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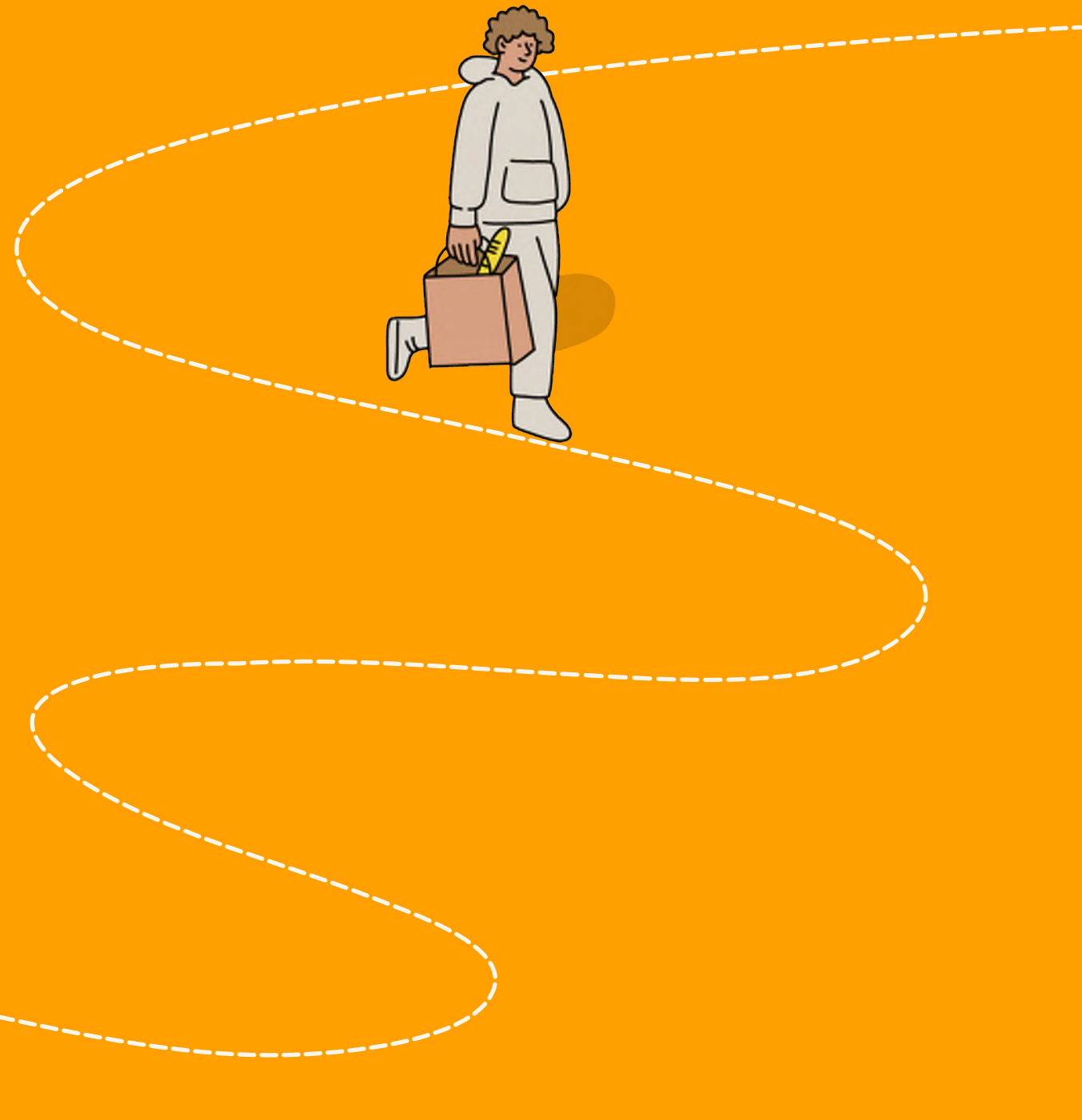
A Walk Through the Weston Loop

- Crawford-Jones Park
- Mallaby Park
- Cruickshank Park
- Memorial Park
- Weston Lions Park

05

On a typical weekend through Toronto's multi-use trail network, one section now stands out: the newly completed **Weston Loop** is officially opened to the public.

As a key component of the City's broader Loop Trail vision, its completion marks a major milestone in expanding Toronto's connected green infrastructure. Five revitalized parks now anchor the area, establishing Weston as a world-class park destination for residents and visitors alike.





Crawford-Jones Park

Crossing the Bridge into Crawford-Jones Park

Emerging from the long, shaded underpass beneath the ON-401 highway, the trail crosses a bridge over the Humber River and returns to the east bank. Here, Crawford-Jones Park unfolds – a quiet threshold into something larger. This is the northernmost point of the Weston Loop, where a new gateway signals arrival. Bold public art and thoughtful wayfinding invite exploration, pointing toward key destinations throughout the Loop.

The air is calm, yet alive with subtle activity. Beyond the gateway, a birch grove honors the site’s ecology, as noted by interpretive signage. Among the grey and white trunks, a storytelling circle comes into view just off the trail. Surrounded by the rustle of leaves and steady presence of the Humber, the space invites a pause. Here, Indigenous youth and elders gather, sharing stories and ceremonies, while cyclists slow and pedestrians drift inward, drawn to a setting that encourages reflection, gathering, and quiet engagement with nature – whether through shared stories or the simple act of forest bathing.

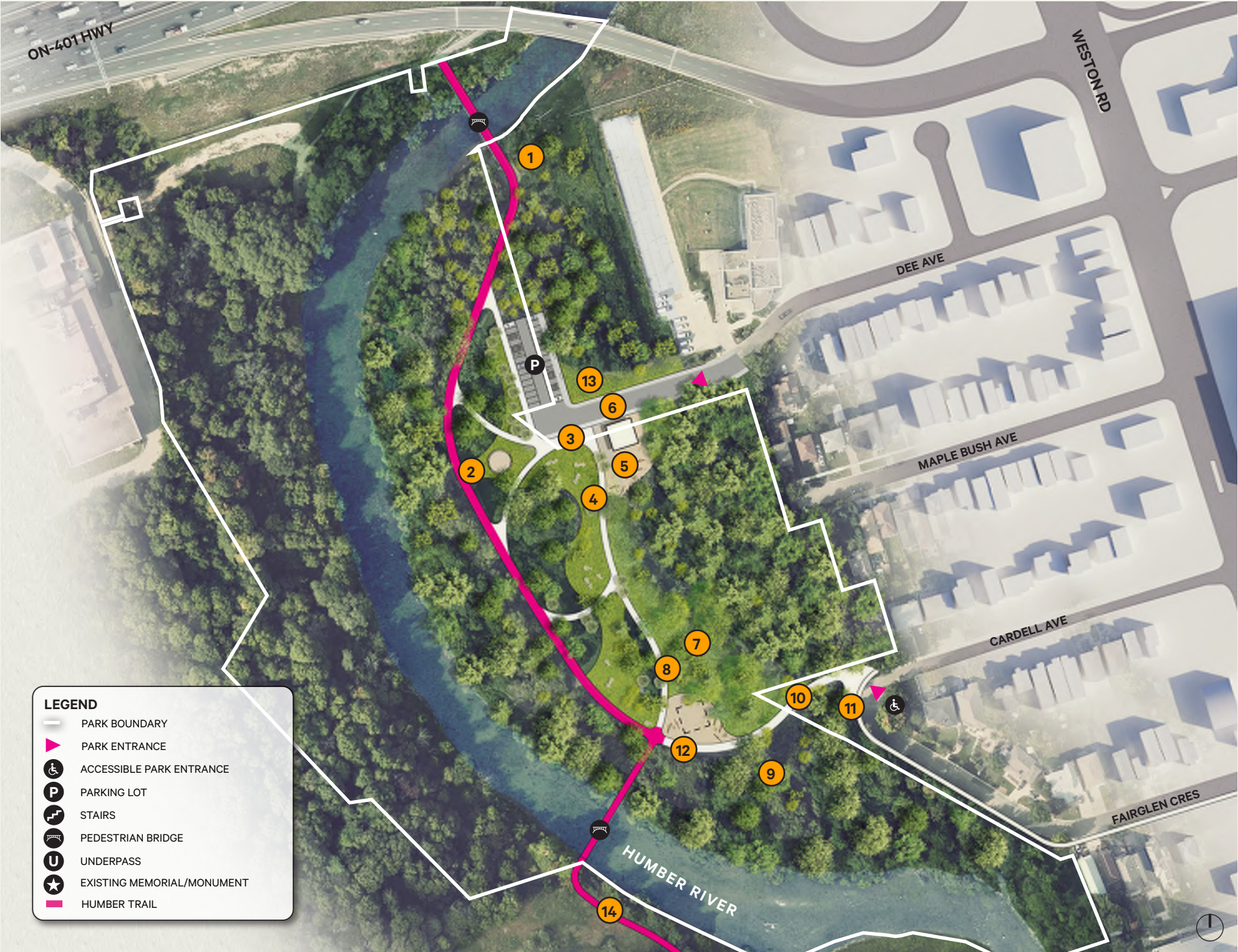


Figure 19: Bridge into Crawford-Jones Park, looking towards the ON-401 underpass.



FEATURED PROGRAMMING

- ① Gateway & Public Art Feature
- ② Birch Grove & Storytelling Circle
- ③ Entry Plaza
- ④ Great Lawn & Picnic Area
- ⑤ Nature Play & Woodland Scramble
- ⑥ Crawford-Jones Park Hub
- ⑦ Expanded Pollinator Meadow
- ⑧ Path Improvements
- ⑨ Bird Watching Pavilion
- ⑩ Elevated Boardwalk
- ⑪ Accessible Entrance
- ⑫ Alternate Crawford-Jones Park Hub Location
- ⑬ Space-proof for Portable Washroom Facility
- ⑭ Planned Mid-Humber Gap Trail (By City of Toronto & TRCA)





2 Birch Grove



2 Storytelling Circle



9 Bird Watching Pavilion

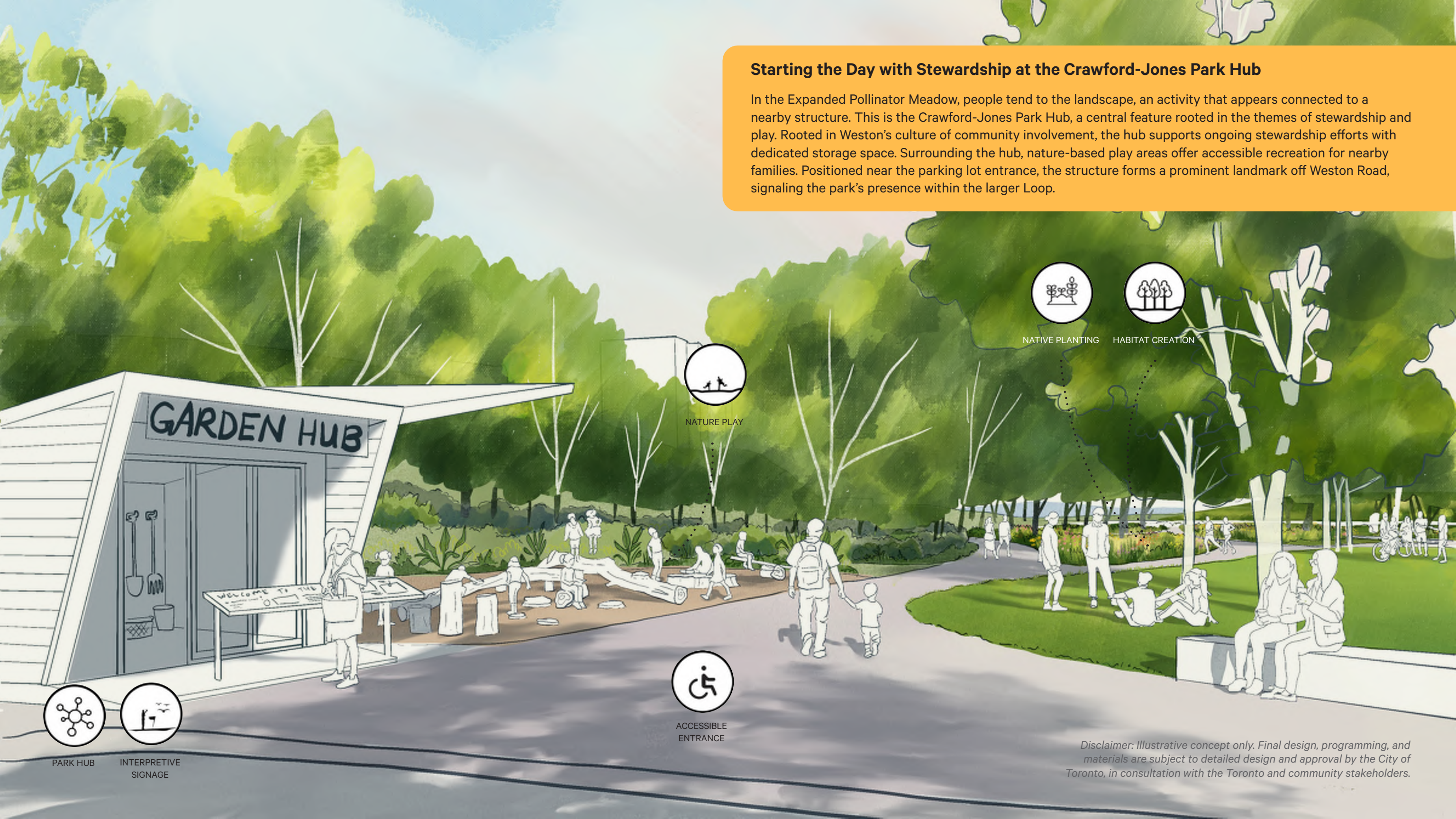
Further along the trail, the park opens into spaces that invite gentle, passive activity. Circulation improvements follow a low-impact approach, aligning with existing desire lines to minimize disturbance within the floodplain and protect mature tree stands. Nearby, a lawn and picnic area is tucked between mature woodland and revitalized meadow, animated with families enjoying lunches, children chasing bubbles, and small groups gathered under shade trees.

The meadow itself is vibrant with native wildflowers, while habitat towers rise gently above the blooms. Birdsong mingles with the laughter of children exploring the space, while joggers and cyclists pass by along the trail. Approaching the meadow, interpretive educational signage comes into view, inviting people to learn about the ecological importance of Toronto's ravine system as a key corridor for migratory birds. Proposed elements such as natural bird nesting structures and bird watching pavilions provide immersive experiences, while remaining sensitive to the surrounding ecology. These efforts are strengthened by active community stewardship, with volunteers and visitors alike contributing to habitat care, fostering a reciprocal relationship between people and place.

Connect the park
to the rest of the
Humber River Trail!

Starting the Day with Stewardship at the Crawford-Jones Park Hub

In the Expanded Pollinator Meadow, people tend to the landscape, an activity that appears connected to a nearby structure. This is the Crawford-Jones Park Hub, a central feature rooted in the themes of stewardship and play. Rooted in Weston's culture of community involvement, the hub supports ongoing stewardship efforts with dedicated storage space. Surrounding the hub, nature-based play areas offer accessible recreation for nearby families. Positioned near the parking lot entrance, the structure forms a prominent landmark off Weston Road, signaling the park's presence within the larger Loop.



PARK HUB

INTERPRETIVE
SIGNAGE

ACCESSIBLE
ENTRANCE

NATIVE PLANTING

HABITAT CREATION

NATURE PLAY

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©Leslie Lookout Park, Toronto



©Vårbergstoppen City Park, Stockholm

11 Crawford-Jones Park Hub



©Woodlands Community Garden Shed, Vancouver



©The Evans Tree House, Arkansas

Spaces should be interactive for kids!

Planned Mid-Humber Gap Trail

The Planned Mid-Humber Gap Trail – an ongoing initiative co-led by the City of Toronto and the TRCA – is referenced in this Master Plan due to its location within the Weston Loop park system. This proposed trail link will address a critical gap in the Humber Trail by introducing boardwalks and pedestrian bridges extending from Crawford-Jones Park to the multi-use path west of the St. Phillips Road underpass. Once implemented, the trail will significantly improve continuity, accessibility, and safety across the broader network.

Though the Mid-Humber Gap Trail is advancing on a separate design and implementation timeline, the Weston Loop Master Plan envisions an integrated future condition. The proposed design for Mallaby Park directly incorporates this future connection into its circulation and programming. A new node at the base of the existing staircase will create an important connection to the northern portion of the Weston Loop via the Mid-Humber Gap Trail, helping Mallaby reach its full potential as a gateway within the park system.

This future link will also address current challenges at the base of Mallaby Park, including overgrowth, limited lighting, and poor sightlines. In alignment with the Toronto Ravine Strategy, the Mid-Humber Gap Trail includes restoration planting, working to enhance habitat and erosion control along the ravine banks.

For additional information about the Mid-Humber Gap Trail Study, refer to the **Weston Loop Background Report** (Appendix C).

1.4

kilometer gap
in the Humber
River Trail

600

metres of trail
completed in
Stage 1 in 2013

4

metre wide
formalized trail

800

metres of
trail to be
completed





Mallaby Park

Stepping Up into Mallaby Park

Crossing the Planned Mid-Humber Gap Trail, the route moves through a corridor of native prairie and meadow plantings that frame the trail on either side. This stretch feels like a natural extension of Crawford-Jones Park’s ecological character – alive with texture, seasonal color, pollinators, and the quiet presence of walkers, runners, and families pausing among the blooms.

At the base of a broad staircase, a milling artifact rests prominently in a planter, with signage that hints at a larger historical narrative. Visitors gather to read, children climb nearby seating walls, and the hum of conversation draws people upward toward Mallaby Park.

Here, the site’s steep grade change from Weston Road to the Humber River create a striking connection between the landscape and the area’s milling past. As visitors ascend, they pause to take in glimpse of the river through the trees, chat on benches, or reflect on the milling era that helped shape Weston, adding human life and memory to the park’s layered story.



Figure 20: Staircase stepping down from Mallaby Park to the Humber Trail.



FEATURED PROGRAMMING

- 1 Accessible Entrance
- 2 Entry Plaza
- 3 Humberstone Seatwall
- 4 Path Improvements
- 5 Adobe Brick Path
- 6 Public Art & Lighting Feature
- 7 Relocated Milling Heritage Monument
- 8 Gateway & Public Art Feature
- 9 Accessible Path



The Humber stone is a finite resource... it should be treated carefully with skilled craftsmanship



3 Humberstone Seatwall



6 Public Art & Lighting Feature



5 Adobe Brick Path



7 Relocated Milling Heritage Monument (from Northend Parkette)

A Walk Through Time: From Fossils to Foundations

A small group gathers at the edge of the plaza as a member of the Weston Historical Society begins a walking tour titled *From Fossils to Foundations*. The tour weaves through Mallaby Park, revealing how this revitalized landscape acts as a gateway to both the Humber Valley and the layered history it holds. Nearby, a once-abandoned heritage house is proposed as a future home for the Weston Historical Society, deepening the park's role as a space of memory and education.

Mallaby Park emphasizes the Humber River as a historic source of power and industry. Corten steel and salvaged milling relics are carefully embedded throughout. In the plaza, relics emerge from planting beds or rest quietly within forested stands, hinting at an industrial past slowly reclaimed by nature. Paving details reference one of Weston's oldest homes just north of the site, once owned by a prominent miller and known as one of Ontario's last adobe brick structures. The relocated Northend Parkette milling monument becomes a focal point, anchoring the park in memory and meaning. Integrated seating, a generous planting buffer along St. Phillips Road, and Bike Share facilities enhances the site's accessibility and comfort.

The walk continues down a new access point east of St. Phillips Road. The accessible path built upon ongoing restoration works, taking advantage of gentle grades and existing public lands to create a seamless, welcoming entry into the Humber Valley, deepening the neighbourhood's connection to its presence and renewal.



As the tour winds down and the path leads back toward the Humber Trail, the underpass comes into view – its refreshed mural (Figure 21) drawing a small crowd of visitors pausing to take photos. Lighting along the underpass path provides both wayfinding and safety, drawing visitors toward the river even after dusk.

In contrast to the nature-focused experience of Crawford-Jones Park, Mallaby offers a different impression. Here, the balance between built history and natural growth speaks to the dual character of the Humber – both shaped by human industry and resilient in its return to nature.



Figure 21: Existing mural at the St. Phillips Bridge underpass near Mallaby Park. Painted by Gabriel Specter and Dan Bergeron, it represents the energy of a hurricane, recalling the devastation of Hurricane Hazel in 1964.

A large, mature weeping tree with thick, gnarled branches and dense, yellow-green foliage dominates the left side of the frame. Its branches hang down, creating a canopy over a paved path. In the foreground, a black metal park bench with vertical slats sits on a concrete pad. The background is filled with more trees, their leaves also in shades of yellow and green, suggesting an autumn setting. The overall lighting is warm and soft, with dappled sunlight filtering through the leaves.

Cruickshank Park

Strolling Through Cruickshank Park

Walking through a narrow stretch of trail, forested on either side, the landscape gradually opens into a linear park. To the right, the path branches toward a weir, where a few people stand fly fishing along the rocky shore. The approach gently formalizes an existing overlook, inviting pause and reflection at the water’s edge. Signage nearby highlights the celebrated salmon run, an annual event that draws the community to witness the river’s natural spectacle.

This experience leads into Cruickshank Park, situated at the heart of the Weston Loop. Here, revitalized park entrances, improved amenities, and enhanced safety features populate the continuous connection between the Loop’s northern and southern segments, establishing a vibrant corridor of play, gathering, and learning.



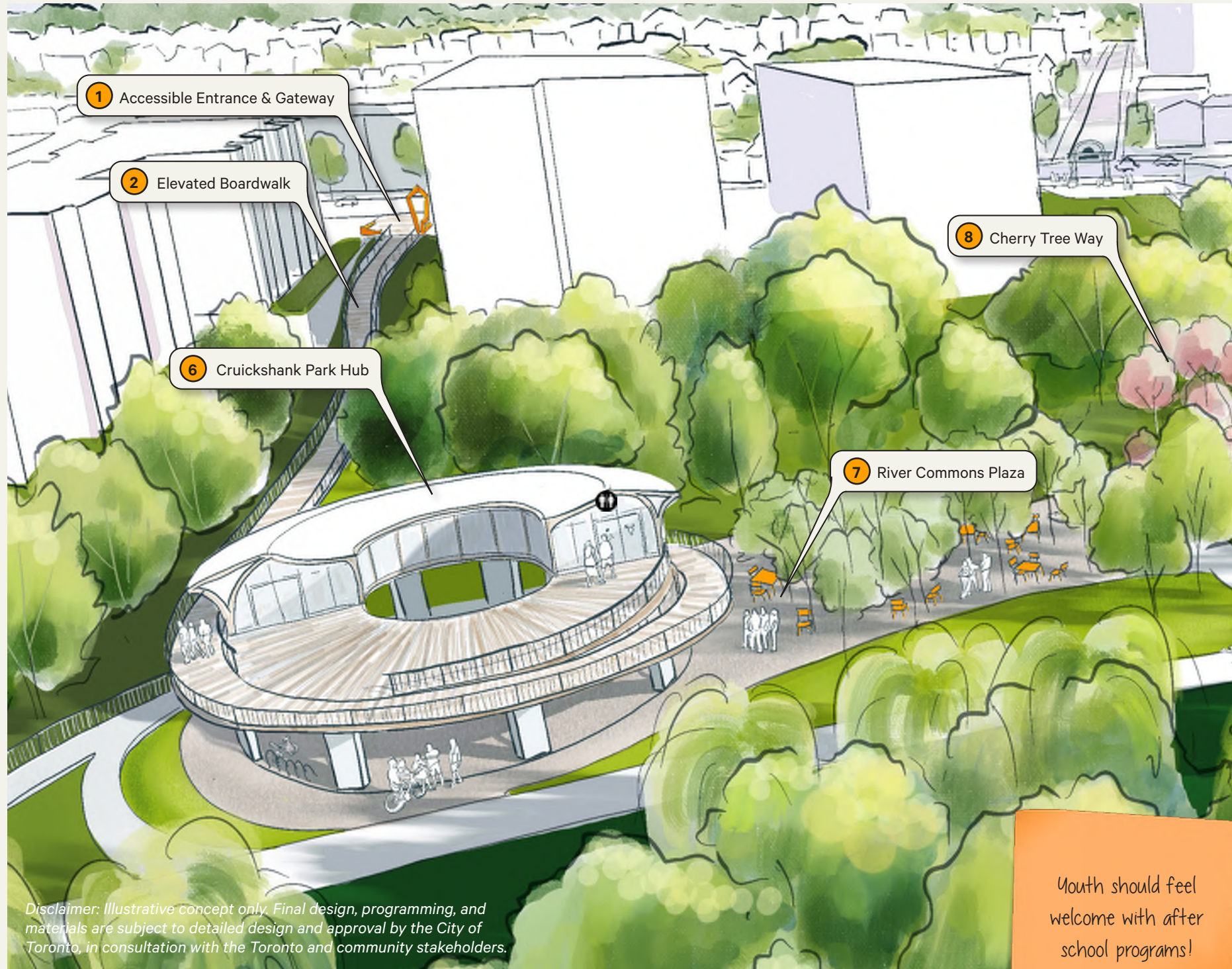
Figure 22: View of the weir at Cruickshank Park, a low dam that regulates water flow.



FEATURED PROGRAMMING

- ① Accessible Entrance & Gateway
- ② Elevated Boardwalk
- ③ Path Improvements
- ④ Existing Weir
- ⑤ Allotment Gardens
- ⑥ Cruickshank Park Hub
- ⑦ River Commons Plaza
- ⑧ Cherry Tree Way
- ⑨ Water Play & Sculptural Fountain
- ⑩ Expanded Pollinator Gardens
- ⑪ Lawn & Picnic Area
- ⑫ Existing Cruickshank Playground Improvements
- ⑬ Outdoor Classroom
- ⑭ Children’s Playground & Gardens
- ⑮ Connection to Water
- ⑯ Willow Discovery Walk
- ⑰ Relocated Calisthenics Equipment





Where the Trail Blooms: Cruickshank Park Hub

Further along the trail, a second park hub comes into view, integrated seamlessly with an accessible elevated boardwalk and ramp system. The boardwalk rises gradually through the landscape, guiding the route back up to Weston Road. Overhead, the Cruickshank Park Hub is alive with activity, offering a natural pause point where movement, gathering, and community interaction converge. Washrooms at the hub provide a rest spot midway through the Weston Loop.

Rounding the bend toward the hub, the landscape opens into a flexible plaza with bistro seating, inviting moments of rest, conversation, and shared meals. This space acts as a home base for both nourishment and learning. Designed to support community food security, stewardship, and outdoor education, the hub facilitates programming in partnership with local schools, the Weston Public Library, and community organizations.

Beyond the plaza, a path lined with blooming cherry trees connects a series of spaces dedicated to learning and play. Children's gardens offer hands-on opportunities for school groups and families to engage with food-growing practices, while amphitheatre-style seating supports outdoor classes, performances, and seasonal events. At the centre, a sculptural fountain and water play area are encircled by expanded pollinator gardens. Beyond, age-appropriate play areas designed for park users from early childhood to teens are integrated throughout the landscape. Together, these elements form a dynamic, multi-generational park space rooted in care, connection, and community resilience.



©Manitoboggan, Winnipeg



©Manitoboggan, Winnipeg

6 Cruickshank Park Hub



©Mediathek, Tbilisi



©Parc de la Villette, Paris

A Gateway into Cruickshank Park from Weston Road

To address challenges of steep slopes and limited access, park entrances are upgraded to ensure universal access. Where feasible, AODA-compliant ramps or pathways help to ease transitions from streets and parking areas into the park's natural setting. Coupled with wayfinding elements, these entrances also create a sense of arrival into the Weston Loop, enhancing the park system's visibility and presence along Weston Road.



WAYFINDING



LANDMARK



PUBLIC ART



INTERPRETIVE
SIGNAGE



PAVEMENT
MARKING



ACCESSIBLE
ENTRANCE



SEATING

As a local artist, I
would love to make
sidewalk carvings that
could guide people
towards the parks...

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Where Community Takes Root

The Park Hub at Cruickshank Park integrates with the Park Gateway to provide direct access from Weston Road and supports community building, education, and social programming within a plaza-like setting. By weaving community assets into new park features, the redesign fosters opportunities for educational, cultural, and nature-based programming.



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7 Cherry Tree Way



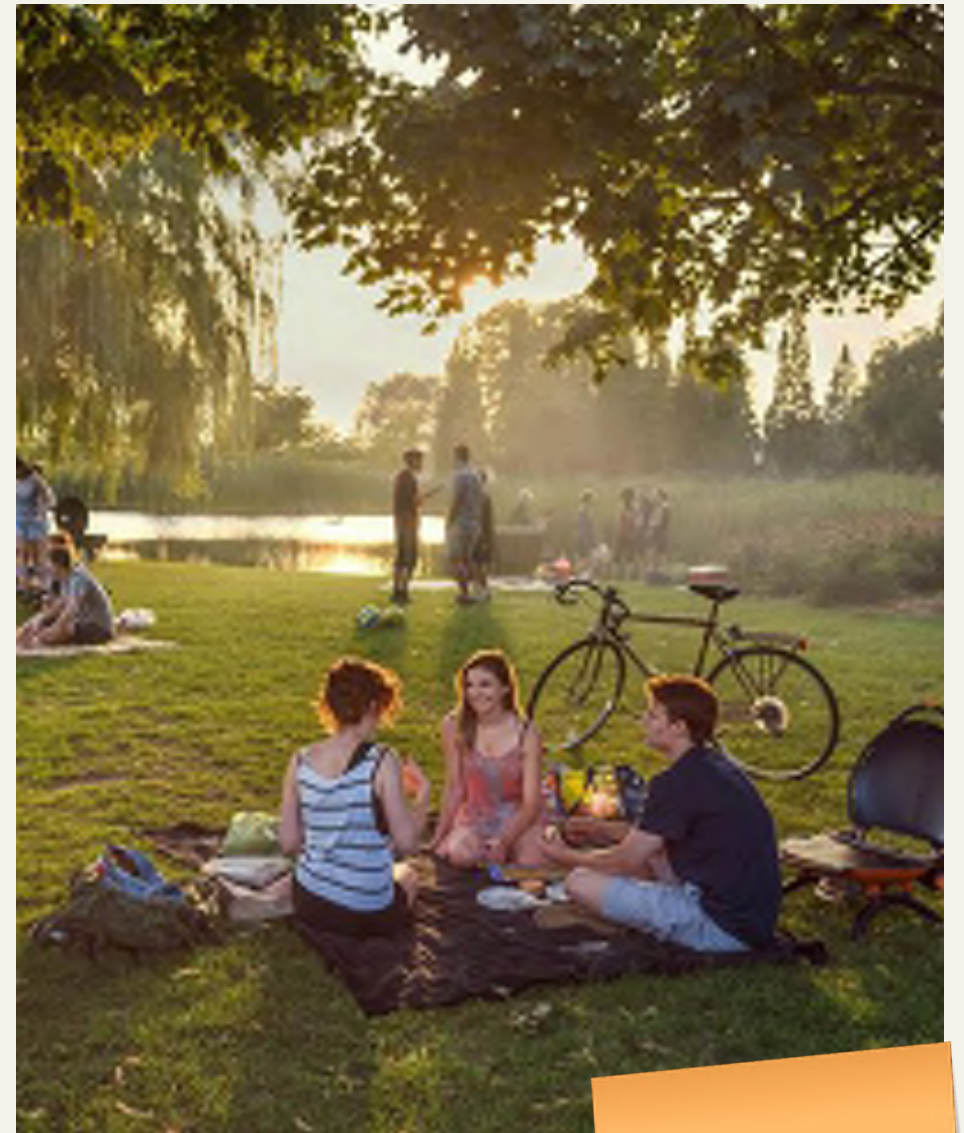
11 Outdoor Classroom



12 Children's Playground & Gardens



8 Water Play & Sculptural Fountain



10 Lawn & Picnic Area

Water fountains,
water features,
water play!

A Place to Experience the River's Edge

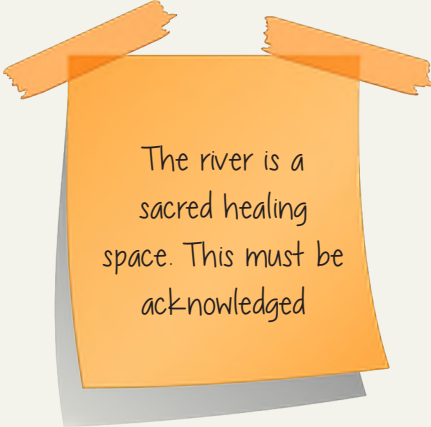
Preserving and restoring the Humber River's riparian buffer is a core priority of the Weston Loop Master Plan, balancing ecological health with public access. Light-touch interventions such as boardwalks, overlooks, and seating create safe, meaningful points of engagement without compromising habitat or flood protection. Existing openings along the river become opportunities for restoration and low-impact access, supporting activities like wildlife observation, fishing, and seasonal events such as salmon runs. These spaces also enable Indigenous placekeeping and cultural practices related to water, while interpretive signage shares the river's ecological and cultural history. Together, these strategies foster deeper connections to the river while reinforcing stewardship.



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Rediscovery at the Willows

The Willow Discovery Walk follows the multi-use trail and guides visitors through the diverse ecologies of the Humber River through educational signage. Existing mature willows, with their sweeping forms and textured canopy, are preserved and celebrated for the character they bring to the landscape. Their branches cast dappled shade across the trail, creating a sense of rhythm and softness as the path unfolds. Further along, the trees give way to a river overlook, offering a quiet moment of proximity to the water. While honouring its roots as a passive, family-focused park, these additions invite deeper engagement with the natural environment.



The river is a sacred healing space. This must be acknowledged



Figure 24: Existing row of mature willow trees along the Humber Trail.

A photograph of Memorial Park featuring a large, arched, light-colored building with a dark interior, surrounded by lush green trees and grass. Several wooden benches with black metal frames are scattered throughout the park. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The title "Memorial Park" is overlaid on the right side of the image, flanked by two horizontal white lines.

Memorial Park

Tracing Memory at Memorial Park

Continuing along the river, revitalized stairs guide users to toward the top of the valley. As the slope levels out, the landscape shifts. On one side lies a row of historic heritage homes; on the other, the iconic Humberstone walls that recall Weston’s early days. The path winds through quiet gardens where interpretive markers emerge from the landscape, inviting moments of learning and reflection. This walk culminates at the bandshell, where a few community members are setting up for what seems to be a local performance, the energy slowly building.

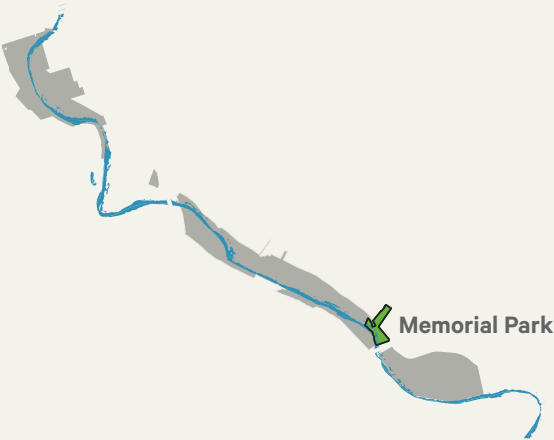


Figure 25: Existing entrance and gateway into Memorial Park from Weston Road.



FEATURED PROGRAMMING

- ① Accessible Entrance & Gateway
- ② Memorial Park Markers
- ③ Path Improvements
- ④ Maple Tree Seating Feature
- ⑤ Historic War Cenotaph
- ⑥ Expanded Humberstone Walls & Planting
- ⑦ Bandshell & Improved Seating
- ⑧ Improved Staircase
- ⑨ Wetland Habitat Improvement





Memorial Park as the Cultural Anchor

Memorial Park continues to serve as the cultural anchor of the Weston Loop, building on its role as a hub for art, music, and community celebration. Its layered histories remain central to the design, recognizing key narratives including the Carrying Place Trail, the lives lost in WWI and WWII, and the legacy and craftsmanship of stonemasons who shaped Weston's distinct Humberstone walls.

The park gradually reveals a variety of existing memorials, some elevated and formal, others more discreet and embedded within the landscape. New sculptural markers are introduced to bring cohesion across these elements, guiding movement along a network of branching pathways.

Educational signage along the route explains the design's more inclusive approach to historic commemoration: an evolving landscape that reflects Weston's shared and diverse histories. As the path unfolds, a distinctive paving pattern echoing the movement and meandering of water unifies the experience, leading visitors toward the bandshell and a quiet overlook above the Humber River.

The bandshell remains a central gathering space, now enhanced by new amphitheatre-style seating that embraces the stage and invites year-round activity. Situated near Weston Commons and the Farmers' Market, it anchors a broader cultural corridor, with signage promoting upcoming performances, festivals, and seasonal events for all ages – bringing consistent animation and vibrancy to the park.

Figure 26: Memorial Park thoughtfully weaves existing heritage features into its new design by preserving and highlighting its layered histories.



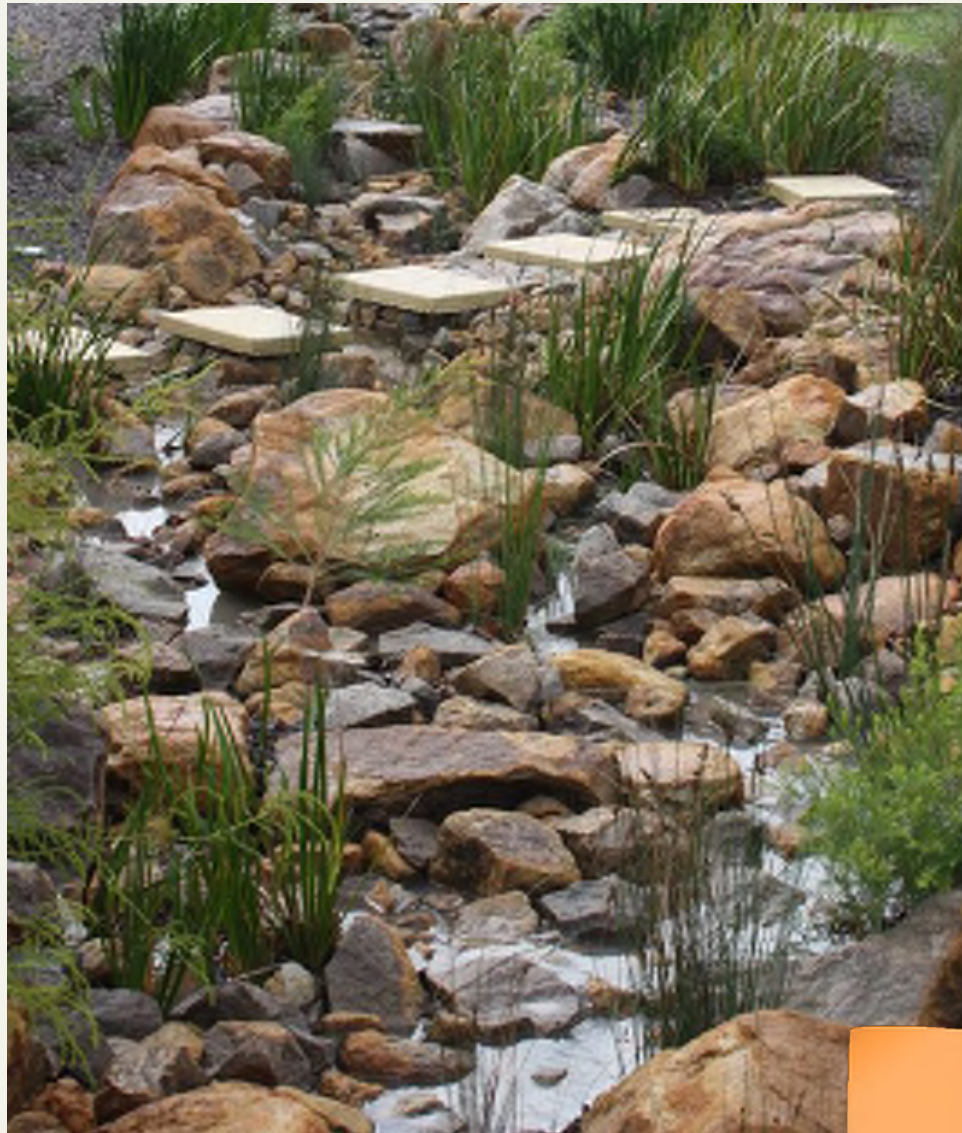
2 Memorial Park Markers



4 Maple Tree Seating Feature



7 Bandshell Seating



Thoughtful material selection, native plantings, and integrated lighting cultivate a space that balances celebration and reflection, offering moments of joy, rest, and connection. Visitors find shade and respite on seating that wraps around a mature maple tree, designed to both protect its roots and celebrate its presence. As the path reconnects to the main trail, a new multi-use link extends from Little Avenue to the existing Humber Trail through the Cruickhank parking lot – an external design initiative that further expands inclusivity and welcomes more people into this evolving cultural landscape.

Ecological Renewal at the Outfall

Towards the southern edge of the park, a once overlooked and unpleasant storm outfall has been transformed into a thriving, naturalized wetland. Where stagnant water once collected, native planting now filters runoff, and the area has become a quiet destination within the park. Some visitors stretch out in the sun, while others pause to read interpretive signage that shares the role of wetlands in supporting local habitat, flora, and fauna. This space offers a different kind of connection to water – one that highlights the interdependence between urban infrastructure and natural systems. As part of broader ecological improvements, the wetland restoration reinforces the park’s natural character while addressing a long-standing site challenge.

The river should be allowed to flood - work with the water

9 Wetland Habitat Improvement



Weston Lions Park

An Inviting Welcome into Weston Lions Park

The new entrance plaza offers a long-awaited sense of arrival into Weston Lions Park – a central hub of recreation and gathering throughout Weston’s history. Marking the beginning of the Weston Lions Sports Village, the gateway invites exploration into a revitalized and active public realm.

The accessible entrance at Lawrence Avenue West has been enhanced with improved crossings and wayfinding, creating a seamless link to the Cruickshank parking lot and reinforcing the park’s identity as Weston’s primary destination for active recreation. Just beyond the park gateway, a new sports court complete with bleachers becomes a year-round space for play, operating as a multi-use court in the summer, and an ice rink in the winter.



Figure 27: View of sports court and bleachers adjacent to enhanced, accessible entrance.





2 All Season Multi-Use Sports Court & Ice Rink

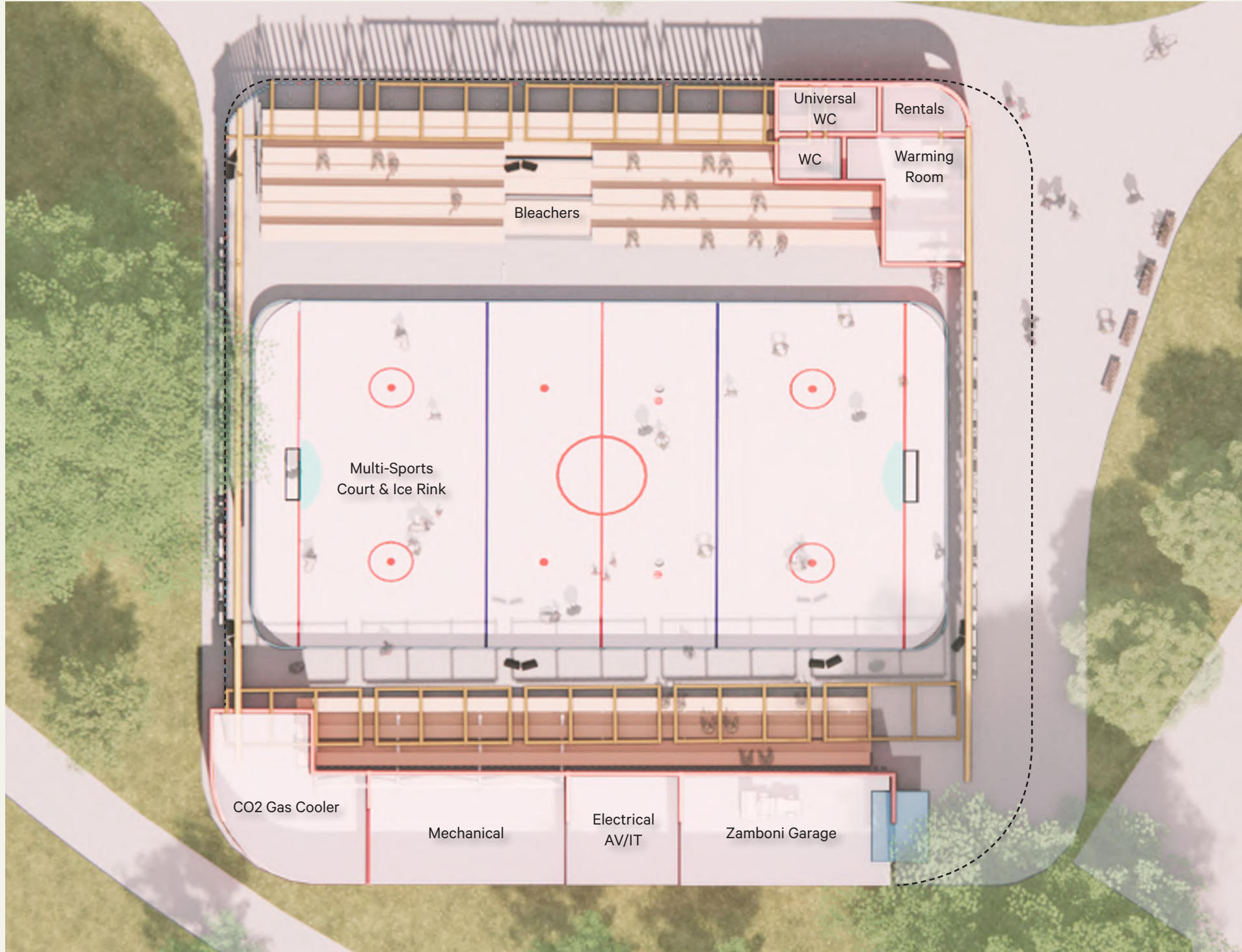


Passing the new multi-use sports court, the space immediately conveys the park's active spirit. Its position near the Weston Lions Park gateway makes it highly visible, ensuring that play and movement animate the entrance throughout the day. On warm afternoons, food vendors extend from the structure's edge, adding color, sound, and vibrancy to the heart of the park.

Framed by bleachers, the court is as much a social space as it is a recreational one. Teens drop in for a game of ball hockey, families pause to watch, and friends gather to cheer from the sidelines. Others simply relax on the bleachers, enjoying the sun and atmosphere. The court balances activity and comfort, functioning as both a stage for sport and a place of community. Together with the gateway, it establishes a lively first impression – welcoming visitors into Weston Lions Park with energy and connection.

Long regarded as the heart of Weston's fairgrounds, the spirit of hockey in Weston has been preserved in the form of the third park hub. Acknowledging the site's legacy of ice and winter activity, the concept illustrates how these traditions can be maintained and reimagined in partnership with MLSE alongside the proposed Weston Lions Arena renovations. Reflecting community input, it offers a fresh look at how the arena, adjacent plaza, and activated alleyway come together, where legacy and contemporary additions blend seamlessly.

The size and location of this facility will be determined in consultation with the City, TRCA and relevant stakeholders.



FEATURED PROGRAMMING

- 1 Accessible Entrance & Gateway
- 2 New Staircase
- 3 All Season Multi-Use Sports Court & Ice Rink
- 4 Beach Volleyball
- 5 Lawn & Picnic Area
- 6 Playground & Splash Pad Improvements
- 7 Flexible Plaza
- 8 Weston Sports Hub
- 9 Activated Alleyway
- 10 Equipment Rentals
- 11 Path Improvements
- 12 Active Loop (500m)
- 13 Humber River Overlook
- 14 Accessible Path & Bleachers at Toboggan Hill
- 15 Relocated Basketball Courts (2)
- 16 Relocated Skateboard Park & Bike Park
- 17 Active Play
- 18 Hurricane Hazel Node





Nearby, a revitalized playground and splash pad accompany a newly added beach volleyball court near the river's edge, making the area a vibrant hub for families and youth alike.

A Pop-Up Market in the Activated Alleyway

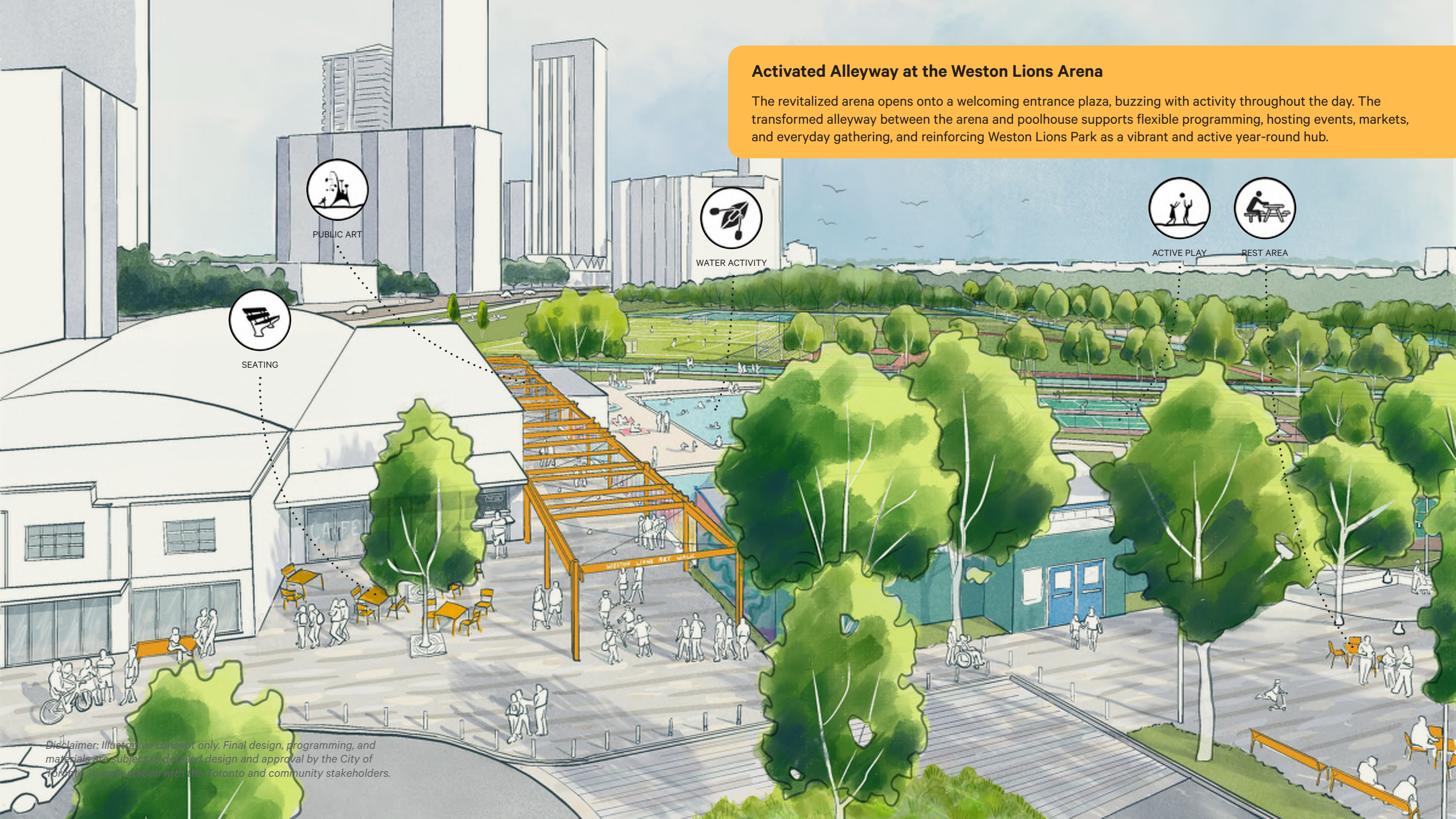
The multi-use trail opens up into a lively plaza beside the existing poolhouse. The space hums with activity. Bistro tables and pop-up market stalls animate the plaza and flow seamlessly into the alleyway between the arena and poolhouse.

Once an unwelcoming passage, the alley has been transformed into a vibrant community gathering space. Enhanced with pedestrian-friendly surfacing, integrated lighting, and an exterior beam structure that frames the corridor, the space now unifies the front and back of house. On this day, it hosts a pop-up market featuring local food vendors, artisans, and handmade goods – an evolving space that responds to community needs and celebrates local culture.

Figure 29: View of Weston Lions Arena and surrounding spillover areas.

Activated Alleyway at the Weston Lions Arena

The revitalized arena opens onto a welcoming entrance plaza, buzzing with activity throughout the day. The transformed alleyway between the arena and poolhouse supports flexible programming, hosting events, markets, and everyday gathering, and reinforcing Weston Lions Park as a vibrant and active year-round hub.



PUBLIC ART



SEATING



WATER ACTIVITY



ACTIVE PLAY



REST AREA

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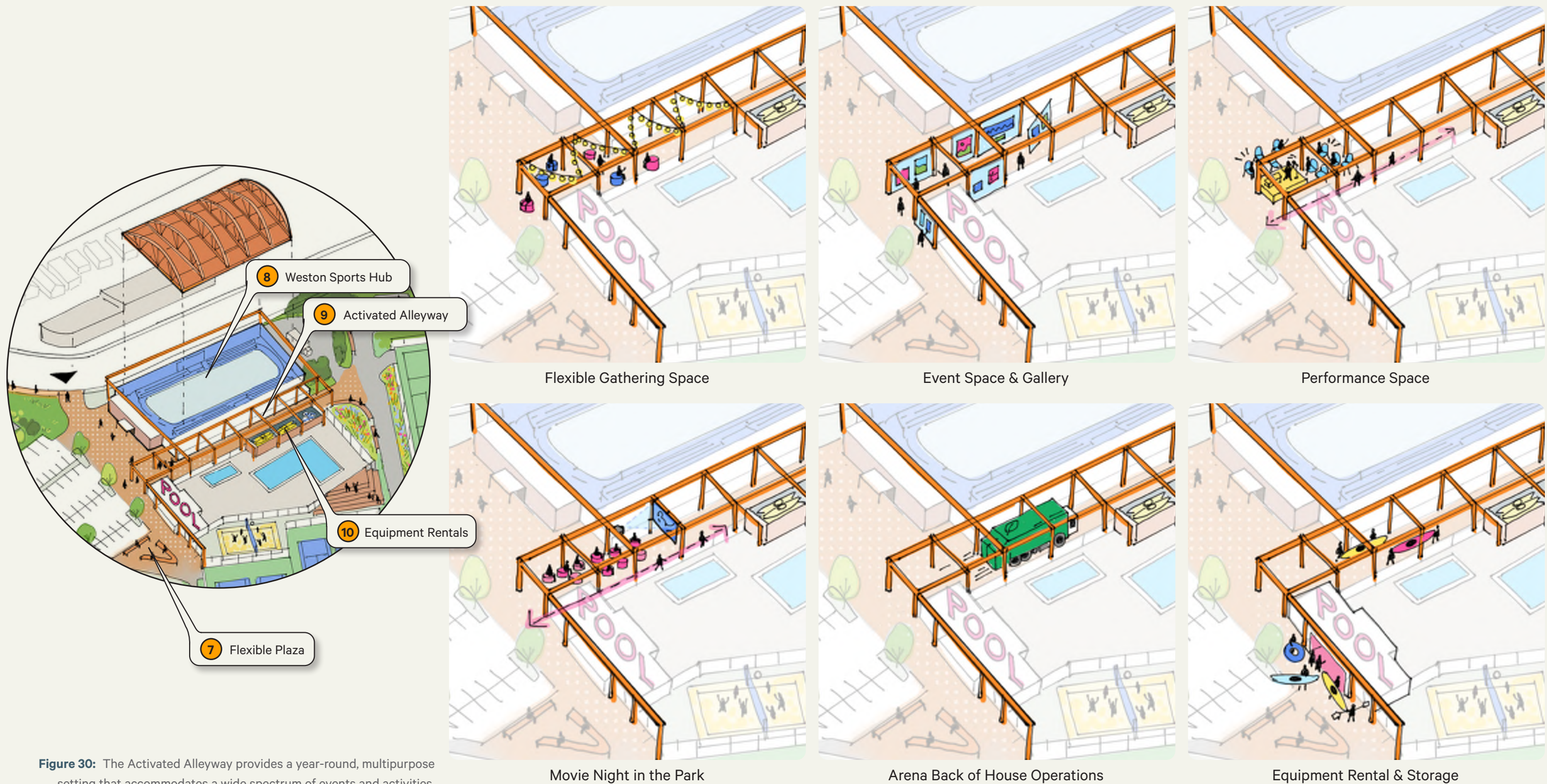


Figure 30: The Activated Alleyway provides a year-round, multipurpose setting that accommodates a wide spectrum of events and activities.

Spending the Afternoon in the Sports Village

Exiting the alleyway, the heart of the Sports Village unfolds – an energetic landscape anchored by a soccer field, baseball diamond, relocated basketball courts, and new skatepark and bike park. These amenities are all surrounded by the Active Loop, a measured, continuous 500-meter path which defines the edge of movement and activity throughout the area. A new pathway climbs the adjacent grassy slope, functioning both as an accessible route and as tiered bleacher seating overlooking the fields. In the winter, this grassy slope provides an excellent tobogganing hill.

The soccer field is really popular, but there's nowhere to sit and watch the games



12 Active Loop (500m)



14 Accessible Path & Bleachers at Toboggan Hill



15 Relocated Basketball Courts (2)



17 Active Play



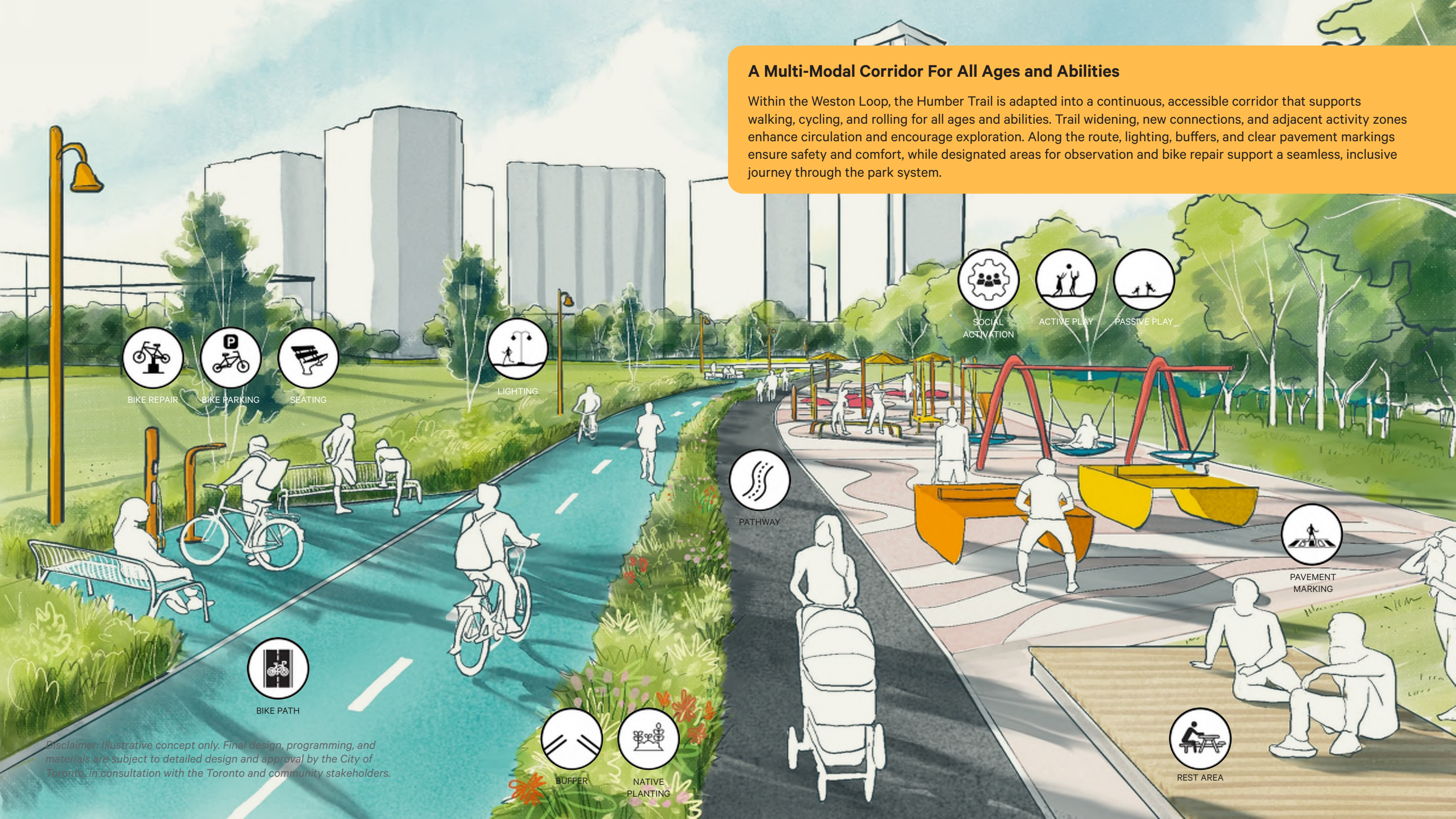
Located directly across from the Weston GO/UP Station, the upgraded Bellevue Avenue park entrance marks a more inclusive and welcoming entryway into Weston Lions Park off Weston Road, establishing a strong connection between transit, community, and recreation.

Painted markings guide the Active Loop as it winds through the site – passing by a local run club, a group of cyclists, or casual park-goers – before reconnecting with the Humber Trail at a nearby rest spot called the Humber River Overlook. This space offers a moment to pause and gather, reinforcing the park’s relationship with the river. Nearby, Raymore Bridge and a memorial to Hurricane Hazel ground the space in local history, offering a powerful reminder of the river’s impact and resilience.

Figure 31: View of the sports facilities at the southern portion of Weston Lions Park.

A Multi-Modal Corridor For All Ages and Abilities

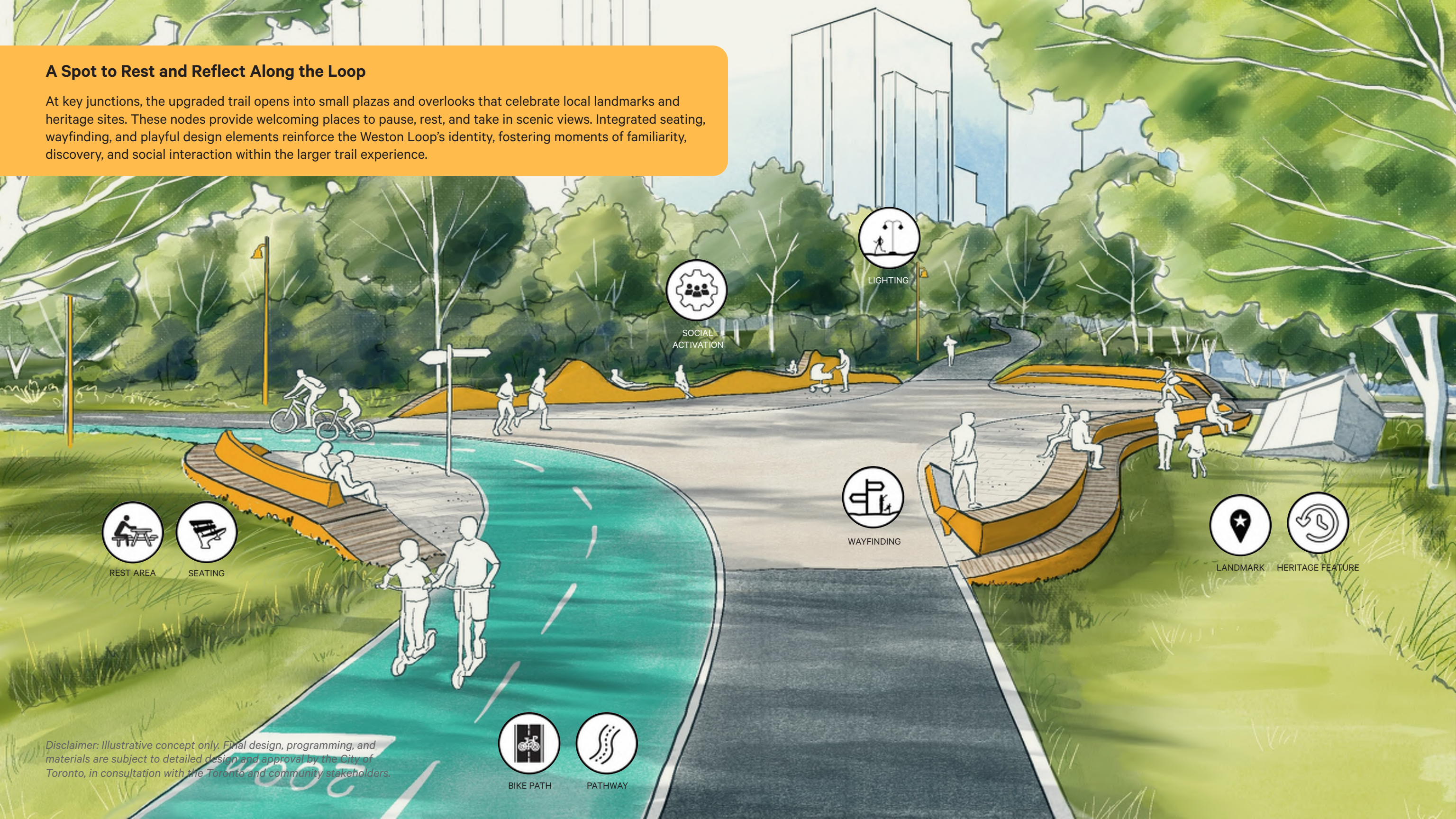
Within the Weston Loop, the Humber Trail is adapted into a continuous, accessible corridor that supports walking, cycling, and rolling for all ages and abilities. Trail widening, new connections, and adjacent activity zones enhance circulation and encourage exploration. Along the route, lighting, buffers, and clear pavement markings ensure safety and comfort, while designated areas for observation and bike repair support a seamless, inclusive journey through the park system.



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A Spot to Rest and Reflect Along the Loop

At key junctions, the upgraded trail opens into small plazas and overlooks that celebrate local landmarks and heritage sites. These nodes provide welcoming places to pause, rest, and take in scenic views. Integrated seating, wayfinding, and playful design elements reinforce the Weston Loop's identity, fostering moments of familiarity, discovery, and social interaction within the larger trail experience.



SOCIAL
ACTIVATION



LIGHTING



REST AREA



SEATING



WAYFINDING



LANDMARK



HERITAGE FEATURE



BIKE PATH



PATHWAY

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Future Potential Hickory Tree Road Trail

The Master Plan identifies a potential trail connection linking Wilby Crescent and the Planned Hickory Tree Road Park to Weston Lions Park, through land that is co-owned by the City of Toronto and TRCA. At this stage it remains a conceptual proposal, with the final alignment to be determined. While informal paths in the area already reveal a strong community desire for access, further study is required to determine whether a formal connection is feasible.

Although a preliminary review has begun, additional work is needed to fully assess the impacts and challenges of establishing a trail alignment along the forested slope. Key considerations include erosion and flooding hazards, the condition and preservation of the tree canopy, impacts to ecology and natural features, and potential effects on sewer and water infrastructure. The study will also evaluate alternative routes to identify an alignment that balances improved accessibility for all ages and abilities with the lightest possible impact on the ravine’s ecology and landscape.

For additional relevant contextual information about the Hickory Tree Road Trail Study, refer to the **Weston Loop Background Report** (Appendix C).



Figure 32: The future potential Hickory Tree Road trail would formalize existing, steep informal pathways that are used by residents along Hickory Tree Road and Wilby Crescent, to access Weston Lions Park.



Disclaimer: Illustrative concept only. Final design, programming, and materials are subject to detailed design and approval by the City of Toronto, in consultation with the Toronto and community stakeholders.

04

05

Making it Happen

- Governance & Partnerships
- Funding the Weston Loop
- Implementation Plan
- Phasing Strategy

06

A cyclist wearing a black and white jersey and a white helmet is riding a road bike on a paved path that curves through a dense, green forest. The path is surrounded by tall trees and lush foliage, with sunlight filtering through the leaves. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

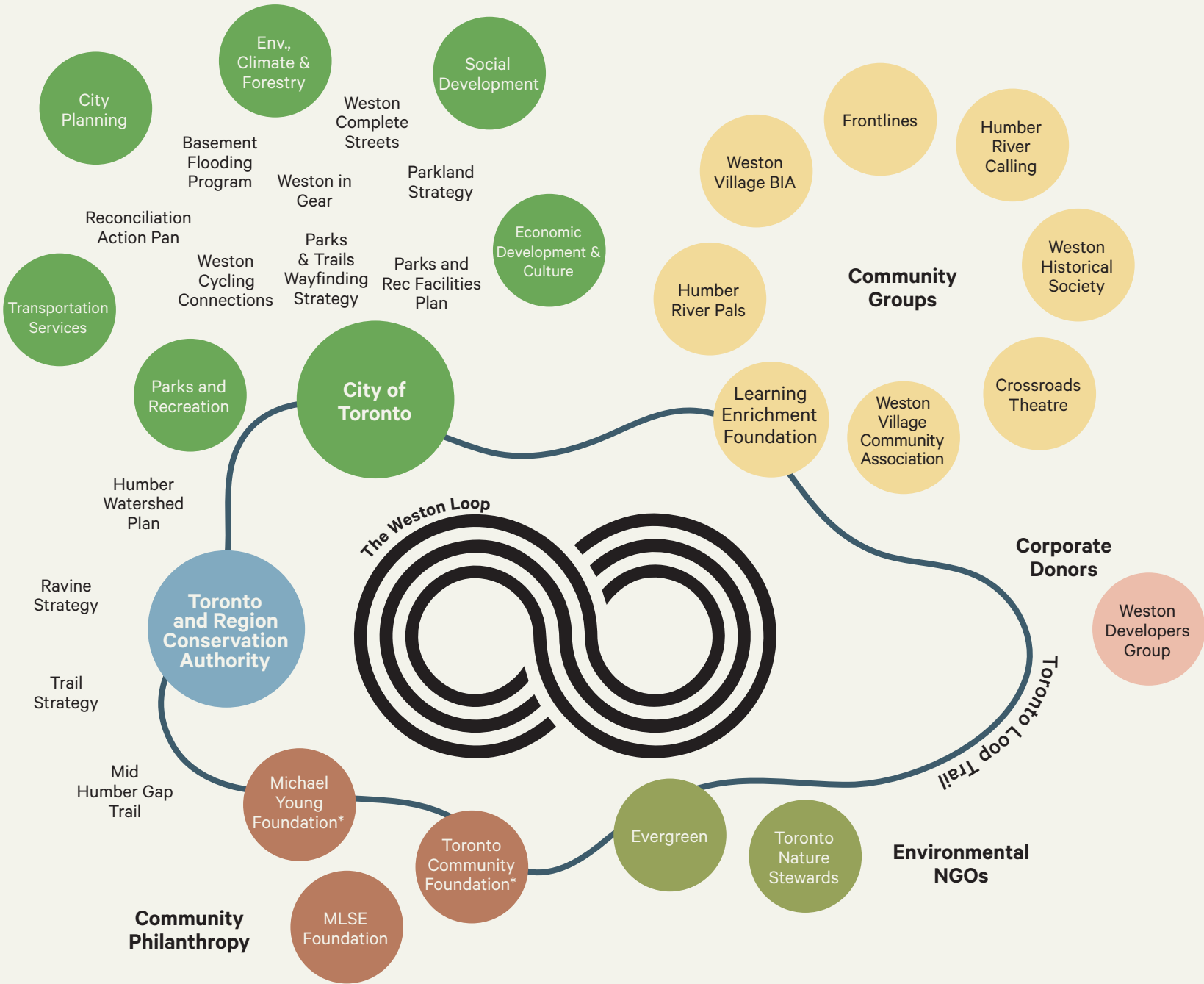
Governance & Partnerships

The Power of Partnerships

Across North America, parks have become central to community engagement, placemaking, and community building. Parks are a public good, and can be enjoyed by all. Yet government funding has not kept pace with growing demand, and as city populations rise, parks are seeing heavier use.

In Toronto, Evergreen is collaborating with the City of Toronto, TRCA, and the Toronto Community Foundation to advance the Toronto Loop Trail – a 75-kilometer multi-use trail encircling the city. The Humber River Trail, forming the western extent of the Loop Trail, connects the Weston Loop parks. Integrating the Weston Loop Master Plan into this citywide network and the Ravine Strategy is essential and a critical partnership opportunity, as both share priorities around access, connectivity, and ecological restoration.

In addition to this, there are a wide number of local groups who have participated in the community engagement process for the Weston Loop Master Plan, who are already active in Weston, and running programming in the parks. As a first step in implementing the Weston Loop Master Plan, the City should set up a Community Liaison Committee to engage with these groups and leverage their deep knowledge of the park system and the Weston community. This network is envisioned as a series of “Loops of Influence” that should be harnessed to effectively deliver the vision for the Weston Loop. The Loops of Influence also includes relevant active and in-progress City and TRCA initiatives that align with the vision and goals of the Weston Loop Master Plan. Specific projects within the Weston Loop that meet multiple objectives should be prioritized, that way funding from different departmental budgets can be used to accelerate the delivery of the Weston Loop.



*Denotes philanthropic organizations engaged in the Toronto Loop Trail, not currently involved in the Weston Loop.

Figure 33: Loops of Influence Diagram illustrating Potential Partnerships and Alignment with Relevant Projects.



1 The Meadowway



2 Toronto Rink Revitalization Initiative



3 The Bentway Conservancy

Examples of Park Partnerships in Toronto

Toronto has a strong track record of leveraging community passion and philanthropic support to improve public spaces. The following examples showcase successful partnerships of varying scales and priorities that demonstrate how collaboration can enhance parks citywide.

1. The Meadowway is transforming a hydro corridor in Scarborough into a 16-kilometre corridor of meadow habitat and urban greenspace. A signature naturalization project, it connects neighbourhoods and community destinations. Key partners include the TRCA, City of Toronto, Hydro One, and the Weston Family Foundation.

2. Toronto Rink Revitalization Initiative is a legacy of the 2024 Rogers NHL All-Star weekend, this partnership between the Toronto Maple Leafs, MLSE Foundation, NHL, and City of Toronto invested over \$500,000 to revitalize hockey rinks at three city parks.

3. The Bentway Conservancy is an independent non-profit transforming over four hectares of underused land beneath the Gardiner Expressway into vibrant public spaces. Established through a \$25 million donation, the Bentway operates under a partnership agreement with the City of Toronto.

4. Toronto Nature Stewards (TNS) are a non-profit group, operating under an agreement with the City of Toronto Urban Forestry Division, and coordinate volunteer-led invasive species removal and restoration across 48 sites. Stewardship groups are active in Weston Lions Park and nearby Raymore Park.

5. “Friends Of” Park Groups are volunteer-based groups that play an active role in park stewardship, programming, and activation across Toronto. For example, the *Friends of Trinity Bellwoods Park*, founded in 2001, work to enhance and maintain both the green space and cultural life of the park. While many “Friends Of” groups exist citywide, none currently operate within the Weston Loop parks, though nearby Raymore Park has an established group.

6. The Toronto Arts Foundation, established in 1995 through a philanthropic donation, this charitable organization runs *Arts in the Parks*, bringing free cultural events such as theatre, music, film screenings, and family workshops to parks across the city. In partnership with Crossroads Theatre, they also host the annual *Summer in the Park* program at Memorial Park.

7. Park People was founded in Toronto in 2011 by volunteers committed to improving parks and communities. Park People has since grown into a national network linking park groups, professionals, non-profits, and funders. Key initiatives include the Cornerstone Parks program, supporting large urban parks across Canada, and the *TD Park People Grant Program*, which funds community-led events. Park People is also a key partner in the Toronto Ravine Strategy and the Loop Trail Project.

Many of these organizations are already active in the Weston Loop and contribute significantly to its parks. However, the area currently lacks a dedicated entity to champion the community’s vision and lead implementation of the Weston Loop Master Plan in partnership with the City of Toronto and the TRCA. The next section explores what this coordinating body could be.



4 Toronto Nature Stewards



5 Friends of Trinity Bellwoods Park



6 The Toronto Arts Foundation



7 Park People

Focused Leadership Through a Singular Entity

A key recommendation of this report that will be part of the motion that goes forward to Toronto City Council is the creation of a Community Liaison Committee to work alongside City Parks & Recreation Staff in advancing the Master Plan with implementation, ongoing community engagement, monitoring, and stewardship. Bringing together the various actors in the Loops of Influence diagram in Figure 33 under one umbrella will help to accelerate this.

Two governance models are put forward as a concept for this entity - a “Friends Of” group or Park Conservancy. As noted above, there are numerous examples of a “Friends Of” groups in Toronto, and Park Conservancies exist in Toronto as well as across North America. The two models are compared in Table 3.

The Weston Loop Master Plan process has established a preliminary network, but this must be continually fostered by an engaged community. The establishment of a “Friends Of” group or Park Conservancy would provide a more centralized point of contact for planning and coordination. Established through a legal agreement with the City and TRCA, this would create the legitimacy and stability needed to navigate complex multi-stakeholder initiatives and plan for the long-term of the Weston Loop.

A Park Conservancy is a more complex entity than a “Friends Of” group, therefore it is our recommendation that a “Friends Of the Weston Loop” be created as soon as possible, to capitalize on the momentum generated through the planning process. Several community members who participated in the Master Planning process indicated their interest in being part of such a group.

The “Friends Of the Weston Loop” would meet regularly to plan park programming and activities, and would provide a reliable point of contact for organizations who are engaged, or who would like to engage, in the Weston Loop Parks. This would create a greater level of accountability, reduce duplication of efforts, and create clearer pathways for collaborative decision-making. The “Friends Of” would liaise with the City and provide direction on implementing the Master Plan, including the prioritization of specific projects for funding.

Although many “Friends Of” groups eventually incorporate and register as charities, they often start as grassroots groups or collections of neighbours. Even without charitable status, “Friends Of” groups have access to funding through various public and non-profit grant programs, such as those provided by Park People.

The “Friends Of the Weston Loop” would begin to create the identity of the Weston Loop in the public consciousness through branding and outreach campaigns. This in turn would help to attract potential partners, including philanthropic dollars.

Eventually, the “Friends” could choose to convert their organization into a Park Conservancy, which may take on more operations and maintenance responsibilities through a formal partnership agreement with the City.



Figure 34: Pine Sanctuary statue at the Riverwood Conservancy. The Riverwood Conservancy began as a “Friends Of” group in 1985, known as the Mississauga Garden Council. The group then grew into a conservancy that protects, restores, and invites people to connect with Riverwood Park, a natural area that spans 150 acres along the Credit River in Mississauga. The conservancy remains primarily volunteer-driven, with a focus on environmental education, gardening, and conservation within the park. Funding comes from municipal grants, memberships, and sponsorship of programs. The Riverwood Conservancy demonstrates a successful example of a Friends Of group that has transitioned into a conservancy.

A Comparison of Park Governance Models

“Friends Of” Group

A “Friends Of” group (also referred to as a park group) is a collective of local residents who come together to care for, activate, and advocate for a specific park or public green space. They are generally made up of volunteers who focus on grassroots advocacy and stewardship. A “Friends Of” group may lobby in favour of a park, with a focus on improved park services, programs, and amenities. They can be as informal as a group with a trustee, that does a small amount of fundraising to pull off their events, to a large non-governmental organization with the goal of supporting and activating local park spaces.

Park Conservancy

An urban Park Conservancy represents a public-private partnership model where non-profit organizations assume stewardship responsibilities for public parks through formal agreements with municipal agencies. Conservancies often operate under formal memorandums of understanding or lease agreements with cities, employ dedicated staff, and generate independent funding through philanthropy, grants, and revenue-generating activities. Most Park Conservancies do not own parkland, with the city retaining ultimate authority. These organizations typically provide services including programming, maintenance, and capital improvements while preserving municipal oversight. Conservancies have achieved significant development in the United States, supported by established funding mechanisms and legal frameworks; they are beginning to experience growing adoption across Canada as cities seek innovative approaches to park management and enhancement.

	“Friends Of” Group	Park Conservancy
Definition	- Community-led collectives that can range from informal groups to larger NGOs - Focus on community advocacy and small projects - Often start as informal volunteer groups and may evolve over time	- Private non-profit organizations dedicated to stewardship of public parks through formal public-private collaboration - Created to revitalize or manage major parks - Often undertake philanthropic fundraising - May also go by names like “foundation,” “alliance,” or “trust”
Legal Status	- Can operate informally without incorporation - May register as a non-profit if they grow - Can be as informal as a group with a trustee	- Often registered charities in Canada - Legally established to enter formal agreements with government
Governance	- Flexible, volunteer-driven governance - May have just a trustee or simple volunteer board - No formal requirements for board composition	- Formal Board of Directors with specific composition requirements - Mix of stakeholders: philanthropic leaders, community representatives, and often government appointees - Board composition may require city approval
Responsibilities	- Advocacy on behalf of the community with municipal government - Smaller-scale initiatives and activations - Community events and activities - Volunteer coordination - Informal collaboration with city	- Capital improvements and infrastructure development - Comprehensive programming - Often start with large capital projects then evolve to handle daily operations - Some manage multiple parks or entire park systems
Funding	- Small-scale fundraising for events - Limited funding through donations and small grants - Primarily volunteer-driven to keep costs low	Sophisticated multi-source funding model: - Corporate sponsorships - Government funding (often baseline operating support) - Earned revenue (concessions, venue rentals, parking fees) - Endowments
Relationship with the City	- Informal collaboration - Typically no binding agreements - Work alongside city operations	- More formalized legal agreements required: - Management agreements - Long-term leases - Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) - Use Agreements

Table 3: Differences between “Friends Of” groups and Park Conservancies.



Funding the Weston Loop

Funding the Weston Loop

Funding for the projects outlined in the Weston Loop Master Plan will come from a variety of sources. Alignment with other City initiatives, as noted previously, provides an opportunity to take advantage of existing and future capital budget items. Funding from development levies such as Section 42 Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland and Section 37 Community Benefits Charges are two other sources of funding that may advance the proposed improvements. Another stream of funding comes from earned income, including concession sales, user fees, and special programming. Following the path of similar public space initiatives like the Evergreen Brickworks and the Bentway, there are also opportunities to seek funding from other levels of government, and contributions from the corporate and philanthropic sector. A formal entity like a “Friends Of” group or Park Conservancy is the best vehicle to bring all of these funding sources together.

The overall vision for the Master Plan will cost \$82M in 2025 dollars, but will be delivered in phases over 25+ years. Given the scale and ambition of the Master Plan, it will require a collaborative approach involving the City of Toronto, TRCA, other levels of government, philanthropy, and community organizing. The City’s budget must provide for and balance priorities across the city, managing various challenges including limitations in debt funding and the tax base, market fluctuations, and legislative changes that can impact the amount of funds available to deliver growth-related service improvements.

The Weston Loop Master Plan is a roadmap to focus and coordinate the efforts of various parties and available resources to strategically target investments for the greatest impact.



Figure 35: Potential revenue streams for the Weston Loop.

As reviewed in the [Weston Loop Background Report \(Appendix C\)](#), a major source of funding for new parkland and improvements is the parkland levy applied to new developments, prescribed under Section 42 of the Planning Act. The City’s first priority is to acquire new land for parks, particularly in areas that are lacking parkland on a per-capita basis. While Weston overall has a relatively high amount of parkland per capita, areas on the east side of the rail corridor meet the criteria for Areas of Parkland Need in the Parkland Strategy. If the City determines that the size, shape, or location of the proposed parkland are unsuitable for a park, developers are required to pay cash-in-lieu, assessed as the value of the land area that would otherwise be required.

Weston has an once-in-a-generation opportunity to capitalize on all of the high-density development proposed along Weston Road to make a significant investment in the five Weston Loop parks. The nine (9) projects by the Weston Village Developers Group are currently in various stages of planning approvals. Once they reach site plan approval, their parkland cash-in-lieu contributions will be calculated based on the number of units proposed. The payment of the cash-in-lieu is required prior to the issuance of the first above-grade building permit, which for these projects, may be anywhere from 2 to 10 years.

Councillor Frances Nunziata will be requesting, by way of Council Motion, for the cash-in-lieu funds from the nine participating projects to be allocated to projects identified in the Master Plan. Based on currently-proposed development yields and land values, this could be substantial: up to a monetary value of approximately \$15 Million. An additional \$5 Million could be secured through the allocation of Section 37 Community Benefits Charges, assessed at the value of 4% of a development site area. The recommended Phase 1 projects outlined later in this Chapter (pg. 106) are estimated to achieve this level of investment.

Although this represents a deviation from how cash-in-lieu funds are typically allocated in the City of Toronto, it represents a significant opportunity to demonstrate the tangible benefits of new development in a community that has historically been disadvantaged and under-invested in. The Humber River and the five Weston Loop parks are incredible recreational and ecological assets that merit greater investment. When residents can directly see how the new development creates neighbourhood improvements that benefit everybody, it provides a counterpoint to the challenges of growth and change and creates buy-in for the future of Weston.

The Phasing Strategy assumes that these payments will come in promptly to support the phased implementation of the Master Plan. This is, however, subject to market conditions.

The success of the Weston Loop Master Plan depends on a broad network of partnerships, including City divisions, community organizations, volunteer groups, philanthropic foundations, and other levels of government. By leveraging these collaborative relationships, the Master Plan can draw on local knowledge, expertise, and resources to ensure long-term sustainability, community engagement, and the successful implementation of improvements across the Weston Loop over the next 15–20 years.

In addition to these funding sources and important partnerships, a key aspect of the Weston Loop’s success will be aligning proposed improvements with existing City of Toronto strategies and guidelines.

Key documents include, but are not limited to:

- Toronto Ravine Strategy
- Toronto Trail Design Guidelines

- Natural Environment Trail Study
- TRCA Trail Strategy
- Green Streets Technical Guidelines
- Parks & Recreation Facilities Plan
- Parkland Strategy
- Toronto Public Art Strategy
- Reconciliation Act Plan
- Toronto’s Dog Off Leash Strategy

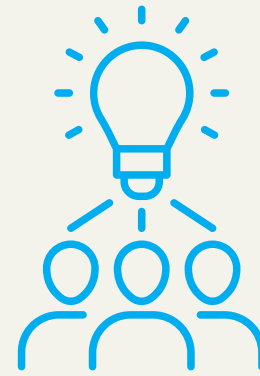
This guidance will inform the phased implementation of improvements, helping to ensure that projects are feasible, sustainable, and responsive to community needs while leveraging the funding and partnerships outlined above.



Implementation Plan

Council’s endorsement of the Weston Loop Master Plan is just the first step. There are a number of steps to go through in order to deliver any one of the projects identified in the Phasing Strategy.

Individual projects will move from feasibility and design into construction, supported by partnerships and ongoing engagement, highlighting the commitment to monitoring, stewardship, and evolving use to ensure the park’s lasting impact. While City divisions will lead capital delivery and maintenance, the “Friends” group will provide consistent community leadership and facilitate ongoing dialogue with residents, Indigenous partners, local organizations, and the City to ensure that the park remains responsive to community needs in the long-term.



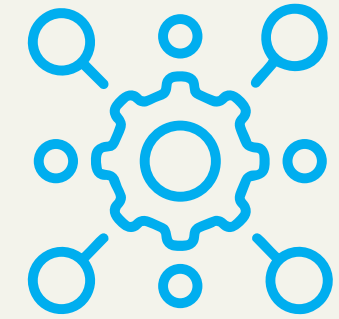
INCEPTION

A need for improved parkland in Weston was recognized by the WVRA and Councillor Nunziata, leading to the initial Council Motion (MM20.2) in July 2024. A group of passionate people with a strong vision and an understanding of the community led the effort, and called upon the Weston Village Developer Group to support the endeavour and fund the Master Plan.



MASTER PLAN

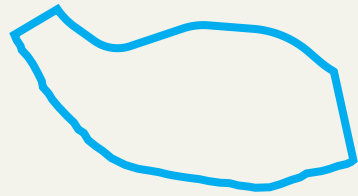
Community engagement has guided the approach to the Master Plan, which includes recommendations for new infrastructure, programming, and connections into the park system. This Master Plan will serve as the roadmap for detailed planning and the design of specific interventions over the years to come. Council’s endorsement of the Master Plan will include direction to Staff to have regard for the directions presented in the Master Plan as they proceed with other studies, capital projects, and programs in and around the Weston Loop.



GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK AND STEWARDSHIP PLAN

As described previously in this chapter, setting up a dedicated entity to hold the vision for the Weston Loop and steer the implementation of the Master Plan will ensure its longevity. For the purpose of this section, we assume that a “Friends of the Weston Loop” is established, with membership from local community organizations, Indigenous groups, residents, and business owners. The “Friends” would establish their working relationship with the City Parks and Recreation Division through a legal agreement or Memorandum of Understanding.

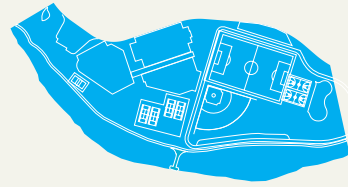
An early action for the “Friends” is to create a Stewardship Plan in collaboration with the Ravine and Natural Features Protection office to guide the long-term management, restoration, and protection of natural features throughout the Weston Loop.



INDIVIDUAL PROJECT FEASIBILITY

An individual project or project(s) within the Weston Loop are identified as a priority for implementation, in coordination with other efforts by the City. Project feasibility is assessed through detailed technical studies with input from key stakeholders, including City Divisions and Regional Agencies, such as the TRCA, to identify challenges and opportunities and inform design.

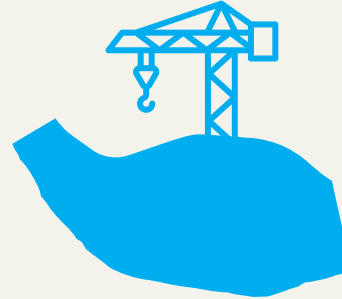
Feasible projects are aligned with available funding and prioritized for implementation, while partnerships and fundraising coordinated by the “Friends” helps to expand the scope and accelerate the delivery of specific projects. Ongoing community and Indigenous engagement in the Weston Loop is critical at this stage.



DETAILED DESIGN

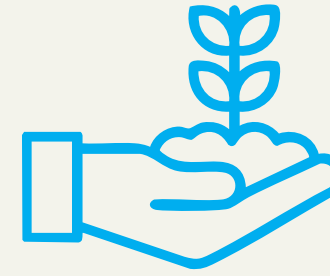
Multi-disciplinary teams are hired to facilitate the delivery of individual park projects. Ideas for organization, character, and program are

tested with detailed site data and engineering, and refined through project-specific community and Indigenous engagement. Strategies are developed for phasing, costs, fundraising, gaining regulatory approvals, and solving technical challenges, through ongoing collaboration between the design team, the “Friends”, the City, and the TRCA.



CONSTRUCTION

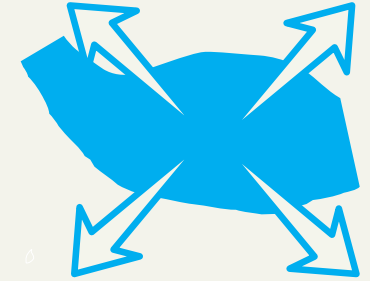
Contractors are selected, a schedule is set, and the park system is built over time. The complexity of landscape construction demands continual decision making, adaptation of the design, and collaboration among contractor, designers, and other parties.



MONITORING & STEWARDSHIP

As directed through the Council Motion, the Parks and Recreation Division will report back to City Council on an annual basis with a progress report on the implementation of the Master Plan. Staff will collaborate with the “Friends” to identify metrics, collect data, and prepare the report.

In accordance with the Stewardship Plan, the “Friends” will coordinate stewardship activities with City Staff, the TRCA, and local groups like Toronto Nature Stewards and Humber River Pals.



USE & EVOLUTION

The park becomes an integral and loved part of the city, grows and is sustained through ongoing care and maintenance. New program elements and uses evolve, but the overall vision, organization, and identity of the park persist and strengthen with time.



Phasing Strategy

Phase 0: Today to Year 5

Identity, and Activation and Studies

It takes time for physical improvements to the park system to be realized. Currently, there is no committed City funding specifically for the Weston Loop, so it is going to be a few years for projects to make their way into City budget lines. But that doesn't mean that nothing can be done! The first 5 years is a great time to initiate additional plans and studies for the park system. In addition, It is crucial to capitaize on the mometum that has been building through the Master Plan community engagement. Grassroots activities will build community awareness and connect groups who are already active in the park system. Some opportunities for park programming and potential partnerships are provided in Tables 4 and 5.

The budget for this phase would be secured through a combination of fundraising, grants, and philanthropic donations.

Phase 0 Priority Projects

- 1
- Establish the Friends of the Weston Loop and launch initial fundraising campaign
- 2
- Develop the Weston Loop identity and branding (Completed)
- 3
- Create activations in the park by supporting community-led park programming including nature walks, clean-ups, and special events
- 4
- Complete additional studies and plans including a Wayfinding Study, Stewardship Plan, and preliminary feasibility studies for the proposed park hubs
- 5
- Initiate a Weston Lions Park Improvement Plan in coordination with MLSE Launchpad

	Economic Development	Transportation
	 © Weston Village Community Association	 © Bike Share Toronto
Program Type	• Park operations • Small business opportunities • Entrepreneurial opportunities • Equity-based employment opportunities • Indigenous economic development	• TTC stops and Access • Bike Share • Park shuttle
Potential Partnerships	• Weston Village BIA • City of Toronto • Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation • Frontlines	• TTC • Toronto Bike Share • Metrolinx

Table 4: Potential Weston Loop programming opportunities.

	Health and Wellness	Arts and Culture	Environment	Truth and Reconciliation
	 ©City of Toronto	 ©Toronto Scoop		 ©Canadian Encyclopedia
Program Type	- Outdoor exercise - Fitness classes (e.g. yoga, tai chi) - Community sports leagues - Community gardens	- Local artisans and cultural events - Temporary and permanent art installations - Outdoor performances	- Outdoor education - Fishing - Park clean up days - Nature walks	- Indigenous placekeeping - Education and commemoration - Indigenous programming
Potential Partnerships	- MLSE - Weston Lions Club - Weston Baseball Association - Frontlines - JAM sports	- Toronto Arts Foundation - Urban Arts - Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation - Crossroads Theatre - Weston Historical Society - Frontlines - City of Toronto Cultural Districts Program	- TRCA - Evergreen - Toronto Nature Stewards - Humber River Pals - Humber River Calling	- Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation - City of Toronto - ENAGB - Humber River Calling

Table 5: Potential Weston Loop programming opportunities.

Phase 1

Early Transformations to Build Momentum

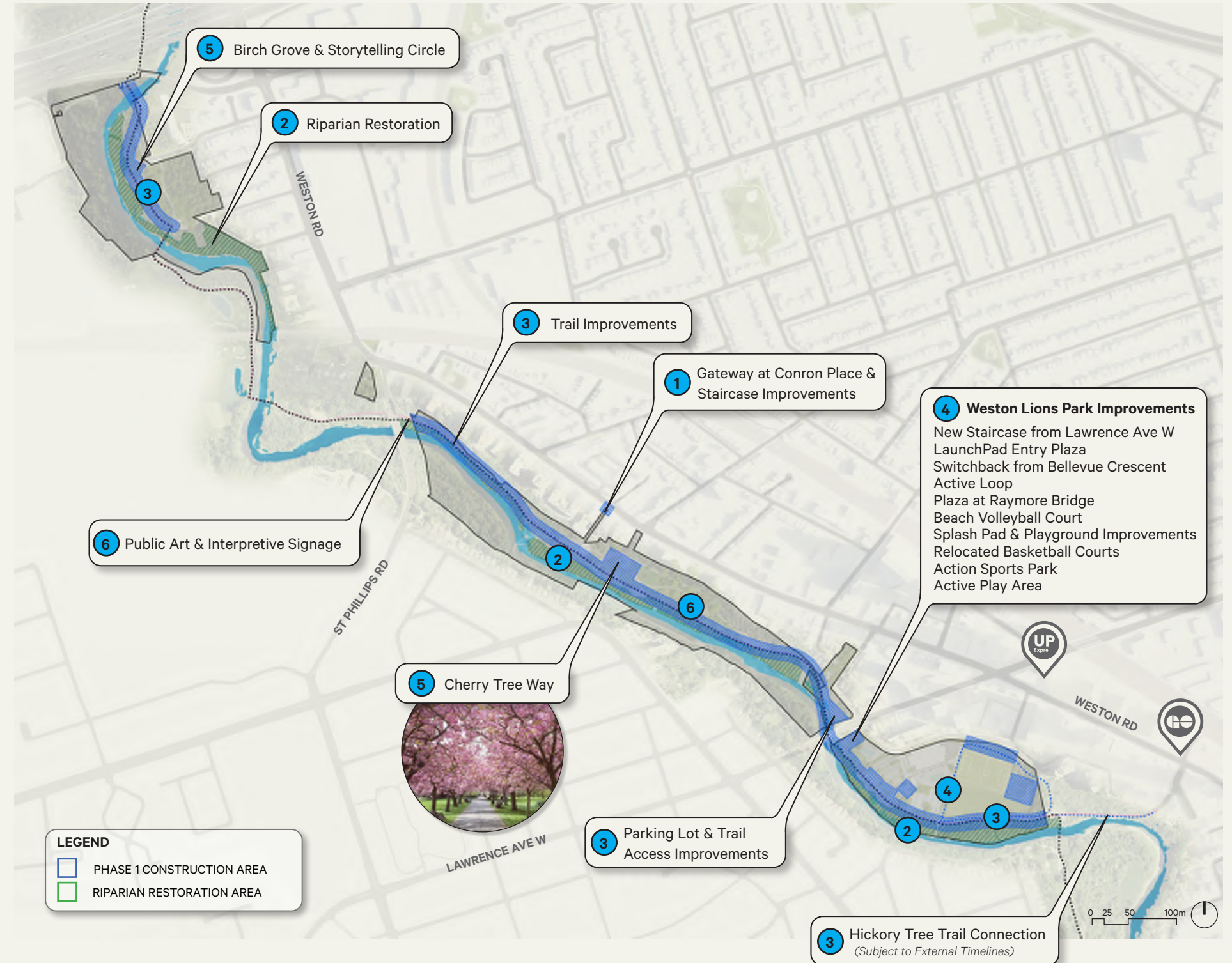
Phase 1 is when things start to happen in the Weston Loop. Initial capital investments should advance the Guiding Principles of the Master Plan: opening up the park system, strengthening its connection to Weston Village, and restoring ecological functions.

The timing of this phase aligns with the planned construction of the Mid-Humber Gap, which is an ideal opportunity to upgrade the full length of the Humber River Trail, and add public art and interpretive signage. Strategic programming investments at Weston Lions park will complement the transformation of the arena into MLSE LaunchPad's new multi-functional Sport for Development centre.

The estimated budget for this phase is \$17 Million, which includes a 15% buffer for soft costs but does not include ongoing operations and maintenance.

Phase 1 Priority Projects

- 1 Access improvements at existing park entrances
- 2 Humber River shoreline restoration through invasive species removal, and new riparian planting, and vegetation protection
- 3 Humber Trail improvements, including widening, resurfacing, and modal separation
- 4 Programming enhancements in Weston Lions Park, coordinated with arena renovations to create a "Sports Village"
- 5 Early tree planting projects, including the Cherry Tree Way and Birch Grove
- 6 Public art installations and interpretive signage



Phase 2

Expanding Programs and Connections

With early momentum built and initial access challenges addressed, Phase 2 investments shift towards a focus on programming improvements and ecological stewardship across the Park System. The identity and character of each park is reinforced through new program elements, while secondary paths expand usage with light-touch, floodplain-appropriate design to disperse pedestrian traffic and encourage discovery. New trees and vegetation, supported by the rigorous stewardship program and nature-based education programs of the Friends of the Weston Loop, contribute to enhanced biodiversity, ecological function, and resilience. Planting enhancements and targeted lighting along the Humber Trail add comfort, safety, and year-round usability.

The estimated budget for this phase is \$33 Million, which includes a 15% buffer for soft costs but does not include ongoing operations and maintenance.

Phase 2 Priority Projects

- 1 Secondary path improvements to enhance circulation and accessibility
- 2 New programming in Crawford-Jones, Cruickshank, Memorial and Weston Lions Park
- 3 Tree and planting enhancements and stewardship, including the Pollinator Meadow and Gardens



Phase 3

Closing the Loop

Two new Loops Hubs are the capstone investments to implement the Weston Loop Master Plan. The hubs at Crawford-Jones and Cruickshank Park will be the home bases for programming and stewardship, and will also include critical accessibility infrastructure that address the challenging ravine topography to meet AoDA standards. Dedicated water overlooks and access points will provide opportunities for people to be close to the river, while limiting the impacts on the riparian ecology and promoting public safety. Targeted wetland restoration at stormwater outfalls integrates green infrastructure to mitigate extreme weather impacts and provide critical habitat. These initiatives strengthen the Weston Loop’s long-term resilience and ensure its vitality for generations to come.

The estimated budget for this phase is \$32 Million, which includes a 15% buffer for soft costs but does not include ongoing operations and maintenance.

Phase 3 Priority Projects

- 1 Development of Park Hubs and new universally-accessible connections
- 2 Enhanced connections to and views over the water, including weir improvements
- 3 Wetland restoration at key areas, including stormwater outfalls
- 4 Lighting improvements at underpasses and isolated areas
- 5 Accessibility and programming upgrades at Mallaby Park



05

06

Conclusion

07

Concluding Remarks

The Weston Loop Master Plan represents a transformative vision for 74 acres of parkland along the Humber River. The Master Plan has been developed through extensive community engagement that brought together residents, Indigenous Rights Holders, local organizations, and other stakeholders to reimagine these vital green spaces. This collaborative approach will continue as the community moves from planning to implementation, with the Master Plan scheduled to go before City Council in late 2025 for formal endorsement.

The Master Plan establishes a comprehensive framework for creating a more connected, accessible, and vibrant park system that addresses current challenges, while positioning the Weston Loop as both a neighbourhood amenity and regional destination for the years to come. The Master Plan’s guiding principles of strengthening connectivity and accessibility, fostering identity and placemaking, enhancing safety and comfort, advancing ecological resilience, and expanding programming opportunities provide a clear roadmap for implementation that balances the protection of the sensitive ravine ecology with community needs.

For other communities and planning initiatives across Toronto and beyond, the Weston Loop Master Plan demonstrates the power of rooting design in authentic community voices. The residents, local community organizations, developers, Indigenous Rights Holders and other stakeholders who have participated in the planning process are the foundation for a Friends of the Weston Loop group that will champion the Master Plan, facilitate ongoing collaboration, and raise funds.

The Weston Loop Master Plan was an initiative championed by Councillor Nunziata, the Weston Village Community Association, and the Learning Enrichment Foundation, to capitalize on the momentous

transformation happening in the Weston neighbourhood, with new high density development along Weston Road spurred by public investment in rapid transit. The parks are a public good; the communal backyards of Weston. The benefits of public, private, and community investment in the park system should flow equally to both existing and future residents of Weston. In particular, ensuring that newcomers and minorities are welcomed and included in community park projects is crucial. Local hiring for park construction and future paid roles offered by the Friends of the Weston Loop will support economic development, equity, and youth opportunity in Weston.

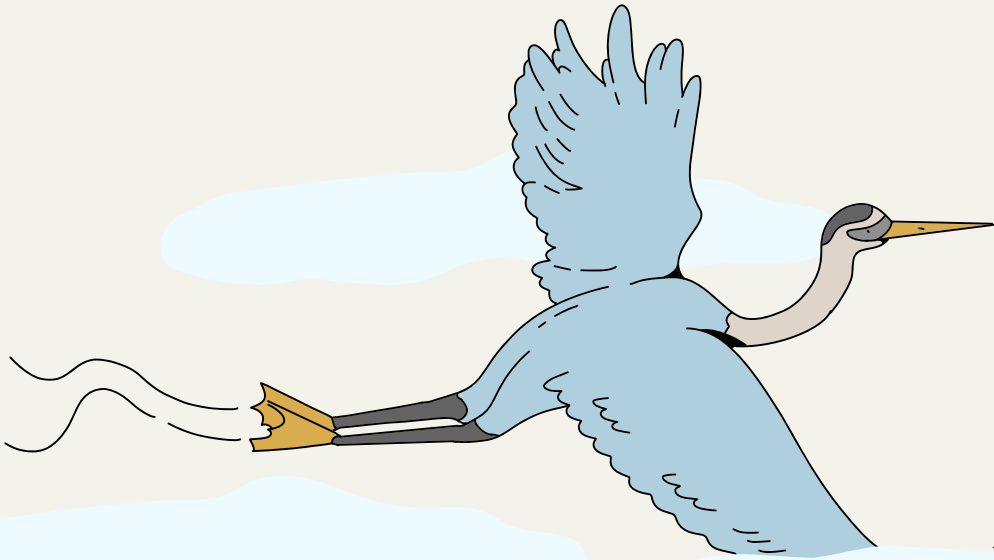
This Master Plan will be presented to Toronto City Council with the following recommendations:

- That City Council endorse the Master Plan for the five Weston Loop Parks;
- That the City’s Parks and Recreation Division coordinate implementation with other Divisions and Agencies, as required and as appropriate;
- That the Master Plan’s recommendations be integrated into other parallel City Planning, Transportation, and Parks and Recreation initiatives;
- That Parkland Cash-in-Lieu funding from the participating developments be allocated to the Master Plan; and,
- That the City’s Parks and Recreation Division collaborate with the Friends of the Weston Loop and other local stakeholders on implementation, and report back to Council on an annual basis.

This Master Plan shows how viewing parks not as isolated sites but as an interconnected system can amplify their collective value, creating a network where improved trail connections, shared programming, and coordinated stewardship allow each park to contribute to a greater whole that serves the diverse needs of Weston’s residents.

As Weston continues to grow and evolve, the Weston Loop parks will support the neighbourhood’s livability, increase its resilience to climate change and extreme weather events, and build community. The Master Plan unearths, restores, and celebrates Weston’s historic, present, and future relationship to the Humber River, and sets the stage for partnerships to advance Indigenous placekeeping and Reconciliation.

The Weston Loop is a model for how communities can work together to channel new development into a vibrant, inclusive and resilient green network that connects people to each other and to the natural world for generations to come.



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Appendices

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