



The Trails Master Plan for Guild Park & Gardens reflects the input of the community as well as senior staff from the City of Toronto and TRCA who advised the team with respect to each component of the Plan.

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A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF GUILD PARK & GARDENS

Guild Park & Gardens is a regionally treasured, destination park with a unique character that needs to be protected, preserved and enhanced. The 36 hectare park has a special combination of features that create a rare park user experience. This combination is comprised of rich cultural heritage resources in a cultural landscape structure flanked by extensive, high quality natural heritage systems. The Park is set on the spectacular, geologically significant landform of the Scarborough Bluffs. Functioning as the heart of its local community, Guild Park & Gardens is also an important destination for family-friendly, passive recreation and trail use by a broader catchment area. Park management and arts-related programming must protect and celebrate its cultural and natural heritage legacy so that the outstanding park user experience it offers is kept alive and accessible for many generations to come (Management Plan for Guild Park & Gardens, 2014).

The Planning Partnership was retained by the City of Toronto to create a Trails Master Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to expand upon the recommendations of the Management Plan, provide direction regarding future trail work, and identify key priority projects. The Trails Master Plan establishes a strategy to preserve and enhance the existing trail network, improve the safety of the site, and reinforce the preservation and conservation intentions outlined in the Management Plan regarding natural and cultural heritage features. The Park is the subject of a number of intersecting plans and initiatives by the City of Toronto and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). The Plan takes into account the other plans underway to provide the City with an inclusive management framework that:

- identifies a guiding vision for the park;
- maps and assesses existing conditions;
- proposes a future trail network;
- recommends guidelines for park-wide elements;
- recommends key initiatives and priority actions; and,
- proposes a phasing and implementation strategy.

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PURPOSE

“Guild Park & Gardens is a regionally treasured, destination park with a unique character that needs to be protected, preserved and enhanced.”

- The Guild Park and Gardens Management Plan

The Guild Park and Gardens Management Plan was adopted in 2014. Establishing a set of eight visionary pillars, the Management Plan outlines the rich history of the site, the planning context that it is situated in, as well as the existing conditions, issues, and recommendations for the site’s natural heritage, cultural heritage, horticulture, and trails (more on the pillars p. 34).

The Management Plan concludes with the recommendation that a master plan be commissioned to help direct future works and improvement within the park and gardens.

The Trails Master Plan for the Guild Park and Gardens builds upon the findings of the Management Plan, and lays the framework for executing future trails work within the site.

The purpose of the Trails Master Plan is to provide additional detail regarding the condition of the existing trails network within the site, and to identify key initiatives for the improvement of this network.

The Trails Master Plan begins with a planning review, which addresses plans, policies, or initiatives that have come into effect since the adoption of the Management Plan. Additional

analysis of existing conditions, as well as analysis of feedback obtained through the public consultation process, provide the foundation for the Master Plan’s recommendations, and implementation and phasing sections.

This document seeks to ensure that the trails network within the site is maintained and enhanced in a manner which protects the valuable natural and cultural heritage of the site, while providing an exciting, safe, and beautiful environment for current and future visitors to the park and gardens.

