David Crombie Park Improvements & The Esplanade and Mill Street Connection Project

Public Information Meeting October 26, 2023







Land Acknowledgement

I'd like to begin by honouring the land that I'm on. If you are not currently in Toronto, I encourage you to learn about the lands you're on.

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.





Agenda



Welcoming Remarks & Introduction



Presentation

- Phase 1 Recap: Consultation and Master Plan (2020)
- Engagement Phase 1 & Phase 2
- Phase 2: Implementing Park Improvements
- Indigenous Placekeeping Framework
- Streetscape Improvements including Cycle Track



! Breakout Stations





Project Team



Nancy Chater

Project Manager Parks, Forestry & Recreation – Capital Projects Design and Delivery

Adam Popper

Senior Project Manager Transportation Services

Sami Khaled

Project Engineer Transportation Services

William Skura

Senior Public Consultation Coordinator



Neno Kovacevic

Principal in Charge Landscape Architecture

Zibby Petch

Associate Director Active Transportation Engineering

Tim McCormick

Associate Principal Landscape Architecture



Rasmus Astrup

Partner Design Lead

Salka Kudsk

Project Director Landscape Architecture

Sune Rieper

Landscape Architecture

Alessia Cacopardo

Landscape Architecture



Wanda Dalla Costa

Principal Indigenous Design

Mamie Griffith

Indigenous Design



Matthew Wheatley

Public Engagement

Yulia Pak

Public Engagement

Ruth Belay

Public Engagement













Elected Official

Deputy Mayor Councillor Ausma Malik City of Toronto, Ward Spadina – Fort York





Phase 1 – David Crombie Park Revitalization Design + Esplanade and Mill Street Connection Project (2020) – Recap





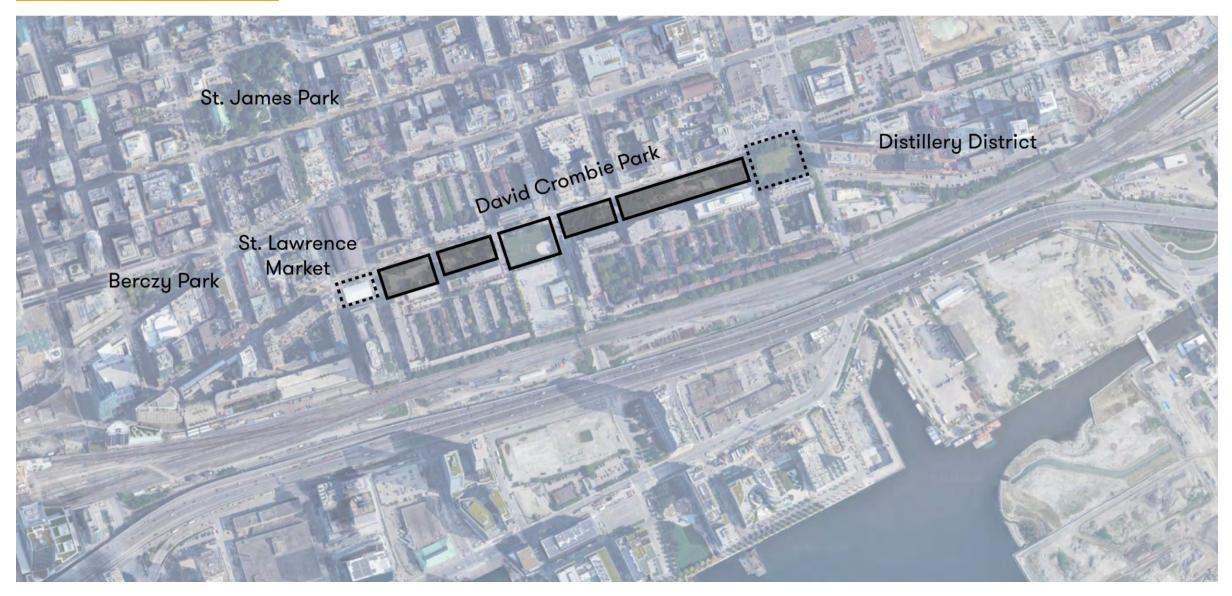








Site Location













Learning from the Masterplan





Revitalization Design Concept Plan (2020)











Learning from the Masterplan



The Park is Showing Its Age Many features are original (40 years old) and need repair or replacement.



A Beloved Park The whole park is used in a variety of ways, by people of all ages and backgrounds.



Strong Frame Buildings frame the park's edges and it is divided into the outdoor rooms by the streets and tree planting.



Outdated Heavy use, poor drainage, low play value, hazards, lack of shade and poor Accessibility need to be addressed



Water Features Mechanical equipment for all water features is at the of its service life.



Seating and Furnishing The furniture lacks cohesion, is aging, and a lot of seating lacks backs or arm rests.



Lighting The perimeter of the park is well lit, but the interior of some blocks is dim and can be improved.



The Tree Canopy is at Risk Many ash trees have been removed because of Emerald Ash Borer, and there are many in the park. Other species are also in decline.



Dogs are a Big Issue A dedicated dog area is desired by the community, but it takes up a lot of space.



Connects in Many Ways It connects to the city, the neighbourhood and across park blocks.



Accessibility The park needs to be brought up to date and comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)



Gardens The existing gardens contribute to the beauty and vibrancy of the park, and there is a desire for more.



Programming There are great events that take place in the park, and there is a desire for more.



Support Cycling There is a desire for better cycling facilities in the area. Coordination with other City departments is required.











Previous Engagement – Phase 1

David Crombie Park Improvements

Comprehensive engagement from Fall 2018 to Fall 2019 including a variety of engagement activities:

- Indigenous Placekeeping Meetings
- Community Resource Group
- Public Meetings & Workshops
- Focus Groups
- Website & Social Media
- Online & Public Life Surveys
- School Board Meetings
- One on One Meetings



On-line Surveys

Community reaction and comments on the concept options and preferred plan.



Public Life Survey

3 seasons study of how people arrive at the park, the activities they engage in, and personal surveys of their opinions about the park.



Direct Communication

On-line and face to face discussions with people during the course of the study.



Focus Group Meetings

Discussions and idea sharing with stakeholders including seniors and kids.



Banner at the St. Lawrence Community Centre. Flyers and posters distributed around the



Website & Social Media

A dedicated information website and tweets about the study's progress and events.



50 One on One Interviews

We talked with any interested member of the community about their views and priorities for the



Kick Off Meeting

Inspirational panel discussion about the park and best practices from around the world.



3 Workshops

Working meetings with the community to share ideas, get feedback, and talk about design



4 Community Resource **Group Meetings**

Dedicated members of the community and local stakeholders shared their thoughts on the emerging issues.



2 Indigenous Placekeeping

Learning how the Indigenous community views stewardship and discussing opportunities for Indigenous culture in the park.



School Board Meetings

Discussions about how the schools use the park, their priorities, best practices, and emerging concepts in educational play.





Previous Engagement – Phase 1

The Esplanade and Mill Street Connection Project

From Fall 2019 to Winter 2021, the consultation and communication activities for this project included:

- Display and Information panels at Public Event
- Site Walks
- External Stakeholder One on One Meetings
- Flyers
- Community Stakeholder Meetings
- Online & In-person Feedback Forms
- Website & Project Videos
- Phone Calls & Emails







Current Engagement – Phase 2 - Objectives

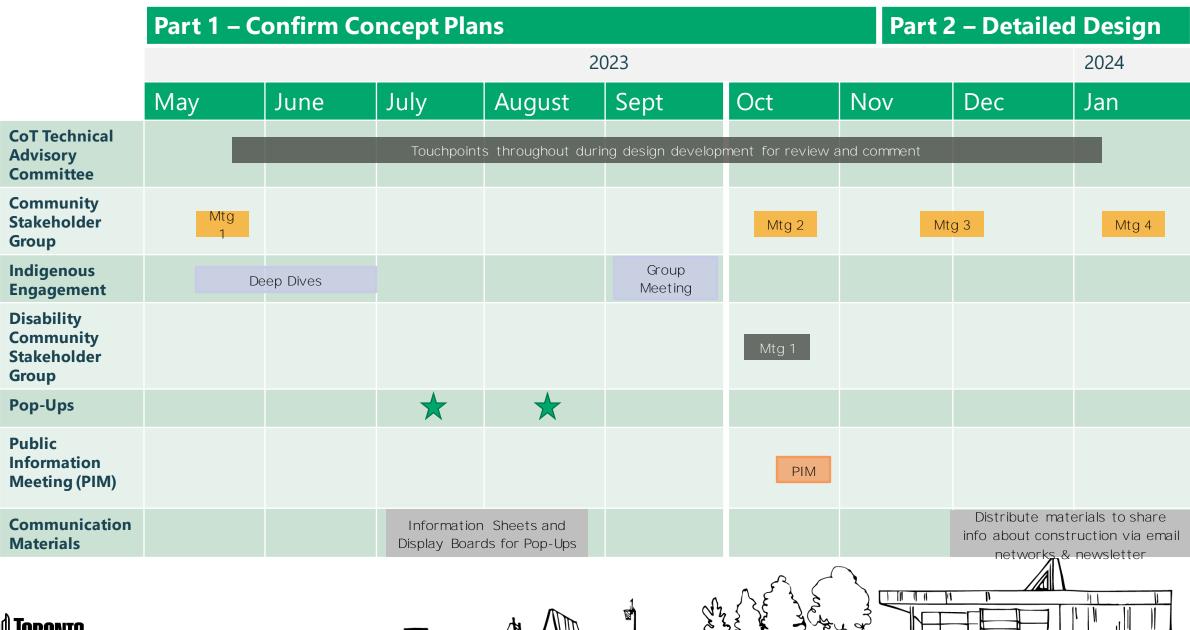
Stakeholder Engagement and Public Communications are focused on the following two parts of the process

	Part I Confirm Concept Plans	Part II Detailed Design
Community Stakeholder Group (CSG)	Share and seek feedback on concept plans and proposed engagement and communications plan	Share and seek feedback on how to best communicate construction updates and prepare communities for the construction period
Communities- at-large	Communicate the planned scope of work, final concept plans, and project schedule	Communicate construction related information including how to get information during construction





Current Engagement – Phase 2 - Anticipated Schedule





Current Engagement – Phase 2 - Summer 2023 Pop-ups

Community Pop-up Events on July 29 and August 11, 2023

The project team hosted two pop-up events in David Crombie Park to introduce the project team and provide an update on the process. Listed below are the key themes of feedback from the pop-up events:

- Excitement about the park redevelopment moving forward and keen to see the final park plans.
- Support for improving the cycle track.
- Strong support for improving the school playground and recreation spaces.
- Mixed opinions about the wading pool conversion to splash pad.
- Questions and concerns about the dog park.







Phase 2 - Implementing David Crombie Park Improvements 2023-2026





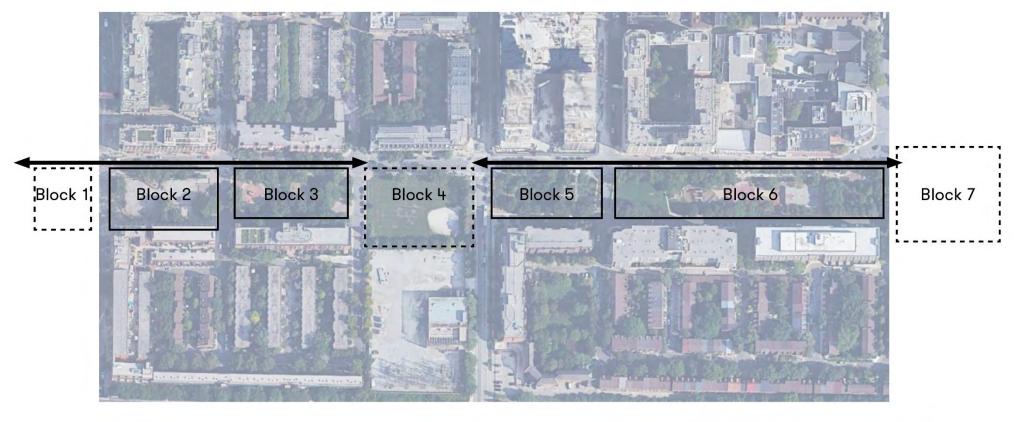








Extent of Park Improvements in Phase 2



1:2000









Project Timeline

PHASE 1: DESIGN AND ENGAGEMENT



Fall 2018: David Crombie Revitalization Project publicly launches with public engagement.



Fall 2019: The Esplanade and Mill Street Connection launches and partners with David Crombie Park public workshop.



Winter 2020: Final report and park master plan completed for David Crombie Revitalization Design.



Winter 2021: The Esplanade and Mill Street Connection Project ongoing engagement.



Spring 2021: Final recommendations for the Esplanade and Mill Street Connection Project approved by City Council.

PHASE 2: CONSTRUCTION



2023: Hire a design team, detailed design and construction document for the park, cycle track and streetscape improvements.



Early-Mid 2024: Hire a construction team.



Late 2024: Construction for park and cycle track starts.



Late 2025: Construction for cycle track complete.



Spring to Fall 2025/2026: Construction for park improvements continues and is completed.





Vision for Implementation





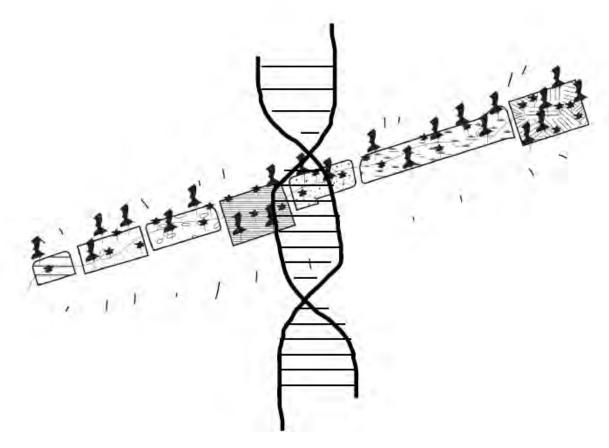








Finding David Crombie Park's DNA



What is the Crombie DNA?













Indigenous Placekeeping











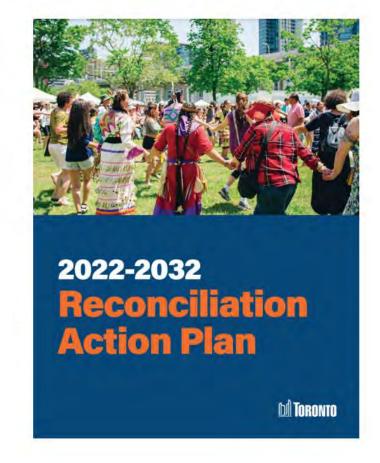


City of Toronto Reconciliation Action Plan: Action 15 Support Indigenous Placekeeping



Support Indigenous Placekeeping

Indigenous placemaking and placekeeping is integral to truth, reconciliation and justice in that it creates and nurtures space, in process and policy, for ceremony, teaching and community; strengthens Indigenous connections with lands and water; and builds cultural competency and capacity for land-based Indigenous engagement. The outcomes of placemaking and placekeeping initiatives are varied and all are critical for health and well-being of Indigenous Peoples.







Indigenous Placekeeping Phase 1 Round Table

Key Insights Phase 1

Block 1 Gathering Space

Block 1 (immediately south of the St. Lawrence Market and an upcoming extension of David Crombie Park) has a simple, large, circular space that is intended to host a variety of community events including indigenous events. It is one of the largest and most flexible spaces in the plan.

Block 5 Gardens

Block 5 has two smaller spaces along the interior pathways and gardens that are intended to have a strong ecological function (pollinators, songbirds, etc.) These gardens would benefit from an indigenous lens as well with potential for medicine garden plants being incorporated.

Block 6 Mound

Block 6 includes a Celestial Observatory on a grassy hill, with large stone markers for the Four Directions referencing the medicine wheel (stone colours of yellow, white, red and black) and equinoxes. This is next to the school yard for Market Lane School and provides an opportunity for public education about indigenous cultural practises for the community, including one stone marker that could be part of the school yard itself. We think there are opportunities for carvings or interpretive art in association with the stones. Next to the Celestial Observatory is a more intimate story telling circle.



Indigenous Placekeeping Phase 2 Round Table

Key Insights Phase 2

All Blocks Storytelling + Language

Introduce Anishinaabe language throughout the park, it gives an opportunity for parents and kids to learn together. Include an interpretive piece recognizing all the other First Nation languages across Turtle Island.

Block 5 Sacred Fire

Create an intimate, designated, and safe space to have a sacred fire. Local fire keepers can be responsible for the space and teach others how to respect and take care of a sacred fire. It is important for everyone to see First Nations openly practicing their culture and create opportunities for connection and learning.

Block 6 Mound

This is the largest open space in the project. Keep as a mound and introduce cardinal direction stone markers, and lounge seating to encourage people to look to the sky. Include more planting surrounding the mound to create a more protected gathering space.

Continued Engagement

There are a number of opportunities to include Ceremony to the early stages of the project. A sunrise ceremony before breaking ground and an opening ceremony upon completion. Continue to update the local community of the indigenous design elements and encourage further collaboration through detailed design.



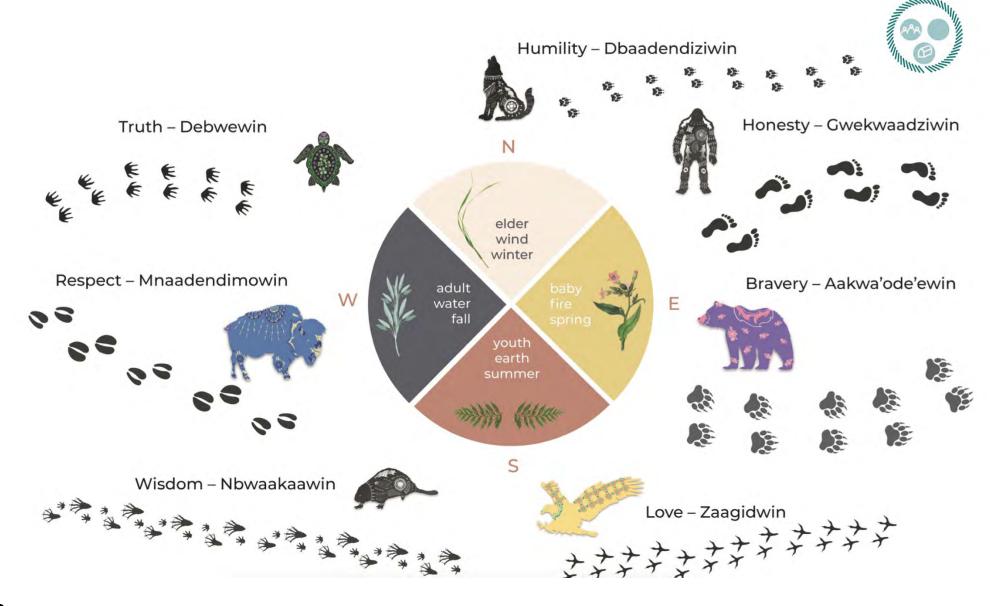


Concept Design - Indigenous Placekeeping





David Crombie Medicine Wheel + Seven Sacred Teachings

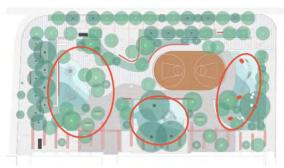




Seven Sacred Teachings Boulders, Carved Wood + Poles











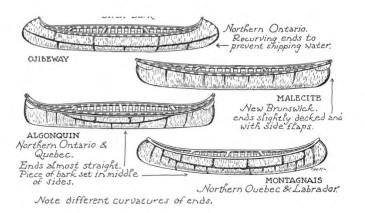


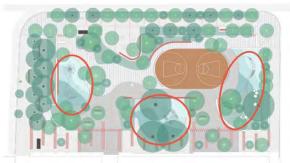


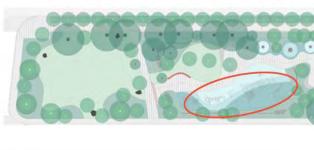


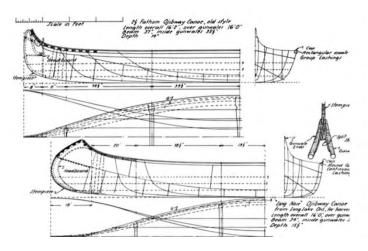
Canoe Building + Bent Wood Methods











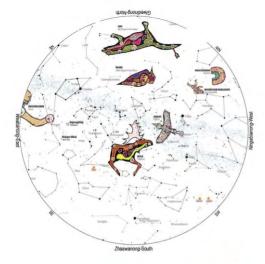


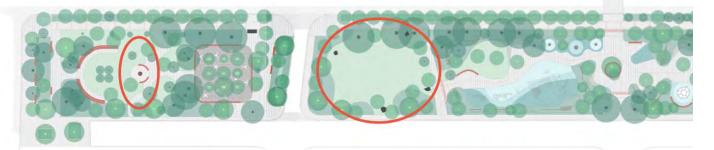




Storytelling Circle, Sacred Fire + Mound – Ojiig Constellation







Ojiig constellation relates to the story of when the birds and spring were held prisoner by the ogres. Of all the animals, it was only the fisher that was able to trick the ogres and free the birds. He saved everyone with his courage and wit... Fisher constellation mirrors the behaviour of the animal fisher. The Ojiig constellation is constantly moving around the North Celestial Pole day and night year after year.

From Ojibwe Sky Star Map Constellation Guide



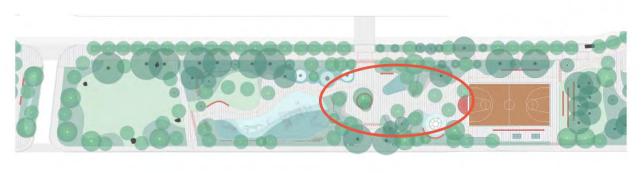




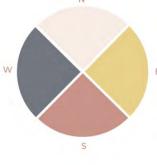
Patterns + Walkways















Phase 2 – Plan Components



A Connected Park and a Connected Neighbourhood

Block 2

Shared use Playground Lower Jarvis to George Street

Block 3

Wading Pool & Garden Gathering Space George St. to Frederick

Block 5

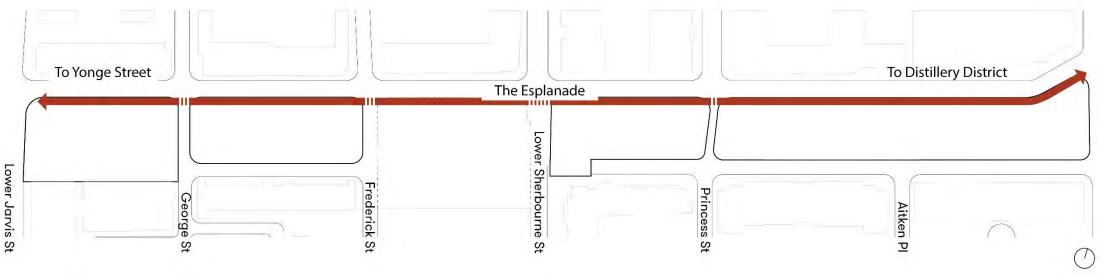
Sacred Fire, Lawn and Seating Grove Lower Sherbourne St. to Princess St.

Block 6a

The Mound & Shared Use Playground Princess St. to Hahn

Block 6b

Basketball Court & Water Feature Princess St. to Hahn





Preserving the promenade



A Connected Park and a Connected Neighbourhood

Block 2

Shared use Playground Lower Jarvis to George Street

Block 3

Wading Pool & Garden Gathering Space George St. to Frederick

Block 5

Sacred Fire, Lawn and Seating Grove Lower Sherbourne St. to Princess St.

Block 6a

The Mound & Shared Use Playground Princess St. to Hahn

Block 6b

Basketball Court & Water Feature Princess St. to Hahn





A Connected Park and a Connected Neighbourhood

Block 2

Shared use Playground Lower Jarvis to George Street

Block 3

Wading Pool & Garden Gathering Space George St. to Frederick

Block 5

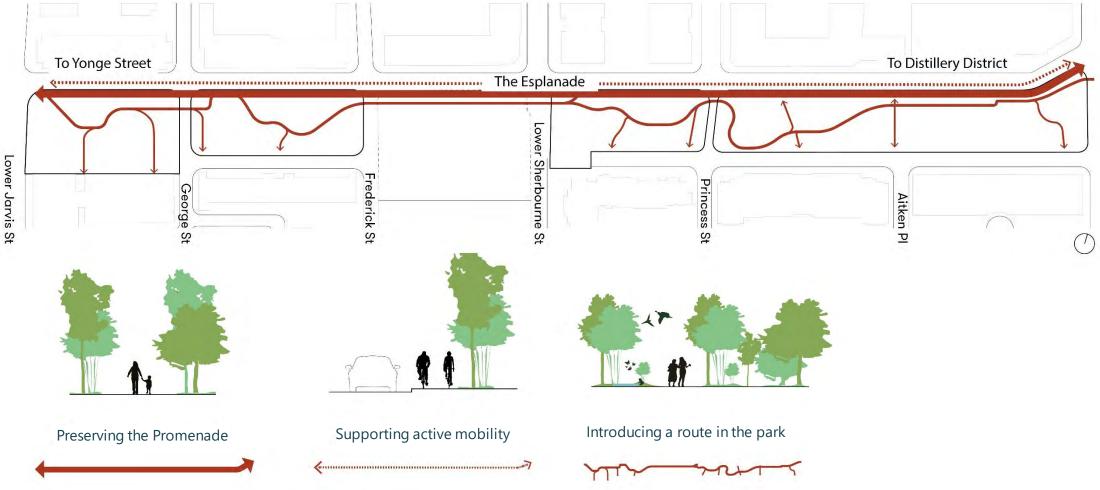
Sacred Fire, Lawn and Seating Grove Lower Sherbourne St. to Princess St.

Block 6a

The Mound & Shared Use Playground Princess St. to Hahn

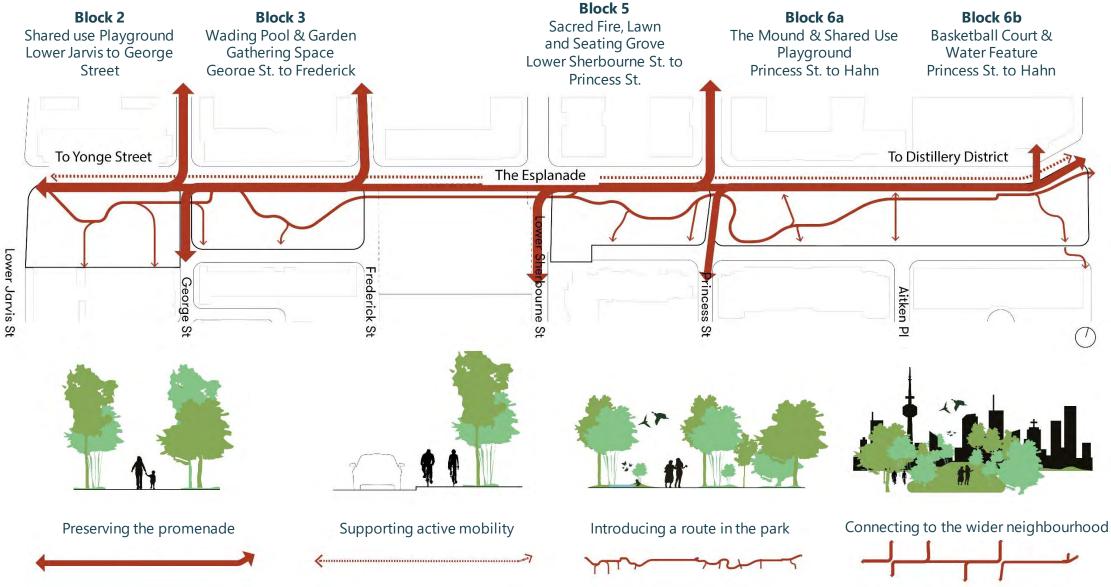
Block 6b

Basketball Court & Water Feature Princess St. to Hahn





Connecting to the Wider Neighbourhood





Preserved Elements: Material Identity

Block 2

Shared use Playground Lower Jarvis to George Street

Block 3

Wading Pool & Garden Gathering Space George St. to Frederick

Block 5

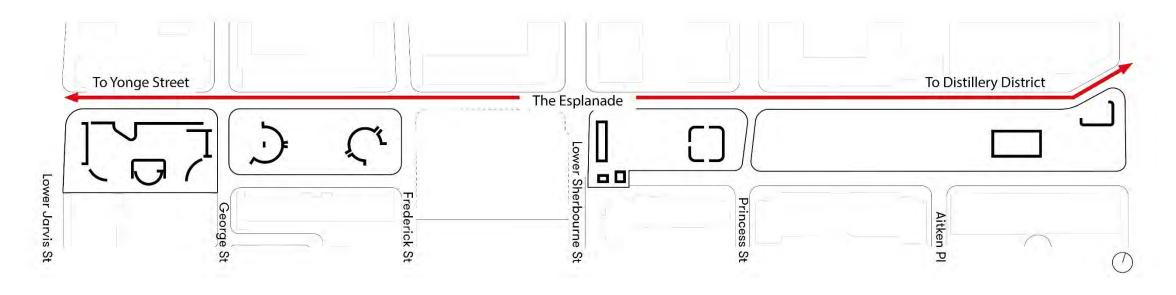
Sacred Fire, Lawn and Seating Grove Lower Sherbourne St. to Princess St.

Block 6a

The Mound & Shared Use Playground Princess St. to Hahn

Block 6b

Basketball Court & Water Feature Princess St. to Hahn



Retained Concrete Walls



Concrete Planters



David Crombie Arch



Retaining Walls



Sports Court



Preserved Elements: Healthy Trees

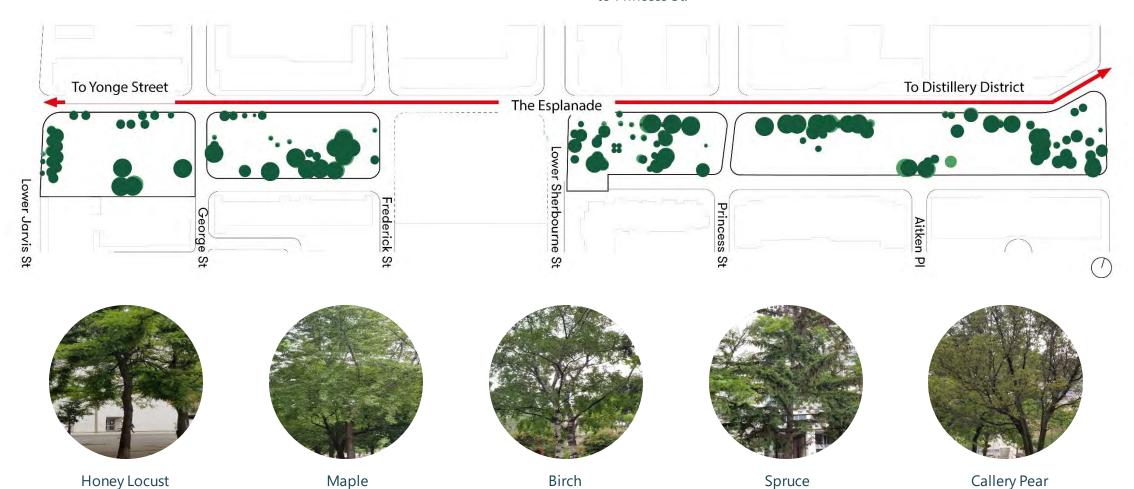
Block 2
Shared use Playground
Lower Jarvis to George
Street

Block 3Wading Pool & Garden
Gathering Space
George St. to Frederick

Block 5
Sacred Fire, Lawn and
Seating Grove
Lower Sherbourne St.
to Princess St.

Block 6aThe Mound & Shared Use
Playground
Princess St. to Hahn

Block 6b
Basketball Court &
Water Feature
Princess St. to Hahn





Establishing Habitats for Local Species

Eastern ChipmunkDense canopy shrubs
and bushes

Black Capped Chickadee Inside tree cracks of broadleaf and coniferous









Brown-belted BumblebeeMilkweeds, thistles, and nests underground

Northern Cardinal Dense canopy shrubs and bushes







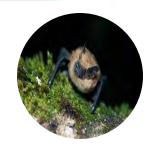
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Tulip tree is a host plant







Downy WoodpeckerTall trees with straight stems



Big Brown BatUses tree lanes for navigation



Red-breasted Nuthatch Coniferous trees

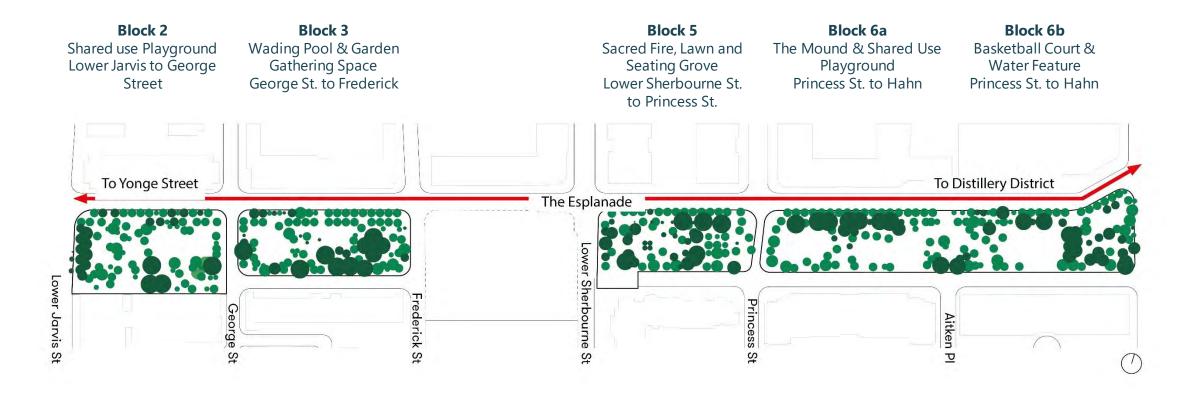


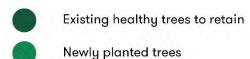
Introducing Four Planting Zones

Block 2 Block 3 Block 5 Block 6a Block 6b The Mound & Shared Use Basketball Court & Shared use Playground Wading Pool & Garden Sacred Fire, Lawn and Lower Jarvis to George **Gathering Space Seating Grove** Playground Water Feature Street George St. to Frederick Lower Sherbourne St. Princess St. to Hahn Princess St. to Hahn to Princess St. To Distillery District To Yonge Street The Esplanade Lower Sherbourne St Lower Jarvis Frederick St **Character Planting** Edge Zones (Salt tolerant) Open Spaces (Plazas) Open Spaces (Lawns)



A Revitalized Lush and Biodiverse Park







Celebrating a Variety of Programs

Block 2

Shared use Playground Lower Jarvis to George Street

Block 3

Wading Pool & Garden Gathering Space George St. to Frederick

Block 5

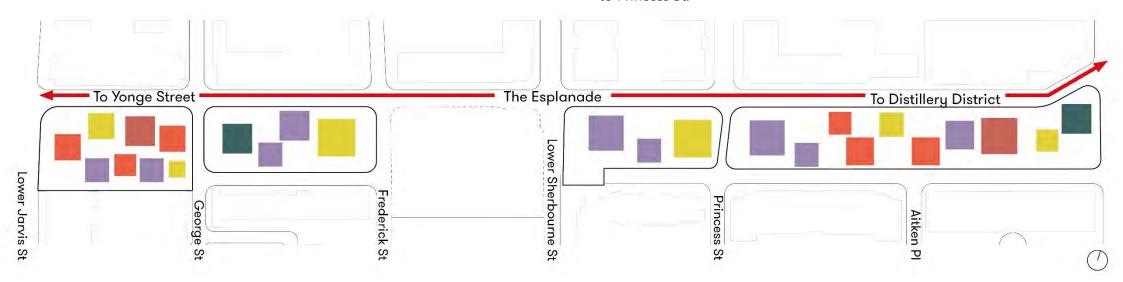
Sacred Fire, Lawn and Seating Grove Lower Sherbourne St. to Princess St.

Block 6a

The Mound & Shared Use Playground Princess St. to Hahn

Block 6b

Basketball Court & Water Feature Princess St. to Hahn





Improving play areas



Securing space for sport and fitness



Gathering



Space dedicated to performance and leisure



Support presence of water



Final Concept Plan – Phase 2

Block 2

Shared use Playground Lower Jarvis to George Street

Block 3

Wading Pool & Garden Gathering Space George St. to Frederick

Block 5

Sacred Fire, Lawn and Seating Grove Lower Sherbourne St. to Princess St.

Block 6a

The Mound & Shared Use Playground Princess St. to Hahn

Block 6b

Basketball Court & Water Feature Princess St. to Hahn





Block 2 – Shared Use Playground

Lower Jarvis to George Street

Programming





Playground



Multi-sports Court





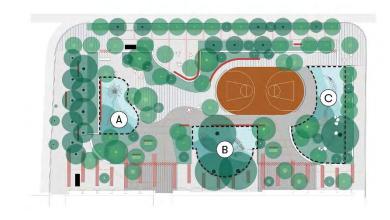
Block 2 – Space for Play





Block 2 – Space for Play

With shoreline theme and Indigenous Placekeeping Element





Playground A Senior Play (Age 5-12)



Playground B Junior Play (Age 8 mos. to 5)



Playground C Senior Play (Age 5-12)



Block 2 – Lunch Break in the Park





Block 3 – Wading Pool & Garden Gather Space

George St to Frederick St

Programming



Revitalized Wading Pool

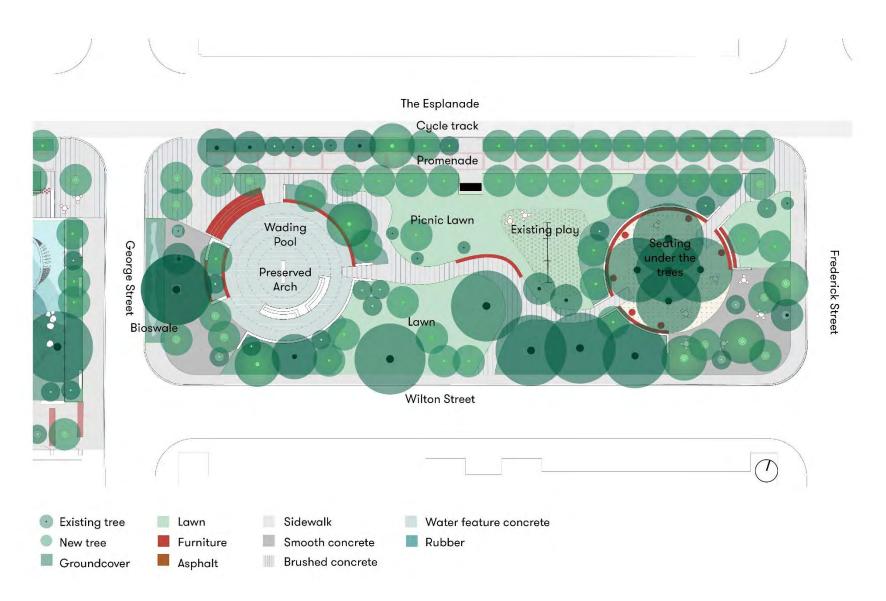


Seating Underneath the Trees



Picnic Lawn

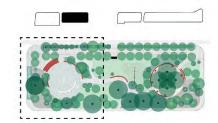




Block 3 – Wading Pool

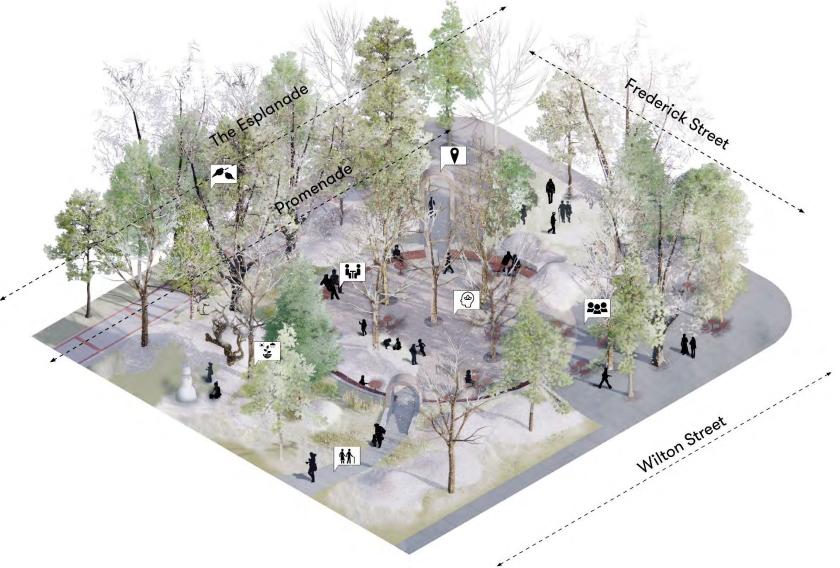
George St to Frederick St – West Side





Block 3 – Garden Gathering Space

George St to Frederick St – East Side





Block 3 – A Summer Afternoon at the Wading Pool







Block 5 – Story Circle and Seating Grove

Programming



Activity Lawn

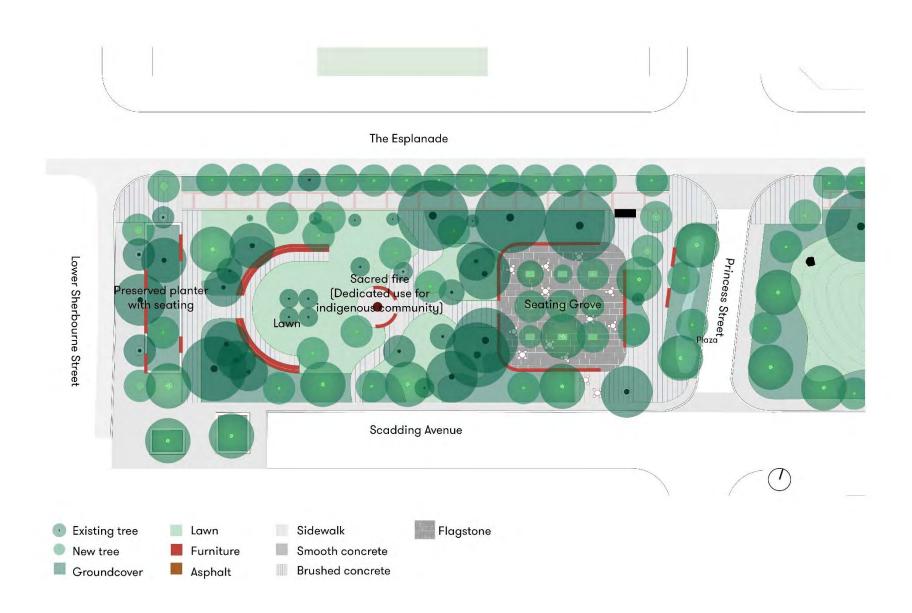


Seating in Nature



Community Gathering





Block 5 – Story Circle and Seating Grove



Block 5 – Seating Grove Plaza (with repurposed flagstone paving)





Block 6a – The Mound & Shared Use Playground

Programming



Mound



Playground



Playground





Block 6a – Shared Use Playground



Block 6 – After School Hang-out





Block 6b – Basketball Court & Water Feature

Programming



Play

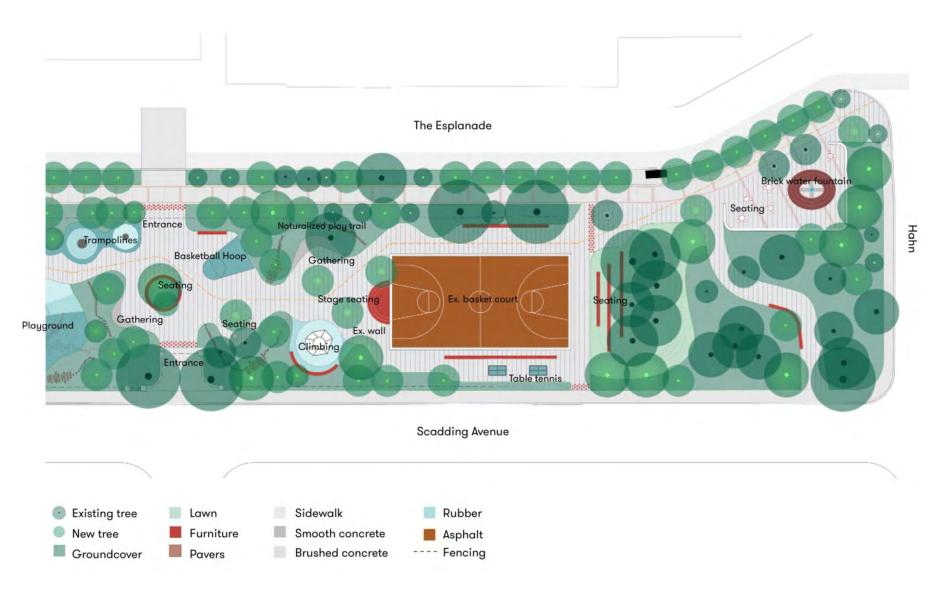


Social Gathering



Naturalized Play Trail





Block 6b – Trampolines

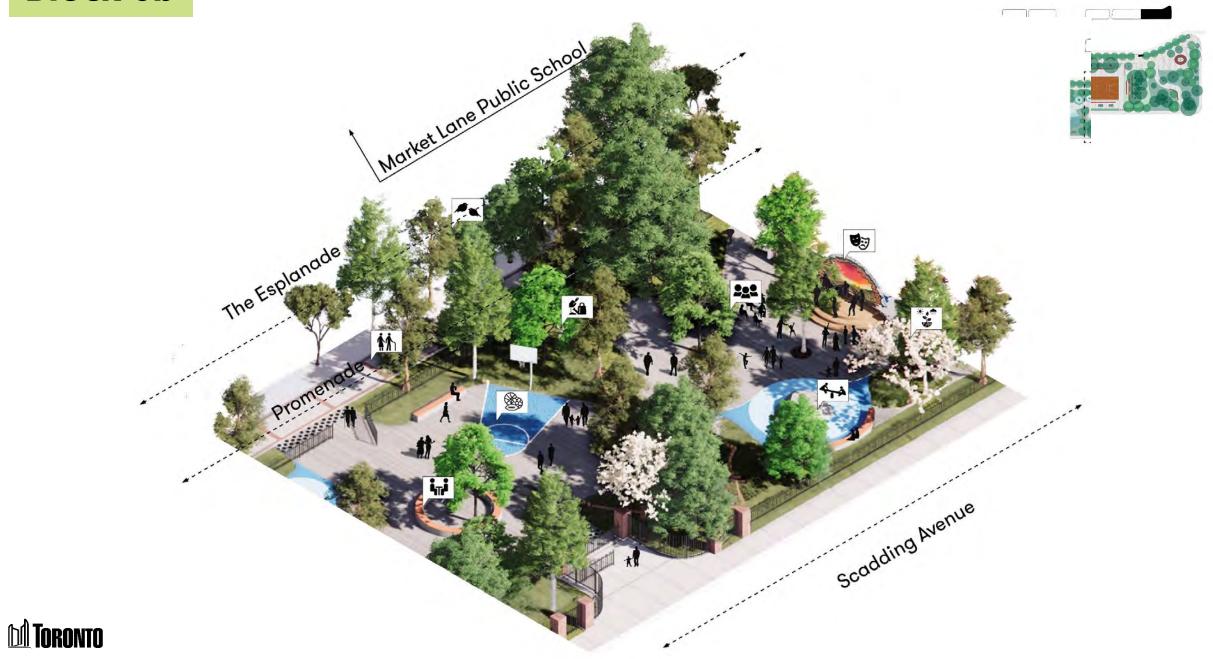




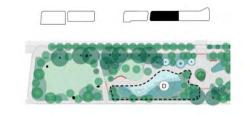




Block 6b



Block 6 – Space for Play





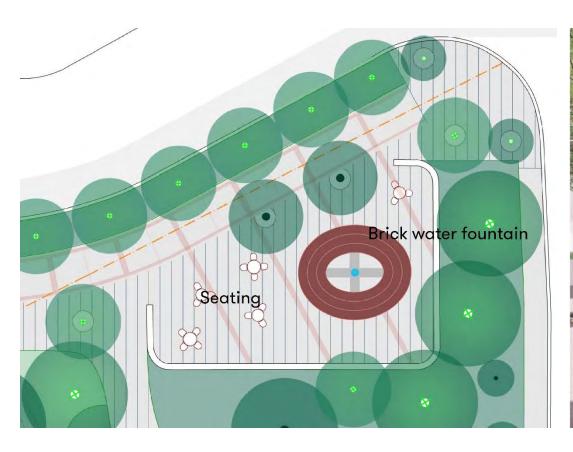






Block 6 – Revitalized Water Feature









Lighting, Surface Materials & Furniture



Rationale

Increased Lighting Levels

Material Identity

Reduced Carbon Footprint Simplicity in Lighting Elements



Paving Material Palette

Preserved and Relocated

Concrete



Brushed ConcretePrimary Pathway

Flagstone



FlagstoneBlock 5 – Stone Square





Concrete Red Pavers
Details Throughout

Flexible Surfaces



Asphalt Block 2, 6 Sport Court

New and Transformed



Smooth Concrete Secondary Pathway and Sidewalk



GravelBlock 3 – Honeylocust
Garden



Clay BricksBlock 6 – Water Feature



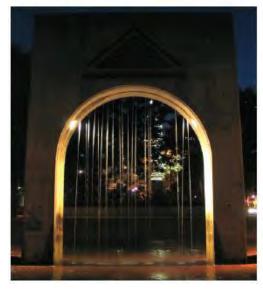
Resilient Rubber Play Surface Block 2, 6 - Playground



Lighting Strategy

Enhance





Heritage Elements

Unite



Structural elements will replace bollards, sports light and light poles

Revitalize



Historical Retrofit



Furniture Strategy

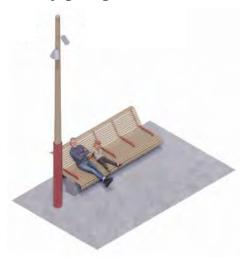
Implementing comfort and **David Crombie Park bench** 1 Existing Concrete Wall accessibility Woodden seat and backrest on steel structure Existing concrete wall Existing concrete Foundations Retaining existing Responding to a need for Strenghtening the identity of David Crombie Park universally accessible, structures

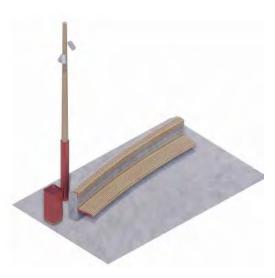
flexible and varied urban furniture



Furniture Family

Sky-gazing bench





Bench on tall walls

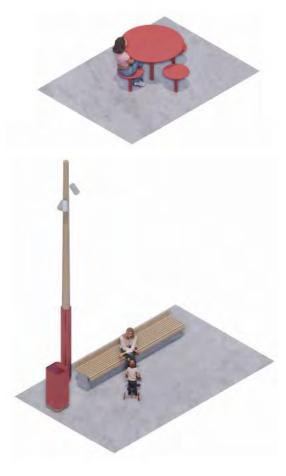
Wood cover on planter edge





Bench with backrest

Bench without backrest



Bench without backrest

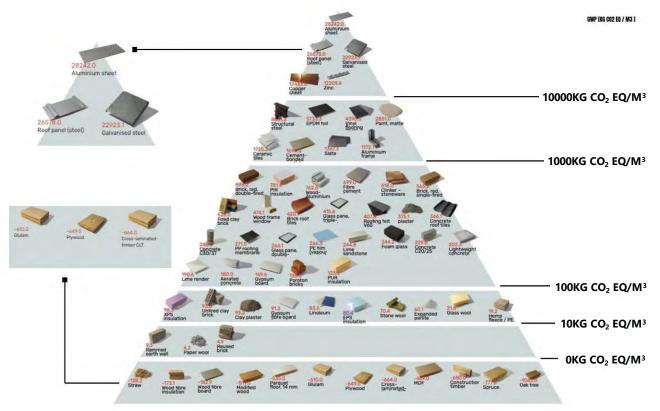


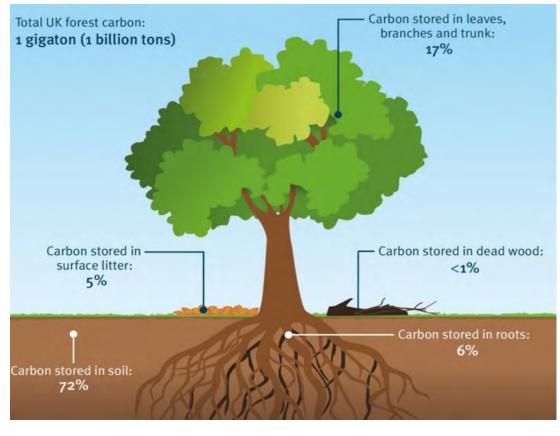
Carbon Neutrality



Sustainable Park Design

Carbon Footprint: Materials vs Trees





EMBODIED CARBON FOOTPRINT



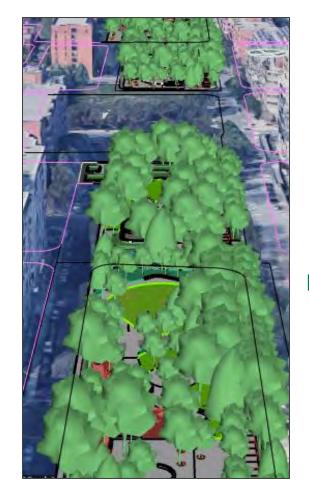
CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL CARBON FOOTPRINT



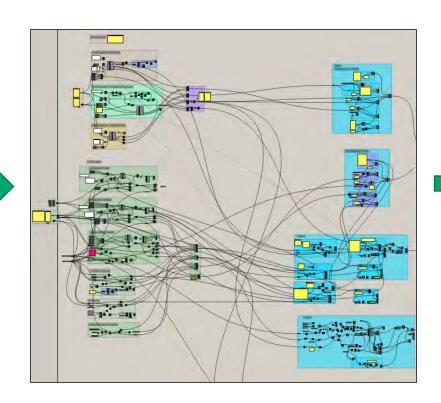
CARBON OFFSET FROM PLANT SEQUESTRATION



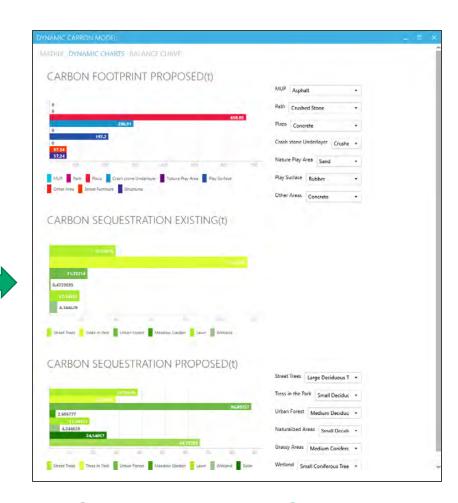
Dynamic Carbon Model - Measurement Tool



1. BUILD 3D MODEL



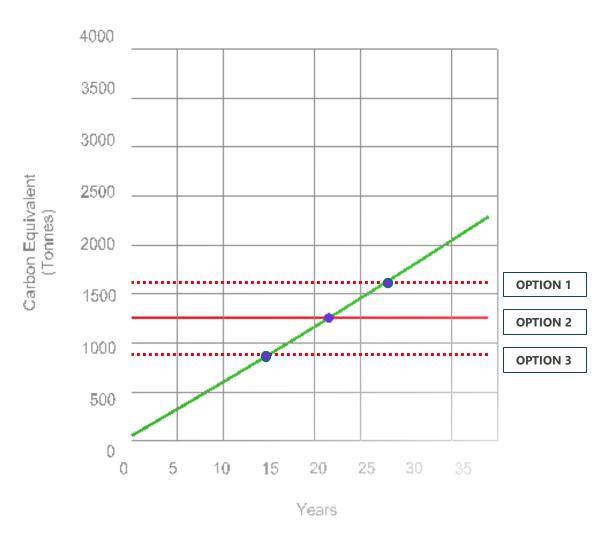
2. RUN DYNAMIC CARBON MODEL



3. ANALYZE DATA OUTPUT



Reducing Carbon Footprint for David Crombie Park





OPTION 1: REBUILD

PARK FULLY RECONSTRUCTED USING ALL NEW MATERIALS

CARBON NEUTRAL IN 28 YEARS



OPTION 2: PRESERVE & REVITALIZE

EXISTING PARK WALLS / STRUCTURES PRESERVED & RESTORED (PRESENTED CONCEPT)

CARBON NEUTRAL IN 21 YEARS

SAVES 385 TONS OF CARBON COMPARED TO OPTION 1



OPTION 3: PRESERVE, REVITALIZE + LOW CARBON CONCRETE

EXISTING PARK WALLS / STRUCTURES PRESERVED & RESTORED (PRESENTED CONCEPT USING LOW CARBON CONCRETE)

CARBON NEUTRAL IN 15 YEARS

SAVES 484 TONS OF CARBON COMPARED TO OPTION 2



Streetscape Improvements including Cycle Track













Esplanade Cycling Improvements





Esplanade Cycling Improvements

The Esplanade and Mill Street provide connections to key destinations like the St. Lawrence Market, Distillery District, Corktown Common, and David Crombie Park. Parliament Square Park is also a vital pedestrian connection between the two streets.

The City of Toronto is changing the way people move through and experience The Esplanade and Mill Street by focusing on the following goals:

- 1. Improve safety for everyone
- 2. Make walking, cycling and taking transit more attractive
- 3. Maintain access to local and citywide destinations





Esplanade Cycling Improvements

The City has been engaging with stakeholders and residents about improving cycling infrastructure along The Esplanade since January 2021. The first 2 Phases of the project were implemented in 2022.

As part of Phase 3, the following cycling improvements are proposed along The Esplanade between **Jarvis Street and Hahn Place / Berkeley Street:**

- Raising the cycle track to sidewalk level
- Reconfiguring intersections to incorporate raised crossings and protected intersection features
- Adding a new short segment of cycle track along Jarvis Street south of The Esplanade (see next)

The project will also involve reviewing the feasibility of pedestrian and cycling improvements along The Esplanade from Jarvis Street to Market Street.

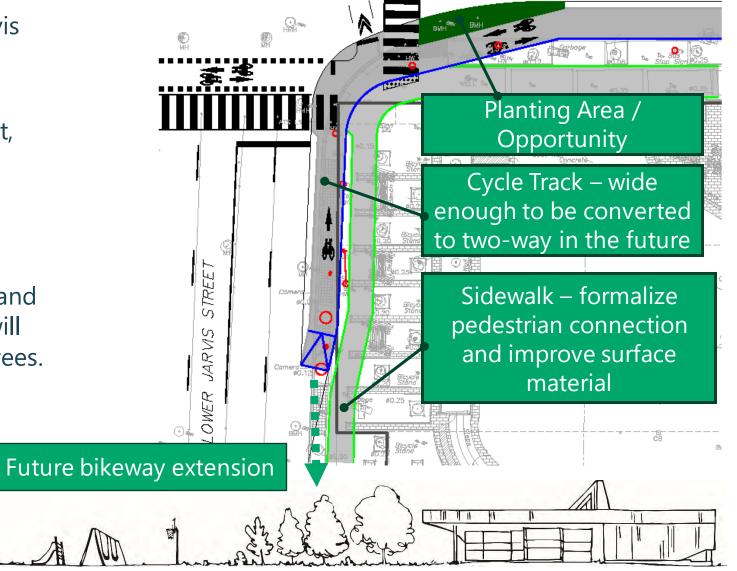






Esplanade Cycling Improvements: Lower Jarvis Cycling Connection

- A new short section of cycle track is proposed on the east side of Lower Jarvis Street, south of The Esplanade
- This section is ultimately intended to connect further south along Jarvis Street, down to Sugar Beach. However, this will require additional feasibility work and future study.
- The introduction of the new cycle track would require changes to the sidewalk and may impact up to 4 trees. Every effort will be made to retain and enhance street trees.





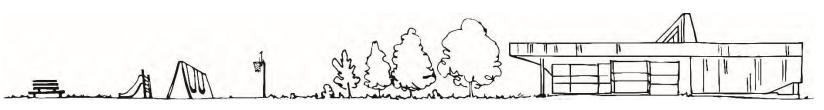
Roadway Narrowing – George Street and Princess Street

As part of the David Crombie Park improvements, there is a desire to extend the park through George Street and Princess Street by narrowing the roadway along these streets.

This change would provide a stronger visual connection between park blocks, improve pedestrian safety and comfort by reducing crossing distances, and provide planting / green infrastructure opportunities.







Roadway Narrowing – George Street



Along George Street, the City is:

- Exploring options to remove and formalize the existing painted curb extension with new curbs and a planting area. There would be no reduction in parking as a result of this change
- Reviewing the feasibility of raising the contraflow cycle track through the intersection (not pictured)





Roadway Narrowing – Princess Street



Along Princess Street, the City is exploring options to extend the curbs into the roadway to narrow the street. This would require removing the existing 4 parking spaces. There are currently 191 parking spaces within the "6K Area" (shown below), with 113 permits issued.







Questions of Clarification













Breakout Stations











