

Mountain Brow Vista Study & Management Plan

Final Public Meeting



Hamilton



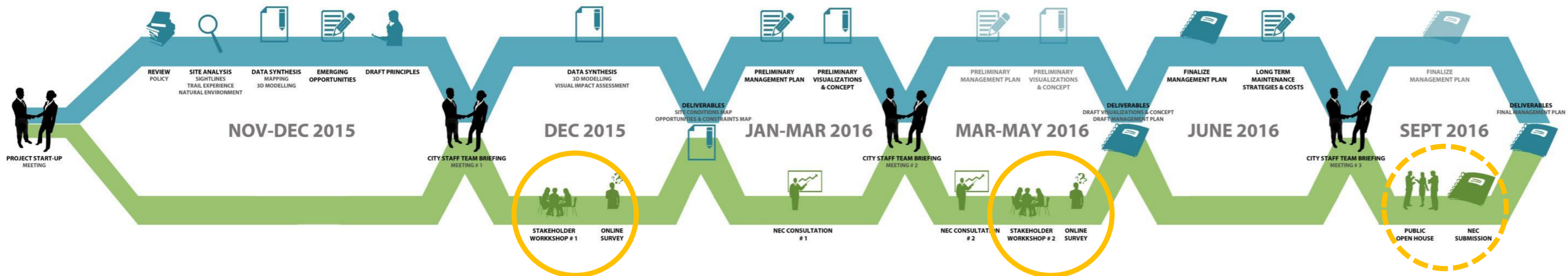
DILLON
CONSULTING

September 15, 2016

Agenda

- **Project Overview**
- **Public Consultation Input (Stakeholder Meeting # 2, June 13)**
- **Project Update**
- **Vista Concept**
- **Vista Recommendations**
- **Next Steps**

Project Overview Scope & Outcomes

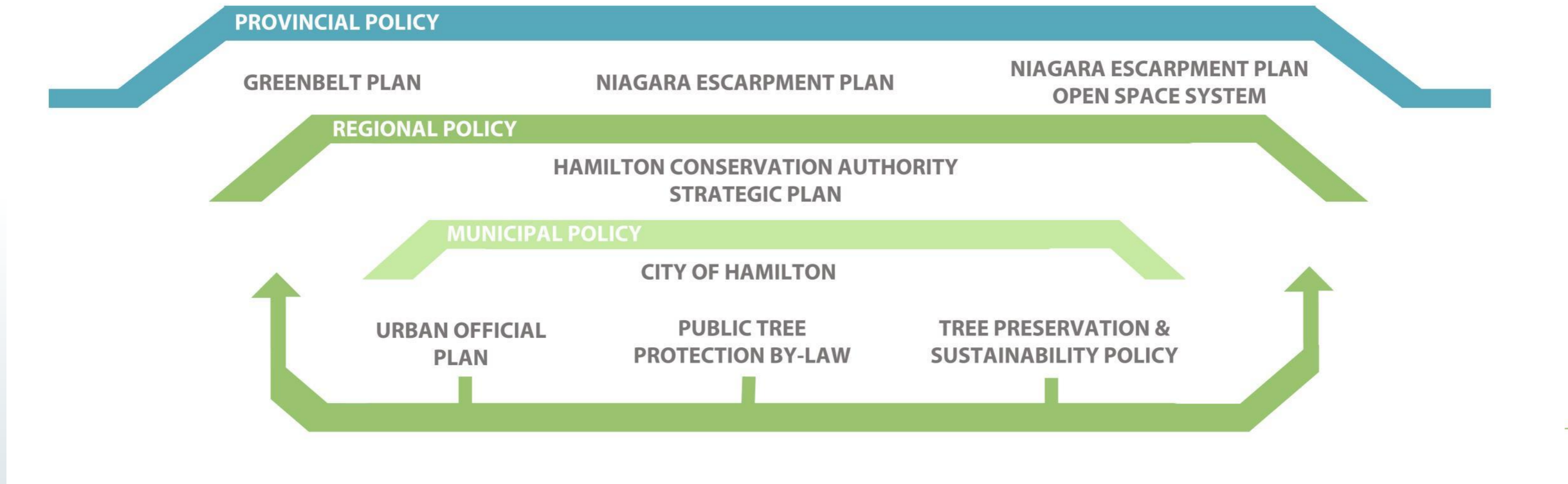


Vision

With this Mountain Brow Vista Study & Management Plan, the City has a foundation and a vision to celebrate and protect the natural environment along the escarpment brow, while providing continuous access for a range of panoramic views that reflect the natural beauty of and beyond the Niagara Escarpment.

Four Management Principles

- 1. Protect and enhance the natural features (i.e., slopes, forest and habitats) along the escarpment brow, at the interface of City open space and the protected natural areas of the Niagara Escarpment Plan;**
- 2. Improve the urban forest quality within the Urban Area of the Niagara Escarpment Plan;**
- 3. Minimize the negative impacts and further encroachment of urban development on the Escarpment environment; and**
- 4. Minimize the visual intrusion of the Urban Area on the natural character of the Niagara Escarpment.**



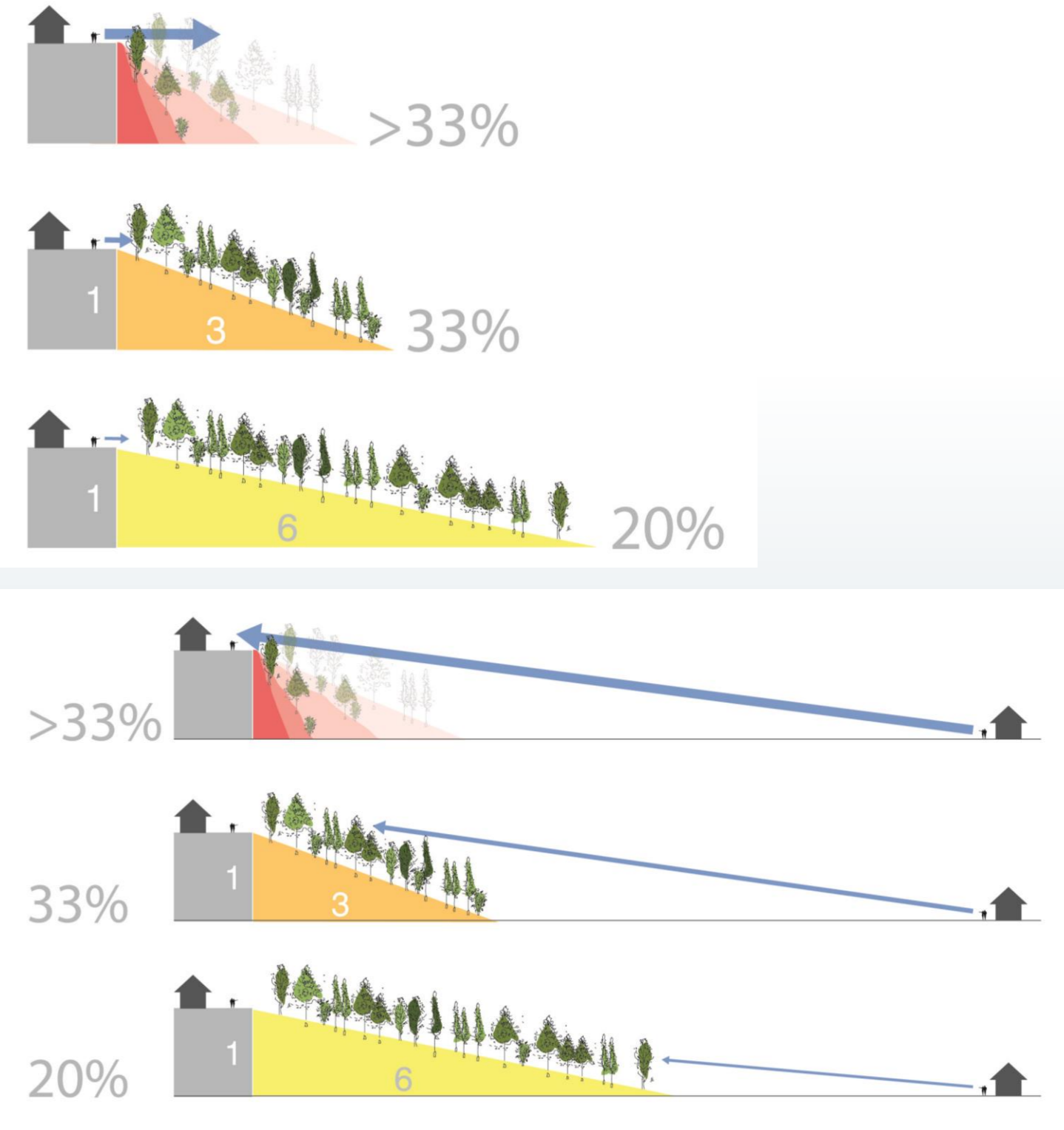
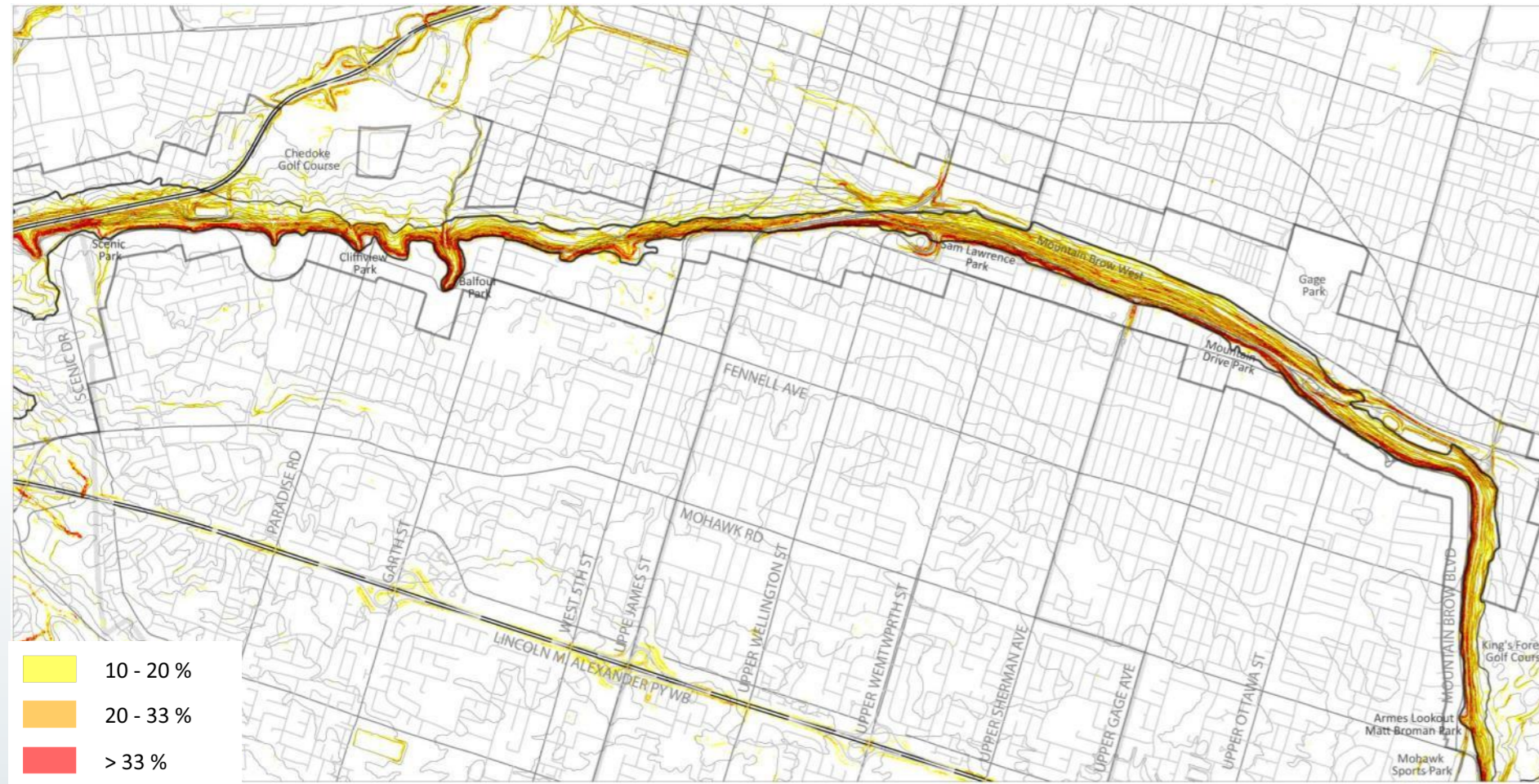
Project Overview

Policy Framework



Project Overview

Site Conditions



Project Overview

Site Conditions

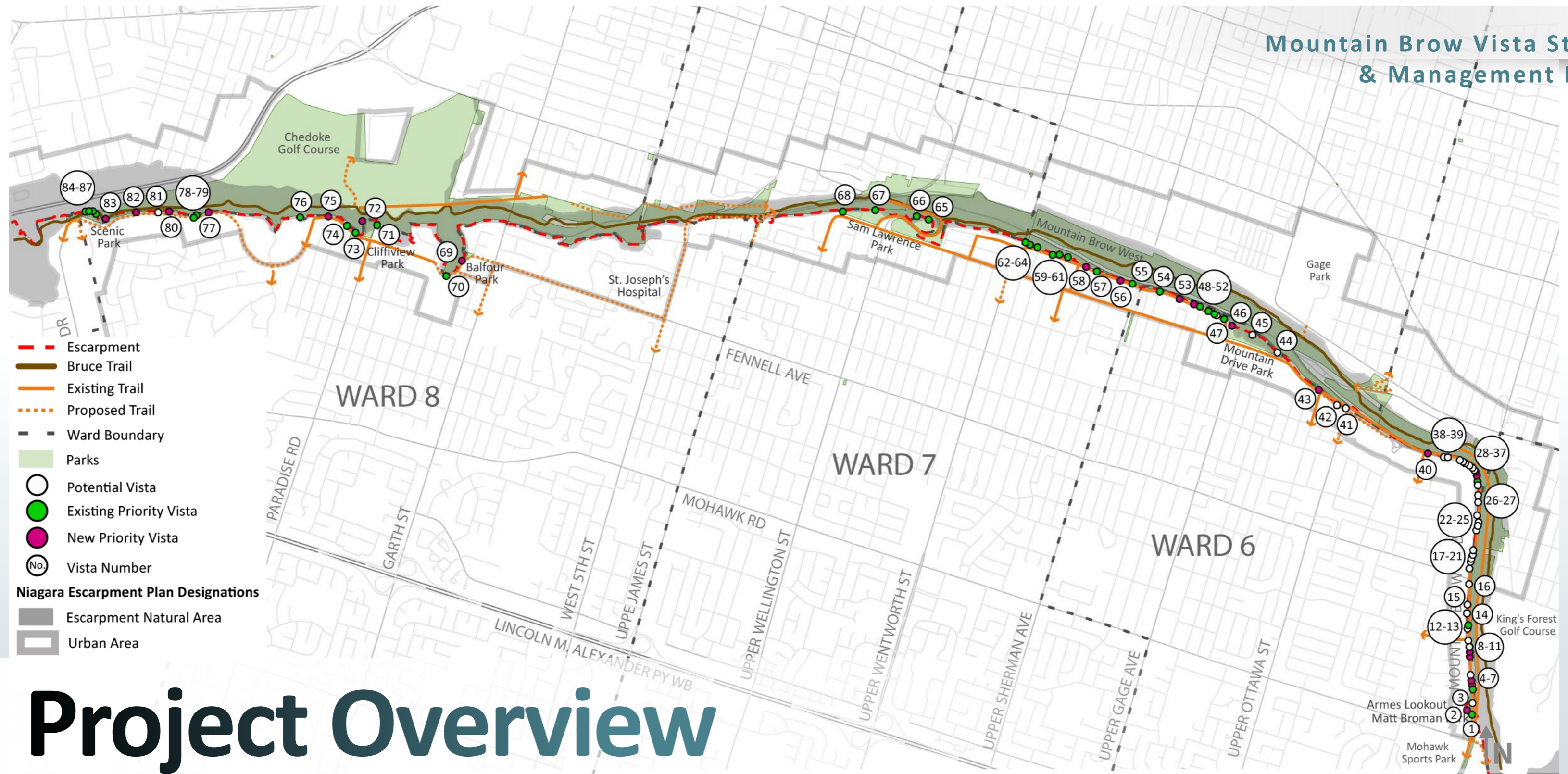
Mountain Brow Vista Study & Management Plan
Draft Vista Evaluation (June 2016)

Ward	Vista Type	Vista #	Natural Heritage Quality Assessment	Slope Analysis*	Slope Percentage	Cultural Heritage Feature	Tree Offset Planting Potential	Scenic View		Overall Score (15 max)	Community Comments
			1. Good - to be protected	1. 10-20% (gentle)		1. No Features	1. No Adjacent Planting Space	1. Obscured	Observations		
			2. Average- some removal potential	2. 20-33% (moderate)		2. Adjacent to Feature	2. Minimal Adjacent Planting Space	2. Average			
			3. Poor - removal potential	3. 33% (steep)		3. Feature	3. Optimal Adjacent Planting Space	3. Excellent			

Project Overview

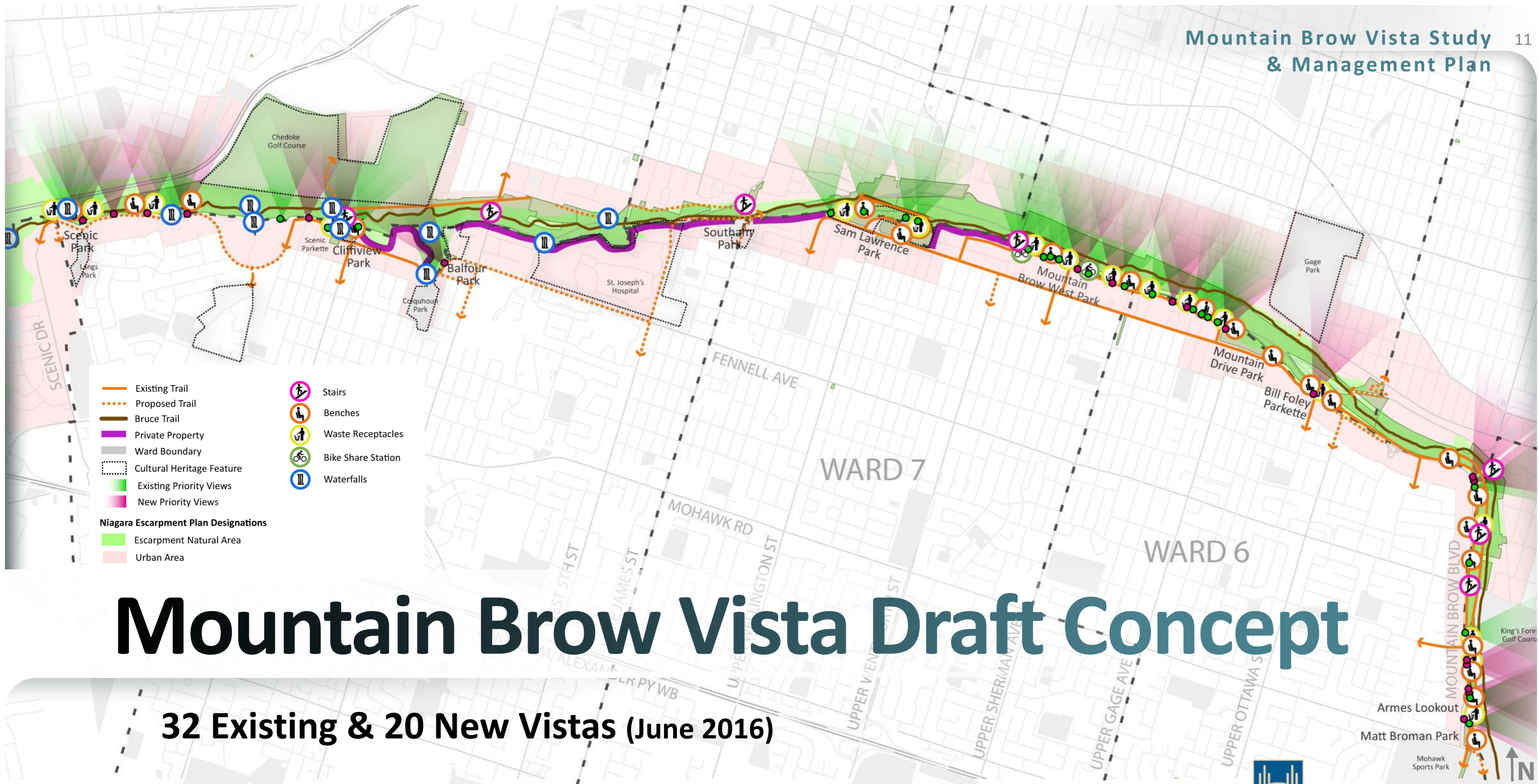
Vista Evaluation





Project Overview

55 Existing & 32 Potential Vistas
 Technical Assessment



Mountain Brow Vista Draft Concept

32 Existing & 20 New Vistas (June 2016)

Public Consultation Input

Wards 6 & 7 June Stakeholder Meeting

- 60 to 80 people in attendance
- Overall well-received recommendations, although some people expressed hesitation on the number of proposed new vistas
- Questions and comments from the public encompassed themes of: safety, parking, amenities and environmental protection
- Slope erosion, vegetation maintenance and preservation of native trees generated significant discussion

Public Consultation Input

Community Survey # 2

- **21 respondents**
- **Majority expressed support and enthusiasm for recommendations**
- **Majority agreed with the management approach being taken**

Mountain Brow Vista Study & Management Plan
Final Vista Evaluation (September 2016)

Ward	Vista Type	Vista #	Natural Heritage Quality Assessment	Slope Analysis*	Slope Percentage	Cultural Heritage Feature	Tree Offset Planting Potential	Scenic View		Overall Score (15 max)	Community Comments	Management	Final Site Confirmation/ Review
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Project Update

City Staff Site Visit to Confirm Existing & New Vista Locations and Management Approach

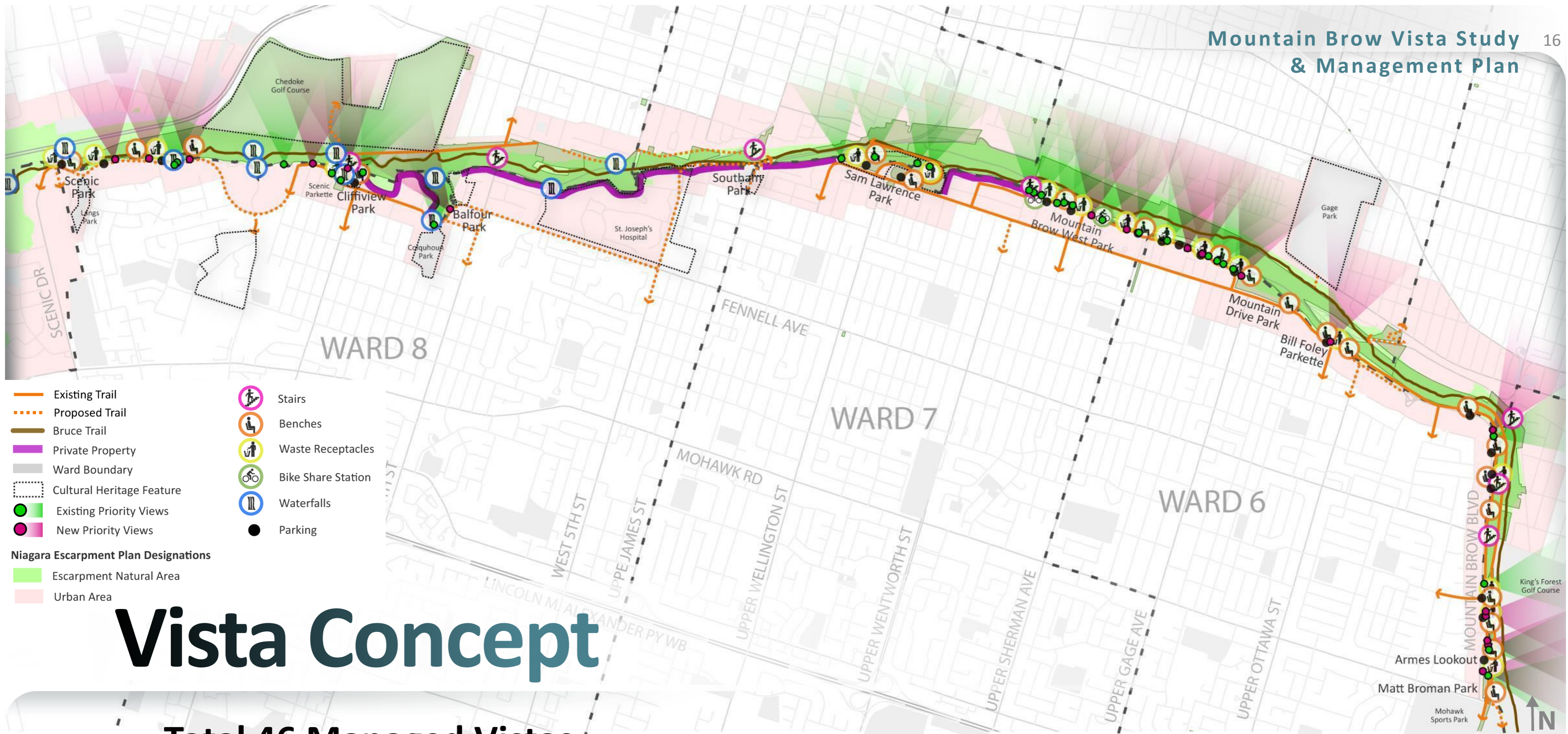


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	EXISTING	1	2	3	38%	1	3	3	Existing long vista into the valley, unique opening with bench.	12	-	-	✓
	POTENTIAL	2	2	3	47%	1	3	3	Evidence of brushing, long views of the City and lake.	12	-	Maintain existing sightlines through periodic cutting of Staghorn sumac or supplementing plant communities with low growing native vegetation.	✓
	EXISTING	4	2	3	68%	1	3	3	Existing vista with bench.	12	-	-	✓
	POTENTIAL	5	3	3	60%	1	3	3	View to the trail below.	13	-	Remove one (1) non-native tree species consisting of a Norway maple in poor condition on the slope, and pruning one (1) Norway maple to raise crown height along escarpment brow. Prune one (1) American basswood on escarpment slope to remove lower secondary branches.	✓
	POTENTIAL	6	2	3	51%	1	3	3	Evidence of brushing, long views of the valley.	12	-	Vista creation would require the removal of up to five (5) Trees consisting of the following: two (2) black walnut (18 dbh), one (1) American basswood (20 dbh), and two (2) Norway maple (18 dbh). Ongoing maintenance of staghorn sumac and non-native shrubs along the escarpment brow to maintain sightlines will be required.	✓

Project Update

Confirming Vista Evaluation





- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Bruce Trail
- Private Property
- Ward Boundary
- Cultural Heritage Feature
- Existing Priority Views
- New Priority Views
- Stairs
- Benches
- Waste Receptacles
- Bike Share Station
- Waterfalls
- Parking

- Niagara Escarpment Plan Designations**
- Escarpment Natural Area
 - Urban Area

Vista Concept

**Total 46 Managed Vistas
29 Existing & 17 New Vistas**

Vista Concept

Ward 6

TOTAL VISTAS

9 Existing
10 New

- Matt Broman Park (1 existing, 1 new)
- Armes Lookout (1 existing, 2 new)
- Bill Foley Parkette (1 new)
- Mountain Drive Park (1 new)
- Mountain Brow West Park (5 existing, 2 new)
- Other Public Lands (2 existing, 3 new)

Ward 7

TOTAL VISTAS

12 Existing
2 New

- Mountain Brow West Park (8 existing, 2 new)
- Sam Lawrence Park (4 existing)

Ward 8

TOTAL VISTAS

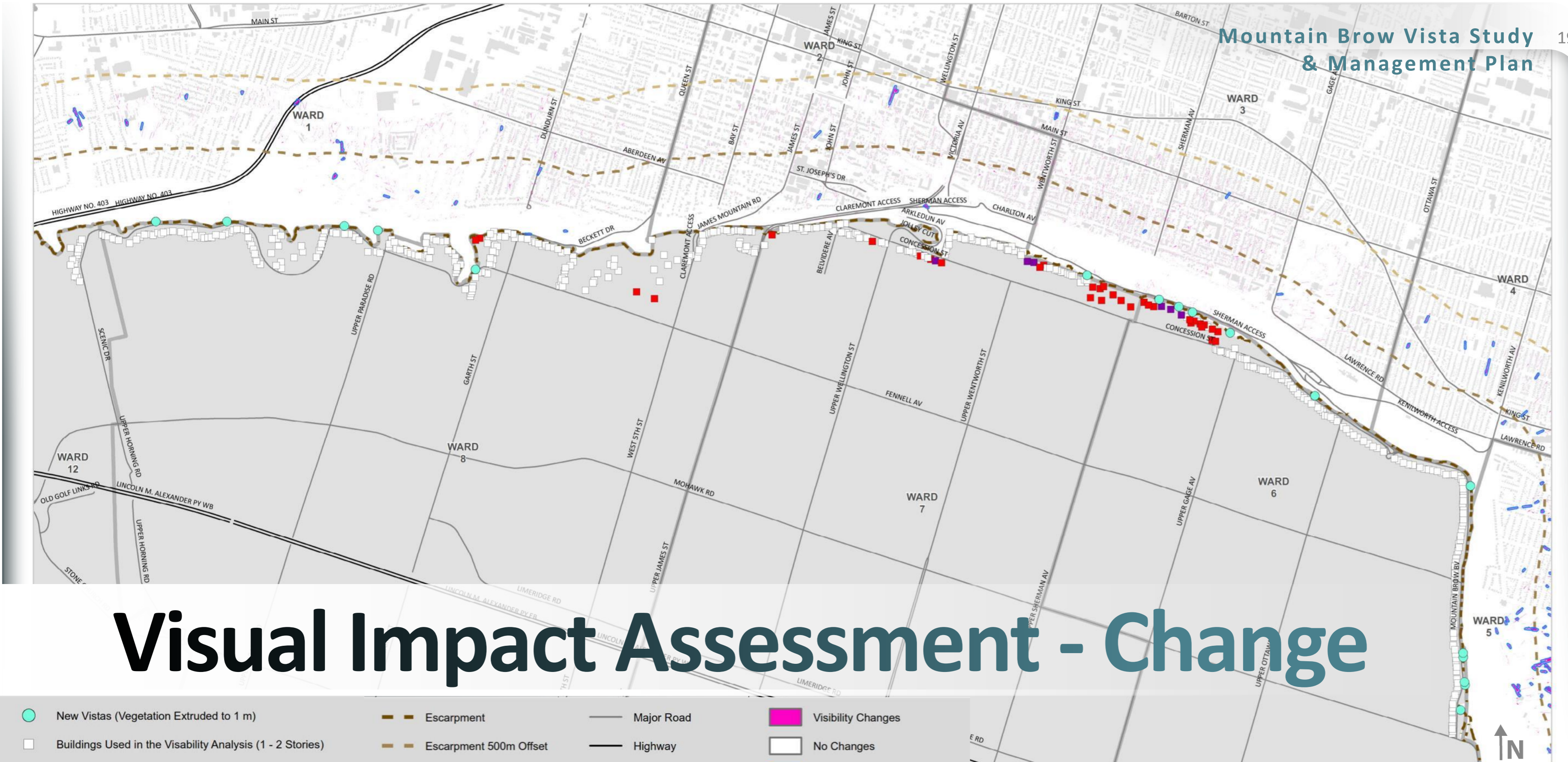
8 Existing
5 New

- Southam Park (N/A)
- Balfour Park (1 new)
- Cliffview Park (1 existing, 1 new)
- Scenic Park (N/A)
- Other Public Lands (7 existing, 3 new)

- **Prepared technical visibility modeling for opening views**
- **Included before and after simulations**
- **Very limited visual impact**
- **Urban forest enhancements on the Escarpment brow reduce visual impacts**
- **Aligned with NEC objectives for protecting the Escarpment**

Visual Impact Assessment





Visual Impact Assessment - Change

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| New Vistas (Vegetation Extruded to 1 m) | Escarpment | Major Road | Visibility Changes |
| Buildings Used in the Visibility Analysis (1 - 2 Stories) | Escarpment 500m Offset | Highway | No Changes |
| Buildings Used in the Visibility Analysis (3 - 6 Stories) | Escarpment 1000m Offset | Ward Boundaries | Visibility Changes > 50 sqm |
| Buildings Used in the Visibility Analysis (> 6 Stories) | | | |

Vista Recommendations

- 1. Continue to monitor the 41 locations** where there are existing views. Review the location of benches and waste receptacles and whenever possible (along formal trails), co-locate the amenities where there are views.
- 2. Extend the work undertaken by the Vista Management Crew to include the 29 locations where some remedial pruning and shrub clearing is needed to maintain the views.** Identify locations where replacing non-native ground covers with low growing native plants could reduce the long term maintenance effort. Review the location of benches and waste receptacles and whenever possible (along formal trails), co-locate the amenities where there are views.

Vista Recommendations

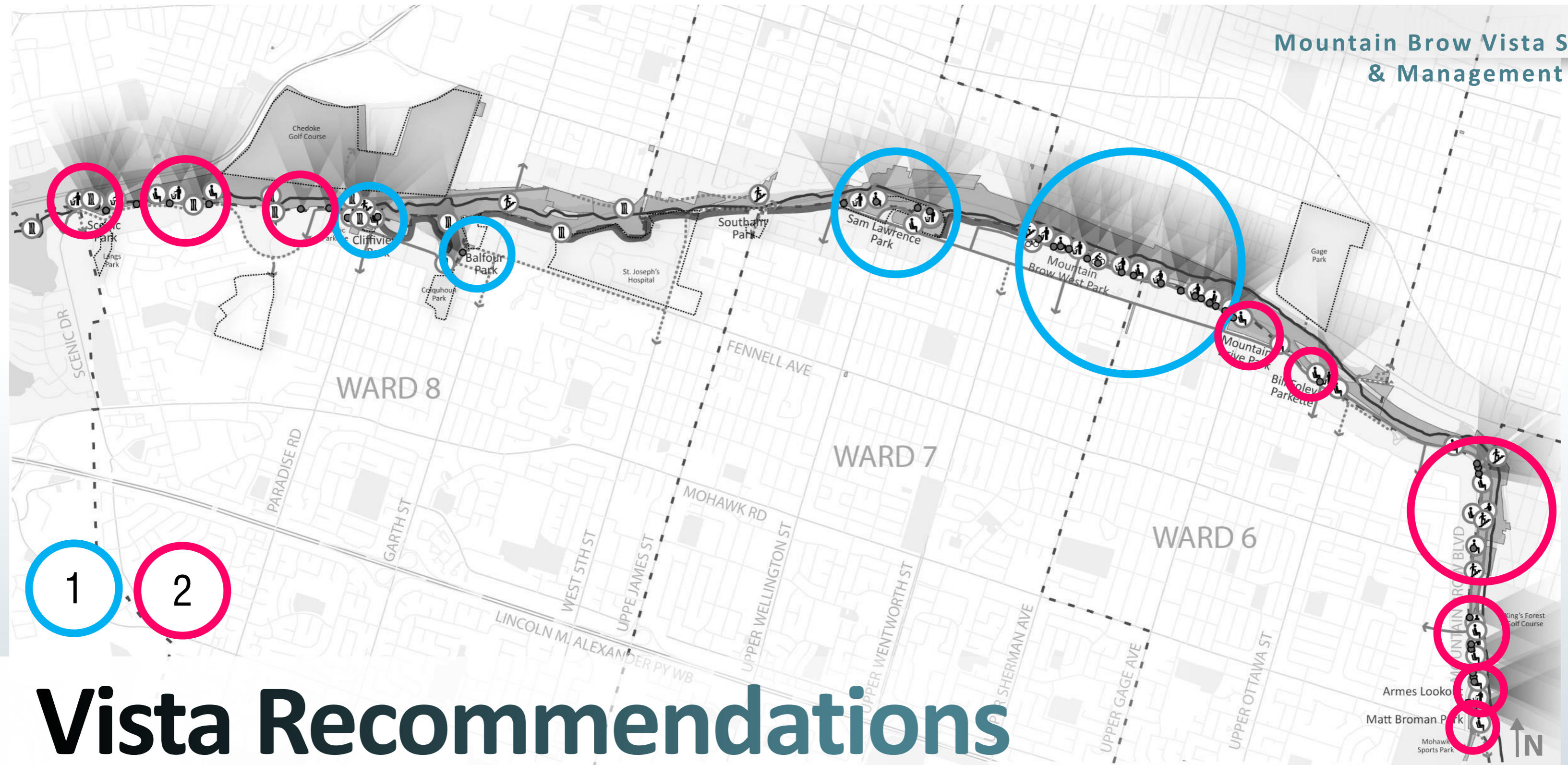
3. Undertake **tree and shrub removal in 17 locations where non-native trees can be removed to open new vistas**. The width of the opening should not exceed 3-5 meters and disturbed ground should be stabilized with native ground covers. Plant a replacement (one for one) native tree (60mm caliper) in the vicinity of the clearing to off-set the lost urban forest canopy.
4. Allow **natural succession in non-managed locations**.



Vista Recommendations

5. **Set highest priority for landscape management in parks where viewsheds contribute to the cultural heritage significance of the sites. These include:**
 - Sam Lawrence Park
 - Balfour Park
 - Cliffview Park

6. **Set highest priority for managing the landscapes in the vicinity of the Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Care Center and Mountain Brow West Park because of the long standing access to vistas.**



Vista Recommendations

Priorities

Other Vista Recommendations (Future)

- 7. Continue to improve the recreational infrastructure along the brow (i.e., trails, lighting, fencing and parking, etc.) to support the resident and visitor needs consistent with the City's Recreational Trails Master Plan.**
- 8. Undertake a detailed design and engineering to implement a more formal lookout at vista location 82 to improve public safety and discourage informal access to a highly scenic viewing area.**

Other Vista Recommendations (Future)

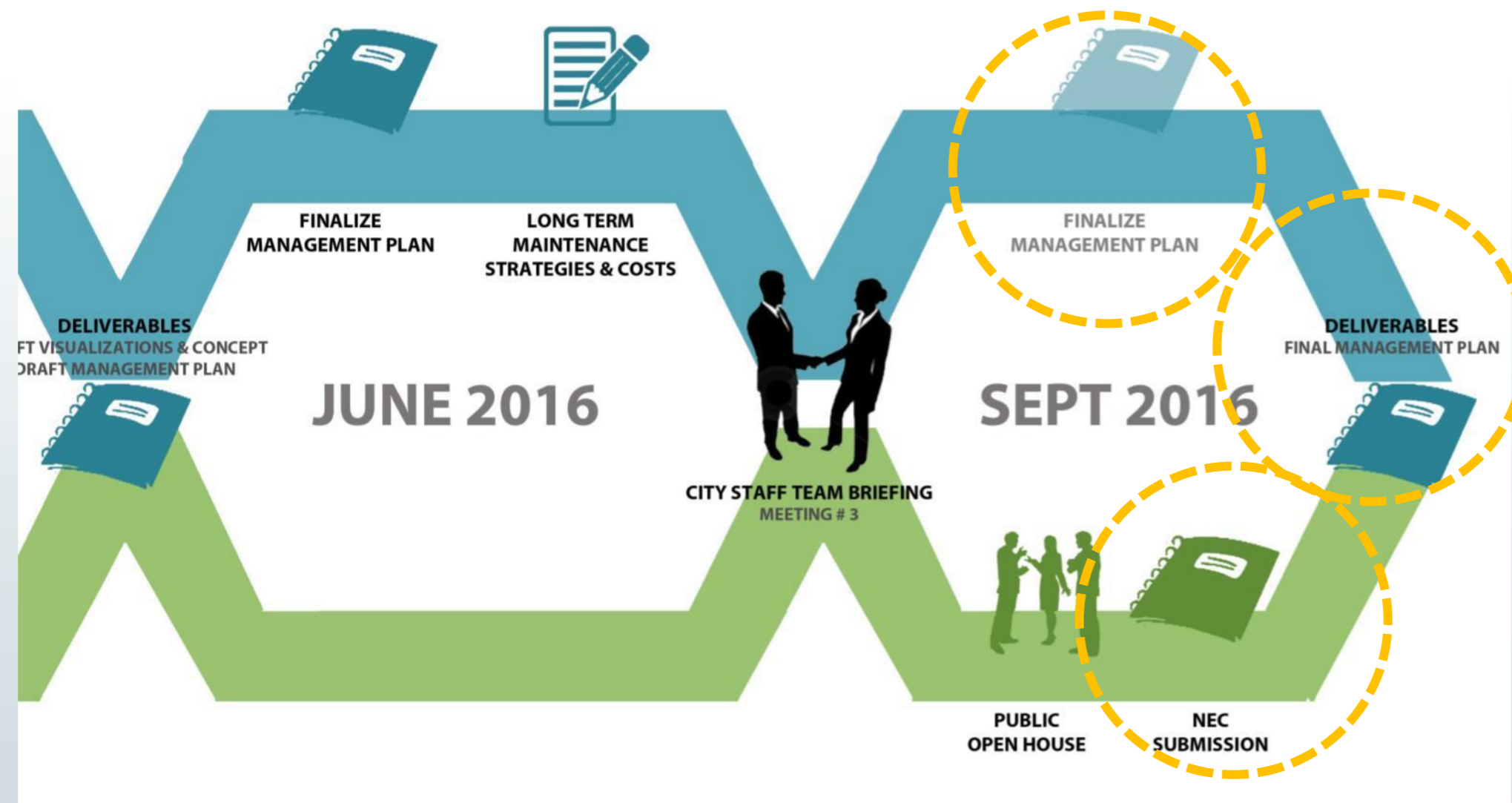
9. Enhance the experience along the Escarpment brow with interpretative signage, trailheads with trail maps and UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve information.
10. Evaluate undertaking a Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System (NEPOSS) management plan that includes all of the public recreation facilities in the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area in Wards 6, 7 and 8.

Vista Recommendations

Maintenance Monitoring

- 1. Detailed assessment of potential hazard trees by ISA certified arborist/City forester**
- 2. Invasive species management program implementation on annual basis**
- 3. Periodic monitoring of mature ash trees adjacent to Scenic Drive**
- 4. Assessment and monitoring of erosion of the Escarpment brow**
- 5. Development and 2-year review of maintenance schedule with budget and priority areas**

Next Steps



Thank You

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