

Re-imagine the valleys, bluffs and islands encircling the Downtown as a fully interconnected 900-hectare immersive landscape system

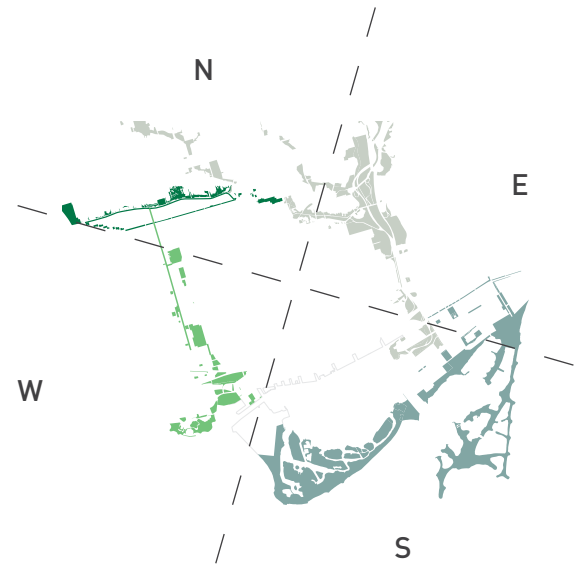
THE CORE

CIRCLE

The Core Circle re-imagines the valleys, bluffs and islands encircling the Downtown as a fully connected 900-hectare immersive landscape system

The Core Circle seeks to improve and offer opportunities to reconnect the urban fabric of the Downtown to its surrounding natural features using the streets, parks and open spaces found around the natural setting of Downtown Toronto including the Don River Valley and ravines, Lake Ontario, the Toronto Islands, Garrison Creek and the Lake Iroquois shoreline. Connecting these large landscape features will create a continuous circular network of open spaces surrounding the Downtown, accessible from both the core and the broader city. The Core Circle re-imagines the Downtown's framework of valleys, bluffs and islands as a connected 900-hectare landscape system and immersive experience, building on Toronto's strong identity as a 'city within a park' and providing opportunities to acknowledge our natural setting and connect to the history of our natural landscapes.

Historically, the natural landscape features that form the Core Circle were used by Indigenous peoples as village sites, travelling routes and hunting and gathering lands. They are regarded as sacred landscapes and places for spiritual renewal. The Core Circle seeks to re-establish our connection to these landscapes. Taking an ecological approach, the Core Circle challenges us to push boundaries and explore the types of landscapes we can achieve in a 21st century city, including landscapes that enhance the resilience of our city, and those that contribute to reconciliation with Indigenous communities. It offers opportunities to create landscapes that can provide absorptive, productive, and other infrastructural and ecological functions, and provides space for restoring Indigenous identity, social structure and kinship with the land.



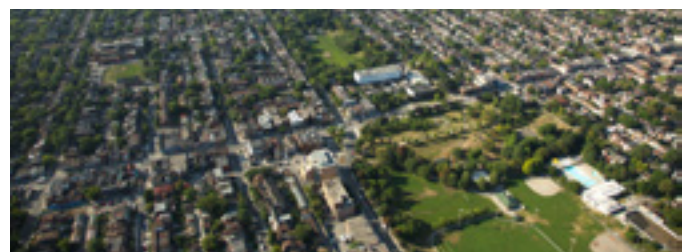
North: Davenport Road Bluff, Toronto, Canada



East: Don River Valley Ravine and Rosedale Valley Ravine, Toronto, Canada



South: Toronto Islands and Toronto Bay, Toronto, Canada



West: Garrison Creek Corridor, Toronto, Canada



Diagrammatic representation of the diversity of species and vegetation communities including forests, wetlands and meadows that comprise the Core Circle landscapes, Toronto, Canada

- 1 North: Davenport Road Bluff
- 2 East: Don River Valley Ravine and Rosedale Valley Ravine
- 3 South: Toronto Islands and Toronto Bay
- 4 West: Garrison Creek Corridor

Sixteen strategies outline general principles and design directions to guide a series of initiatives that reinforce the Core Circle vision through focused interventions.

REVEAL THE LANDSCAPES THAT PRECEDED THE CITY AND CELEBRATE INDIGENOUS CULTURES AND HISTORIES



The Davenport Trail winds along the foot of the ancient Lake Iroquois escarpment, from Plan of Dundas Street, 1795

Establish partnerships with Indigenous communities to advance initiatives that celebrate the landscape and Indigenous cultures and histories. Reveal layers of natural and Indigenous cultural heritage by restoring, connecting and improving the natural environment of the ravines, bluffs and islands. Leverage the dramatic topography for creative placemaking and interpretation, restore lost waterways, and protect and grow this beloved resource.

What we heard:

- Honour Indigenous histories and cultures and engage Indigenous communities in placemaking.
- Provide resources and spaces for Indigenous peoples to restore their kinship with the land and social structure (e.g. places to gather around fire).

ENHANCE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AS A COUNTERPOINT TO URBAN LIVING



Qunli Stormwater Wetland Park cleanses and stores water and provides recreational use and aesthetic experience within a dense urban environment, Haerbin City, China

Create and offer an experience that is an escape from the city. Connect natural landscapes to provide a sense of being close to nature. Make places that provide access to natural sunlight, sky views and the night sky. Experiment with the types of landscapes that are possible and necessary in a 21st century city, such as absorptive, floodable parks and habitats and productive landscape such as hatcheries and carbon forests.

What we heard:

- Protect and restore our landscapes, habitats and ecologies; enhance biodiversity.
- Enhance and maintain the urban forest.
- Consider climate change and create resilient landscapes.

CONNECT THE CORE CIRCLE WITH A CONTINUOUS PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING ROUTE



The BeltLine, 33 miles of multi-use trails, and 1,300 acres of parks in a path encircling the city, Atlanta, United States

There is power in the continuity of the loop. Improve connections and provide Torontonians with an opportunity to move through nature in different ways, including walking, cycling, jogging and canoeing. Create an unique draw for Toronto on an international level to support larger events such as a 'Core Circle Marathon'. Plan to accommodate activities and events that preserve the integrity of the landscape, draw attention to Toronto's natural legacy and celebrate our diverse culture while leveraging the large scale of the Core Circle.

What we heard:

- Better connect existing natural features and open spaces.
- Encourage active transportation connections and linkages.

CONNECT THE CORE CIRCLE WITH THE BROADER CITYWIDE PARKS AND PUBLIC REALM SYSTEM



Boisé de Tequenonday opens a gradual portal for the public to enjoy convenient access to nature, Quebec City, Canada

Improve and promote access into the Core Circle through parks, streets and open spaces and connect the Core Circle with the broader citywide parks and public realm system, such as West Toronto Rail Path, the Green Line, the Kay Gardiner Beltline Trail, and other nearby parts of the system. Create gathering places and gateways where streets and neighbourhoods connect to the Core Circle. Re-think existing infrastructure such as rail tracks, bridges and roads to perform beyond their current function, for example, as access points into the ravine, not just routes over it.

What we heard:

- Improve access to immersive places like Lake Ontario, the Toronto Islands and the ravines.
- Enhance access to ravines with improved and new access points and connections.

ENCOURAGE LOCAL ACCESS AND 'SHORT TRIPS'
TO MAKE THE CIRCLE A DAY TO DAY RESOURCE



Corktown Common invites easy access into the Core Circle and offers a glimpse of the broader ravine landscape beyond, Toronto, Canada

Encourage local access and 'short trips' that promote walking and cycling and provide access to programs and experiences within the Core Circle. Not all users will experience the full extent of the Core Circle system, but may instead experience it in smaller pieces. Create multiple new points of entry and consider how day to day activities can expand into the Core Circle, making meaningful connections through neighbourhoods, parks and streets. Imagine the experience of the Core Circle as a gradual 'reveal', unfolding one visit at a time, with meaningful short trips that can provide a glimpse of the expansive landscapes beyond.

What we heard:

- Encourage active transportation connections and linkages.

FOSTER THE LEGIBILITY AND NAVIGABILITY OF
THE CORE CIRCLE



Governor's Island signage and landscape markers, New York City, United States

Create opportunities for storytelling and improve the legibility and navigability of our natural and cultural landscapes. Target communications that increase awareness of the Core Circle such as wayfinding, mapping and on-line tools, in collaboration with partners. Consider the Core Circle as a national park.

What we heard:

- Make access points and connections easier to navigate.
- Improve wayfinding.
- Increase snow clearing of trails in the winter.

RE-IMAGINE OR RETROFIT INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDORS AND REMNANT SITES FROM PREVIOUS LAND USES



Schöneberger Südgelände Nature Park, a former rail yard, retains rail tracks and a water tower, Berlin, Germany

Re-imagine or retrofit infrastructure corridors and remnant sites to complete cycling and pedestrian networks, while enhancing nature and respecting industrial heritage. Ecological landscapes such as meadows, forests and other landscapes develop and evolve gradually over time and cost little to create and maintain. In the past 50 years, the Leslie Street Spit has evolved into a diverse, species-rich natural oasis in the heart of Toronto. Such landscapes can be allowed to develop on their own, or be guided to create different types of desirable landscapes, such as absorptive parks that filter and store stormwater.

What we heard:

- Make use of what we already have (e.g. rail and hydro corridors).
- Loosen restrictions and / or enable these spaces to be used as multi-functional public spaces.

ENGAGE COMMUNITIES IN THE DESIGN AND CREATION OF THE CORE CIRCLE



The Weston Family Parks Challenge demonstrates a collaborative approach to growing food, restoring habitat, and integrating arts programming in parks, Toronto, Canada

Enable policy or organizational shifts and creative collaborations to unlock our urban wilderness. Empower communities by building new partnership models that enable new opportunities for programming, funding, decision-making and stewardship. Establish partnerships with Indigenous communities to realize the Core Circle.

What we heard:

- Encourage youth to learn and apply skills in the landscape.
- Enhance community stewardship without downloading the responsibility for maintenance onto volunteers.

USE PARKS AS PORTALS TO UNLOCK THE CORE CIRCLE



Riverdale Park, ravine portal to the Don River Valley and broader ravine landscape, Toronto, Canada

Create Portal Parks. At the interface of neighbourhoods and the broader urban wilds, re-imagine and expand existing parks, or create new ones to act as portals to the larger Core Circle landscape. Look for strategic points of access all around the Core Circle, where neighbourhoods can benefit from increased access to the ravine system, bluffs and islands.

What we heard:

- The Downtown pedestrian and cycling network should connect to the ravines and broader network beyond the Downtown.

IMPROVE THE VISUAL AND PHYSICAL ACCESS OF THE CORE CIRCLE



Alexandra Arch and Forest Walk introduces lookouts and a gradual passage from the city to the wilderness, Telok Blangah Hill Park, Singapore

Use parks as portals to improve the visual and physical access of the Core Circle. Take advantage of topography and views to design features that celebrate the specific opportunities of fronting onto ravines, bluffs and islands. Consider the process of departure and arrival between the urban grid and the urban wilds, and celebrate it. Make strategic links from the city into the landscape and consider new vantage points and overlooks to highlight the most dramatic landscapes of the Core Circle.

What we heard:

- Make access points and connections visible and easy to navigate.
- Consider new access passageways into the Don River Valley at east-west streets / bridges.

PRIORITIZE UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY TO AND WITHIN THE CORE CIRCLE



Twisted Valley, provides universal accessibility and multiplies the public use of the landscape's steep slopes, Allicante, Spain

Use Portal Parks to enhance universal accessibility to ravines, bluffs and islands. Make use of space at these arrival nodes to bring people easily and safely between higher and lower elevations. Make the routes places in their own right, building in opportunities to sit, gather and view the expansive landscape.

What we heard:

- Safety and accessibility of all users should be a priority in the development and improvement of parks and public spaces.

UNEARTH LOST LAYERS OF NATURAL, INDIGENOUS, CULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE



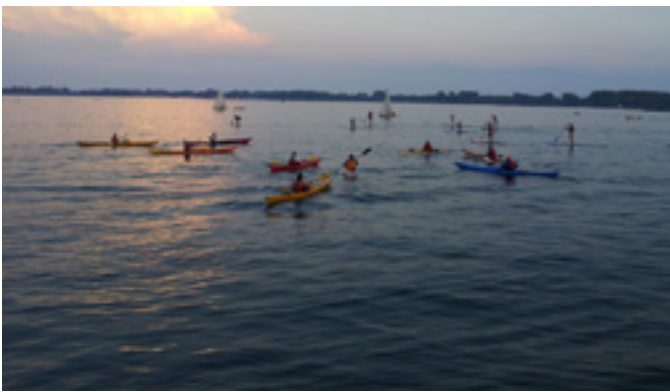
Revealing layers of the buried Garrison Creek landscape, Mouth of the Creek Park, Toronto, Canada

Imagine Portal Parks as offering opportunities to unearth lost layers of natural, Indigenous, cultural and industrial heritage. Portal Parks are an ideal opportunity to reflect the landscapes and waterways that were lost as the city expanded. Consider their design as an opportunity for contemporary interpretation of these features, making multiple layers of heritage and ecology apparent. Above all, make a great park, one that delivers neighbourhood amenities, while reflecting rich histories and ecologies.

What we heard:

- Honour Indigenous histories and cultures within parks and public spaces, including near Lake Ontario, the Toronto Islands, the Don River and Garrison Creek.
- Re-surface or re-interpret lost waterways.

A 'BLUE PARK' FOR THE CITY



Inner Harbour 'Blue Park', Toronto, Canada

Building on the Central Waterfront Revitalization, recognize the Inner Harbour as a civic space and encircle the Toronto Bay with a diverse and connected network of places. Promote water-based recreation on Toronto Bay, and improve access to the water's edge and around the Inner Harbour for pedestrians and cyclists. Implement bridges (e.g. the CWF Master Plan bridges over the heads of slips), peninsulas and water transport connections to bring Torontonians to and out on the lake. Consider new floating programs, strategically expanding park real estate by creating new types of water-based park experiences.

What we heard:

- Improve access to immersive places like Lake Ontario and the Toronto Islands.
- It should be easier for people to get to, on and around the water.

PROMOTE THE EXPERIENCE OF THE TWO SHORELINES



(left) View of the Toronto skyline from the Islands; (center) View of the Islands from the water's edge promenade; (right) View of Lake Ontario from Centre Island, Toronto, Canada

Promote the experience of the two shorelines: one characterized by the urban fabric of the Downtown to the north, with its hard and linear constructed dock walls, and the other characterized by the natural shorelines and beaches of the Toronto Islands and the Leslie Street Spit. Once connected, these two complimentary yet diverse experiences can open up three distinct skyline views: the view looking north to the city skyline; the view from the city looking south to the Islands and Inner Harbour ring; and, the expansive view from the Islands' outer shoreline to Lake Ontario.

What we heard:

- Leverage Toronto's unique position as a waterfront city.
- Lake Ontario should be more visible and legible to Torontonians.

“My grandfather couldn’t afford the ferry ticket to the Islands, so he would swim.”

– TOcore Consultation

LEVERAGE THE TORONTO ISLAND PARK SYSTEM, WHILE PRESERVING ITS UNIQUE CULTURE AND ECOLOGY



The Toronto Island Park System, Toronto, Canada

Leverage the Toronto Island Park System’s 230 hectares of public parkland and the Inner Harbour’s 540 hectares of water, while at the same time preserving and enhancing the unique cultural heritage landscapes and ecologies that define and elevate the experience of the Toronto Bay for residents, workers and visitors. Carefully address improving public access, dealing with climate change and enhancing resiliency, and fostering public understanding of ecological processes.

What we heard:

- Concerns about “over use” of the Toronto Islands; concerns about impacts on the natural environment and the lives of Island residents.
- The Islands should be protected and enhanced.

HARMONIZE RECREATION AND ACTIVE INDUSTRY



Sugar Beach and the Redpath Sugar Refinery, Toronto, Canada

Carefully integrate recreational uses to ensure the continued viability of active industry. The revitalization of the Central Waterfront, the Port Lands, the Toronto Islands and Toronto Bay should infuse new uses and activity, while respecting industrial uses and the working harbour.

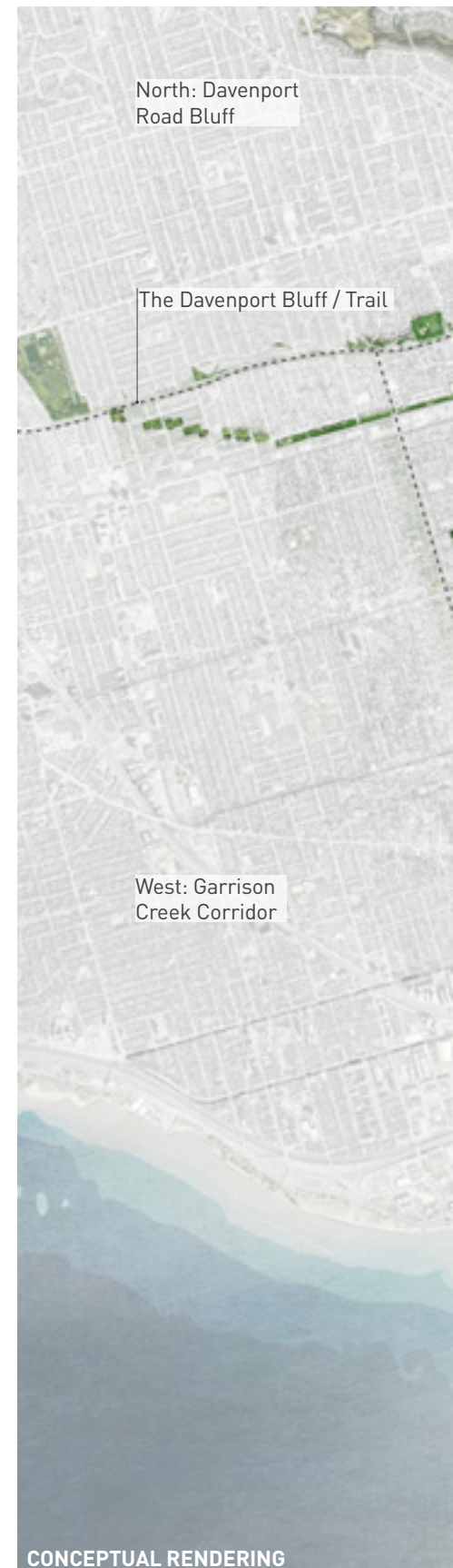
What we heard:

- Importance of maintaining Toronto’s rich heritage of active industry on the waterfront.

Re-imagine the framework of valleys, bluffs and islands encircling the Downtown as a fully connected 900-hectare immersive landscape system.

INITIATIVES



- 1 *North: Davenport Road Bluff*
 - Restore and Enhance The Davenport Bluff / Trail
 - Prioritize Spadina Park for Indigenous Placemaking
 - Create The Green Line
 - Connect from The Green Line to Ramsden Park
 - Expand and Continue to Revitalize Ramsden Park
 - Connect from Ramsden Park to the Rosedale Valley
- 2 *East: Don River Valley Ravine / Rosedale Valley Ravine*
 - Create Don River Valley Park
 - Improve Access to the Future Don River Valley Park
 - Improve and Connect the Don River Trail
 - Create a Linear Riverside Park along Bayview Ave
 - Improve Access and Trail on Rosedale Valley Rd
 - Improve Access and Connections to Riverdale Park
 - Connect the Core Circle through Corktown Common
 - Realize the Lower Don Lands River Estuary
- 3 *South: Toronto Islands / Toronto Bay*
 - Implement the Central Waterfront Master Plan
 - Implement Slip Bridges, Wave decks, Boat Launches, and Habitat Nodes
 - Create Harbour Landing
 - Revitalize Centre Island
 - Enhance Shoreline Ecologies / Aquatic Habitat
 - Improve the Toronto Islands Circulation Network and Viewpoints to the Inner Harbour and Lake Ontario
 - Experiment with Flexible, Water-based or Seasonal Island Access at the Eastern and Western Gap
 - Create New Water Transport Connections
 - Enhance Water-based Programming and Occupation
 - Create a Water-based Recreation Pier
- 4 *West: Garrison Creek Corridor*
 - Revitalize Ontario Place
 - Revitalize Coronation Park
 - Realize Fort York and Garrison Common Parks System
 - Revitalize Stanley Park and Create the Extension
 - Create the Shaw Street Greenway
 - Revitalize Trinity Bellwoods Park
 - Revitalize Christie Pits Park



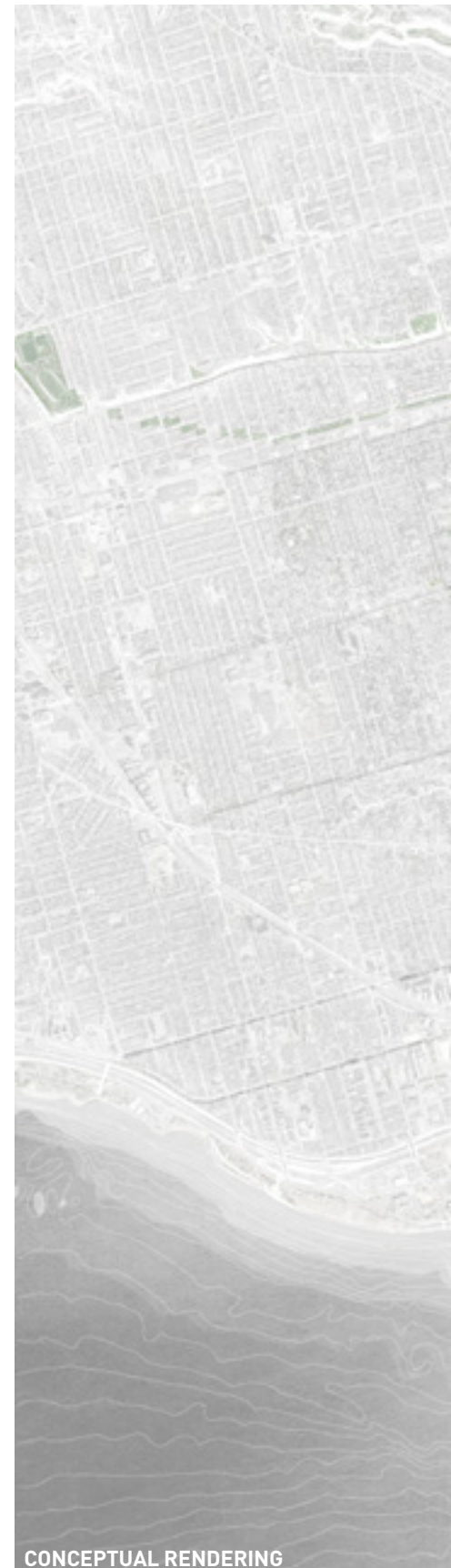


As part of the larger Great Lakes system, Toronto's watersheds are subject to water level fluctuations that are complex and unpredictable. Climate change may result in less ice cover, less precipitation and increased temperatures, leading to lower water levels, but it is also recognized that future climate conditions are uncertain, and more extreme water levels may be reached and these extremes may occur more often (International Joint Commission).

The map (*right*) indicates flood vulnerability in Toronto's Don River Watershed and Lake Ontario Waterfront Watershed. In the Don River Watershed, the map illustrates the existing Don River Regulatory Flood Plain (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority). In the Lake Ontario Waterfront Watershed, the map illustrates elevations below 76.0m, the highest recorded lake level in the Toronto harbour in May 2017 (US Army Corps of Engineers).

-  Existing Don River Regulatory Flood Plain (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority - TRCA)
-  Elevations Below 76.0m*

* 75.931m was the highest recorded lake level in the Toronto harbour in May 2017 (US Army Corps of Engineers)




CONCEPTUAL RENDERING



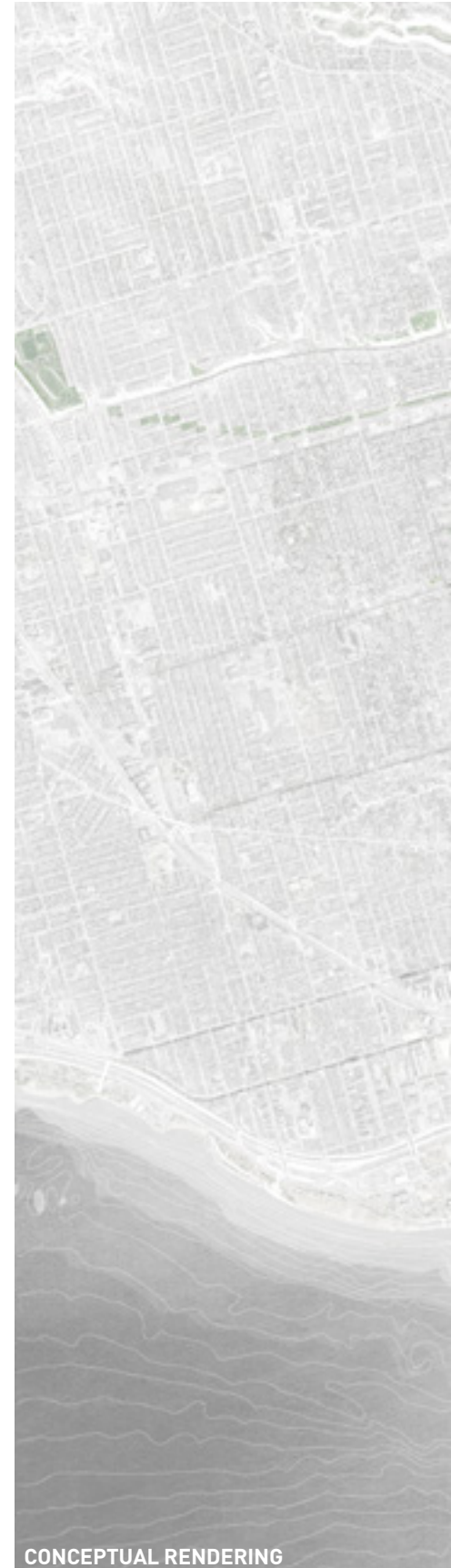
Map showing existing flood vulnerability in the Don River Watershed and Lake Ontario Waterfront Watershed, Toronto, Canada

The map (*right*) indicates flood vulnerability in Toronto's Don River Watershed and Lake Ontario Waterfront Watershed. In the Don River Watershed, the map illustrates the projected future Don River Regulatory Flood Plain with the Port Lands Flood Protection and Enabling Infrastructure Project (Waterfront Toronto). The projected impact of naturalizing the mouth of the Don River for flood protection is an example of the capacity of landscapes as urban infrastructure to deal with water, including future water level fluctuations, and to address a range of future climate conditions, such as the urban heat island effect.

It is proposed that landscapes around the Core Circle be prioritized as absorptive landscapes. Absorptive landscapes are adapted to serve blue (water-based) and green (urban forest, greenway, pedestrian and cycling priority) infrastructure systems, to enhance the resilience of the Downtown in the 21st century.

-  Projected Future Don River Regulatory Flood Plain with the Port Lands Flood Protection and Enabling Infrastructure (Waterfront Toronto)
-  Elevations Below 76.0m*

* 75.931m was the highest recorded lake level in the Toronto harbour in May 2017 (US Army Corps of Engineers)





Map showing projected future flood vulnerability in the Don River Watershed and Lake Ontario Waterfront Watershed, Toronto, Canada

Implement varying degrees of absorptive landscapes around the Core Circle, ranging from always wet, to occasionally wet, to rarely wet. Prioritize flood risk areas and other parks and open spaces that offer the potential to enhance the resilience of the Core Circle and surrounding neighbourhoods.

PROPOSED ABSORPTIVE LANDSCAPES

- 1 *Ramsden Park*
- 2 *Don River Valley Park*
- 3 *Riverdale Park*
- 4 *Corktown Common | Flood Protection Landform*
- 5 *Lower Don Lands River Estuary*
- 6 *Cherry Beach*
- 7 *Leslie Street Spit*
- 8 *Toronto Islands*
- 9 *Ontario Place and Coronation Park at Water's Edge*
- 10 *Mouth of the Creek Park*
- 11 *Stanley Park and Stanley Park Extension*
- 12 *Trinity Bellwoods Park*
- 13 *Christie Pits Park and Bickford Park*



Valleys, ponds and large sunken surfaces collect and treat rainwater, run off and floodwater from the Seine River, Saint Ouen, France



Map showing proposed locations for investment in absorptive landscape infrastructure, Toronto, Canada

TRANSFORMATIVE IDEA 1. THE CORE CIRCLE

Examples of absorptive landscapes, adapted to serve blue and green infrastructure systems toward a more resilient future city.



The Francois Mitterrand Strip, at confluence of the Ille and Vilaine Rivers, is designed to absorb and celebrate the influence of water and has triggered a major urban transformation of the adjacent part of the city, Rennes, France



Nansen Park is designed to receive surface water from adjacent housing areas and roads with open green swales to carry water to the nearby lake, and biological sand filters, mechanical filters and pumps to clean and aerate the water, Oslo, Norway

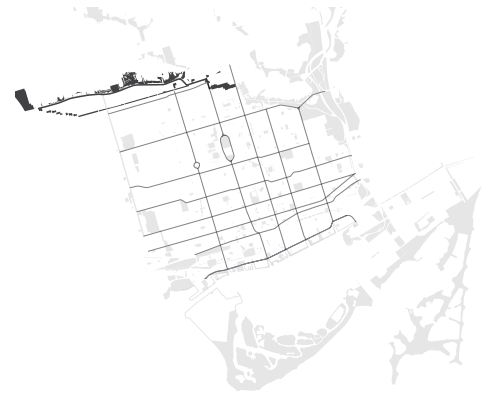


Billancourt Park re-links the city to the Seine River with a floodable landscape, gravel beds, islands and marshes that anchor the site to the riverside landscapes of the Seine, Boulogne-Billancourt, France



Cheonggyecheon River, previously an elevated freeway and concrete paved waterway, was transformed into a lush, 5.8 km long 'day-lit' stream corridor, now attracting over 60,000 visitors daily, Seoul, Korea

North: Davenport Road Bluff



The Davenport Road Bluff, ancient Lake Iroquois shoreline, Toronto, Canada

The Davenport Trail – ‘Gete-Onigaming’ (Ge-de-oh-ni-guh-ming) in Anishinaabemowin, meaning “at the old portage” – is an Indigenous travelling route that preceded the framework of the grid laid out by the colonial surveyors in the late 18th century. Following

the topographic variations of the natural landscape, the trail connects from the Humber River in the west to the Don River in the east along the base of the ancient Lake Iroquois escarpment. Re-discovering the Davenport Trail provides an opportunity to leverage the dramatic

(near right) 'The Bluff' cultural heritage trail and look-outs, Ypres, Belgium
 (far right) 'Shorelines', reflections on North American topography, by Michael Belmore, Ojibwe artist, 2006



The Davenport Road Trail – 'Gete-Onigaming' (Ge-de-oh-ni-guh-ming) in Anishinaabemowin, meaning "at the old portage", looking east from the base of Spadina Park, Proposed Concept

topography of the escarpment, remnant bluff ecologies and surrounding parks, such as Spadina Park, to re-discover and celebrate the natural and Indigenous cultural heritage landscapes that preceded the city. By restoring, connecting and improving this ancient bluff-

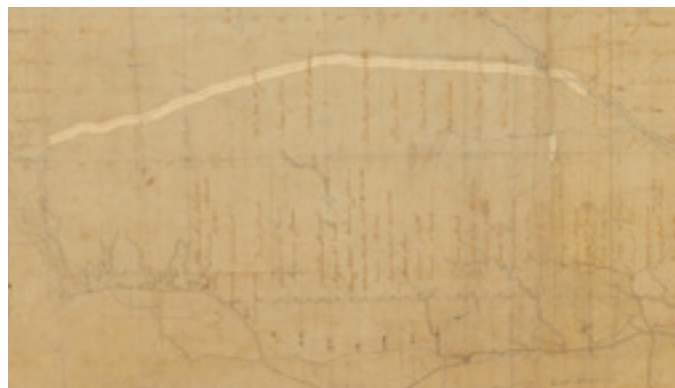
trail system, we can protect and grow this significant lost resource for all Torontonians.

TRANSFORMATIVE IDEA 1. THE CORE CIRCLE



North Core Circle: Davenport Road Bluff and the Green Line, Proposed Concept Plan

(right) *The Davenport Trail*, from *Survey of the Township of York*, by A. Aitken, 1793



Goals

- Enhance the natural environment as a counterpoint to urban living.
- Establish partnerships with Indigenous communities to advance initiatives that celebrate the landscape and Indigenous cultures and histories.
- Improve and promote access into the Core Circle through parks, streets and open spaces.
- Connect the Core Circle with the broader citywide parks and public realm system.
- Use parks as portals to improve the visual and physical access of the Core Circle.
- Imagine portal parks as offering opportunities to unearth lost layers of natural, Indigenous, cultural and industrial heritage.
- Create local access and 'short trips' that promote walking and cycling and provide access to programs and experiences within the Core Circle.
- Connect the Core Circle with a continuous pedestrian and cycling route.
- Re-imagine or retrofit infrastructure corridors and remnant sites to complete cycling and pedestrian networks, while enhancing nature and respecting industrial heritage.
- Foster the legibility and navigability of the Core Circle.
- Engage communities in the design and creation of the Core Circle.
- Prioritize universal accessibility to and within the Core Circle.

Actions

- Study the ecological characteristics, history and health of the forest along the Davenport Bluff, and develop recommendations for ecological restoration on public and private lands.
- Study the potential for a continuous pedestrian and cycling connection(s) from Poplar Plains / Nordhiemer Ravine to Rosedale Valley.
- Improve public access to existing open spaces including Spadina Park and Casa Loma Gardens.
- Improve north-south pedestrian and cycling connections across Davenport Road.
- Align Core Circle implementation with the ongoing Green Line initiative.
- Integrate hydrologic heritage into the design of open spaces making the source of the creeks legible.

East: Don River Valley Ravine

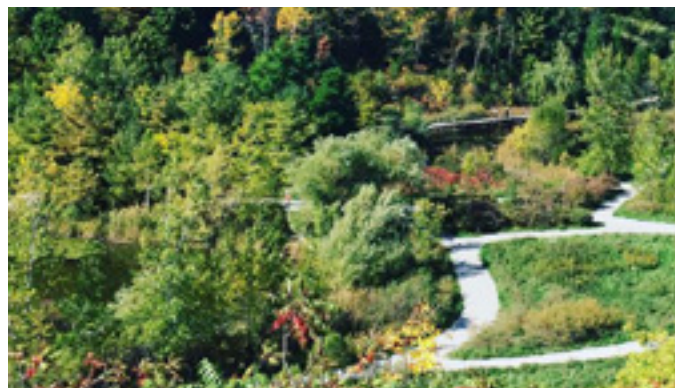


Don River Valley Ravine and Rosedale Valley Ravine, Proposed Concept

Toronto's unique ravine landscape was carved into the land more than 12,000 years ago by the retreat of the Wisconsin glacialiation. On the edge of the Downtown, with dramatic topography and a rich and layered physical, natural and cultural heritage landscape history,

Toronto's ravine landscape has been neglected and abused for the past century. Now is the time to restore and re-harmonize the ravine landscape, to leverage the dramatic topography and Indigenous cultural heritage landscape for creative placemaking and interpretation.

(right) Evergreen Brickworks is a model of collaborative, sustainable practices for the future Don River Valley Park, Toronto, Canada



Bayview Avenue, looking north to Evergreen Brickworks, showing potential improved edge condition and access to the future Don River Valley Park with re-purposed space on Bayview Avenue and a re-aligned or elevated rail corridor, Proposed Concept

Explore opportunities to design new gateways, re-invent bridges as access points and consider new vantage points and overlooks to highlight the unique ravine landscape. Aim to establish a 'Made in Toronto' approach to improving the health, legibility and

navigability of our ravines through wayfinding, mapping, communications, programming and events that increase awareness, helping us re-connect with, restore and re-harmonize this significant landscape for current and future generations.

TRANSFORMATIVE IDEA 1. THE CORE CIRCLE



East Core Circle: Don River Valley Ravine and Rosedale Valley Ravine, Proposed Concept Plan

(right) Prince Arthur's Landing promotes connections to Lake Superior, aboriginal culture and the city's shipping and rail history; showing Gathering Circle, a collaboration between Brook McIlroy and Aboriginal designer Ryan Gorrie, Thunder Bay, Canada



Goals

- Enhance the natural environment as a counterpoint to urban living.
- Establish partnerships with Indigenous communities to advance initiatives that celebrate the landscape and Indigenous cultures and histories.
- Improve and promote access into the Core Circle through parks, streets and open spaces.
- Connect the Core Circle with the broader citywide parks and public realm system.
- Use parks as portals to improve the visual and physical access of the Core Circle.
- Imagine portal parks as offering opportunities to unearth lost layers of natural, Indigenous, cultural and industrial heritage.
- Create local access and 'short trips' that promote walking and cycling and provide access to programs and experiences within the Core Circle.
- Connect the Core Circle with a continuous pedestrian and cycling route.
- Re-imagine or retrofit infrastructure corridors and remnant sites to complete cycling and pedestrian networks, while enhancing nature and respecting industrial heritage.
- Foster the legibility and navigability of the Core Circle.
- Engage communities in the design and creation of the Core Circle.
- Prioritize universal accessibility to and within the Core Circle.

Actions

- Work with Evergreen, the TRCA and others to advance improvements related to accessibility, amenity and resilience of the Don Valley.
- Improve access to the valley and its pedestrian and cycling networks while maintaining ecological integrity: explore connections from Necropolis Cemetery; Bloor Street between Sherbourne and Parliament; Rosedale Valley Ravine / Yonge Street / Ramsden Park.
- Pursue an Indigenous placemaking pilot project in 'Snow Drop Park' or another location.
- Promote water-based recreation on the Don River.

South: Toronto Islands / Toronto Bay



1. Proposed zones for new submergent, surface floating and emergent macrophyte ecologies to strategically thicken the 'green ring' around Toronto Bay



2. Showing location of the Toronto Island Airport Marine Exclusion Zone (MEZ) and runway flight paths



3. Modified zones for new ecologies to avoid interference with the operations of the Toronto Island Airport



4. Proposed new ecologies and connectivity around the Toronto Islands and Toronto Bay landscape

The South Core Circle will serve as Toronto's parks and public realm connector with Lake Ontario. It is the portal to the connected network of parks, streets and open spaces around Toronto Bay including the Toronto Island Park System, the Central Waterfront and new parks and

open spaces in the Port Lands. The South Core Circle is perfectly positioned to provide an escape from the city, providing a complement and counterpoint to urban life with access to natural sunlight, sky views and the night sky. Restore and enhance the South Core Circle by



(right) Waterfront Development Plan, by the Toronto Harbour Commissioner's Engineering Department, with Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., 1912, Toronto, Canada



Ecological palette for thickening the 'green ring' around the Toronto Bay – creating aquatic habitat that will not interfere with the operations of the Toronto Island Airport; showing the marsh boardwalk at Point Pelee National Park, Canada

strategically thickening the 'green ring' around Toronto Bay, improving access and connectivity, and enhancing water-based programming and occupation. Experiment with dynamic landscapes such as absorptive parks and habitats, and productive landscapes such as hatcheries.

In coordination with the TRCA's Toronto Waterfront Aquatic Habitat Restoration Strategy, consider new submergent, surface floating and emergent macrophyte ecologies out in the lake, strategically expanding the 'green ring' around the Toronto Bay landscape.

Recognize the Inner Harbour as a civic space that builds on the Central Waterfront Revitalization, connecting a diverse network of places that encircle the Toronto Bay.



Proposed new ecologies and connections around the Toronto Islands and Toronto Bay landscape, view looking east, Toronto, Canada

Implement the Central Waterfront Master Plan bridges and remaining wavedecks, incorporating new boat launch and habitat nodes. Revitalize Centre Island and improve the Toronto Islands Circulation Network, with enhanced views to the Inner Harbour and Lake Ontario.

Create new water transport connections between the Port Lands, the Toronto Islands and Ontario Place. Consider improved access options for pedestrians and cyclists across the eastern and western gaps, via new water transport connections or flexible, seasonal links.

(right) *The Floating Piers*, a temporary installation by Christo and Jeanne-Claude, created a modular floating walkway between islands at Lake Iseo, near Brescia, Italy



Sorenga Seawater Pool, Oslo, Norway



Proposed Surf Park for Melbourne's Docklands | Damian Rogers, Melbourne, Australia



Copenhagen Harbour Bath, Copenhagen, Denmark



Hasle Harbour Bath, Bornholm, Denmark

Enhance water-based programming and occupation, extending the experience of the Central Waterfront into the Inner Harbour. The vision for a water recreation pier responds to the need for more deep-water boat dock walls, provides an opportunity for water-based recreation, and

creates a clear incentive to keep our harbour clean. It is also an opportunity to provide small boat dock and launch nodes, new aquatic habitat, and a wide promenade on the pier's periphery, offering unique views of the Inner Harbour, the Islands and the Downtown skyline.

TRANSFORMATIVE IDEA 1. THE CORE CIRCLE



South Core Circle: Toronto Islands and Toronto Bay, Proposed Concept Plan

(right) An absorptive landscape model for the Toronto Islands, St Patrick's Island absorbs seasonal floodwater and opens new ecologies to human exploration, Calgary, Canada



Goals

The South Core Circle will serve as Toronto's parks and public realm connector with Lake Ontario. The South Core Circle is the portal to the connected network of streets, parks and open spaces around Toronto Bay including the Toronto Island Park System, the Central Waterfront and new parks and open spaces in the Port Lands.

- Promote the experience of the two shorelines: one characterized by the urban fabric of the Downtown to the north, with its hard and linear constructed dock walls, and the other characterized by the natural shorelines and beaches of the islands.
- To preserve and enhance the unique culture and ecologies that define and elevate the experience of the Toronto Bay for residents, workers and visitors.
- Leverage the Toronto Islands park system while preserving its unique culture and ecology.
- Improve access to the water's edge and around the inner harbor for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Promote water-based recreation on Toronto Bay.

Actions

- Explore access options to the Toronto Islands for pedestrians and cyclists across the eastern and western gaps, prioritizing the eastern gap.
- Study and improve all aspects of water transportation and recreational connections, between Downtown, the Port Lands and the Toronto Islands.
- Undertake a Toronto Islands Management Plan that addresses improving public access, offering a variety of experiences, climate change and resiliency, and fostering public understanding of ecological processes.
- Implement circulation improvements on the Toronto Islands.
- Consider establishment of a pier (as per the Central Waterfront Secondary Plan) or alternatively a floating dock to support water recreation activities such as swimming and water sports.
- Implement bridges over the heads of slips (as illustrated in the Central Waterfront Master Plan).

West: Garrison Creek Corridor



Re-interpreting Garrison Creek in a connected Garrison Creek Parks System, Toronto, Canada

The West Core Circle provides an opportunity to explore the interpretation of Garrison Creek within the series of parks, open spaces and schoolyards along its path. Re-surfacing Garrison Creek offers a chance to rediscover a landscape of significant scale and create a

connected Garrison Creek Parks System. The system of parks provides opportunities to reveal the lost waterway, connect and improve the natural environment and active transportation network, and support Indigenous placemaking and interpretation.

(right) Hassett Park, an urban stream daylights and treats stormwater, creating an educative overlay that reconnects people to natural systems in the city, Canberra, Australia



CONCEPTUAL RENDERING



Enhance Shaw Street's 'Green Street' identity with absorptive paving, bio-retention planting beds and tree planting technology; showing the Shaw Street Greenway between Queen Street and Dundas Street, Proposed Concept

Prioritize opportunities to enhance park edges and surrounding streetscapes to extend the Garrison Creek Parks System experience deeper into the surrounding neighbourhoods. Explore opportunities for Green Street design with a focus on Shaw Street. Enhancements

should focus on tree planting infrastructure and bio-retention planting beds with an enhanced maintenance program, as well as wide pedestrian clearways and cycling facilities to realize a cohesive, connected active transportation corridor.

TRANSFORMATIVE IDEA 1. THE CORE CIRCLE



West Core Circle: The Garrison Parks System, Proposed Concept Plan

(right) The Park of the Docks welcomes the public into a landscape of meadows, ponds and sunken surfaces that collect and treat stormwater while providing park facilities such as playgrounds, allotment gardens and a skate park, Saint Ouen, France



Goals

- Enhance the natural environment as a counterpoint to urban living.
- Establish partnerships with Indigenous communities to advance initiatives that celebrate the landscape and Indigenous cultures and histories.
- Improve and promote access into the Core Circle through parks, streets and open spaces.
- Connect the Core Circle with the broader citywide parks and public realm system.
- Use parks as portals to improve the visual and physical access of the Core Circle.
- Imagine portal parks as offering opportunities to unearth lost layers of natural, Indigenous, cultural and industrial heritage.
- Create local access and 'short trips' that promote walking and cycling and provide access to programs and experiences within the Core Circle.
- Connect the Core Circle with a continuous pedestrian and cycling route.
- Re-imagine or retrofit infrastructure corridors and remnant sites to complete cycling and pedestrian networks, while enhancing nature and respecting industrial heritage.
- Foster the legibility and navigability of the Core Circle.
- Engage communities in the design and creation of the Core Circle.
- Prioritize universal accessibility to and within the Core Circle.

Actions

- Undertake a Lower Garrison Parks and Public Realm Precinct Plan.
- Improve interpretation of Garrison Creek within the series of parks, streets, open spaces and school yards along the creek.
- Implement park design and infrastructure that responds to water fluctuation, such as absorptive and marsh landscapes.
- Study opportunities to apply 'Green Street' design principles, with a focus on Shaw Street.