

BRAMPTON'S RIVERWALK

Overview

Age-friendly Committee, June, 2021

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The Riverwalk Program: Overview

- Key infrastructure and transformative initiative for Downtown Brampton
- Integrates flood protection, revitalization, nature and open space, place making, public amenities
- Transforms a liability into a sustainable asset and attraction for economic growth and people
- Integrates with other strategic initiatives
- Catalyst for Downtown revitalization, development

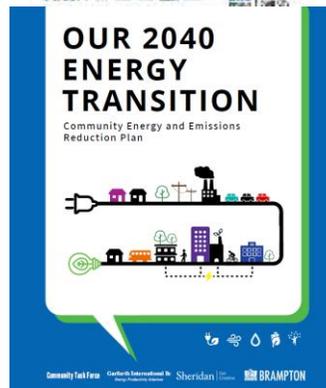
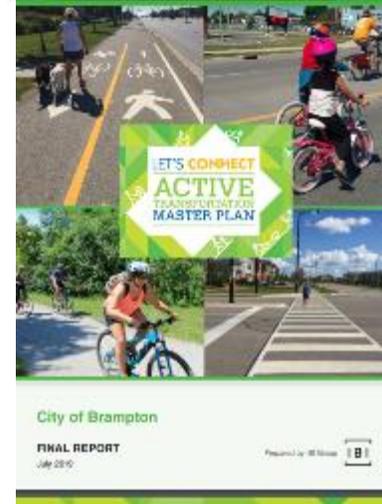
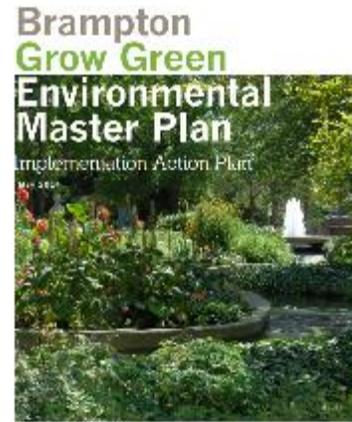


The Riverwalk Program: Policy Context and Support

- Provincial Urban Growth Centre, Special Policy Area update (2014)
- **TRCA Living City Strategy**
- **Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan**
- **Parks and Recreation Master Plan**
- **Active Transportation Master Plan**
- Council approval of the Vision, Feasibility Studies; continuous Council support
- Current Term of Council priority
- Brampton 2040 Vision
- **Brampton Eco Park Strategy**
- Economic Development Master Plan, Tourism Strategies
- Arts & Culture Master Plan update, upcoming Cultural Heritage Strategy
- ROP Active Parks Design Guide, COB Sustainability Guidelines and Indicators



FIVE-YEAR UPDATE TO
BUILDING
 The Living City
 2013-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN



Active Parks
 Design Guide



Healthy Communities Series
 peelregion.ca/healthy-communities

Riverwalk Program Work Components: Overview



Downtown Brampton Flood Protection (DBFP)

- Environmental Assessment (EA) commenced 2018 to seek solutions for Downtown Brampton flood protection
- EA was led by Toronto & Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) in partnership with the City of Brampton
- EA completed Summer 2020; approved in Sep 2020
- **Detailed design starting in 2021**

Urban Design/Open Space Master Plan (UDMP)

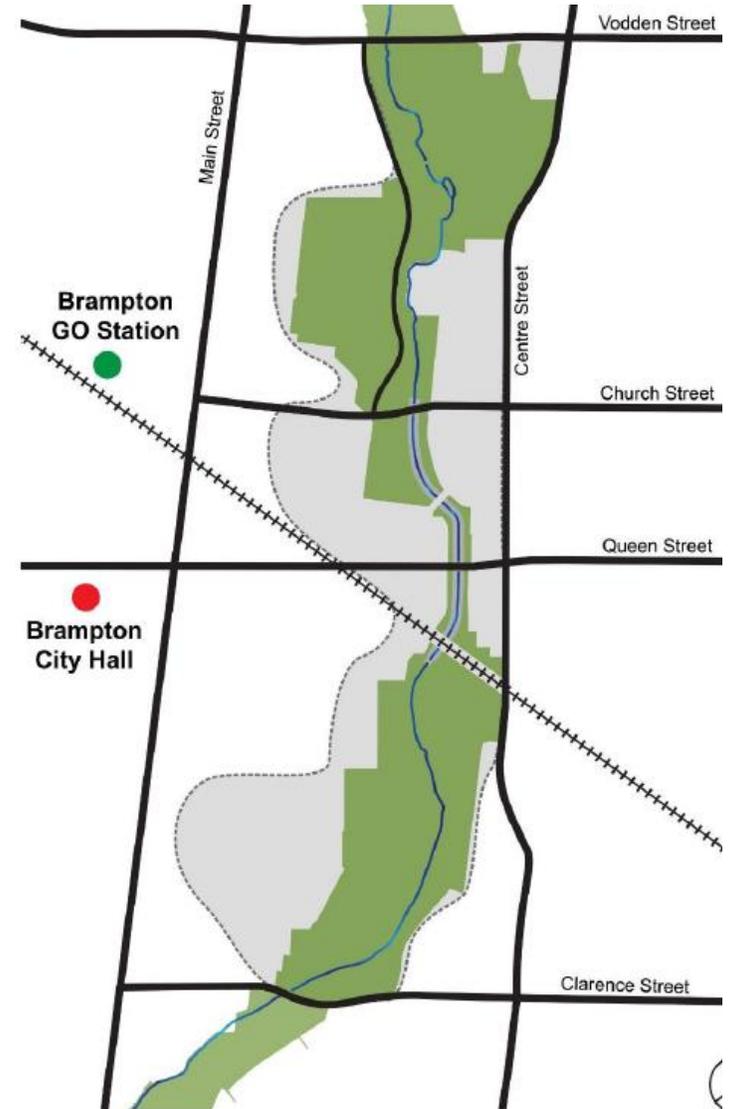
- Commenced in 2019 to complement the EA
- Led by City of Brampton
- Producing an overall master plan for open space; design concepts for the main parks; preliminary programming; integrating sustainability and resilience
- Public engagement and consultation: 2020, Mar 2021
- **Master Plan finalization Q3/2021 w implementation**

Economic Development

- Return on Investment (ROI) Study (2019) identified significant economic benefits of the Riverwalk unlocking development in Downtown Brampton

Advocacy and Funding (Flood Protection)

- \$38.8 M from federal Disaster Mitigation Fund
- \$5.9 M approved by Council for Detailed Design
- **Continuous advocacy w focus on resilience**

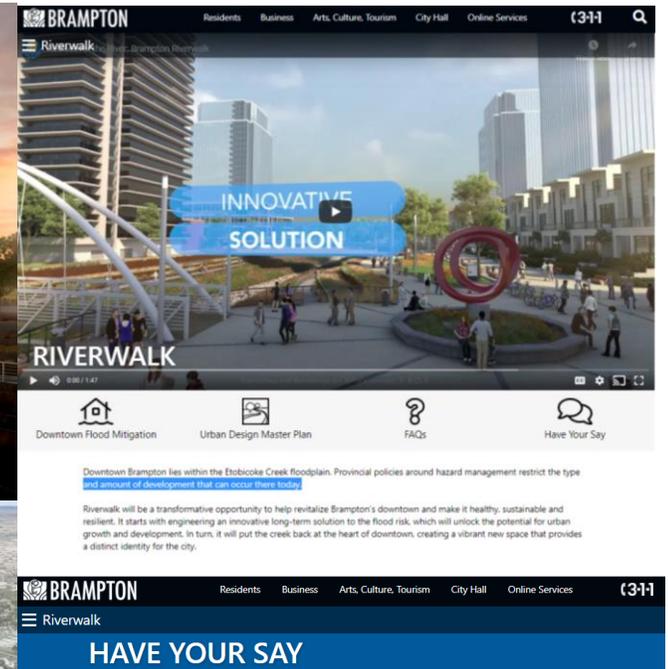


Riverwalk Program: Advocacy, Communication, Engagement

- Communication with Council, stakeholders, public, extensive advocacy at local and senior governments since 2013
- **Website** is key information and communication platform and tool:
 - ✓ Overview of program, key documents
 - ✓ Have Your Say, FAQs pages
- Stakeholder engagement: RWA, BEAC, BIA, CARP, AFC, Community Liaison Team

UDMP:

- Collaboration with key stakeholders
- Outreach to community:
 - ✓ Public Info Session Oct 1, 2020, survey
 - ✓ Public Info Session Mar 17th, 2021, survey
 - ✓ Town Hall meetings April 8th, May 18th
- Web site maintenance and visualization update
- Geo Hub platform
- Continuous advocacy including for support, grants, with Council, stakeholders, public



Consultation for the Riverwalk Area Urban Design Master Plan (UDMP) is currently ongoing and will be conducted in two stages. The first round introduced the project to the public, presented key information, responded to questions, and sought feedback from participants. The second round focuses on discussing design recommendations and the draft Master Plan. We are currently in the second stage of the UDMP consultation process.

UDMP Public Information Session and Survey #2

March 17, 2021: At the second virtual Public Information Session, the City presented an update on the project and sought feedback on design directions, concepts, and recommendations on the draft Riverwalk Urban Design Master Plan.

March 25 – April 9 2021: A second online survey was conducted to collect public feedback and inform future design work.

- March 17 PIS 2 presentation
- March 17 PIS 2 Meeting Summary
- Online survey 2 summary

UDMP Public Information Session and Survey #1

October 1, 2020: Our first virtual Public Information Session was held to introduce and seek feedback on the area's existing condition constraints and opportunities, the UDMP Vision update, design principles, and upcoming plans for the Riverwalk UDMP.

October 9 - November 6, 2020: An online survey was conducted to collect public feedback and inform future design work.

- October 1 PIS 1 presentation
- October 1 PIS 1 meeting summary
- Online survey 1 summary

Downtown Brampton Flood Protection Environmental Assessment (DBFP EA)

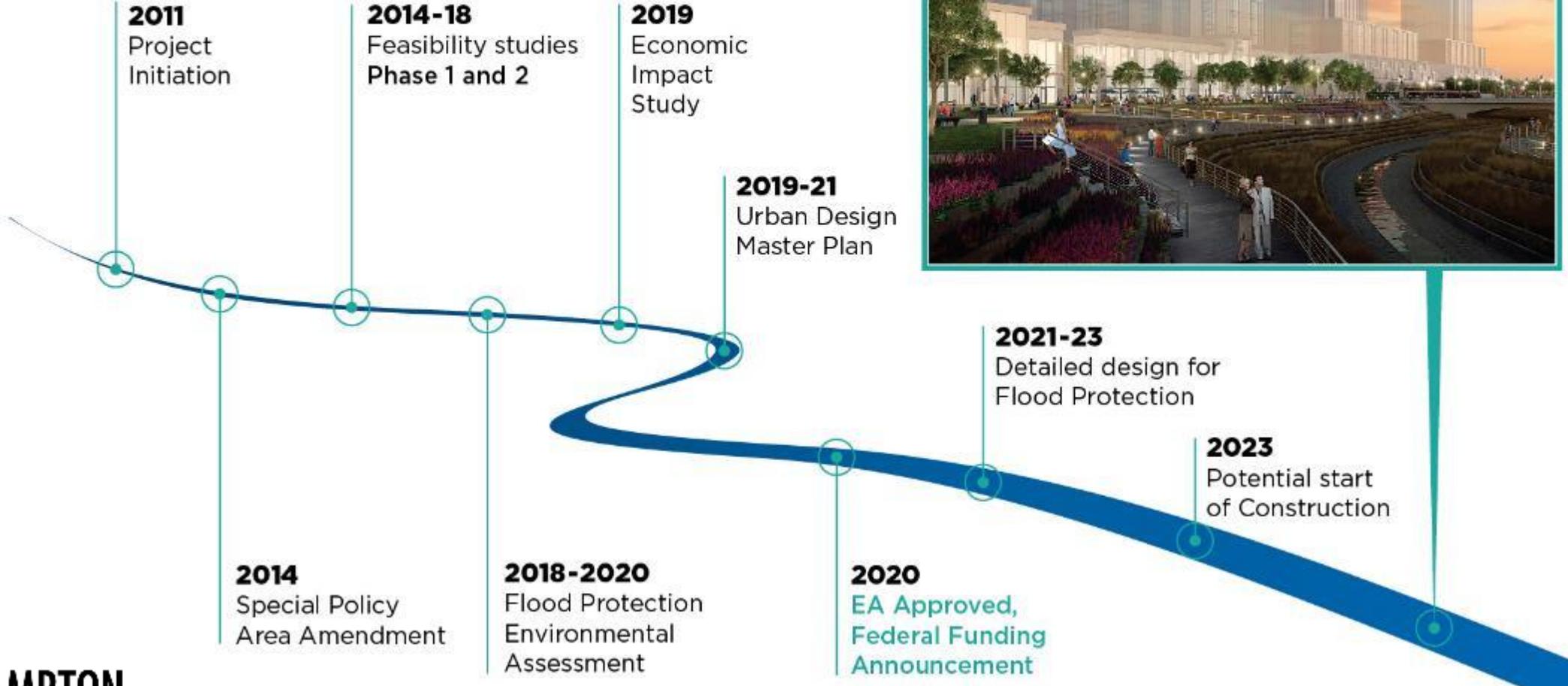
2018 – 2020: The Environmental Assessment included a very comprehensive public consultation and engagement process including hosting three Public Information Centres.

- DBFP EA Project Website

www.brampton.ca/riverwalk

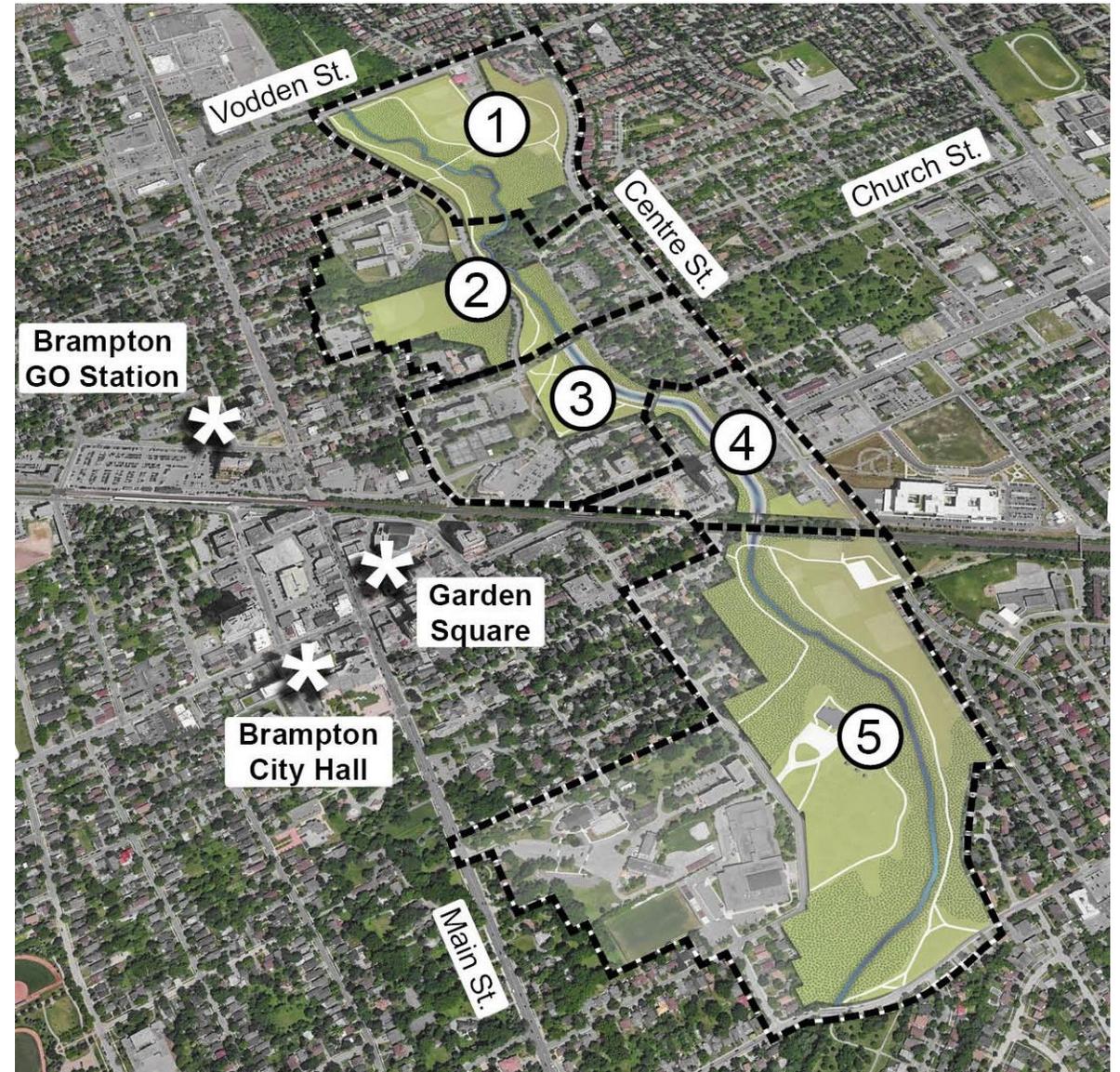
Riverwalk Program: Timelines

ETOBICOKE CREEK



Urban Design Master Plan: Overview

- Complements Environmental Assessment (EA) engineering solutions and **proposes landscape treatments** for flood mitigation elements
- Produces **open space and public realm master plan** for entire valley
- Integrates **active transportation** and transit
- Provides **preliminary programming** elements for parks
- Focuses on **making attractive places for all**, character and identity improvements
- Provides a **framework for resilience, sustainability and healthy living** for the area
- Targeting **completion** by Q3 2021



Design Vision Update

The City Faces the River, The City Rediscovered the River

Riverwalk is Brampton's new riverfront, a continuous ribbon of open space that weaves through and intersects with the city's urban fabric.

Riverwalk will be a catalyst for city building, community building, ecology, resilience and sustainability.



For a Summary of Public Information Session #1,
see: www.brampton.ca/riverwalk

Riverwalk UDMP: Work to Date

Environment, Resilience, Sustainability, Public Health focus

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.



*“The Riverwalk...
...provides a focal point for city
building, community, ecology,
resilience and sustainability”*

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.

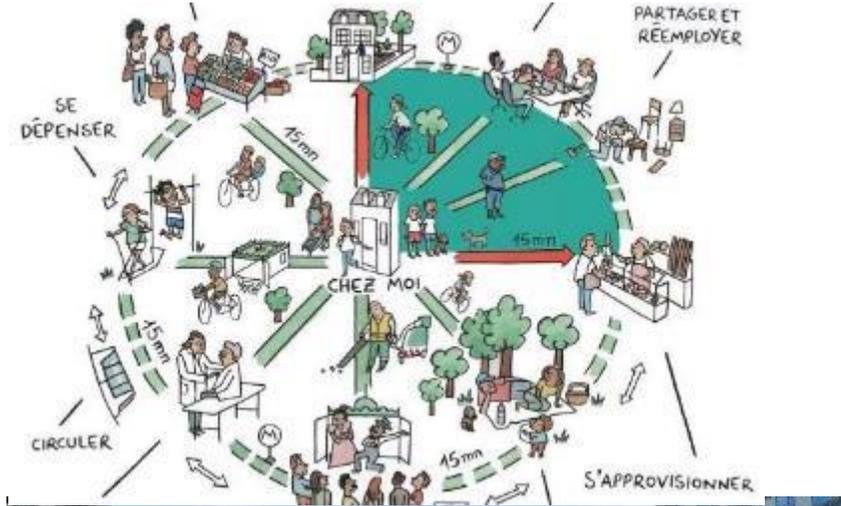


Safety & Accessibility

- 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.



The Riverwalk: Lessons from the Pandemic



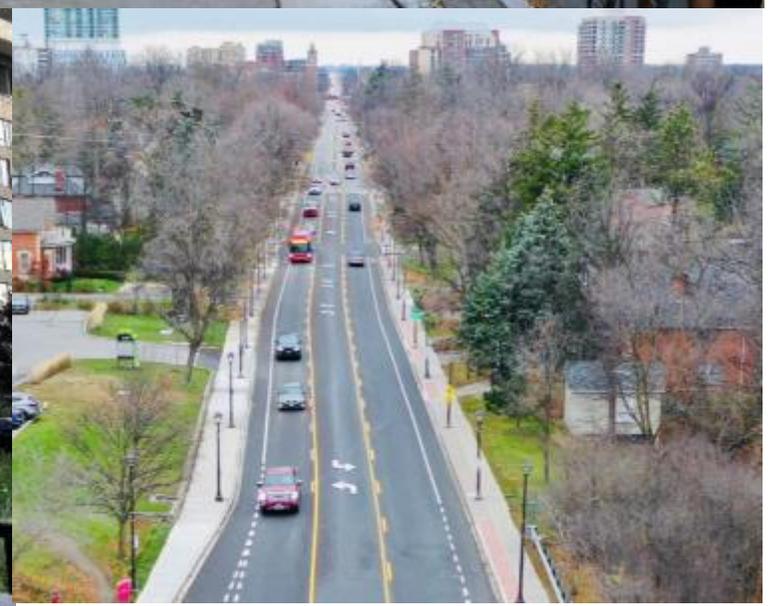
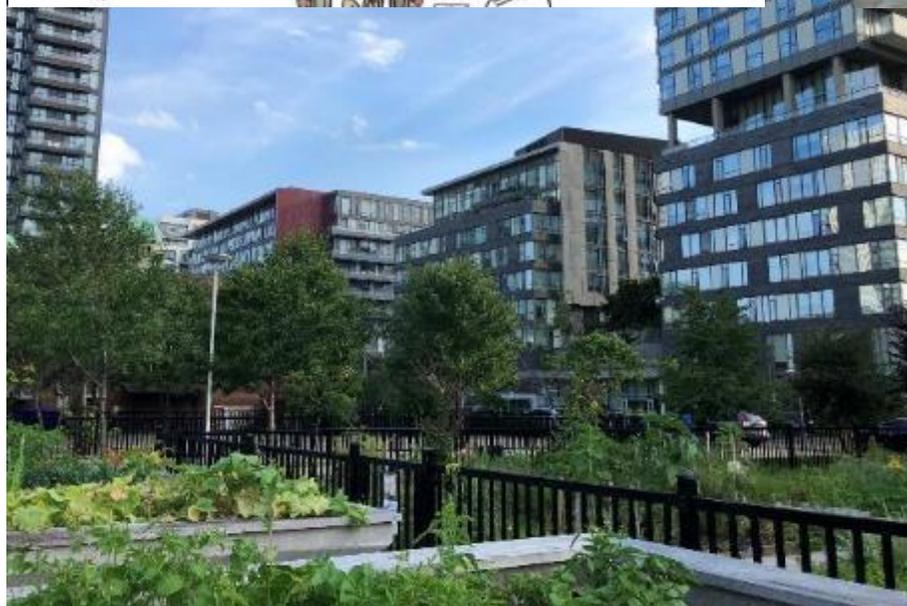
Key current issues arising from pandemic lessons:

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

+

The “new” economy

Post-pandemic City opportunities



Riverwalk UDMF: Environment, Resilience, Sustainability, Public Health

- Framework stage - planning and design directions, integration:
 - ✓ natural heritage enhancement
 - ✓ climate change mitigation and adaptation
 - ✓ sustainable mobility
 - ✓ sustainability, green energy and infrastructure
 - ✓ low impact development, storm water management
 - ✓ urban agriculture
 - ✓ active living, public health and wellbeing
 - ✓ access to nature
 - ✓ economic sustainability, social equity
 - ✓ general built form/energy provisions
 - ✓ environmental education
- Collaboration, partnerships: TRCA, Region of Peel, community
- Potential pilot/demonstration projects including in the interim
- Resilience, Sustainability and Healthy Development Framework to become complete Plan including performance indicators



The Riverwalk Program: **Implementation of Brampton's Eco Park**

Brampton Eco Park = a *network* of sustainable urban/green spaces (*at the city scale*), 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 seven guiding Eco Park principles

***Eco Park as design driver:
“to plan, design and improve
the Riverwalk area as
a premier Eco Space”***



www.brampton.ca/ecopark

Riverwalk UDMP: Design Drivers, Directions

- **Eco Park Space concept**
 - ✓ Environmental and ecological enhancement
 - ✓ Green infrastructure
 - ✓ Access to nature
- **Programming for a variety of uses, for inclusivity**
 - ✓ Passive and active recreation options
 - ✓ Events, entertainment, public art
 - ✓ Natural and cultural heritage education
- **Focus on sustainable mobility**
 - ✓ Enhancing the active transportation network
 - ✓ Proximity of the Downtown mobility hub, regional transit/GO service, future LRT, Zum
 - ✓ High order transit network (upcoming Queen street BRT)
- **Strengthening Downtown character and identity**
 - ✓ Place-making and attractions based on the area's history/heritage, interpretative program
 - ✓ Cultural events, public art, wayfinding



Riverwalk UDMP: Design Directions, Approaches, Intent

Programming:

- Multiuse, flexible spaces for variety of uses
- Programming and design for all ages and abilities (8-80)
- Inviting and inclusive public spaces, public amenities for all
- Comfort and safety, accessibility
- Variety of spaces, places, and amenities from urban to natural
- Integrated/eco-design, “design with nature”
- Support for equity, social balance, education
- Attraction for downtown, events

*Design for people, with people -
design with heart.*



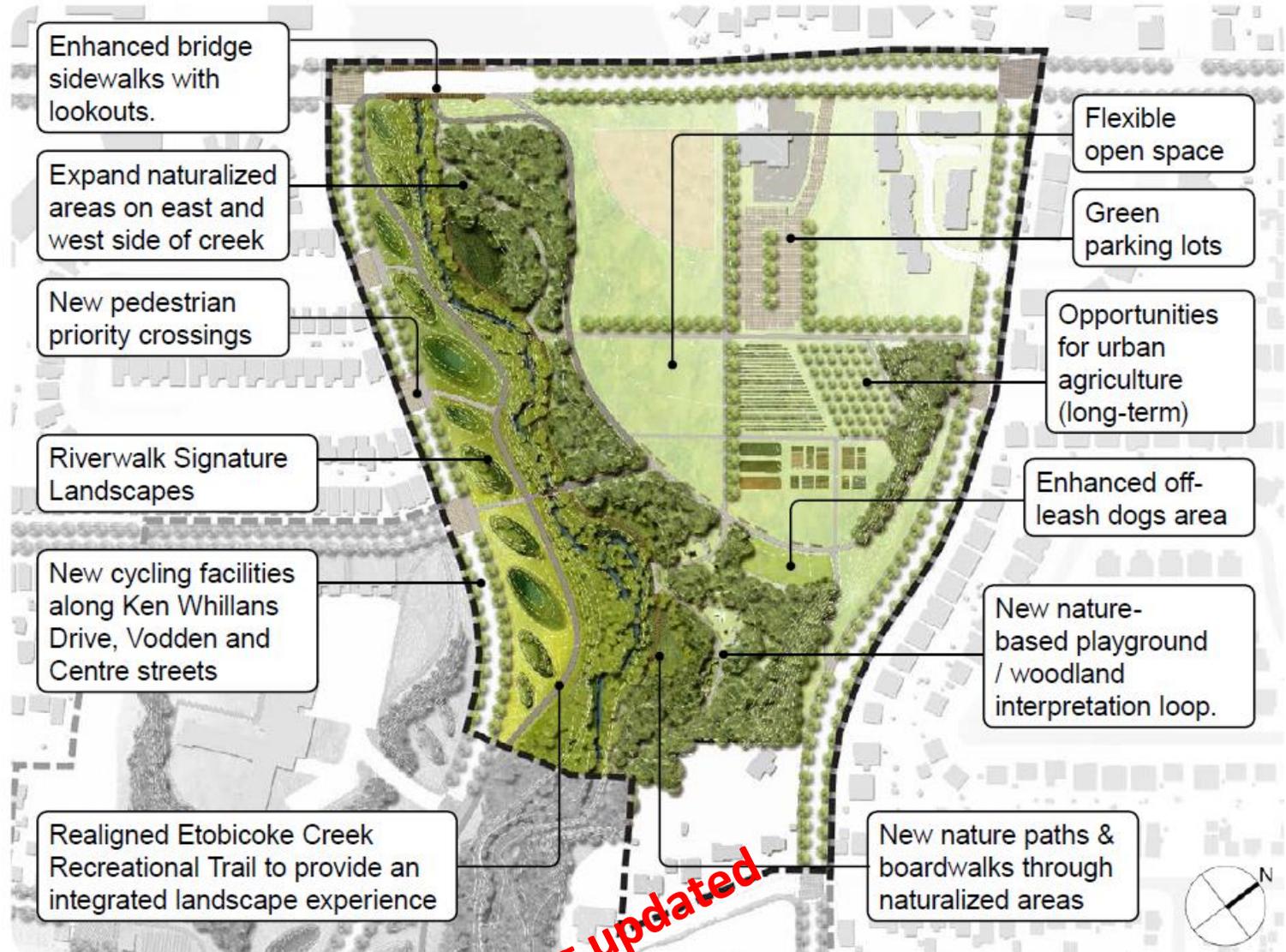
Riverwalk UDMP: Focus on Five Areas and Parks

- Duggan Park
- Central Public School/
Ken Whillans parkway
- Rosalea Park
- The Channel
- Centennial Park



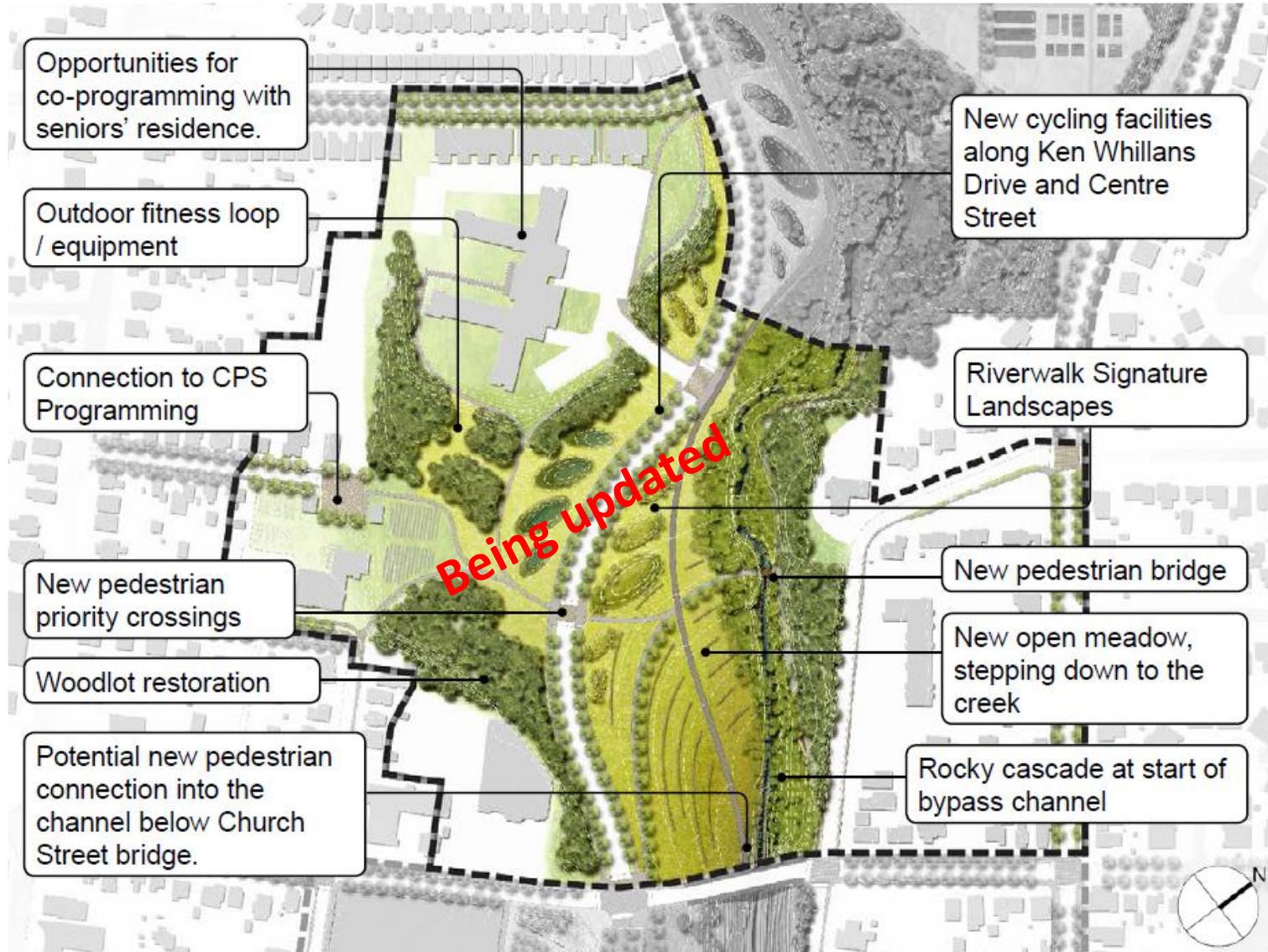
Design Intent and Concepts: Duggan Park

- Enhance and increase natural features (woodlot, wetland, riparian edge, etc).
- Establish new boardwalks and woodland trails.
- Provide improved access to the water's edge.
- Create new nature-based playground.
- Increase flexible space by relocating existing baseball fields, reconfiguring dogs-off leash area (long-term 10+ years)



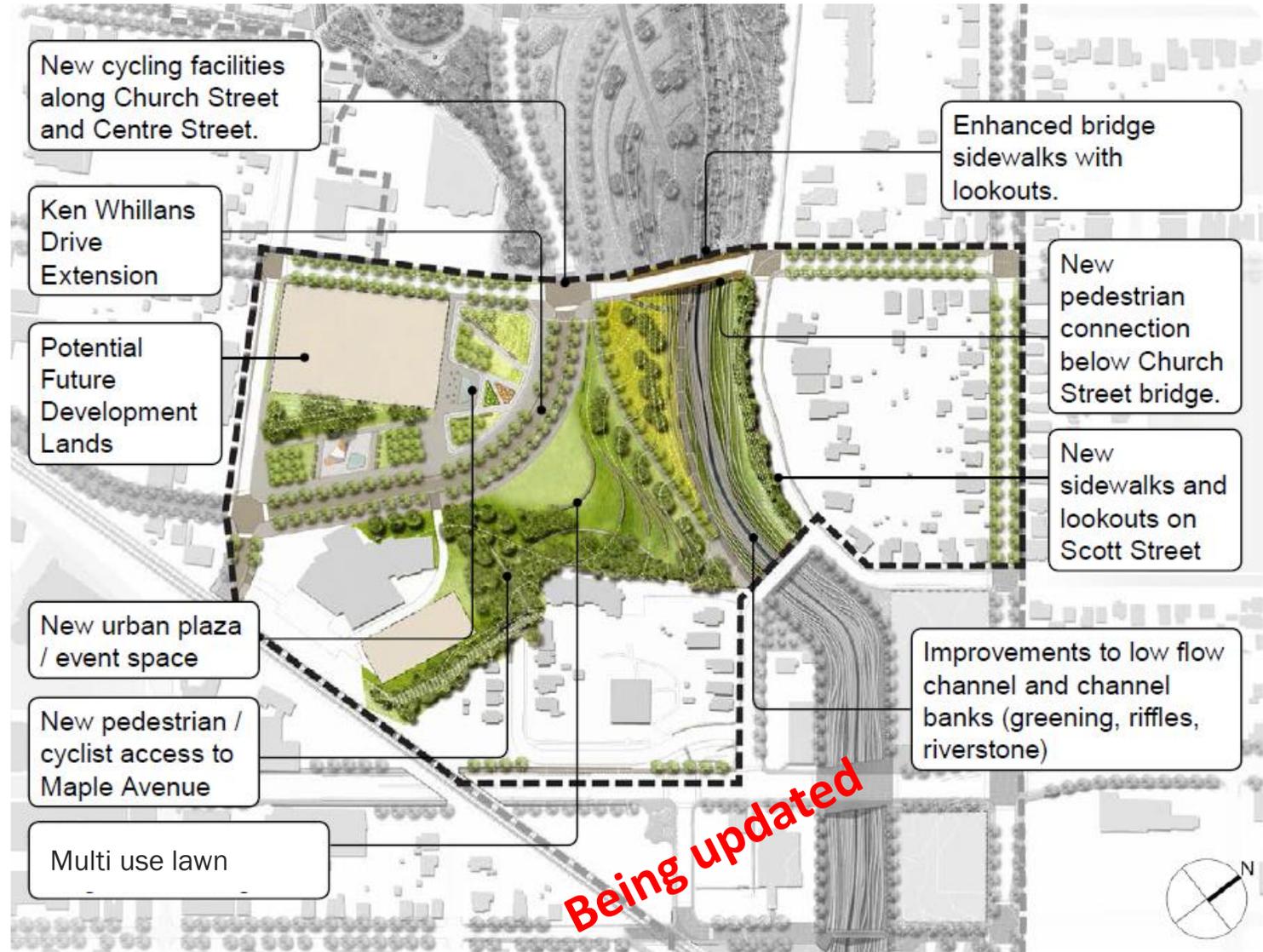
Design Intent and Concepts: Rosalea Park North

- Realignment and reconfiguration of Ken Whillans Drive into a complete street.
- Regrading of the space on the west side of the creek to create a new meadow landscape.
- Improvements to the Central Public School fields and facilities and connections with adjacent community.
- Creation of a rocky cascade feature at the mouth of the bypass channel.



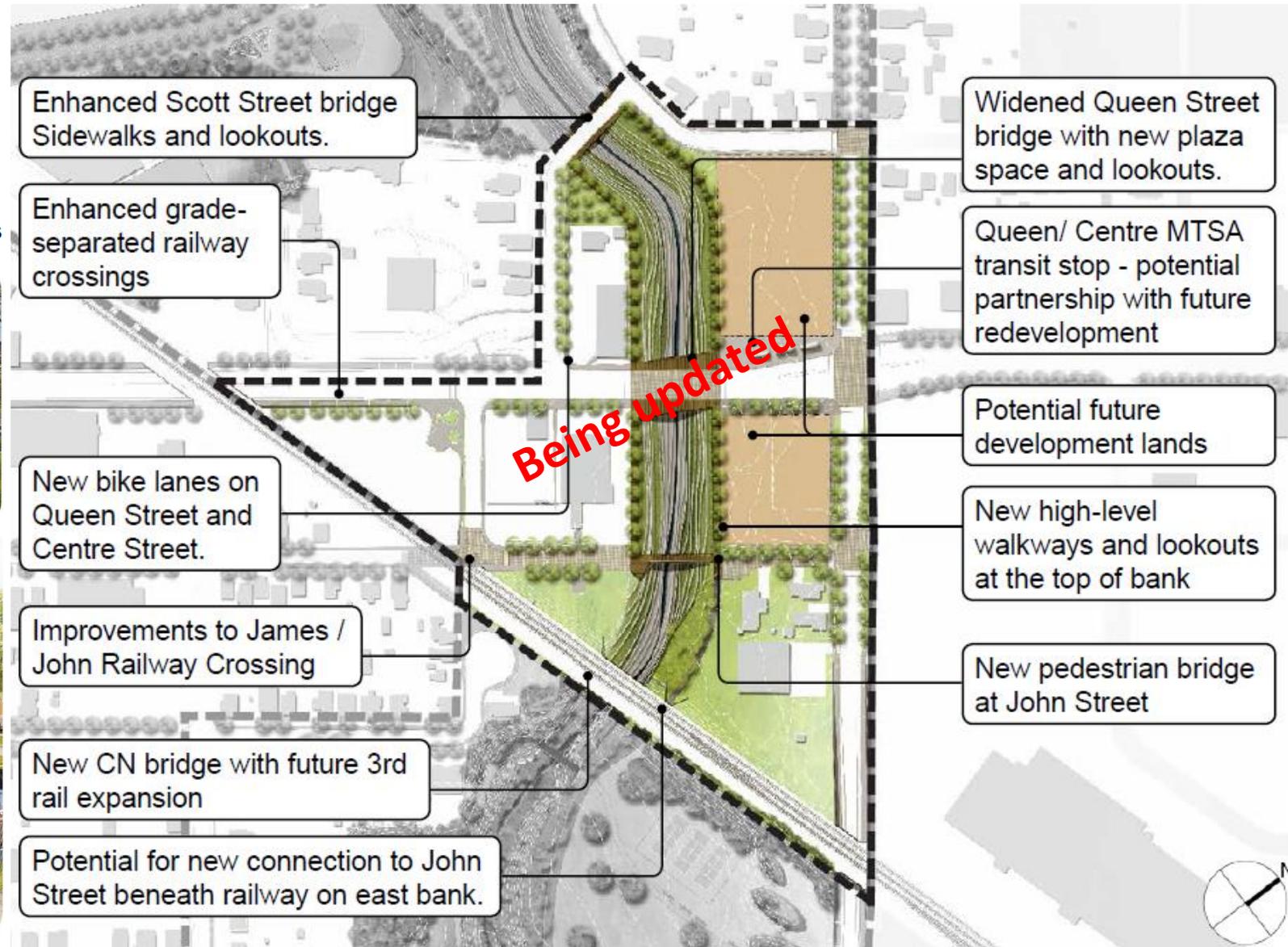
Design Intent and Concepts: Rosalea Park

- Create an extension of Downtown public open space and events spaces
- Grassed amphitheater, water features, seasonal programming
- New urban plaza and event space
- Extension of Ken Whillans Drive, new flexible street
- New connection to the Etobicoke Creek.



Design Intent and Concepts: Etobicoke Creek By-pass Channel

- The intersection between the valley/creek and the city. “A canyon through the city”.
- Rehabilitation of the Etobicoke Creek bypass channel to provide a better urban and ecological amenity.
- Reconnect the Etobicoke Creek Recreational Trail.
- New pedestrian / cycling bridge at John Street
- New public space and transit stop at Queen / Centre Streets



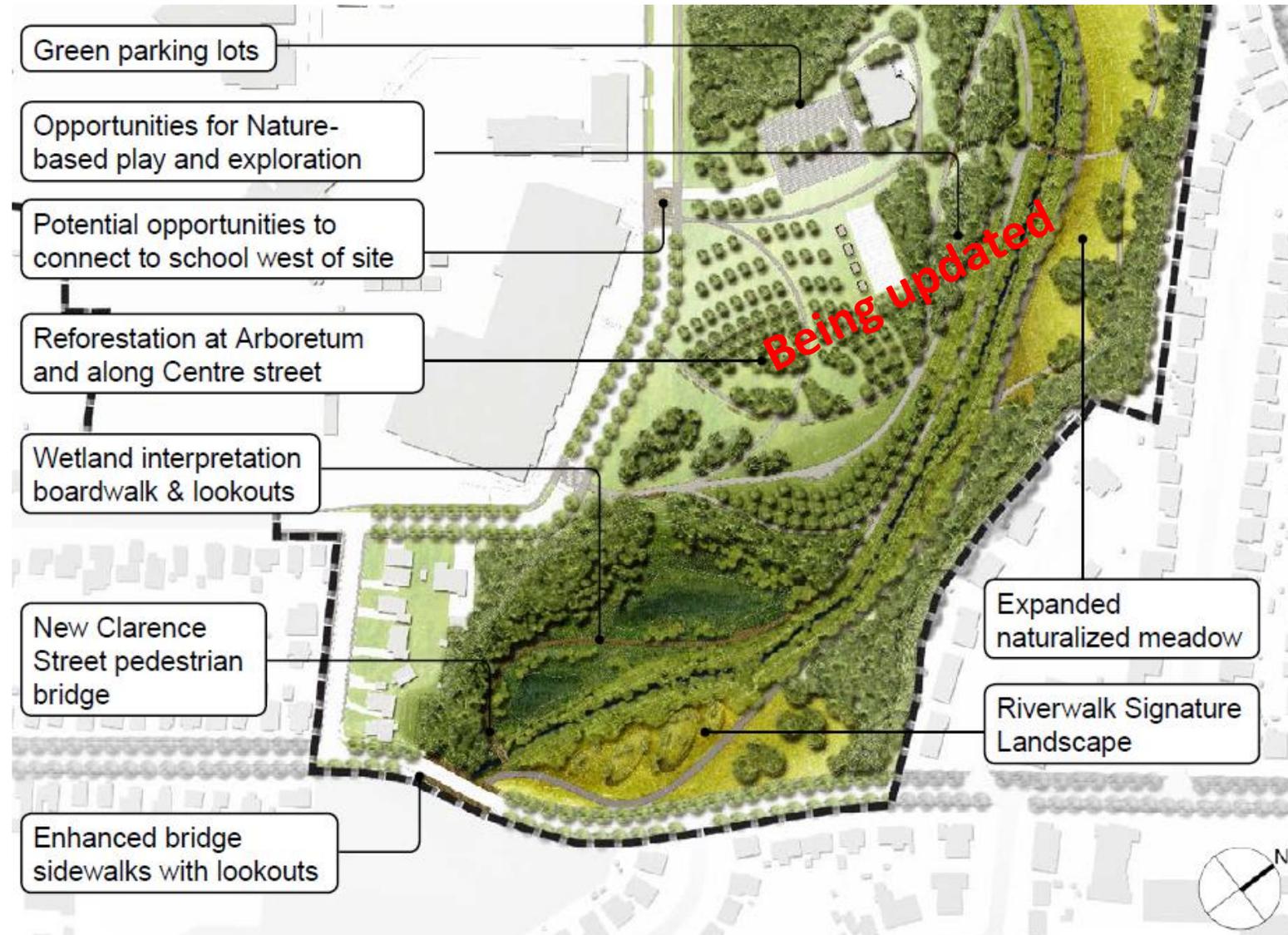
Design Intent and Concepts – Centennial Park (1)

- Enhance and increase natural features (wetland, woodland, arboretum, etc)
- Provide improved access & new crossings
- Create new signature landscape entrances to the park and Riverwalk Site
- Improved access to Wellington & James Streets
- New / improved pedestrian & cycling bridges.



Design Intent and Concepts – Centennial Park (2)

- Enhance and increase natural features (wetland, woodland, arboretum, etc)
- Provide improved access & new crossings
- Create new signature landscape entrances to the park and Riverwalk Site
- Improved access to Wellington & James Streets
- New / improved pedestrian & cycling bridges.



Downtown Revitalization and Development: Riverwalk Area

Riverwalk benefits

Environment and ecology:

- Vegetation, urban tree canopy, aquatic, terrestrial habitat

Climate change/resilience related:

Adaptation:

- Disaster mitigation: flood protection
- Urban flood reduction

Mitigation:

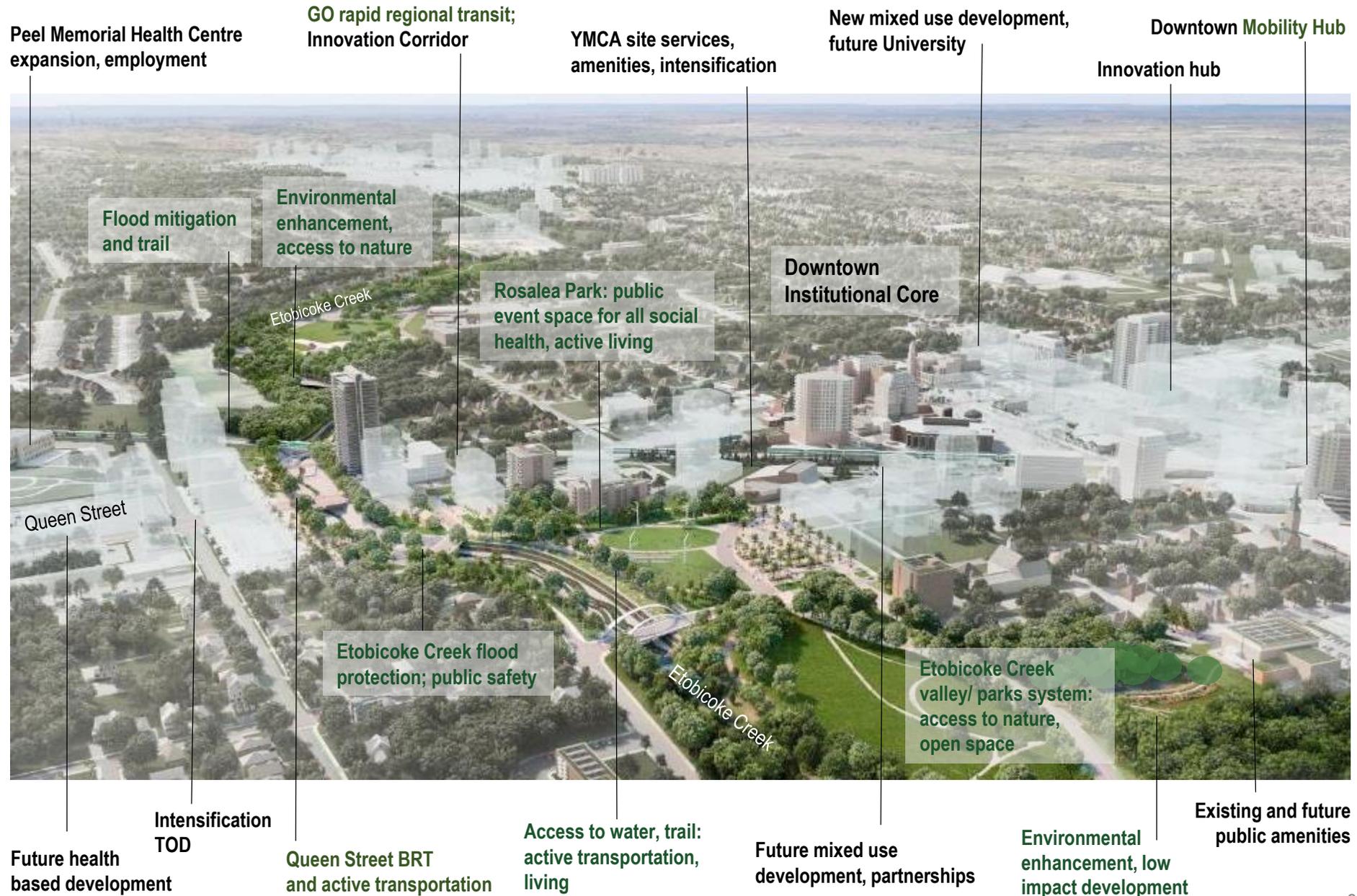
- Gas emissions, heat island reduction, clean energy
- Sustainable mobility: transit, cycling
- Integrated storm water management, low impact development
- Green development / infrastructure

Equity, social, economic resilience:

- Access to jobs, housing, amenities, open space, recreation, nature

Public health:

- access to health care facilities
- accessibility, walkability, cycling, active living
- access to nature, clean air, water
- healthy food, urban agriculture
- social and mental health



The Riverwalk Project: Conclusion

When completed the Riverwalk will:

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



Thank you!

