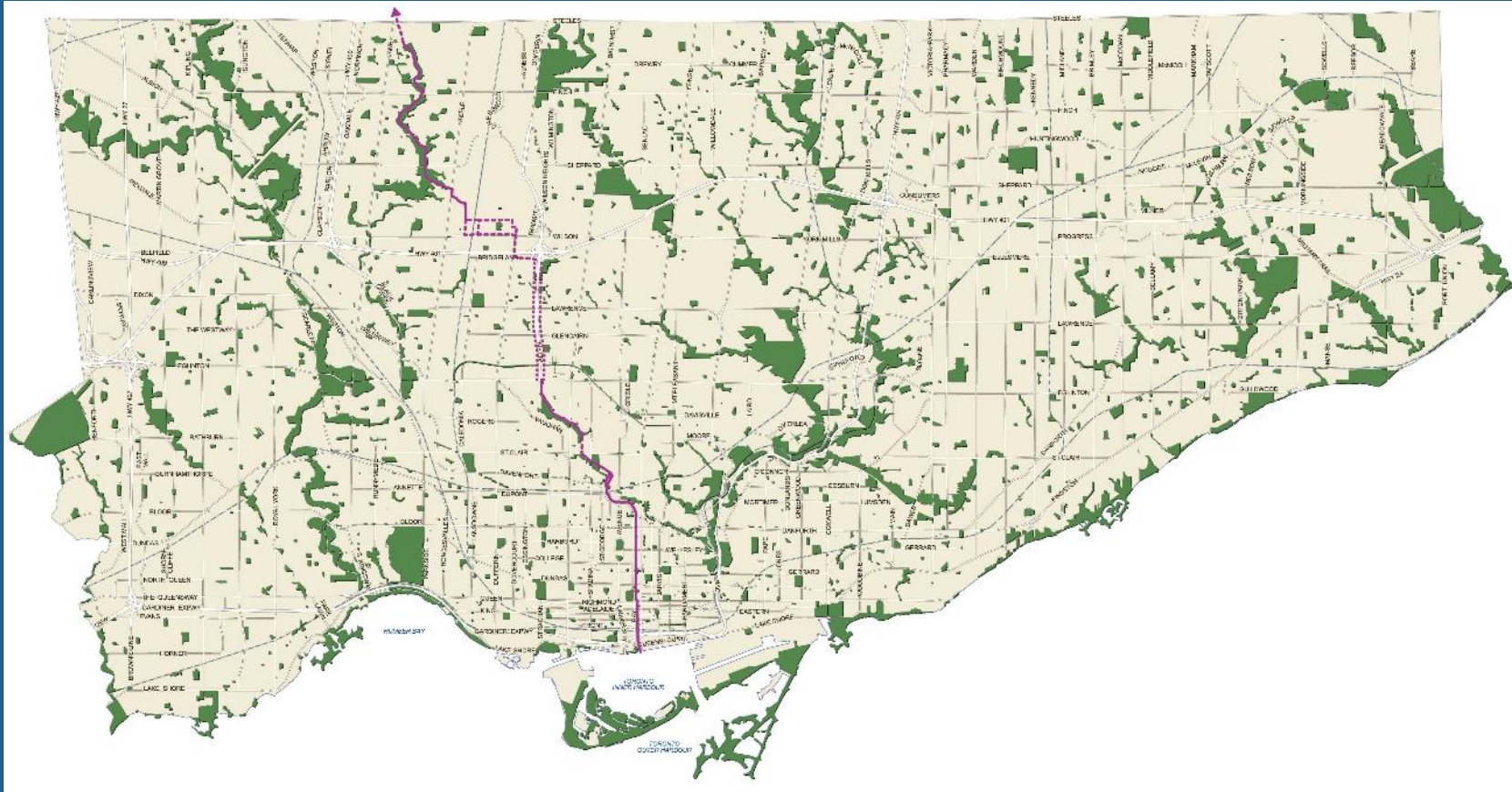


The Proposed Northwest Cultural Trail



June 18, 2021

Al Rezoski, Manager, Community Planning, North York District

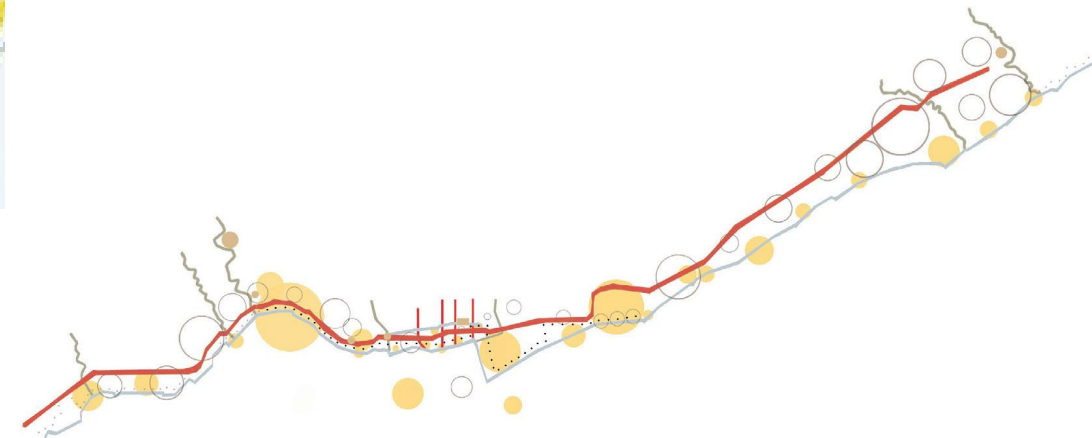
Al.Rezoski@toronto.ca



Agenda

- Cultural Trail Precedents
- Rationale for the Northwest Cultural Trail
- The Vision for a 28 Km Long Cultural Trail
- Stakeholders
- Progress to Date
- Next Steps – Allen Greenway implementation, Little Jamaica Study, TOcore related studies for Bay Street and University Avenue
- Discussion

Precedents – Cultural Institutions in the Public Realm Study, Defining the Public Realm



Precedents – Tocoore Cultural Corridors and Cultural Precincts, Great Streets



TOcore GREAT STREETS

7 PROPOSED POLICIES

7.22

A network of 12 Great Streets having cultural, historical and civic importance will be prioritized for public realm improvements. These streets connect to the Core Circle and are defined by their existing significance and their potential contribution to the public realm network. The Great Streets are shown on Map 5.

7.23

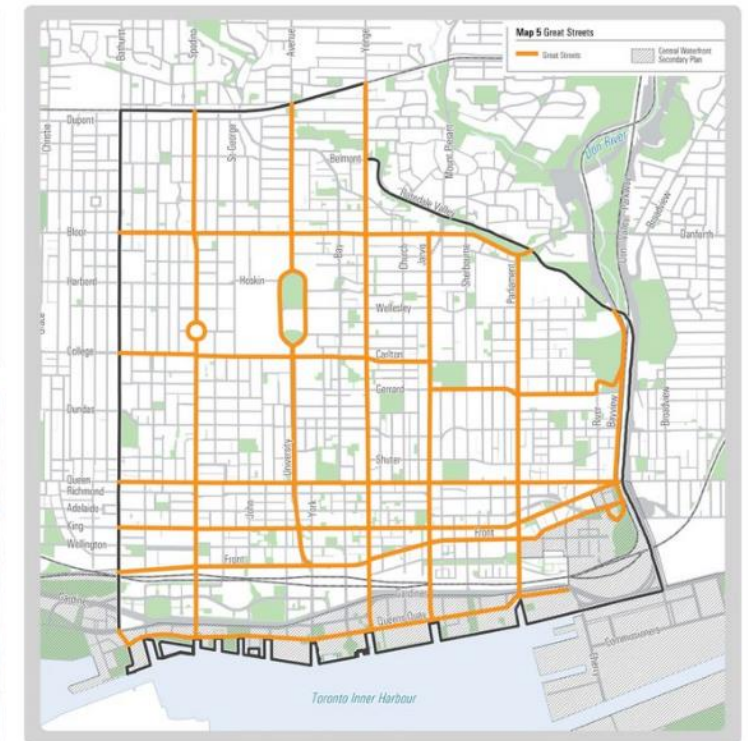
Public realm improvements on the Great Streets will:

- 7.23.1 reinforce the identity and distinct characteristics of each segment of each street including specific heritage value;
- 7.23.2 be required to implement the highest standard of design and the highest quality of materials; and
- 7.23.3 be informed by the Toronto Complete Streets Guidelines.



Conceptual rendering of University Avenue, looking north. This image represents a vision for a potential future transformation of the public realm. Moving from a vision to implementation will require further technical analysis, development of options and feedback from the community and stakeholders, prior to a final design.

HAVE YOUR SAY



Precedents - Bloor Street Cultural Corridor, John Street Cultural Corridor



Precedents for the 28 km Cultural Trail

- 22 km Martin Goodman Waterfront Trail
- 80 km Pan Am Path
- 121 km Lake to Lake Trail
- 16 km The Meadoway
- 81 km Loop Trail
- Trans Canada Trail (formerly The Great Trail)
- Finch Hydro Corridor Trail
- The Green Line
- West End Railpath
- York/Kay Gardner Beltline Park Trail

Precedents – Pan Am Path



FINAL PATH. Please note: solid blue line = existing off-road paths.



Precedents – Pan Am Path

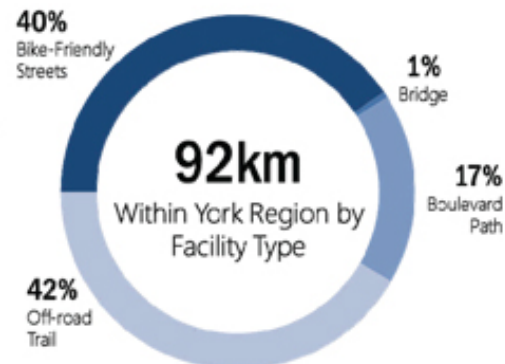
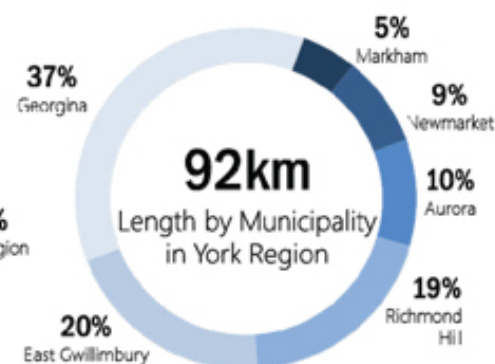
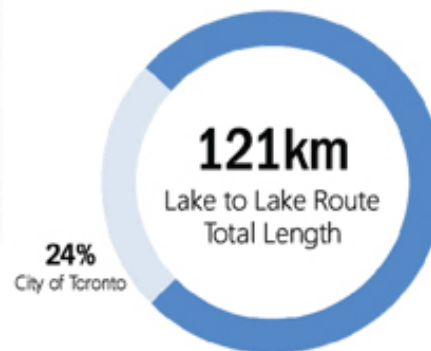


Precedents -121 km Lake to Lake Trail



Major Connecting Routes

- Greenbelt Route/Oak Ridges Trail
Connecting the Golden Horseshoe & Oak Ridges Moraine
- Humber River Trail
Linking the William Granger Greenway to Lake Ontario
- Rouge Valley Trail
Linking the Rouge River Valley System to Lake Ontario
- 407 Hydro Corridor Trail
Future East-West Corridor connecting Vaughan and Markham
- Pan Am Path
Legacy of Pan Am Games, linking Pickering to Brampton
- Waterfront Trail
From East to West, continuing trail along Lake Ontario
- Finch Hydro
East-West Corridor Link



Precedents - Lake to Lake Trail



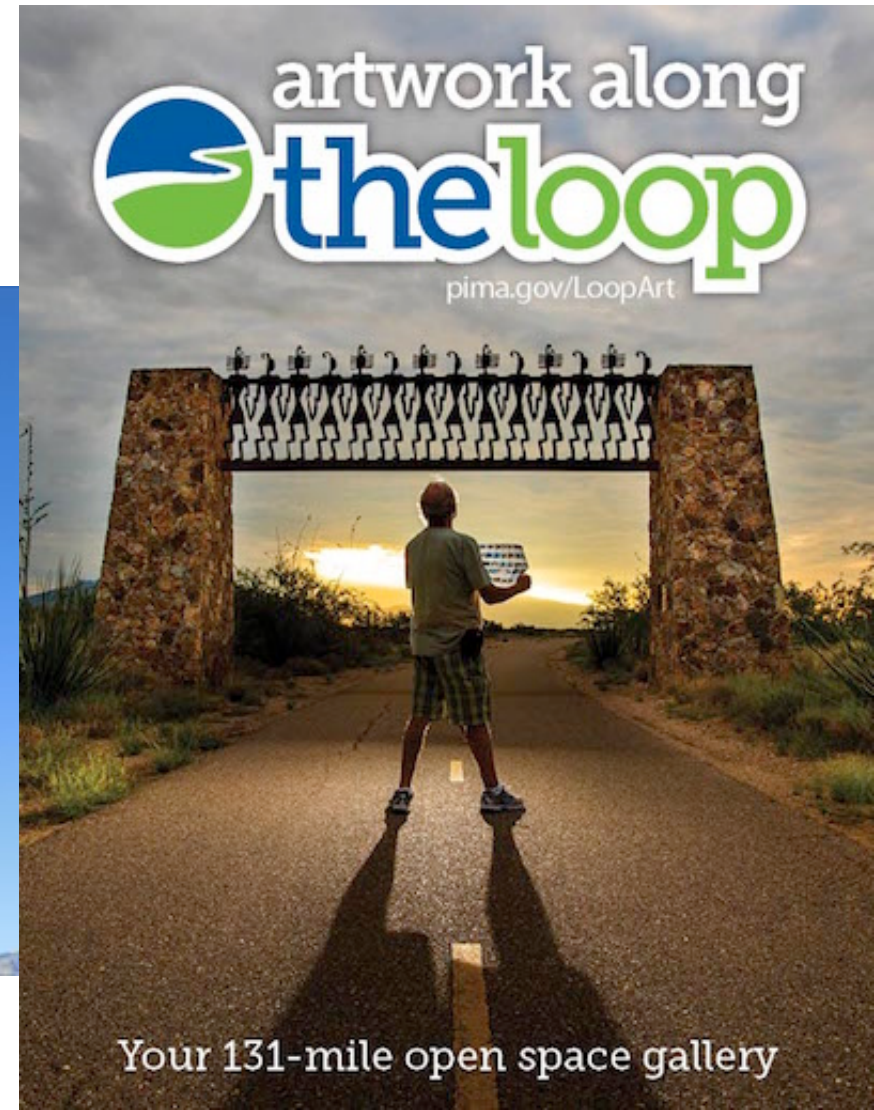
Precedents - 81 km loop trail (69 km is built) lead by Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Evergreen



Precedents – Indianapolis Cultural Trail



Precedents – Tucson The Loop Trail



The Northwest Cultural Trail

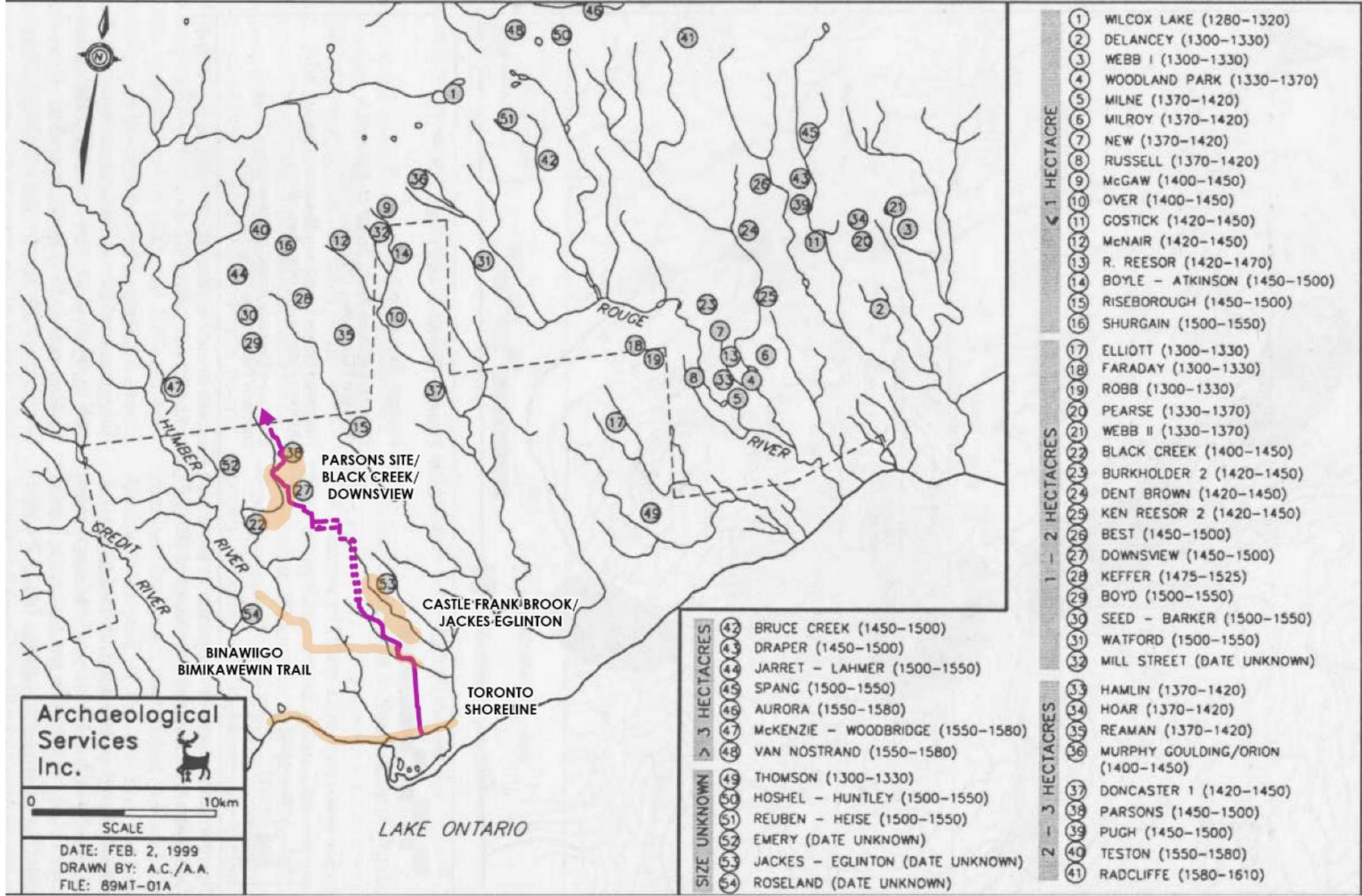
- The goal is to connect several multi use paths in ravines/parks/POPS, active transportation bridges, greenways and streets secured by City Planning staff into a 28 km active transportation and cultural route (similar to the Meadoway and 121 km Lake to Lake Trail)
- During and post Covid 19 provides a parallel active transportation route for the west end of the Yonge University subway line (22 stations)
- Connects a grid of active transportation routes such as the Finch Hydro Corridor trail (part of the 81 km loop trail), Finch LRT promenade and cycle track, Eglinton Crosstown LRT promenade and cycle track, 9 km York Beltline and Kay Gardiner Beltline Park trails, Allen Greenway, Green Line, TOCore loop, and Trans Canada Trail/Waterfront Trail/Pan Am Path
- Promotes Indigenous Canadian heritage landscape and wayfinding in two ravines systems
- Connects 14 business improvement areas and 6 universities/community colleges in Toronto with a cultural corridor
- Promotes active transportation focused in 4 neighbourhood improvement areas in Covid 19 hard hit northwest Toronto

The Northwest Cultural Trail

- Implements the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Trails Strategy
- Connects urban farms – Black Creek Community Farm and Fresh City Farms
- Implements sections of the 10 year Cycling Plan
- Turns the Allen Road corridor into a positive neighbourhood connector with active transportation, public art and a 3.5 km linear park on both sides of the expressway
- Connects three Black Torontonians communities – Jane Finch, Lawrence Heights and Little Jamaica
- Supports the expansion of Toronto Bike Share and increase in ridership during and post Covid 19
- Provides a vision for private sector partner funding in conformance with the Strategic Plan
- Supports connectivity between growth centres – Vaughan Metropolitan Centre and TOcore

Rationale for the Northwest Cultural Trail

- Promote indigenous history
- Increased connectivity and active transportation for Neighbourhood Improvement Areas
- Connecting Black Torontonians communities
- Supporting local businesses
- Trail network connectivity and active transportation
- Connecting cultural destinations and public art
- Connecting parks



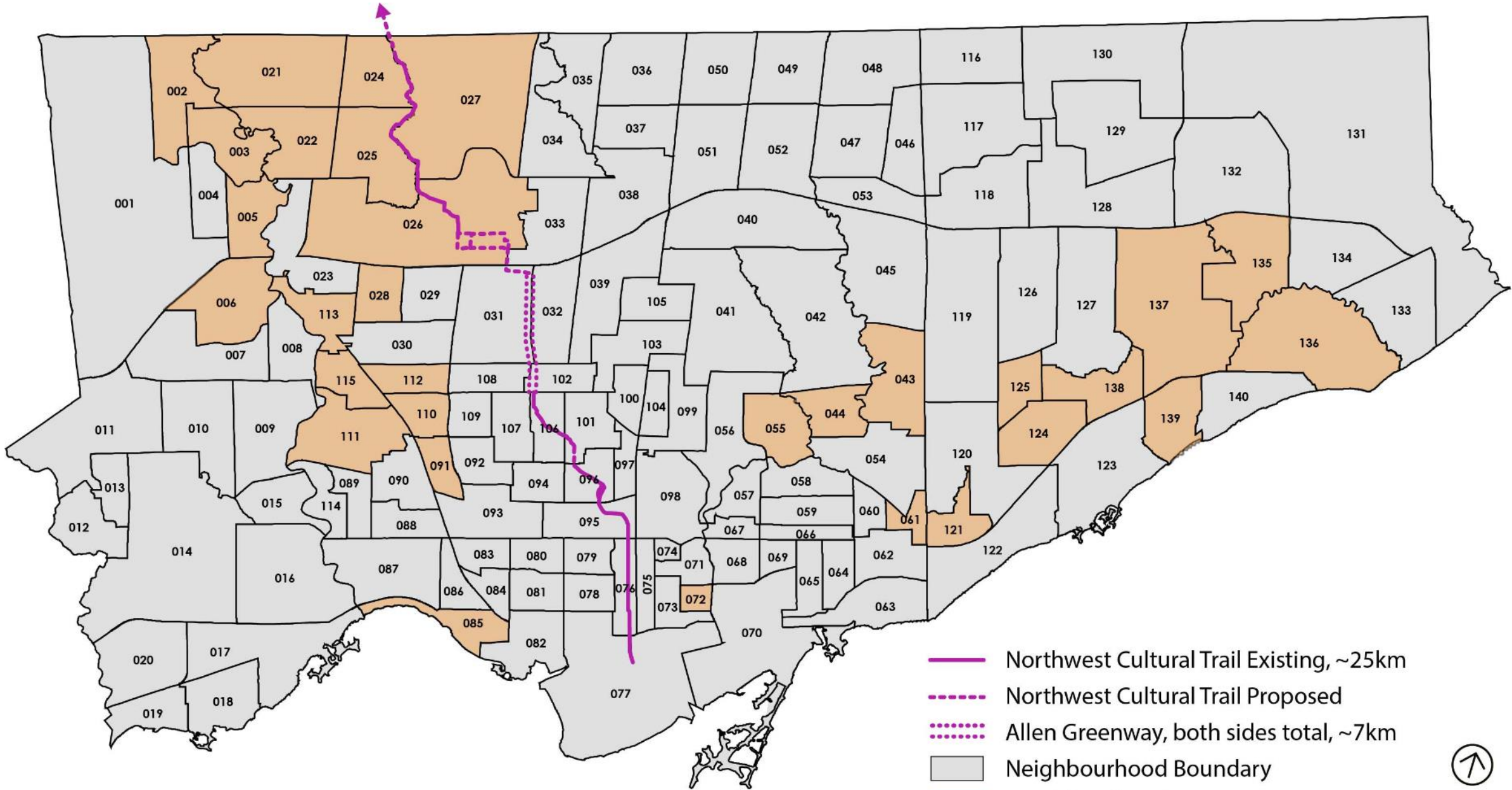
Connects Indigenous Trails




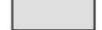





Connecting Indigenous Cultural Facilities

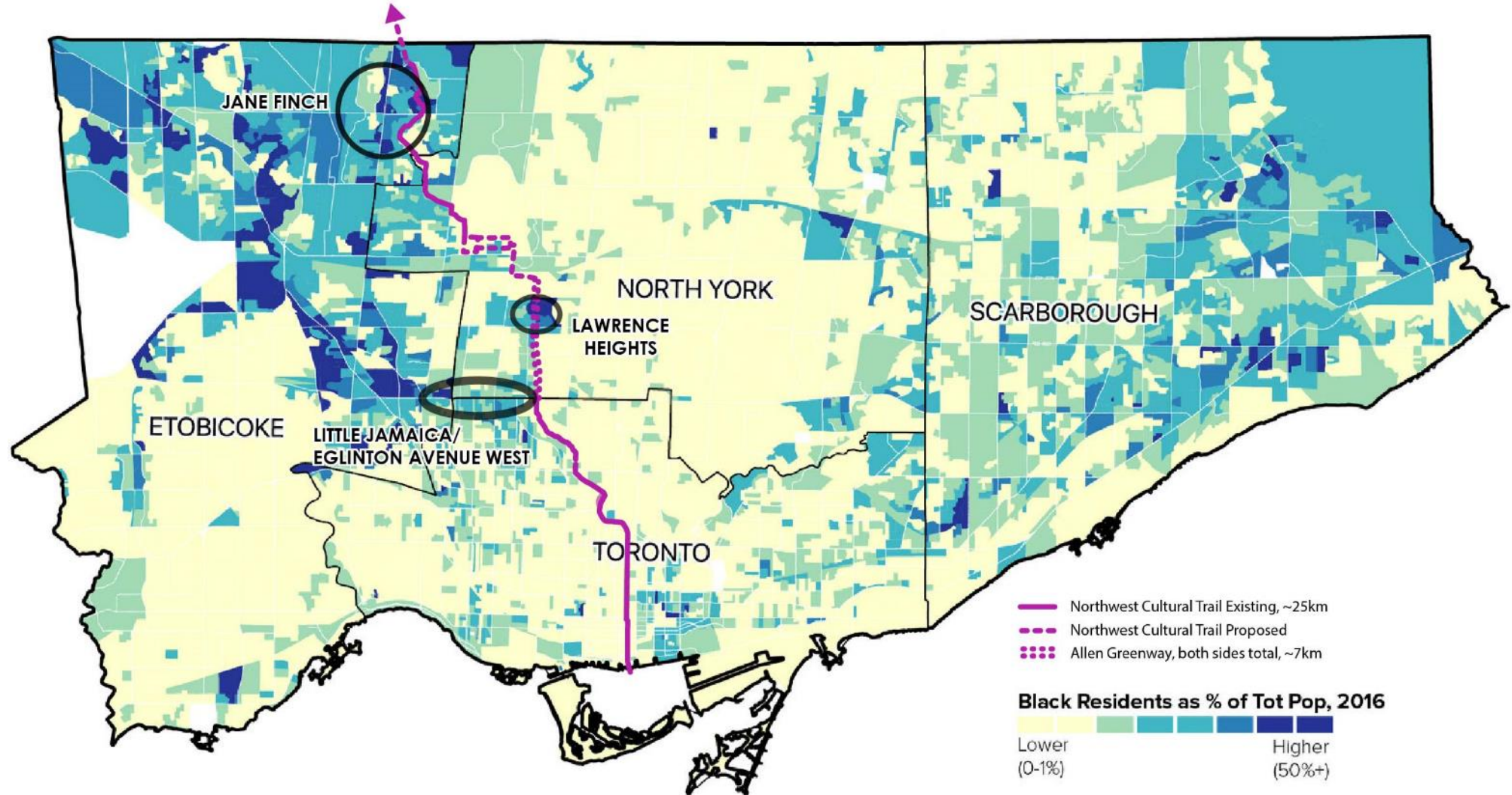




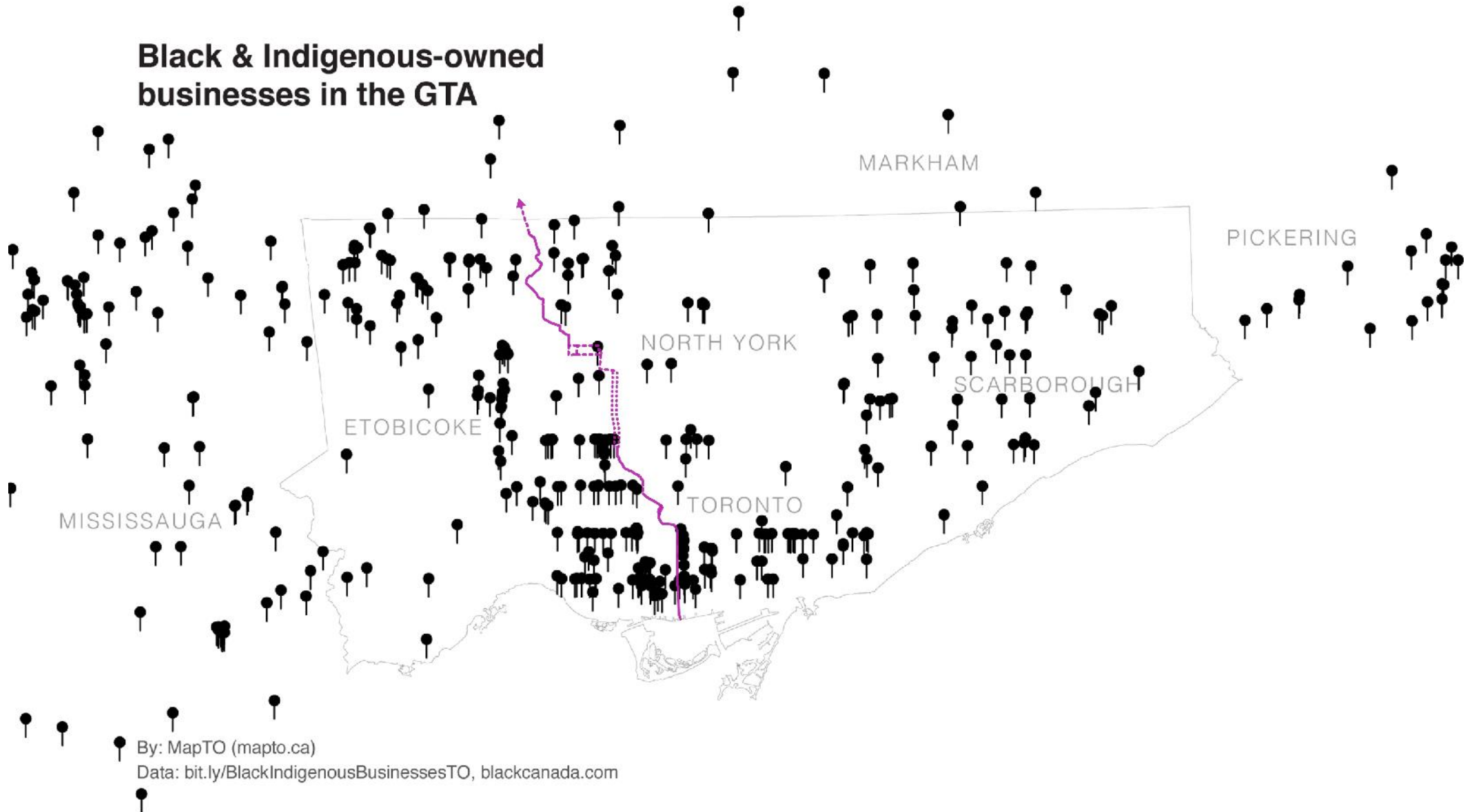
-  Northwest Cultural Trail Existing, ~25km
-  Northwest Cultural Trail Proposed
-  Allen Greenway, both sides total, ~7km
-  Neighbourhood Boundary
-  Neighbourhood Improvement Area

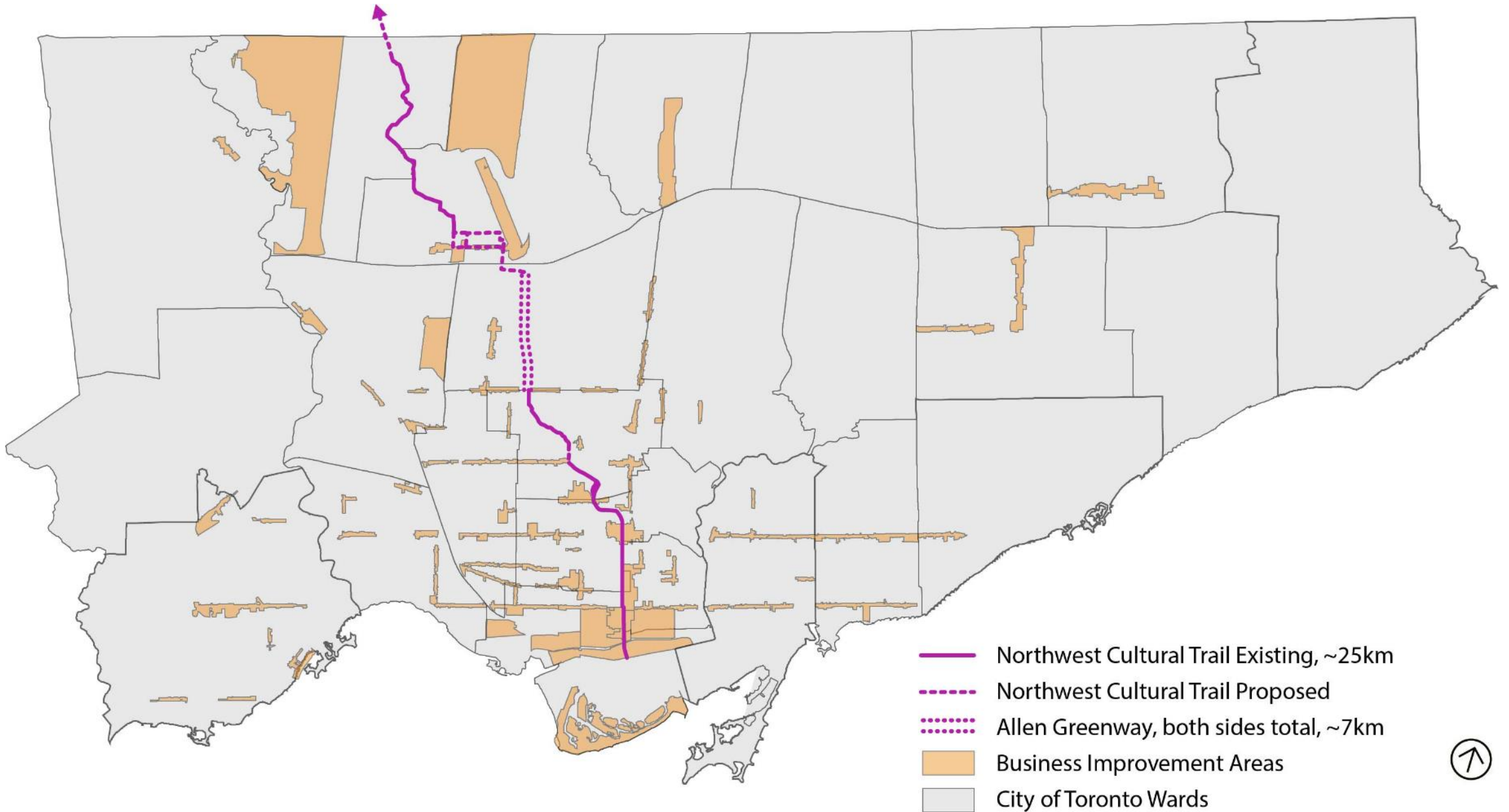


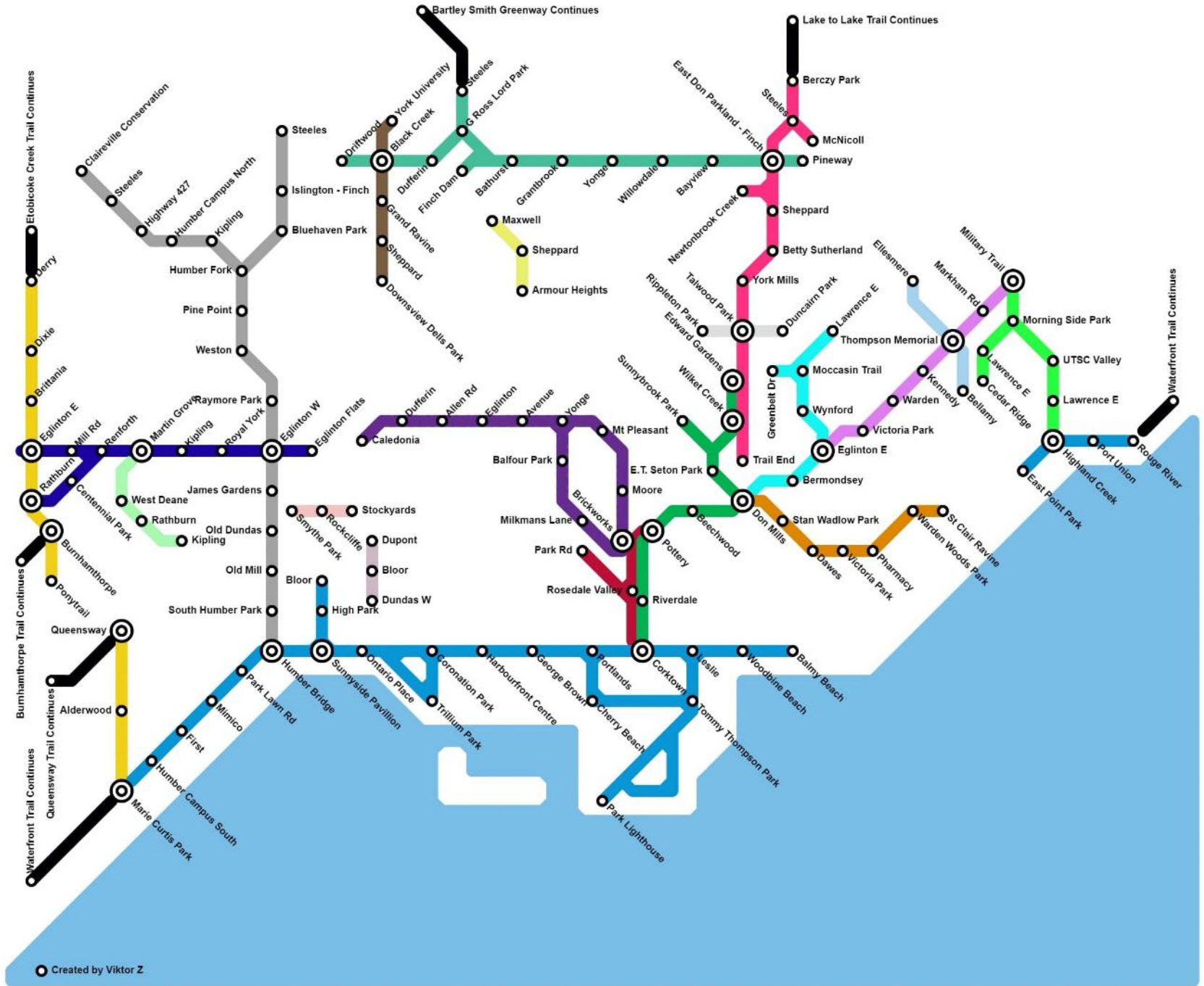
Percent of the Population that Identifies as Black

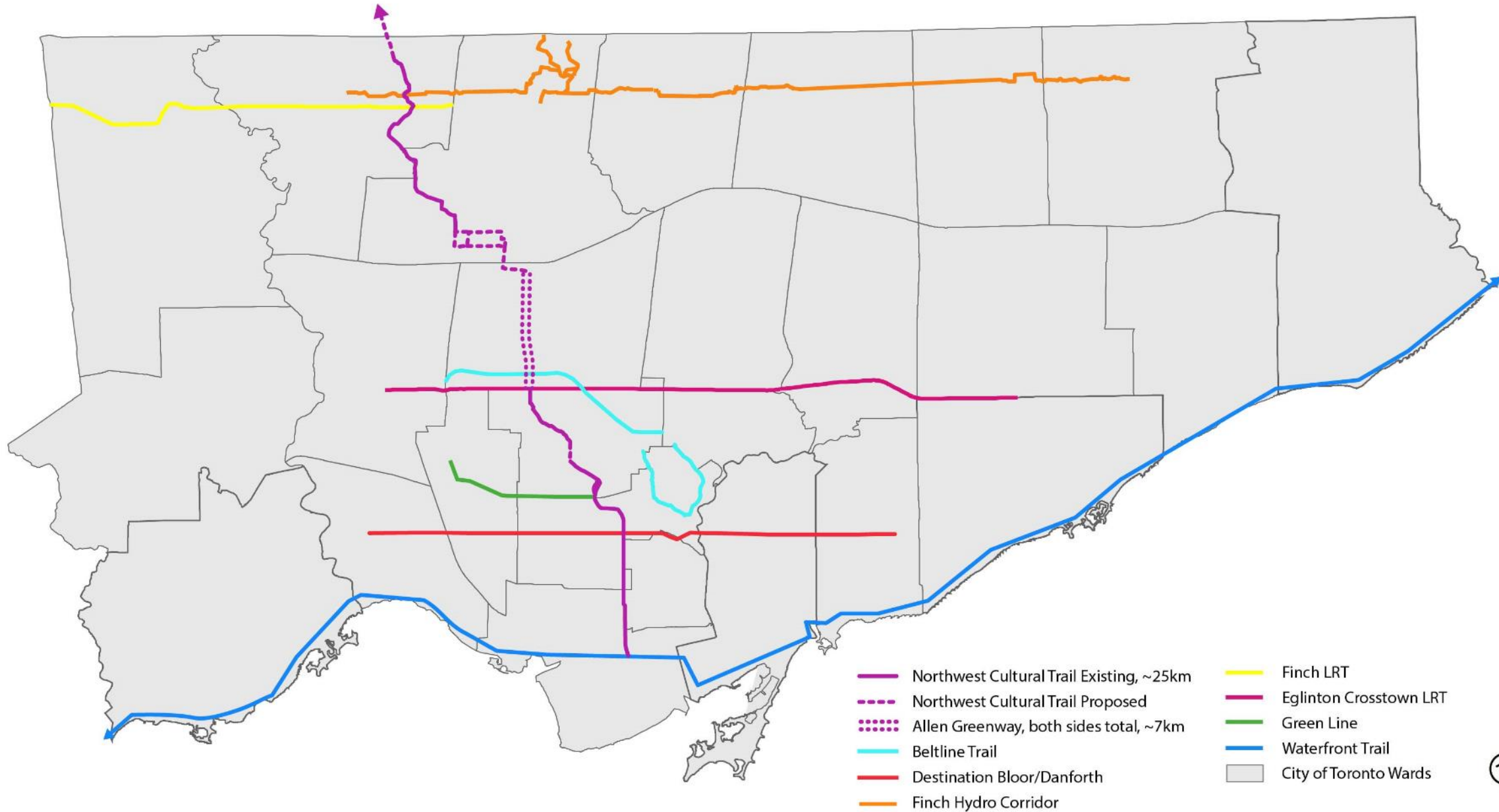


Black & Indigenous-owned businesses in the GTA

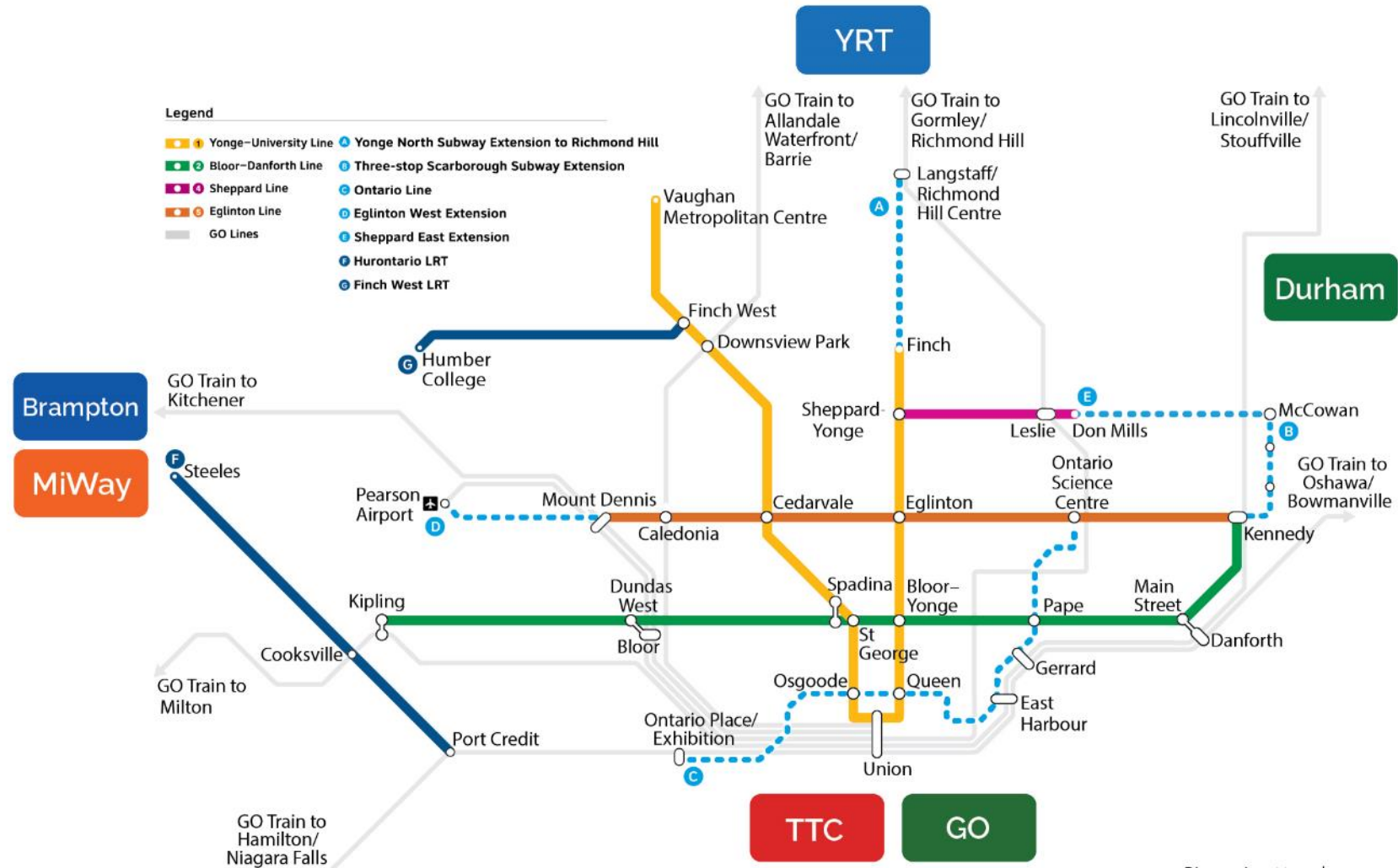








Covid 19 recovery - an active transportation route along the west end of Yonge/University subway line



COVID 19 recovery - What is planned for along the subway lines for active transportation?

Yonge Street part of the Yonge University line

- Transform Yonge, Destination Yonge, yongeTOMorrow

Danforth Avenue part of Bloor Danforth line

- Destination Danforth

Bloor Street part of the Bloor Danforth line

- Bloor Street bicycle lanes/Destination Bloor

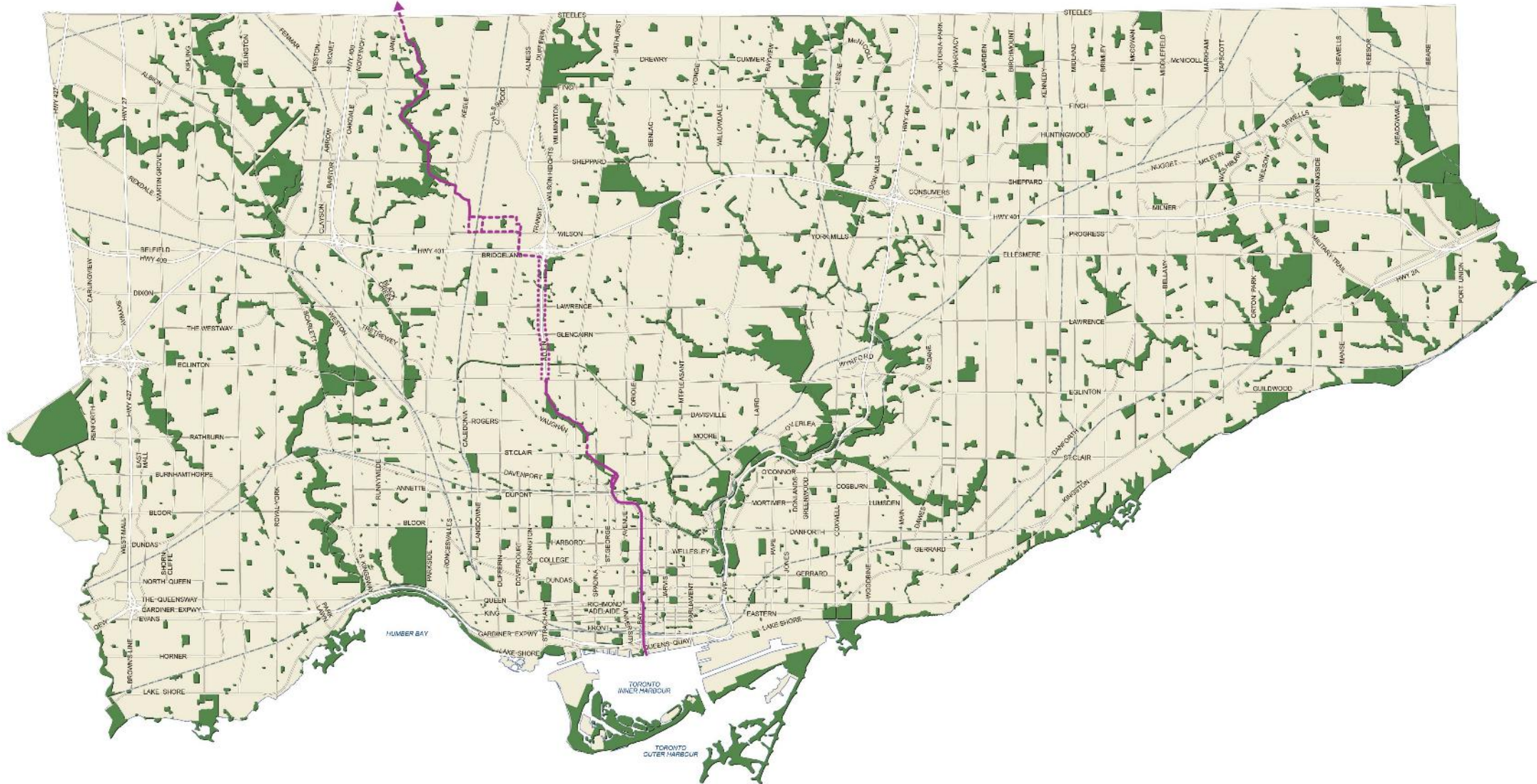
West section of Yonge University line

- University Park
- A planning vision is needed for the northwest section of Toronto

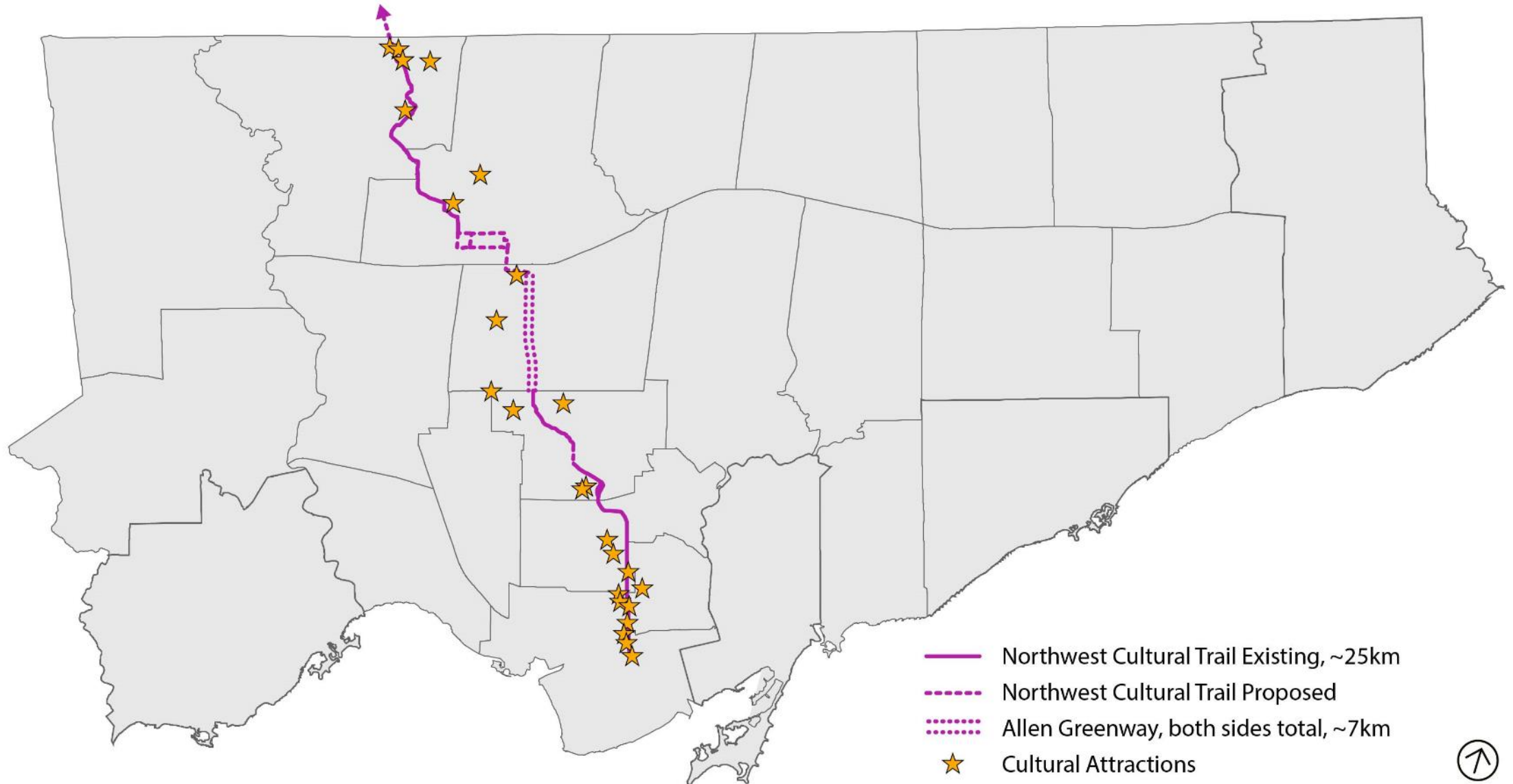
Toronto Bike Share



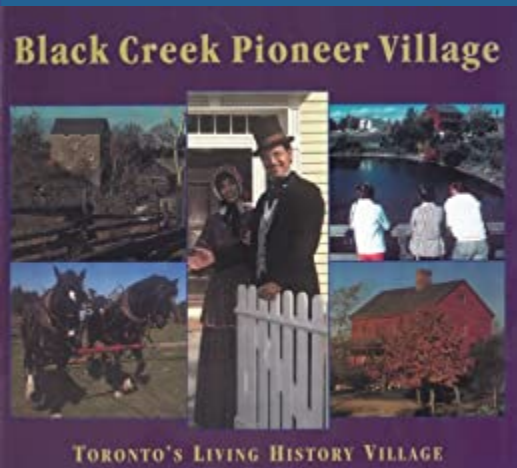
Connects 52 City parks



Cultural Attractions along the Northwest Cultural Trail



The Northwest Cultural Trail



 TORONTO



Connects Cultural Loops and Discovery Walks

NORTH YORK
CULTURAL LOOPS
GUIDE



Arts Culture Community
MOUNT LAWRENCE
DENNIS Eglinton
Weston YORK OAKWOOD
ROGERS Reggae Lane
Jane BLACK CREEK
CULTURAL HOT SPOT TORONTO



Call for North York Event Listings

Arts, culture or community events
happening May through October

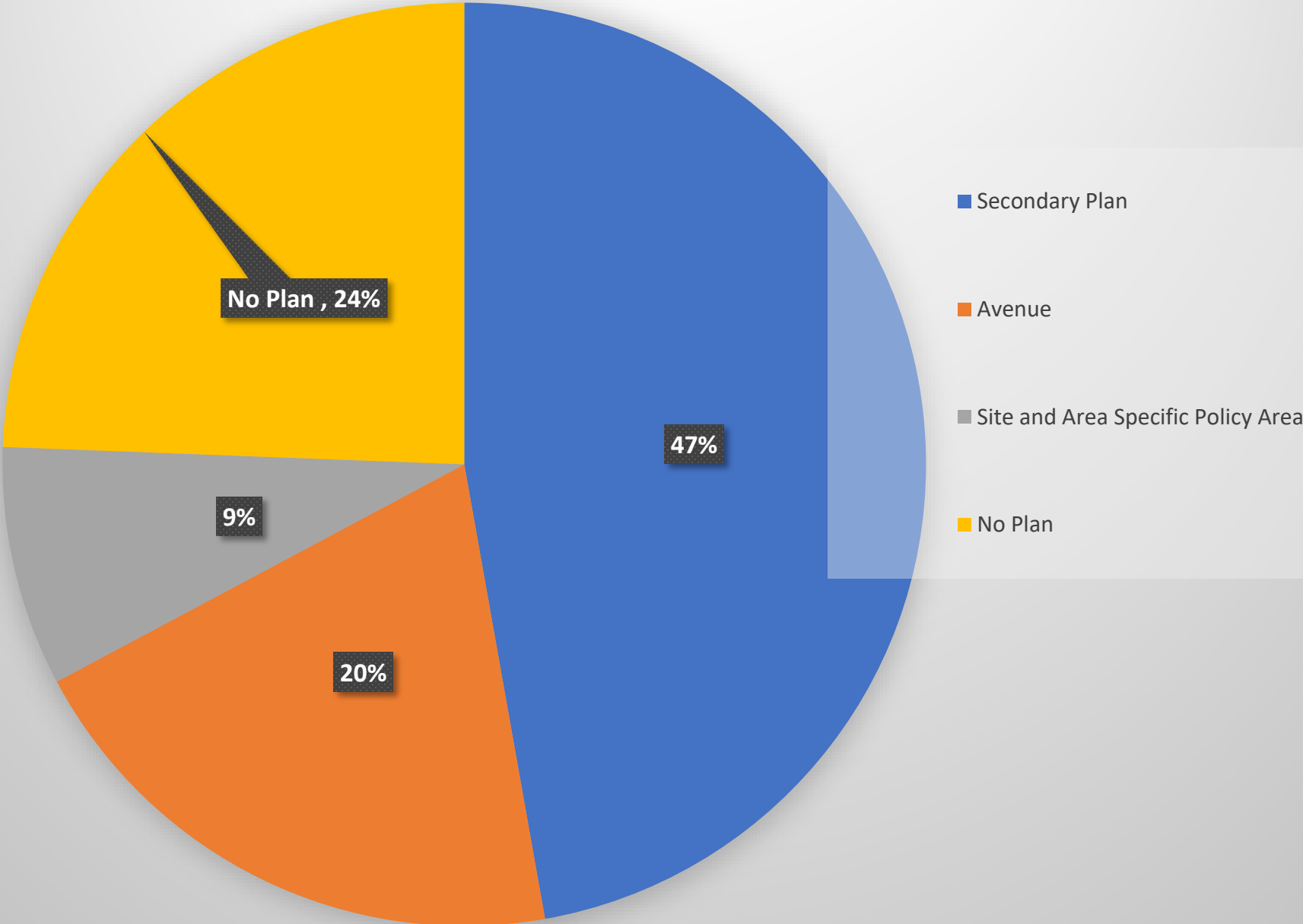
Submit your event: toronto.ca/culturalhotspot

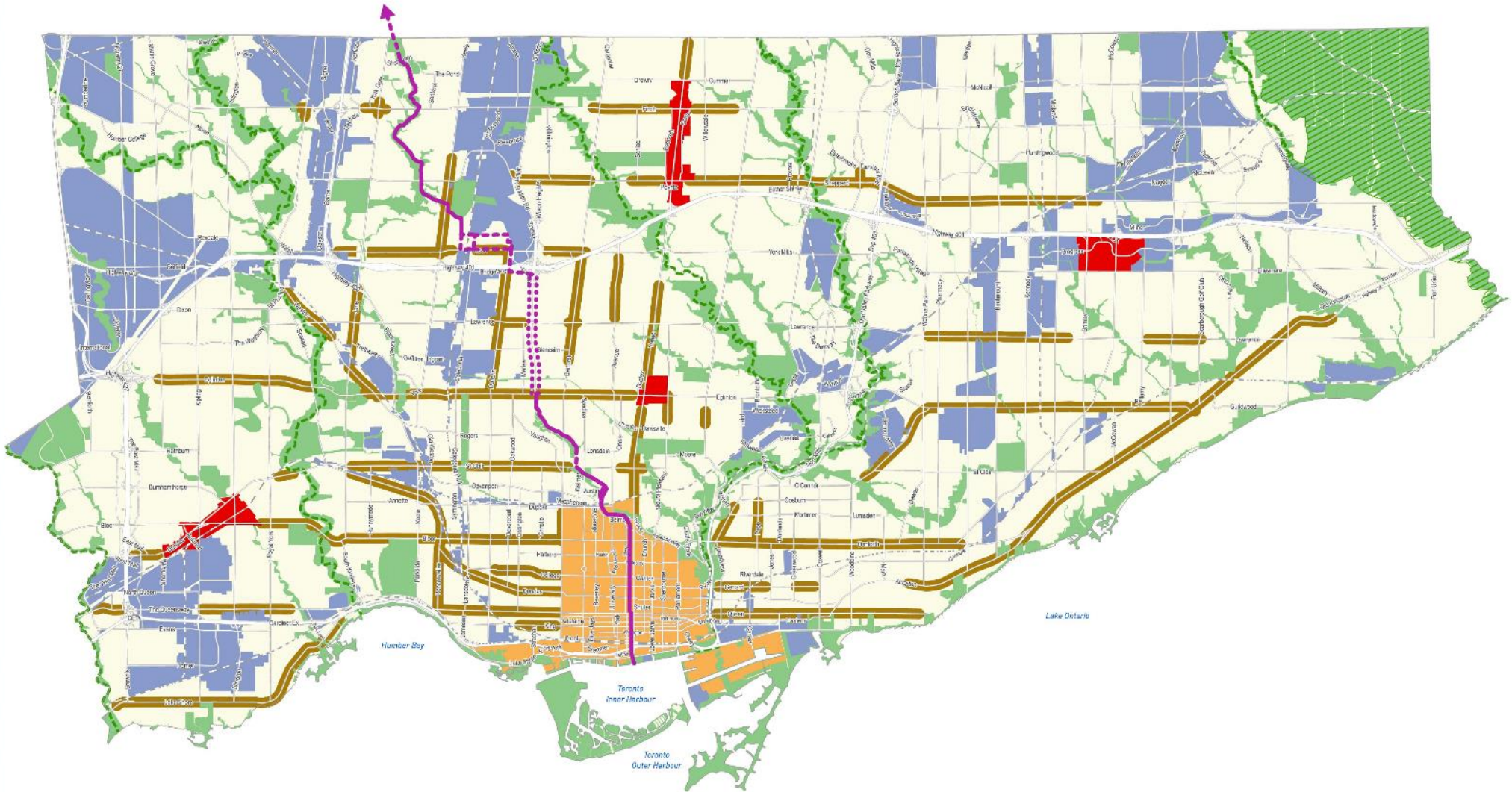






Why has Community Planning been the lead department?

- Includes 9 Secondary Plans, 5 Site and Area Specific Policy Areas, and 5 Avenues – 19 out of 25 kms in Toronto is in a planning area (most of the Vaughan section is in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Secondary Plan)
- Includes 34 development applications along the route
- Community Planning has precedents leading on other routes such as the six Waterfront Promenades and cultural corridors
- Complex interdepartmental and agency coordination
- Most of the route is in parks/TRCA lands or public property
- Planning is the lead on the Northcrest/Canada Lands Company redevelopment for the Bombardier lands

Sections of the Northwest Cultural Trail in a Planning Area (19 out of 25 km)





-  Avenues
-  Centres
-  Employment Areas
-  Downtown and Central Waterfront

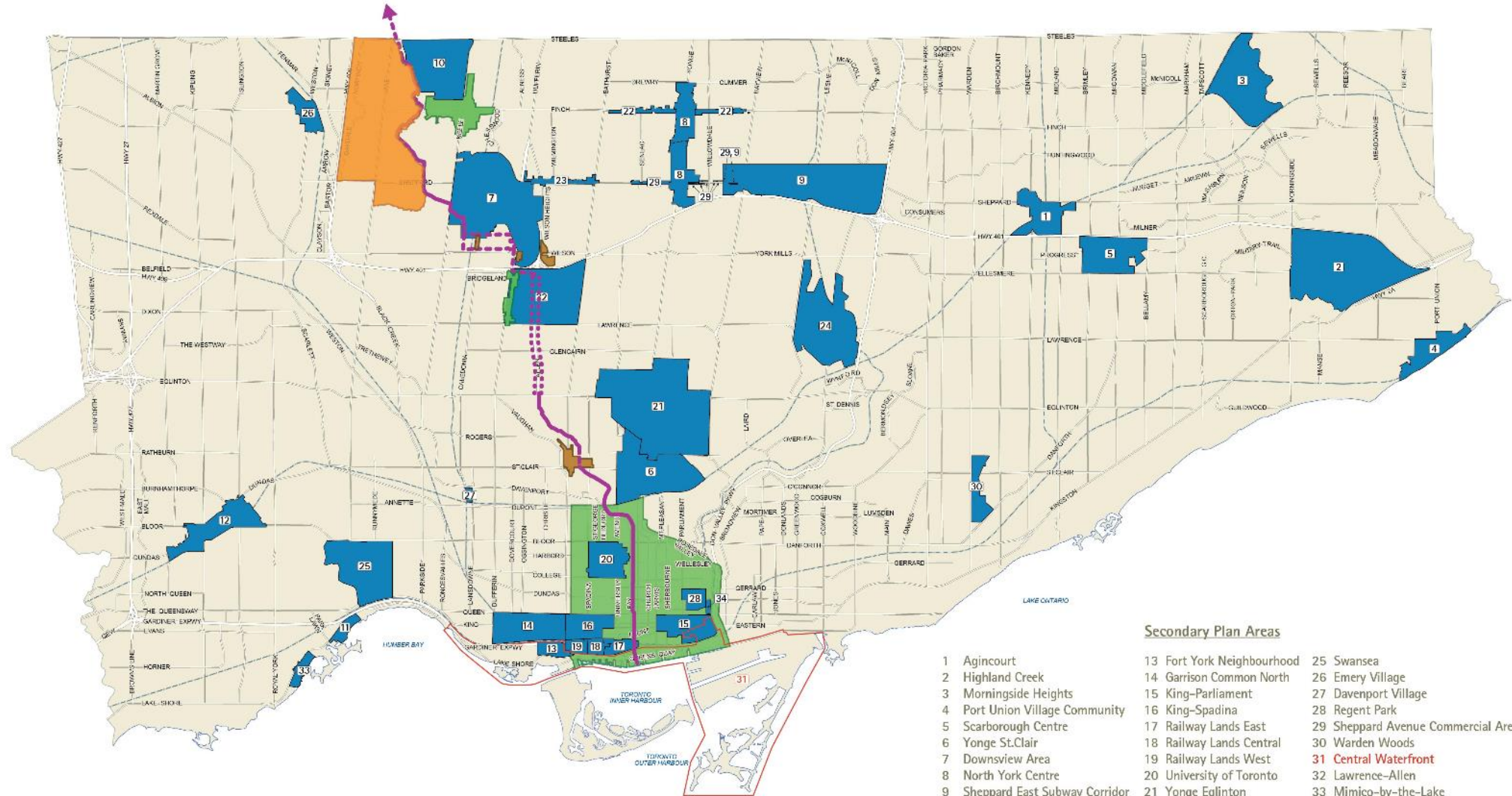
-  Green Space System
-  Greenbelt Protected Countryside
-  Greenbelt River Valley Connections



Toronto Official Plan

Map 2 Urban Structure

January 2020

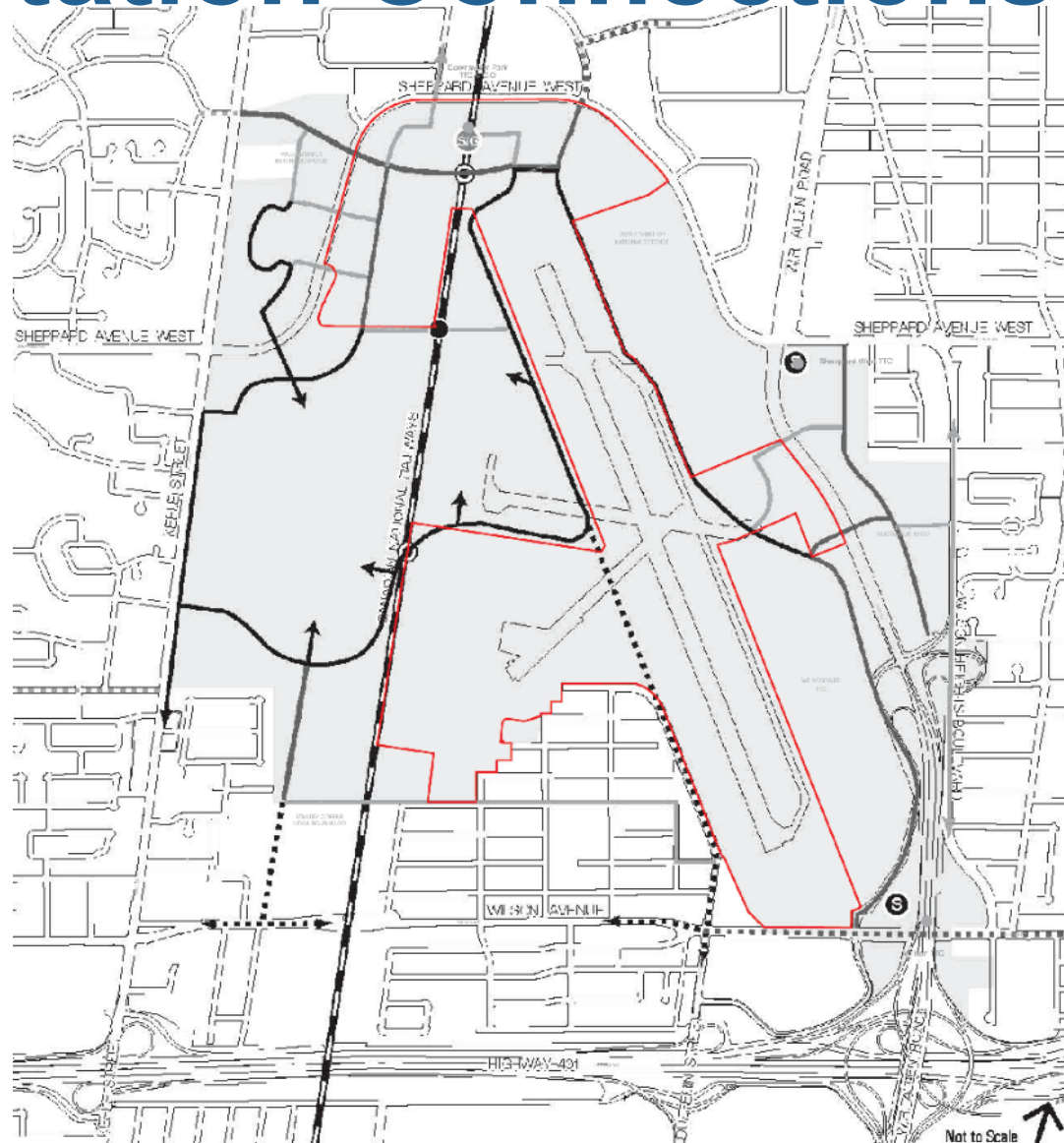


Note: For information purposes only.

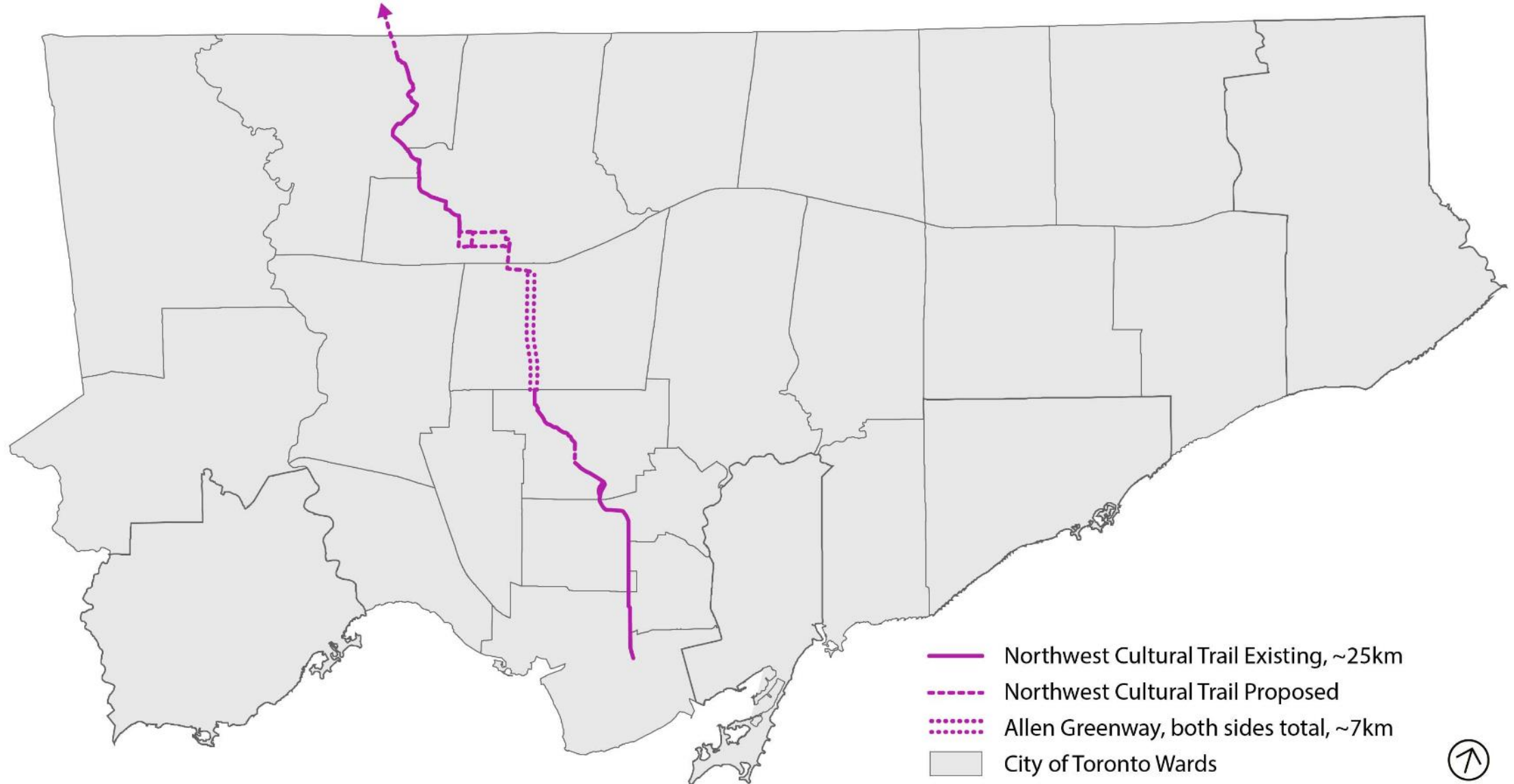
Secondary Plan Areas

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Agincourt | 13 Fort York Neighbourhood | 25 Swansea |
| 2 Highland Creek | 14 Garrison Common North | 26 Emery Village |
| 3 Morningside Heights | 15 King-Parliament | 27 Davenport Village |
| 4 Port Union Village Community | 16 King-Spadina | 28 Regent Park |
| 5 Scarborough Centre | 17 Railway Lands East | 29 Sheppard Avenue Commercial Area |
| 6 Yonge St.Clair | 18 Railway Lands Central | 30 Warden Woods |
| 7 Downsview Area | 19 Railway Lands West | 31 Central Waterfront |
| 8 North York Centre | 20 University of Toronto | 32 Lawrence-Allen |
| 9 Sheppard East Subway Corridor | 21 Yonge Eglinton | 33 Mimico-by-the-Lake |
| 10 York University | 22 Central Finch Area | 34 Queen-River |
| 11 Motel Strip | 23 Sheppard West/Dublin | |
| 12 Etobicoke Centre | 24 Central Don Mills | |

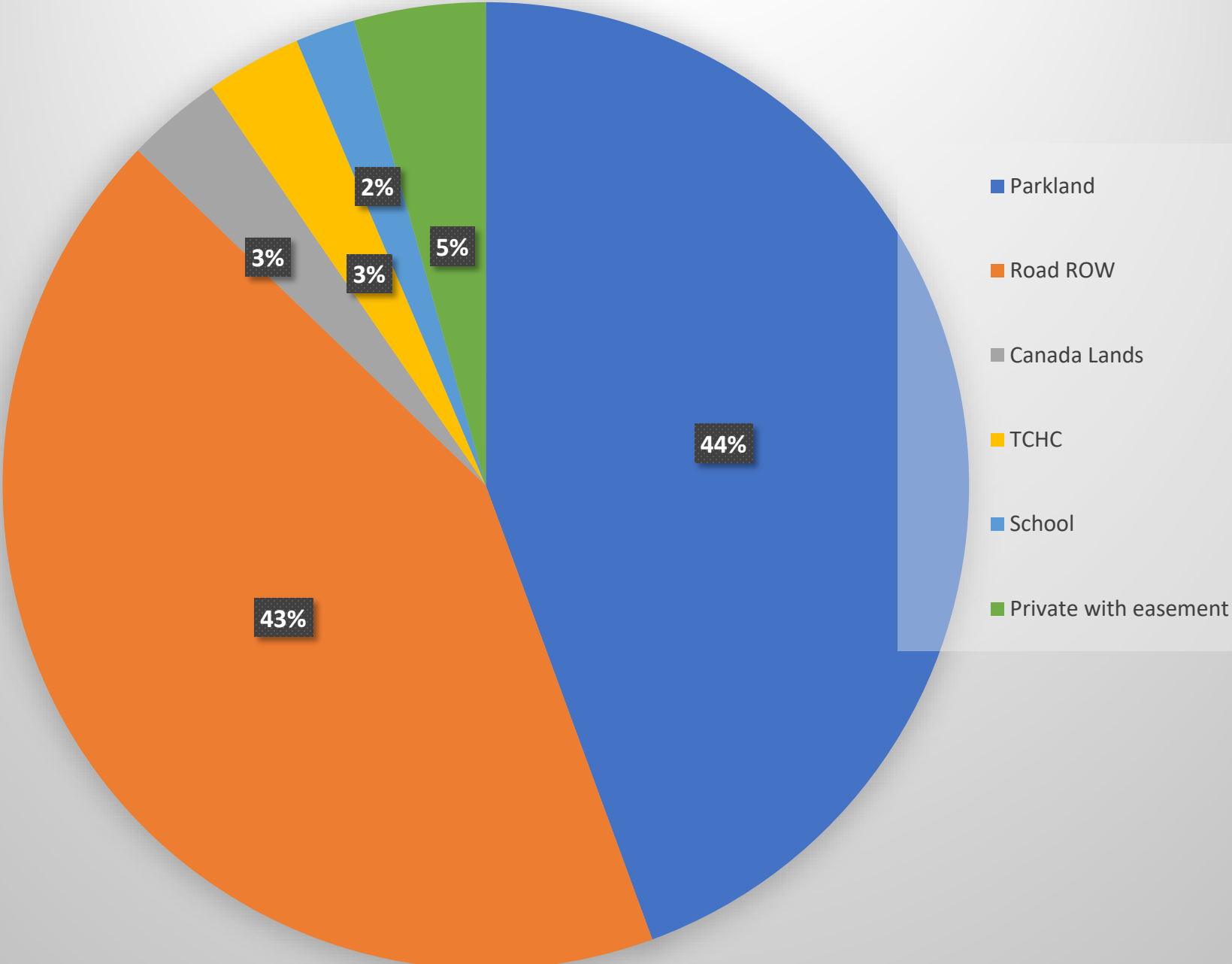
Downsview Secondary Plan - Active Transportation Connections

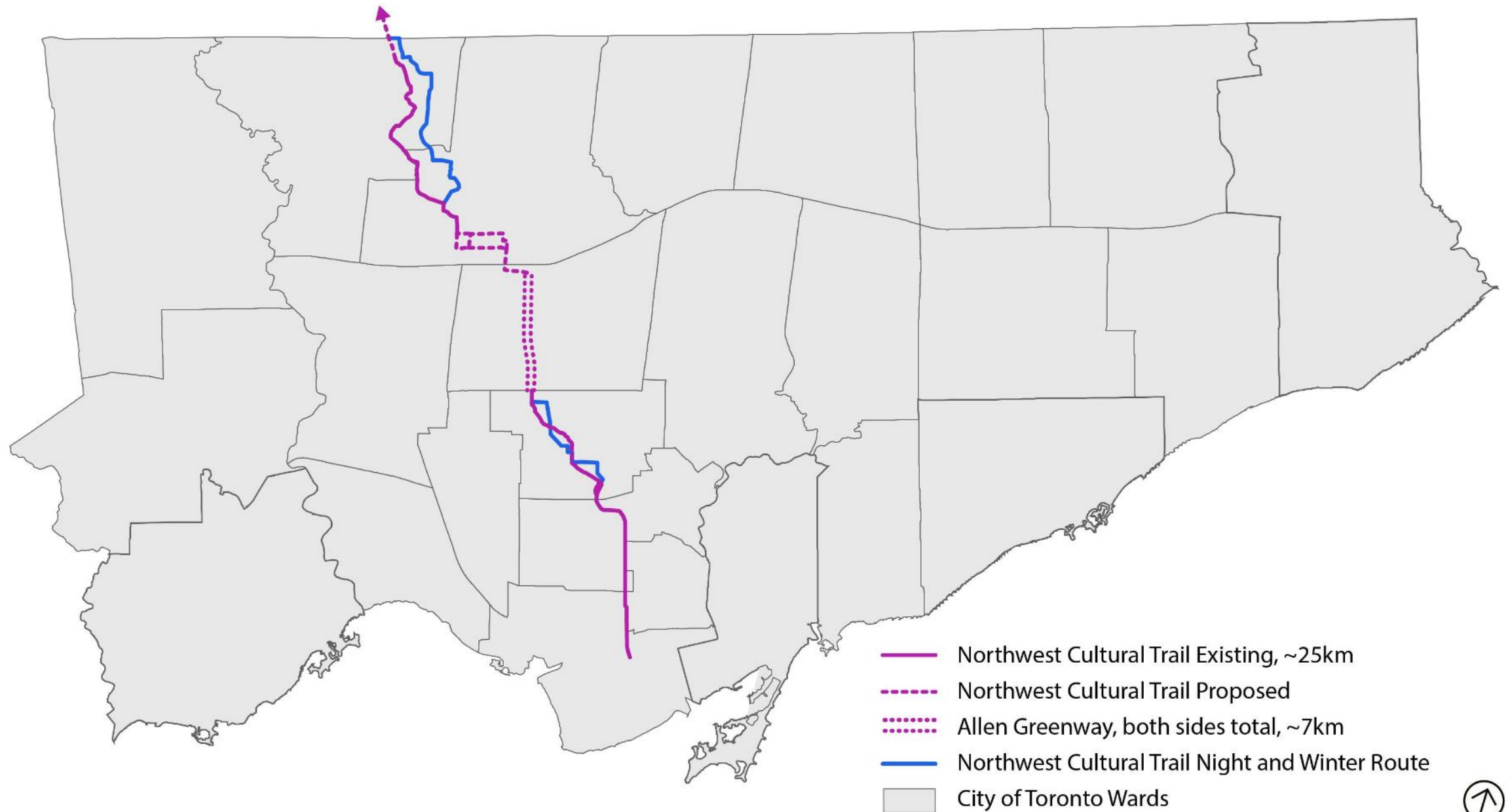


The Route – 100% vs. 85% complete



Location of Northwest Cultural Trail





3.5 km long extension - Cultural Trail in City of Vaughan Metropolitan Centre



Black Creek in Vaughan Metropolitan Centre



Stakeholders

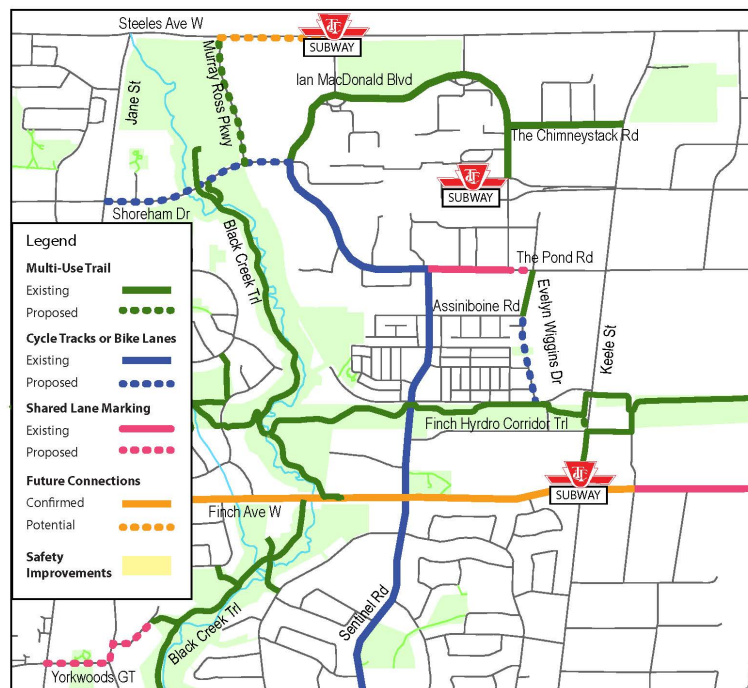
- Parks Forestry and Recreation
- Transportation Services
- City Planning
- Economic Development and Culture
- Indigenous Affairs Office
- Corporate Real Estate Management
- TCHC
- TTC
- School Boards
- BIAs
- TRCA
- CLC/Northcrest
- City of Vaughan/York Region

Progress to Date

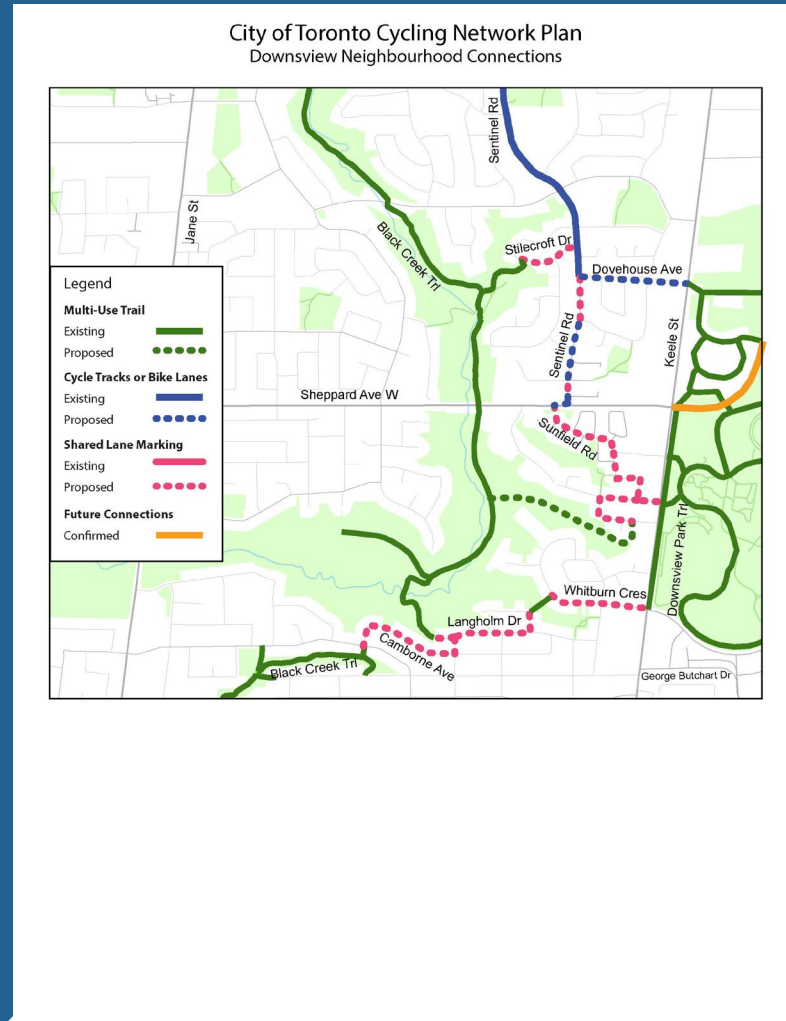
- 2020 Shoreham Drive Cycle Track
- 2020 traffic light for crossing at Sheppard Avenue West and Downsview Dells
- 2020 Downsview Dells trail reopening (park to Keele Street)
- 3100 Keele Street (Shriners site) parkland and Downsview Dells multi use trail/crossing of Keele Street into Downsview Park secured
- Multi use trail on the east side of Keele Street in front of the new Downsview fire hall and Mattamy midrise building secured

Cycling and Pedestrian Projects York University Routes 2019 to 2022

City of Toronto Cycling Network Plan: Current Project
York University Connections



Cycling and Pedestrian Projects Downsview route installation 2019 to 2022



Other Cycling and Pedestrian Projects

- 2021 Winona Cycling Route (Eglinton Avenue West to Davenport Road)
- 2021 Davenport Road cycling lane protection
- 2021 Murray Ross Parkway multi use trail
- 2022 improved William Baker trail connection at Keele Street/Dovehouse Avenue and Keele Street/Sheppard Avenue West
- 2023 Bay Street bike lanes (Front Street West to Lake Shore Boulevard West)
- Pre 2030 Bay Street cycling route study
- Pre 2030 Wilson Avenue from Dufferin Street to Faywood Boulevard



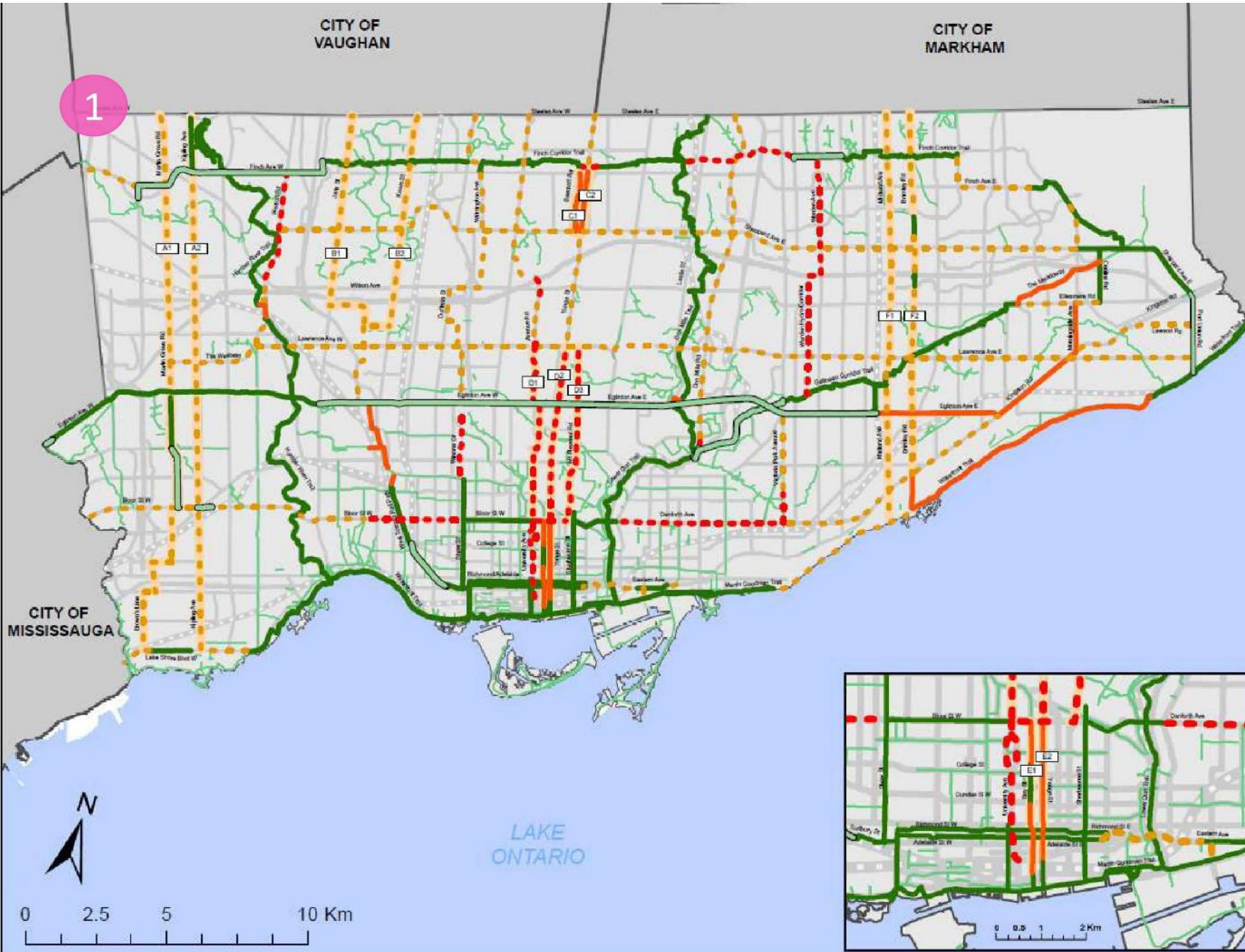
CITY OF VAUGHAN

CITY OF MARKHAM

Major City-Wide Cycling Routes



1



Status of Routes

- Existing Routes*
- In Design/Construction
- Environmental Assessment/ Study Underway
- Study Planned (2019-2021)
- Study Required
- Studies Planned in Conjunction
- Existing Local Cycling Network
- Rail Line

* Existing Routes to be considered in Renew Program for future upgrades

Data Source: City of Toronto
Projection: NAD 1927 MTM 3
Cartography: City of Toronto

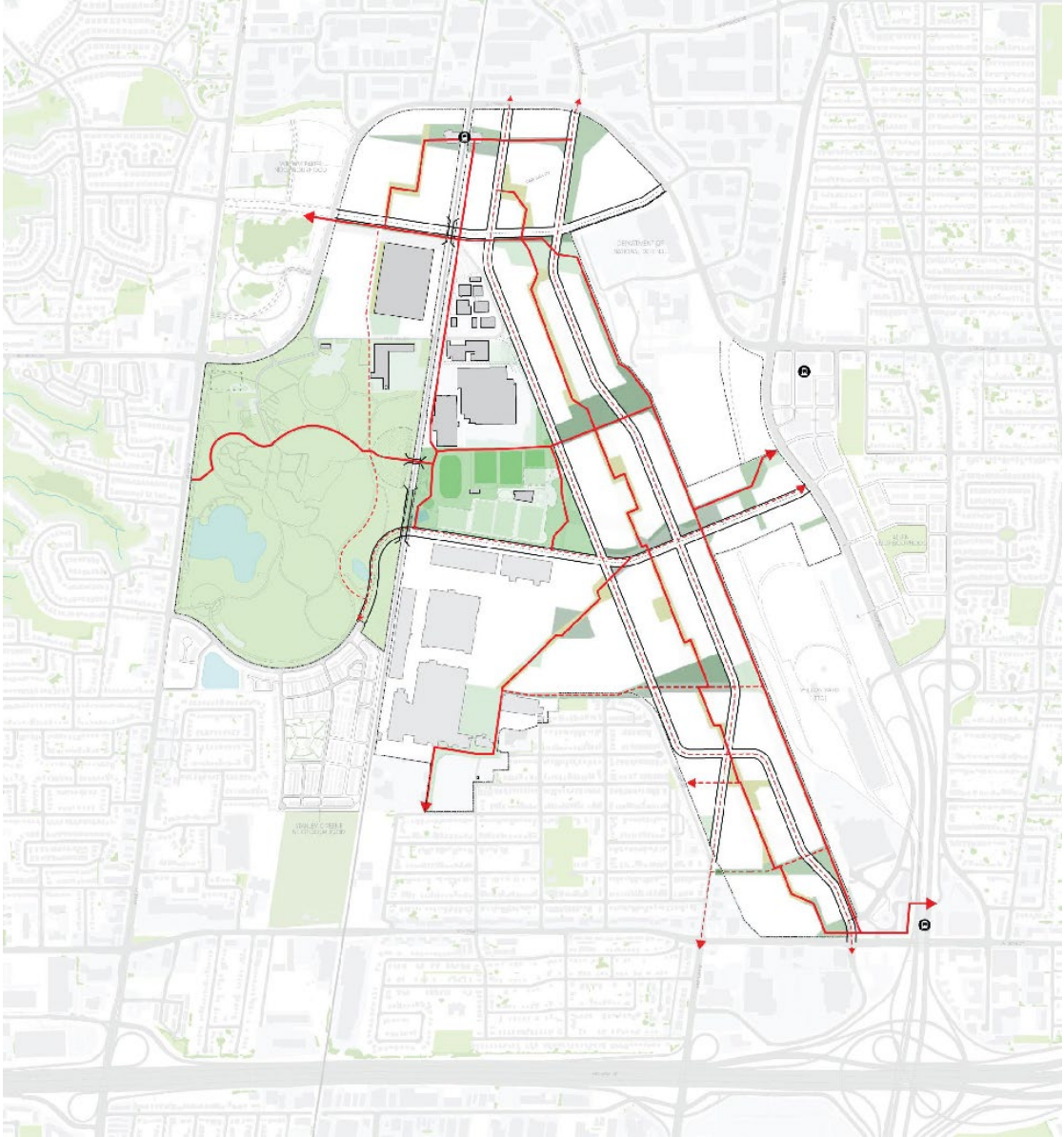
Date: June 2019



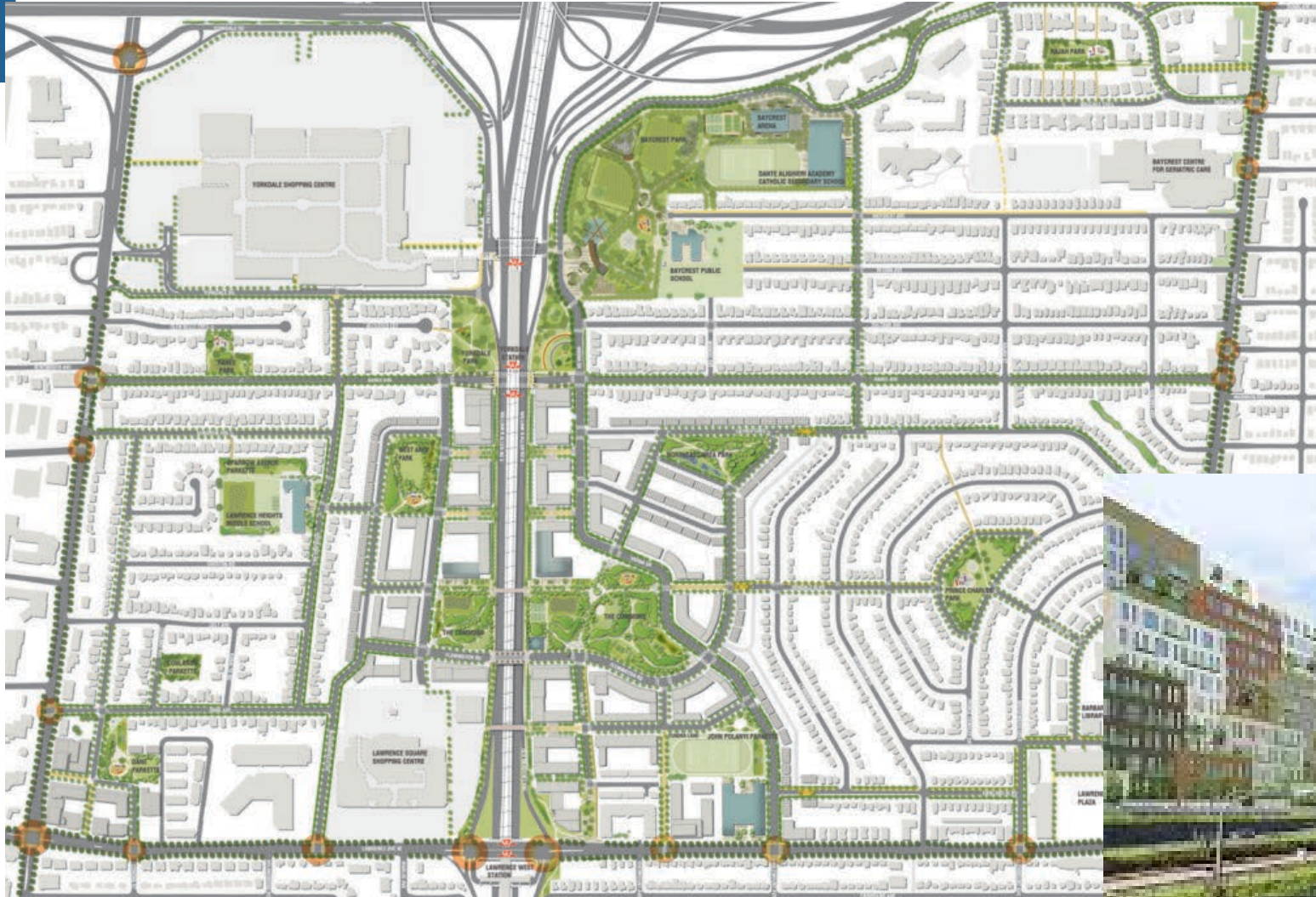
Big projects on the horizon to secure active transportation infrastructure

- Bombardier and Canada Lands Company redevelopment of Downsview
- Yorkdale Shopping Centre redevelopment including the Allen Greenway
- Jane/Finch Initiative (Land Use Study)
- Jane Street Bus Rapid Transit and Dufferin Street Bus Rapid Transit with streetscape improvements and placemaking, and connecting east west routes
- Lawrence Heights Revitalization
- St. Clair West and Bathurst Street development

Downsview Plan by Northcrest/CLC for 520 acres



Allen Greenway Implementation

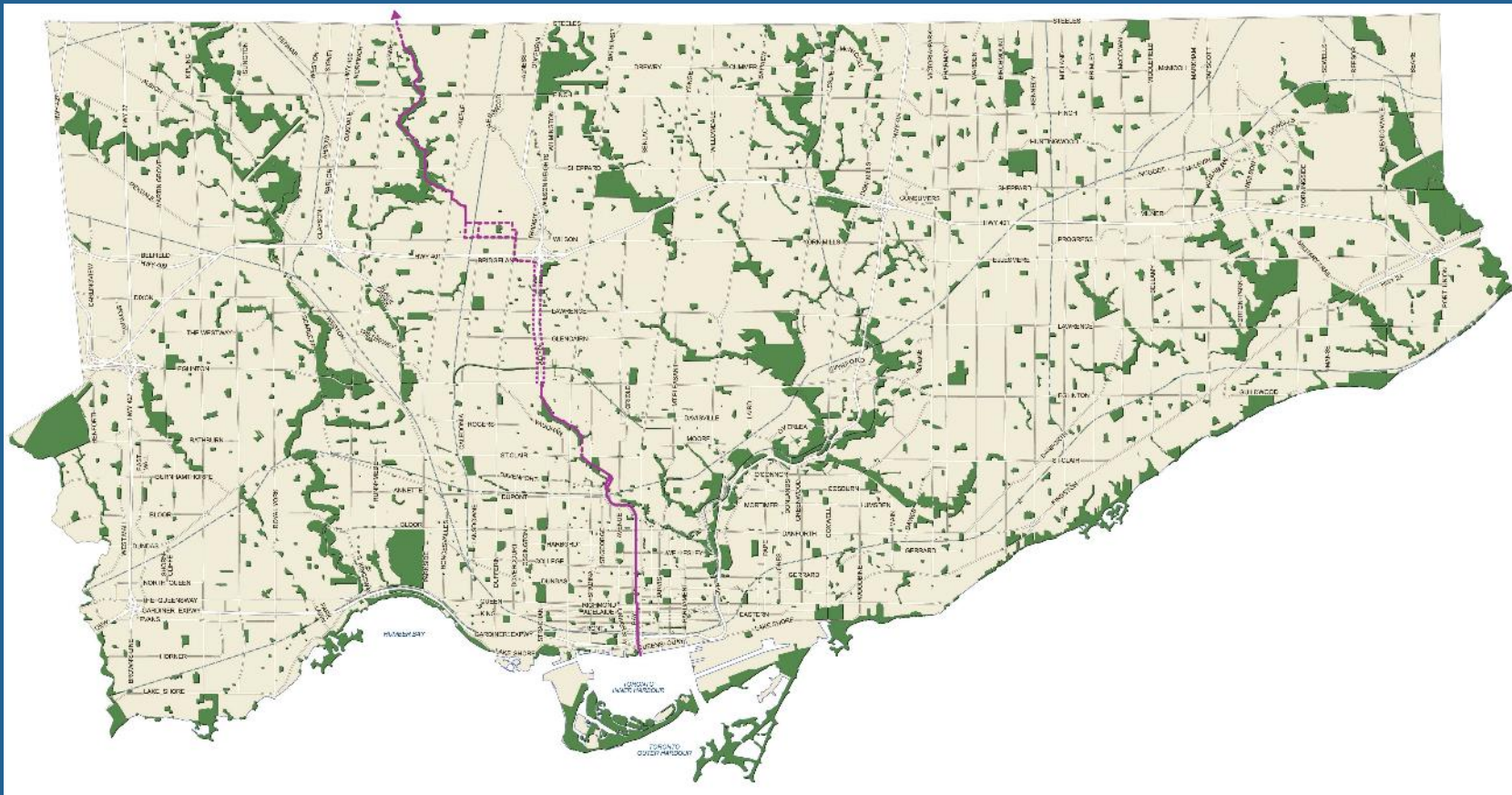


Legend

- Public Building
- Park
- School Yard
- Community Garden
- Intersection Improvement
- Green Canopy Street



The Proposed Northwest Cultural Trail



Thank you!

Al Rezoski, Manager, Community Planning, North York District

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