

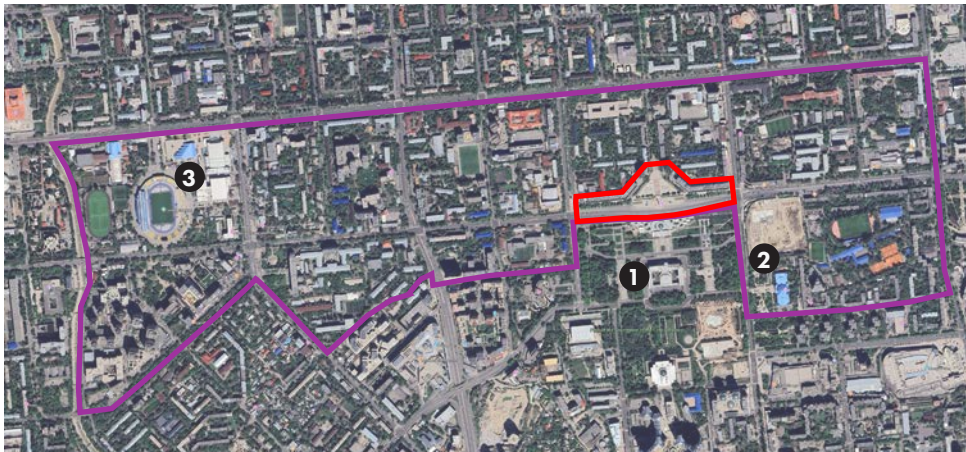
Satpaev Street Almaty

About the Project

Satpaev Street project is a Green Infrastructure strategy that reimagines the central part of the city as its cultural artery, transforming a traffic-dominated barrier into a vibrant civic spine that reconnects the city through movement, culture, landscape, and everyday life. Linking key cultural destinations including Republic Square, City Hall, museums, libraries, theatres, and the stadium, the proposal introduces a new public realm framework that prioritises people over vehicles and establishes Satpaev as the social and cultural heartbeat of the city.

This report concentrates on the transformation of the **Republic Square**, a vital part of this wider Green Infrastructure strategy. It reimagines the Square into Almaty's foremost civic space. Existing vehicular dominance and fragmented pedestrian movement are replaced with a cohesive, people-first public realm that safely reconnects the north and south sides of the city. The street hierarchy is fundamentally rebalanced, with vehicle space reduced from 80 metres to 19.5 metres through six streamlined lanes comprising dedicated public transport and general traffic. Parking is removed in favour of a linear park, generous pedestrian space, and a new 3-metre-wide bidirectional cycle route supporting active travel and soft mobility.

Green and blue infrastructure is embedded throughout the corridor to provide shade, cooling, biodiversity, and climate resilience, while a series of pavilions, cafés, creative spaces, and gathering places activate the street as a destination in its own right. The proposal creates stronger connections to the wider city, the rivers, and the mountains, transforming Satpaev from a fragmented transport corridor into a unified civic landscape rooted in culture, identity, and public life.



 Satpaev Street Project

 Republic Square

 1 Mayor's Office (Akimat)

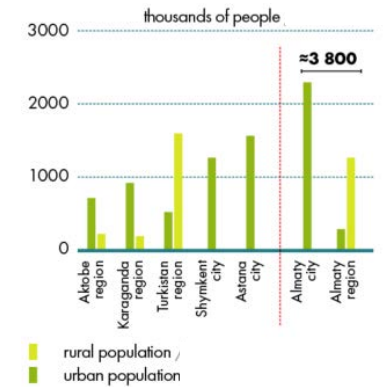
 2 Central State Museum

 3 Central Stadium

Unpacking Almaty

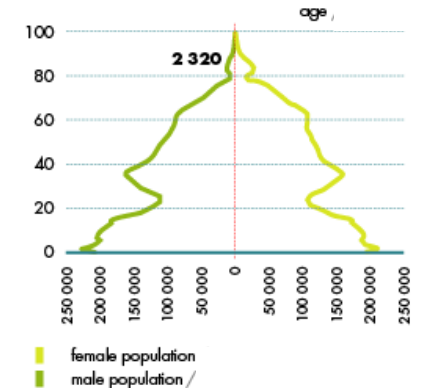
Country's largest catchment

Almaty city and region form the country's biggest population concentration, expanding the audience for parks and events.



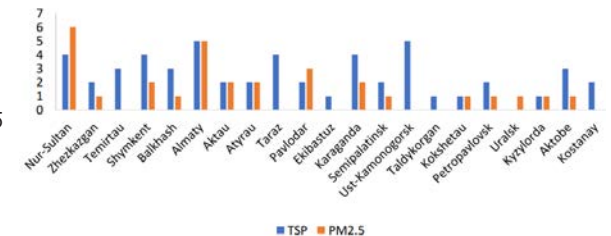
Youth heavy age structure

A broad base of children and young adults signals sustained need for family amenities and active recreation.



Heavy pollution threatens public health

In 2026, Almaty was amongst the world's most polluted cities with PM2.5 particles dominating



Satpaev before - Main Challenges

A street that divides, not unites

Satpaev is currently dominated by heavy vehicular traffic, with an 8-9 lane road cutting directly through the heart of the area. This wide thoroughfare acts as a major physical and psychological barrier, fragmenting the urban fabric and making pedestrian movement across the site difficult and unsafe. The scale and prominence of the road disrupt the character of the area, eroding its sense of place and diminishing the impact of important civic and cultural landmarks, including the Akimat.

Rather than enhancing the public realm, the road prioritises vehicles over people, limiting opportunities for active movement, social interaction, and engagement with the surrounding environment. As a result, the current configuration constrains the potential of Satpaev to function as a cohesive, vibrant, and welcoming cultural quarter.

Somewhere to pass through, not belong

The impact of the road is particularly evident for pedestrians. With few north-south crossings, narrow footways, and no attractions along the route, the street offers little incentive for people to move through the area.

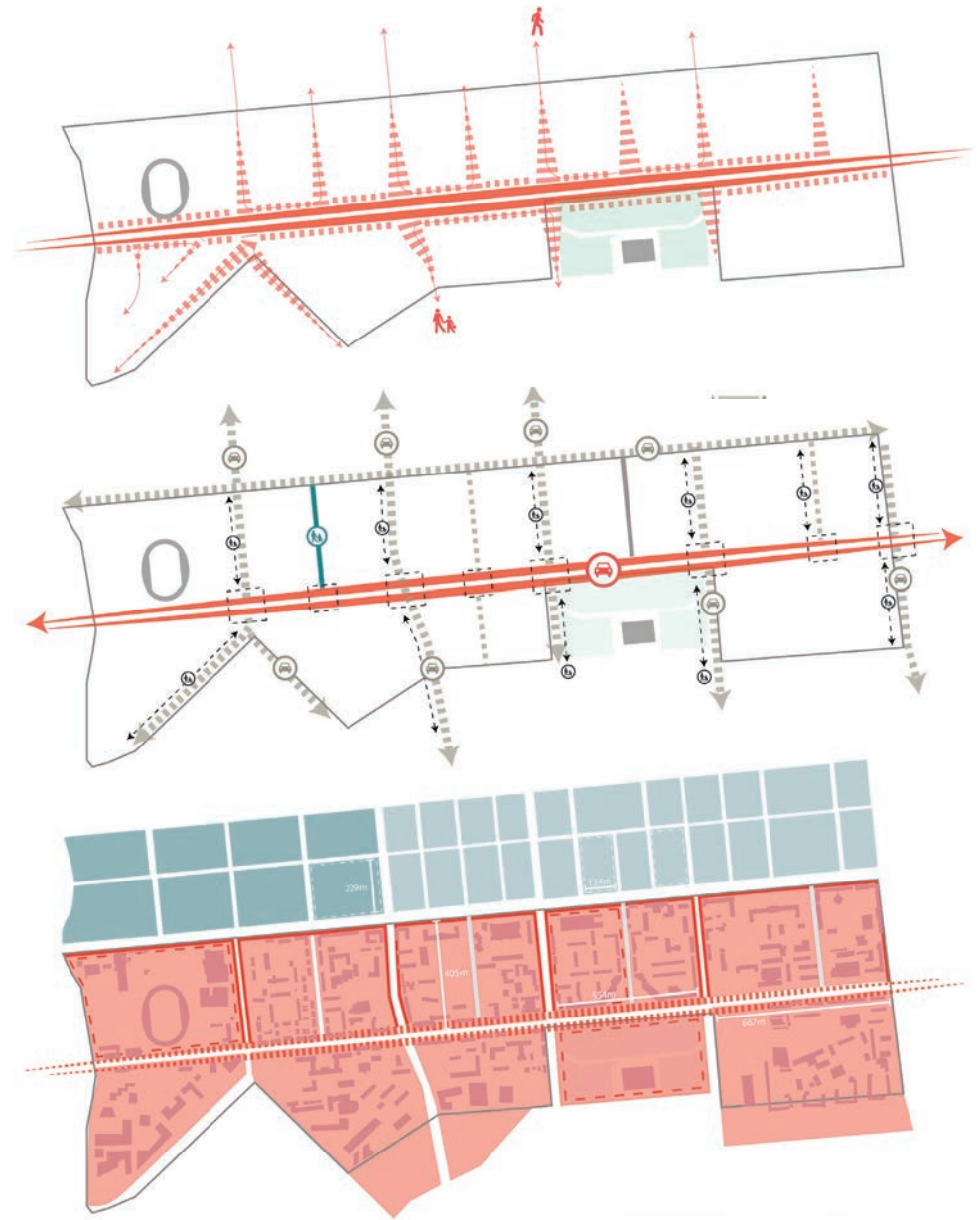
This lack of permeability and engagement further fragments the urban fabric, making walking uncomfortable and discouraging connections between key civic and cultural destinations. Addressing these constraints is essential to creating a more inviting, active, and connected public realm.

A street with low intensity, large scale

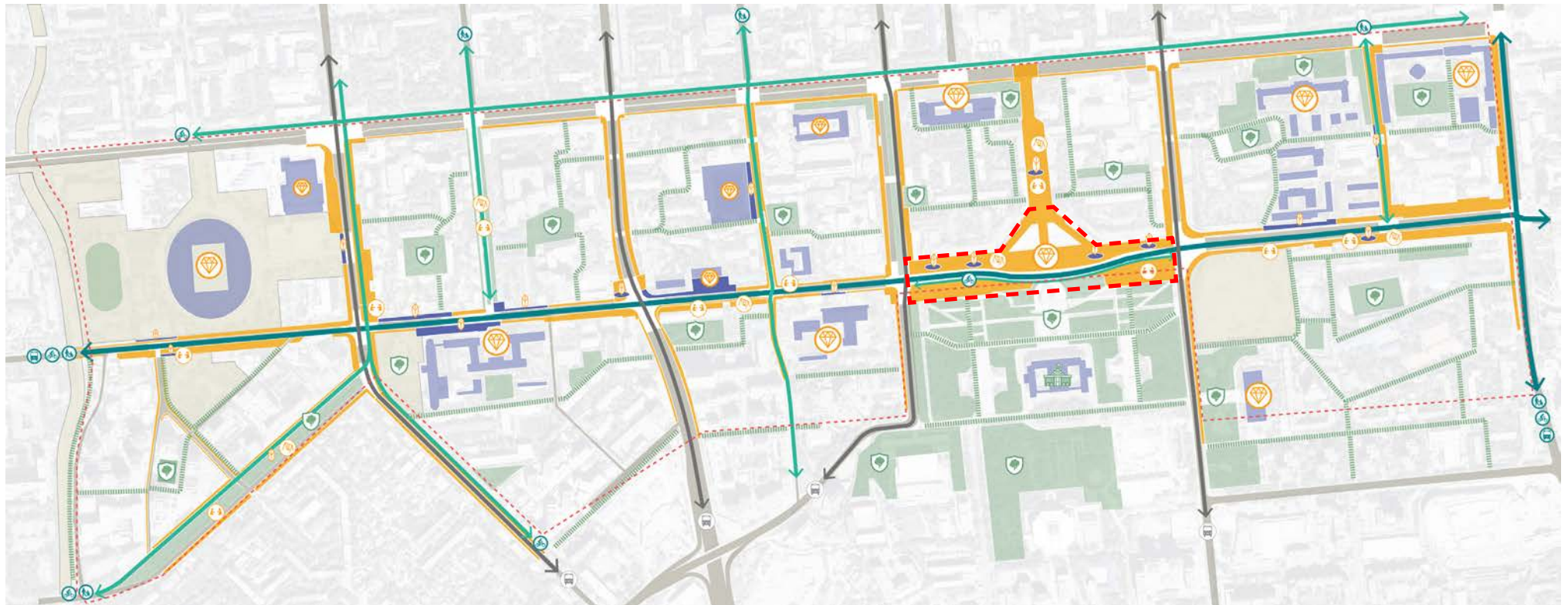
The scale of the street reinforces the challenges for pedestrian movement. The blocks are larger than those in the historic Old Town, creating long, uninterrupted stretches that can feel exposed and less inviting to walk.

While the openness provides a sense of space, it also reduces opportunities for interaction and engagement along the street.

Recognising this helps inform how the public realm can be enhanced to support a more connected, comfortable, and active environment for people.



Wider Intervention Plan



- | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|--|
|  | Existing greening |  | Play |  | Local green corridors, linking local spaces |  | Reconfigured junctions and new crossing points |
|  | Pedestrian movement |  | Art and cultural interventions |  | New cultural focal spaces, adjacent to existing jewels and new gems |  | Upcoming projects |
|  | Cycle movement |  | A pedestrian and sustainable transport focused Satpaev Street |  | Streetscape enhancements, including seating, play, lighting and interpretation |  | Republic Square |
|  | Public transport |  | Secondary streets, designed for people |  | Important local public green spaces | | |
|  | Existing assets and new amenities |  | Improved north-south connections with new BRT routes | | | | |

Our vision

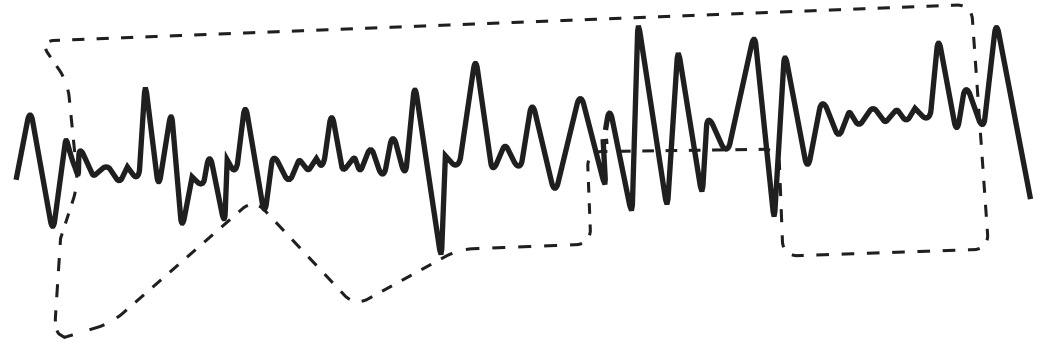
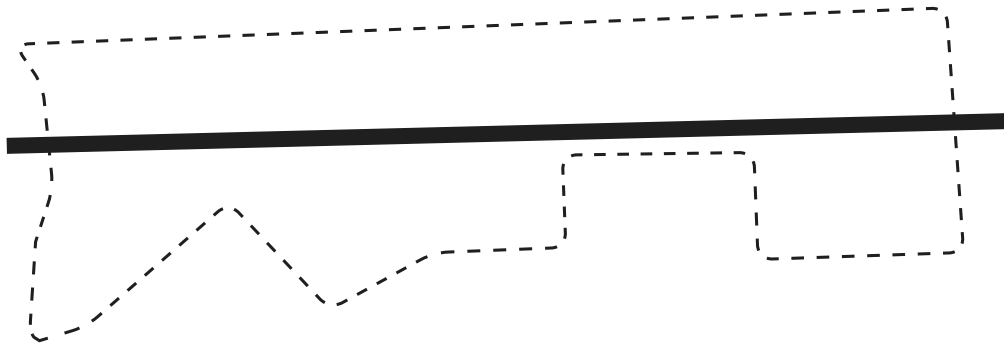
Satpaev is reimagined as Almaty's cultural artery, transforming a traffic-dominated barrier into a vibrant civic spine alive with movement, life, and identity.

It connects the city's cultural jewels, including city hall, museums, libraries, theatres, and the stadium, while introducing new everyday destinations such as pavilions, cafés, creative spaces, and gathering places.

The street becomes a stage for culture, art, storytelling, and play, enhanced by green and blue infrastructure that provides shade, comfort, and resilience.

Stronger connections link Satpaev to the wider city, the rivers, and the mountains, creating a bold transformation from barrier to heartbeat and from fragmentation to a shared cultural identity.

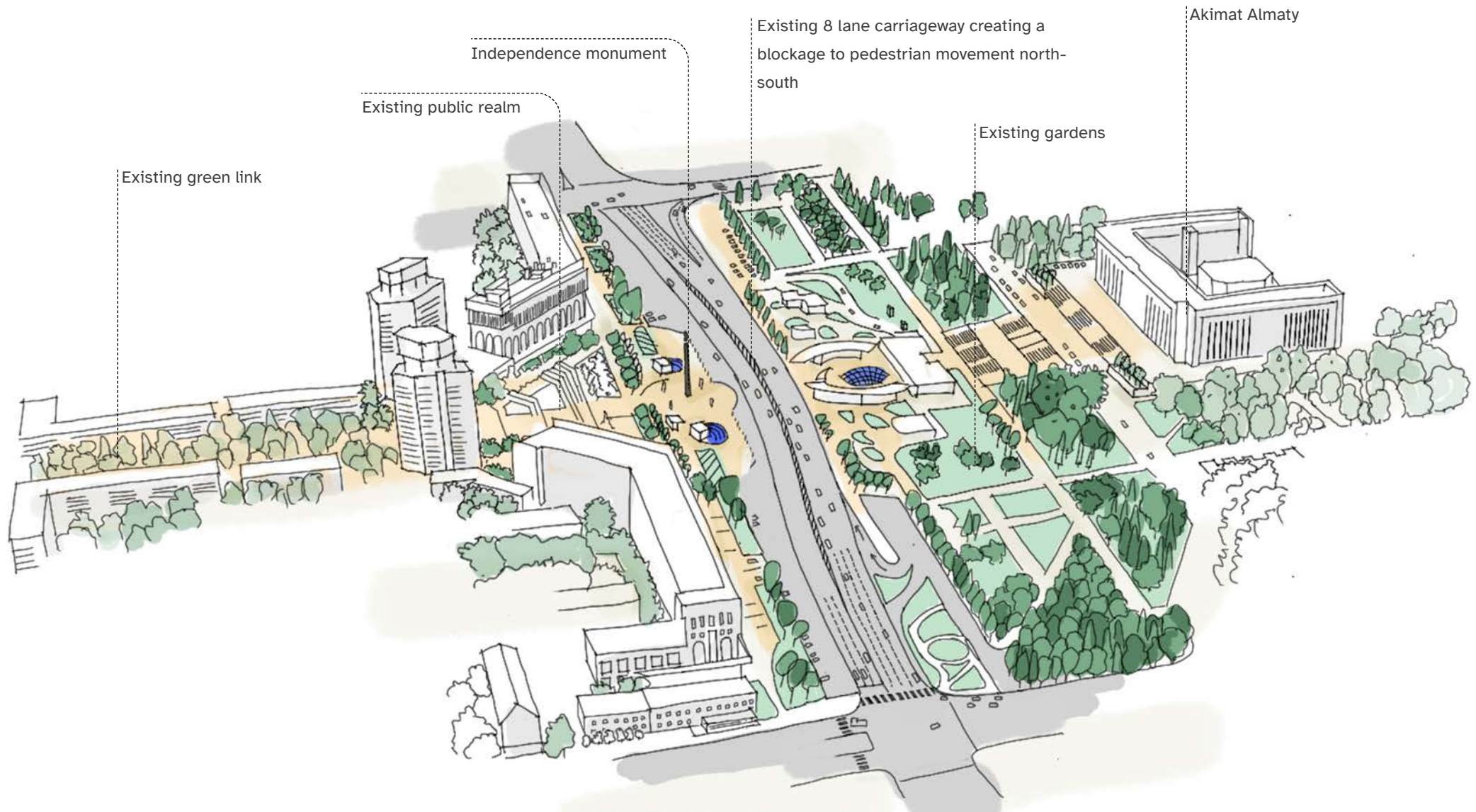
FROM BARRIER  **TO BELONGING**



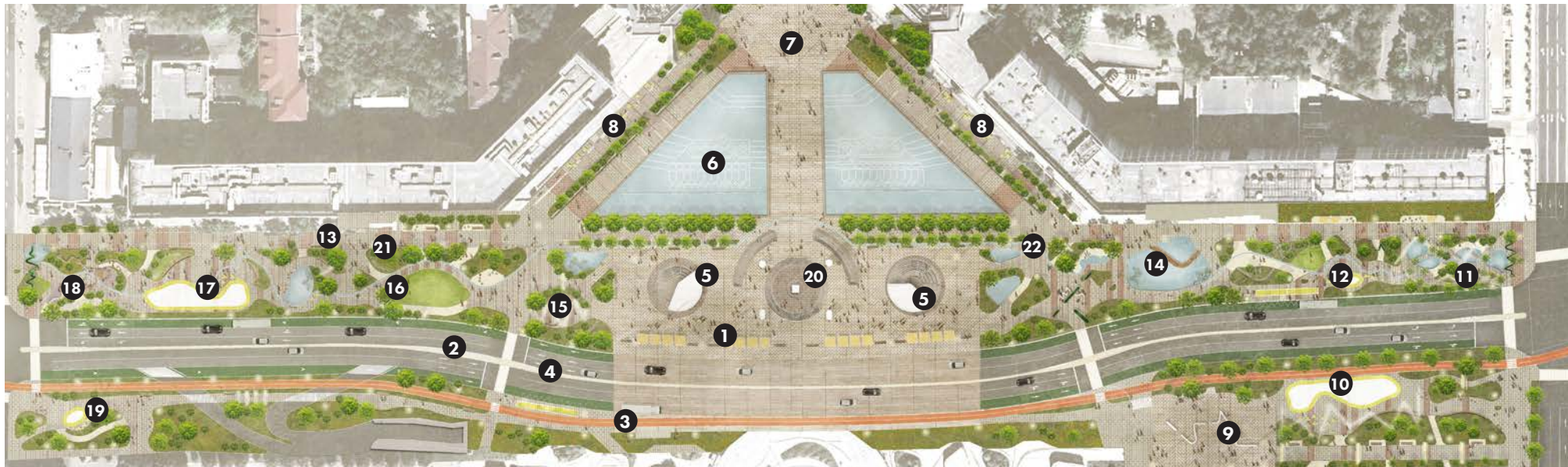
Republic Square Before



Republic Square Before



Republic Square - Key Interventions



- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 Formal square redefined | 5 Entrances reconfigured | 9 Secondary plaza | 13 Boulevard | 17 The hangout | 21 Biodiversity rich planting throughout |
| 2 6 lane carriageway | 6 Fountains improved by others | 10 Pavilion | 14 The big pond | 18 Tree top play area | 22 Rill water feature |
| 3 Bidirectional cycle lane | 7 Improved connections north | 11 The grove | 15 Outdoor classroom | 19 Kiosk and soft mobility hub | |
| 4 BRT Stop | 8 Outdoor dining to buildings | 12 Pavilion | 16 Lawns | 20 Independence monument | |

Key Principles

Reducing the carriageway width

- Total number of lanes: 2 general traffic and 1 bus lane in each direction (6 total)
- General traffic lane width: 3m
- Bus lane width: 3.2m

Prioritising pedestrian movement and active travel

- Pedestrian footway width: Minimum 2m
- Bidirectional cycle lane width: 3m
- Introduction of 2no. new pedestrian crossings along Republic Square
- Introduction of new benches and seating at regular intervals throughout to provide rest places
- Introduction of soft mobility hubs with cycle parking infrastructure

Respecting the formal square and cultural jewels

- Key views and vistas towards the Akimat and Independence monument respected
- Independence monument steps reconfigured and monument retained
- Surrounding statues and wall features retained
- Large open formal civic square retained and enhanced

Enhancing the public realm environment

- High quality materials palette introduced
- Introduction of new trees and biodiversity rich low level planting
- New street furniture of varying types and formats introduced to encourage dwelling
- Pavilions and kiosks introduced to provide amenities and food and beverage opportunities
- Wayfinding, play and art elements introduced to improve navigation through Satpaev

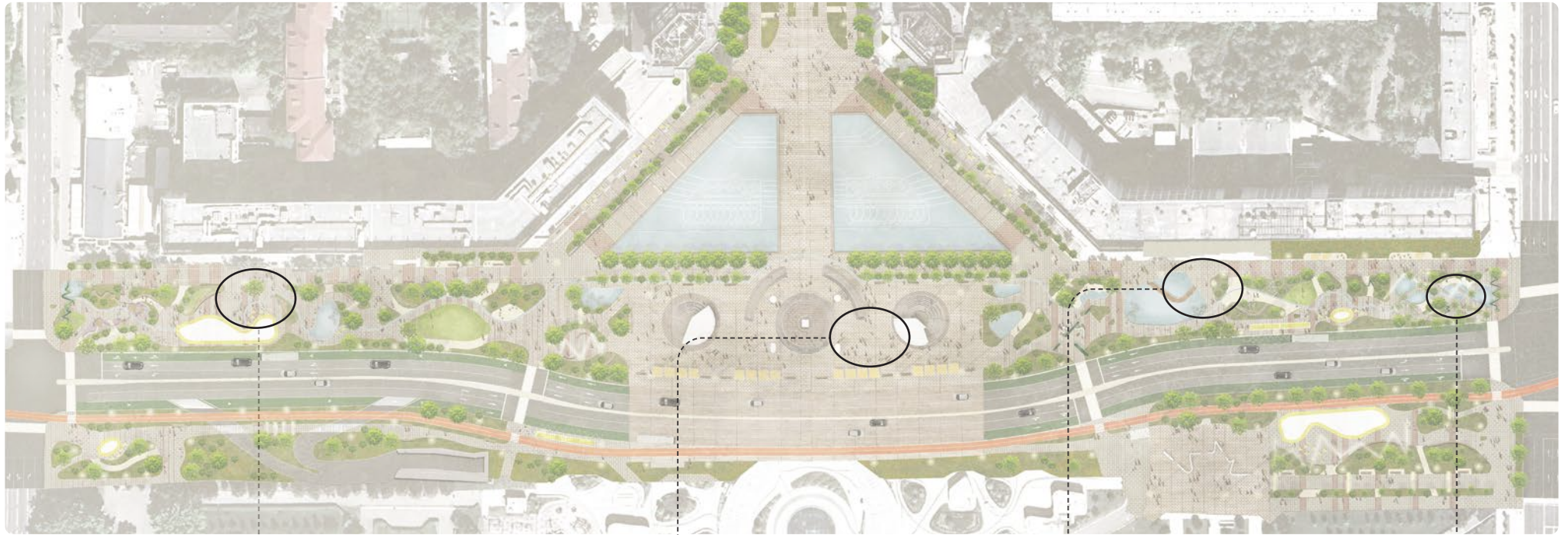
Republic Square - before



Republic Square - after



Republic Square - Character Areas



The Hangout

A place full of activity and life. A place for people to belong. The hangout provides the amenities, both indoor and outdoor to ensure people want to spend time there.



The Square

The heart of Satpaev, the square is a place of meeting, gather and events. Providing a grand civic setting to the Akimat and becoming an iconic destination within the city of Almaty.



The Big Pond

The big pond is a moment to pause and take in the linear park environment. With views towards the Akimat and the Independence Monument.



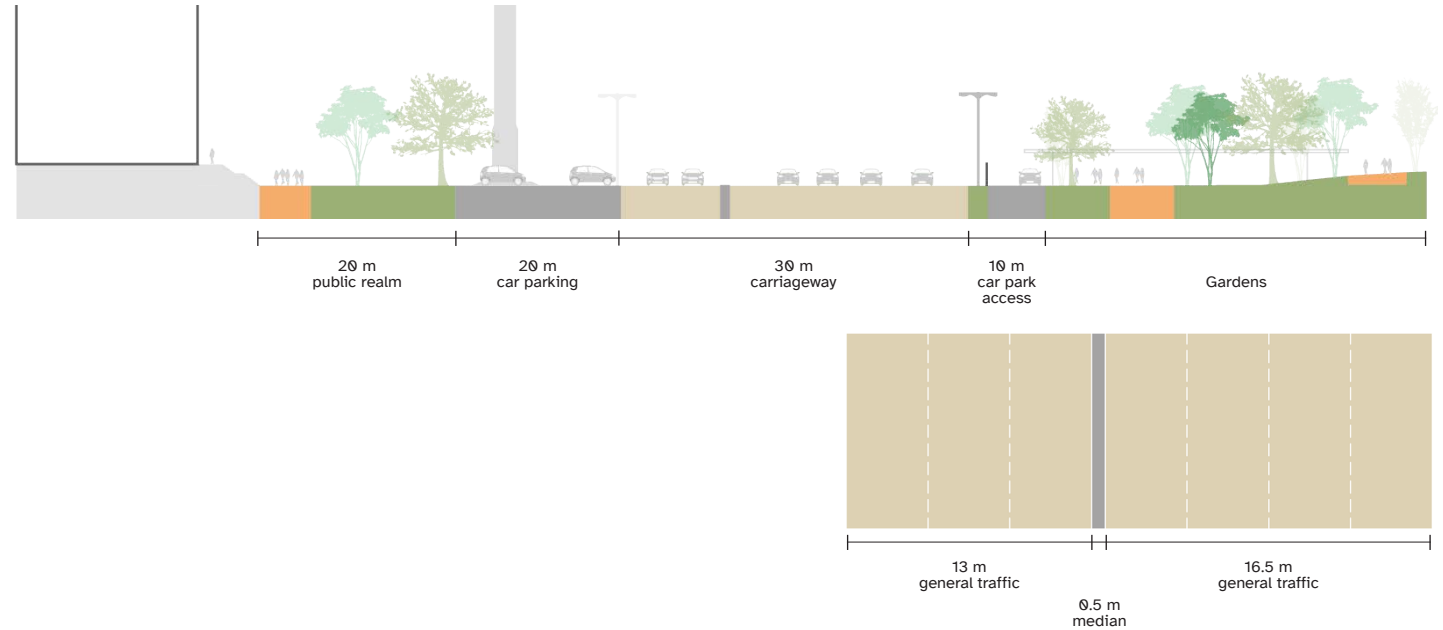
The Grove

Taking on a much more intimate scale, the grove is a place to explore. Meandering through the wetland ponds, there are moments of incidental play, seating and excitement.

Republic Square - Changing the Hierarchy

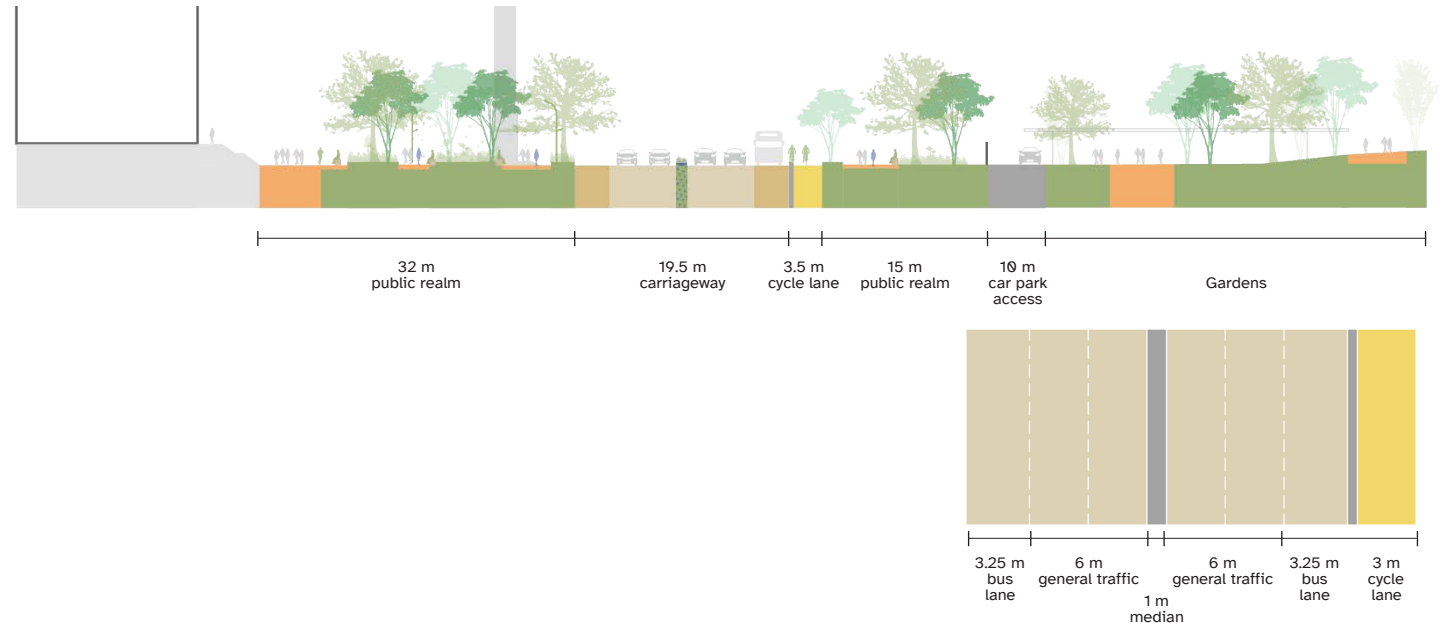
Existing Carriageway

The existing carriageway features a 30m wide carriageway with 7 lanes in total, the lanes are wide and take up the majority of the road corridor. There is 20m width of car parking along the northern stretch of this block. This means that 50m of a total 80m is taken up by vehicle domination in the street. This causes the existing barrier of Satpaev, alongside a lack of pedestrian crossings.



Proposed Carriageway

The proposal sees a reduction in the carriageway to 6 lanes in total, 2 for buses and 4 for general traffic. The width of the lanes is reduced to ensure the greatest amount of space is given to pedestrians. Parking is removed and replaced with the linear park. Vehicle space is reduced from 80m in total, to 19.5m. A 3m wide bidirectional cycle lane is introduced to accommodate cycling and soft mobility along the Satpaev corridor.



Republic Square - The hangout



BEFORE



AFTER

Republic Square - The Big Pond



BEFORE



AFTER

Republic Square - The Grove before

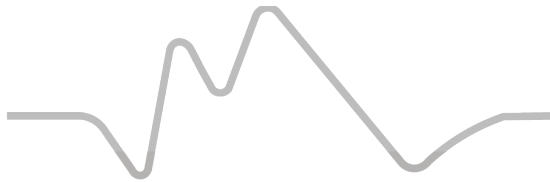


Republic Square - The Grove after



Materials

The material strategy champions the use of primarily local high quality materials from across the country, supported with tones which align with the grandeur, but also sensitivity of the Satpaev landscape.

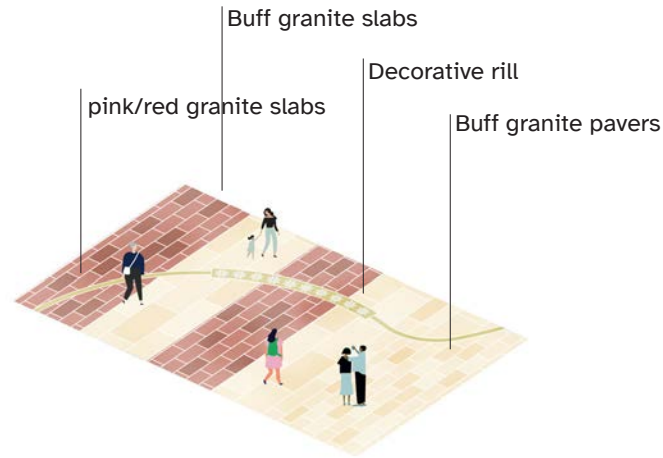


From the mountain

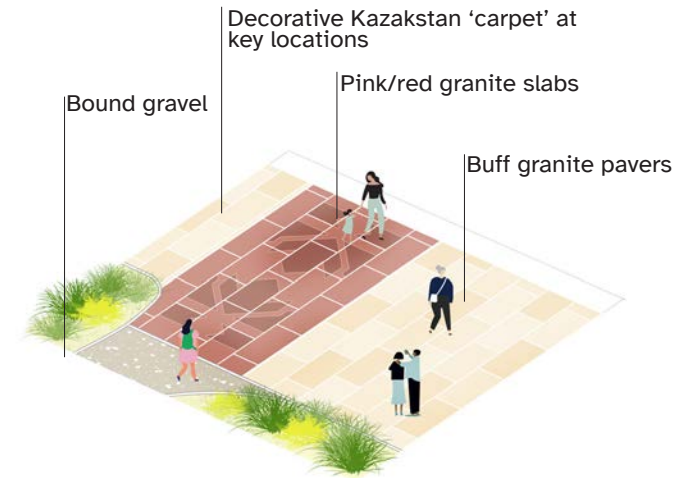


To the Steppe

The hangout



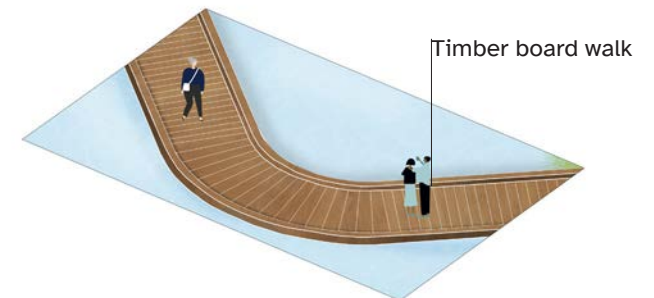
Entrance to the park



The square



The big pond



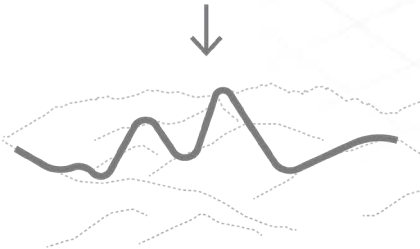
Artistic Features

Inspired by mountain ranges and peaks, the gateways and focal sculptural features are striking pieces of urban art. They sit at main entrances, within the heart of the linear park and found along footways, creating delight and form within the public realm.

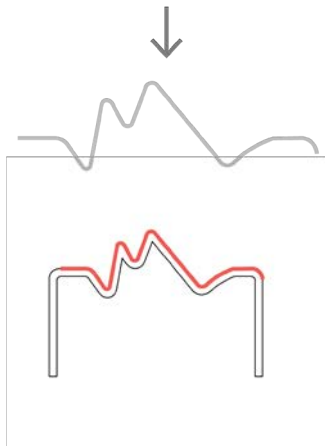
From the mountain range



Tracing the mountains



Refining geometries



Final form



Gateway structures



Focal structural feature



The Rill

The rill is a continuous feature which meanders through the linear park as part of a fully connected blue infrastructure system. It takes different forms throughout, responding to its location and setting. It provides wayfinding, play, education and a sense of adventure.

An opportunity for exploration



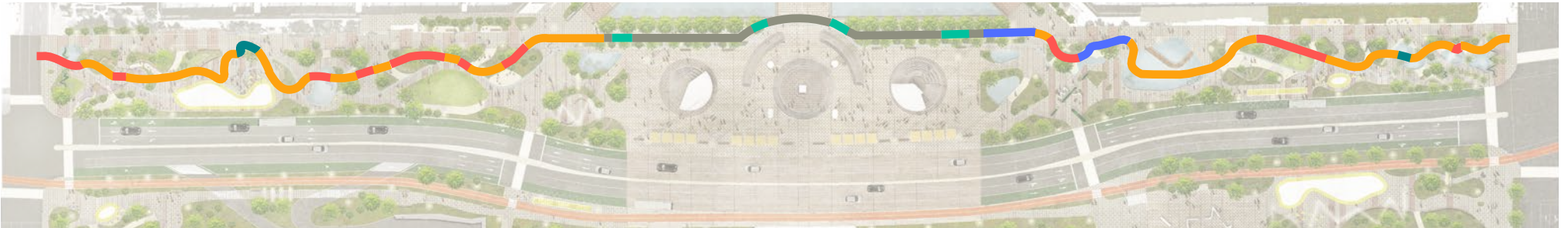
An opportunity for play



An opportunity for learning



Rill typology map



Follow the rill, discover the park

■ Natural stone inlay

■ Open rill beside planting

■ Engraved metal cover



■ Open shallow V shaped rill

■ Water play

■ Water fountains



Play

Play is a fundamental part of ensuring that Republic Square becomes a place for everyone, and caters to all age groups. A series of play interventions are located throughout the linear park, from impressive tree top structures, to interaction with water, to finding small stepping stone paths within the dense planting.

1. Tree top play



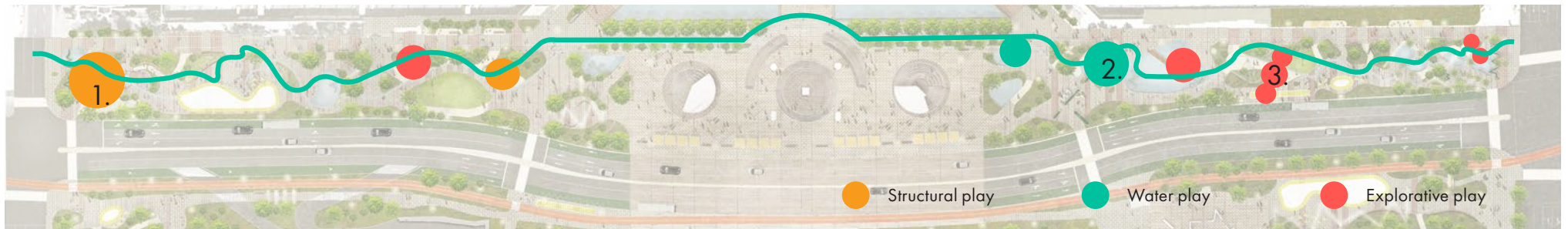
2. Water play



3. Explorative play



Play typology map



Republic Square Today

