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INTRODUCTION

This plan is meant to be considered in conjunction with the Guild Parks and Gardens Management Plan (2014), and the Guild Park and Gardens Horticulture Plan (2018), as well as any forthcoming detailed design or construction documents.

The following review of other related plans and initiatives expands upon the planning review conducted and presented as part of the Management Plan. All plans, initiatives, and studies included as part of this plan context review have been developed or have come into effect since the adoption of the Management Plan in 2014. As such, for a complete overview of the planning framework that the site is subject to, please consult both the Management Plan and the Trails Master Plan.



Management Plan for Guild Park & Gardens (2014)

RELATED PLANS & INITIATIVES

Archaeological Study

In 2005 the Guild Inn property, including the structures on site, gardens, and undeveloped parkland, underwent an archaeological assessment. The assessment divided the site into two phases. Phase 1 Hotel Precinct Lands focused on the Bickford House and its associated facilities. Phase 2 Undeveloped Parkland, Culture Precinct, Sculpture Garden and Other Lands, included the bulk of the site's landscape.

An existing structure on site, the Guild Log Cabin, was previously registered, and is designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. Additionally, an archaeological survey conducted in 1996 recovered over 8500 artifacts in the vicinity of the cabin, most of which are of twentieth century origin.

The study concluded that given the property's location and settlement history, the site exhibits significant archaeological potential. No significant artifacts were recovered during this assessment though. The potential for the discovery of significant artifacts is in part contingent on the degree to which the lands have been disturbed by development activities since its original settlement.

The study recommends that the site be considered free from further archaeological concern, and that future site works be conducted in such a way as to eliminate risk to the existing cultural features on the property.

Hydrologic Study Report

A hydrological study was undertaken to assess the site's wetland system and drainage patterns, as well as the areas of erosion along the bluff's edge. The study found that the top of the bluffs exhibited evidence of ongoing erosion resulting from surface runoff, and that in two locations the slope has eroded past the location of an existing informal Natural Surface Trail. Additional sites of erosion were identified along the southeast parking lot within the site. All the erosion sites are accessible via the trail network, however, some areas will require reinforcement to bear the load of maintenance or construction equipment.

All the identified erosion sites pose a hazard risk to the public, as well as the sensitive vegetation communities located near and on the bluff slopes, and are likely to worsen over time.

Drainage modeling of the site has determined that the central portion of the site, containing the Guild Inn Estate buildings and parking, drain into catchments which connect to the municipal storm sewer. The bulk of the rest of the site drains south towards the bluffs.

Recommended approaches to mitigating further erosion include minor grading to redirect surface drainage, mechanically stabilizing the slope, installing soil anchors or nails, introducing bio-engineering measures, and installing geowebbing.

Clark Centre for the Arts (Building 191)

Building 191, a two-storey concrete and steel structure clad in architectural relics, was built designed by architect J.H.W. Bradfield and built by the Clarks in 1963 to house office spaces and storage. As part of the works on the Guild Inn Estate, Building 191 is set to undergo significant rehabilitation and renovation to transform it into a community arts and culture facility.

Following an extensive community consultation process, the team from Taylor Hazell Architects developed a plan for the restoration and expansion of Building 191. The proposed design incorporates a three-storey rear addition, and a renovated interior that includes studio, gallery, and event space. The addition lobby is to be clad in glass and is intended to provide light into the interior spaces, while the majority of the existing façade is to be preserved. The project is expected to be finished in 2020.



Building 191

Scarborough Waterfront Project

The Scarborough Waterfront Project Environmental Assessment (EA) was undertaken to evaluate and address existing risk to public safety and infrastructure due to erosion, as well as to provide direction on the means of achieving the Scarborough Waterfront Project's vision of creating a connected system of publicly accessible greenspaces along the Lake Ontario shoreline which respects and protects the significant natural and cultural features of the Scarborough Bluffs. The EA's study area includes a 11 km stretch of shoreline, beginning at Bluffer's Park and extending east to East Point Park/Highland Creek. Guild Park and Gardens is located in the Central Segment Area.

The Central Segment has experienced previous shoreline protection works, and the EA found the Bluffs along this Segment to be at varying stages of reaching their long term stabilized slope. The existing construction access route within Guild Park and Gardens functions as an informal access to the waterfront for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as the main stormwater outfall into Lake Ontario. The EA found that the construction access route running along the bottom of the Bluffs at Guild Park and Gardens lies too close to the toe of the slope of the Bluffs, and as such lies within the risk zone and poses a danger to the public. Potential solutions include relocating the access route within the existing land base to be farther from the toe of the slope, lake-ward.

The southern portion of the construction access route that slopes down to the shorefront was found to be relatively steep (approximately 13%), with portions exhibiting steep side slopes. Regrading was not feasible, and a solution that incorporates level rest areas will be explored in the detailed design phase of the Project.



Guild Park portion of the Waterfront Project - image from the report

TRCA Ongoing Projects

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has been involved in several ongoing projects within Guild Park and Gardens. These projects include:

- Guild Inn Shoreline Restoration Project;
- Scarborough Waterfront Project;
- Terrestrial and aquatic habitat enhancement; and,
- Maintenance of existing construction access route.



Guild Park shoreline

Urban Forestry Ash Removal Plan

The City of Toronto Urban Forestry department has been involved in the ongoing monitoring and maintenance of ash trees on the Guild Park and Gardens property. As part of this maintenance effort, Urban Forestry has reviewed and inoculated ash trees throughout the property, as well as removed hazard trees. These efforts are expected to continue.

To guide future efforts, Urban Forestry is preparing an Ash Removal and Emerald Ash Borer Maintenance Plan. This plan should be referenced prior to undertaking any detailed design or on site construction.



Felled ash trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer

Dynamic Hospitality & Guild Inn Estate

In 2013 Dynamic Hospitality and Entertainment Group began work on the revitalization of the Guild Inn Estate. The redevelopment transformed the Guild Inn Estate into a restaurant and banquet / events centre. The redevelopment included two new extensions, including the Gazebo, a sheltered event space. Dynamic Hospitality remains involved as the property manager of the Guild Inn Estate.

Guild Theatre Group

The Guild Festival Theatre is a professional theatre group responsible for developing, organizing, and performing live theatre in Guild Park and Gardens. The primary venue for the live performances is the cultural heritage artifact commonly referred to as the Greek Theatre.



Existing Bear sculpture.

Preliminary Geotechnical Feasibility

In 2018 Terraprobe Inc. was retained by the TRCA to prepare the Preliminary Geotechnical Feasibility study for the proposed lookouts. The report provides geotechnical engineering design advice and recommendations regarding slope stability.

The study reviewed two potential locations along the top of bluffs. 2016 LIDAR data, provided by the TRCA, was referenced to determine existing slope conditions, while the soil properties were assessed by using data obtained from local boreholes during the Scarborough Waterfront Project.

The slope analysis demonstrates that further erosion of the slopes is expected. As such, the study recommends that any lookout structures be designed with the Long Term Stable Slope Crest (LTSSC) in mind. Structural supports (caisson foundations, spread footing foundations, micropiles, etc.), should be designed to bear at least 1.2m below the stable slope profiles for each location.

Lookout Structural Feasibility Study

Entuitive was retained by the TRCA to undertake a structural feasibility study and develop a series of design options for the potential lookouts. The feasibility study was based on the findings of the Preliminary Geotechnical Feasibility study prepared by Terraprobe Inc.

The three concepts developed take into account the projected future condition of the bluff slope, which is expected to recede further before arriving at the Long Term Stable Slope Crest (LTSSC). The concepts aim to provide a safe viewing platform that minimally impacts the surrounding environment.

Each of the concepts restricts heavy construction loads from occurring within 6m of the current top of bluffs line, to ensure safe working conditions. The first, and most economical, concept proposes a raised viewing platform located at the future LTSSC. The second concept introduces a cantilevered option, that allows for access to the edge of bluffs in their current condition, and a dramatic projection over the slope in it's LTSSC condition. The final concept, and most costly, is an elaborate cable suspended structure that projects over the current and future top of bluffs line.

Each concept is associated with specific advantages, disadvantages, and costs.

Toronto Bike Plan

In 2001 the City of Toronto released the Toronto Bike Plan, and later, in 2016, the Toronto Cycling Network Plan. The goal of the bike plans is to create a safe and connected cycling infrastructure network through adding new routes and enhancing existing ones.

The 2001 Bike Plan proposes a 2.1 km signed bike route be established along Guildwood Parkway. The 2016 Toronto Cycling Network Plan established a "Quiet Street Route" along Livingston Road and Guildwood Parkway, as well as a "Bike Trail" through the park. The 2018 Toronto Cycling Network Plan retains the Quiet Street Route identified in the 2016 Plan, which will offer cyclists an on-street route around the site. The trails throughout the Guild will be marked with pedestrian-only signage. Cyclists are encouraged to walk bikes on the site, or make use of ample bike parking that will be provided. This will allow guests to enjoy the park, minimizing pedestrian/cyclist conflicts in a site that features frequent programming and permitted events.



Guild Park cycling "Quiet Street Route" and "Trail" - image from the 2016 report

