

685 Tremont Street

South End Branch of the Boston Public Library

South End Landmarks Commission
Approvals Review
July 2025
PFD Project Number 7289



City of Boston
Michelle Wu, Mayor

Boston Public Library
David Leonard, President

Chief of Operations
Dion Irish

Public Facilities Department
Carleton Jones, Director

utile

What We Heard

March Advisory Review

- Materiality

- Explore enlivening the West Newton facade metal panels where vision glazing isn't required; can they be displays for art or provide views to a mural inside the building
- Brick detailing should be a critical element of the design approach

- Facade Composition

- Details can pick up more on the proportion of neighboring buildings along West Newton
- Explore dividing the large West Newton windows more in proportion with neighbors
- Advance the design of the corner of the building where the park and alley meet - it doesn't turn the corner as elegantly as the other corners of the building
- Consider protecting the brick from sidewalk traffic (carts, bikes, etc)

- Signage

- Mixed opinions on how prevalent the signage should be at this location. BPL feels strongly that signage is an integral part of their mission and provides consistency amongst the various branches

What We Heard

June Advisory Review

- Illustrate rooftop equipment visibility from street level
- Clarification on BPL canopy sign construction and legibility from both sides of Tremont Street
- West Newton BPL sign study in alternate materials, including brick

Photos - Context Along Tremont St & Alley



Context Along Tremont St



Context Along Alley



Photos - Context Along W Newton St & Rutland Sq



Context Along W. Newton St



Context Along Rutland Sq



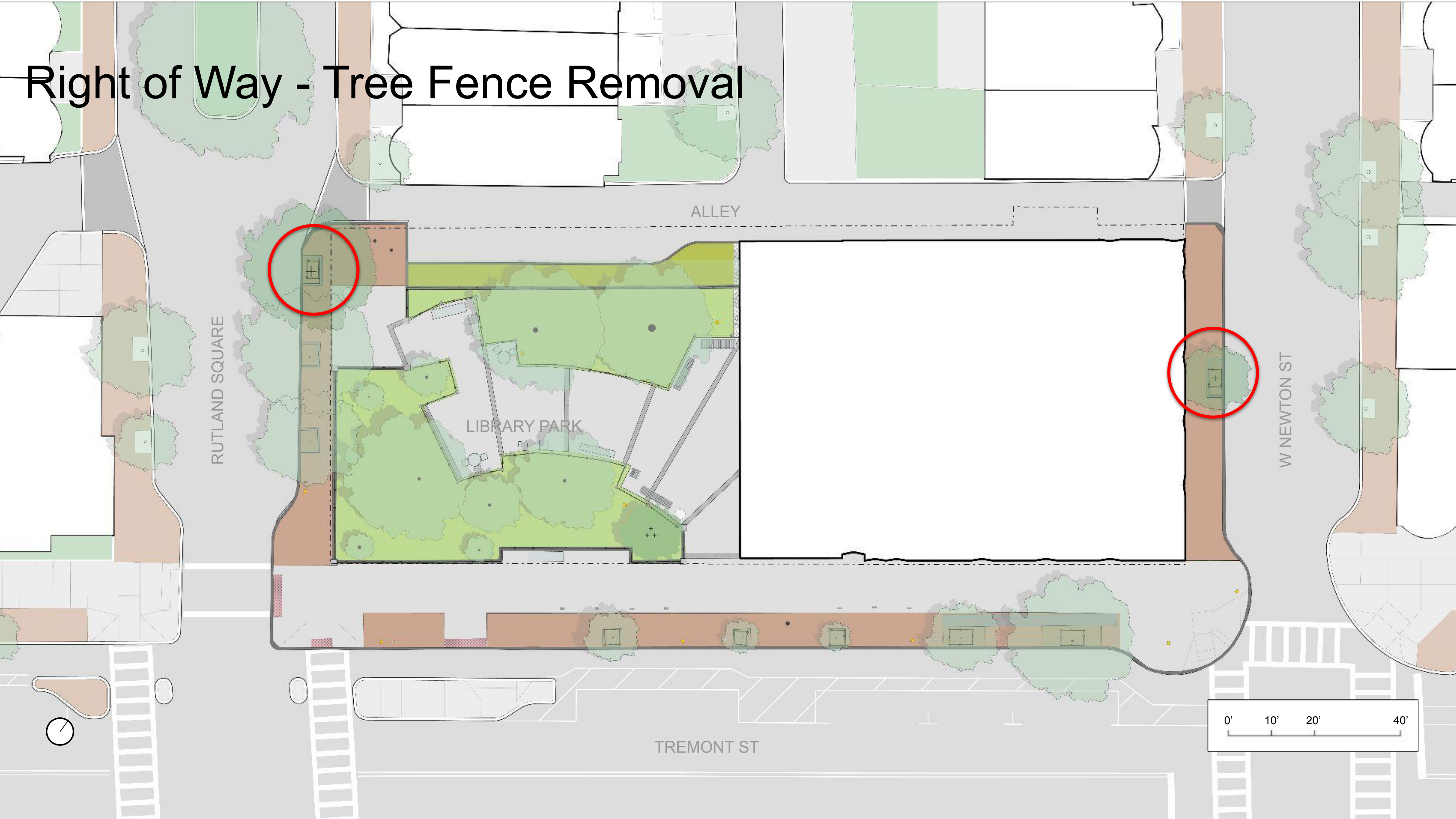
Photos - Existing Building



Proposed Building Footprint



Right of Way - Tree Fence Removal



Right of Way - Tree Fence Removal

Existing Condition - Tree Fence

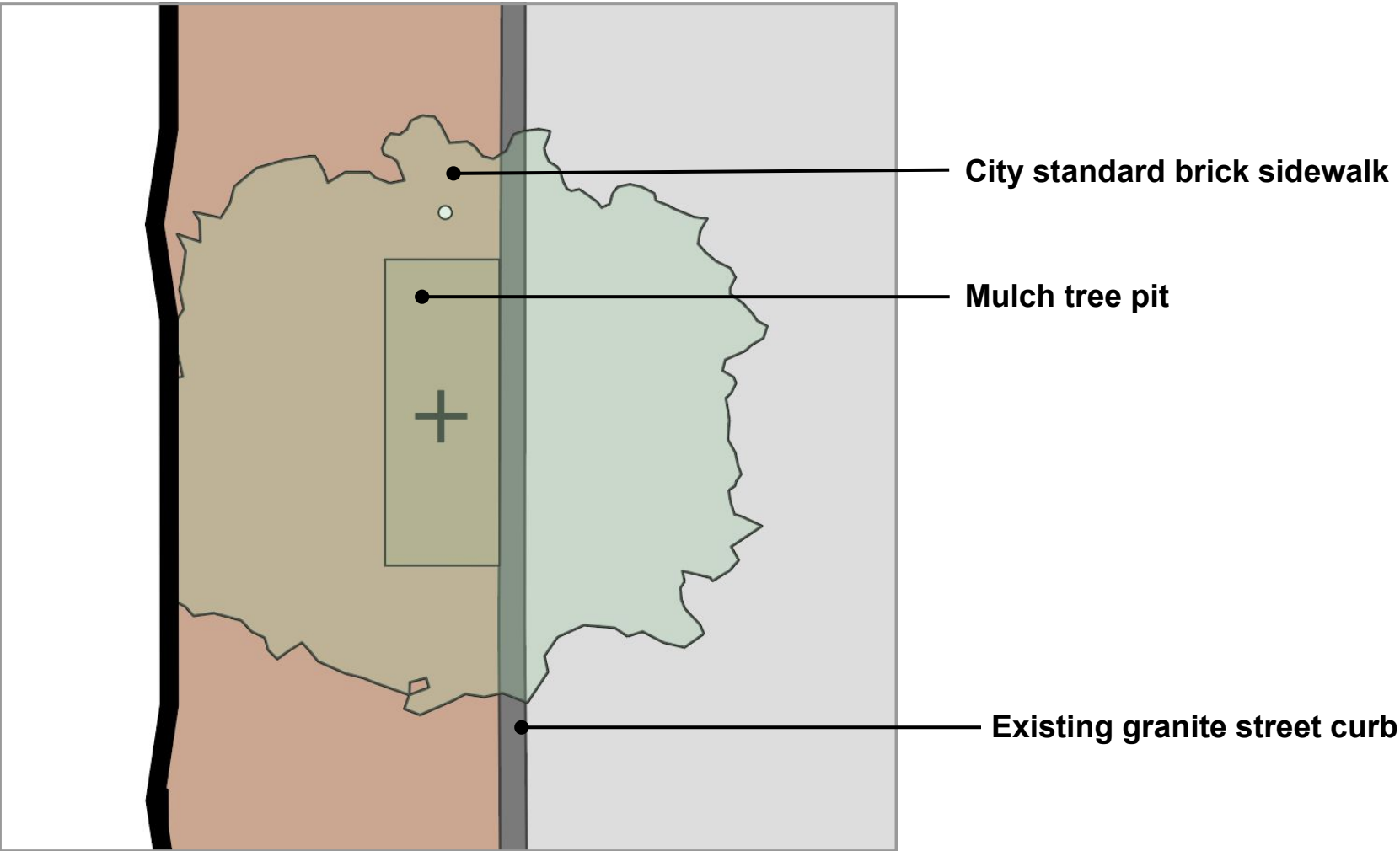


Tree Pit along West Newton St



Tree Pit along Rutland Sq

Proposed Condition - Flush Transition

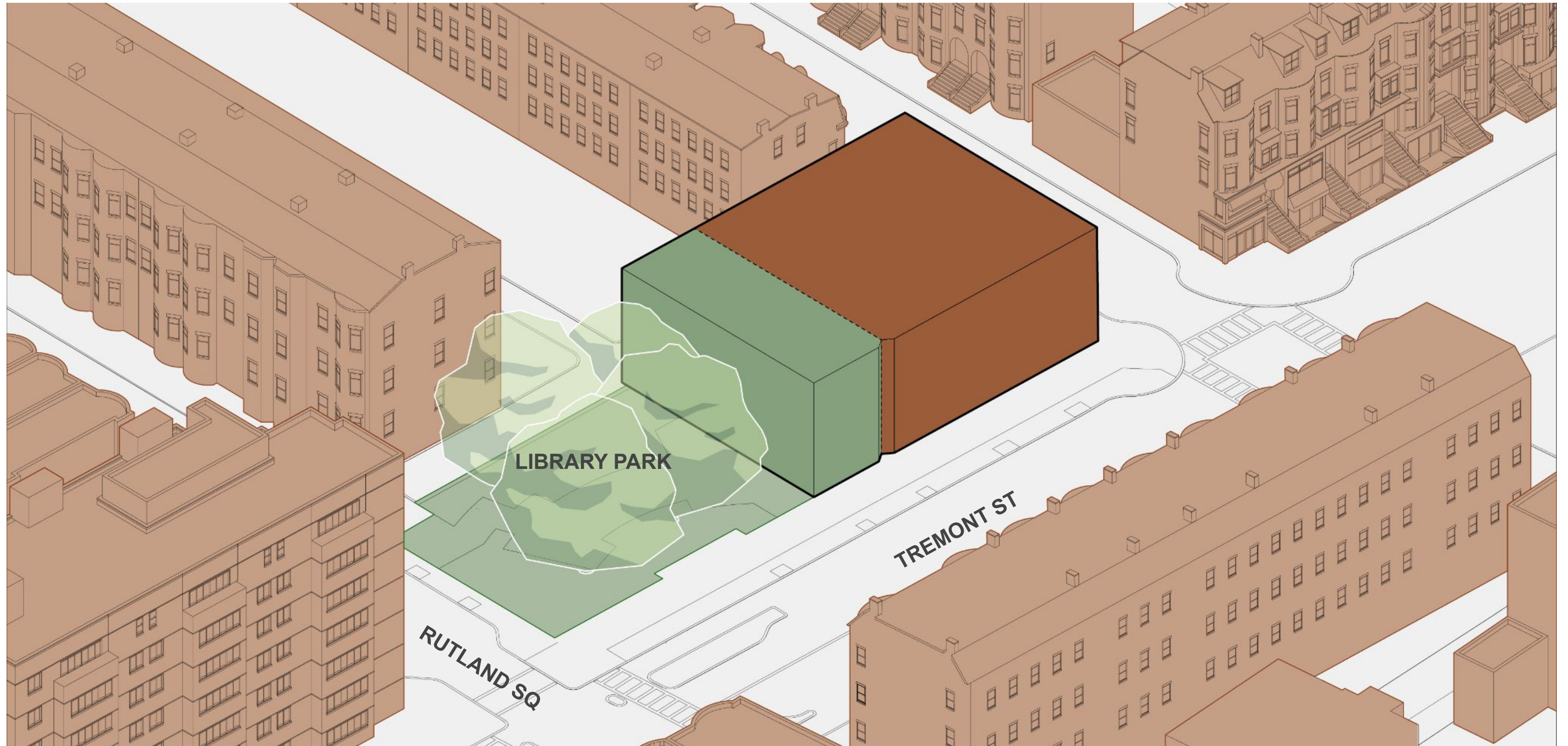


Key Approach Pathways



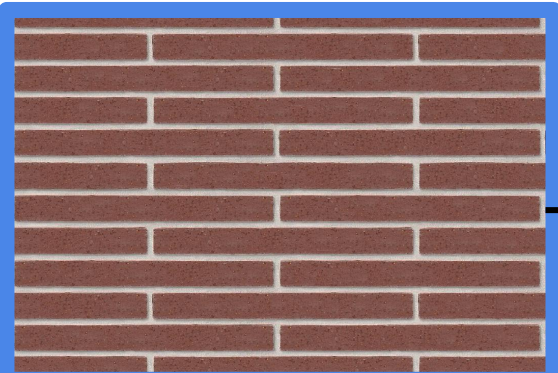
2 Proposed Design

Relating to Context



View from Across Tremont





Emperor Brick Size
Red Tones



Curtain Wall
Anodized Light Bronze



Ribbed Metal Panel
(Custom Color to Match CW)



Laurentian Rose Granite



South End Branch of the Boston Public Library | July 2025

Tremont St Elevation



Extended Tremont St Elevation



Tremont & West Newton St Corner



West Newton St Elevation



Extended West Newton St Elevation



West Newton St & Alley Corner



Alley Elevation



B
P
L

Rear face of neighboring building

116 West Newton St

Yard Area

Alley Corner



Library Park Elevation





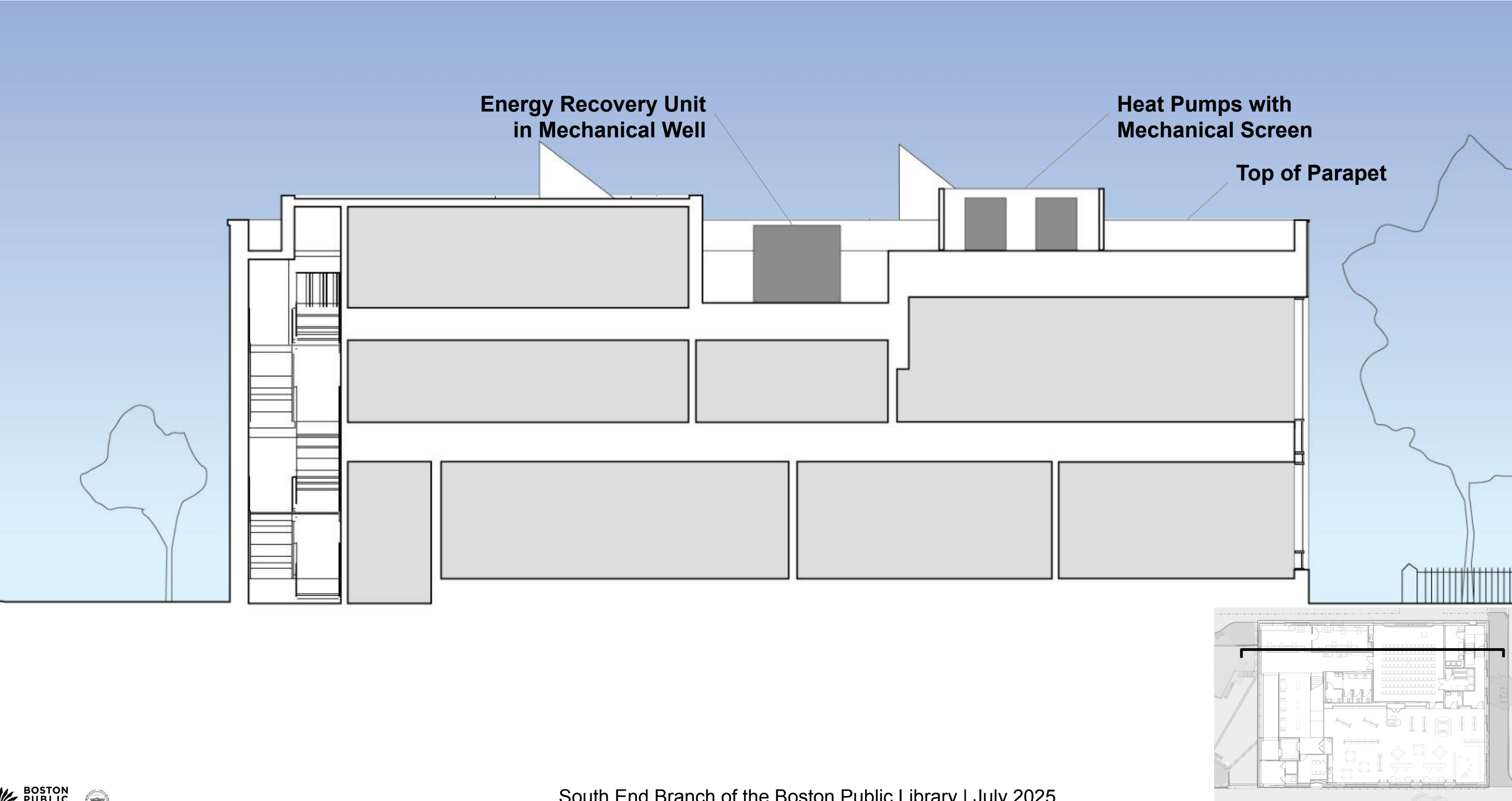
Library Park Elevation

FREE FALL

Mechanical Screen Diagram



Building Section through Mechanical Well



Street Views (without trees)



View from Alley north of the Library



View from Tremont Street south of the Library



Tremont St Elevation



Alley Elevation



West Newton St Elevation



Library Park Elevation

Thank you!