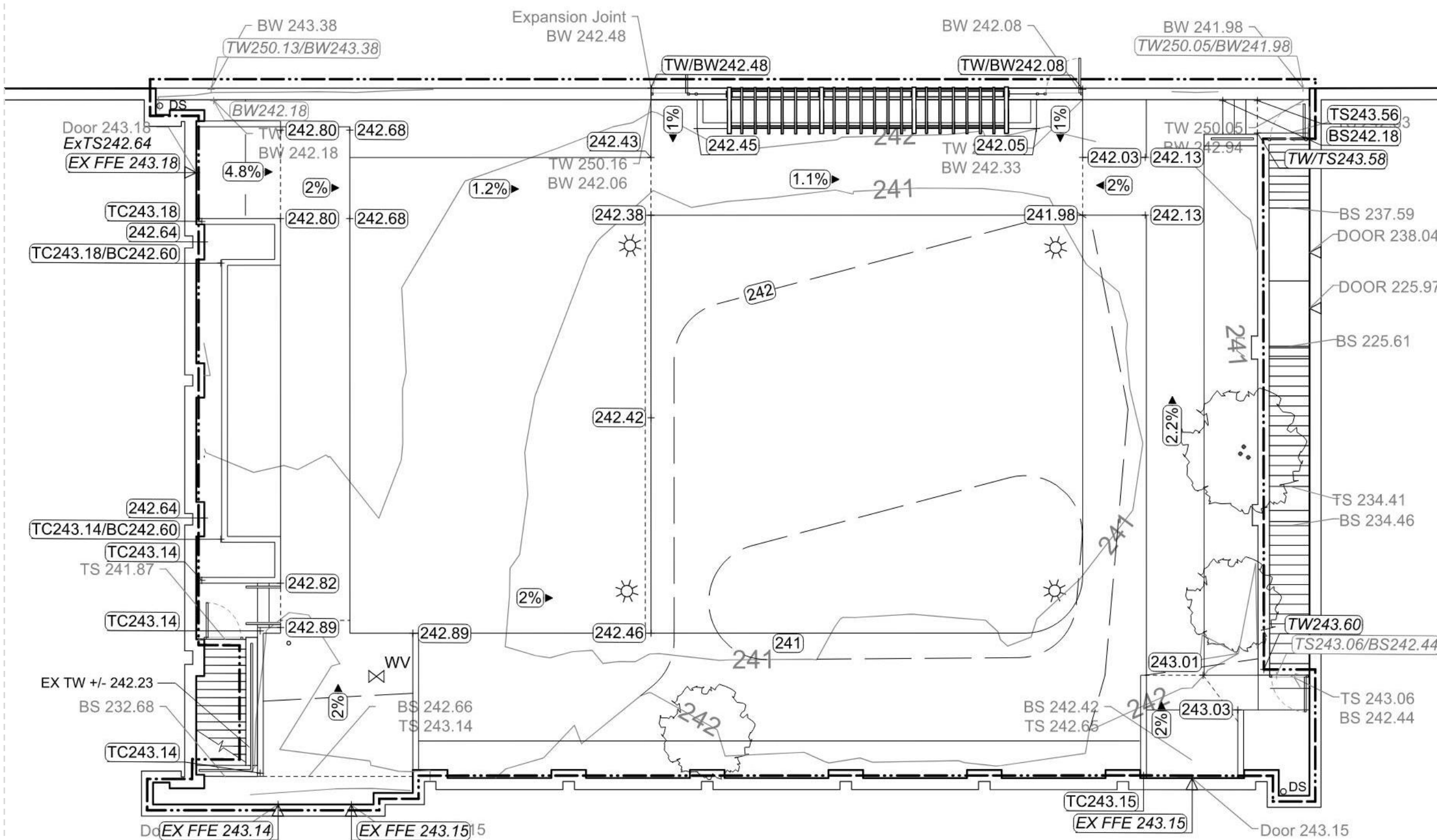


STONE FINES



GRANITE CURB





# GRADING LEGEND

—	LIMIT OF WORK
× 0.00	EXISTING SPOT ELEVATION
+0.00	PROPOSED SPOT ELEVATION
+TW0.00	TOP OF WALL
+BW0.00	BOTTOM OF WALL
+TW0.00	TOP OF STEP
+BS0.00	BOTTOM OF STEP
+HP0.00	HIGH POINT
◀ 0.0%	PERCENT SLOPE
○	CONTOUR
V.I.F.	VERIFY IN FIELD

## GRADING NOTES

1. ANY DISCREPANCY BETWEEN FIELD CONDITIONS AND DOCUMENTED EXISTING OR PROPOSED CONDITIONS SHALL BE REPORTED TO OWNER IN WRITING.
2. ADJUST EXISTING AND PROPOSED UTILITIES TO MEET FINAL DESIGN CONDITIONS AS NECESSARY.
3. ADJUST TOPS OF ALL MANHOLE LIDS, EXISTING UTILITY STRUCTURES, ETC. TO MEET PROPOSED GRADES.
4. FINISH GRADES OF PAVEMENTS AND SOIL ALONG BOTTOM OF CURBS AND WALLS SHALL HAVE A CONSTANT SLOPE UNLESS INDICATED BY SPOT ELEVATIONS.

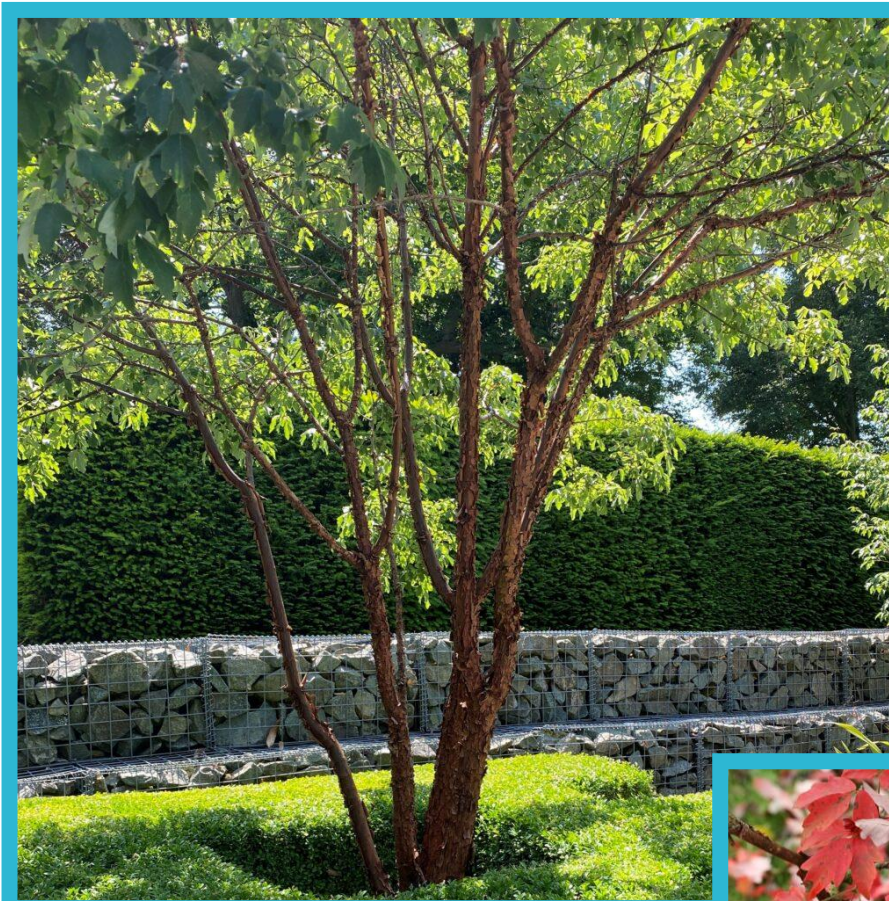


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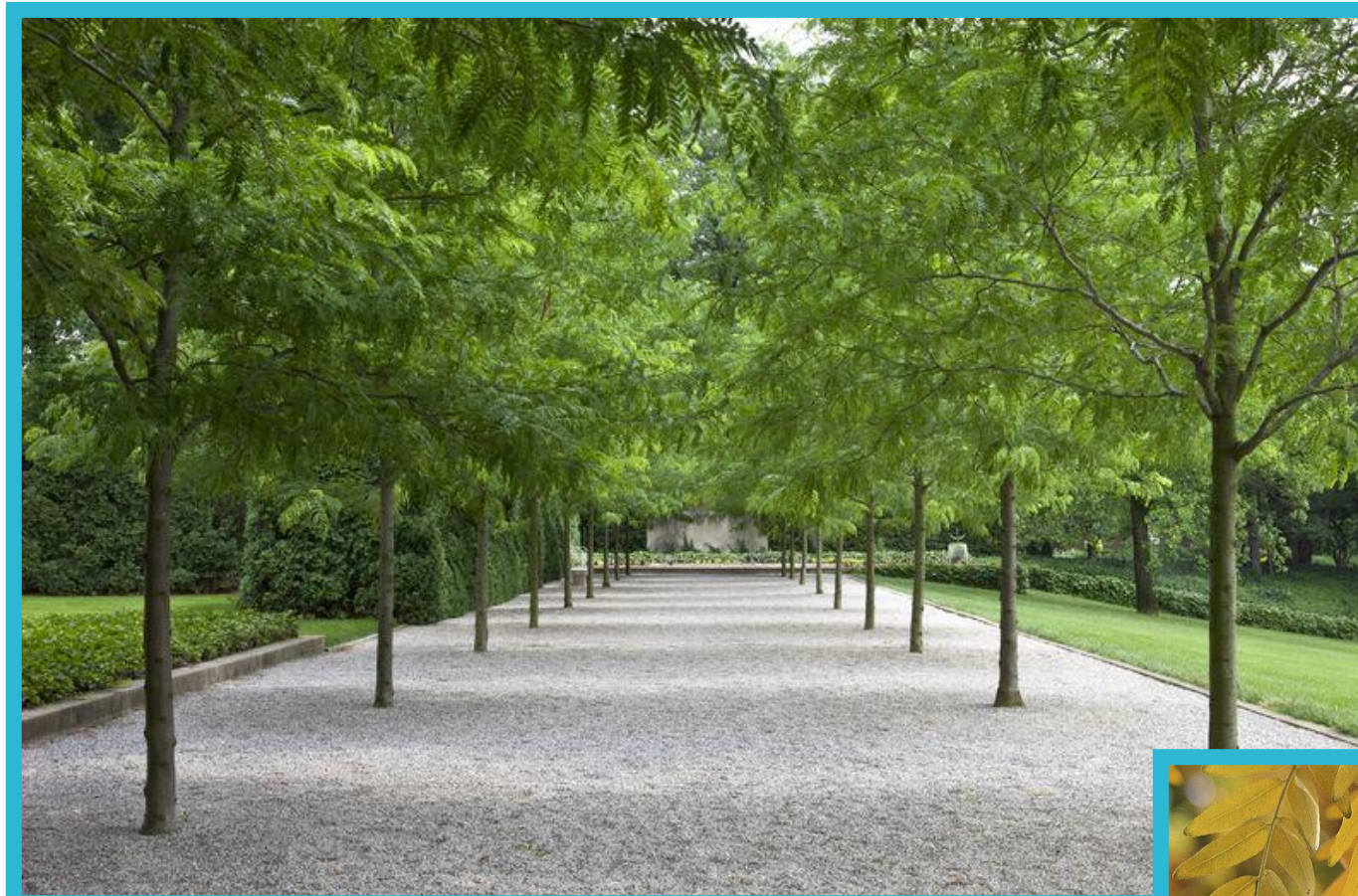
WYNNEFIELD LIBRARY — Grading Plan

Ground Reconsidered

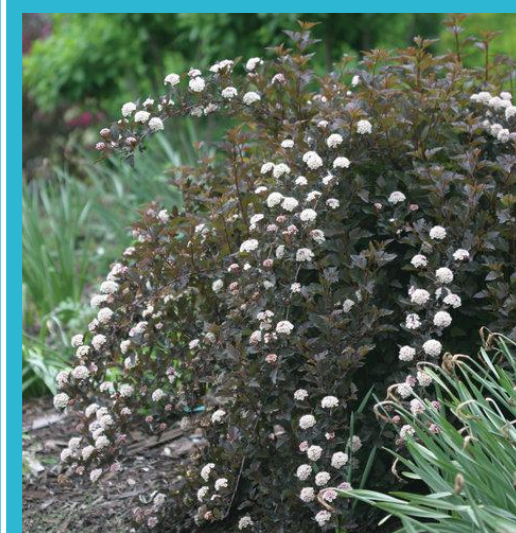




**Scientific Name:** *Acer griseum*  
**Common Name:** Paperbark Maple



**Scientific Name:** *Gleditsia triacanthos inermis* 'Skyline'  
**Common Name:** Skyline Honeylocust



Shrub and Perennial Planting





View to Main Courtyard Doors



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WYNNEFIELD LIBRARY — Accessible Entrance at Main Courtyard Doors

**Ground** **Reconsidered**





View to Outer Courtyard Wall



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WYNNEFIELD LIBRARY — Brick Wall Infill (Base Scope)

**Ground Reconsidered**





View to Childrens' Wing



**Rebuild**  
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WYNNEFIELD LIBRARY — Brick Wall Infill (Base Scope)

**Ground** Reconsidered





View to Outer Courtyard Wall



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WYNNEFIELD LIBRARY — 3Form Panel Wall Infill (Alternate 02)

**Ground Reconsidered**





View to Childrens' Wing



**Rebuild**  
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WYNNEFIELD LIBRARY — 3Form Panel Wall Infill (Alternate 02)

**Ground Reconsidered**



Trellis with Brick Wall Infill



Trellis with 3Form Wall Infill



*View to Outer Courtyard Wall – (projector screen can be mounted in either option, with or without trellis; AV & power to be provided with or without trellis)*



CONSTRUCTION BUDGET:  
\$286,000

