



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Lower Don Trail Accessible Point of Access

Date:	March 23, 2015
To:	Parks and Environment Committee
From:	General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division
Wards:	Ward 28 – Toronto Centre - Rosedale Ward 30 – Toronto - Danforth
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster A\PFR\PE03-041515-AFS#20912

SUMMARY

This report is in response to a request for information on creating an accessible point onto the Lower Don Trail by way of the pedestrian bridge joining Riverdale Park East (Ward 30) and West (Ward 28) north of Gerrard Street and west of Broadview Avenue.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact resulting from receipt of this report as it is for information only.

The 2015-2024 Council-approved Capital Plan for Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) included \$0.100 million in 2015 and \$1.000 million in 2016 for an accessibility improvement project to be located at the pedestrian bridge joining Riverdale Park East and West. The \$0.100 million in 2015 is required to design the accessible ramp, while the 2016 funding of \$1.000 million is required for construction.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of August 25, 2014, City Council requested the General Manager of Parks, Forestry, and Recreation, to report to the Parks and Environment Committee in the second quarter 2015 on potential points of access onto the Lower Don Trail, in particular the pedestrian bridge joining Riverdale Park East and West.

City Council Decision Document – PE29.8

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.PE29.8>

At its meeting on March 10 and 11, 2015 (EX3.4, #22 and #24) City Council approved the Parks, Forestry and Recreation 2015-2024 Capital Budget and Plan.

City Council Decision Document – EX3.4, #22, and #24

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getCouncilDecisionDocumentReport&meetingId=9689>

COMMENTS

Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) is undertaking an accessibility improvement project to be located at the pedestrian bridge joining Riverdale Park East (Ward 30) and West (Ward 28) in order to complete and enhance the Lower Don Trail component of the council-approved Pan Am Path Initiative.

As part of the Pan Am Path Initiative, new stairways are planned for 2016 from the two existing bridges at Gerrard Street and Dundas Street. Although the new stairs will increase the number of community access points onto the Lower Don Trail, PFR has identified that there is still a need for an accessible option in that area for those users where stairs still create a barrier. Those with mobility issues or needing wheelchairs or other mobility aids, cyclists and users of strollers will benefit from a more accessible option. Currently, the nearest accessible point onto the Lower Don Trail is over 2 km away located at the south end of the trail between Eastern Avenue and Lakeshore Blvd. The new entrance will also be compliant with the current Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

The Council-approved 2015 PFR Capital Budget includes \$0.100 million to design the accessible ramp in 2015 and \$1.000 million has been identified for construction in 2016 in the 2016-2024 PFR Capital Plan.

This project is well-timed and complements the projects being completed as part of the Pan Am Path Initiative and demonstrates PFR's continued long-term commitment to accessibility for all residents and visitors to the City of Toronto.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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