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Eglinton Crosstown West Extension

Underground Station Construction Update and Landscape Restoration Plan Final Design

April 2, 2025

Welcome

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

We will focus on:

- Construction update for underground stations,
- The purpose, key components and evolution of the landscape restoration plan,
- A Q&A period

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Metrolinx acknowledges that we connect communities by building and operating transit within the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat peoples, for whom these lands continue to have great importance.

Treaties between First Nations and governments cover these lands, and the promises contained in these Treaties remain relevant to this day.

Metrolinx and its employees are committed to understanding the history of these lands and the continued impacts of colonization and take responsibility for actions to advance reconciliation.

Metrolinx will continue to seek the knowledge, expertise and experience of Indigenous partners and commits to doing business in a manner that is built on a foundation of trust, respect, and collaboration.

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Engagement Guidelines

Joining as a participant? # Enter code here

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

Closed Captions

French Translation

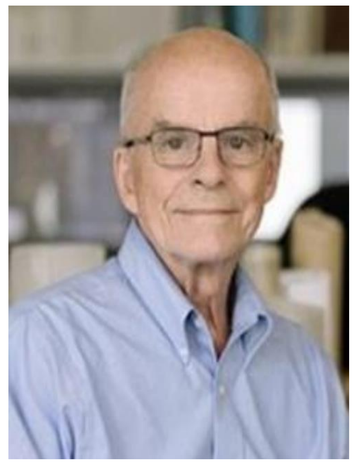
Introducing the Project Team

Aman Gill
Community Engagement Manager, Metrolinx

Deanne Mighton
Project Sponsor, Metrolinx

Mario Nalli,
Senior Project Manager - Stations, Metrolinx

Kaylin Barnes
Restoration Manager, Metrolinx



Peter Smith,
Landscape Architect, DTAH

Christen Dschankilic
Arborist, Dillon Consulting

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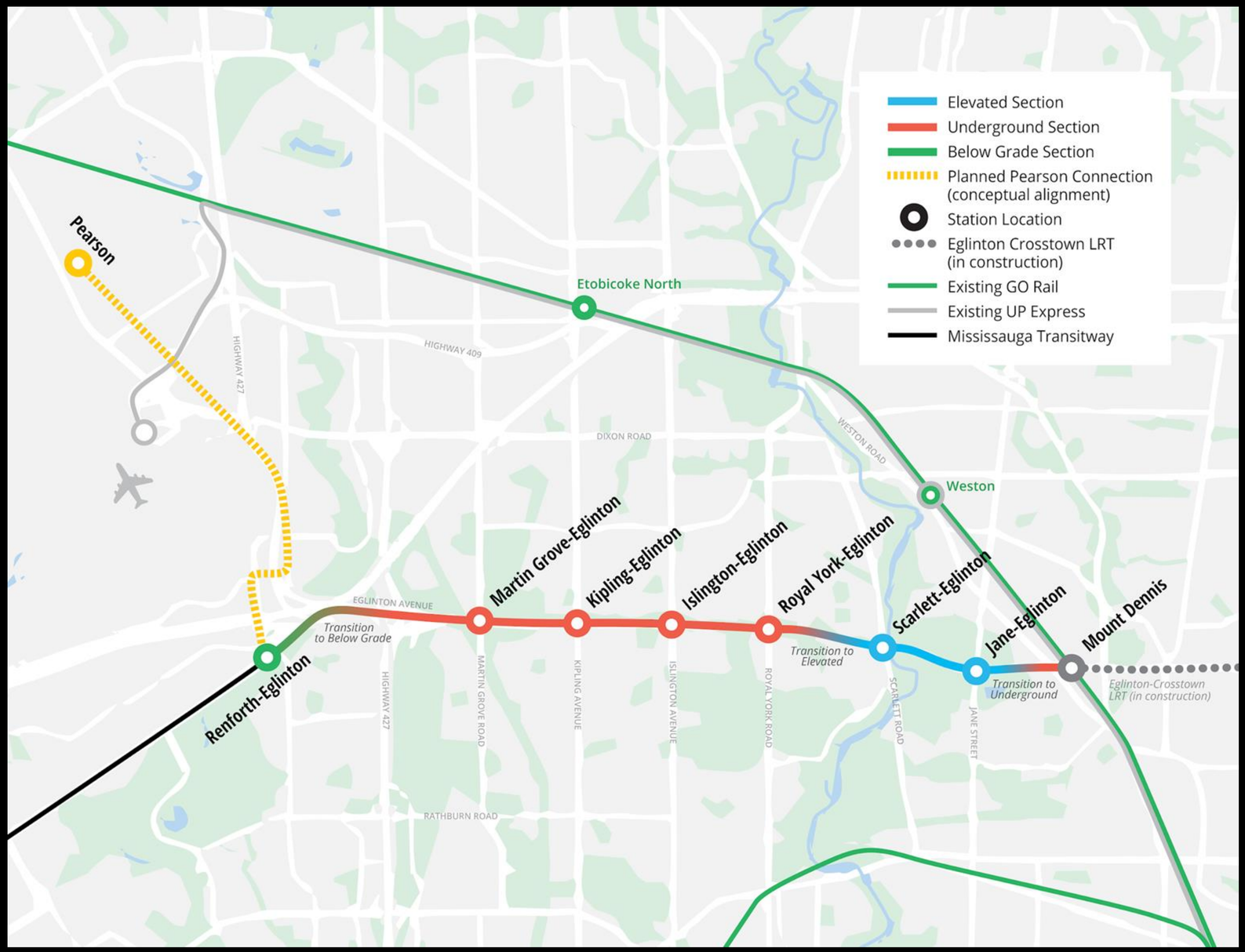
The Eglinton Crosstown West Extension

- 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



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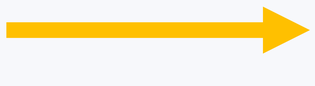
Construction Update – Stations Specific

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Contract Procurement - currently in process								
Early Works & Initial Project Development – currently in process								
Implementation Phase								

Construction Update – Stations Specific

Station preparation works, including tree removals, are currently underway at four of the western tunnel stations: Martin Grove, Kipling, Islington and Royal York.

Key facts about the station construction include:

- Timing is crucial, tree removals are happening now to avoid bird breeding and nesting periods (April – October)
- Significant efforts have been made to reduce station footprints, and therefore the resulting number of trees needed for removal
- These stations require a working footprint to allow for construction activities and do not represent the final above ground station size

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Stations Works - Royal York

Royal York shares a site with the important heritage building, the Mary Reid House. Station design and restoration efforts will ensure the heritage property is protected by:

- Maintaining key aspects of the Mary Reid House landscape such as the curving driveway and mature deciduous trees;
- Public plazas with distinctive paving, seating, bike racks, street tree plantings and clear signage.

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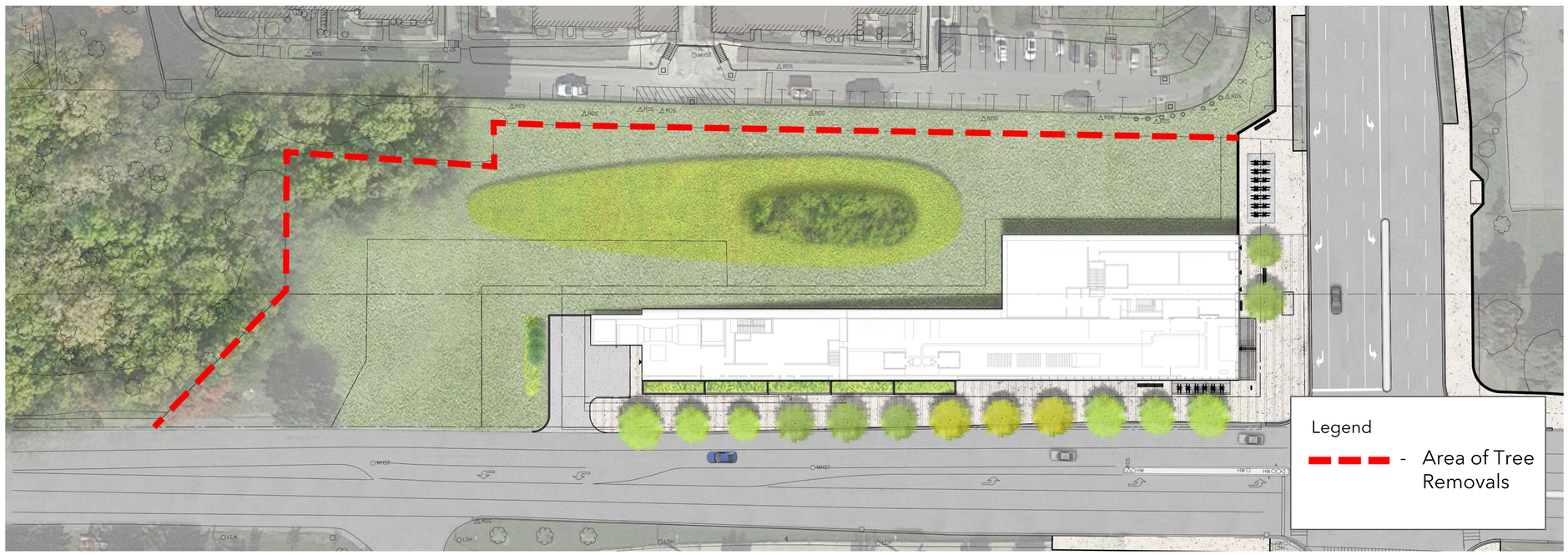
Stations Works – Islington

Islington Station will be designed as a single standalone building on the northwest corner. Other key design features for this station include:

- A free standing bike parking shelter at the north of the station building to accommodate the steep gradients at the south portion of the station;
- Public plazas with distinctive paving, seating, bike racks, street tree plantings and clear signage.



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Stations Works – Kipling

Kipling Station will be located at the edge of the northwest corner. Other key design features for this station include:

- Positioning the station buildings to minimize the impact on the Kipling woodlot;
- Full restoration of the space between the main entrance and service building to maintain the strong woodlot presence and restore as much vegetation as possible;
- Public plazas with distinctive paving, seating, bike racks, street tree plantings and clear signage.

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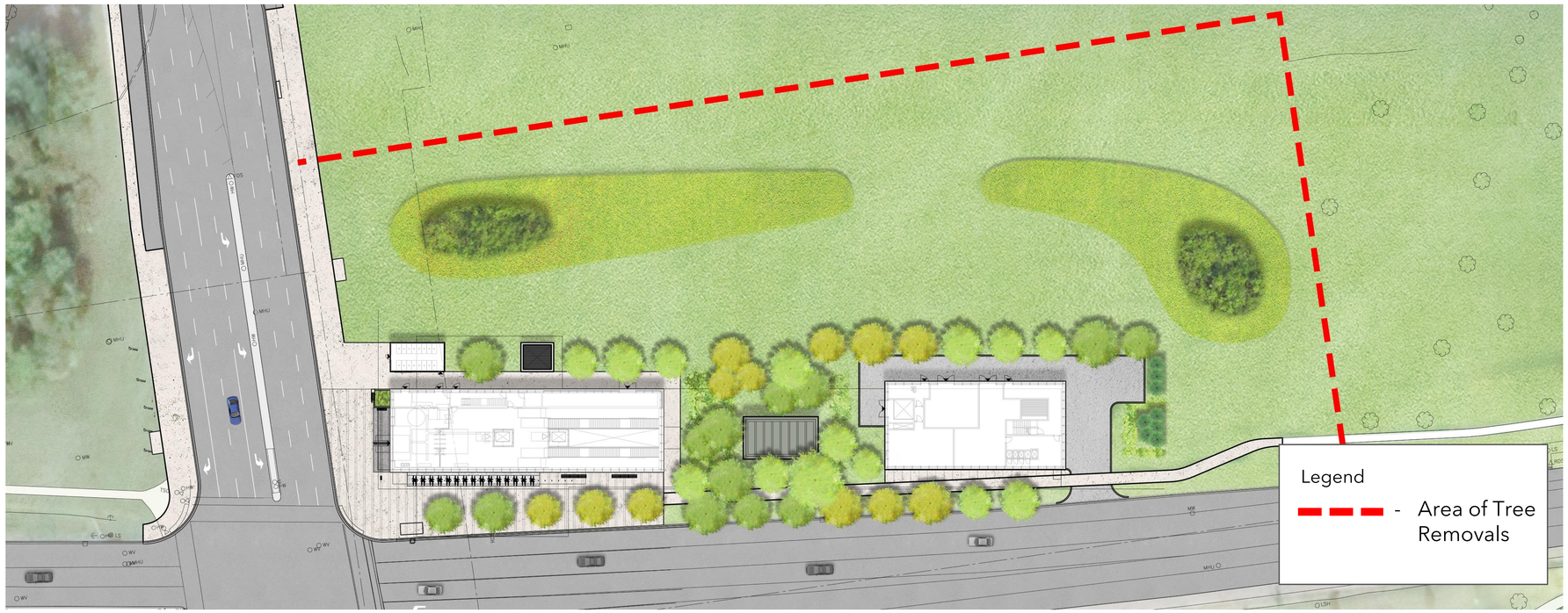
Stations Works – Martin Grove

Martin Grove will include two buildings, both located on the northeast corner. Other key design features for this station include:

- A well-planted, public courtyard between the main entrance and service buildings;
- Public plazas with distinctive paving, seating, bike racks, street tree plantings and clear signage.



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Restoration Plan - Purpose and Scope

- The *Restoration Plan* advances a line-wide approach to landscape development and enhancement.
- The *Restoration Plan* includes over 100 detailed planting plans to guide implementation through four independent contracts extending over 10 years.

Restoration Focus:

Priority #1 – Restore lands impacted by construction;
Priority #2 – Improve properties adjacent to the project;
Priority #3 – Enhance parkland in the community.

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The Road to a Landscape Restoration Plan

START
June 2023

Seed collection (vegetation rescue and reuse) – replicating local ecosystem

60% design Mar 2024

Researching and reaching agreement on soil remediation

Restoring canopy in a responsible way

90% design July 2024

NEXT STEPS: Now that we have the restoration plan in place, we will be assigning our contractors to implement segments over time

OBJECTIVE: develop a comprehensive restoration plan for the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension

30% design Nov 2023

Developing a line-wide approach

Bringing together multi-disciplines

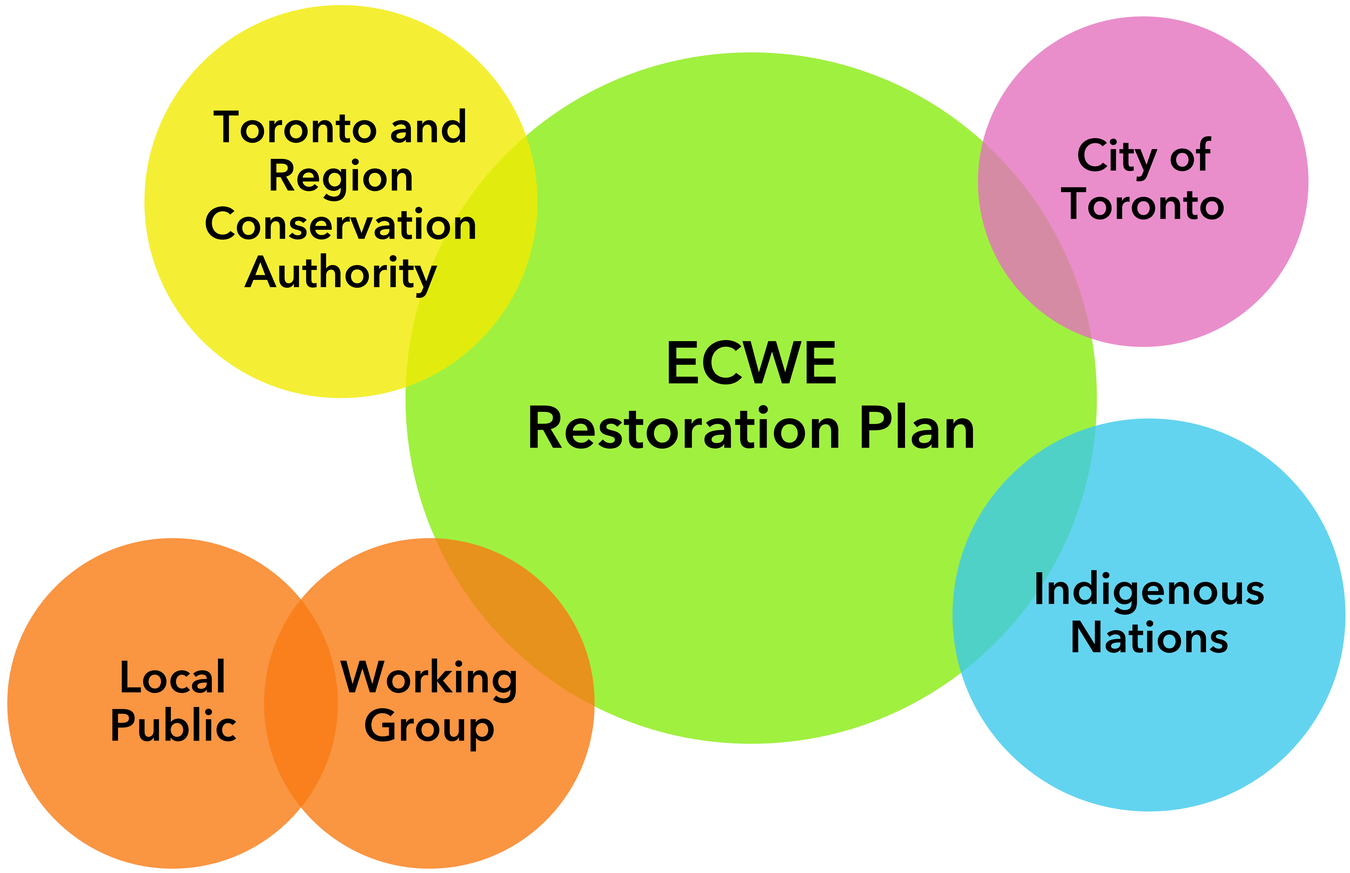
Remnant forest monitoring (Kipling, Denfield, and Wincott woodlots)

Negotiations with the City to plant on City of Toronto lands

Stakeholder Engagement on the Restoration Plan

In total, we have held the following engagement sessions focused on restoration:

- **16** meetings with Indigenous Nations
- **9** restoration working group meetings
- **4** joint workshops with the City of Toronto and TRCA
- **3** Landscape Restoration Open Houses.



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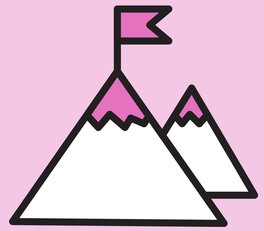
Restoration Goals

Short-term

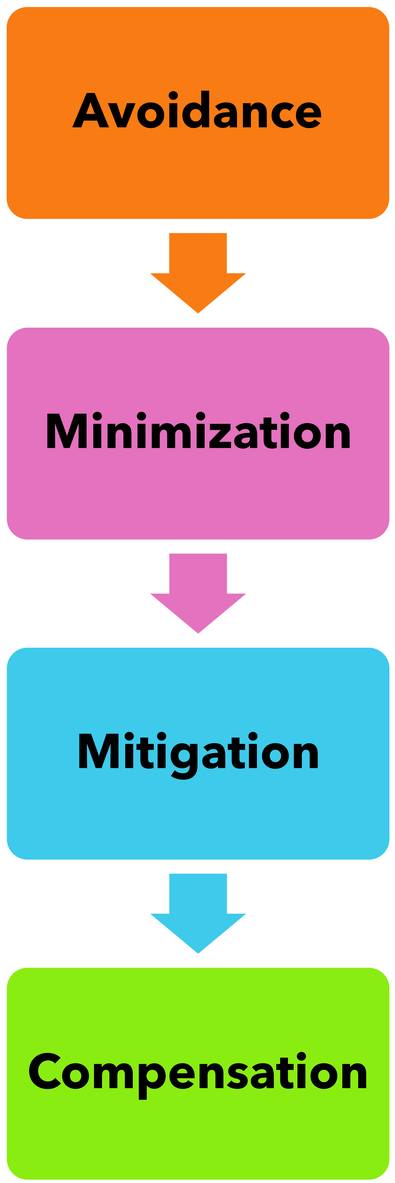
- Establish priority areas for restoration
- Invasive species removal and control
- Planting, monitoring, and maintenance
- Establishing areas for wildlife habitat enhancement

Long-term



- Naturalization
- Self-sustaining native vegetation communities
- Increase bio-diversity (flora and fauna)
- Improve ecological connectivity

Evaluation of Vegetation and Removals



Implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy

- Assessing alternatives to Avoid and Minimize Impacts is the first consideration
  - If in Initial Business Case – Can Project be moved to different location?
  - If in Detailed Design - Can design be modified to reduce/ eliminate removals?

- **Areas to Avoid/ Minimize Impacts -** Designated Natural Areas (DNAs), Parks, and other natural/ sensitive features

- **Trees to Avoid/ Minimize Impacts** - Species at Risk, Bio-culturally significant species, locally rare/ significant species, heritage/ memorial trees, large mature trees etc.

- **Mitigation Measures –** Measures and Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce impacts to trees and features being protected and promote recovery for trees injured

- **Compensation** – Where impacts could not be avoided, determine number of trees required to compensate for removals following municipal requirements and the Metrolinx Vegetation Guideline and identify on and off – site restoration for replacement values.

Metrolinx Vegetation Guideline

Our goal is to keep the number of trees we remove to a minimum and we strive to replace them in areas where they are being removed as early as we can. The restoration plan is guided by the Metrolinx Vegetation Guideline.

- In a built-up and growing region, tree removal is necessary. To offset these removals, Metrolinx follows a detailed, best practices plan for planting new trees and keeping the region green.
- Metrolinx has developed a Vegetation Guideline that provides direction for managing vegetation, including the removal and replacement of trees based on their size and location.

Where We're At – New Plantings

To date, there have been 1,515 new plantings completed as part of restoration efforts

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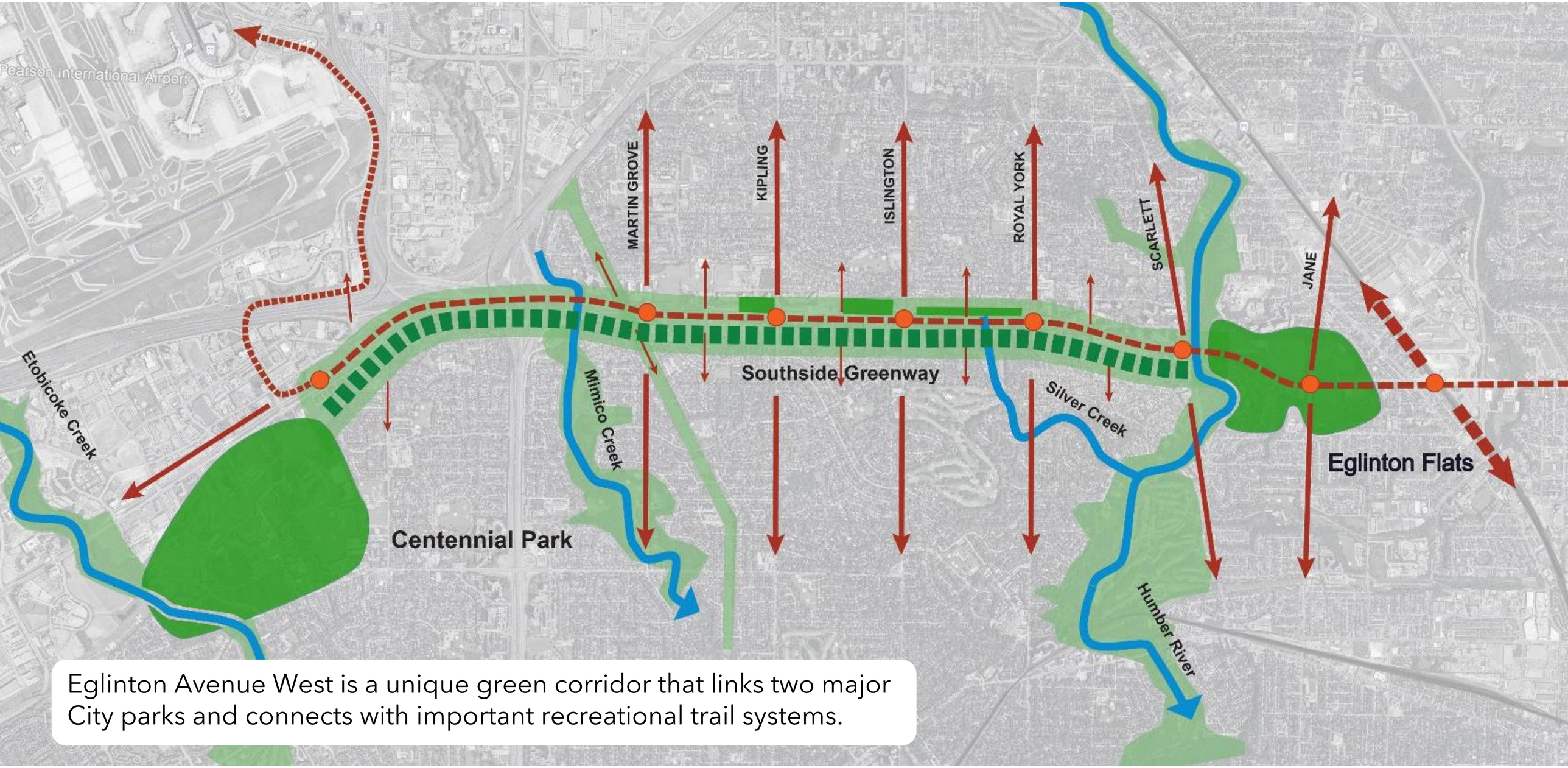
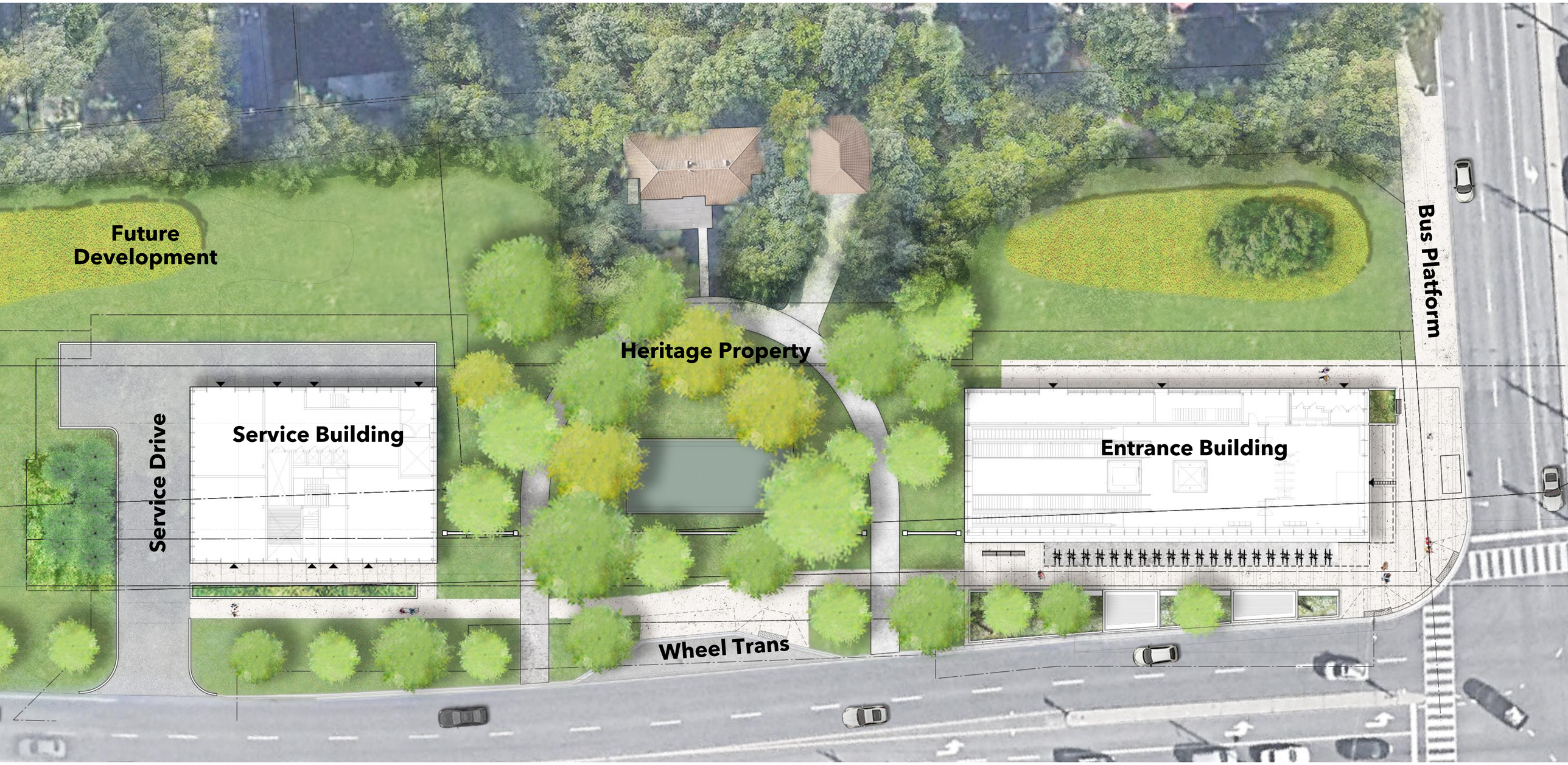
A Line-wide Perspective



Eglinton Avenue West is a unique green corridor that links two major City parks and connects with important recreational trail systems.

Station Features

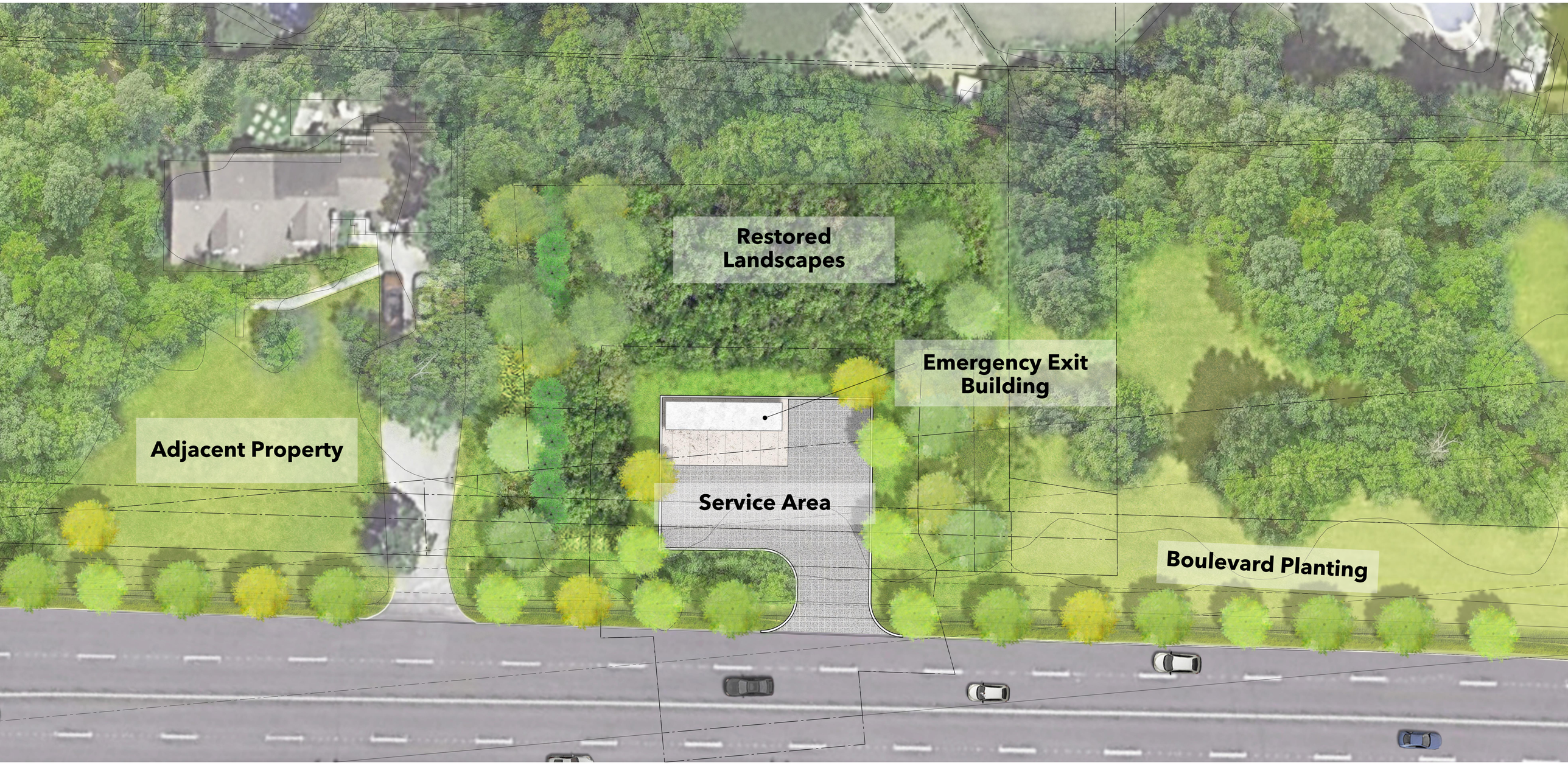
Example – Royal York Station



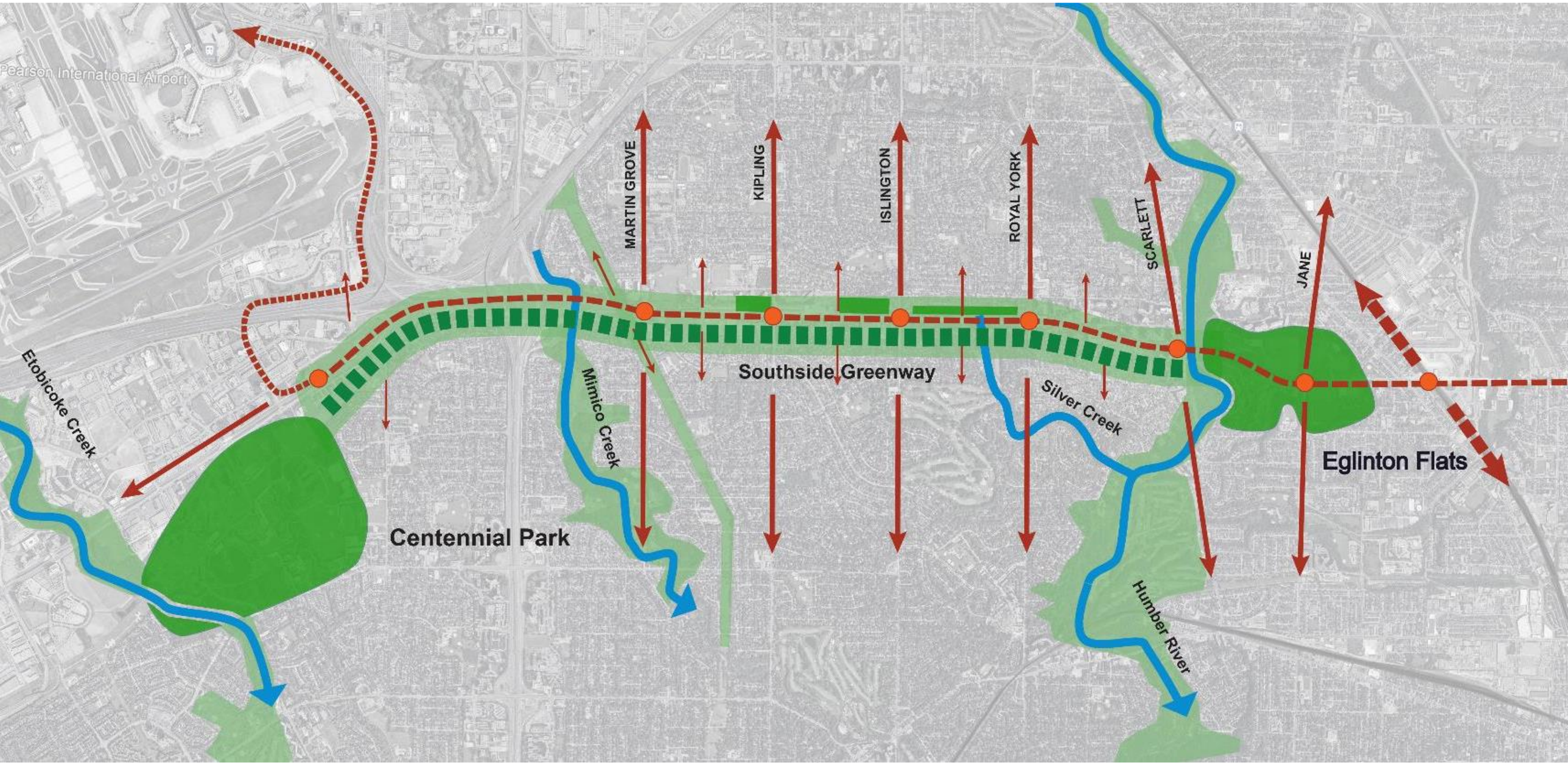
ECWE Facilities – Stations and Ancillary Building

***Design is conceptual. All renderings are illustrative and subject to change.*

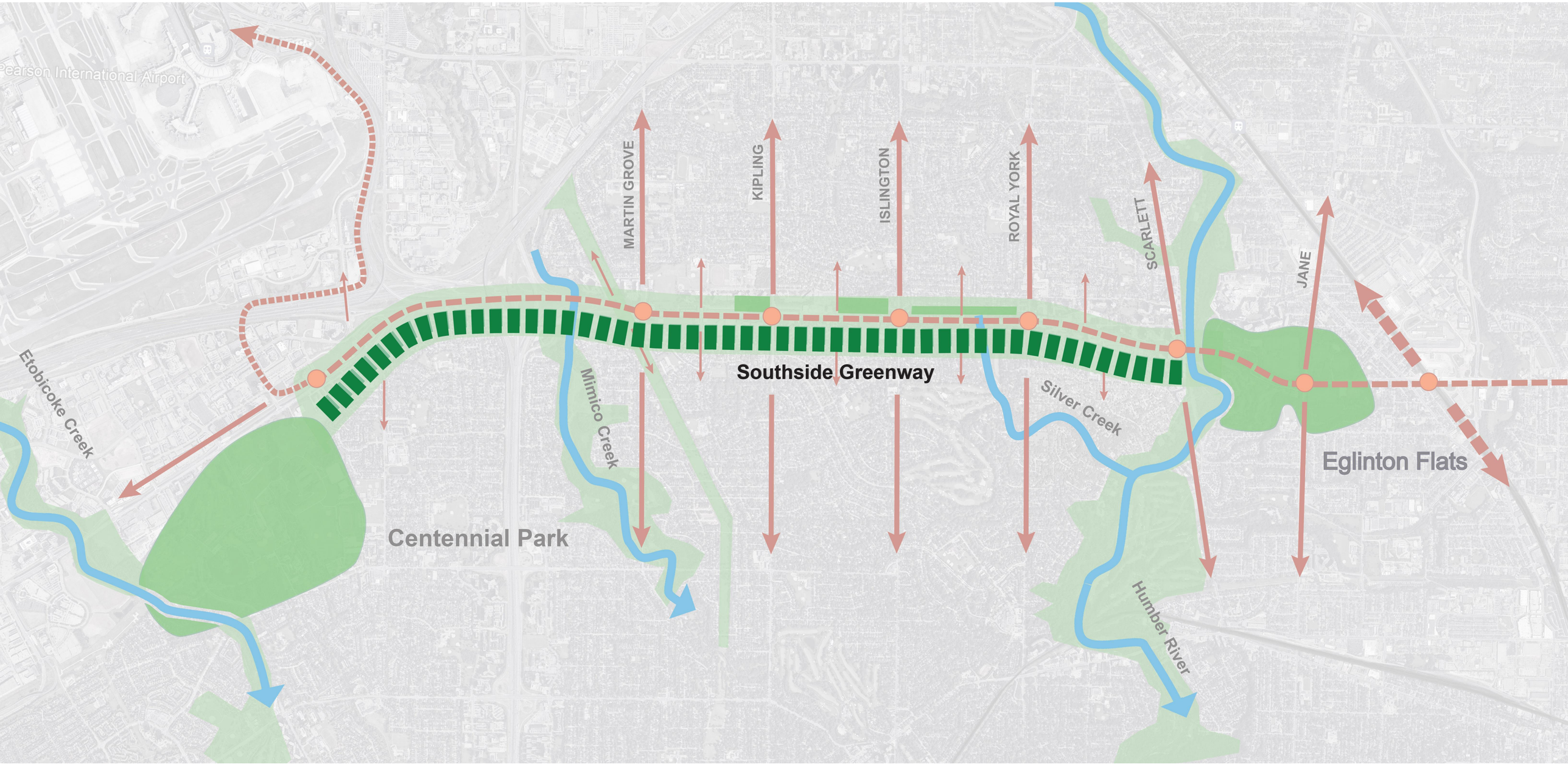
Example – Emergency Exit #2



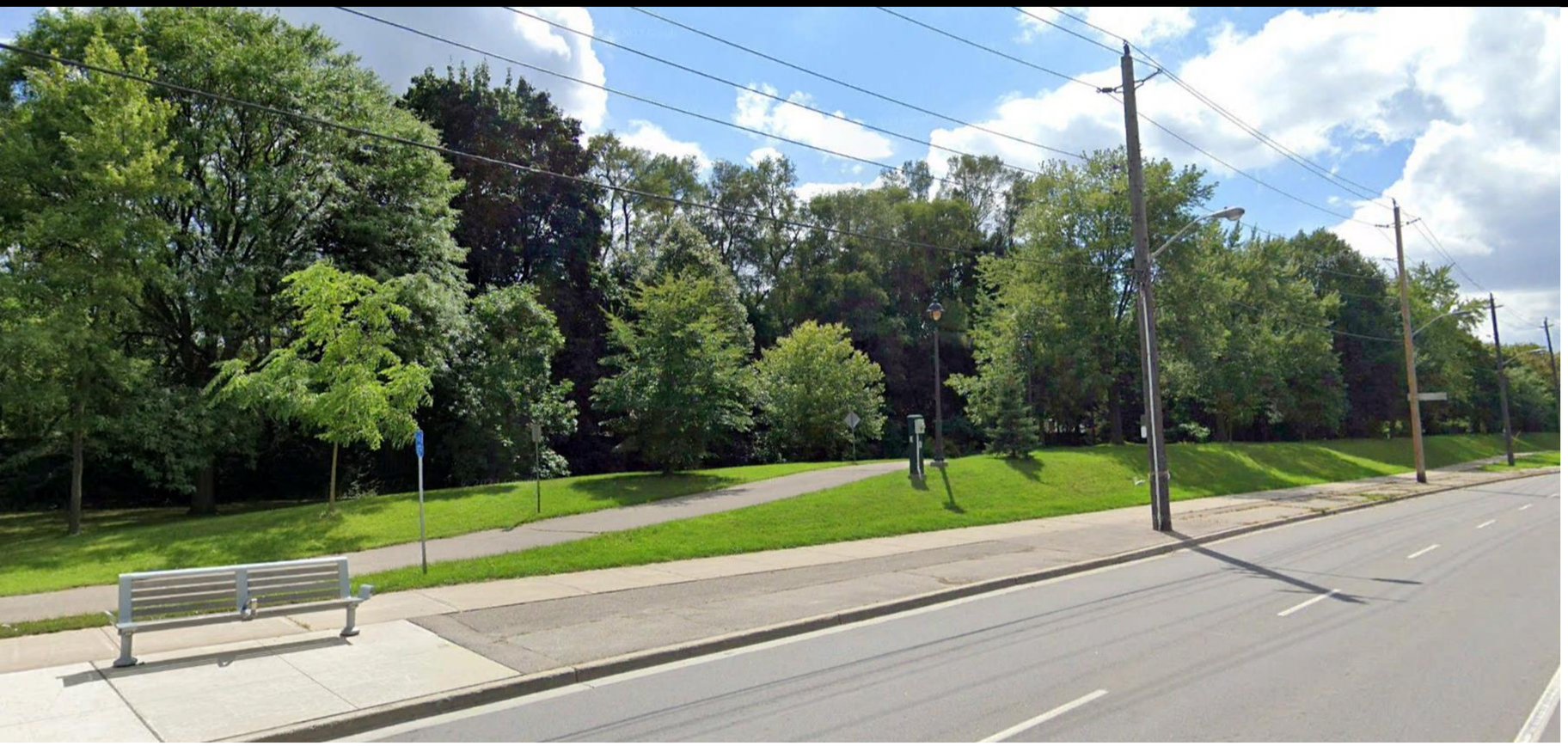
A Line-wide Perspective



Southside Greenway



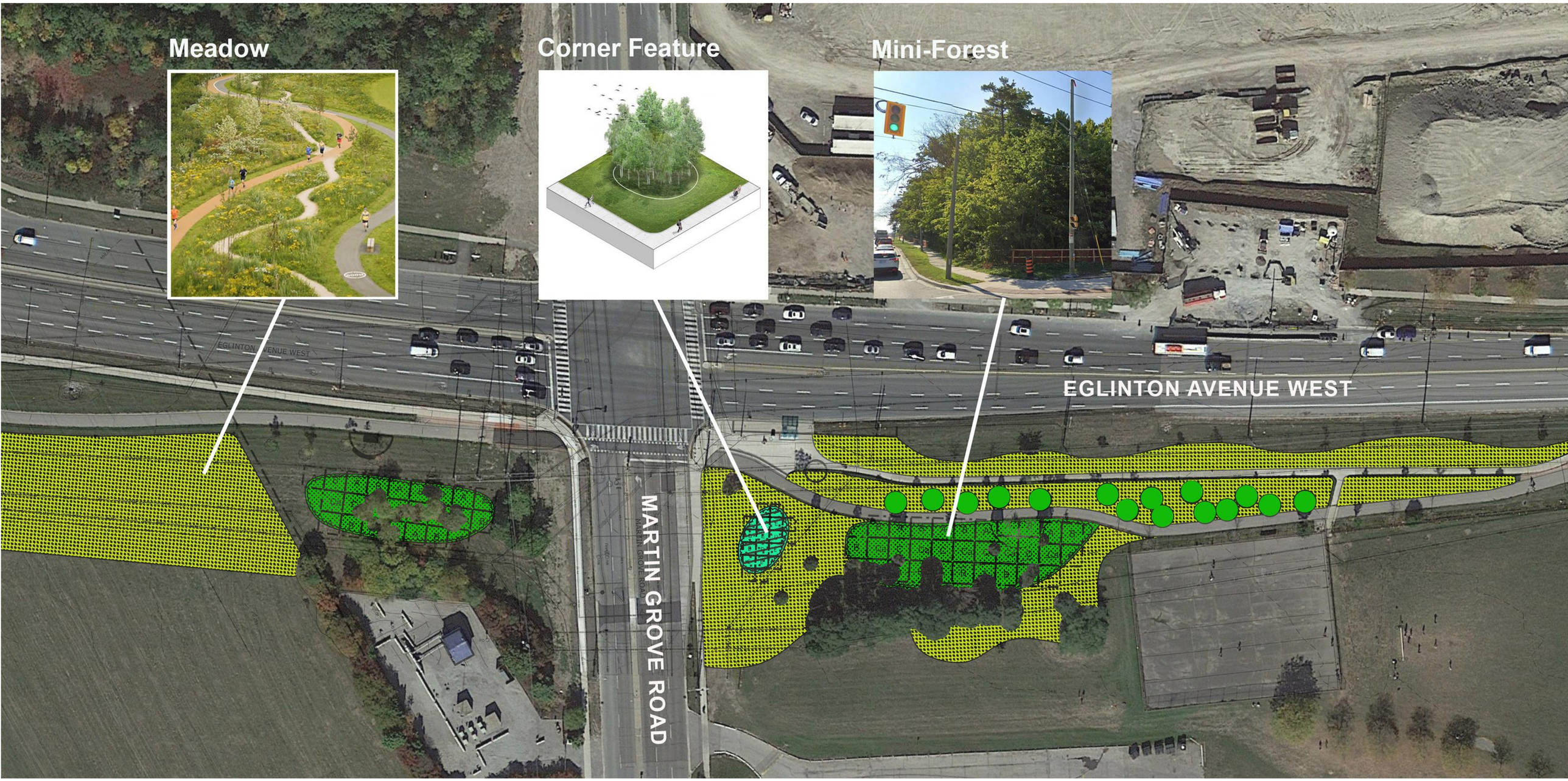
Southside Greenway



A maturing landscape...

...with room for improvement

Demonstration - Martin Grove



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Demonstration – Silver Creek

Restored landscape with meadows and forests

Existing

Impacted Lands – Under the Guideway

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Eglinton Flats – Evolution Over Time

1961

2022

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Comprehensive Restoration

Existing Vegetation | **Restoration North of the Guideway** | **Under the Guideway** | **Boulevard**

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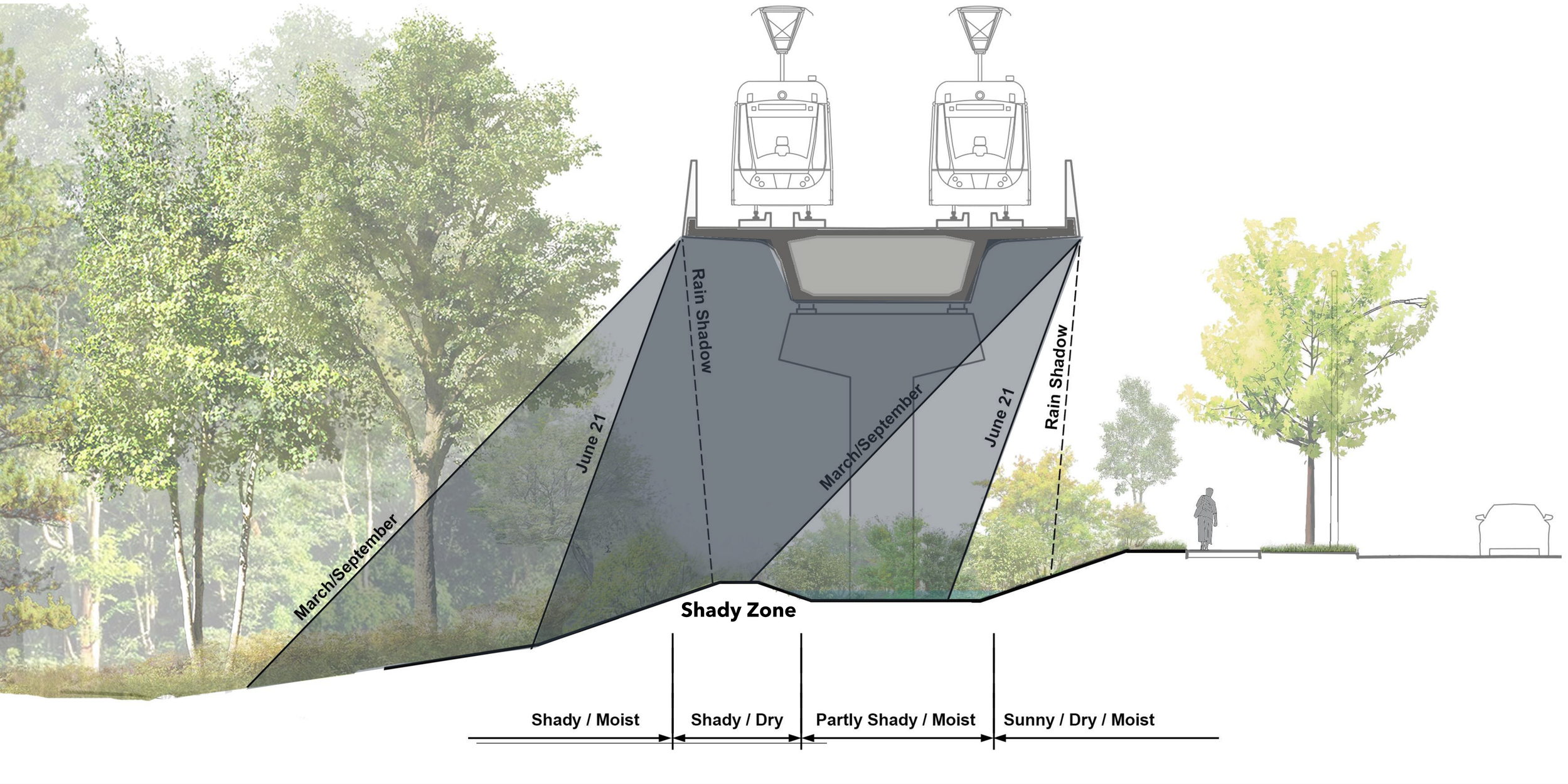
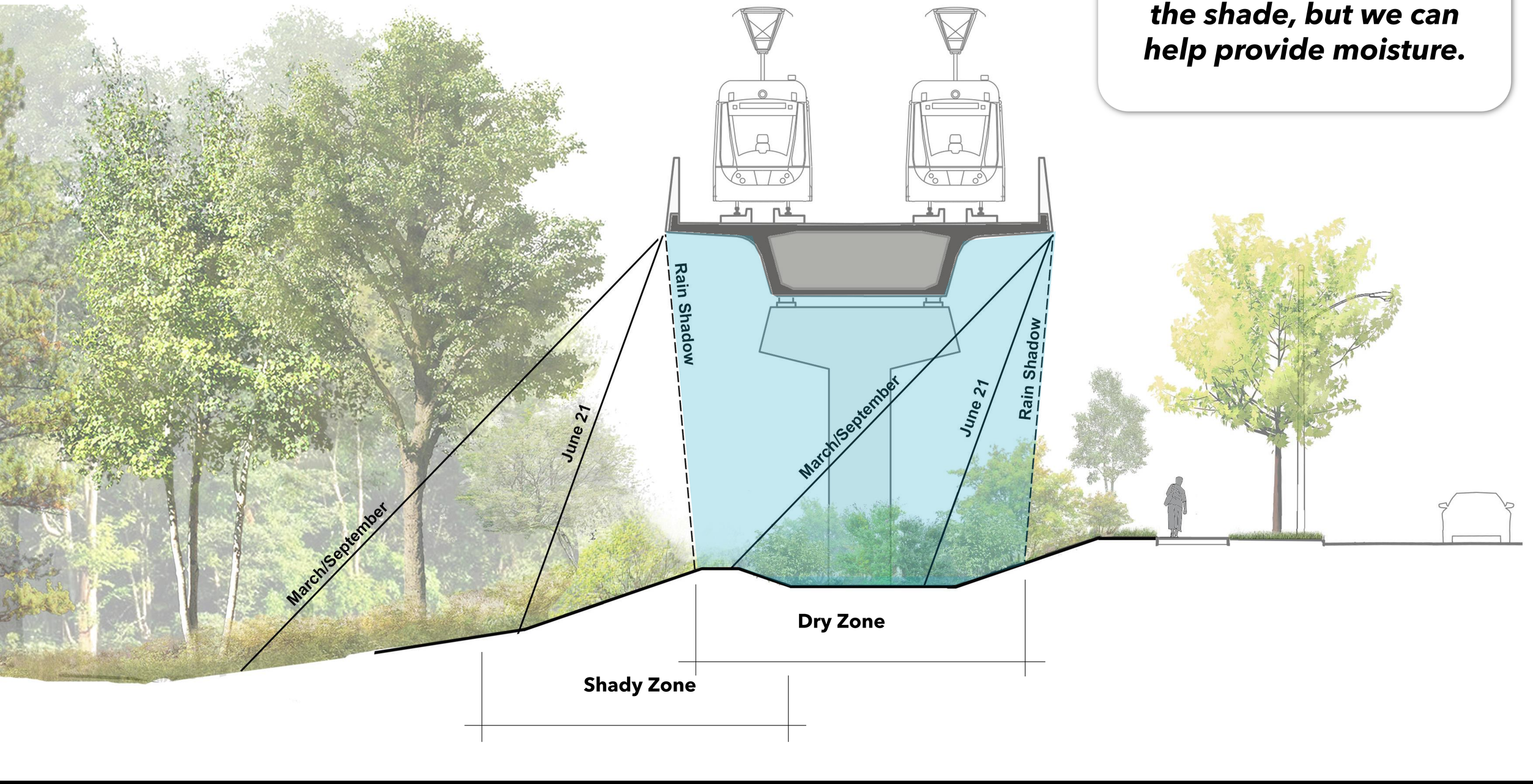
Solar Conditions



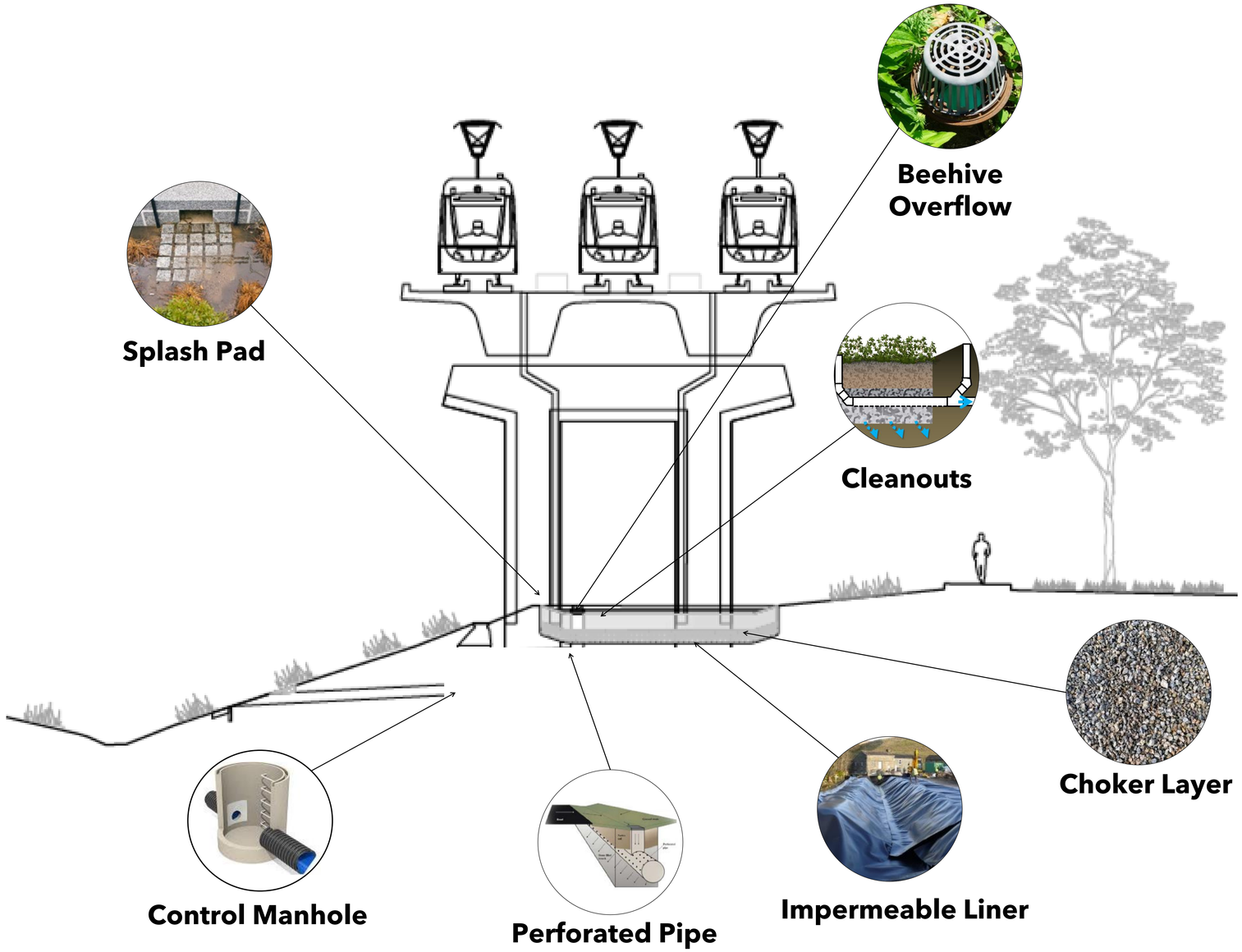
Moisture Conditions

We can't do much about the shade, but we can help provide moisture.



Rain Gardens

The rain gardens capture rainfall from the elevated guideway above and use the water to irrigate shrubs and other vegetation under the guideway.



Typical Rain Garden

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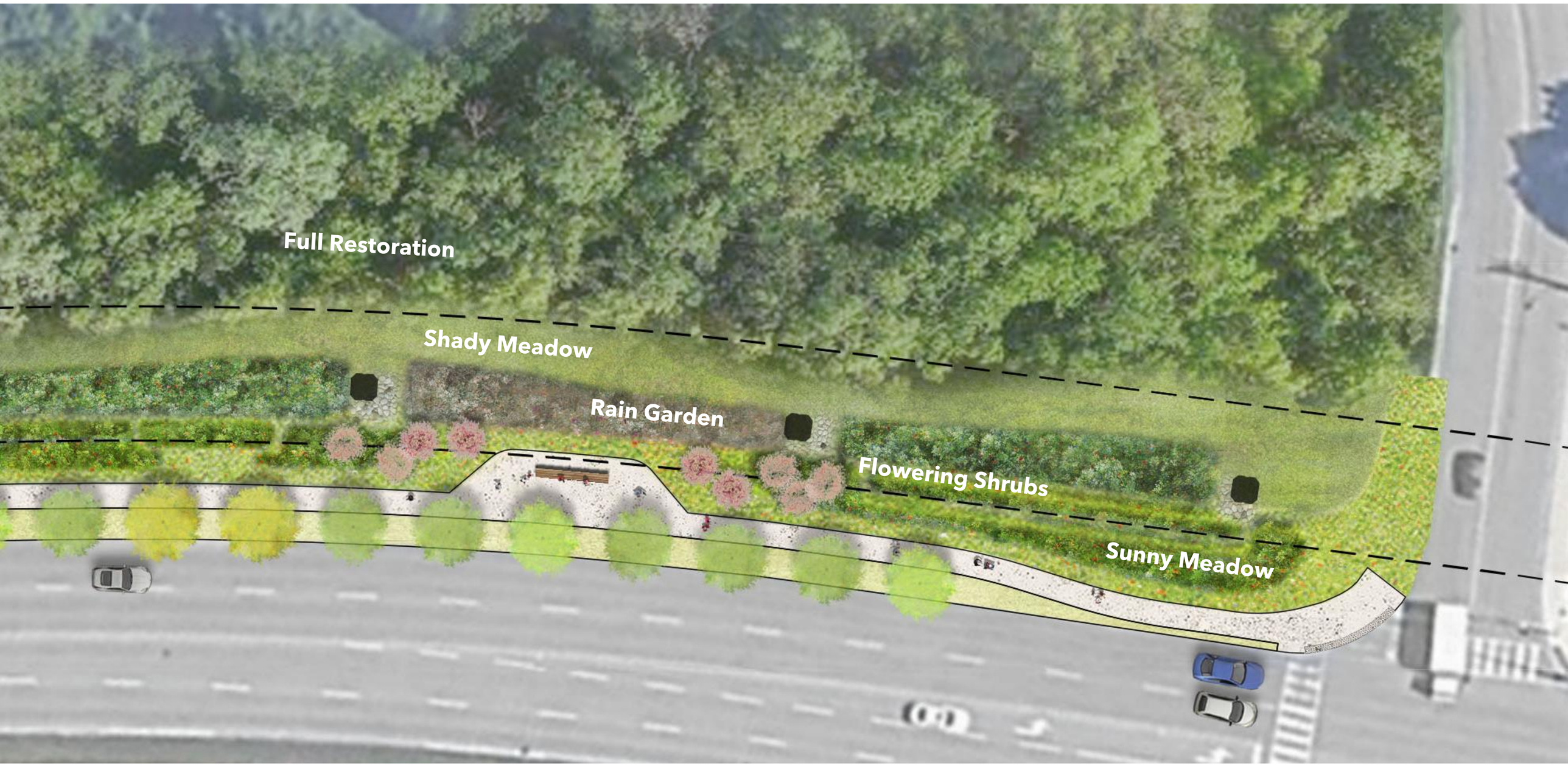
Planting Approach



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The Complete Picture

***Design is conceptual. All renderings are illustrative and subject to change.*

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Adjacent Lands

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Adjacent Lands – Eglinton Flats & Fergy Brown Park

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What's Required for Successful Landscape Restoration?

Provide healthy soil

+

Use only native plants

+

Design for diversity

+

Monitor and maintain

=

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.

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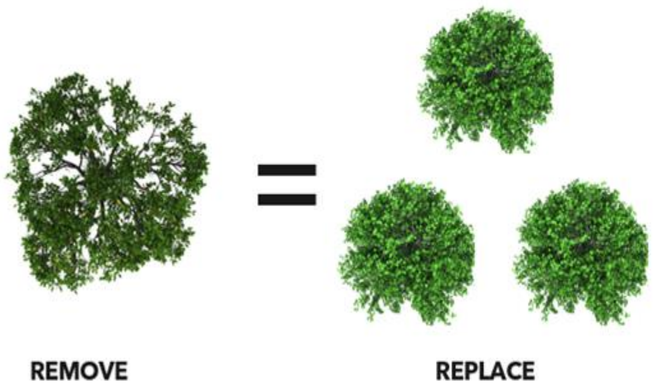
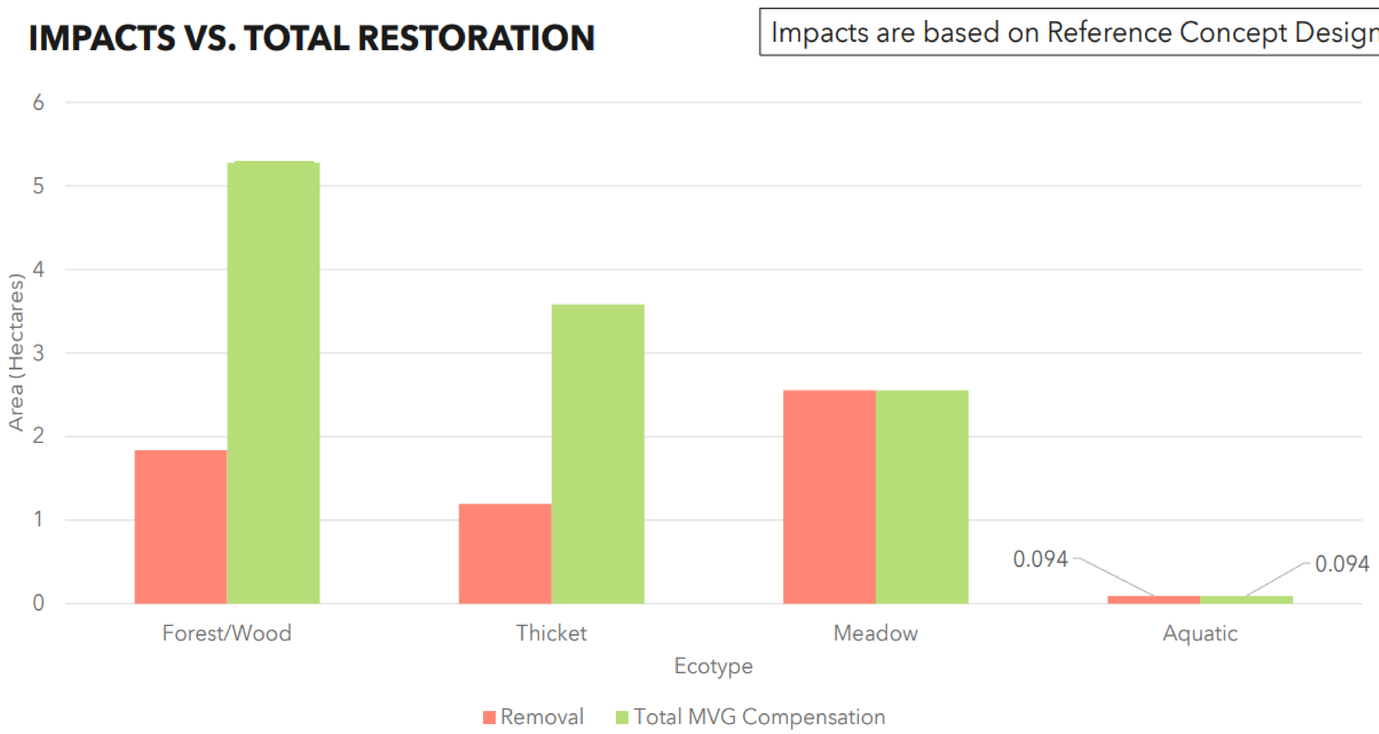
Maintaining Canopy in the Corridor

- Tree removals will be compensated at **a minimum 3:1 ratio** (e.g. for every 10 trees removed, 30 trees would be planted).

- 40% of trees will be planted on Metrolinx lands, while 60% will be on the City of Toronto and TRCA lands – all within the corridor.





- The approximately 5.59 hectares of trees removed will be compensated and replaced by approximately 11.42 hectares of new trees

- 1 hectare = 2.47 acres = about 2 and half football fields

- Replacing the canopy is not just about compensation, but also repair and improvement by making sure replanting results in **the local ecosystem in a better state** that its current condition.

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Naturalization

Naturalization involves **planting native vegetation** to **establish habitat** and **improve ecological value**. The ultimate design goal is both form and function as well as enabling natural ecological succession.

The Process:

- Understand existing conditions – light, soil, plants, wildlife, habitat, etc.
- Remove / control invasive plant species
- Amend soils
- Plant, apply mulch and water
- Monitor and adaptively manage over time
- Maintenance – mowing, mulching, watering, tree guards, continued removal of invasive, plants, weeding, etc.

Ingredient #1: Soil Matters

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Soil Matters

The three-step process outlined below will guarantee a healthy soil and planting environment where all new plantings will thrive.

Step 1: Decompact

Loosening the soil and puncturing holes in the ground will ensure air, water and nutrients can get into the soil more easily.

Step 2: Amend

Adding certain ingredients (e.g., fungi and mulch) will ensure there is the perfect balance of nutrients and organisms needed for healthy soil. We try to treat the existing soil to make it better.

Step 3: Import

Adding new, high-quality soil to maintain the best possible conditions.

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Ingredient #2: Diversity of Plants

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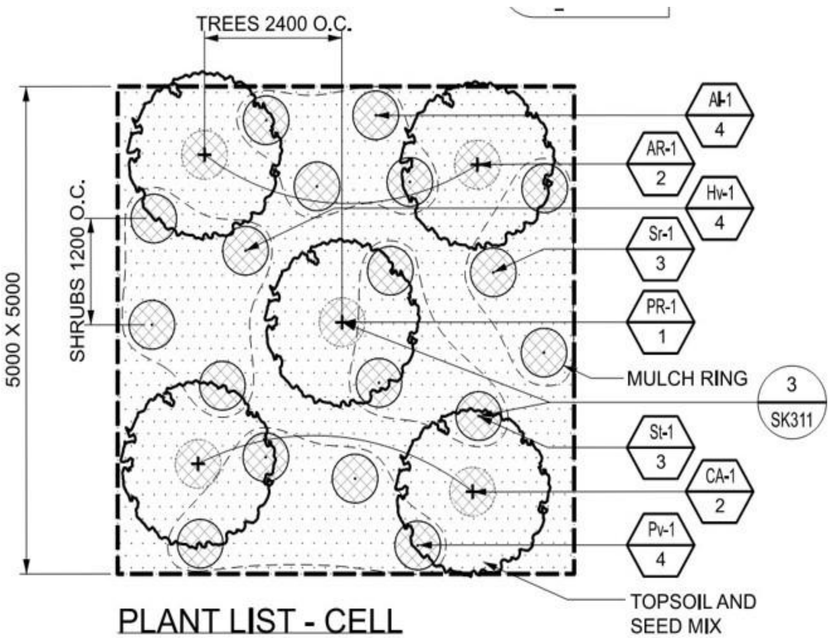
Native Plant Selection

The restoration plan provides a plant selection guideline to dictate the types of native plants that will be planted and used to restore the project lands. Here are some examples of the native plant species you can expect to see in planted in the area.



PLANT LIST - CELL 'C11' - CANOPY

5x5 - 5 TREES / 18 SHRUBS

CODE	BOTANICAL NAME	QTY
DECIDUOUS TREES		
AR-1	*Acer rubrum*	2
CA-1	Carya *cordiformis*	2
PR-1	*Prunus serotina*	1
DECIDUOUS SHRUBS		
Al-1	*Amelanchier laevis*	4
St-1	*Staphylea trifolia*	3
Hv-1	*Hamamelis virginiana*	4
Pv-1	*Prunus virginiana*	4
Sr-1	*Sambucus racemosa*	3

SEED MIX 5

Planting designs aim to strike a balance between existing and future conditions.

Alternate Leaved Dogwood

Red Osier Dogwood

Purple-flowering raspberry

Evening Primrose

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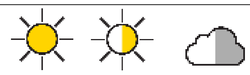
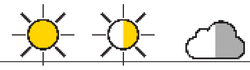
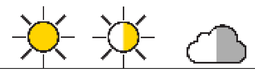
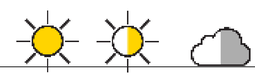
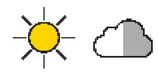
Native Plant Selection

The restoration plan provides a plant selection guideline to dictate the types of native plants that will be planted and used to restore the project lands. Here are some examples of the tree, shrubs and herbs that will be planted.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Preferred Soil Conditions	Wildlife Use	Light Requirements	Characteristics
		Trees			
Acer rubrum	Red maple	Intermediate / moist			
Betula alleghaniensis	Yellow birch	Moist			
Carpinus caroliniana	Blue beech	Moist			
Carya cordiformis	Bitternut hickory	Dry / moist			
		Shrubs			
Amelanchier laevis	Smooth serviceberry	Dry / moist			
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush	Moist / wet			
Diervilla lonicera	Bush honeysuckle	Dry / moist			
		Herbaceous			
Eurybia macrophylla	Large-leaved aster	Dry / moist			
Monarda fistulosa ssp. fistulosa	Wild bergamont	Intermediate / dry			
Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed susan	Intermediate / moist			

Wildlife Use
- = Breeding and migratory birds
- = Pollinators
- = Fruit / nut bearing species
- = Forage for mammals

Light Requirements
- = Full sun
- = Part sun
- = Full shade
- = Part shade

Characteristics
- = Salt tolerant
- = Drought tolerant

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Wildlife Habitat

- Use existing material (e.g., coarse woody debris, snags & cavity trees, etc.)
- Girdling of invasive trees as a means of control and habitat creation
- Plant trees and shrubs that provide food for wildlife
- Install wildlife habitat structures

Rock Pile

Snake in coarse wood debris

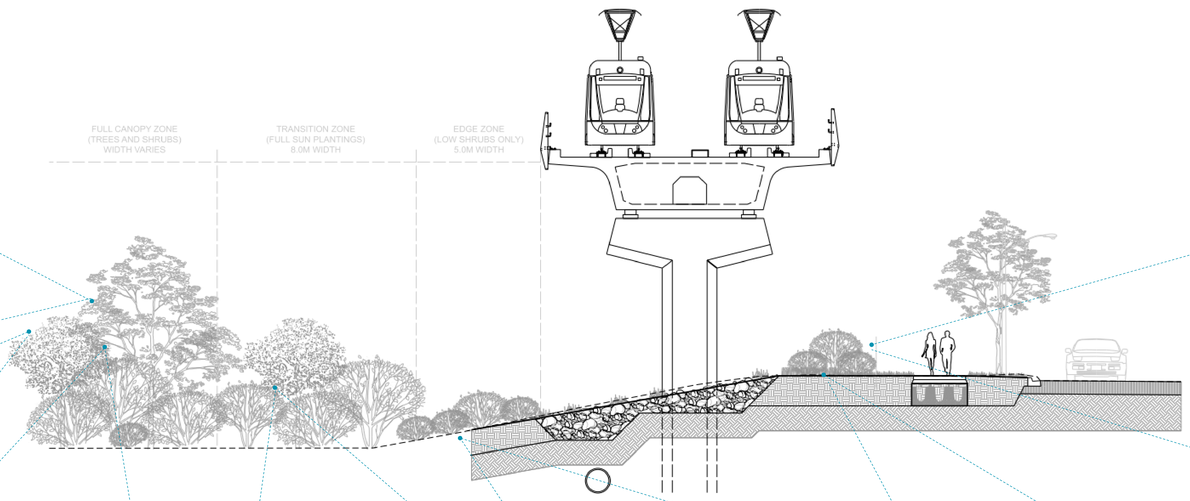
Hairy Woodpecker in Cavity

Girdling

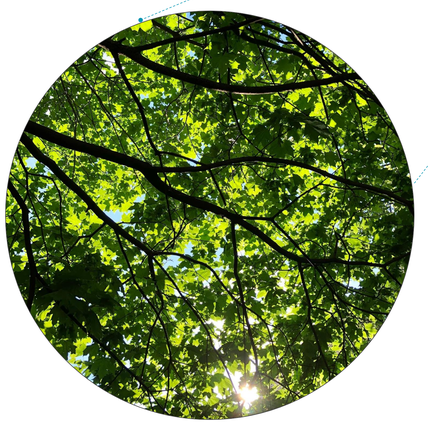
Forest Structure

Vegetation Zones

Basswood
Tilia americana



Smooth rose
Rosa blanda



Sugar maple
Acer saccharum

Bitternut hickory
Carya cordiformis

Red osier dogwood
Cornus sericea

Bush honeysuckle
Diervilla lonicera

Purple flowering raspberry
Rubus odoratus

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Ingredient #3: Monitoring and Maintenance

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Monitoring and Maintenance

Monitoring

- Post-planting monitoring by a qualified professional for five years
- Mortality/dieback; survival rate (e.g., % surviving plants, % vegetative cover, etc.)
- Plant condition, presence of yellowing leaves
- Evidence of pests & diseases (e.g., fugus, insect damage, etc.)
- Mechanical or physical damage (e.g., animal feeding, trampling, etc.)

Maintenance

- **Watering** - varies depending on species, plant size, soil type/composition, topography, ambient temperature, drought, etc.
- **Invasive Species Control** – multi-year process
- **Soil Amendments** – addition of ingredients such as fungi and mulch
- **Weeding** – removal of weeds immediately adjacent to newly planted trees and shrubs

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 the 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.
- We will work closely with the City of Toronto and local conservation authority to follow their guidelines and best management practices.

Garlic mustard

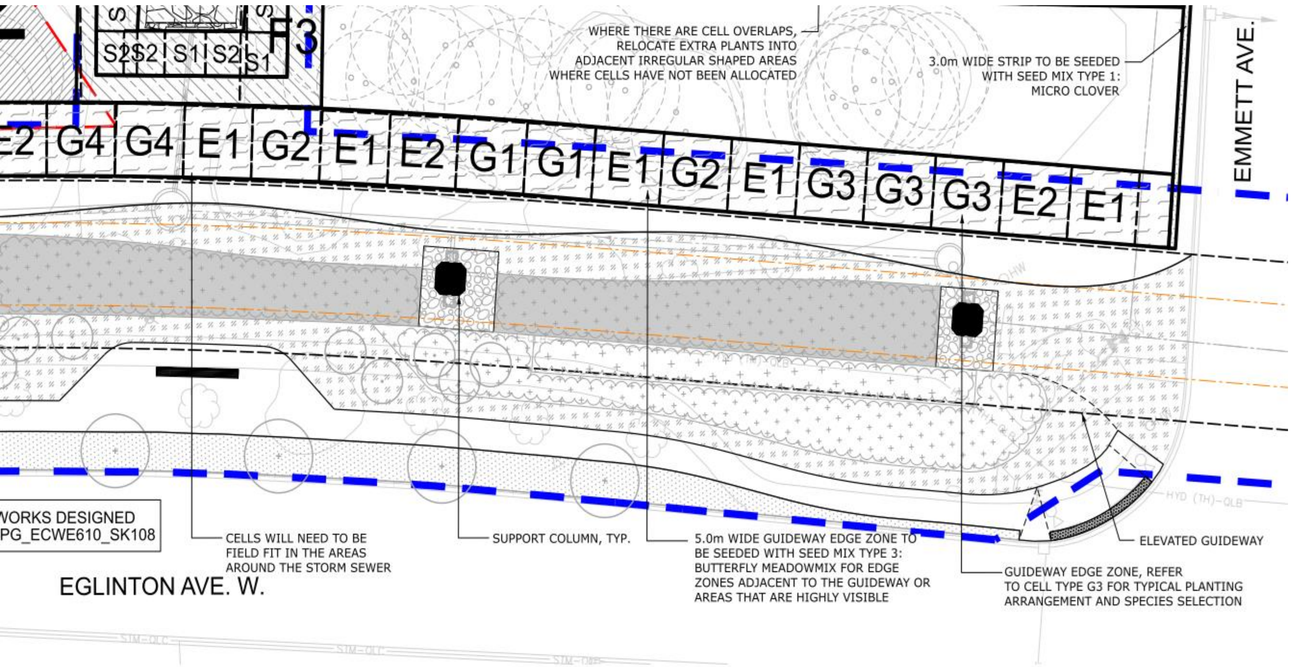
Dog-strangling vine

Common buckthorn

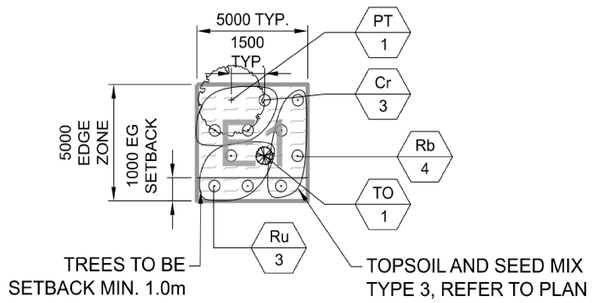
Phragmites at Fergy Brown park

Edge Management

Edge planting cells have been designed to provide screening, mitigate edge effects & facilitate forest succession.



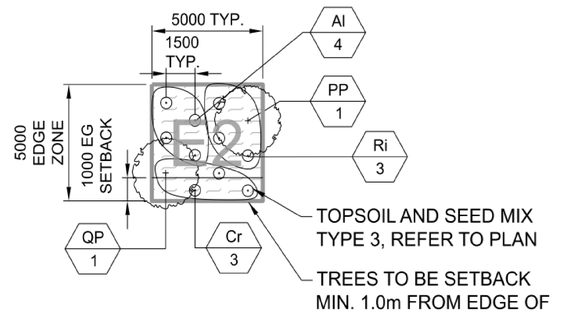
Edge plantings along Elevated Guideway



PLANT LIST - CELL 'E1'
(REFER TO MASTER PLANT LIST FOR TOTAL QUANTITIES)

CODE	BOTANICAL NAME	QTY
DECIDUOUS TREES		
PT	*Populus tremuloides*	1
CONIFEROUS TREES		
TO	*Thuja occidentalis*	1
DECIDUOUS SHRUBS		
Cr	*Cornus racemosa*	3
Rb	*Rosa blanda*	4
Ru	*Rubus odoratus*	3

TYPICAL PLANTING CELL CONFIGURATION 6 SK332
'E1' EDGE ZONE



PLANT LIST - CELL 'E2'
(REFER TO MASTER PLANT LIST FOR TOTAL QUANTITIES)

CODE	BOTANICAL NAME	QTY
DECIDUOUS TREES		
PP	*Prunus pennsylvanica*	1
QP	*Quercus palustris*	1
DECIDUOUS SHRUBS		
Al	*Amelanchier laevis*	4
Cr	*Cornus racemosa*	3
Ri	*Rubus idaeus*	3

TYPICAL PLANTING CELL CONFIGURATION 7 SK332
'E2' EDGE ZONE

Edge zone planting cells

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Woodlot Monitoring

Woodlots are a key landscape feature that include the last remaining original, native vegetation in the area. Here are several strategies the restoration plan will utilize to monitor and enhance the Kipling and Wincott woodlots.

Work with the City to monitor effects of new transit stations and ancillary buildings on the woodlots.

Use the Denfield Park woodlot as a control site to protect against long-term negative changes.

Add edge plantings to buffer the interior forest and facilitate forest succession.

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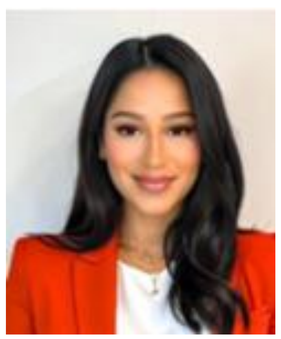
What's Next

Spring 2025	Mid-Late 2025
• Tunneling construction begins for ATC2 (eastern tunnel) (*April 2025*) • Construction Methods and Updates Open House *(April 9, 2025)* • Tree Giveaway (*May 2025*)	• Tunneling Substantial Completion of ATC1 contract (*June 2025*) • Stations, Rails, Systems (SRS) Development Partner Awarded (*Summer 2025*) • Kipling and Pearen Park Woodlot Demonstration Workshop *(Fall 2025)* • Meet the Development Partner Open House – SRS (*Fall 2025)*

Ongoing

Metrolinx plans to initiate restoration on the adjacent lands as soon as possible and work will be completed in parallel with the construction schedule.

Panel Discussion



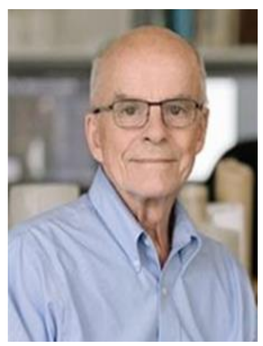
Aman Gill
Community Engagement Manager, Metrolinx

Deanne Mighton
Project Sponsor, Metrolinx

Mario Nalli,
Senior Project Manager - Stations, Metrolinx

Kaylin Barnes
Restoration Manager, Metrolinx

Trevor Goulet,
Environmental Specialist, Dillon Consulting



Peter Smith
Landscape Architect, DTAH

Christen Dschankilic
Arborist, Dillon 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.

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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?

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