

# ALBERTA STREET BLUE GREEN SYSTEM AND COLUMBIA PARK RENEWAL


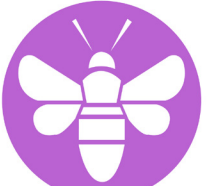
## PROJECT OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

### PROJECT OVERVIEW



Cambie Corridor is growing and so are the demands on its drainage and sewer systems, parks, and public spaces. To provide critical drainage services, park spaces, and transportation options for the neighbourhood, the Alberta Street Blue Green System & Columbia Park Renewal Project will explore innovative ways to make changes to Columbia Park, Alberta Street, and 43rd Avenue to meet our project principles.

In this phase of engagement, we are presenting several options for Alberta St and Columbia Park, and asking for public input on how to best provide key services of drainage and green space for this growing community.

**Project Principles:**



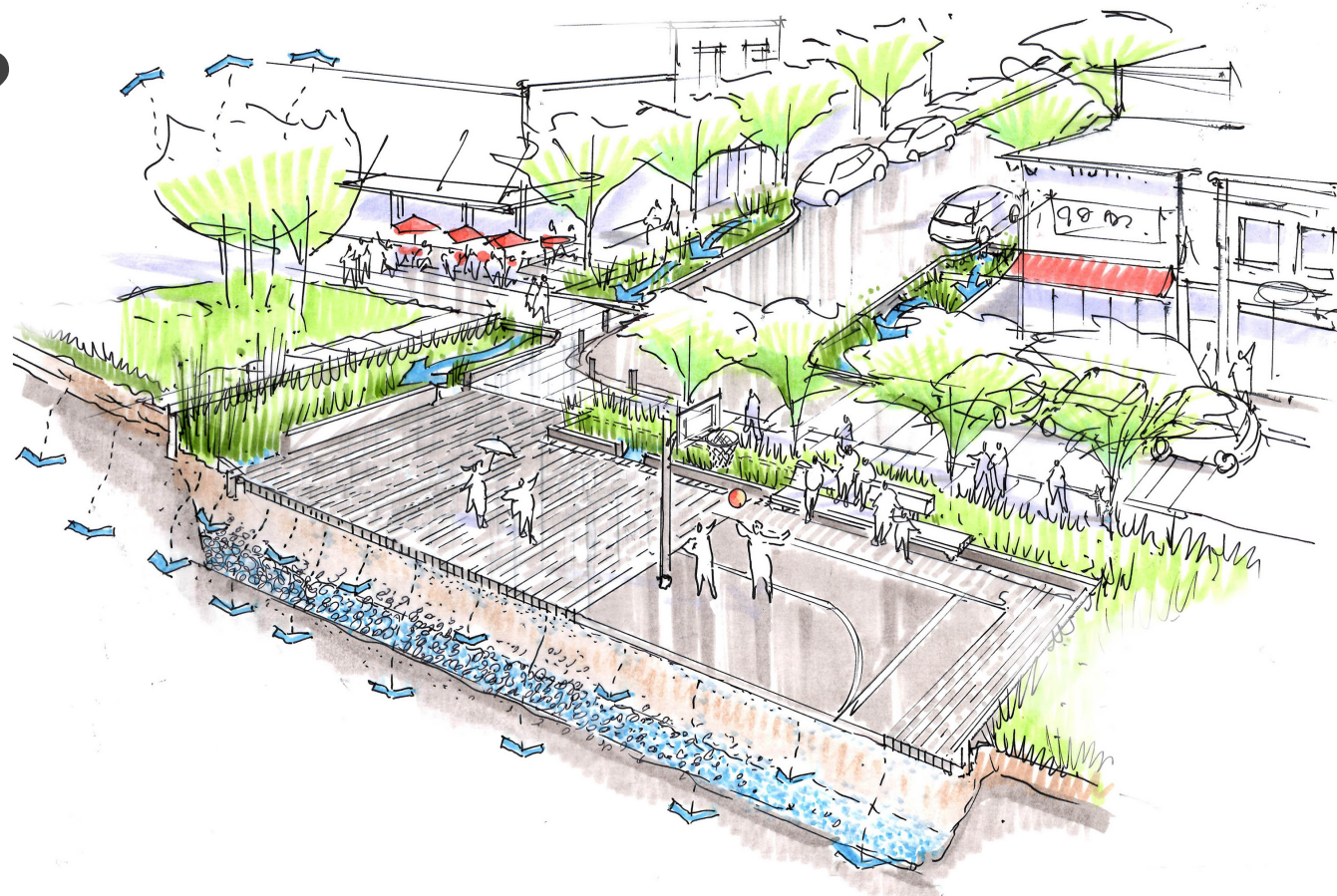
- Create a thriving urban ecosystem
- Respect and celebrate water



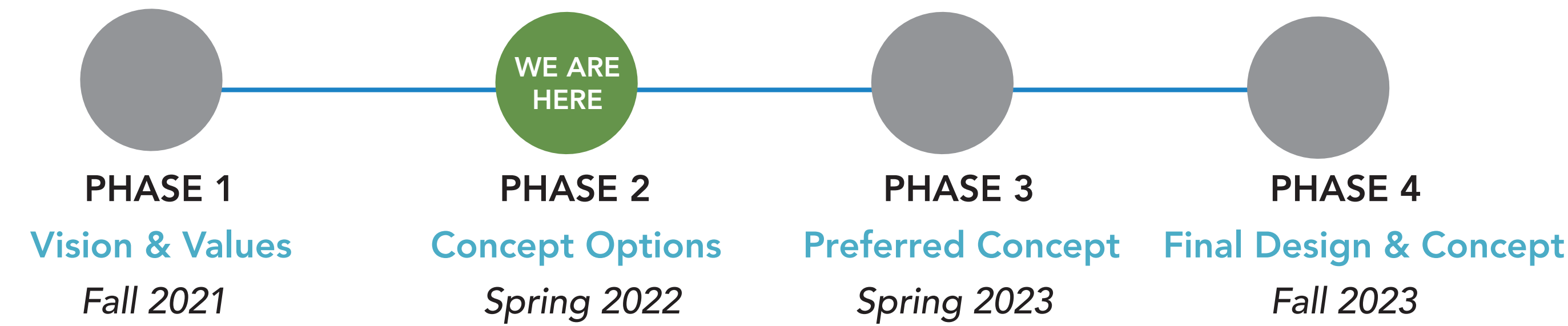
- Support a vibrant, active community
- Maximize public open spaces

### What is a Blue Green System?

A network of connected park-like streets that manage water and land in a way that is inspired by nature and designed to replicate natural functions and provide ecosystem services.



### PROJECT TIMELINE



Project boundary and context



Artist's illustration from the Cambie Corridor Plan looking south-west from Columbia Park to W 43rd Ave showing the future growth in the neighbourhood



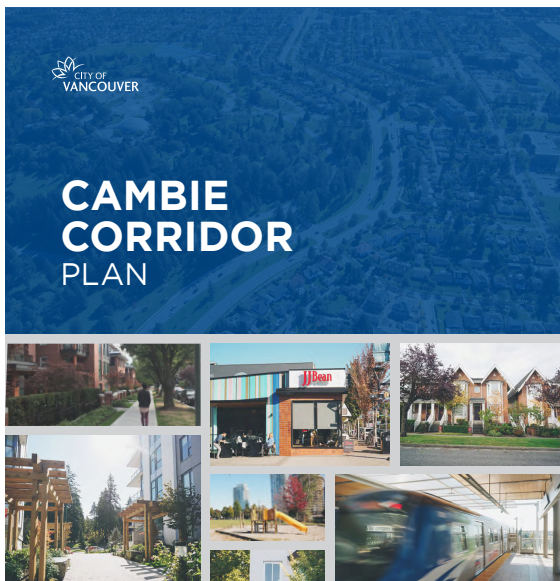
Artist's illustration from the Cambie Corridor Plan looking south-west along W 43rd Avenue from Columbia Park toward Oakridge Municipal Town Center



# ALBERTA STREET BLUE GREEN SYSTEM AND COLUMBIA PARK RENEWAL

## INTEGRATED PLANNING FOR A TRANSFORMING NEIGHBORHOOD

The Oakridge Municipal Town Centre neighbourhood is located in the heart of the Cambie Corridor, where 30,000 new homes will be added and the population will double over the next 20 years. With the rapid pace of redevelopment, the neighbourhood is going through major transformation. To support growth and climate resilience, the City takes an integrated approach in planning to explore how blue green system can offer multiple benefits to this transforming community. The 'blue green' approach pulls together goals and initiatives from several plans and policies. It allows utility upgrades and green rainwater infrastructure to work together, bring more natural to the urban landscape, and improve connections for people and nature.



Alberta Street is shown as a Park Connector Street and Urban Trail in the Cambie Corridor Public Realm Plan and upgrades in Columbia Park as a 10-year priority in the Public Benefits Strategy.



Vancouver's Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan provides direction on priorities including a vision to connect from "Little Mountain to Big River" (Queen Elizabeth Park to the Fraser River) with biodiversity and active transportation.



Transportation 2040 is long-term strategic vision for the city including enhancing active transportation (movement by walking, cycling, rolling, and transit).



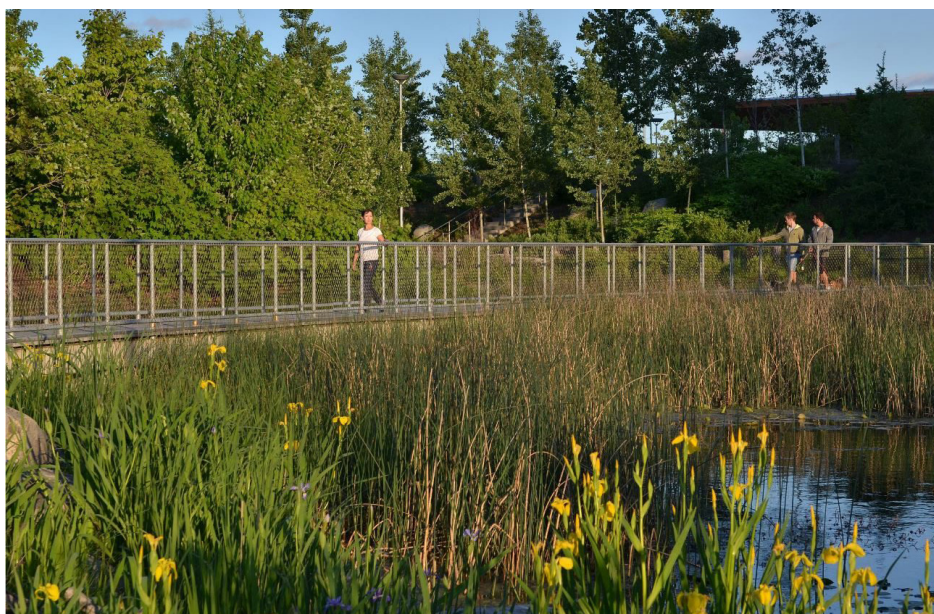
Vancouver is striving to ensure a vibrant, livable, and resilient city in the face of climate change through green rainwater infrastructure, enhanced natural areas in parks and safe streets for walking and cycling.



The Rain City Strategy reimagines how we manage rainwater with the goals of improving water quality, resilience, and livability through creating healthy urban ecosystems.



The Biodiversity Strategy lays out goals to increase the amount and quality of Vancouver's natural areas adding native planting areas and trees to support biodiversity connections from Queen Elizabeth Park to Langara.



### What is a natural area?

Natural areas are an important part of this project and help to meet larger city-wide goals and strategies towards a thriving urban ecosystem. By providing multiple co-benefits for people and wildlife, natural areas help to support the health and well-being of the entire community. For this project, natural areas refer to:

- Naturally managed areas including pollinator meadows that prioritize native plantings
- Habitats for birds, pollinators and amphibians
- Ephemeral water such as seasonal ponds or wetlands
- Urban forest enhancements
- Green infrastructure for rainwater management and improved water quality
- A full nature experience with some areas reserved for nature only



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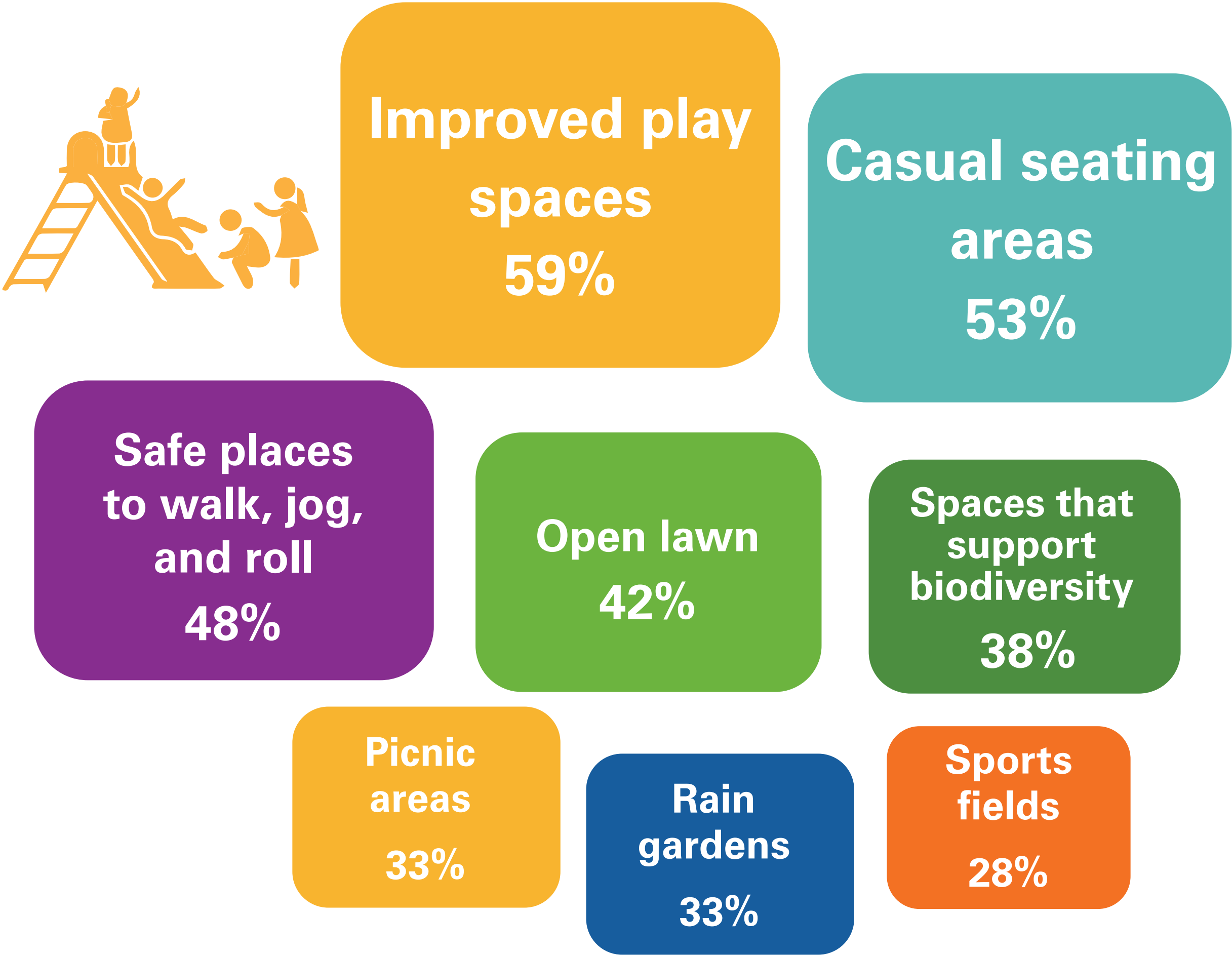
## PHASE I ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK

### Participation

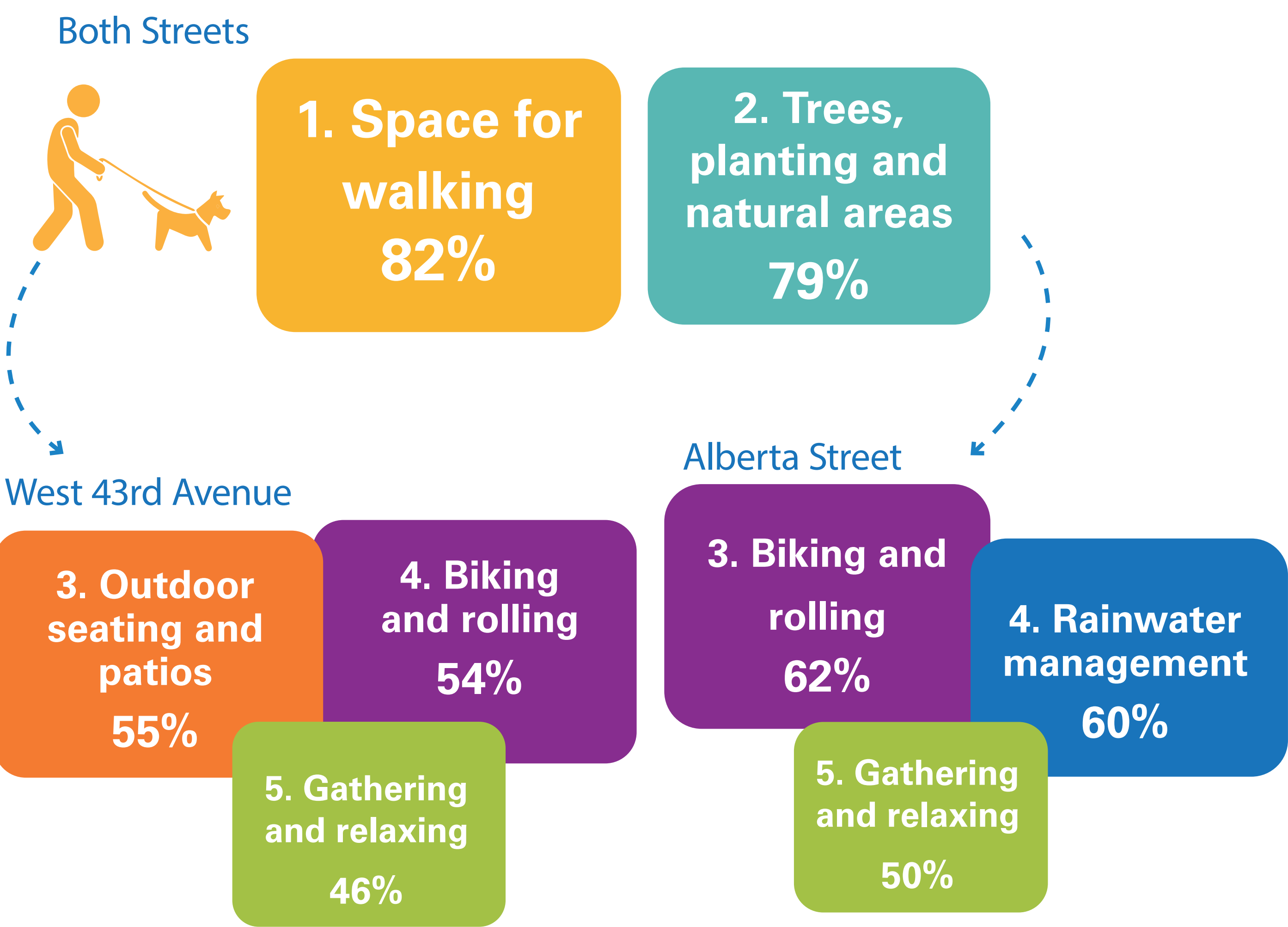
**655** public interactions were captured during Phase 1 including survey responses, social media interactions, and comments.

There were **151** total survey respondents; **78%** were users of Columbia Park and **40%** said their children use the park.

When asked about future improvements for **Columbia Park**, people responded that they want to see:



When asked about future improvements for **Alberta Street and West 43rd Avenue**, the following proportion of people shared their top 5 priorities:





# ALBERTA STREET BLUE GREEN SYSTEM AND COLUMBIA PARK RENEWAL

## STREET AND PARK OPTIONS SUMMARY

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

Alberta Street



Alberta St at W. 40th Ave

Columbia Park



Columbia Park looking north

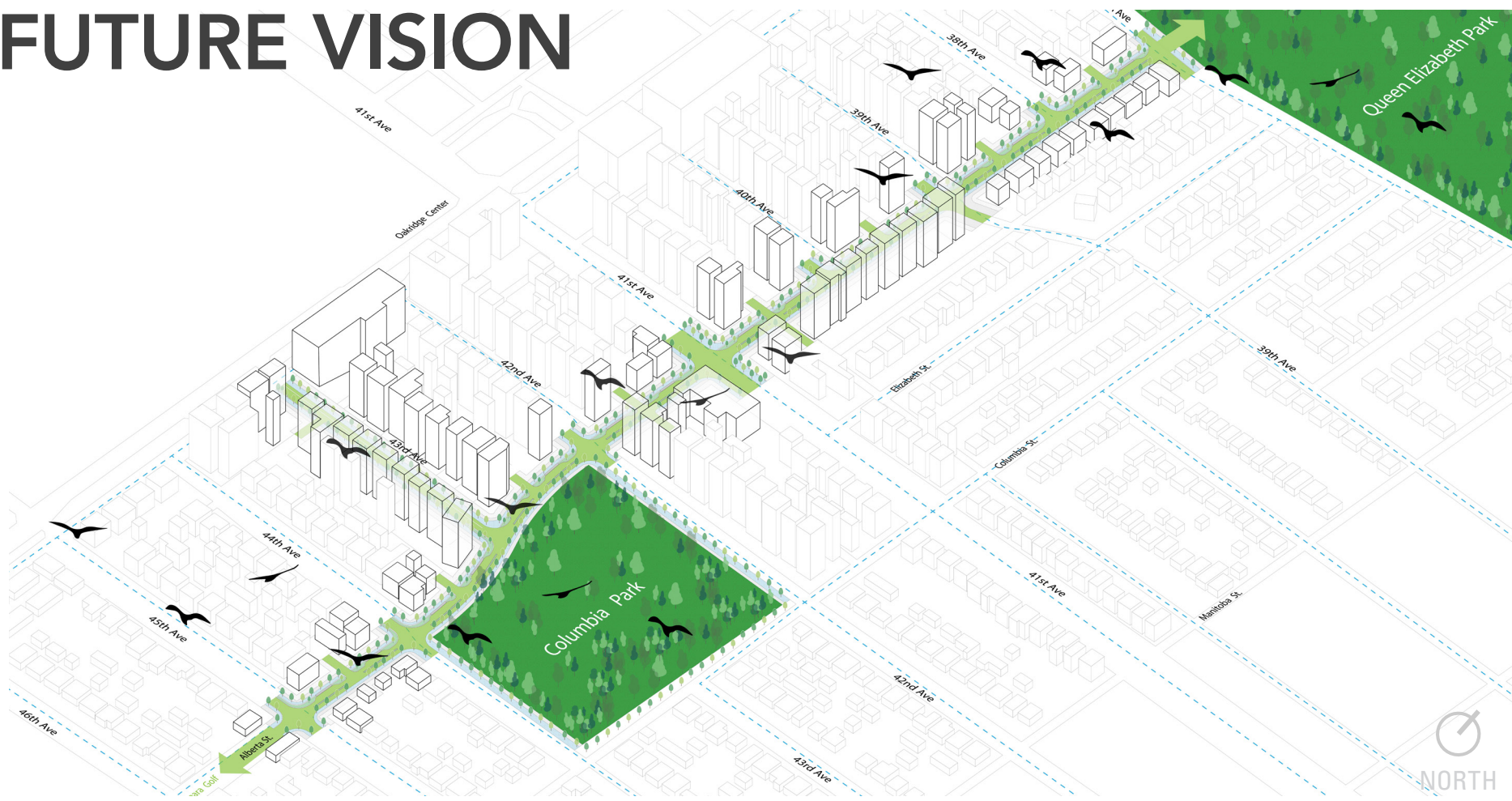


Alberta St at W. 42nd Ave



Columbia Park sports field

### FUTURE VISION



### STREET CONCEPTS

These concepts are designed to compare different approaches that could be taken to the street. The final preferred concept is likely to be a combination of these concepts. The concept options vary in the amount of space dedicated to different uses. However, all of the street concepts envision Alberta Street (from West 37th Avenue to 45th Avenue) as a park-like street that provides a connection for people and urban wildlife. All of the street concepts include more trees and planting areas, improved sidewalks, access for emergency vehicles, and more places to stop and socialize along the way. There will also be rainwater management within the street right-of way to create a blue-green system.

Concept 1



Concept 2



Concept 3



\*NOTE: THIS CONCEPT DOES NOT PROVIDE SAFE AND COMFORTABLE CYCLING FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES.

### PARK CONCEPTS

All the concept options for Columbia Park will increase rainwater management, trees, and planted areas in the park to support birds, pollinators, and other urban wildlife, while also mitigating and adapting to climate change. They also all provide a restorative nature experience for people and a chance to see wildlife and native trees and flowers as part of their daily routine. Park amenities like a washroom, walking trails and playgrounds will be included in all park upgrade options.

Concept A



Concept B



Concept C





# ALBERTA STREET BLUE GREEN SYSTEM AND COLUMBIA PARK RENEWAL

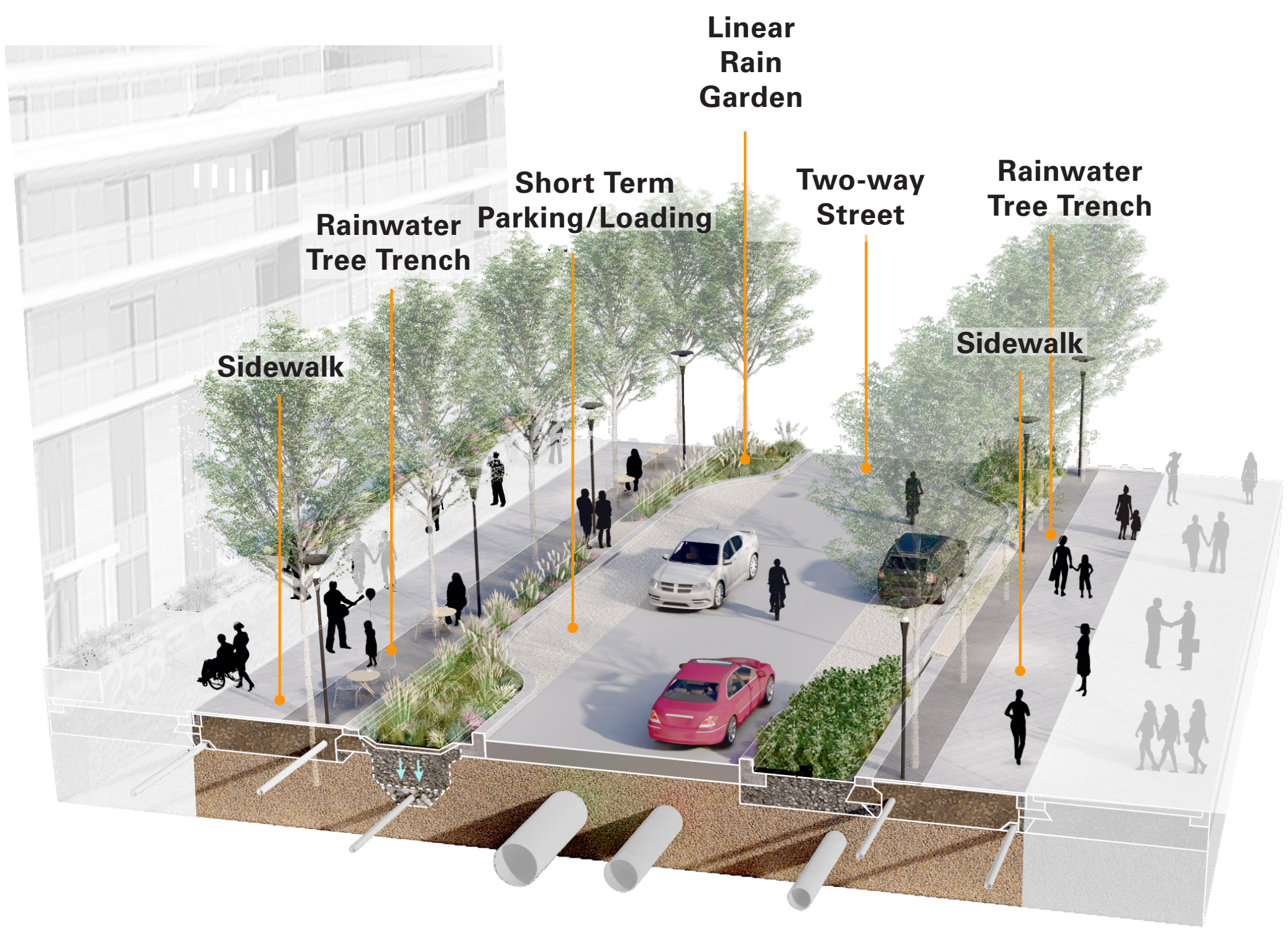
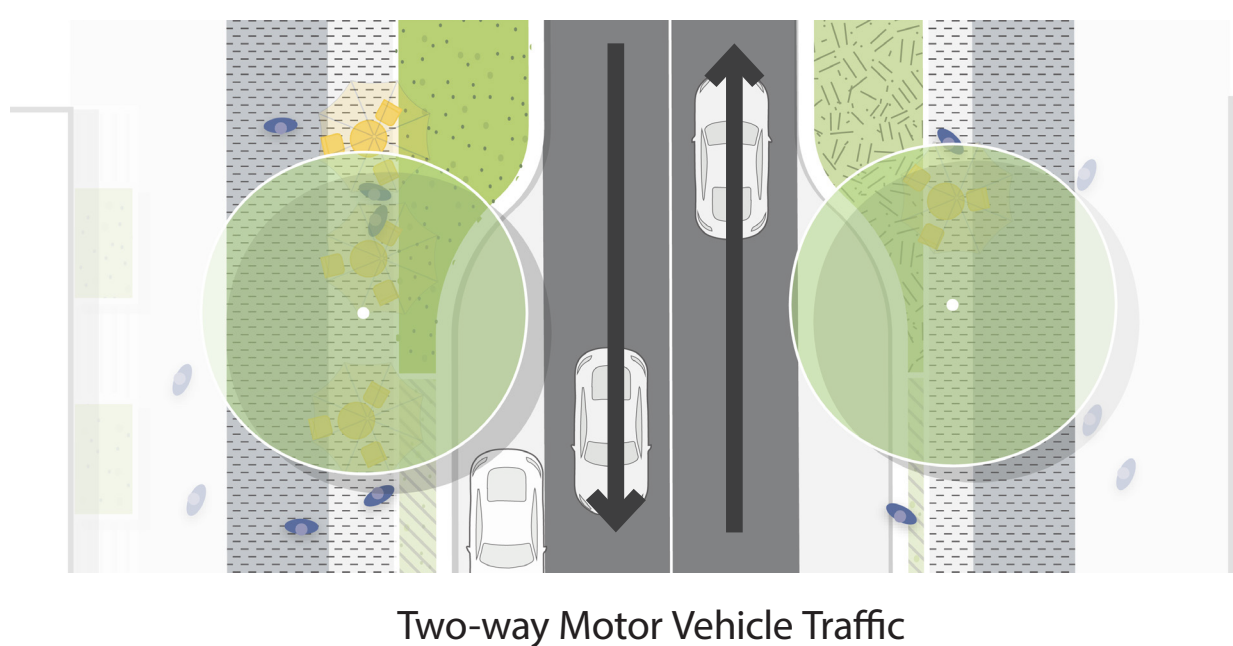
## ALBERTA STREET

### CONCEPT 1

This option has the most space dedicated to motor vehicle space, followed by rainwater management. Full implementation of Concept 1 does not provide safe and comfortable cycling facilities for people of all ages and abilities. The final preferred concept is likely to be a combination of these concepts.

#### Key Features

- Good walking experience
- Good social space
- Best vehicle mobility
- Good short-term parking & loading

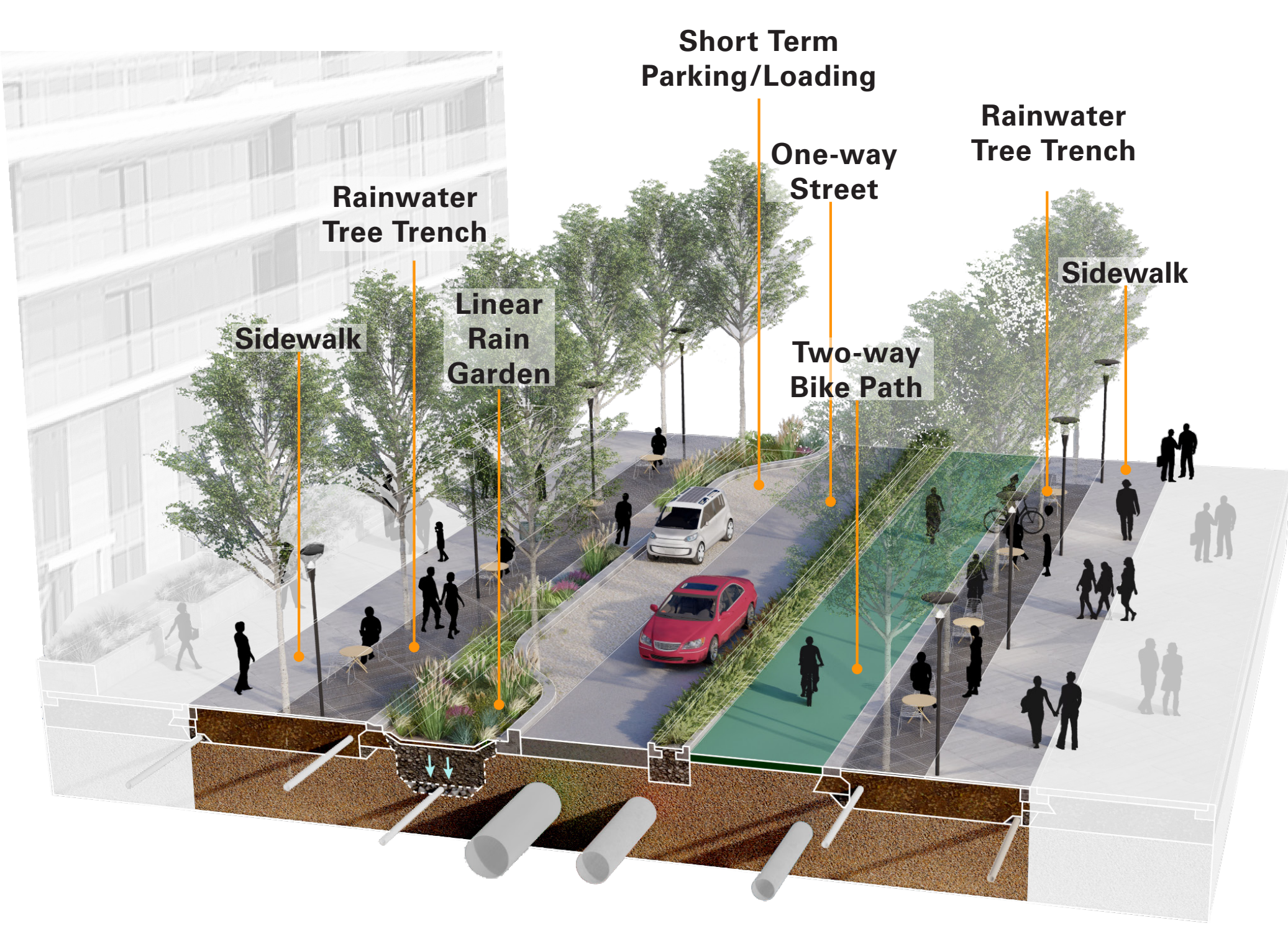
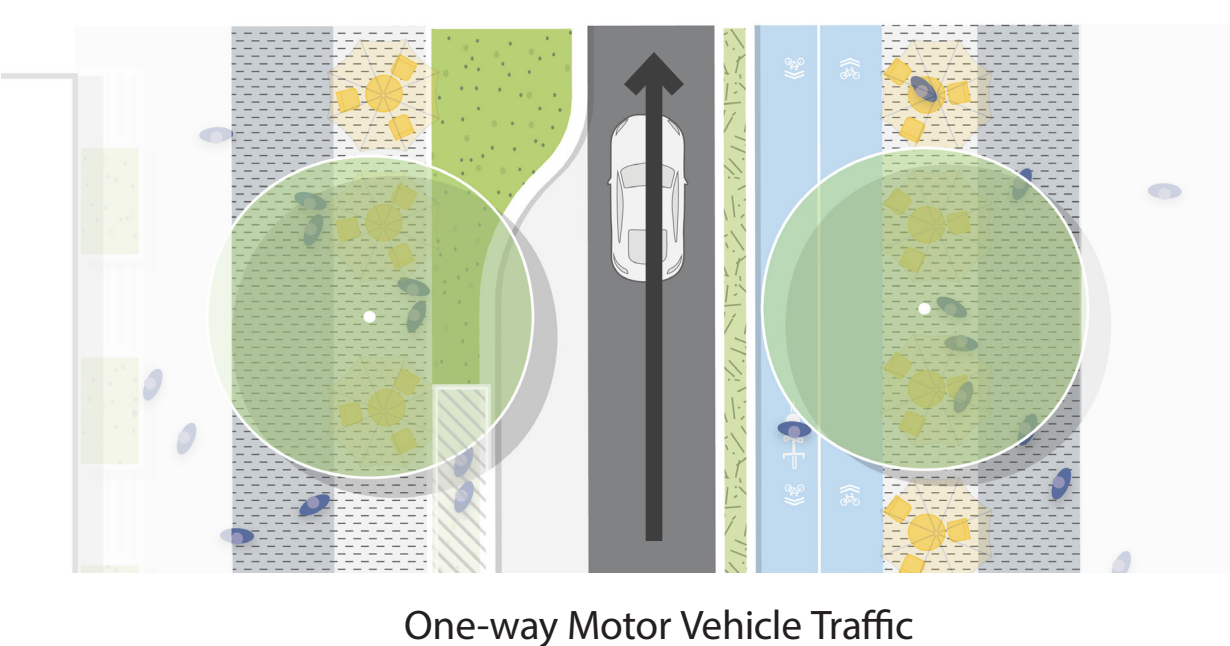


### CONCEPT 2

This option has the most space dedicated to rainwater management, followed by motor vehicle space. This option includes a separated bike path and staging/parking area.

#### Key Features

- Better walking and cycling experience
- Better social space
- Better access to nature
- Better ecosystem health
- Better climate resiliency

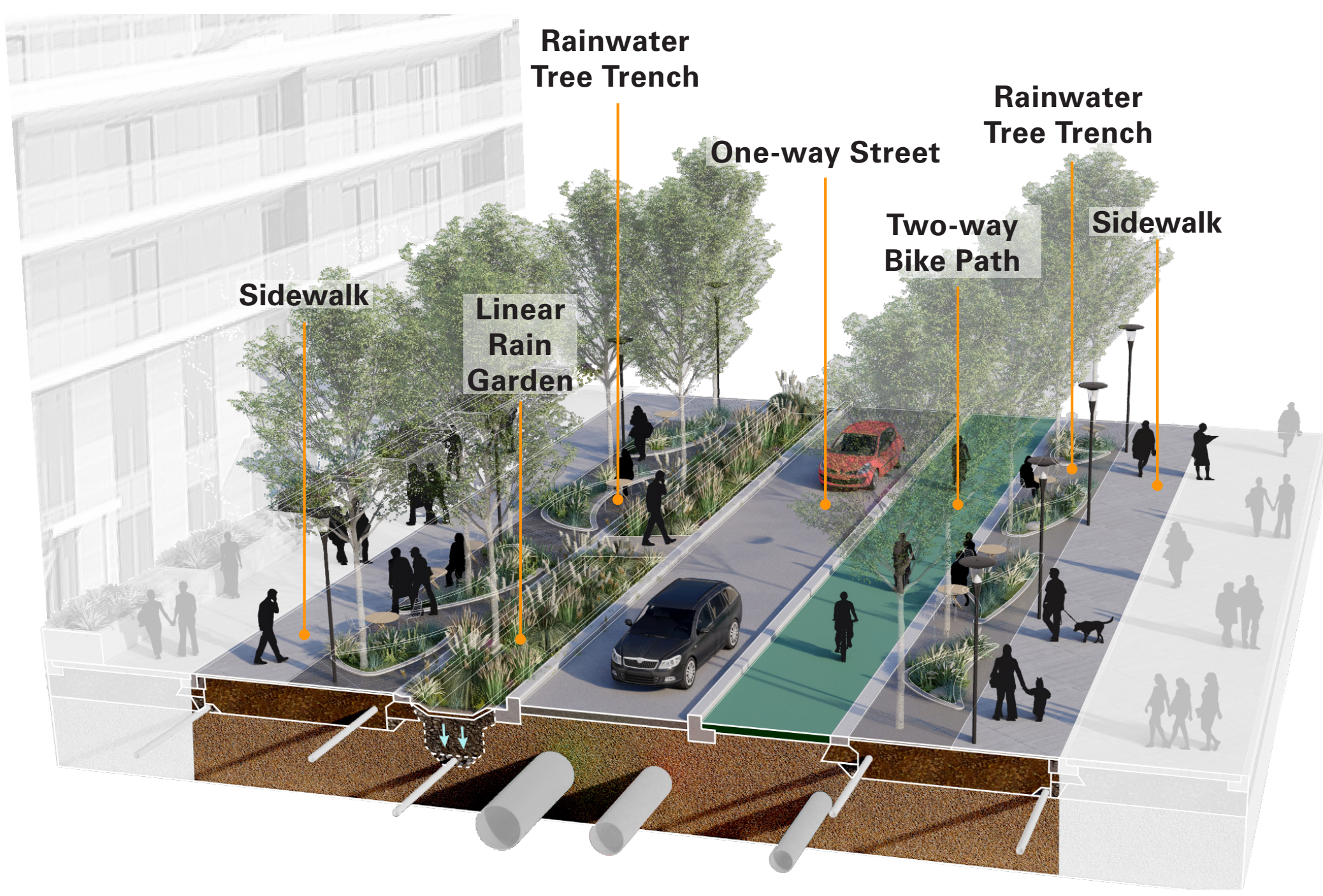
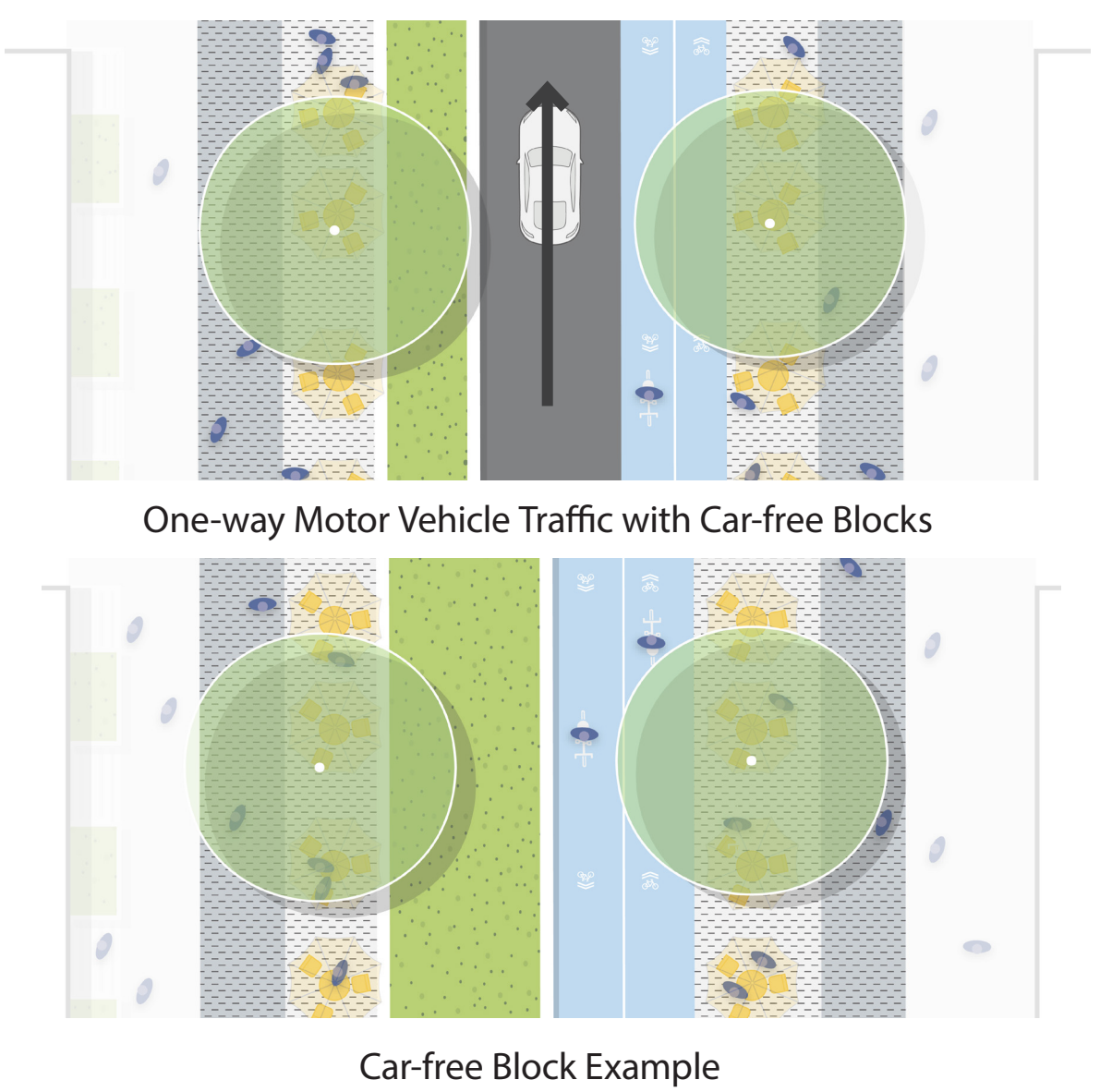


### CONCEPT 3

This option has the most space dedicated to rainwater management, and has the least space dedicated motor vehicles of the three options. This option includes a separated bike path and space for linear rain gardens.

#### Key Features

- Best walking and cycling experience
- Best social space
- Best access to nature
- Best ecosystem health
- Best climate resiliency





# ALBERTA STREET BLUE GREEN SYSTEM AND COLUMBIA PARK RENEWAL

## ALBERTA STREET

### EXPERIENCES



Trees and Planted Area



Separated Bike Path



Social Spaces with Seating



Car-free Street Cycling



Planted Area



Sidewalk with Social Space



Two-way Bike Path



Car-free Street Walking



Linear Rain Garden



Linear Rain Garden



Separated Bike Path



Social Spaces with Seating



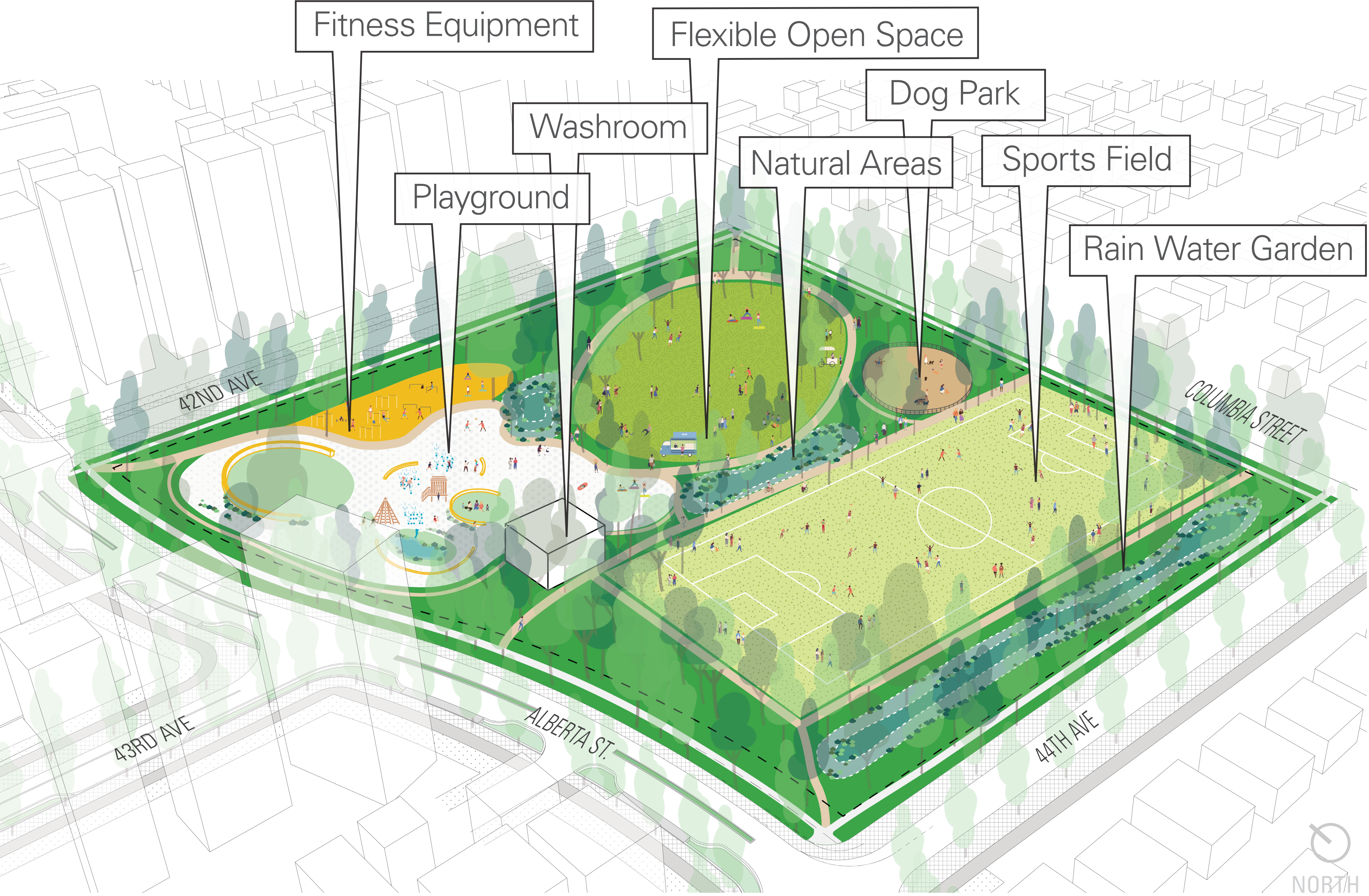
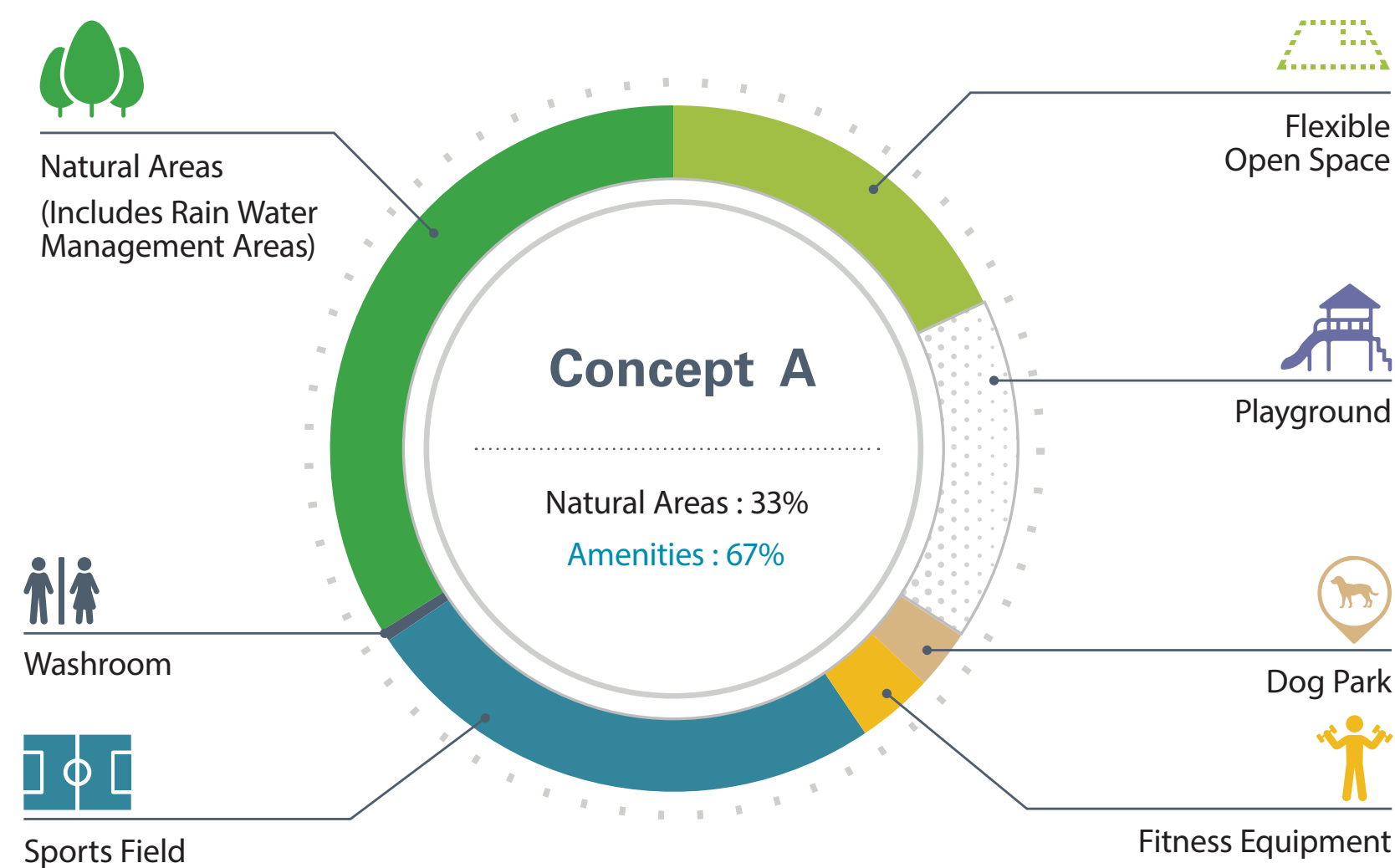
# ALBERTA STREET BLUE GREEN SYSTEM AND COLUMBIA PARK RENEWAL

## COLUMBIA PARK

### CONCEPT A

This option prioritizes a mix of recreational facilities on approximately 70% of the site including a sports field, green open space for pick-up games or informal play, fitness equipment, and a small, fenced, off-leash dog park.

Approximately 30% of the site accommodates natural areas for rainwater management and habitat creation.



Illustrative View of Playground Experience



Playground



Fitness Equipment



Natural Area: Rain Water Garden



Sports Field



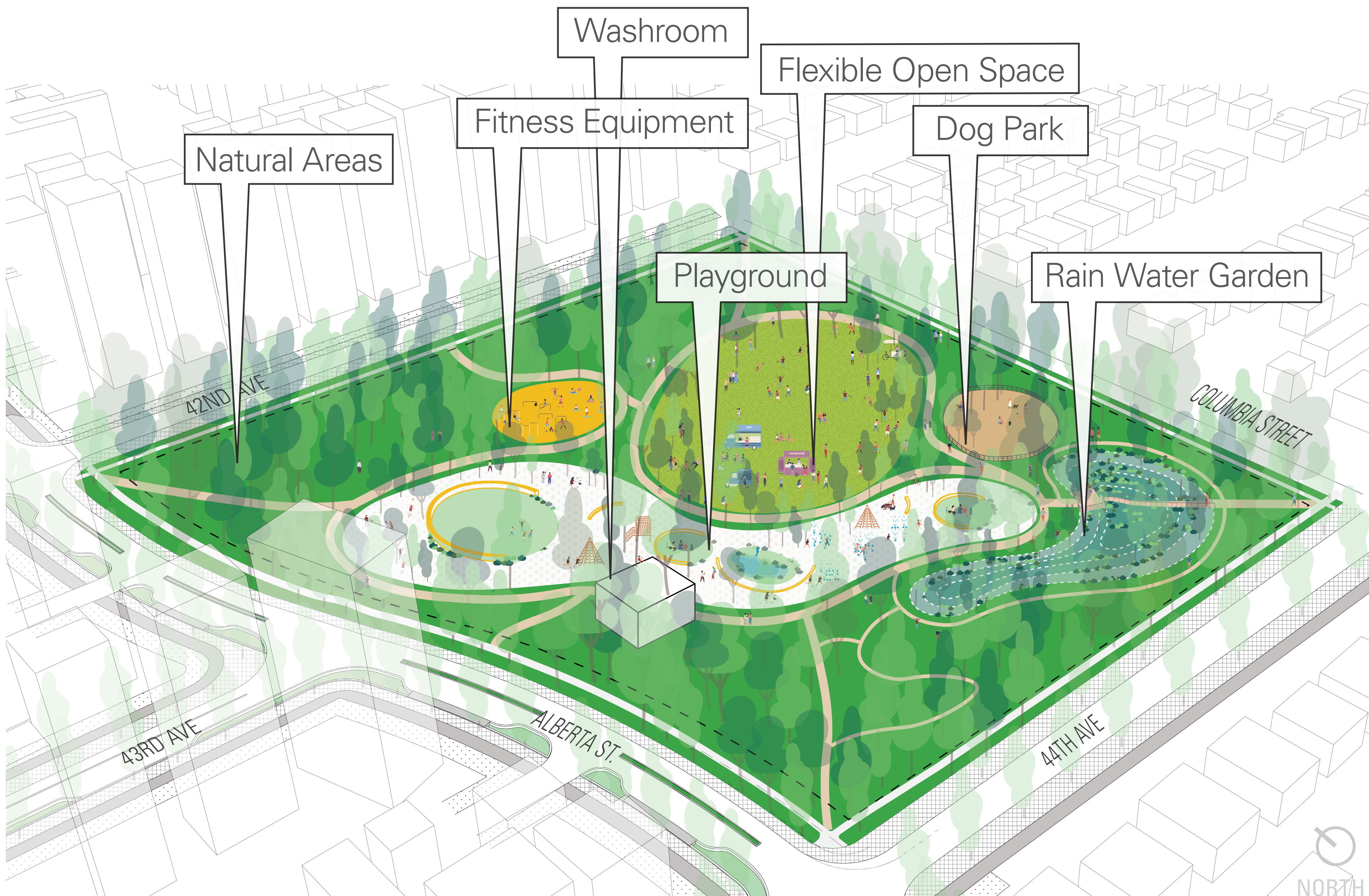
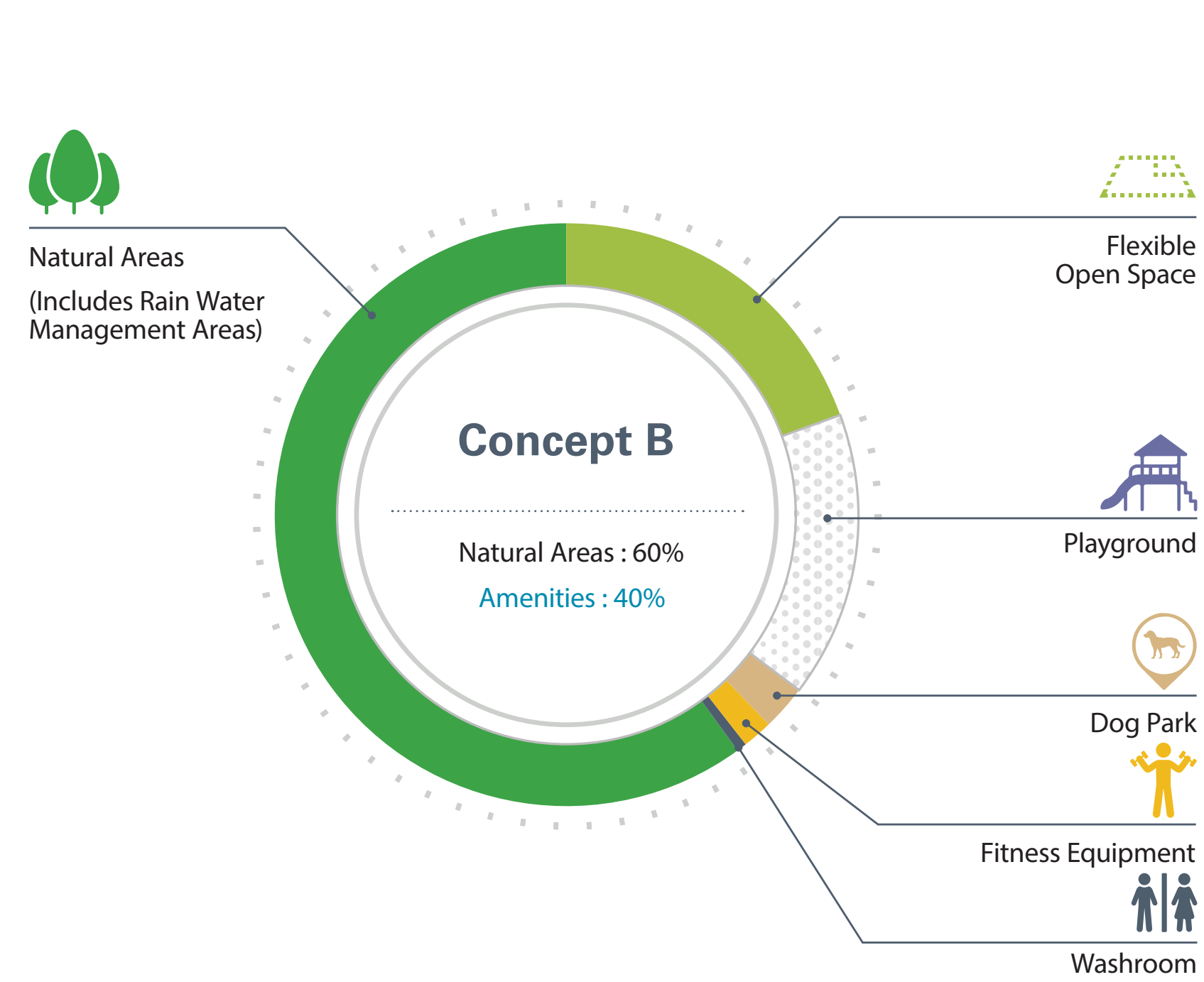
# ALBERTA STREET BLUE GREEN SYSTEM AND COLUMBIA PARK RENEWAL

## COLUMBIA PARK

### CONCEPT B

This option concentrates recreational features on approximately 40% of the site leaving the remainder as natural areas for rainwater management and habitat creation.

Recreational features could include fitness equipment, sports court, green open space for pick-up games or informal play, and nature play.



Illustrative View of Flexible Open Space Experience



Informal Play



Natural Areas: Pollinator Meadow



Natural Areas: Rain Water Garden



Flexible Open Space



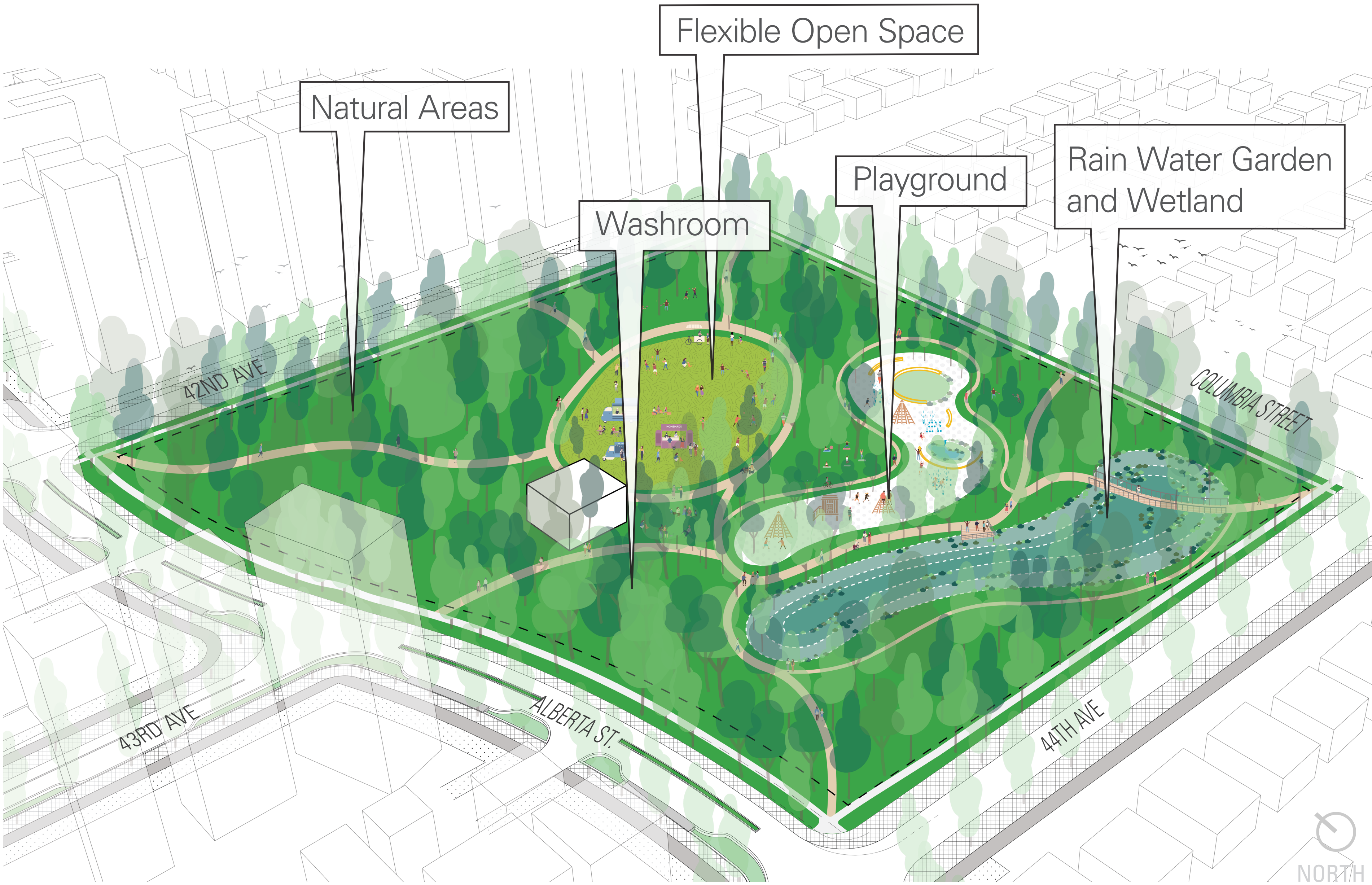
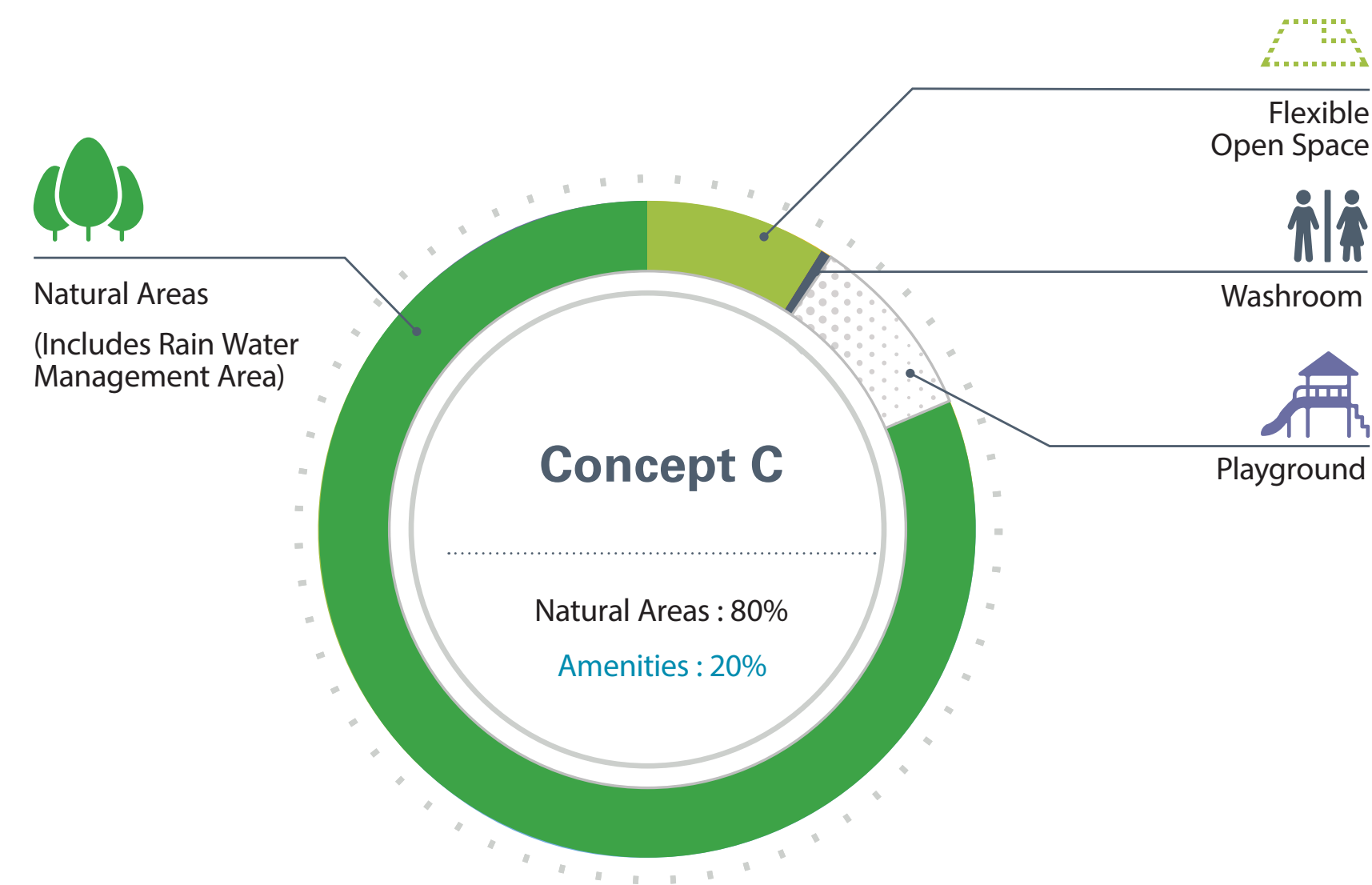
# ALBERTA STREET BLUE GREEN SYSTEM AND COLUMBIA PARK RENEWAL

## COLUMBIA PARK

### CONCEPT C

In this option, approximately 80% of the site is dedicated to natural areas creating an inviting nature experience.

The park features are integrated into a naturalized setting that includes wetland, urban forest, and signification habitat creation.



Illustrative View of Rain Water Garden & Path Experience



Playground: Nature Play



Natural Area: Naturalized Planting



Natural Area: Rain Water Garden & Wetland



Natural Area: Rain Water Garden & Wetland

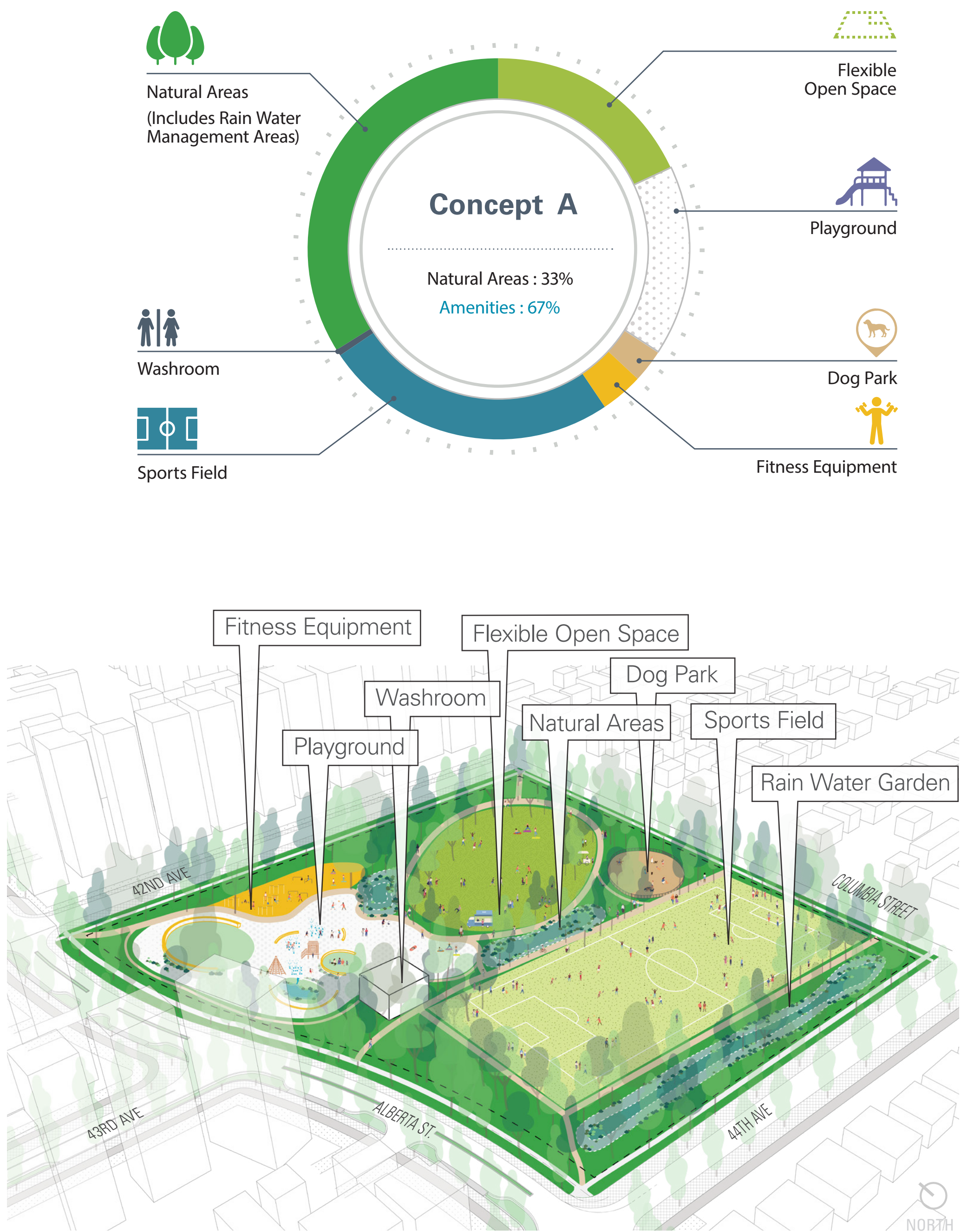


# ALBERTA STREET BLUE GREEN SYSTEM AND COLUMBIA PARK RENEWAL

## COLUMBIA PARK CONCEPTS

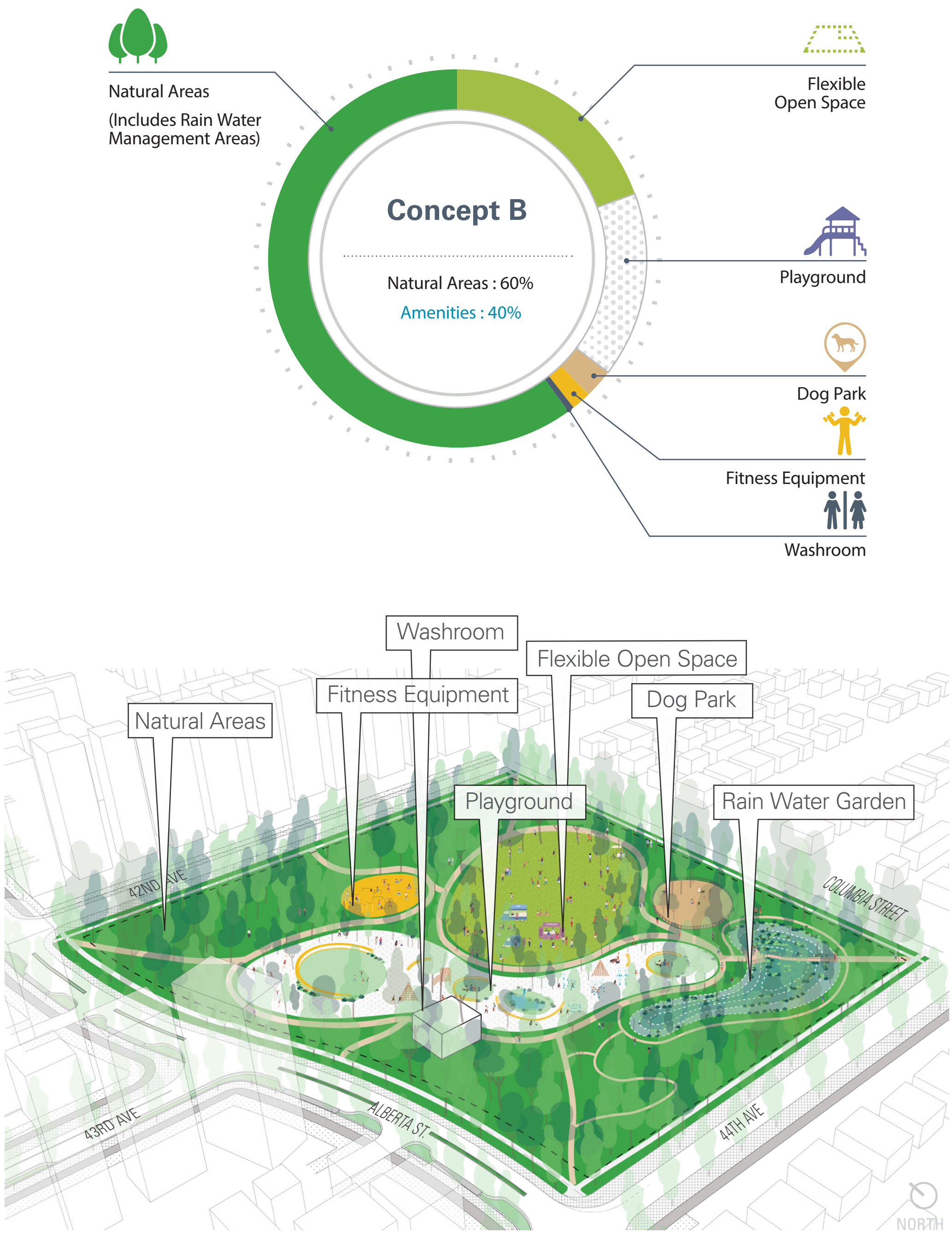
### CONCEPT A

Approximately 70% of the site will prioritize a mix of recreational facilities and 30% of the site will support natural areas including rainwater management and habitat creation.



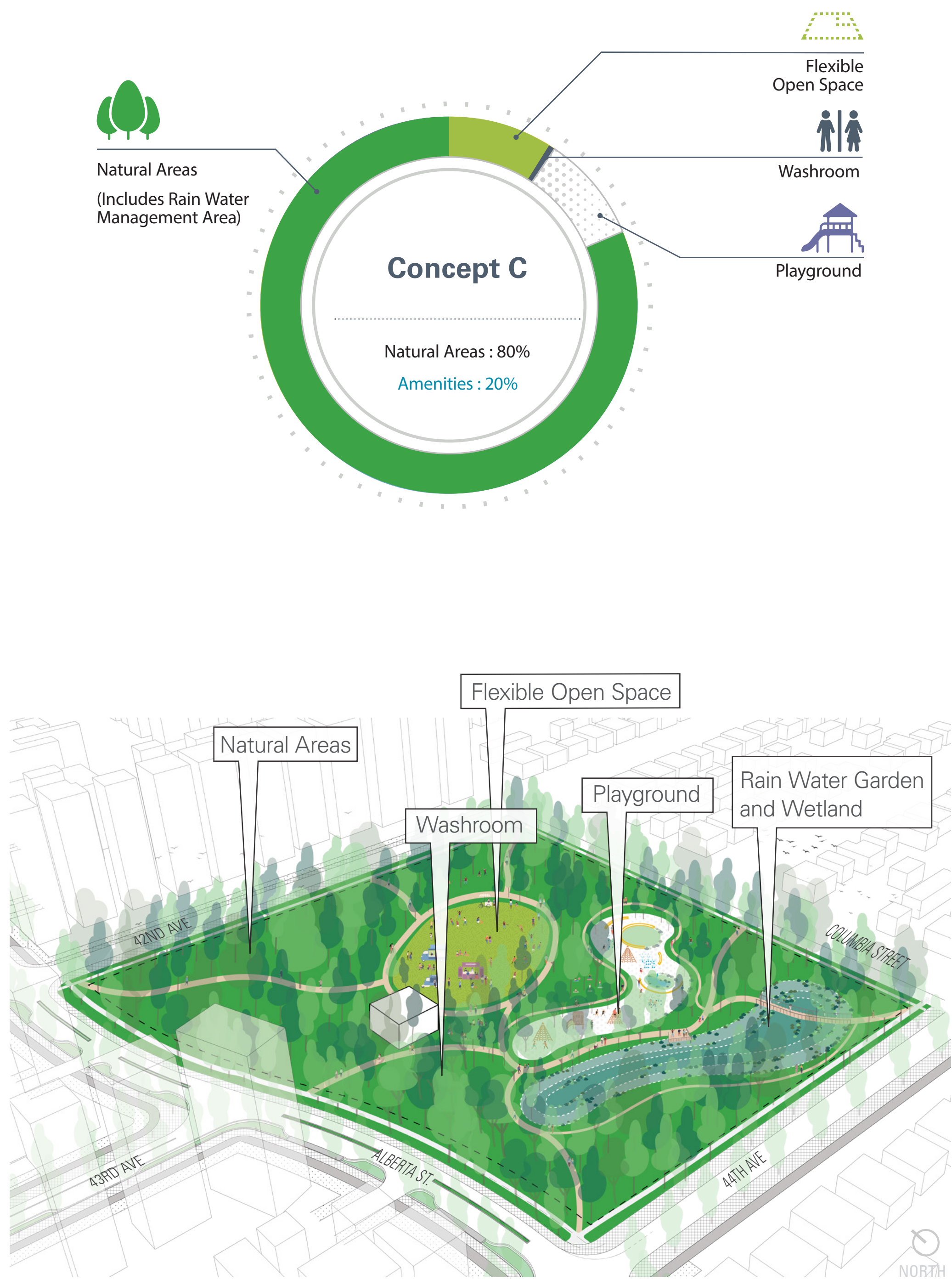
### CONCEPT B

Approximately 40% of the site will include recreational facilities leaving the remaining 60% of the site as natural areas for rainwater management and habitat creation.



### CONCEPT C

Approximately 20% of the site will incorporate recreational facilities prioritizing 80% of the site for natural areas such as a wetland, urban forest, and signification habitat creation to establish an inviting nature experience.





# ALBERTA STREET BLUE GREEN SYSTEM AND COLUMBIA PARK RENEWAL

## HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

### We want to hear from you!

Tell us what you think about the concept options for Alberta Street and Columbia Park on Shape Your City at:

[shapeyourcity.ca/alberta-columbia](https://shapeyourcity.ca/alberta-columbia)

- Complete the online survey
- Ask a question
- Sign-up for project notices

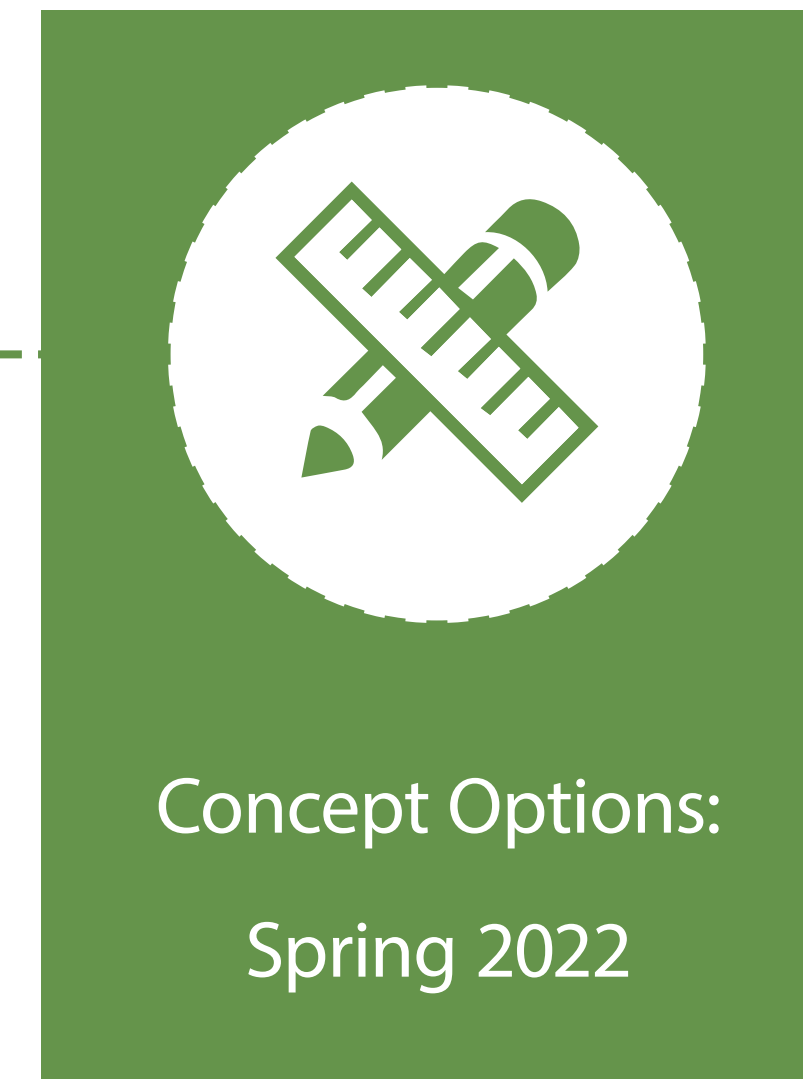


### Engagement Timeline



Vision and values:

Fall 2021



Concept Options:

Spring 2022

WE ARE HERE



Preferred Concept:

Spring 2023



Final Design & Concept:

Fall 2023

### Next Steps

The three concept options for Alberta Street and Columbia Park will be refined based on public feedback on street layout and park options. A preferred concept will be developed based on public and stakeholder feedbacks and City objectives. There will be an opportunity for public and stakeholders to provide feedback on the preferred concept in Spring 2023.