

November 8, 2021

IE25.10 -- Centennial Park Master Plan

100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Holyday,

Thank you for meeting on November 5, 2021 to review our concerns about the future of cyclocross bike racing at Centennial Park that we outlined during [our deputation at the Infrastructure and Environment Committee](#) on October 26, 2021. Our race director, Andrew Paradowski, head cyclocross coach, Bob Haufler, and I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and Casey Morris from the Centennial Park Master Plan project team. We've attached our meeting slides with this letter.

We're very encouraged to hear that the revisioning and repurposing of the hill does not preclude cyclocross events at Centennial Park. Cyclocross races have been part of Centennial Park's incredible legacy since the 1990s, and look forward to seeing more races there as part of the park's future.

As the Centennial Park Master Plan moves forward, we wanted to highlight our priorities:

- Include "cyclocross" among the list of permitted activities in future updates to the Centennial Park Master Plan and specifically on the hill
- Keep or repurpose the ski lights, still used during our fall weeknight cyclocross series, which also can assist wayfinding on paths, for tobogganing, and other activities
- Explore creating "grass track" cycling circuits around the cricket fields for races and youth development events (similar to in Australia and the UK)
- Leverage the existing BMX track as part of other cycling events, including events in adjacent north-west corner of the park
- Promote the sport of cycling and look at opportunities along the hydro corridor
- For council to provide clear direction to staff to streamline the permitting process for approved organizers like Midweek Cycling Club for events at Centennial Park and other Toronto parks

As requested, we will forward GPX files of our various courses to you and CentennialPark@toronto.ca for consideration as plans for the hill continue to evolve. As the files will show, we can be very creative designing and building temporary courses and can work around many features.

We are excited to see the reimagining of Centennial Park and look forward to continuing working with you and staff to keep bike racing in Etobicoke. And to your colleagues on council, help us find more ways to bring more bike racing back to Toronto. When organizers come knocking on your door, let's find opportunities in your wards to grow the sport. We understand not every park or street is suitable, but not every park or street should be off limits.

Best regards,



Michael Longfield, President, Midweek Cycling Club

cc: Toronto City Council
Janie Romoff, General Manager, Parks, Forestry & Recreation
Casey Morris, Centennial Park Master Plan
Michael Suraci, Interim CEO, Ontario Cycling Association
Matthew Jeffries, Executive Director, Cycling Canada



Cyclocross at Centennial Park

Midweek Cycling Club meeting with Councillor Holyday

November 5, 2021





Who is Midweek Cycling Club?

- Volunteer run not-profit incorporated in 2001
- Bicycle club promoting athletes for life with focus on youth development
- Sanctioned and insured by the Ontario Cycling Association, the PSO for the sport
- Longtime permit holder for cyclocross events at Centennial Park





What is Cyclocross?





Cyclocross at Centennial

- Local, national, and international events since the '90s
- Courses generally snaking 3-4 km long and 4-6 m wide
- Course taped and staked (never more than 6" deep)
- Have used both skill hill and valley side
- Midweek generally applies for a Seasonal Outdoor Permit for weeknight series from late summer to mid-fall; and a Special Events Permit for larger one-off weekend event in the fall.





Benefits of Centennial Park Ski Hill

- Legacy as premier sporting event in one of Ontario's great urban parks
- Variety of terrain (flat, hilly, grass, obstacles)
- Large enough for dividing participants into 3-6 groups
- LIGHTS!
- Entire location visible to everyone, other coaches, parents, friends can observe everything
- Avoids other sport fields
- Parking nearby
- close to highways, in addition to Toronto, we have many participants from west (Oakville, Guelph, Milton). A venue farther east would be more difficult for these participants

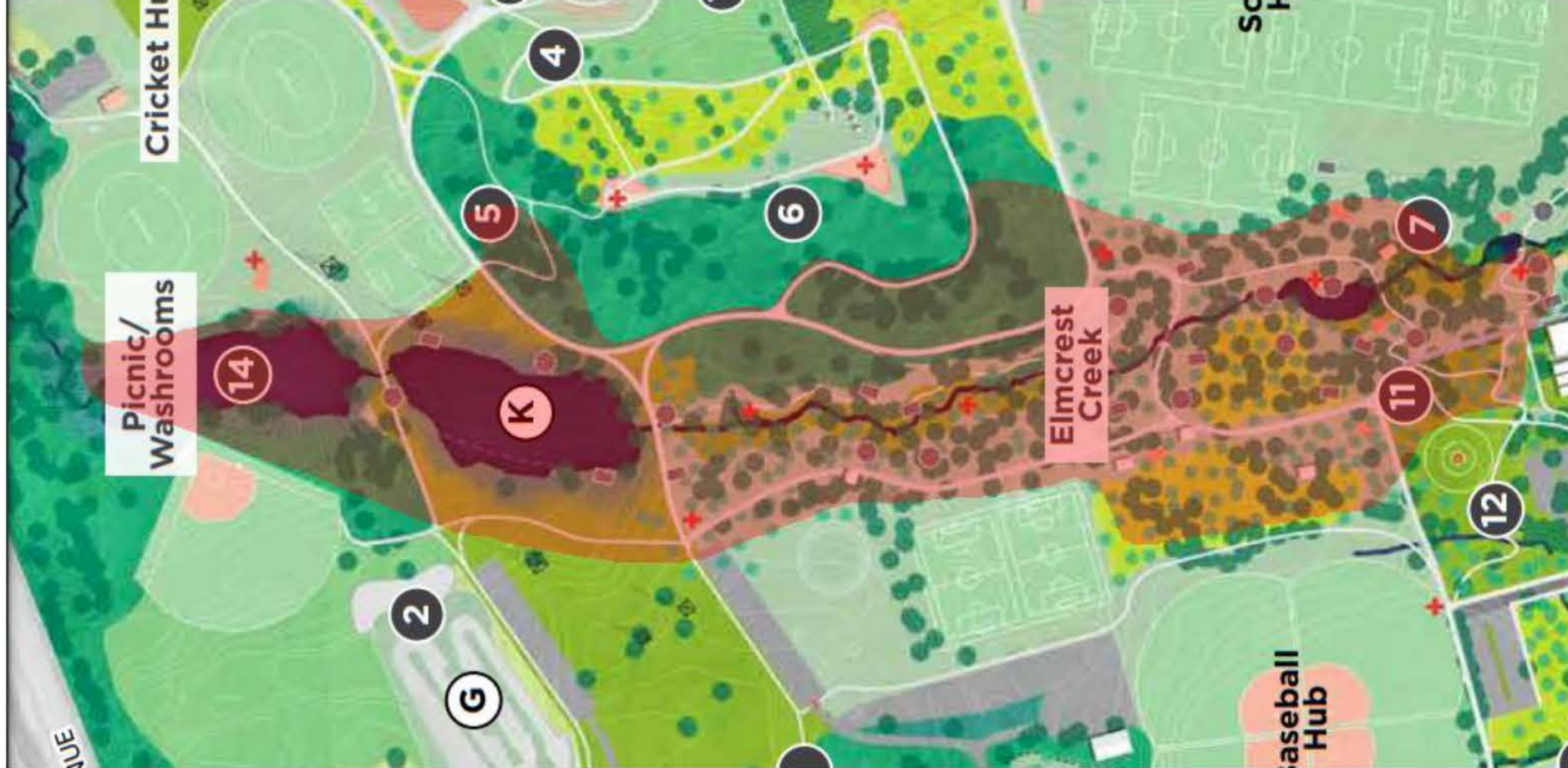


Centennial Park Ski Hill & Valley Current v Master Plan



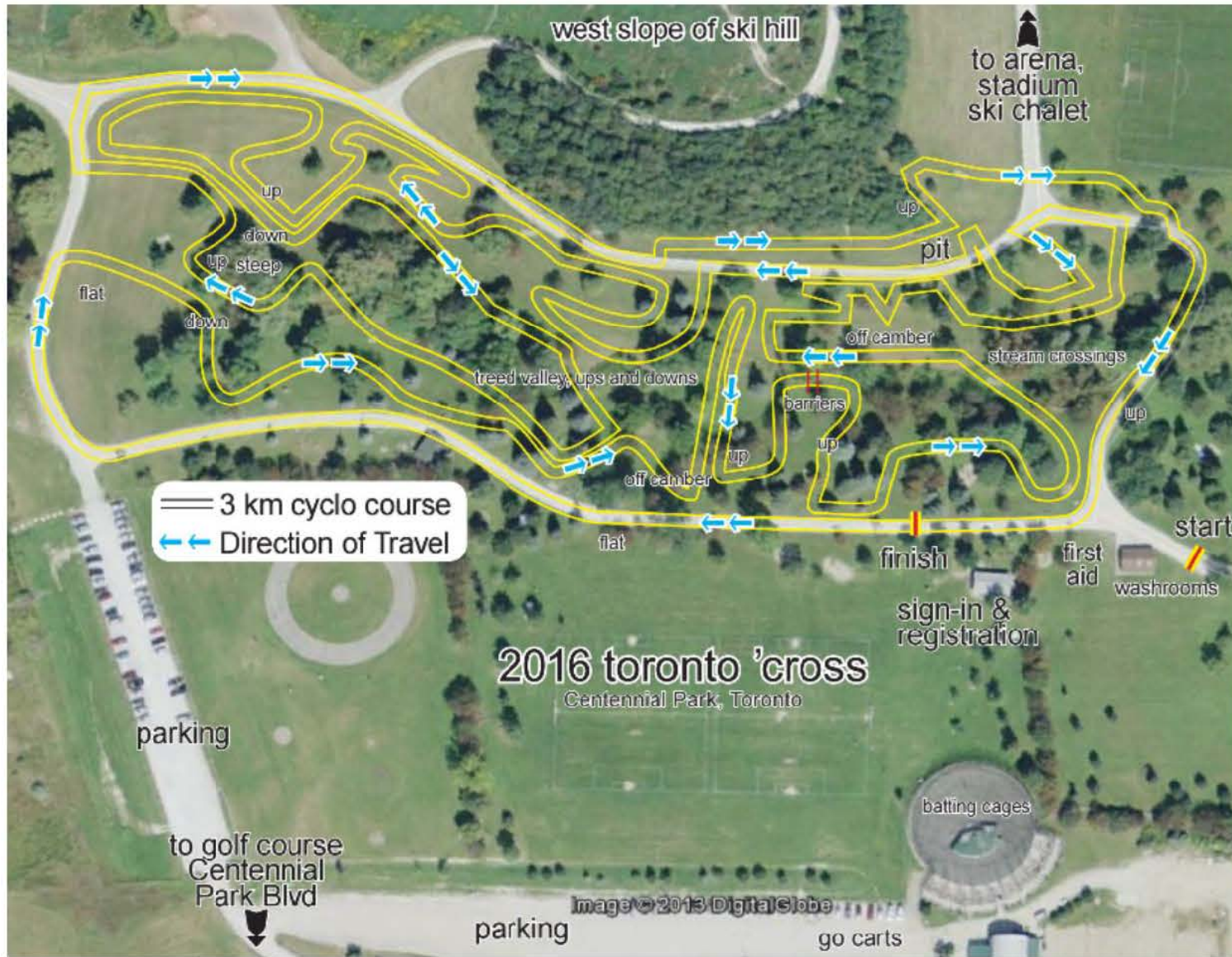


CX Typical Valley Side Use





2016 – Valley Side



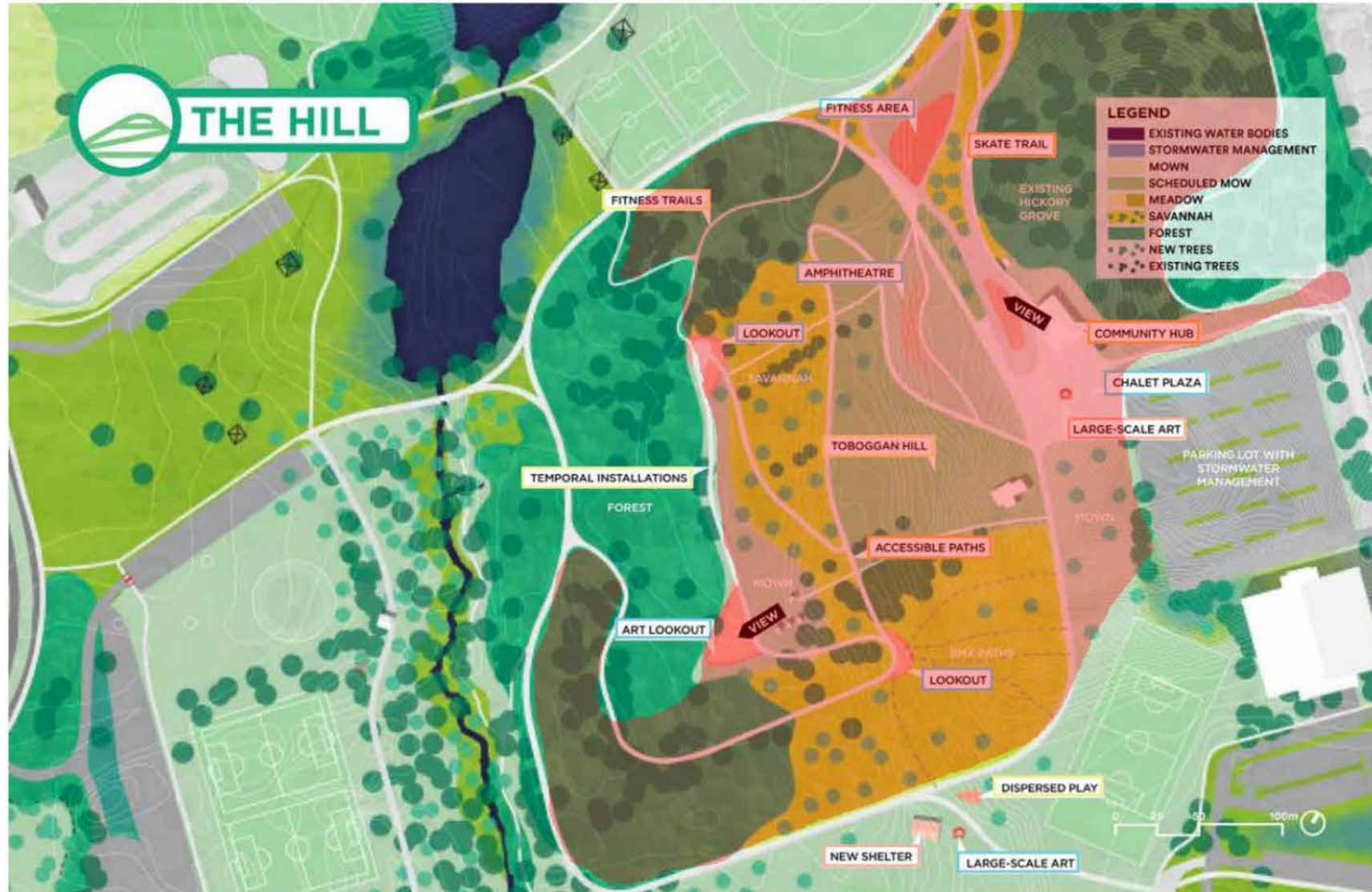


2019 – Valley Side



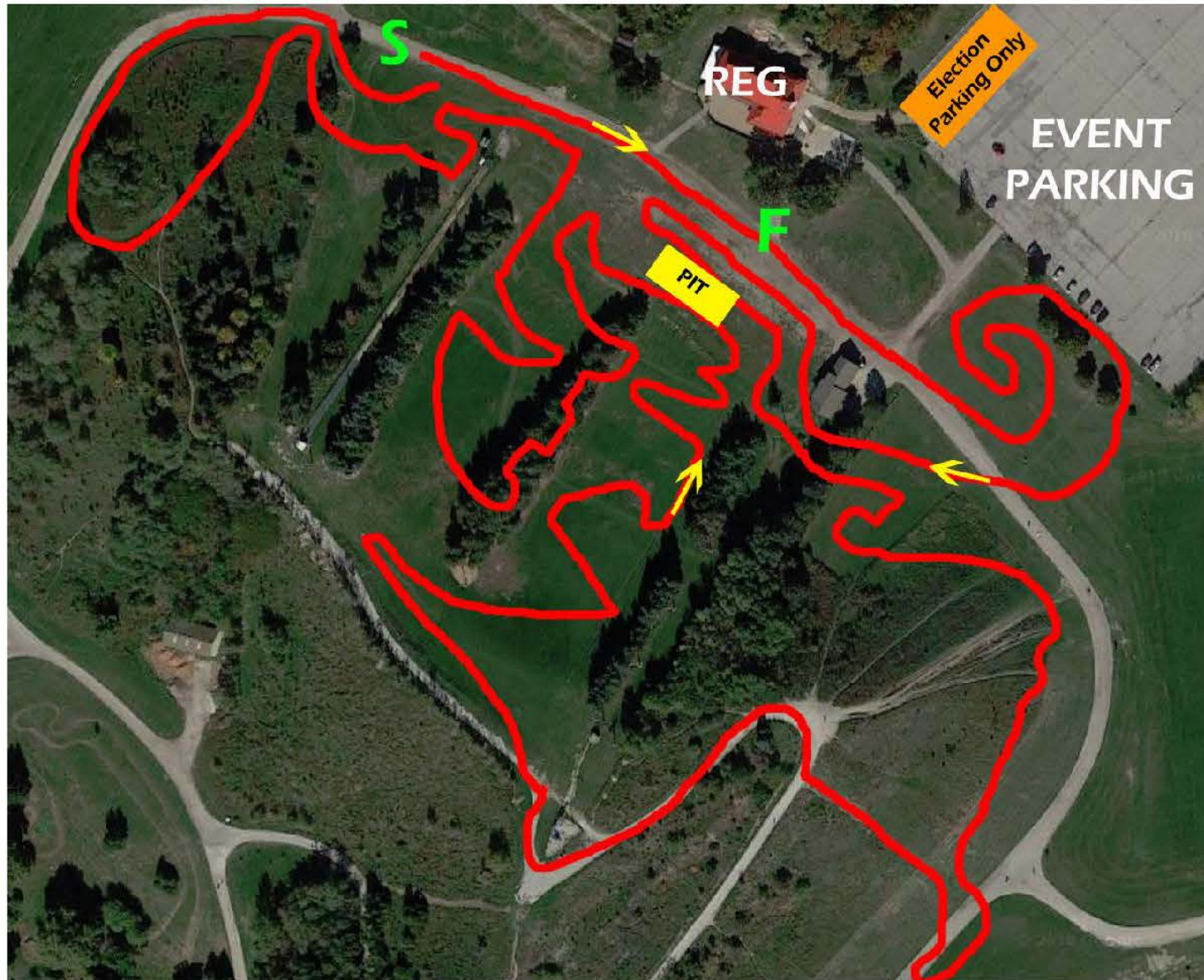


Typical Ski Hill Side Areas





2018 – Ski Hill Side



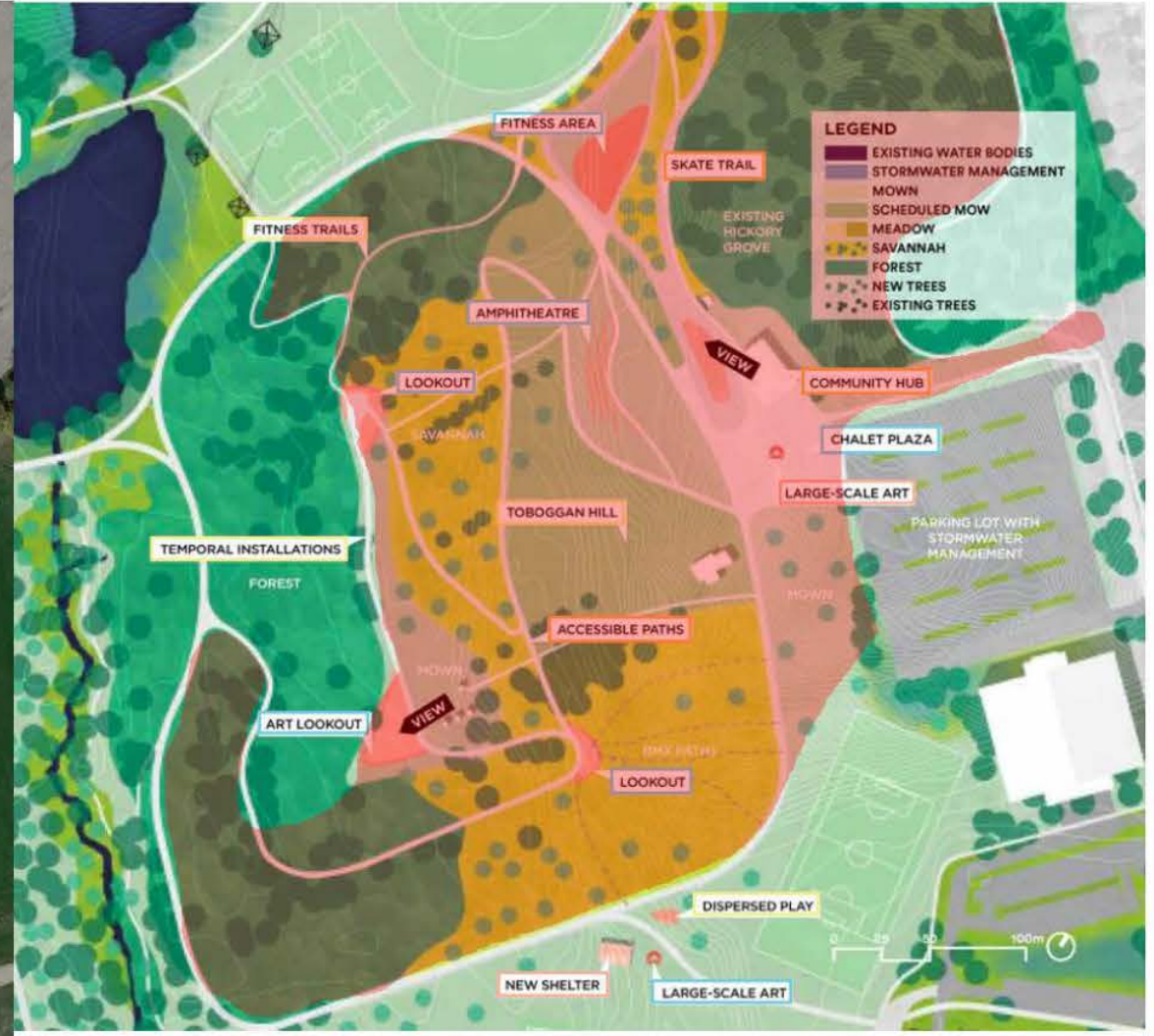


2021 – Ski Hill Side





Comparison





Master Plan Feedback



Option A: Fitness Hub

Building on its legacy as a sporting destination within the park, the Hill is re-envisioned as a multifeature fitness hub. A skating trail at its base serves as a major winter destination, supported by a sociable market plaza adjacent the existing Chalet. Outfitted fitness and senior areas, and new paths and lookouts up the hill support active lifestyles and four season use in the park.



Option B: Culture Hub

Imageable and accessible, the Hill holds great potential to be a cultural hub. This vision includes the chalet re-purposed as a cultural centre, with an activated outdoor market plaza and nearby stage and amphitheatre for theatre and music events. The hillside is re-imagined as an open meadow, with a broad snaking path punctuated by notable art lookouts that invite and inspire.

When asked **which option do you prefer?**

66% of survey respondents preferred option **A**

38% of survey respondents preferred option **B**



Masterplan Feedback



Year-round Programming

JERK FESTIVAL





Thank You