



NYC Parks



QueensWay Metropolitan Hub

Located between Trotting Course Lane, Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School Driveway, Metropolitan Ave and Union Turnpike in the Borough of Queens

Community Board 6 Meeting

April 18, 2024

Techno + Sasaki

Project Area: 5.24 ac

Agenda

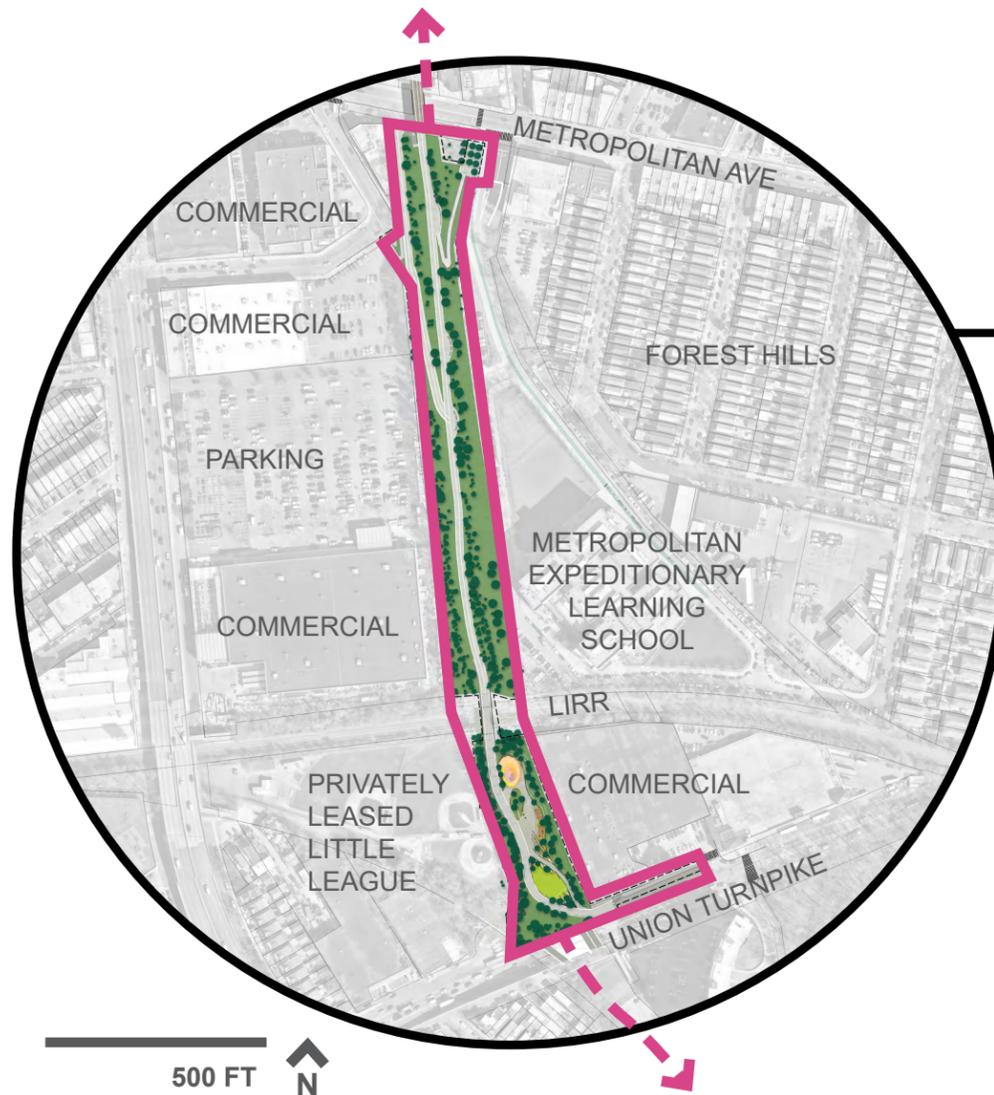
- Site Context
- Existing Conditions
- Community Input Meeting Overview
- Concept Design
- Timeline Overview

SITE CONTEXT

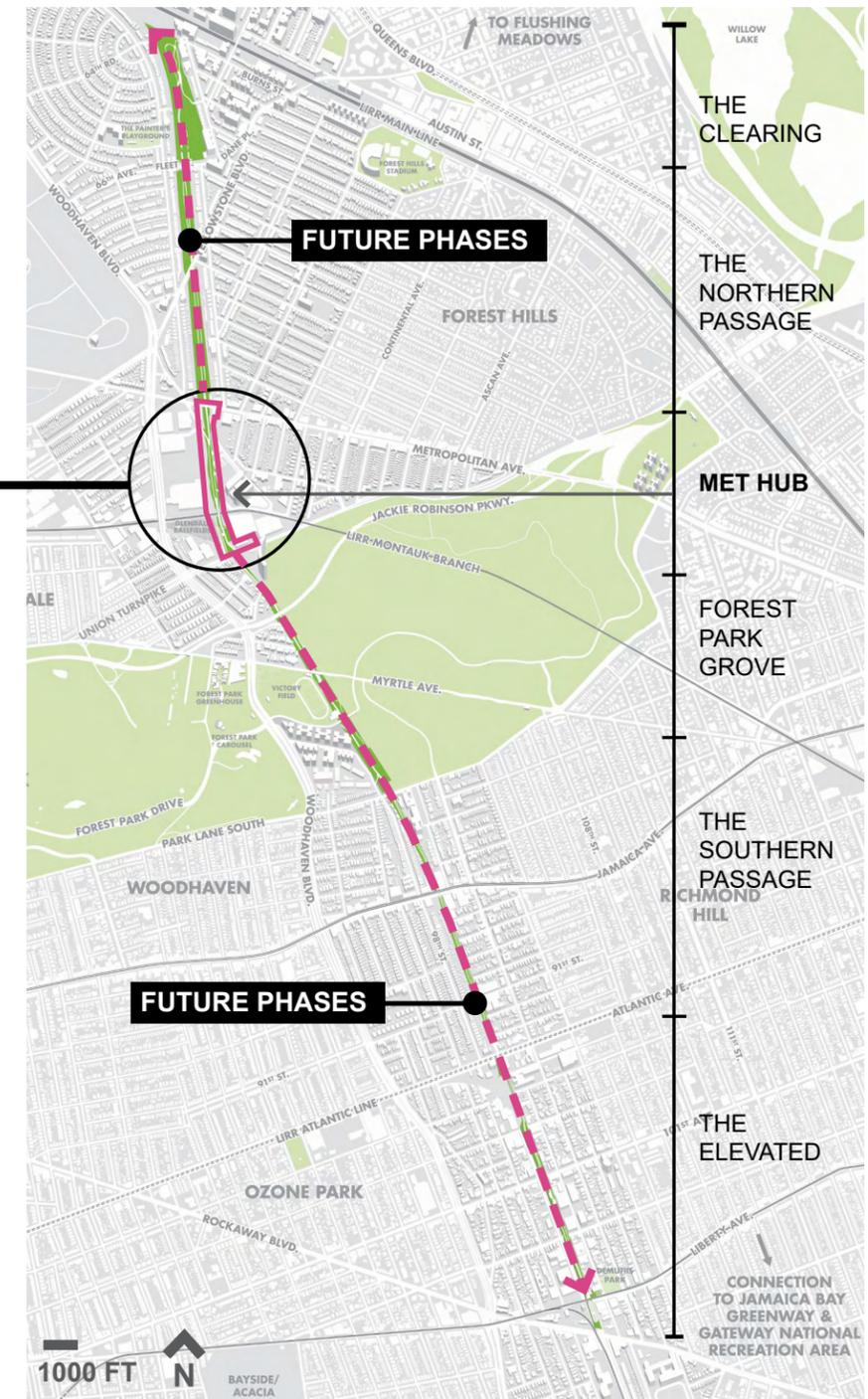
QueensWay: Metropolitan Hub (Met Hub)

The QueensWay will transform a 3.5 mile length of abandoned Rockaway Beach Branch LIRR line into a new public space corridor that will connect 6 neighborhoods.

The Met Hub is the first phase of the larger QueensWay that will set the precedent for future phases. It sits north of Forest Park and adjacent to the Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School complex (MELS). The passage includes a shared use greenway, pedestrian paths, program and seating areas, and improved understory planting.



Metropolitan Hub Project Area



- Met Hub Project Boundary
- - → Future Phases of the QueensWay



Neighborhood

1000 FT ↑ N



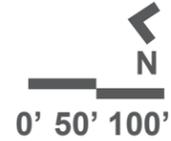
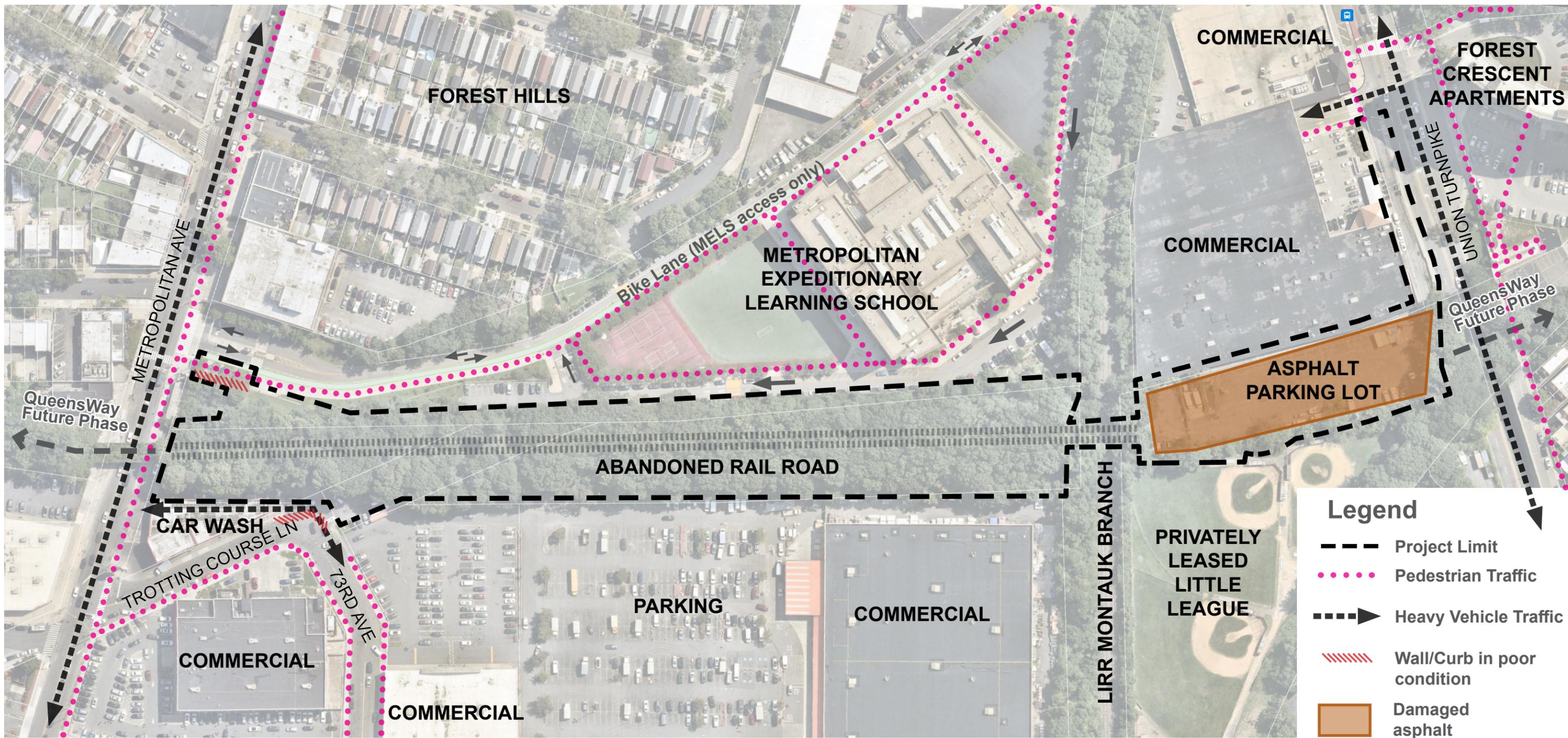
Site

500 FT ↑ N

Site Facts

- 5.24 acres
- 0.53 miles of new shared use path with connecting ramps
- 130 Feet at widest point
80 Feet at narrowest
- 1,800 Feet long corridor

EXISTING CONDITIONS

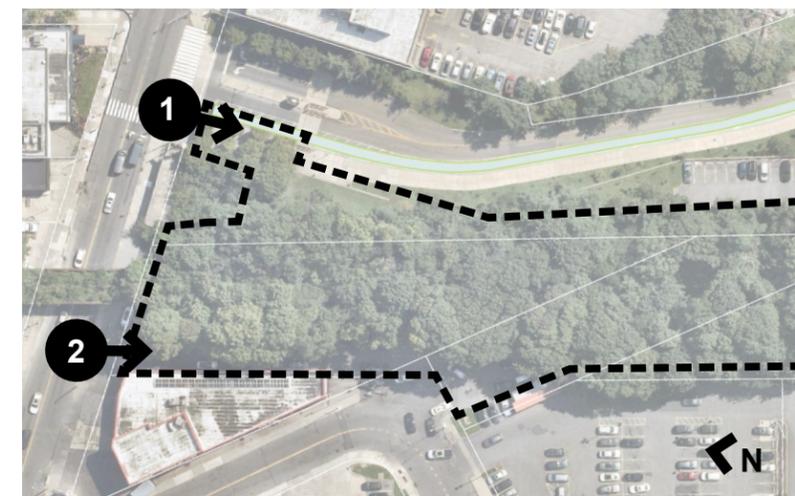


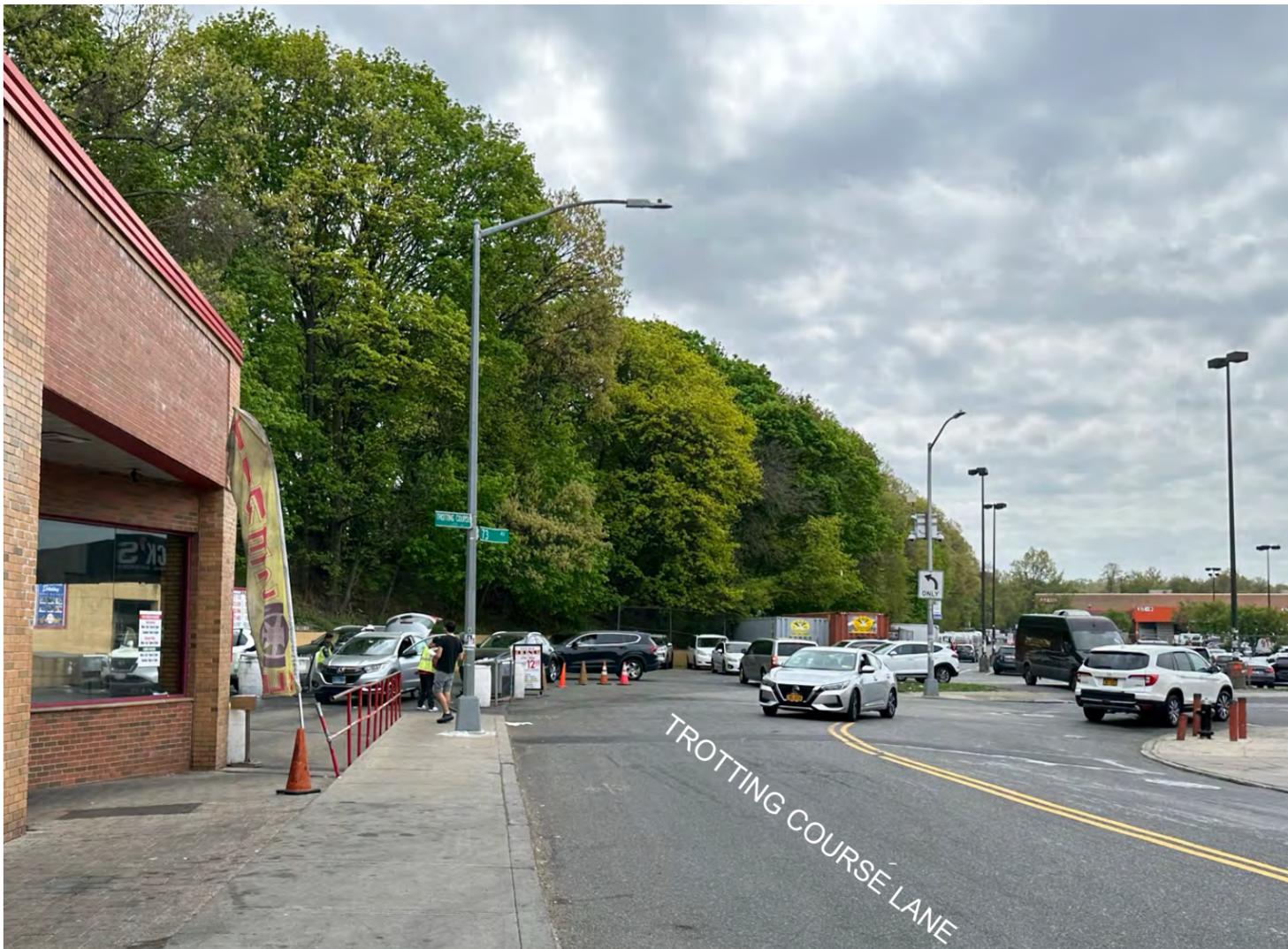


1 - MELS Driveway, looking south



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

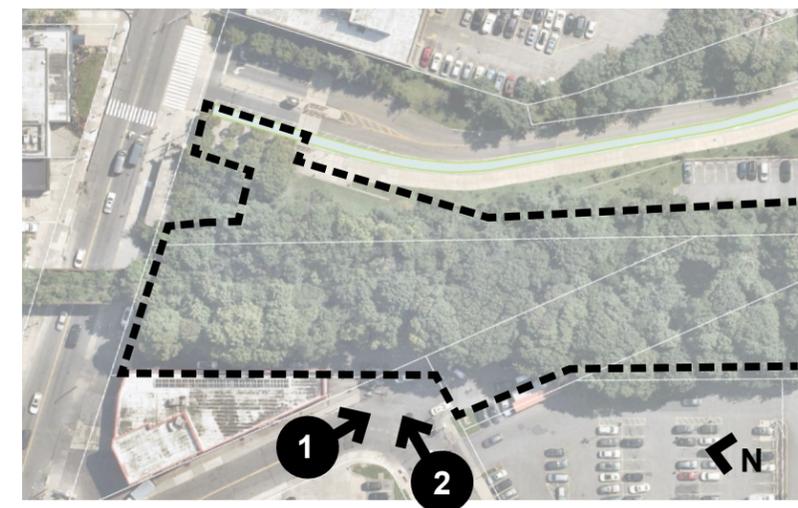




1 - View South of Car Wash at Trotting Course Lane



2 - View West of Car Wash at 73rd Ave

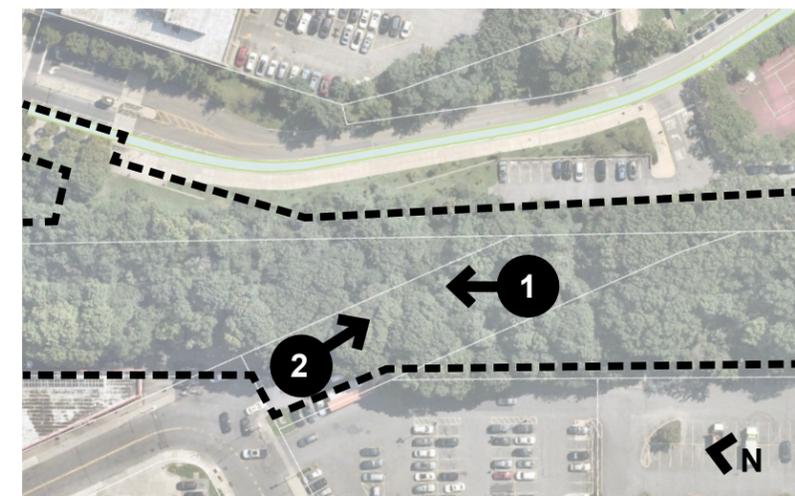




1 - Looking North from top of the embankment



2 - Looking South East at side slope of the embankment

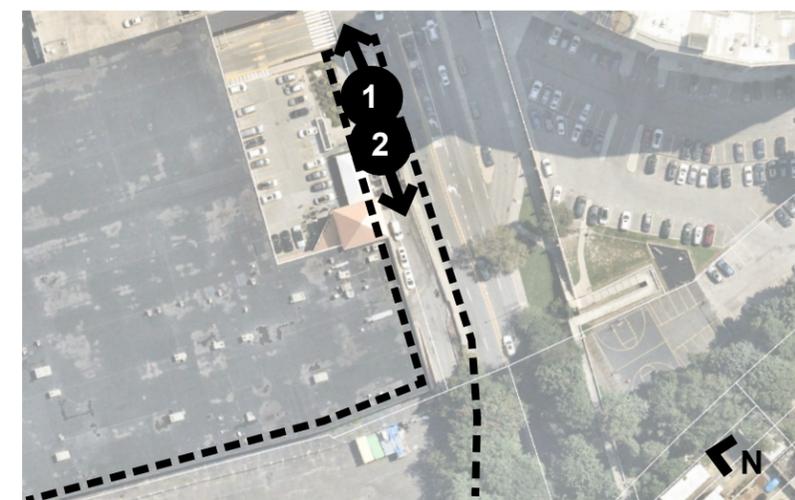




1 - Entrance to Shopping Center Parking Lot at the Proposed Access Point



2 - Loading dock and ramped drive, looking west

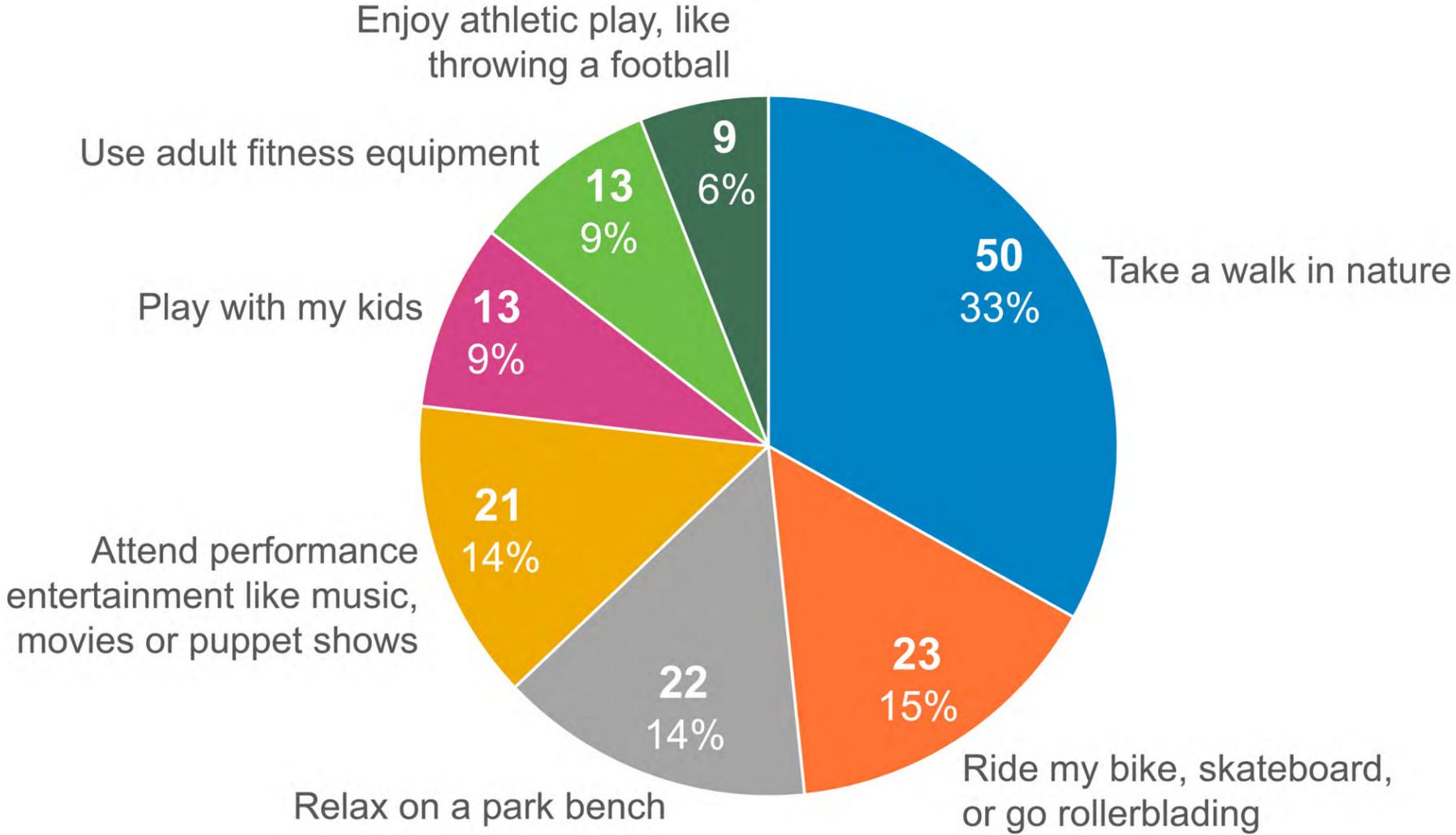


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Input Meeting (12/19/23)

Which of the following activities would you MOST like to do in this park?

Total Zoom Participation: **82**
Poll Responses: **62**



Community Input Meeting (12/19/23)

Summary of Ideas for Program Areas from Breakout Rooms

Play and Recreation:

- Open spaces and flexible areas for children to run, play, and enjoy the scenery.
- Playgrounds, tables for playing games.
- Desire for a safe and accessible space for children to engage in active play.

Cycling and Fitness:

- Need for safe, dedicated bike lanes, bike pumps and repair stations to encourage cycling. Also clear wayfinding.
- Space for yoga and wellness programming.

Art and Culture:

- Incorporating art installations, street art, murals, sculptures, and rotating art exhibits into the park's design.
- Spaces for live music performances and community events.

Nature and Sustainability:

- Strong desire for green spaces, native plant species, and sustainable design elements in the park.
- Suggestions included a community garden, composting facilities, and educational signage about local flora and fauna.

Community Gathering Spaces:

- Participants emphasized the importance of creating welcoming and inviting spaces for community members to gather, socialize, and relax.
- Ideas included picnic tables, seating areas, and covered walkways/shelters for protection from the sun and rain.

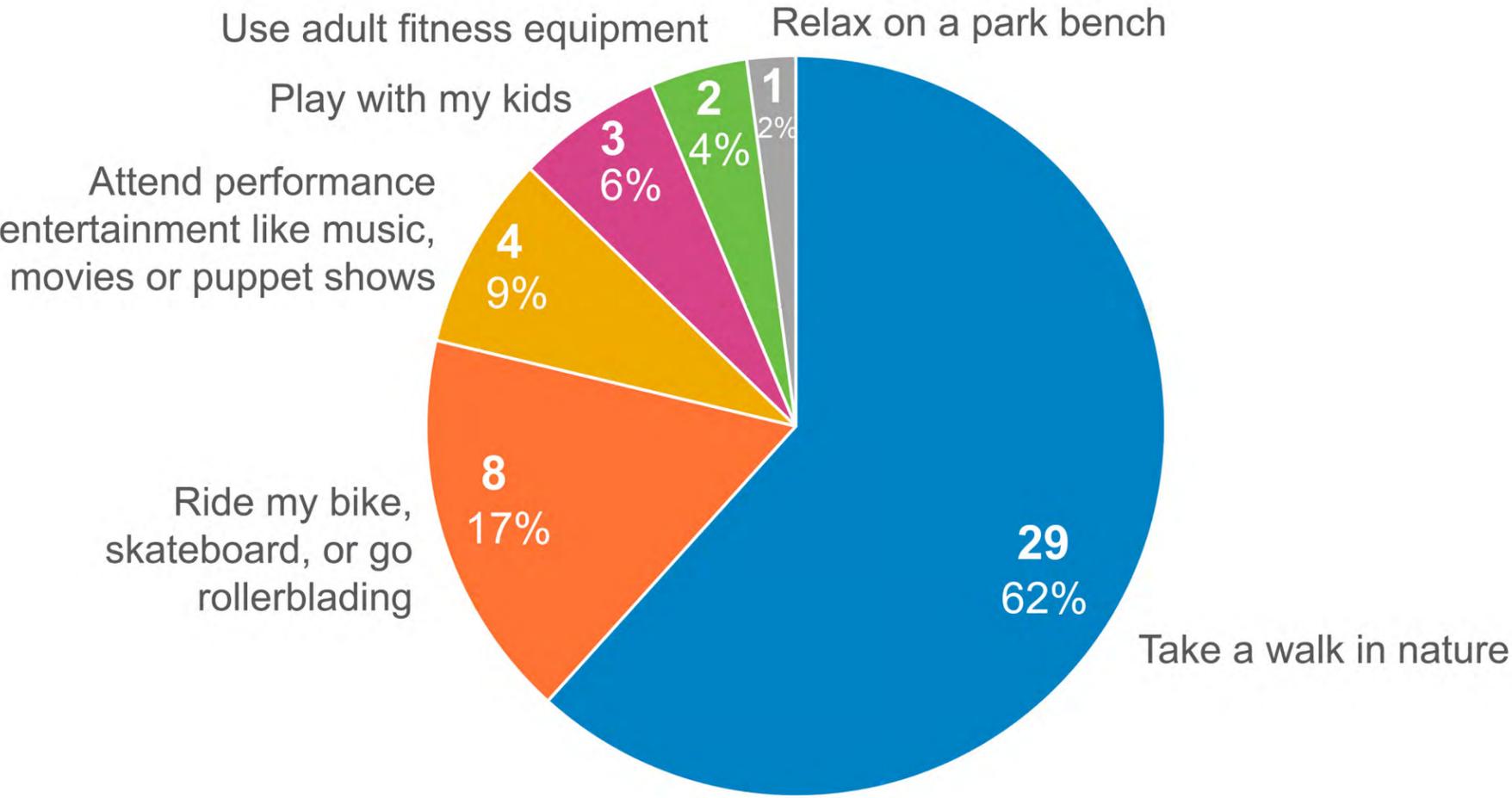
Accessibility and Connectivity:

- Need for accessible pathways, ramps, and entrances to ensure the park is inclusive and welcoming to people of all abilities.
- Connections to public transportation and nearby amenities were also emphasized to encourage park usage, in addition to clear wayfinding.

Community Input Meeting (1/8/24)

Which of the following activities would you MOST like to do in this park?

Total Zoom Participation: 87
Poll Responses: 47



Community Input Meeting (1/8/24)

Summary of Ideas for Program Areas from Breakout Rooms

Play and Recreation:

- Designate a flexible area for outdoor fitness/sports, music, and kids' programs.
- Formal children's playground was not a priority due to proximity to DeVoy.

Cycling and Fitness:

- Outdoor fitness, adult fitness equipment, outdoor fitness circuit
- Bike connection to Forest Park is important
- Safe bike parking

Art and Culture:

- Host community and cultural events, connect with local businesses and promote local artists.
- Consider live performances.

Nature and Sustainability:

- Preserve existing trees, add native trees to support birds.
- Community gardens where residents can have plots to grow flowers or vegetables.
- Plant trees and other vegetation to enhance the natural beauty of the park.
- Desire for low maintenance (simple) planting and quality materials
- Explore the feasibility of incorporating solar or wind power for sustainable energy.

Community Gathering Spaces:

- Create flexible spaces for outdoor classes and performances. Provide seating and shade in these areas.
- Create green spaces with benches and picnic tables for relaxation and casual gatherings under trees.

Accessibility and Connectivity:

- Ensure adequate lighting and security measures for safety.
- Safe connection between Union Tpke and Metropolitan Ave is key
- Connections to commercial space, businesses, and neighborhood
- Install recycling bins to encourage responsible waste management.
- Provide water fountains and restrooms for park users.

CONCEPT DESIGN

QueensWay Metropolitan Hub Goals

- New neighborhood linear park
- Active and passive recreation
- Greenway/Bikeway connections
- Pedestrian pathways
- Engagement with adjacent facilities
- Restoration and enhancement of environmental amenities
- Provide ADA accessibility into and throughout the site

QueensWay Met Hub: Key Features



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

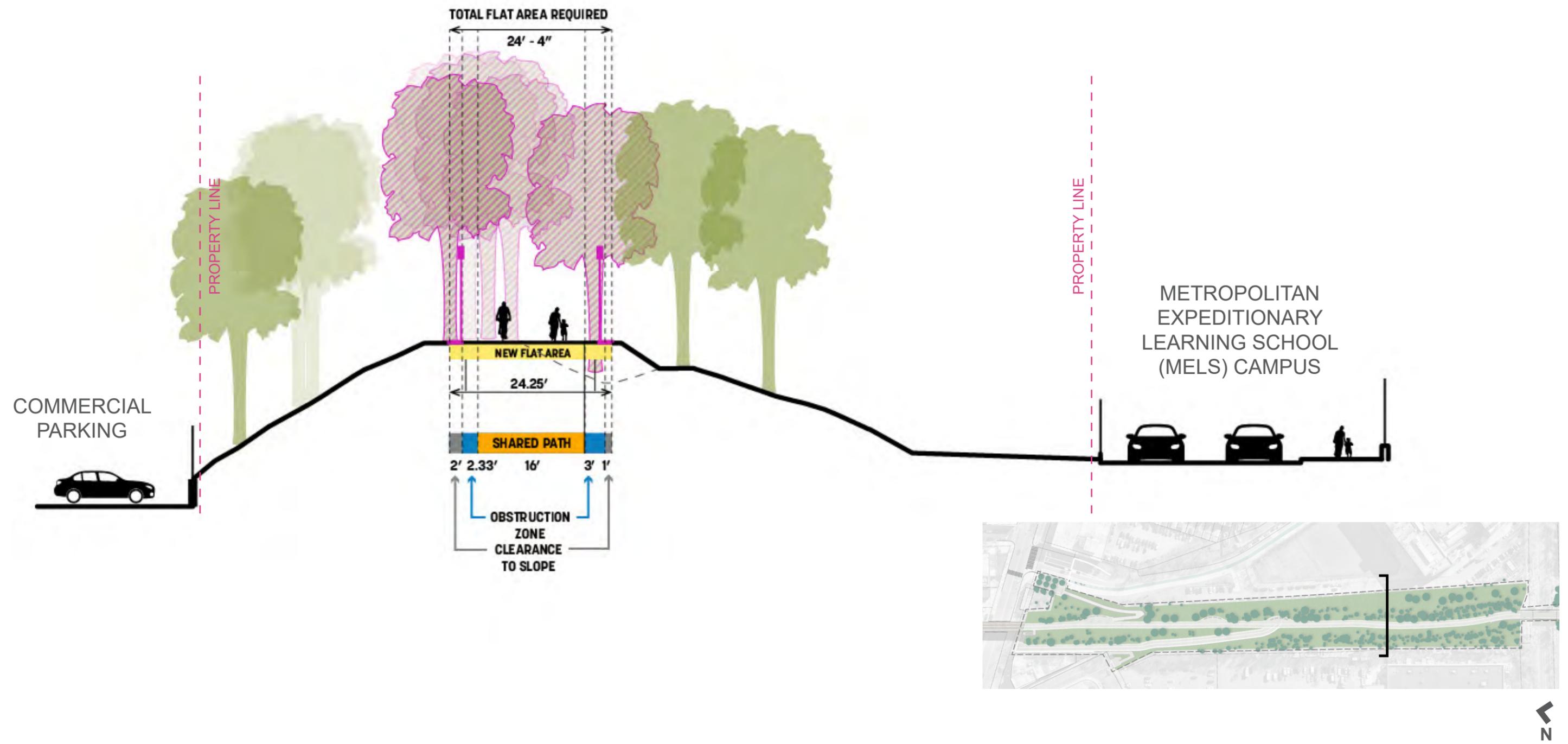
Biodiversity
Shrubby understory provides important habitats. A rich collection of native plants used throughout.

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.

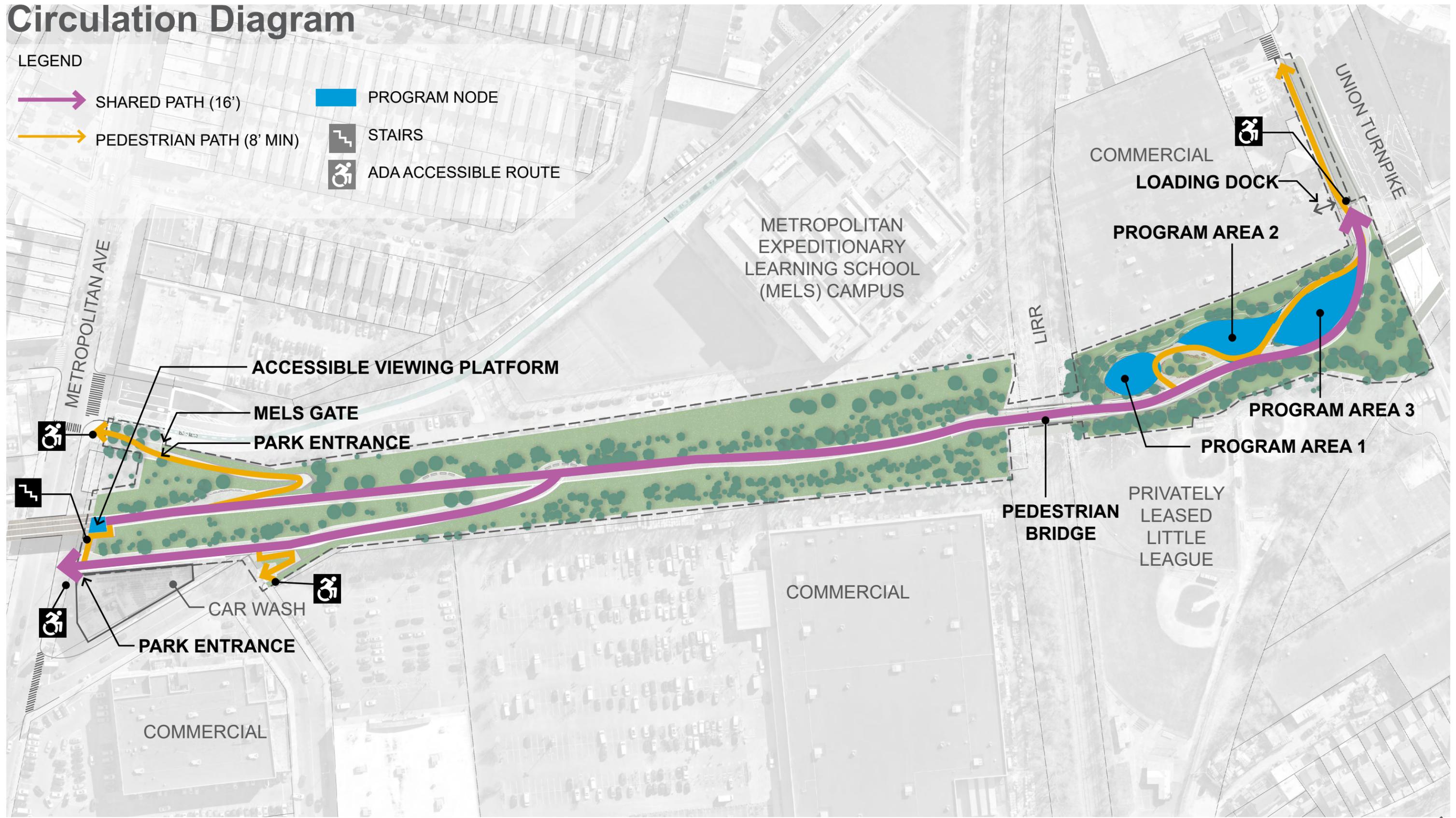
Embankment Section: 16' Shared Path



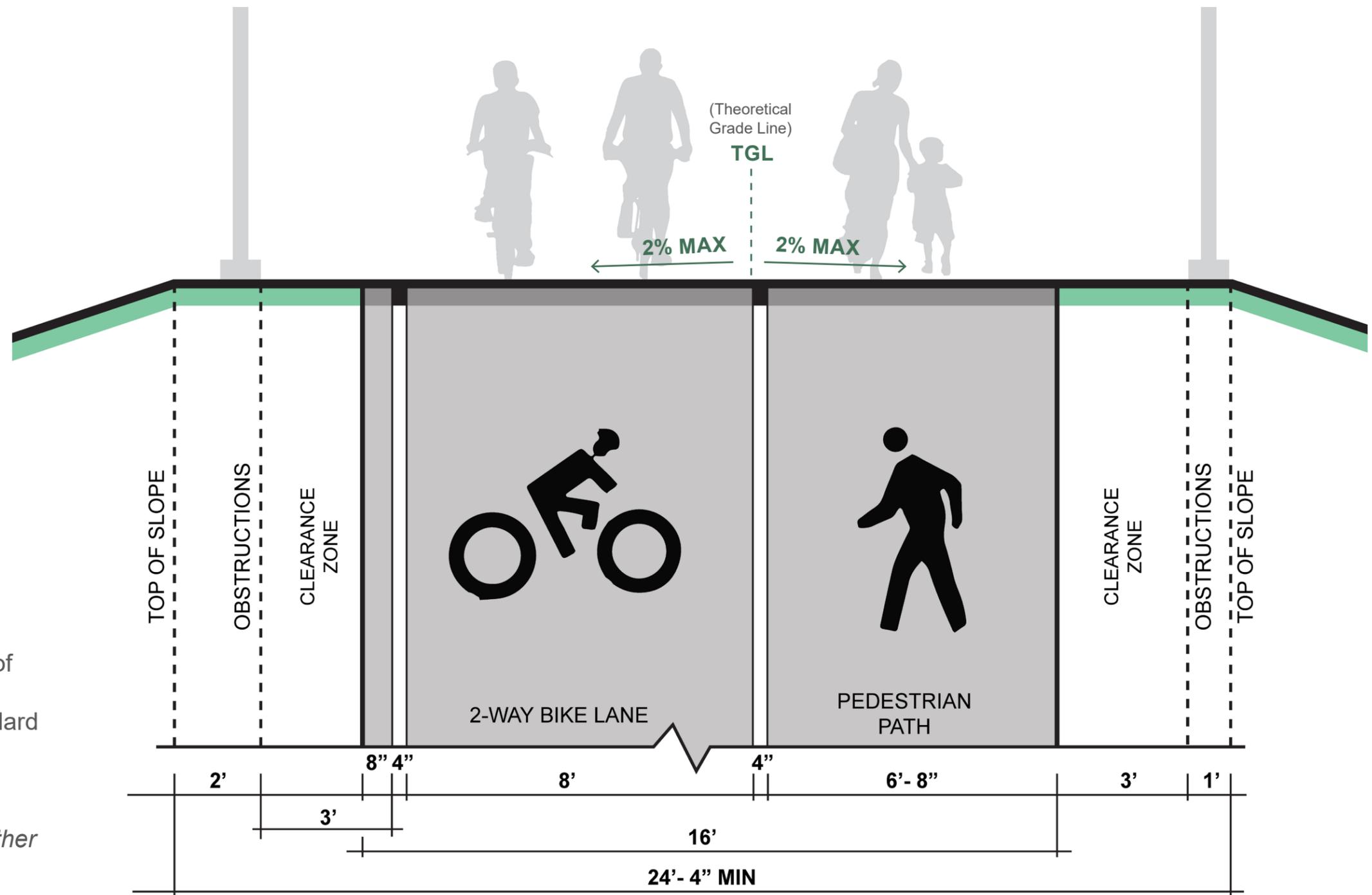
Circulation Diagram

LEGEND

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



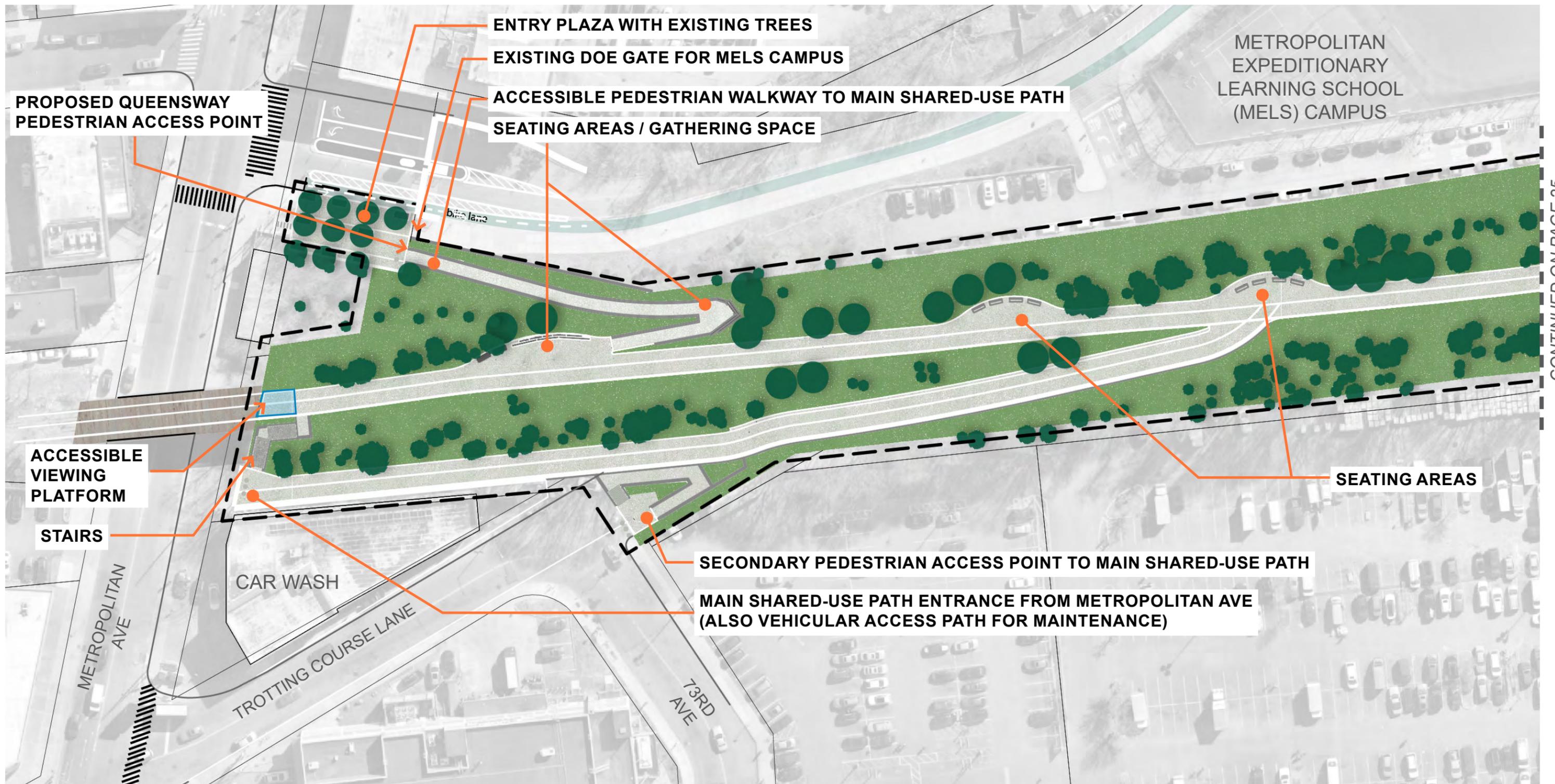
Shared Use Path

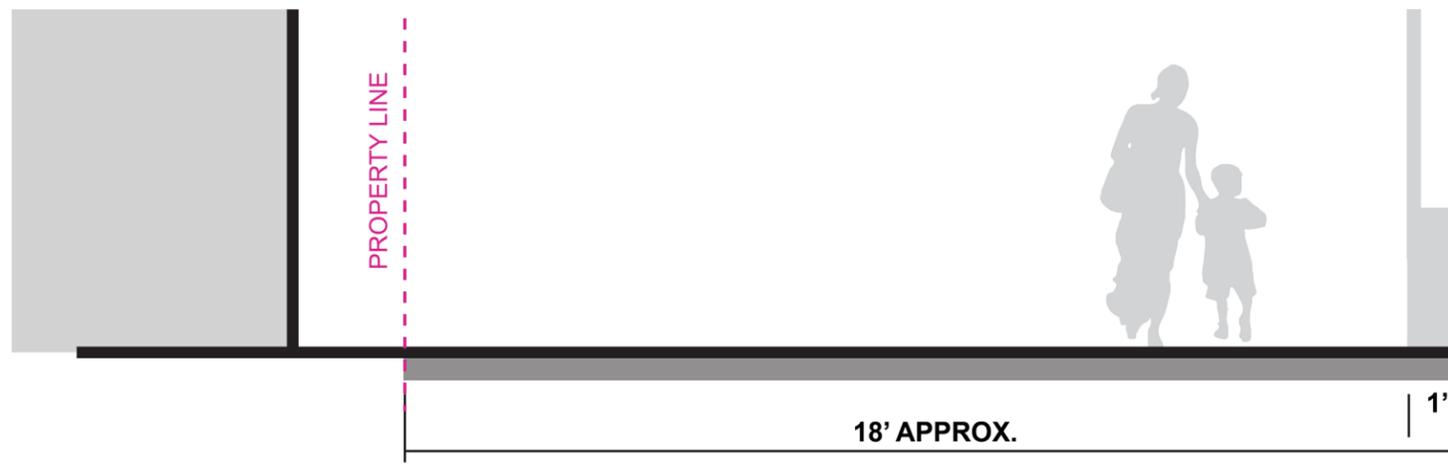


Shared Use Path Width

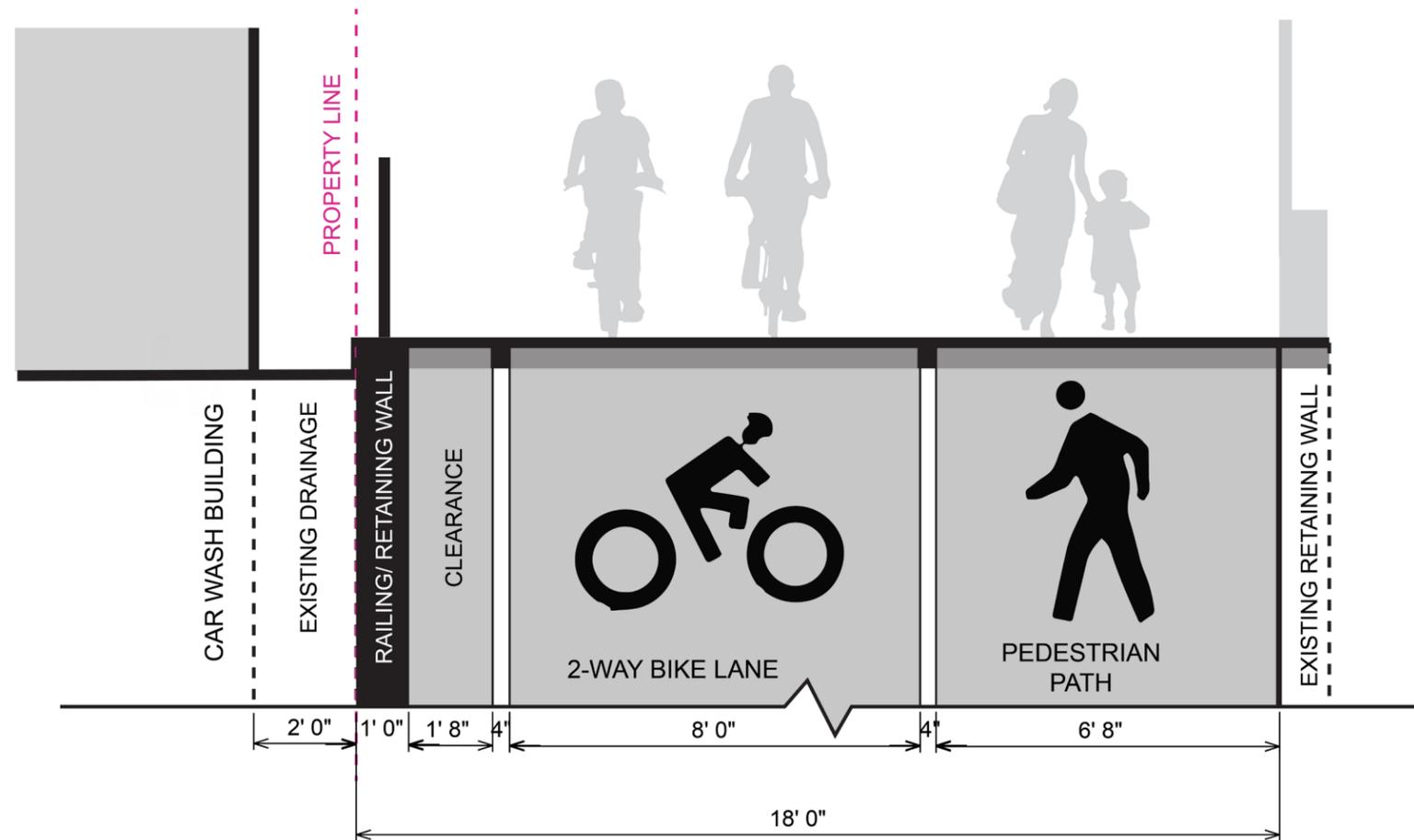
Conforms to AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bike Facilities Clearance Requirements, 2012
 Meets minimum requirements for NYC Parks Standard Detail, 2020: Greenway Pavement Markings*

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

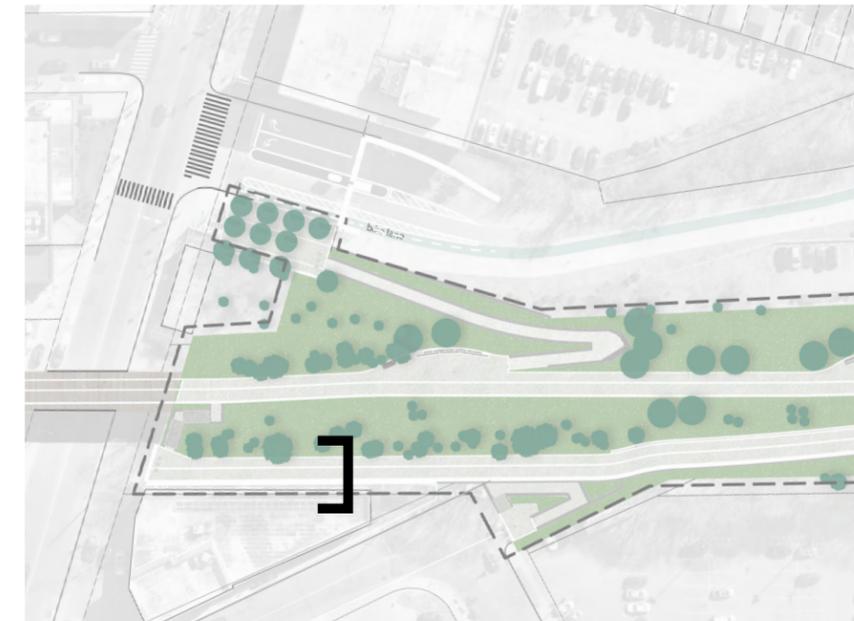




EXISTING



PROPOSED



METROPOLITAN EXPEDITIONARY
LEARNING SCHOOL (MELS) CAMPUS

SHARED-USE PATH ON RIDGE LINE OF EMBANKMENT

LIRR

SHARED-USE PATH

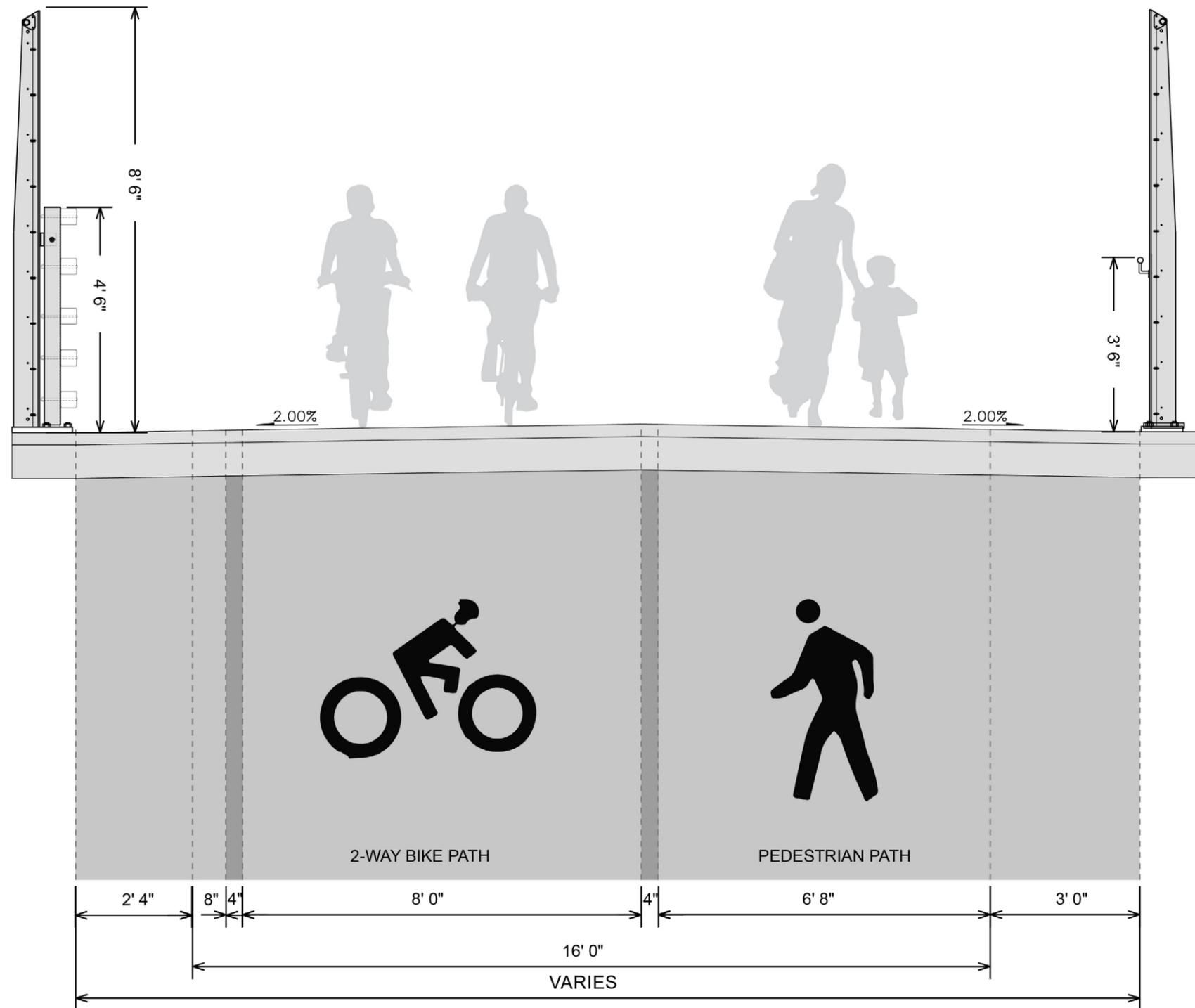
PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER LIRR

COMMERCIAL

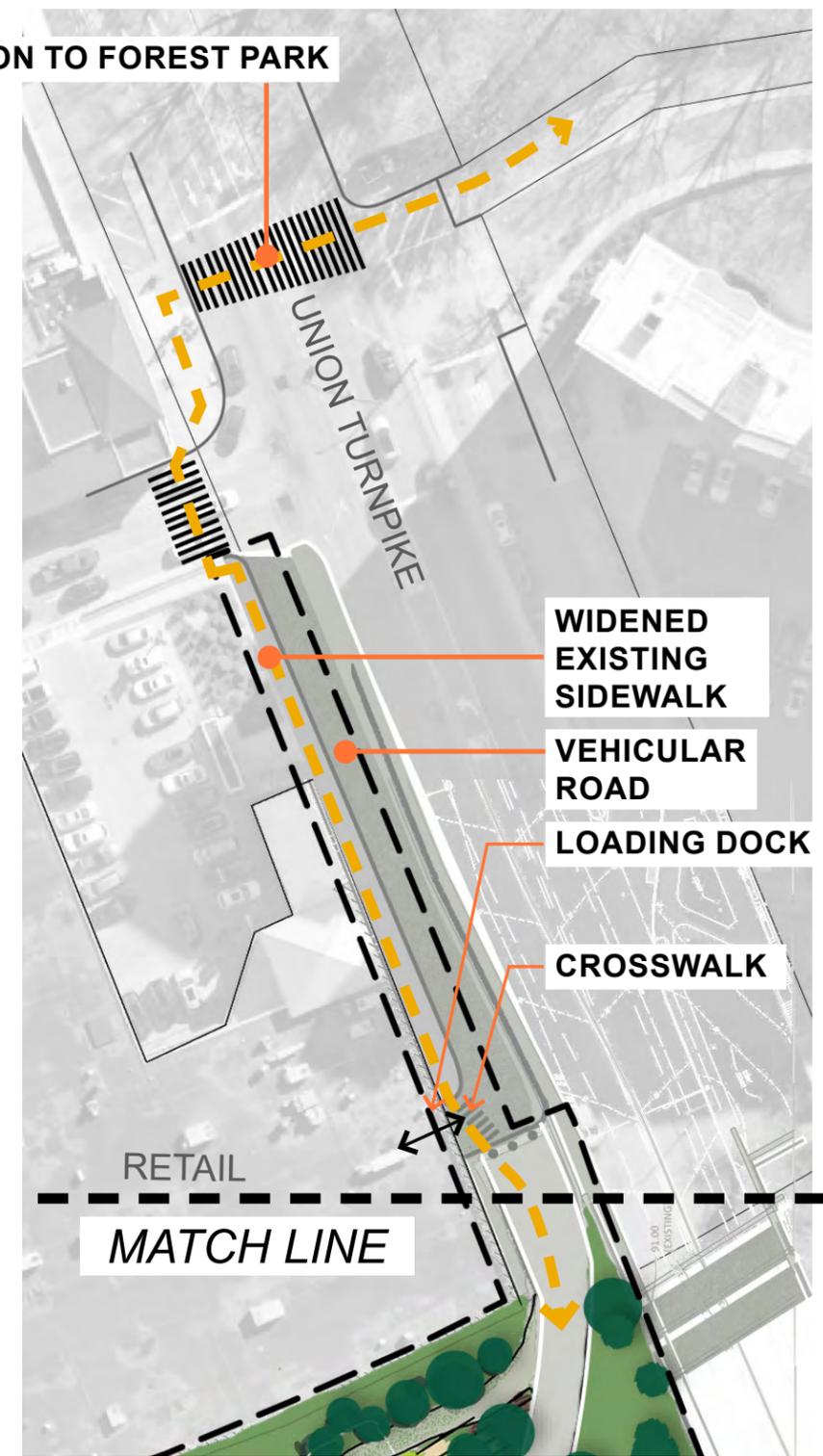
PRIVATELY
LEASED
LITTLE
LEAGUE

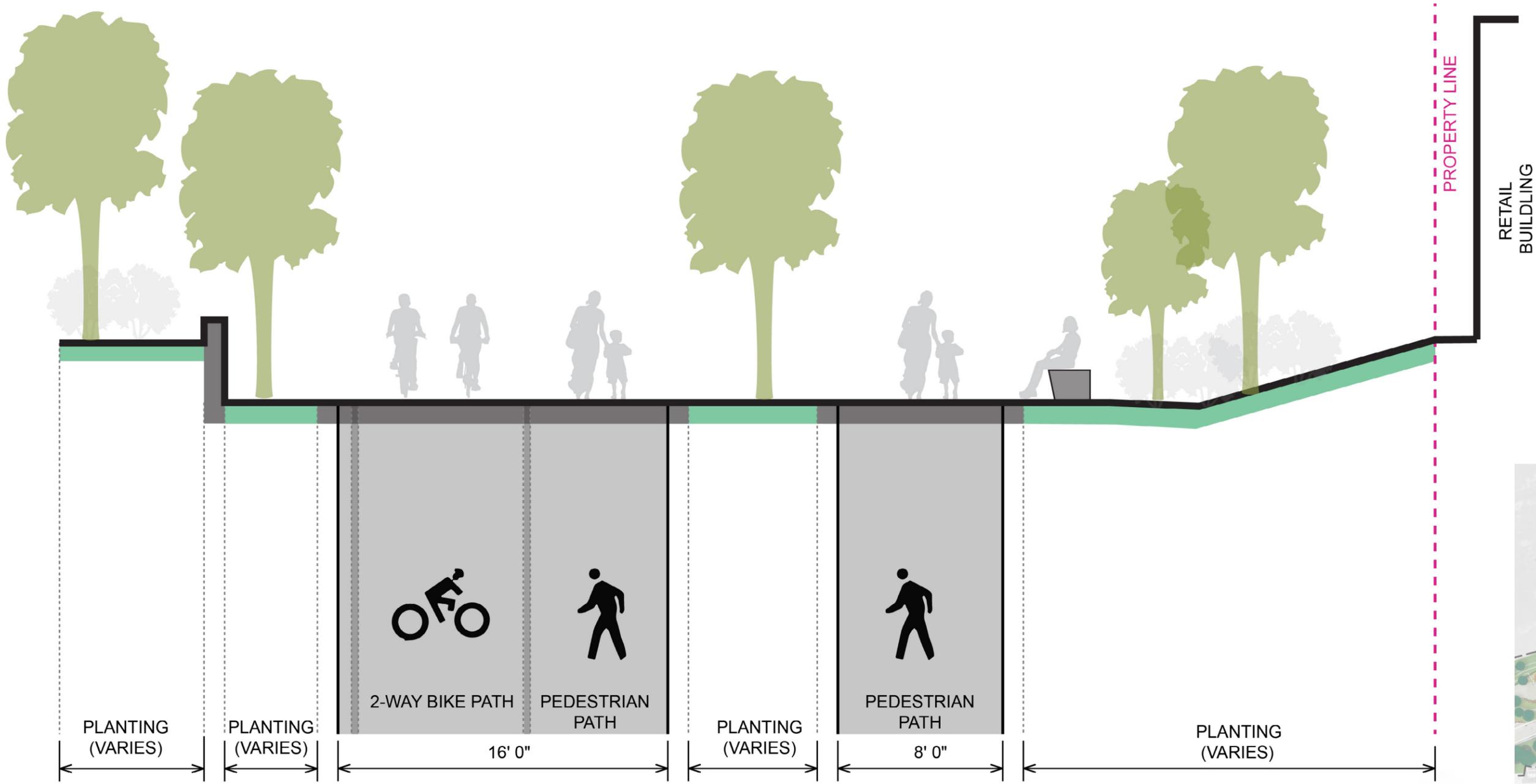
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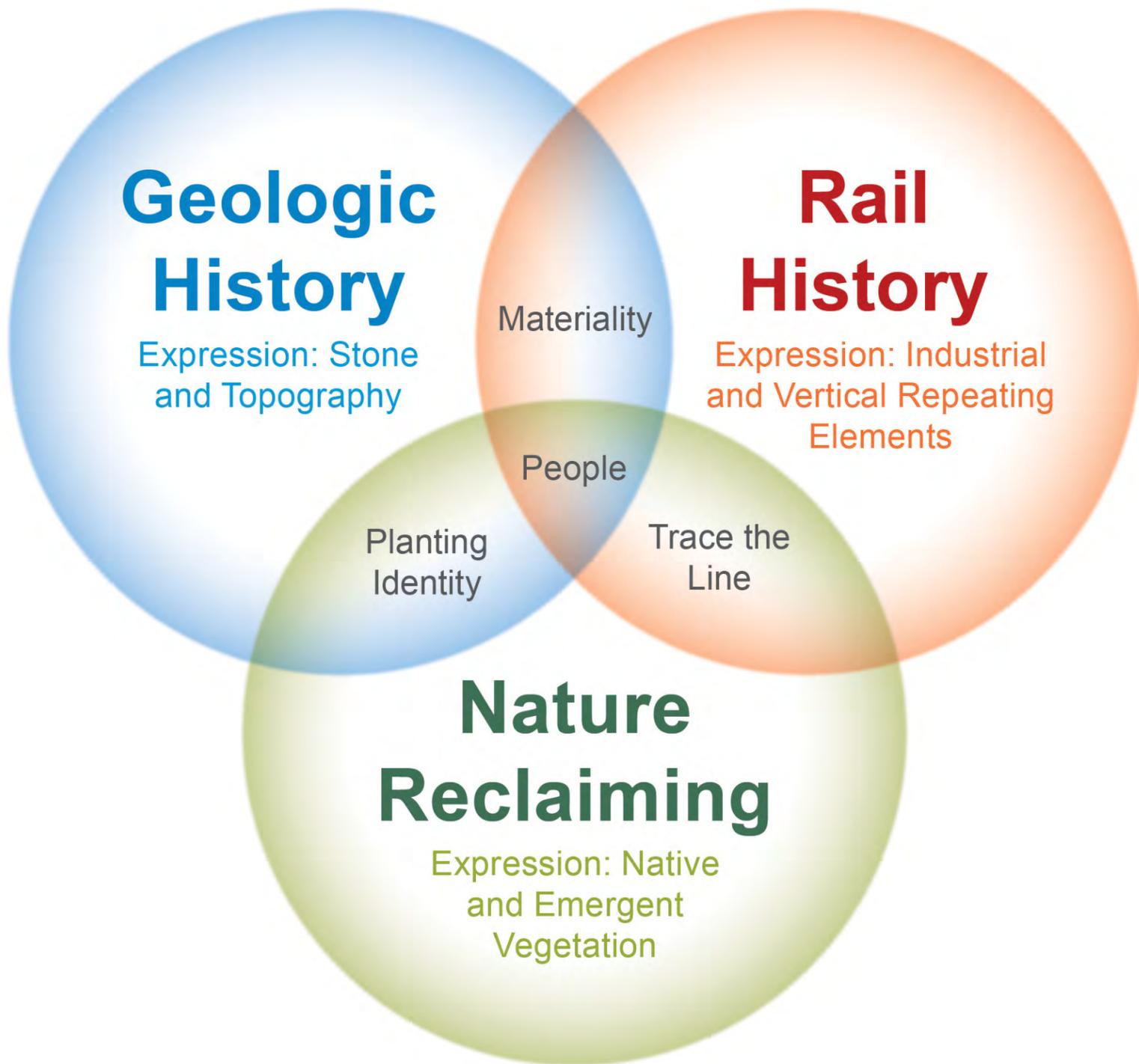


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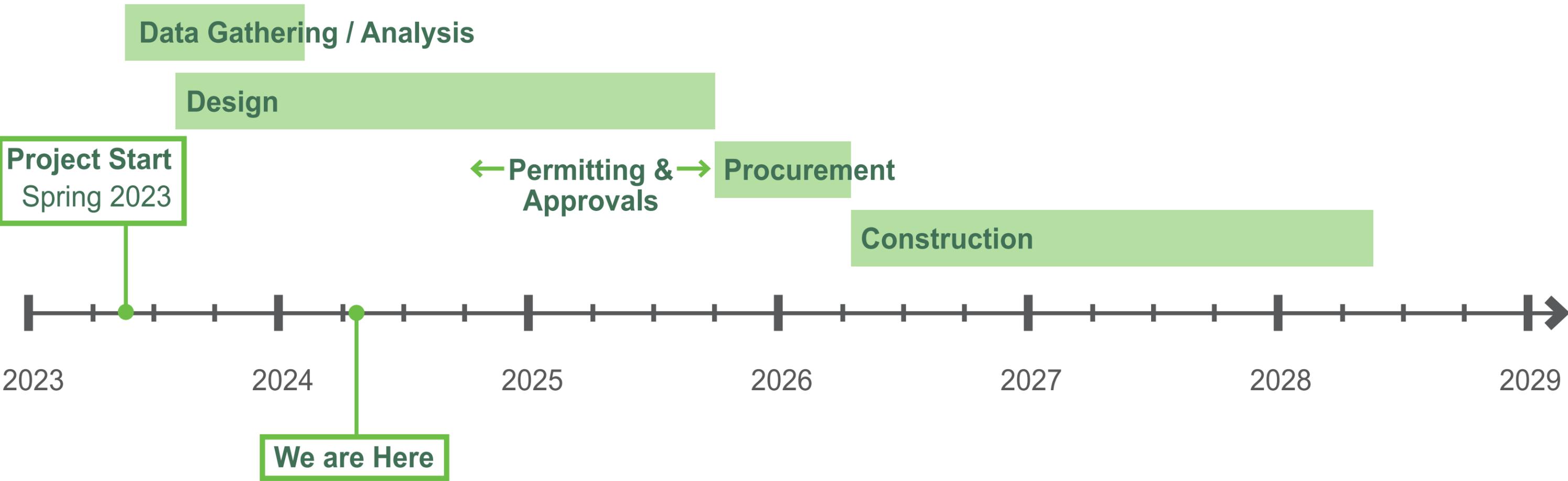




Overall Design Concept Vision

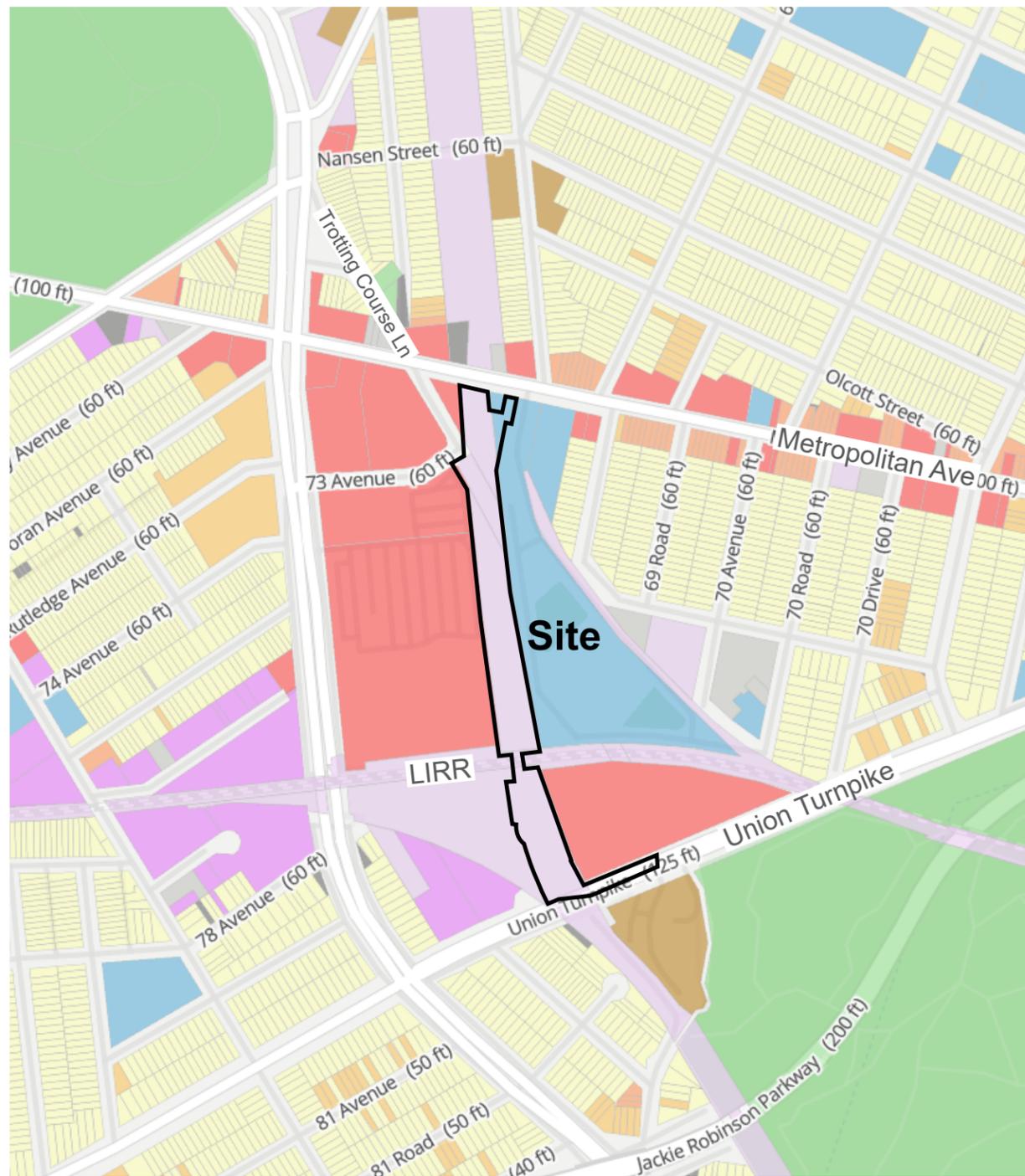


Anticipated Project Timeline

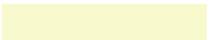
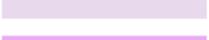
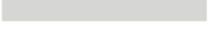


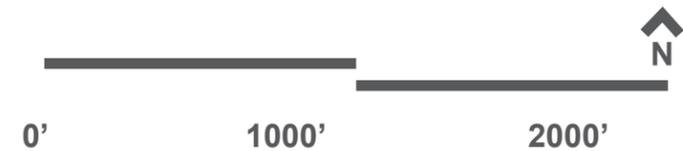
THANK YOU!

APPENDIX



LEGEND

-  TAX LOT BOUNDARY
-  LIMIT OF WORK
-  One & Two Family Buildings
-  Multi-Family Walk-Up Buildings
-  Multi-Family Elevator Buildings
-  Mixed Residential and Commerical Buildings
-  Commercial & Office Buildings
-  Transportation & Utility
-  Industrial & Manufacturing
-  Open Space & Outdoor Recreation
-  Public Facilities & Institutions
-  Parking Facilities
-  Vacant Land

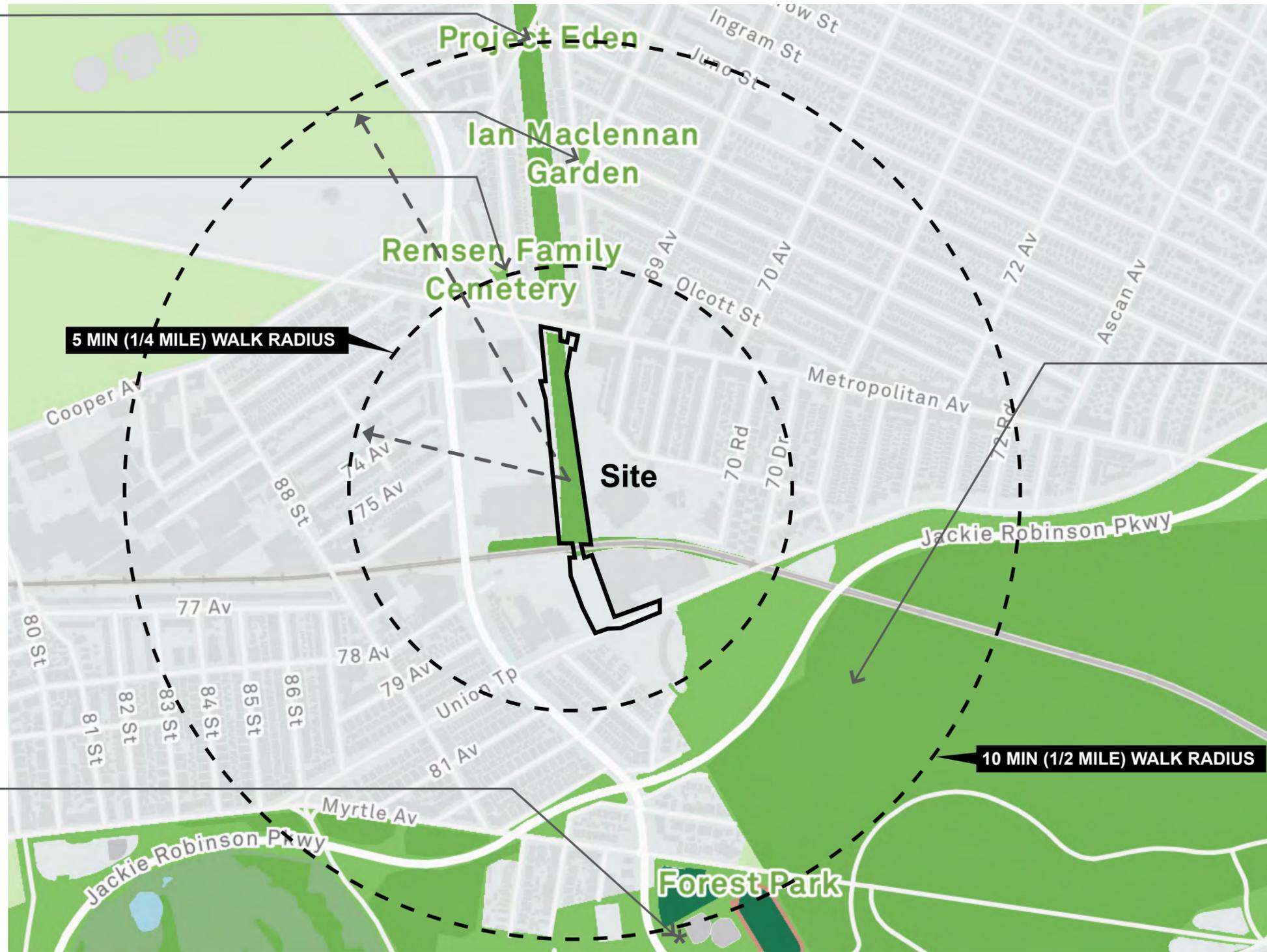


Project Eden
Community Garden (1)

Ian MacLennan Garden
Plaza + Garden (1)

Remsen Family Cemetery
Small Garden (1)
Memorial (1)

Public Restroom



Forest Park
Basketball (4)
Handball (3)
Playgrounds (7)
Fitness Equipment ()
Hiking Trails
Golf Courses (1)
Dog-Friendly Areas (3)
Bocce Courts (1)
Bicycling and Greenways (2 mi)
Spray Showers (6)
Volleyball Courts (2)
Skate Parks (1)
Horseback Riding Trails (4 mi)
Football Fields (1)
Barbecuing Areas (1)
Tennis Courts (14)
Running Tracks (1)



LEGEND

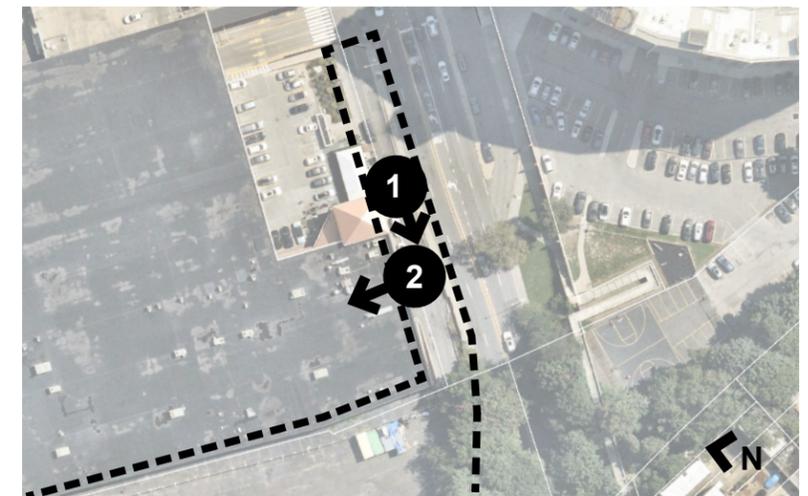
-  SITE BOUNDARY
-  PROTECTED BICYCLE LANE
-  CONVENTIONAL BICYCLE LANE
-  SHARED BICYCLE LANE
-  SIGNED BICYCLE ROUTE
-  BROOKLYN QUEENS GREENWAY



1 - Loading dock and steep ramp, looking west



2 - Loading Dock

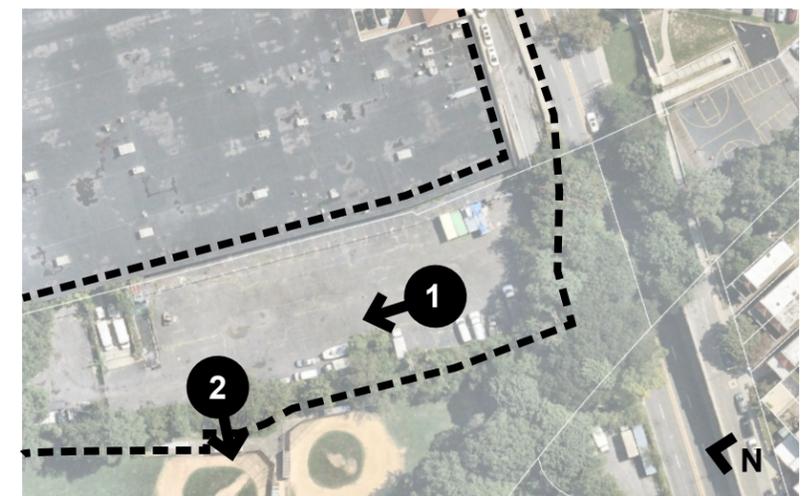




1 - Existing Parking Lot

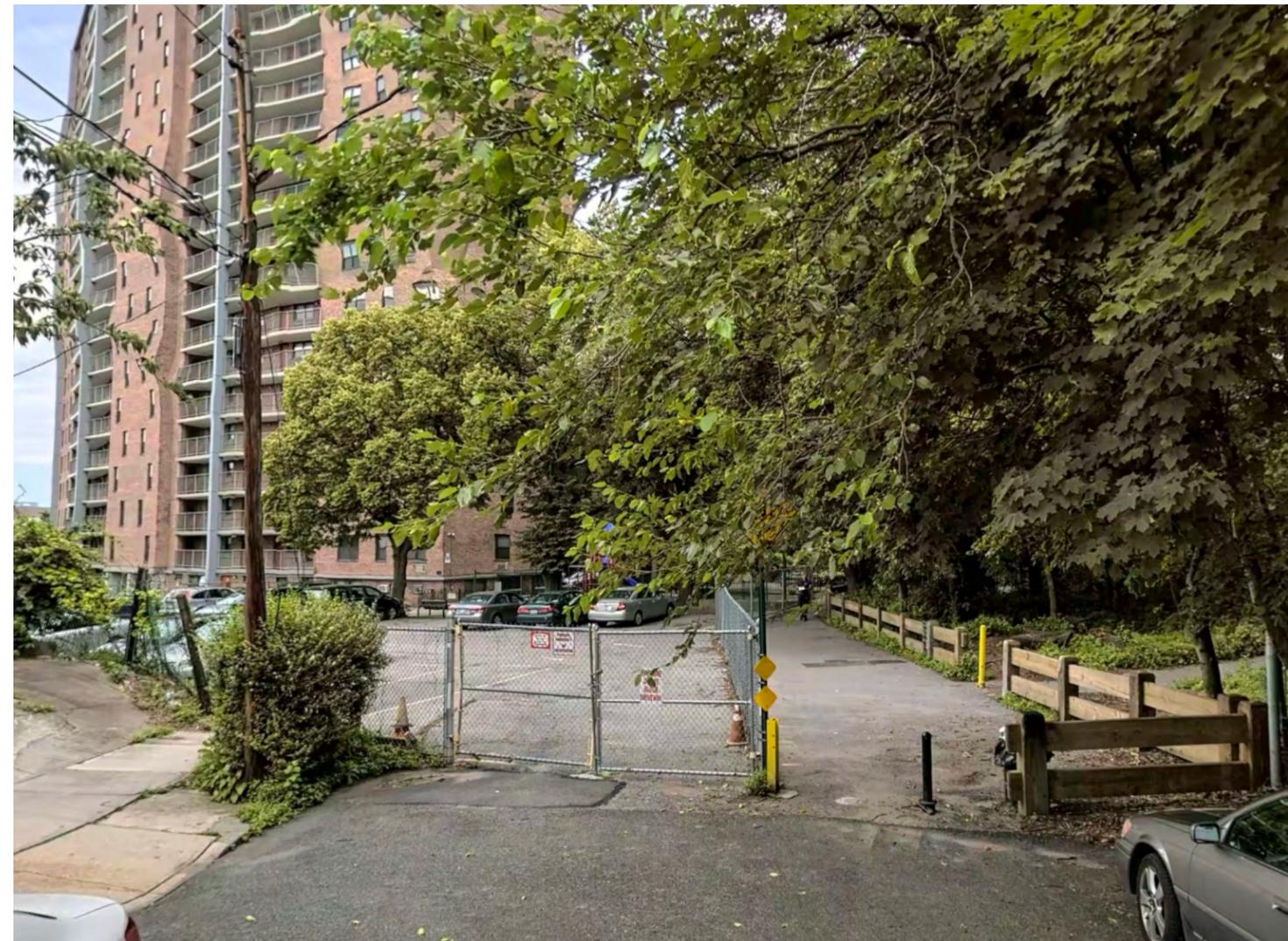


2 - Existing Gate and Steps to Privately Leased Little League Fields

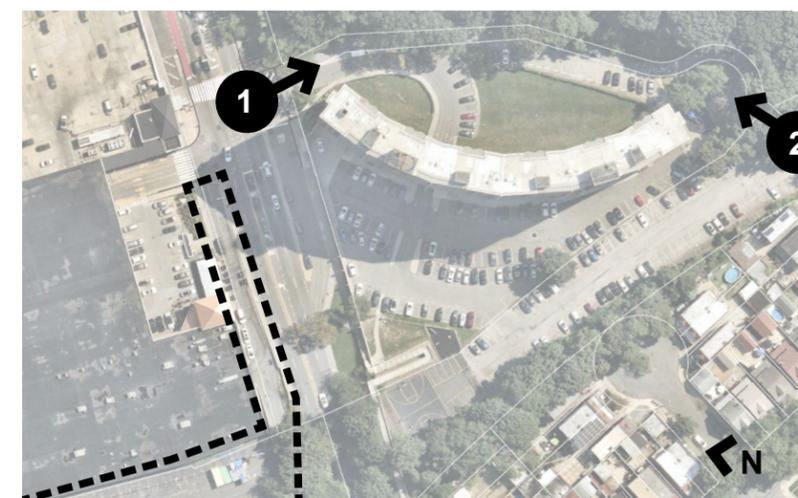




1 - Pathway to Forest Park at Forest Crescent Apartments driveway entrance from Union Tpke



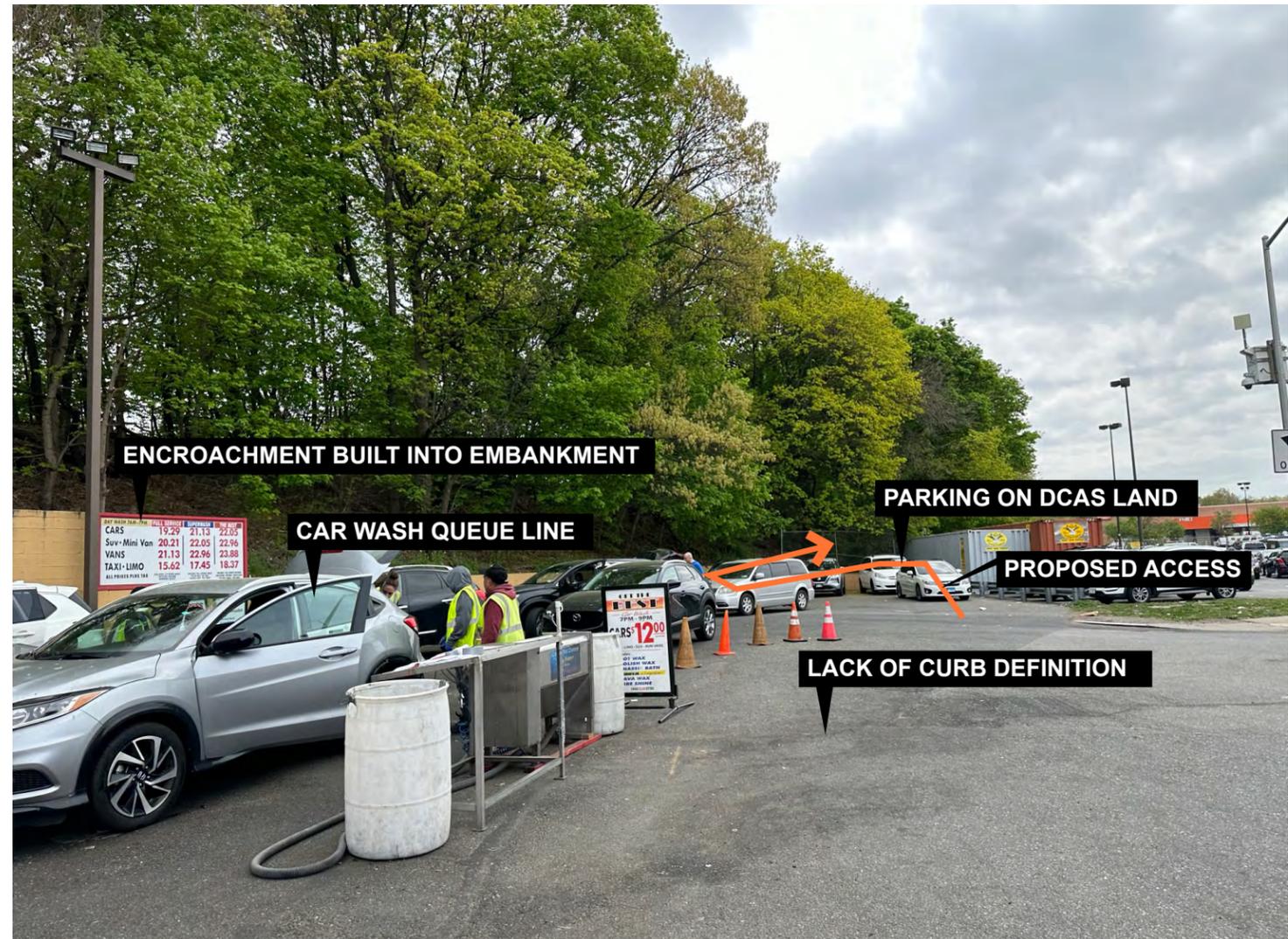
2 - Entrance to Forest Park



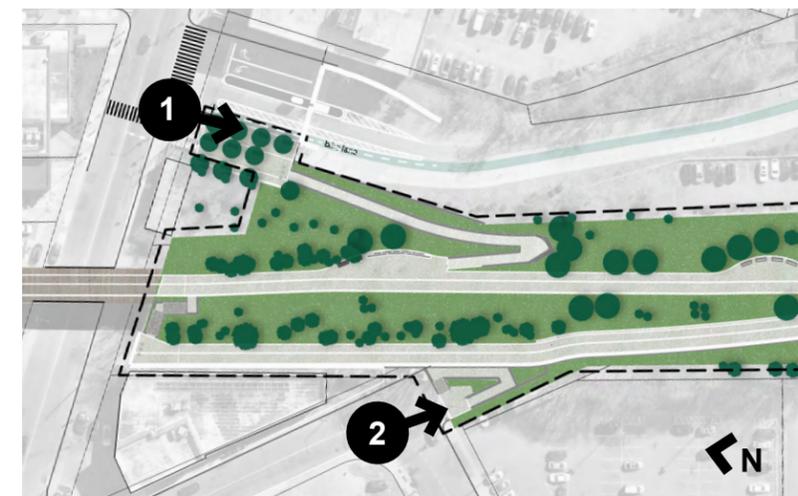


1 - MELS Driveway, looking south

→ Ped Access



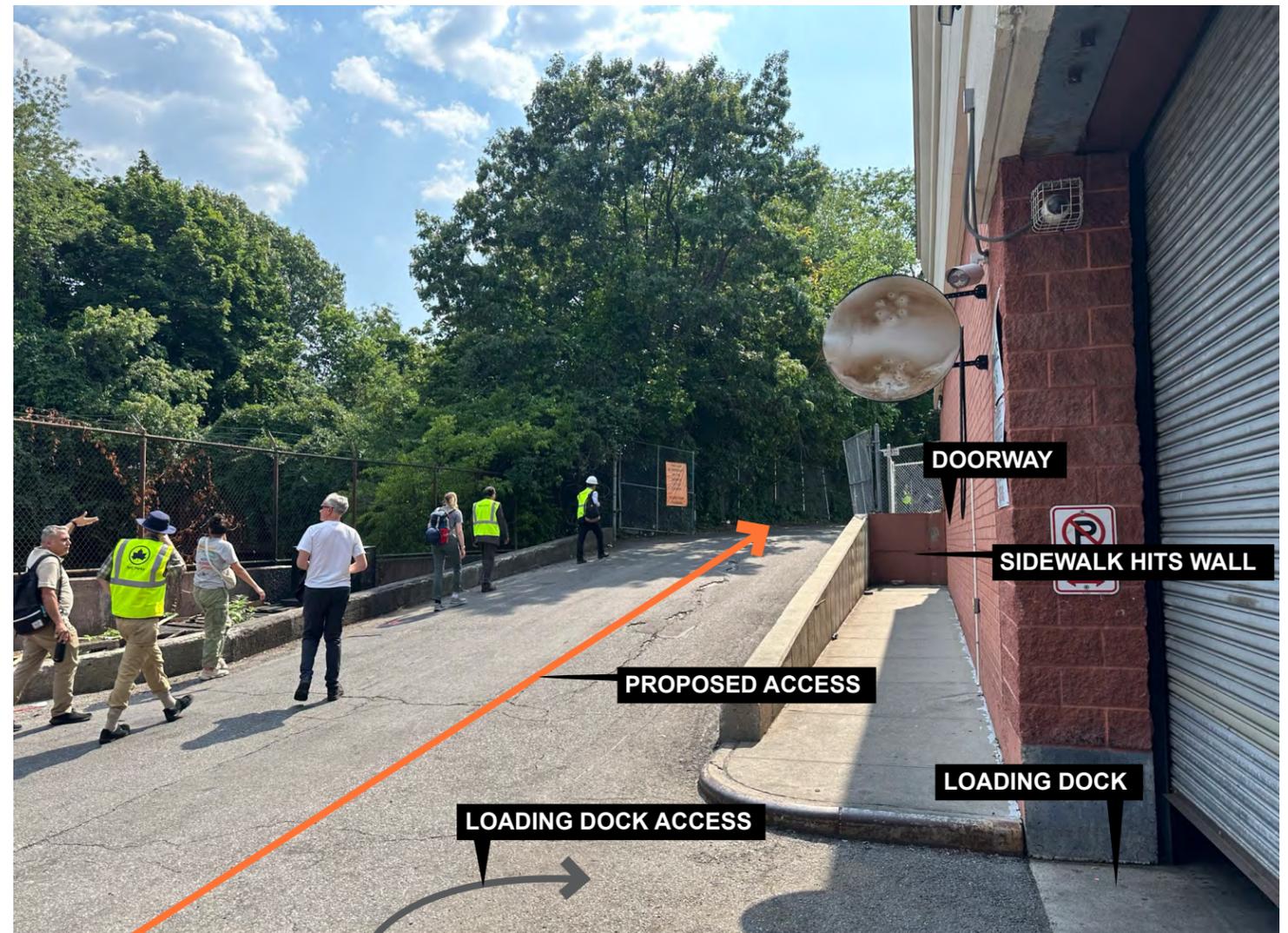
2 - Trotting Course Lane, looking south





1 - Loading dock and ramped drive, looking east

→ Ped Access



2 - Loading dock and steep ramp, looking west

