

## **Western Beaches Public Realm Plan**

**Date:** May 27, 2026

**To:** Infrastructure and Environment Committee

**From:** Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning; General Manager, Parks & Recreation; General Manager, Transportation Services

**Wards:** Ward 4 Parkdale-High Park

### **SUMMARY**

---

The Western Waterfront Master Plan was approved by City Council in 2009 and was developed to provide a vision for Toronto's Western Beaches between the Humber River and Ontario Place, and to guide future decisions. In 2022, a report to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee identified additional issues and priorities that emerged and recommended updating the Western Waterfront Master Plan. Since that time, City staff have been working towards providing a Western Beaches Public Realm Plan (the Plan) that updates the 2009 Western Waterfront Master Plan and continues to advance improvements related to breakwaters, shoreline erosion, water quality and visitor experience.

The Plan and its constituent recommendations are the result of both broad and deep community and Indigenous engagement as well as technical expertise and input from an interdivisional Technical Advisory Committee. City staff gathered feedback via a Public Life Study, multiple on-site pop-ups, focused stakeholder interviews, workshops with an assembled Community Advisory Committee, multiple digital surveys, a virtual public meeting, and several Indigenous talking circles. The result is a guide for investment in the Western Beaches identifying near-term priorities, medium-term opportunities, and long-term ideas to address a range of challenges, mitigate risks, and advance strategic objectives. Implementation of the Plan is anticipated to proceed incrementally as funding is identified, technical and detailed design processes are undertaken, and conversations with the public, stakeholders, urban Indigenous communities, and Treaty partners are advanced. The actions identified by the Plan are intended to mitigate the impacts of climate change on the shoreline, enhance the Western Beaches' visitor experience, better leverage the study area's natural and cultural heritage assets, and mitigate chronic challenges including trail conflicts, accessibility, and visitor comfort all while conserving and protecting this beloved waterfront park network so that it can be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike for generations to come.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

---

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

1. City Council adopt the Western Beaches Public Realm Plan (Attachment 1) to the report (May 27, 2026) from the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, and the General Manager, Transportation Services to inform future improvements to the study area over the next 20 years.
2. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, and the General Manager, Transportation Services in consultation with Toronto Water, other City Divisions, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and intergovernmental partners as required, to advance the implementation of priorities identified in Attachment 2 [Near-Term Priorities] to the report (May 27, 2026) from the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, and the General Manager, Transportation Services as part of future Capital and Operating budget processes through studies, cost estimates, and detailed design as needed, considering the capital planning and prioritization process for future infrastructure planning and investment.
3. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, the Director, Indigenous Affairs Office, the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, and the General Manager, Transportation Services, working in partnership with Treaty partners and Indigenous communities, and in alignment with the Reconciliation Action Plan, to build on existing programs and trails to explore additional opportunities to celebrate Indigenous culture through Indigenous place-keeping and placemaking as part of plan implementation outlined in Attachment 1.
4. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks and Recreation to continue to seek funding from other orders of government to advance the implementation of the improvements outlined in the Western Beaches Public Realm Plan, as described in Attachments 1 and 2 (the Plan and the Near-Term Priorities] to the report (May 27, 2026) from the General Manager, Parks and Recreation.
5. City Council request Toronto Parking Authority in collaboration with the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, to complete a surface parking optimization study, assessing options for reconfiguring and greening parking lots to unlock greater park potential while meeting public needs for park access and parking through all seasons.
6. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, and the General Manager, Transportation Services to report back to City Council by Q3 2032 with a progress report on the implementation of the Western Beaches Public Realm Plan and recommendations 1-5 above.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

---

There are no immediate financial impacts resulting from adoption of the Western Beaches Public Realm Plan beyond resources already included in approved capital plans. Future funding requests to advance recommendations that require additional study, design, capital investment, or operating support will be brought forward through future budget processes for Council consideration, subject to feasibility and affordability.

The 2026-2035 Capital Budget and Plan for Parks and Recreation includes approximately \$2.746 million in planned investment for initiatives within the Western Beaches Public Realm Plan study area.

Of the \$2.746 million identified in the ten-year capital plan, approximately \$1.193 million is allocated to state of good repair work for parking lots, trails and pathways, \$1.188 million is allocated to rehabilitation of recreational assets, and \$0.365 million is allocated to the washroom enhancement program. These projects are primarily debt-funded. An additional \$100,000 is the Parks and Recreation contribution to a shoreline study being completed by TRCA. Currently, completion of the identified state of good repair projects is not expected to result in material incremental operating impacts. Should future operating impacts be identified, they will be included in Parks and Recreation's future budget submissions for consideration.

The current prioritization identifies projects to be initiated within the first five years and is informed in part by the existing ten-year Capital Budget and Plan, as well as related City objectives and initiatives, including the Facilities Plan, Reconciliation Action Plan, Resilience Strategy, and Wet Weather Flow Master Plan.

Some near-term priorities may be advanced through coordination, operational changes, or refinement of already planned work. Other priorities will require additional scope definition, technical study, and funding to inform subsequent phases. Overall, the Plan is intended to support a coordinated interdivisional approach to future park and shoreline improvements, align planned investments where possible, and identify opportunities for cost sharing and external funding.

Transportation Services also has planned investments over the 2025-2035 period that may support access and connectivity improvements related to the Western Beaches, including bridge replacement and road safety redesign initiatives. These include the bridge replacements at Parkdale, Dunn, Dowling and Dufferin along with active transportation and public realm improvements to complement the work. The City Council-endorsed Parkside Drive Study includes an on-street bi-directional cycle track, designated turning lanes at intersections, new bus stops and intersection safety improvements at Bloor Street West and Lake Shore Boulevard West. The City will continue to assess the implications of recent provincial legislation passed in 2024 and 2025 (Bill 212 and Bill 60) for implementation of transportation-related recommendations in the Plan.

Full implementation of the Plan will require long-term planning over the next 20 years, including strategic interdivisional capital planning and continued exploration of intergovernmental funding opportunities, where applicable. Where future projects align with divisional priorities, the relevant City divisions will identify any capital and operating impacts through future budget processes for Council consideration, subject to feasibility and affordability.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has been advised of the financial impacts associated with the Plan to be considered along with other priorities in future budget processes.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

---

On May 25, 2022 staff reported to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee of Toronto City Council that staff intend to update the Western Waterfront Master Plan (2009) in response to changing realities and new priorities that have emerged in the last 15 years. [Agenda Item History - 2022.IE30.15](#)

On December 2, 2021, the Infrastructure and Environment Committee requested that City staff prepare a status update report on progress of the Western Waterfront Master Plan (2009) and an indication of when and how the Plan will next be updated. [Agenda Item History - 2021.IE26.20](#)

On December 16, 17, and 18, 2013, Council authorized staff to enter into a license extension and amending agreements between the City of Toronto and the Grenadier Group for High Park and the Western Beaches for food services and the redevelopment of the Joy Oil Station and its surrounding lands. [Agenda Item 2013.GM26.18](#)

On August 5, 2009, City Council adopted the Western Waterfront Master Plan. [Agenda Item History - 2009.EX33.20](#)

On February 23, 24 and 25, 2009, Council approved the action plan for the Toronto Beaches Plan and a three-year pilot project at Sunnyside Beach to enclose an in-lake swimming area starting in the 2009 swimming season. <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-18572.pdf>

On September 10, 2008, the Planning and Growth Management Committee requested that the staff report on the Western Waterfront Master Plan address the feasibility of “decking/bridging” the Gardiner Expressway west of Exhibition Place (and explore the possibility of creating development opportunities on these deck/bridges for financing the project), merging and/or downsizing the east and westbound lanes of Lake Shore Boulevard west of Jameson to expand the open space along the Western Waterfront, and increase permanent pedestrian access between neighbourhoods and the waterfront. <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pg/decisions/2008-09-10-pg18-dd.pdf>

On September 25, 26 and 27, 2006, Council adopted a framework for developing the Western Waterfront Master Plan and Toronto Beaches Plan. Council requested that the

Master Plan be available prior to further permanent investments being made in the area, and that it include analysis of realigning Lake Shore Boulevard to create more green spaces and options for pedestrian, cycling and parking access in the Western Waterfront.

[www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/council/cc060925/cofa.pdf](http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/council/cc060925/cofa.pdf)

## Related Reports

On May 20-22, 2026, Council adopted [with amendments] the Waterfront Dockwalls and Western Beaches Breakwater Action Plan Update, approving funding and an associated work program to accelerate the Dockwall Resilience Program. [Agenda Item History - 2026.EX31.4](#)

On April 22 and 23, 2026, Council adopted the Towards a Beautiful City priority item update report, building upon the April 2025 report titled 'Towards a Beautiful City - A Path Forward' (2025.EX22.3) which requested staff to report back with an update on priority actions including opportunities to install alternative waste receptacles in green spaces across the city. [Agenda Item History - 2026.EX30.3](#)

On April 22 and 23, 2026, Council adopted with amendments the refreshing food and beverage offerings in Park and Recreation Spaces report. [Agenda Item History - 2026.EC27.1](#)

On March 25 and 26, 2026, Council authorized staff to enter into a lease or sublease extension and amending agreements between the City of Toronto and various boat club leases. [Agenda Item History - 2026.GG27.14](#)

On October 8 and 9, 2025, Council directed staff to work with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority to develop recommendations related to a repair/rehabilitation program for the high-risk Western Beaches breakwater locations, including funding requirements; and a state of good repair management program for the Western Beaches breakwaters. [Agenda Item History - 2025.EX26.8](#)

## COMMENTS

---

### Background

The Western Beaches comprise a four-kilometre stretch of waterfront, parks and trails along the shoreline of Lake Ontario between the Humber River and Ontario Place. These public spaces are separated from the neighbourhoods to the north by a major transportation corridor comprised of The Queensway, the Canadian National Railway Corridor, the Gardiner Expressway, and Lake Shore Boulevard West. The Western Beaches are a significant public asset that offers direct access to Lake Ontario, one of the city's longest unobstructed views of the lake and city, over 40 hectares of parkland that include Palais Royale, Sunnyside Pavilion, Guy Ryder Pool, two trails (Martin Goodman and Humber River) and three beaches (Sunnyside, Budapest and Sir Casimir

Gzowski) and is home to a number of recreational boating clubs, including the Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club, the Argonaut Rowing Club and the Boulevard Club. A breakwater in Lake Ontario extends across the area and includes a 600-metre multi-sport watercourse adjacent to Marilyn Bell Park.

Historically, the Western Beaches formed part of an important meeting place and travel route for Indigenous communities, offering resources for sustenance and trade. The shoreline's proximity to the Humber River, considered a Toronto Carrying Place route, created a critical link for many Nations and continues to hold cultural significance. The mouth of the Humber River and the adjacent shoreline, where the Western Beaches are now, served as a starting point for the Toronto Carrying Place Trail, offering diverse First Nations communities, like the Wendat, Haudenosaunee (Iroquois), and Mississaugas a critical overland route for portaging canoes and goods between Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe.

The Western Beaches' lands, waters, and shoreline have also played an important role in the settler cultural history, providing important opportunities for waterfront recreation over many generations including public bathing, beach activities, trails, playgrounds and picnic areas, adult fitness, disc golf and beach volleyball, informal recreation and passive activities with sweeping views of the lake. The Western Beaches public realm continues to act as an important anchor to the west-end of the city; it serves as a critical transportation corridor and thrives as a space for waterfront recreation including boat and sailing clubs and recreational paddlers and its breakwaters protect the extensive shoreline.

The Western Waterfront Master Plan (WWMP) was approved by Council on August 5, 2009. Although the WWMP has guided initiatives in the Western Beaches since its adoption, there have been several significant shifts in policy, surrounding geographical context, and implementation considerations that necessitated a re-evaluation of its recommendations. These shifts include a greater awareness of, and priority on addressing, the impact of climate change which results in rising lake levels, greater shoreline erosion, and damage to aging breakwaters, residential growth in the area leading to higher pressure on the Western Beaches parkland system, and an increasing priority on investing in high-quality parks and public spaces following the COVID-19 pandemic and the public's reliance on access to shared open spaces. Furthermore, the adoption of the Reconciliation Action Plan by City Council in 2022 highlighted the need to consider and include Indigenous culture and worldviews as part of public space planning and design. Finally, large-scale changes envisioned in the 2009 WWMP, such as the proposed shift of Lake Shore Boulevard West northward coordinated with development of a Waterfront West Light Rail Transit line, remain unfunded concepts, due to changing regional priorities for higher order transit investment. Following direction from Council, staff have re-examined what changes and improvements can be made to the Western Beaches to address the pressures faced by this significant parks and public realm system.

## **The Western Beaches Public Realm Plan (2026)**

### *Engagement*

Given the extent of change in the study area since 2009, and to better understand how the extensive waterfront park spaces are currently used, staff initiated a Public Life Study (PLS) over the summer and fall of 2023. The PLS documented perceived user demographics, activities, and movement patterns, and identified areas of conflict between pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles. The PLS also integrated an intercept survey of a random sample of park users. The findings of the study highlighted the enduring popularity of the waterfront and opportunities to enhance safety, improve maintenance and amenities, and encourage year-round engagement.

In parallel with the PLS, between October 12 and December 13, 2023, staff also initiated an interactive digital mapping exercise. Approximately 1,500 participants contributed insights and comments about how they travel through and use the Western Beaches, identifying various areas of concern and improvement and highlighting priorities for further exploration and discussion. There was a strong consensus on enhancing user safety and comfort along the Martin Goodman Trail and emphasizing the importance and diversity of community uses along the western waterfront.

Extensive community engagement was conducted through a collaborative and iterative process as a central component of the Plan with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) and Indigenous talking circles, Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings, and public meetings, in addition to an internal Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The community engagement reached over 4,000 individuals representing a diversity of viewpoints and interests.

The community engagement program is summarized in Attachment 1. It included broad public engagement via two online surveys, pop-up events at multiple locations across the study area, a virtual town hall, and an in-person open house, as well as targeted engagement via the formation of, and subsequent collaboration on three occasions with the TAC and the CAC. Membership of the CAC was determined by a combination of civic lottery whereby a demographically representative group of local community members were invited to participate, and targeted invitations to representatives of lease and license holders within the study area and surrounding community organizations. Membership of the TAC consisted of staff from internal City divisions with jurisdiction and interests in the Western Beaches. Engagement with the TAC was included to promote a coordinated approach and to confirm alignment with recommendations of the plan. Membership of the TAC consisted of staff from internal City divisions with jurisdiction and interests in the Western Beaches. Engagement with the TAC was included to promote a coordinated approach and to confirm alignment with recommendations of the plan.

### *Indigenous Framework*

Central to the formation of the Plan was the understanding of the need to provide a safe, inclusive and representative public space for future generations. As noted,

Indigenous engagement was undertaken through talking circles with the MCFN and Indigenous communities to support dialogue on Indigenous placekeeping and the cultural significance of the Western Beaches, and to integrate Indigenous teachings and values into the Plan, particularly at the mouth of the Humber River, on the shoreline of Lake Ontario and connections with High Park.

Although many of these ideas are intended to be integrated into the design for future improvements across the study area, the demonstration plan (Attachment 1) suggests an Indigenous narrative trail and Indigenous-designed pavilion be considered at the mouth of the Humber River to provide a place for celebrating Indigenous culture and ceremony on the shoreline of Lake Ontario. The implementation of any Indigenous placekeeping recommendations will take time and require further engagement with First Nations and Indigenous communities, to confirm priorities and support for next steps, identify areas for additional research, secure funding and complete detailed design.

### *Vision, Guiding Principles, and Themes*

The Plan establishes a vision for the Western Beaches that supports its popularity as a destination, the constant pressures of its dynamic and changing environment, shifting priorities, and current public aspirations for the area today. The vision was iteratively developed through pre-engagement activities, the CAC, pop-up engagements, survey, and Indigenous engagement.

The vision is intentionally aspirational, setting a common direction that will inform more detailed planning, design, and decision-making for the study area. The vision aspires to create a vibrant, inclusive and year-round waterfront destination offering diverse land and water experiences with parks, paths, beaches, and waterways that support easy movement, active recreation, gathering and quiet reflection. More than a scenic shoreline, the Western Beaches will provide a meaningful connection to the water through clean, swimmable shores and inclusive water-based activities, grounded in a strong sense of place. Rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing, the Western Beaches will honour deep relationship with land and water while fostering a resilient, sustainable landscape where people, nature and future generations can thrive.

The vision is supported by guiding principles that set metrics to reflect the most important values for how the Western Beaches should function, feel and evolve over time. From that, recommendations were organized under five themes and fourteen "big moves", representing a wide range of actionable opportunities for improving the study area.

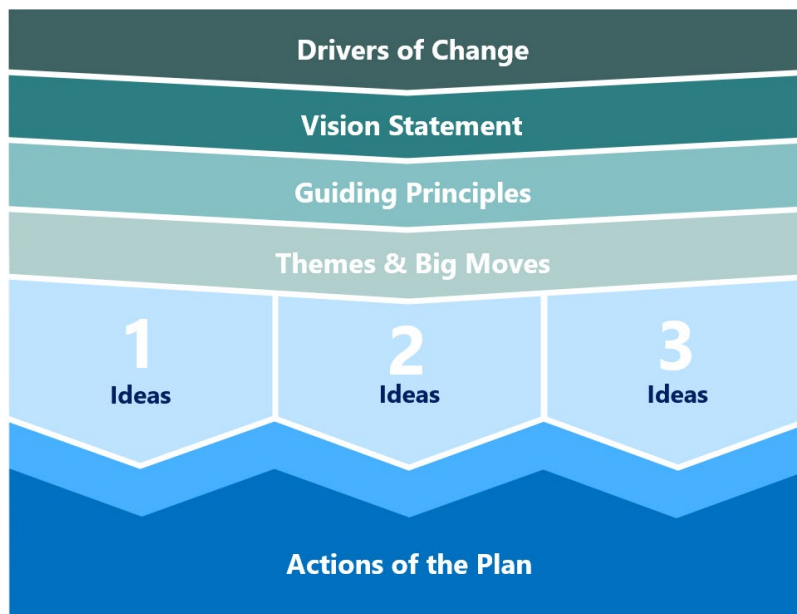


Figure 1: Western Beaches Public Realm Plan Framework

The four themes are "Water Quality and Access", "Mobility, Access and Connectivity", "Visitor Experience and Park Amenity", and "Climate Resilience and Natural Environment". A fifth theme, "Indigenous Placeknowing", is positioned as an overarching theme that informs and provides guidance to each of the other four themes. This is because Indigenous placeknowing touches on all aspects of the interplay between water, land, ecology, storytelling, culture, experience, movement, and gathering which are otherwise discretely categorized. Each of these themes, and their corresponding "big moves", are summarized below.

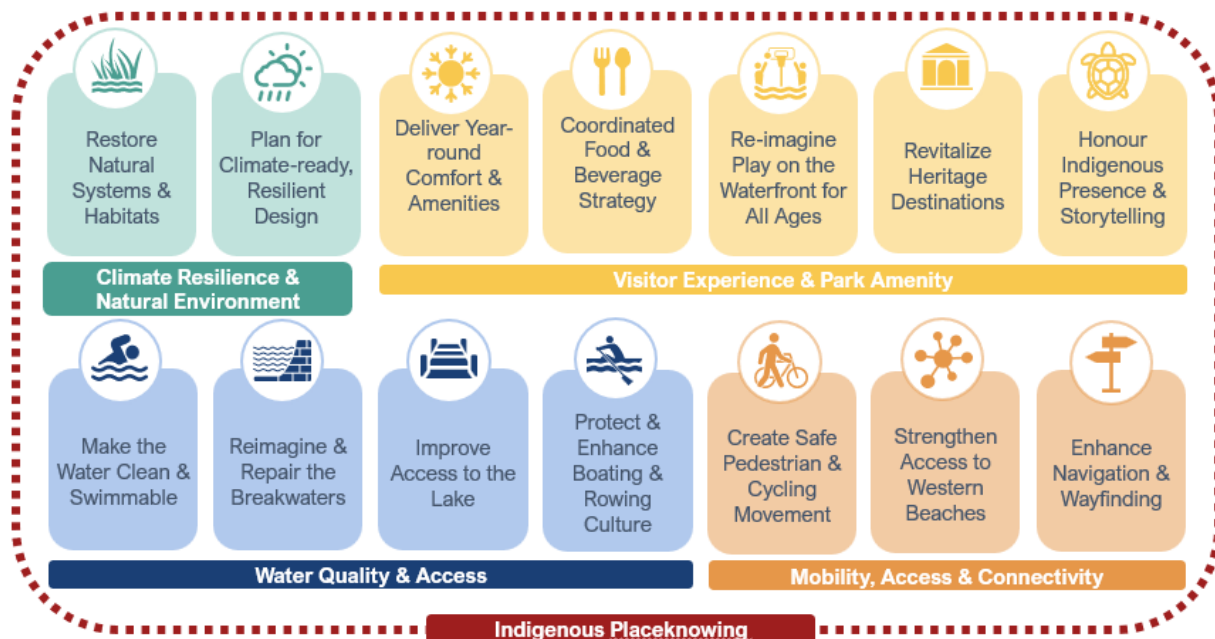


Figure 2: Western Beaches Public Realm Plan - "Big Moves" and Themes

The section below provides a high-level overview of the themes, big moves and the many different ideas and supporting actions of the Plan. The big moves have been

organized by theme. Each big move is supported by related ideas and actions that are required as critical steps towards implementation of the plan.

### *Climate Resilience & Natural Environment*

The Western Beaches includes a mix of managed parkland, fragmented habitat areas, and a generally engineered, rather than natural, shoreline condition, with the mouth of the Humber River having greater ecological value and restoration potential. This theme explores opportunities to restore habitats, strengthen natural systems, and improve climate resilience through landscape-led strategies that work with water, shoreline processes, seasonal change, and long-term ecological health.

Existing habitats through the Western Beaches are limited; natural areas are fragmented by managed landscapes and several areas of the shoreline are hard engineered conditions. The ideas in the Plan address this by focus on exploring opportunities to restore ecological systems and habitat networks through wetland and riparian restoration, shoreline naturalization, meadow "no mow" areas. It includes ideas for native and medicinal planting, and sensory and educational landscape experiences. To address the changing environmental conditions, including fluctuating lake levels, shoreline erosion, runoff and aging shoreline infrastructure, recommendations of the Plan seek to explore opportunities to improve long-term resilience by developing strategies for water filtration and retention, four-season maintenance and management (i.e. snowmelt) and approaching shoreline protection that respond to climate change that can better integrate with the parkland natural systems.

### *Water Quality and Access*

This theme focuses on improving water quality, strengthening physical and visual access to Lake Ontario, and supporting a range of water-based and water-related experiences along the Western Beaches. Big moves under this theme address improving shoreline conditions, advancing work on in-water infrastructure like breakwaters, enhancing beach quality and amenities, and finding more diverse opportunities for people to safely interact with the water while supporting the ecological health of the broader Lake Ontario, Humber River Watershed, and parkland ecosystem.

Site and area specific ideas and actions reinforce the need for continued infrastructure investment, improving water quality, improving public communication about safe swimming conditions, monitoring and coordination with ongoing City and watershed initiatives, repair and reimagination of the breakwaters to improve shoreline protection, ecological function and the experience of the water's edge. Supporting existing rowing and paddling activities while improving safety, access and shared use of the water, assessing program offerings through all seasons and investigating options for new public docks that increase recreational opportunities without compromising existing boat club operations and programming are proposed ideas of the Plan.

Parallel initiatives related to this theme include 1) The Western Beaches Breakwater Action Plan which is currently underway and 2) Toronto Water's ongoing stormwater management improvements such as the construction of the Inner Harbour West Tunnel and regular maintenance of High Park stormwater infrastructure. The Inner Harbour

West Tunnel will enable stormwater to flow to the Ashbridge's Bay Treatment Plant instead of potentially overflowing directly into Lake Ontario in the Western Beaches, which is anticipated to directly improve the water quality in the study area.

### *Visitor Experience & Park Amenity*

The Western Beaches is a well-loved waterfront destination with a wide range of parks, beaches, trails, and recreational amenities that support many different activities. This theme explores opportunities to enhance the overall visitor experience, park services and amenities by expanding park amenities, supporting year-round use, focussing on improved comfort and creating more places for people to gather, rest, and spend time along the waterfront. These investments are especially important for supporting the Western Beaches' physical and operational resiliency during periods of intense usage such as during the Canadian International Air Show or the Toronto Caribbean Carnival.

Supporting ideas and actions towards an improved visitor experience focus on reimagining and expanding play and recreational experiences, exploring opportunities to revitalize and enhance existing heritage assets as active cultural and community anchors, and improving comfort and support of year-round use in different seasons. Current food and beverage options at the Western Beaches are limited and only available in a few locations. Suggested improvements include exploring new locations, and expanded offerings in alignment with the City's Food and Beverage Strategy.

Indigenous history and cultural significance are deeply rooted the Western Beaches and the surrounding landscapes of the Humber River and High Park, but these connections are not legible across the site. The Plan suggests exploring opportunities to more meaningfully reflect Indigenous presence, knowledge, and storytelling across the Western Beaches through art, interpretation, teaching landscapes in collaboration with Indigenous partners.

### *Mobility, Access & Connectivity*

This theme focuses on improving how people move to, from, and through the Western Beaches, with an emphasis on safety, accessibility, and clarity of movement for all users. The ideas supporting this theme address pedestrian and cycling conditions, connections to surrounding neighbourhoods and destinations, transit access, wayfinding, and the management of conflicts between different modes of travel. Together, these proposed improvements aim to create a more connected, legible, and comfortable mobility network that supports year-round use and improves access to the waterfront for a wide range of users.

Some of the proposed ideas include improving safety, comfort and trail continuity for pedestrians and cyclists travelling through the Western Beaches, particularly along the Martin Goodman Trail considering key interfaces with bridges, driveways and parking areas. Additionally, there are recommendations on enhancing navigation and wayfinding by using the City's TO360 and Parks and Trails Wayfinding Strategy to develop a coordinated wayfinding system and a cohesive identity and visual language along the waterfront. Building on the 2009 WWMP, the Plan recommends exploring opportunities to improve connections between surrounding neighbourhoods and the

waterfront by strengthening north-south connections (crossings), improving transit access and making gateways to the Western Beaches more visible, welcoming and accessible.

### *Indigenous Placeknowing*

Through engagement with the MCFN and an Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC), we heard the importance of recognizing Indigenous presence, supporting cultural practices, restoring relationships with land and water, and creating opportunities for ceremony, storytelling, teaching, and stewardship in the study area. Indigenous partners emphasized that Indigenous placekeeping should be reflected throughout the landscape and not be limited to a single site. In response, the Plan proposes a combination of site-specific and area-wide ideas that can be considered in various locations. The mouth of the Humber River is identified as a teaching landscape and a primary location for Indigenous storytelling and given its significance as part of the Toronto Carrying Place Trail and as the meeting point of Lake Ontario and the Humber River.

Many other ideas related to Indigenous placeknowing and placekeeping are embedded within the four other themes previously described. For example, the Plan recommends developing an Indigenous cultural narrative trail at the mouth of the Humber River - this is a site-specific action. The Plan also recommends that improvements to access to the water be explored across the study area to enable a stronger relationship with Lake Ontario - this is an area-wide action. Additionally, non-Indigenous and Indigenous participants in the engagement program collectively agreed on improving connections to High Park (Mobility, Access and Connectivity), integrating a nature-based play zone (Visitor Experience and Amenity), and supporting the renewal and restoration of the mouth of the Humber River (Climate Resilience and Natural Environment).

## **Implementation**

### *Setting Priorities*

The Plan includes an approach to implementation considering near-term, mid-term and long-term timelines with some projects identified as priorities, some as studies to inform further work, and others as longer-term recommendations that may need to be coordinated with other work and sequenced over time. Prioritization considers many variables including needs and interests, feasibility, visitor experience improvement, project complexity, funding, investment return and benefits to the Indigenous, local and citywide communities. Attachment 2 provides a summary of the priority / near-term actions that are largely unfunded.

### *Collaborating with Lease and License Holders*

There are several recreational and social clubs that hold long-term leases with the City within the Study Area. These include the Palais Royale, Boulevard Club, Royal Canadian Legion, Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club, and Argonaut Rowing Club, all which are located south of Lake Shore Boulevard West along the water's edge. These clubs are valued and bring important waterfront programming to activate the Western Beaches.

The new Plan builds on the recommendations of the 2009 Western Waterfront Master Plan by prioritizing enhanced access and enjoyment of the waterfront shoreline and highlighting opportunities to work with leaseholders on site-specific improvements.

The City recognizes the complexity of extending a pedestrian connection along the entirety of the waterfront shoreline, considering the unique site conditions, boat club facility configurations, operational requirements, programs and uses at each site. Additional study, assessment and engagement are needed to evaluate site-specific conditions and opportunities and determine feasibility at each location. This will include additional engagement and collaboration with existing lease holders and the public.

### *Ontario Place*

Ontario Place is located immediately adjacent to the east of the Western Beaches. Any Western Beaches initiatives that may interact with Ontario Place would require inter-governmental consultation.

### *Breakwaters and Shoreline Protection*

The Western Beaches shoreline was created through reclamation "lake filling" and the beaches were artificially created. Originally, the narrow width of land bounded by the railway was eroding and the breakwaters were constructed to protect the shoreline, beaches, parks and docks, along with public infrastructure. Many of the breakwaters were constructed from 1920 to 1925 and are in poor condition. Discussion between the City of Toronto, and the Provincial and Federal Governments are underway concerning the ownership and responsibility for the breakwaters outside of the Western Beaches Watercourse.

A visual condition assessment identified that most of the Western Beaches breakwaters system is in fair to poor condition, with approximately 11.5 per cent requiring near-term intervention. The assessment identified priority repair areas and rough order of magnitude cost estimates to guide short-term capital investment and longer-term waterfront infrastructure planning. Discussions and a suggested plan of action will continue to be developed with Provincial and Federal Governments.

At its meeting of May 20-21, 2026, City Council considered the report " Waterfront Dockwalls and Western Beaches Breakwaters Action Plan Update" which set out the ongoing intergovernmental work program to establish legal ownership and responsibility for breakwaters state-of-good-repair. The report advised that The Western Beaches Public Realm Plan recommendations will consider and be coordinated with the key recommendations of TRCA's shoreline and water quality study that will be completed in Q4, 2026, to ensure alignment and mutually beneficial outcomes.

### **Next Steps**

The Plan is a long-term planning document that will guide decision-making around future infrastructure and capital improvements, programming, and management of the park over the next 20 years. Over time the plan will be reviewed to ensure coordination

with other projects, initiatives, and opportunities that arise to ensure the plan can adapt to changes in context focus and/or prioritization.

Achieving all the goals of the Plan will require time and an approach that focusses on advancing some priorities as near-term and planning ahead to implement medium, or long-term recommendations and initiatives that require additional coordination, study, engagement and design and related budget. The current prioritization is informed by the existing 10-year Capital Plan, and considers outcomes of engagement, future planned projects and budget approvals, as well as parallel and complementary work, project significance (high vs low impact), and a coordinated approach working closely with internal and external partners.

When the Plan is adopted, staff will advance priority projects first and continue to develop projects with longer lead times that require collaboration and coordination with City divisions including Parks and Recreation, Toronto Water, Transportation Services, or external agencies such as the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) and partners such as the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

Implementation of priority projects will be coordinated in alignment with funding already included in the existing 10-year capital budget, specifically state of good repair (SOGR) and program funding such as the Washroom Enhancement Program. The scope of work for these projects will be refined to deliver required SOGR outcomes that align with key recommendations of the Plan. For mid-term and longer-term projects, additional funds will be requested in future budgets to ensure plan improvements continue to progress and be made incrementally over the next 20 years while remaining grounded in the vision, guiding principles and recommendations of the plan. Where plan recommendations build on or complement other City plans and strategies, projects will be aligned to deliver improvements that are mutually beneficial, and cost sharing opportunities with other divisions and external partners will be pursued.

## **CONTACT**

---

Annely Zonena, Director, Waterfront Secretariat, City Planning Division,  
416-338-5160, [Annely.Zonena@toronto.ca](mailto:Annely.Zonena@toronto.ca)

Paul Farish, Director, Parks Planning and Development, Parks & Recreation  
416-392-8705, [Paul.Farish@toronto.ca](mailto:Paul.Farish@toronto.ca)

Mike Barnet, Director, Area Transportation Planning, Transportation Services  
416-397-5623, [Mike.Barnet@toronto.ca](mailto:Mike.Barnet@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

---

Jason Thorne  
Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning

Terry Ricketts  
General Manager, Parks & Recreation

Ashley Curtis  
(Acting) General Manager, Transportation Services

## **ATTACHMENTS**

---

Attachment 1 - Western Beaches Public Realm Plan Executive Summary  
Attachment 2 - Near-term Priorities