

NATIONAL ACTION: DESIGNATE URBAN PARKS AS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Recognize the value of parks as infrastructure that supports **public health**, **climate mitigation**, and **social benefits** through formal designation.

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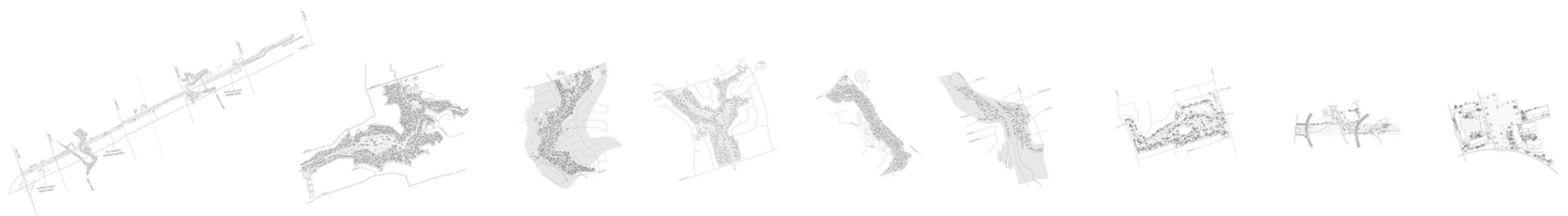
Student Researchers

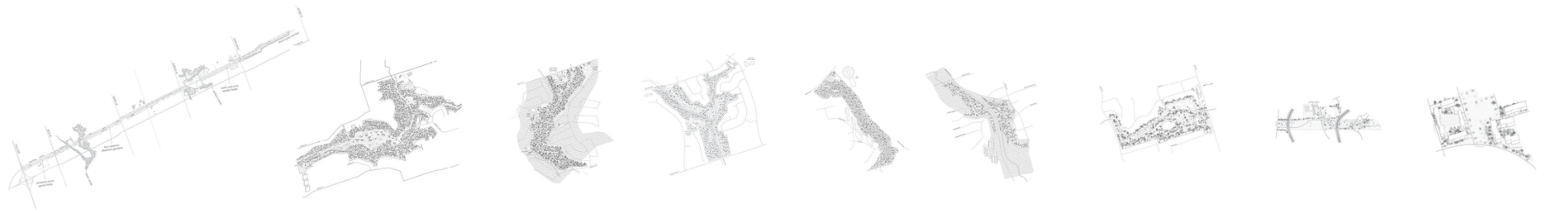
Benjamin Dunn

Maria Alonso Novo

Rahat Mirza

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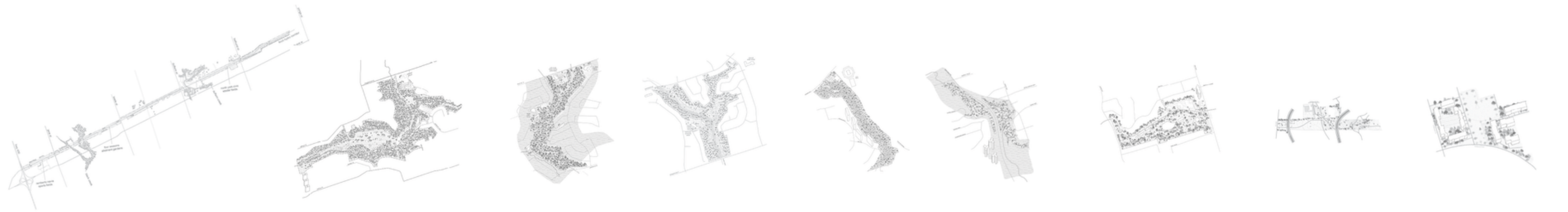




URBAN PARKS

IMPROVE **PUBLIC HEALTH & WELLBEING**



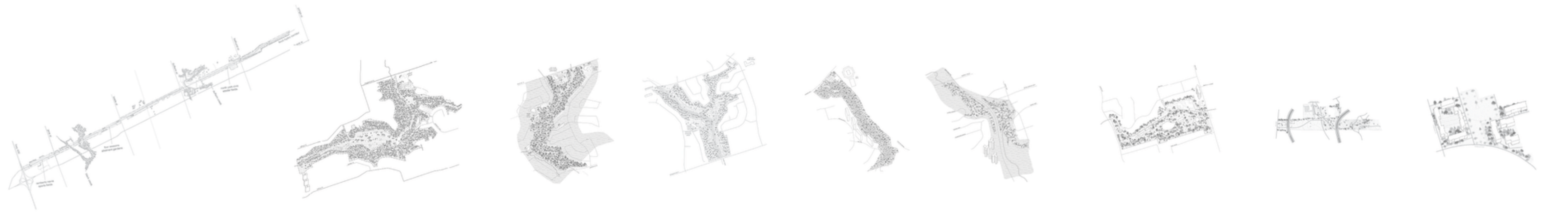


URBAN PARKS

IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH & WELLBEING

BOLSTER LOCAL ECONOMIES





URBAN PARKS

IMPROVE **PUBLIC HEALTH & WELLBEING**

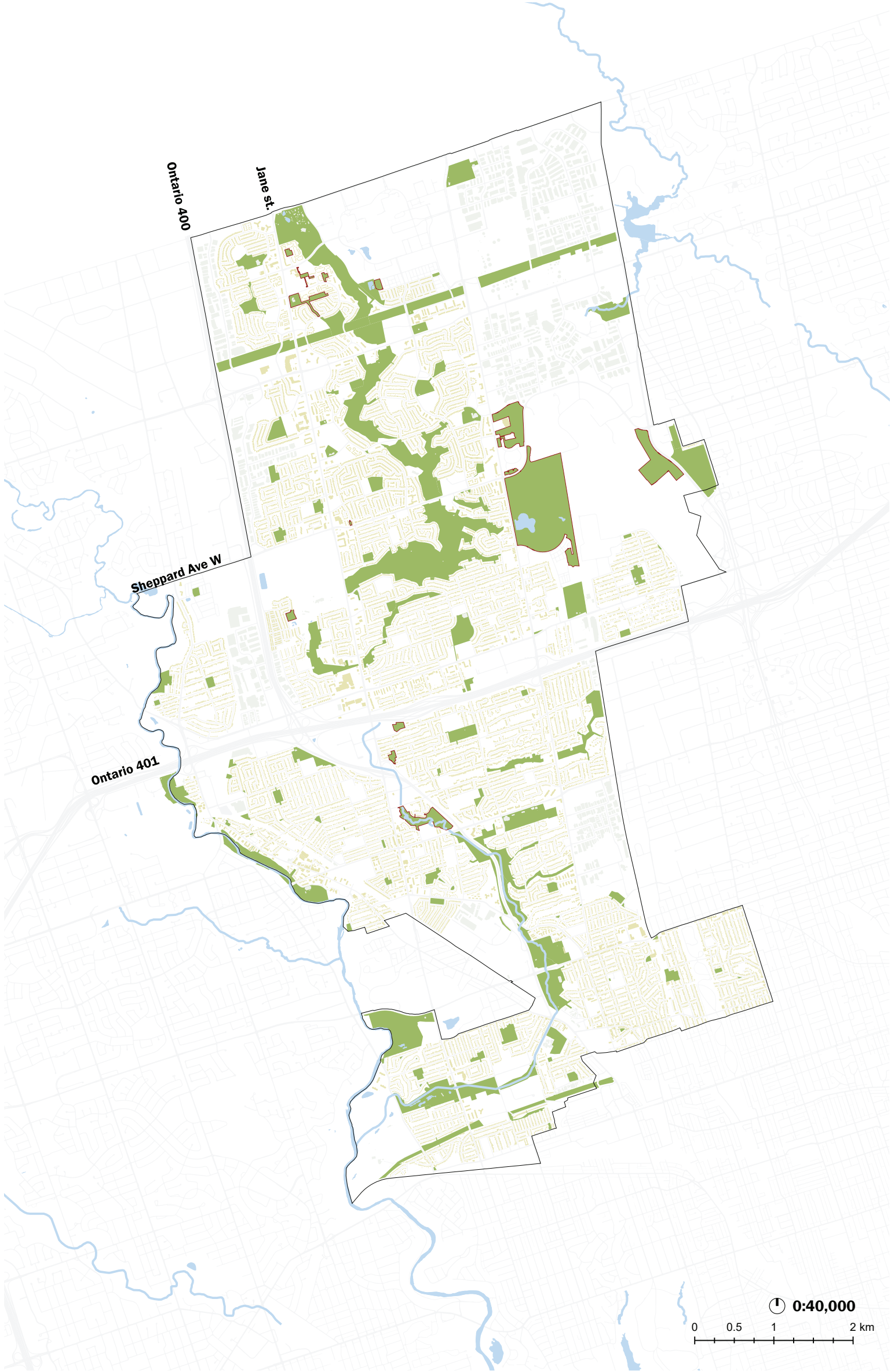
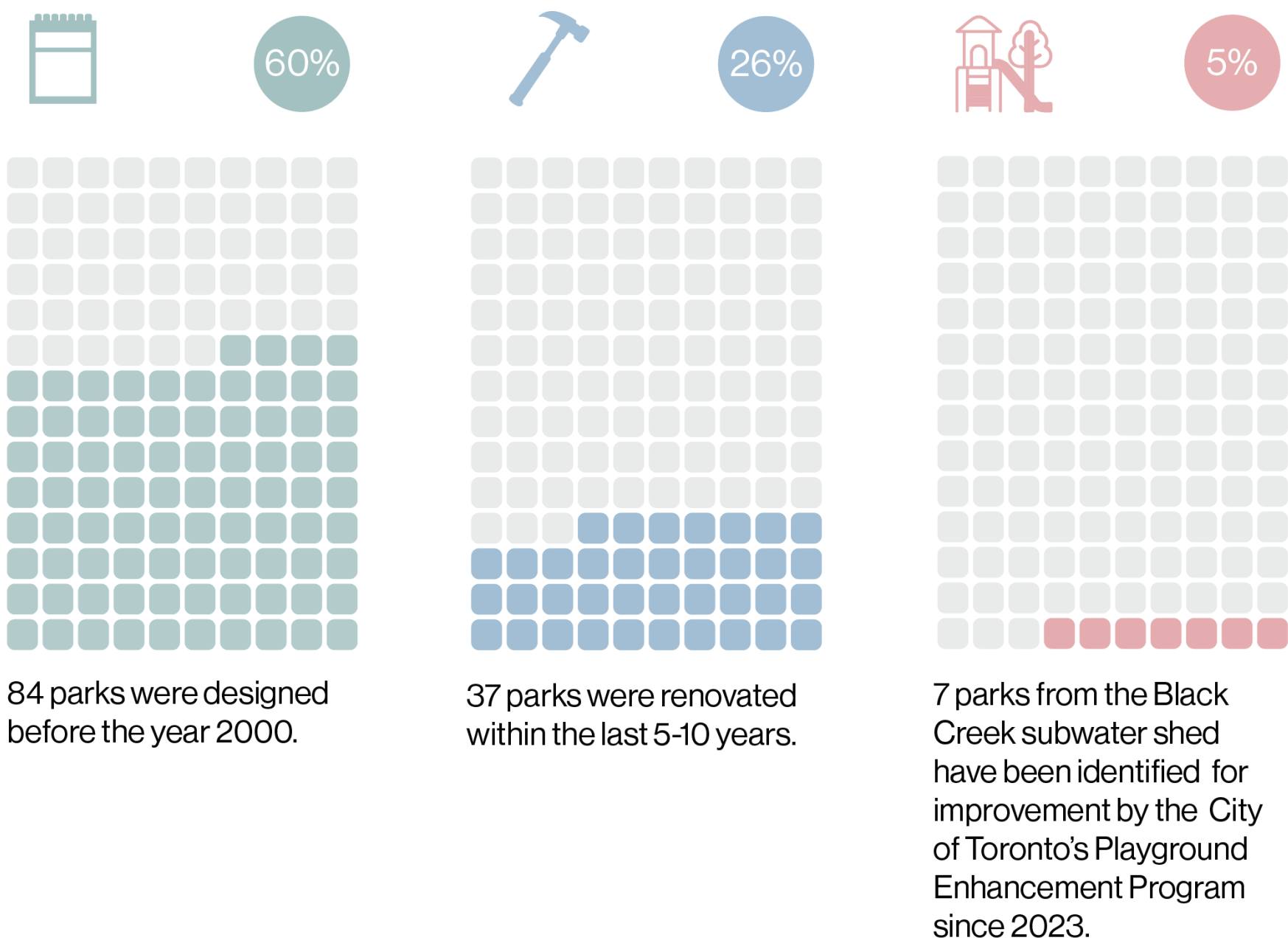
BOLSTER **LOCAL ECONOMIES**

CONTRIBUTE TO **CLIMATE RESILIENCY**



Urban Parks: Under Valued

A narrow perception of their value is ingrained in public consciousness through policies, funding mechanisms, and restrictions that limits the capacity of municipal park departments to support, expand, maintain, and enhance parks to their full potential.



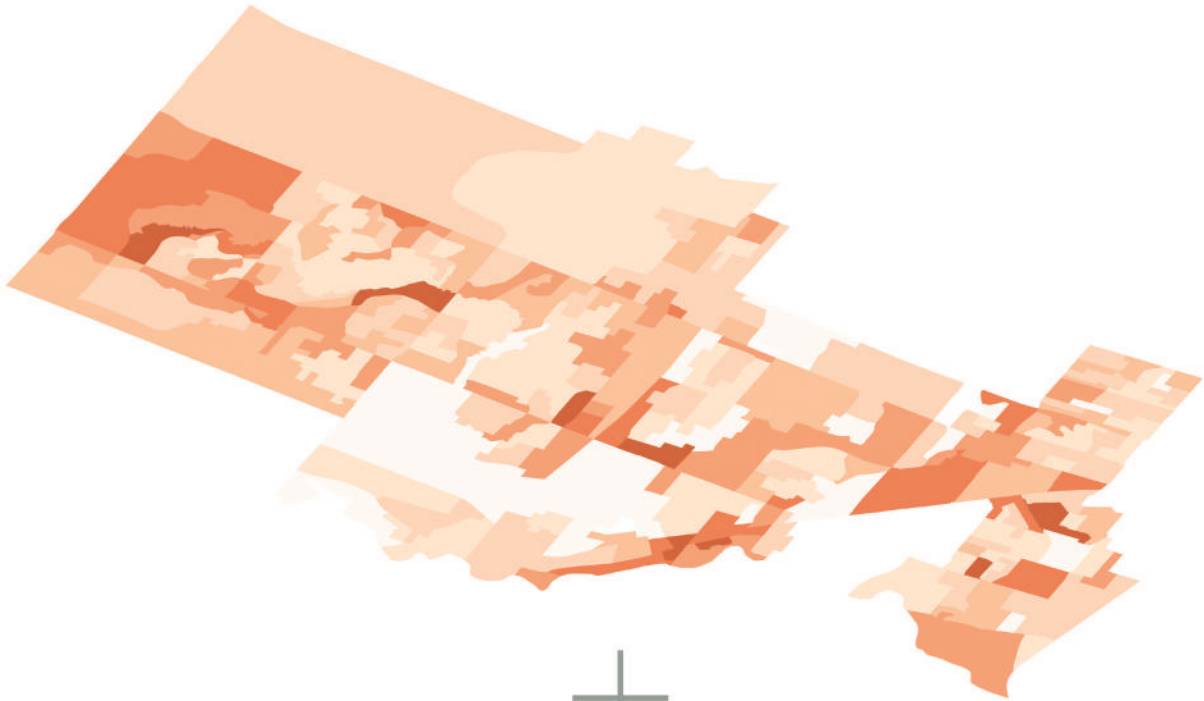
Urban Parks are Landscape Infrastructure



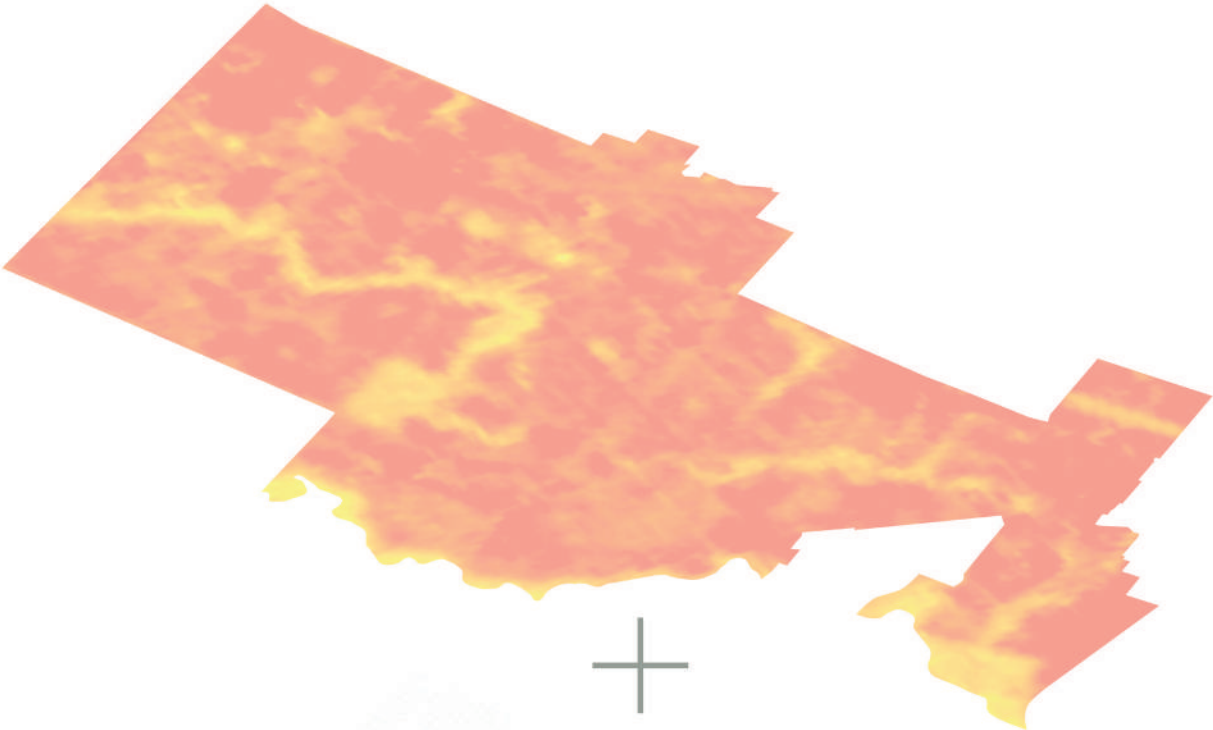
Woodland, meadow, and aquatic plants interact vigorously in the ongoing process of renewal on the former brownfield site at Corktown Common, designed by MVVA.

Source: <https://www.mvvainc.com/projects/corktown-common>

SOCIAL



ENVIRONMENTAL



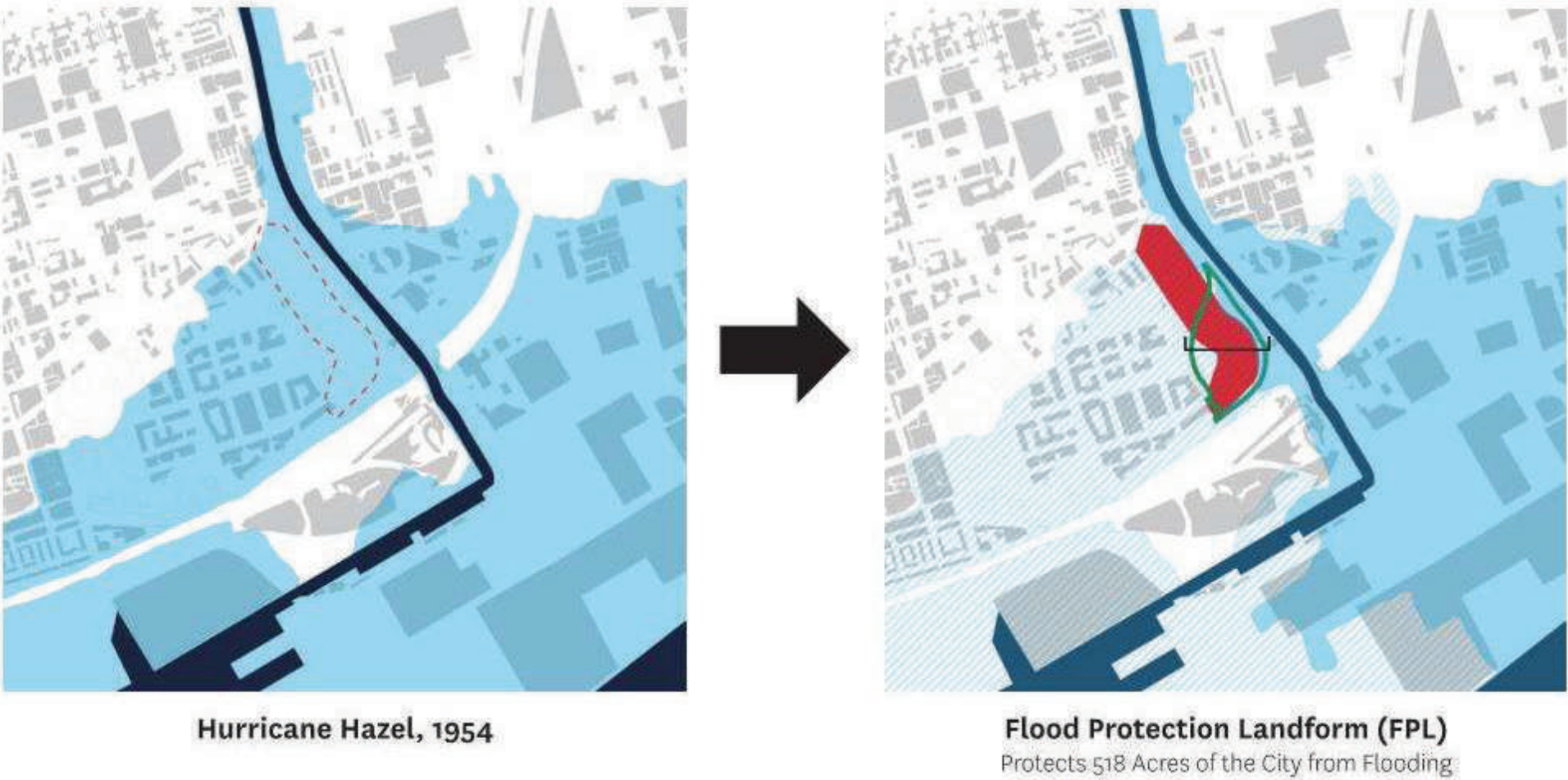
PHYSICAL /
INFRASTRUCTURAL



Corktown Common
MMVA, Toronto

Corktown Common park is a vital piece of urban infrastructure, designed as a **flood protection landform** that elevates the terrain to safeguard the West Don Lands from the Don River flooding.

All stormwater is managed on-site and re-used for irrigation and splash pads, and the site offers a beautiful space for citizens to find respite, socialize, and appreciate nature.



Source: <https://www.mvvainc.com/projects/corktown-common>



Topography protects the West Don Lands from flooding by establishing two conditions: a wet side designed to absorb and manage flooding, and a dry side that remains elevated and protected.

Source: <https://www.mvvainc.com/projects/corktown-common>

Formal Designation Contributes to Federal Plans



CPRA Statement in Response to Budget 2025

 Canadian Parks & Recreation Association / November 05, 2025

Today, Minister of Finance François-Philippe Champagne presented the 2025 federal budget, the first under Prime Minister Carney. In response, CPRA issued the statement below which we wanted to share with you.

Source: https://www.cpra.ca/cpra_statement_in_response_to_budget_2025

“ **Recreation Infrastructure Renewal**

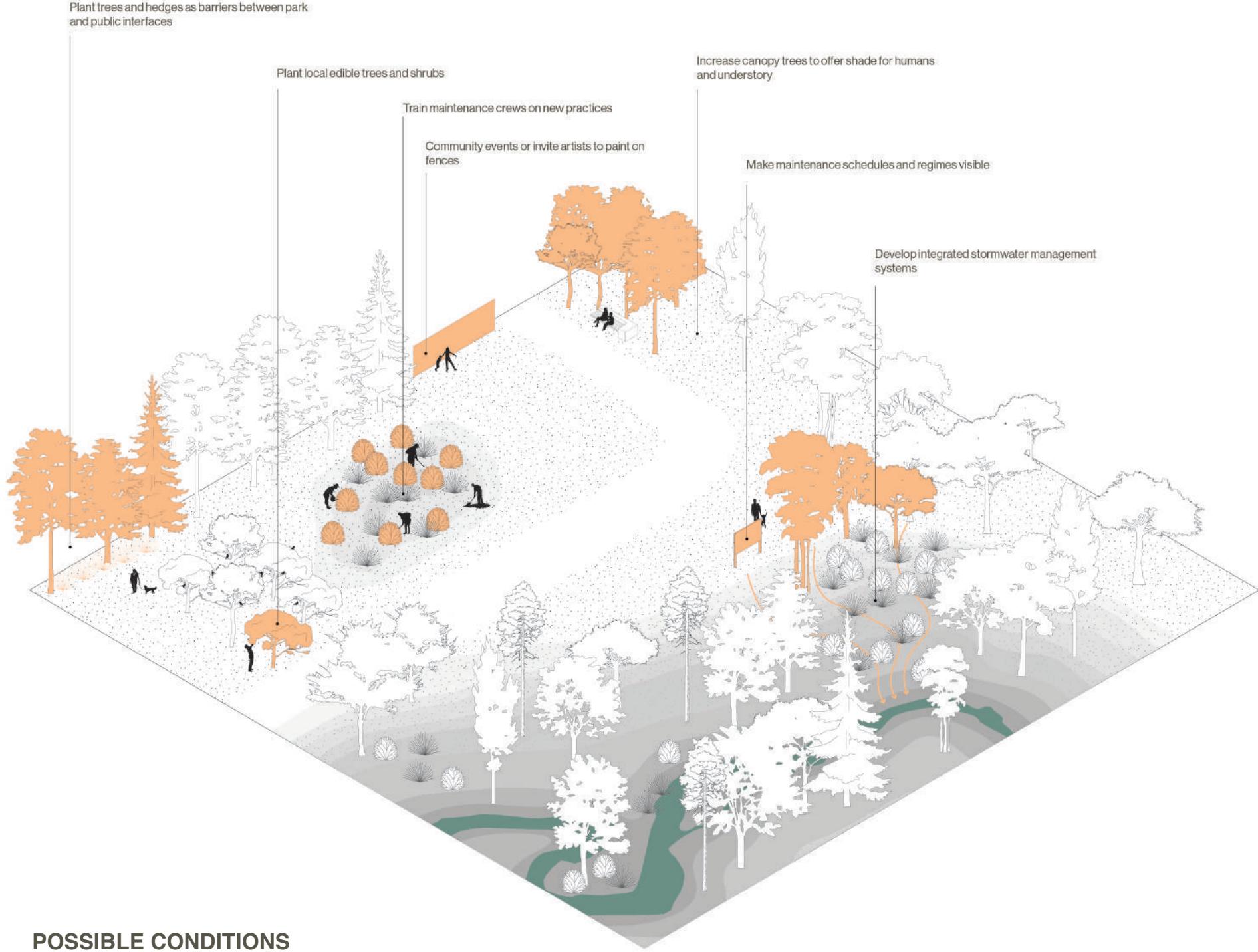
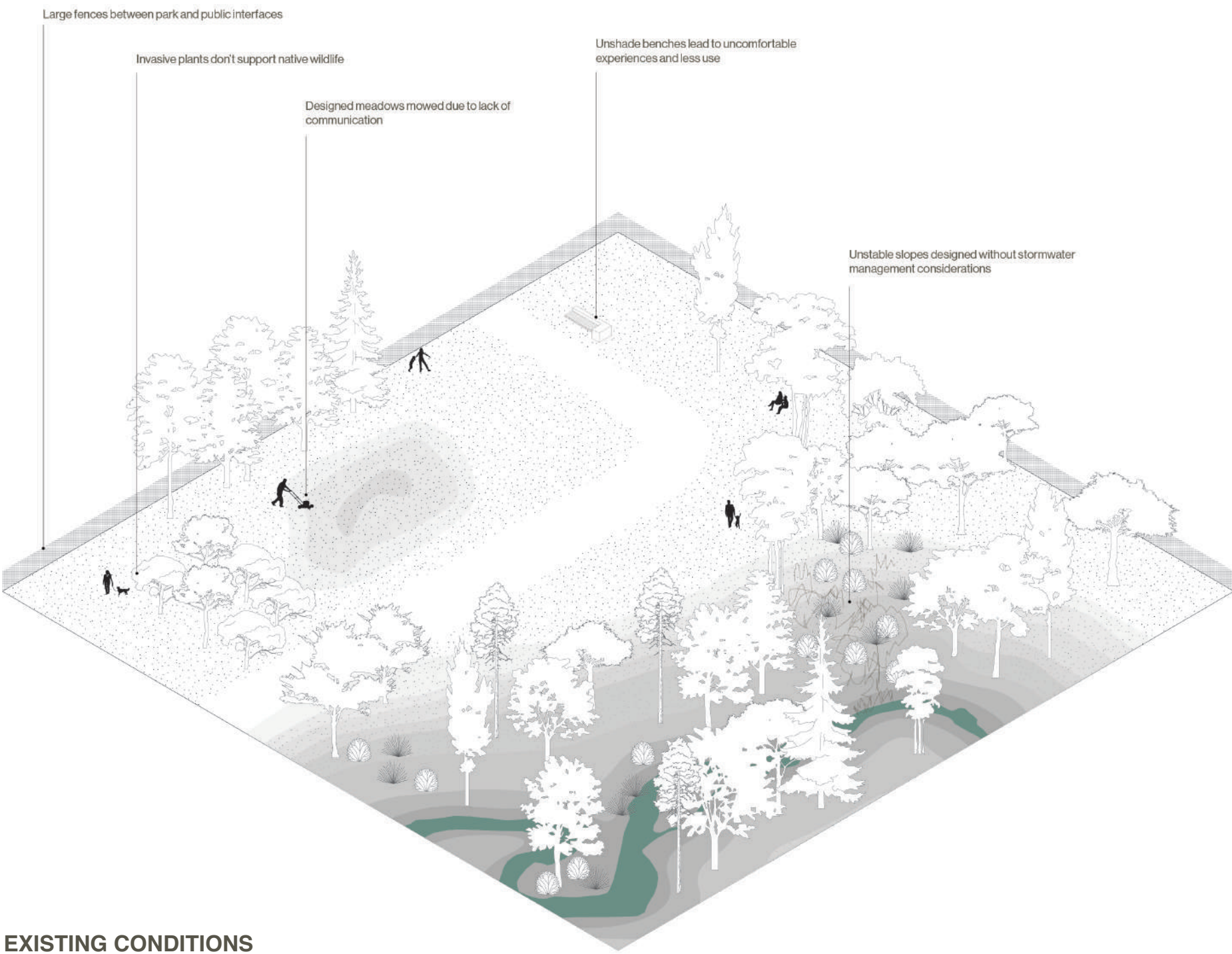
While Budget 2025 does not yet include a dedicated stream for recreation infrastructure, CPRA is encouraged by the government’s plan to launch the Build Communities Strong Fund—ongoing funding to support community infrastructure through Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada.

CPRA continues to recommend a dedicated Recreation Infrastructure Renewal Program—\$100 million per year—to modernize arenas, pools, community centres, and parks that are essential to health, safety, inclusion, and local economies.”

Source: https://www.cpra.ca/cpra_statement_in_response_to_budget_2025

Looking to the Future

While our proposed action is only step one on the road to change, we hope that it may create a snowball effect to ignite more interest and recognition of the value that urban parks offer across Canada.



Thank you!

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