

Tommy Thompson Park Update

Infrastructure and Environment Committee

2021-05-25





1967



1975



1982



City of Toronto Archives, Series 1465, File 148, Item 2



2005

“The Spit was quarried from the landfill of the city, cradled and cared for by local activists and then captured by the regenerative forces of nature.”

– David Crombie, *Accidental Wilderness*

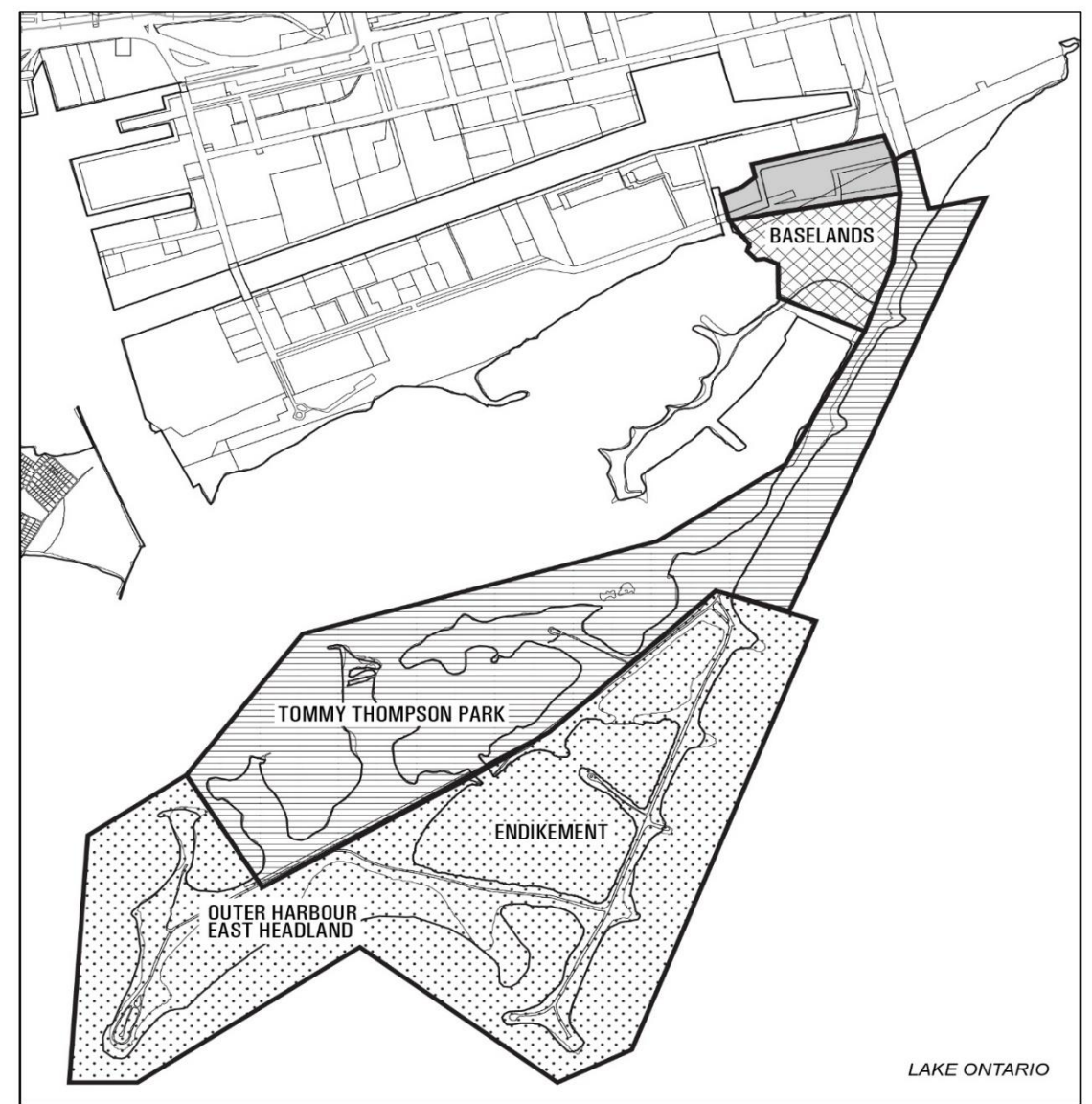


Leslie Street Spit Ownership

Land Component	Size (hectares)	Ownership	Management
Tommy Thompson Park	247	TRCA	TRCA / PFR
Outer Harbour East Headland and Endikement	216	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	PortsToronto
Baselands	37	CreateTO / City	CreateTO / City



TRCA



LAKE ONTARIO



Leslie Street Spit Land Ownership

1 Leslie Street

- CreateTO
- TRCA
- City of Toronto
- MNRF leased to PortsToronto



Not to Scale
05/06/2021

Ecological Significance

- Globally significant *Important Bird Area*
- Biodiversity hotspot for flora & fauna



Recreation & Education

- Popular for nature-based recreation
- Provides school-based & community learning educational opportunities



Park Enhancements



DTAH



Scott Norsworthy



Tommy Thompson Park Entrance Pavilion

Completed in Spring 2021

Formalizes entrance to Park and provides amenities and a gathering place



TTP Trails Master Plan

Multi-Use

- Asphalt surface with speed bumps
- Designed for multiple uses
- Fully accessible
- 7.4 km

Primary Pedestrian Level 1

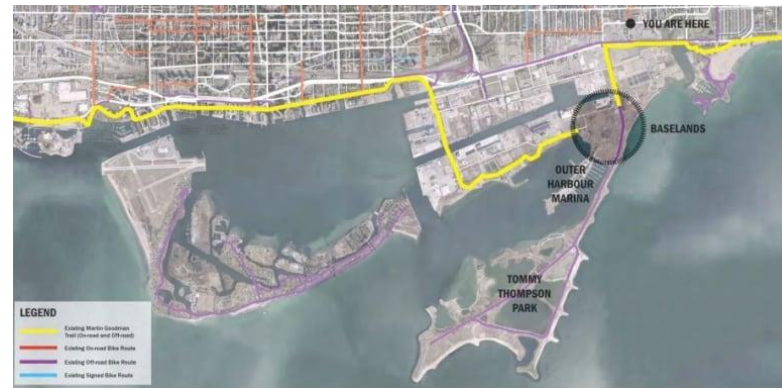
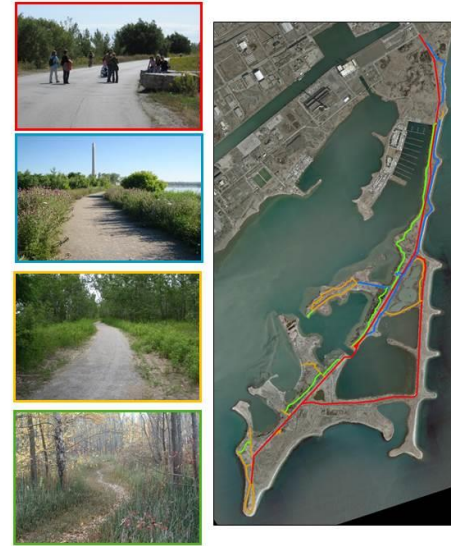
- Granular surface
- Pedestrian use only
- Accessible for lower mobility users
- 3.4 km

Primary Pedestrian Level 2

- Granular surface
- Pedestrian use only
- 3.9 km

Nature Viewing

- Natural surface
- Pedestrian use only
- 3.3 km



Trail Improvements

16-km TTP Trails Master Plan implemented in 2007

Link Trail completed in 2016-2017

Martin Goodman Trail connection completed in 2018- 2019



A-Frame / Ben Rahn



Other Improvements

Environmental Shelter (above) completed in 2012

Ongoing natural area restoration and habitat creation

Current Governance Approach

Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan

Four main objectives:

- Preserve significant species;
- Protect environmentally significant areas;
- Enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitat; and
- Enhance public recreational opportunities.

Will come into full force following transfer of Outer Harbour East Headland and Endikement to TRCA
Approved in 1995, Master Plan did not address in detail ongoing and long-term interim management

Interim and Joint Management Plans

TRCA has undertaken interim management with City financial support since 1977

PFR and TRCA initiated Joint Management Plan in 2012 which requires formalization

Current Park Issues

- Increased use and awareness of TTP – 286,500 visitors between February 2020 and February 2021
- Incoming growth and development in the Port Lands – more visitors and less “isolated” from the city
- Capital and operating budget impacts
 - Increased use
 - Implementation of Trail Master Plans
 - Resolution of shoreline stabilization process
- Addressing user experience concerns
 - Public safety (trail maintenance, bylaw enforcement, shoreline stability)
 - Conflicts between recreational users (pedestrians, cyclists, pet-owners, etc.)
 - Ecological impacts (film shoots, off-trail access, etc.)
- Property ownership consolidation and formalization of park components
- Long-term governance and management

Summary of Recommendations:

The Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, and the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, recommend that:

- 1. PF&R and TRCA establish a Tommy Thompson Park Joint Management Committee**
 - Integrated management of the TRCA, CreateTO, PortsToronto, and MNRF property components
- 2. Prepare a three-year work program to address:**
 - Operations and maintenance
 - Visitor experience balancing public access and ecological integrity
 - Community and stakeholder engagement process
- 3. Report Back to I&E prior to the incorporation of MNRF lands, Baselands and Ashbridges Bay Landform into Tommy Thompson Park:**
 - Make recommendations related to long-term governance and management.
- 4. PF&R and TRCA implement the recommendations through the 2022-2031 Capital and Operating Budget process.**