

03

---

# Existing Conditions

## 3.1 Accessibility and Movement

**Circulation throughout Centennial Park is disjointed and confusing, inaccessible, and results in user conflicts.**

### Moving Around the Park

#### Barriers

In addition to inaccessible pathways and poor linkages, there are other barriers to movement throughout the park. These include large scale impediments, including private or institutional land use arrangements that limit circulation, such as the Mini-Indy and Golf Course to the west and the Hydro-corridor that bisects the site. Fencing in various locations within the park, such as the Mindi-Indy, BMX facility and sorting yard, also presents a physical and experiential barrier to park visitors, by limiting their access to sizable areas of the park and conveying a message of exclusivity or danger in a public park setting.

#### Lack of Pathway Hierarchy

The lack of a pathway hierarchy at Centennial Park creates a disjointed and confusing circulation structure. There is no wayfinding or pathway structure indicating connections between programming or directional markers. The lack of a circulation loop around the site discourage walking and running.

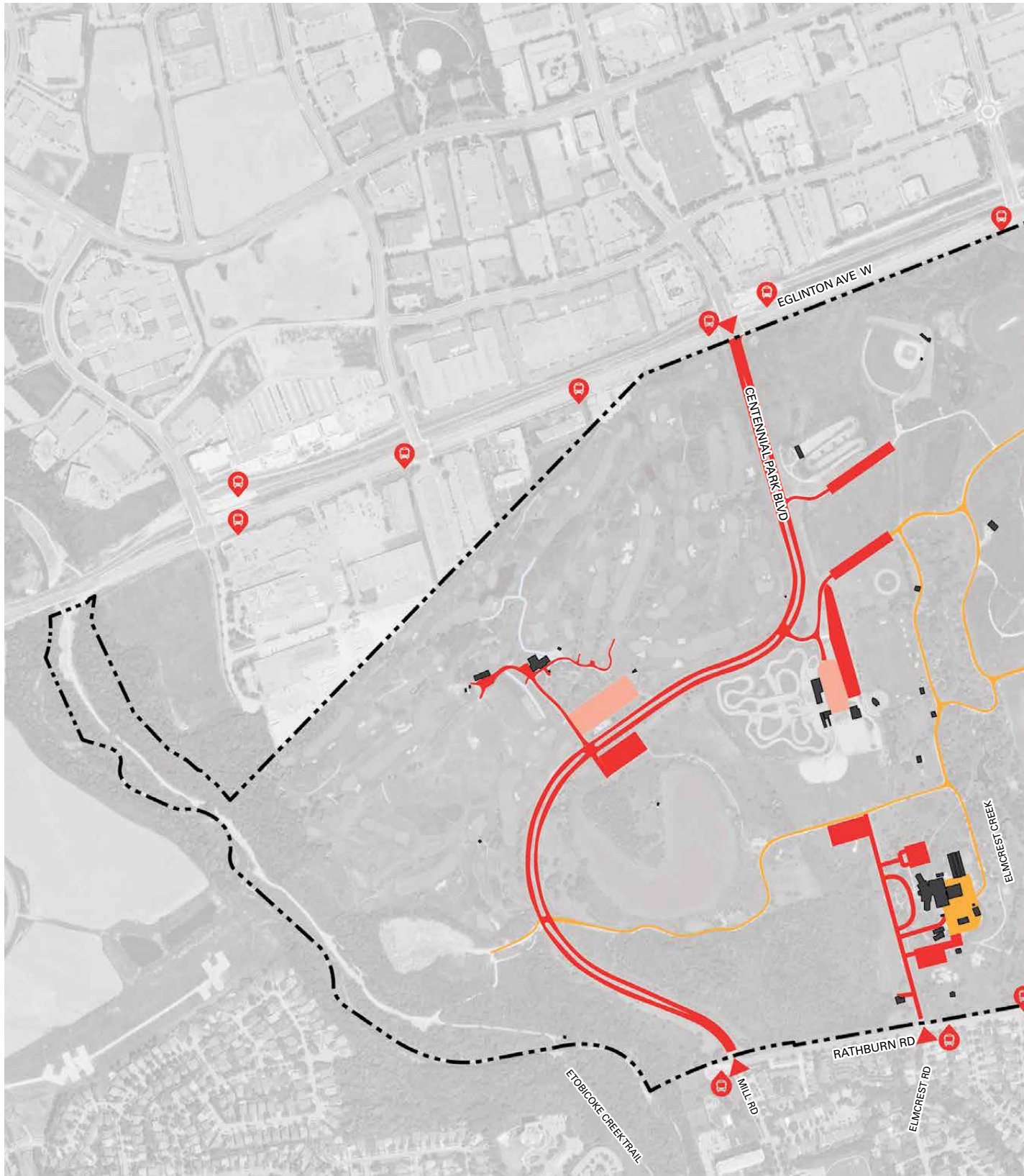
Some paths end in vehicular areas, and parking lots present user conflicts between vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists. Throughout the park, user conflicts occur due to a lack of wayfinding and pathway hierarchy.

### Wayfinding

The bisection by the Centennial Park Blvd, the hydro corridor, lack of visibility of buildings across the site, inconsistent signage, and the vast scale of this site makes the circulation and connectivity challenging. The existing signage is a hybrid of old and new signage, primarily focused at the main entrances of the park.









There are currently four vehicular entrances into the site from Rathburn Road, Centennial Park Blvd, Eglinton Ave, and Centennial Park Road. The Etobicoke Olymipum has a City of Toronto entrance sign, but there's no signage relating to the rest of the park. There is an older City of Toronto sign at Rathburn and Elmcrest, but it is concealed by cedar hedges and challenging to see. At the north end of the site, there is signage for the BMX, Toboggan hill, and baseball diamonds, but this signage is a different style and doesn't indicate all the programming in the north end of the site. There is gateway signage for Centennial Park at Centennial Park Blvd and Eglinton Ave, but it is also difficult to see.

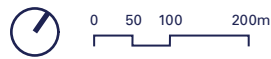
# Existing Vehicular Circulation





## Legend

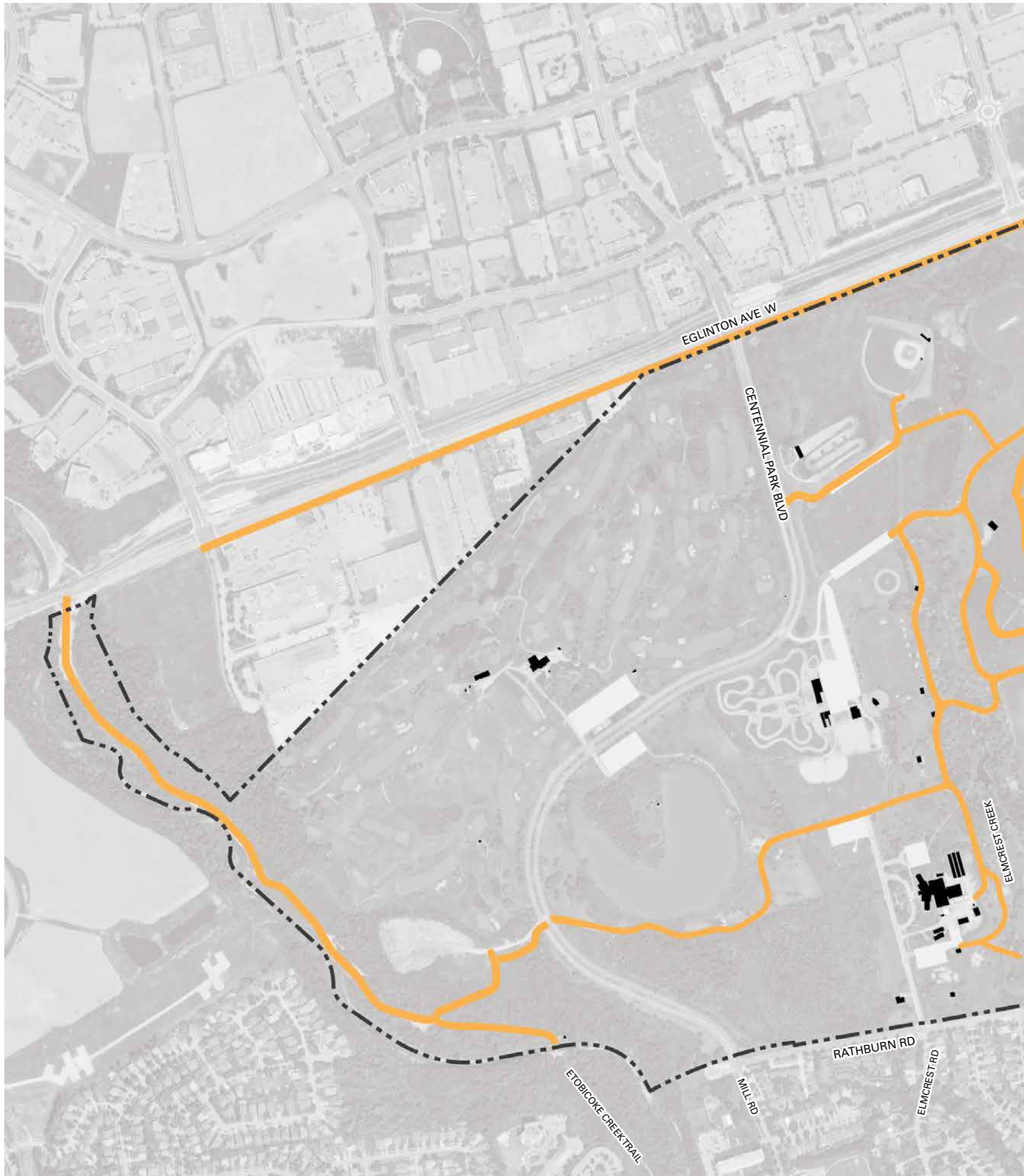
-  Project Boundary
-  Public Use
-  Designated City Use
-  Public Parking
-  Private Parking
-  PF&R Service Route
-  Existing Transit stops
-  Vehicular Site access



## Vehicular Roads




Centennial Park Blvd. is the main vehicular road that traverses north-south of the site, connecting Rathburn Road and Eglinton Avenue. The main road links to a few minor park roads which lead to parking lot access to the golf course, Mini-Indy and BMX bike trails. There is no vehicular connection from Centennial Park Blvd. to the additional roads and parking lots leading to the conservatory, Olympium, arena, stadium or soccer fields. Centennial Park Blvd. has no sidewalks, and it is through the parking lots that users can connect to the pedestrian paths.

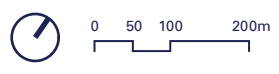
# Existing Bicycle Circulation





**Legend**

-  Project Boundary
-  Bike Lanes
-  Bike Trails



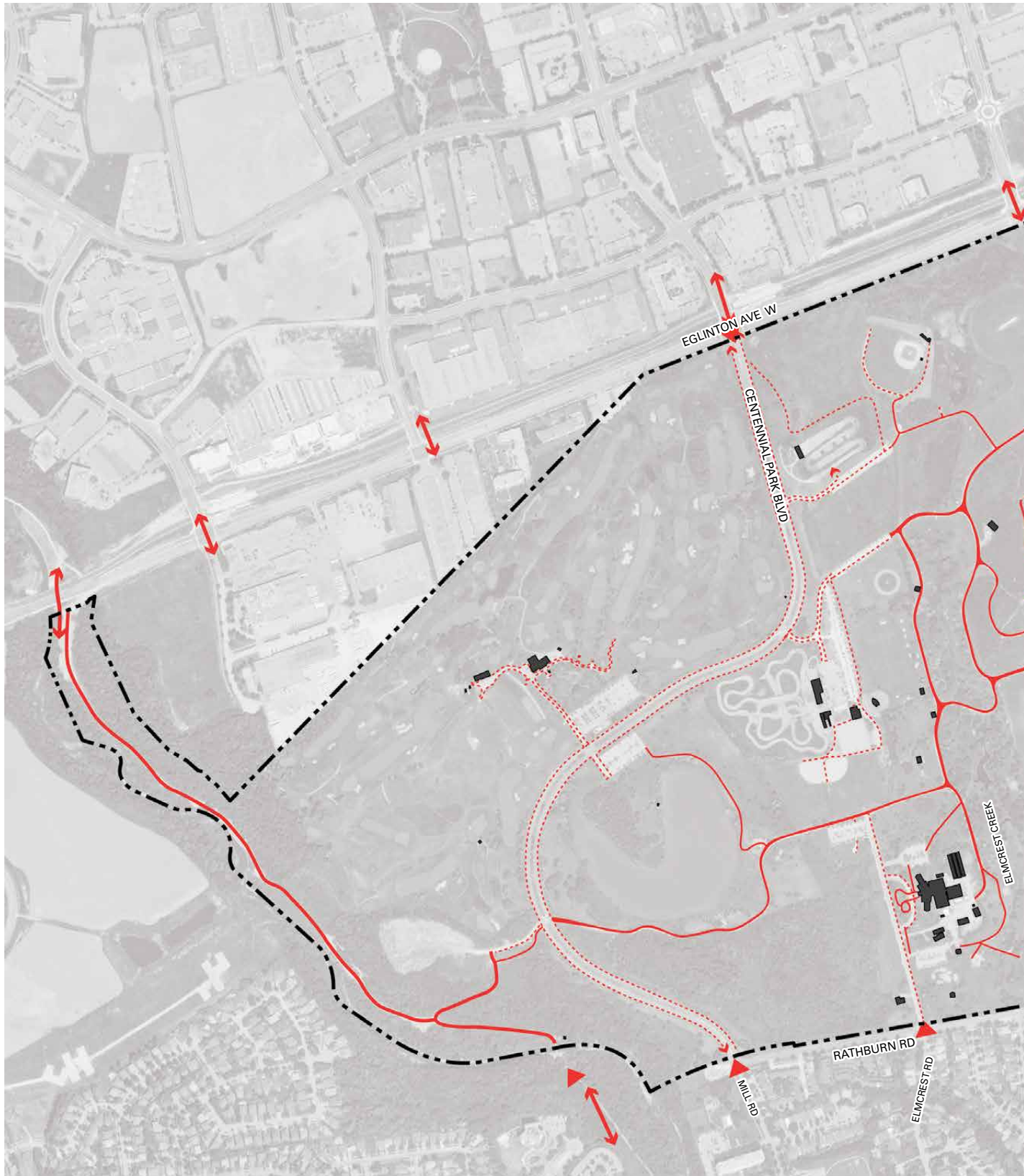
**Bicycle Routes**

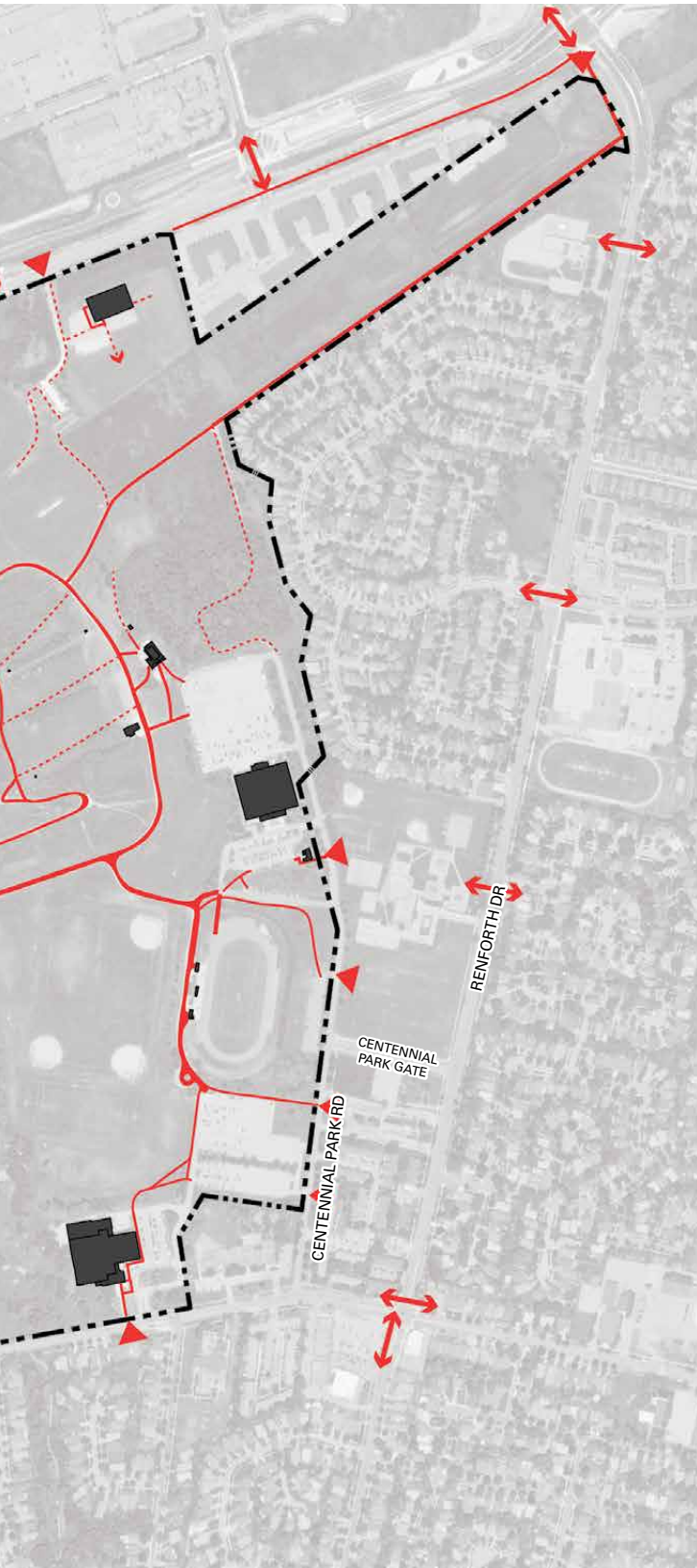
Bicycle access to Centennial park is facilitated via connecting roadways along Eglinton Ave. Rathburn Road, bike lanes along Renforth Drive and the Etobicoke Creek Trail. Within the park a loose network of bike trails provides suitable access to core areas of the park, however, these trails double as pedestrian and vehicular maintenance routes, with little separation, which leads to conflicts and safety concerns. Similarly the bike use of Centennial Park Blvd poses a safety risk for cyclist who share traffic lanes with vehicles and where curb cuts to access park trails are limited.

**Etobicoke Creek Trail**






Etobicoke Creek Trail is a regional multi-use trail that runs along the west side of Centennial Park, creating connections from the neighbourhoods to the north and south. However, the absence of accessible signage results in a missed connection to Centennial Park.

# Existing Pedestrian Circulation





## Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Formal Pathway + Trail
-  Informal Pathway
-  Entry Nodes
-  Formal Lit Crossings



## Pedestrian Paths

A series of pedestrian pathways provide access throughout the park; however, many of the paths do not connect to one another or to programming areas across the site. The existing surface of limestone screenings are often worn and eroded, creating inaccessible areas. There are additional stresses to the environment as the screenings wash into adjacent creeks and storm sewers. The paths are shared with maintenance vehicles creating user conflict. The park's path system does not encourage pedestrian use, instead prioritizes vehicular access. Informal paths occur throughout the park including alongside vehicular roads creating inaccessible areas and safety concerns.

## Crossings

The pathway and creek crossings to and through the park are nonexistent or inaccessible as a result of materials, surfacing, slope, etc.



### **Inaccessible Features**

Centennial Park offers a range of existing park amenities, such as the hill, pond, and play areas; however, the lack of pathway connectivity results in inaccessible features throughout the site.

The surfacing around the edges of the pond is grass, making it inaccessible by wheelchair. In addition, there are no clear, unobstructed, or accessible paths around the pond allowing park users of all abilities to connect to the water.

There are several play areas on-site, all of which lack accessible pathways to the play equipment and accessible playground surfacing. In addition, the playground equipment itself lacks variation for multiple ages and abilities.

The top of the hill is a unique feature of Centennial Park, providing scenic views. However, the trail running up the hill doesn't offer an accessible slope.

### **Lighting**

Currently, lighting is present along all roadways, parking lot areas, as well as around the building facilities in Centennial Park. There are also a handful of sports fields that are also lit. The lighting within the park and along the path system is inconsistent and there are a number of dark zones identified by users during the public consultation. Many felt uncomfortable crossing the park and would stay adjacent to the lit roadways. In addition to the pathways, the existing gathering spaces and playgrounds also lack lighting.



Paths End in Vehicular Areas



Pond Edge



Top of Hill

## 3.2 Sports and Recreation

Centennial Park offers a broad range of active recreation, but lacks diversity of programming for all abilities; Sport and play areas are dispersed and infrastructure is aging.

### Unstructured Use Amenities

#### Ski Hill

- Though Centennial Park and Earl Bales Snow Centres are the only downhill ski and snowboard facilities in the City of Toronto, the infrastructure is at a critical point that a decision needs to be made regarding the future of the ski and snowboard centre at Centennial Park
- The primary ski lift is no longer operating and in 2017 the hill was closed due to failure of the snow-making equipment
- Smaller scale ski and snowboard operations have been experiencing financial distress (City of Toronto 2012 Service Efficiency Study)
- The FMP recognizes that skiing is still an exclusive outdoor recreational experience and because it costs money, it presents a barrier to participation
- Changing winter weather has also threatened the ski and snowboard industry, resulting in declining visitation and revenues and heightened cost of maintenance
- During the off-season months, the hill is used for activities such as hiking, fitness and a scenic lookout

#### Ski Chalet

- Located near the base of the hill, which offers indoor seating space, washrooms, concessions, office/support space, and two upper program rooms
- Chalet was recently refurbished and is listed in good condition
- Future capital improvements include accessibility, windows and drainage improvements

#### Splash Pad/ Wading Pool

- Constructed in the 1960s, the wading pool is showing its age and does not meet current accessibility standards

#### BMX Courses

- Centennial Park Pan Am BMX Centre located in the northern portion of Centennial Park, hosted BMX Cycling for the Pan American Games of 2015
- The course features a 350-metre track, with two start ramps. One is a starting ramp for Professional and International competitions (8m), and the other (5m) is for beginners and younger users. The design is a closed loop design.
- The facility is open to the public since the Pan AM games and is now maintained by the City of Toronto

### **Disc Golf**

- The park is home to a 27 hole disc golf course created in 1978
- The par 72 course is 1340 meters long and serves as the home course for the E.D.G.E. (Etobicoke Disc Golf Enthusiast)

### **Event Space**

- Opportunity to enhance the accommodation of large-scale events, such as covered space and open lawns

### **Flying Circles**

- Two flying circles were created in the 1960s as part of the original facilities
- Home to Balsa Beavers Model Flying Club formed in 1957, the oldest flying club in Ontario

### **Picnic Areas**

- Eight permitted picnic areas in the park are in high demand throughout the season
- Picnic areas can host approximately 1,450 people
- Can be difficult to get reservations sometimes
- Some picnic areas do not meet current accessibility standards

### **Toboggan Hill**

- Located in the northeast corner of Eglinton Avenue West and Centennial Park Boulevard
- Hill was constructed from clean sand fill
- Underutilized due to changing winter weather, location and access to this area

### **Playground**

- In a poor state of disrepair and requires upgrade
- Fragmented and dispersed on site

### **Pond**

- A 5 hectare pond is located at the centre of the park
- The water quality is not excellent, though there are fish in the pond
- The pond is human made and used to irrigate the golf course with the overflow into a spillway
- The pond has a natural edge with some seating around it located in TRCA regulated area, however it is inaccessible by wheelchair
- Park visitors engage with the pond through fishing, kayaking, skating, and picnics around it

## Sports Fields

### Stadium

- Completed in 1967, in fair condition, and is one of four municipal stadiums in Toronto
- Stadium hosts a regulation-size multi-use turf field with lights, and eight-lane all-weather track, track and field features (jump pits, discuss throw, etc.), and a fieldhouse consisting of change rooms, washrooms, concessions, and 2,200 bleacher seats
- Renovation project of the fieldhouse and bleachers is anticipated in the near future, while turf rehabilitation is identified in the long-term capital plan

### Cricket Pitches

- There are two cricket pitches, as well as a practice wicket
- Pitches are extremely well used and use is on the rise in Canada, driven in large by the diverse cultural demographics

### Soccer Fields

- Excluding the stadium field, there are a total of 11 rectangular soccer fields of varying sizes throughout the park (6 primary soccer fields, 2 Soccer City fields, and 3 mini fields)
- Only one of these fields has lighting for nighttime play
- Fields are well used, however they are unconsolidated, some are overlapping, sometimes interfering with adjacent baseball diamond use
- The fields lack access to shade during the day and proper lighting for nighttime play

### Baseball Diamonds

- Centennial Park has six diamonds used for baseball and softball
- All diamonds are equipped with lighting for night play, however lighting is in disrepair for three of the diamonds



Wading Pool



Playground

## Indoor Sports Facilities

### Olympium

#### (Community Recreation Centers)

- One of six Premier indoor pools in the City, including one of two that support competitive long-course meets
- Includes a gymnasium, fitness centre and various multi-use and specialty rooms making the Olympium a popular destination
- Built in 1975, and is in good condition and recently underwent a significant renovation to support its use as a training venue for the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Games

### Arena

- Built in 1972, hosts two indoor ice pads (both measuring 185 by 85 feet; ice is removed in the summer), 8-10 change rooms, and two multi-use rooms

- Arena is in fair condition, and recently underwent renovations as part of the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program

## Contracted Facilities

### Mini-Indy

- Opened in 1988, Canada's largest go-kart track privately operated as a lease agreement with the City
- Includes Eight beach volleyball courts and ten batting cage stations

### Golf Courses

- The 27 hole course operates from April 1 to October 31
- The facility has a 34 station driving range, mini-golf course, independent parking and licensed clubhouse

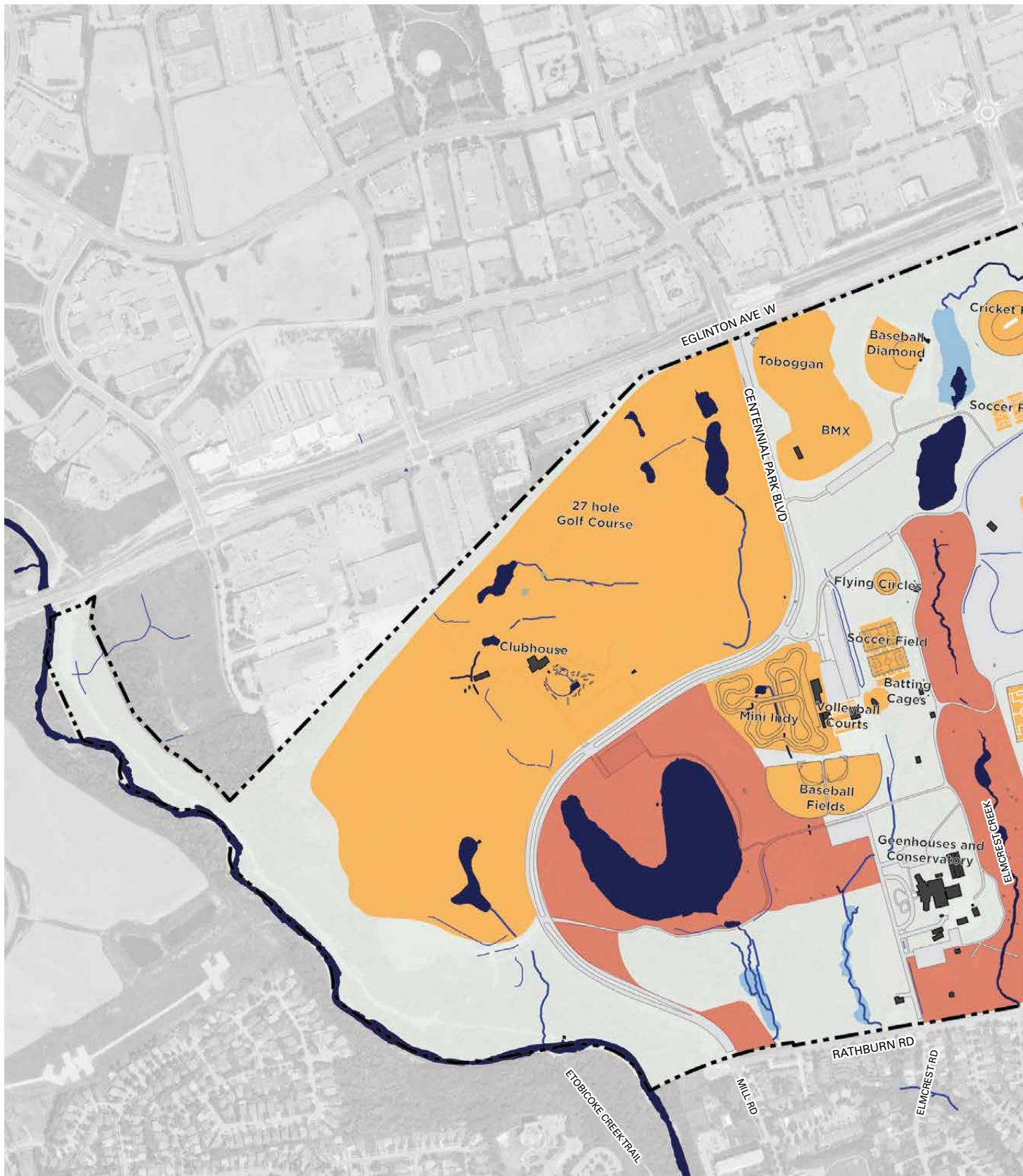


Ski Hill






Ski Chalet

# Current Program: Active vs. Passive Uses





## Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Passive Uses
-  Active Uses



Currently the active uses: sports fields, baseball diamonds, and ski hill for example, are fairly evenly dispersed throughout the site. There is no visible organization to the site layout other than the slight grouping of sports fields near the existing stadium. Passive uses are centered around the water courses on site.



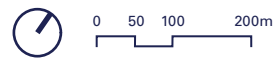
# Mowed Lawn and Programmed Areas





**Legend**

-  Project Boundary
-  Mowed Lawn
-  Programmed/Recreational
-  Disc Golf
-  Treed Area



Through the overlay of mowed and treed area, we see that the programmed activity is located outside of the dense tree canopy. The majority of the programmed activities require cleared and level playing surfaces. The golf course is perhaps the only exception to this. The tree canopy is more densely located around the water courses and along the more sloped locations of the site (along Etobicoke Creek and Elmcrest Creek). It is through this map that we see there is fragmentation of planting within Centennial Park.



Simultaneous Soccer and Baseball Games within Overlapping Fields

## **Supporting Facilities**

### **Conservatory**

Opened in 1970, the 2000m<sup>2</sup> greenhouse complex can host 100,000 visitors a year and includes a tropical house, two wing houses, six growing houses, a potting shed and bulb centre.

### **5429 Eglinton Avenue (former Soccer City)**

Building is currently being prepared for future upgrades to accommodate parks staffing needs.



Native and Non-native Species Along the Pond's Edge

## 3.3 Ecology and Water

**The park has fragmented and disconnected ecology, poor soils, and a lack of connection to key water bodies.**

### Watercourses

#### **Etobicoke Creek Watershed**

The Etobicoke Creek watershed (211 km<sup>2</sup>) is a highly urbanized and degraded system, reaching from south of the Oak Ridges Moraine and to the north shore of Lake Ontario. The Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) is leading the revitalization with adjacent municipalities (Region of Peel, Town of Caledon, Cities of Brampton, Mississauga, and Toronto). Though improvements are underway, much more could be done. Water quality in the creek is poor, natural cover along the watercourse is low and habitat patches are fragmented, and barriers to fish passage have been identified within the park.

#### **Etobicoke Creek**

Etobicoke Creek is the larger of the two creeks running through Centennial Park along the western edge. It is an important regional linkage corridor for wildlife moving through the City from the Oak Ridges Moraine to Lake Ontario. In addition, Etobicoke Creek contains wooded riparian areas connected to Centennial Park woodlots and are recognized as part of Toronto's Natural Heritage System regulated by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority. The creek only drains a portion of

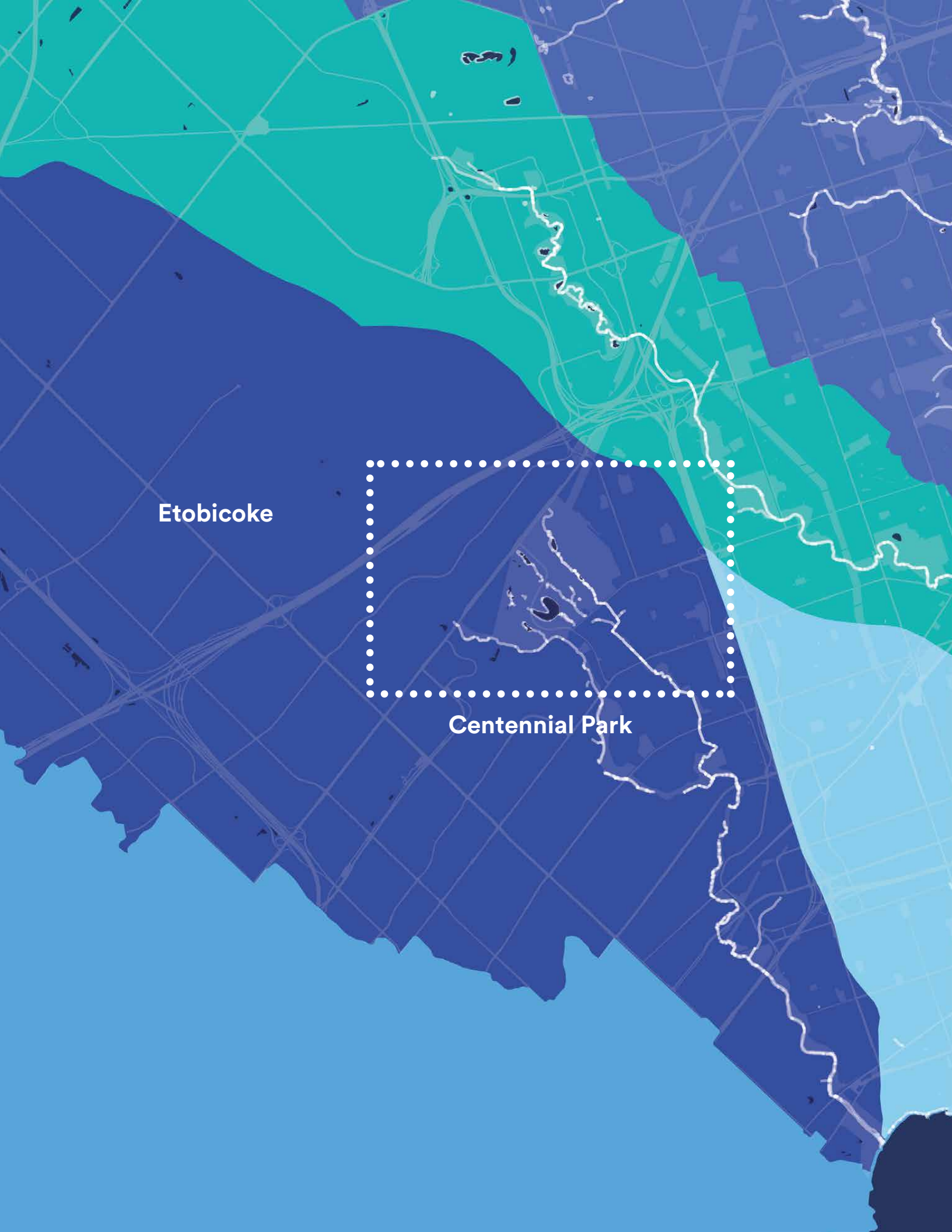
the park, with the golf course development located within the creek catchment. For the most part, many of the natural features of the creek and ravine have been preserved.

#### **Elmcrest Creek**

The majority of the site drains towards Elmcrest Creek, including the main channel and three tributaries. In conjunction with Etobicoke Creek Valley, the area is designated as a floodplain. Wetland features associated with Elmcrest Creek, such as existing stormwater management ponds, must be maintained. The existing condition of the creek is showing signs of aging as the gabions are failing. There is also an in-line pond that is not a natural feature and parks staff have included an aeration device to help control algae blooms. There are a number of inlets from the sports fields that drain into the creek.

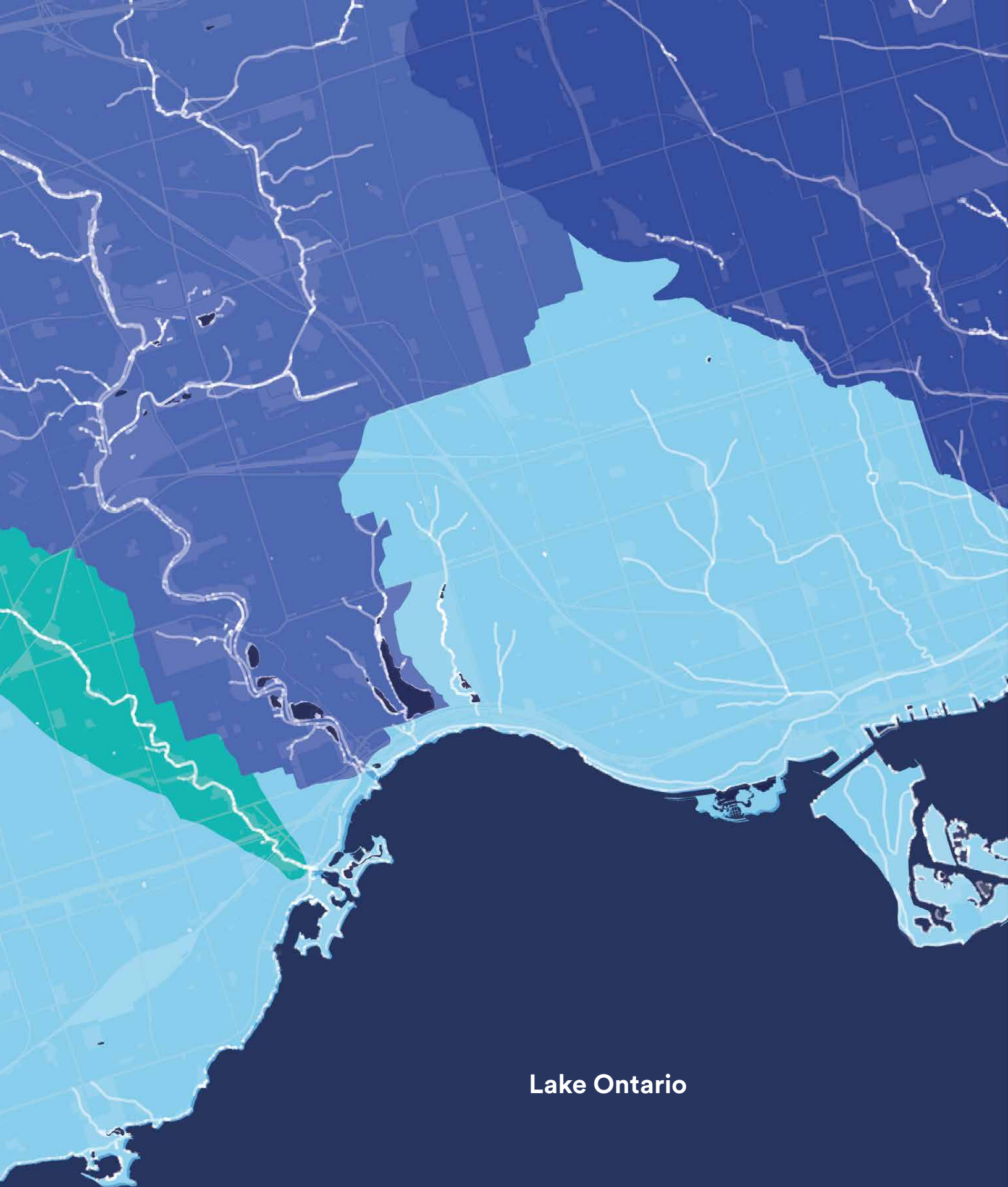
#### **Centennial Pond**

As per the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan (WWFMP) from 2003, the pond is considered an existing stormwater management pond. The area surrounding the pond is vastly maintained as lawn. Riparian habitat traverse only a narrow strip along the edge in some locations, yet, this destination is still popular for geese and other waterfowl.



**Etobicoke**

**Centennial Park**



Lake Ontario



## **Plants & Wildlife**

### **Fragmentation & Biodiversity**

Approximately 25% of Centennial Park is natural habitat, including wetlands, forests, aquatic habitat, and grasslands. The remaining majority is comprised of manicured grass, active recreation, and roads. The large portion that is grass provides minimal biodiversity to the park. Therefore, a naturalization plan of the park is required to meet the City's natural heritage targets.

The park's natural areas are heavily impacted by fragmentation and current uses. Runoff from the site is directed into the pond and other waterways. Habitat corridors are disconnected. The diversity of wildlife is surprisingly robust for such a fragmented site, likely due to the variety of habitat types present and the proximity to the Etobicoke Creek System.

Though the aquatic health of Etobicoke Creek and ponds in the park is low, the wetlands linked to the ponds support several rare plant and animal species. In addition, the Etobicoke Creek corridors provide supporting habitats for wildlife to forage in the park.

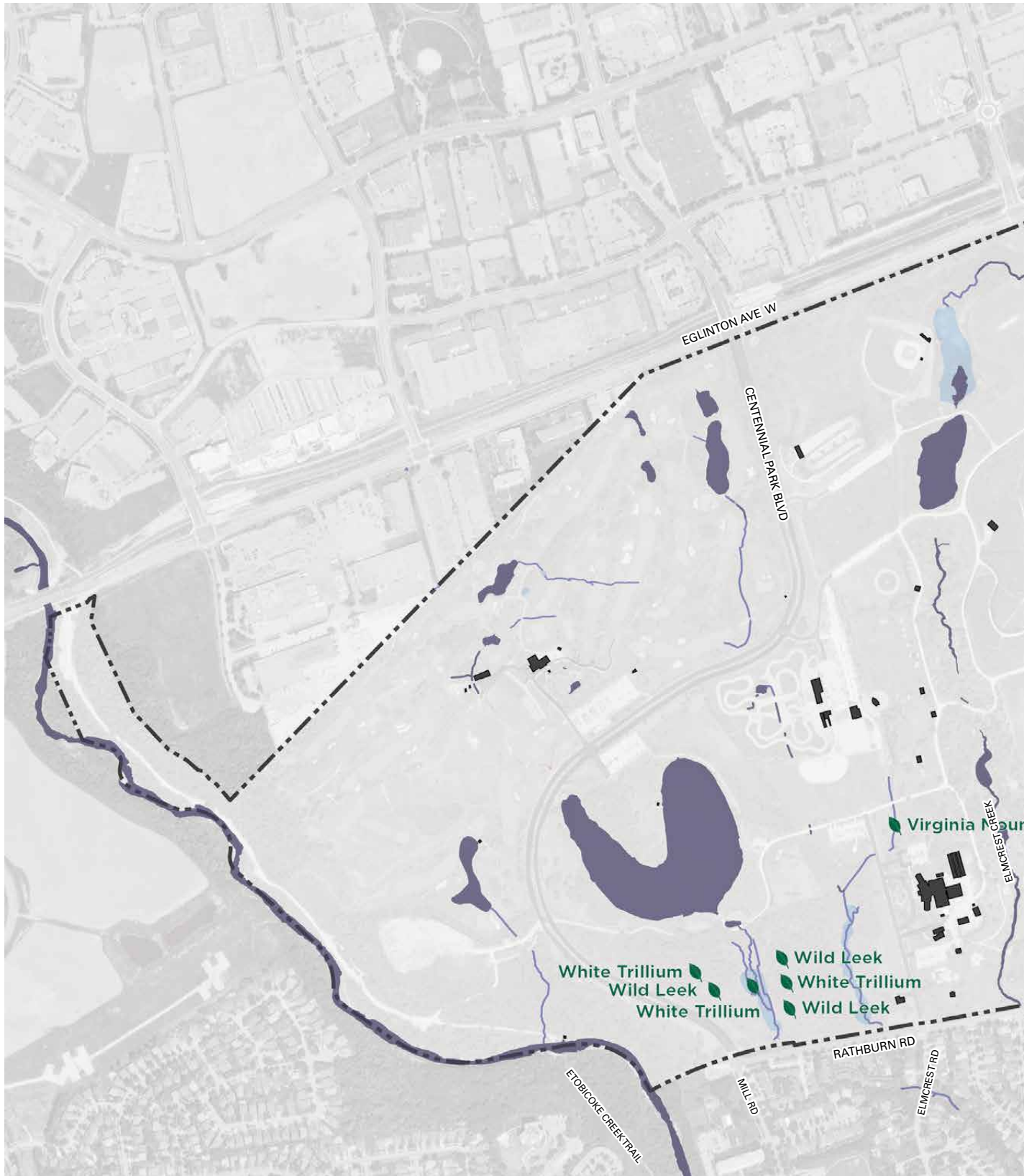
### **Species of Interest**

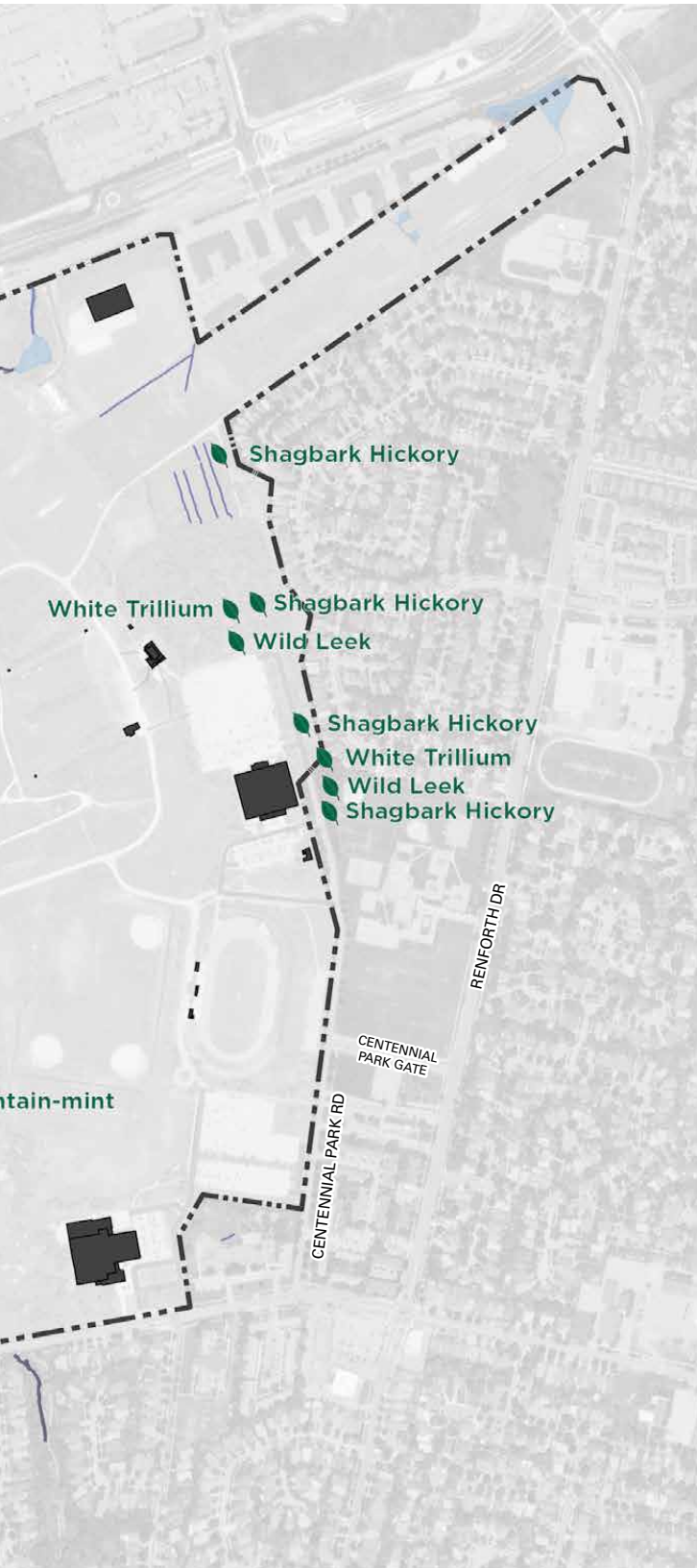
Several rare and unique plants, habitat types and wildlife species are found within Centennial Park. Rare plants include spring forest plants, wetland plants, and some planted restoration species. Rare habitats found on-site include the Shagbark Hickory Deciduous Forest at Centennial Park Road and aquatic community types in ponds. Other flora species of interest include White Trillium and Wild Leek. Rare wildlife includes grassland, wetland, and forest birds - Eastern Meadow Lark, Virginia Rail, and Cooper's Hawk. Additional fauna species of interest include Willow Flycatcher, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-eyed Vireo, Gray Treefrog, American Toad, Muskrat, and Coyotes.



Red-winged Blackbird by Pedestrian Bridge

# Flora Species of Interest

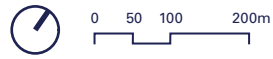




## Legend

--- Project Boundary

🌿 Flora Species



Native flora species of interest have been identified close to existing treed areas within the Park. Rare habitat has been identified including the Shagbark Hickory deciduous forest at Centennial Park Road. Some of these species have been planted as part of restoration work. The Etobicoke Creek corridor provides important habitat within the Park, and connects the Park to the expansive ravine system within Toronto and surrounding areas.



White Trillium



Wild Leeks



Shagbark Hickory



Virginia Mountain Mint

# Fauna Species of Interest





## Legend

--- Project Boundary



Birds



Amphibians



Mammals



0 50 100 200m

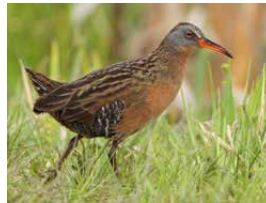
Important bird, mammal, and amphibian species have been spotted within Centennial Park. These species are rare within the City, and include fauna such as the American Toad, Hairy Woodpecker, and Willow Flycatcher.



Willow Flycatcher



Green Heron



Virginia Rail



Hairy Woodpecker



Gray Treefrog



American Toad

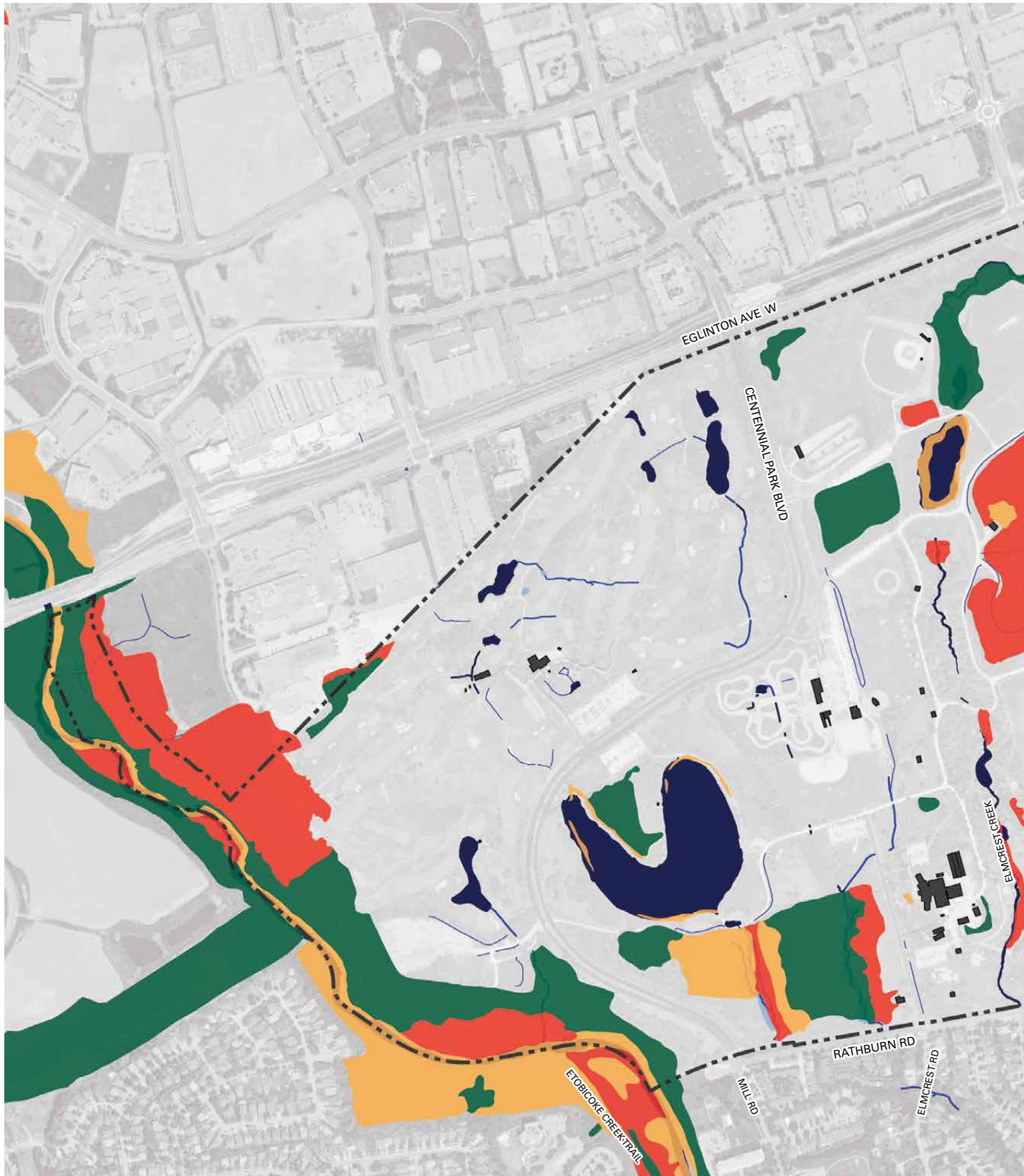


Muskrat



Eastern Cottontail

# Exotic Species





**Legend**

--- Project Boundary

Light

Moderate

Severe



Several exotic species are located within Centennial Park. The majority of the exotic species within the park are located within the 'unprogrammed' areas within the site (along Etobicoke Creek, the pond, and within the Shagbark Hickory Forest).



Garlic Mustard



Phragmites



European Buckthorn



Dog Strangling Vine



## 3.4 Programming and Placemaking

**Centennial Park hosts several large gatherings and special events a year, however programming could better resonate with local community groups to provide more meaningful daily park experiences and placemaking.**

### Special Events

Every year, there are several permitted events at Centennial Park beloved by the broader regional community, that take advantage of the park's capacity to accommodate large gathering spaces on site.

Previous events have included:

- JerkFest
- Ukraine Fest
- Emergency Preparedness Week Launch
- Hike for Hospice
- Dyslexia Walkathon
- 3rd Annual Addiction Walkathon
- BeckTaxi Corporate Event
- Toronto Rib Fest
- Toronto Youth Games
- One Small Step Walkathon
- MS Bike Tour
- Trillium Cardiac Wellness Walkathon
- Polycystic Kidney Research Society Walkathon and BBQ
- Cheerios Heart and Stroke Walk for Heart
- Cycle Cross Event
- Canadian Ski Patrol Ski and Snowboard Swap

### Event Programming vs. Placemaking

Though several cultural programming events occur yearly that attract a diversity of people across the city, better local community engagement could improve the everyday user experience and genuine placemaking efforts. The park is reputed for its sports and recreational facilities that have a larger district appeal, however the discrepancy is that the park is providing stage for such larger regional events and missing programming that resonate with the micro-local community. Many passive recreation activities do take place in the park by local park users, but these are often supplanted by the regional formal sports events or relegated to perimeter areas. In order to support local individuals to become stewards of the park, it must be activated by these individuals and placemaking efforts must genuinely represent them.

Another aspect of placemaking that is currently absent include the integration of public artwork on site. Centennial Park has long been one of the few large park spaces within the City of Toronto, without a public art



Grace JerkFest 2017 at Centennial Park Source: Toronto Caribbean

installation. There exists great opportunities for place-based or culturally-grounded artwork.

Placemaking opportunities extend to Indigenous peoples and stories. Partnerships with Indigenous groups may yield new avenues for interpretation, temporary art installations, and expanding community programming.

## 3.5 Water Bodies and Drainage

**Stormwater servicing and lighting infrastructure are in disrepair and need upgrading.**

### **Stormwater Management**

Etobicoke Creek and Elmcrest Creek support drainage within Centennial Park. Elmcrest Creek and its three tributaries drain the majority of the Park. Naturalized features, including online ponds and storm sewer systems to capture runoff from the developed areas, comprise the park’s drainage. There is a need to improve stormwater management to prevent future flooding within the Park and nearby neighbourhoods. Proper grading throughout the Park could improve the area with pool localized drainage.

### **Tributary A, Centennial Park Pond**

Located at the centre of the Park, the primary source for the pond is a 1.2 by 1.8m elliptical concrete pipe under Centennial Park Blvd. that pumps water from Etobicoke Creek. The pond is connected with the small golf course pond and used for irrigation. When one pond gets full, a valve opens, sending water to the other. A small riparian strip is located at some pond edges, though it is mainly mowed lawn.

### **Tributary B**

Flowing south from the Mini-Indy site, Tributary B outlets to a 1.8m concrete pipe at Rathburn Road. Most of the catchment

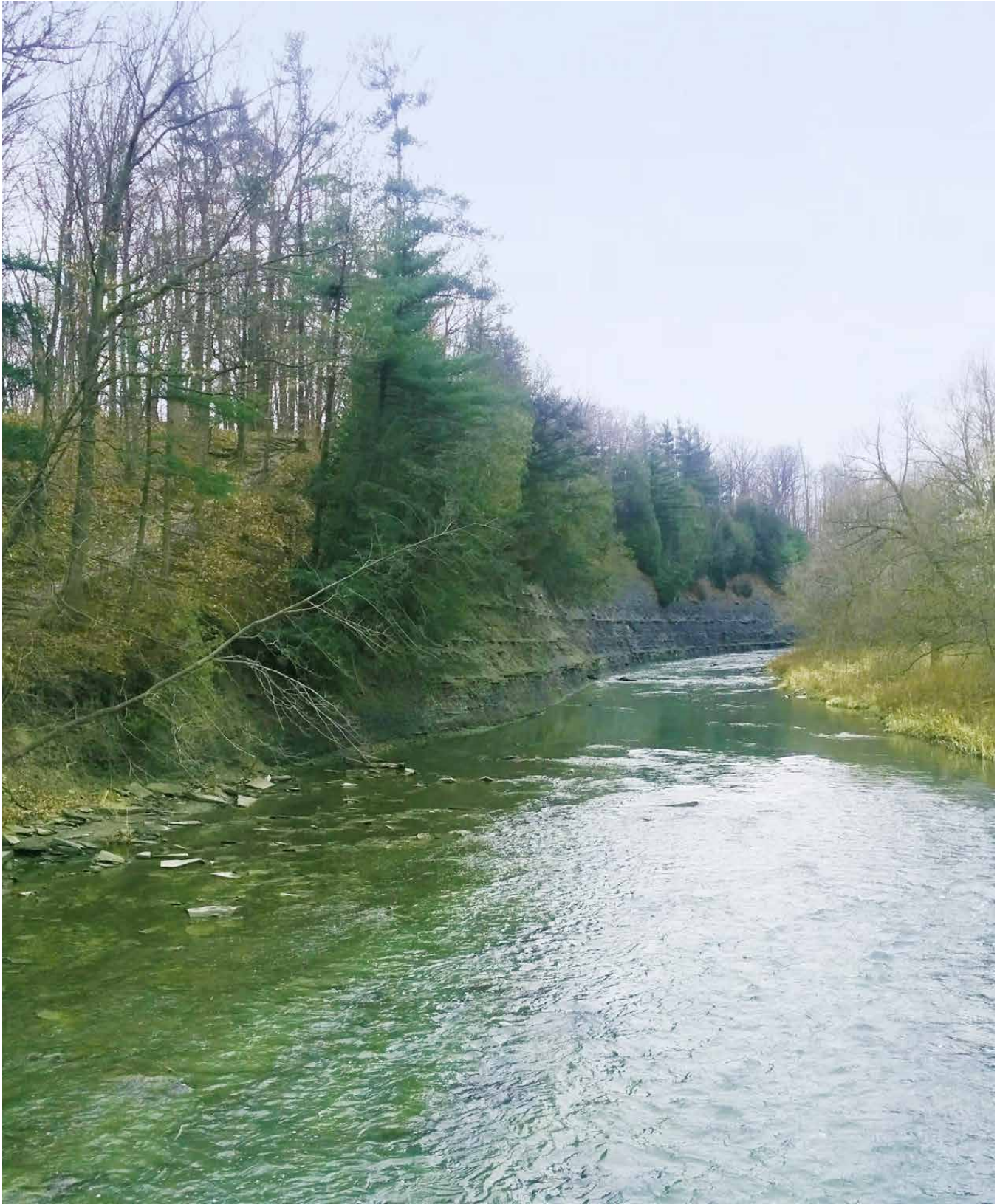
areas within the park have been developed. However, this drainage way remains naturalized, passing through ball fields before flowing into a woodlot. The no mow zones portions offer minimal protection and habitat values.

### **Main Channel**

The main channel of Elmcrest Creek is located east of Tributary B. This catchment area includes the valley land and several small pools that have been retained—the system outlets at Rathburn Road to a 2.5m x 4m concrete box culvert.

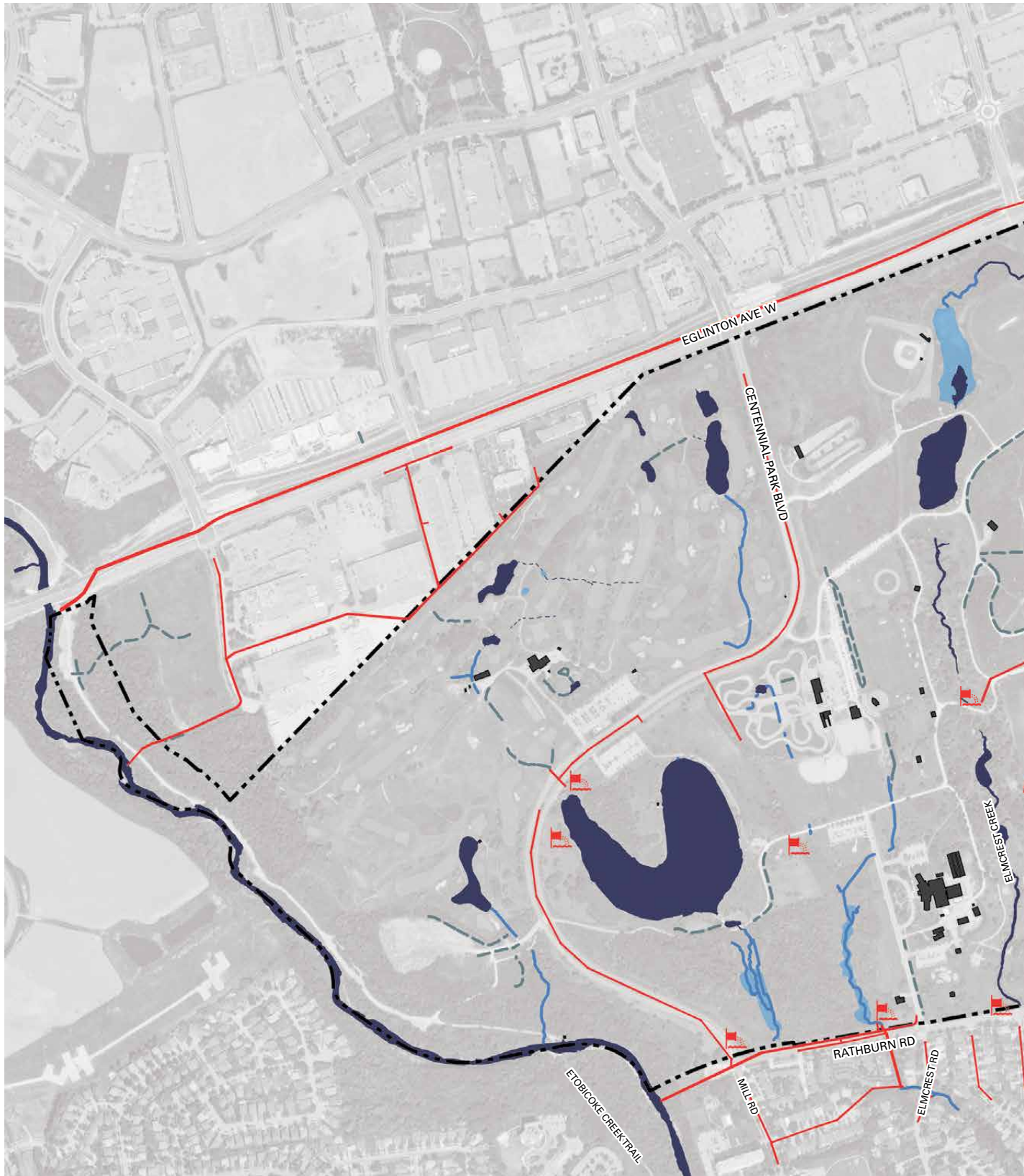
### **Tributary C**

Located at the east limit of the site adjacent to Centennial Road is Tributary C. This catchment area drainage is accommodated by a system of storm sewers that outlet to the main trunk sewer at Centennial Park Road. There is also a culvert that outlets into Elmcrest Creek that collects water from the south end of the hill and sports fields. There are no defined drainage systems, though there are areas where sheet flow occurs. The majority of this catchment area has been redeveloped - including the ski hill, arena, sports fields and stadium.











Existing Creek Condition

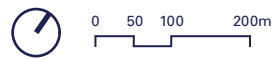
# Existing Hydrology





## Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Site Servicing (Stormwater)
-  Pond / Lake / River
-  Wetland
-  Stream
-  Swale
-  Ditch
-  Existing Inlet / Outlet



Wetlands, ponds, streams, and existing inlet/outlets are highlighted. The wetlands in the park are primarily human-made. The water quality within the park is primarily poor.



Etobicoke Creek



Elmcrest Creek and Ponds

04

---

# **Vision + Approach Summary**

## 4.1 Refreshing the 2008 Master Plan

**Centennial Park holds the potential to be a unique recreation destination in the City of Toronto - a common space where sport, play, education and land stewardship help build connections between people and to land.**

Centennial Park's potential is singularly great. As one of Toronto's largest parks, and with high quality established recreation and large event programming, the park is uniquely poised to distinguish itself in the lives and minds of Torontonians. Endowed with natural features rare in urban parks, Centennial is a common space where sport, play, education and land stewardship can help build connections between people and to the land.

Addressing the key issues raised by the public and key stakeholders over a series of workshops and public events, the Master Plan Update brings forth a renewed vision for Centennial Park. This vision and approach builds on the work of the 2008 Master Plan which envisioned the park as a Centre of Excellence with enhanced natural areas and clearly delineated passive and active recreation areas. The 2021 Master Plan extends this notion, but places a greater emphasis on the integration of all parts of the park within a greater whole. The updated vision and guiding principles assert the importance of greater connectivity throughout the park and the enhancement and protection of the park's ecology.

The Centennial Park Master Plan illustrates specific recommendations from the 2008 Plan, and identifies which recommendation will be maintained, removed, or changed within the 2021 Master Plan.



## 4.2 Renewed Master Plan Vision

Through the course of consultation with stakeholder members, the public, Indigenous community leaders, and City staff, an updated and consolidated vision statement for Centennial Park emerged.

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The knowledge and experience shared during the extensive consultation process has informed the renewed vision of the Centennial Park Master Plan — diversity, equity, and inclusion and the core of decision making.

This Master Plan identifies specific aspects in Centennial Park that cater to typically underserved communities. For instance, capital investments for Indigenous heritage projects, community spaces serving young people or seniors, and art opportunities to engage Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) artists, are identified throughout the Plan.

The Plan also promotes diverse voices to contribute to decision-making processes — particularly those voices of the stewards and staff of the park. Creative opportunities to support disadvantaged people who might benefit socially and economically from the design, planning, and delivery and maintenance of capital projects is an additional method to provide genuine equity and inclusion.

### Consultation Feedback on Promoting Equity and Diversity

Ideas for promoting equity and diversity were given during the youth and Indigenous community workshops. The representation of Indigenous history and culture was advocated for in the public consultation. The list below demonstrates a few suggestions for equity opportunities within Centennial Park, where marginalized histories can be represented, and marginalized artists and designers can be engaged:

- Design features across the site
- Art in pathways and wayfinding; gateways and interpretive markers
- Land stewardship / restoration planting initiatives
- Programming across the site, and specifically at the ski chalet, district playground and conservatory
- Participatory planning to support place-based, community-driven projects

**Centennial Park** is envisioned as a **welcoming, inclusive, safe** and **walkable** open space that **balances recreational activity** with the park's **natural features**. **Enhanced** community **accessibility** and **ecological connections** will **provide visitors** with **improved access** to **nature, recreation, park programs, land stewardship** and **educational opportunities** year-round.

# 2008 CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

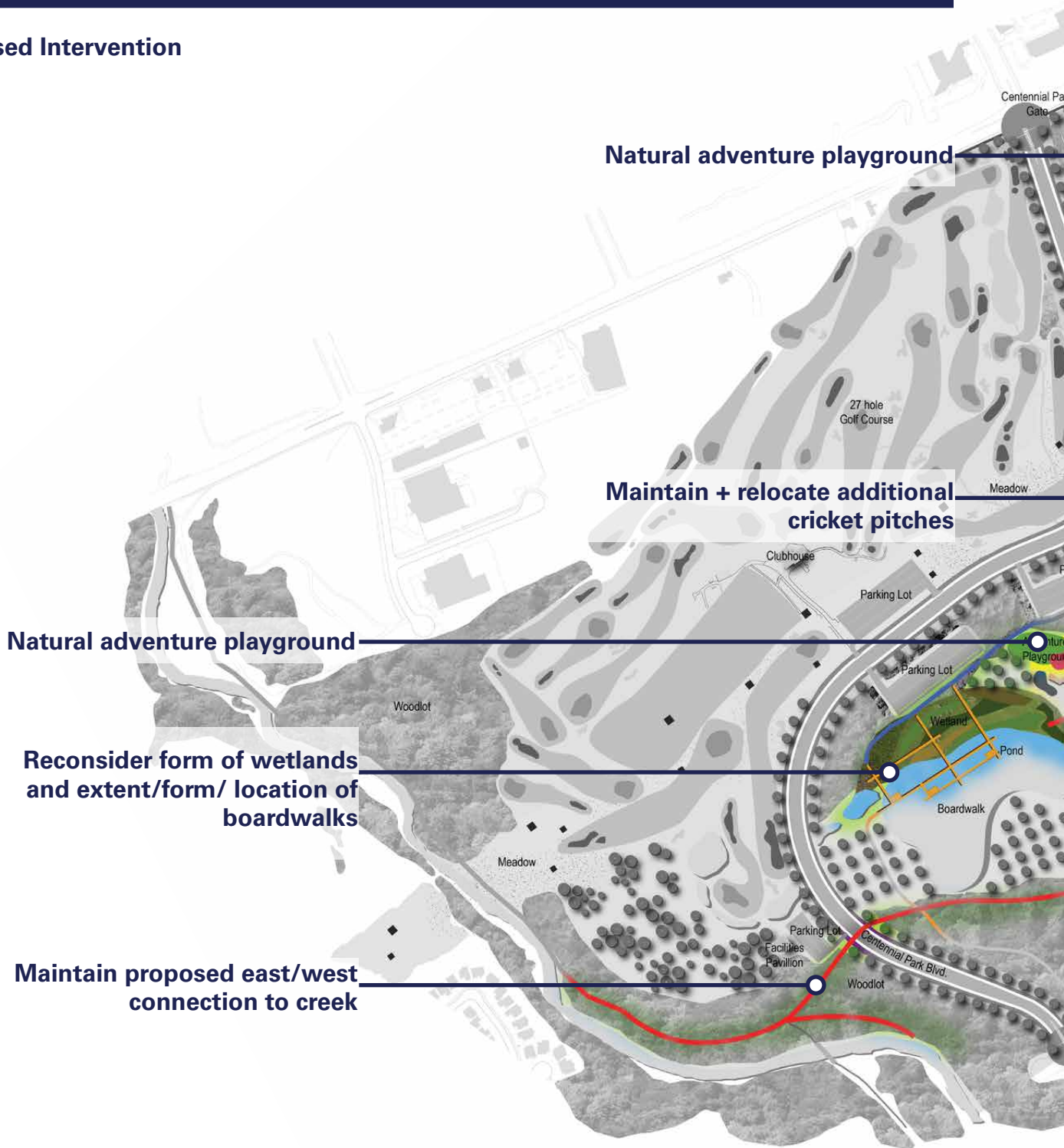




0m 100m 250m 500m

# 2008 CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

## Proposed Intervention





**Realign path with programming**

**Maintain + relocate location of lookout**

**Maintain + relocate consolidated fields**

**Green parking lots**

**Reconsider operations yard + adjacencies**

**Consider location for cafe**

## 4.3 Guiding Principles

In support of the revised vision statement (outlined in section 4.2), the updated Master Plan is steered by four guiding principles. These four principles will inform the future park improvements and programming.

### 1 Activate

Centennial Park should be an active, safe and inclusive space for all to enjoy across the seasons. The park should strengthen the vitality of communities and support the diverse needs and interests of Toronto's residents and visitors. New facilities should be multi-purpose and multi-age.



Consolidate sports and recreation

### 2 Connect

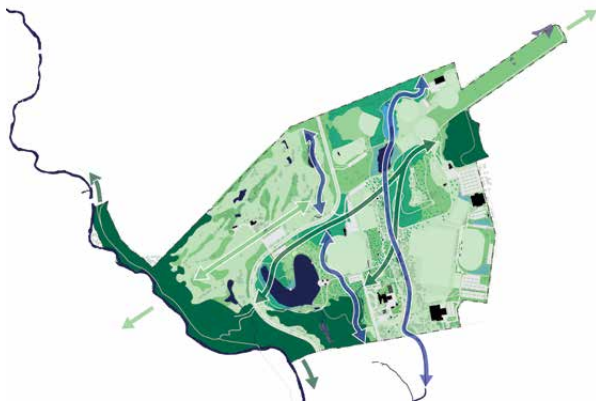
Centennial Park should be strongly linked to its community and enable all visitors to enjoy all the park's features through accessible, pedestrian-centered design. It should be a place that connects people to each other, to the land, and to local history.



Improve connectivity

### 3 Protect & Enhance

Centennial Park should promote the preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of natural systems throughout the park to support greater biodiversity, as well as enhance its cultural and recreational uses.



Link and enhance natural areas and water courses

### 4 Collaborate & Evolve

Centennial Park should foster partnerships that bring together a diverse community of neighbours and citizens to celebrate the area's layered histories. Centennial Park should evolve over time to serve and empower the community that uses and lives around the park.



Identify opportunities for community building





01

### Consolidate Spaces

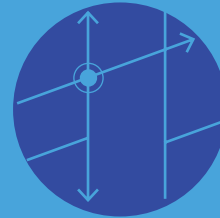
Consolidate and cluster similar recreational uses



02

### Enhance Programming

Create the infrastructure required to support enhanced and new programming year round



03

### Improve Connectivity

Provide better connections throughout the park and to the surrounding community and natural features



04

### Celebrate Water

Improve water quality including that which leaves the site; improve visibility of water on site and the experience of water



05

### Foster Inclusion

Prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion in designs, construction, and programming to create a safe, welcoming park



06

### Build Identity

Support the creation of key destination points that foster a clear park identity

## 4.4 Master Plan Objectives

Six objectives were created to develop and finalize the Master Plan, organized into four priorities.

In consultation with stakeholder members, the public, Indigenous community leaders, and City staff it became apparent that the Master Plan objectives would fall under four key organizing themes that would help define and organize the Master Plan:

- Park Programming and Recreation
- Accessibility and Movement
- Water and Ecology
- Art and Placemaking

The following objectives were used as a basis to develop and finalize the Master Plan:

- Consolidate Spaces
- Enhance Programming
- Improve Connectivity
- Celebrate Water
- Foster Inclusion
- Build Identity

### 4.4.1 Consolidate Spaces

A concerted plan to connect the park's natural features and recreational areas will improve the park experience to connect people to each other and to places.

### Key Actions:

- Expand and consolidate recreation and cultural programming
- Protect and consolidate natural areas including water courses and habitat
- Consolidate mowed areas to allow strategic non-mowing and increase of existing ecologies
- Enhance ecologies through experimental ecologies (pit and mound, seeding, plugs and whips, planting for succession)

### 4.4.2 Enhance Programming

Enhance active, cultural and passive programming to offer new and more diverse programmatically themed 'hubs'. These hubs should offer seasonal and year-round events or attractions.

### Key Actions:

- Enlarge and enhance amenities, recreation and play areas including the connecting walkways in-between
- Create arts and culture focused recreational programming, and/or seasonal events and temporary or permanent art

- Provide physical flexible park spaces to stage opportunities for performance and events from large-scale to intimate smaller-group gatherings
- Improve year-round programming opportunities
- Provide physical flexible park spaces on the ski hill and in the chalet to allow for more diverse and year-round programming
- Create a Family Hub - provide more active programming for children and youth
- Provide more programming for seniors
- Provide opportunities for Indigenous cultural and ceremonial programming
- Consider spaces to develop natural playgrounds in keeping with the ecology of the site

#### 4.4.3 Improve Connectivity

Create a new pathway hierarchy to improve access and ensure people are connected to the park amenities and to the adjacent community.

##### Key Actions:

- Remove barriers and connect gaps or link existing desire lines
- Link fragmented habitats through reforestation and the naturalization of specific manicured areas to enhance the west-east ecological connections
- Establish a clear pathway hierarchy including wayfinding signage

- Prioritize safety through improved lighting, and safe road or pathway crossings
- Design to enhance sequence, views and connections
- Prioritize accessibility across the park
- Enhance connections to transit stops near the park
- Provide maintained walkway(s) year-round
- Design paths that support various park users
- Improve existing infrastructure

#### 4.4.4 Celebrate Water

The protection of water in the park as an essential life-giver - literally, narratively, and experientially. It can create unique opportunities to connect people with nature, and promote environmental stewardship.

##### Key Actions:

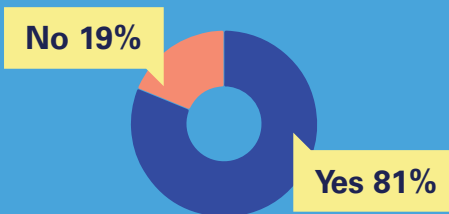
- Design for resiliency through stormwater management (quantity and quality) and re-use (irrigation, washrooms)
- Naturalize the pond and restore wetlands
- Improve and link disparate existing wetland habitats to restore resiliency and revive self-sustainable ecological systems
- Enhance interactions and experience with the pond and associated wetlands via lookouts, boardwalks, viewing and seating nodes
- Foster stewardship through educational opportunities i.e. self-guided tours, partnerships with nature groups and to

# WHAT WE HEARD - ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

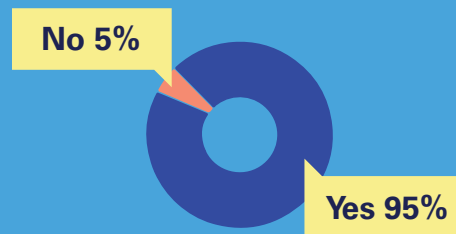
800+ RESPONDENTS 

## Site-wide Feedback

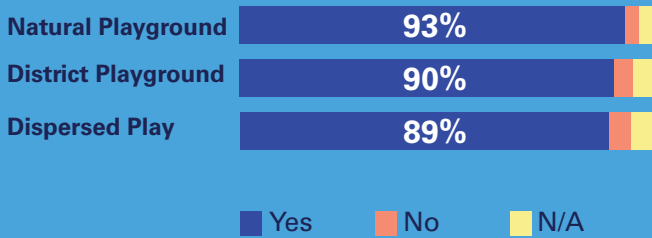
Do you agree with the proposed layout of the sports facilities?



Do you agree with the overall layout of the ecological areas?



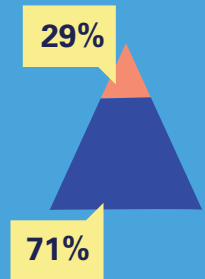
Do you agree with the proposed siting of the play features?



Should the Ski-Hill be re-purposed for all season use?

I do not support relocating the Ski Centre. I want it to remain at Centennial Park regardless of cost.

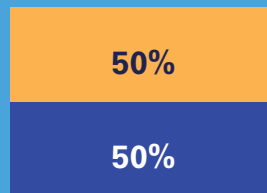
I support repurposing the hill to all season use.



## Site-specific Feedback

### The Pond

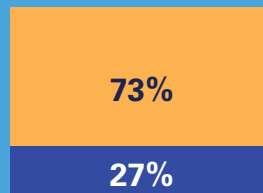
Option A: Low Impact



Option B: High Activity

### The Hill

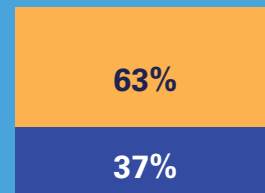
Option A: Fitness Hub



Option B: Cultural Hub

### The Heart of the Park

Option A: Play Path



Option B: Play Node

celebrate site ecologies (white trillium grove, shagbark hickory grove, cotton tail meadow, etc.)

- Revitalize east-west ecological and water connections

#### **4.4.5 Foster Inclusion**

Make Centennial Park a safe inclusive park. Cultivating inclusivity begins with listening and continuing the conversations with local community groups and addressing and removing any gaps and barriers to ensure Centennial Park is beloved by the community.

##### **Key Actions:**

- Support diverse and inclusive sports and active recreation programming
- Prioritize convenient, safe and accessible routes throughout the park and from the edges of the park
- Ensure transit stops are accessible/ identified through the park
- Feature and honour marginalized and indigenous narratives through interpretive signage, art, language revival and programming
- Create spaces to support and stage diverse cultural and passive programming and special events (i.e. markets, festivals, holiday celebrations)
- Consider renaming the park, or naming selected areas and/or pathways to reflect local history

- Enable individuals and community groups to contribute to the design, building and/ or maintenance of the park to foster a sense of ownership and stewardship
- Consider paid internships for marginalized youth and the underemployed to educate and improve skillsets

#### **4.4.6 Build Identity**

Build an authenticity of place by embracing and celebrating what Centennial Park means to people and how it serves the local community.

##### **Key Actions:**

- Programme park hubs to bolster park identity for both local and regional attraction
- Celebrate the park's ecological heritage, restore habitat and connect water courses
- Create a program of interpretive signage and naming
- Provide multiple opportunities for various scales of events and gathering - provide rigour in programming
- Look into local or city-wide partnerships for event planning



Existing Lawn Area Adjacent to Water's Edge