



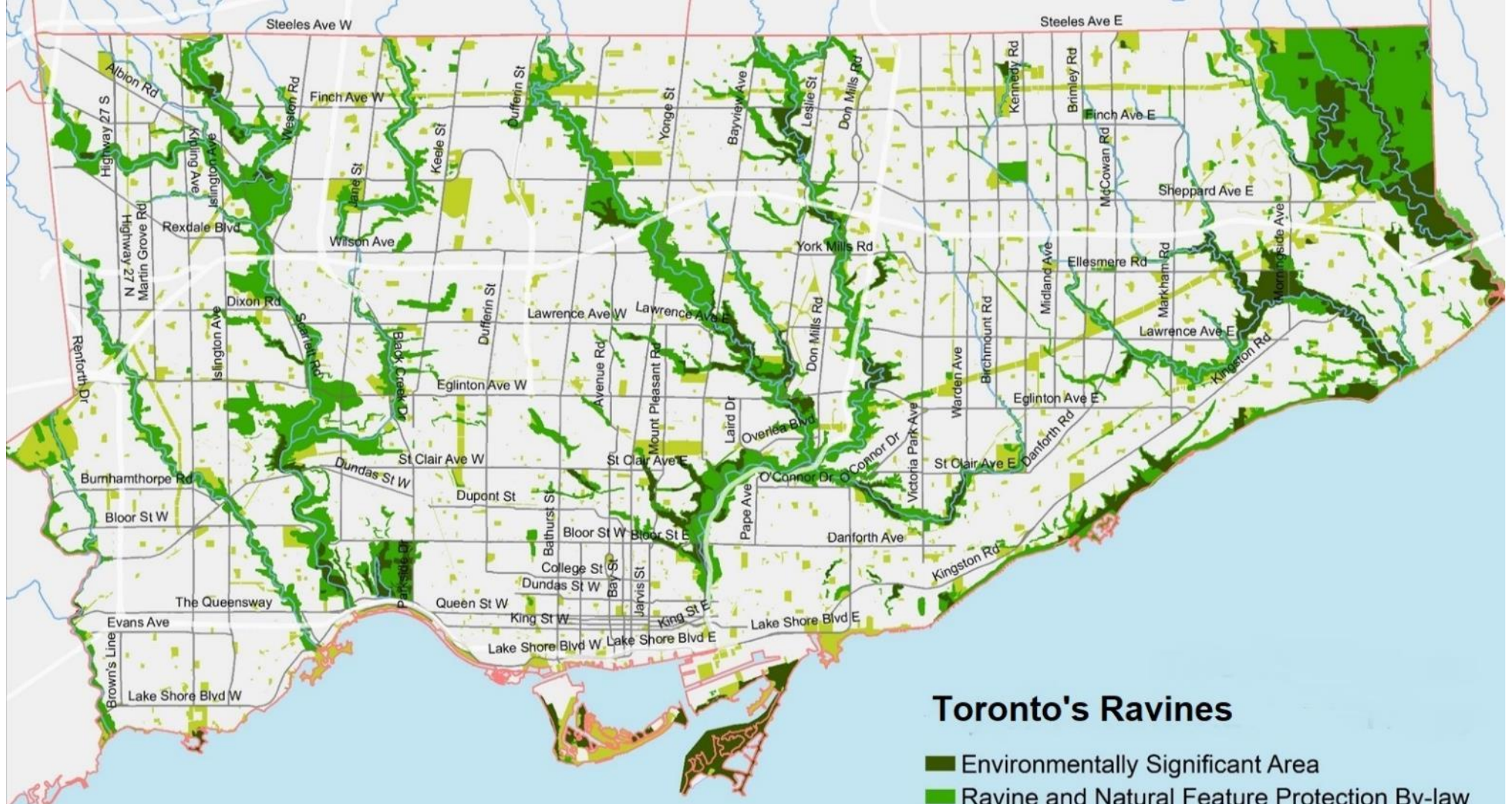
Toronto Ravine Strategy Update & Developing economic opportunities for Indigenous businesses

A black bird with a red patch on its head is captured in flight, moving from right to left across the frame. The background is a lush, green field of tall grasses and purple flowers, with a soft, out-of-focus effect. The lighting is bright and natural, suggesting a sunny day.

Before European settlers, Indigenous peoples walked these lands and created multiple trails and water routes through the ravine system we cherish today.

Role of ravines, parks, place-making

- Indigenous placemaking and placekeeping, including the Indigenous component of the Ravine Strategy, are important steps towards Indigenous self-determination, improved health connections, access to ceremonial space and connection to economic opportunities.
- Indigenous place-making means different things to different people. Here are some thoughts on what IPM is about:
 - Improving the visibility of Indigenous people, history and current vibrant culture in Toronto
 - Decolonizing and Indigenizing public spaces, including parks and ravines
 - Exploring ways to better share space and better tell the truth of the land and water and the Indigenous peoples here now
 - Putting reconciliation into action begins by providing access to space, land and water which are essential to the well-being of Indigenous people.
 - The ravine system provides significant place-making opportunities to reflect the integral connection that continues today between the Indigenous communities that were the original inhabitants of the area and Toronto's natural spaces and waterways.



Lake Ontario (lac Ontario)

Toronto's Ravines

- Environmentally Significant Area
- Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-law
- Parklands
- Municipal Boundary
- Highways
- Watercourse
- Major Roads



Ravine Strategy, 2017

- **VISION:** A ravine system that is a natural, connected sanctuary essential for the health and well-being of the city, where use and enjoyment support protection, education and stewardship.
- 20 actions based on 5 guiding principles:



Protect



Invest



Connect

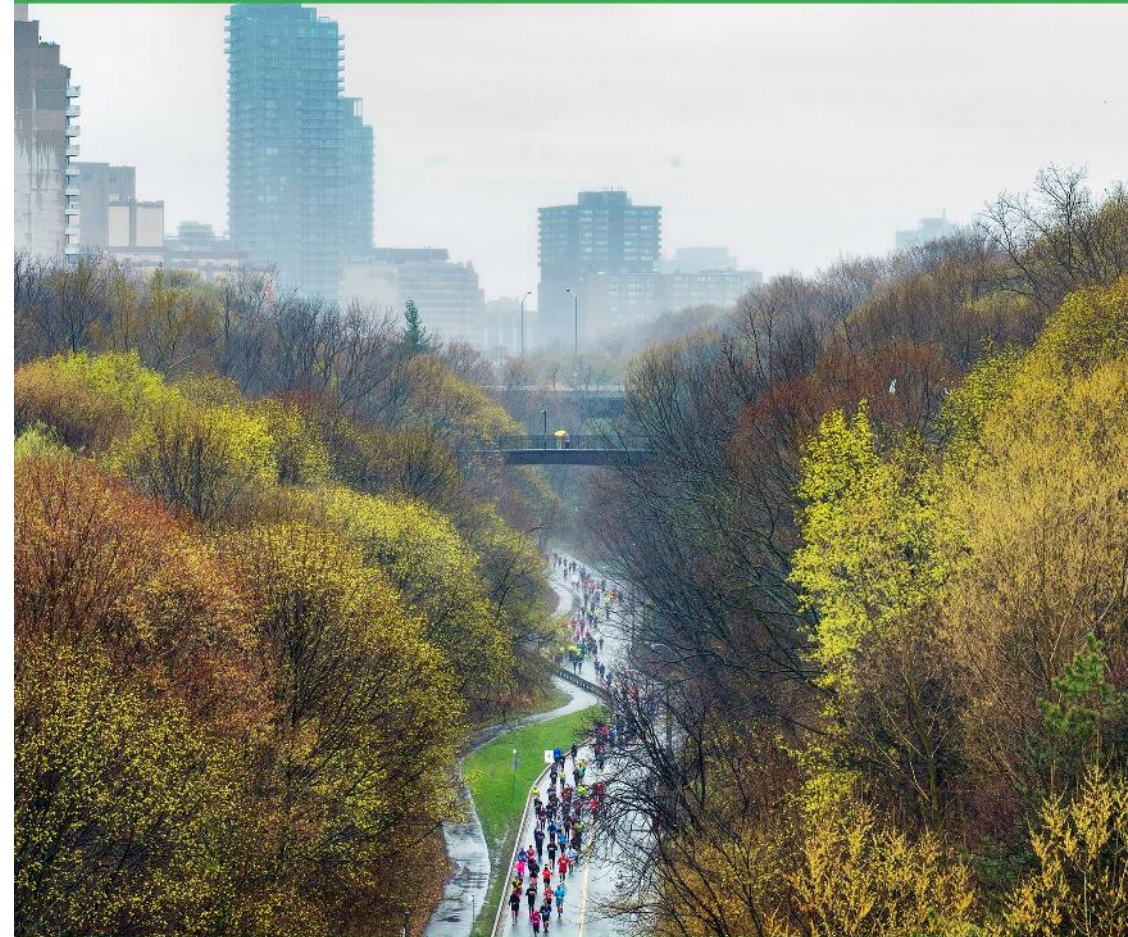


Partner



Celebrate

T O R O N T O
RAVINE
S T R A T E G Y



Ravine Strategy Implementation

- A multi-faceted **Ravine Campaign** and **Ravine Campaign Leadership Table** to rally community support and generate additional funds.
- **InTO the Ravines: Nature at your doorstep** program in partnership with Park People to mobilize and reach new communities to build a sense of connection to Toronto's ravines.
- **Student internship programs** to engage youth and provide professional development and pathways to employment:
 - **Ravine Youth Team** in partnership with Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
 - **Young Urban Forest Leaders** program in partnership with LEAF



Feasibility of developing economic opportunities for Indigenous businesses

We are looking for your ideas, thoughts and feedback on:

City Council direct the Indigenous Affairs Office and Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in collaboration with Economic Development and Culture and various Indigenous organizations and communities, **to explore the feasibility of developing economic opportunities for Indigenous businesses** that contribute to the goals of Toronto's Ravine Strategy and Indigenous place-making in Toronto's parklands.

Some initial ideas on opportunities:

- Consultants for professional services such as park master planning and landscape design
- Resource production, such as plant nursery stock
- Engagement and teaching opportunities
- Grant funding for ravine art projects
- Support for internship programs associated with specific professions (e.g. arborists) targeting Indigenous students

Questions for consideration:

1. Who should we speak with to explore economic opportunities in ravines? What groups and organizations should we engage?
2. Are you aware of existing initiatives or opportunities that might support the Indigenous component of the ravine strategy?

