

Eglinton Crosstown West Extension

**Landscape Restoration Plan and
Immersive Experience Open House**

MARCH 6, 2024

Welcome

Thank you for attending the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension Open House.

This session will focus on two areas: The Landscape Restoration Plan (line-wide) and Immersive Experience tools for the Elevated Guideway.

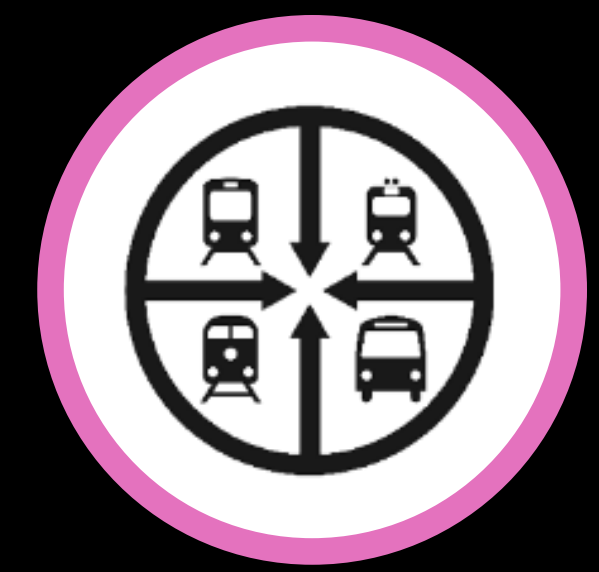
Check out:

- The latest construction updates
- Landscape Restoration Plan updates (don't forget to leave your feedback)
- Immersive experience tools and exhibits
- Future engagement opportunities

The Eglinton Crosstown West Extension



9.2 km of new rapid transit line



Seven (7) new stations



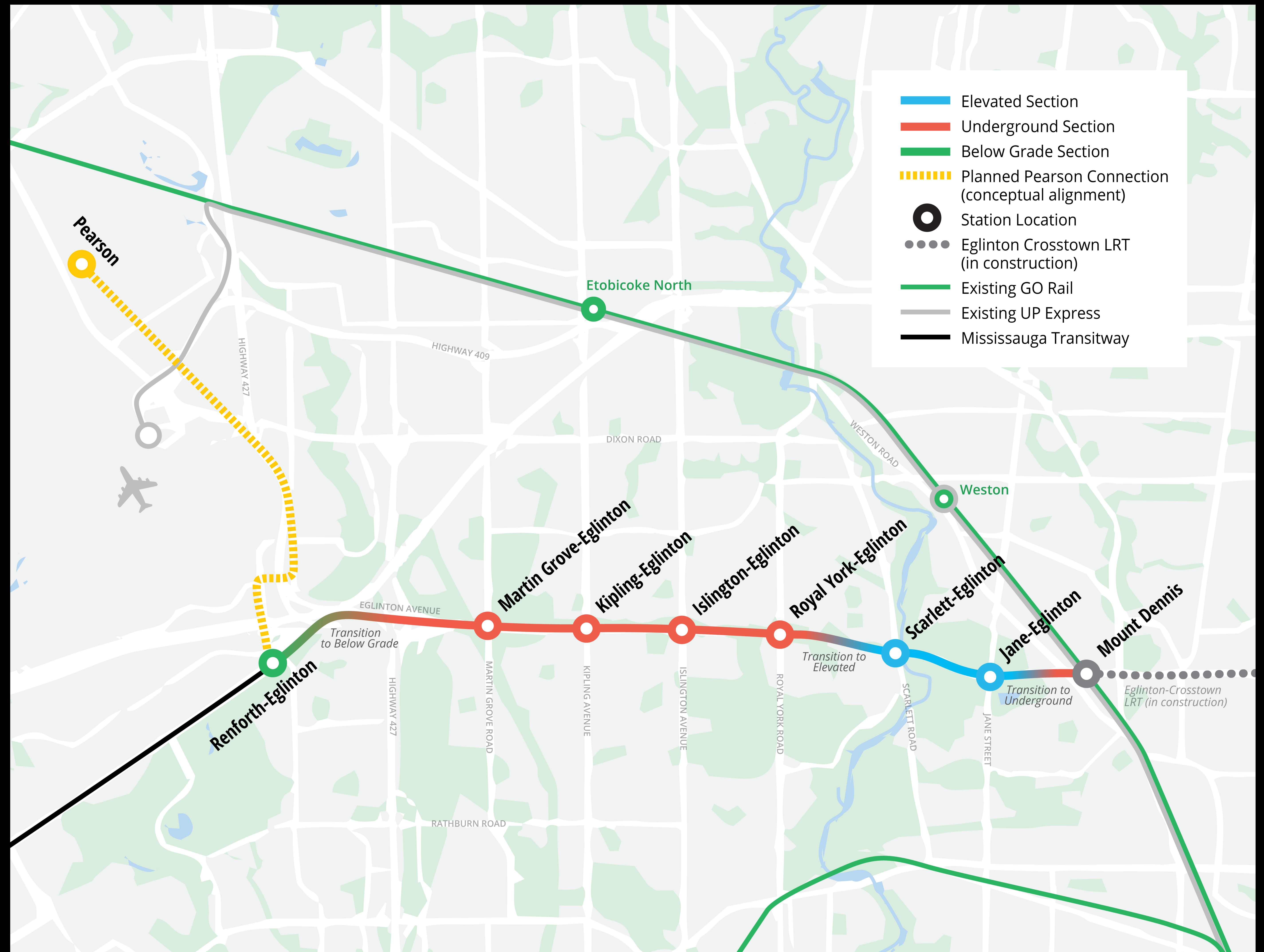
Five (5) connections to other transit options, including: UP Express, Kitchener GO Train, GO Transit, TTC and MiWay buses



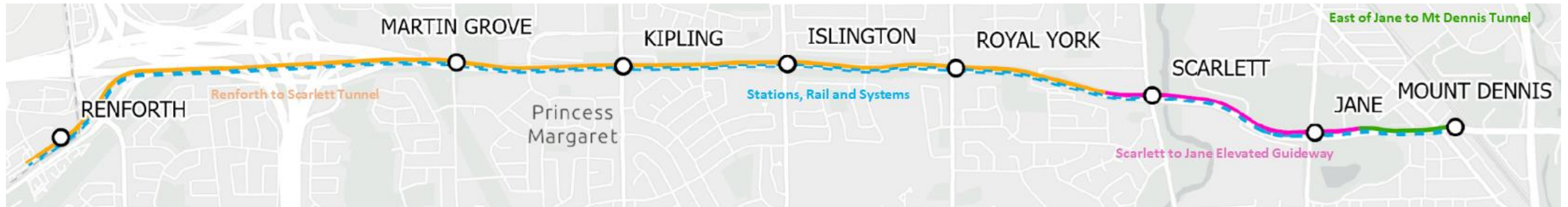
37,500 more people within walking distance to transit



23,600 more jobs within walking distance to transit

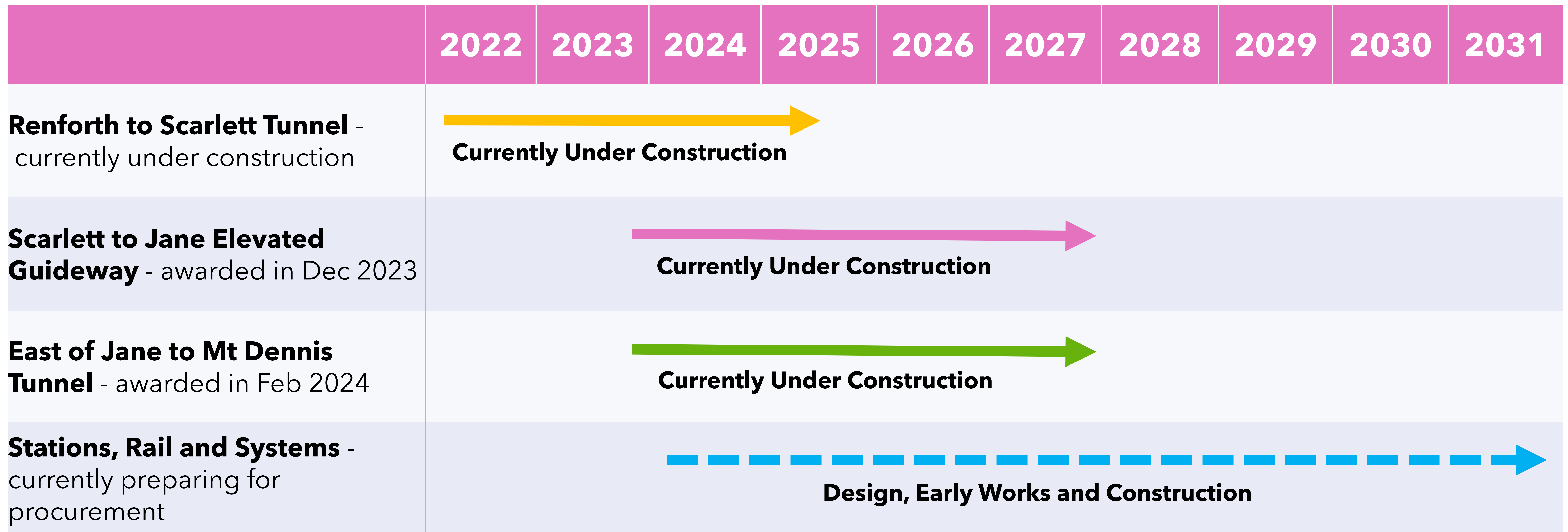


ECWE construction timeline



The project is being delivered through four contracts, with separate contractors

**dates subject to change*



Construction Updates - Jane portal and cycling track works

Jane Portal

- Site preparation for Jane portal shaft and related construction work has been started.
- Mobilization of machinery and equipment by contractor is in progress.
- Jane portal site has two separate construction compounds.
- The existing multi-use path is still in service.



Cycle Track

- Relocate the cycling connection to the south side of Eglinton between Jane and Weston Road to facilitate work.
- Relocation of Civil and Electrical works which are underway by the Contractor and their subs.
- The City requires the construction of new TTC bus platforms to accommodate the Cycle Track; installation is underway.

Station Updates

What we heard about stations

- **Since the August 2023 Stations Open House, the following updates have occurred:**
 - Feedback from this event, the virtual Open House that followed, and a corresponding survey, has been consolidated and summarized
 - Graphics and renderings continue to be updated as the design progresses.
 - General themes that have arisen from feedback received are grouped into two categories and can be seen below.

What Makes the Community Unique

Inclusive and friendly community

Numerous amenities and services

Appreciation for access to nature and greenspace

Station Naming and Design

General support for proposed station colours

Desire to see vibrant colours used as much as possible

Ensure high-contrast in colours for visually challenged riders

Names based off community rather than intersection

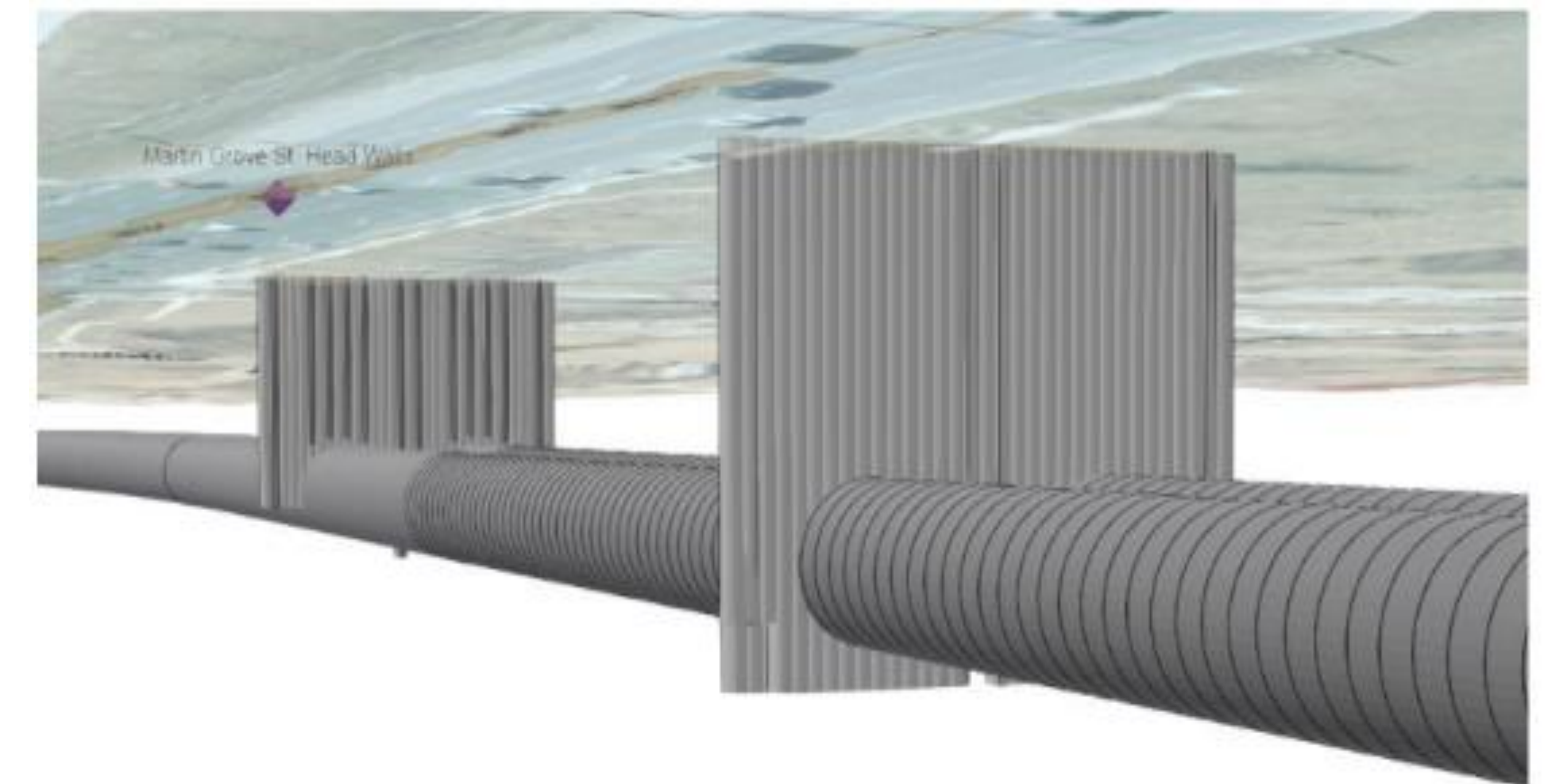
Construction update

Headwalls:

- Station headwalls are complete at Martin Grove, Kipling, Islington, and Royal York.
- Emergency Exit Building (EEB) headwalls are completed at EEB3: Wincott Dr, EEB2: Russell Rd.

What is a "headwall"?

Concrete columns used to support future station excavation and construction



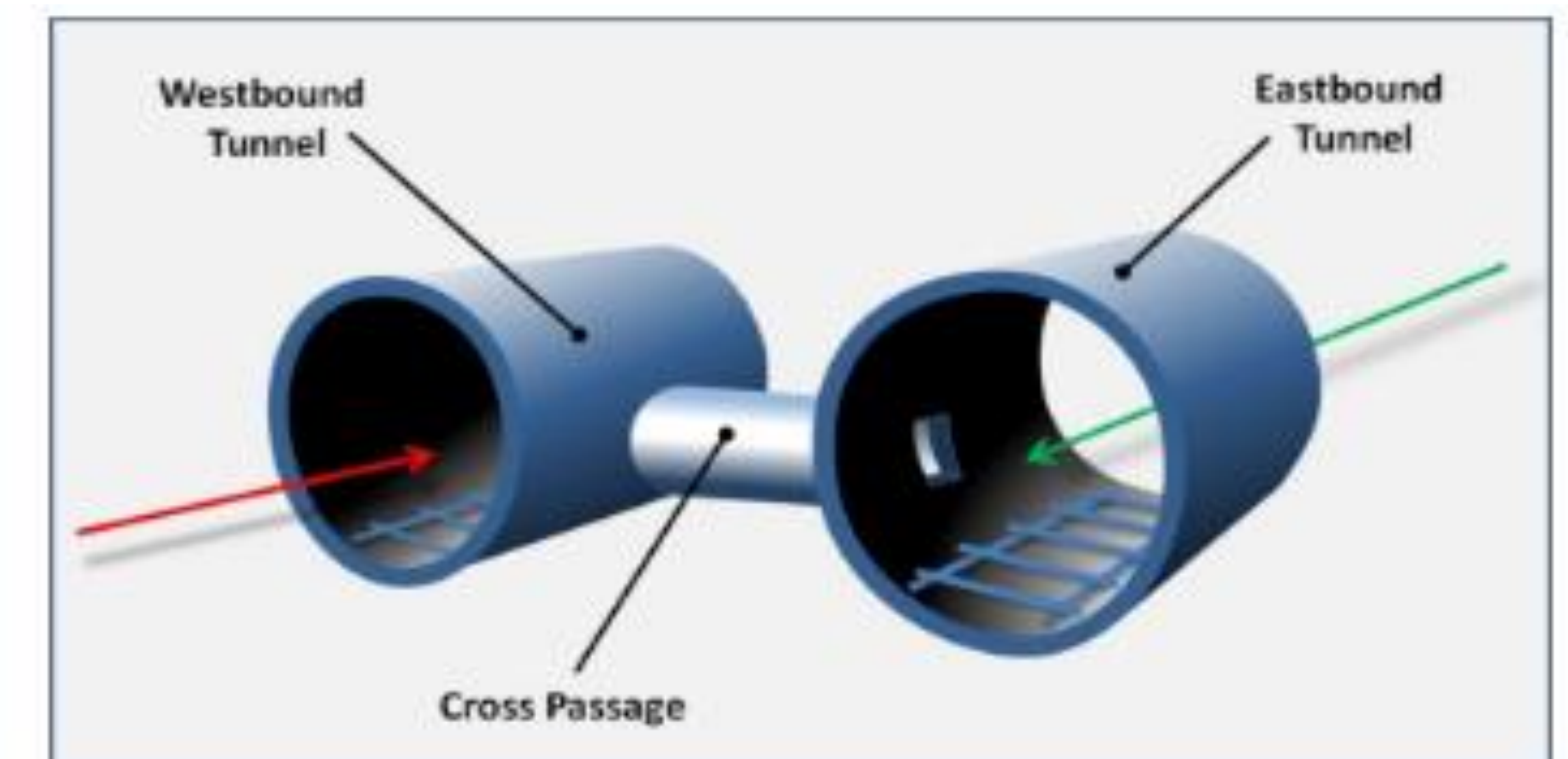
3D model of two headwalls

Cross passages:

- The cross passages between Renforth and Martin Grove are complete.
- Cross passages east of Martin Grove are still under construction.

What is a "cross passage"?

A small passage built to connect east/west-bound tunnels for maintenance and/or emergency purposes.



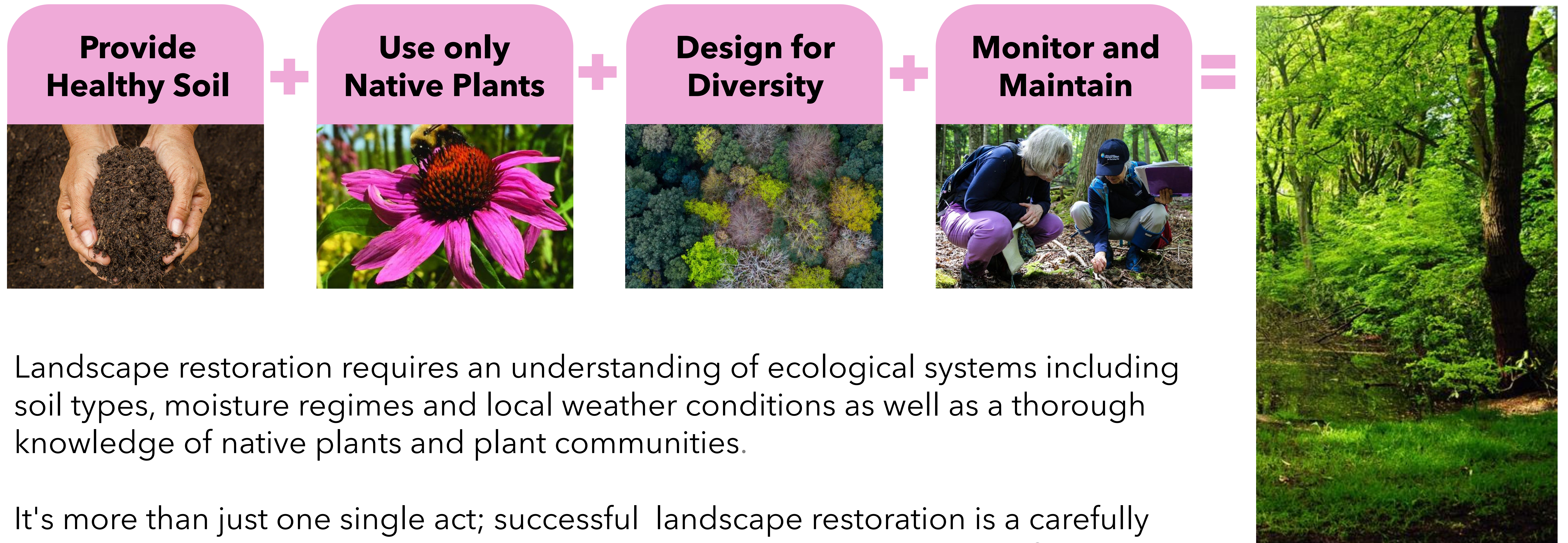
The ECWE will have 9 cross passages along the corridor

Restoration Planning

Restoration Planning Approach

- Work collaboratively with the City of Toronto/Toronto Region Conservation Area as approval authorities for the restoration.
- Build on input received from the community about the desire to maintain a green corridor
- Incorporate Indigenous communities and Nations' objectives and requirements at an early stage.
- Provide design certainty which ensures timely and effective implementation.

What's required for successful landscape restoration?



Landscape restoration requires an understanding of ecological systems including soil types, moisture regimes and local weather conditions as well as a thorough knowledge of native plants and plant communities.

It's more than just one single act; successful landscape restoration is a carefully managed process that extends over many years and involves a series of planned, sequential stages intended to replicate natural processes.

What does landscape restoration look like over time?

3 YEAR DIFFERENCE



14 YEAR DIFFERENCE



What we've heard about restoration

More information needed on the construction impacts and how these will be mitigated

Year round, public community spaces were identified as a priority for uses surrounding the guideway

Strong preference for protecting parkland and mitigating environmental effects

Reduce tree removals and replant in affected areas (as much as possible)

Concern surrounding graffiti and weathering of the elevated structure

Implement measures to mitigate negative effects on bird, bat and other animal species

Find more opportunities to work together with the community

Ensure the community has training/job opportunities as construction progresses

A "green theme" emerged through many comments received, including support for tree planting, Indigenous plantings, community gardens and open spaces

Feedback collected through:

- 3 online surveys
- Over 120 meetings with stakeholders and community members
- 6 Design & Restoration Working Group Meetings
- 19 open houses
- Comment forms
- Multiple community pop-ups
- Project website with public feedback opportunities

The focus of the restoration plan

Priority 1: Restore lands impacted by ECWE construction -

Landscapes that are disturbed by construction activities will be fully restored to a condition equal to or better than the existing.

Priority 2: Improve adjacent lands -

Selected sites that lie immediately adjacent to the ECWE project lands will be improved by controlling invasive species and adding native species. This helps protect newly restored lands in the Eglinton Flats area.

Priority 3: Enhance additional landscapes -

Other sites within the Eglinton Corridor may be selected for strategic landscape enhancement. Compensatory tree planting that cannot be accommodated on restoration sites will be used to improve existing landscapes and add to the City's urban forest canopy.

A cohesive line-wide strategy for restoration that creates an enhanced green corridor

Restoration planning work has been shaped by discussions with TRCA, City of Toronto and the community

Restoration of Impacted Lands

Priority 1: Restore lands impacted by ECWE construction –

Landscapes that are disturbed by construction activities will be fully restored to a condition equal to or better than the existing.

Landscape restoration for impacted lands

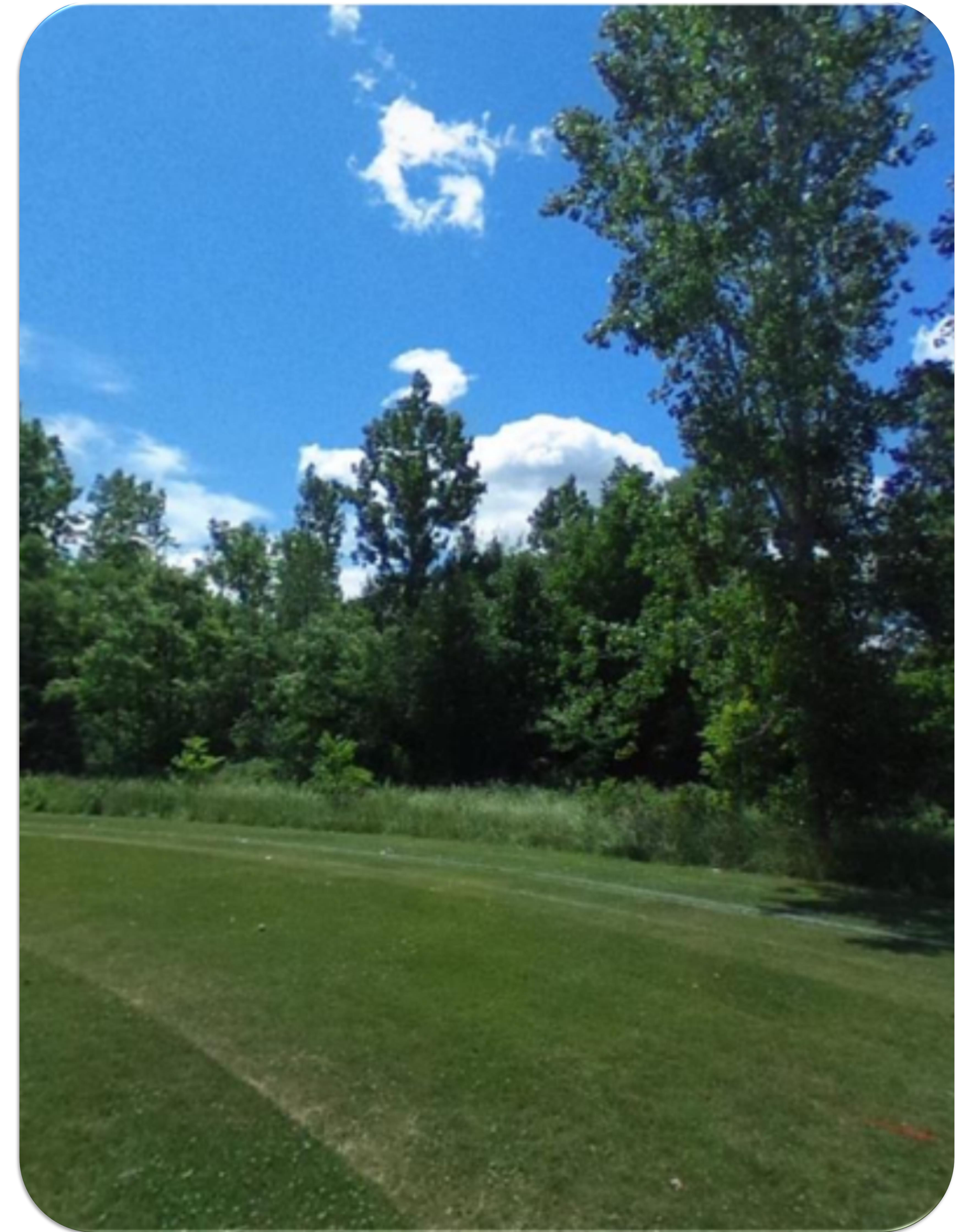
During construction, some lands in the area will be impacted. We are developing a Landscape Restoration Plan to restore these lands.

Purpose and Scope

- The Plan for the impacted lands will set the direction for the development of the future plantings along the alignment including new native trees, shrubs, and pollinator seed mixes restoring areas impacted by the Elevated Guideway and adjacent to the construction area.

Important Considerations & Approach

- **The City of Toronto and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority must approve restoration of the impacted lands. They have very specific requirements for plantings in natural areas that the plan must adhere to.**
- **The team met many times with the City and TRCA to collaboratively develop the plan for restoring impacted lands.**

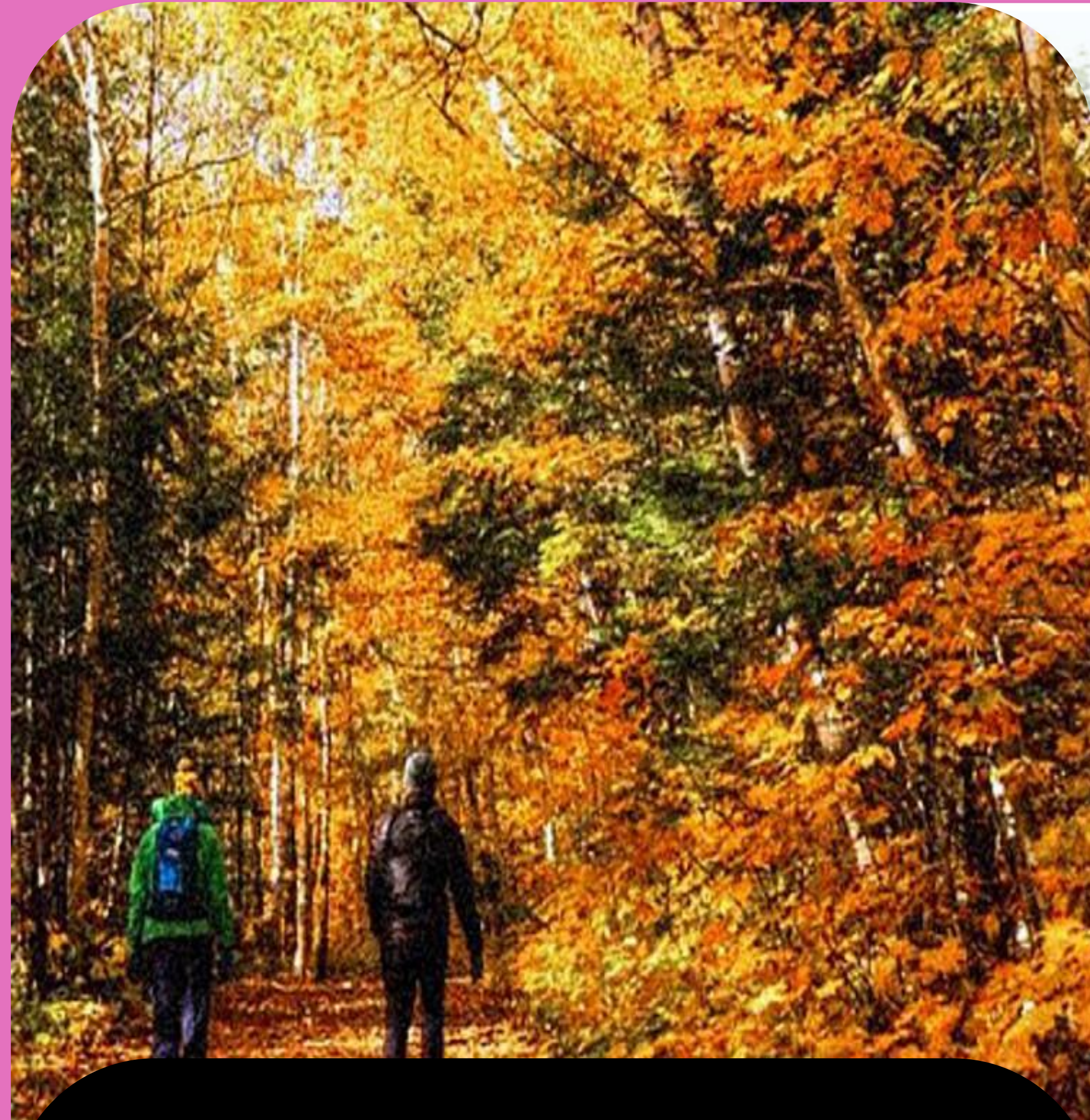


Eglinton Flats is continuing to evolve

From Market Gardens to Sports Fields - This area has changed over time and is continuing to change. Restoration planning is focused on reinforcing landscape naturalization while maintaining important recreational amenities.



Proposed landscape restoration - North of the guideway



Woodlot/Meadow Restoration:

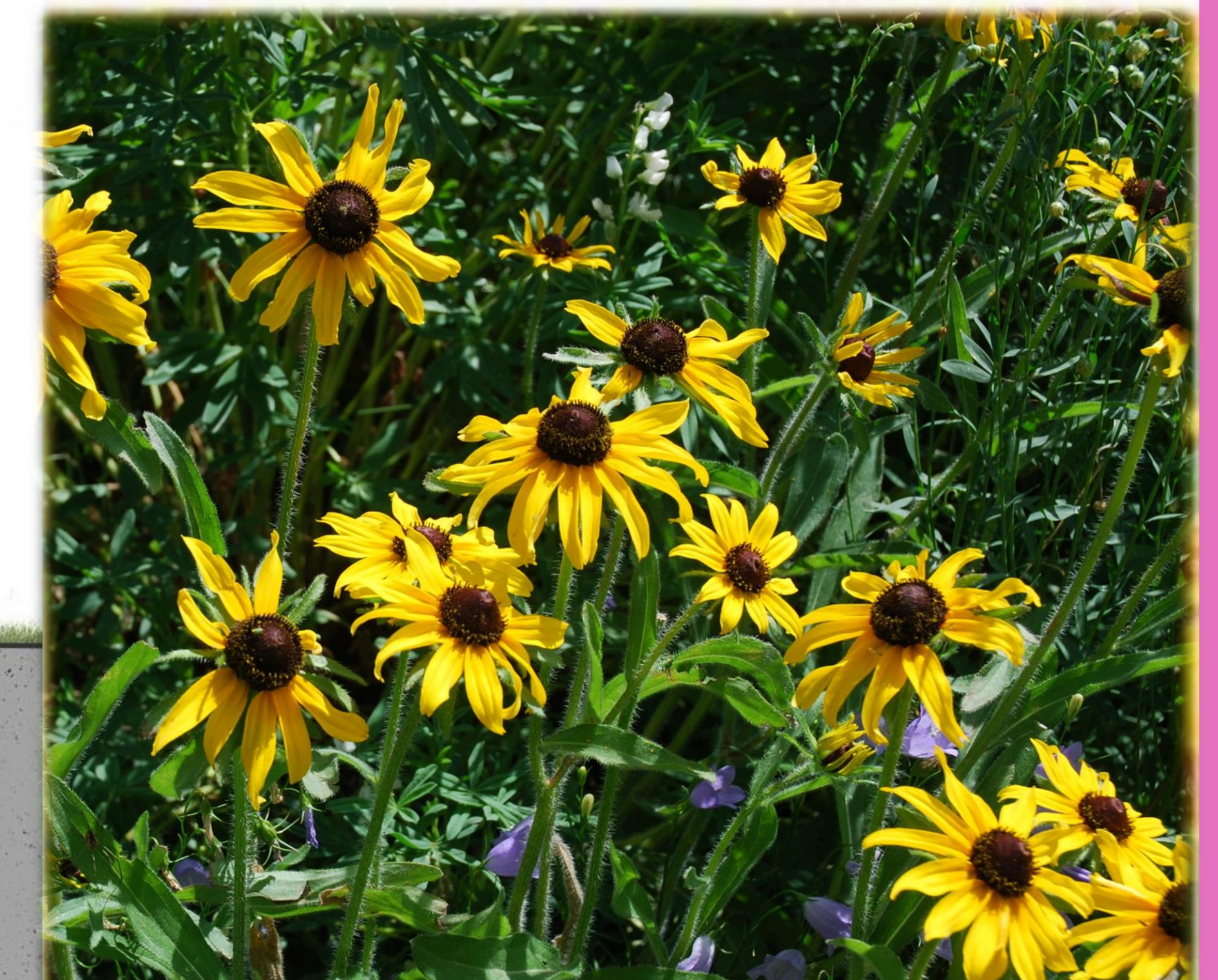
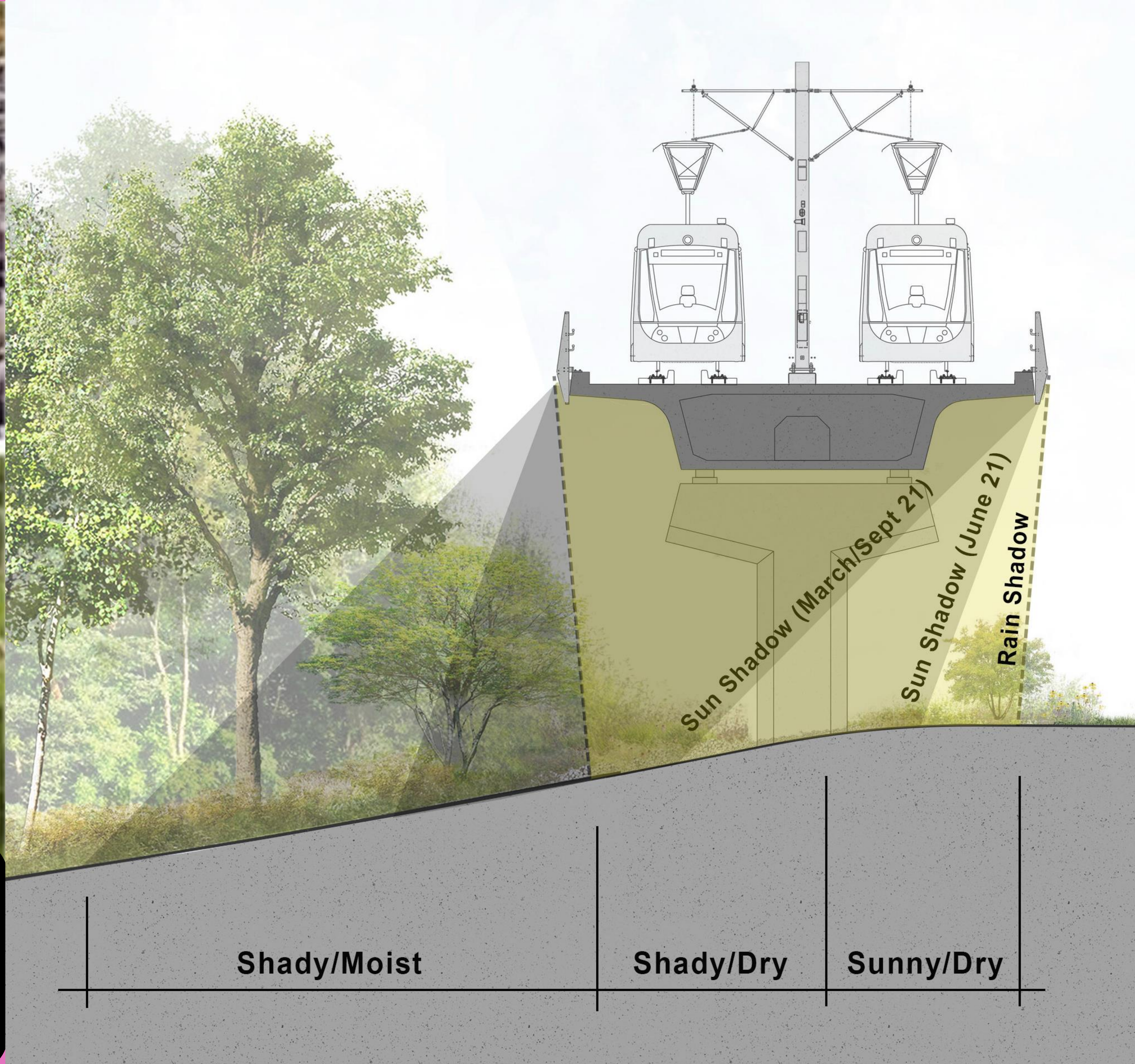
- Forest Edge Management
- Full-size Native Trees
- Shrubs and Other Understory (vegetation below tree canopy)
- Open Meadow Lands
- Wetland Restoration



Proposed landscape restoration - Under the guideway

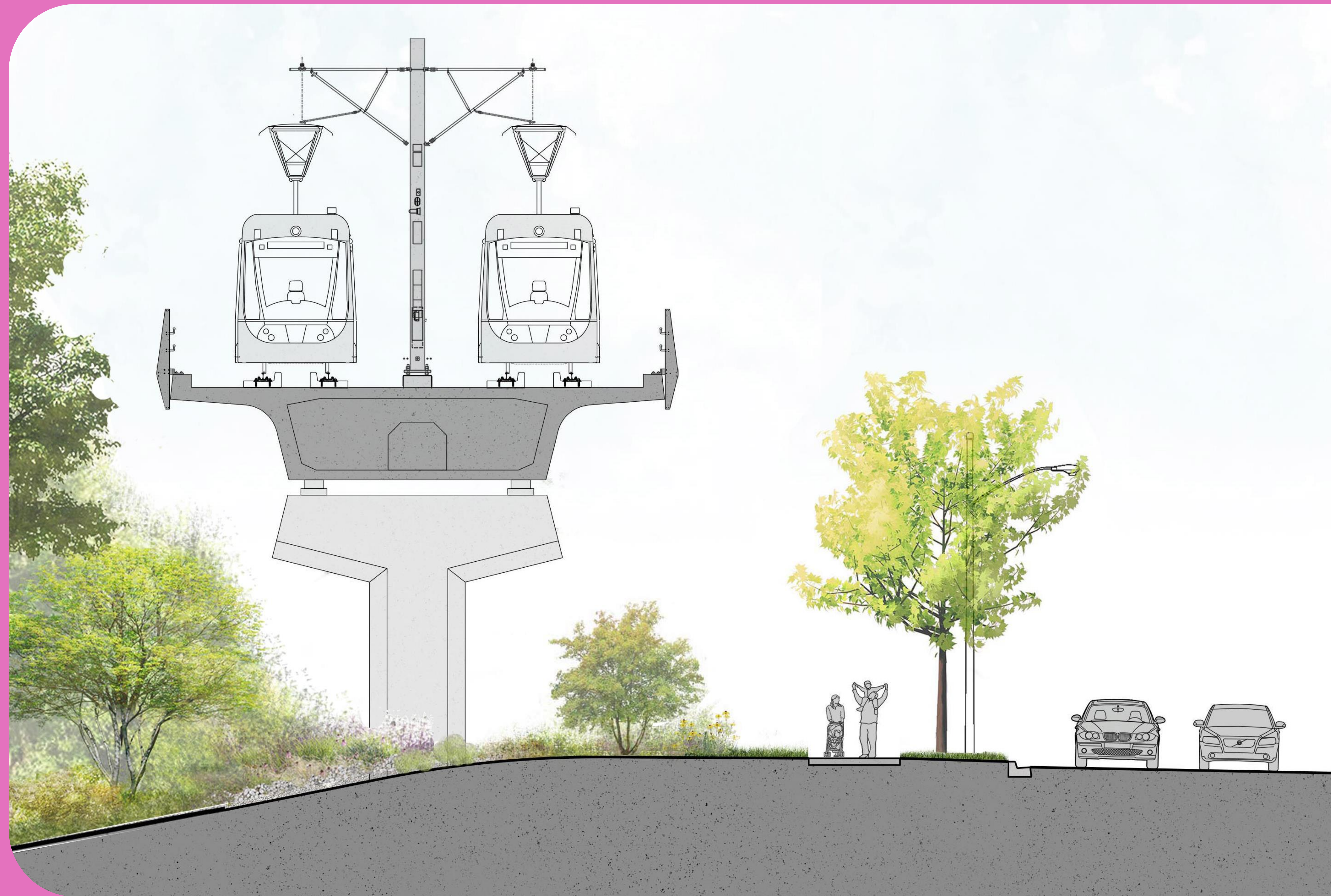


- Shady/Dry to Moist:
- Shade-tolerant Seeding and Ground Covers
 - Shrubs and Small Trees



- Sunny/Dry:
- Shrubs
 - Herbaceous Perennials

Proposed landscape restoration - The public boulevard



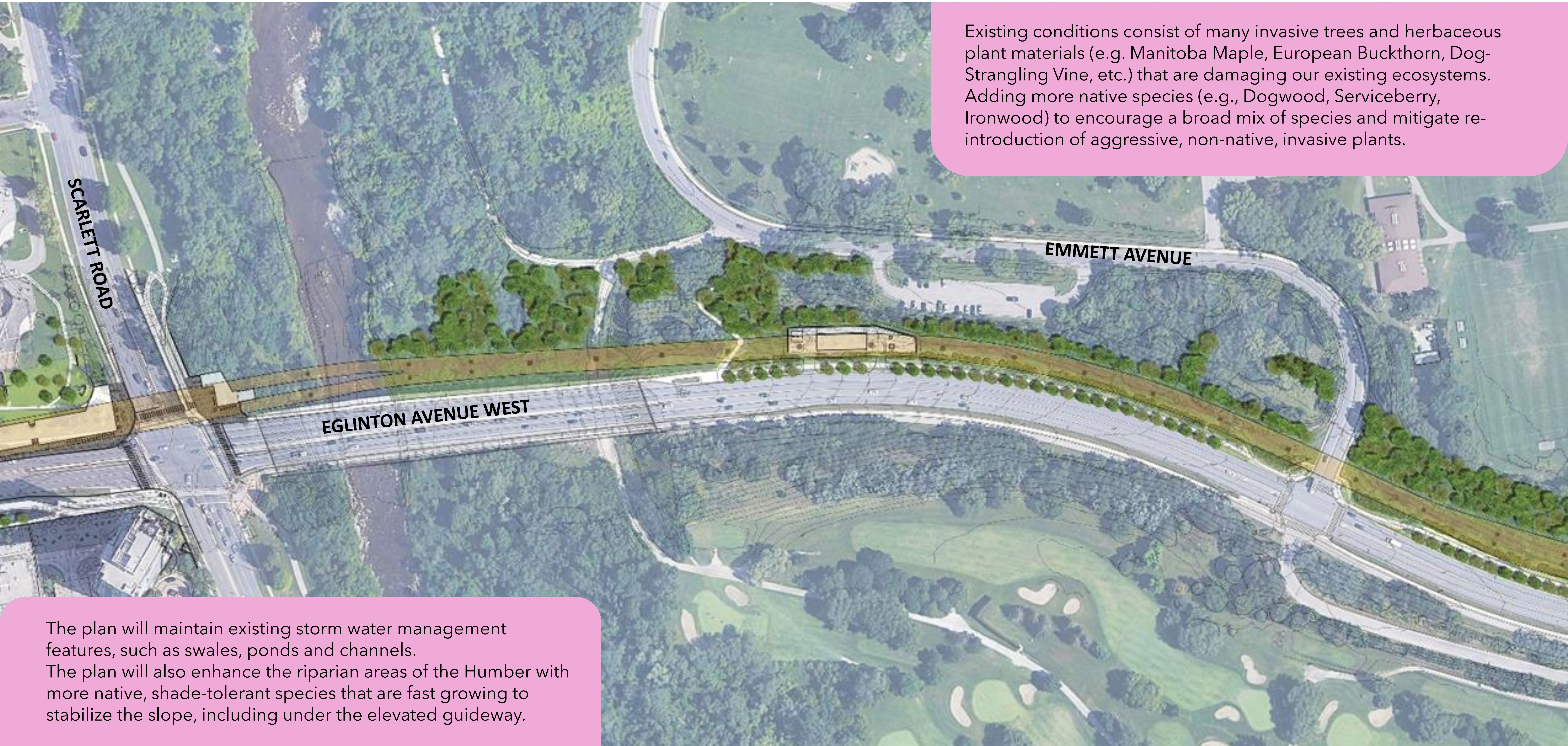
Boulevard:

- Softscape Furnishing Zone (Min. 1.8 m)
- Deciduous Street Trees
- Concrete Sidewalk
- Shrubs and Small Trees



Landscape restoration of impacted lands

The Humber River and Eglinton Flats



Existing conditions consist of many invasive trees and herbaceous plant materials (e.g. Manitoba Maple, European Buckthorn, Dog-Strangling Vine, etc.) that are damaging our existing ecosystems. Adding more native species (e.g., Dogwood, Serviceberry, Ironwood) to encourage a broad mix of species and mitigate re-introduction of aggressive, non-native, invasive plants.

The plan will maintain existing storm water management features, such as swales, ponds and channels. The plan will also enhance the riparian areas of the Humber with more native, shade-tolerant species that are fast growing to stabilize the slope, including under the elevated guideway.

Landscape restoration of impacted lands

Fergy Brown Park and Pearen Park

Fergy Brown and Pearen Park have two existing phragmites communities. Phragmites is an invasive reed that quickly establishes and dominates wetland communities. Requires appropriate removal techniques as well as monitoring, and re-introduction of native wetland plantings to reduce the chances of re-establishment.



The restoration works plan on retaining existing wooded areas around the cricket pitches, with the invasives being removed and/or controlled as needed, and supplemented by planting additional native species. Work would also be completed to expand the existing edge of the wooded areas in adjacent lands with further plantings.

Landscape restoration of impacted lands

Jane Portal and Pearen Park



Landscape restoration of impacted lands

The Elevated Guideway and the Public Boulevard



Improvements to Adjacent Lands

Priority 2: Improve adjacent lands –

Selected sites that lie immediately adjacent to the ECWE project lands will be improved by controlling invasive species and adding native species. This helps protect newly restored lands in the Eglinton Flats area.

Adjacent lands - naturalization

Naturalization in landscapes involves designing and implementing native vegetation and habitats in an area that increase its ecological value. The ultimate goal is to allow the environment to naturally succeed into a more complex ecology over time.

The Process:

- Note the existing conditions - light, soil, plants, etc.
- Remove invasive plant species
- Plant and apply mulch
- Monitor over time
- Maintenance - mowing, mulching, watering, tree guards, continued removal of invasive plants, weeding, etc.



Adjacent lands - Invasive species management

- Common invasive plant species in the project area include garlic mustard, phragmites, buckthorn, and dog-strangling vine.
- Both natural and chemical methods are viable for the treatment of some species.
- Proposed control methods are based on Best Management Practices from Ontario Invasive Plant Council.
- Treatment is typically completed in stages and over many years.
- Invasive tree species may be managed by girdling, whereby they remain on the landscape to decay over time, providing habitat for birds and mammals.
- City of Toronto also has invasive species management guidelines.



Garlic mustard

Let us know your thoughts!

Tell us what you think about the landscape restoration plans for areas directly impacted by construction and adjacent lands. What do you like? Is there anything you would like to see differently?



Line-wide Opportunities

Priority 3: Enhance additional landscapes - Other sites within the Eglinton Corridor may be selected for strategic landscape enhancement. Compensation trees that cannot be accommodated on restoration sites will be used to improve existing landscapes and add to the City's urban forest canopy.

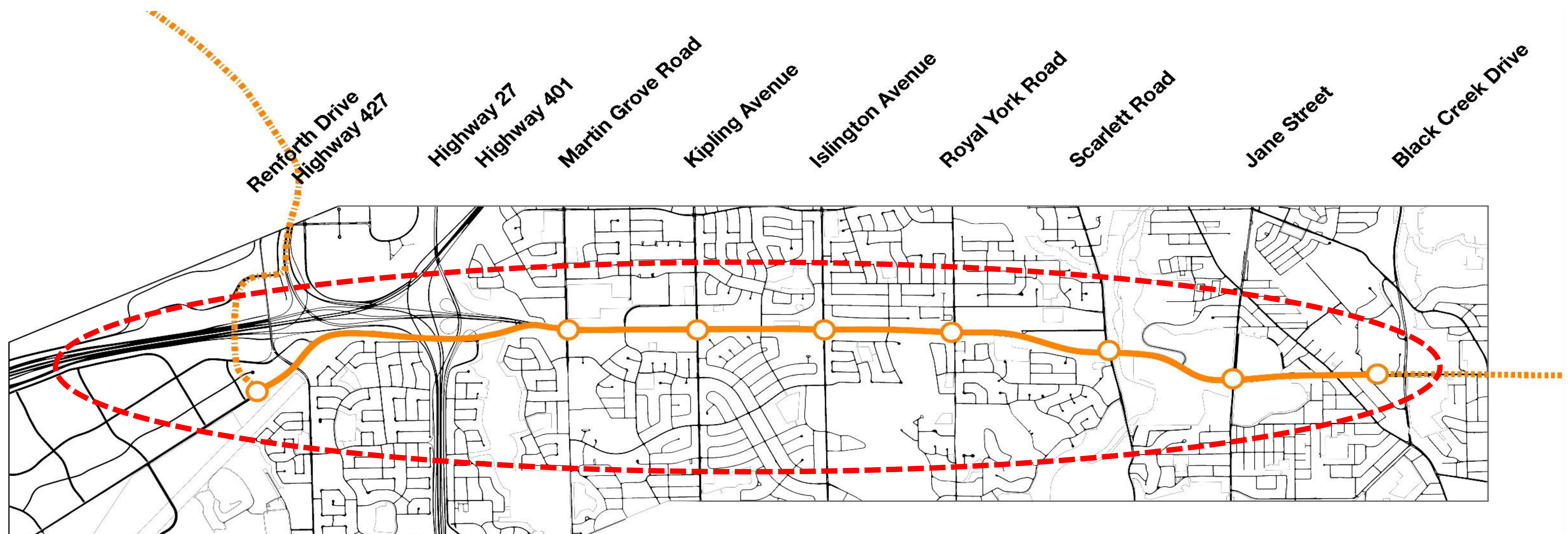
How are additional sites selected?

Additional sites may be selected for enhancements to absorb excess compensation trees and to augment the City's urban forest canopy.

With the community's help, potential sites are selected against a clear set of criteria.

Suitable candidate sites will be:

- **Available** - typically within the public domain;
- **Accessible** - for economical construction and maintenance;
- **Highly visible** - to the passing public;
- **Important to the community** - improvements will provide tangible benefits;
- **In close proximity to the ECWE** - off-site improvements are visually connected to the ECWE;
- **In need** - upgrades or improvements are important and timely;
- **Green** - improvements will measurably increase sustainability and biodiversity;
- **Supportive** - improvements will further City policies and aspirations.



The Eglinton corridor is continuing to evolve

In the early 'Fifties, Eglinton Avenue was a small country sideroad that passed through neatly laid-out and productive agricultural fields and communities.

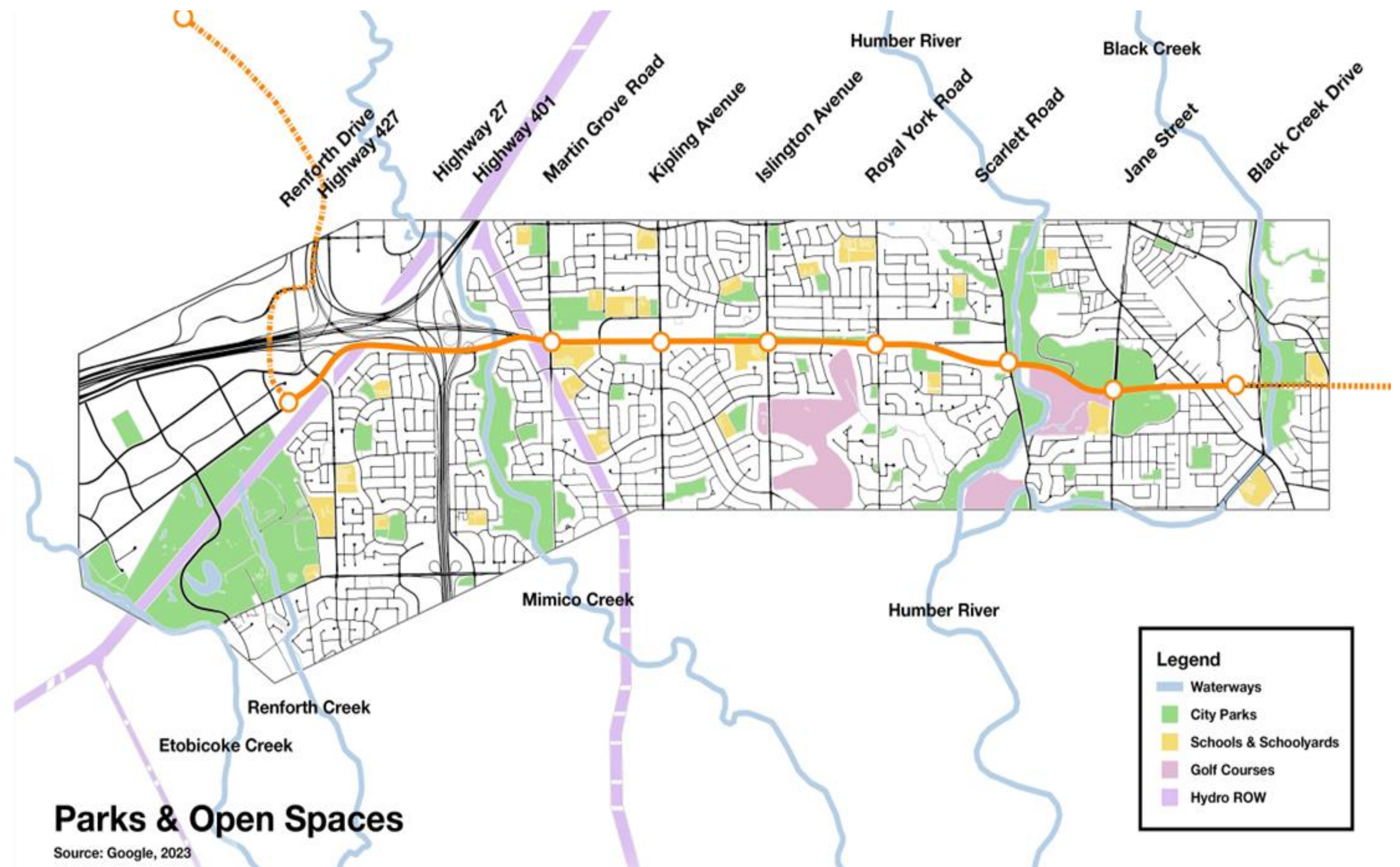
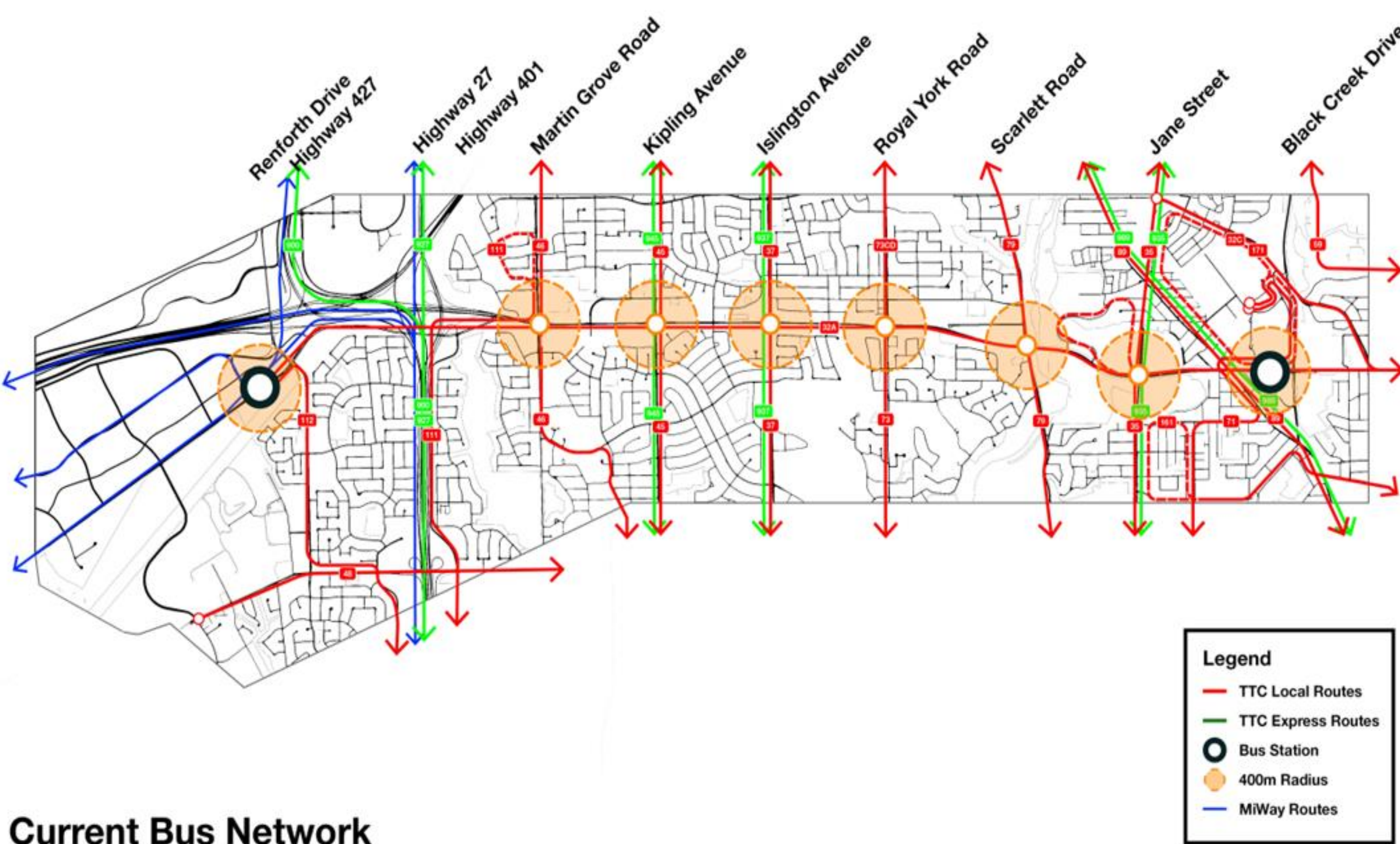
By the mid-'Sixties, much of the agricultural base had been transformed into low-density suburban neighbourhoods. More development was yet to come.



Today, the Eglinton Avenue West corridor is a rich mix of single-family housing, town houses and apartment towers supported by broad array of commercial, institutional, recreational and transportation opportunities.

Line-wide opportunities

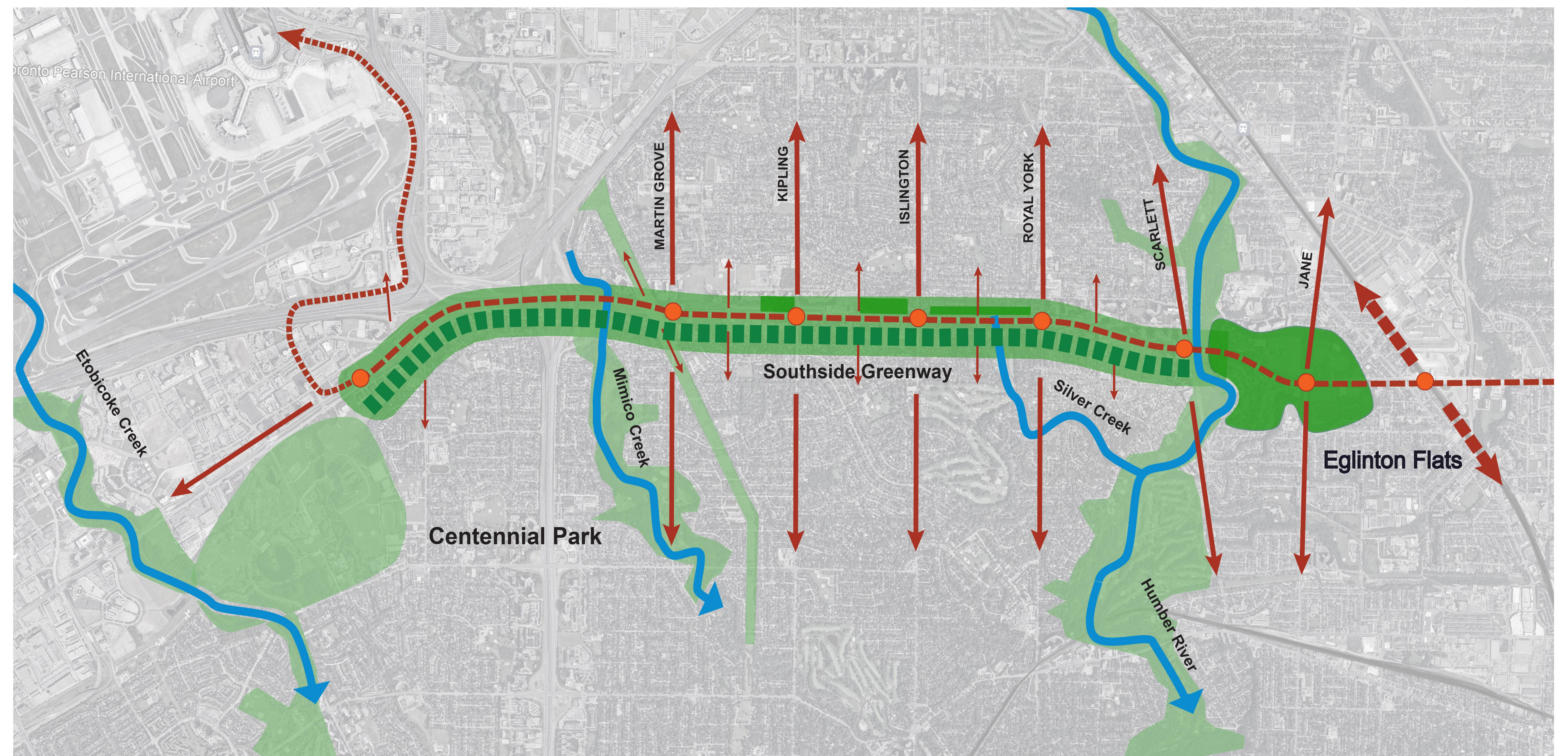
Determining appropriate enhancements starts with understanding the existing Eglinton corridor.



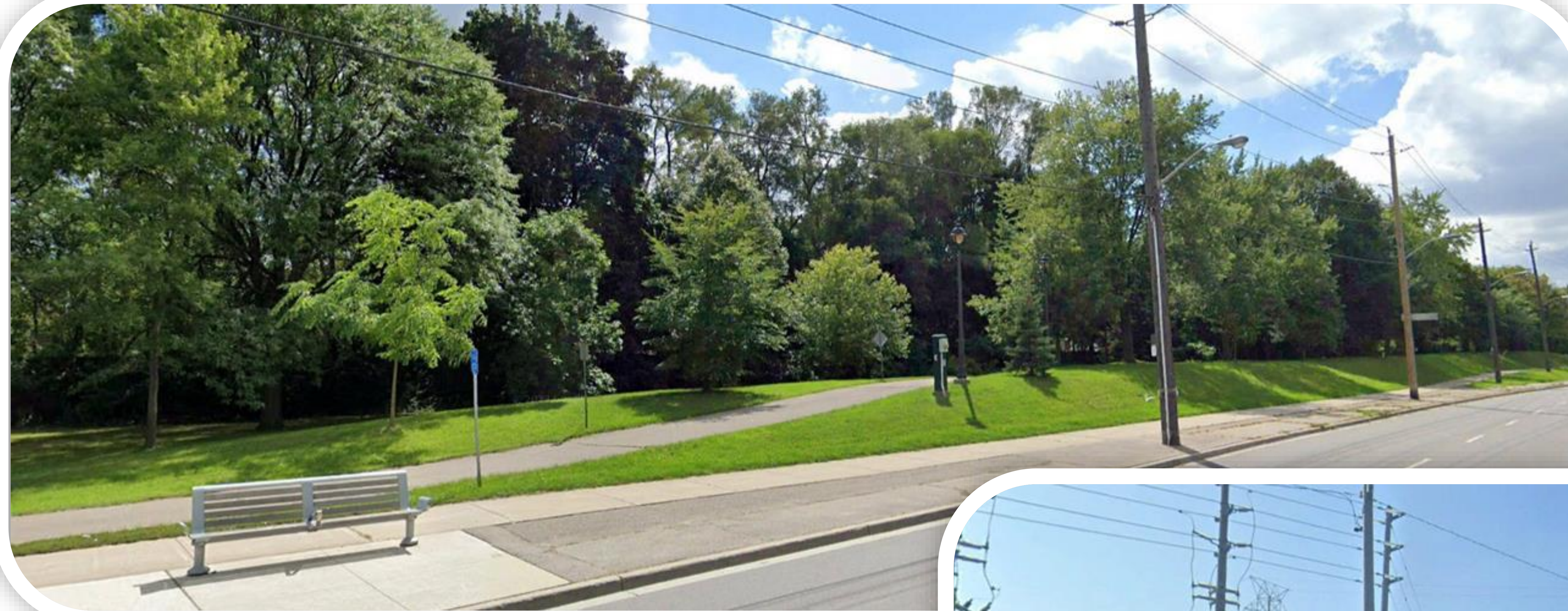
Line-wide opportunities - A holistic vision

Taking a line-wide perspective

- Looking line-wide, there are opportunities to provide enhancements to improve the way the Eglinton corridor looks, how it functions as a recreation corridor, how it connects existing parks and open spaces and how it meets the needs of the community.
- Think of a greenway as a coordinated corridor of managed natural habitats, connecting people with places through a network of paths and trails.
- Selected sites to be undertaken by Metrolinx will stimulate a longer-range improvement program for the entire corridor.



Line-wide opportunities - Existing character



Parts of the existing Eglinton corridor are vibrant and green, but would benefit from more amenities and greater environmental diversity.

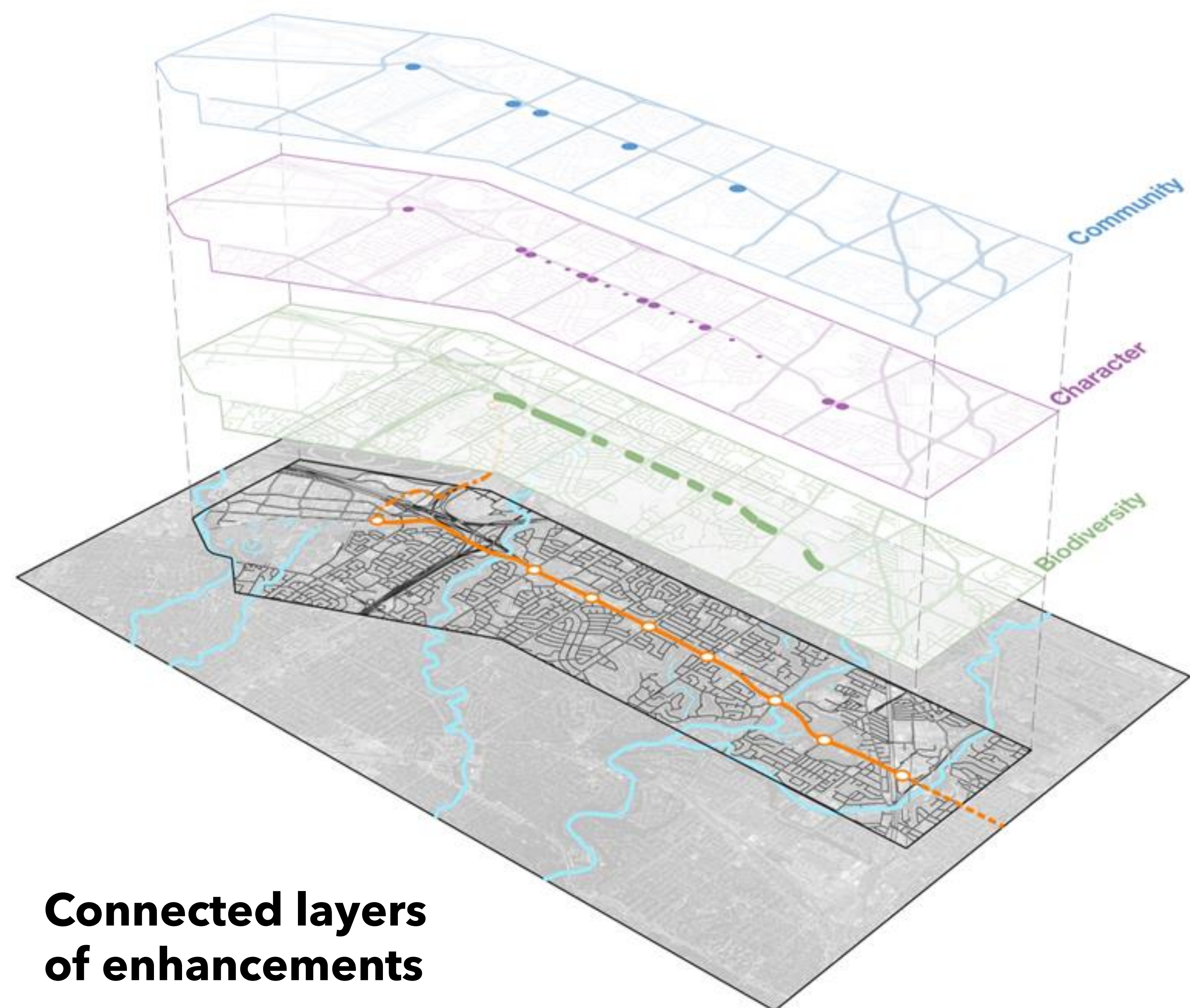
Other parts of the corridor have a lot of room for improvement.



community, character and biodiversity - key opportunities to improve

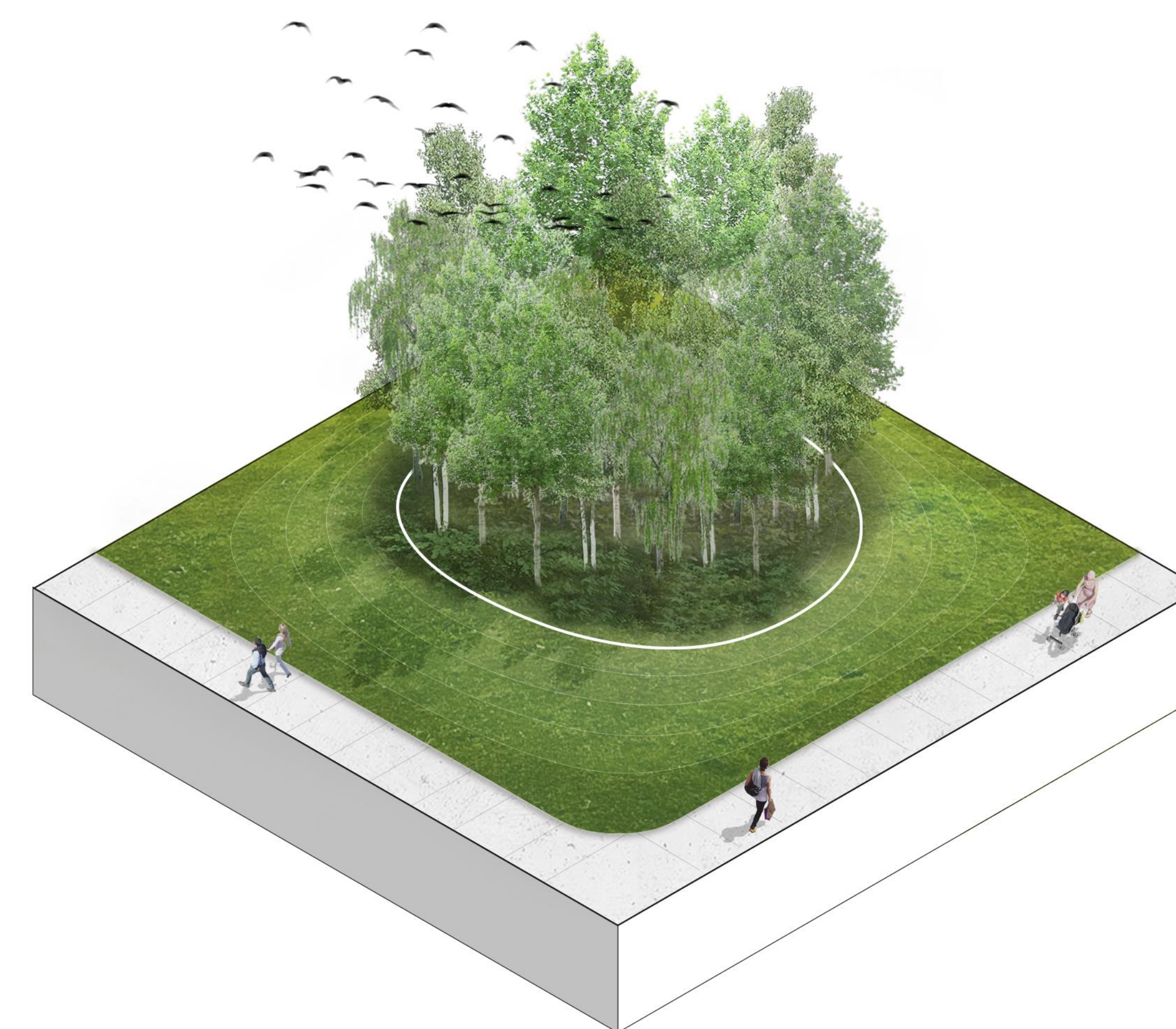
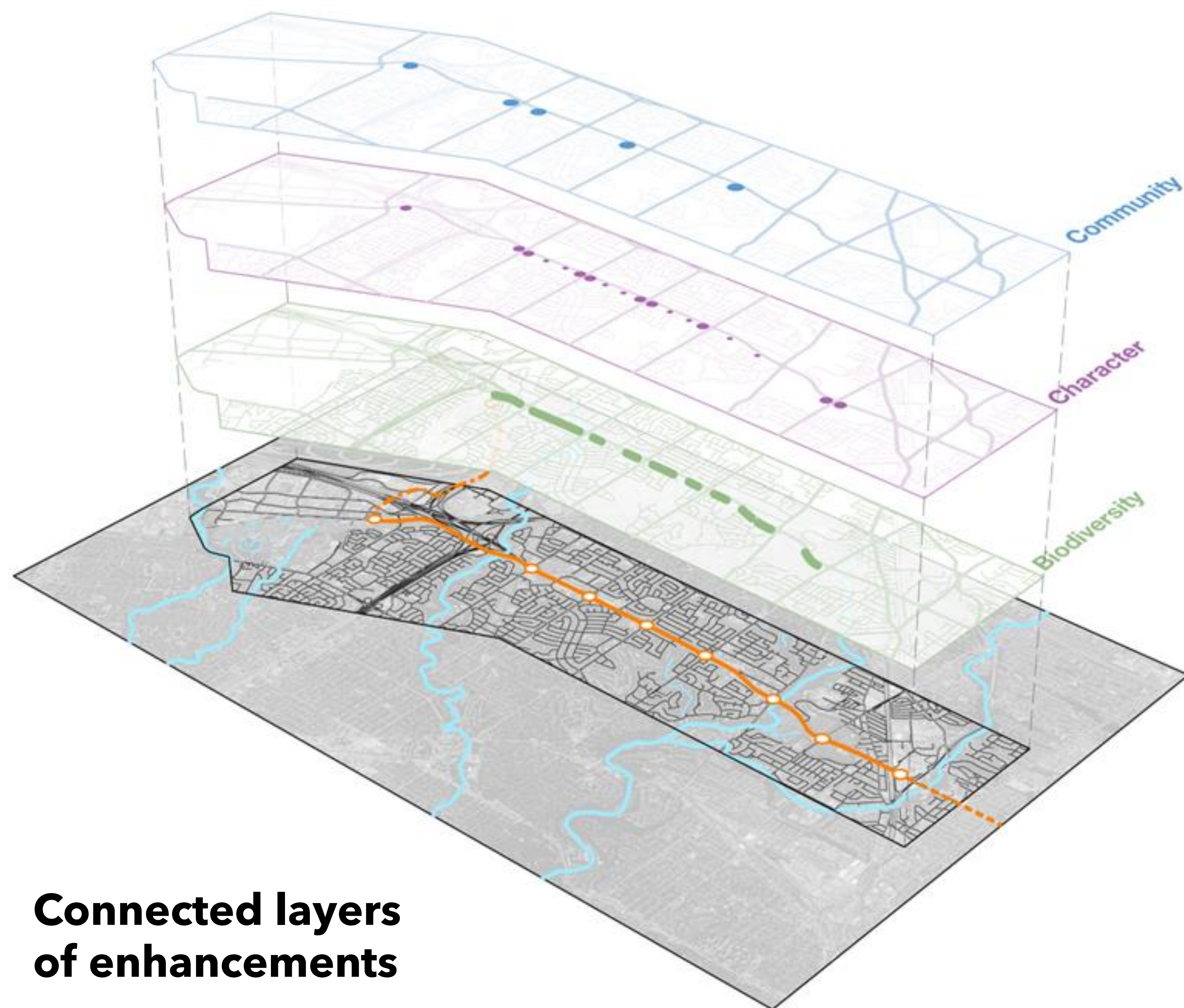
Line-wide opportunities - A layered approach

Community - Opportunities to enhance amenities for people to enjoy



Line-wide opportunities - A layered approach

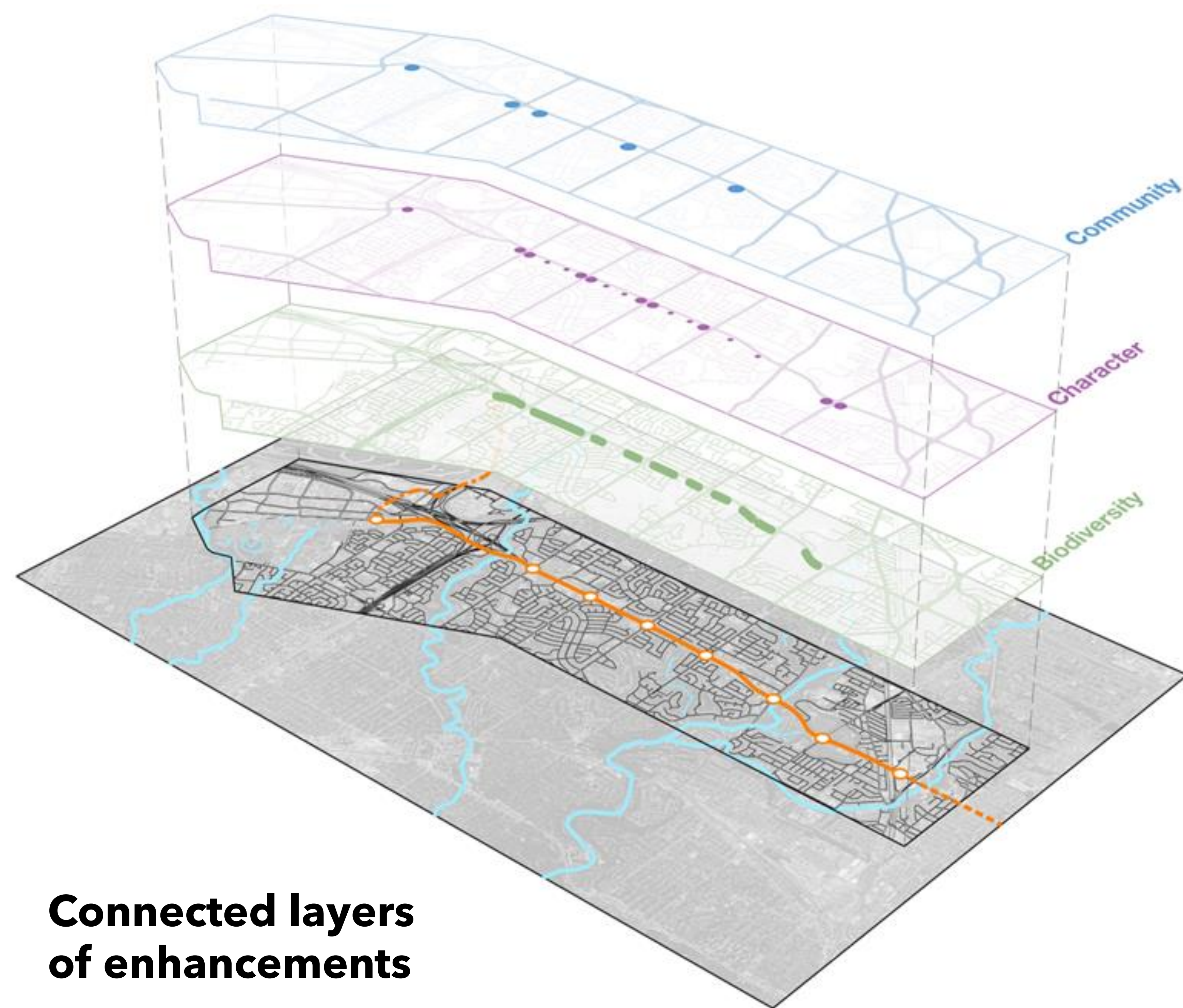
Character - Opportunities to enhance the unique visual identity of the Eglinton Corridor



Landmark plantings of White Birch, Poplar and colourful ground covers

Line-wide opportunities - A layered approach

Biodiversity - Opportunities to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience to climate change



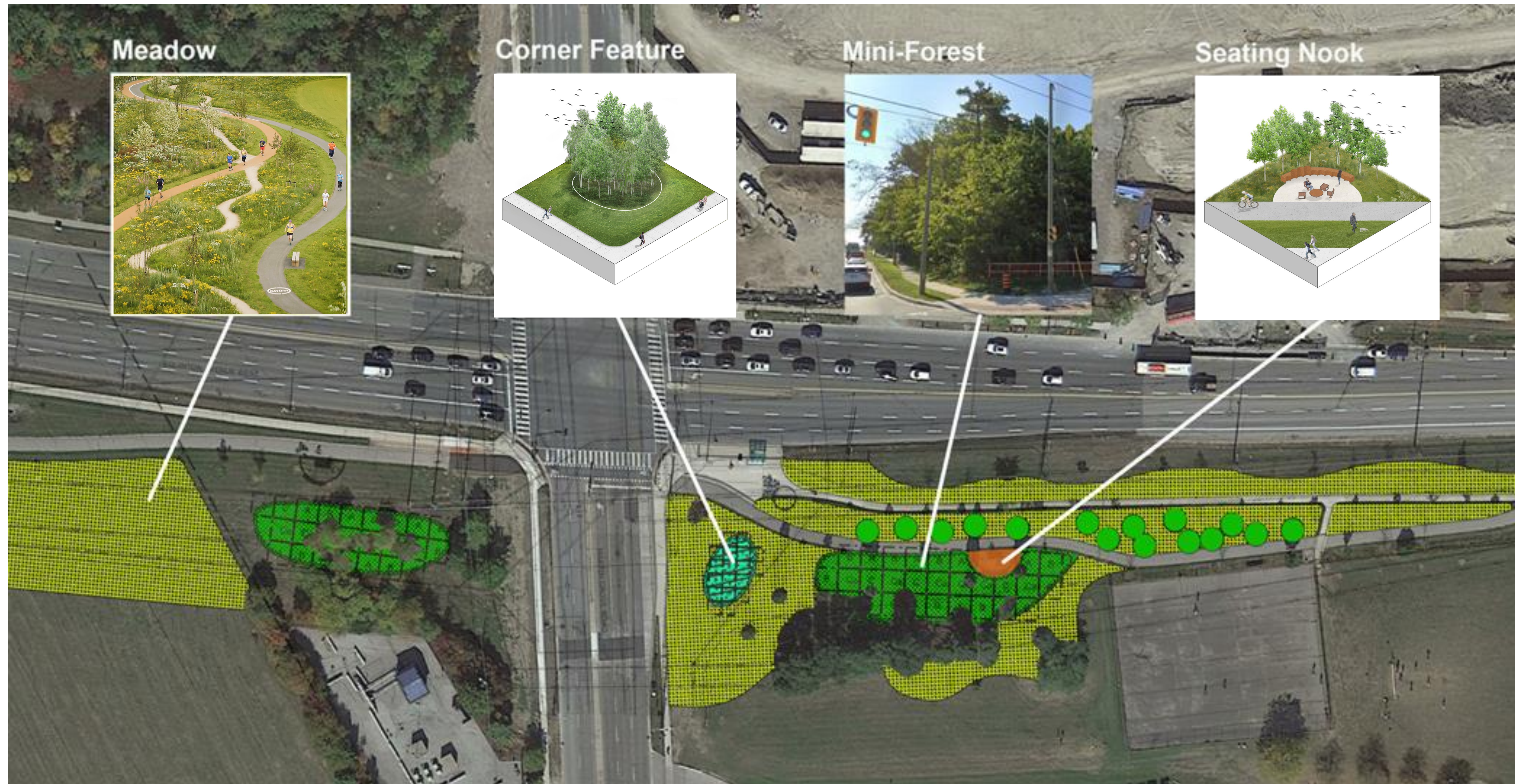
Colourful, low-maintenance
meadows replace manicured lawns



A young forest of native, deciduous
trees - beautiful at all stages.

Line-wide opportunities

Demonstration design - Eglinton at Martin Grove

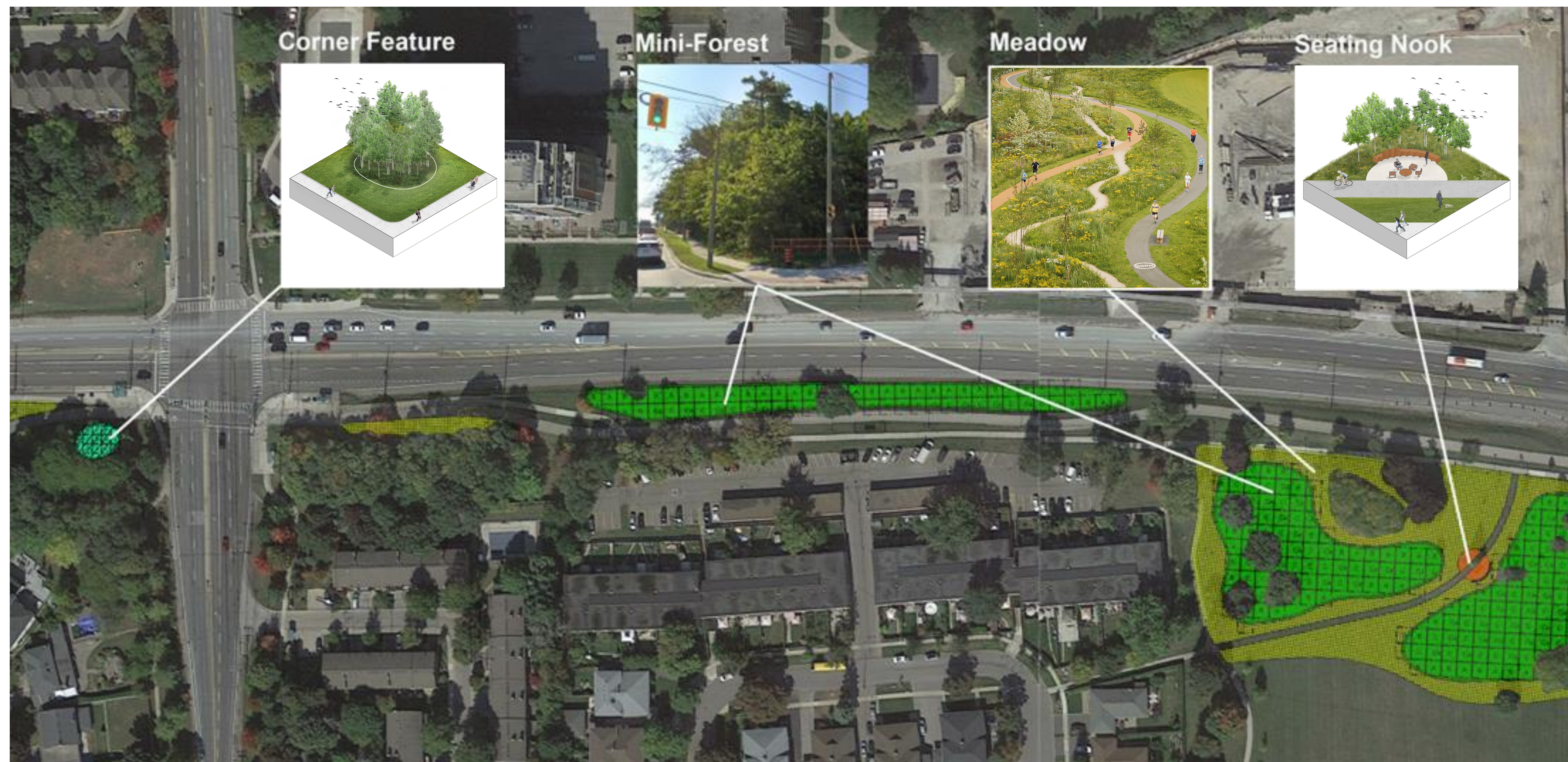


The boulevard opportunities as envisioned at Martin Grove Road:

- The hydro corridor is developed as a meadow in conjunction with work already being undertaken by Hydro One.
- Existing trees are supplemented with new trees and shrubs to create a "mini-forest", and low-maintenance and diverse urban forest.
- A corner feature of White Birch and Poplar trees marks this important intersection.
- Meadow and forest plantings extend from the boulevard onto unused school grounds to offer natural teaching opportunities.
- All existing trees and shrubs are carefully protected and integrated into the new work.

Line-wide opportunities

Demonstration design - Eglinton at Royal York



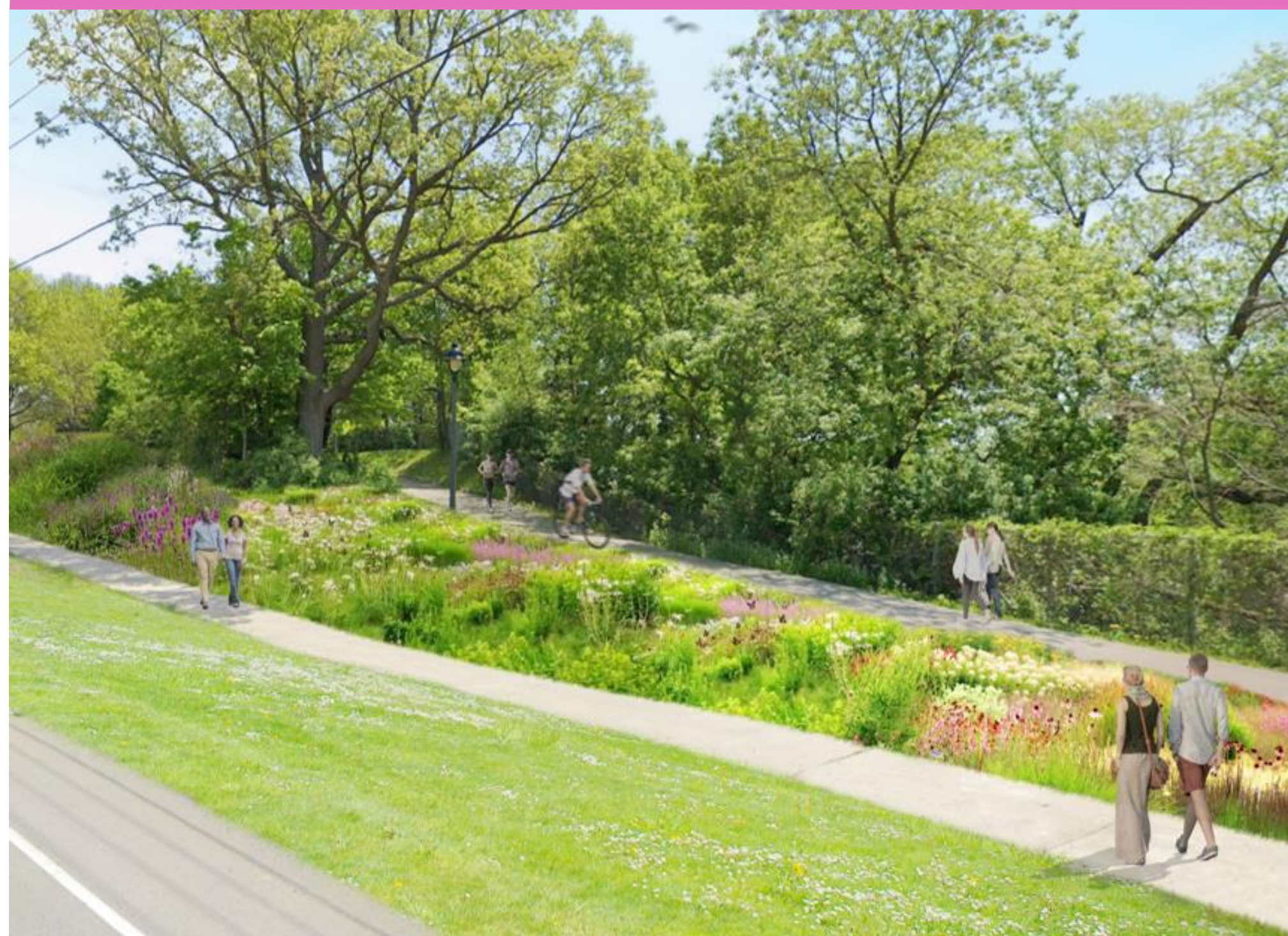
The boulevard opportunities as envisioned between Royal York Road and Buttonwood Park:

- A highly visible corner feature at Royal York consisting of White Birch and Poplar trees.
- A new linear urban forest between the recreational pathway and the road.
- A combination of meadow and urban forest along the frontage of Buttonwood Park to diversify the environment without compromising the recreational use of the Park.
- All existing trees and shrubs are carefully protected and integrated into the new work.

Let us know your thoughts!

Let us know what you would like to see more of as part of the line-wide opportunities. Use the stickers to tell us your preference, and/or write your thoughts and other ideas on the board.

Naturalized
boulevards



Mini forests



Seating nooks
or other amenities



Something
else...

Please use the table map to identify areas that you think should be selected as additional sites for enhancements

What's next?

Early 2024	Mid-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stations, Rails, Systems (SRS) RFQ release (March 2024)• Toronto Hydro-Electric relocation at Scarlett Station, as part of advanced works for EG (April 2024)• Phase 1 Cycle Track work completed (Jane to Weston)• “Meet the builder” event for second part of tunnelling works (Spring 2024)• Construction of Jane portal<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grading & Piling• Excavation• Concrete works	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Walks at each station (April - October)• Restoration design at 90% completion (July 2024)• Sharing stations information at community events• Stations RFP release (August 2024)• Summer community events to spread general awareness of Project process• Elevated Guideway “Meet the builder” event (Fall 2024)• Full cross passage completion (Fall 2024)

Thank you for coming to the Open House



Visit us at the Community Office

326 Scarlett Road

Tuesdays and
Thursdays,
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. or by
appointment

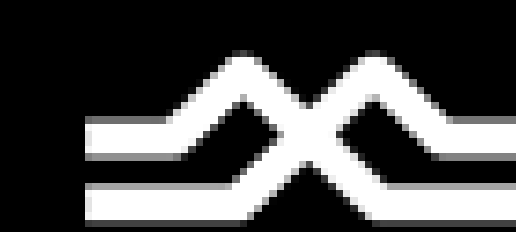
**Want to
know
more?**

Visit: metrolinx.com/EglintonWest

Email us: EglintonWest@metrolinx.com

   @EglintonWestEXT

Call us: 416-202-8001

 **METROLINX**

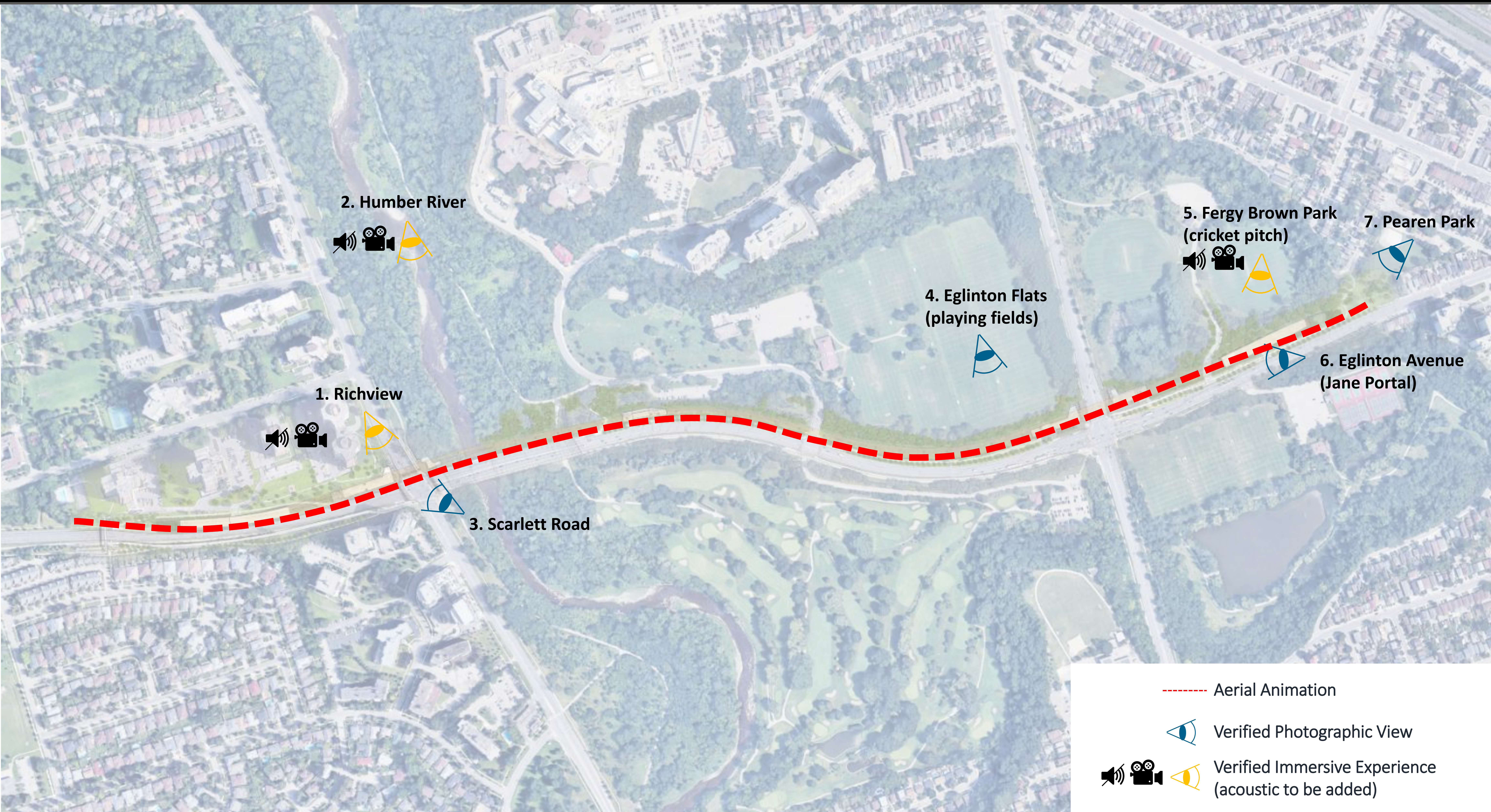
Experience the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension (ECWE)

Immersive Experiences

Check out:

- 1) Immersive Experience:** experience what the elevated guideway will look and sound like through the use of video, 3D renderings and surround sound displays
- 2) Verified photographic view (photomontages):** view panoramic images at four locations to see how they will evolve over time from peak construction, to 5 and 30 years post construction
- 3) Aerial Animation:** view a flyover of the elevated guideway route, and learn more about the key features of guideway

Location of the immersive experiences



Let us know your thoughts!

Tell us what you thought about the immersive experience.

