# McCleary District Phase 1 Precinct Plan

Waterfront Design Review Panel Issues Identification

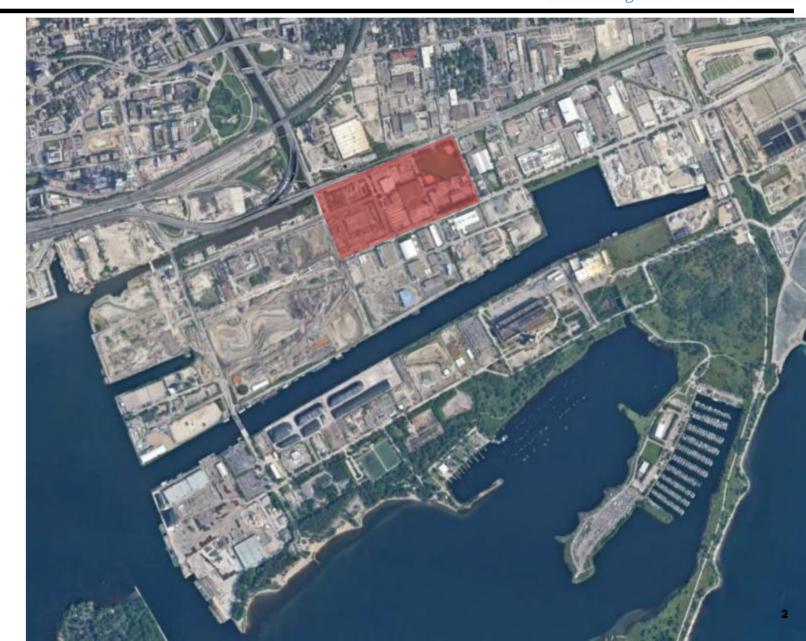
27.03.2024

Proponent: CreateTO, City of Toronto, Waterfront Toronto DesignTeam: Perkins&Will, Diamond & Schmitt, DTAH ReviewStage: Issues Identification

The McCleary District, shaded in red in the image on the right, is identified in the Port Lands Planning Framework as a Production, Interactive and Creative (PIC) Mixed Use area.

The district will grow into a complete community with tall and mid-rise buildings framing well-designed streets, blocks and open spaces. It will have a unique character, particularly along the southerly edge, with the mix of uses complementing and supporting the film and creative cluster in the Port Lands

The precinct plan will establish local street and block patterns, parks and open spaces, the preferred location for community infrastructure, urban design and streetscape guidelines, sustainability recommendations, and strategies for commercial activation, public art and affordable housing.



# **Existing Context Overview**



# **Existing Context**



The District has a gross area of 17.5 ha. 80% is under public ownership.

Development activity includes:

- 685 Lake Shore Boulevard East
- East Harbour to the north
- Basin Media Hub Studios to the southeast
- Pinewood Studios to the south (latest expansion phase completed in 2023)

- CreateTO (5.5 ha)
- City of Toronto (managed by CreateTO) (2.2 ha)
- City of Toronto (5.3 ha)
- Private (3.5 ha)







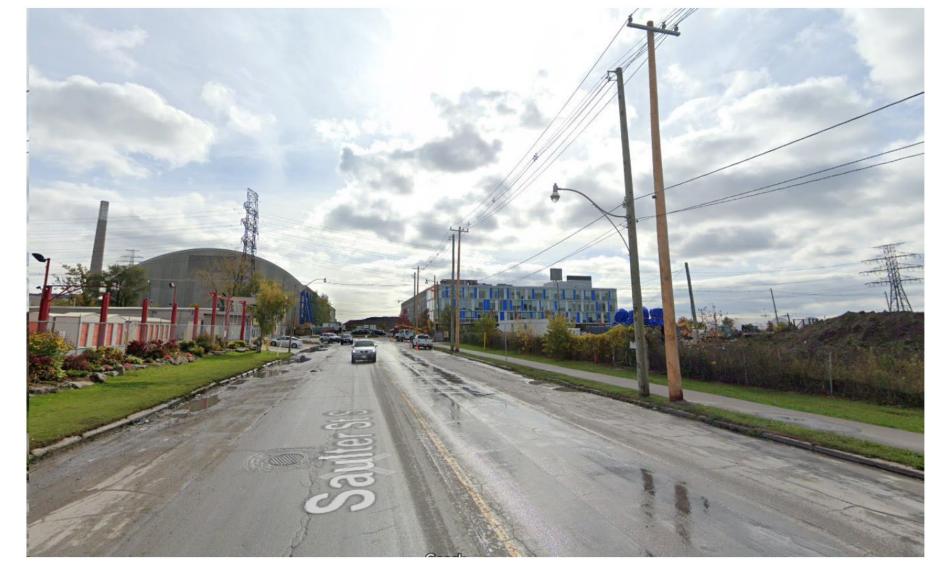






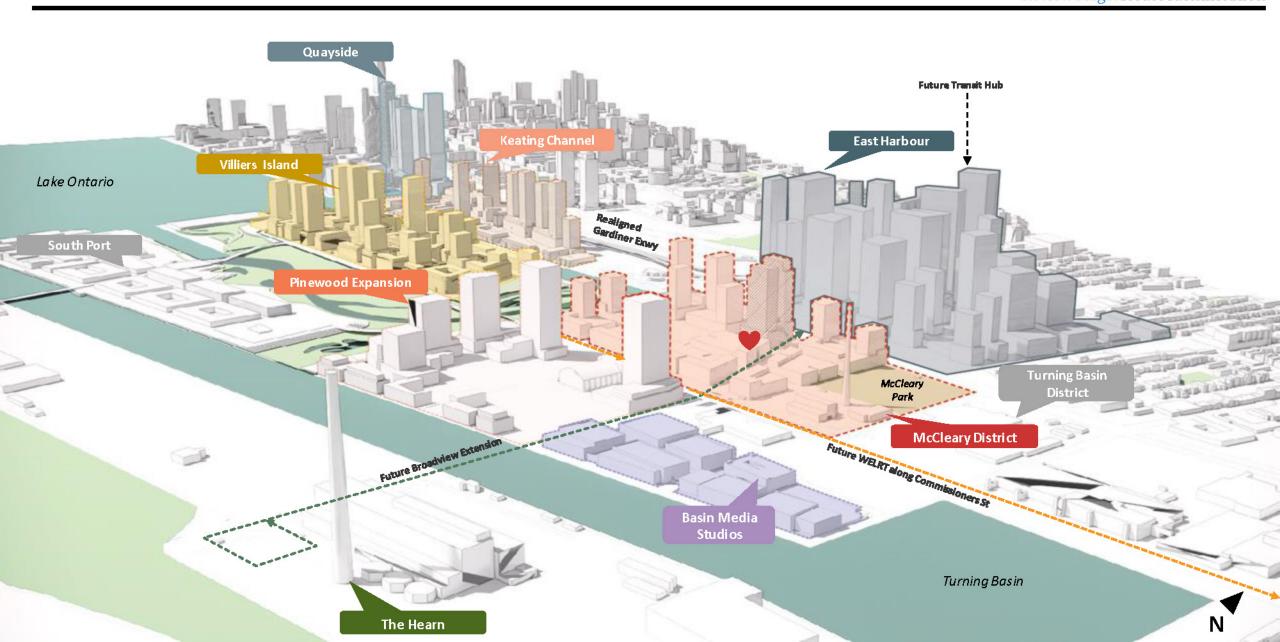








McCleary District Precinct Plan Phase 1
Proponent: CreateTO, City of Toronto, Waterfront Toronto
Design Team: Perkins&Will, Diamond & Schmitt, DTAH
Review Stage: Issues Identification



Review Stage: Issues Identification

#### Why now?

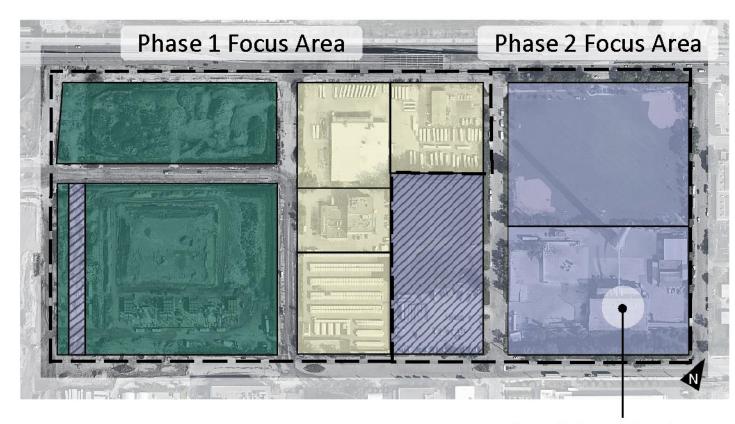
Major flood protection work is anticipated to be completed over the next 3 – 4 years, enabling residential development in the district for the first time.

The City has already received development **applications** for the private lands at 685 Lake Shore Boulevard.

#### **Phasing**

The Precinct Plan will be advanced in two phases in order to align timing with other major planning work in the area.

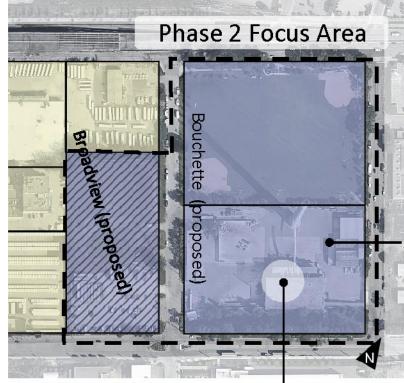
Environmental Assessments for the **New East-West** Street, the Broadview extension and Bouchette realignment are needed to inform the block plan, street network, and public realm components of the district, especially east of the Broadview extension.



Commissioners Street Transfer Station

#### Phase 2 – Issues to be Resolved

- Transportation and servicing Environmental Assessments required to confirm alignments for major streets, including the **Broadview Extension** and the New East-West Street
- Bouchette Street (local road) alignment also to be confirmed through the Environmental Assessment process
- Feasibility work to relocate or reconfigure 400 Commissioners Street Waste Transfer Station to meet land use compatibility, parks and community hub objectives



New East-West Street (proposed)



Proponent: CreateTO, City of Toronto, Waterfront Toronto DesignTeam: Perkins&Will, Diamond & Schmitt, DTAH ReviewStage: Issues Identification

The Precinct Plan will be informed by the established direction and principles drawn from:

- Central Waterfront Secondary Plan (CWSP) (2003)
- Port Lands Area Specific Policy (2017)
- Port Lands Planning Framework (PLPF) (2017)
- Port Lands and South of Eastern Transportation and Servicing Master Plan (TSMP) (2017)
- HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan (2019)
- 2022-2032 Reconciliation Action Plan (2022)
- CWSP settlement at the Ontario Land Tribunal (2022)
- PIC Core Urban Design Guidelines (ongoing)
- · Previous film and PIC uses studies

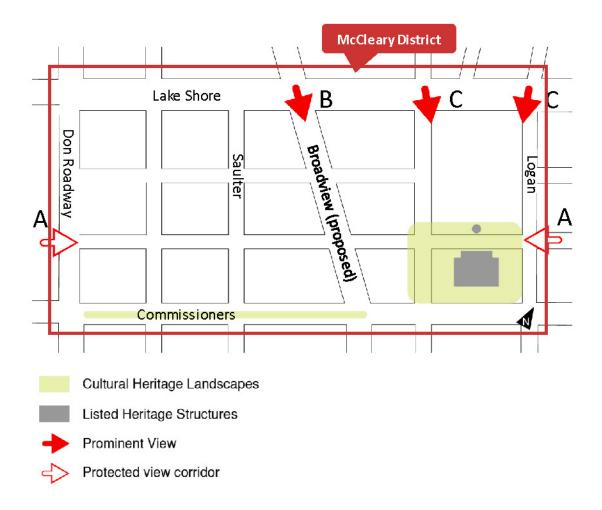
#### Council Direction:

- Mayor's Transformational Generational Housing
- Housing Action Plan
- Continuing importance of Productions, Interactive and Creative sectors to economic development



# **Urban Design Vision**

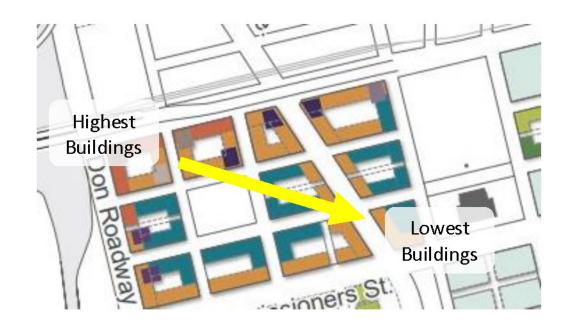
#### **Built and Cultural Heritage**



#### Views

- A The Commissioners Stack: Protecting for an easterly extension of the new east-west street will enable a visual connection linking districts across the entire Port Lands geography. Skyview will be provided around the chimneystack by stepping back development above a mid-rise height.
- B **The Hearn from Broadview:** Development adjacent to the Broadview extension will elegantly frame the Hearn chimneystack.
- C The Commissioners Incinerator and the Hearn: The two chimneystacks can be viewed in one compelling instant from the intersections of Lake Shore with Bouchette and Logan.

# **Urban Design Vision**



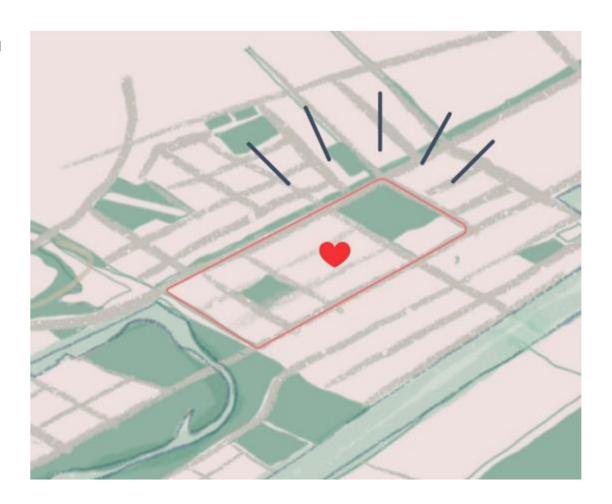


Key objectives informing the urban design approach:

- Create sunny and inviting public spaces, especially on the two large parks
- Preserve and enhance views to the McCleary chimneystack
- **Height tapering down** from Lake Shore Boulevard to Commissioners Street

# The McCleary District is Unique

- A neighbourhood that is distinct from others in the Port Lands and throughout the City
- District supports film and creative cluster uses
- A transitional area between residential,
   Productions, Interactive and Creative (PIC)
   Core areas, and employment-focused districts
- Industrial heritage
- Careful balance of land uses = a complete community
- Precinct Plan implements in-force policy (CWSP) and Council direction

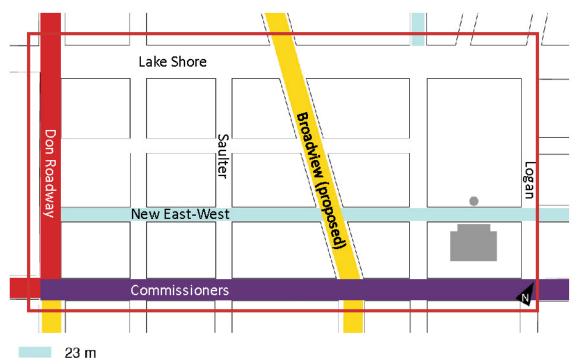


Proponent: CreateTO, City of Toronto, Waterfront Toronto DesignTeam: Perkins&Will, Diamond & Schmitt, DTAH ReviewStage: Issues Identification

#### **Street Network**

35 m

42 m



Film-friendly streets continue to be an important consideration for all Productions, Interactive and Creative districts.





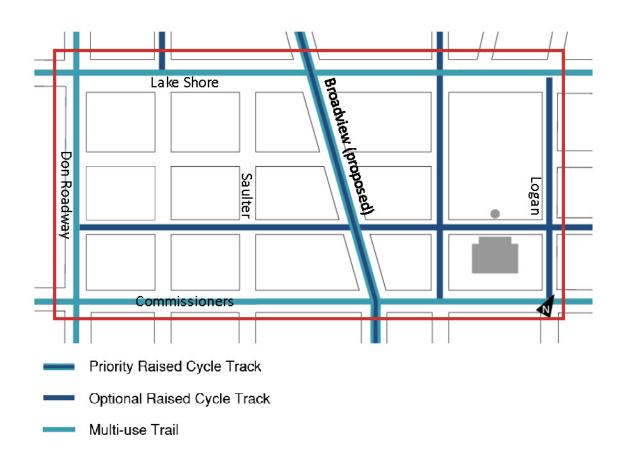


# **Port Lands Planning Framework**

#### **Transit Network**



#### **Cycling Network**



# **Port Lands Planning Framework**

#### Parks and Open Space Plan



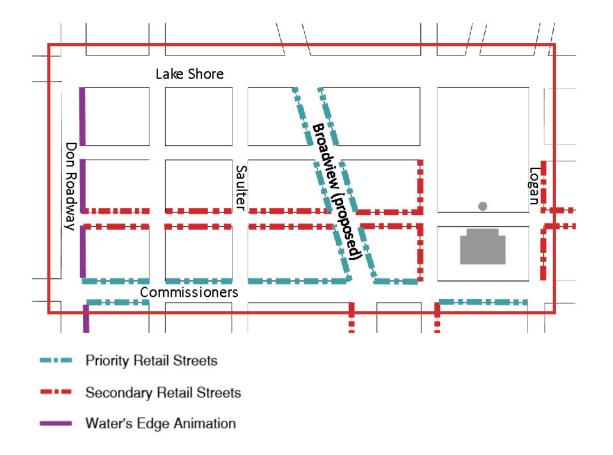
#### **Community Services and Facilities**

- Elementary School
- Community Centre/Hub
- Fire Station (option)
- Childcare Centres
- Human Agency Space
- Expanded McCleary Park
- New District Park with active recreation uses

#### **Port Lands Planning Framework**

#### **Retail and Animation**

A minimum of 5% of the district's total GFA will consist of retail and service uses or other PIC Core land uses.



#### **PIC Core Land Use**

A minimum of 25% of the total GFA within a block will consist of **PIC Core land uses**, excluding retail and service uses.

#### Desirable:

- Screen-Based Industries
- Arts, Design and Cultural Related Uses

#### Permissible:

- Green and Knowledge Based Industries
- City-Serving Uses
- Light-Intensity Manufacturing Uses
- Other Industrial Uses (limited permissible uses)
- Community, Entertainment and Religious (limited permissible uses)

# **Sustainability Planning Priority Areas**

- TGS: Achieve all performance measures included in the prevailing version of the Toronto Green Standard for City Agency, Corporate, and Division-Owned Facilities
- Landscape & Biophilic Design: Increase ecosystem health and strengthen connections between humans and our environments
- Low-Carbon Transportation: 75% of trips to, from, and within the McCleary District will be made using active transportation and public transit
- Resilience and Climate Adaptation: Enhance resilience to future severe weather events and ensure all elements of the community are adaptive to future climate conditions
- Net-Zero Buildings: Buildings will achieve an operational greenhouse gas intensity of 0kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup> and a max embodied carbon emissions intensity of 250 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>
- Circular Economy and Solid Waste: Embrace circular economy, zero-waste principles in order to divert waste from landfills, reduce embodied carbon, and enable sustainable, circular behaviour by future residents, workers, and visitors
- Clean Energy Sources: Integrate an array of building- and district-scale clean energy systems, enabling all residential, institutional, and commercial buildings to be fossil-fuel-free

# **Project Team**

CreateTO is leading the precinct planning process in close collaboration with the City of Toronto and Waterfront Toronto and with the support of a robust project team...







# Planning & Development

Planning, architecture, and urban design

- Perkins&Will
- Diamond Schmitt
- RWDI

#### Public Realm

Parks, open spaces, and streetscape

DTAH

#### Engagement

Public, Indigenous, and other stakeholder engagement

- Perkins&Will
- MinoKamik & LURA

# Economic Development

Commercial activation and PIC Uses Market Study

- Tate Economics Research
- Toronto Film
  Office

# Infrastructure & Sustainability

Transportation analysis

HDR

- \*Procurement is ongoing for additional consultant support for:
  - Servicing and stormwater management studies (closed March 8<sup>th</sup>)
  - Sustainability strategy (closing April 4<sup>th</sup>)
  - Noise, odour and air quality study (closing April 17<sup>th</sup>)

# **Engagement Strategy**

Indigenous Engagement will be interwoven throughout the process. Specific themes that may enhance Indigenous presence in the Port Lands will be explored, incorporating Indigenous culture and history, the relationship to water and the natural environment, housing, inclusivity, and economic opportunities. Design will also be informed by ongoing Indigenous engagement in the Port Lands, including recent engagement for the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization, PIC Core Urban Design Guidelines, Villiers Island, the Reconciliation Action Plan, and the PLPF.

Broader public engagement will focus on six key themes and related questions:

#### Land use

What do production, interaction and creative uses look like?
How can the district best support screen-based industries?

#### Housing

How do we support the critical need for affordable housing?
Are there opportunities for sector-specific housing?

#### **Built Form**

How does it fit into an emerging communities?
What is the guidance for liveable & sustainable buildings

#### Parks & Open Space

How do we optimize the quality of public space?
What makes a McCleary-specific public space?

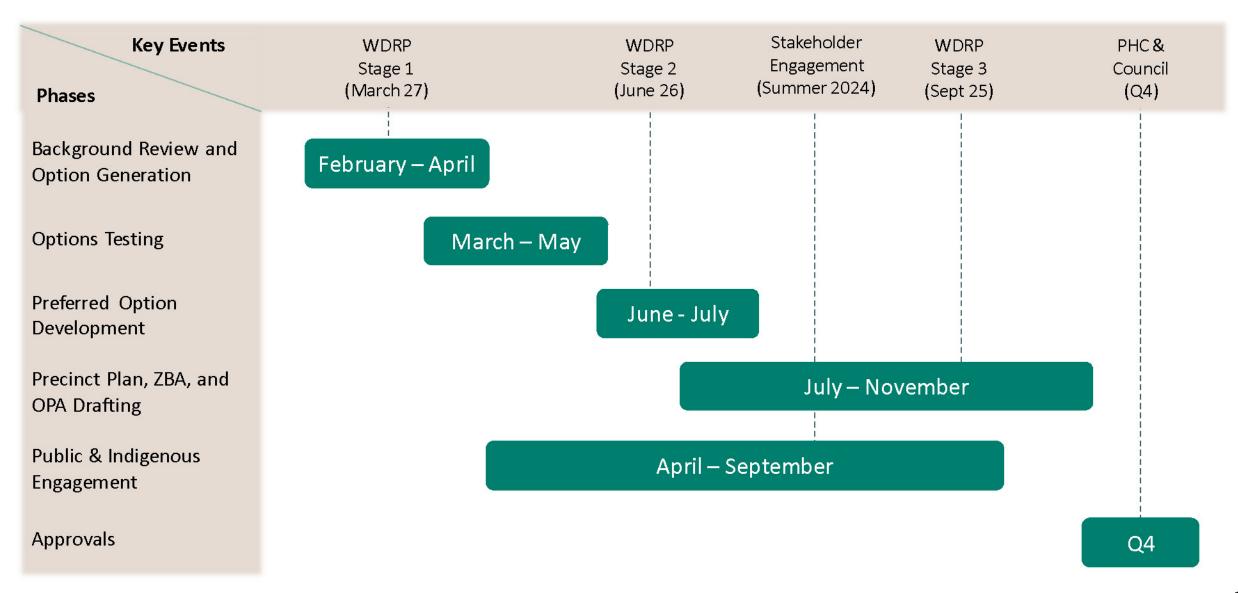
#### **Access to Water/Nature**

How do we bring residents, workers and visitors to the waterfront?

#### **Connectivity & Transportation**

Connectivity to city-wide networks Safe and comfortable for pedestrians & cyclists

# **Project Timeline**



Proponent: CreateTO, City of Toronto, Waterfront Toronto DesignTeam: Perkins&Will, Diamond & Schmitt, DTAH ReviewStage: Issues Identification

How can the built form and design approach in the precinct support the character of PIC mixed-use?

How can McCleary District evolve to provide a well connected, high-quality public realm and open space network and to improve pedestrian connections?

What areas of the public realm should be prioritized for sun access and comfortable microclimate?

What scale, density and built form typology best support the vision for a transit-oriented, PIC mixed-use neighbourhood?

# McCleary District Phase 1 Precinct Plan and Zoning By-Law

**Waterfront Design Review Panel** 

27.03.2024

# Agenda

#### 1. CONTEXT ANALYSIS

- History
- Existing Context
- Future Context

#### 2. EXPLORATIONS

- Vision and Guiding Principles
- Resilient Urban Fabric
- Height, Density, Form and PIC Uses



# History

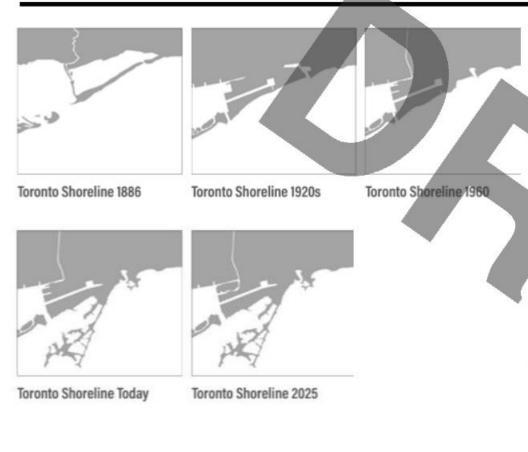




Ashbridges Marsh 1909

Ashbridges Bay, 1890s looking west towards Booth Avenue (buildings in distance are at what is now Booth and approx. Eastern Avenue)

# History



**McCleary District** 

Industrialized McCleary District post landfill (1930)

Cherry St + vil refineries acrial 1990?

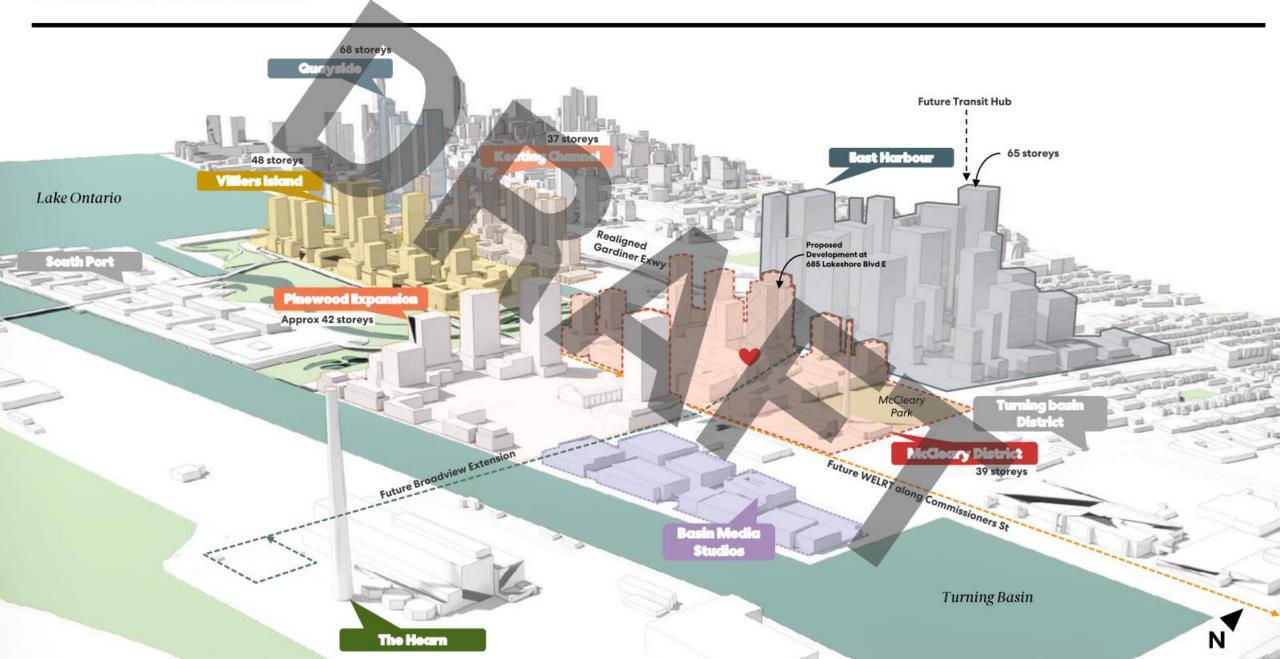
# McCleary today!



# McCleary today!

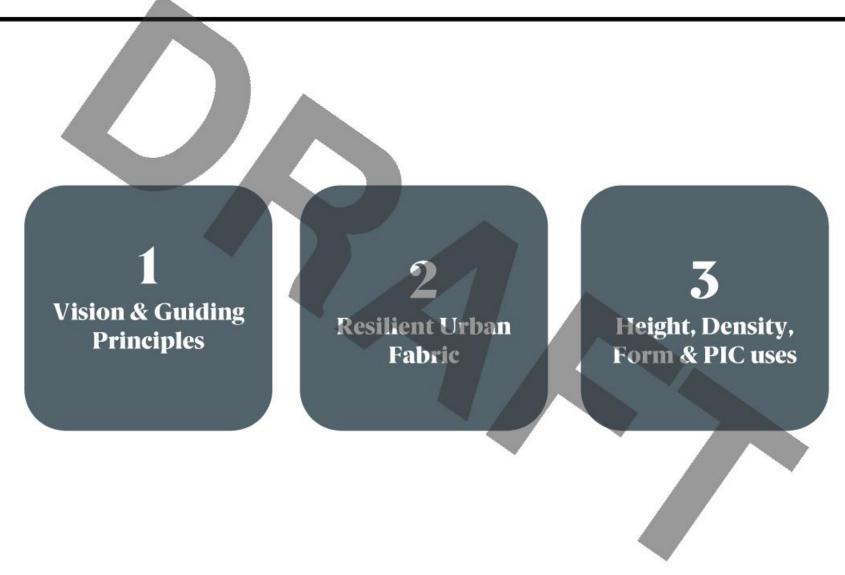


# **Future Context**

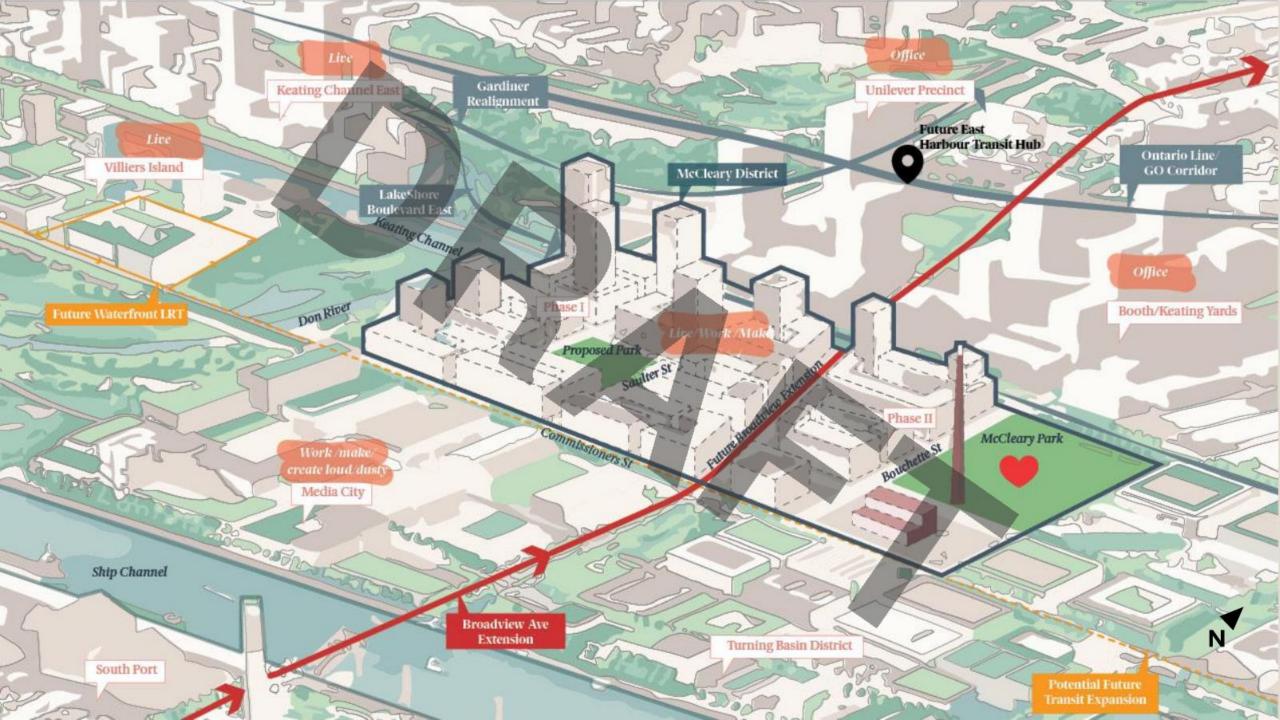




# **Explorations**



# Vision & Guiding Principles



### What does the PLPF say about McCleary District?

Envisioned as a dense, transit-oriented, complete mixeduse community and hub of activity, the District will have a mid-rise feel, contribute to broader economic objectives and complement the office destination envisioned to the north. The land use mix will create a healthy balance and enable key economic clusters synergistic with districts to the south.

The District will be bookended by two spectacular open spaces – the river to its west and McCleary Park to its east. A new, sunny and centrally-located, local park will also be introduced to provide a local amenity for residents and workers. A distinctive height peak at the Don Roadway and Lake Shore Boulevard will set the district apart and contribute to the Port Lands skyline, while ensuring excellent sunlight on the public realm. Tall buildings will be focused along the Don Roadway and Lake Shore Boulevard, terracing down in height towards McCleary Park and Commissioners Street.



#### Vision

# McCleary District as a nexus!

McCleary District will be a vibrant, inclusive, mixed-use community that brings together the many disparate functions and characters of the Port Lands and its surroundings. It will be a mixing ground of scale, building type and use, transitioning from high-rise to mid-rise and combining the residential uses that predominate to its west with the Production, Interactive and Creative uses that are focused to its south. The District will be tied together by a spectacular open space and public realm network that stretches from the renaturalized mouth of the Don River through a new central park to McCleary Park and extends nature, water and habitat throughout. McCleary District's proximity to the East Harbour Transit Hub and the new waterfront transit and active transportation network will support a dense, walkable and transit-oriented community.

# Guiding Principles flowing from the Port Land Planning Framework

1. Create a complete community with new homes for households of all sizes and income levels, including affordable housing and family-oriented housing.

2. Foster the economic development of the waterfront by planning for PIC uses to enhance the Port Lands film and digital cluster and promote new opportunities for growth industries.

3. Incorporate a variety of building forms that prioritize design excellence and sustainability and serve the needs of the diverse uses in McCleary District.

4. Prioritize the pedestrian experience with a walkable, varied street network, ground floor animation and comfortable microclimate conditions to promote year-round activation of the public realm.

5. Enhance the Indigenous presence in the Port Lands by including First Nations, Inuit and Métis traditions, culture and worldviews in the vision for McCleary District.

6. Support a dynamic and resilient community with a blue-green network of open spaces, including a new central park that complements the recreational amenities in McCleary Park and the river valley.

1

Create a complete
community with new
homes for households of
all sizes and income
levels, including
affordable housing and
family-oriented housing.



Affordable Housing in Block 8 - West Don Lands

2

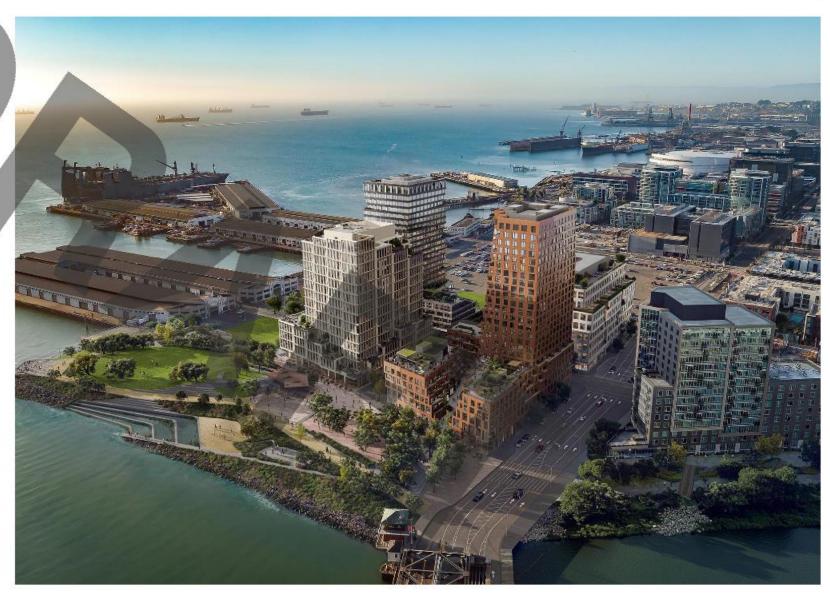
Foster the economic development of the waterfront by planning for PIC uses to enhance the Port Lands film and digital cluster and promote new opportunities for growth industries.



PIC uses in Potrero Power Station Neighbourhood, San Francisco

3

Incorporate a variety of building forms that prioritize design excellence and sustainability and serve the needs of the diverse uses in McCleary District.



Variety of built forms in Mission Rock, San Francisco

4

Prioritize the pedestrian experience with a walkable, varied street network, ground floor animation and comfortable microclimate conditions to promote year-round activation of the public realm.



Walkable streets in Nordhavn, Copenhagen

5

presence in the Port
Lands by including First
Nations, Inuit and Métis
traditions, culture and
worldviews in the vision
for McCleary District.



Anishnawbe Health Centre, West Don Lands

6

Support a dynamic and resilient community with a blue-green network of open spaces, including a new central park that complements the recreational amenities in McCleary Park and the river valley.

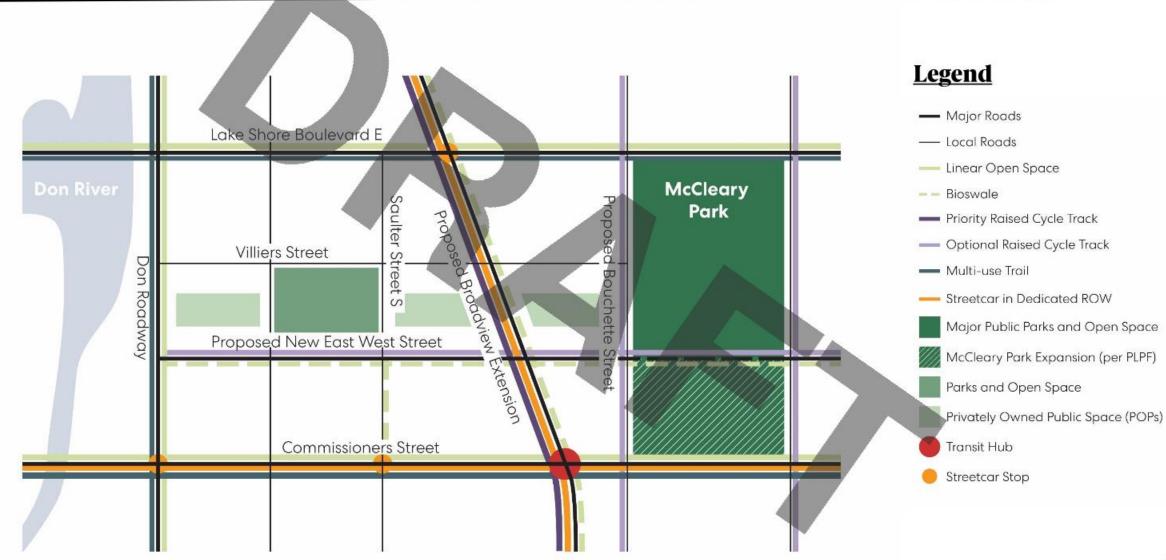
Ref: PLPF objective #4, #8,#9



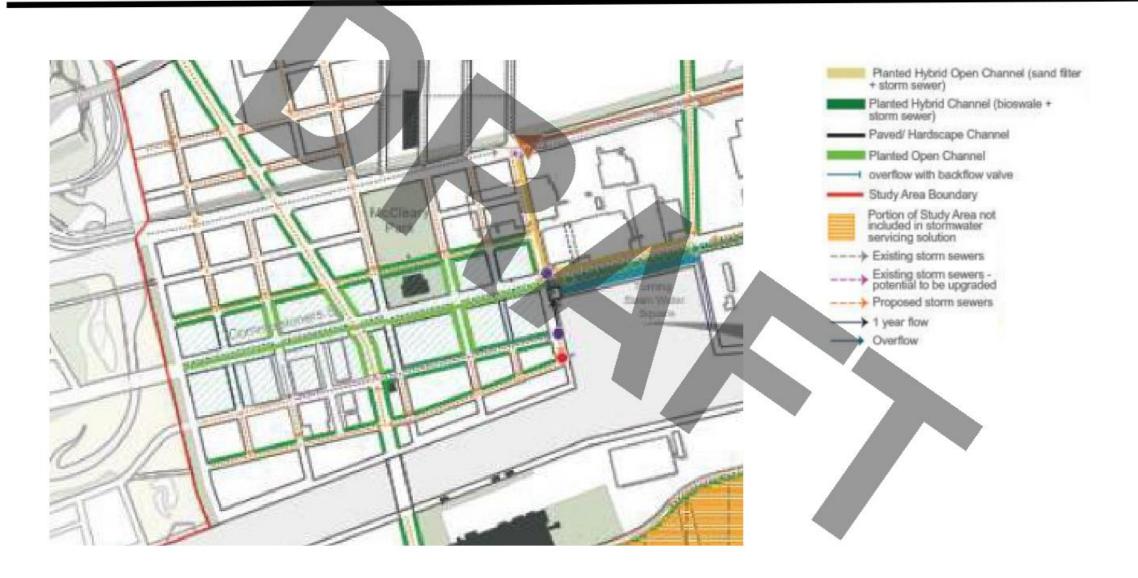
Integrated blue-green network in Dockside Green, Victoria BC



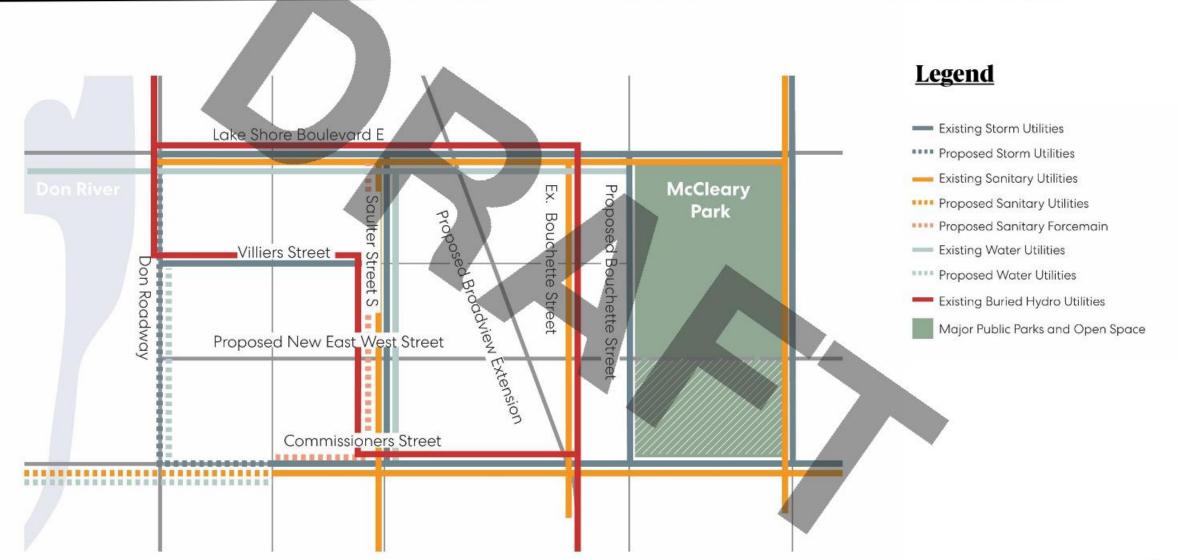
#### PLPF Public Realm and Open Space



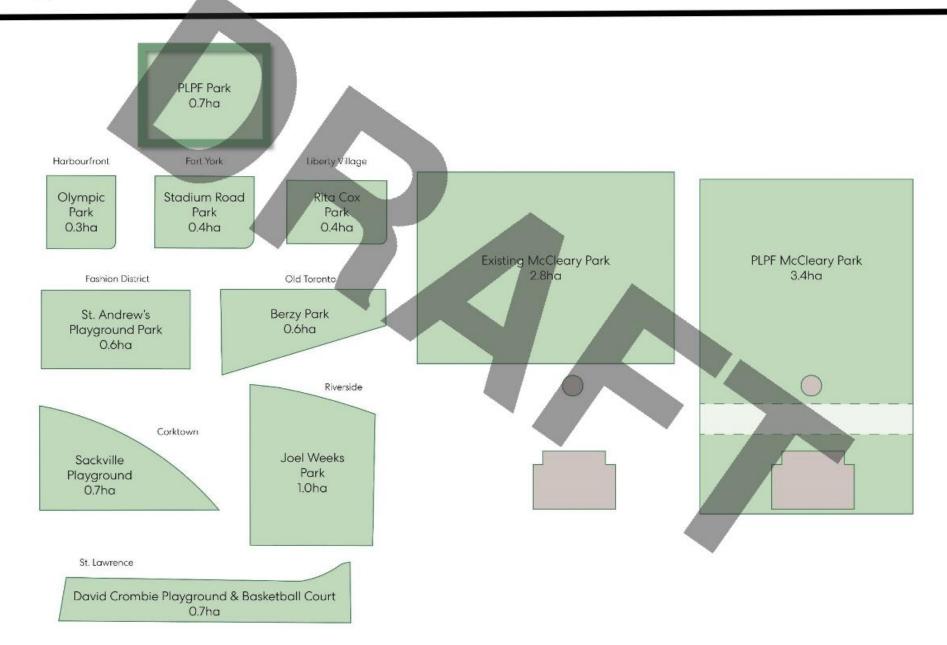
# **TSMP Stormwater System**



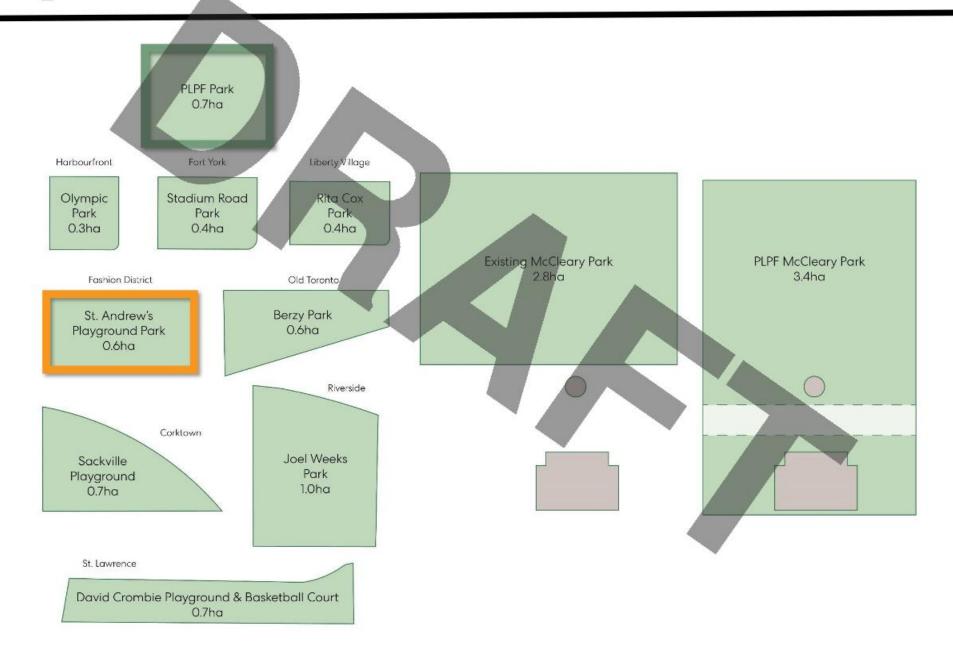
#### **Constraints: Below Grade**



# **Size Comparison**



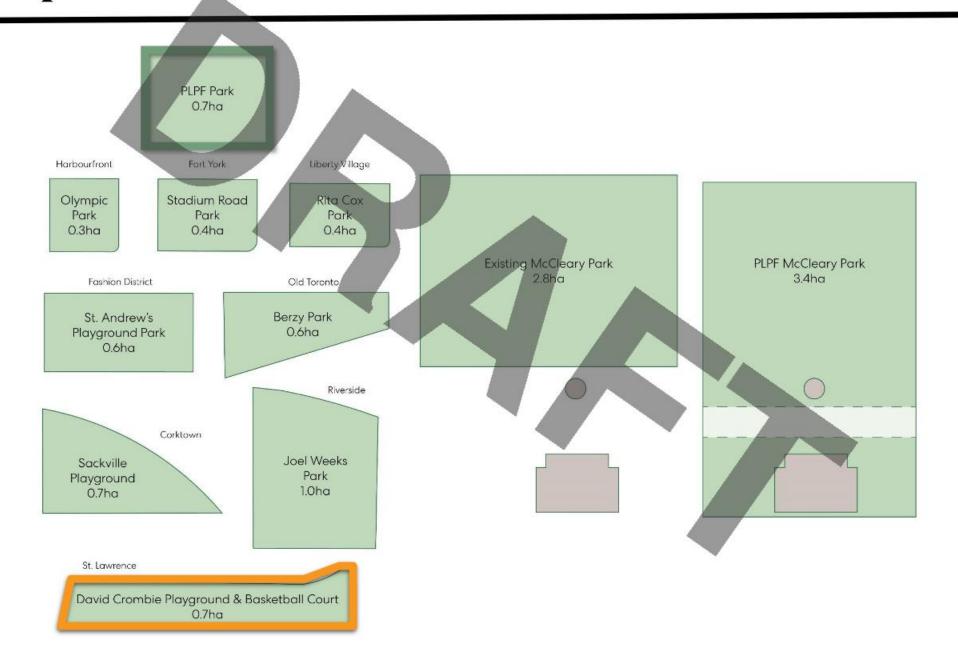
# **Size Comparison**







# Size Comparison – Active Recreation

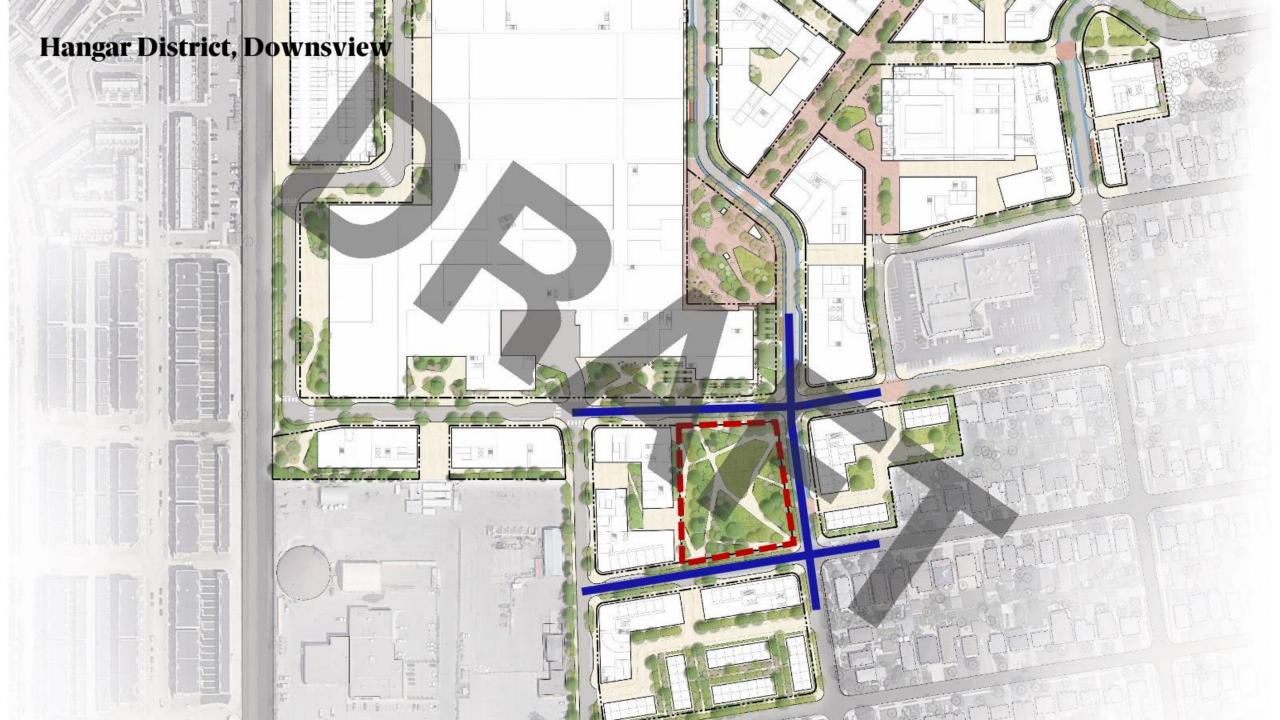
















## **Primary Open Space Exploration Objectives**

Preserve open space connectivity

Better park integration

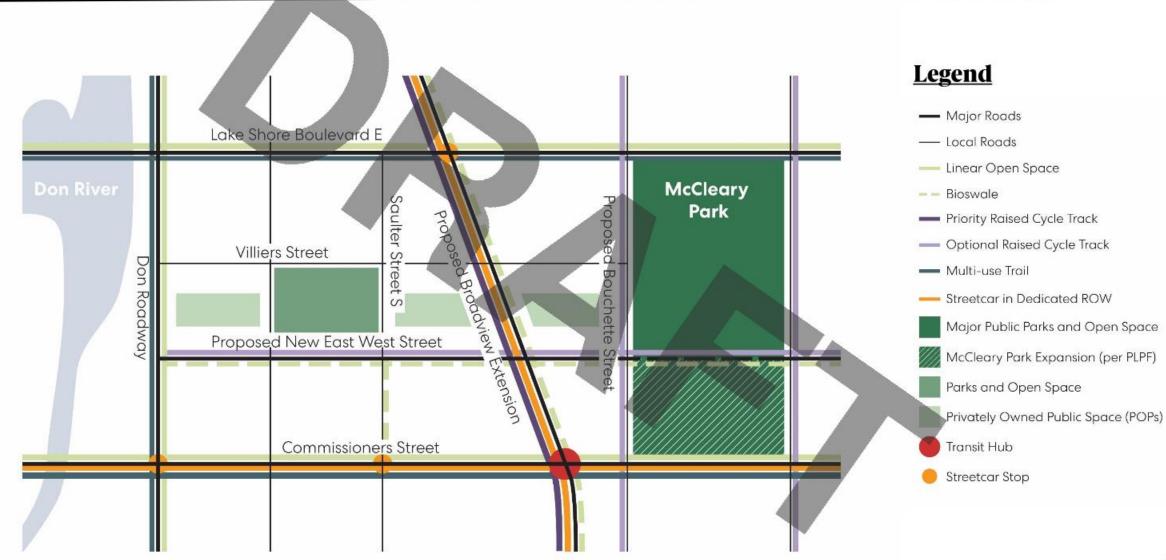
Refining local streets and blocks

## **Secondary Open Space Exploration Objectives**

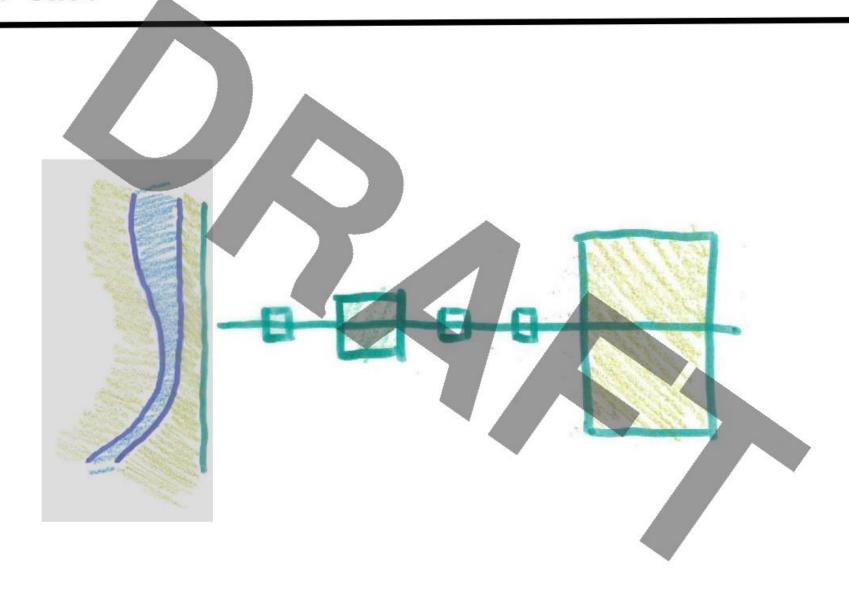
Rationalizing retail zones

Supporting PIC uses

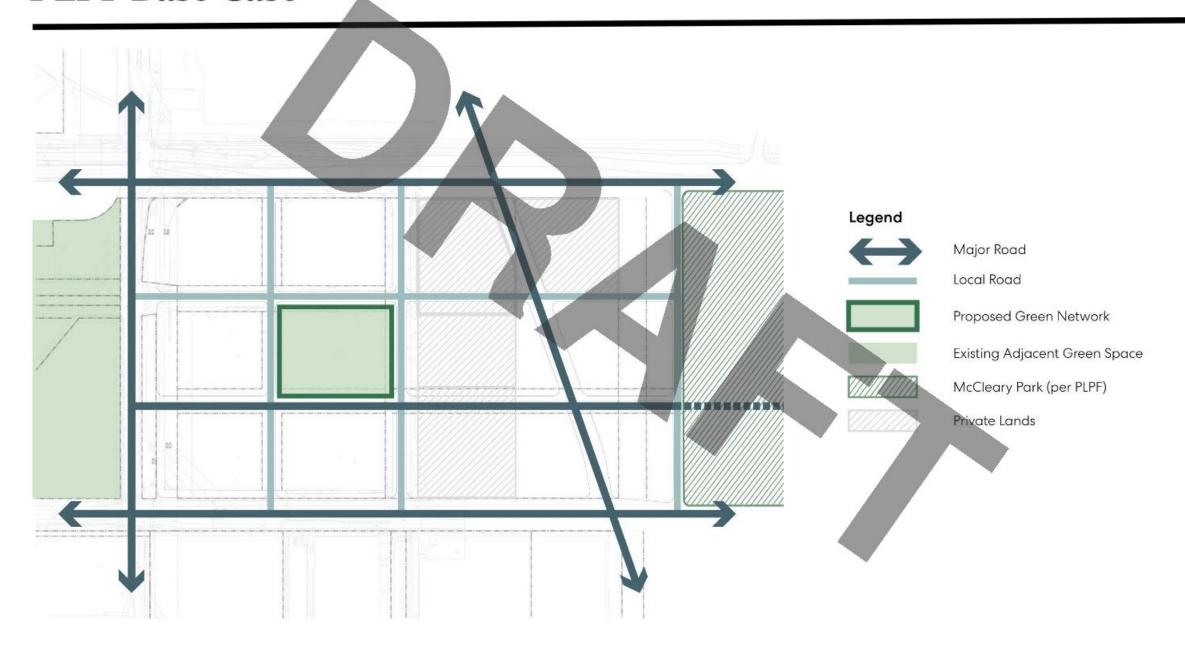
# Where we might deviate from PLPF



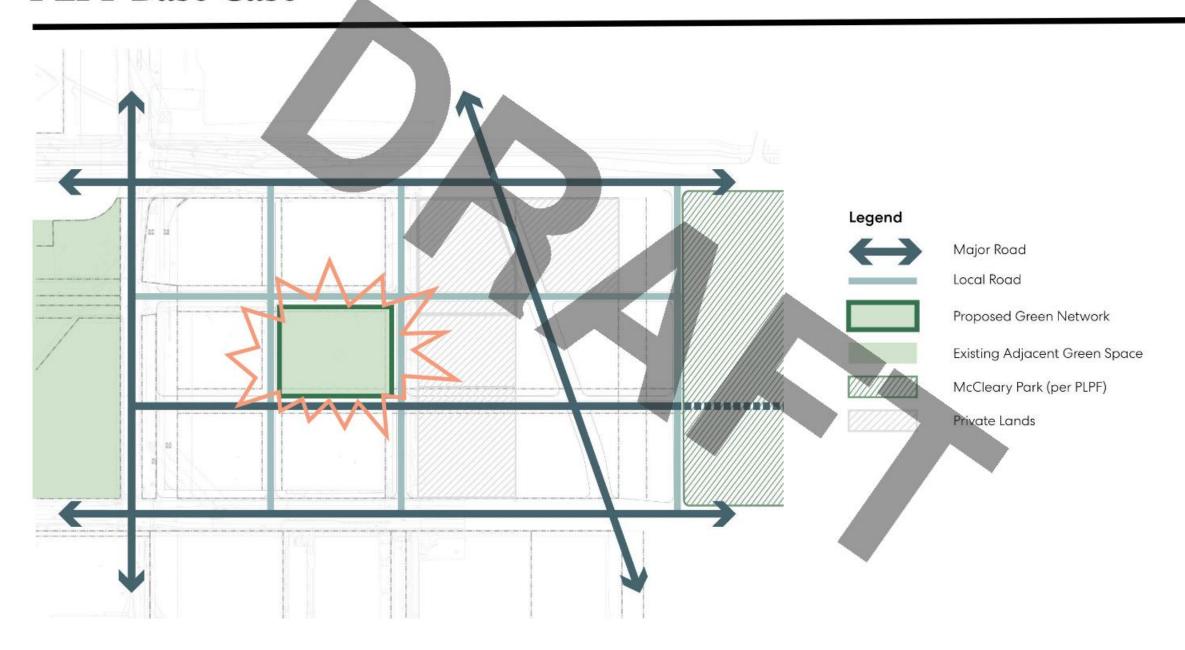
# **PLPF Base Case**



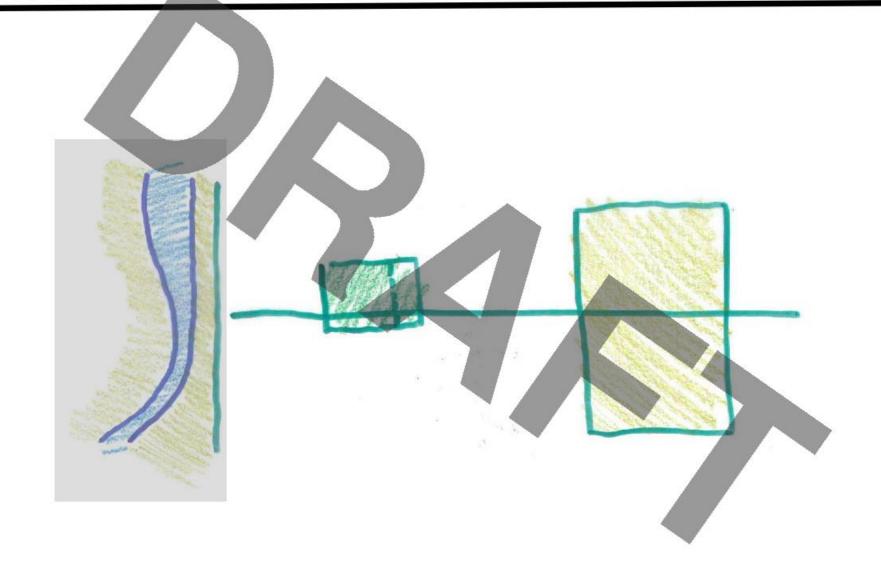
#### **PLPF Base Case**



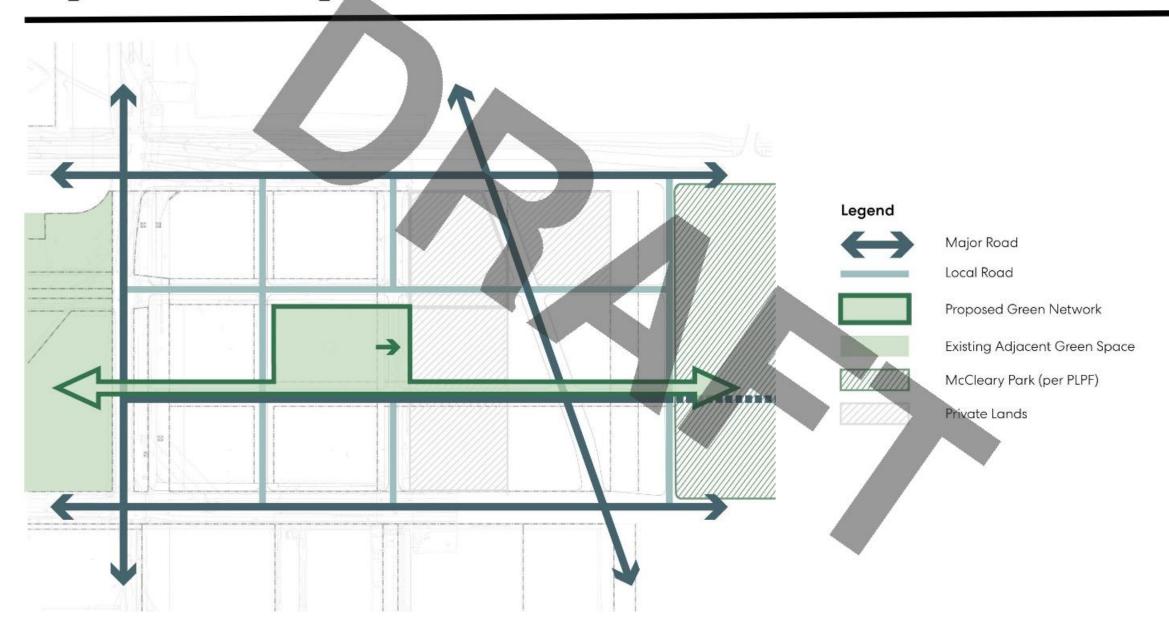
#### **PLPF Base Case**



# **Exploration 1: Expand**



# **Exploration 1: Expand**



# The Greenway: A Blue-Green Ribbon

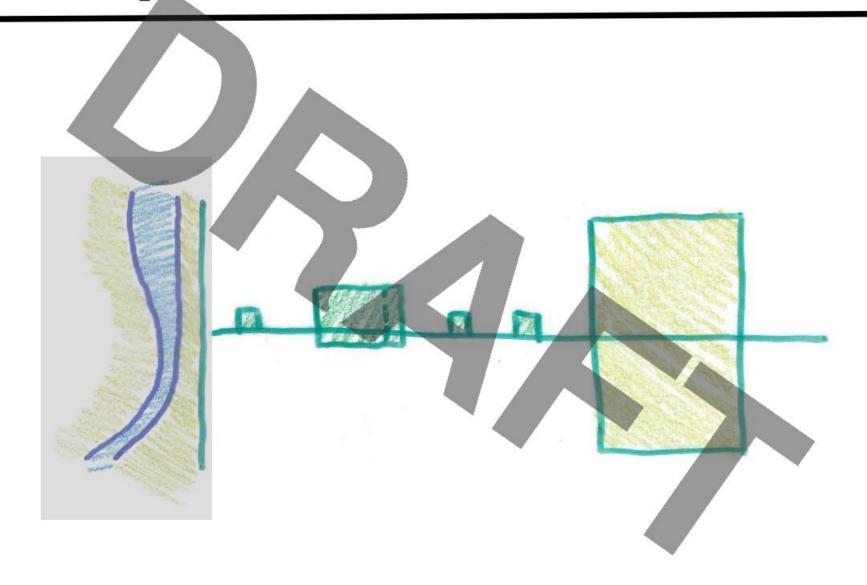




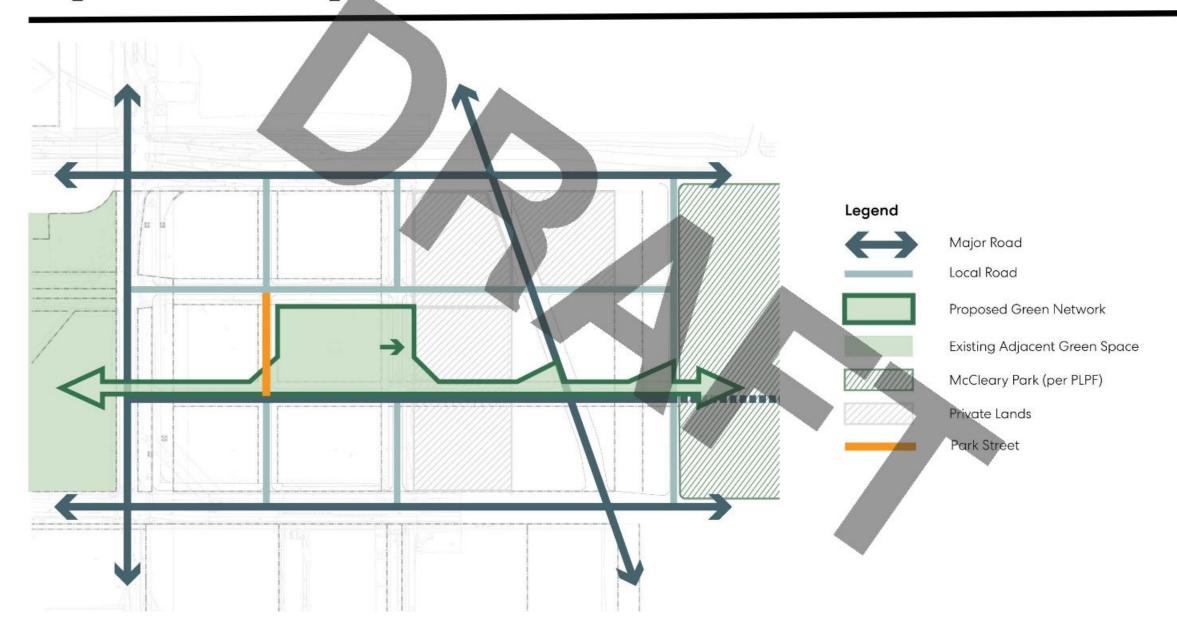


Jaktgatan/Lövängsgatan, Stockholm, SE

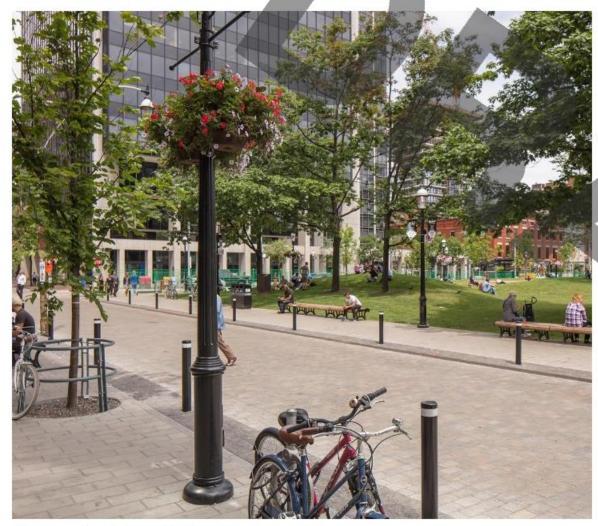
# **Exploration 2: Expand Plus**



#### **Exploration 2: Expand Plus**



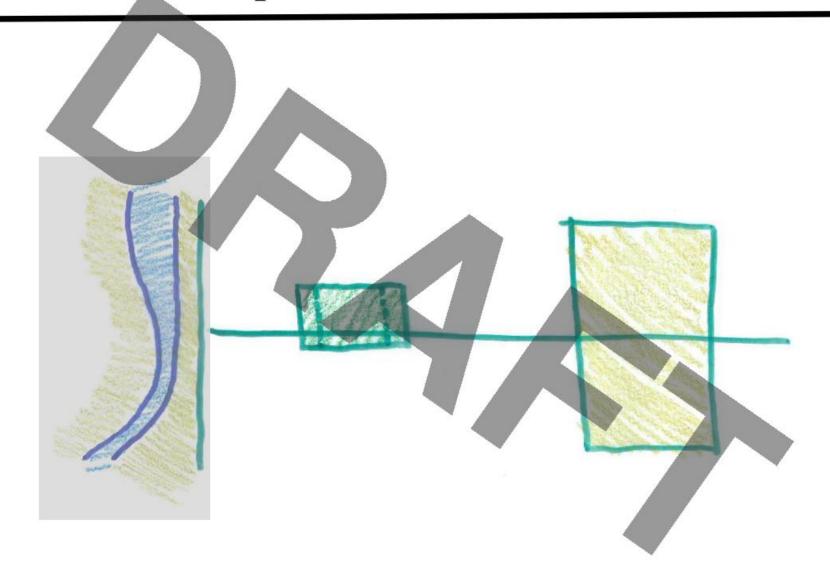
# **Exploration 2: Expand Plus**



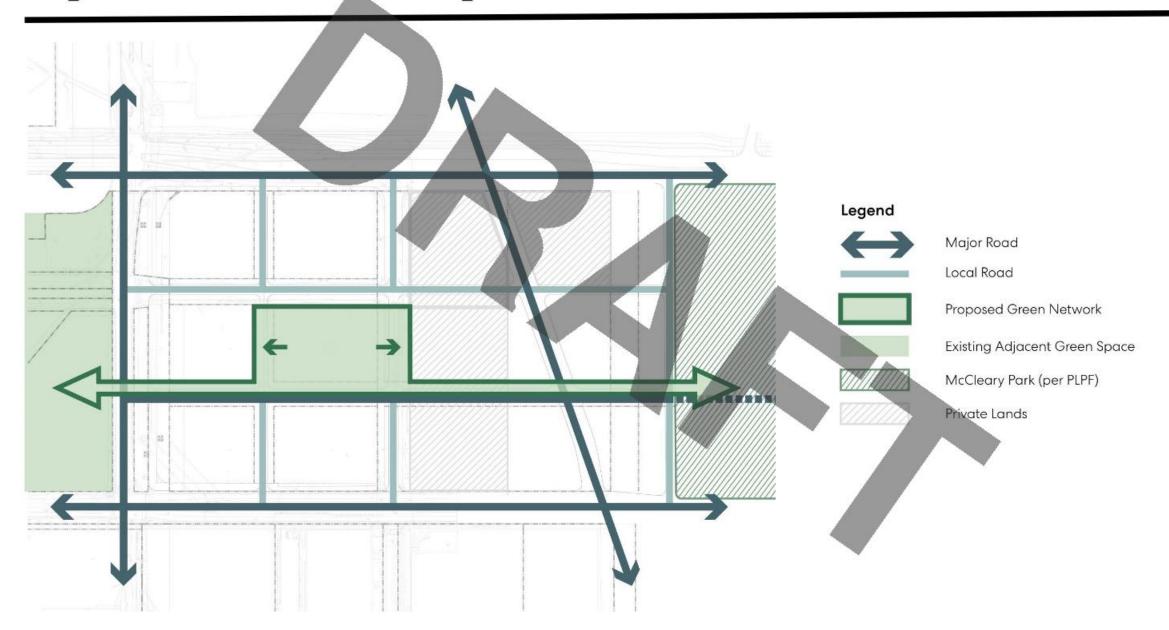
**Berczy Park/Scott Street** 

2150 LS/Christie Cookie: "Largos"

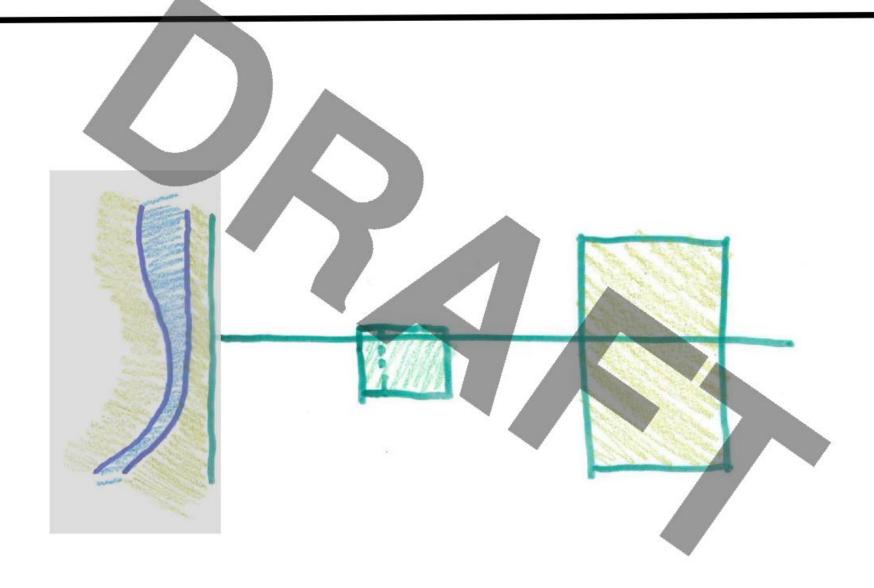
# **Exploration 3: Double Expand**



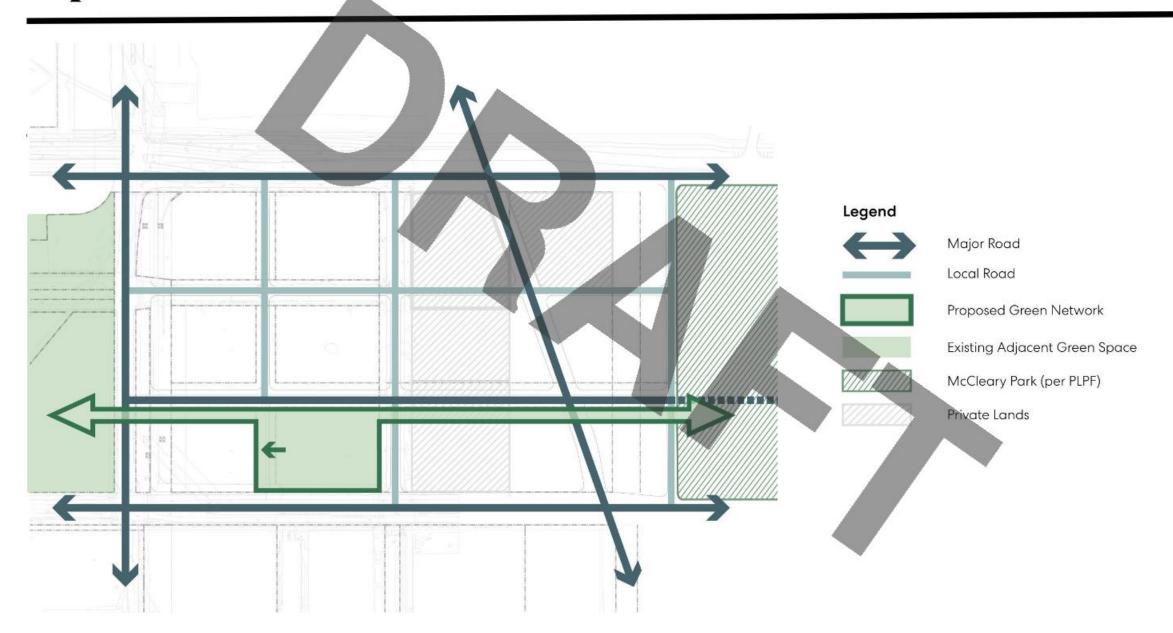
## **Exploration 3: Double Expand**



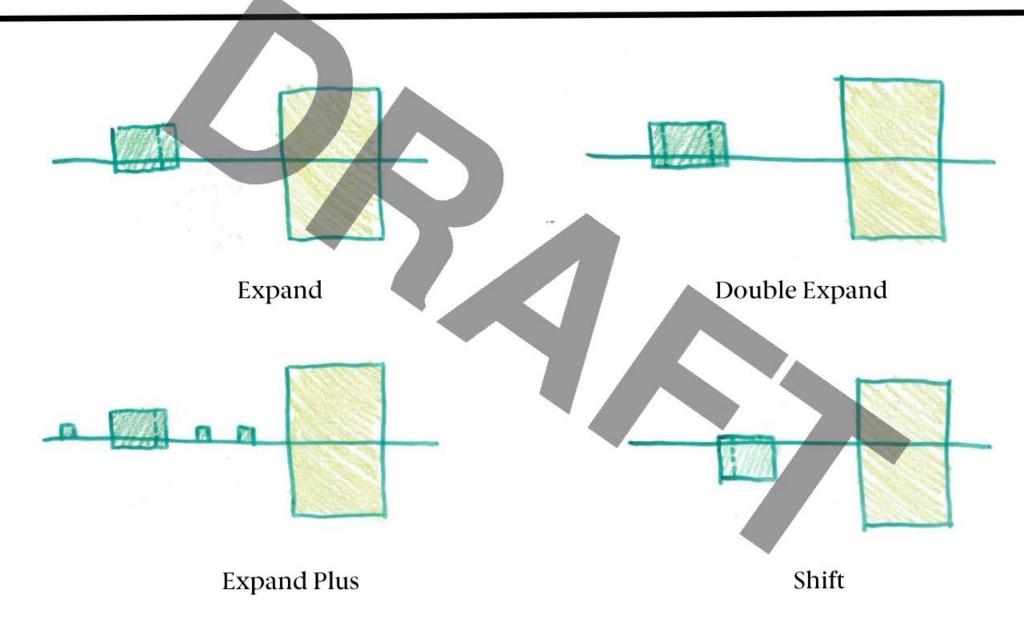
# **Exploration 4: Shift**



#### **Exploration 4: Shift**

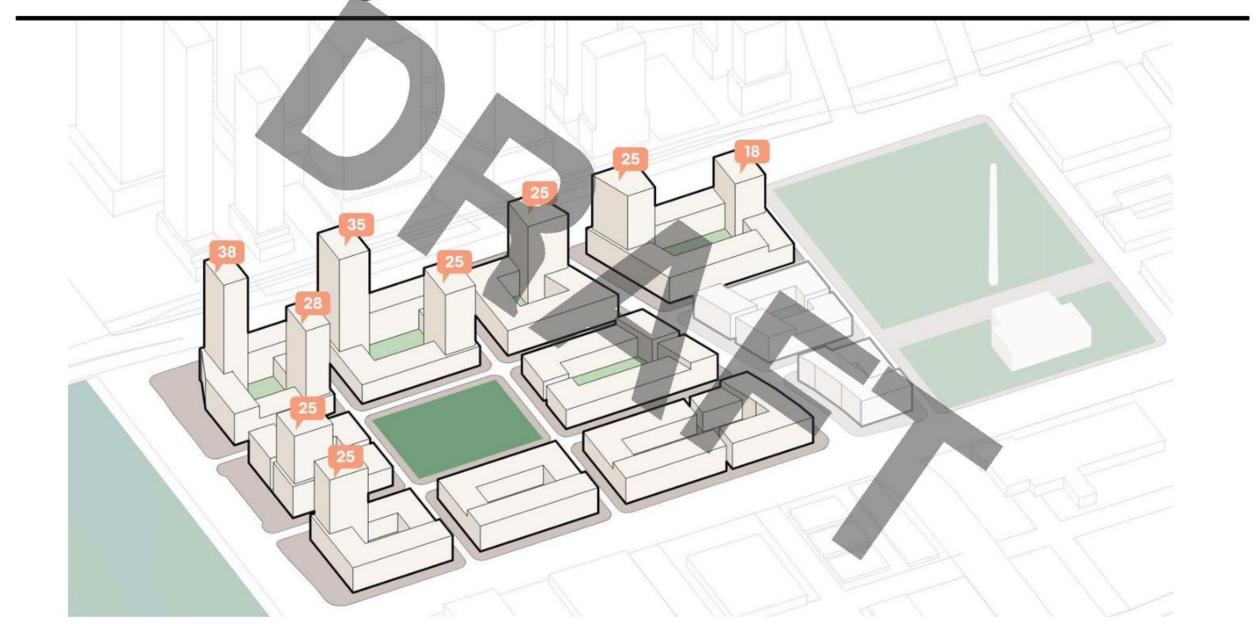


# **Explorations**



# Height, Density & Form PIC Uses

# **Port Lands Planning Framework**



#### **Port Lands Planning Framework**

	GFA (sf)	GCA (sf)	PIC-Use (sf) (25% PLPF)	Retail (sf) (5% PLPF)
Port Lands Planning Framework	5,447,700	5,447,700	1,361,900	272,400

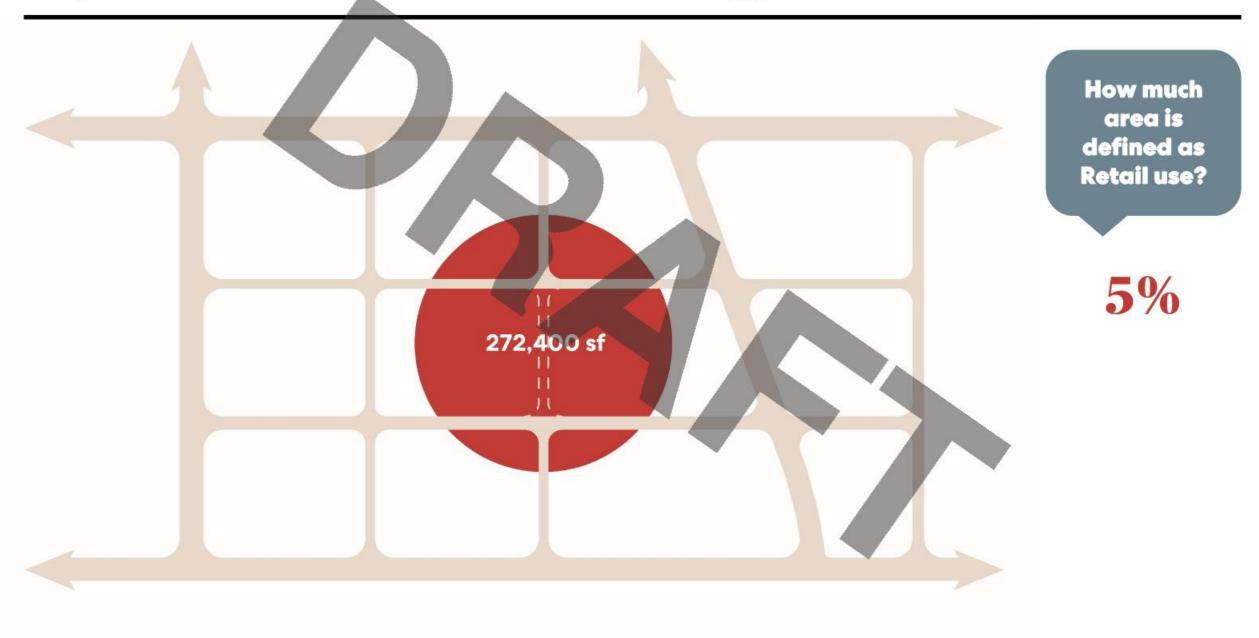
The above statistics exclude the GFA of 685 Lake Shore Boulevard East, noted as approximately 712,100 sf. The above referenced PIC-Use and Retail areas also assume that 685 Lake Shore is addressing its appropriate share of the percentage allocations, as such, the rates carried are applicable to the balance of the McCleary District.

#### **Exploration Priority Considerations**

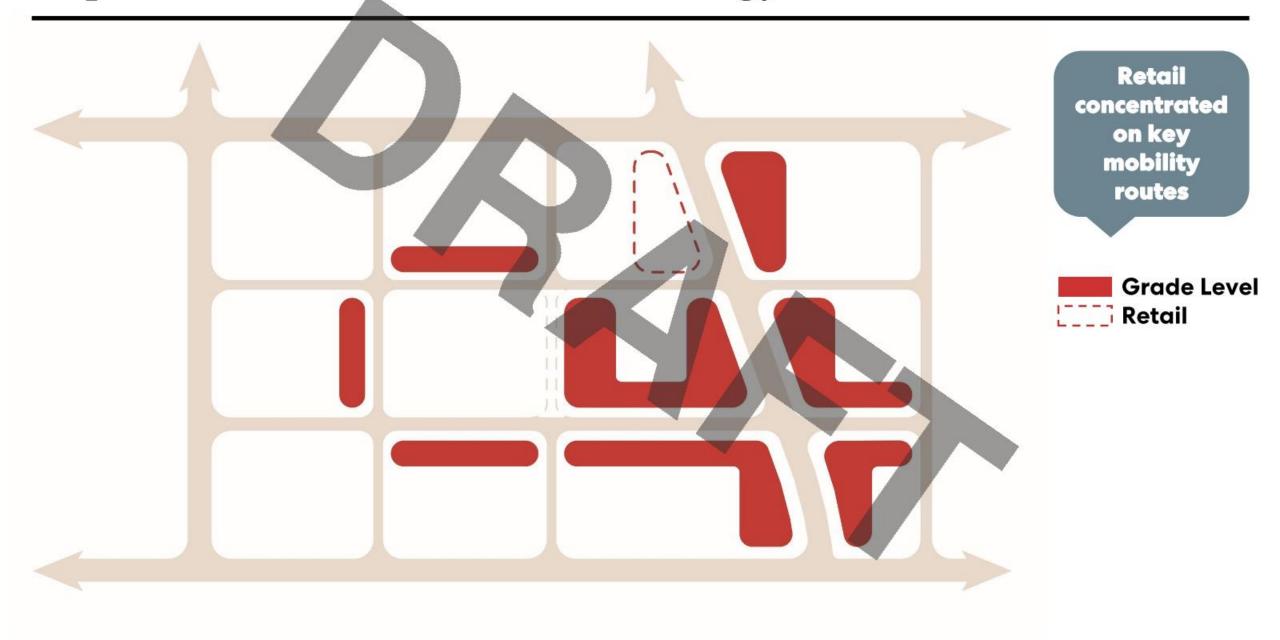
- Public realm comfort (PLPF)
- Sunlight on parks (CWSP)
- Views to McCleary Stack (PLPF)
- Avoiding overlook to film uses (PLPF)
- Optimizing use of public land (Council direction)
- Implementing the Housing Action Plan (Council direction)



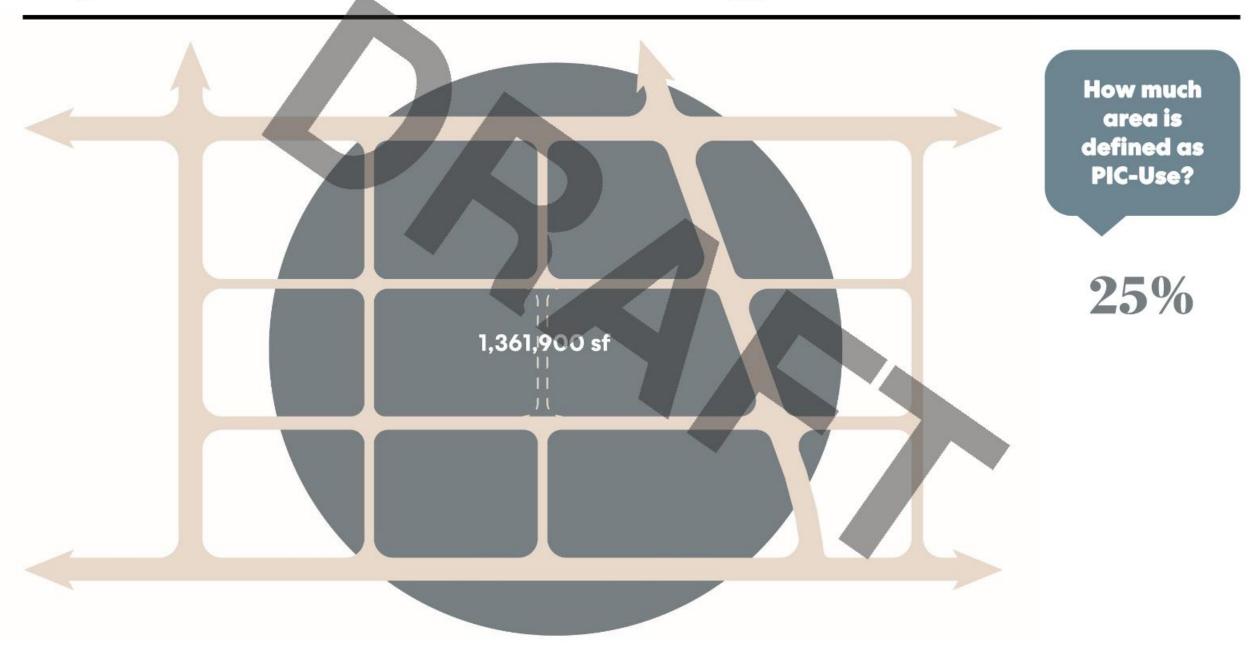
#### **Exploration 1: Landuse Allocation Strategy**



#### **Exploration 1: Landuse Allocation Strategy**



#### **Exploration 1: Landuse Allocation Strategy**

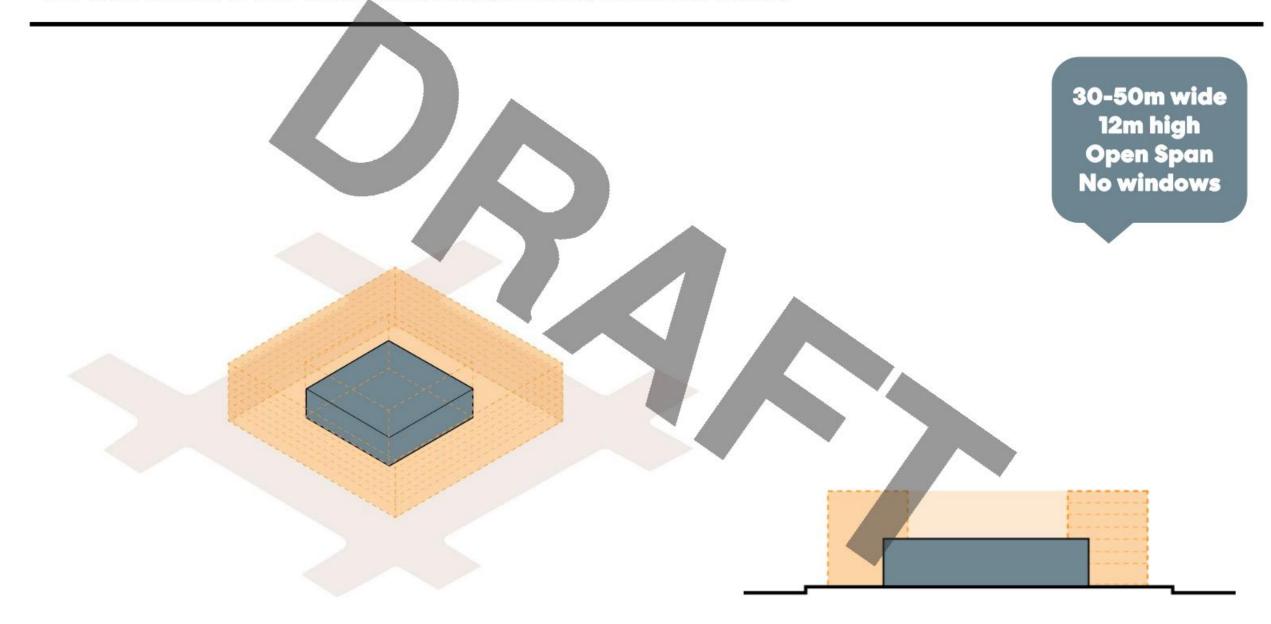


#### What does PIC-Use look like?

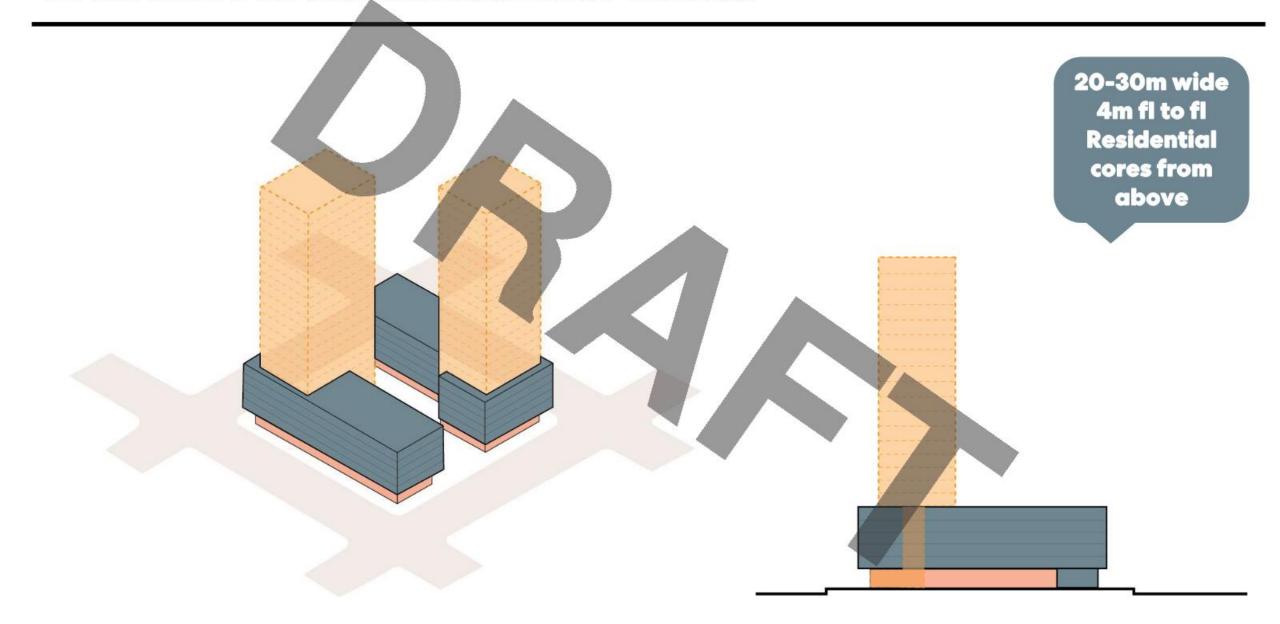


McCleary Block dimensions, 70-90m x 90-120m

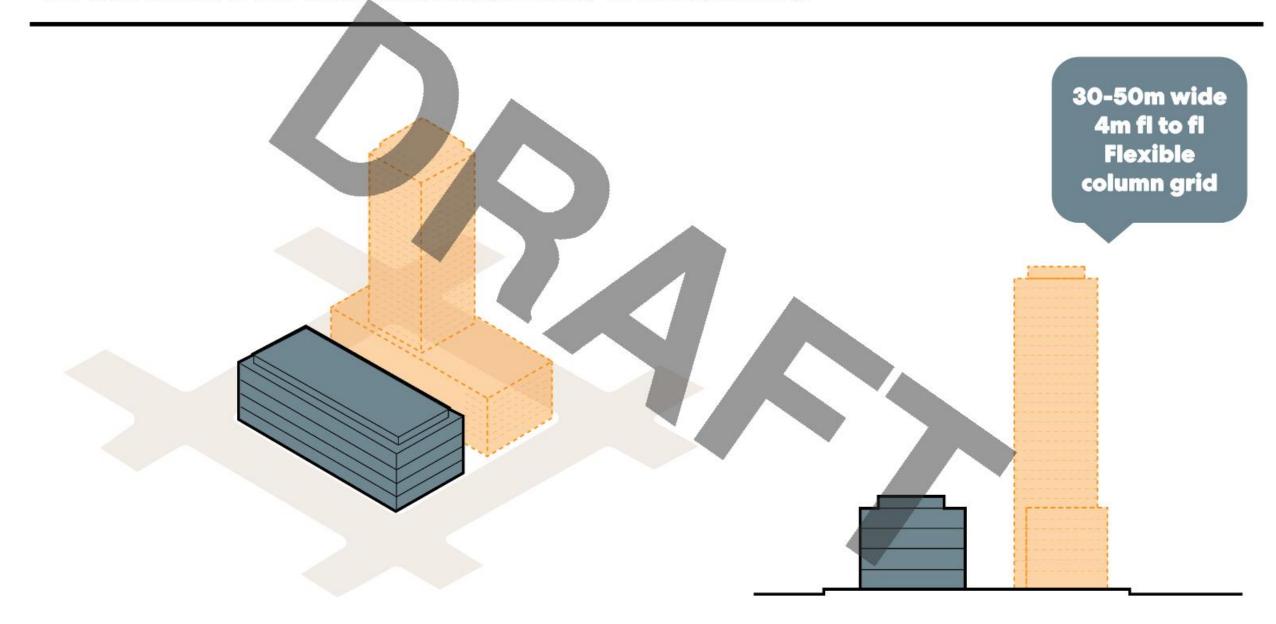
#### What does PIC use look like as a Black Box?



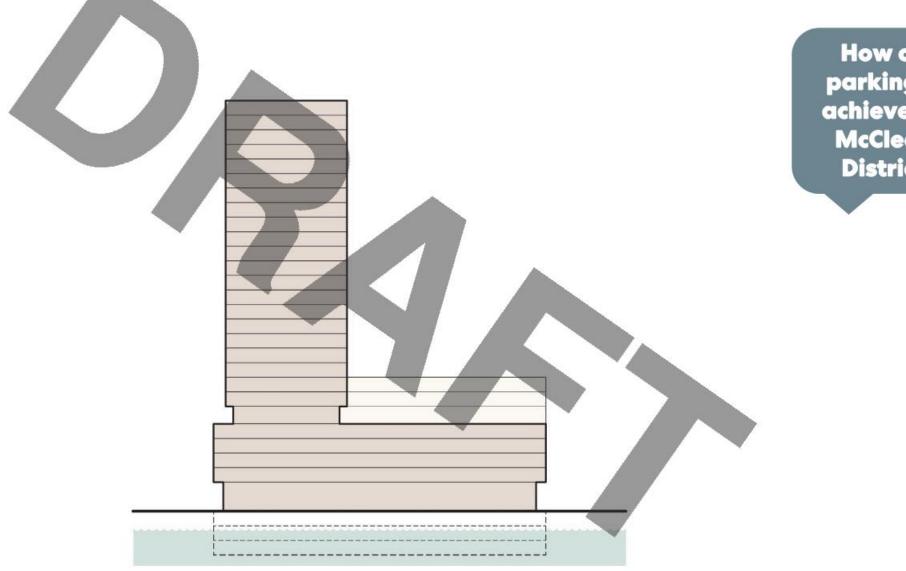
#### What does PIC use look like as a Podium?



#### What does PIC use look like as a Warehouse?

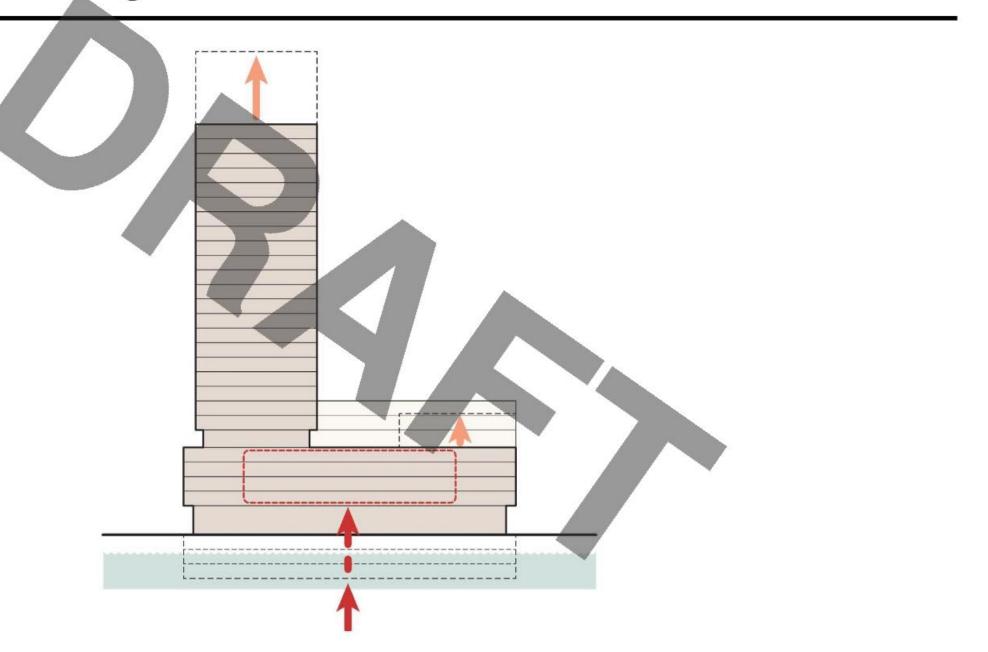


#### **Exploration 2: Parking Considerations**

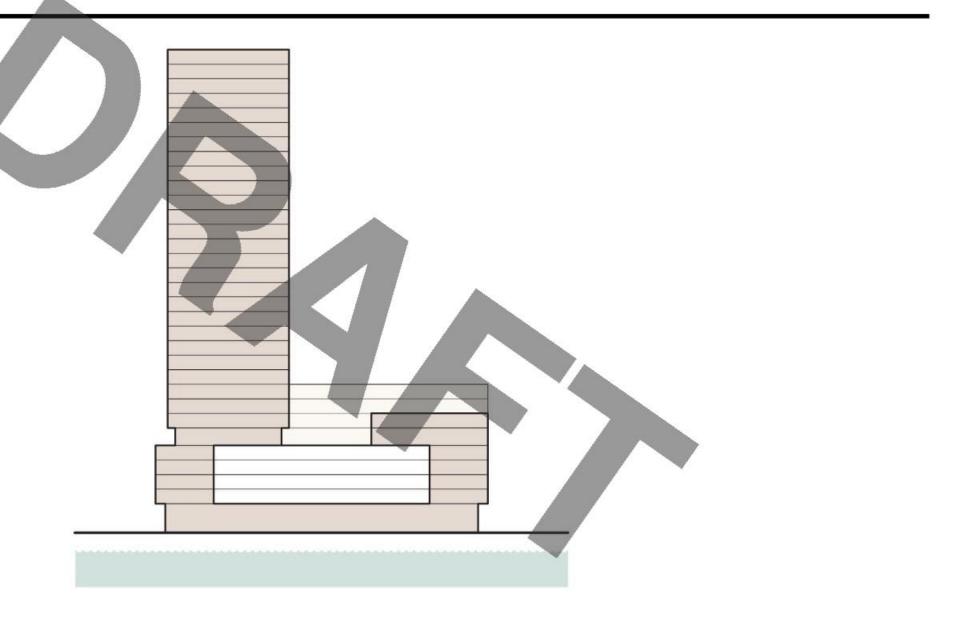


How can parking be achieved at McCleary District?

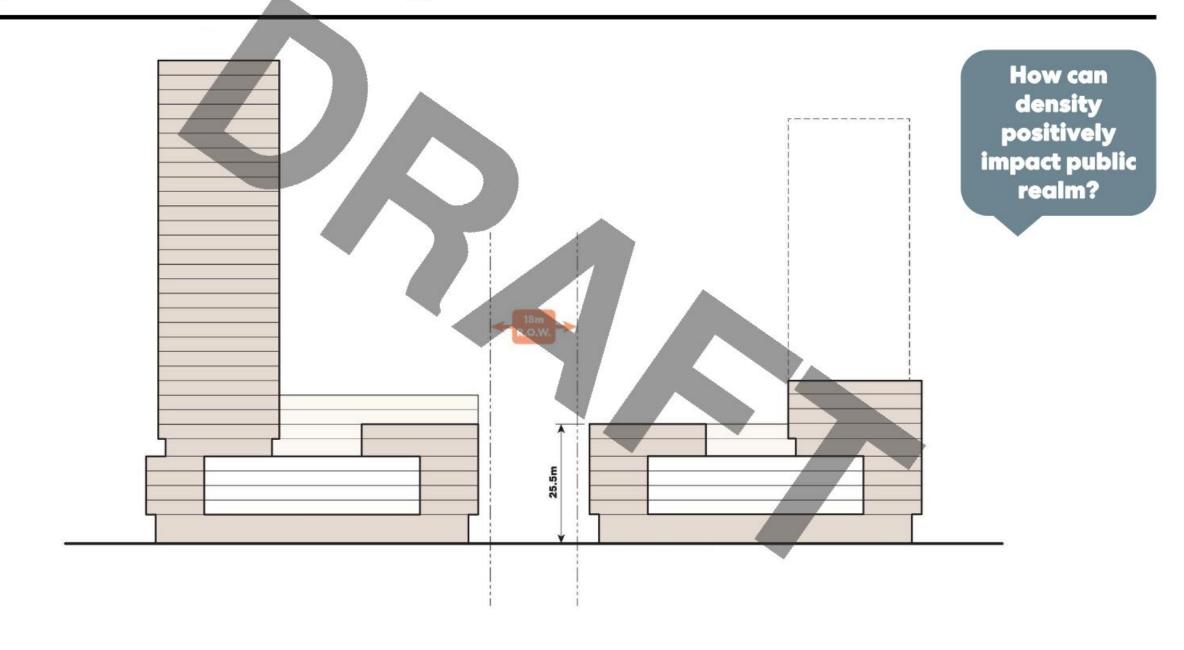
# **Exploration 2: Parking Considerations**



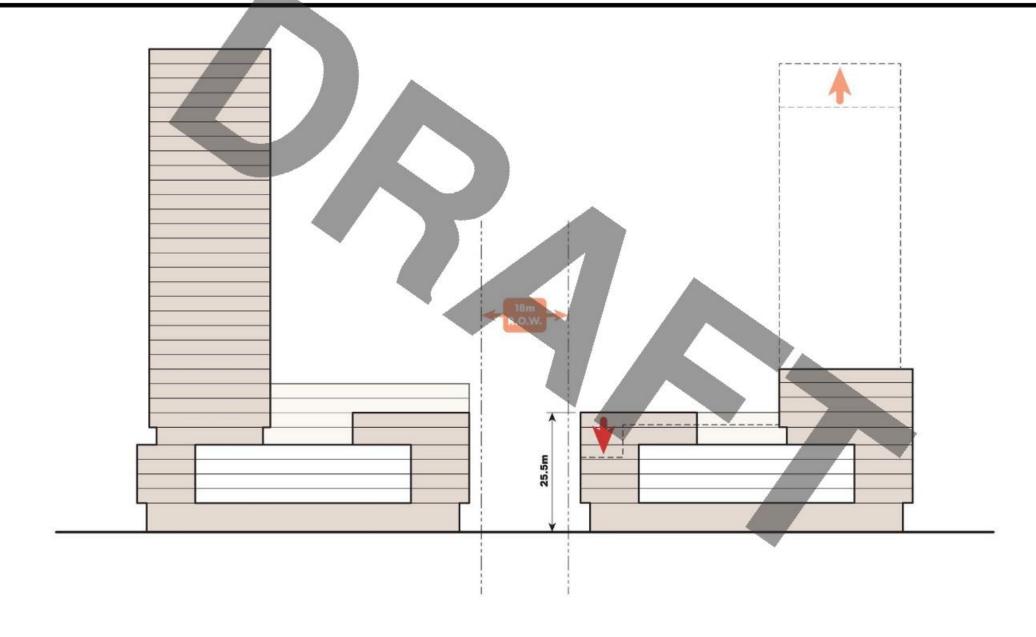
# **Exploration 2: Parking Considerations**



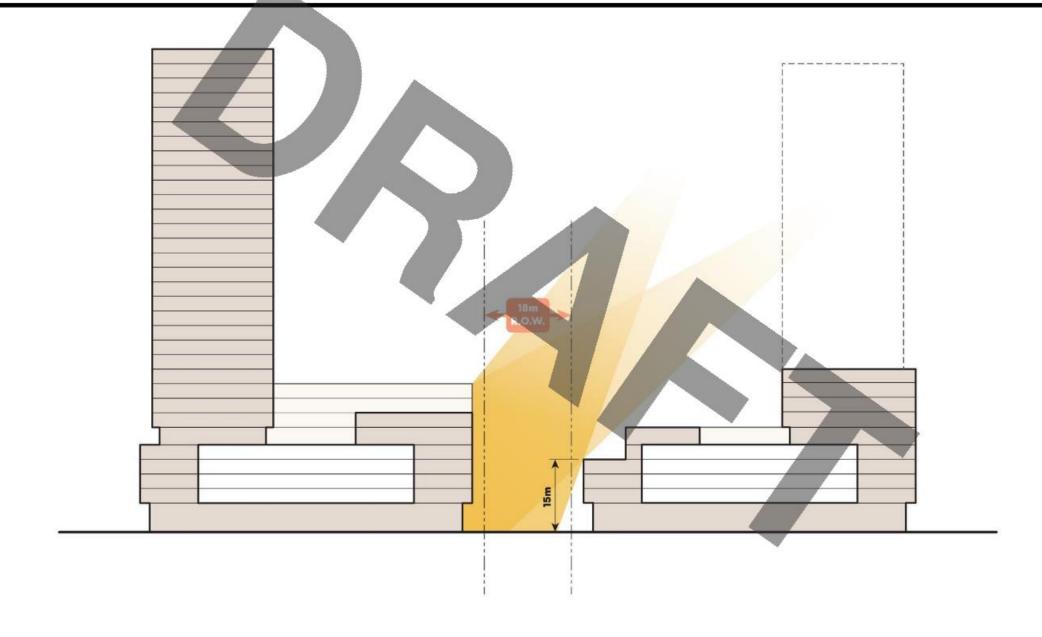
## **Exploration 3: Podium Heights**



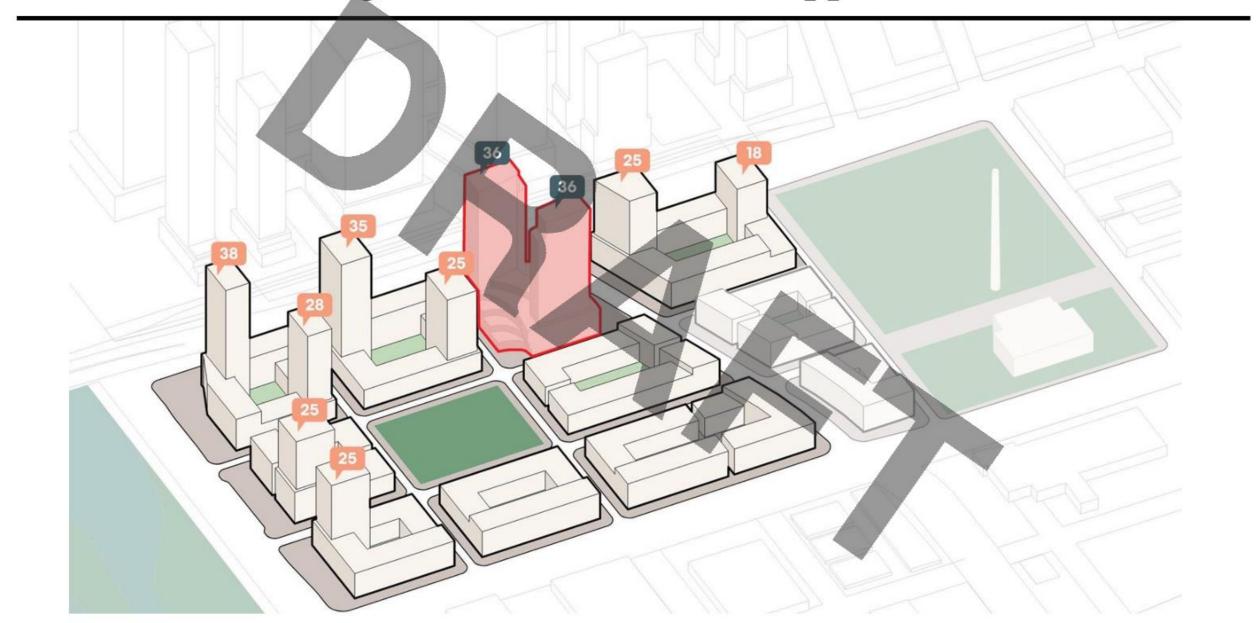
# **Exploration 3: Podium Heights**



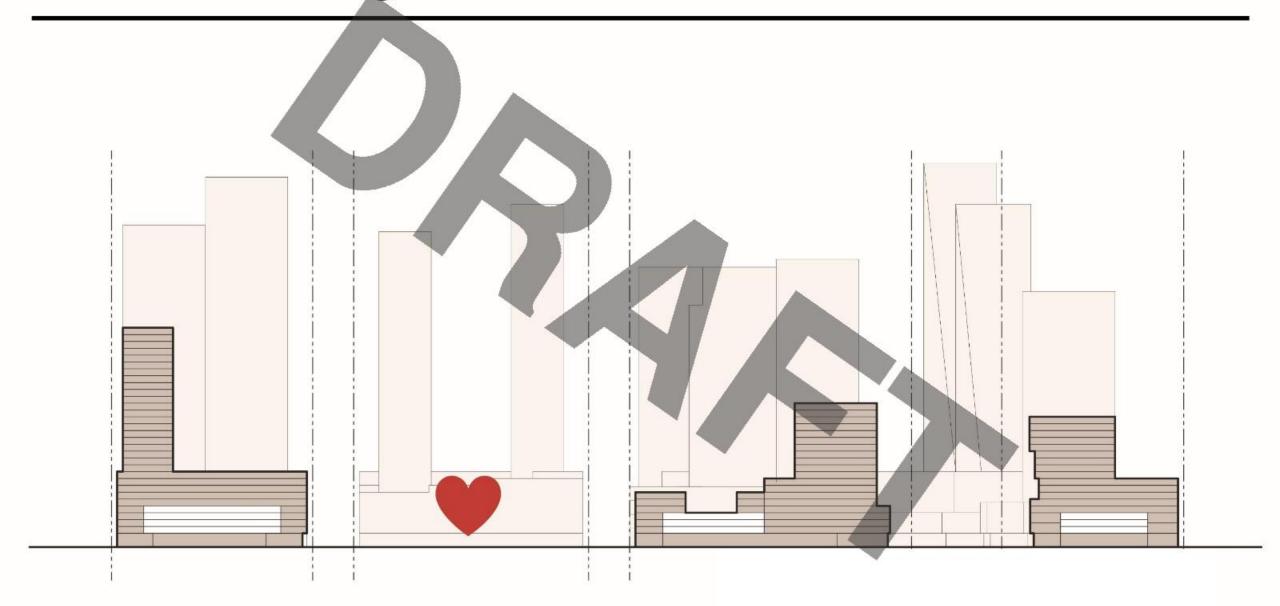
# **Exploration 3: Podium Heights**



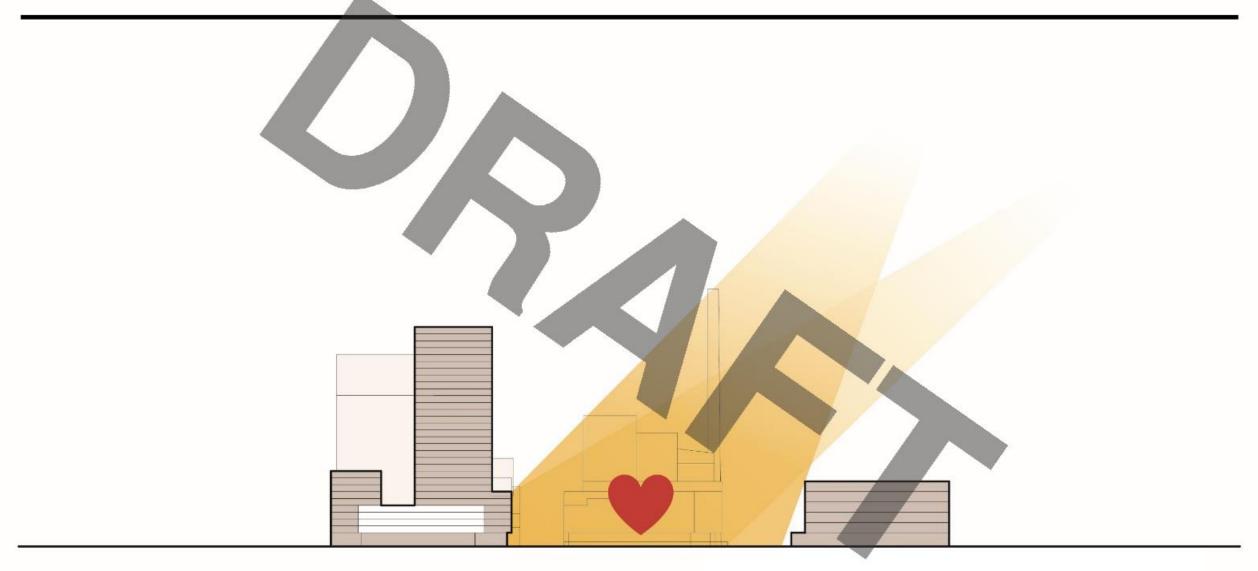
## Port Lands Planning Framework – Current Application



## Port Lands Planning Framework Site Sections



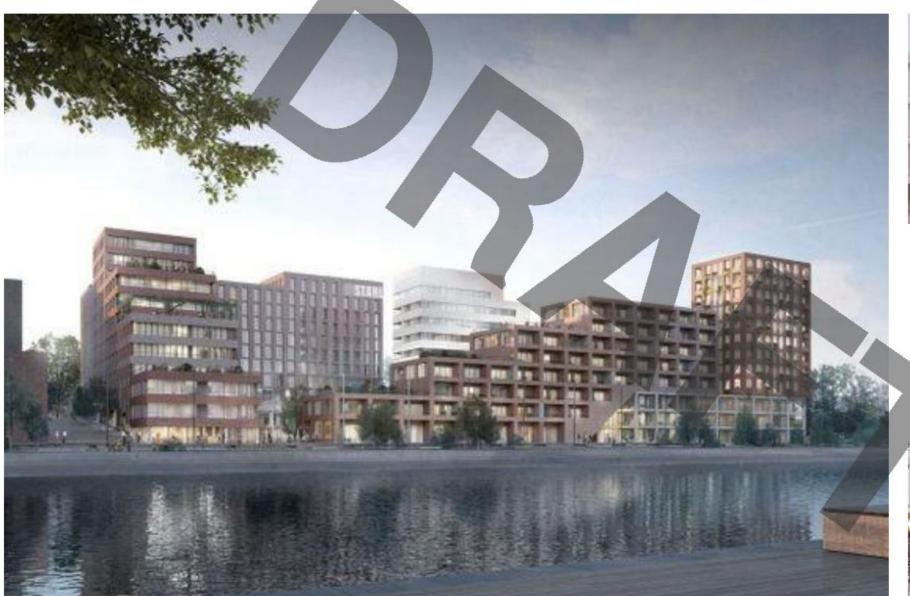
# Port Lands Planning Framework Site Sections













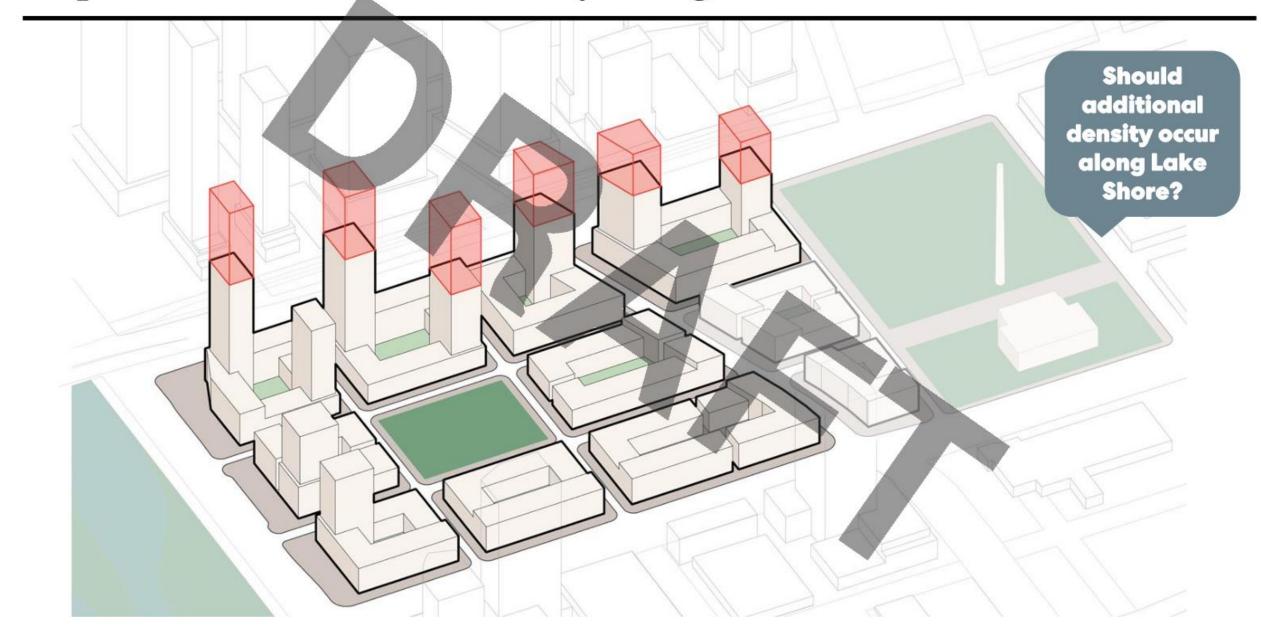


#### **Exploration Priority Considerations**

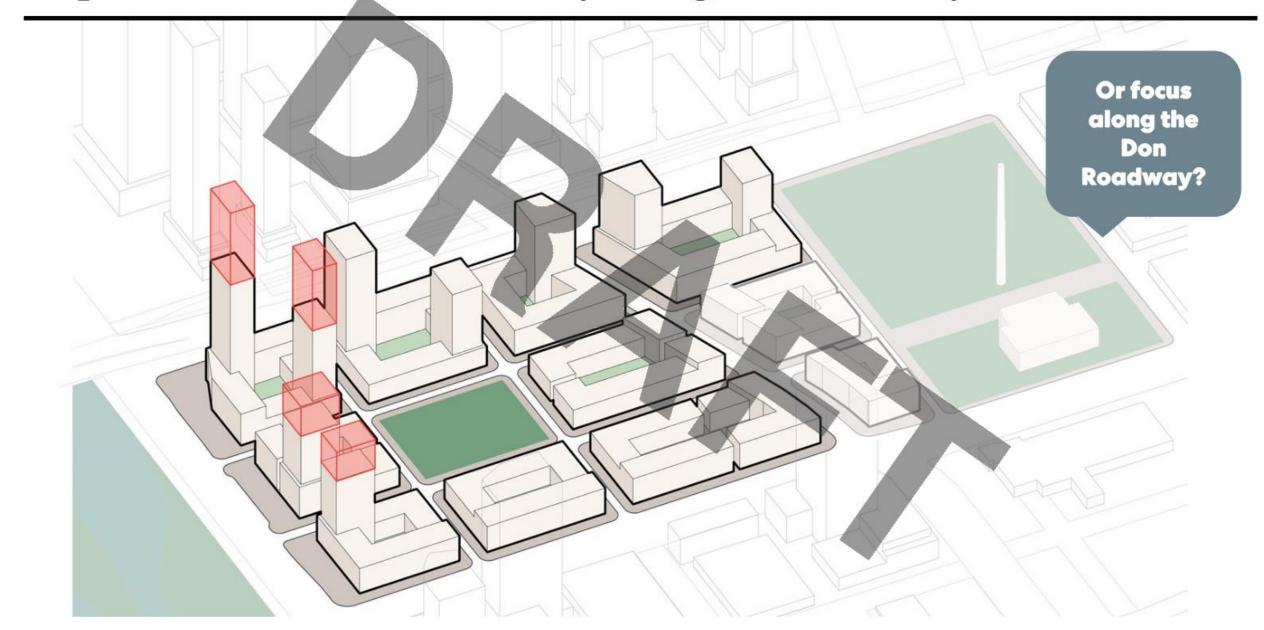
- Public realm comfort (PLPF)
- Sunlight on parks (CWSP)
- Views to McCleary Stack (PLPF)
- Avoiding overlook to film uses (PLPF)
- Optimizing use of public land (Council direction)
- Implementing the Housing Action Plan (Council direction)



# **Exploration 4: Increased Density Along Lake Shore?**



#### **Exploration 4: Increased Density Along Don Roadway?**



## **Exploration 4: Increased Density Elsewhere?**

