

REWILDING

WILL BE THE PROCESS OF ALLOWING WILDERNESS TO RECLAIM OR PERMEATE THROUGH KEY OPPORTUNITIES IN THE URBAN FABRIC, TO BECOME THE CONNECTIVE TISSUE THAT ENMESHESES THE CITY'S HUMAN SPACES AND CULTURAL ATTRIBUTES SEAMLESSLY WITH NATURE — THE BACKBONE AND DRIVING FORCE IN SUDBURY'S NEXT PHASE OF GROWTH.

SUDBURY 2030, 2050, 2100..

Climate change presents us with the moral ecological obligation to set higher standards of stewardship expectations for one another in order to develop a culture of caring for change. The global stillness in the wake of COVID-19 has proven that if humans allow it, nature will reclaim itself; therefore, we find urban design at the crux of a cultural shift in perspective of priorities; towards a more critical collective understanding of the importance and desire to learn from history and to proactively seek out sustainable built environment solutions for the public realm.

If concentration of activity stems from design tailored to the collective identity of a people, then the best vision of Sudbury's future necessitates an urban core that seeks to amplify the unique Sudbury landscape which provides a personality of place. Downtown is the ideal location to take root of this commitment to a cultural shift in perspective, as it's existing urban fabric layers are not only rich with city history but porous enough for the landscape to permeate through. Sudbury's

location allows it to already act as a hub for Northern Ontario services, which expands our regional commitment to strive, not merely for better for the sake of the city's residents, but further to a more provincial, nation, and global scale; bringing downtown Sudbury to the forefront of unprecedented climate change-focused design. Sudbury has the key which will unlock the city's potential to be the lifeblood of the North. A master plan that is rooted in moral intentions not only has the ability to unify people of varying perspectives by providing a larger universal goal, but further to position the city as a global leader in designing a better future for humanity. Let's start meaningfully taking the steps towards this collective vision.

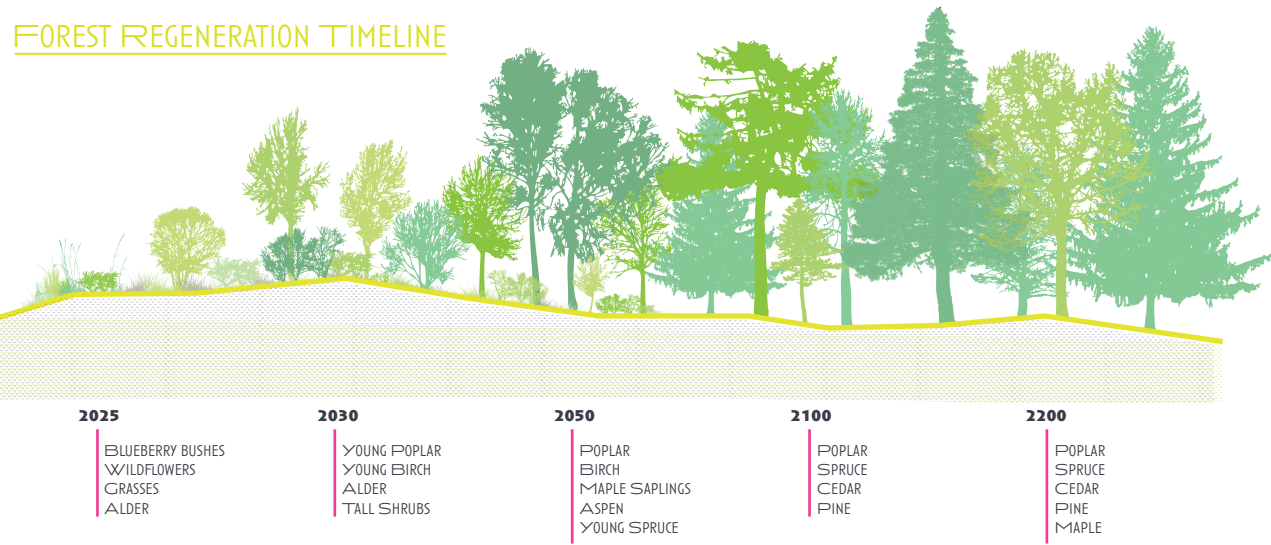
LESSONS FROM REGREENING

In Sudbury, the ratio of rock to vegetation creates a barren scenery — a testament to the exhaustive yet significant history of Nickel City's mining. Despite once being branded as the world's closest opportunity to walk on the moon, the intensive, unified efforts beginning in the late 1970s to restore the natural spaces that were lost to

industrialization, had catapulted Sudbury to the global stage for its massive demonstration of ecological transformation. This master design framework for the future of Sudbury imagines a second wave of regreening that builds on this stewardship aspect of Sudbury's identity and focuses on ecological integration, connectivity and rewilding. Rewilding facilitates urban connectivity by working with existing parks and forested areas and permeating throughout the city's urban routes to allow an equitable network of access to nature and transportation. The symbiotic relationship created by the wild nature and the city streets, laneways, and pathways will change Sudbury from a city of separate zones to a cohesive biophilic city.

In the study of urban planning systems, parks are often an oasis within the urban fabric; however, many of Sudbury's parks are lacklustre in comparison to the wild spaces surrounding the city and are not used to their full potential as a result. Understanding that programs in the North must be climate-appropriate, we focus on developing habitable environments with a focus on winter spaces that guide city dwellers easily to and around the core of the city, equitably and inclusively.

FOREST REGENERATION TIMELINE



WHY REWILDING?

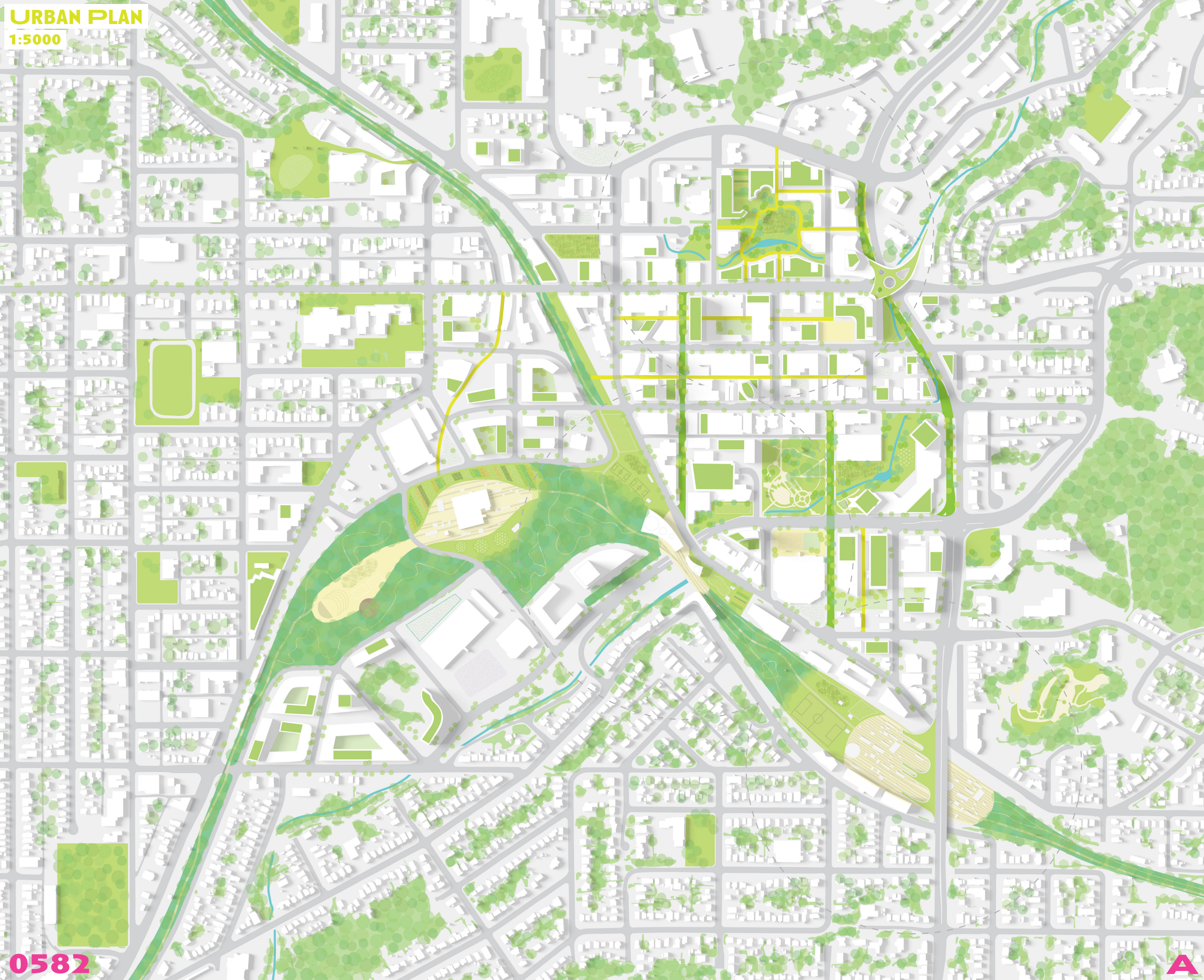
It is a simple idea: foster the forests. We know they will grow, they just need time and a little patience and care to get there. The process involves planting a few key species to jump start the forest growth. By 2050 we will see the type of young forest currently found in areas like the Lake Laurentian conservation area — by 2100 we can be living in the types of forests we love going to camp for.

The embedded culture, history and economical future of the city of Sudbury are not based in surrounding one with nature, but to *be* nature. Humans are a part of the ecosystem and like roots, our proposal grows passages throughout the city for transportation that includes walking, biking, and winter recreational sports to connect the sprawl of the city. In response to the unique outdoor culture of

Sudbury, the wilderness would envelop the roads, streets, alleyways and guide pedestrians throughout their city, to the urban core and its natural landscape. By aerating the urban landscape, the embedded culture of Sudbury is brought into the daily lifestyle of its residents. Travelling to school or work can become as familiar as snowmobiling to camp, with magical moments of outdoor fires surrounded by evergreens covered in snow that almost make us forget how cold it is.

This network of extended forest also establishes a framework for truly sustainable living, having inherently sustainable qualities such as improving microclimate conditions, and facilitating opportunities for natural stormwater management.

URBAN PLAN 1:5000



SELF-BUILT STRUCTURES

The train rails that are retained after the Rewilding is complete will provide a historical connection for familiar Sudbury recreations to the downtown. **Building off the bricolage culture and informal structures**, such as ice fishing huts, that dot across Sudbury's landscape, the rails can become a foundation for these structures to be erected, moving up and down the tracks and connecting to main arteries. The former railyards become the gathering place for these structures as they morph from a stage to a marketplace, depending on the needs of the city. Whether it be a fishing hut selling tackle along the shore of Ramsey lake, a food vendor following the summer festivals, or a family ice hut used as a shelter in the summer months for watching their daughter's soccer games, these huts embrace the do-it-yourself culture. **They become a physical manifestation of a more egalitarian society**, giving agency and power to the people to create what is needed in their city.

OPEN TO ALL : RAILWAY TAKEOVER

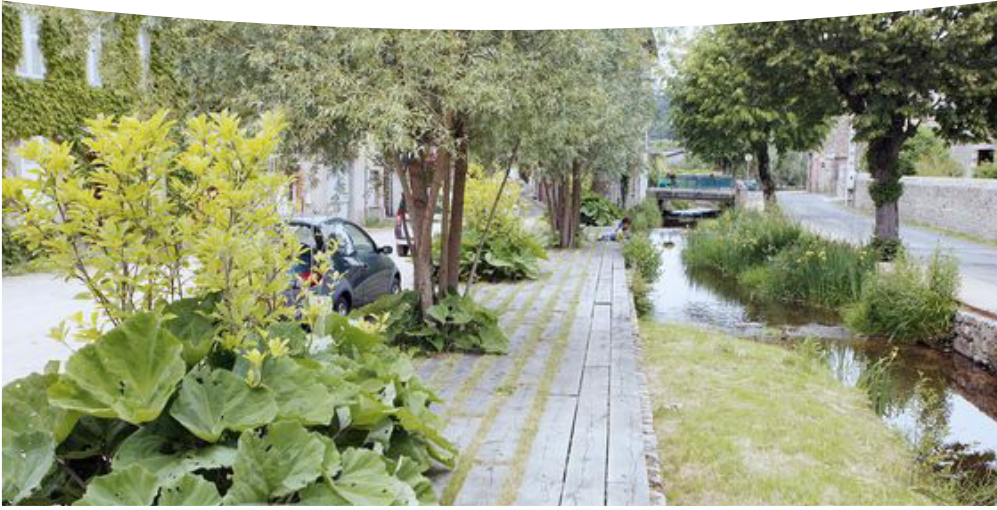
The concept for Rewilding centres around the downtown railyard being rerouted to allow for remediation, repurposing and revival. The railyard has proven to be a physical and social division through the center of the city. This vision for Sudbury extends past the rerouting and reclamation of the railyard by 2050, but further into the 2100s with the hopes of integrating into the rewilding process. Radically restitching multiple layers of various aspects of Northern identity together encourages more informal intersections, resulting in the emergence of unique programs borne out of the true desires of the ever-growing community's cultural connectivity.

REIMAGINED USE OF THE PUBLIC REALM

Urban design and public space discourse and policy is usually centred around encouraging 'appropriate' uses such as reading on a park bench, playing frisbee, or having a picnic on a patch of grass. While programming public space for these types of activities is necessary, they represent only a select portion of both current and potential uses of public space. **Every person, neighbourhood, and culture has different requirements for what public space can and should provide**, and it is important to capture a wider definition of what a park can be. A park is more than grass and trees, it can be a playing field for sports, a stage for performances, a market, a playground, a meet-up spot, a place for campfires, for gardening, barbecuing, camping, or gathering medicines like cedar and sweetgrass. **Nature is inevitably a public space and recognizing the diversity of uses will ensure that it remains accessible to everyone.**



PRECEDENTS - DIVERSITY OF GREEN SPACE



RAILYARD TAKEOVER | BRICOLAGE



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RAILYARD TAKEOVER | WINTER CITIES



A DIVERSITY OF GREEN SPACES

A successful public park network requires a diversity of interconnected green spaces. Without connection, the parks can only facilitate stationary activities (reading, playing soccer). Destinations are important places in cities, but the journey can also be an opportunity for mobile activities in public space (hiking, cycling), and is integral in creating a network that connects the city together.

There are three basic types of parks; natural areas, civic spaces, and lawns. They can be integrated into one park or spread throughout a neighbourhood but its the variety of spaces that allows for a diversity of uses.

NATURAL AREAS

- USES:** Recreation and fitness, biking, hiking, fishing, escaping the city
- BENEFITS:** Biodiversity, water retention, climate resilience, animal habitat
- EXAMPLE:** Stanley Park, Vancouver

CIVIC SPACE

- USES:** large-scale activities and events, outdoor performances, buskers, markets, festivals
- BENEFITS:** Flexible space, central hub, highly visible

LAWNS

- USES:** picnics, impromptu sports, frisbee, meeting friends,
- BENEFITS:** convenient, easily scalable, comfortable micro-climate
- EXAMPLE:** Mission Dolores Park, San Francisco

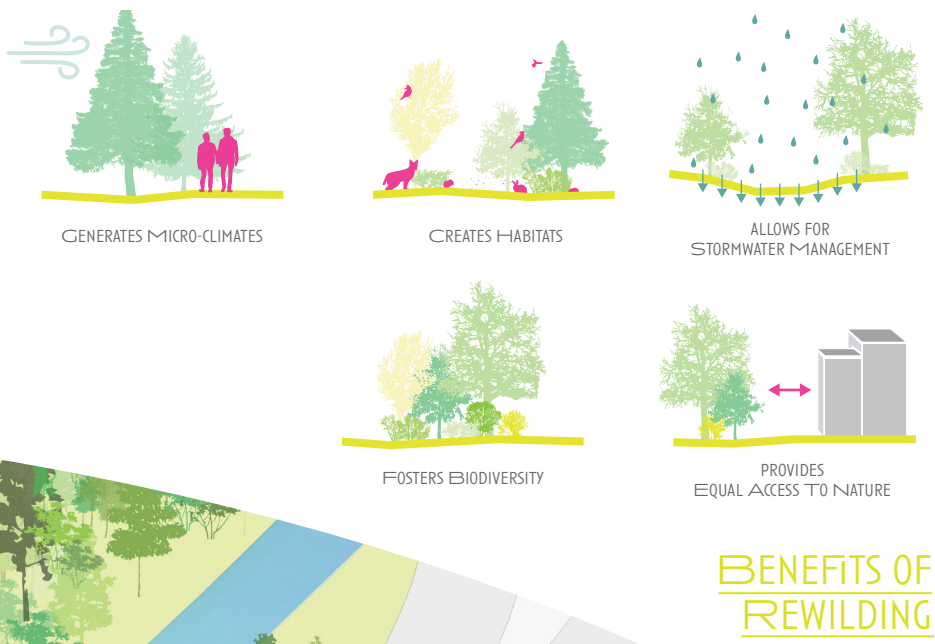
PLACEMAKING & DESTINATIONS

Some previous urban planning approaches for Sudbury have been inauthentic to the Northern identity and lifestyle. **We focus not on the erasure of the existing culture, but rather a proud amplification of it;** landscape is what makes Sudbury unique, so our proposal capitalizes on this perspective. This vision of Sudbury seeks to build on the city's global story as leaders in ecological remediation, in order to likewise become inspiration **for cultural change**. A static master plan with an end in sight would limit the scope of the city's potential, whereas Rewilding is made possible only through ceaseless growth. It is only through unrelenting stewardship that the public realm itself may likewise become fair, just, and sustainable; and therefore attractive.

Keying into existing city investments such as the Place des Arts and the Junction will be essential in creating destinations, but need to be amplified by the densification and liveability fostered by an urban plan as ambitious and appealing as this. Because we first have a requirement to face the injustices that are becoming more and more apparent every day.

INNOVATIVE NEW ECONOMIES

Rekindling Sudbury's lost identity as a forestry town, the nexus of Brady St., Elgin St. and Durham St. will serve as a hub for the forestry industry in Northern Ontario. Building on the success of the Living with Lakes Centre, Science North, and Dynamic Earth, **this hub will comprise a research institute and a science centre focusing on forest habitat and biological sciences.** Surrounded in the forest itself, it's own backyard is a testing ground and learning environment, while still being centrally located in the city. This accessible location not only attracts visitors to the downtown core, but creates a sustainable living environment for staff and researchers through a variety of transportation choices and living environments. Nearby, mass timber innovation can be kickstarted at locations such as Kelly Lake Lumber.



PATHWAYS



SMALL STREETS

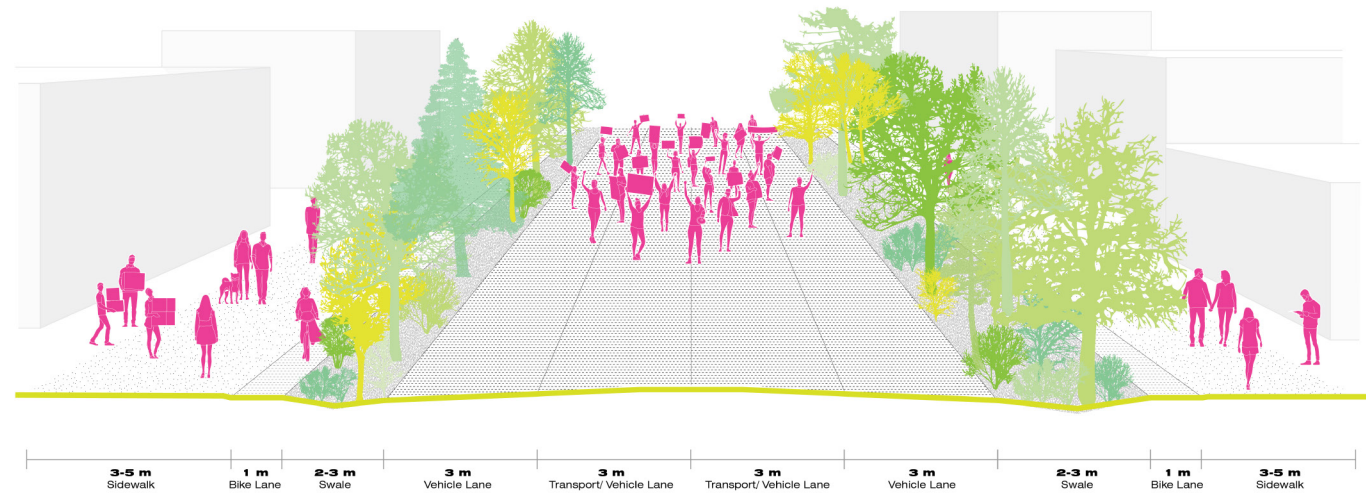
NEW FORMS OF MOBILITY

The use of the railway lands creates corridors that permeate the city, creating an opportunity for unprecedented connectivity. By using these corridors for different methods of transportation, **we are reshaping how people move through the city.** The use of alternative methods of travel - such as snowmobiles, have previously not had a place in the urban landscape. Through the development of two distinct path types that traverse the former railway corridors; a 'fast' path and a 'slow' path, a diversity of transportation methods are encouraged. The 'fast path' is for anyone moving between 10-40 km/h, and can include running, biking, skateboarding, snowmobiling, skating, rollerblading, etc. The 'slow path' is for activities with speeds less than 10 km/h such as hiking, jogging, dog-walking, or biking with children.

GREEN IS EMBEDDED

Green infrastructure has a high quantity of thoroughly studied benefits that support our ambition for investment into Rewilding that includes familiar urban design considerations such as improved air quality, decreased heat island effect, beautification, and positive effects on mental health. Allowing the vegetation to propagate naturally provides for a diversity of plants, including grasses, shrubs and trees which characteristically bolster one another. The swales that flank the streets provide space for this vegetation to flourish, **and provide additional benefits like stormwater management, habitat creation, and microclimates** (see Benefits of Rewilding diagram above).

MEDIUM STREETS



LARGE STREETS

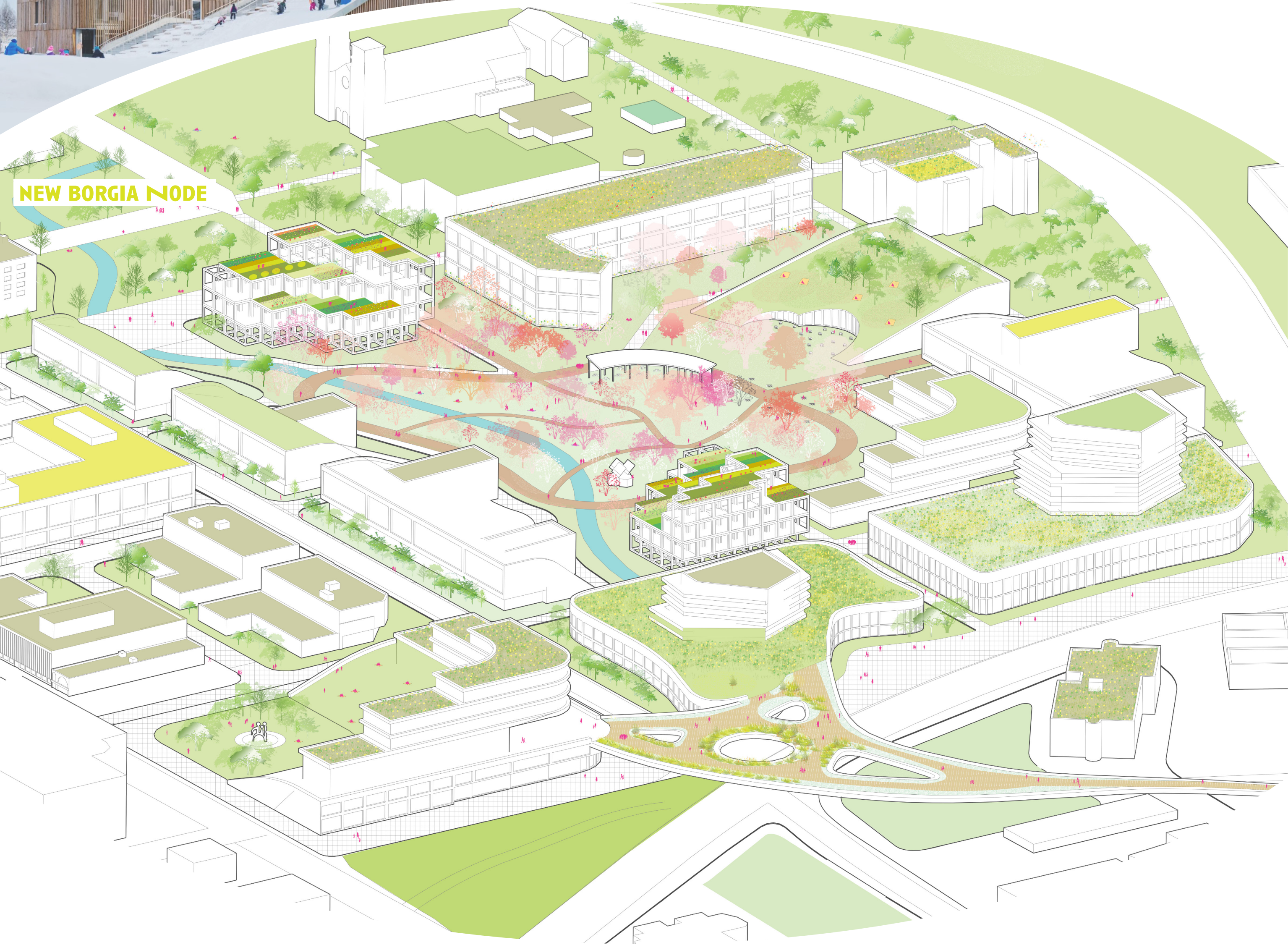


RECLAIMING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

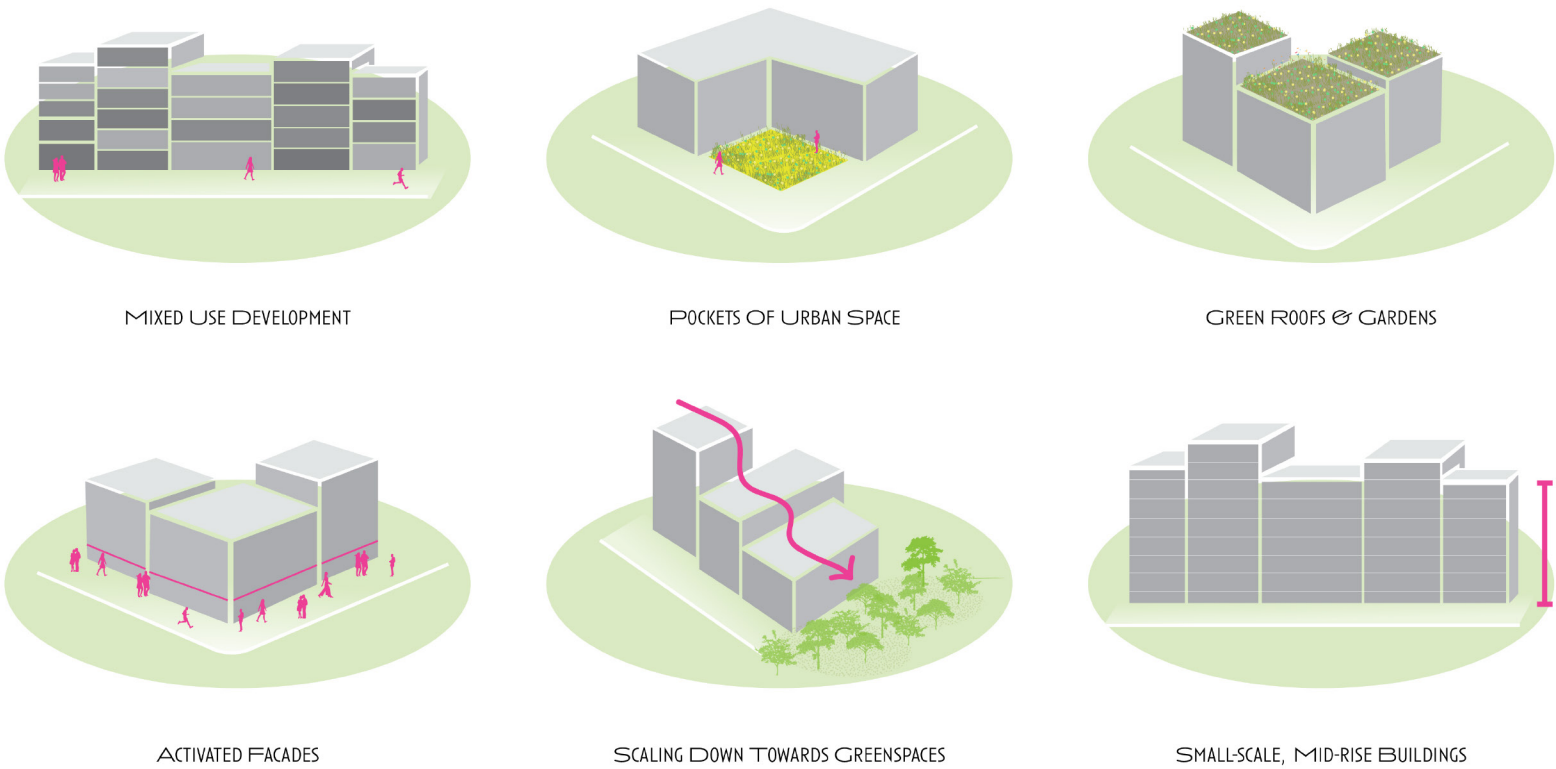
The New Borgia node provides the city with a vibrant urban area, bringing back the familiarity of old downtown and establishing a sense of place, community and ownership. The area that originally made up the Borgia Market community was bulldozed and replaced by the Rainbow Centre mall. In an effort to reestablish this vibrant community, **we are reclaiming the land, promoting mixed-used, multi-generational living in a variety of housing typologies** would not only bring the diverse densification necessary for the vital activity or animation of downtown, but would address the growing concerns for housing affordability in Ontario by anticipating this future growth. Connecting this hub by elevated platforms guides pedestrians to their downtown and encapsulates them in a combination of wild and urban, and puts the people’s movement throughout the city first.

PARKING IN 2050?

Personal vehicles are a necessity for many people living in Northern Ontario, as it is a remote area and currently public transport is not always an option. While reduction of personal vehicle traffic within the city is optimal, travel to and from the city must be accommodated. **We have proposed multiple transportation hubs around the peripheries of downtown that combine transit stops, bike rentals, car sharing, and a parking garage, to ensure convenient access to the city for everyone.** Residents living downtown without vehicles can go camping on a weekend, and rural residents can easily have dinner at their favourite restaurant downtown, or visit their niece for the weekend. Building flexible structures that serve other purposes will allow the city to adapt as the conditions for urban life evolve.



BUILDING + SCALE PRINCIPLES



MOVING FORWARD : PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Creating the best vision of Sudbury requires seven generational thinking, to question how we can spark systemic change for a more equitable future. By beginning with designing for the emergence of diverse types of universally accessible spaces within the Rewilded network of green and winter spaces tailored to the Northern lifestyle, we aim to demand boldly a diverse public strategy. **This means bringing Indigenous, Black, LGBTQ+, womxn's and people of colour's voices to the table at the very beginning.** Recognizing that we must continually make space to draw upon the assortment of voices that comprise Sudbury to critique and to recalibrate according to our ever-changing needs, ongoing open discussion on universally accessible platforms can unify people towards a common goal.

Rewilding, by nature is a grass-roots type of approach that leans heavily on the desires of the city’s residents to shape the public realm. **It is imperative to the success of Rewilding that meaningful public engagement is thoroughly enmeshed at every stage of its ongoing development.** Designing for such diverse needs necessitates universally accessible platforms that allow urban planners to seek out a fair reflection of the community, hear concerns with care and respond with intentionality to the varied perspectives in an equitable manner. The people spearheading the approach must ensure they are open to criticism and learning, in order for us to hold each other accountable to these intentions in manifesting the next steps. Rewilding is an opportunity for Sudburians to advocate for their best vision of the future of their home and for the generations to come.

CONCLUSIONS

Starting with the downtown railyard, which was previously a manifestation of physical and social division through the heart of the city, Rewilding continues Sudbury’s narrative of environmental transformation through a new phase of cultural metamorphosis. The design nodes along the Rewilded network feed the railyard to provide for unprecedented connectivity through a system of green and winter spaces that permeate the city. Further, the nodes provide a diversity of spaces through both formal and informal design by suggesting activities that appeal to the Northern lifestyle, while leaving enough to the imagination to allow for the design to grow or cater to the emergence of unimagined needs. Attracting like-minded, proactive citizens by promoting multi-generational living through a range of housing typologies, this concept is an incentive for people to see the potential of the Sudburian lifestyle, and invest in sinking their roots into the urban fabric to become the next generation in the city’s cyclical life. Most importantly, Rewilding spotlights Sudbury on the global stage to entice people to seize their moral obligation for environmental and cultural stewardship. Rewilding is truly a call for Sudburians to invest in themselves.

REWILDING WILL HEAL. IT WILL CONNECT. IT WILL BRING US TOGETHER. IT WILL BE OPEN TO ALL. IT WILL PUSH US FORWARD. IT WILL HELP US INNOVATE. IT WILL ATTRACT TOP TALENT. IT WILL MAKE PEOPLE WANT TO STAY. IT WILL BUILD ON HISTORY. IT IT WILL CREATE A CIRCULAR RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE AND THE CITY. WHAT DOES SUDBURY WANT TO BE PROUD OF? WHAT WILL WE LEAVE BEHIND? WHAT CAN WE STAND BY?