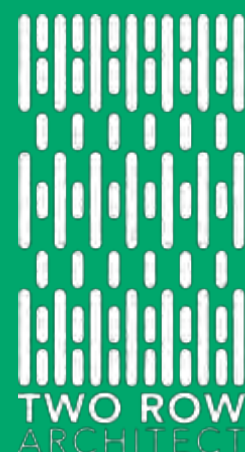


# Moss Park Park Improvements Concept Options

March 21st 2023





# Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on 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. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

# Closed Captioning

Automatic Closed Captioning is available.



On the bottom left of your screen, click the “CC” icon to turn on closed captioning.



# Webex Audio Trouble?

1. Click the **More Options** button at the bottom of the screen
2. Click **Switch Audio**
3. Use the **Call me at** function
  - i. Enter your phone number
  - ii. Webex will call your phone (no long distance charges)

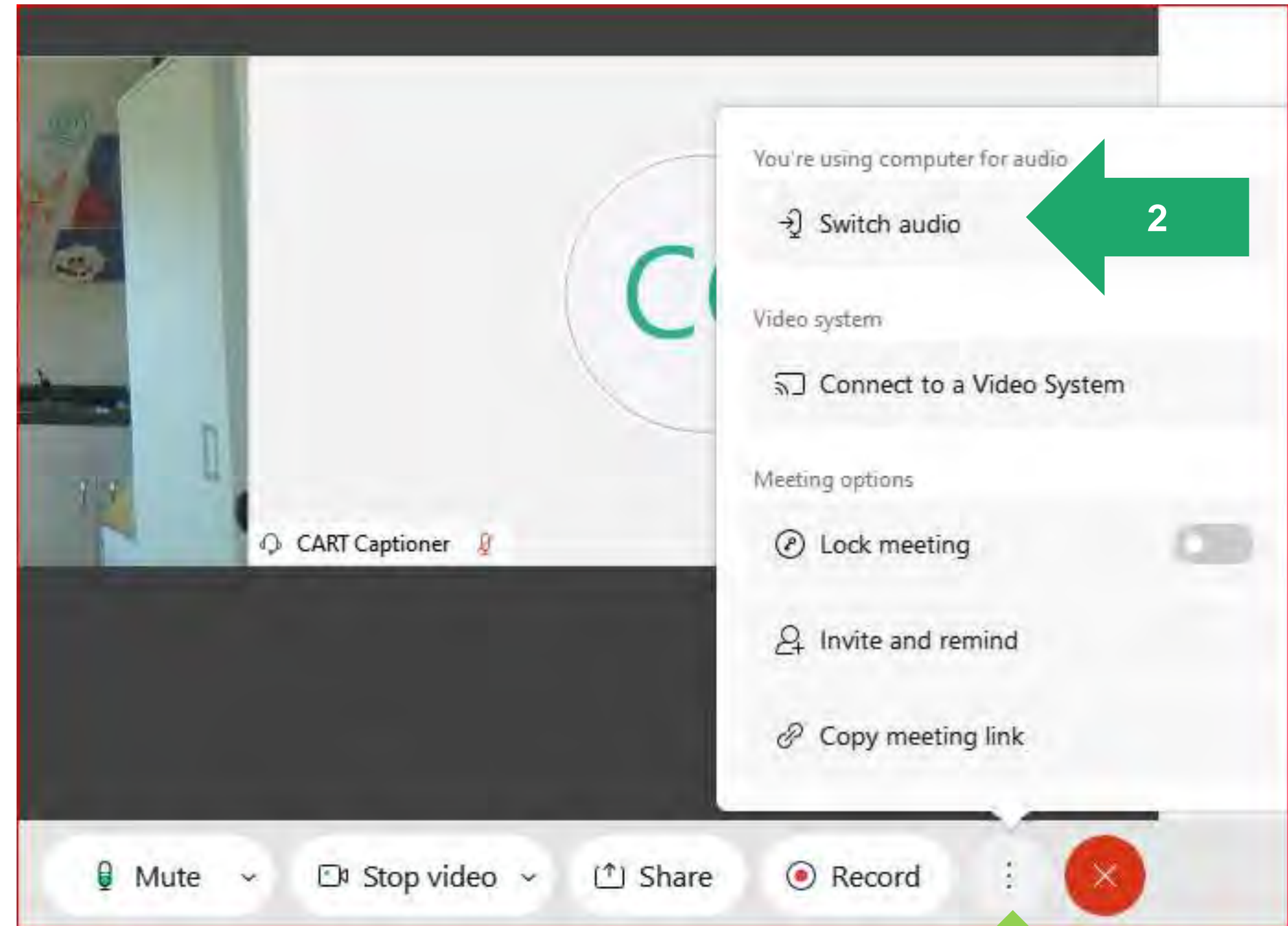
OR

Use your cell-phone for audio by calling **416-915-6530** and enter meeting number

4:00pm: 2450 211 5819

6:30pm: 2450 235 8011

Press \*3 to ask a question.





# Recording Notice

Please note that we will be recording the discussion portion of this meeting for **note taking purposes only**.

This recording will not be shared and will be deleted upon completion of the public meeting summary report.



# Engagement Guidelines

## As a meeting participant, you agree to:

- Be an active listener and keep an open mind by valuing a diversity of views and opinions.
- Treat all participants with kindness and respect.
- Critique ideas, not individuals.
- Avoid cursing as well as language or behaviours that could otherwise be considered rude or offensive.
- Abide by the City's Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination policy by refraining from making racist, xenophobic, misogynist, homophobic, transphobic, anti-Indigenous, ableist, ageist, or other forms of discriminatory, prejudicial, exclusionary or hateful comments and questions. These will not be tolerated and may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or process.

## As City staff & process stewards, we commit to:

- Providing fair and equal access to the public engagement process to all who are interested in participating.
- Maintaining an atmosphere that is respectful of all participants and other staff members.
- Ensuring that that project outcomes and/or staff recommendations are informed by participants' concerns, interests, and desires.
- Being advocates for the integrity of the public process and ensuring it reflects as much as possible directions contained in relevant Council-approved strategies, including but not limited to the Reconciliation Action Plan, the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Action Plan, the Seniors Strategy, ChildFriendlyTO, and the Newcomer Strategy.
- Undertaking and encouraging actions by other City staff that build trust and credibility for the process among all participants.
- Providing the information participants need to meaningfully participate.





# Agenda



## Welcome, Opening Remarks



## Presentation

- Project Background, Context and Engagement to Date
- Park Improvements



## Discussion

- Paths through and around the park
- Community gardens
- Children's play area and splash pad
- Seating
- Joint use of tennis courts with pickleball



## Next Steps



# Goals for this Meeting



1. Present the three design options for the park
2. Collect your feedback and preferences for:
  - Paths through and around the park
  - Community gardens
  - Children's play area and splash pad
  - Seating
  - Joint use of tennis courts with pickleball







Opening Remarks:  
**Councillor Chris Moise**  
Ward-13, Toronto Centre

# Project Background



# Project Team



**Nancy Chater**

CP Capital Lead, Park  
*Parks, Forestry & Recreation*

**Suzanne Cooke Wooland**

CP Capital Lead - CRC  
*Parks, Forestry & Recreation*

**Daniel Fusca**

Manager, Public Consultation  
*Parks, Forestry & Recreation*

**Pablo Muñoz**

Senior Public Consultation Coordinator  
*Parks, Forestry & Recreation*

**Nadia Galati**

Principal and Engagement Lead

**Casey Hinton**

Senior Strategist

**Trina Moyan**

Indigenous Engagement Lead

**Jo Delos Reyes**

Planner + Strategist

**David Leinster**

Principal  
*Landscape Architecture*

**Donna Hinde**

Partner, Consultation Facilitator

**Jennifer Williamson**

Project Manager  
*Landscape Architecture*

**Malin Christensson**

Landscape Designer

**Brian Porter**

Principal

**Matthew Hickey**

Partner

**Erik Skouris**

Intern Architect

# Key Project Components

Today's Focus

## Major Park Improvements



Extensive park improvements with passive and active recreation amenities



Supporting equity-deserving groups in park and recreation programs



Integrate Indigenous Placekeeping elements

## New Community Recreation Centre



Double gym



2 Pools



Multi-use community space

## Upgrades to Arena



Exterior Upgrades

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:** Every project component is shaped by the public input collected through the process.

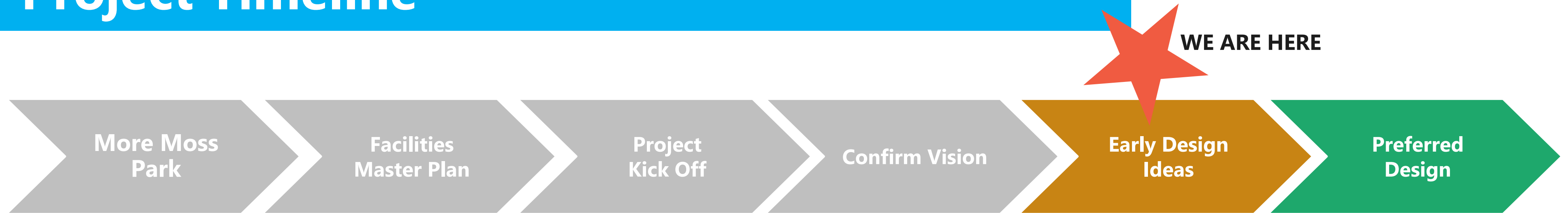
# What is Open for Influence

- Opportunities for park improvements, including seating & gathering areas
- Opportunities for recreation amenities, such as playground, splash pad, community garden, walking paths, tennis, basketball, etc.
- Indigenous Placekeeping (to be discussed with local Indigenous communities)
- Opportunities for key safety features, such as sight lines & lighting
- Selection of initiatives to support food security and urban agriculture
- Initiatives to support ecological & social sustainability & resilience of the park





# Project Timeline



**2015: Initial reimagining of Moss Park began** as a partnership between the City of Toronto, The 519 and a philanthropic partner. Engagement and feasibility study conducted.

## Report Released

Report included engagement with 2,500 people and a feasibility study. **Project deemed not feasible.**

**2019:** City Council adopts the implementation strategy for the Parks & **Recreation Facilities Master Plan** with amendments

The City analyzed what was done to date, and prepared to listen and gather more local ideas and experiences. The project is led and funded by the Parks, Forestry and Recreation department within the City of Toronto.

**Summer to Fall 2022**  
Confirm the community's visions

**Fall 2022 - Spring 2023**  
Develop and present conceptual designs for feedback

**Winter - Spring 2023**  
Finalize designs and approvals

## Construction

**Spring 2024**  
Procurement of construction services

**Summer 2024 to Fall 2027**  
Construct community recreation centre

**Spring 2027 to Fall 2029**  
Park construction

# Engagement Since We Last Met

## Phase 2: Confirming the community's vision for the project

## Phase 3: Concept Design Options

**Public Open House 2**  
Oct 20th

**Indigenous Communities Meeting 2**  
Dec 2022

**Local Advisory Group + Project Champions Meeting 3**  
March 1st 2023

**Public Open House 3**  
March 21

**Pop-Up**  
April 15th

**Survey 2**  
Oct 20 - Nov 4

**Indigenous Communities Meeting 3**  
Feb 28 2023

**Survey 3**  
March 21 - April 6



Last Public Meeting



Today

# Engagement Since We Last Met

1st Open House

30

Attendees

1st Public Survey

211

Responses

3

Indigenous Communities Workshop

1

Youth Workshop

2nd Open House

30

Attendees

2nd Public Survey

410

Responses

5

Meetings and workshops with advisory groups

5

Days of Pop-Up Engagements



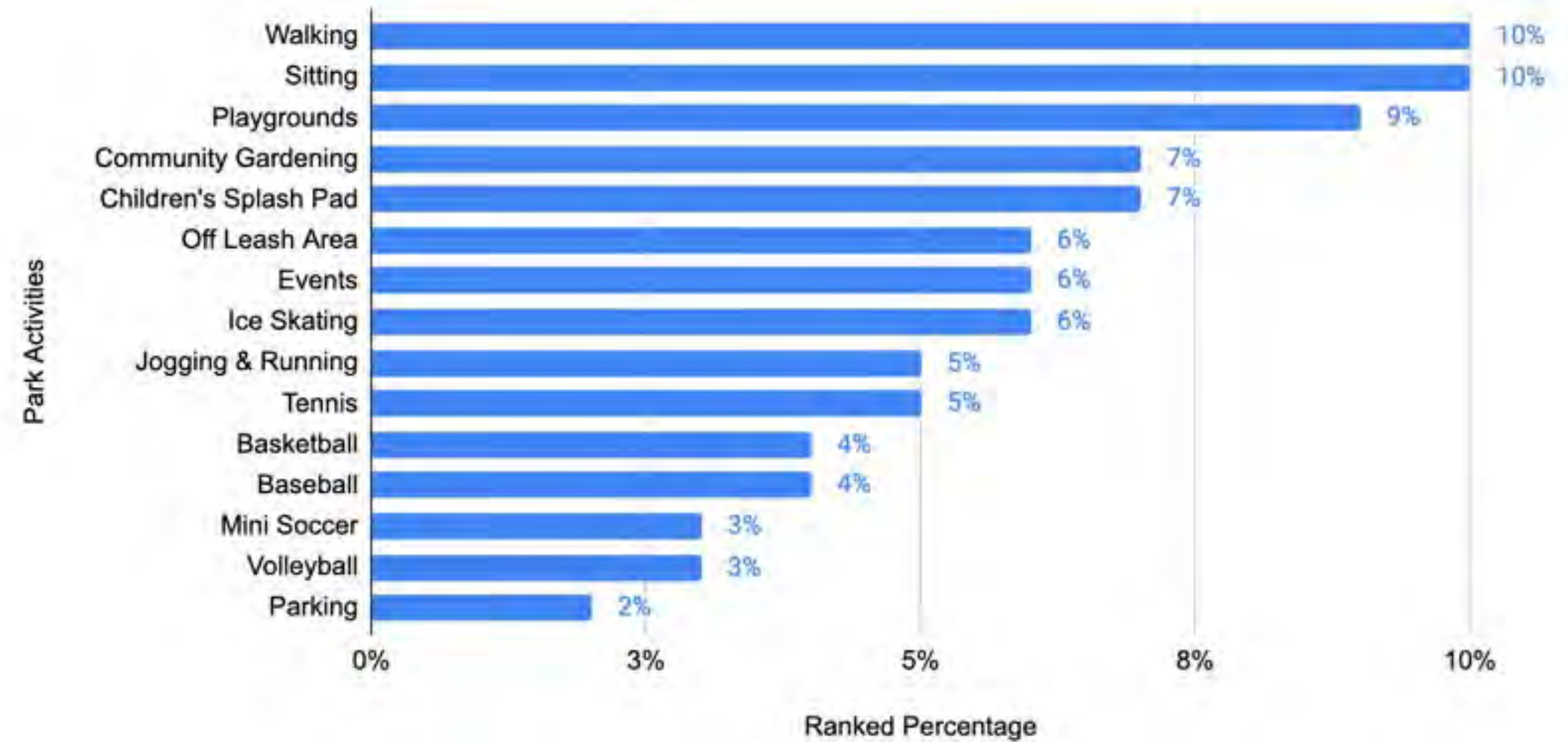


# What We Heard

# Open House + Surveys



Public Survey #1: Park Activities ranked from most to least important (n=211)





# Advisory Groups

## Advisory groups include:

- Indigenous Communities Meetings
- Local Advisory Group (LAG)
- Project Champions (PCG)

**It is crucial to collaborate with Indigenous communities to honour the natural landscape while it goes through changes. One way to do this is by conducting a tree ceremony**

(Indigenous Communities Workshop)

**Incorporate the four cardinal directions, medicines, and colours in the park.**

(Indigenous Communities Workshop Group)



**"I envision a park that represents the best of Toronto – a multicultural community welcoming to everyone and their beliefs able to commune with one another."**

(LAG+PCG)

**"...Including a food forest in the park could be a way to make the site more inclusive"**

(LAG+PCG)

**Community members shared that they would like to see a permanent and dedicated sacred fire location in the Park.**

(Indigenous Communities Workshop Group)



# Pop-Ups

**Visibility is a critical aspect of safety, this includes ensuring clear sightlines throughout the park and adequate visibility at night.**

(Pop-Up participant)

**It is important to have access to the showers and washroom facilities from the park without having to enter the building.**

(Community Member)

**“The lack of seating currently deters park users.”**

(Pop-Up participant)

**“I would like to see improvements to the park including better swings, upgrades to the splash pad and outdoor courts; formalizing pathways crossing the field and beside the tennis courts; adding an off-leash dog area.”**

(Pop-Up participant)



# Vision and Principles



# Vision Statement

Moss Park will be a **welcoming, vibrant, well-used and safe space** for the community to meet, relax and participate.

**Social infrastructure** will provide amenity to all members of the community.

A healthy **canopy of trees** will frame areas of activity. The park will be an extension of the new Community Recreation Centre and transit station.

**Cultural and natural heritage and Indigenous placekeeping** will root the park in its past and celebrate its future.

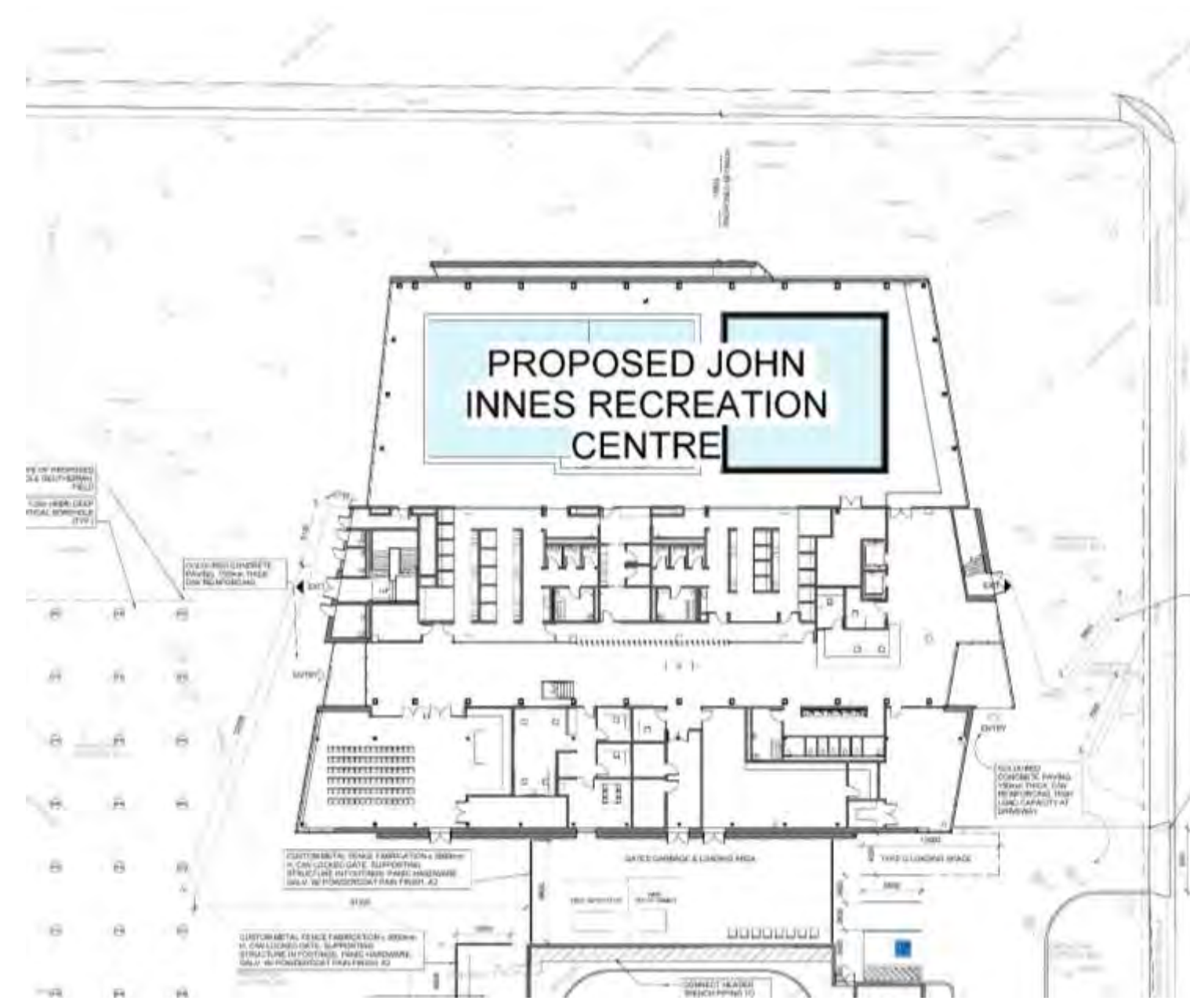
The park will be **well maintained** to ensure it reflects the quality of the neighbourhoods.

Vision Statement developed with the Local Advisory Group for Moss Park park improvements and John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project



# Design Principles

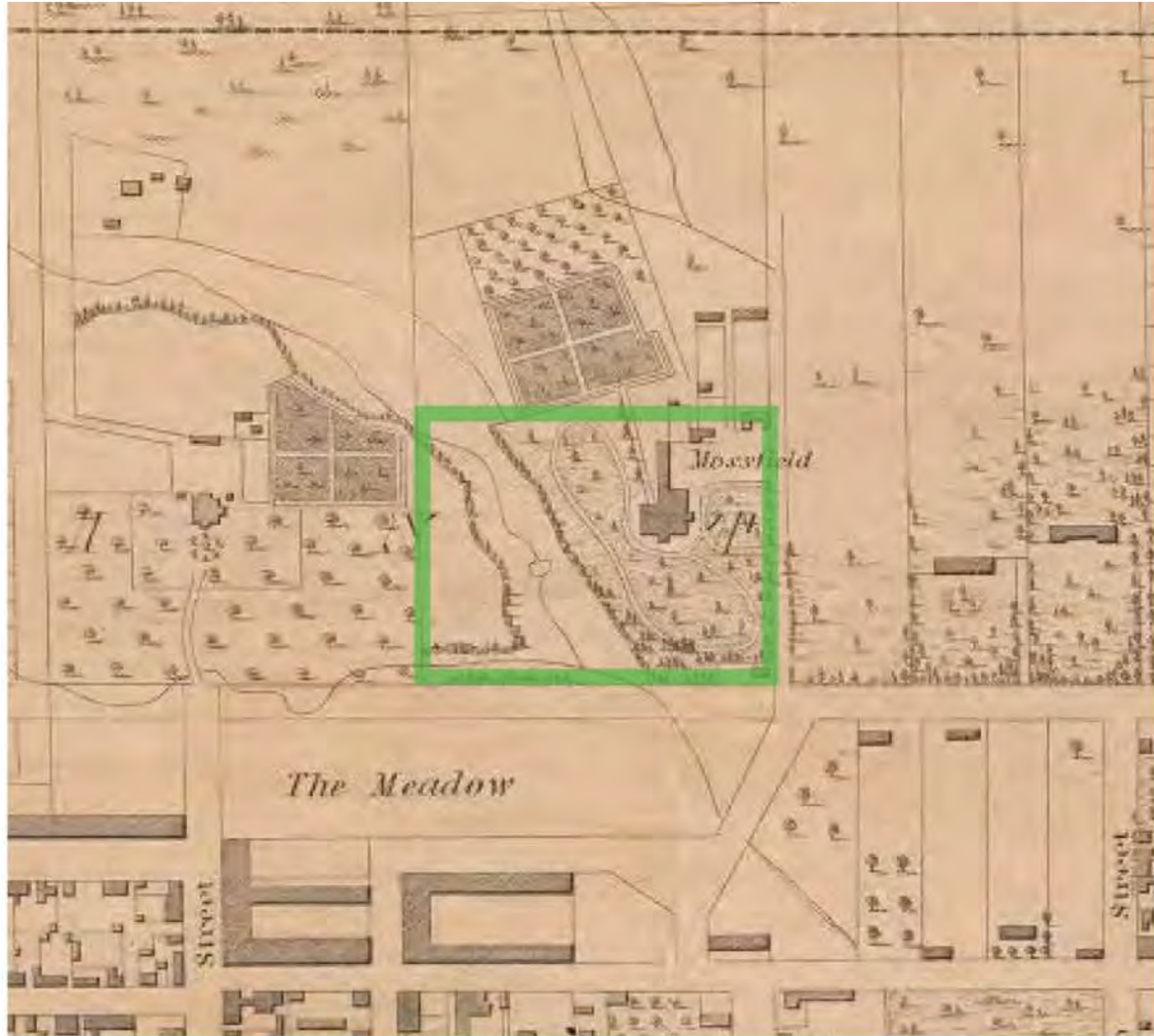
## 1. Ensure the Recreation Centre and Park are integrated and accessible to all.





# Design Principles

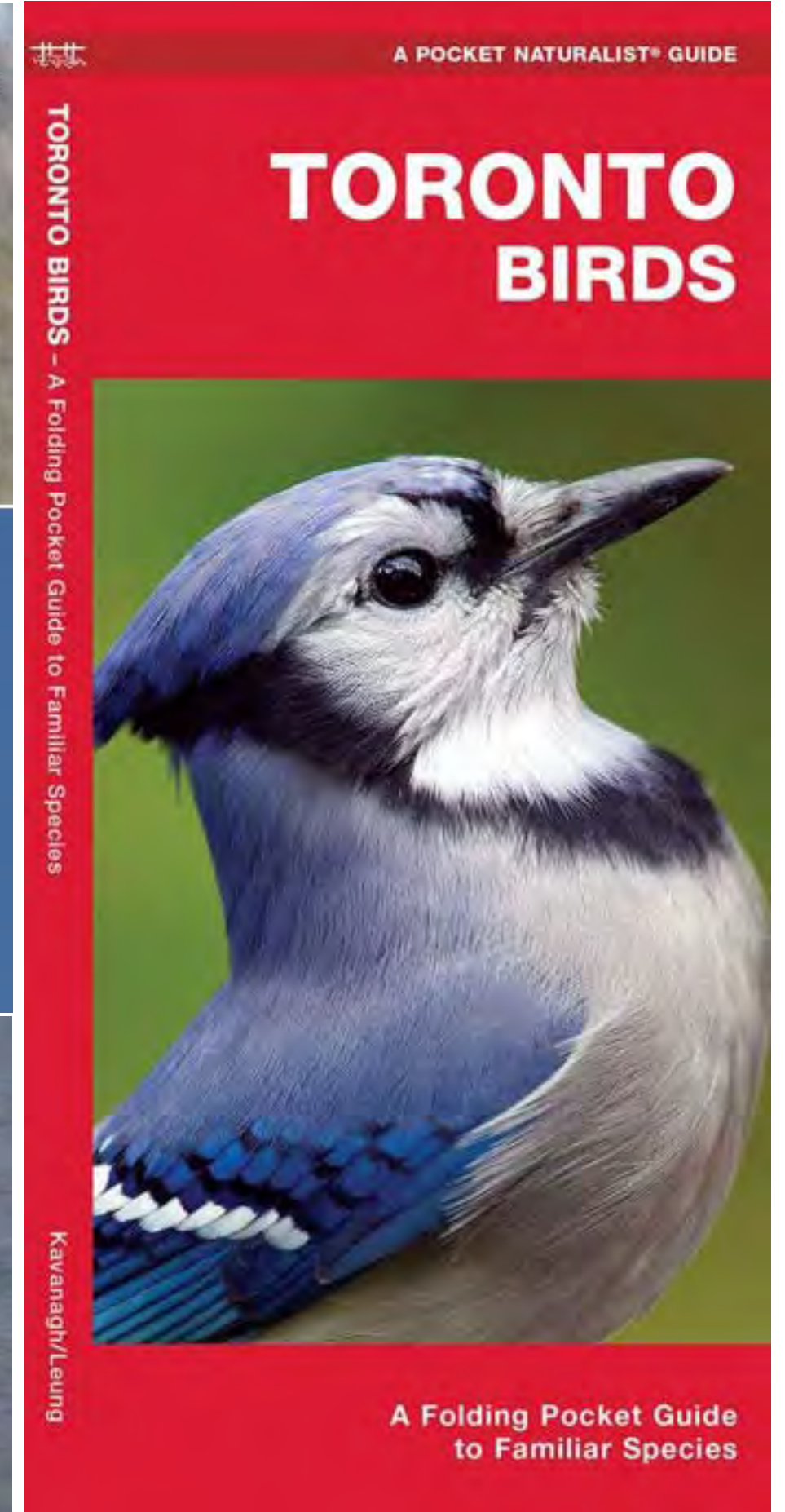
## 2. Celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park.





# Design Principles

## 2. Celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park.

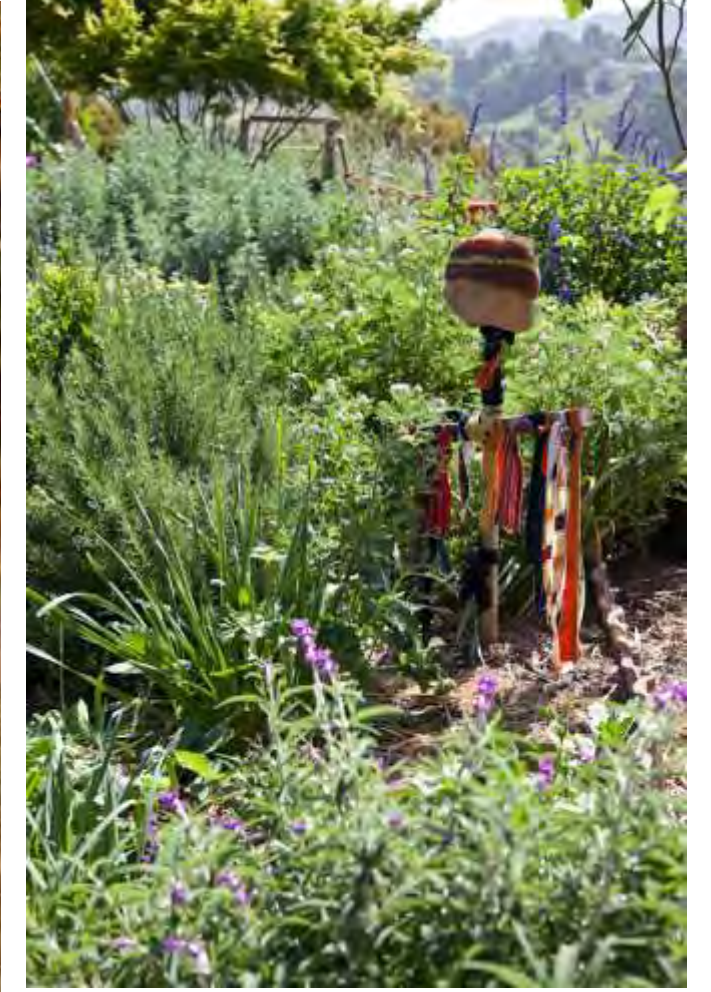


All Our Relations



# Design Principles

## 2. Celebrate and share information about the Indigenous history and character of Moss Park.





# Design Principles

## 3. Ensure the design of the Recreation Centre and Park supports equity, belonging and inclusion.





# Design Principles

## 4. Design an open, permeable, and transparent environment.





# Design Principles

## 5. Contribute to food security by supporting the community gardens, and creating a food forest in the park.





# Design Principles

## 6. Maximize, enhance, and improve green spaces.



Georgetown Waterfront Park, Washington, DC



Dufferin Grove Park, Toronto



Corktown Commons, Toronto



Xanten Public Park, Germany



# Design Principles

## 7. Create a space that makes safety for all users a priority.





# Fixed components of the Park Concept

# Basis of the Park Concept

## Relocate the baseball diamond

### Moss Park neighbourhood context is changing:

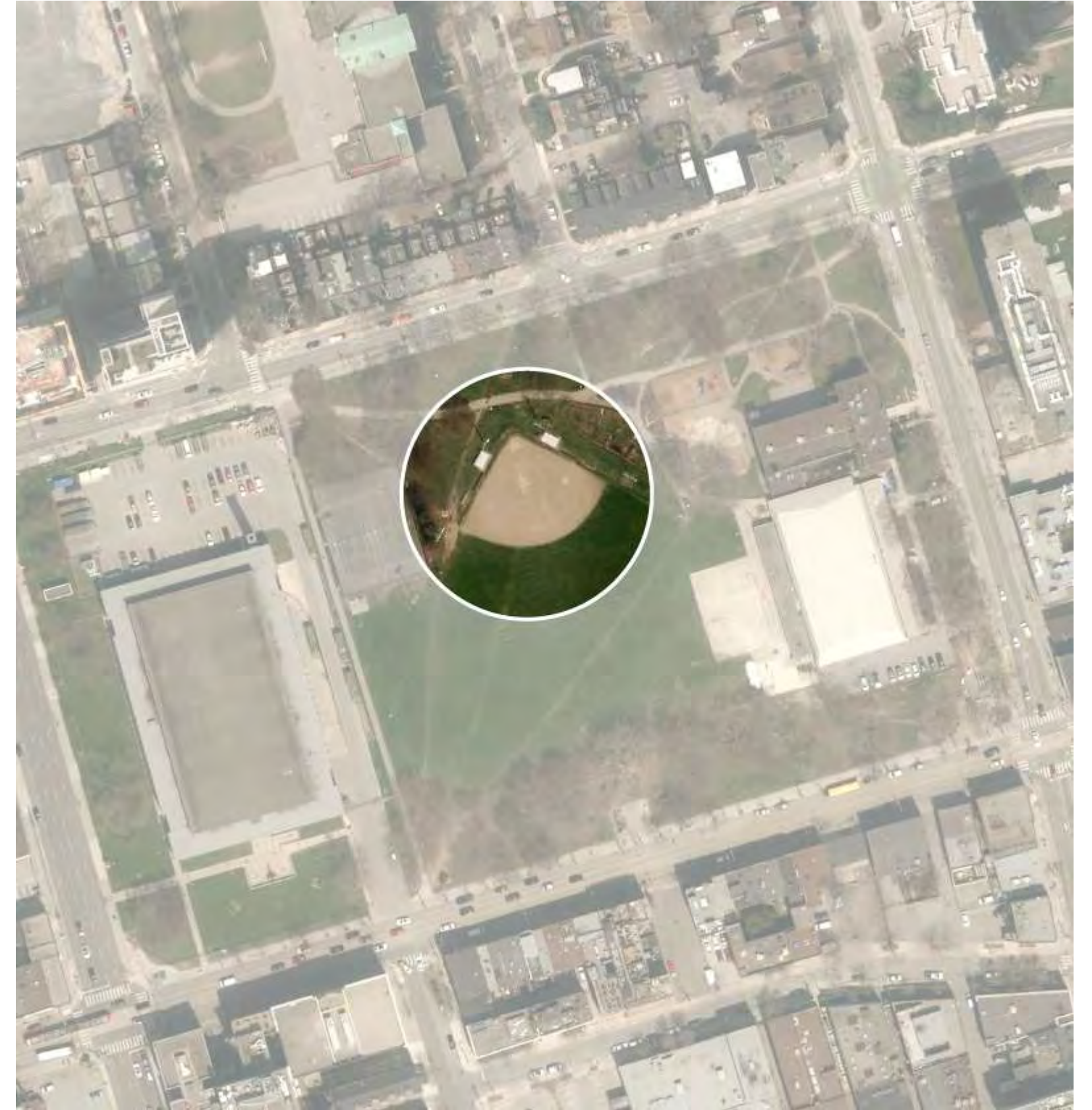
- ✓ Population growth
- ✓ Pedestrian traffic through the park
- ✓ Park size is decreasing to accommodate the Recreation Centre and the new transit station

**Need to increase the use of the park** by **providing amenities to animate the park** at all times of the year – bringing more “eyes on the park” and increasing safety for all

Existing diamond at Moss Park is **closed for use during the 7-year period of construction** of the Ontario Line subway, 2023-2030

City is relocating the leagues that play at Moss Park to other diamonds through engagement with the permit leagues

***To design for this changing context, the park plan does not include a baseball diamond***





# Public Art

The City's Percent for Public Art Program has designated two public art projects for Moss Park park Improvements and John Innes Community Recreation Centre Replacement Project.

- An Indigenous Consultant has been hired by the City to lead the artist selection process.
- As part of the process, **six Indigenous artists** will be invited to submit proposals for the **two public art projects**.
- A five-person Indigenous jury (of community members and art professionals) will then make the final selection for one **indoor artwork** and one **outdoor artwork**.
- The entire artwork selection process will include **15 paid opportunities** for Indigenous artists, advisors, and community members.
- More information can be found in the **City of Toronto Reconciliation Action Plan**, under **Action #15**.  
<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/8d83-City-of-TO-Reconciliation-Action-Plan-for-web.pdf>



**Support Indigenous Placekeeping**



Ryerson University Campus, Toronto

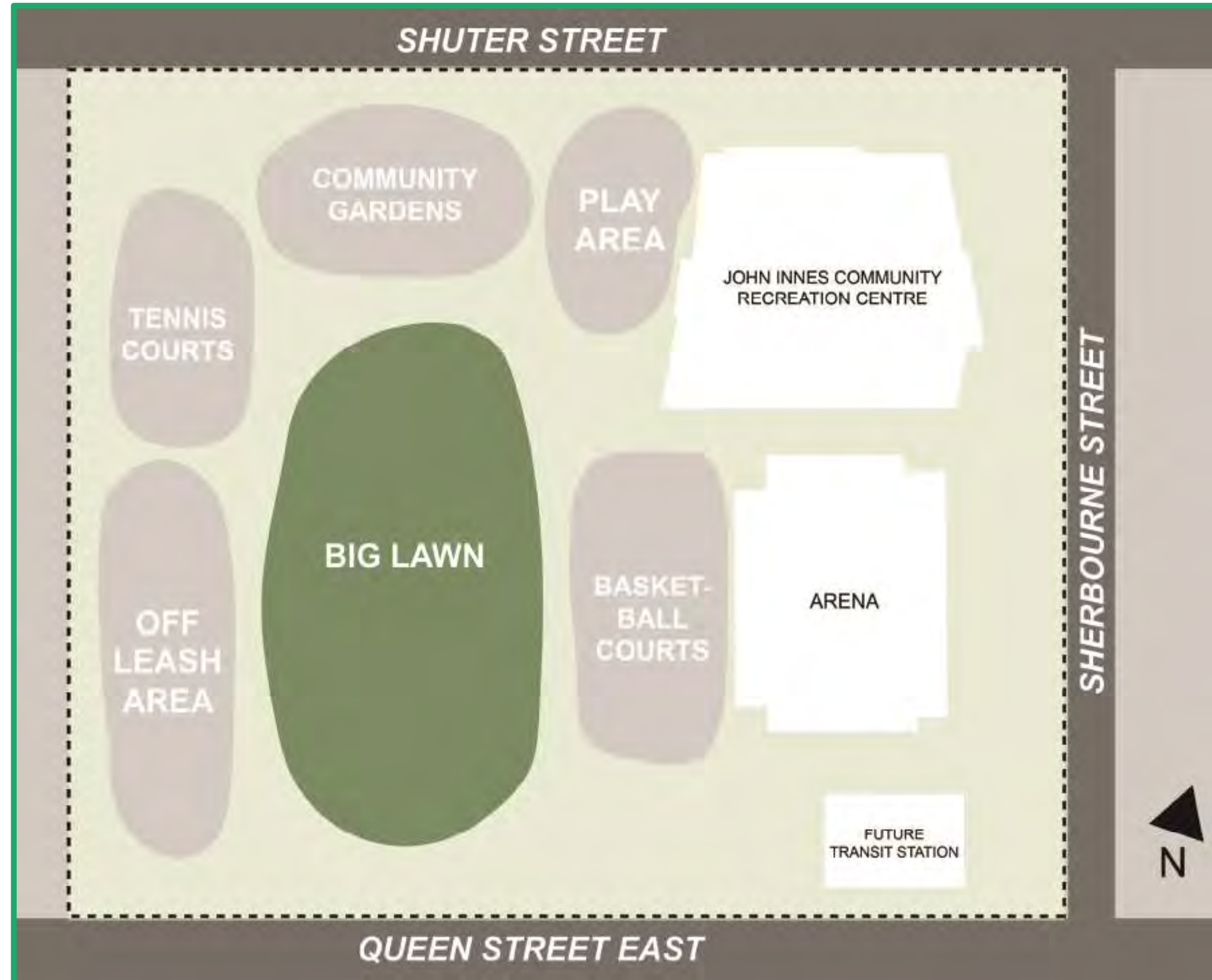


# Fixed Park Program Locations\*





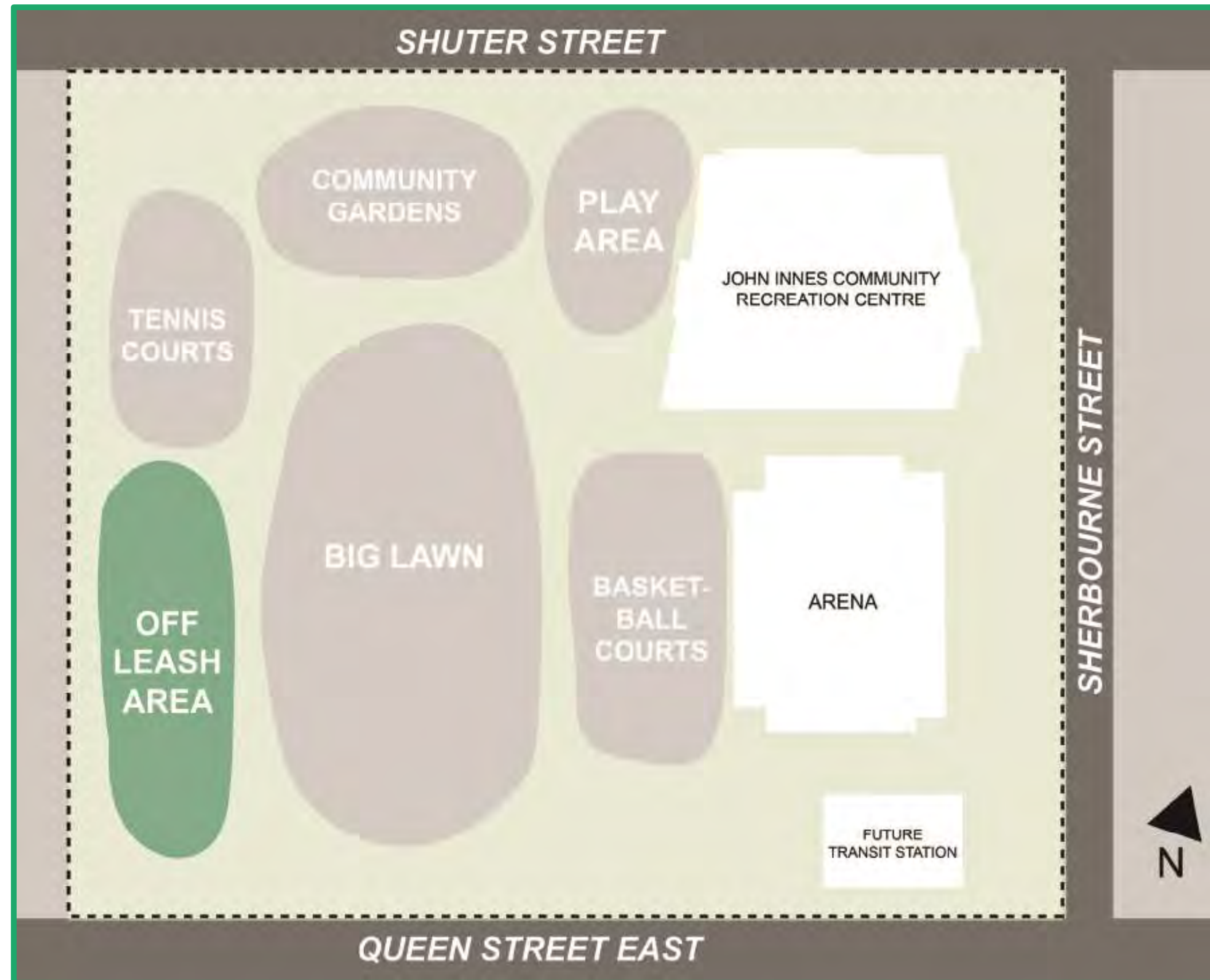
# Fixed Park Programming: Big lawn





# Fixed Park Programming: Dog Off Leash Area

- Park design will include a dedicated, fenced, dog off-leash area
- The off-leash area will be lit, and will animate the park year-round and throughout the day and night
- The off-leash area will function as a social space for dog owners and other park visitors that enjoy dogs
- Anticipated future development in the neighbourhood will increase the need for a formalized dog amenity in the Park





# Fixed Park Programming: Play Courts



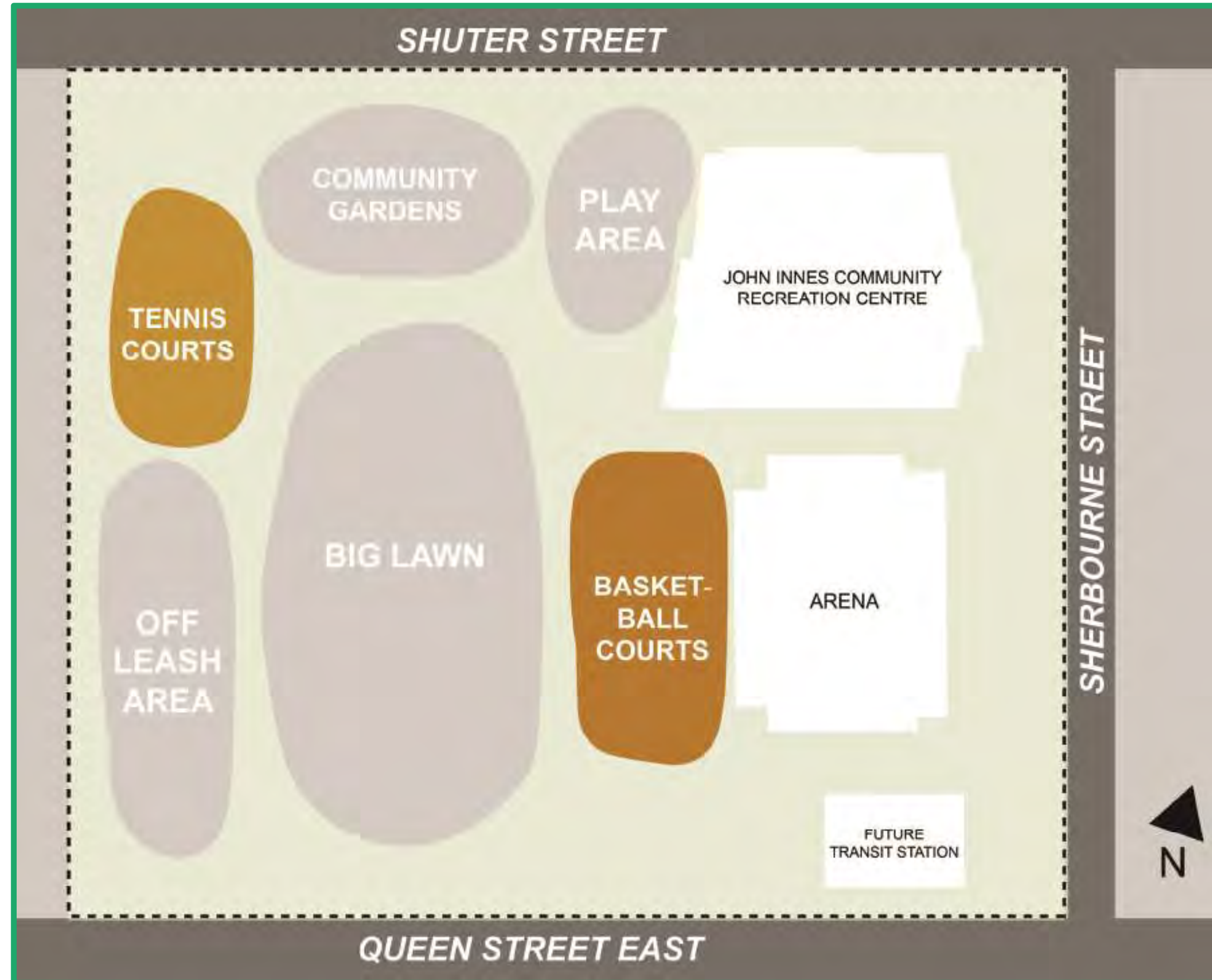
Jackie Tatum Harvard Park, Los Angeles



Deconstructed Court, Tel Aviv, Israel



Combined Tennis and Pickleball court





# Fixed Park Programming: Play Area

## Play area design guidelines

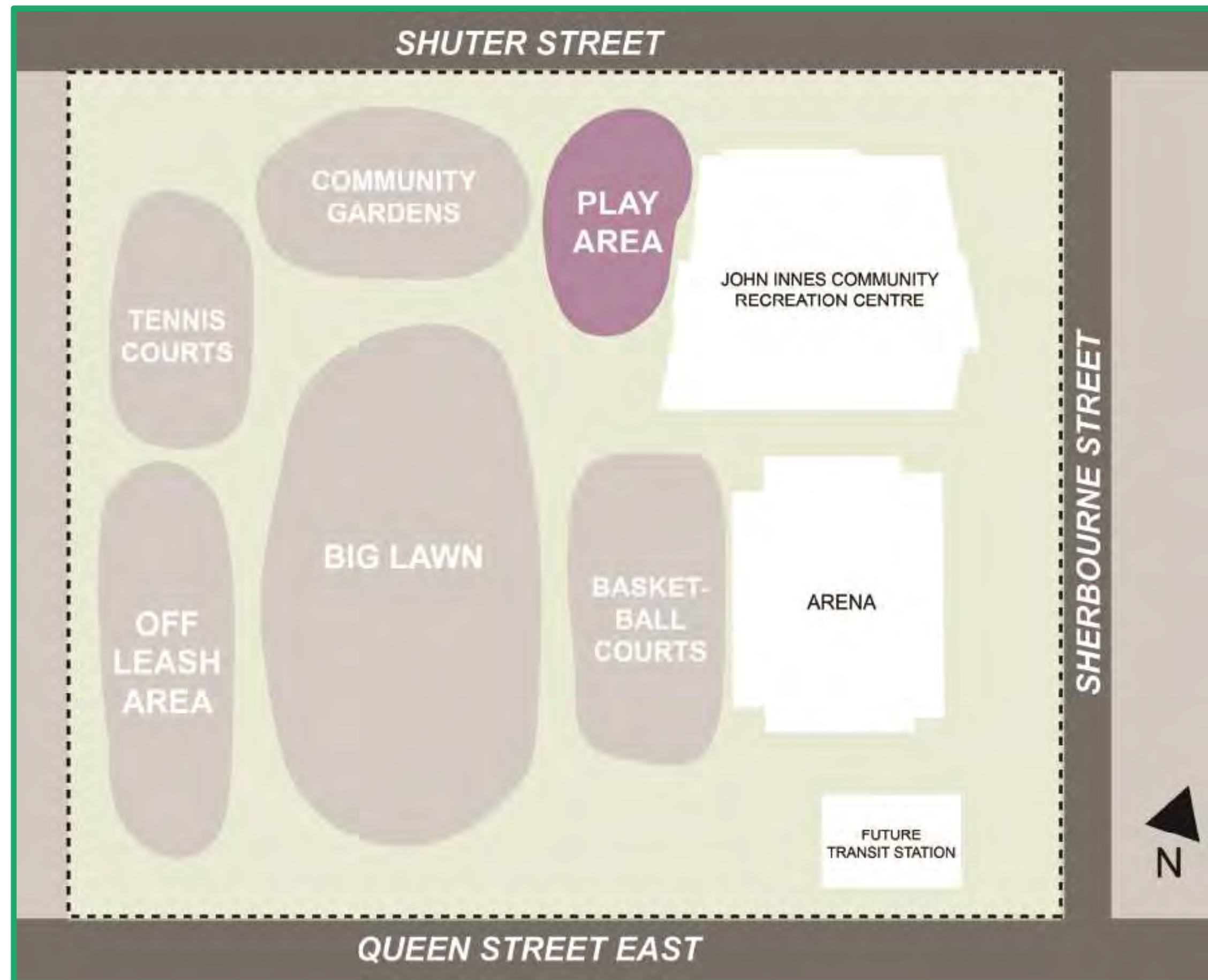
- New playground for junior and senior age play for range of abilities
- Fully accessible play value
- Accessible surfacing
- Clear sightlines for enhanced site safety
- Shaded spaces
- Potential for natural play features
- Potential for water play



Confederation Park, Calgary



Corktown Commons, Toronto





# Fixed Park Programming: Community Garden

## Key Community Garden Area Features

- Water access
- Gates and Fencing
- Secure storage sheds, flat roof

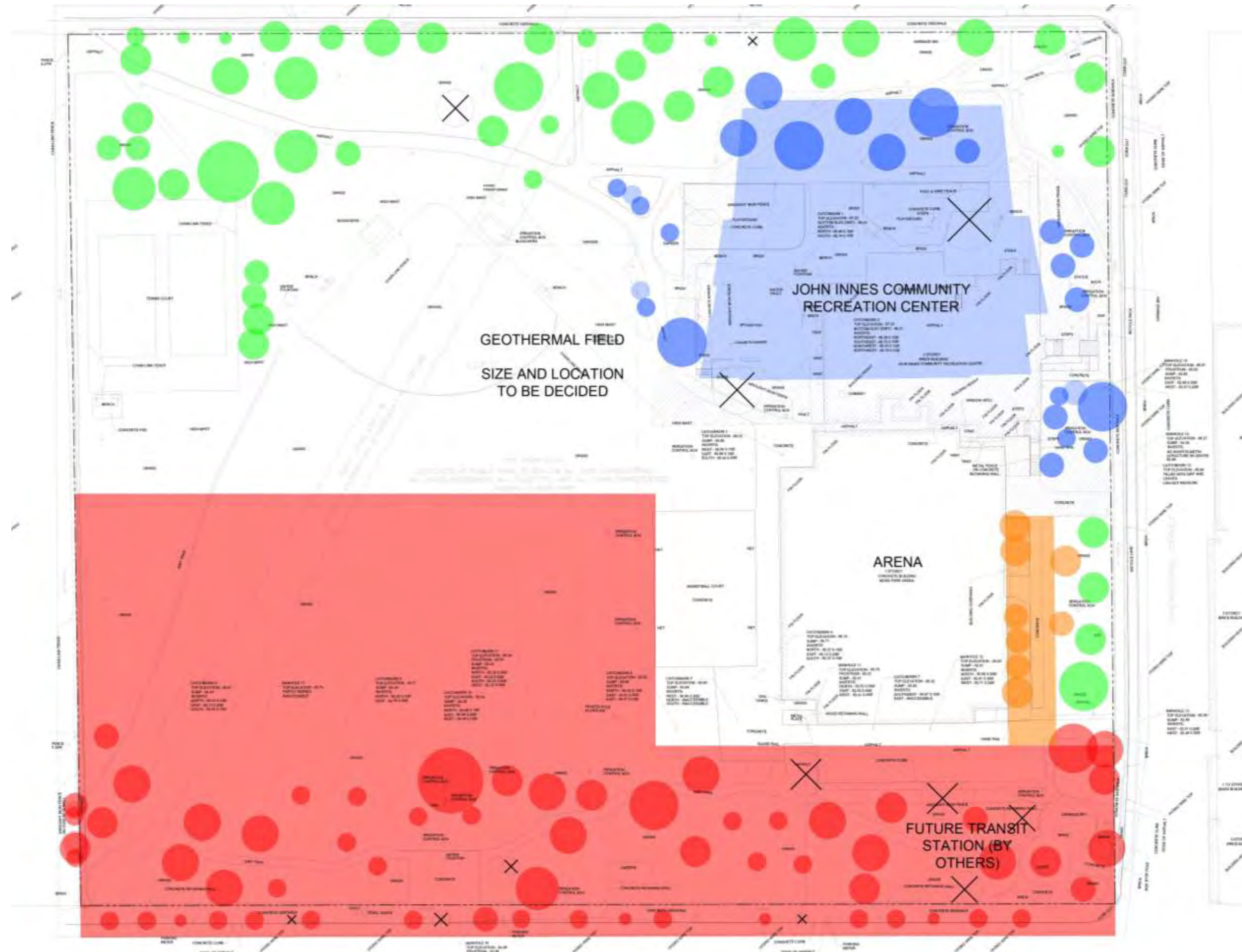
## Garden Plots

- 4' x 8' lined beds
- Double course of 4x4 cedars for edging





# Tree Strategy



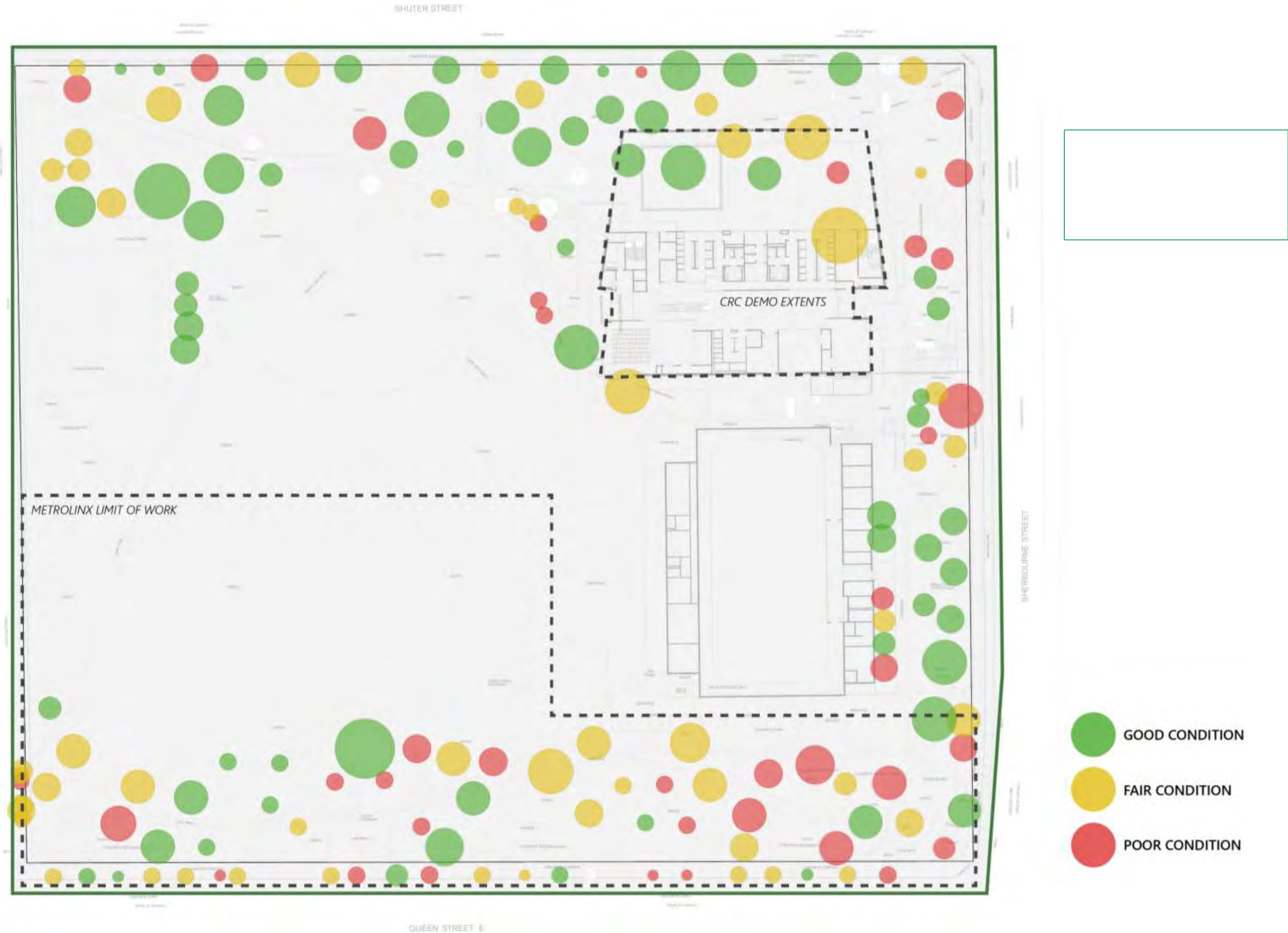
Proposed planting of new trees in the concept plans range from **142 - 202**

## LEGEND

- PROPERTY LINE
- JOHN INNES COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER
- - - CRC DEMO EXTENTS
- - - DRIVEWAY LIMIT OF WORK
- - - METROLINX LIMIT OF WORK
- 25 - TREE TO BE REMOVED FOR COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER
- 8 - TREE TO BE REMOVED FOR DRIVEWAY
- 63 - TREE TO BE REMOVED FOR METROLINX
- ✕ 12 - TREE TO BE REMOVED DUE TO POOR OR HAZARDOUS CONDITION
- 48 - TREE TO REMAIN



# Tree Strategy





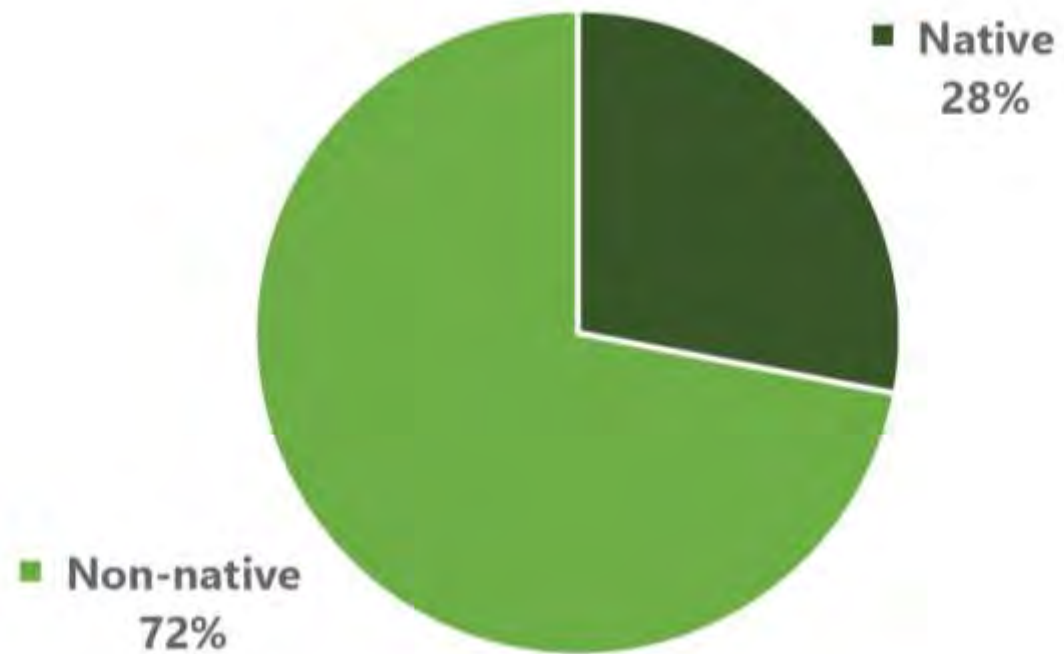
# Tree Strategy

## Past conditions

(pre Metrolinx removal)



**158 trees**



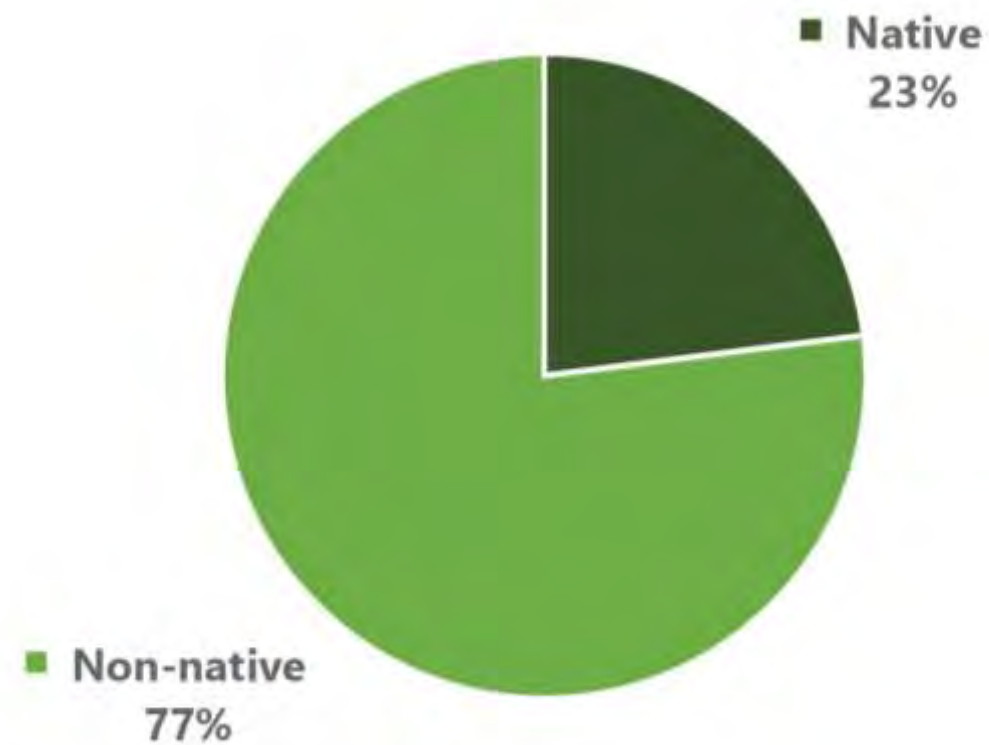
*(only 28% were native trees)*

## Existing conditions

(post Metrolinx removal)



**102 trees**



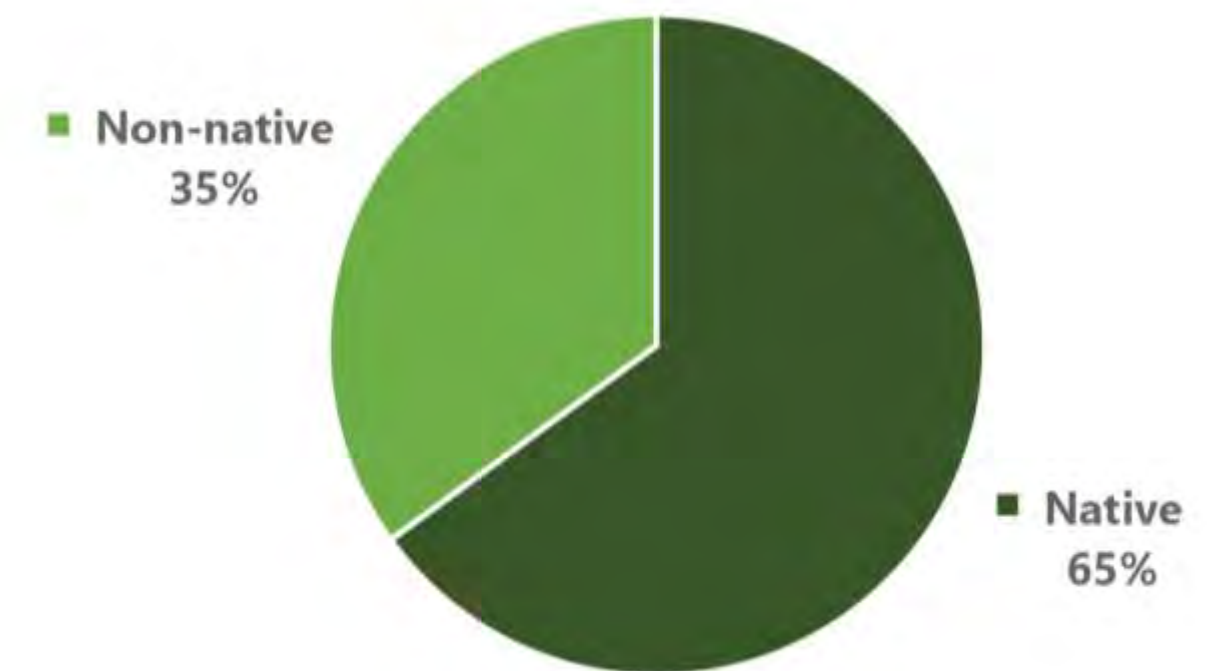
*(only 23% are native trees)*

## Proposed conditions

(in park design options)



**183-244 trees**



***(65% will be native trees)***



# Tree Strategy



**Red Oak**  
(80mm Caliper Nursery Stock)



**Red Oak**  
(Slow growing, long lived)



**Trembling Aspen**  
(80mm Caliper Nursery Stock)



5 Years Later



**Trembling Aspen**  
(Fast growing)

- **Growth rate stratification**
  - plant fast growing trees
  - plant slow growing long lived trees
- **Plant large trees**
  - choose large trees from nursery
  - plant individual mature specimens
- **Soil volume**
  - trees will have access to the volume of soil necessary to support mature growth



Sugar Beach, Toronto



# Concept Plans: Option 1 (*The Grid*)

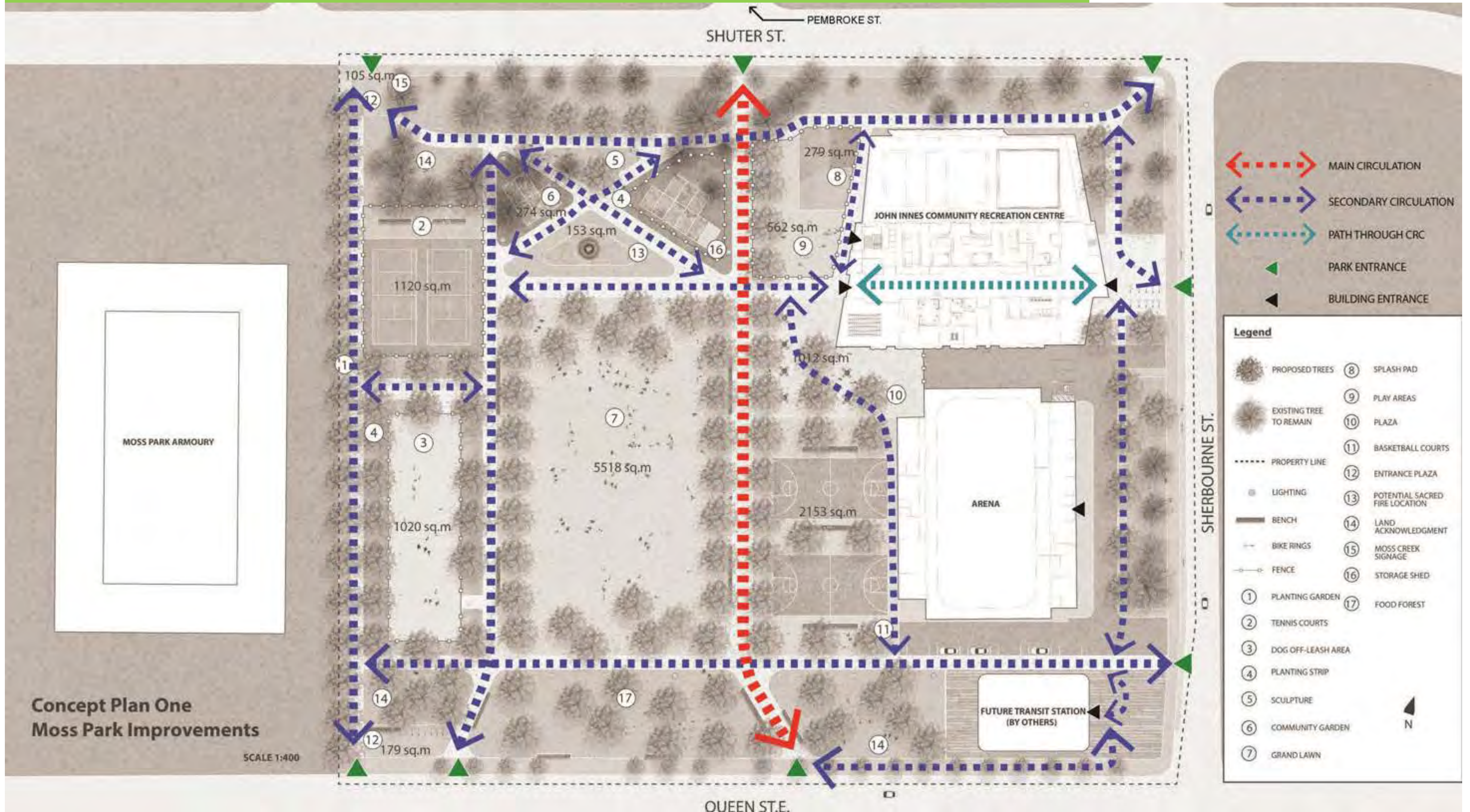


# #1 The Grid: Concept Plan



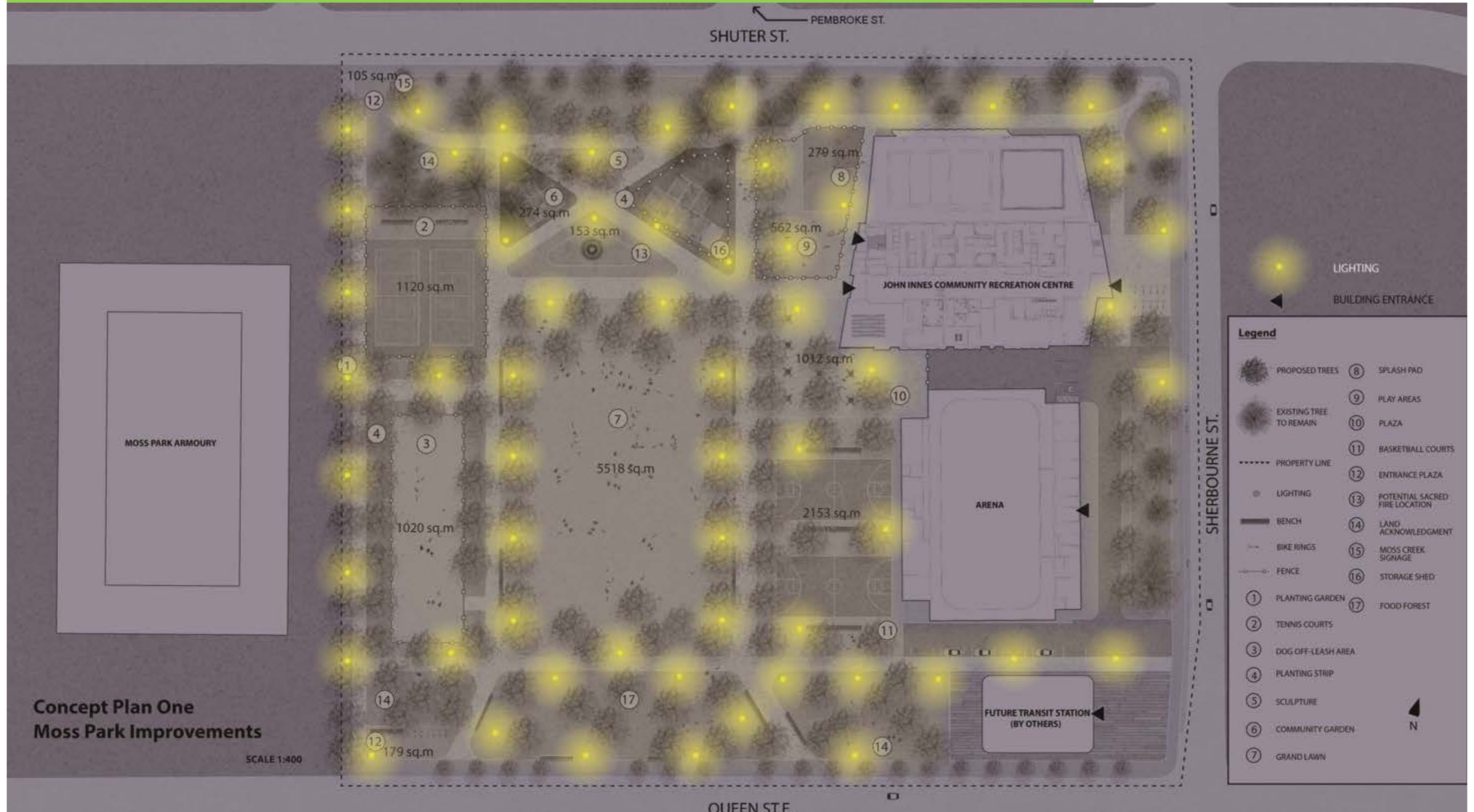


# #1 The Grid: Circulation



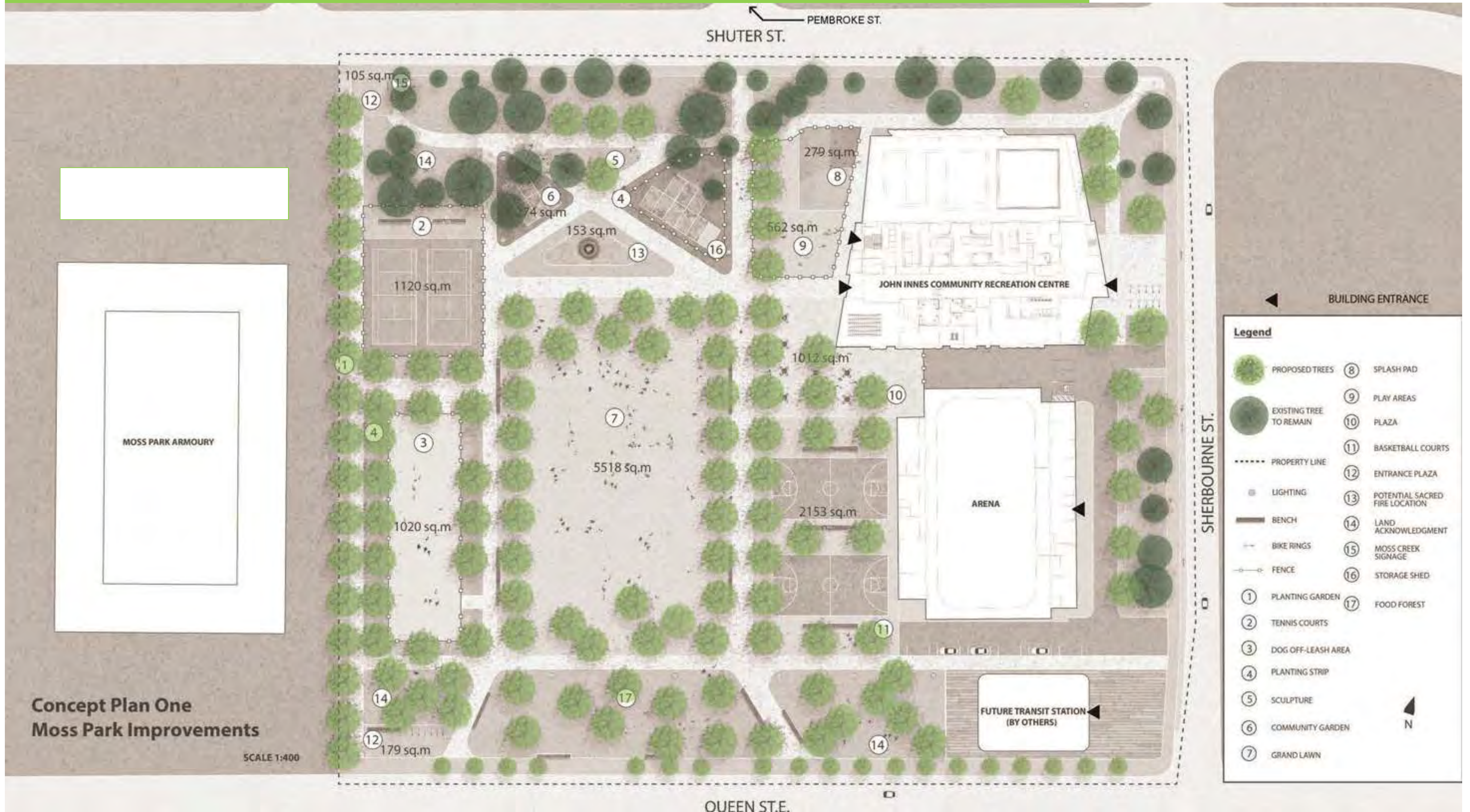


# #1 The Grid: Lighting





# #1 The Grid: 183 Trees





# #1 The Grid: View looking south from Shuter Street



KEY PLAN



PLAY AREA

PLANTED EDGES

COMMUNITY GARDENS







# #1 The Grid: View looking north from Queen Street



KEY PLAN





# #1 The Grid: Precedents





# Concept Plans: Option 2 (*The Creek*)

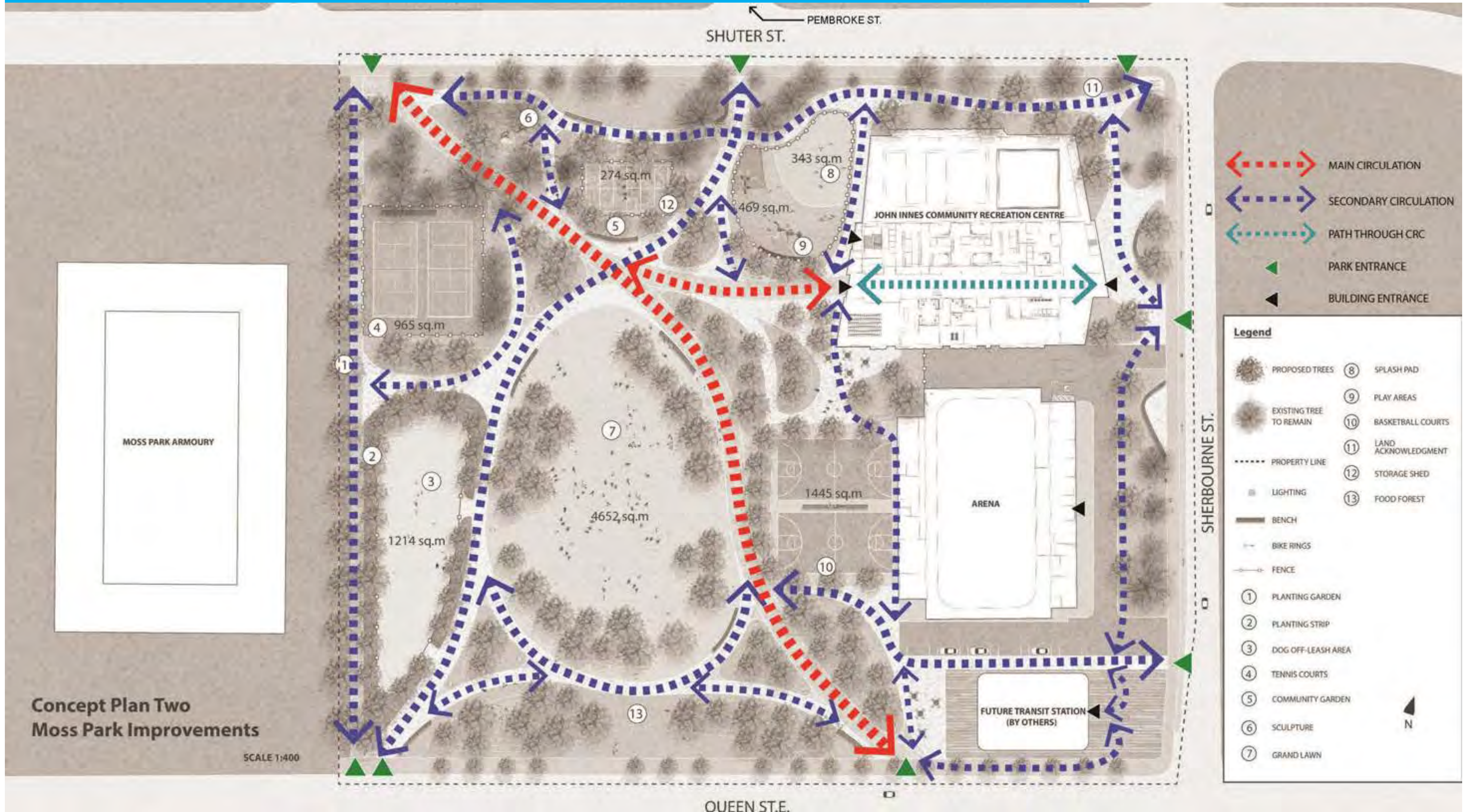


# #2 The Creek: Concept Plan



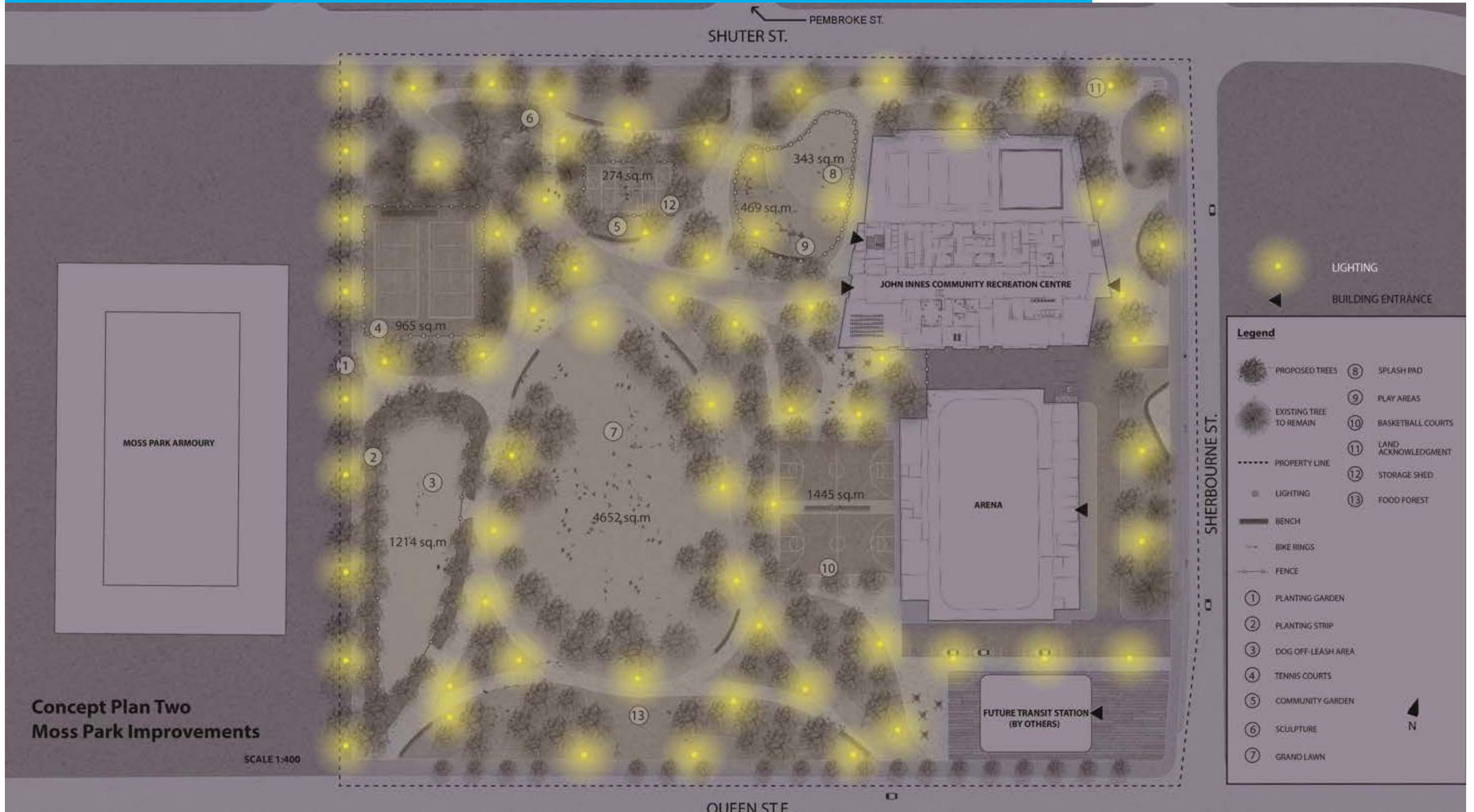


# #2 The Creek: Circulation





# #2 The Creek: Lighting





# #2 The Creek: 216 Trees



Concept Plan Two  
Moss Park Improvements

SCALE 1:400

### Legend

- |  |                         |  |                        |
|--|-------------------------|--|------------------------|
|  | PROPOSED TREES          |  | 8 SPLASH PAD           |
|  | EXISTING TREE TO REMAIN |  | 9 PLAY AREAS           |
|  | PROPERTY LINE           |  | 10 BASKETBALL COURTS   |
|  | LIGHTING                |  | 11 LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT |
|  | BENCH                   |  | 12 STORAGE SHED        |
|  | BIKE RINGS              |  | 13 FOOD FOREST         |
|  | FENCE                   |  |                        |
|  | 1 PLANTING GARDEN       |  |                        |
|  | 2 PLANTING STRIP        |  |                        |
|  | 3 DOG OFF-LEASH AREA    |  |                        |
|  | 4 TENNIS COURTS         |  |                        |
|  | 5 COMMUNITY GARDEN      |  |                        |
|  | 6 SCULPTURE             |  |                        |
|  | 7 GRAND LAWN            |  |                        |



# #2 The Creek: View looking south from Shuter Street



KEY PLAN





# #2 The Creek: View looking north from Queen Street



BIG LAWN

BOULDERS

BASKETBALL COURTS

PLANTED EDGES



KEY PLAN



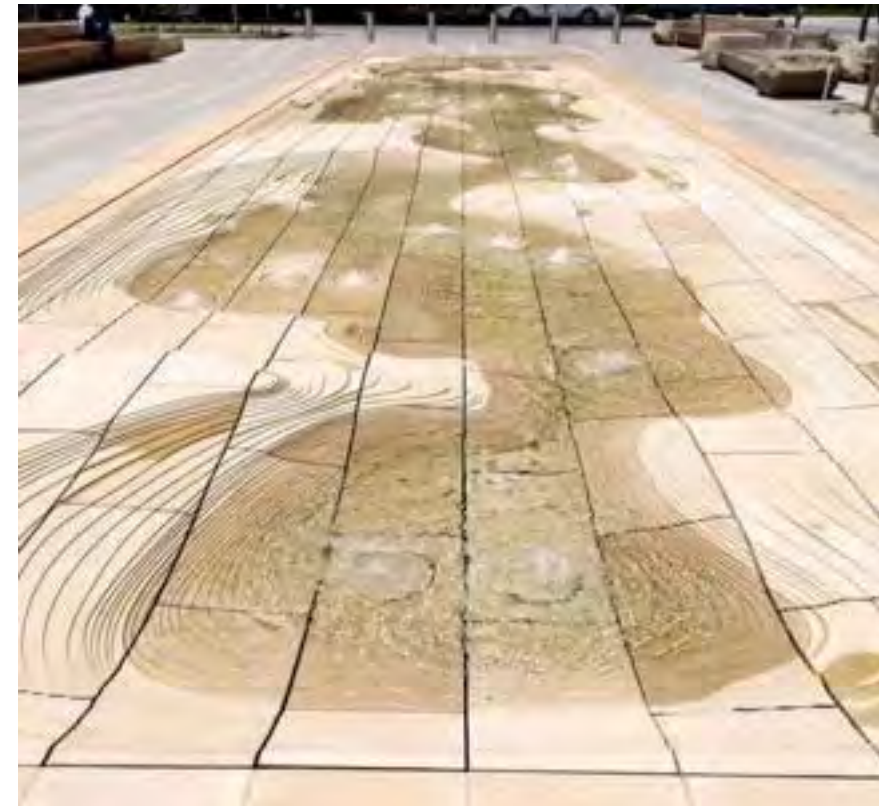
# #2 The Creek: View looking north from Queen Street



KEY PLAN



# #2 The Creek: Precedents





# Concept Plans: Option 3 (*The Meander*)

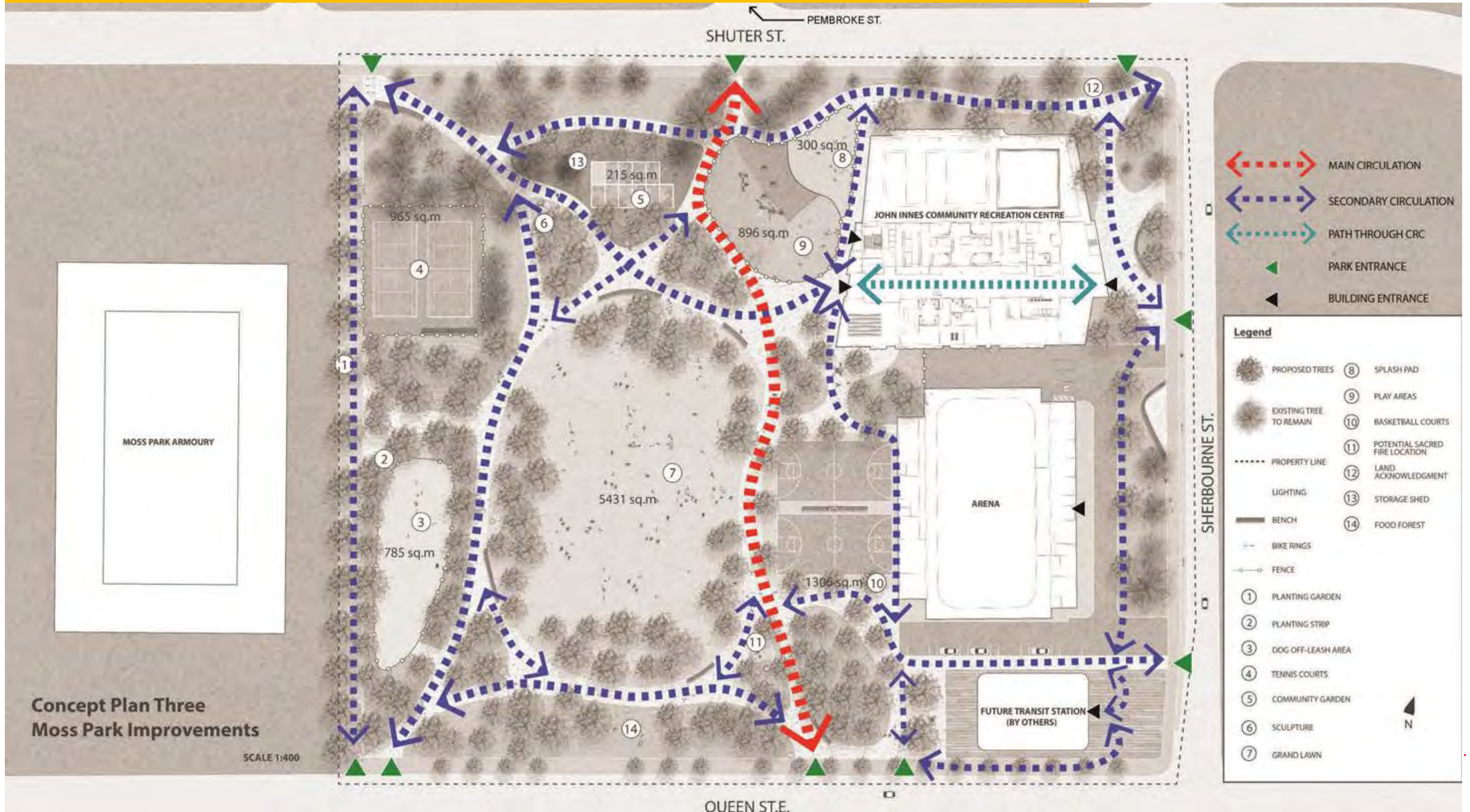


# #3 The Meander: Concept Plan



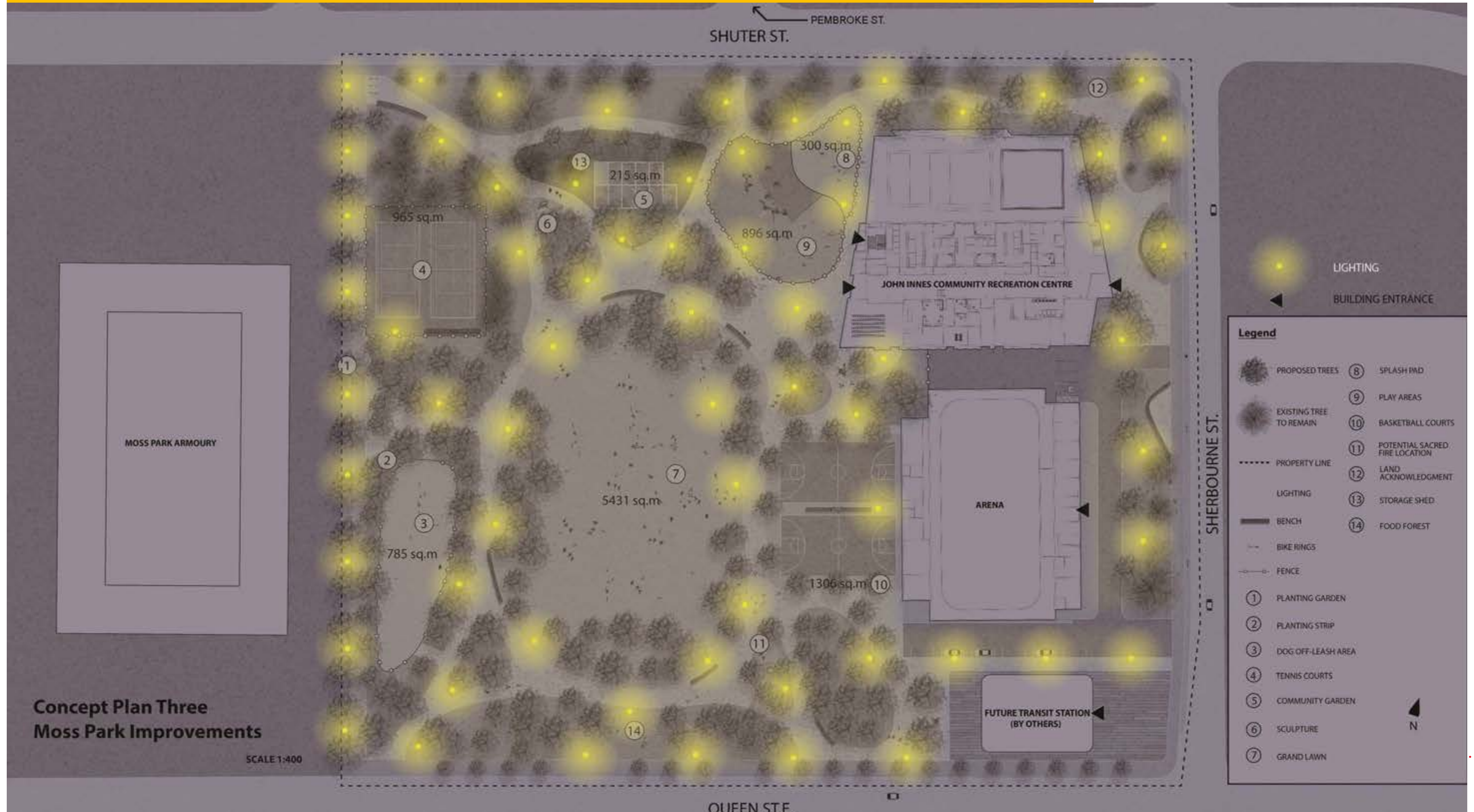


# #3 The Meander: Circulation





# #3 The Meander: Lighting



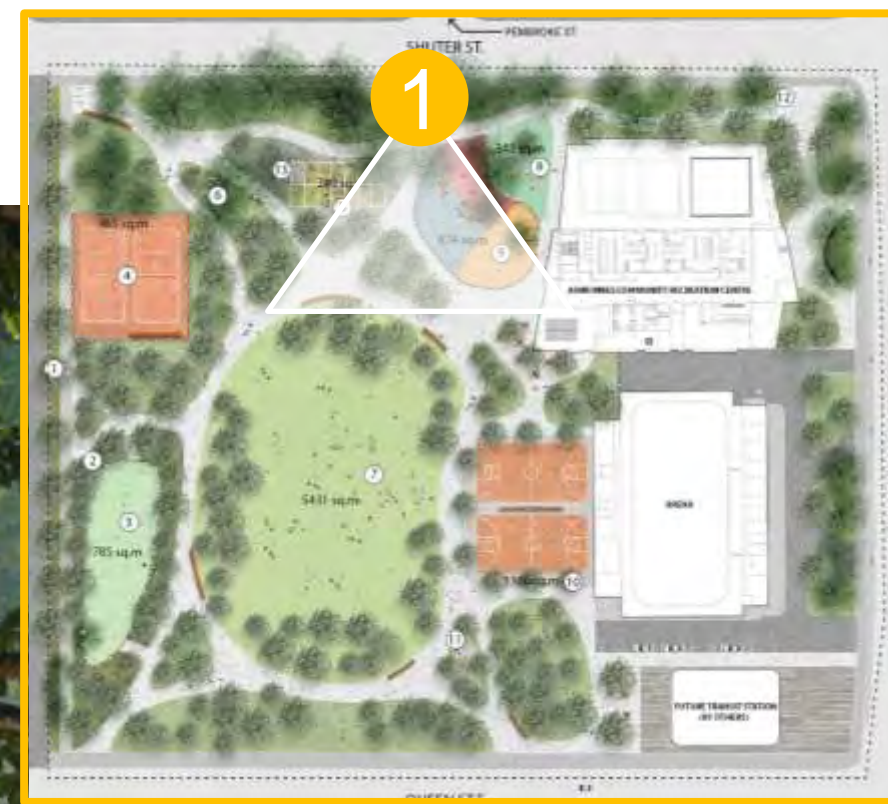


# #3 The Meander: 244 Trees





# #3 The Meander: View looking south from Shuter Street



KEY PLAN

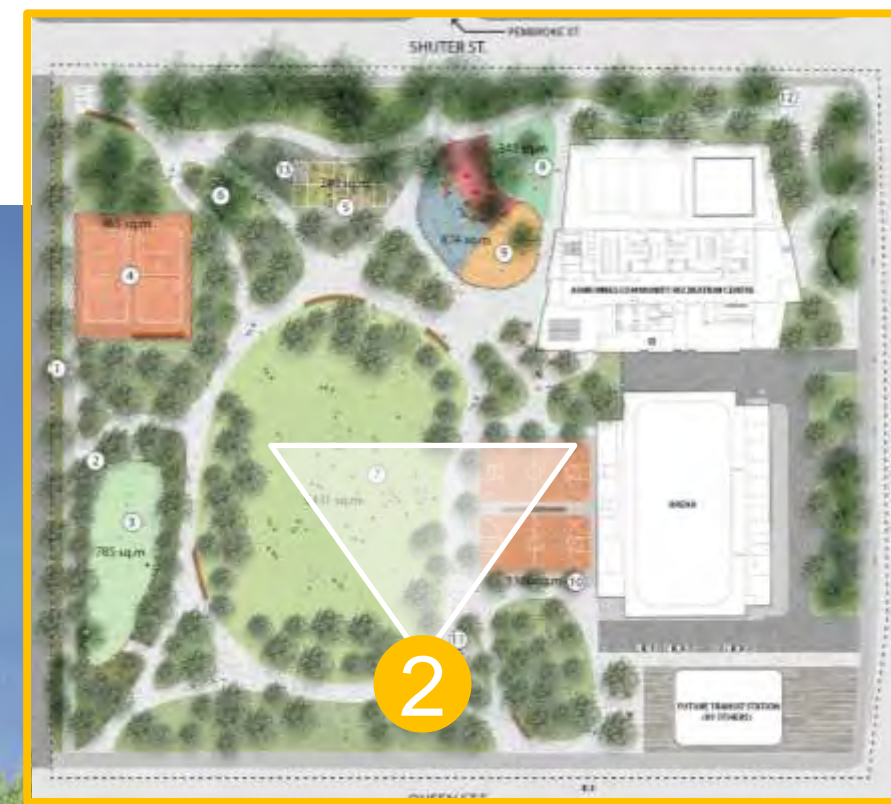


PLAY AREA

COMMUNITY GARDENS



# #3 The Meander: View looking north from Queen Street

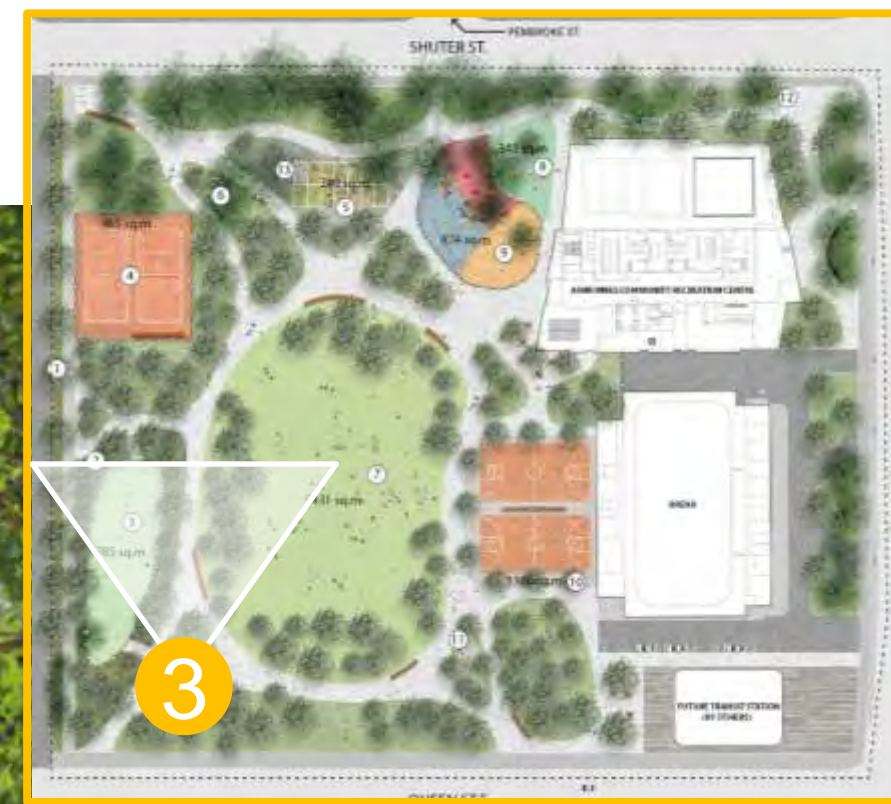


KEY PLAN





# #3 The Meander: View looking north from Queen Street



KEY PLAN



OFF LEASH  
AREA

PLANTED EDGES

MOUNDING

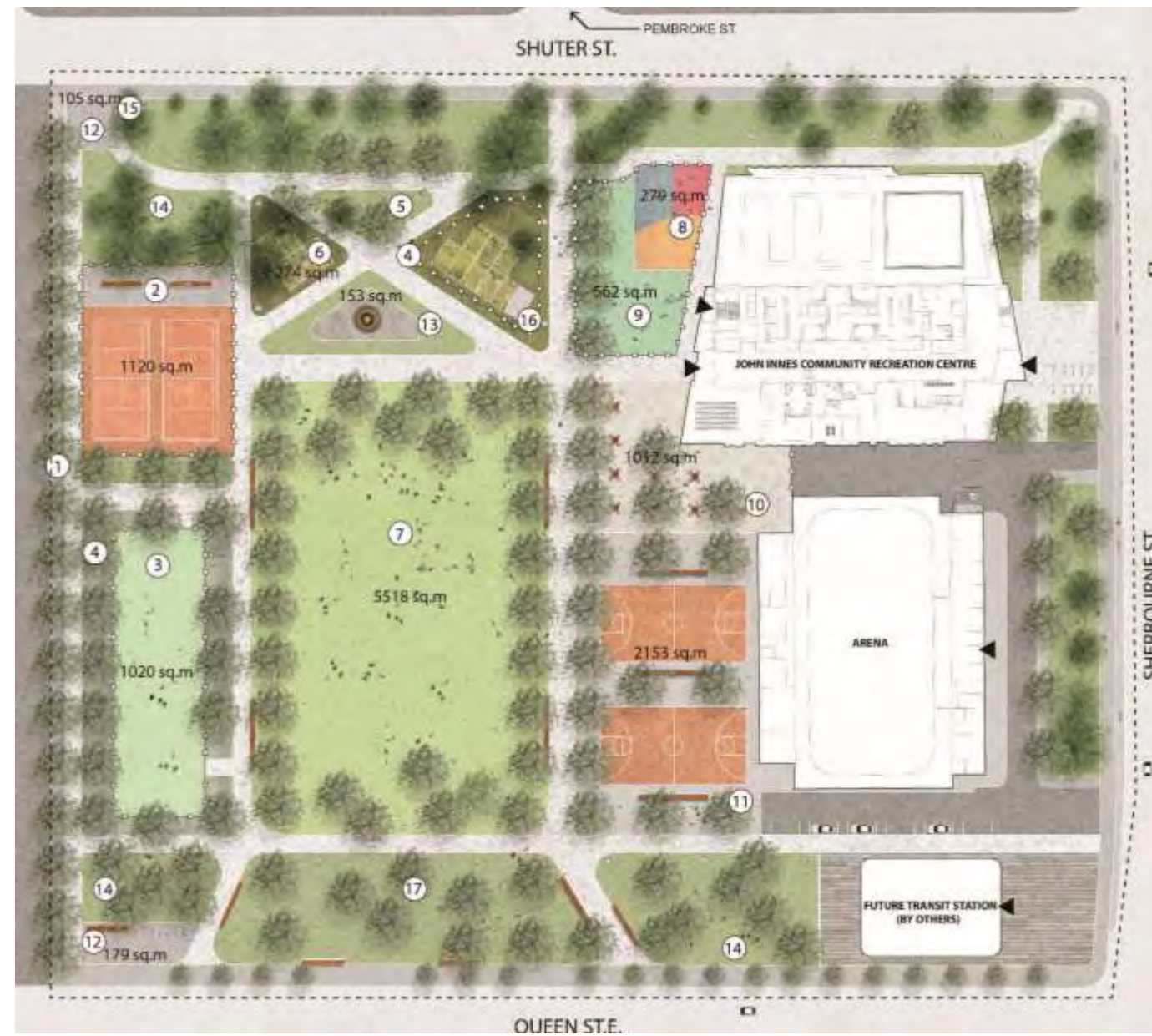


# #3 The Meander: Precedents





# The Concepts



**Option 1 - The Grid**



**Option 2 - The Creek**



**Option 3 - The Meander**



# Discussion

**Input on overall direction, circulation, play facilities, community garden area, seating, and sports courts.**

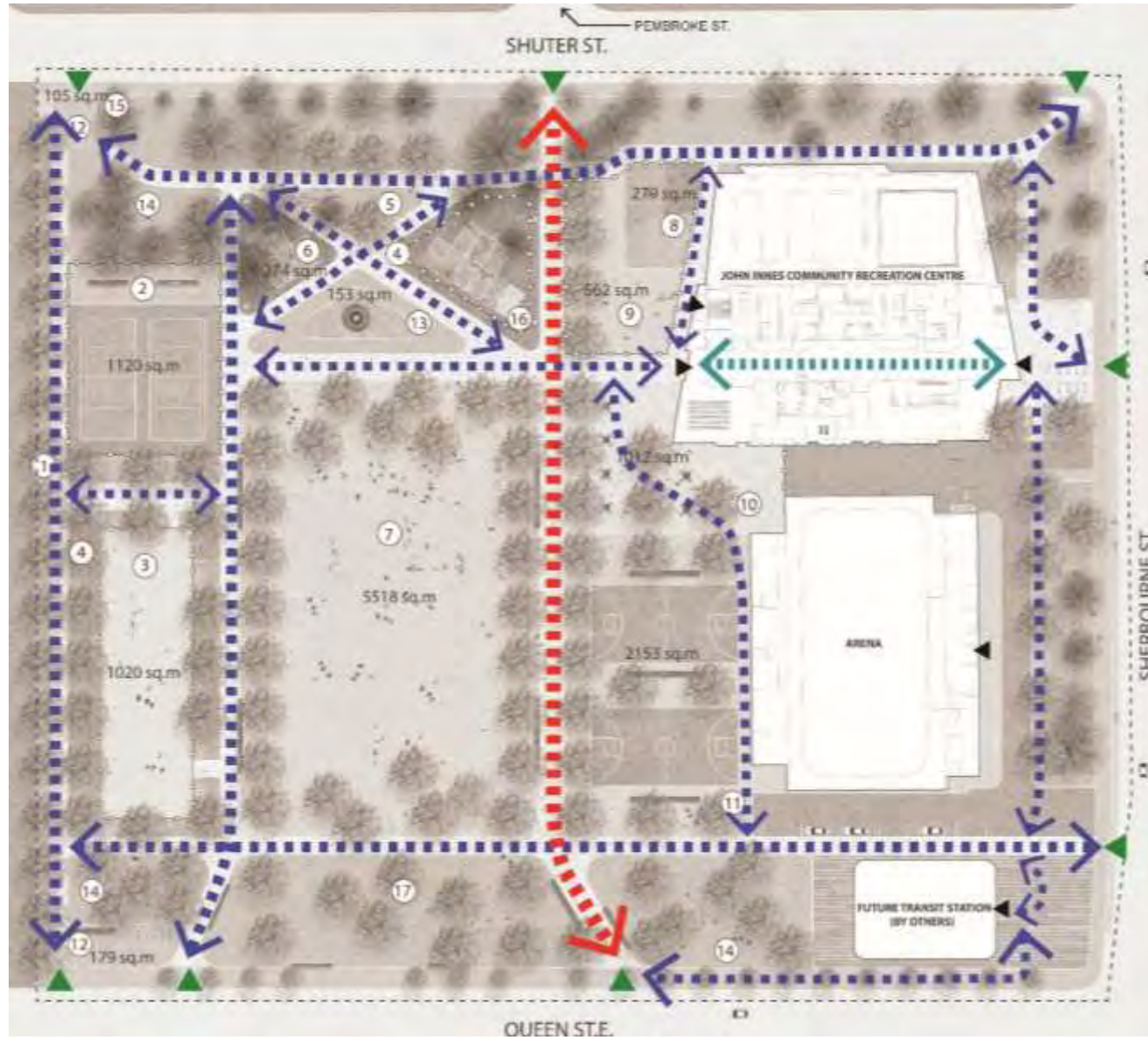


# Preferences and comments on park components

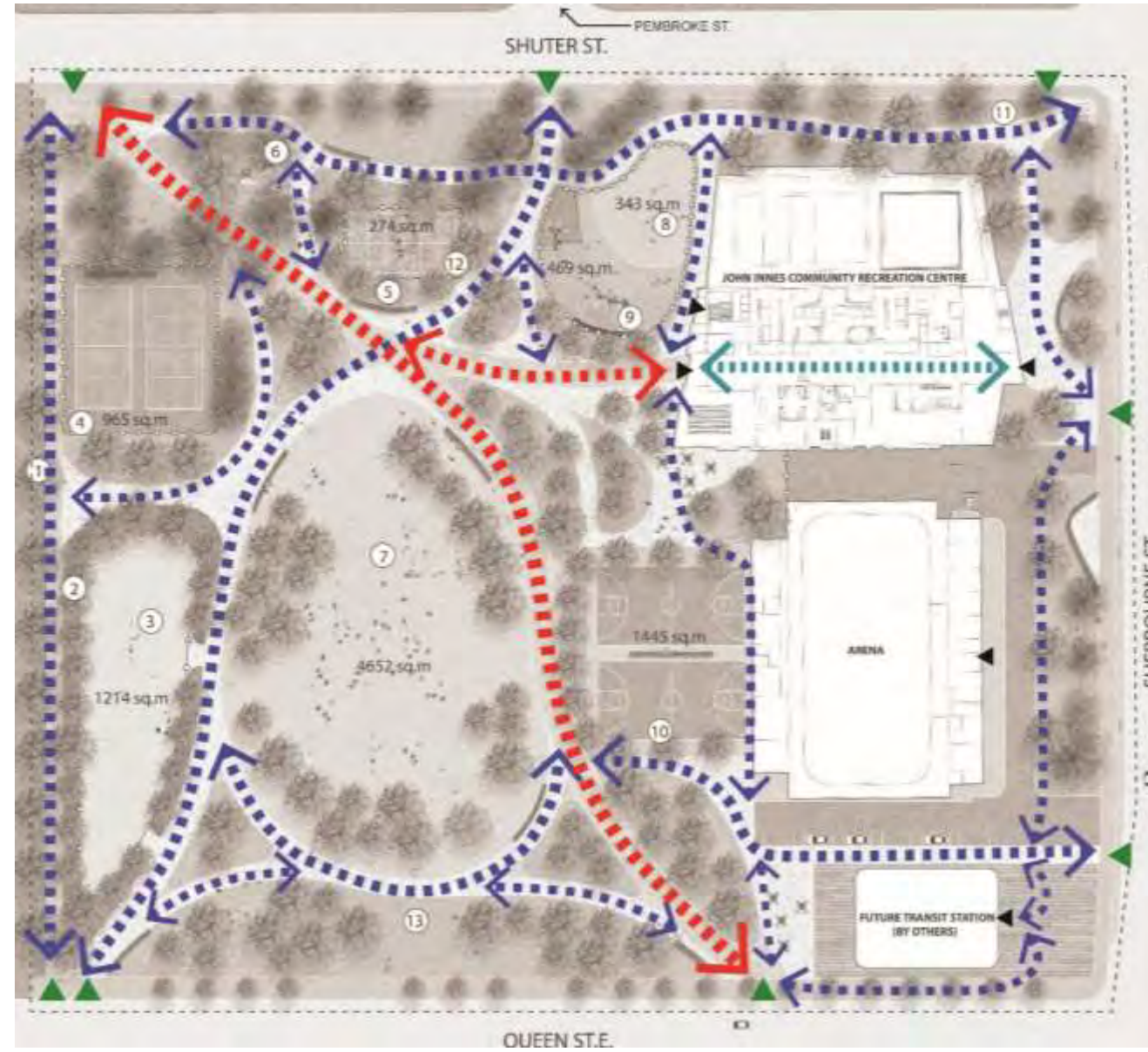
1. Paths through and round the park
2. Children's play area and splash pad
3. Community gardens
4. Seating
5. Joint use of tennis courts with pickleball



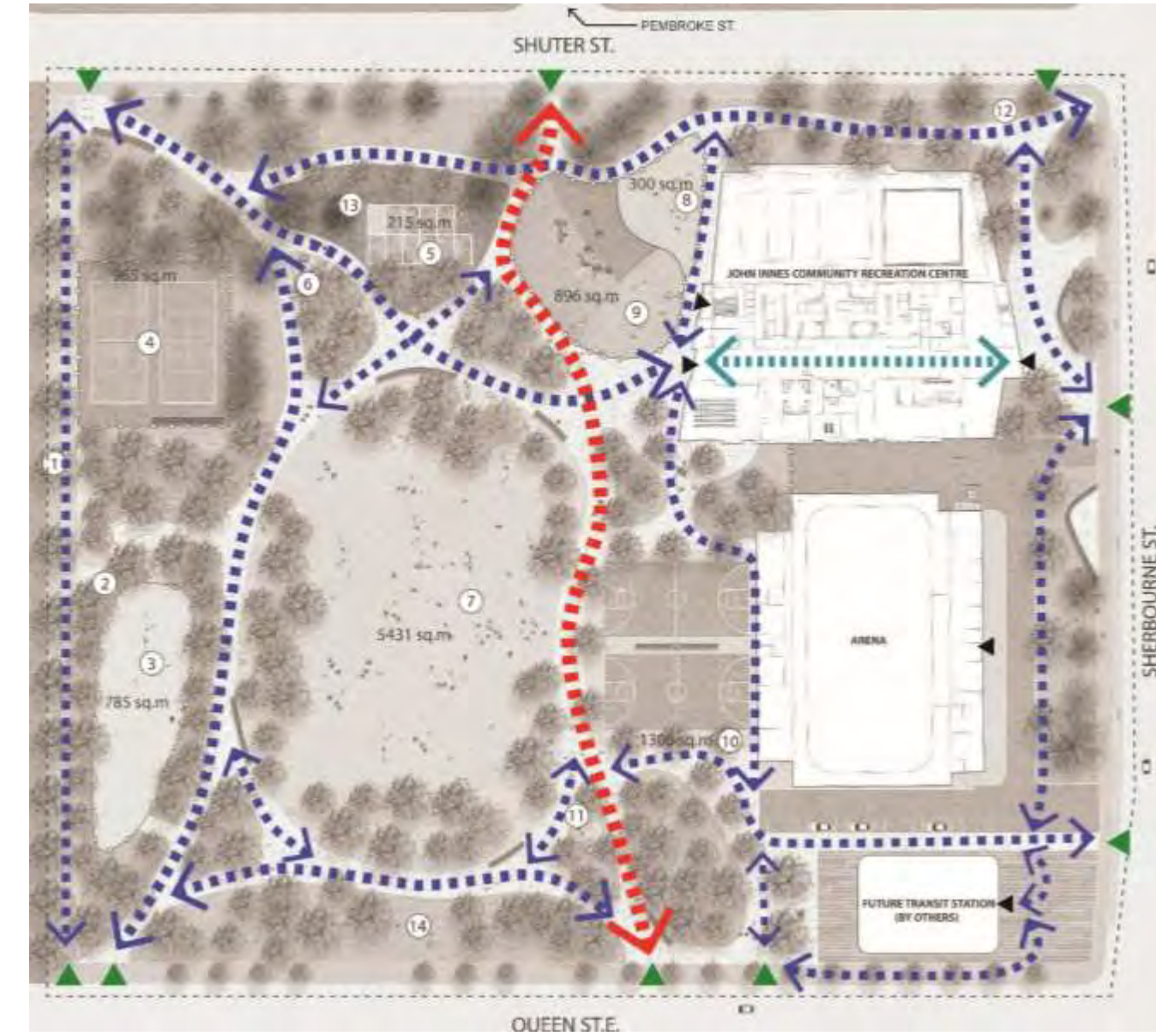
# Pedestrian Connections



**Option 1 - The Grid**



**Option 2 - The Creek**



**Option 3 - The Meander**

Location of the paths

Path widths

Connections between the Park and the neighbourhood



# Children's Play Area



Inspiration Point Playground, Denver, Colorado



St. James Park, Toronto

Preferences on  
type/possible theme?

Size of playground  
relative to splash pad

Some play elements  
located throughout  
the Park?



# Splash Pad



Corktown Commons, Toronto



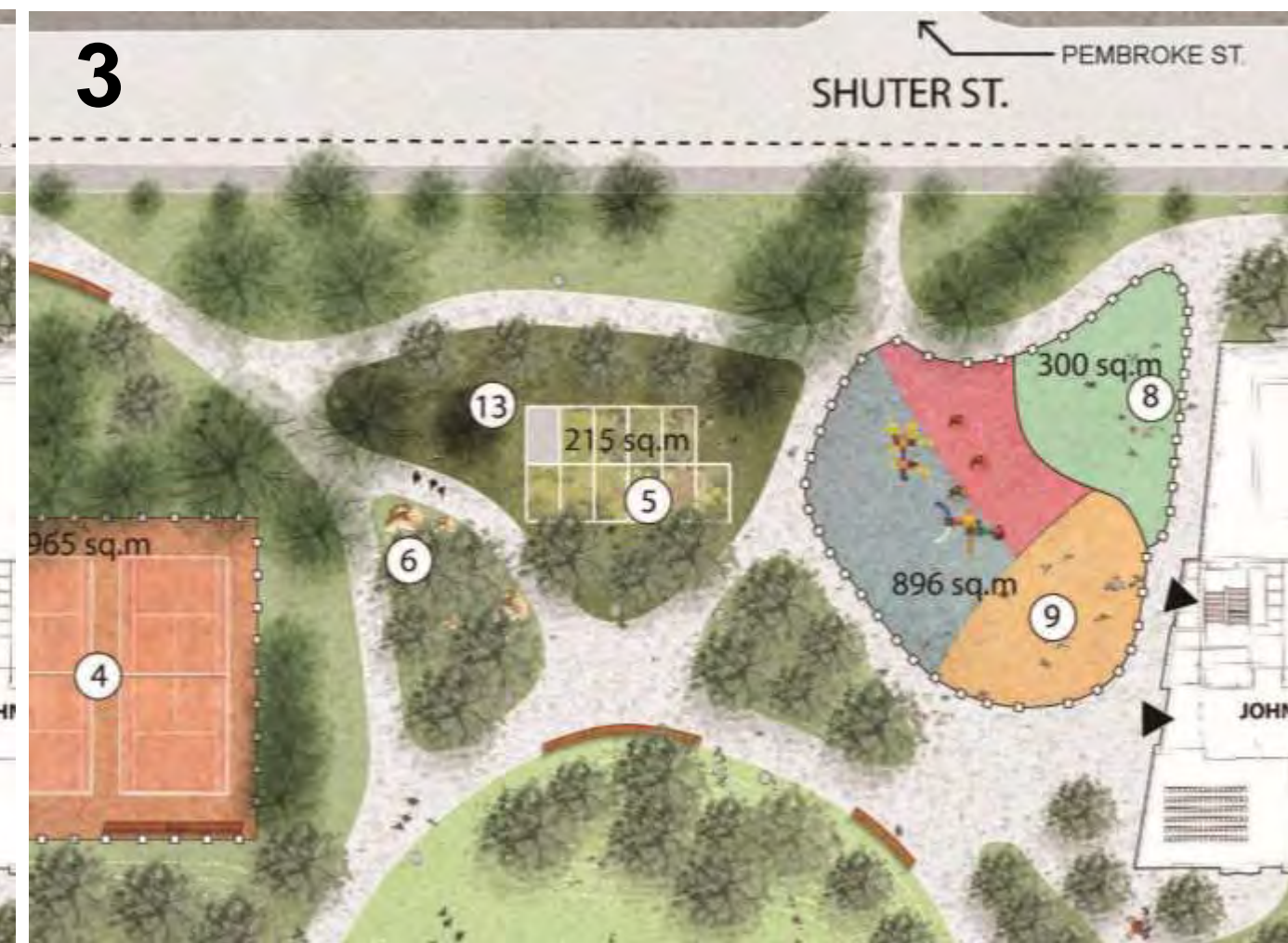
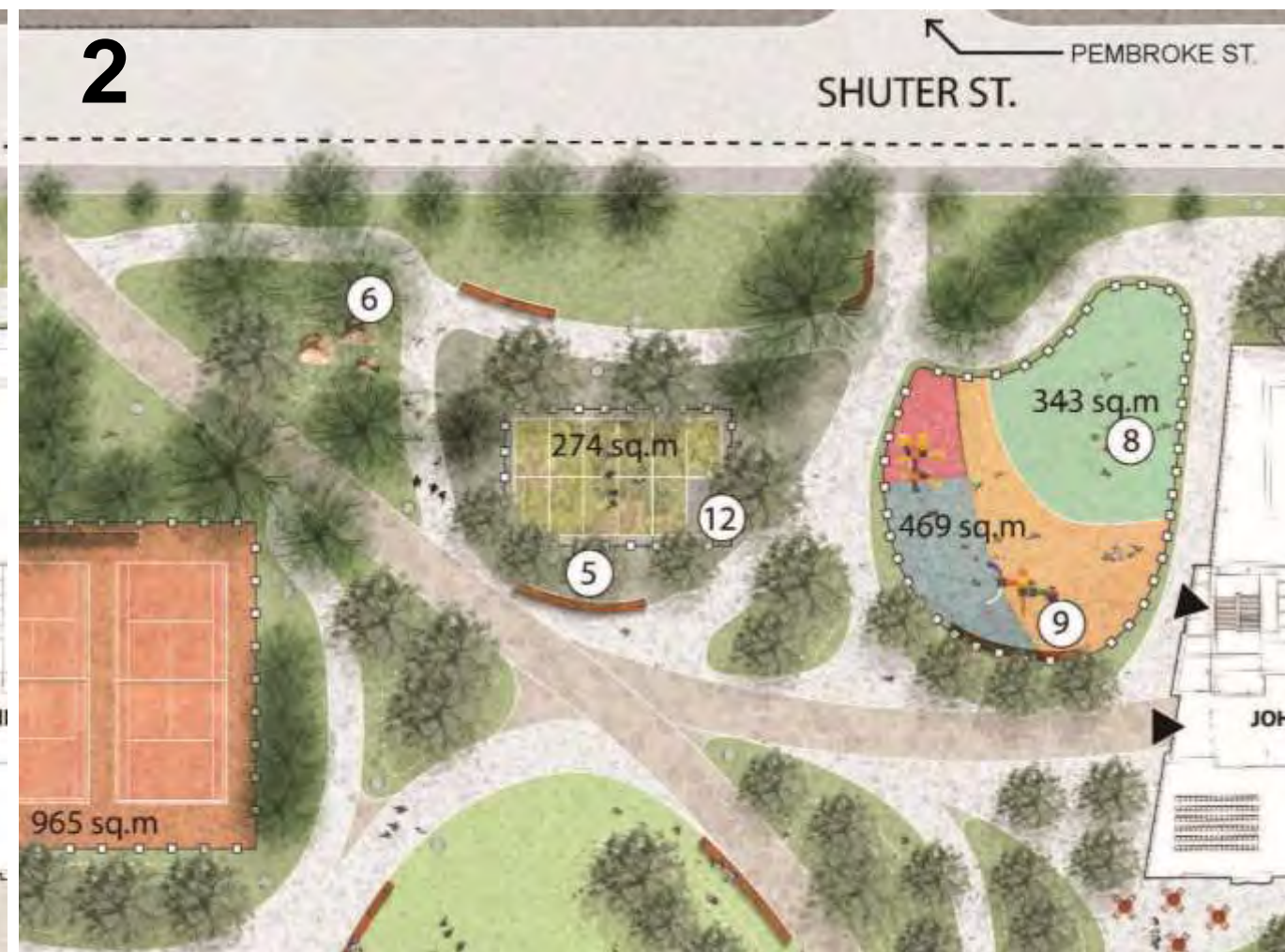
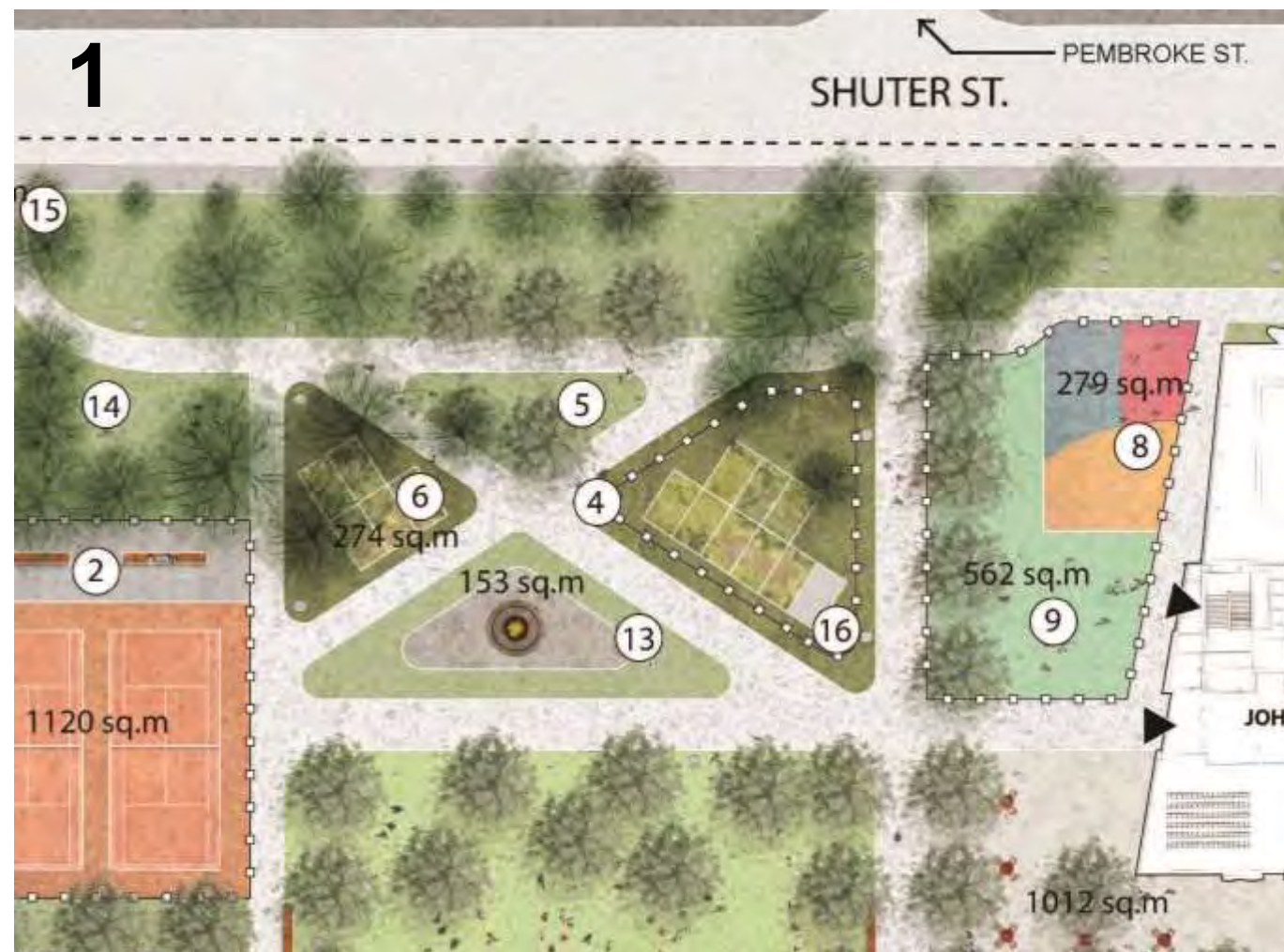
Centre Island, Toronto

Preferences/possible theme

Size relative to the playground



# Community Gardens



General size of the community garden

Access through the garden



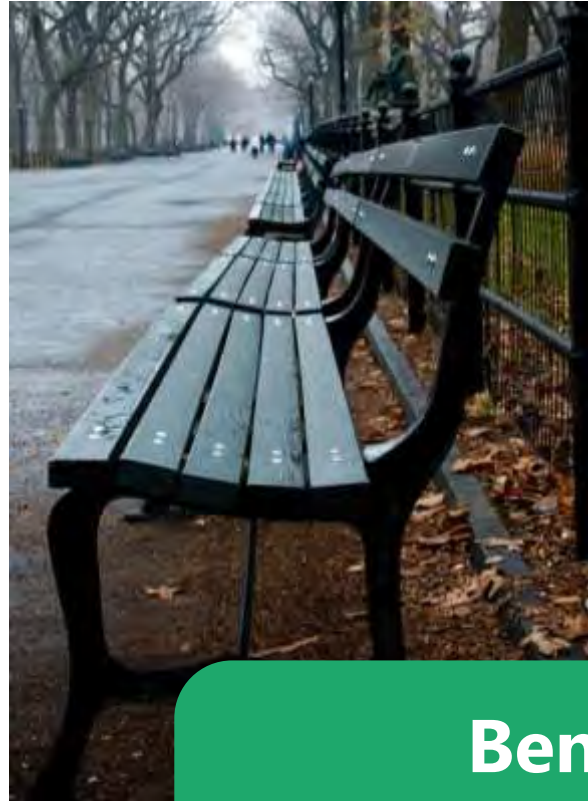
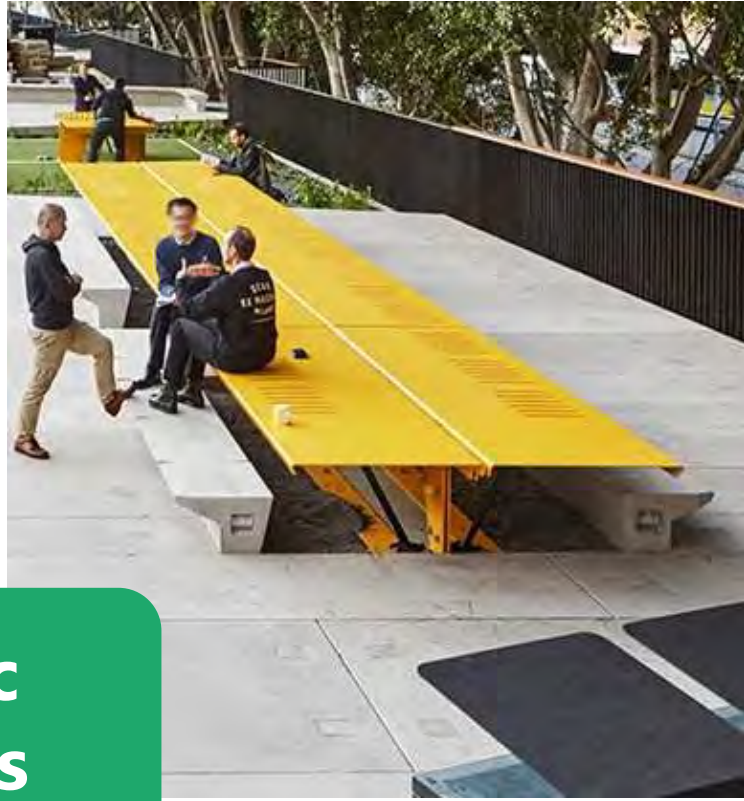
# Seating



Loungers



Picnic Tables



Benches:  
backs/no backs  
armrests/no armrests



Location



Tables & Chairs  
(fixed in place)





# Tennis courts



Should tennis courts  
be shared with  
pickleball, or not?

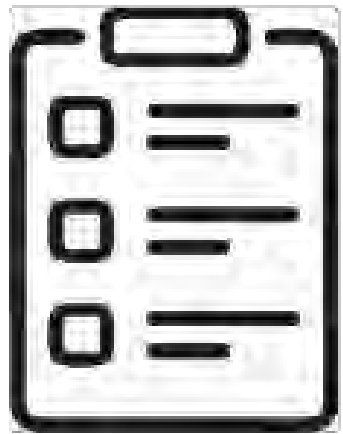
Traditional or  
graphic courts?



# Next Steps



# Next Steps



## Complete the Moss Park park Improvements Survey

**When:** March 21<sup>st</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** [toronto.ca/Moss Park](https://toronto.ca/MossPark)



## Pop-Up for Park Design Options

**When:** April 15th

**Times:** 1-5pm

**Where:** John Innes Community Recreation Centre



