



Public Meeting #2

January 28, 2015

The Planning Partnership + ERA Architects

purpose of Queen's Park North revitalization plan

why is Queen's Park North special?

- significant and cherished landscape
- cultural, social, and ecological value
- one of the earliest public parks in Canada
- home to a significant collection of mature trees
- unique open space character in central downtown

why is Queen's Park North under pressure?

- increased residential development in the surrounding community and corresponding increased use of the park
- significant number of cultural institutions and a large number of tourists in the park area
- adjacent to the legislature, which creates significant pressure for events and memorials that impact the sustainability of the park
- the park is aging and needs revitalized walkways and seating

purpose of Queen's Park North revitalization plan

what are we doing?

Comprehensive Revitalization Plan,
Management Plan and implementation strategy
that will:

- **Establish** a guiding vision for revitalization
- **Restore** walkways and connections to the surrounding community
- **Regenerate** the urban forest
- **Renew** seating, lighting and other park amenities
- **Revitalize** community enjoyment of the park

canvassing the possibilities & considering the options what we did

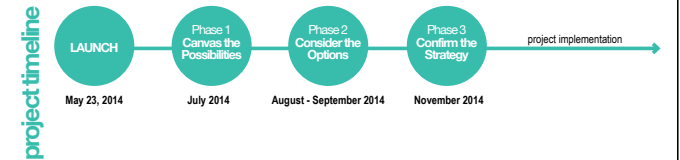


David Leinster, from The Planning Partnership, leading a walk-about of Queen's Park North

- 1 Project Launch Event**
May 23rd, 2014
- 2 Focus Groups and one-on-one Meetings with Stakeholders**
July 7th, 8th, 9th, 17th, 24th, October 29, Nov. 3, 10, 13, 20, 27, Dec. 10, 2014, Jan. 19, 2015
- 3 Roving Information Booth**
July 15th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, 29th, October 29, November 3, 2014
- 4 Website**
May 23rd, 2014 - ongoing
- 5 Working Group Meetings**
October 6th and 30th, 2014, January 13, 2015
- 6 First Public Open House**
November 5, 2014
- 7 Second Public Open House**
January 28, 2015

← we are here

queen's park north revitalization



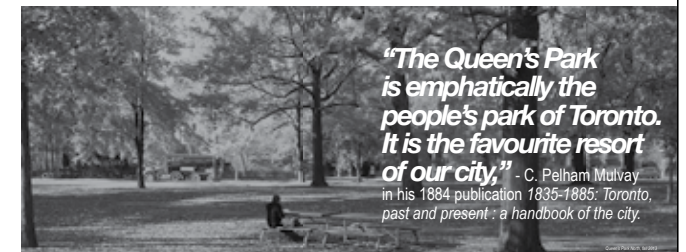
Queen's Park North Revitalization presents a wonderful opportunity to knit the Park even more closely and safely into its civic context and enhance this treasured landscape through a comprehensive master plan and implementation strategy.

Queen's Park North Revitalization will:

- REstore walkways and connections to the surrounding community;
- REgenerate the urban forest;
- RENew seating and lighting; and,
- REVitalize community enjoyment of the park.

For more information, and to find out how you can get involved, please visit Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam's website at www.ward27news.ca or contact her by email at councillor_wongtam@toronto.ca

Find Queens Park North Revitalization on www.toronto.ca
To contact The Planning Partnership project team, please email us at queensparknorth@gmail.com



re. queen's park north
restore regenerate revitalize renew



The large poster (6'-7" tall by 3' wide) that was used as the Roving Information Booth



consultation summary

what we heard about our 'early thoughts concept plan'

- 1 Protect the unique beauty, open space, tree canopy and environmental integrity of the Park - light touch 'facelift'**
- 2 Limit events and programs to hard surfaces**
- 3 Support for key components of the plan**
- 4 Support for moratorium on monuments to preserve green space**
- 5 Support for heritage value and telling the story**



Stats:

- 6.7 acres (approximately 300m x 200m)
- owned by University of Toronto
- leased to the City in 1859 for a period of 999 years, set to expire in 2858
- operated by City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
- home to over 200 trees

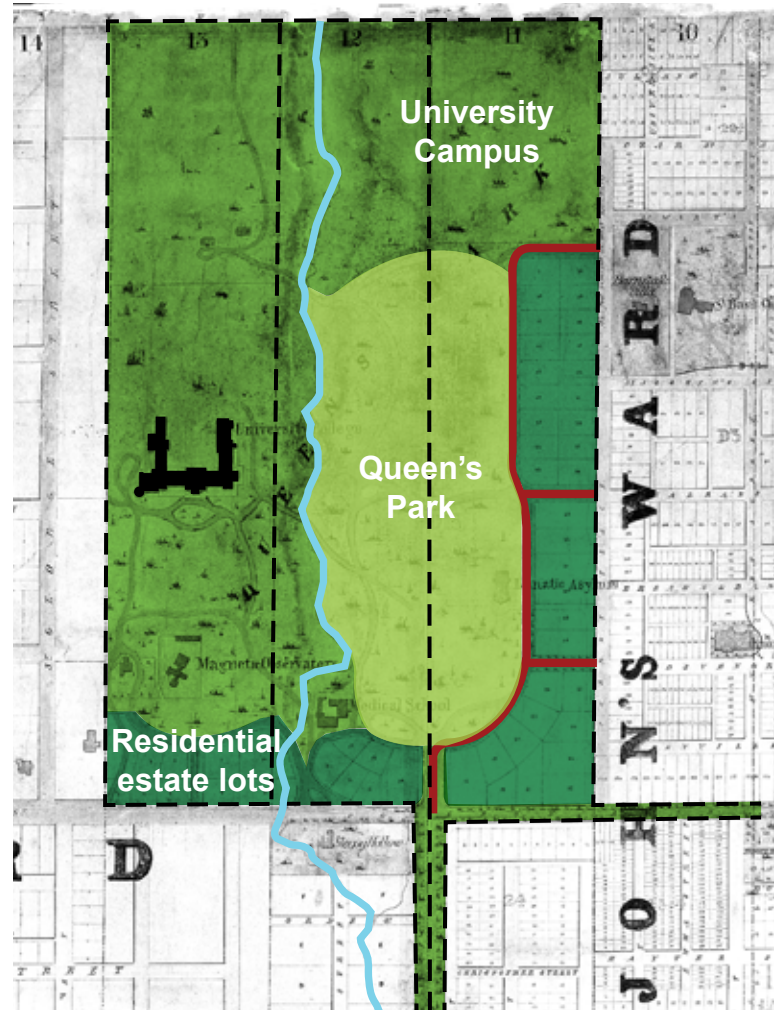
queen's park north cultural heritage

- **1829** - University grounds and connecting promenades create a special precinct in 19th century Toronto
- **1860** - Queen's Park officially opens as public park
- **1892** - Legislature bisects park into two portions, north and south
- **1949** - intensification of roadways including Wellesley St. W and Queen's Park Crescent West encloses park
- **2015** - Connectivity between park and surrounding context has been altered over time



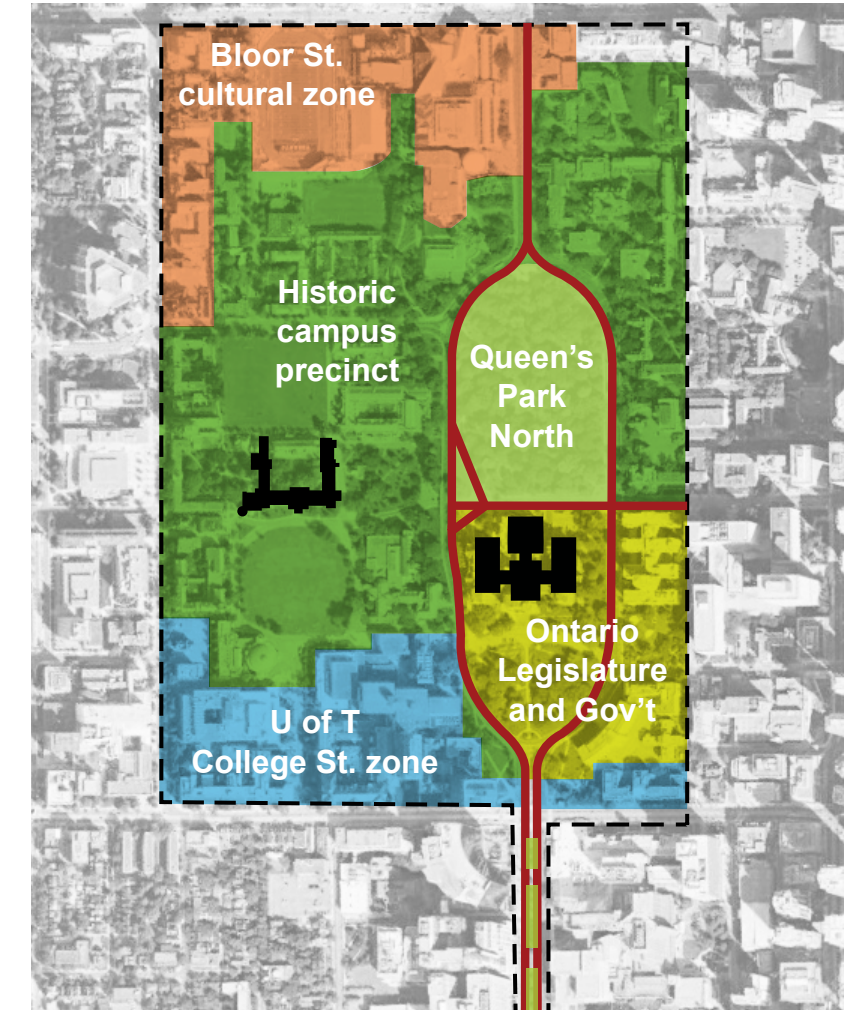
1857 - Fleming map

Then



1862 - Browne map

Now



2015 - Present day aerial

evolution of scale, role and civic identity of
Queen's Park

ERA

queen's park north cultural heritage

Character-defining heritage elements

1. Civic public space
2. Picturesque landscape character
3. Mature tree canopy
4. Collection of monuments in picturesque setting
5. Component part of larger picturesque precinct
6. Connectivity to larger picturesque precinct



**key direction: revitalize the picturesque and
reconnect to city**



framework for the draft concept plan

- the plan has evolved out of consultation and technical studies and represents a **'facelift'** for the park
- the concept is to **protect the spectacular tree canopy** by aligning new walkways and public spaces with the existing network of paths, and to **minimize infrastructure changes in the tree and lawn areas**



goals for the concept plan

- **protect** the tree canopy
- **enhance** the community's use and enjoyment of the park
- **preserve** the Picturesque quality of the landscape
- **rationalize** pedestrian traffic patterns and manage bicycle traffic
- **provide** more, and better quality seating areas & amenities
- **strengthen** the connection between Queen's Park and the surrounding community both in terms of program and circulation

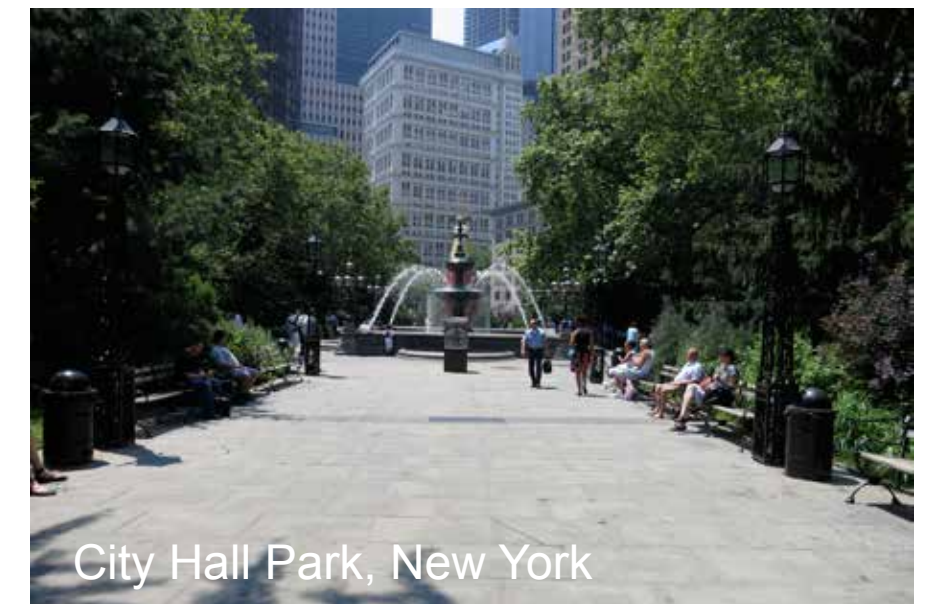


key components:

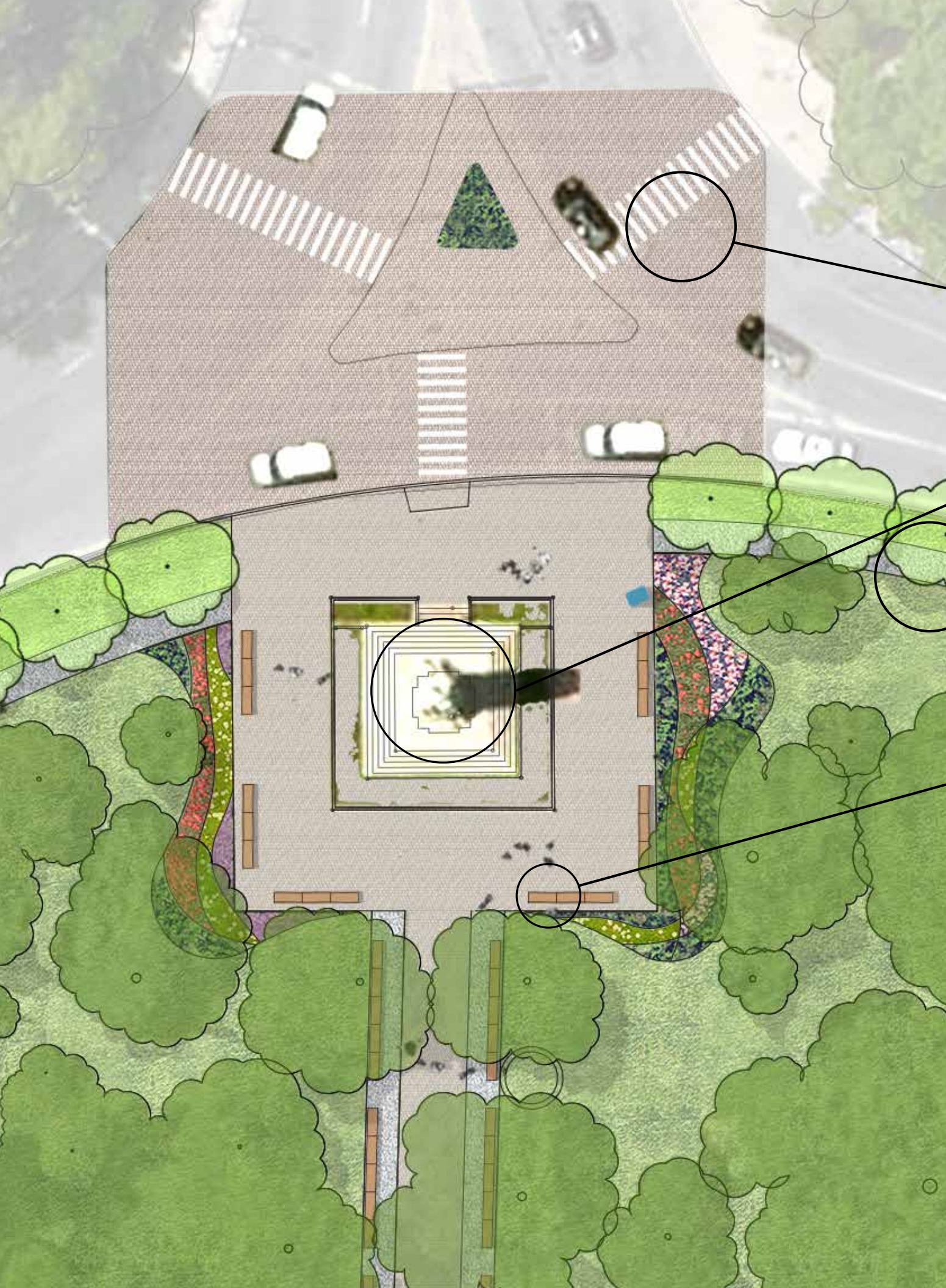
- Highlanders Entrance
- Queen Elizabeth II Mall
- King Edward VII Plaza
- Diagonal Walkway
- Hoskin Entrance
- Wellesley-Queen's Park Entrance
- Seating
- Trees

highlanders entrance & queen elizabeth II mall

- an 8 metre wide granite walkway ties the Highlanders Memorial to the King Edward VII statue
- seating and pedestrian lighting line both sides of the walkway
- terminating the mall at the north end is Highlanders Entrance with its newly restored monument and granite paving surround
- a transformed Queen's Park Crescent intersection creates a strong pedestrian priority area
- new front door address for Queen's Park North; connects to Bloor Street and cultural corridor



highlanders entrance - programming

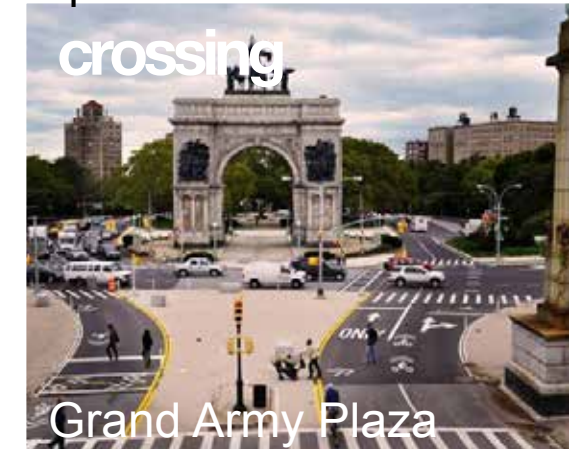


memorializing



Queen's Park North

crossing



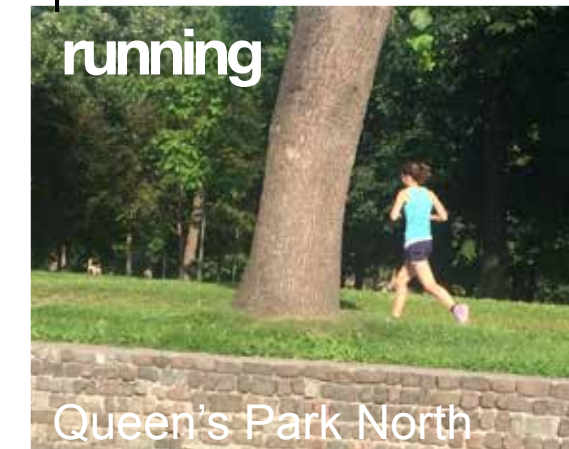
Grand Army Plaza

relaxing



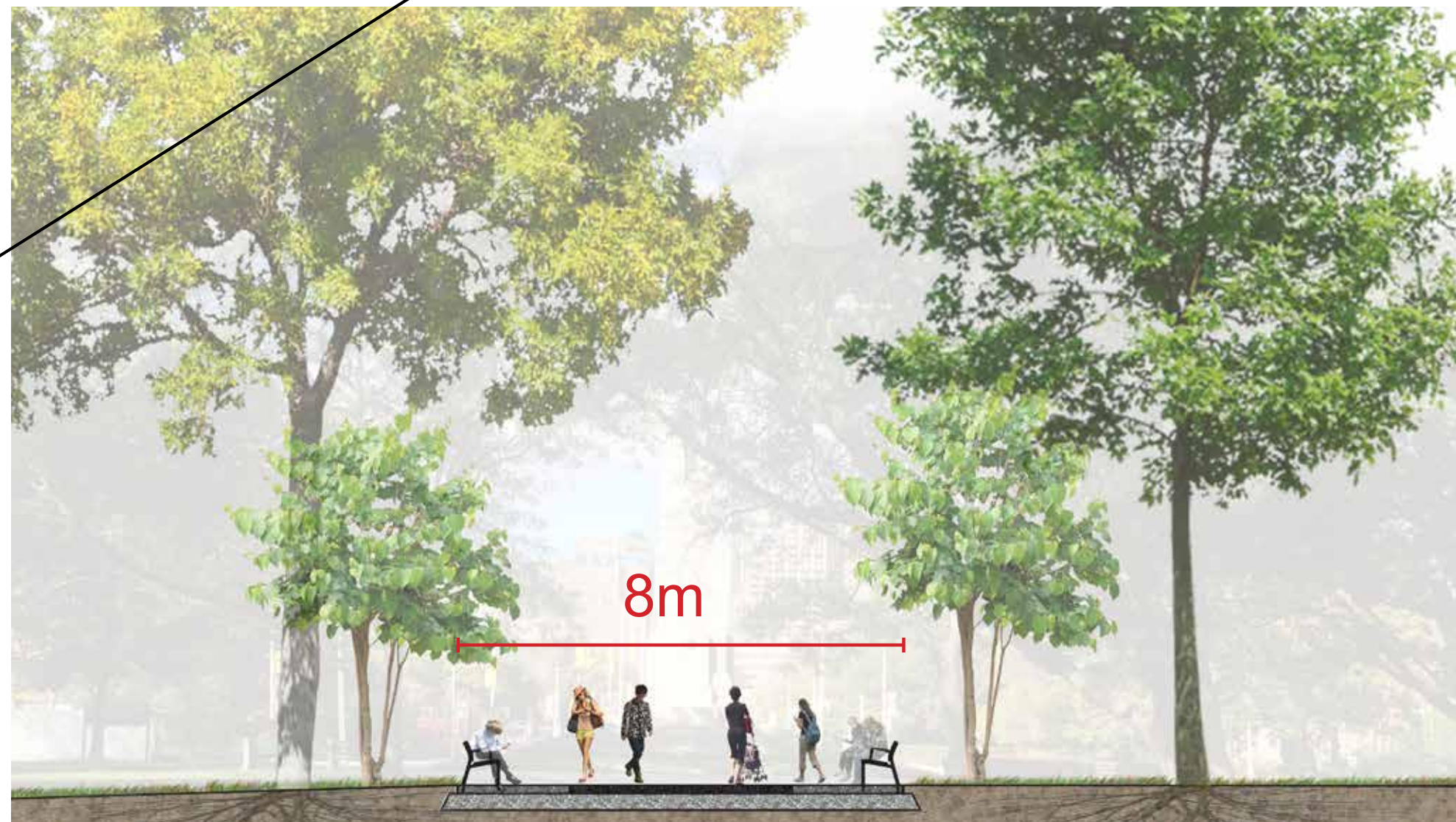
Dorchester Sq., Montreal

running



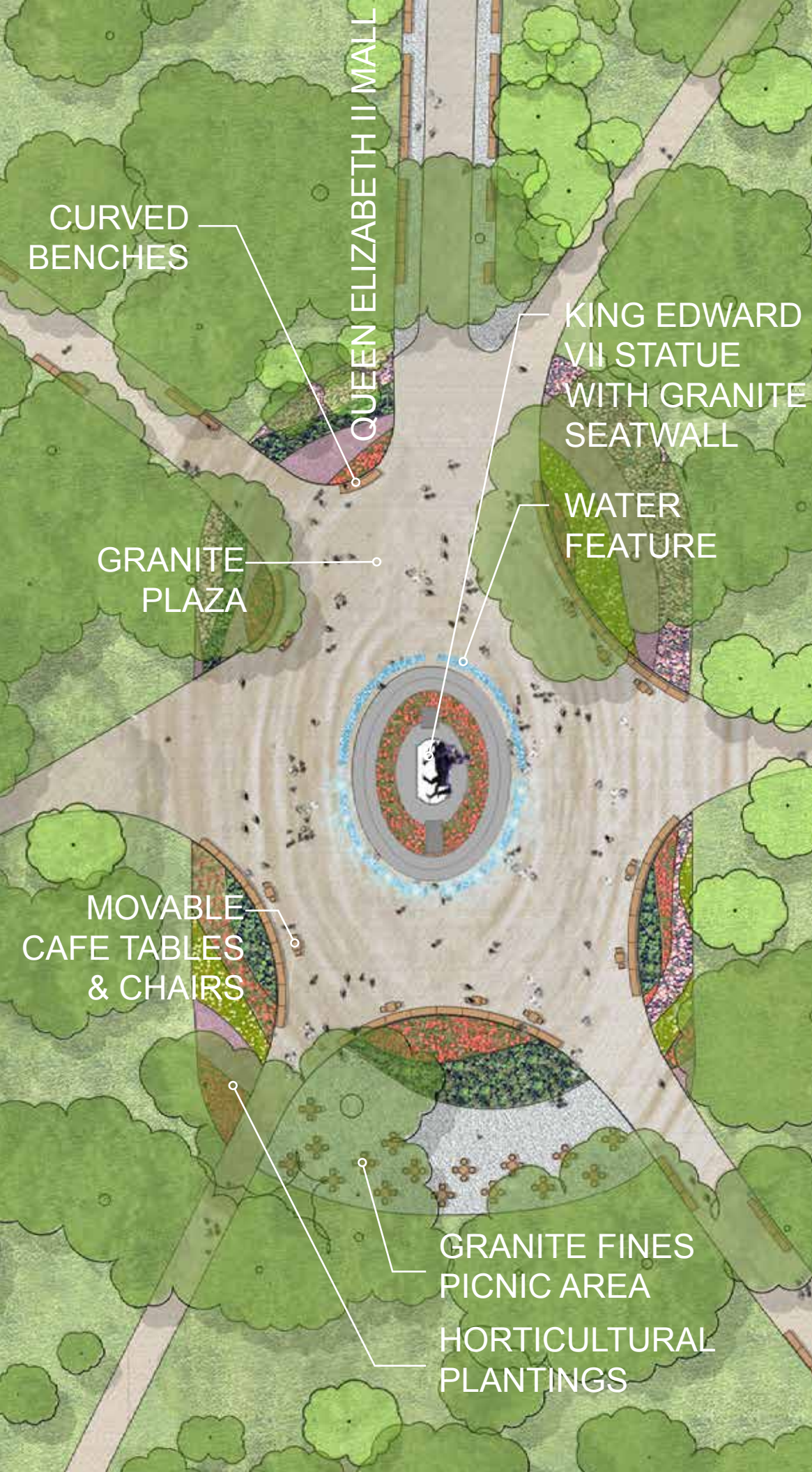
Queen's Park North

queen elizabeth II mall - programming



king edward VII plaza

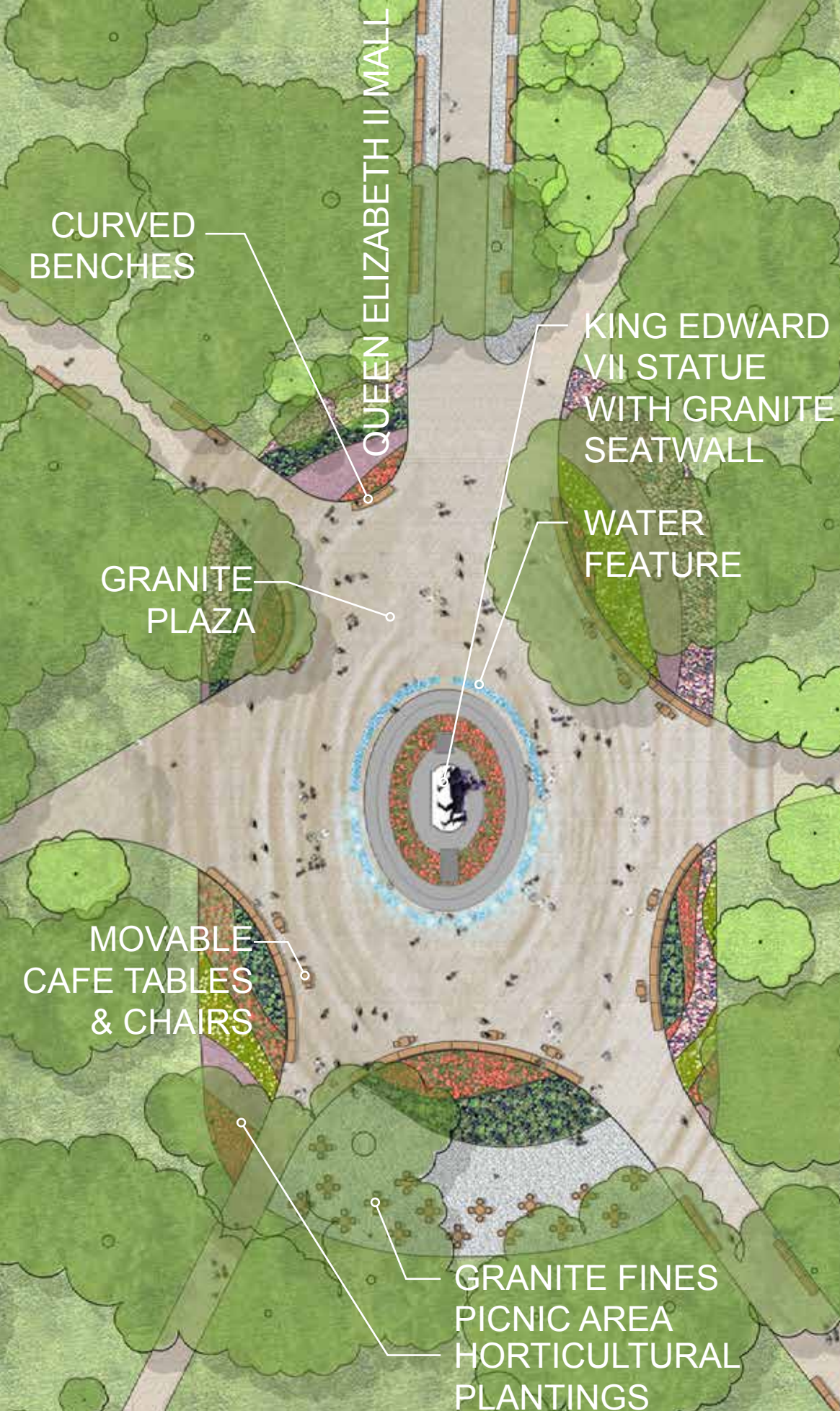
- large, vibrant central social space with family-friendly amenities including a dynamic fountain in the centre of the park
- existing King Edward the VIIth statue is retained, along with the existing granite seatwall
- granite plaza incorporates water jets around perimeter of seatwall
- open space allows space for programming, including small concerts and exhibits
- creating seasonal interest through the introduction of horticultural plantings



Dorchester Square, Montreal

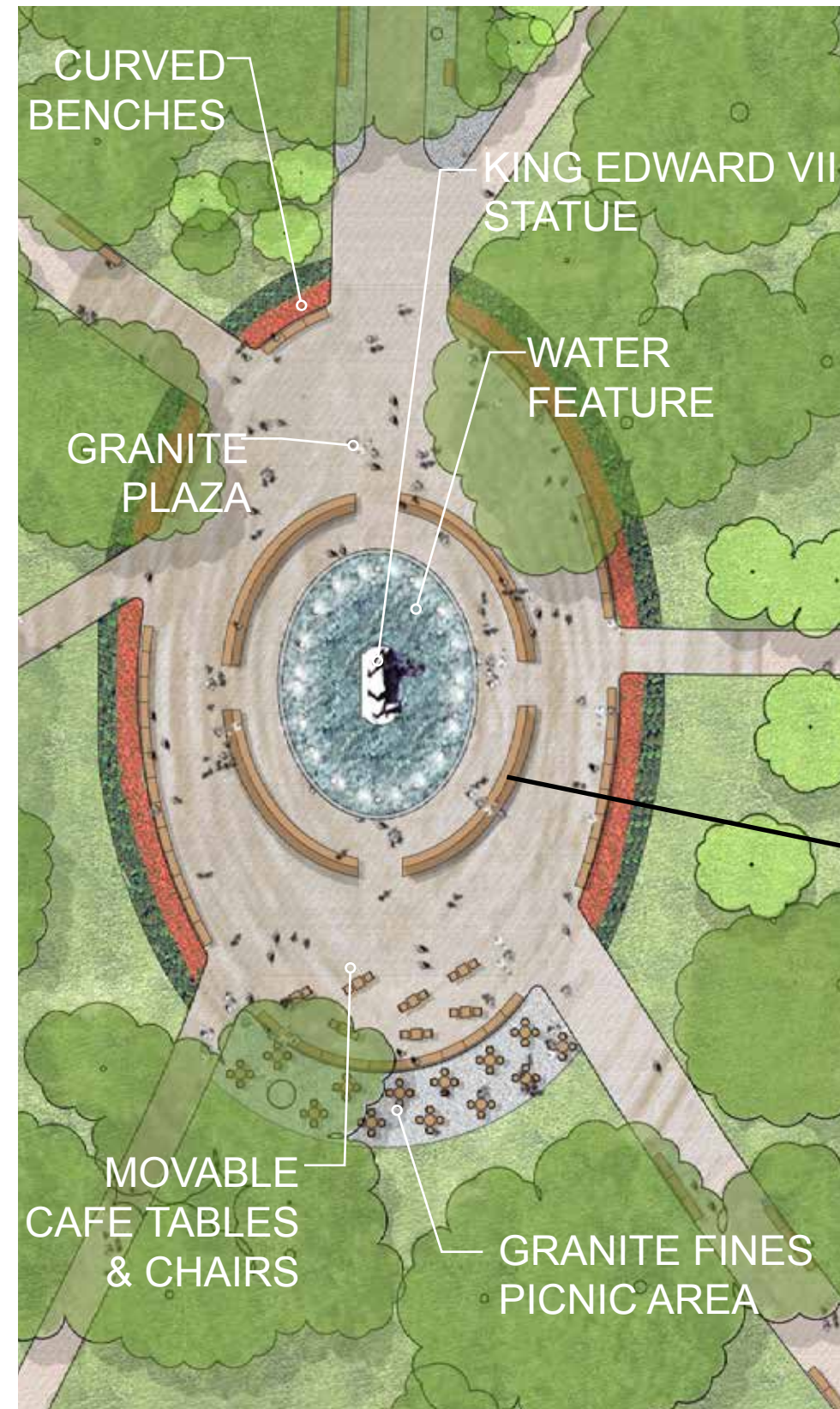


Existing seatwall and King Edward VII statue

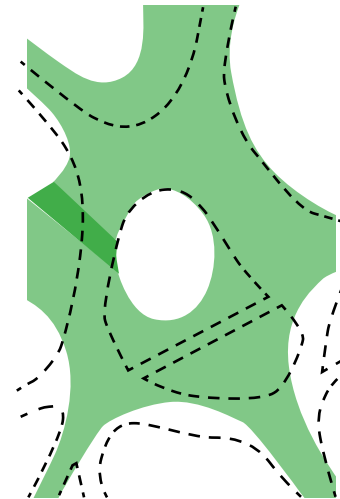


king edward VII plaza

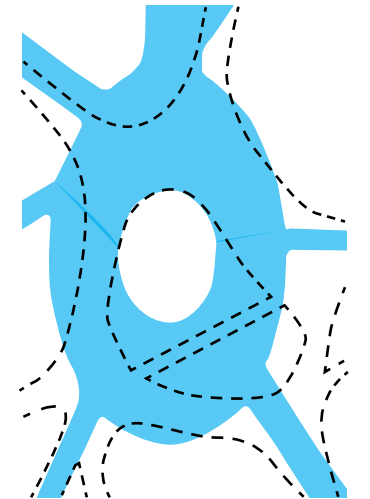
- options



OVERLAY -
EXISTING
CENTRE AND
OPTION 1



OVERLAY -
EXISTING
CENTRE AND
OPTION 2



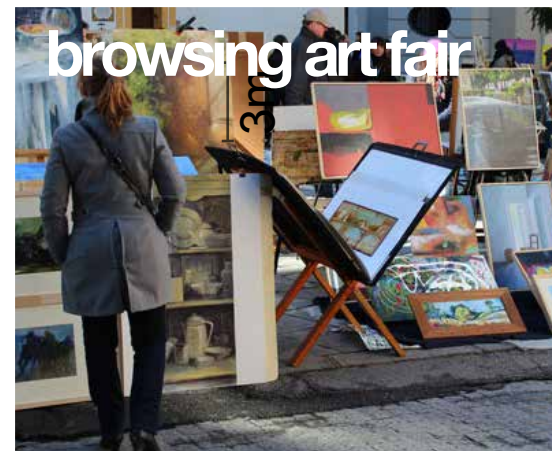
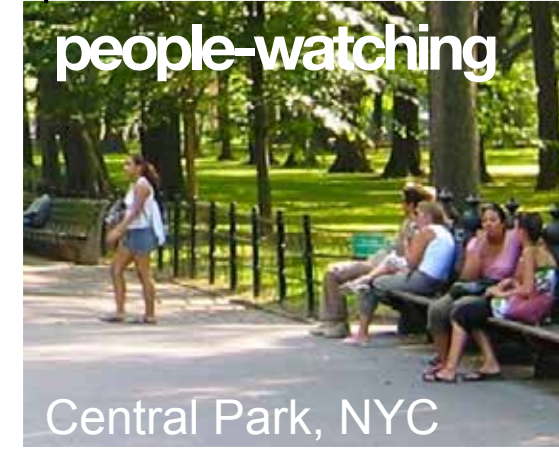
CURVED BENCH WITH
NO BACK



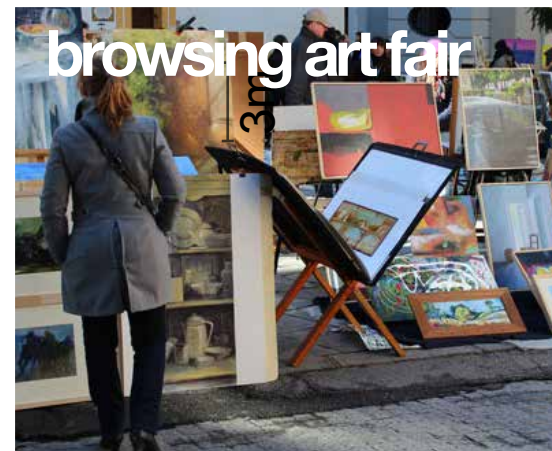
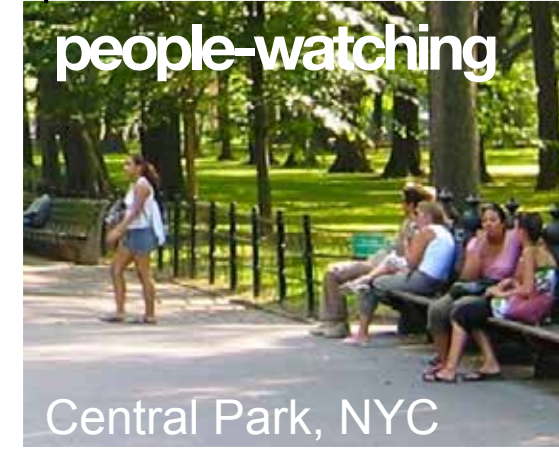
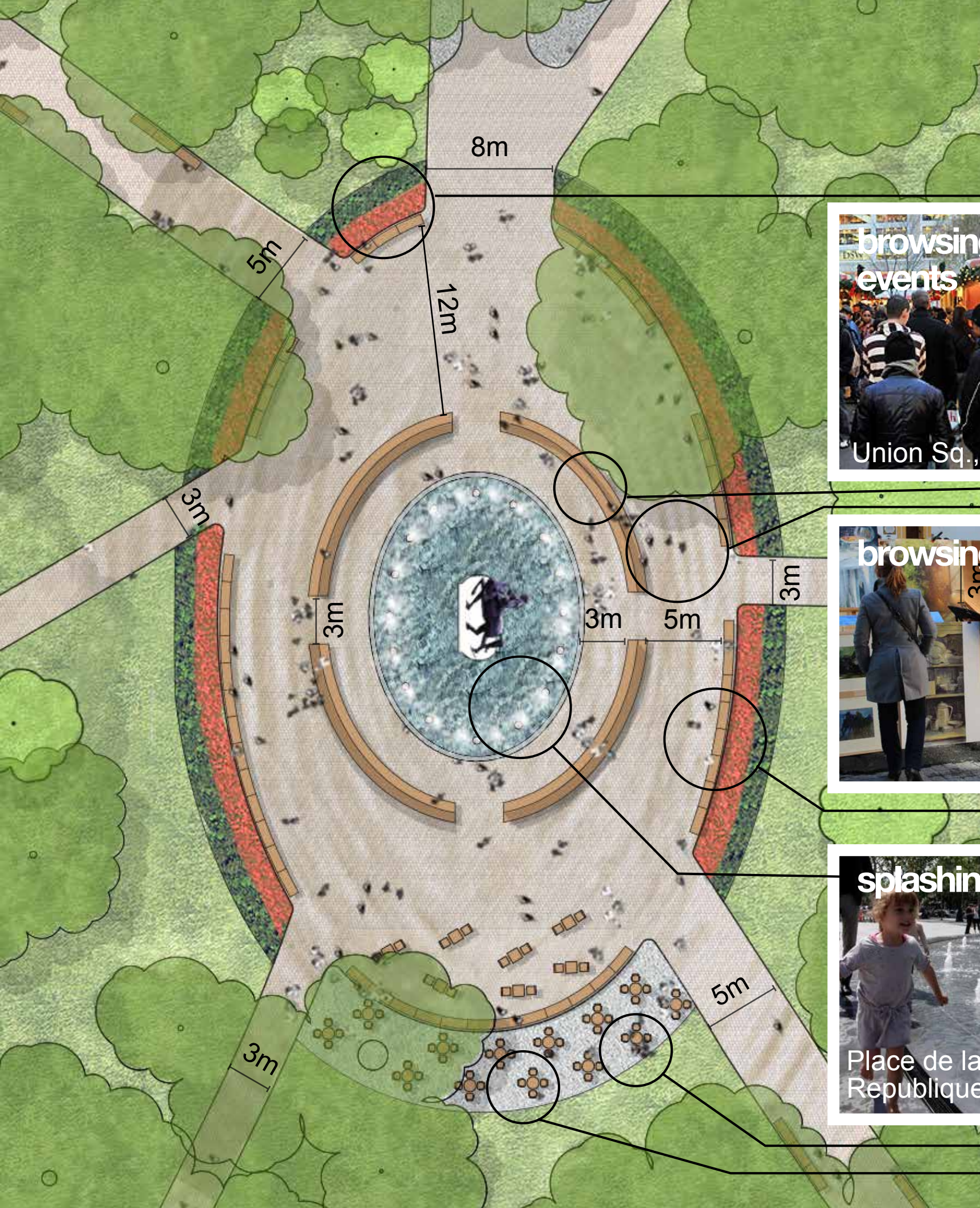
option 1

option 2

king edward VII plaza - programming

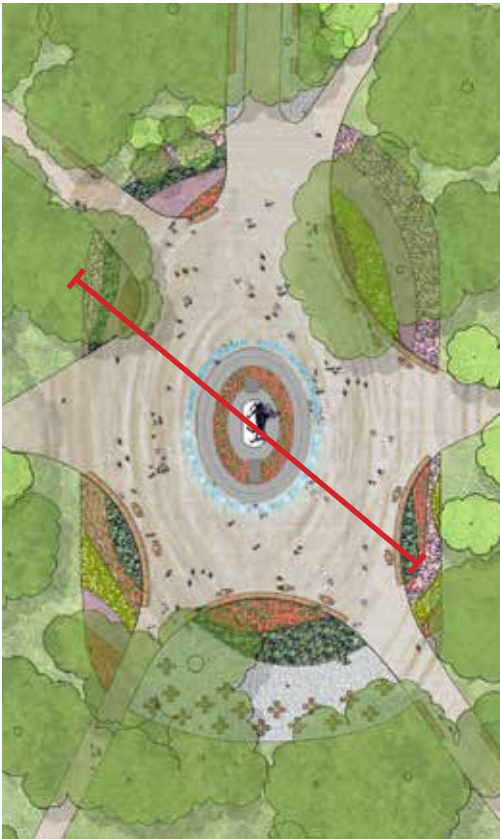


king edward VII plaza - programming

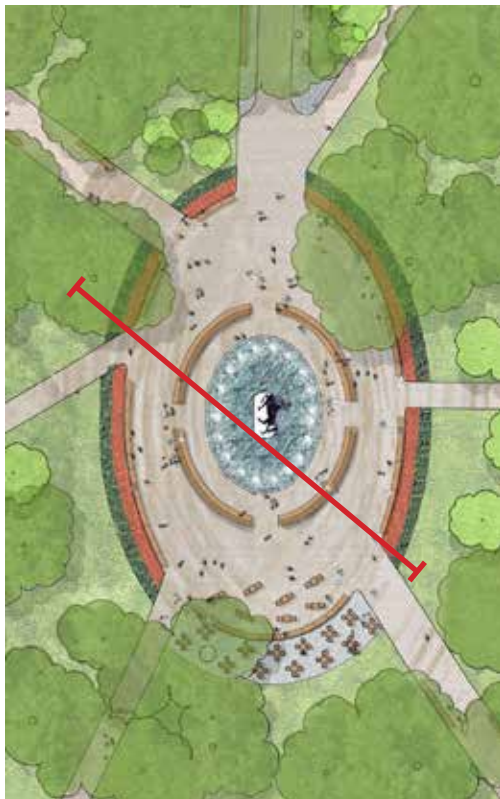
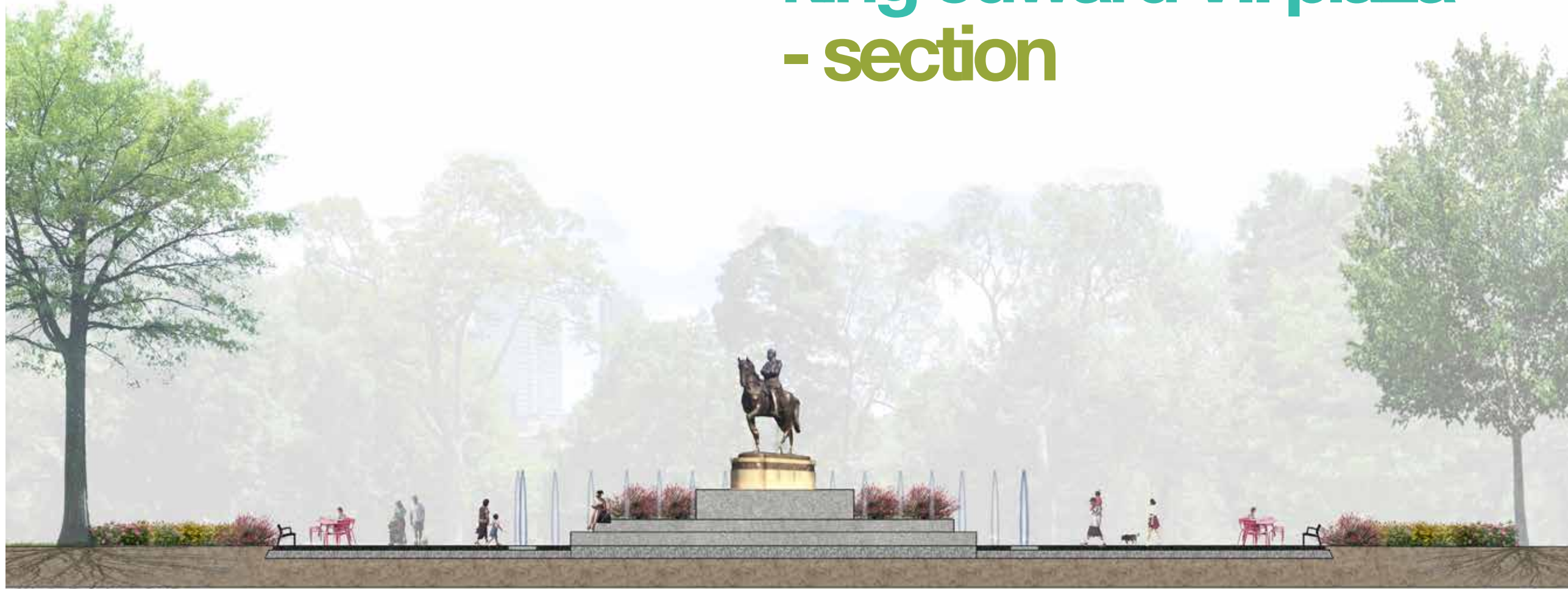


king edward VII plaza

- section



option 1



option 2






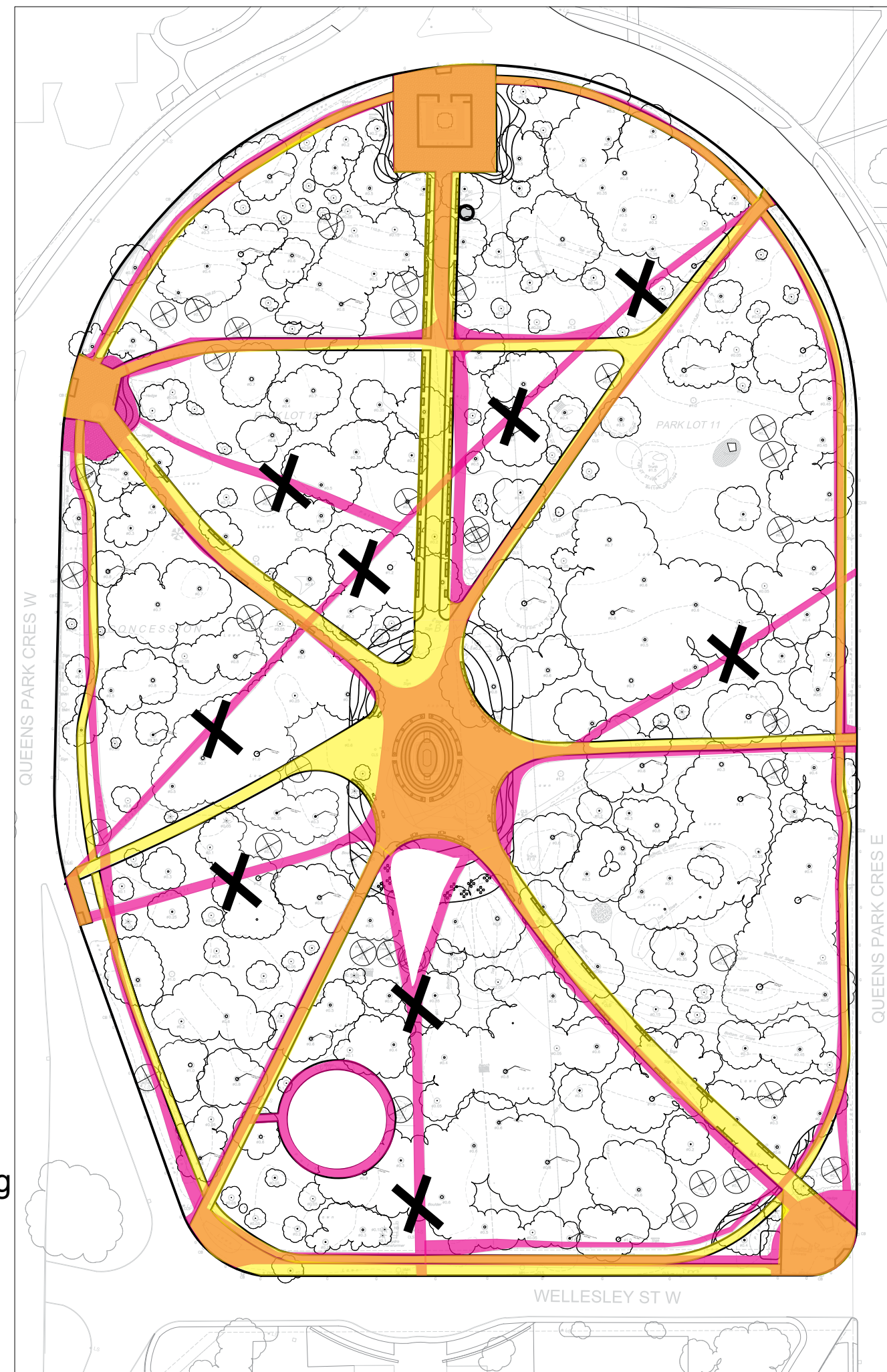
main diagonal walkway



textured paving

defined edge - curbs
and benches

- KEY
-  existing pathways
 -  pathways to be removed
 -  new hardscape areas to be constructed in existing softscape
 -  overlap of existing and proposed pathways



hoskin entrance

- the modestly-scaled Hoskin Entrance is paved with coloured and textured concrete and is lined with bench seating, pedestrian lighting and seasonal planting beds
- an information kiosk in the centre provides programming information on the park, the university, and the museums





wellesley-queen's park crescent entrance

- permanent seating lines the walkway edge
- horticultural beds provide seasonal interest





wellesley-queen's park crescent entrance - options



- a modestly-sized entrance is designed to accommodate a small cafe
- space for cafe tables and/or chess tables is provided on granite fines paving
- potential food truck pilot project location



Bryant Park, New York City

option 1 - no cafe

option 2 - cafe

reconnect wellesley street - park road treatment



Street Event, QPN



Central Park

- upgraded paving
- pedestrian priority road
- flexible event space
- reconnect to University bridge entrance
- reconnect to Ontario Legislative Assembly



program summary



- A few proposed program elements are outside the scope of work for the Queen's Park North Revitalization. These elements are part of a longer-term vision for the park.
- The following elements are outside the current scope of work:

1. Cafe
2. Pedestrian-priority intersection at Highlanders entrance
3. Wellesley Street improvements



seating options

custom - could be developed during detailed design



custom - could be developed during detailed design



movable tables and chairs



long benches



chess tables



picnic seating



stone seatwall



lawn



lighting



existing park lighting

- review existing lighting for safety levels and comfort
- consider lighting special features such as King Edward VII statue and water feature; Highlander's Memorial at entrance to QEII Mall

lighting options



lighting options



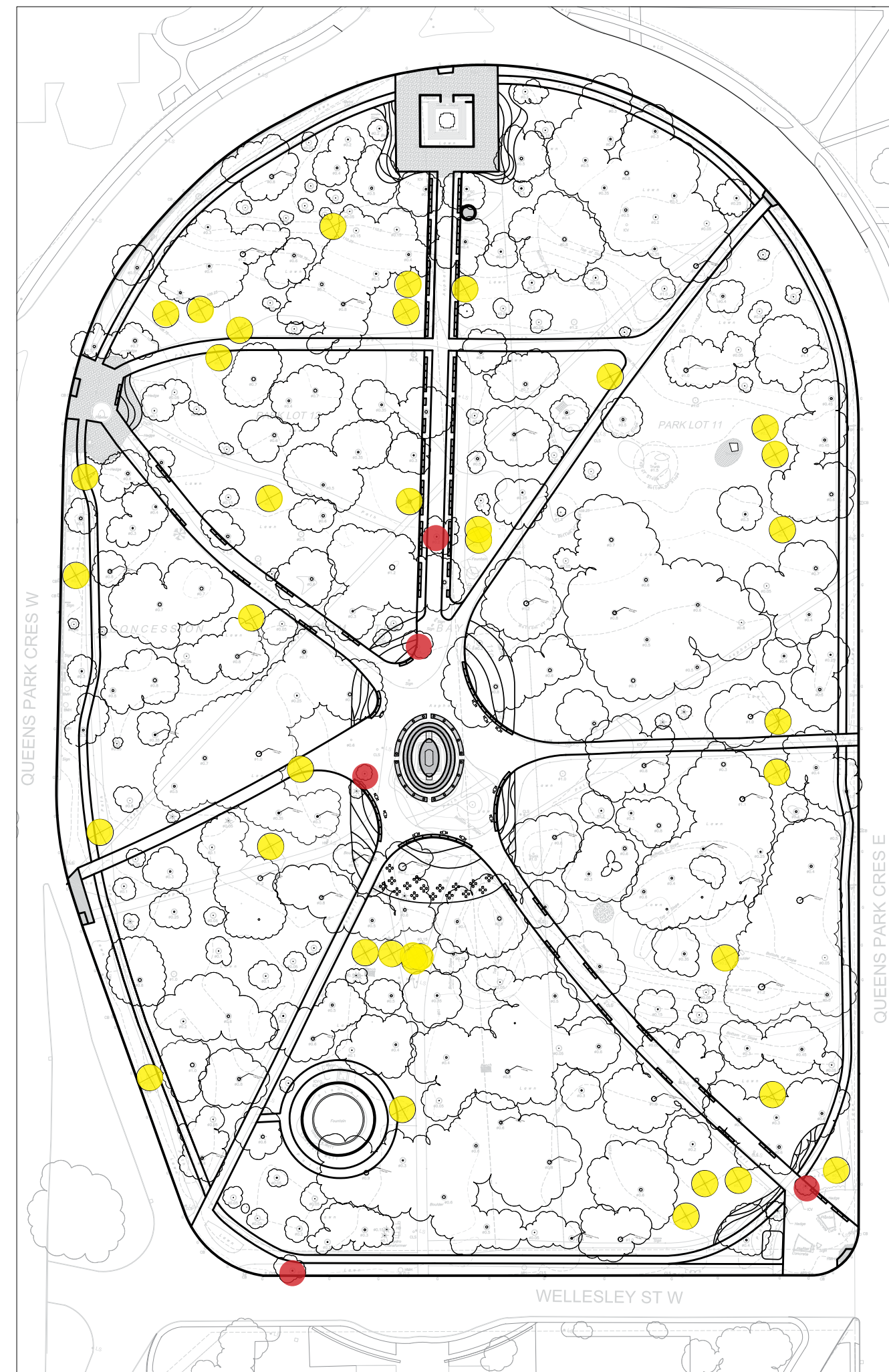
removals required with the framework for the concept plan

- arborist report indicates less than 10% of the existing trees are to be removed
- many of the removals are due to fungal disease-affected evergreens (Diplodia and Dothistroma)



KEY

- trees to be removed (per arborist report)
- trees to be removed or transplanted (due to conflict with design)



‘stars’ of the existing tree canopy - to be preserved



Northern Red Oak



Horse-chestnut



Eastern Black Walnut



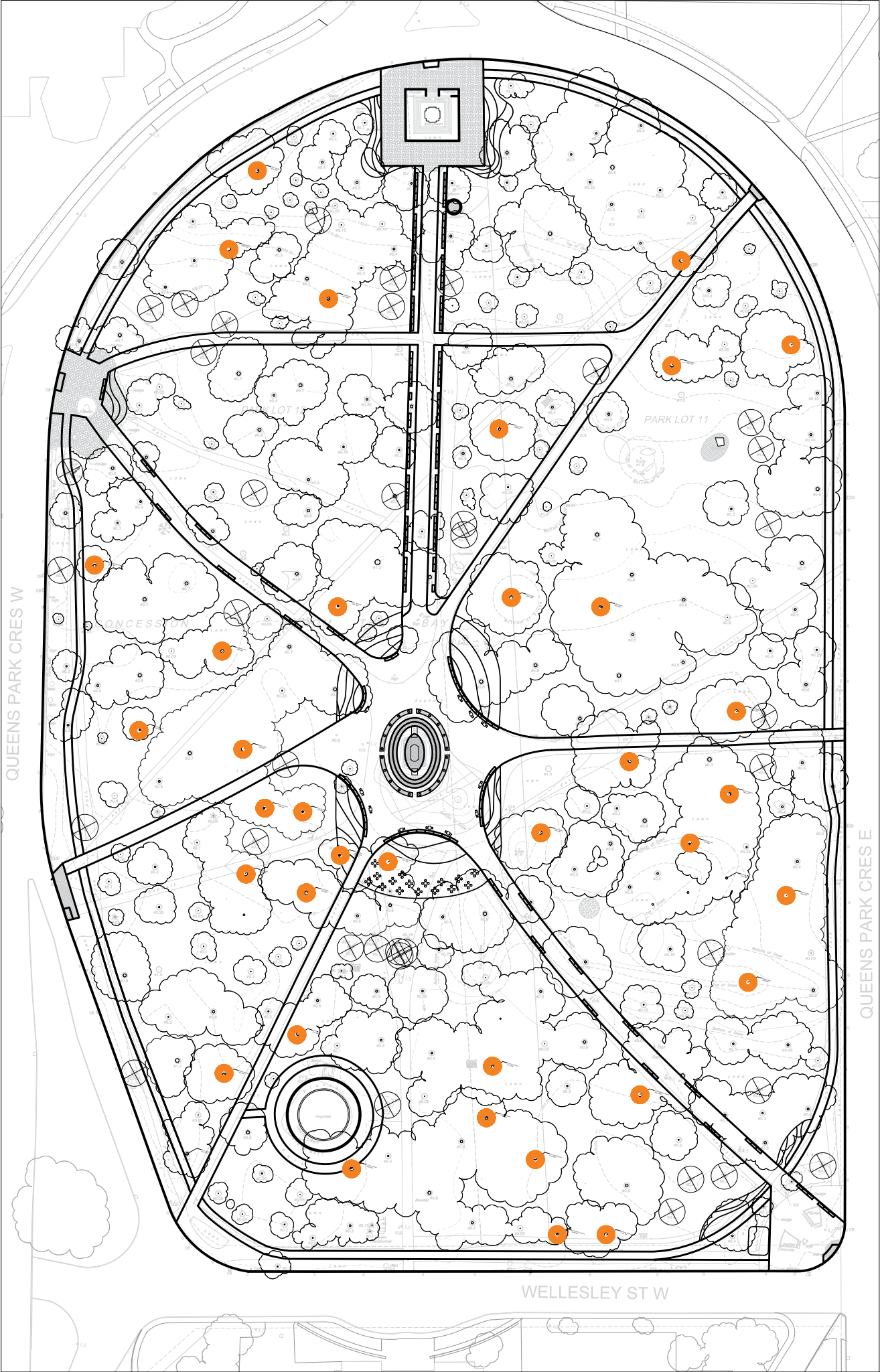
London Planetree



European Ash

KEY

● important trees to be preserved



new trees to be planted

- plant new trees and aim to plant 75% native species
- new trees could include the following species:

overstory trees

- Bur Oak, Swamp White Oak, White Oak, and English Oak (used sparingly)
- Red, Black, and Sycamore Maples
- European Beech (used sparingly)
- Eastern White Pine (Provincial tree)

understory (trees + large shrubs)

- Yellowwood
- Eastern Redbud
- Pagoda and Eastern Flowering Dogwood
- Vernal Witchhazel





table group activities

Share your thoughts by joining a conversation on one of 5 topics:

1. Culture and Heritage

2. Trees, Horticulture and Ecology

3. Queen Elizabeth II Mall & Circulation

4. Entrances at Hoskin, Wellesley-QP, and Highlanders

5. King Edward VII Plaza - Vibrant Social Heart

Feel free to move along to the next topic of your choice whenever you want

Or, record your comments on your own at the table at the side of the room.