

Eglinton Crosstown West Extension

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

APRIL 24, 2024

Welcome

Thank you for joining the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension Open House

This session will be divided into two parts: a presentation and Q&A period.

The presentation will focus on:

- The Landscape Restoration Plan, approach and updates
- Tools and renderings to experience the Elevated Guideway
- Construction updates and what's next

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

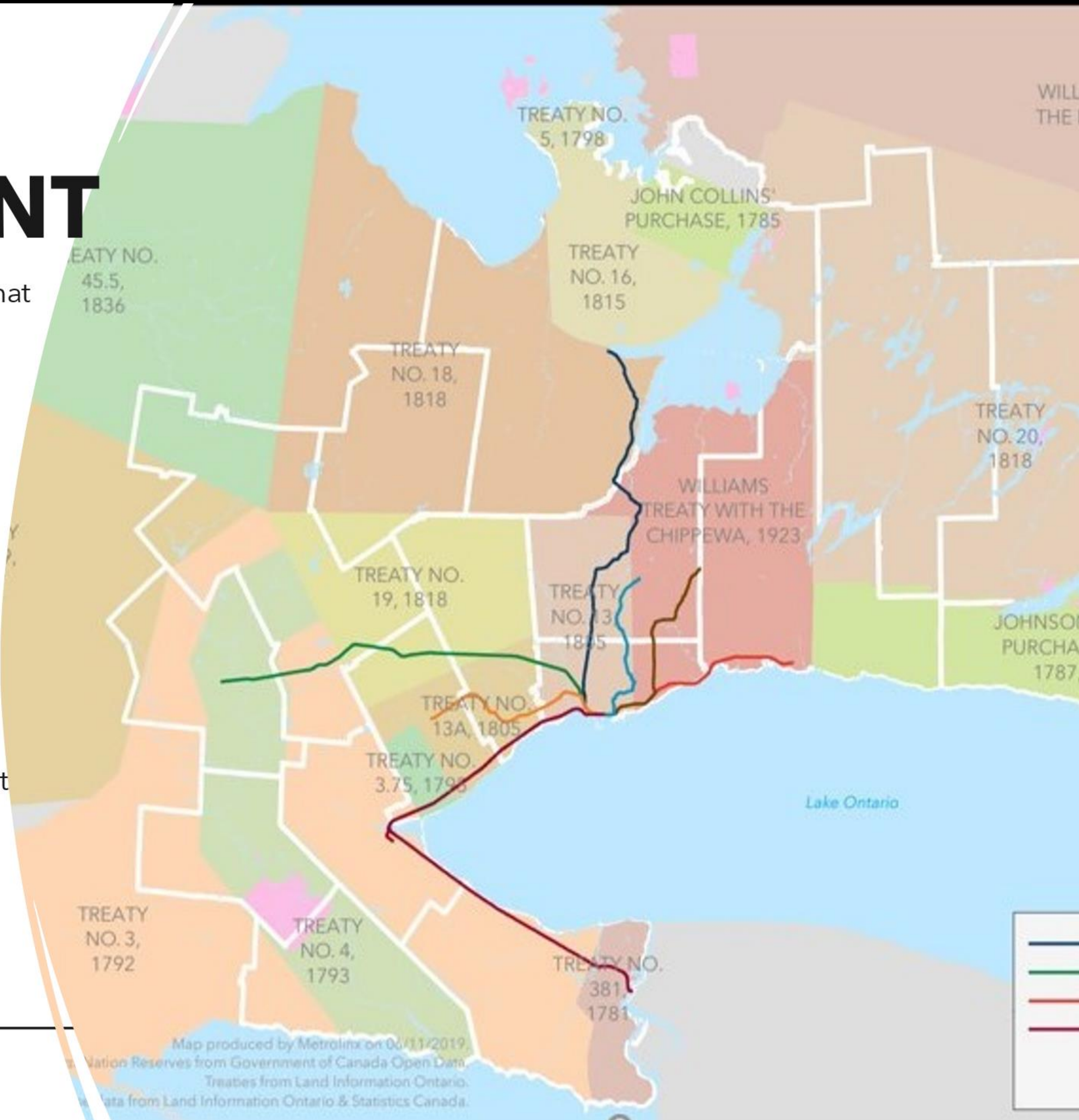
Let us take a moment to acknowledge that we are on lands that have been, and continue to be, home to many Indigenous Peoples including the Anishnabeg the Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat peoples.

We are all Treaty people. Many of us have come here as settlers, as immigrants or involuntarily as part of the trans Atlantic slave trade, in this generation, or generations past.

We acknowledge the historic and continued impacts of colonialization and the need to work towards meaningful reconciliation with the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge that Metrolinx operates on Territories and lands covered by many Treaties that affirm and value the right of Indigenous communities, Nations and Peoples.

We understand the importance of working towards reconciliation with the original caretakers of this land and will conduct business in a manner that is built on a foundation of trust, respect and collaboration.



Engagement Guidelines



Use Slido to submit your questions. Visit www.metrolinx.com/ecwe_events and click on today's event



Closed Captions



French Translation

Introducing the Presenters



Aman Gill
Community
Engagement
Manager,
Metrolinx



Peter Smith
Senior
Landscape
Architect,
DTAH



**Christen
Dschankilic**
Arborist,
Dillon
Consulting

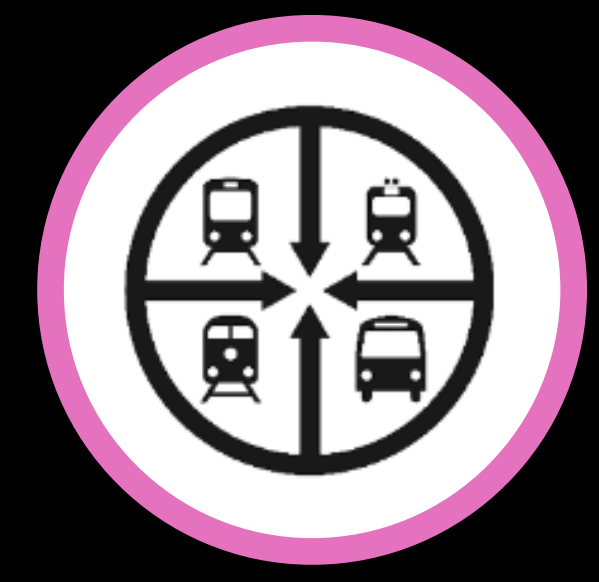


**Micheal
Killeen**
Guideway
Design
Manager,
Arup

The Eglinton Crosstown West Extension



9.2 km of new rapid transit line



Seven (7) new stations



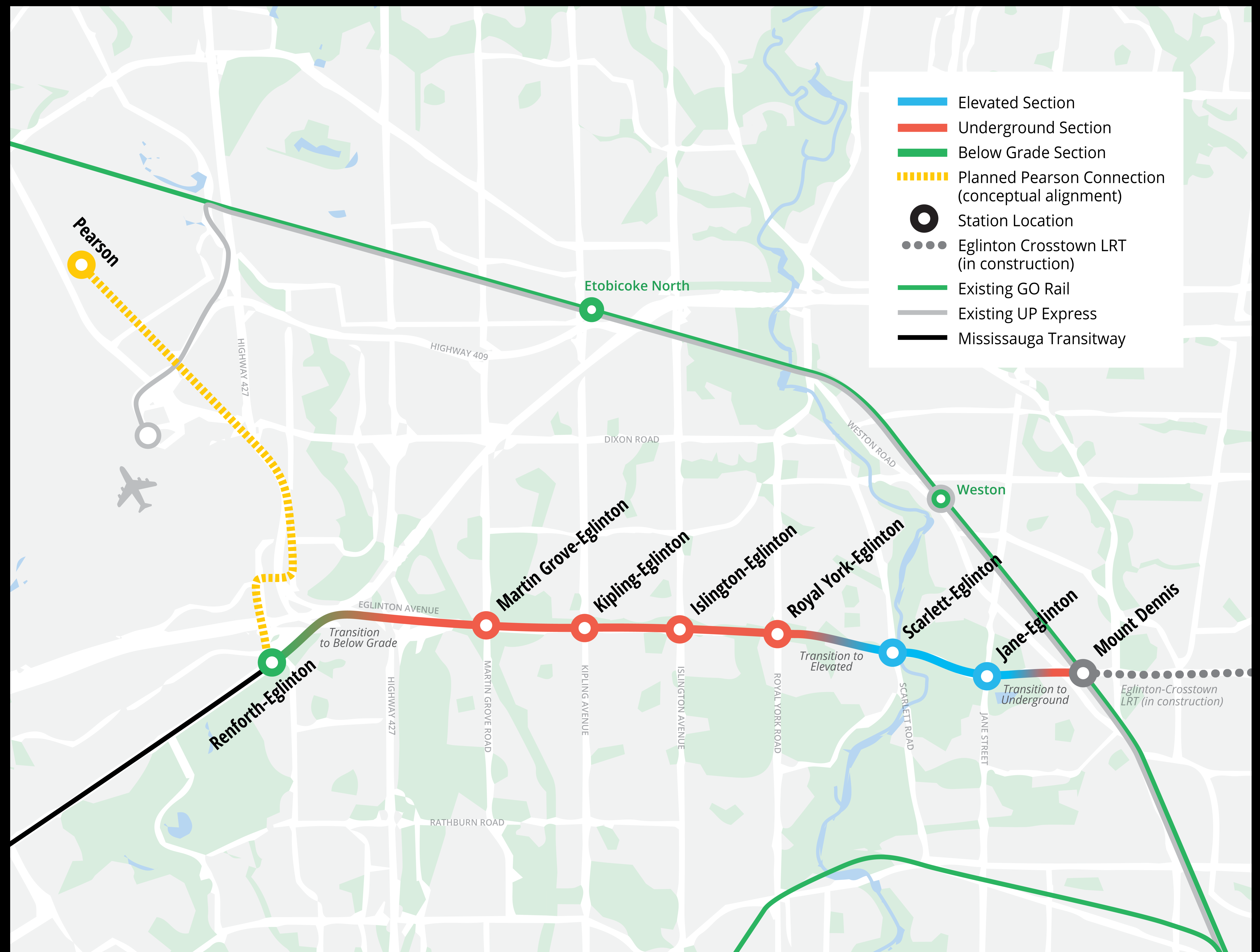
Five (5) connections to other transit options, including: UP Express, Kitchener GO Train, GO Transit, TTC and MiWay buses



37,500 more people within walking distance to transit



23,600 more jobs within walking distance to transit



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
- 8 Design & Restoration Working Group Meetings
- 20 open houses
- Comment forms
- Multiple community pop-ups
- Project website with public feedback opportunities

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.

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

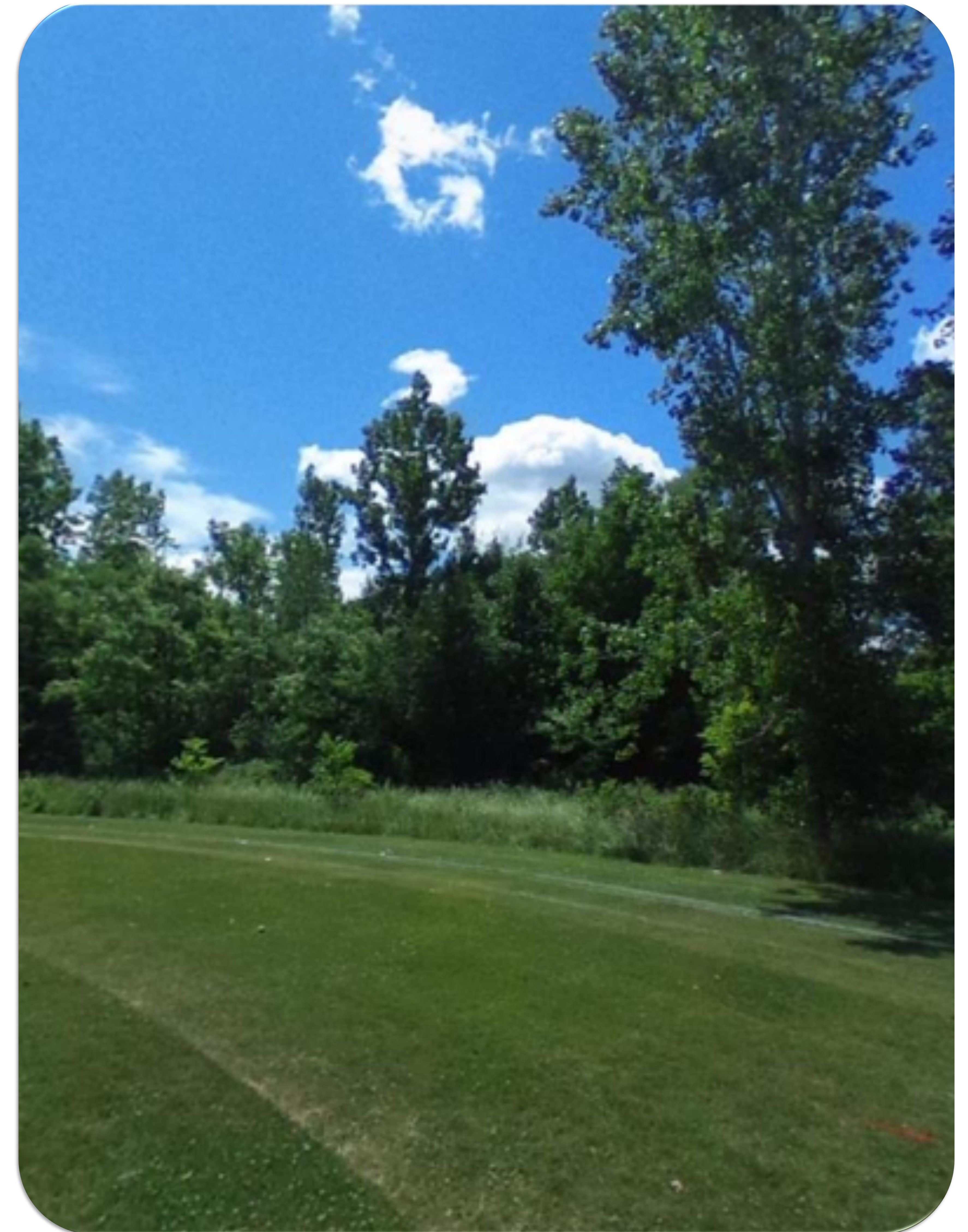
During construction, some lands in the area will be impacted. We are developing and Landscape Restoration Plan to restore these lands.

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.

Restoration Planning Approach

- Work collaboratively with the City of Toronto/Toronto Region Conservation Authority 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.

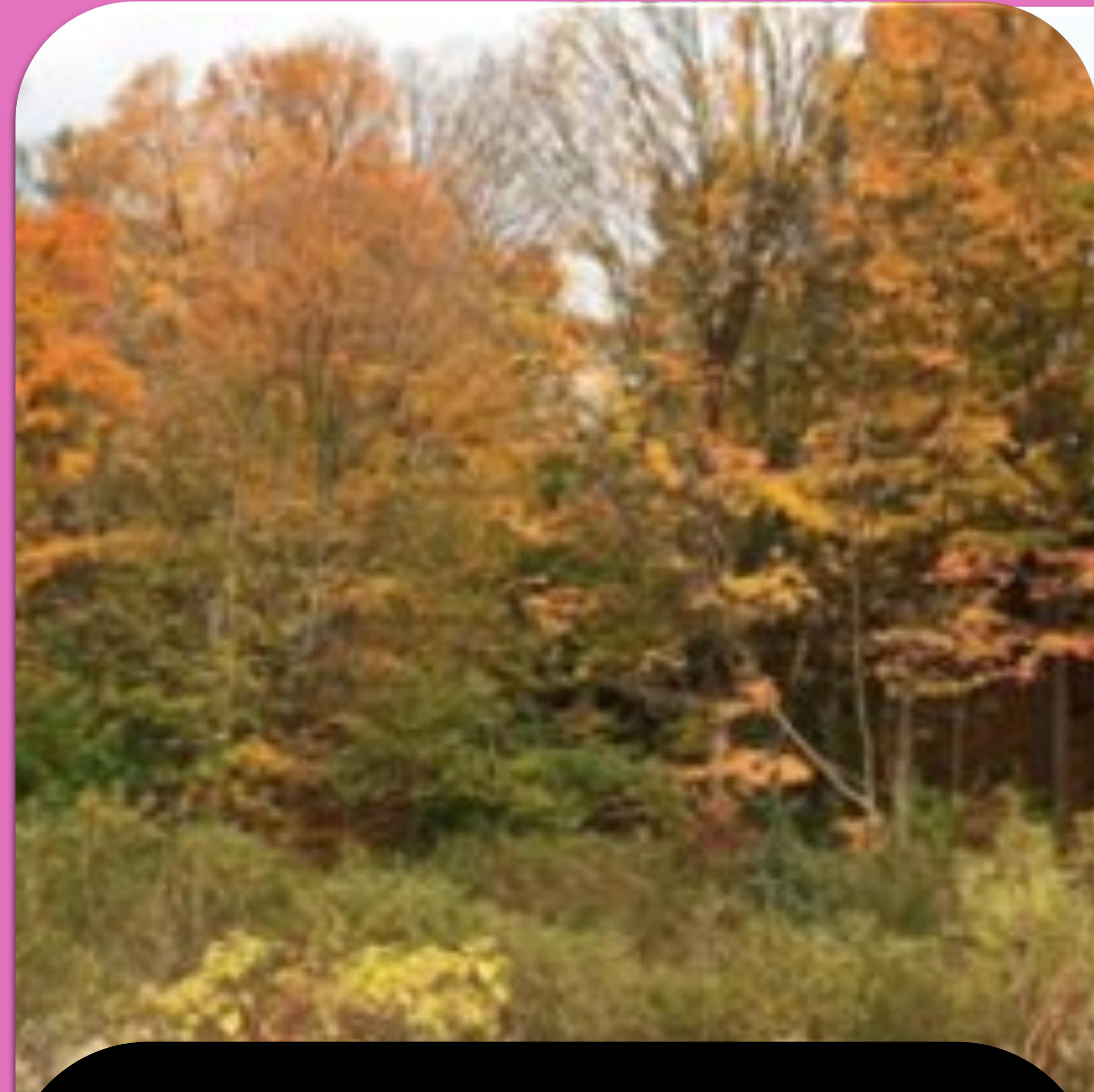


Eglinton Flats is continuing to evolve

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.

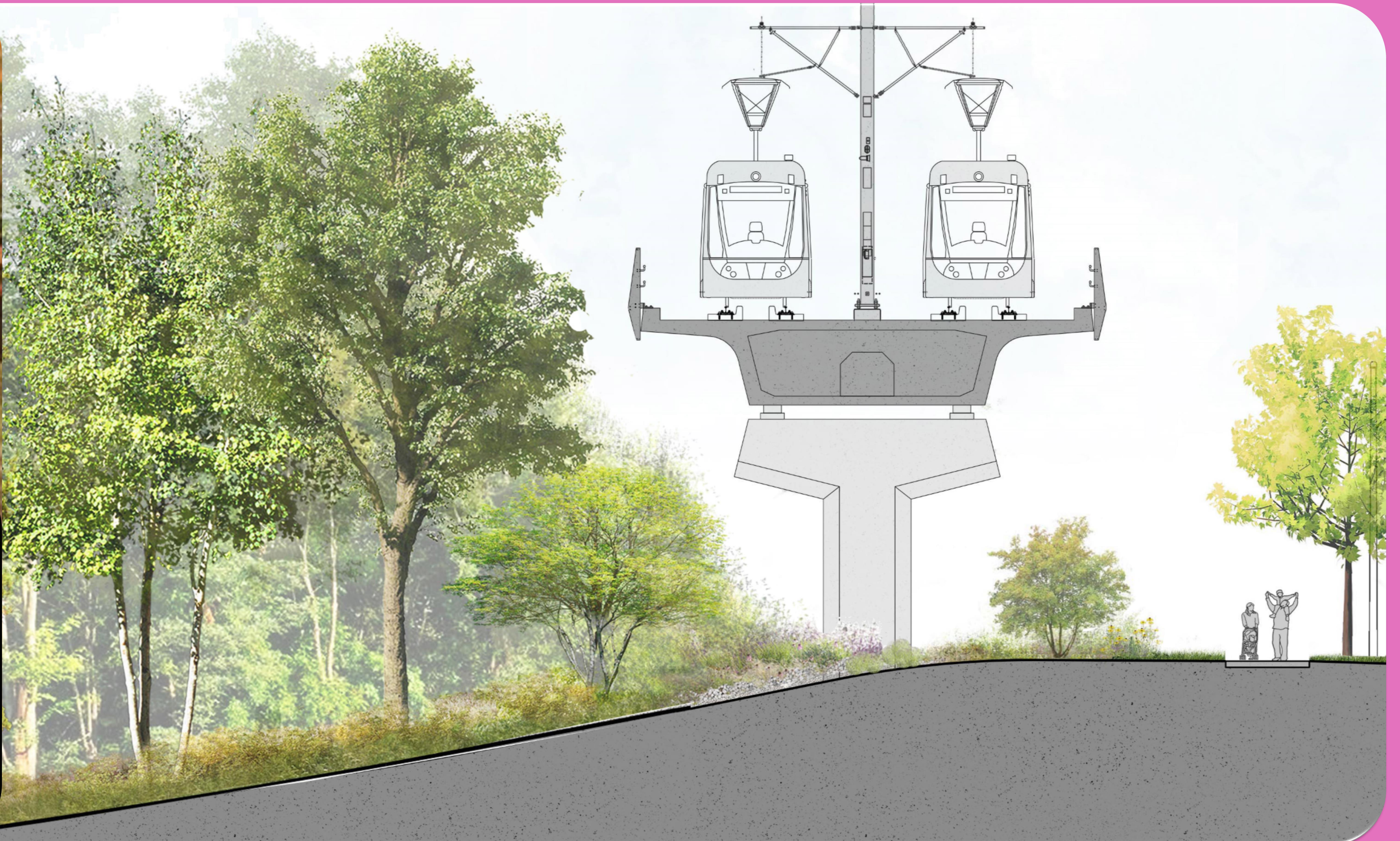


North of the guideway



Woodlot/Meadow Restoration:

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

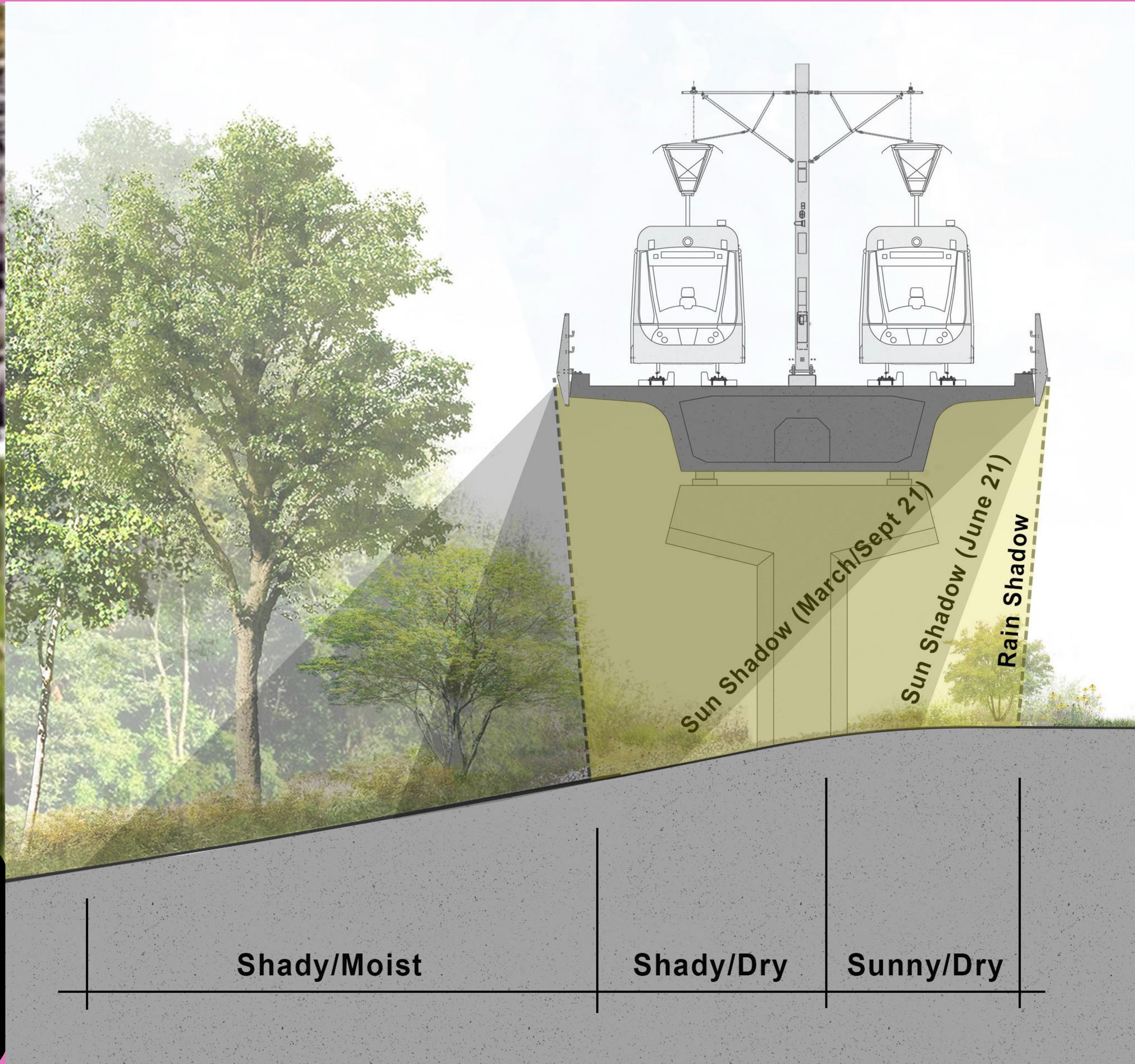


Under the guideway



Shady/Dry to Moist:

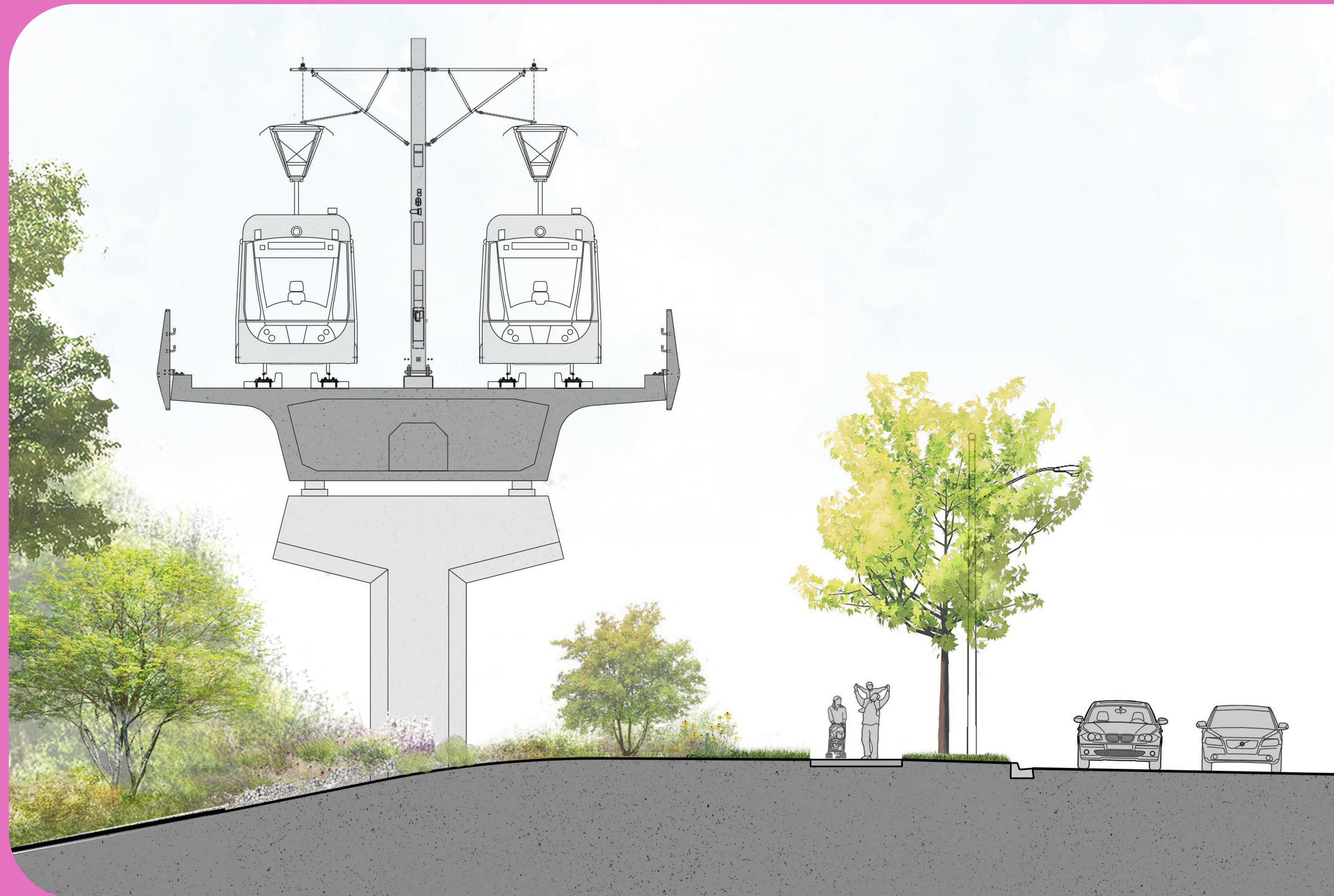
- Shade-tolerant Seeding and Ground Covers
- Shrubs and Small Trees



Sunny/Dry:

- Shrubs
- Herbaceous Perennials

The public boulevard



Boulevard:

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



Humber River and Emmett Avenue



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.

Eglinton Flats and Fergy Brown 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.

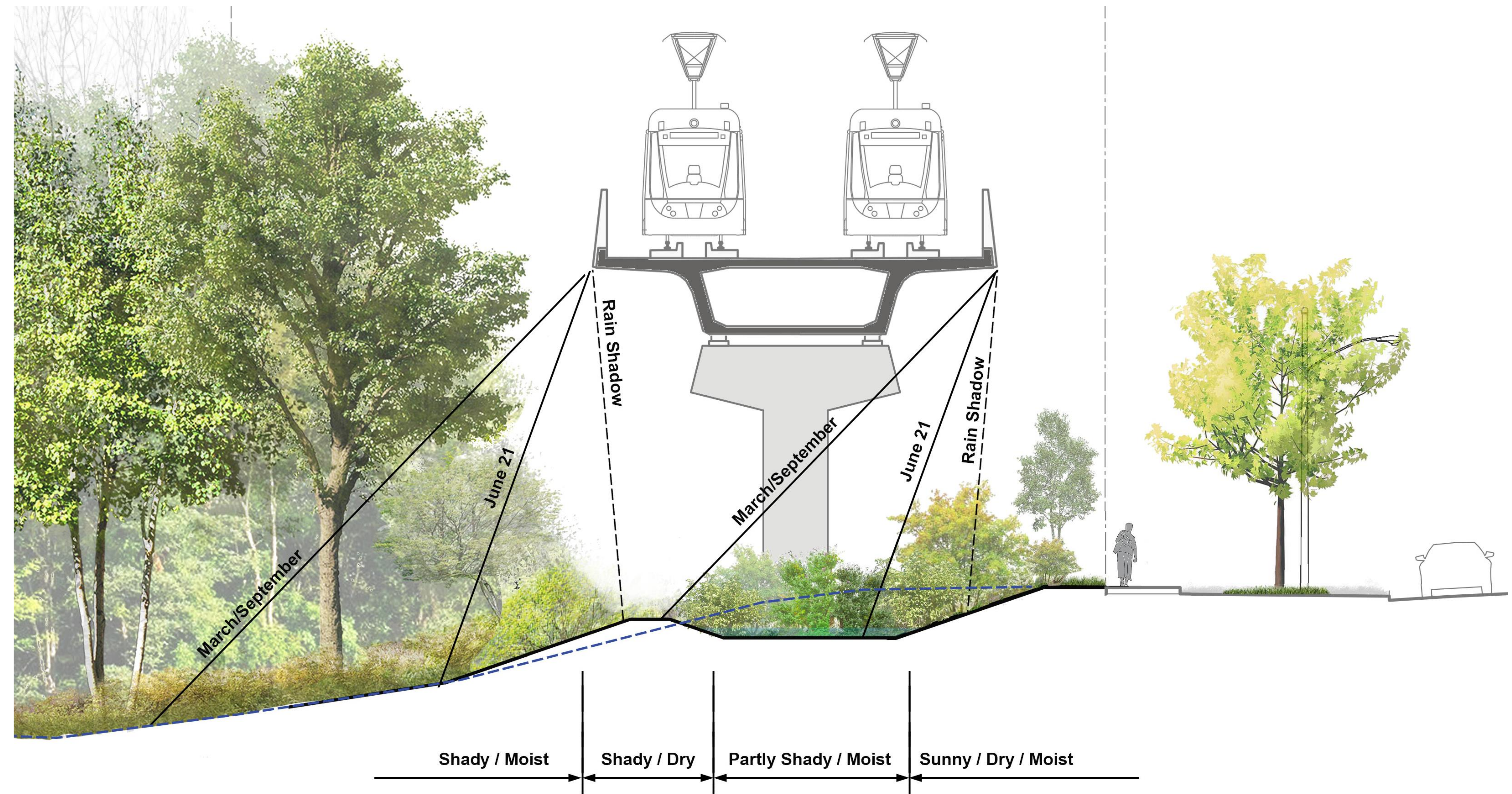


The restoration works plan on retaining existing wooded areas around the cricket pitches, with the invasives being removed and/or controlled as needed, and supplemented by planting additional native species. Work would also be completed to expand the existing edge of the wooded areas in adjacent lands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

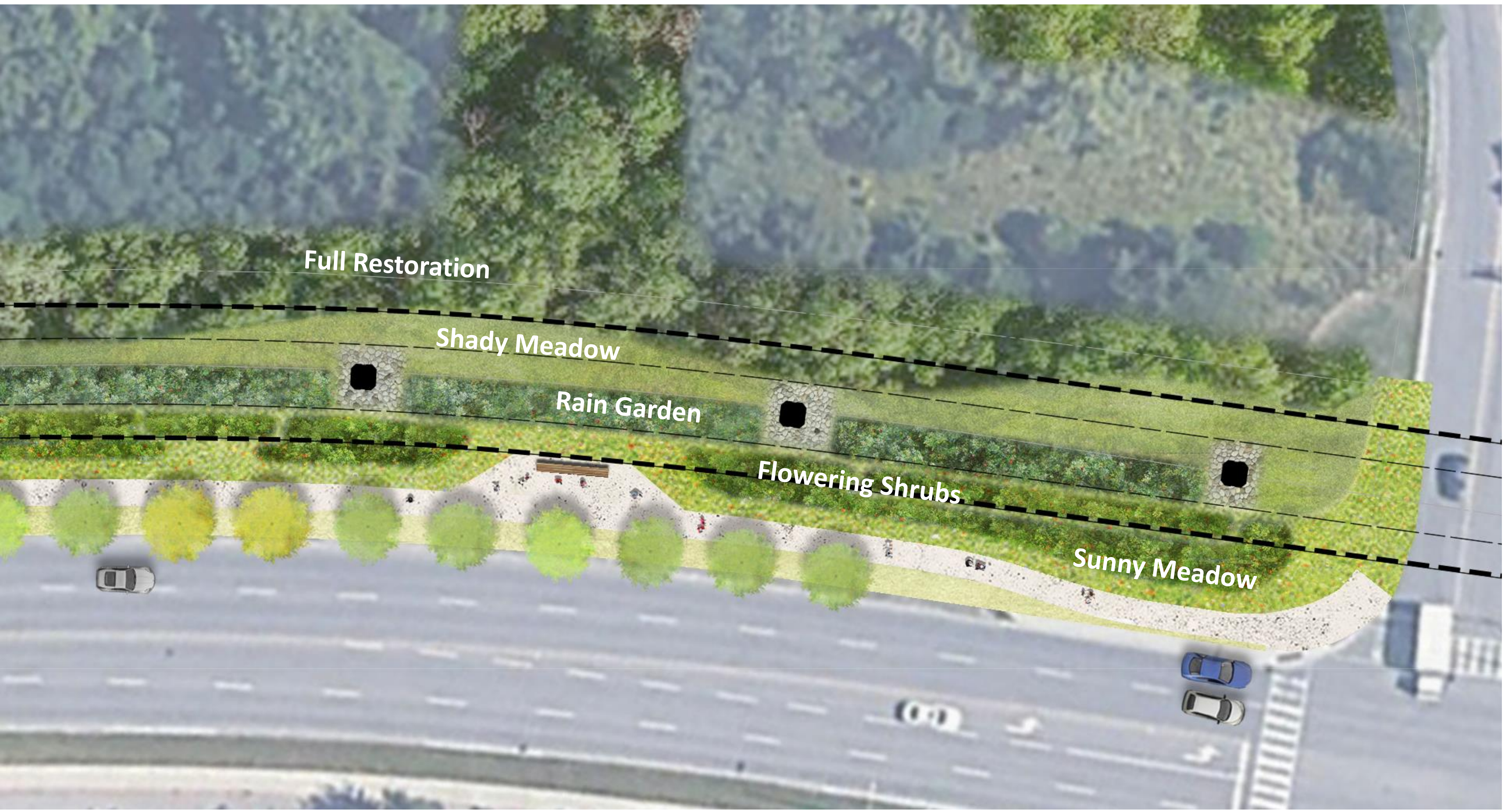
Jane Portal and Pearen Park



Rain Gardens under the guideway



Rain Gardens under the guideway



Elevated Guideway / 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 - location



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 - goals

Short-term

- Establish priority areas for restoration
- Invasive species removal and control
- Planting, monitoring, and maintenance
- Establish areas for wildlife habitat enhancement

Long-term

- Self-sustaining ecological communities
- Continued monitoring and maintenance as required
- Wildlife habitat is established

Adjacent lands - invasive species

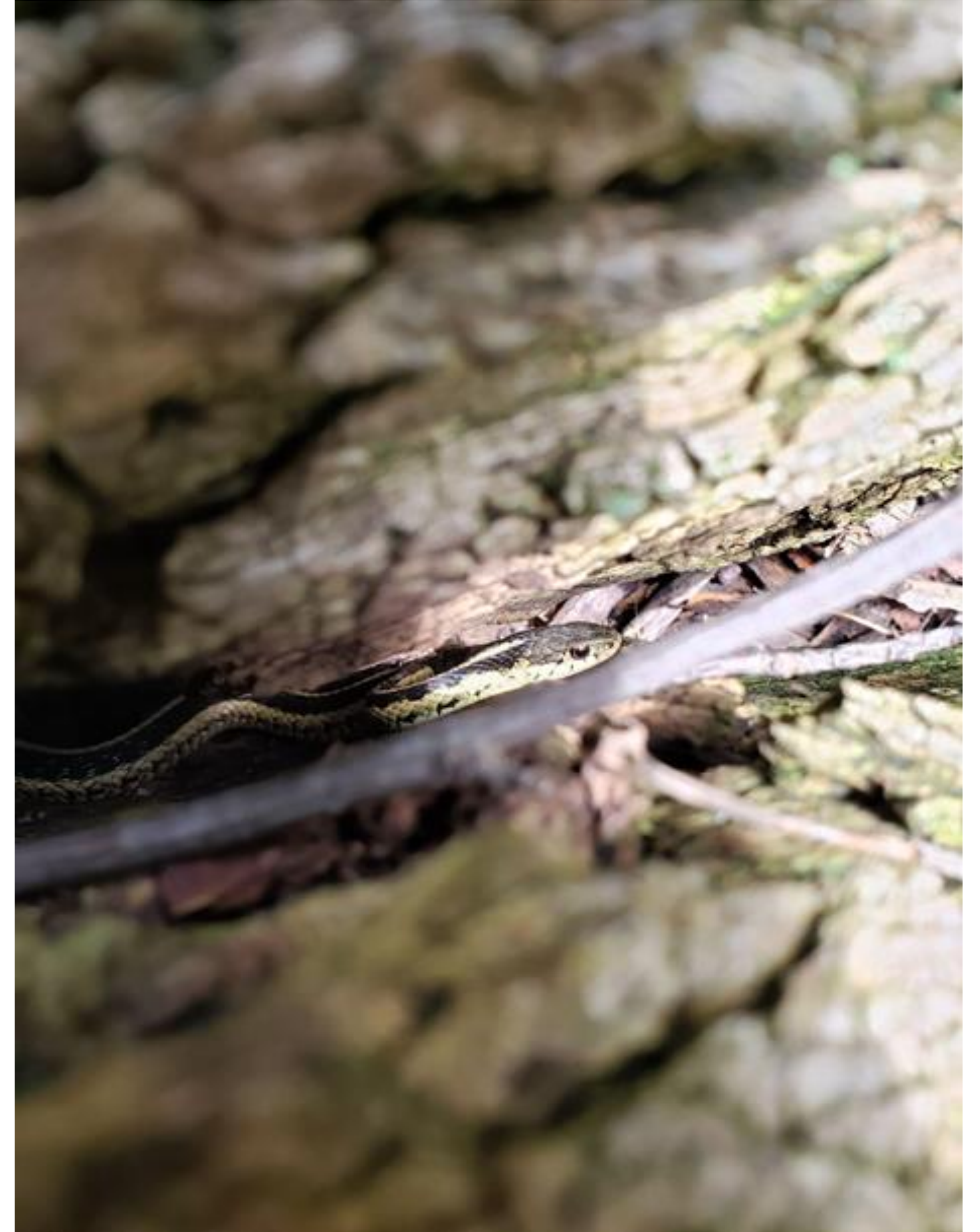
- Common invasive plant species in the project area include garlic mustard, phragmites, buckthorn, and dog-strangling vine.
- Both natural and chemical methods are viable for the treatment of some species.
- Proposed control methods are based on Best Management Practices from Ontario Invasive Plant Council.
- 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

Adjacent lands – wildlife habitat

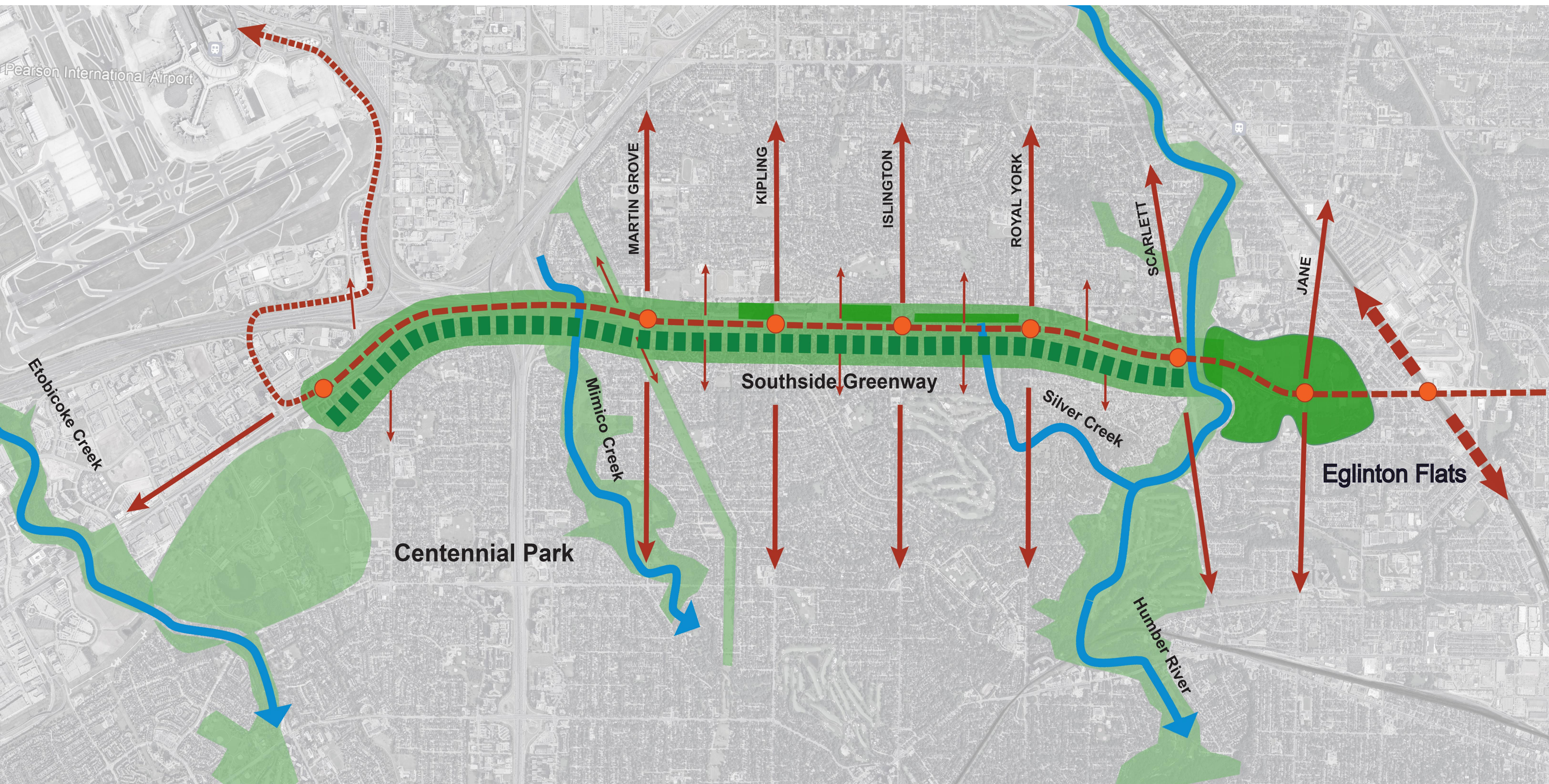
- Coarse woody debris
- Leave snags (dead tree trunks with bark) on the landscape
- Girdling of invasive trees as a means of control and habitat creation
- Choose to plant trees and shrubs that produce food for wildlife



Line-wide Opportunities

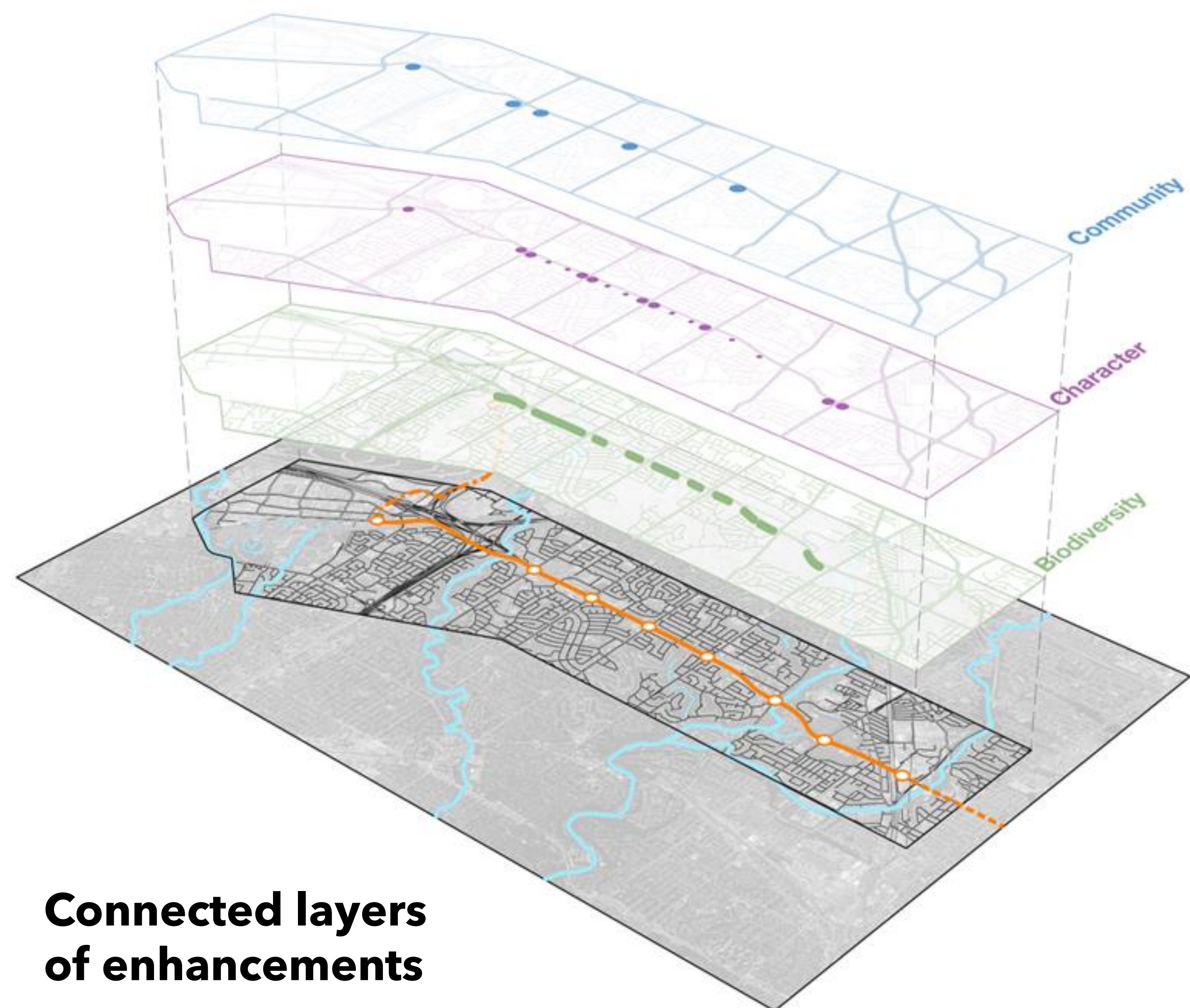
Priority 3: Enhance additional landscapes - Other sites within the Eglinton Corridor may be selected for strategic landscape enhancement. Compensation trees that cannot be accommodated on restoration sites will be used to improve existing landscapes and add to the City's urban forest canopy.

Line-wide opportunities - A holistic vision



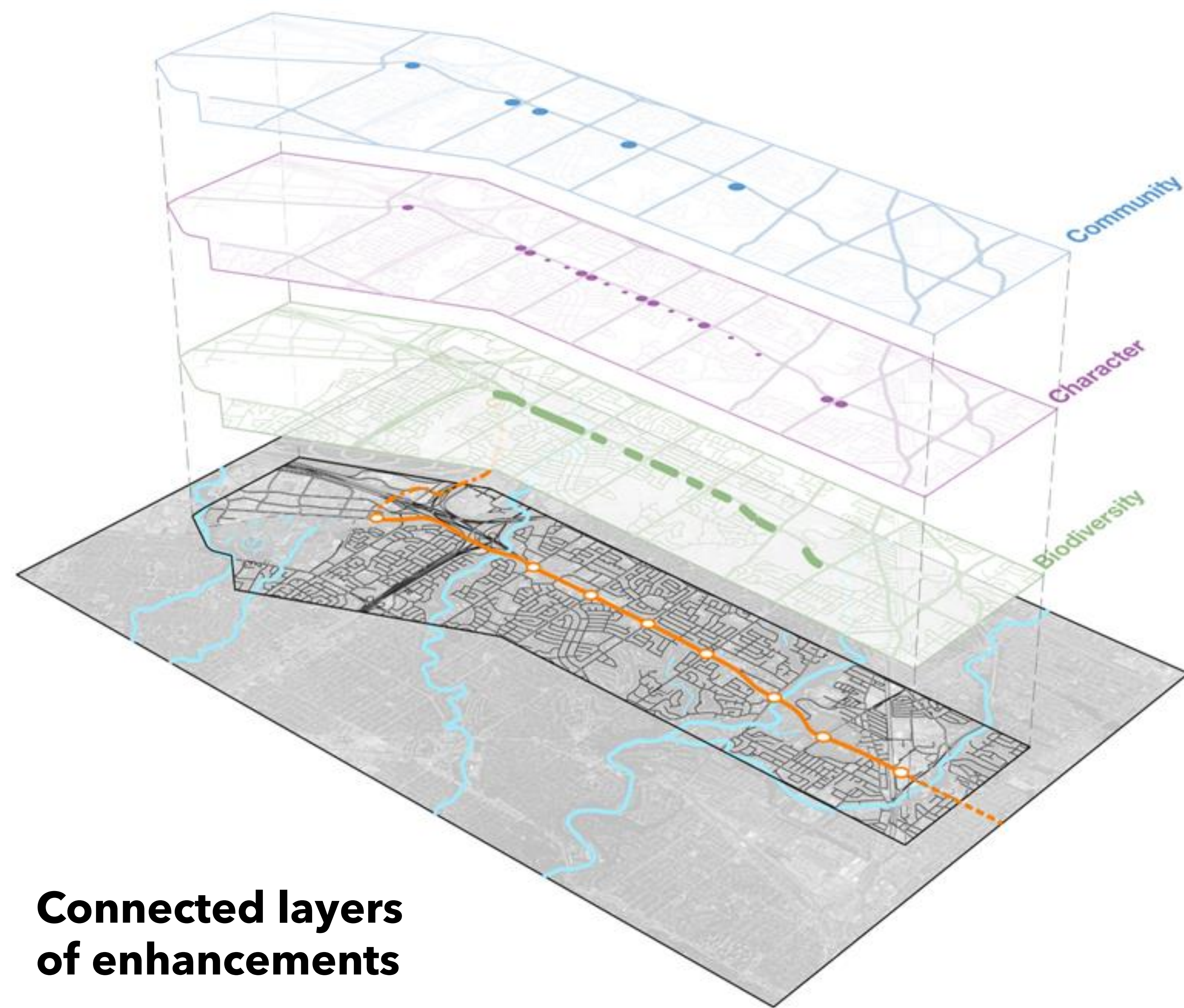
Line-wide opportunities - A layered approach

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



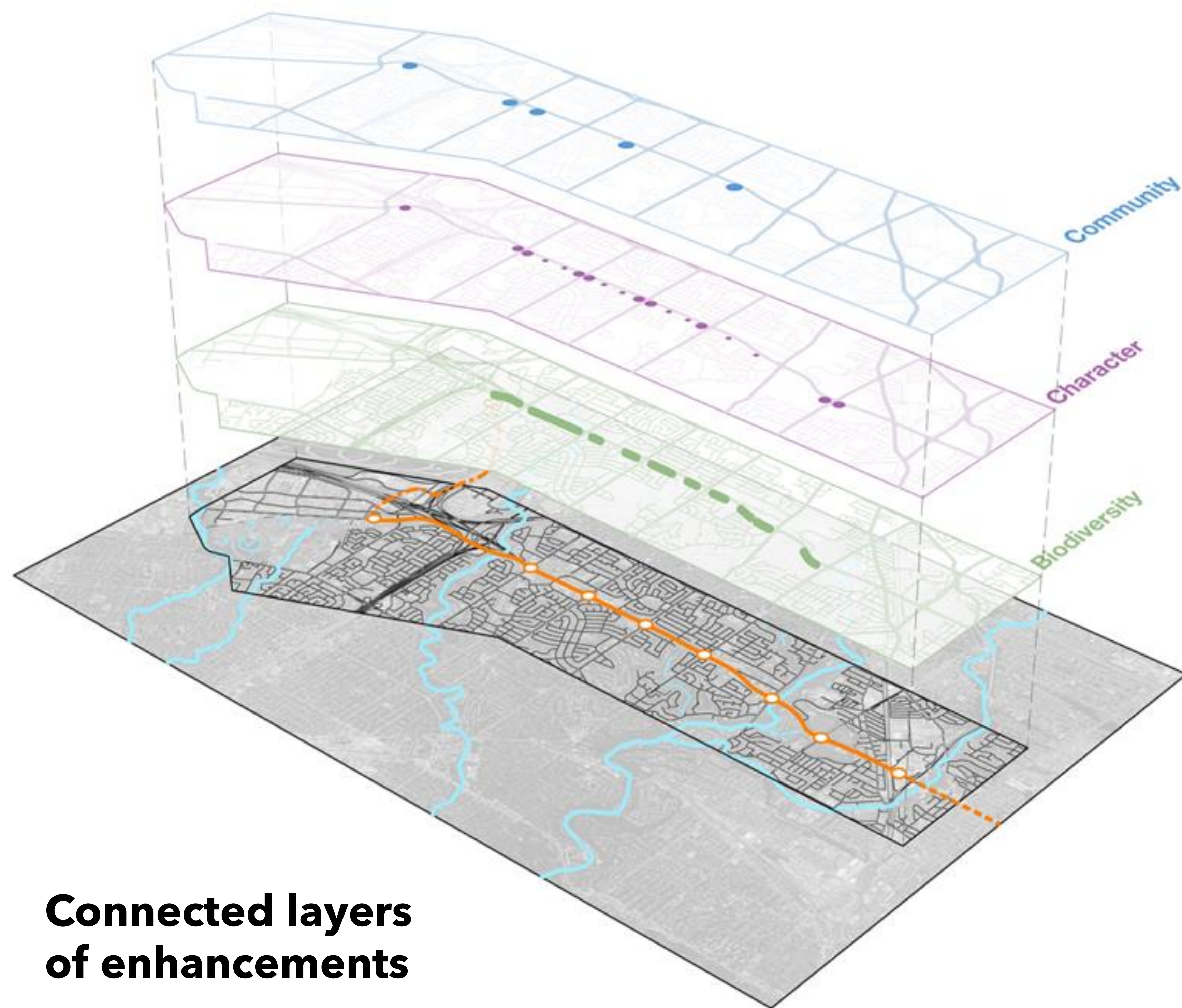
Distinctive plantings to mark key intersections at cross-streets.



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

Pearen Park

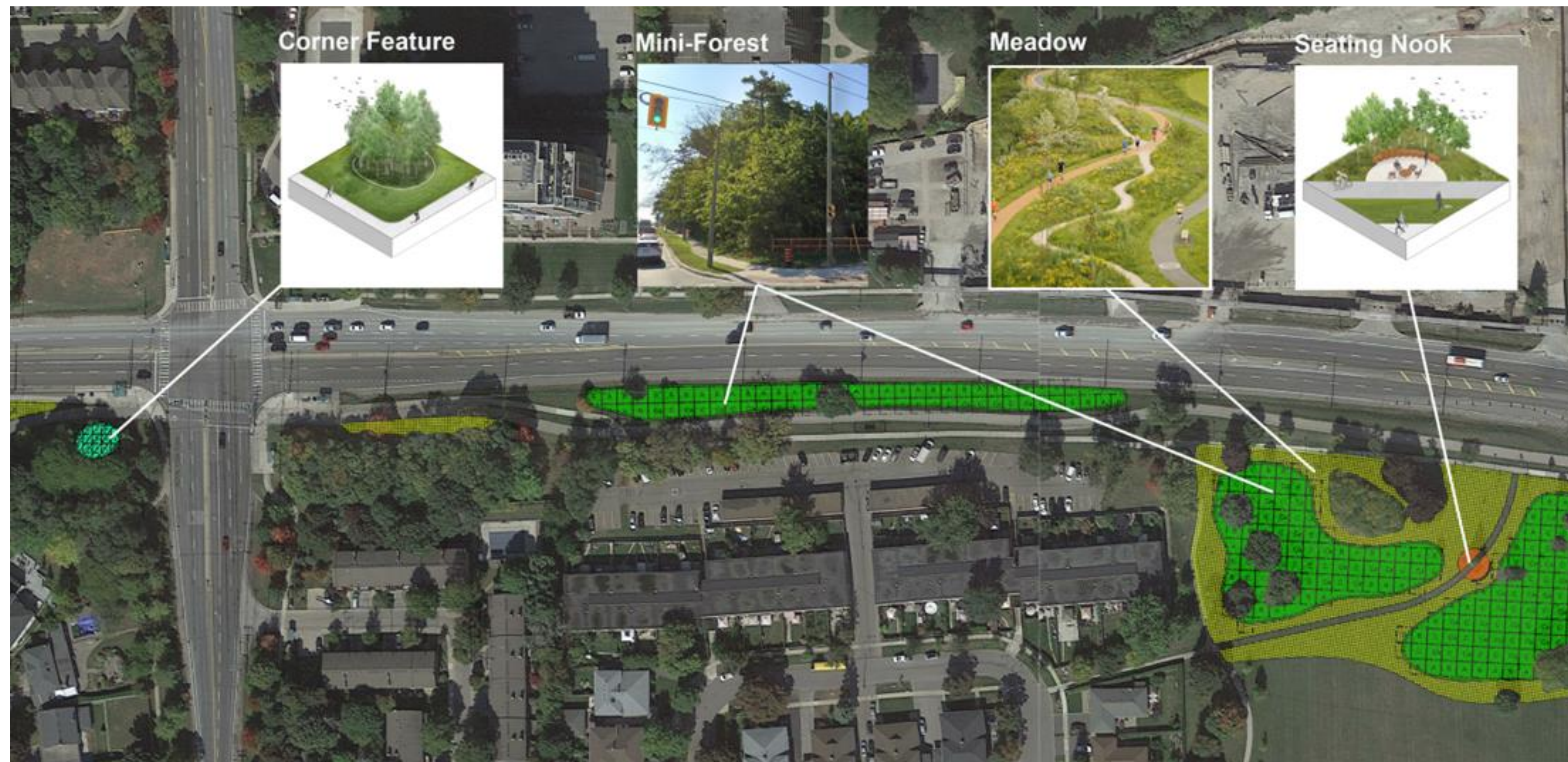


Significant community and ecological benefits could come from upgrading Pearen Park:

- A major community resource in the heart of Mount Dennis.
- The west corner of the park will be fully restored following construction of the ECWE.
- Additional improvements could include:
 - Full accessibility for all users;
 - Opportunities for older children;
 - Upgraded playground;
 - Reinstated splash pad;
 - Improved ball diamond;
 - Naturalized plantings;
 - More shade;

Line-wide opportunities

Eglinton at Royal York

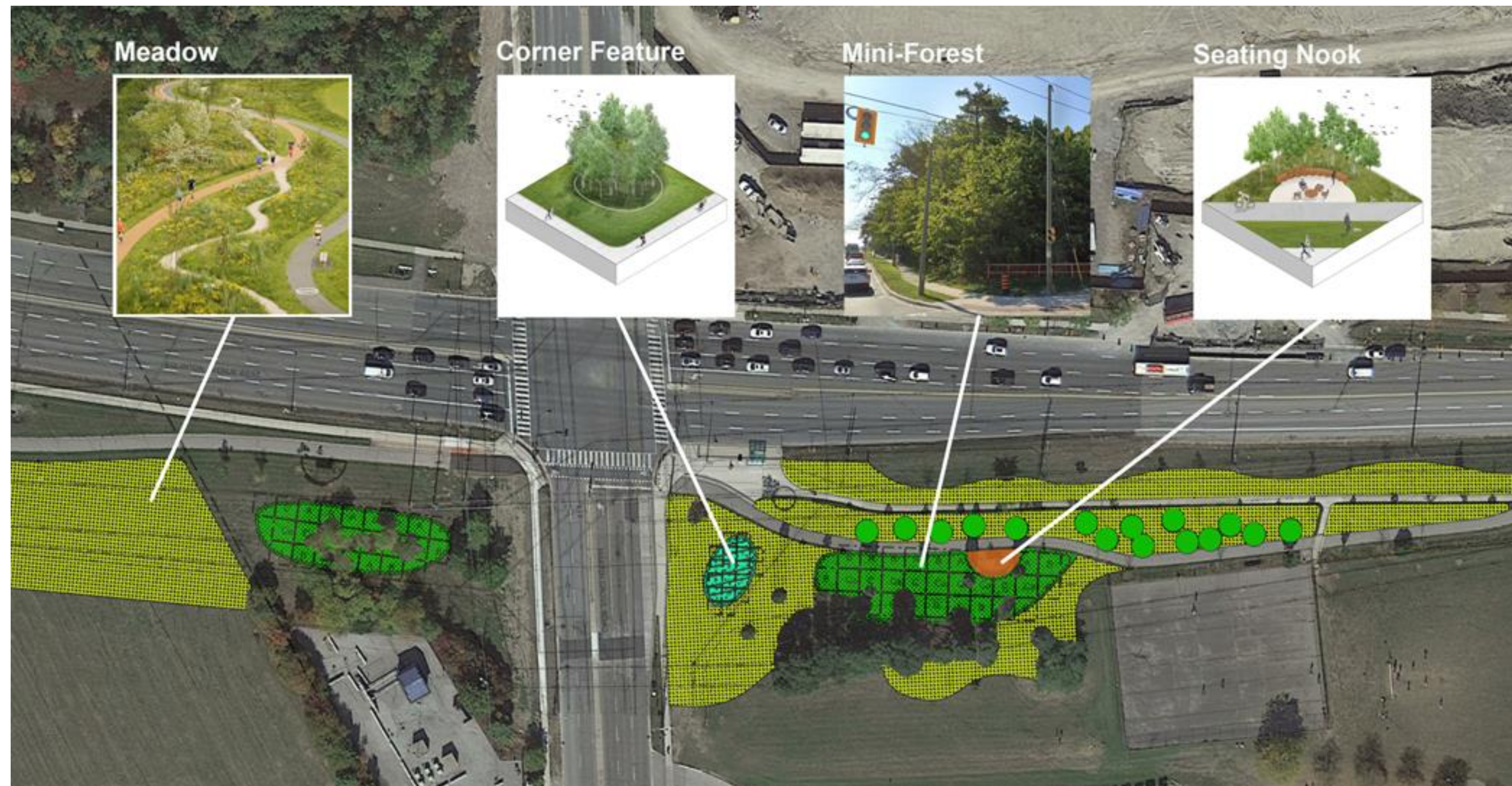


The boulevard opportunities as envisioned between Royal York Road and Buttonwood Park:

- 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.

Line-wide opportunities

Eglinton at Martin Grove

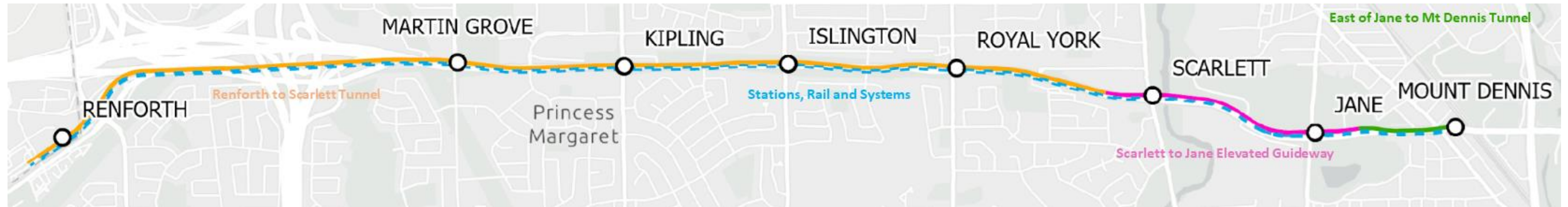


The boulevard opportunities as envisioned at Martin Grove Road:

- 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.

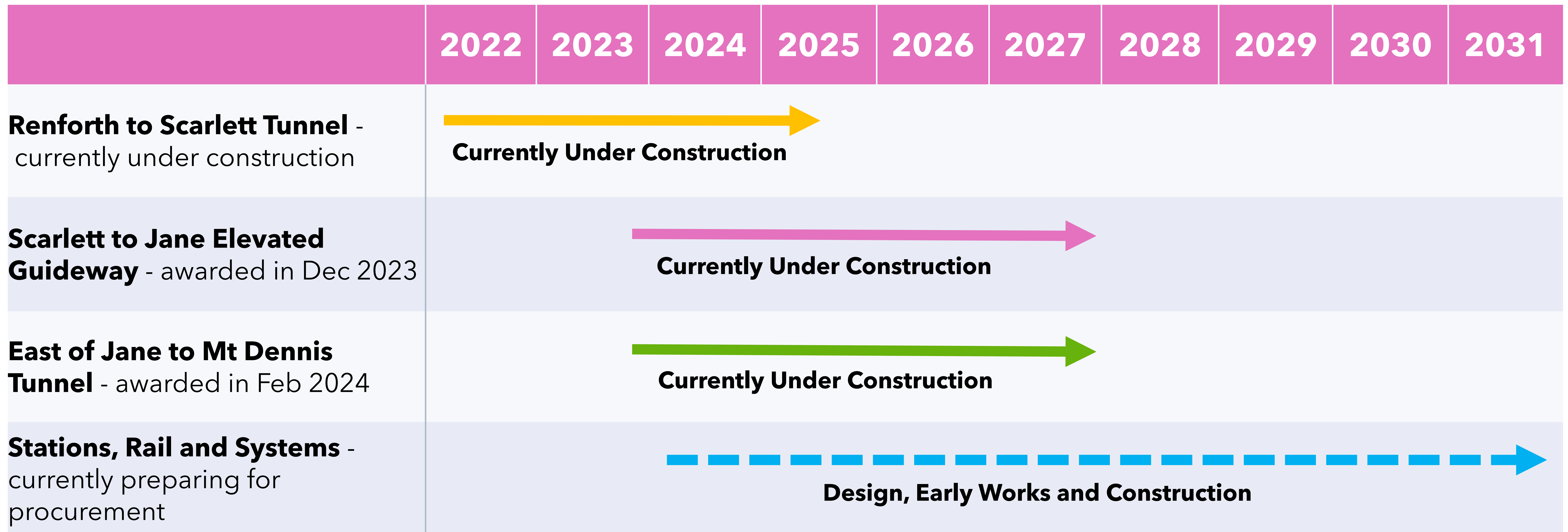
Construction Updates

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.

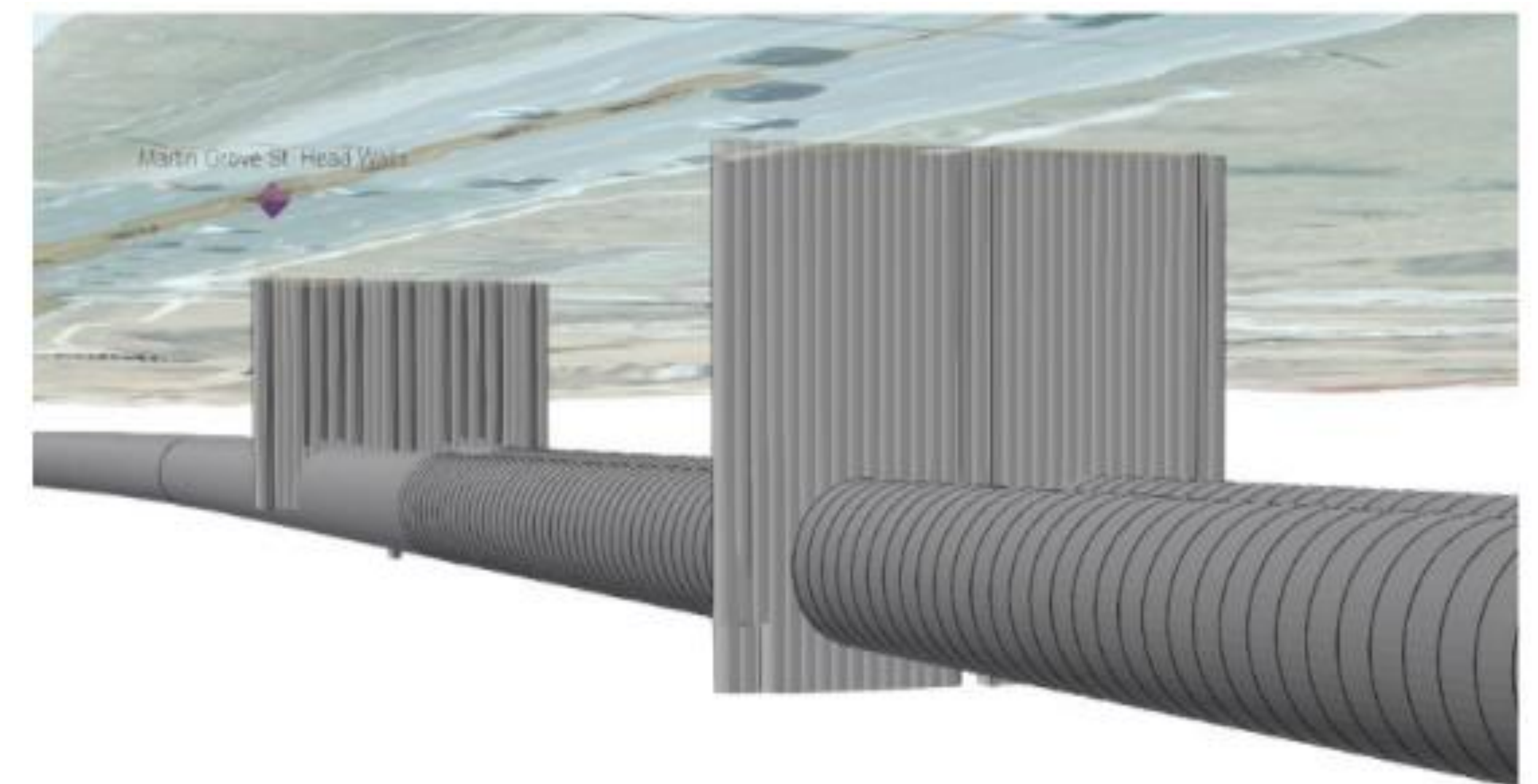
Construction update

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.



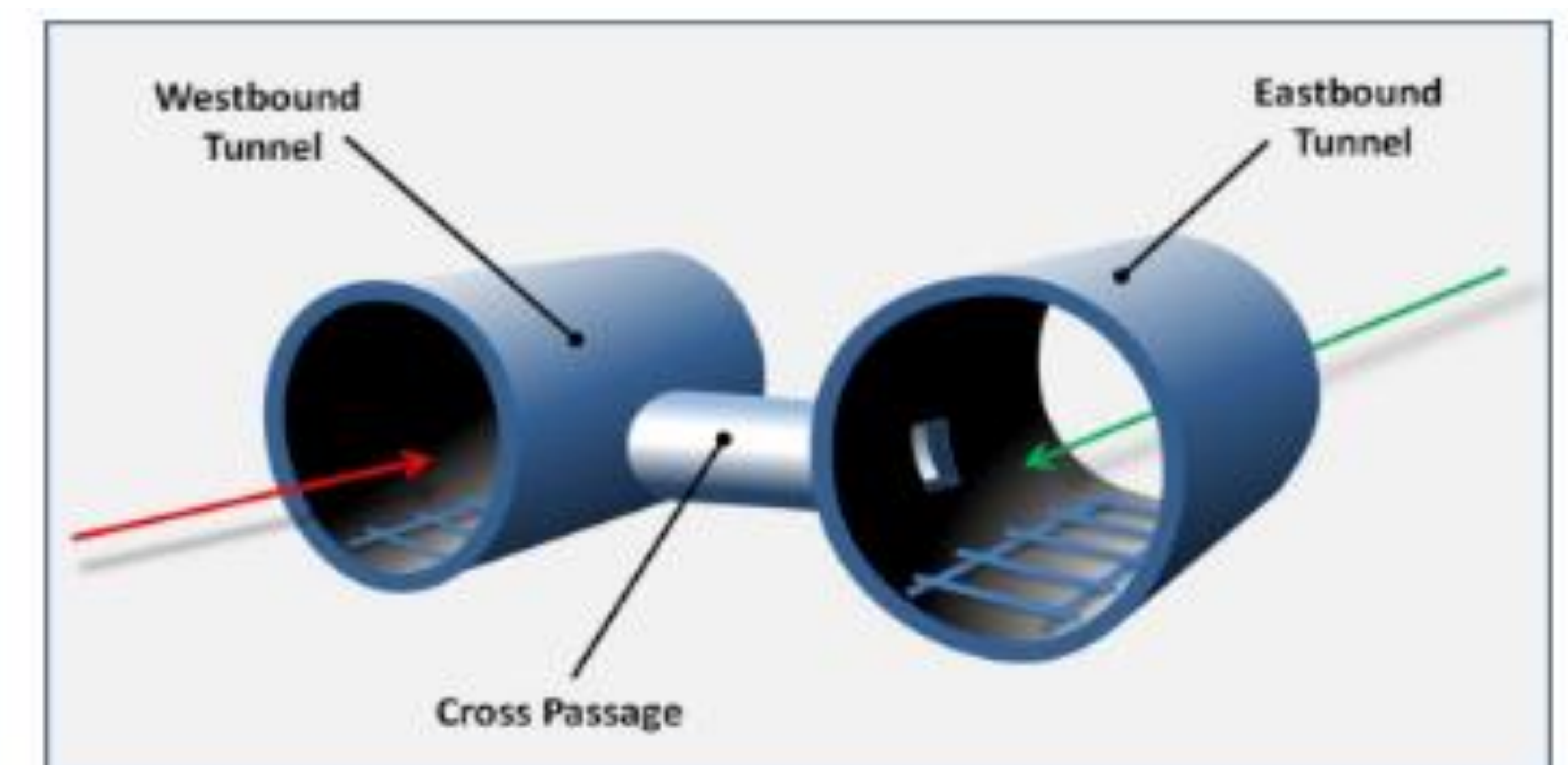
3D model of two headwalls

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

What's next?

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

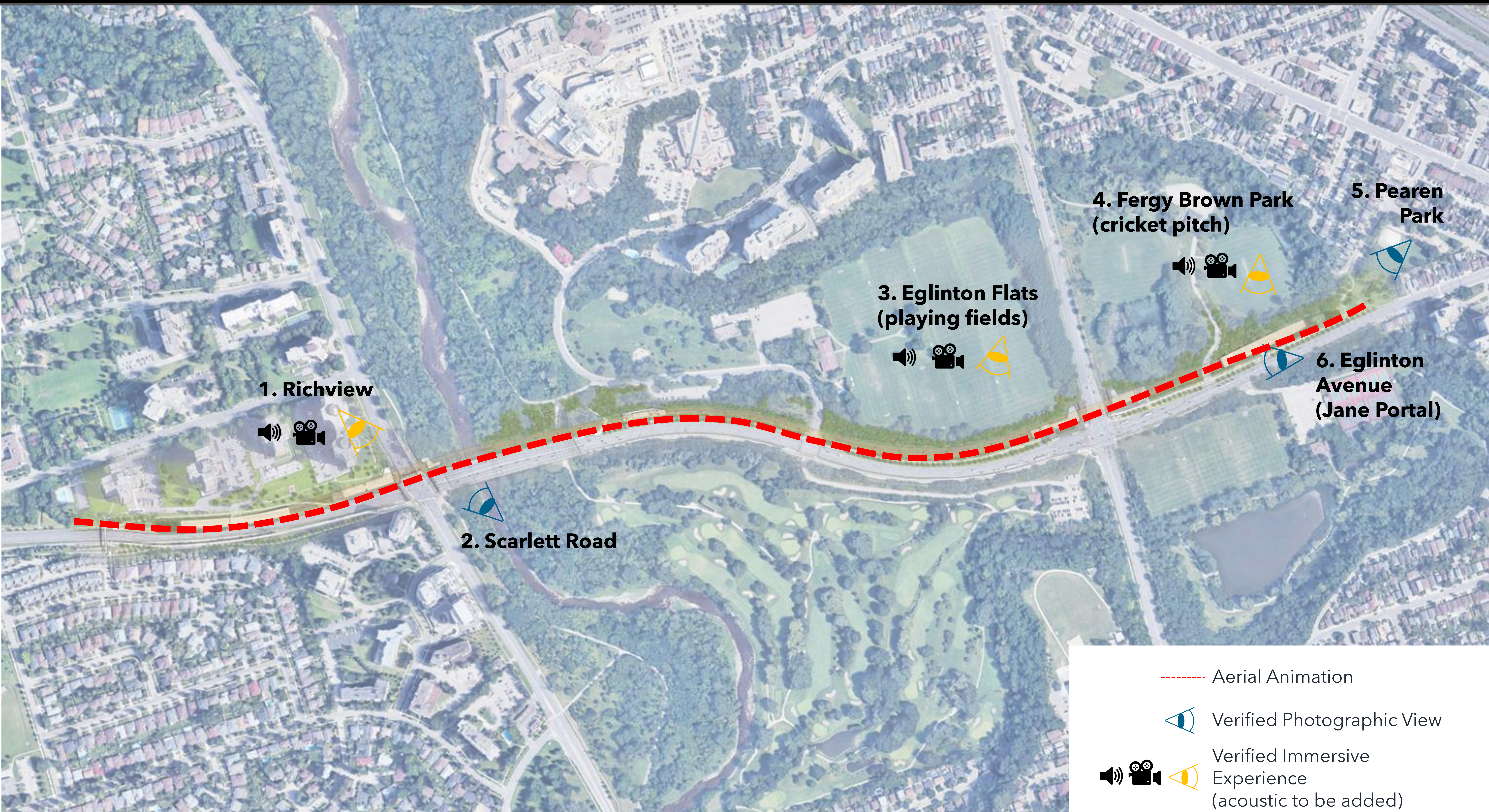
Experience the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension (ECWE)

Immersive Experiences

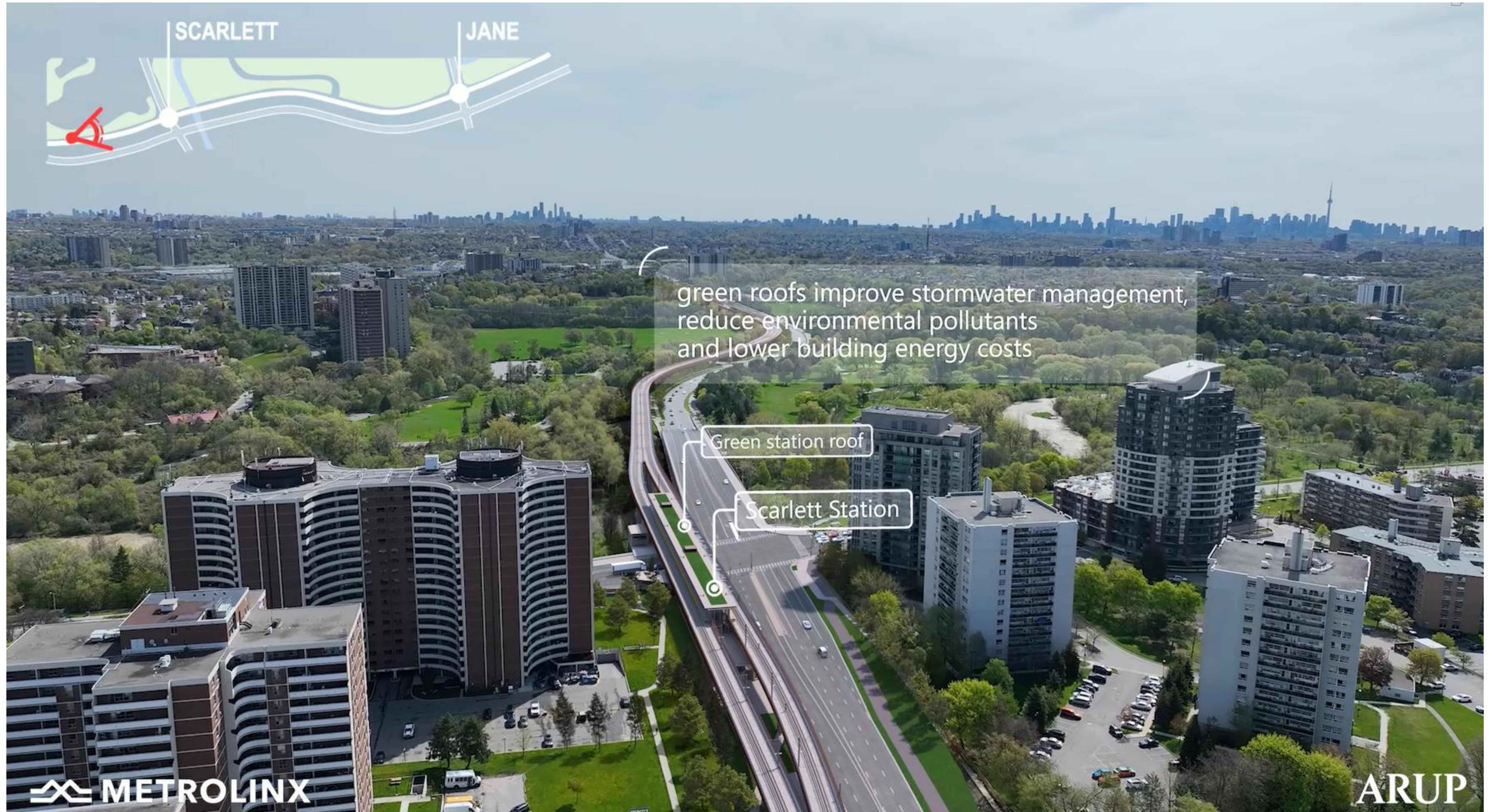
A preview of:

- 1) Aerial Animation:** view a flyover of the elevated guideway route, and learn more about the key features of guideway
- 2) Verified photographic view (before and after photos):** 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) Immersive Video:** experience what the elevated guideway will look and sound like at different locations along the line

Location of the immersive experiences



Aerial Animation



Before + after photos - Eglinton Flats Park view



Eglinton Flats (park view) - baseline photograph

Before + after photos - Eglinton Flats Park view



Eglinton Flats (park view) - 5 years post construction

Before + after photos - Eglinton Flats Park view



Eglinton Flats (park view) - 30 years post construction

Immersive Video - Scarlett



Panel Discussion



Aman Gill
Community
Engagement
Manager,
Metrolinx



Abbas Ali
Senior
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**Kaylin
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Restoration
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Arborist,
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Consulting

To submit a question, visit www.metrolinx.ca/ecwe_events and click on today's event. Use the Slido at the bottom of the page.

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

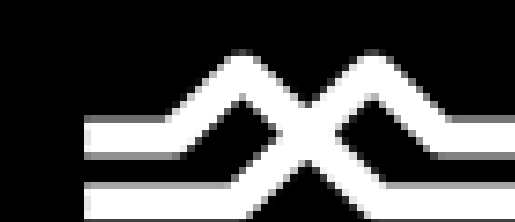
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