

David Crombie Park

Revitalization Design

Workshop #1

November 29, 2018



Today's Presentation

- 1 Our Team
- 2 Overview & Work Program
- 3 History & Context
- 4 Analysis
- 5 Examples of Great Parks
- 6 David Crombie Park Is...
- 7 Workshop Activities



The Team

TPP

The Planning Partnership

Project Lead, Landscape Architects and Public Consultation



880 Cities

Public Life Study

And technical support in engineering, lighting and design of play structures



Regent Park



Lee Lifeson Art Park

Internal Stakeholders



- **Parks, Forestry & Recreation**
- **Transportation Services**
- **St Lawrence Community Recreation Centre**

Key External Stakeholders



3 Schools (TDSB and TCDSB)



St Lawrence Neighbourhood Association



BIA

Toronto Community Housing



TCHC

David Crombie Park Revitalization Design

The David Crombie Park Revitalization Design project will **develop a comprehensive conceptual design and implementation plan for improvements** to the park that meet the current and future needs of the community.

The design will evolve through **consultation with residents, the public and other stakeholders.**

Overview of Work Program

Stage 1

**Background Review, Site
Inventory & Analysis**



Fall 2018

Stage 2

**Revitalization Design
Concept Options**



Winter 2019

Stage 3

**Final Park Revitalization
Design & Implementation
Plan Recommendations**



Spring 2019

Stage 4

Master Plan



Fall 2019

Consultation Summary

Consultation – Stage 1



Community Resource Group Meeting

July 27, 2018



Public Life Study

August 15 and 25, 2018
October 25 and November 3



One-on-One Interviews

September 18, 2018



Public Kick-off Event

November 20, 2018



Public Workshop

November 29, 2018
3:00 pm and 6:30 pm

325

Surveys

40

Interviews
Conducted

160

Registered
Participants



David Crombie Park

Revitalization Design

Flyer

Share Your Thoughts!

David Crombie Park Revitalization Design will engage the community to develop a refreshed vision for the park.

The City of Toronto is leading the David Crombie Park Revitalization Project. The Planning Partnership is excited to be leading the consultation and design.

The Park is cherished by residents and we look forward to working with the community to determine the best ways to revitalize the space, the landscape, the park amenities and identify any other opportunities for improvement.

As an initial step in the Project, we are inviting residents and park users to meet a member of the design team to talk about how you use the Park and to share your ideas for a new vision.

20 minute, one-on-one meetings are being held:



Tuesday, September 18, 2018

Any time between 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre Lobby

For more information visit:
toronto.ca/david-crombie-park-revitalization-design

Or call:
311

  @TorontoPFR

Please email us at davidcrombiepark@planpart.ca to schedule a meeting on September 18th.



David Crombie Park




David Crombie Park

Revitalization Design

Stay Connected!

David Crombie Park Revitalization Design will engage the community to develop a refreshed vision for the park.

The City of Toronto is leading the David Crombie Park Revitalization Project. The Planning Partnership is excited to be leading the consultation and design.

The Park is cherished by residents and we look forward to working with the community to determine the best ways to revitalize the space, the landscape, the park amenities and identify any other opportunities for improvement.



Mural by Jami, community youth, and artists Elisa Monreal and Julian Periquet



David Crombie Park

Share your thoughts!

For more information visit:
toronto.ca/david-crombie-park-revitalization-design

Or call:
311

What do you love about David Crombie Park?

How would you like to use the Park?

davidcrombiepark@planpart.ca

  @TorontoPFR



Postcard

David Crombie Park

Revitalization Design

Flyer

Save the dates

Public Kick-off Event

David Crombie Park: Reflecting Back, Looking Forward

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

North Tent, Temporary Market, 125 The Esplanade



Register for this event at:

david-crombie-park-kickoff.eventbrite.com



Join us for a lively conversation on "Park + City Making", exploring David Crombie Park's past and future with lessons learned and opportunities for revitalization, moderated by author and former CBC broadcaster, Jane Farrow. The conversation, with a panel of three inspiring experts, will include questions and comments from the floor.

David Crombie

David Crombie, namesake of the Park and mayor when the innovative St. Lawrence Market neighbourhood was conceived in the late 70's, will tell us about the inspiration, big ideas and challenges of creating the neighbourhood and its integrated "green spine" park.

Renée Daoust

Renée Daoust, a Governor General award winning Montreal architect and urban designer, will share her insights into what makes fantastic parks and streets, showcasing projects from around the world.

Janie Romoff

Janie Romoff, the City of Toronto's General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, will talk about exciting new directions for our City parks and public realm.

Public Workshop

Thursday, November 29, 2018

3:00 pm OR 6:30 pm

Adult Learning Room, St. Lawrence Community Recreation Centre, 230 The Esplanade



Register for this event at:

david-crombie-park-workshop-1.eventbrite.com

Each workshop session will begin with a presentation followed by table group discussions to provide your input on what's important, what you love about the park, what facilities or spaces are not working well, how you use the park now and how you'd like to use the park. Please choose a session that best suits your schedule.

For more information:

Visit: toronto.ca/david-crombie-park-revitalization-design

Email: davidcrombiepark@planpart.ca

Call: 311



@TorontoPFR



8000

Flyers were
mailed out

Kick-off Event

- Moderated by Jane Farrow, an author and former CBC broadcaster
- David Crombie, the namesake of the Park and mayor when the St. Lawrence Market neighbourhood was conceived
- Janie Romoff, City's General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Forestry
- Renee Daoust, a Governor General award-winning architect and urban designer from Montreal



The Panel:

“

Four season use

Connector

Genius locii

Power of water

Cultural imprint

Strong frame

Mobilizing vision

Audacity of simplicity ”

One-on-one interviews - Some of what we've heard so far...

“Need more seating and tables”

The fountains are gathering spaces for people, and act as landmarks”

“Like the variety in the park”

“Basketball court is wonderful”

“Kids use the playground every day”

“The stone walkway is nice but not accessible”

“Ball diamond is under pressure from dogs”

“Rain creates huge puddles in the school yard”

“Too much concrete”

“Beautiful avenue of green in the middle of the city”

“Make it easier to show movies”

“Functions as the front porch or outdoor living room for the neighbourhood”

What we've heard - what's working well



**Beautiful park with lots of green space and gardens.
Love the trees**



Outdoor living space for the neighbourhood



Playgrounds and basketball court are well used



Fountains are meeting places



Lots of seating, places to relax, places for events



Busy on weekends with tourists going to the Distillery District



The dog park is well used

What we've heard - what's not working well



School yards have drainage and maintenance issues



Fountains not always working



Walkways and paving areas are deteriorating.



The wood playground is deteriorating. Play equipment is not fun



The park should be more accessible



The dog park has taken over the baseball diamond



Need more seating

Public Life Study



60

volunteers



7am – 9pm

Wednesday, August 15
Saturday, August 25
Wednesday, October 25
Saturday, November 3

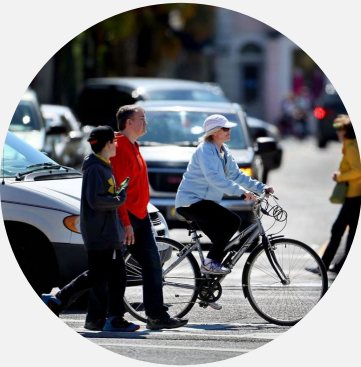


325

surveys

Public Life Study

TRAVEL COUNTS



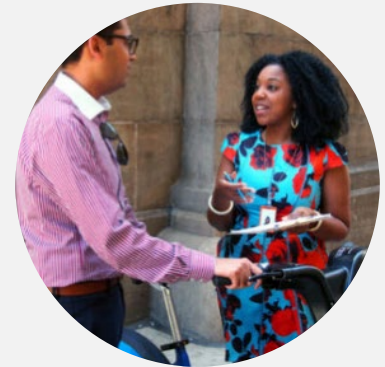
- Number of people walking
- Number of people bicycling

ACTIVITY OBSERVATIONS



- Number of users at different times of day
- Gender & age counts
- Types of activity

INTERCEPT SURVEYS



- User perception of the park
- Ideas for improvement

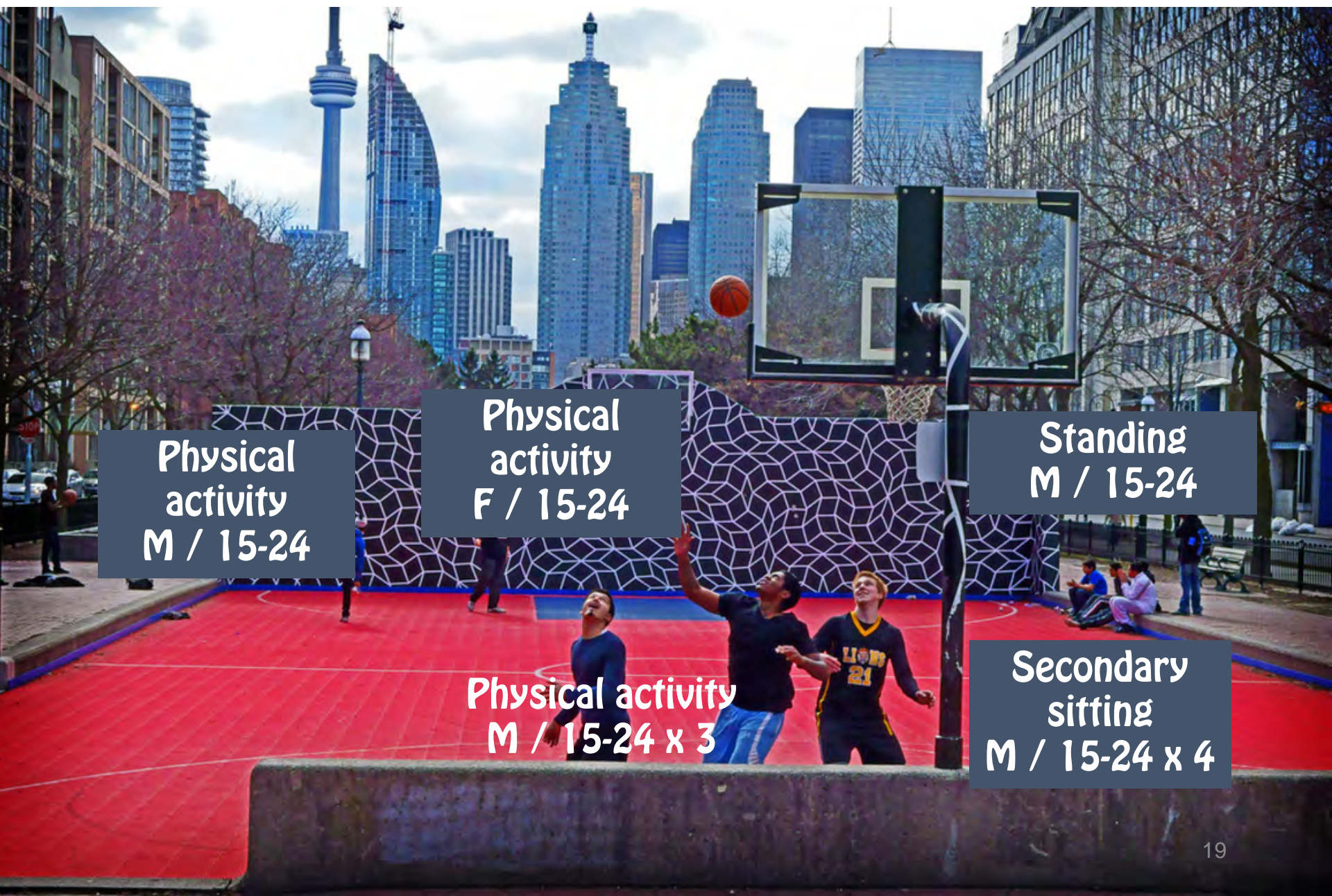
Public Life Study

Walking
M / 25-44

Walking
F / 25-44



Public Life Study



Physical
activity
M / 15-24

Physical
activity
F / 15-24

Standing
M / 15-24

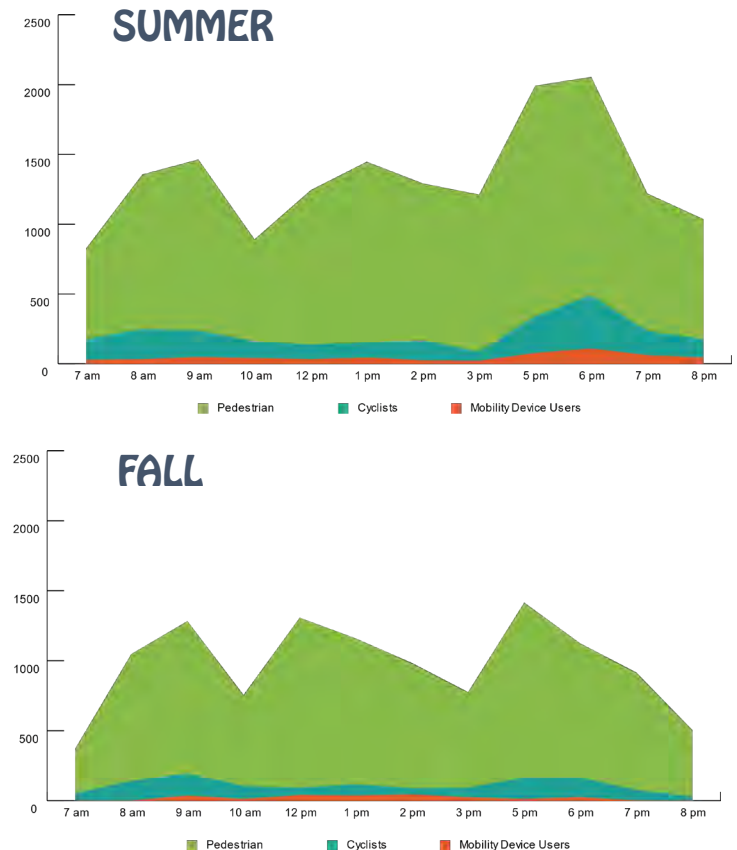
Physical activity
M / 15-24 x 3

Secondary
sitting
M / 15-24 x 4

Public Life Study

Weekday Travel Count

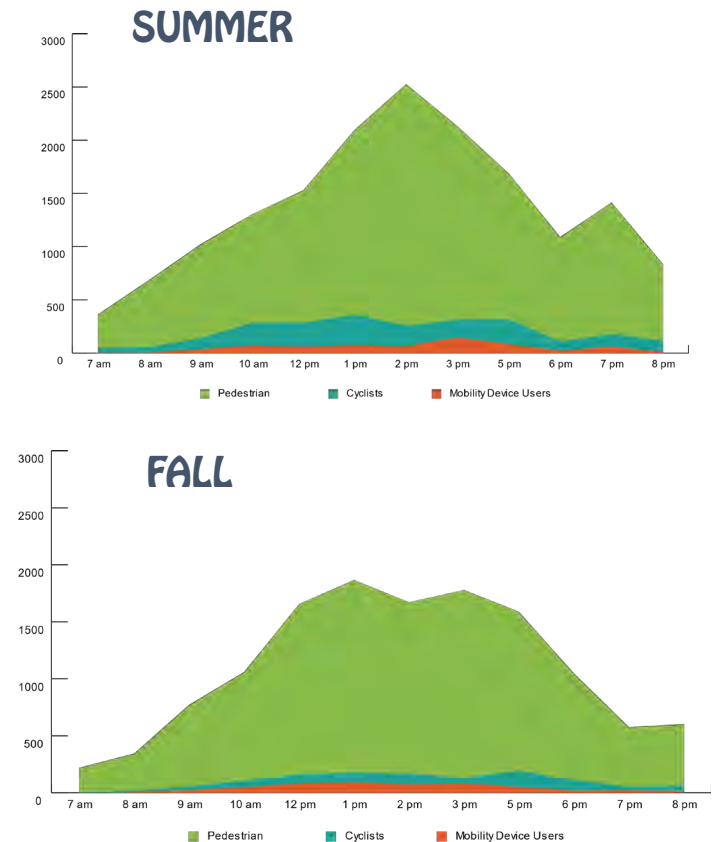
- 3 clear peaks: 9 am, 1 pm & 5 pm for both seasons
- 27% decrease in weekday foot/bike traffic in fall, compared to summer



Public Life Study

Weekend travel count

- Early afternoon peak
- 21% decrease in weekend foot/bike traffic in fall, compared to summer
- Sharp decline after 5pm (sunset) in fall



Public Life Study Trends in Activities

- Dog walking is **15%** of park activity
- In summer, sitting is **20 – 30%** of park activity, compared to **7%** in the fall
- In fall, weekday activity drops by **35%** compared to the weekend
- Overall, there's **10%** less activity in fall compared to summer
- Equal distribution of men and women
- Older adults are under represented



Public Life Study Intercept surveys

- **66%** are neighbourhood residents
- **43%** visit every day
- Over half stay for at least **30** minutes
- **94%** feel “positive” or “very positive”
- **75%** feel “safe” or “very safe”



History & Context



David Crombie Park



1.6 hectares (3.95 acres)



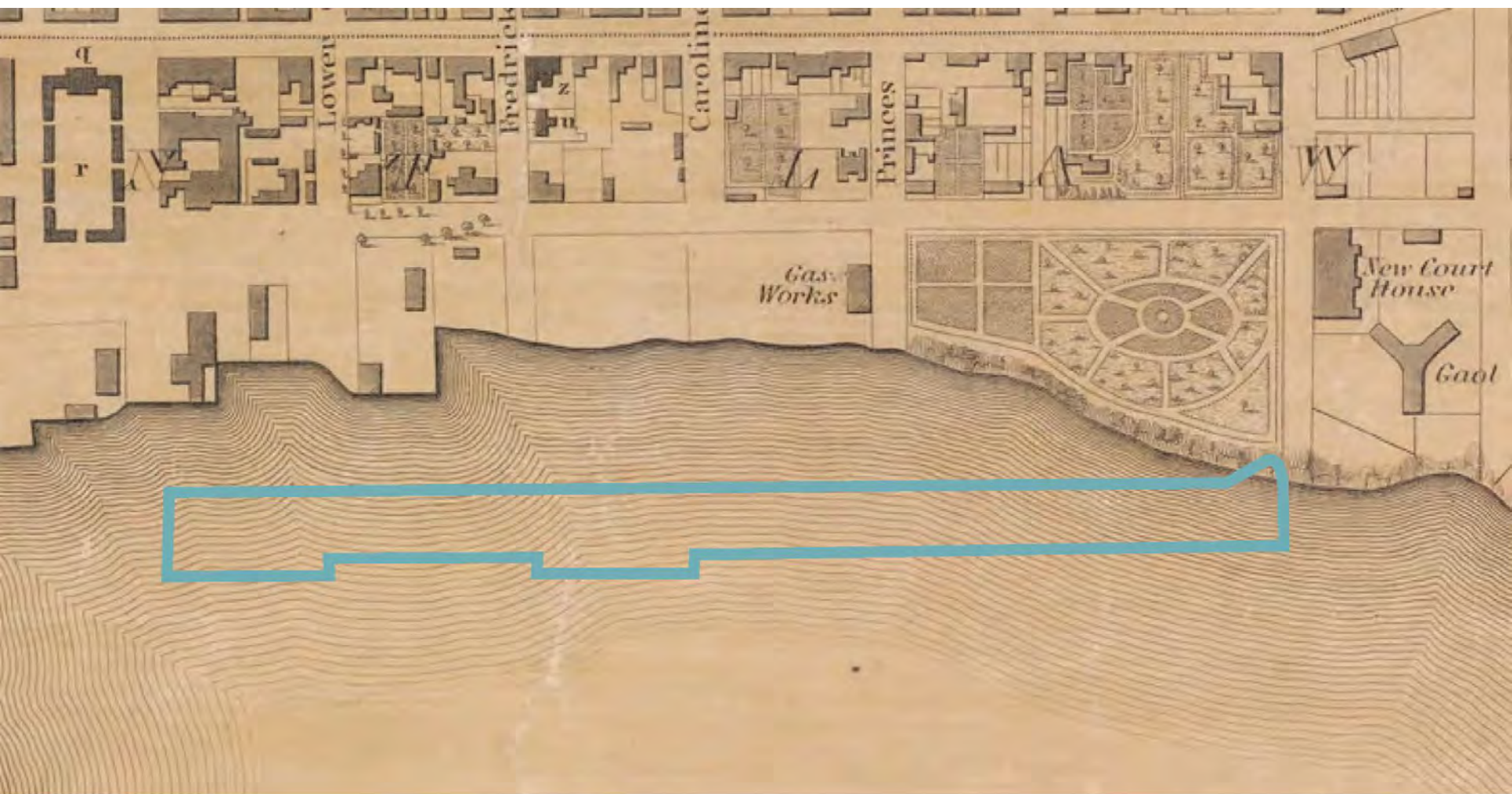
50 metres wide



600 metres long



1800-1850



Stage 1 Archaeological Resource Assessment by ASI

1850-1878



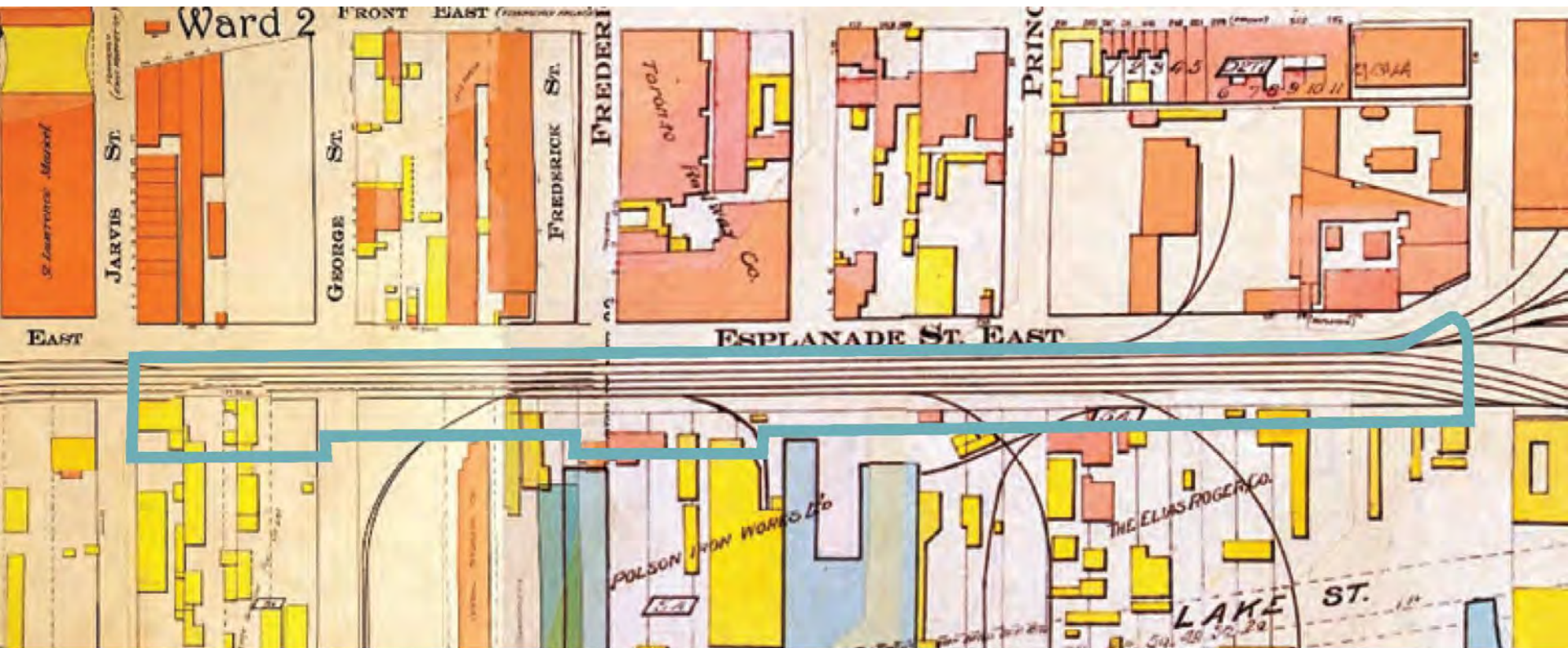
Stage 1 Archaeological Resource Assessment by ASI

1854

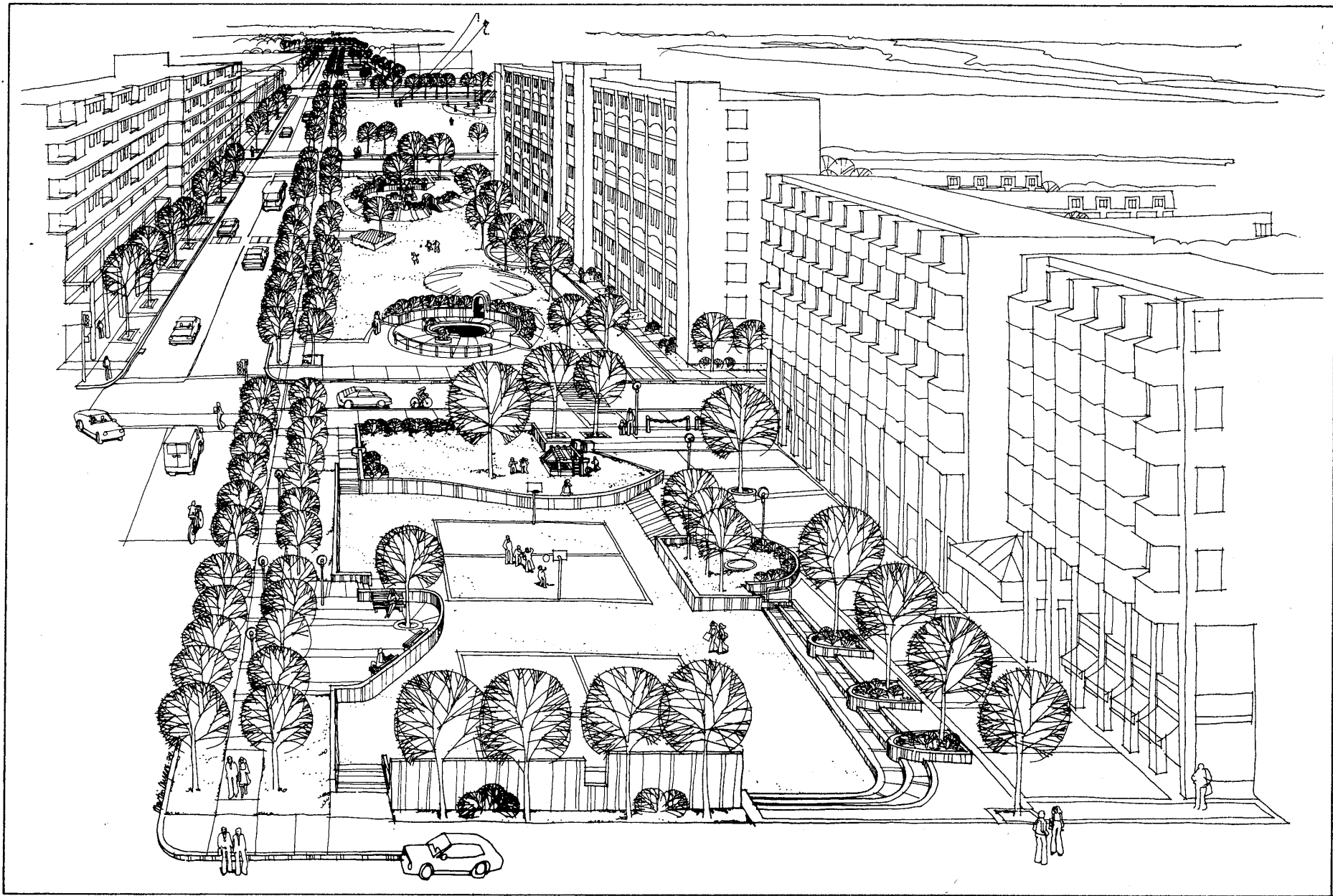


Stage 1 Archaeological Resource Assessment by ASI

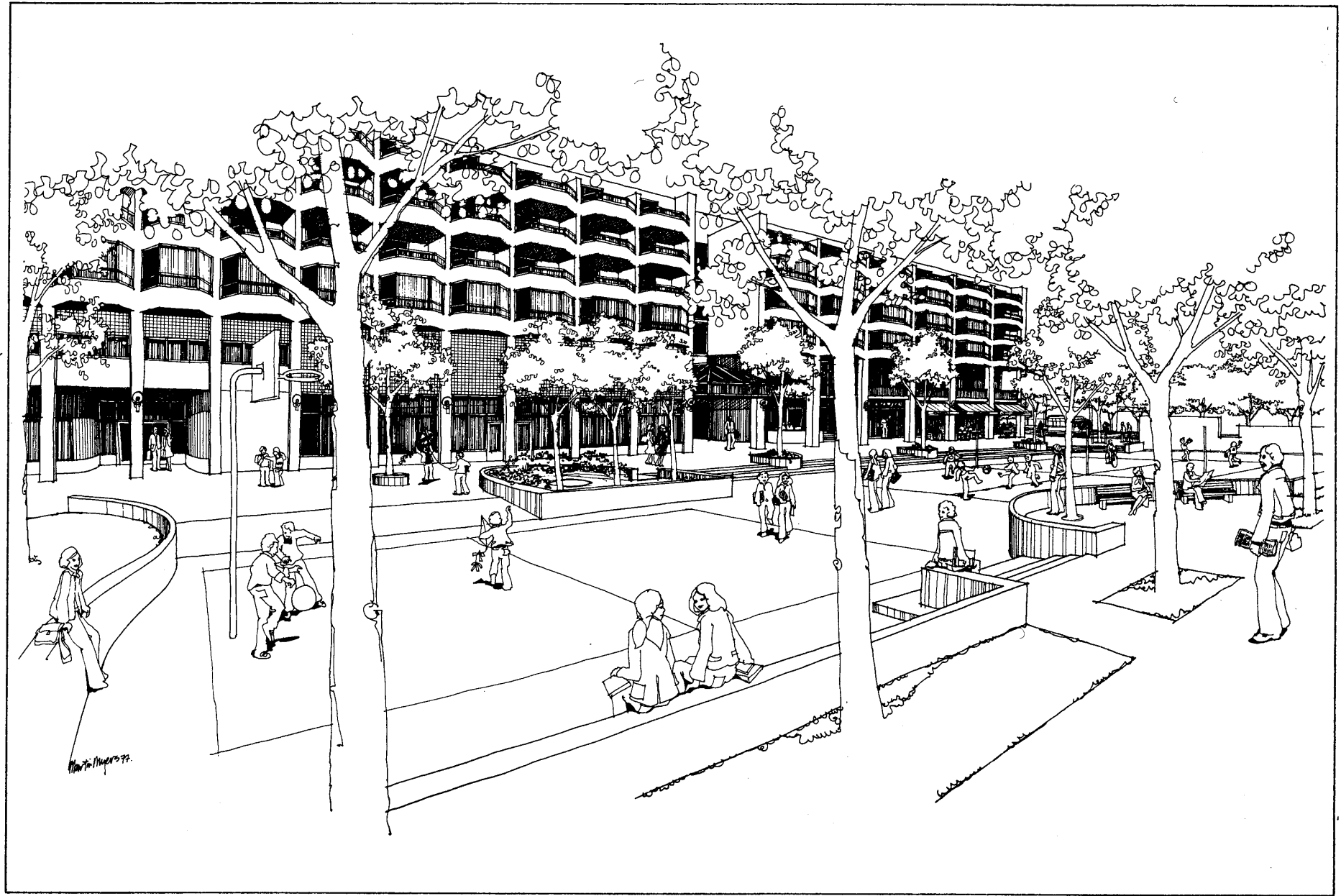
1880-1960's



Stage 1 Archaeological Resource Assessment by ASI



David Crombie Park Design Perspective – 1976



David Crombie Park Design Perspective – 1976

History & Context

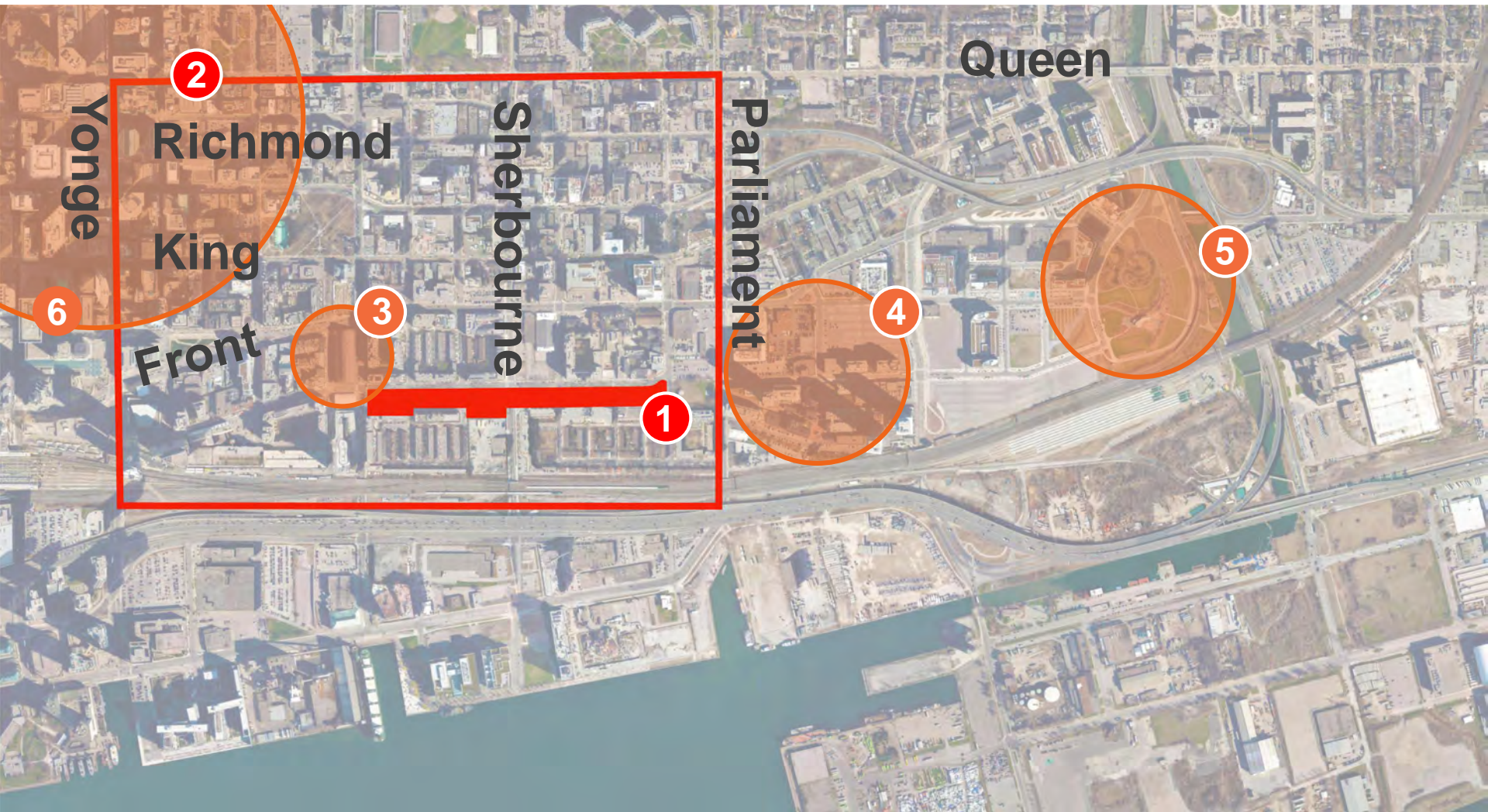
David Crombie
Park site in the
early 1970's.

Just prior to the
development of
the St.
Lawrence
Neighbourhood



Planning Framework

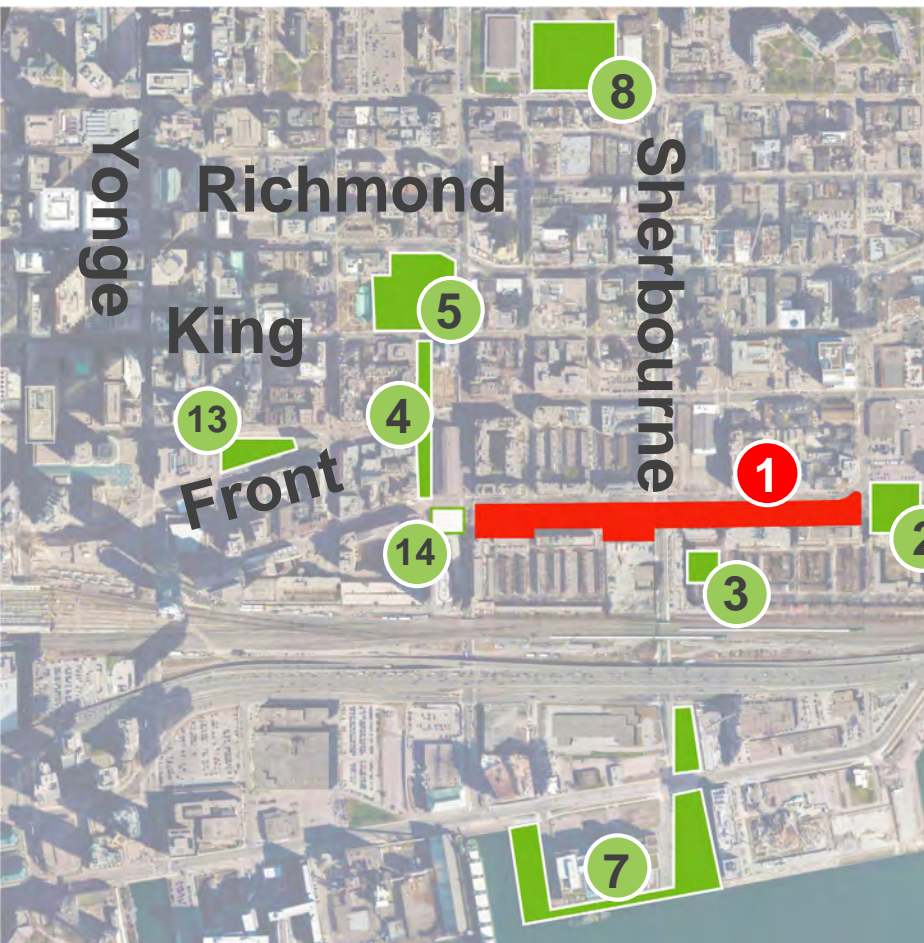
Site Context: Neighbourhoods & Destinations



- 1 David Crombie Park
- 2 St. Lawrence Neighbourhood
- 3 St. Lawrence Market

- 4 The Distillery District
- 5 Corktown Common
- 6 Downtown Core

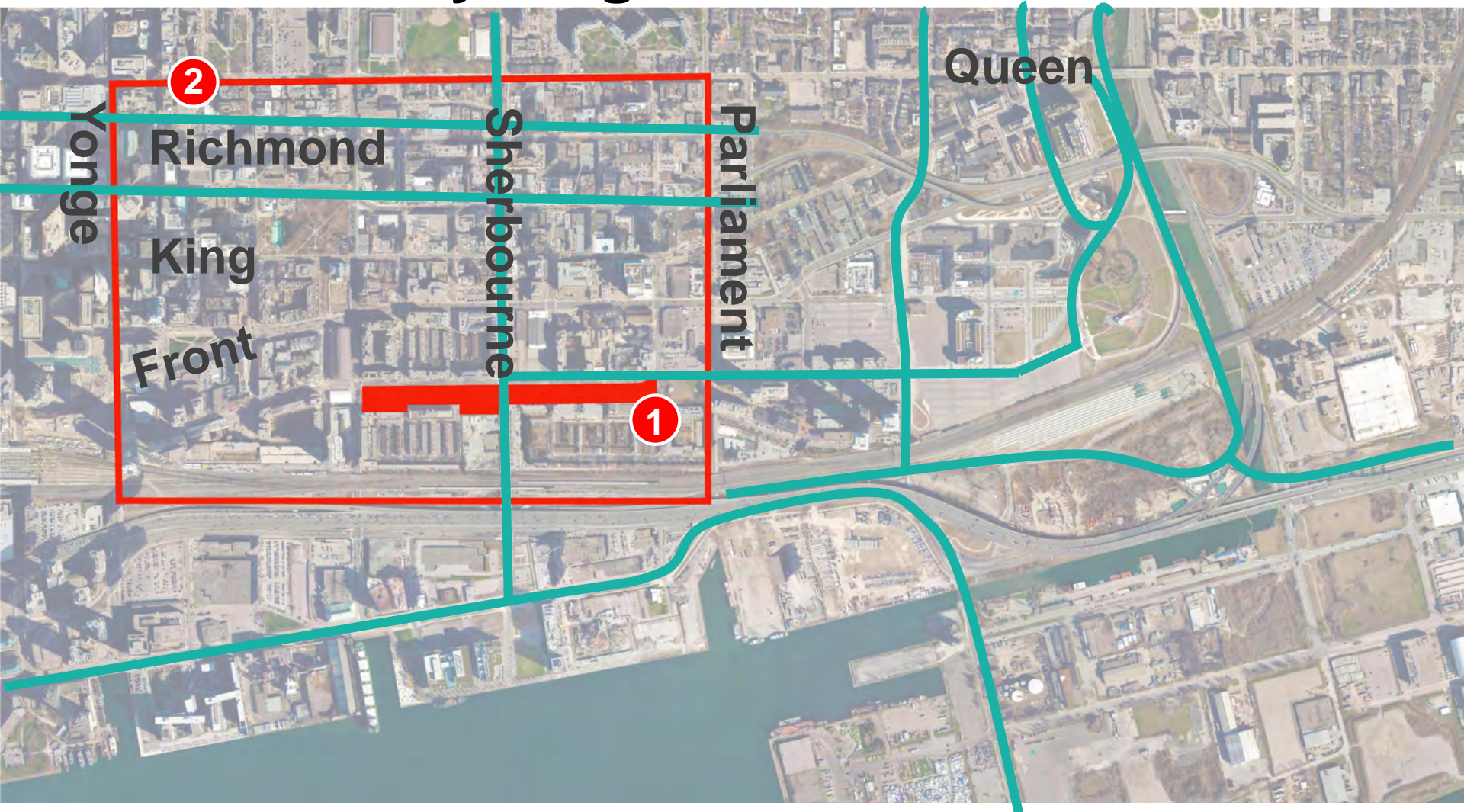
Site Context: Parks



- 1** David Crombie Park
- 2** Parliament Square Park
- 3** Princess Street Park
- 4** Market Street, Market Lane Park
- 5** St James Park

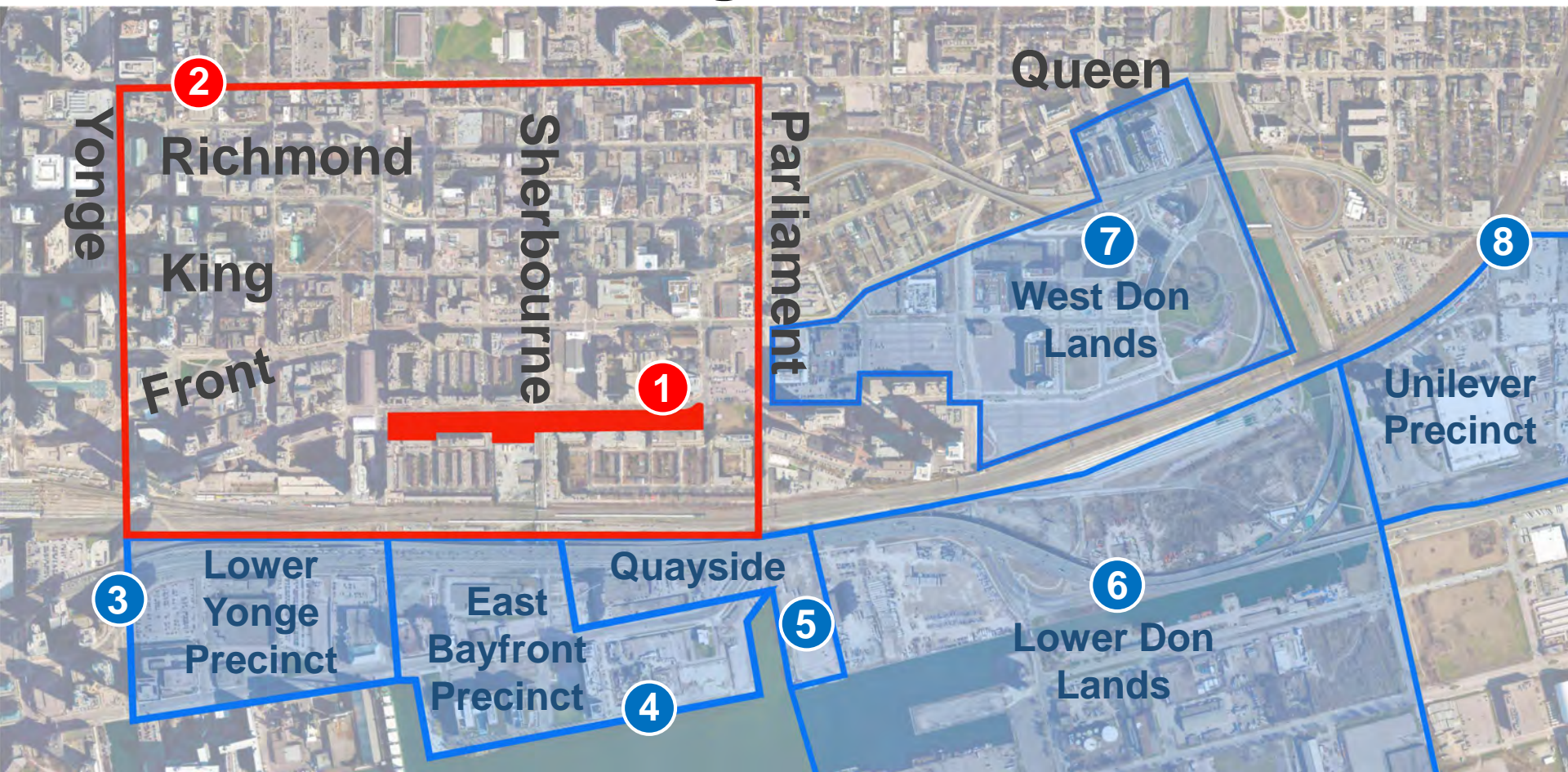
- 6** Corktown Common, Underpass Park
- 7** Sugar Beach, Sherbourne Common
- 8** Moss Park
- 9** Orphan's Green, Sackville Playground
- 10** Little Trinity Church
- 11** Percy Park
- 12** Bright Street Playground
- 13** Berczy Park
- 14** Future Park/Open Space

Site Context: Cycling Infrastructure



- ① David Crombie Park
- ② St. Lawrence Neighbourhood
- Cycling Network

Site Context: New Neighbourhoods



- 1** David Crombie Park
- 2** St. Lawrence Neighbourhood
- 3** Lower Yonge Precinct - **28,000 people**
- 4** East Bayfront Precinct - **18,200 people**

- 5** Quayside
- 6** Lower Don Lands - **27,500 people**
- 7** West Don Lands - **14,300 people**
- 8** Unilever Precinct - **50,000 people**

Site Context: New Neighbourhoods

Lower Yonge Precinct
28,000 people

Lower Yonge Precinct – City-Initiated Official Plan Amendment and Precinct Plan – Final Report (2016)

East Bayfront Precinct
18,200 people

TTC – TWRC Toronto Waterfront East Bayfront Transit Environmental Assessment (2007)

Lower Don Lands
27,500 people

Lower Don Lands Project (2010)

West Don Lands
14,300 people

TTC – TWRC Toronto Waterfront East Bayfront Transit Environmental Assessment (2007)

Unilever Precinct
50,000 people

Unilever Precinct Planning Study Secondary Plan and Planning Framework, and East Harbour Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment Applications – Final Report (2018)

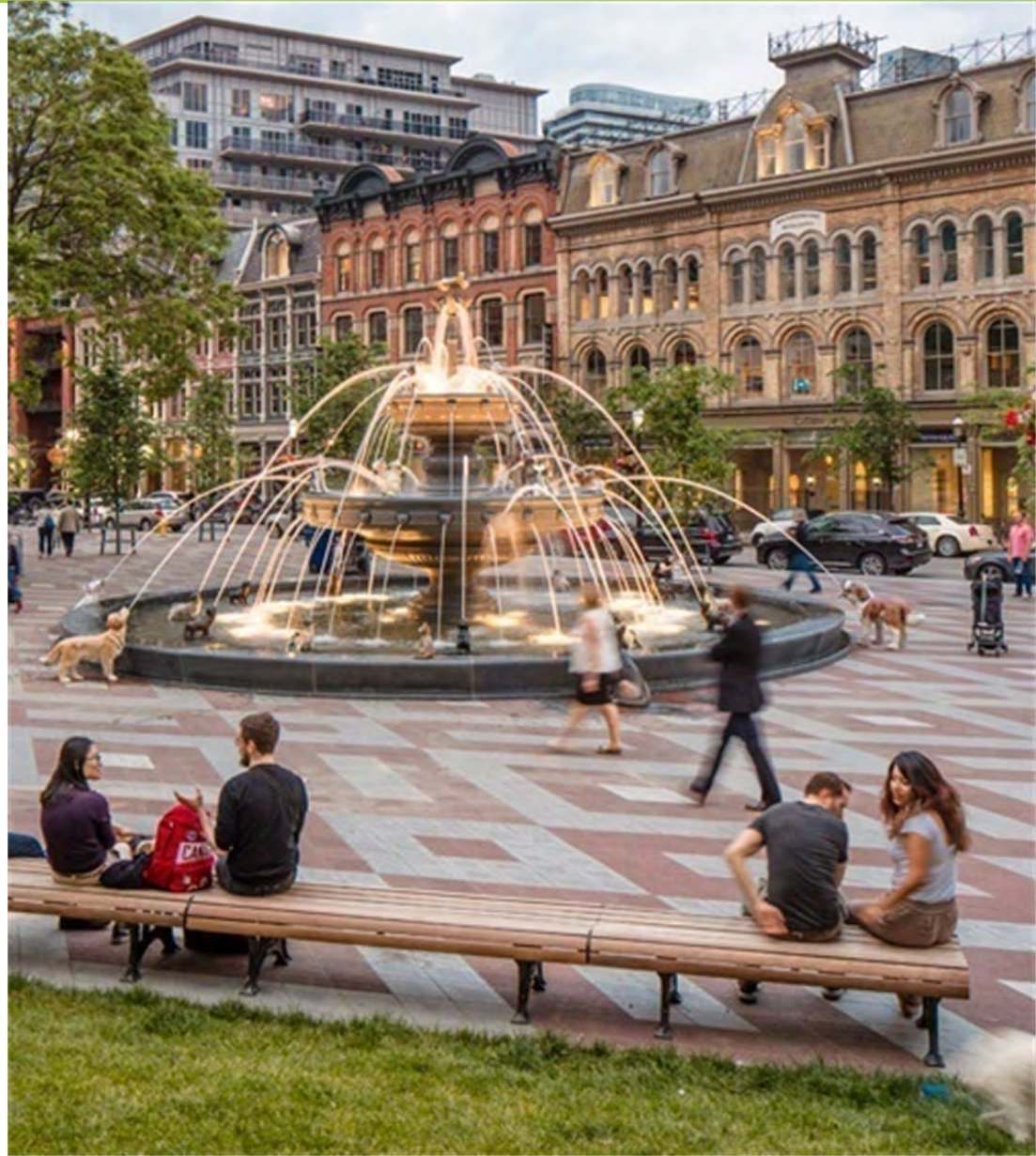
CITY-WIDE PARKLAND STRATEGY



Growing Toronto Parkland

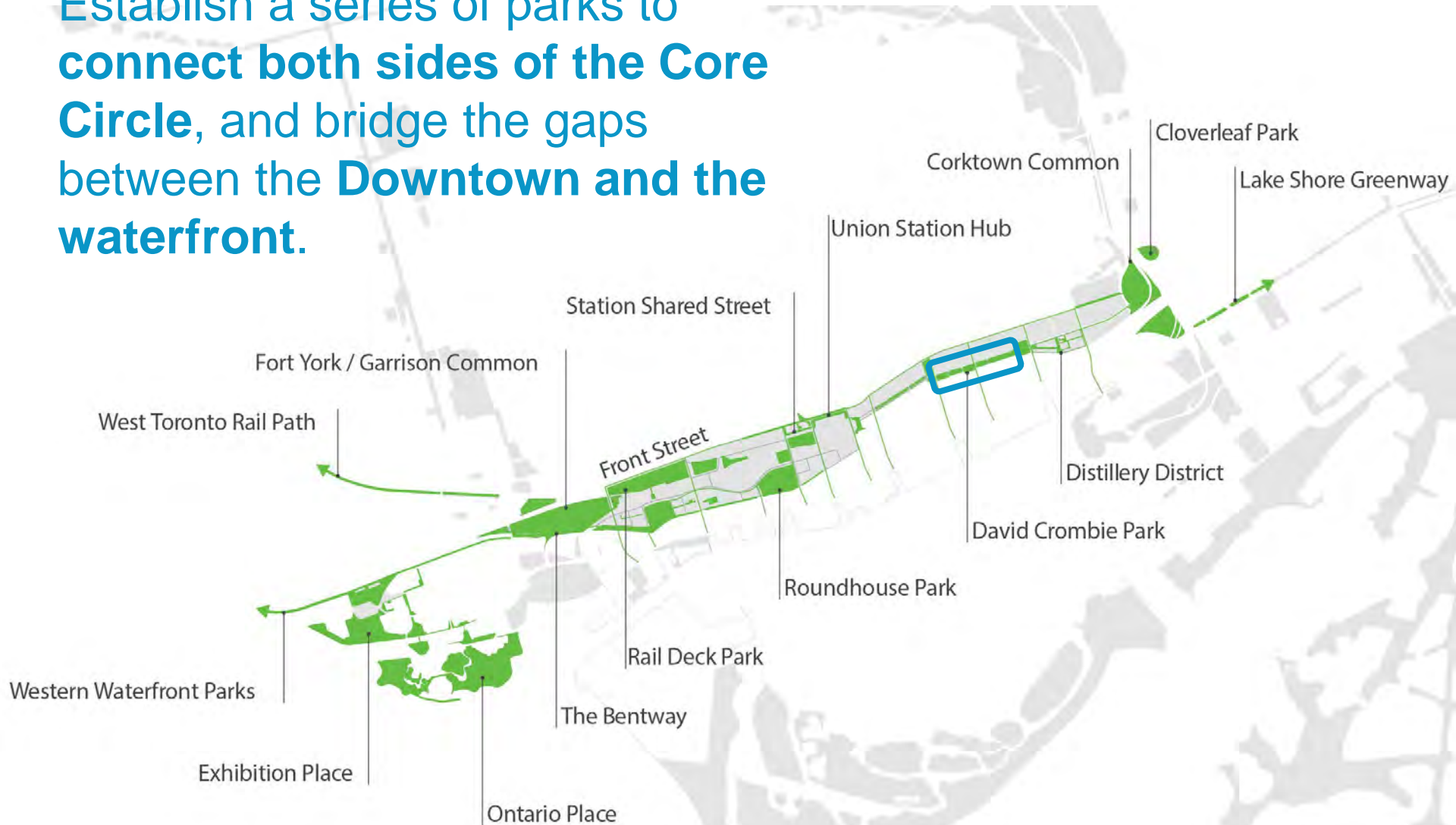
Parkland Strategy Principles

- **Expand**
- **Improve**
- **Connect**
- **Share**



Recommendations from Downtown Parks and Public Realm Plan

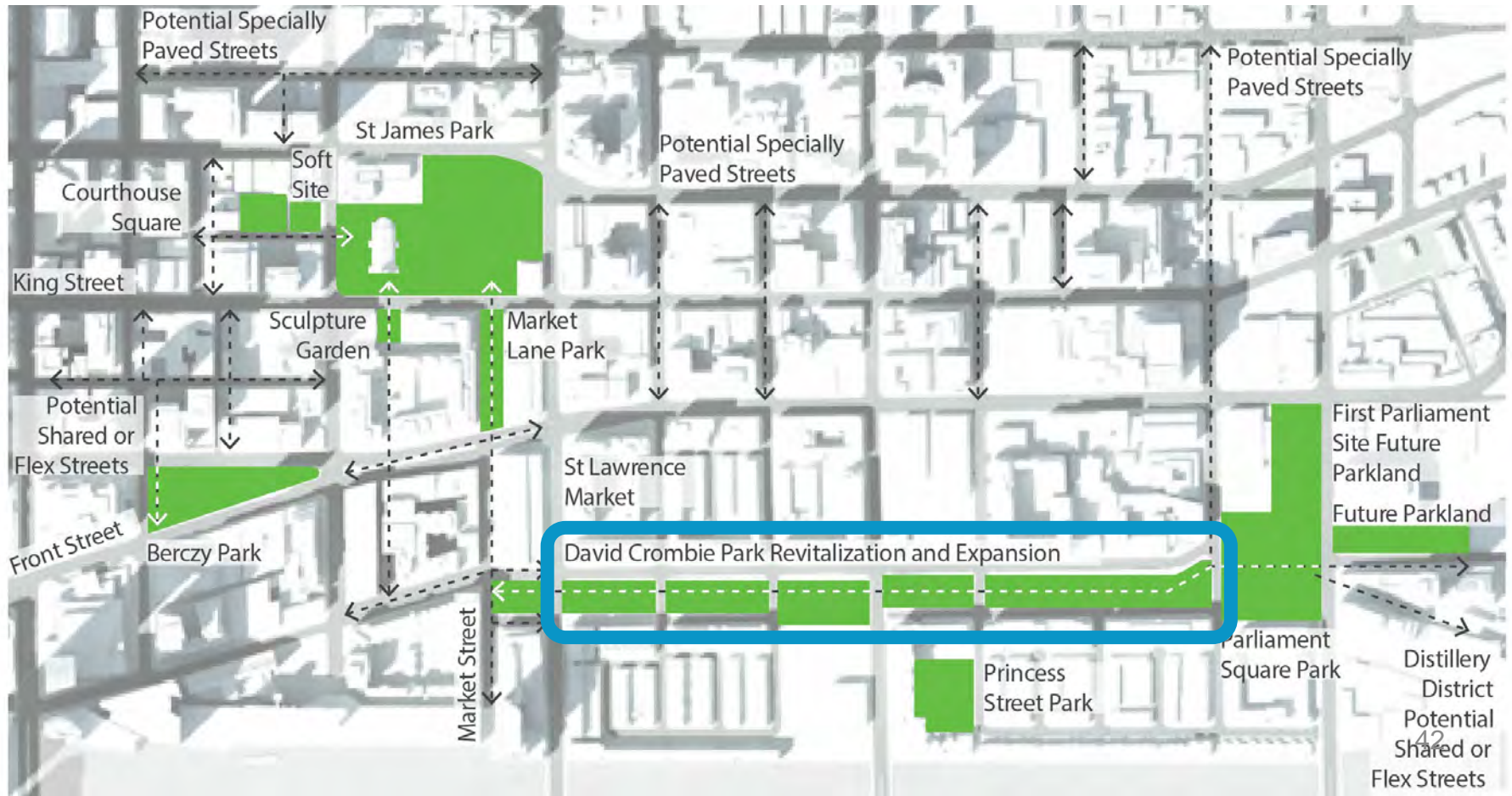
Establish a series of parks to **connect both sides of the Core Circle**, and bridge the gaps between the **Downtown** and the **waterfront**.



Shoreline Stitch: **David Crombie Park**

Park Districts: **David Crombie Park**

Improve David Crombie Park and adjacent streets, school yards and open spaces into a **cohesive and connected green link** from Market Street in the west to the First Parliament Site and the Distillery District in the east.



Analysis



Observations

01 ▶ **The Park is showing its age**

02 ▶ **A beloved Park**

03 ▶ **Strong frame**

04 ▶ **The tree canopy is at risk**

05 ▶ **The dog park is a big issue**

06 ▶ **The Park connects in many ways**

07 ▶ **Playgrounds are outdated**

Observations

- 08** ▶ **Water features need to be replaced**
- 09** ▶ **Not enough good seating and furnishings**
- 10** ▶ **Not meeting accessibility standards**
- 11** ▶ **More gardens**
- 12** ▶ **Better infrastructure to support programming**
- 13** ▶ **More infrastructure in the area to support biking**
- 14** ▶ **Lighting needs to be improved**

01 The Park is Aging

- Many park features are original (40 years old) and **need repair or replacement**



01 The Park is Aging

- Ponding in the shared spaces with Downtown Alternative Public School & St Michael Catholic School yard.
- **Ponding** issues need to be addressed



02 Beloved Park



- The **whole park** is used
- People love the **variety of uses** and amenities
- **Caters to many** different people & ages
- Has a **distinct visual character**, of its age

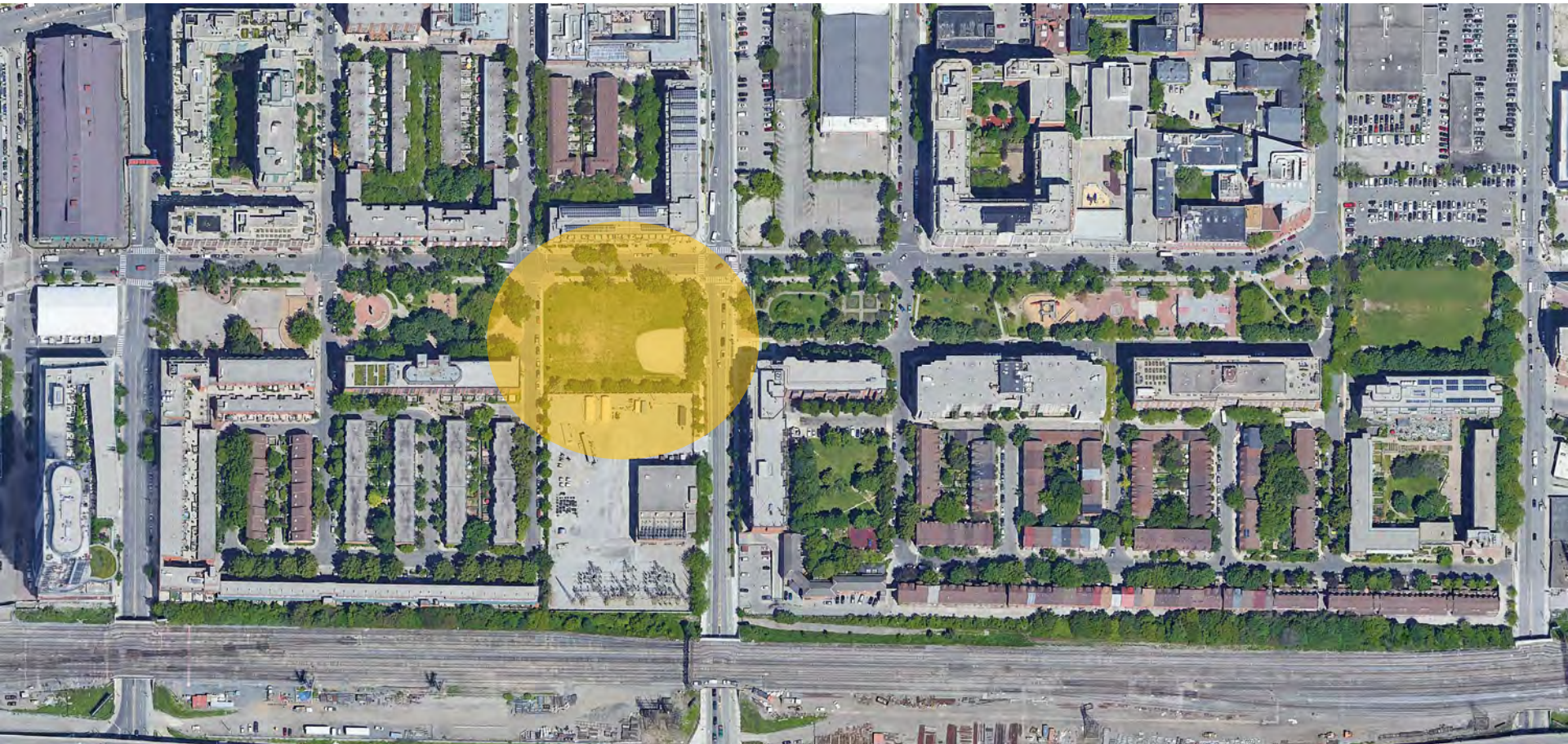
03 Strong Frame



- The buildings **frame** the park
- There are **active building edges** along the Esplanade side
- The park is divided into **outdoor rooms** by the streets and tree planting

03 Strong Frame

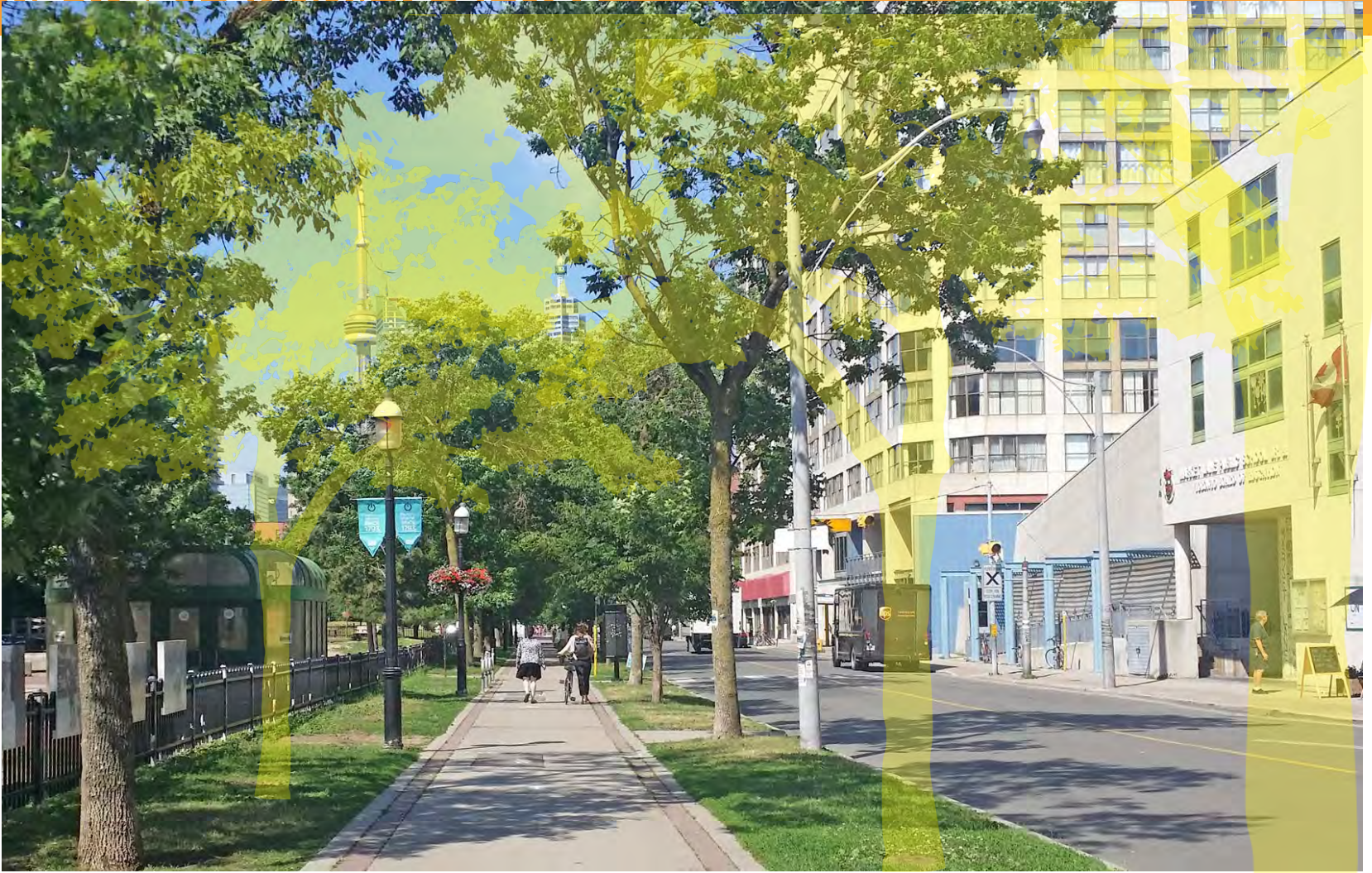
- The strong building frame and the south street/walk is broken at the sports field



04 The tree canopy is at risk

The Urban Canopy in David Crombie Park





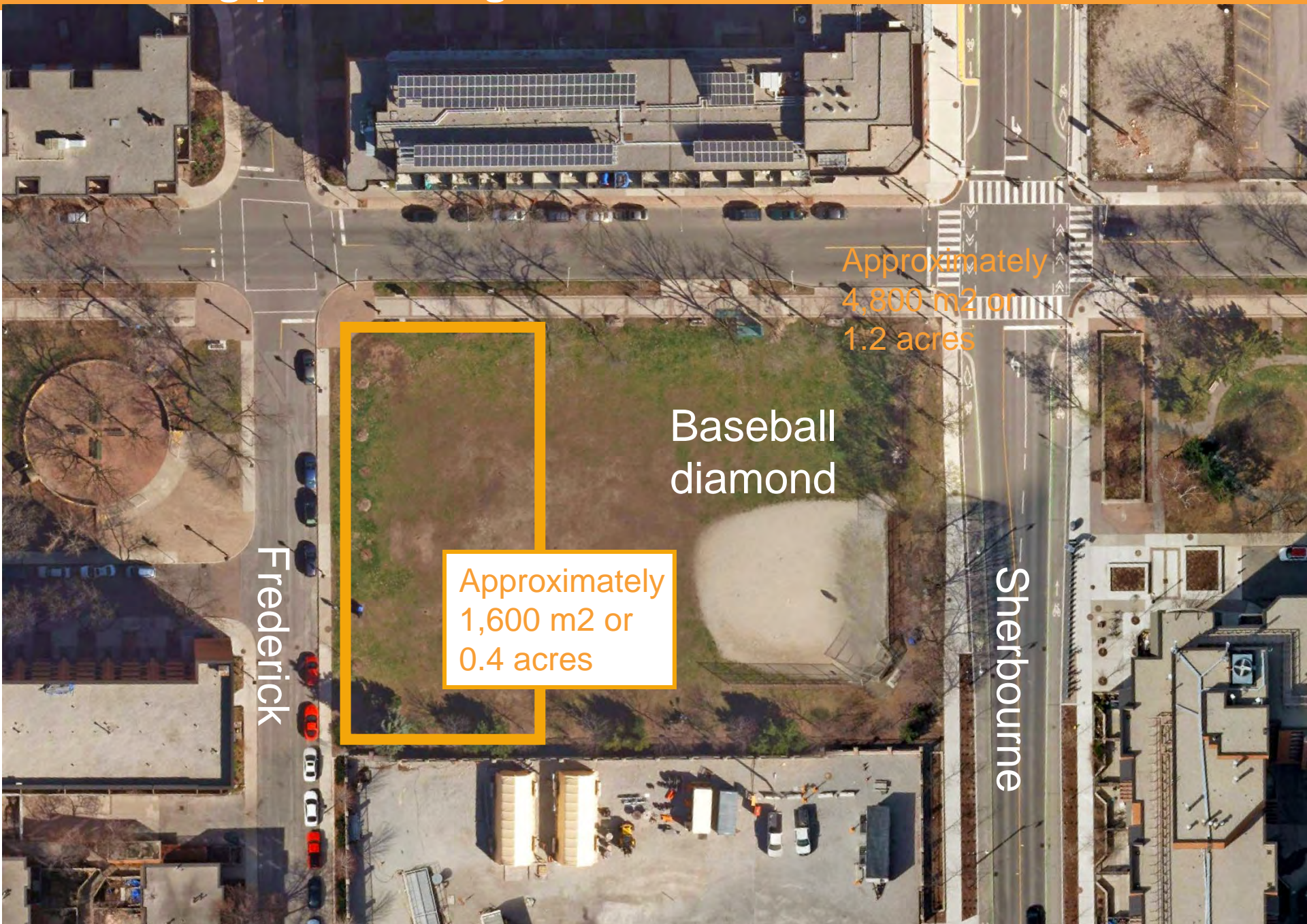
- Many **ash trees have been removed** because of Emerald Ash Borer, and there are many more in the park

04 The tree canopy is at risk



- Many trees will die from **girdling**
- Exposed **roots**
- Pests and disease

05 The dog park is a big issue



Approximately
4,800 m² or
1.2 acres

Baseball
diamond

Approximately
1,600 m² or
0.4 acres

Frederick

Sherbourne

05 The dog park is a big issue

“Designated area for
unleashed dogs between
6:00 am – 8:00 am
5:00 pm – 11:00 pm
seven days a week.”

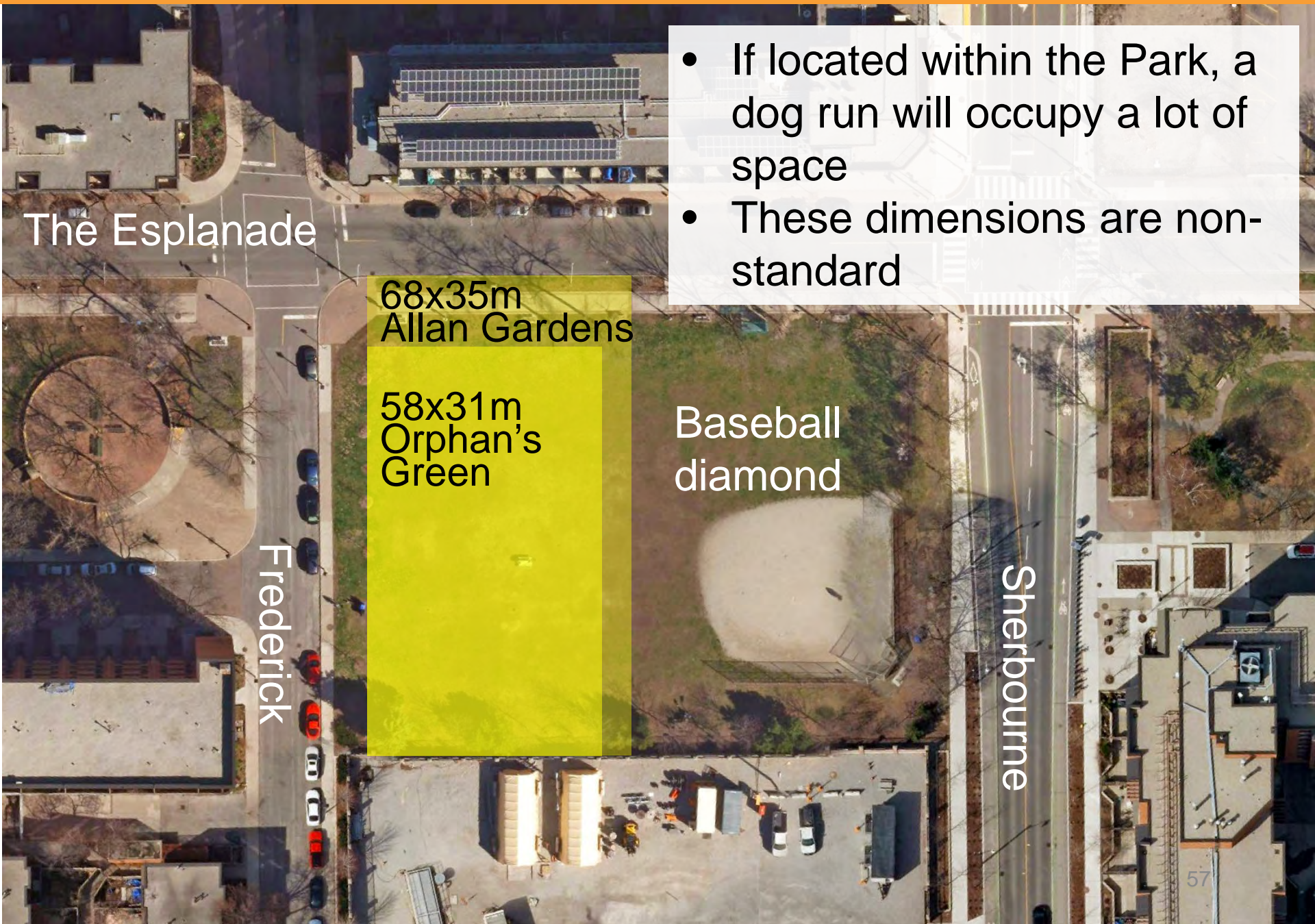


- **Space is shared (dog park and baseball diamond). Conflicts with joint use**
- **No fence surrounding the off-leash area**
- **Use is divided by time of day**
- **Baseball field is permitted, irregularly (soccer and softball, nothing highly organized)**
- **Field is booked in the summer by various groups (sometimes from 6-8 pm)**

City of Toronto Standards for Dogs Off Leash Areas (DOLA)

- ☐ **Located 1 km away from another Dogs Off Leash Area**
- ☐ **Located away from busy roads**
- ☐ **Located 100 m away from playgrounds**
- ☐ **Be approximately 2,000 m² and large enough to throw a ball**
- ☐ **Need pea gravel, irrigation, and proper drainage (mulch surface in tree protection area)**
- ☐ **Proper fencing and gates. Off-leash areas within parks 2 acres and under must be fenced**
- ☐ **Signage**
- ☐ **Waste receptacles and furnishing where appropriate**
- ☐ **Designed and constructed to incorporate “City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines” (ADG) and AODA**

05 The dog park is a big issue



The Esplanade

68x35m
Allan Gardens

58x31m
Orphan's
Green

Baseball
diamond

Frederick

Sherbourne

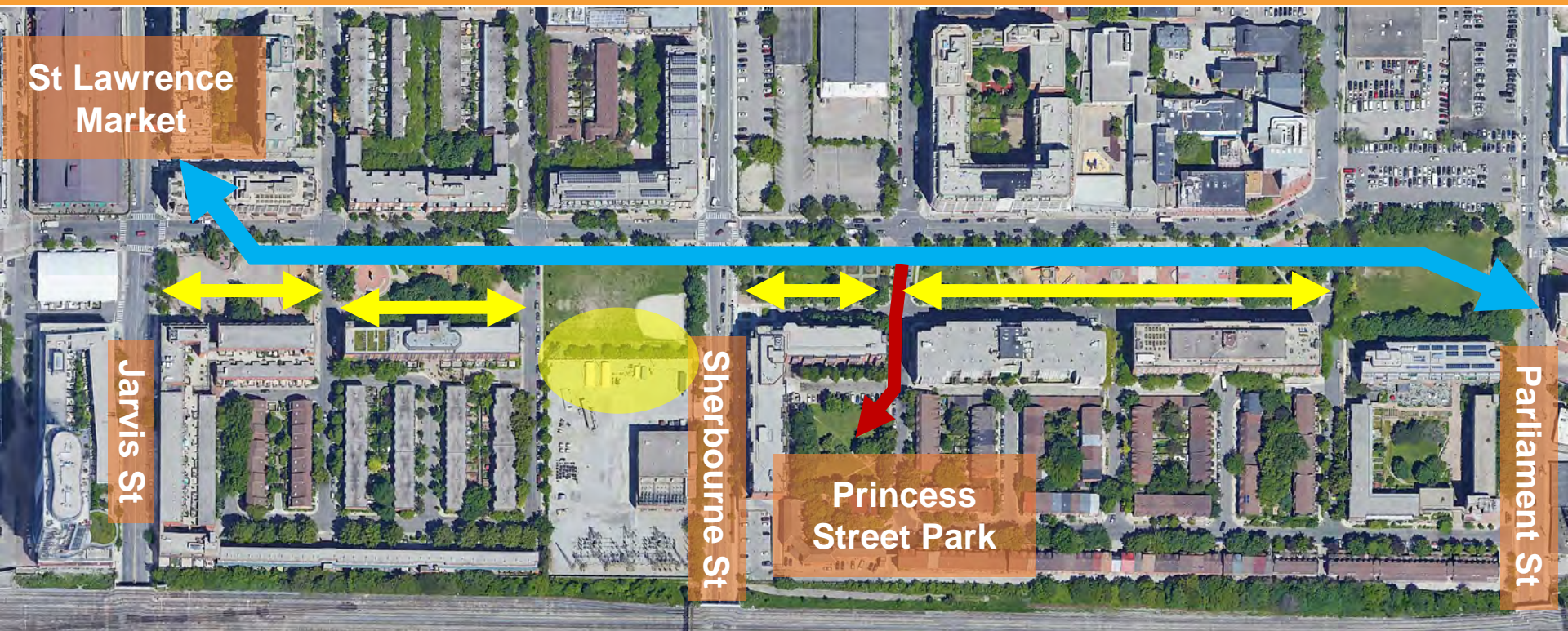
- If located within the Park, a dog run will occupy a lot of space
- These dimensions are non-standard

05 The dog park is a big issue



Allan Gardens Off-Leash Dog Area

06 Park connects in many ways



- **Link** between downtown/ St. Lawrence Market and the Distillery District
- Stronger, safer **connections** between each park segment
- Better **connection** to Princess Street Park
- Missing connection along the **south side of the sports field**

07 Playgrounds are outdated



07 Playgrounds are outdated

Downtown Alternative School



07 Playgrounds are outdated

St Michael Catholic School



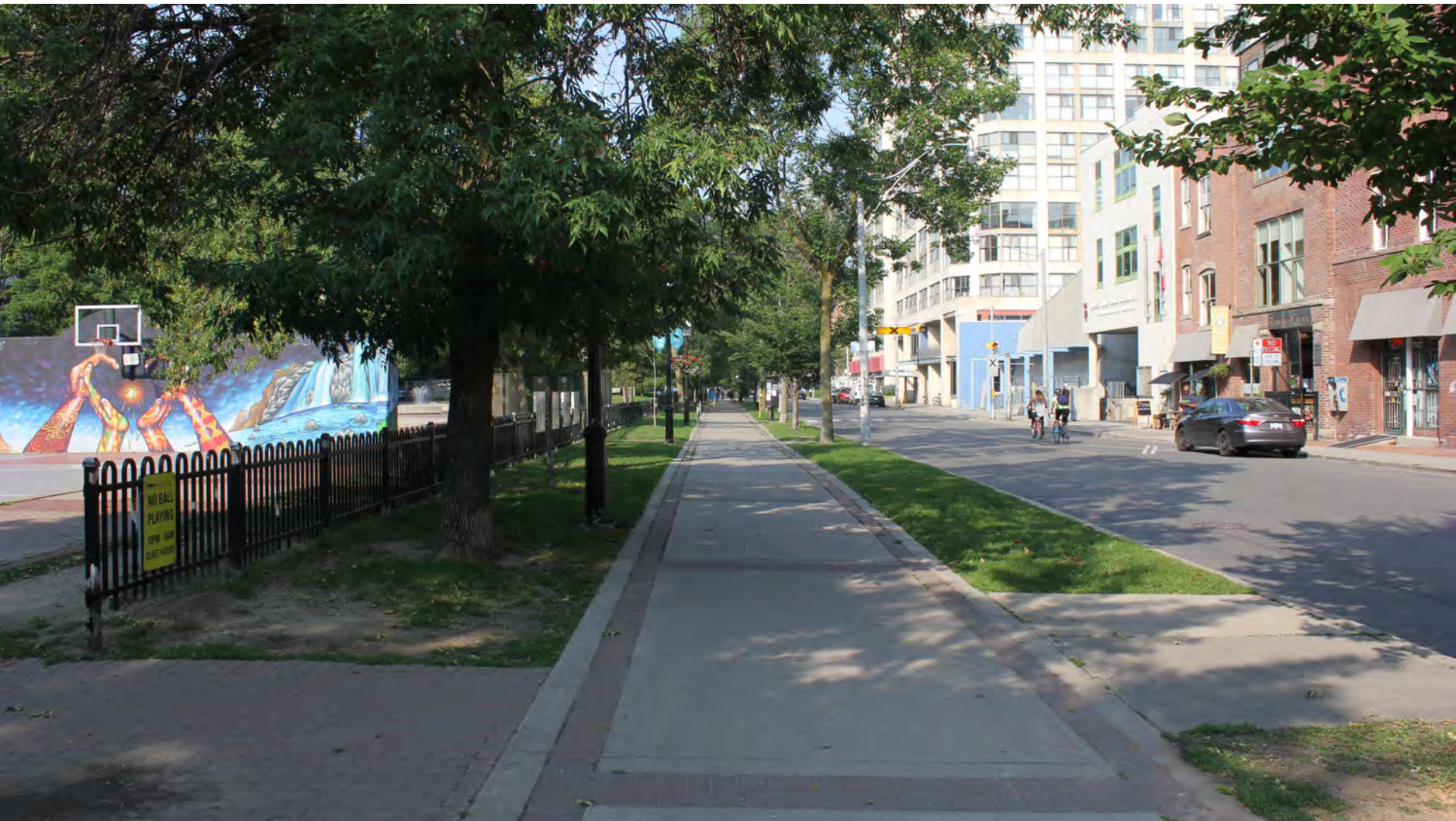
07 Playgrounds are outdated

Downtown Alternative School & St Michael Catholic School



07 Playgrounds are outdated

Market Lane Junior & Senior Public School



07 Playgrounds are outdated

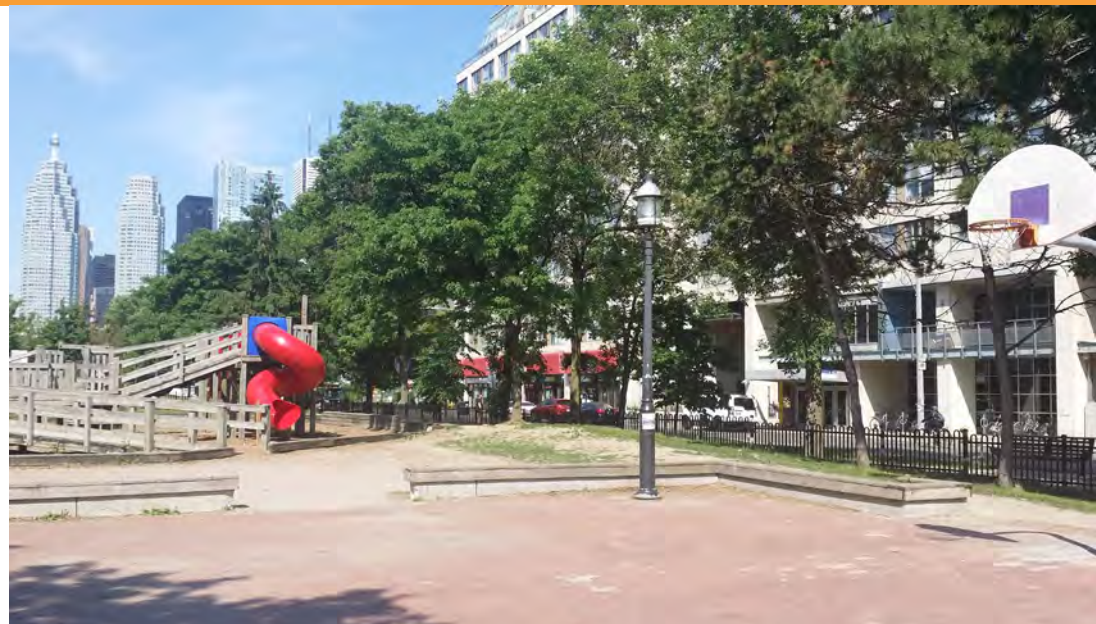
Market Lane Junior & Senior Public School



07 Playgrounds are outdated

The areas of the park shared with St. Michael, Downtown Alternative and Market Lane schools have particular pressures:

- Heavy use
- Drainage
- Play value
- Surface condition
- Hazards
- Shade
- Accessibility
- Sustainability



07 Playgrounds are outdated

Will work with School Boards to update playgrounds to consider:

- AODA requirements
- CSA requirements
- Graduated challenges, higher challenges
- Imaginative/ creative play
- Kinetic play
- Sand and water/tactile play
- Music
- Landscape/site integration
- Unique sense of place
- Shared use of public space



08 Water features



08 Water features



- The City is phasing out many wading pools in favour of splash pads that have extended hours and an expanded season
- The mechanical equipment for all the fountains and water play features is at the end of its service life and will need replacement
- There is only one water meter

09 Seating and other furnishings



- Furniture lacks cohesiveness
- Shows substantial wear and tear
- Only a few picnic tables
- Various types of waste receptacles
- Four types of seating:
 - Bleachers
 - Benches
 - Tables and Chairs
 - Concrete wall

09 Seating and other furnishings



Bleachers



Concrete Walls



Tables and chairs



Benches

David Crombie Park needs to meet the requirements set out in the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*

Seating

Many of the **benches** lack armrests and are not surrounded by hard surfacing

Playground equipment

Two play structures are on **soft mulch**

Play equipment does not meet accessibility standards

Picnic tables

Poor condition

Need to be permanently located on firm, **stable surfaces**

David Crombie Park needs to meet the requirements set out in the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*

Paths

Many are **not wide enough**

Some need better **lighting**

End of sidewalks need **tactile indicator strips**

Access ramps and stairs

Lack **handrails**

Parking

Needs **signage** for **accessible spaces**

11 Gardens

- The existing gardens contribute to the beauty and activation of the park, but incorporate very little seating in some cases
- There is a desire for more



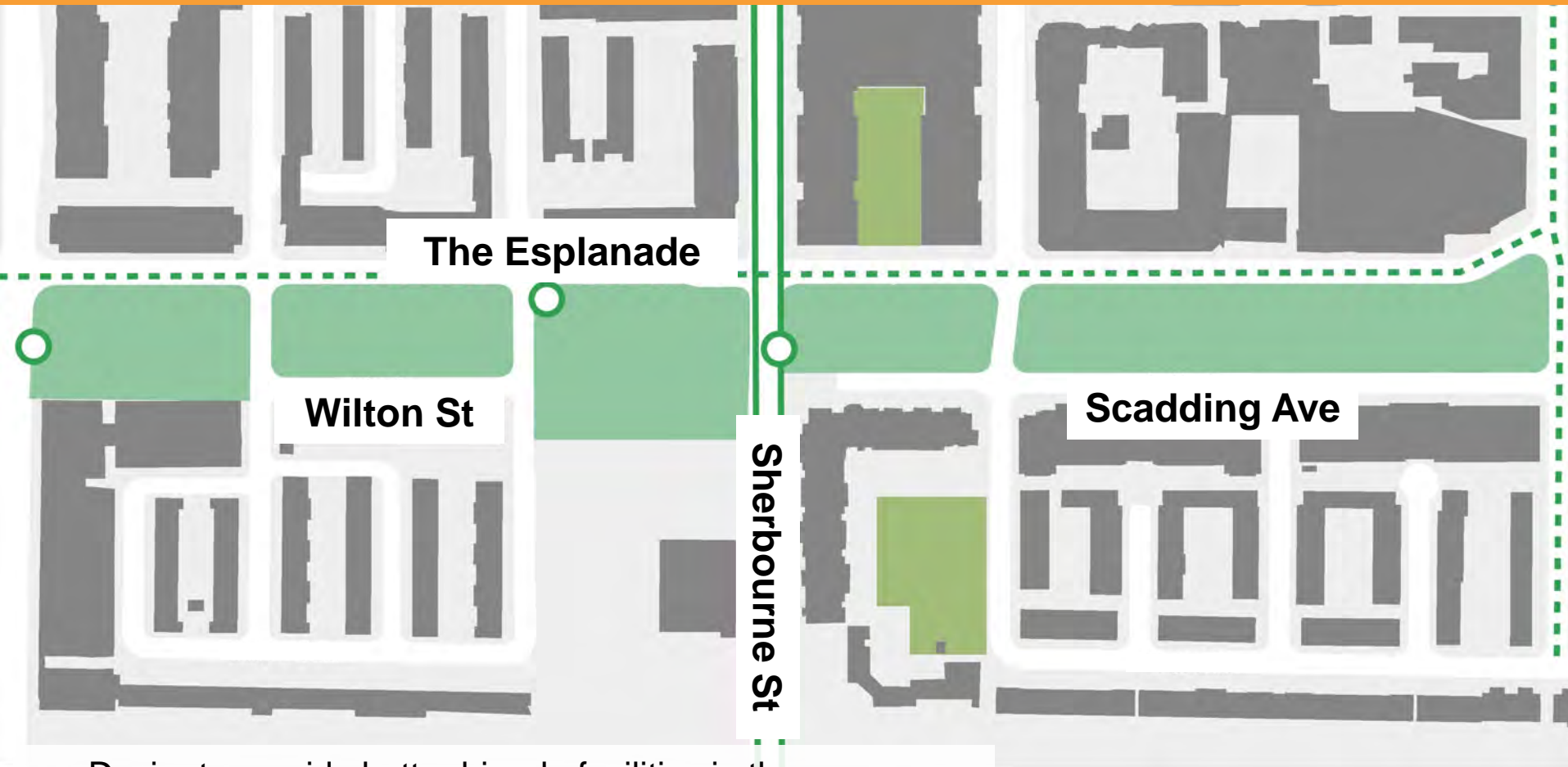
12 Support Programming



Dance on The Esplanade, with company CORPUS 2011 (Jamii)




- The park is enhanced by the events that occur (Jamii)
- There is limited infrastructure in the park to support events (e.g. access to electricity)

13 Support Cycling



- Desire to provide better bicycle facilities in the area
- Coordination with other City divisions required.
- Changes to cycling infrastructure are not part of the park revitalization design but reflect comments made during public consultation.

Cycling Infrastructure

-  Separated Bike Lane
-  Bike Share Station
-  Quiet Street (TO Core)

13 Support Cycling



14 Lighting



- The perimeter of the park blocks are well lit, however, some of the block interiors are dark and should be better lit

Examples of Great Parks

An aerial photograph of a modern urban park, likely in San Francisco given the 'MILK ST' street sign. The park features a large, rectangular green lawn in the center, surrounded by paved walkways and public art installations. People are seen walking and sitting on the park's benches. The park is situated in a dense urban environment with tall buildings in the background. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

Examples of Great Parks

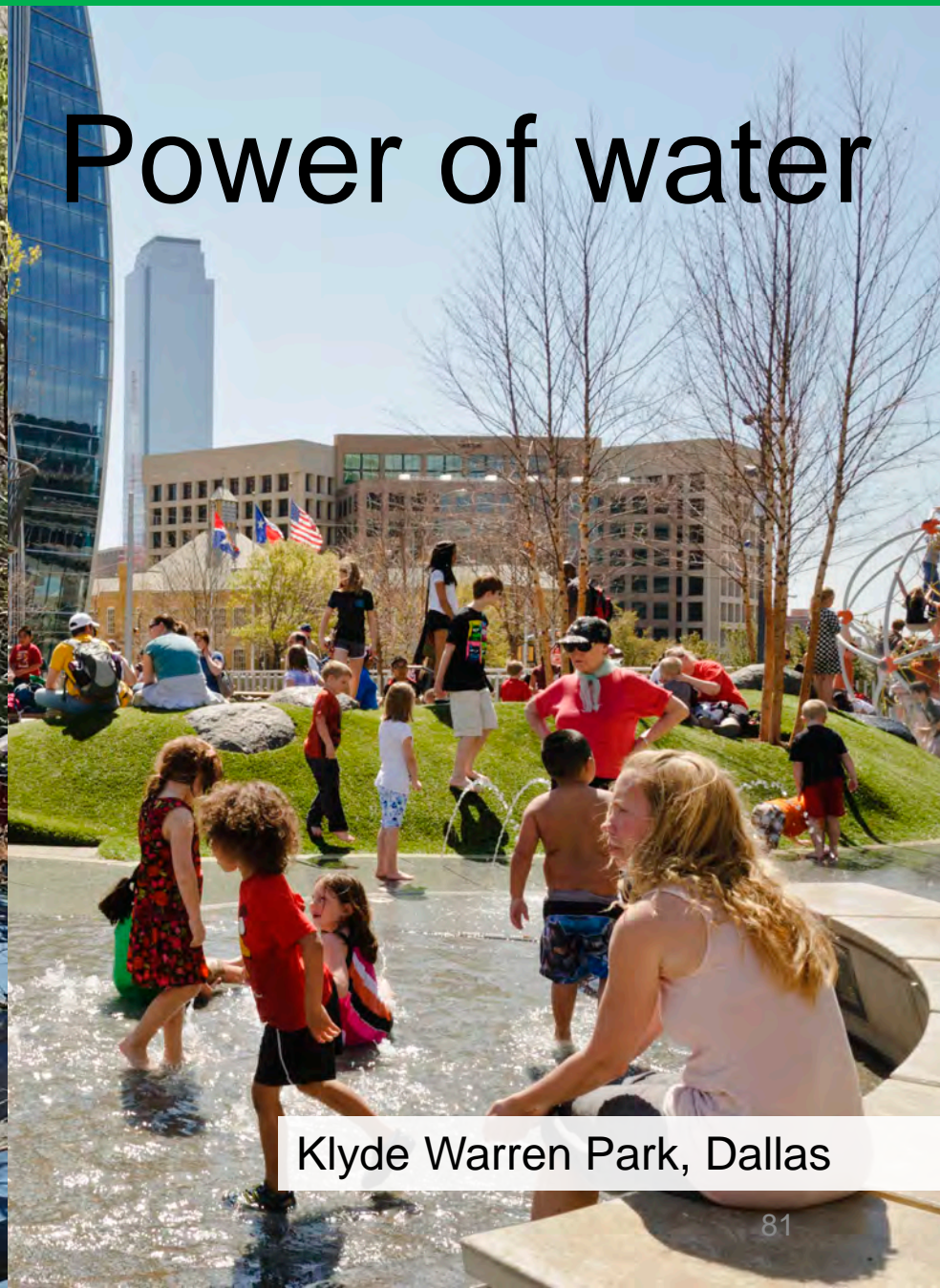


Klyde Warren Park, Dallas

Examples of Great Parks



Power of water



Klyde Warren Park, Dallas

Examples of Great Parks



South Park, San Francisco

Examples of Great Parks



South Park, San Francisco

Examples of Great Parks

Audacity of simplicity



Plaza de Santa Barbara, Madrid



Superkilen, Copenhagen

Power of water



Festival Plaza, Montreal

Examples of Great Parks



Four season use

Festival Plaza, Montreal

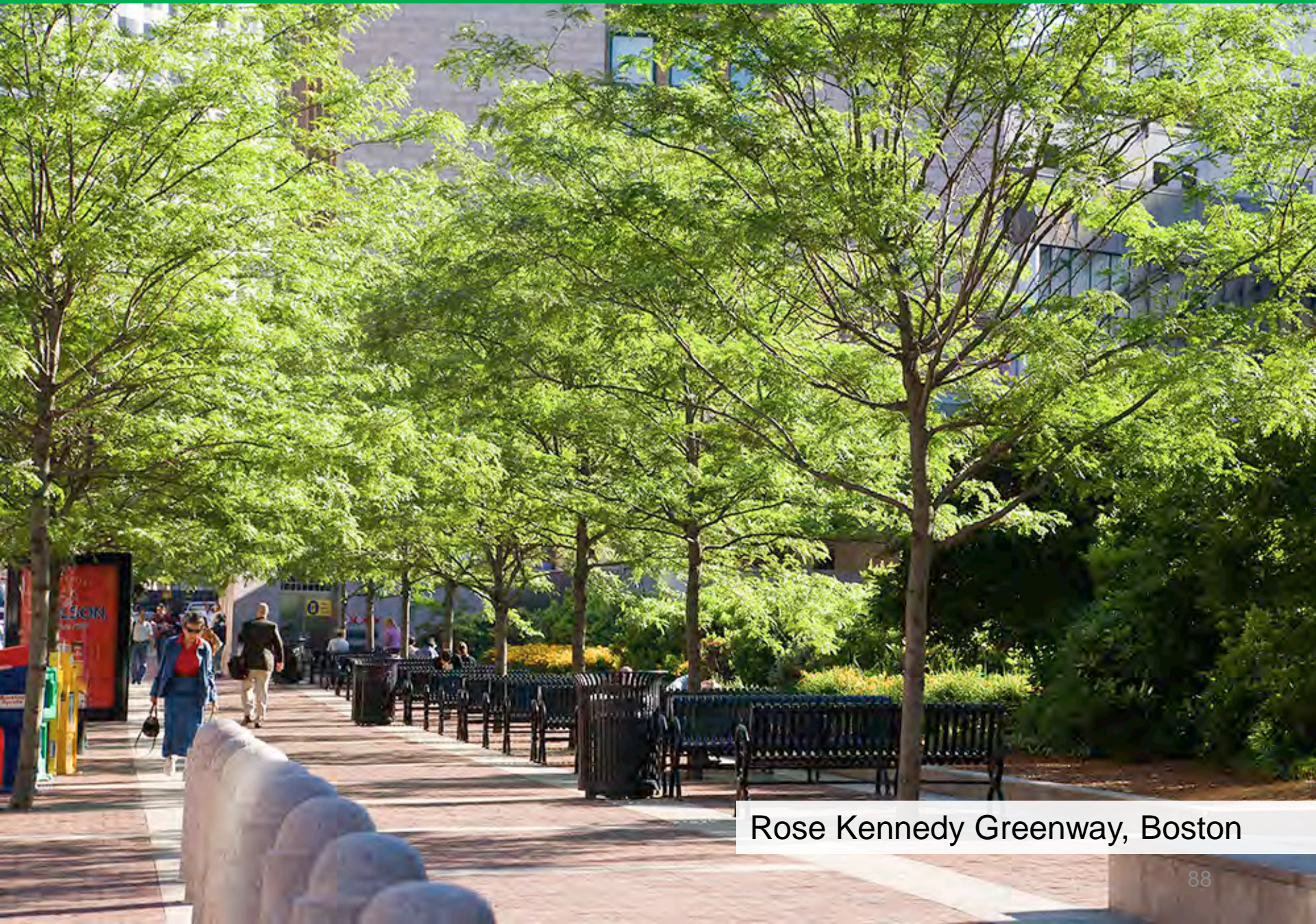
Examples of Great Parks



Audacity of simplicity

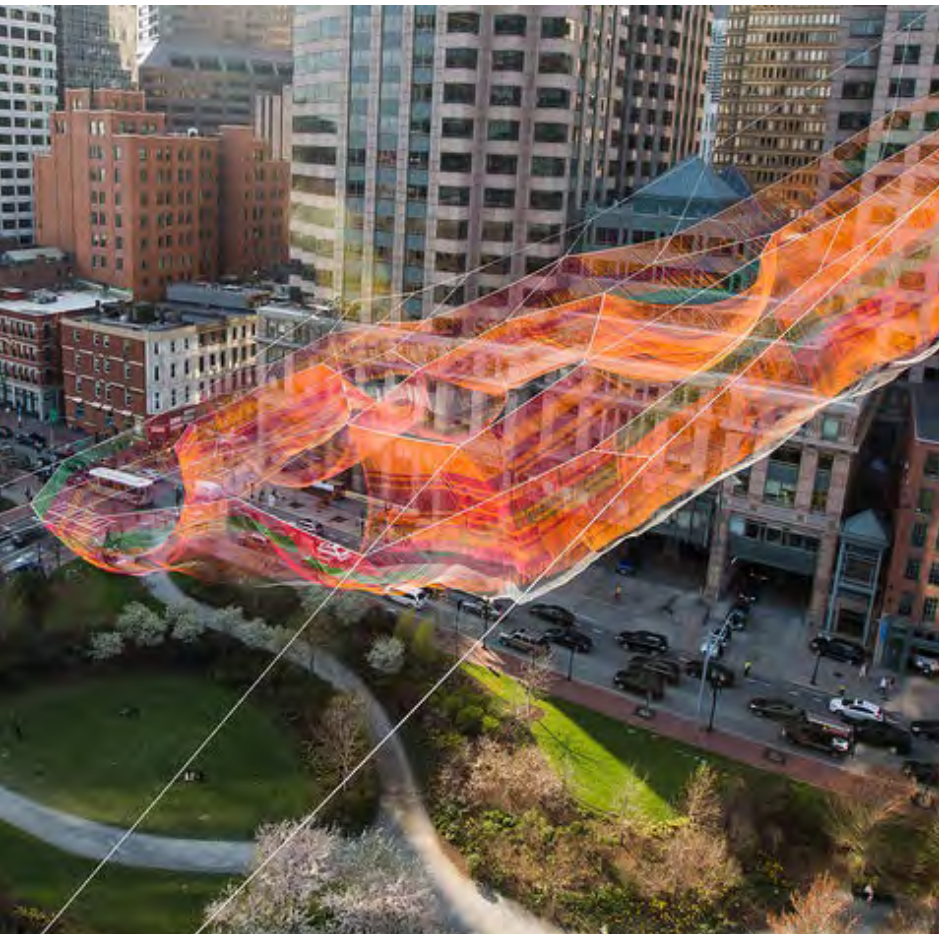
Festival Plaza, Montreal

Examples of Great Parks



Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston

Cultural imprint



Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston

Examples of Great Parks

Four season use



Rose Kennedy Greenway, Boston

Examples of Great Parks



Bellevue Square, Toronto

Audacity of simplicity



Bellevue Square, Toronto

West Don Lands, Toronto

Connection



Corktown Common, Toronto

Four season use



Examples of Great Parks

Peeled Pavement, by Jill Anholt



Cultural imprint

West Don Lands, Toronto



Untitled (Toronto Lamp Posts), by Tadashi Kawamata

Examples of Great Parks



Corktown Common, Toronto

Power of water



Corktown Common, Toronto

David Crombie Park Is...



David Crombie Park Is...

Neighbourhood Park



City-wide destination



David Crombie Park Is...

Connected thoroughfare



Contained urban park



David Crombie Park Is...

Flexible space animated
by programming



Grease Movie Night (by LD), Jamii

Animated by surrounding uses



David Crombie Park Is...

Passive



Active



David Crombie Park Is...

Open



Secluded

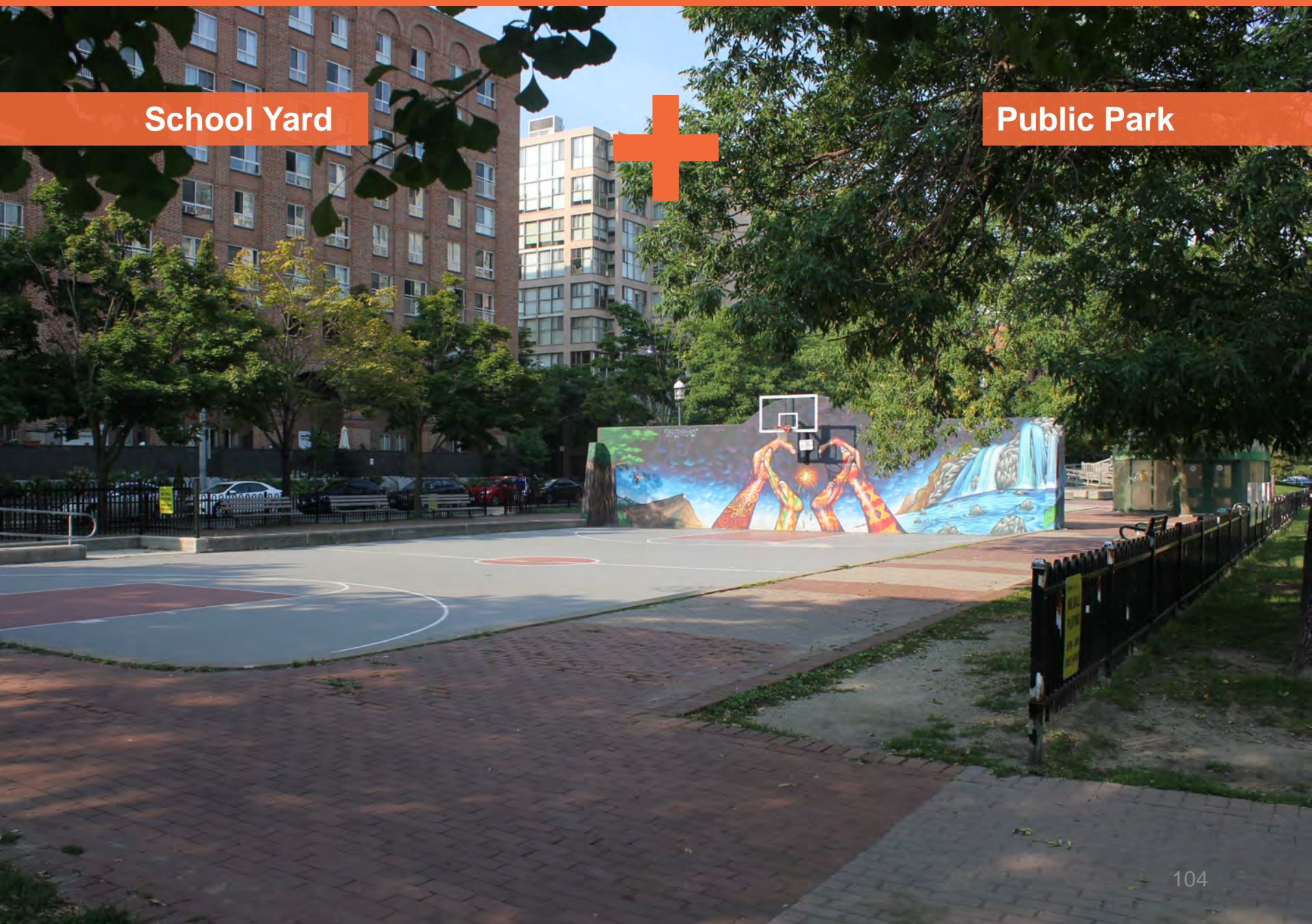


David Crombie Park Is...

School Yard



Public Park



David Crombie Park Is...

Street

Park





What is David Crombie Park to you?

Workshop Activities

A group of people, including men and women of various ages, are gathered around a large, light-colored round table in a workshop setting. They are engaged in activities, with some looking at papers and others talking. The table is covered with various materials like papers, pens, and a blue water bottle. The background shows more people standing and talking, suggesting a larger event or conference. The entire image has a teal overlay.

Table Group Discussion #1

1. Review the list of our observations in the Analysis (sheet on each table).
2. Discuss the ones most important to you.
3. Write notes on the sheet: for example, what should the team consider, what's your opinion on each observation, are there other observations that need to be added.

Table Group Discussion #2

1. A vision statement describes the aspirations for David Crombie Park.
2. Brainstorm with others at your table about words or phrases that should be captured in a vision statement.
3. Write the words or phrases on the flip chart paper on the table.

Table Group Discussion #3

The next stage in the design process will be to prepare various concepts for David Crombie Park.

1. What are the three most important changes to make in the Park?
2. Use the air photo to mark up/locate/identify the three most important changes to make in the Park.