

# Brampton's Riverwalk Program

1. Background / Program overview
2. UDMP overview
3. Resilience, Sustainability, Public Health issues
4. Conclusions, next steps

## The Riverwalk Area Urban Design Master Plan Project Overview

**Brampton Environment Advisory Committee (BEAC)**  
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**Dec 8, 2020**



# The Riverwalk Project: Background, History

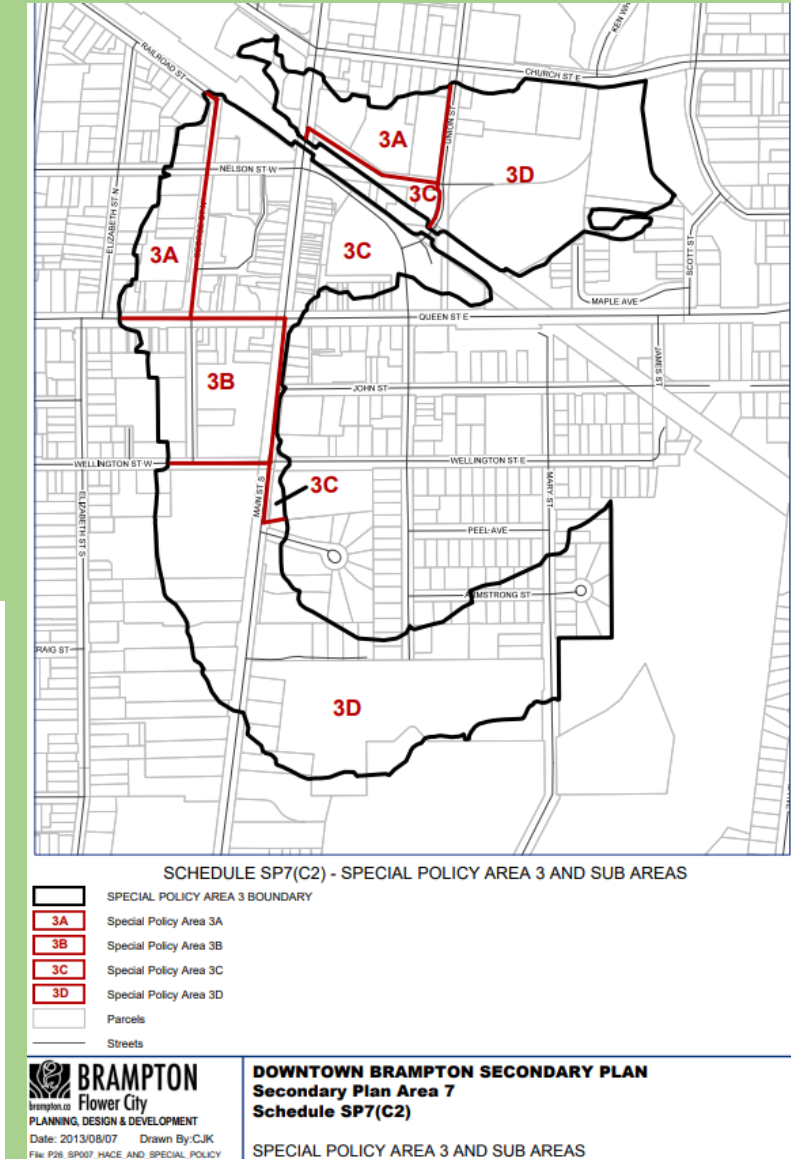
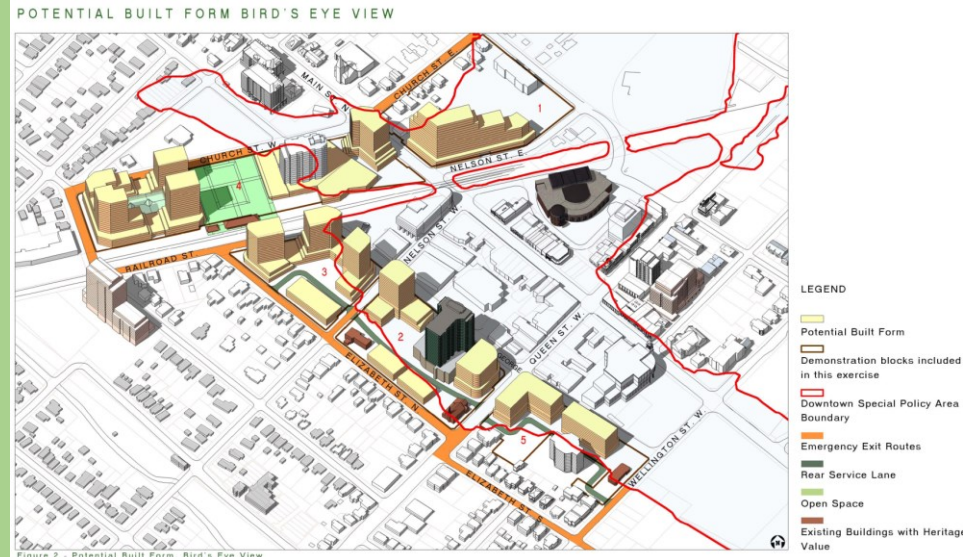
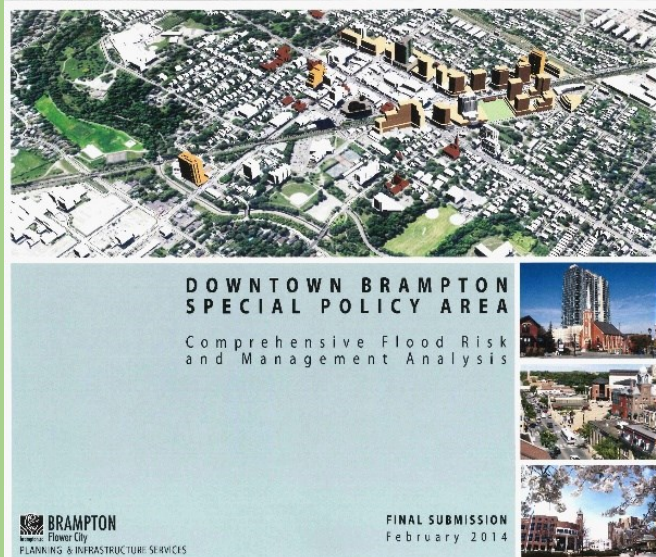
- Long standing relationship of the Etobicoke Creek and flood history
- Catastrophic flood in 1948 triggered Etobicoke Creek diversion channel (1952-53)
- The diversion (channel) worked from flood protection perspective, but took away key character element from Downtown
- Risk of flood remains for the regulatory level (hurricane Hazel)





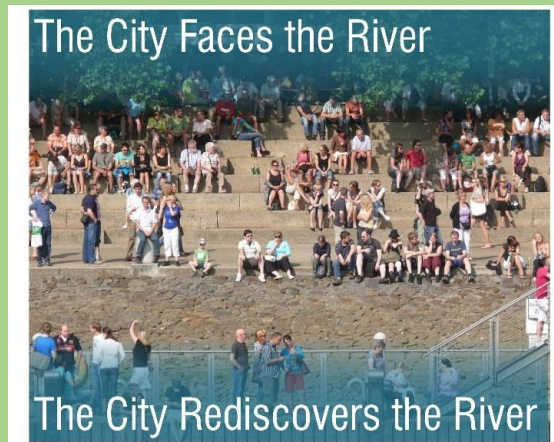
# Background: Special Policy Area

- Downtown Brampton Special Policy Area (SPA) established in the 1980s
- Update reviewed and approved by Province in 2014
- Provides clarity around development permissions in the Downtown core
- Establishes planning policies that govern amount and location of development, and requires flood proofing of buildings
- Identifies potential for revitalized creek and surrounding open space to become a major catalyst for quality development
- Gives direction for detailed studies and work



# Background: Vision and Feasibility Studies

- Feasibility Studies Phase 1 (2013-2014) and Phase 2 (2016-2018) identified main issues, new approached and methodologies, potential solutions for flood mitigation, impacts, and opportunities leading towards the Environmental Assessment
- Preliminary concepts drafted with advocacy, communication, and visualization work
- The area vision approved by Council in 2014:  
“The City Faces the River, the City Discovers the River”
- “Green”, “protect”, “discover”, “diversity” were main principles
- Identifies the Riverwalk area as a pilot, demonstration project in the city





# The Riverwalk Program: Overview

- Key infrastructure, city building, revitalization, and redevelopment game-changing initiative for Brampton
- Integrating flood protection and infrastructure with:
  - revitalization and re-development of the area
  - open space/public realm and placemaking
  - environmental protection and enhancement
  - climate change mitigation and adaptation, resilience, sustainability, and public health
- Transforming a liability into a sustainable asset and attraction
- A long standing, complex program integrating a number of projects

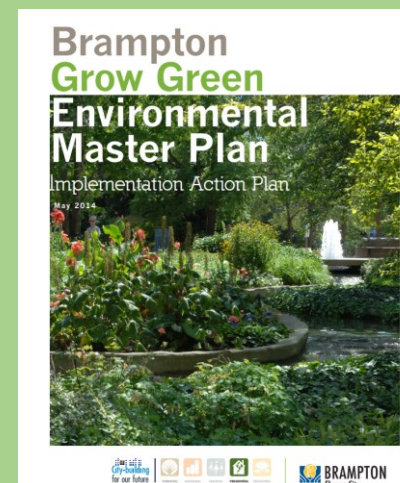
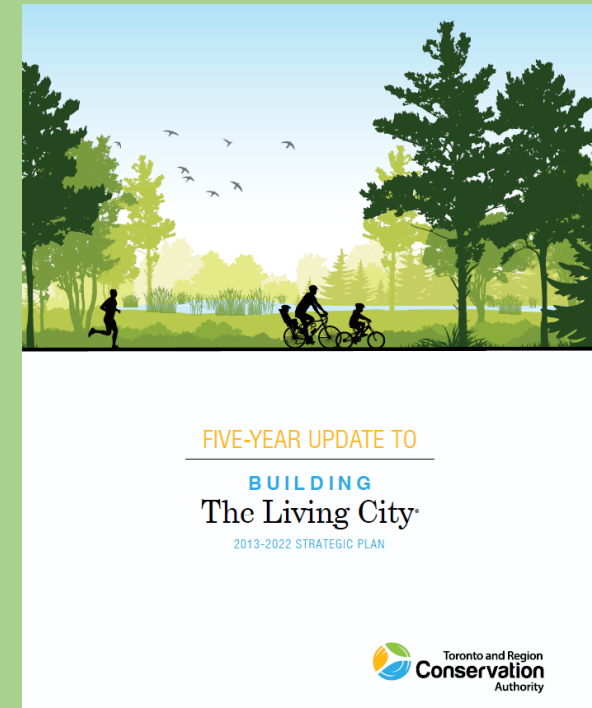




# The Riverwalk Program: Policy Context

Strong alignment with Provincial, TRCA, and City of Brampton policies, plans, and programs:

- Provincial approval of the Special Policy update (2014)
- TRCA Living City Strategy (2018)
- Environmental Master Plan (2014)
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2017)
- Brampton Council approval (Vision and Feasibility Study, 2014)
- Brampton 2040 Vision (2018)
- Term of Council priorities (2019)
- Brampton Eco Park Strategy (2020)
- Brampton One Million Trees Program (2020)



# Riverwalk Program Work Components: Overview



## Flood Protection Environmental Assessment (DBFP EA)

- Commenced in 2018
- Assess solutions for flood protection in the Downtown under the Municipal Class category
- Led by Toronto & Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) in partnership with the City of Brampton
- Work proceeding in 2018 to today



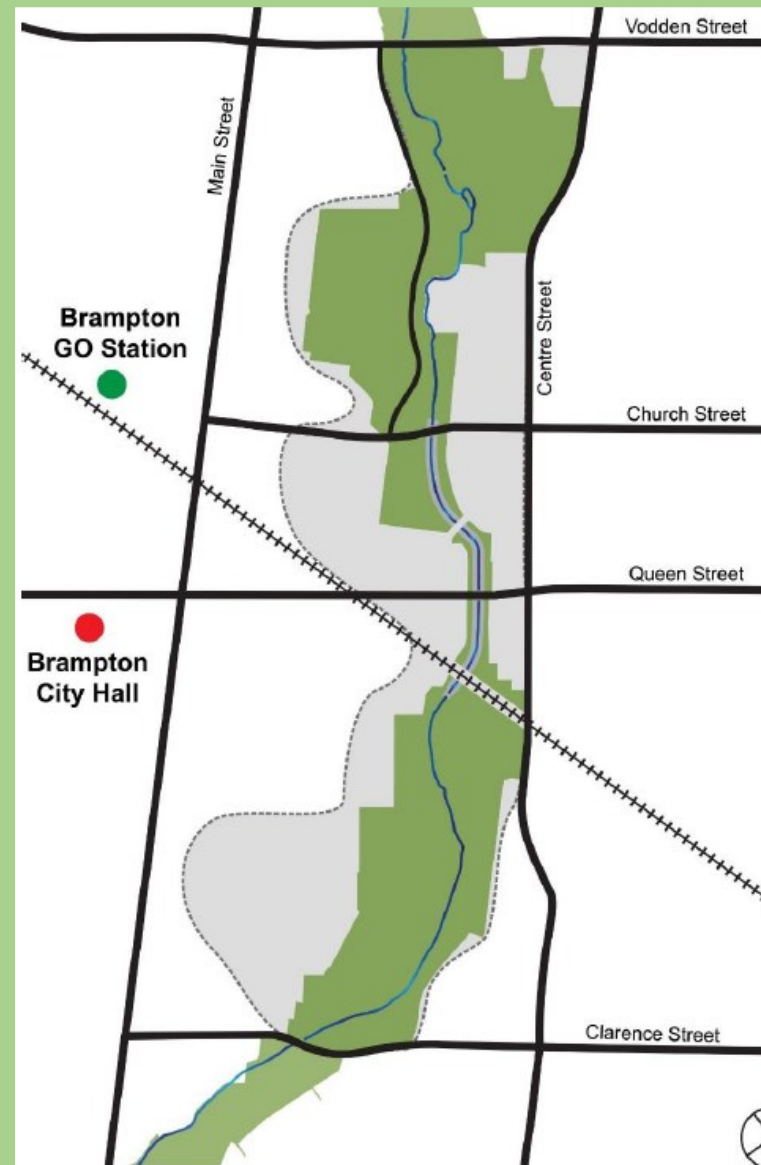
## Urban Design/Open Space Master Plan (UDMP)

- Commenced in 2019 to complement the EA
- Led by City of Brampton, involving an extensive list of stakeholders
- Goal is to produce and overall master plan for open space, design concepts for the main parks, preliminary programming, integrate sustainability and resilience
- Engagement and consultation 2020 - 2021



## Economic Development, Real Estate

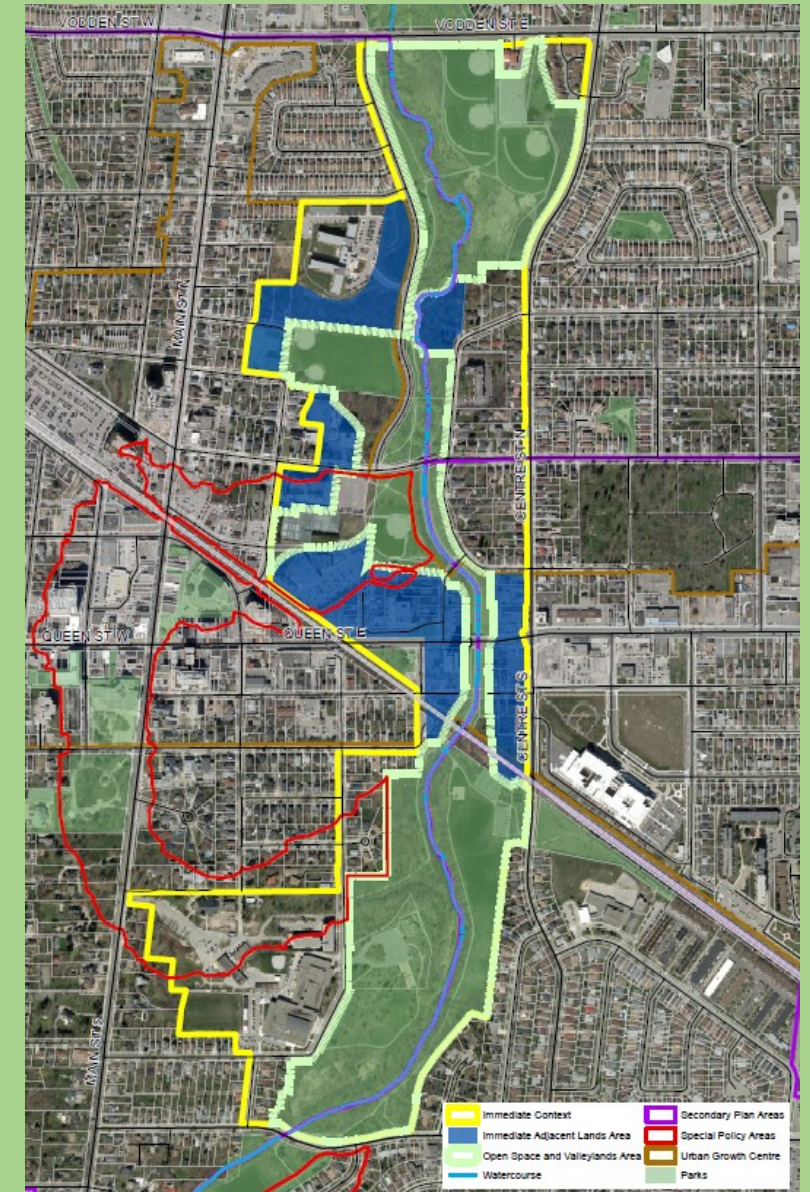
- Return on Investment Study (ROI)- identified economic benefits of unlocking development in downtown Brampton (2019)





## Riverwalk Area Urban Design Master Plan (UDMP)

- Assists and complements EA
- Assesses urban design and landscape impacts of engineering solutions, identifies opportunities, proposes landscape treatments for flood mitigation solutions
- Looks at broader valley area, with focus on open space and public realm perspective, active transportation, character and identity
- Will provide concepts and guidelines, preliminary programming, as well as a **framework for resilience and sustainability**
- Based on EA outcome, will also include detailed concepts for parks, trails, and public realm development, facilitating advancement towards Riverwalk implementation and its contribution to Downtown revitalization
- Targeting completion by Q2 2021





# Urban Design Master Plan (UDMP)

- The Open Space Plan looking at Etobicoke Creek valley between Vodden and Clarence Streets
- Will produce concepts and guidelines for 5 areas (Dugan Park, Central Public School Park, Rosalea Park, the revamped channel and Centennial Park)
- Opportunities for environmental enhancements, parks development, programming (including for environmental education), character and identity, public art, celebration of local history (including indigenous)
- Opportunities to make entire area more resilient, sustainable, healthy, and accessible, as well as economic development attraction and trigger for revitalization/redevelopment





# Riverwalk UDMP: *Work to Date Summary*



Natural Creek Bed in Centennial Park



Naturalized Planting in Centennial Park

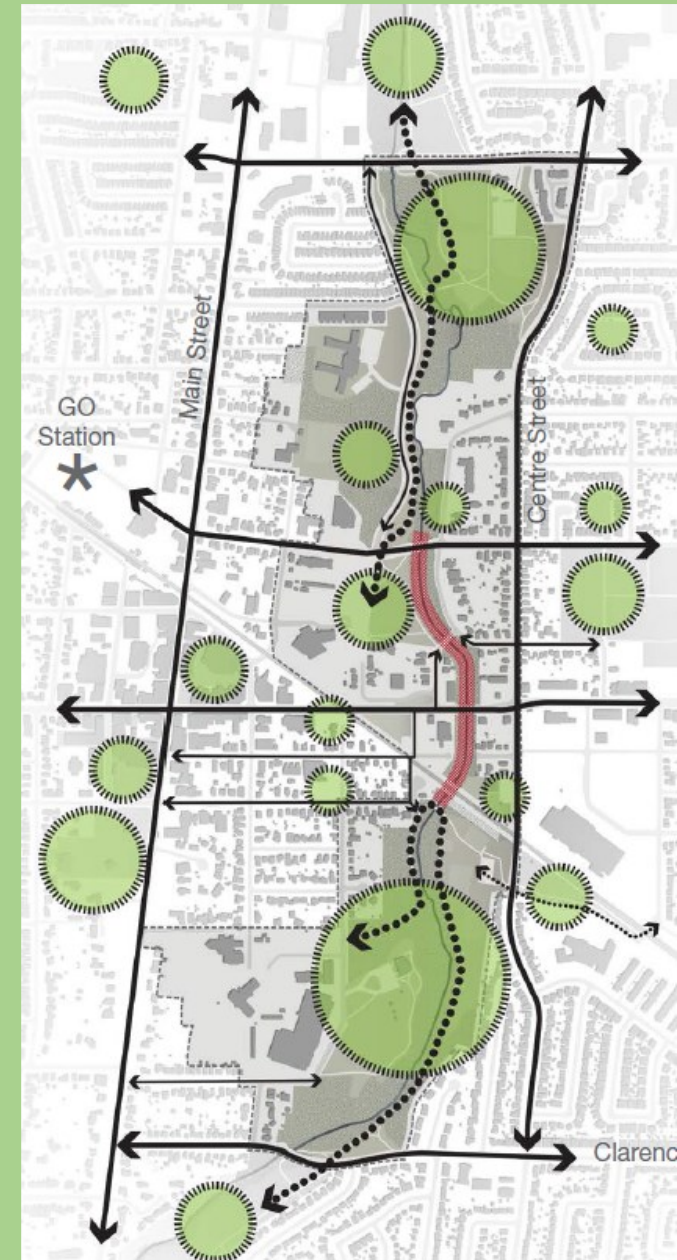


Meadow in Duggan Park



## Constraints and Opportunities Analysis

- Review entire area, including parks (Duggan Park, Central Public School Park, Rosalea Park, revamped channel and Centennial Park)



## Existing Condition Analysis

- Looked at context and relationships, open space system, transportation and access, environment, heritage



# Riverwalk UDMF: Work to Date Summary

## Riverwalk Vision

### The City Faces the River The City Rediscovered the River

The original vision for Riverwalk presented opportunities for downtown revitalization. The Downtown Etobicoke Creek Revitalization Study was approved by Brampton City Council in June 2014.



## Design Principles and Objectives

**Riverwalk is Brampton's new riverfront, a continuous ribbon of open space that weaves through and intersects the City's urban fabric and provides a focal point for city building, community, ecology, resilience and sustainability.**

### Links & Connections

- Connect major destinations along and adjacent to Riverwalk.
- Link Riverwalk bike lanes, streets and transit.
- Integrate Riverwalk into surrounding neighbourhoods, public realm improvements.
- Establish a hierarchy of pathways and trails that are accessible, safe and understandable.
- Establish loops and links to for a flexible and varied experience.
- Create bridges and boardwalks that are accessible and safe.



### Integration & Intensification

- Redefine and urbanize Riverwalk edges.
- Create a vibrant riverfront amenity by building upon the Flood Protection measures.
- Establish a new destination identity for the Riverwalk & Downtown.
- Create strong urban connections between the Riverwalk and Downtown Brampton.



### Programming & Recreation

- Enhance programs and features to increase recreational opportunities while protecting sensitive habitats.
- Provide new pedestrian experiences of open spaces and water's edge.
- Improve and enhance the overall public realm and functionality.
- Develop varied movement and recreation routes.
- Encourage nature-based play and exploration.
- Encourage physical activity and wellness.



### Discovery, Education & Interpretation

- Showcase the rich cultural heritage associated with Downtown Brampton, the Etobicoke Creek and within the Riverwalk study area.
- Develop clear and consistent wayfinding and interpretive signage around major trail entry points and nodes.
- Share the story of the Etobicoke Creek's natural and human history through public art and other installations.



### Protect, Preserve & Enhance

- Expand and enhance terrestrial and aquatic habitat for native flora and fauna.
- Enhance responsible interaction with the natural environment.
- Protect and preserve the most sensitive natural areas.
- Protect, enhance and establish new view corridors, vistas and visual connections from surrounding streets, bridges and neighbourhoods, and within the Riverwalk Precinct.



### Sustainability & Resilience

- Exhibit sustainable best practices and climate change leadership through innovative design, robust materials and low maintenance and cohesive management frameworks.
- Celebrate, enhance, create and integrate ecological spaces and habitat, improving resiliency to climate change, increasing our natural capital and protecting valuable natural resources and ecosystems for the future.



### Safety & Accessibility

- Create a continuous trail that provides a clear, safe and intuitive route through Riverwalk.
- Provide clear and safe access all levels of mobility and ability.
- Implement a unified wayfinding and signage strategy.
- Create a lighting strategy addresses public safety objectives while achieving the highest standards of habitat protection, reduction of light pollution and energy efficiency.





# Urban Design Master Plan (UDMP)

## The Resilience, Sustainability, and Healthy Development Framework

- Will further explore look ability for:
  - natural heritage enhancements: vegetation, ecology, water, air
  - resilience: climate change mitigation and adaptation
  - sustainable development: low impact development, storm water management, energy conservation/green energy, urban agriculture
  - healthy development: connectivity, active living, social equity, mental health, access to nature
- Develop key indicators/metrics, performance monitoring in conjunction with City efforts to grow and evolve sustainability metrics
- Riverwalk as Brampton's pilot/demonstration project for sustainability and resilience, a landmark Eco Space
- Planned to be followed by a comprehensive Resilience, Sustainability and Healthy Development Plan complete with measurements, indicators in 2021





# The Riverwalk Program: **Brampton Eco Park**

Brampton Eco Park = a *network* of sustainable urban/green spaces, referred to as Eco Spaces, that better integrate residents with the natural environment

Guided by 7 principles:

- 1) Maximize ecological value
- 2) Provide opportunities for social services
- 3) Make nature visible
- 4) Design with nature
- 5) Integrate with surrounding community
- 6) Support innovation
- 7) Reflect local identity



Eco Spaces:

- a. enhance and maintain healthy natural systems and processes
- b. integrate opportunities for meaningful social and environmental interactions and experiences
- c. strive to incorporate the 7 guiding Eco Park principles.

***Opportunity to create Riverwalk as a premier Eco Space***

## Examples of Upcoming Opportunities



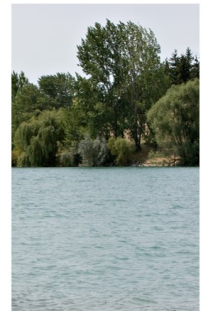
Jefferson, Jordan, and Jayfield Park and Channel Rehabilitation



CVC Trailhead Eco Park



Brampton Riverwalk Project



Lake Rehabilitation



# The Riverwalk: Resilience, Sustainability, Healthy Development



Key current issues arising from pandemic lessons:

- Access to nature and open space
- Access to affordable housing
- Access to sustainable mobility
- Access to amenities

+

The “new” economy

Post-pandemic City Opportunities



Downtown Etobicoke Creek Revitalization: The Riverwalk



# Riverwalk Area: Resilient, Sustainable, Healthy Development Opportunities

Peel Memorial Health Centre:  
access to community health, employment

Etobicoke Creek trail:  
AT, active living

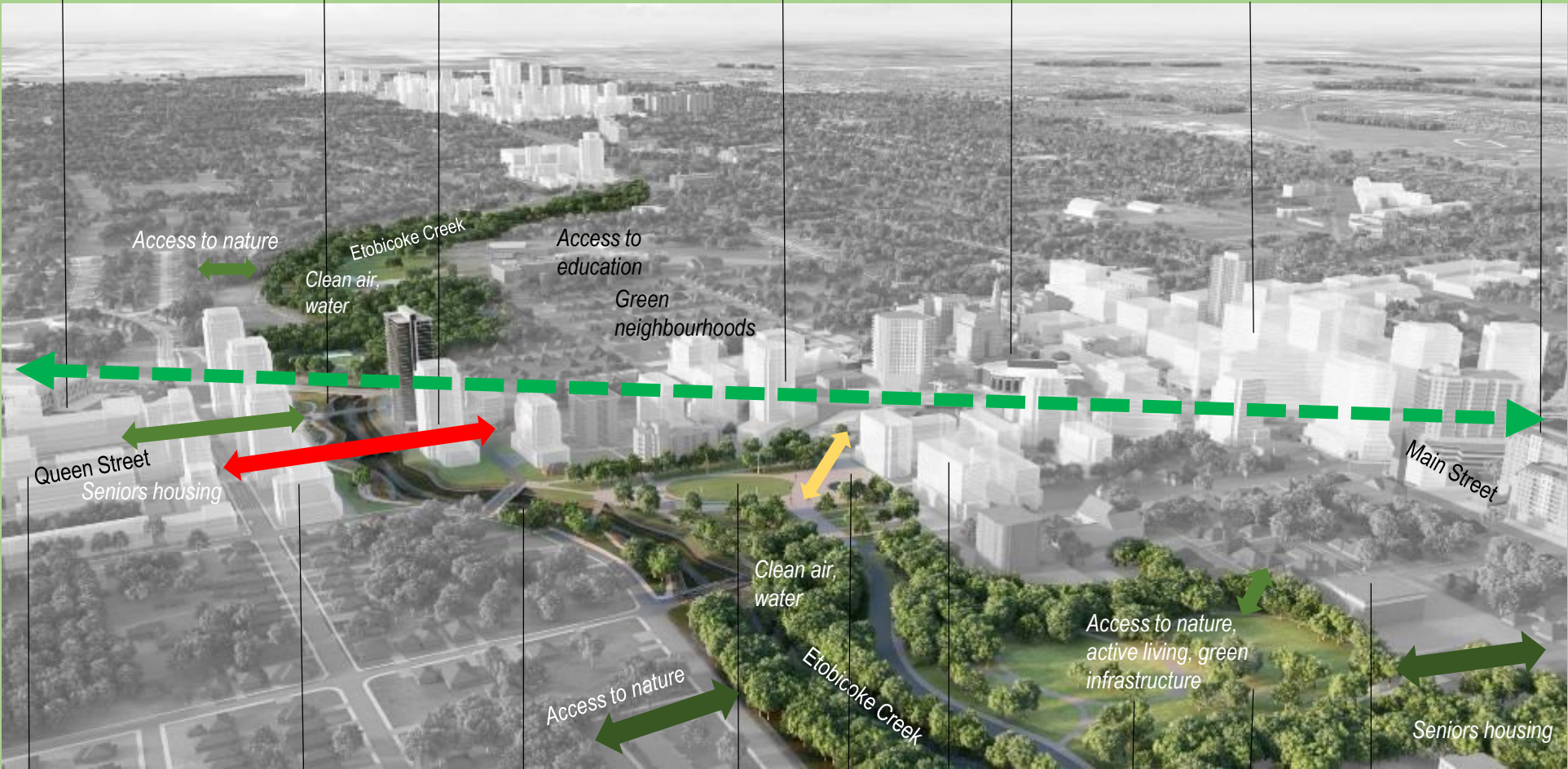
Innovation Corridor,  
Rapid Regional and local  
Transit

Retail, services,  
affordable  
housing

Institutional core, mixed  
use, employment  
services

Innovation Centre:  
entrepreneur space, employment

Downtown Mobility Hub:  
regional and local transit



Health  
based development,  
seniors care and  
housing

Queen Street High Order  
Transit: intensification,  
Transit Oriented Dev.  
affordable housing

Etobicoke Creek flood  
mitigation; public safety  
Riverwalk trail: AT,  
active living

Rosalea Park: Public  
/event space, physical  
distancing, social  
health, active living

Mixed use  
development,  
affordable housing  
Low impact dev.

Etobicoke Creek  
valley/ parks system:  
access to nature,  
open space, physical  
distancing opportunity

Access to improved  
public amenities (CPS  
Community Centre)



# Program Timelines



2011-14

## Special Policy Area Amendment

Special policy for Downtown Brampton that clearly articulates development opportunities and requirements

2013-18

## Feasibility Studies

2018-20

## Flood Protection Environmental Assessment (EA)

EA to assess solutions for flood protection in the Downtown – led by TRCA in partnership with the City

**APPROVED SEPTEMBER 2020**

2019

## Economic Impact Study

Study to identify the full economic benefits to unlocking development in downtown Brampton.

2019-21

## Urban Design (Open Space) Master Plan (UDMP)

Study to complement the EA, identify open space and public realm, resilience, sustainability opportunities, programing, park and trails design concepts

**Funding for the Flood Protection secured with Federal and City contributions**

2021-23

## Detailed Design (based on the EA approved solutions and UDMP)

2024

## Potential Start of Construction\*

Construction could commence as early as 2024, pending design approvals and project funding



# The Riverwalk Project: Conclusion

When completed the Riverwalk will:

- Protect from flood and disasters
- Revitalize downtown and the city
- Trigger infrastructure renewal
- Generate employment, attract people and investment
- Build community, support diversity, bring people together
- Develop central park system, contribute to Brampton Eco Park
- Make a more resilient, sustainable, and healthy Downtown
- Support diversity and culture, improve social balance
- Stimulate new approaches, innovation, change





# The Riverwalk Project **Next Steps**

- Urban Design Master Plan concepts development and finalization
- Detailed design and associated work
- Advocacy, engagement, communication
- Construction

**Questions?**

*Earlier artist rendering*