Rail Deck Park
City-initiated Official Plan Amendment

Toronto & East York Community Council Meeting - Nov 14, 2017
Project Timeline

Spring 2014

The Downtown Toronto Trends, Issues, and Intensification Report identifies parkland acquisition as a key priority in order to protect quality of life Downtown.

Fall 2015

The TOcore Phase 1 Summary Report identifies 4 “Big Moves” including delivering parkland in unconventional spaces such as the rail corridor and the Gardiner Expressway.

Spring 2016

Emerging priorities in the TOcore Background Report include creative city-building ideas for establishing new parks and open spaces in the Downtown.

Summer 2016

Mayor Tory announces a vision for an iconic new park in the Downtown – Rail Deck Park.
City Council endorses the Rail Deck Park Work Plan and directs staff to move forward with the Planning Framework Update and Implementation Strategy.
Telegram Mews - Looking North

Source: Manning 3D Model, prepared by WSP MAA team for Rail Deck Park Engineering Report Study, dated September, 2017. (using 24mm lens)

Source: Manning 3D Model, submitted for 433 Front Street West, Toronto, ON (CRCA Project), by P.T.S. Developments Inc., on May 23, 2017 (using 24mm lens)
Draper Street - Looking South
Front Street - Looking West

Source: Massing 3D Model, prepared by WSP MAA team for Rail Deck Park Engineering Report Study, dated September, 2017. (using 24mm lens)

Source: Massing 3D Model, submitted for 433 Front Street West, Toronto, ON (ORCA Project), by P.T.S. Developments Inc., on May 23, 2017 (using 24mm lens)
Downtown’s Changing Skyline

2005

Bathurst St

Spadina Ave

Blue Jays Way
Downtown’s Changing Skyline

2014

Bathurst St

Spadina Ave

Blue Jays Way
Limited large parks with City-wide functions
Downtown vs. City-wide park provision

Downtown:
8.4 m²
PARK AREA/PERSON (2016)

City-wide:
28 m²
PARK AREA/PERSON (2016)
The last opportunity for a large park in Downtown
A large place to do many things

Watch
Gather
Exercise

Relax
Stroll
Play
Skate
Existing Park Comparisons

- Grange Park
  Toronto, ON

- Regent Park Athletic Grounds
  Toronto, ON

- Dundas Square
  Toronto, ON

- Berczy Park
  Toronto, ON

- Sherborne Common South
  Toronto, ON

- David Pecaut Square
  Toronto, ON

- Nathan Phillips Square
  Toronto, ON
Rail Deck Park
Secondary Plan Area
Official Plan Amendment (OPA)

- Creates a new Rail Deck Park Secondary Plan within the Railway Lands Planning Framework
- Designates the site as *Parks and Open Space*, while supporting existing/future rail operations
- Improves connections between the Downtown and the waterfront
- Outlines requirements for a Parks and Public Realm Master Plan and Implementation Plan
- Integrates with Metrolinx Spadina GO RER Station and corridor electrification.
Vision

Rail Deck Park will transform the space above an active rail corridor in the heart of one of Downtown's fastest-growing communities into a signature public park. It will be a beautiful and bustling place which acts as a major destination for people from across and outside Toronto, while serving the immediate community. Rail Deck Park is a long-term commitment to quality of life for all Torontonians.
1. Toronto's Park

2. Enhance Connectivity and Accessibility
Connecting east to west and north to south
3. Create a Place to Gather and Celebrate

4. Invest in Resiliency and Green Infrastructure
5. Support and Integrate Rail

6. Acknowledge and Conserve the History of the Railway lands
A once-in-a-generation opportunity