

Density Study Overview

Proponent: City of Toronto, Waterfront Toronto, CreateTO Review Stage: For Information

The City of Toronto, CreateTO, and Waterfront Toronto are reviewing the 2017 Villiers Island Precinct Plan to recommend updated guidelines that would support the City's housing goals and achieve additional housing, including affordable housing. Changes are being considered to built form, height and massing, with the goal of increasing density by at least 30% above the 2017 Precinct Plan, and will be informed by:

- Port Lands OPM policies and Villiers Island Precinct Plan direction
- Supporting increased housing opportunities, including affordable housing
- Maximizing the value of public lands to support infrastructure and public realm investments
- Achieving public policy goals



Villiers Island Density Study

Proponent: City of Toronto, Waterfront Toronto, CreateTO
Review Stage: For Information

Confirming the Precinct Plan Vision

Villiers Island Precinct Plan (2017)

"Villiers Island will evolve from an industrial port area to a connected and complete island community with great parks and open spaces along four distinct water's edges. It will be an international model for sustainable city-building.

As a gateway to the Port Lands, Villiers Island will become significant as a regional destination and distinct as a sustainable community. The Island's industrial and natural heritage will contribute to a sense of place. The Island will offer exciting new waterfront experiences for residents and visitors, providing places for people to live, work, shop, explore, relax and connect with nature."

Existing industrial and port-related uses will continue to operate in many of the Port Lands districts adjacent to Villiers Island and new film and PIC Core uses will expand in the Media City district while Villiers Island transforms into a sustainable mixed-use community with significant new parks.



Villiers Island Density Study

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Confirming Precinct Plan Key Principles

Villiers Island Precinct Plan (2017)

- Animate and activate the waters edges
- Create a network of spectacular open spaces
- Provide a catalytic use opportunity
- Reinforce the island as a gateway
- Celebrate the area's industrial heritage through conservation
- Prioritize pedestrian, cycling and transit infrastructure
- Plan for a diverse, mixed-use, inclusive community
- Provide a variety of building forms
- Develop an innovative model for climate positive
- Ensure that the precinct plan is viable and implementable



Key Policy Priorities from OPM & VIPP

Proponent: City of Toronto, Waterfront Toronto, CreateTO Review Stage: For Information

- Maximize the provision of housing and affordable housing
- Precinct Plan and OPM built form guidance
- Minimize shadow impacts on key public realm areas
- Minimize impacts on the new Don River Valley, especially newly established ecological features (i.e. wetlands)
- Design for a climate positive community
- Conservation of heritage resources
- Respect for key views



Built Form Direction from VIPP

Villiers Island Density Study

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- Predominantly mid-rise community, with taller buildings at key locations
- Built form reinforces a distinct island experience that sets it apart from the surrounding context
- Built form is planned, designed and developed to:
 - create a Port Lands skyline;
 - reinforce distinct character areas and places;
 - contribute to all-season parks and open spaces;
 - frame and animate streets and public realm;
 - leverage passive solar gain and enable daylighting;
 - showcase views to water and industrial landmarks;
 - maximize key view and sunlight on the public realm; and
 - protect key views, including views of heritage buildings and structures





Villiers Island Density Study

What plans are being reviewed:

- Densities on public lands to support housing goals
- The % of units as affordable housing
- Massing & built forms to support higher densities
- Increased heights on Keating Channel blocks
- Office and retail amounts



Densities as illustrated in the 2017 Precinct Plan

Ongoing Due Diligence:



Transportation network & transit capacity (including pre-LRT)



Community facilities and services calibration



Impacts on surrounding parks



Achieving sustainability/climate positive objectives



Land use compatibility (noise and air quality)



Affordable housing



Enabling Infrastructure and servicing capacities



Approaches to solar access and thermal comfort



OPM policy conformance and implications



Billy Bishop airspace controls



Review Stage: For Information

Villiers Island Density Study Preliminary Outcomes

- Confirmed the Villiers Island Precinct Plan vision and principles will continue to guide the review;
- Established the importance of a complete communities approach ensuring sufficient community
 infrastructure is delivered, substantial affordable housing is provided, and the public realm is generous and
 well-planned;
- Reviewed and considered precedents in Toronto, New York, Chicago, London, Sydney and Oslo;
- Explored the potential **intensification of the Keating Channel**; introducing an urbanized approach with taller towers and/or tall buildings with a mid-rise character (above 11 storeys);
- Discussed and refined nine scenarios into three massing concepts that deliver densities between 40% and 60% greater than the 2017 demonstration plan; and
- Identified issues to study through additional due diligence (including transportation and servicing infrastructure) and public engagement.



Project Timeline

Villiers Island Density Study

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Review Stage: For Information











Phase 1: Mar - May

Explore changes to the built form of Villiers Island to support additional housing, including affordable housing Phase 2: June-August

Develop and refine a preferred development concept, engage on preliminary concepts Report back to public

Phase 3: Sept - Oct.

Phase 4: Nov-Jan 2024

Produce the planning instrument updates for Villiers Island



WATERFRONT DRP

JUNE 21, 2023

City of Toronto Planning and Housing Committee

Meetings with landowners and stakeholders

Virtual Public Meeting

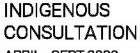
Waterfront Toronto

City of Toronto
Planning and Housing
Committee

Report back to DRP and public with preferred approach Statutory Public Meeting

City Council

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS APRIL - JUNE 2023



APRIL - SEPT 2023

DUE DILIGENCE APRIL - AUG 2023 Pre-engagement meetings

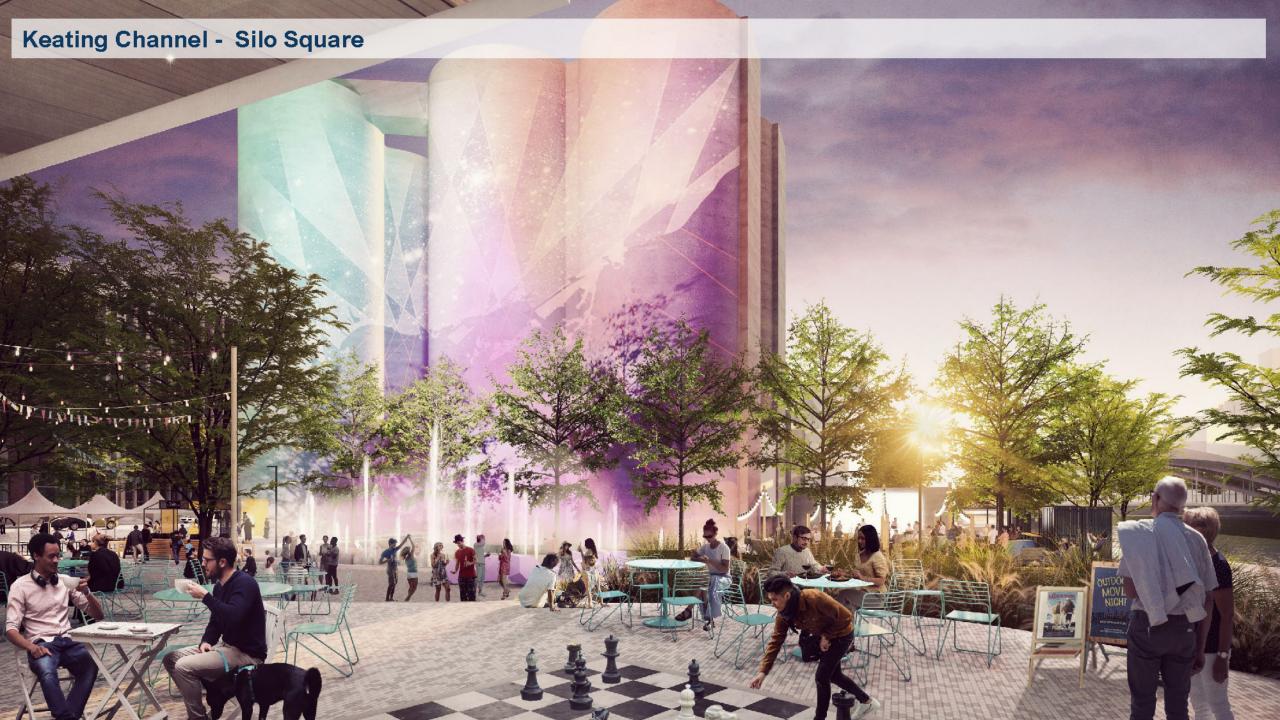
Indigenous Engagement







Villiers Island: A Spectacular Network of Waterfront Parks Promontory Keating Channel Promenade Villiers River Valley Park N/S





Keating Channel – Existing



Keating Channel – Future Vision



Questions for Consideration

1. Deployment of Height and Density:

- Do the height and density increases above the VIPP seem appropriately deployed and scaled? Are they consistent with the vision and key principles of the Villiers Island Precinct Plan?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of each approach?
- Do the proposed height and density approaches appropriately respect the surrounding parks and public realm and achieve adequate solar access?

2. Increased Densities Along the Keating Channel:

- Do the increased heights and densities seem appropriate from an urban design perspective?
- Do the approaches relate well to the Water's Edge Promenade and the public realm along the Keating Channel?

3. Key View Corridors:

- Do the increased density approaches adequately consider the identified views to Port Lands industrial heritage resources including the Hearn and McCleary stacks and the Essroc Silos?
- Are some views more important than others when trying to balance protecting view corridors with accommodating density increases across the island? e.g. Villiers' Island skyline view from Sugar Beach, view north along Old Cherry Street to the silos, view southwest across the Keating Channel?





1. Development & Changes since 2017 on the waterfront

- Toronto's Waterfront Public Realm (Illustrative Map)
- Waterfront-wide 3d model (fly-through video)
- Eastern Waterfront Development (Existing and Future)
- Villiers Island Context Map (Existing and Future)



Toronto's Waterfront Public Realm

Connecting the inner harbour shoreline with system of parks and public realm





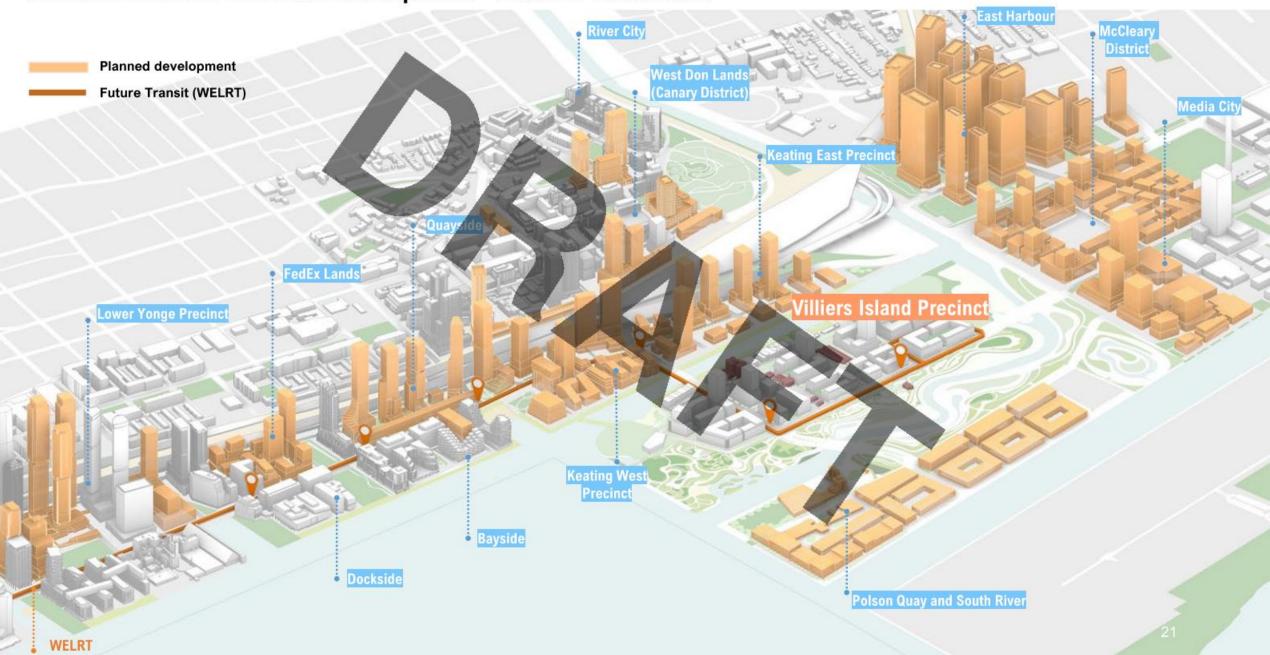


Development & Changes since 2017 on the waterfront (Fly-through)





Current Built and Planned Development – Eastern Waterfront









2. Villiers Island Density Increase Considerations

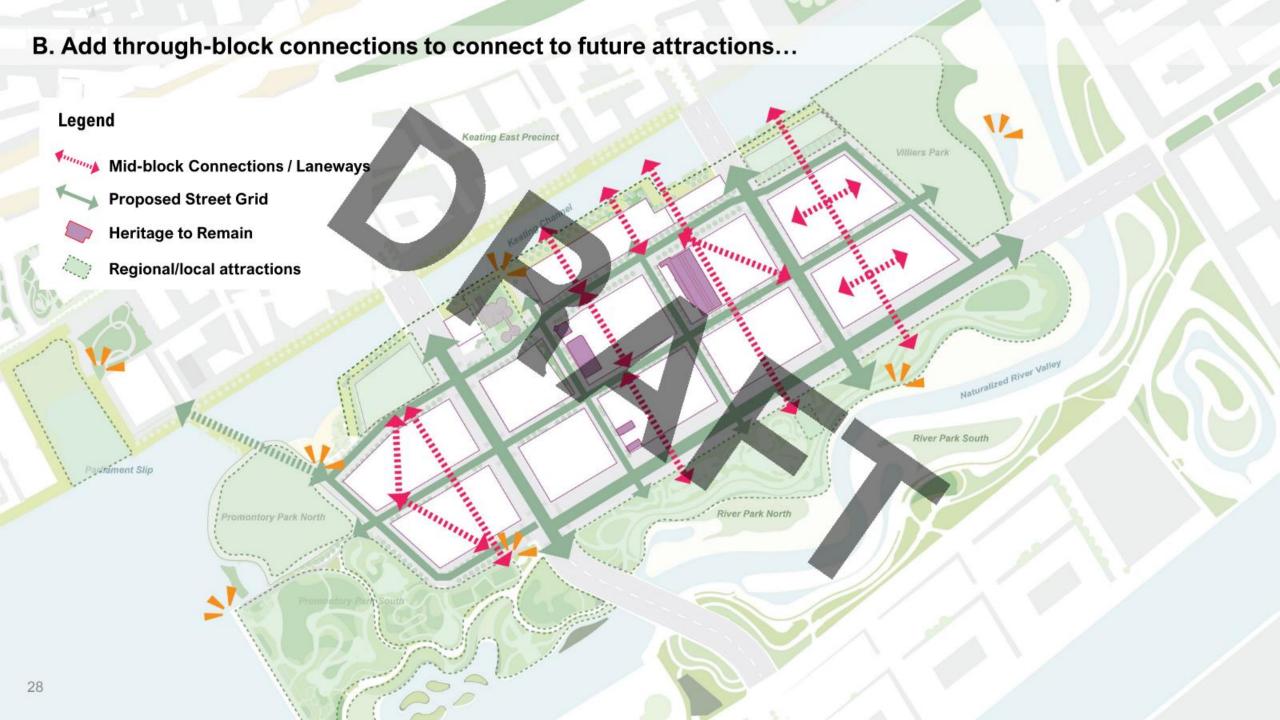
- Density Increase Considerations
 - A. Maintain established street grid & Conserve heritage resources (and respect key views established in the Precinct Plan)
 - B. Add through-block connections to connect to future attractions
 - C. Prioritize sun access to key public realm areas
 - D. Explore increase density through taller base buildings
 - E. Explore increasing density along Keating Channel



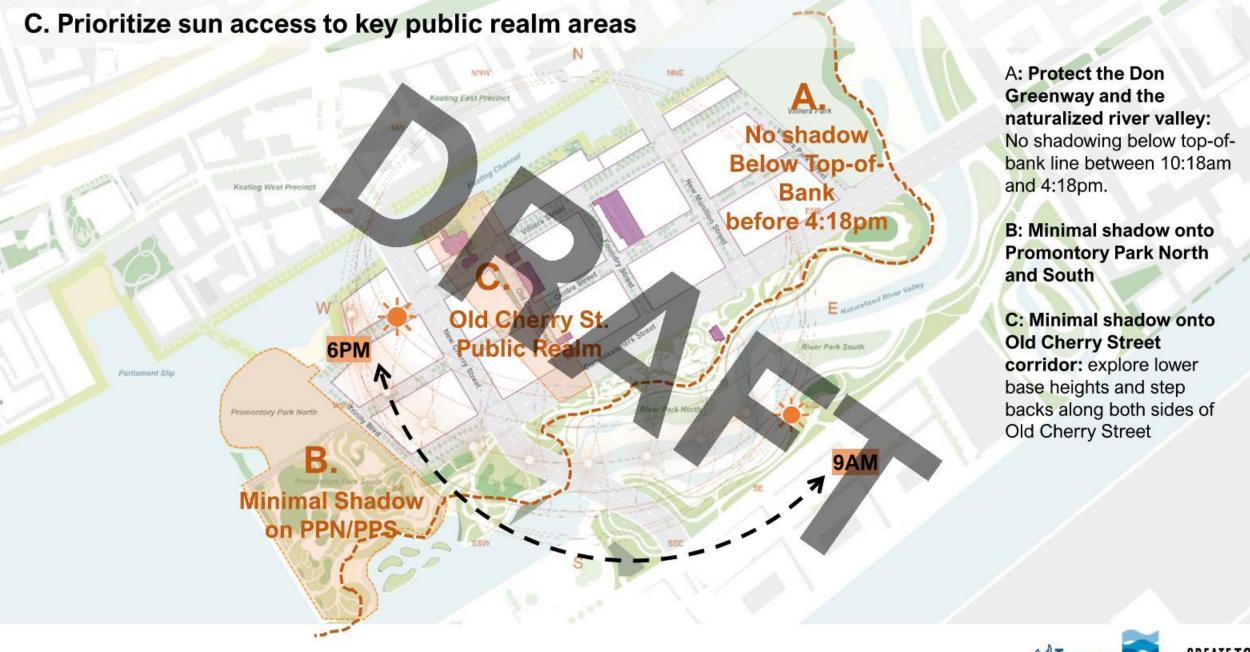


...with regional and local attractions surrounding the development blocks Legend **School Site** Keating East Precinct **Villiers Park Key Attractors Keating Promenade** Keating West Precinct **Art Trail Community Centre Parliament Slip** Old Cherry St River Park South Parliament Slip **Promontory Park North** River Park North **Destination Playground** Canoe Launch **Promontory Park South** 26



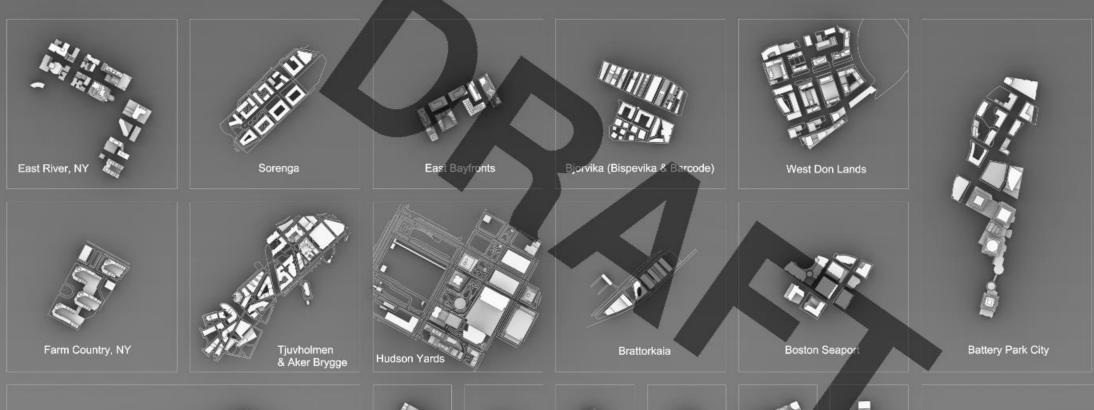


Development blocks with internal network of open spaces and connections Keating East Precinct Villiers Park Keating West Precinct River Park South Parliament Slip River Park North Promontory Park North Approach 1 Massing 29



D. Explore increasing density with a taller base & mid-rise forms

Precedents/projects of various tall mid-rise developments (local and international)







Lyon Confluence









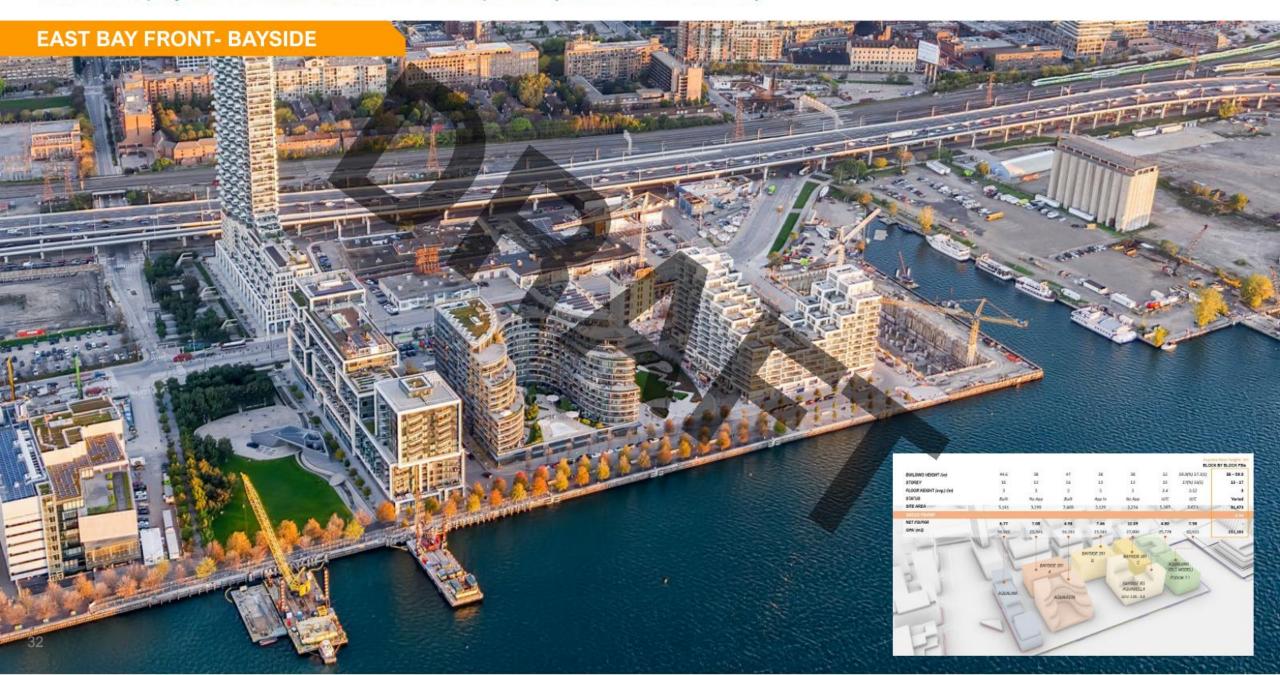


The Valley

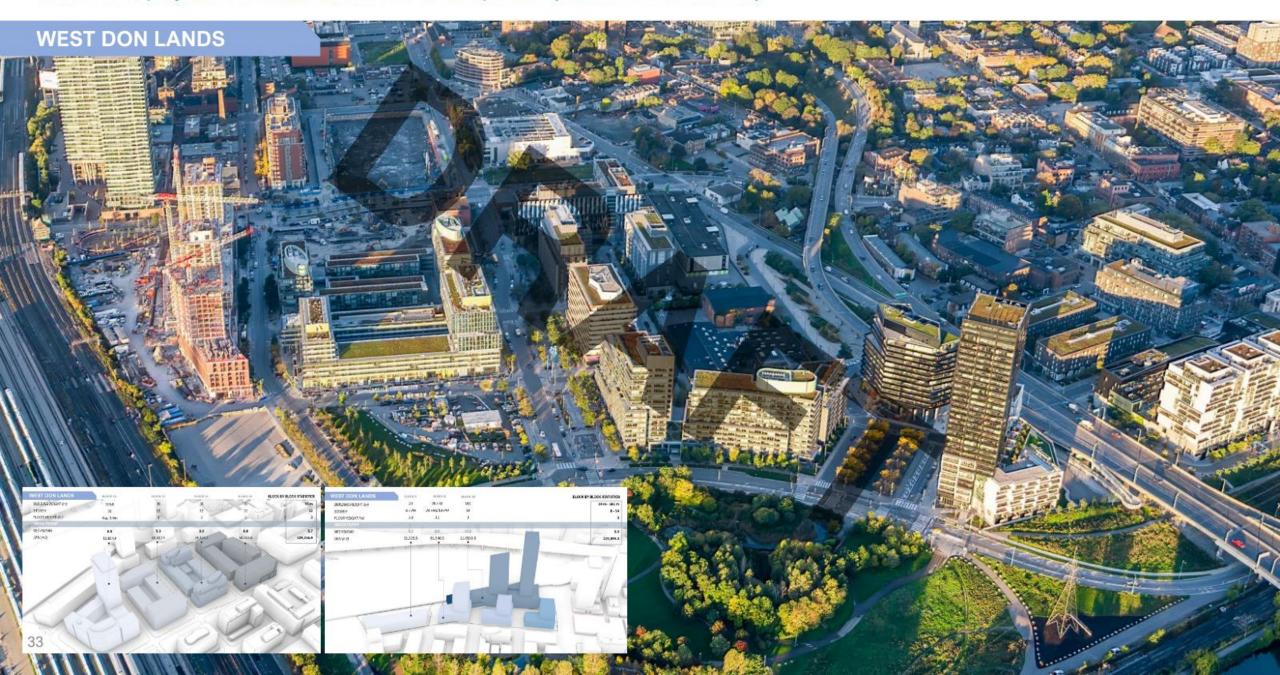


KNSM Island

Precedents/projects of various tall mid-rise developments (local and international)



Precedents/projects of various tall mid-rise developments (local and international)

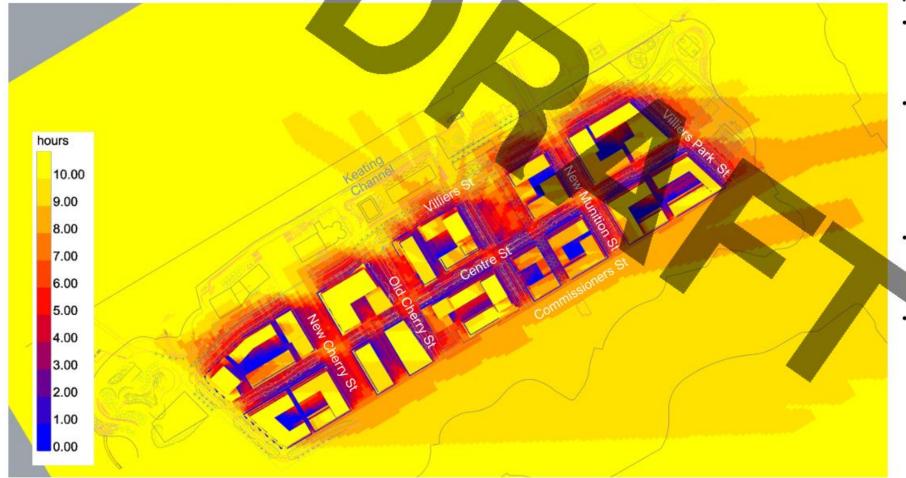




D. Explore increasing density through taller base buildings

- Sun shadow study of incremental height increase to the 2017 VIPP base building heights up to 6 storeys max.
- · Performed radiation study (i.e. accumulative sun exposure hours) to examine shadow impacts to public realm

Taller Base Heights Study: Adding up to additional 6 storeys on base buildings (+3m to +18m)



Key Observations:

- Added base building heights will impact sun access to both E/W and N/S streets, and heritage blocks.
- Addition of 1-2 storeys to the VIPP base heights may not have a significant impact. Any taller, carving/stepping along angular planes should be considered to minimize shadow onto streets.
- Carving out SW areas of the westerly blocks, can significantly improve sun access into courtyards.
- Carving out NE areas of the island (i.e. P11/15) on the other hand did not significantly improve sun access to internal blocks (due to sun angle and hour of the day.)



8.46

GROSS FSI/FAR

Building Height: 105.8 m

Storey: 31

Average Roor Height: 3.4m

Podium 7 storeys / (23.9m, avg.floor height 3.4m)

Tower. 24 storeys/ (avg. floor height 3.1m)

Net FSI/FAR 8.46

Parcel Area: 7,558 sq.m

GFA(South Tower): 20,495 sq.m

GFA(East Tower): 22,297 sq.m

GFA(Podium): 17,729 + 2,096 (N Podium) + 217 (S. Amenity)

Gross Roor Area: 63,944; 9,918amenity; 963retail



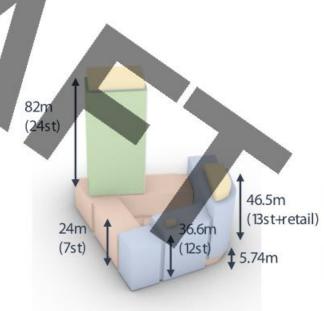


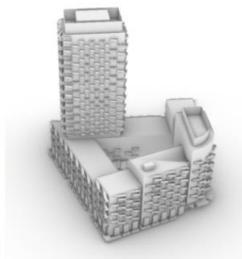
Architect: Henriquez Partners Architects
Developer: Dream Unlimited, Kilmer Group
Use: Mixed-Use (Retail/Commercial, Residential)

Address: 495 Front St E, Toronto



Podium







GROSS FSI/FAR ~15



Storey: 14(base) 18(tower)

Average Roor Height: 58/15 = 3.86m

Height (est): 61.24m

Height (roof): 58.52m

Net FSI/FAR -15

Parcel Area: approx. 2114.16 sq.m.

Avg. SF. Studio 389sf *

1BIB584 sf *

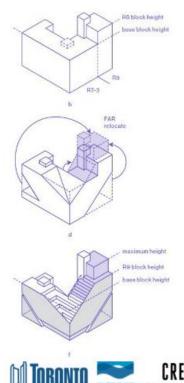
2B2B987sf*

GFA(Podium): 85 ft Atrium (8 storeys)

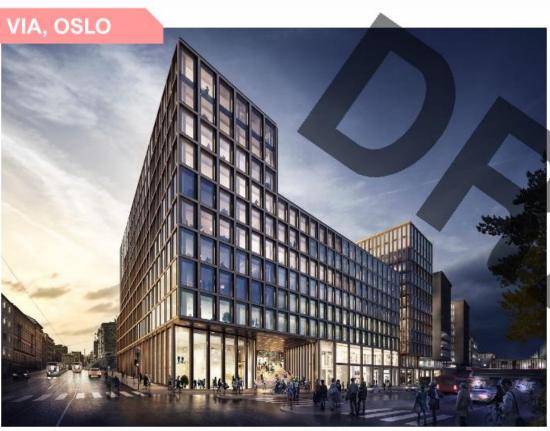
Gross Roor Area: 32,879.48 sq.m.

Text = official number

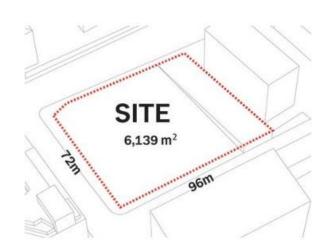


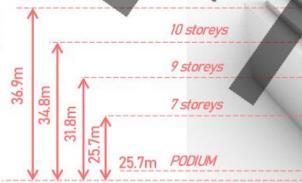


ROSS FSI/FAR



Building Height: 36.9m
Storey: - 8-11 storey
Average Floor Height: 3m
Net FSI/FAR 9.53
Parcel Area: 6,139 sq. m
Gross Floor Area: 629,688 sq.f. = 58,500 sq.m





PODIUM



Cockle Bay Park GROSS FSI/FAR ~7.3



E. Explore increased density along Keating Channel

- Revisited the definition of "framing an urban living room" in the 2017 VIPP
- Introduced added density along Keating Channel. If viable, this
 might allow opportunities to increase the building typologies
- Explored Right-of-Way (street-wall ratios) of the Channel

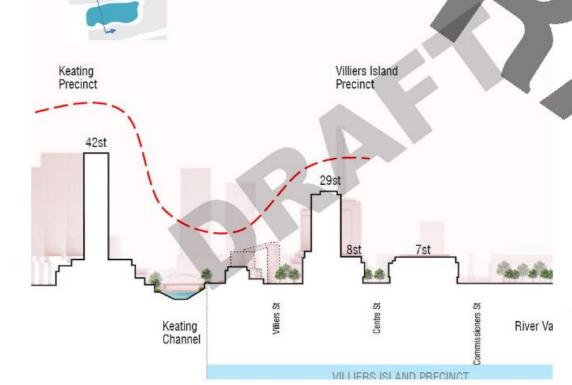
Streetwall Ratio: 1: 2 152m 150m Tall tower heights: 150m (max) Approach Streetwall Ratio: 1:1 Tall tower heights: 74-150m (max) 150m 74m Approach Streetwall Ratio: 1: 0.5 150m Tall tower heights: 41-150m (max) 41m Approach3

REATETN

Waterway width: 36m (narrow section) up to 60m (wide section)

ROW: ~75m (narrow section) up to 90m (wide section)

Framing an Urban Living Room

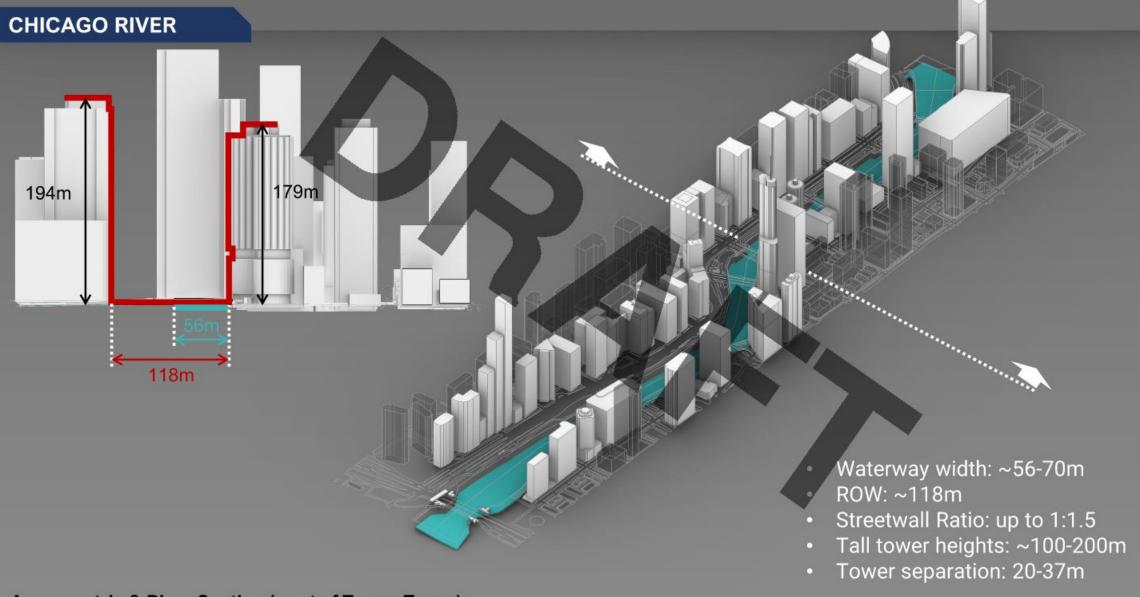


Precedents of higher density (taller buildings) along waterway









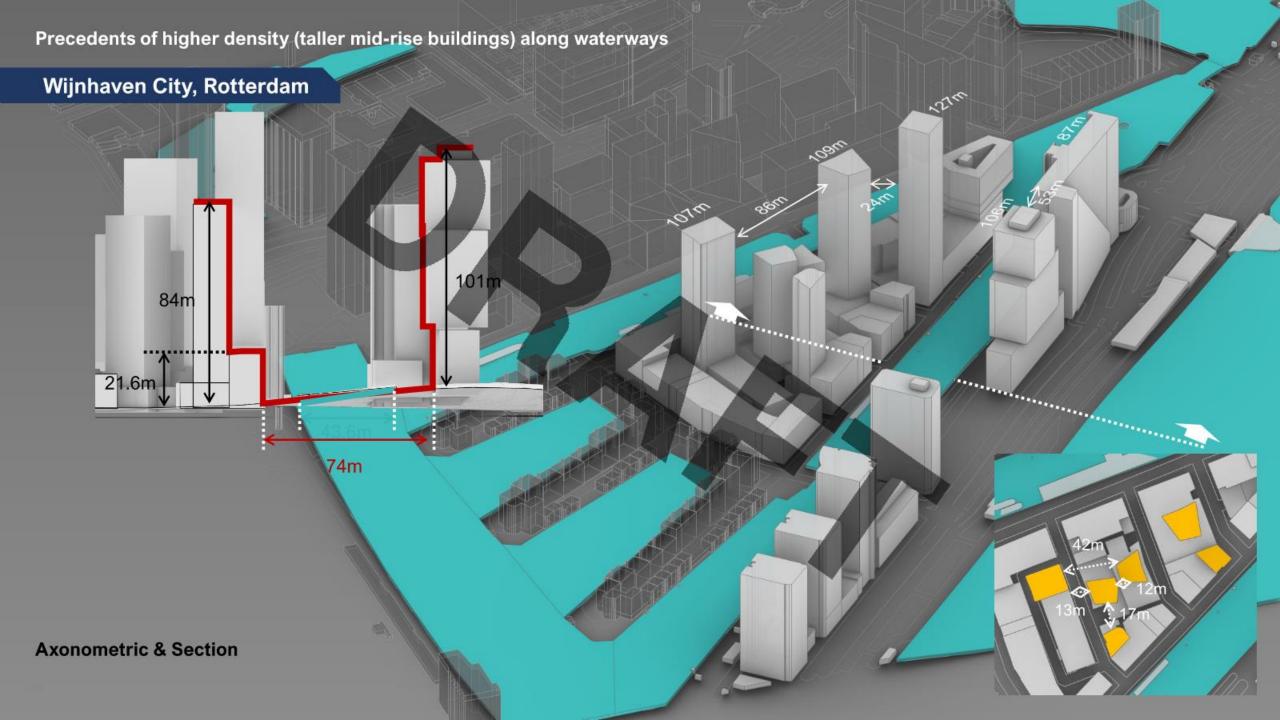
Axonometric & River Section (west of Trump Tower)

Precedents of higher density (taller mid-rise buildings) along waterway



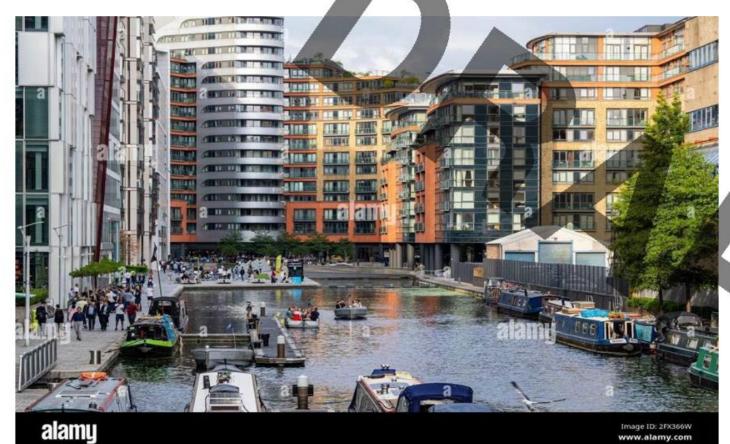






Precedents of higher density (taller mid-rise buildings) along waterways

Paddington Basin, London UK









3. Villiers Island Density & Massing Study - Approaches

- Overview
 - o 2017 Villiers Island Precinct Plan Massing + Private Development Proposal
 - Overview of Approaches to Increasing Density
- Approach 1: Density Focused on Keating Channel/North Blocks
 - o Axonometric / Bird's Eye View (various angles), Plan View + fly-around
- Approach 2: Density Focused on Western Blocks
 - Axonometric / Bird's Eye View (various angles), Plan View + fly-around
- Approach 3: Density Focused on Central Blocks
 - Axonometric / Bird's Eye View (various angles), Plan View + fly-around
- Studies (All Options)
 - Hourly Shadow Study
 - Comparative Studies: Tower Height strategy (island-wide & Keating block buildings), View Studies (skyline + Street level views)







Overview of Approaches to Increasing Density on the Island

Approach 1: Increased Density Focused on Keating Channel & North Blocks



- Intensification of Keating Channel & North blocks
- Tall towers along Keating Channel and Villiers Street
- Maintain mid-rise heights along on south of Centre Streets and east blocks

Approach 2: Increased Density Focused on Western Blocks



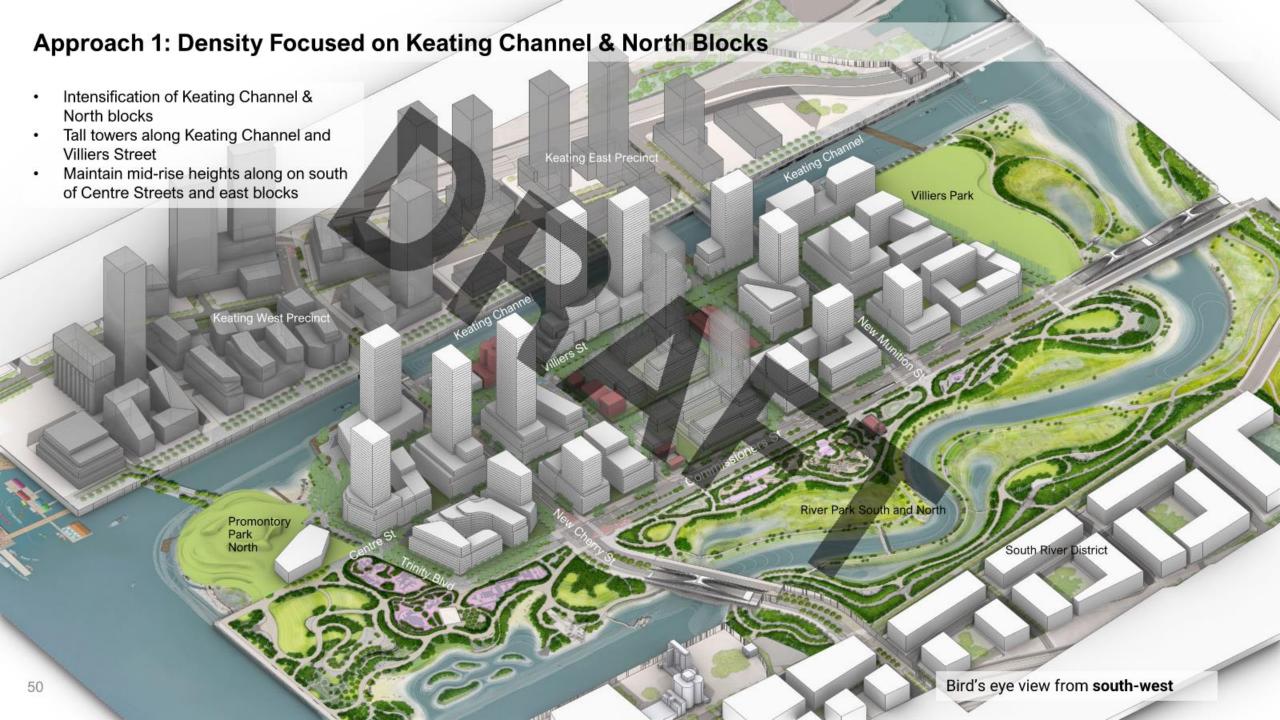
- Intensification of the western blocks
- Tall towers clustered along New Cherry Street gateway
- Shorter towers along Keating Channel
- · Mid-rise heights with short towers on east blocks

Approach 3: Increased Density Focused on Central Blocks

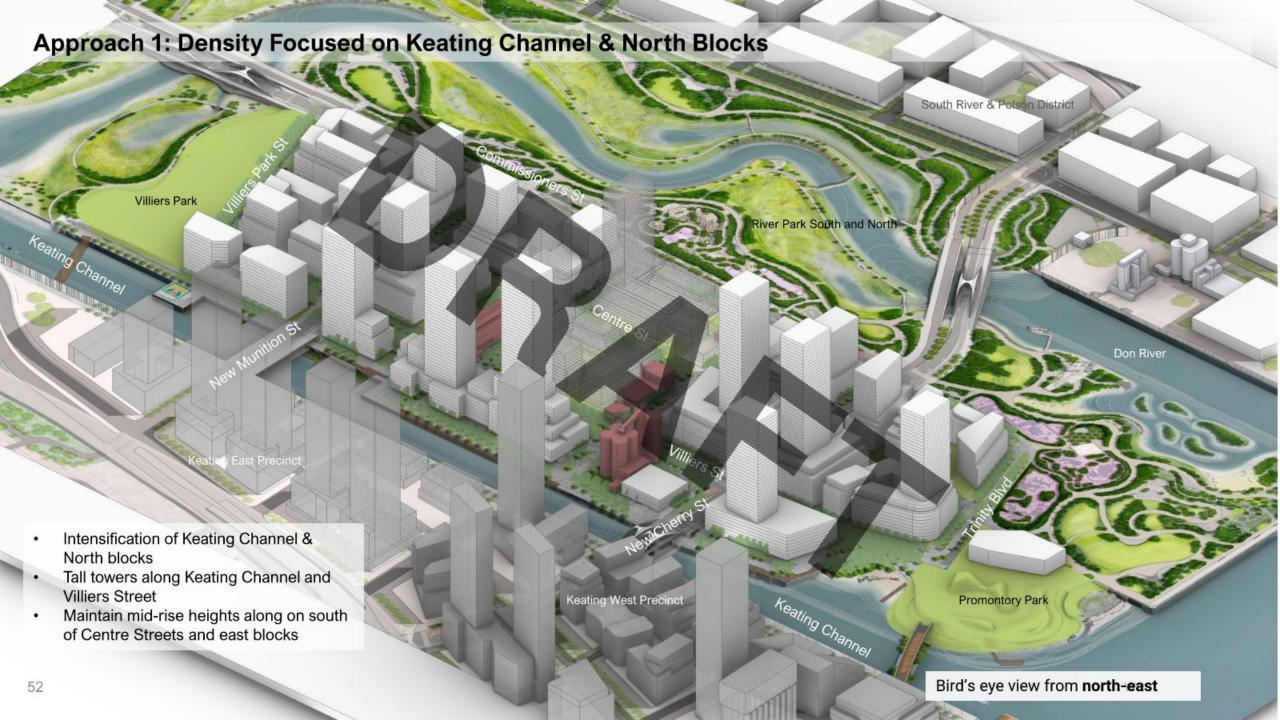


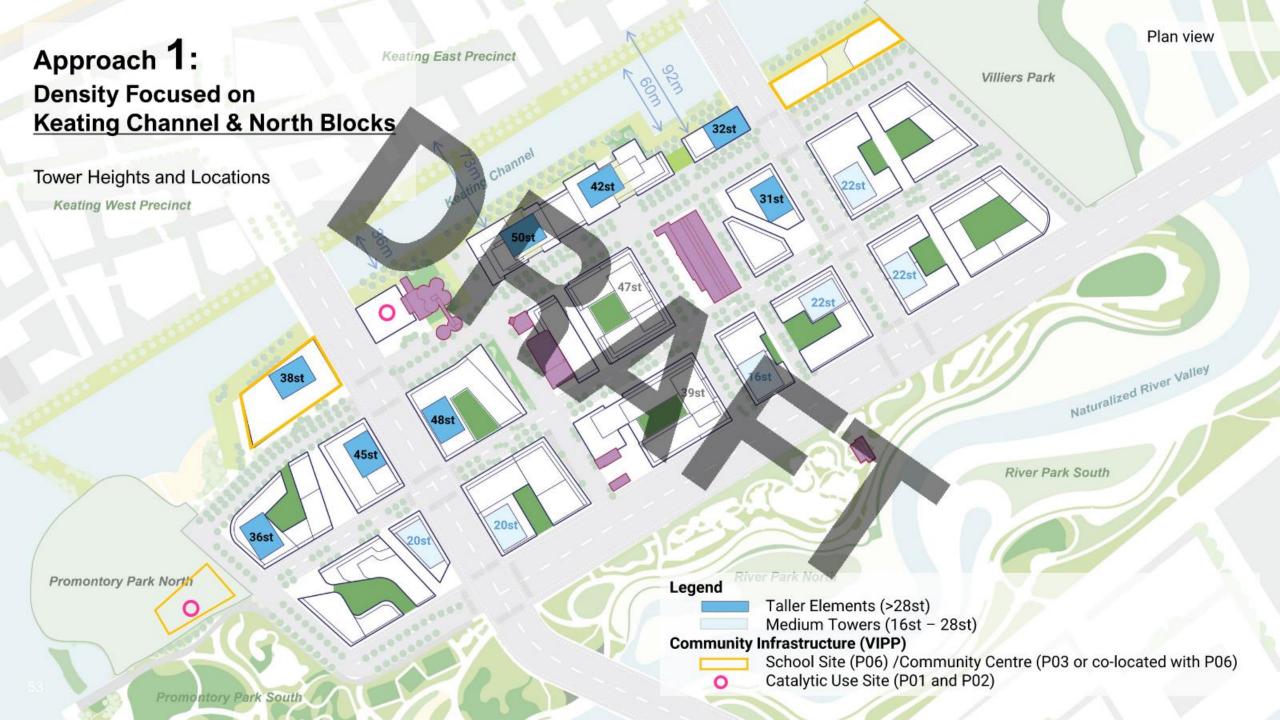
- Intensification of central blocks (between New Cherry and New Munitions Streets)
- Tall towers along New Cherry, New Munitions
- Tall mid-rise to low-rise along Keating Channel
- Mid-rise heights with short towers on east blocks

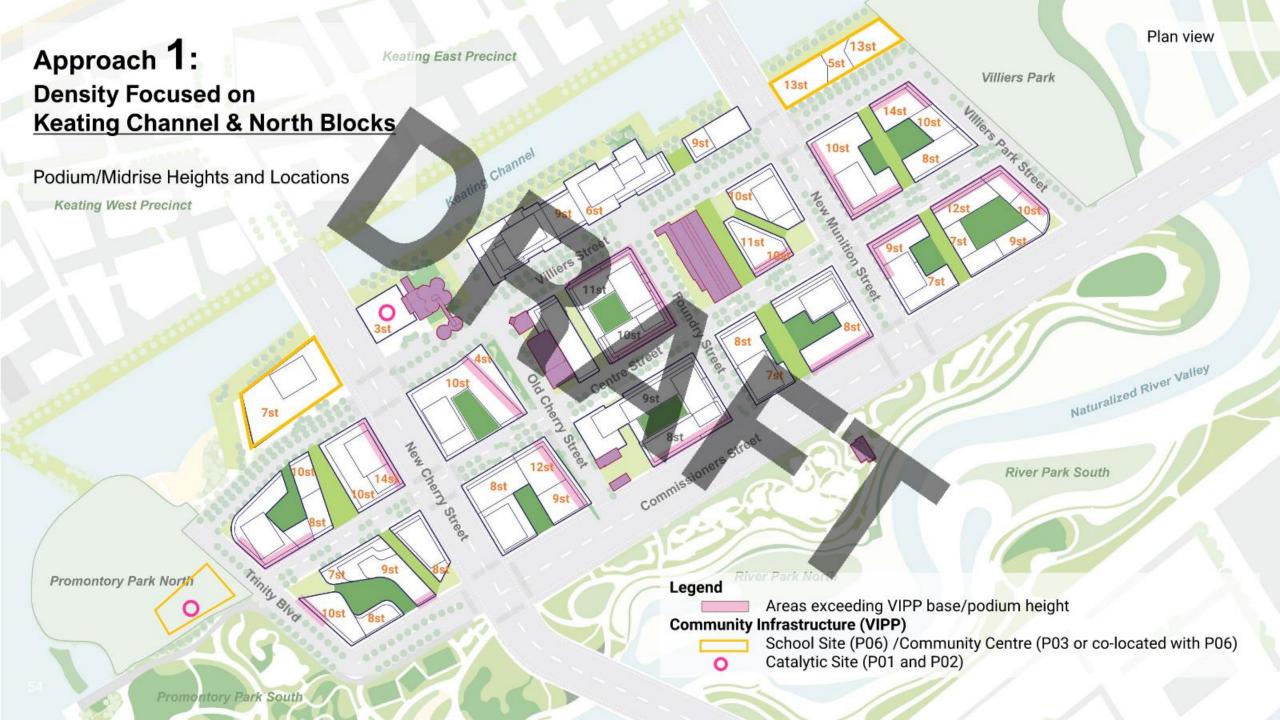




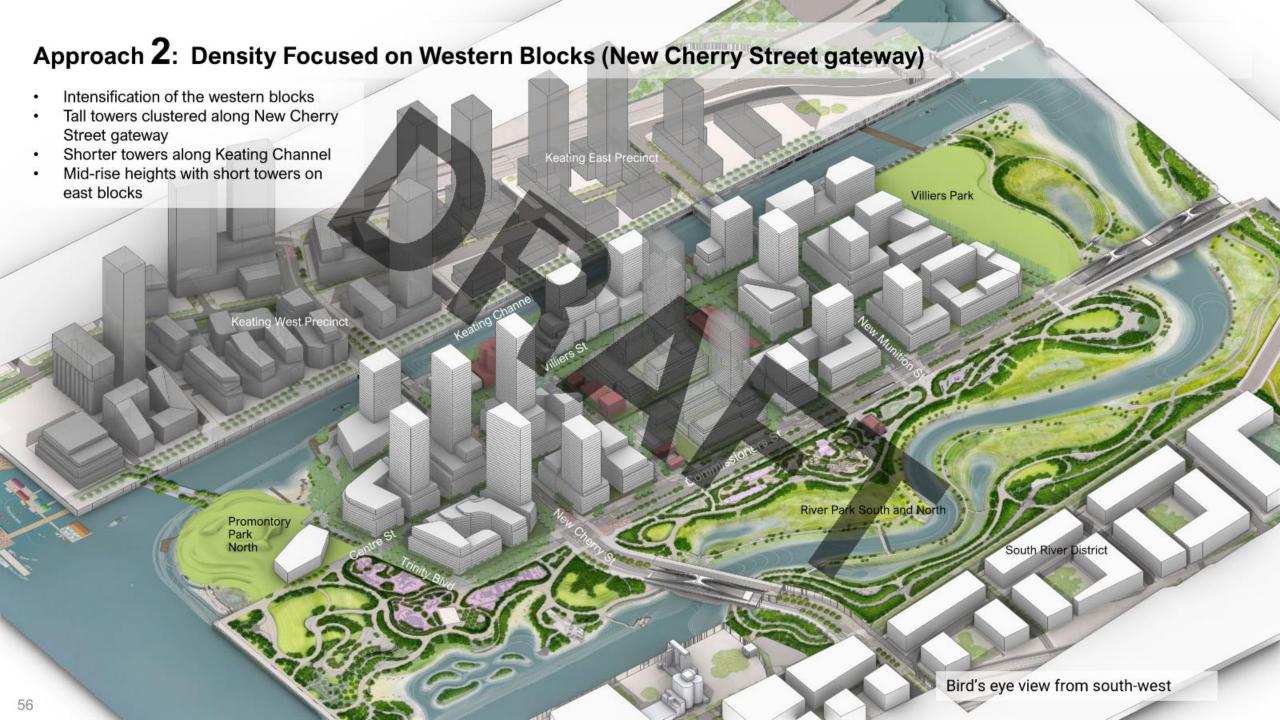






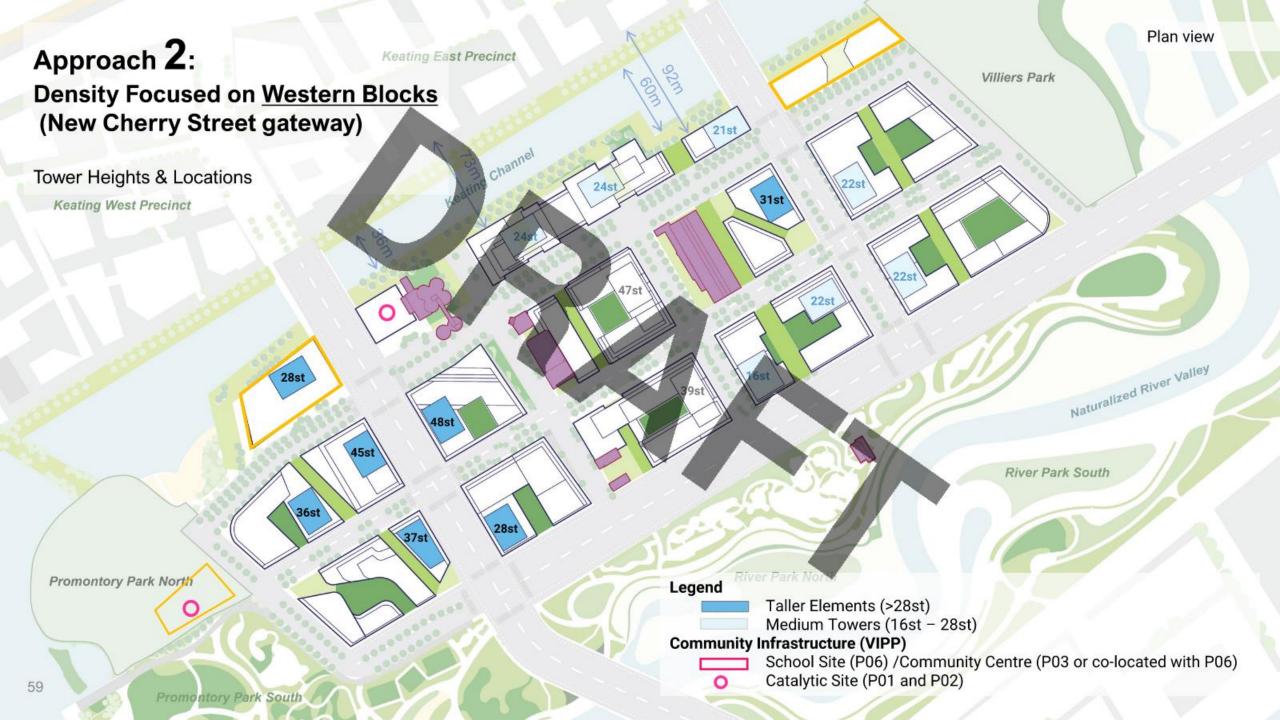


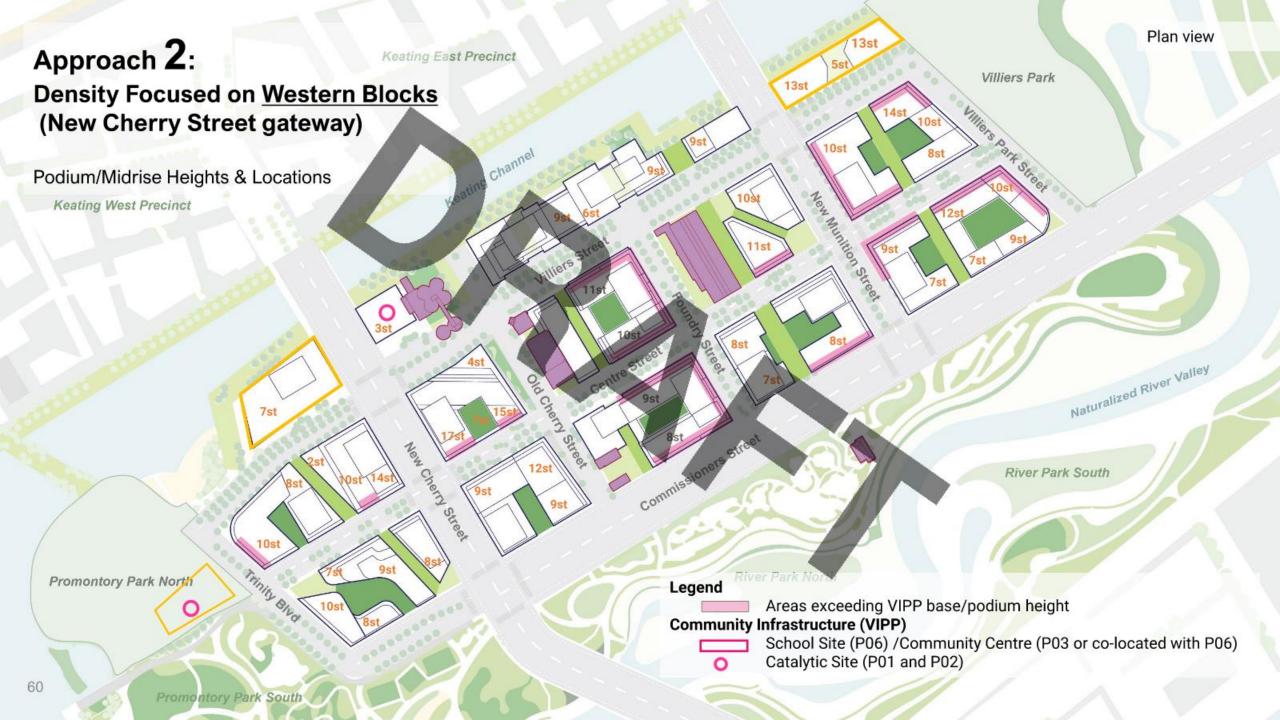




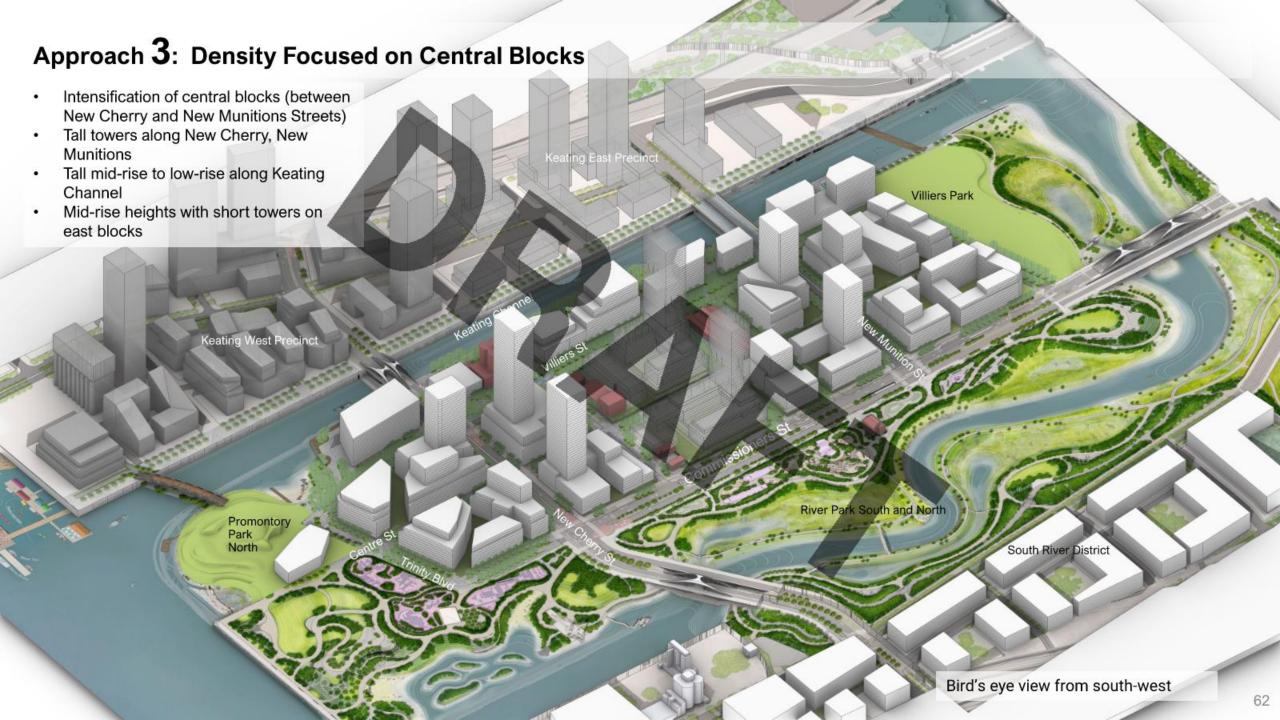
Approach 2: Density Focused on Western Blocks (New Cherry Street gateway) Promontory Park Intensification of the western blocks Tall towers clustered along New Cherry Street gateway Shorter towers along Keating Channel Mid-rise heights with short towers on east blocks Keating West Precinct New Cherry St **Ceating East Precinct** New Munition S Villiers Park St Villiers Park Bird's eye view from north-east

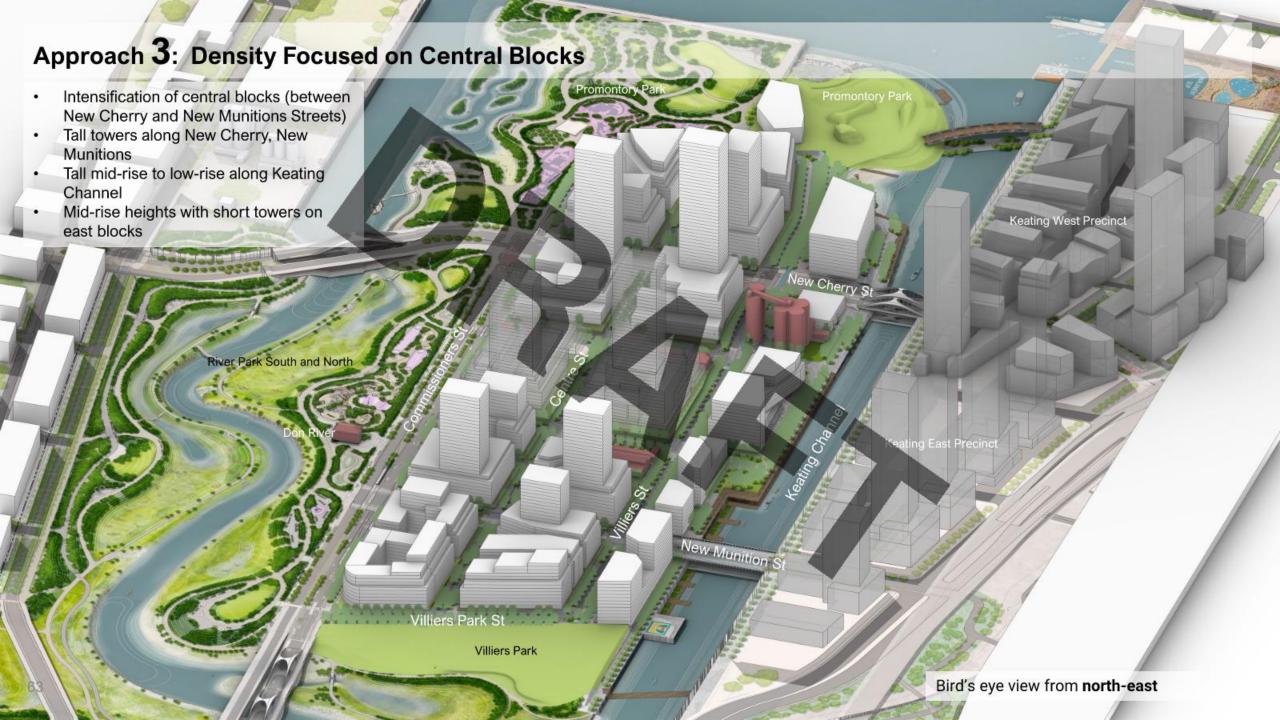


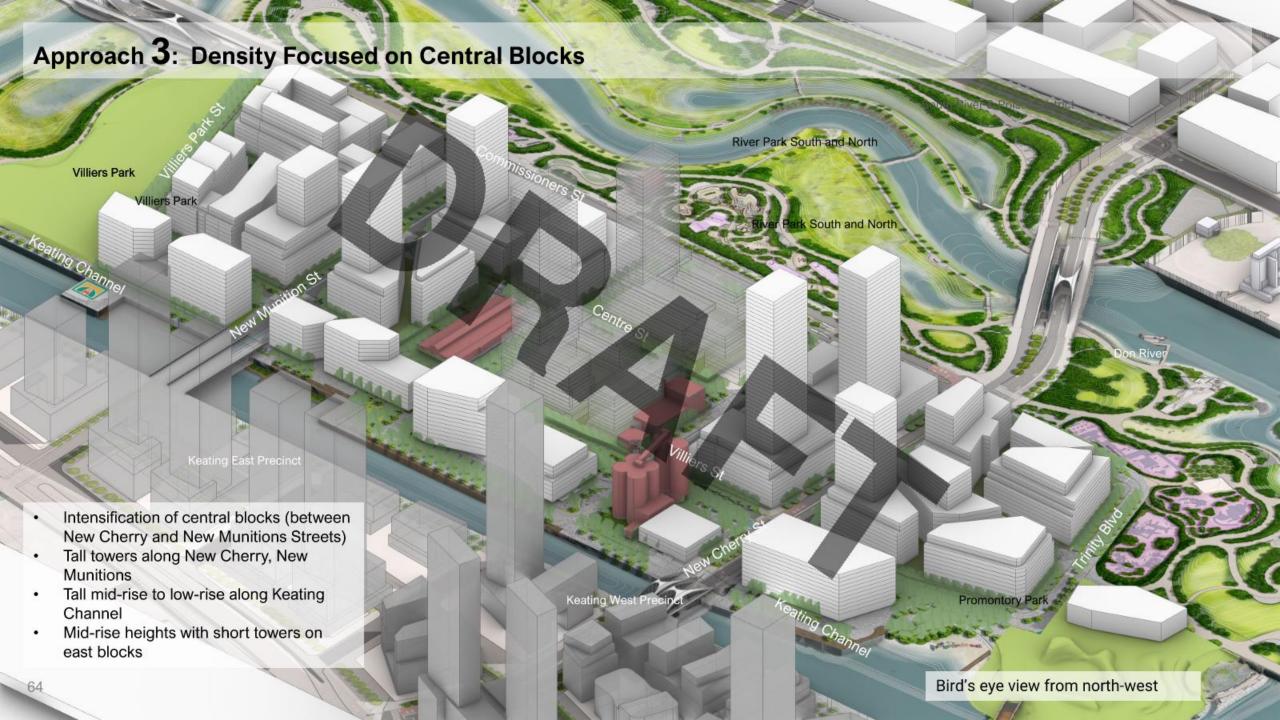


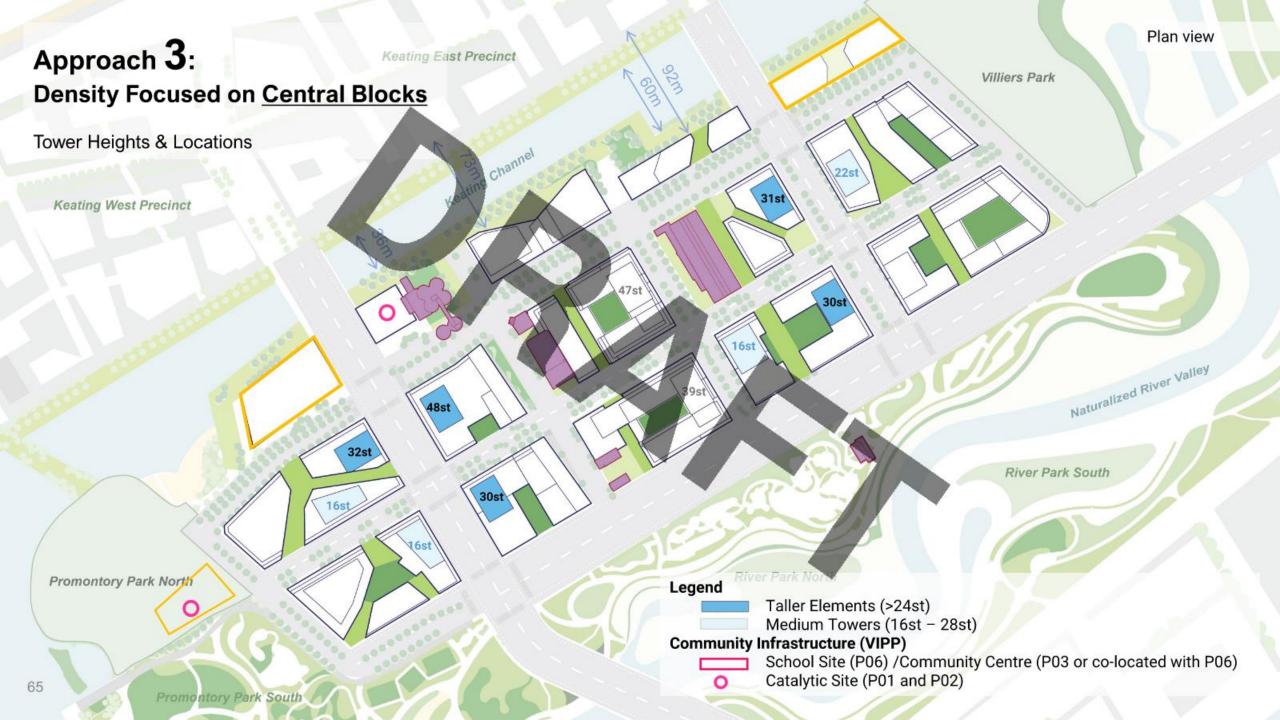


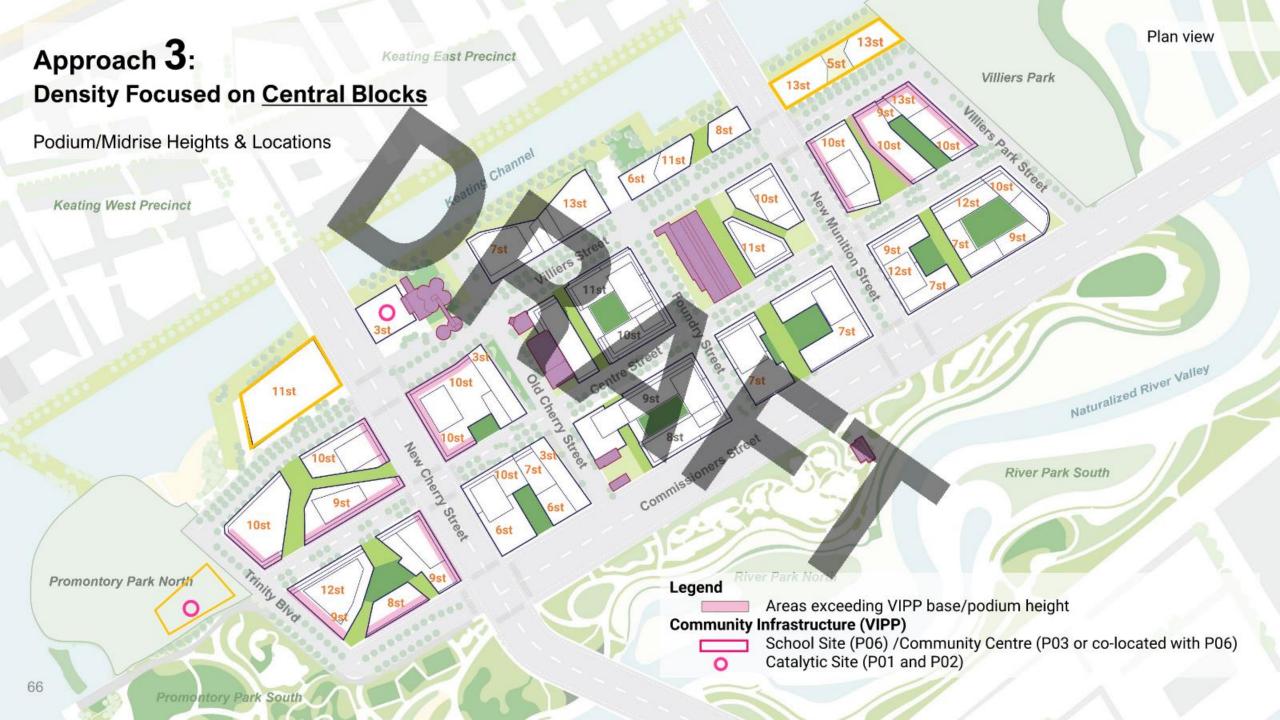
Approach 2: Density Focused on Western Blocks (New Cherry Street gateway) – Fly-through Intensification of the western blocks Tall towers clustered along New Cherry Street gateway Shorter towers along Keating Channel Mid-rise heights with short towers on east blocks

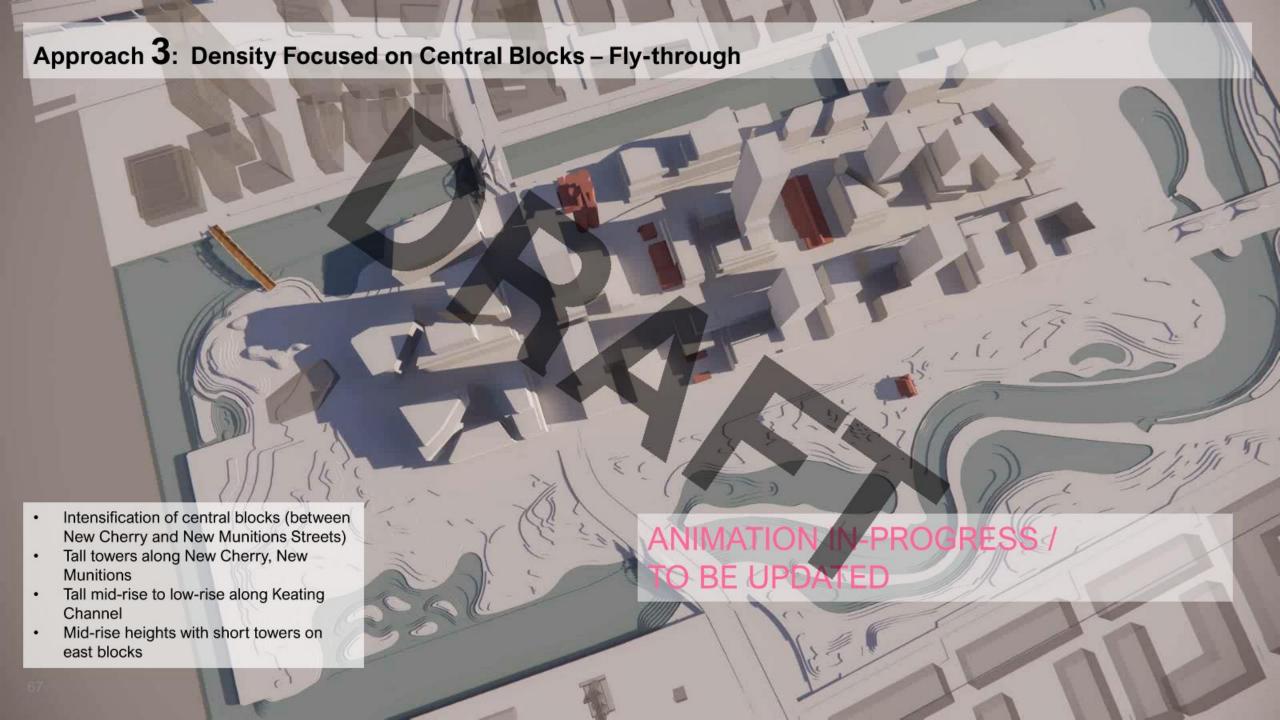




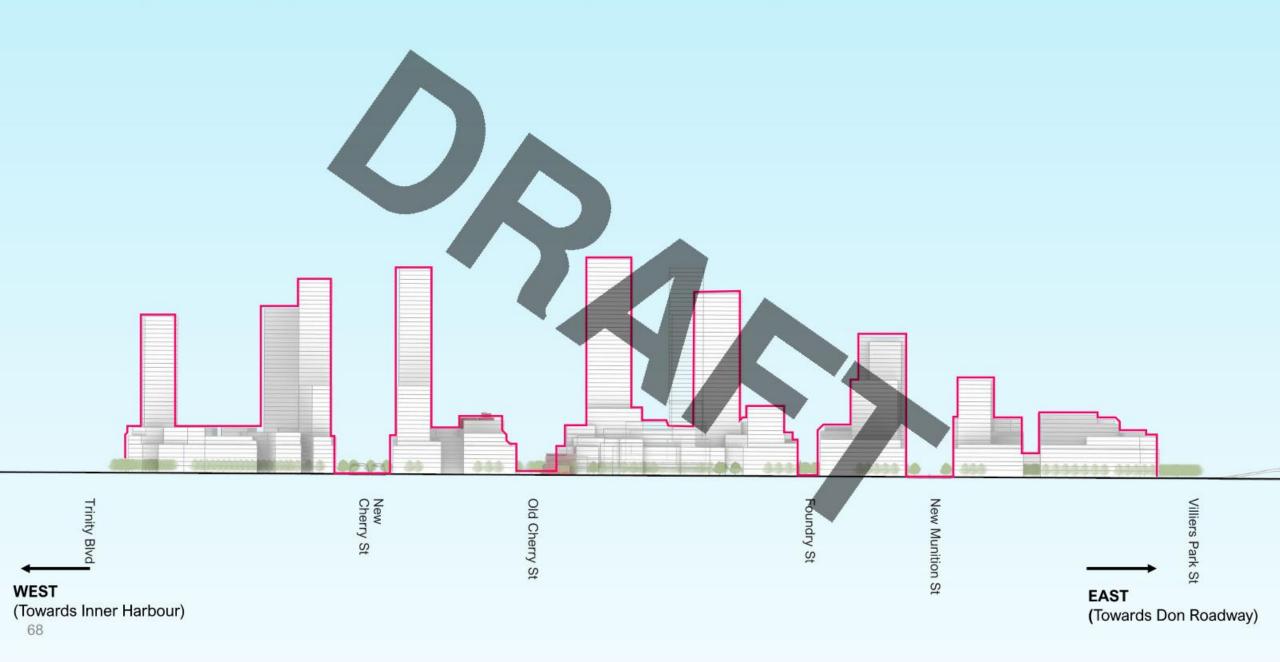




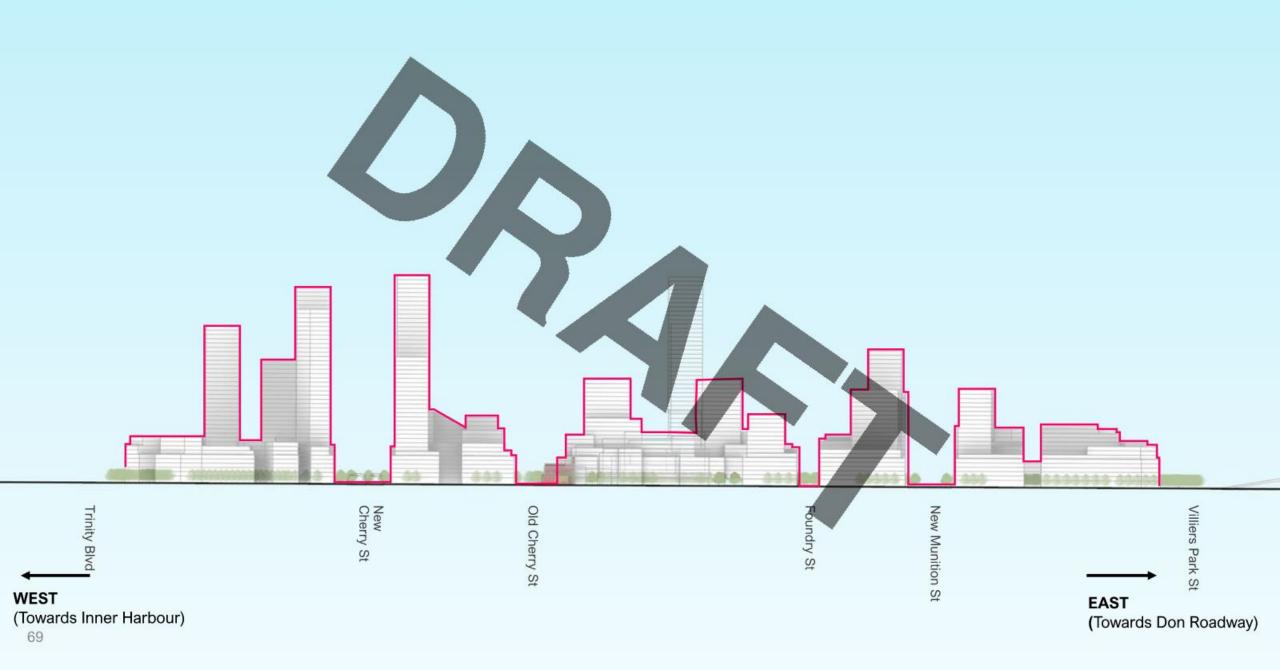




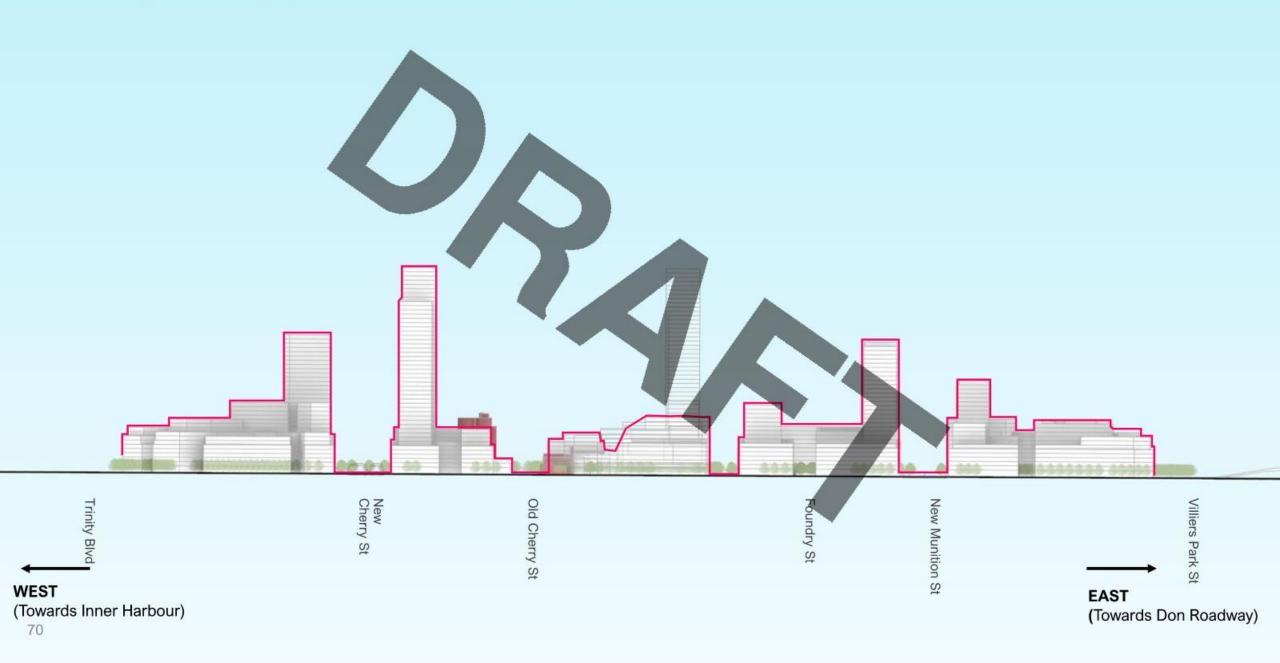
Tower Height Strategy (South Site Elevation) - Approach 1: Keating Channel & North Blocks



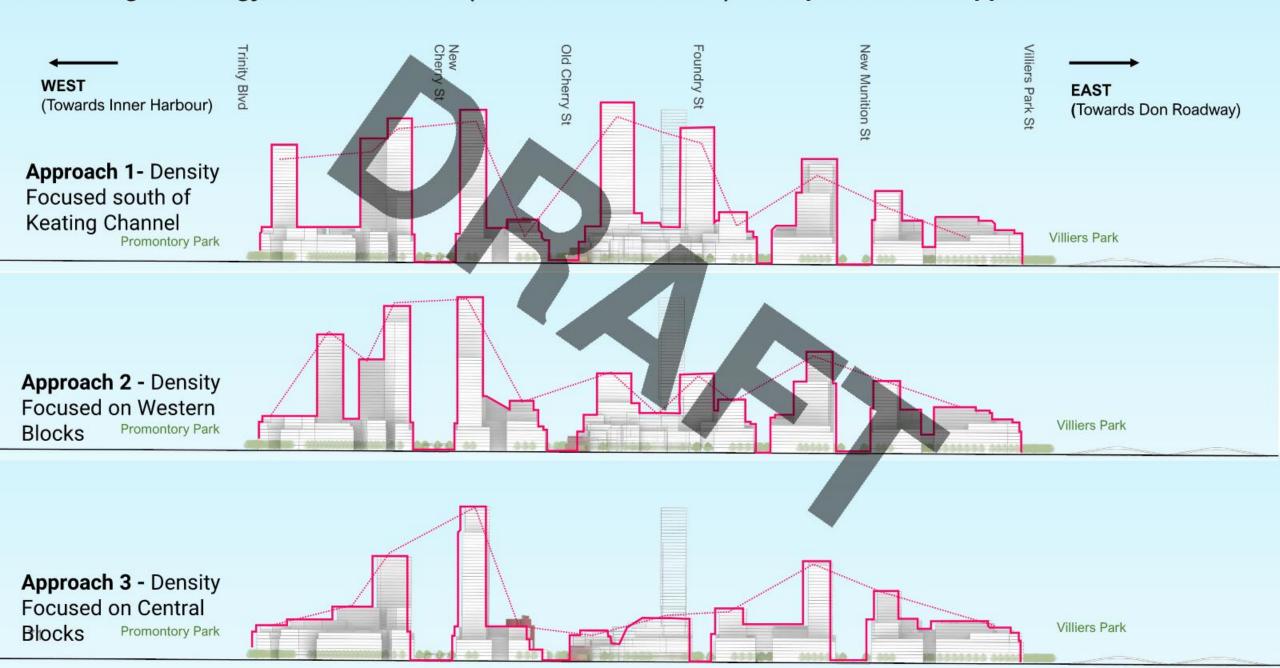
Tower Height Strategy (South Site Elevation) – Approach 2 : Western Blocks (New Cherry Street gateway)



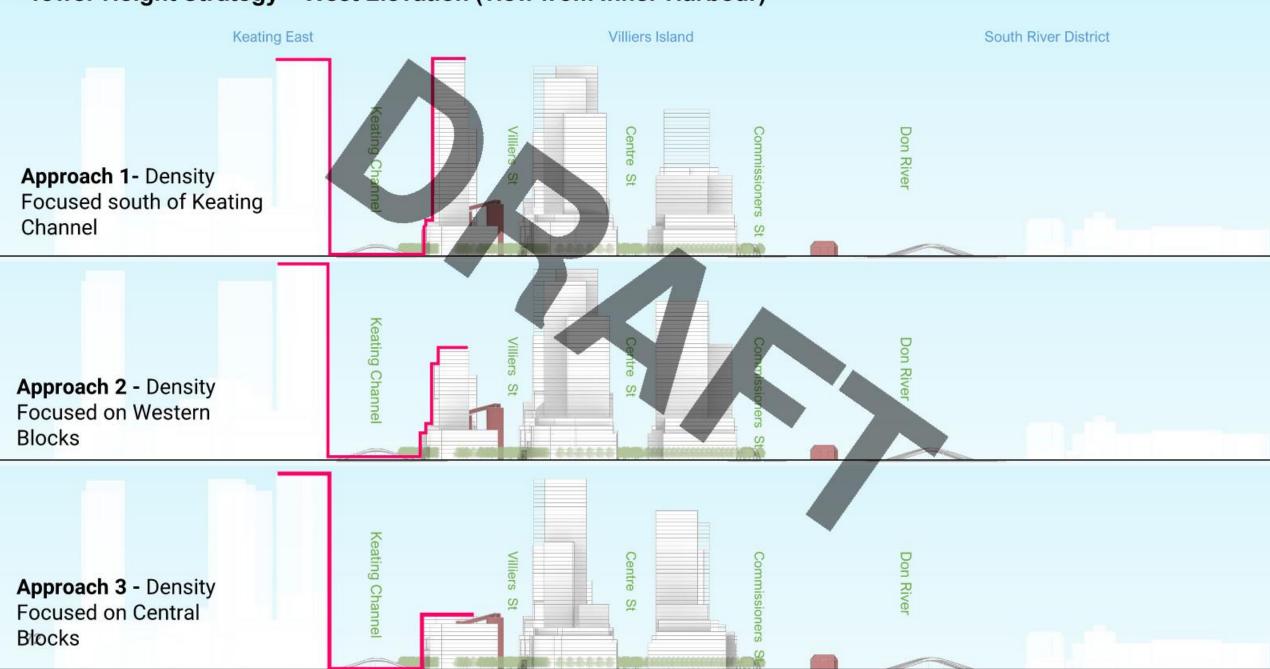
Tower Height Strategy (South Site Elevation) - Approach 3: Central Blocks



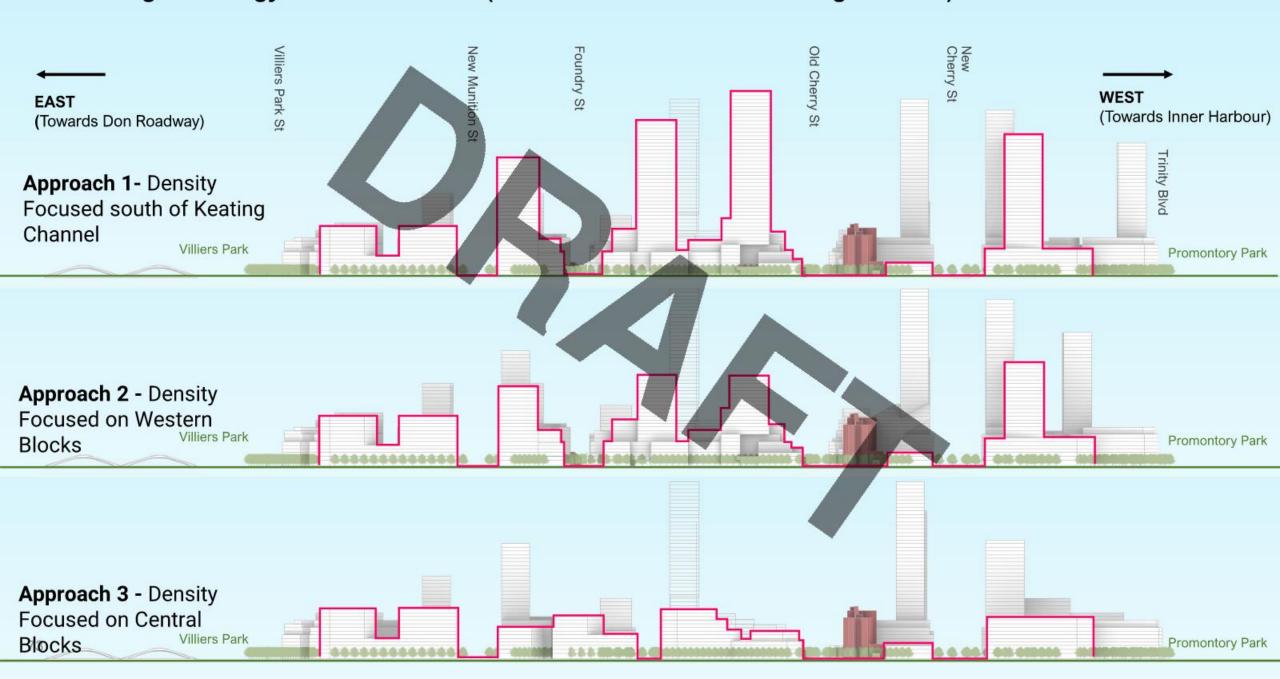
Tower Height Strategy - South Elevation (view from River South) - Comparison of all Approaches



Tower Height Strategy – West Elevation (view from Inner Harbour)



Tower Height Strategy – North Elevation (view from north side of Keating Channel)



Shadow Study: Approach 1- Density Focused on Keating Channel/North Blocks (animation)

See Appendix for hour by hour shadow capture

Axonometric View

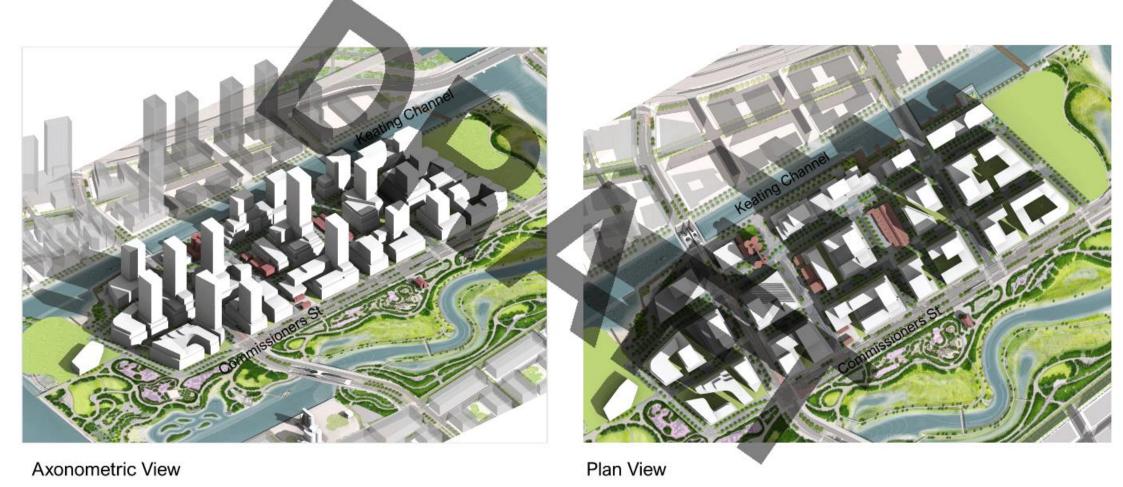






Shadow Study: Approach 2 - Density Focused on Western Blocks (animation)

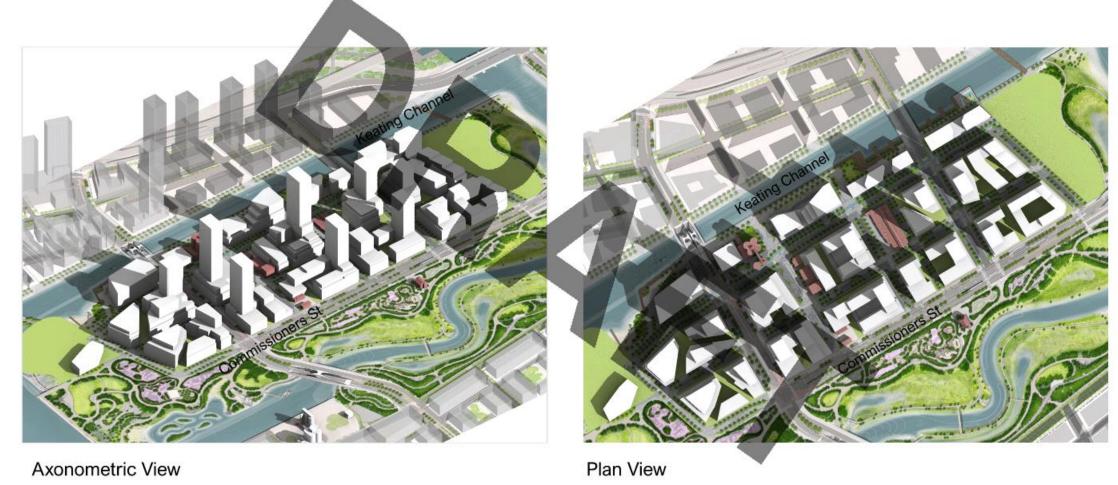
See Appendix for hour by hour shadow capture





Shadow Study: Approach 3 - Density Focused on Central Blocks (animation)

See Appendix for hour by hour shadow capture

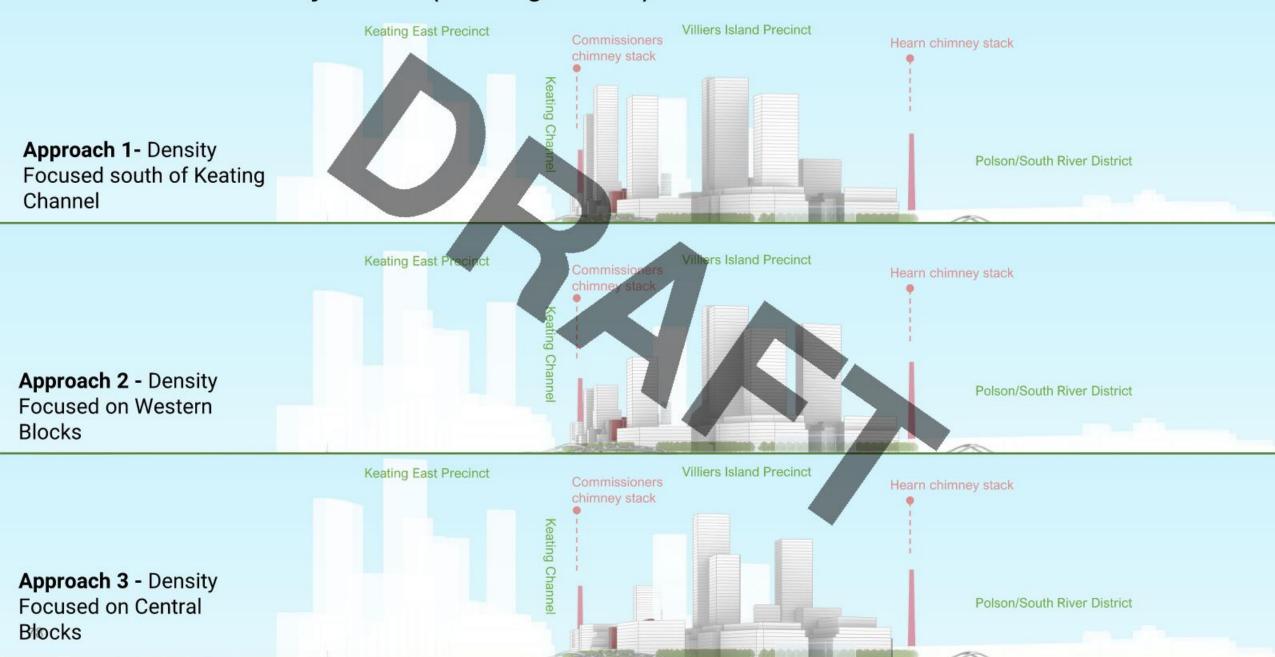


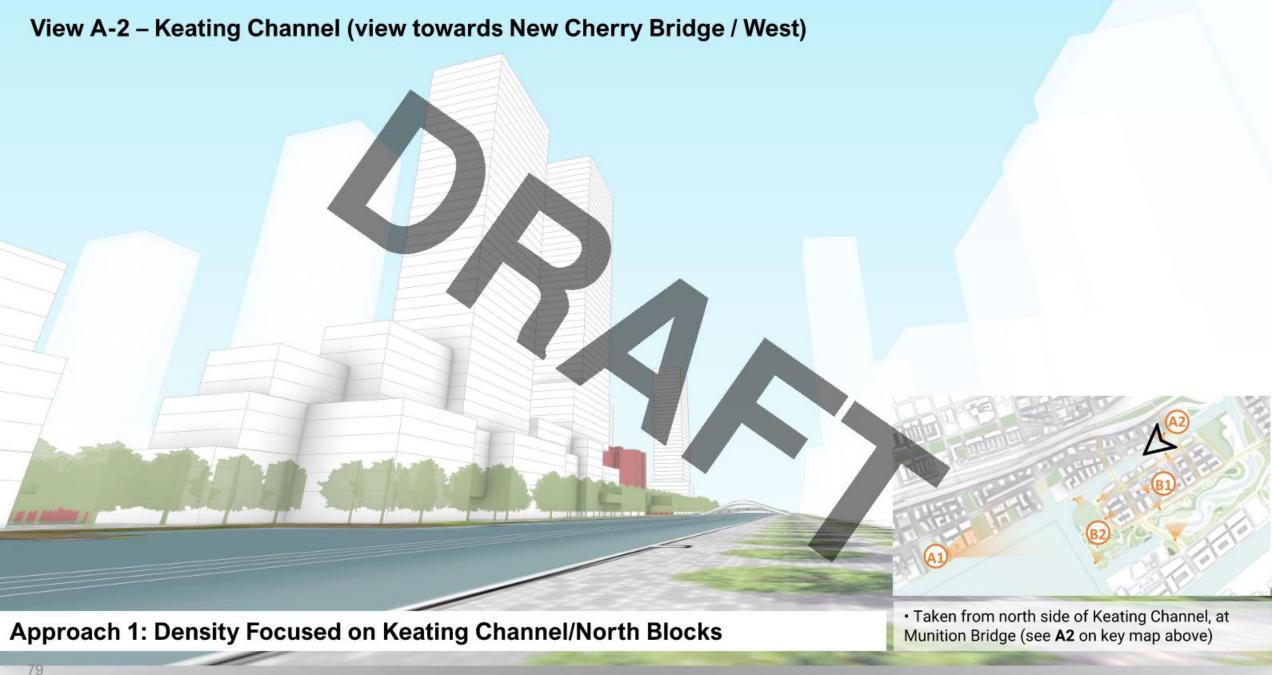
Key Views

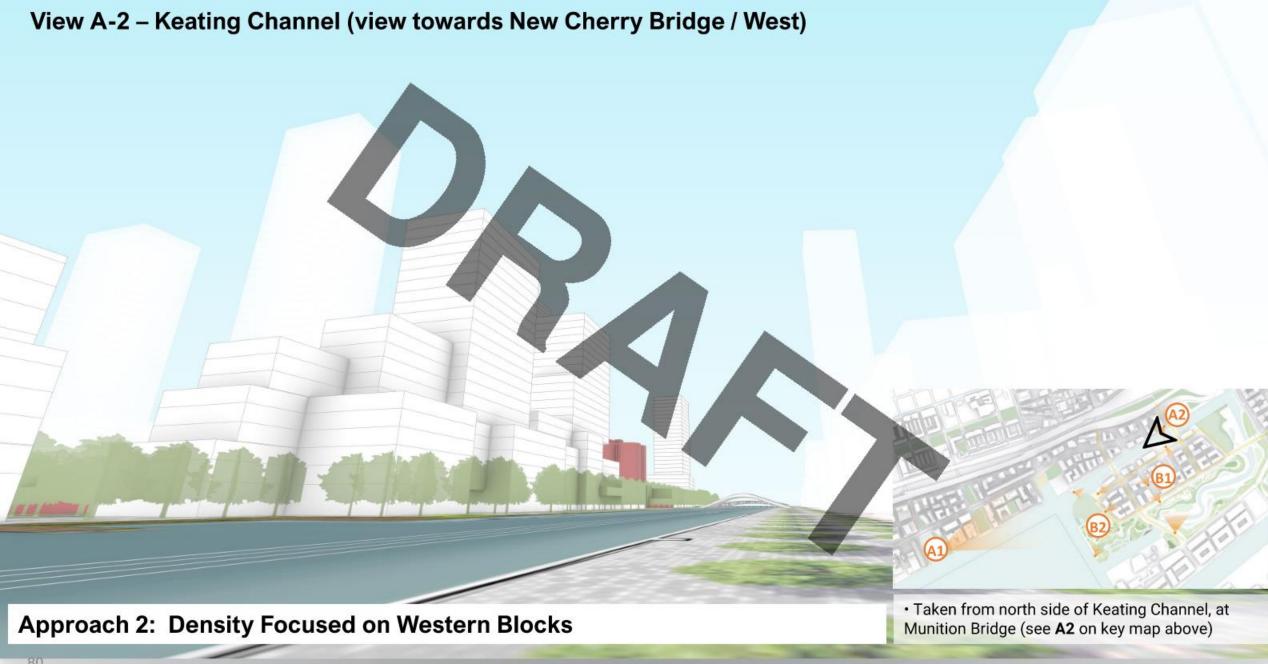
Key views that were important to shape thee massing increase density on the island

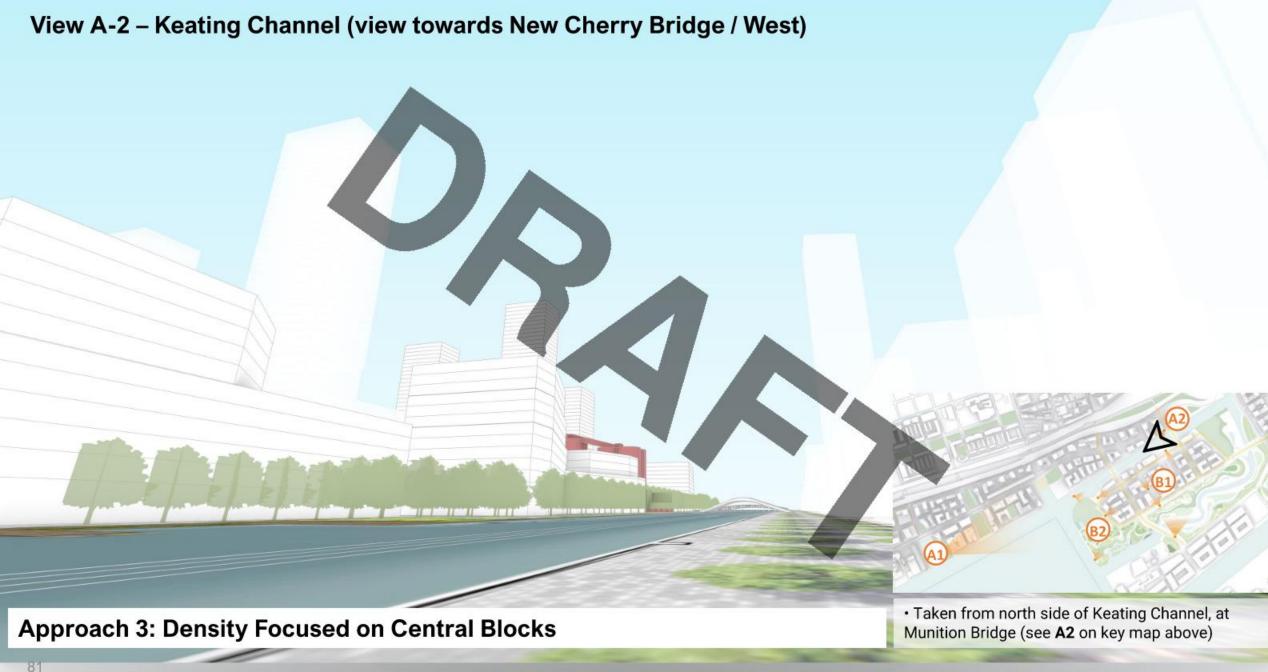


View A-1 – Port Lands Skyline View (from Sugar Beach)

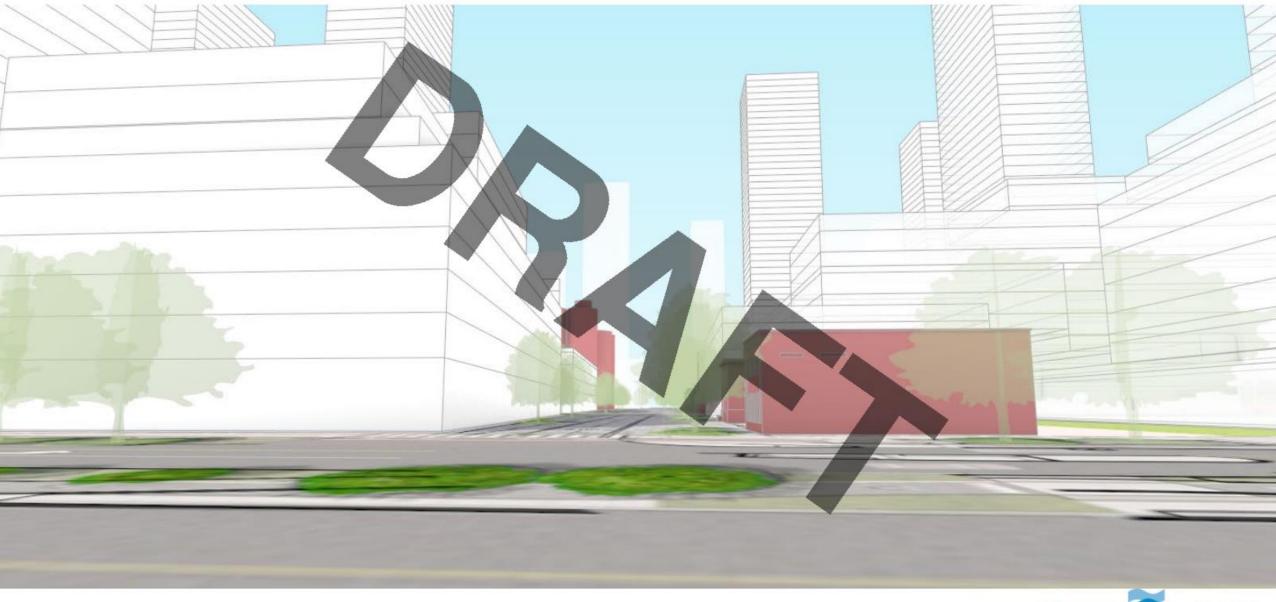




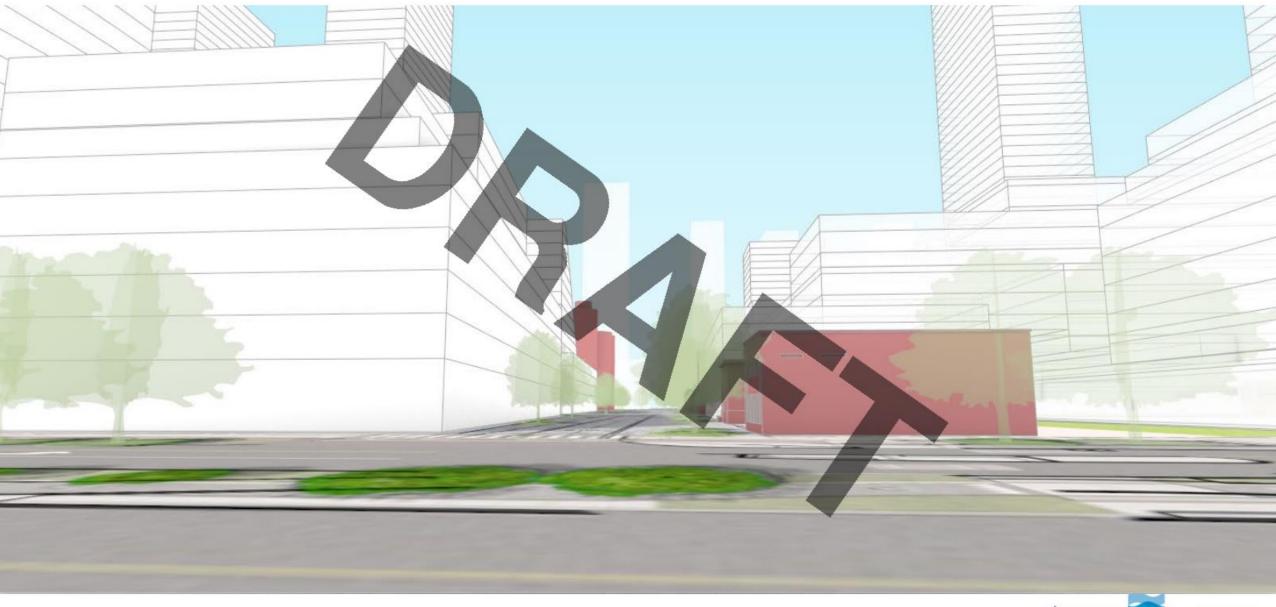




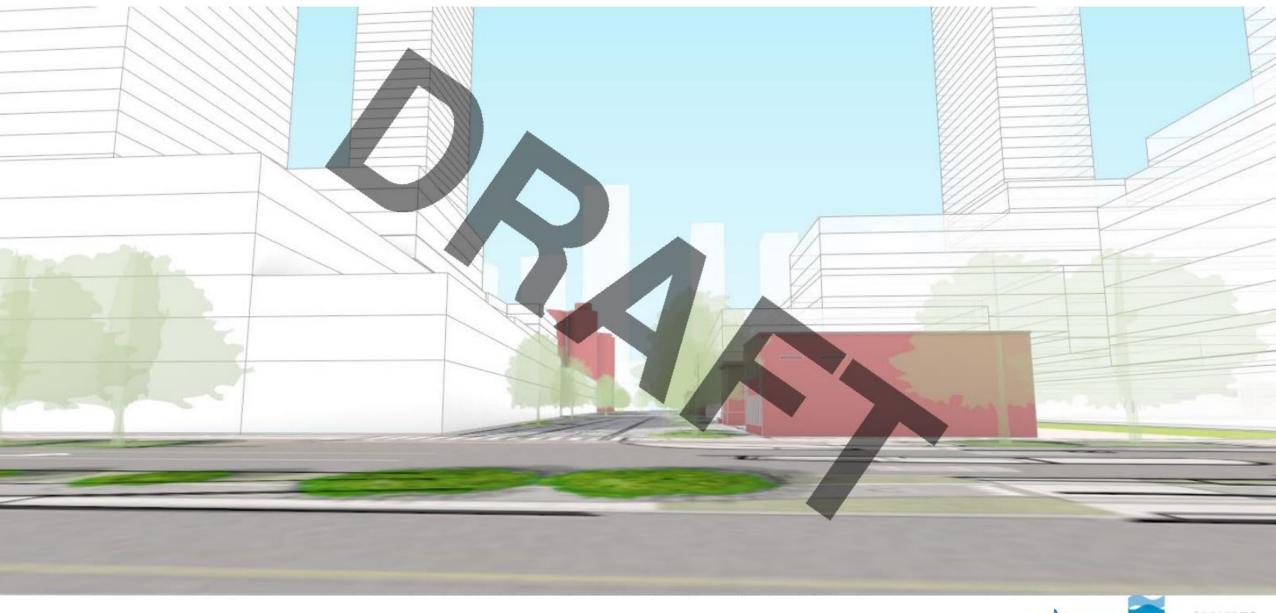
View B-1: Old Cherry Street (At Commissioners St looking north)

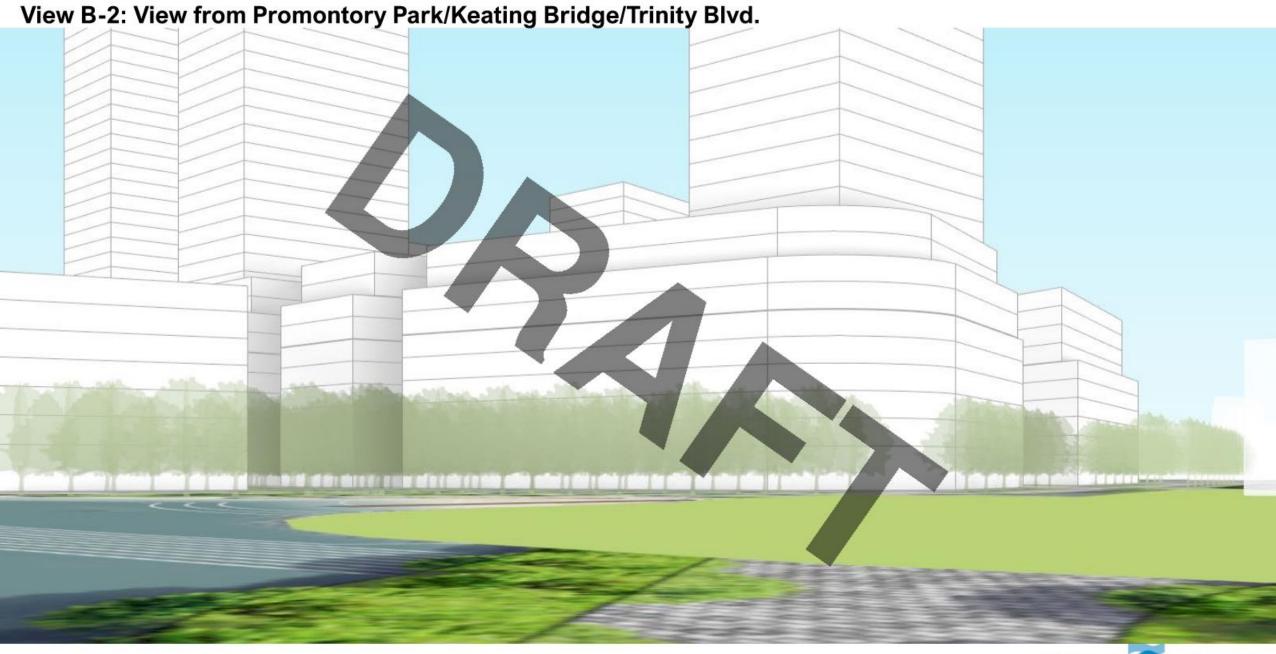


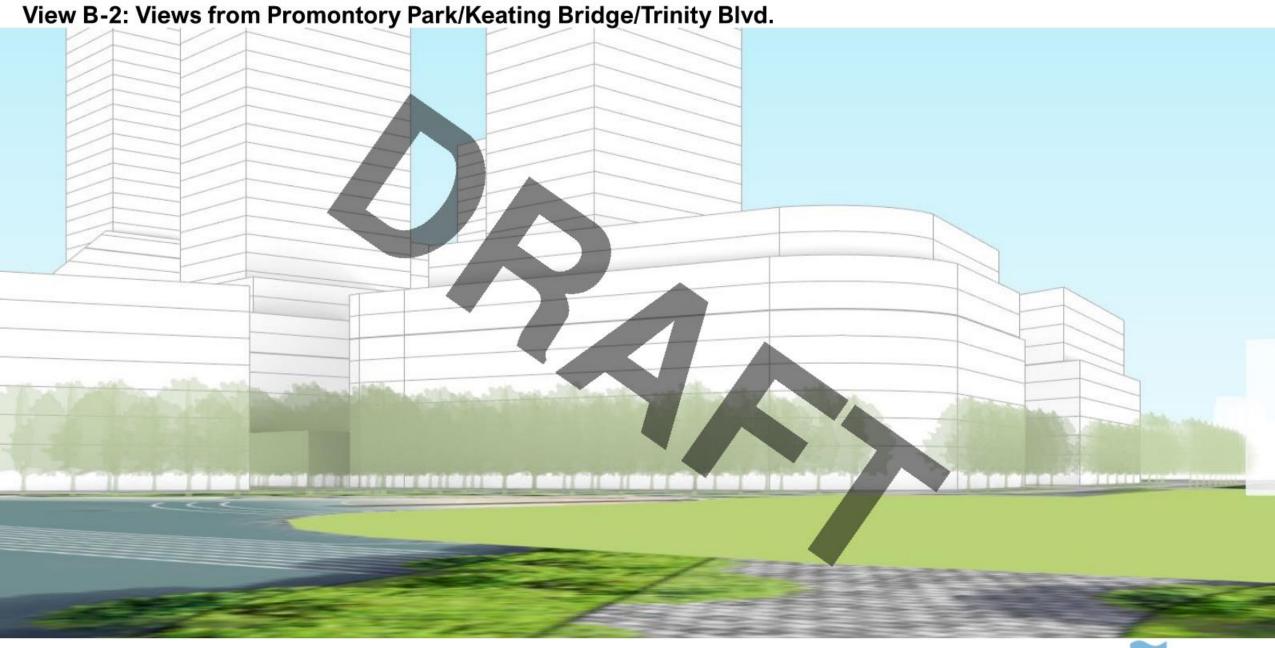
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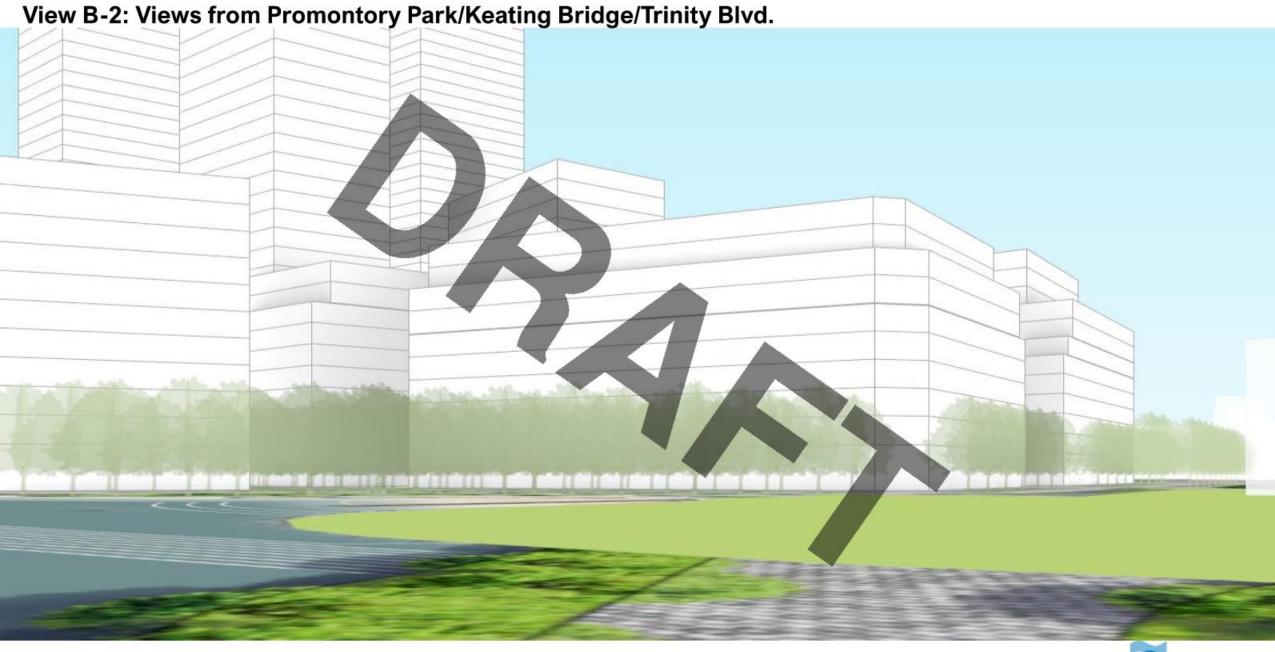


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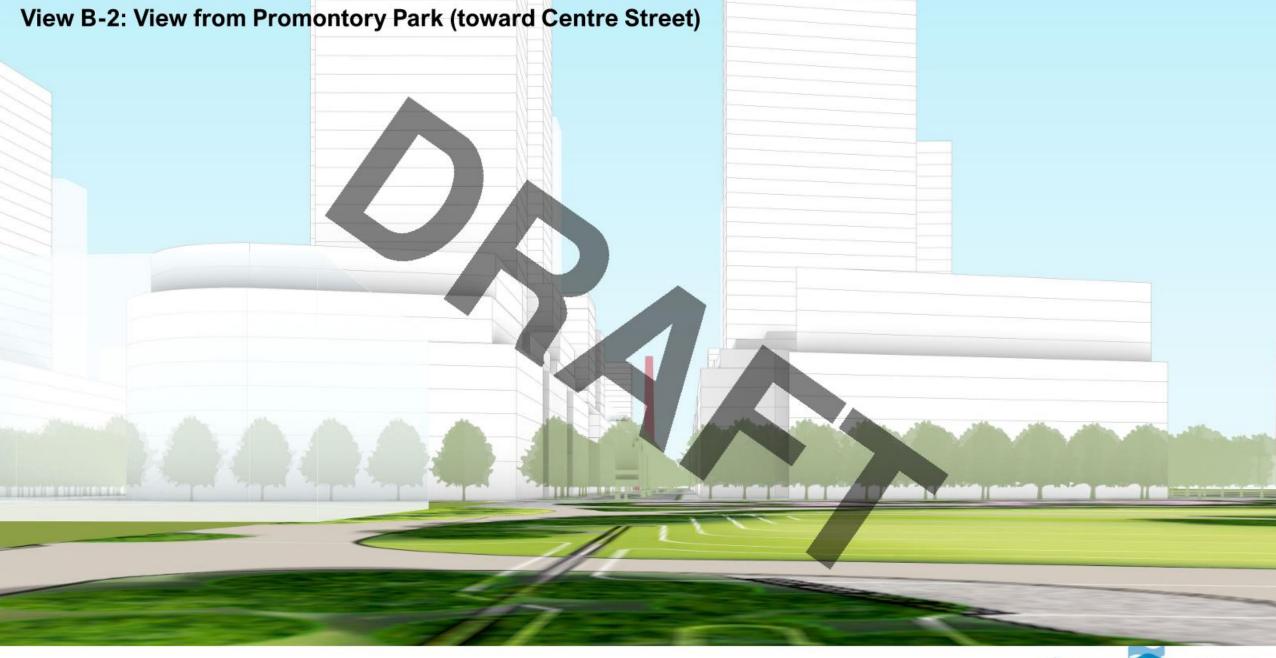


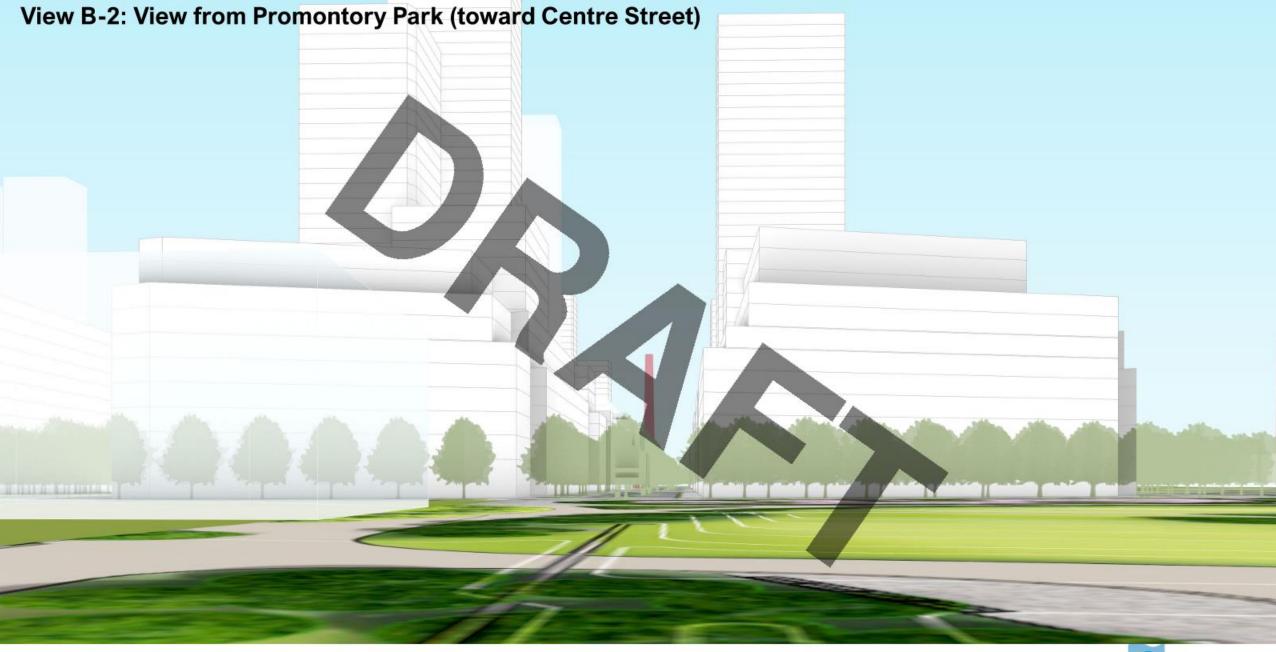


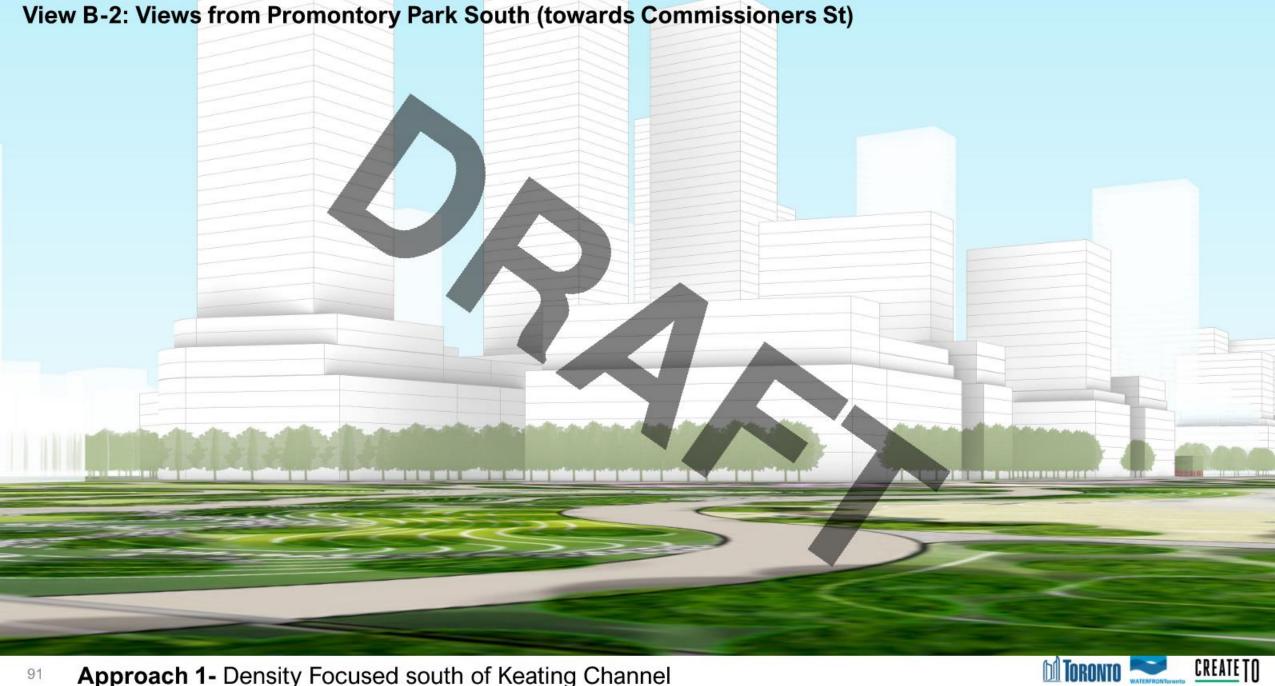




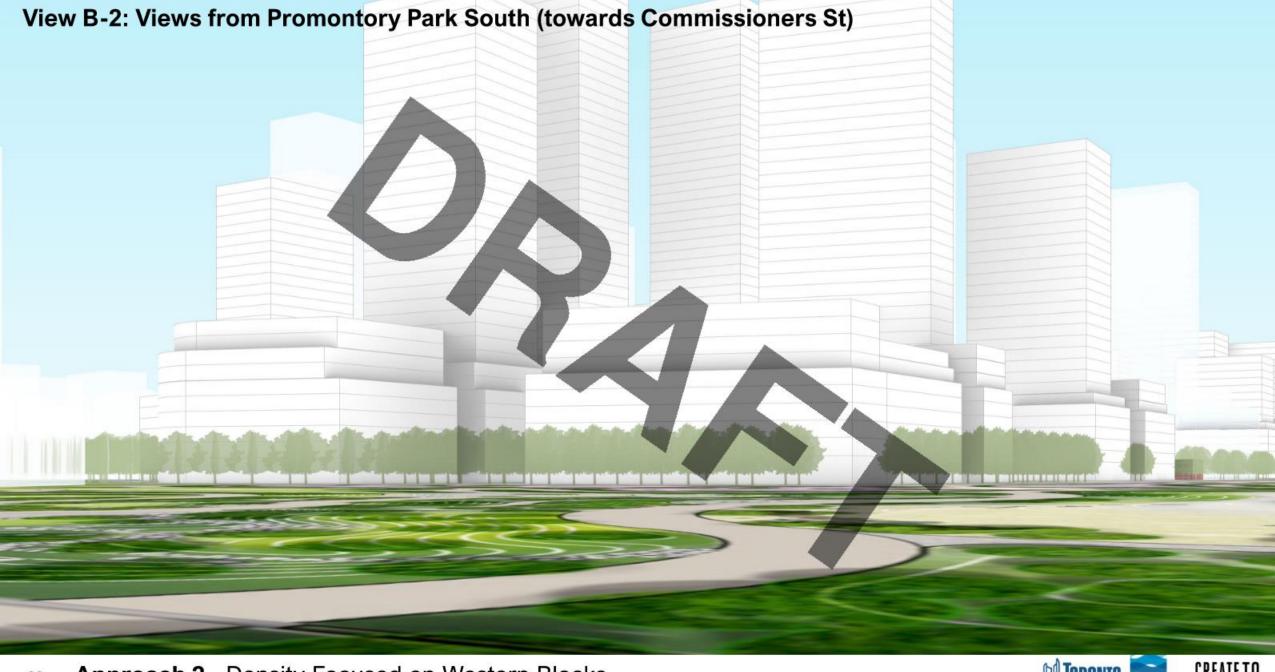


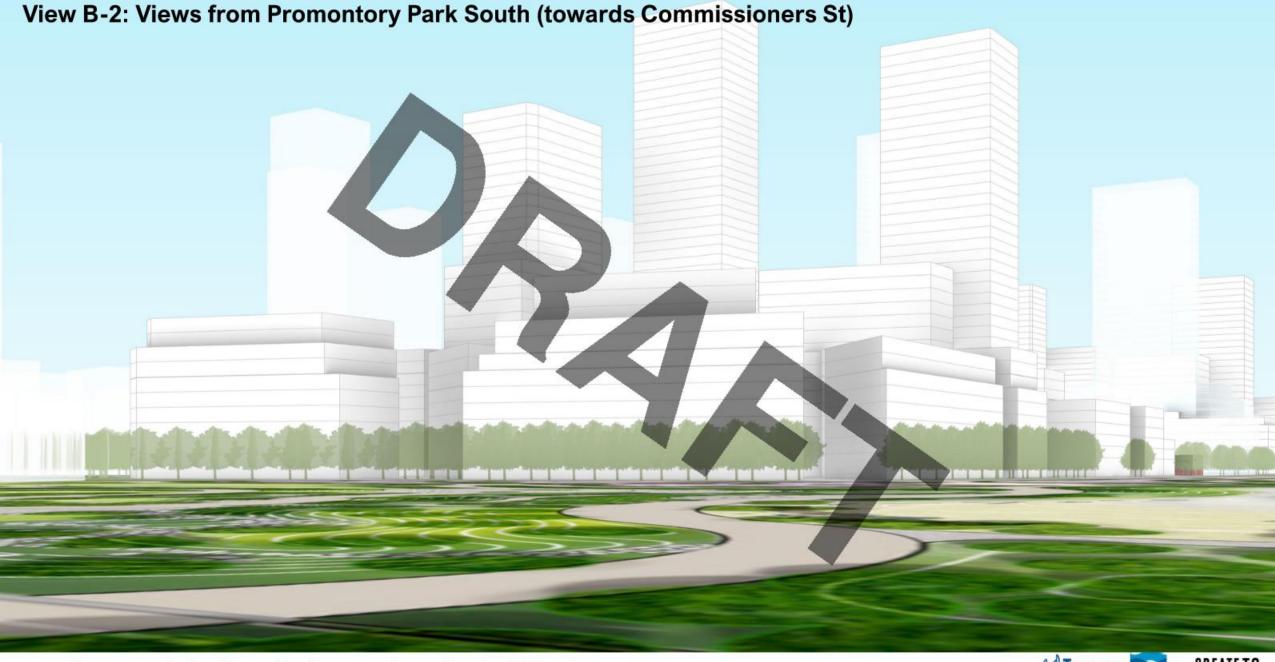












Summary of Approaches to Increasing Density on the Island

Approach 1: Increased Density Focused on Keating Channel & North Blocks



- Intensification of Keating Channel & North blocks
- Tall towers along Keating Channel and Villiers Street
- Maintain mid-rise heights along on south of Centre Streets and east blocks

Approach 2: Increased Density Focused on Western Blocks



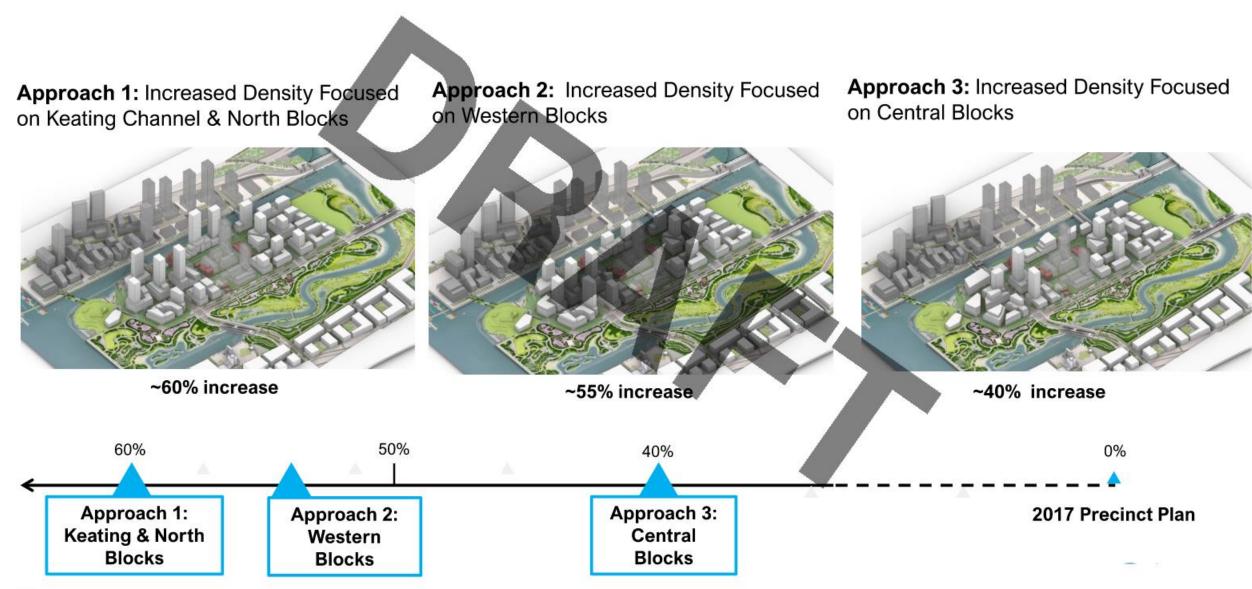
- Intensification of the western blocks
- Tall towers clustered along New Cherry Street gateway
- Shorter towers along Keating Channel
- Mid-rise heights with short towers on east blocks

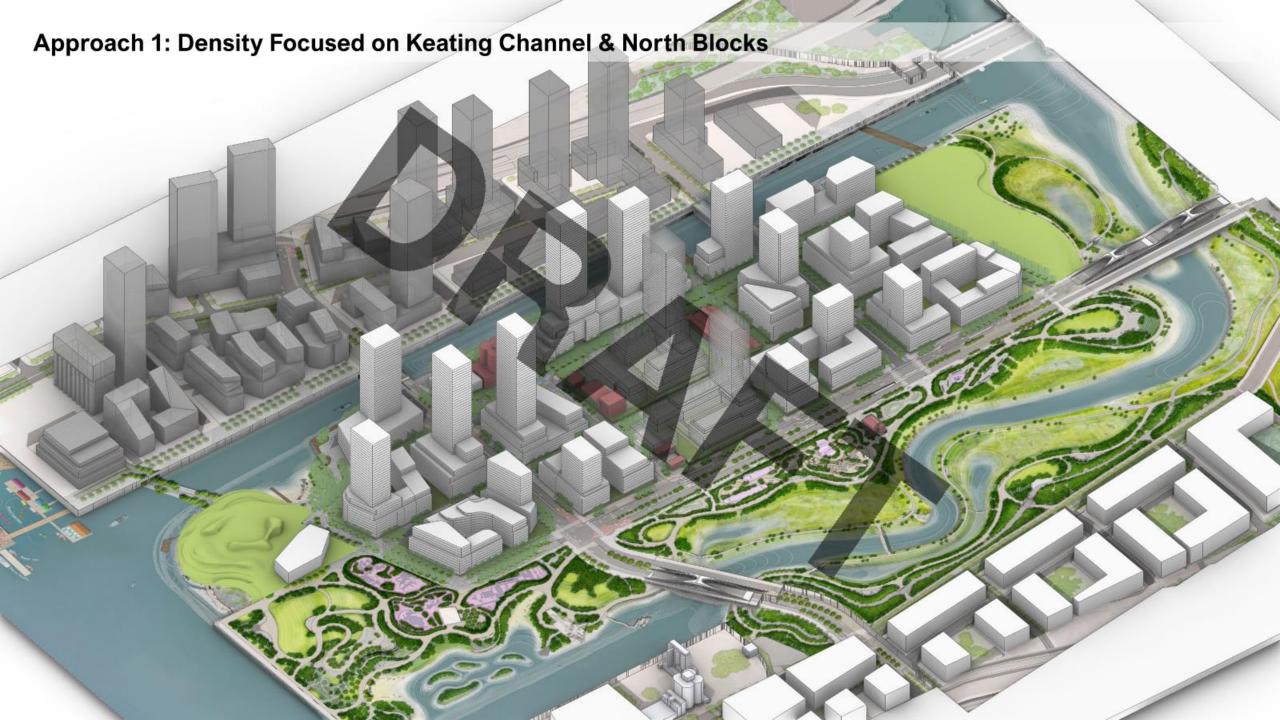
Approach 3: Increased Density Focused on Central Blocks

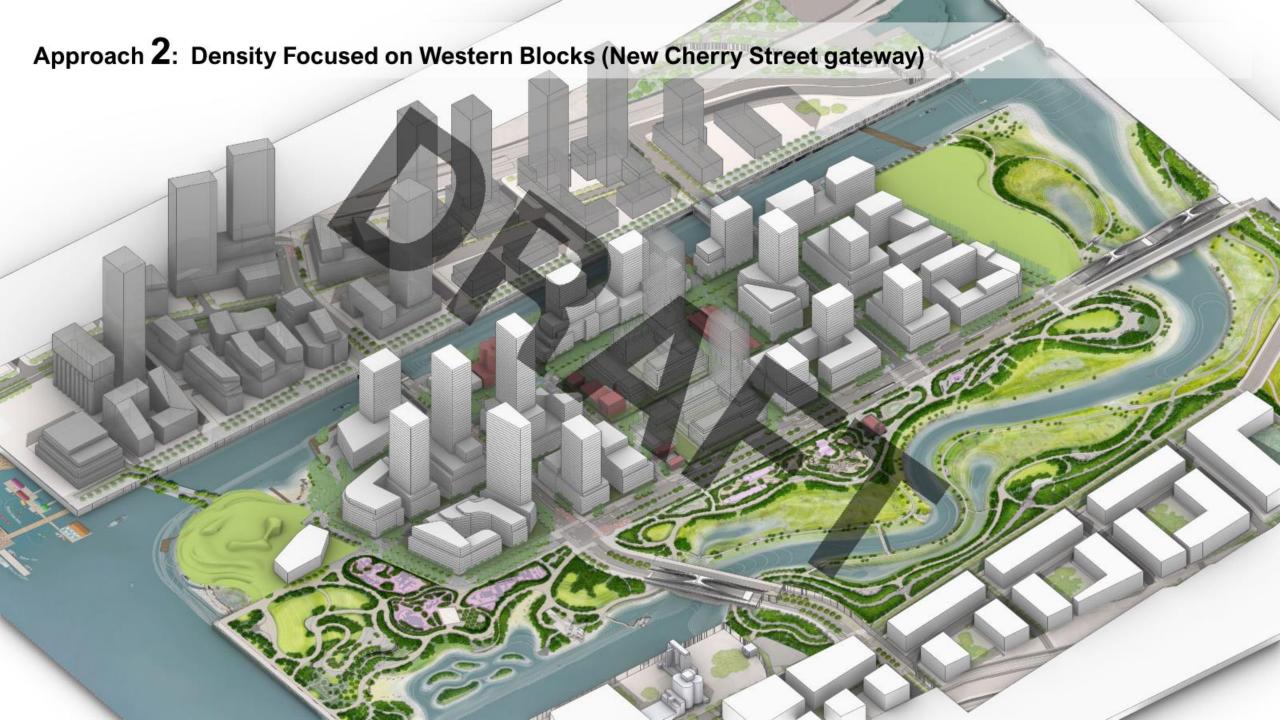


- Intensification of central blocks (between New Cherry and New Munitions Streets)
- Tall towers along New Cherry, New Munitions
- Tall mid-rise to low-rise along Keating Channel
- Mid-rise heights with short towers on east blocks

Summary of 3 Approaches and Total Density Increase compared to the 2017 Precinct Plan









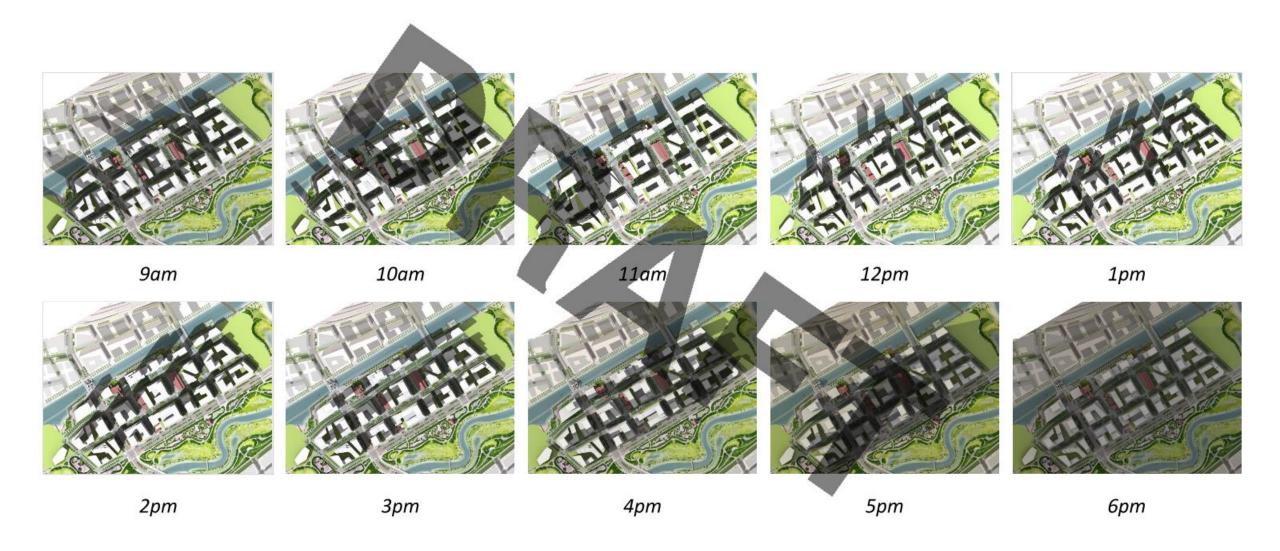




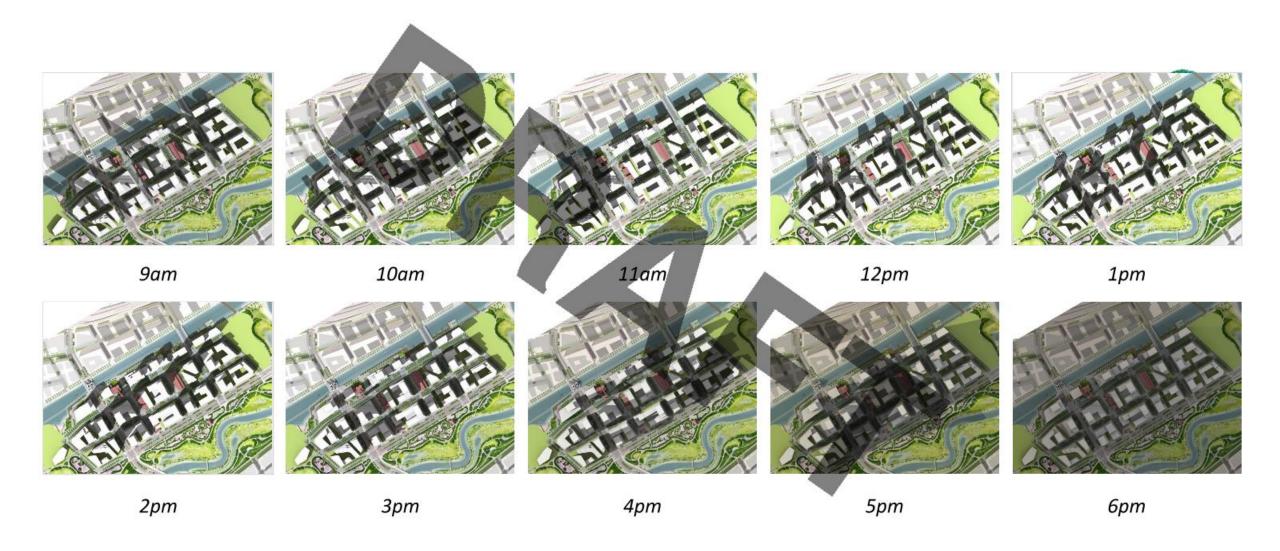
Appendix. 1 Shadow & Radiation Studies



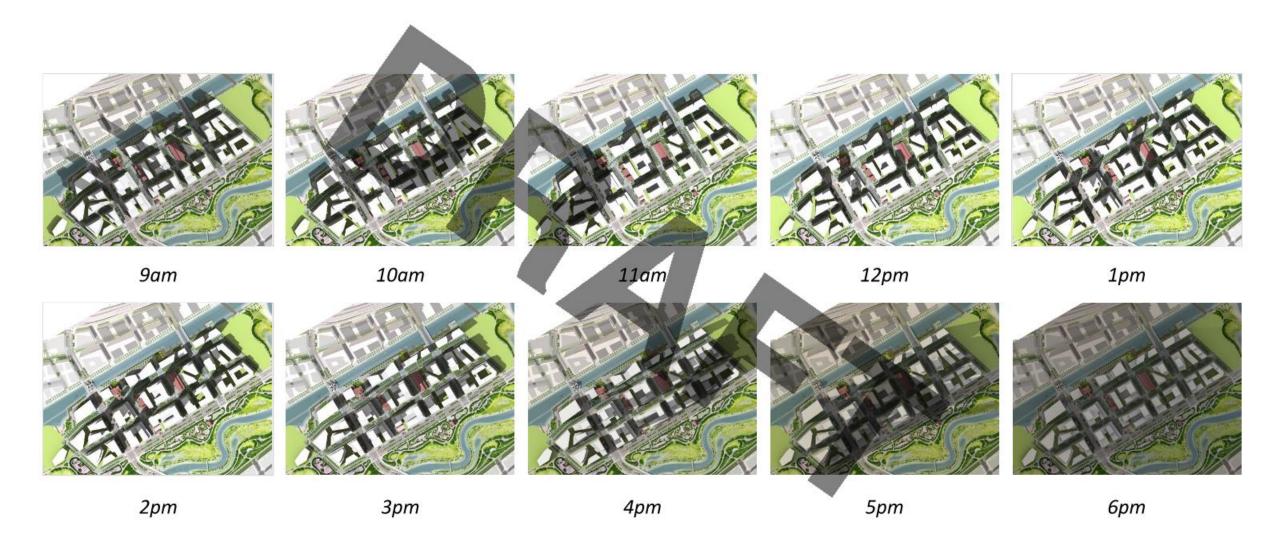
Approach 1: Density Focused on Keating Channel/North Blocks (hour-by-hour shadow capture)

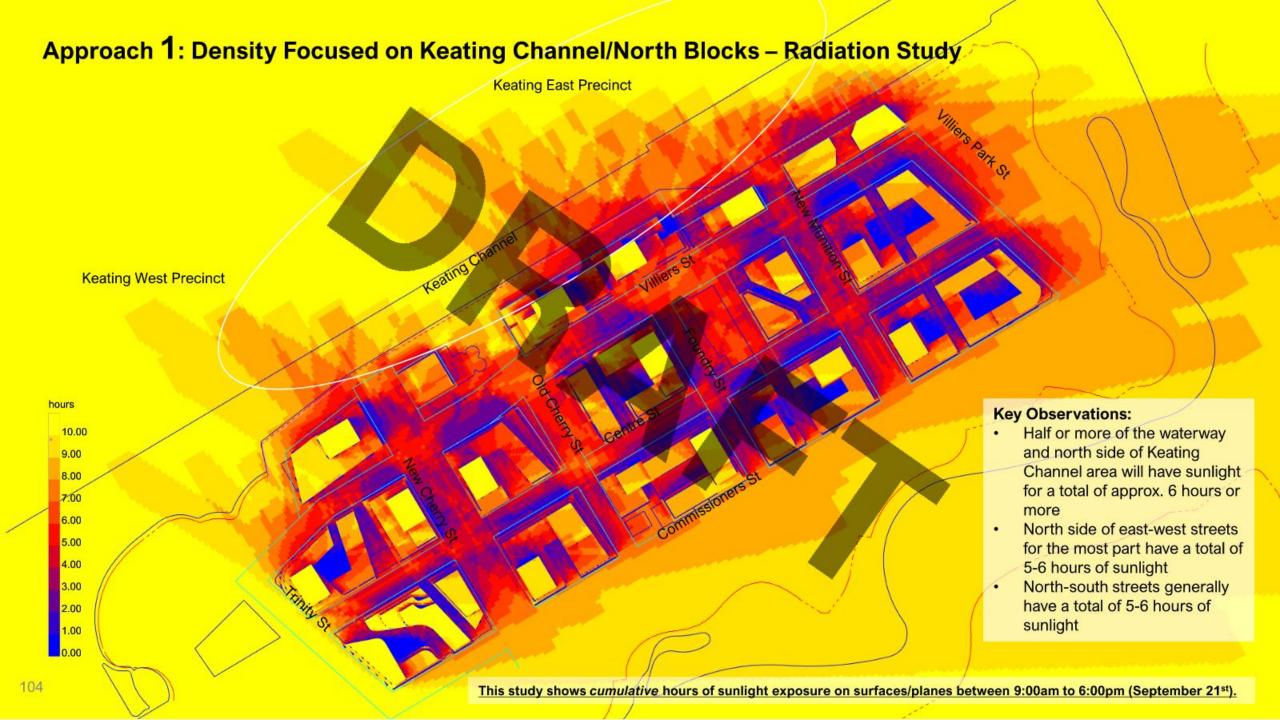


Approach 2 – Density Focused on Western Blocks (hour-by-hour shadow capture)

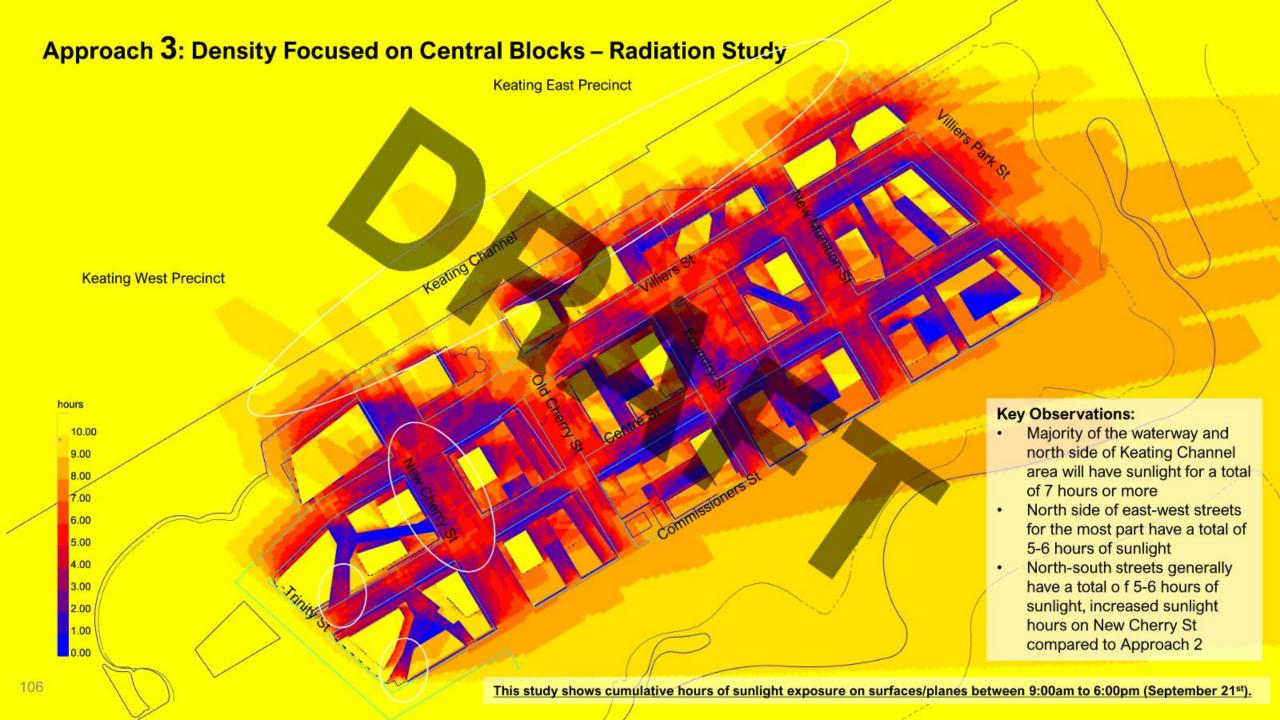


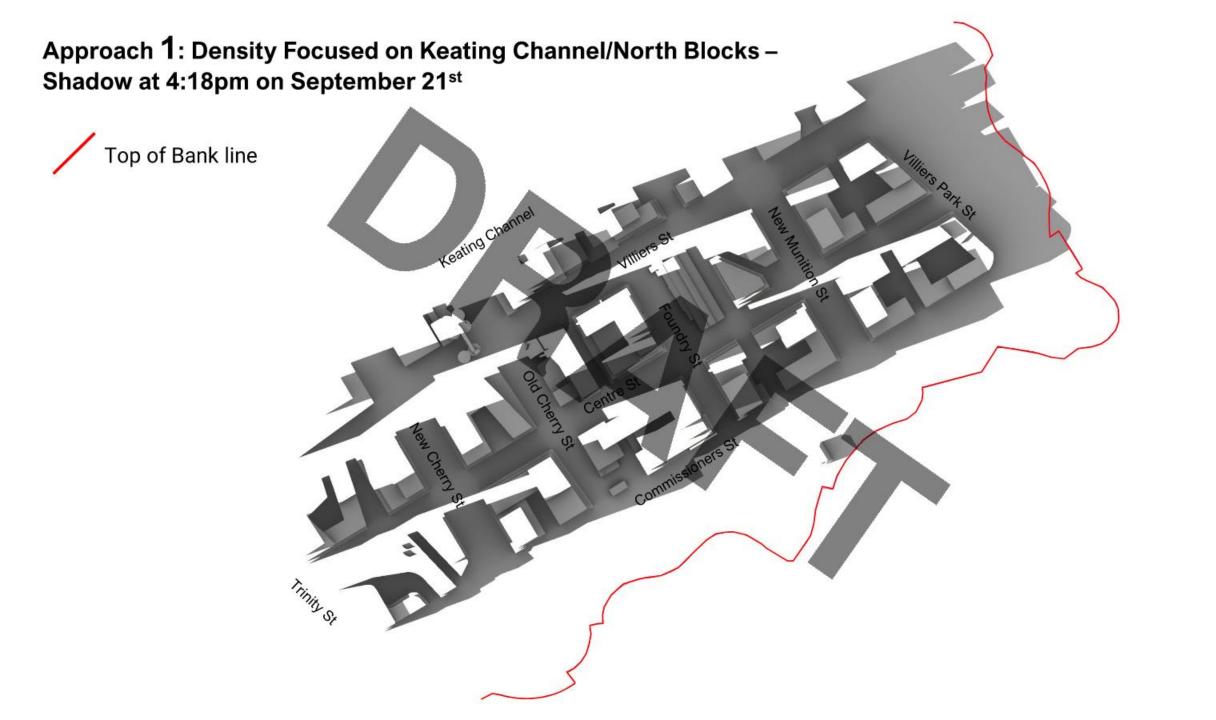
Approach 3 – Density Focused on Central Blocks (hour-by-hour shadow capture)

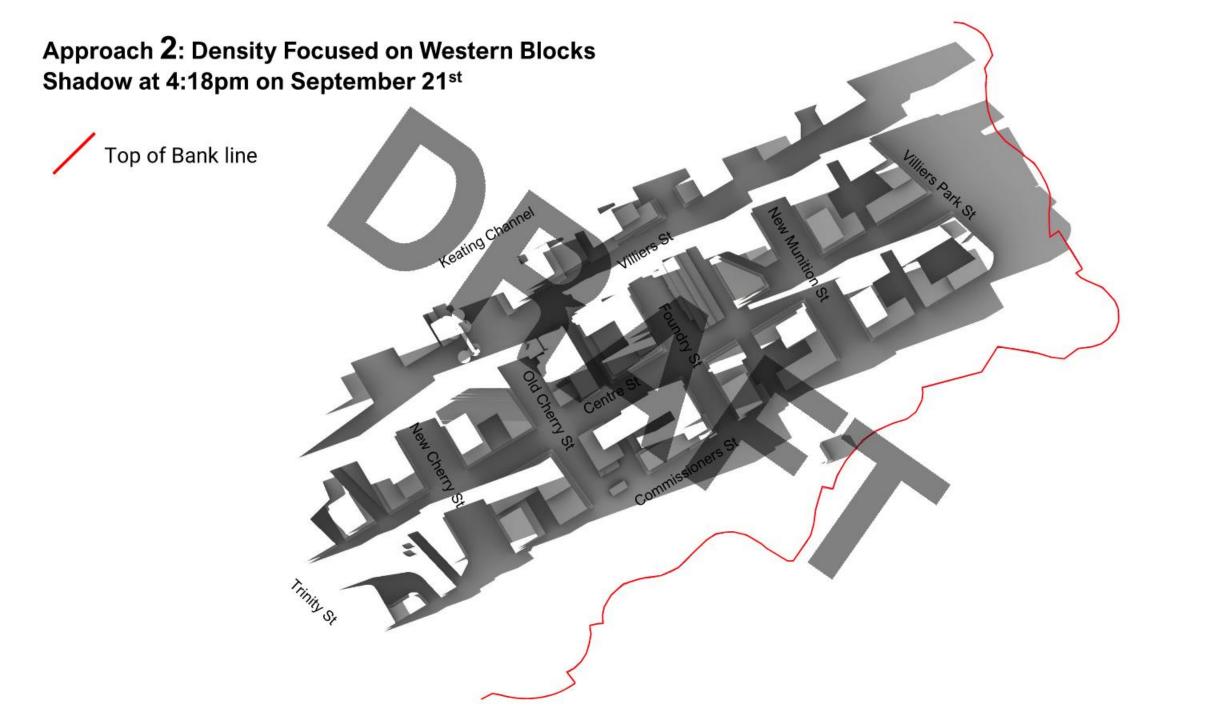


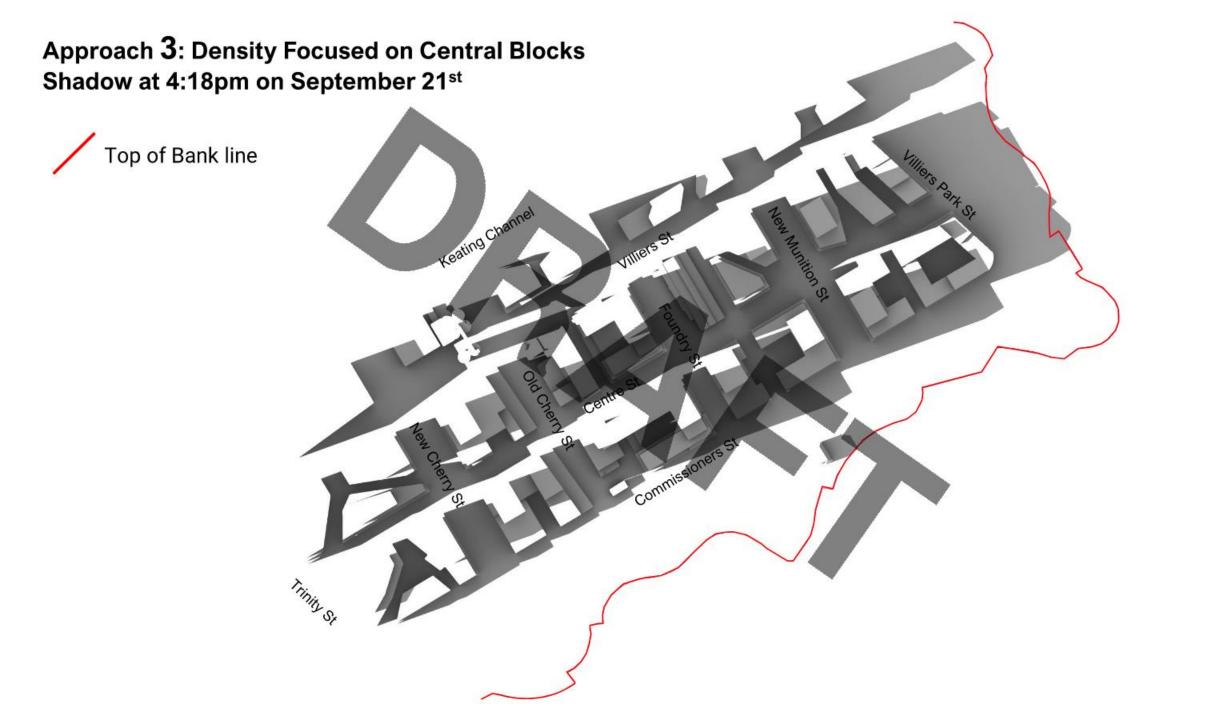












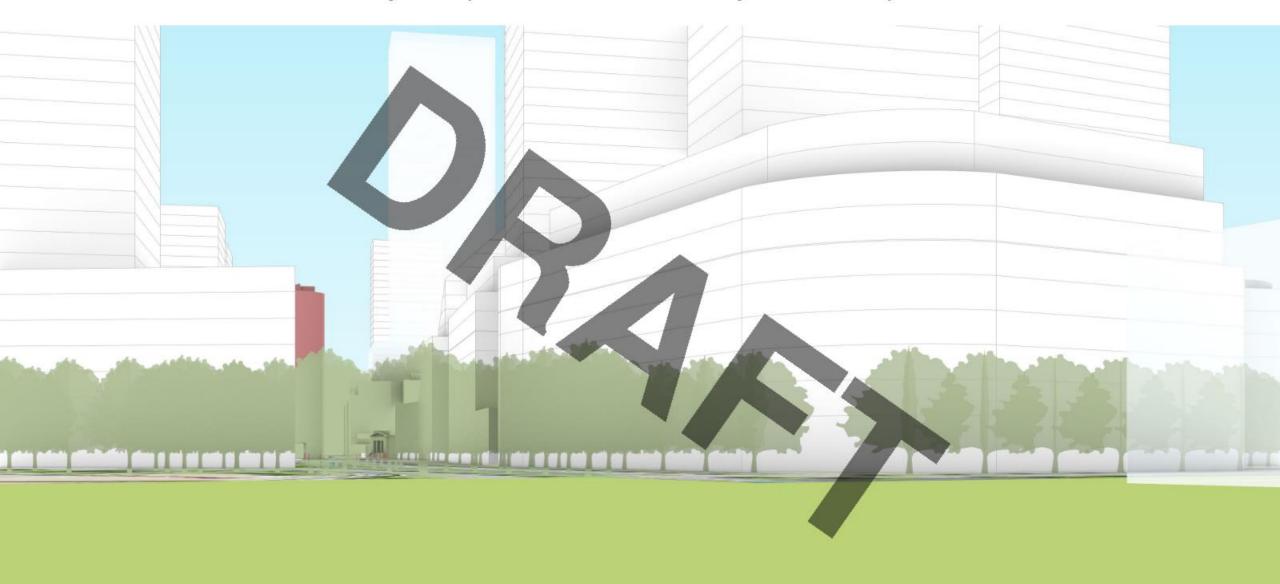
Appendix. 2 Additional View Studies



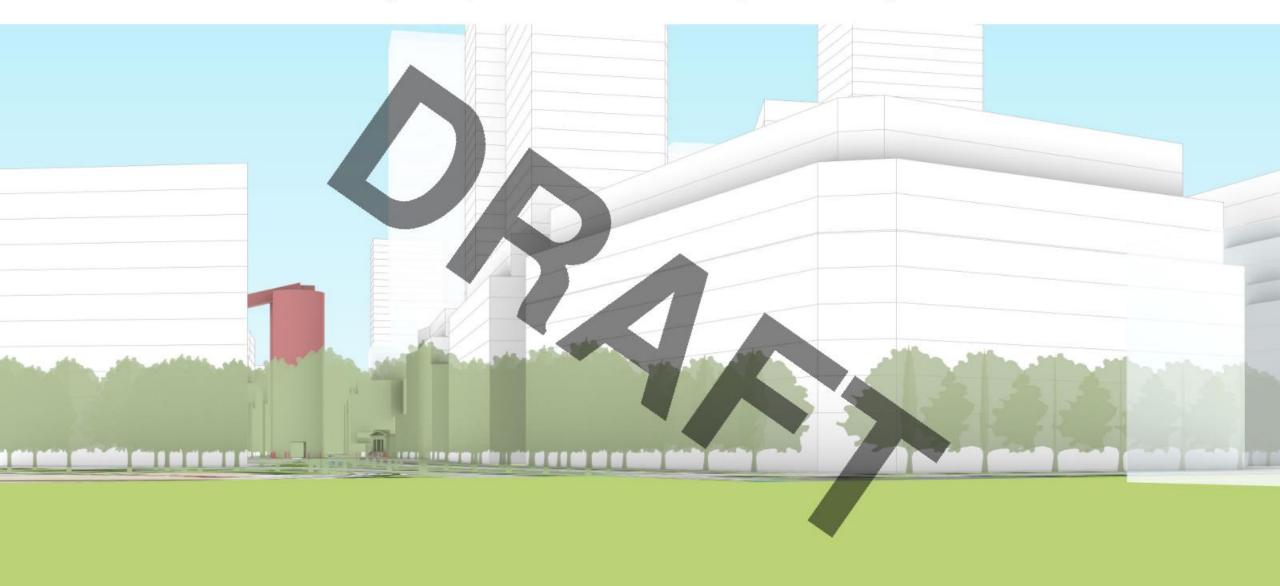
View B-2: Views from Promontory Park (Villiers Street and Trinity Blvd corner)



View B-2: Views from Promontory Park (Villiers Street and Trinity Blvd corner)

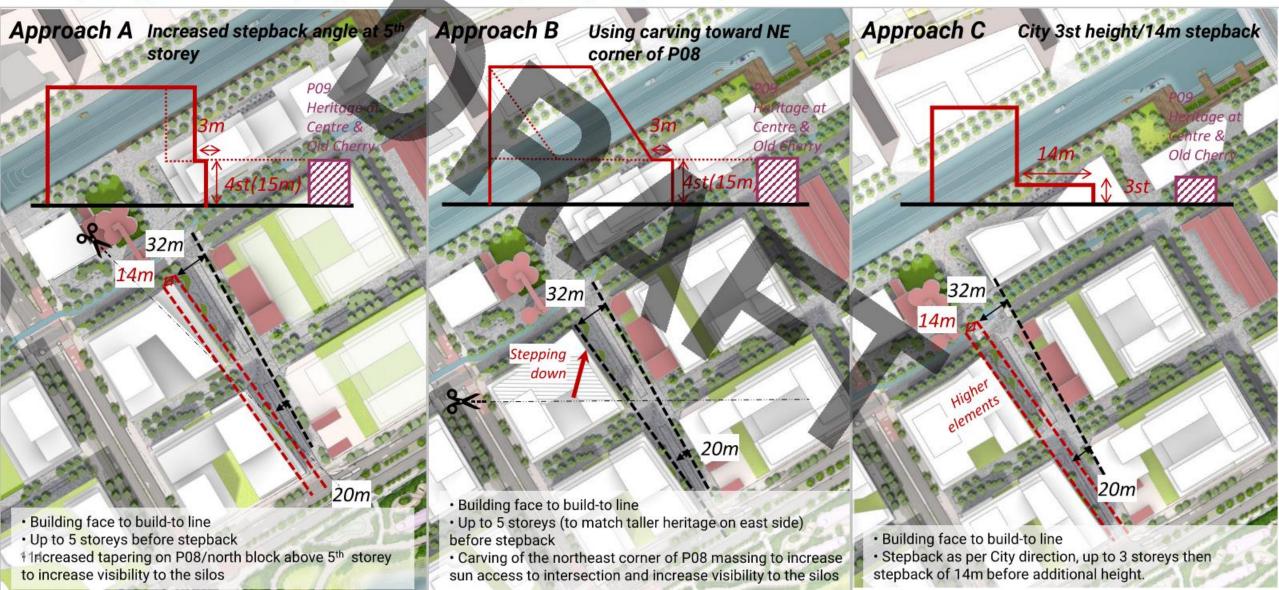


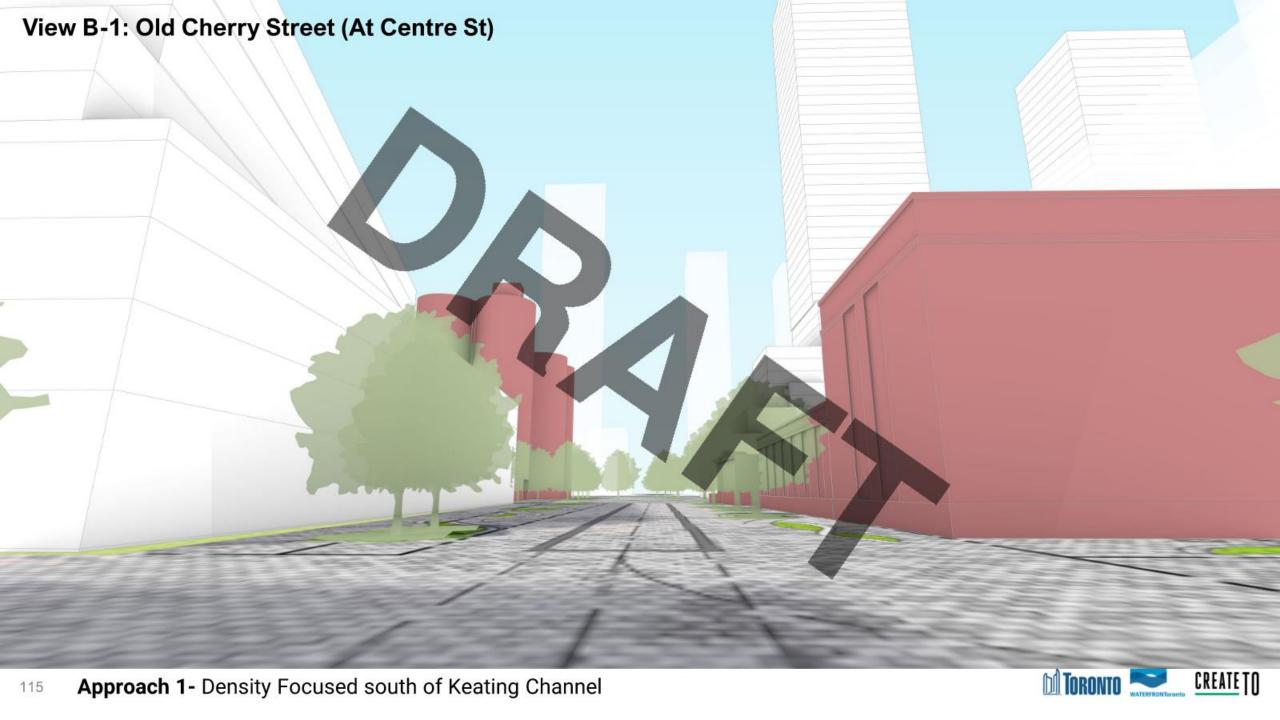
View B-2: Views from Promontory Park (Villiers Street and Trinity Blvd corner)



View B-1: Old Cherry Street Corridor

- Retaining the prominence of the Essroc silos as viewed along Villiers Street by maintaining low-scale development along the Keating channel.
- Setbacks and stepbacks should frame and highlight heritage buildings on Old Cherry and views to the parks and Keating promenade
- Explored approaches to further opening views to the silos/heritage buildings along Old Cherry Street P08 & P16 blocks









Approach 1: Density Focused on Keating Channel & North Blocks – Fly-though

ANIMATION IN-PROGRESS / TO BE UPDATED

Approach 2: Density Focused on Western Blocks (New Cherry Street gateway) – Fly-through



Approach 3: Density Focused on Central Blocks – Fly-through



ANIMATION IN-PROGRESS /
TO BE UPDATED