



St. James Town Open Space – Construction Update

September 22 & 23, 2025



Agenda for Today's Meeting



Why We're Here

The purpose of this meeting is to provide an update on the project, particularly the construction timing.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Councillor Welcome**
3. **Project Overview**
4. **Construction Phasing**
5. **Questions**

Meet the Project Team

City of Toronto Parks & Recreation

- **Laurel Christie**
Project Officer
Parks Planning and Strategic Initiatives

Toronto Community Housing

- **Anna Kazmierska**
Design Manager (Central Region)
Design & Engineering

Your Local Councillor

- **Chris Moise – Ward 13, Toronto Centre**

Project Overview

Project Background

- The City has partnered with Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) to convert the open space behind 200 Wellesley Street into a new park.
- This project was identified in the **St. James Town Connects** planning study.
- The design for this project was created based on community feedback gathered in 2017-2018.

Project Background

- After agreements were finalized between the City and TCHC, a consultant was hired, and detailed design began in 2021.
- Design concluded this past July, and the project is currently out for tender.
- Construction is intended to start in **Spring 2026**.



Approved Park Concept Plan

1. The Market
2. The Promenade
3. St. James Plaza
4. Water Play
5. Natural Play
6. Open Paved Courtyard
7. The Stage
8. The Lawn
9. Community Tables
10. Garbage Bay Area
11. Games Room
12. Low Landforms



Design Scope



Out-of-scope:

Items or features that will not be included in the current construction:

- St. James Avenue Table Top – this area is privately owned.
- BBQ – City staff did not support this amenity in such an urban location due to reasons of health and safety.
- Community Gardens – The southwest corner of the site, including community gardens, have been removed from the current project scope. The design of this area will be re-examined at a later date by TCHC.



Playground design development



CONNECTING WITH NATURE

Celebrating forms found in nature.

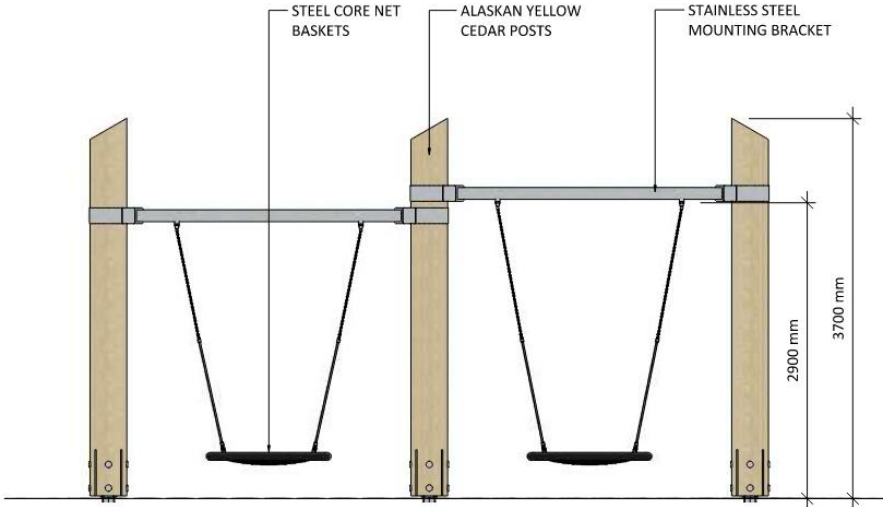
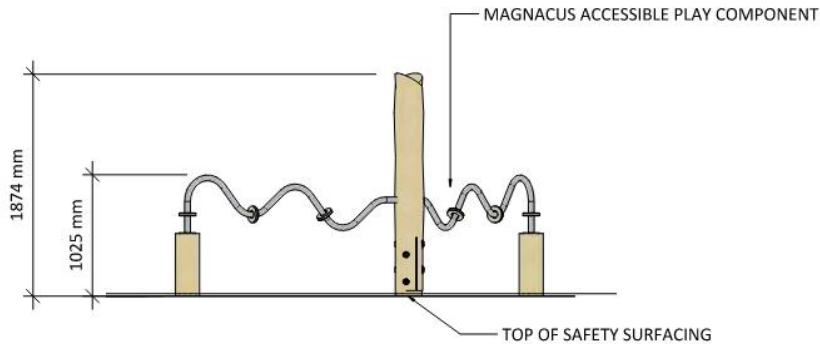
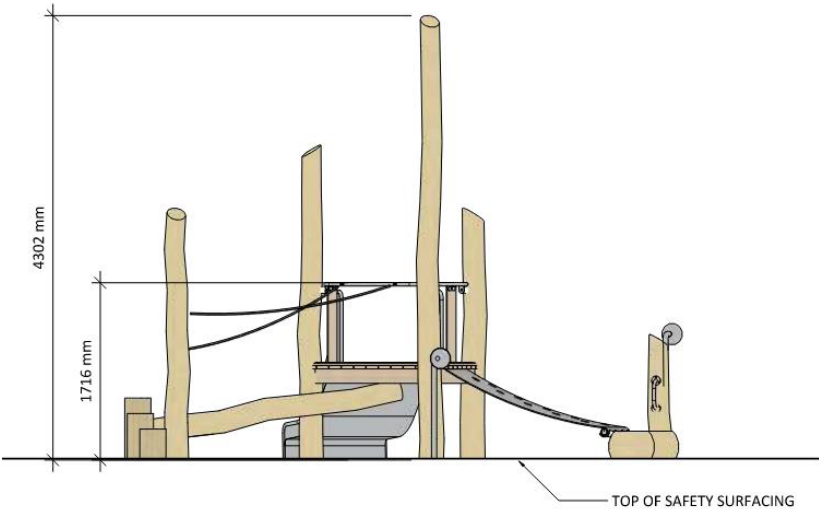
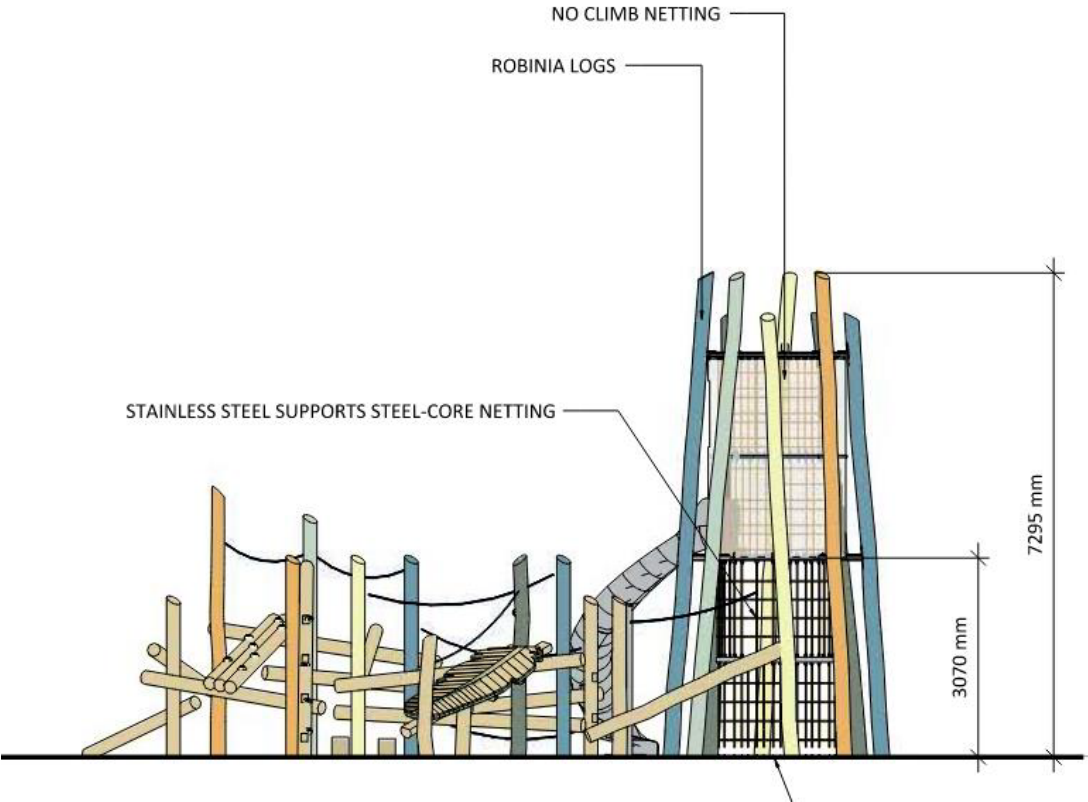
Using storytelling to enhance the natural elements of the Don Valley River & mystic significance of the phoenix.



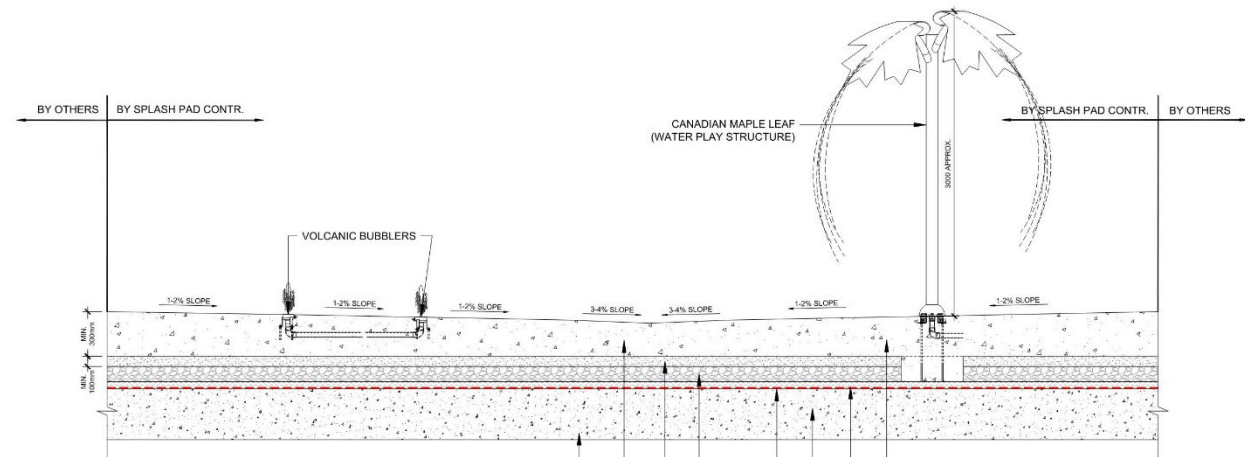
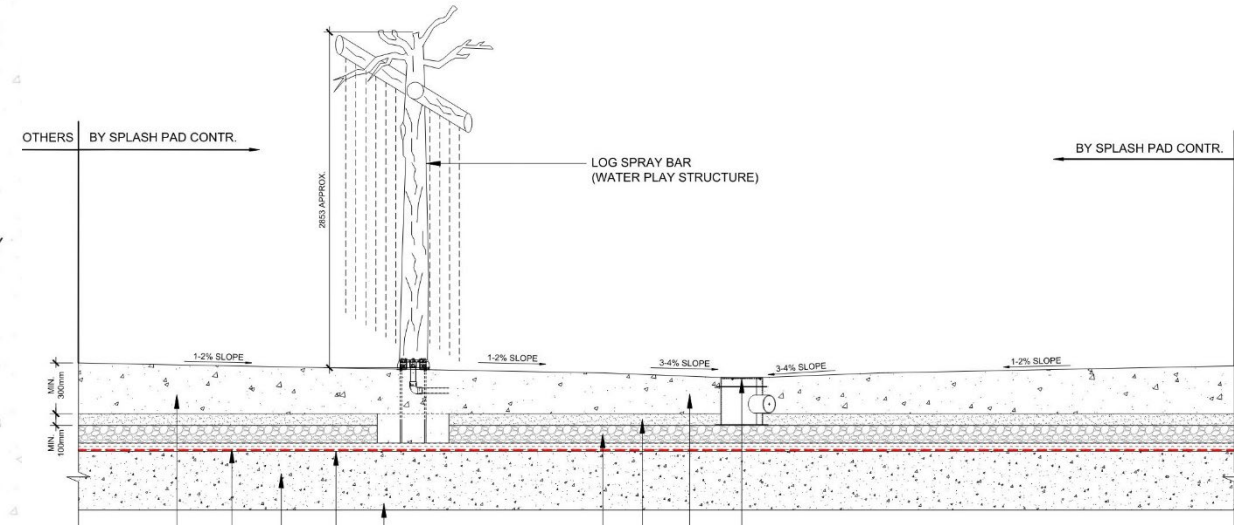
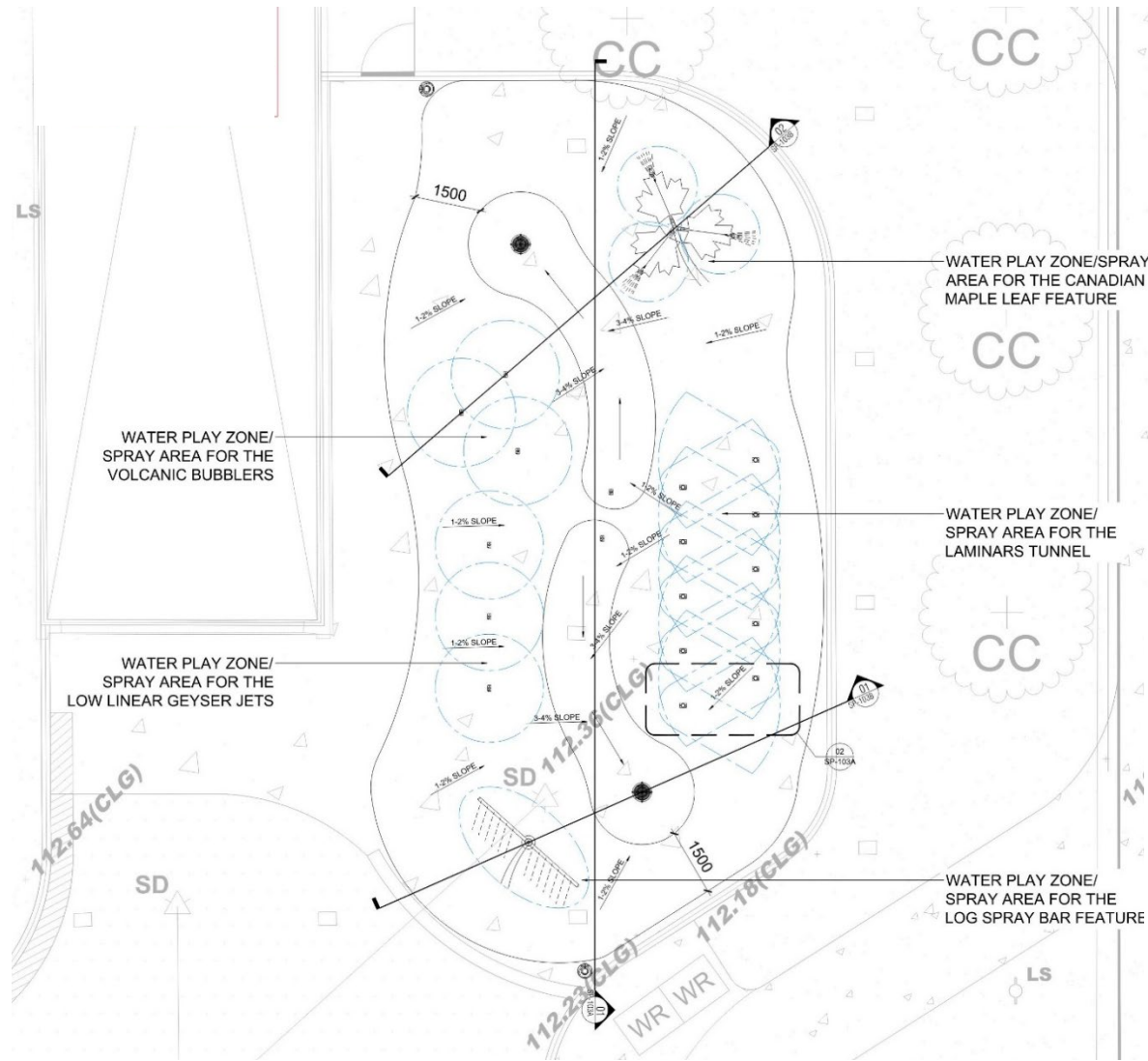
Playground rendering



Playground elements



Water Play – Plan and elements



Construction Phasing

Construction Phasing

Construction will be phased to minimize impact to residents, and new amenities will be opened as they are constructed.

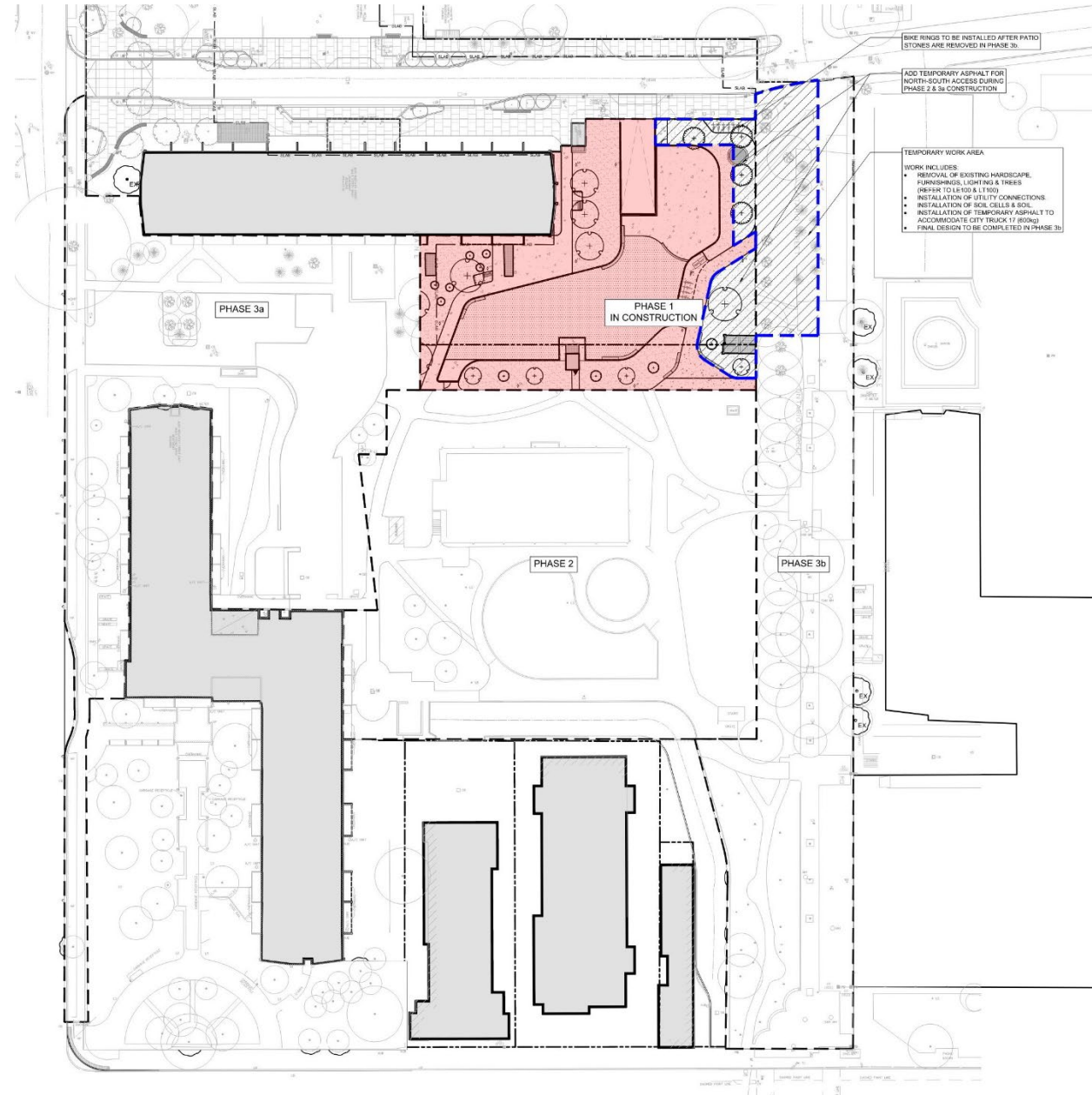
- Phase 1: 2026
 - Playground and water play
- Phase 2: 2027
 - Large lawn, low hills, trees, community tables
- Phase 3a & 3b: 2028
 - TCHC landscape areas, garbage bays, Bleecker streetscape, stage, market, games rooms, Ontario Street promenade



Phase 1

Phase 1: 2026

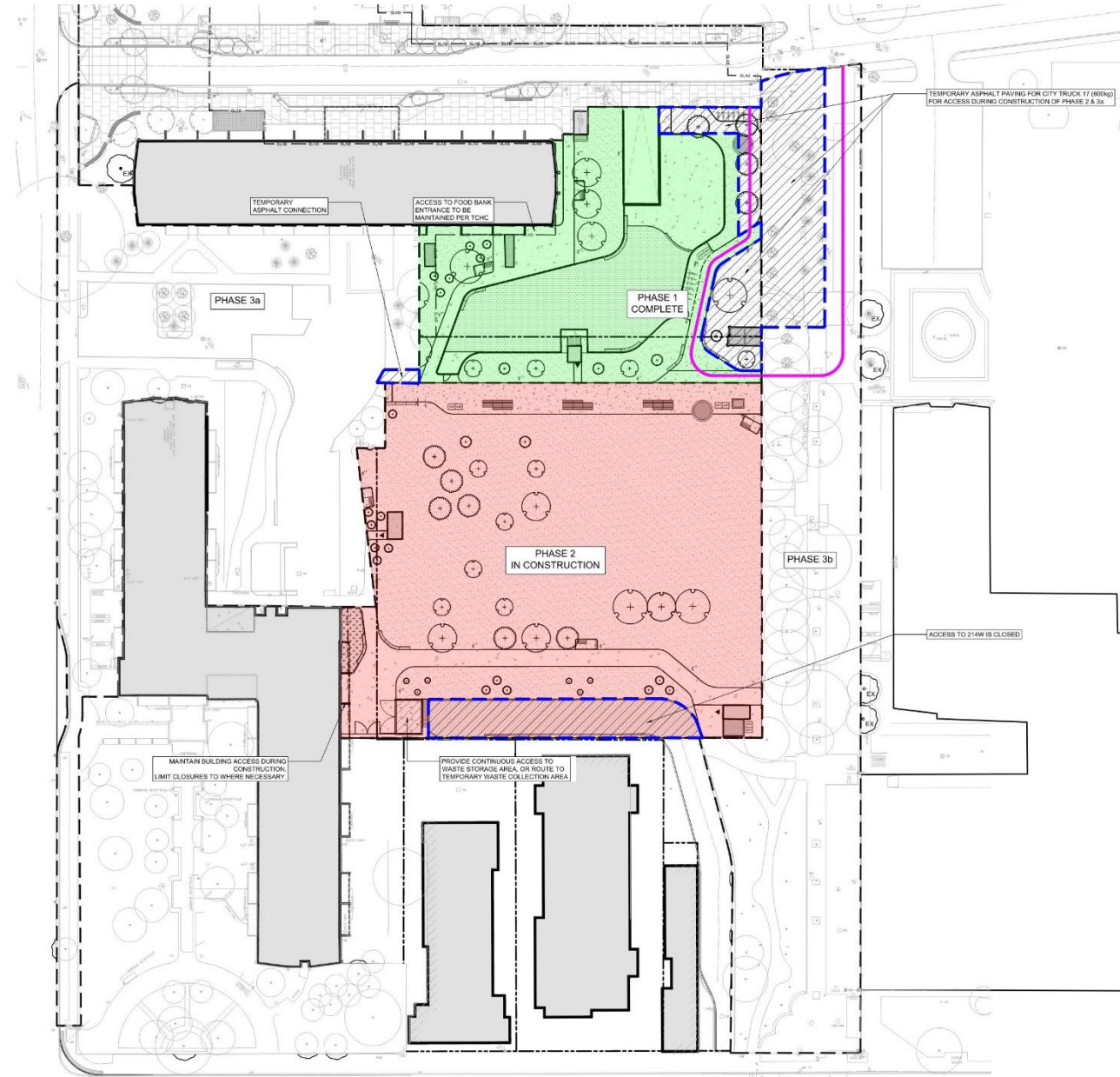
- Playground and water play



Phase 2

Phase 2: 2027

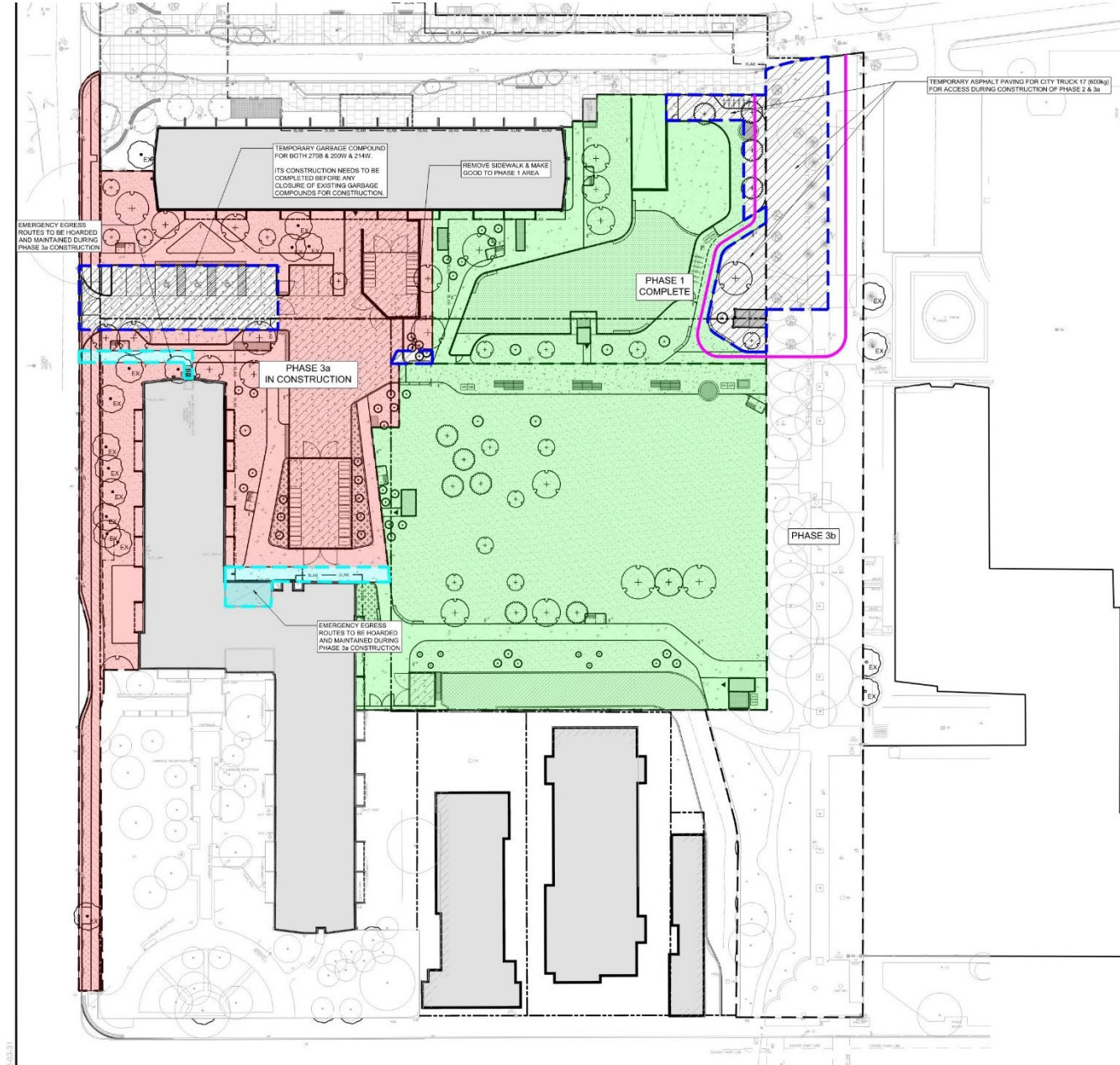
- Large lawn, low hills, trees, community tables



Phase 3a

Phase 3a: 2028

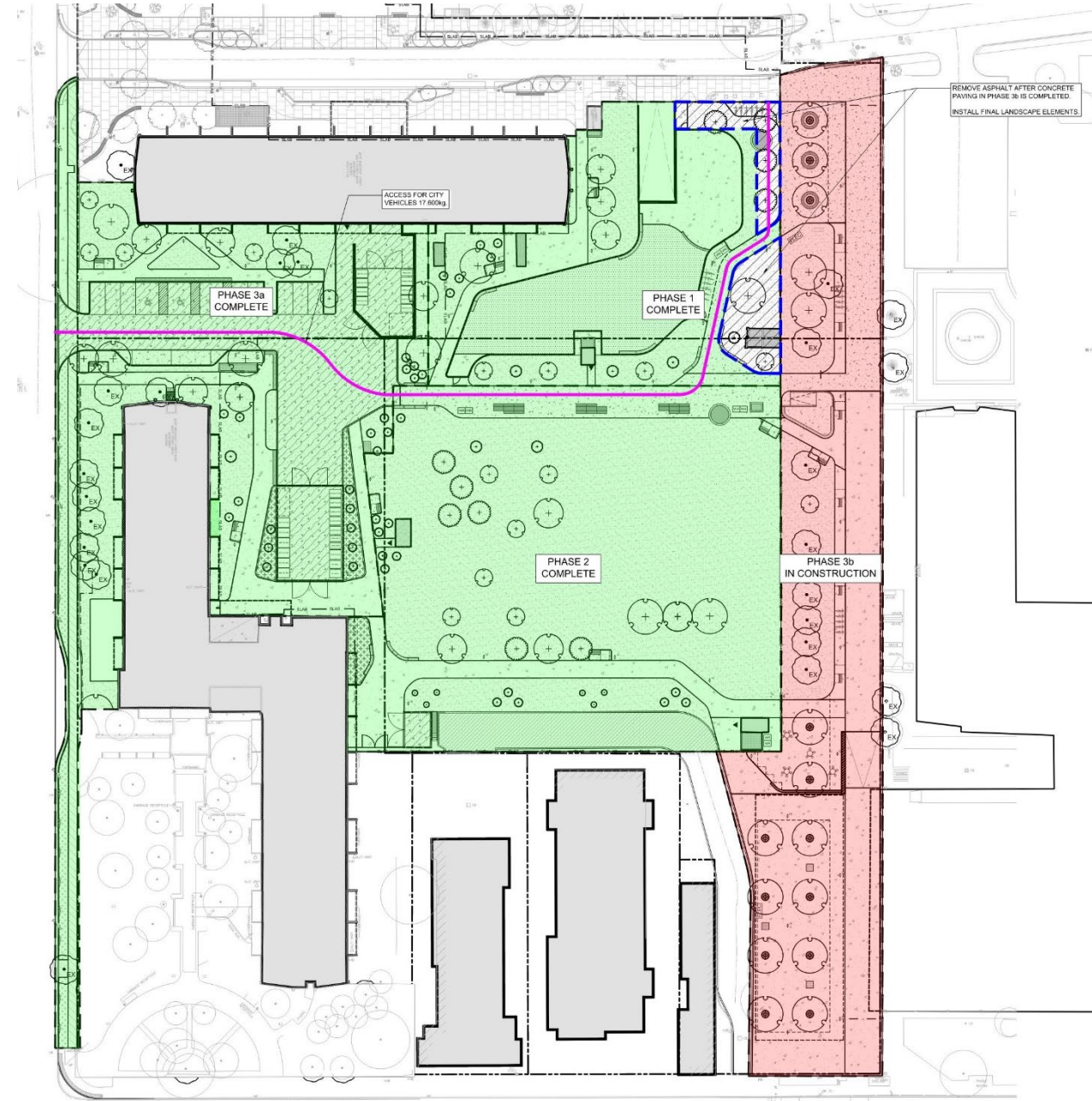
- TCHC landscape areas, garbage bays, Bleecker streetscape



Phase 3b

Phase 3b: 2028

- Stage, market, games room, Ontario Street promenade



Construction Impacts

- 3 years of construction activity
- Work is weather dependent
- Some areas will be blocked for construction
- Temporary relocation of parking spots
- Temporary relocation of garbage collection
- Please avoid all construction areas and follow signage for alternative walkways

Questions?

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