



Baselands Trails Master Plan Public Meeting

April 28, 2015
Fire Academy, 895 Eastern Avenue,
Toronto
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



AGENDA

6:30pm	Open House	
7:00pm	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purpose of meeting and agenda review	Joanna Kidd, Kidd Consulting
7:05pm	Site Context and Planning Process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leslie Street Spit, Tommy Thompson Park, TTP Trail Master Plan	Ralph Toninger, TRCA
7:15pm	Lake Ontario Park Quick Starts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of quick start projects	Christopher Glaisek, Waterfront Toronto
7:25pm	Baselands Overview and Ecological Context <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baselands history, ecological significance, existing conditions	Ralph Toninger, TRCA
7:40pm	Baselands Trails Opportunities and Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trail planning process• Trail design goals and guiding principles• Conceptual designs	Ralph Toninger, TRCA Jeremy Craig, Victor Ford & Associates
8:00pm	Plenary Question and Answer facilitated session with City of Toronto, TRCA and Victor Ford and Associates	Joanna Kidd, Kidd Consulting
8:50pm	Wrap up and Next Steps	Ralph Toninger, TRCA

Baselands Trails Master Plan

Meeting Purpose

To present and get feedback on:

- The goal and principles to guide the Plan; and
- The conceptual design for trails.



Baselands Trails Master Plan

Draft Goal

To design a trail system that respects the significant natural environment of the Baselands while providing a variety of nature based experiences.

Draft Principles

Develop a trail system that:

- Avoids significant biological and ecological resources
- Minimizes impacts on hydrology
- Enhances user experiences
- Improves user safety
- Improves accessibility and access to key points of interest
- Minimizes user conflict
- Minimizes the number of and proliferation of unauthorized trails

Study Area Land Ownership

TRCA = 247 ha

MNR (leased to the TPA) = 224 ha

City of Toronto = 22 ha

Port Lands Company = 11 ha

Total area = 504 ha



Project Background

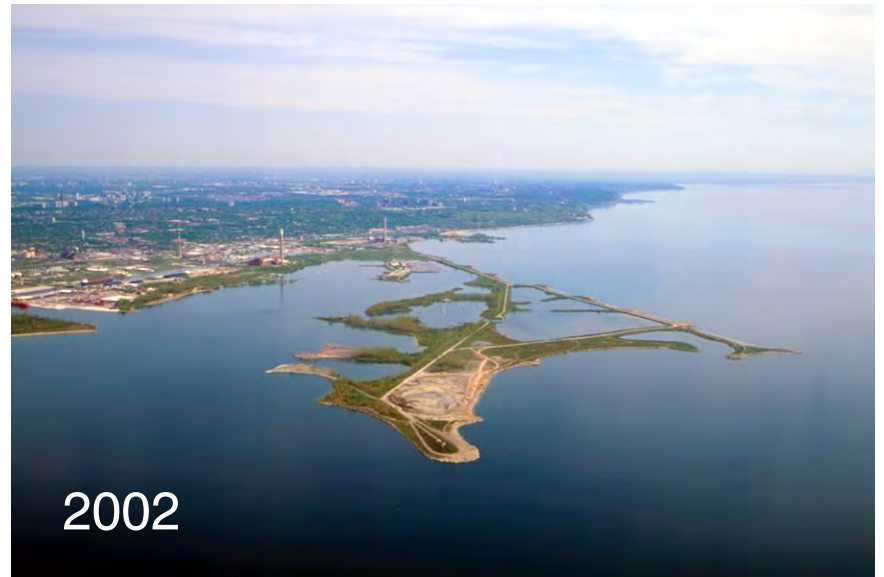
Construction, initiated by the Toronto Harbour Commissioners 1959

- Expand port related facilities
- Dispose of rubble and fill from the construction industry
- Create opportunities for dredged material disposal



Project Background

- In 1973, the Provincial Cabinet gave TRCA the responsibility to prepare a master plan for TTP
- In 1977, interim management of TTP

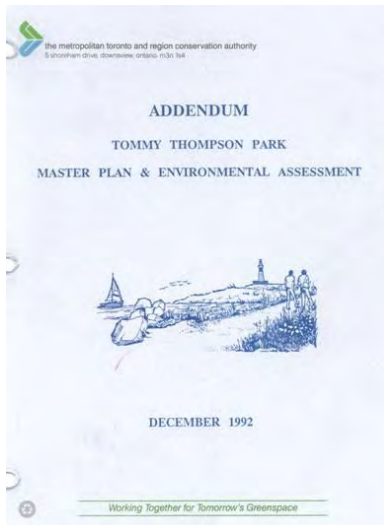


Master Plan (1989) and Addendum (1992)



The main objectives of the Master Plan are to:

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



City of Toronto Planning Context

Metropolitan Waterfront Plan (1994) guiding principles:

- Accessibility
- Sharing the benefits
- Balance and diversity
- Responsible stewardship



One of the four core objectives:

- Plan & manage that restores, maintains and enhances ecosystem integrity, and improves physical connections to other greenspaces and meets recreational and leisure needs of Torontonians

TTP Trails Master Plan 2006

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



Baselands – Tommy Thompson Park – Lake Ontario Park – Waterfront Planning & Consultation Overview

1992	TTP Environmental Assessment and agency approval of Master Plan
1994	City of Toronto Metropolitan Waterfront Plan
2001	City of Toronto Making Waves: Principles for Building Toronto's Waterfront
2002	Master Plan Design Project update
2002-2011	TTP Advisory Committee consultation
2006	TTP Trails Master Plan
2008	Lake Ontario Park Master Plan
2012	TTP Master Plan implementation
Current	TTP User Group consultation
Current	Lake Ontario Park Quick Starts
2014	TTP User Group Baselands subcommittee consultation

Lake Ontario Park, “Quick Start” Projects



April 28th, 2014

Christopher Glaisek, Waterfront Toronto

Lake Ontario Park Master Plan, 2008



Lake Ontario Park will be defined by its ability to bring together diverse recreational activities while ensuring the protection and enhancement of the rich ecologically sensitive areas.

The Master Plan is imagined as a flexible organizational tool that will guide all future planning at Lake Ontario Park and support six primary goals;

1. Promote a bold, flexible and resilient landscape framework.
2. Create a vibrant lakefront of distinctive activities and unique water-oriented programming.
3. Build a connective system to unify the large park.
4. Cultivate a rich mosaic of terrestrial and aquatic life that becomes the centre of a continuous regional greenway.
5. Create a realistic and sustainable landscape.
6. Preserve and amplify the remarkable unique settings.

Lake Ontario Park “Quick Starts”

In October 2012, City Council Directed City Staff, TRCA and Waterfront Toronto to initiate the development of recreational and ecological opportunities in Lake Ontario Park and Tommy Thompson Park.

The objective of the “Quick Start” initiatives is to implement a series of projects that can deliver a wide range of public benefits within a reasonably short period of time.

A range of options were considered by the team, and after an extensive review, a list of thirteen projects was established , seven of which are currently either fully or partially funded.

Lake Ontario Park “Quick Starts”

Proposed projects and enhancements



1. Baselands & North Shore Planting and Landscape Enhancements
2. Tommy Thompson Park Interpretation
3. Outer Harbour Recreational Node
4. Pedestrian Trail Network, Baselands *
5. New Martin Goodman Trail, Baselands *
6. Cherry Beach in-water improvements
7. Pedestrian Trail, Cherry Beach to Circulating Channel
8. Shoreline Restoration, Hanlan Boat Club to Circulating Channel

9. Wooden Fishing Pier, Circulating Channel
10. Wildlife Viewing Blind, Baselands
11. Tommy Thompson Park Gateway Pavilion Project
12. Cherry Beach Landscape Restoration and Parking Lot
13. Upgraded Martin Goodman Trail, Cherry Beach to Baselands

* Conceptual Alignments only

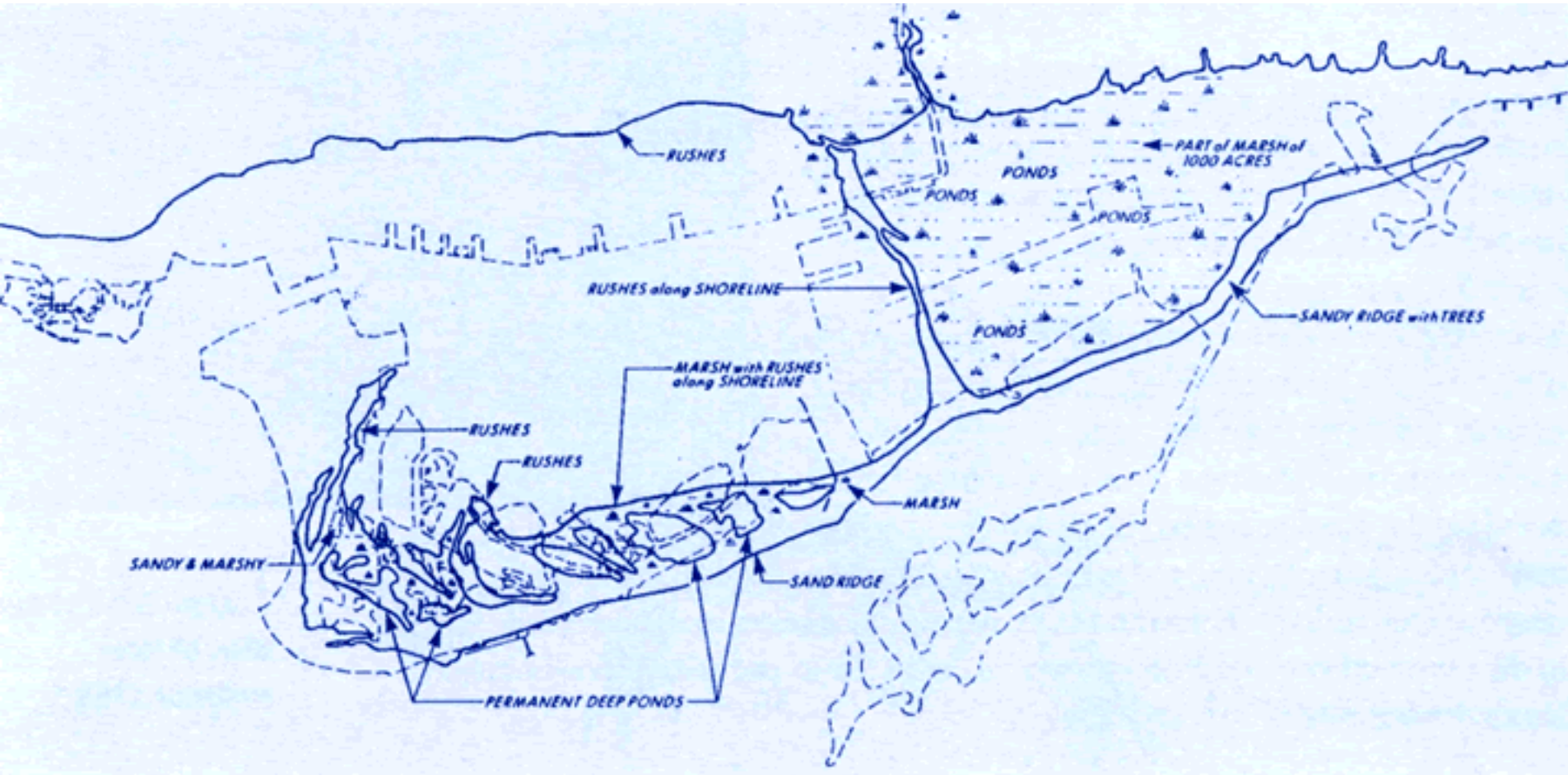
Outer Harbour Recreational Node opening April 22, 2015



Baselands – A bit of history



Ashbridge's Bay





1949



1959



5453-118

1967



1978



1989



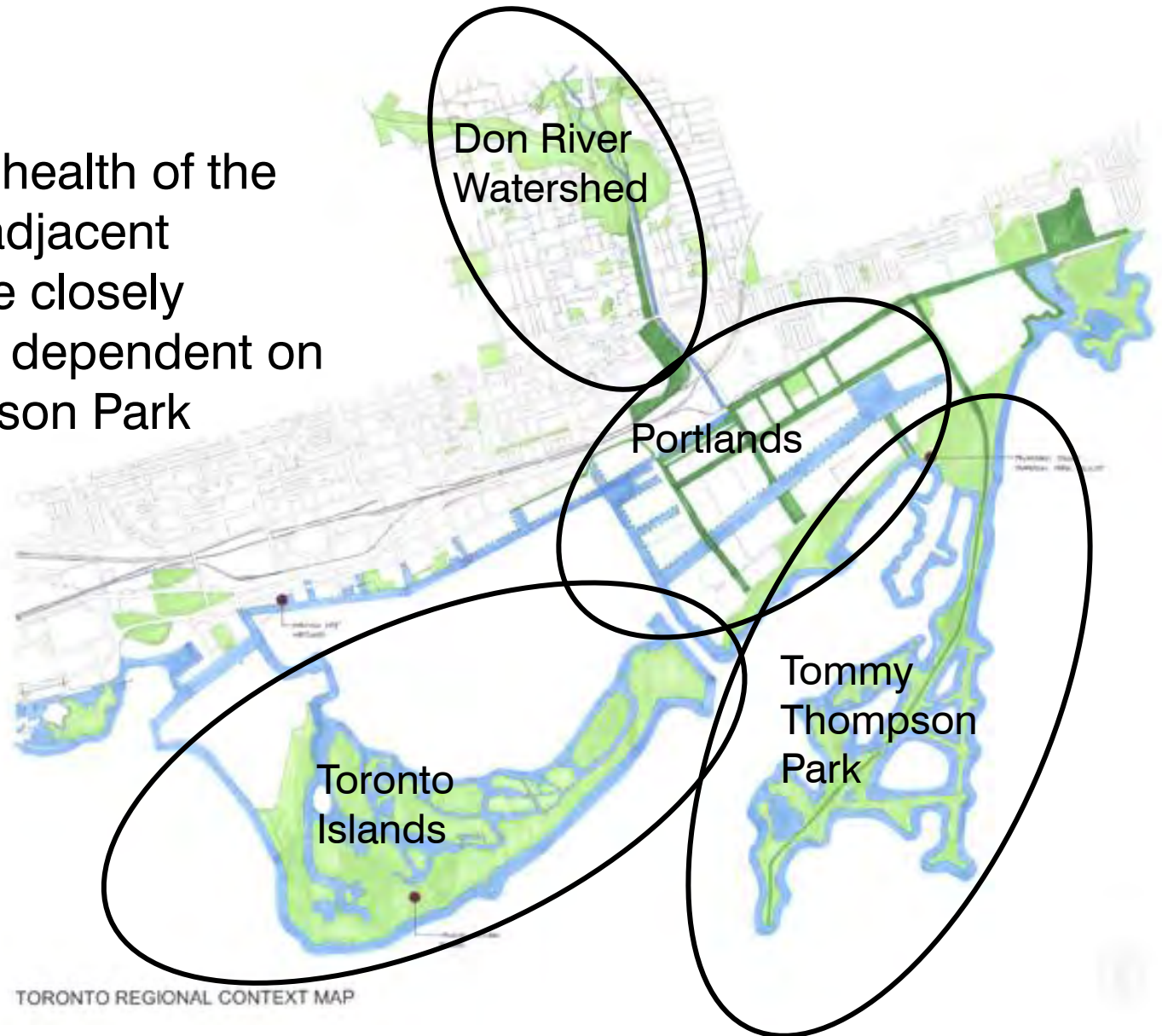
c.1986



2014

Baselands Overview and Ecological Context

The ecological health of the shoreline and adjacent watersheds are closely connected and dependent on Tommy Thompson Park



Local and Regional Context



ESA



Baselands Ecological Significance

- 23 distinct ecological community types with more than 90% classified as common or non-native.
- 5 regionally significant flora species
- In 2014 -18 species of breeding birds including 1 threatened and 1 species of special concern
- Breeding site for northern leopard frog and American toad
- Snake hibernacula present



Baselands Wildlife



Baselands Hydrology



Significant Ecological Communities & Informal Trails







Why is a Baselands trail strategy needed?

Current conditions:

- Unplanned, unsustainable “ad hoc” trails
- Excess trails with multiple, unnecessary parallel paths
- Intensifying use
- Safety Concerns
- Trail widening and soil compaction = vegetation impacts and habitat loss
- Poor user experience
- Does not support current users and desire lines

With proper planning, design and construction:

- Protects the significant natural area
- Avoids sensitive communities
- Reduces wildlife disturbance
- Supports users of varying abilities
- Improved user experience
- Avoid hazards and risks





Context

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Victor Ford and Associates Inc
Landscape Architects

BASELANDS TRAILS

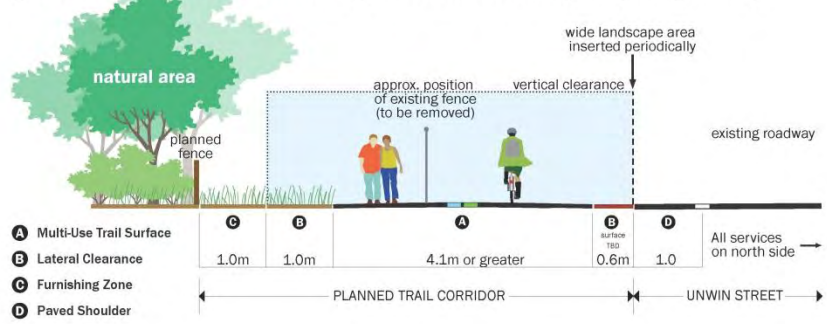
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LEGEND

- Planned Martin Goodman Trail Alignment
- A** Scenic Outlook — Outer Harbour Recreational Node
- B** TTP Staff Booth
- C** Tommy Thompson Park Entrance
- D** Connection to Existing MGT

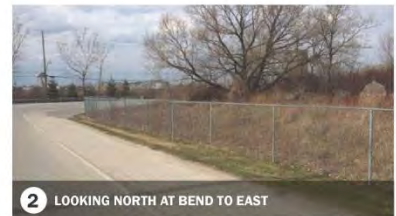
Planned Martin Goodman Trail Cross-section (per Toronto Multi-Use Trail Design Guidelines for High Capacity Trails)



CURRENT CONDITIONS



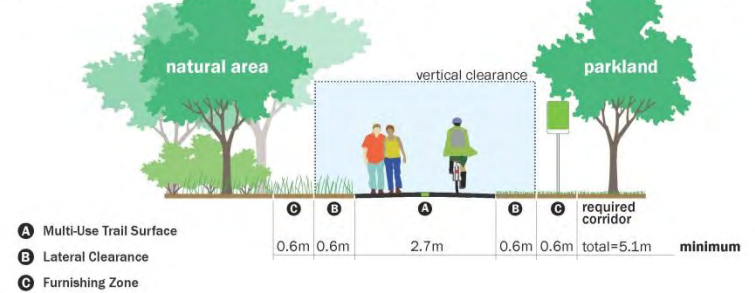
TRAIL PRECEDENTS



Martin Goodman Trail



Proposed Multi-Use Trail Cross-section (per Toronto Multi-Use Trail Design Guidelines for Secondary Trails)



CURRENT CONDITIONS



TRAIL PRECEDENTS



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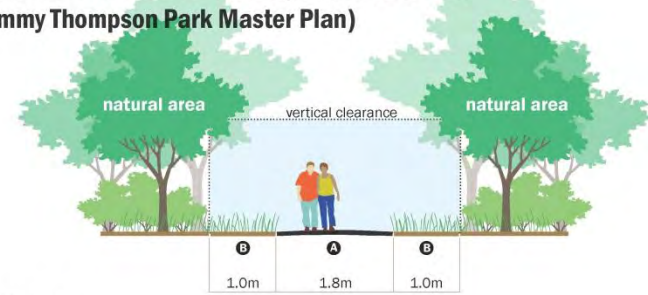
TTP Staff Booth Link

BASELANDS TRAILS

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Proposed Cross-section for Primary Pedestrian Trail (per Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan)



A Improved Surface

B Cleared Area

CURRENT CONDITIONS



TRAIL PRECEDENTS



Primary Pedestrian Trail

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BASELANDS TRAILS

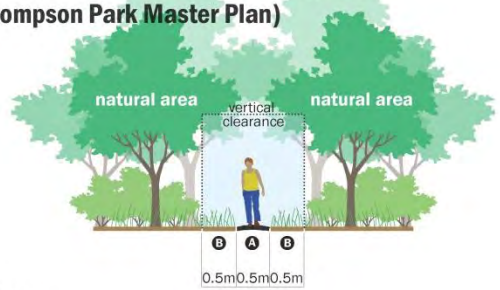
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LEGEND

- Conceptual Alignment of Nature Viewing Trail
- A** Scenic Outlook — Outer Harbour Recreational Node
- B** TTP Staff Booth
- E** Wet Woods

Proposed Cross-section for Nature Viewing Trail (per Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan)

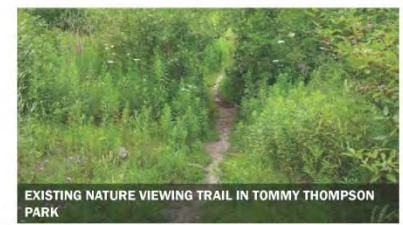


- A** Wood Chip or Grass Surface
- B** Cleared Area

CURRENT CONDITIONS

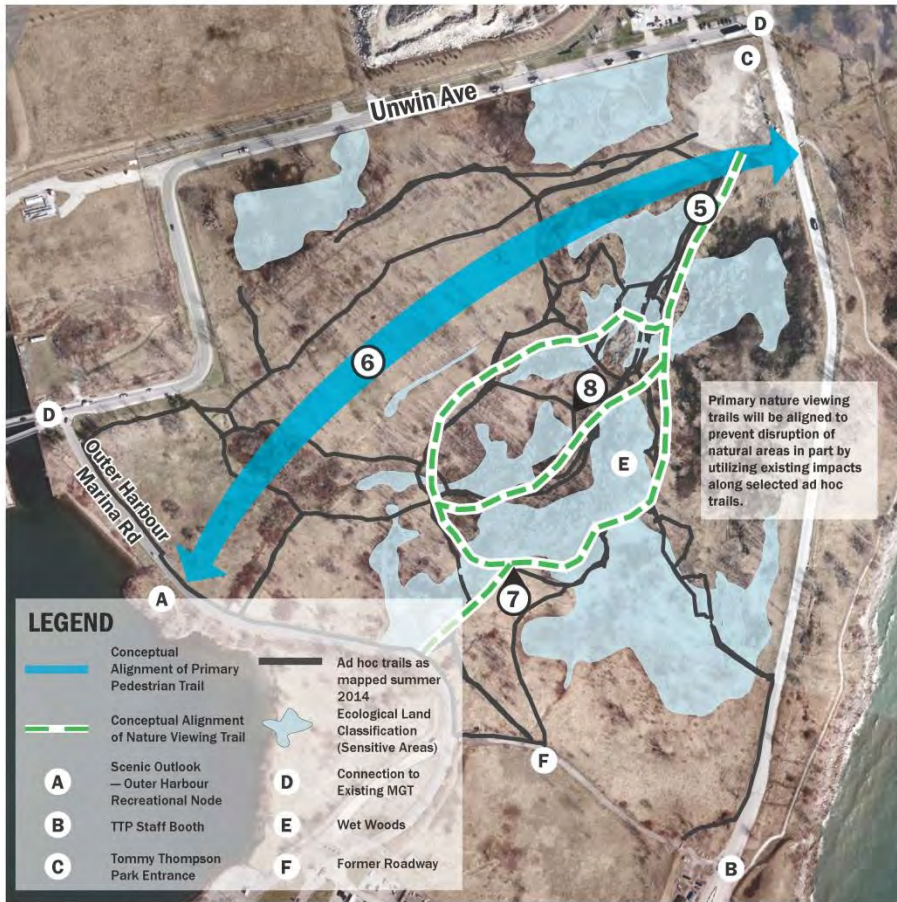


TRAIL PRECEDENTS





Issues — Perimeter Trails

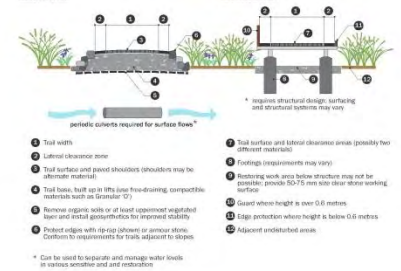


Strategies for Constructing Trails through Wet Areas (Toronto Multi-Use Trail Design Guidelines)

Typical Trail Construction in Wet Soils



Raised Trail



Issues – Interior Trails

BASELANDS TRAILS

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Baselands Trails Master Plan – Next Steps

April 28, 2015	Baselands Public Meeting
May 2015	Public feedback on plan via TTP Staff Booth and WT and TRCA websites
Summer 2015	Trail design
August 22, 2015	Baselands Trails Master Plan final design open house at TTP Butterfly Festival
Fall	Implementation of Martin Goodman Trail, pending final design
TBD	Phased implementation of Baselands Trails Master Plan

Thank you!

