

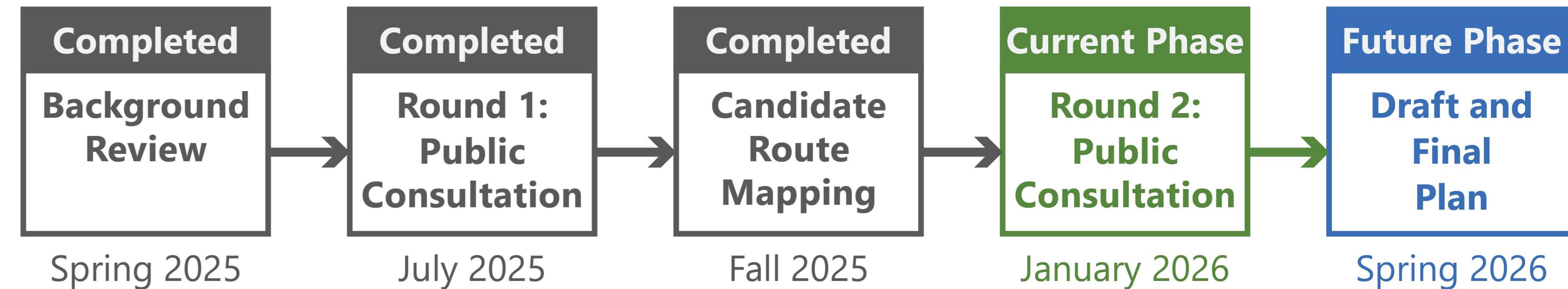
Help shape the future of trails in Haldimand County!

What is Happening?

Haldimand County is updating the 2009 Trails Plan to continue improving and expanding a connected, accessible multi-use trail network across the County and beyond. This update re-evaluates previously planned routes and identifies new trail opportunities and trail types for the updated Master Plan.

As part of this process, we have mapped a series of proposed routes within communities and across the County, and we are seeking your feedback on these potential connections.

Project Timeline & Participation



1 Vision

Haldimand County prioritizes the planning, design, implementation and management of a County-wide system of trails and active transportation facilities that:

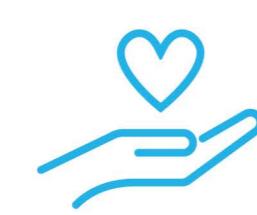
Connects people with major and local destinations, natural features, and cultural landmarks.

Creates a seamless experience across communities, trail types, barriers, and landscapes.

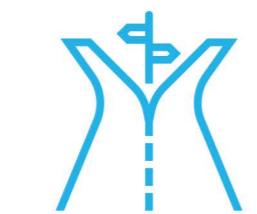
Strengthens partnerships with community members, First Nations, agencies, and regional partners to support long-term trail enhancement.

2 Principles

These principles shape how Haldimand will plan, design, and manage trails now and into the future:



Trails as Tourism: Enhancing trail experiences to attract both residents and visitors.



Trails as Mobility: Supporting both recreational and utilitarian trips as part of the broader transportation system.



Trails as Partnerships: Expanding collaboration to improve and grow the network.



Trails as Places: Designing trails as meaningful public spaces with opportunities for rest, activation, and community identity.



Trails as an Asset: Recognizing trails as vital infrastructure that requires thoughtful planning, investment, and care.

3 Approach to Trail Design



Build Meaningful Loops and Routes

- Expand and link existing trails into longer, continuous routes.
- Prioritize looped connections to improve user experience.



Highlight Natural Features

- Create more trails along rivers, woodlots, and scenic areas.
- Strengthen links between neighbourhoods and nearby natural spaces.



Provide Safe, Multi-Functional Off-Road Trails

- Create off-road trails that connect people to key destinations and act as destinations themselves.
- Support inclusive, safe, and comfortable active travel and recreation for all ages and abilities.



Enhance Trail Experiences Along Road Corridors

- Align facilities with Book 18 standards.
- Improve comfort and navigation with better landscaping, buffers, and wayfinding.



Strengthen County-Wide and Community Connectivity

- Use cycling network improvements to support travel across the County.
- Explore former rail lines and utility corridors for future off-road routes.

Proposed Recommendations

Add a **DOT / CHECKMARK** to the proposed recommendations below that you would like to see supported. Are there others that we should be considering? Add **STICKY NOTES** to the larger boxes below.

Trails as Tourism



- Expand guided and scheduled trail experiences** through County programs, private operators, and community clubs.
- Program trail-based events** that pair trails with local food, music, shopping, and cultural activities, including cross-regional collaborations.
- Focus tourism-oriented directional signage programs** to better connect trail users to amenities and destinations.
- Integrate interactive and digital engagement tools** that enhance on-site experiences and extend engagement online.

Other recommendations you would like to see added:

Trails as Mobility



- Target new trail implementation that closes gaps** in the existing network to create connected loops and routes that offer longer, more complete trail experiences.
- Prioritize trail connections that support everyday travel** by linking neighbourhoods with schools, parks, workplaces, and downtown areas, while implementing off-road and on-road facilities where feasible to provide safe, comfortable, and practical alternatives to driving.
- Design trails for diverse users** like cyclists, pedestrians, mobility device users, and families, ensuring consistent widths, surfaces, crossings, and clear wayfinding countywide.
- Integrate trails into transportation planning** by coordinating with road, bridge, and utility projects to close network gaps.

Other recommendations you would like to see added:

Trails as Partnerships



- Build stronger collaborations** with community groups, First Nations, conservation authorities, neighbouring municipalities, and landowners for coordinated trail planning, implementation, and stewardship.
- Engage private landowners**, where access or easements significantly enhance connectivity to the trail network. Support this with clear agreements on roles, responsibilities, risks, maintenance, and access.
- Establish partnership frameworks** that clearly define roles for planning, funding, construction, programming, and maintenance, building on the County's leadership role.
- Support volunteer and community trail projects** with technical guidance, standards, and access to County funding.

Other recommendations you would like to see added:

Trails as Places



- Design trails as destinations** and connectors with seating, lookouts, gathering spots, and rest areas encouraging people to pause, stay, and socialize.
- Reflect local identity, culture, and landscape features** into trail design, materials, public art, interpretive elements, and naming strategies.
- Improve comfort, safety, and clearness along trails** by implementing lighting, buffers, landscaping, and straightforward wayfinding in both urban and rural settings.
- Create opportunities for small-scale activation** along priority and existing trail corridors, like pop-up events, markets, art installations, and community programs, to animate trails year-round.

Other recommendations you would like to see added:

Trails as an Asset



- Identify trails as essential long-term municipal infrastructure** that need careful planning, funding, and maintenance throughout their lifecycle.
- Set clear priorities for reinvestment and renewal** to keep older trails, surfaces, structures, and amenities safe, functional, and appealing.
- Utilize consistent standards and data**, such as condition assessments, usage patterns, and equity factors, to inform decision-making.
- Develop a plan for sustainable operations and maintenance** that balances County resources with partnerships, volunteer stewardship, and external funding opportunities.

Other recommendations you would like to see added:

Emerging Trends and Amenity Options

Add a **DOT / CHECKMARK** to the options below that you would like to see implemented.

/// WHAT3WORDS

On-Site Emergency Support

- Emergency call boxes
- Location tools (e.g. What3Words)
- Improves user safety



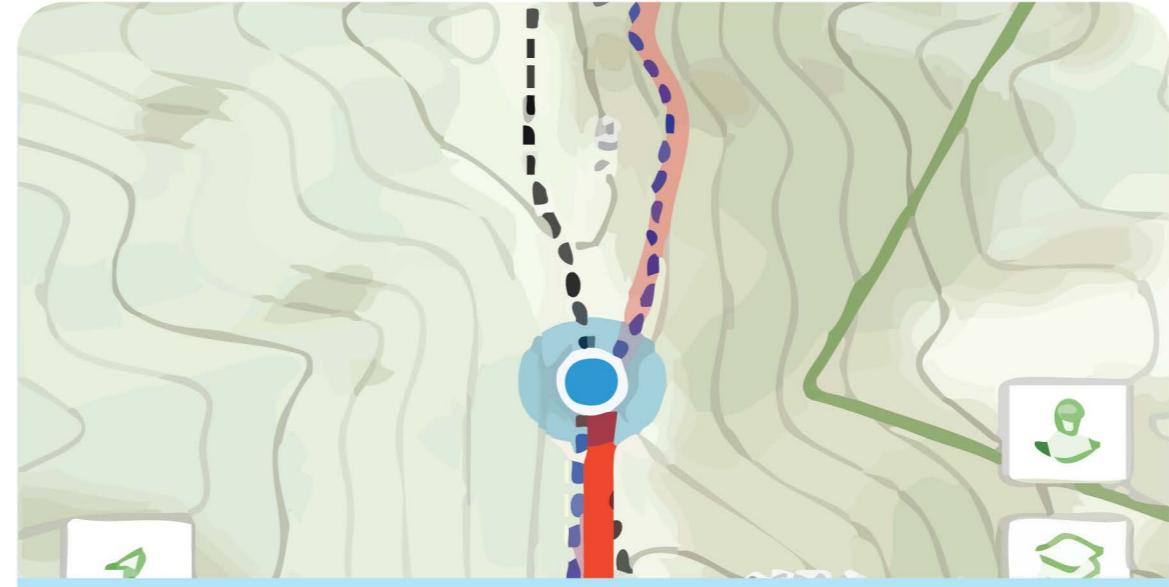
Charging & Power Access

- E-bike & scooter charging
- USB & GFCI outlets
- Supports digital wayfinding



Interpretive Walks

- Self-guided stories & prompts
- Educational for all ages
- Encourages exploration



Digital Trail Interfaces

- Interactive maps & previews
- Route & amenity info
- Supports trip planning



Trail Lighting

- Solar powered energy source
- Power for lighting & charging
- Improves accessibility



Fitness & Play Features

- Active recreation elements
- Play-based or fitness focused
- Can include instructions



Social Programming

- Events & challenges
- Links physical + digital
- Builds community



All Season Trails

- Four-season trail functionality
- All-weather, resilient surfacing
- Enhanced accessibility year-round



Art & Interpretation

- Public art & storytelling
- Educational content
- Strengthens sense of place



Accessible Ramps

- Inclusive grade transitions
- Integrated with landscape
- Provides rest points

Share Your Feedback!

Candidate Routes

- Route Within Road ROW
- Off-Road Trail (Private Property)
- Off-Road Trail (Municipal Land)
- Cycling Route

Existing Network

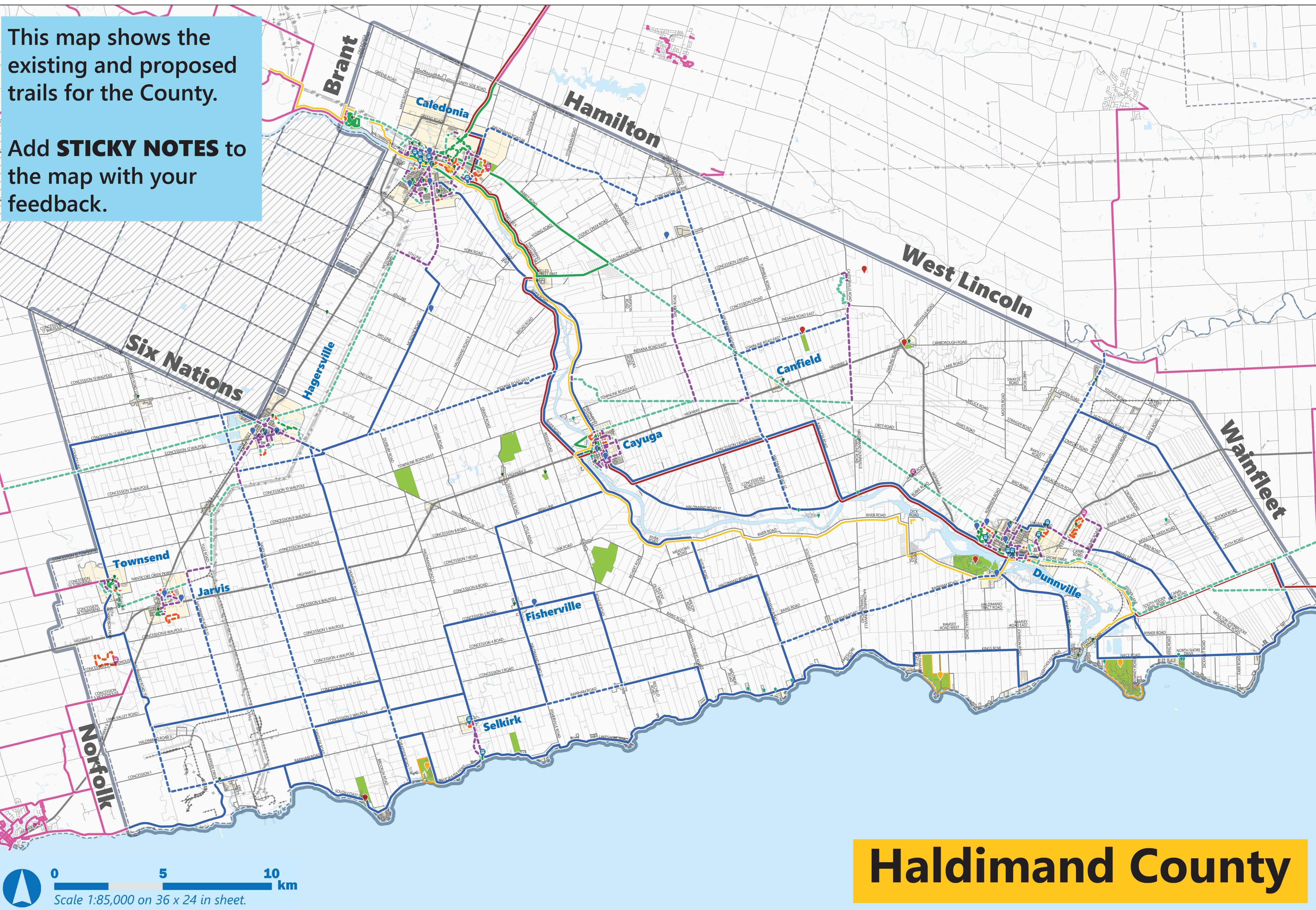
- Planned Route
- Existing Path / Trail
- Trans Canada Trail
- Grand Valley Trail Association Route
- Cycling (On-Road)
- Connections into Haldimand

Context

- Local Road
- Provincial Road
- Railway
- Hydro Line
- Waterbody
- Settlement
- Park / Open Space
- Provincial Park
- Haldimand County
- Municipal Boundary
- Six Nations of the Grand River

Destinations

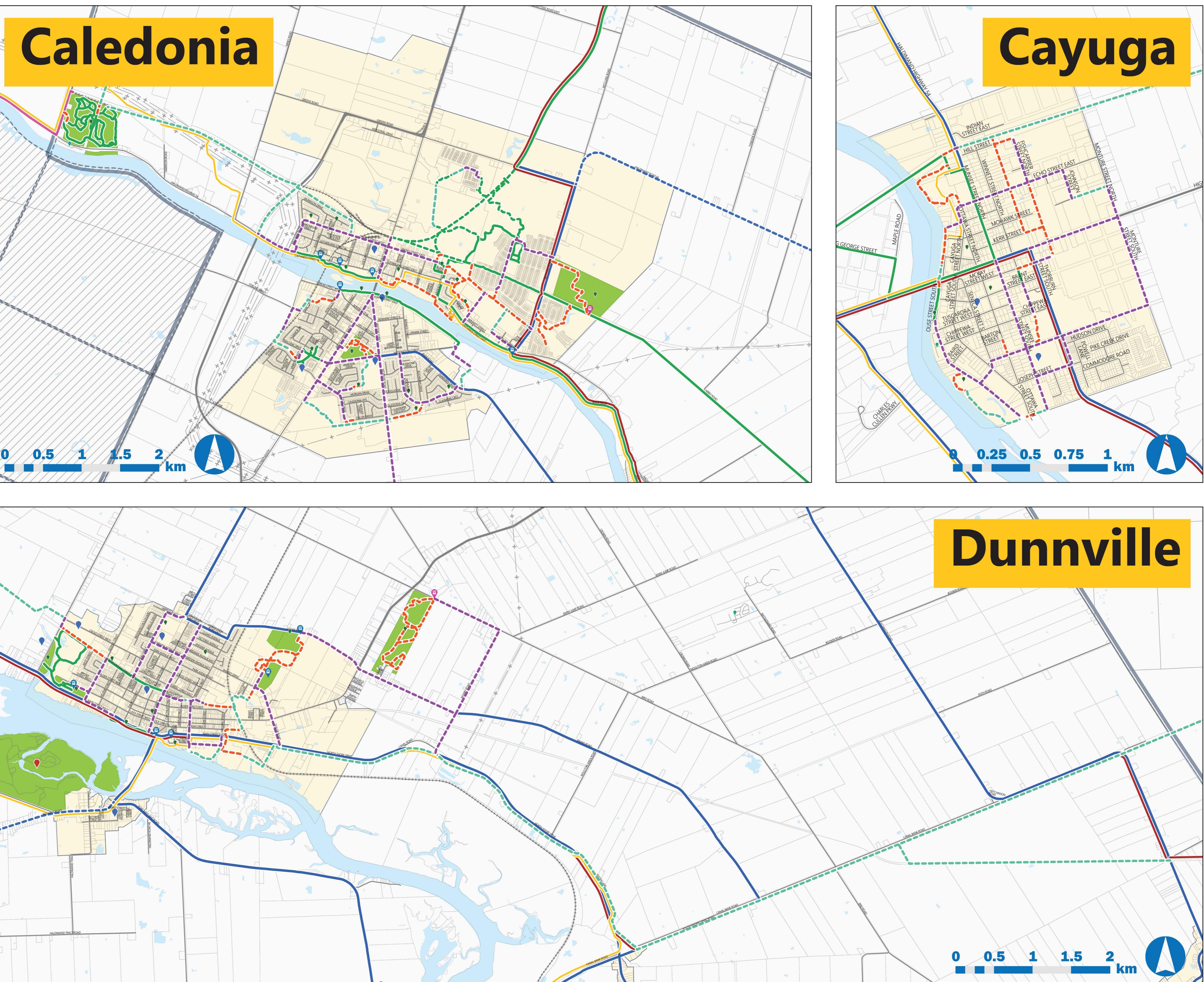
- Campground
- Conservation Area
- Provincial Park
- Local Park
- School
- Parking (Existing)
- Parking (Proposed)
- Waterfront Access (Proposed)



Share Your Feedback!

These are the maps of existing and proposed trails for settlements.

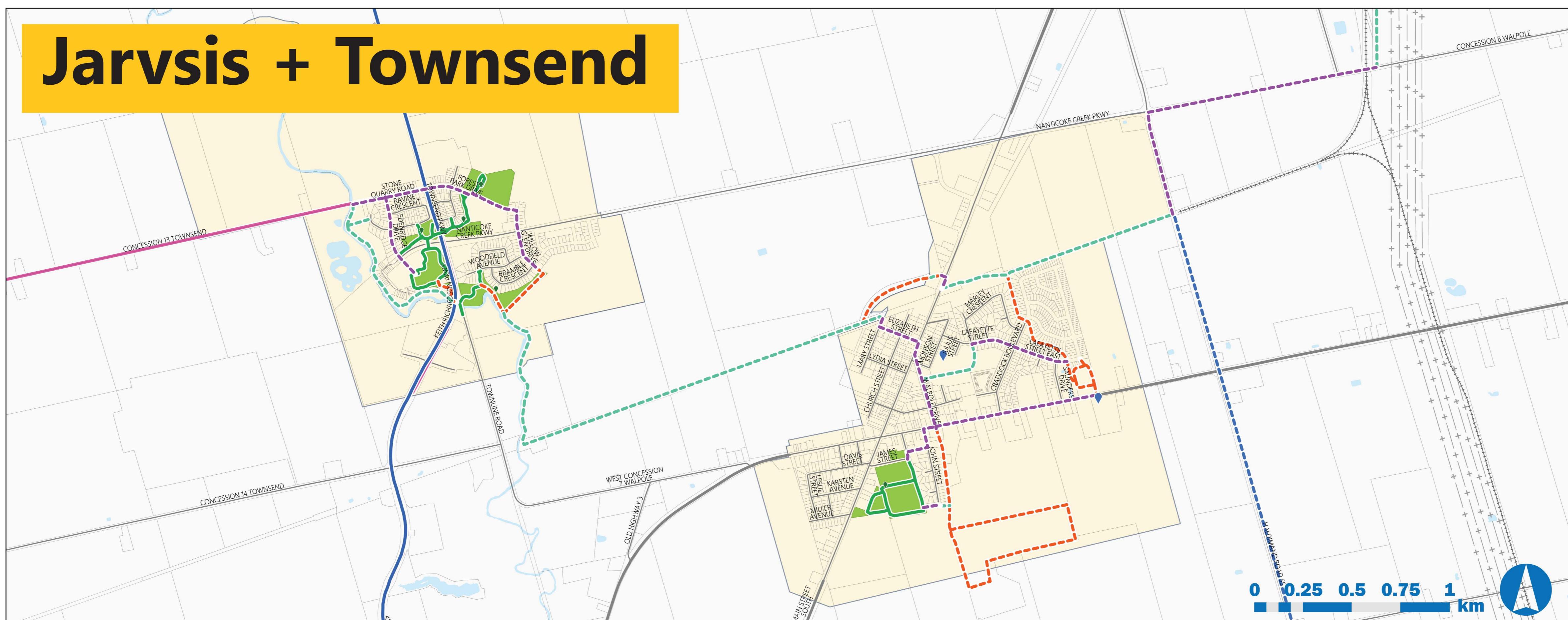
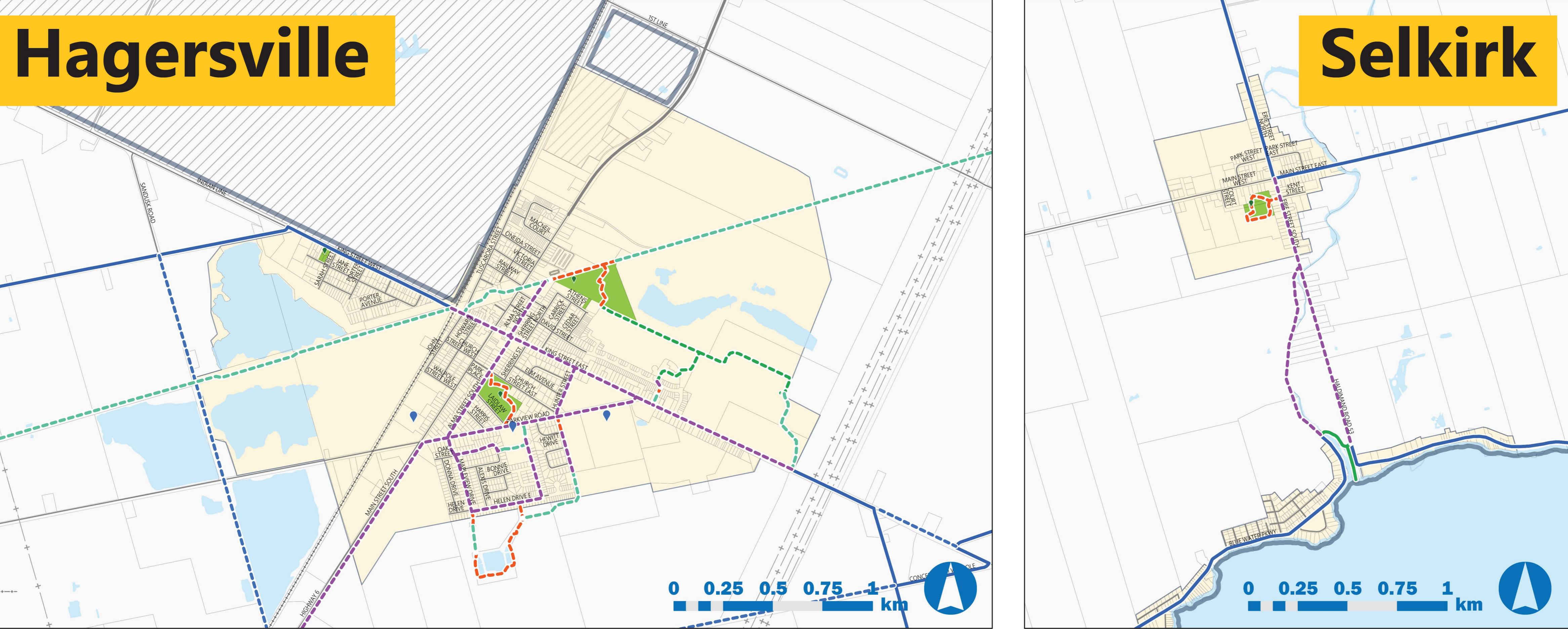
Add **STICKY NOTES** to the maps with your feedback.



Share Your Feedback!

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Destinations

- Campground
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- School
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- Parking (Proposed)
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Share Your Feedback!

Add a STICKY NOTE below with your feedback.

What's working in the proposed trail network?

Are there specific routes, connections, or design features you support and would like to see prioritized or expanded?

How can the proposed trail designs be improved?

Consider trail width, surface type, crossings, accessibility, wayfinding, amenities, or connections to nearby destinations.



Share Your Feedback!

Add a STICKY NOTE below with your feedback.

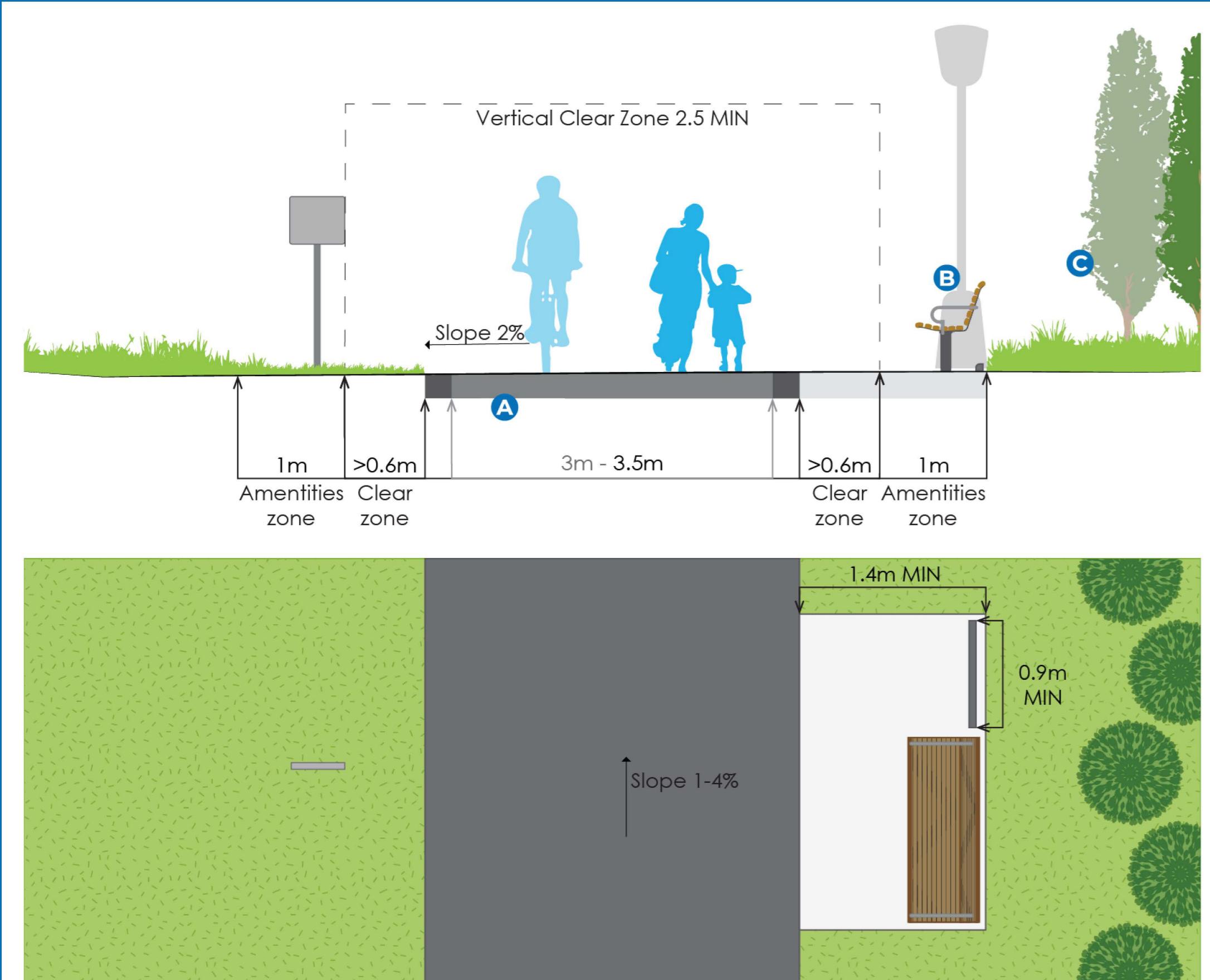
What accessibility features are important to you when it comes to public trails and pathways?

Have you experienced barriers navigating existing municipal trails and pathways?
Please share your experience!

Share Your Feedback!

Below are the proposed trail types. Shown are **Type 1: Multi-Use Trail**, **Type 2: Recreation Trail**, and **Type 3: Woodlot Trail**. Add a **STICKY NOTE** below each type with your feedback.

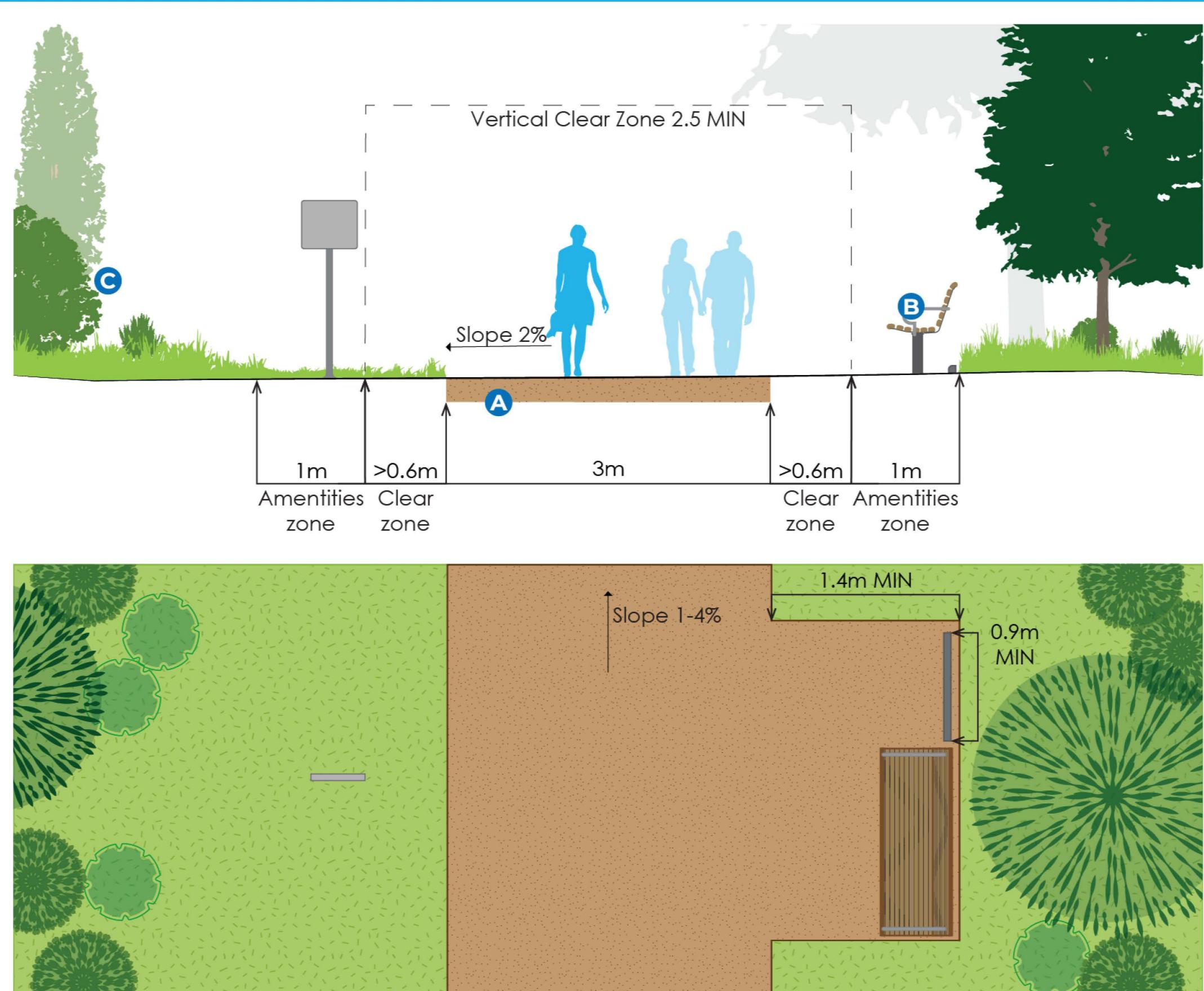
Type 1: Multi-Use Trail



- **Located:** Urban areas and high-volume routes providing year-round connectivity.
- **Infrastructure:** Asphalt surface with lighting provided.
- **Amenities:** Benches, waste receptacles, and wayfinding signage.
- **Landscape:** Shrub and tree planting where space permits.

What do you like? What concerns you?
Where would this work?

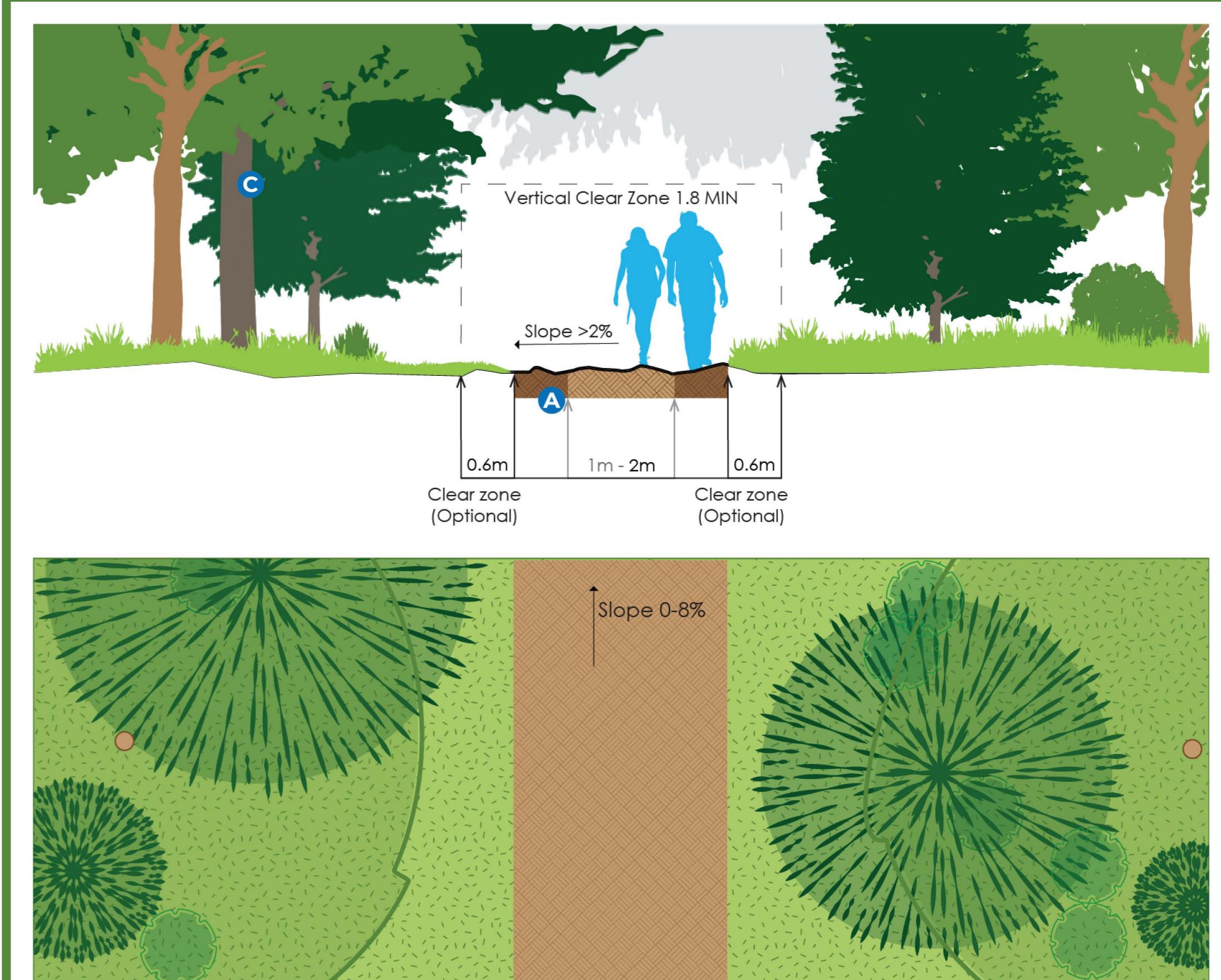
Type 2: Recreation Trail



- **Located:** Parks, naturalized areas, and low-stress connections.
- **Infrastructure:** Compacted screenings surface; lighting may be provided in select locations.
- **Amenities:** Benches, waste receptacles, and wayfinding signage.
- **Landscape:** Meadow condition, shrub and tree planting where appropriate.

What do you like? What concerns you?
Where would this work?

Type 3: Woodlot Trail



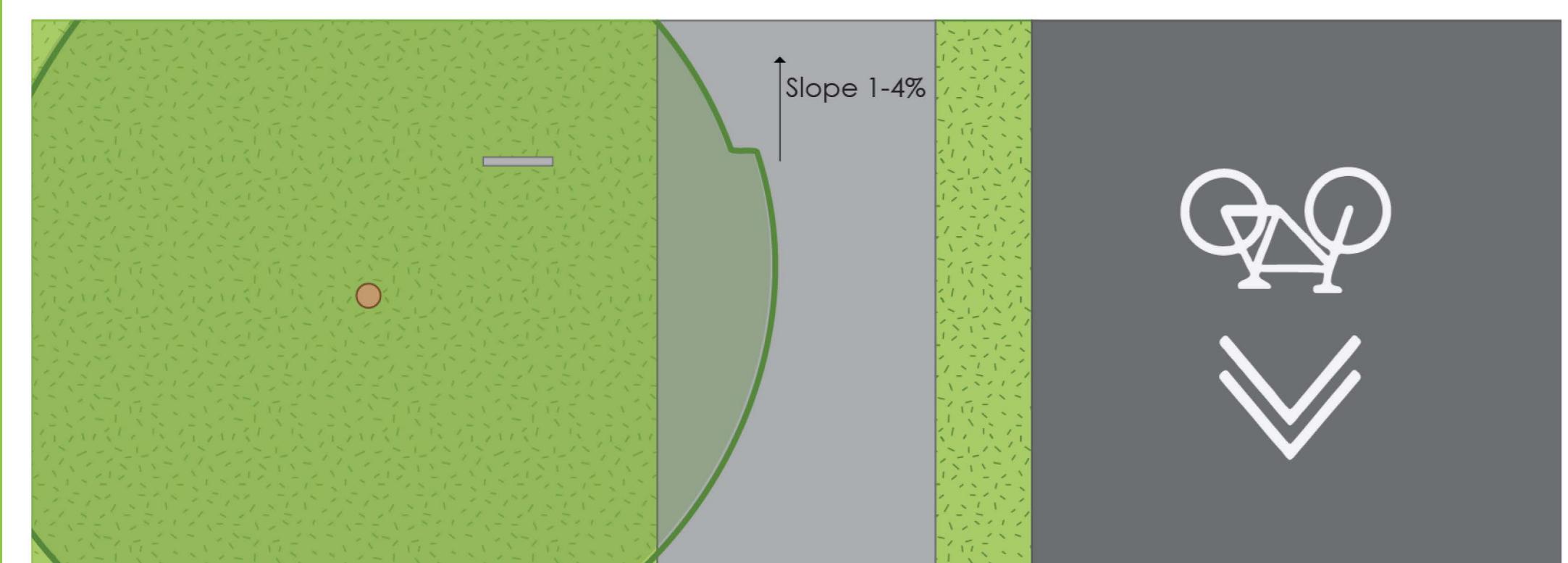
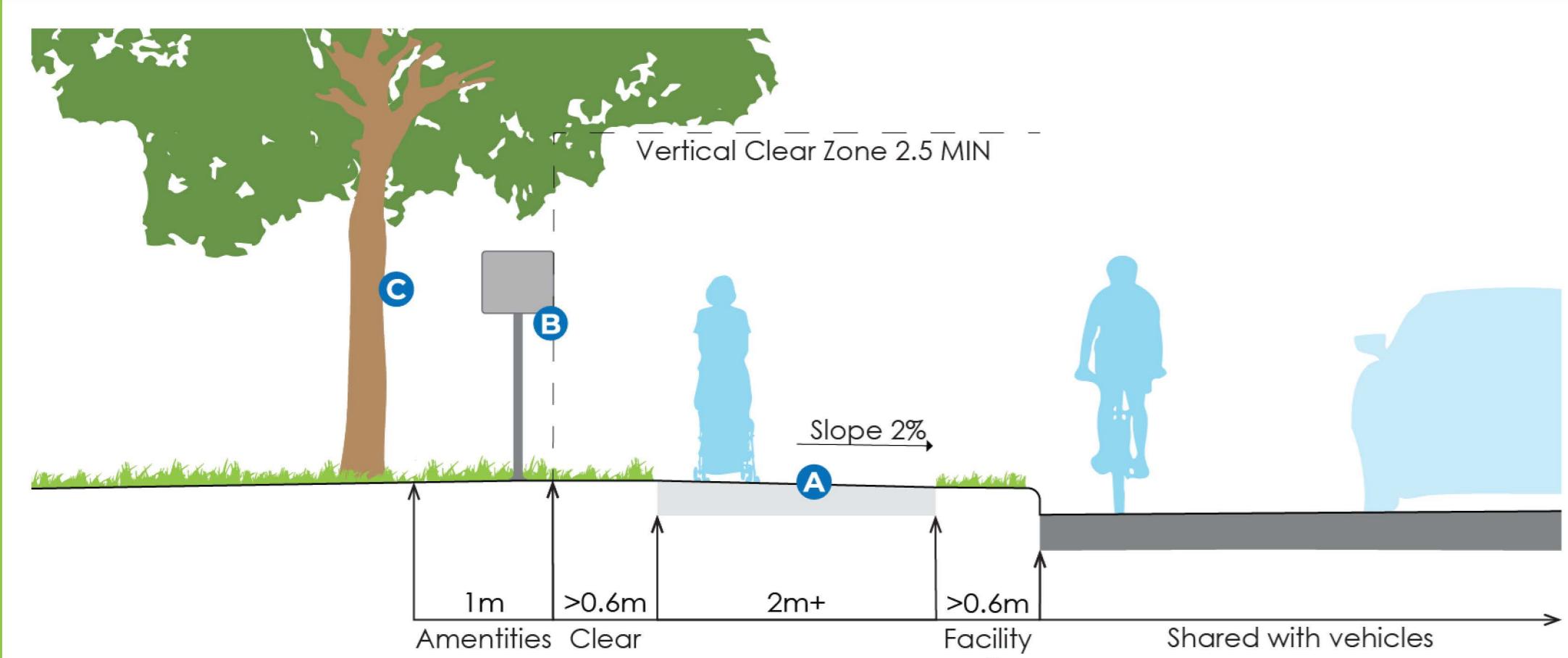
- **Located:** Environmentally sensitive areas where accessibility is limited or provided through other routes.
- **Infrastructure:** Earthen or natural surface with mulch in select areas; no lighting provided.
- **Amenities:** Limited amenities at entry points or key nodes only.
- **Landscape:** Naturalized or woodland setting.

What do you like? What concerns you?
Where would this work?

Share Your Feedback!

Below are proposed trail variations of **Facilities in the road right-of-way in urban areas**. Add a **STICKY NOTE** below each type with your feedback.

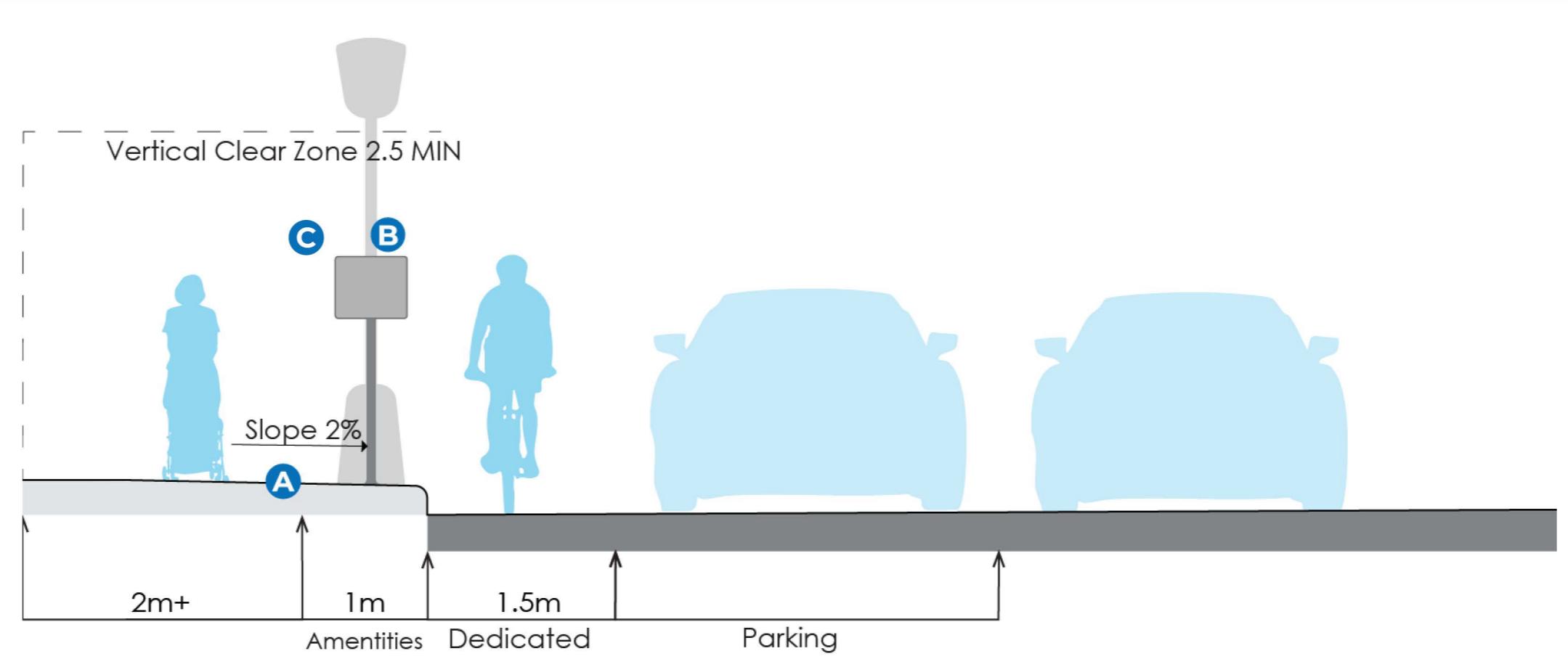
Type 4a: Shared Urban Residential Route



- **Located:** Low-volume residential streets in urban areas. 
- **Infrastructure:** Asphalt roadway with shared use; existing street lighting applies.
- **Amenities:** Signage and wayfinding to identify the route as part of the trail network.
- **Landscape:** Lawn conditions with shrub and tree planting where space permits.

What do you like? What concerns you?
Where would this work?

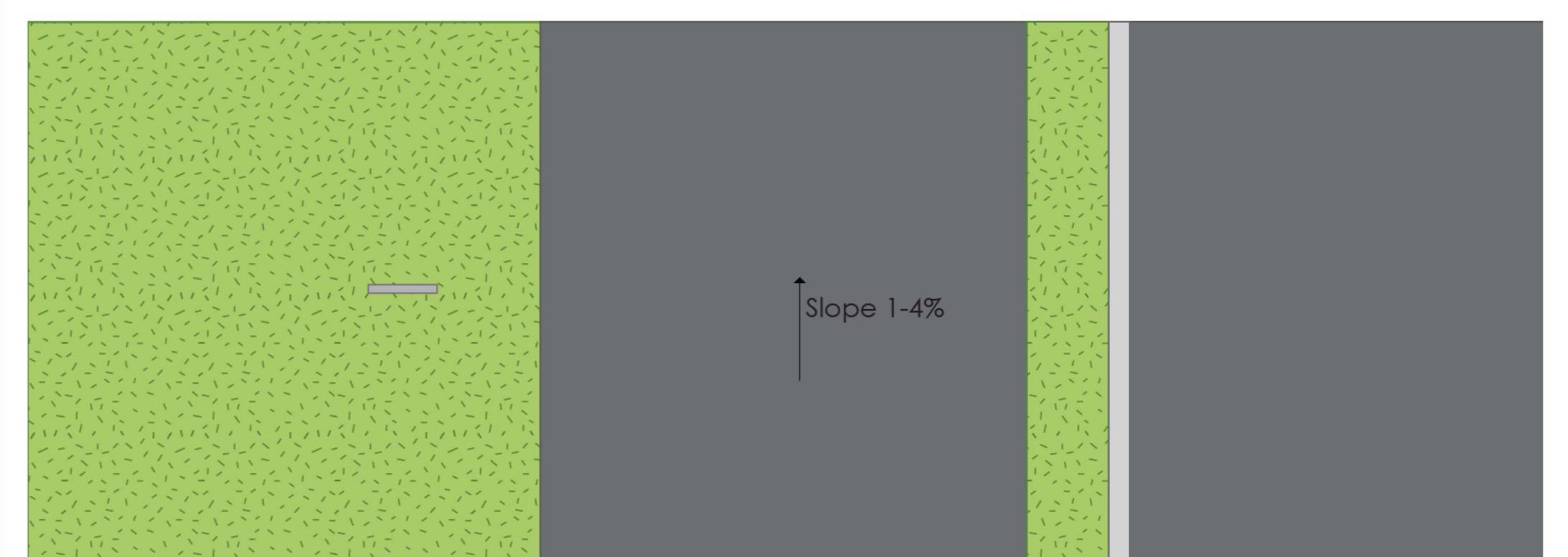
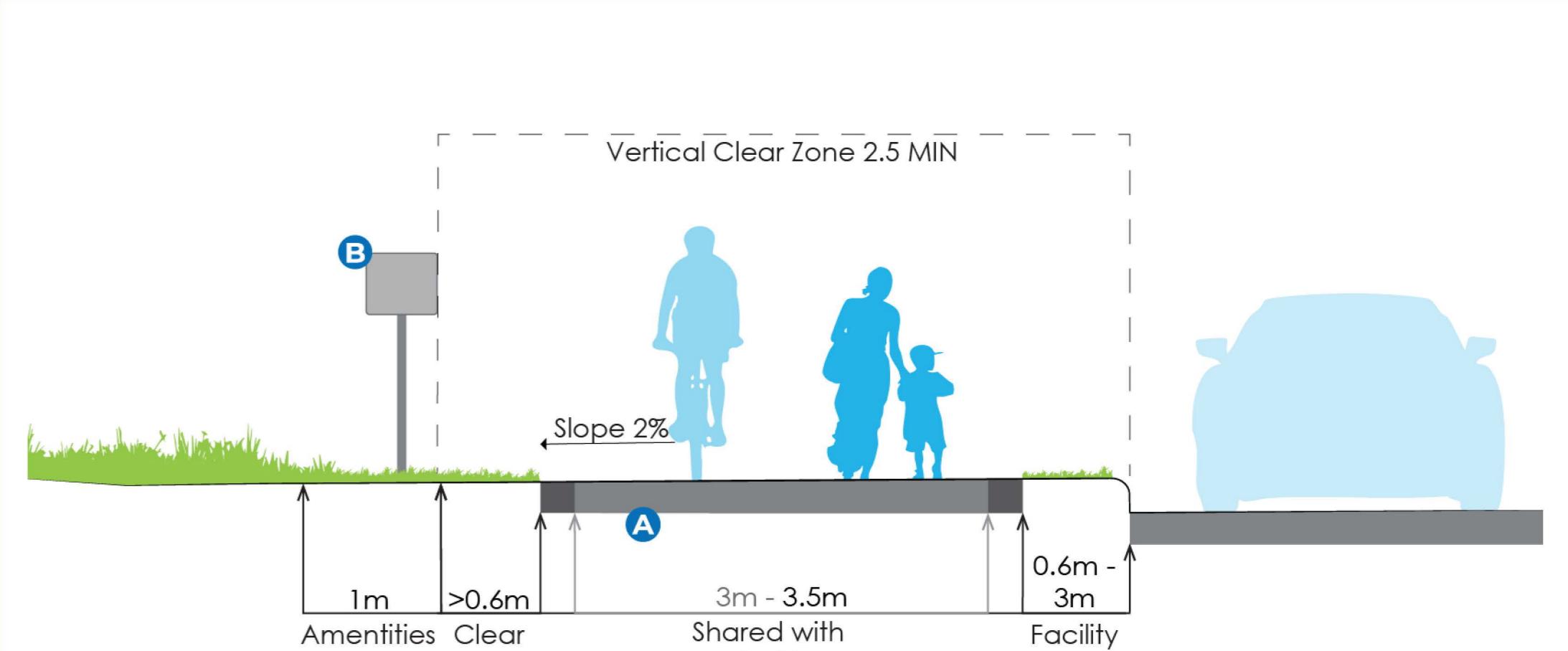
Type 5a: Dedicated Urban Route



- **Located:** Downtown cores, high volume urban streets. 
- **Infrastructure:** Asphalt surface with dedicated trail space; existing or new lighting provided as part of the street corridor.
- **Amenities:** Signage and wayfinding clearly distinguishing the route from general traffic.
- **Landscape:** Planter boxes or small landscaped pockets where feasible.

What do you like? What concerns you?
Where would this work?

Type 6a: Separated Urban Route



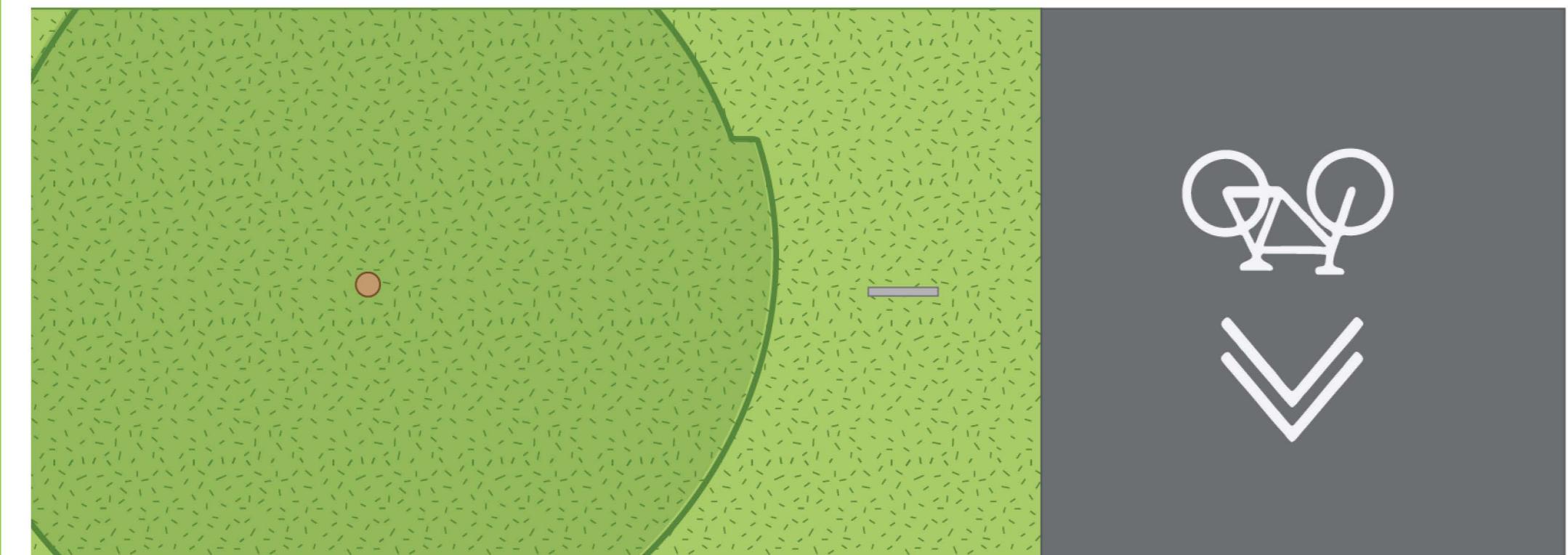
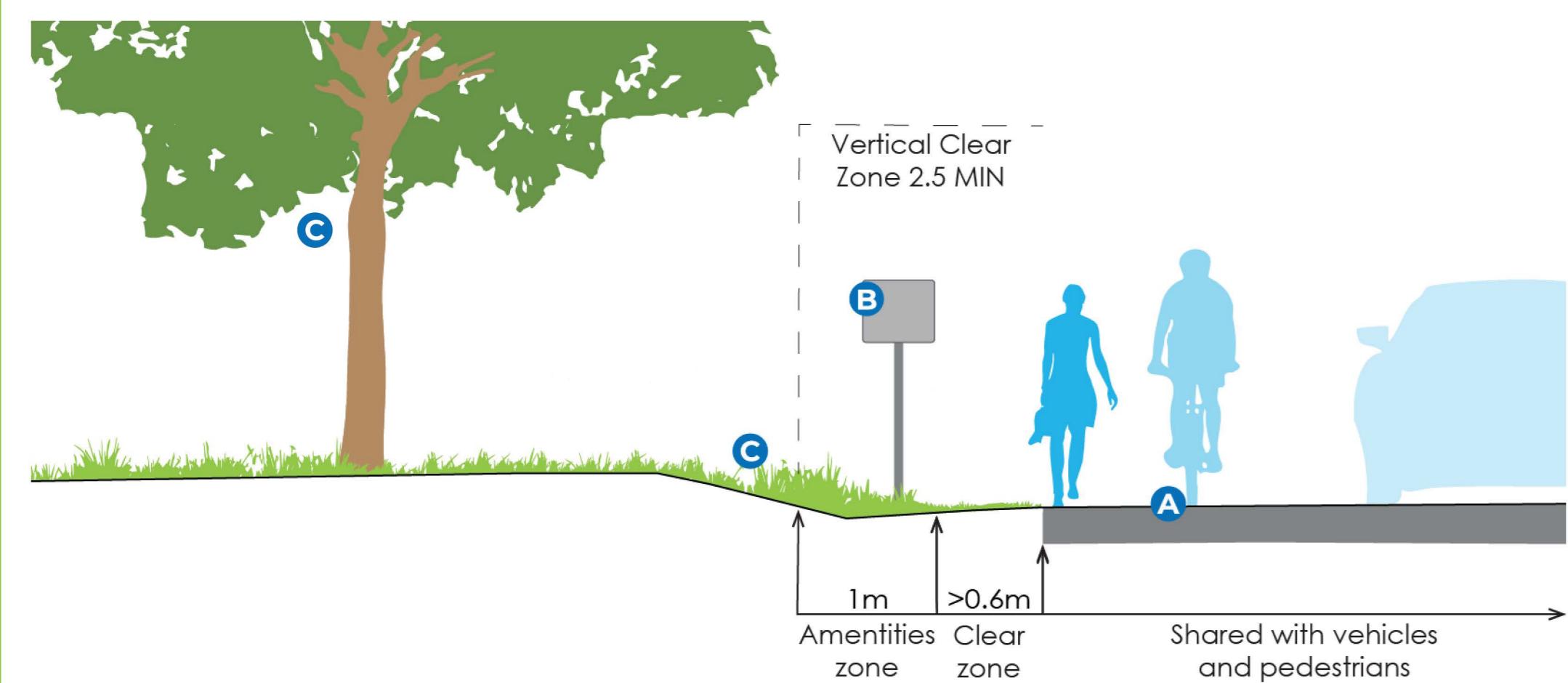
- **Located:** Urban streets where sufficient space allows physical separation.
- **Infrastructure:** Asphalt surface with a separated trail facility; lighting provided.
- **Amenities:** Benches and waste receptacles where appropriate; wayfinding signage included.
- **Landscape:** Shrub and tree planting where space permits.

What do you like? What concerns you?
Where would this work?

Share Your Feedback!

Below are proposed trail variations of **Facilities in the road right-of-way in rural areas**. Add a **STICKY NOTE** below each type with your feedback.

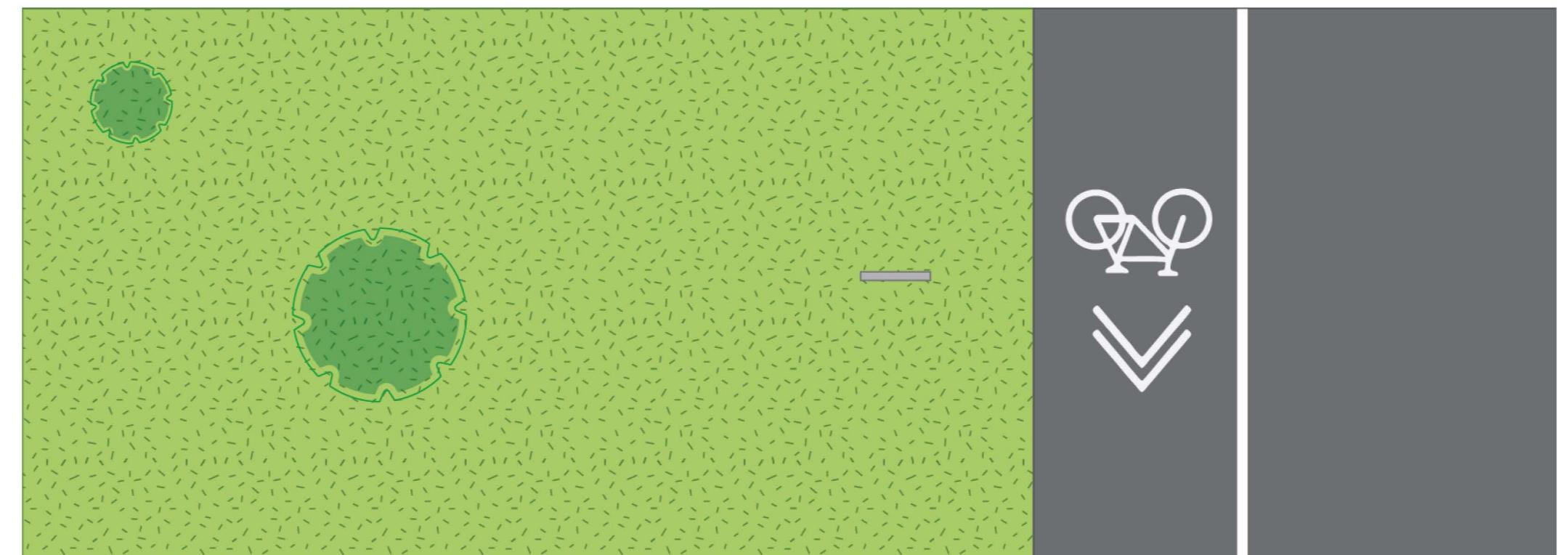
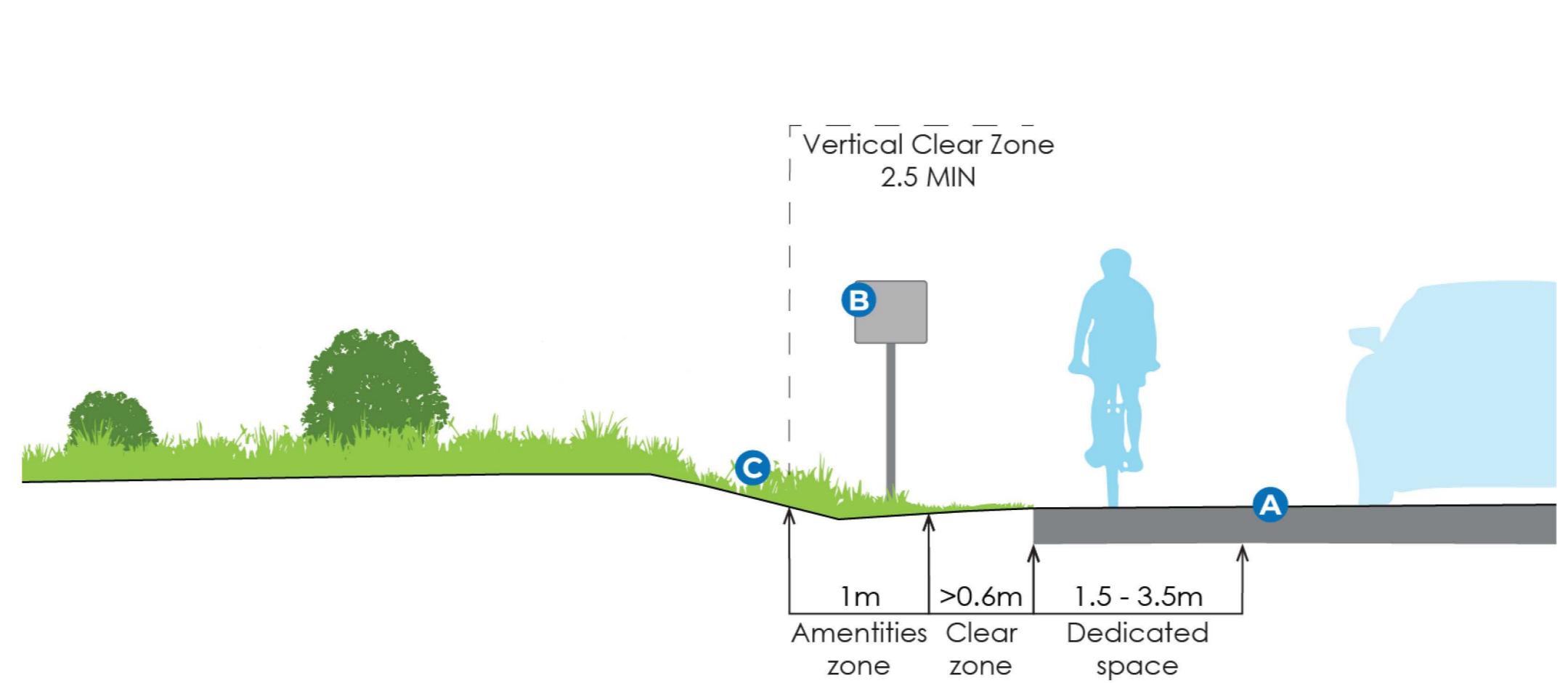
Type 4b: Shared Rural Residential Route



- **Located:** Low-volume residential roads in rural areas.
- **Infrastructure:** Asphalt roadway with shared use; no new lighting proposed.
- **Amenities:** Signage and wayfinding to identify the route as part of the trail network.
- **Landscape:** Mix of manicured and naturalized roadside conditions.

What do you like? What concerns you?
Where would this work?

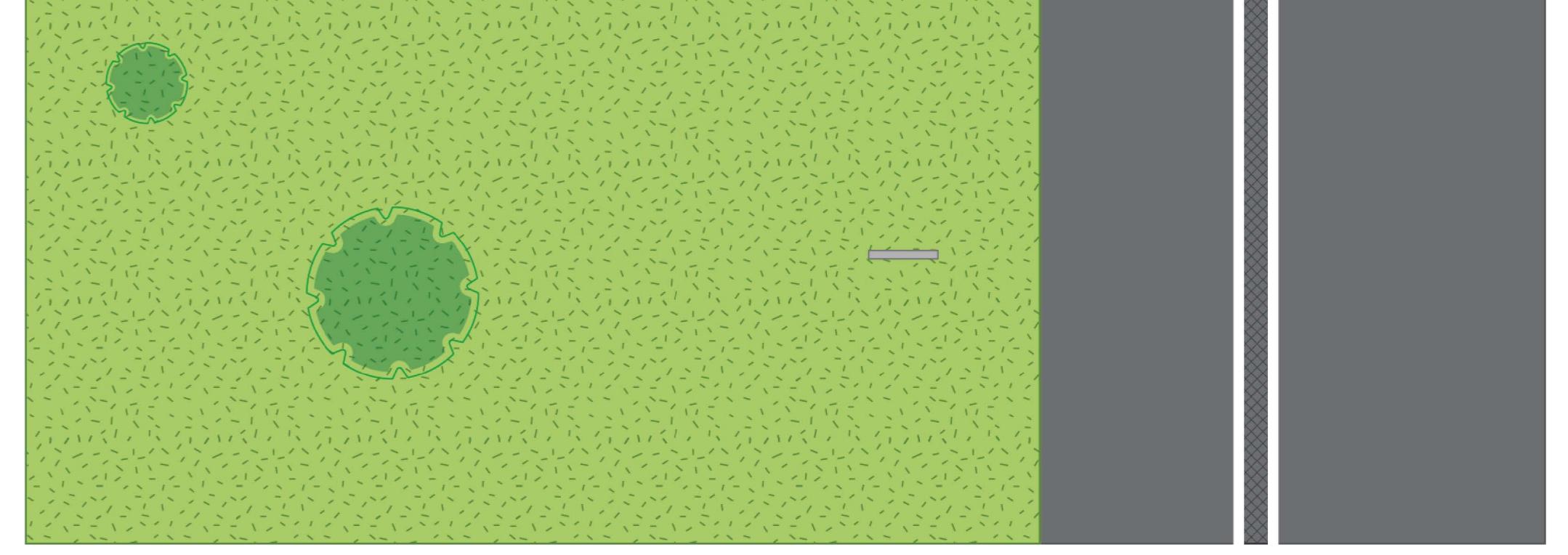
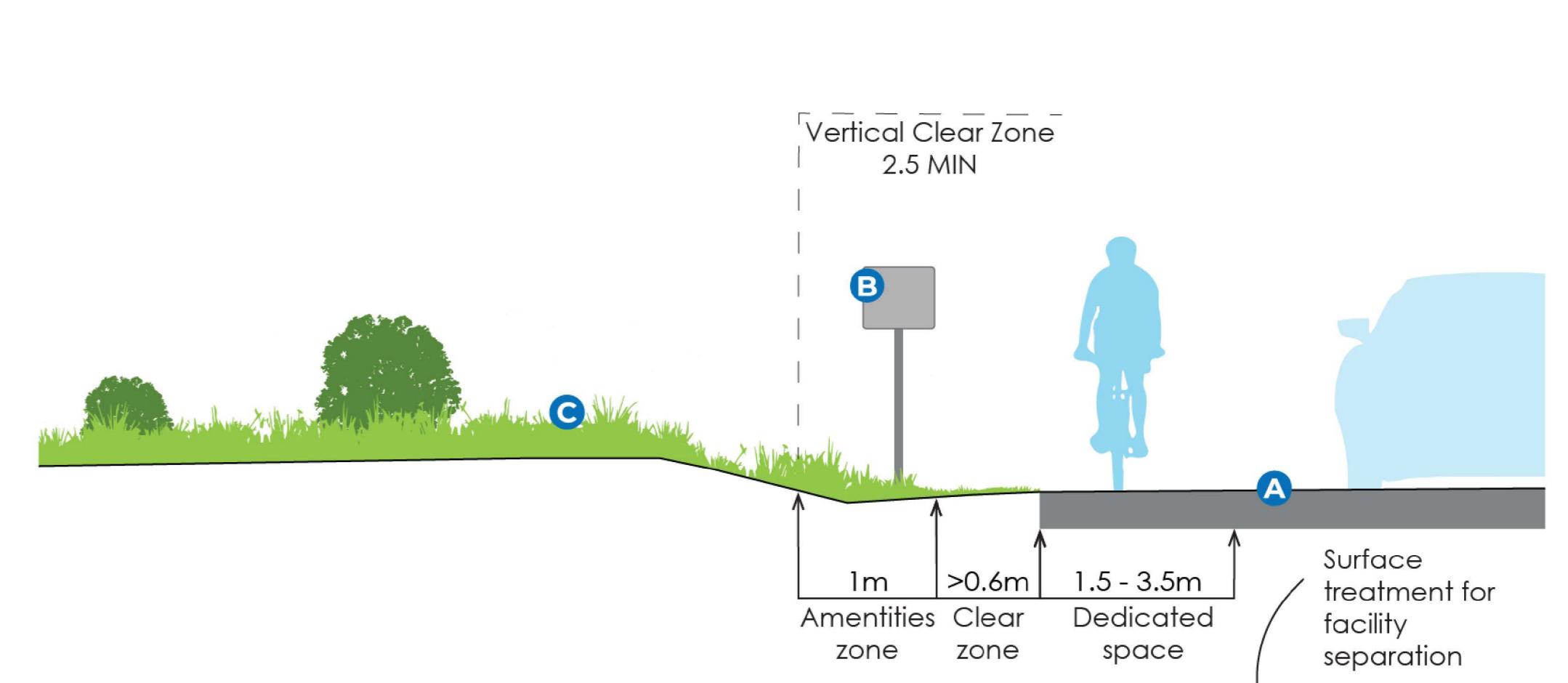
Type 5b: Dedicated Rural Route



- **Located:** Rural arterial and County roads.
- **Infrastructure:** Asphalt surface with dedicated trail space; lighting may be provided at intersections or key nodes only.
- **Amenities:** Signage and wayfinding clearly identifying the route as part of the trail network.
- **Landscape:** Naturalized or rural roadside planting.

What do you like? What concerns you?
Where would this work?

Type 6b: Separated Rural Route



- **Located:** Rural roads where sufficient space allows physical separation.
- **Infrastructure:** Asphalt surface with a physically separated trail facility; lighting may be provided at intersections or key nodes only.
- **Amenities:** Signage and wayfinding to support safe and intuitive navigation.
- **Landscape:** Naturalized or rural roadside planting.

What do you like? What concerns you?
Where would this work?