

EDWARDS GARDENS & TORONTO BOTANICAL GARDEN

Reimagining the Gardens

Public Open House

**Nov. 2 2016
6-8pm**

You're invited!

Reimagining the Gardens is an initiative led by the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division, in partnership with the Toronto Botanical Garden to develop a joint Master Plan and Management Plan.

Please join us for our first Public Open House to learn more about the project, learn about initial findings from our site analysis and provide us with your feedback on current issues in the gardens and opportunities for future development.

- Date:** November 2nd 2016
- Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Location:** Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave. E. Garden Hall, George and Kathy Dembroski Centre for Horticulture

You will have an opportunity to view display boards, speak one-on-one with project staff, hear a short presentation and participate in a group discussion.

Additional public open houses will be held in January and Spring 2017. Dates to come!

Study Overview

In consultation with the public, stakeholders, other City divisions and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), we will develop a Master Plan Study for Edwards Gardens and the Toronto Botanical Garden. The plan will outline **long-term physical, environmental, and program improvements for the Gardens, and will include a robust Management Plan to guide implementation and operations for the future.**

The study will allow us to think holistically about the long-term planning for Edwards Gardens (as City parkland), the ravine system, and the Toronto Botanical Garden complex within Edwards Gardens to elevate them to the level of other globally acclaimed gardens and cultural attractions in an ecologically and fiscally sustainable way.



Study Process & Timeline



Our project is just getting started! Consultation and engagement with stakeholders and the public will take place at each stage. Our goal is to explore and address ways to preserve, enhance and celebrate Edwards Gardens and the Toronto Botanical Garden, while retaining the beauty and tranquility of this amazing green space.

Background

Located at Leslie Street and Lawrence Avenue East, Edwards Gardens originally formed part of the Milne farm, and was later transformed into a beautiful garden by Rupert Edwards in 1944. Situated along Wilket Creek in one of the ravine tributaries of the Don River West Branch, the Gardens feature perennials and roses on the uplands, and wildflowers, rhododendrons and an extensive rockery in the valley. Among the formal gardens and brilliant floral displays, there are also rock gardens, a greenhouse, wooden arch bridges, and many walking trails.

Edwards Gardens is also home to the Toronto Botanical Gardens (TBG) featuring 17 themed “city-sized gardens” on four acres of the north-east corner. TBG, a non-profit horticultural and educational organization, strives to connect people, plants and the natural world through education, inspiration and leadership. TBG offers programs, garden tours, nature day camps, field trips, an extensive horticultural library, and also manages the Children’s Teaching Garden on the upper level of the valley.



Stop by for a visit!

Images: Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation, Toronto Botanical Garden and Janet Davis 2008-2012.

PROJECT GOALS: Inclusive and Holistic Planning for the Future



Image: Cecilia Pang, source: Wikimedia.



Image: Simon P., source: Wikimedia.

Throughout the study, the project team will evaluate options to address erosion and flooding, as well as improvements to surface structures and facilities. The study will also consider how to enrich learning, programming and visitor experience.

STUDY OUTCOMES:

- ➔ **Develop a holistic, long-term** plan and vision to guide the future development of Edwards Gardens (City parkland), the ravine system, and the Toronto Botanical Garden complex
- ➔ **Elevate the Gardens** to the level of other globally acclaimed gardens
- ➔ **Promote the long-term ecological, operational and fiscal sustainability** of Edwards Gardens and Toronto Botanical Garden

The Master Plan and Management Plan will outline a future vision for the reimagined gardens and will provide strategies to:

- ✓ **Guide general maintenance and accessibility requirements**
- ✓ **Address flooding, ravine restoration, forestry and storm water management**
- ✓ **Balance a variety of uses and user requirements**
- ✓ **Enrich and enhance programming and the visitor experience**
- ✓ **Explore potential new volunteer/partnership opportunities, capital sources and funding streams**

FUTURE VISION: How Can The Gardens Meet Your Needs and the Wider Needs of Toronto?

When was the last time you visited a public garden? Was it here in Toronto, or were you away on holiday? What aspects did you love? What lessons could we apply to Reimagining the Gardens? For inspiration, here are some examples of leading gardens around the world.



VanDusen Botanic Gardens, BC

Images, top row (left to right): Anders Pearson, source: Flickr; Ron Cogswell, source: Flickr. Images, bottom row (left to right): Diliff, source: WikiMedia; Brisbane City Council, source: Flickr; Calvin Teo, source: WikiMedia; Marcin Chady, source: Flickr.

Other Ways to Get Involved

Can't make it to the Public Open House? Not to worry! Throughout the study there will be several opportunities for stakeholder groups and the public to provide input.

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT



Survey

Visit our website to contribute your thoughts via our online survey:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/ReimaginetheGardens



Garden Selfies

Send us a **#ThumbsUp** selfie in your favourite places at the Gardens, and a **#ThumbsDown** selfie where things need improvement

SOUNDING BOARDS



During your visit to Edwards Gardens and the Toronto Botanical Garden make sure to jot your ideas down on our sounding boards.

STAY INFORMED



The project website is your one-stop shop for all your project information needs, so make sure to check back often! We will post regular project updates, presentation materials, What We Heard Reports, and details on future public engagement opportunities. Site:
www.toronto.ca/edwardsgardens-tbg