

05

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# The Master Plan

## 5.1 The Illustrative Master Plan

**The Illustrative Master Plan Update depicts the design and development through four lenses.**

The Centennial Park Master Plan Update can be seen through the following story lenses of Accessibility and Movement; Park Programming and Recreation; Ecology and Water; and Art and Placemaking. Given the scale and the complexity of the site, the Illustrative Site Plan included here, best presents the organization of the park. The development of the site plan has evolved in alignment with the Master Plan design principles, each of which has been defined and confirmed through the project's public consultation process.

# Illustrative Master Plan

## EXISTING

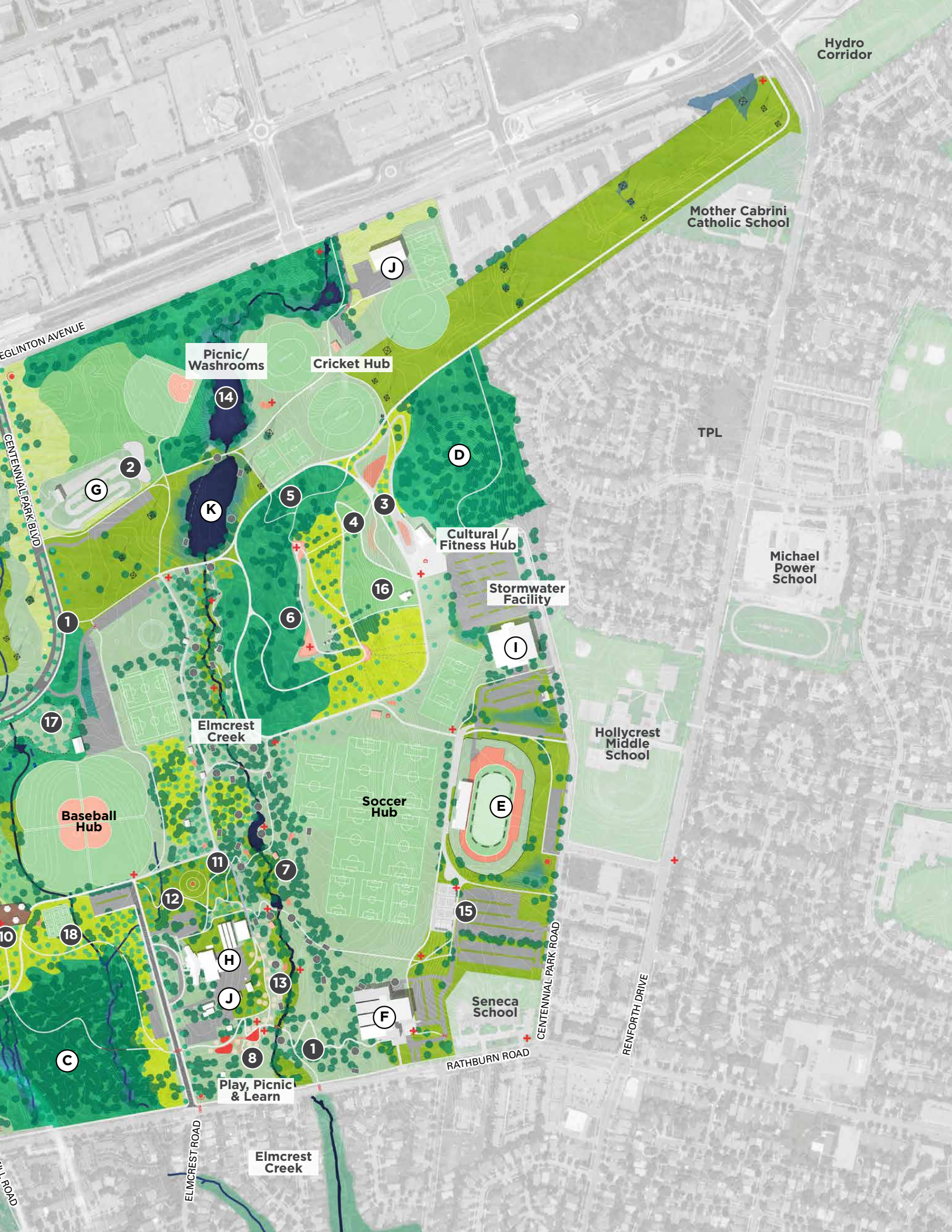
- (A)** CENTENNIAL GOLF CENTRE
- (B)** ETOBICOKE CREEK PATH
- (C)** FOREST
- (D)** SHAGBARK FOREST
- (E)** STADIUM
- (F)** OLYMPIUM
- (G)** BMX COURSE
- (H)** CONSERVATORY
- (I)** ARENA
- (J)** OPERATIONS
- (K)** STORMWATER POND / WETLANDS

## PROPOSED

- 1** ACCESSIBLE PATH
- 2** SKATEPARK
- 3** ICE SKATE TRAIL / PLAZA
- 4** AMPHITHEATRE
- 5** FITNESS TRAILS
- 6** LOOKOUTS
- 7** PICNIC AREA
- 8** DISTRICT PLAYGROUND
- 9** NATURAL PLAYGROUND
- 10** PLAZA
- 11** NATIVE ARBORETUM
- 12** MEDICINE WHEEL GARDEN
- 13** NATIVE ORCHARD
- 14** STORMWATER FACILITY
- 15** MULTI-USE COURT
- 16** TOBOGGAN HILL
- 17** FUTURE OPERATION + MAINTENANCE FACILITY OR VOLLEYBALL OR POTENTIAL DOG OFF-LEASH AREA
- 18** VOLLEYBALL COURTS







Hydro Corridor

Mother Cabrini Catholic School

EGLINTON AVENUE

Picnic/Washrooms

Cricket Hub

CENTENNIAL PARK BLVD

TPL

Cultural / Fitness Hub

Michael Power School

Stormwater Facility

Hollycrest Middle School

Elmcrest Creek

Soccer Hub

Baseball Hub

E

Play, Picnic & Learn

Seneca School

Elmcrest Creek

RATHBURN ROAD

CENTENNIAL PARK ROAD

RENFORTH DRIVE

ELMCREST ROAD

ROAD



## 5.2 Recreation

**The goal of the Master Plan Update was to advance a framework to balance natural areas and active programming across the site, in a way that balances these uses to coexist and enhance the other.**

This proposed land use approach will require the long-term development of the site; its sustainability, flexibility, and the improved use for visitors. Centennial Park has a history of a wide range of programming. The recreational program goals listed below aim to preserve some of those existing uses, while incorporating a more lively and diverse mix of programs.

The following plan responds to the following three goals:

- Concentrate Recreation
- Enhance amenities and recreation areas
- Create and support diverse and inclusive sports and recreational programming

### **Sports Fields**

The Master Plan Update has identified the following fields and recreational spaces to consolidate and improve, as well as the creation of new programming reflecting the needs of the City, identified in the Facilities Master Plan for Centennial Park. These high intensity program areas have been concentrated in the following zones in

Centennial Park – the South-East portion of the site, between Elmcrest Road and Centennial Park Road, a cultural fitness hub around the hill, consolidated recreation hubs for baseball and soccer, and an expanded cricket pitch area in the hydro corridor in the north.

### **Play Areas**

The Centennial Park Master Plan Update identifies the desire to improve the play areas for the park. Currently, the playgrounds consist of limited play equipment and they are dispersed and inaccessible throughout the site. The hierarchy of playground environments will allow for a range of play, create a sense of identity for the park, and provide an opportunity for inclusive and diverse play. The smaller play spaces are seen as integrated play areas, dispersed throughout the site in locations that further animate the adjacent use. These spaces will playfully articulate the landscape and will be strategically located and act as another layer of wayfinding in the park. The Natural Playground and District Playground will be destinations for park visitors, and will be designed to enhance the park identity.

**+ 3.16 ha** new outdoor recreation area

**EXISTING**



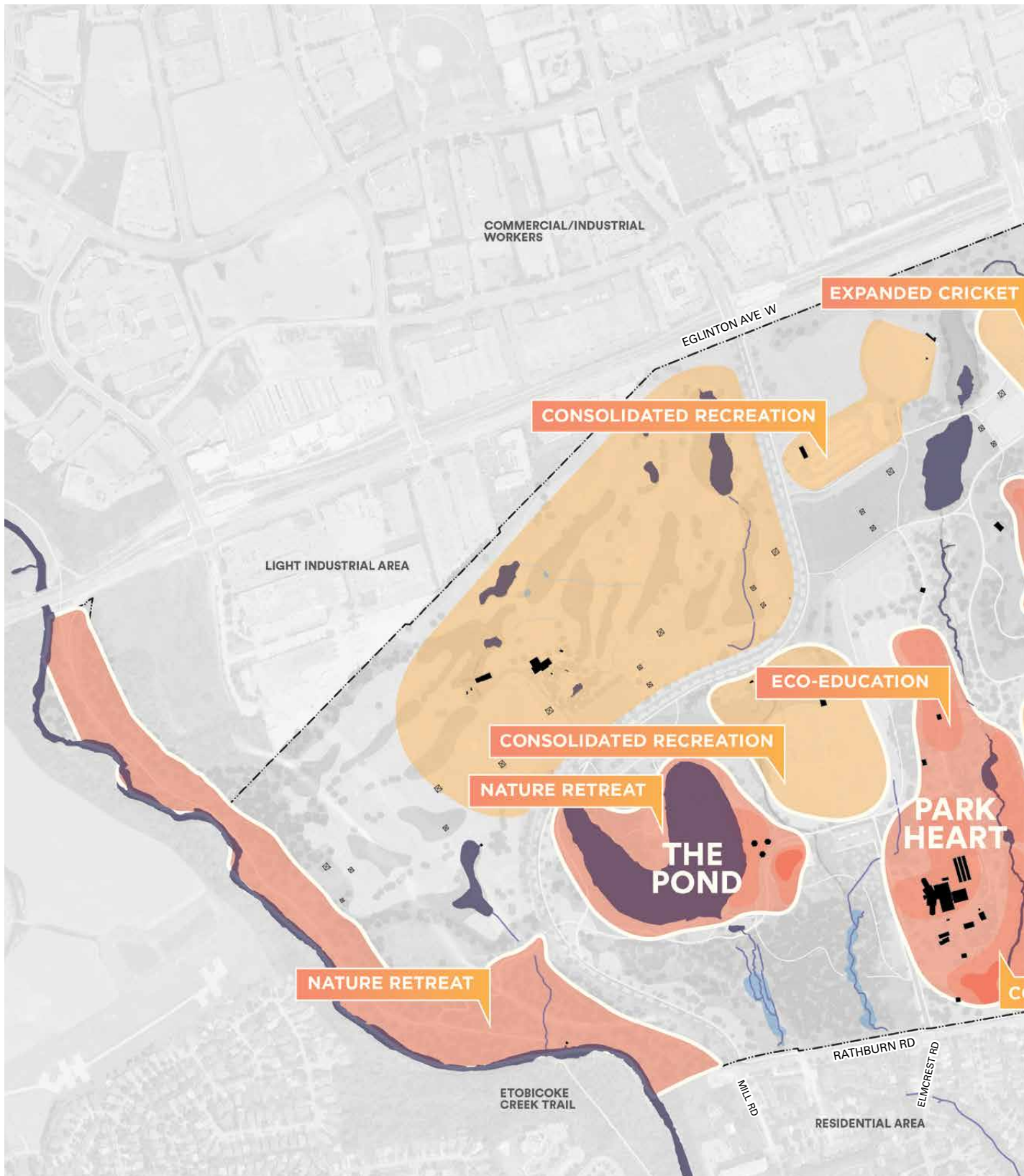
**SUMMARY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION**

	Existing	Proposed
Baseball	6	5, improved
Cricket	2	3
Soccer	8	11, improved
Soccer/Lacrosse	1	1
Soccer/Football	2	2, improved
Multi-Sport	0	3-4
Volleyball	8	6
Skatepark	0	1
BMX	1	1
Disc Golf	1	1
Flying Circle	1	1
Ice Skate Trail	0	1

**+ 1.37 ha** new soccer field area

**+ 1.07 ha** new cricket pitch area

# Recreation Concept

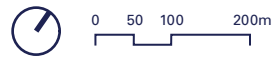






## Legend

--- Project Boundary



Big moves include consolidated soccer, baseball and cricket pitches; a cultural/fitness hub to repurpose the ski hill and nature retreats on the west side of the Park.



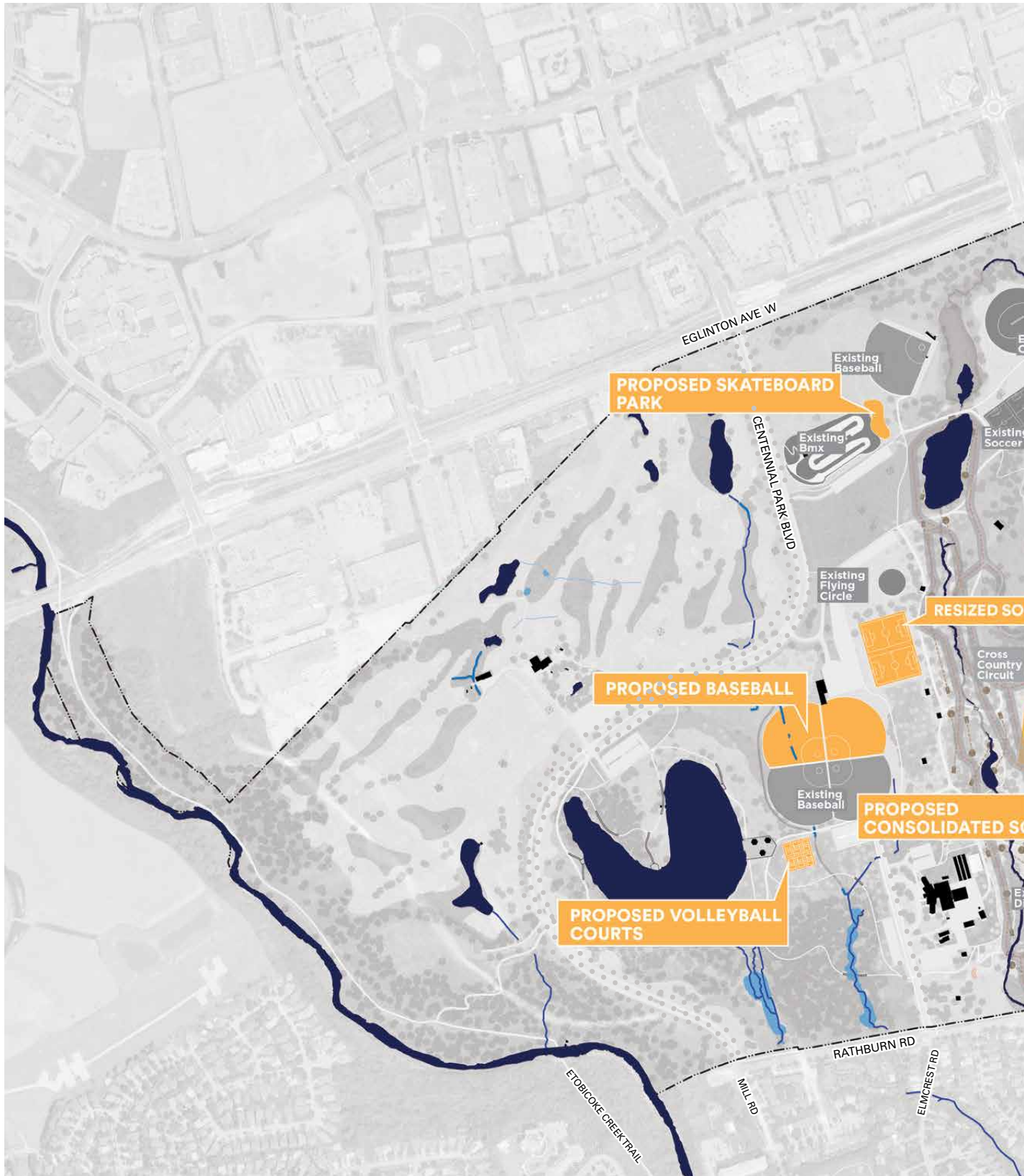
Cricket Game in Centennial Park



Playground with Cognitive Play Elements



# Proposed Recreation





## Legend

- Project Boundary
- Existing Recreation
- Proposed Recreation



Existing, or refurbished recreation zones are shown in grey. New recreation is shown in orange.



Ice Skate Trail



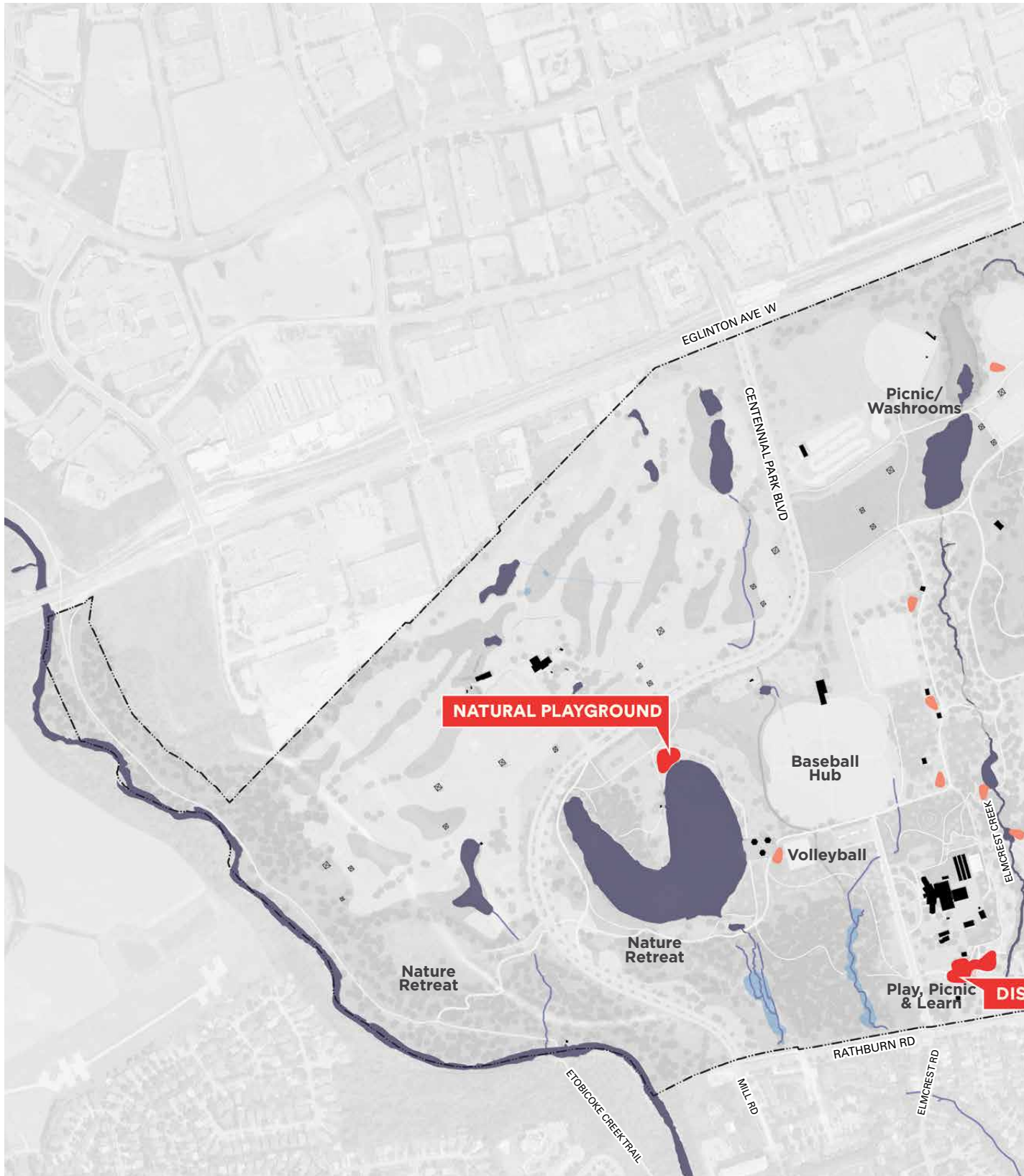
Playground with Climbing Features

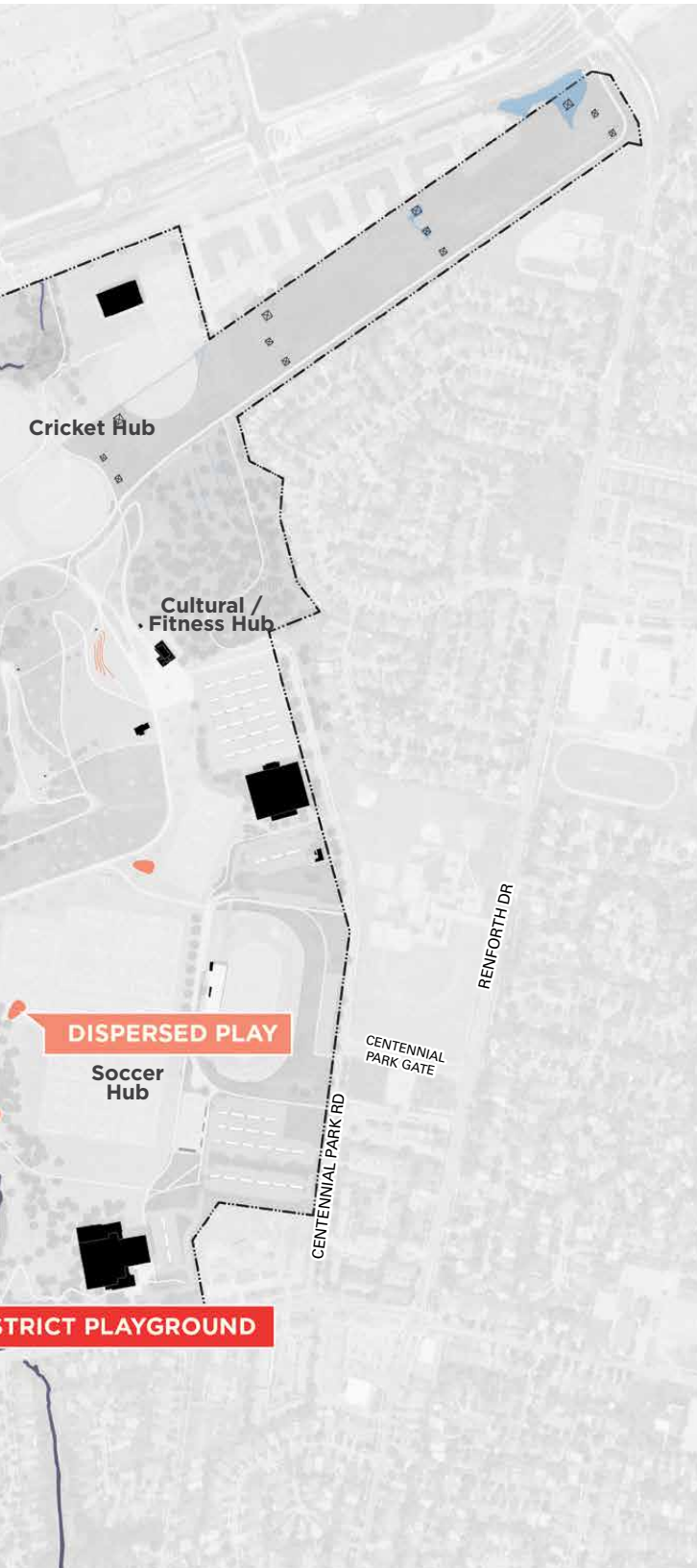


Beach Skatepark






# Proposed Play





## Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Proposed Playground
-  Dispersed Play



Play spaces of different type and size are distributed across the park, with several dispersed play spaces along Elmcrest Creek.



Playground with Separated Play Areas



Open Slides on Hill



Playground with Rubber Mats



Concrete Stepping Blocks in Sand



Stepping Logs in Grass



Natural Playground with Large Log Features





Existing Picnic Table Seating in Centennial Park

### **Dogs Off-Leash Area**

The Master Plan proposes a Dogs Off-Leash Area. Any future improvements would need to be developed in coordination with local community groups and may be subject to TRCA, City approvals and funding. The reconfigured off-leash area may be designed to respond to current issues and changing patterns of uses that would be part of a separate detailed design process. The off-leash area will consider potential for sub division for smaller dogs and the provision of space for multiple fetch runs. An enclosed off-leash area will provide enhanced habitat and improved separation between dogs and naturalized areas; lighting, seating and provision of new shelter will promote year-round and off-peak use.

### **Shelters, Picnic, Food, and Washrooms**

While Centennial Park does provide a range of active programs, there is a need for restful and quiet natural areas. The goal of these areas is to provide scenic and beautiful places to gather, while improving ecological linkages and connectivity and improving the overall environment. To help support the new programming and activity space within the Updated Master Plan, a number of public washrooms, picnic tables, shelters, cafes, and snack stations have also been included to further increase the activation of the park and allow people to stay for extended periods of time – whether for a full day soccer tournament, an afternoon picnic, or a just a casual day of walking.

A new washroom facility is proposed to compliment the cricket hub, while existing washroom facilities will be updated to be more accessible and inclusive as they come up for state of good repair.

The addition of a cafe within the Heart of the Park by the conservatory is also proposed and it is recommended for this idea to be further explored.

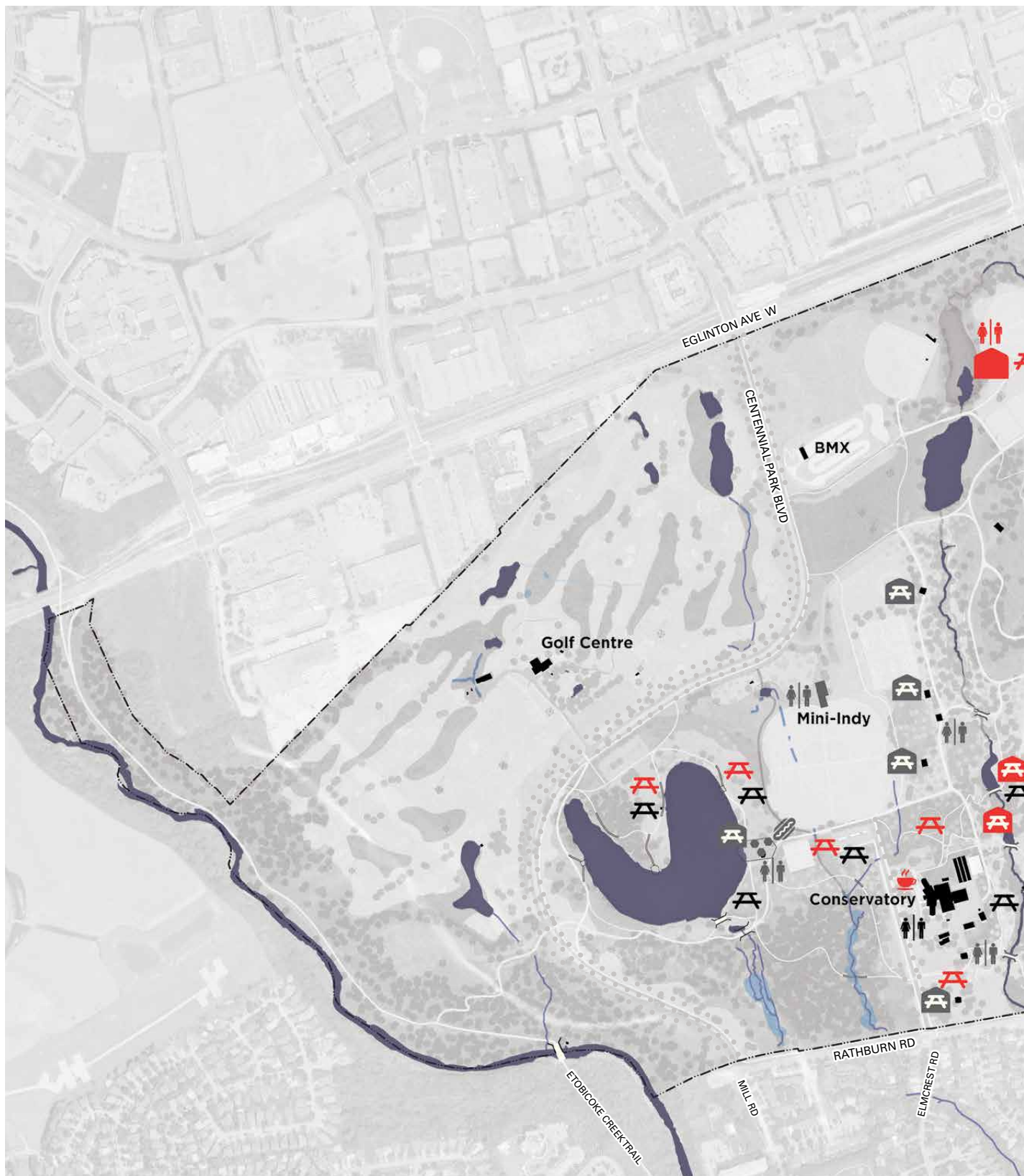
### **Winter Use**

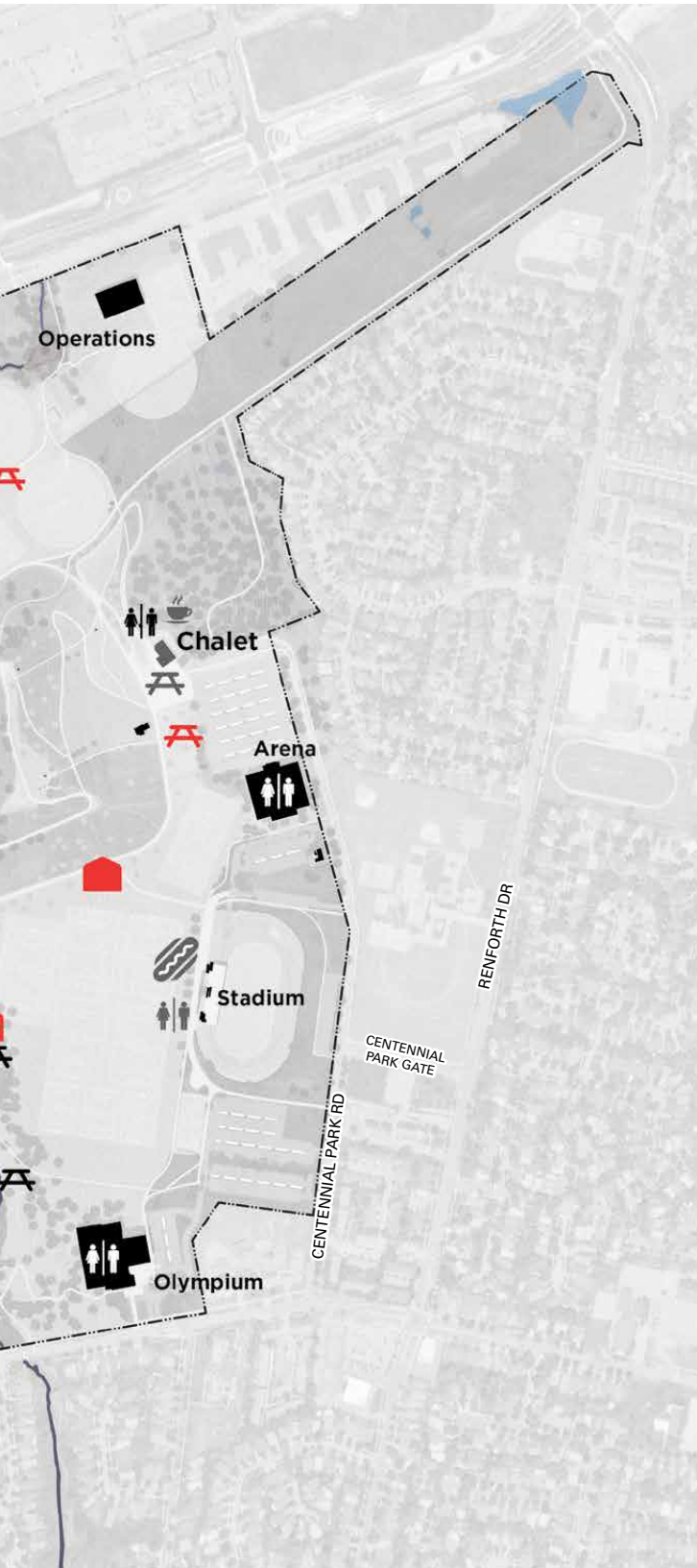
The accessibility of the park during winter months and the provision of cold-season programming is key to Centennial's success and identity as a winter destination. The reclamation of the ski-hill for other winter uses is an important part of this equation, and as such toboggan runs, fire pit locations and a skating trail on or around the hill are all included as programming potentials to be planned for.

Winterization of existing washrooms will play a pivotal role in allowing the park to be more of an all season park. This should be included in future state of good repair washroom projects for the park.



## Shelters, Picnic, Food, and Washrooms
















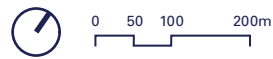


## Legend

--- Project Boundary

Existing   Refurbish   Proposed

			Covered Seating
			Picnic Area
			Sheltered Picnic Area
			Washroom
			Snack Bar
			Cafe



Existing and proposed shelters, picnic areas and washrooms are distributed across the site, in which proposed amenities are situated where they would be most needed.



Shade Structure in Open Lawn



Pavillion Structure with Canopy



## 5.3 Accessibility and Movement

The Master Plan is centered around the notion of connectivity, access and the movement through Centennial Park.

The primary goals of the pathway and vehicular system includes:

- Improving the existing infrastructure
- Designing paths to support organization, wayfinding, identity, and program
- Improve accessibility, remove barriers, and connect gaps
- Considering sequence, views, and connections

### Design Standards and Recommendations

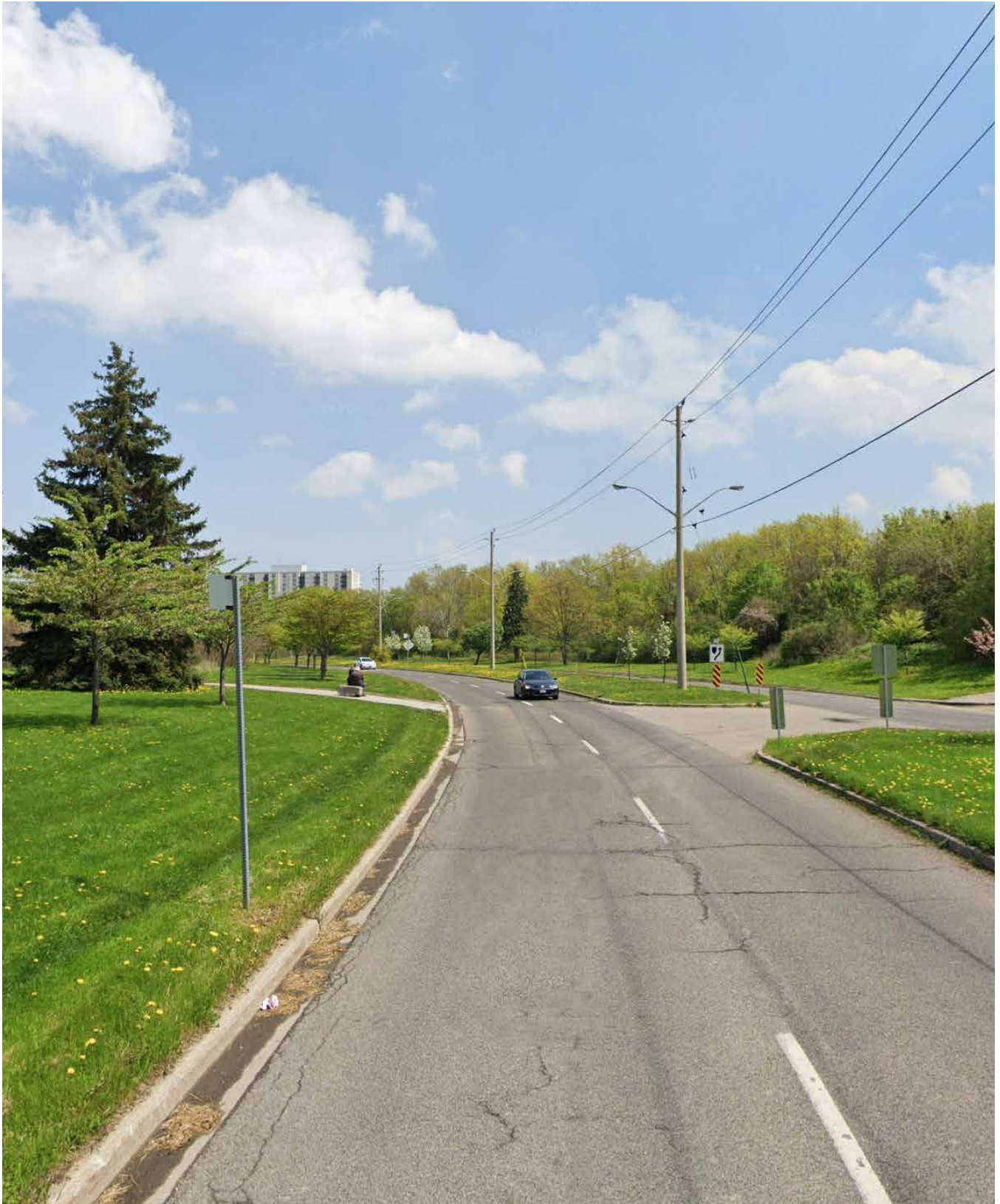
The overall approach for the circulation system is to provide a variety of paths and trails, encouraging multiple users (pedestrians, cyclists, and runners) access to all zones of Centennial Park. The proposed surface type of each pathway is intended to give order to the trail systems while helping to signal to the user how to use each pathway. Primary multi-use pathways for example, are intended to be shared with a number of different users – pedestrians, cyclists, roller bladders etc. This surface is finished in asphalt to provide a smooth and accessible pathway. In contrast, tertiary pedestrian pathways are finished with ‘natural material’ (gravel, for example) to signal to the user that they are not the primary route within the park, but rather provide a quieter ‘off the beaten path’ route.

### Pathway Hierarchy and Typologies

- Primary Multi-use Path (4.0m, Asphalt) for High Capacity
- Secondary Multi-use Path (3.0m, Asphalt)
- Primary Pedestrian Path (3.0m, Asphalt)
- Secondary Pedestrian Path (2.1m, Asphalt)
- Tertiary Pedestrian Path (2.1m, Natural Material)
- Active Recreation Paths and Trails (Varies, Natural Material)
- Special Uses (Events) (4.0m, Unit Pavers)

### Wayfinding Strategy

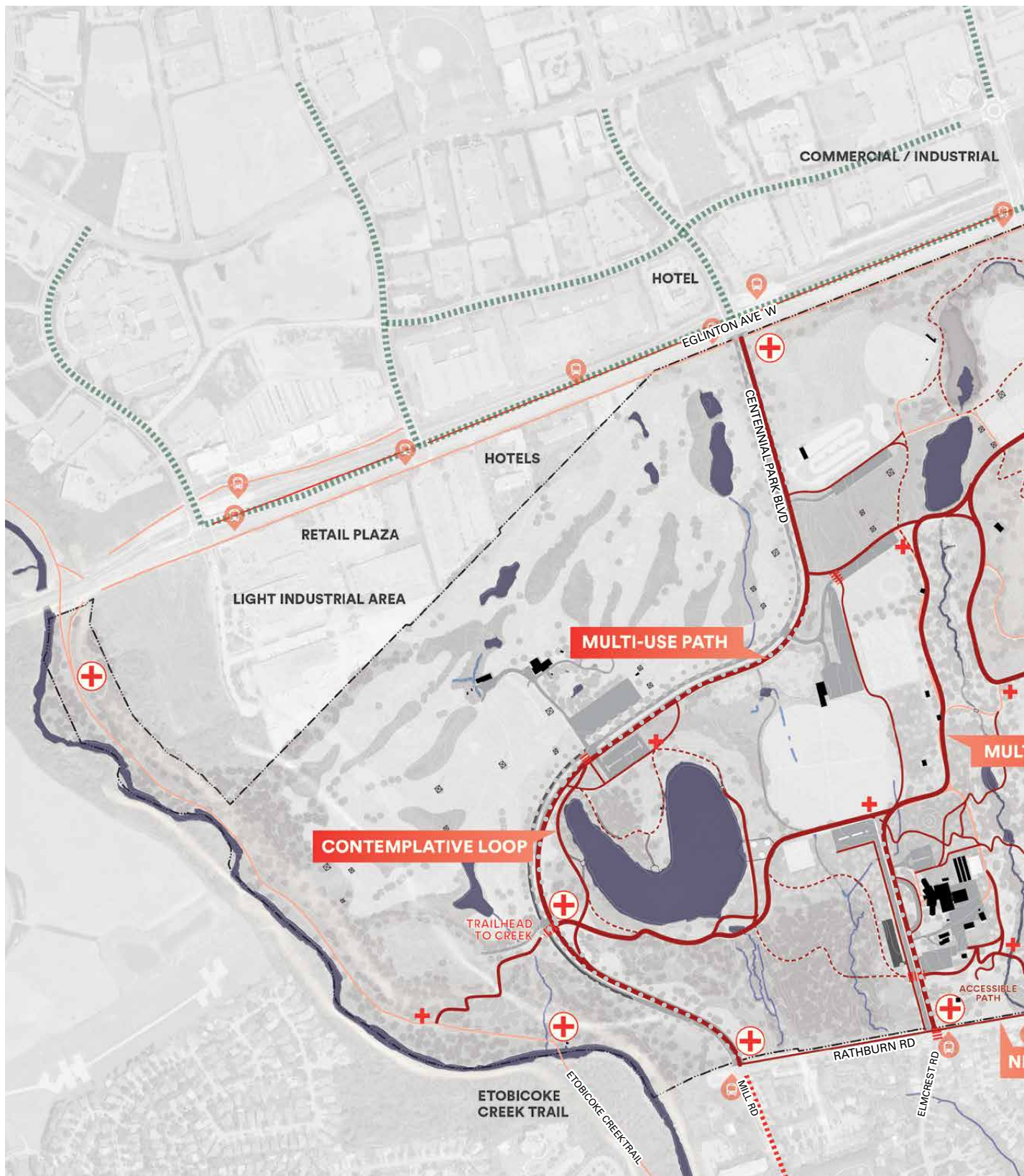
A comprehensive and detailed wayfinding strategy is required due to the scale of the site. It is recommended that the City of Toronto pursues the development of a wayfinding program for Centennial Park that will contribute to the park’s identity and sense of the place. The overall park wayfinding should draw from the City’s Parks & Trails Wayfinding Strategy. A successful wayfinding program will provide scalable templates that can address the changes in future tenant occupancy and programming changes across the site.



Existing Road with Planted Medians












# Accessibility & Movement Demonstration Plan

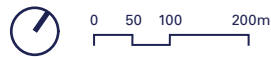






### Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Gateway
-  Wayfinding
-  Transit Stop
-  Existing Paths
-  Existing Bike Lanes
-  Proposed Bike Route
-  Proposed Pathways
-  Proposed Informal Pathways



This plan illustrates how a park visitor might arrive at the site (by transit for example), and the routes that they might take to reach their intended activity or park destination.

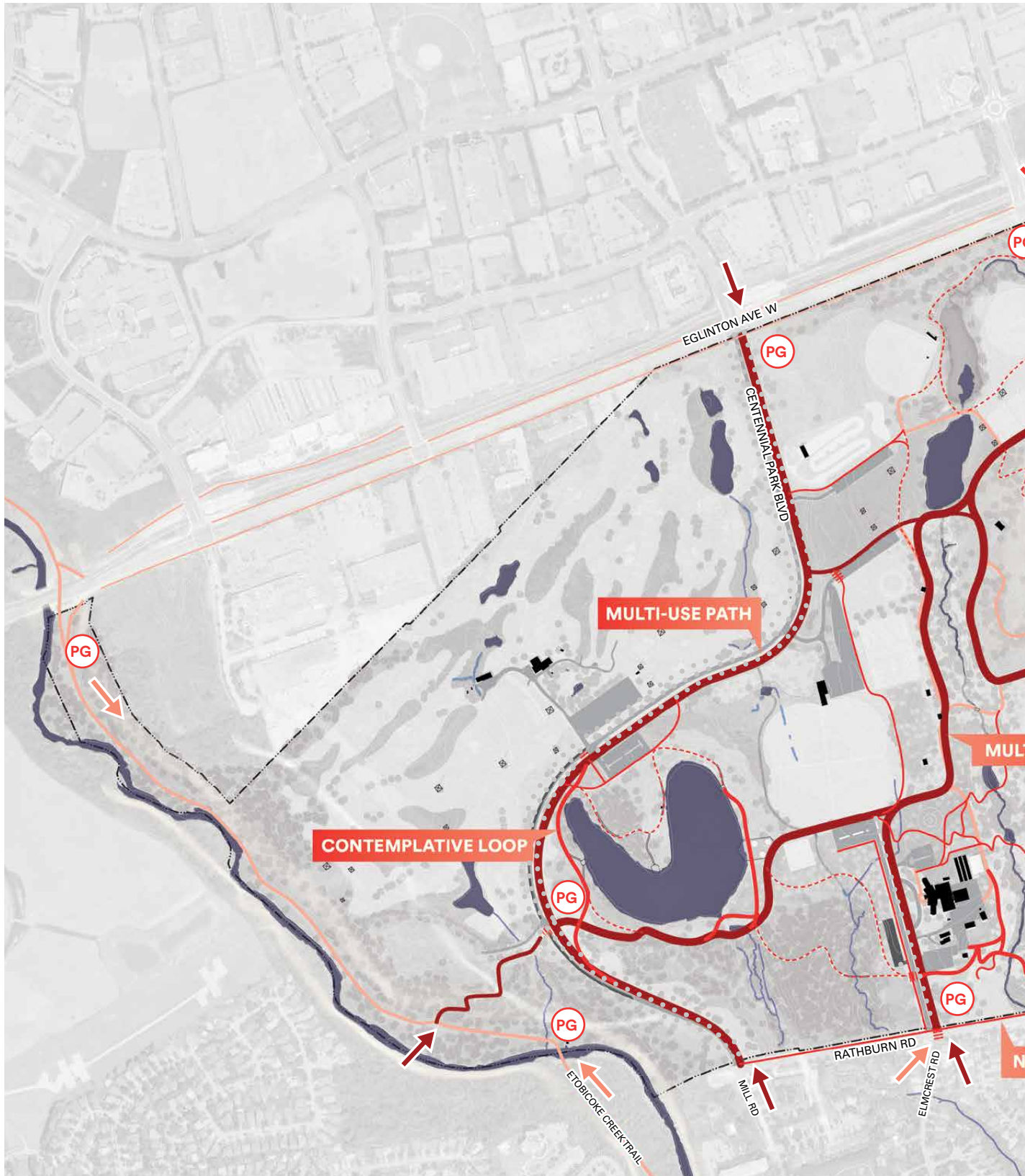


Boardwalk through Forest



Paved Pathway






# Pedestrian Path System Hierarchy







## Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Existing Paths
-  Primary Multi-use Path (4.0m, Asphalt)
-  Secondary Multi-use Path (3.0m, Asphalt)
-  Primary Pedestrian Path (3.0m, Asphalt)
-  Secondary Pedestrian Path (2.1m, Asphalt)
-  Tertiary Pedestrian Path (2.1m, Natural Material)
-  Proposed Pedestrian Entrance
-  Existing Pedestrian Entrance
-  Proposed Multi-use (MUP) Entrance
-  Proposed Pedestrian Gateway



Pathway typologies include 3-4 metre wide multi-use paths and 2.1-3 metre wide pedestrian paths.

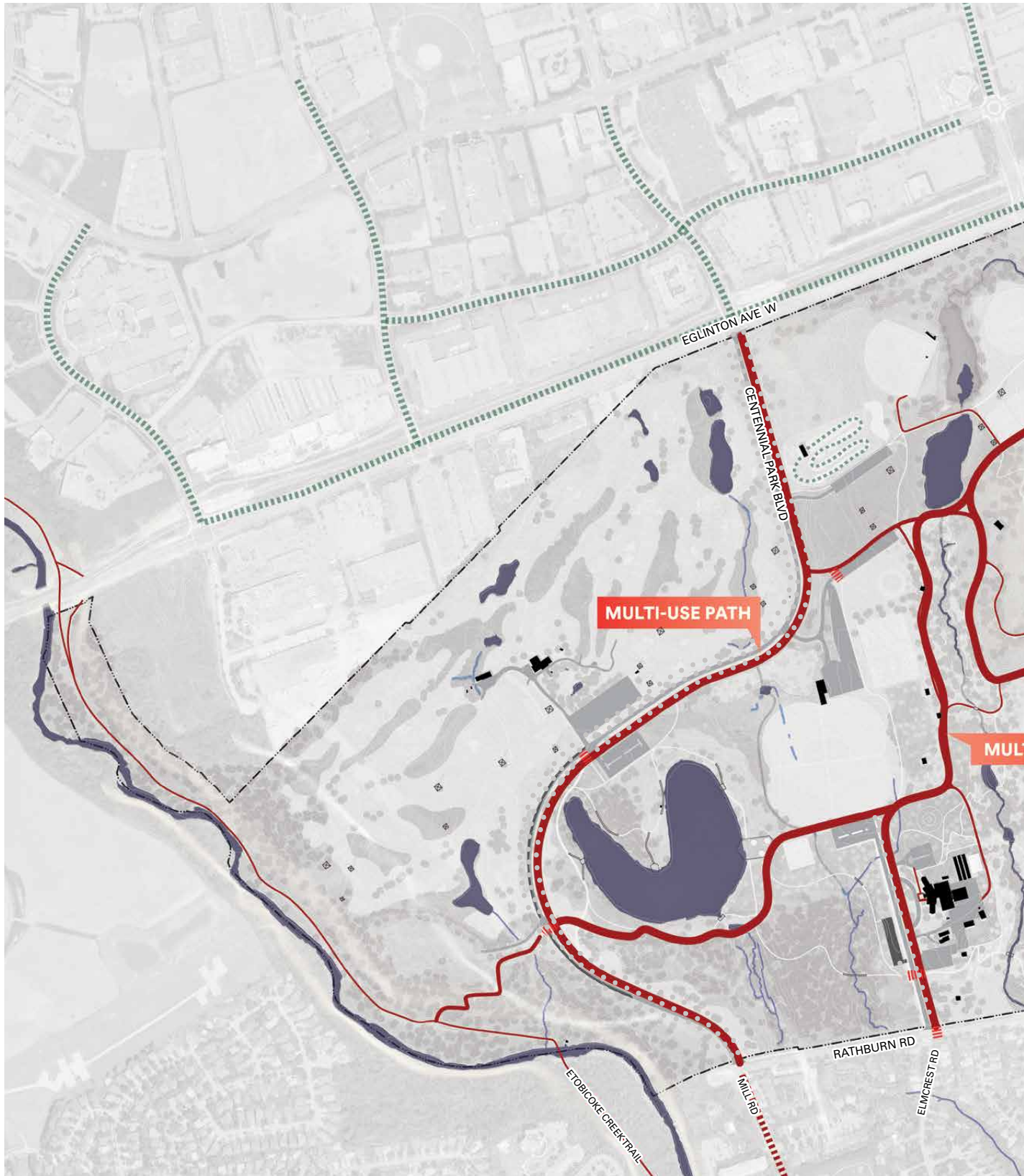


Pedestrian Path through Planted Meadow

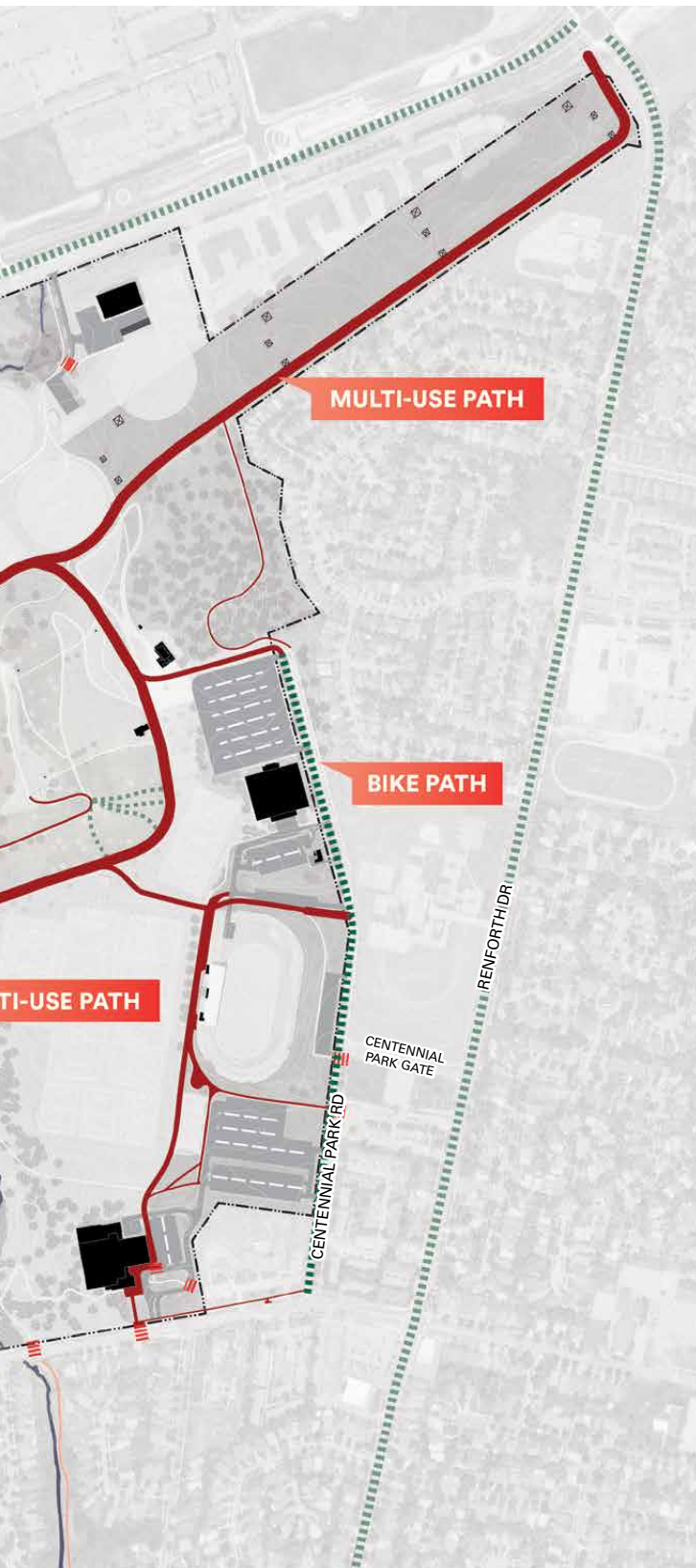


Natural Material Path with Bridge Crossing






# Bicycle System

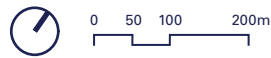






## Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Existing Bike Path
-  Primary Multi-use Path (4.0m, Asphalt)
-  Secondary Multi-use Path (3.0m, Asphalt)
-  Proposed Bike Path



The existing and proposed biking network for Centennial Park connects to existing bike paths within the surrounding context. The Primary multi-use Path would be a shared path that would support a variety of different active recreation uses, such as rollerblading, walking, and jogging.

In addition, the guidelines will also introduce the TO360 Parks Wayfinding Strategy throughout Centennial Park. The Illustrative Plan identifies specific locations for signs for implementation in the next phases of the Master Plan.

The hierarchy of signage for the site will consist of:

- Gateway Entrance and Identity Signage (large/at key locations)
- Directional Signage (small/medium)
- Interpretive Signage (small/medium/large)
- Regulatory Signage (small/required by the City of Toronto)
- Hybrid Signage (combining directional and interpretive, at placemaking locations)

### **Gateway Entrance and Identity Signage**

Larger scale entrance signage is required at each of the intersections.

### **Directional Signage**

The wayfinding and directional signage must be clear, concise, welcoming, and will guide park users to their destination. This signage should be legible at distance and be consistent across the site. The signage should be located at trailheads and pathway intersections, and must indicate the distance between the amenities and destinations within the park.

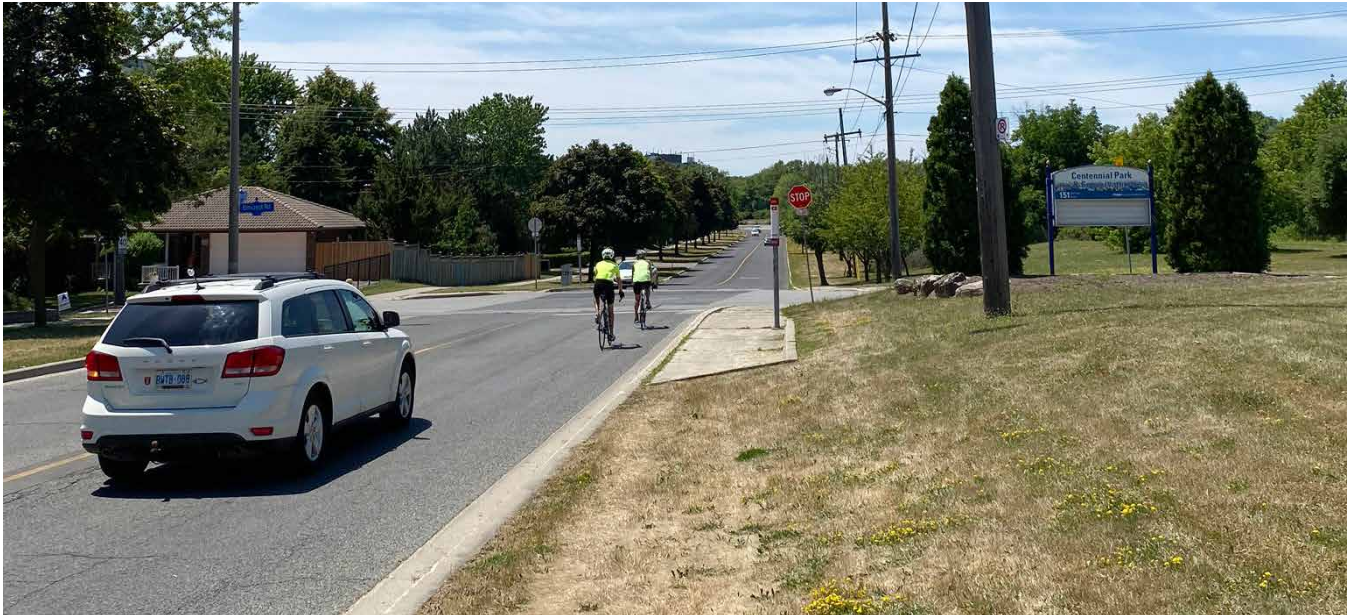
### **Interpretive Signage**

There is an opportunity to provide engaging and thoughtful touch points for the integration of interpretive signage throughout the site. The goal of the interpretive signage is to educate visitors with the natural and human history of the site, and highlight the presence of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives, and diverse voices who are often left out from the historical plaques in Toronto. This will require further consultation with Elders, traditional and elected leaders, knowledge and medicine keepers, and historians, in addition to the conversations that have been brought forward through the Centennial Park Master Plan Update process.

### **Hybrid Signage**

There is opportunity to combine directional and interpretive signage for informational kiosks at key intersections. Signage can also provide updates on events (upcoming farmers markets, large gatherings such as Rib Fest, or future recreation tournaments), renovation plans and/or any construction on the site, as well as restoration areas and works in progress. Integrated with seating, kiosk spaces can also serve as rest areas and shelter in the park.





Park Entrance at Rathburn Road

### **Vehicular Access and Parking**

Vehicular access will remain as it currently exists within Centennial Park, however, the driving experience will be more scenic, have improved wayfinding, signage and materials to clearly define vehicular access throughout the park. The park's current singular use transportation network will be improved with an intermodal system identified in the Master Plan Update, including multi-use paths and trails, hiking paths, and fully accessible paths for pedestrians.

The parking plan reviews the existing parking lots, many of which require upgrades. The parking lots can become major design features, contribute to the identity of the park, and help to direct visitors through large open space more easily. Distributing parking throughout the site would allow for more

localized access and use. These smaller lots will be permeable in nature and defined by the grid of tree planting. The larger event parking lots have more of a specific use and must accommodate heavy use during those events. These lots will be multi-functional in the design, encouraging other hard surface programming during the times when there is not a high concentration of use.

Parking lot improvements must meet current Wet Weather Flow requirements, and help improve the water quality of the site by way of implementing appropriate stormwater capture and infrastructure.

### **Streetscape Improvements**

Sidewalks and streetscape improvement projects at Centennial Park are a high priority for the City of Toronto to implement. Centennial Park Blvd is lacking infrastructure for both pedestrians and cyclists, currently forcing pedestrians to walk along the street. A multi-use path and sidewalk along the park road would greatly improve connectivity and safety in Centennial Park. Rathburn Road and Centennial Park Road (along the east side of the Centennial Park) are also missing sidewalks and require upgrades to meet Toronto's accessibility guidelines. These improvements will also encourage more people accessing the park on foot or bicycle.

### **Crossings**

In addition to the added path networks, a number of crosswalks, vehicular entrances, and pedestrian entrances are also to be implemented to better connect the park to its surrounding communities. Two new crossings have been identified as high priority and critical for implementation. These crosswalks are located at the intersection of Rathburn Road and Elmcrest Park, and the crossing at Centennial Park Blvd at the path down to Etobicoke Creek, which is a critical crossing connecting the site east-west.

### **Safety and Lighting**

The lighting is inconsistent across the site and issues of safety was raised during the public consultation process. It is recommended that lighting be included on all Primary and Multi-use Trails in the park. The Secondary and Tertiary path system will require an assessment to determine if the path is lit. The assessment will include a review of the use, restrictions relating to the Hydro Corridor, and wildlife activities and sensitivity. It is critical that a trail or path is fully lit (not partially) between different access points. If the entire path cannot be lit, it should be indicated that it is an unlit path through signage and wayfinding on site. The lit paths will be an important wayfinding device in order to navigate the site and must be carefully considered in the implementation of the Centennial Park Master Plan Update.

The future lighting design should consider the locations of the poles and that they are consistent on one side of a heavily used Multi-use Trail or Primary Path. The luminaires should be mounted a minimum of 4.5m above the path surface. LED and energy efficient lamps should be considered, and must be full-cut off design with minimum spill-off light.





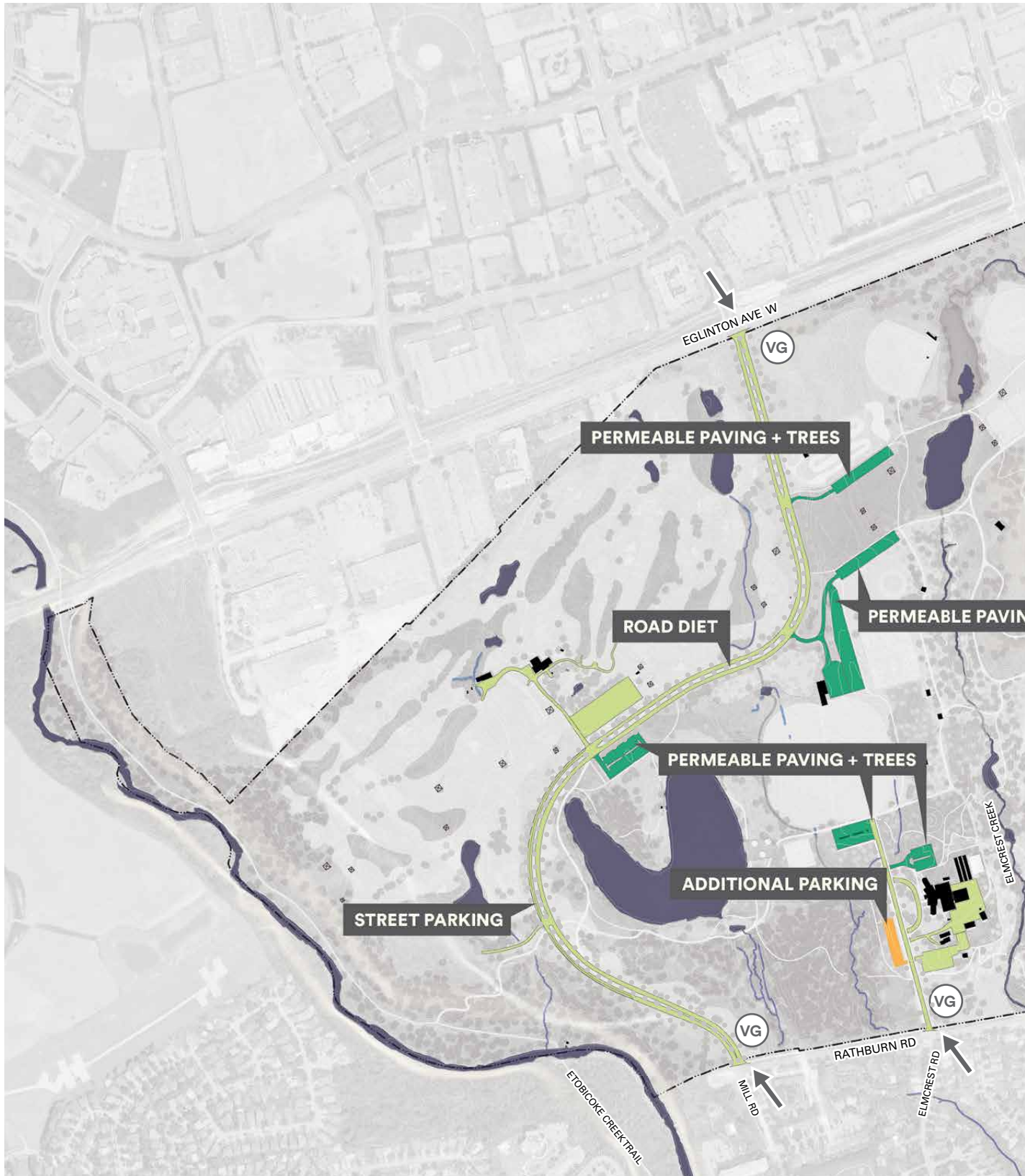
Existing Pathway Intersection in Centennial Park

All future lighting on the path system must be completed by a Professional lighting and electrical designer or engineer and be certified by the Electrical Safety Authority.

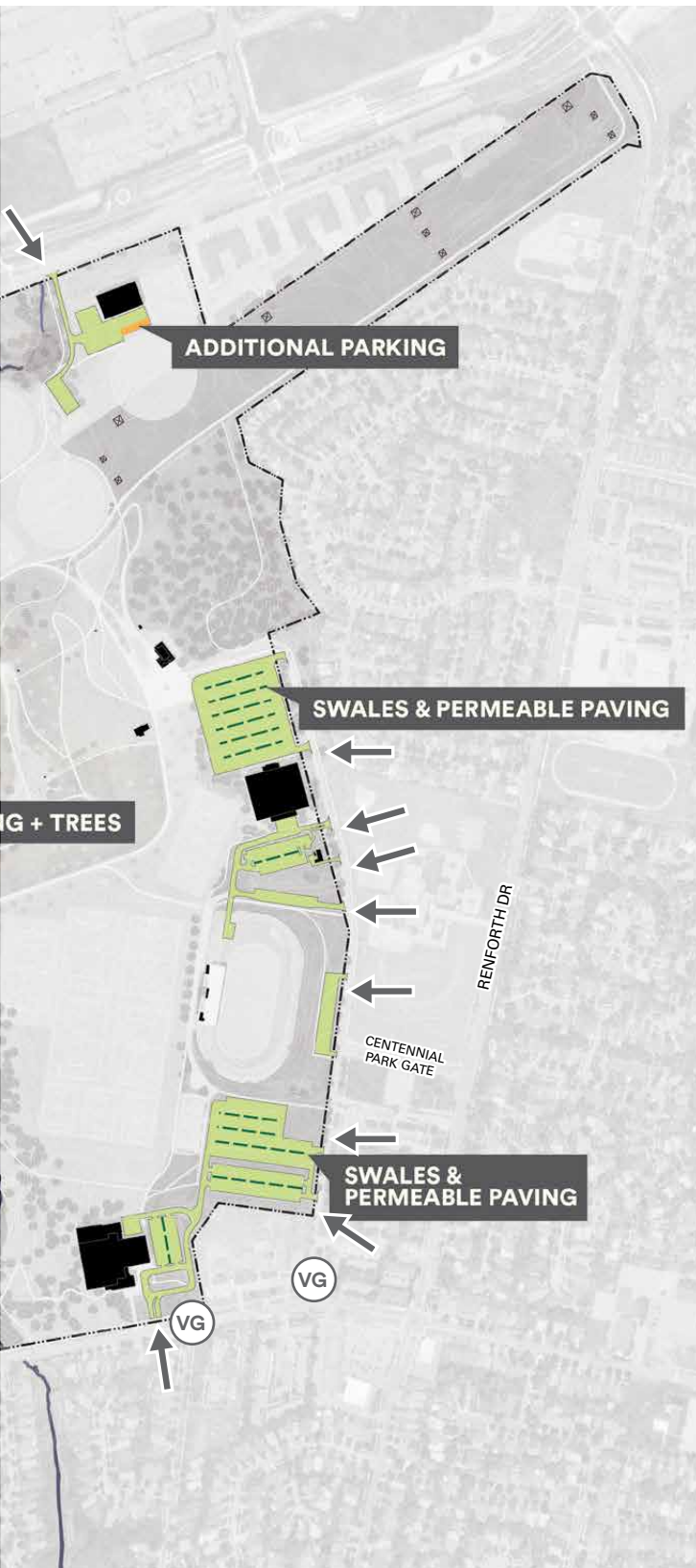
### **Barrier Removals**

A key aspect to greater park accessibility is found in the removal of barriers. The Master Plan Update proposes that fences be removed in most areas of the park, unless for explicit safety reasons and that circulation routes be enhanced via curb cuts between trail linkages to support non-auto movement through the park. Moving away from private single-use functions within the park, such as the Mini-Indy, will also improve access and democratize park space for the benefits of visitors.

# Vehicular System







### Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Existing Roads and Parking Lots
-  Proposed Permeable Paving and Trees
-  Proposed Additional Parking
-  Proposed Swales and Permeable Paving
-  Existing Vehicular Entrance
-  Proposed Vehicular Gateway



Opportunities for additional parking lots have been highlighted and located based on park-user needs. Opportunities for environmental improvements within the existing parking lots have also been identified. Swale and permeable paving solutions would greatly improve the amount of surface-water runoff within paved areas in the Park. Existing parking lots are also highlighted.



+ 49.6

hectare increase  
in forest cover



2000+

new trees



+ 2.9

hectare increase  
in riparian habitat



## 5.4 Ecology and Water

**The ecology and water strategy is focused on establishing a functional and healthy site, rich in biodiversity, that accommodates recreation and social programming.**

Core to the Master Plan Update is the enhancement of Centennial Park's natural environment. This includes new approaches to access and restoration including the concentration of active recreation spaces away from sensitive natural areas, as well as specific improvements to the park's existing watercourses, terrestrial habitats and the overall tree canopy.

### **Ecological Strategy**

The strategy for ecology is one of reclamation, renewal and balance. Currently, this site is heavily manicured and heavily used for recreational purposes. The Centennial Park Master Plan Update looks to achieve a 21st Century park with a healthy and resilient ecological network and integrated recreational spaces. To achieve this, the strategy outlines an approach that knits paths, trails, play spaces, wayfinding and/or art with enhanced meadows, forests and creeks throughout the grounds. It will be a dynamic process, realised over time, creating new symbiotic forms of interaction between people, nature, land, and use.

This strategy focuses on revealing the potential of this large and diverse park through the following broad design approaches:

**Consolidate:** connect nearby natural areas to create larger and more diverse habitat patches

**Link:** connect far-flung natural areas to provide movement corridors for wildlife, and/or connect people to community natural areas through education and outreach

**Enhance:** improve the quality of habitat in existing patches to provide useful niches for a wider variety of wildlife. Work may include invasive species removal, native plantings, and formalizing trail networks

# Ecology Demonstration Plan & Target Communities







## Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Existing Forest - Protect & Enhance
-  Existing Lawn - Protect
-  New Forest Community
-  New Tree Planting
-  New Meadow (Maintained)
-  New Meadow (Unmaintained)
-  New Savannah (Maintained Through Seasonal Mowing)
-  Designated Mow / No Mow
-  Wetland



Certain areas within the Park are proposed to be enhanced, linked, and/or consolidated. This plan shows how the planting strategy fits into these broader concepts. Existing forests are proposed to be linked together to create larger and safer foraging areas for fauna, while areas that are currently mowed are proposed to be transformed into a meadow (either maintained or unmaintained). Important ecosystems such as Savannah are proposed along pathways, and away from the more active recreation. Wetlands are proposed to create a diverse habitat of aquatic flora, and to diversify experiences throughout the Park.



1a

**FOREST: TRILLIUM GROVE**  
(Dry-Fresh Sugar-Maple-Beech Deciduous)  
Enhance & protect, source seed



1b

**FOREST: HICKORY GROVE**  
(Fresh-Moist Shagbark Hickory Deciduous)  
Enhance & protect, source seed



1c

**FOREST EXPANSION**  
(Fast growing species, with community connection to existing species)



2a

**MEADOW**  
(Dry Tallgrass Prairie)  
Allow transition into savannah/woodland



2b

**MEADOW**  
(Dry Tallgrass Prairie)  
Maintain as meadow





**SAVANNAH: DRY**  
(Dry Tallgrass Savannah)



**SAVANNAH: MOIST**  
(Fresh-Moist Pin Oak - Bur Oak Tallgrass Savannah)



**RIPARIAN**  
(Fresh-Moist Lowland Deciduous Forest)  
Canopy & understory, natural riparian areas



**RIPARIAN**  
(Forb Mineral Meadow Marsh)  
Open, accessible riparian areas



**MOW / NO MOW**  
Occasional, scheduled mowing, event use

## Transformative Moves

The Ecology Demonstration Plan notes several key site-specific moves that reflect the overall strategy to improving the parks natural environment. These include the following changes:

- Linking Centennial Park to the Etobicoke Creek Valley through enhanced trails and forest restoration. This includes expanding the forest edge of the ravine out towards the golf course and the creation of a vegetative link east to Trillium Grove (1a).
- Partnering with the Centennial Park Golf Centre to enhance the habitat value within the golf course through selective native plantings in the roughs and perimeter areas (3a & 2b).
- Enhancing the degraded riparian areas along Elmcrest creek (4a/4b) through planting and slope repairs. New trails and improved crossings will also help limit user impacts to the creek and foster appreciation and stewardship.
- Protect and enhance Hickory Grove (1b) through controlled access and restoration, including the opportunity to opportunity to source seed from community and replant.
- Linking forest areas along Elmcrest Creek to both the Hill (1c) and Hickory Grove (1b) to provide a more continuous habitat patch and viable corridors for wildlife.

## Restoration & Planting Approaches

The following approaches to restoration and planting are recommended for Centennial Park to support the long-term goals of plant community establishment and habitat renewal. Specific planting methods and techniques are proposed to establish successional cover over relatively large areas with species that will eventually achieve the desired habitat cover targets for diversity, canopy cover, and understorey structure.

### Access

Maintaining public access throughout the park is critical, however, the protection of sensitive habitat and restoration planting areas will require period of controlled access, such as the use of snow fence around seedling and seed clusters. Providing mowed paths through restored meadows is also recommended as a means to guide and contain the movement of people, in addition to new paths and trail enhancements.

### Invasive Species Removal

A key component of ecological restoration is the control of invasive species. Problematic species currently established in the park, such as Common Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard, Invasive Phragmites, and Dog-strangling, should be targeted for removal as part of any restoration planting initiative.



### **Do Nothing: Mow / No Mow Approach**

- Several open grassed areas of the park are proposed as designated Mow/No Mow zones (5), whereby mowing is limited to an occasional schedule allowing these areas to grow a greater diversity of species and greater habitat potential. Results are entirely dependent on the existing conditions of the site, and the future management strategy.
- Ensuring a native target community will likely require the removal of invasive species.
- Southern Ontario's natural succession is typically from a meadow state to a shrubby state, and if left alone long enough will become forested.

### **Direct Seeding**

- Direct seeding involves the use of plants in seed form rather than potted stock and is recommended as a cost efficient way to enhance large no mow (5) or meadow naturalization areas (2a/2b).
- Direct seeding of tree, shrub and groundcover species requires soils to be prepared appropriately.
- The application of direct seeding can be more complex than traditional seeding due to seed sizing (requiring specialized application techniques), and varying dormancy times.
- Techniques such as 'pit and mound', when combined with direct seeding, are particularly effective in creating very diverse plant and wildlife habitat at relatively low cost.

### **Planting Plugs and Whips**

- Plugs are used in areas where more rapid establishment of plant cover is desired than with seeding such as is the edge of a natural feature like Elmcrest Creek (4a/4b).
- It is recommended during the planting and seeding establishment period that the area is temporarily hoarded off to the public.
- Traditional reforestation planting using 1-2 year seedlings (or bare root lining out stock) planted 1-1.5 m OC, with adequate site preparation, seeding with compatible groundcover, and warranty coverage including replacement where required and management of competing vegetation for 2 years after planting.

### **Bioengineering**

- Bioengineering is commonly used for bank stabilization of creek projects and is appropriate for Elmcrest creek (4a/4b), Etobicoke creek and potentially areas of the Pond.
- Different types of bioengineering include brush mattresses, fascines, live stakes, and crib walls.
- Live stakes have most commonly been used due to a high success rate and ease of installation.
- Native shrub willows are the most appropriate species to use for live stakes.

### **Matrix Planting**

- Planting a matrix is the strategy of planting using an evenly spaced grid or offset grid pattern to organize plants.
- This is typically done with smaller plants, such as whips or small pots or plugs.

### **Planting In Nodes**

- This involves introducing a combination of early successional, generalist species and late successional, target community species.
- Nodes are typically shrub-dominant, or mixed with trees that are planted in clumps or “nodes”
- They form a distinct micro-community that can spread as plants reproduce. The clumps expand over time, forming larger nodes.
- Eventually the nodes meet, leaving only the spaces between nodes to be swallowed up by the advancing woody cover.

### **Planting Caliper Trees**

- Larger caliper-sized trees are proposed as focal area plantings or in areas that require an immediate plant presence, which may be required for screening plantings to reduce light pollution or to provide privacy.
- More ornamental species may be chosen for these plantings because of their aesthetic value.
- For all tree planting, native species should be given precedence due to their ecological and habitat value.

### **Water Strategy**

The Master Plan Update’s strategy for water is centered on enhancing and re-linking the broken connections within the site’s existing watercourses and waterbodies. Bringing about this change will not only improve the area’s overall hydrology and augment its habitat potential, but it will also enhance the park experience for all users. Visible creeks and renewed riparian areas are key placemaking elements that draw people to them and can serve as learning environments for young and old.

### **Elmcrest Creek Revitalization**

There is a great opportunity to revitalize Elmcrest Creek at Centennial Park, bridging the realms of robust ecological habitat, biodiversity, and human interaction. Rehabilitating the creek begins with the restoration of the shoreline through shoreline repairs, riparian and wetland planting. Daylighting the creek at key intervals, including at its midpoint (north of the Conservatory) and then further to the north at the Stormwater ponds, will provide a continuous restored watercourse through the center of the park.





Creek Corridor Naturalization





Existing Pond with Wetland Plantings

### **Pond Naturalization and Stormwater Management Strategy**

To enhance the prominence of the Pond’s potential, the shoreline around the pond is proposed to be restored and rehabilitated through riparian and wetland plantings. As well, the shoreline can further be enhanced with contouring, habitat feature installation to improve habitat value, water quality, and recreational opportunities. In order to protect key pond edge ecology, circulation, while continuous, will limit access specific lookout areas.

As part of any future changes and construction within Centennial Park, it is recommended that a Stormwater Management Report be conducted to assess current conditions and potential impacts. The existing storm drainage conditions within the park are highlighted in the watershed discretization plan from the 2008 Master Plan.

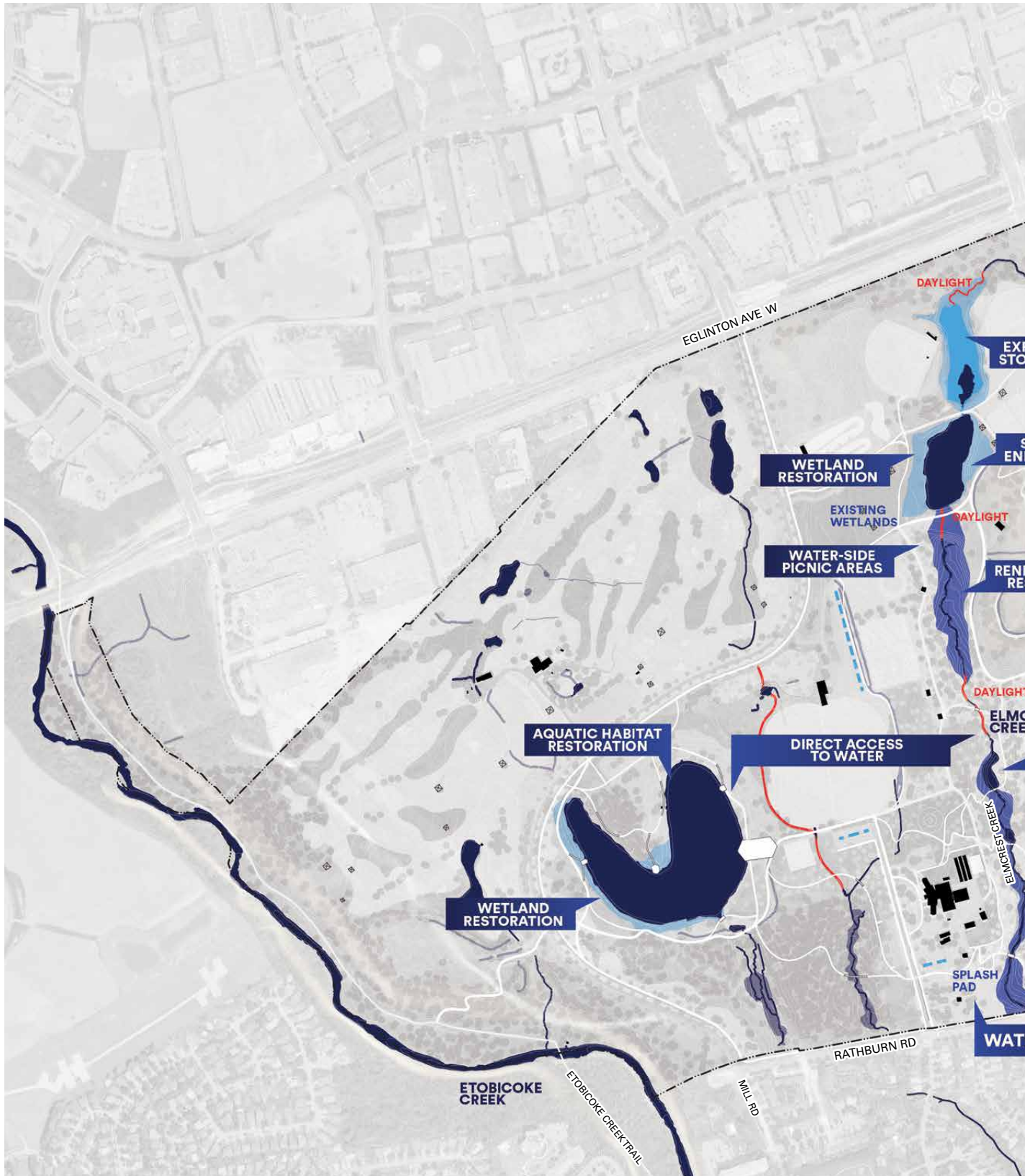


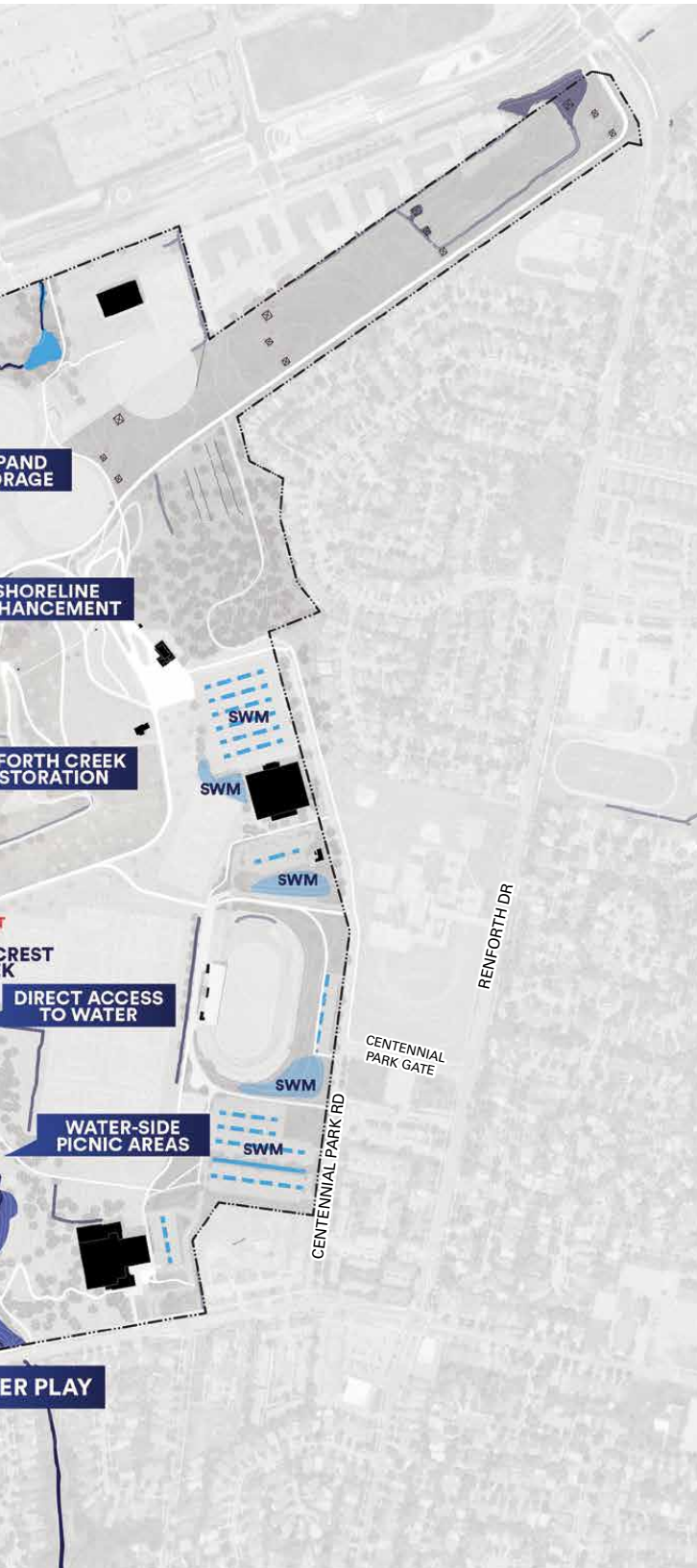


Existing Pond Adjacent to Mowed Lawn Area



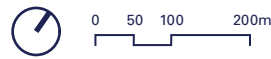
# Water Demonstration Plan





### Legend

-  Project Boundary
-  Existing Waterbody
-  Proposed Daylighting
-  Proposed Riparian Planting
-  Proposed Wetland / STM



Daylighting existing piped water systems within Centennial Park, as well as the softening of edge conditions can increase wetland habitat in various zones.

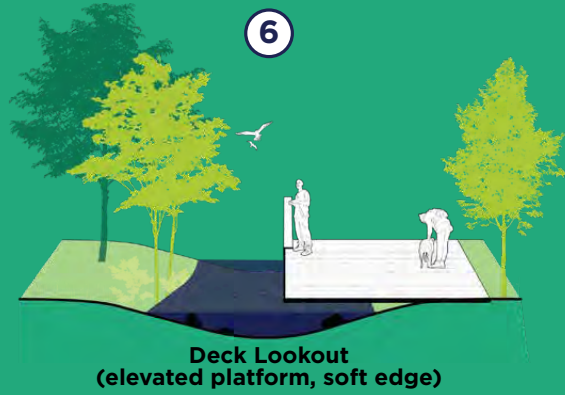
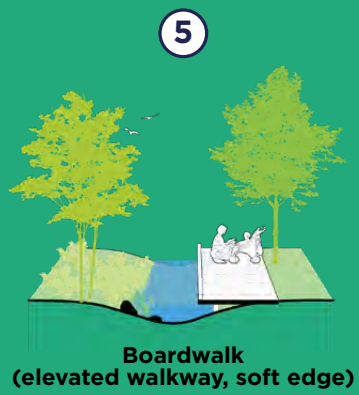
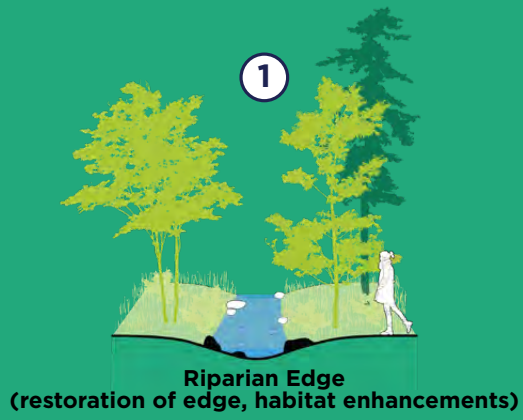


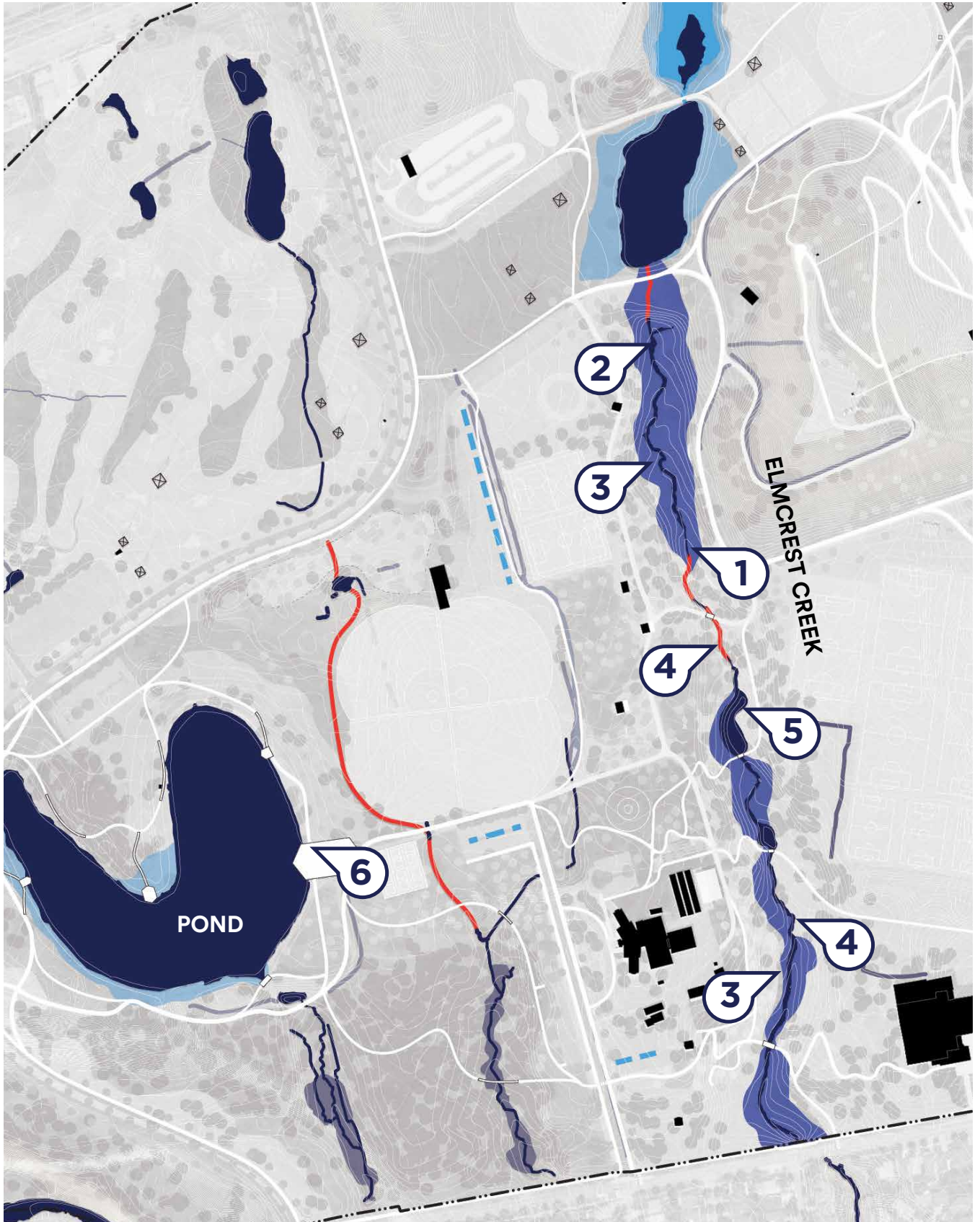
Stepped Edge with Boardwalk



Deck Lookout with Elevated Platform











Moccasin Identifier Project at Trillium Park



## 5.5 Programming and Placemaking

**A placemaking approach guided by the outcomes of community and public engagement can be utilized to deliver equitable programming and bolster a sense of community.**

By definition, successful placemaking is always unique to place, and provides an authentic narrative based on the site's location, its culture, its community and its history. Combined with good design, it can be transformative, inspiring and even empowering. Centennial Park has an abundance of assets currently: its ecological history, successful active recreational programming, and host to numerous events. How can it continue to leverage these items and also seek to provide a deeper level of engagement with the local community, to invest in untapped stories both current and from the past and reveal these stories in the evolution of the park improvements?

The outcomes of the community and public engagement process and of the Indigenous engagement process revealed some priorities including utilizing art to infuse itself into the park design, to continue to engage and provide community consultation as projects in the park are implemented and to invest in the restoration of ecological habitat and watersheds to provide more opportunities for people to be immersed in nature.

Overall, at Centennial Park, the key strategies and opportunities in creative placemaking should include:

- Expression of natural and human history
- Creating a strategy of wayfinding and interpretive signage and naming
- Emphasizing Indigenous culture
- Featuring diverse and marginalized narratives
- Temporary and permanent art installations and programming

### **Programming Opportunities**

Centennial Park's role in Toronto's park fabric will become increasingly unique as a 'Legacy' park, and as such, this park needs to be inclusive of all residents in the City. In recognition of the systemic anti-Black racism and barriers faced by Black communities in accessing parks as well as the fact that the current form does not reflect the Indigenous presence in the lands (dating back tens of thousands of years), the Centennial Park Master Plan Update identifies the equitable opportunities for programming and partnerships with local community groups to foster a rich and meaningful landscape and experience at the park.

The equitable programming should bolster a sense of community through the following approaches:

### **Bolster a Sense of Community**

- Consider renaming or revising the name of the park, the use of naming spaces within the park and pathways to foster a sense of belonging
- Animate underused spaces
- Improve wayfinding, directional and interpretative signage

### **New Cultural Spaces in the Centennial Park Master Plan Update Include:**

- Lookouts located at the Pond and the Hill. These lookouts provide spaces for fire pits and ceremonial spaces connecting to views of the stars, sky and water.
- The playgrounds including the District Playground in the Heart, and the Adventure Playground by the Pond are places for outdoor classrooms or teaching elements integrated in the play features.
- The Skate trail, Skate Park, Amphitheatre, Chalet and Multi-use trails are also excellent locations for new public art or naming opportunities and programming serving youth, seniors, marginalized and racialized people
- Any gateway and the interpretative and wayfinding signage strategy should include elements about the site's natural and human history. The Gateways can provide a connection to elemental features (earth, water, fire, sky), be a representation of Indigenous women on the land, or representative of Knowledge Keepers.

The following programming and design opportunities were raised during consultation with an Indigenous engagement specialist and group of Indigenous community

leaders, Youth Workshop, Accountability Circle Advisory Group and from the Public Consultation meetings. The suggestions have been incorporated into the Centennial Master Plan Update. It is important to note that further consultation is required before any implementation to confirm siting, design, and involvement by the Indigenous Community members and appropriate stakeholder groups. These ideas include ecological and water driven design elements:

- Indigenous Medicine Garden including a pollinator and rain garden, a medicine wheel, Indigenous Art and ceremonies, and temporary and/or permanent art.
- Indigenous Trees Arboretum and Orchard Walk and/or a new trail through existing forests, which explores plants used by Indigenous people, and their connections to culture, language, ecology and history.
- Watermarkings: A Watermark is a story about a connection with a body of water (memory, experience or moment in time). Through interpretative signage, these stories can be imprinted along the creeks and pond. The Lookouts and restoration work also provide opportunities for interpretation and inclusion of the Indigenous community.
- Art/Placemaking and Wayfinding: Celebrate local and Canadian Black, African and Caribbean communities' history through signage, public art and cultural markers. There are opportunities to include African and Caribbean languages in signage and park communication.
- Play: Incorporate African games into playgrounds, and African table games



(similar to how chess is built into tables as a permanent site furnishing). An example of a table game is Wari.

- The Hill: The amphitheatre offers a great opportunity to include programming with storytelling by Black communities for Black communities. It also can welcome local Etobicoke performers and artists.

### **Experience Loops**

As a demonstration of the how the place-keeping and place-making strategies and opportunities listed above have been integrated into the Plan, the following experience loops in the park illustrate the landscape of the site: the paths, trails, forests, creeks, meadows, and outdoor art and interpretative markers throughout the grounds, giving the visitor a rich experience.

- Expression of natural and human history
- Creating a strategy of wayfinding and interpretive signage and naming
- Emphasizing Indigenous culture
- Featuring diverse and marginalized narratives
- Temporary and Permanent Art Installations and programming

### **The Central Loop:**

This path focuses on the emphasizing indigenous culture and features diverse and marginalized narratives by taking visitors through the natural and social gathering spaces in the park. The loop hugs three key areas: The Pond, the Heart, the Hill and all the programming spaces associated with these areas of the park. The loop takes you through the new plaza at the base of the Pond, the Conservatory, the Hill's plaza, the District Playground, and Orchard / Medicine Garden.

### **The Creek Loop:**

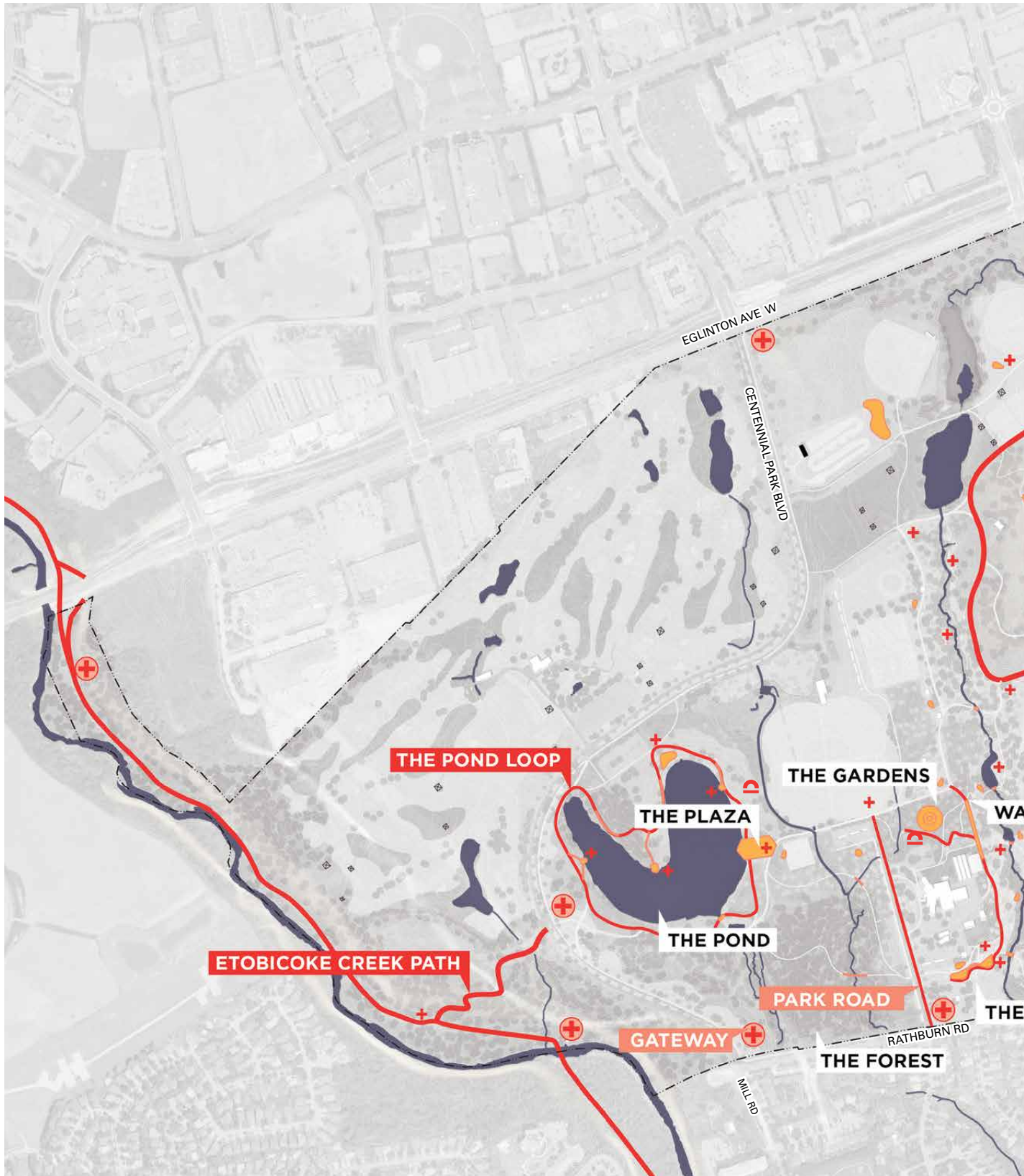
This route emphasizes the natural and cultural history of the park, connecting visitors to water and the aquatic ecosystems (the Pond, Elmcrest Creek and Etobicoke Creek), and goes through at least four different ecological communities (Trillium Grove, Riparian, Meadow and Savannah). The wayfinding and interpretive signage will be critical to identifying these areas to help emphasize the ongoing restoration and reforestation work. The integration of public art is highlighted on this route as well, demonstrating a way of connecting people to the natural and cultural elements of the park.

### **The Fitness Loop:**

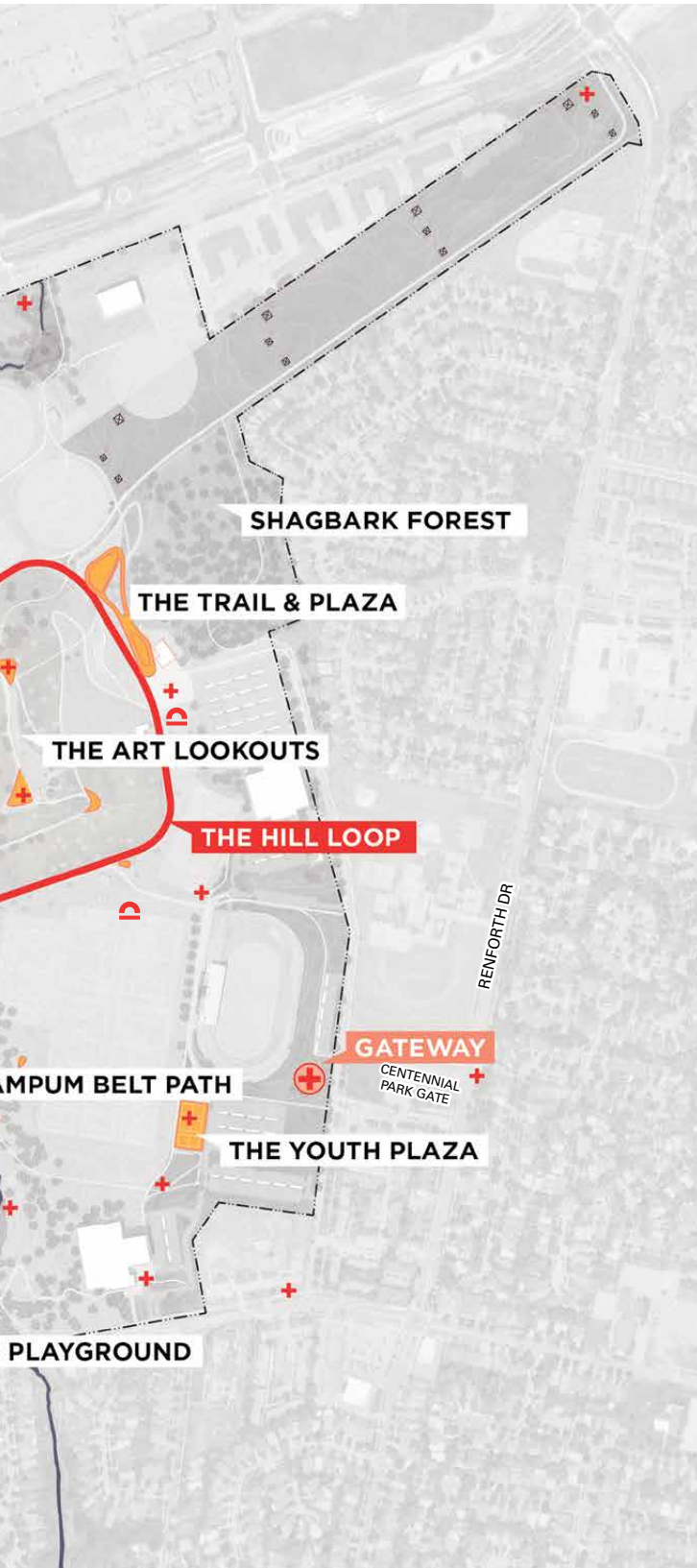
As the existing Kiwanis fitness loop is dated and many pieces are in a state of disrepair, an updated approach has been identified to build off of and improve the fitness route. This route, which is identified through the level of difficulty, highlights the extensive path system in Centennial Park.

The route connects the proposed skateboard park, skate trail, existing mountain biking trails, and the recreational fields in the park. The cross-country route is also highlighted. The fitness route also uses a range of path types (natural surface in the forest, to paved multi-use paths), highlighting the meadows that unify the landscape and emphasizing the unique topography of the restored area.

# Naming and Language Opportunities





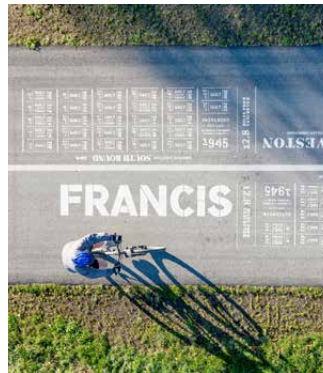


## Legend

- Project Boundary
- + Gateway
- + Wayfinding
- ▭ Interventions
- ⤿ Art Opportunities



Naming and language opportunities include wayfinding, gateways, and interventions situated at key locations. Each of the intervention areas shown provides opportunities to highlight and bring attention to a specific and significant idea, person, or belief.



Painted Text on Multi-use Trail



Colour Block Graphic Pattern



Sculptural Placekeeping Elements












# Central Loop







## Legend

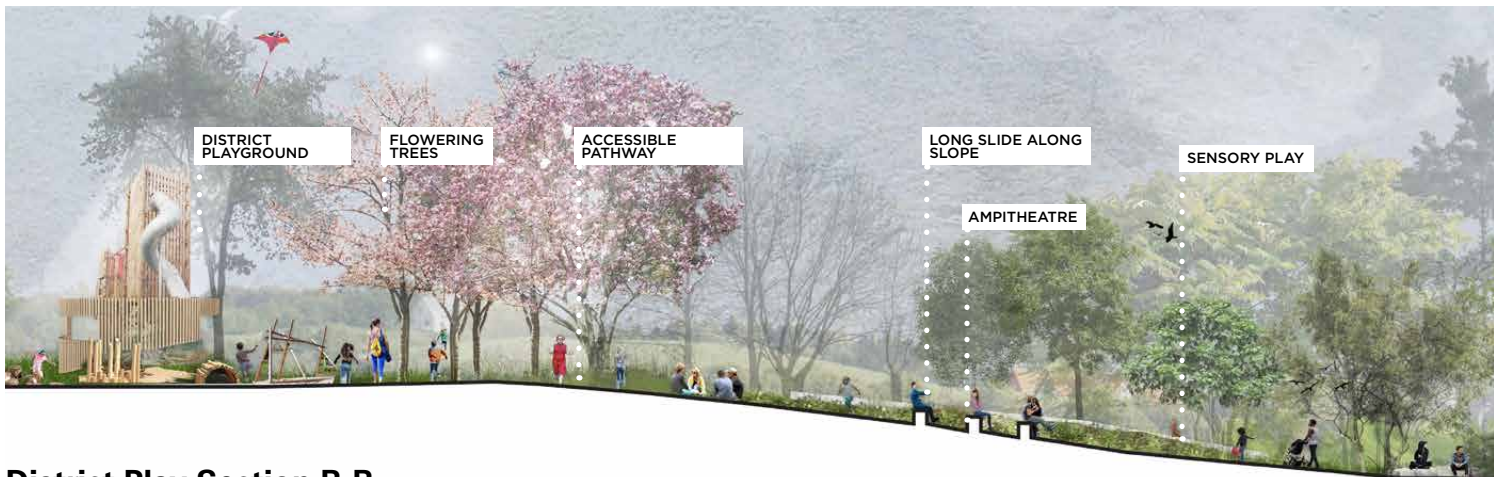
-  Project Boundary
-  Picnic Area
-  Sheltered Picnic Area
-  Washroom
-  Wayfinding
-  Gateway
-  Snack Bar
-  Cafe
-  Shelter / Field House
-  Central Loop
-  Art Piece



The 'Central Loop' map visually describes what it would be like to walk through the park with the intention of seeking out the general 'highlights' of Centennial Park. This route focuses on the centre of the park, and moves through the three primary zones of the park: The Heart of the Park, The Hill, and The Pond. This map shows all of the amenity and seating opportunities presented to a visitor who travels along the 'Central Loop'. Art pieces as well as picnic and washroom locations are also highlighted on this route.

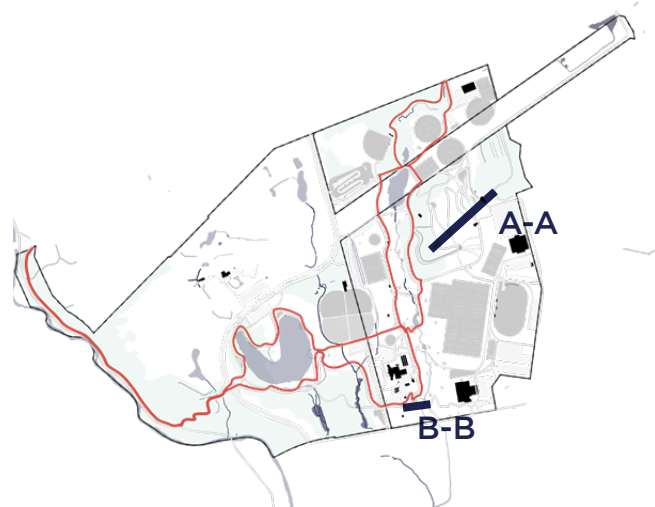


**The Hill Section A-A**

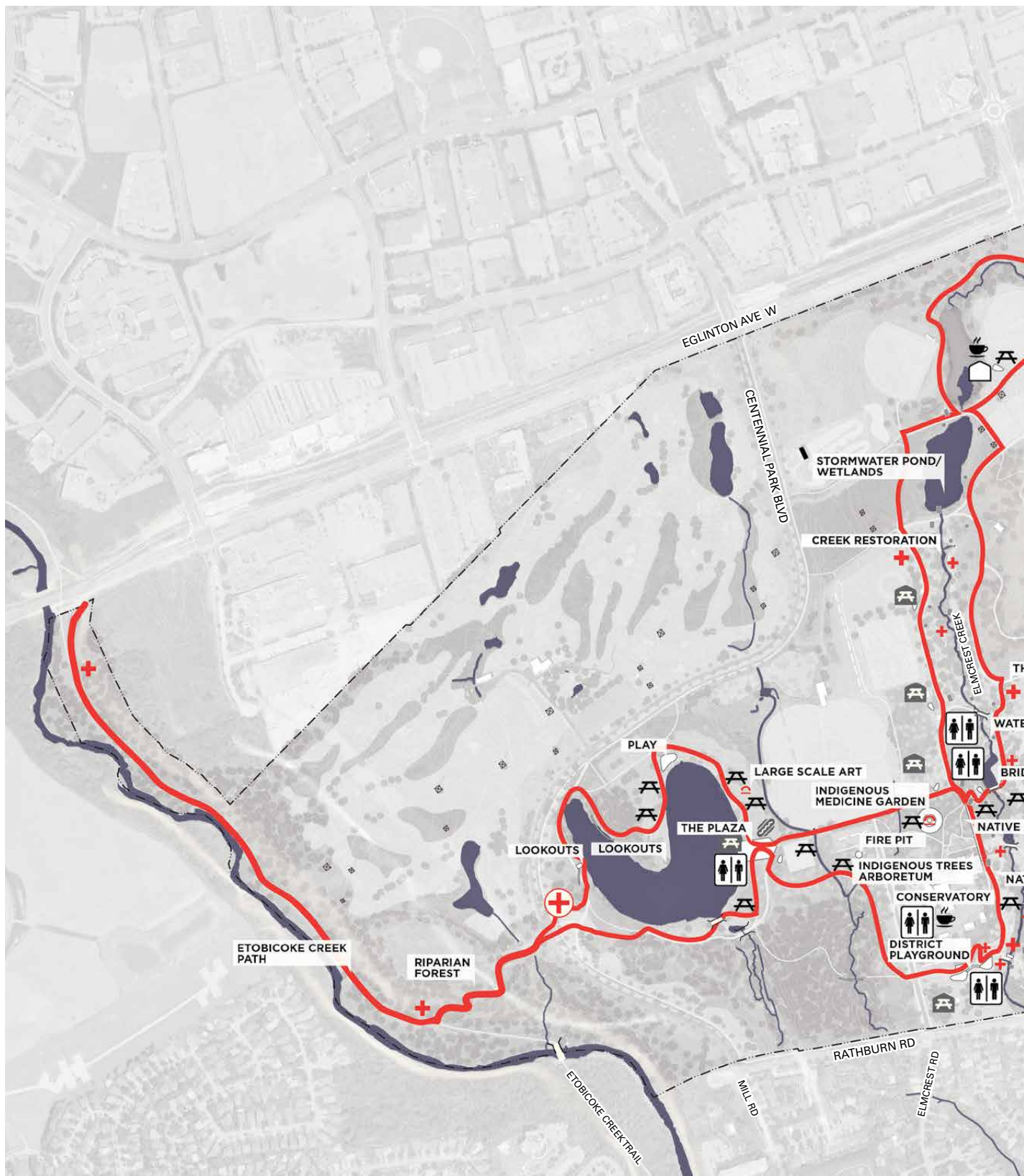


**District Play Section B-B**
















# Creek Loop







## Legend

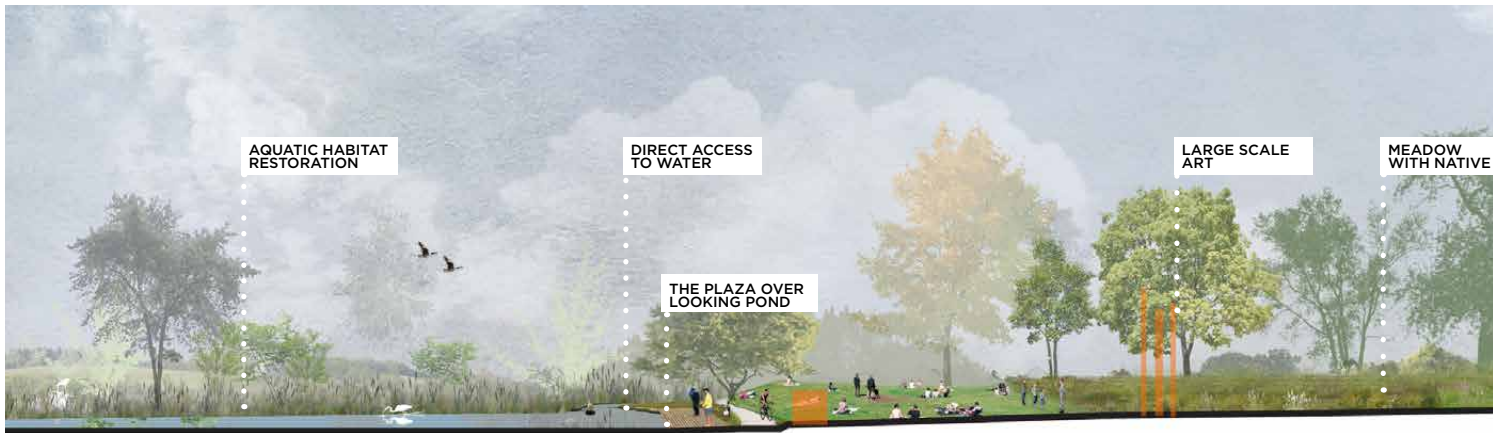
-  Project Boundary
-  Picnic Area
-  Sheltered Picnic Area
-  Washroom
-  Wayfinding
-  Gateway
-  Snack Bar
-  Cafe
-  Shelter / Field House
-  Creek / H2O Trail
-  Art Piece



The 'Creek Loop' map visually describes what it would be like to walk through the park with the intention of seeking out an experience that ventures through the aquatic landscapes within Centennial Park. The 'Creek Loop' meanders through naturalized shorelines, it winds across boardwalks, as well as deck lookouts on the Pond. The 'Creek Loop' highlights the transition between water and land and how this transition is articulated at various points within the park. Similarly to the other route maps within the park, the 'Creek Loop' map highlights the various amenities one would encounter along this route.



**Etobicoke Creek Section C-C**

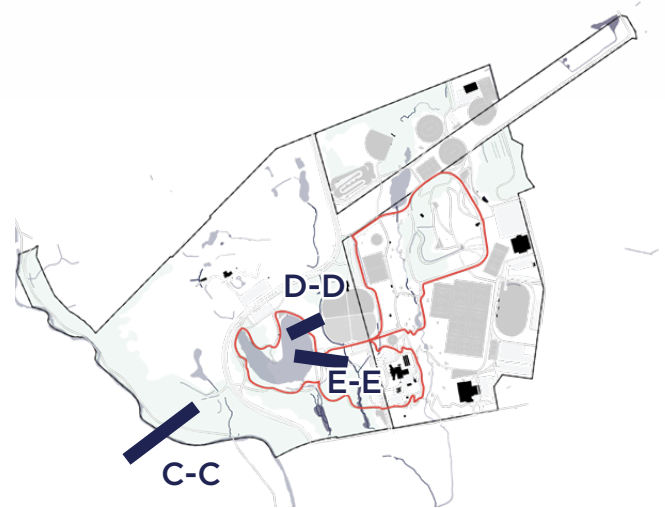


**The Pond Section D-D**



**The Pond Section E-E**






















# Fitness Loops







## Legend

-  Project Boundary
  -  Picnic Area
  -  Sheltered Picnic Area
  -  Washroom
  -  Wayfinding
  -  Gateway
  -  Snack Bar
  -  Cafe
  -  Shelter / Field House
  -  Art Piece
  -  Easy Difficulty Trail (Green Circle)
  -  Intermediate Difficulty (Blue Square)
  -  Advanced Difficulty Trail (Black Diamond)
  -  Extreme Difficulty Trail (Orange Diamond)
  -  Cross County Trail - Easy Difficulty (Green Circle)
-  

The 'Fitness Loops' map visually describes what it would be like to walk through the Park with the intention of seeking out various fitness experiences. The trails are given a difficulty ranking, and various amenity and seating opportunities along each route are called out.



**Trailhead To Creek Section F-F**



**The Hill Section G-G**



