

Welcome to the

MacMillan Farm

Master Plan Open House



Learn more and sign-up
for project updates:
vaughan.ca/MacMillan



Help shape the future of MacMillan Farm!

MacMillan Farm will be transformed into a vibrant community hub for residents and visitors to enjoy.

What is MacMillan Farm?

MacMillan Farm is a farm property that has been owned by the MacMillan family since 1934. In recent years, portions of the farm have been sold or donated to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and the City of Vaughan.

Why are we creating a Master Plan?

The City of Vaughan is creating a master plan for MacMillan Farm, which will help decide how this area of former farmland will transform into a special place where people can enjoy nature, learn about the outdoors, and take part in fun year-round recreational opportunities.

Project timeline

*All timelines are approximate and subject to change.

WE ARE HERE



Phase 1: Gathering ideas

Gathered input on preferences and desires for MacMillan Farm.



Phase 2: Sharing preliminary concepts

Determine preferred concept elements through engagement.



Phase 3: Sharing the plan

Completion of master plan based on technical review, costing scenarios, and interested party and public input.

Winter 2025

Fall 2025

Winter 2026

Phase 1 engagement opportunities

Online survey

Pop-ups

Student workshop and take-home activity

Phase 2 engagement opportunities

Open house

Online survey



MacMillan Farm Master Plan

What we heard

Phase 1 of the MacMillan Farm Master Plan was launched in early 2025 with a robust public engagement process that included an online survey, pop-ups, and a student workshop, ensuring diverse community voices shaped the vision.



MacMillan Farm Master Plan

Guiding principles

Based on feedback from Phase 1 engagement, the project team has developed a set of guiding principles that reflect the site's agricultural roots, heritage significance, ecological character, and the community's aspiration for a vibrant, multi-functional greenspace.

These principles will guide the evolving design toward a destination that integrates ecology, agriculture, heritage, education, tourism, recreation, and culture in a welcoming, sustainable environment.



Nature-based destination

Create a distinctive nature-based destination with formal trails and immersive experiences to support community health, activity and wellness.



Climate resiliency

Protect and enhance natural features while carefully integrating public access and uses.



Agricultural legacy

Combine the site's agricultural heritage with naturalization by planting diverse, productive species that support both cultivation and healthy ecosystems.



Model of innovation

Re-imagine the farm as a living laboratory for sustainability, offering hands-on education to inspire future land stewards.



Indigenous placekeeping

Celebrate the land's natural and agricultural legacy while elevating Indigenous voices through placekeeping.



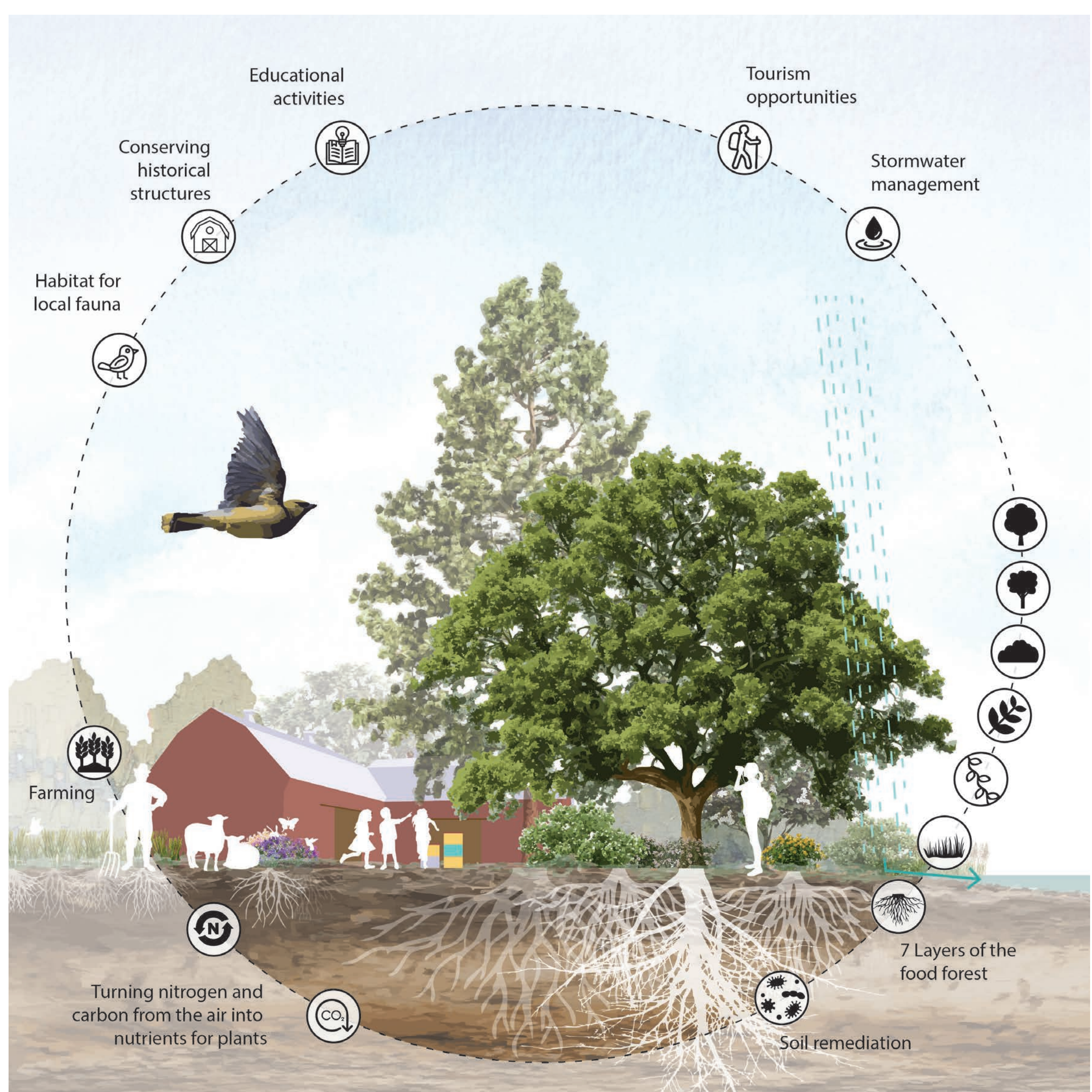
Stewardship

Explore collaborative governance models and innovative partnerships that support lasting environmental and financial resilience.

A new park type

Building on the site's unique cultural and natural heritage, MacMillan Farm will:

- support biodiversity and wildlife by enhancing meadows, woodlands and gardens.
- leverage the historical and existing buildings to share the site's unique stories.
- create an inclusive, accessible greenspace with hands-on educational activities and environmental learning.
- attract visitors through unique, nature-based experiences.
- strengthen climate resilience with plantings that capture carbon and manage stormwater.
- highlight the farm's agricultural legacy in sustainable ways (such as food forests and urban gardening with native plants).






MacMillan Farm Master Plan

The three concepts

Through conversations with members of the public, local students, Indigenous communities and City staff, the Project Team has developed three draft design concepts.

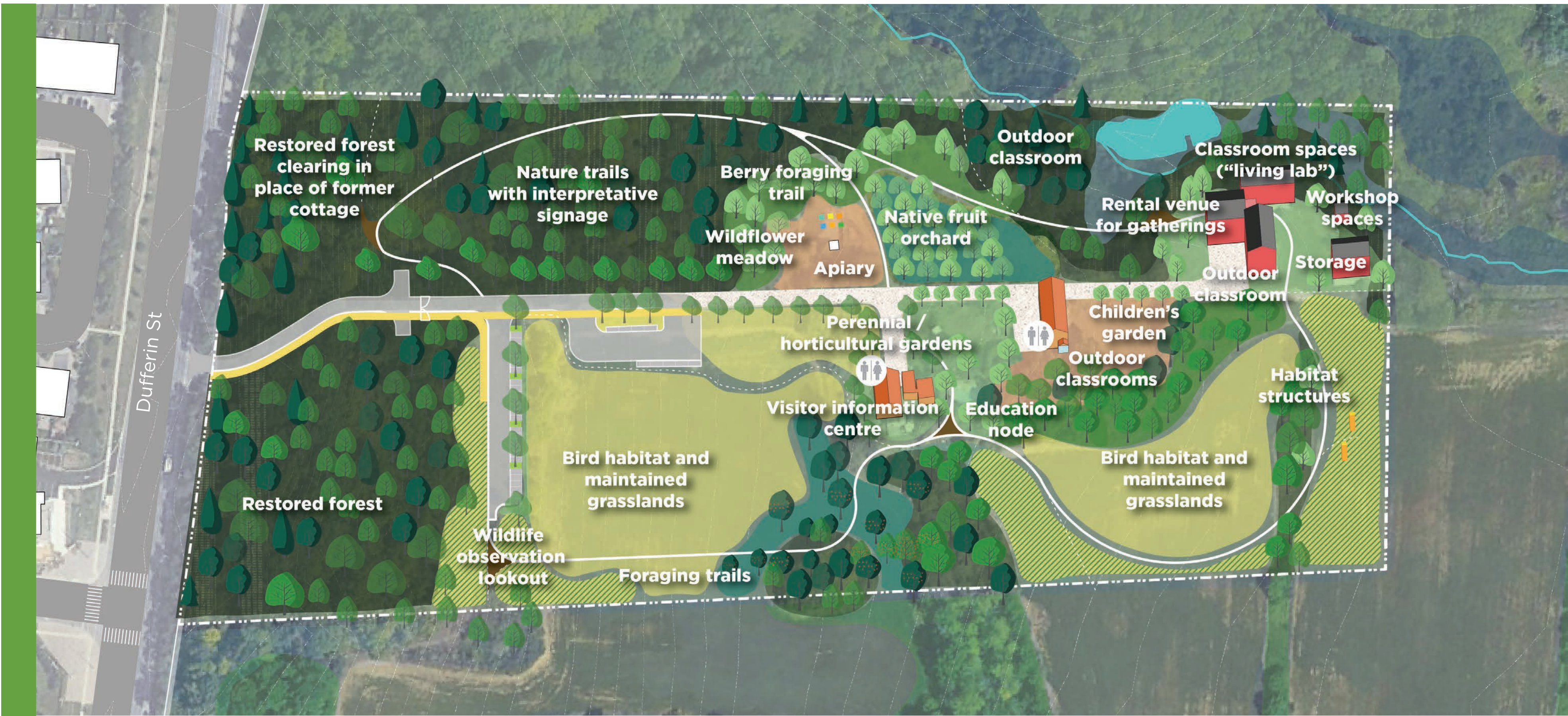
While each draft design concept has a unique emphasis (ecology, food, and arts and culture), all three will highlight the site’s natural environment and heritage.

		
Concept A: Ecology-forward	Concept B: Food-forward	Concept C: Arts and culture-forward
MacMillan Farm as a quiet retreat, where environmental restoration creates thriving habitats for wildlife and visitors to experience nature’s beauty, diversity, and resilience.	MacMillan Farm as a new food hub, combining the site’s farming history with ecological restoration through diverse plantings of edible plants and trees that integrate with surrounding forests and meadows.	MacMillan Farm as a cultural destination where art, history, and ecology come together. The farm offers hands-on experiences, celebrates local talent, and explores the connections between people and nature.
What’s different?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lowest impact design and programming• Focus on naturalization and habitat creation• Fewer trails (2.3 km) to minimize habitat disruption• Fewer parking spaces to reduce the impact of development• Re-purposing of buildings focuses on environmental education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderate impact design and programming• Showcase of urban agriculture in creative ways• Additional trails (2.7 km) to invite foraging and gathering• Additional parking to support new uses• Re-purposing of buildings as a local food hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highest impact design and programming• Highlights local creativity, arts and culture• Longest stretch of trails (2.8 km) through grasslands and forests to immerse visitors within nature• Highest number of parking spaces to support events and gathering• Re-purposing of buildings to accommodate public uses for learning, exhibitions and events
What’s the same?		
Across all options, MacMillan Farm will offer site upgrades that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public washrooms• Enhanced entry, roadway, and parking spaces• Wayfinding and interpretive signage• New uses of the heritage homes and barns• Formalized trails and pathways• Bike parking		



Concept A: Ecology-forward

A



Concept B: Food-forward

B



Concept C: Arts and culture-forward

C



Five program zones

The three concepts for MacMillan Farm are presented through the lens of five “zones.”

Zone 1: Woodlands

Forested natural area with a meandering stream.

Zone 2: Open Fields

Open mowed areas historically used for agriculture.

Zone 3: Houses and Garden

Two heritage homes and a maintained perennial garden.

Zone 4: The Glade

A clearing in the forest, providing a transitional zone between the heritage houses and forested areas.

Zone 5: The Barns

A main barn and silo, with three additional “outbuildings.”



	Image	Defining features	Objectives
Zone 1: Woodlands		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mature forest• Stream that runs through a portion of the forest• Old MacMillan Family Cottage (in disrepair)• Steep forested sloped area (former gravel pit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restore and maintain existing deciduous forest• Prioritize habitat protection• Offer opportunities for nature connection• Provide nature trails for year-round use
Zone 2: Open Fields		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open fields that are actively mowed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support urban agriculture activities and visitor programming opportunities• Enhance wildlife habitat, with integration into forest edges• Offer flexible programming opportunities with varying levels of use and activity
Zone 3: Houses and Garden		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two heritage homes: the William Cook House and Valentine Keffer House• Horticultural / perennial gardens (plants that return each year)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support year-round, family-friendly programming opportunities• Offer facilities to host meetings and events for visitors• Provide offices for park staff and volunteers• Include public washrooms for visitors
Zone 4: The Glade		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A mix of open spaces and trees• An existing apiary (beekeeping facility)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide spaces for gathering, social connection and education• Enhance visitors' understanding of pollinators through various learning and interpretive opportunities• Enhance the design and activities around the existing beekeeping area
Zone 5: The Barns		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A main barn and silo, with three additional “outbuildings”• Mowed open space between the buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revitalize and retrofit the barns and outbuildings• Potentially integrate renewable energy solutions (e.g., solar panels)• Provide space for year-round events and programming• Maintain an outbuilding for park storage use

MacMillanFarm_Phase2-OpenHouse-V5.indd 7

2025-09-19 12:55:12 PM

Zone 1: Woodlands

The Woodlands occupy the western and northern portions of the property and are primarily composed of mature forest.



The Woodlands currently feature:

- Mature forest
- Stream that runs through a portion of the forest
- Old MacMillan Family Cottage (in disrepair)
- Steep forested sloped area (former gravel pit)

Objectives within the Woodlands are to:

- Restore and maintain existing deciduous forest
- Prioritize habitat protection
- Offer opportunities for nature connection
- Provide nature trails for year-round use

Concept A: Ecology-forward

Concept A focuses on protecting habitats by creating gentle trails that avoid sensitive areas. The cottage is removed, and the site restored as a forest clearing that reconnects visitors with the surrounding woodland. Simple features like a small outdoor classroom and interpretive signs invite people to learn about nature on their own, without disrupting wildlife.



Concept A includes:

- Nature trails with interpretive signage
- Restored forest clearing in place of former cottage
- Small outdoor classroom

Concept A enables activities like:

- Self-guided tours (using interpretive signage)
- Hands-on workshops (e.g., environmental education, stewardship)



Nature trails



Restored forest



Interpretive signage



Zone 1: Woodlands

Concept B: Food-forward

In **Concept B**, a food-forward approach envisions the forest edges as zones for edible plantings and food forests (edible forest gardens with trees and plants that grow food) that support the existing ecosystem. Existing trails are enhanced by small scale gathering spaces for learning about foraging, planting, and forest stewardship.



Concept B includes:

- Food forest/berry foraging trail
- Small scale gathering spaces

Concept B enables activities like:

- Seasonal harvesting activities (e.g., guided walks along foraging trails)
- Hands-on workshops (e.g., foraging, community planting)



Food forest/berry foraging trail



Seasonal harvesting activities



Small-scale gathering spaces

Concept C: Arts and culture-forward

In **Concept C**, the Woodlands become a place for art and learning, with trails lined by installations and outdoor classrooms. The old gravel pit is turned into an amphitheatre for performances and gatherings, while the old cottage is given new life as a playful, hands-on structure that invites exploration.

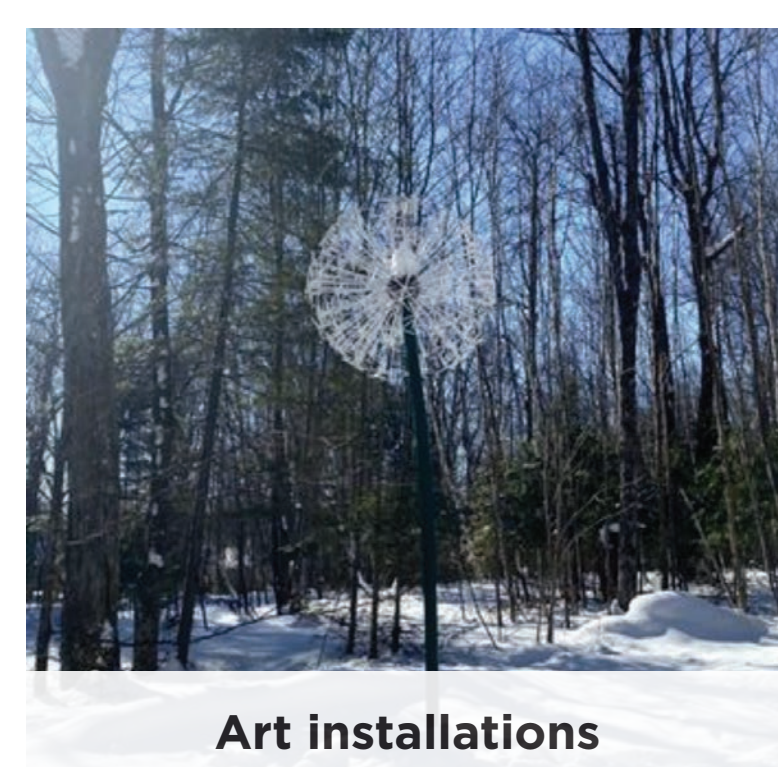


Concept C includes:

- Cottage re-imagined as a sculpture or play structure
- Spaces for seasonal art installations
- Amphitheatre for performances and events
- Outdoor classrooms

Concept C enables activities like:

- Art installations
- Theatre and musical performances
- Small events and gatherings



Art installations



Re-imagined cottage



Amphitheatre for performances and events



Zone 1: Woodlands

After reviewing the three concepts in the Woodlands zone, which concept do you prefer?
Use a dot sticker to “vote” on your preferred concept for Zone 1.

Concept A:
Ecology-forward

Concept B:
Food-forward

Concept C:
Arts and culture-forward

Which design features and programming ideas do you like most? Do you have any additional ideas for Zone 1: Woodlands? Use a sticky note to tell us what you think!



Zone 2: Open Fields

Historically used for agriculture by the MacMillan family, the Open Fields occupy the large and sunny southern portion of the site.



The Open Fields currently feature:

- Open fields that are actively mowed

Objectives within the Open Fields are to:

- Support urban agriculture activities and visitor programming opportunities
- Enhance wildlife habitat, with integration into forest edges
- Offer flexible programming opportunities with varying levels of use and activity

Concept A: Ecology-forward

Concept A keeps paths through the Open Fields to a minimum, giving grassland wildlife more space to thrive in restored meadows and grasslands. Maintained grasslands and special habitat structures for pollinating insects, birds, and bats help wildlife thrive and give visitors a chance to learn about and connect with nature.



Concept A includes:

- Bird habitat and maintained grasslands
- Wildlife observation lookout
- Habitat structures for pollinating insects, birds, and bats
- Foraging trails

Concept A enables activities like:

- Self-guided tours (using interpretive signage, online and/or audio guides)
- Informal learning opportunities (e.g. farm artifacts, sensory gardens, and interactive installations)



Bird habitat and maintained grasslands



Wildlife observation lookout



Habitat structures



Zone 2: Open Fields

Concept B: Food-forward

A food-forward approach in **Concept B** reintroduces a community orchard. Foraging trails offer spots for picking berries, while open field areas become places to share meals, learn about food, and enjoy time together.



Concept B includes:

- Community orchards / food forest
- Meadow trails
- Foraging trails
- Sitting and rest areas
- Native seed orchard (where native plants are grown for seeds and ecological restoration)
- Spaces for outdoor dining

Concept B enables activities like:

- Open field dining
- Hands-on workshops (e.g. garden-to-table, cooking classes)



Meadow trails



Spaces for outdoor dining



Sitting and rest areas

Concept C: Arts and culture-forward

In **Concept C**, one field becomes a meadow and wildflower walk, while the other is dedicated to temporary or permanent art installations and sculptures. Trails and gathering nodes throughout the grasslands create an open canvas for both temporary and permanent works of art.



Concept C includes:

- Meadow and wildflower walk
- Tall grass maze
- Outdoor classroom
- Sculpture garden and temporary or permanent art installations
- Artistic wildlife structures

Concept C enables activities like:

- Culture, arts and nature exploration (e.g. sculpture garden, Indigenous storytelling through art)
- Hands-on workshops (e.g., nature-based and eco-art projects)



Tall grass maze



Meadow and wildflower walk



Sculpture garden and temporary art installations

Zone 2: Open Fields

After reviewing the three concepts in the Open Fields zone, which concept do you prefer?
Use a dot sticker to “vote” on your preferred concept for Zone 2.

Concept A:
Ecology-forward

Concept B:
Food-forward

Concept C:
Arts and culture-forward

Which design features and programming ideas do you like most? Do you have any additional ideas for Zone 2: Open Fields? Use a sticky note to tell us what you think!



Zone 3: Houses and Gardens

This zone includes two heritage homes (William Cook House and Valentine Keffer House) and established gardens, which will be thoughtfully repurposed in a way that respects and enhances their historical value.



The Houses and Gardens currently feature:

- Two heritage homes:
 - William Cook House
 - Valentine Keffer House
- Horticultural / perennial gardens (plants that return each year)

Objectives within the Houses and Gardens are to:

- Support year-round, family-friendly programming opportunities
- Offer facilities to host meetings and events for visitors
- Provide offices for park staff and volunteers
- Include public washrooms for visitors

Concept A: Ecology-forward

In **Concept A**, the heritage buildings come alive as hubs for environmental education and stewardship. Valentine Keffer House offers an information centre, gallery, and public washrooms, while William Cook House hosts classrooms and volunteer spaces, connecting people to the land and its history.



Concept A includes:

- Visitor information centre
- Education node (permanent installation about site history)
- Perennial/horticultural gardens (gardens with native plants maintained by park staff for beauty and enjoyment)
- Children's garden (themed gardens, interactive exhibits and sensory elements for children to learn about growing plants, wildlife and pollinators, etc.)
- Outdoor classroom

Concept A enables activities like:

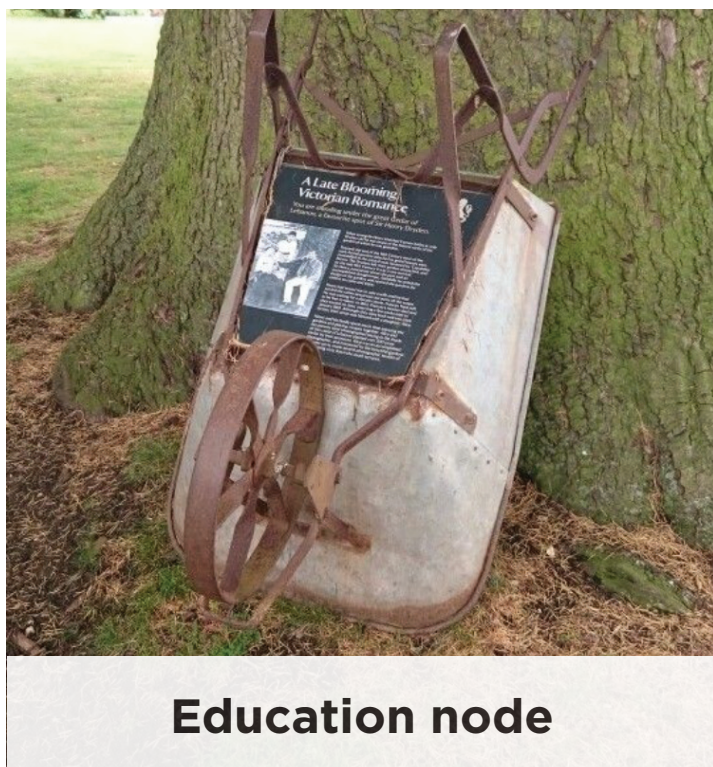
- Nature workshops
- Educational events and programming (e.g., stewardship and restoration)



Visitor information centre



Children's garden



Education node



Zone 3: Houses and Gardens

Concept B: Food-forward

In **Concept B**, the houses and gardens become a hub for growing, cooking, and sharing food. A market area is established in front of Valentine Keffer House, with demonstration and children's gardens nearby for hands-on learning, and vendor spaces, classrooms and activity rooms in the house itself. William Cook House includes a cooking workshop, dining area, and activity rooms on the main floor, with classrooms and a large meeting space upstairs, bringing food, learning, and community together.



Concept B includes:

- Market area
- Demonstration/vegetable gardens (interactive garden to support urban agriculture programs)
- Children's garden (themed gardens, interactive exhibits, sensory elements, etc.)
- Picnic areas
- Classrooms/rental spaces for events
- Space for volunteers and staff involved in on-site stewardship and restoration

Concept B enables activities like:

- Public and private events
- Community gardening events
- Food and dining experiences
- Farmers' markets



Market area



Demonstration/vegetable garden



Picnic areas

Concept C: Arts and culture-forward

In **Concept C**, the horticultural garden is transformed into a hub for nature play and creative exploration, with artistic play elements woven throughout the landscape. William Cook House supports education and volunteer programming, offering workshops, artist studios, and exhibition spaces. Valentine Keffer House serves the public with an information centre, gallery, and washrooms, creating a layered setting for artistic expression, learning, and community connection.



Concept C includes:

- Visitor information centre
- Nature play area
- Perennial/horticulture garden (gardens maintained by park staff for beauty and enjoyment)
- Workshop/studio spaces
- Exhibition spaces/art gallery
- Rental event space
- Picnic areas

Concept C enables activities like:

- Art workshops and exhibitions
- Artist residencies



Nature play area/horticultural garden



Workshop/studio spaces



Exhibition spaces/art gallery

Zone 3: Houses and Gardens

After reviewing the three concepts in the Houses and Gardens zone, which concept do you prefer? Use a dot sticker to “vote” on your preferred concept for Zone 3.

Concept A:
Ecology-forward

Concept B:
Food-forward

Concept C:
Arts and culture-forward

Which design features and programming ideas do you like most? Do you have any additional ideas for Zone 3: Houses and Gardens? Use a sticky note to tell us what you think!



Zone 4: The Glade



The Glade is a transitional zone where the forest opens into a larger clearing, home to a working apiary (beekeeping facility) that will remain a central program element in every concept.



The Glade currently features:

- A mix of open spaces and trees
- An existing apiary (beekeeping facility)

Objectives within the Glade are to:

- Provide spaces for gathering, social connection and education
- Enhance visitors' understanding of pollinators through various learning and interpretive opportunities
- Enhance the design and activities around the existing beekeeping area

Concept A: Ecology-forward

In **Concept A's** ecology-forward vision, the Glade includes a small-scale apiary surrounded by a wildflower meadow and community orchard, designed to support biodiversity and pollinators. The apiary remains a quiet space with interpretive nodes for environmental education, while nearby berry foraging trails along the forest edge offer seasonal, self-guided ways to engage with the landscape.



Concept A includes:

- Native fruit orchard
- Wildflower meadow (pollinator-friendly plantings)
- Berry foraging trail

Concept A enables activities like:

- Fruit-picking
- Educational workshops
- Self-guided learning (using interpretive signage, online and/or audio guides)



Native fruit orchard



Apiary in orchard



Berry foraging trail

Zone 4: The Glade

Concept B: Food-forward

In **Concept B**, a food forest runs along the forest’s transitional edge, complemented by vendor kiosks for sharing on-site harvests. The apiary is expanded with a new beekeeping building surrounded by a pollinator garden, creating a productive, educational landscape focused on food systems.



Concept B includes:

- Food forest
- Beekeeping building (a dedicated structure to process honey)
- Pollinator garden
- Vendor kiosks

Concept B enables activities like:

- Hands-on workshops (e.g., beekeeping)
- Farmers’ markets



Food forest



Beekeeping building



Vendor kiosk

Concept C: Arts and culture-forward

In **Concept C**, the beekeeping area is surrounded by a wildflower meadow to attract pollinators, along with creatively designed beehouses. A nearby wildflower field hosts art installations and small performance areas, offering a lively space for pollinators and visitors alike.



Concept C includes:

- Wildflower meadow (pollinator-friendly plantings)
- Artistically-designed beehouses and birdhouses

Concept C enables activities like:

- Art installations



Wildflower meadow



Artistically-designed beehouses and birdhouses



Art installations

Zone 4: The Glade

After reviewing the three concepts in the Glade zone, which concept do you prefer?
Use a dot sticker to “vote” on your preferred concept for Zone 4.

Concept A:
Ecology-forward

Concept B:
Food-forward

Concept C:
Arts and culture-forward

Which design features and programming ideas do you like most? Do you have any additional ideas for Zone 4: The Glade? Use a sticky note to tell us what you think!



Zone 5: The Barns

This zone includes four “outbuildings:” the main barn with two wings, a silo and large open spaces beneath high-pitched roofs; Outbuilding 2, which is long and two storeys tall; and Outbuildings 3 and 4, which are smaller.



The Barns currently feature:

- A main barn and silo, with three additional “outbuildings”
- Mowed open space between the buildings

Objectives within the Barns are to:

- Revitalize and retrofit the barns and outbuildings
- Potentially integrate renewable energy solutions (e.g., solar panels)
- Provide space for year-round events and programming
- Maintain Outbuilding 4 for park storage

Concept A: Ecology-forward

Concept A envisions the Barns as a hub for ecological learning and low-impact gatherings. The main barn (Outbuilding 1) hosts events and seasonal programs, Outbuilding 2 is turned into classrooms overlooking the wetland, and Outbuilding 3 becomes a workshop space focused on habitat restoration. Outdoor classrooms and gardens bring the learning experience into the landscape around the barns.



Concept A includes:

- Classroom and workshop spaces (“living lab”)
- Rental venue for gatherings
- Outdoor classrooms

Concept A enables activities like:

- Youth camps and educational programming
- Seasonal programs
- Hands-on workshops (e.g. gardening, nature education and park stewardship)
- Self-guided tours (using interpretive signage, online and/or audio guides)



Classroom and workshop spaces



Rental venue for gatherings



Outdoor classrooms

Zone 5: The Barns

Concept B: Food-forward

In **Concept B**, the Barns become a culinary hub focused on local food systems and innovative farming. The main barn (Outbuilding 1) includes cooking workshop spaces, dining areas, and an integrated greenhouse for growing ingredients. The other outbuildings host farmers' markets, spaces for selling locally-produced goods, interactive workshops, and seasonal and community gatherings.



Concept B includes:

- Culinary workshop and dining areas
- Integrated greenhouse
- Spaces to sell locally-produced goods

Concept B enables activities like:

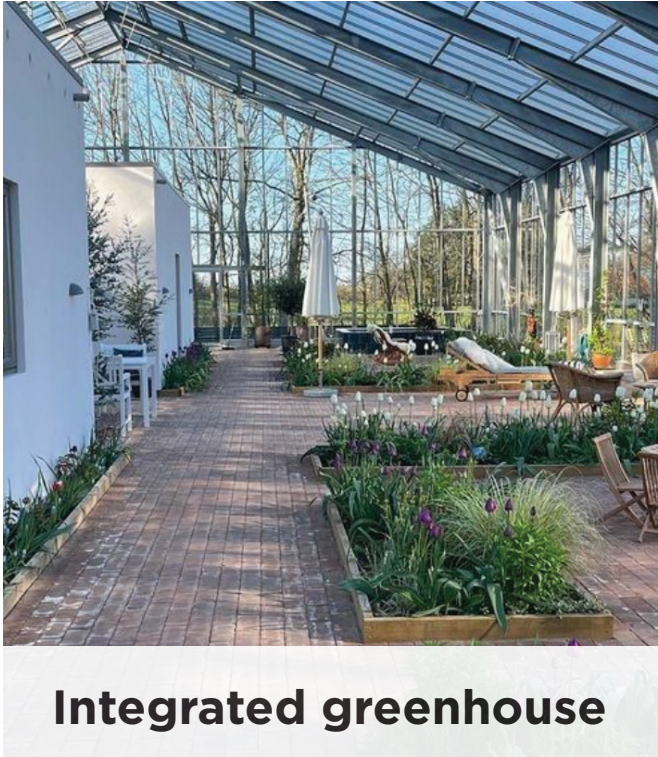
- Culinary workshops (e.g., farm-to-table principles, cooking workshops with local produce)
- Food and dining experiences
- Community events



Culinary workshop and dining areas



Spaces to sell locally-produced goods



Integrated greenhouse

Concept C: Arts and culture-forward

In **Concept C**, the Barns become a hub celebrating local artists and makers. The main barn (Outbuilding 1) serves as a private rental venue and hosts seasonal markets featuring local art and crafts. Outbuilding 2 offers artist residency space, while Outbuilding 3 provides a small retail area for locally-made products. Outdoor areas include flexible classrooms, spaces for art installations, and supporting infrastructure for private events.

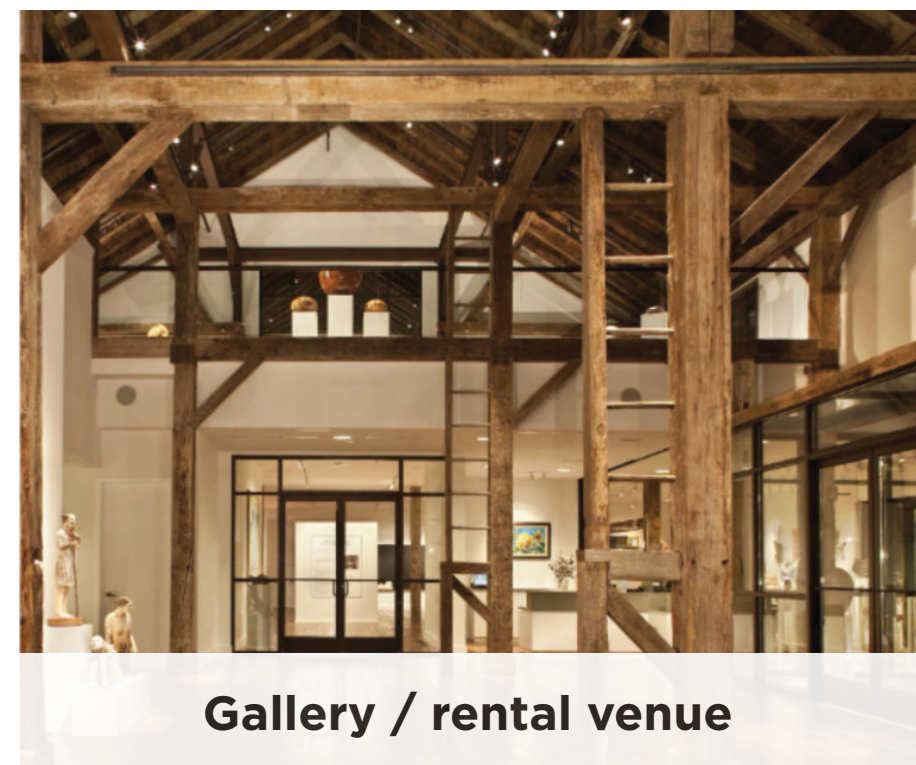


Concept C includes:

- Gallery and exhibition spaces
- Rental venue for gatherings
- Spaces to sell locally-made crafts

Concept C enables activities like:

- Community events and programming
- Hands-on workshops (e.g. nature-based arts and crafts)



Gallery / rental venue



Spaces to sell locally-made crafts



Zone 5: The Barns

After reviewing the three concepts in the Barns zone, which concept do you prefer?
Use a dot sticker to “vote” on your preferred concept for Zone 5.

Concept A:
Ecology-forward

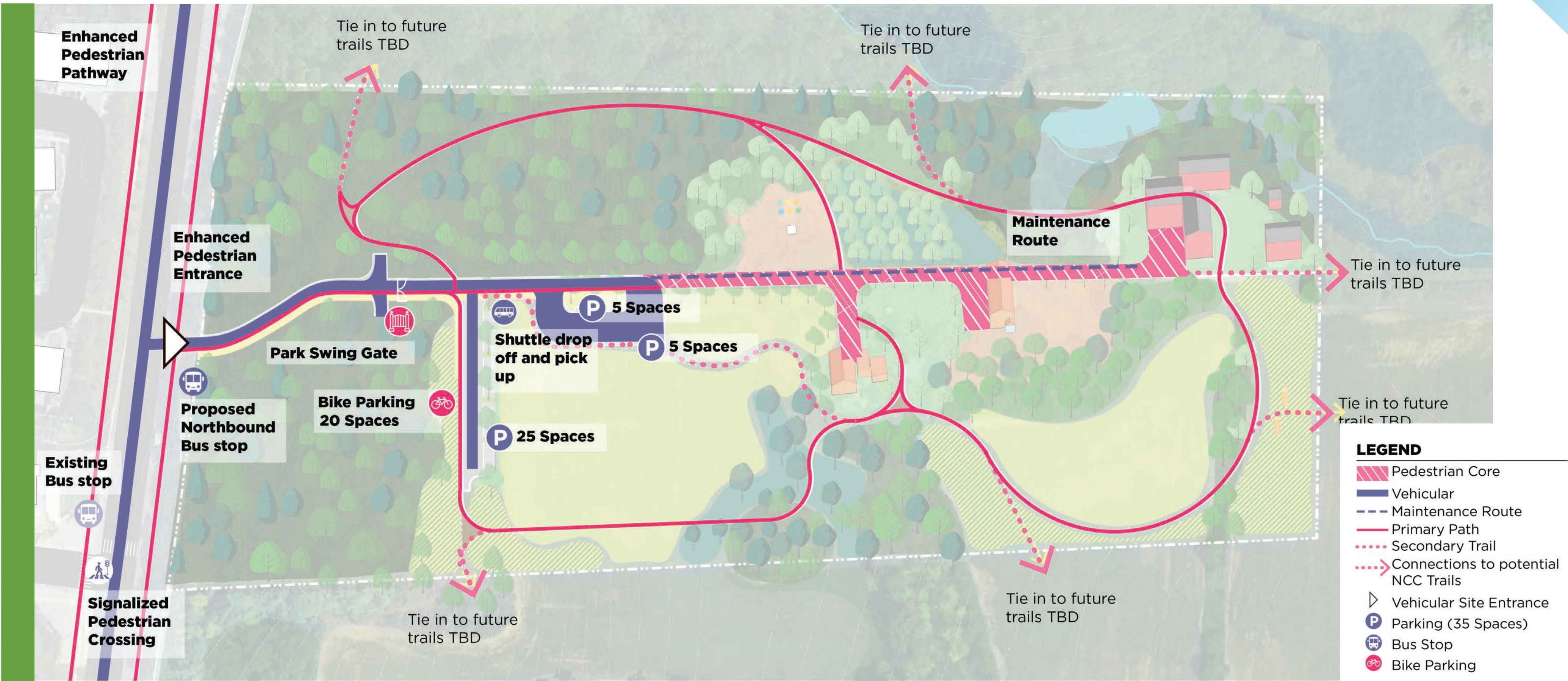
Concept B:
Food-forward

Concept C:
Arts and culture-forward

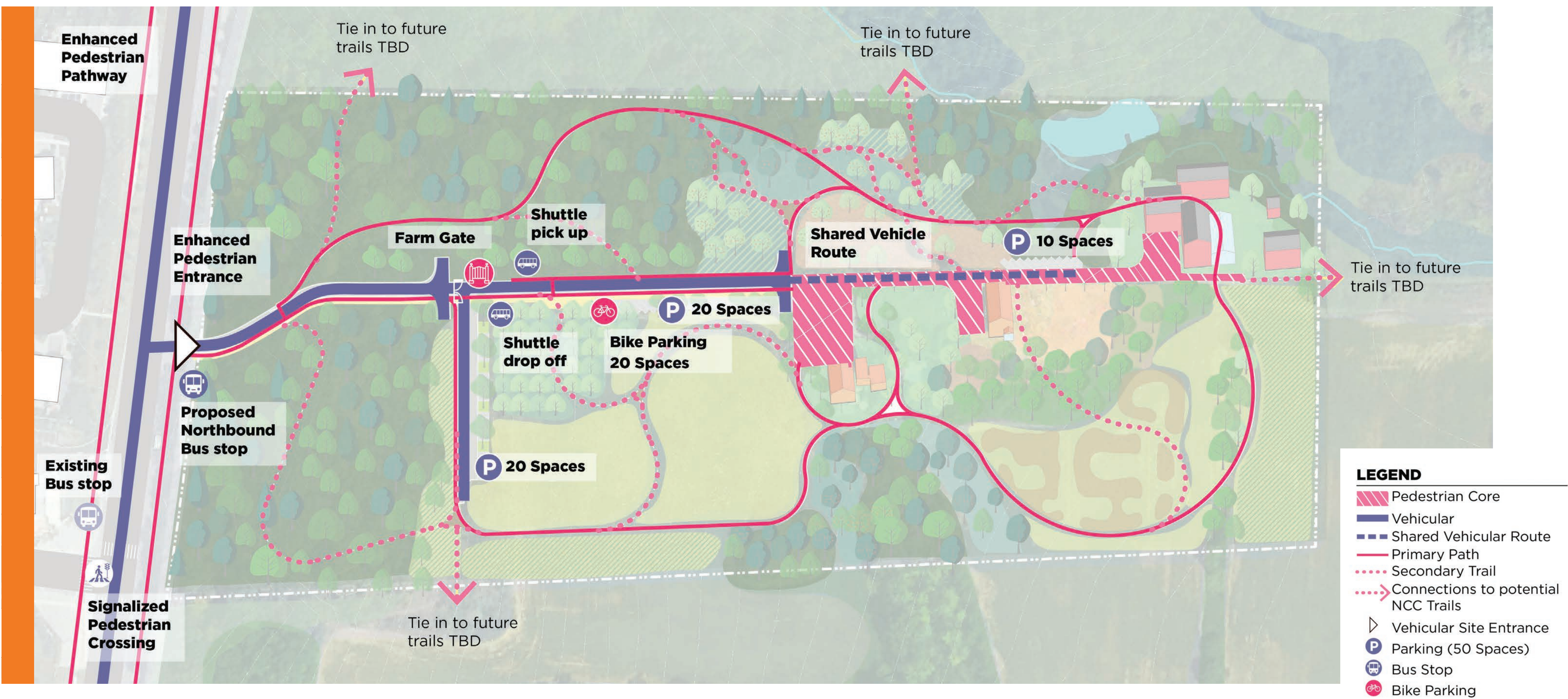
Which design features and programming ideas do you like most? Do you have any additional ideas for Zone 5: The Barns? Use a sticky note to tell us what you think!



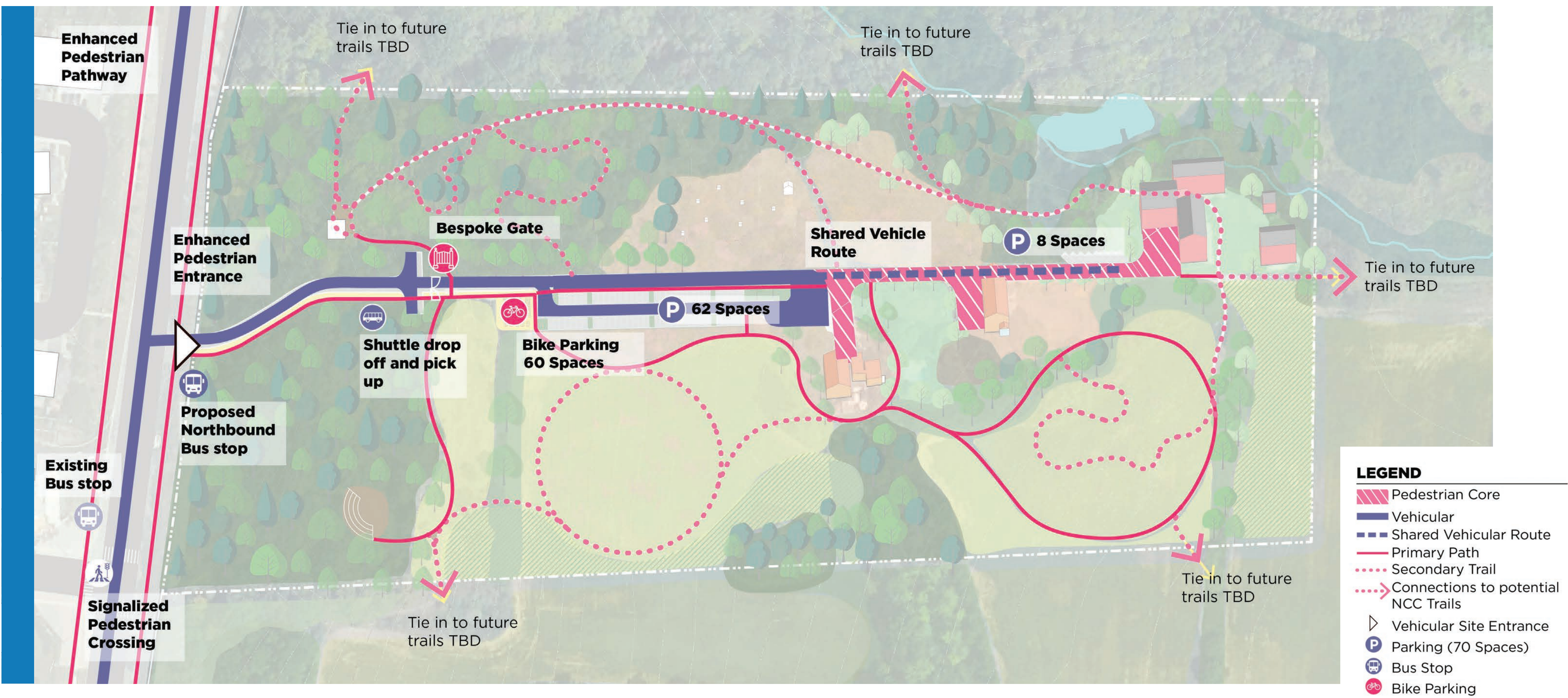
Concept A: Ecology-forward



Concept B: Food-forward



Concept C: Arts and culture-forward





Thank you for coming to the

MacMillan Farm Master Plan Open House

Know someone that wasn't able to attend?

Encourage them to take the online **public survey** available from **Friday Sept. 26 to Monday Oct. 20, 2025.**

If you require support filling out the survey, please reach out to:

Celene Mariano
Project Manager, Facilities and Parks Delivery
celene.mariano@vaughan.ca
905-832-2281, ext. 8058



For more information about the MacMillan Farm Master Plan, visit:

vaughan.ca/MacMillan

