



Rees Street Park

Schematic Design

November 30th, 2022

Project Description & Background

- Waterfront Toronto and Parks, Forestry and Recreation are co-leading the Rees Street Park
- The design competition winning design was announced on October 9, 2018 and Rees Ridge by wHY was chosen as the winning design for Rees Street Park.
- Waterfront Toronto will manage the design and construction of Rees Street Park, which needs to be closely coordinated with Toronto Water's Rees Street Park Wet Weather Flow Storage Shaft, part of the Don River & Central Waterfront Project Inner Harbour West Tunnel.
- Project was presented at DRP in September 2020 for Issues Identification.
- Currently in Schematic Design Phase.

Key Scope and Budget Updates

Current Scope Priorities:

1. Enhance Playground Elements
2. Active Recreation (including basketball courts to commemorate Raptors Championship)
3. Washrooms
4. Lawn (including flat zones for activities)
5. Accommodation for Dogs
6. Flexible Space for uses such as Outdoor Markets, Food Vendors (Including Utilities)
7. Accommodation of Future Shaft / Park Integration (Building or Non-Building Solution)
8. Optimization of the Ridge

Post Competition Budget Update:

- Due to pressures from escalation on the construction industry, Waterfront Toronto is working with PF&R to update the project budget. The project is currently partially unfunded, pending approval.

Rees Street Park Context



3 MIN. WALK FROM
ROGERS CENTRE

5 MIN. WALK FROM
UNION STATION

Rees Street Park - Site Context



- 1 HTO Park:** Directly across Queens Quay to the south lies HTO park, designed by JRA+Claude Cormier and completed in 2007..The position of this iconic park in relation to the future site of Rees St. Park with Queens Quay Blvd. running between them creates a unique streetscape on the waterfront.
- 2 Frame of the Gardiner :** The view of Rees St. Park from Queens Quay is neatly framed by the Gardiner Expressway, that runs along the length of the park to the north. The structural supports of the expressway are geometrical/geographic and rhythmic spatial markers.
- 3 Future Toronto Water Stormwater Storage Shaft:** Within 10 years, the southern half of the Rees St. Park site will accommodate a 12m-diameter stormwater storage shaft and an adjacent low building.
- 4 Retail Frontage:** The eastern frontage of 350 Queens Quay is currently occupied by two businesses, including a Beer Store. The businesses have potential entrances on both the east and west facades of the building
- 5 Rees Street Wavedeck:** One of the Toronto Waterfront's iconic wavedecks lies directly south of the site.
- 6 John Quay Powerboating/Sailing Centre:** The main location for small craft rental, activities and lessons in the Central Waterfront, the Rees St. Slip sees plenty of active recreational traffic.
- 7 Peter Street Basin:** West of Rees Street, the Peter Street Basin is the only location where Lake Ontario extends north of Queens Quay. Surrounded by retail storefronts of 350-380 Queens Quay, the Peter Street Basin and the public walkway surrounding it are public parkland managed by PFR.

350 Queens Quay West

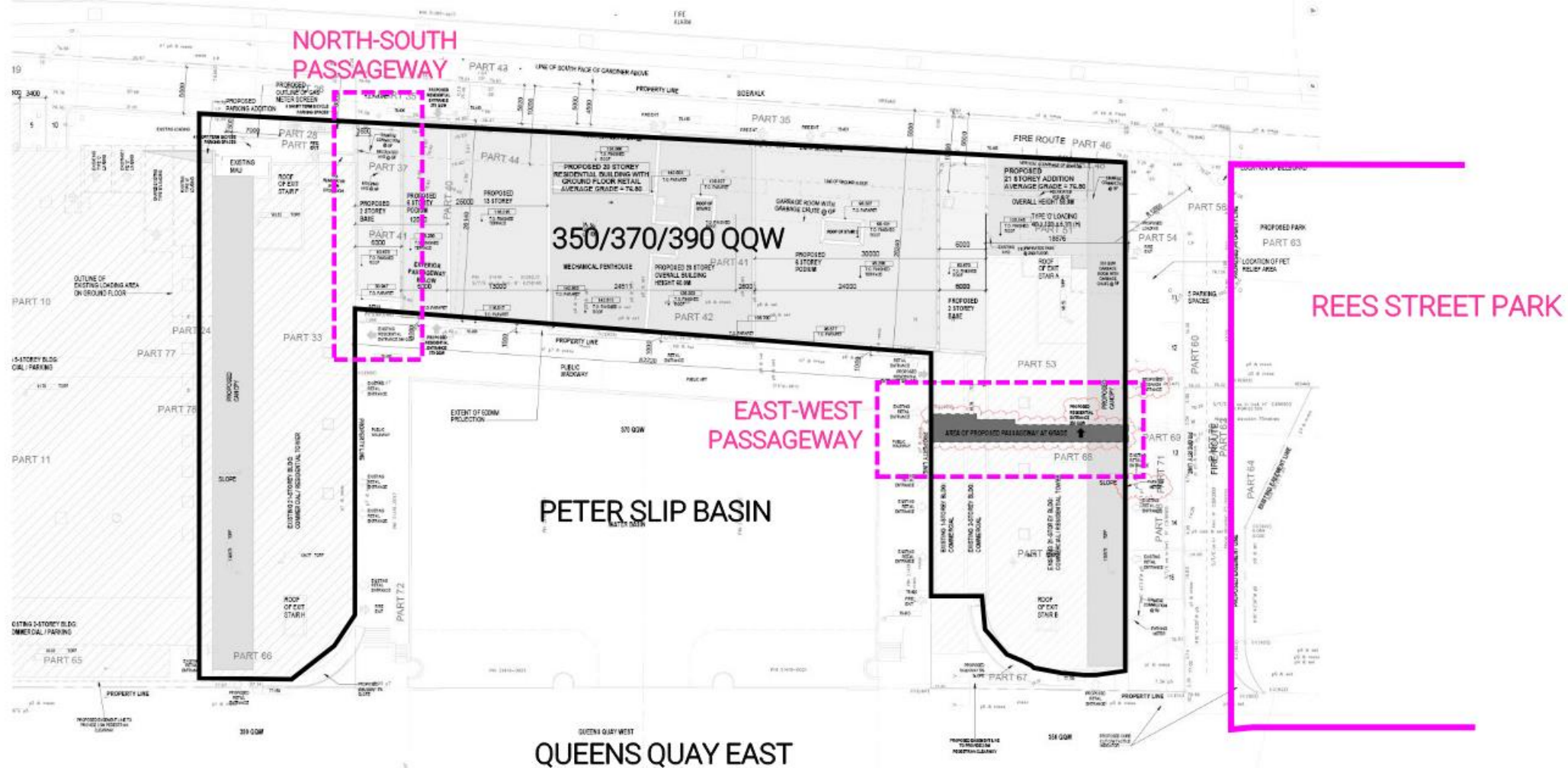
Project Context

Rees Street Park

Proponent: Waterfront Toronto

Design Team: wHY, Brook McIlroy, Phyto Studio, ARUP

Review Stage: Schematic Design



350 Queens Quay West

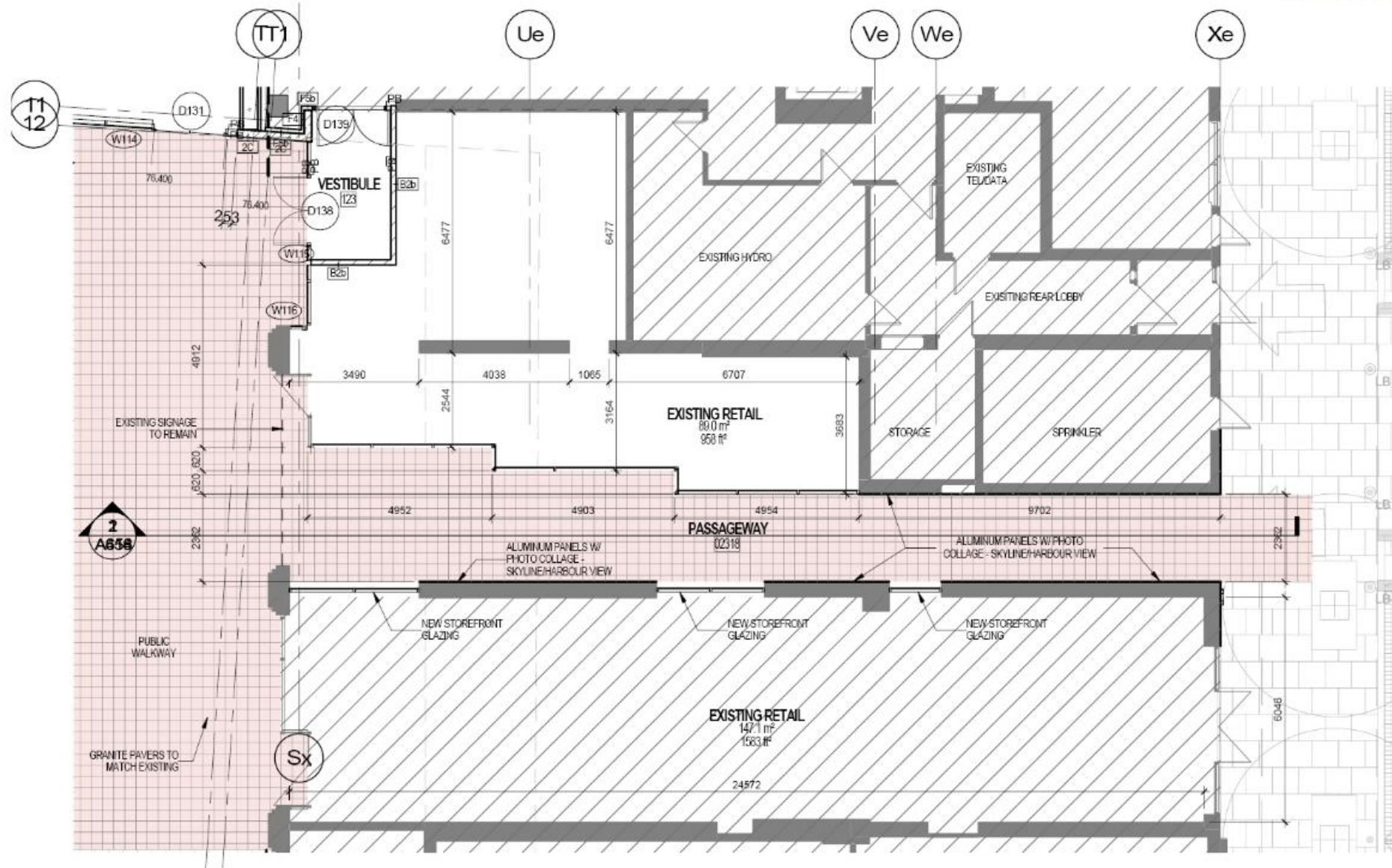
Project Context

Rees Street Park

Proponent: Waterfront Toronto

Design Team: wHY, Brook McIlroy, Phyto Studio, ARUP

Review Stage: Schematic Design



350 Queens Quay East

Project Context

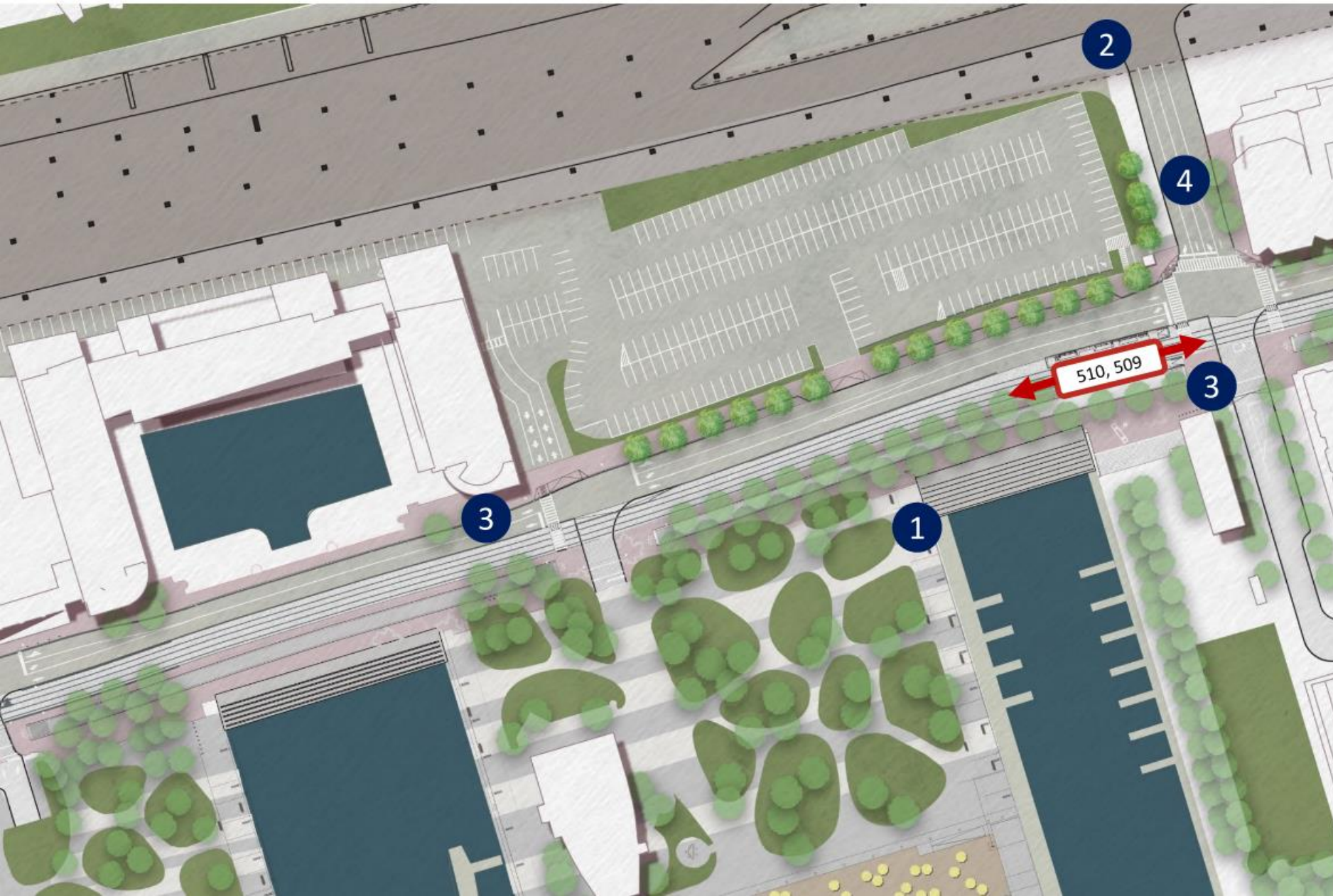
Rees Street Park

Proponent: Waterfront Toronto

Design Team: wHY, Brook McIlroy, Phyto Studio, ARUP

Review Stage: Schematic Design

Rees Street Park – Key Views



- 1 Backdrop of the Rogers Centre Skydome:** As seen from Queens Quay, the Skydome rises over the deck of the Gardiner Expressway. Lit at night and bright white by day, the bulbous architectural form tops the view of the park
 - a) Seen from Queens Quay
 - b) Seen from HTO Park
- 2 Lakeshore Frontage:** The streetscape of Lakeshore Boulevard in this location has not been designed as a pedestrian environment. To the South East offers a view of the Waterfront.
- 3 Queens Quay Frontage:** This is a rare location where parkland occurs on both sides of Queen's Quay.
 - a) Looking east
 - b) Looking west
- 4 Rees St:** North – Connector to Cultural Heritage Corridor – South – Views to the Waterfront

1 a) Rees Street Park – looking north from Queens Quay



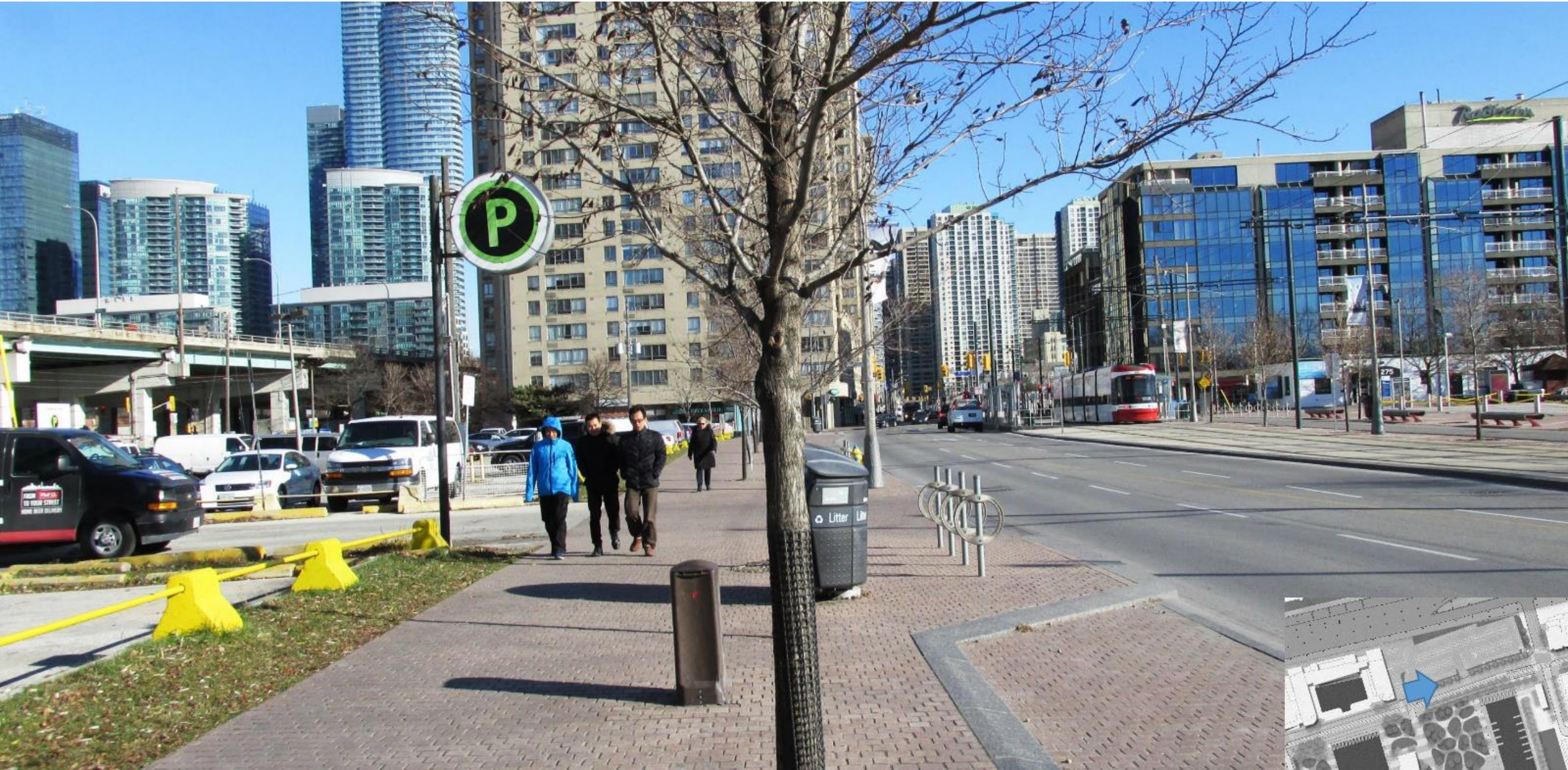
1 b) Rees Street Park – looking North from HTO Park



2 Rees Street Park – looking west from Lake Shore and Rees



3 a) Rees Street Park – looking east from Queens Quay



3 b) Rees Street Park – looking west from Queens Quay



Project Milestone Schedule

- Park Design + Construction Schedule
 - Consensus Design Phase – Completed Spring 2021
 - Schematic Design (30%) Phase – To be completed December 2022
 - Commence engagement process on the project – December 2022
 - Design Development (60%) through Construction Documents (100%) Phase – December 2023
 - Park Construction: 2024 to 2026

Project Approval Stage

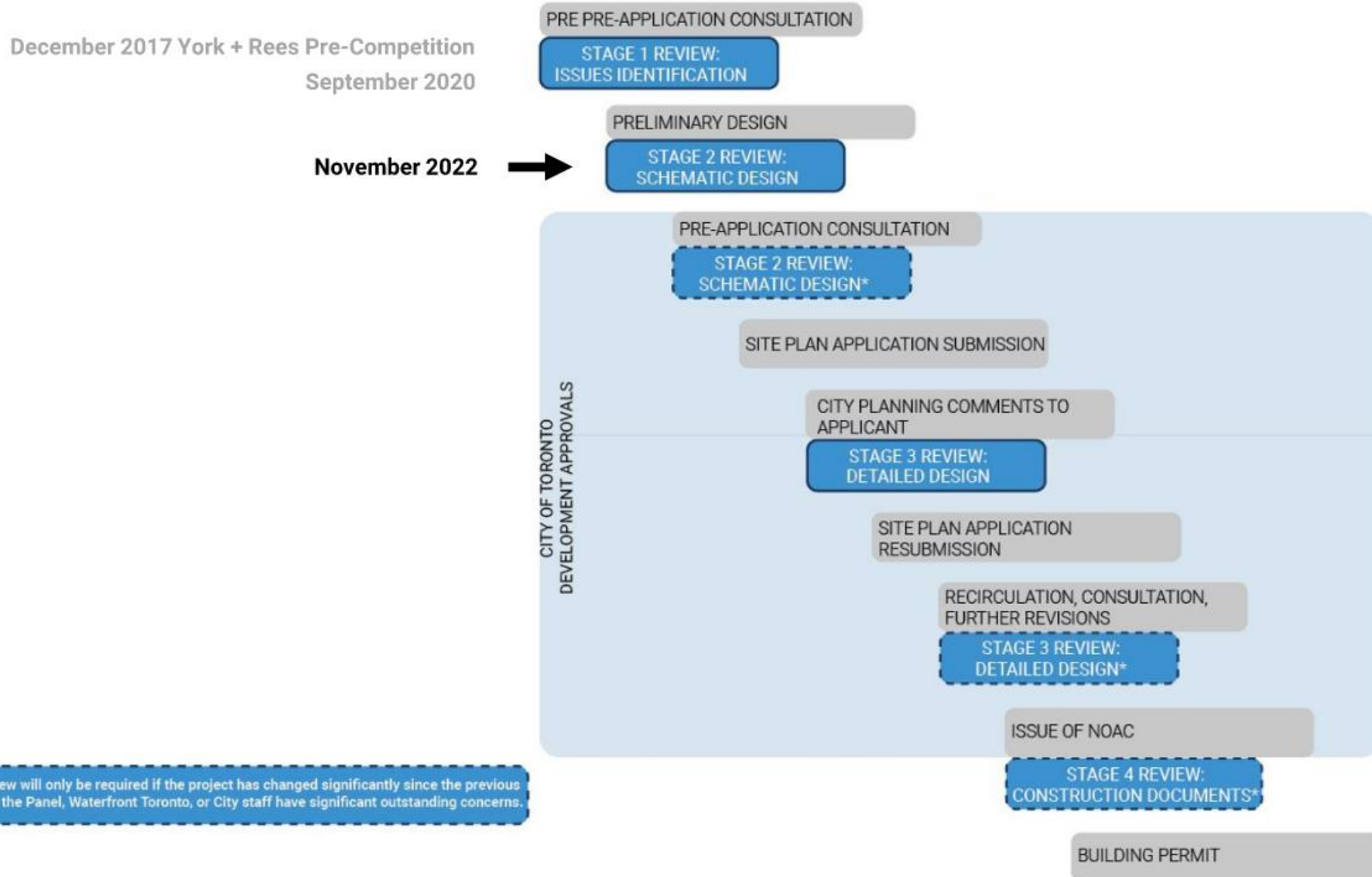
DRP Stream 2: Public land – Site Plan Application

Rees Street Park

Proponent: Waterfront Toronto

Design Team: wHY, Brook McIlroy, Phyto Studio, ARUP

Review Stage: Schematic Design



Consensus Comments

September 2020 Issues Identification

General

- Appreciated the design presentation and the team for meeting the challenges of the site.
- Supportive of seeing this special project realized.
- Maintaining the clarity of the park idea is a challenge, continue to develop a deliberate strategy to execute the vision.
- The clarity of the concept, program, and simplicity of the vision are important. Consider the guiding principles that drive the decisions on the built-form and provide a systematic approach on the design intent - a more methodical approach to the design presentation would benefit the design.
- Provide more section drawings, both north-south and east-west through the park, at the next review.
- Ensure planting design addresses all four seasons including winter.

Ridge design

- Recommended a stronger integration of the ridge with the lawn, consider recalibrating the slope so the lawn is more integrated into the overall park.
- The green wall was a winning aspect of the competition design, understanding the team is revising the ridge with regards to the budget, the Panel is concerned with the amount of concrete in this version. Consider stone and rock combination which is more reminiscent of the bluffs, or gentler planted slopes.
- Some Panel members expressed concerns on the noise of the Gardiner and the ridge should be high enough to help mitigate this issue; others have noted that the Gardiner is an important context for the park and it should be addressed honestly, i.e. the park can allow snippets of the Gardiner.
- Strengthen the rationale behind the ridge design: built-form, use, landscaping.
- It is important to produce early mock-ups to test the ridge design.

Consensus Comments

September 2020 Issues Identification

Program

- Further consider seasonal impacts on the use and accessibility of the park.
- Several Panel members noted that the scope and program will not be realizable within the budget, consider simplifying and reducing scope while maintaining a clear design vision.
- The design feels overprogrammed, consider reducing some activities such as the waterfall which is a high-cost feature.
- Concerned with the proposed location of the basketball courts due to proximity to noise and pollution from the Gardiner, consider shifting it further south to improve the experience, visibility, and integration with the rest of the park.
- Concerned with the location of the washroom and entrance - instead of the backside, consider facing the interior of the park.

Urban Continuity

- Public realm continuity and linkages are important objectives of the project, consider the following in developing the design:
 - Relationship with H2O Park.
 - Relationship with the proposed mid-block connection at the Peter Street Basin development - Waterfront Toronto to provide design team with latest drawings of the project for reference.
 - The Rees/ John Street cultural corridor from Grange Park to the waterfront as an important linkage.

Consensus Comments

September 2020 Issues Identification

Phasing

- Some Panel members expressed unease with the proposed phasing as related to the budget and the anticipated schedule of the stormwater shaft. Consider allowing the shaft work to complete before phase 1 implementation to ensure the core park vision is not compromised by the uncertainty around the stormwater shaft. Additionally, this will give more time for the design team to complete the design work.
- Provide an update on this at the next review.

Areas for Panel Consideration

Waterfront Toronto

- Does the revised ridge achieve the design intent of screening the Gardiner? Do the planting/ coniferous trees achieve a year-round visual buffer?
- Does the reconfigured layout of programs and landscape elements relate well to the site?
- Does the design support views and north-south access from Lake Shore to the waterfront?
- Does the revised planting strategy support the programmatic uses of the site and a year-round experience?

REES RIDGE

11.30.2022

DRAFT

WHY

BrookMcIlroy/

phyto
STUDIO

ARUP

Blackwell

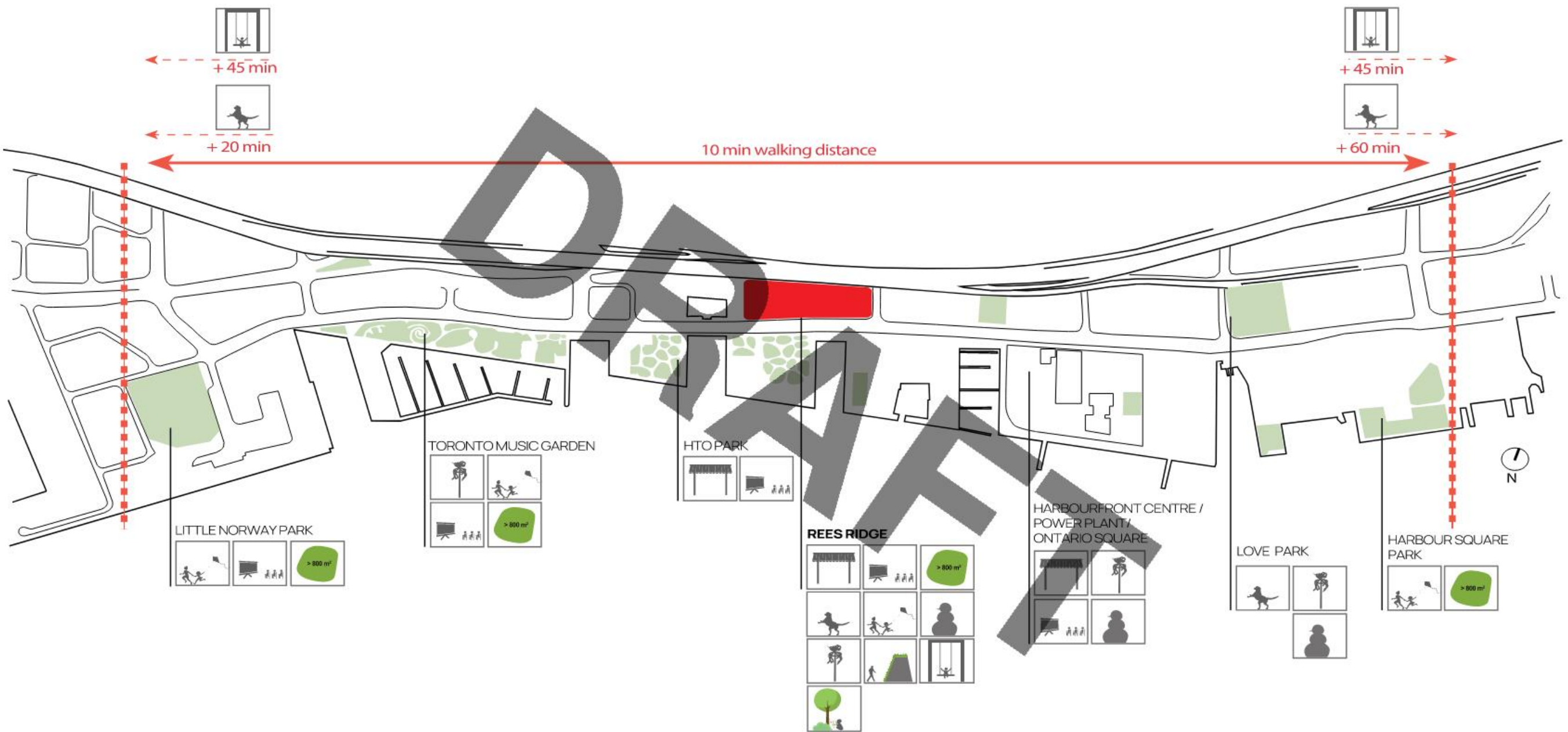
GROUNDED
ENGINEERING 



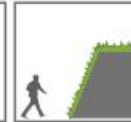

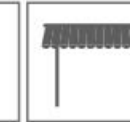

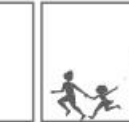

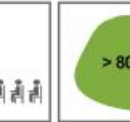
TYLin

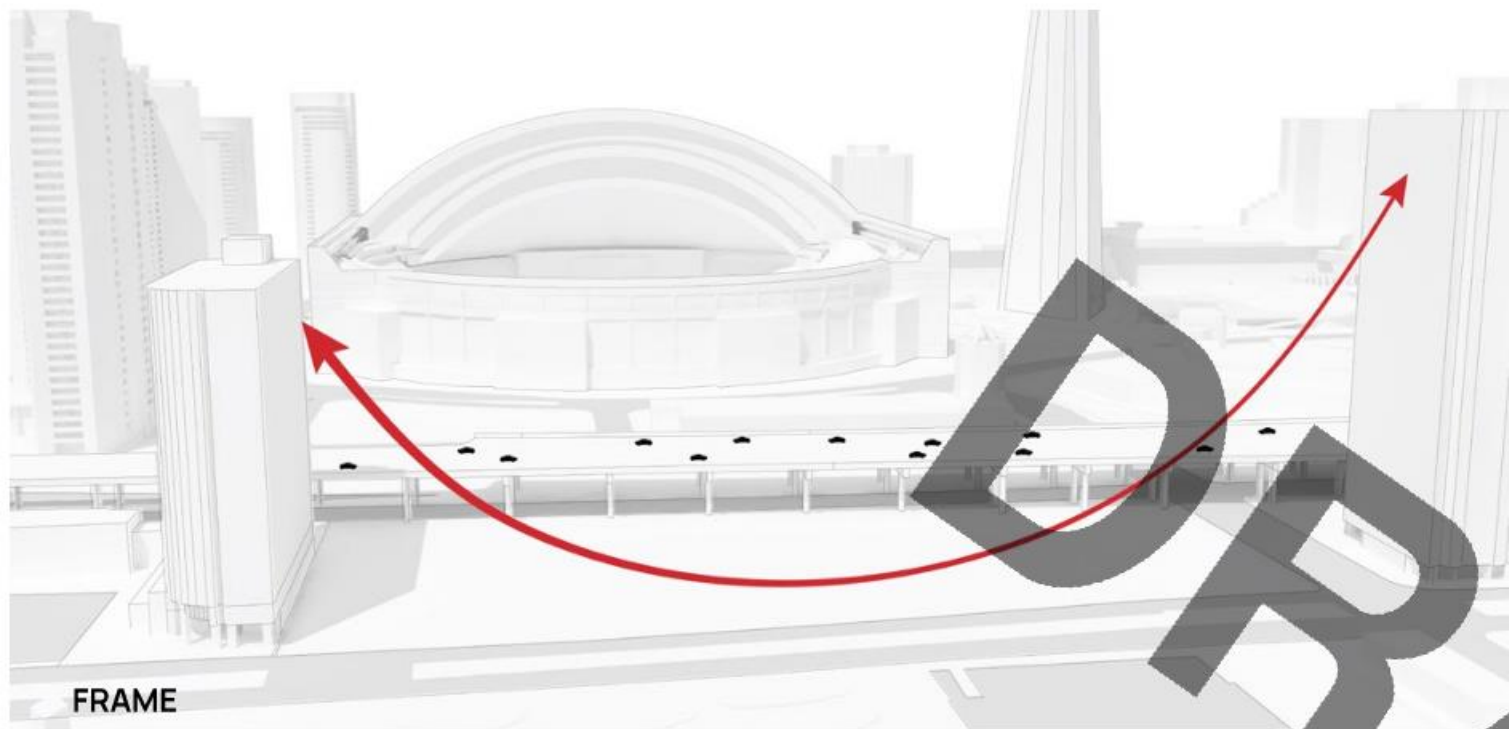
mh
MORRISON
HERSHFIELD

© WHY Architecture & Landscape Architecture DPC

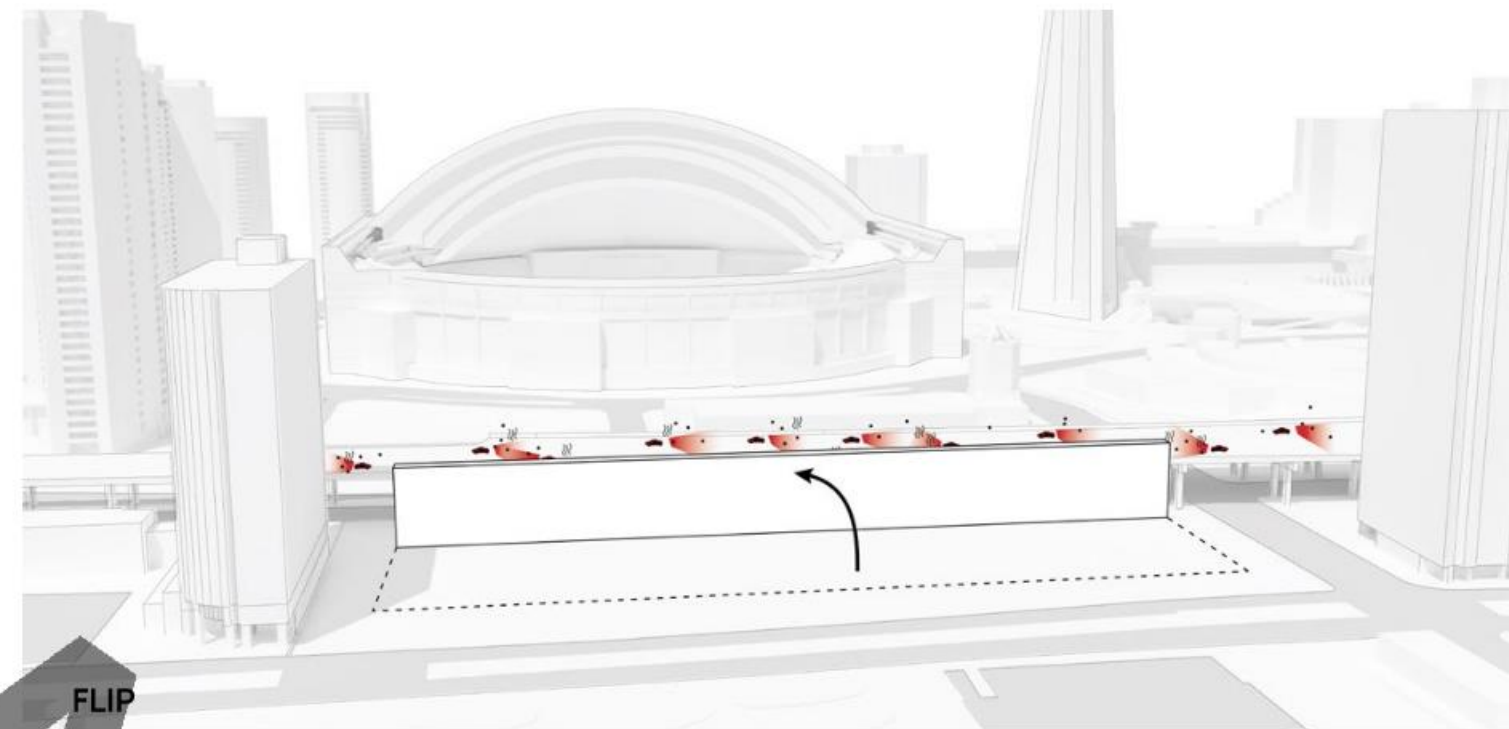
SITE CONTEXT



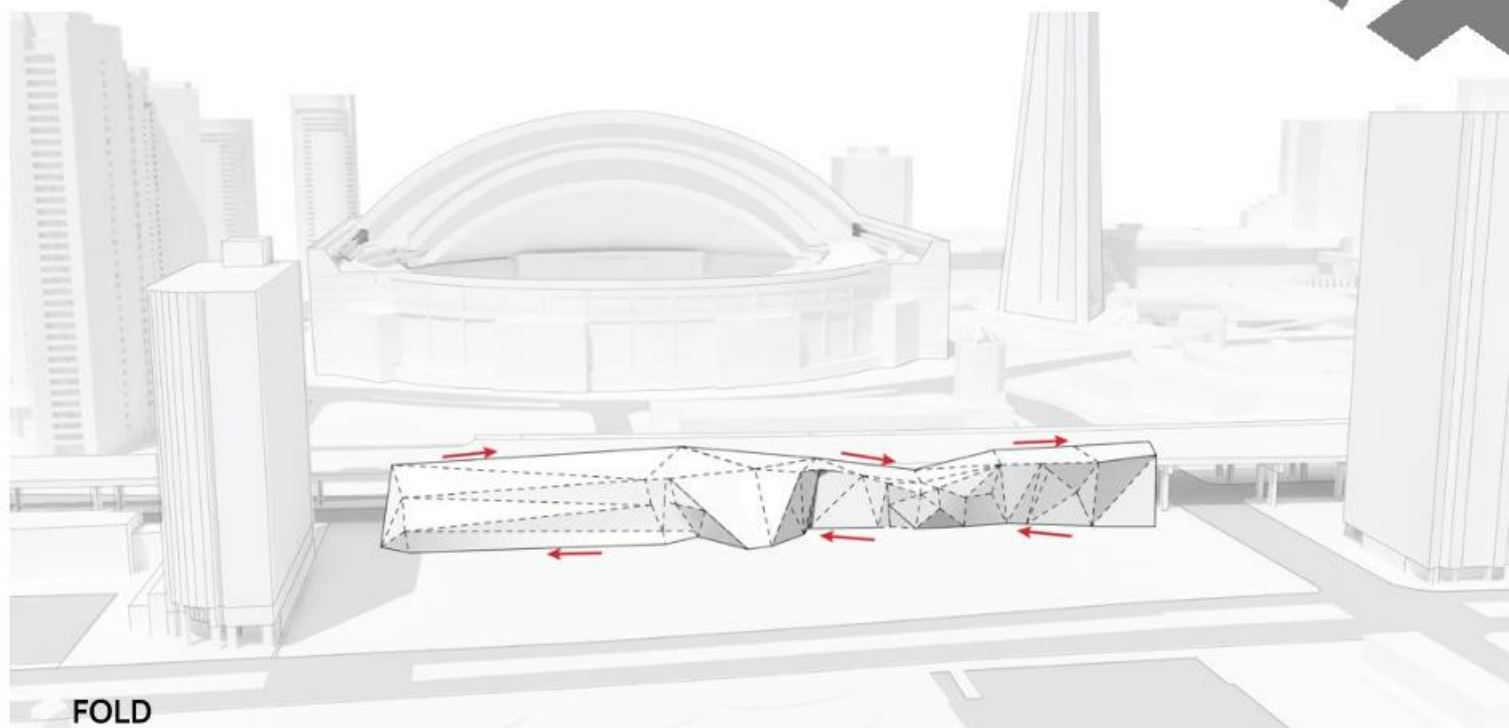
- 
 ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS
- 
 ECOLOGICALLY DIVERSE PLANTING
- 
 ELEVATED GREEN SPACE
- 
 WINTER ACTIVITIES
- 
 MARKET AREAS
- 
 TEMPORARY ART INSTALLATIONS (THROUGHOUT)
- 
 LARGE OPEN AREA
- 
 EVENT SPACE
- 
 LARGE SCALE CONTINUOUS LAWN



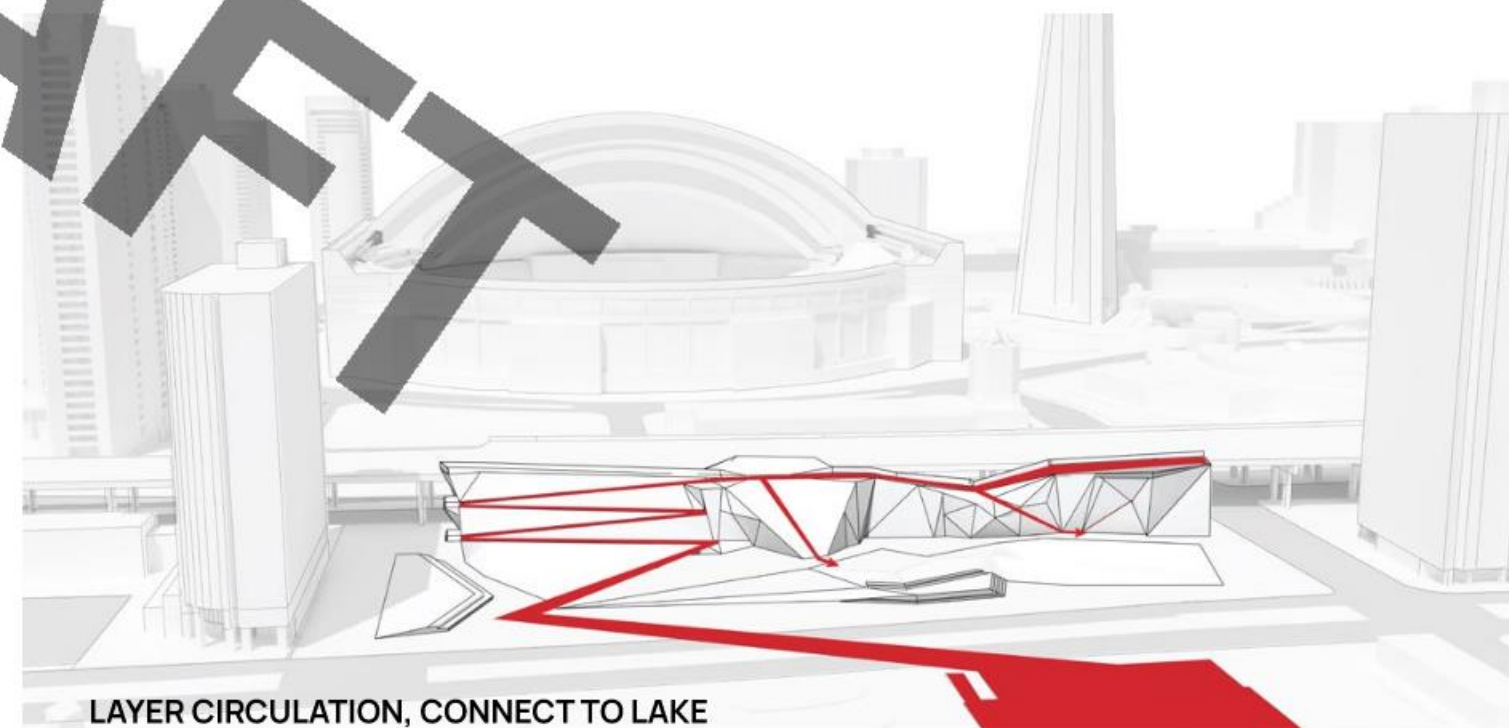
FRAME



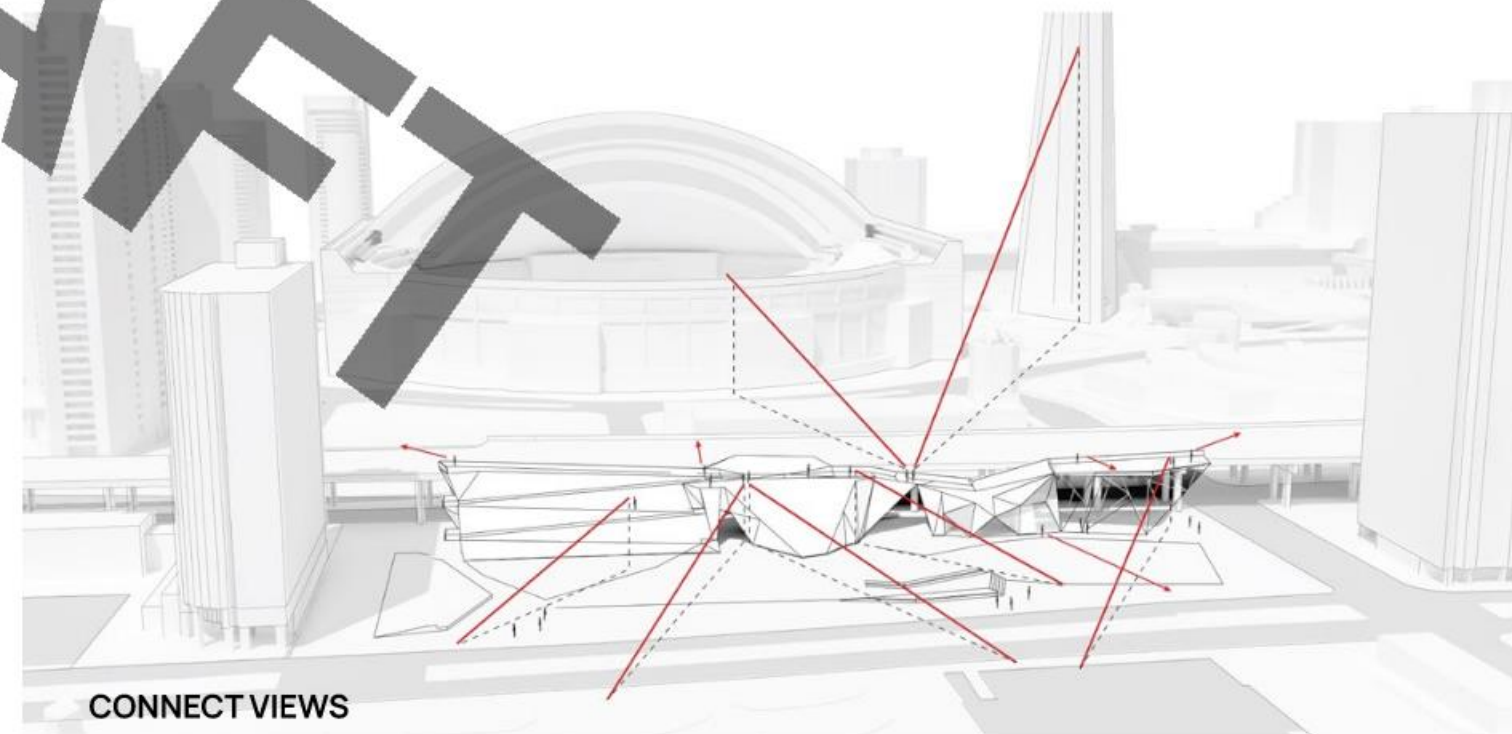
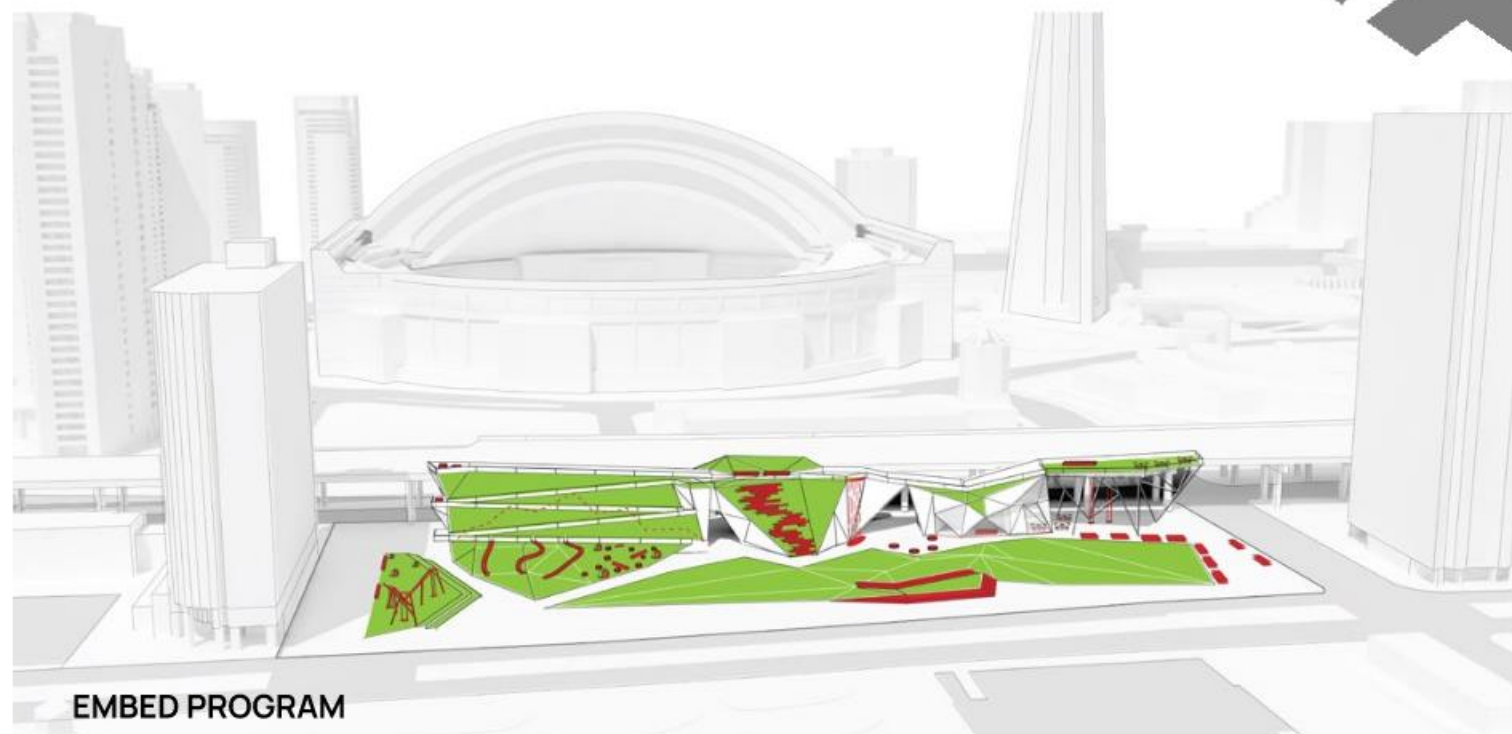
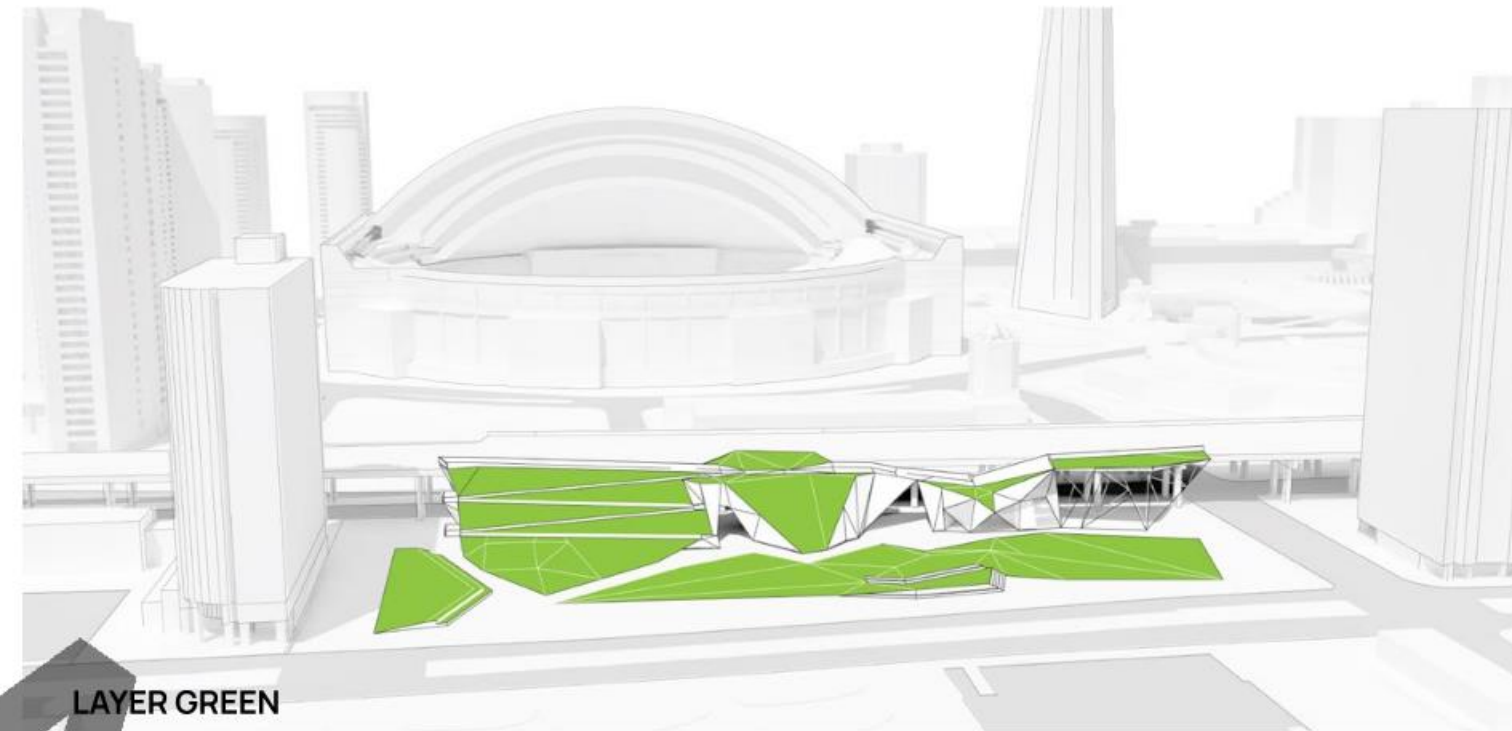
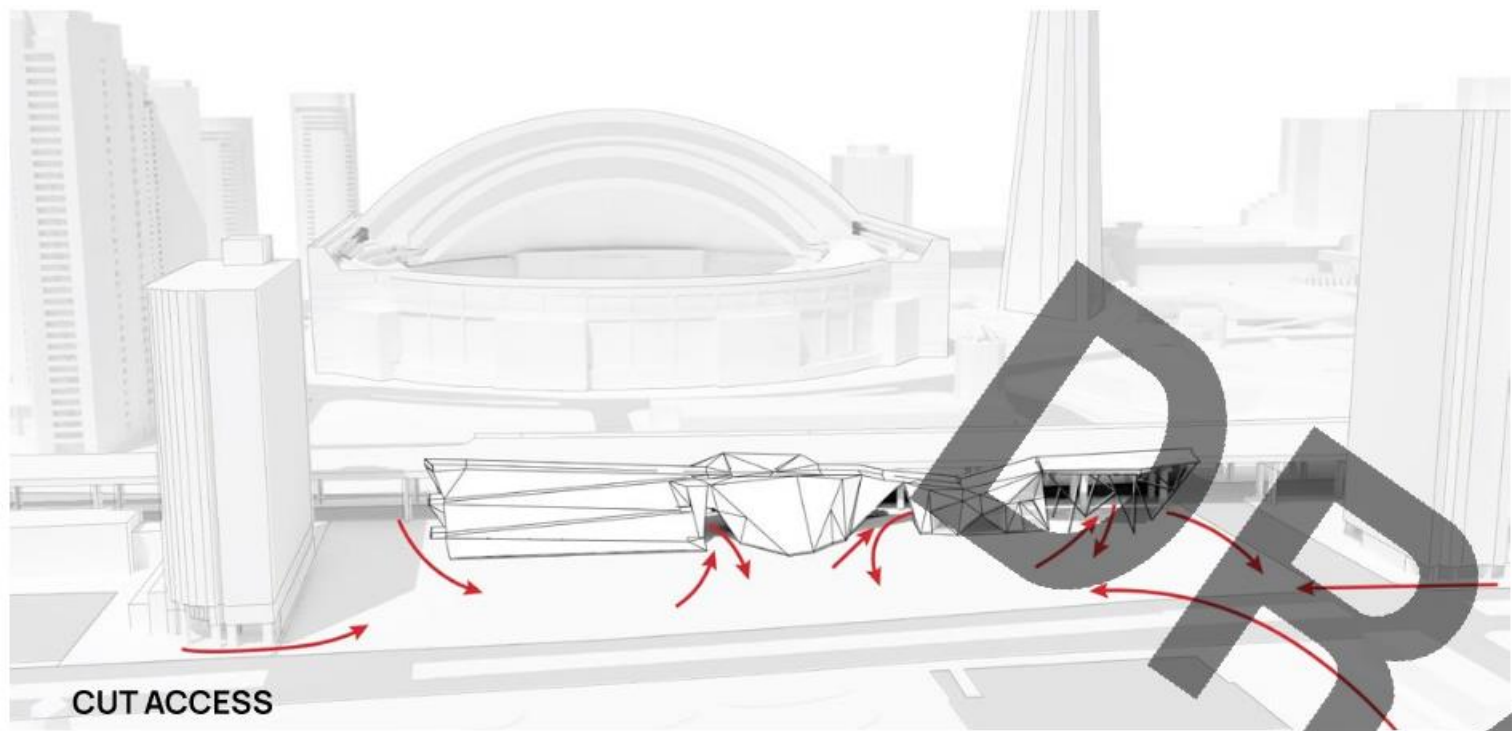
FLIP



FOLD

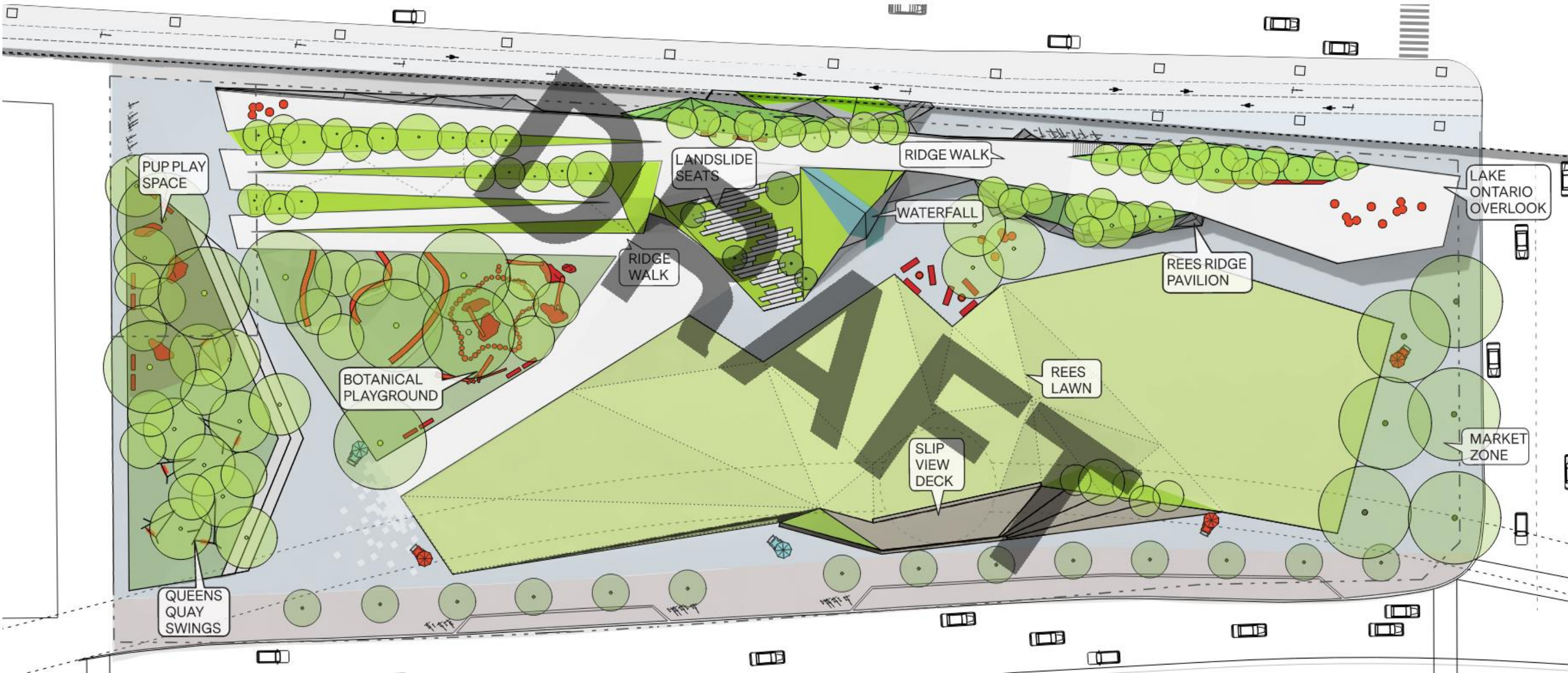


LAYER CIRCULATION, CONNECT TO LAKE



COMPETITION

JUNE 2018





DRAFT

Entry Plaza 1
&
Play

Play
&
Garden Slopes

Entry
Plaza 2

Landside

Community Plaza
&
Waterfall

Pavilion

Overlook

PLAN, DRP 1 ISSUES ID

SEPTEMBER, 2020



DRAFT



KEY DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

1. REALIGN DESIGN TO MEET NEW BUDGET
2. RETAIN CHARACTER AND SCALE OF RIDGE
3. MAXIMIZE GARDINER SCREENING
4. ENLIVEN AND GREEN LAKESHORE RIDGE FACE
5. RETAIN ACCESSIBLE LOOKOUT AT TOP OF RIDGE
6. RETAIN RIDGE INSPIRED PLANTING APPROACH
7. PROGRAM EMBEDDED IN OR UTILIZES SLOPES
8. ACCOMMODATE FLEXIBLE PROGRAM
9. FUTURE SHAFT CONSTRUCTION

KEY PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATIONS

1. MIX OF ACTIVE AND PASSIVE USE
2. PLAYGROUND IS FEATURE ELEMENT THAT DRAWS FAMILIES TO PARK
3. MAKE OFF LEASH AREA A RESPITE FOR WATERFRONT DOG OWNERS
4. COURT IS MULTI-USE & ABLE TO HOST RANGE OF ACTIVITIES BEYOND BASKETBALL
5. ACTIVE SPACE IN ALL SEASONS
6. PARK INFRASTRUCTURE MEETS NEEDS OF WATERFRONT COMMUNITY

DRAFT

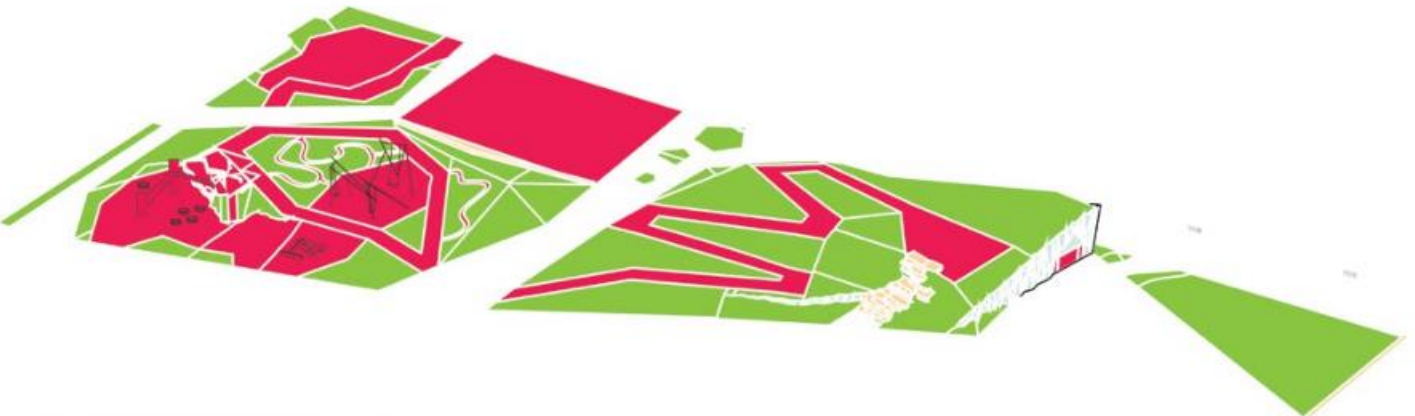


COMPETITION

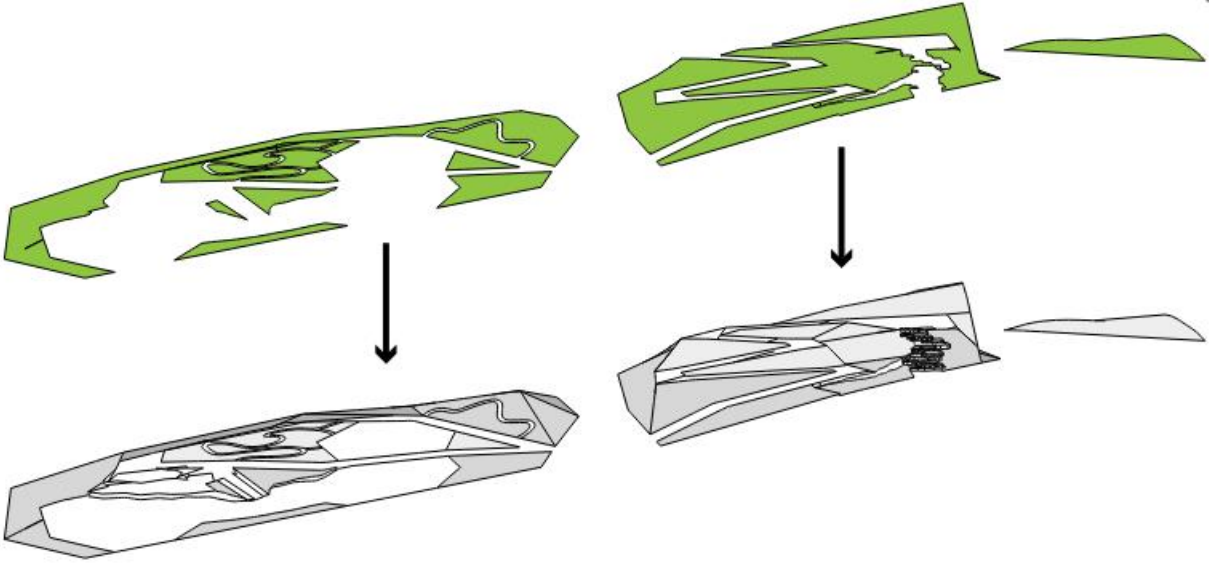
PROPOSED

RIDGE AS HOST

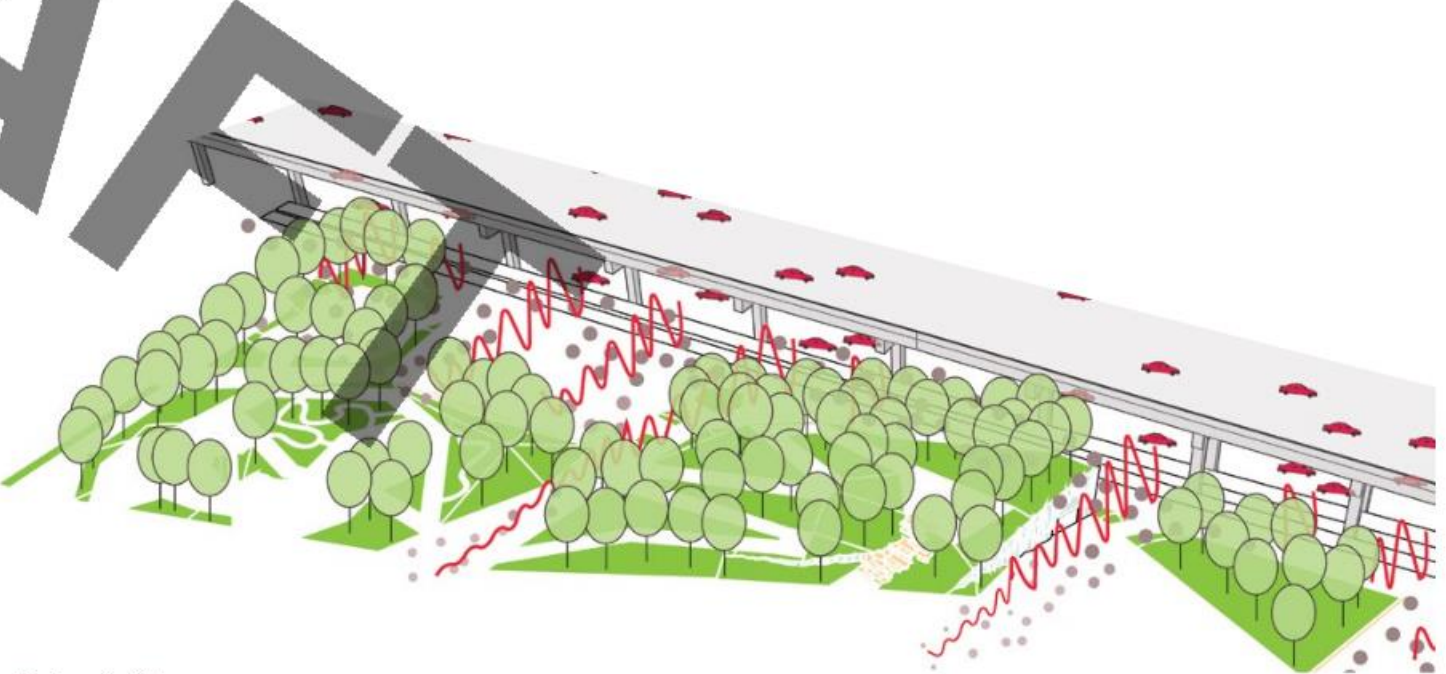
DRAFT



Program anchored on Ridge

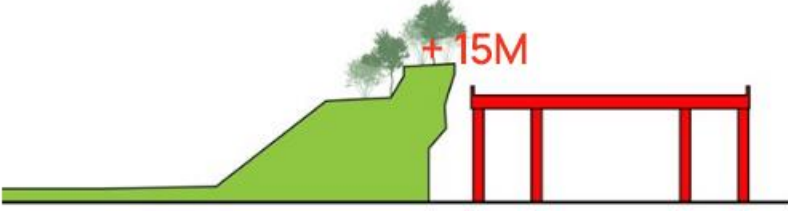


Manufactured topography + bluff ecology



Ridge is filter

OPTIMIZING THE RIDGE



Competition



September 2020



November 2022

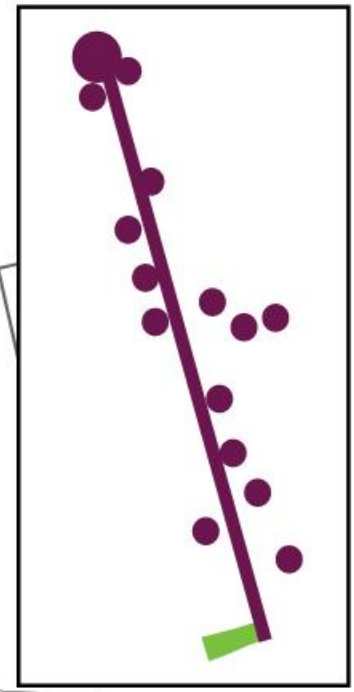
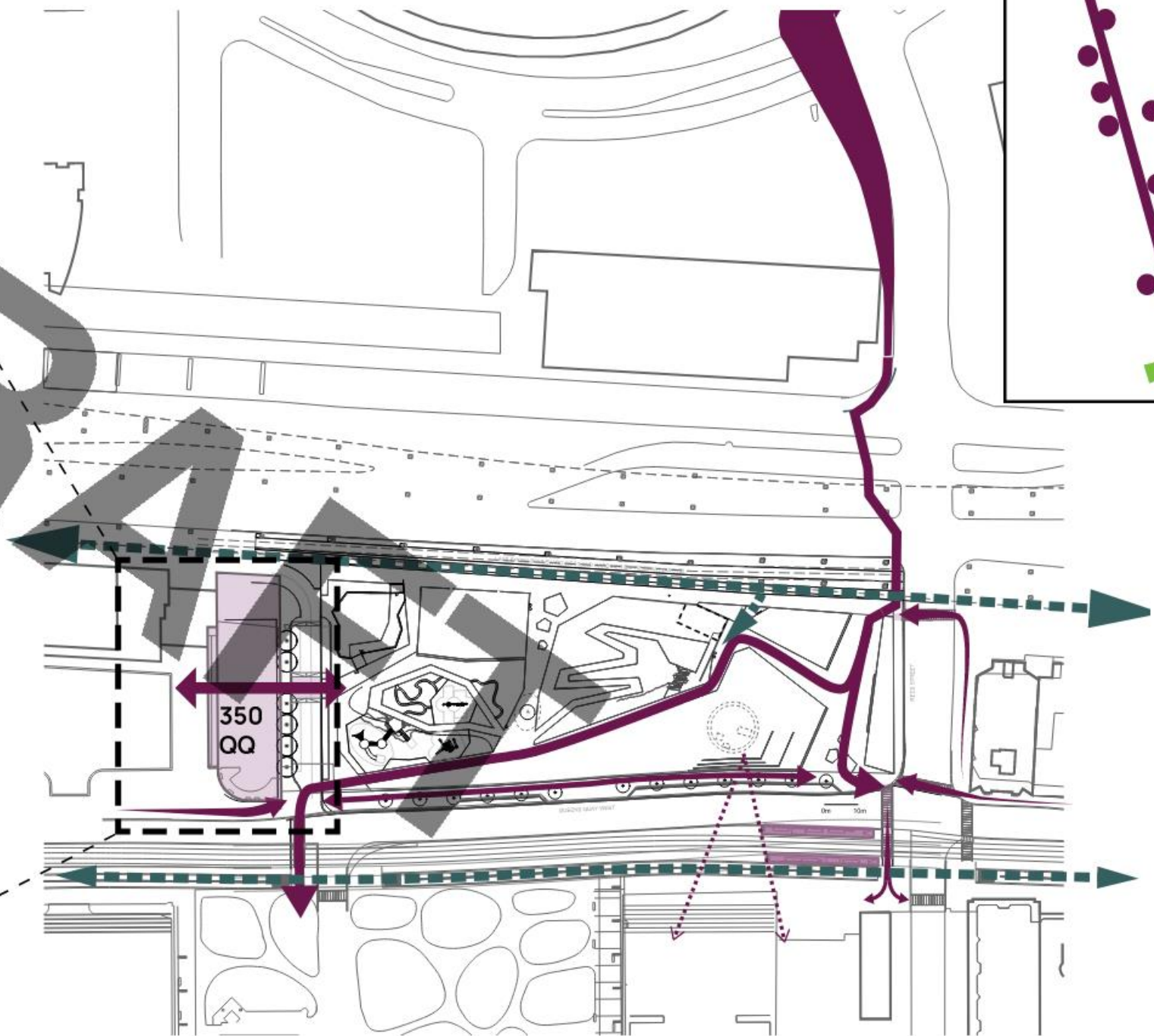
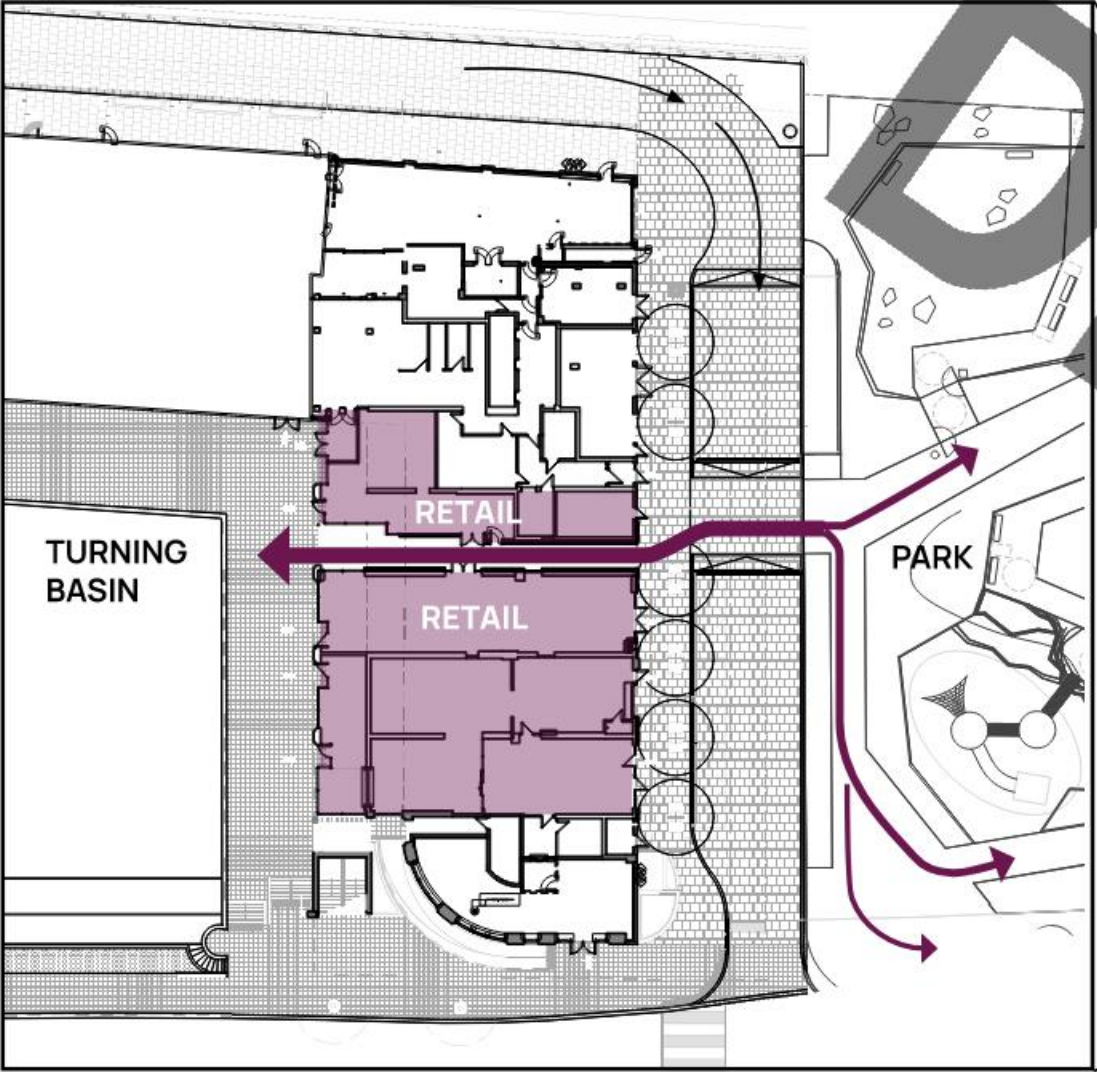
RIDGE IS ICONIC GREEN FOREGROUND

DRAFT

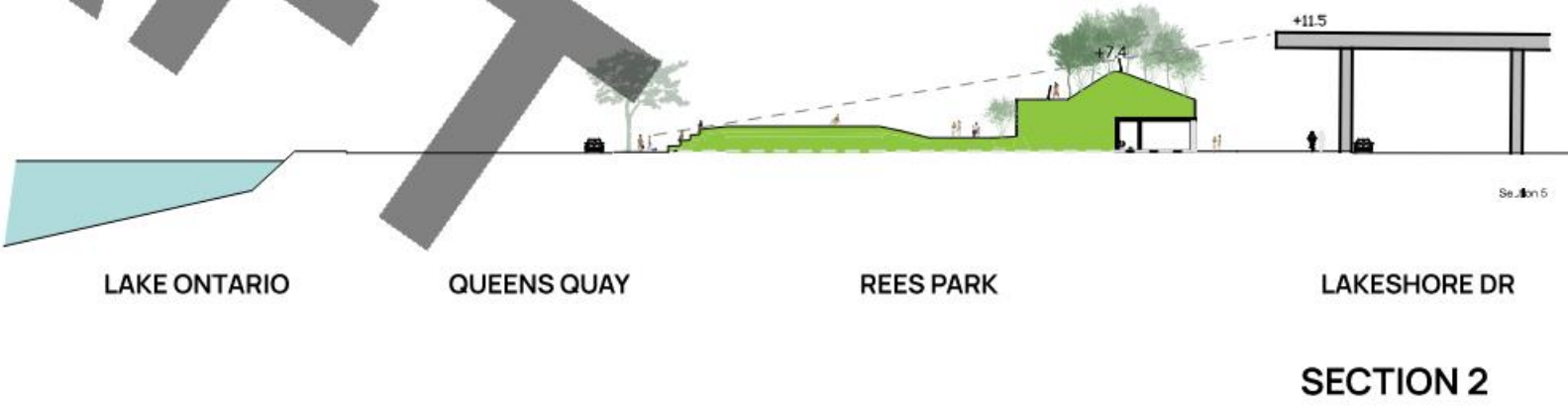
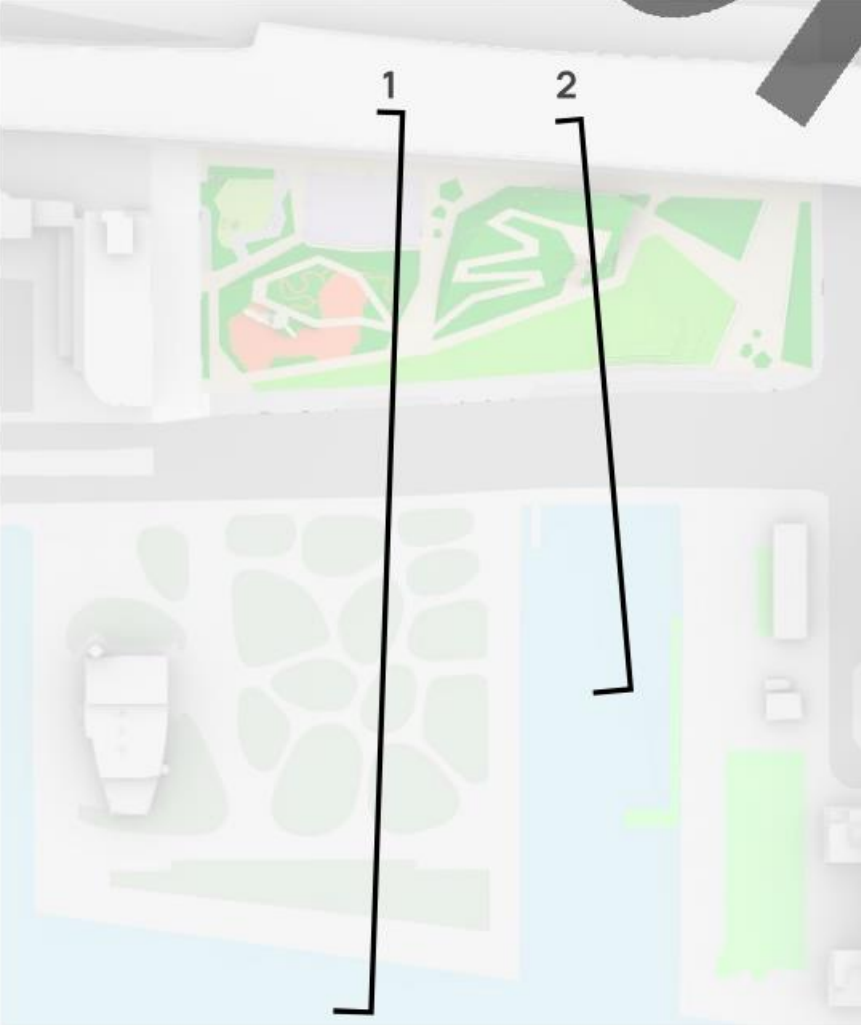
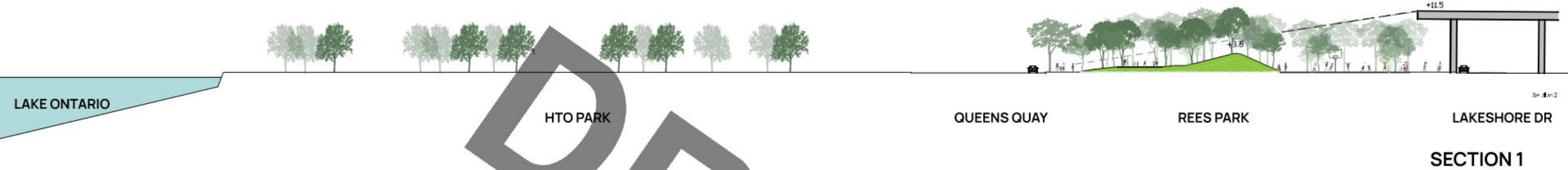


ANCHOR AND HEART

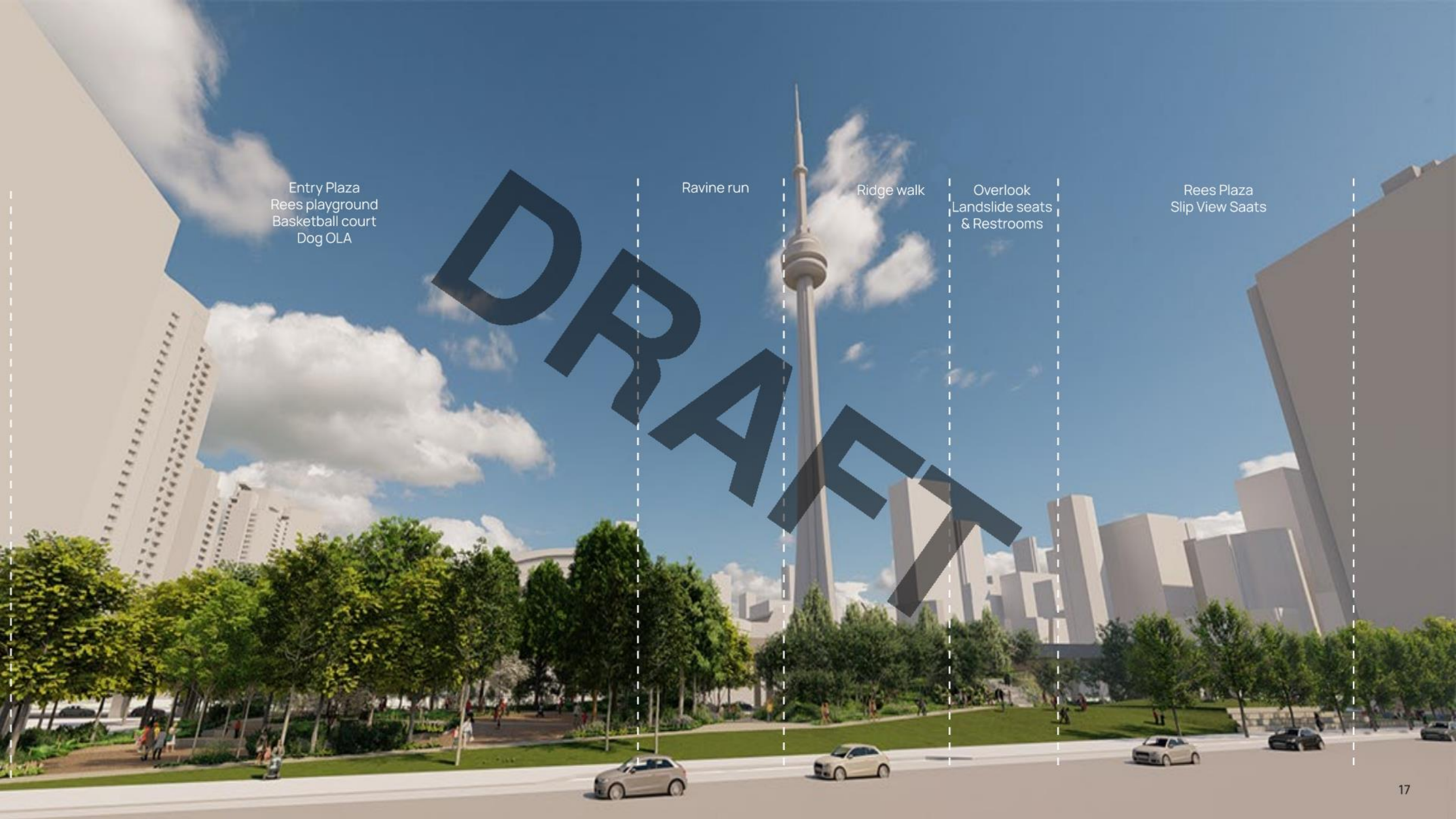
JOHN ST. CULTURAL CORRIDOR



CONTEXT



DRAFT



Entry Plaza
Rees playground
Basketball court
Dog OLA

Ravine run

Ridge walk

Overlook
Landslide seats
& Restrooms

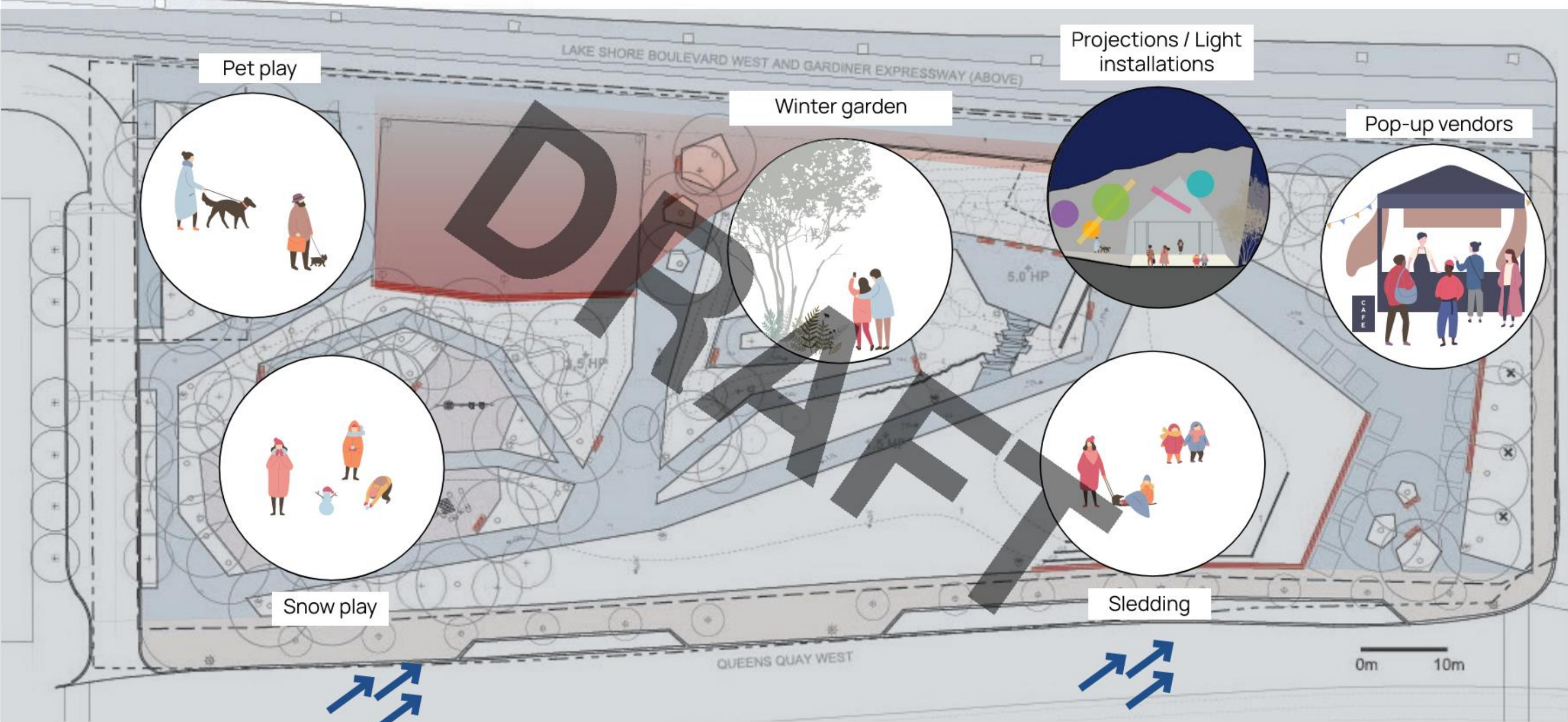
Rees Plaza
Slip View Saats

DRAFT

THIS PARK IS FUN!



PROGRAMMING WINTER



SW winter winds

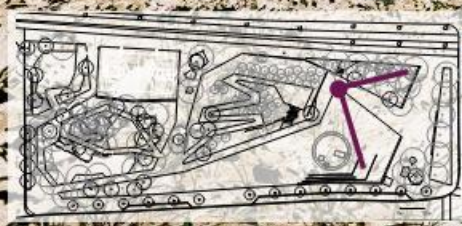
SW winter winds

+
Blanket toss

Toboggan slide
Ice/snow slide

Snow storage

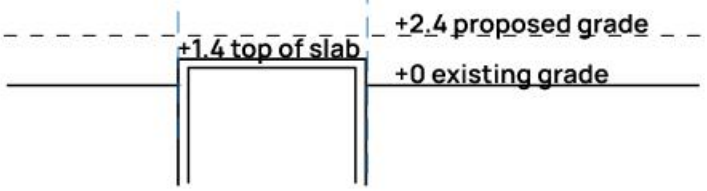
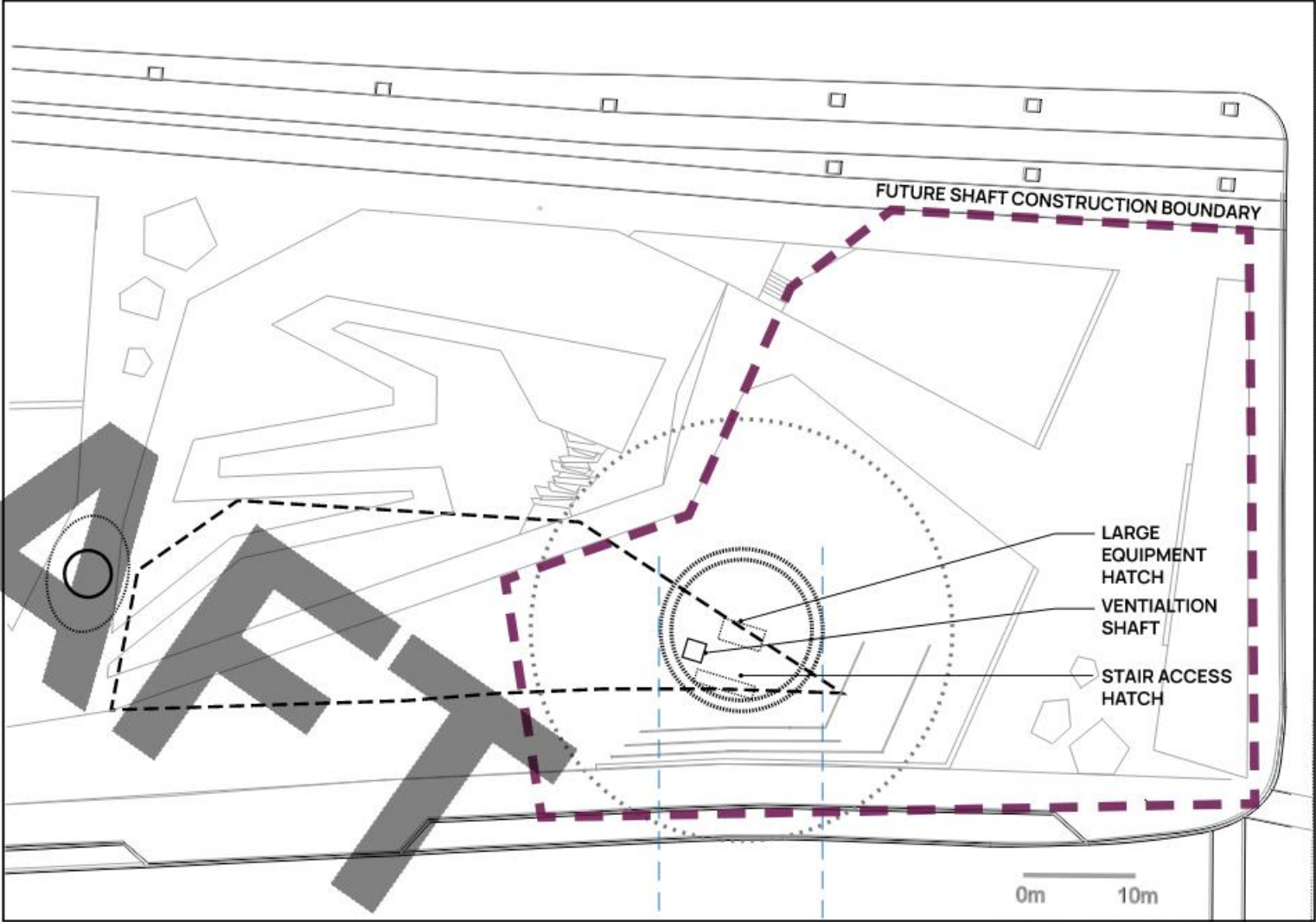
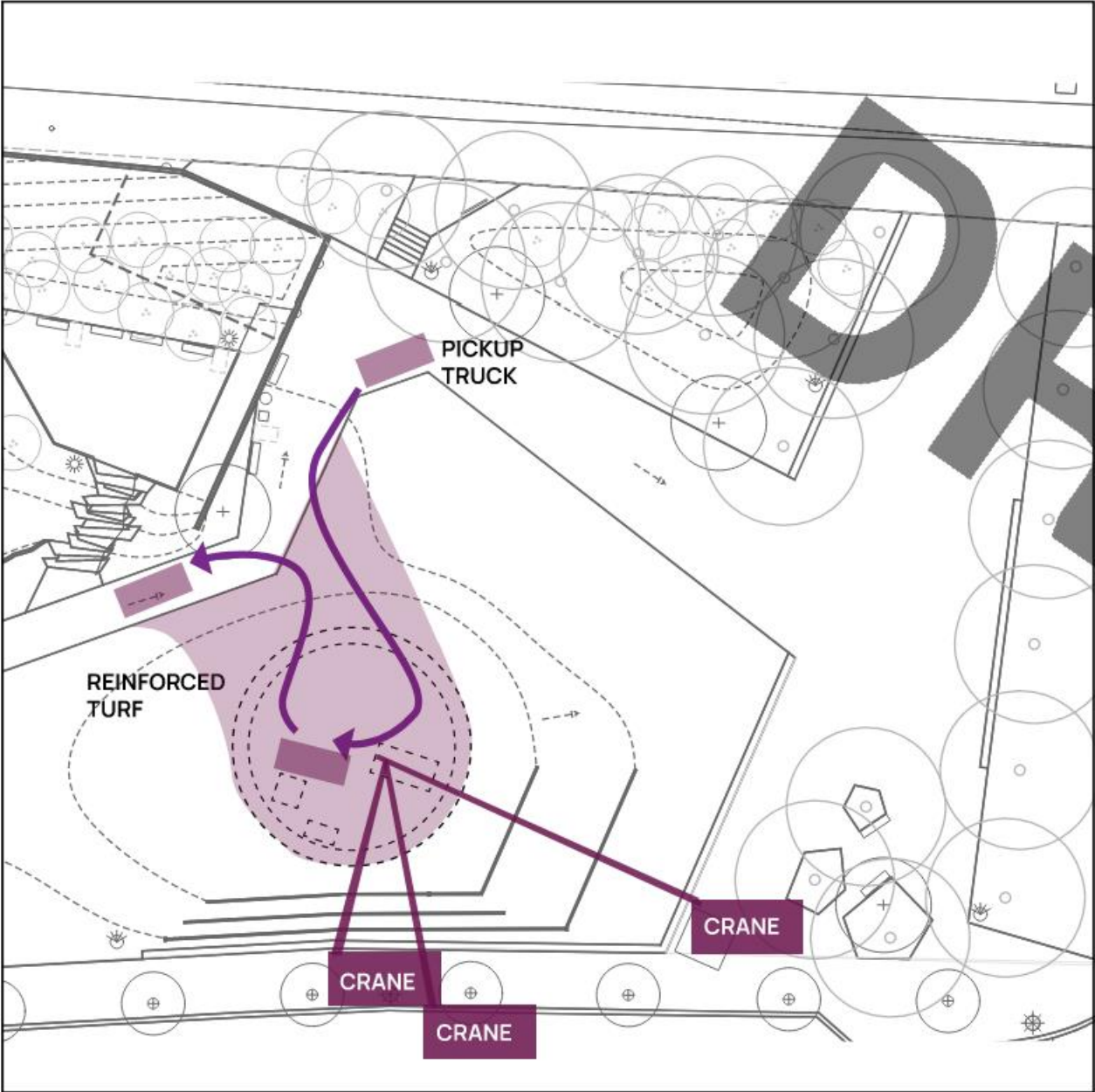
DRAFT



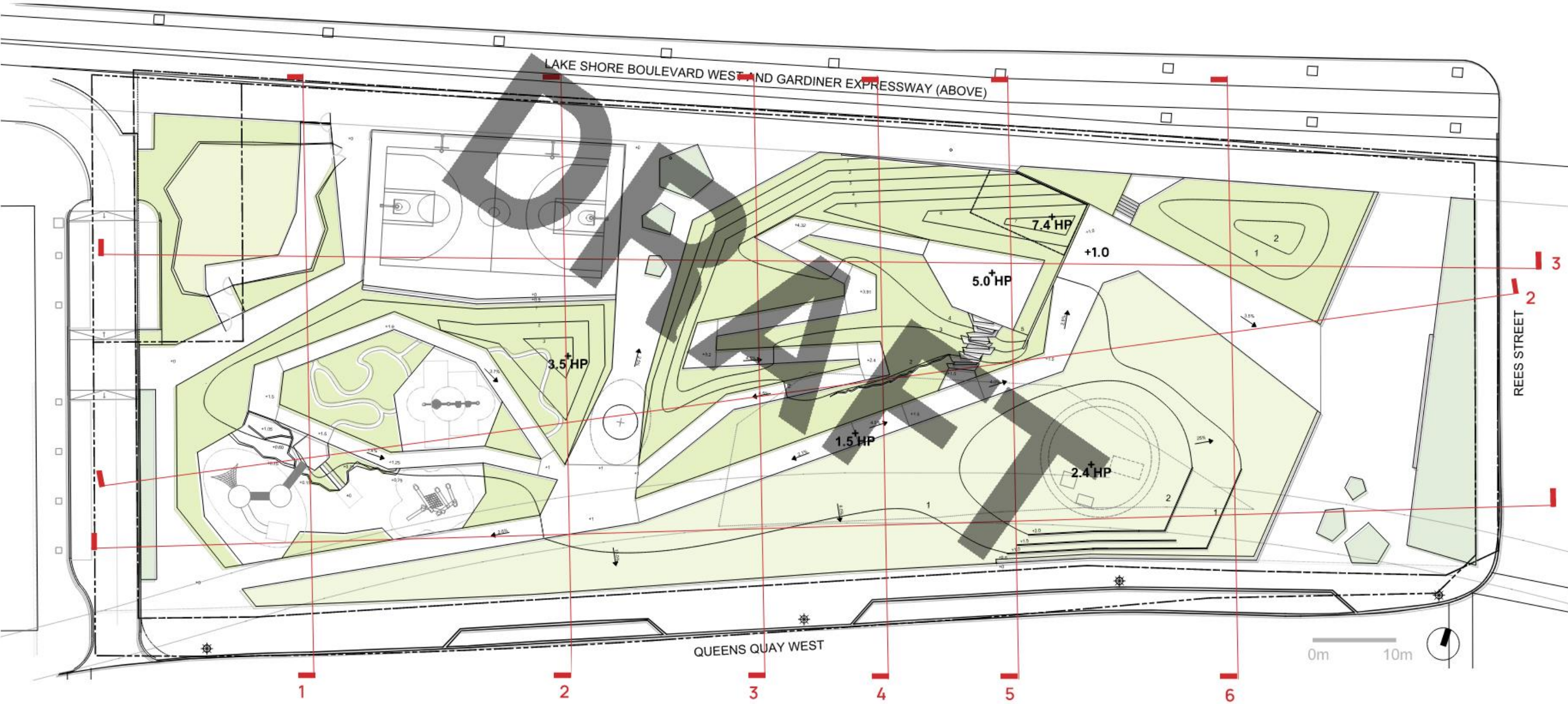
EXISTING CONDITIONS



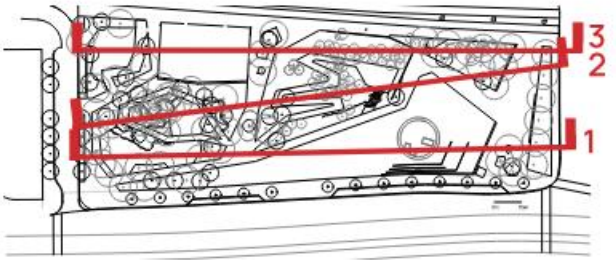
STORMWATER SHAFT CONSIDERATIONS



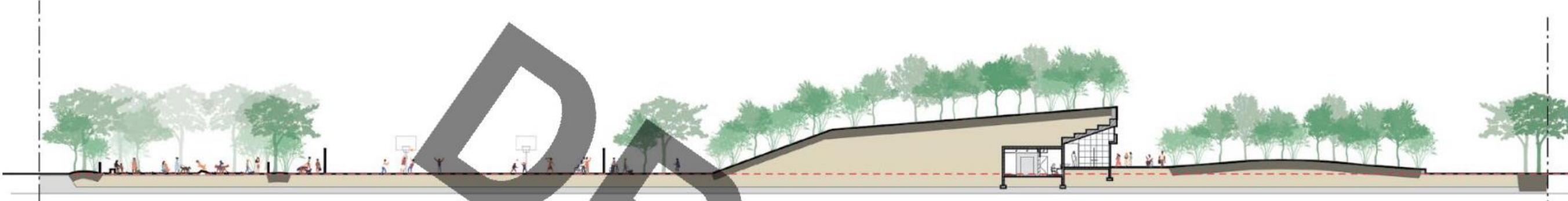
GRADING APPROACH



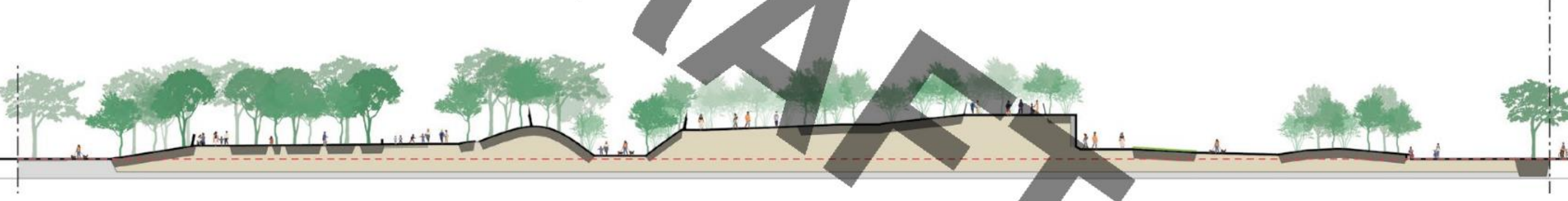
EAST-WEST SECTIONS



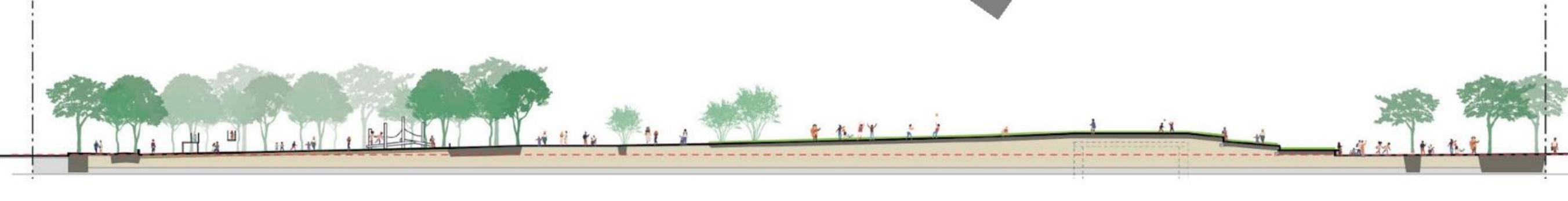
3



2



1



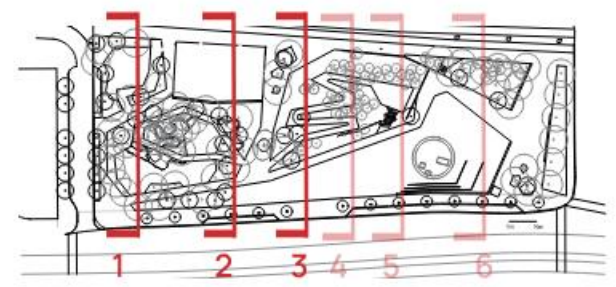
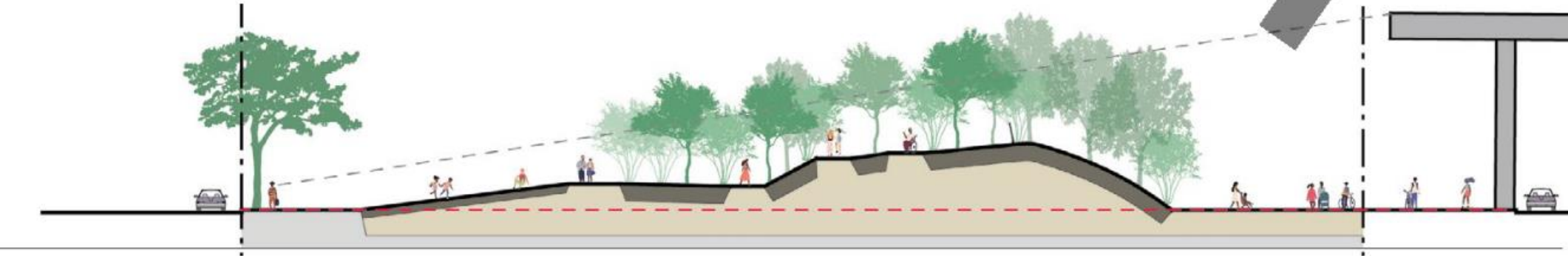
1



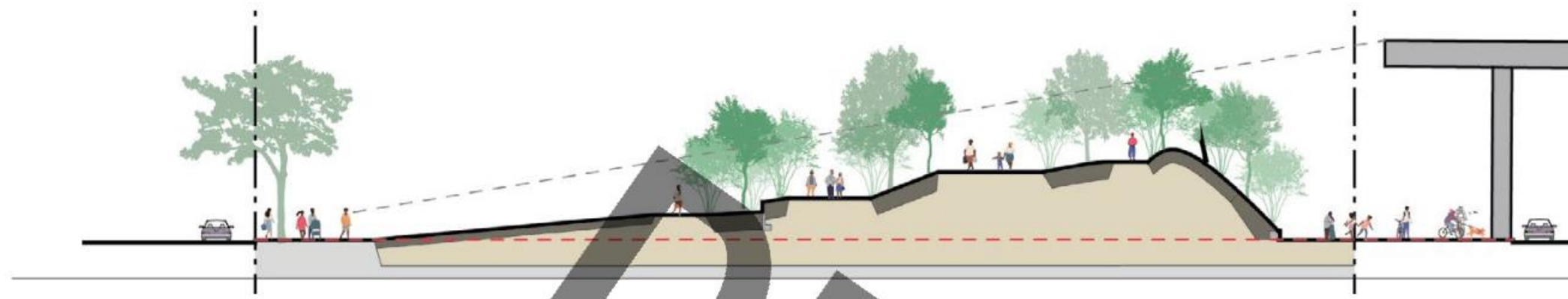
2



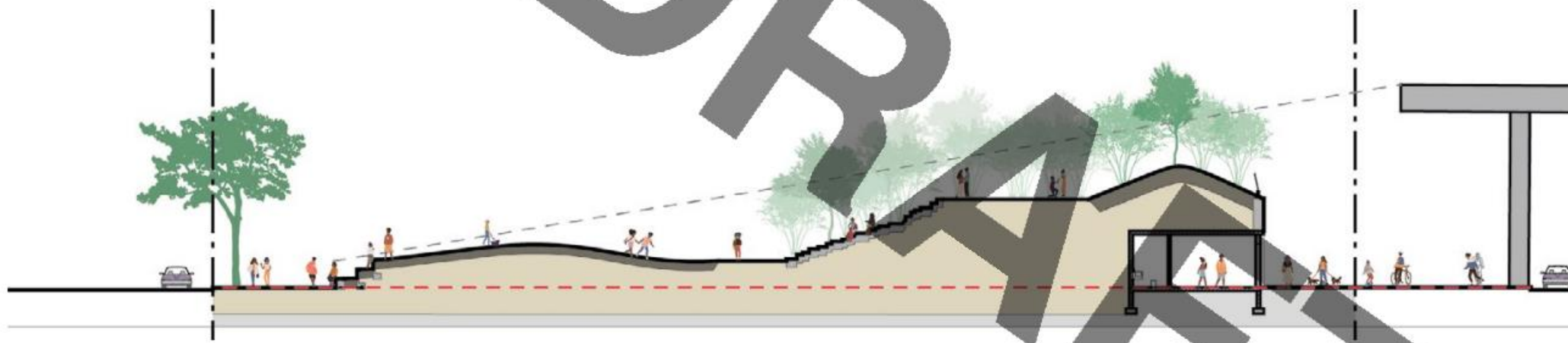
3



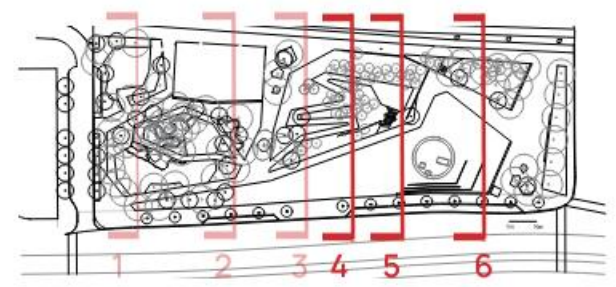
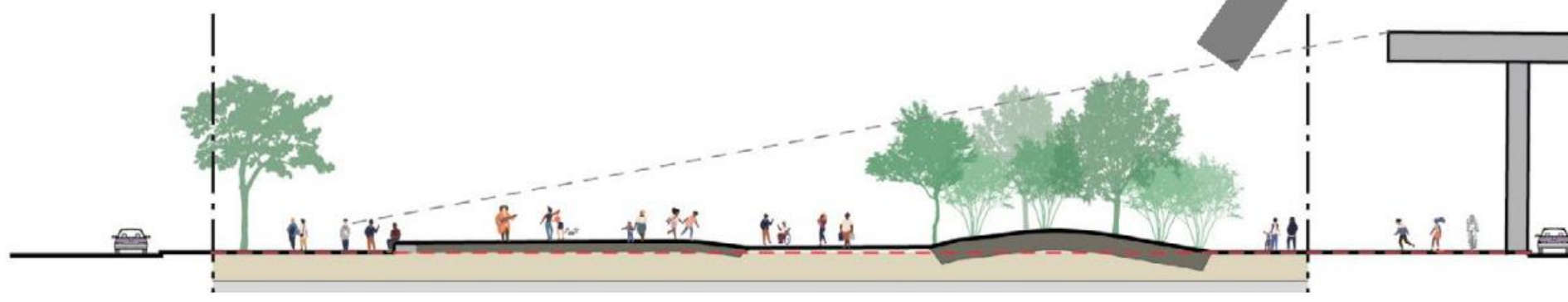
4



5

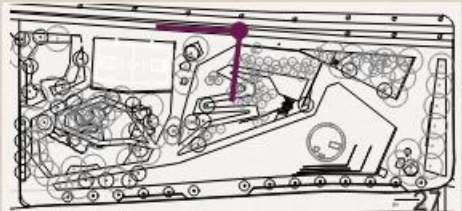


6



DRAFT

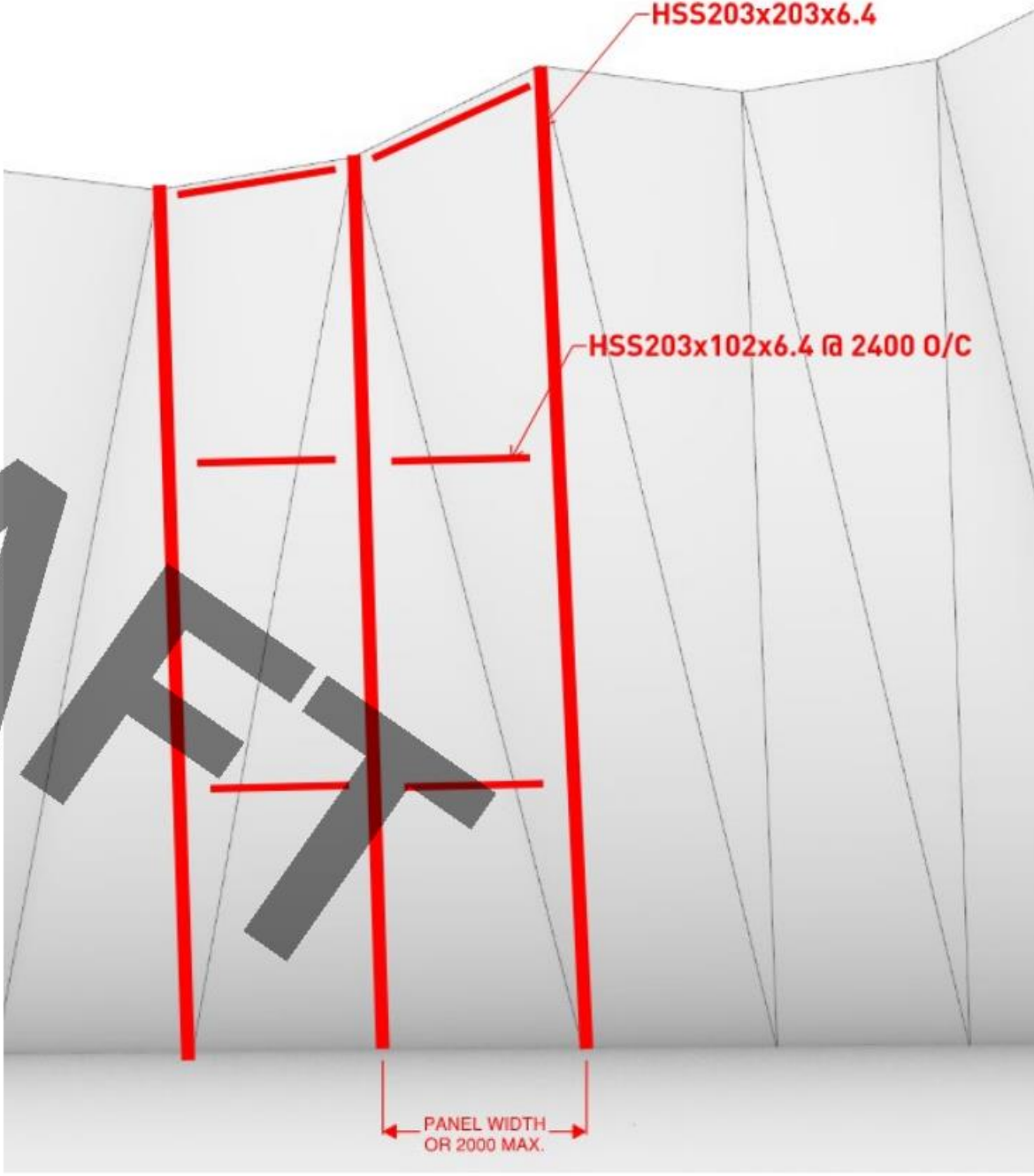
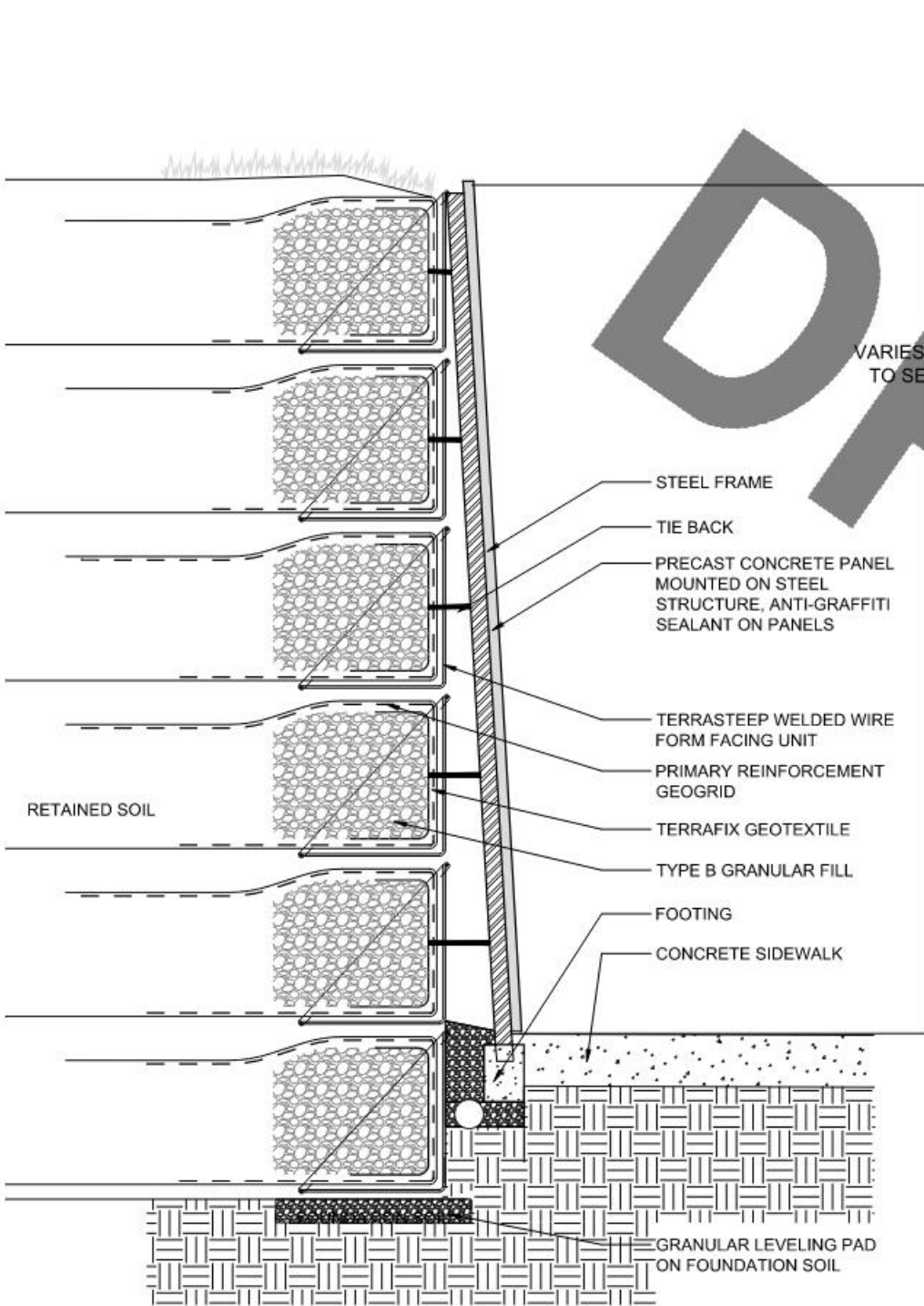
FRAMED VIEWS TO LAKE



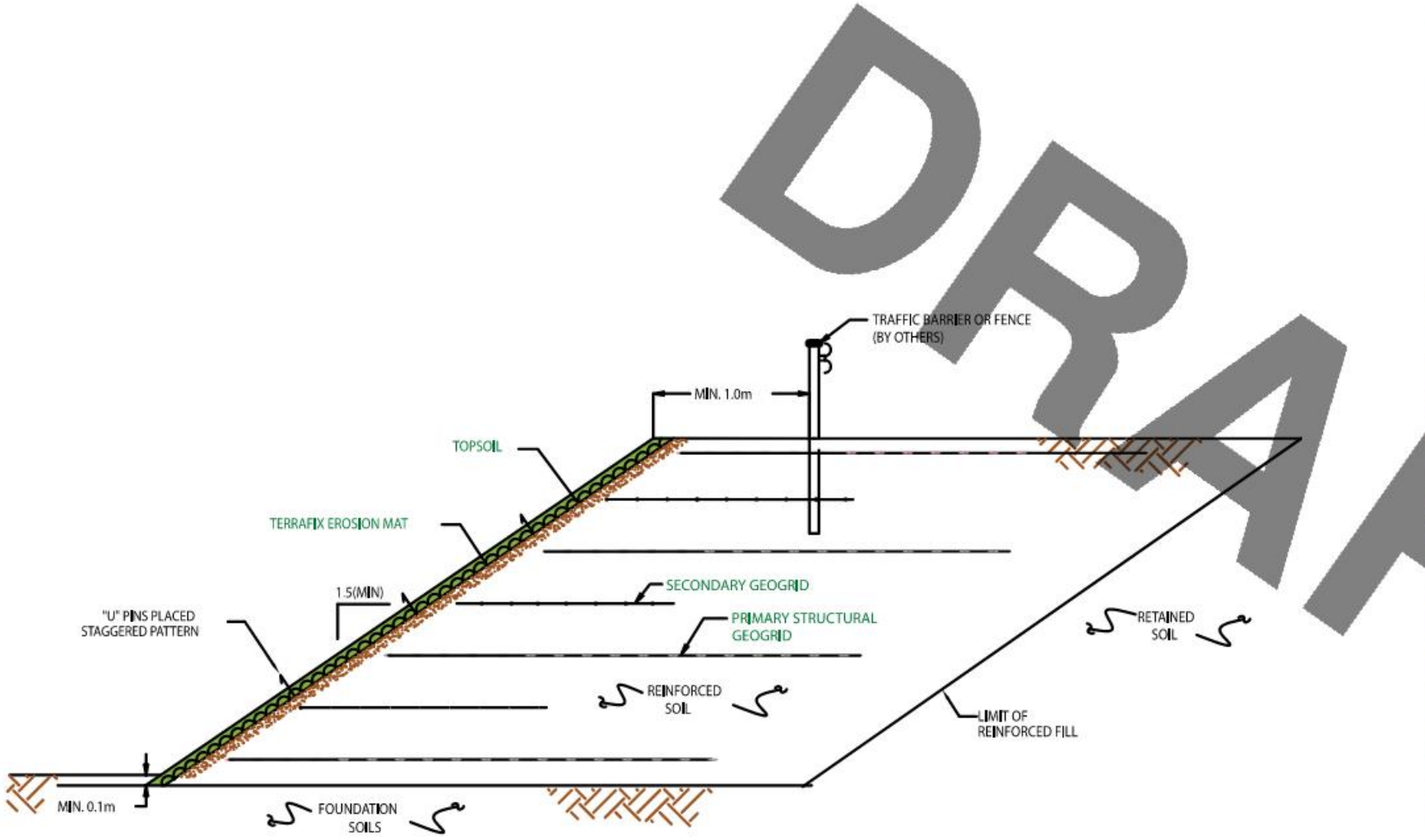
RIDGE GEOMETRY



RIDGE GEOMETRY + STRUCTURE



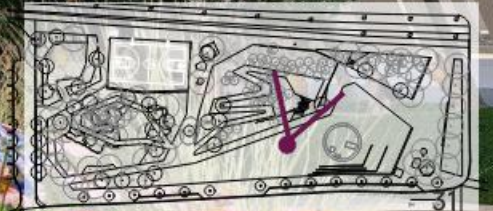
GREEN STEEP SLOPES



LANDSLIDE STEPS



PRECEDENT: GOVERNORS ISLAND SCRAMBLE

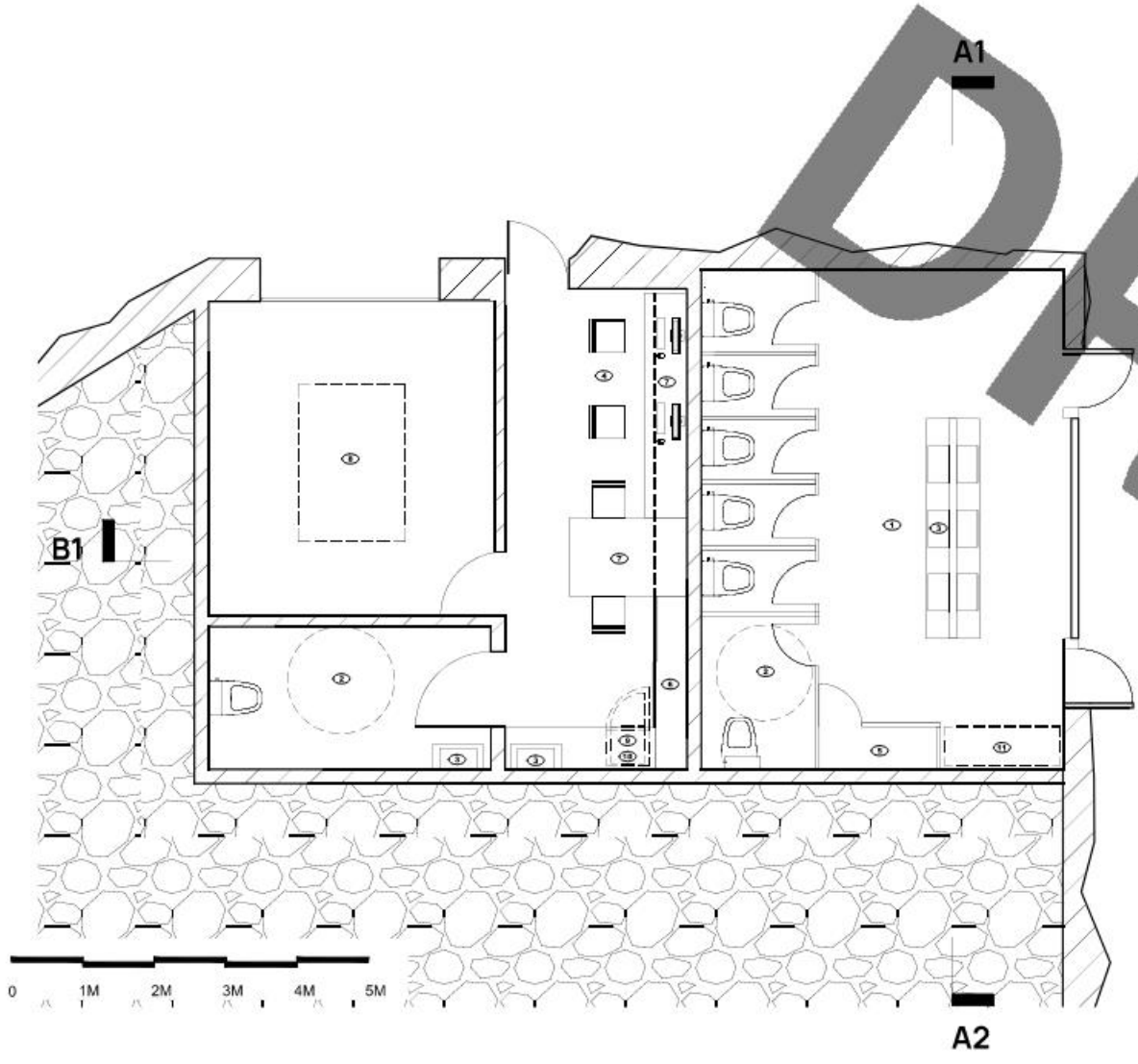


WATERFRONT BALCONY

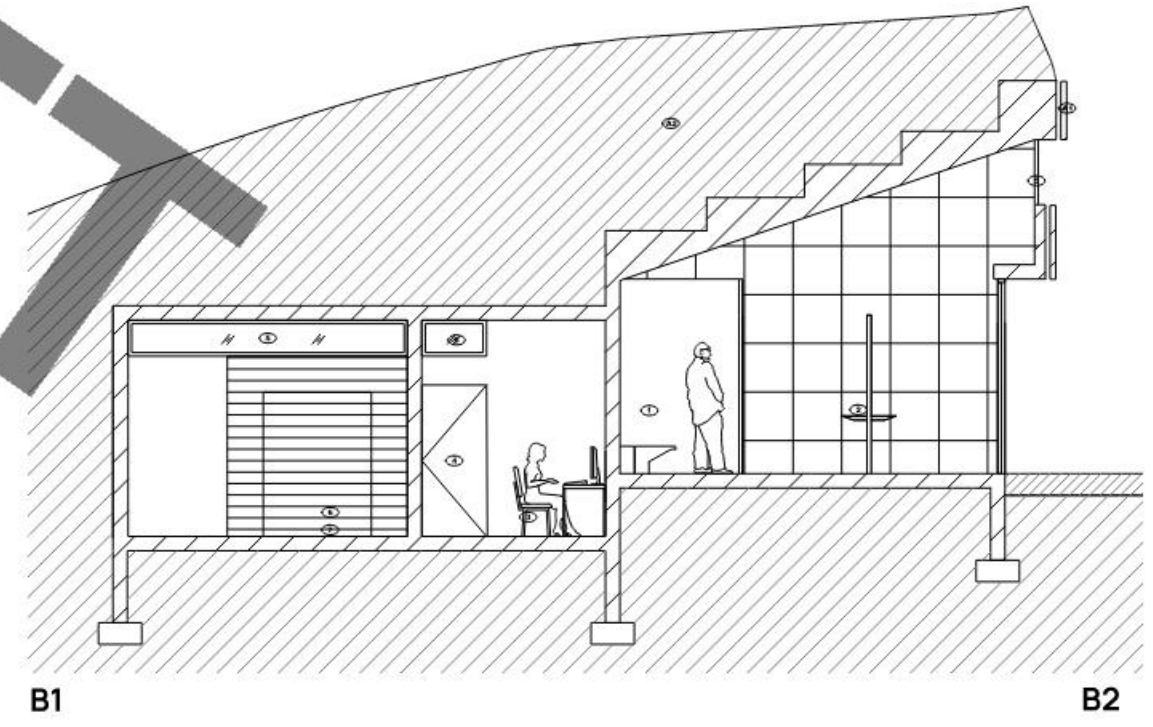
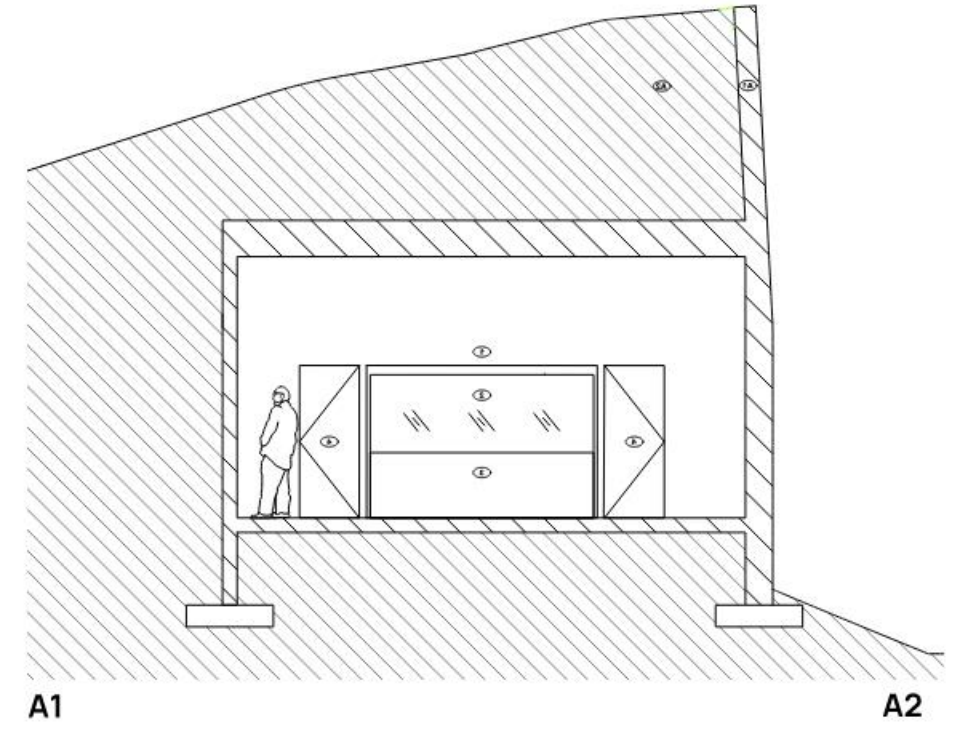
DRAFT



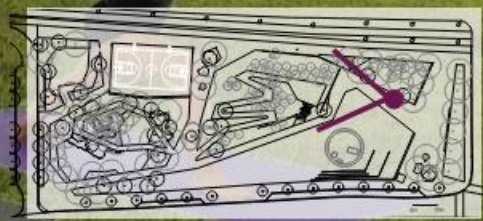
BUILDING PLAN



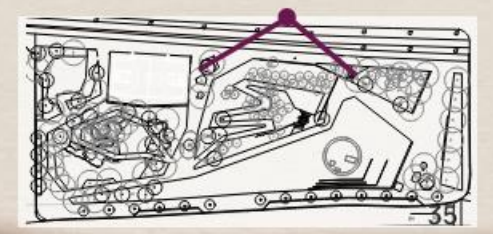
- KEY
- 1 Public Restroom
 - 2 Accessible Restroom
 - 3 Sink
 - 4 Staff Area
 - 5 Storage
 - 6 Cabinet
 - 7 Chair
 - 8 Table
 - 9 Fridge
 - 10 Microwave
 - 11 Flat Down Charging Station
 - 12 97 MSE Wall With Vitr
 - 13 67 MSE Wall
 - 14 Aggregat
 - 15 Soil
- AREA COUNT
83 SQM (INTERIOR AREA)



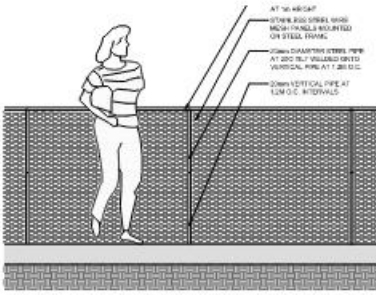
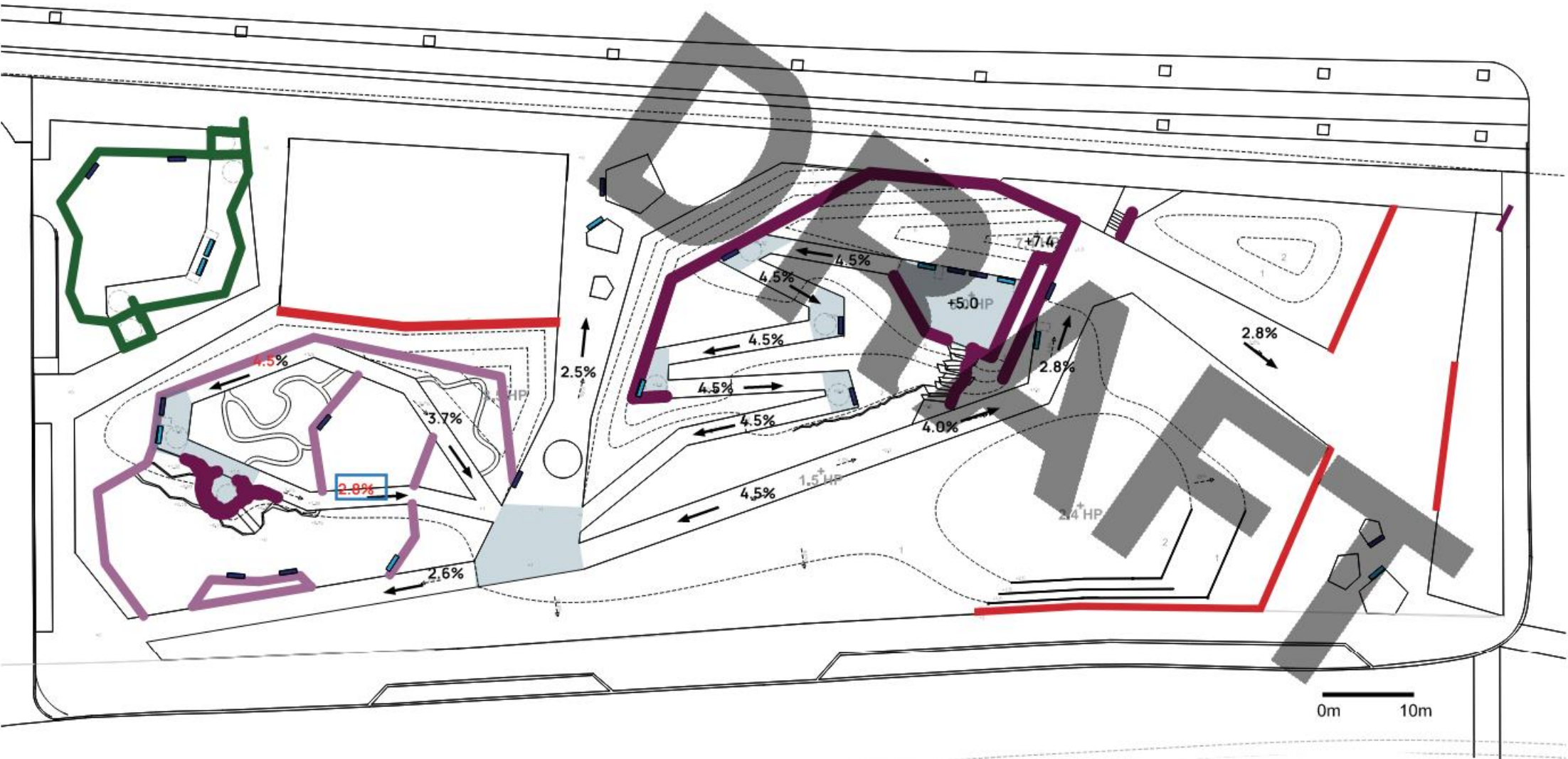
WHY



GREENING LAKESHORE



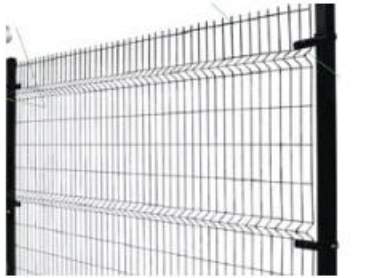
RESPITE, RAILINGS + FENCES



SAFETY RAILING



PLANTING FENCE



OMEGA FENCE

120 M SEAT WALL



12 BACKLESS BENCHES

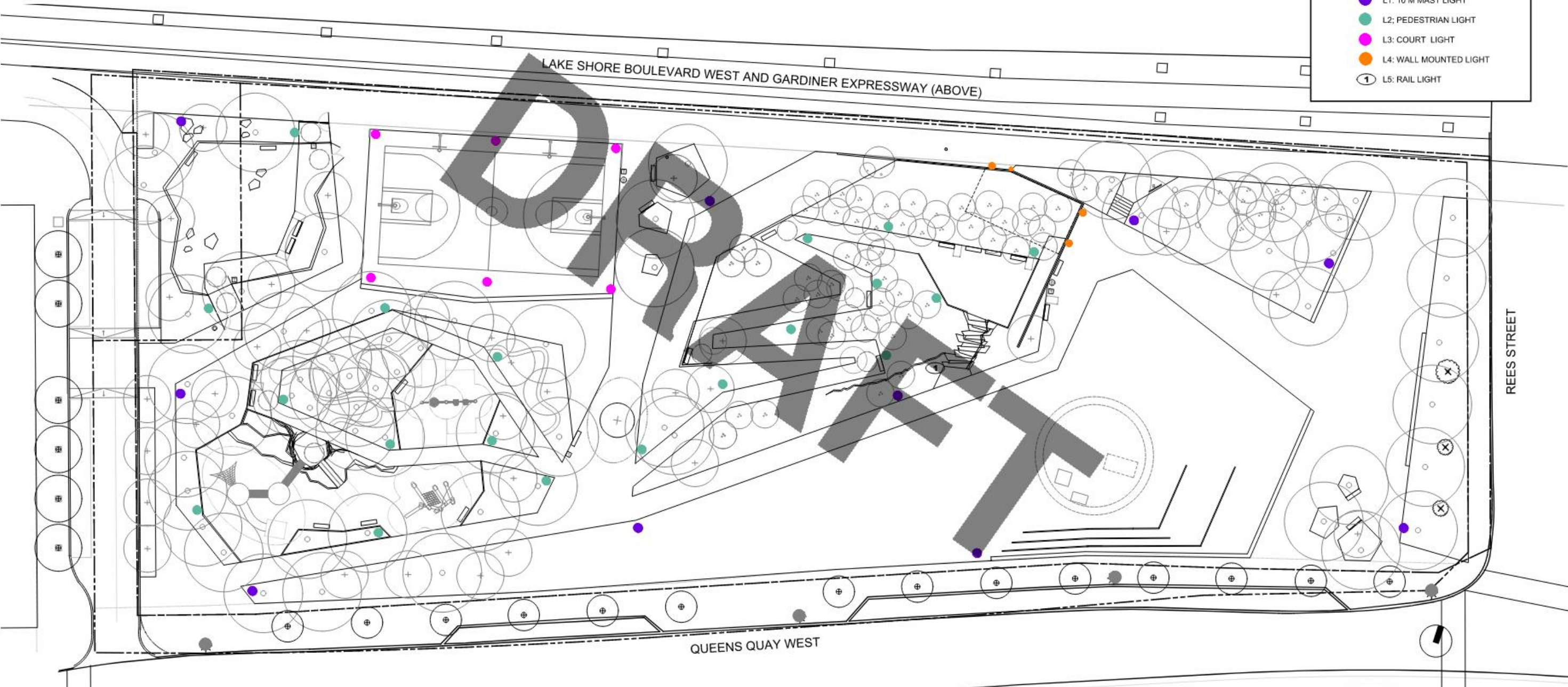


8 BACKED BENCHES⁶

LIGHTING

KEY

- PROPERTY LINE
- - - LIMIT OF WORK
- EXISTING STREET LIGHT
- L1: 10 M MAST LIGHT
- L2: PEDESTRIAN LIGHT
- L3: COURT LIGHT
- L4: WALL MOUNTED LIGHT
- ① L5: RAIL LIGHT



REES STREET

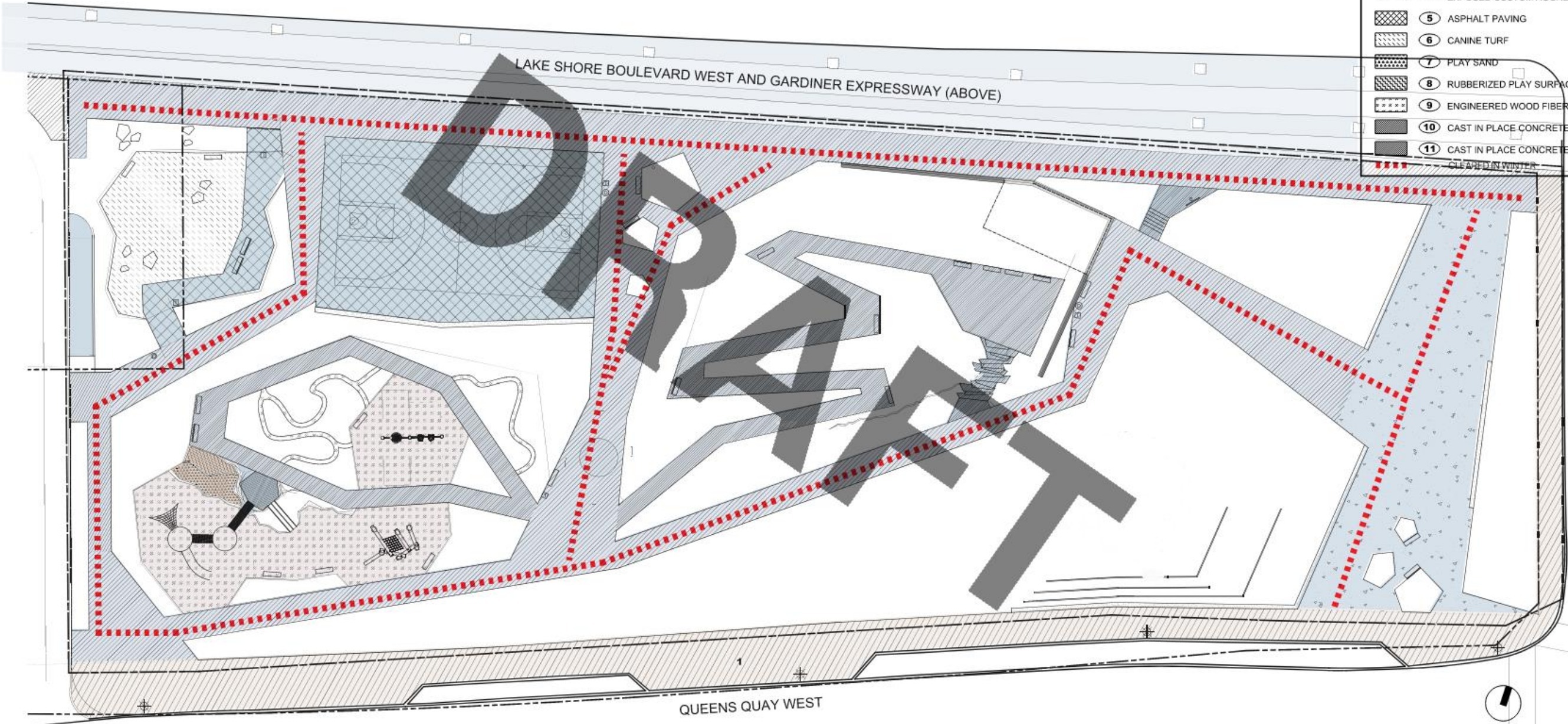
QUEENS QUAY WEST

LAKE SHORE BOULEVARD WEST AND GARDINER EXPRESSWAY (ABOVE)

HARD SURFACES









KEY

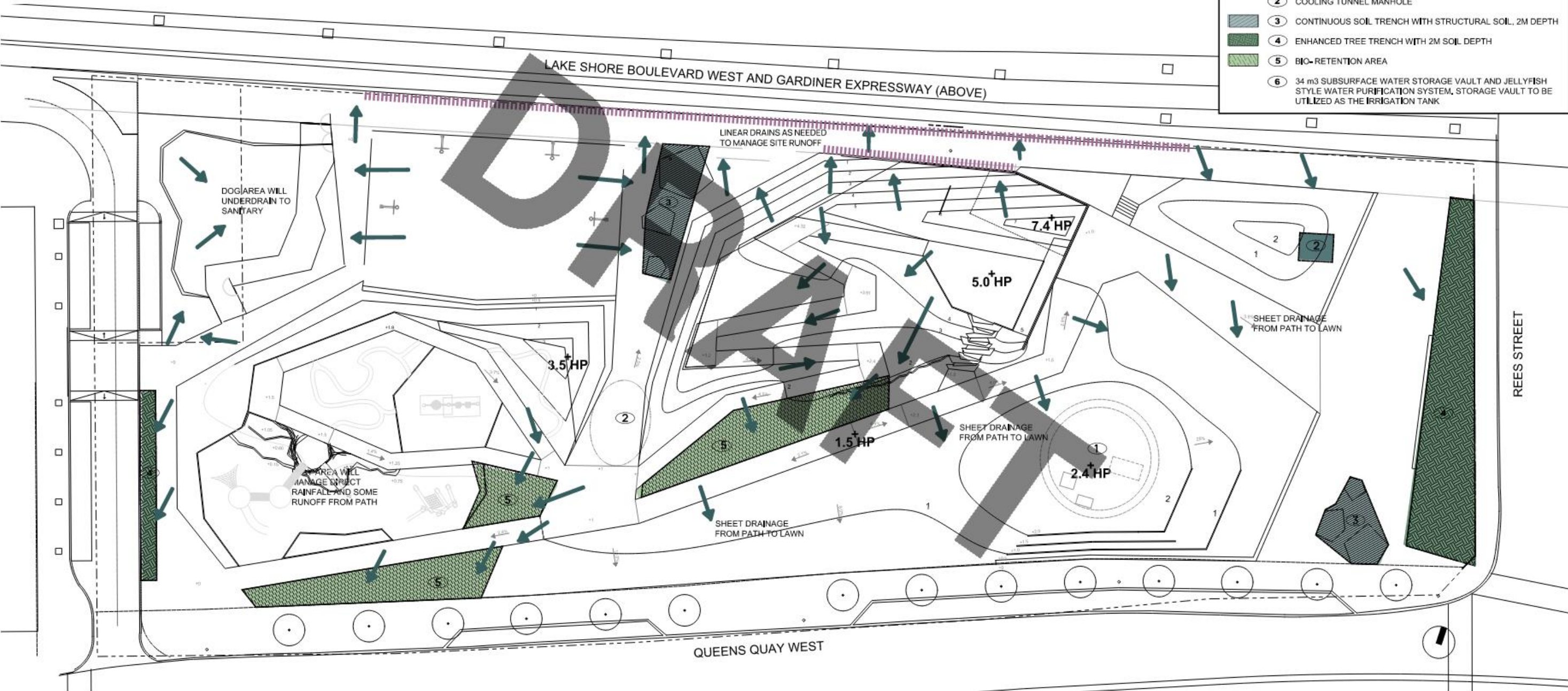
	1	EXISTING SIDEWALK
	2	CONCRETE PAVING, PEDESTRIAN
	3	CONCRETE PAVING, VEHICULAR
	4	CONCRETE PAVING, VEHICULAR WITH EXPOSED CUSTOM AGGREGATE
	5	ASPHALT PAVING
	6	CANINE TURF
	7	PLAY SAND
	8	RUBBERIZED PLAY SURFACE
	9	ENGINEERED WOOD FIBER
	10	CAST IN PLACE CONCRETE STAIR
	11	CAST IN PLACE CONCRETE CLIMBER



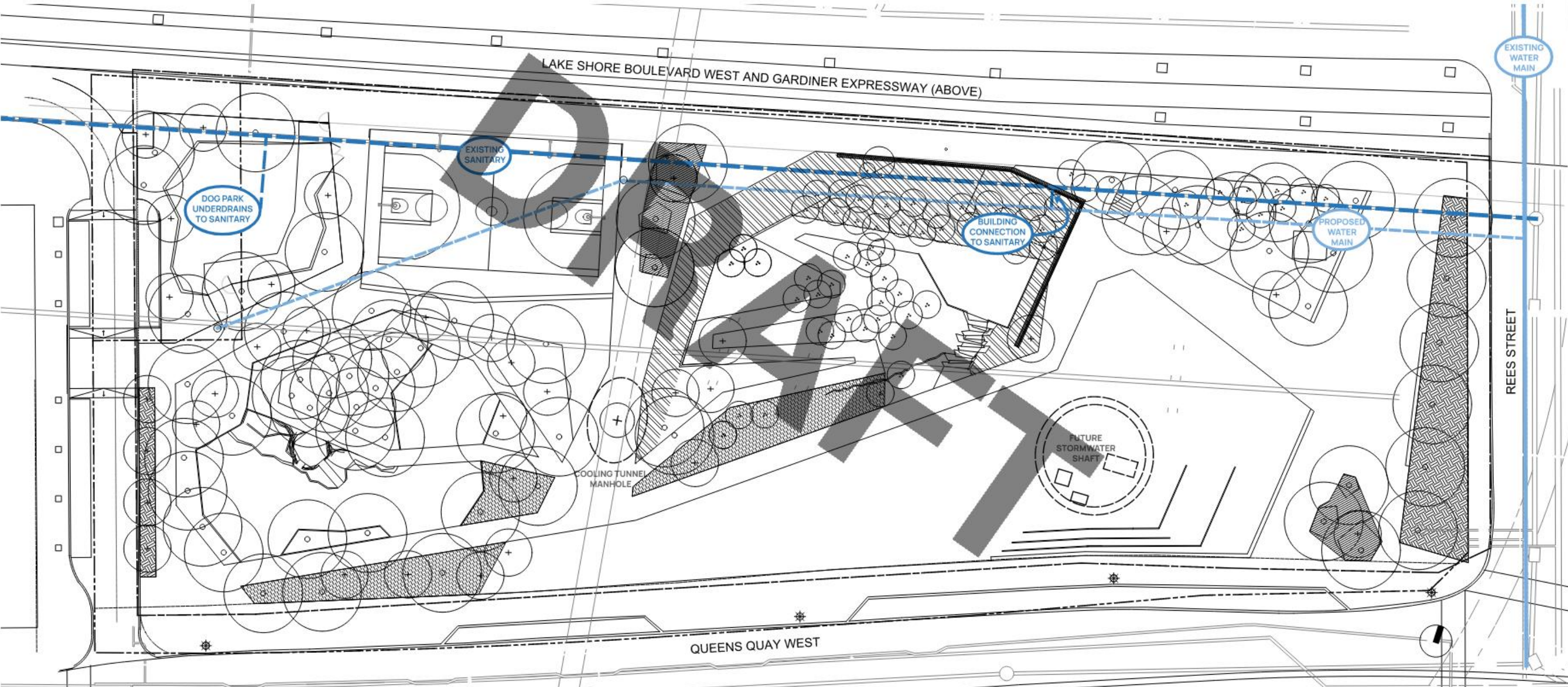
STORMWATER APPROACH

KEY

-  PROPERTY LINE
-  LIMIT OF WORK
-  1 FUTURE STORMWATER SHAFT
-  2 COOLING TUNNEL MANHOLE
-  3 CONTINUOUS SOIL TRENCH WITH STRUCTURAL SOIL, 2M DEPTH
-  4 ENHANCED TREE TRENCH WITH 2M SOIL DEPTH
-  5 BIO-RETENTION AREA
-  6 34 m3 SUBSURFACE WATER STORAGE VAULT AND JELLYFISH STYLE WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM, STORAGE VAULT TO BE UTILIZED AS THE IRRIGATION TANK



SUBSURFACE

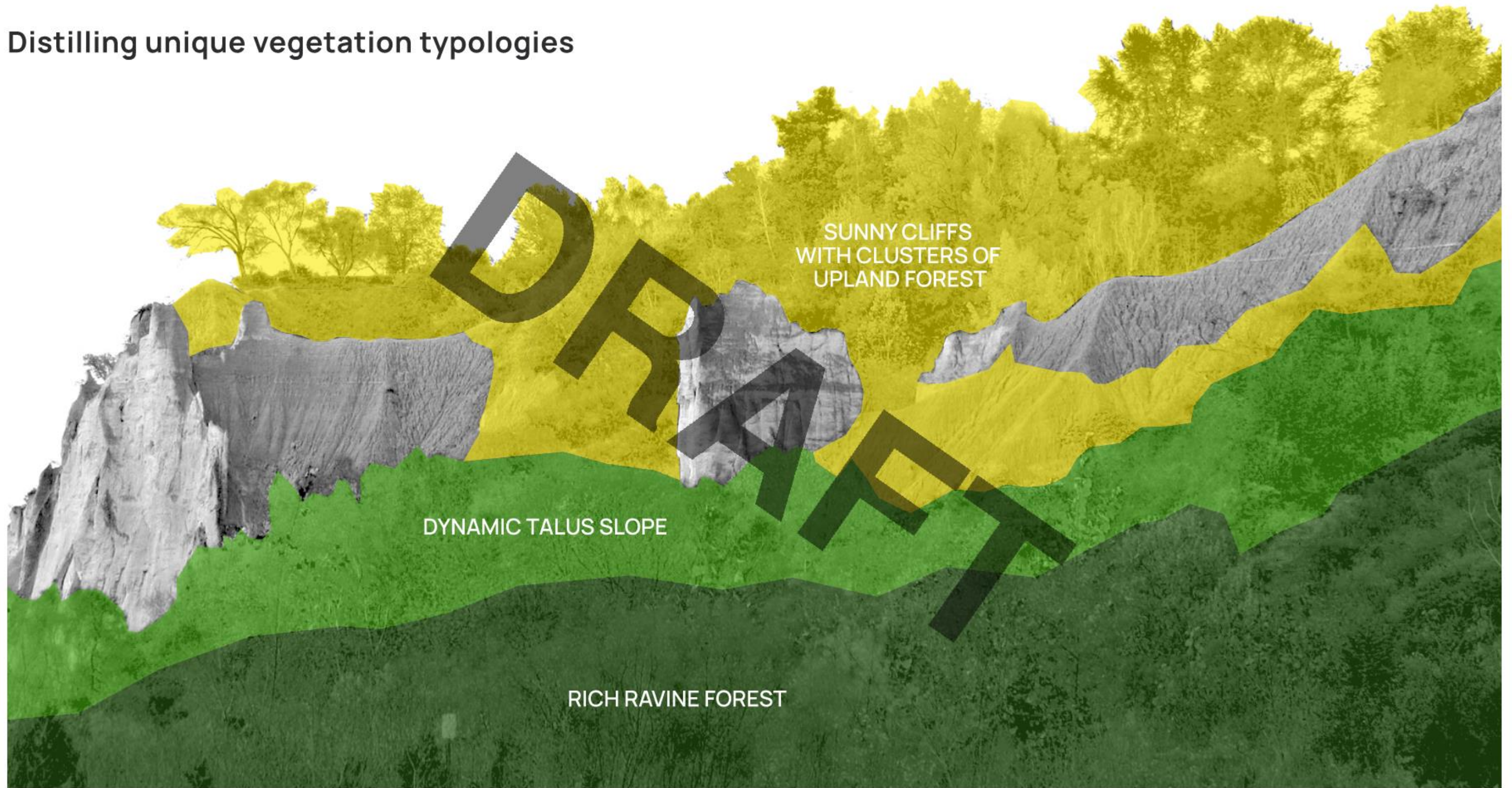


Inspired by the vegetative patterns of Toronto's bluffs



Scarborough Bluffs

Distilling unique vegetation typologies



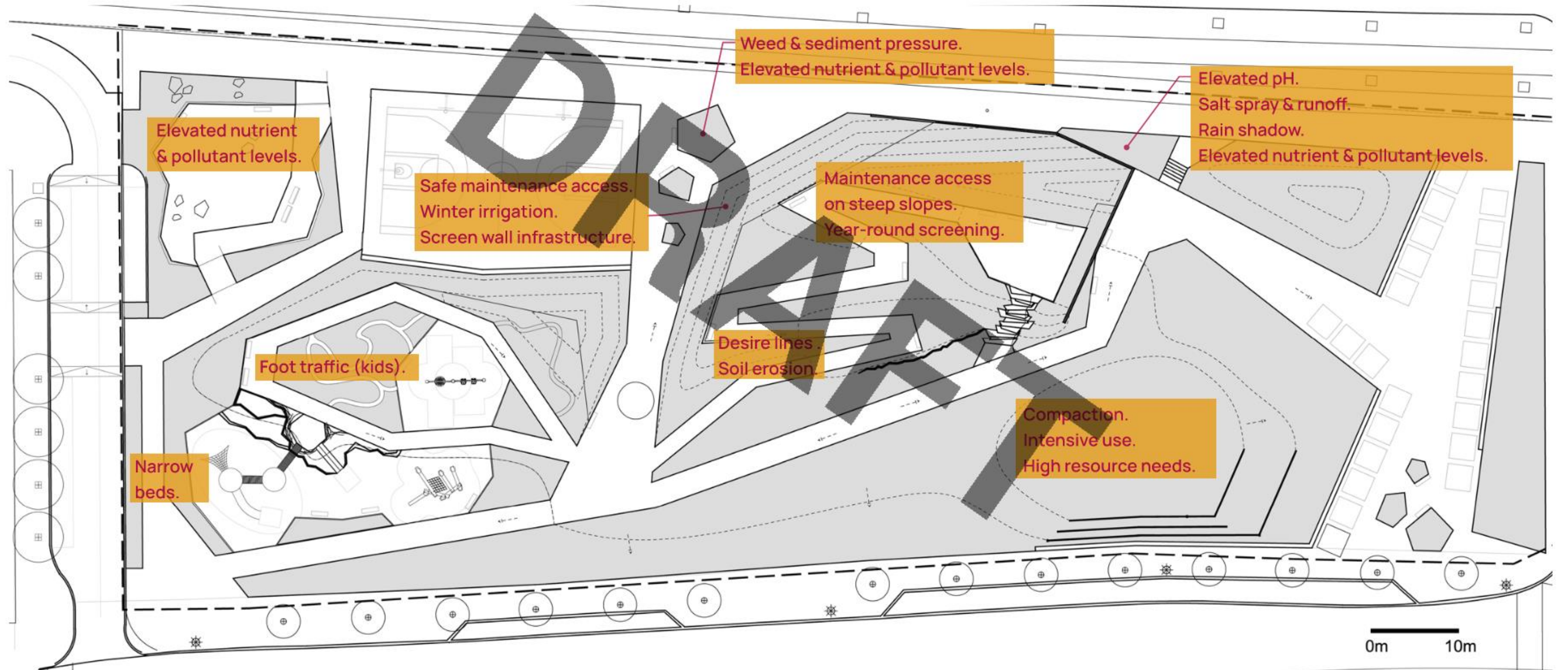
Bluff ecologies applied to the site

Translating Toronto's cliff communities into evocative planting with local identity



Tough site conditions

Planting must address ALL of these challenges to be successful



Proactive planting solutions

Anticipating typical urban challenges

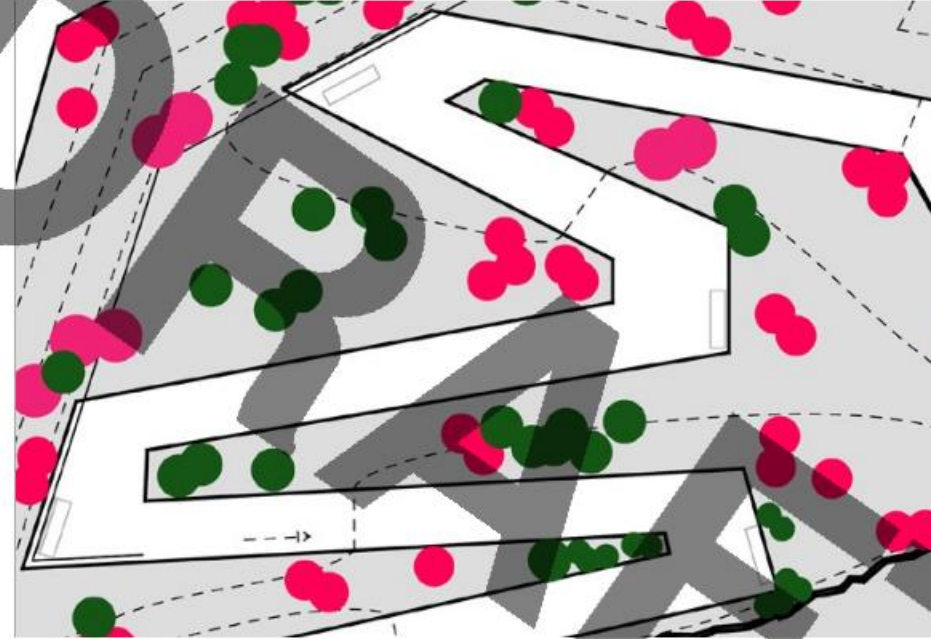


HOT & DRY PATH EDGES



- Tough ground covers all the way up to the pavement leave no room for weeds.
- Medium planting height to prevent plants from flopping into paths and eliminate the need to trim plants back along the edges.
- Use species with strong winter presence to suppress weeds during early spring and late fall.
- Include clonal species that can repair some damage caused by foot traffic.

PREVENT DESIRE LINES



- Taller perennials with persistent winter structure or medium size shrubs discourage visitors from walking through planting.
- Use of species that tolerate some foot traffic along paths and spots where visitors may step into planting to take photos.

URBAN & CLIMATE ADAPTED SPECIES



- Use majority of plants that are pre-adapted to current and predicted urban climate conditions.
- Ensure plant palette is tolerant of known pests and diseases.
- Provide excellent soil conditions and use species with high drought tolerance to minimize irrigation.
- Ensure plant palette is diverse to increase resilience of entire design.

Uniting the site with planting

Consistent planting strategy gives Rees Park a unique identity



DENSE PLANTING BALANCES HARDSCAPE



- Site's impressive hardscape and topography is balanced with abundant, lush planting.
- Lushness created by vertically layering of compatible species and a long flower time.
- Majority of species used have persistent foliage and seed heads during winter to balance hardscape during all seasons.

SPECIES REPETITION THROUGHOUT



- Repeating species and clear flower color themes throughout visually connects fragmented planting beds.
- Repetition creates a strong, immersive nature experience. Planting never feels like decoration in front of the Park's features.

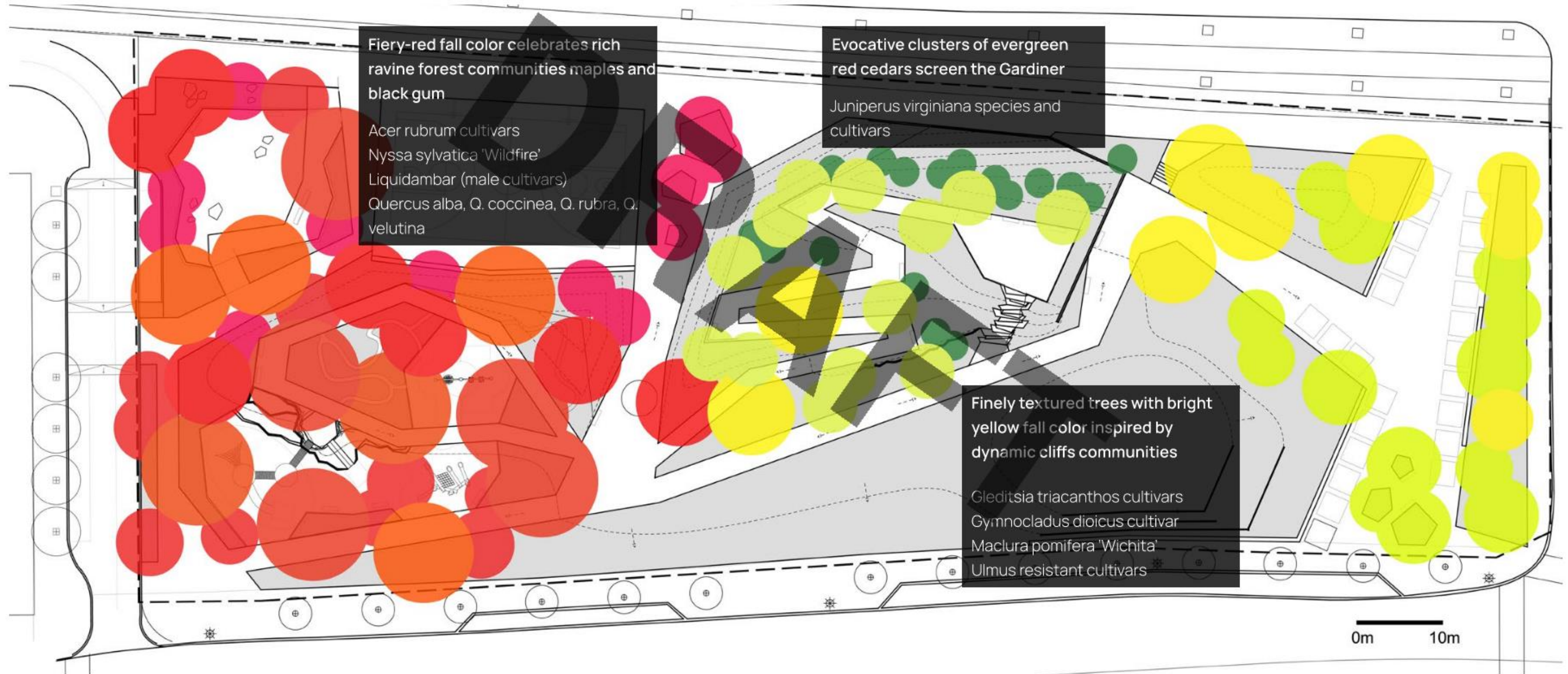
POWERFUL SEASONAL FLOWER THEMES



- Dramatic, deeply emotional flower events draw visitors into the Park and create magical moments throughout the year.
- Abundant flowers provide nectar and pollen for bees and other beneficial wildlife.

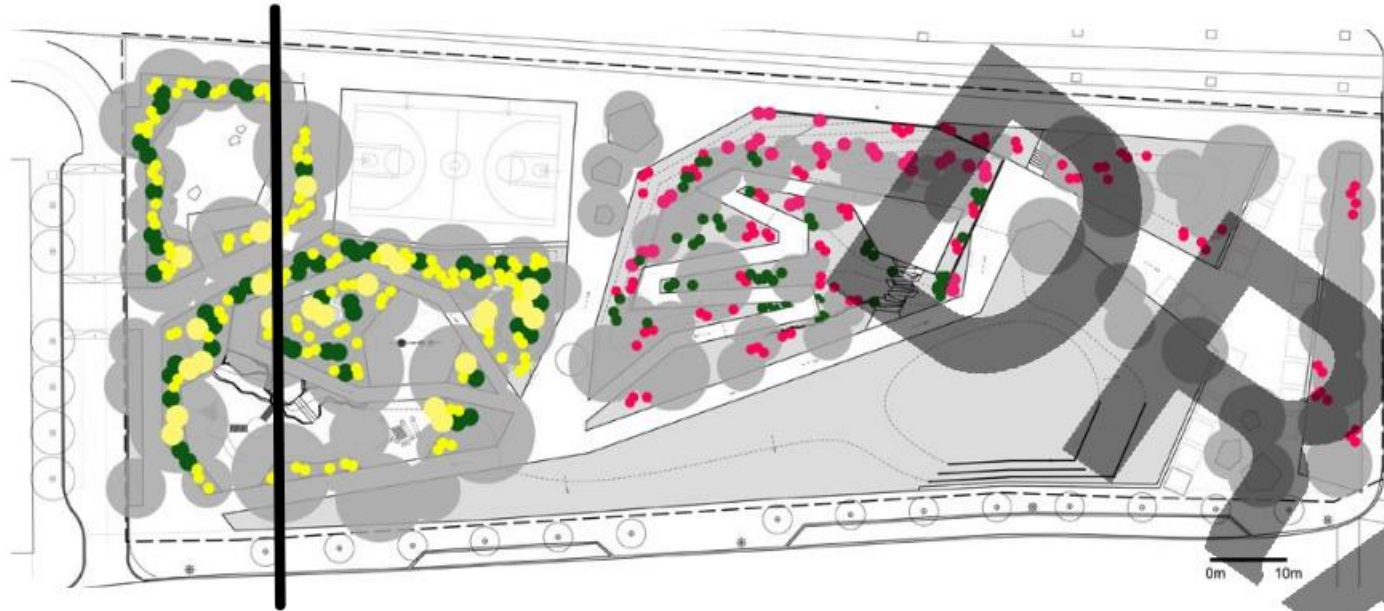
Evocative tree canopy

Strongly emotional fall color themes



Strategic placement of shrub clusters

Screening and spatial amplification without creating too much shade



- Shrub clusters fill narrow planting beds with lush vegetation screening the park's many play spaces.
- Evergreen *Ilex opaca* (American holly) in understory for winter interest.
- Clusters of low evergreen shrubs contrast with perennials and provide winter color.
- Evocative clusters of *Rhus* spp. (sumac) with spectacular fall color frame perennial plantings and walls and stabilize slopes.
- Native *Lindera benzoin* (spicebush) and other shrubs form a spectacular yellow fall theme under trees.



Multi-use turf

Robust and inviting lawn for casual gathering and events.



Sunny open

Colorful perennial matrix interspersed with contrasting clusters of grasses and shrubs.



Talus edges

Tough and reliable talus slope-inspired plant systems frame the base of Rees Park.



Ravine forest

Cool, refreshing deciduous forest with lush textures and captivating flower themes.



SUSTAINABILITY

An architectural rendering of a sustainable urban development. The scene features a large, lush green park area with winding paths, trees, and people walking. In the background, there are modern, multi-story buildings, including a prominent one with a large, curved, arched roof structure. A large, stylized 'DPA' logo is overlaid on the center of the image. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

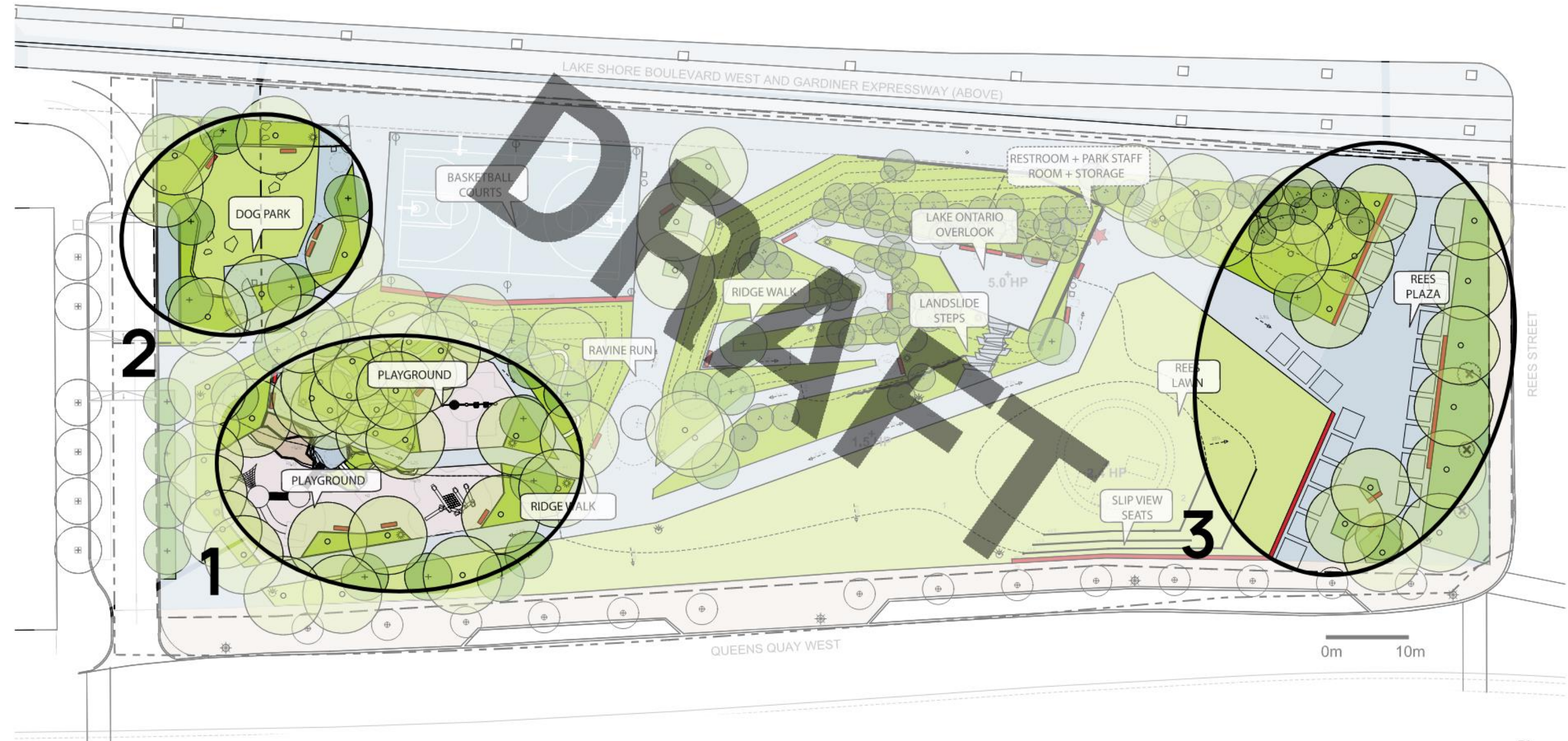
INCREASED SITE PERMEABILITY

CARBON CAPTURE FACTORY

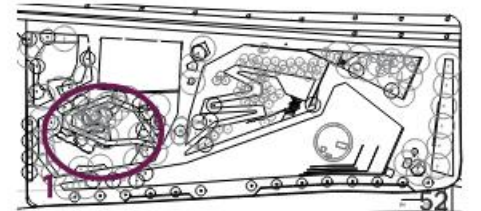
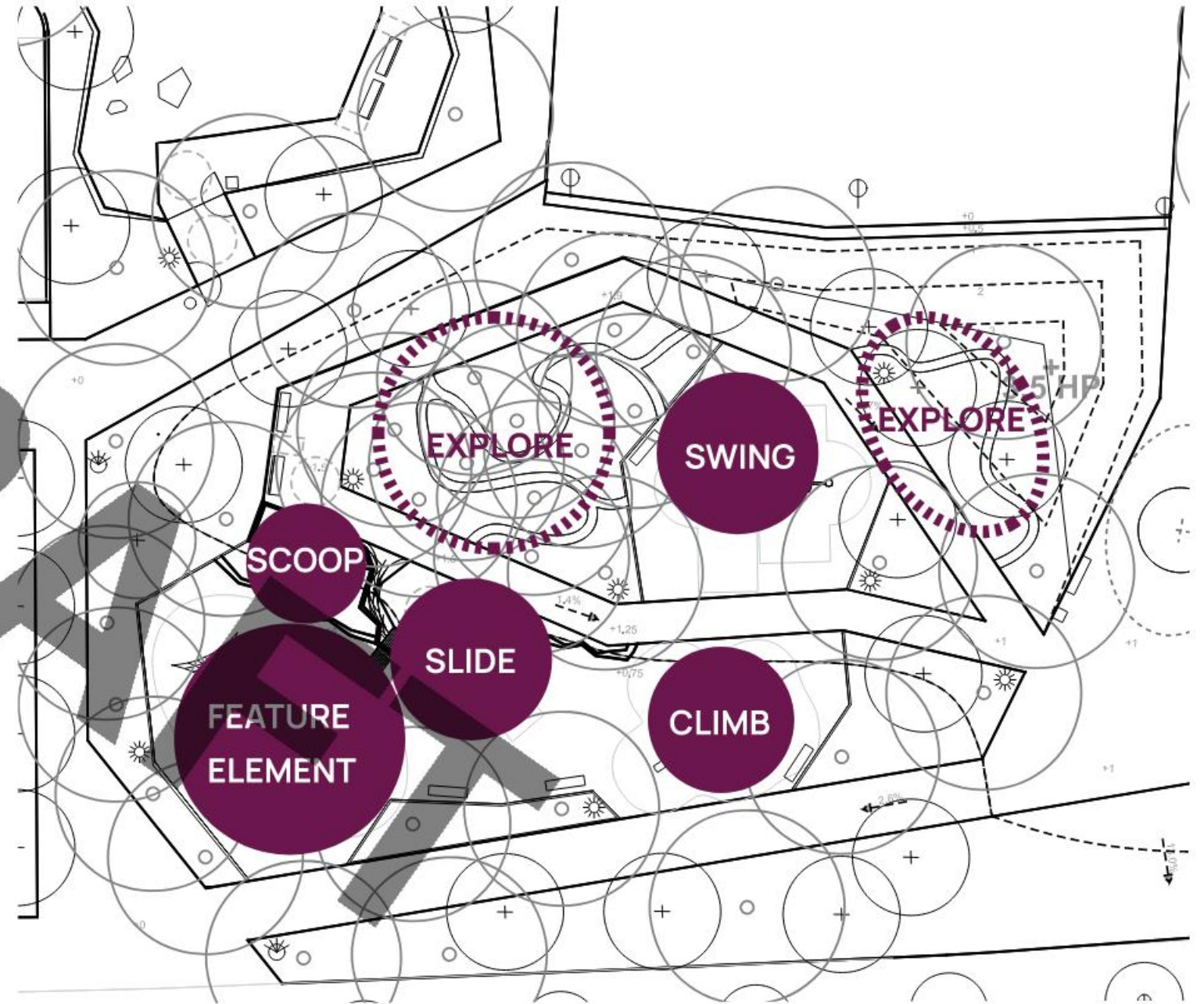
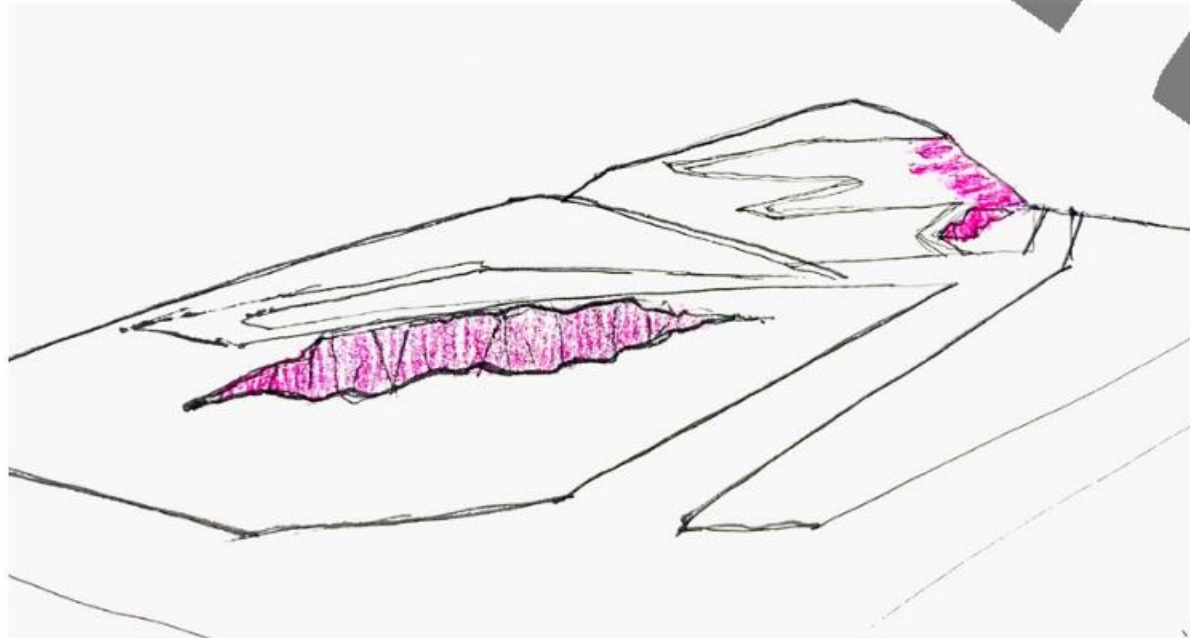
HABITAT PATCH + BIRD SANCTUARY

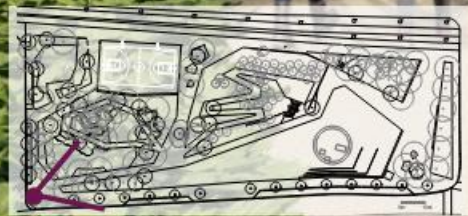
STORMWATER REUSE

LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS TO IDENTIFY OTHER TARGETS



TOPOGRAPHIC PLAY





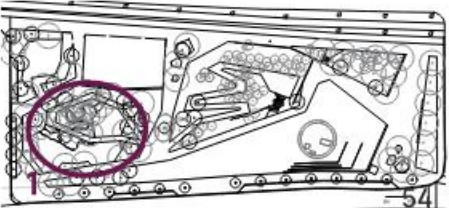
PLAY!



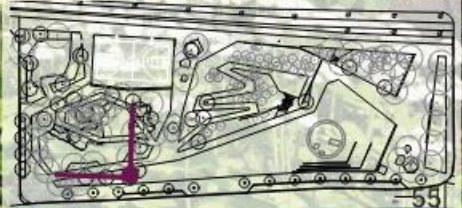
FEATURE ELEMENT



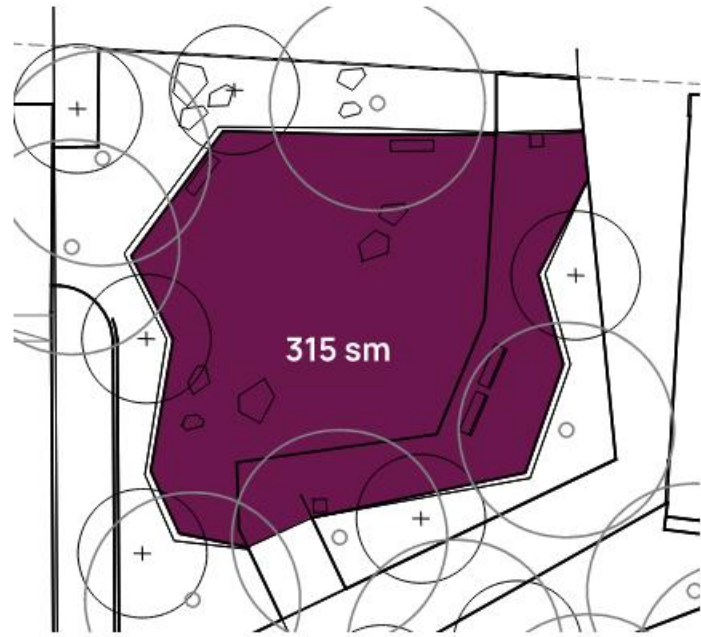
- WOODLAND PATH
- WOODLAND PATH
- EWf MULCH
- SWINGS
- TRASH CAN
- CLIMBER
- THE NEST
- SAND BOX RIDGE
- EMBANKMENT SLIDE
- RIDGE BRIDGE
- FEATURE PLAY PIECE



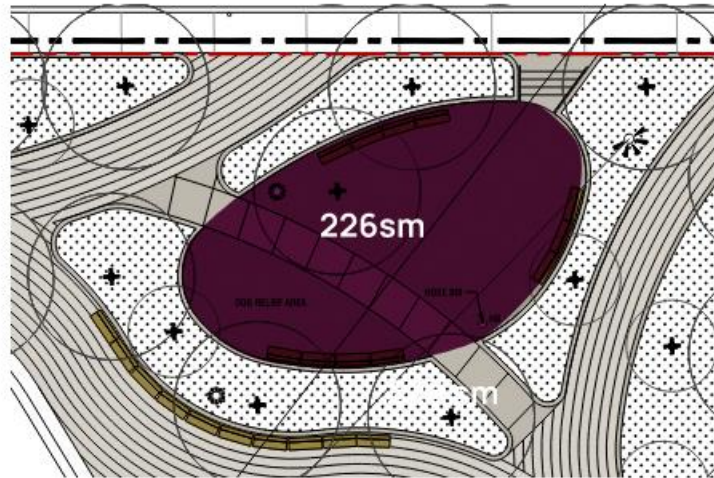
SUBTITLE FOR SLIDE



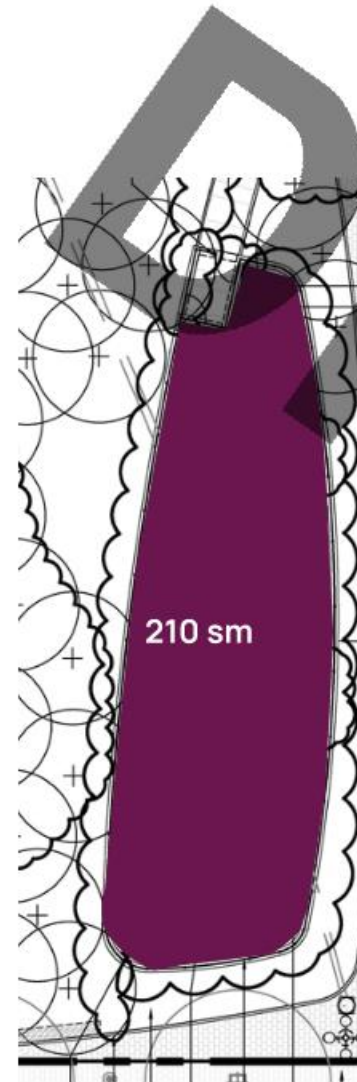
OFF LEASH AREA



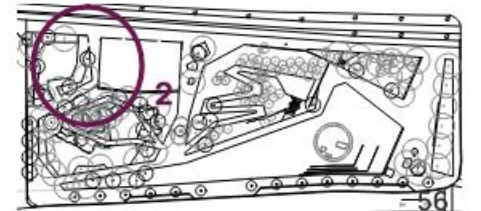
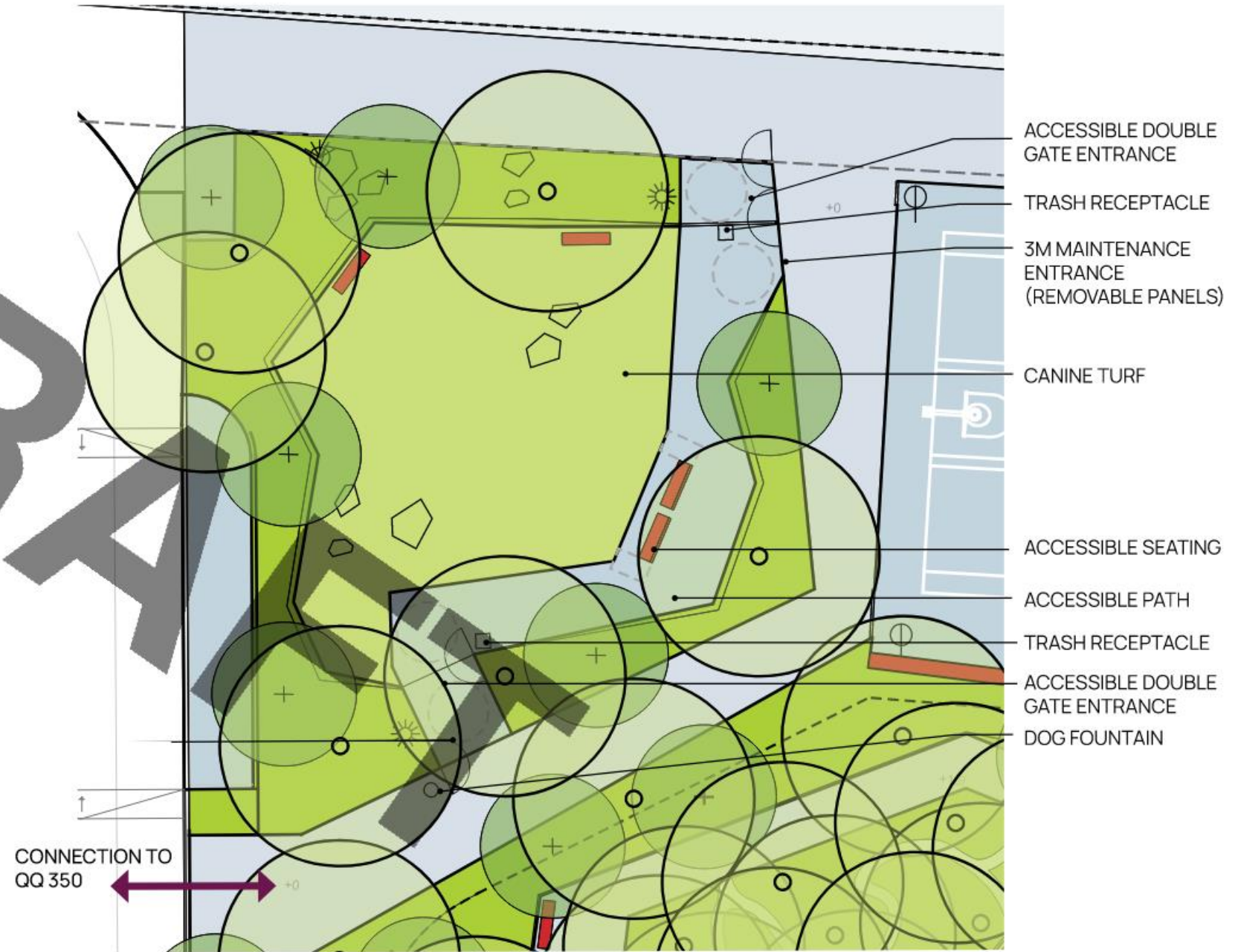
REES RIDGE

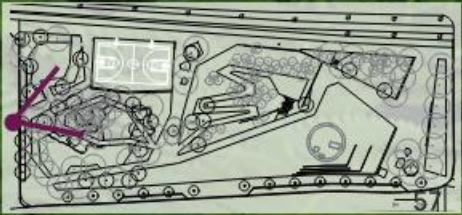


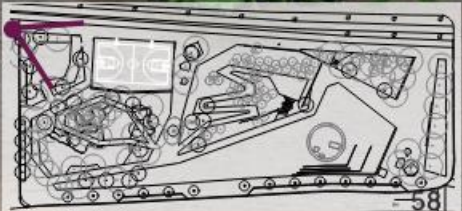
LOVE PARK



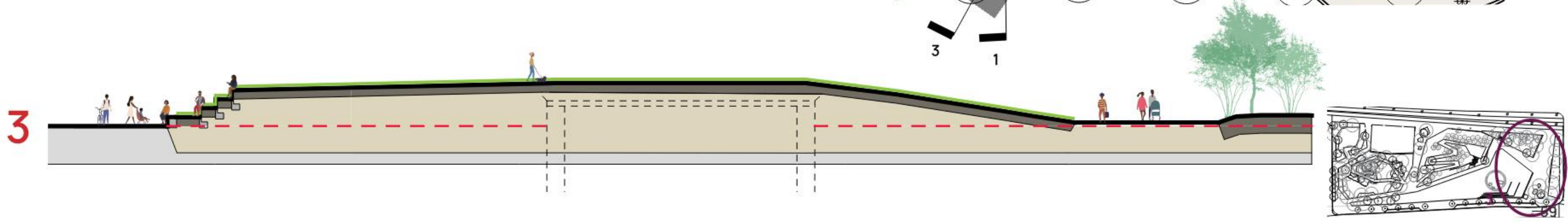
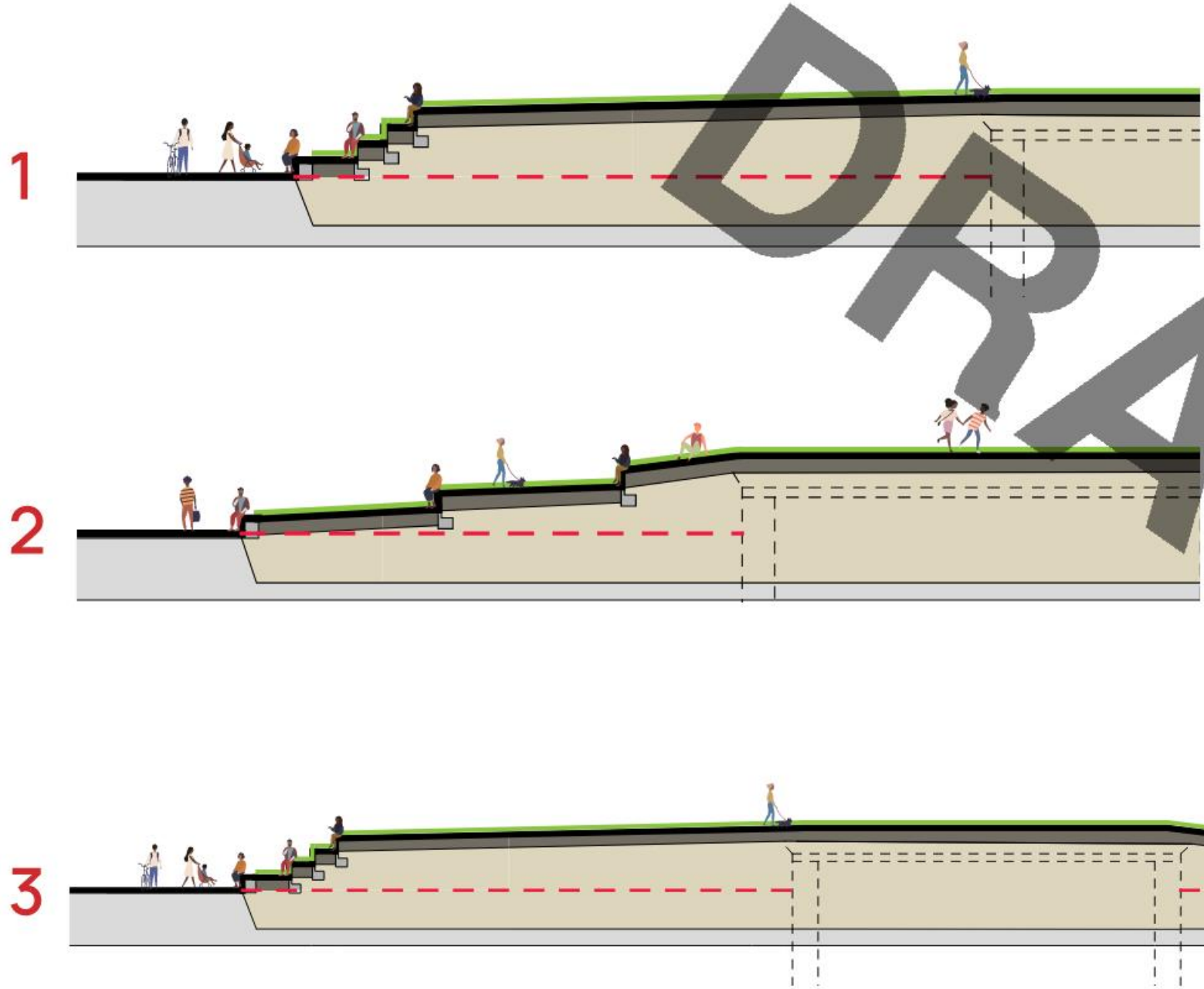
AITKEN PLACE

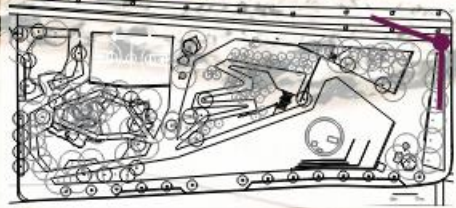






3. REES PLAZA





THANK YOU!

