

EAST PARK

A NEW PARK IS COMING TO FALSE CREEK



Share your feedback on the preliminary concept designs!

A new park is coming to False Creek, a unique place where city and water meet, on the ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation). The project area is currently called East Park, however we intend to identify an official park name through a separate process.

Additionally, City of Vancouver Engineering Services is refining a concept for upgrading the Ontario Greenway as it connects with East Park.

In this round of engagement, we are sharing information about the Ontario Street upgrades and inviting feedback on preliminary concept designs for the south side of East Park, between the Seaside Greenway and East First Avenue (refer to shaded area in Figure 1).

These preliminary concept designs are shaped by the Northeast False Creek Guiding Principles together with what we heard from the local Nations and the community during the first round of engagement held in the fall of 2022.

In the future, we will share information about the shoreline and a concept plan with connections to the waterfront north of the Seaside Greenway.



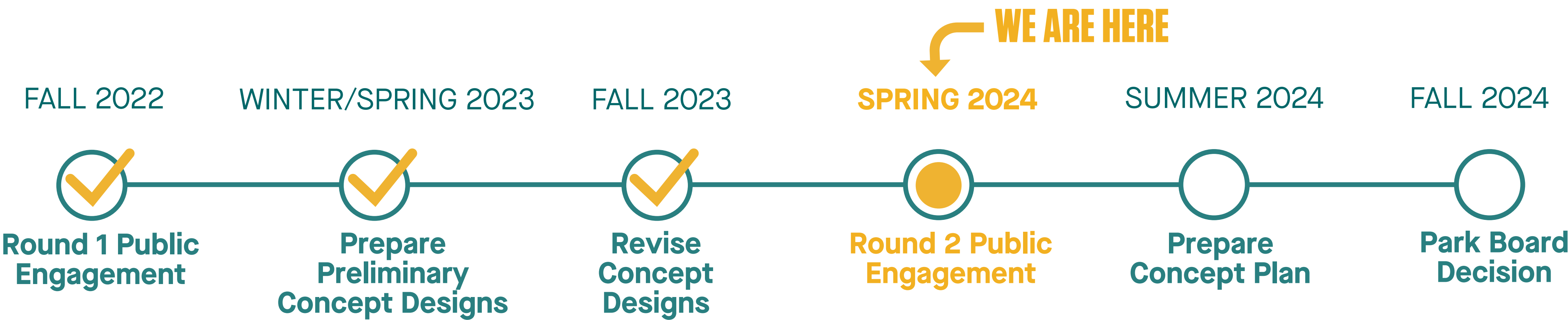
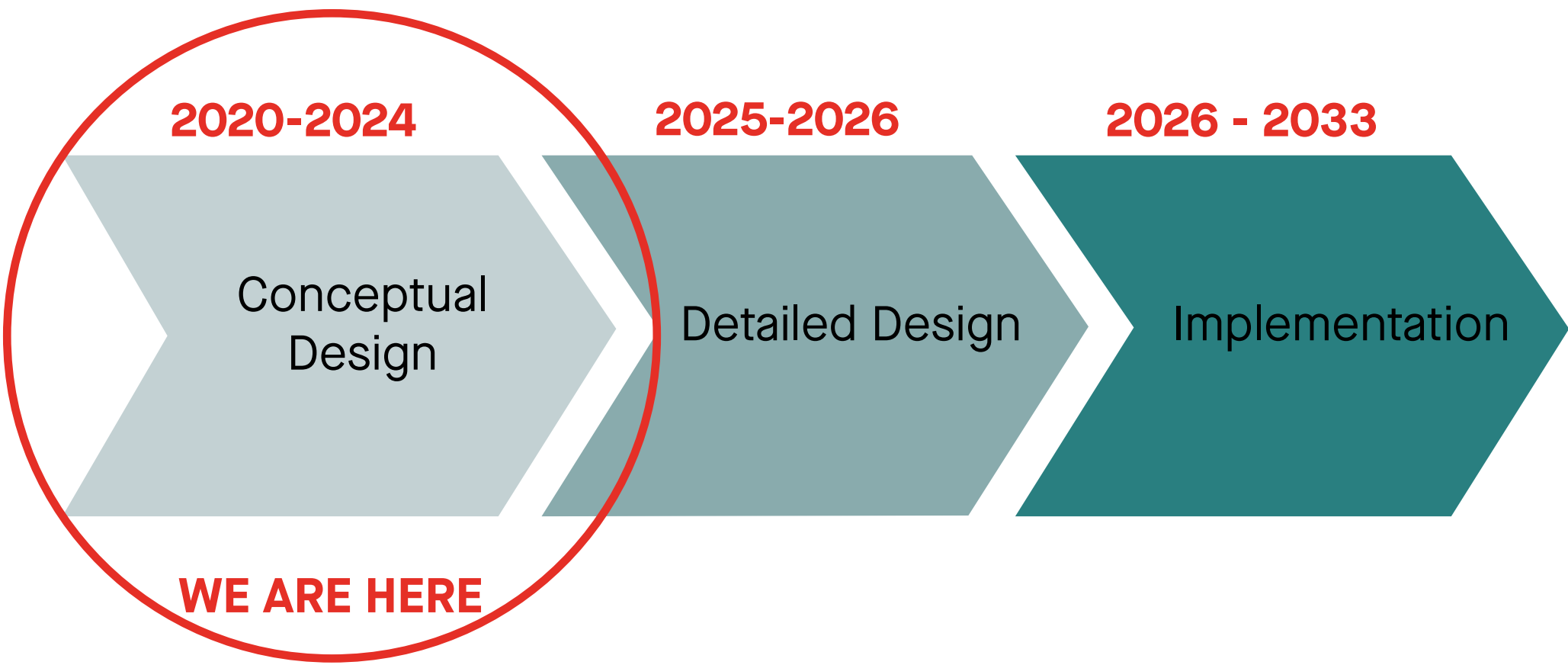
EAST PARK FIGURE 1

LISTENING AND RESPONDING

Here, we are presenting two preliminary concept designs for the south side of the site, from the Seaside Greenway to East First Avenue and we want to hear what proposed features you are most excited about.

Along with technical design considerations, we will use your feedback to develop a concept plan that combines the most supported features.

The concept plan will be shared with you and presented to the Park Board for decision in fall 2024.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Northeast False Creek, 2019

Guiding Principles for the design of parks in Northeast False Creek (NEFC) were developed through extensive engagement with the local Nations, urban Indigenous peoples, key stakeholder communities, and the broader public.

Four common themes emerged - **Identity, Community, Nature and Destination** - around which 10 guiding principles (below) were organized. These themes and principles also guide the design of East Park.



WHAT WE HEARD

In Round 1 Engagement

In the first round of community engagement, we learned that the design of East Park should focus on caring and healing, which aligns with the Guiding Principles. Feedback also highlighted considerations and values specific to the design of East Park. These include incorporating natural features, tackling inequities more proactively, emphasizing sustainability and climate action, ensuring safe and

accessible circulation, promoting mutual learning, including food, and fostering health and healing for nature, people, and communities.

To learn more about Round 1 Public Engagement, please review the [engagement summary](#).

PROJECT GOALS

The following five project goals respond to what we heard in Round 1 engagement

NATURE

Provide habitat areas to learn from and care for the water, land, and life they support. Provide resilient landscapes that adapt to sea level rise and climate change.

RECONCILING

Provide an ecologically rich shoreline, incorporating Indigenous models of stewardship and cultural practices to improve aquatic health and support the ongoing work of reconciliation, truth-telling, and decolonization.

CIRCULATION

Provide clear, wide, separated paths for walking and biking, with accessible connections to improve wayfinding and safety.

BELONGING

Provide accessible, inclusive and welcoming spaces that nourish connection and support cultural expression, with a variety of social areas and spaces for growing and sharing food.

FLEXIBILITY

Provide multi-functional spaces that support a range of activities in ways that invite change over time (day, seasons, years) and include all ages, abilities, and identities.

SITE ANALYSIS & CONTEXT

ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT
MARCH 26 - APRIL 16, 2024
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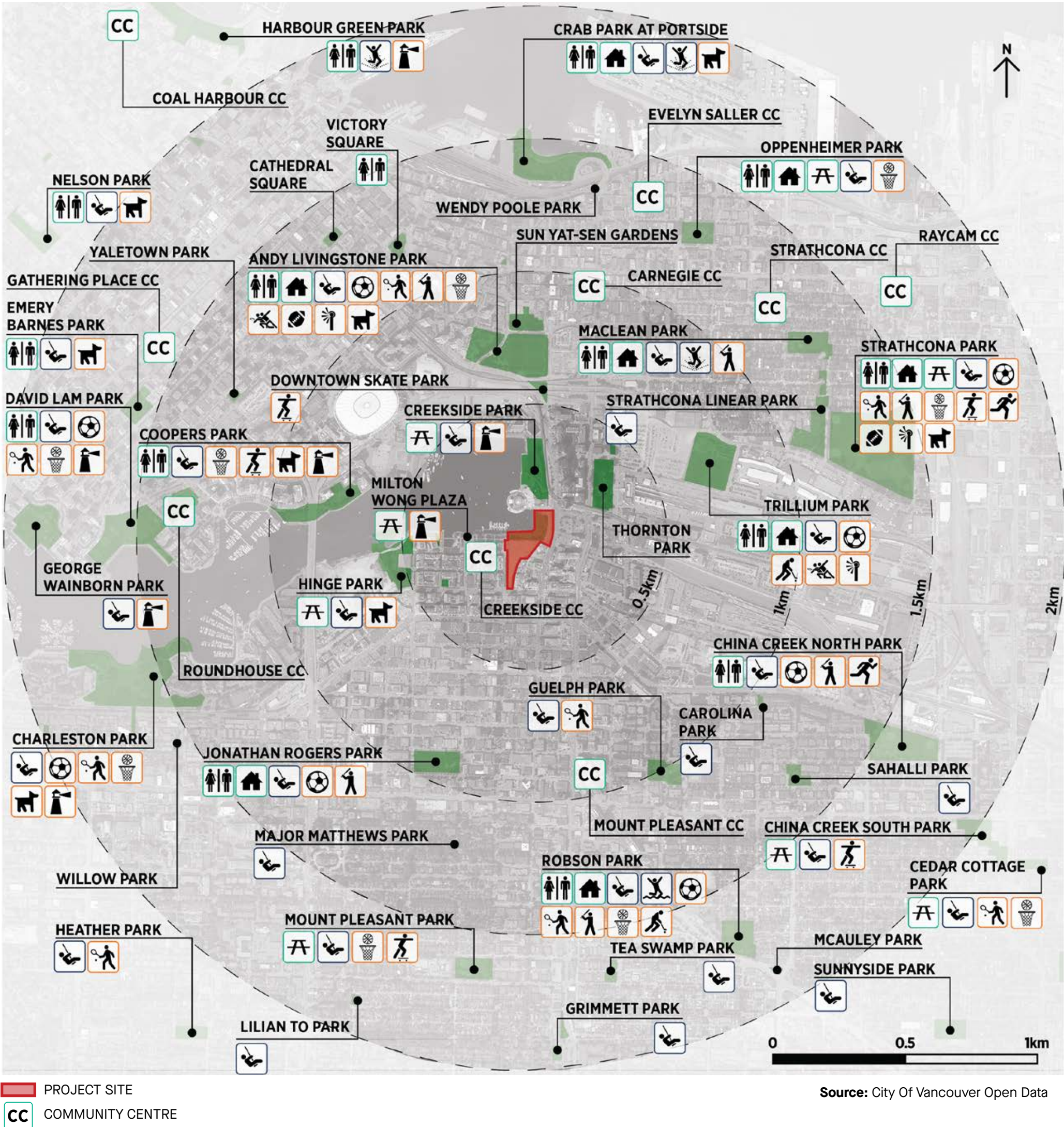
East Park is located at the eastern reach of False Creek. Connecting Northeast False Creek and Southeast False Creek, this area of the city has been the focus of much study and discussion, informing the [Southeast False Creek Official Development Plan \(2007, ODP\)](#).

The eastern reach of False Creek was filled-in during the 1900s (Figure 5), and today this part of the city is mostly paved, with limited tree canopy cover and increased land surface temperatures (Figure 6 & 7).

This is a place where people come to connect with the water and enjoy nature (Figure 3). It is also an active transportation corridor and the popular Seaside and Ontario greenways running through the site provides routes to walk, roll, and cycle to and along the waterfront (Figure 4). Nearby park amenities include Creekside Community Centre, Hinge Park, Creekside Park, and Thorton Park (Figure 2).

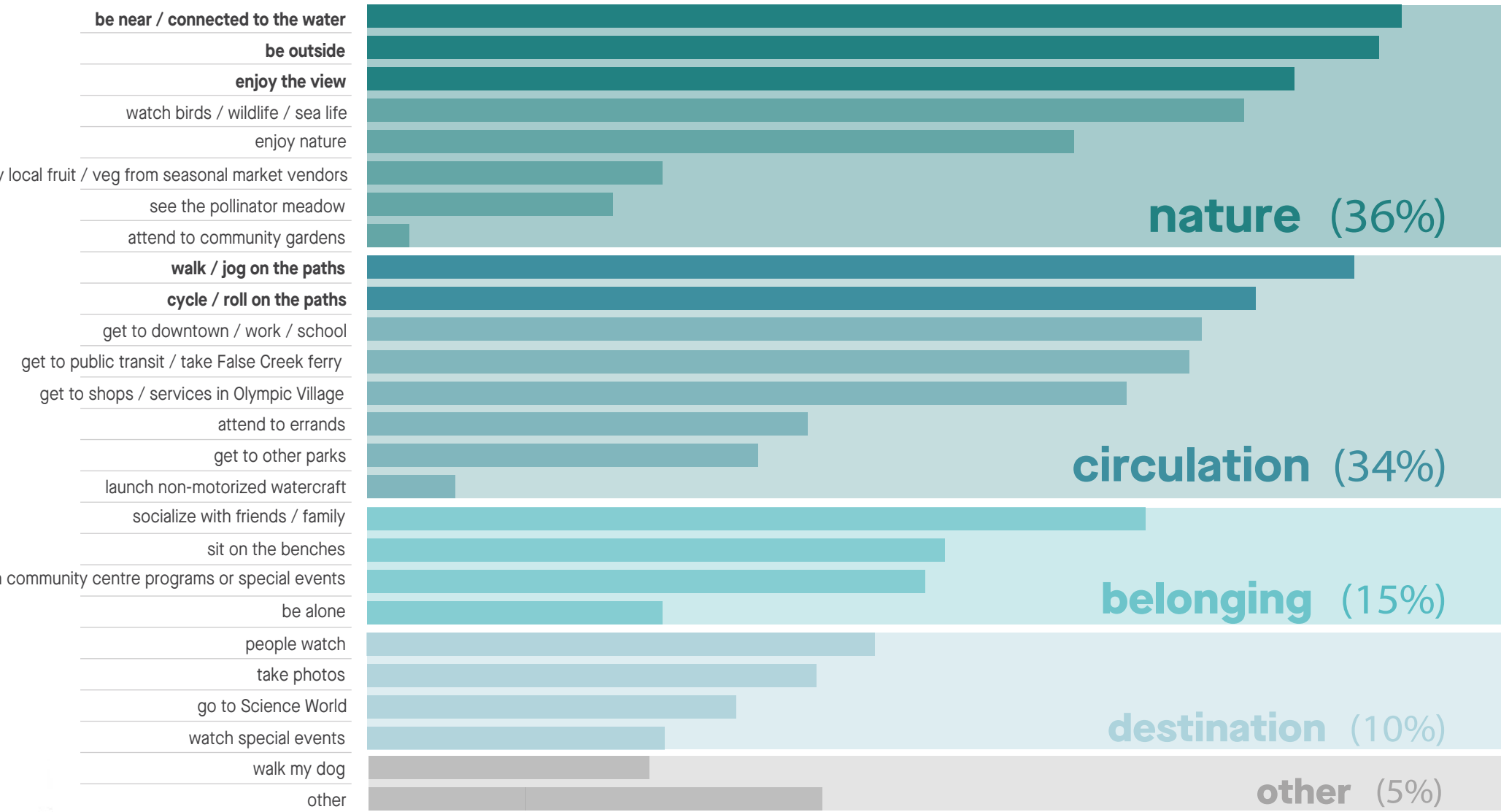
For a deeper introduction to the site, please review the [Shape Your City project page](#).

PARK AMENITIES NEAR EAST PARK FIGURE 2

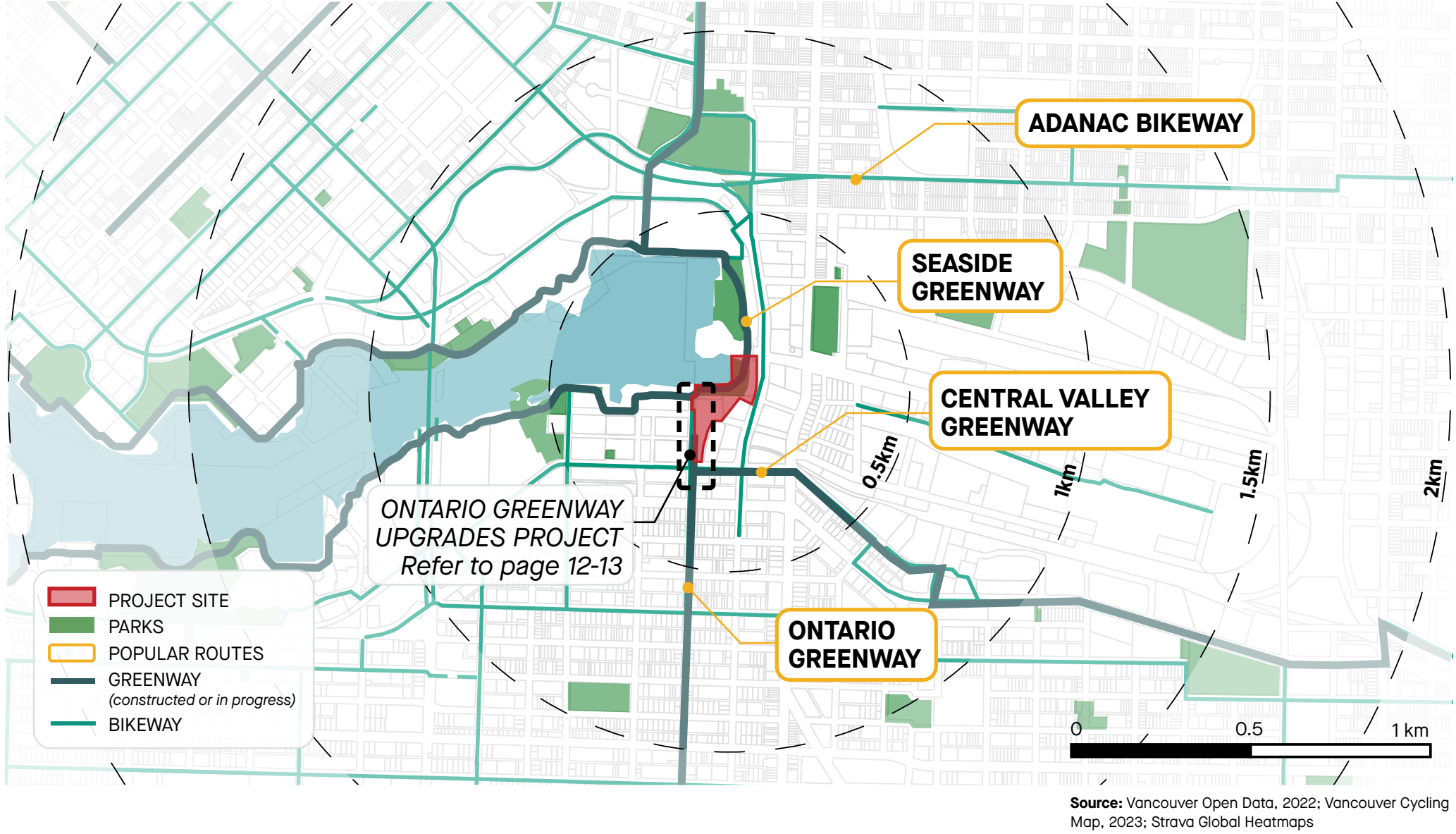


PARKS LISTED IN ORDER OF RADIAL DISTANCE FROM PROJECT SITE	WASHROOM	FIELD HOUSE	PICNIC SPOTS	PLAYGROUND	WATER/SPRAY PARK	WADING POOL	SOCCER	RACKET SPORTS	SOFTBALL/BASEBALL	BASKETBALL	BALL HOCKEY	SKATE PARK	RUNNING TRACK	ULTIMATE	RUGBY/FOOTBALL	LIGHTED FIELDS	DOGS OFF-LEASH AREA	SEA WALL
Creekside Park																		
Milton Wong Plaza																		
Thornton Park																		
Hinge Park																		
Downtown Skate Park																		
Andy Livingstone Park																		
Sun Yat-Sen Gardens																		
Trillium Park																		
Jonathan Rogers Park																		
Coopers Park																		
Guelph Park																		
Carolina Park																		
Strathcona Linear Park																		
Strathcona Park																		
Maclean Park																		
Shahalli Park																		
Major Matthews Park																		
Oppenheimer Park																		
Wendy Poole Park																		
Crab Park at Portside																		
Victory Square																		
Cathedral Square																		
Yaletown Park																		
China Creek North Park																		
Robson Park																		
Tea Swamp Park																		
Mount Pleasant Park																		
Willow Park																		
Charleston Park																		
David Lam Park																		
Emery Barnes Park																		
China Creek South Park																		
McAuley Park																		
Lilian To Park																		
Sun Hop Park																		
Grimmett Park																		
George Wainborn Park																		
Sunnyside Park																		
Cedar Cottage Park																		
Heather Park																		
Nelson Park																		
Harbour Green Park																		

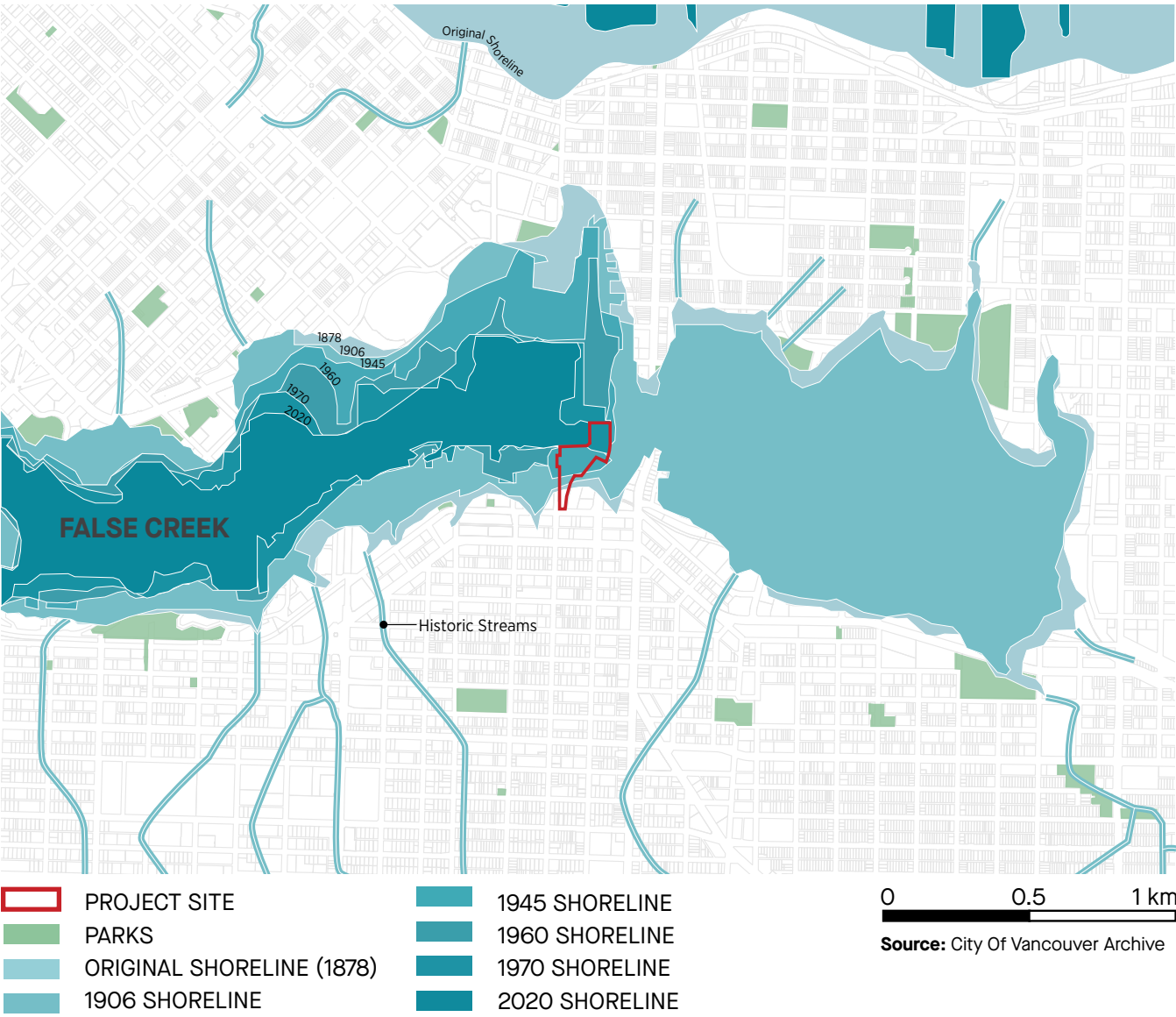
CURRENT ACTIVITIES FIGURE 3
at this site, as identified in Round 1 engagement survey



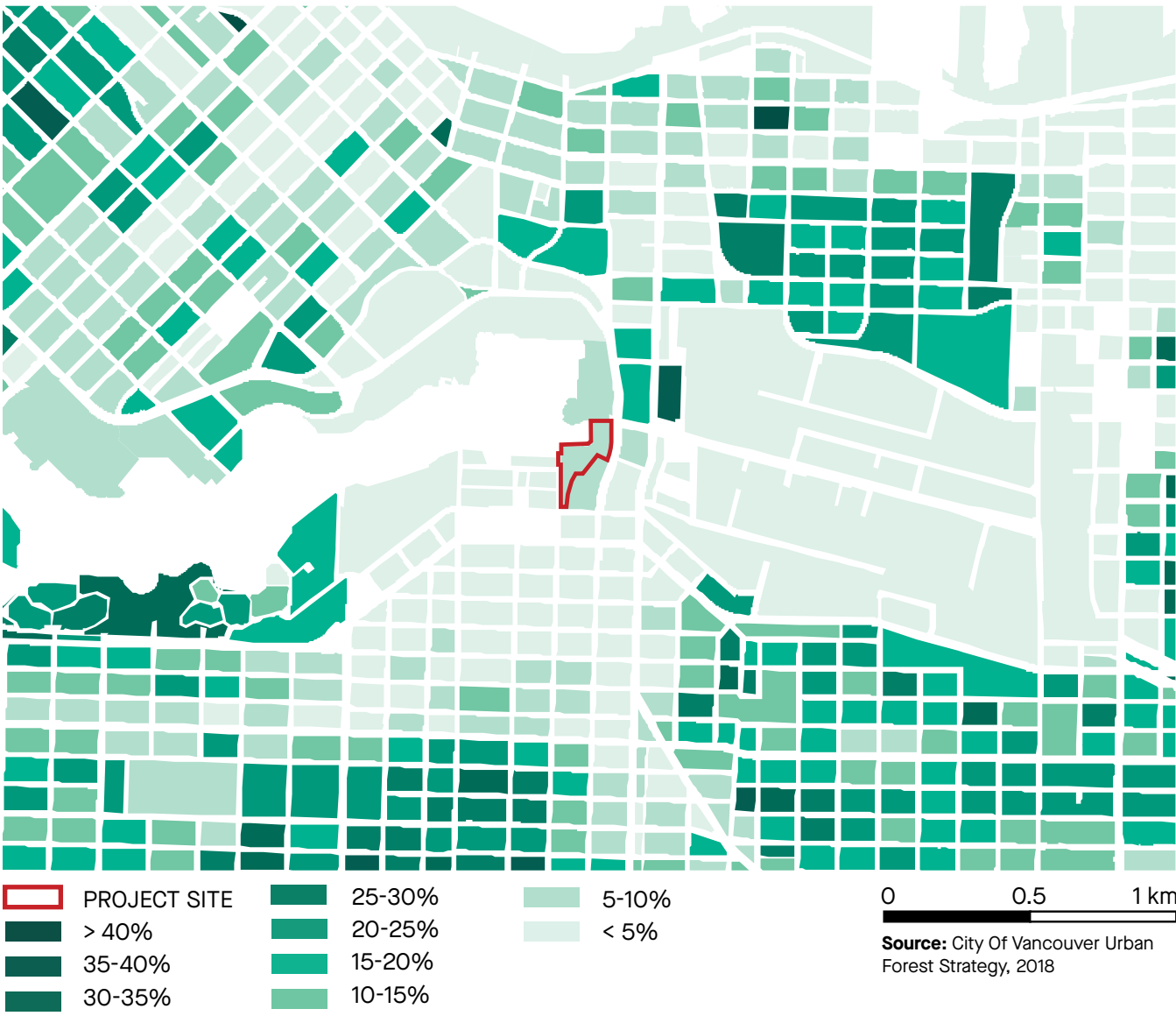
POPULAR WALKING & CYCLING ROUTES FIGURE 4



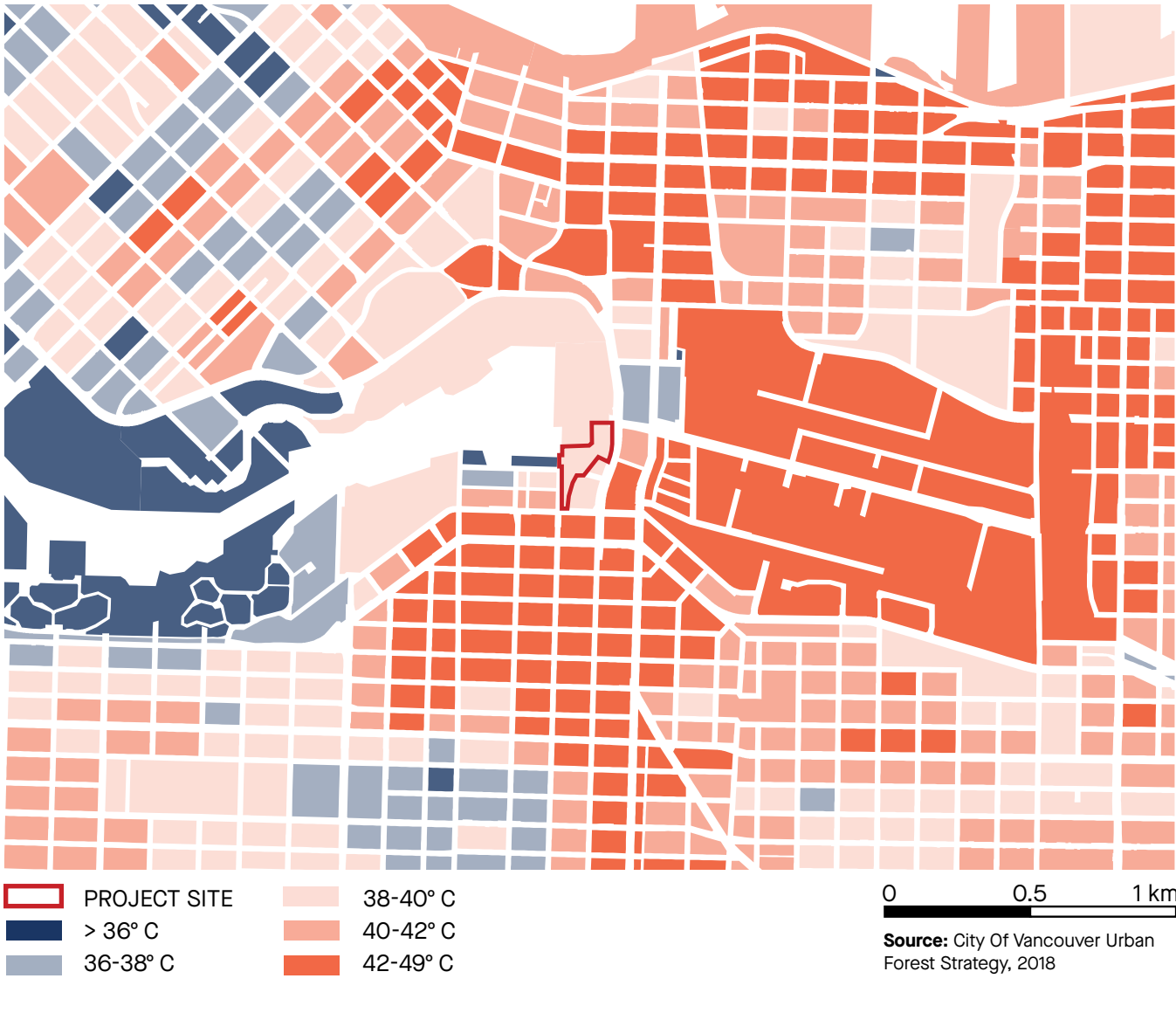
HISTORIC SHORELINE FIGURE 5
of False Creek



TREE CANOPY COVER FIGURE 6



LAND SURFACE TEMPERATURE FIGURE 7
on a hot summer day



BRAID CONCEPT DESIGN

ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT
MARCH 26 - APRIL 16, 2024
shapeyourcity.ca/east-park



A dynamic landscape that weaves together people, water, and habitat.

We are inviting your feedback on two designs, Braid and Breathe. Both designs propose a mix of vegetation, connections and other park features for the south side of the site, between the Seaside Greenway and East First Avenue.

Before the concept plan goes to the Park Board for decision, we will share further information about the waterfront north of the Seaside Greenway.

In this Braid design, the Seaside Greenway bends to the south, providing inviting nooks for social interaction near the water.

Framed by trees, a series of level lawn areas and a paved plaza provide flexible spaces for casual social gatherings and opportunities for recreation.

Designed to capture and clean rainwater, the vegetated bioretention areas along the west edge of the park also provide habitat and increased biodiversity.

The park's southern edge features a network of braided paths meandering through a grove of small trees. The songbird tree grove would be a sanctuary for diverse bird species and a retreat where people can connect with nature.



BRAID CONCEPT DESIGN

A dynamic landscape that weaves together people, water, and habitat.

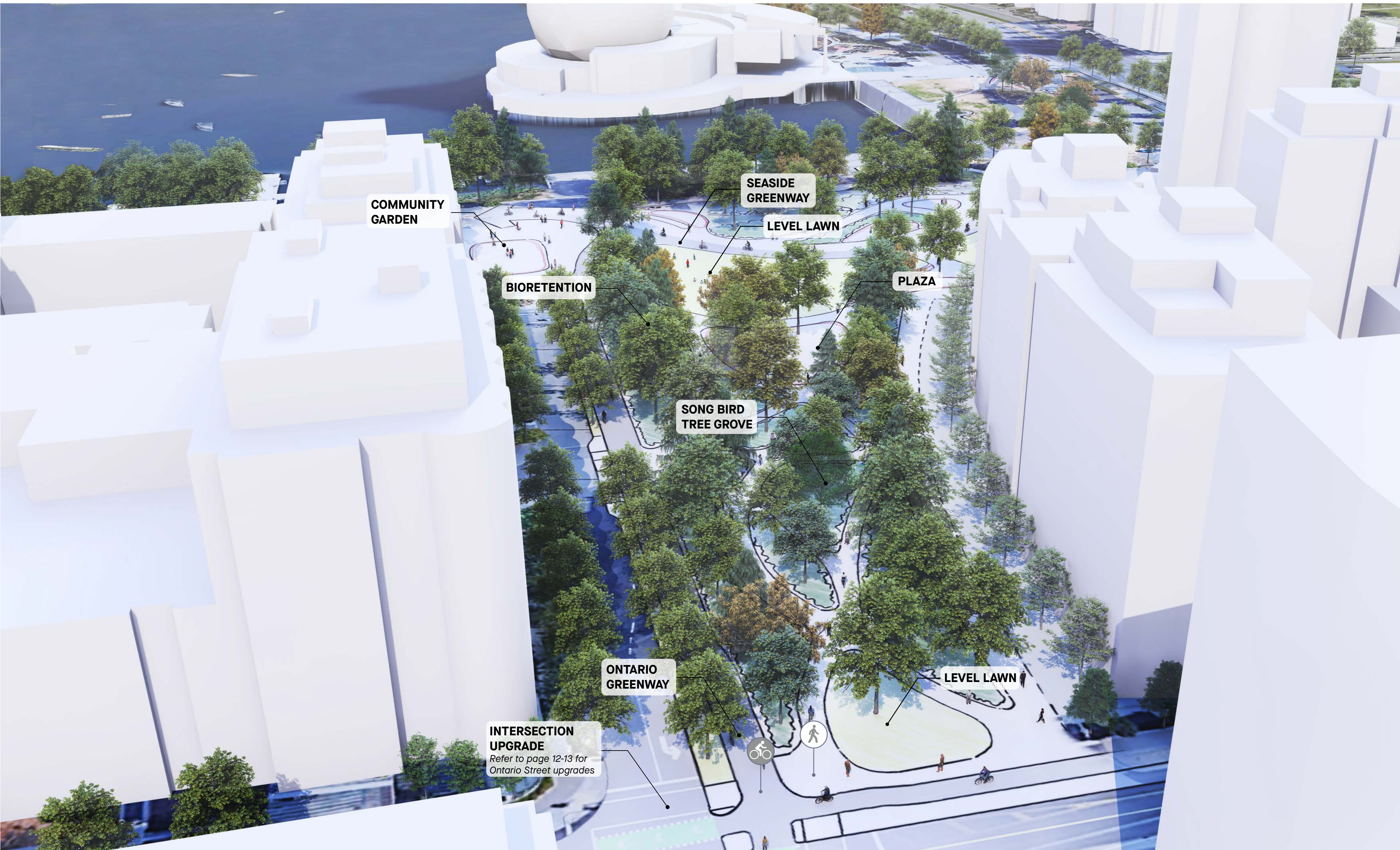
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VIEW OF SITE LOOKING SOUTH



VIEW OF SITE LOOKING NORTH



BREATHE CONCEPT DESIGN

ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT
MARCH 26 - APRIL 16, 2024
shapeyourcity.ca/east-park



A series of spacious outdoor environments that offer distinct experiences.

In this Breathe design, the Seaside Greenway takes a more direct path along False Creek.

Central to the park is a mounded lawn, providing a south-facing slope for sun-seekers and north-facing views of the water, city, and mountains.

The design prioritizes flexible spaces, from quiet gathering nodes to vibrant event spaces, including a versatile sports court.

The south part of the site maintains an open character, with unobstructed north-facing views. Picnic areas sheltered by trees to the west, overlook pollinator meadows and bioretention areas designed to capture and clean rainwater and increase biodiversity.

This concept design would create an evolving landscape that invites exploration and enhances the urban ecosystem.



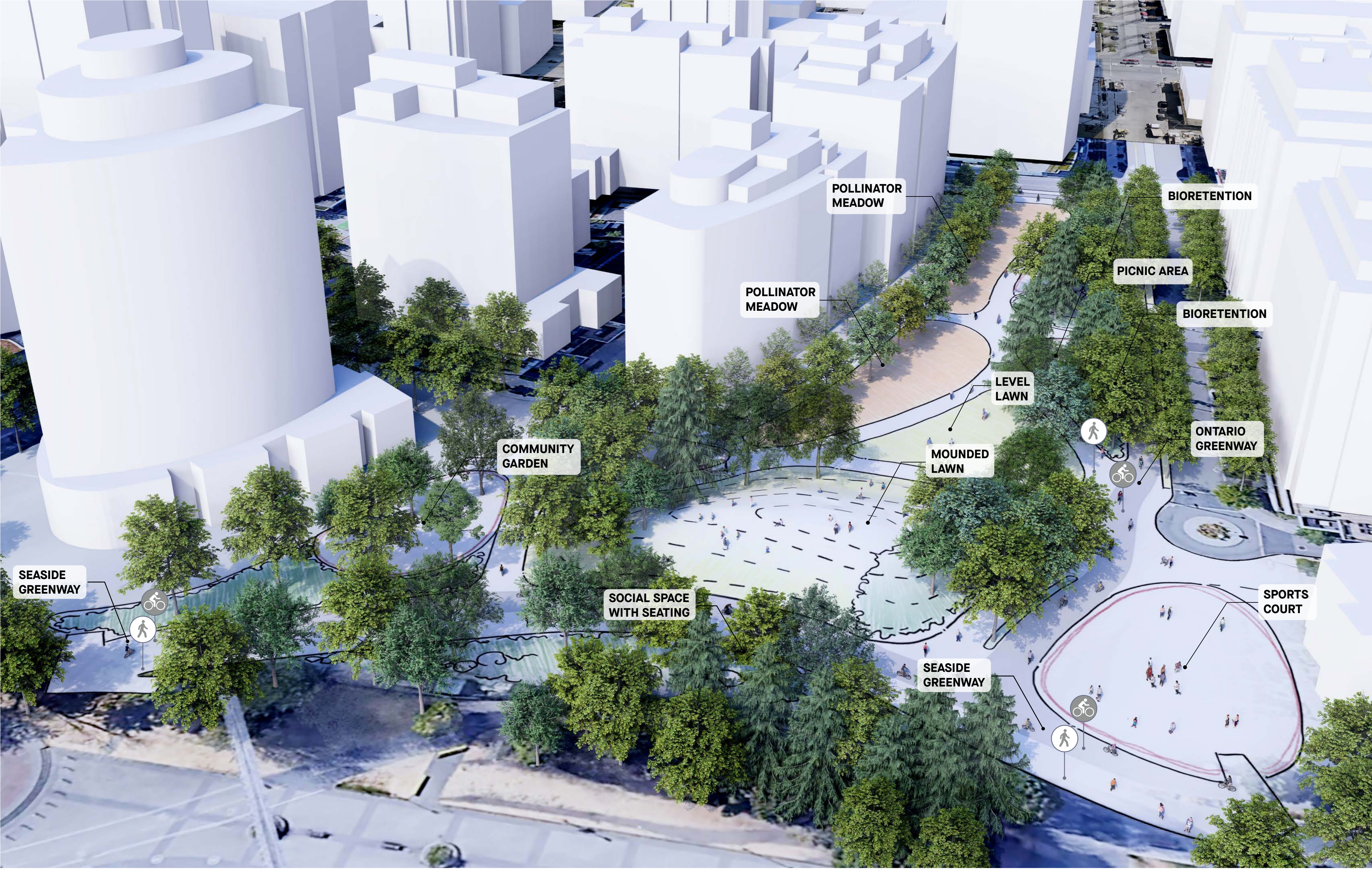
BREATHE CONCEPT DESIGN

A series of spacious outdoor environments that offer distinct experiences.

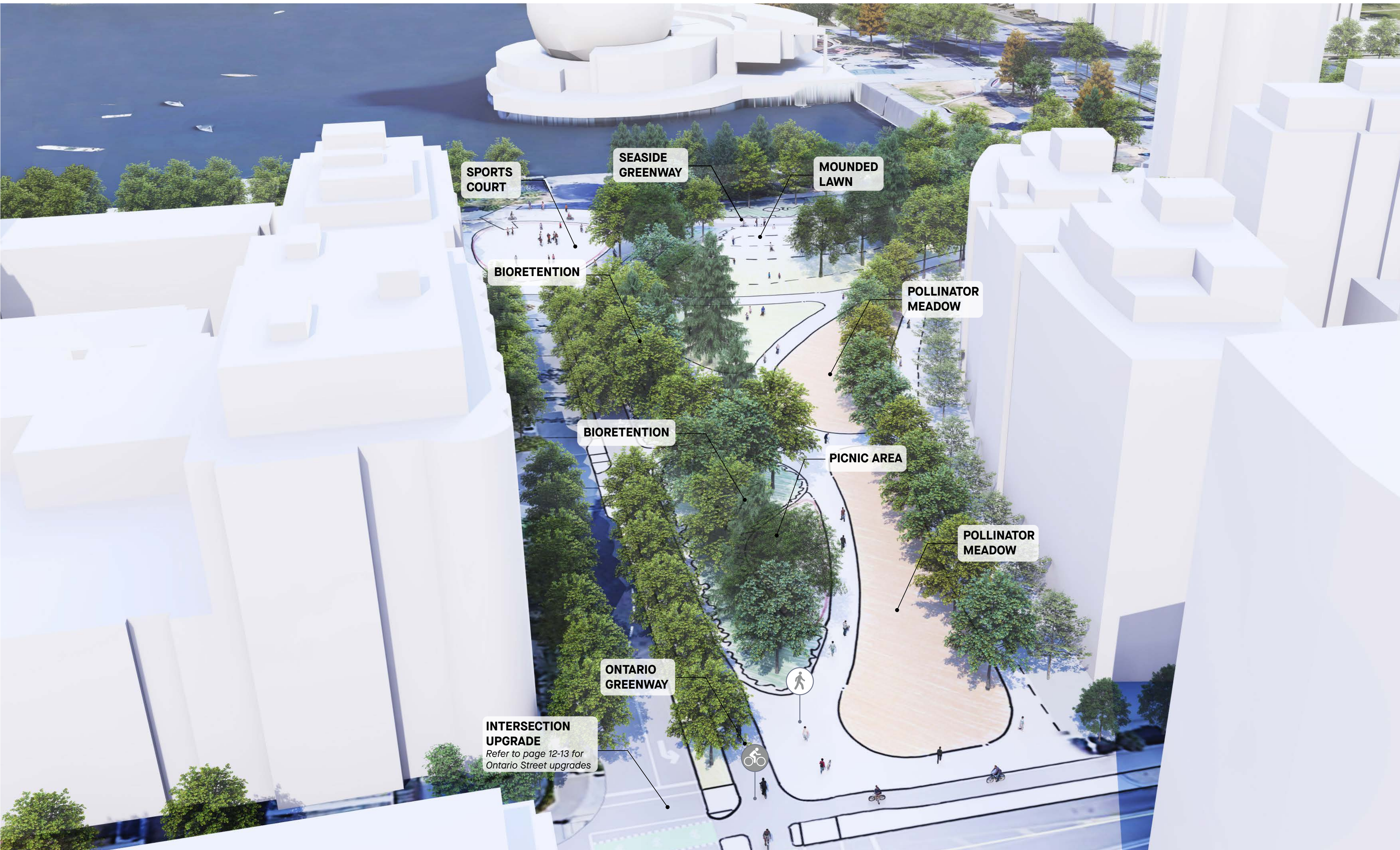
ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT
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VIEW OF SITE LOOKING SOUTH



VIEW OF SITE LOOKING NORTH



COMPARING DESIGN FEATURES

The following diagrams help identify what is similar and what is different between the two concept designs.

Simplified versions of each design are provided to help focus attention on various features like habitat zones, bike and pedestrian paths, and areas for specific activities.

The same features might be included in both concept designs but in different locations (such as the community gardens). Or, there may be some features that are included in one design but not in the other (the songbird tree grove is proposed in the Braid design, and pollinator meadows are proposed in the Breathe design).

Some features are identical in both concept designs and some features will be developed in collaboration with City staff (such as the Ontario and Seaside Greenway).

PROJECT GOALS

The following diagrams are organized by the project goals, reflecting what we heard in the first round of engagement:

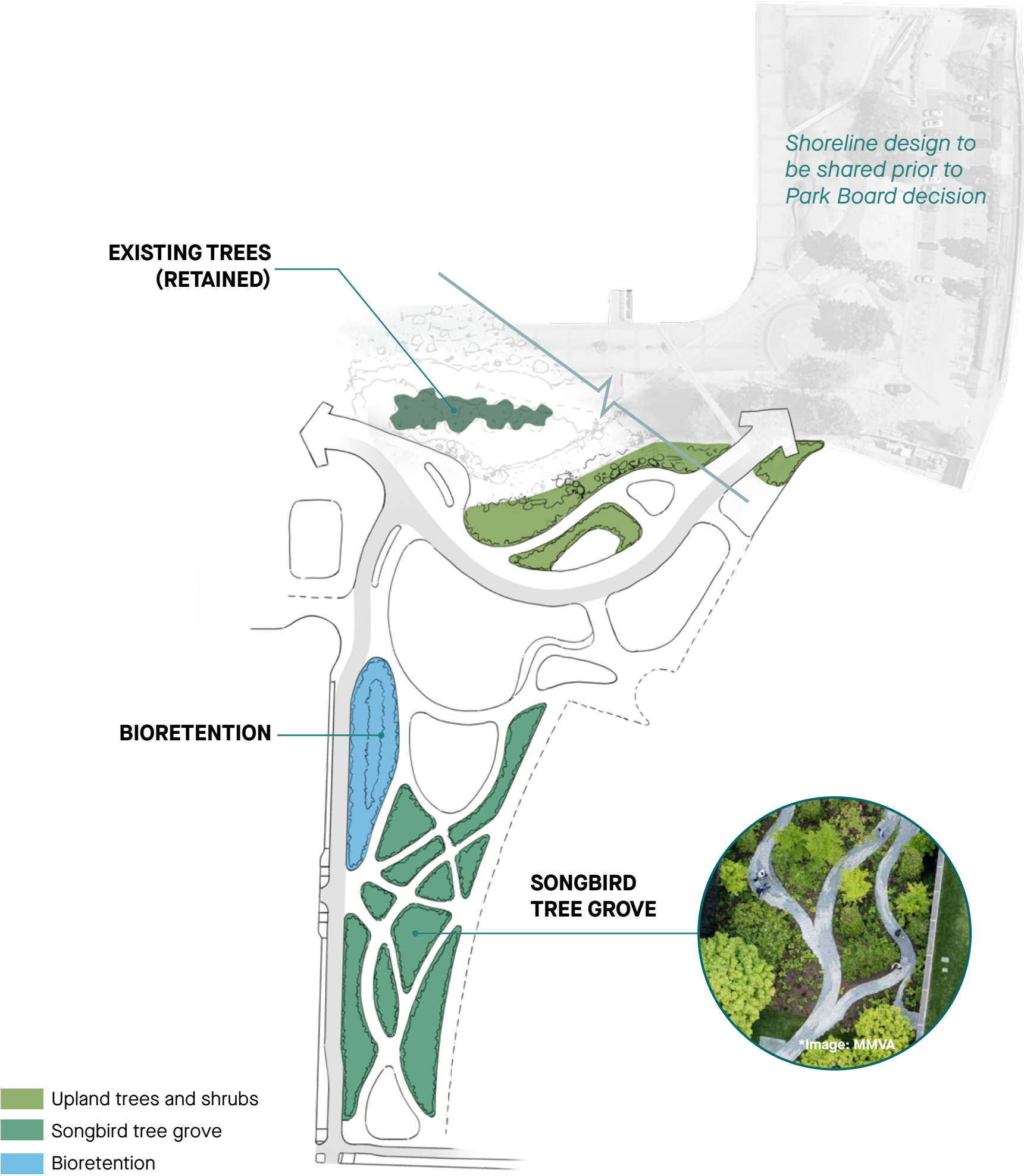
- NATURE
- RECONCILING
- BELONGING
- FLEXIBILITY
- CIRCULATION

NATURE

Provide habitat areas to learn from and care for the water, land, and life they support.
Provide resilient landscapes that adapt to sea level rise and climate change.

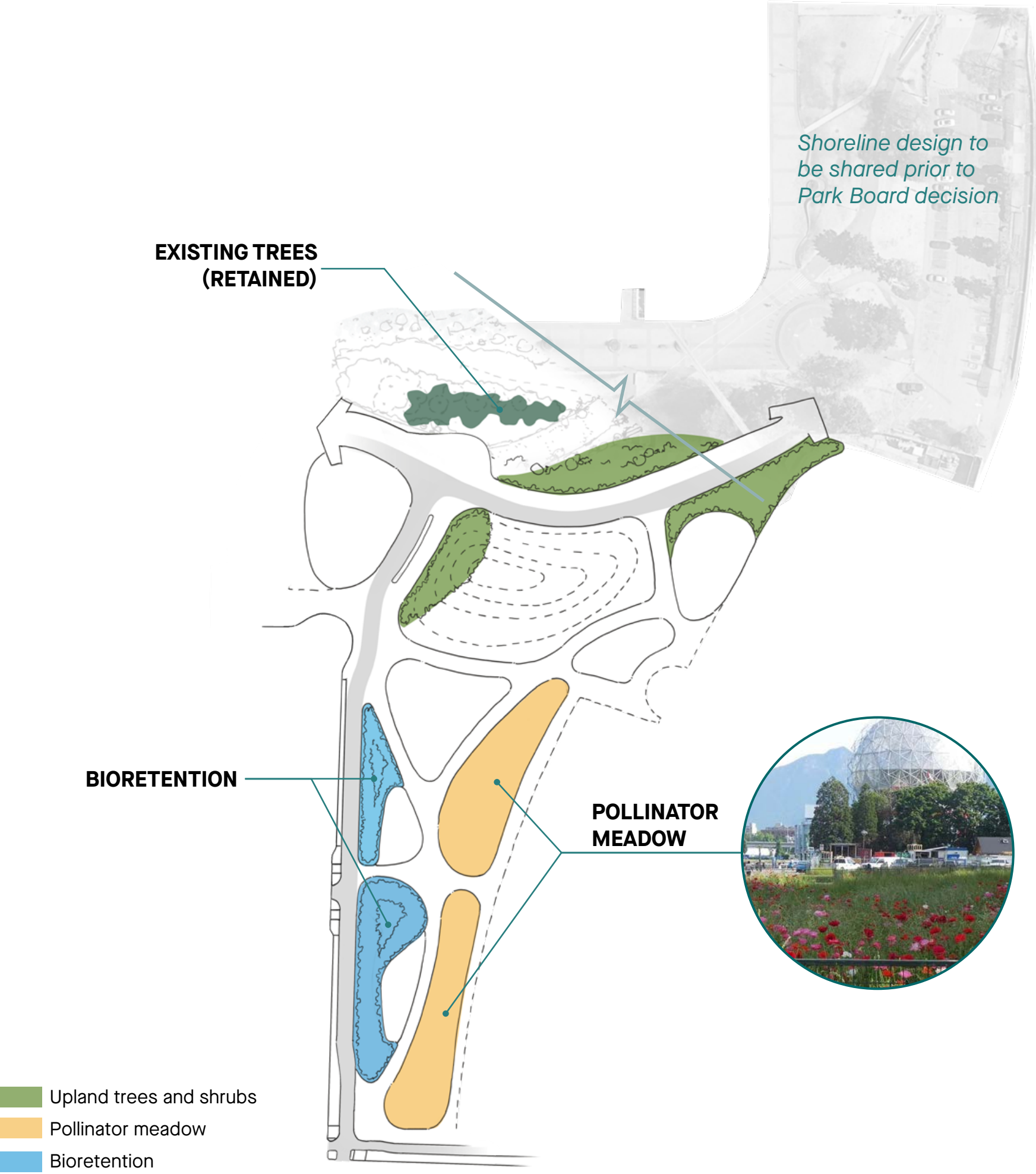
BRAID

- Increased number of trees in the songbird tree grove will support many species of birds, help filter air and water, and provide shade.
- A bioretention area will slow the flow of rainwater runoff to improve water quality and recharge groundwater. The edges are gently sloped and planted with native species, including low-growing shrubs and perennials.



BREATHE

- Pollinator meadows are incorporated to support many species of birds and insects.
- Two bioretention areas will slow the flow of rainwater runoff to improve water quality and recharge groundwater. The edges are gently sloped and planted with native species, including small trees, shrubs, and perennials.



RECONCILING

Provide an ecologically rich shoreline, incorporating Indigenous models of stewardship and cultural practices to improve aquatic health and support the ongoing work of reconciliation, truth-telling, and decolonization.

SHORELINE APPROACH

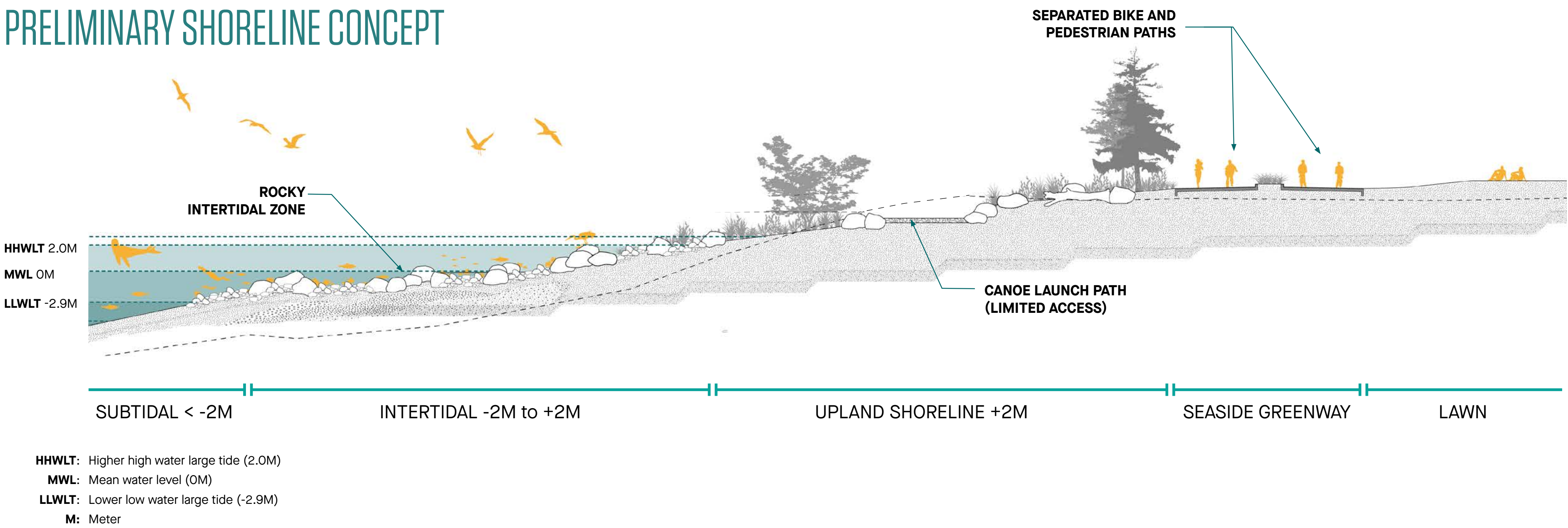
Creating an ecologically rich naturalized shoreline will help respond to sea level rise and the complexities and constraints of site conditions. The shoreline design will follow the climate action and sustainability strategies outlined below.

- A rocky intertidal zone interspersed with vegetation will be created to increase biodiversity, spawning, and foraging opportunities, including critical habitat for beach-spawning forage fish.
- Upland of the intertidal zone, native trees, shrubs, and grasses will be introduced, along with woody debris and boulders to provide riparian habitat, shade, food, and bird nesting opportunities.
- A select cluster of existing mature trees upland of the intertidal zone will be retained and more trees will be planted to increase tree canopy cover and reduce land surface temperatures on hot summer days.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Intertidal	The area of land along the shoreline that is covered by water at high tide and exposed to air at low tide. This zone can be home to a variety of habitat types, including rocky intertidal, sand and gravel beaches, tidal marshes, and others. The plants and animals that live in this zone have adapted to these changing conditions.
Foraging fish	Small fish that larger fish, birds, and other sea animals eat for food. Examples include anchovies, herring, surf smelt, and Pacific sand lance. Forage fish are critical in the food web that sustains life on the Pacific Coast.
Riparian habitat	The transitional area between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. This includes lands alongside streams, rivers, lakes, oceans, or other bodies of water.

PRELIMINARY SHORELINE CONCEPT



Additional information about the shoreline and concept plan will be shared prior to Park Board decision.

SEA LEVEL RISE

How will East Park respond to rising sea levels?

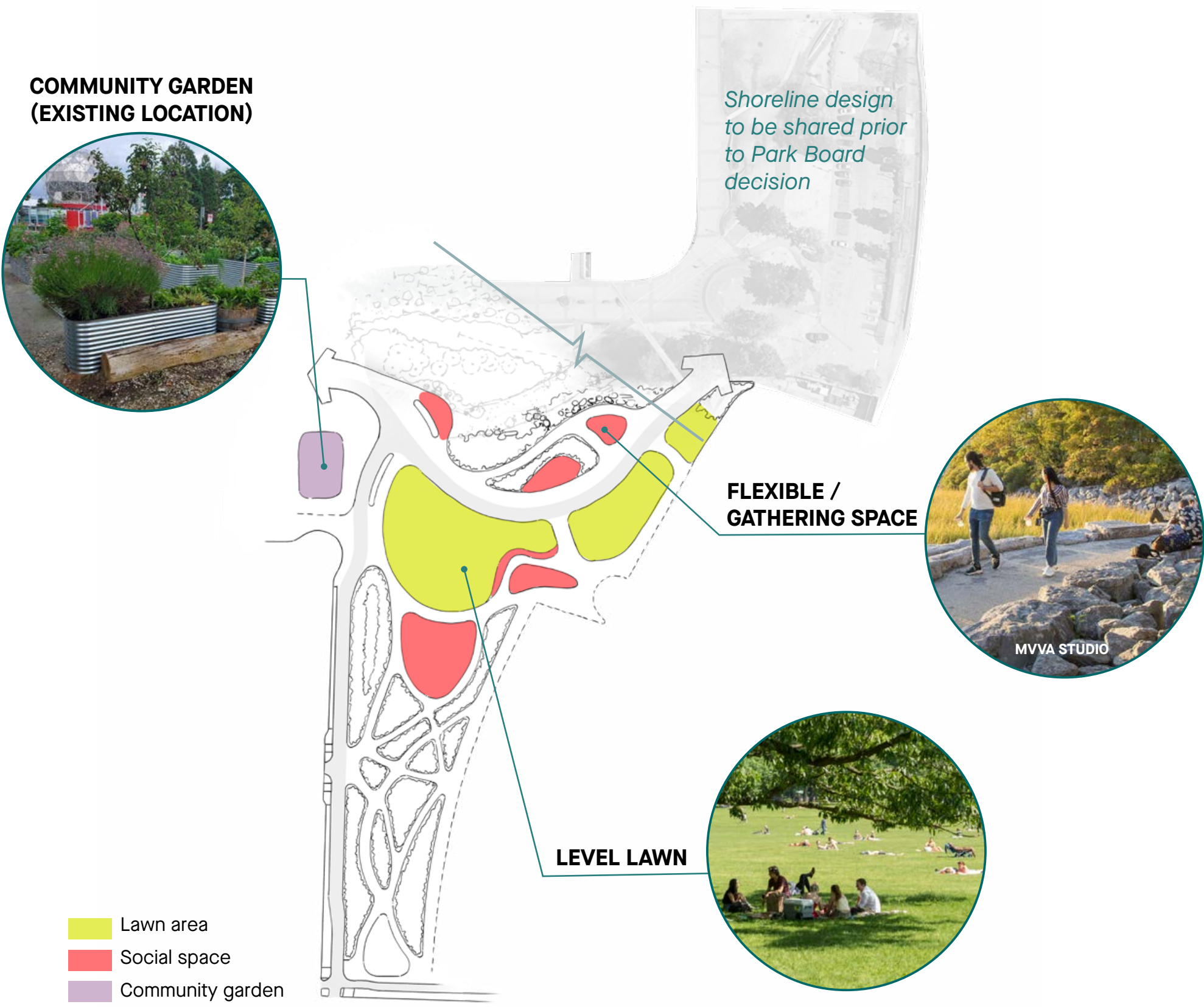
- East Park includes a portion of the False Creek shoreline and is entirely within the False Creek floodplain. Land in the area is low and flat, and is therefore at greater risk of flooding relative to higher elevations in the city.
- The planning process for East Park is building on a decade of coastal adaptation work at the City of Vancouver, including the recent [Sea2City Design Challenge](#), which showed how sites in False Creek can adapt to rising sea levels while accommodating urban development and fostering ecological revitalization.
- By naturalizing the shoreline at East Park, additional space will be made for water – allowing the site to host more water over time as sea levels slowly rise (and in times of storm surge and king tide).
- Space within the park will be reserved for construction of flood protection measures to protect the site and multiple areas of False Creek. These protection measures will be constructed when we need them. The site will remain adaptable to future, gradual rises in sea level.

BELONGING

Provide accessible, inclusive, and welcoming spaces that nourish connection and support cultural expression, with a variety of social areas and spaces for growing and sharing food.

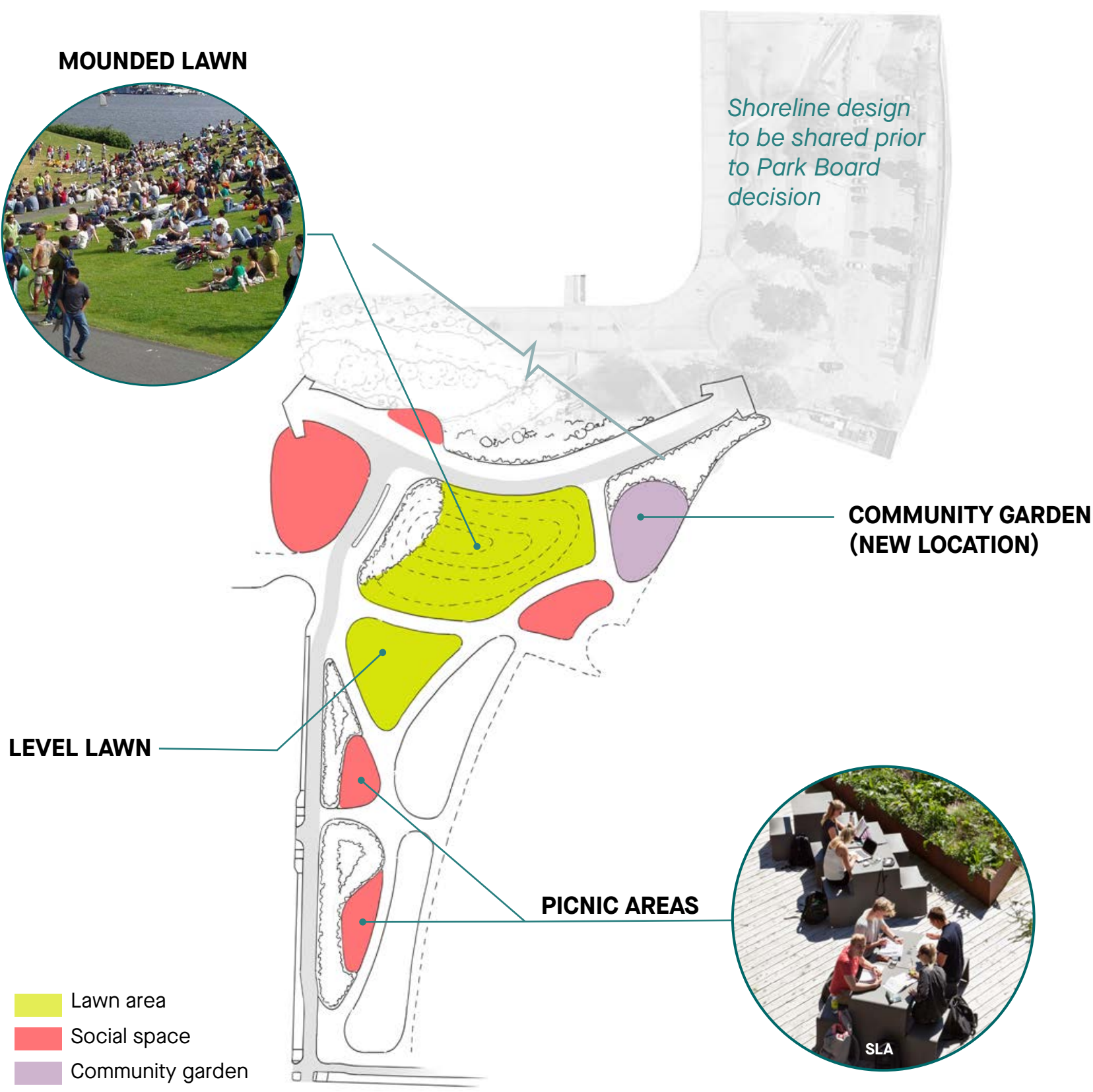
BRAID

- Central, level lawn areas.
- Community gardens remain in their current location, on the east side of the Creekside Community Centre.
- Social spaces of different sizes, oriented towards the water.



BREATHE

- Large central, mounded lawn provides a south-facing grass slope for enjoying sun and a north-facing grass slope for city views.
- Community gardens relocated east near residential buildings, in a location that receives more afternoon sun.
- Social spaces integrated throughout the park.

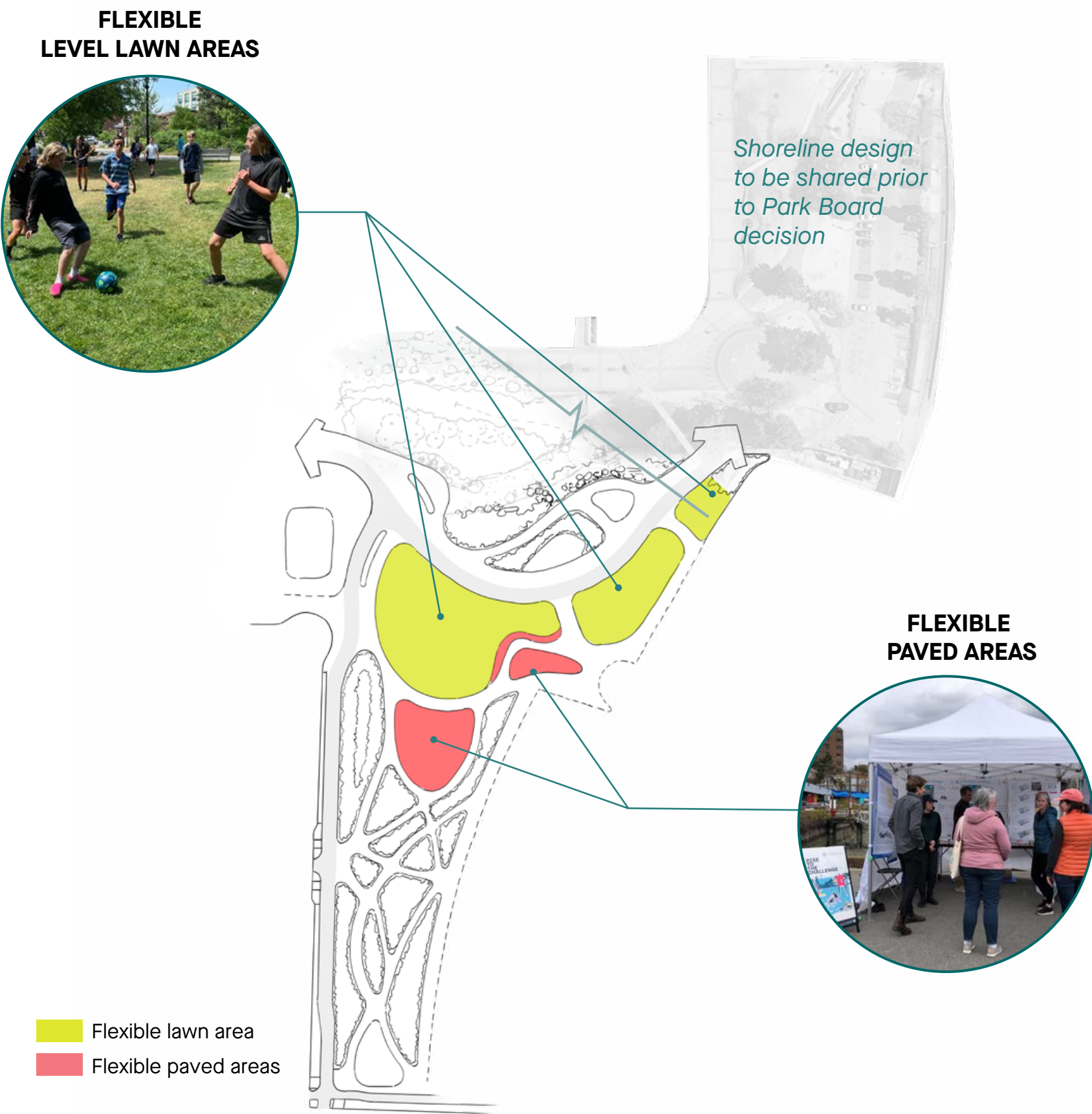


FLEXIBILITY

Provide multi-functional spaces that support a range of activities in ways that invite change over time (day, seasons, years) and include all ages, abilities, and identities.

BRAID

- Flexible paved spaces support a variety of community activities, including pop-up events and seasonal produce markets.
- A series of open level lawn areas, suitable for games and events.



BREATHE

- A sports court near the community centre doubles as a staging area for events.
- Flexible paved spaces support a variety of community activities, including pop-up events and seasonal produce markets.
- One open level lawn area, suitable for games and events.



CIRCULATION

Provide clear, wide, separated paths for walking and biking, with accessible connections to improve wayfinding and safety.

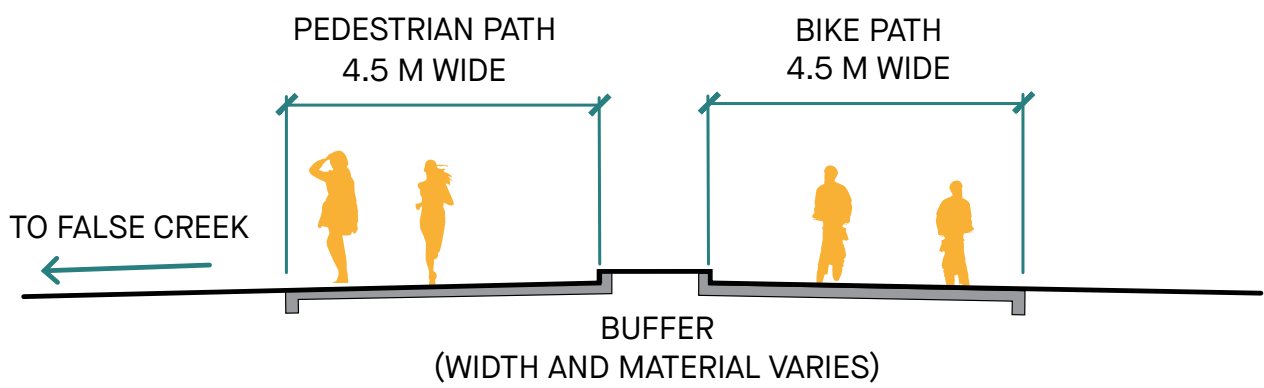
CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES

East Park is at the junctions of the Seaside, Ontario, and Central Valley greenways. The new park will need to preserve and strengthen the pathways in this network as well as consider connections to key destinations. Key design approaches for these greenways include:

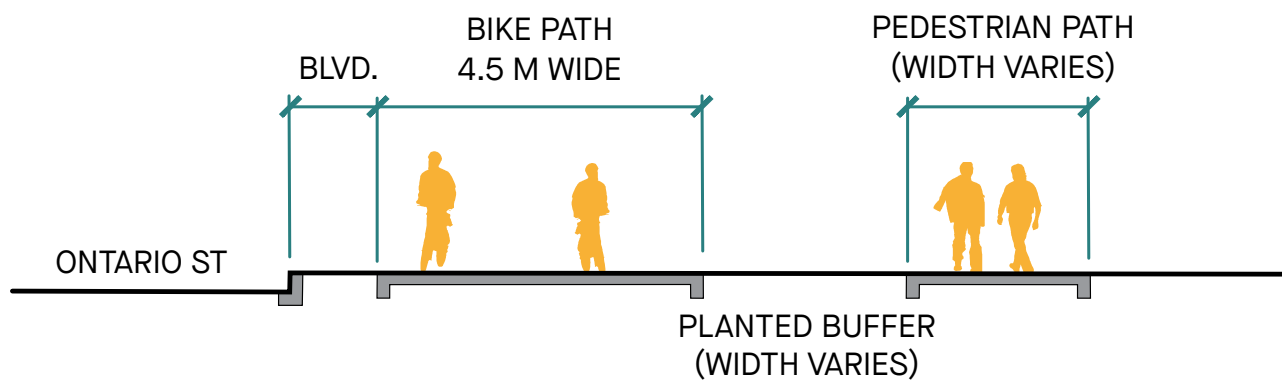
- Providing safe and comfortable routes for walking, biking, and rolling with separate walking and biking paths.
- Improving safety at all intersections and crossings.
- Improving biking connections between the greenways and other key destinations.
- Considering access and vehicle circulation around East Park.

SEPARATED PATHS

TYPICAL SEASIDE GREENWAY LAYOUT THROUGH EAST PARK



TYPICAL ONTARIO GREENWAY LAYOUT THROUGH EAST PARK

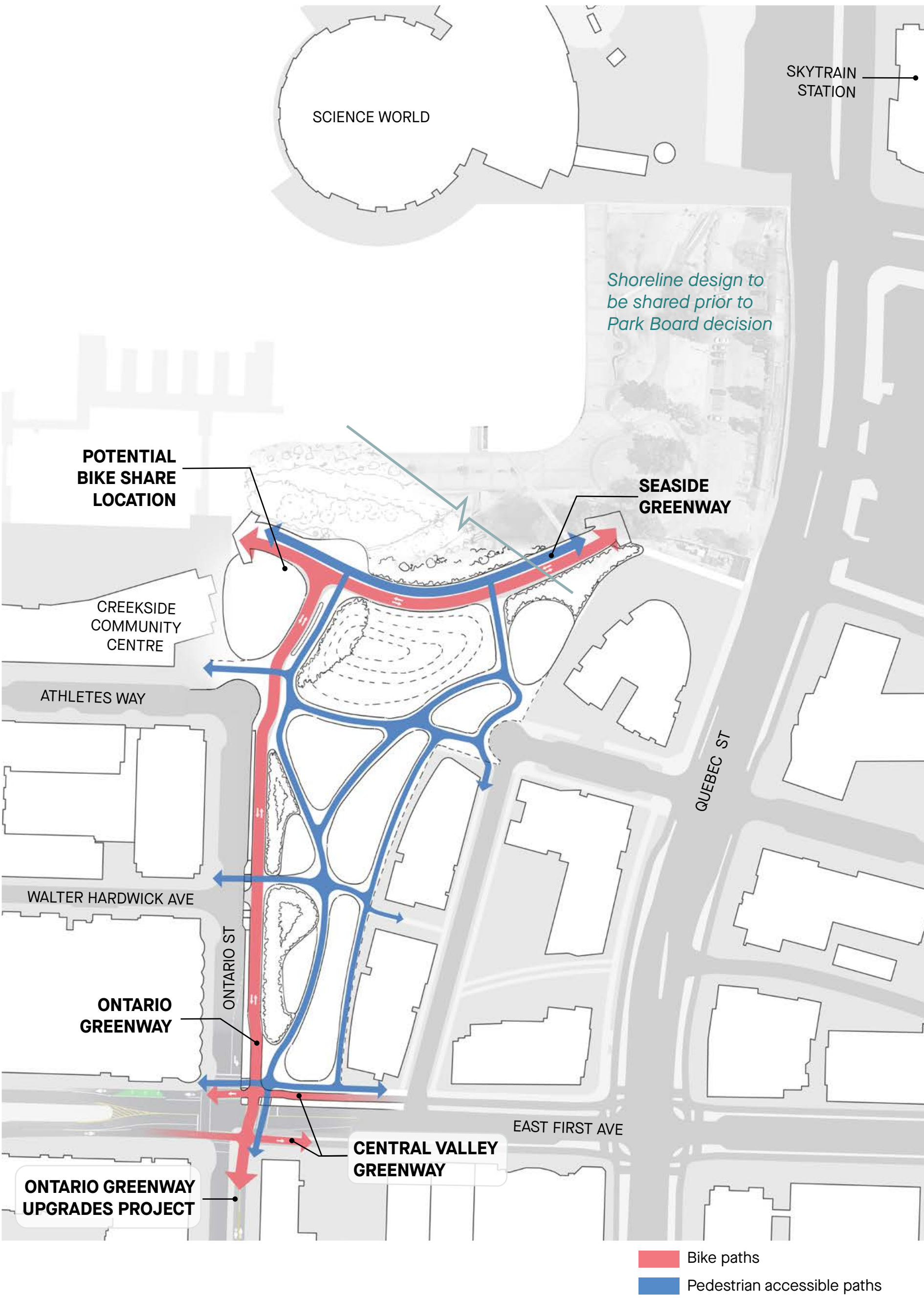
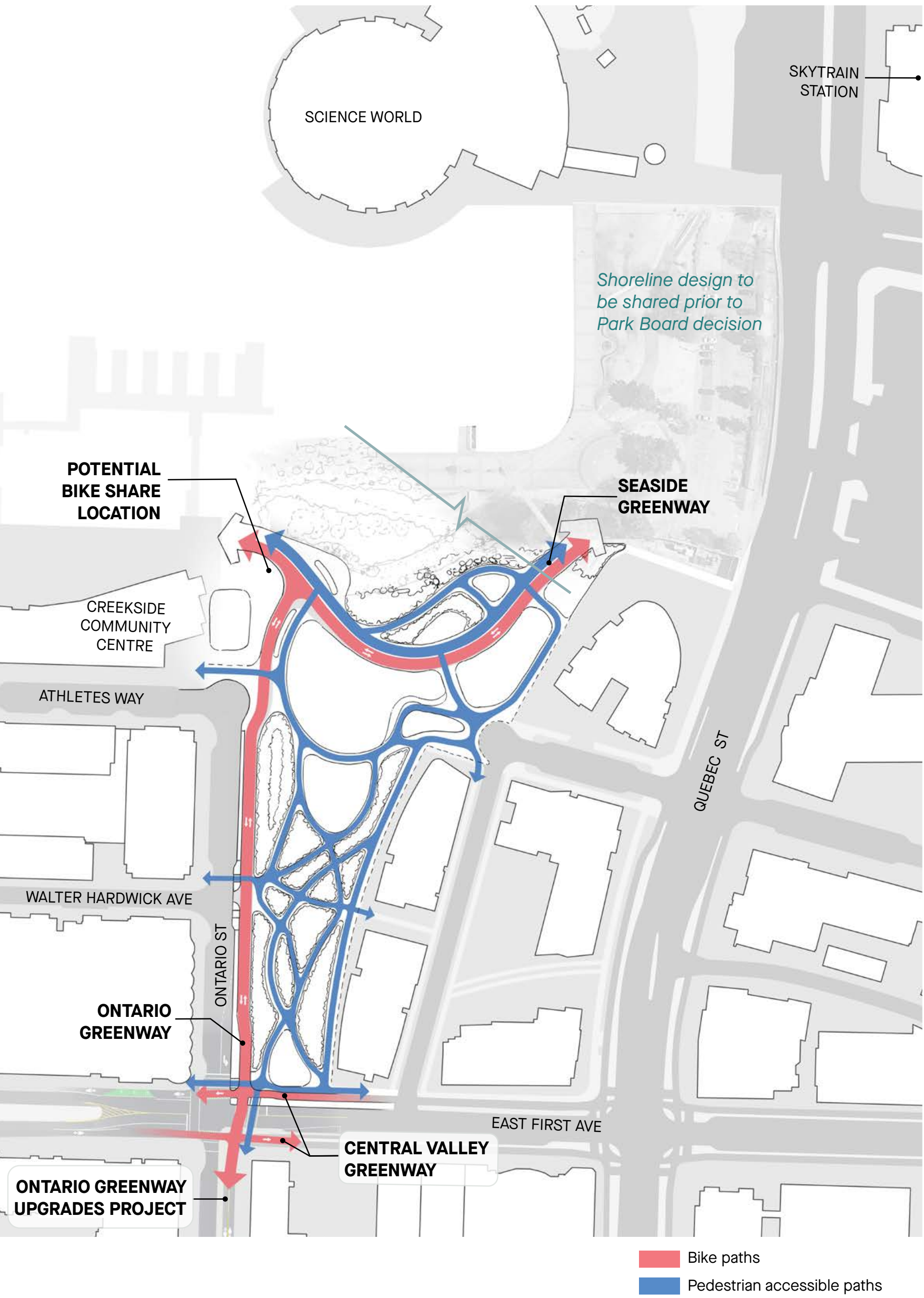


BRAID

- Seaside Greenway bends further south through East Park, with more park space on the water side of the greenway.
- Braided paths between songbird tree groves at south side of the park.
- Ontario Greenway upgraded to separated bike and pedestrian paths.

BREATHE

- Seaside Greenway provides a more direct path along the shoreline of False Creek.
- Fewer pedestrian paths through the park.
- Ontario Greenway upgraded to separated bike and pedestrian paths.

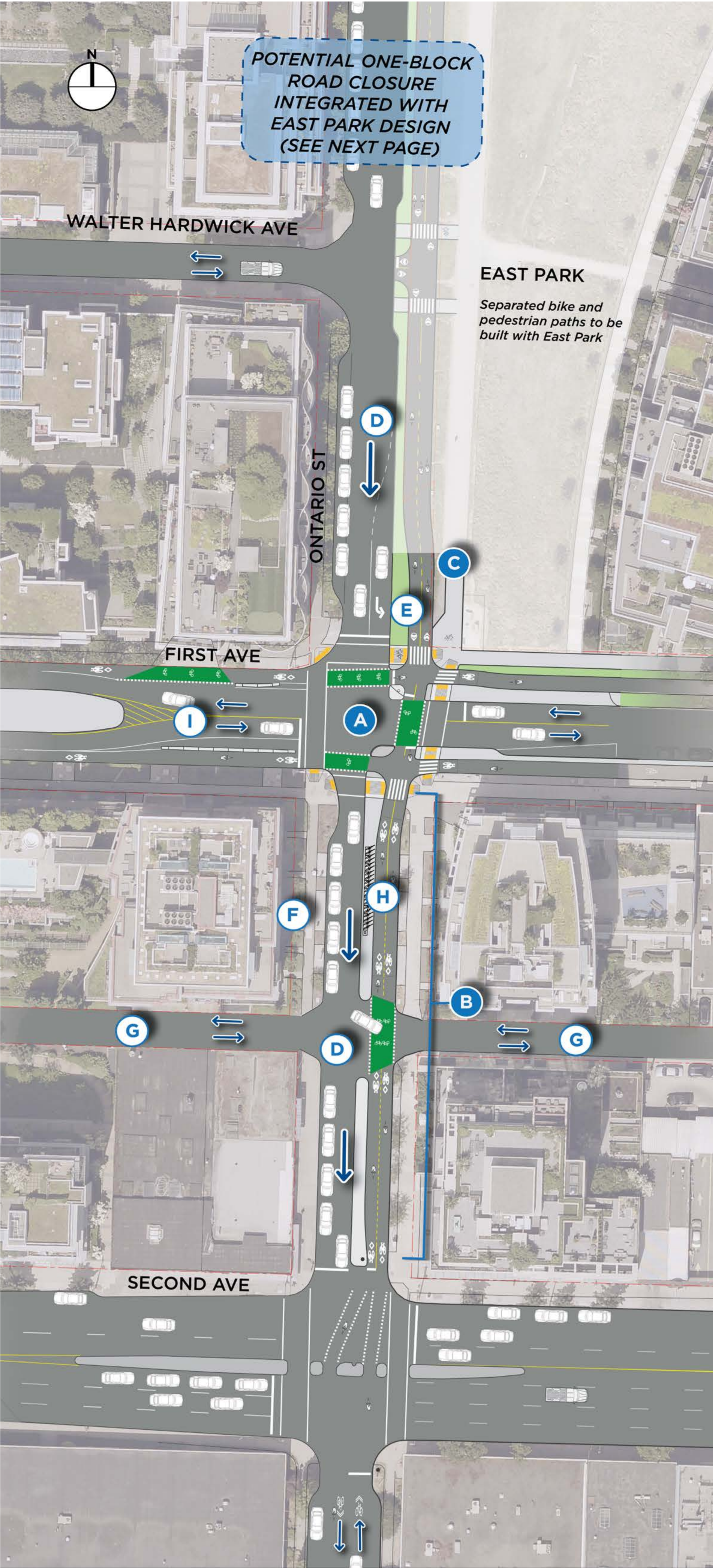


TRANSITIONING FROM THE SEASIDE TO ONTARIO GREENWAY

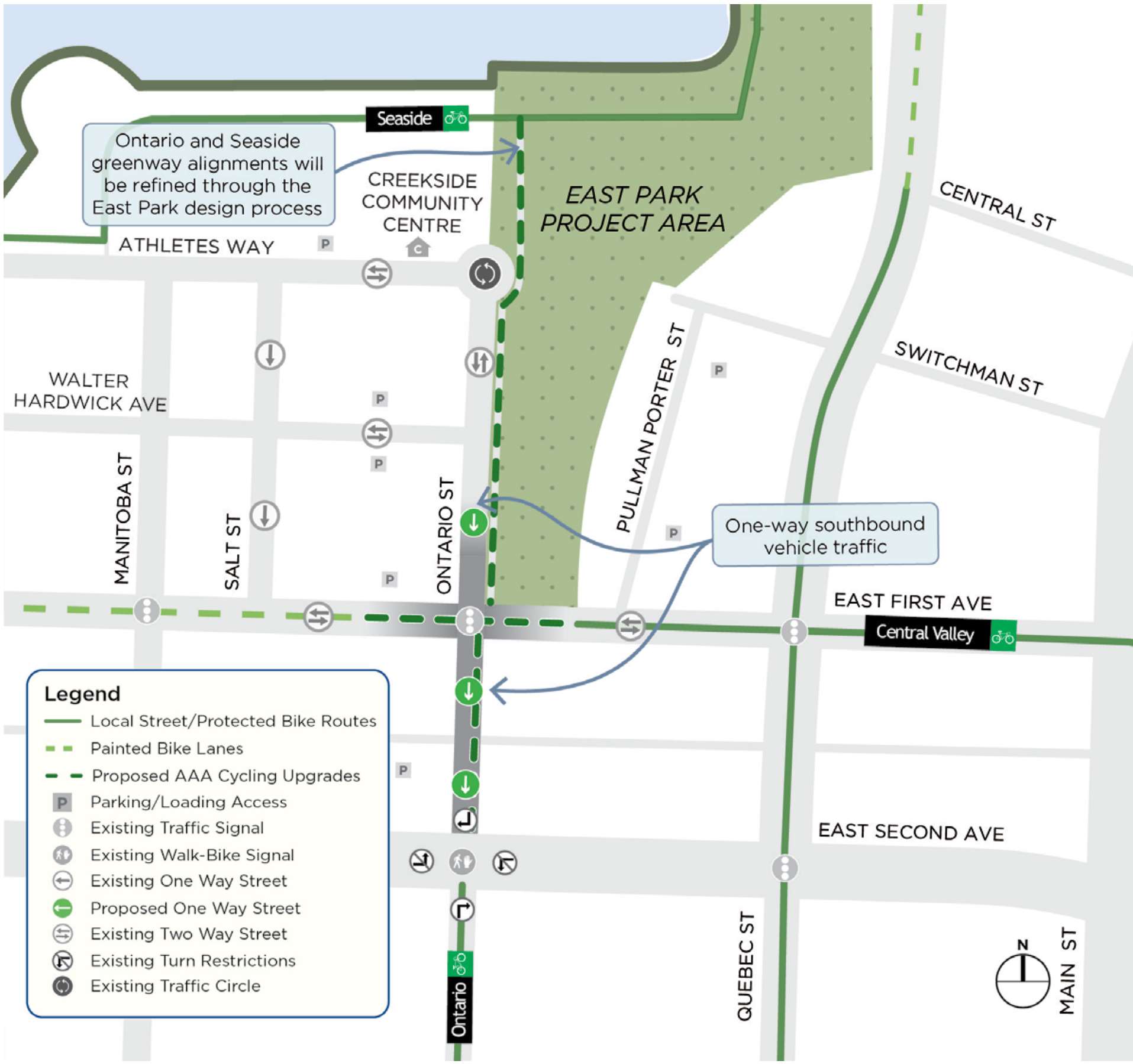
The Ontario Greenway is a seven kilometer scenic walking and cycling connection between False Creek and the Fraser River. It features public art, seating areas, and traffic calming measures that safely links schools, parks, and community centres. In 2020-2021, we made upgrades to Ontario Street between Second Avenue and 16th Avenue, including a new plaza at Fifth Avenue and intersection improvements that lowered vehicle volumes along the route.

In our next phase of work, the City of Vancouver is planning to upgrade the Ontario Greenway north of Second Avenue:

- Second Avenue to Walter Hardwick Avenue** – Construction is planned for 2025 before the delivery of East Park to make use of available TransLink funding.
- Walter Hardwick Avenue to Athletes Way** – Potential changes delivered in coordination with East Park in 2026-2033.



PLANNED CHANGES
Between Second Avenue and Walter Hardwick Avenue



EXISTING CONDITIONS
With planned Ontario Street upgrades and approximate Ontario Greenway alignment in East Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Motor vehicle volumes on Ontario Street north of Second Avenue currently exceed All Ages and Abilities guidelines for a comfortable local street bikeway.
- The existing First Avenue and Ontario Street intersection creates conflict and confusion for all users.
- The existing multi-use pathway is busy and can be uncomfortable for both people walking and biking.

PLANNED CHANGES

Staff explored options that would improve safety and comfort for all road users. The recommended design prioritizes safety while ensuring access and delivery vehicle movements are maintained. It also seeks to minimize the loss of parking.

Key design features:

An integrated biking and walking experience between East Park and Ontario Street that includes:

- A** A new protected intersection at Ontario Street and First Avenue. This will reduce conflicts between people driving, cycling, and walking by reducing high-speed vehicle turns, improving sightlines, and reducing the distance and time people are exposed to conflicts.
- B** Two-way protected bike lane on the east side of Ontario Street between First Avenue and Second Avenue.
- C** Future separate walking and biking paths between First Avenue and the Seaside Greenway. The two-way bike path will connect to the existing multi-use path in the interim.

Other design features include:

- D** One-way southbound travel for motor vehicles on Ontario Street between Walter Hardwick Avenue and Second Avenue.
- E** Dedicated southbound left turn lane to reduce left turn conflicts.
- F** Retaining on-street parking on west side of Ontario Street between Walter Hardwick Avenue and Second Avenue.
- G** Maintaining access to all parkades and laneways.
- H** New Mobi public bike share station.
- I** Interim concrete barriers and adjustments to the centre median west of Ontario Street.

POTENTIAL CHANGES BETWEEN WALTER HARDWICK AVENUE AND ATHLETES WAY

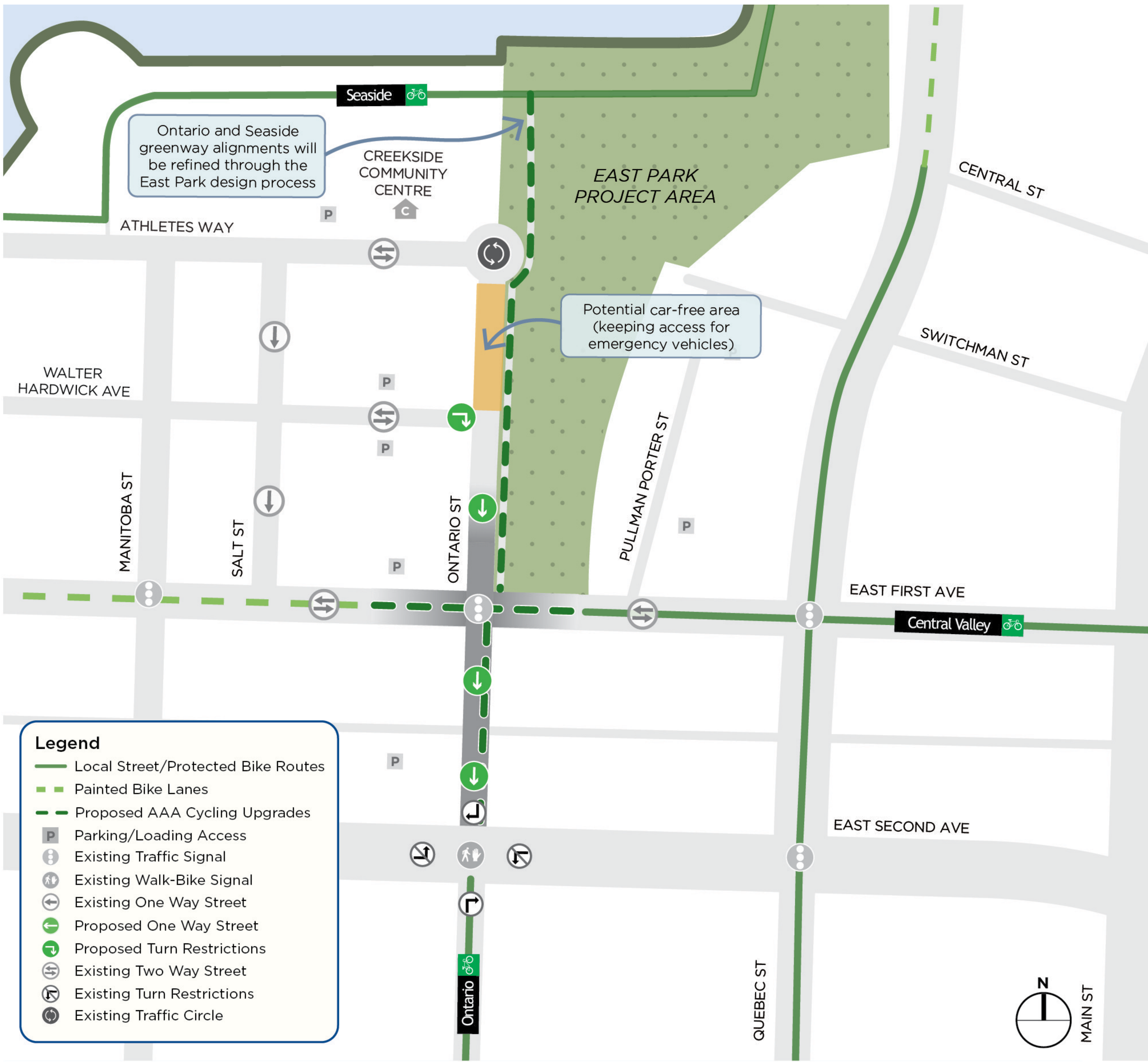
To increase park space in the area, we are exploring closing Ontario Street to motor vehicles from Walter Hardwick Avenue to Athletes Way.

- This car-free area can be transformed into green space with additional habitat, biodiversity, and bioretention to capture and clean rainwater.
- The one-block closure can provide additional traffic calming measures for the area. This proposed closure would require the removal of six metered stalls along the west side of Ontario Street between Walter Hardwick Ave and Athletes Way.

Without the closure, a two-way separated bike path would run along the east side of Ontario Street. Pedestrian paths will be integrated into the East Park design.

The one-block closure can be integrated into both the **BRAID** and **BREATHE** concept designs. Key features could include:

- Bike path will bend into the car-free area, around the bioretention area.
- The car-free area will be designed to facilitate emergency vehicle access.
- Vehicle access to Athletes Way and the Creekside Community Centre will be maintained via Manitoba Street to the west.



PROPOSED CONDITION - Ontario Street closure from Athletes Way to Walter Hardwick Avenue
With planned Ontario Street upgrades south of Walter Hardwick and approximate Ontario Greenway alignment in East Park

NEXT STEPS

ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT
MARCH 26 - APRIL 16, 2024
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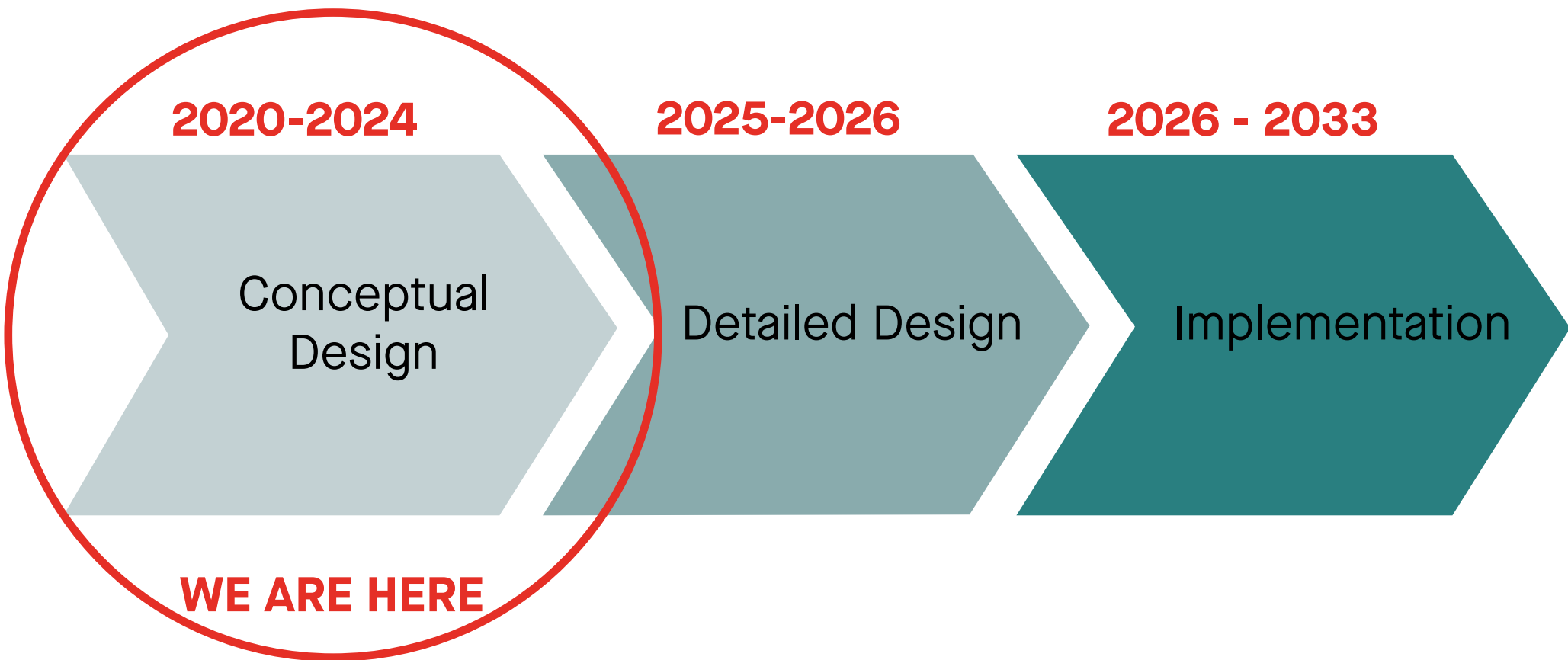
SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

We're interested to know which design features you're looking forward to the most. Your feedback will help us prepare a concept plan that combines the most supported features.

We will share what we heard in this round of engagement along with information about the shoreline and connections to the waterfront north of the Seaside Greenway before the concept plan is presented to the Park Board for decision in fall 2024.

The planned upgrades to Ontario Street between Walter Hardwick and Second Avenue are expected to be delivered in 2025.

Visit the Shape Your City page to take the survey and share your feedback.



Survey Online
March 26 - April 16



shapeyourcity.ca/east-park

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE

