

# Local Indigenous Community Meeting: Options and Directions for North York Centre

April 2, 2025



# Land Acknowledgement



We acknowledge that North York Centre is located on lands within the City of Toronto that are the traditional territory of the Anishnabeg, Haudenosaunee and Wendat peoples, and now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The lands in Toronto where North York Centre is located are covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

# African Ancestral Acknowledgement



The City of Toronto acknowledges all Treaty peoples – including those who came here as settlers – as migrants either in this generation or in generations past - and those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. We pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent.

# Traditional Opening



# Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions (10 minutes)
2. Project Background (10 minutes)
  - What We Heard from the Indigenous Community in Phase 1
3. Options Development and Evaluation (14 minutes)
  - Visioning Framework
  - Options and Evaluation
  - Emerging Preferred Option
    - Policy Direction Highlights (based on what we heard)
4. Discussion (35 minutes)
5. How to Stay Involved
6. Traditional Closing (5 minutes)

# Objectives

- To review how Phase 1 input was incorporated into the study.
- To review the Options, Evaluation and Emerging Preferred Option.
- To listen to your feedback.



## Tips for Virtual Engagement



**All participants are muted.**

If you would like to speak, **raise your hand** and the Project Team will unmute you.

If you are joining by cell-phone, you can **raise your hand** by clicking **\*6**.



**Computer audio issues or joining by phone? Use your cell-phone for audio by calling **+1 647 374 4685****

Meeting ID: **845 5304 5532**

Passcode: **498099**

# Tips for Virtual Engagement



Discussion not  
debate



Conversation &  
participation



Be open-minded



Use your  
authentic voice



Challenge ideas,  
not people



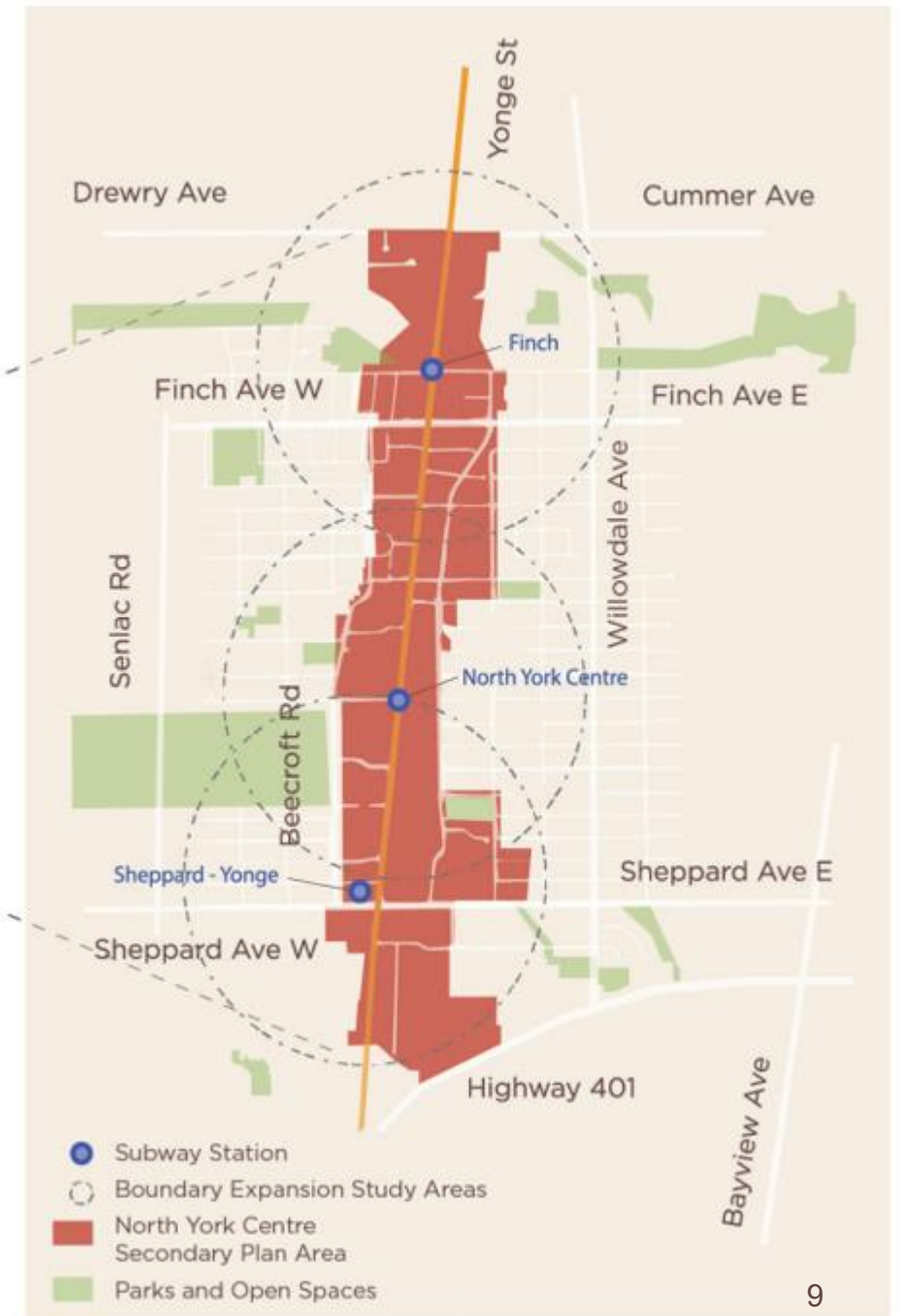
Ensure comments  
seek to address  
the topic

# Project Background



# About North York at the Centre

North York at the Centre is a **review of the North York Centre Secondary Plan** to refresh the vision and planning framework guiding growth and investment in the community.

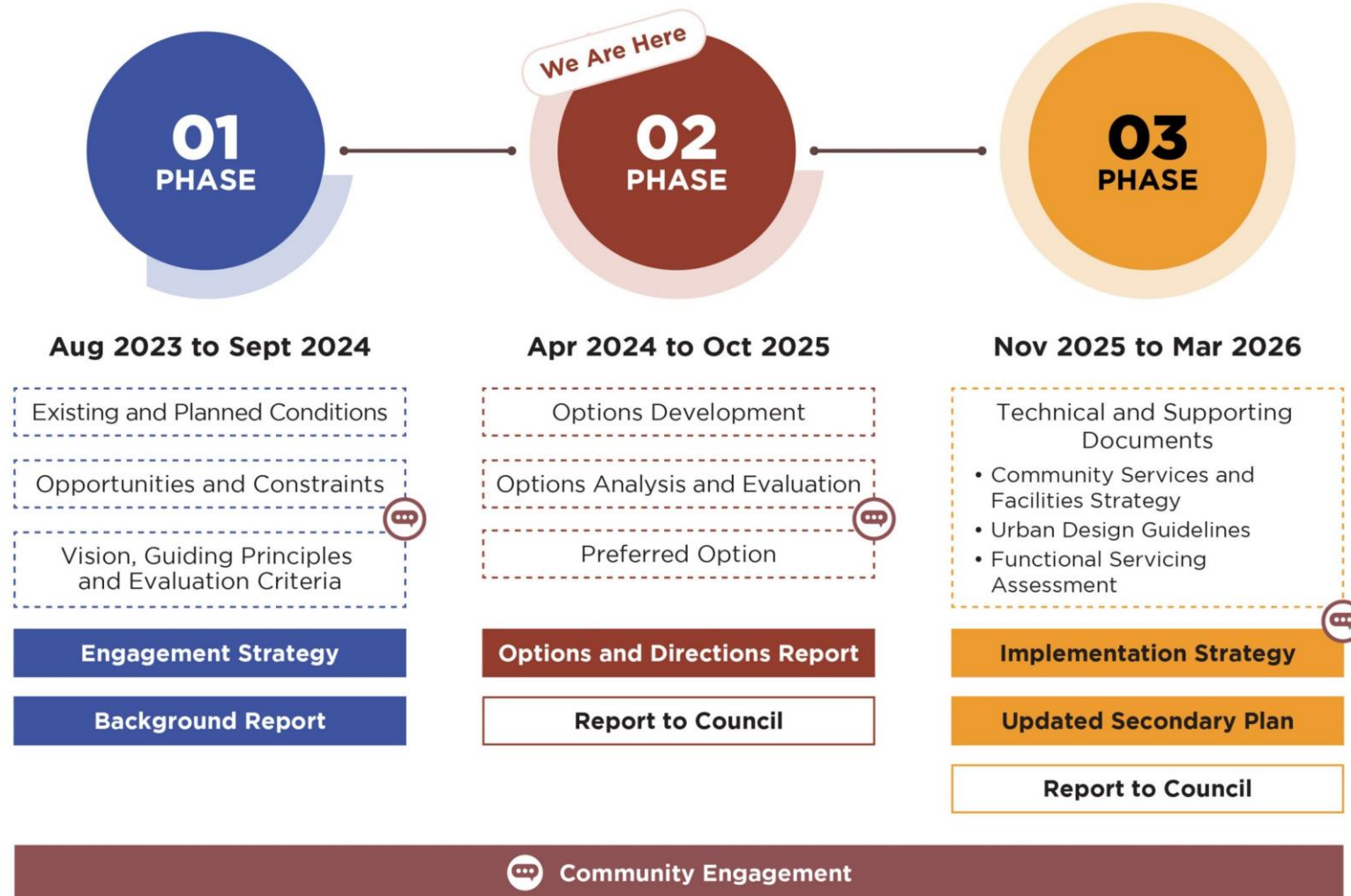


# Project Components





# Project Schedule



Timelines subject to change.

# Phase 1 Engagement

- Introductory meetings with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River (February 2024)
- Presentation to introduce the project to Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC) (January 2024); follow-up meeting March, 2025
- Local Indigenous Community Meeting (May 2024)



*Design workshop with Pheasant Rump (Nakota) First Nation.*

# What We Heard from the Local Indigenous Community

- Indigenous History, Culture and Practices:
  - Friendship Centre
  - Indigenous Placekeeping
- Community needs:
  - Affordable Housing, Healthcare, Employment, Language/Education
  - Parks and Open Spaces
- Collaboration:
  - Consider All Voices
  - Toronto Reconciliation Action Plan
- Sustainability
- Future Generations



# Phase 1 Reports

- ✓ Phase 1 Engagement Summary
- ✓ Phase 1 Background Report
- ✓ Community Services & Facilities Background Report
- ✓ Servicing Background Report
- ✓ Non-Residential Current Conditions and Projections Report

View the reports at  
[toronto.ca/nycentre](https://toronto.ca/nycentre)

*Note: Phase 2 Options and Directions Report will be released in April 2025.*





# Options Development and Evaluation

# Visioning Framework

## Overarching Lenses

Articulate values for the community that should be reflected through all Guiding Principles and options.



Equity & Inclusion



Truth & Reconciliation



Action on Climate Change



## Guiding Principles

Reflect aspirations for the next stage of the Centre's growth.



Grow a Complete Community



Reinforce the Centre as a Vibrant Hub for Work, Arts and Culture



Green the Centre



Build Connectivity



Design Places for People



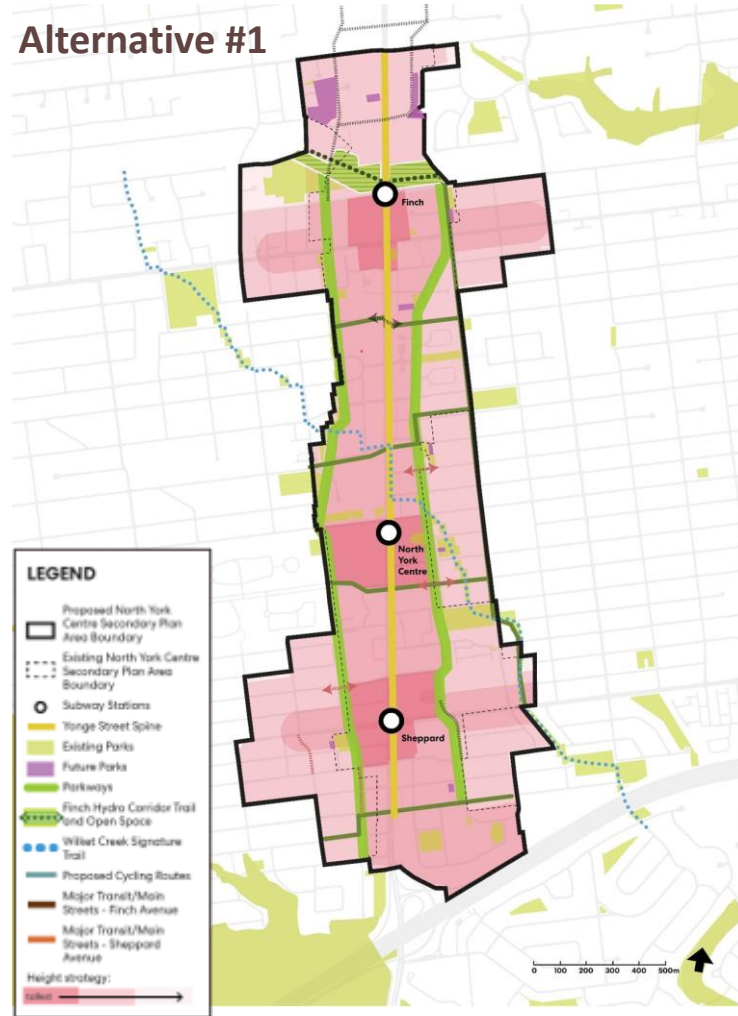
## Evaluation Criteria

# Options

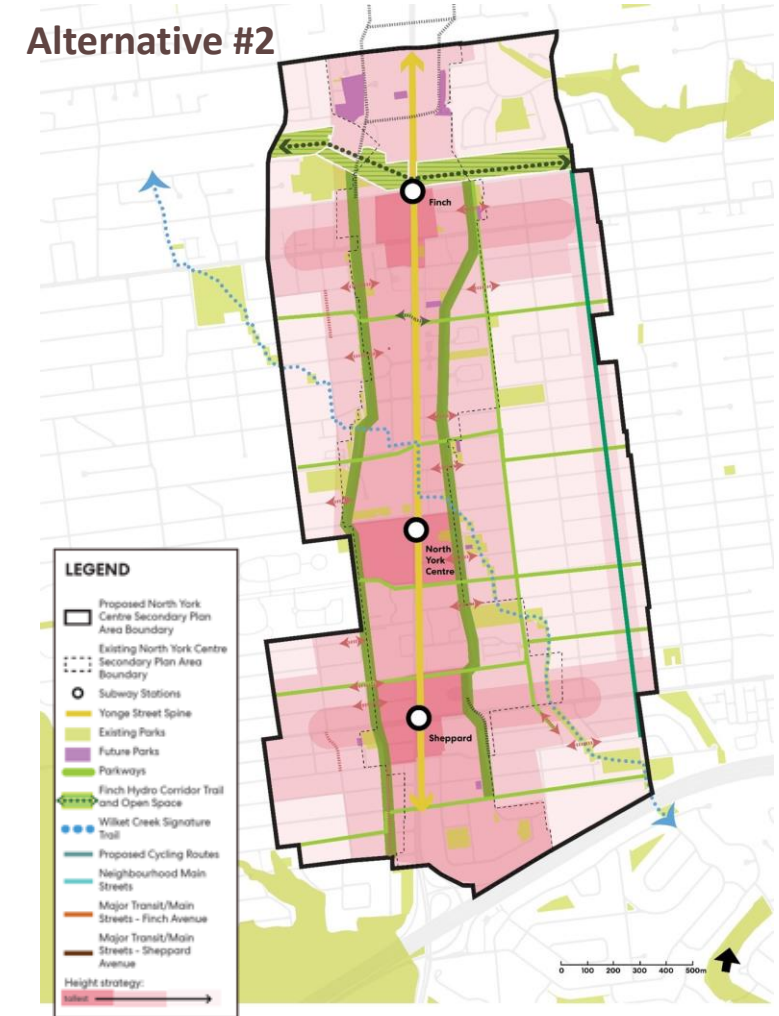
## Business as Usual



## Alternative #1



## Alternative #2

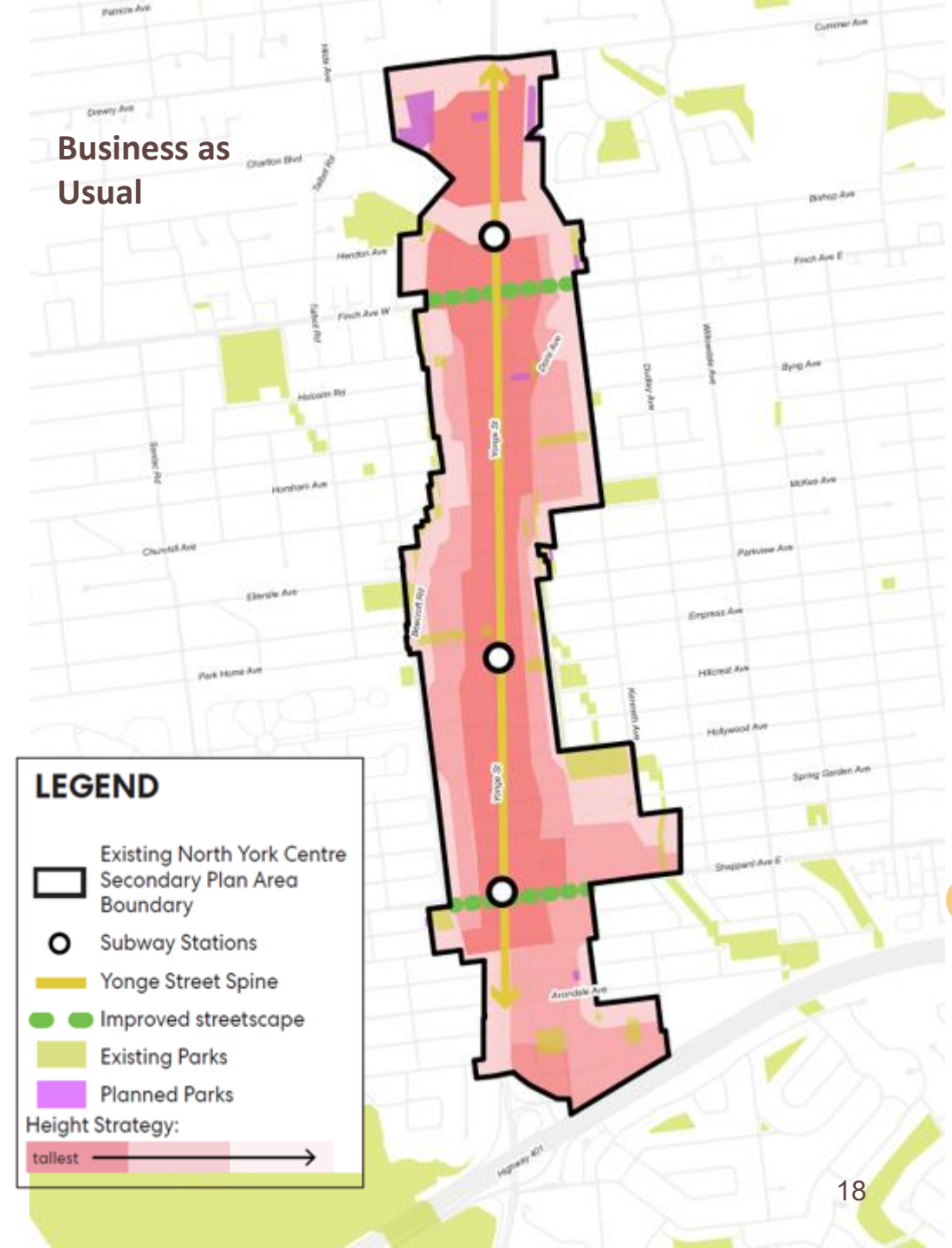


Alternatives presented are for discussion purposes and are subject to feasibility analysis, public consultation, and Council approval.

# Business as Usual

- Applies the existing policy framework as a baseline or “do nothing” scenario
- Maintains the Secondary Plan area boundary and existing land use and density permissions
- Assumes new parks and mobility and public realm investments that are already planned
- Not considered a viable alternative as the OLT has determined it is not consistent with provincial policy

Alternatives presented are for discussion purposes and are subject to feasibility analysis, public consultation, and Council approval.

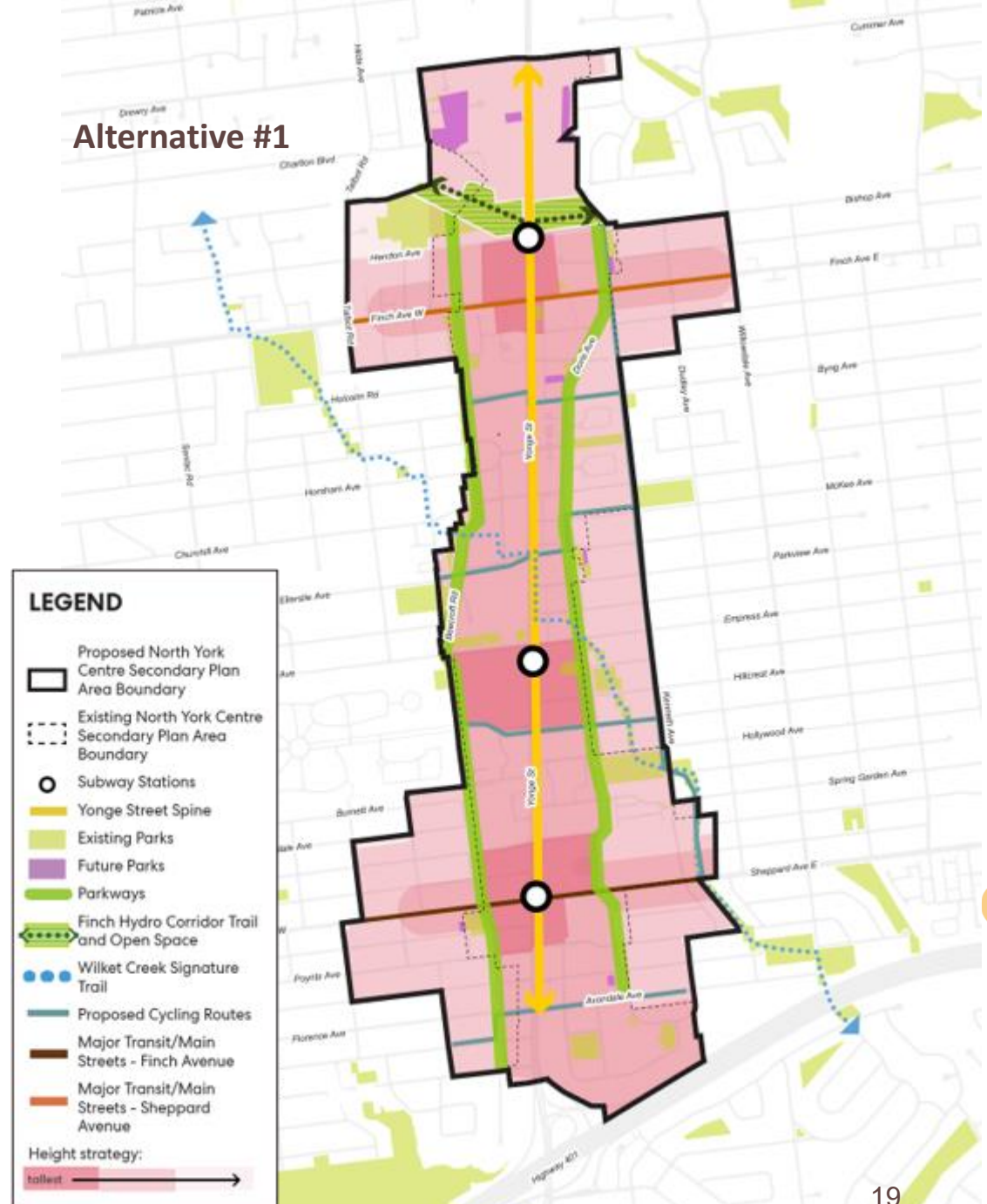




## Alternative #1:

- Boundary expansion aligns with the three Major Transit Station Areas (MTSAs) in the Centre to optimize density near transit
- Heights and densities are increased above current permissions to reflect recent development approvals
- Includes parks, public realm and mobility improvements focused on greening, safety for all, and improving east-west connections

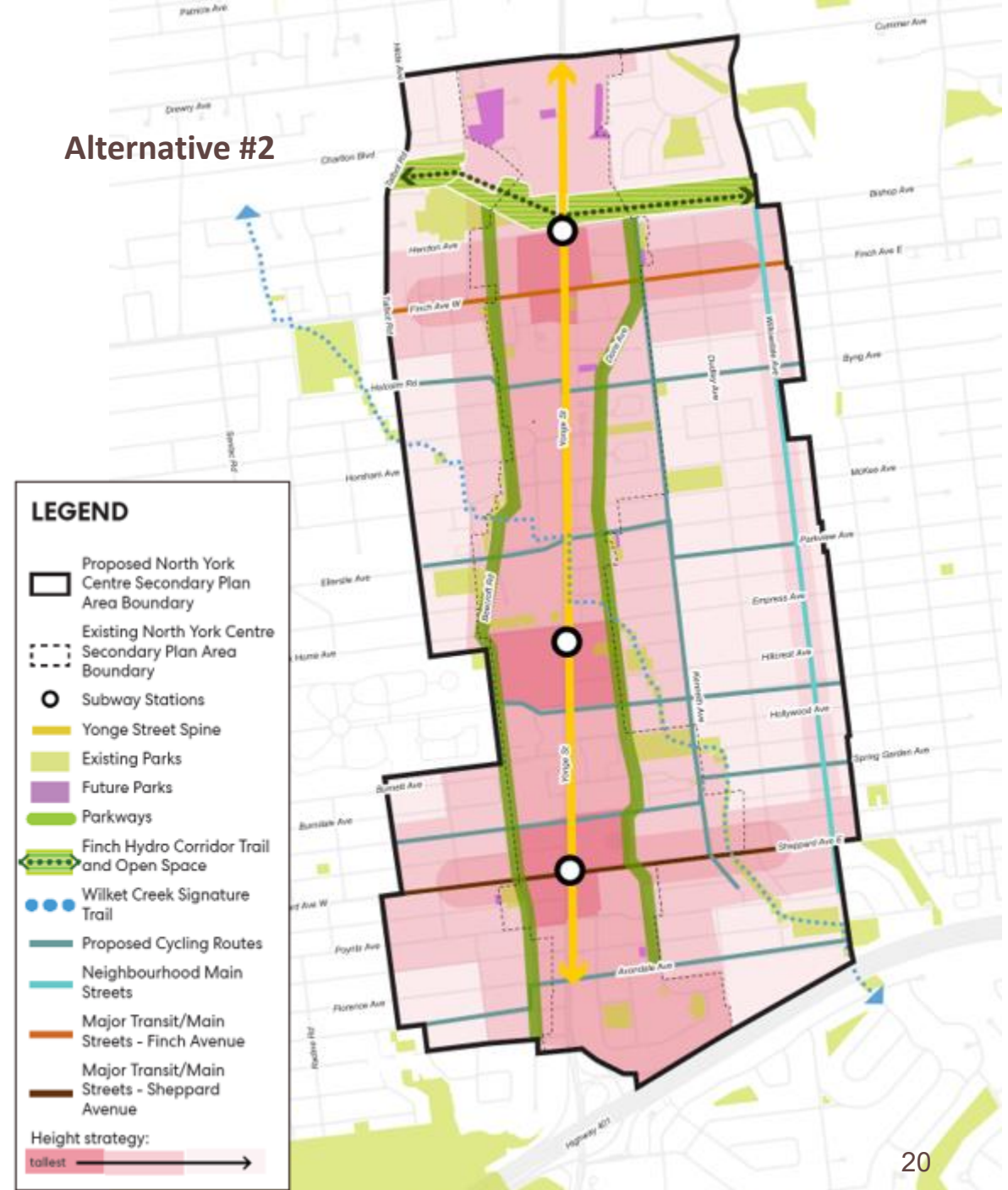
Alternatives presented are for discussion purposes and are subject to feasibility analysis, public consultation, and Council approval.



## Alternative #2:

- Boundary expands further east to Willowdale Avenue to allow a transition in heights and more housing options
- Heights and density increased above both the BAU and Alt 1 to reflect permitted heights in other *Centres*
- Includes redesignating large areas of *Neighbourhoods* to *Mixed Use Areas*
- Extends parks, public realm and mobility improvements across the community

Alternatives presented are for discussion purposes and are subject to feasibility analysis, public consultation, and Council approval.





# Evaluation Summary

	Business as Usual	Alternative #1	Alternative #2
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office GFA and jobs</li> <li>• Sunlight</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New housing units</li> <li>• Office GFA and jobs</li> <li>• Connectivity of parks</li> <li>• Multi-modal mobility and safety</li> <li>• Built form transition</li> <li>• Retail GFA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New housing units</li> <li>• Office GFA and jobs</li> <li>• Potential for new parkland and connectivity of parks</li> <li>• Multi-modal mobility and safety</li> <li>• Wind conditions</li> <li>• Built form transition</li> <li>• Mix of building types</li> <li>• Retail GFA and diversity</li> </ul>
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New housing units</li> <li>• Potential for new parkland and connectivity of parks</li> <li>• Multi-modal mobility and safety</li> <li>• Wind conditions</li> <li>• Retail GFA and diversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for new parkland</li> <li>• Mix of building types</li> <li>• Retail diversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale of population growth</li> <li>• Sunlight</li> <li>• Tree canopy cover</li> <li>• Green infrastructure</li> </ul>

# Emerging Preferred Option

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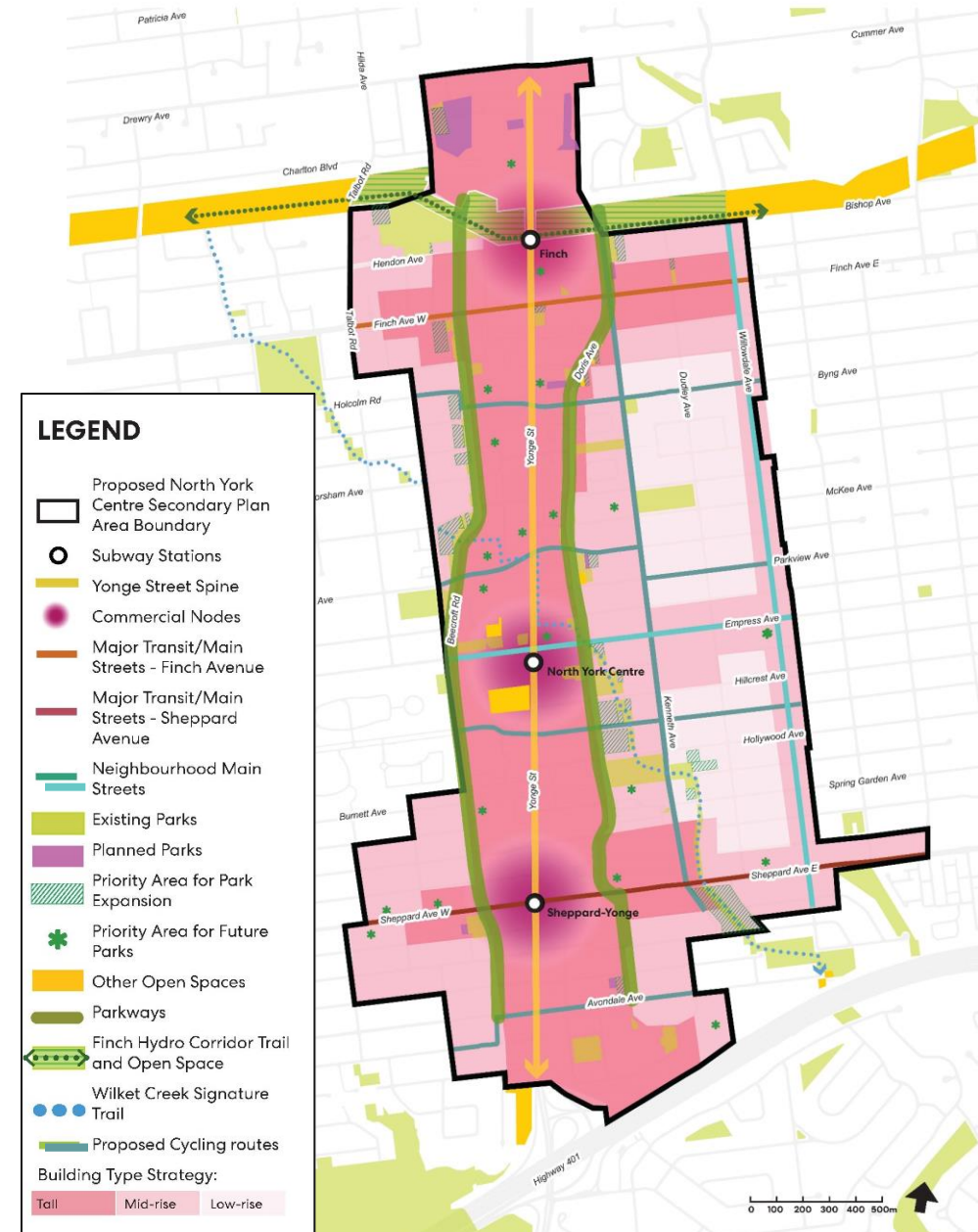
The Emerging Preferred Option sets a foundation for the next stage of North York Centre's evolution as a complete community and regional hub for the northern part of the city.

The Emerging Preferred Option focuses on:

- protecting and expanding the existing mix of uses,
- prioritizing affordable housing and partnerships with Indigenous housing providers,
- Expanding the parkland system, greening the public realm and promoting biodiversity, and
- Recognizing Indigenous cultures and history through placekeeping.

## Emerging Preferred Option

### STRUCTURE



# Emerging Preferred Option – Highlights: Land Use

- Introduce **greater flexibility** for both new residential and non-residential uses, protecting and **growing the Centre's role as an employment hub.**
- Celebrate and cultivate the **range and diversity** of the **arts, cultural, retail, civic and institutional** uses that draw people to North York Centre.
- Identify additional or improved **community services and facilities** for existing and future residents.



Existing office towers



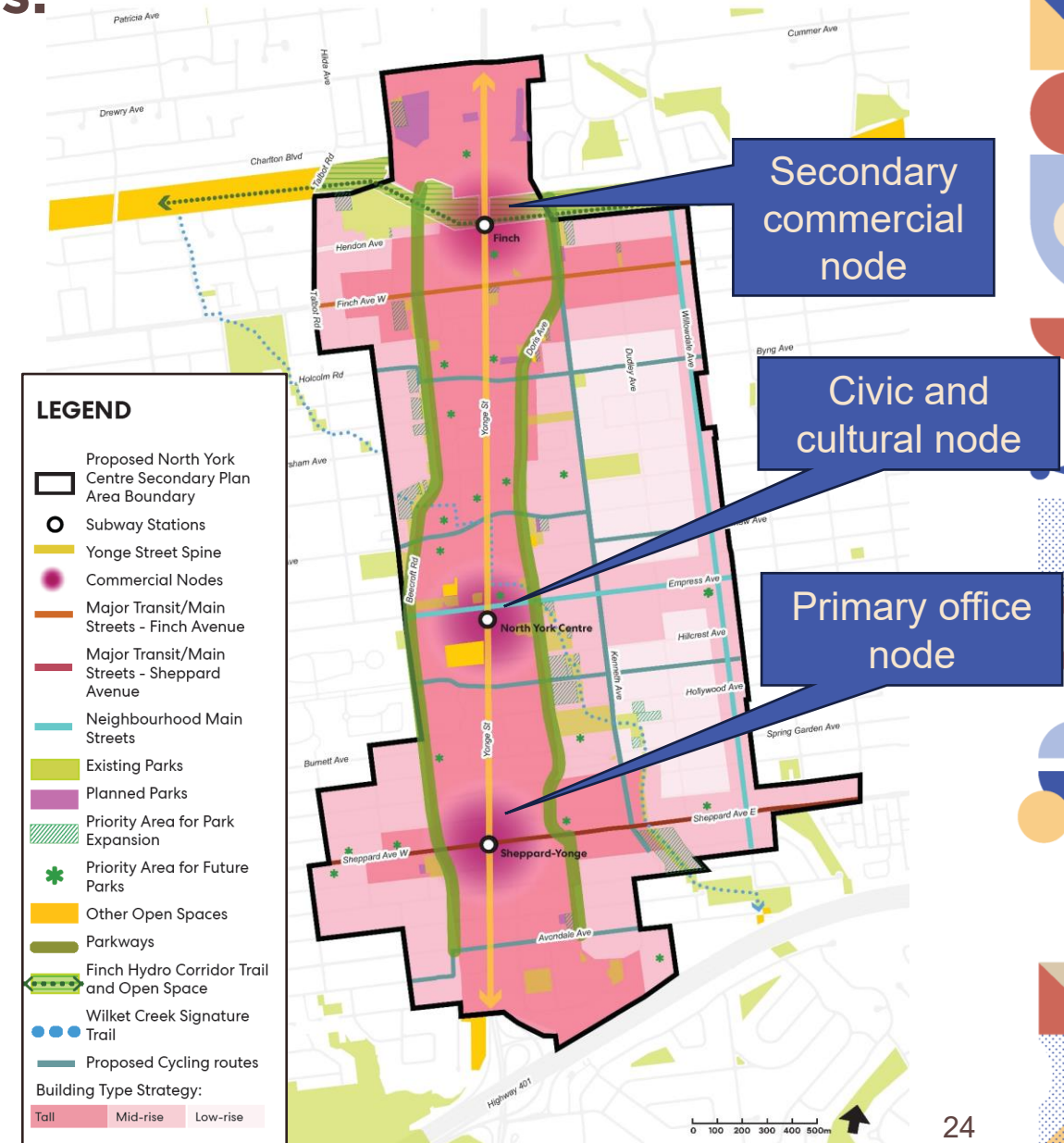
Mel Lastman Square



North York Central Library

## Emerging Preferred Option

### STRUCTURE





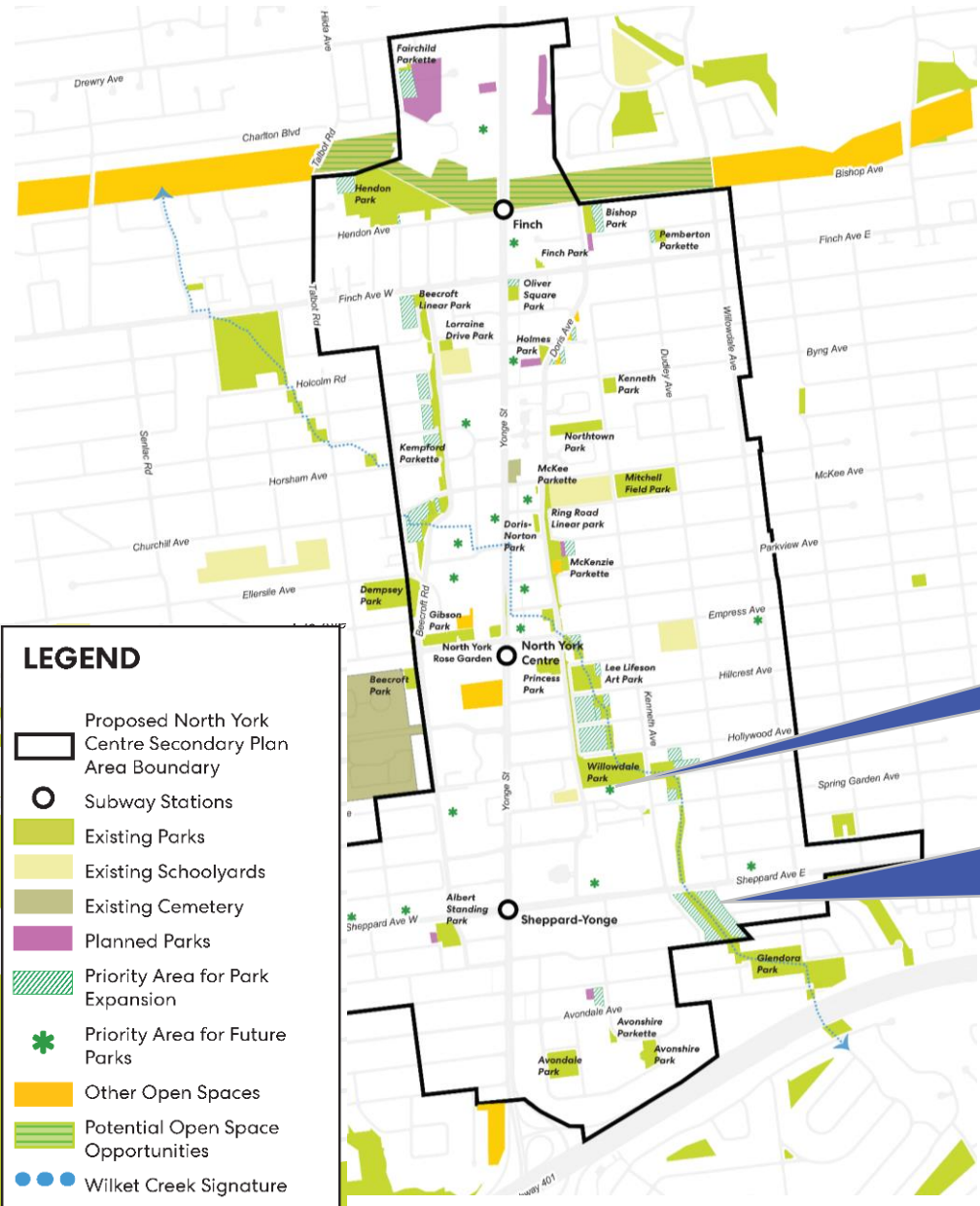
# Emerging Preferred Option – Proposed Policy Highlights: Housing

- *Development on City-owned land should prioritize affordable and/or supportive housing where appropriate, built through partnerships with non-profit housing providers, Indigenous housing providers, other orders of government, and the private sector.*
- *Explore opportunities for partnerships with Indigenous housing providers to build affordable and/or supportive housing for Indigenous peoples on “City-owned” sites, in collaboration with other orders of government.*



*Anishnawbe Health / Housing complex, Toronto  
(Credit: [condoinvestments.ca](http://condoinvestments.ca))*

# Emerging Preferred Option – Highlights: Parks and Open Spaces



**Priority areas for future parks:** These are areas where it would be beneficial to secure new parks to improve access to parkland

**Priority areas for park expansion:** These are areas adjacent to existing parkland that offer the opportunity to increase the functionality of a park by making it larger and better suited to hosting recreational facilities and events.



# Emerging Preferred Option – Proposed Policy Highlights: Parks and Open Spaces

- *Prioritize the expansion of existing parkland that improves visibility accessibility, connectivity, and programming opportunities.*
- *Establish new parkland that serve areas of parkland need and addresses walkability gaps.*
- *Work with other public organizations and partners to expand and better connect existing open spaces to the parkland network and ravine areas outside the Study Area.*



*Pow wow, Toronto Harbourfront  
(Credit: Gwen Lane)*

# Emerging Preferred Option – Highlights: Public Realm

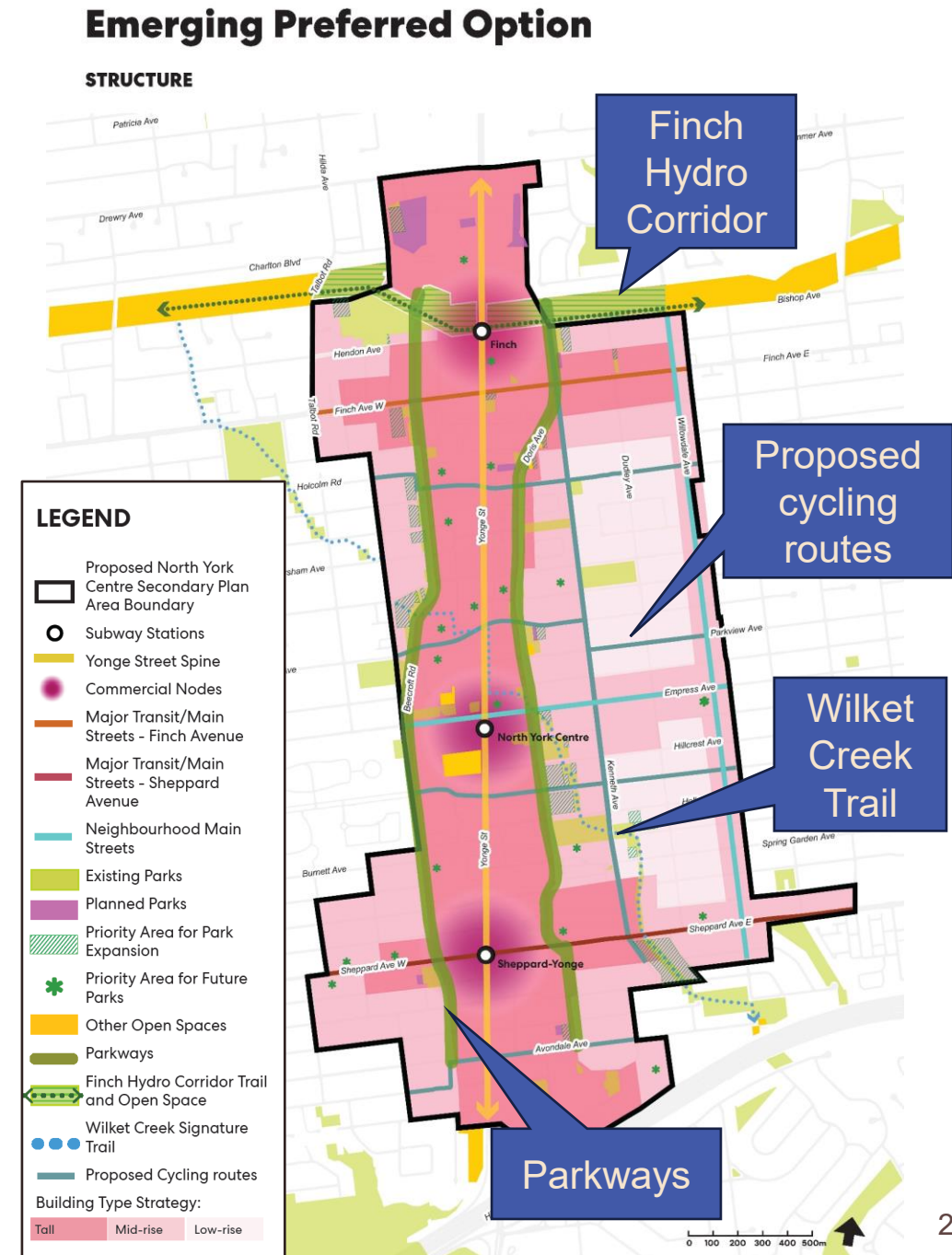
- Green the public realm and better connect the parks and open space network by creating **new linear “parkways”** along Doris Avenue and Beecroft Road and a **signature trail along Wilket Creek**.



Existing linear green space and window street along Doris Avenue



Example of a green linear park, Sheffield





# Emerging Preferred Option – Proposed Policy Directions: Indigenous Placekeeping

- *Indigenous cultures and histories will be recognized, celebrated and commemorated in parks and the public realm network in partnership with Indigenous communities through:*
  - *placekeeping, placemaking, public art, and naming initiatives;*
  - *protecting and creating safe spaces for Indigenous cultural and ceremonial practices;*
  - *providing opportunities for non-Indigenous people to learn of Indigenous culture and history.*
  - *Increasing Indigenous plantings, foods and medicines.*
  - *Celebrating Wilket Creek as a historic watercourse.*
- *Ongoing Indigenous engagement and involvement will take place to identify, design and implement placekeeping measures in parks and the public realm.*



*Red Embers art installations, Toronto  
(Credit: NOW Toronto)*



# Emerging Preferred Option – Proposed Policy Highlights: Biodiversity

- *On development sites, new development will be encouraged to incorporate biodiversity into site design by:*
  - *Creating habitats that provide shelter, refuge and food; and*
  - *Planting a variety of species at grade and on rooftops, including native plant species that are pollinator-friendly.*
  - *Adopting bird-friendly design strategies*
- *Parks and the public realm will support habitat creation and connectivity and promote biodiversity, native species and pollinators.*



## Breakout Rooms – Discussion Questions:

- Do you have any questions about what was presented?
- What are the aspects of the Emerging Preferred Option that resonate with you?
- The policy directions that we shared here focused on Indigenous housing, arts, culture and economic development, parks and environment, and placekeeping. Do you have anything you would like to share related to these topics?
- Do you feel that anything was missed?

# How to Stay Involved



## How to stay involved:



**Register on the City of Toronto's website for e-updates**

**Participate in the Online Survey**

- Open until April 6, 2025

Please visit [toronto.ca/nycentre](https://toronto.ca/nycentre) to learn more about the project and to register for updates.

# Traditional Closing

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# Thank You

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