

# BACKGROUND: PARLIAMENT SLIP

Waterfront Toronto has made significant progress transforming the lands by the lake into one vibrant and connected waterfront that belongs to everyone. In another step forward, Waterfront Toronto is presenting a vision for a dynamic new destination that would offer residents and visitors alike new possibilities for healthy recreation and entertainment on land and water.



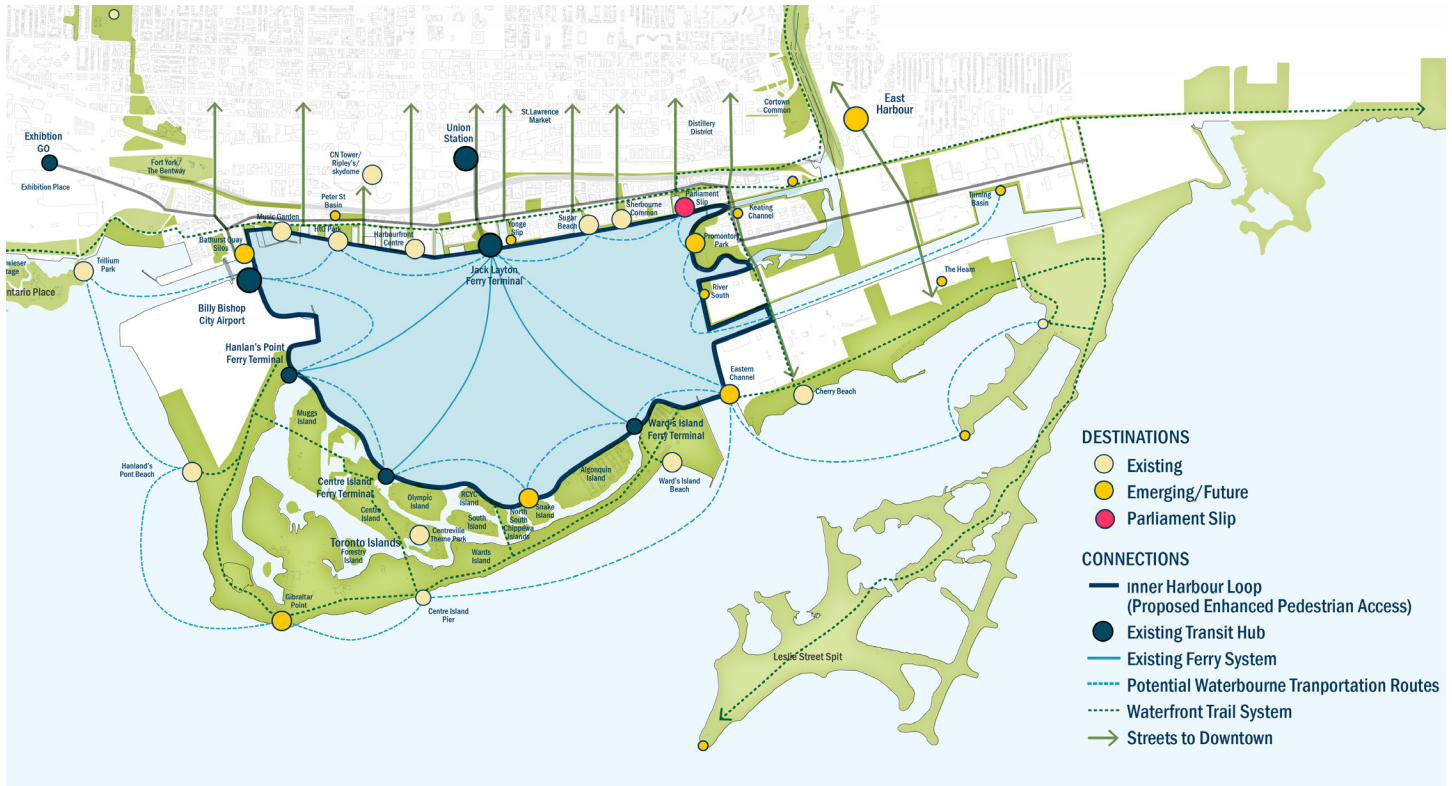
*View looking north from the Inner Harbour (left) and view looking south from Queens Quay East (right). The proposed vision for the Parliament Slip would create a more active and inclusive waterfront for everyone to enjoy, attracting tourism and providing a much-needed amenity for local residents. (Rendering: courtesy of West 8 and DTAH)*

The Parliament Slip has potential to become a world class, public destination for swimming, kayaking, boating, entertainment, and dining never seen in Canada before. Located at the foot of historic Parliament Street along Queens Quay East, the Parliament Slip offers remarkable views of the lake and is only a skipping stone's throw from the emerging Villiers Island and future Promontory Park.

Waterfront Toronto's vision for Parliament Slip would innovate on the award-winning design approach taken farther west with the Simcoe, Rees and Spadina WaveDecks and incorporate harbour pools within the WaveDeck.

The WaveDeck would be the anchor for a water amphitheatre, floating restaurant, canoe/kayak launch, water transportation hub, and a floating dock with concessions. Coupled with the adjacent public spaces and the City of Toronto community centre coming on the west side of the slip, this vision would create an incomparable four-season public asset and would be the next step in reorienting the city towards the lake.

Other amenities could include new mooring stations, public event spaces, retail and expanded waterfront walkways.



This map illustrates the vision towards a continuous waterfront 'loop'.

## Background

Our approach to Parliament Slip is guided by planning and policy documents as well as our commitment to responsible development. The Central Waterfront Secondary Plan and the Marine Use Strategy contemplate the bigger picture, including identifying special places along the waterfront well suited for year-round activation and opportunities to get people in, on and over the water. In the context of the slip, the East Bayfront and Keating Channel Precinct Plans delve into greater detail, recognizing the slip as an opportunity for a highly active place with a special combination of public spaces and community amenities.

The map above illustrates the vision towards a continuous waterfront 'loop' that ties together key attractions and destinations along the Inner Harbour. While the western/central waterfront has mostly been developed, many of the areas in the eastern waterfront remain disconnected. Our research over the last several years shows

that successful waterfronts around the world tend to share at least one key ingredient — waterfront promenades that connect people to great places and activities. It also shows that water-based activities are a major factor in creating an attractive waterfront. The vision for Parliament Slip fulfils the intent of the planning work long underway and would create an iconic and accessible public destination and connection along the waterfront.

## Next steps

Going back as far as 2009, public feedback has surfaced many elements considered to be missing from our waterfront and has helped shaped this vision. But more consultation is needed before planning is complete. Soon, a Marine Coordination Committee will be established to take the recommendations from the Marine Strategy Report and put them into action. As always, we will continue our productive collaboration with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.