

Gallagher Park

CONCEPT PLAN

Welcome

Photo Credit: Mack Male, mastermaq.ca

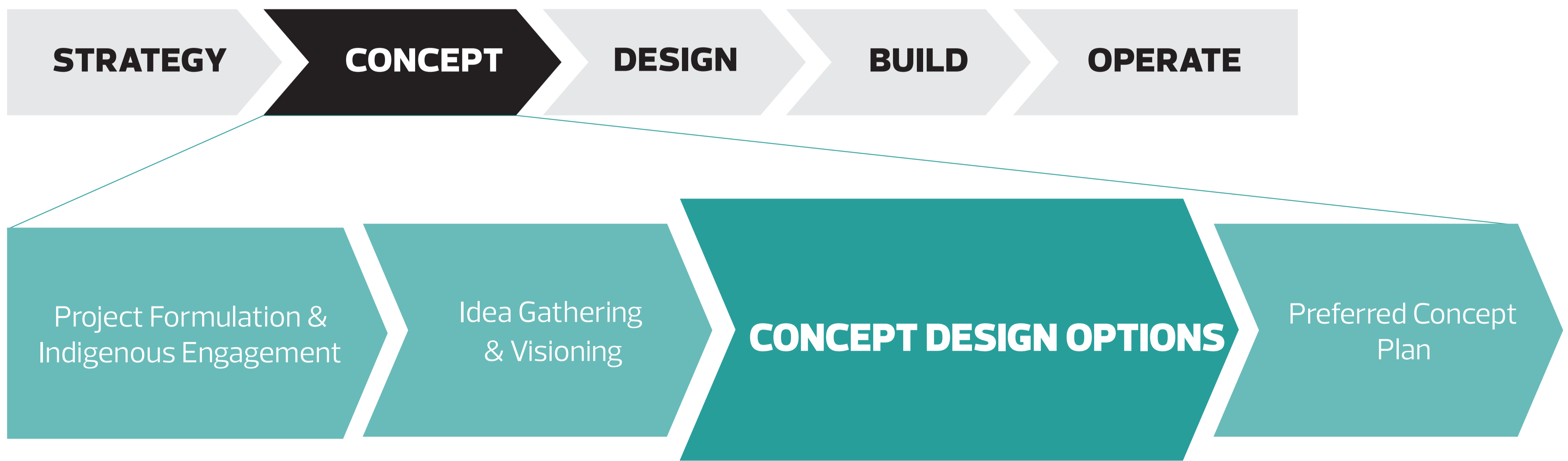


Project Background

Project Overview

The purpose of this project is to ensure a long-term strategic approach for the development, use and management of Gallagher Park; including its site partner's attractions and programming, through the development of a 20-year Concept Plan.

A concept plan builds on existing plans, policies and initiatives while identifying public needs and priorities for the park. The plan also provides direction for environmental protection and recommends civic, cultural and recreational uses that are appropriate to the area.



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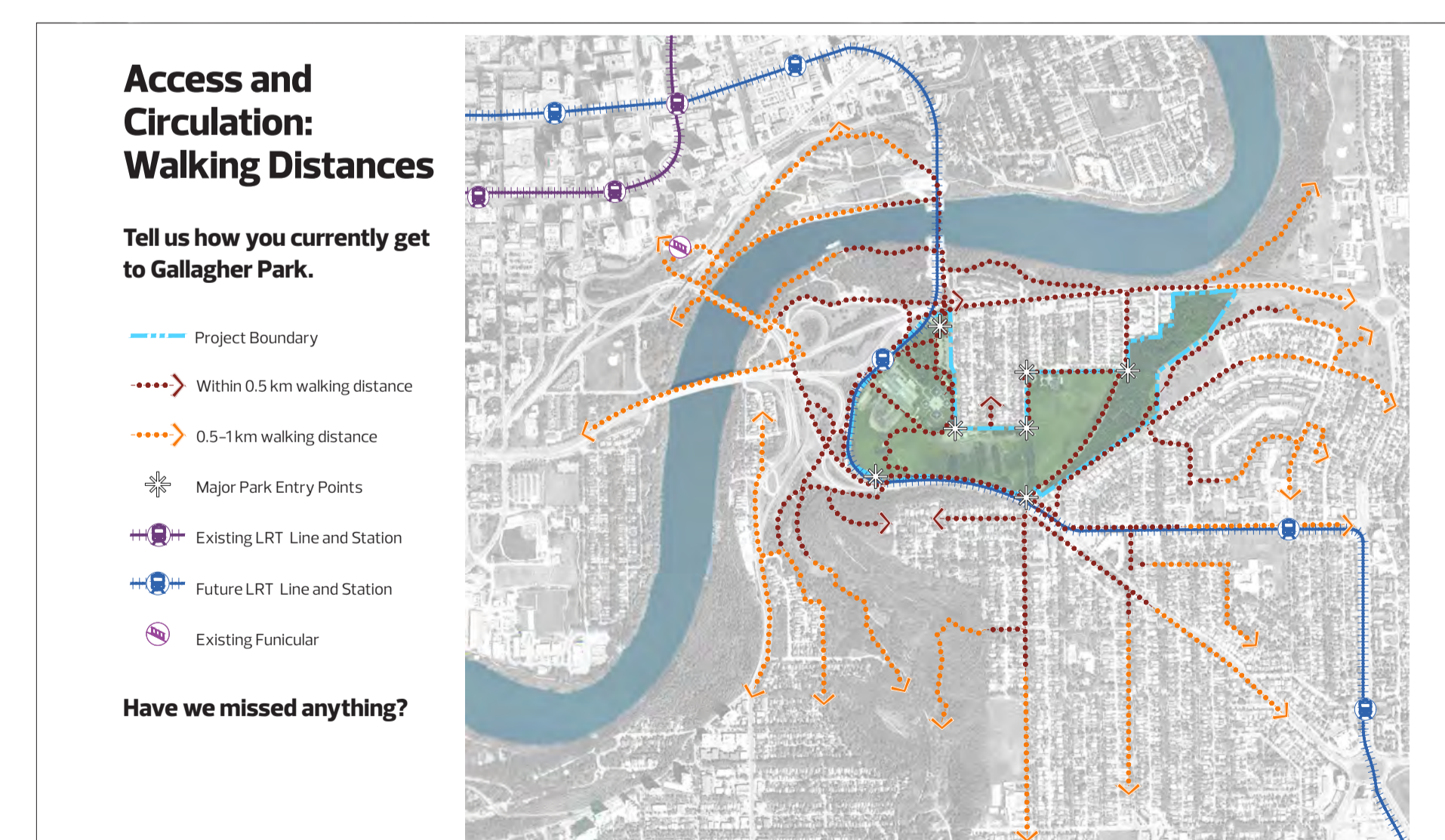
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Site History, Inventory & Analysis

Gallagher Park has always been a cherished and well-used river valley park. This location has been traditionally used as a gathering spot and place of commerce by Indigenous people and new settlers. It now provides walking, cycling and commuter access to river valley trails, the downtown core and the adjacent neighbourhoods both in the river valley and topping its banks. As a River Valley Park, its environmental assets are protected and, with careful planning, enhanced for the enjoyment of both Edmontonians and visitors. Spectacular views from the park are some of the best our City has to offer.

The following are examples of the Idea Gathering panels which attendees were asked to provide comments on during Phase 1 to inform our site analysis and understanding.



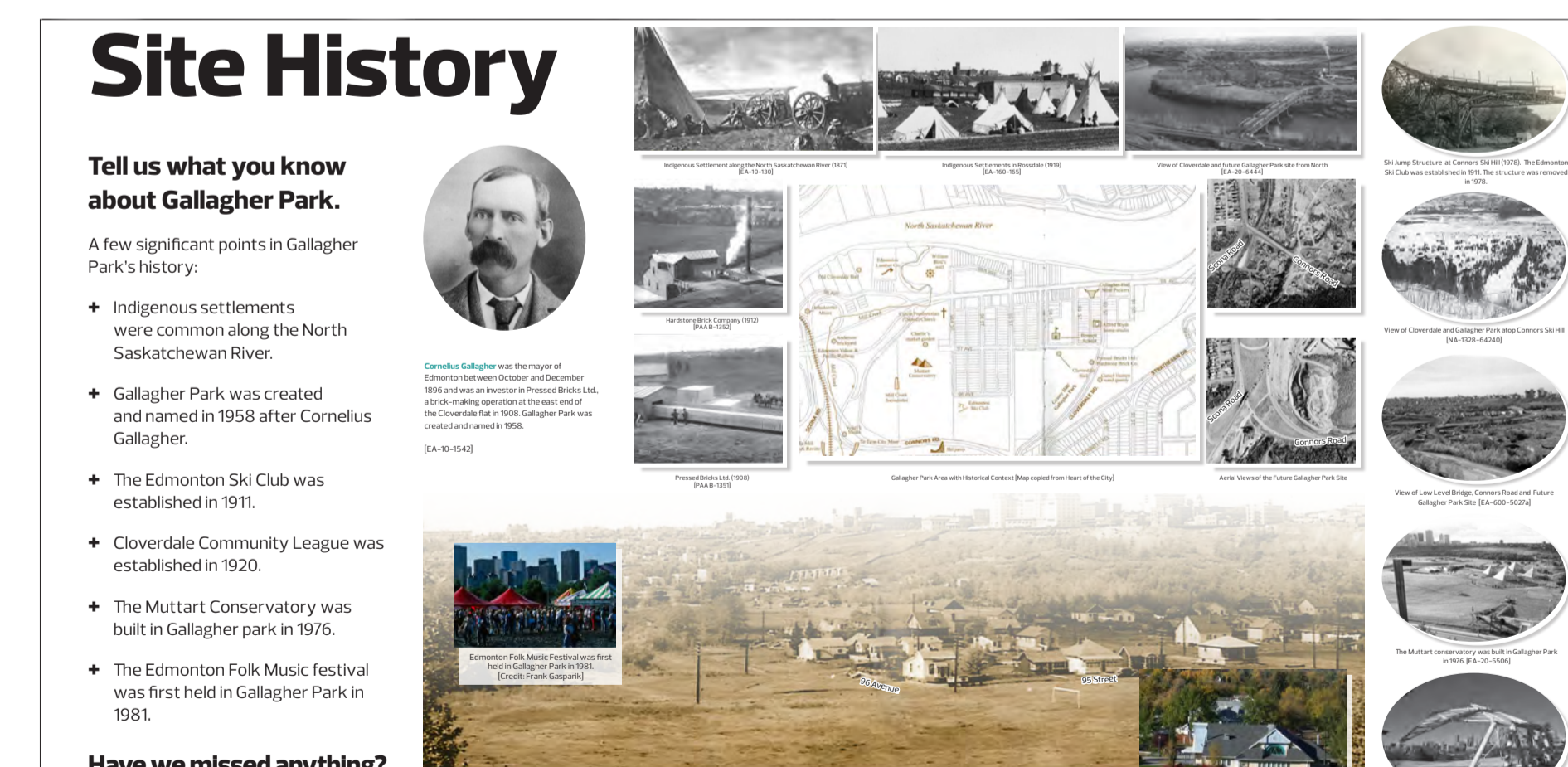
The Environmental Overview for this project has investigated local environmental conditions including:

- + Surface and groundwater, soils and terrain stability
- + Past contamination
- + Vegetation communities, weeds, and rare plants
- + Wildlife species, connectivity, and species at risk
- + Historical resources



The project area is important in Edmonton's history. A few significant points in Gallagher Park's history:

- + Indigenous settlements were common along the North Saskatchewan River.
- + Gallagher Park was created and named in 1958 after Cornelius Gallagher.
- + The Edmonton Ski Club was established in 1911.
- + Cloverdale Community League was established in 1920.
- + The Muttart Conservatory was built in Gallagher Park in 1976.
- + The Edmonton Folk Music festival was first held in Gallagher Park in 1981.



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Vision Statement & Guiding Principles

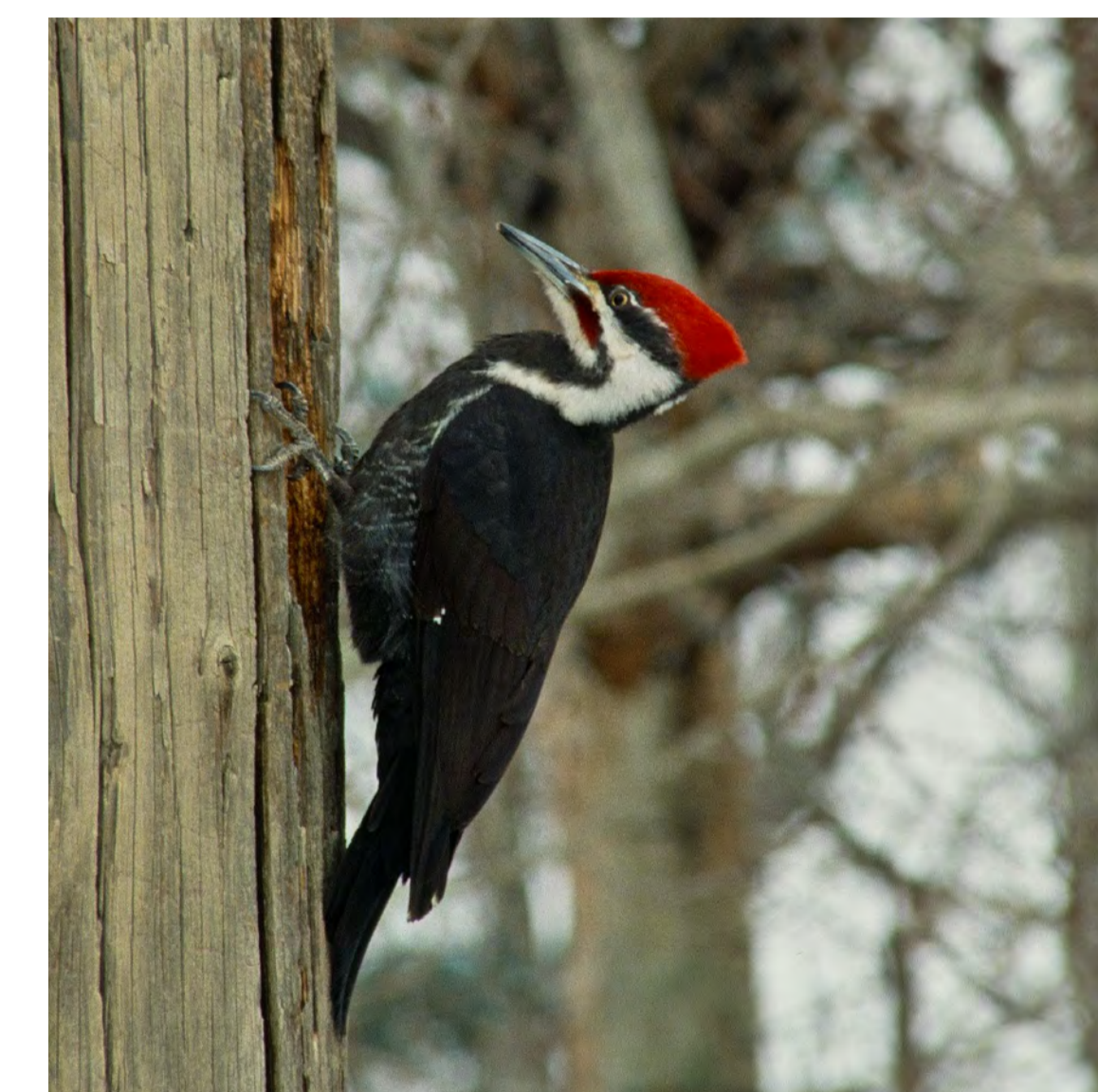
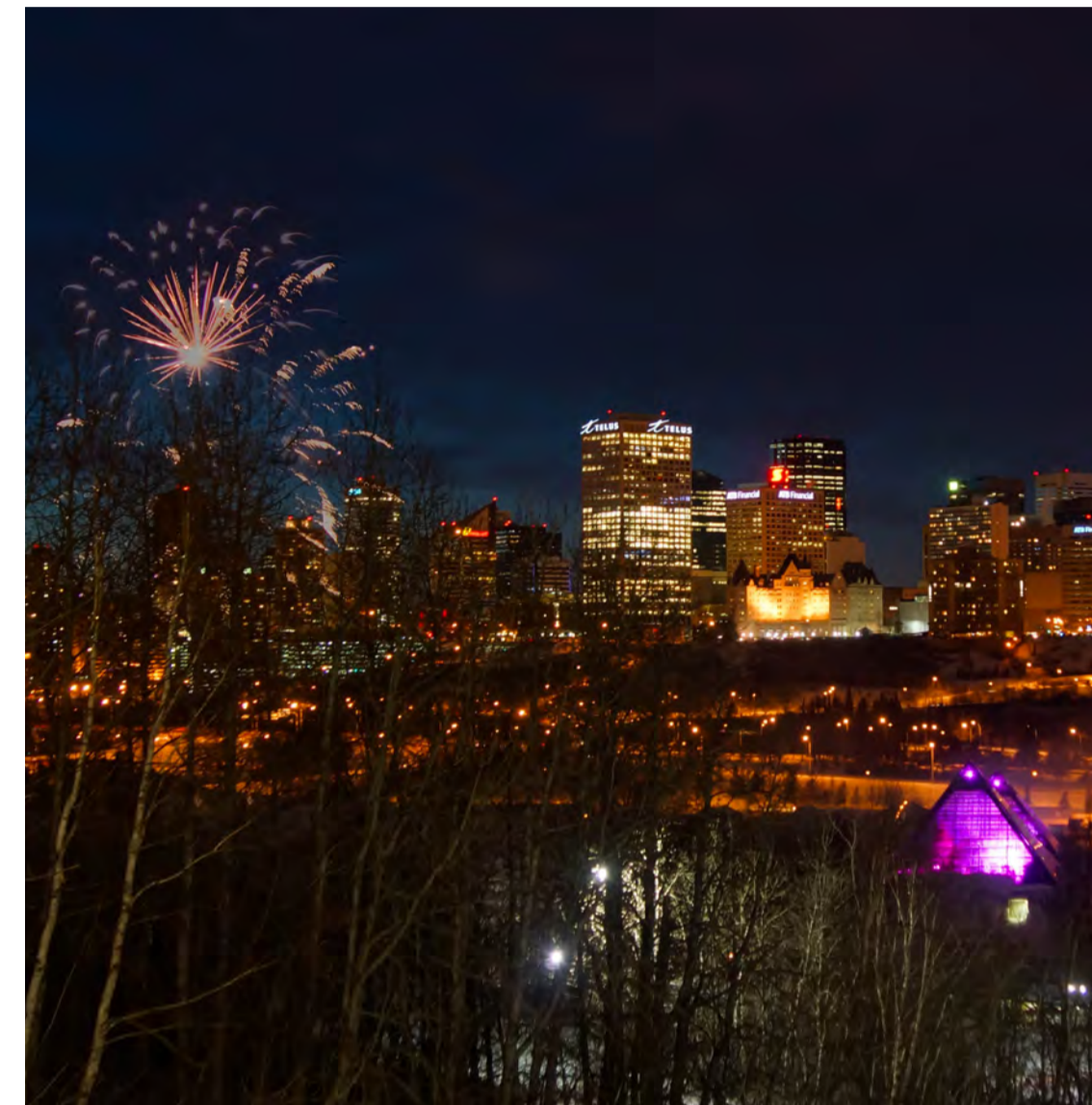
Our vision for Gallagher Park, the only river valley park accessed by LRT, is a hub for distinctive year-round recreational experiences that is integrated into the thriving city core and river valley system.

The **guiding principles** are:

- + Facilitate enhanced access to both active and passive recreational activities
- + Enhance the ecological values of the park
- + Provide facilities and infrastructure that support and enhance existing recreation and complimentary uses
- + Encourage LRT and active transportation access to the Park and its activities

Participants and respondents for the Phase 1 Engagement were generally very supportive of the proposed vision and guiding principles, and in agreement with the various components. There was considerable support for access by LRT, encouraging active transportation modes, access for persons with disabilities, and support for enhancing the ecological values of the park.

This vision statement and guiding principles were communicated and endorsed as part of Phase 1 of the project.



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What We Heard and Observed

Phase 1 Engagement: Gathering Ideas and Development of a Vision Statement & Guiding Principles

In support of citizen engagement in the first phase of development of this Concept Plan, the City of Edmonton hosted an engagement event on March 6, 2019, at the Cloverdale Community Hall.

The focus of this event was to secure input from the public on the proposed draft vision and guiding principles for the project and to gather additional ideas that would assist in the development of draft concept plan alternatives.

Stakeholder and Public Input

Input was obtained from site partners including the Cloverdale Community League, the Edmonton Folk Music Festival, the Edmonton Ski Club and the Muttart Conservatory, other external stakeholders, such as the Bennett Centre and from the public and stakeholders as summarized in the What We Heard report from Phase 1 of the project.

In addition to the proposed guiding principles, participants in the Phase 1 engagement also identified the following as important considerations in the development of the concept plan alternatives for Gallagher Park:

- + Access and accessibility
- + Environment and heritage
- + Recreational activities
- + Amenities
- + Safety and security

These topics are depicted on panel 5 in relation to the City's Breathe Strategy. Existing and proposed activities and related infrastructure connected to each of these topics is also depicted. This information provides a design program for the formulation of concept design options.



PARTICIPANT PROFILE

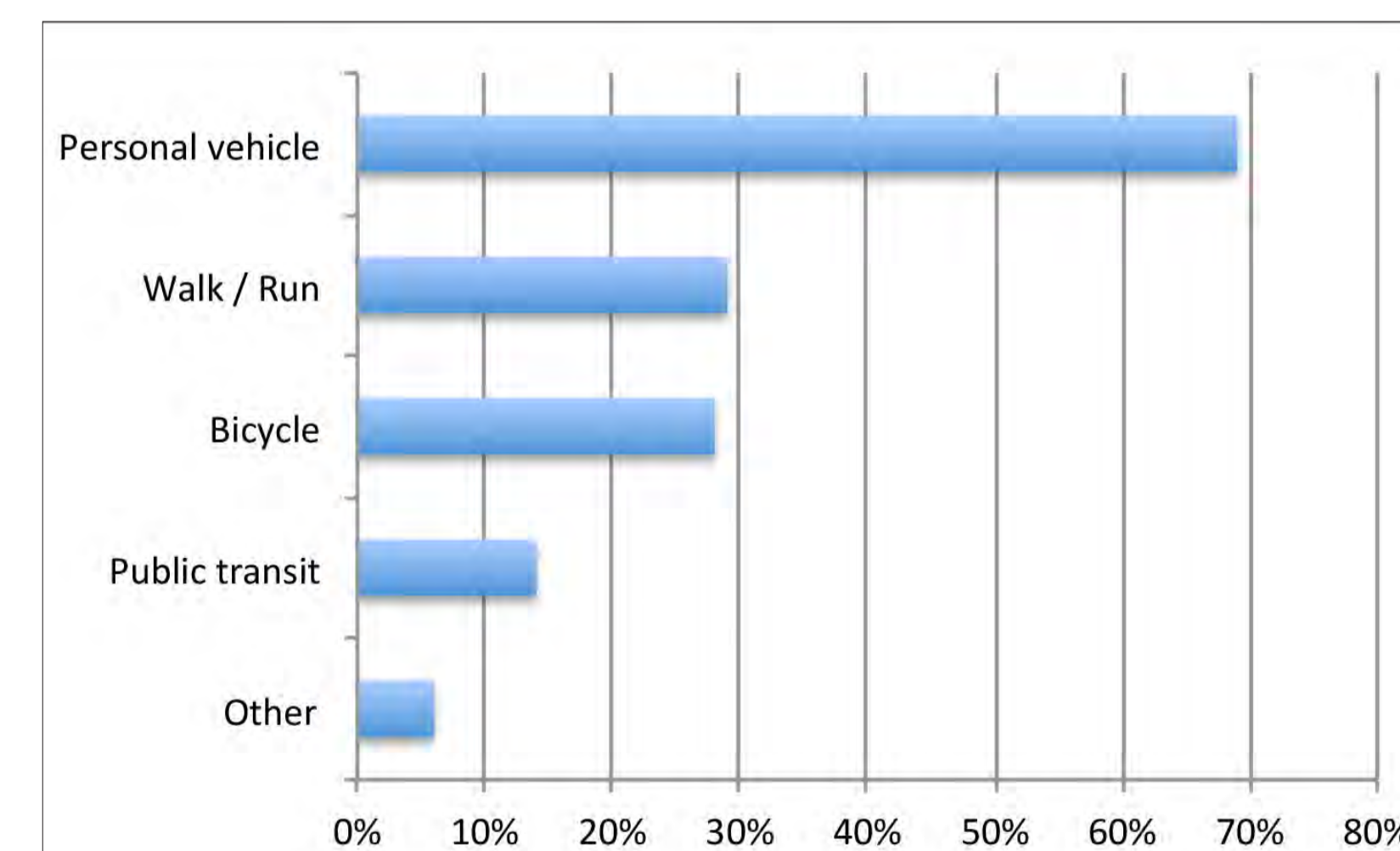
How do participants currently use Gallagher Park?

Participants provided information on how they currently use Gallagher Park...



How do participants currently get to Gallagher Park?

...and how participants currently access Gallagher Park.



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Existing Features & Activities – Summer



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Existing Features & Activities – Winter



- EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS**
- Existing Park Entry
 - Existing Path
 - Existing Viewpoint with Seating
 - Existing Pedestrian Crosswalk
 - Existing Traffic Signal
 - Existing / Planned Ski Lifts
- EXISTING AMENITIES**
- Future LRT Station (under construction)
 - Parking Area
 - Bike Lane / Bike Path
 - Shared-Use Path
 - Pedestrian Path
 - Staircase
 - Courtyard
 - Picnic Table
 - Ornamental Planting
 - Naturalized Planting
 - Sledding
 - Snowshoeing
 - Downhill Skiing

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Proposed Enhancements – Summer

What do you think of the proposed enhancements?



EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS

- Existing Park Entry
- Existing Path
- Existing Viewpoint with Seating
- Existing / Future Ski Lifts
- Folk Festival Structures

PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS

- Formal Park Entry
- Proposed Path
- Proposed Viewpoint
- Proposed Vehicle Barriers
- Bike Lane / Bike Path
- Variable Width Shared-use Path (Minimum 3m Wide)
- Shared-Use Path
- Pedestrian Path / Sidewalk
- Public Washrooms (location to be determined)
- Courtyard / Seating
- Picnic Sites

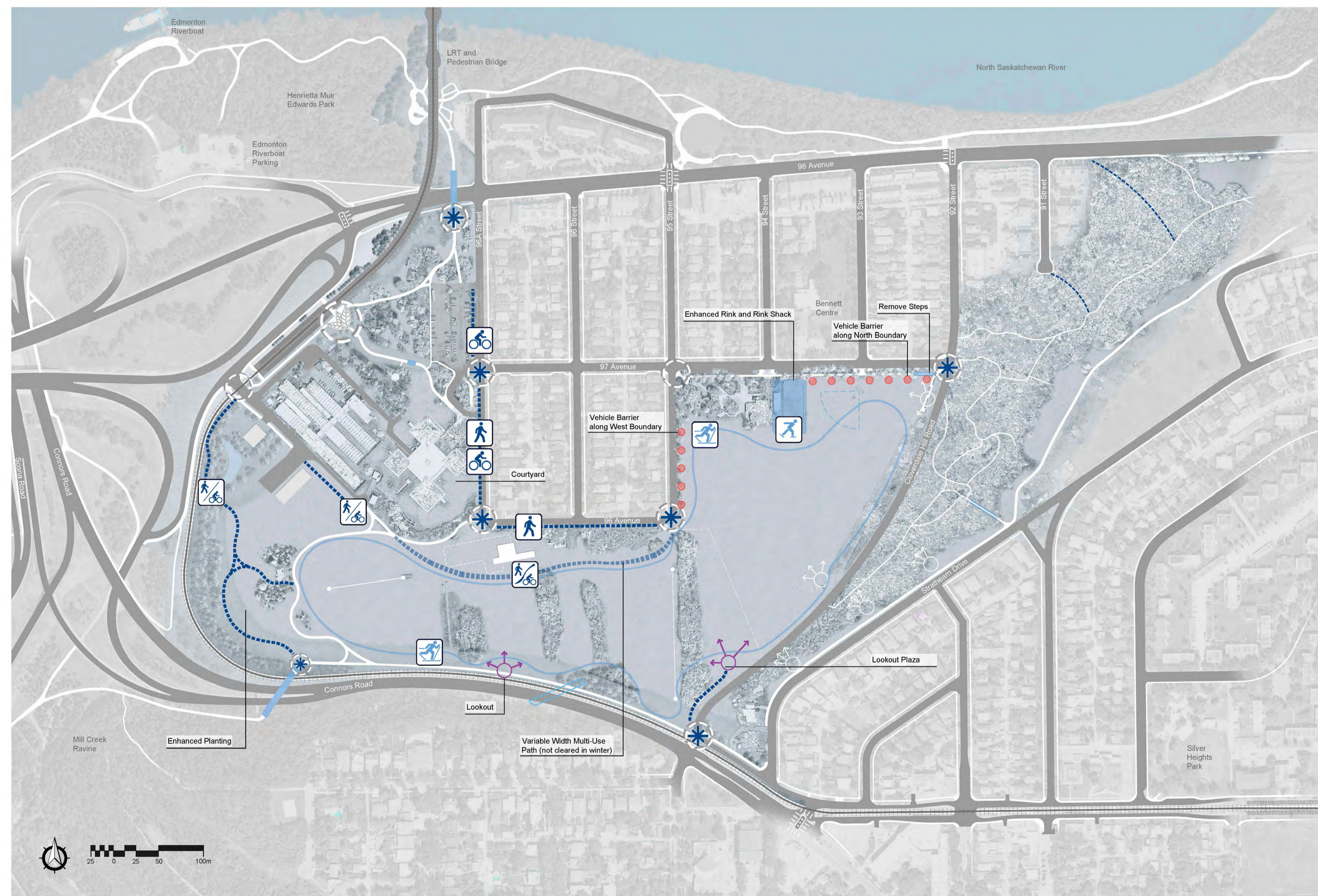
*** Overall Drainage and Electrical Upgrades will be incorporated

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Proposed Enhancements – Winter

What do you think of the proposed enhancements?



- EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS**
- Existing Park Entry
 - Existing Path
 - Existing Viewpoint with Seating
 - Existing / Future Ski Lifts
- PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS**
- Formal Park Entry
 - Proposed Path
 - Proposed Viewpoint
 - Proposed Vehicle Barriers
 - Proposed Nordic Ski Track
 - Bike Path / Bike Lane
 - Shared-Use Path
 - Variable Width Shared-use Path (Minimum 3m Wide)
 - Pedestrian Path / Sidewalk
 - Public Washrooms (location to be determined)
 - Courtyard / Seating
 - Picnic Sites
 - Ice Skating
 - Cross-country Skiing
- *** Overall Drainage and Electrical Upgrades will be incorporated

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Proposed Park Enhancements

Please review the examples of proposed enhancements shown below. Which of these proposed enhancements are most important to you?

Access & Accessibility



Additional Shared Use Path/Sidewalk Linkages



Modified Vehicle Access & Parking



Enhanced Park Entries

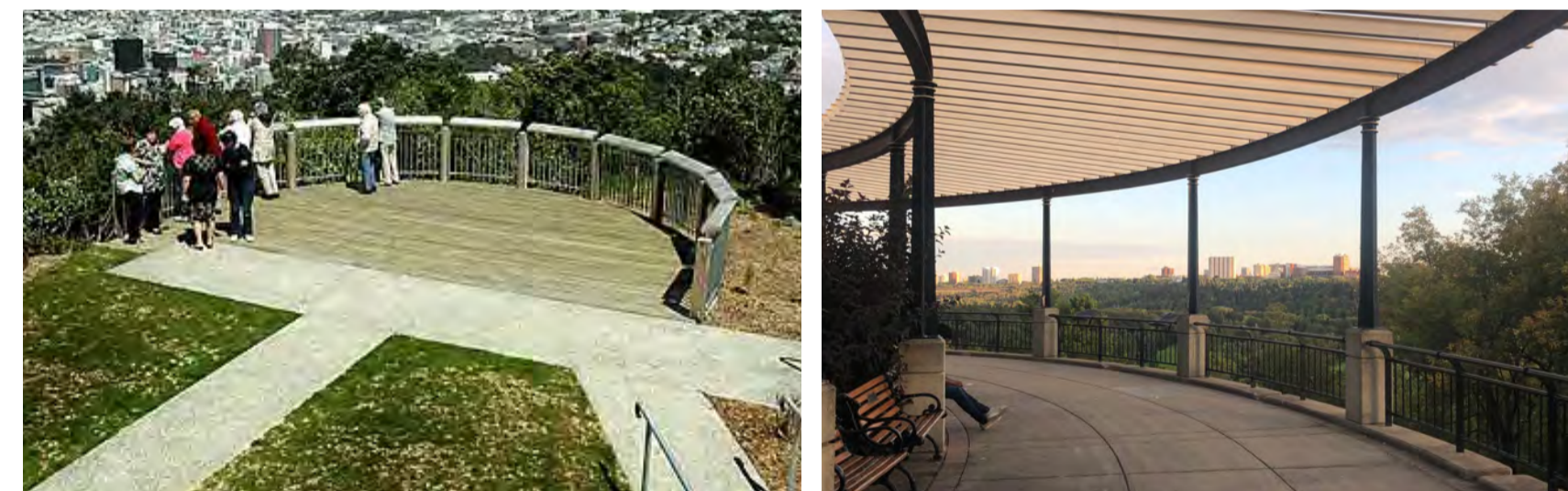
Amenities



Public Washrooms



Additional Courtyards/Seats near Muttart Conservatory



Viewpoints/Lookout Plazas



Warming Huts

Environment & Heritage



Enhanced Planting



Interpretive Signage (Nature and Heritage)

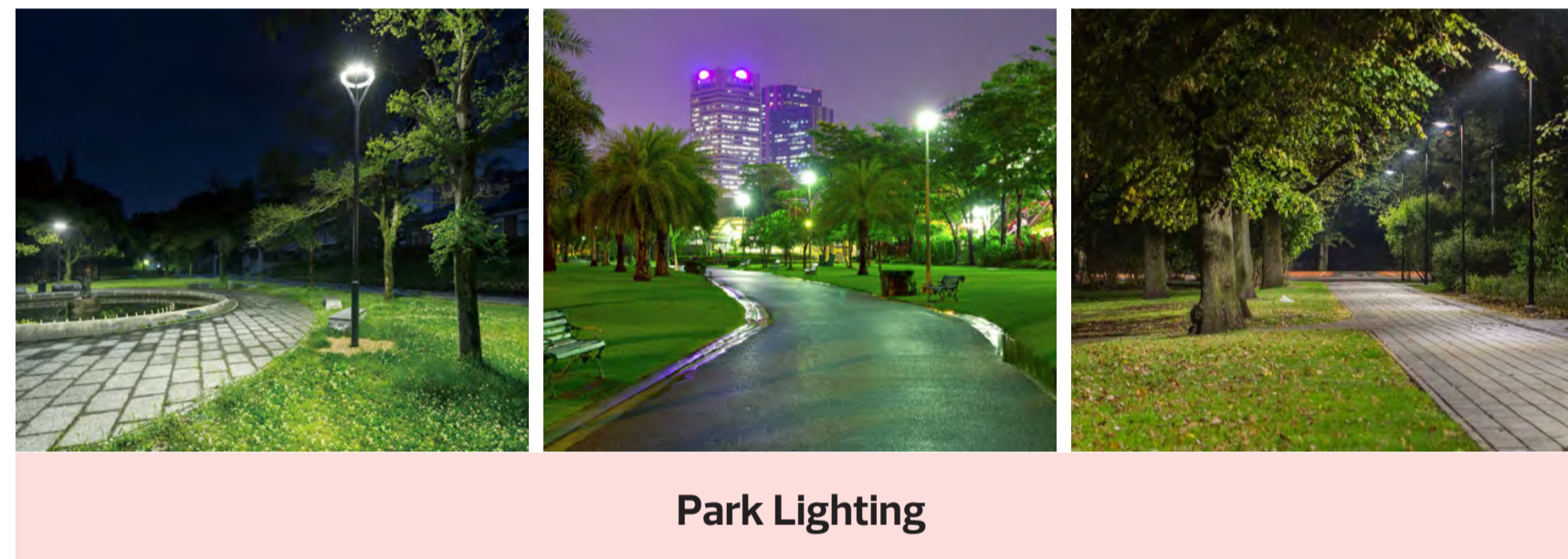
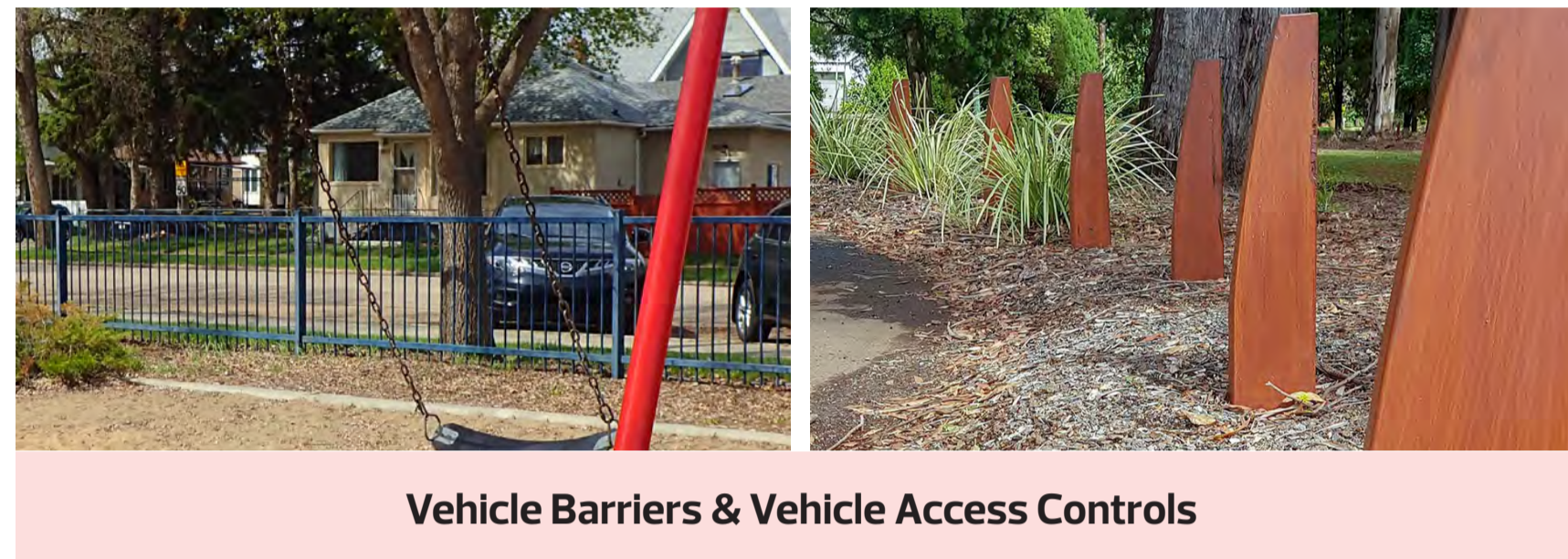
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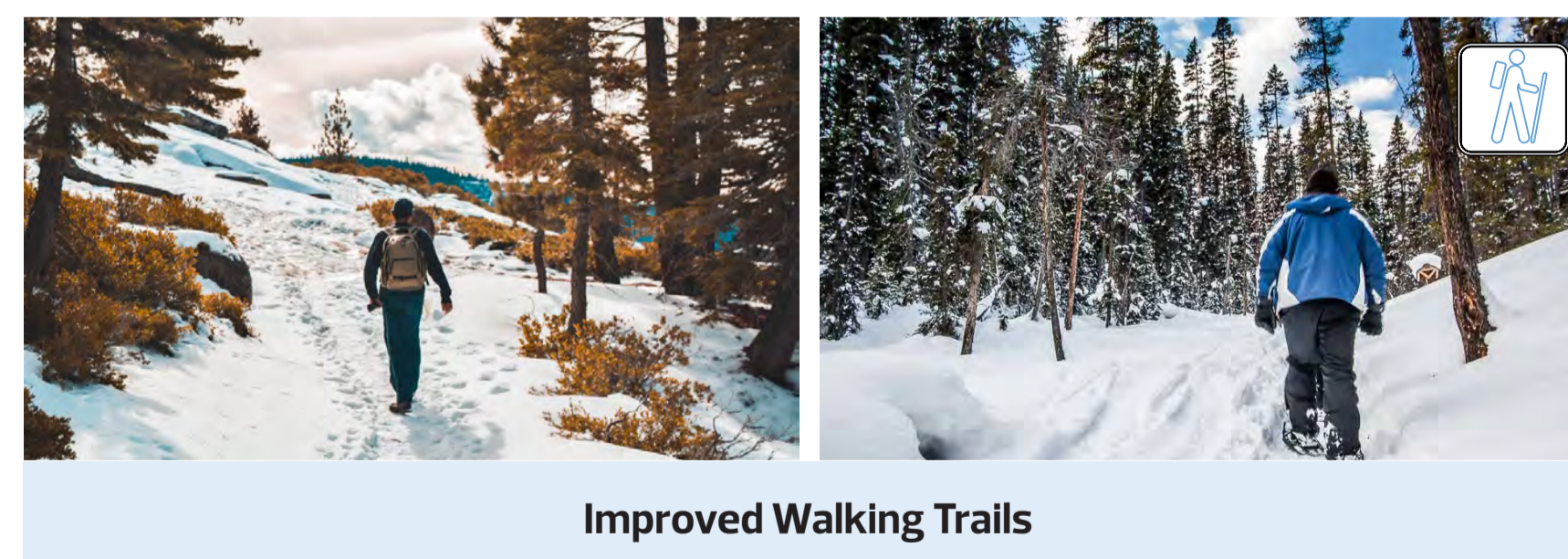
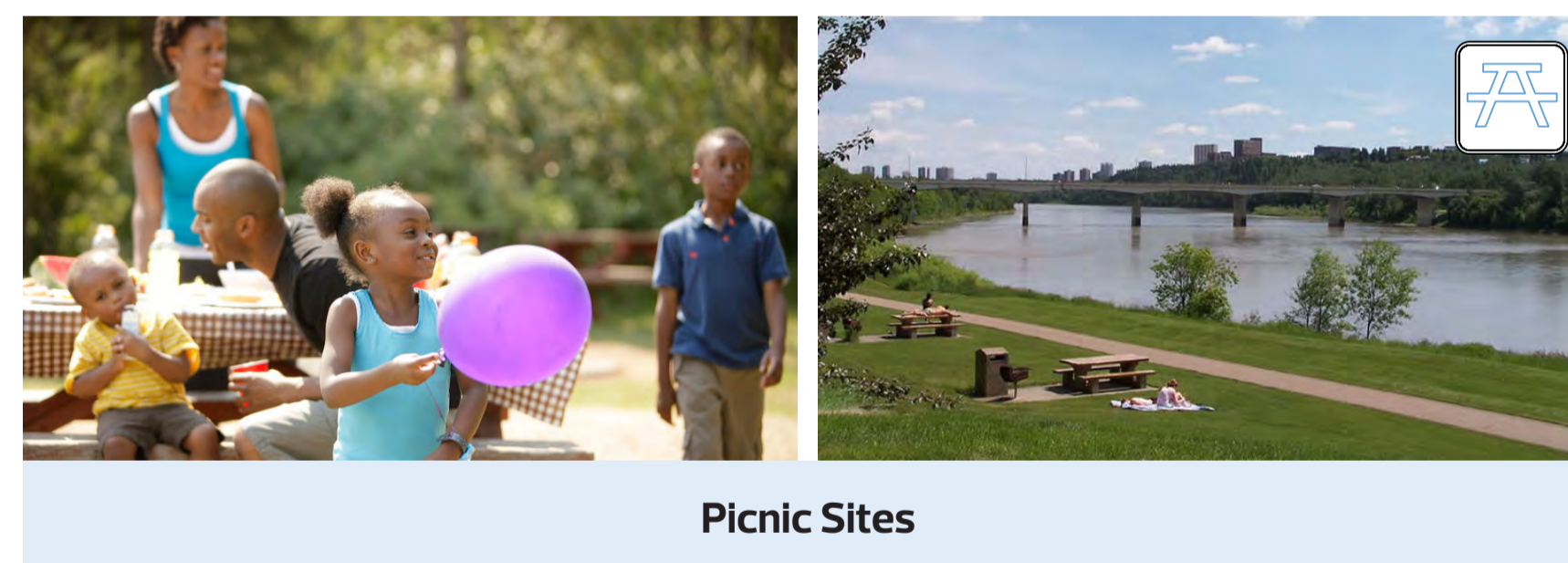
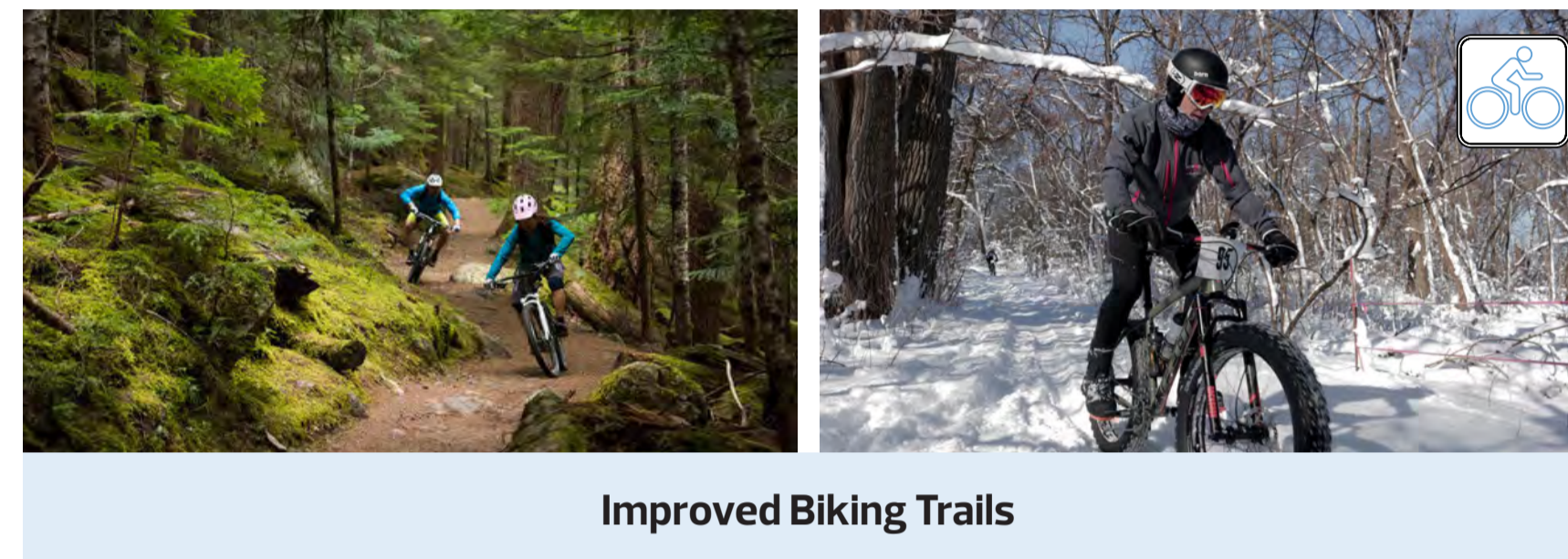
Proposed Park Enhancements

Please review the examples of proposed enhancements shown below. Which of these proposed enhancements are most important to you?

Safety & Security



Recreational Activities



Other Comments?

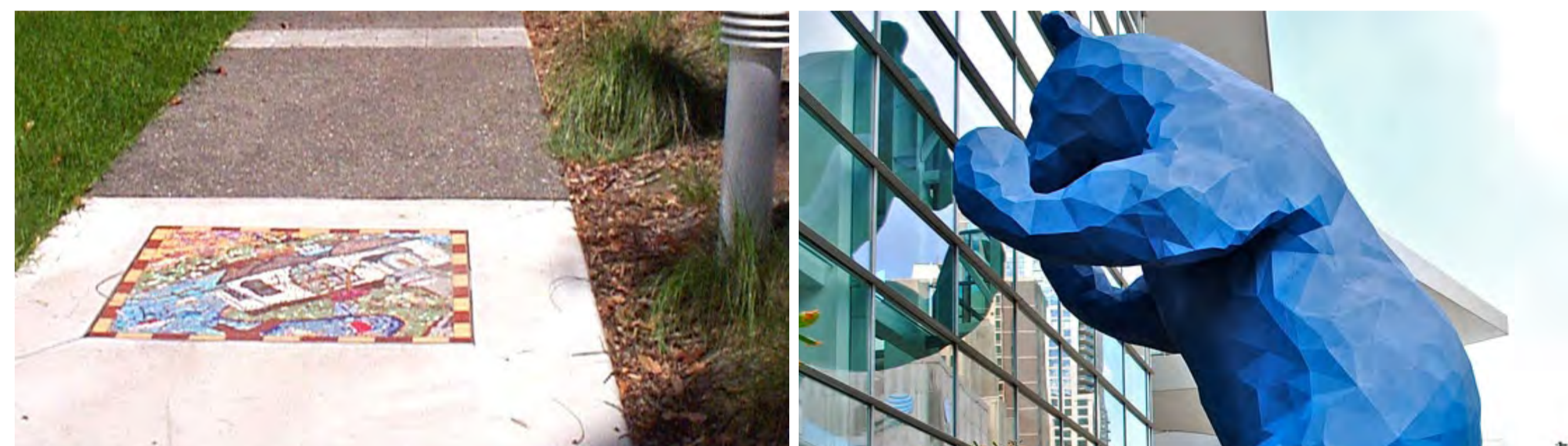


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Possible Partnership Opportunities

Below are examples of additions to Gallagher Park that could be made possible through funding from a partner organization or community group. Which of these proposed enhancements are most important to you?



Additional Public Art



Ice Climbing/Rock Climbing



Multi-Use Building



Rink Shack and Rink Upgrades



Snow Tubing



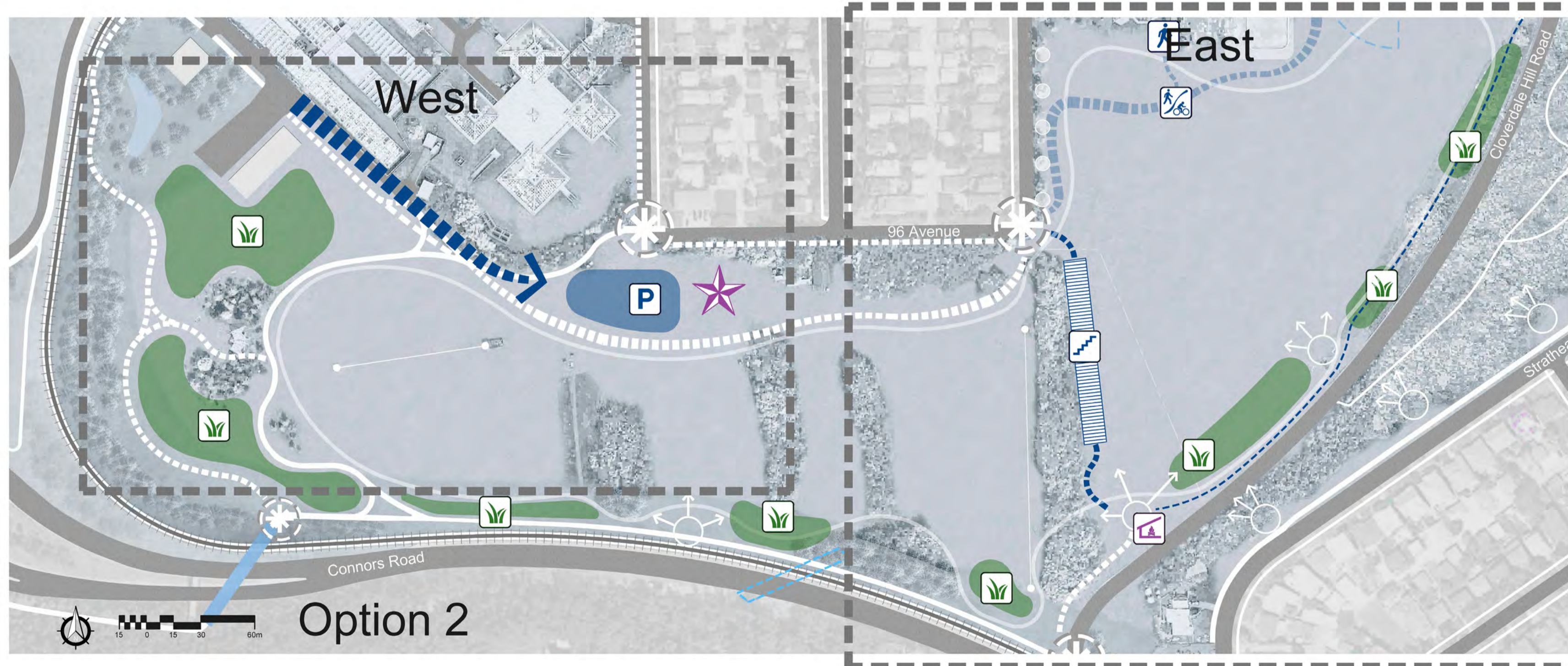
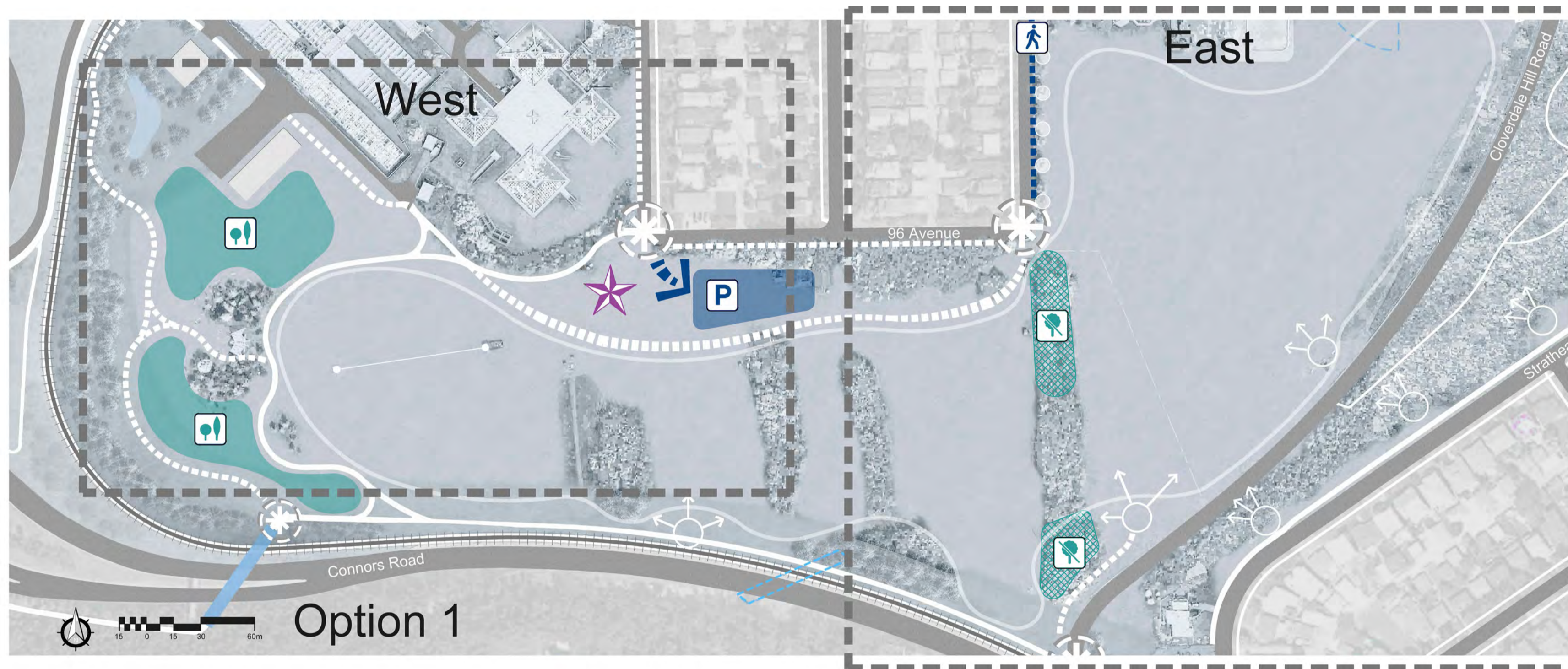
Chairlift

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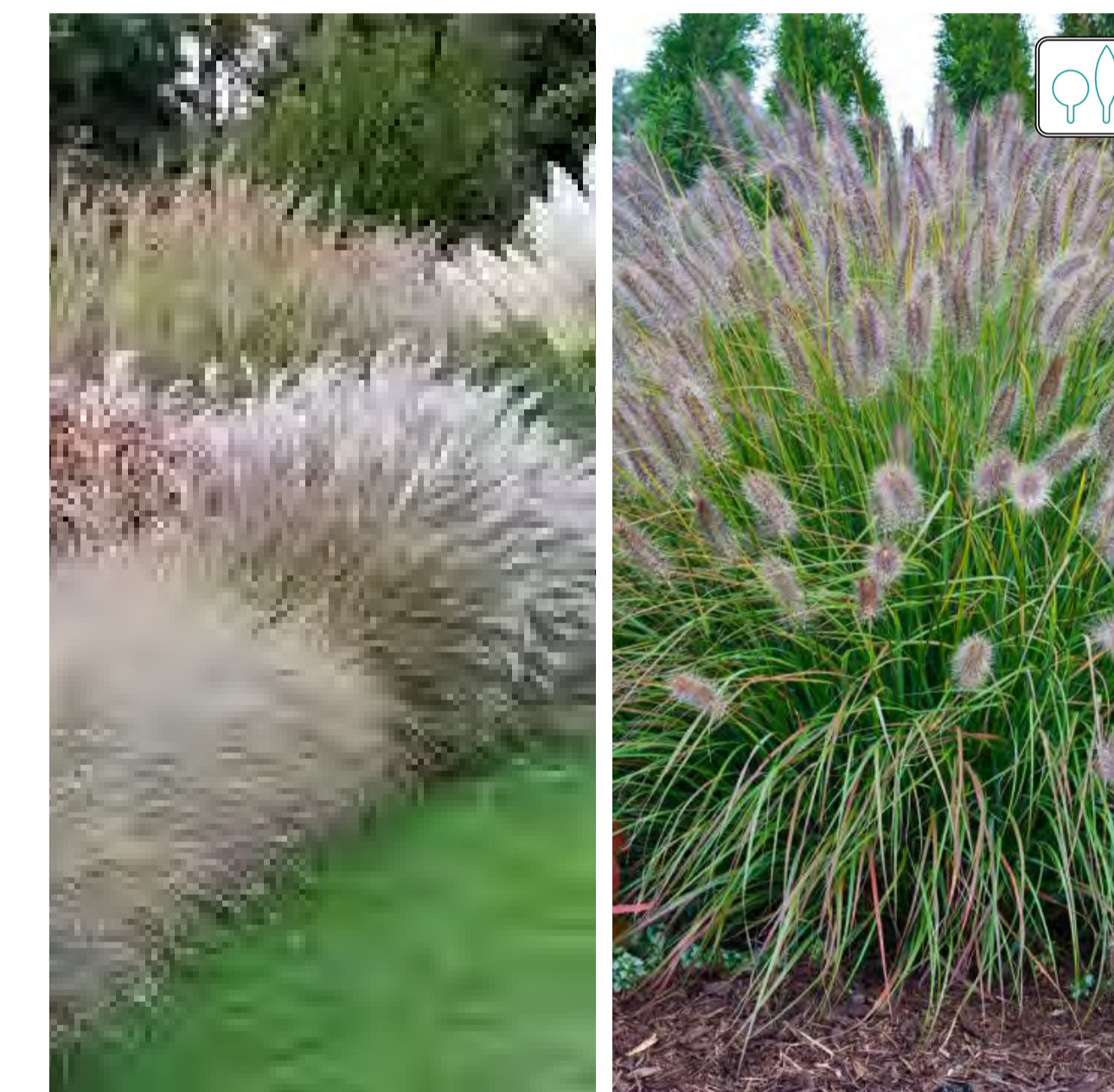
Optional Enhancements – Landscaping

Gallagher Park currently includes ornamental gardens located north of Muttart Conservatory and groups of remnant native trees and shrubs on the slopes below Connors Road. The future landscape of Gallagher Park could include either a primarily ornamental landscape (Option 1) or a primarily naturalized landscape (Option 2). Please identify your preference for either Option 1 or Option 2.



- EXISTING SITE ELEMENTS & PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS**
- Existing Park Entry
 - Existing Path
 - Existing / Proposed Viewpoint with Seating
 - Existing / Future Ski Lifts
 - Proposed Formal Park Entry
 - Proposed Path
 - Proposed Vehicle Barrier
- OPTIONAL PARK ELEMENTS**
- Pathway Connection
 - Vehicle Access
 - Multi-Use Building
 - Ski Lift
 - Shared-Use Path
 - Pedestrian Path
 - Parking Area
 - Staircase
 - Warming Hut
 - Tree Removal to Accommodate New Ski Run
 - Ornamental Planting
 - Naturalized Planting

Option 1 – Ornamental Planting



Option 2 – Naturalized Landscape

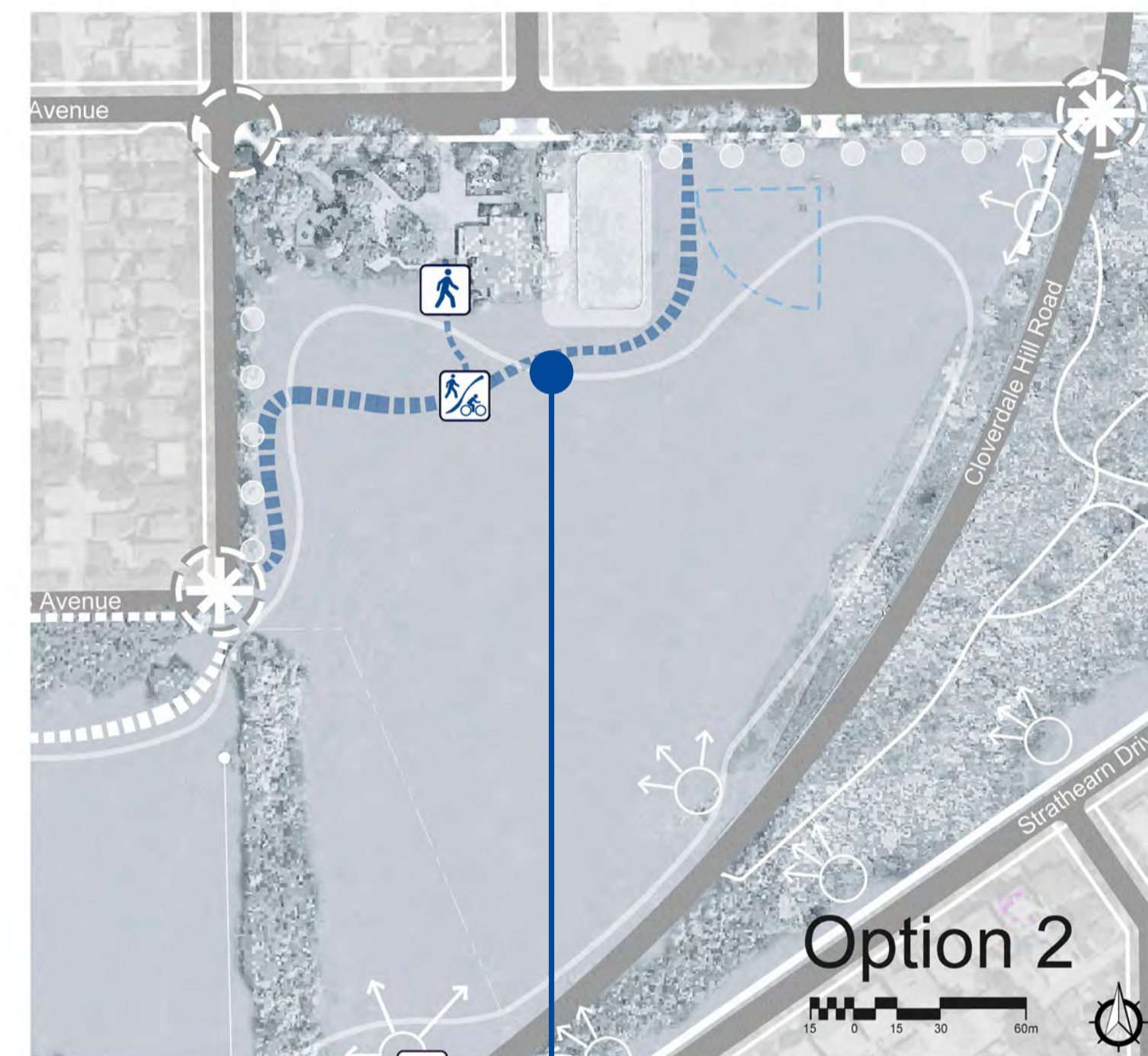
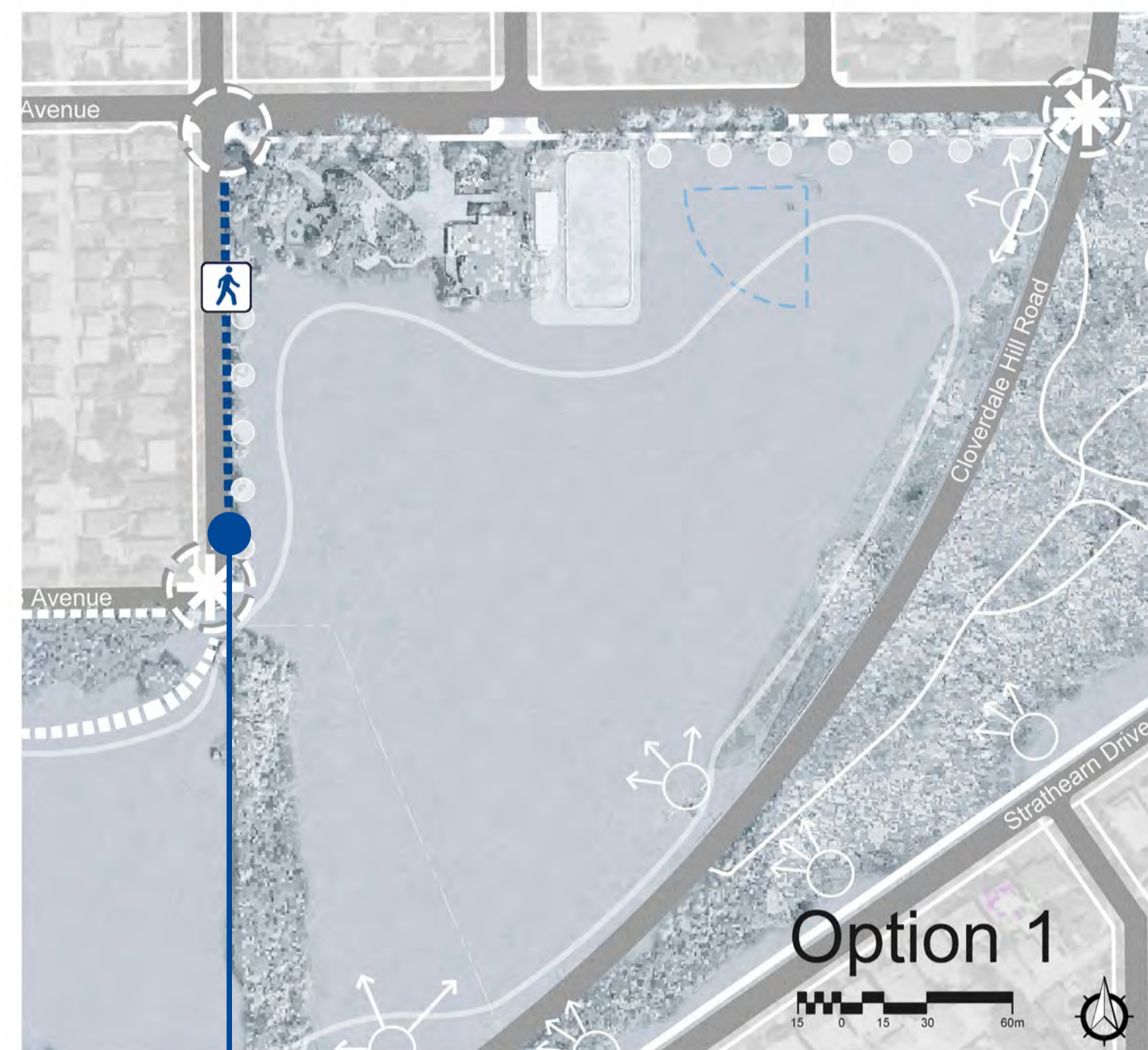


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Optional Enhancements – Pathways

The pathway alternatives shown below would provide access from the corner of 96 Ave and 95 Street to the community league facilities. Please identify your preference for either Option 1 or Option 2.



In this option, a sidewalk would be provided along the east side of 95 Street.

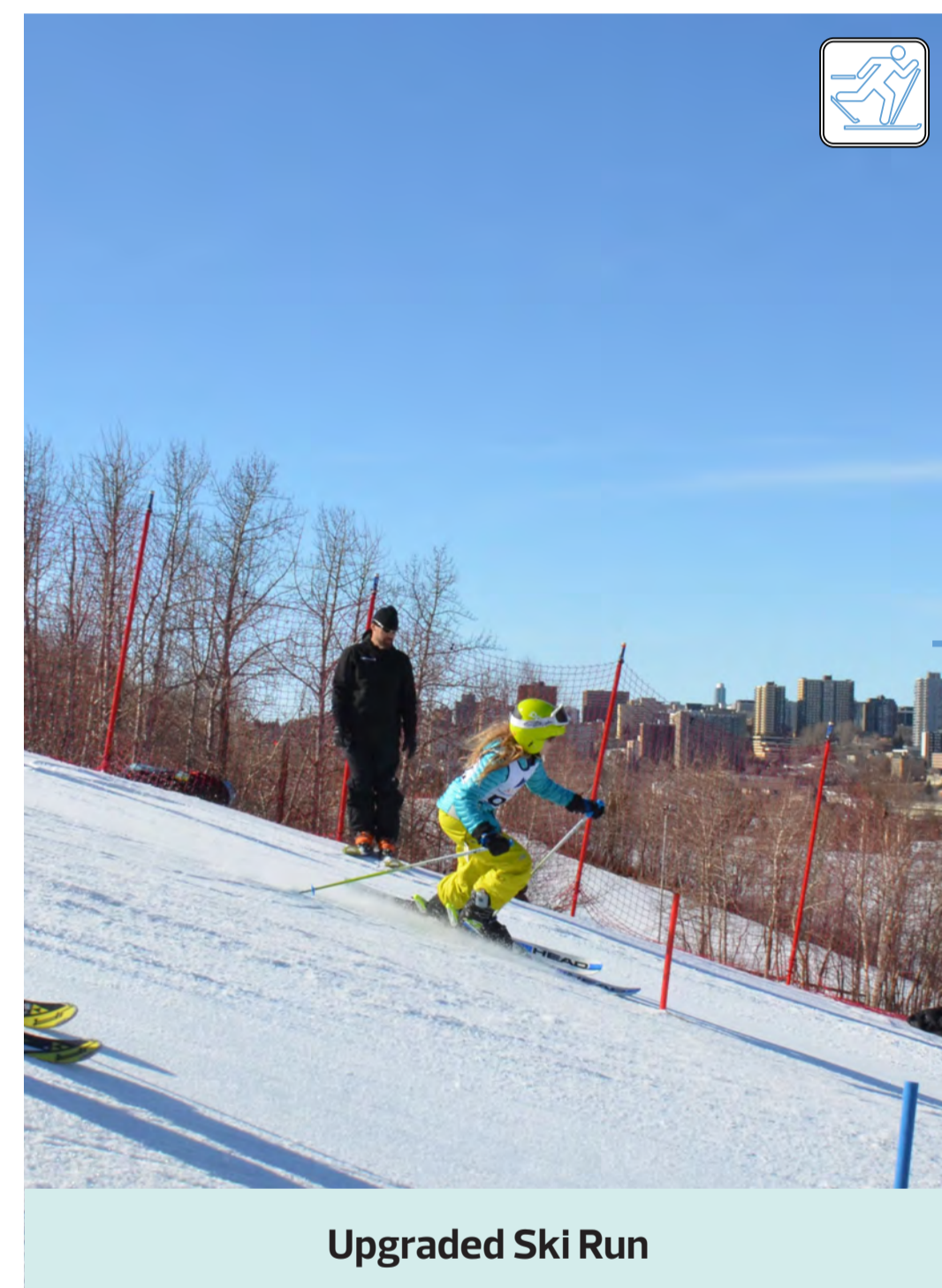


In this option, a minimum 3m wide shared use path would be provided through the level area of the park. It would be located to avoid tent and stage locations for the Edmonton Folk Musical Festival.

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Optional Enhancements – Skiing Upgrades vs. Larger Sledding Area & Staircase

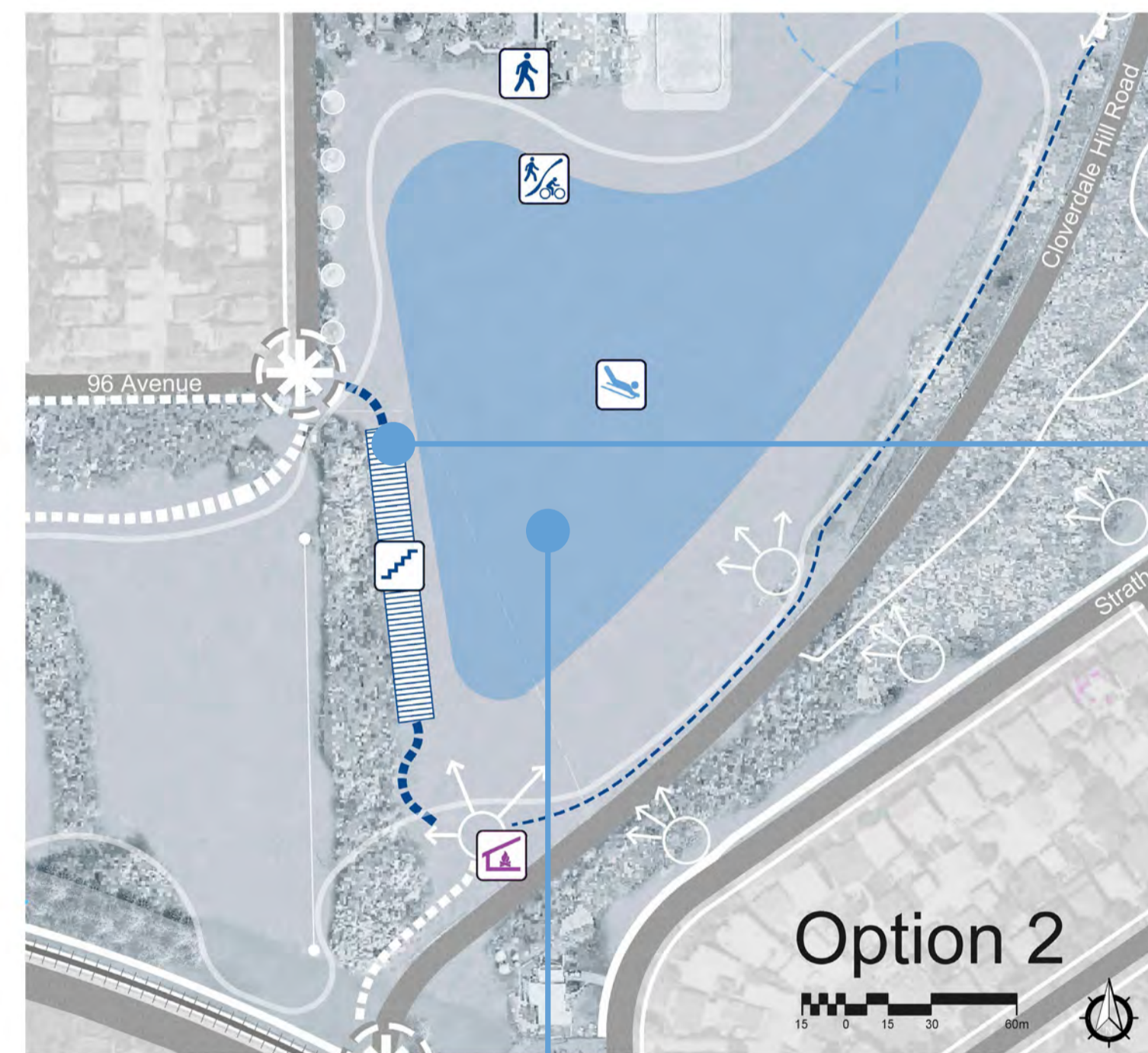
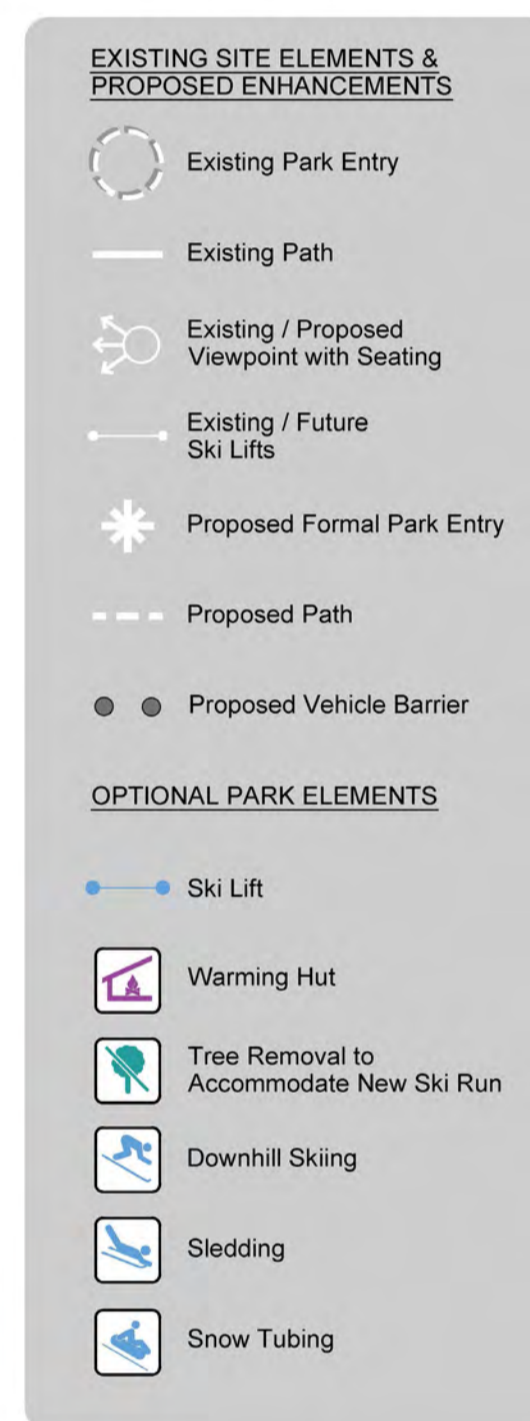
In the portion of the park shown below there is an opportunity to upgrade skiing facilities (Option 1) or provide a staircase and retain a large sledding area (Option 2). It is not possible to incorporate both in this location. Please identify your preference for either Option 1 or Option 2.



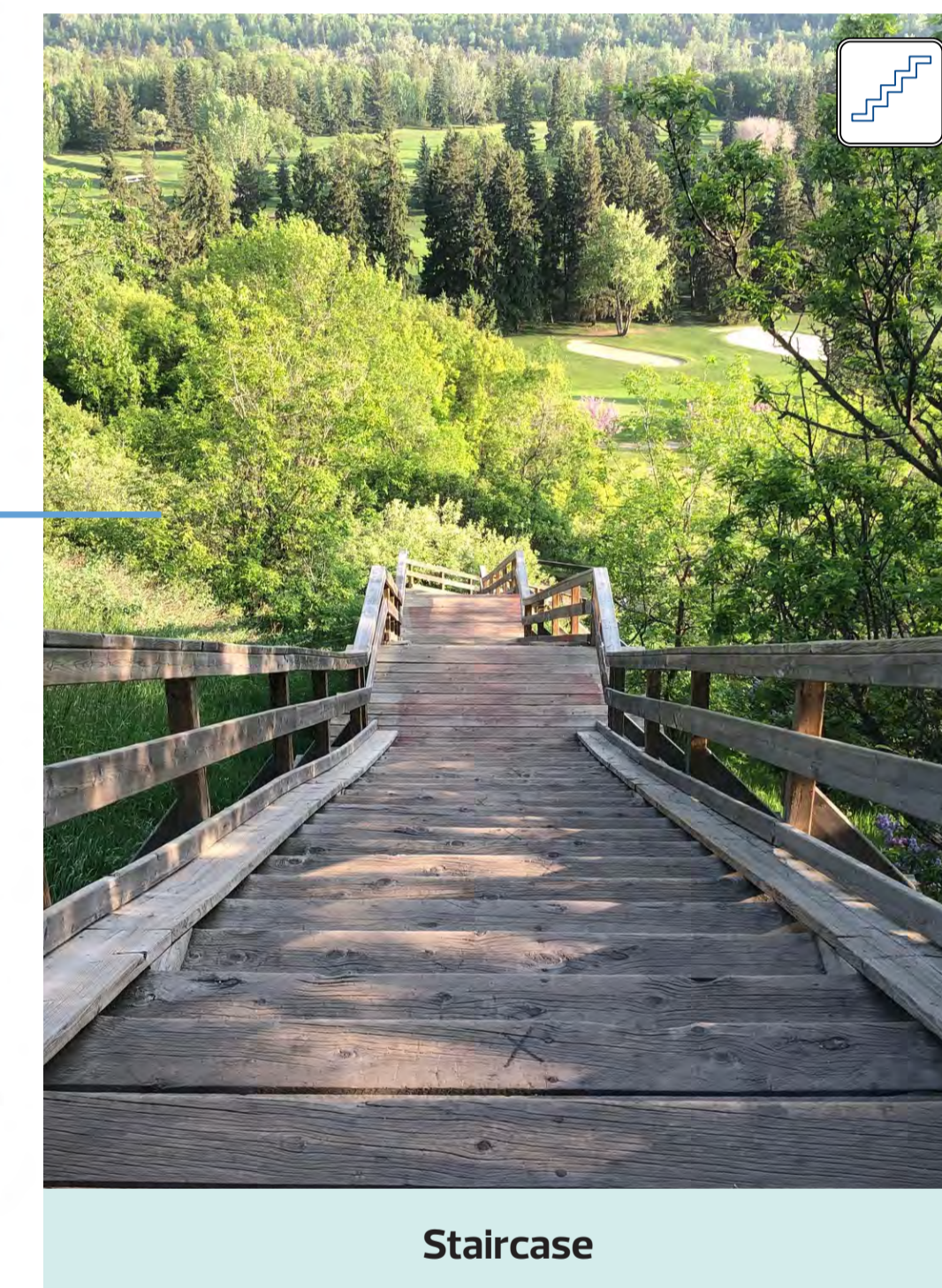
Upgraded Ski Run



Option 1



Option 2

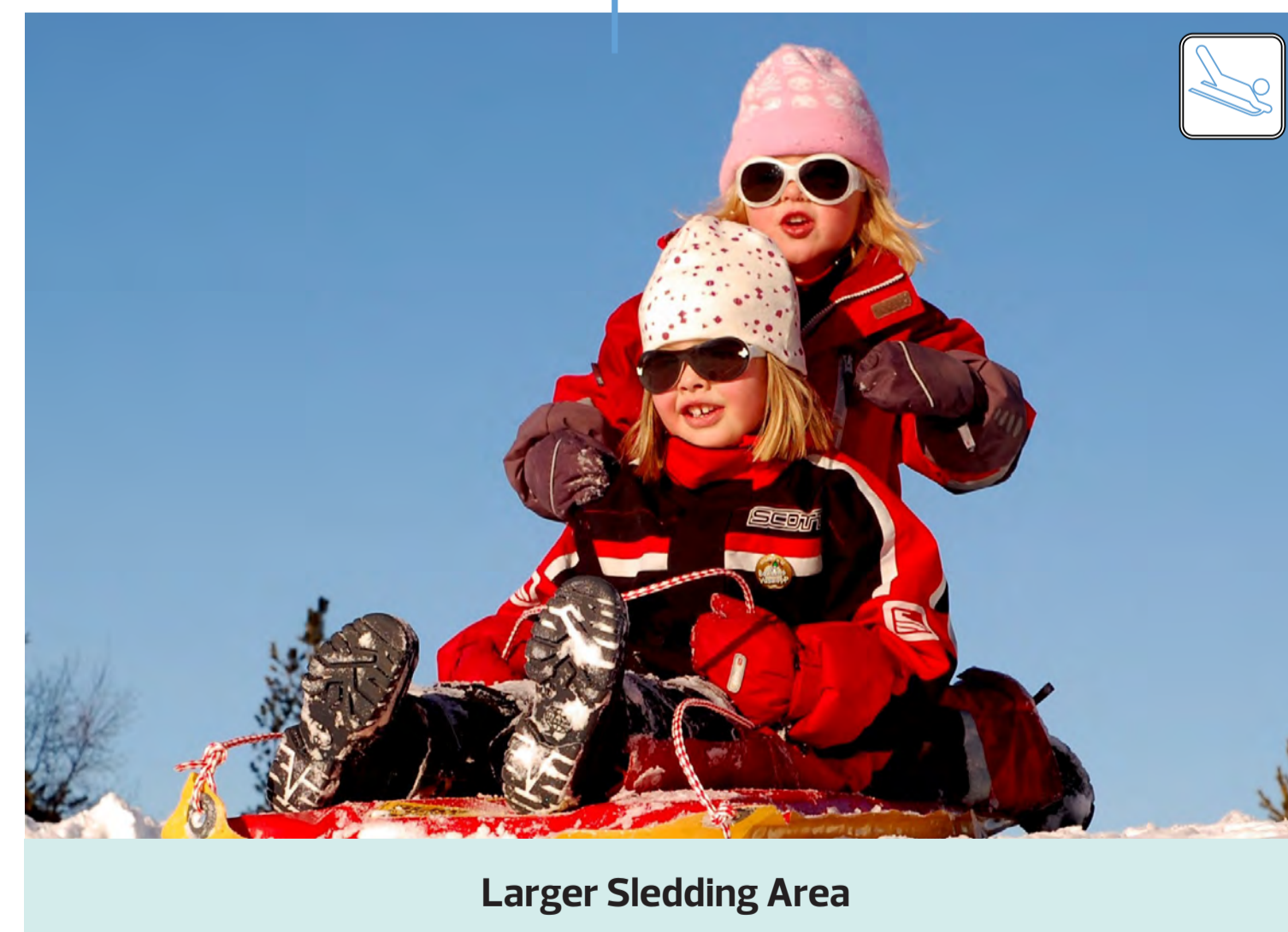


Staircase

In this option, a chair lift could be provided by a partner organization to the top of the existing T-bar. Some tree clearing and regrading would be required to create an upgraded ski run. A tubing run could also be provided.



Chair Lift



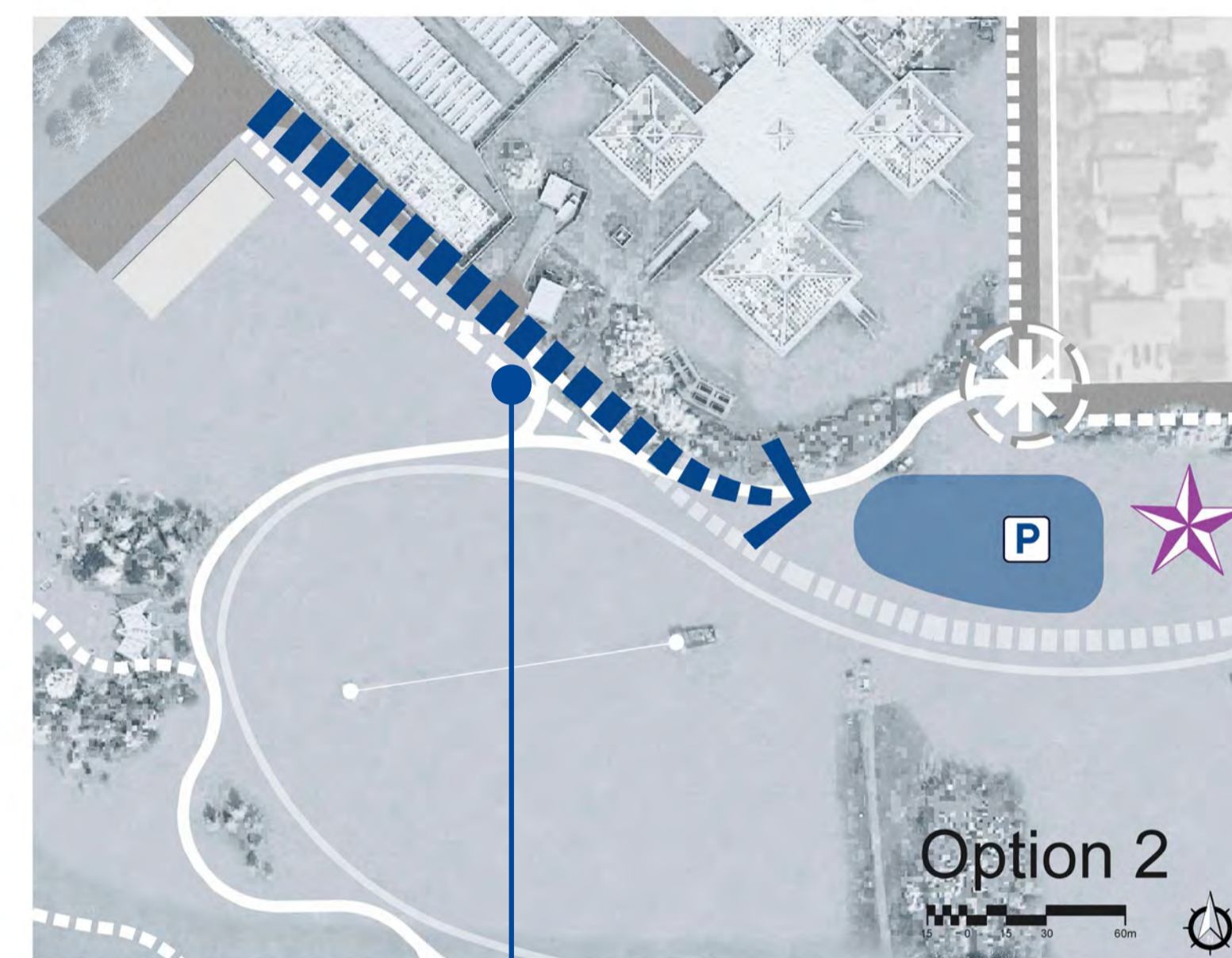
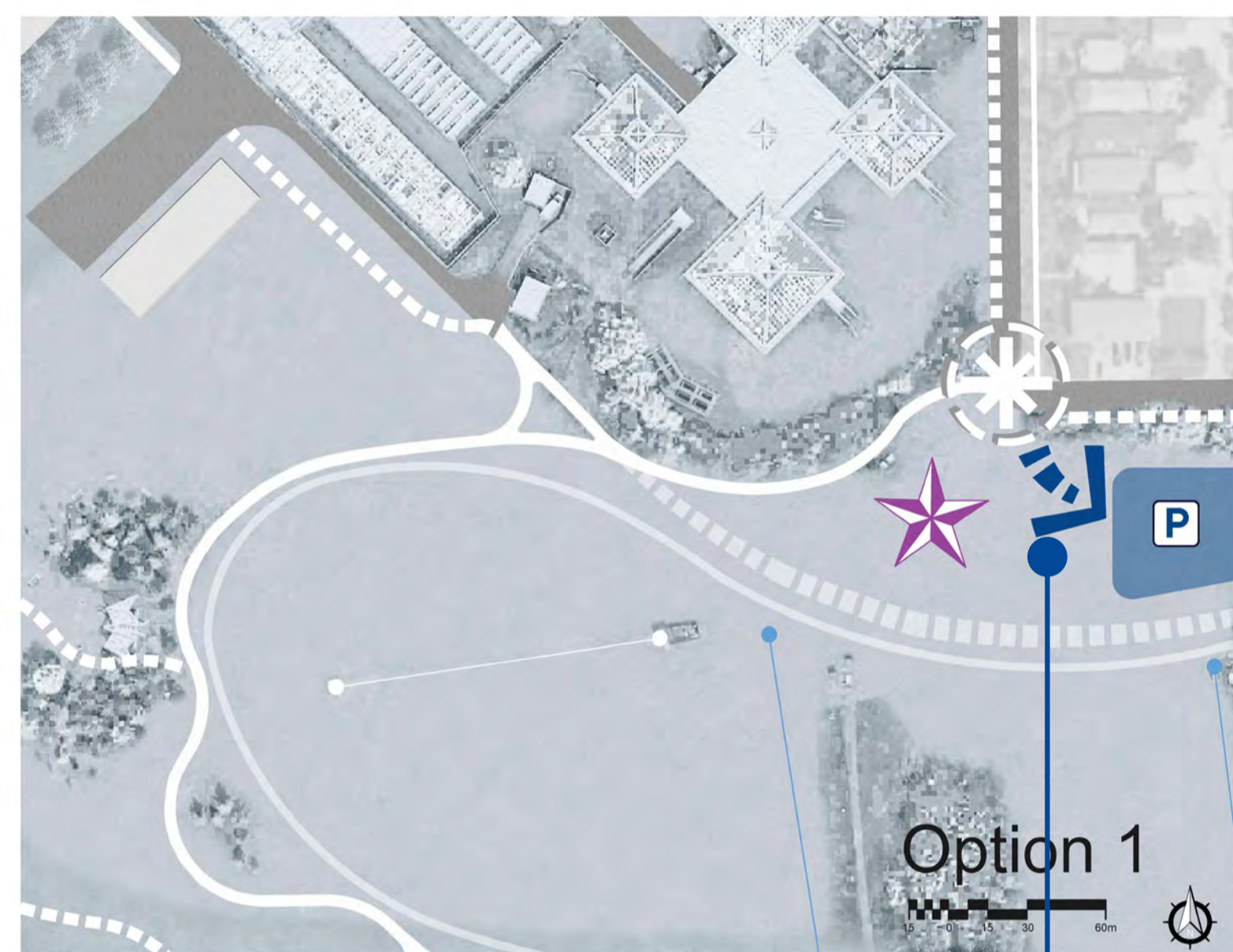
Larger Sledding Area

In this option, the existing T-bar would be retained. A new staircase would be provided. A large sledding area would be retained.

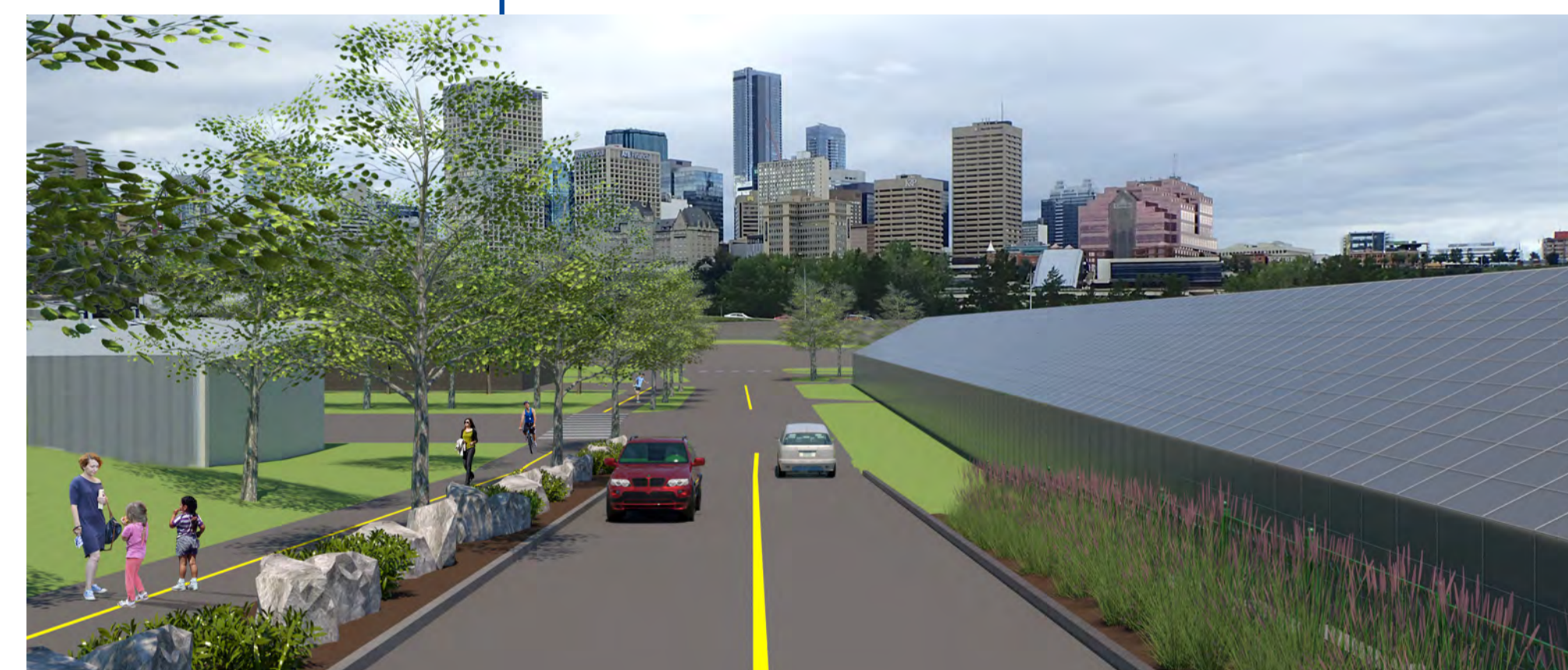
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Optional Enhancements – Vehicle Access

As shown below, there are two alternatives for providing vehicle access to the parking area in the park. Please identify your preference for either Option 1 or Option 2.



Vehicle Access – From 96A Street



Vehicle Access – From West

In this option, the existing vehicle entry at the south end of 96A Street would be retained and enhanced. This access would not be affected by LRT operations or vehicles servicing the Muttart Conservatory.

In this option, a new vehicle access would be provided across the LRT track and south of the Muttart Conservatory. The existing vehicle access from the south end of 96A Street would be used for emergency access only. This option could reduce vehicular traffic on local streets in Cloverdale.

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Next Steps

We need YOUR input!

We want to know what you think of the concept plan ideas and options for Gallagher Park.

Stay Involved

A further public engagement event is scheduled for the final project phase.

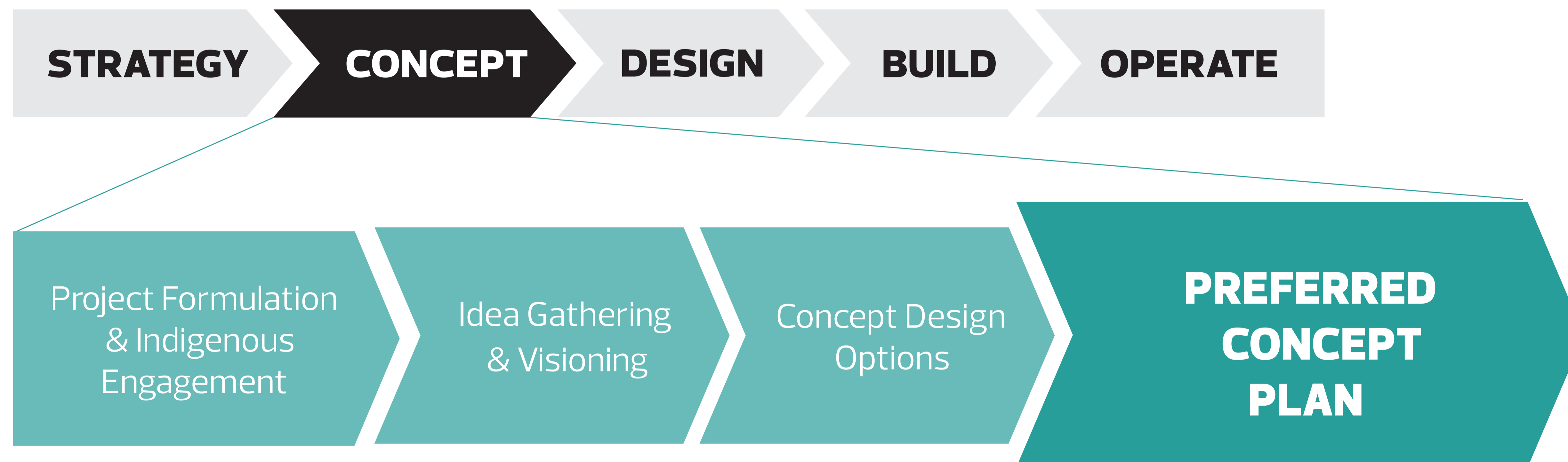
- + Public Engagement Session #3 – Preferred Concept Plan for Gallagher Park

Using Your Input

Thank you for attending today's open house! We value your time and contributions to this process.

The community input that we receive today will help to create a preferred concept plan. We are also gathering input through an online survey.

In the near future, we will come back to the community to present the preferred Concept Plan which will subsequently inform the final Concept Plan.



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