



**GUILD PARK  
& GARDENS**  
horticulture plan

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Horticulture Plan for Guild Park and 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.

### CITY OF TORONTO ADVISORY TEAM

Brendan McKee - PF&R, Horticulture - Project Coordinator, Landscape Architect  
Gord Bacon - PF&R, Parks - Scarborough District, General Supervisor  
Christopher Martin - PF&R, Parks - Scarborough District, Supervisor (Ward 43)  
Kristen Vincent - PF&R, Urban Forestry - Natural Resource Specialist  
Cara Webster - PF&R, Urban Forestry, Urban Forest Renewal, Tree Nursery & Natural Resource Management - Supervisor  
Nicole Bowles - PF&R - Leadhand Horticulturist  
Ruthanne Henry - PF&R, Parks Development and Capital Projects - Senior Coordinator  
Barb McLean - Economic Development & Culture, Capital Assets  
Jo-Ann Pynn - Economic Development & Culture, Capital Assets  
Jan Donovan - Economic Development & Culture, Capital Assets  
Julie Frost - Economic Development & Culture, Arts & Culture Services -Senior Arts Consultant

### CONSULTING TEAM - THE PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Michael Ormston-Holloway  
Tyler Allen Bradt  
Jennifer Williamson



The Planning Partnership

# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	5
vision for the future	6
purpose	7
PLAN CONTEXT	9
history	11
project context	13
study methodology	23
inventory & analysis	24
consultation	32
issues	34
inspiration	38
RECOMMENDATIONS	45
vision	47
principles & objectives	50
landscape plan	54
key elements	60
planting strategy	68
detailed planting plans	80
planting lists	86
construction practices	100
maintenance	102
PHASING & IMPLEMENTATION	107
implementation	108
roles & responsibilities	112
costing	115
PLANT CATALOGUE	117

*Left - The existing main garden walk, looking north towards the Guild Inn Estate.*





**SECTION 1:**  
introduction

# vision for the future

**“A park like no other, Guild Park & Gardens is a special place where art and nature meet on the spectacular Scarborough Bluffs.”**

~ The Guild Park and Gardens Management Plan

Guild Park and Gardens is a premiere destination for local residents and visitors from the Greater Toronto Area and beyond. Rich in both cultural and natural heritage, the site has become entrenched in the community as both a space for gathering or for peaceful moments, for the everyday or for life’s big events.

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 and Gardens, 2014).

The Horticulture Plan contributes to the achievement of the Pillars of the Vision, as outlined in the Management Plan for the Guild Park and Gardens (2014). These eight pillars are:

- Destination Park
- Where Art Meets Nature
- Enhance Passive Recreation
- Conserve Cultural Heritage Resources
- Family Friendly
- Revitalize Cultural Landscape Structure
- Protect Natural Heritage Systems
- Tell the Story

# purpose

The Planning Partnership was retained by the City of Toronto to create a Horticulture Plan, as set out in the recommendations of the Management Plan for the Guild Park and Gardens (2014) and the Guild park and Gardens Trails Master Plan (2018). The purpose of the Plan is to expand upon the recommendations of the Management Plan, provide direction regarding the future of the park’s horticultural areas, and identify key priority projects. The Horticulture Plan establishes a strategy to revitalize the historic landscape, use horticulture to help structure the cultural landscape, and add to the site’s unique cultural heritage, where appropriate. 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 horticulture strategy;
- recommends guidelines for horticulture and planting;
- recommends key initiatives and priority actions; and,
- proposes a phasing and implementation strategy.

The Guild Park and Gardens Horticulture Plan builds upon the findings of the two preceding plans, by presenting a series of tools and direction for managing and enhancing the horticultural heritage of the site. Focused exclusively on the manicured areas of the property, the Plan begins by establishing a guiding vision for gardens, and associated principles. These are further articulated in the landscape plan and detailed planting plans which present a cohesive design for the site to guide future horticultural work. The management of the natural areas of the site is covered under separate environmental initiatives and is not included as part of this plan.

In addition to providing a proposed ultimate design for the site, the Plan also outlines plant lists, standardized construction practices, and an implementation strategy, intended to provide a flexible and adaptive framework for horticultural upgrades. The recommendations within this document were developed specifically for the Guild Park and Gardens site, and take into consideration its unique site conditions, history, and future vision. As such, this guiding document seeks to ensure the successful long-term preservation and maintenance of the manicured areas of Guild Park and Gardens, while showcasing and enhancing the vibrant character and heritage of the site.



Context Map

**“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

