

# King/Queen Triangle Public Art

Issues Identification

October 26, 2022



# Project Description & Background

### Project Background

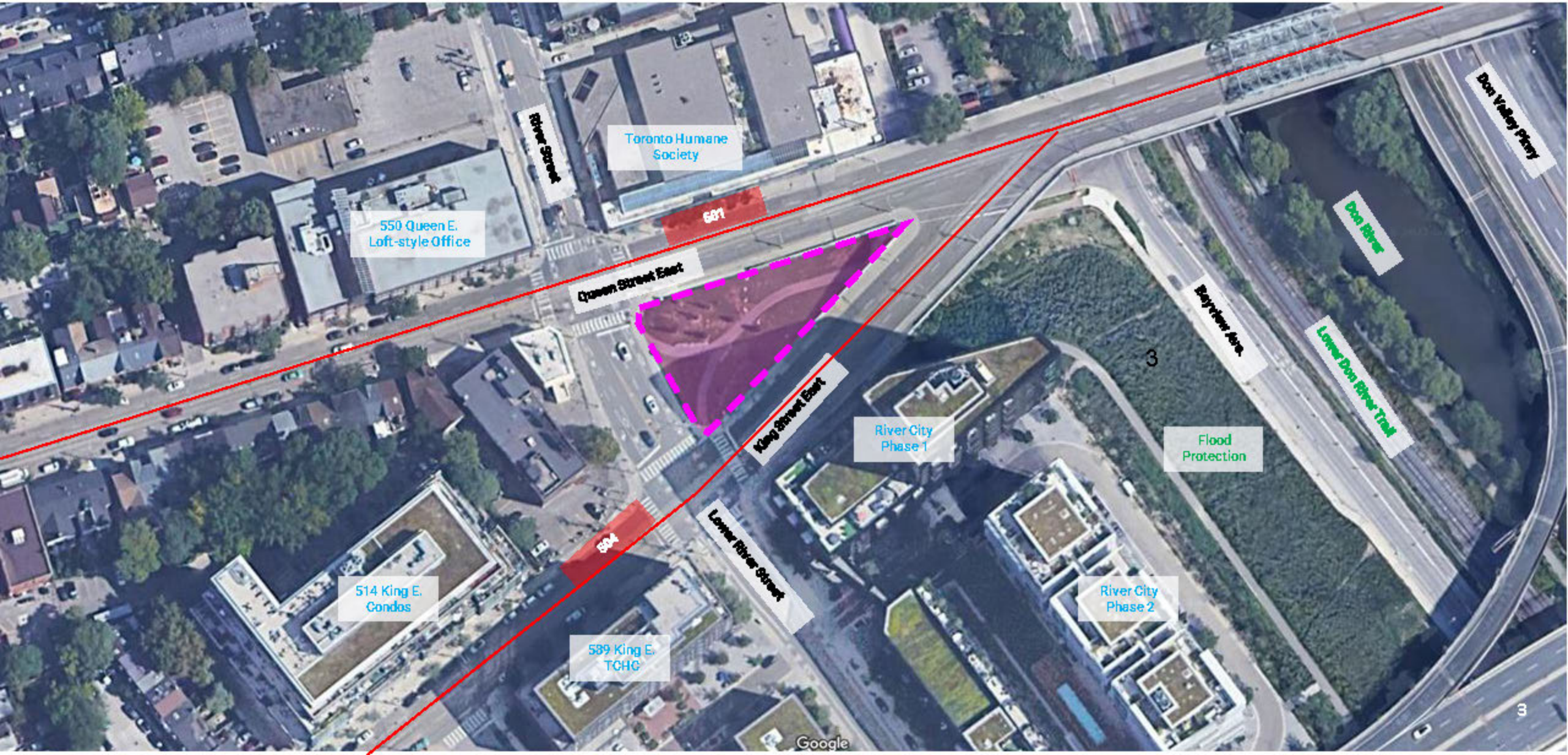
- King/Queen Triangle is formed by the intersection of King, Queen and River Streets. The site was identified for permanent public art to create a gateway feature for Corktown neighbourhood. Motion approved by City Council in July 2018 with funding through Section 37 contributions.
- Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued July 2021, in collaboration with Indigenous Public Art Curator Ryan Rice, to seek Indigenous artists or Indigenous artist-led teams for two significant, site-specific public art commissions in the West Don Lands (the second is on the new Anishnawbe Health Toronto site at Cherry & Mill Streets).
- In addition to artwork, artists were asked to consider remodeling the site's landscape to ensure artwork is fully integrated with the site, and to make the area more welcoming and accessible to the public.
- RFQ: The public art project will draw upon a continuum of rich and diverse narratives and relationships connecting time and cultures. By adding meaningful artwork and rethinking/reshaping the current landscaping, the triangle will shine as a culturally significant illumination of (urban) Indigeneity. The artwork will contribute towards celebrating and acknowledging historical and contemporary Indigenous visual culture as city placemaking.
- Proposal selected through an open call competition by an Indigenous Evaluation Committee. Stakeholder TAC meeting May 2022 (PFR, TRCA, EDC, WT). Teams shortlisted November 2021, winning team selected May 2022.
- DRP Panel review will focus on ensuring the landscape design supports and reinforces the artistic conception of the project and creates a strong public space. The sculptural artworks will not be reviewed by the Panel.



# Site Context

## King/Queen Triangle Public Art

Proponent: King Queen Triangle  
Design Team: Amy Malbeuf & Jordan Bennett, IOTA Studios Inc., Benjamin Matthews  
Review Stage: Issues Identification





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**Site: 1265 sq.m.**



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**Review Stage:** Issues Identification

The King/Queen Triangle is **a unique site situated alongside the route of the Don River**, which received minimal public realm treatment.

The vision is for the public art opportunity to transform this undefined, transitory area wedged between high traffic transportation corridors, into **a welcoming gathering space** for nearby communities and the public at large.

The site forms part of the **flood protection landform** that protects this part of the city from the Don River in severe storms; therefore, artists must identify and sub-contract a **landscape architect** familiar with the constraints and opportunities posed by the geotechnical requirements for maintaining the structural integrity and dimensions of the flood protection landform.





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# Site Context – Public Art

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Review Stage: Issues Identification

King Queen Triangle



Block 10  
(Anishnawbe Health Toronto)





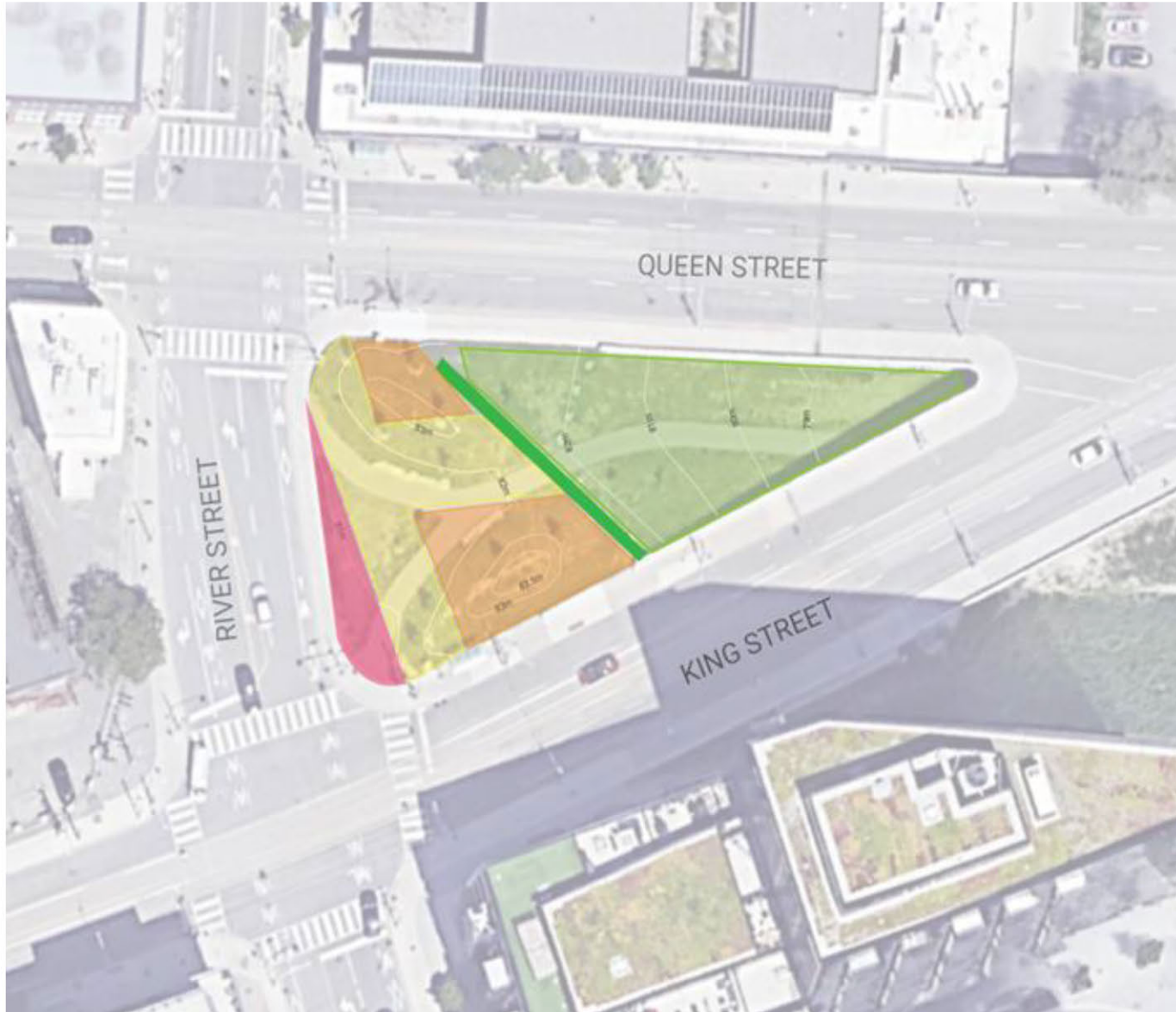
# Site Context – Constraints

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### LEGEND

**Wet side FPL.** Within the floodplain area regulated by TRCA. No structures permitted. Plants must be shallow-rooted, ecologically appropriate/native species. Minor localized grade changes may be possible.

**Crest of the FPL.** No structures or grade change permitted.

**Dry side FPL.** Permanent structures, as well as trees, can be located here if sufficient cover is provided above the FPL. Minor grade changes related to the overlying soils above the FPL may be possible.

**Dry side of FPL with Municipal Servicing.** Underground infrastructure in this area may require access in future. Thus, easily removed shallow structures, grasses, berms, simple pathways, shrubs may be possible. No large trees or significant structures/investment recommended.

**Right-of-Way.** No obstructions of traffic or sightlines permitted, nor impacts on infrastructure.

FPL = Flood Protection Landform



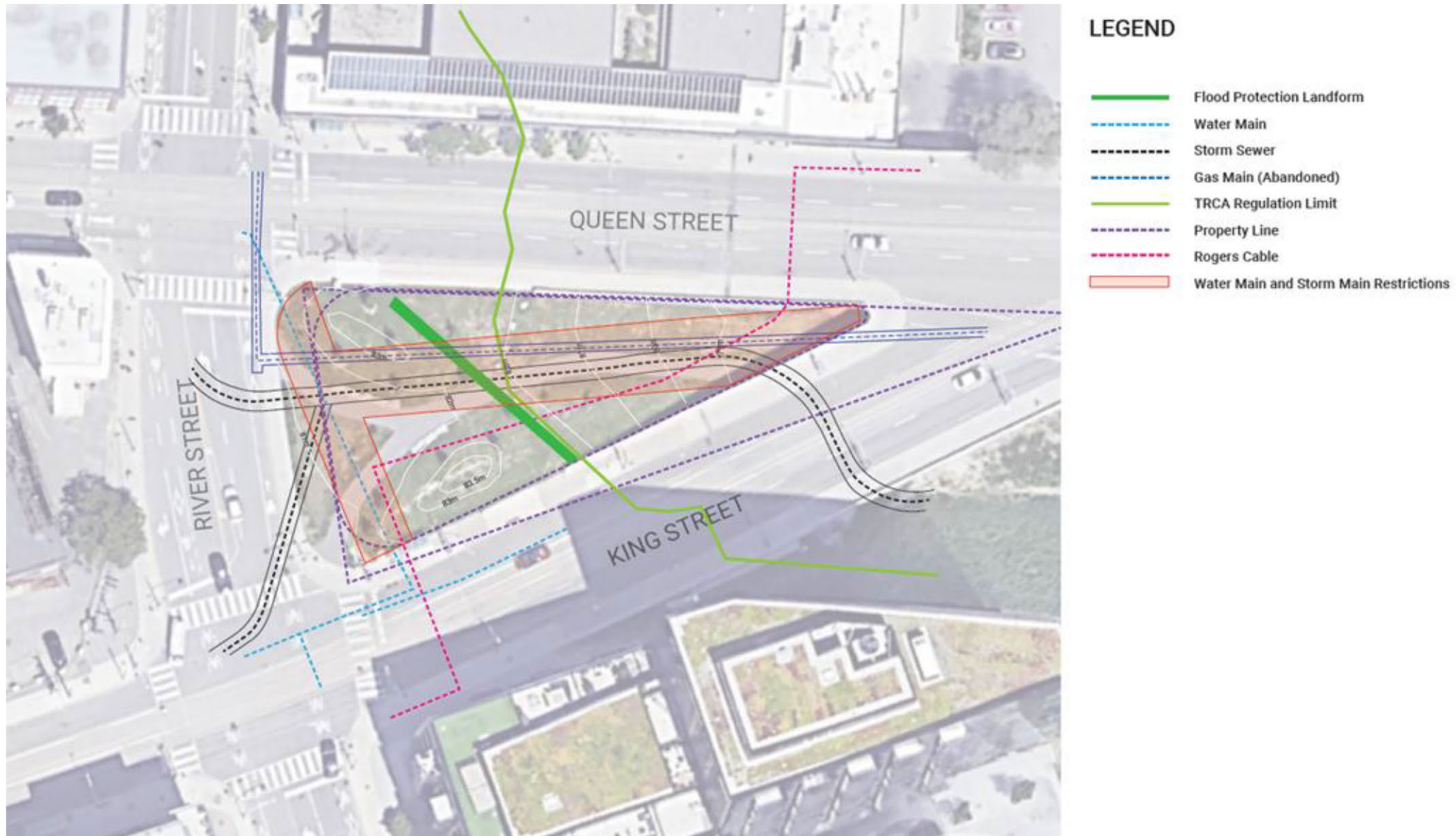
# Site Context – Infrastructure

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Review Stage: Issues Identification





# Project Update

## King/Queen Triangle Public Art

**Proponent:** King Queen Triangle  
**Design Team:** Amy Malbeuf & Jordan Bennett, IOTA Studios Inc., Benjamin Matthews  
**Review Stage:** Issues Identification

### Waterfront Toronto Role

- Artist Team Procurement
- Overall Project Manager for Implementation
- Stakeholder Liaison
- Project Handover to EDC / PF&R

### Project Timeline

- WT Public Consultation – May-June 2021
- RFQ/RFP Process – July-November 2021
- Winning artist team selected – June 2022
- **October 2022 – DRP (Issues ID)**
- Artist-led Community Consultation – November 2022-February 2023
- January 2023 – DRP (Schematic Design)
- March 2023 – DRP (Detailed Design)
- Winter 2023-Spring 2024 – Fabrication/Installation
- Summer 2024 - Opening



# Project Approval Stage

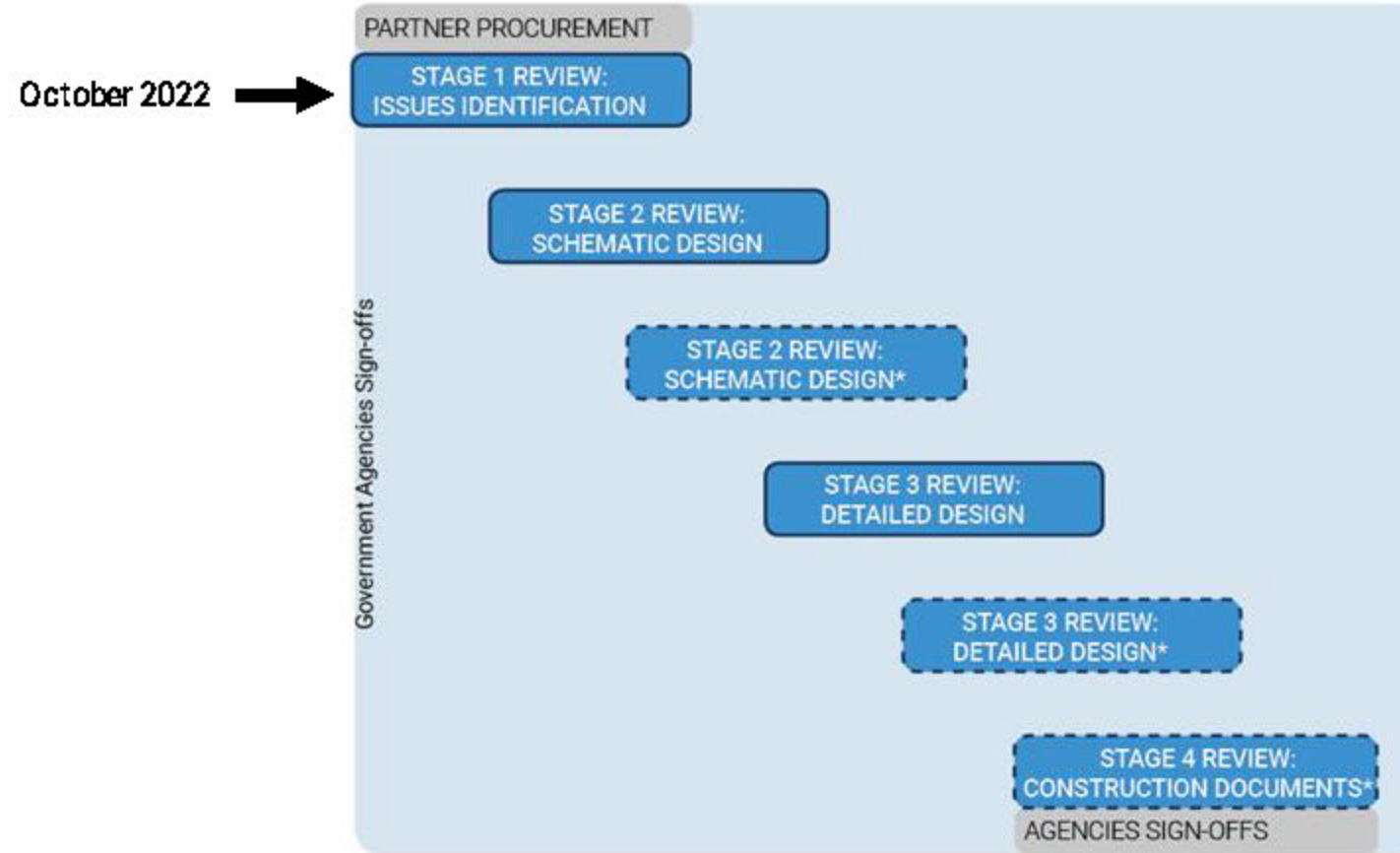
DRP Stream 2: Public land

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## Areas for Panel Consideration Waterfront Toronto

- Does the landscape strategy respond to the site context and key flood constraints?
- Do the planting approach and material palette support the overall artistic narrative?
- Does the overall landscape proposal support a successful public realm for the neighbourhood?







# TEAM COMPOSITION + ROLES

**Amy Malbeuf** - Artist, Project Artist, 12 years experience

**Jordan Bennett** - Artist, Project Artist, 12 years experience

**Benjamin Matthews** - Senior Project Leader, PUBLIC WORK, Project Landscape Designer, 11 years experience

**Alexis Cormier** - Strategic Planning, Senior Project Manager, Business Analyst, Project Senior Project Manager, 16 years experience

**Mireille Bourgeois** - Artistic Director, Art Manager, IOTA Studios, Project Principal Art Manager, 18 years experience

**Maddie Alexander** - Research Assistant, Art Manager, IOTA Studios, Project Public Art Manager, 8 years experience

**Michael Hopkins** - AsCT, LEED AP, Senior Associate, Blackwell, Project Structural Engineer, 20+ years experience

**Paul Boken**, Vice President, Mulvey & Banani, Project Electrical Engineering/Lighting Design, 17 years experience

**Alex Muller**, Lighting Designer, Mulvey & Banani, Project Electrical Engineering/Lighting Design, 17 years experience

**Niusha Eshghi**, Senior Electrical Engineer, Mulvey & Banani, Project Electrical Engineering / Lighting Design, 11 years experience

**Jason Crowder**, Ph.D., P.Eng., Principal, Grounded Engineering, Project Geotechnical Engineer, 18+ years experience



# PROJECT PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

- Creating a strong relationship to the surrounding streets and communities.
- Creating a sense of comfort in an exposed and constrained space, encouraging visits and welcoming the public to stay.
- A landscape that further enriches the project narrative.
- Tree and plant species selection that reinforce the overall concept.
- An emphasis on connections to water and the river.
- Material innovations that weave into the storytelling.
- Reaching outwards – across the man-made boundaries of the street, the bridge, and the steep fall – to the river system below.

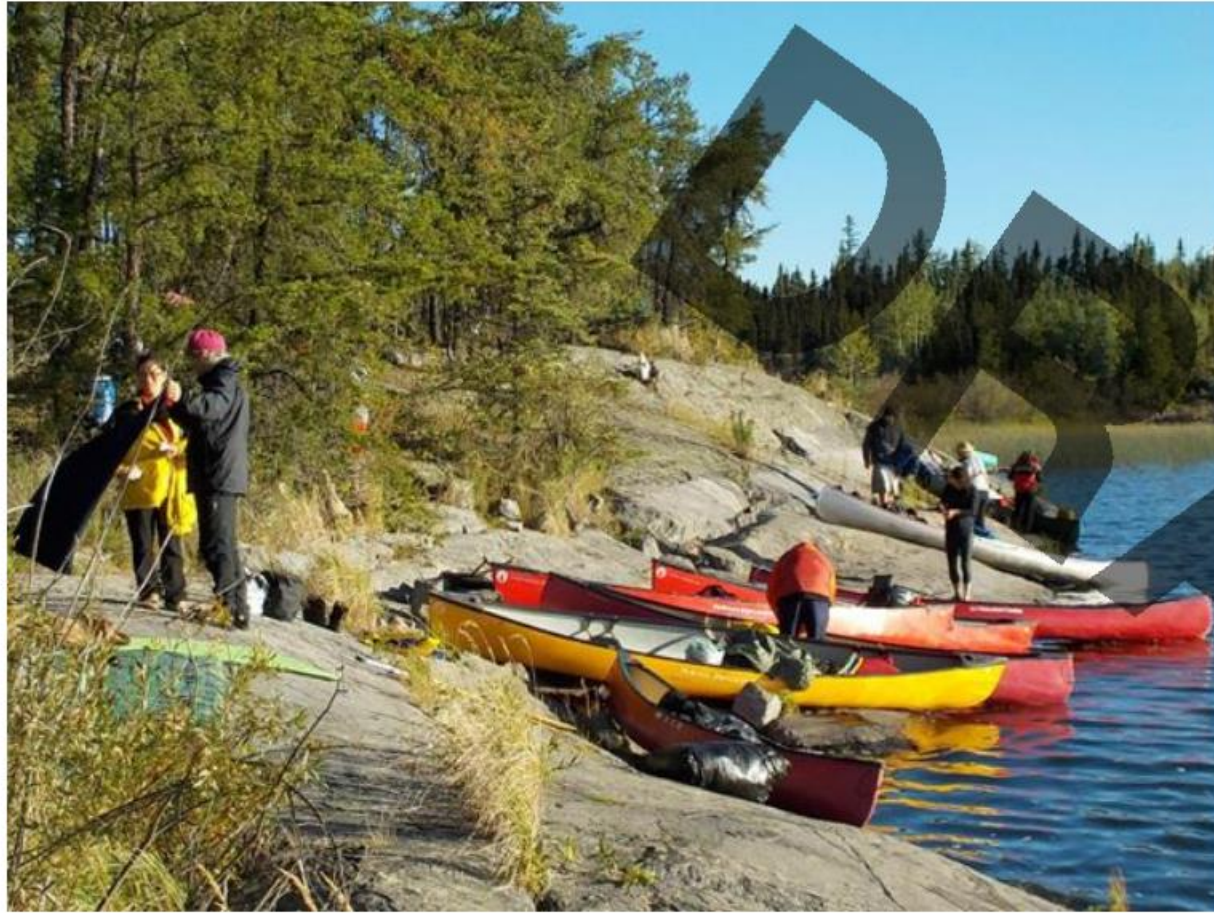




## OUR RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What is the history of the Don River?
- Who gathered here in the past, who presently gathers here, and who will gather here into the future?
- How do we convey a sense of community through the triangle design?





The site will speak to contemporary Indigenous realities, the resilience our communities have in the face of colonization, and the constantly changing realities that we face as humans in this time of climate, political, cultural, and socioeconomic change.



## LOOKING SOUTH TO LARGE SCULPTURE 02



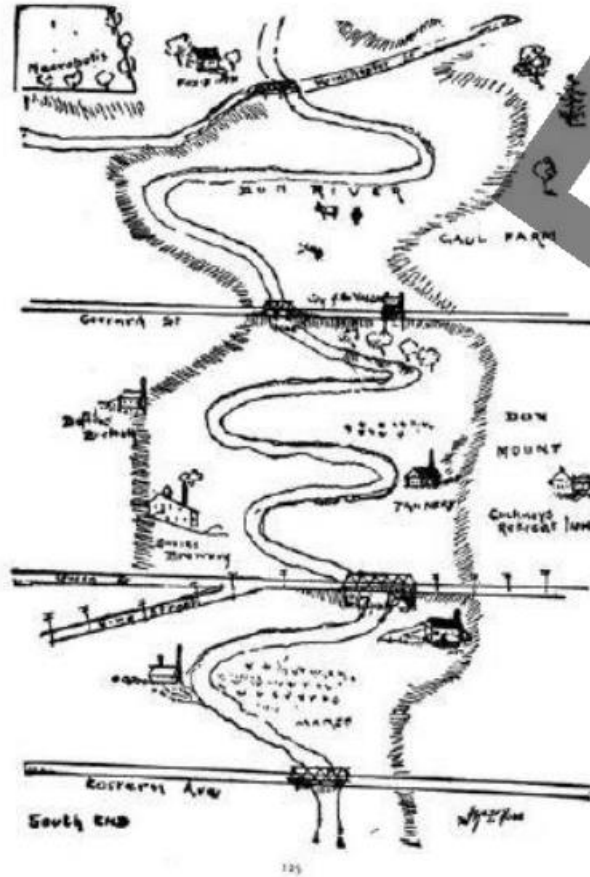


# ALONG THE BANKS OF THE DON

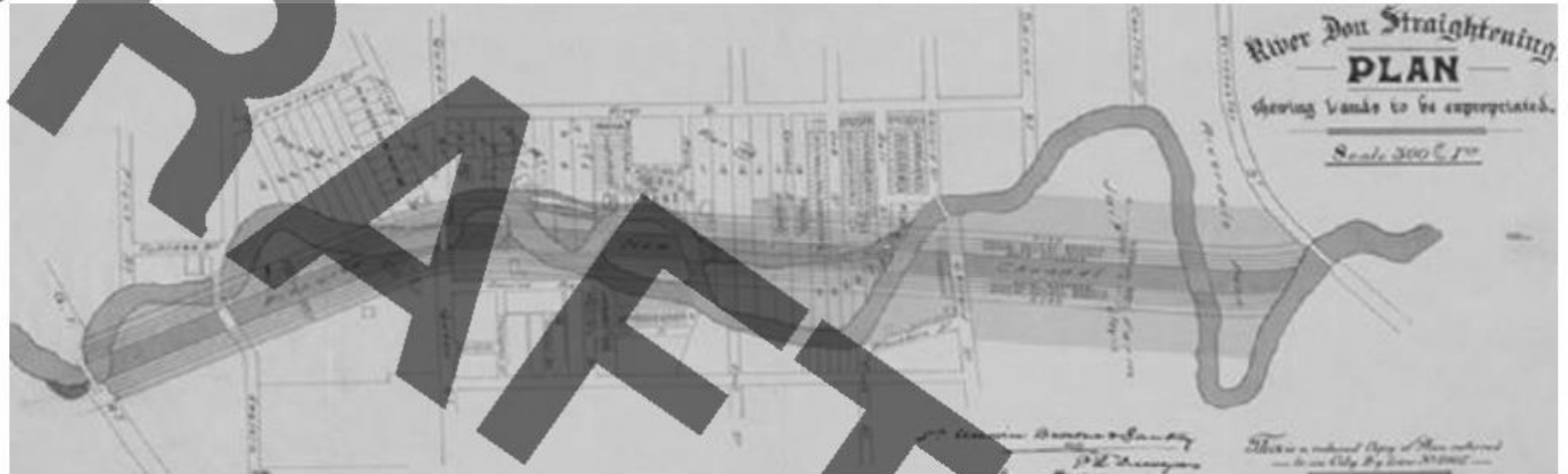




# ONCE A NATURAL MEANDER

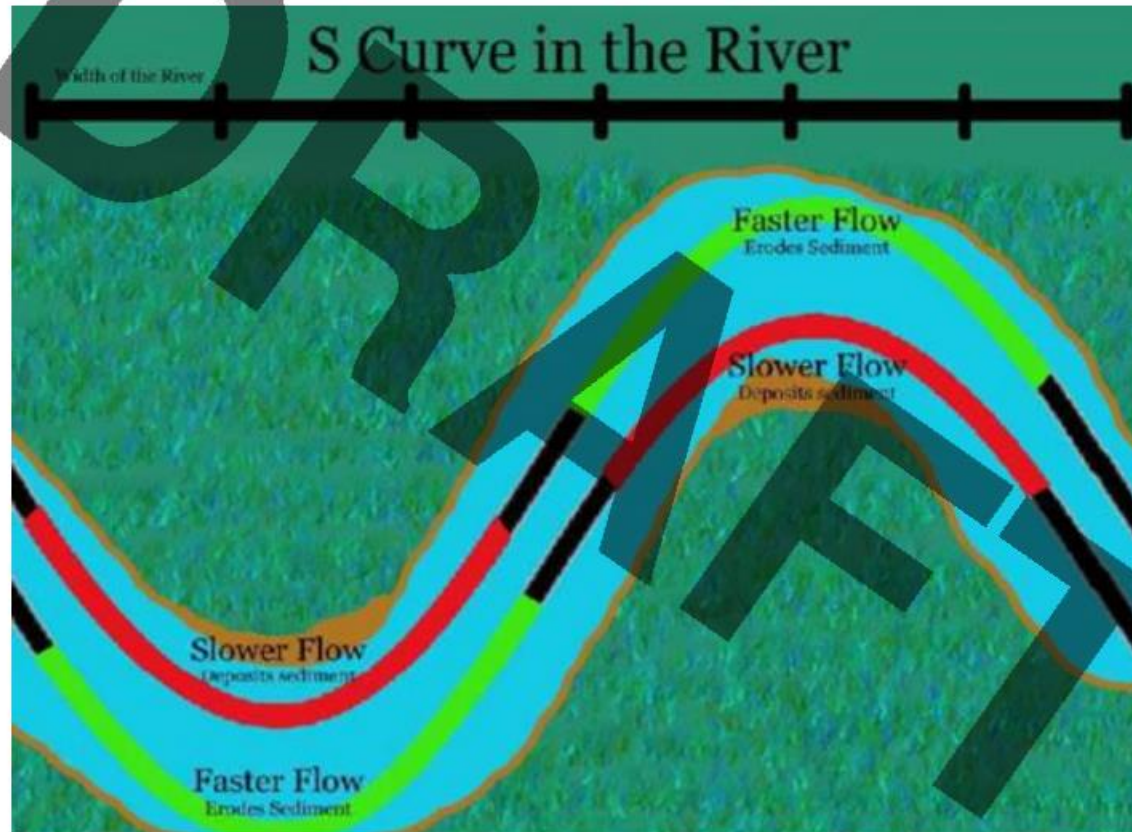


A sketch of the course of the river prior to straightening, by Charles Sauriol (Remembering the Don, p.125). Sauriol writes: "Early in the [18]80s the Don pursued a meandering course down the lower Don Valley, and particularly so from Bloor Street to the bay. Here it flowed through weedy marshes... and entered Lake Ontario southwest of the current river mouth" (p.122).





# RIVER SEDIMENT DEPOSITION





# STORM WRACK





# DON RIVER DEBRIS





# MATERIAL HISTORIES









# GUIDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

TRCA  
WATERFRONT TORONTO & THE CITY OF TORONTO (MAINTENANCE)  
MINOKAMIK  
COMMUNITY GROUPS

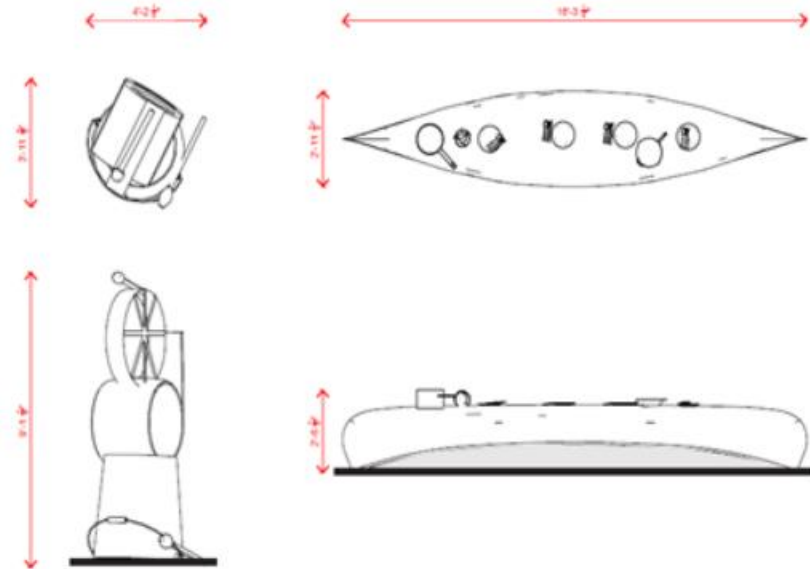




# LIFELIKE AND SURREAL

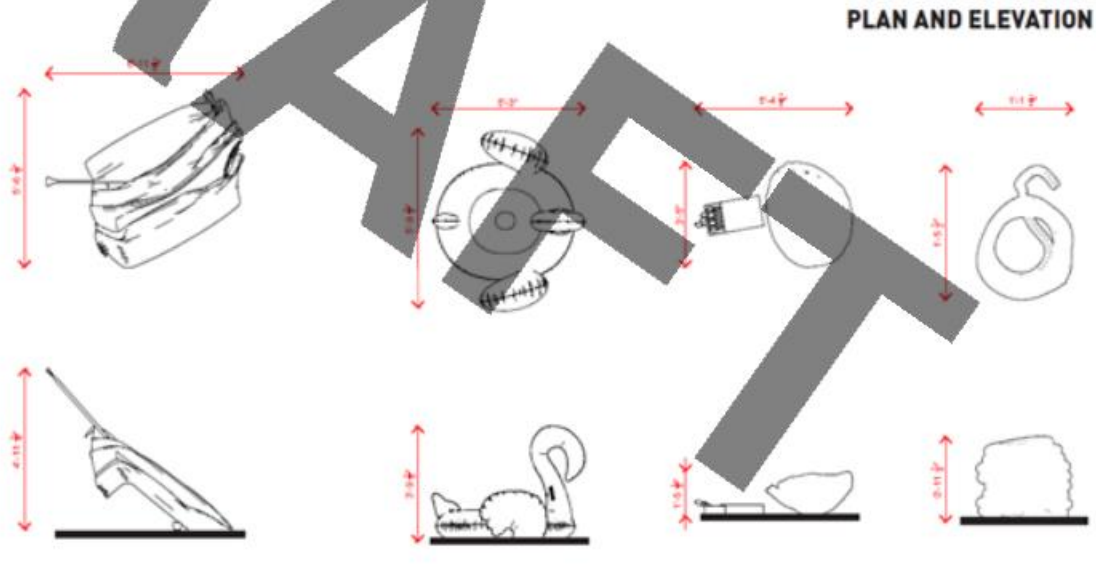
- Sculptures range from 2'x2'x2' to 8'x6'x4'.
- Works will be metal cast, CNC/machine metal, steel, and set with concrete piles and secured with engineered footings.
- Painted with marine grade and/or automotive paint in a variety of finishes such as high shine, reflective, and matte.

PLAN AND ELEVATION



01 SCULPTURE 1  
1:30

02 SCULPTURE 2  
1:30

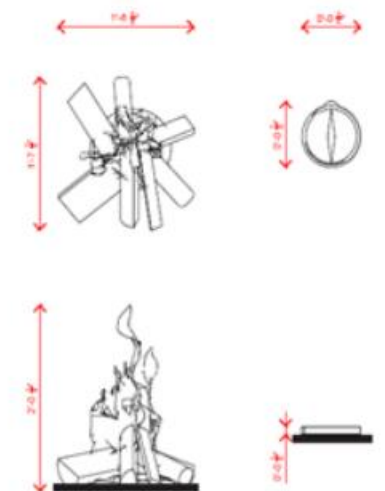


03 SCULPTURE 3  
1:30

01 SCULPTURE 4  
1:30

02 SCULPTURE 5  
1:30

03 SCULPTURE 6  
1:30



04 SCULPTURE 7  
1:30

05 SCULPTURE 8  
1:30





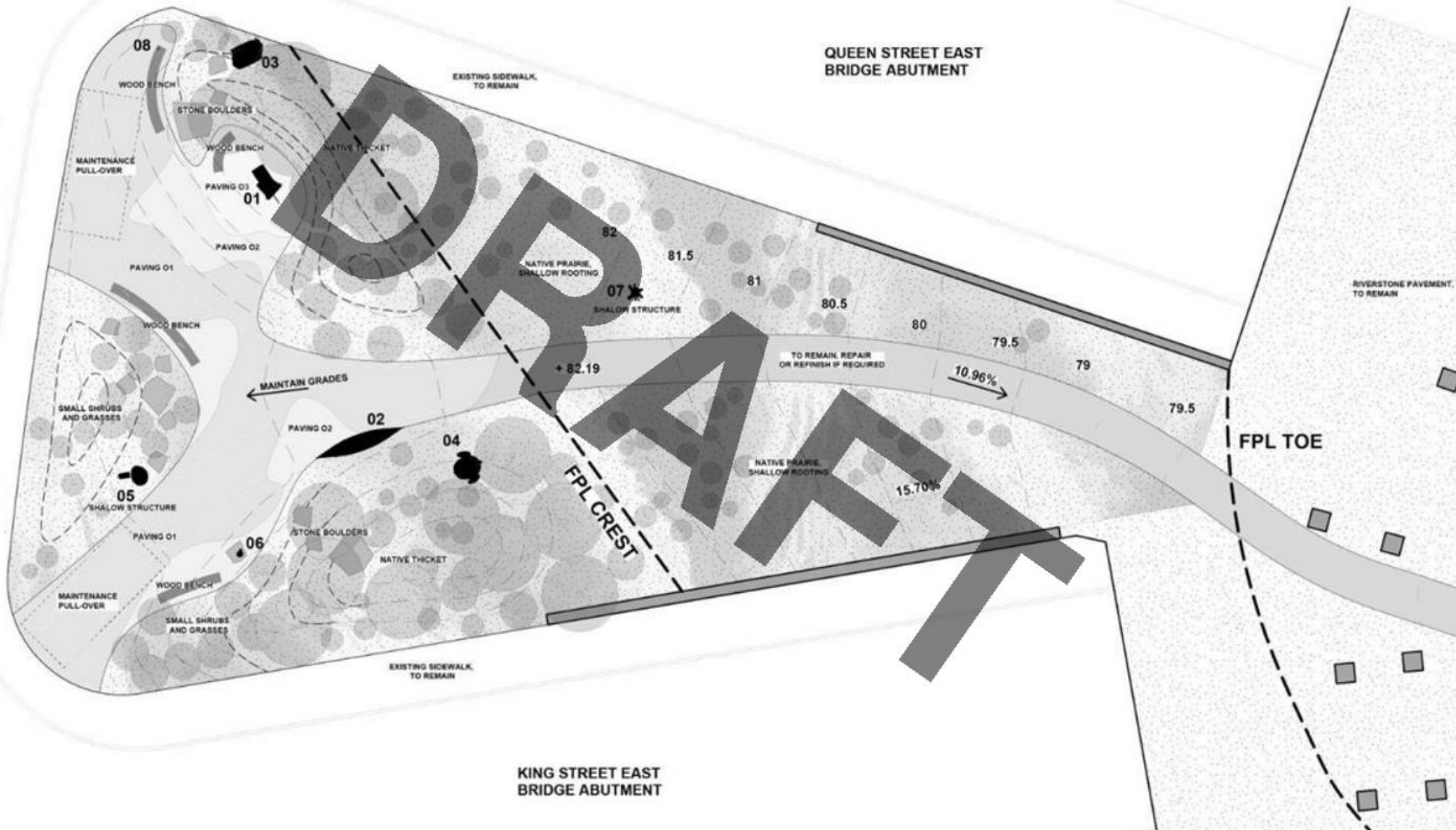


RIVER STREET

QUEEN STREET EAST  
BRIDGE ABUTMENT

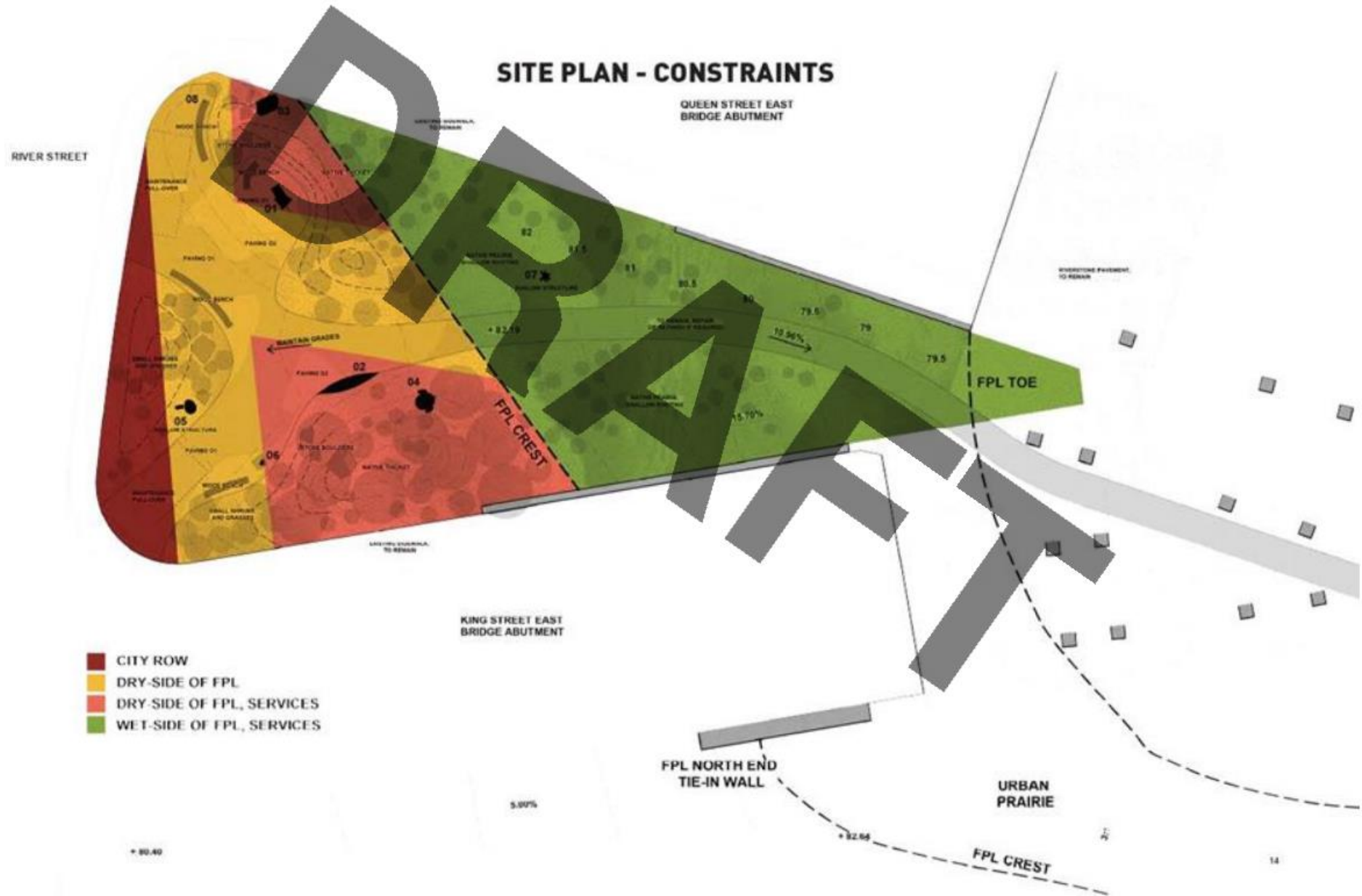
KING STREET EAST  
BRIDGE ABUTMENT

FPL TOE

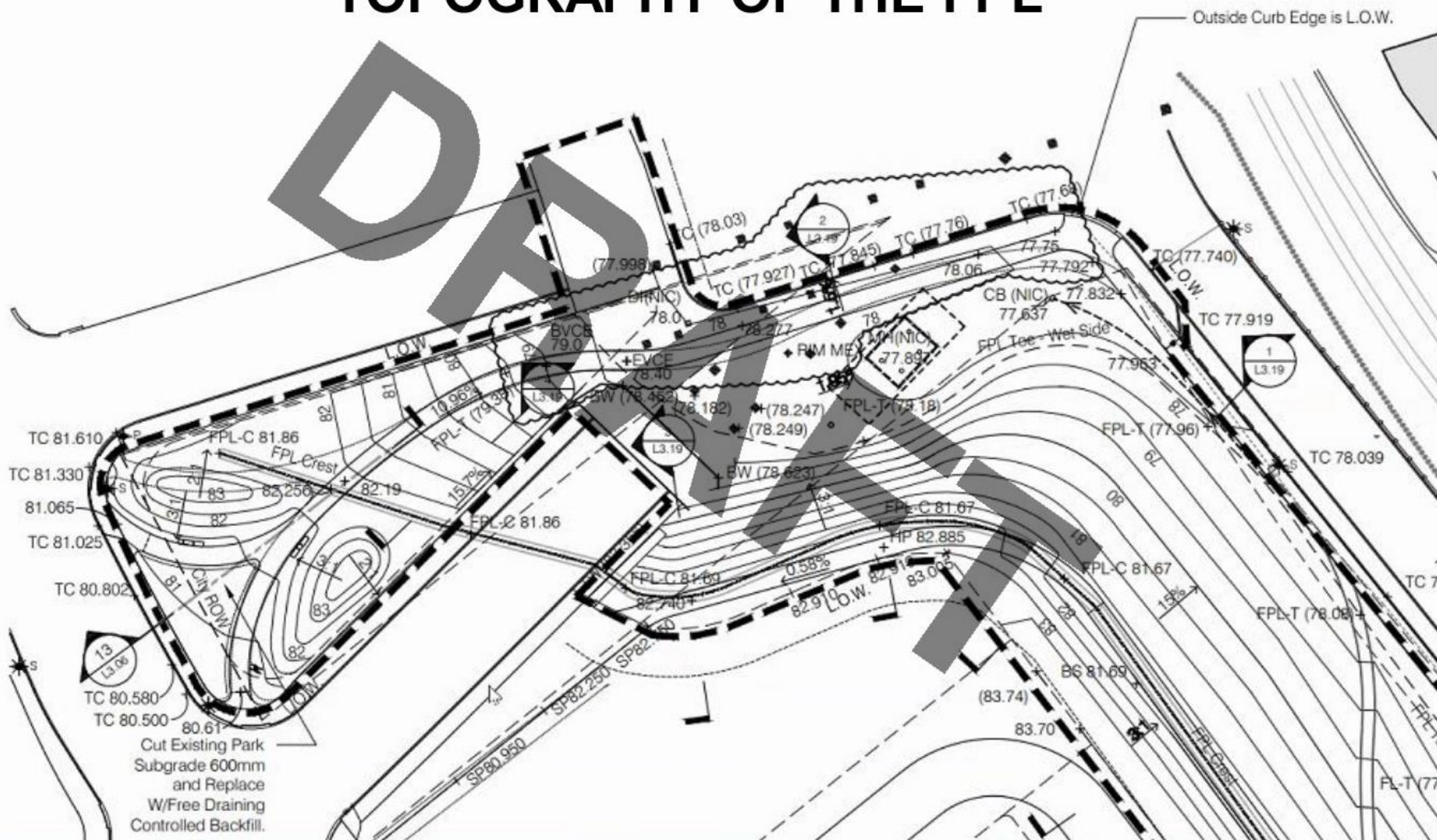




# WORKING WITH EXISTING COMPLEXITIES









# SITE CONDITIONS





# NATURAL AND PLACE SPECIFIC MATERIALS



Tallgrass Prairie



Resin Bound Paving



Granite



Hardwood Pioneering



Irregular Cobble



Reclaimed Wood

Permeable, resilient and low maintenance.



## LOOKING EAST FROM ABOVE RIVER STREET









# LANDSCAPE FORMS AND FURNITURE



Sculptural timber benches that highlight the undulations of the upper banks.  
Enhancing the sense of deposition and movement.



# PLANTING



Below the FPL, on the “wet side”, prairie plantings will be augmented on either side of the existing pathway. The feeling of shoreline sedimentation will be understood through the chosen plant groups.



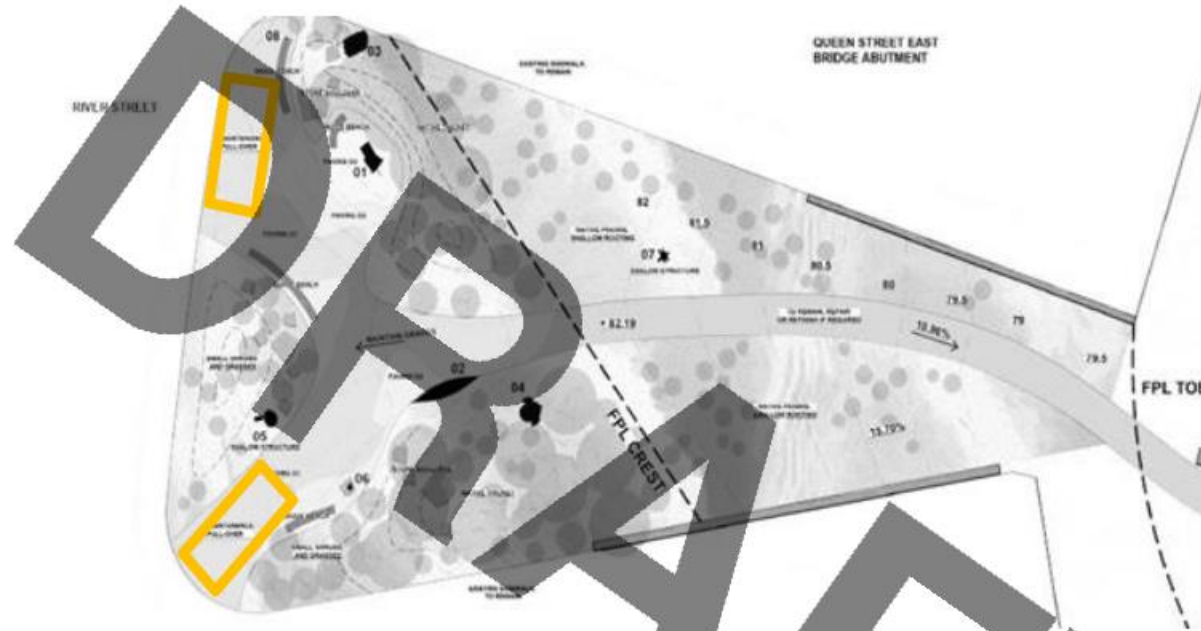
# LIGHTING



There is no intention to add lamp posts (there are currently 7 around the site perimeter). Lighting on the individual sculptures and benches will have an illuminating or glowing effect.



# MAINTENANCE



- There will be little maintenance required for the park's planting. Most of it will be focused on tallgrass prairie, which has been chosen for its low maintenance quality. Once established, and after some irrigation to start, the park should be mowed approximately every two years.
- The park will be designed with standard maintenance requirements in mind like season cleanup.
- Most sculptures will be designed within the plantings, and those which are not can be built in a way to hide any differential settlement of the ground.
- Maintenance vehicles will access the site from the west edge, where space will be allotted in the hardscape for one to two vehicles.



