



**RE:**

Support for IE24.7 -  
TOcore Implementation  
Strategy - Downtown  
Parks and Public Realm  
Plan.

**TO:**

Infrastructure and  
Environment Committee

**DATE:**

14, September, 2021

**Dear Councillor McKelvie and Members of the  
Infrastructure and Environment Committee,**

The Waterfront Business Improvement Area (BIA) is writing in support of IE24.7 - TOcore Implementation Strategy - Downtown Parks and Public Realm Plan, and to encourage the continued and expedited planning and development of parks and public spaces located along and adjacent to Toronto's waterfront identified in the plan. These parks and public spaces are of specific importance to accommodate the rapid growth of Toronto's Waterfront and help facilitate the City's recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 as outlined by the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild (TORR).

The Waterfront Business Improvement Area (BIA) is a strong advocate for parks and public spaces across the waterfront and is working closely with Parks Forestry and Recreation through the recently formed *Waterfront Parks Leadership Table* to develop partnerships to enhance spaces across the waterfront. Recent and upcoming initiatives include contributions to the implementation of SeaBins to capture trash floating in our lake, supporting additional park enhancements such as moveable furniture and brass sculptures in Love Park at York and Queens Quay, or contributing towards the capital budget for the Legacy Art Project Toronto - Inspired by Terry Fox, adjacent to the Toronto Music Garden.

The Waterfront BIA is also a significant supporter of the "shoreline stitch" and is working closely with the Bentway Conservancy on their Under Gardiner Corridor Plan, supporting underpass improvements pilots called Waterfront ReConnect at the Rees Street Underpass (2019), with forthcoming pilots at the York and Lower Simcoe Underpasses in partnership with the Toronto Downtown West BIA and City of Toronto BIA Office.

We look forward to continuing to support and help program these wonderful parks and public space assets across the Waterfront.



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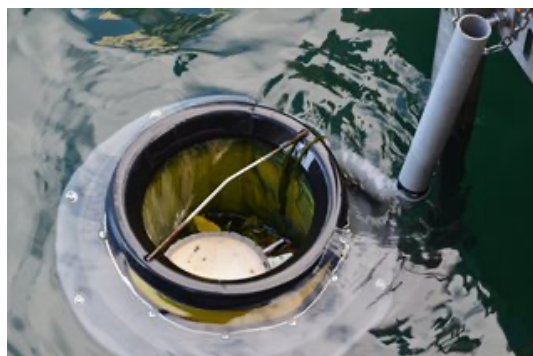
Cc: Mayor John Tory  
Councillor Joe Cressy  
Janie Romoff, General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation  
Cheryl Blackman, General Manager (Acting), Economic Development and Culture  
Barbara Grey, General Manager, Transportation Services  
Gregg Lintern, Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning



Since 2000, Toronto's Waterfront has seen drastic growth through new developments - especially in the central and eastern areas - and is expected to continue to grow, as illustrated in green above. Parks, Public Spaces, and opportunities for mobility, such as the projects outlined in TOcore's Mobility Strategy, such as the Shoreline Stitch, The Waterfront East LRT, the Martin Goodman Trail and the Waterfront Walk.



The **Waterfront ReConnect pilot** at Rees and Lake Shore is the first pilot by the Waterfront BIA to illustrate how the pedestrian space under the Gardiner Expressway Underpasses can be enhanced. Two further pilots at York and Simcoe are planned for 2022 to inform the Bentway's Under Gardiner Corridor Framework Plan.



The Waterfront BIA is funding the installation of six trash-capture devices called **Seabins** in parks and public spaces across the inner harbour - with support from the City of Toronto BIA Office innovation grant and in partnership with Ports Toronto, Parks Forestry and Recreation, Harbourfront Center, and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority.



**Love Park**, currently under construction at York Street Queens Quay by Waterfront Toronto as part of the TOcore Downtown Parks and Public Realm Plan will serve as a wonderful landmark park for the area. The Waterfront BIA, in partnership with the City BIA Office will be sponsoring moveable park furniture and decorative animal sculptures.



**The Legacy Art Project, Inspired by Terry Fox**, is a commemorative park-space planned to be implemented in 2022 beside the Toronto Music Garden. With capital contributions from the Waterfront BIA and City BIA Office, this public space will be a sombre and hopeful destination on Toronto's waterfront.