

Welcome to the Community Input Meeting for

QueensWay Metropolitan Hub

This meeting will begin shortly.

Please remember to keep devices muted during the presentation.

After the presentation there will be a group discussion time to share ideas and concerns.

You may use the Raise Hand or Chat function at any time.

Community Input Ground Rules

- All parties will be muted during the presentation to cut back on noise.
- Please type all questions into the Q&A box on the side of the screen.

Tonight's Agenda

- **Opening Remarks**
- **QueensWay Background and Project History**
- **QueensWay Metropolitan Hub Concept Presentation**
- **Community Feedback**
- **Next Steps**

History

- **Pre-1950: LIRR ran trains on the Rockaway Beach Branch (RBB), connecting Penn Station and Atlantic Terminal to the Rockaways**
- **1952: LIRR ends service in the line's middle section after a fire across Jamaica Bay**
- **1956: City of New York converted southern section via the A train into subway line**
- **1962: LIRR abandoned all service on northern section from Penn Station to Howard Beach**
- **2011: Friends of the QueensWay (FQW) enters partnership with Trust for Public Land to gather local input and support to develop a plan for the former LIRR rail**
- **2014: FQW receives grants from NYS Parks and the Regional Development Council and commissions TPL to analyze challenges and opportunities in converting the land into a new public park**
 - **NYS Parks and The Regional Development Council also provides a grant to design a first half-mile section of the QueensWay—Metropolitan Hub.**

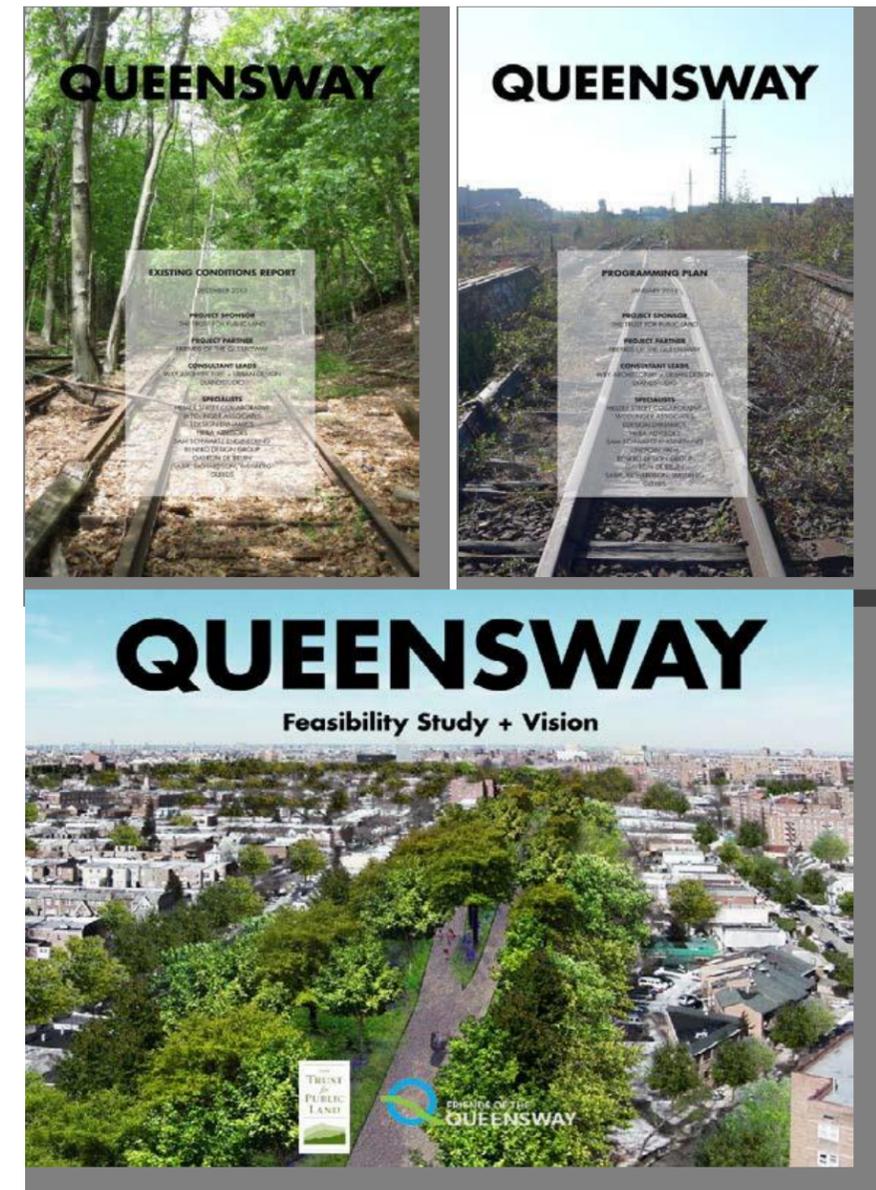


Long Island Rail Road Station at Metropolitan Avenue



Previous Engagement and Advocacy

- The Trust for Public Land commissioned the QueensWay Vision Plan to assess the challenges and opportunities associated with the conversion of the former LIRR line into a new public park
- The QueensWay and Metropolitan Hub vision grew out of five large public meetings, 30 workshops and meetings with community groups, and hundreds of stakeholder discussions.
- Common feedback included both active and passive uses:
 - Bike / Pedestrian Paths
 - Outdoor Classrooms / meeting areas / sitting areas
 - Science/Environmental Demonstration
 - Landscape and garden areas



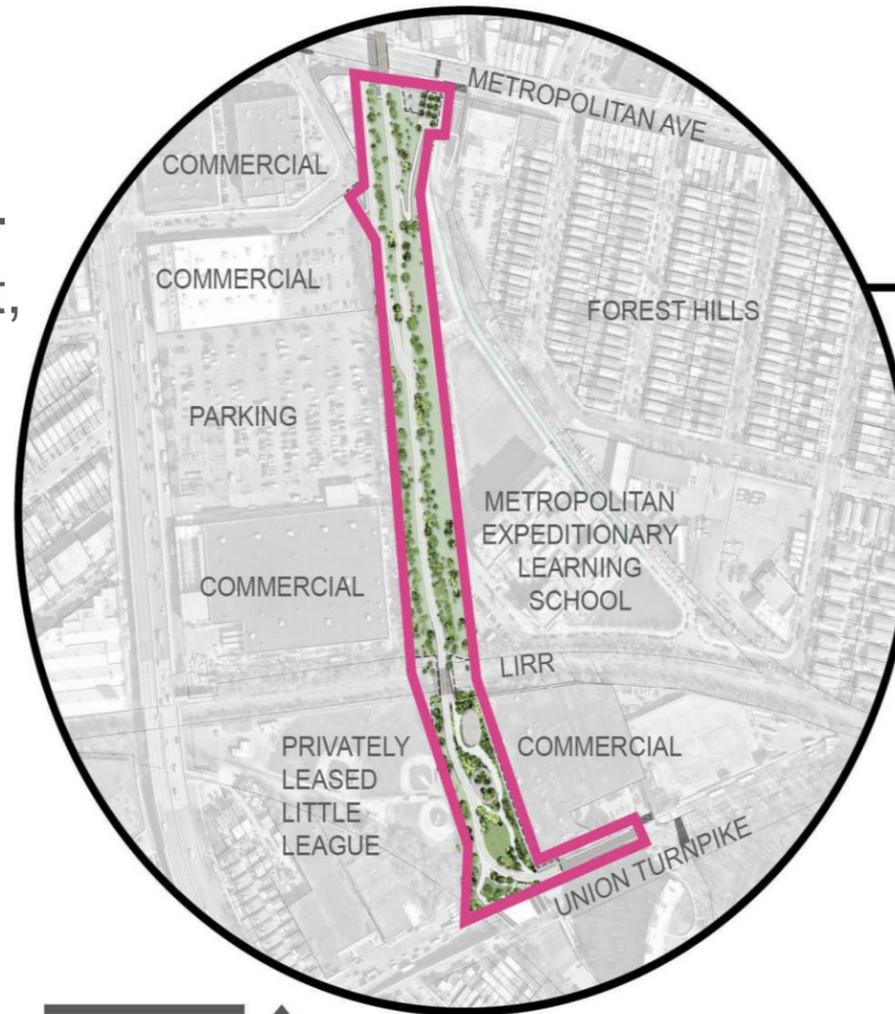
QueensWay Plan
Master Planning process with TPL
(WXY & DLAND) 2013-2014



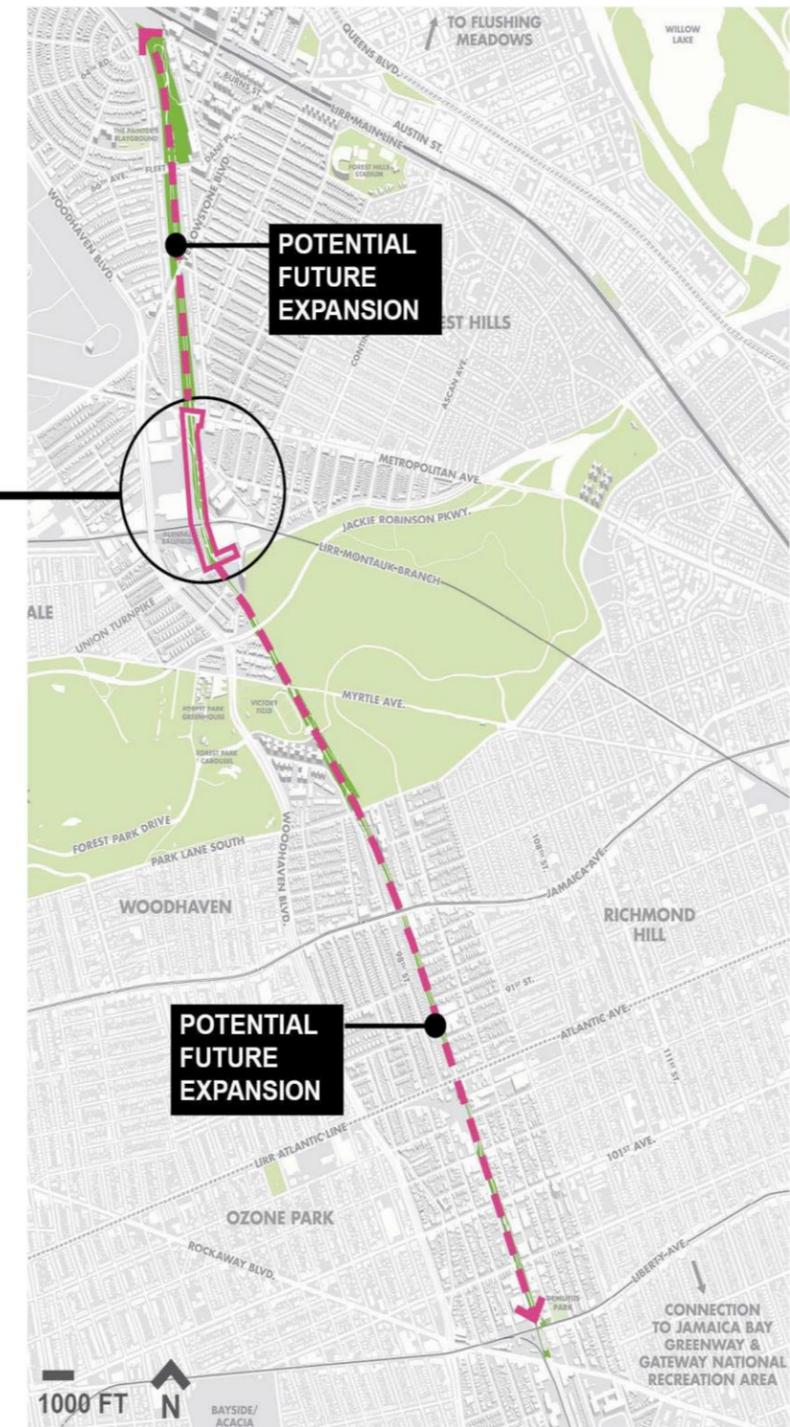
QueensWay: Metropolitan Hub Goals

In September 2022, Mayor Adams committed \$35 million, with \$2.5 million from the NYC Council for design and construction of the Metropolitan Hub (MetHub)

- The MetHub sits North of Union Turnpike and adjacent to the Metropolitan High School complex.
- This project will transform a vacant, city-owned corridor in Forest Hills into a five-acre park with:
 - 0.53 miles of new shared greenway
 - New open space
 - Pedestrian paths
 - Improved understory planting
 - Program and seating areas



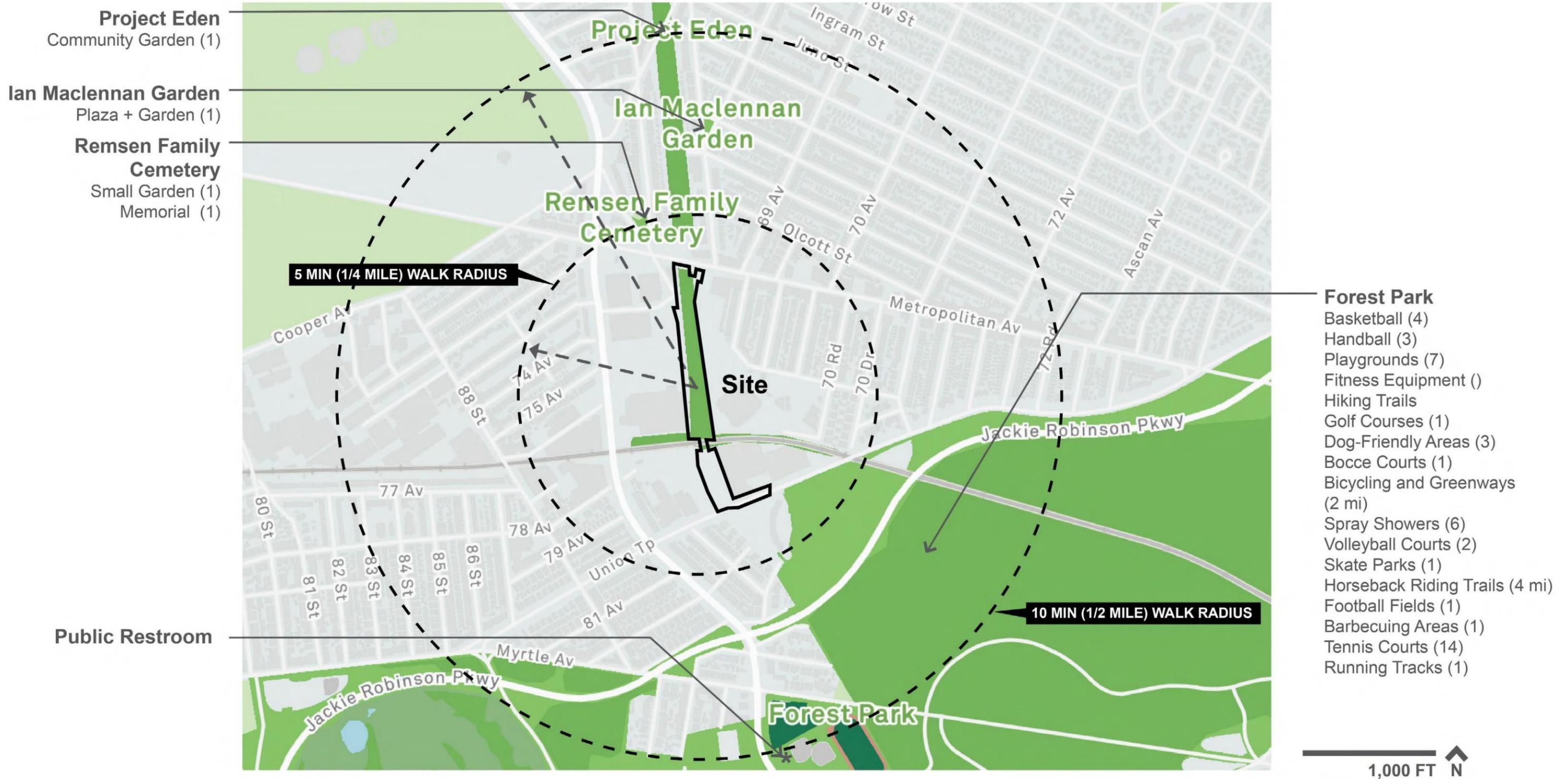
Metropolitan Hub Project Area



- Met Hub Project Boundary
- -> Potential Future Expansion



Neighborhood Context

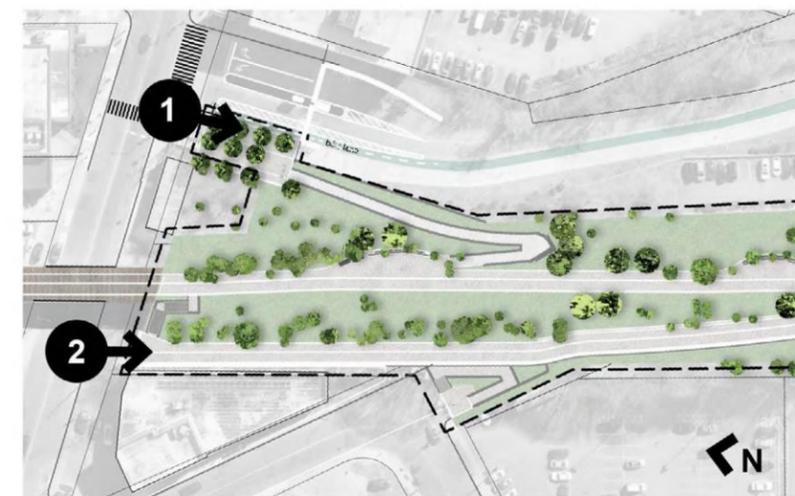




1 - MELS Driveway, looking south



2 - Metropolitan Ave Access Point behind the Car Wash, looking south

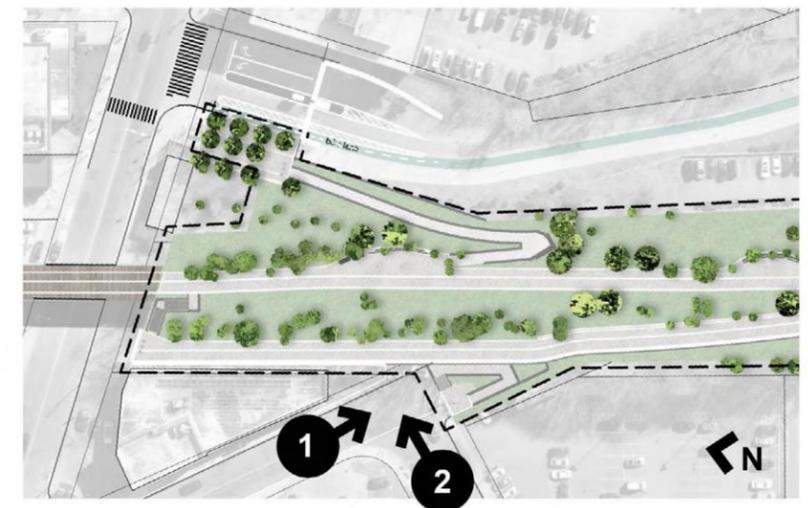




1 - View South of Car Wash at Trotting Course Lane



2 - View West of Car Wash at 73rd Ave





1 - Looking North from top of the embankment



2 - Looking South East at side slope of the embankment





1 - Entrance to Shopping Center Parking Lot at the Proposed Access Point



2 - Loading dock and ramped drive, looking west





1 - Loading dock and steep ramp, looking west



2 - Loading Dock



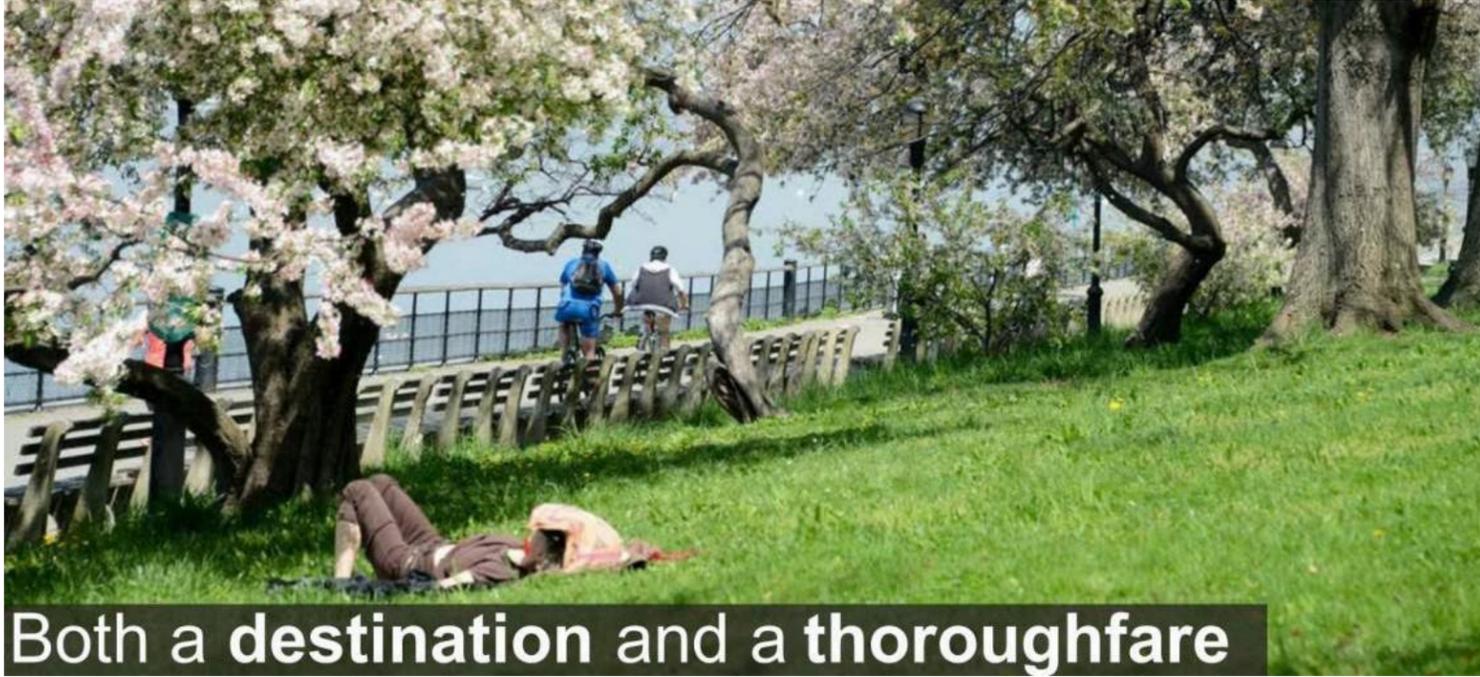


1 - Existing Parking Lot



2 - Existing Gate and Steps to Privately Leased Little League Fields





Both a destination and a thoroughfare



Provides access to nature



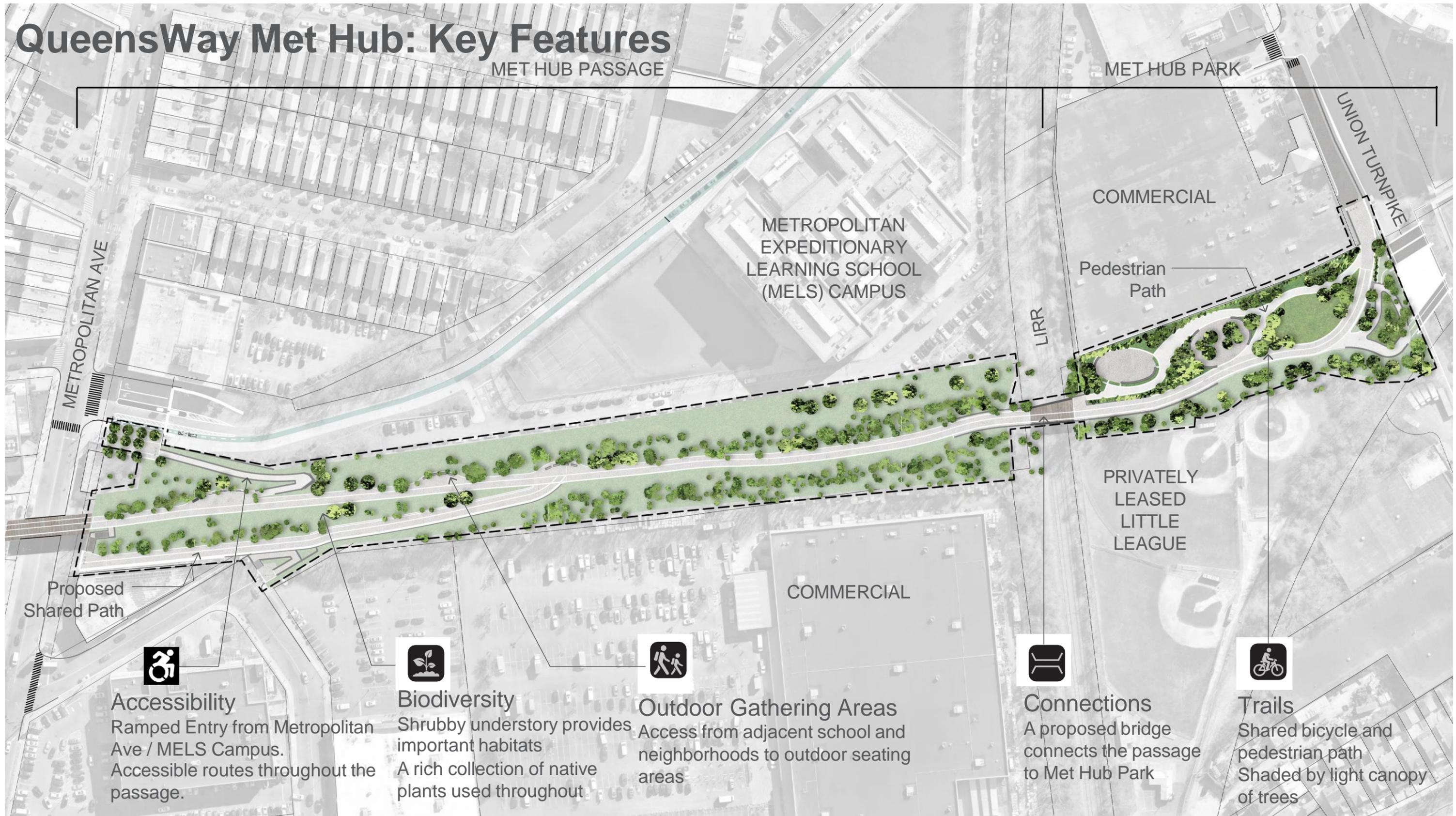
Provides new transportation connections



Promote physical activity among diverse users

QueensWay Met Hub: Key Features

MET HUB PASSAGE



Accessibility
Ramped Entry from Metropolitan Ave / MELS Campus. Accessible routes throughout the passage.



Biodiversity
Shrubby understory provides important habitats. A rich collection of native plants used throughout.



Outdoor Gathering Areas
Access from adjacent school and neighborhoods to outdoor seating areas.



Connections
A proposed bridge connects the passage to Met Hub Park.

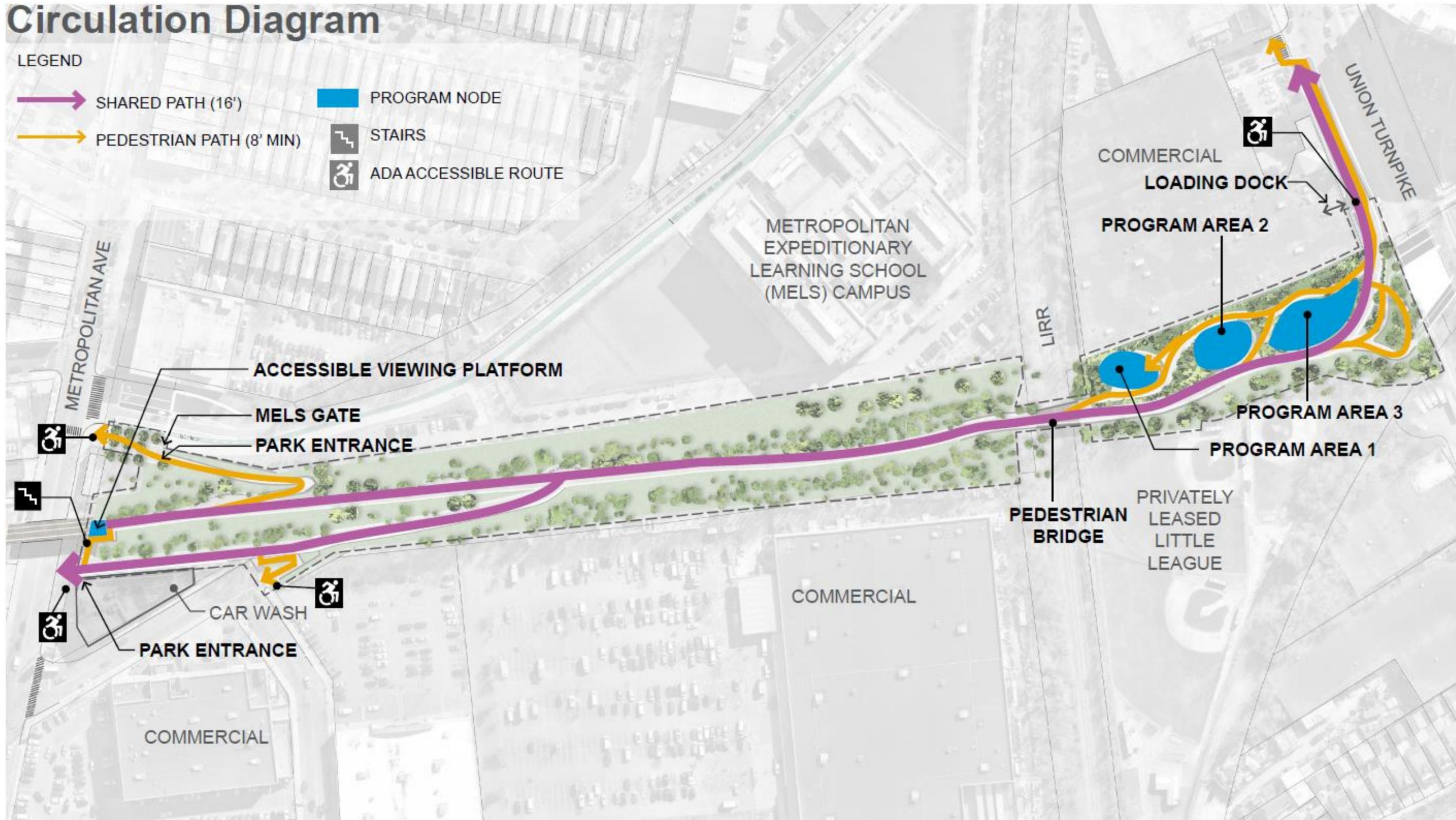


Trails
Shared bicycle and pedestrian path. Shaded by light canopy of trees.

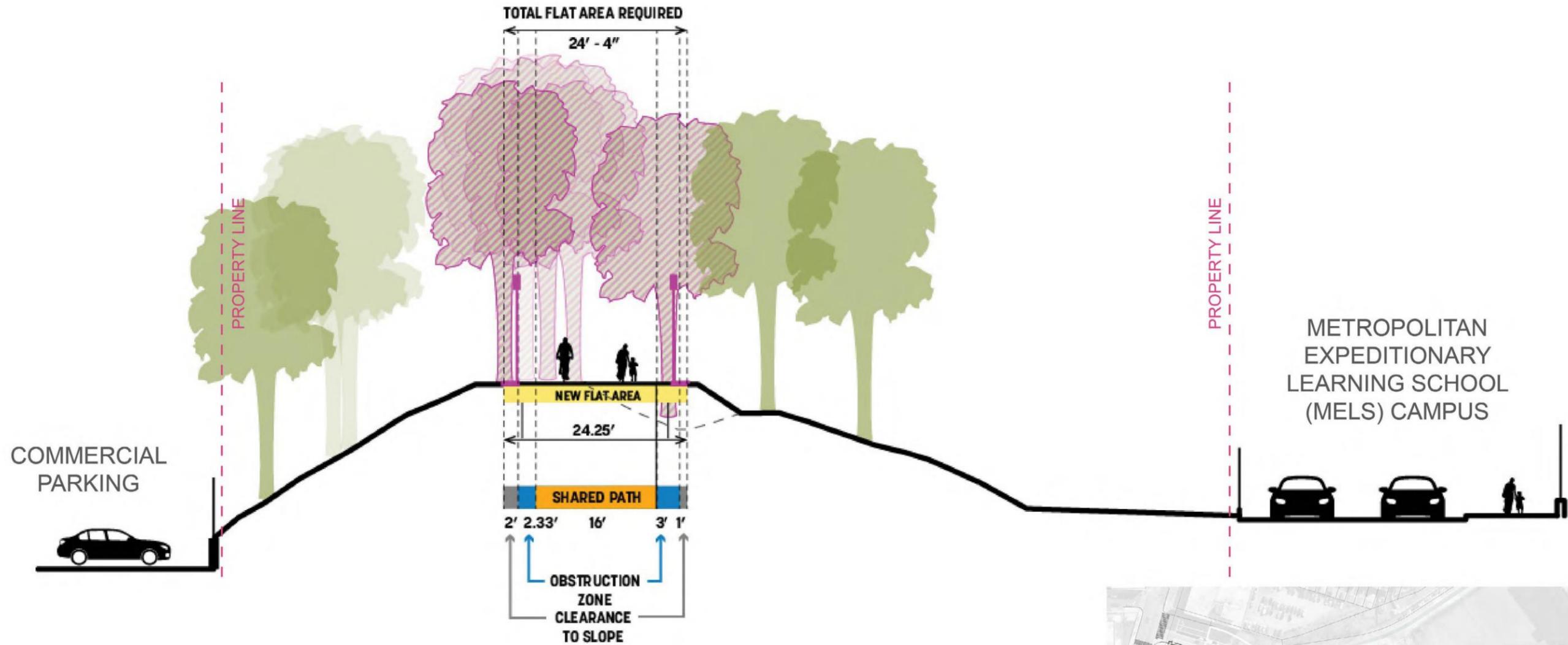
Circulation Diagram

LEGEND

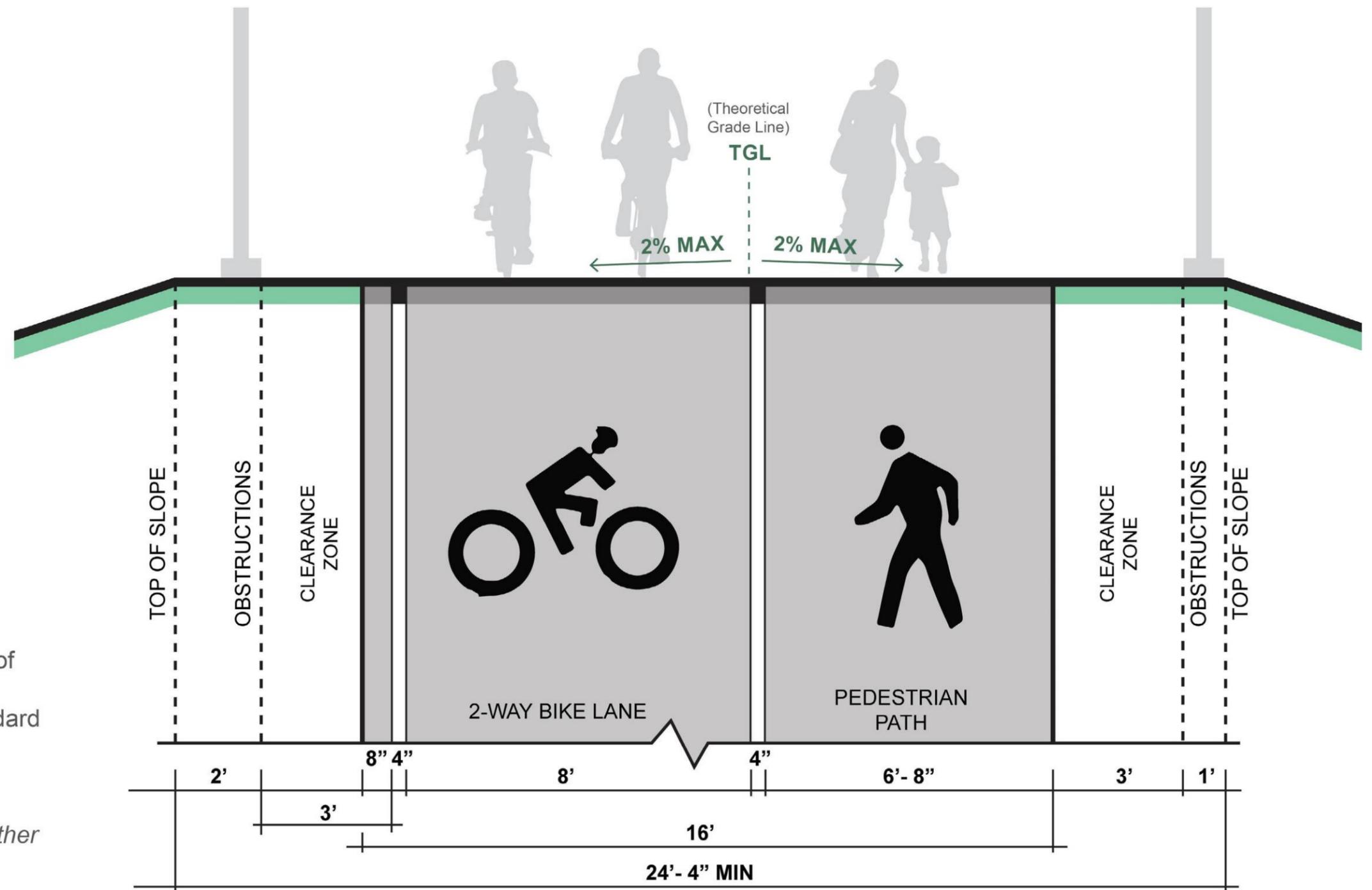
-  SHARED PATH (16')
-  PEDESTRIAN PATH (8' MIN)
-  PROGRAM NODE
-  STAIRS
-  ADA ACCESSIBLE ROUTE



Embankment Section: 16' Shared Path



Shared Use Path



Shared Use Path Width

Conforms to AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bike Facilities Clearance Requirements, 2012
 Meets minimum requirements for NYC Parks Standard Detail, 2020: Greenway Pavement Markings*

*pedestrian path was increased from 4' to 6'-8" to allow people to more comfortably pass one another



Things We Think About in All Projects



Welcoming Entrances



Accessibility & Inclusive Design



Multi-Use Greenway



Clear Wayfinding





Tree Preservation



Heat Mitigation



Managing Stormwater

Design Ideas





Green Spaces



Spaces for Gathering



Seating Areas



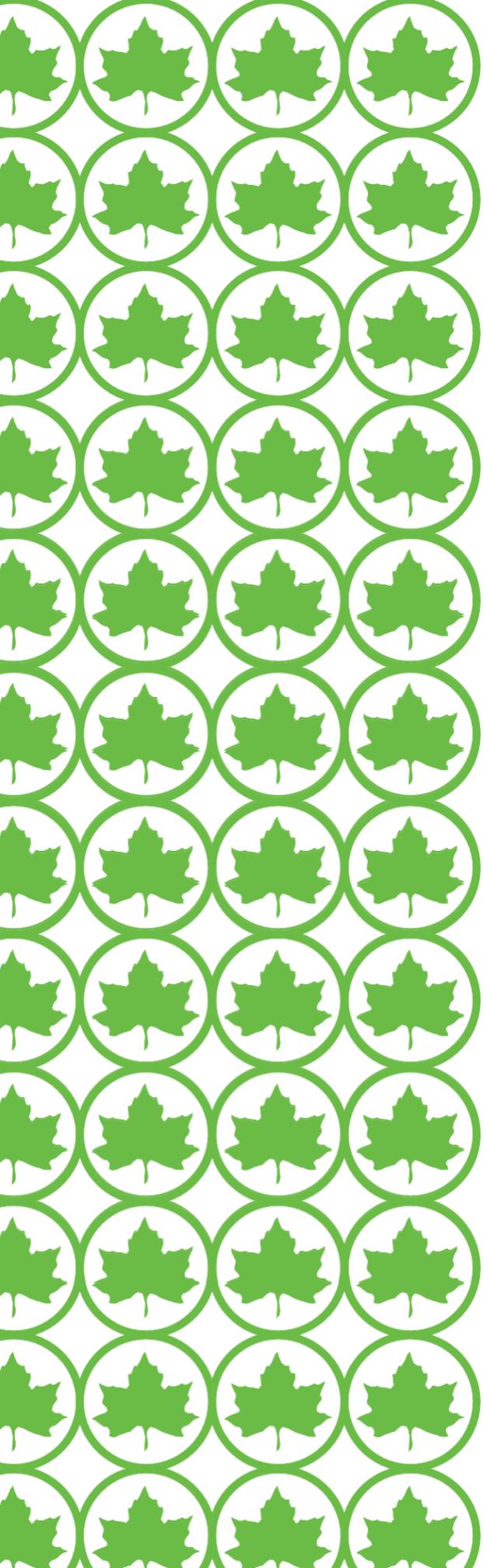
Adult Fitness



Amenities



Amenities



Community Feedback

Please use the Raise Hand or Chat tools to share feedback.

Discussion Questions:

- Who will you come to this park with and what will you use this space for?
- What is one thing you would like to be able to do in this area?
- In terms of programming, what is most important for you to see in the MetHub?

Next Steps

- **Fall 2023:** Community Engagement
 - **Next Public Workshop: January 8th, 2024**
- **Winter 2024:** Advance Design
- **Summer 2024:** Preliminary Design Review by the Public Design Commission

More to say? Questions?

- Online Comments: nyc.gov/parks/input
- Project Webpage: edc.nyc/project/queensway-metropolitan-hub