



 **TORONTO**

York Street Park and Rees Street Park

Issues identification
Design Review Panel
20 December, 2017

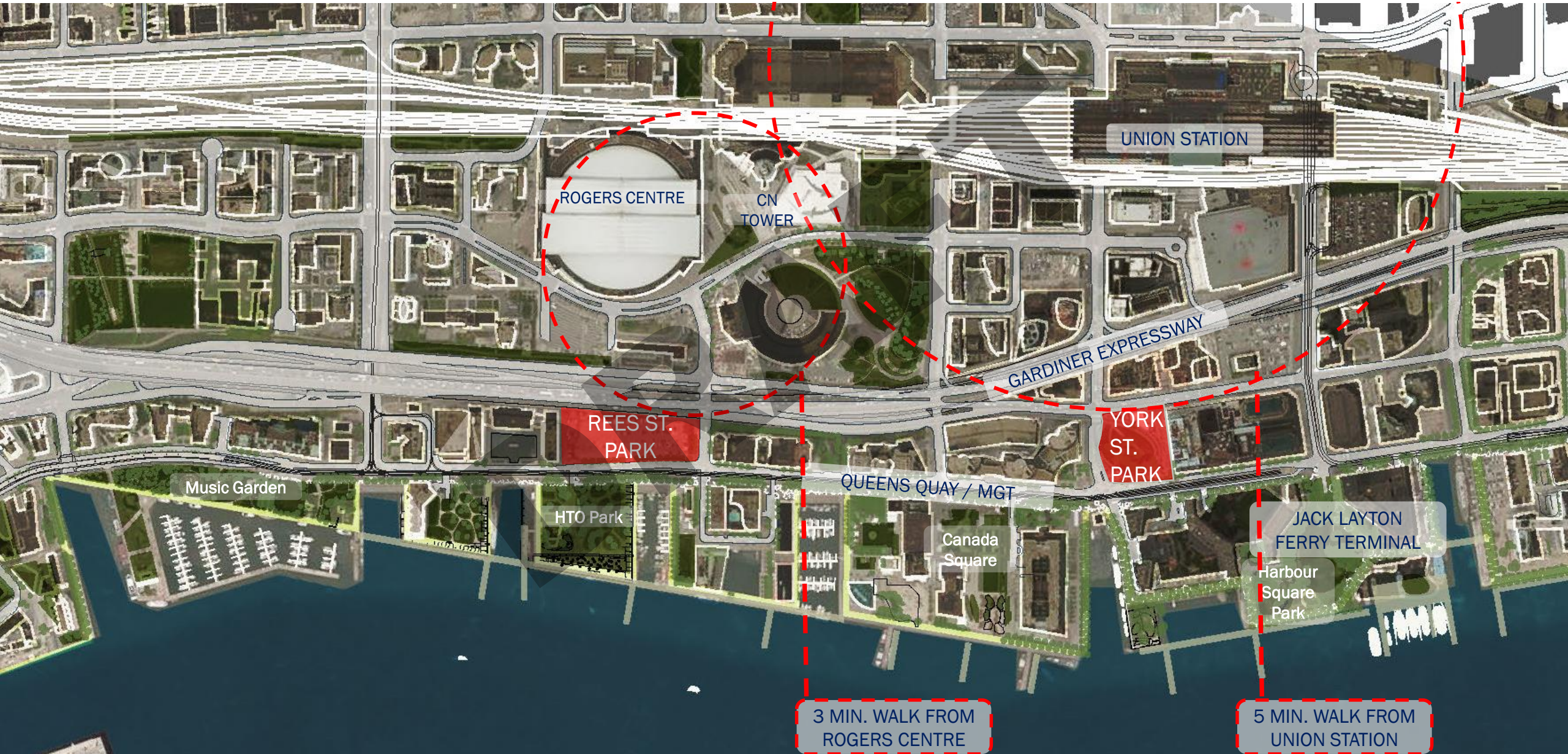



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Background - York Street Park and Rees Street Park

- Partnership – Waterfront Toronto and Parks, Forestry and Recreation are Co-leading this project
- Waterfront Toronto will deliver the Design Competition / Procurement Process and will manage the design of the parks
- Parks, Forestry and Recreation will manage the construction of Rees Street Park while WT will manage construction of York Street Park
- Procurement - DRP is a public forum – all comments and input provided by this panel will be publicly available and referenced in the procurement documents. There will be no in-camera DRP discussions about York Street Park or Rees Street Park.
- All information regarding this procurement will be available through Waterfront Toronto's procurement department.

York Street Park and Rees Street Park Context



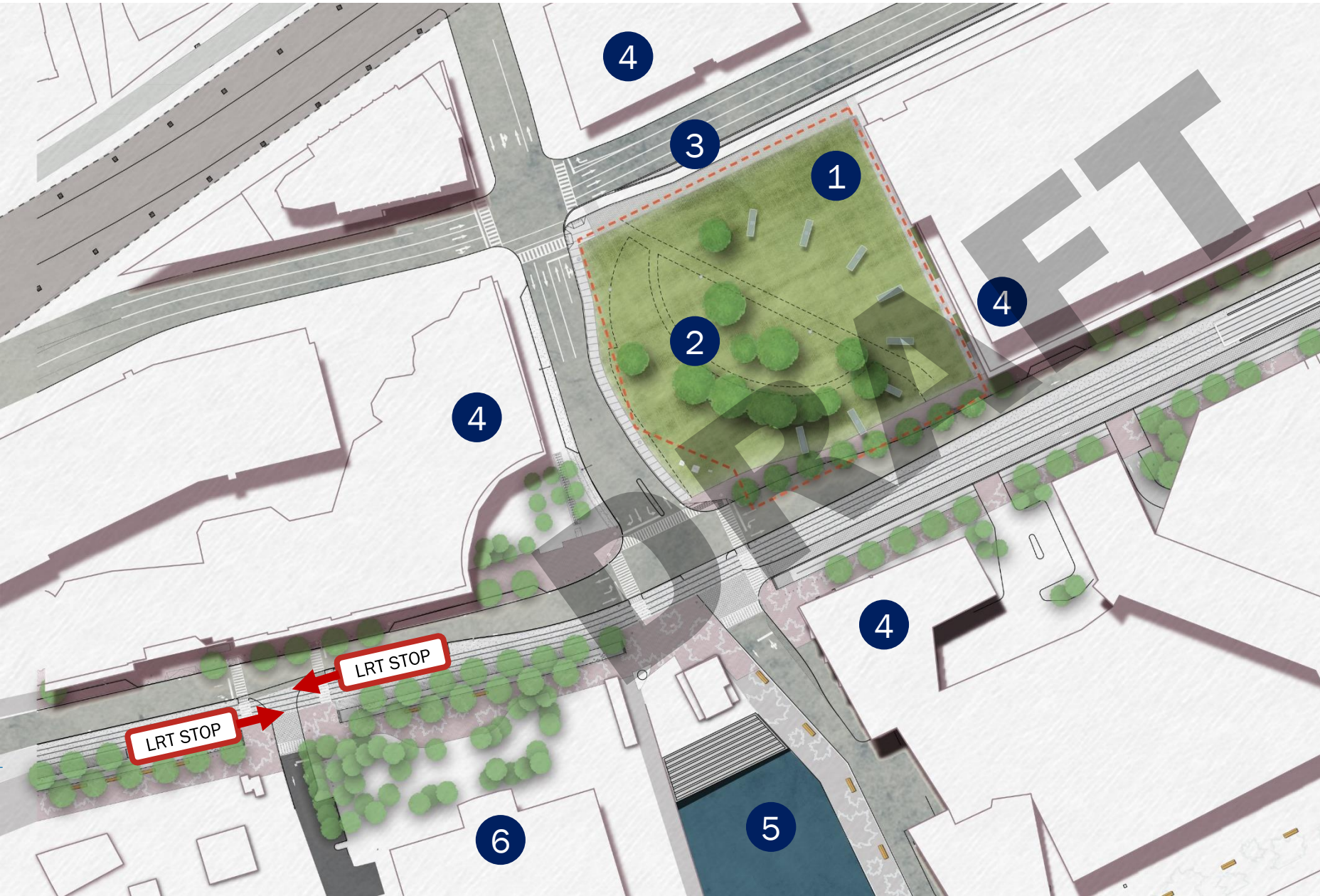
York Street Park

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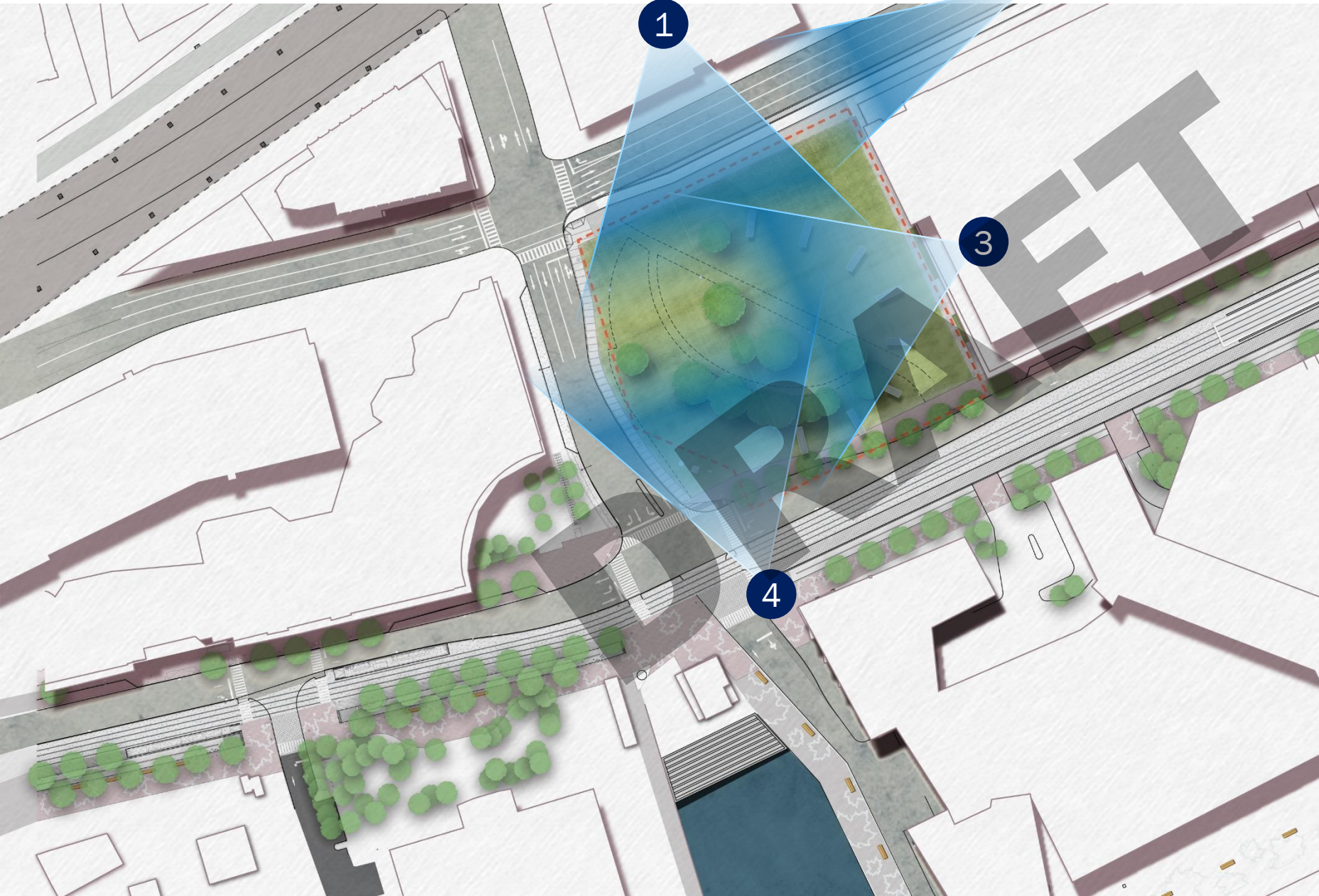
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York Street Park - Site context



- 1 Eight Bents:** remnants of the off-ramp that was recently removed, these piers of the former highway recall a spiral geometry prescribed by turning radii and speed limits. These bents may be removed or incorporated into design proposals.
- 2 Twelve Trees:** Eight Siberian Elms, Three Norway Maples and a Silver Maple have been preserved through the demolition of the ramp. These mature trees can contribute significantly to the park.
- 3 Harbour St. Frontage:** When the York-Bay-Yonge Ramp was removed, this became a street accessible to pedestrians, permitting new patterns of use that have yet to be discovered.
- 4 Tall Buildings on Four sides:** The park is framed by two office buildings and two residential buildings and will see use by the occupants of all four buildings. The view to the park that these buildings create is as critical as the frame that they provide for the space.
- 5 York Slip:** located immediately south of York Street Park, York Slip is a busy quay where passengers catch water taxis and party boats.
- 6 Queens Quay Terminal:** Kitty corner to York St. Park, this building includes a grocery store, restaurants, a dance company and residences. The Toronto Book Garden on its Queens Quay Frontage

York Street Park – Critical Views



- 1** a) **One York Food Court:** A publicly accessible balcony adjoins the food court atop the podium at One York.
b) **View from Harbour Street**
- 2** **Harbour Street PATH Bridge:** A bridge crosses Harbour St. east of the park, allowing a view to Harbour street and York Street Park from the east.
- 3** **88 Queens Quay:** Fronting directly on the York Street Park site, 88 Queens Quay affords views from offices and the lobby.
- 4** **Looking up York Street from Queens Quay:** The replacement of the off-ramp with open space makes the park appear to be in the middle of York Street from this point of view.

1 a) York Street Park – looking south from 1 York podium



1 b) York Street Park – looking south from Harbour Street



2 York Street Park – looking west from bridge over Harbour Street



3 York Street Park – looking west from 88 Queens Quay lobby



4 York Street Park – looking north from Queens Quay



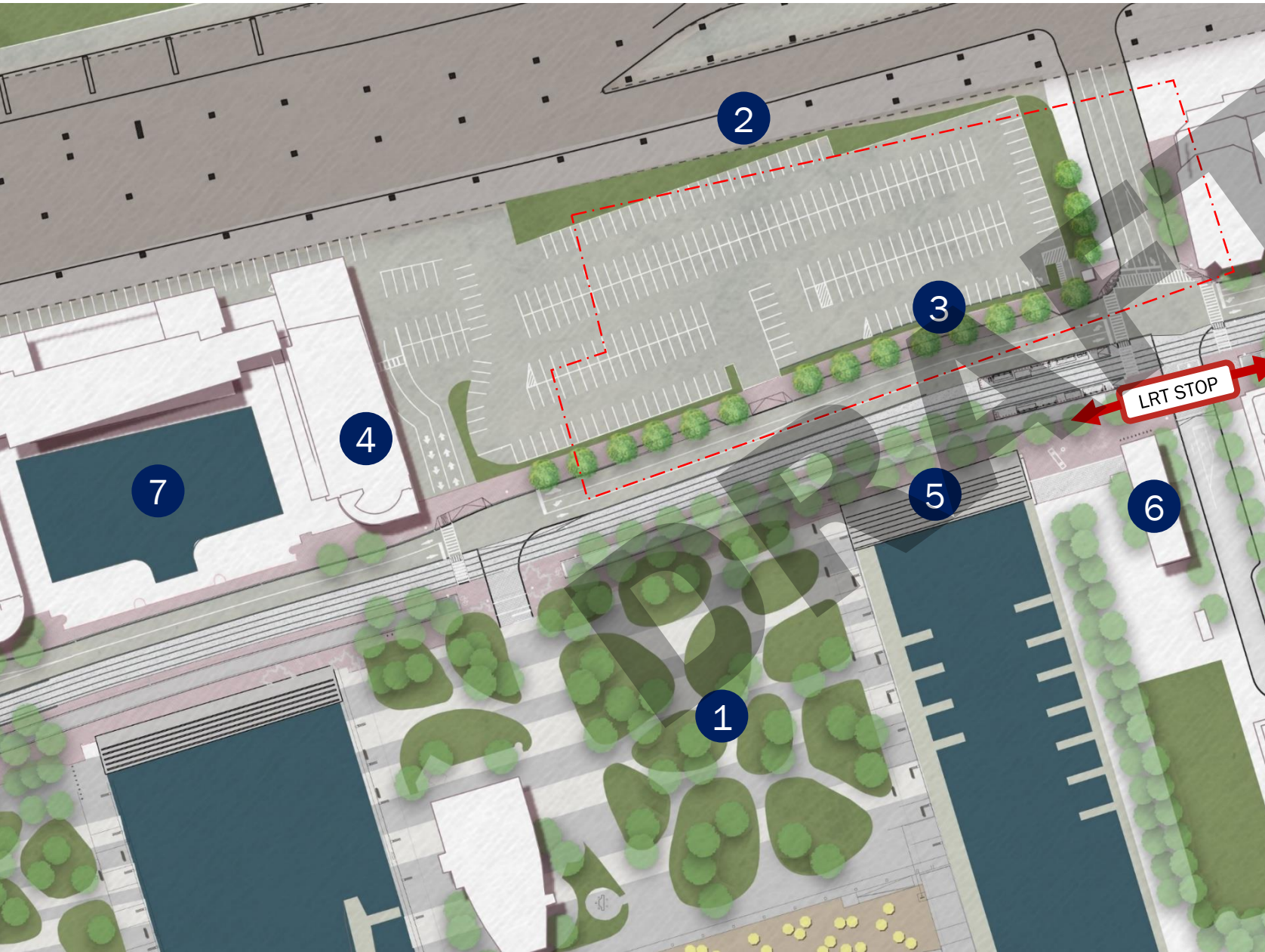
Rees Street Park

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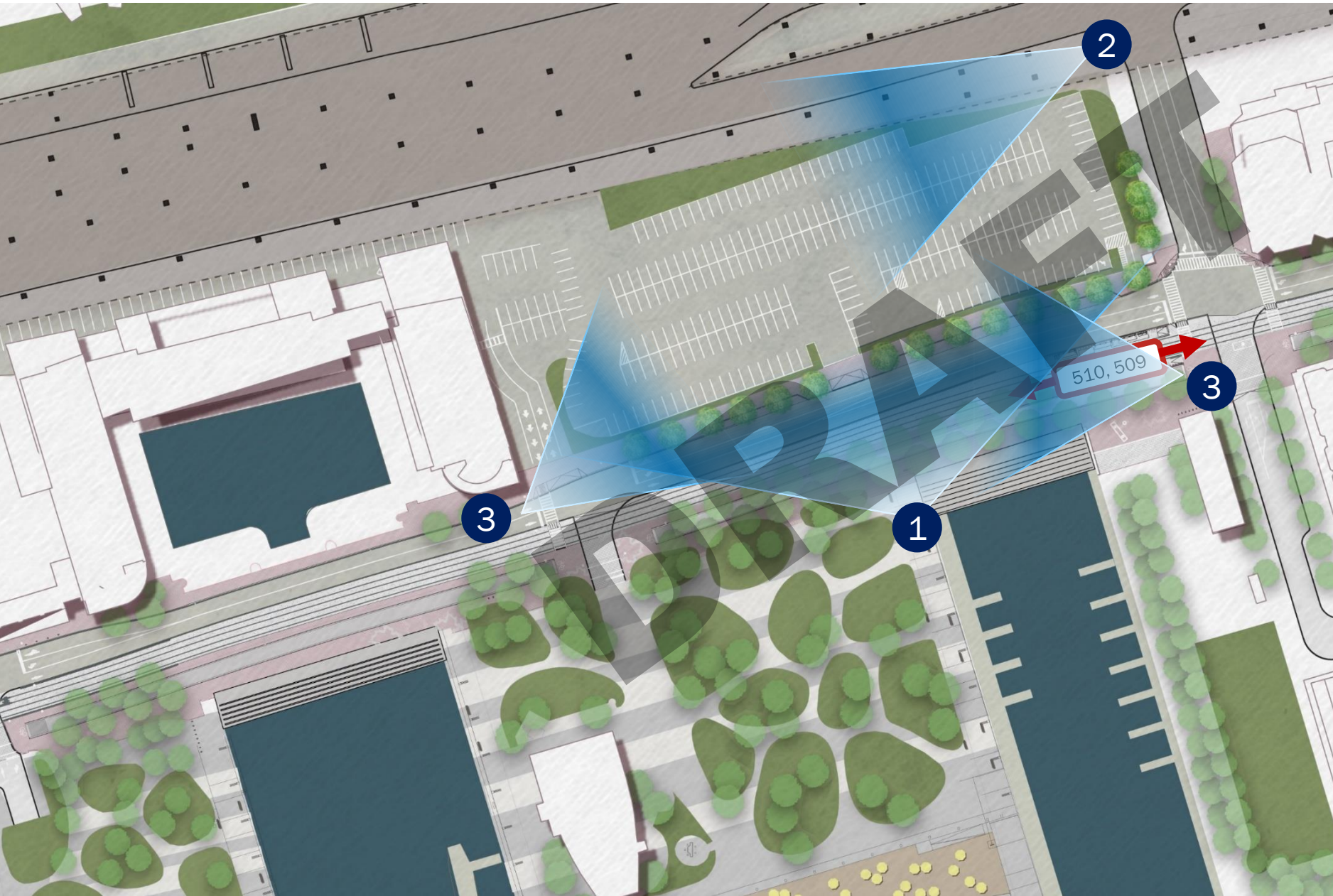
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Rees Street Park - Site Context



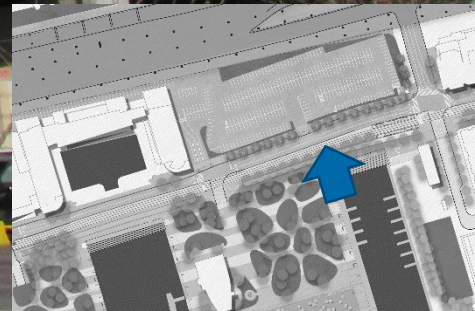
- 1 HTO Park:** Directly across Queens Quay to the south lies HTO park, designed by JRA+Claude Cormier and completed in 2007..The position of this iconic park in relation to the future site of Rees St. Park with Queens Quay Blvd. running between them creates a unique streetscape on the waterfront.
- 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 wadedecks 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.

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.
- 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

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



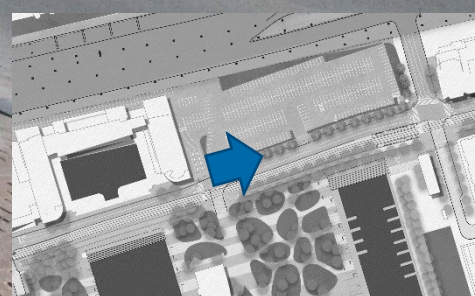
1 b) Rees Street Park – looking North from HTO Park



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



Issues for Panel Consideration

- Role/character of each park within the Waterfront
- Relationship of York Street Park edge to 88 Queens Quay office Building (RBC)
- How can the design of York Street Park deal with streets on three sides?
- Relationship of Rees Street Park to HTO Park, Rees Street WaveDeck and John Quay?
- How can Rees Street Park avoid acting as a missing tooth on the North side of Queens Quay?
- How can the design of Rees Street Park address the scale of the Gardiner Expressway, the Rogers Centre and the CN tower?