



Walk your way to Joy

Charlotte Verkleij
P5 18th of June 2024

A radical redesign of the postwar neighbourhood
for a joyful future of its residents

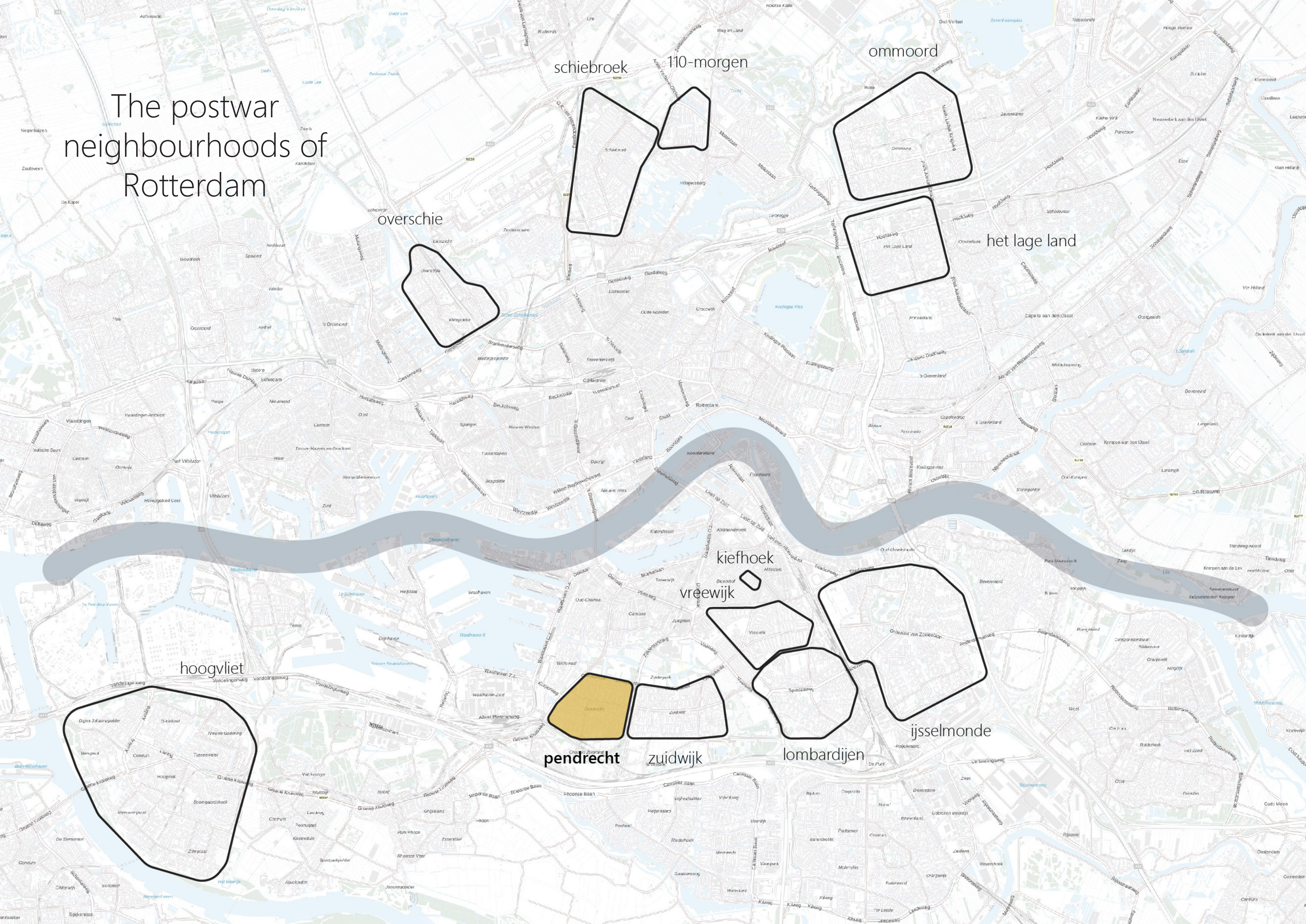






Middelhamstraat
21-49

The postwar neighbourhoods of Rotterdam



overschie

schiebroek

110-morgen

ommoord

het lage land

hoogvliet

pendrecht

zuidwijk

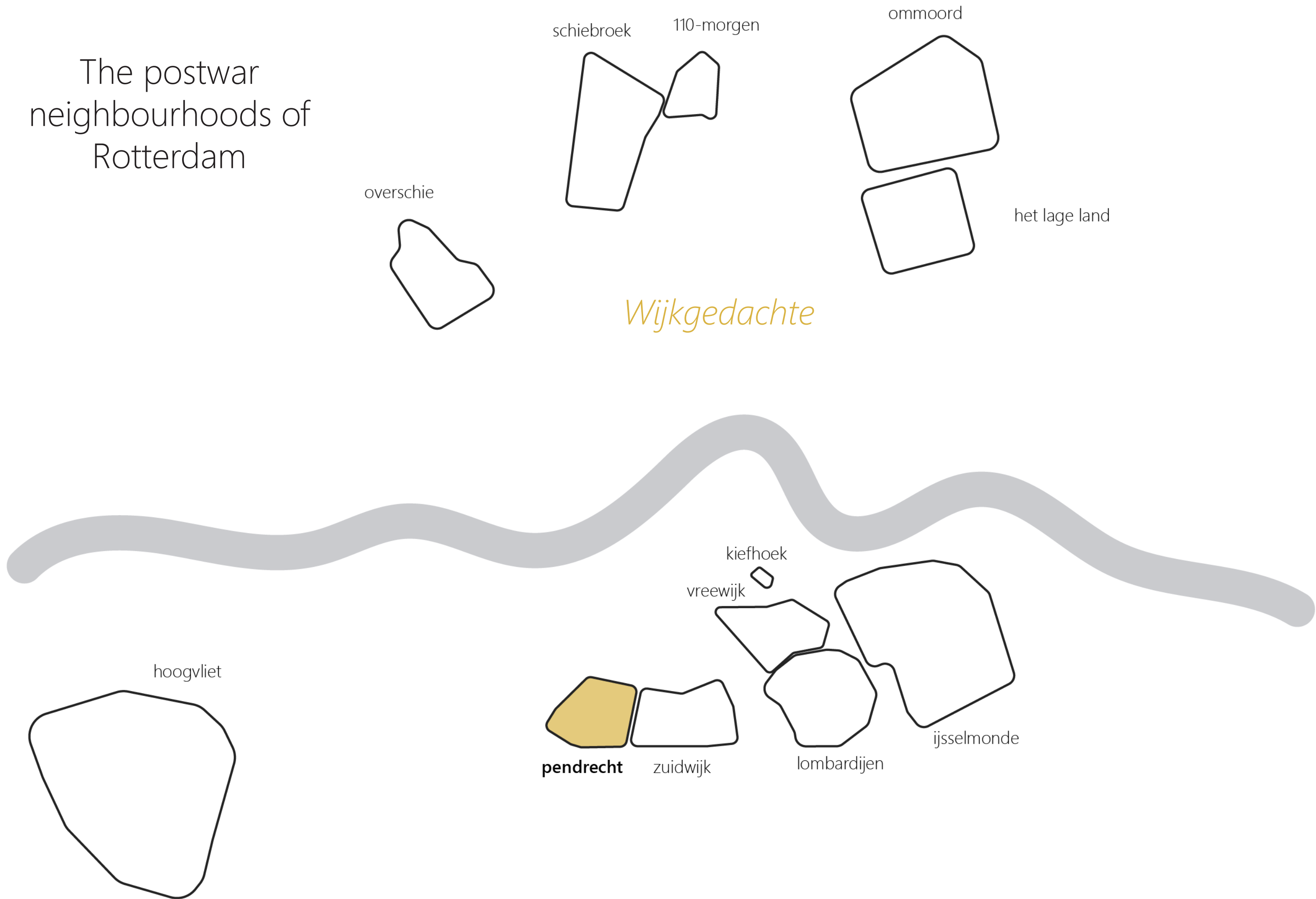
kiefhoek

vreewijk

lombardijen

ijsselmonde

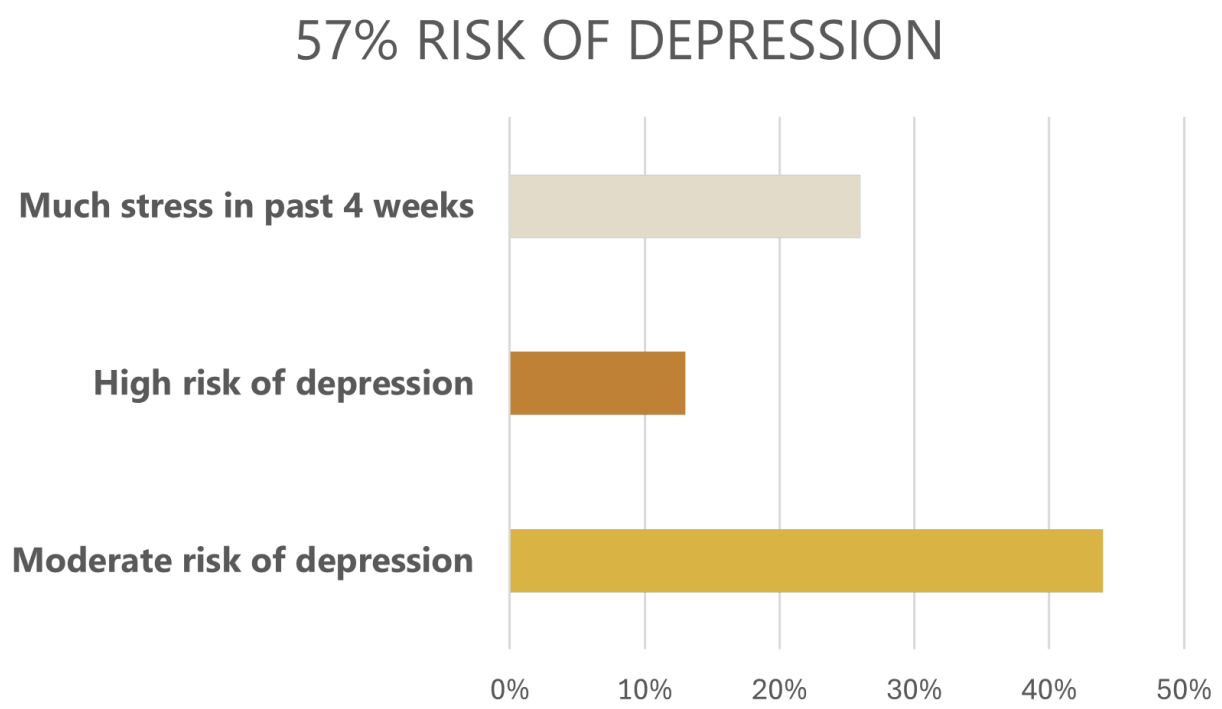
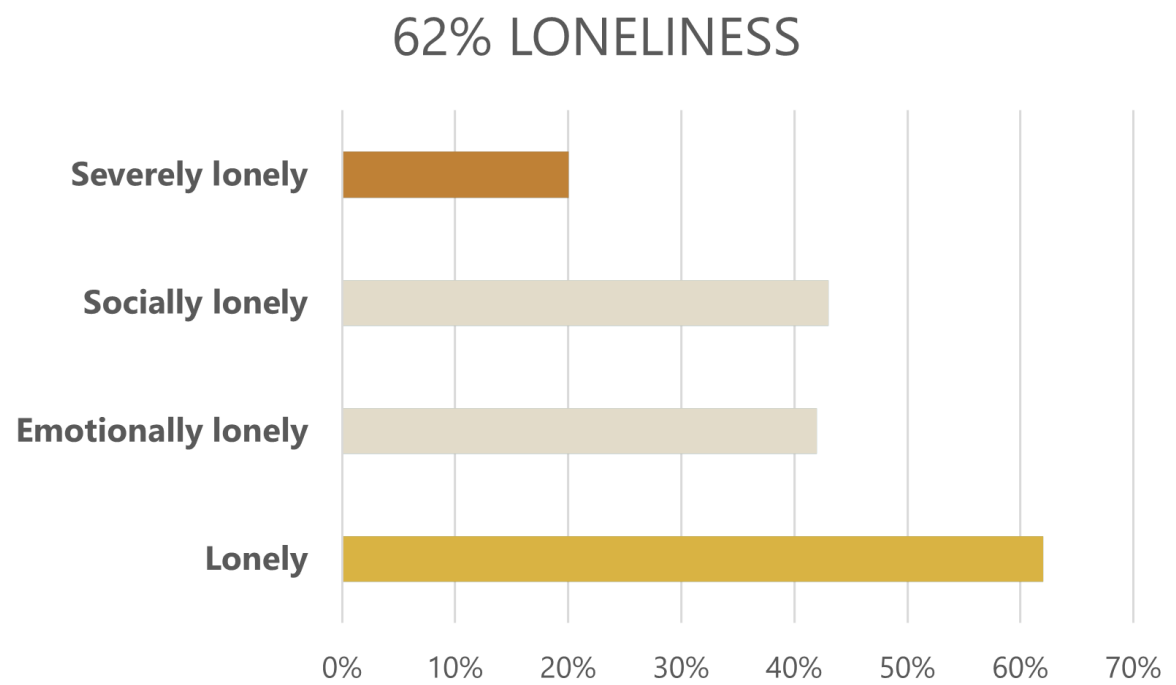
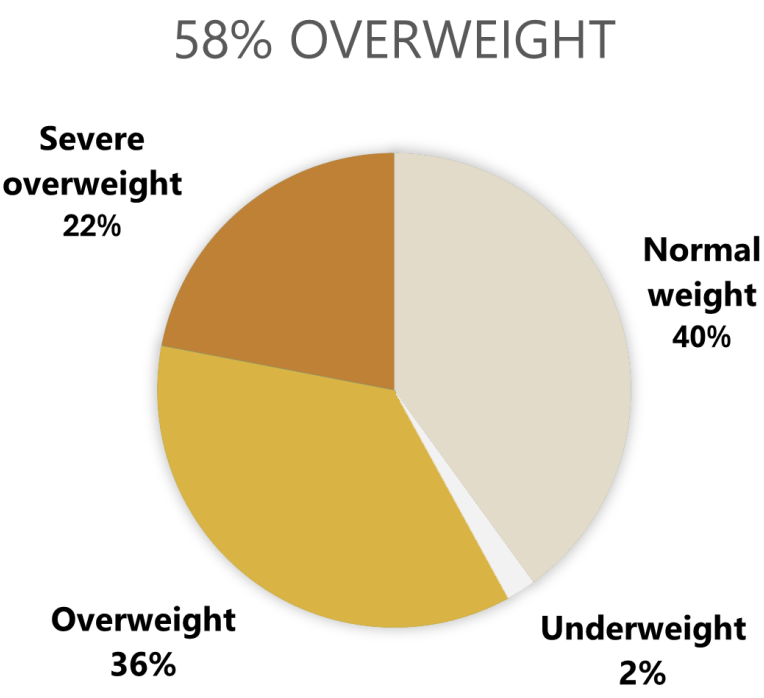
The postwar
neighbourhoods of
Rotterdam



The postwar
neighbourhoods of
Rotterdam



Pendrecht: Joy?



How can the radical redesign of a postwar neighbourhood lead to a joyful future for its residents?

Utopia

Definition:

'A utopia (/ju:ˈtʊpiə/ yoo-TOH-pee-ə) typically describes an **imaginary community** or society that possesses **highly desirable** or near-perfect **qualities** for its members.'

(Source: Wikipedia, n.d.)



What if...

In what way can the urban environment
evoke joy?

Joy

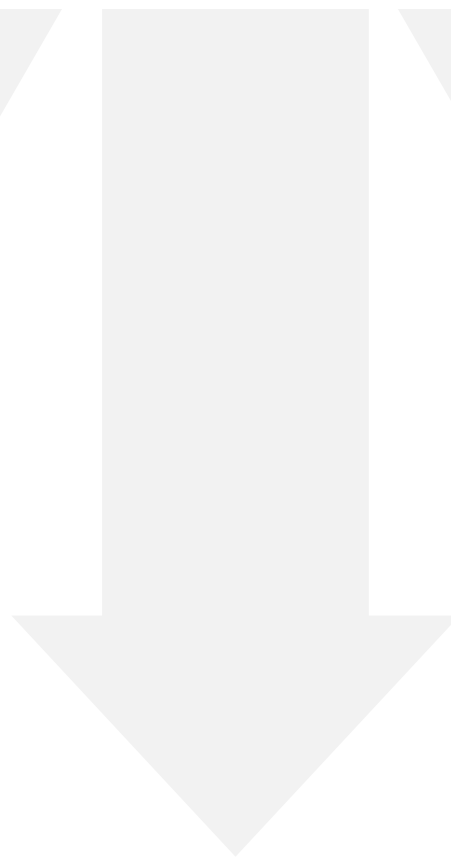
Definition:

The emotion evoked by the totality of physical, mental and social well-being.

Walking



physical well-being



social well-being



mental well-being

Joy

Walking

physical activity
(Urhahn, 2017)

good for the brain
(Hersenstichting, n.d.)

not polluting the urban
environment
regarding air- and noise pollution

physical well-being

social well-being

mental well-being

Joy

Walking

physical activity
(Urhahn, 2017)

social encounters
(Te Brömmelstroet, 2023; Montgomery, 2015)

good for the brain
(Hersenstichting, n.d.)

potential exposure to
diversity
(Te Brömmelstroet, 2023)

not polluting the urban
environment
regarding air- and noise pollution

warmth of people
(Montgomery, 2015)

feeling of belonging
(Kluiters, n.d.)

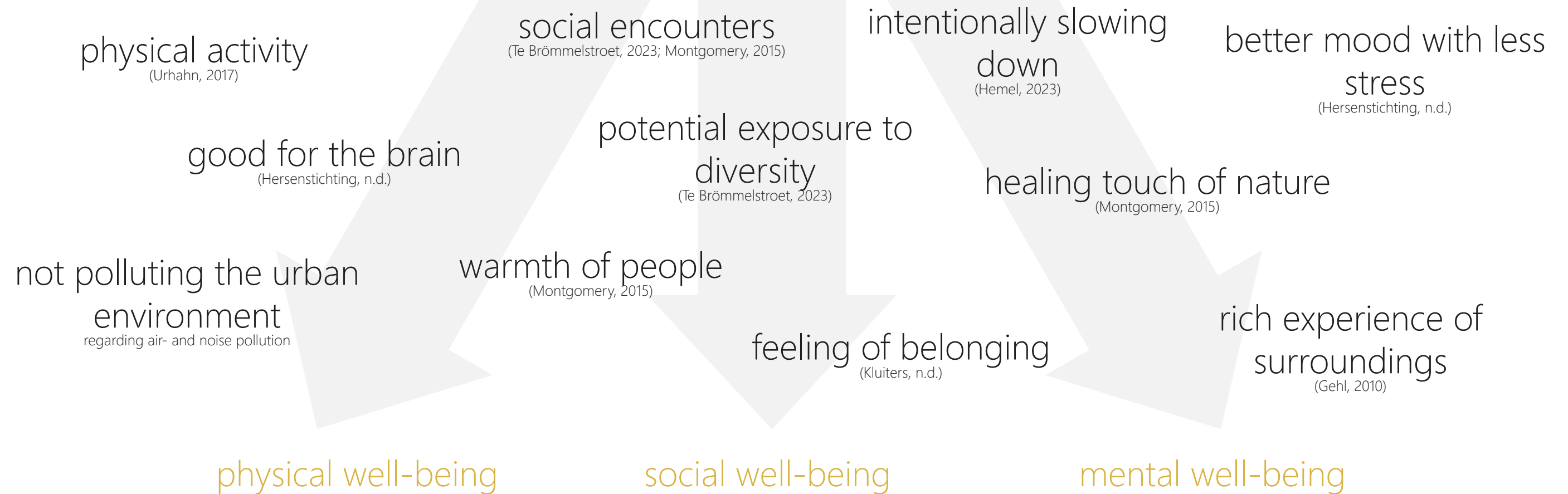
physical well-being

social well-being

mental well-being

Joy

Walking



Joy

Walking

physical activity
(Urhahn, 2017)

good for the brain
(Hersenstichting, n.d.)

not polluting the urban
environment
regarding air- and noise pollution

physical well-being

social encounters
(Te Brömmelstroet, 2023; Montgomery, 2015)

potential exposure to
diversity
(Te Brömmelstroet, 2023)

warmth of people
(Montgomery, 2015)

social well-being

intentionally slowing
down
(Hemel, 2023)

healing touch of nature
(Montgomery, 2015)

mental well-being

better mood with less
stress
(Hersenstichting, n.d.)

rich experience of
surroundings
(Gehl, 2010)

Joy

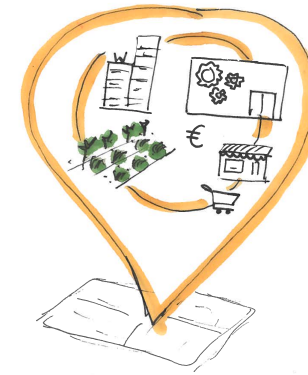
The utopia of the walkable city



Walkability



Proximity of amenities



Local economy



Public space for people



Attractive surroundings



Connection to nature



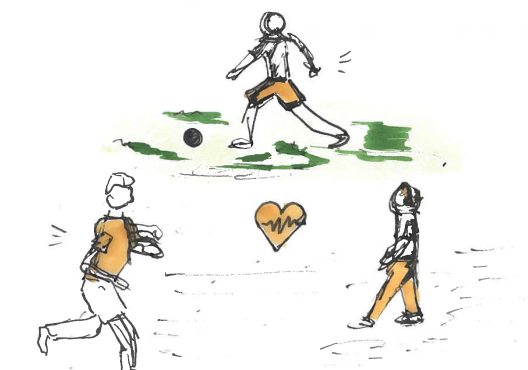
Community building



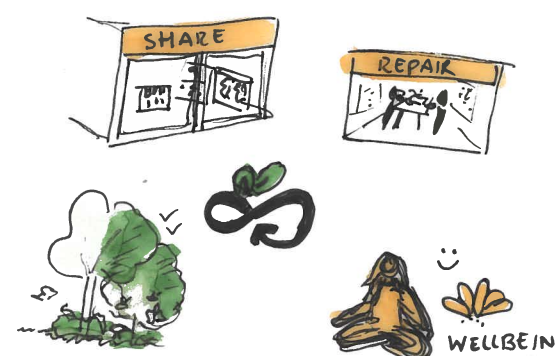
Social encounters



Accessibility for all



Physical health



Post-growth economy



Time affluence

What does the pedestrian need?

Proximity of urban amenities

02

Many and different destinations within walking distance

10

Rich facades, lively plinths

03

Symbiosis between public transport and walking

Inviting routes for people and nature

01

A complete and coherent network of walking routes

06

Findable and accessible

08

Walking comfort

09

The senses of the walking human

More space for walking, less space for driving

04

Less cars, low velocity

05

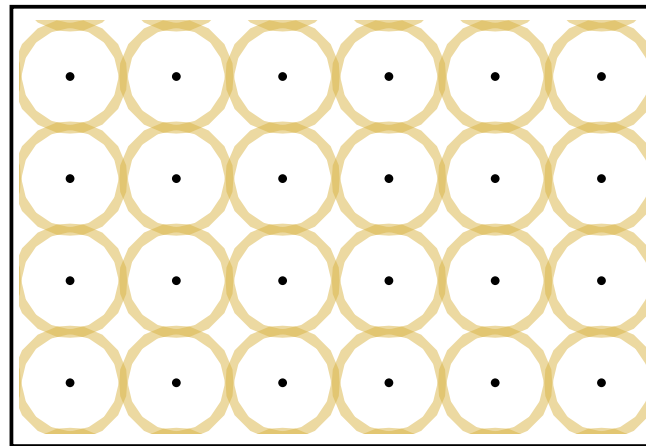
Crossings are for pedestrians

07

More space for pedestrians

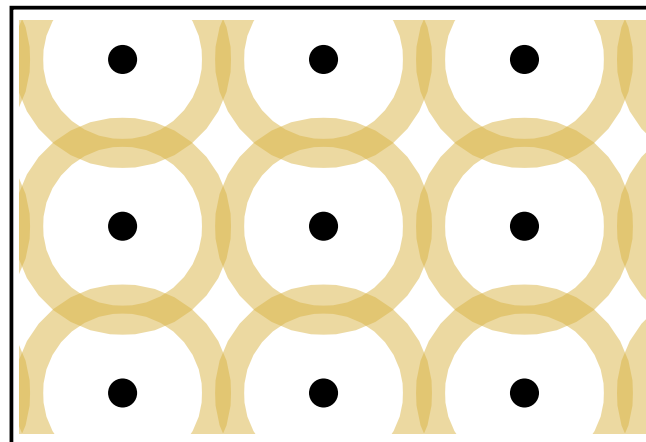
Urban amenities

Hierarchy of amenities



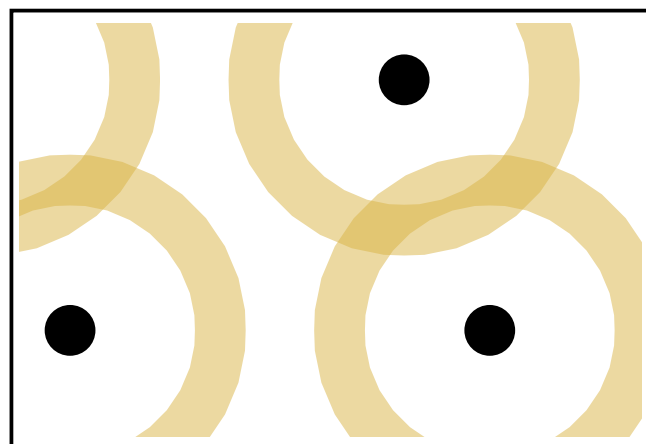
DAILY **NEIGHBOURHOOD**

e.g. primary school, general practitioner, playgrounds, supermarket, café, metro station



WEEKLY **DISTRICT**

e.g. library, cultural centre, sport hall, allotment gardens, warehouse, train station



MONTHLY **RIVER BANK**

e.g. secondary school, pop-podium, cinema, nature park, transfer train station

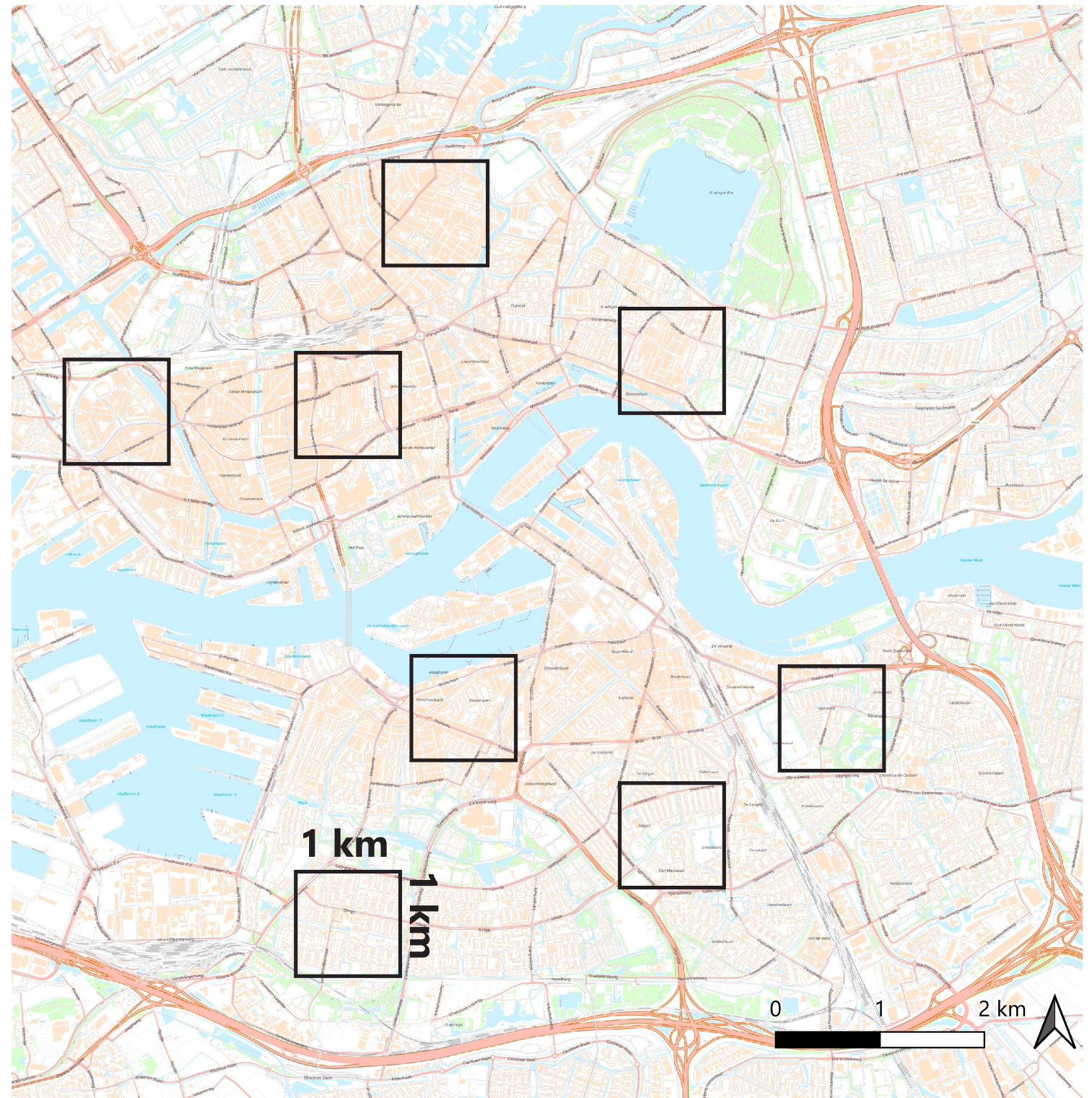
Proximity

The walkable unit

Urban amenities within walking distance

What is walkable?
max. 15 min. walking
speed ~ 4 km/h
distance ~ 1 km

The walkable unit
1 x 1 km



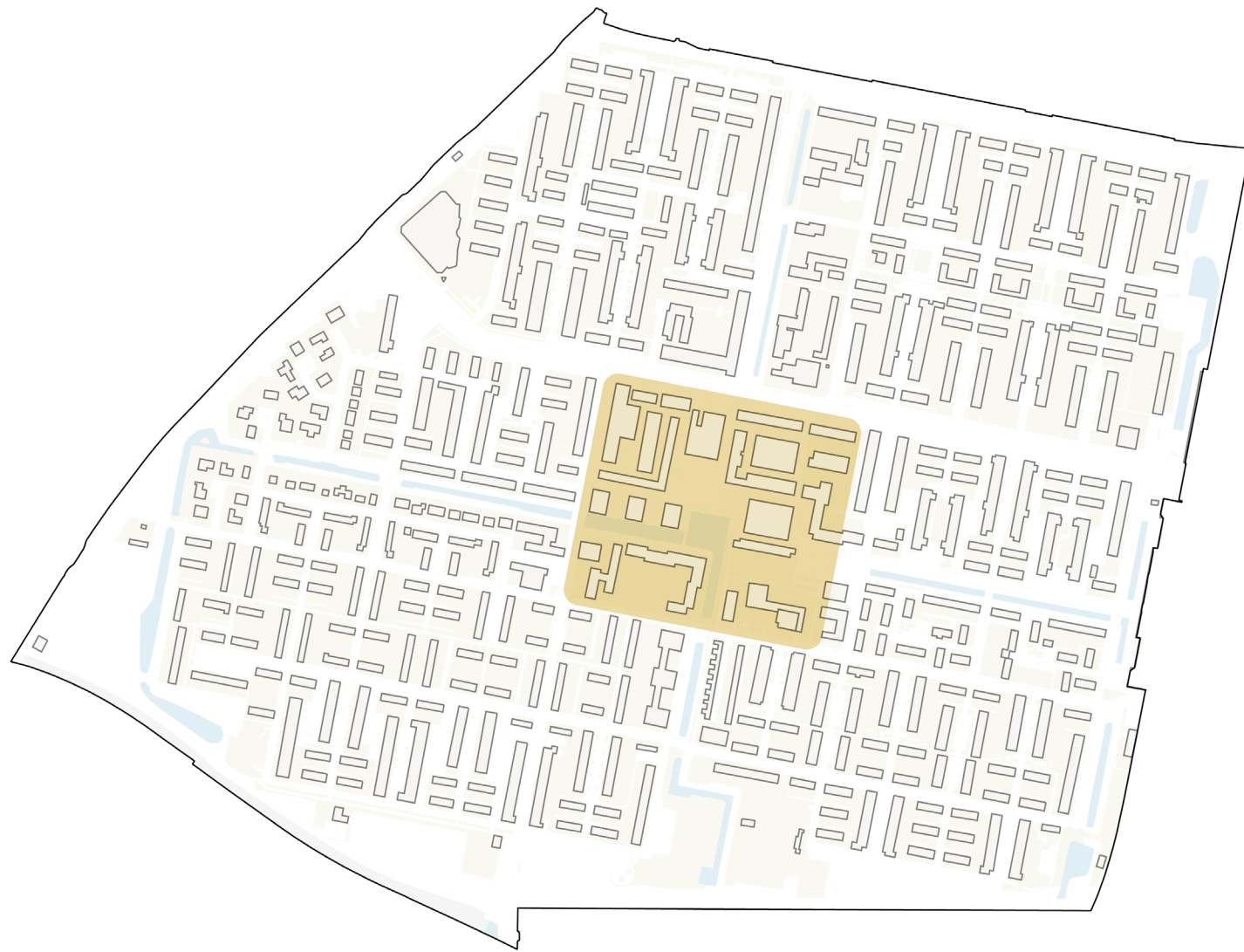
What are the hidden qualities of the postwar
neighbourhood?

Pendrecht

Pendrecht



Design Lotte Stam-Beese 1950's
Wijkgedachte



One independent neighbourhood



Four smaller communities

Design Lotte Stam-Beese 1950's
Wijkgedachte



Community shopping street
Zijpe, 1958

(Fototechnische Dienst Rotterdam, 1958)



Four smaller communities

Design Lotte Stam-Beese 1950's
Wijkgedachte



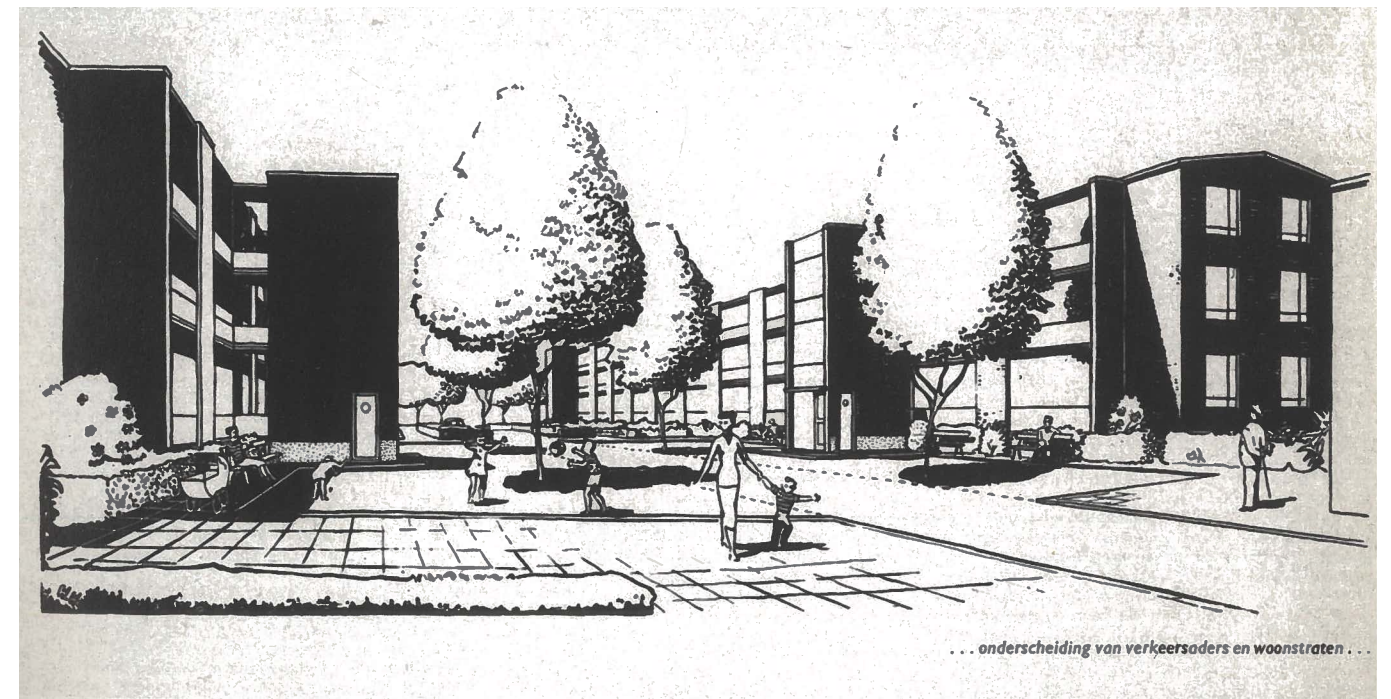
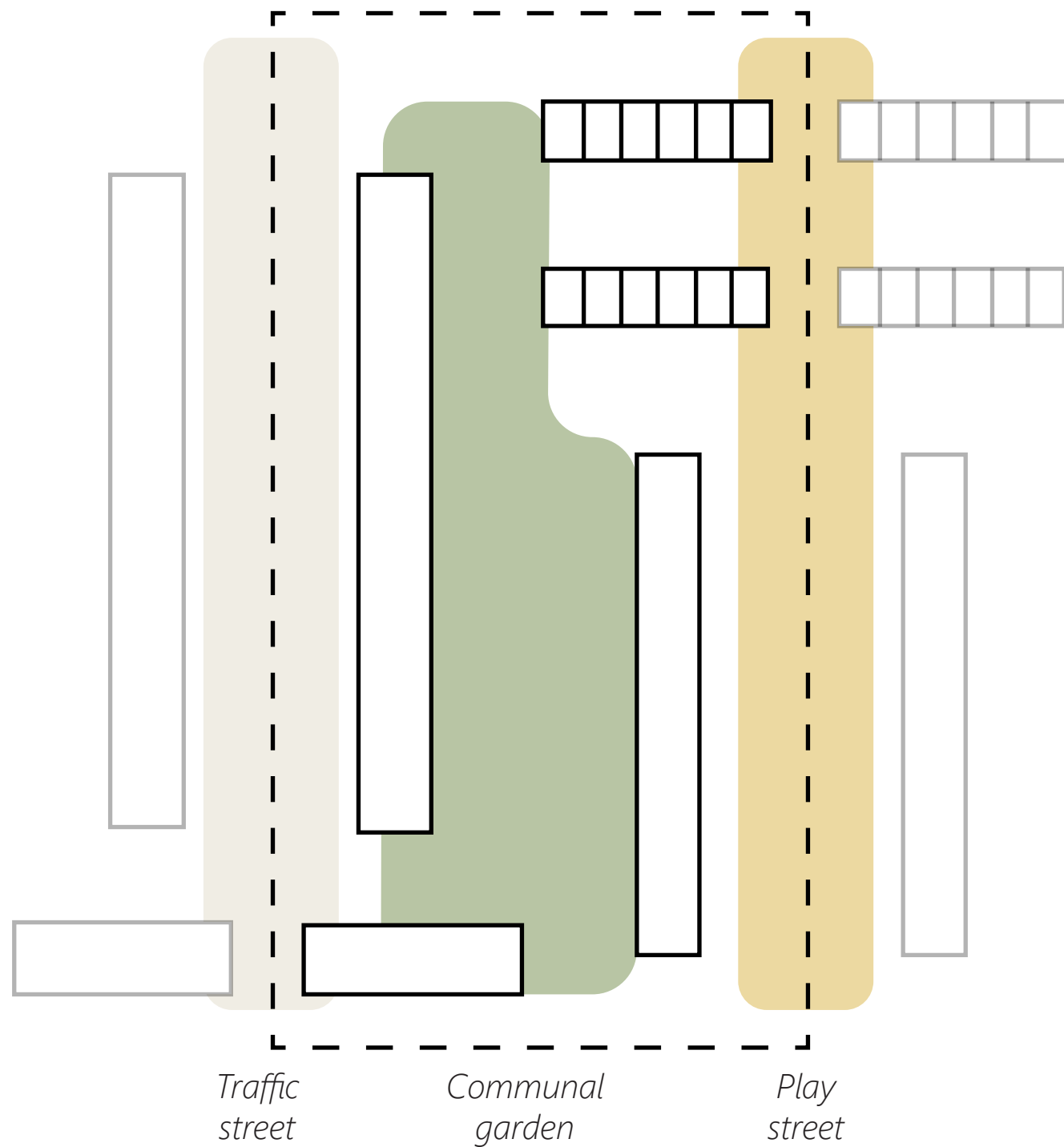
Community shopping street
Zijpe, now



Four smaller communities

Design Lotte Stam-Beese 1950's The neighbourhood unit

Half-open block
with 90 dwellings

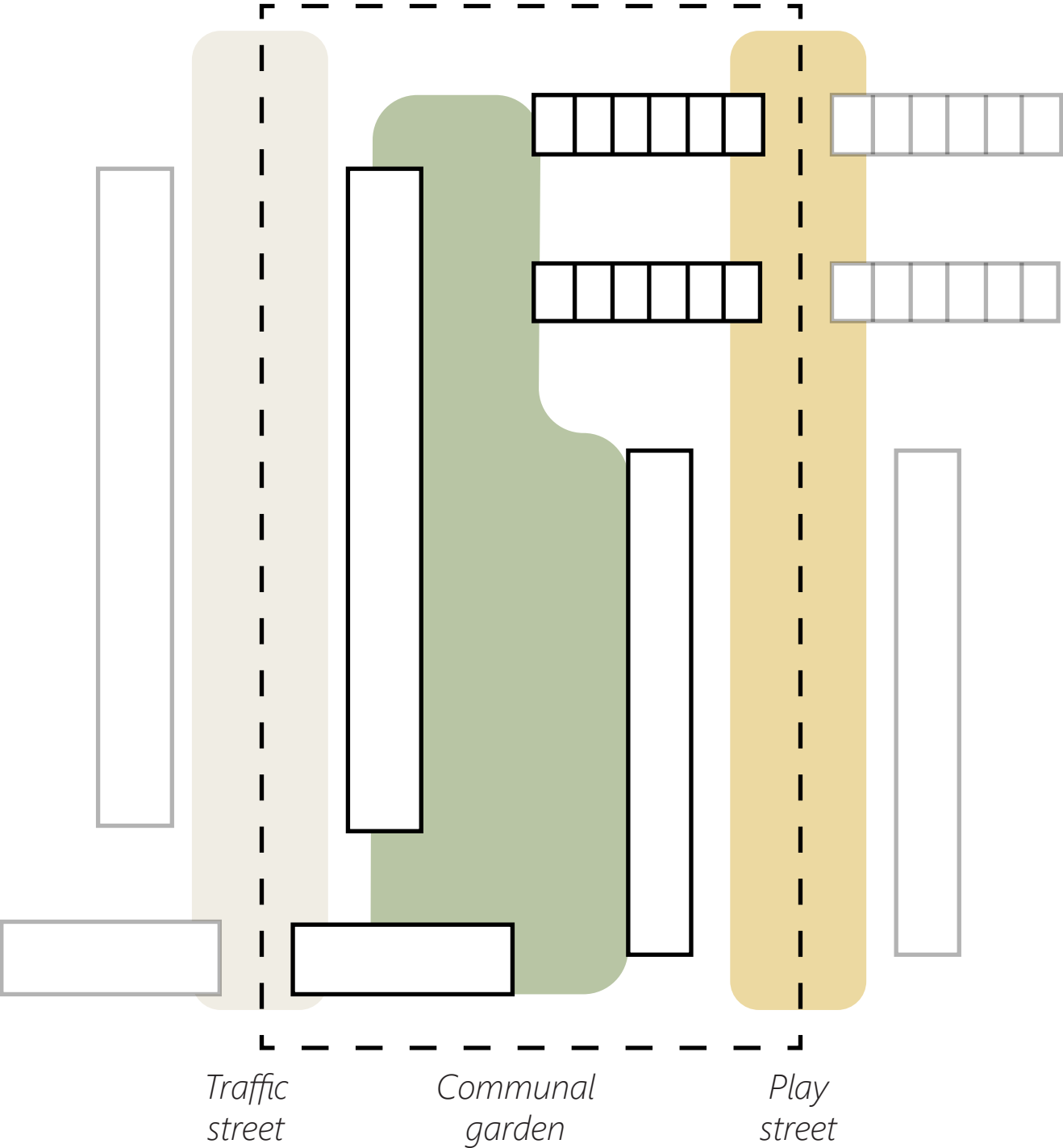


The play street

(Hage & Zweerink, 2005:159)

Design Lotte Stam-Beese 1950's
The neighbourhood unit

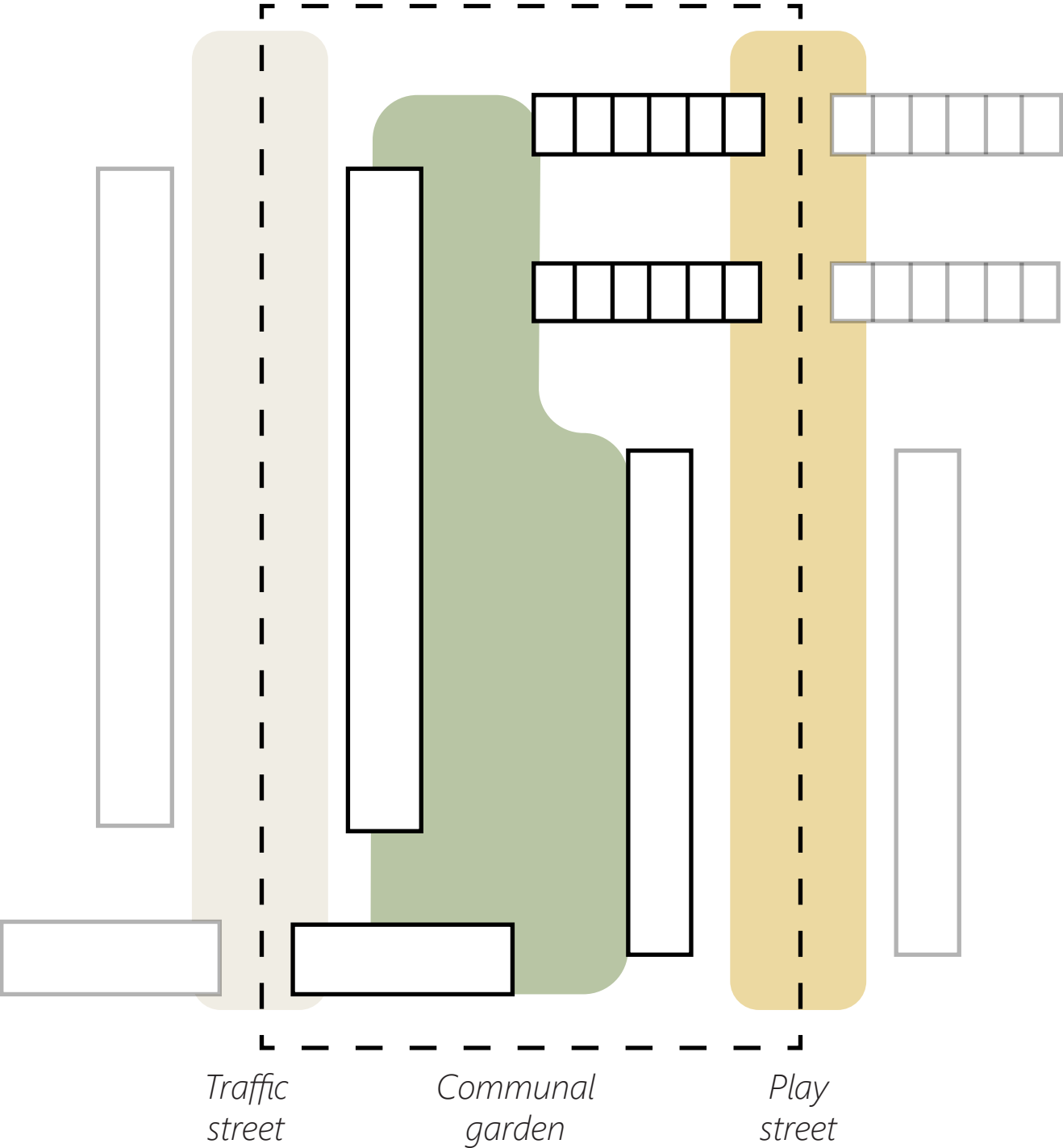
Half-open block
with 90 dwellings



The communal garden

Design Lotte Stam-Beese 1950's
The neighbourhood unit

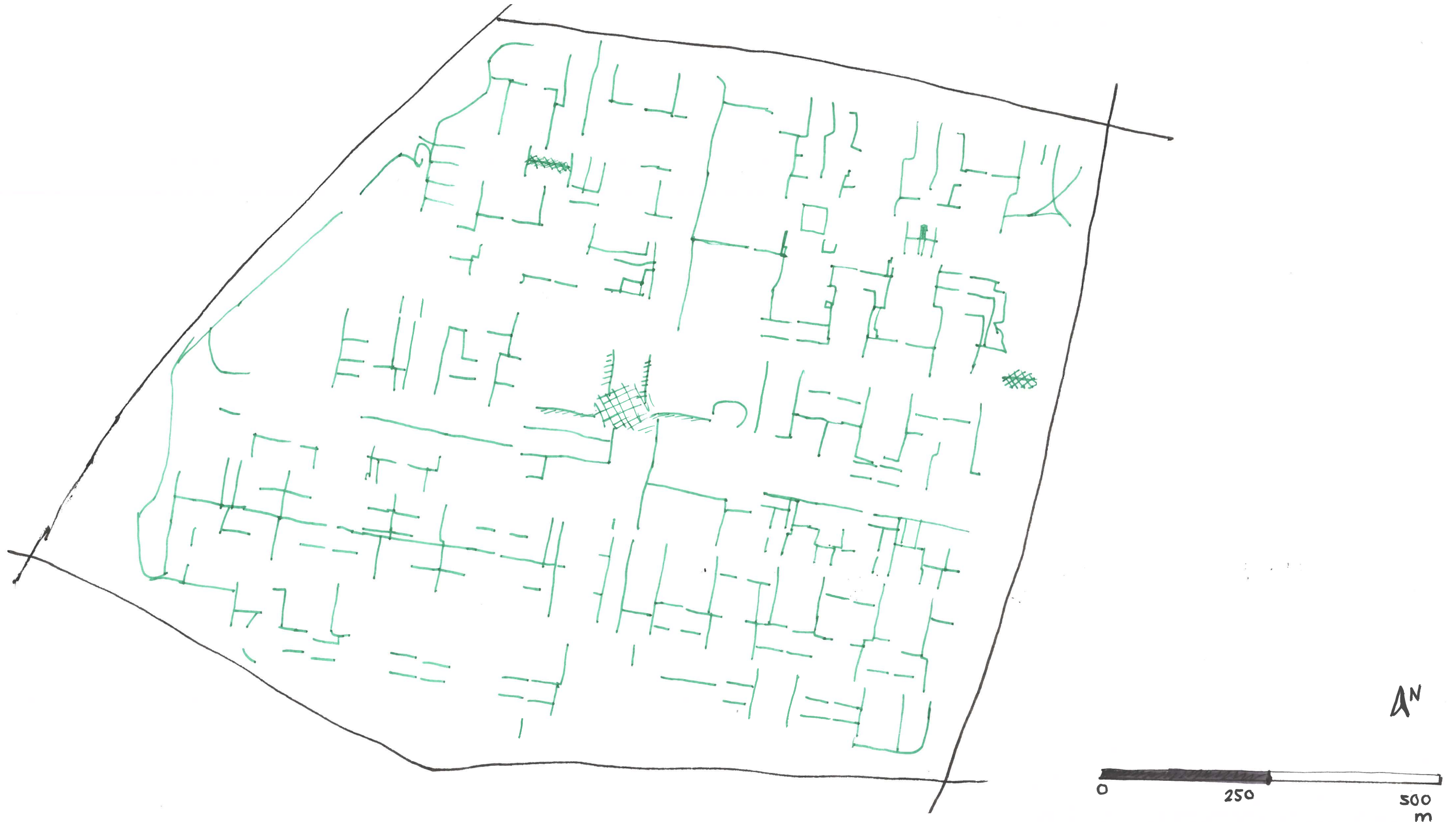
Half-open block
with 90 dwellings



Underpass to communal garden

(Hage & Zweerink, 2005:158)

Existing network of walking paths





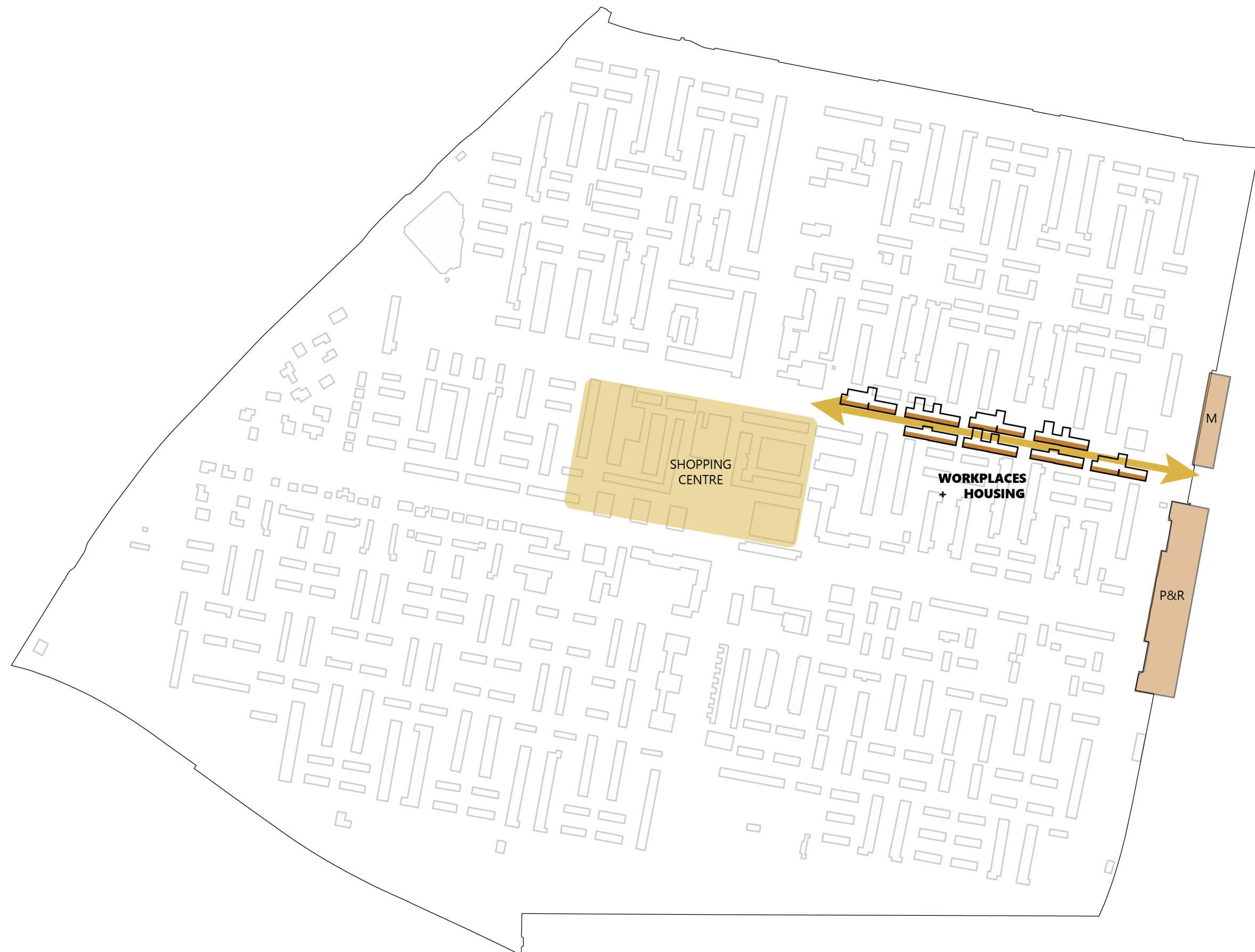
Structure walking plan

Sources and destinations





Densify Slinge



Public park Slinge



Community centres



Parking hubs



Ecological route



Long lines: main walking paths



Close-knit walking network

total length:
45 km





Proximity
of urban
amenities

Inviting
routes for
people and
nature

More space
for walking,
less space for
driving



How to give the large amount of public space to the residents?

The allotment garden

Allotment garden complex
Delftse Hout
(Google Earth, 2024)



*shrubs along
path max.
1,0 meter*



*max. 25%
pavement,
incl. shed*

5



Allotment garden complex Pendrecht

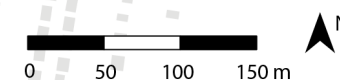


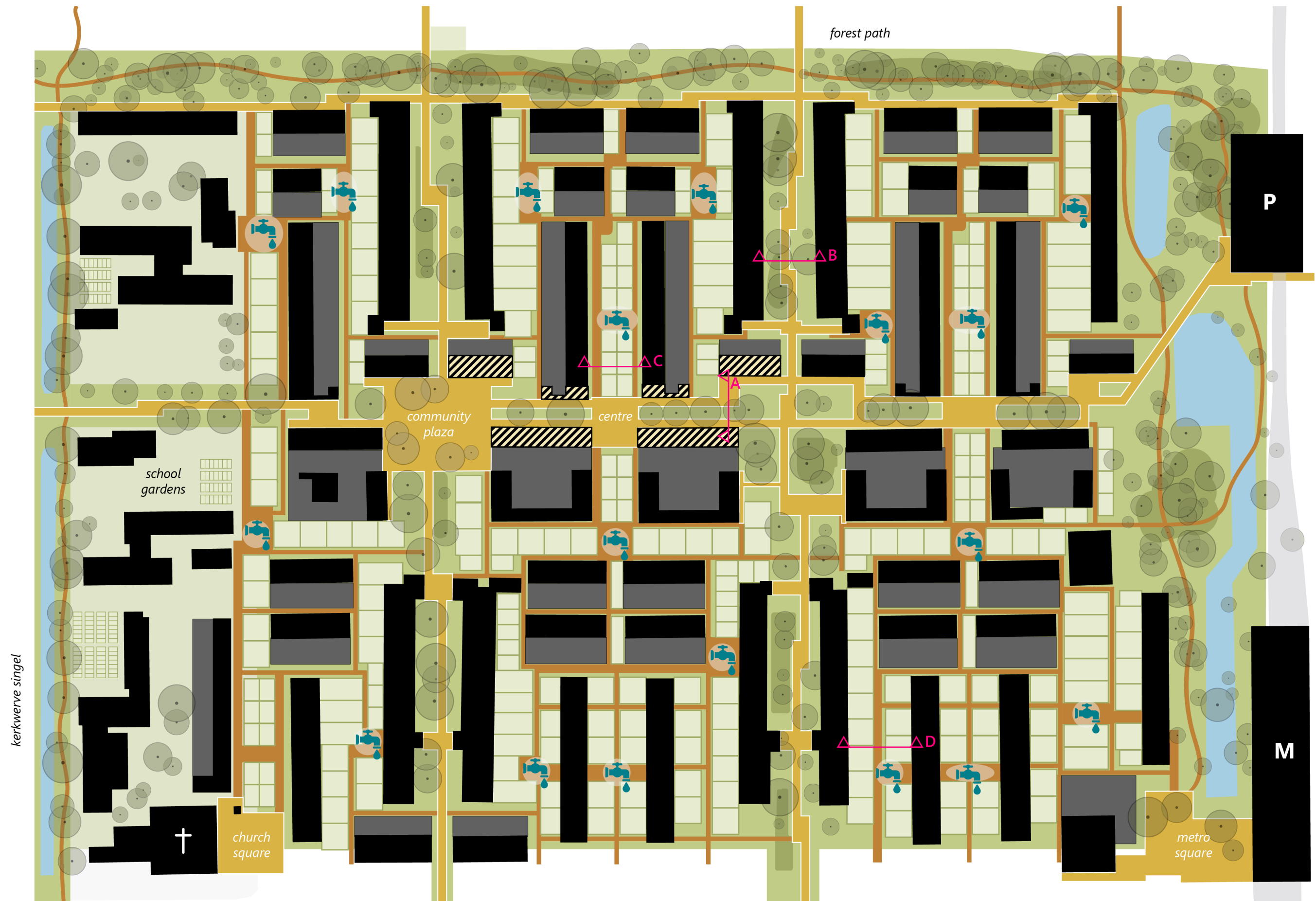
Joy!

Inviting
routes for
people and
nature

More space
for walking,
less space for
driving

Tiengemetenbuurt

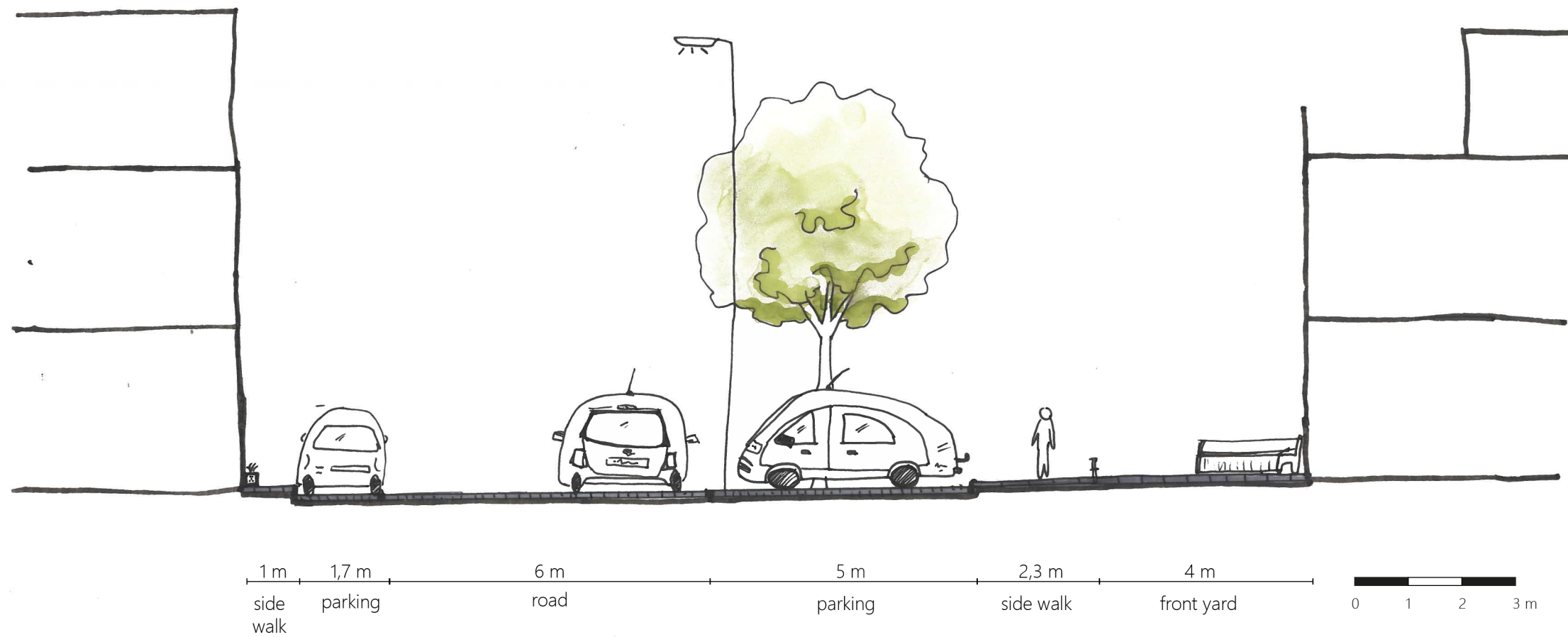




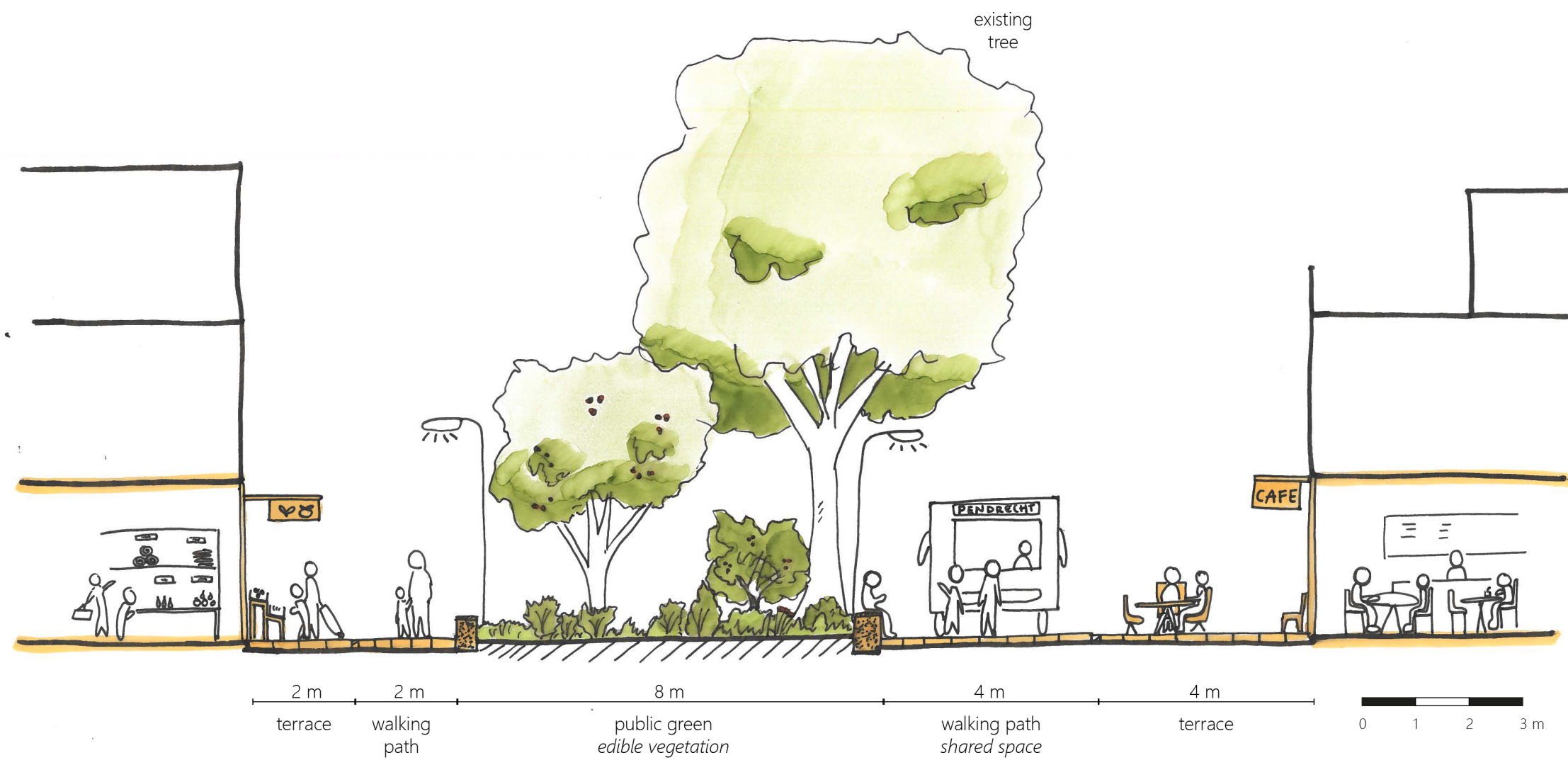
The garden community
Herkingenbuurt



Before...



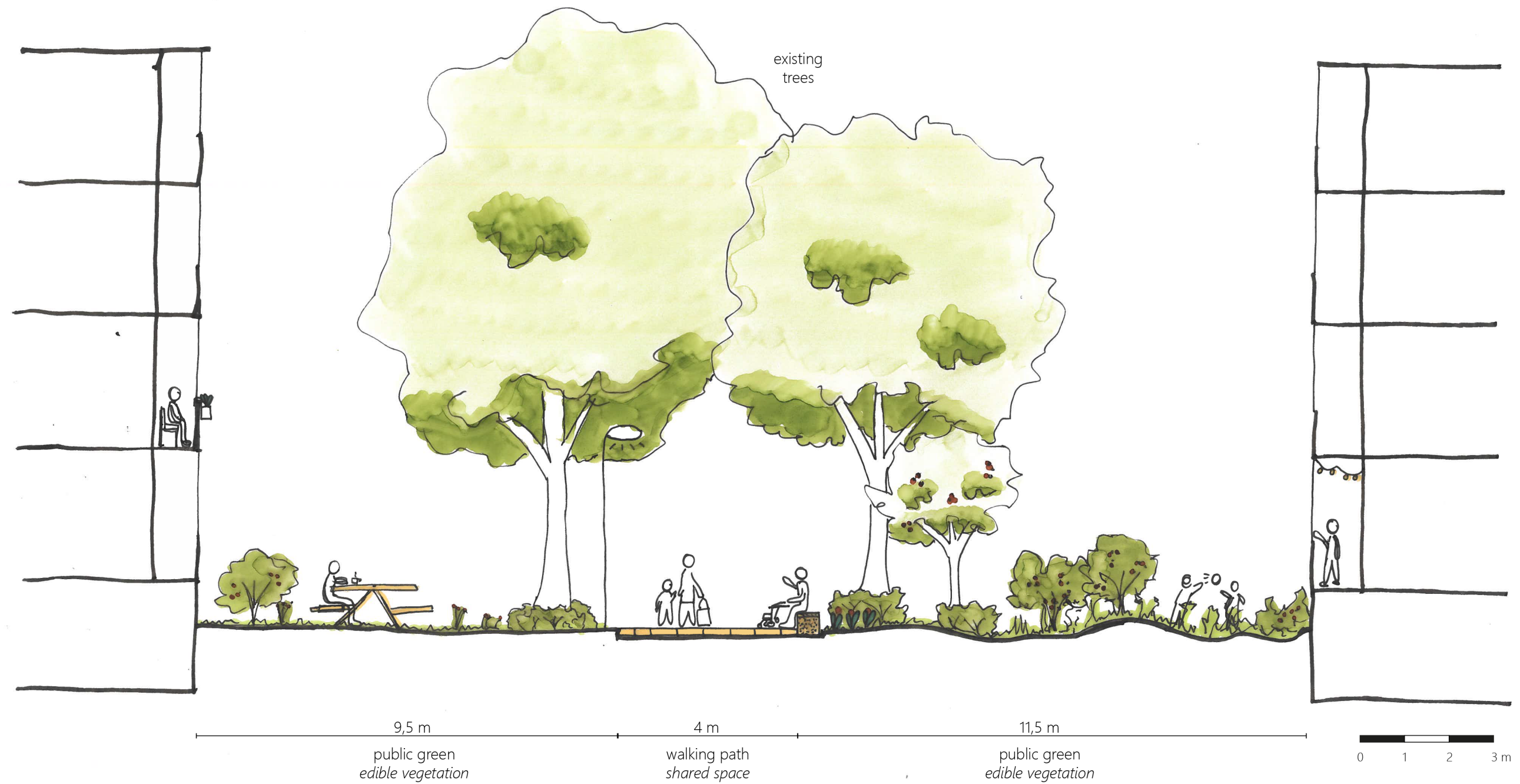
Community centre



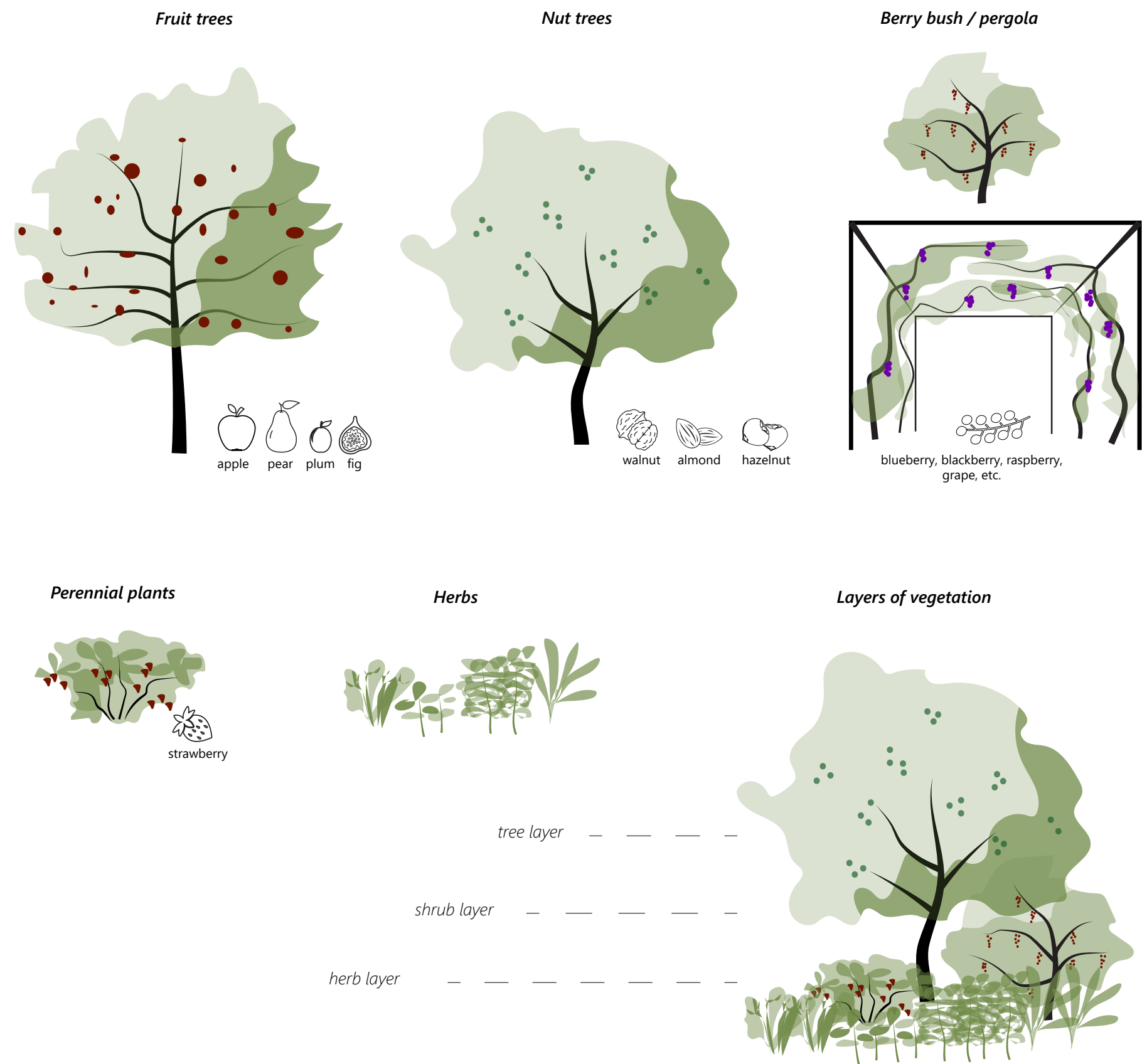
Before...



Main walking route



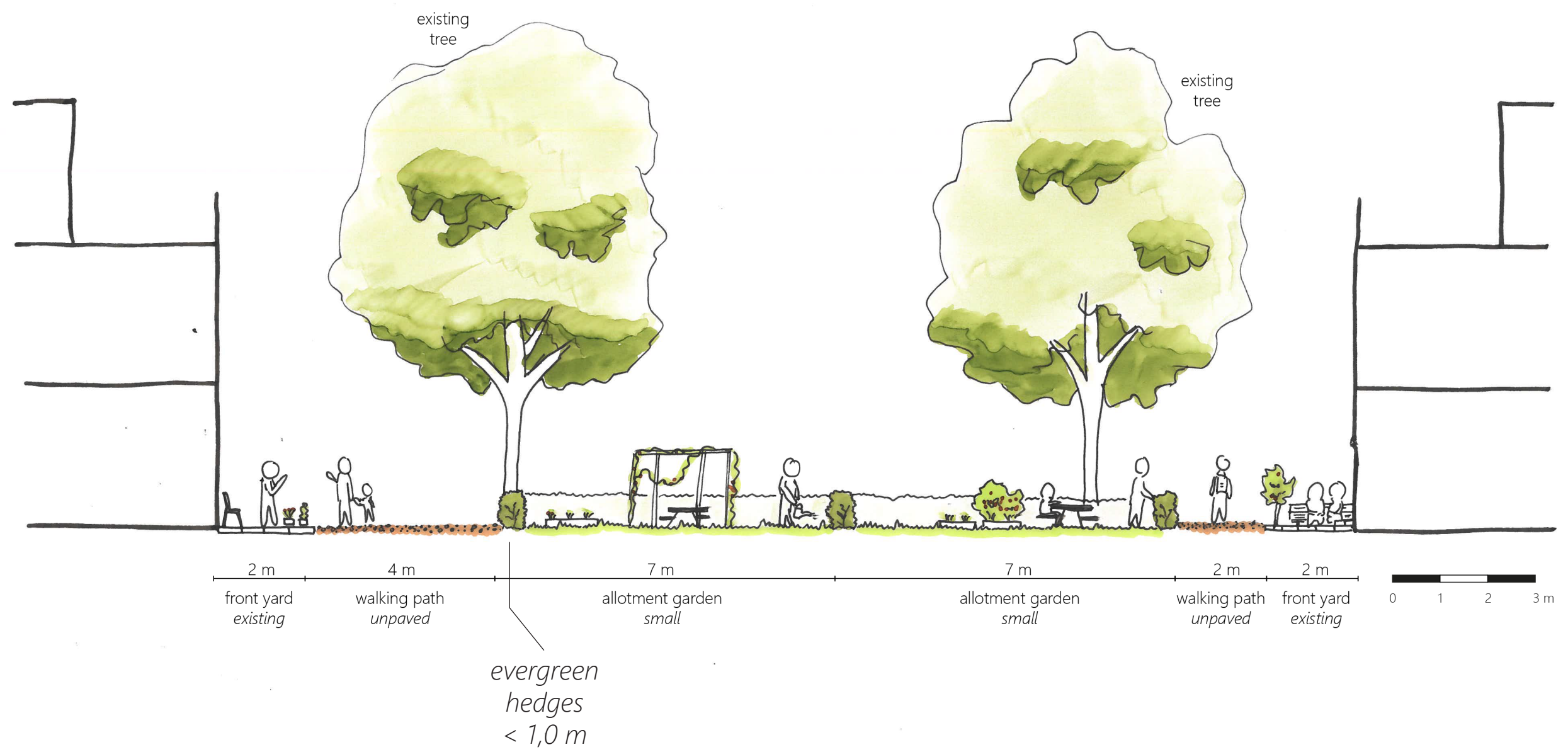
Main walking route
edible vegetation



Before...

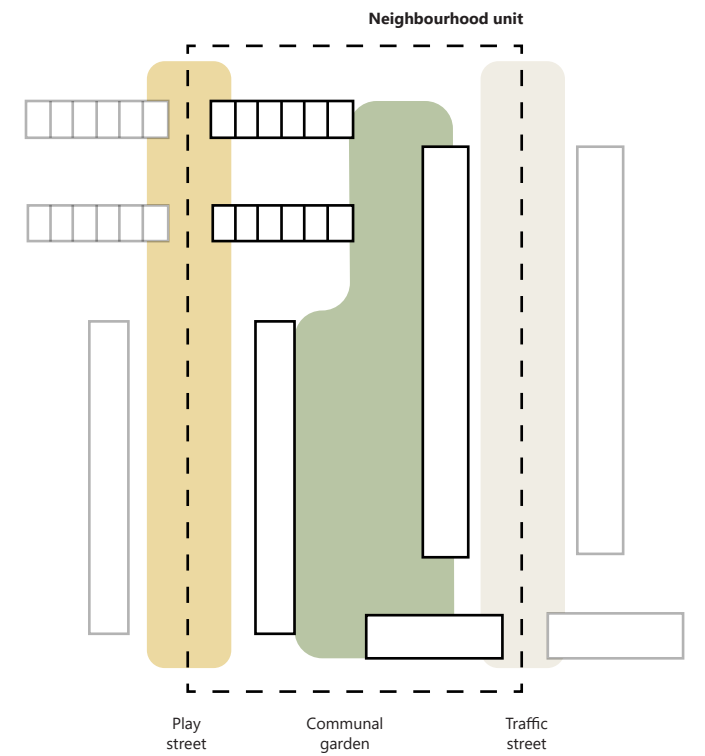


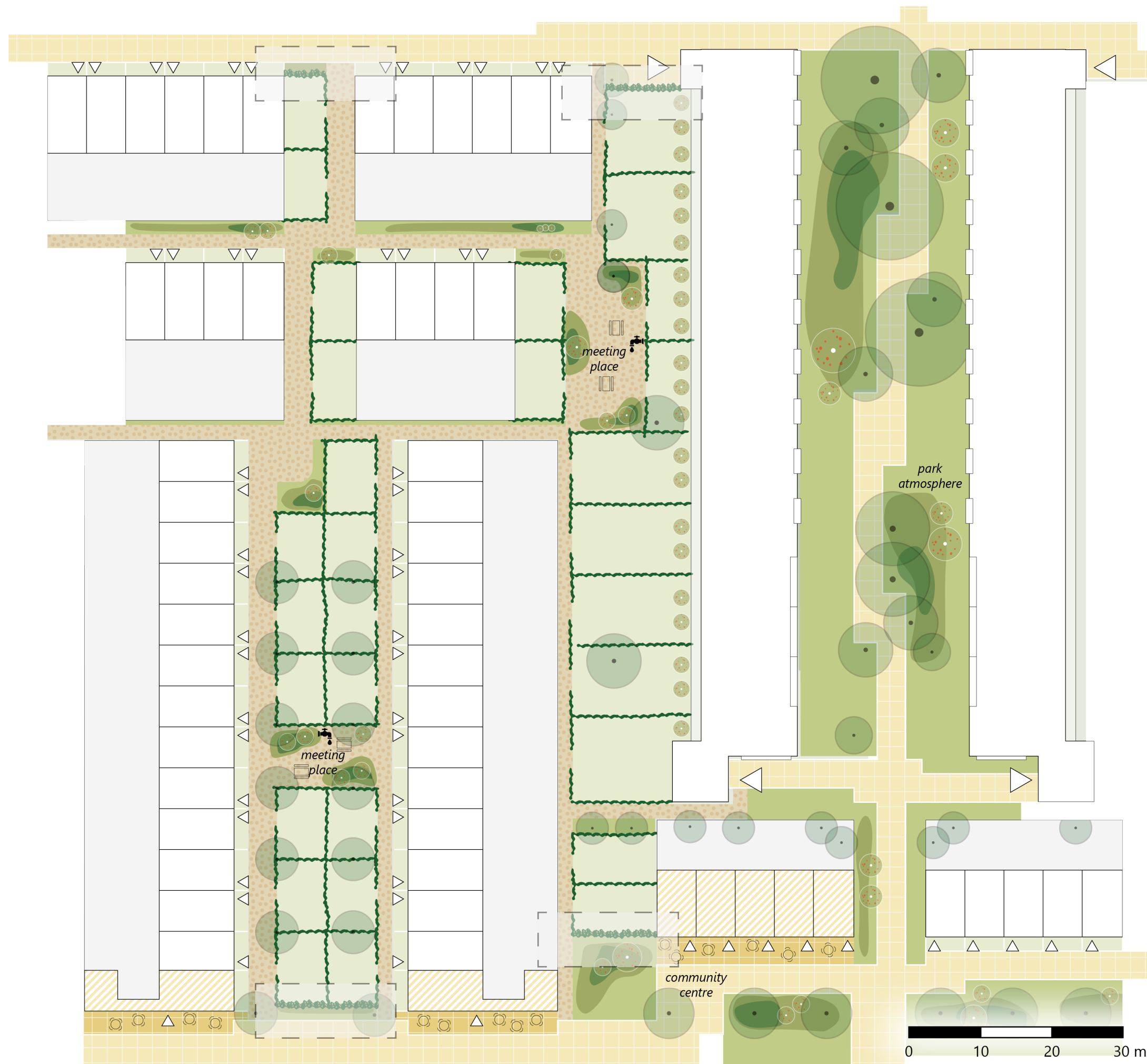
Garden street



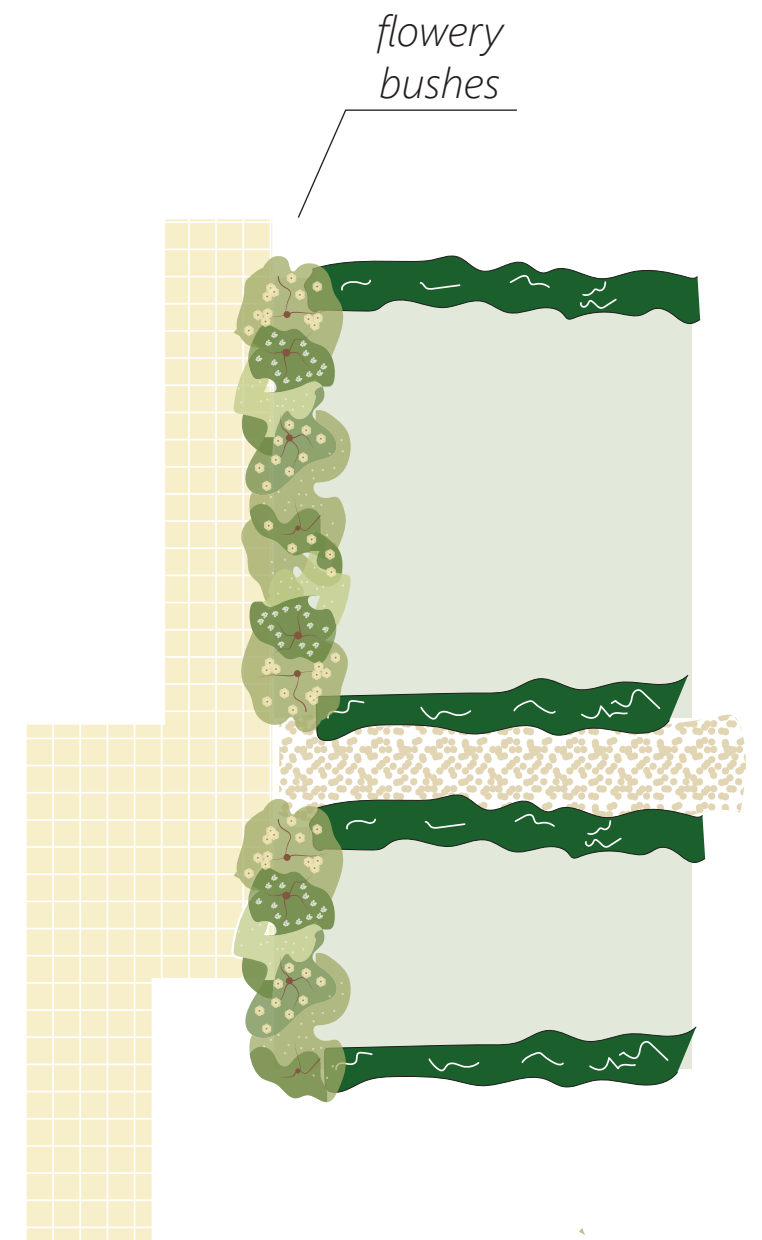


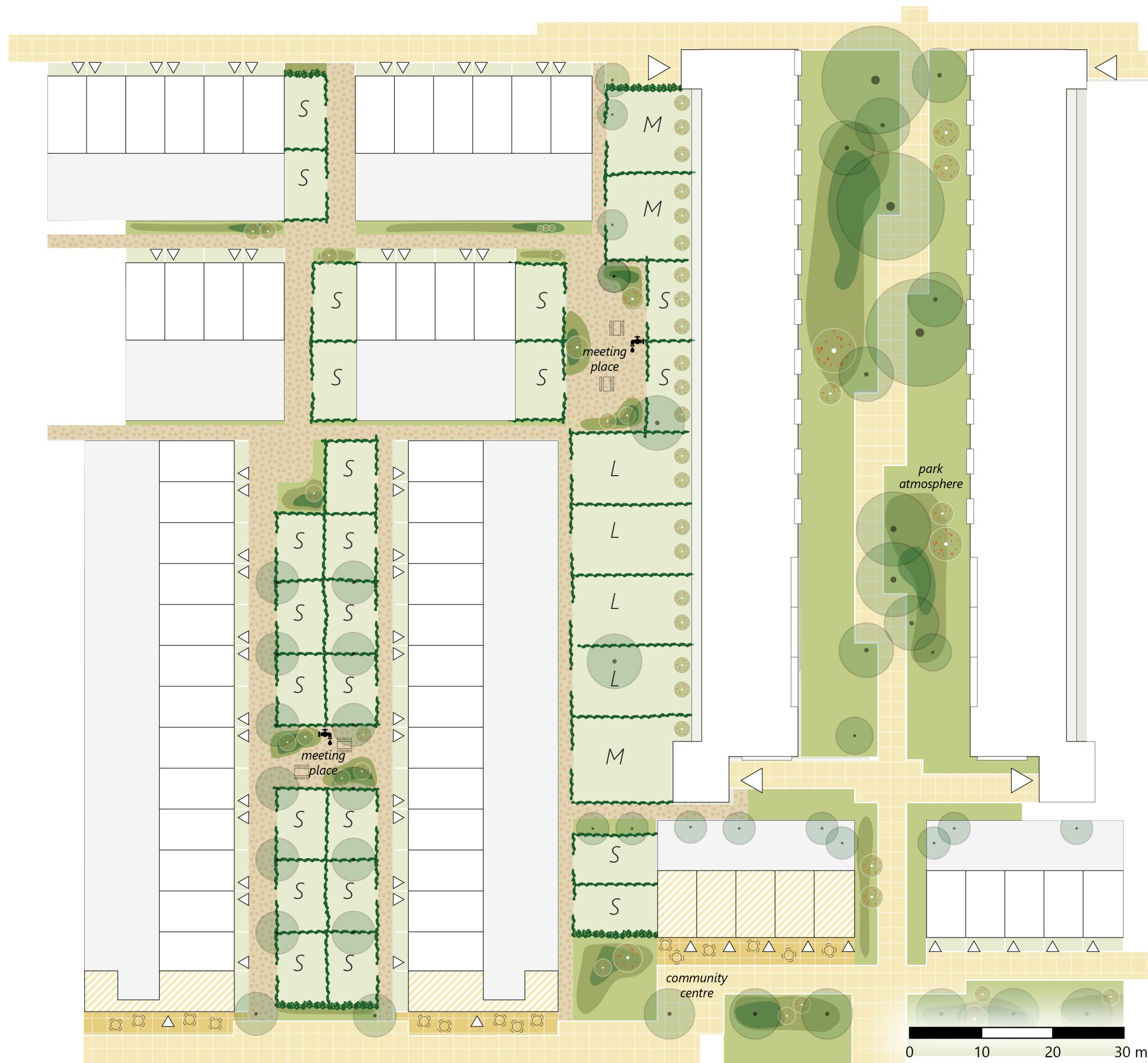
Neighbourhood unit





Neighbourhood unit



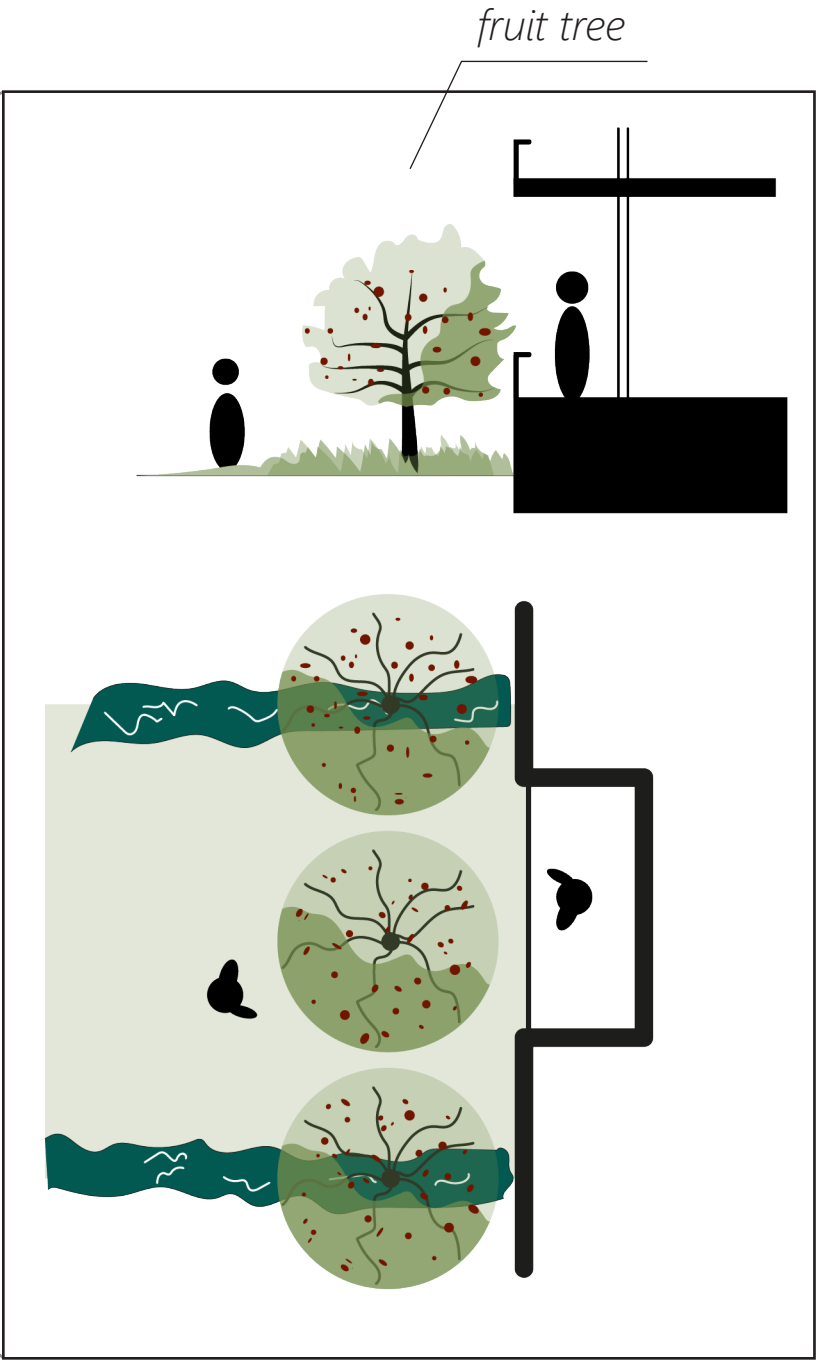


Neighbourhood unit

Gardens

S: 10 x 7 meters.
M: 12 x 12 meters.
L: 10 x 20 meters.

Neighbourhood unit



Existing materials

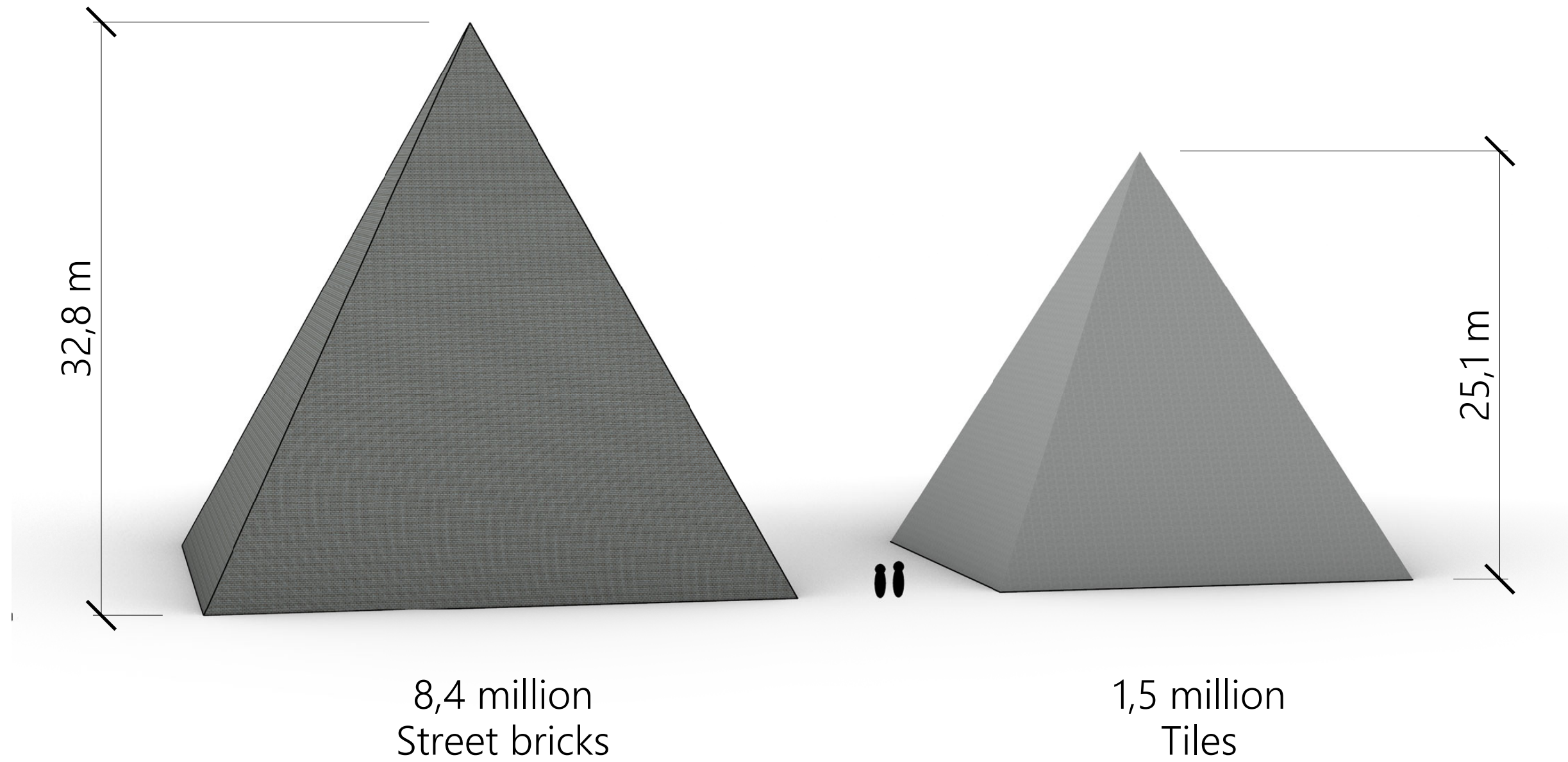


Street bricks

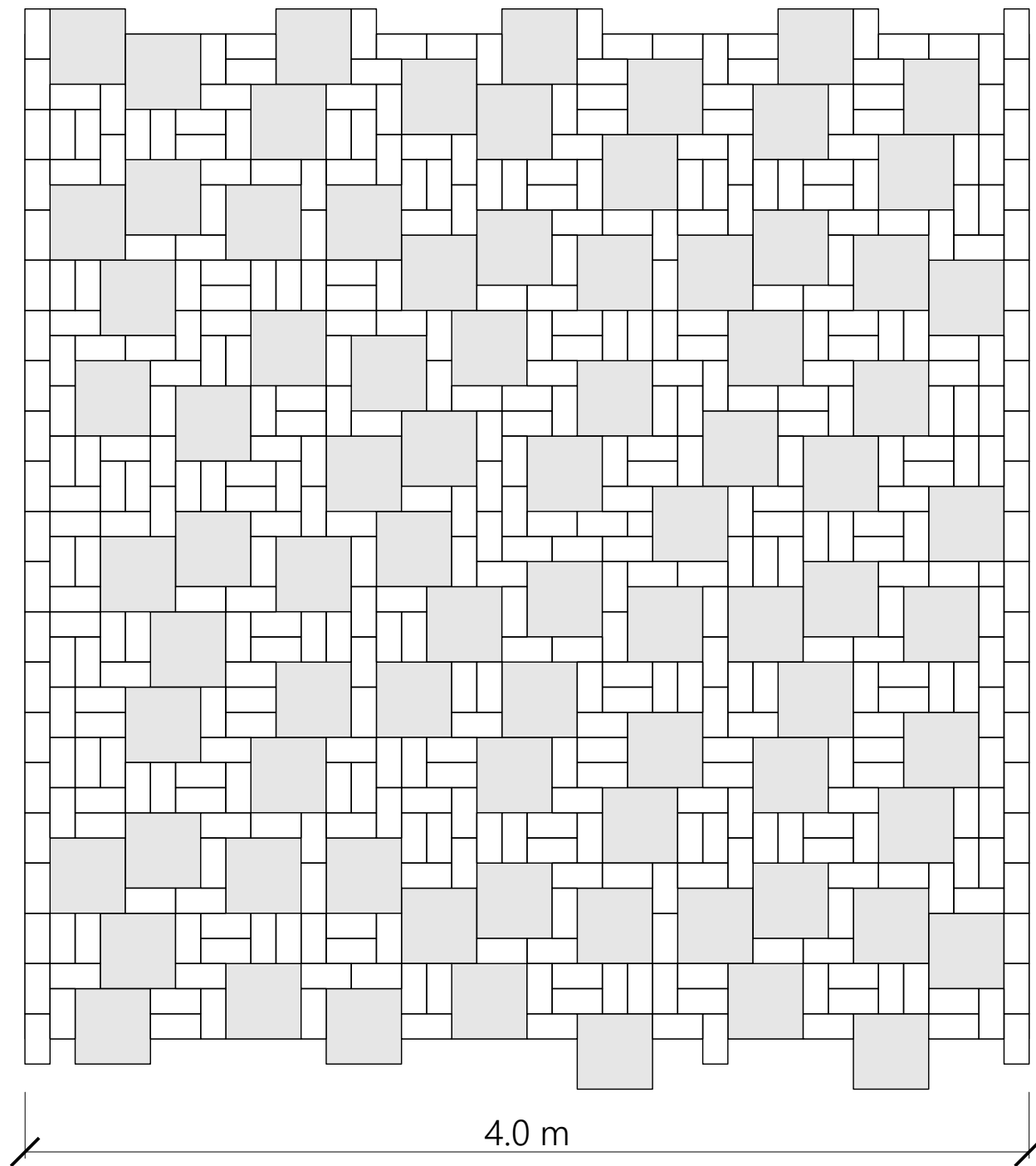


30 x 30 cm tiles

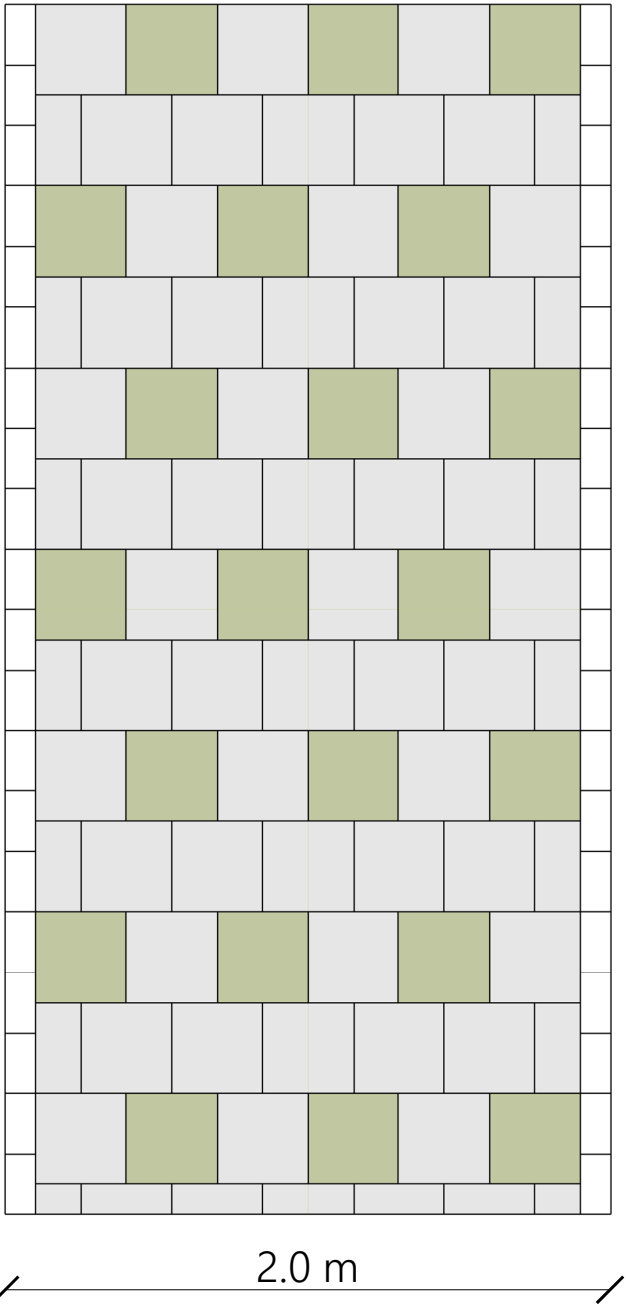
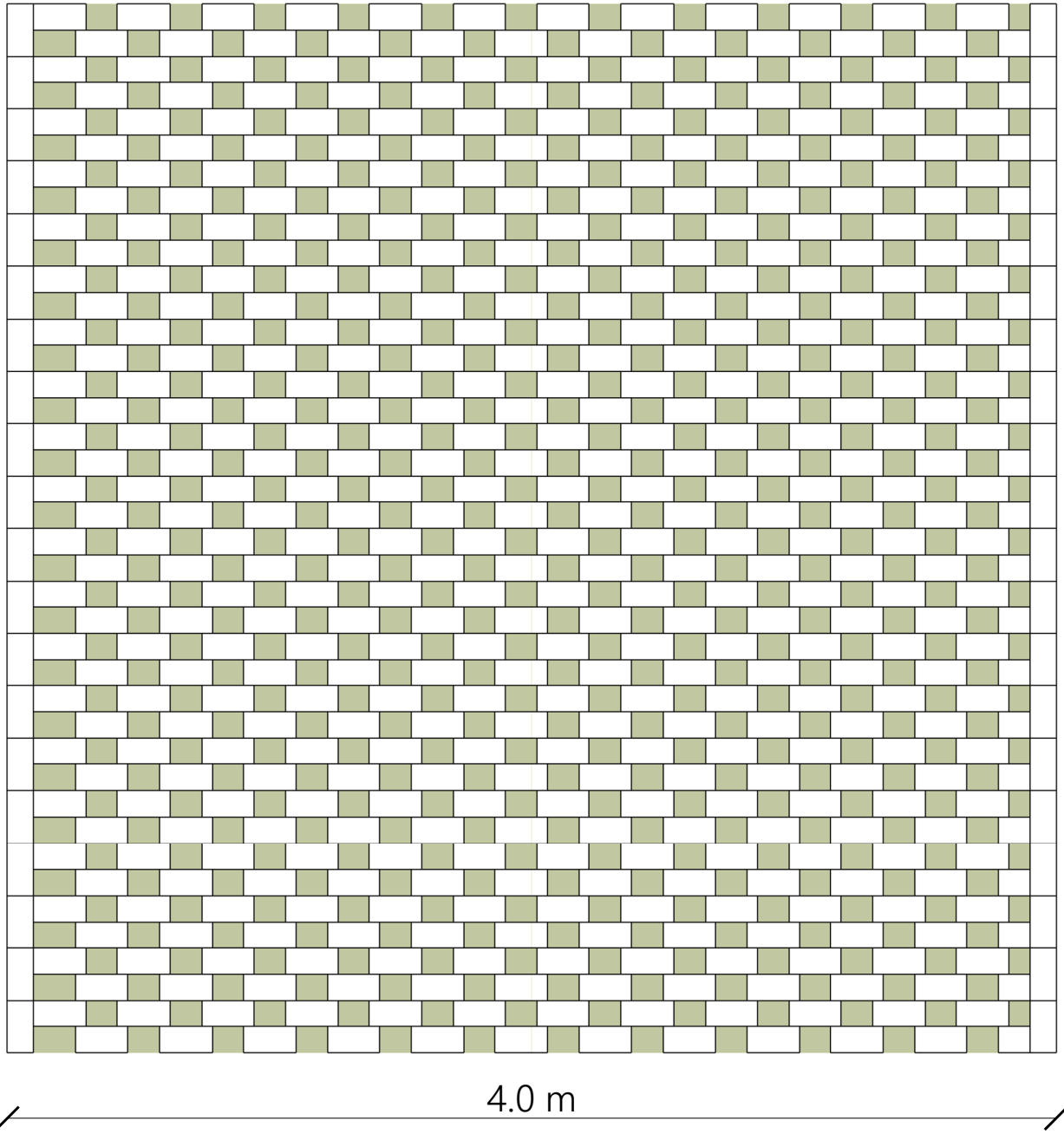
Existing materials



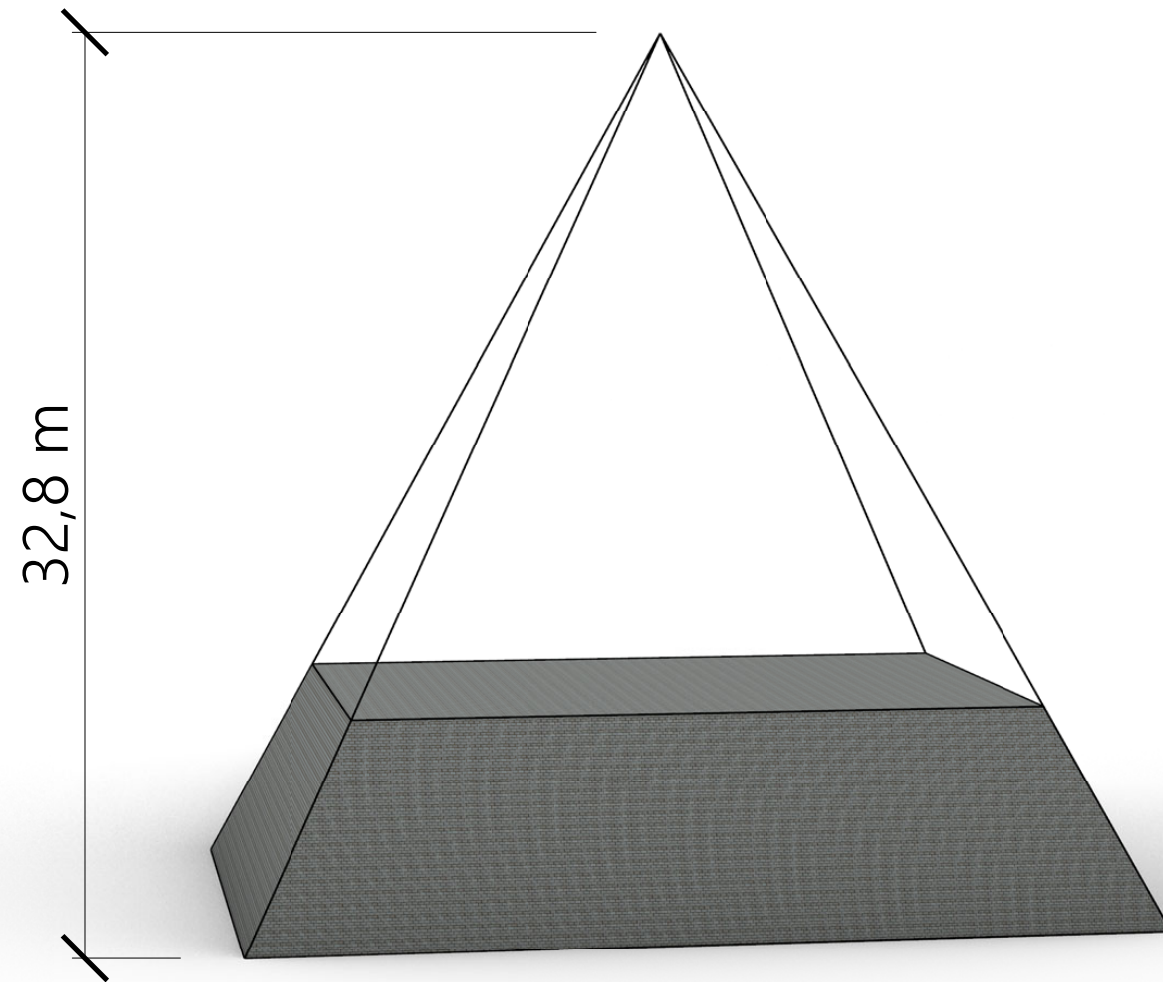
Reuse materials main walking paths



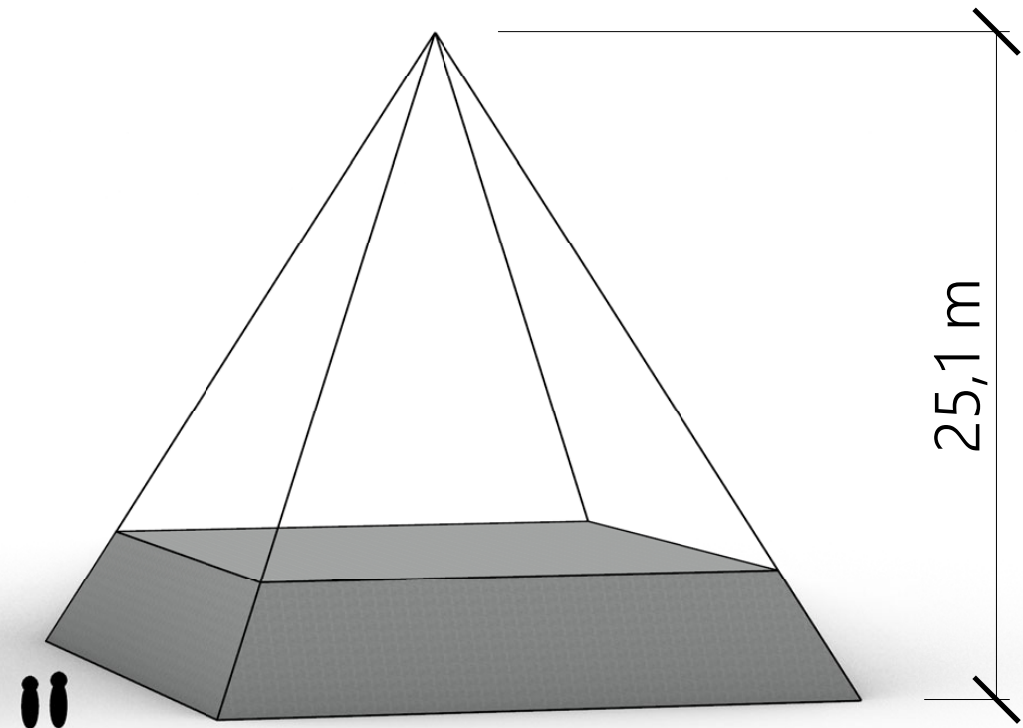
Reuse materials
garden streets and paths



Left-over materials

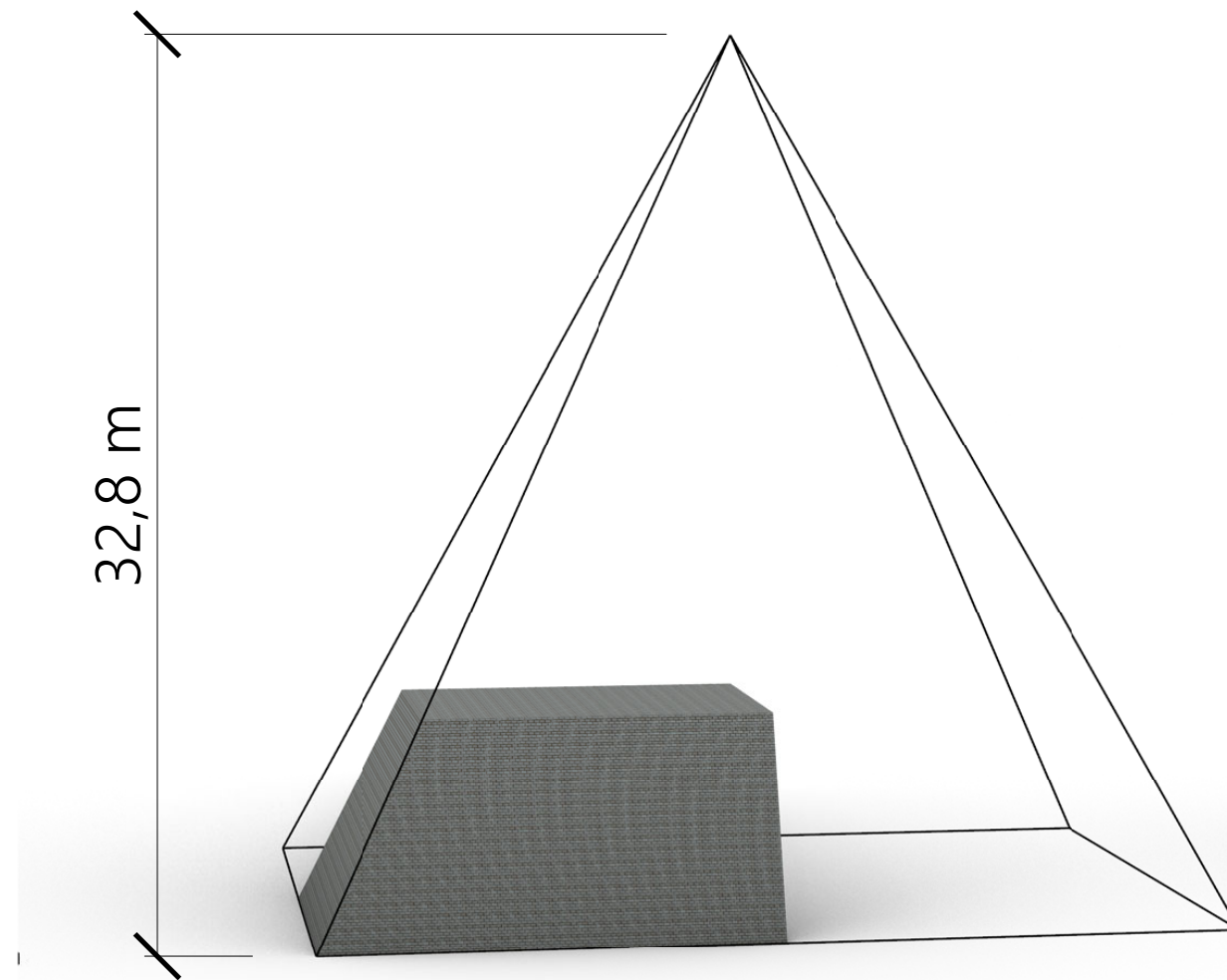


4,7 million
Street bricks
56% left

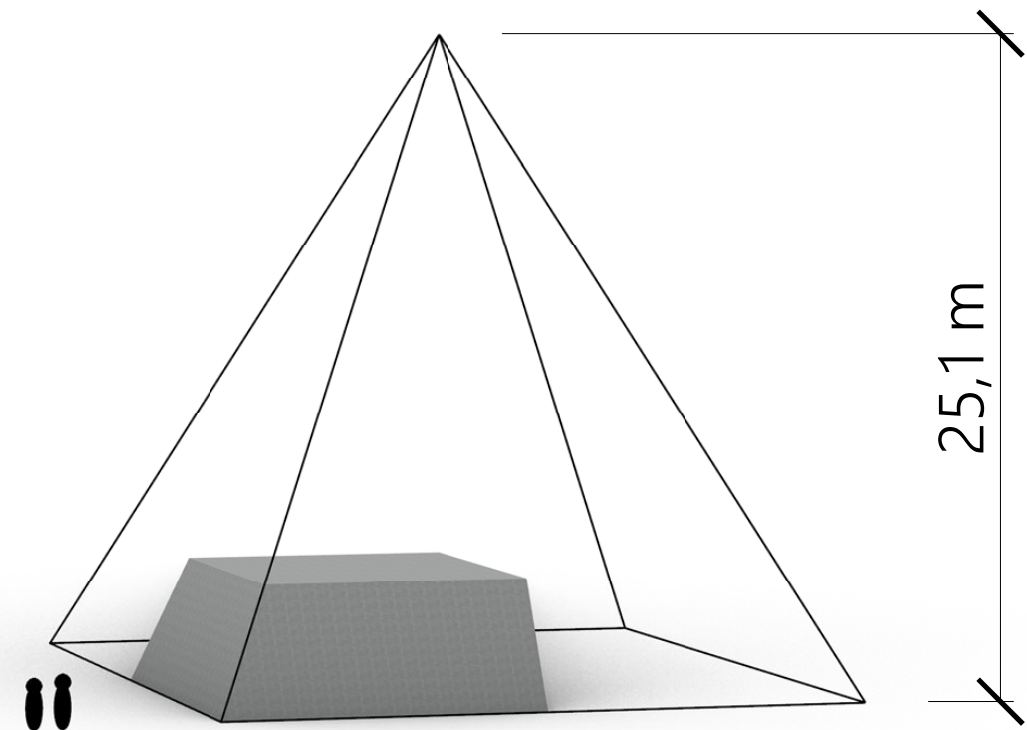


0,68 million
Tiles
46% left

Left-over materials



1,2 million
Street bricks
per community



170 thousand
Tiles
per community

Community sculpture



Ecokathedraal Mildam (Vondeling, n.d.)



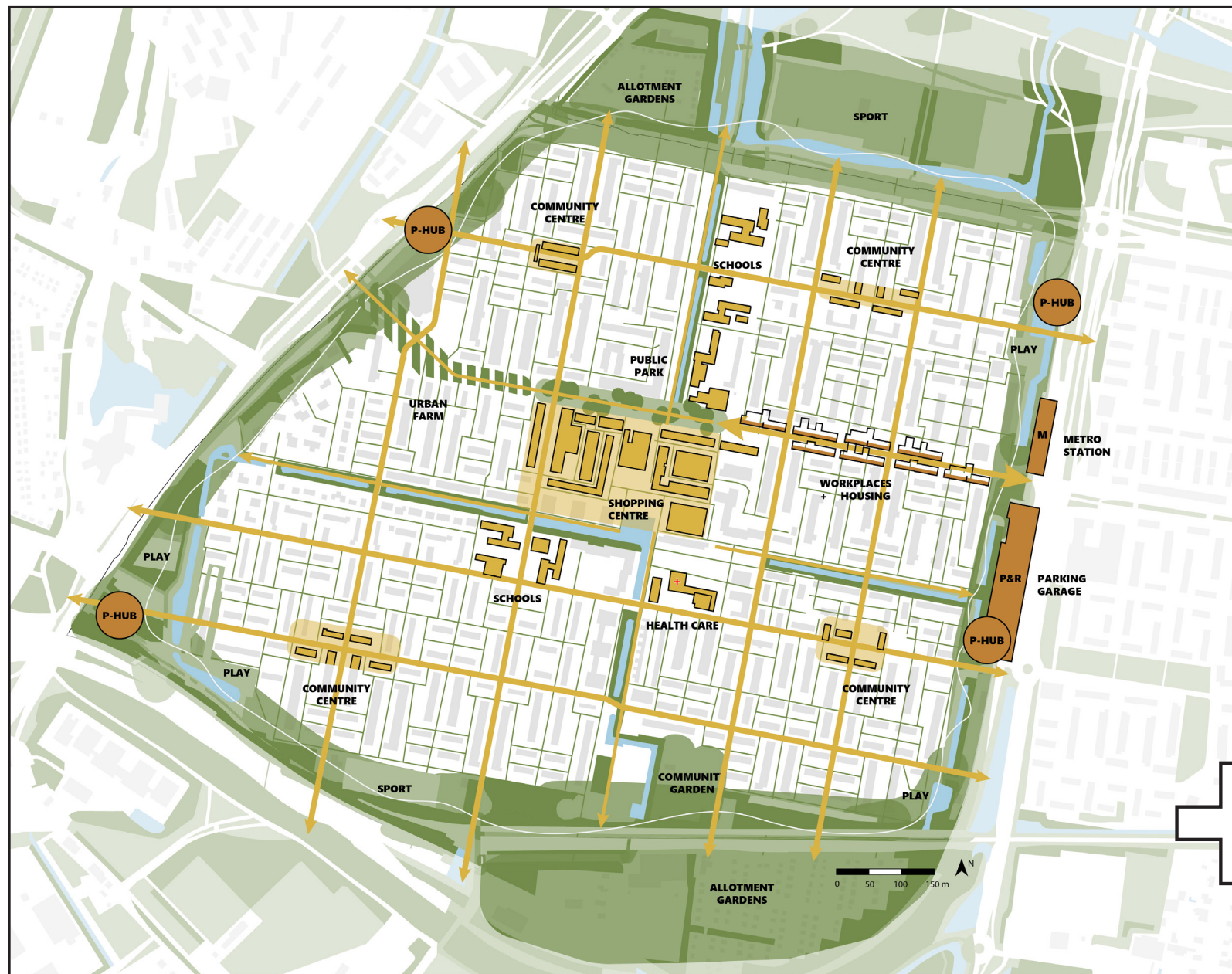
Amphitheatre (Ecologisch Adviesbureau Mulder, n.d.)



Jardín Agua Zarca (Borrell, 2021)

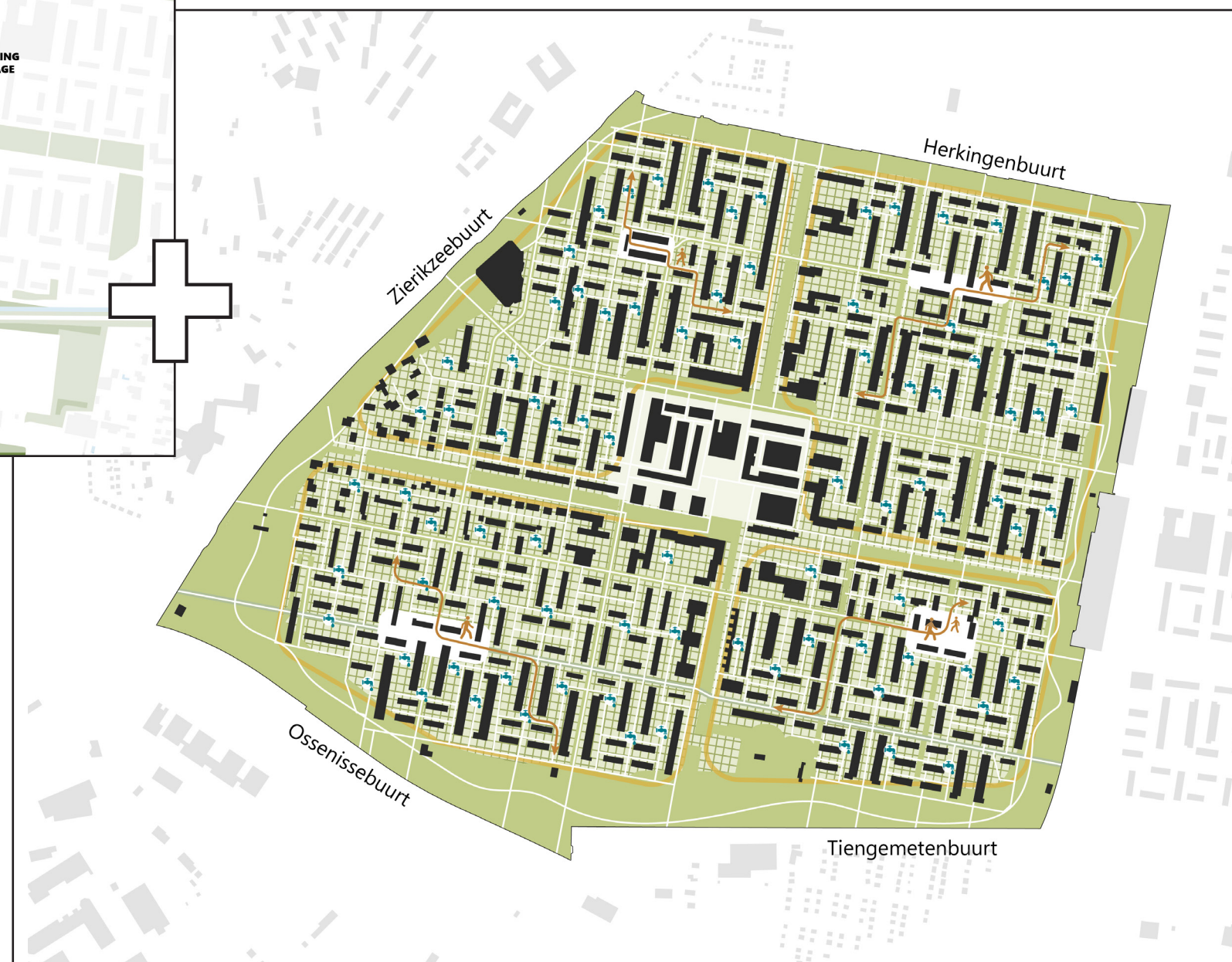
Conclusion

How can the radical redesign of a postwar neighbourhood lead to a joyful future for its residents?



Walkable neighbourhood

Allotment garden communities



A joyful walk through Pendrecht





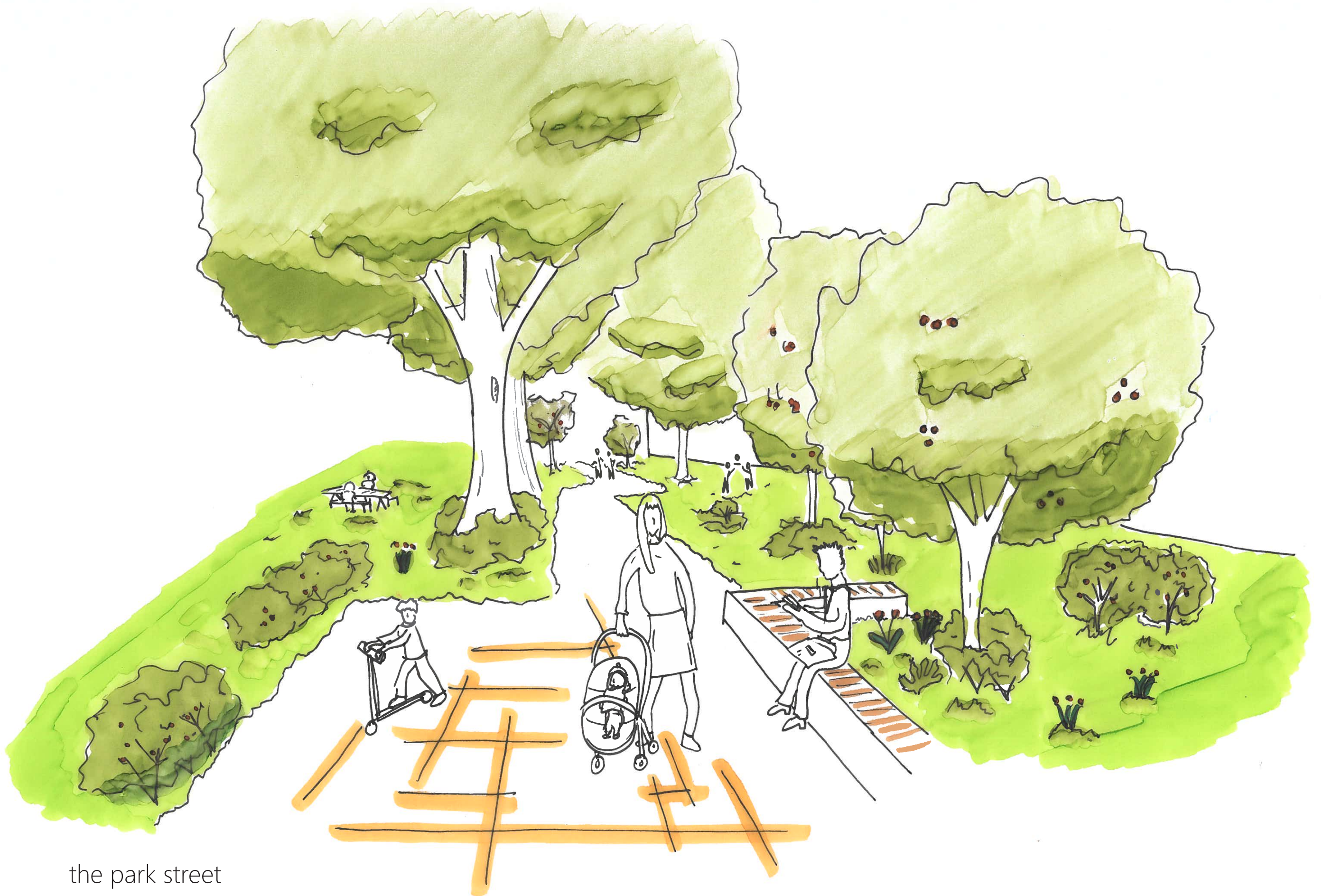
the garden street



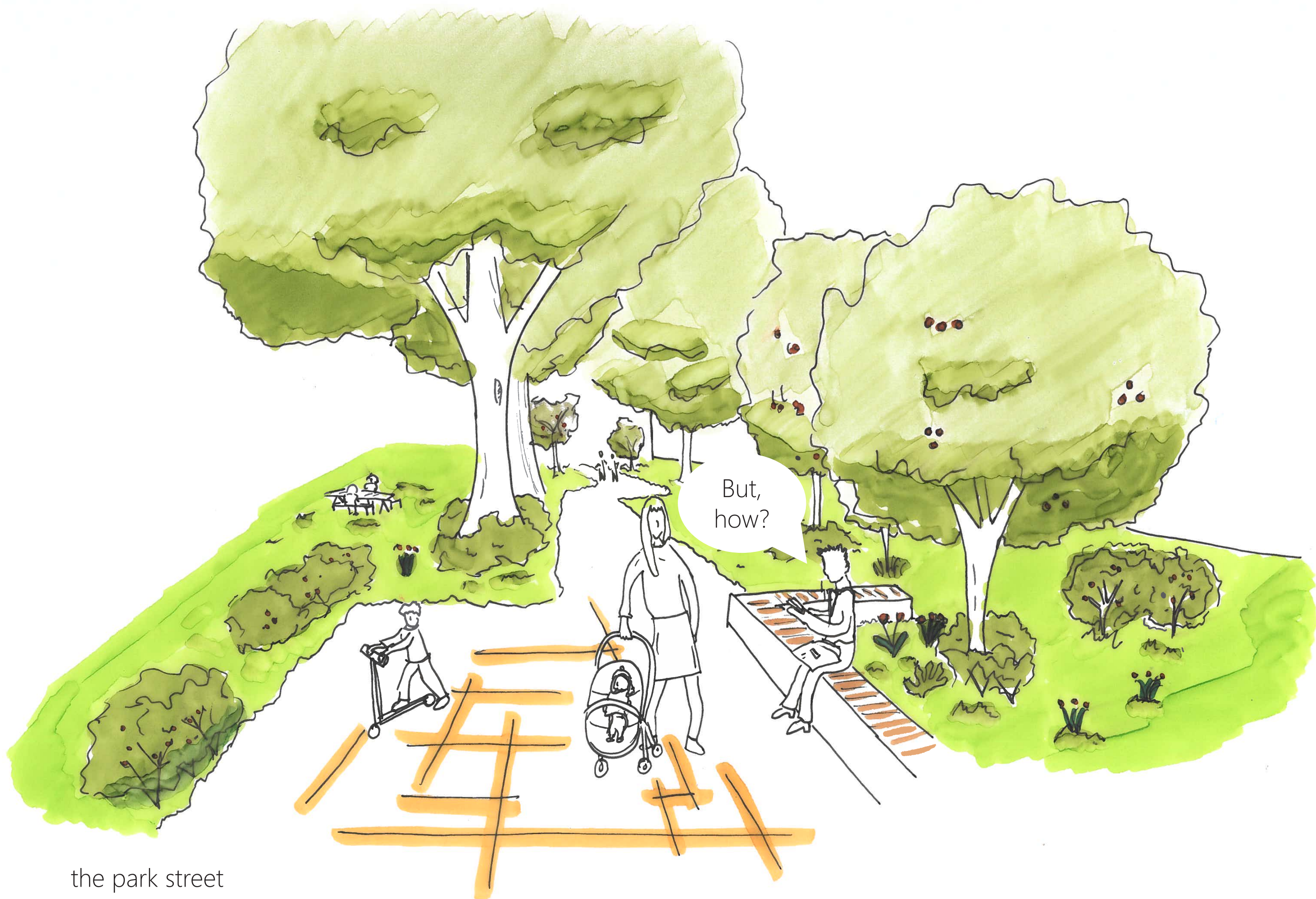
the community centre



the forest path



the park street



the park street

'Geen woorden, maar daden.'

Strategy of execution

Strategy of execution

Modular parking hubs



Modular parking garages


0,6 ha per P-hub if 1 car per household and 5 layers of parking



Strategy of execution



Modular parking hubs



Link to sewer replacement

Strategy of execution



Modular parking hubs

Link to sewer replacement

Educational programmes

Strategy of execution



One-time investment in redesign

Modular parking hubs

Link to sewer replacement

Educational programmes

Strategy of execution

One-time investment in redesign

Modular parking hubs

Link to sewer replacement

Educational programmes

Property values will increase

Housing corporations

Strategy of execution

One-time investment in redesign

Modular parking hubs

Property values will increase

Housing corporations

Link to sewer replacement

Maintenance costs public green will disappear

Municipality of Rotterdam

Educational programmes

Strategy of execution

One-time investment in redesign

Modular parking hubs

Property values will increase

Housing corporations

Link to sewer replacement

Maintenance costs public green will disappear

Municipality of Rotterdam

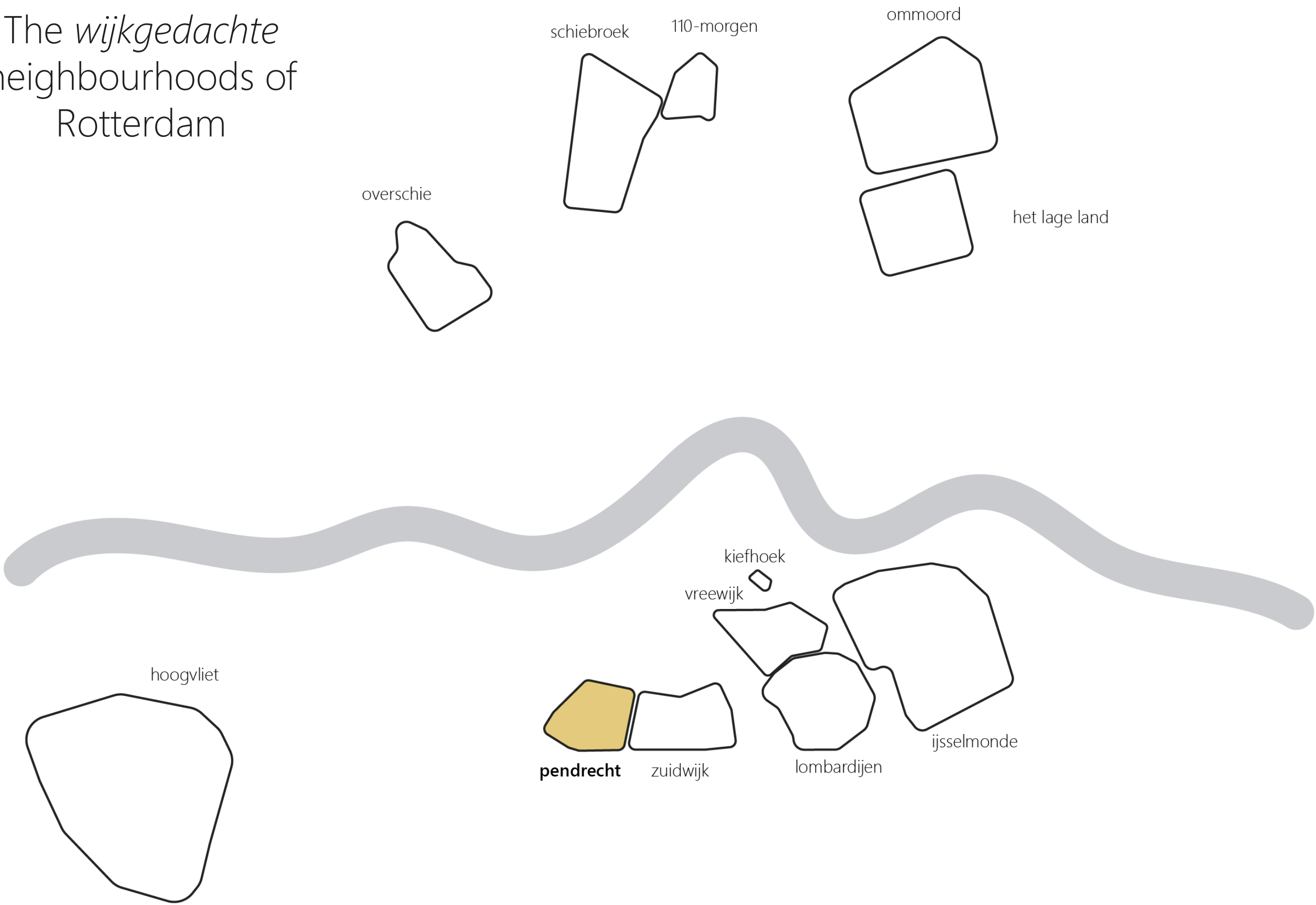
Educational programmes

Health care costs will drop enormously

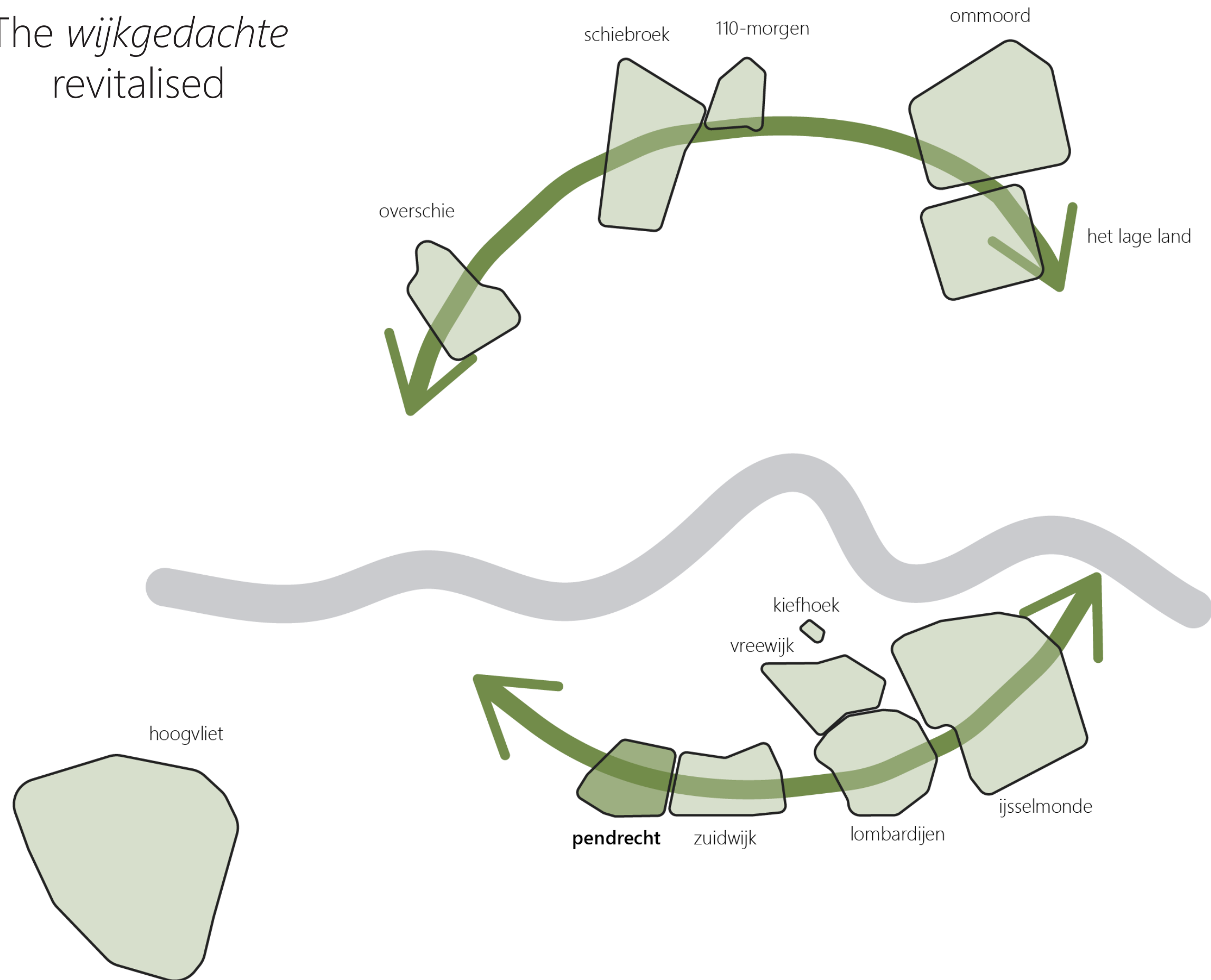
Society as a whole

Being happy will save you money

The *wijkgedachte*
neighbourhoods of
Rotterdam



The *wijkgedachte* revitalised



Reflection

large ambition: a car free city



small scale design: a walkable
neighbourhood



Reflection

large ambition: a **car free** city



small scale design: a **walkable**
neighbourhood

Reflection

large ambition: a **car free** city



walking as
a method

small scale design: a **walkable**
neighbourhood

I would like to encourage all of you to

I would like to encourage all of you to

WALK
your way
to JOY

Bibliography of presentation

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