



ÀNAKWAD PARK

Ànakwad Park, the new heart of Liberty Village and living room for the community. An immersive green where neighbours come together in a place that feels good.

Freedom Has an Address on Liberty Street

Ànakwad Park sits at the heart of Liberty Village, a neighbourhood long considered the proverbial 'other side of the tracks'. This vibrant mixed-use neighbourhood was once a wetland, a military reserve, a site for prisons and reformatories, and then railways and factories. The land is a living archive carrying stories from its indigenous past, settler occupation, labour, hardship, and the persistent pursuit of freedom. For many, that pursuit began along the ironically named Liberty Street, which frames the park's northern edge today.

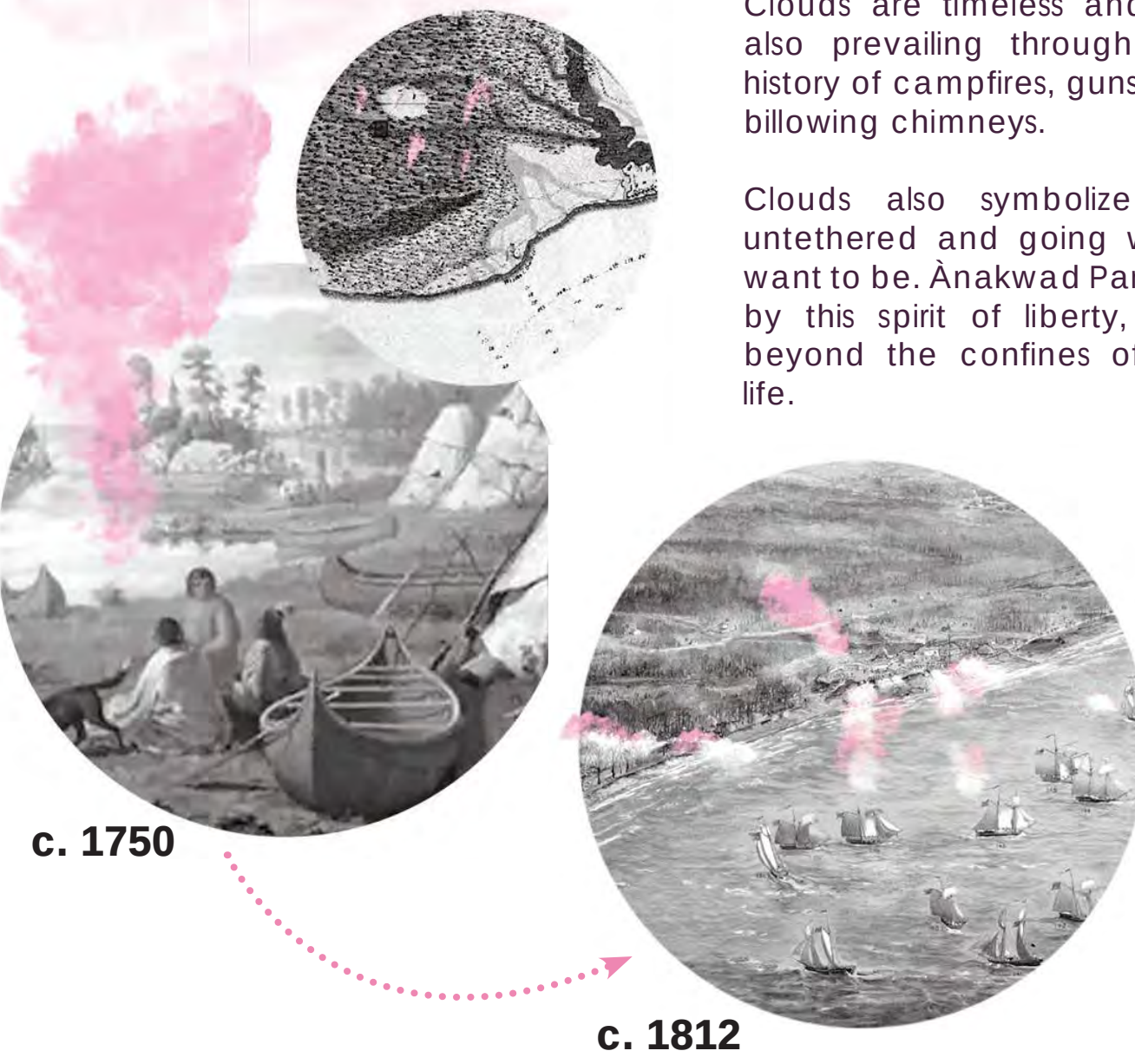
Prendre la clé des champs

Literally translated as 'taking the key to the fields', this is a common French expression meaning to flee towards greener pastures. As Liberty Village becomes more connected into Toronto's bustle, its time has come for an immersive green for workers and residents to take a break from the constraints of urban life. Ànakwad Park will become their greener pasture.

A Memory of Smoke

Clouds are timeless and universal, also prevailing through the site's history of campfires, gunsmoke, and billowing chimneys.

Clouds also symbolize freedom, untethered and going where they want to be. Ànakwad Park is inspired by the spirit of liberty, calling us beyond the confines of everyday life.



Telling the Story of the Site Through Clouds

Ànakwad Park consolidates the stories and moods of the site and district into an experience through a formal metaphor of clouds. It captures this spirit to become a distinguished address on Liberty Street manifesting freedom, lightness, movement, and change. This flexible framework of billowing pathways is also practical and able to adapt to changing community needs without compromising the conceptual coherence of the park.



Ànakwad Park One Year After Opening /and After Ten Years

Context: From Confinement to Connectivity

'Liberty Village is hard to get to', say many people who point out obstacles like rail and freeway corridors that obstruct the connections with the rest of the city. This is about to change.

A new generation of connectivity is coming to Liberty Village with forthcoming GO and Ontario Line stations to the north and south of the project site. These new metropolitan landings position Ànakwad Park to become the centre of gravity for this revitalized connectivity.

The Missing Town Square

This is the Central Park moment for Liberty Village, becoming a landing and a beacon to structure the hierarchy and layout of the neighbourhood. Ànakwad Park, from this perspective, is a game changer. Liberty Village gets its town square, finally providing the missing heart of the community.

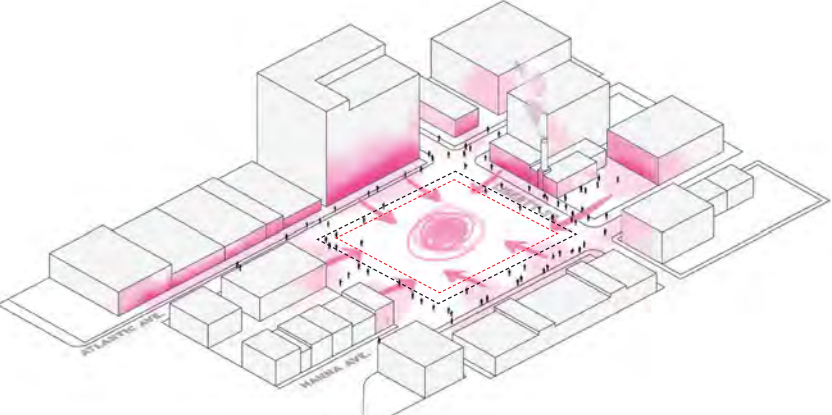
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| 1 Exhibition Station (In Progress) | 5 Lamport Stadium (former Mercer Women's Reformatory) |
| 2 Proposed Self-storage (Under Development) | 6 Liberty Village Park (former Toronto Central Prison) |
| 3 Liberty Market Building and Arcade | 7 King Liberty Pedestrian Bridge |
| 4 Former Brunswick Factory | 8 UP Express / GO Station North Connection |

Plugging Into a Rich Architectural Fabric

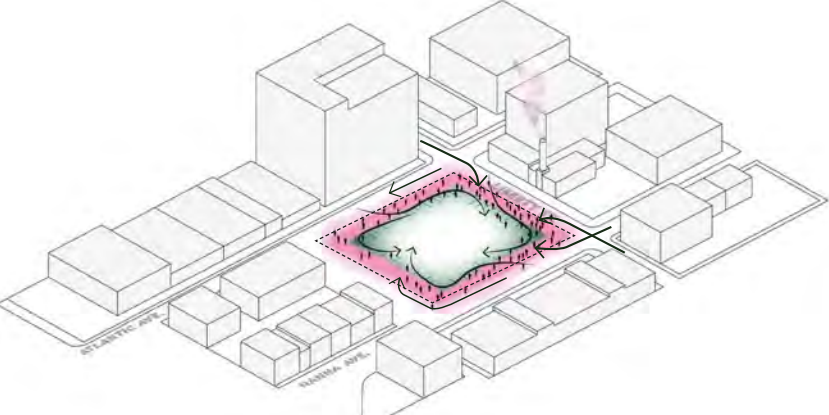
The neighbourhood's industrial heritage is its most defining physical legacy, with the surrounding architecture serving as a tangible record of the district's layered history. Ànakwad Park enters into dialogue with this industrial fabric through framed views, forms, and materials, connecting the neighbourhood's rich past to a new landscape for the future.

A Comfortable Climate Oasis

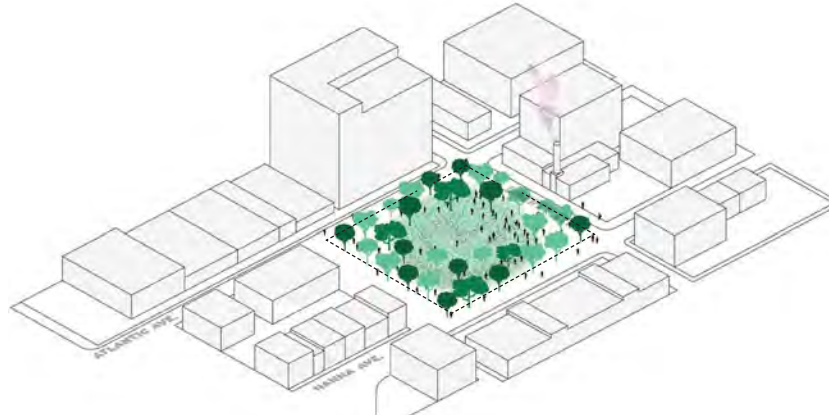
Wind, sun, and shade influence the spatial arrangement of the park to optimize comfort, with consideration for the impacts of climate change in the selection of trees and creating an infrastructure of shade.



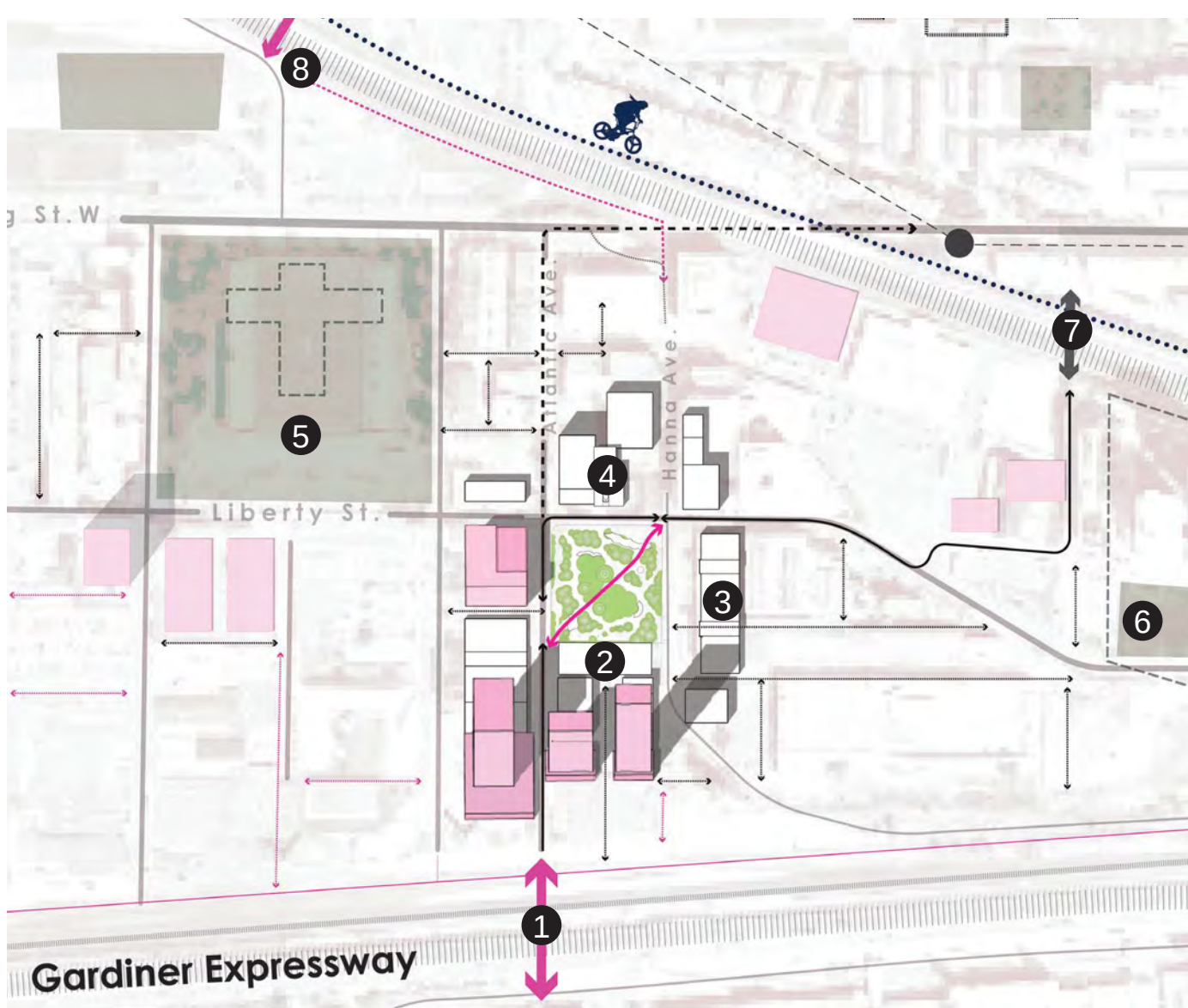
Condensing community up to the active edges of the context.



A buffer threshold to leave the city...



...and enter an immersive green that embraces the neighbourhood's industrial heritage.



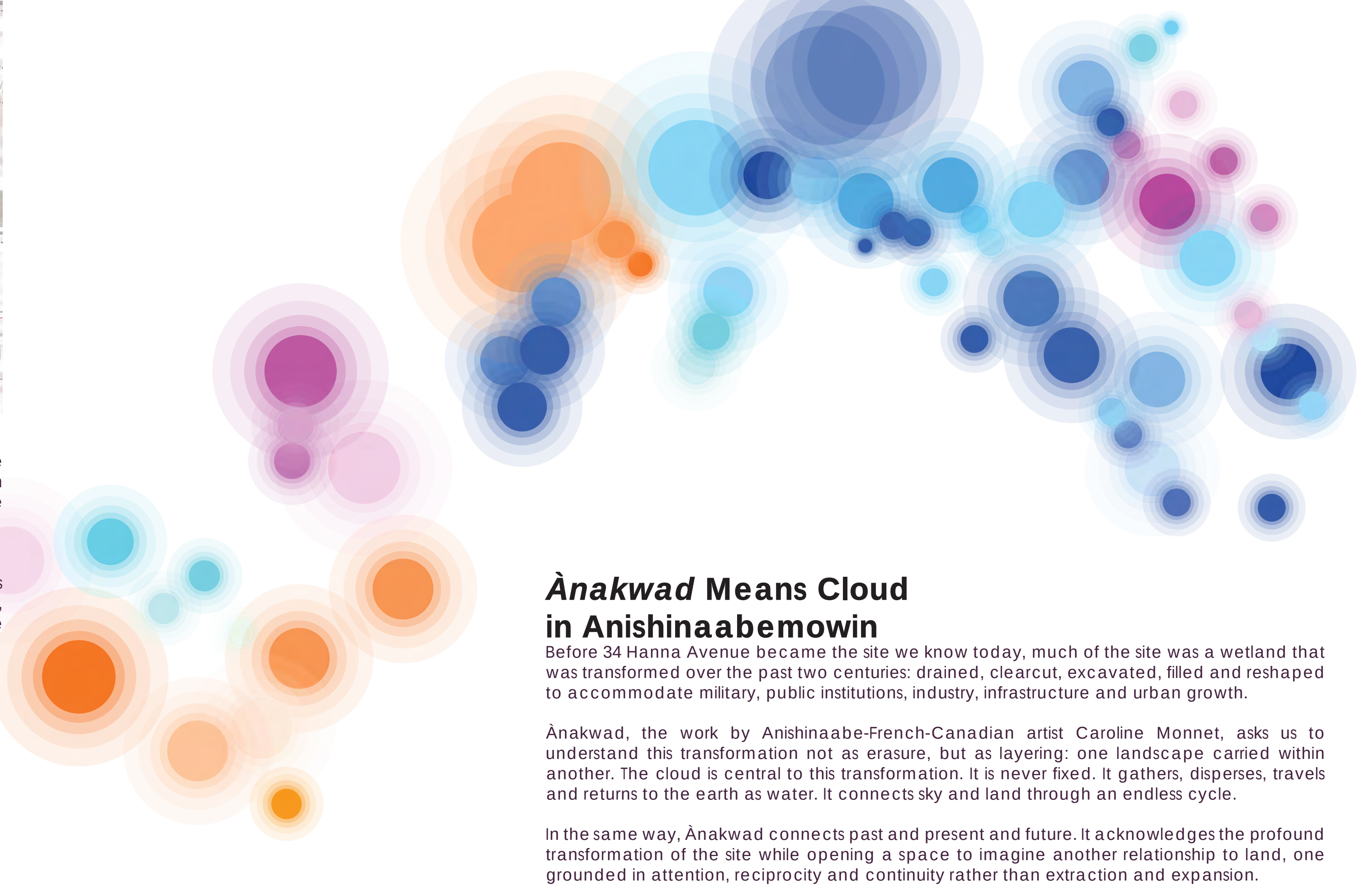
Activating the Liberty Village Vibe Through the Site's Dynamic Edges

Ànakwad Park is surrounded by dynamic pedestrian-scaled retail heritage edges. The park design reaches out to plug into this existing dynamic. Design and governance consider how best these edges can boost activation on the site, particularly to the east with the Liberty Market and its signature arcade.

A Frame of Streets

Good parks integrate their street edges. Ànakwad Park considers this perimeter to seamlessly integrate the pedestrian flows of the neighbourhood, and preserve the human scale on the surrounding streets amidst the neighbourhood's intensification.

- Existing Mid-Block Connections
- Future Mid-Block Connections
- Current Main Pedestrian Flow
- Future Pedestrian Flow
- Existing Railway Crossing
- Future Railway Crossing



Ànakwad Means Cloud in Anishinaabemowin

Before 34 Hanna Avenue became the site we know today, much of the site was a wetland that was transformed over the past two centuries: drained, clearcut, excavated, filled and reshaped to accommodate military, public institutions, industry, infrastructure and urban growth.

Ànakwad, the work by Anishinaabe-French-Canadian artist Caroline Monnet, asks us to understand this transformation not as erasure, but as layering: one landscape carried within another. The cloud is central to this transformation. It is never fixed. It gathers, disperses, travels and returns to the earth as water. It connects sky and land through an endless cycle.

In the same way, Ànakwad connects past and present and future. It acknowledges the profound transformation of the site while opening a space to imagine another relationship to land, one grounded in attention, reciprocity and continuity rather than extraction and expansion.

A Walk Through the Clouds

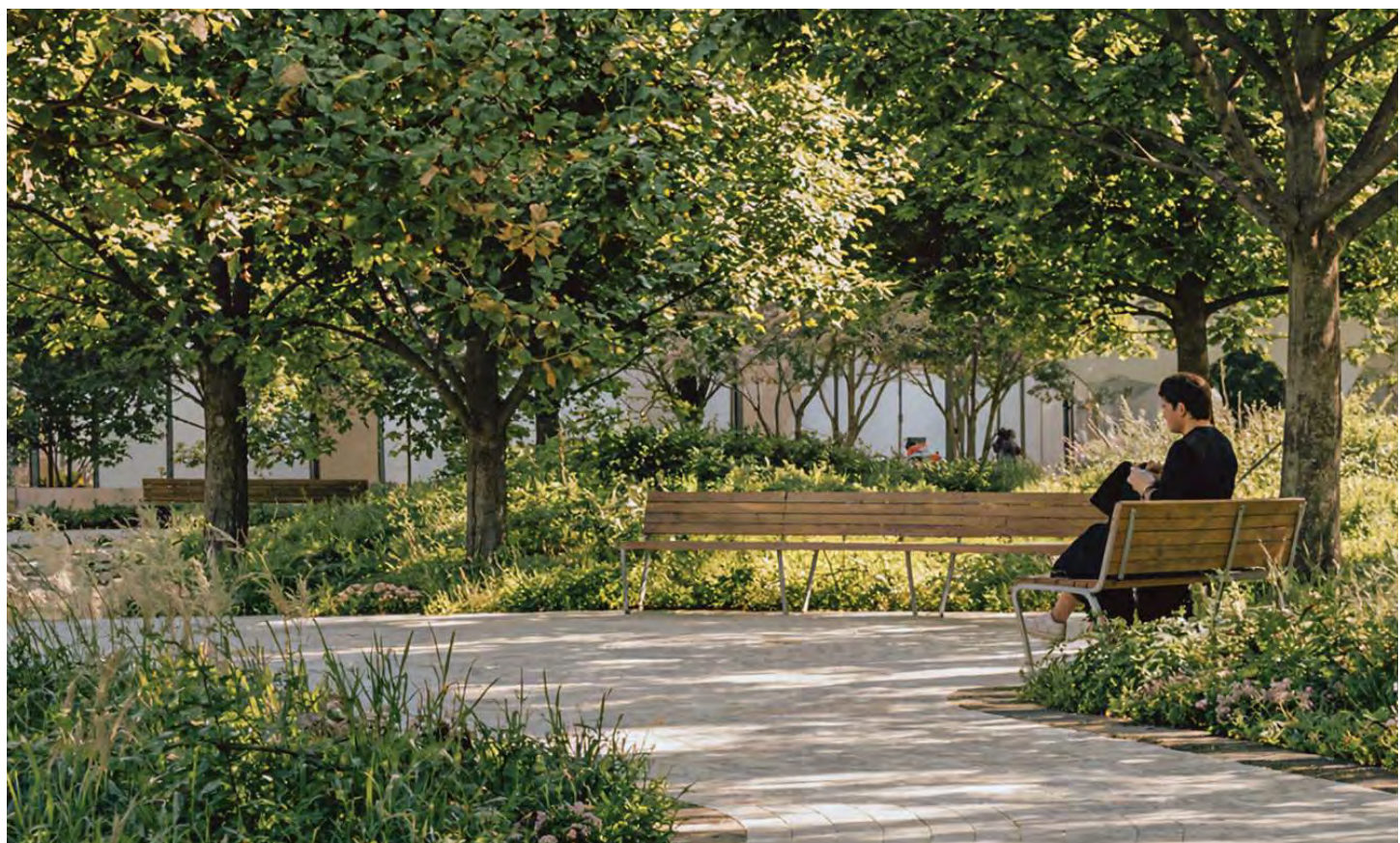
A Space for Gathering
Anakwad Park accommodates gatherings across all seasons, from performances and outdoor cinema, to farmers' markets and block parties.

A Place to Cultivate Community Connection
The park invites smaller more community-focused day-to-day activities like picnics, meetups with friends, games, and a fresh space for creative exchanges.

A Commons for Creativity and Play
Anakwad Park is designed for flexibility and opportunities for open-ended creative activities across all ages. Although not a large park, the arrangement and hierarchy of spaces, topography, and planting create spaces well tuned to small gatherings that can also easily expand to a crowd of hundreds.

Park-Maxxing
This small space is designed to feel like a big park. Overlapping mound horizons, paving motifs that extend to the street curbs, and ample space for activities and gatherings all come together to become a catalyst for community activation.

Liberty Village is distinguished for its fine-grained array of retail, restaurants, and commercial streets. The Liberty Market Building, taco shops, pubs, and cafés, as well as a critical mass of creative media and advertising agencies just across the street signal an existing vibe to bring spark into the daily life of Anakwad Park.



2 Wild Frontier Ha-ha Fringe
The immersive green is framed by a buffer of mogul topography, creating a ha-ha effect that gives an illusion of vastness. It also creates niches for biodiversity and spaces for the ephemeral detention of stormwater. This tranquil perimeter is designed with the needs of flora and fauna in mind.



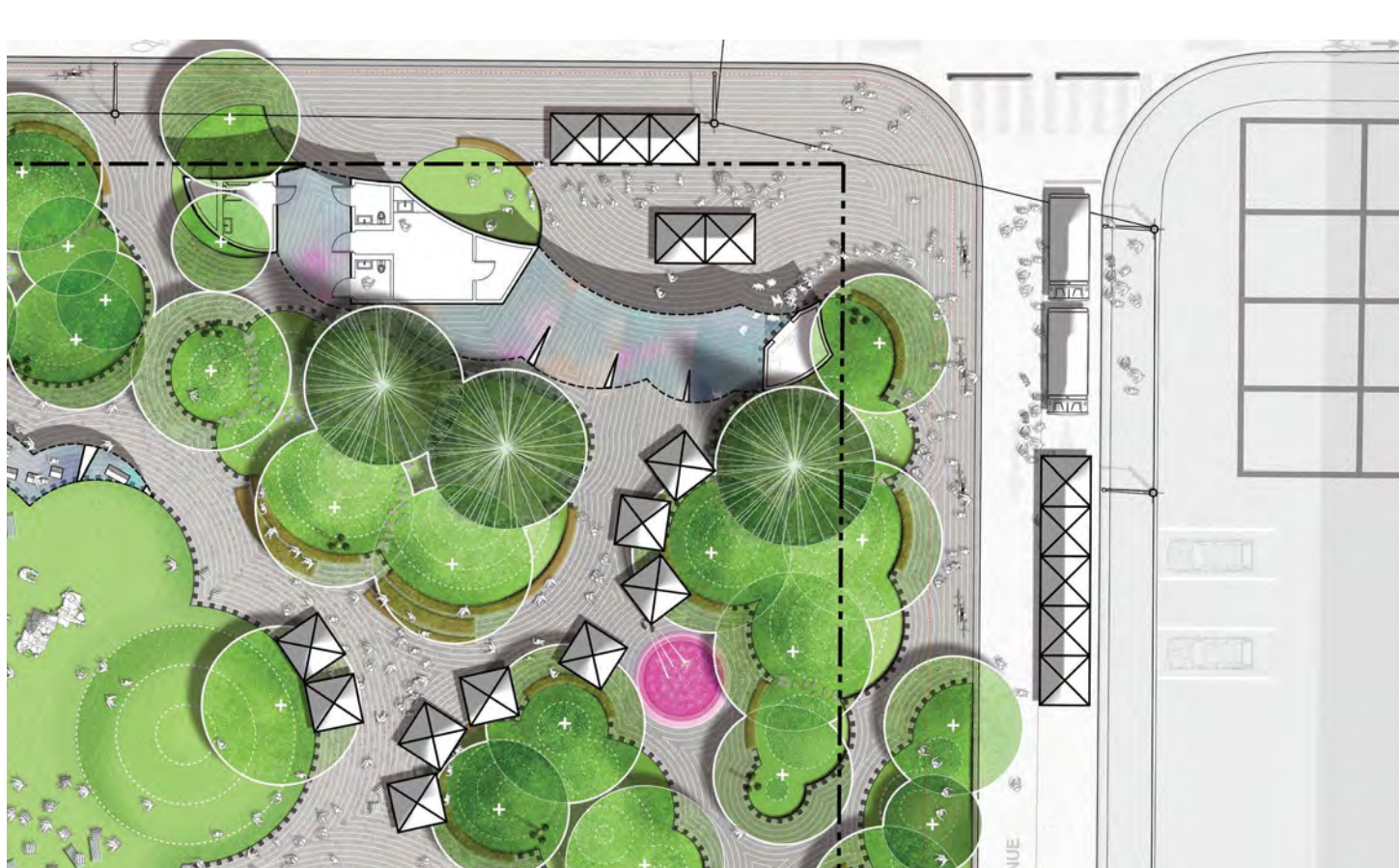
4 Dog Gate Pavilion
The southwest corner closest to the future Exhibition Station is a key threshold for large amounts of foot traffic short cutting through Anakwad Park. The name comes from its proximity to the Dog Off-leash area. It also provides space for garden maintenance tools as well as a small dog 'spa' washing station.



5 Caravan Pavilion
The Caravan Pavilion near the southeast is inspired by artist convoys sharing crafts, stories, and shows. Doors open onto the clearing, it becomes a space for movies, arts and crafts, or even a day camp node for kids and adults.



7 Dog Off-Leash Area and Dog Spa
The Dog Gate Pavilion opens onto a 315-square-metre DOLA, with a second gate off Hanna Avenue. An outdoor dog 'spa' provides a washing station for pets, especially those living in small apartments. The DOLA spans the full width of the block to provide a generous zone for dogs to run and sniff and play.



10 Hanna Avenue Annex
The park proposes widening the Hanna Avenue sidewalk, reducing the street width to position the park closer to the Liberty Market Building across the street. Festival street closures would allow the park and market building to work together for varying activities—neighbourhood block parties, Oktoberfest, and street fairs.



1 Living Room for Liberty Village
The central clearing is a 1,200-square-metre lawn, a living room for the community holding up to 1,000 people, punctuated by three mounds that serve as lookouts or informal amphitheatres. Pivoted as two lawns anchored by the Swing and Caravan Pavilions, it lets activities coexist without interference, and allows one side to be fenced off each spring for reseeding while the other stays in use.



3 Gatehouse Pavilion and Washrooms
The largest of the four pavilions, the Gatehouse Pavilion marks the threshold into the park at the intersection of Liberty Street and Hanna Avenue. Three individual washrooms are located near the street for safety and ease of maintenance.



5 Swing Pavilion
The third pavilion near the northwest corner supports several suspended swinging benches, offering a cloud-like lightness that encourages slow movement and languid views over the clearing.



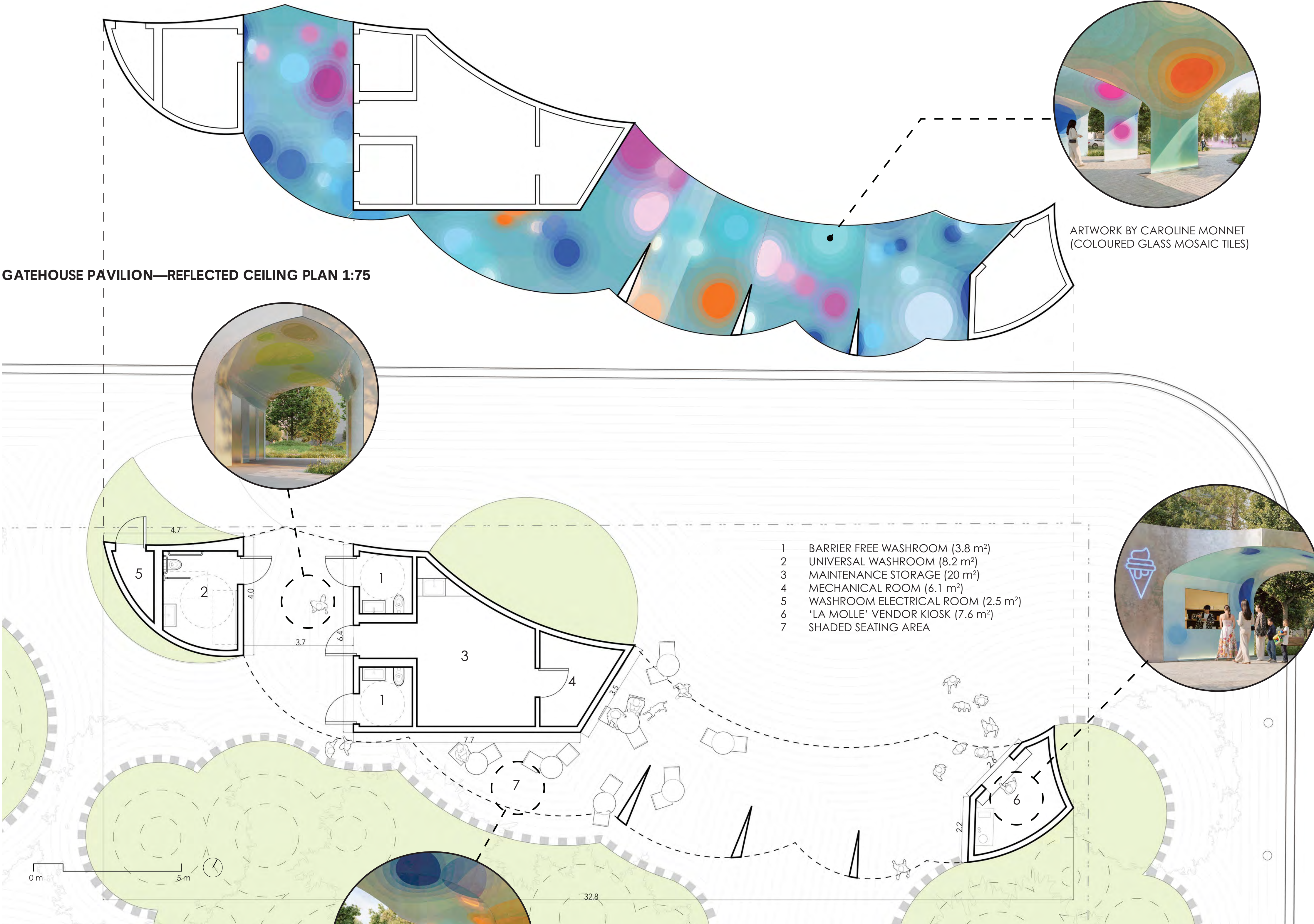
8 Big Smoke
The forested canopy frames the restored Brunswick smokestack, a heritage beacon in the neighbourhood we call "The Big Smoke". It is paired with "The Little Smoke," an interactive water and mist feature that shimmers under the tree canopy above. A future creative intervention can be imagined to the Brunswick smokestack to pair this narrative of clouds and smoke.



11 Liberty Street Plaza
A plaza space outside the Gatehouse Pavilion pairs with the open space north of Liberty Street to mark a landing in the neighbourhood that could host tents, farmers' markets and CSA pickup points, or Christmas tree vendors. A micro-retail kiosk becomes a quirky destination: La Mille selling soft-serve ice cream in summer, Choco Chaud selling hot chocolate in winter.



SITE PLAN 1:125



The Gatehouse Pavilion marks the principal landing to Anakwad Park at the corner of Hanna Avenue and Liberty Street. This main threshold between park and city is clearly expressed by four arches, followed by a fifth a few metres further to the west. This fifth park threshold doubles as a vestibule for three individually enclosed single-stall washrooms. The washrooms are positioned here where safety and convenience are optimized. Next to the busy Liberty Street Right-of-Way, close to heavily frequented foot traffic, this location is also easily reached for maintenance (with 20 sqm of maintenance storage directly in line with the washrooms) and security. This is an approach to public washrooms that is dignified, practical, easy to find and comfortable to use.

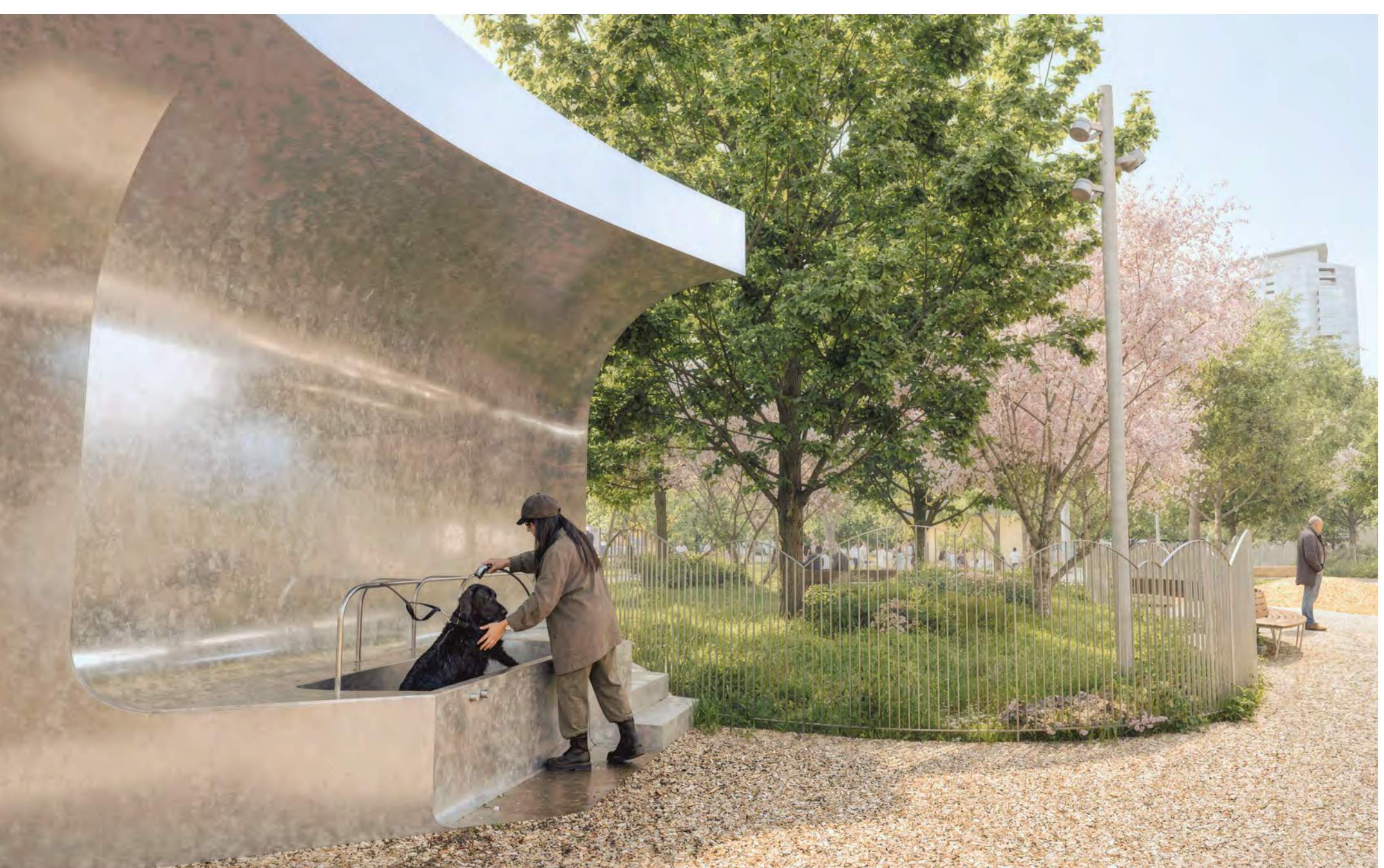
To enhance sensory appeal and animate the streetscape with a queue of smiling patrons, a soft-serve ice cream, called 'La Molle' (a French reference to soft serve ice cream), is proposed at the east end of the pavilion. This playful mini retail hotspot (which can pivot from 'La Molle' to 'Choco Chaud' in winter), enhances the joy of the street and is part of the excitement in arriving to Anakwad Park.

Gatehouse Pavilion

Pedestrians passing from the future multimodal Exhibition station at the south end of Atlantic Avenue one block to the south will enter through the Dog Gate Pavilion, named for its position as both park gate and DOLA threshold. Expressed with the same genetic intention as the other three pavilions, this small structure converges pedestrian flows to promote encounter and exchange between park visitors. The Dog Gate Pavilion also has 9.7sqm of storage space for park furniture and garden tools, as well as rooms for park AV and electrical. The sweep of the roof provides shelter for a park feature unique to Anakwad Park—an outdoor dog 'spa' wash station located in a secured extension to the DOLA.

Dog Spa Pavilion

1 PARK AV ROOM (6.5 m²)
2 PARK ELECTRICAL ROOM (6.0 m²)
3 PARK TOOLS STORAGE (9.7 m²)
4 DOG WASH BASIN



Pavilions: Thresholds and Functional Follies

Four pavilions mark the principal entrances and gathering points of the park. Conceived as contemporary thresholds and functional follies, they establish moments of transition between the surrounding streets and the immersive landscape within. Their placement disperses amenities throughout the site, activates each edge and ensures that no single side of the park is treated as its front or back. Each pavilion performs a practical role while also appearing as a folly within the garden: a recognizable object encountered among planting, paths and cloud-shaped lawns.

Together, the four structures create a family of thresholds. They signal arrival without enclosing the park and frame the act of entering as a brief moment of passage, from the directness of the city into the slower and more exploratory landscape beyond.

Form: Shaped by Clouds

The pavilion forms emerge directly from the geometry of the park. In plan, they are extrusions of the cloudlike lawns, planting beds and the spaces formed between them. Curved landscape edges push and pull against the structures, shaping walls that appear to have been carved by the garden itself. Vaulted openings recall the robust masonry forms and repetitive structural bays of Liberty Village's industrial buildings. Reinterpreted as open portals, the vaults invite visitors beneath sheltered canopies lined with artwork by Caroline Monnet.

The openings operate simultaneously as entrances, rooms and viewing devices. From particular vantage points, aligned vaults form the silhouette of a cloud. From others, they frame long views through the park, helping visitors orient themselves within its more circuitous pathways. Like clouds overhead, the pavilions change as one moves around and through them, alternately appearing solid, open, reflective or transparent.



Materiality: The Silver Lining

Curved sheets of galvanized steel wrap the exterior of each pavilion. Their textured surfaces balance matte and satin finishes, catching changing light to create a silver lining around the park's perimeter.

In the early twentieth century, the site of 34 Hanna was occupied by the Ontario Wind Engine and Pump Company, housing metalworking shops dedicated to picking and galvanizing raw steel. Paying homage to this industrial heritage in Liberty Village, the pavilion features a galvanized exterior finish. Resistant to harsh weather, scratching, and heavy public use, galvanized steel offers a practical, durable, and familiar material choice. Its finish further enables straightforward maintenance, ensuring City staff can efficiently manage cosmetic wear and graffiti.

The restrained exterior is carved away at each vault to reveal a vivid interior core. Caroline Monnet's artwork lines the openings in coloured glass mosaic tiles, drawing inspiration from Toronto's indigenous wetlands and marshes. The mosaic gives the vaults depth, colour and luminosity while forming a robust, continuous surface that can be readily installed, cleaned and maintained. This contrast between silver exterior and colourful interior reinforces the experience of discovery throughout the park. What first appears cool and industrial opens to reveal something warmer, richer and connected to the living history of the land.

Public Art by Caroline Monnet

The artwork is woven directly into the architecture of Anakwad Park, transforming the canopy into an abstract, living landscape. Organic forms, translucent colour, and layered patterns flow across its curved surfaces, reflecting the movement and interconnectedness of all living beings, the trees, land, sky, and those who move through the park. The canopy becomes more than shelter; it is a space for gathering, movement, imagination, and connection.



Net-Zero Sustainability Strategy

The pavilions' sustainability strategy targets net-zero annual operational energy: producing as much energy as the pavilions consume over the course of a year.

The preliminary rooftop layout on the Gatehouse Pavilion accommodates a 17kW photovoltaic array comprising approximately 38 panels. Taking advantage of the pavilion's open and largely unshaded southern exposure, the array is projected to generate approximately 19 MWh of electricity annually. This is sufficient to offset anticipated baseline demands, including lighting, electric heating and the hot water required for approximately 50,000 handwashes each year—or roughly 137 per day. The strategy pairs renewable-energy production with simple measures that reduce demand and operating cost. An overnight temperature setback to 5 °C is projected to reduce annual energy use by approximately 4 MWh, limiting the size and cost of the systems required to achieve the net-zero target.

Sustainability is treated as an extension of the park's central idea. Just as the landscape gives Liberty Village room to breathe, the pavilion is designed to operate lightly: gathering energy from its surroundings, conserving what it uses and contributing more than shelter alone.



Swing Pavilion

The third pavilion near the northwest corner of the park is a place for swinging benches. Here park visitors can experience an un tethered lightness suspended above the ground. Swings are designed with a limited range of motion of 15 degrees off vertical, promoting slow movements to languidly watch over people and activities unfolding in the clearing. This type of swinging perch is perennially popular with the public, and provides an anchor at this edge of the clearing to bring animation and activation.

1 UNDER CANOPY SWINGS



Craft Caravan Pavilion

The last of the four pavilions is located near the southeast entrance. It is named the Caravan Pavilion, inspired by artist caravans travelling to share crafts, tell stories, or give shows. This structure is designed to open up to the southeast clearing, becoming a stage for sideshows or movies, a kind of stationary pop-up bookmobile, an outdoor arts and crafts space for the community, a day camp program node, or even an outdoor co-working space. The subtle separations of space created here by the forms and layout shapes a pocket to host a broad range of program possibilities, without encroaching on the activities, or even tranquility, elsewhere in the park.

**1 STAGE/PLATFORM
2 CRAFT CARAVAN STORAGE W/PARTITION OPENING (5.8 m²)
3 UNDER CANOPY SWINGS**



