

ERIE BEACH PARK

Park Plan

Spring 2026

SHIFT
landscape architecture



Proposed Park Plan



ERIE BEACH PARK

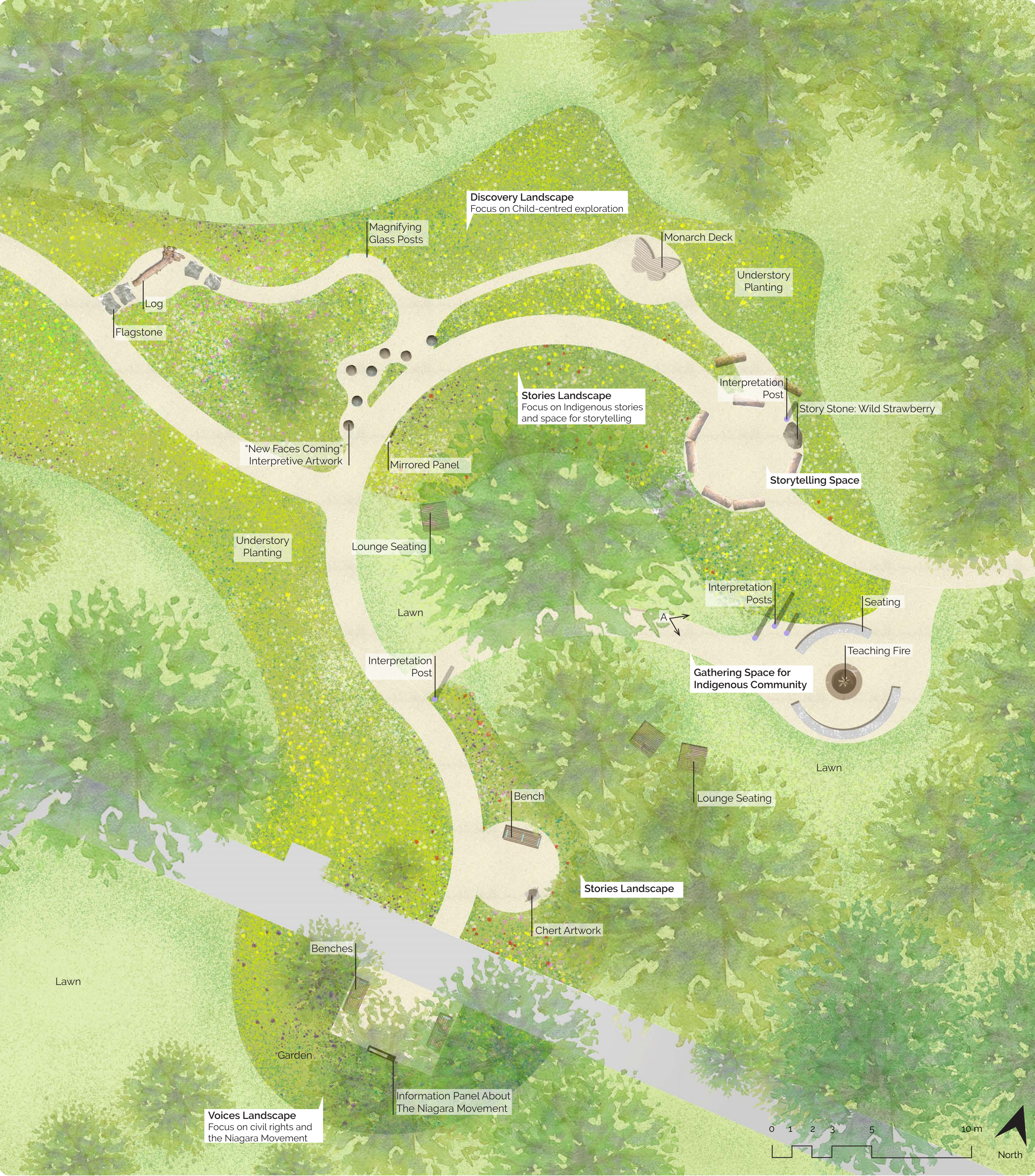
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Plan Enlargement of Understory Landscapes



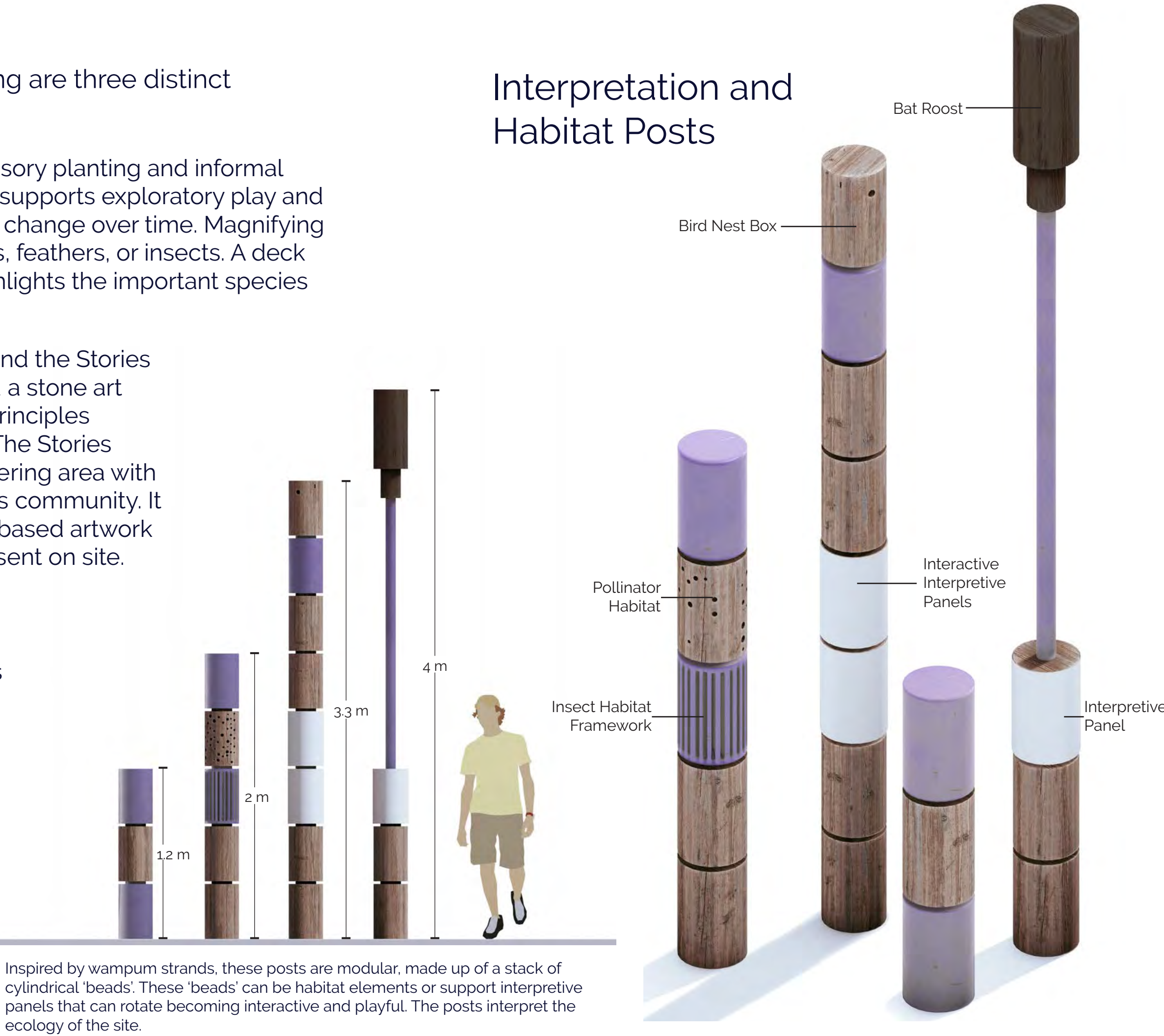
Within the native understory planting are three distinct landscapes.

The Discovery Landscape provides sensory planting and informal paths to explore. Along the paths a log supports exploratory play and the chance to observe how fallen trees change over time. Magnifying glass posts invite a closer look at plants, feathers, or insects. A deck in the shape of a Monarch butterfly highlights the important species supported by this planted landscape.

Connecting the Discovery Landscape and the Stories Landscape are a storytelling space and a stone art installation that interprets Indigenous principles of responsibility to future generations. The Stories Landscape encompasses a larger gathering area with a teaching fire for use by the Indigenous community. It also includes a seating around a chert-based artwork highlighting this important material present on site.

The Voices Landscape provides a gathering area where the historical significance of this site to the civil rights movement is highlighted. Information panels interpret the history of the Erie Beach Hotel as the site of the first meetings of the Niagara Movement. Seating and a distinct plant palette create a serene space for reflection.

Interpretation and Habitat Posts



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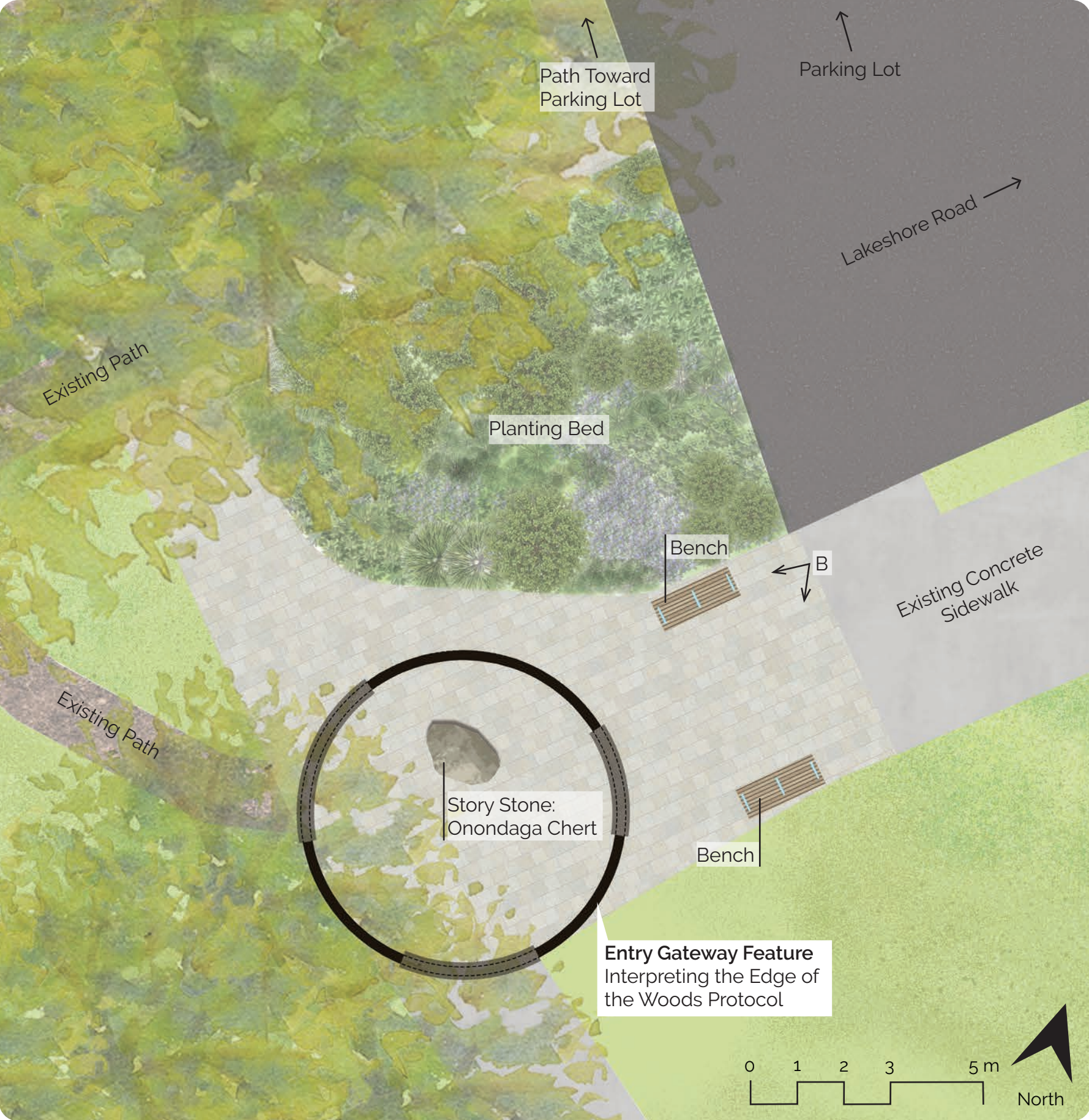
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Plan Enlargement of East Entry



The ring-like entry gateway feature is conceived as a space for interpretation of the Indigenous Edge of the Woods protocol, marking the threshold between everyday space and a landscape entered with awareness, respect, and reciprocity. It reframes the act of entry into the park as a conscious transition, where visitors move into a state of presence with land, water, and the living systems they will encounter.

Graphic panels and interpretive art elements within the gateway communicate the components of the protocol. The ring form reinforces the interconnected and mutually influential relationship between the visitors to this space, and the space itself including its plant and animal inhabitants.



Interpretive Panels



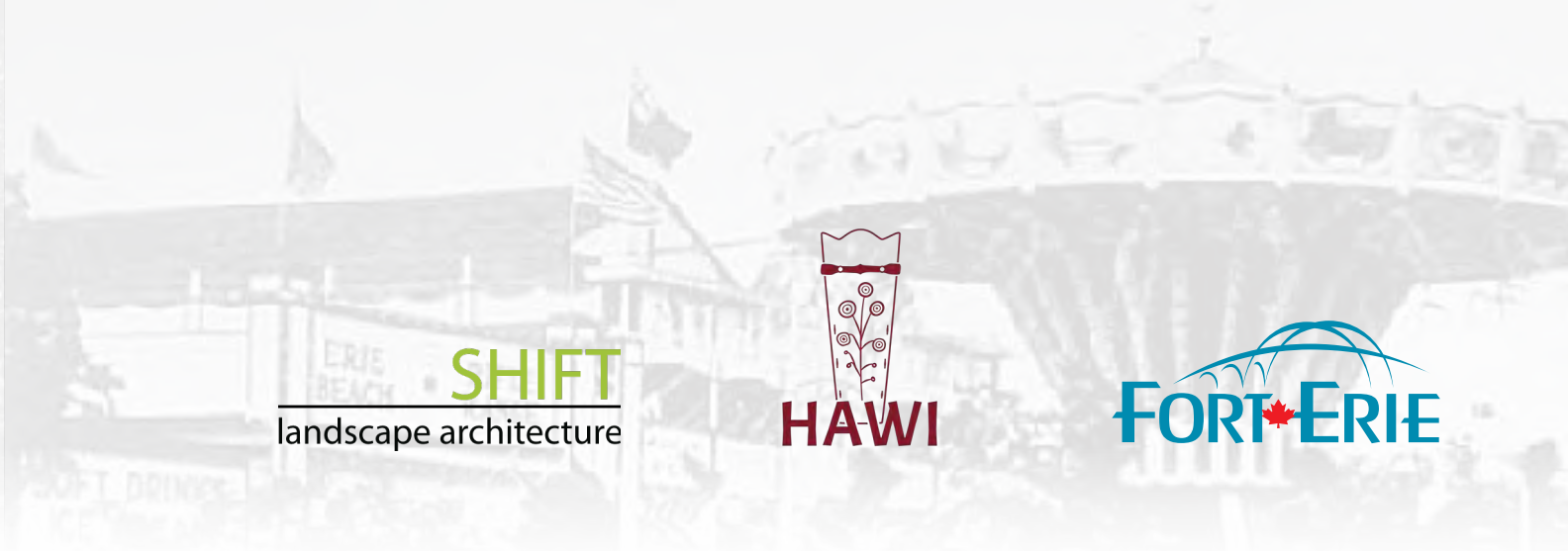
Interpretive panels invite visitors to pause and engage with the surrounding landscape. Framed views alongside information and graphics reveal the ecological and cultural history of the site while highlighting the existing landscape. Together, the elements draw attention to the connection between the land and its stories.



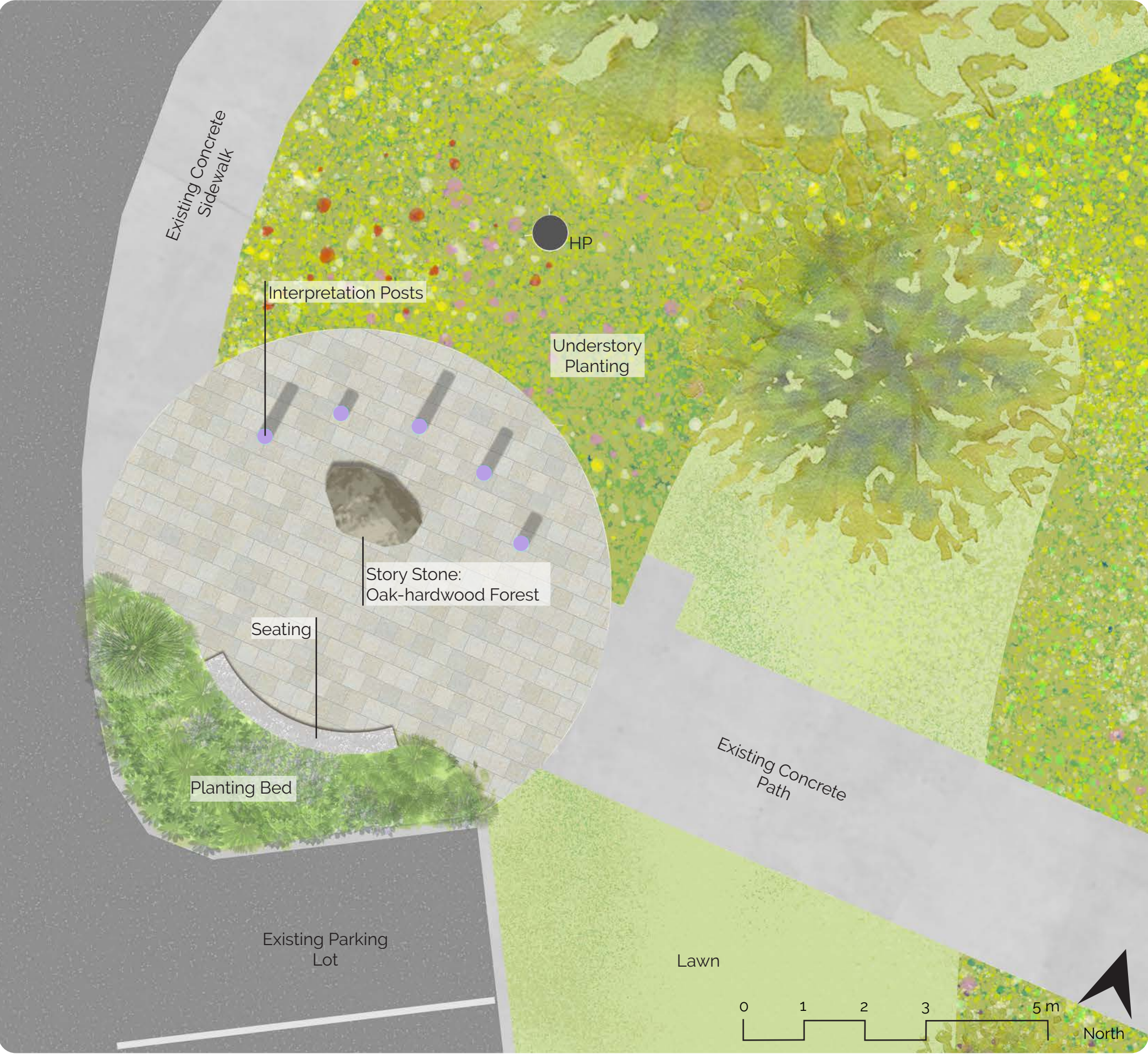
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Plan Enlargement of West Entry



Mirrored Panels

Four panels with a mirrored finish will sit in the landscape. Three of them, paired with a story stone, will feature the image of a species that has been made extinct from the area. The fourth will interpret the stone artwork between the Discovery and Stories Landscapes.



Story Stones

The stones will serve as a way to anchor stories about the natural and cultural heritage of the site. Species and natural heritage features that have long been present on site will be featured on seven stones including:

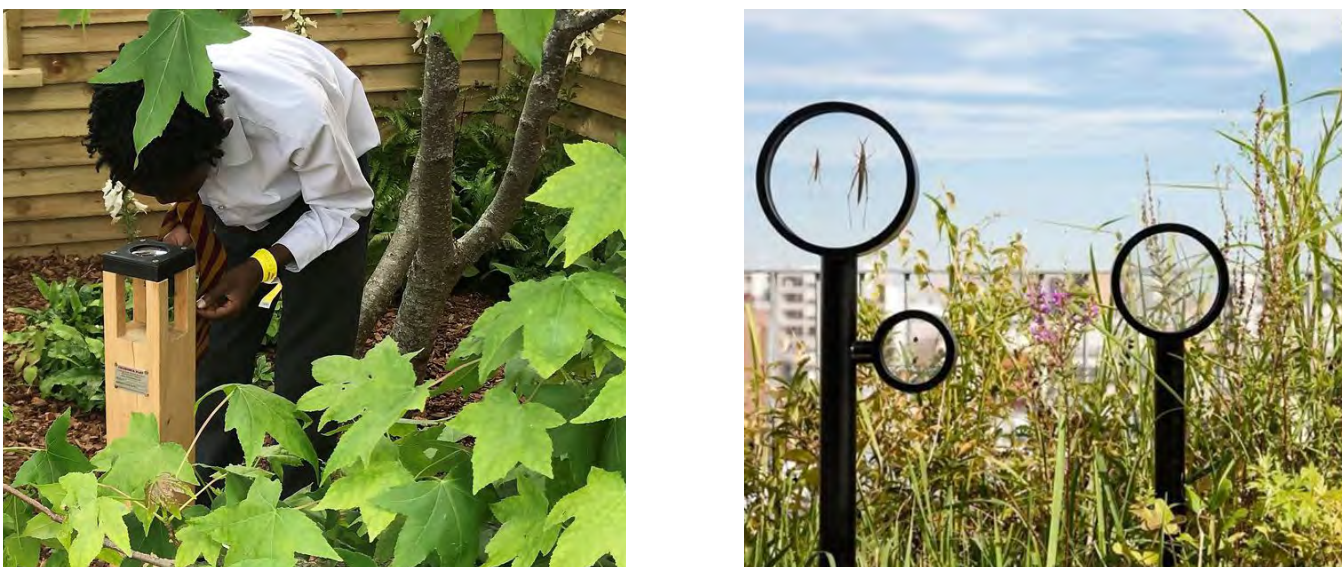
- The Red-headed Woodpecker
- The Eastern Wood-pewee
- The Fowler's Toad
- Onondaga Chert
- Wild Strawberry
- Eastern Cottonwood
- The Oak-hardwood Forest



Precedent Imagery



Main linear path with understory planting



Nature discovery elements (logs and magnifying posts)



Interactive interpretive panels rotate on a post



Interpretive panels frame a view and superimpose an interpretive etching of a former condition.