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Quayside Infrastructure and Public Realm



Quayside is an L-shaped area of land on Toronto’s downtown waterfront about the size of six soccer fields. And in this small space something big and ambitious is happening. Waterfront Toronto, Dream and Great Gulf (together, known as Quayside Impact Limited Partnership or Quayside Impact) and some of the world’s leading architects, designers and problem-solvers are collaborating on building a sustainable community for people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and incomes.

Design Principles

The public realm design principles guiding our approach to planning Quayside:

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**Equity:**  
Celebrate the cultural diversity of Toronto and equitably welcome all users to these spaces.
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**Activation and Engagement:**  
Embrace seasonality and encourage year-round use of public spaces.
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**Indigenous Placemaking:**  
Respect and celebrate Indigenous place-making and the Indigenous relationship to this land.
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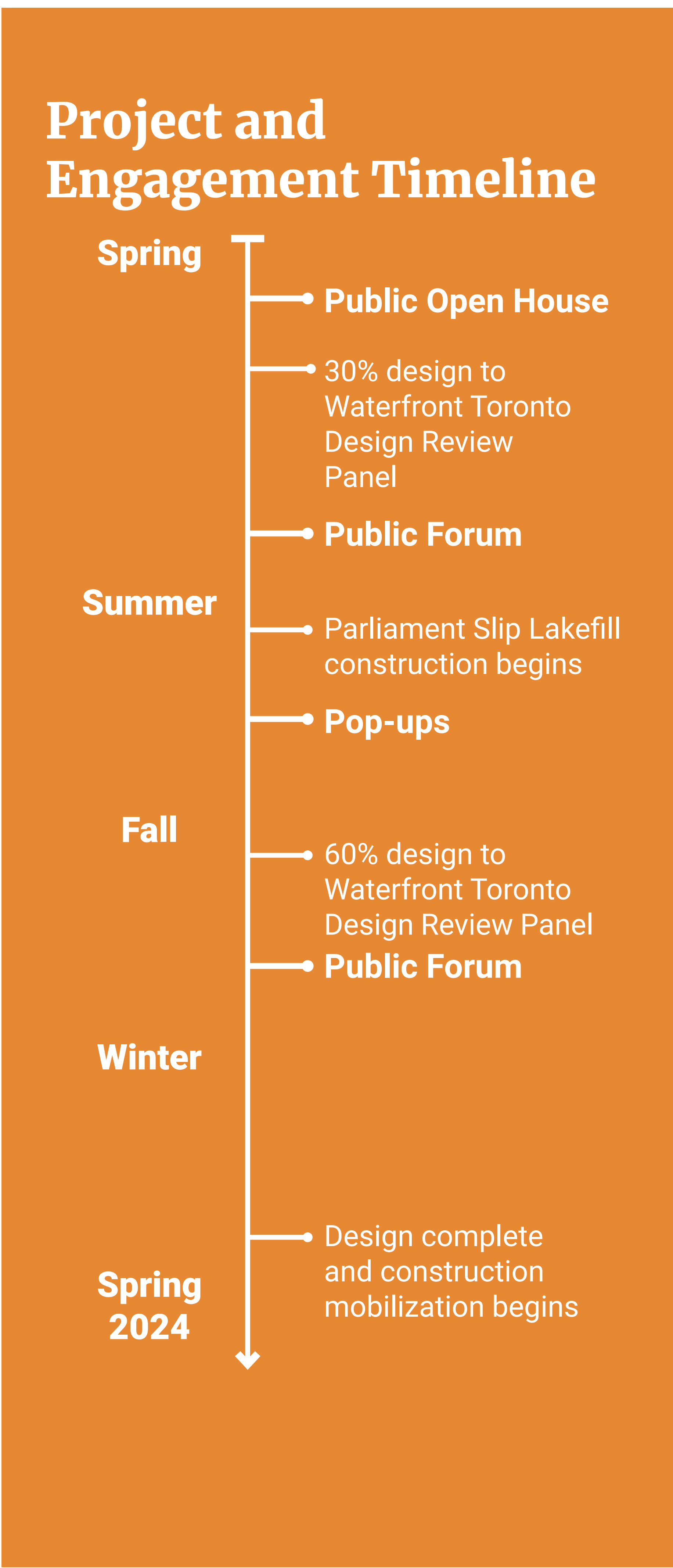
**Health and Well-being:**  
foster connections between people and nature by maximizing access to greenspace delivered in an integrated way with development.
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**Continuity with the broader waterfront:**  
Consistent with the vision and design of the public realm elsewhere in the waterfront, and draw people to the lake.
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**Accessibility:**  
Beyond compliance with accessibility standards, the waterfront should be inviting and barrier free for users of all abilities and ages.
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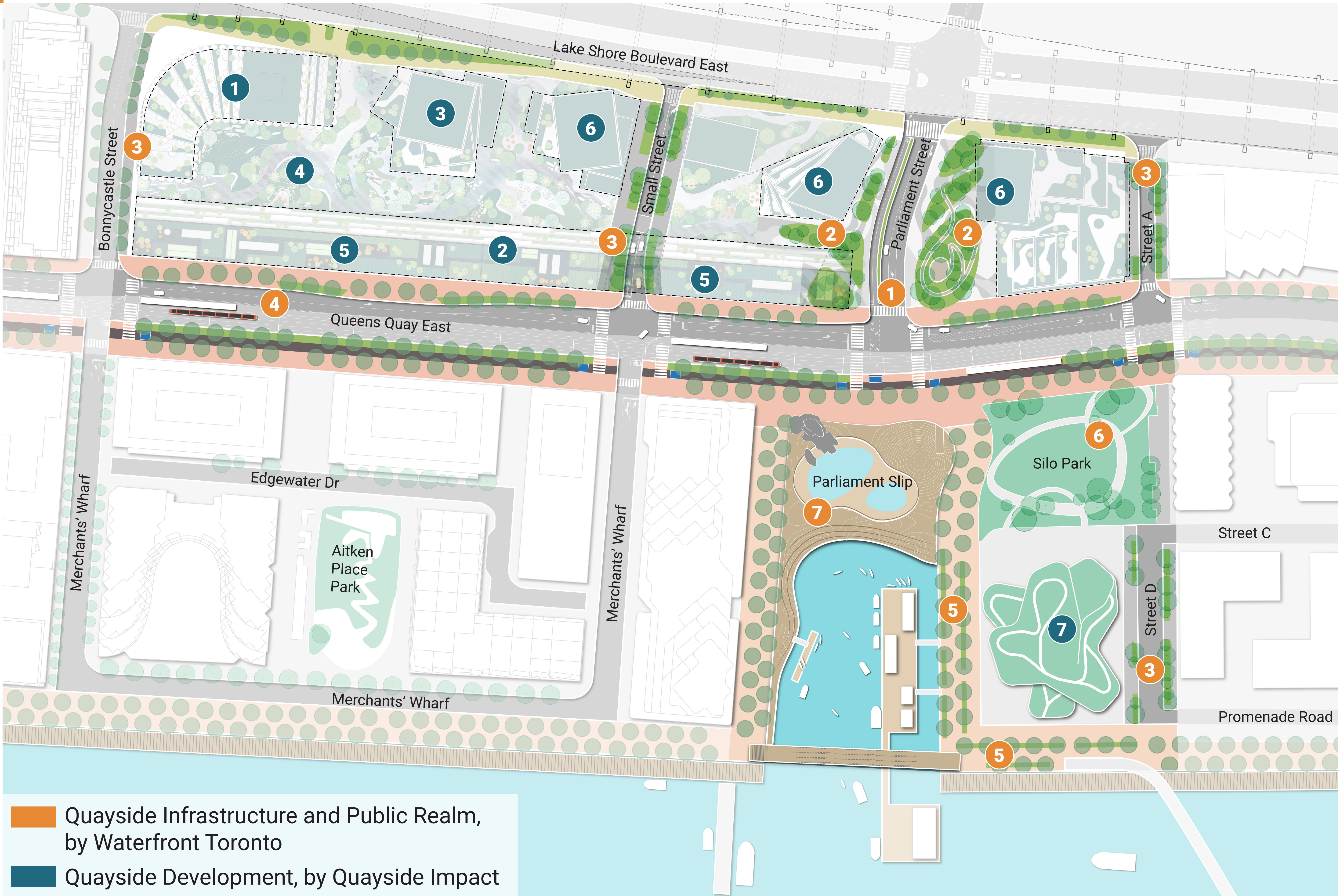
**New Standards for Sustainability and Resilience:**  
Green spaces that encourage new innovations, show green infrastructure at work, and improve ecological performance.
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**Design Excellence:**  
Maintain the standard of design excellence, quality of place, and attention to detail that has been delivered on the waterfront.












# 5 Quayside Public Realm Project Components



The process for creating this new neighbourhood consists of two distinct but interrelated areas of work. Waterfront Toronto will again design and deliver the infrastructure and groundbreaking public spaces to activate the waterfront, meet the needs of residents, and establish Quayside as a year-round destination. And, Quayside Impact will develop the mixed-use community.

## Project Components:

### Quayside Infrastructure and Public Realm

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  <b>1</b> Parliament Street      |  <b>2</b> Parliament Grove |
|  <b>3</b> North-South Streets    |  <b>4</b> Queens Quay East |
|  <b>5</b> Water's Edge Promenade |  <b>6</b> Silo Park        |
|  <b>7</b> Parliament Slip        |   |

### Quayside Development

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1</b> The Western Curve                                    | <b>2</b> Timber House  |
| <b>3</b> The Overstory  | <b>4</b> Community Forest  |
| <b>5</b> Urban Farm (atop Timber House)                       | <b>6</b> Future development blocks, subject to design competitions |
| <b>7</b> Block 5 (Cultural destination/potential school site) |  |

## Indigenous Engagement

For many years, Waterfront Toronto has engaged Indigenous communities with ties to the waterfront, and most extensively the Treaty Holders and Host Nation, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN). Waterfront Toronto is committed to ongoing engagement with Indigenous Communities and to ensuring future waterfront revitalization acknowledges and celebrates the Indigenous history, culture and ongoing presence in the area.

Waterfront Toronto is working with MCFN and MinoKamik Collective to design and implement engagement with Indigenous Communities on the Quayside Infrastructure and Public Realm project. The design team is also working in tandem with indigenous design experts at MinoKamik Collective, to integrate wisdom from Elders with plant species selection and traditional perspectives on forest health and ecology.

Join us online



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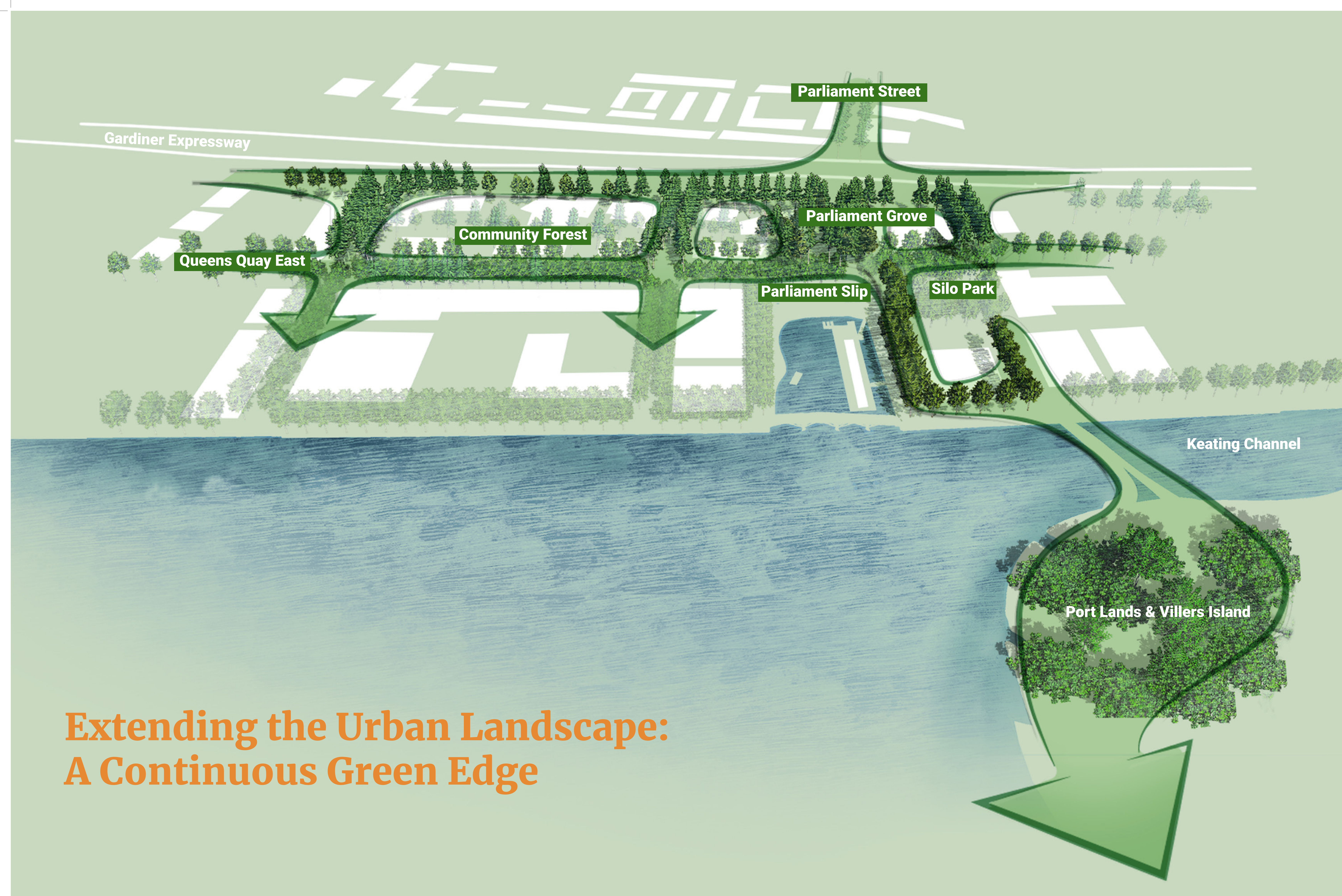
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TORONTO







**Extending the Urban Landscape:  
A Continuous Green Edge**



# Parliament Grove and Parliament Street

Parliament Grove will be a bio-diverse new green space lining either side of the realigned and narrowed Parliament Street. It will create a lush entrance to the eastern waterfront, with separated cycling lanes, views of the lake, and an immersive mini forest for residents and visitors. The green spaces will include accessible paths of travel, spaces for relaxation and reflection, and areas for public programming. Parliament Street will be a landscape in its own right, rather than a place to just pass through.



Left: Plan view of Parliament Grove and Parliament Street.  
Top: View from Parliament Grove's Lookout, with views towards the lake.  
Bottom: Rendering of the 'rock scramble' provides places to play and rest and acts as an informal route through an accessible trail to the Lookout.



# North-South Streets

A series of local streets will support Quayside. These interior streets will be designed in a manner consistent with others delivered elsewhere in East Bayfront, creating a continuous urban realm across the district.

While maintaining the existing language of materials, the concept of a Healing Forest is proposed for Quayside public realm, with a family of plant typologies developed for each project. On the North South streets, open planters will be designed to support street trees and understory planting, while capturing stormwater. On Bonnycastle Street, the design will match the existing west boulevard for consistency.



**Neighbourhood Grove**

Street trees are interspersed with large shrubs and understory plants in open planting beds to create a fuller, layered forest-floor feeling, on Small St, Street A and D.



**Opportunists**

Early successional forest community comprised of plant and tree species that are fast growing with shallow roots, suitable for planting over parking garage on the west side of Parliament Street.



**Elders**

Long-living forest community made up of robust tree species found in Boreal, Carolinian and emergent forests, rooted in deep and wide shared open soil volumes on the east side of Parliament Street.

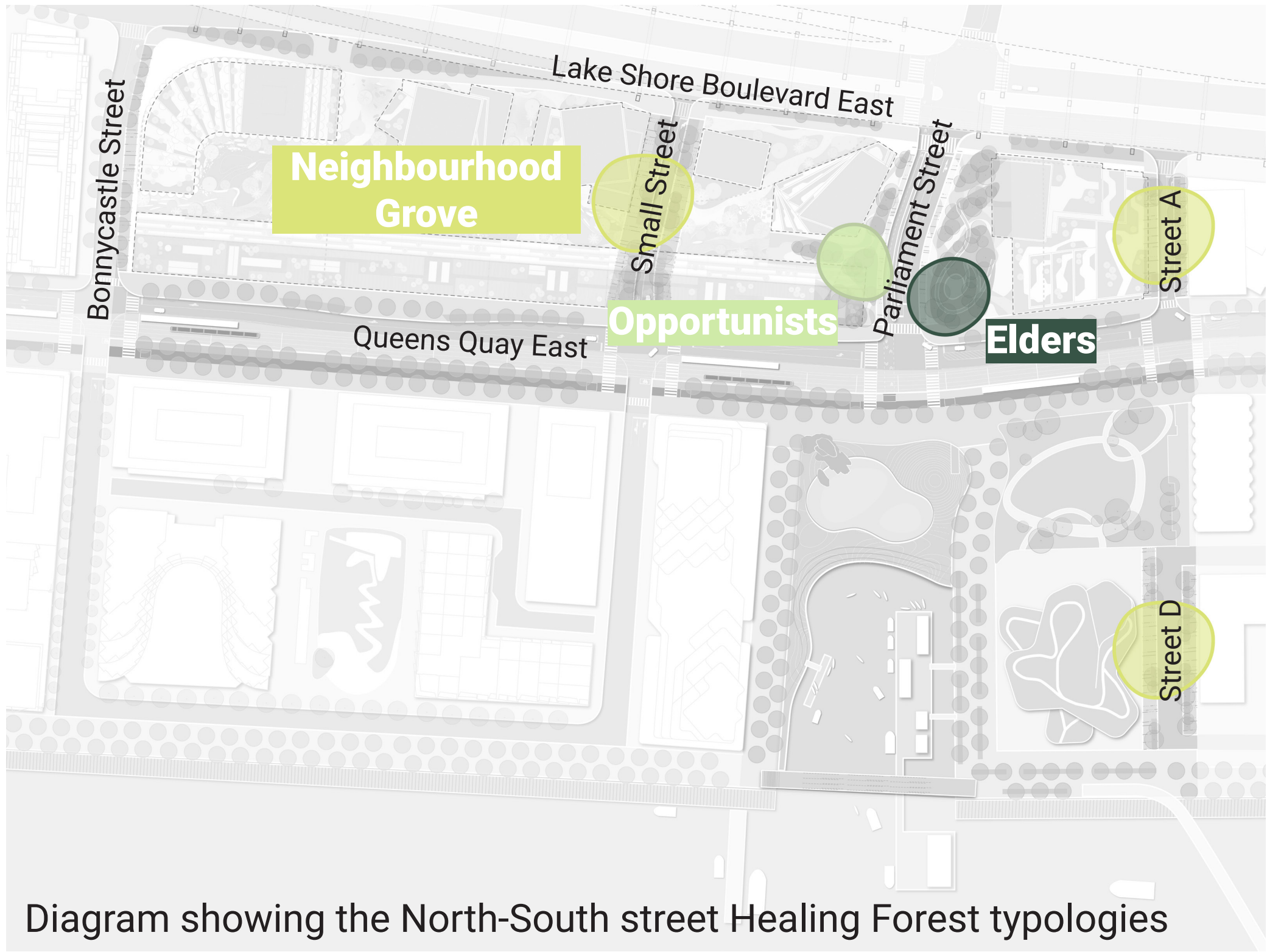


Diagram showing the North-South street Healing Forest typologies



Small Street



Street A



Street D



# Urban Ecology: Building a Healthy Urban Forest

## Plant Health

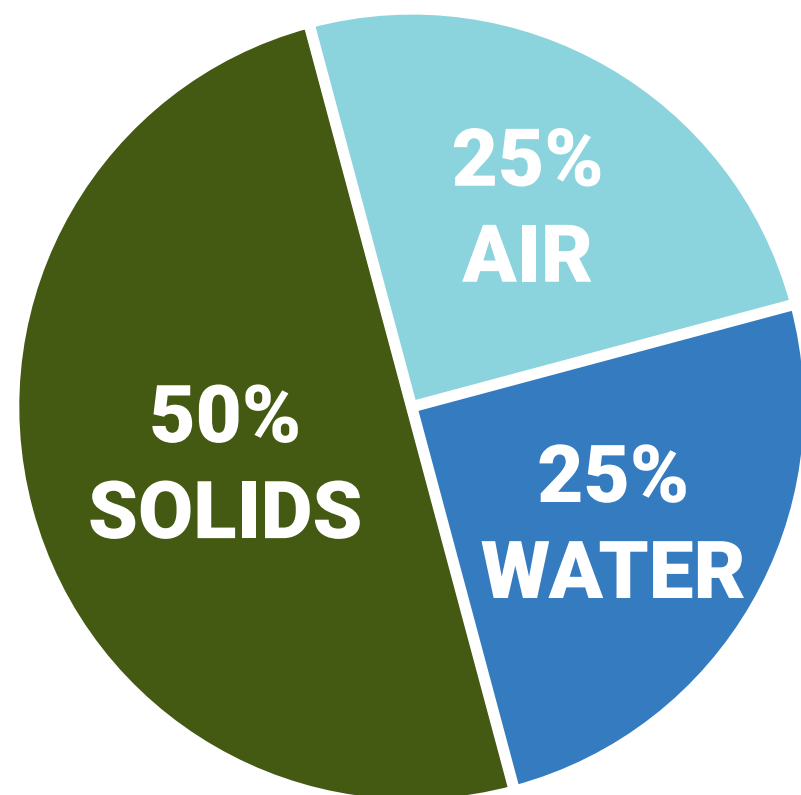
Paramount to creating a Healing Forest is ensuring that all trees are able to grow into a healthy, mature canopy. Along the side streets, open planters (in lieu of trees in grates) provide greater air exchange, increase water retention and reduce soil compaction for the trees, shrubs and perennials. Planting a bio-diverse selection of species together reduces stress on solo plants, allows plants to share nutrients, enriches soil quality, provides food and shelter for a greater variety of birds and insects, and boost overall plant resiliency.

A strategy of managed succession will maximize long-term plant health, minimize cost, and ensure that the forest feels lush and full from day one. Young, small-caliper trees will be densely planted initially, and thinned out both 5 and 10 years after planting to allow for larger growth and long-term establishment suited to the environment. The overall design maximizes softscape, resulting in healthier urban plantings while being cost-effective.



## Soil Health

The design team is also exploring the use of innovative soil amendments and other strategies, such as bio-char and bio-fertilizers. These may improve soil quality, increase porosity, and help remediate contaminated soils.



## Stormwater Reuse

The north-south street planting beds are being designed as bioswales to capture and divert stormwater runoff from the streets and building facades. This keeps the urban forest irrigated, while reducing the load on the City's stormwater management system.



Top: Sample palette of the Neighbourhood Grove planting community  
Bottom: Healthy soil composition diagram

Above: Concept rendering of the open planters in the Neighbourhood Grove planting typology for Street A, Street D, and Small Street.



# Queens Quay East

The extension of Queens Quay East to Silo Street, including a new intersection with Parliament Street, will support light rail transit in the area and the creation of future Quayside development blocks. The top of Parliament Slip will be filled in to provide the foundation for the new Queens Quay East and expanded public realm, including a new WaveDeck and improved pedestrian experience.

Through this work we will also be creating healthy new aquatic habitat within Parliament Slip.

Beginning this summer, crews will mobilize onsite in preparation for filling in the tip of Parliament Slip. Stay tuned for more information on this construction.



Rendering of future Queens Quay East, looking west.  
Inset: View of existing condition at Queens Quay East, looking west.



# Parks and Public Spaces

## Water's Edge Promenade

The Water's Edge Promenade, featuring the signature granite mosaic with a double row of trees, provides a continuous public space along the lakefront. Nearly 4.3 kilometers of promenade have already been completed and soon will be extended into Quayside.



Left: Completed segment of Water's Edge Promenade in the East Bayfront.  
Above: Concept rendering of proposed Water's Edge Promenade at Quayside.

## Silo Park

This local park will be 0.4 hectares (1.1 acres) and serve the Quayside and Keating communities. Waterfront Toronto will host a design competition seeking a proposal for Silo Park.



Precedent Image: Silo Park, Auckland, New Zealand  
Photo credit: Fresh Concept



# Parliament Slip (Unfunded)

Located at the heart of the eastern waterfront, the Parliament Slip offers an exciting opportunity for creating a family-friendly destination and providing access to the water. We have a preliminary vision for transforming this area with new possibilities for year-round recreation and entertainment on land and water.

Through early consultation we've heard a range of feedback that will inform the design moving forward, including:

- Excitement for outdoor swimming, water-based recreation, and eating by the water

- A desire that the swimming pools feel visually connected to the harbour
- Interest in creating a visual path to the water down Parliament Street
- Recommendations that the features and programming are accessible, both economically and for people with disabilities

For now, we are moving forward on the parts of the project that impact the extension of Queens Quay East while working to secure funding to complete the design and delivery of what will surely become a well-loved public amenity on our waterfront.

