



PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES BACKGROUND

Developing 300 hectares of new and improved parks and public spaces – the equivalent of 750 football fields - is the cornerstone of revitalization and further supports Waterfront Toronto's commitment to public accessibility and creating a sustainable, green waterfront. Some of the parks and public space initiatives Waterfront Toronto currently has underway are:

Central Waterfront Promenade

The Central Waterfront Promenade covers the three-kilometre area between Bathurst and Parliament streets and includes the water's edge as well as Queens Quay. The water's edge is envisioned as an 18-metre promenade with a wooden boardwalk, floating finger piers and a new "green foot" for Toronto – a double row of large, native trees just to the north of the water's edge promenade. A series of bridges rising out of the wooden boardwalk and spanning the ends of the slips provide continuous public access right along the edge of the lake. The design also transforms Queens Quay into an iconic boulevard where the city kisses the lake. Traffic is shifted to the north side of the streetcar tracks, which remain in place, leaving four metres on the south side to extend the Martin Goodman Trail and to create a generous new pedestrian promenade. Two rows of large, native trees frame the trail and the promenade, effectively greening Queens Quay like the water's edge.

Don River Park

Don River Park will be the cornerstone for the West Don Lands, the first new waterfront community under development. Situated on top of the berm that is being built to provide flood protection for the downtown area, the park's 7.93 hectare landscape will open sightlines to the city's skyline and Lake Ontario and create a sense of scale and grandeur that expands the park. On the river side of the berm, an urban meadow will provide a unique landscape in which to wander, explore and discover. Active play will be central to the new park including water play, a multi-use sports field and a playground geared to a range of ages. A network of trails will connect more active areas with places to sit, picnic or enjoy the landscape. At one of the highest points, a pavilion and informal amphitheatre will allow visitors to take in views to the river, the city and the waterfront.

Lake Ontario Park

Located along the Outer Harbour and extending from Cherry Beach to Ashbridges Bay and providing connections to the Eastern Beaches, the 238 hectare Lake Ontario Park will encompass 37 kilometres of shoreline. This area is currently made up of an ad hoc collection of disparate pieces. The vision for the park is to collect all of these sites into one coherent ensemble and provide a wide variety of experiences, amenities and uses including an urban wilderness, water sports, recreation and culture. Because the park is mostly edge and water, the primary structure of the park is framed around three long transects, or primary paths, and over 400 outposts or outlooks along the water's edge. The park will be a landmark not only for a newly revitalized waterfront, but for Toronto as a whole.

Lower Don Lands

The Lower Don Lands, a 40 hectare area, running from the Parliament Street Slip east to the Don Roadway and from the rail corridor south to Commissioners Street including the Don Greenway. The area is a critical link between three emerging new waterfront communities in the East Bayfront, the West Don Lands and the Port Lands. The mouth of the Don River is the centerpiece of the Lower Don Lands, released at the shore of Lake Ontario, reasserting its presence in the city and allowing it to become a symbol of the Lower Don Lands as a whole. The shifting of the river's mouth also enables new urban communities which form strong links to existing and emerging new waterfront neighbourhoods. Naturalizing the mouth of the river will add kilometres of parkland and waterfront property. Both the urban and natural elements of the landscape will evolve over the course of many years, creating interim conditions, each interesting in its own right, that give form, focus, and character to the developing neighbourhood. The Lower Don Lands area will be transformed from port to sustainable "green" city; a new type of territory where city, lake, and river interact in a dynamic and balanced relationship – an urban estuary.

Sherbourne Park

Sherbourne Park will be a spectacular new park in the heart of the East Bayfront midway between the Jarvis and Parliament Street slips. The 1.47 hectare park will be both a local and regional amenity. The park will extend from the water's edge to Lake Shore Boulevard, bisected by Queens Quay. It is envisioned as an urban room and will provide a strong terminus at the foot of Sherbourne Street. On the east and west sides, the park will be bound by buildings with a weather protected arcade creating a link to the waterfront during all seasons. At its southern end the park will be integrated with the continuous water's edge promenade and will be designed to reinforce and strengthen the water's edge as a continuous and active year round destination. Park programming will include a large public gathering place and a water feature that could be frozen in the winter for skating.

Sugar Beach

Located at the base of Jarvis Street, the proposed design is composed of three organizing spaces; an urban beach with brightly animated umbrellas, a water's edge promenade and thoroughfare, and a multi-functional event plaza space. At approximately 1 hectare, the design is the next step in establishing a water's edge beach system.