

HUMBER BAY PARKS

PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN

WELCOME TO THIS OPEN HOUSE EVENT

This evening we will review the Preliminary Master Plan and seek input on the proposed recommendations.

How to navigate this Open House Event

Stations are set up around this space to address the main concept of the proposed Master Plan and the **five distinct areas of the Humber Bay Parks**. Please go through the 9 Stations set up with discussion tables to learn about the various components of the proposed Master Plan, to ask questions and share your input.

Feedback

We welcome your feedback on our work to date. Please use a Comment Sheet to record your thoughts. You can leave your sheet with us, or send your feedback by e-mail or mail by October 30, 2016.

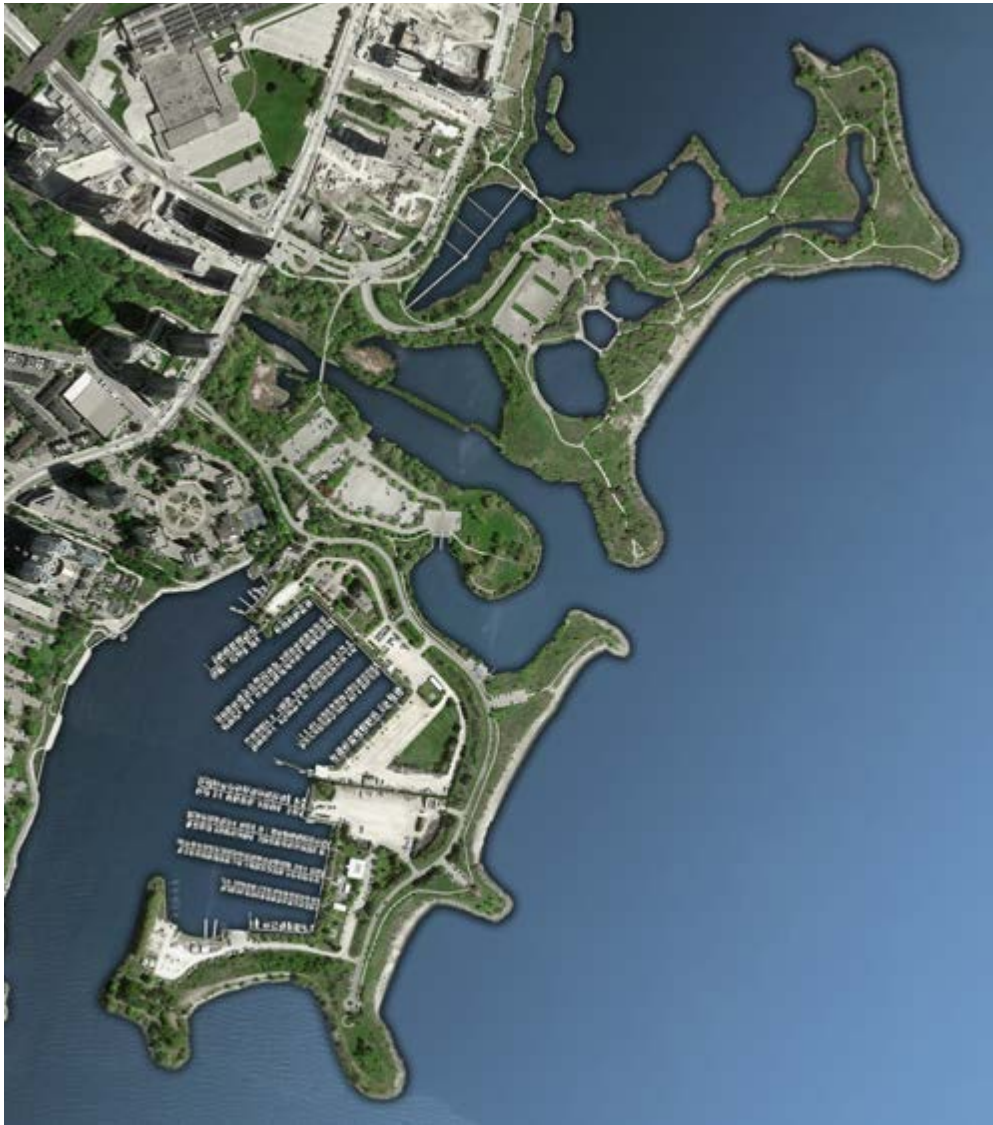
All material presented here will be available online.

Please check our website at: www.toronto.ca/parks

Project Contact

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Where are we in the process?



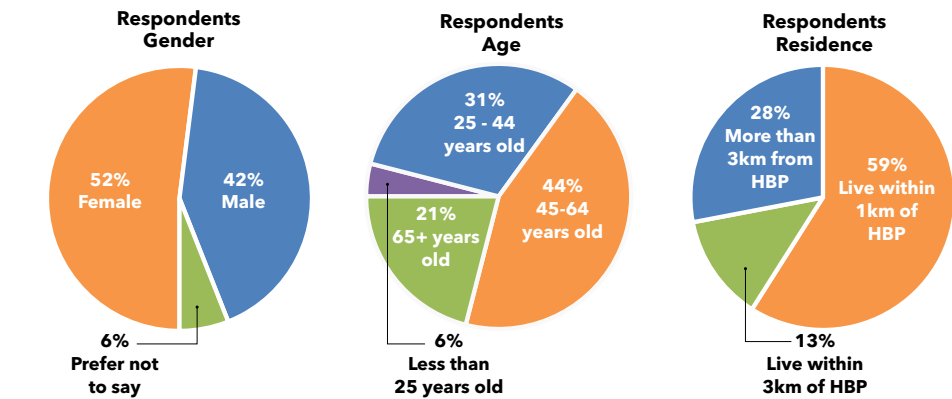
WHAT WE HEARD

The Humber Bay Parks Project Survey

Between May 6 2016 and June 30, 2016 Parks, Forestry and Recreation hosted an online park user survey for Humber Bay Parks. The purpose of the survey was to get a sense of how people in the local community, and across the City, use Humber Bay Parks and to obtain feedback on the important needs for consideration for the future development of the park. The survey was open for responses from all City of Toronto residents and was publicized through social media and City corporate communications. Printed copies of the questionnaire were also made available for distribution to specific user groups and anyone who preferred to respond to the survey through a hard copy questionnaire.

In total there were 1,090 respondents who completed the survey. This feedback is helping us better understand how residents are using Humber Bay Parks and provided valuable feedback for moving forward with further community engagement on the Humber Bays Park Master Plan. The resulting sample was not intended to be statistically significant nor accurately representative of the local population living in proximity of the Humber Bay Parks. The survey data will be used to provide input on next phase of park design and community engagement.

Here is a summary of what we found:



Top Twelve Reasons for Visiting Humber Bay Parks

1	To go for a walk or hike	13%
2	To enjoy nature	13%
3	To view the skyline	9%
4	To visit the Farmers' Market	8%
5	To go cycling	8%
6	To take photographs	7%
7	To meet friends	5%
8	For bird watching	5%
9	To engage in unstructured activity	5%
10	For a picnic	5%
11	Just passing through	4%
12	To walk the dog	4%

* Note: The remaining 13 percent of responses is comprised of 11 other reasons why respondents visit Humber Bay Parks

What kinds of indoor recreational services and activities do you think should be available in the Humber Bay Parks?

1	Accessible / all season washrooms	15%
2	Buy a coffee and a snack	10%
3	Classes (e.g. yoga, bird or plant ID classes, camps)	10%
4	Quiet reflection / retreat	8%
5	Change into and out of equipment (e.g. skates, skis, inline skates, etc.)	8%
6	Nature interpretation	8%
7	Warm up /cool down indoors	7%
8	I don't think any of these indoor activities should take place in Humber Bay Parks	6%
9	Art and educational exhibitions	6%
10	Small performances	6%
11	Informal seating and meeting	5%
12	Small group meetings	5%
13	School trips	4%
	Other, please specify...	3%

Five Guiding Principles of the Humber Bay Parks Master Plan Purpose

I support Guiding Principle #1 [Natural & Restful]	95%
I support Guiding Principle #2 [Ecology & Habitat]	93%
I support Guiding Principle #3 [A City Park]	71%
I support Guiding Principle #4 [Innovate & Evolve]	64%
I support Guiding Principle #5 [Plan for the Future]	76%

For complete detailed survey results, please visit our website at: www.toronto.ca/parks/

PUBLIC CONSULTATION TO DATE

Public Meeting #1 - February 16, 2016
CRG Meeting #1 - April 6, 2016
CRG Meeting #2 - May 16, 2016
HBP Farmer's Market Pop-up Consultation - June 11, 2016
Public Meeting #2 - June 15, 2016
Online Survey - May 6, 2016 to June 30, 2016
CRG Meeting #3 - September 14, 2016

HUMBER BAY PARKS

PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN



Five Focus Areas

1. West Entrance Market
2. West Peninsula
3. East Entrance Meadow
4. East Ponds & Water Channel
5. East Park Shoreline

MASTER PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

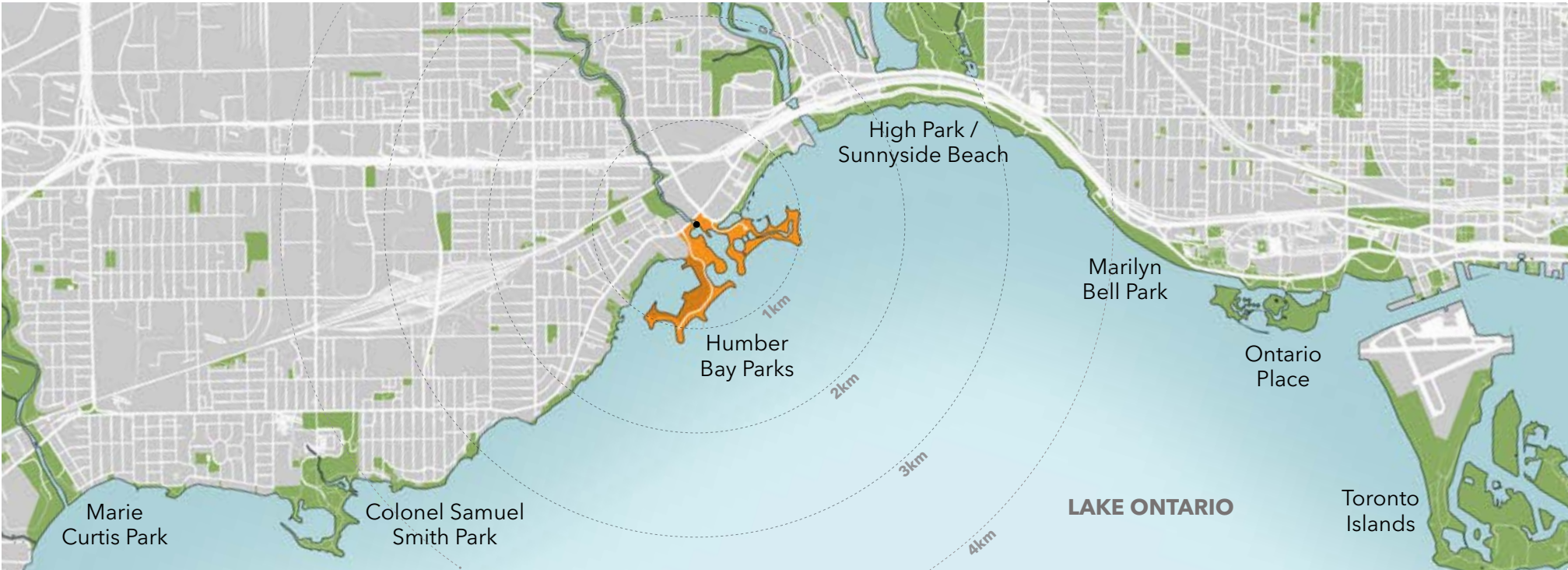
- **Natural & Restful** - Humber Bay Park is a place of natural beauty and respite from the busy city. The Master Plan should enhance this quality and experience while accommodating the growing number of park users in the area.
- **Ecology & Habitat** - Humber Bay Park is a valuable habitat for plants and animals. The Master Plan will provide a framework that will enhance the ecological value of the park while improving opportunities for interpretation and appreciation of the park's natural heritage.
- **A City Park** - Humber Bay Park is both a local park for nearby residents and part of a network of green space along Toronto's waterfront. The Master Plan should accommodate a diversity of park users and needs.
- **Innovate & Evolve** - The potential of Humber Bay Park to meet the needs of its users is not fully realized. The Master Plan will identify new opportunities and propose innovative ways to provide recreational opportunities while enhancing and protecting the natural environment of the park.
- **Plan for the Future** - The Master Plan must be flexible and able to evolve and respond to the needs of the present community and future generations.

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES:

- Explore opportunities to expand and enhance habitat for **native flora and fauna**.
- Establish a rationalized **parking and vehicular circulation** plan for the park that meets existing and planned parking requirements, boat launch cueing and circulation needs while reducing the extent of paved surfaces where possible.
- Provide a sustainable approach to **stormwater management** and drainage that will benefit the ecology of Humber Bay Park East and West.
- Create a functional design for the artificial **ponds and waterway** in Humber Bay Park East that improves their ecological and recreational function while reducing the resources required for maintenance and operation.
- Establish a hierarchy of **pathways and trails** through the park that are accessible, safe, and understandable to park users.
- Provide a plan for the enhancement of **park programs and features** (e.g. benches, lookouts, waterfront access) that increases recreational opportunities within the park while protecting sensitive habitats.
- Recommend locations for **architectural improvements** within Humber Bay Park East and West, including integration within existing buildings.
- Create a **lighting strategy** for the park that will ensure public safety while achieving the highest standards of habitat protection and reduction of light pollution and energy efficiency.
- Identify existing key view points into and from the park and enhance the shoreline experience to establish special **moments, views and lookouts** that provide improved visual and physical access to the water.

A UNIQUE WATERFRONT EXPERIENCE

Located at the mouth of Mimico Creek, and extending out into Lake Ontario, Humber Bay Park park is a significant part of a greater waterfront system of parks. As one of the few naturalized parks along the shores of Lake Ontario, it provides valuable habitat for a range of aquatic and terrestrial species and serves as an important stopping point for migratory birds.



A CHANGING WATERFRONT

The Humber Bay Parks were created through lake-filling during the 1970s and early 1980s. Original master planning for the new land called for a highly programmed park space. However, over time, the parks have evolved into a quiet natural refuge for both people and wildlife.

Located in close proximity to a well established residential community and an evolving high rise neighbourhood, the parks and their infrastructure are under new pressure to meet the demands of an increasing population, while maintaining their highly valued naturalized character.

The Master Plan responds to these increasing demands by improving accessibility to the park, reducing conflicts between users and most importantly, building on what works by identifying the precious natural features that must be protected and enhanced.

VIEWS, LOOKOUTS AND MOMENTS

The preliminary design focuses on the creation of purposeful interventions that direct users through the rich 'moments' and views within the park. These vary from observation decks, platforms,

managing of vegetation and mounded earth to maximize views along the water edge. The balance between framed and unframed views and vistas creates an array of 'moments' and lookout experiences.

WHAT'S NEW?

- Improved connections to the Waterfront Trail and street network
- Improved views within the park and toward the lake and City skyline
- New relationship to the Water's Edge



SHORELINE EXPERIENCES

- 1

Vegetation Management
- 2

Lookout Structure
- 3

Revetement Lookout
- 4

Raised Landform Lookout
- 5

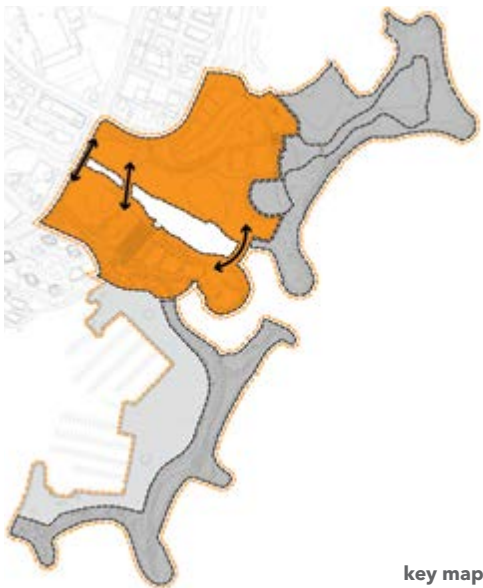
Shoreline Access
- 6

Accessible Wetland Lookout
- 7

Accessible Fishing Node

THE INTEGRATED PARK CORE

Humber Bay Park is defined by two separate and distinct landforms - east and west- each one different in character, function and form. The Master Plan for Humber Bay Parks aims to reinforce the distinct character of the east and west peninsulas while creating linked and integrated waterfront open spaces that complement and complete one another.



key map

WHAT'S NEW?

- A widened/twinned existing Mimco Creek Bridge and the introduction of a New Pedestrian Bridge to create a continuous and accessible circulation route between the east and west sides of the park.
- New systems of pathways create an integrated parking strategy that allows visitors to park on either side of the park but access the entire park comfortably within a 5 to 10 minute walk.
- Wayfinding strategy that communicates alternative transportation access points and key features of the park as well as seasonal access.

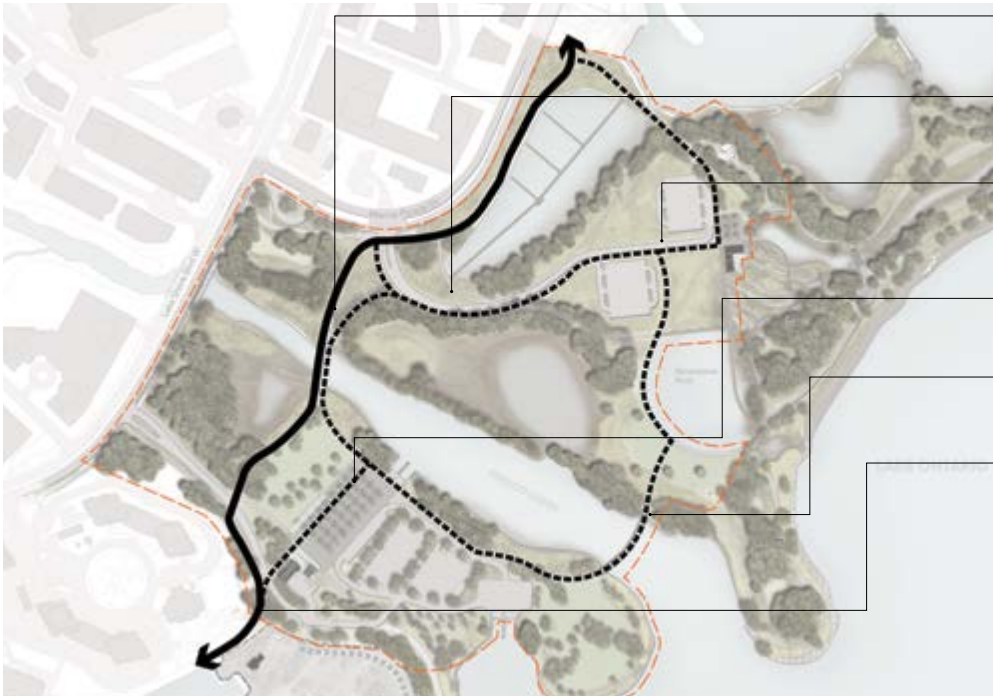
PATHS & WAYFINDING

Circulation Strategy

A legible and clear hierarchy of paths, addressing issues of accessibility, is established through varying width and a hierarchy of surface materials. Establishing a legible and clear hierarchy of paths and experiences throughout the park is critical to achieving an integrated park and protect existing habitat.

Communication Strategy

A wayfinding strategy will be recommended for pedestrians and vehicles is a priority to ensure safety and the enjoymentv of all users.



The proposed pedestrian loop between the East and West Park

- Widened / twinned Mimco Creek bridge
- Pathways and bridges connecting Humber Bay Parks East and West
- Focus lighting and nighttime access around integrated pathway circuit
- Pedestrian pathway through market space
- New pedestrian bridge at the mouth of Mimco Creek
- Separated route for Waterfront Trail through Humber Bay Parks



Asphalt



Limestone



Wood Chip

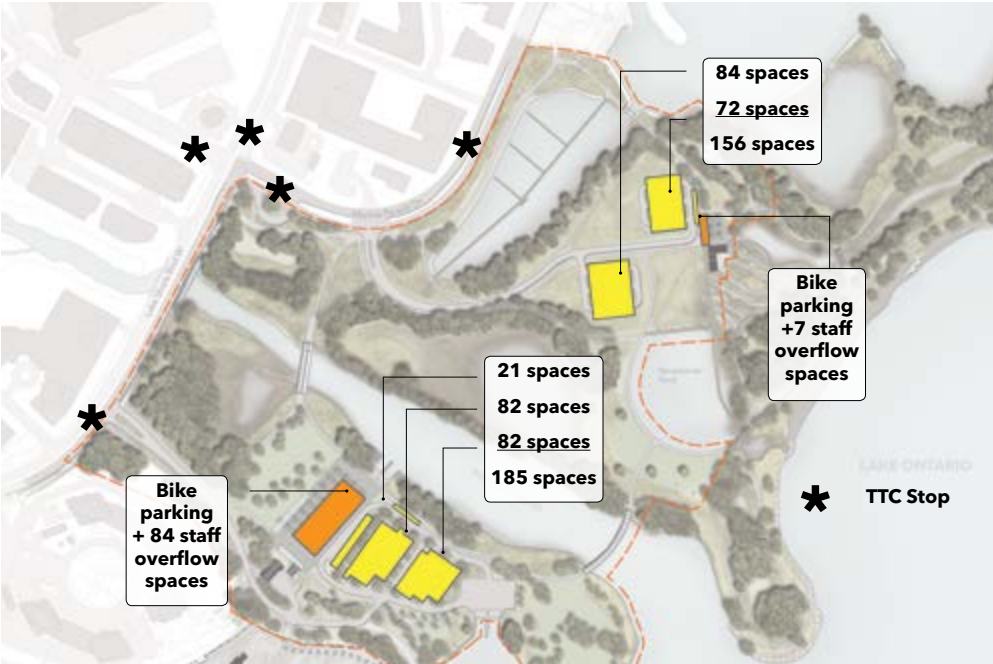
PARKING & ALTERNATIVES

Parking Strategy

Old vs. New Core Parking Numbers :
Existing Parking: 452 spaces
Proposed Parking: 341 spaces + 91 overflow spaces

Alternative Transportation

Bike parking and bus stop access are highlighted as alternative transportation options. Clear signage and access will be provided.



Humber Bay Park Core parking strategy



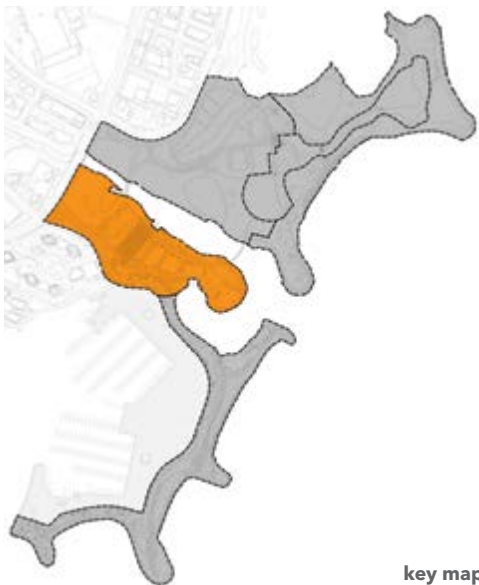
Proximity to the Waterfront Trail means bike parking is key



TTC stops on the major adjacent streets provide access to the park

1. WEST ENTRANCE MARKET

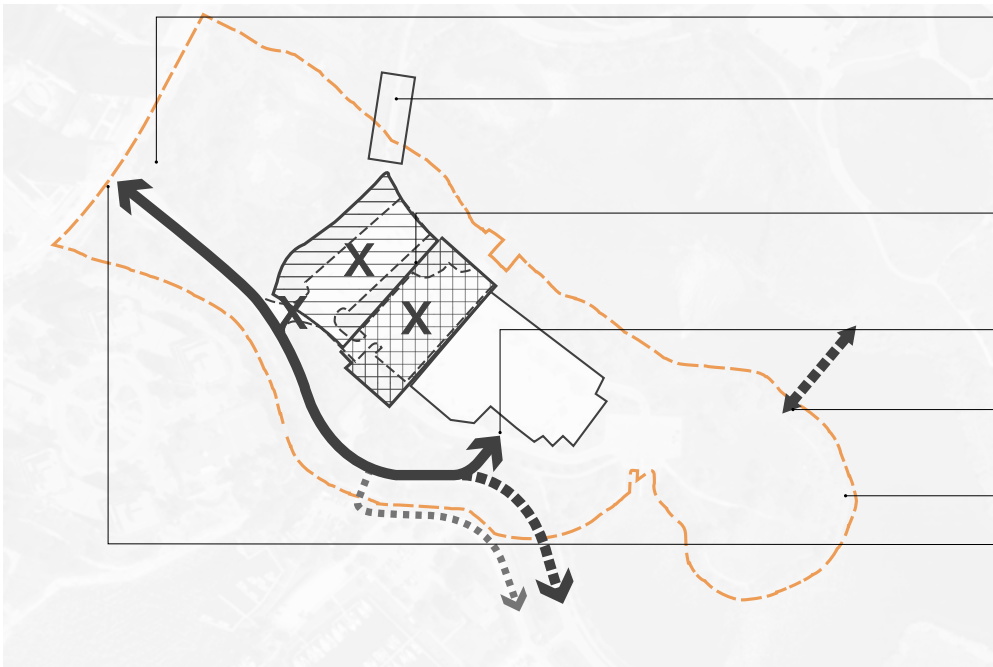
Reconfiguring the parking and access allows for the creation of a significant lawn area for the residents of the community. The conversion of a portion of the parking into a sustainably designed flexible market space that can accommodate overflow parking adds to the functionality of the new space, as well as providing a sense of arrival to the park.



key map

WHAT'S NEW?

- A new flexible social amenity space comprising a lawn and permeable surface for market space.
- Safe separation of cyclists and pedestrians



Existing Aerial with areas of intervention

- Improve connections along Lake Shore Blvd.
- Resolve conflict between pedestrian & cyclist routes to Mimico Creek bridge
- Remove parking lots to create lawn area and Market space / Overflow Parking
- Relocate parking entrance to avoid conflict with Waterfront Trail
- Provide a new connection across Mimico Creek
- Improve views to Lake Ontario
- Improve visibility and access from Lake Shore Blvd.



- New Canoe / Kayak layby
- Seasonal market & community outdoor space or overflow parking with shade structures
- Reconfigured parking access eliminates conflict at Waterfront Trail crossing
- New community sloped lawn area (Market Green)
- New Bridge access

Existing Parking: 224 spaces

Proposed Parking: 185 spaces + 84 overflow spaces


Preliminary Master Plan - Area 1: West Market Entrance


1. WEST ENTRANCE MARKET



The reconfigured east parking lots will provide a more human scale for the Farmers’ Market, with shade provided by open-air canopies and shade trees and accessible permeable paved surfaces that can also accommodate overflow parking.

Programming Elements

 Farmers market

 Picnic Area

Dual Purpose Space

The new Farmers’ Market space will be organized spatially to allow for multiple site configurations. The layout will accommodate standard market stalls dimensions, parking requirements, and aisles for pedestrian movement and flow.



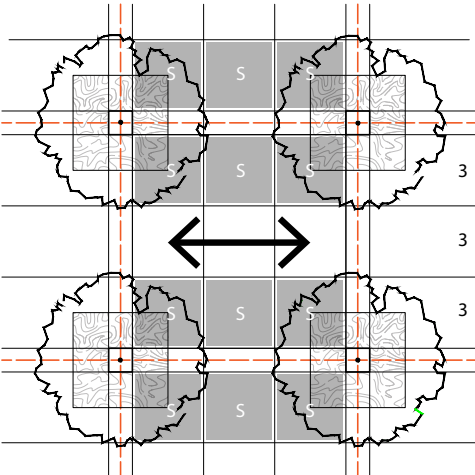
A 3m x 3m grid market stall scale.

Market Green

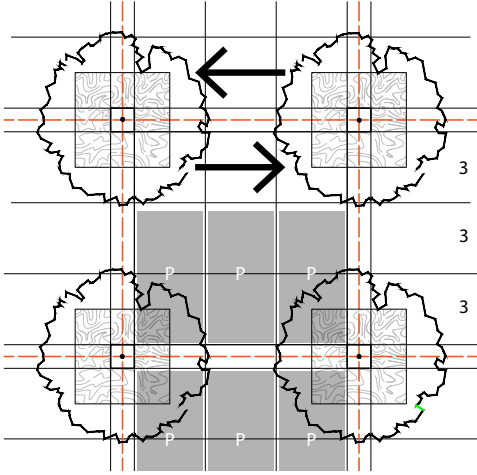
With the removal of the northern portion of asphalt parking, a new sloping green lawn will be created. This “Market Green” will provide additional spill out space from the market area, provide a large casual seating and picnic area, while organizing circulation, increasing infiltration and reducing the heat island effect. The lawn area will become a central social space, strengthening the identity and character of the central core, allowing for a range of passive recreational use.

Sustainable Flexible Surfaces

A permeable paving system will improve storm water drainage, reduce heat island effect, and will provide a surface that is versatile and would also allow for community programming as well as overflow parking.



A 3m x 3m grid will allow for comfortable market stalls and corridors.



The 3m x 3m grid also allows for comfortable parking spaces and access aisles.



A sloped lawn providing a large casual gathering space and passive recreation opportunities.



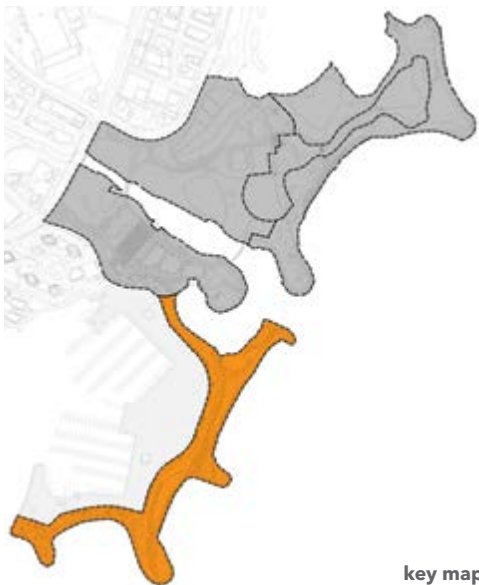
Examples of accessible permeable paving that accommodates cars.



Section a-a through the new market green, market area and reconfigured parking in the West Park.

2. WEST PENINSULA

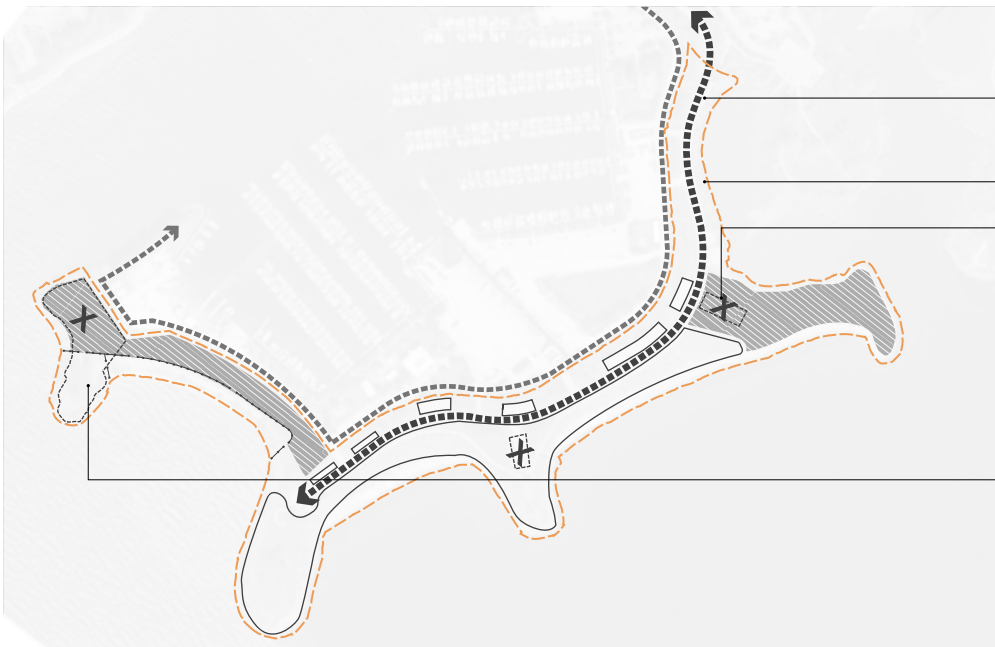
The full potential of the Western Peninsula will be realized through the subtle reorganization of the existing site elements. This will lead to the creation of spaces that can be used for passive recreation, and for enhancement and protection of the natural habitat.



key map

WHAT'S NEW?

- Revised parking layout with adjustments to path and road alignment
- Enhanced social spaces
- Enhanced habitat opportunities
- Reconfigured off-leash dog area



- Existing asphalt road converted to permeable surface
- Improve shoreline access
- Relocate parking lots from peninsulas to provide more space for recreational use and protected habitat areas
- Reconfigure dogs off-leash area to accommodate current patterns of use along waters edge



Dogs Off-Leash Area

- Maintain total area (6500m²)
- Potential sub division of off-leash area (smaller dogs, etc.)
- Reconfigured fence line provides enhanced habitat and improved separation between dogs and naturalized area
- Multiple access points to off-leash area
- Main entrance to off-leash area is closer to parking areas

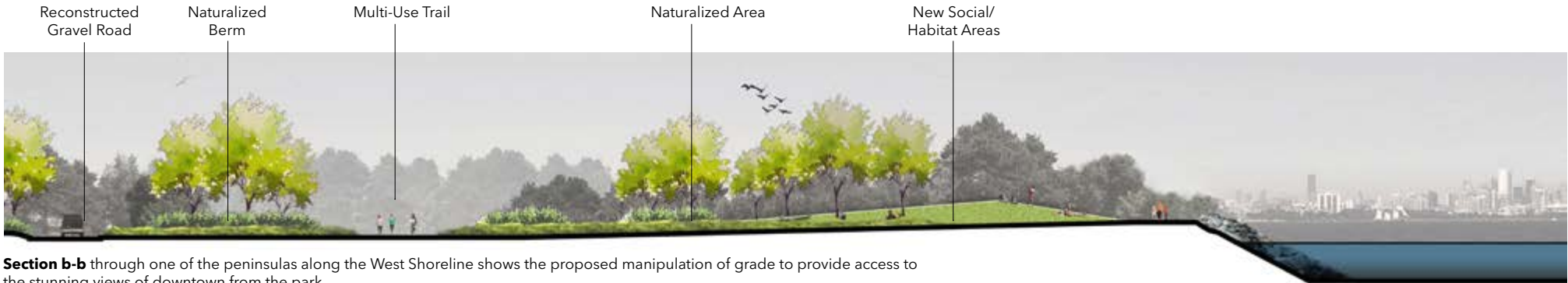
- Improved pathways to west tip of peninsula and off-leash dog area and enhanced habitat and improved separation between dogs and naturalized area
- Potential future public access to be coordinated with Yacht Clubs
- Improved access to shoreline at boat launch embayment
- Realigned multi-use pathway
- Improved access to enhanced naturalized peninsula & lookout
- Improved shoreline access
- Improved recreational spaces on shorelines and peninsulas

- 12 spaces
- 24 spaces
- 12 spaces
- 12 spaces
- 10 spaces
- 10 spaces
- 80 spaces

Existing Parking: 60 spaces

Proposed Parking: 80 spaces

Preliminary Master Plan - Area 2: West Peninsula



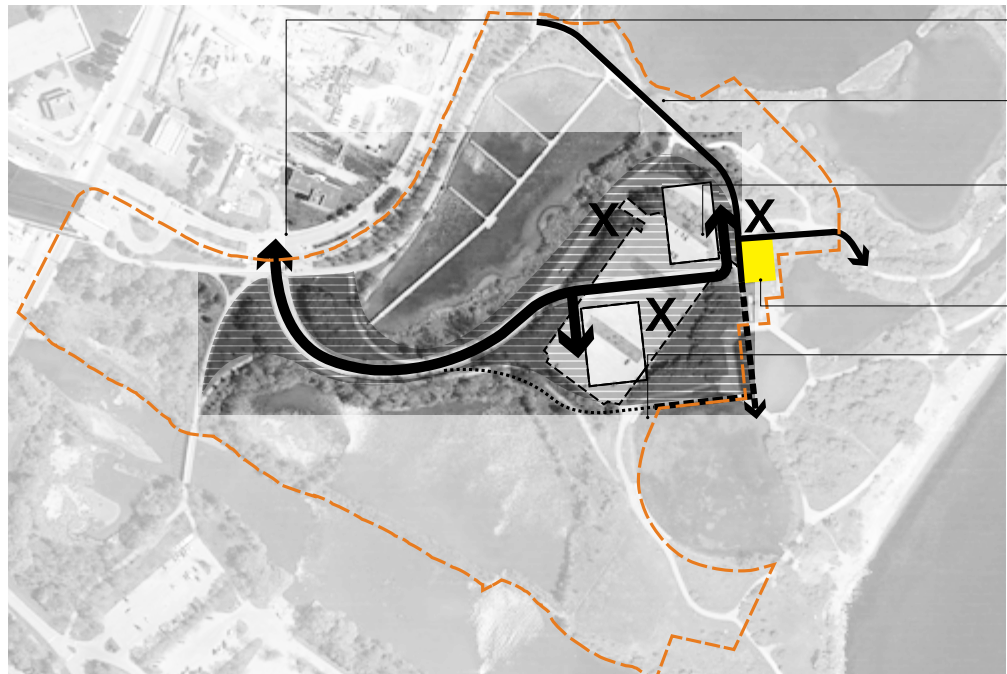
Section b-b through one of the peninsulas along the West Shoreline shows the proposed manipulation of grade to provide access to the stunning views of downtown from the park.

3. EAST ENTRANCE MEADOW

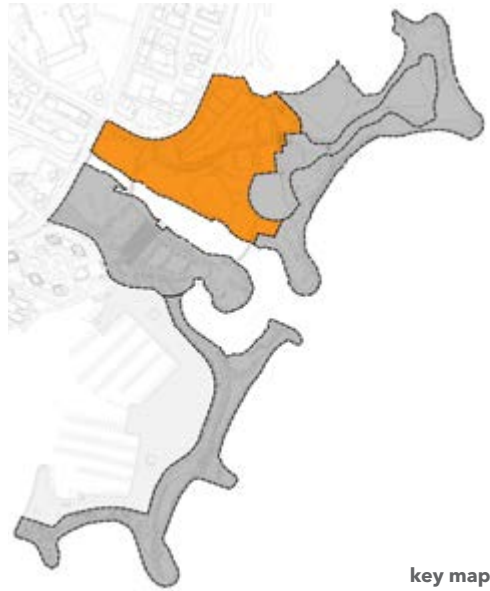
The East Entrance Meadow is created by the strategic reorganization of the existing parking to reduce the number of parking spaces and overall pavements and improve site drainage. The reconfigured parking will improve the overall site integration, and allow for a significant increase in pollinator meadow habitat area, reinforcing the unique character of the East Park.

WHAT'S NEW?

- 28.5% reduction in parking spaces
- 31% reduction of impermeable paved surface (asphalt) from parking areas
- 2.4 hectares of new pollinator habitat area.

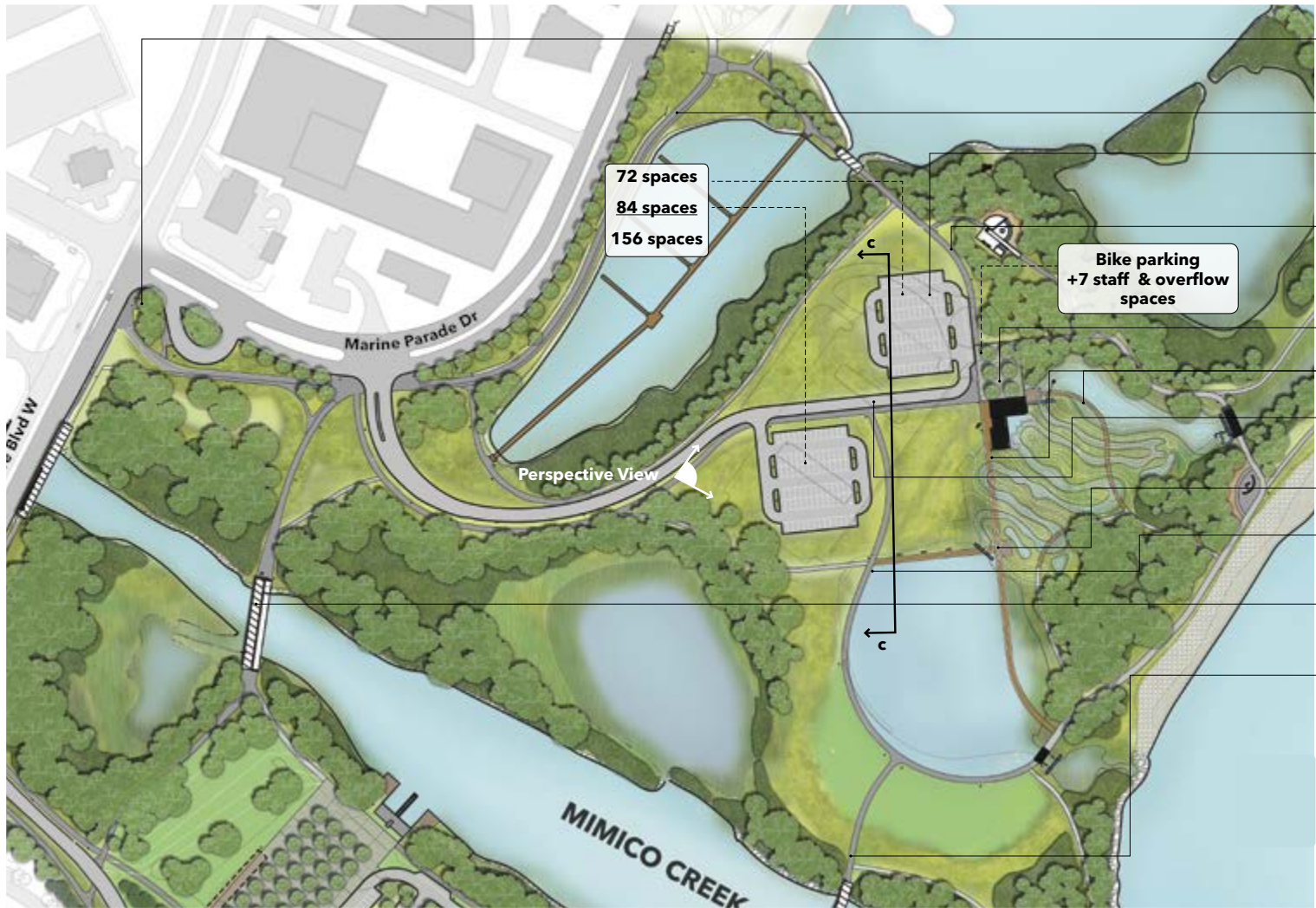


Existing Aerial with areas of intervention



key map

- Improve vehicular access into the East Park
- Simplify pedestrian & cyclist routes across water treatment ponds
- Reconfigure parking lots to provide new pollinator meadow spaces
- Remove existing failing boardwalks
- Revise/adjust layout of pond edge



Preliminary Master Plan - Area 3: East Entrance Meadow



- Continuous sidewalk along park frontage at Lake Shore Blvd.
- Waterfront Trail
- Reconfigured parking lots integrated into meadow landscape
- Primary pathway realigned to avoid Air India Memorial grade change
- Reconfigured arrival court
- Create new boardwalks
- Reconfigured & shortened roadway
- Pond lookout & skating access
- Reconfigured pond shoreline & integration with park circulation
- Separated pedestrian & cyclist routes to Mimico Creek bridge
- Pathway to new bridge across Mimico Creek to Humber Bay Park West

Existing Parking: 228 spaces

Proposed Parking: 156 spaces +7 overflow spaces

Section c-c through one of the peninsulas along the West Shoreline shows the proposed manipulation of grade to provide access to the stunning views of downtown from the park.



The parking area for Humber Bay Park East will be reorganized, creating a large pollinator species meadow, signifying the arrival to a truly unique environment.

3. EAST ENTRANCE MEADOW

CONSIDERATION FOR ARCHITECTURAL IMPROVEMENTS IN HUMBER BAY PARK

There are two existing park building locations in Humber Bay Park – 1 in Humber Bay Park East and 1 in Humber Bay Park West. As part of the Master Plan process, the consulting team evaluated these architectural facilities within each segment of the park and then within the overall park context to determine current use, state of repair of the buildings and potential for future improvements. This evaluation determined that a building location was required within each park to service both the public and operational needs of the City.

The Master Plan considered a number of sites within each park to determine if the existing building locations best served the existing and future needs of the City and park users. Site options were then narrowed to include two sites within each park: one existing and one new location. Each site was evaluated against a number of criteria to determine the best location for a modest building facility. Some of the criteria for this evaluation included: safety, access, site impacts and environment, program potential and operational needs.

The map and matrix below provide additional detail on this evaluation. Site A in Humber Bay Park East is the preferred location for a building to service park users. Site A is within the area of the existing building location in Humber Bay Park East. City operational service yard needs will be consolidated and addressed by the existing building in Humber Bay Park West – Site B. Locations C and D were considered but not preferred.

BUILDING SITES EVALUATION

	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
Sensitivity to natural environment	●	●	○	○
Integration with master plan initiatives	●	●	○	○
Operational program efficiencies (e.g. consolidation of works yards)	●	●	○	○
Proximity to existing infrastructure	●	●	○	○
No new parking required	●	●	●	●
Pedestrian / transit accessibility	○	●	○	●
Active outdoor programming	●	•	●	○
Passive outdoor programming	●	•	●	○
Community outdoor programming	○	●	○	●
Views to water	●	•	●	○
Access to water	●	•	●	○
Views to new building	○	○	○	○
Views from new building	●	•	●	○
Response from public meeting #2	○	•	•	•

● Good

○ Average

• Poor



RECOMMENDED BUILDING SITE A

- No additional parking required

Minimal disturbance to habitat

Efficiencies in construction & harmonized design with pond reconfiguration

Maintains one building location in Humber Bay Park East

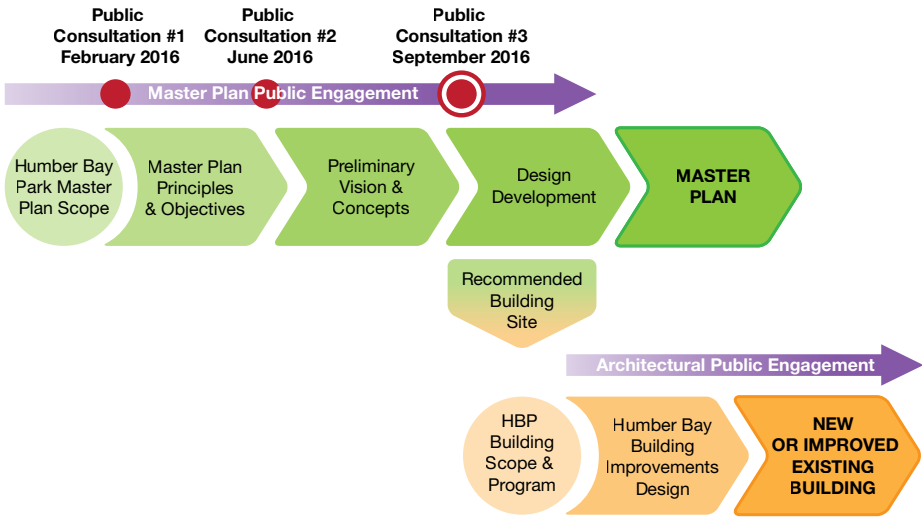
Potential reuse of existing building and upgrade of infrastructure in HBP East

Allows consolidation of works yard to HBP West

Proximity to water

Proximity to naturalized ecosystems

Opportunities for outdoor programming / education



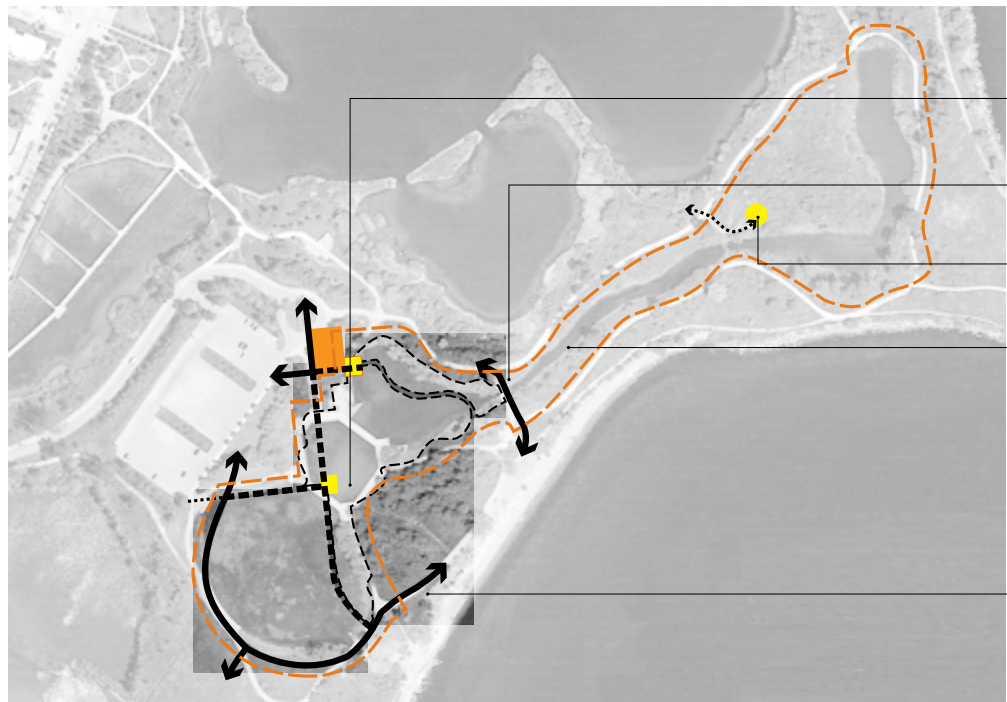
Discussion on this topic will take place at a separate public meeting. Please refer to www.toronto.ca/parks for dates and further information.

4 . EAST PONDS & WATER CHANNEL

Adjustments to the pond layout and elevation will allow for a more integrated park design, with the adjacent parking and architectural improvements. Water quality will be improved, a series of overlooks and boardwalks will improve access, allowing for seasonal recreational use.

WHAT'S NEW?

- Improved water quality
- Reconfigured recreational pond
- New pathways, bridges and boardwalks
- Improved integrated design



Existing Aerial with areas of intervention



key map

- Improve views to ponds and water channel
- Reconstruct bridge for safer vehicular maintenance access
- Restore existing Amphitheater for educational purposes
- Reconfigure pond and channel area
- Improve access to pond edge

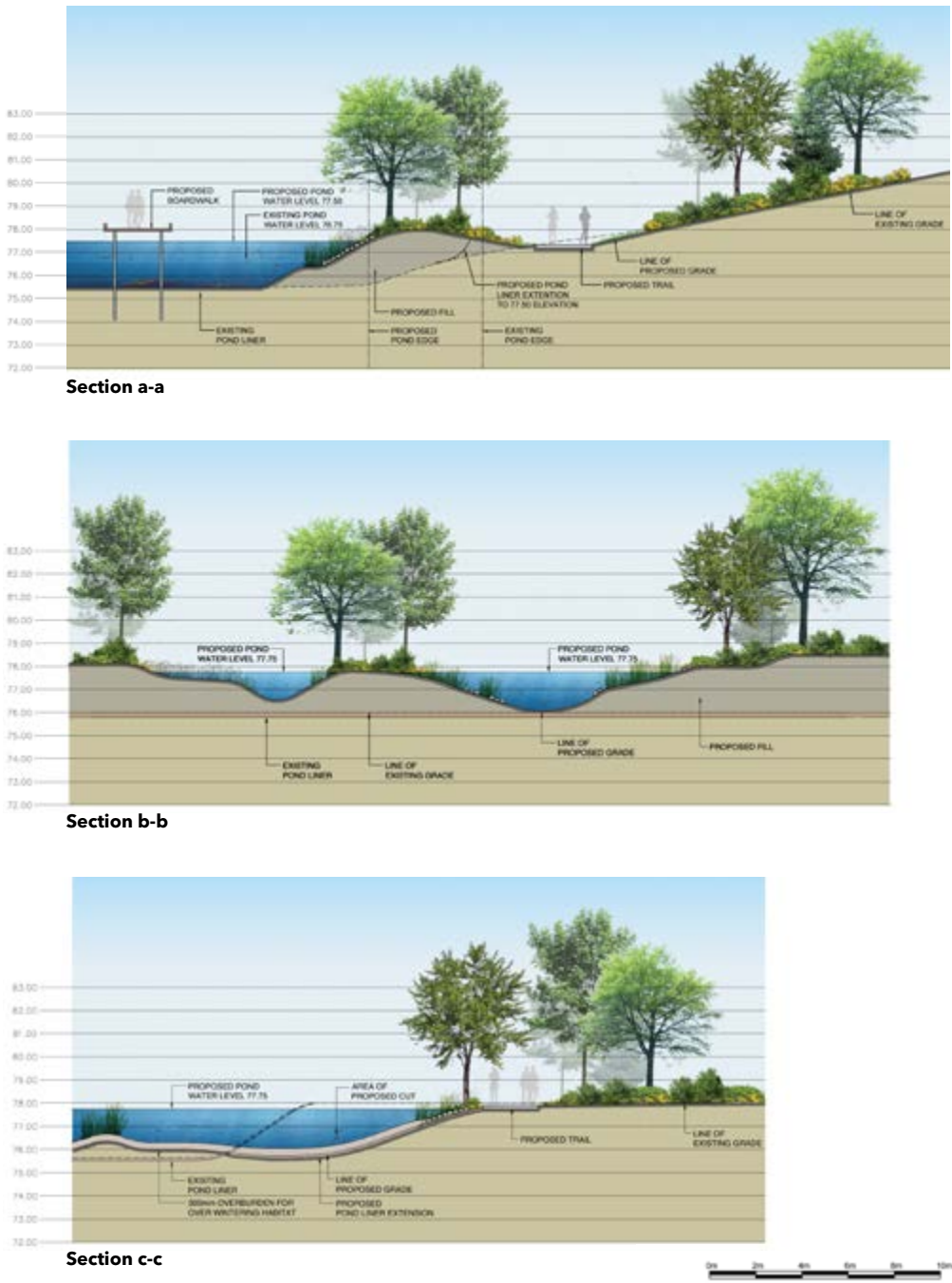


Preliminary Master Plan - Area 4: Ponds and Water Channel

- Reconstructed amphitheatre and wetland observation
- Rehabilitated water channel and Linear wetland with lookouts
- New wetland boardwalks
- Ponds reconfigured into Hybrid Option': Recreational pond, with linear wetland and open water habitat pond.
- Reconstructed bridge
- Reconfigured recreational pond and water level and an accessible pond edge

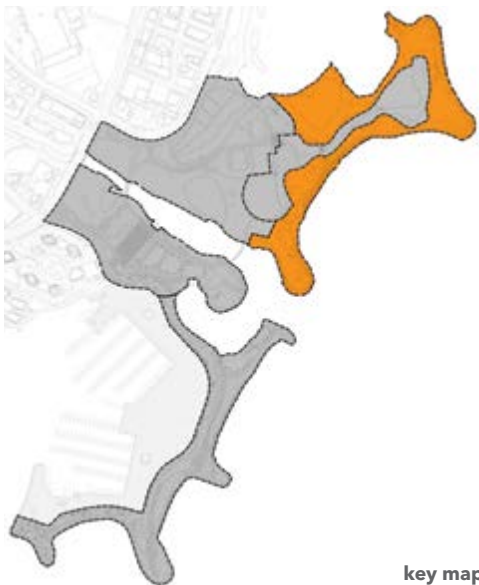


View across the linear wetland towards the recreational pond showing seasonal recreation



5. EAST PARK SHORELINE

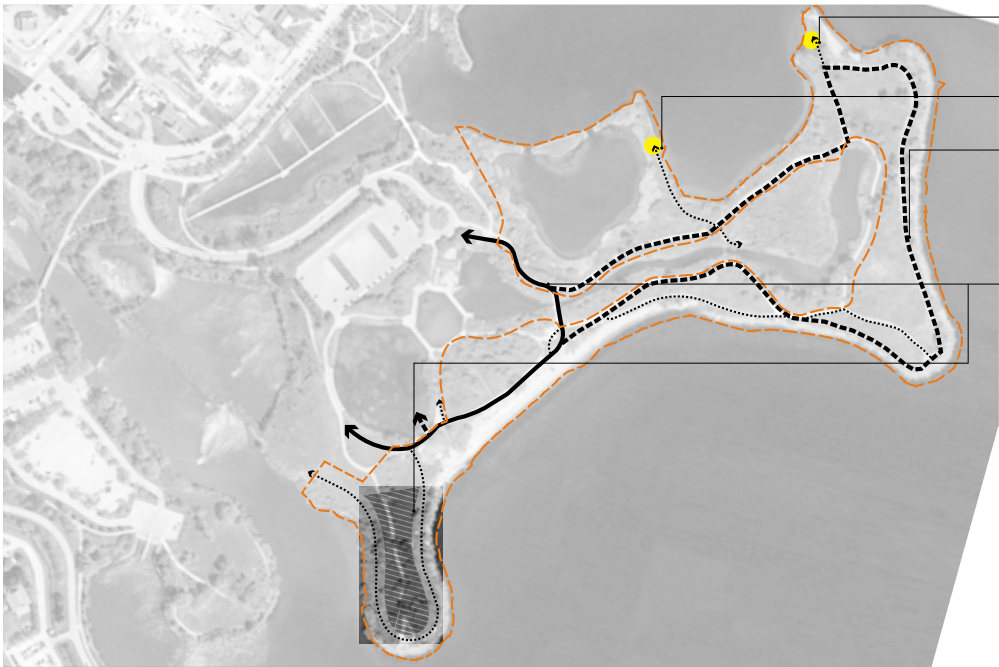
The eastern shoreline is rugged and beautiful. There are truly magical moments where one can experience reprieve from urban life while taking advantage of some of the most dramatic views of our city and shoreline. We propose protecting and enhancing the existing character of the shoreline, protect existing habitat, while allowing for moments for rest and contemplation.



key map

WHAT'S NEW?

- Accessible fishing nodes
- Improved shoreline
- Creation and enhancement of naturalized areas
- Improvements to pathways and overall circulation



Existing Aerial with areas of intervention

- Improve shoreline access for fishing access
- Improve lookouts
- Reconfigure access to the shoreline from the main path
- Enhance and increase protected habitat areas



- Accessible fishing nodes at west embayment
- Enhanced habitat and naturalized area
- Reconstructed bridge
- Enhance existing character of park naturalized peninsula
- Improved shoreline access
- Vehicular access loop for maintenance & service vehicles

Preliminary Master Plan - Area 5: East Park Shoreline

HABITAT PROTECTION & ENHANCEMENT

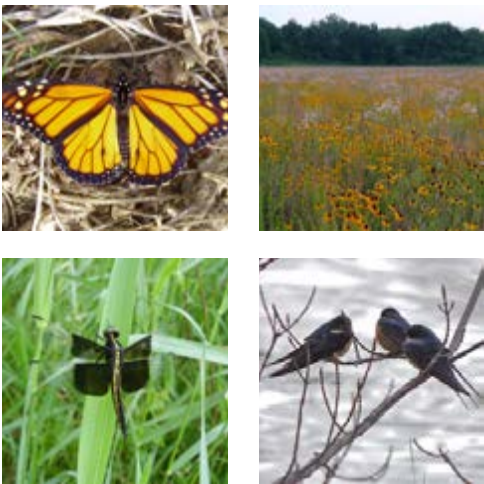


HABITAT PROTECTION & ENHANCEMENT

POLLINATOR
MEADOW HABITAT

The pollinator meadow habitat enhancements will provide a variety of native plant species that attract pollinators (e.g. bees, butterflies, moths and birds) and increase ecological function and overall biodiversity in Humber Bay Park.

- Types of Improvement for Meadows
- Create nodes of pollinator meadow/prairie restoration areas within the existing open meadow habitats
 - Seed new habitat with a high diversity of native wildflowers, grasses and shrubs to attract pollinators and increase the ecological function of this habitat type
 - Reduce/eliminate where possible invasive non-native plants (e.g. Dog-strangling Vine) from the park
 - Create habitat features for wildlife including a Barn Swallow structure and a bat box/colony structure



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- Bird Habitat Improvements
 - Small Mammal Habitat Improvements
 - Pollinator Habitat Improvements

WETLAND HABITAT

The existing and proposed wetlands will be enhanced by improving water quality and creating habitat features that attract birds, turtles and frogs.

- Types of Improvement for Wetlands
- Create a wetland feature in the centre and east pond that reduces open water area, includes a higher diversity of native emergent and floating vegetation that supports a higher diversity and abundance of wildlife
 - Introduce logs or boulders to provide basking and refuge for turtles and frogs
 - Control water levels in the watercourse and wetland to help control invasive plants

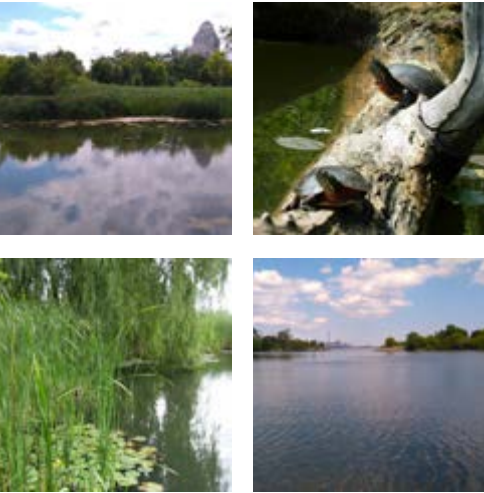


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- Fish Habitat Improvements
 - Amphibian / Reptile Habitat Improvements
 - Aquatic Bird Habitat Improvements

OPEN AQUATIC
HABITAT

The embayments and the open water area at the mouth of Mimico creek provide a range of habitats that can be enhanced by creating additional wildlife habitat features and managing impacts from human use.

- Types of Improvement for Open Aquatic Habitat
- Introduce logs for turtle basking and as a refuge for waterfowl
 - Explore opportunities to increase emergent vegetation and improve nesting opportunities for waterfowl
 - Modify steep shoreline and increase riparian cover and structural diversity to provide opportunities for reproduction and foraging for fish and other wildlife
 - Deep pockets for overwintering fish and herpetiles
 - In-water shoals, root wads and other submerged structures for fish reproduction



-
- Fish Habitat Improvements
 - Amphibian / Reptile Habitat Improvements
 - Aquatic Bird Habitat Improvements

WOODLAND HABITAT

The wooded habitats in Humber Bay can be enhanced to improve habitat for migrant and breeding birds and increase the overall biodiversity in the park.

- Types of Improvement for Woodland Habitat
- Improve existing soil conditions in areas where tree planting is proposed
 - Plant a diversity of native tree and shrub species tolerant of exposed conditions
 - Remove/manage invasive tree and shrub species that may prevent the successful establishment of planted trees
 - Increase the area of woodland habitats
 - Reduce/prevent the damage to trees by park users by restricting access to restored/planted areas



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- Bird Habitat Improvements
 - Small Mammal Habitat Improvements

10 KEY DESIGN IDEAS



THE EXISTING HUMBER BAY PARKS

