

Yonge Street Linear Parks Improvements

George Hislop Park, Norman Jewison Park
& Alexander Street Parkette

Community Resource Group
Meeting 02
30 October 2020



Land Acknowledgment

I'd like to begin by pausing for a moment and asking you to be present and to reflect on these words. We can think on how we came to call Tkaronto home, in this generation or generations past. If you're not currently in Toronto, I encourage you to learn about the lands you are also on.

These lands have been the home and continue to be the home of Indigenous people, their relations, their communities, their ancestors, and their deeply intimate connections with our collective mother who sustains us, and gives breath to our bodies.

Turtle Island has a long history and generations of many of our communities and ancestors connecting and coming together. We must also give pause and think on our those who came here involuntarily, particularly as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade.



Land Acknowledgment

Tkaronto is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. I also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

Miigwech (Thank You) for being present.

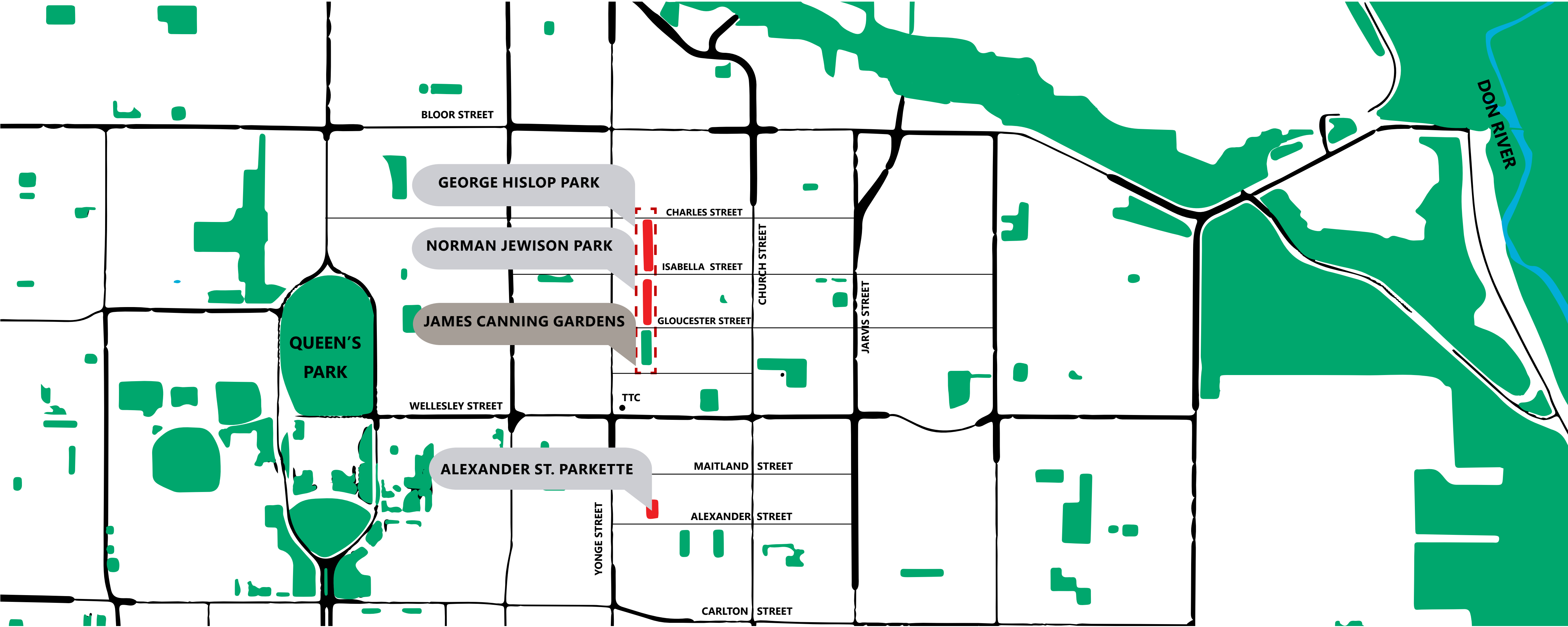


Objective of the Meeting

To present and gather feedback on the preliminary park design concepts and refinements of the master plan for George Hislop Park, Norman Jewison Park, and Alexander Street Parkette. We will also review high level concepts for the integrated LGBTQ2S+ public art component.



Context



Agenda

- 5 mins** Welcome, Introductions
- 10 mins** Consultation & Communications Update
- 20 mins** Preliminary Park Design Concepts and Master Plan Refinements
- 30 mins** Design Feedback & Discussion
- 10 mins** Preliminary Integrated LGBTQ2S+ Public Art Concepts
- 10 mins** Public Art Feedback & Discussion
- 5 mins** Next Steps



Project Team

CITY OF TORONTO

Parks Forestry & Recreation

Nancy Chater

PFR Capital Projects
Senior Project Coordinator

Rajesh Sankat

Senior Public Consultation
Coordinator

Catherine Dean

Economic Development and
Culture, Public Art Officer

DESIGN TEAM

PMA Landscape Architects

Design Lead

Fung Lee

Principal Landscape Architect

Dylan Cassidy

Project Landscape Architect

Hannah Soules

Landscape Designer

Stanislav Jurkovic, uoai

Artist, Principal

Technical Consultant Team

Lighting Designer, Engineering
Consultants, Arborist

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Dept. of Words & Deeds

Engagement & Consultation

Jane Farrow

Facilitator

Pauline Craig

Notetaker



Internal and External Stakeholders

CITY OF TORONTO

Parks Forestry & Recreation Capital Projects

Parks Forestry & Recreation Parks Operations

Economic Development and Culture

Transportation Services

Urban Design

Community Planning

INDIGENOUS CONSULTATION GROUP

**Community Service Providers &
Design Professionals**

Larry Frost, Executive Director, Native Canadian
Centre of Toronto

Brian Porter, Principal, Two Row Architect

Andrea Chrisjohn, Council Fire

David Parry, Council Fire

Pamela Hart, Executive Director, Native Women's
Resource Centre



COMMUNITY RESOURCE GROUP (CRG)

Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Association

Robert Packham - Senior Project Coordinator

Connie Langille - Senior Public Consultation
Coordinator

Downtown East Action Plan

Monica Gupta

Pride Toronto

Bobby MacPherson, Director of Operations

CAN-Alliance

Jodi Cassidy, Vice-Chair

The 519

Curran Stikuts, Manager - Community Engagement

INSPIRE Awards Corporation

Joie Lamar, The Q Experience, Chairperson and
Project Engineer

Antoine Elhashem - President and Chair of the
Board

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre

Sean Daudlin

The Anndore House

Shivani Ruparell

George Sovatzis, General Manager

Friends of The Linear Parks

Kim Behrouzian, Manager, Public Consultation

Nikolas Koschany, Senior Public Consultation
Coordinator

Children's Aid Society of Toronto

Juliana De Marco, HR Lead- Health & Safety,
Mo Fayaz, Director of IT & Property, Information
Technology

Church Wellesley BIA

Stephanie McCracken

Christopher Hudspeth

The Sanctuary

Allan Beattie, Executive Director

Alejandra Adarve, Artist in Residence

Communications & Consultation Update

Consultation and Project Timelines

Consultation Update

What We Heard

Consultation Timeline





Visual communications advertising the upcoming Online Public Meeting were posted in the parks on October 20

Community Outreach & Consultation

September 18

Community Resource Group Meeting #1

September 28

Queer History, Culture, and Art Sub-Group Facilitation Meeting

October 21

Indigenous Placemaking Consultation Meeting
Meeting w. City Parks Operations & Maintenance Groups

November 5

Virtual Public Information Meeting

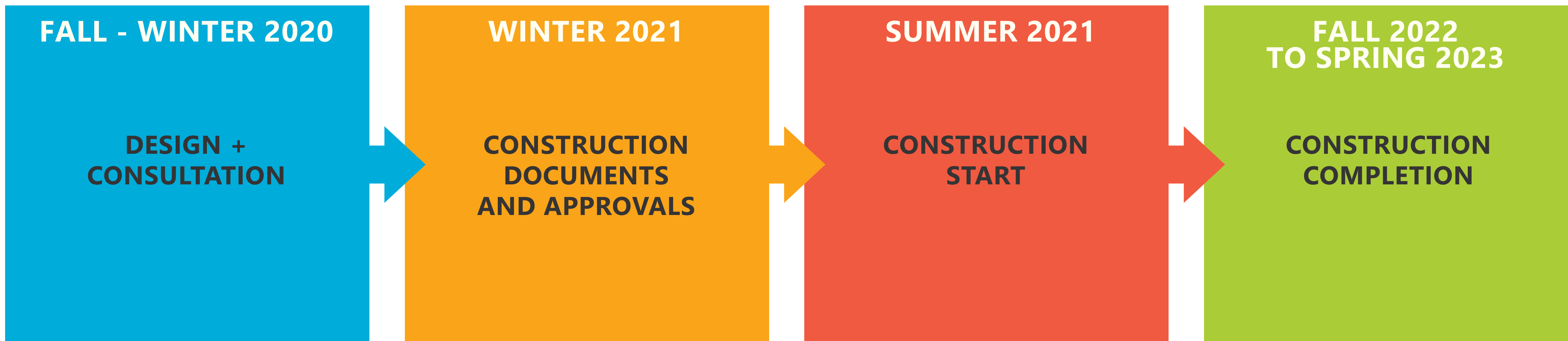
November 17

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre - Alexander St. Parkette Engagement

TBD

Park Users & Vulnerable Communities Outreach

Anticipated Project Timeline



What We Heard

Community Resource Group Meeting #1, September 18

1. **Acknowledge the diversity** of people who use these parks.
2. Keep the parks **flexible** and design in a way that is **inclusive** to all communities and for all types of activities.
3. Place a **priority on safety** when creating spaces for programming and in the physical aspects of design.
4. Include elements that **reflect the history** of the parks and neighbourhood.

What We Heard

Indigenous Placemaking Consultation, October 21

1. **Work with natural forces** of the site to emphasize a message of renewal (ex. sloping land, direction of sun exposure)
2. **Design and Decolonization:** consider interventions that are not human-centred, but consider other aspects of life or movement including animals, rain, stormwater, and plant life.
3. **Reflect on local Indigenous history and culture.**

Preliminary Park Design Concepts & Refinements

How Did We Get Here?



Master Plan Rendering, George Hislop Park, 2017

The **Yonge Street Linear Parks Improvements** project builds upon the 2017 Master Plan and aims to reconfirm the vision and refresh the priorities for how the park will be improved to meet the current and future needs of your community.

Design Guidelines & Objectives

Promote placemaking by incorporating the design language and materials which have been established by the master plan and the construction of James Canning Gardens.

Create a continuous accessible pathway through George Hislop and Norman Jewison Parks that connects to James Canning Gardens, complete with lighting, site furnishings, and plantings (trees, lawns & horticulture).

Consider potential outdoor performance / gathering areas for programmed and flexible events.

Integrate sustainable features and robust, resilient design that considers safety and accessibility for all park users.

Explore pedestrian connectivity and programming opportunities to increase foot traffic through the parks and engage with the neighbouring buildings such as Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, Sanctuary, and the Andorre House.



CONCEPTUAL FOCUS

The Parks In Context

HISTORY

Evolution of Transportation

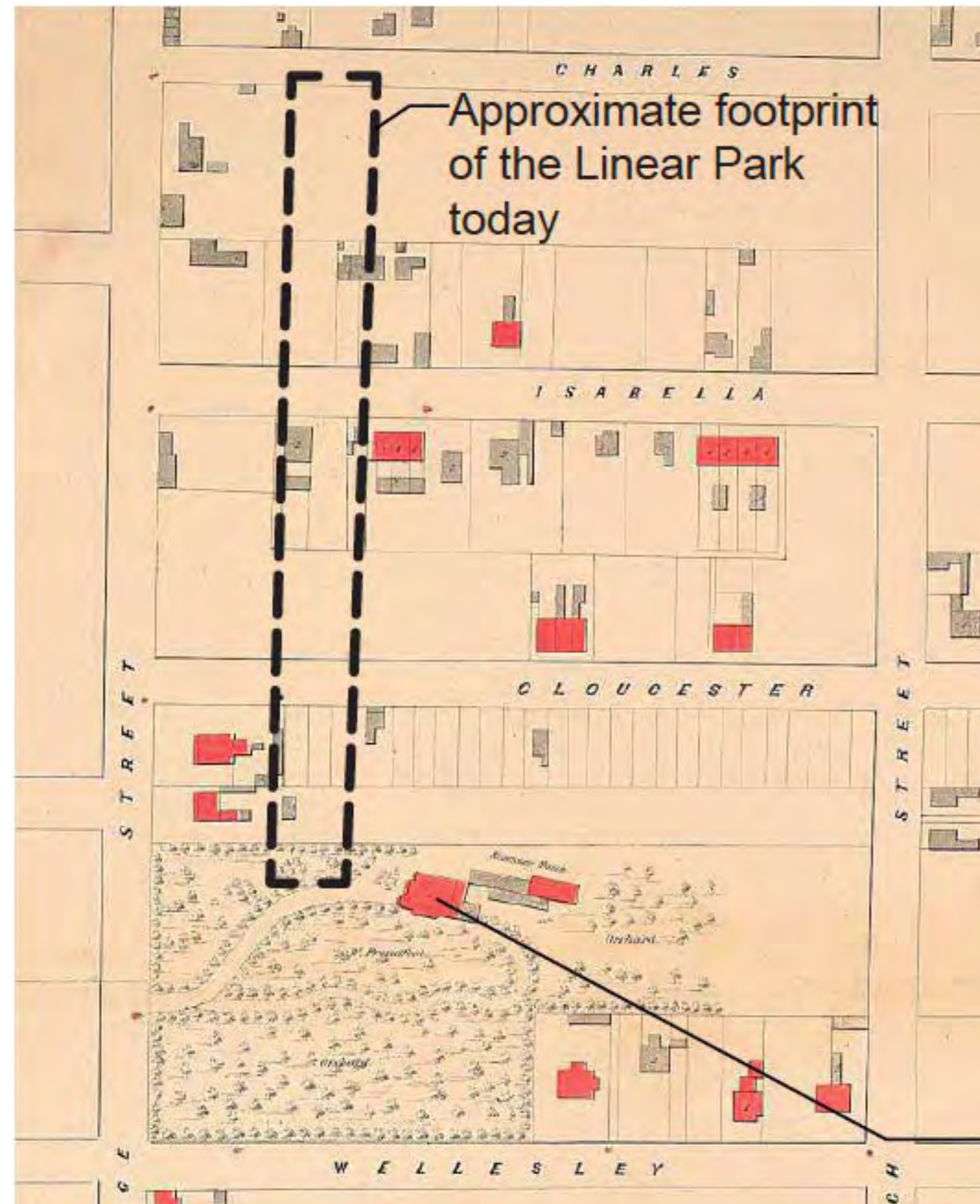


Pre-European Settlement

Moss Park Creek, a Tributary of Taddle Creek, originated at the base of what is now Norman Jewison Park. The creek was once a source of food and transportation route for the Mississauga First Nation.

HISTORY

Evolution of Transportation

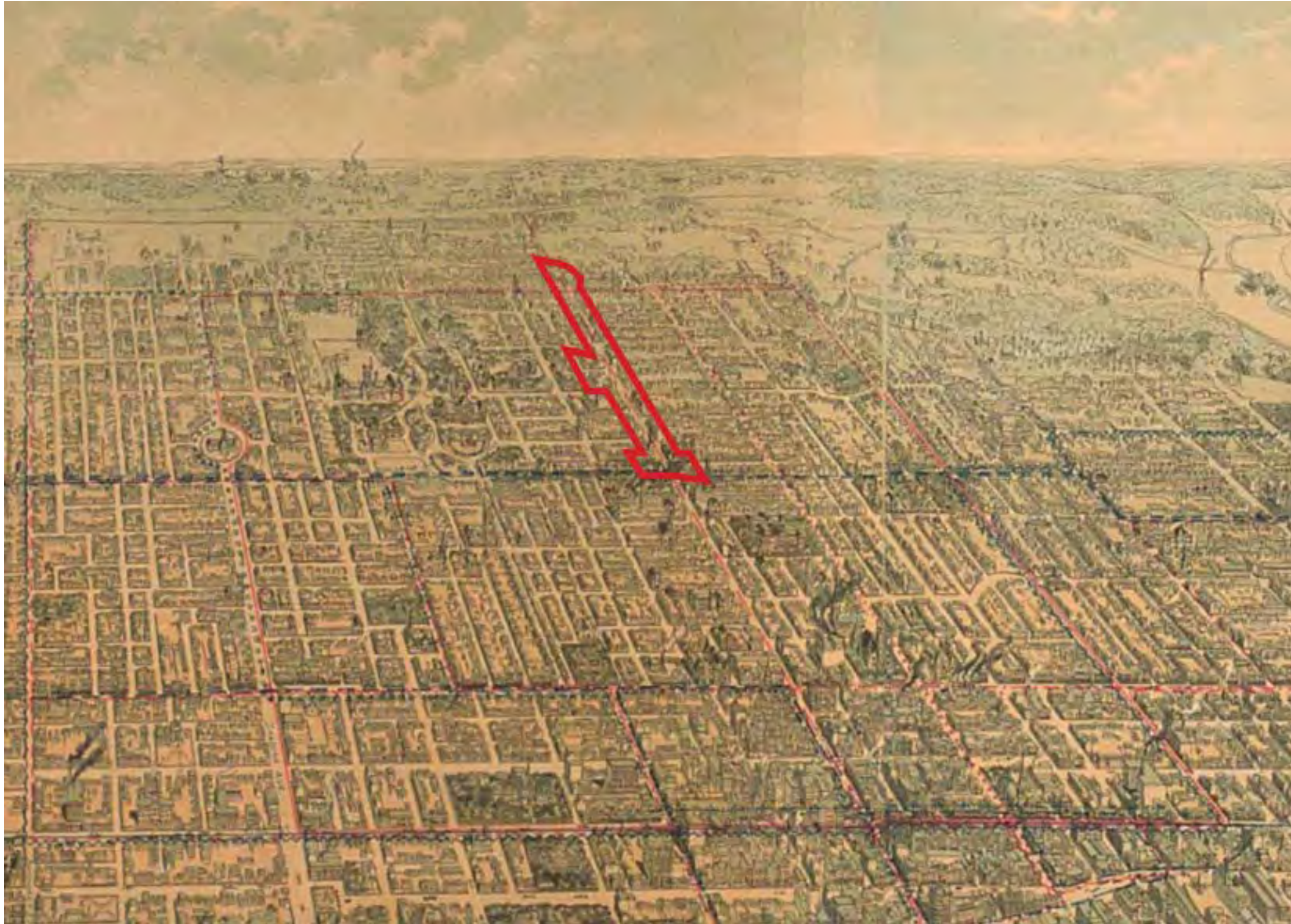


1825

Early Land Division & development of roadways.

HISTORY

Evolution of Transportation

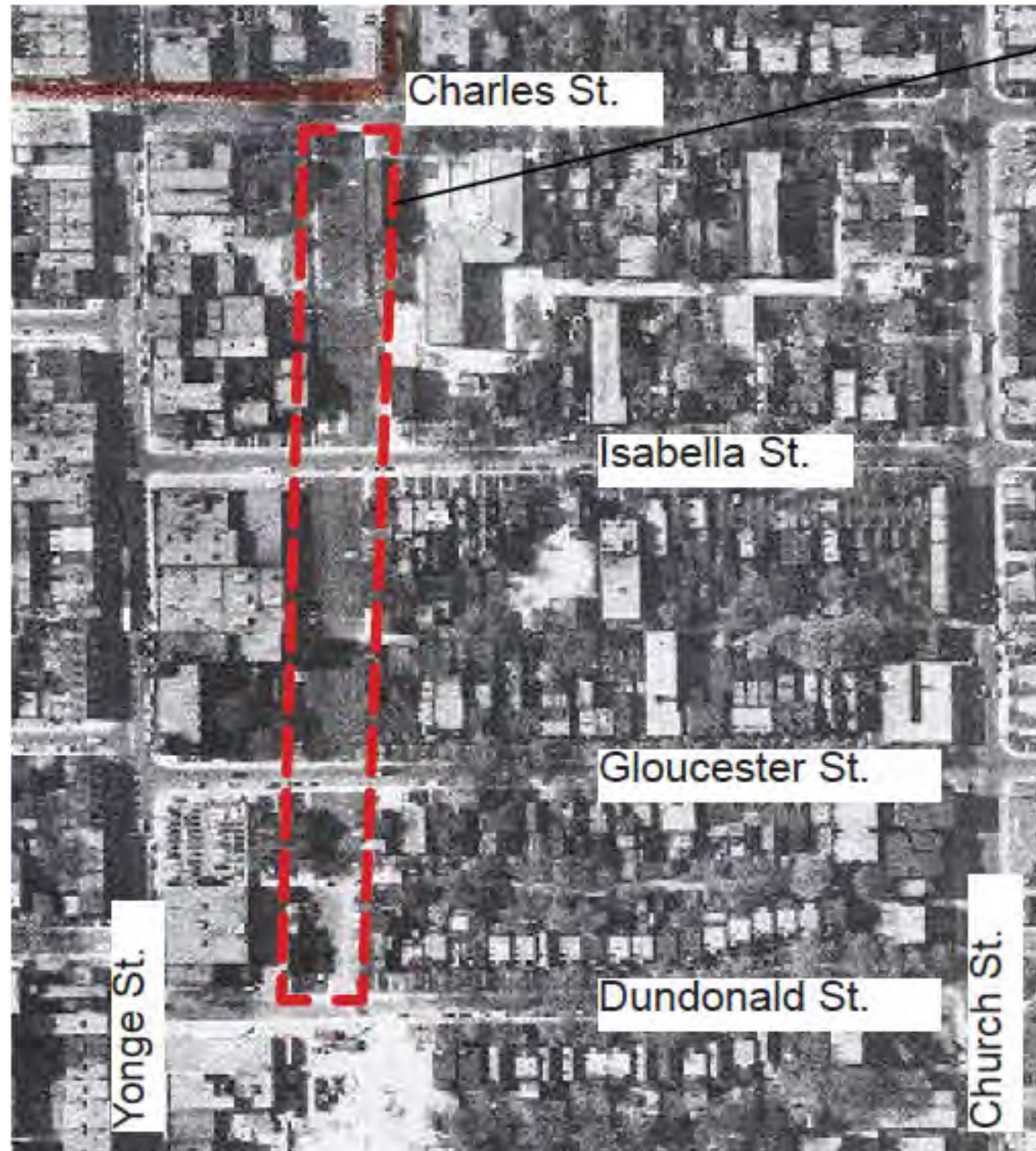


1892

Map of Toronto's Streetcar and transportation lines, prepared by the Toronto Railway Company. Yonge St. shown in red.

HISTORY

Evolution of Transportation

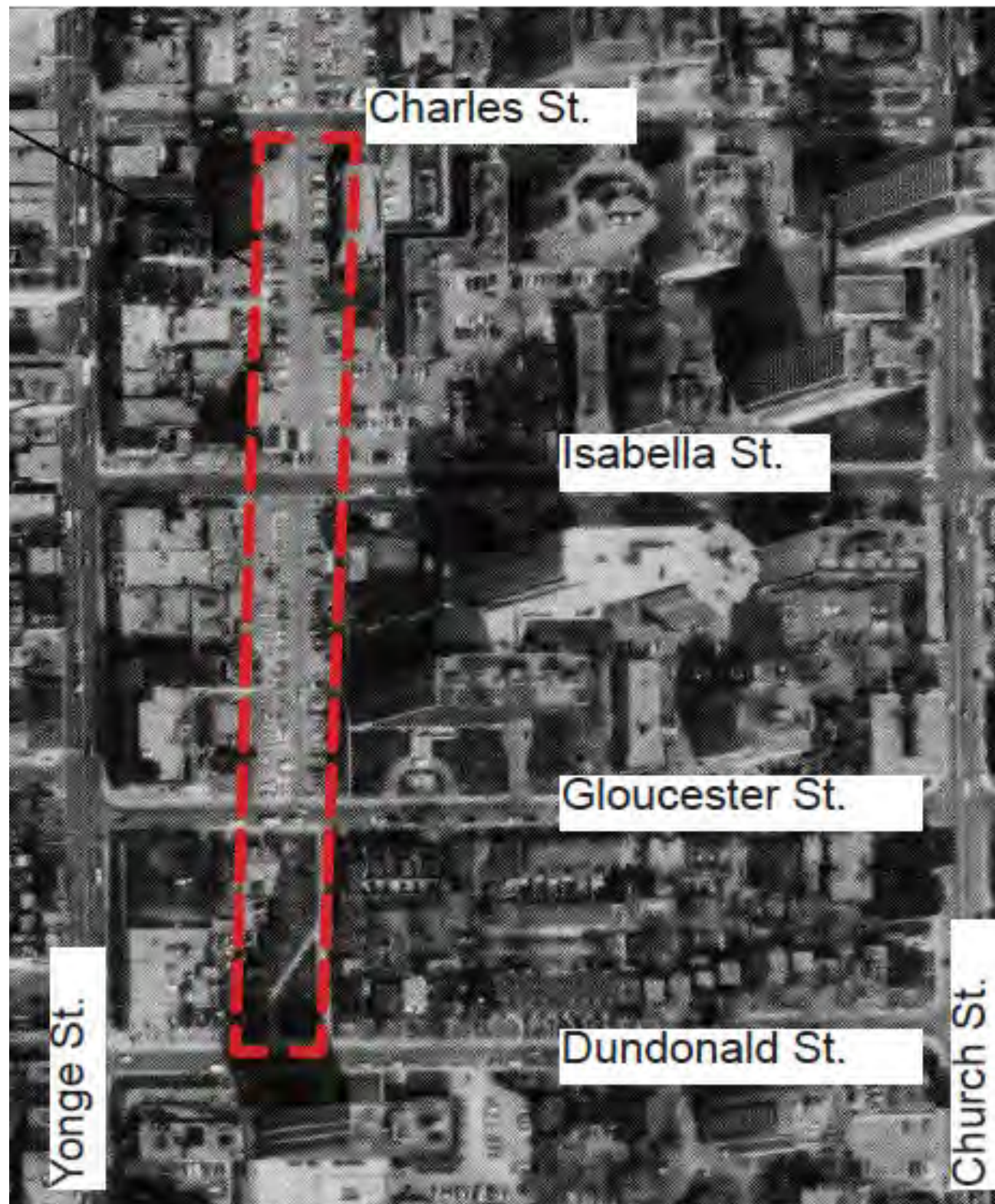


1953

Subway construction beneath the neighbourhood. The excavation area has been covered over with concrete.

HISTORY

Evolution of Transportation



1983

Surface parking for TTC users is the primary use of what is now the linear park system.

HISTORY

Evolution of Transportation



2010s

The parks today - a pedestrian commuter route, and respite from the busy Yonge Street corridor. A vital green space in a historically apartment neighbourhood

NATURAL HERITAGE

Forests and Ravines



Toronto as we know it is defined by ravines. The Yonge St. Linear Parks sit at the precipice of the Rosedale Valley ravine.

NATURAL HERITAGE

Forests and Ravines



Forests, ravines, and creeks have the capacity to define communities, from plant and animal habitats to human transportation, recreation, and culture.

NATURAL HERITAGE

Forests and Ravines



A Downtown Ravine

Take advantage of the picturesque tree canopy that already exists in the parks while continuing to grow Toronto's urban forest.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

LGBTQ2S+ Community



The Heart, Home and Hub of All Things LGBTQ2S+

The area has long been the established arrival and transition place for the LGBTQ2S+ community providing much needed support via its businesses, amenities, social assistance, and residences. The parks can continue this legacy of acting as the meeting place, much like what the Church Street Steps provided.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

LGBTQ2S+ Community

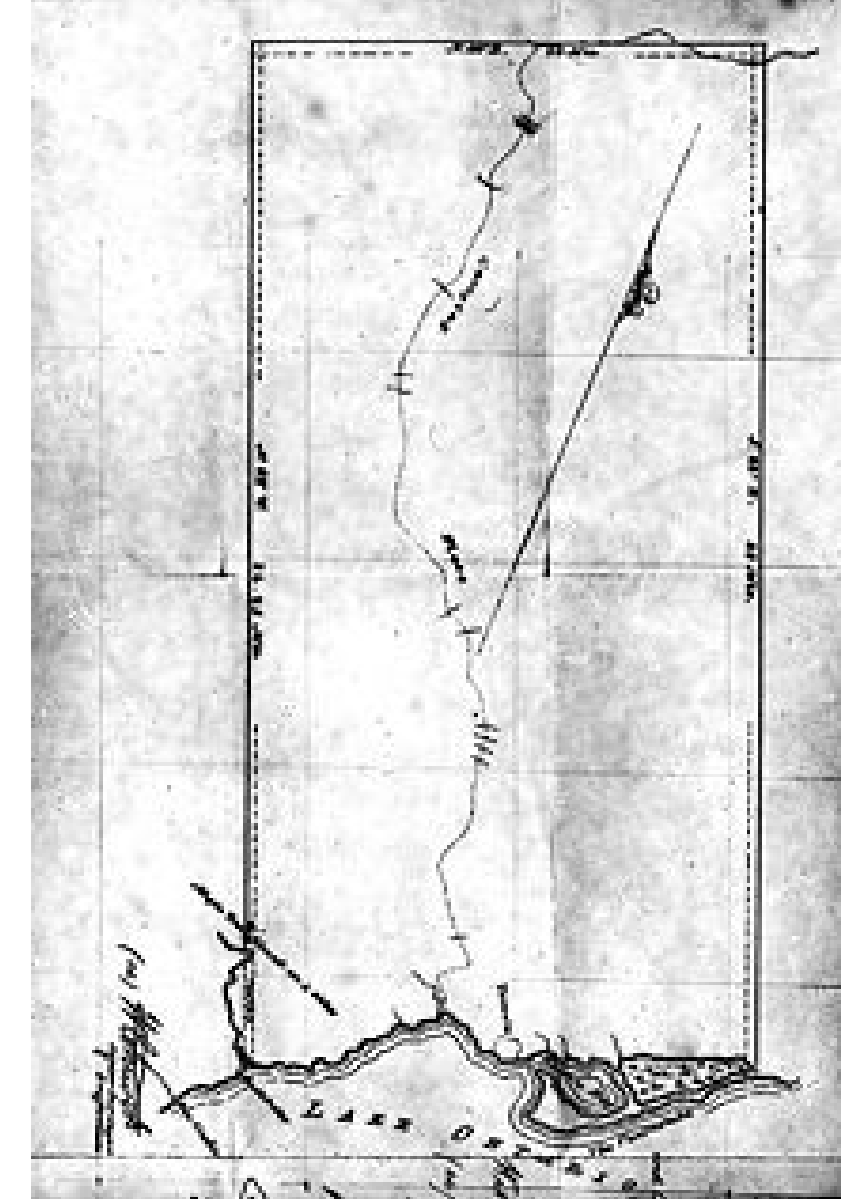


Support LGBTQ2S+ Pride and Advocacy

The parks can act as a forum for the community's legacy of LGBTQ2S+ activism and pride - through the integrated public art, seasonal programming and/or events and performances, through interpretive features and naming and designing for inclusivity.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Indigenous Placemaking



Indigenous Placekeeping and Placemaking

Opportunities to recreate deep relationships with nature: through landform, rain/water and restorative planting. Recognition of local indigenous events and 'firsts' such as the first Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, and the first game of the first Indigenous NHL player, Fred Sasakamoose, at Maple Leaf Gardens.



**CONNECT THE
PARKS TO THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD
& THE CITY**



**CELEBRATE THE
LOST CREEKS'
FOREST
AND RAVINE
LANDSCAPES**



**CONTINUE
CULTURAL
LEGACIES AND
ADVOCATE
FOR INCLUSIVE
SPACES AND NEW
NARRATIVES**

Concepts At A Glance

Option 1: Flow



Option 2: Nodes



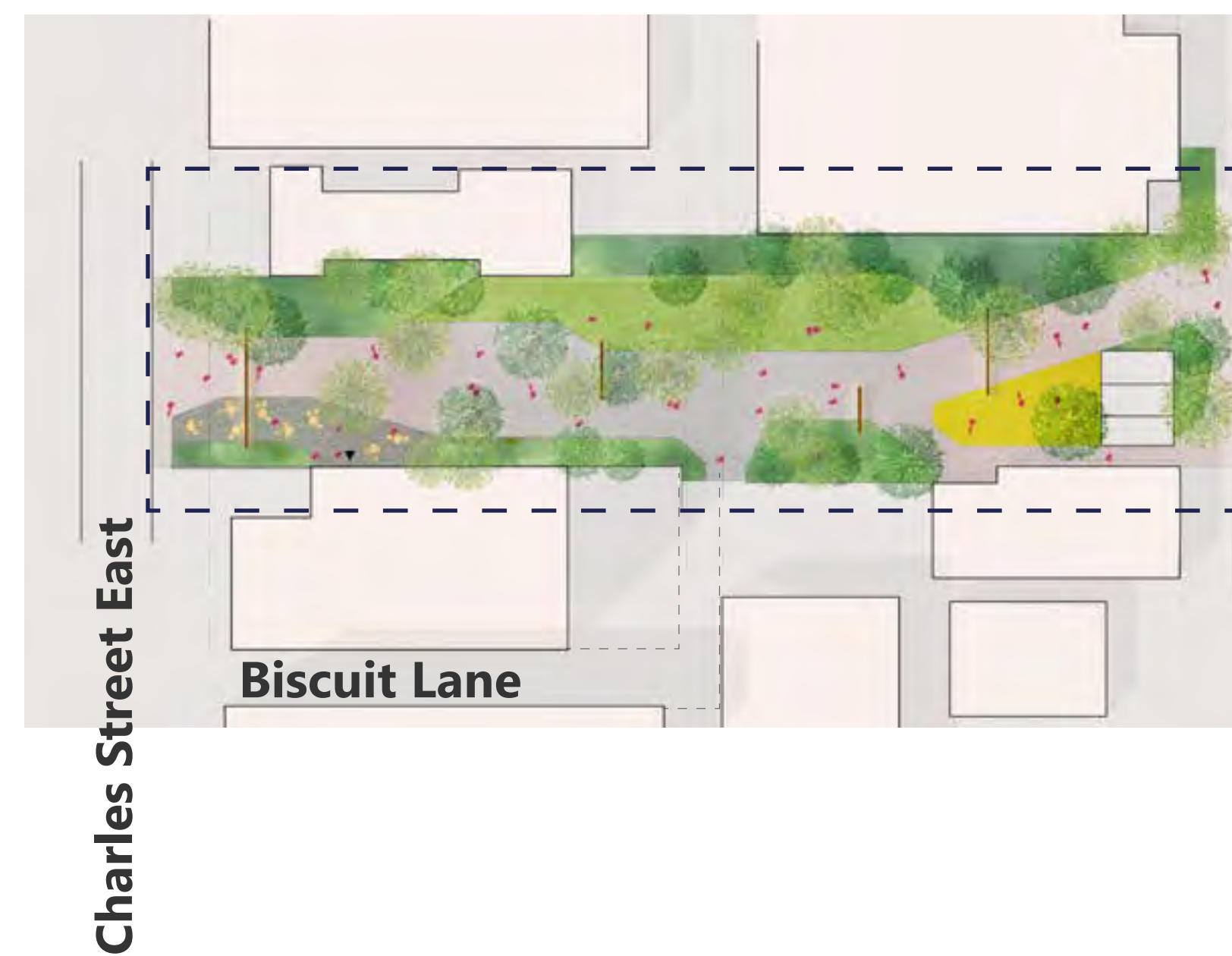
George Hislop Park

Norman Jewison Park

Alexander Street Parkette

Option 1: Flow

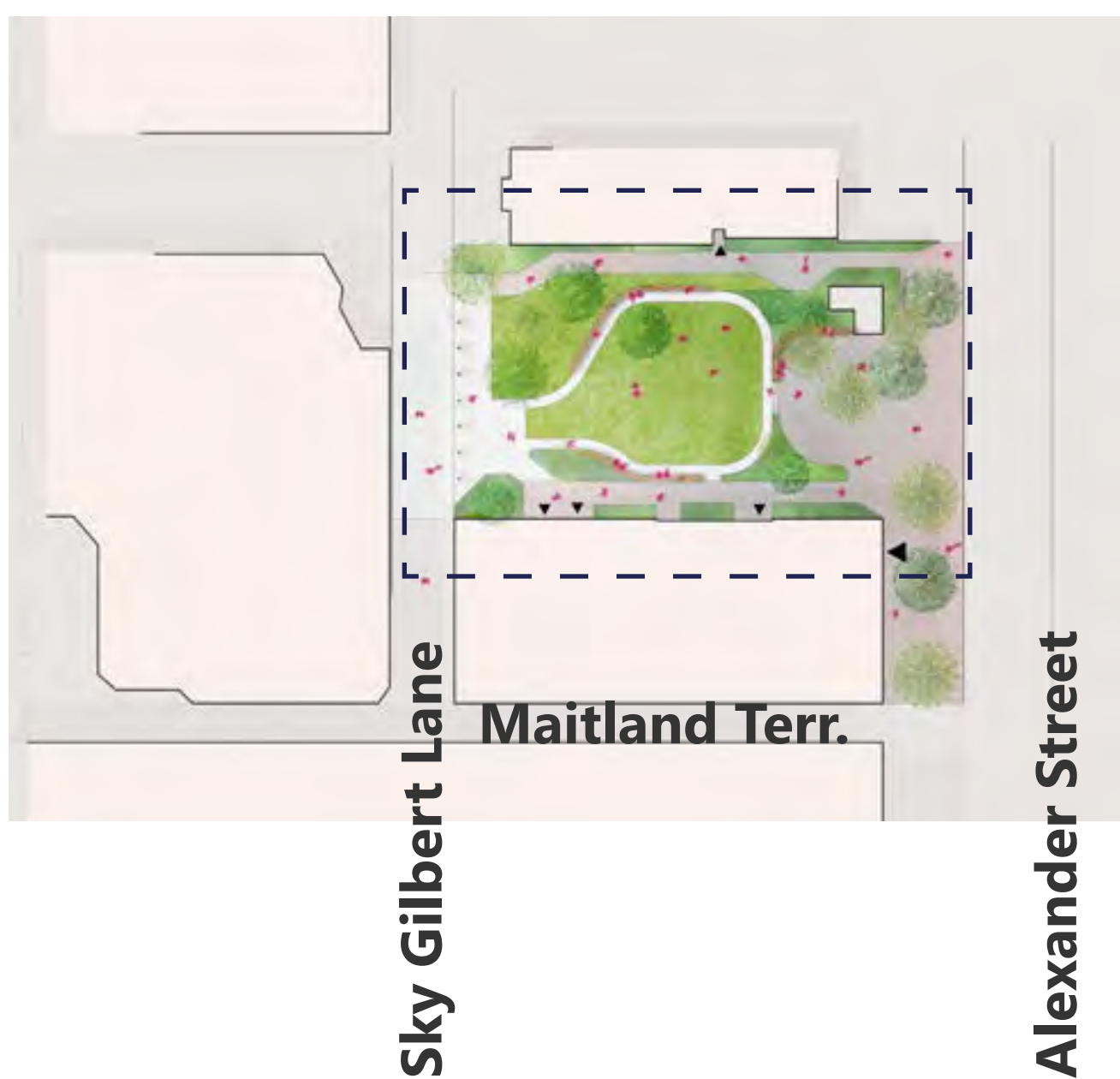
George Hislop Park



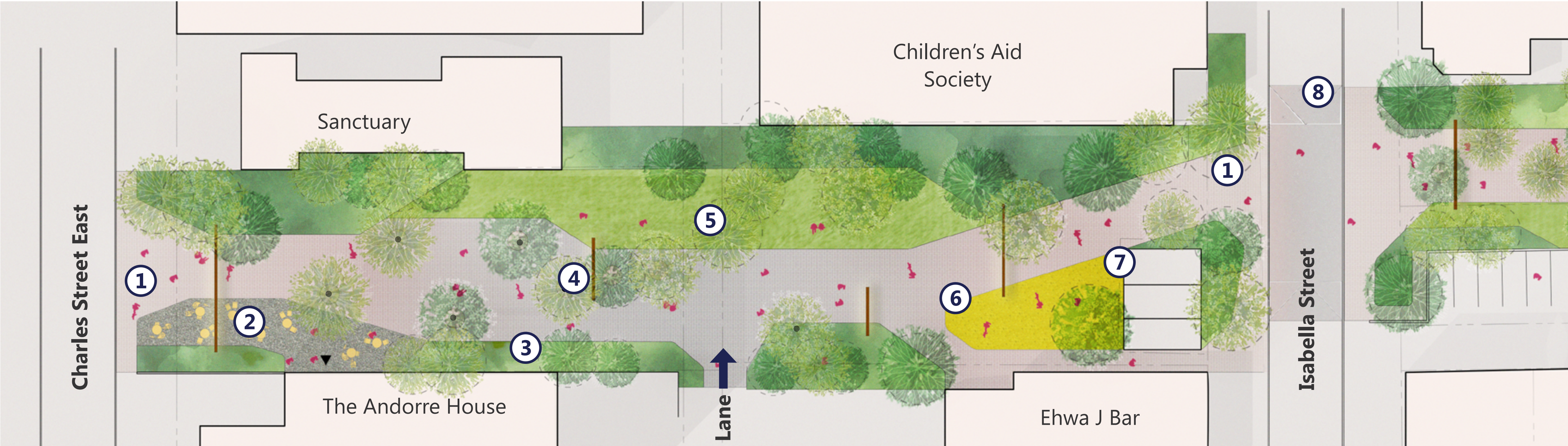
Norman Jewison Park



Alexander Street Parkette



George Hislop Park



Legend



Existing Tree

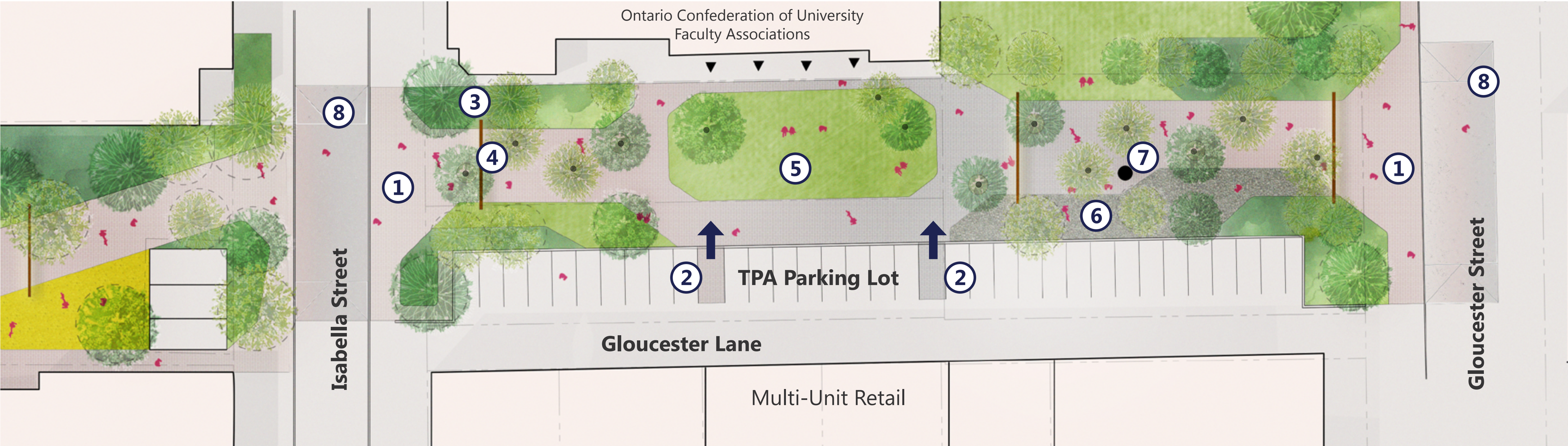


New Tree

- ① Unit Paved Entry Plaza
- ② Cafe Terrace w. Furniture & Filter Paving
- ③ Shrub & Perennial Planting
- ④ Corten Steel Arch w. Lighting

- ⑤ Lawn
- ⑥ Play Area
- ⑦ TTC Air Intake Vent
- ⑧ Crossing w. Table-Top / Special Paving / Other Traffic Calming

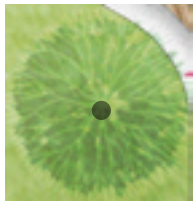
Norman Jewison Park



Legend



Existing Tree



New Tree

- ① Unit Paved Entry Plaza
- ② Pedestrian Access Point
- ③ Shrub & Perennial Planting
- ④ Corten Steel Arch w. Lighting

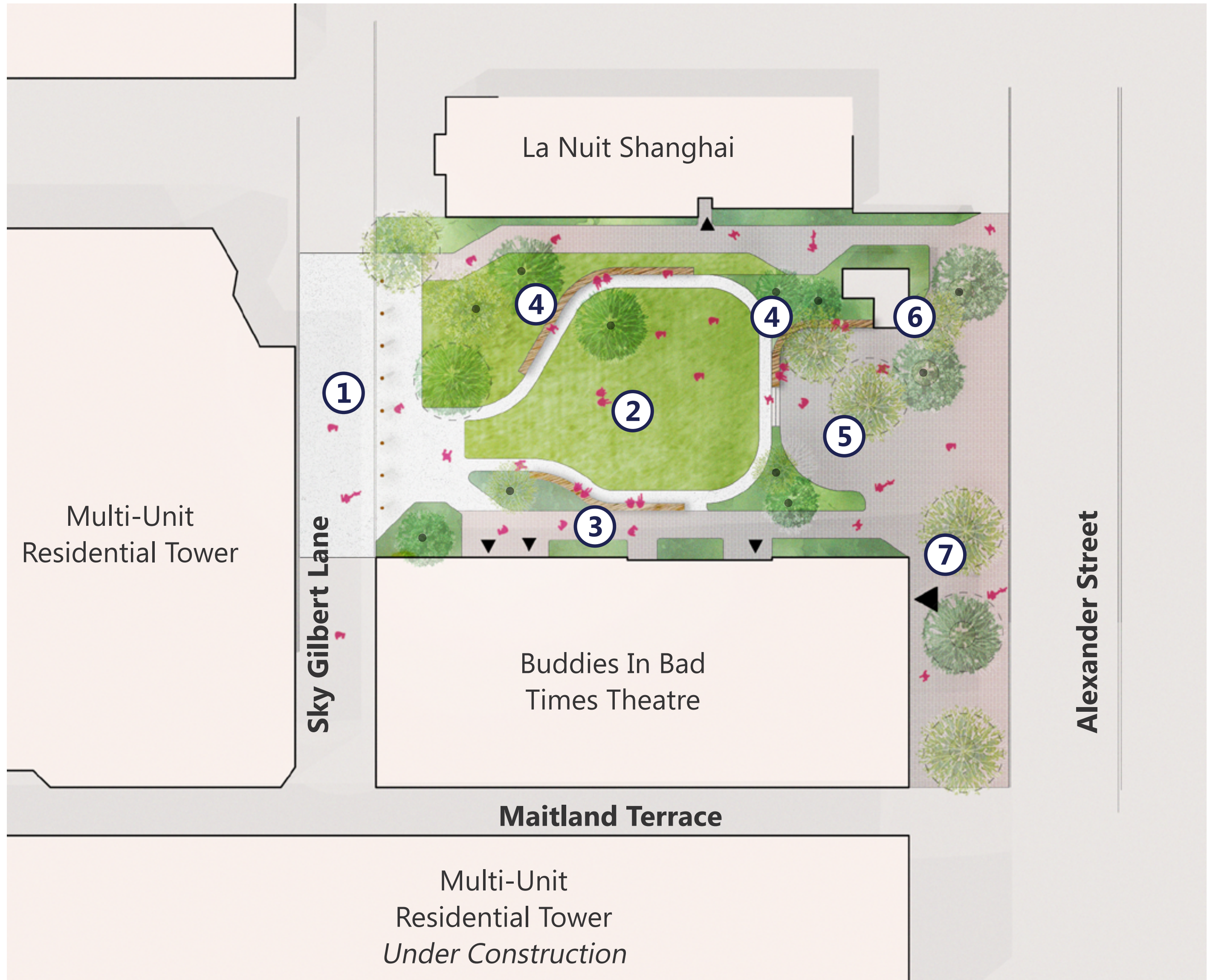
- ⑤ Central Lawn
- ⑥ Dog Relief Area
- ⑦ Barney's Fountain
- ⑧ Crossing w. Table-Top / Special Paving / Other Traffic Calming

Perspective

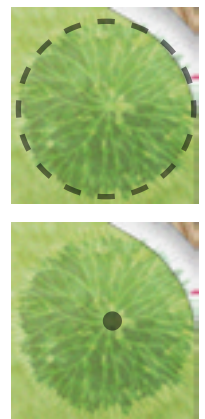


View of Norman Jewison Park, looking south toward the dog relief area and entry forecourt from the Central Lawn.

Alexander Street Parkette



Legend



Existing Tree

New Tree

- ① Pedestrian Mews
- ② Central Lawn
- ③ Theatre Promenade
- ④ Terraced Seating Walls

- ⑤ Community Plaza
- ⑥ Ex. Underground Parking Pavilion
- ⑦ Entry Forecourt



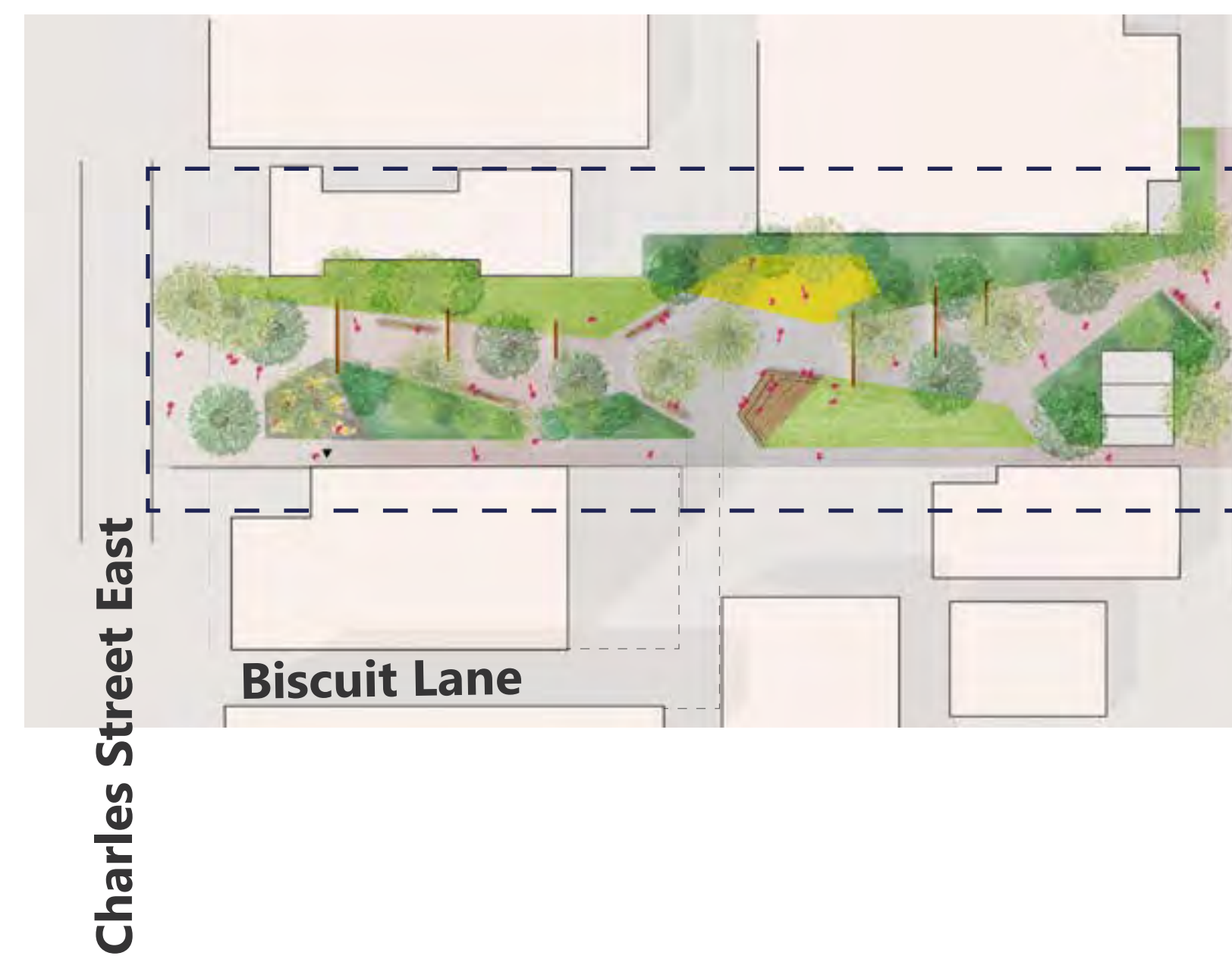
Perspective



View of Alexander Street Parkette, looking north towards the Community Plaza from Alexander Street.

Option 2: Nodes

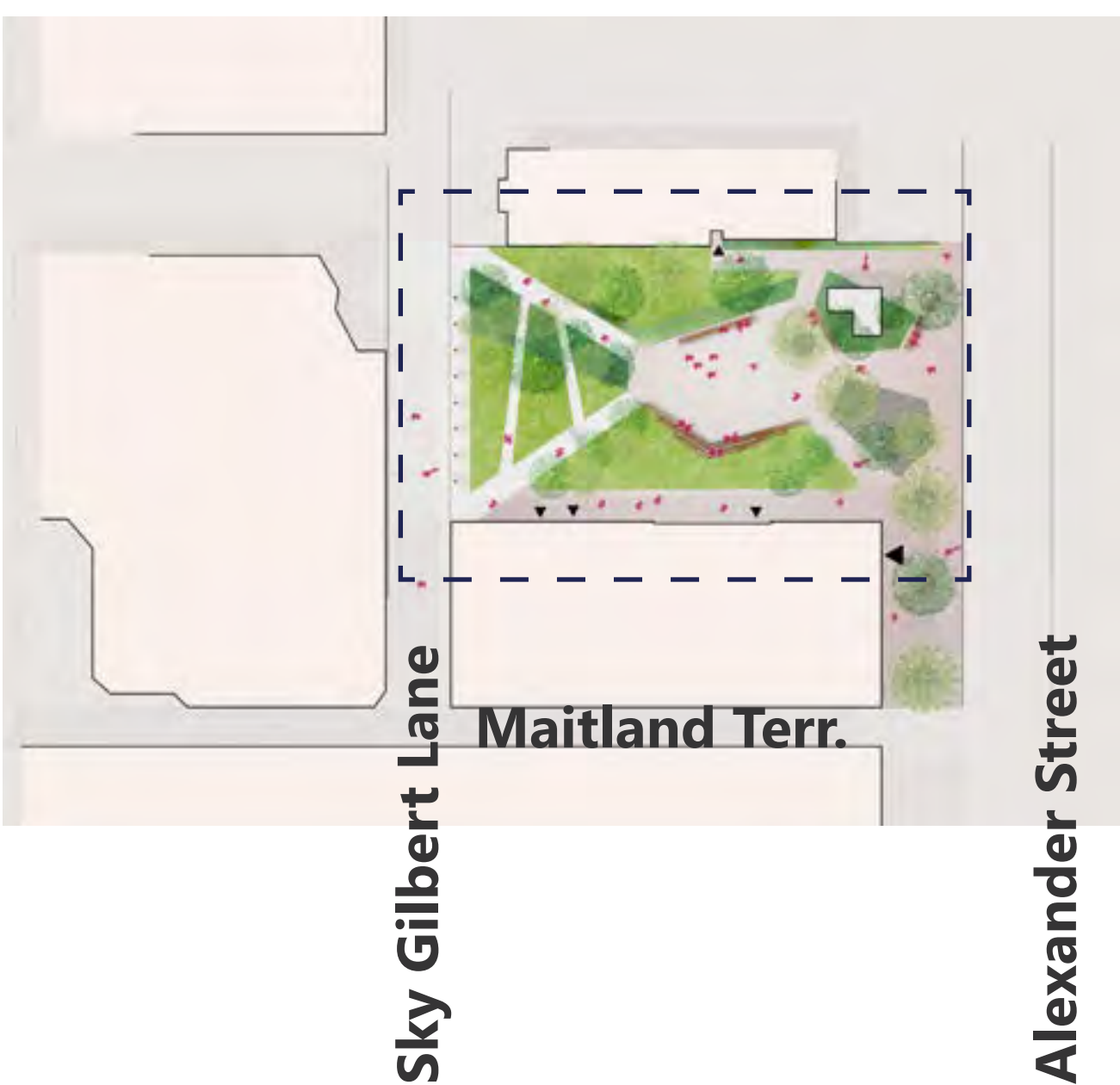
George Hislop Park



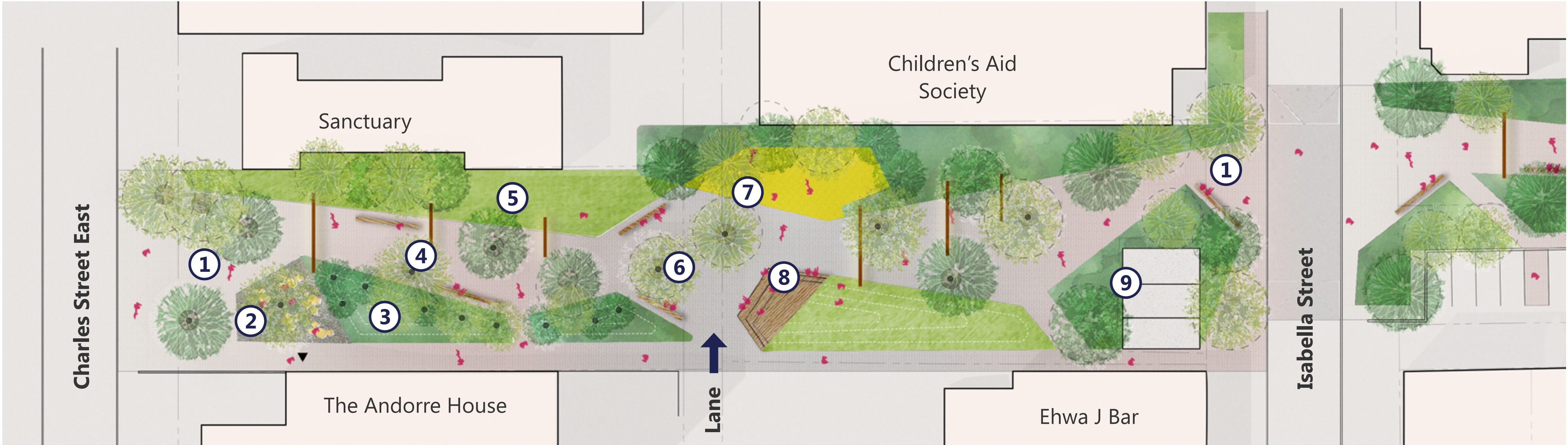
Norman Jewison Park



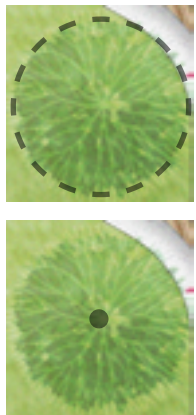
Alexander Street Parkette



George Hislop Park



Legend



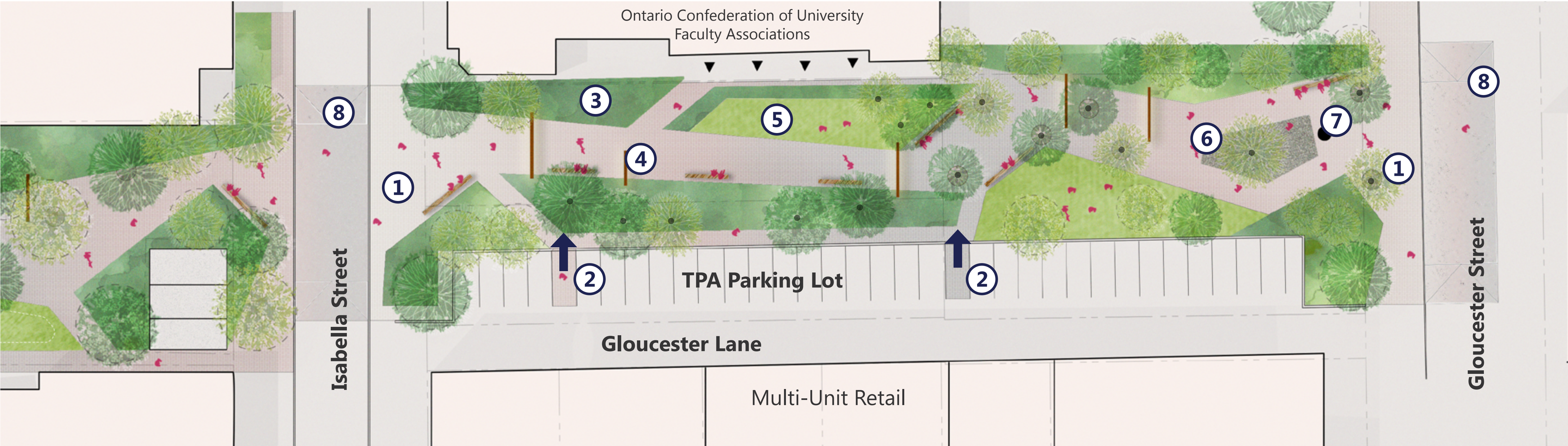
- | | | | |
|---------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Existing Tree | ① Unit Paved Entry Plaza | ④ Corten Steel Arch w. Lighting | ⑦ Play Area |
| New Tree | ② Cafe Terrace w. Furniture & Filter Paving | ⑤ Lawn | ⑧ Event Terraces |
| | ③ Shrub & Perennial Planting | ⑥ Central Plaza | ⑨ TTC Air Intake Vent |

Perspective

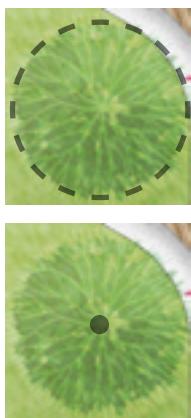


View of George Hislop Park, looking south toward the Central Plaza and Event Terraces.

Norman Jewison Park

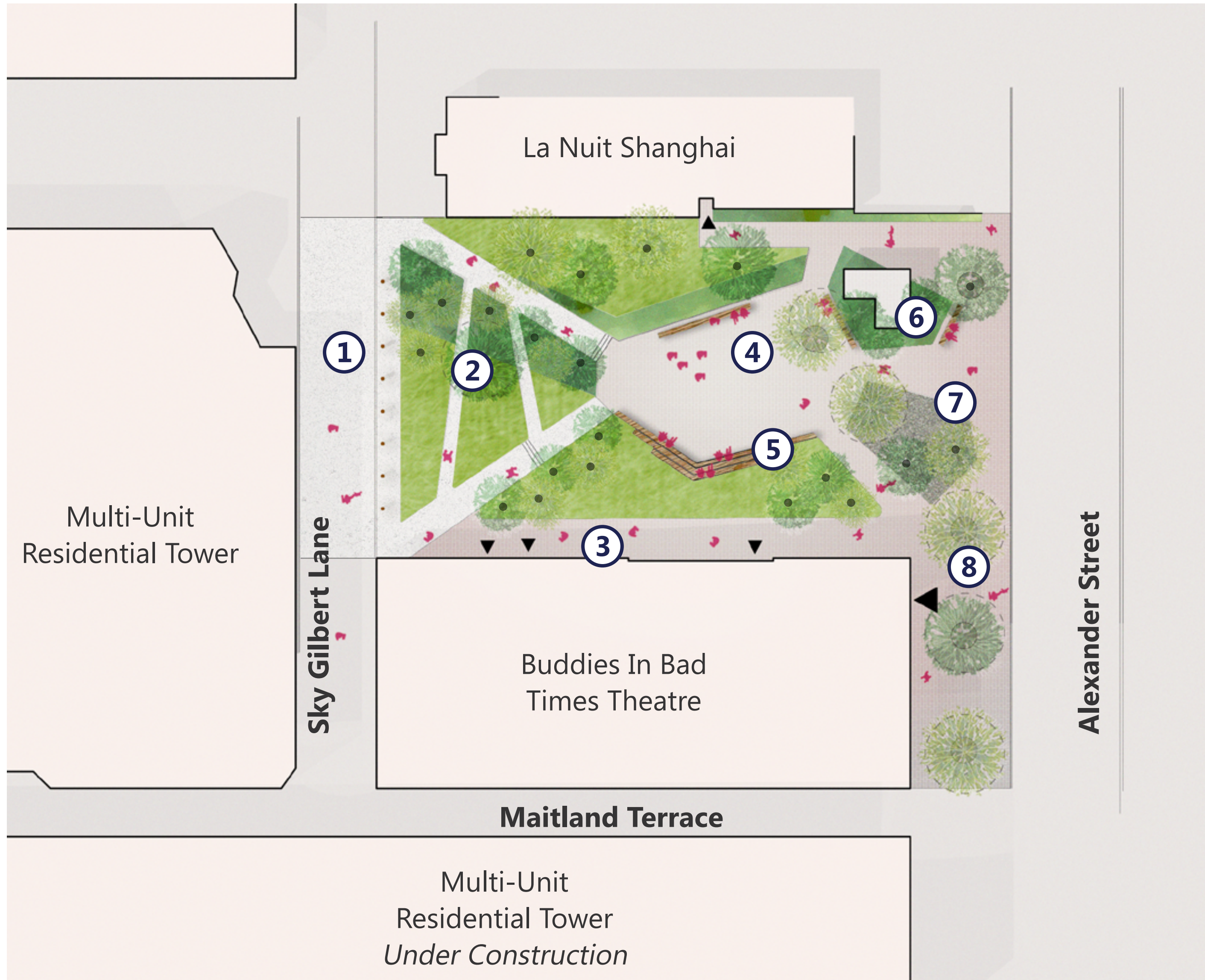


Legend



- Existing Tree
- New Tree
- ① Unit Paved Entry Plaza
- ② Pedestrian Access Points
- ③ Shrub & Perennial Planting
- ④ Corten Steel Arch w. Lighting
- ⑤ Central Lawn
- ⑥ Dog Relief Area
- ⑦ Barney's Fountain
- ⑧ Crossing w. Table-Top / Special Paving

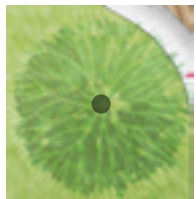
Alexander Street Parkette



Legend



Existing Tree



New Tree

①

Pedestrian Mews

②

Sloped Garden Walk

③

Theatre Promenade

④

Event Plaza

⑤

Performance Terraces

⑥

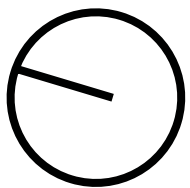
Ex. Underground
Parking Pavilion

⑦

Community Plaza

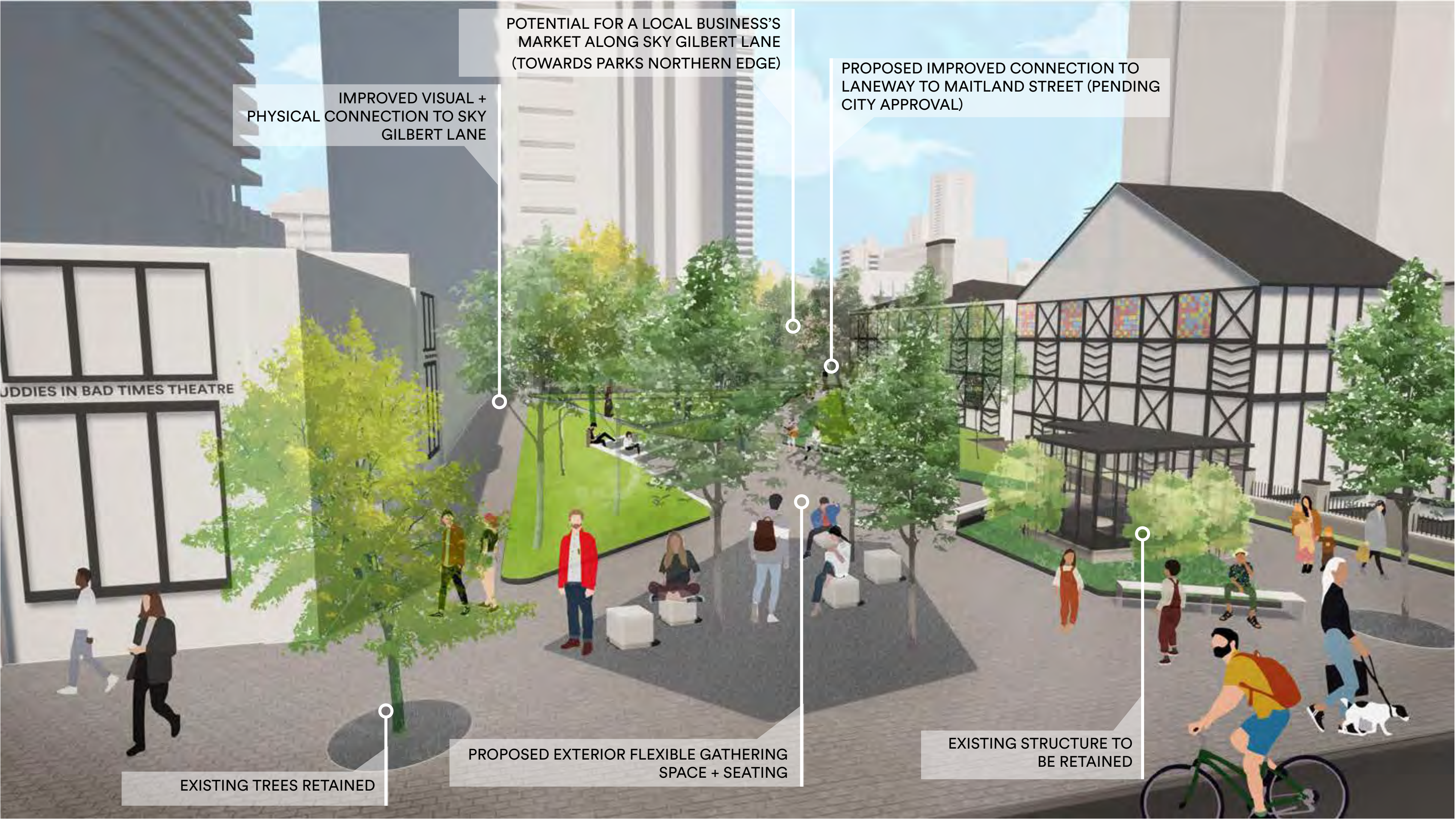
⑧

Entry Forecourt



NORTH

Perspective



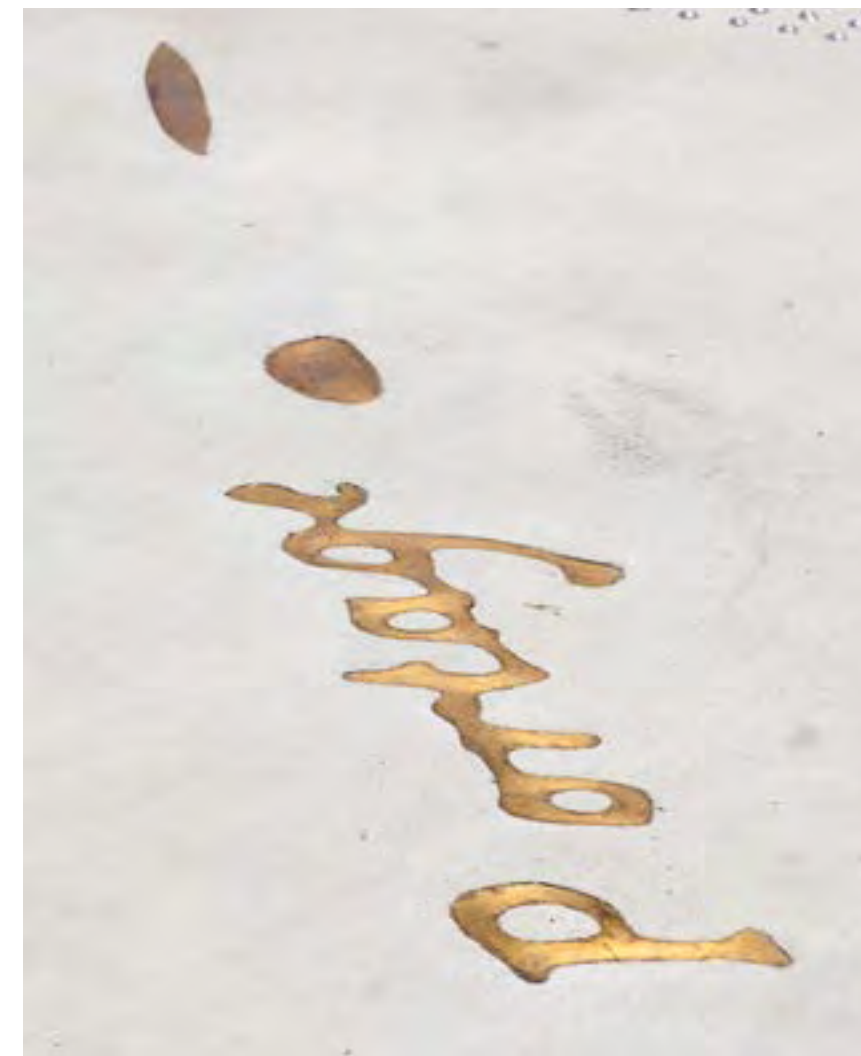
View of Alexander Street Parkette, looking north towards the Community Plaza and Event Plaza from Alexander Street.

Indigenous Placemaking & Placekeeping Strategies

Program and event space to accommodate gatherings, ceremonies and education



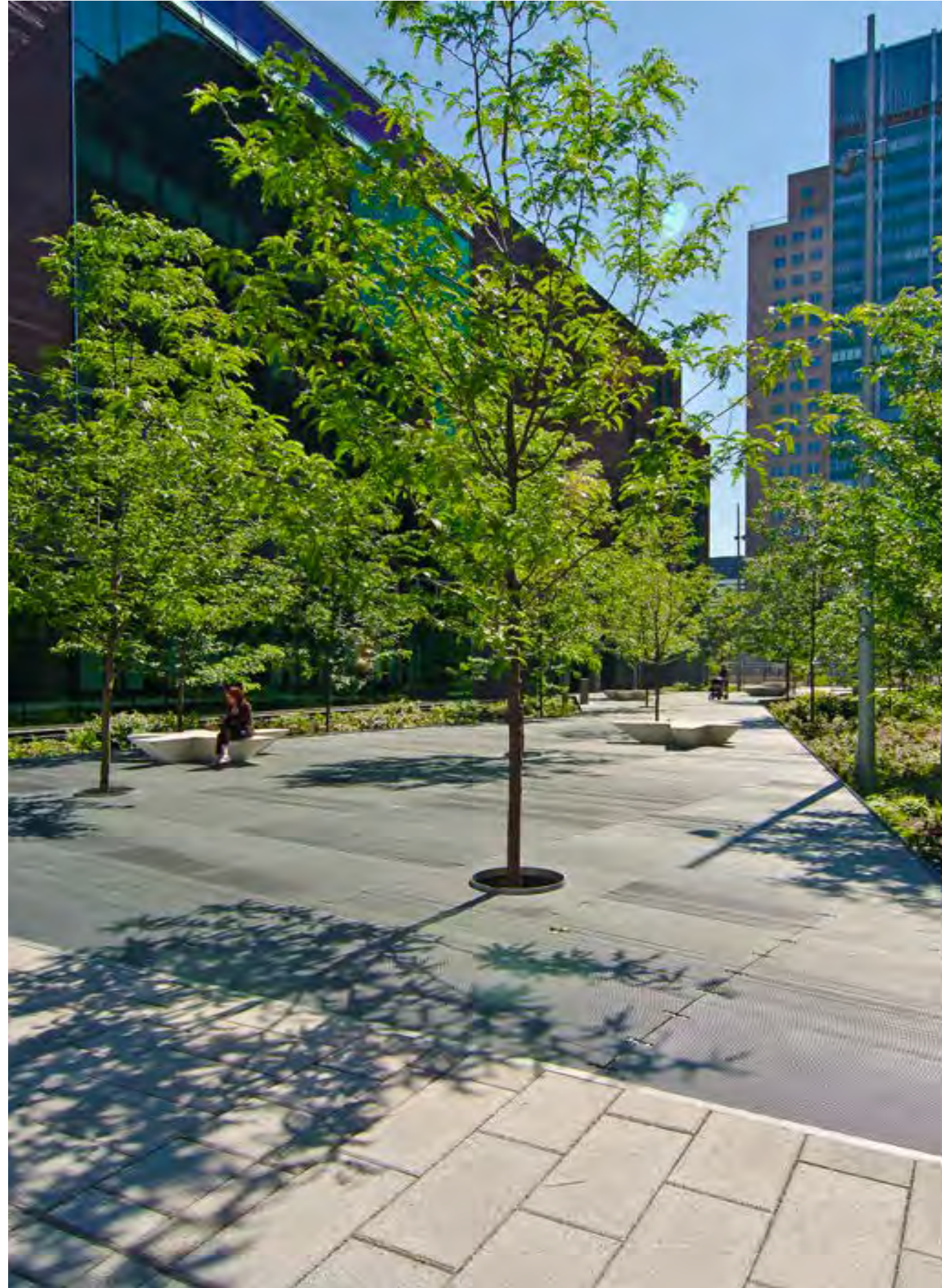
Indigenous placekeeping through **materials, art, and historic references.**



Incorporation of **plantings or natural processes** representative of local or original ecologies that hold cultural and spiritual significance to Indigenous peoples.

Precedents

ENTRY PLAZAS

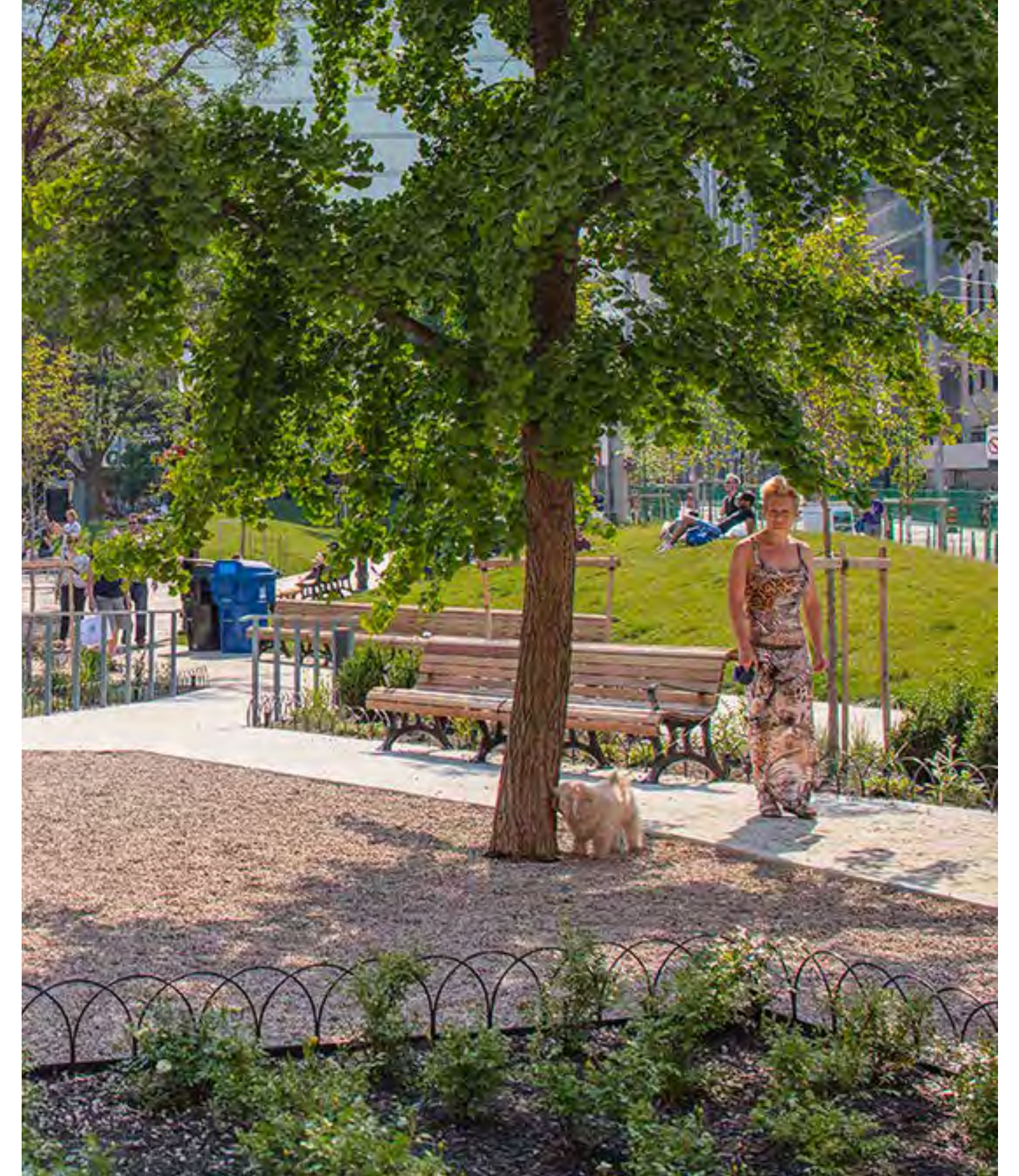


Precedents

FLEXIBLE PLAY



DOG RELIEF



Precedents

PATHWAYS

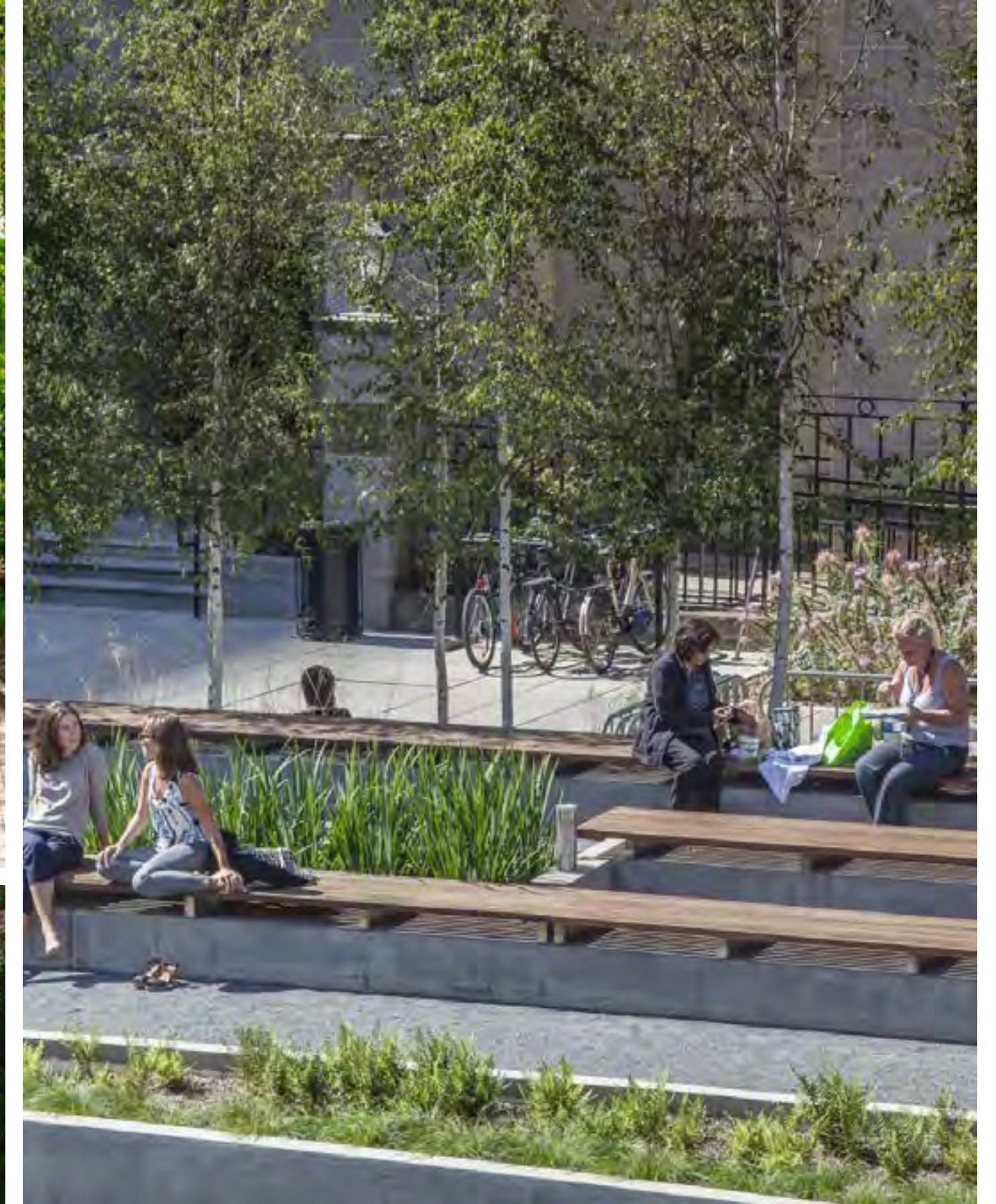


PEDESTRIAN MEWS



Precedents

GATHERING SPACES



Discussion

Design Feedback



1. Questions of Clarification?



2. Programming and Use

What activities do you see yourself doing most often in the Yonge Street Linear Parks?

Traveling on the paths?

Relaxing on your own?

Hanging out with friends & family?

Experiencing the public art work?

Bringing pets to the dog relief area?

Attending events or community activities?

Visiting the play area?



3. Locations of Program Elements

Do you have any feedback on the proposed locations of the flexible play spaces in George Hislop Park?

What about dog relief areas shown in Norman Jewison Park?

What about Plazas or larger event spaces?

Option 1: Flow



Option 2: Nodes



George Hislop Park

Norman Jewison Park

Alexander Street Parkette



4. Seating

Where do you see it most beneficial to prioritize seating? At the entrances? Along pathways? In centralized areas?

Do you have any feedback on the potential to include larger seating areas such as terraces or steps? Consider the flexibility for event and performance seating and day-to-day functionality.



5. Planting & Green Space

Do you have any feedback on the proportion of paving to green space in each of the concepts?

What about the proportion of lawn space to horticultural planting?

Option 1: Flow



Option 2: Nodes



George Hislop Park

Norman Jewison Park

Alexander Street Parkette



6. Pedestrian Connectivity & Park Access

Do you think it is beneficial to punctuate the mid-points of each of the linear parks:

In George Hislop Park from Biscuit Lane?

In Norman Jewison Park from the parking lot?

From Alexander Street Parkette into Sky Gilbert Lane?

What are your thoughts on traffic calming between each of the linear parks? Do you see value in these pedestrian connections? (Table-tops, special paving materials, crossings, etc.)

Option 1: Flow



Option 2: Nodes



George Hislop Park

Norman Jewison Park

Alexander Street Parkette

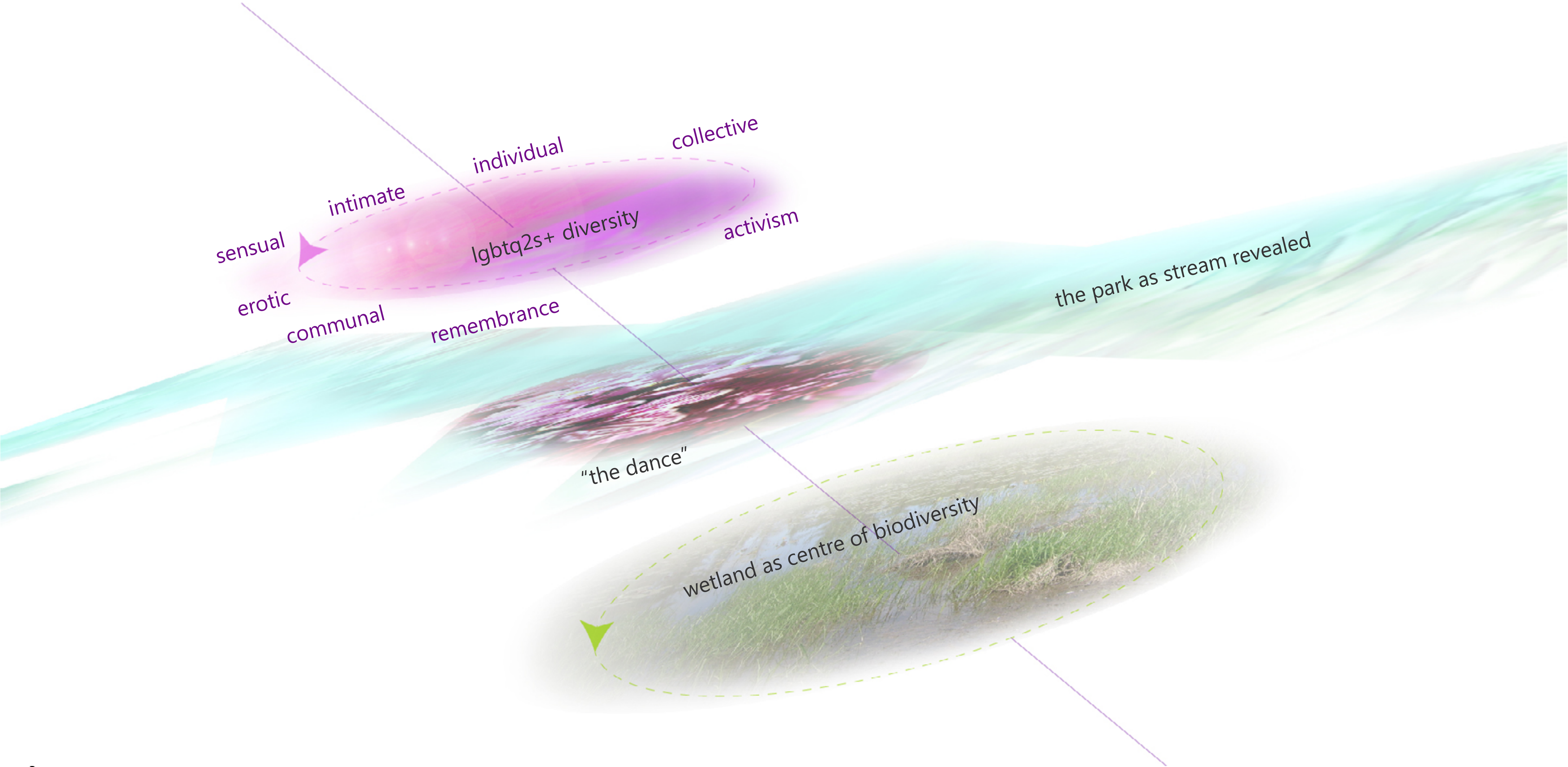
Preliminary Integrated LGBTQ2S+ Public Art Concepts

What We Heard

Queer Art Sub-Group Meeting, September 28

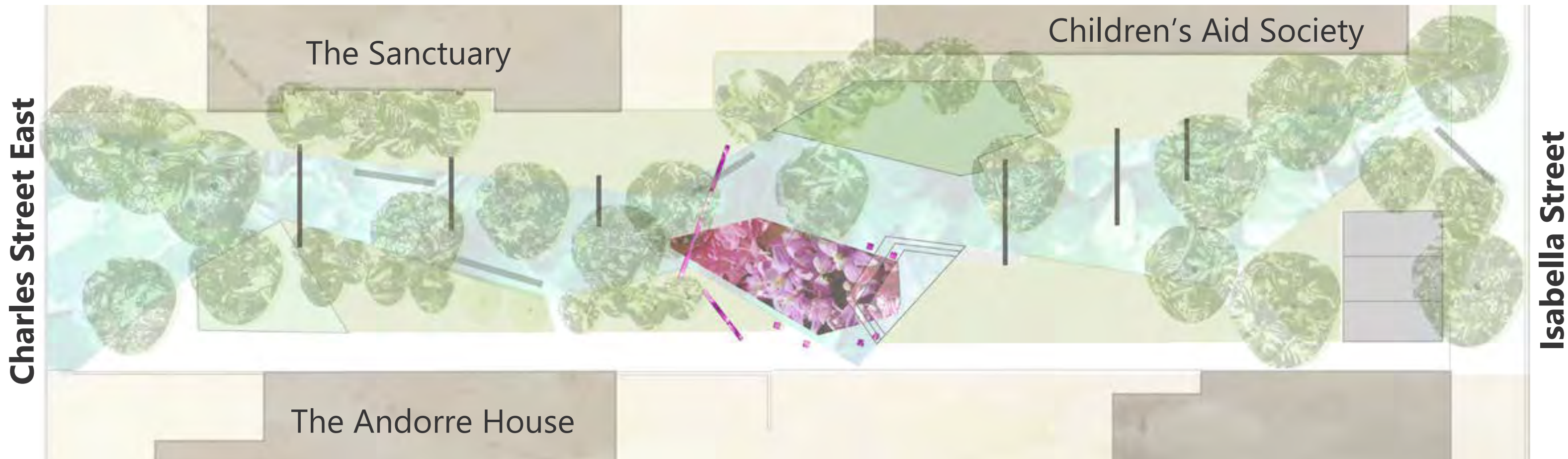
1. A universal queer theme is Positive Visibility. This area is where we could finally be seen by the rest of the city.
2. Abstract and conceptual representations may lead to broader and more open interpretations.
3. Historically, park spaces have provided space that enables non-normative ways of being for LGBTQ2S+ communities. Consider spaces to allow for people to come together and use park space on their own terms.
4. Elements of light, brightness or reflectivity can draw people into the park and would be welcomed.
5. Explore reflections on the idea of Queer Space as the act of creating a space in a way that wasn't originally designed for LGBTQ2S+ communities, individuals, and identities.

Option 1: The Dance - Concept

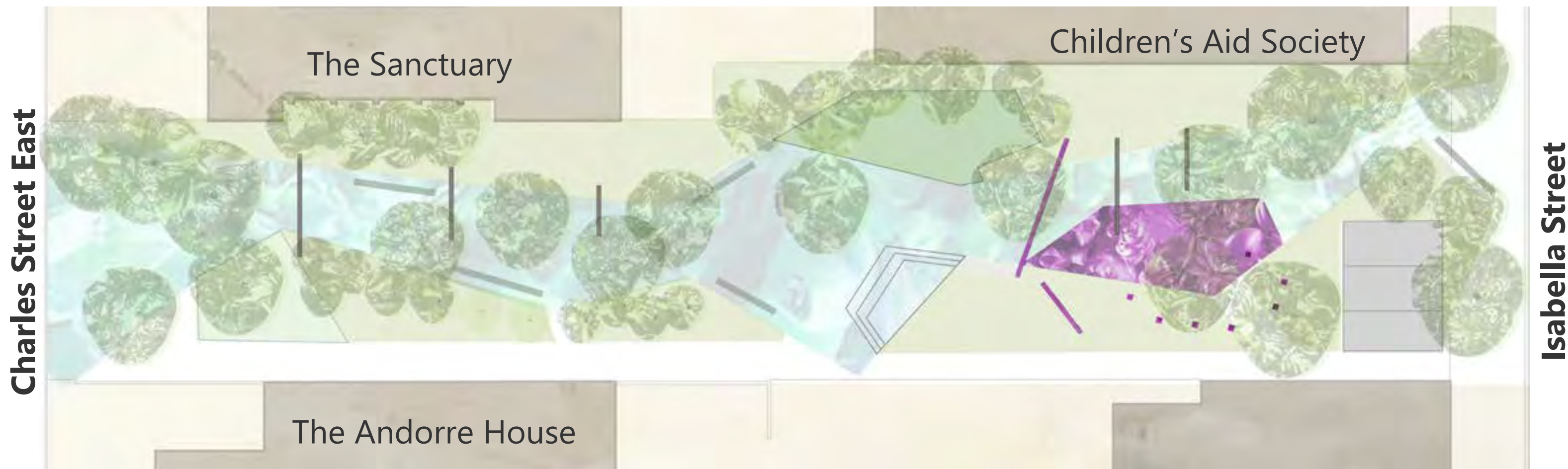


Option 1: The Dance

Variation 1



Variation 2



George Hislop Park

Detail of Variation 1

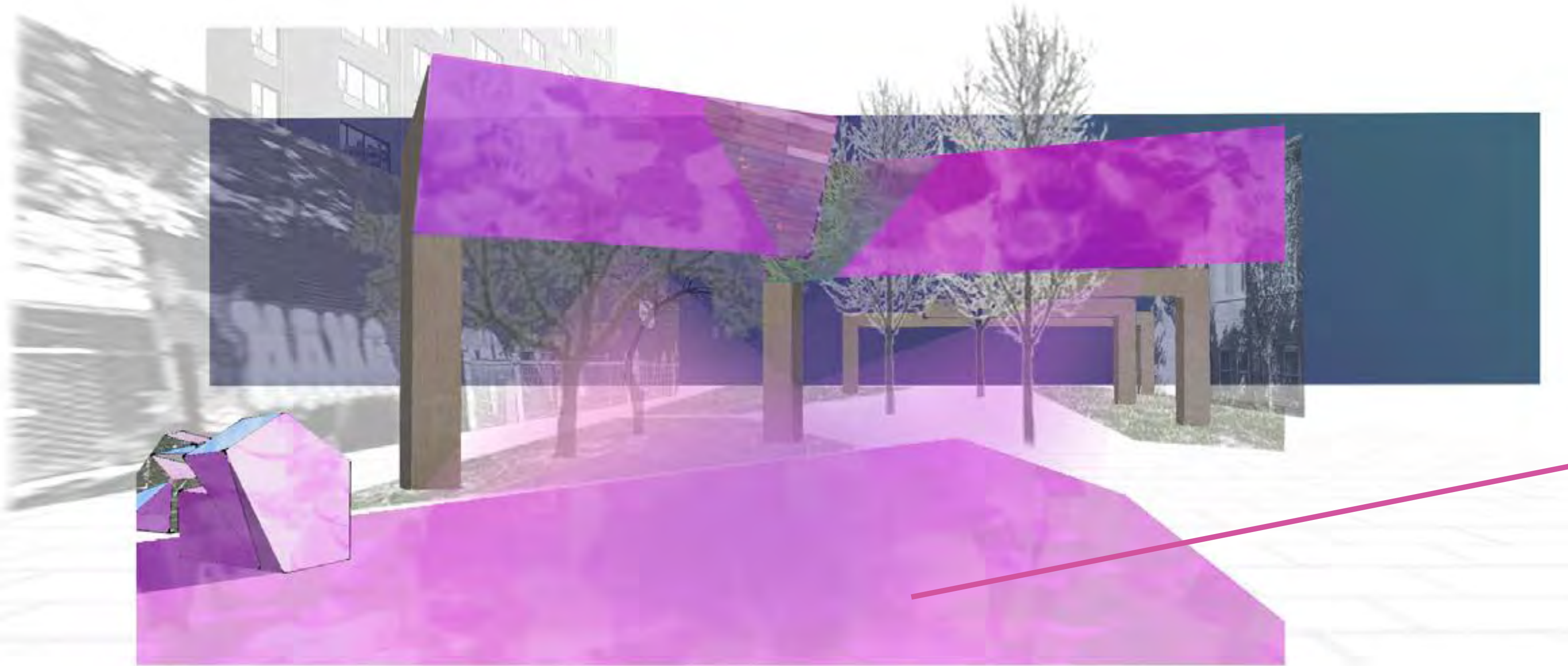


Option 1: The Dance

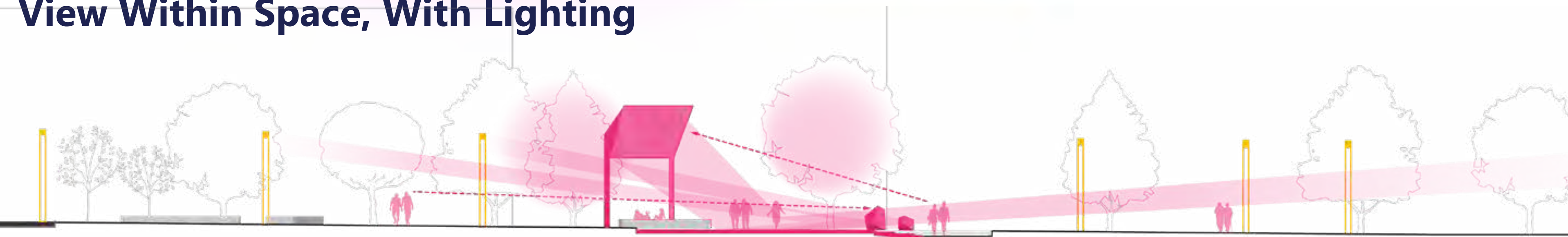


Approach From Isabella Street

Option 1: The Dance



View Within Space, With Lighting

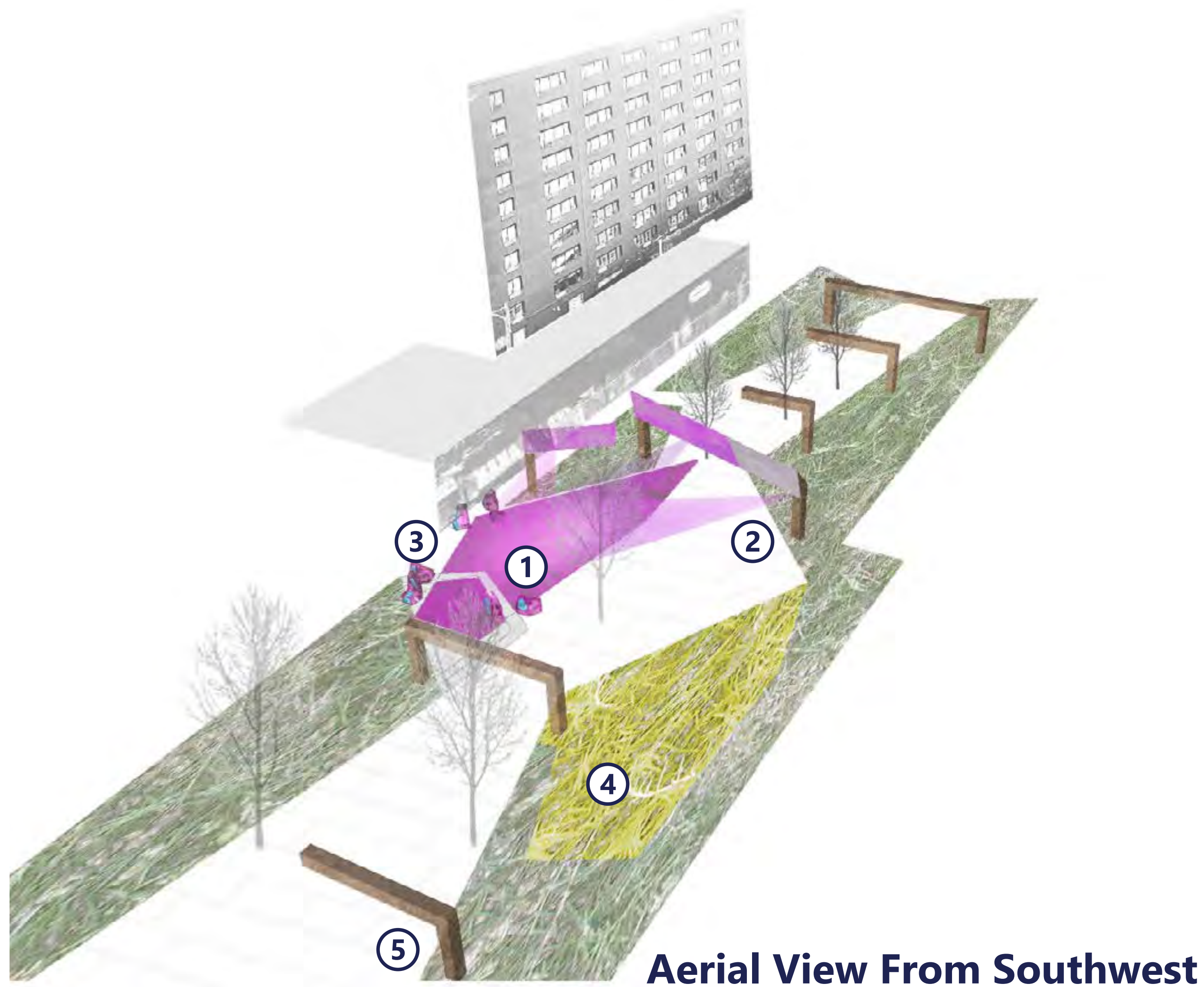


Section With Projected Sightlines

Reference for continuous looped projection content to be created for "The Dance"



Option 1: The Dance



Legend

- ① Integrated Colour Surface
"Dance Floor"
-Rubber or Thermoplast Coating
-Light and Projection Animate
the Surface by Evening
- ② Manipulated Steel Arch w.
Stainless Steel Mirror Finish
- ③ Refractive "Boulders" in
Stainless Steel Mirror Finish
- ④ Play Area Geometry from
Landscape Design
Form Re-appropriated for
the Space of "The Dance"
- ⑤ Corten Steel Arch per
Landscape Design



Option 2: Artifacts - Concept



Toronto City Grid

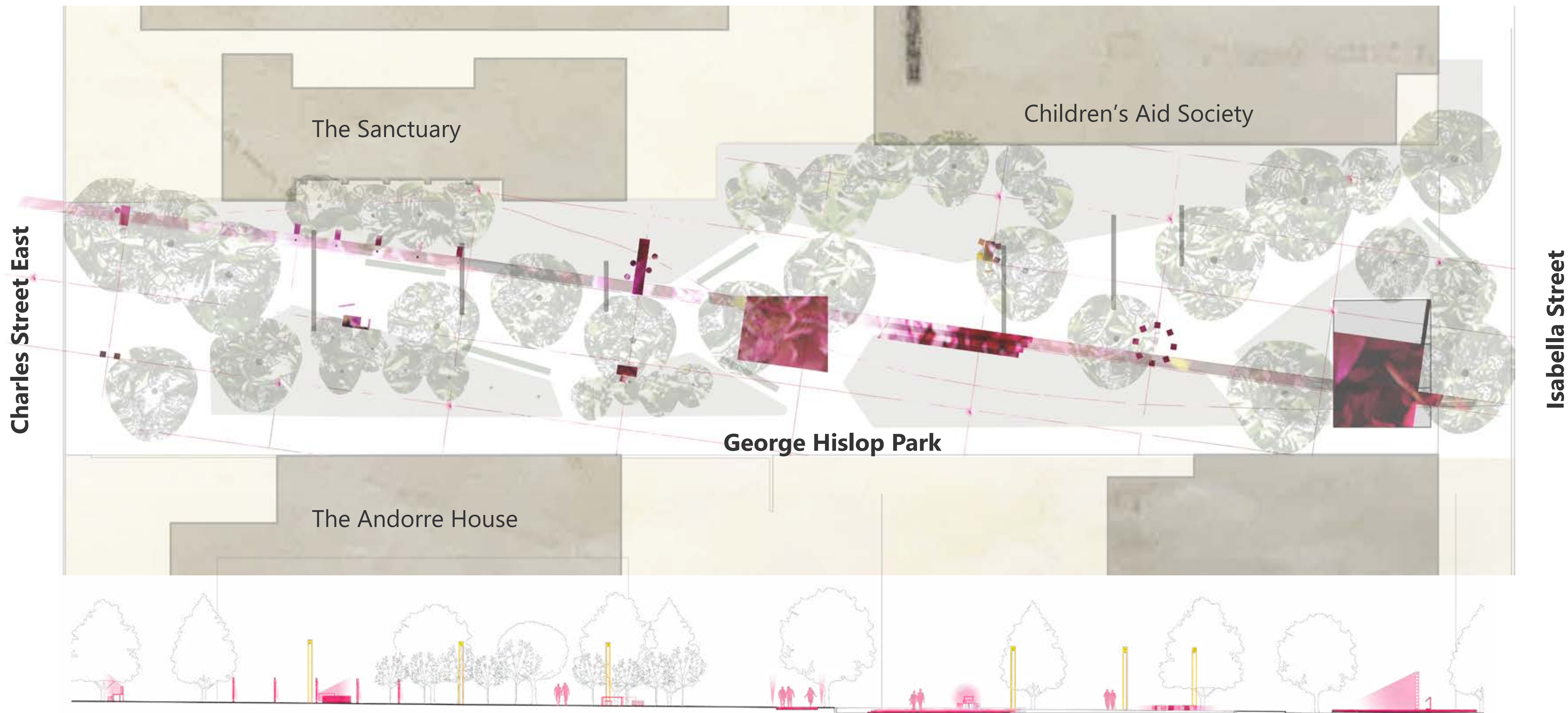


Queering the Toronto Grid



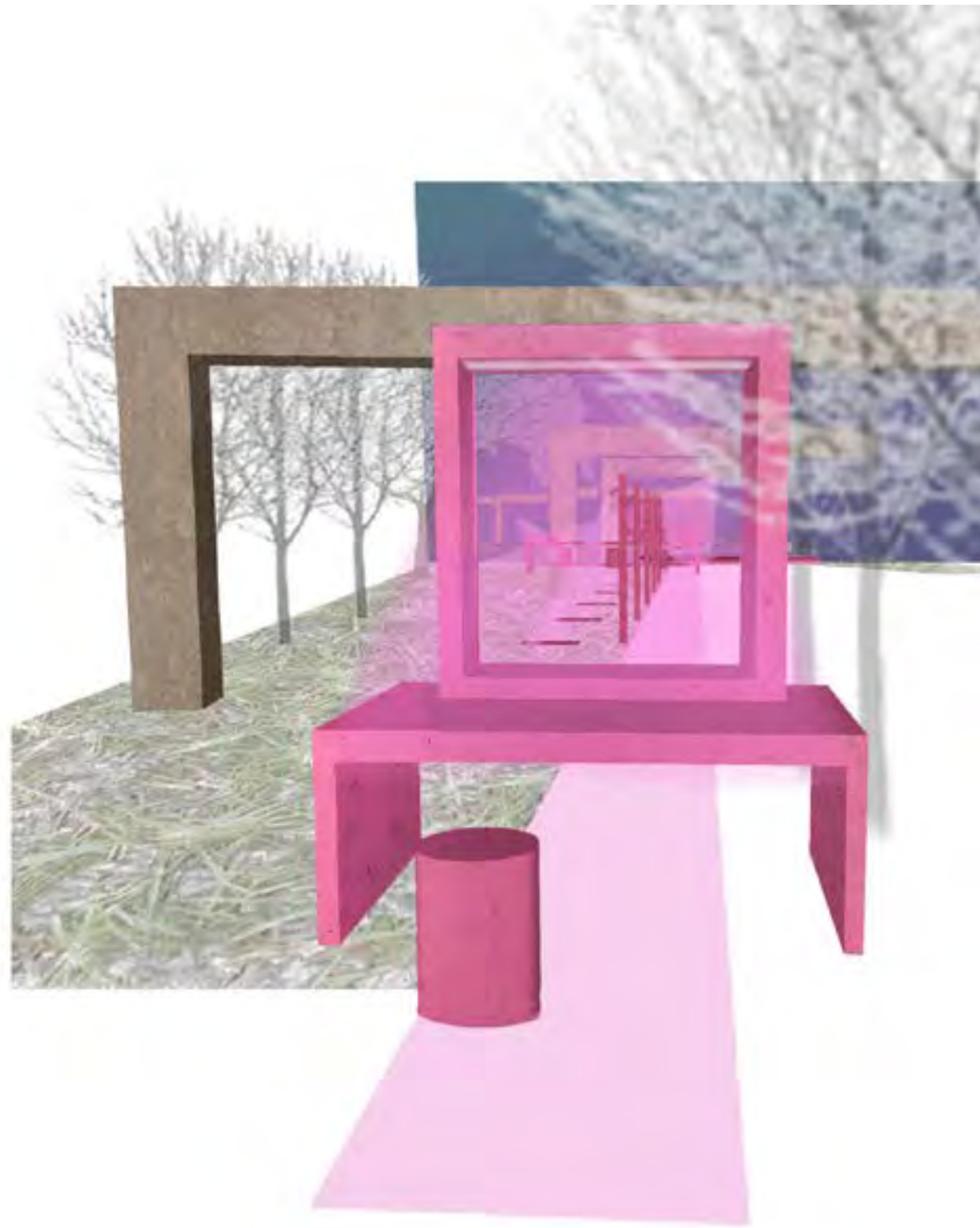
Scaling the Realigned City Into George Hislop Park

Option 2: Artifacts



ARTIFACTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL, THE INTIMATE, THE COMMUNAL, & THE COLLECTIVE

Option 2: Artifacts



**View South Through the
North Artifact: Mirror**



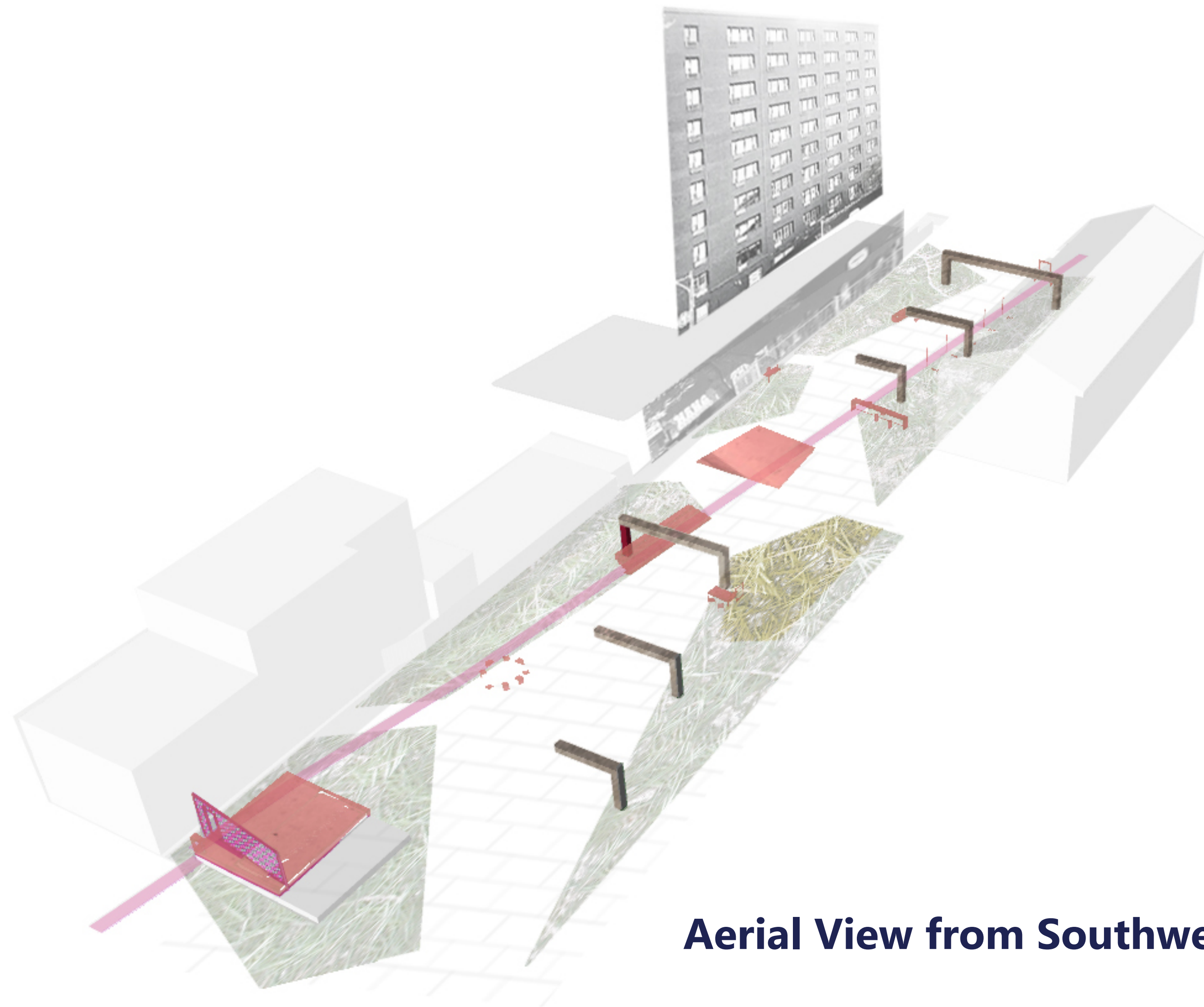
View South Within the Park

Option 2: Artifacts



View North Within the Park

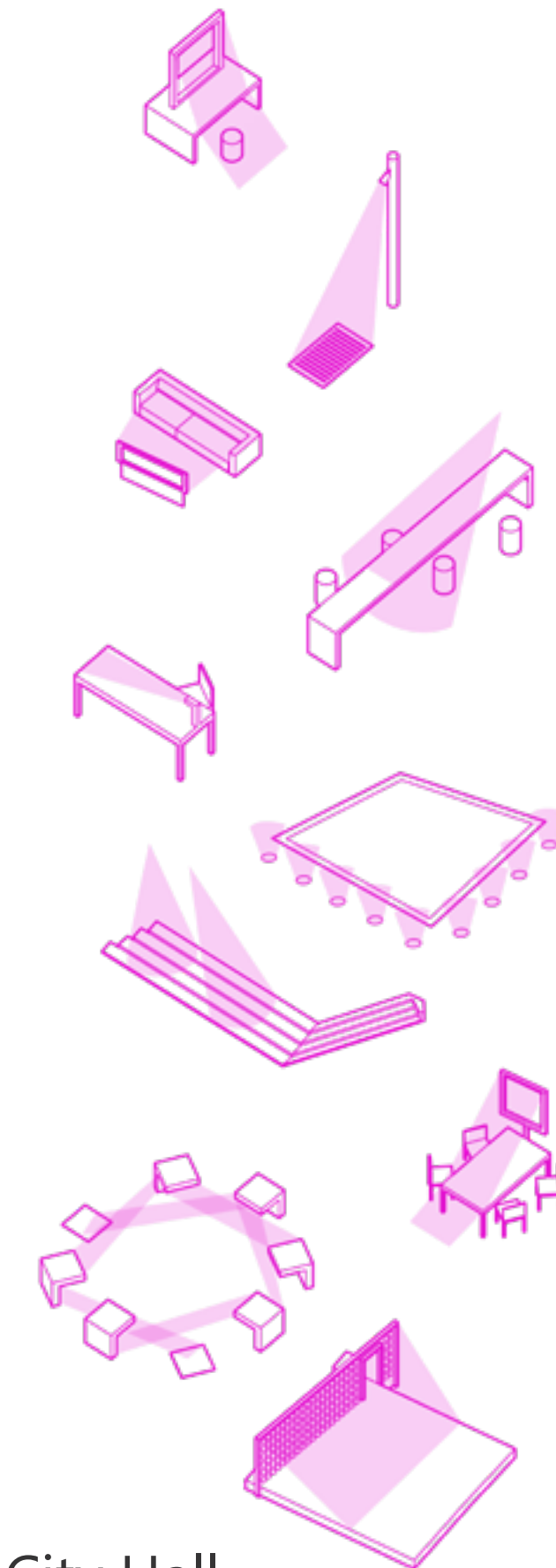
Option 2: Artifacts



Aerial View from Southwest

Potential Artifacts

- ① Mirror
- ② Showers
- ③ Sofa
- ④ Counter
- ⑤ Desk
- ⑥ Floor
- ⑦ The Steps
- ⑧ Kitchen Table
- ⑨ Circle
- ⑩ Stage
- ⑪ Podium Towards City Hall



INDIVIDUAL

INTIMATE

COMMUNAL

COLLECTIVE

Discussion

Public Art Feedback



1. Questions of Clarification?



2. Scale of Art Component

What are your thoughts about a concentrated artwork in contrast to an artwork that is dispersed over a large area?



3. Activators

What do you think of the idea of an artwork that is interactive and occupiable, versus strictly sculptural?



4. Lighting

What are your thoughts on sequenced or programmed lighting that changes the quality of the park over periods of time?



5. Looking Back vs. Looking Ahead

What are your thoughts on artwork that prioritizes present and future use, activation and potential over historical representation?

Next Steps...

Review of the Summary Document prepared following this workshop.

Promote and attend the online Public Meeting planned for **November 5, 2020**.

Take part in the Online Survey running from **November 5 to November 20**.

Visit the **Project Website** - www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/construction-new-facilities/improvements-expansion-redevelopment/yonge-street-linear-park-improvements/



Virtual Public Information Meeting

Yonge Street Linear Parks Improvements

The City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation division invites you to learn more about the improvements coming to three parks in the Yonge Street Linear Parks network including George Hislop Park, Norman Jewison Park and the Alexander Street Parkette.

Early concept plans have been developed, and staff are hosting a virtual community consultation meeting to:

- Provide a project update
- Present concept plan options for feedback
- Identify community perspectives and priorities



Meeting details



Thursday, November 5, 2020

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

This virtual meeting will be accessible online and by phone-in. The City of Toronto is following the most current advice provided by Public Health officials as a result of COVID-19.



To register for the meeting, go to toronto.ca/yongelinearparks and click the link or scan QR code.

Join the online meeting at 6:15 p.m. so you are ready for the 6:30 p.m. start time.

Councillor Wong-Tam will be in attendance.

Other ways to get involved

If you can't join us on November 5, there are other ways to get involved and share your views! The presentation will be posted on the project webpage, with a link to an online survey.

Contact information

For more information, or if you require accessibility accommodations, please contact:

Nancy Chater, Senior Project Coordinator

416-338-5237

nancy.chater@toronto.ca

toronto.ca/yongelinearparks

Local Councillor

Kristyn Wong-Tam, Ward 13 Toronto Centre

416-392-7903

councillor_wongtam@toronto.ca

Post-Meeting Feedback

For further comments, contact:

Jane Farrow, Department of Words & Deeds, Facilitator
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For more information, contact:

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Thank you!