

Prepared by

SvN

Landscape Architecture,
Planning, & Public
Engagement

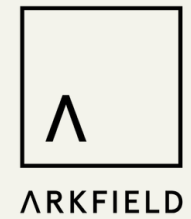
In collaboration with



On behalf of the Weston Village Developer Group



BSäR



Disclaimer: This document presents conceptual ideas illustrating how the Weston Loop Master Plan could take shape. All concepts are preliminary and subject to further study and detailed design to confirm feasibility—particularly within the Humber River floodplain and other sensitive ecological areas. Final park programming will be guided by future, site-specific community engagement and must align with the City of Toronto's Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan. Implementation will proceed through a comprehensive design process for each park, undertaken in collaboration with the City of Toronto, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and other key stakeholders.



Dear Friends,

I have always believed that our communities are strongest when we are connected – not only to each other, but also to the natural environment around us. Publicly accessible green spaces enrich our lives, foster social connections, and provide opportunities for recreation, reflection, and connection with nature.

In Weston, we are fortunate to be home to 74 acres of parkland stretching along the Humber River. From Crawford-Jones Park to Weston Lions Park, our five core parks offer residents and visitors spaces to gather, play, and experience the beauty of our local natural heritage. I want to advocate that we protect, enhance, and thoughtfully plan for the continued stewardship of these treasured green spaces. This Master Plan represents a significant step toward realizing that vision.

The Weston Loop has emerged as a community-led initiative guided by a shared vision: to strengthen and enliven our beloved parks while ensuring they remain accessible, resilient, and inclusive for generations to come.

This process began with the “what if” dialogue, initiated through a charette in 2024, which invited residents to imagine how our parks could better serve the community. From there, we worked collaboratively over many months, engaging in discussions, site walks, and cycling tours to better understand how people use the parks, what they value, and how we could integrate ecological stewardship, habitat preservation, accessibility, and flexible infrastructure for recreation, ceremonies, and community gatherings.

The goal of the Weston Loop Master Plan is to ensure that parkland levies from development projects along Weston Road and other capital funding sources are directed toward creating a stronger, sustainable, and more connected network of parks. This network spans from natural, untouched habitats to vibrant outdoor spaces supporting sports, play, and social activity.

With the support of local landowners and the expertise of professional landscape architects and planners, the community was able to transform ideas and observations from our collaborative sessions into a concrete Master Plan. The resulting plan reflects a careful balance of environmental protection, recreational opportunities, cultural expression, and historical appreciation.

Captured park by park, the Master Plan weaves together connections between people, hubs, art, history, recreation, and leisure across the full 74-acre Weston Loop. It embodies the community’s vision for inclusive, resilient, and dynamic green spaces that serve all residents. On behalf of the Weston community, I am proud to submit this Master Plan and look forward to advancing its aspirations through thoughtful discussion and continued collaboration.

Sincerely,



Councillor Frances Nunziata
City Councillor, York South-Weston, Ward 5



Executive Summary

The **Weston Loop Master Plan** sets out a bold, long-term vision for revitalizing 74 acres of interconnected parkland along the Humber River in Toronto’s Weston community.

Anchored by five key parks and the Humber Trail, the Master Plan reimagines these green spaces as a unified system that reflects local heritage, strengthens community identity, and supports the health and wellbeing of current and future residents. Situated within the Humber Valley – an area of exceptional ecological, historical, and cultural significance – the Weston Loop is part of a landscape shaped by the Carrying Place Trail, the region’s milling heritage, Hurricane Hazel, and its dramatic topography and riverine ecology. This context informs both the opportunities and challenges the Master Plan addresses, from managing sensitive natural systems to improving access and connectivity within the ravine.

While the Weston Loop parks are well-loved, they face persistent challenges related to underinvestment, fragmented access, safety, and ecological vulnerability. At the same time, Weston is experiencing significant growth, with new development placing greater demand on its public realm. The Master Plan responds with a comprehensive framework that positions the Weston Loop as both the neighbourhood’s “shared backyard” and a regional destination, developed in ongoing coordination/ collaboration with Evergreen to align with the broader Toronto Loop Trail – a citywide network that shares priorities around access, connectivity, and ecological restoration.

The plan was developed through extensive community engagement, collaboration with Indigenous partners, and input from local

organizations, stakeholders, and technical experts. Residents emphasized the need for improved accessibility, safer connections, inclusive amenities, gathering spaces, ecological restoration, and recognition of the area’s layered cultural history. Their feedback shaped the guiding principles, ensuring the plan reflects local knowledge and aspirations while addressing access, safety, and stewardship. For more on the engagement process and background analysis, see Appendices B and C.

The process also recognized the Humber River’s deep significance for Indigenous peoples and the role of reconciliation in shaping the park system’s future. The plan acknowledges the parks as part of a broader cultural landscape and ecological corridor, committing to continued Indigenous consultation through detailed design and implementation.

The Master Plan establishes a clear framework for transforming the Weston Loop into a resilient, connected, and inclusive park system. Five guiding principles – strengthening connectivity and accessibility, fostering identity and placemaking, enhancing safety and comfort, advancing ecological resilience, and expanding recreation and community opportunities – inform the major design moves outlined in Chapter 3, providing a rationale for how the vision translates into on-the-ground improvements. Together, these principles and design moves form the foundation for a cohesive, multi-functional network of open spaces that balance ecological integrity with social vitality. Demonstration plans illustrate how these ideas come to life through enhanced trails, welcoming gathering hubs, restored habitats, and new recreational infrastructure.

Recognizing that transformation will occur over many years, the plan outlines a phased implementation approach. Early opportunities include tree planting, ecological restoration, trail connections, playground improvements, and targeted accessibility upgrades. Long-term phases will deliver more ambitious initiatives that fully realize the vision for connectivity, placemaking, activation, and ecological stewardship.

All proposed improvements must align with the City’s review and approval processes and be guided by applicable strategies and frameworks, outlined in Chapter 5. While this Master Plan reflects community input, final decisions regarding implementation, activation, and capital investment will follow Parks & Recreation’s strategic priorities and Council direction.

Sustained success will depend on innovative governance and funding strategies. The plan identifies opportunities to leverage parkland contributions, build partnerships, and explore stewardship models that encourage community participation. These strategies ensure the Weston Loop will be built and maintained as a resilient and valued public asset for generations.

Arriving at a pivotal moment for the community, the Weston Loop Master Plan offers a generational opportunity to invest in public space as a catalyst for health, inclusion, and resilience. By weaving together history, ecology, recreation, and identity, the Weston Loop will emerge as a vibrant network of open spaces that reflect the spirit of Weston – a place where people gather, celebrate, and connect with each other and the Humber River. The plan sets a roadmap for lasting improvements and a legacy of pride, connection, and vitality.

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the Weston Loop Park System falls within the treaty lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The Toronto Purchase (Treaty 13) was signed by the Mississaugas of the Credit and the British Crown in 1787 and amended in 1805, and included the lands from Etobicoke Creek in the west to Ashbridge's Bay in the east, and from Lake Ontario, north to Lake Simcoe.

We also acknowledge that Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation assert unextinguished Aboriginal title to all water, beds of water, and floodplains within their treaty lands, as stated in the Aboriginal Title Claim that was filed with the Provincial government in 2016. The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation revere water as a spiritual being that must be accorded respect and dignity as it is vital to the survival of the First Nation, and all other forms of life. Agents of the Crown have an obligation to consult with Indigenous peoples where decisions may adversely impact Aboriginal or treaty rights; either asserted or established. Although this project is not led by a public agency or government, it is our intention to uphold this responsibility and to fully consult with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

We further acknowledge that the Humber River is a sacred entity for many Indigenous peoples. Water is the lifeblood that flows through lakes, rivers and oceans. It supports human existence, fosters important ecosystems, and is used for transportation and trade.

Traversing the Weston Loop park system, the Carrying Place Trail was a 45-kilometer portage route that connected Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe, following the banks of the Humber River. Remains of campsites near the Carrying Place Trail have been found that date as far back as the end of the last ice age; approximately 12,000 years ago. At the time of contact with Europeans, the Humber River, the Toronto Carrying Place trail, and the lands around them were used and cared for by the Huron-Wendat, Seneca (Haudenosaunee) and the Mississaugas (Anishnaabe). We acknowledge the significance of the Humber River to historic and present-day Indigenous people in the area now known as Toronto.

As dictated by the Great Law of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the decisions we make today should create a better world for the next seven generations, while honouring the seven generations that came before us. The Weston Loop Project Team will prioritize ongoing engagement with the Rightsholder and other Indigenous peoples and will seek opportunities to advance reconciliation. Through partnership with Indigenous people, the Weston Loop Master Plan will thoughtfully consider the needs of the future; fostering a harmonious relationship between the river, its ecosystems, and the communities that depend on them, for generations to come.

Acknowledgements

We appreciate all those who gave so generously their time, energy and experience to make the Weston Loop Master Plan possible.

Key contributors include:

- City of Toronto Parks & Recreation (P&R)
- City of Toronto Environment, Climate & Forestry - Urban Forestry
- Evergreen
- Learning Enrichment Foundation (LEF)
- Office of Councillor Frances Nunziata
- The Public Great
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)
- Weston Historical Society
- Weston Village Community Association (WVCA)
- Weston Village Developer Group

Additionally, we wish to acknowledge local individuals and community groups that provided comment and insight on the project:

- Crossroads Theatre
- Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI)
- ENAGB Indigenous Youth Agency
- Frontlines Toronto
- Humber River Calling
- Humber River Pals
- Progress Place Weston Community Hub
- The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- Toronto Nature Stewards
- Toronto Police Service 12 Division
- Weston Collegiate Institute Student Council
- Weston Community Neighbourhood Association (WCNA)
- Weston King Neighbourhood Center (WKNC)
- Weston Village Business Improvement Association (WVBIA)
- York-Weston-Pelham Community Cluster

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ON 401 EXPRESS

NATURE GATEWAY

Crawford-Jones
Park

WESTON RD

GARY DR

Mallaby Park

Crescent

HUMBER RIVER

RIVER COMMONS

CHURCH ST

KING ST

JOHN ST

CHURCH ST

WESTON RD

Cruikshank
Park

ST PHILLIPS RD

Memorial
Park

SPORTS VILLAGE

LAWRENCE AVE W



WESTON

GO/UP EXPRESS RAIL CORRIDOR

WESTON RD

Weston Lions
Park

SORLETT RD

HUMBER
HEIGHTS-WESTMOUNT

LAWRENCE AVE W

weston
Loop
MASTER PLAN



01

Introduction

- Project Introduction
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-
- # 02

Project Introduction

The Humber River is home to an extensive network of parks and trails, enjoyed by countless people today. Nestled within its sunken valley are hidden gems ranging from parklands and urban forests to diverse local flora, fauna, and water access. Weston itself is a designated Neighbourhood Improvement Area with deep village roots – its milling origins and historic streetscapes still anchor a community shaped by successive waves of immigration. Long-standing apartment communities along the valley edge, together with new development and transit investment, contribute to Weston’s distinct identity as a vibrant, diverse, and closely connected place.

While the city has enhanced many public green spaces, Weston has often been overlooked, serving as a passage to destinations further south, such as Lambton Woods, James Gardens, and Étienne Brûlé Park. Though this stretch of the Humber Valley offers nearby green space, much of it remains inaccessible and underutilized. Weston is long overdue for design and investment that reflect the true value of these spaces and the needs of its community. The Weston Loop Master Plan brings the community’s vision for its park system to life. Informed by extensive engagement in 2024 and 2025, it envisions new parks and trails, dynamic destinations, and stronger connections to surrounding neighbourhoods. This is an important step for the future of Weston – a project that will unfold over decades through collaborative networks. Step by step, the Weston Loop will honour Weston’s roots, celebrate its cultural richness, and strengthen the City’s commitment to accessible park space for all. Ultimately, it will create a vibrant network of open spaces that bring people together, celebrate local culture and ecology, and support a healthier, more connected community.

Figure 1: A couple enjoys a walk along the Humber Trail in Cruickshank Park.



Study Scope

SvN Architects & Planners were retained by the Weston Developer Group, in partnership with Councillor Frances Nunziata (York South-Weston) and the Weston Village Community Association (WVCA), to develop a Master Plan for five parks along the Humber River that frame the community of Weston. The five parks are (from north to south): Crawford-Jones Park, Memorial Park, Mallaby Park, Cruickshank Park, Little Avenue Memorial Park, and Weston Lions Park.

The idea for this project was borne out of discussions between Councillor Nunziata, the WVCA, and the Weston Village Developer Group. Recognizing the growth that is planned for Weston in the coming decade, it was acknowledged that now is the time to invest in the neighbourhood’s green spaces. In July 2024, Councillor Frances Nunziata

submitted a motion for Council to endorse a community-built design exercise and Master Plan for the Weston park system. The motion received unanimous support and was adopted without amendment. Member Motion MM20.2 is included in the [Weston Loop Background Report](#) (Appendix C).

A robust, well-connected park system is critical to a great quality of life in Weston for existing residents and new neighbours. This project supports the growth occurring in the Weston community with a series of strategic improvements to its green space network. The Weston Loop Master Plan identifies opportunities to improve connectivity, enhance amenities, and encourage a sense of local ownership and stewardship through the creation of a strong, cohesive identity for the parks of

Weston. The Master Plan includes recommendations for projects that may be funded through the Capital Budget, including through the allocation of Section 42 cash-in-lieu of parkland funds that are collected from new development. There may be opportunities to pool cash-in-lieu contributions from development in Weston to have greater impact for the community.

A comprehensive community engagement program formed the foundation of the Weston Loop Master Plan to identify and address existing gaps or needs, and ensure that community ideas and priorities were reflected as the Master Plan developed. The phasing diagram below (Figure 2) outlines how engagement was carried out in parallel with the Project Phases.



Figure 2: Diagram illustrating the project’s phased timeline and key activities completed within each stage.

5 weston loop PARKS



CRAWFORD-JONES
PARK



MALLABY
PARK



CRUICKSHANK
PARK



MEMORIAL
PARK



WESTON LIONS
PARK

Project Objectives

1

To co-create a community-built design that becomes a symbol of renewal and inspiration for years to come.

The Weston Loop will become a world-class park system for Weston and a destination that draws visitors from across the city. This initiative will bring new life to the Weston Loop parks, enhancing their appeal and accessibility for families, residents, and visitors alike.

2

To showcase the Loop's natural heritage and celebrate the community's socio-cultural diversity

The Humber River park network is an important natural system and recreational destination with deep historical, ecological, and cultural significance to the people of Weston. The Humber River also holds significance for Indigenous people, including but not limited to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, who are Rights Holders and have been the stewards of the land and water for thousands of years.

3

To create an inspirational Master Plan that is also pragmatically implementable.

The Master Plan identifies short, medium, and long-term improvements to the Weston Loop. The Master Plan will be implemented through a combination of City-wide capital funding and cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication to create a unified identity along with other First Nations, and range of programming for the Weston Loop.

Project Team

SvN Architects + Planners is a multidisciplinary, regenerative design practice bringing together a diverse team of architects, urban planners, urban designers, and landscape architects. The Weston Loop Project Team builds on decades of experience in master planning, landscape architecture, and community engagement. In developing the Weston Loop Master Plan, we not only leveraged our in-house expertise but also convened a broad group of stakeholders to provide technical input and guidance. This collaborative approach ensures the plan reflects both professional knowledge and community priorities.

Stakeholder Advisory Group

The Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) was formed to provide feedback to the Project Team at regular intervals to ensure that the work is progressing in accordance with the Project Charter, and to review and comment on draft deliverables. The SAG includes representatives from the following:

- City of Toronto Parks & Recreation (P&R)
- Evergreen
- Learning Enrichment Foundation (LEF)
- Office of Councillor Frances Nunziata
- The Public Great
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)
- Weston Historical Society
- Weston Village Community Association (WVCA)
- Weston Village Developer Group



Project Understanding

- The five parks that are the focus of the Master Plan (Figure 3) are:
- Crawford-Jones Memorial Park (herein referred to as “Crawford-Jones Park”)
 - Mallaby Park
 - Cruickshank Park
 - Little Avenue Memorial Park (herein referred to as “Memorial Park”)
 - Weston Lions Park

The parks line the east side of the Humber River, and together make up approximately 30 hectares (74 acres) of contiguous green space. They form part of Toronto’s Natural Heritage System and are recognized as an Urban River Valley in the Greenbelt Plan, linking local habitats to a broader regional network from Lake Ontario to the Oak Ridges Moraine and Niagara Escarpment. Key features of the parks are summarized in Table 1.

When viewed at a high level, the Weston Loop parks reveal a gradient in both the intensity and type of programming. At the northern end, Crawford-Jones Park is a naturalized space attracting cyclists, picnickers, and nature enthusiasts. In contrast, Weston Lions Park – the most actively programmed and former site of the Weston Fairgrounds – continues to serve as a vibrant community hub. Cruickshank Park sits in between, offering a more passive experience with open spaces for strolling, gatherings, and relaxation. Mallaby Park and Memorial Park act as gateway parks from Weston Road, introducing visitors to the Loop and framing the transition from streetscape to riverfront green space.



Figure 3: Gradient in programming intensity across the five parks, from naturalized Crawford-Jones Park [top left] to the active Weston Lions Park [bottom right].

Park Name	Park Area (ha)	Access	Parking	Park Size Classification	Key Park Features & Facilities
Crawford-Jones Park	9.46	Dee Avenue (direct at-grade access), Cardell Avenue (direct, at-grade access)	Yes, accessed from Dee Avenue	Legacy Park	Humber Trail, Pan Am Path Route, Paths, Bridge, Open Water, Benches, Outdoor Parking Lot, Horticulture Bed
Mallaby Park	0.22	Weston Road at St. Phillips Road (direct, at-grade access), Staircase to Humber River Trail	No	Parkette	Pan Am Path Route, Paths, Benches, Stairs, Horticulture Bed, Bike Share Station
Cruickshank Park	11.94	Weston Road at Conron Place (ramp, ~14.5%), Weston Road at Church Street (staircase)	Yes, accessed from Lawrence Avenue West	Legacy Park	Humber Trail, Pan Am Path Route, Paths, Benches, Drinking Water Station, Outdoor Fitness Equipment, Picnic Tables, Playground, Pathway/Trail, Stairs, Horticulture Bed, Bike Share Station, Outdoor Parking Lot
Memorial Park	0.79	Weston Road Little Avenue (direct, at-grade access), King Street Crescent (direct, at-grade access), Staircase to Humber River Trail	Yes, accessed from Lawrence Avenue West	Small Park	Pan Am Path Route, Paths, Bandstand, War Cenotaph, Humberstone Wall, Benches, Flagpole, Memorials (Placques, Trees, Stone Markers), Picnic Table, Ramp, Shade Structure, Horticulture Bed, Planters, Stairs, Weir
Weston Lions Park	7.42	Lawrence Avenue W, Hickory Tree Road, Bellevue Crescent	Yes, accessed from Hickory Tree Road	City Park	Humber Trail, Pan Am Path Route, Paths, Baseball Diamond, Basketball Court, Benches, Bleacher, Bollards, Drinking Water Station, Ornamental Fountain, Outdoor Parking Lot, Outdoor Pool, Outdoor Tennis Court, Picnic Table, Playground, Shade Structure, Skateboard Park, Soccer Field, Splash Pad, Stairs, Tennis Court Area, Horticulture Bed, Public Art, Toboggan Hill



The Humber Trail weaves through each park, serving as a key connector for Weston and neighbouring communities. However, the trail’s narrow width, poor lighting, limited sightlines, and steep access points from street level raise safety and accessibility concerns. Additionally, a gap in the trail between Crawford-Jones Park and Mallaby Park forces users onto Weston Road, breaking the continuity of the system.

The City of Toronto and TRCA are advancing the Planned Mid-Humber Gap Trail project to complete the missing link along the river (see Chapter 4). Paired with the parks’ existing naturalized buffers, this improved connectivity further strengthens the resilient and integrated open space system of the Weston Loop.

In order to better understand the opportunities within these parks and within the Weston Loop as a whole, Appendix A looks at the existing conditions of each park in more detail.



Table 1: Key existing features of the Weston Loop parks.



Weston in the Watershed

The Weston Loop parks were created as a result of Hurricane Hazel in 1954, when the Humber River flooded the low-lying areas along its banks. The relationship with the river (Figure 4, 5) continues to define and shape park programming opportunities. Because of this, it is important to understand the ecological characteristics of the Humber River watershed as outlined in the TRCA's Humber River Watershed Plan.

The Humber River watershed encompasses a total geography of 90,258 hectares that extends from the river's headwaters originating on the Oak Ridges Moraine in Caledon and King Township. The watershed collects surface water from rainfall and snowmelt that flows over its topography and is collected in streams, rivers, lakes, or groundwater. It flows with gravity towards its final outlet, Lake Ontario. The watershed includes a diverse range of ecological features and green spaces including ravines, creeks, wetlands, and forests, as well as the urban system. The Humber River watershed provides ecosystem services to support one of the largest and densest population centres in Canada. Its open spaces and plant communities filter our air and water, provide wildlife habitat, mitigate flooding, support biodiversity, and provide a range of recreational opportunities.

The Humber River is a sacred entity for many Indigenous peoples. The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation understand the Humber River from the perspective of personhood, as a spiritual being that must be treated with respect and dignity. As a result of its outstanding cultural and recreational values, the Humber River was designated to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System in 1999. More details on the topography, hydrology and ecology of Weston are provided in the [Weston Loop Background Report](#) (Appendix C).

Figure 4: An aerial view of the Humber River, looking south towards its outlet at Lake Ontario.

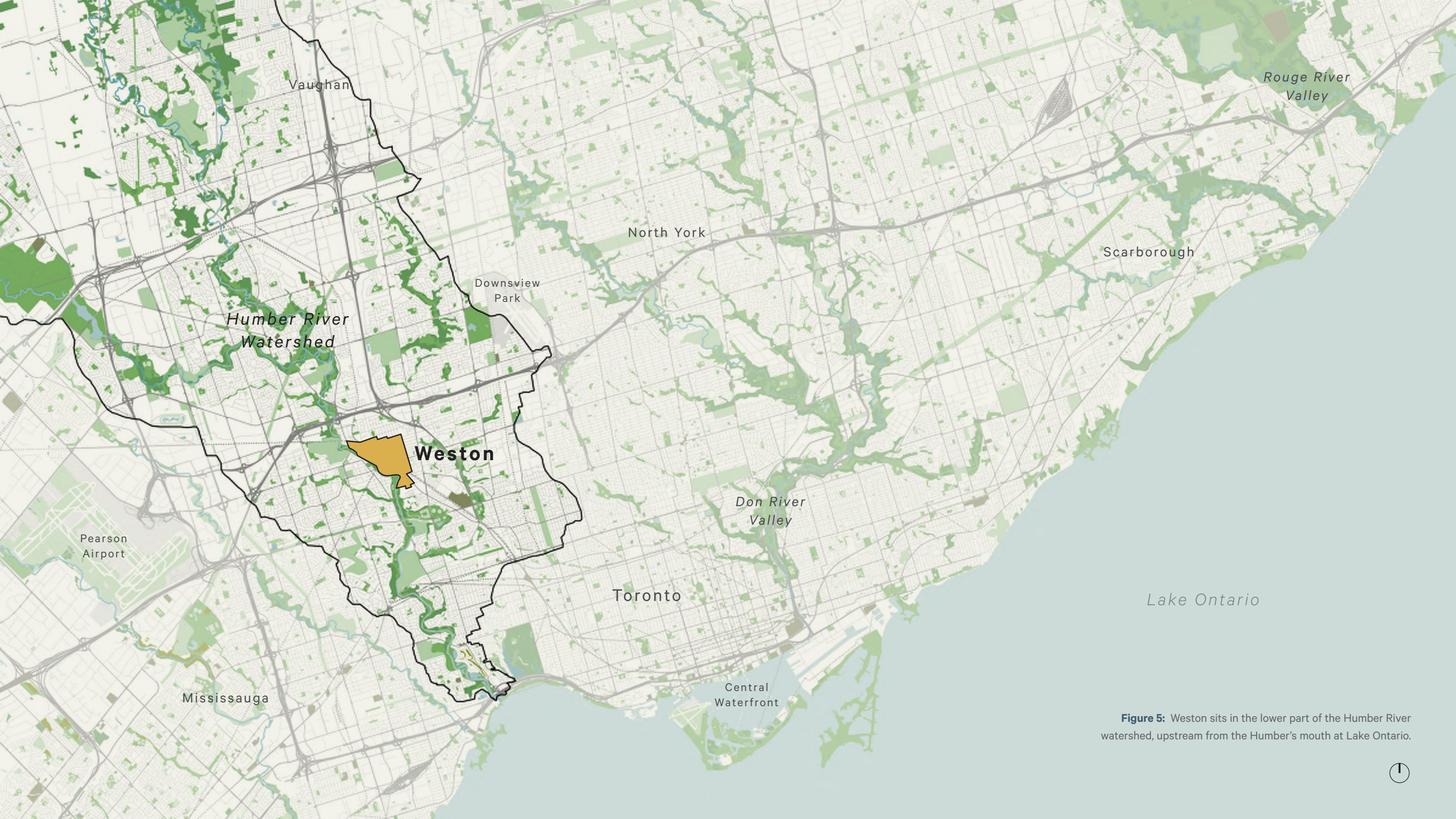


Figure 5: Weston sits in the lower part of the Humber River watershed, upstream from the Humber's mouth at Lake Ontario.

Weston in the Region

The neighbourhood known as Weston Village was a separate municipality prior to the amalgamation of the City of Toronto. This project uses the City of Toronto's boundary for Weston, which is the community closest and directly using the Weston Loop parks. This boundary also serves as the study area for the City's ongoing Weston In Gear Planning Study. The Weston in Gear Study Area is an important context for the Weston Loop, as the planning study will create the framework for future growth and change in Weston. This geography also includes the lands delineated for the Major Transit Station Area associated with the Weston GO station.

The neighbourhood of Weston (Figure 6) is bounded to the north by the CN Rail Corridor, Queenslea Avenue, Walwyn Avenue, Lamont Avenue, Langside Avenue and Woodward Avenue, to the east by Jane Street, Wright Avenue and Sam Frustaglio Drive, to the west by the Humber River and to the south by Clouston Avenue. Weston Village is approximately 10 kilometres northwest of Downtown Toronto, which corresponds to an approximately 15 minute journey by GO Train/UP Express, or a 30 minute drive.

More details on the history of Weston, current demographics, and built form characteristics are included in the [Weston Loop Background Report](#) (Appendix C).

Figure 6: Weston Boundary (Weston In Gear Study Area) and regional connections in relation to the Weston Loop Park System.



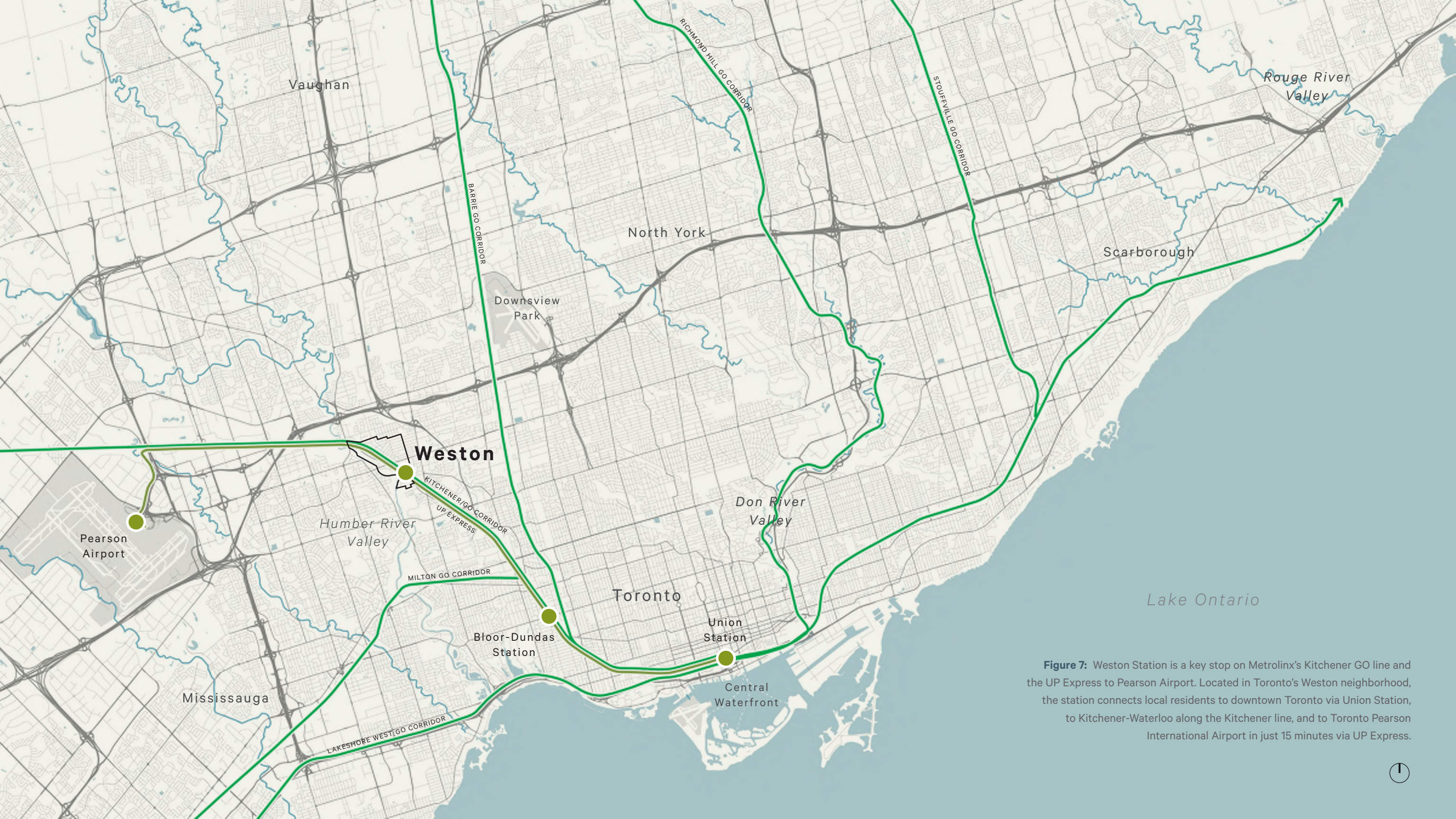


Figure 7: Weston Station is a key stop on Metrolinx's Kitchener GO line and the UP Express to Pearson Airport. Located in Toronto's Weston neighborhood, the station connects local residents to downtown Toronto via Union Station, to Kitchener-Waterloo along the Kitchener line, and to Toronto Pearson International Airport in just 15 minutes via UP Express.

01

02

How We Got Here

03

The Weston Loop Master Plan brings the **community's vision** for its park system to life – rooted in a rich history and shaped through a comprehensive master planning process.

Across the next few chapters, you'll explore the key components that define this vision: revitalized open spaces and trails, vibrant riverfront destinations, and enhanced connections to the surrounding community.

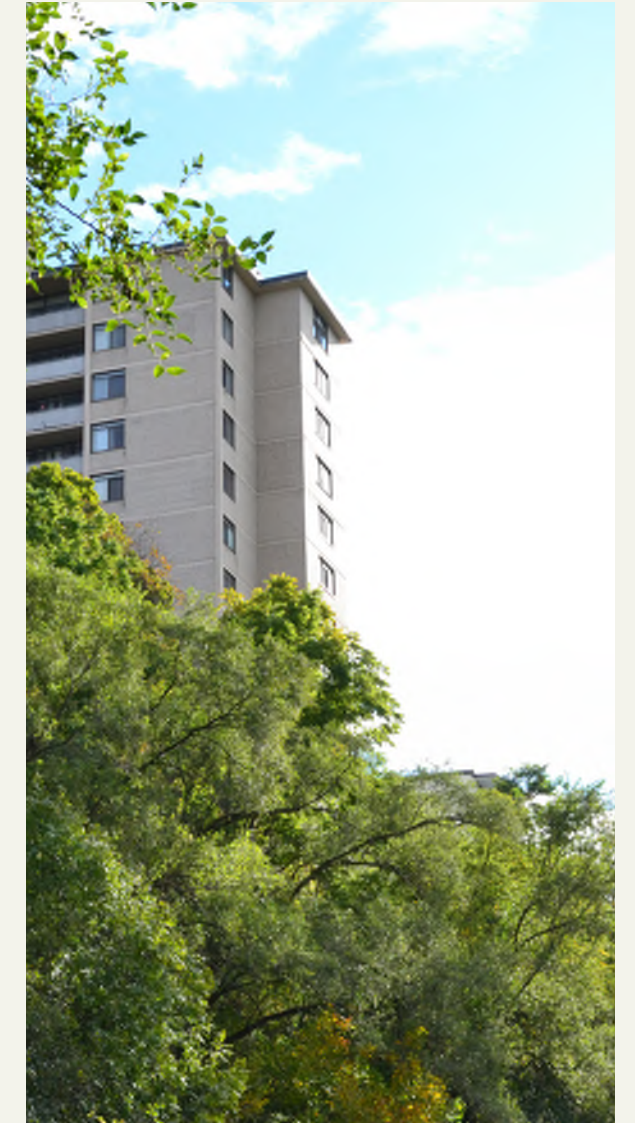
This vision is grounded in a thorough understanding of existing park conditions, extensive community engagement, and detailed background research – all of which are summarized in the Reports found in Appendices A, B, and C.



The **Existing Park Conditions Report** documents the current state of the five parks that make up the Weston Loop – Crawford-Jones, Mallaby, Cruickshank, Memorial, and Weston Lions Parks – and how they connect to the Humber River valley. A complete record of existing park conditions can be found in **Appendix A**.



The **Engagement Summary Report** takes a closer look at the engagement processes through which the community helped set goals and priorities for the Weston loop Master Plan. A full record of engagement activities can be found in the **Appendix B**.



The **Background Report** provides the foundation for this Master Plan, compiling research on the area's history, environment, demographics, and policy context. A full version of the Report can be found in **Appendix C**.

02

03

Moving Forward

- The Weston Loop Vision
- The Parks as a Series of Loops
- Breaking It Down
- The Master Plan

04

A person wearing a red and white striped shirt and a black cap is sitting on a wooden bench in a park. They are looking towards a waterfall in the background, which is surrounded by lush green trees. The scene is peaceful and scenic.

The Weston Loop Vision

A New Direction for the Weston Loop

Engagement feedback (Appendix B) clearly expressed that community members share a desire for more *presence*, more *care*, and more *activation* in the Weston Loop parks system, as well as the need for infrastructure to support the long-term achievement of these goals. The Weston Loop Master Plan represents a fresh commitment to renewing and reimagining the community's green network. With recommendations for the parks to be implemented in parallel with timely streetscape improvements, other planning initiatives and future developments, the Master Plan is a cohesive and integrated approach to community growth.

Vision Statement & Guiding Principles

To ensure consistency throughout the design process, a **Vision Statement** was established early in the engagement process to outline the long-term goals and aspirations for the Master Plan. The Vision Statement is further articulated through a series of **Guiding Principles** (Page 26), to inform and direct future decision-making. These principles outlined specific actions that informed the master planning process and will continue to shape the park system's implementation, stewardship, and evolution over time.

Rooted in Weston's rich cultural history, natural landscape, and strong community identity, these principles reflect the priorities of local residents and stakeholders. They are intended to inspire inclusive, resilient, and ecologically sensitive designs, ensuring that the Humber River and its surrounding parks remain cherished, accessible, and thriving public spaces for years to come.

“The Weston Loop will build on the identity of the much-loved park network in Weston, knitting the parks together with novel connections and destinations through a 4-km multi-use trail. This community-led plan will breathe new life into 74-acres of green spaces, enhancing their appeal and accessibility for families and residents of all ages.”



Figure 8: The Vision Statement for the Weston Loop Master Plan.

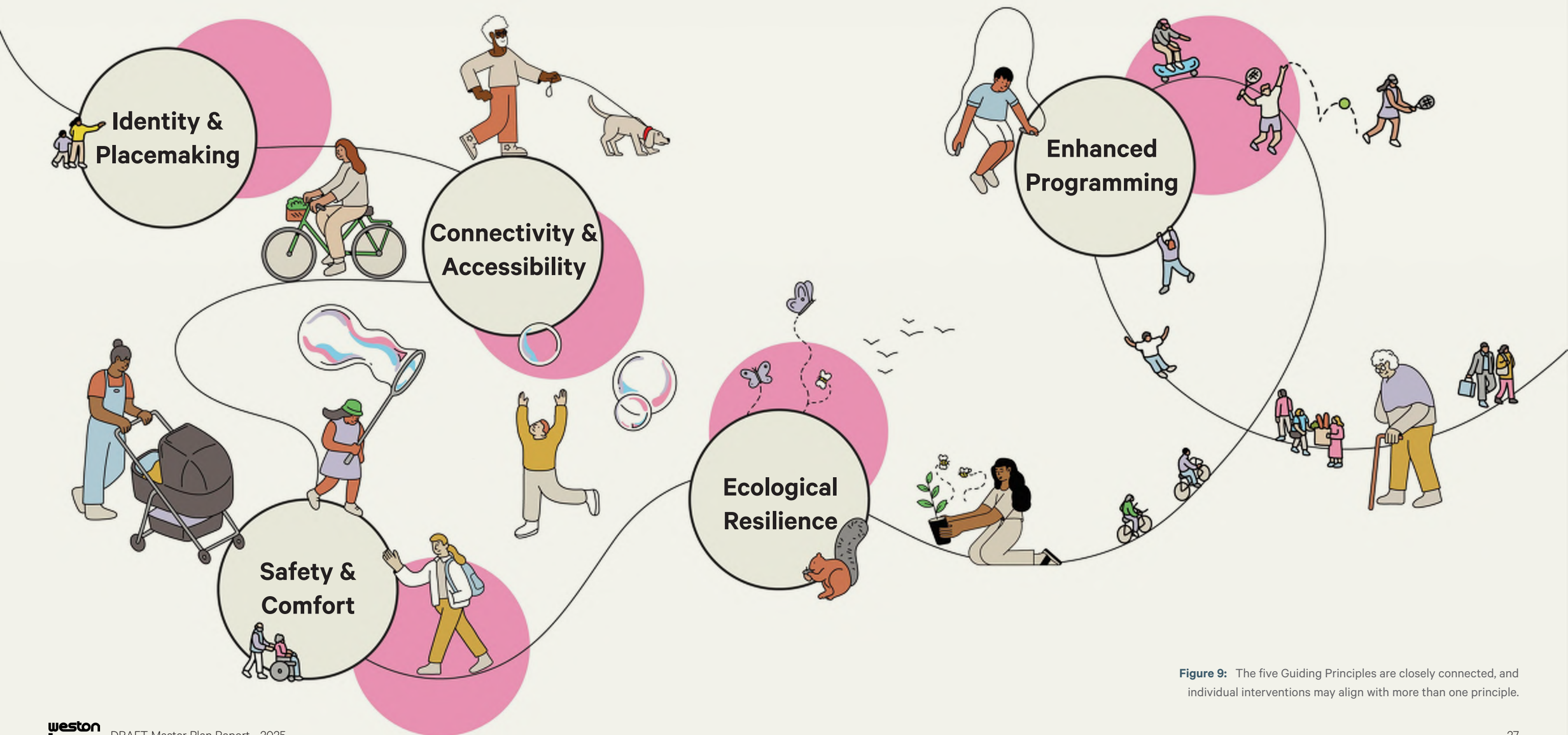


Figure 9: The five Guiding Principles are closely connected, and individual interventions may align with more than one principle.

Landscape Framework

The Landscape Framework translates Weston’s Vision Statement and Guiding Principles into a clear and actionable design strategy. Grounded in extensive community engagement, outreach, and site analysis, it provides a cohesive structure to guide future park improvements, enhance public use, and strengthen ecological resilience. By unifying the complexities of the five study area parks into a shared vision, the Framework sets a path forward for initiatives that reflect local insight and reinforce Weston’s strong sense of place.

At the heart of this strategy is the **Landscape Toolkit** (Figure 12) - a collection of design ideas and adaptable features that can be mixed and matched to shape different areas of the park. The Toolkit translates big-picture goals into tangible elements (such as paths, plantings, and furnishings) tailored to the unique character of each site. Developed through public consultation, background research, analysis mapping, and site explorations, the Toolkit ensures that design decisions are rooted in both community priorities and site-specific realities.

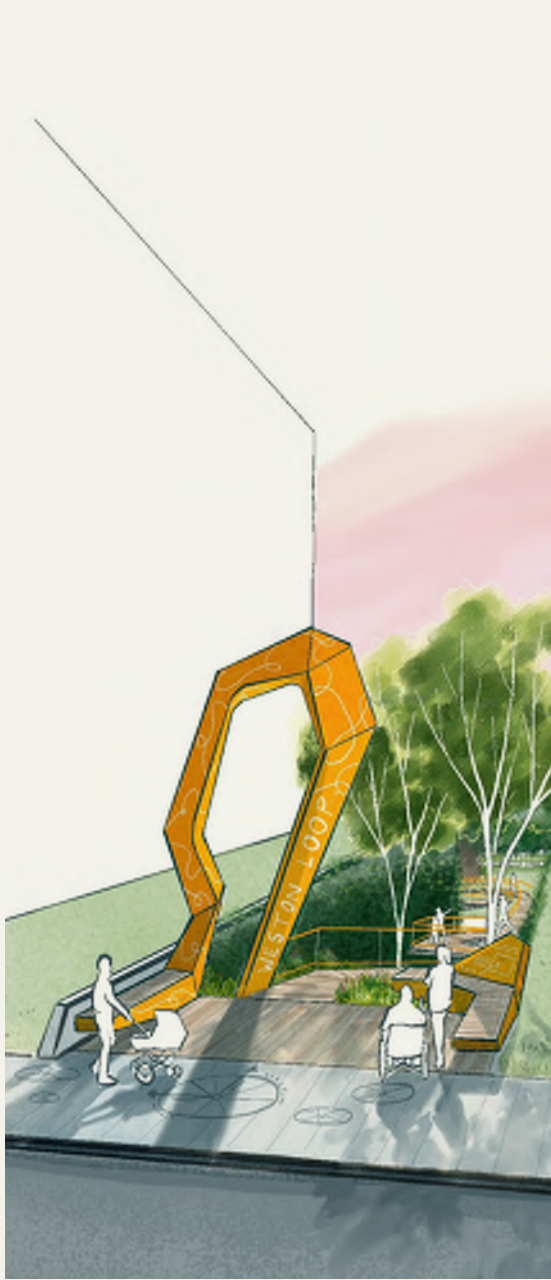
Building on the Toolkit, five **Landscape Typologies** (Figure 13) illustrate the conceptual experience of Weston’s renewed park network. These Typologies propose key design interventions that emphasize accessibility, connectivity, and ecological resilience, positioning Weston as a vibrant riverfront park destination within the City of Toronto. Designed to be “siteless,” the Typologies are flexible and can be applied across multiple locations along the Weston Loop. Chapter 4: A Walk Through Weston demonstrates how these Typologies can be adapted and refined to suit specific sites along the **Master Plan**.

Figure 10: Roadmap for the Landscape Framework process.





Figure 11: The Landscape Toolkit is a collection of design ideas and adaptable feature that can be mixed and matched to shape different areas of the Weston Loop.



Park Gateways



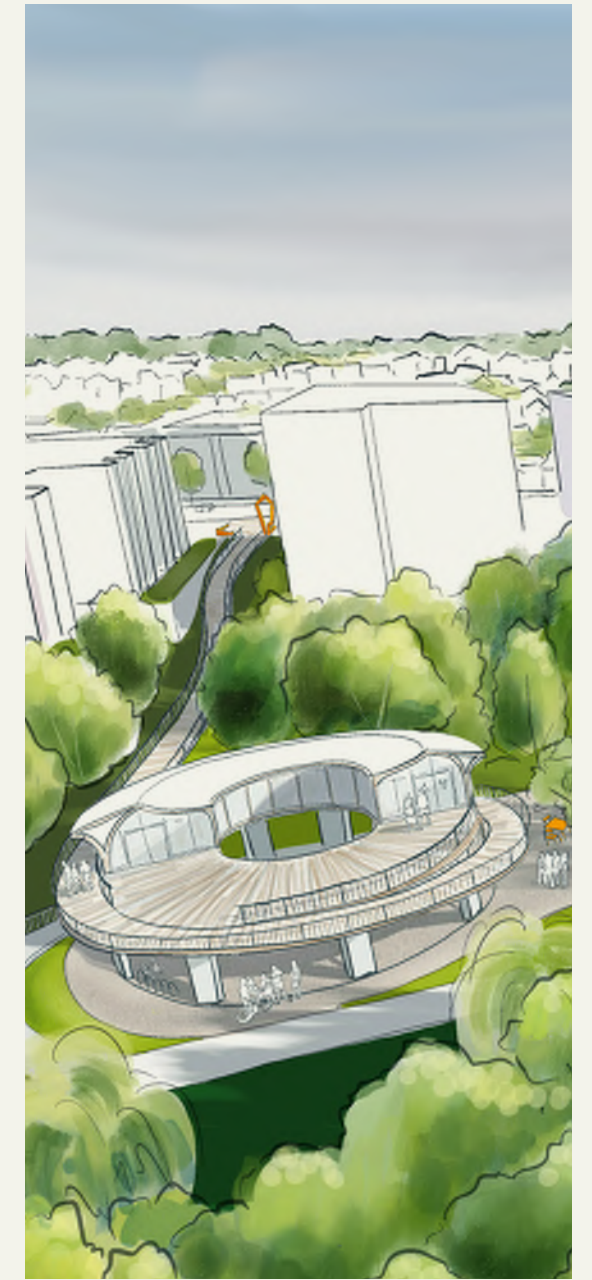
Connections to Water



Nodes



Multi-Use Path Improvements



Park Hubs

Figure 12: The Landscape Typologies are designed to be repetitive, “siteless” designs and can be applied across multiple locations along the Weston Loop.

A person wearing a dark shirt and shorts is riding a bicycle away from the camera on a paved path. The path is surrounded by dense green trees and foliage. To the right of the path is a grassy area. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The title 'The Parks as a Series of Loops' is centered over the image, flanked by two horizontal white lines.

The Parks as a Series of Loops

What is a Loop?

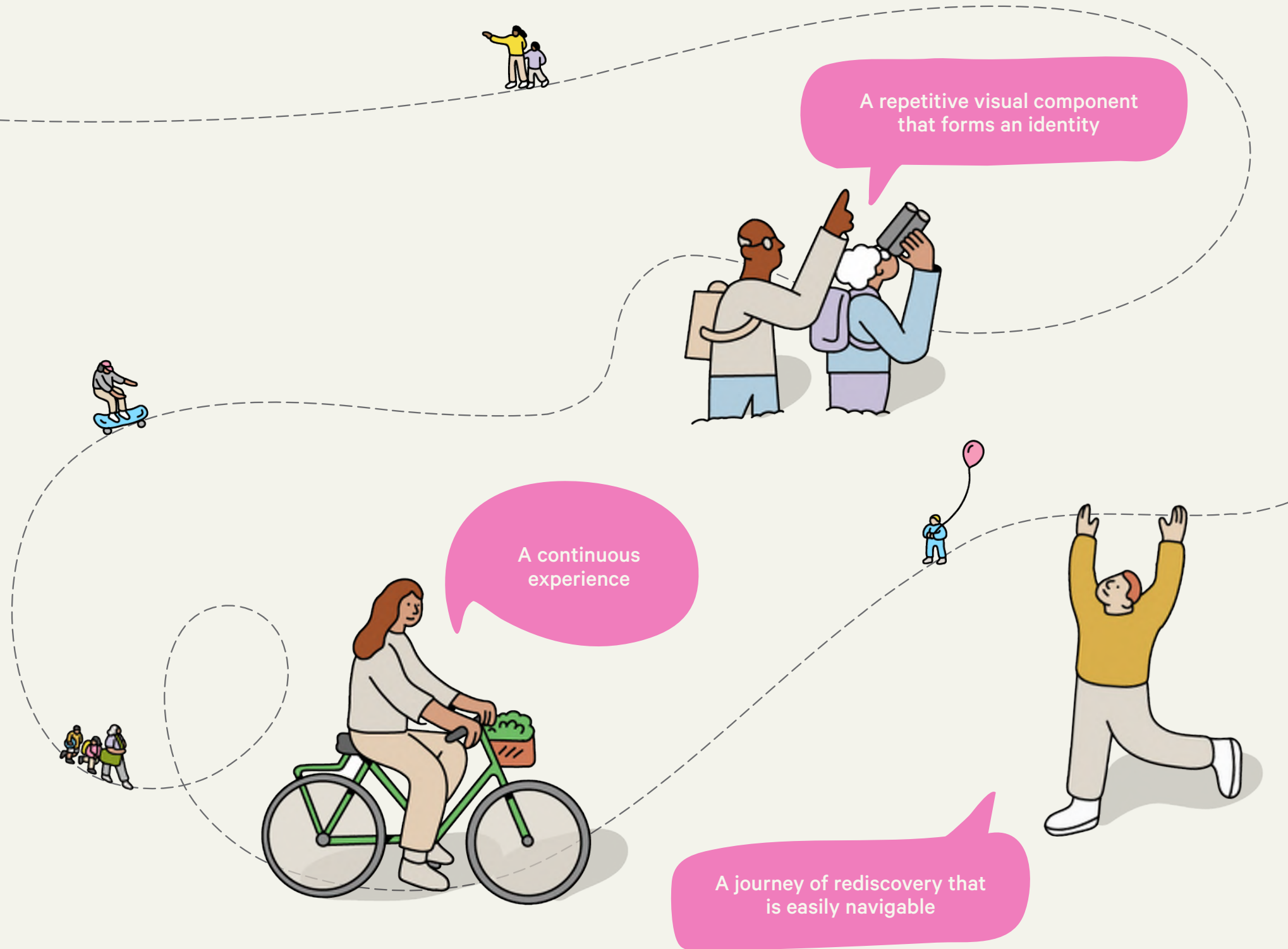
Throughout the design process, the concept of the “Loop” has evolved into a defining feature of the Master Plan. More than paths, the Loops are continuous experiences: intuitive, accessible routes that encourage movement and exploration, while connecting people to a rich mix of environments. From naturalized riverfronts and ecologically significant areas, to active recreation spaces and quieter, passive zones, each loop ensures a rich and varied park experience.

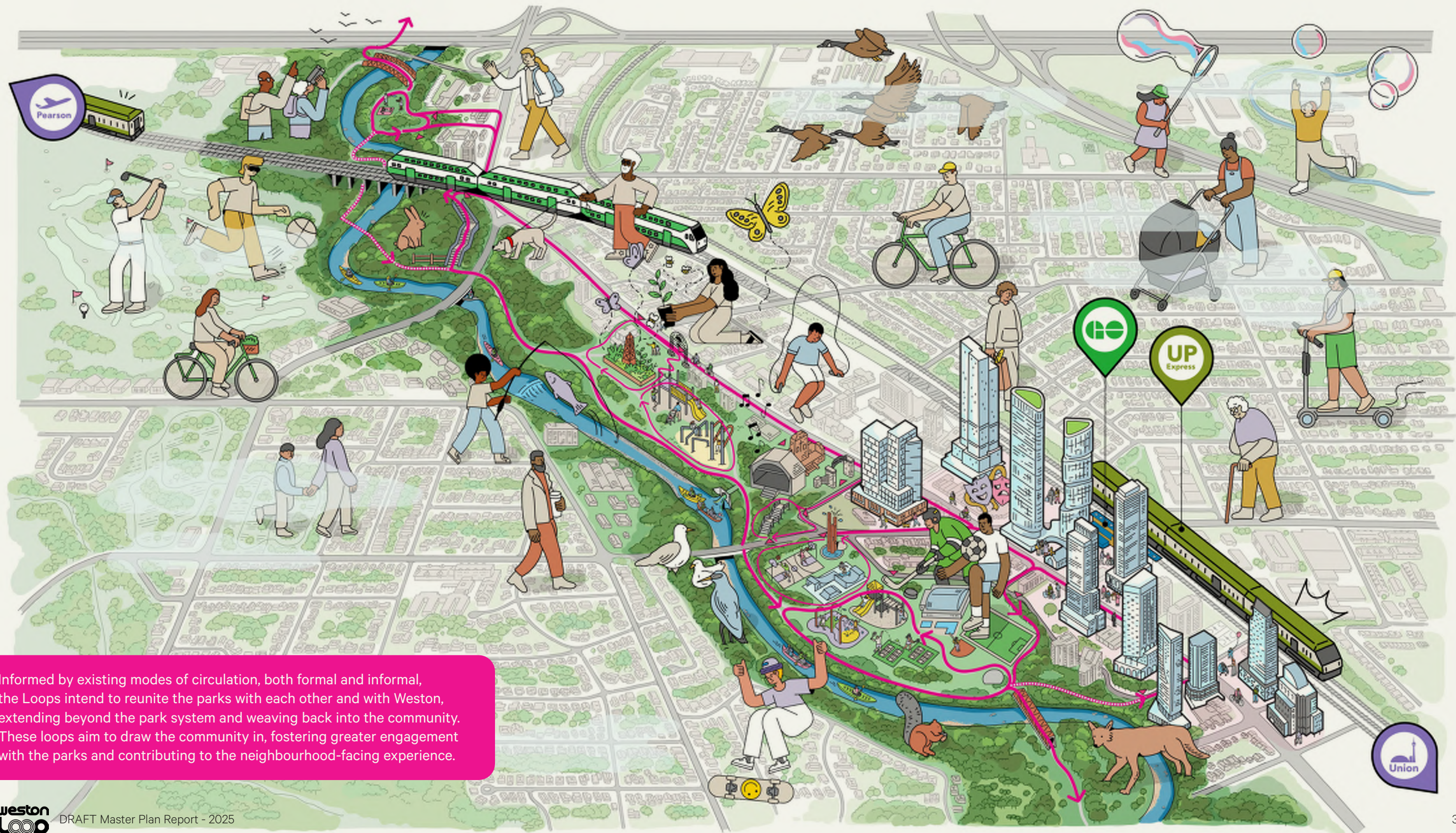
By activating key destinations and integrating them into the fabric of everyday life, the parks become places of familiarity - encouraging people to return time and time again. The Loops aim to reunite the parks with each other and with the community, extending beyond the park system and weaving back into everyday neighbourhood life. The result is a park system that serves existing and future communities for generations to come.

The Loops offer a diverse range of landscape experiences, including:

- Spaces along Weston Road that serve as gateways into the Weston Loop parks system;
- Spaces adjacent to the Humber River;
- Spaces for active and passive recreation for all ages and abilities;
- Spaces of ecological significance that support wildlife habitat, connectivity, and education.

Within the Master Plan, the Loops employ the Landscape Framework on a larger scale. Each loop contains at least one accessible entrance and one park hub, ensuring universal access and key gathering spaces throughout the park system as a whole.





A photograph of a garden scene. In the foreground, there are several tall, thin stems with yellow flowers, possibly Black-eyed Susans, and some purple flowers at the bottom left. To the right, there is a wooden trellis structure made of weathered wood. In the background, there is a wooden structure with a pointed roof, possibly a gazebo or a small pavilion, and some green foliage. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

Breaking It Down

Accessible Park Entrances

With only one of eight park entrances meeting accessibility standards and directly connecting to the Humber Trail, the Weston Loop's 74-acre network remains largely untapped, limiting the potential impact of future investments.

The Master Plan aims to create a universally accessible and welcoming park system, ensuring that each park includes at least one clearly defined, barrier-free entrance designed with gentle slopes (maximum 5%), smooth paving transitions, clear sightlines, and intuitive wayfinding. Accessibility in the plan is defined not only by compliance with AODA standards but also by a visually legible design language – including consistent materials, furnishings, paving patterns, and planting palettes – that signal inclusivity and ease of movement for all users.

Proposed access improvements will be prioritized based on their connectivity to denser neighbourhood areas and major trail or parking access points, recognizing that centralized, well-connected entrances may better serve users.

These entrances will serve as inviting, highly visible thresholds, emphasizing the importance of clear and accessible connections between the parks, the Humber Trail, and major neighbourhood streets such as Weston Road and Lawrence Avenue. By strengthening these linkages, the Master Plan enhances both physical and visual accessibility, allowing the Weston Loop to function as a connected, inclusive, and easily navigable park system that reflects the character and identity of its surrounding communities.





Pedestrian Pathways & Plazas

The Weston Loop builds on the existing Humber Trail network by introducing new gateways, paths, plazas, and nodes that encourage users to wander, stroll, and discover something unexpected. Key to unlocking this system is the completion of the Planned Mid-Humber Gap Trail, which will link all five study area parks and integrate the Weston Loop into Toronto's broader Loop Trail network - improving access, particularly to Crawford-Jones Park, and creating a continuous pedestrian and cycling route along the river.

To accommodate anticipated increases in park usage, the existing multi-use trail is widened from three metres to four metres. Painting and striping differentiates lanes for pedestrians and cyclists to further increase comfort and safety for both users. Existing secondary paths will also be expanded from 2m to 3m, with realignments to improve comfort and circulation near new programmed spaces. New paths provide greater connectivity between key destinations, improve circulation around gathering areas, and create more accessible routes for users of all ages.

The trail network has been designed to avoid steep slopes, sensitive forested areas, and locations close to the river's edge, ensuring that ecological integrity remains a priority. The overall system is designed to align with the City of Toronto's wayfinding strategy, creating opportunities to incorporate cohesive interpretive elements, directional signage, and educational features that reinforce the park identity and enhance user experience.

Vehicular Access & Parking

The Master Plan reinforces vehicular access being limited to the existing parking areas (Table 2), ensuring most of the park remains car-free and pedestrian-friendly. Three existing parking lots - located at the far north, lower central, and southern ends of the Weston Loop - provide convenient, accessible entry points for all visitors. Each parking area connects to adjacent trails and park amenities through accessible routes, ensuring universal access for people of all ages and abilities. Emergency and maintenance vehicles will have access across the site via the expanded four metre wide Humber Trail.

PARKING LOT LOCATION	NUMBER OF PARKING SPOTS
Crawford-Jones Park	30 (+/- 0)
Cruikshank Park	32 (+/- 0)
Weston Lions Park	98 (-11)

Table 2: Proposed parking lot counts.

At Weston Lions Park, parking is slightly reduced to prioritize pedestrian and cyclist safety. Removing eleven spaces creates a safer, more welcoming plaza in front of the poolhouse, and improves access to the arena, splash pad, and upgraded playground. New tree planting enhances shade and comfort, while broader City initiatives such as Weston Complete Streets, Weston Cycling Connections, and Bike Share expansions encourage active transportation and transit access.

Figure 13: Reduced parking lot at Weston Lions Park.





Identity & Placemaking

Weston's strong identity should be woven throughout the park system, ensuring it resonates beyond its boundaries. The edges of the Weston Loop can serve as lively gateways, connecting with nearby neighbourhoods, businesses, and cultural destinations while drawing people into the park. Involving local artists through public art, temporary installations, and curated experiences will ensure the parks feel like an extension of the community rather than separate from it.

The parks also hold a rich record of local history through monuments, memorials, and plaques. Historical markers honour the Carrying Place Trail, milling heritage, lumberstone uses, prominent historic figures, and the impact of Hurricane Hazel. At Mallaby and Memorial, historical interpretation forms the basis for park improvements. At Crawford-Jones, Cruickshank, and Weston Lions, various Connections to water offer opportunities to reflect on the Humber River's historic and ongoing influence on Weston. Park gateways present additional opportunities for placemaking and storytelling.

As the Master Plan advances, Indigenous and community consultation will guide the preservation and integration of these elements. Future placemaking initiatives, informed by engagement, will highlight the historical presence and significance of the Humber River to Indigenous groups while restored ecosystems and thoughtfully designed lookout points invite reflection, maintain safety, protect riparian vegetation, and preserve the cultural and ecological stories of Weston for future generations.

Safety & Comfort

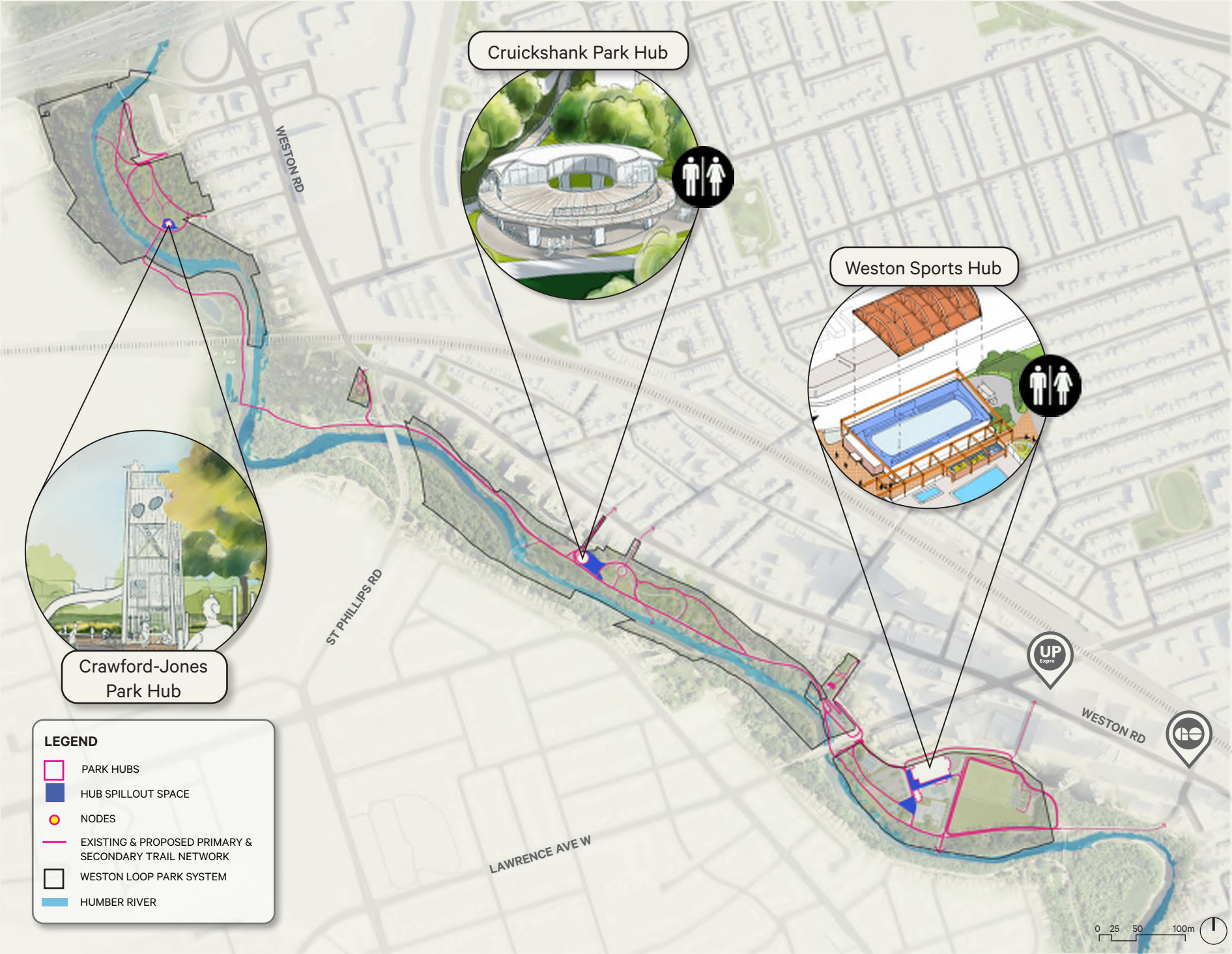
Safety & Comfort

A safe, welcoming park is one that feels alive. By activating spaces with community events, educational programs, and seasonal installations, the Weston Loop fosters a steady presence of people and a shared sense of care. Coordinated lighting will illuminate key routes and gathering areas, making movement safer and more comfortable after dark, while emergency blue light poles along the Humber Trail provide quick access to help if needed.

Park Hubs serve as vibrant social anchors centered around spillout plazas that support partnerships with local schools, youth programs, and neighbourhood organizations. Designed for flexible programming and community use, these Hubs strengthen the park’s social infrastructure while enhancing accessibility, stewardship, and overall experience. Each Hub functions as a resilient cultural gathering space and inclusive community resource, implemented with a light-touch approach to protect sensitive natural areas.

Dedicated operations facilities at each Park Hub will ensure the parks remain clean, well-maintained, and ready to welcome visitors in every season. Strategically located for maintenance efficiency, these facilities help keep the Loop safe and cared for year-round. Early planning for this infrastructure ensures the Weston Loop remains a thriving public space for decades to come.

A centrally located, 24/7 washroom at the Cruickshank Hub will serve playgrounds, outdoor classrooms, and children’s gardens, complementing the existing facility at Weston Lions Park, which already supports the pool, courts, and sports fields. Together, these amenities ensure the Weston Loop can comfortably support daily community use.



Climate Change & Environment

Toronto's ravines are among the city's most ecologically significant assets, forming an interconnected green network that supports biodiversity, mitigates urban heat, and provides critical habitat for wildlife. Protecting and enhancing these corridors is a key priority, with an emphasis on maintaining healthy vegetation and minimizing interventions that could disrupt ecological balance.

The Master Plan takes an integrated approach to climate resilience and environmental stewardship, aligning with the City of Toronto's Ravine Strategy, Official Plan, Biodiversity Strategy, Humber River Watershed Plan, and TRCA priorities. It identifies opportunities for riparian restoration, habitat creation, and native planting to strengthen ecological function, while addressing one of the city's most pressing climate concerns: flood and erosion management. Strategies such as natural erosion prevention, absorptive landscapes, and green infrastructure (e.g., naturalized storm outfalls) help reduce flood risk and protect public safety along the Humber's waterways.

Restoration will be carefully balanced with park programming to protect sensitive habitats and maintain natural processes. Collaboration with relevant agencies (see Chapter 5) will guide gunding, design and implementation, while expanded canopy coverage and shaded routes enhance comfort during extreme heat.

Future detailed design will map existing protected riparian zones and proposed restoration areas, clarifying which spaces will be preserved and which will be enhanced with native plantings. Work will be carried out to ensure ecological best practices and support RNFP in confirming protected areas and restoration priorities.



Nature-based solutions are embedded across the park system. Expanding meadows in underused lawn areas at Crawford-Jones, Cruickshank, and Memorial will improve habitat, while renaturalization efforts (often led by volunteer groups such as Humber River Pals and Toronto Nature Stewards) help restore native plant communities and reduce pressures from invasive species and erosion. Chapter 5 provides guidance on the ongoing stewardship of these ecosystems. This approach is designed to align with the stewardship and partnership strategies outlined in the City of Toronto’s Natural Environment Trail Strategy.

Designated river overlooks allow visitors to experience the water’s edge while preventing informal “desire paths,” contributing to bank stabilization and long-term ecological health. All improvements are designed to protect and expand the mature tree canopy and ravine habitat, with targeted stewardship along the river to remove invasives and restore native flora. Rehabilitated areas can also serve as living classrooms, fostering environmental education and stewardship.

Habitat creation is integrated throughout the park network, including Crawford-Jones’ Birch Grove, Pollinator Meadows, and Nature Play; Cruickshank’s Cherry Tree Way, Pollinator Gardens, and Children’s Gardens; and Memorial’s Wetland Restoration and expanded Humberstone planting. Together, these efforts reinforce connections to the Humber’s broader ravine system and advance a resilient, climate-adaptive open space network that balances ecological protection with community use.



Figure 14: Pollinate TO garden at Cruickshank Park.



Figure 15: Ravine edge at Crawford-Jones Park.



Figure 16: Naturalized ravine edge and pollinator-friendly perennials.



Figure 17: Ducks gathering by the river’s edge at Weston Lions Park.

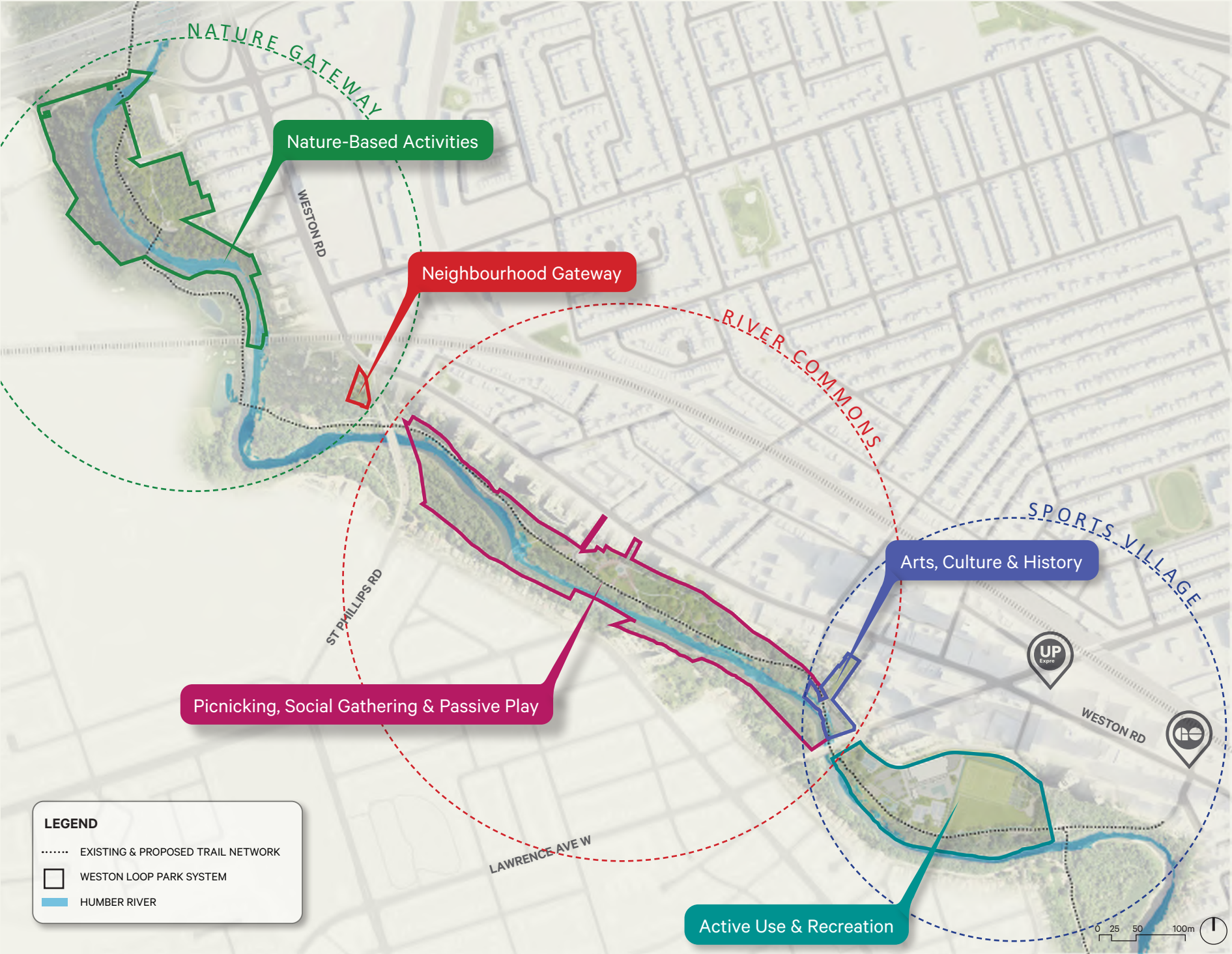
A Gradient of Park Programs

The Weston Loop builds on the unique character of each park, creating a connected system of spaces that serve both local residents and visitors from across Toronto. The goal is an inclusive, accessible park network designed for all ages and abilities, offering activities that foster community connection, shared experiences, and year-round vibrancy.

Park uses and amenities are arranged along the loop in a thoughtful progression, from the quieter, nature-focused, and ecologically sensitive Crawford-Jones Park to the vibrant Weston Lions, which serves as an active hub for active recreation, amenities, and community events. This rhythm follows the existing program gradient from north to south and ensures a balance of lively social spaces and restorative natural areas.

The Master Plan avoids proposing additional programming between the existing Humber Trail and the river, recognizing the ecological sensitivity of this zone. Within the parks, any proposed programming intends to align with the existing park character and improvements already outlined in the City of Toronto’s Parks & Recreational Capital Plan.

Chapter 4: A Walk Through Weston, provides an in-depth overview of the proposed programming along the Weston Loop.



An aerial photograph of a city park area. A river flows through the center, bordered by a red line that likely represents a trail or park boundary. The park includes various green spaces, trees, and recreational facilities such as soccer fields, tennis courts, and basketball courts. The surrounding urban area is visible with buildings and streets. The text "The Master Plan" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

The Master Plan

The Big Moves

The **Big Moves** (Figure 18) outline the key design strategies that translate the Weston Loop vision into coordinated, on-the-ground action in the form of a Master Plan. They establish clear priorities for design decisions, investment and phasing, ensuring that future improvements are guided by a cohesive, place-specific framework.

Each Big Move identifies where design efforts can have the greatest impact – enhancing connectivity, enriching ecological systems, and creating dynamic public spaces that respond to community needs. Together, they chart a clear path from concept to implementation, shaping a park system that continues to evolve and inspire over time.



- #1** Provide at least one universally accessible entrance per park to encourage comfortable pedestrian access regardless of age or ability
- #2** Widen the Humber Trail to accommodate shared-use movement and space-proof for future increases in activity
- #3** Create multi-use hubs and gathering nodes along the Humber Trail
- #4** Protect existing vegetation, expand native meadows, and restore riparian areas to strengthen biodiversity and resilience
- #5** Strengthen park identity through gateways and wayfinding to connect the parks back to the community
- #6** Create flexible and inclusive park programs that enable year-round gathering and recreation to encourage higher use of parks

Figure 18: The Big Moves for the Weston Loop Master Plan that translate broader Landscape Framework into tangible improvements throughout the parks.

ON 401 EXPRESS

NATURE GATEWAY

Crawford-Jones
Park

WESTON RD

GARY DR

Mallaby Park

Crescent

HUMBER RIVER

RIVER COMMONS

CHURCH ST

KING ST

JOHN ST

CHURCH ST

WESTON RD

Cruikshank
Park

ST PHILLIPS RD

Memorial
Park

SPORTS VILLAGE

LAWRENCE AVE W



WESTON

GO/UP EXPRESS RAIL CORRIDOR

WESTON RD

Weston Lions
Park

SORLETT RD

HUMBER
HEIGHTS-WESTMOUNT

LAWRENCE AVE W

weston
Loop
MASTER PLAN

