

An Omand's Creek Crossing for Everyone

Why we're here

The pedestrian bridge over Omand's Creek is old, floods often, and the connecting paths do not meet accessibility standards. The bridge needs to be replaced within the next few years. We are working on a preliminary design for a new bridge, pathways and improved connections to nature.

The purpose of today's event is to

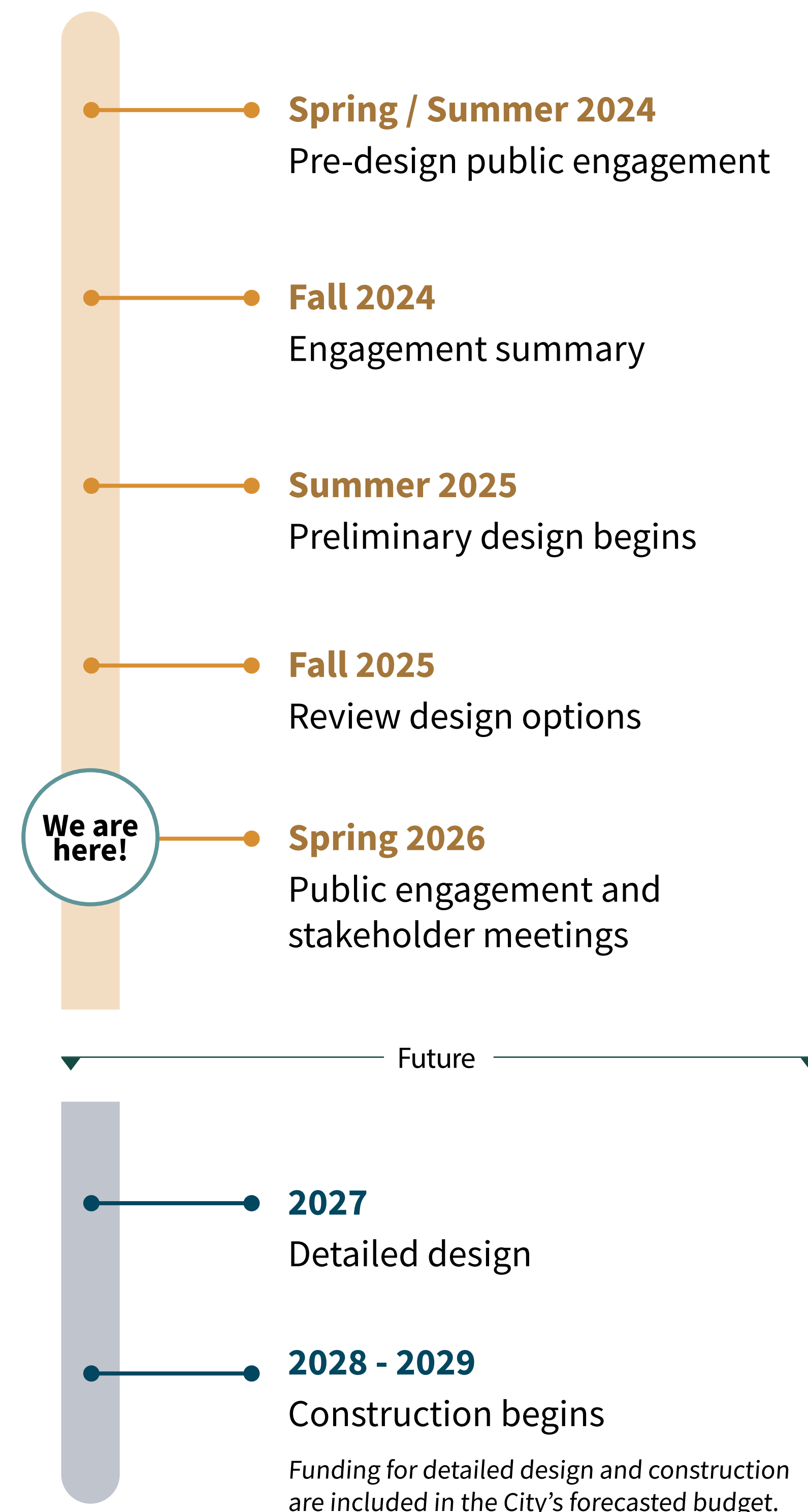


Present the proposed design for the new bridge and park updates



Give you a chance to share your thoughts and ask questions

Project timeline



Project background



Visit the project webpage to learn more about the history of the project and how we got here.

winnipeg.ca/omandscreekbridge

Next steps

After engagement closes, we will:

- Share a public summary of what was heard
- Explain how feedback influenced the final design
- Clearly note which suggestions could and could not be incorporated, and why
- The exact cost of the new bridge has not been finalized and the current estimate is six million dollars. Projects like this are often funded over several years, through the City's regular capital programs for waterway crossings and grade separations. These programs typically have annual budgets of about \$3 to \$3.5 million.
- Go to detailed design in 2027
- Start construction approximately 1-2 years after completion of detailed design

How we made design recommendations

A lot goes into a new bridge design. It must follow modern and accessibility standards. It should be usable year-round, keep environmental impacts low, and keep with the existing nature of the park. It also needs to consider cost, how practical it is to build, flooding, connectivity, and safety.

What you told us

In 2024, we did pre-engagement to listen to the community before starting design work. We hosted stakeholder meetings, a pop-up in the park, and a community survey. We wanted to confirm what we heard in the past, learn what has changed, and determine our best steps forward.

The pre-design engagement process was developed to help us better understand:

- Key places people use and value in the park
- Opportunities to improve pathways around the bridge
- What the community wants to see in a potential future bridge
- A vision for a future river access point
- What was still relevant from 2010 design and public engagement feedback



Read the full engagement summary

Site analysis

Our conversations with the community helped us map how residents use or want to use the park. The following map includes this feedback as well as current conditions.



See the full site analysis

Legend

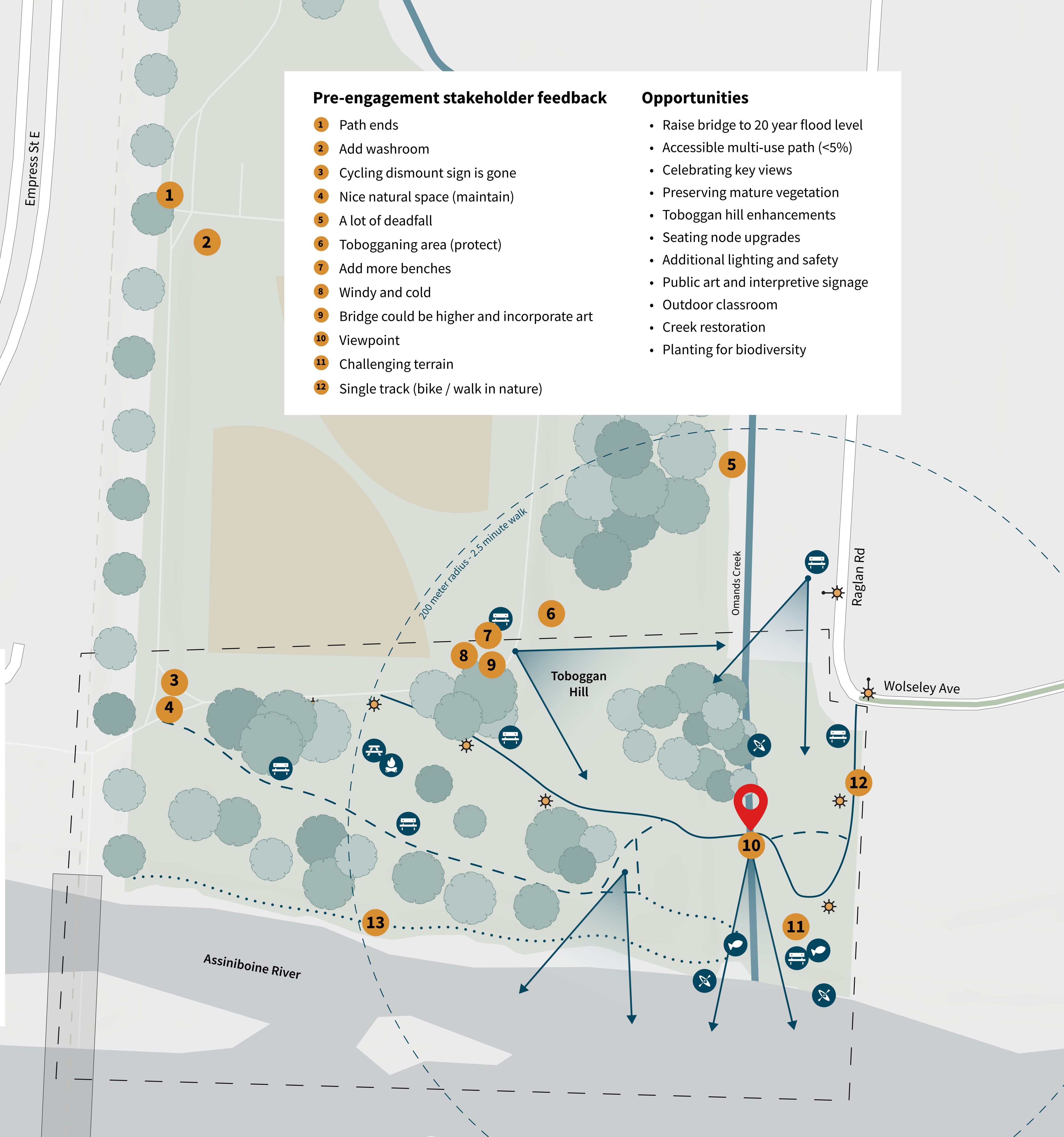
- Study area
- City maintained pathways
- - - Unmaintained pathways
- ... Informal trail
- Neighbourhood greenway
- Rail bridge / active transportation corridor
- 🔥 Fire pit
- 🪵 Picnic table
- 🪑 Bench
- 🎣 Informal fishing / canoe / kayak launch
- 🚣 Water access
- 📍 Omand's Creek existing bridge

Pre-engagement stakeholder feedback

- 1 Path ends
- 2 Add washroom
- 3 Cycling dismount sign is gone
- 4 Nice natural space (maintain)
- 5 A lot of deadfall
- 6 Tobogganing area (protect)
- 7 Add more benches
- 8 Windy and cold
- 9 Bridge could be higher and incorporate art
- 10 Viewpoint
- 11 Challenging terrain
- 12 Single track (bike / walk in nature)

Opportunities

- Raise bridge to 20 year flood level
- Accessible multi-use path (<5%)
- Celebrating key views
- Preserving mature vegetation
- Toboggan hill enhancements
- Seating node upgrades
- Additional lighting and safety
- Public art and interpretive signage
- Outdoor classroom
- Creek restoration
- Planting for biodiversity



Community design criteria

The project team looked at several bridge designs and locations within the park. Each option was weighted against design criteria based on the key themes we heard from community, outlined below.

Look for these icons to see how the design criteria shape the design.



Improving access for all

Everyone should be able to use Omand Park. The bridge and paths are steep and narrow, creating challenges for users to safely access the park without conflict. The design of the bridge and new park elements should create a more inclusive environment to meet everyone's physical needs.

What this means:

- We could not keep the bridge at the same location as it will keep paths steep, inaccessible, and continue pedestrian conflicts.
- If the bridge was not rebuilt in the park, park users would have to walk 500m to their next crossing at Portage Avenue, adding time and effort to their trip.

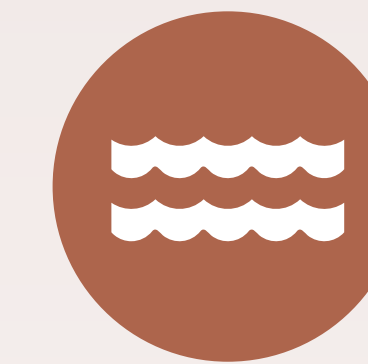


Maintaining the natural environment

Omand Park is a cherished space. There's a strong desire to keep the park's wild and natural feel, avoid disrupting nature, and prevent over-development. The design should reduce tree removal, protect waterways, and still allow access to nature.

What this means:

- We could not build the bridge north of the current location as this would require a higher bridge to connect to Raglan Road. This would disrupt the park's natural character and the toboggan hill.



Flood mitigation and year-round access

Reducing the impacts of flooding helps ensure the bridge and the park are usable all year. The current bridge floods often at this elevation and does not meet accessibility standards. The new bridge must be higher to decrease flood impacts but should still keep the existing character of the park.

What this means:

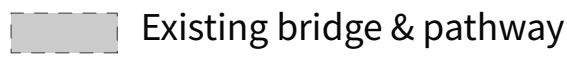

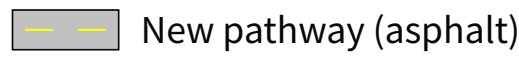

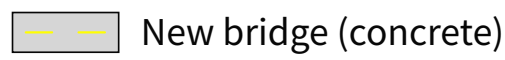
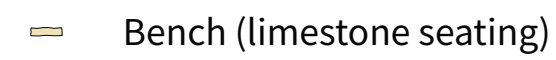















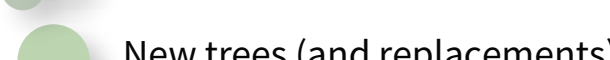

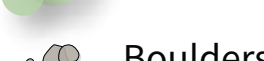
- The bridge needs to be higher. We cannot keep the bridge at the same height as it would continue to flood. This would cause damage and high maintenance to the new bridge, and there would still be steep and inaccessible paths.

Proposed design

The proposed design would create a welcoming space that everyone can use, keeping the natural character of the park.

- A higher, wider bridge with accessible paths to improve safety and access, with views of the river and creek.
- Gathering spaces with accessible seating and improved lighting to support learning, rest, and year-round use.
- Native plants, restored creek edges, and flood-resilient materials to protect waterways and wildlife.
- Cultural elements to reflect the history and character of the park.

Legend

| | |
|--|--|
|  Existing bridge & pathway |  Pedestrian / active transportation signage |
|  New pathway (asphalt) |  Bench (accessible) |
|  New bridge (concrete) |  Bench (limestone seating) |
|  Rail bridge / active transportation corridor |  Picnic table |
|  Informal trail |  Bike rack |
|  New retaining wall |  Garbage |
|  Limit of revegetation / restoration |  Concrete pad |
|  5 year flood level |  Mowed grass |
|  20 year flood level (bridge design level) |  Naturalized area |
|  100 year flood level |  Existing trees |
|  Street lighting |  New trees (and replacements) |
|  Park lighting |  Boulders |

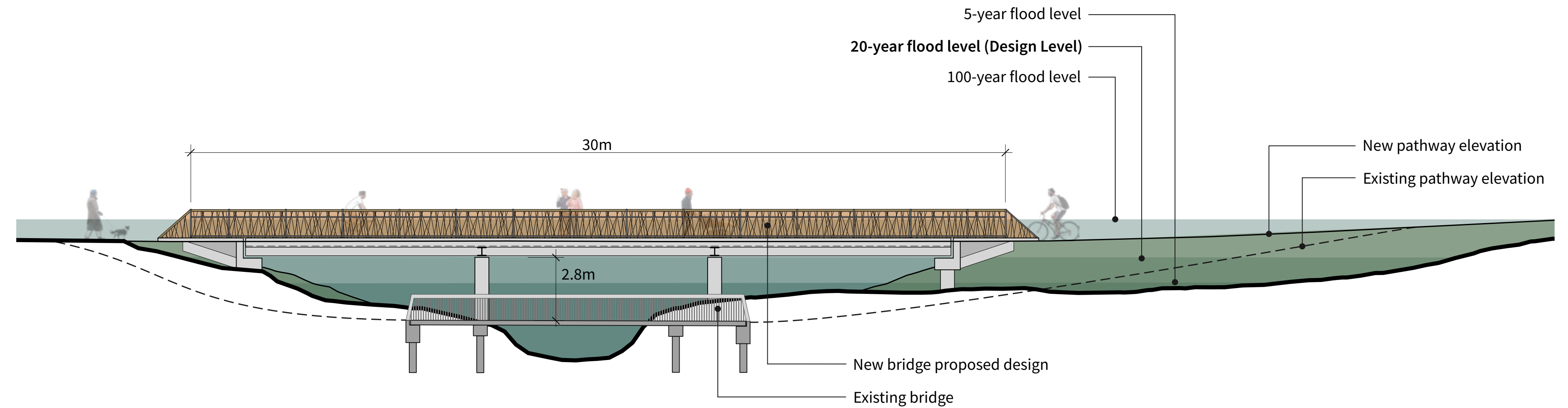
Visuals are for conceptual reference only and may not be an accurate representation of the final design.



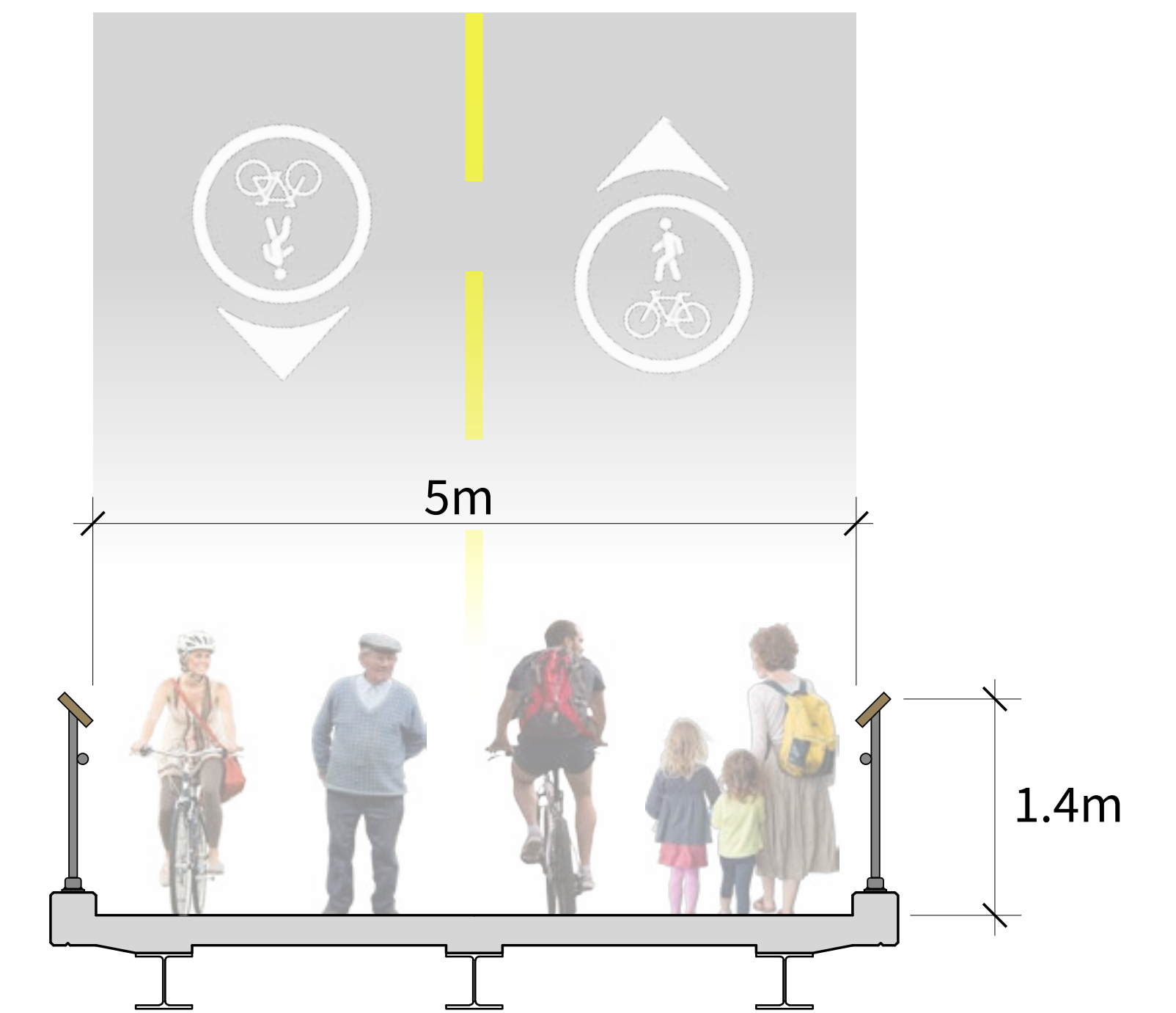
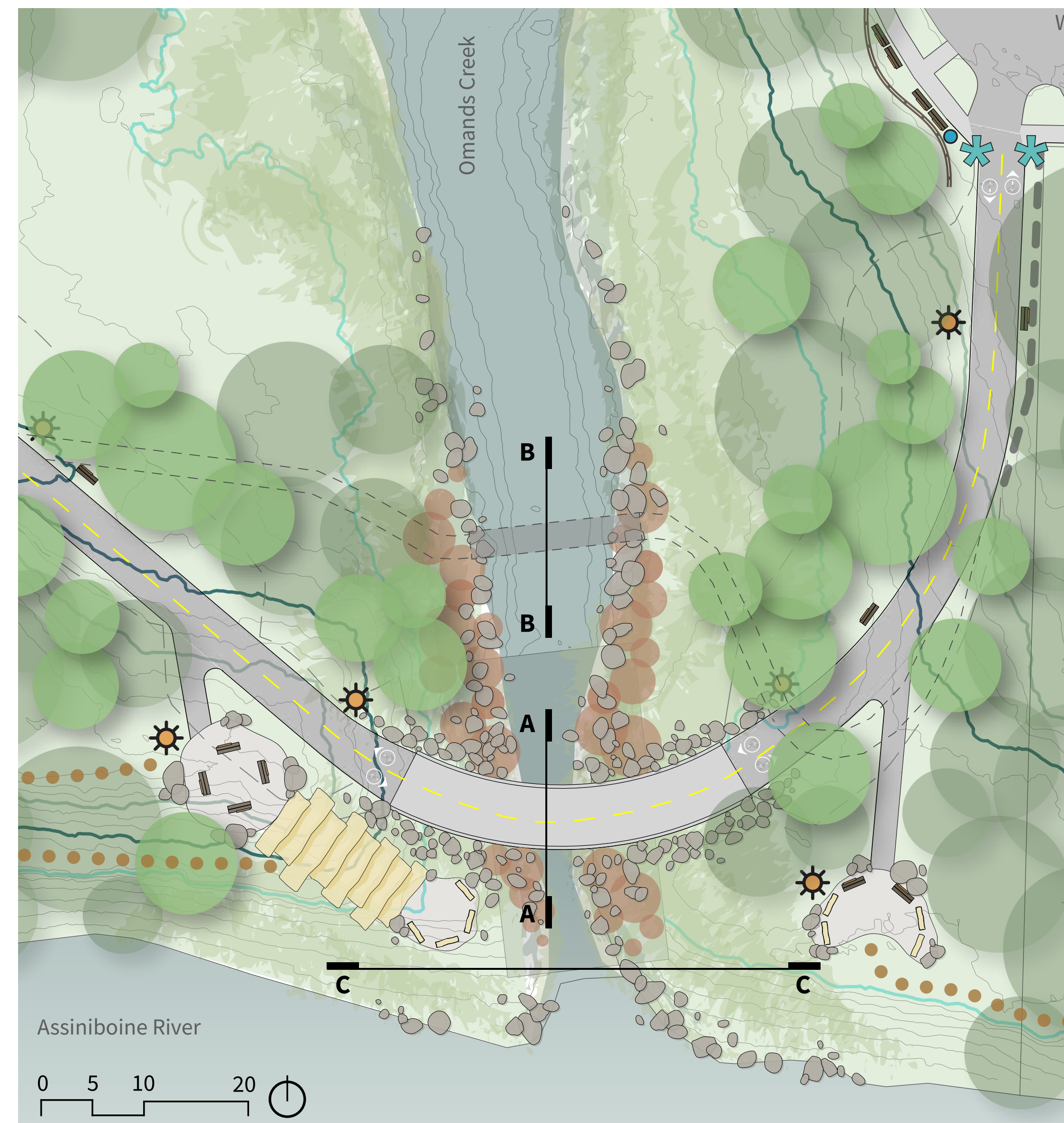
Proposed design

Benefits of the new bridge and new location improves safety, access, and year-round use for everyone.

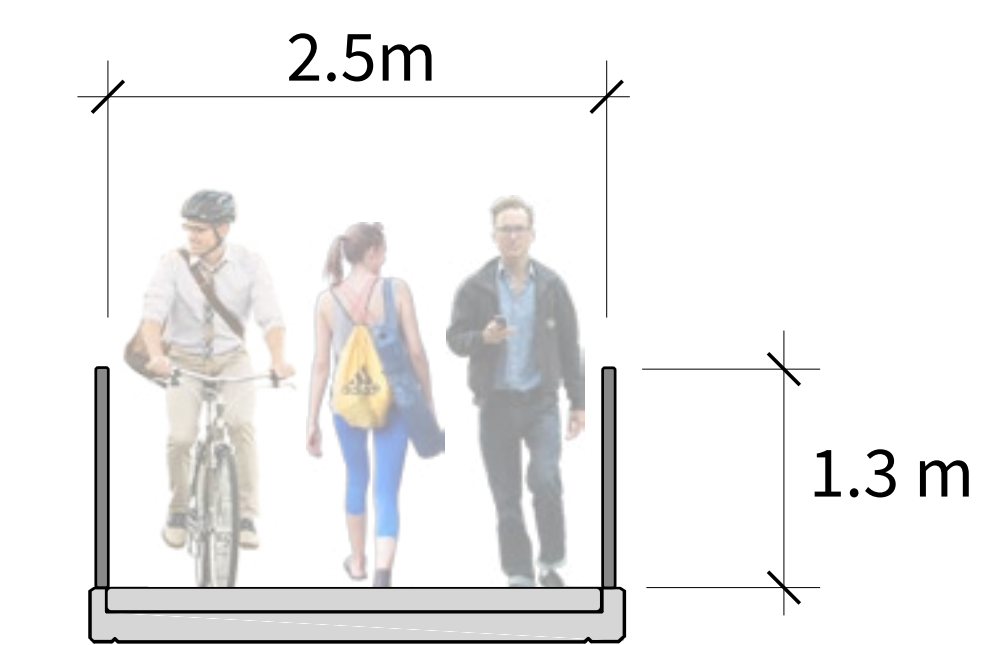
- The new bridge would be built above the 20-year flood level, to stay open during high water. The existing bridge floods every year, making it unusable for over 600 days in the last 10 years.
- The new bridge would be wider, giving people more walking and cycling space. The gentle curve of the bridge is designed to slow down cyclists and we would add clear signage letting users know the bridge is a “slow zone”.
- Current path slopes are very steep and have tight turns. Gentler, accessibly designed slopes make paths easier and safer for all abilities. This supports a park that is more comfortable, accessible, and safer to use all year.
- Some trees will need to be removed to build the new bridge, but they will be replaced, and new trees will be planted to grow the park over time.



Elevation C-C: Existing and new bridge height comparison



Section A-A: New bridge width



Section B-B: Existing bridge width

Proposed design

- Improving access for all
- Maintaining the natural environment
- Flood mitigation and year-round access

1 Gathering Space

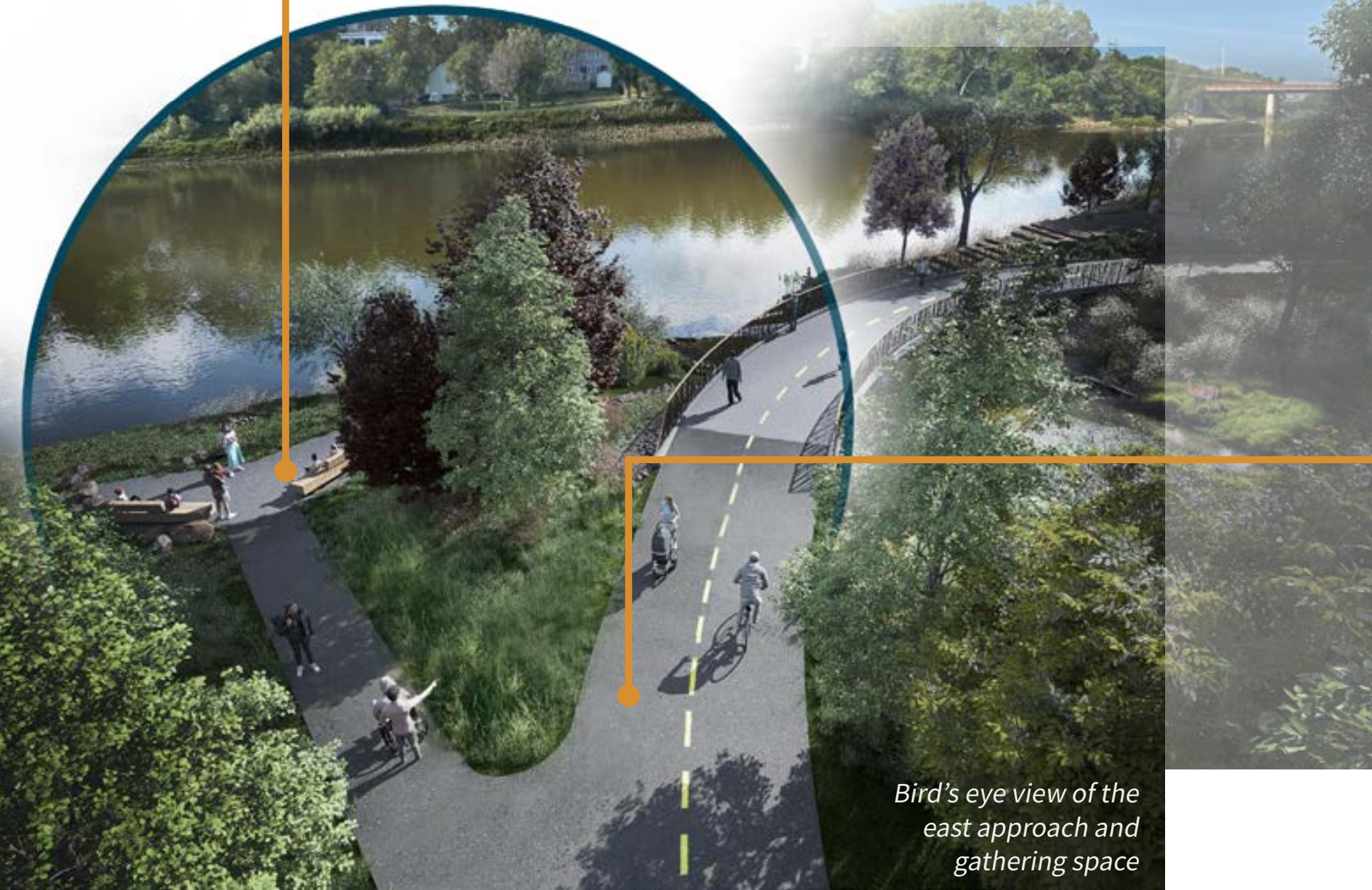
A welcoming outdoor space for up to 20 people to support land-based learning, with views of the river and creek. Connected to the multi-use trail and bridge by an accessible path. Includes improved lighting for safety when it is darker out. A comfortable place to gather, learn, and feel connected to nature with limestone seating and accessible benches.

7 Gentle Paths

Accessible and safe paths need to be less than a 5% slope and some parts of the current bridge and paths have slopes as steep as 17% and sharp, tight turns. The paths are designed to be fully accessible, with slopes under 5% and wider, gentler curves. These smoother turns slow cyclists down and improve safety. The path design also allows clear sightlines so people can see what's ahead and move safely along the route.

2 New Bridge

The new bridge will be higher and wider for accessibility and safety, offering views of the river, creek, and park. Designed with flood resilient materials and a clearly marked path for shared use, the new design includes reclaimed wood hand rails, a tree branch inspired railing pattern, lighting, and opportunities for interpretive signage. Clear site lines increase safety in the park.



Proposed design

- Improving access for all
- Maintaining the natural environment
- Flood mitigation and year-round access

3 Creek Restoration

Includes the removal of dead trees, debris, and sediment, restoring slopes with native plants. Along the creek, no-mow areas with pollinator plants are added. Areas disturbed by bridge construction are restored using rock and native plants to keep the creek banks strong and in place. Native seed mixes are used to help the area regrow. Improvements reduce runoff, protect aquatic life, and allow safe, informal access to the creek.



View looking south to the Assiniboine River where the existing bridge would be removed

4 Toboggan Hill

The existing toboggan hill will remain with improvements. Trees will be planted at the top of the hill to create a natural windbreak. New seating will give people places to rest and gather. Updated lighting will improve safety during the winter months, early mornings, and evenings.



View from the top of the Toboggan Hill looking south

Lookout Point 5

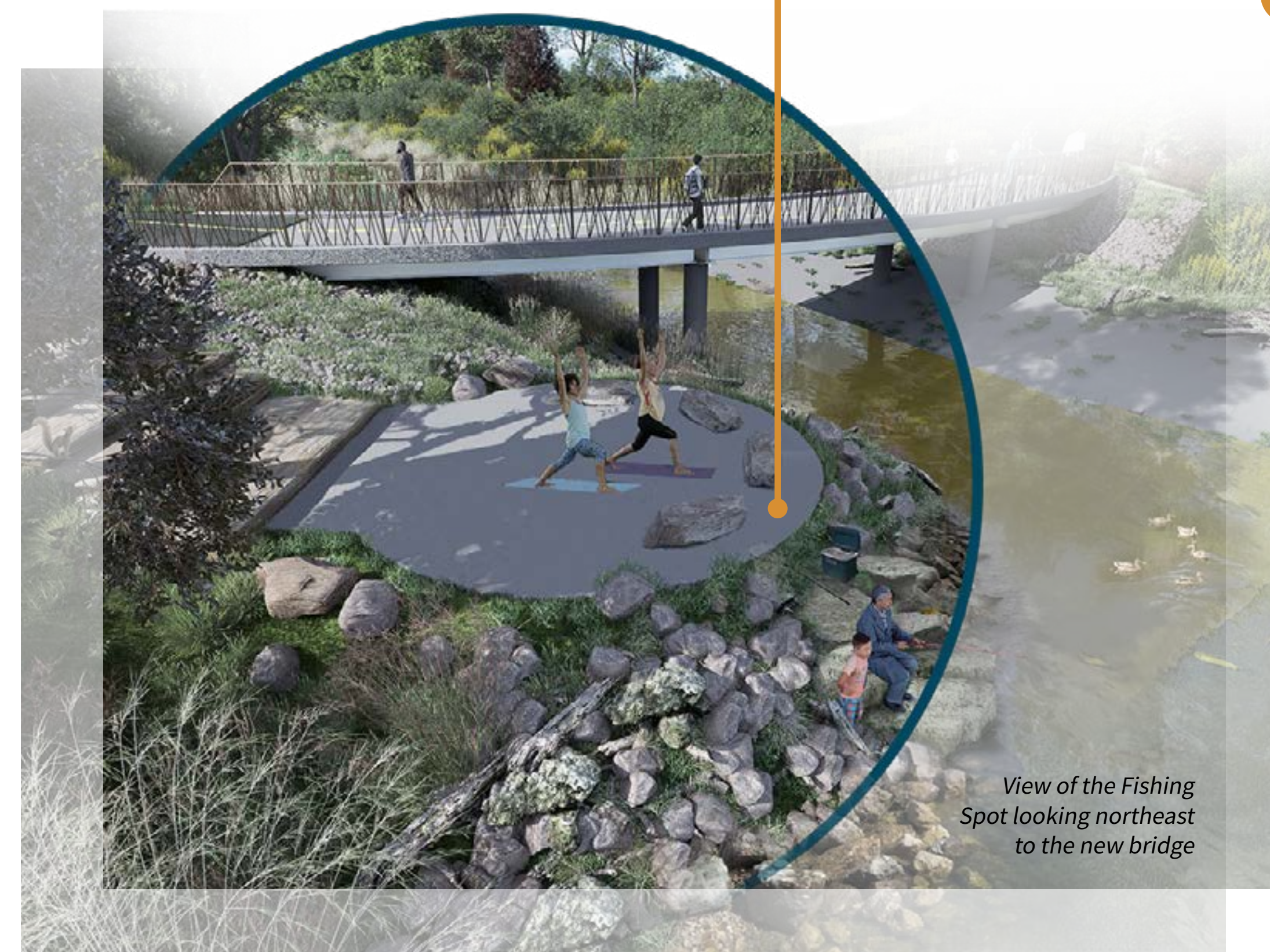
An accessible path leads to a lookout and gathering space for up to 10 people, with views of the bridge, river, and creek. Accessible benches provide opportunities for rest and reflection, with improved lighting for safety, and stairs to the fishing spot. Boulders mark the four directions and the winter and summer solstices. Native and medicinal plants help share the history and stories of this place.



View of the Lookout Point looking east to the new bridge

6 Fishing Spot

Includes limestone seating for up to 10 people, with access to the river for fishing and stairs that lead up to the Lookout Point. Large rocks along the creek help hold the slope in place. The existing concrete pad remains in place to help manage the flow of the creek where it meets the river, reducing riverbank erosion.



View of the Fishing Spot looking northeast to the new bridge

Let us know what you think!

Do the design features match what the community said was important?



Protecting the park's natural feel

Keeping the park green, natural, and full of trees and wildlife.

Does not reflect well

Reflects well



Accessibility

Making it easy and safe for everyone to use the bridge and paths.

Does not reflect well

Reflects well



Reliable connections

Keeping a direct and dependable walking and biking route through the park.

Does not reflect well

Reflects well



Safety and comfort

Making the park safer and more comfortable for all users.

Does not reflect well

Reflects well



Enhancing the connection between people and nature

Helping people enjoy nature in simple, safe ways year-round.

Does not reflect well

Reflects well

What parts of the design work well?



What parts of the design could be improved?



Did we miss anything important?

