

City of Toronto + Toronto and Region Conservation

# Tommy Thompson Park Park Entrance Development Project

Waterfront Design Review Meeting #1

Feb 15, 2017

DRAFT

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**The Entranceway and Pavilion Project seeks to establish a new front door to the Park that is welcoming, engaging, and ecologically sensitive to its context.**

### **The scope of work includes:**

- A serviced park entrance, parking, accomodation for bus turnaround, and;
- A serviced public pavilion / outdoor interpretive area

### **Key opportunities in this work include:**

- Establishing the identity of the Park
- Providing visitors with crucial information on the Park and its unique features
- Better connecting the Park to the surrounding pedestrian and bicycle networks
- Protect the existing ecologies that surround the entranceway
- Better defining where cars are welcome and where they are not

# Our work on the Entranceway and Pavilion Project builds upon the previous master planning, architecture and landscape architecture of Tommy Thompson Park.

- Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan (1989) and Addendum (1992)
- Tommy Thompson Park Revised Trails Master Plan and Park Infrastructure (2006)
- Lake Ontario Park Master Plan (2008)
- Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan Implementation Projects:
  - Staff Booth (2013)
  - Environmental Shelter (2013)
  - Bird Banding Station (2013)
  - Entranceway Pavilion (concept design 2010, not implemented)
- Urban Wilderness Principles Document (2014)
- Baselands Trails Master Plan (2016)

# What are the principles that apply to Tommy Thompson Park to preserve its “Urban Wilderness”?

- All actions must be in accordance with the Tommy Thompson Park Revised Master Plan (1992);
- Park activities do not have an overall negative impact on the natural resources, and passive recreational activities are the focus;
- Ecological communities are formed through natural succession with strategic habitat enhancements;
- Appropriate adaptive management takes place to ensure habitat and species protection, while minimizing human disturbance;
- General visitor experiences are natural and self-guided;
- Signage and amenities are minimal;
- What you carry in with you is also carried back out;
- Unauthorized private motor vehicle access is prohibited;
- Pets are prohibited; and
- Admission is free.

# Existing Conditions

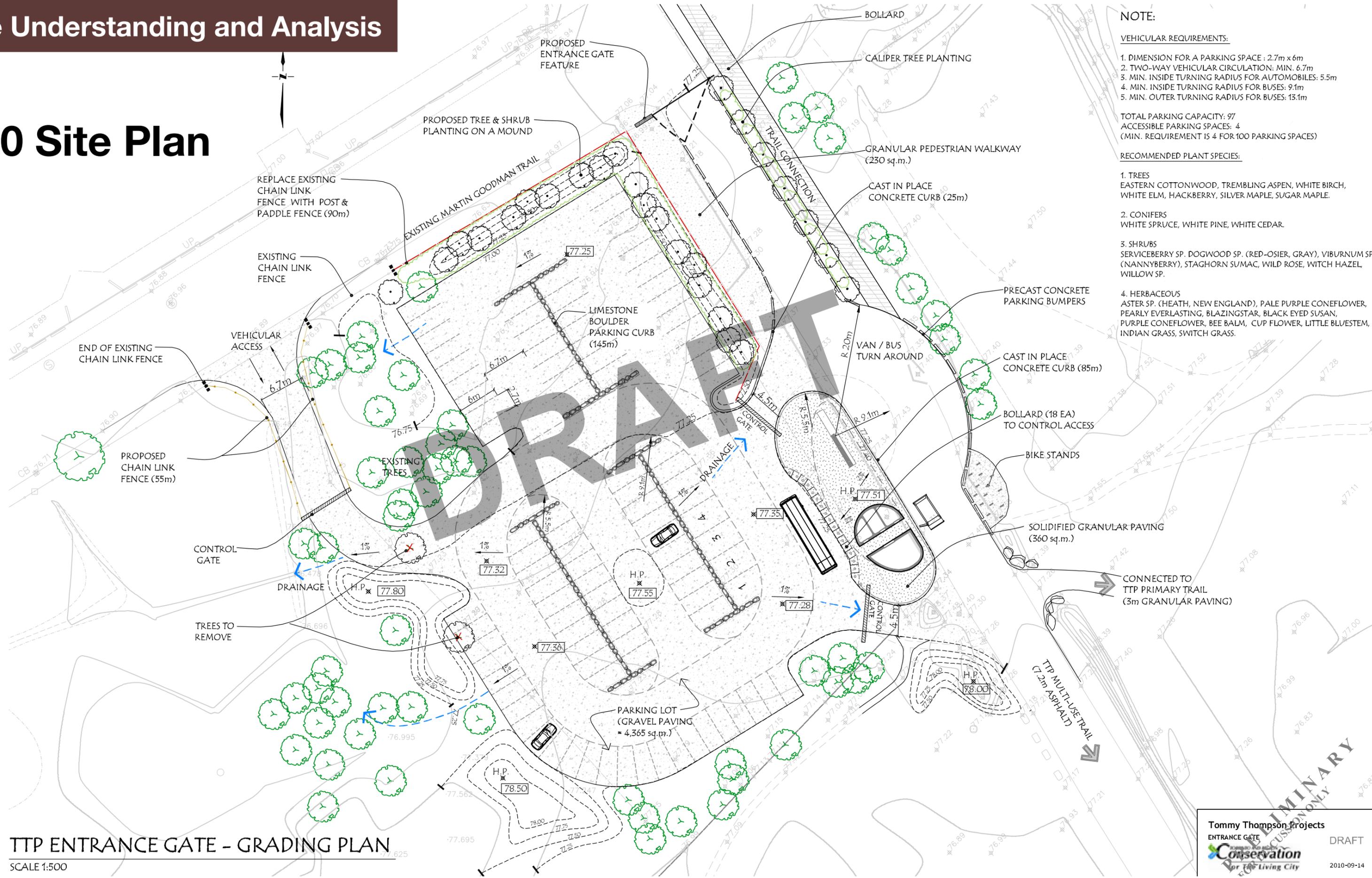
- Entrance gate relocated from the intersection of Leslie and Unwin south on the multi-use trail
- Gated gravel parking lot accessed from Unwin and the multi-use trail
- Small information shelter located at start of Base Lands trails along with portable toilet and garbage/recycling bins
- Bus turnaround accommodated by multi-use trail bulb-out along east side.





# Site Understanding and Analysis

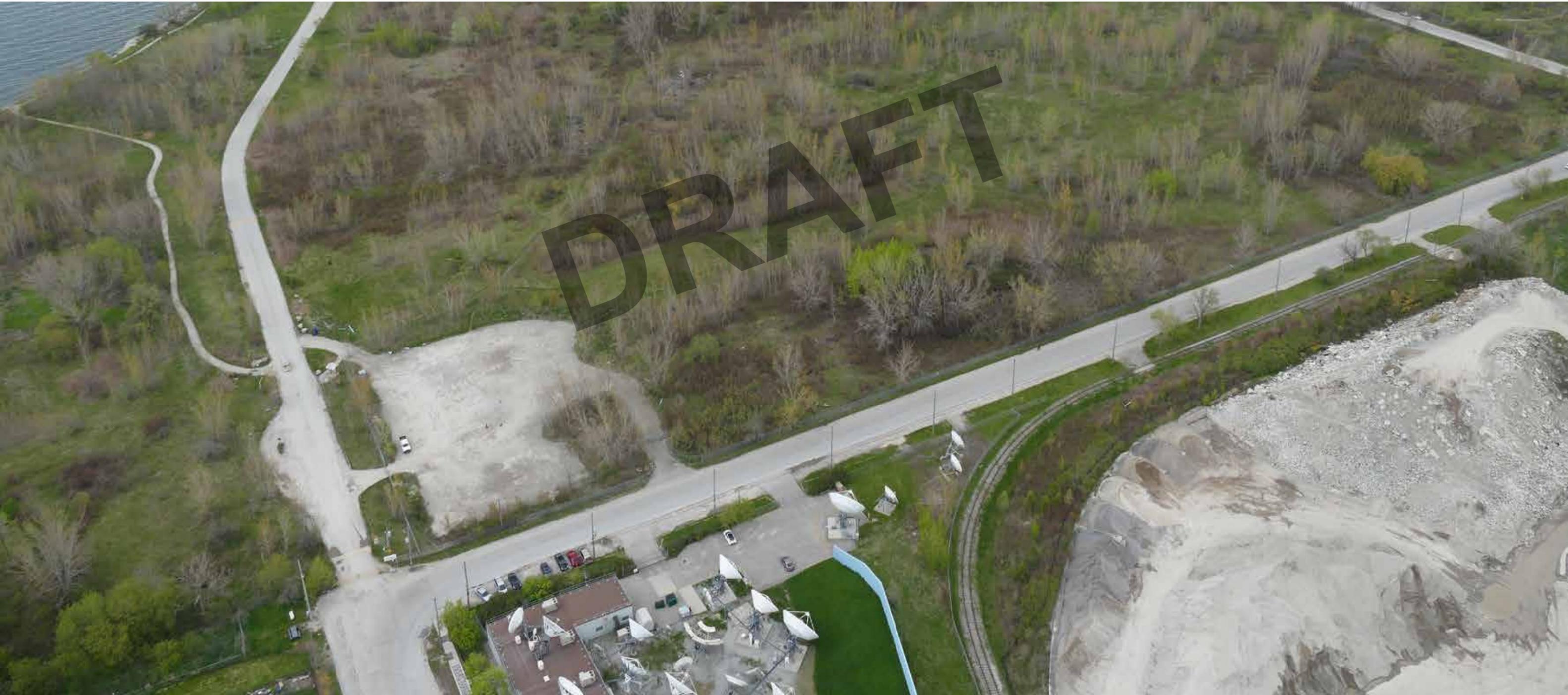
## 2010 Site Plan



- NOTE:**
- VEHICULAR REQUIREMENTS:**
1. DIMENSION FOR A PARKING SPACE : 2.7m x 6m
  2. TWO-WAY VEHICULAR CIRCULATION: MIN. 6.7m
  3. MIN. INSIDE TURNING RADIUS FOR AUTOMOBILES: 5.5m
  4. MIN. INSIDE TURNING RADIUS FOR BUSES: 9.1m
  5. MIN. OUTER TURNING RADIUS FOR BUSES: 13.1m
- TOTAL PARKING CAPACITY: 97**  
**ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES: 4**  
 (MIN. REQUIREMENT IS 4 FOR 100 PARKING SPACES)
- RECOMMENDED PLANT SPECIES:**
1. TREES  
 EASTERN COTTONWOOD, TREMBLING ASPEN, WHITE BIRCH, WHITE ELM, HACKBERRY, SILVER MAPLE, SUGAR MAPLE.
  2. CONIFERS  
 WHITE SPRUCE, WHITE PINE, WHITE CEDAR.
  3. SHRUBS  
 SERVICEBERRY SP. DOGWOOD SP. (RED-OSIER, GRAY), VIBURNUM SP. (NANNYBERRY), STAGHORN SUMAC, WILD ROSE, WITCH HAZEL, WILLOW SP.
  4. HERBACEOUS  
 ASTER SP. (HEATH, NEW ENGLAND), PALE PURPLE CONEFLOWER, PEARLY EVERLASTING, BLAZINGSTAR, BLACK EYED SUSAN, PURPLE CONEFLOWER, BEE BALM, CUP FLOWER, LITTLE BLUESTEM, INDIAN GRASS, SWITCH GRASS.

TTP ENTRANCE GATE - GRADING PLAN  
 SCALE 1:500

# Existing Conditions



## Site Understanding and Analysis

# Edge Conditions: East Multi-Use Trail

- Main vehicular entry - first impression of TTP
- Road design, landscapes to either side lacking definition/function, with drainage issues
- Signage and wayfinding improvements
- Gateway control - how and where



## Site Understanding and Analysis

# Edge Conditions: North Unwin Avenue

- Secondary vehicular entry
- Future Martin Goodman Trail integration
- Signage and wayfinding improvements
- Screening and security considerations needed
- Gateway control - how and where



## Site Understanding and Analysis

### Edge Conditions: West Isolated Ecologies

- Consider views of Base Lands landscape
- Consider stormwater management integration
- Protect valuable tree stands and underbrush ecology
- Control Access



## Site Understanding and Analysis

# Edge Conditions: South Trail Connections to Park

- Consider views of Base Lands landscapes
- Consider stormwater management integration
- Maintain trail connections into Park while controlling access



# Ecological Conditions and Considerations

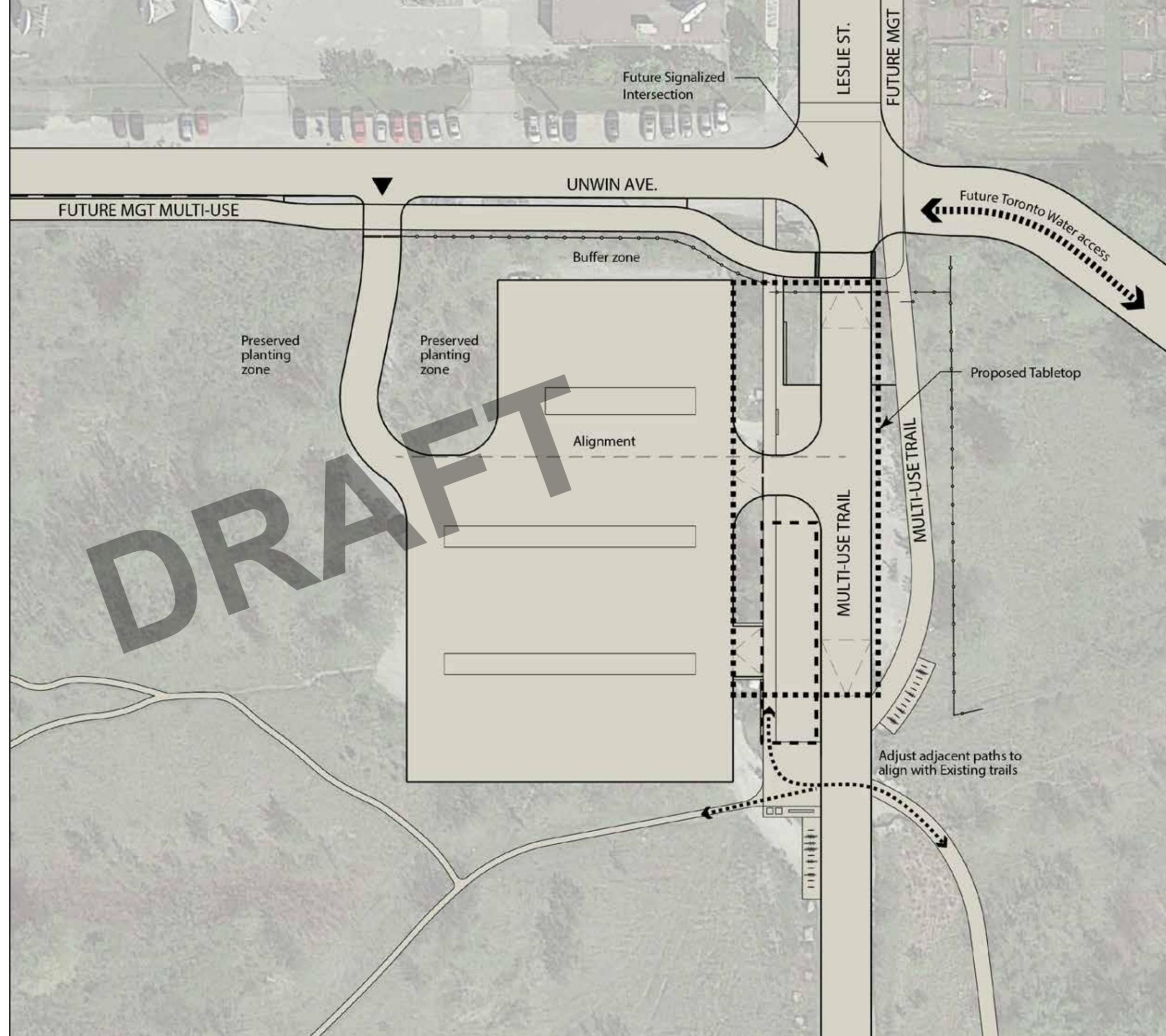
- Vegetation communities surrounding the site generally classified as Fresh-Moist Poplar Deciduous Forest Type
  - Eastern Cottonwood predominant tree species surrounding the existing lot - appear to be 10-25 years old
  - Shrub layer dominated by Red-osier Dogwood - produces a thicket that is great for access control and screening
  - Further to the west and southwest are seasonally flooded areas (wetlands)
- Most sensitive areas the woodland to the west and fragmented woodland unit within the parking lot
- Planting will follow the vegetation communities of the TTP - document produced by the Friends of the Spit



## Site Organization Strategy

### Layout Strategy

- Provide for future MGT connection along the northern edge of parking lot, with landscape buffer
- Preserve tree stand adjacent to western entrance driveway
- Align vehicular connection to multi-use trail to facilitate bus movements and allow for the removal of the bulb-out
- Establish tabletop at the northern edge of Multi-Use Trail to identify pedestrian-priority zone



## Site Organization Strategy

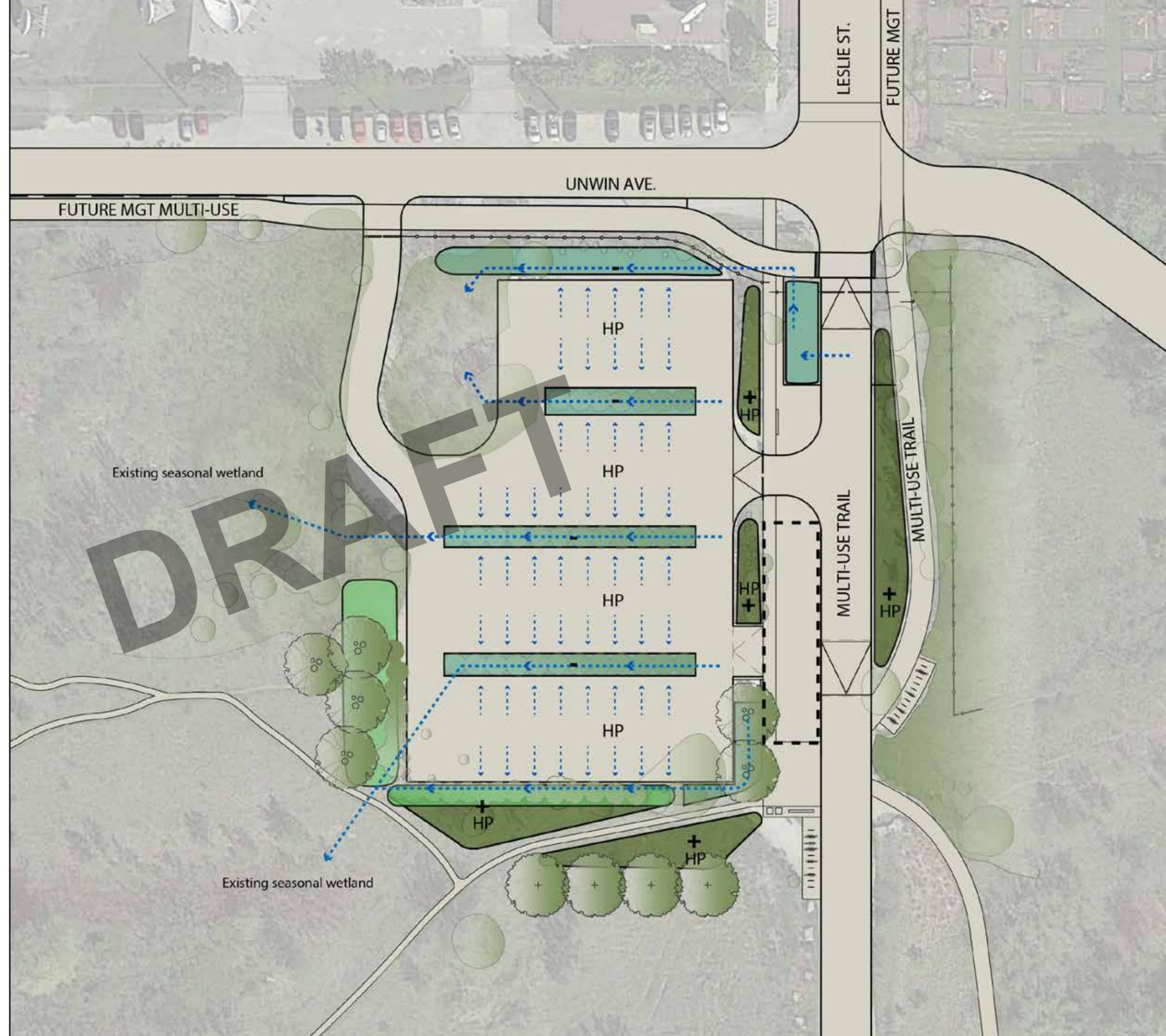
# Tabletop Transition



## Site Organization Strategy

# Stormwater Management

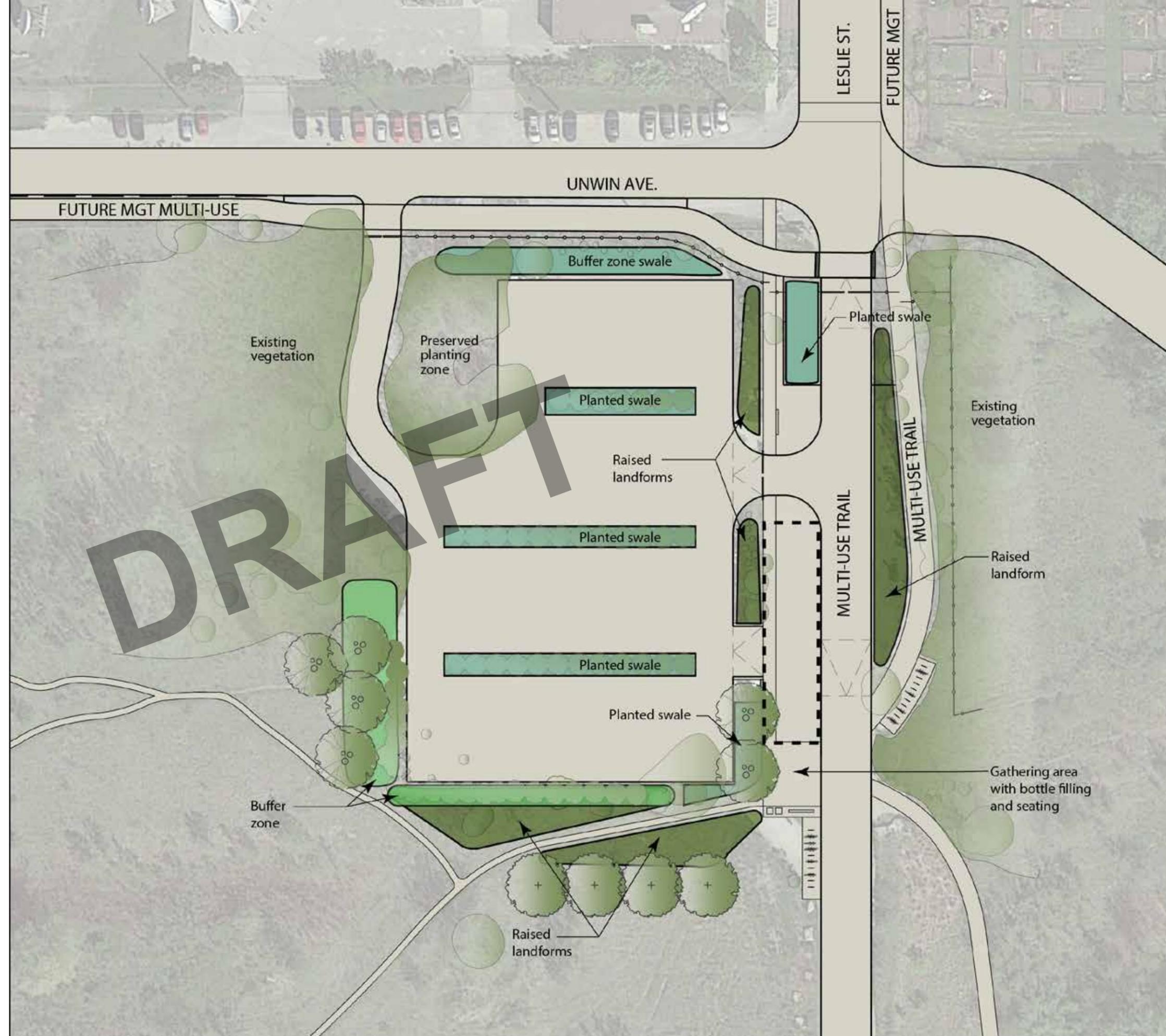
- Regrade parking lot to drain into landscaped swales, that in turn drain into adjacent wetland landscapes to the west
- Create sculpted landform to the east and south to screen view of parking lot from entrance and trails and control access
- Develop drainage swales along multi-use trail to resolve current ponding issues on the trail



## Site Organization Strategy

### Landscape

- Re-organize the parking, create new landscape buffer areas/swales that serve as screening, support stormwater management and delineate parking areas from drive aisles
- Restore multi-use trail and re-define its edges with planting and landform
- Define trail connections with landscape and topography - screening view of parking lot from the south



## Site Organization Strategy

# Signage and Access Control

- Control of access to parking lot a requirement of the project
- New control gates are proposed at the threshold of the Park at Unwin Avenue
- Signage would be positioned adjacent to each of these gates
- Additional signage provided at entrance to parking lot off the multi-use trail



## Site Organization Strategy

### Parking

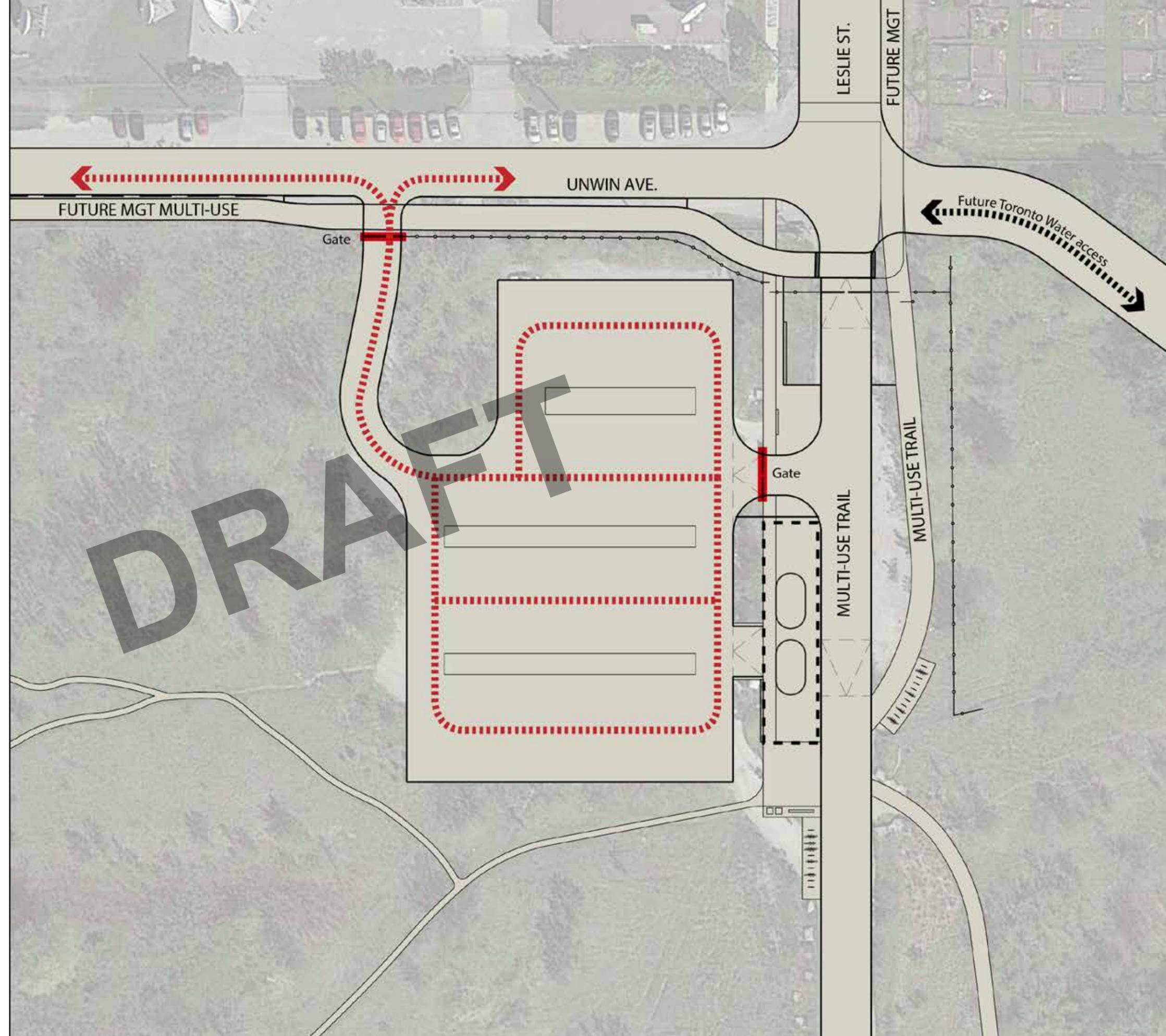
- Accommodate 100 parking stalls provided within the parking lot
- Bus drop-off zone on multi-use trail/parking-
- Efficient parking layout achieved by limiting bus movements/minimize impact to site
- Landscape integration achieved by swales, screening and landforms



## Site Organization Strategy

### Site Circulation - Private Vehicle

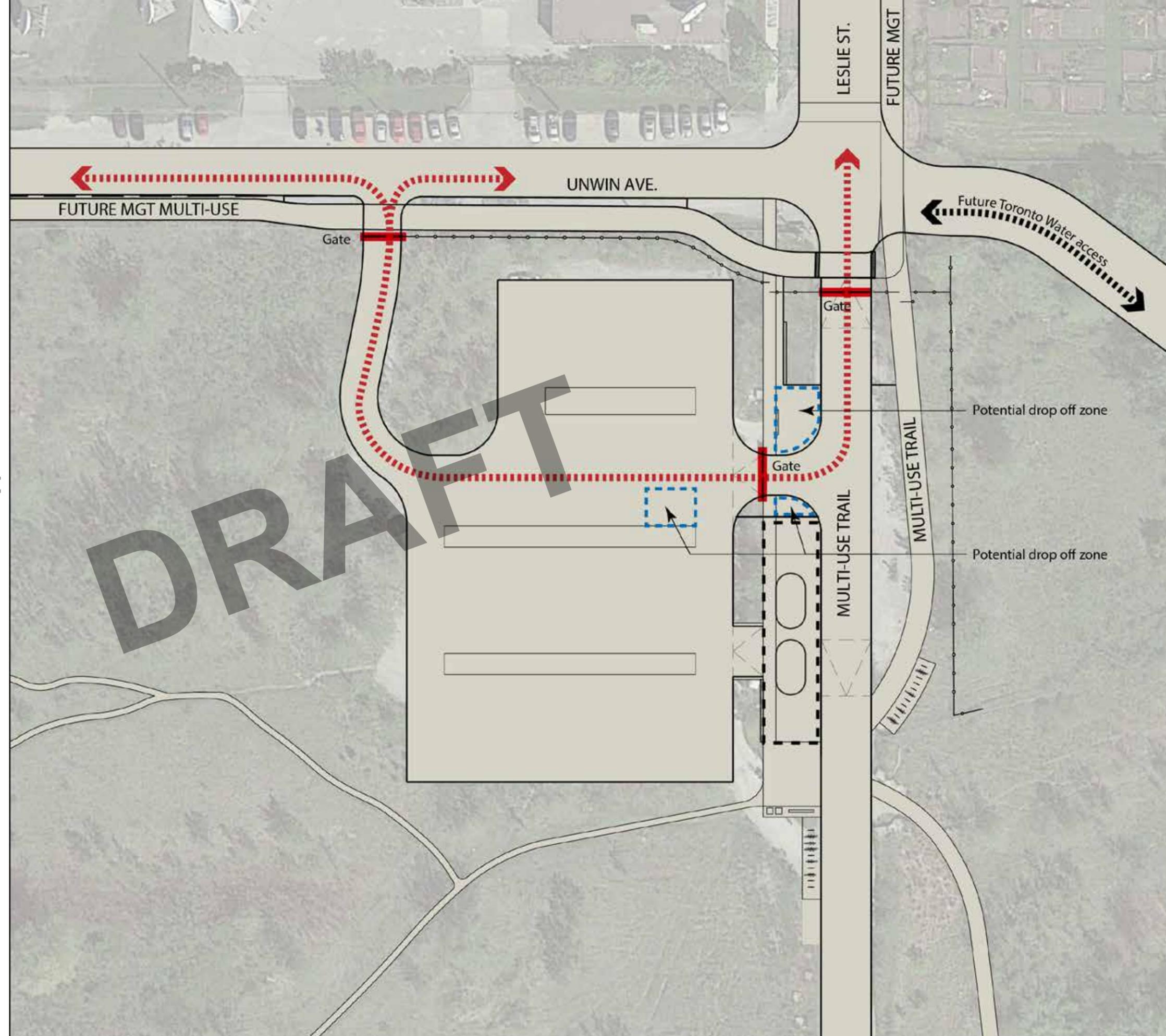
- Entry and exit for private vehicles from Unwin Avenue gate
- Two-way drive aisles within parking lot facilitate movements
- No access to multi-use trail - controlled by gate



## Site Organization Strategy

### Site Circulation - Bus / Shuttle

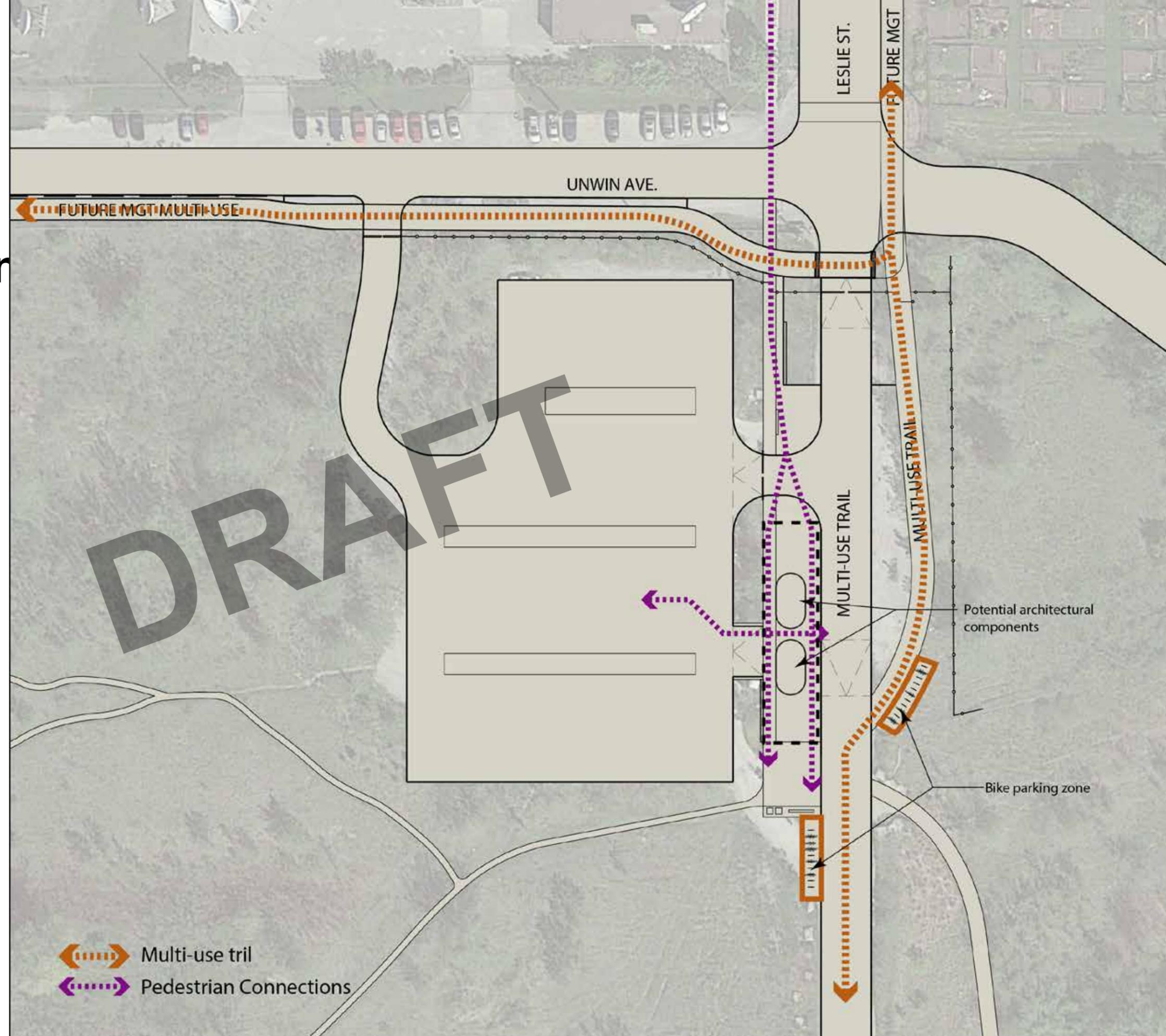
- Bus and shuttle access to the parking lot via Unwin Avenue gate
- Drop-off to take place within parking lot adjacent to pavilion
- Egress for bus and shuttle via multi-use trail, controlled by gate and monitored by site staff



## Site Organization Strategy

### Site Circulation - Bicycle & Pedestrian

- MGT connection to multi use trail
- Bicycle parking provided adjacent to pavilion along the multi-use trail
- Pedestrian connection along western edge of Leslie Street through the landscape, passing adjacent to the entry pavilion to the Base Lands trail heads
- Pedestrian connection from parking lot to the multi-use trail, passing through or adjacent to the pavilion



# Landscape - Concept (material precedent)



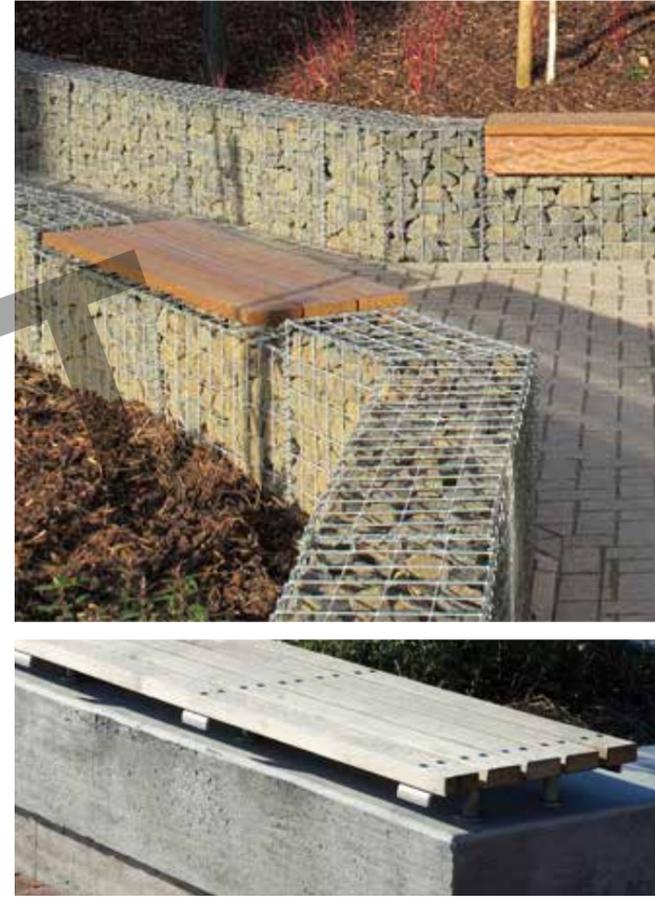
**landform**



**porous  
pavement**



**screening  
and seasonal  
interest**



**gabion wall**

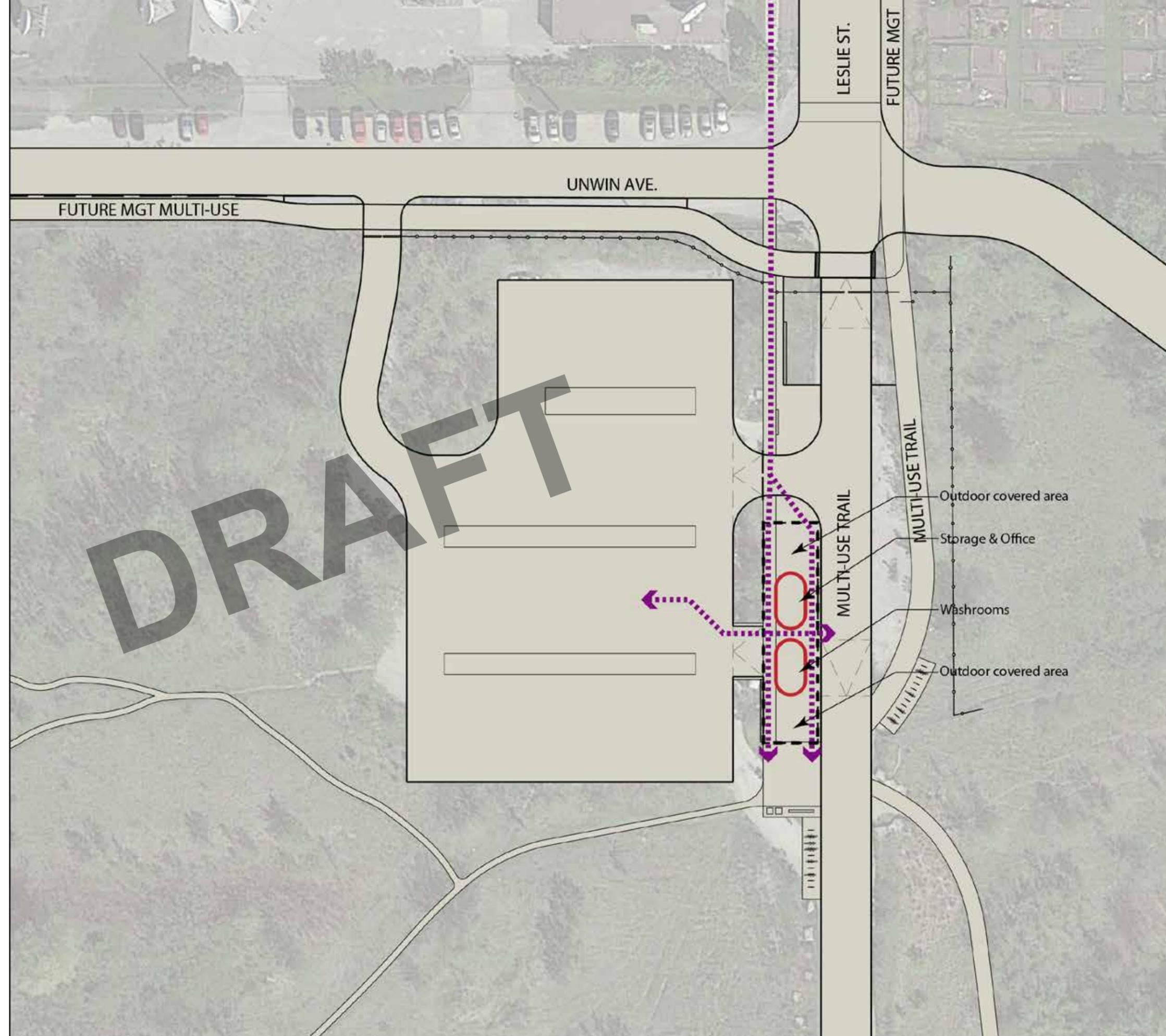


**planted  
swales**

## Site Organization Strategy

# Entry Pavilion Siting Strategy

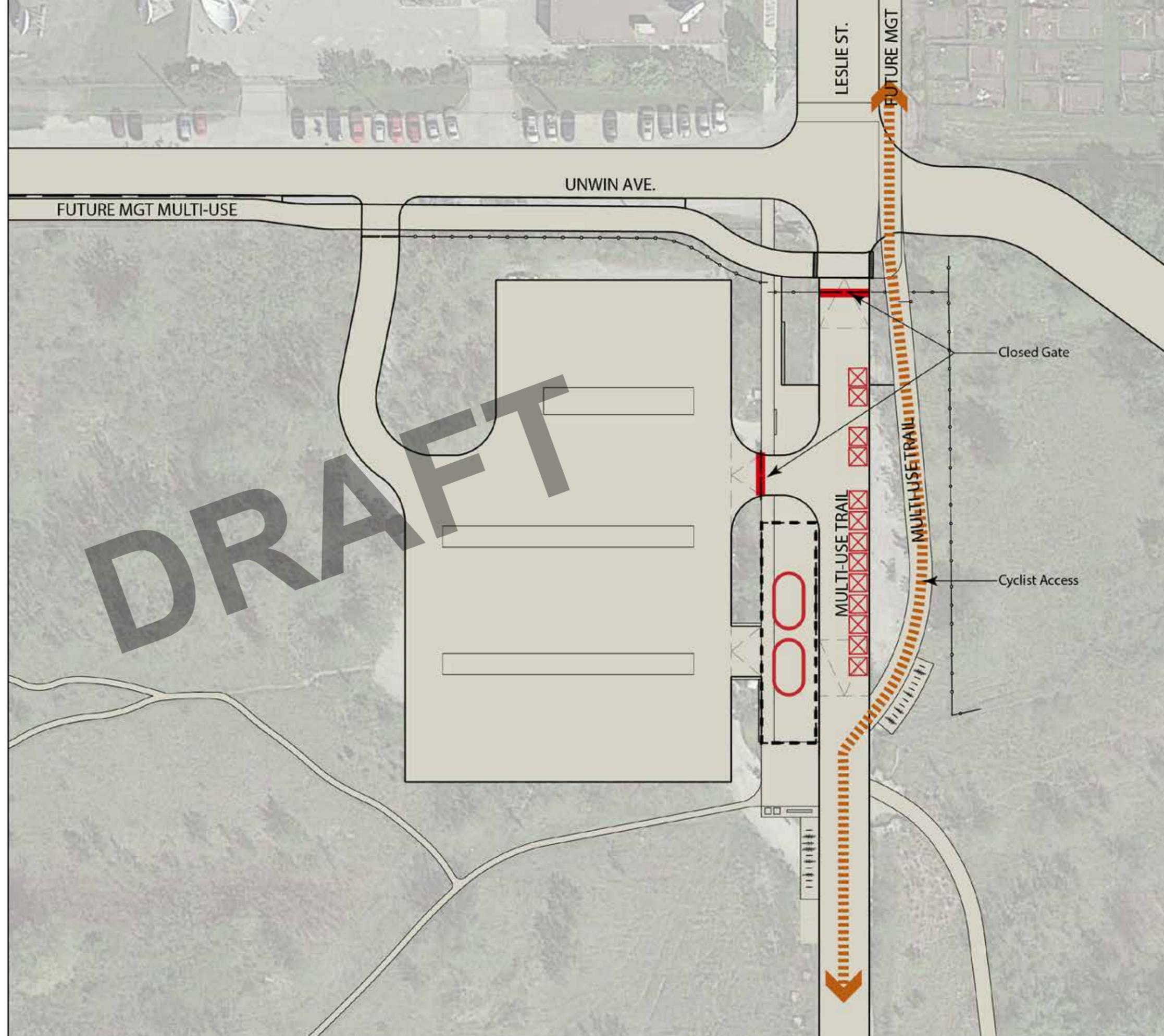
- Entrance Pavilion wants to be situated at the threshold between the parking lot and the Park
- Architecture to be integrated with the surrounding landscape



## Site Organization Strategy

### Special Event Set-Up

- Reconfigured entrance area can accommodate vendors for special events while minimizing conflicts



## Entrance Pavilion

# Entry Pavilion Program

- 4 unisex washrooms, at least one of which is universally accessible
- office / storage room with sightline to multi-use trail entry, approximately 60' linear storage
- outdoor covered interpretive space to accommodate 30 people

# Entry Pavilion Design Criteria

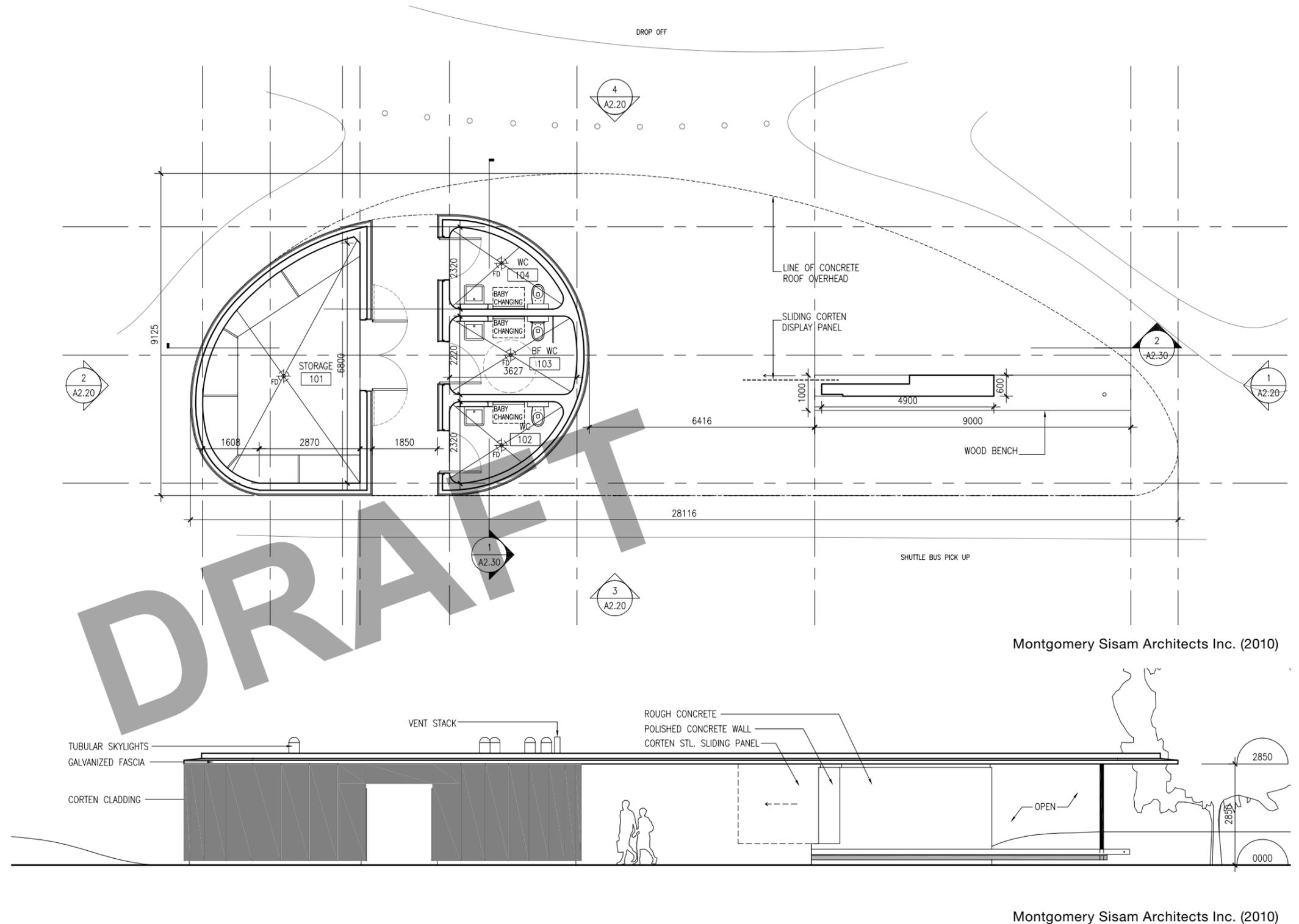
- bird-friendly design
- maintain the look and feel of the existing TTP infrastructure
- organically integrated with the site
- low operation and maintenance needs
- vandal-proof, sustainable and enduring



## Entrance Pavilion

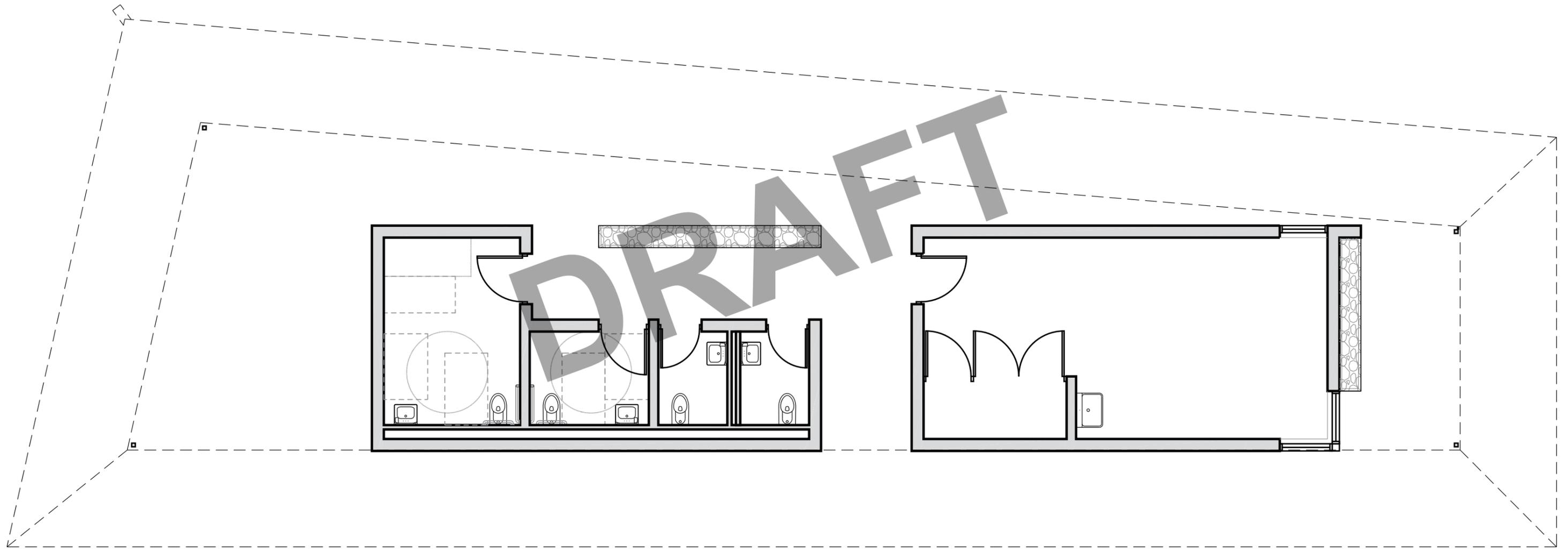
# Entry Pavilion Previous Design

- design similar to Staff Booth - same palette of materials, construction methodology, form
- storage room much smaller than now anticipated to be required
- fully opaque, no windows anticipated in the design
- curved floor plan areas difficult to efficiently utilize for storage



**Entrance Pavilion**

**Entry Pavilion - Concept (use)**



outdoor  
gathering

washrooms

office /  
storage

outdoor  
gathering

# Entry Pavilion - Concept (material)



**weathering  
steel soffit**

**opportunity for  
interpretive panel**

**gabion wall**

**board-form  
concrete**

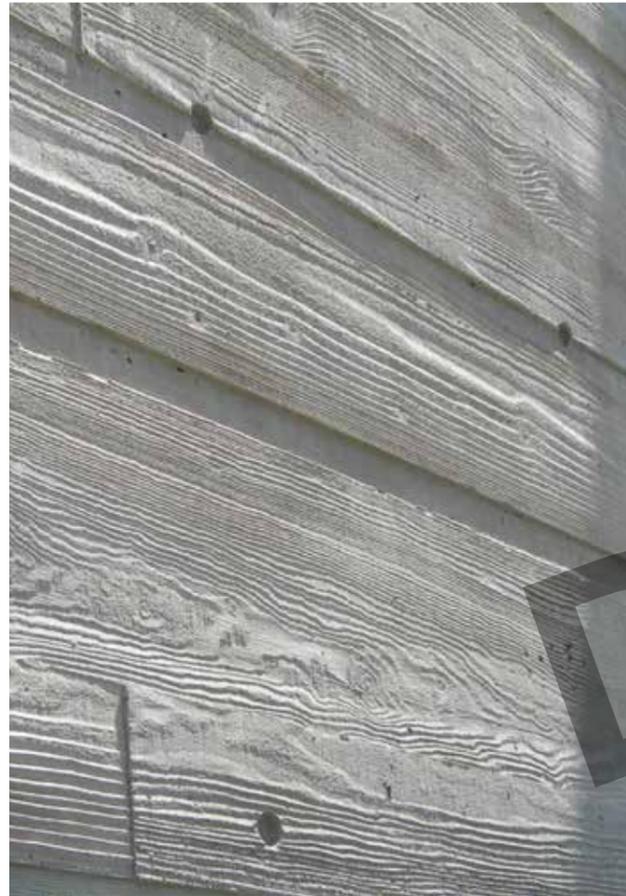
**steel  
columns**

# Entrance Pavilion

## Entry Pavilion - Concept (material precedent)



thin roof profile



board-form concrete



weathering steel



aluminum glazing w/ roll-down shutter



steel columns

# Entry Pavilion - Concept (gabion walls)



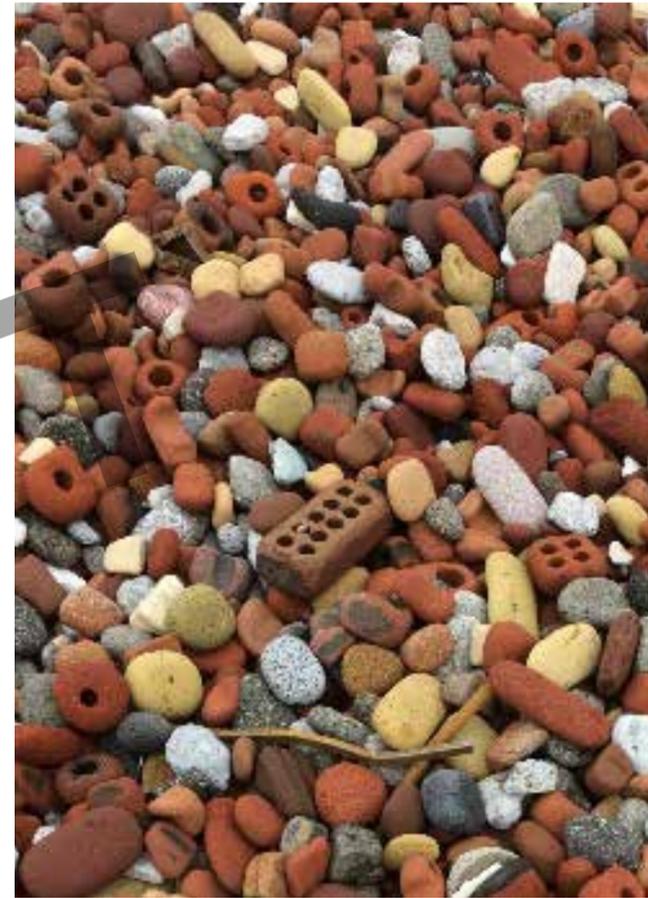
**original rubble**



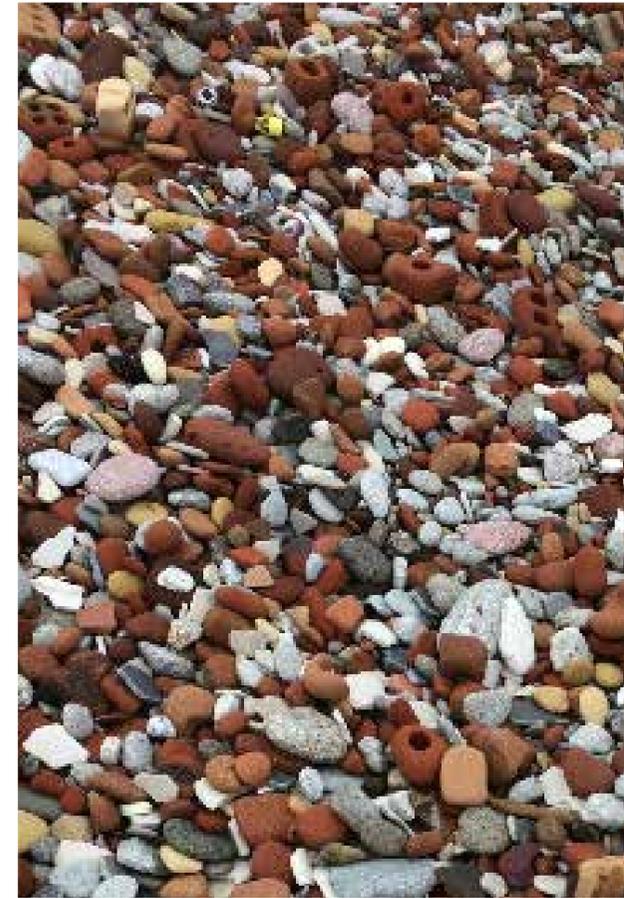
**rebar and concrete**



**storm debris**



**coarse aged rubble**



**fine aged rubble**

## Site Organization Strategy

### Lighting

- Night sky friendly lighting
- Vandal proof
- Following building perimeter under canopy
- With possible lighting integrated into seat wall landscape elements adjacent to pedestrian north-south connection.



Site Plan



# Perspective View



Perspective View



Birds Eye View



## **Project Timeline**

- **Schematic Design / Design Development (January / February)**
- **Waterfront Design Review Panel (February 15)**
- **Construction Documents / Permit Submission (March / April)**
- **Waterfront Design Review Panel (April TBC)**
- **Tender and City Approvals (Summer)**
- **Construction Commencement (October)**

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