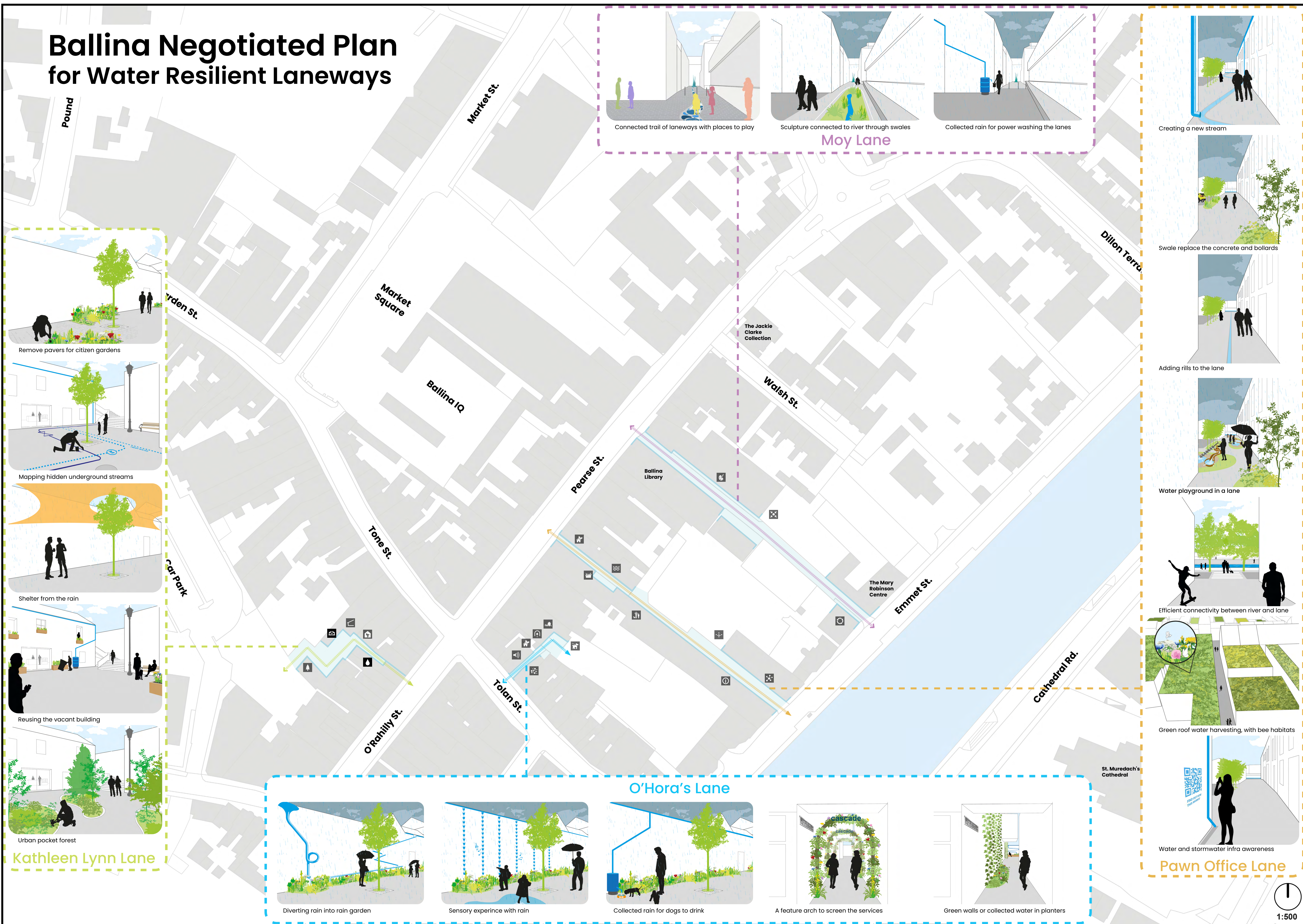


Ballina Negotiated Plan for Water Resilient Laneways



cascade



LEGEND Historic Town Centre (for all lanes)

- Lavender Lane – Grow lavender and pollinator plants to add colour, scent, and bee habitat.
- Laneway Projections – Use video or light projections to bring life to windows after dark.
- Solar Car-Park Roofs – Install solar panels that generate power and provide cool shade for parked cars.

Kathleen Lynn Lane

- Citizen Gardens – Replace sections of paving with shared community planting spaces.
- Water Mapping Murals – Reveal the hidden underground water network through art and markings.
- Rain Shelter – A canopy structure provides shelter from rain and wind.
- Vacant Building Re-use – An empty building is repurposed with planting and a rain-harvesting water butt.
- Urban Pocket Forest – A small woodland with layered planting brings shade and biodiversity.

O’Horas Lane

- Raingardens – Planted beds filter rain and reduce flooding.
- Dog Bowl Fountain – Harvested rainwater provides fresh drinking water for pets.
- Feature Arch – Colourful arch hides pipes and celebrates water.
- Green Walls – Vertical planting cools and greens the lane.
- Music Wall / Water Harp – Interactive sound feature that plays with rainfall.
- Sensory Rain Experience – Hanging rain chains and puddles create sound, movement, and play.

Moy Lane

- Connected Trail – Linked laneways for walking, playing, and learning.
- Rain for Cleaning – Harvested rain reused to wash laneways.
- River Sculpture – Artwork linked to the Moy with light or water.

Pawn Office Lane

- New Stream – A small flowing channel brings moving water and wildlife into the lane.
- Swale Planting – Replaces concrete with a green planted swale to slow and filter stormwater.
- Rill – A narrow runnel carries rainwater and adds sound and movement.
- Water Playground – Shallow water play for children and families.
- Green Roofs – Roofs capture rain, cool the street and create bee habitats.
- Water Awareness Wall - Information panels reveal how the town's stormwater network works.
- Boxing Club Laneway – Opens a new path linking Pawn Office Lane with O’Hora’s Lane.

Overview

Cascade explores how the laneways of our historic town centres can be reimagined as places that celebrate water, connect people, and help our towns adapt to climate change.

This plan reflects ideas gathered from Ballina residents over the project's two year duration, creating a shared vision for the town's laneways. The negotiated design celebrates water and the unique qualities and histories of place, strengthens connection across the town, and embraces inclusivity in the design of public space.

The plan proposes practical, repeatable interventions that make better use of rainwater and underused laneway spaces. What if we divert rain into raingardens, swales, green roofs, and rills, turning stormwater into a visible, celebrated resource? Rain could be collected for drinking fountains, pet bowls, or power washing, while pocket forests and community gardens introduce activity and greenery into the lanes. Sensory experience through water playgrounds, and art installations could deepen people's connection with water and place.

Cascade invites communities to imagine the full potential of their town laneways. Installations in O’Horas Lane demonstrate what’s possible, while this plan offers a shared vision for future transformation.

How these ideas were co-designed ?

Local residents, business owners, and community groups worked alongside the Cascade team in a series of workshops and laneway activities. Together they mapped problems such as flooding, lack of planting and underused spaces, then imagined practical “what if” interventions – from raingardens and pocket forests to art installations and river links.

Each intervention in this plan was evaluated against a set of sustainability criteria, including water management, creativity and beauty,

behaviour, social use, environmental impact, process, inclusivity, and circular economy. This assessment ensures that the outcomes respond to both ecological and human needs. The radial graphs in this plan illustrate the results, highlighting the impact of each intervention across the various criteria.

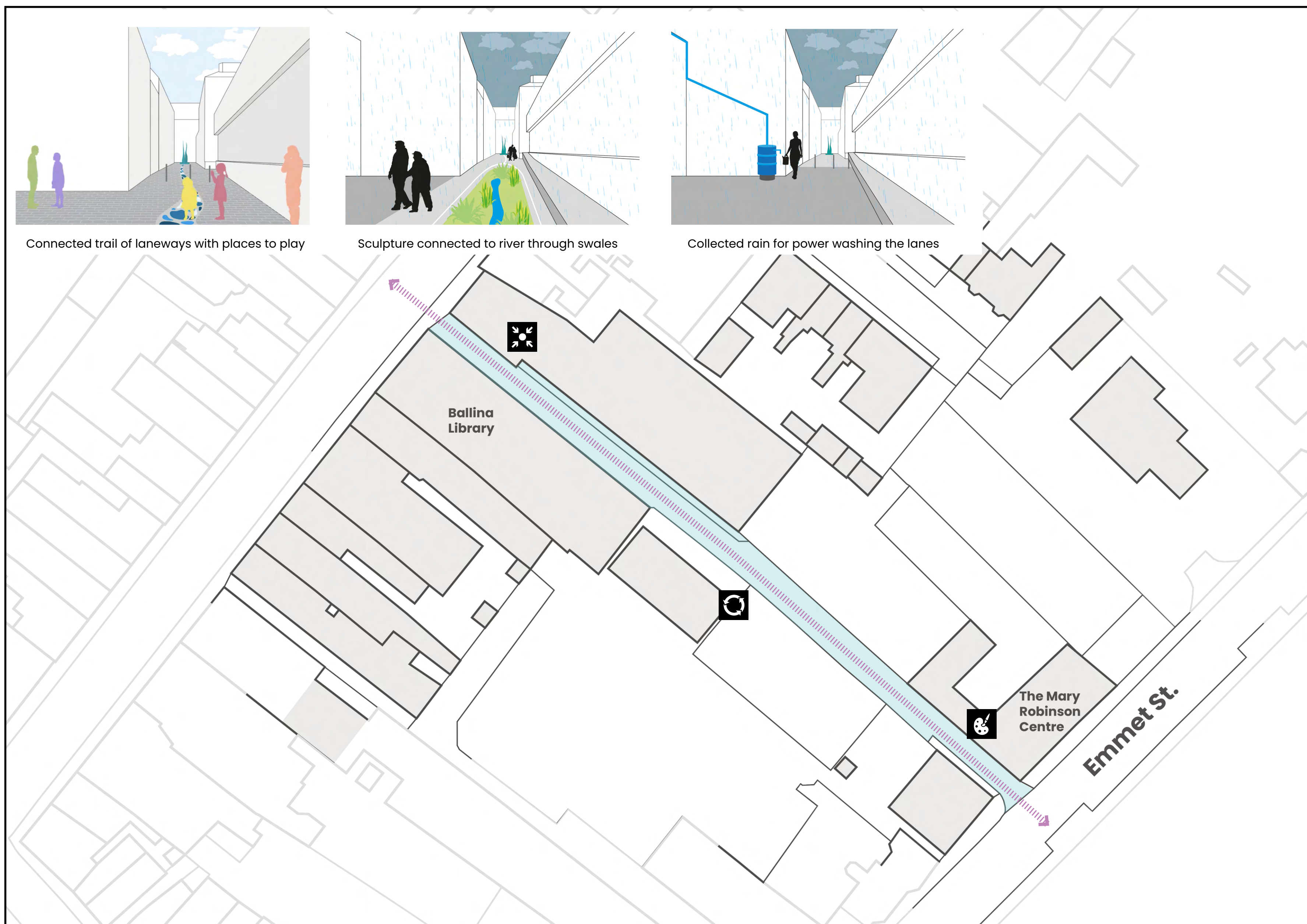
Additional community ideas :

- Improved litter management
- More frequent public transport service
- Safer cycle-friendly design and markings
- Traffic calming and rerouting heavy vehicles
- Wider paths and improved accessibility
- Wildlife friendly lighting and increased visibility
- More seating and youth-friendly design
- Water harvesting for town planting
- Pop up shops / community use of vacant buildings
- Reuse / activate town car parks as community spaces.

Share Your Feedback



We’d love to hear your feedback on the plan. Visit the link at the QR and share your comments.



Moy Lane

- Connected Trail**
Links laneways to encourage walking, social interaction.
- Rain for Cleaning**
Harnesses rainwater to clean lanes sustainably.
- River Sculpture**
Acts as a landmark that links art and water with the Moy River.

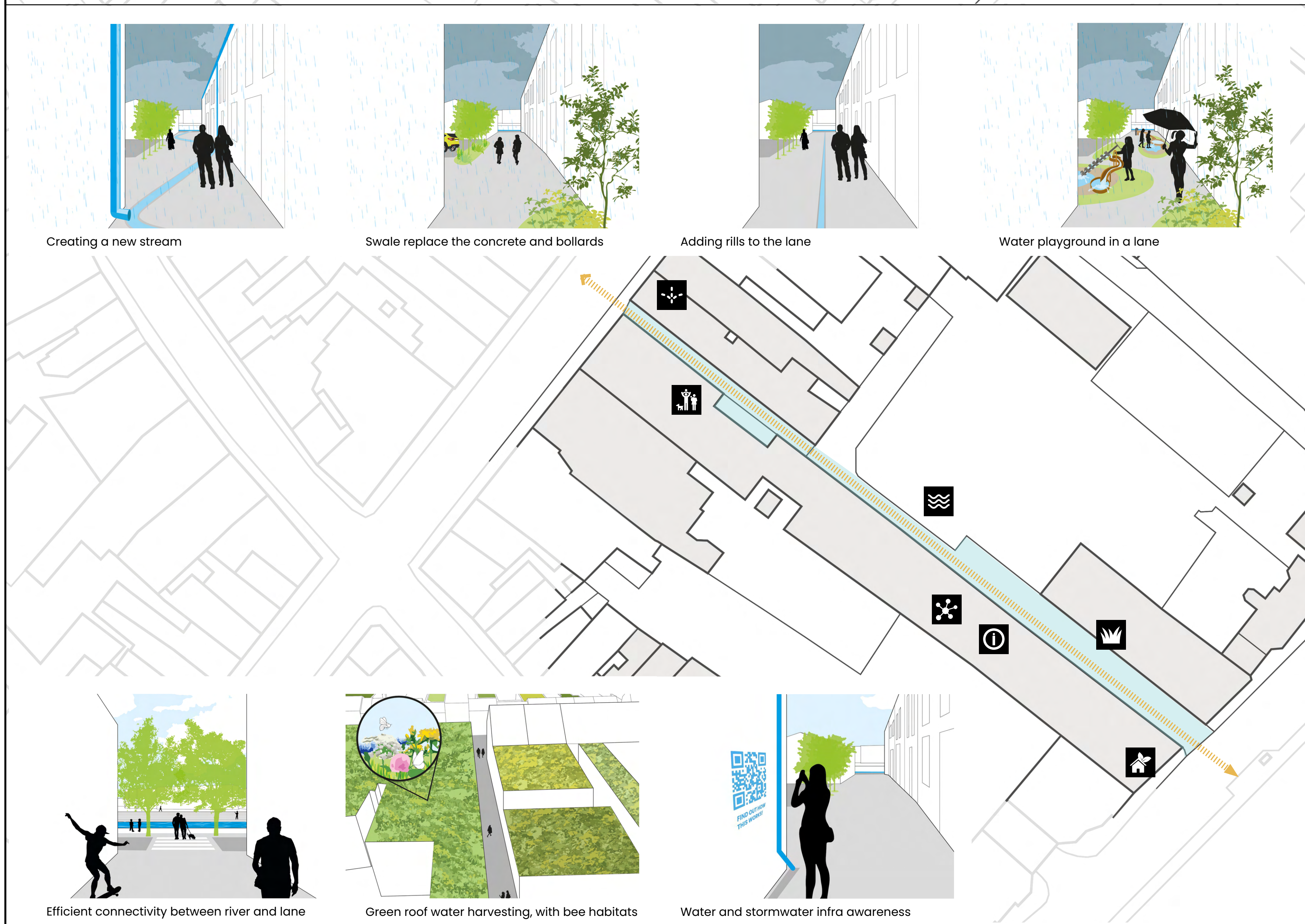
repeatable



Kathleen Lynn Lane

- Rain Shelter**
Provides comfort and protection while creating a small gathering spot.
- Vacant Building Re-use**
Activates an empty structure with greenery and rain storage.
- Urban Pocket Forest**
Adds shade, biodiversity, and natural cooling to the lane.
- Citizen Gardens**
Creates community hubs fostering biodiversity and local care.
- Water Mapping Murals**
Reveals hidden water flows, building awareness and connection.

repeatable



Pawn Office Lane

- Green Roofs**
Capture rain, cool the environment, and create habitats for pollinators.
- Water Awareness Wall**
Reveals the hidden stormwater system through education and engagement.
- Rill**
Introduces sound, movement, and visual interest through narrow water channels.
- Water Playground**
Offers families a joyful space for play, cooling, and connection.
- New Stream**
Brings flowing water, wildlife, and atmosphere into the lane.
- Swale Planting**
Manages drainage while cooling and greening the streetscape.
- Boxing Club Laneway**
Improves access, safety, and connectivity between streets.

repeatable



O'Hora's Lane

- Rain Gardens**
Reduce flooding by filtering rain while enhancing beauty.
- Dog Bowl Fountain**
Reuses rainwater to care for pets and foster community spirit.
- Feature Arch**
Conceals pipes while adding colour and celebrating water.
- Green Walls**
Improve air quality, cool the street, and green the urban space.
- Music Wall / Water Harp**
Creates an interactive soundscape that is playful and engaging.
- Sensory Rain Experience**
Immerses people in water's sound, movement, and play.

repeatable

O'Horas Lane

Co-designed ideas

Here are some of the co-designed ideas included in the O'Horas laneway demonstrator:

What if...
we diverted the rain into raingardens?

What if...
we collected the rain for dogs to drink?

What if...
we installed green walls? Or collected rainwater in planters?

What if...
there was a sensory experience with rain?

O'Hora's Lane as the demonstrator

The Cascade team has taken a 'tactical urbanism' approach to reimagine O'Horas laneway, turning unmanaged surface water into a visible, functional, and beautiful part of the public realm. By linking gutters, downpipes, sculpture, a green wall and rain gardens, the installation demonstrates how water can be celebrated while helping to slow the flow into the drainage system. Cleaning, painting and new bespoke gutters and downpipes create a safer, more streamlined laneway.

New planting and water-sensitive features bring nature, colour and biodiversity, while sculptural artwork pays tribute to Ballina's heritage and history. Together, these interventions capture, slow and redirect rainwater while supporting biodiversity and improving air quality. They transform the laneway into an inviting space where people can pause, sit, listen and enjoy water as a feature of the urban landscape.

O'Hora's lane demonstrator

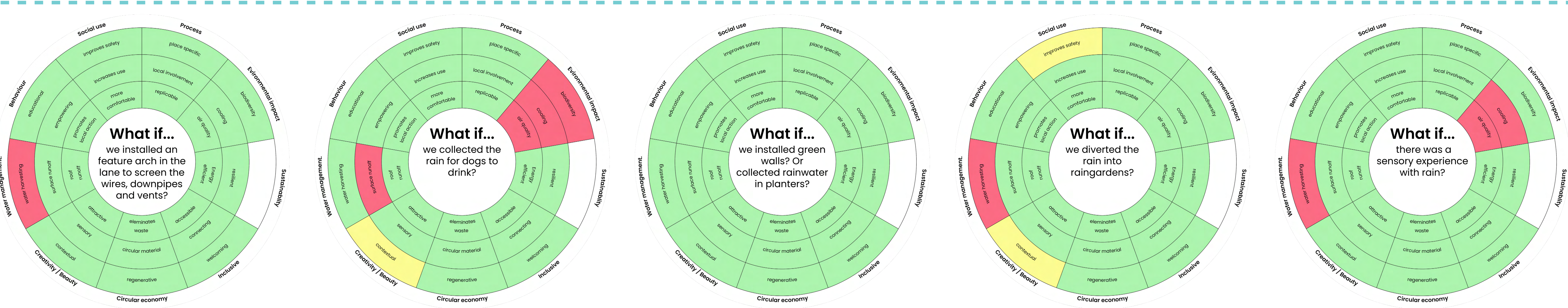
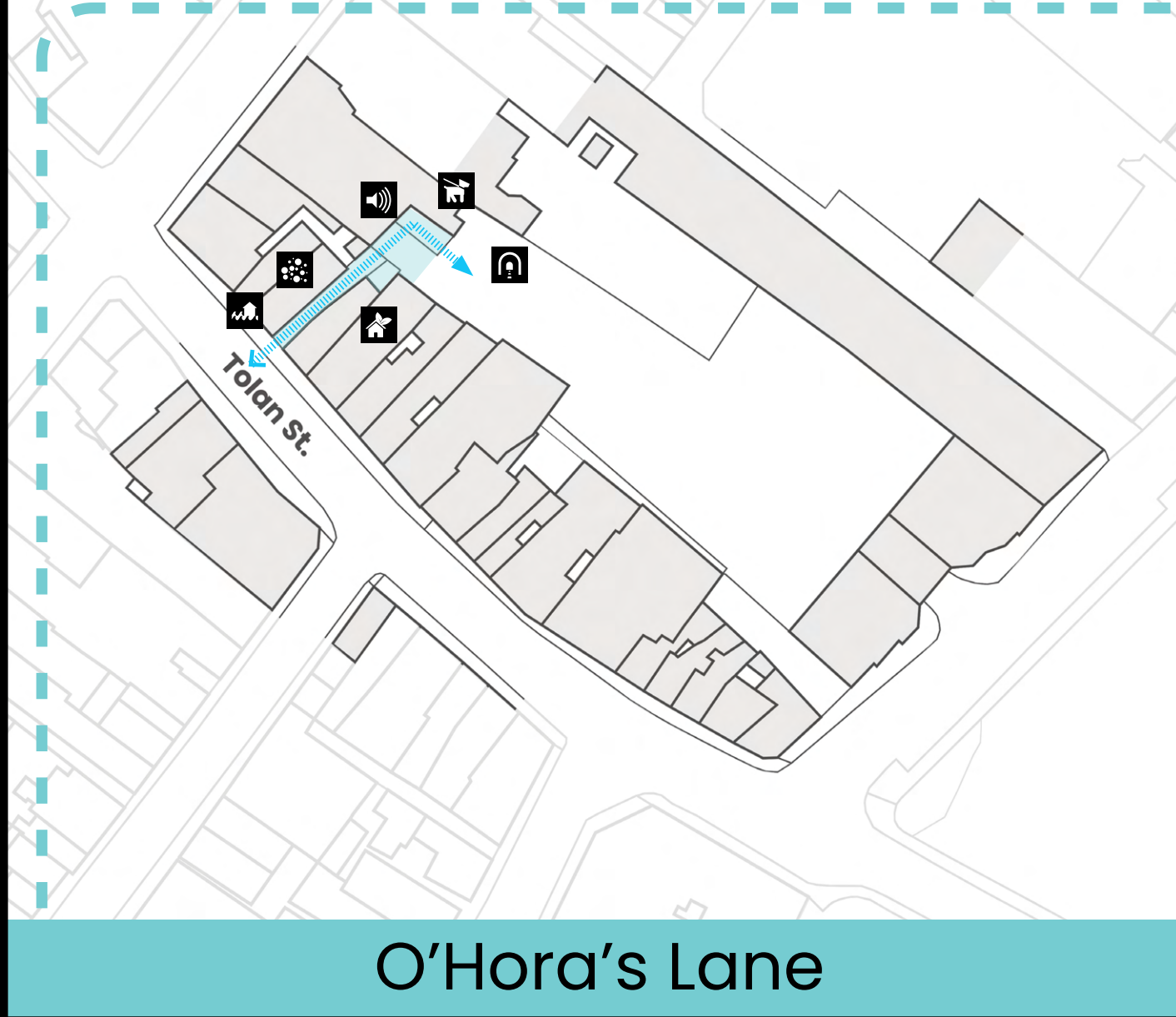
This graph shows the impacts of the O'Horas Lane Demonstrator across the sustainability assessment criteria.

Satisfies the criteria

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

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Ideas Impact Analysis



Demonstrator

