

# Welcome

## St. Clair Reservoir Rehabilitation: Proposed Changes to Sir Winston Churchill Park Dogs Off-Leash Area and Tennis Courts



**Public Drop-In Event  
December 11, 2018  
6:30pm – 8:30pm**

**Timothy Eaton Memorial Church  
Flora McCrea Auditorium (Rm 109)  
230 St. Clair Ave West**

## Purpose of tonight's event

- Learn about:
  - Rehabilitation Project Construction Activities
  - Rehabilitation Project Construction Schedule
  - Proposed changes to the Sir Winston Churchill Park Dogs Off-Leash Area and Tennis Courts
- Speak one-on-one with City staff
- Provide feedback on the proposed changes to the park
- All project information, including feedback form, is available on the project website at [www.toronto.ca/stclairreservoir](http://www.toronto.ca/stclairreservoir)

## City of Toronto Staff Presence

- Parks, Forestry and Recreation
- Toronto Water
- Engineering and Construction Services
- Public Consultation

## Sir Winston Churchill Park

- The St. Clair Reservoir is home to Sir Winston Churchill Park, an 8.6 hectare park, part of which sits atop the reservoir's green roof.
- The park includes a number of amenities, including a perimeter trail, children's playground, Dogs Off-Leash Area, sports field and tennis courts.
- The south end of the park is situated in a ravine, directly east of the Nordheimer Ravine that runs southeast from St. Clair Avenue West to the Spadina Road Bridge. The ravine portion of the park falls under the City of Toronto Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-law and includes some Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs).



Map of Sir Winston Churchill Park prior to the rehabilitation project



Satellite image of Sir Winston Churchill Park prior to the rehabilitation project



Satellite image of Sir Winston Churchill Park during the rehabilitation project

////// Ravine portion of the park and neighbouring Nordheimer Ravine subject to the Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-law

# St. Clair Reservoir: Background

The St. Clair Reservoir was originally constructed in 1930



1930: St. Clair Reservoir during construction



1929: St. Clair Reservoir site prior to construction



Reservoir under construction in 1930



Interior of reservoir under construction

The reservoir stores 226 million litres of drinking water



1932: St. Clair Reservoir after construction

Accounts for 10% of the City of Toronto water storage capacity

# St. Clair Reservoir Rehabilitation Project

The rehabilitation project was initiated in 2016 to complete structural work to maintain a state of good repair for the reservoir. The scope of work has included:

- Replacing the waterproof membrane on the roof of the reservoir
- Structural rehabilitation and maintenance
- Exterior building repairs to the Valve House and Portal Building
- Replacement and maintenance of existing valves and mechanical infrastructure
- Reinstatement of 10 tennis courts, dogs off-leash area (DOLA), playground area, perimeter running track and green space
- Restoration of Spadina Avenue access road



Valve House



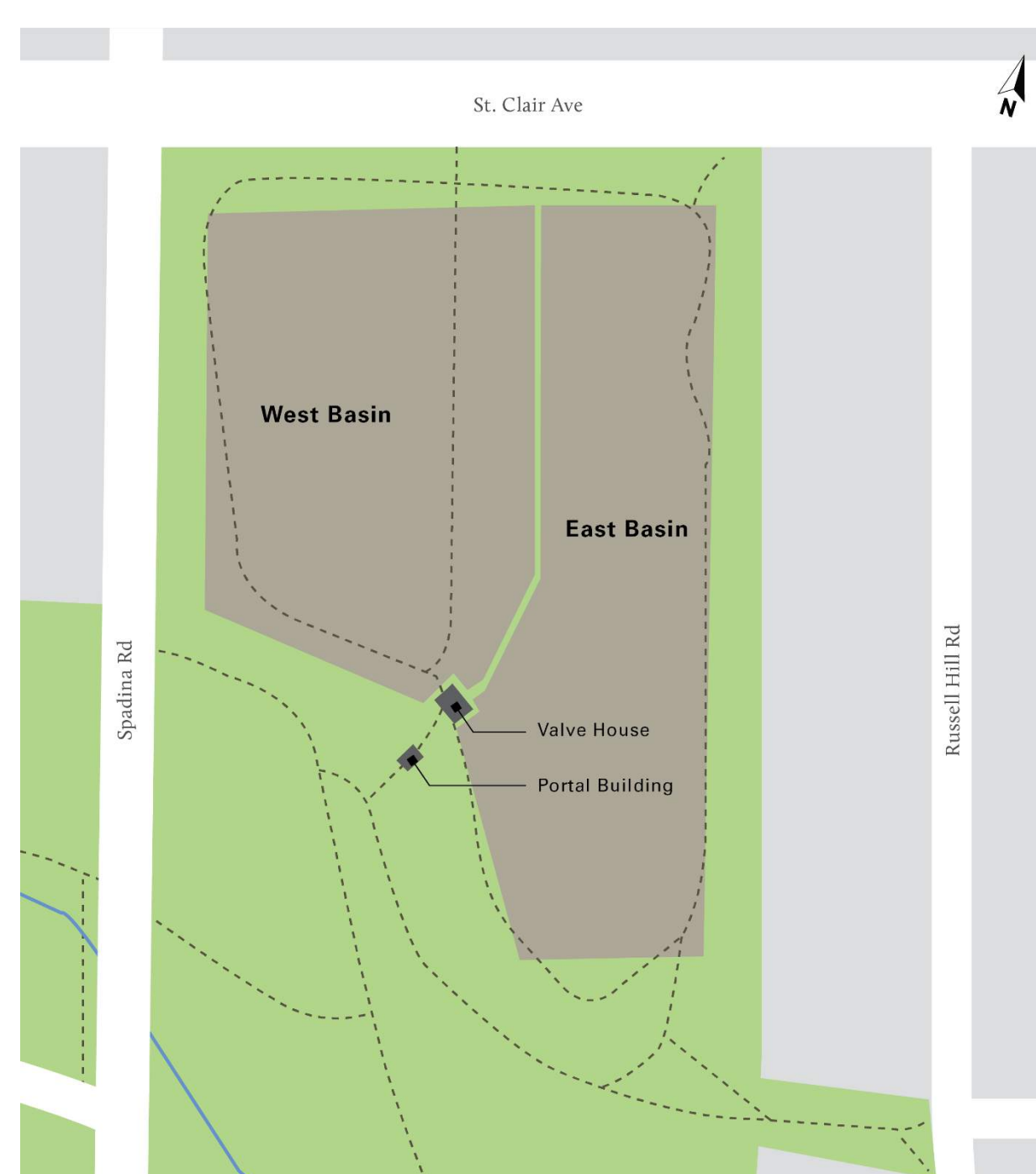
Portal Building

## Phase 1: Summer 2016 to Spring 2017

- West basin closed for construction
- Dogs off-leash area, six tennis courts and playground remained open

## Phase 2: Spring 2017 to Fall 2019

- West and east basins both closed for construction
- Rehabilitation work currently ongoing
- Dogs off-leash area, playground and tennis courts closed



Map showing overlay of reservoir basins under Sir Winston Churchill Park

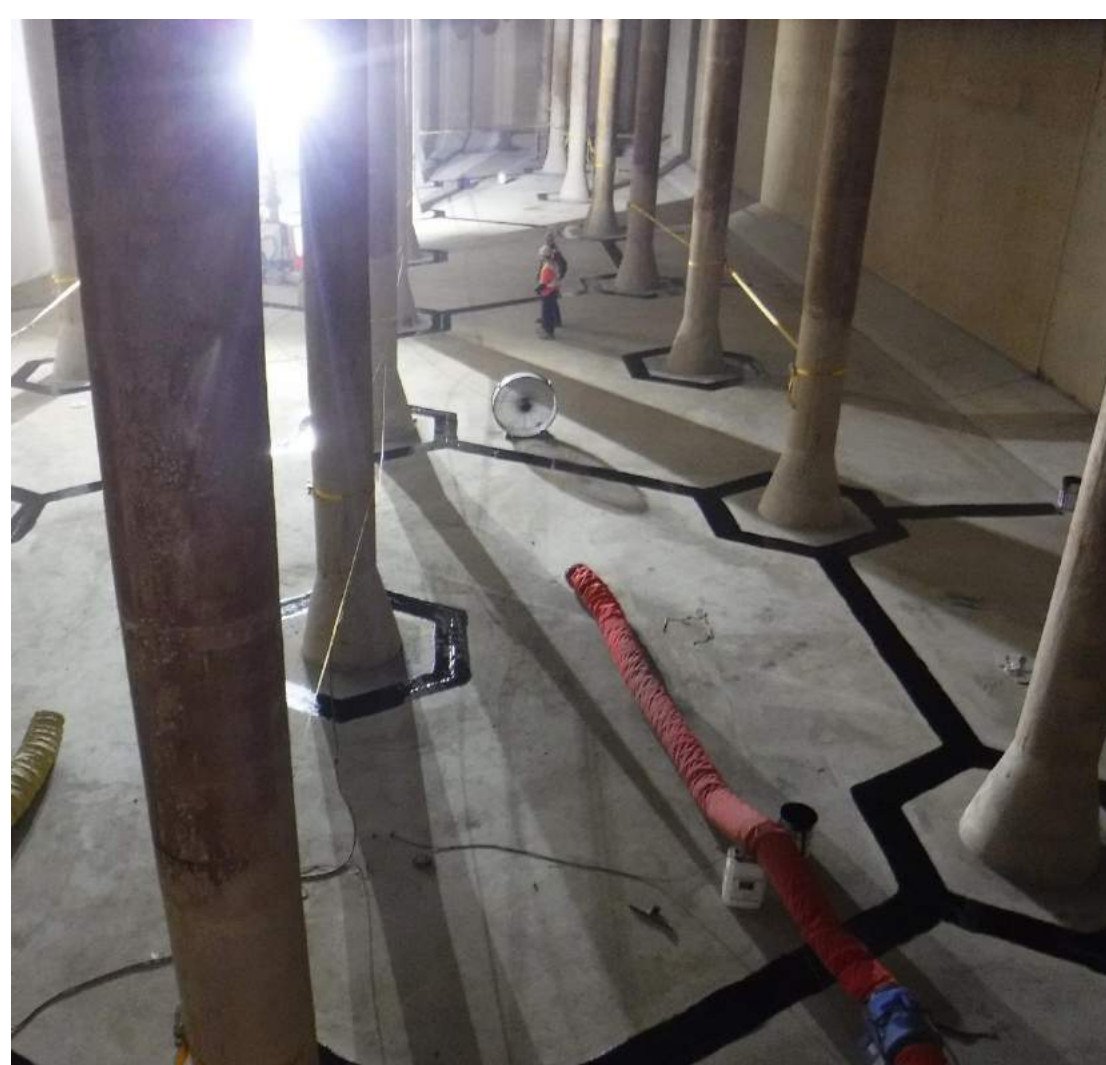
# St. Clair Reservoir Rehabilitation Project

## Phase 2: Construction Update

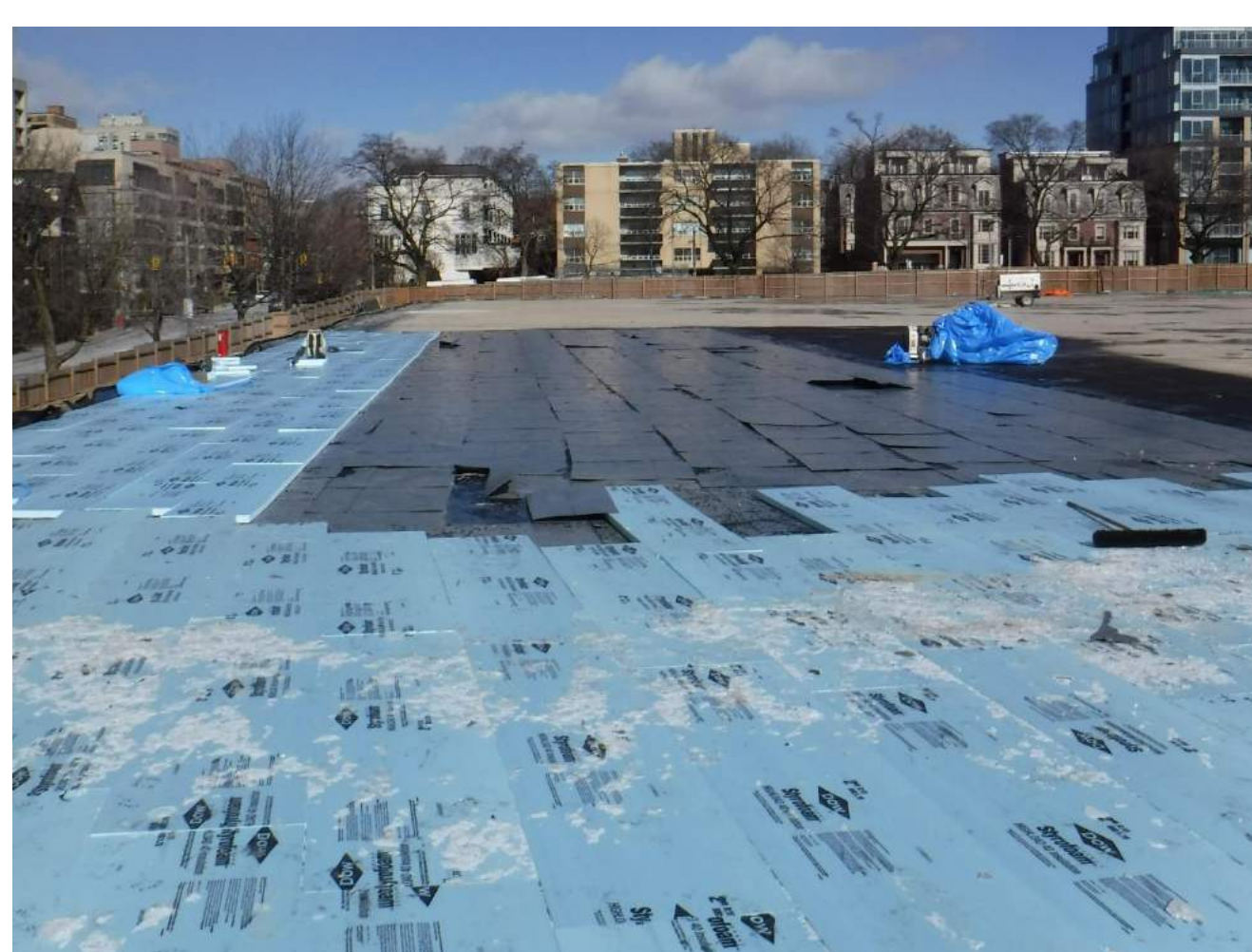
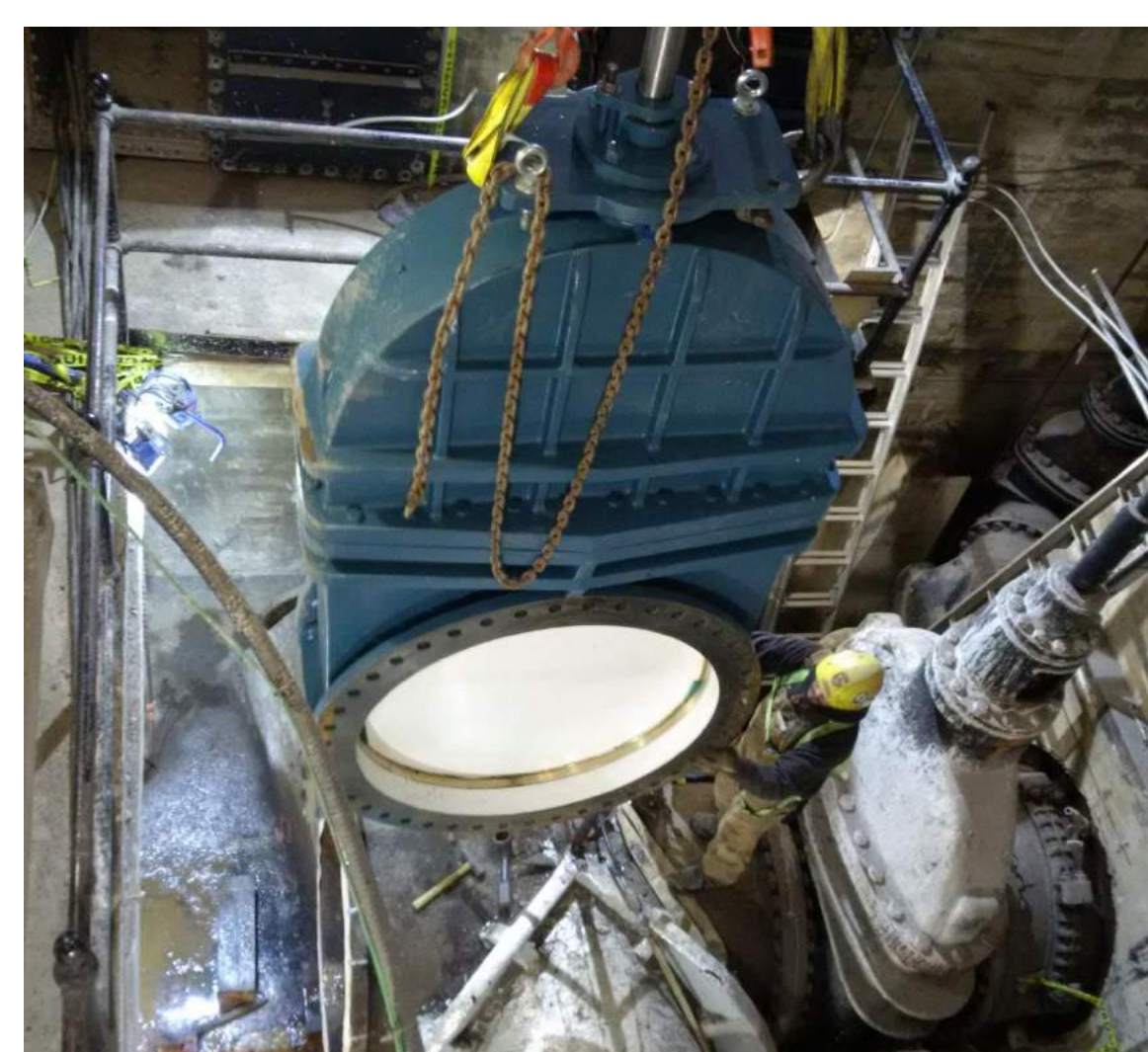
The following activities have been completed as part of the rehabilitation project:



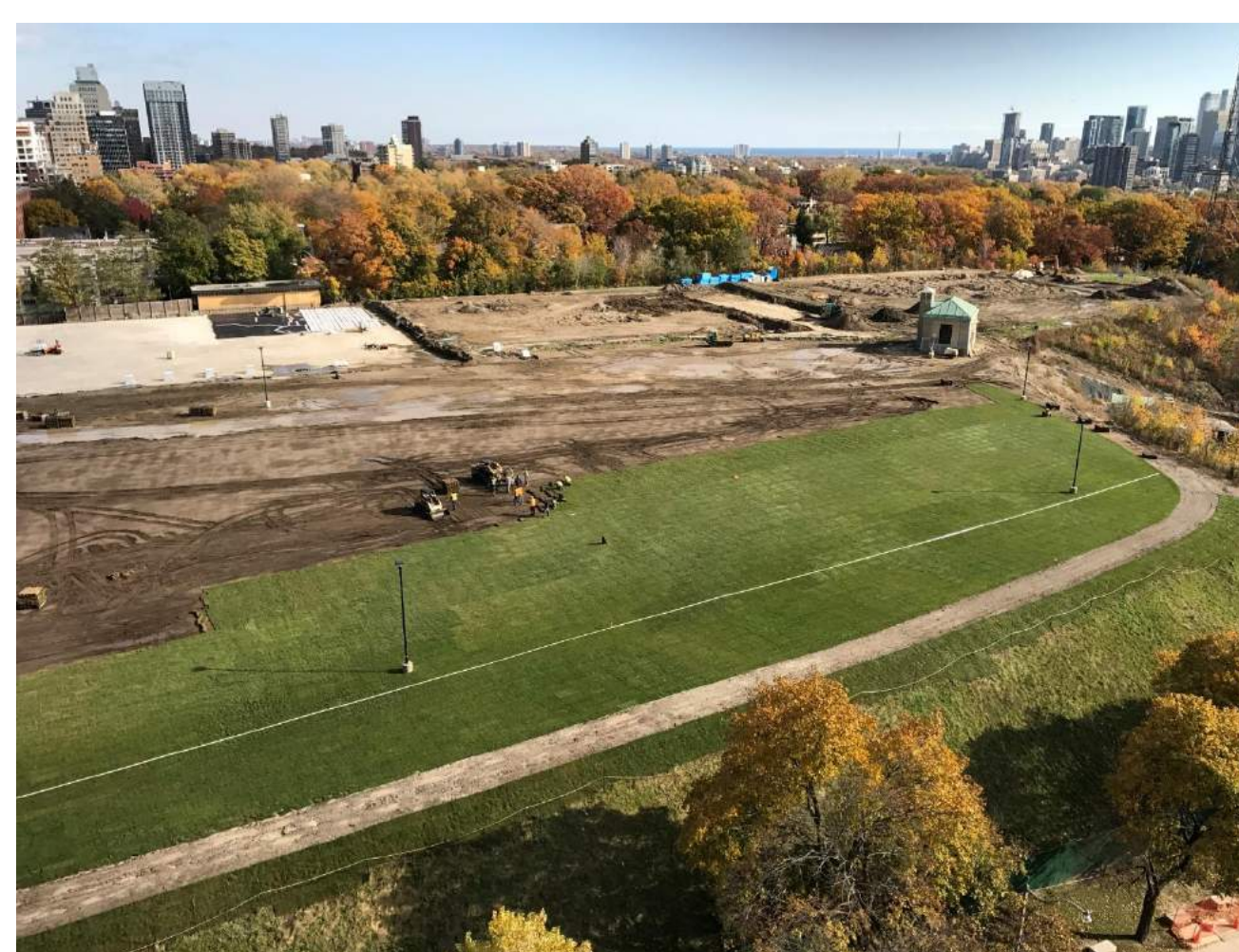
Exterior repairs to the Portal Building and Valve House and replacement of the exterior staircase



Rehabilitation of the interior of the portal building, valve house and reservoir, including concrete repair and valve replacement



Repairs to the exterior of the reservoir and replacement of the waterproof membrane



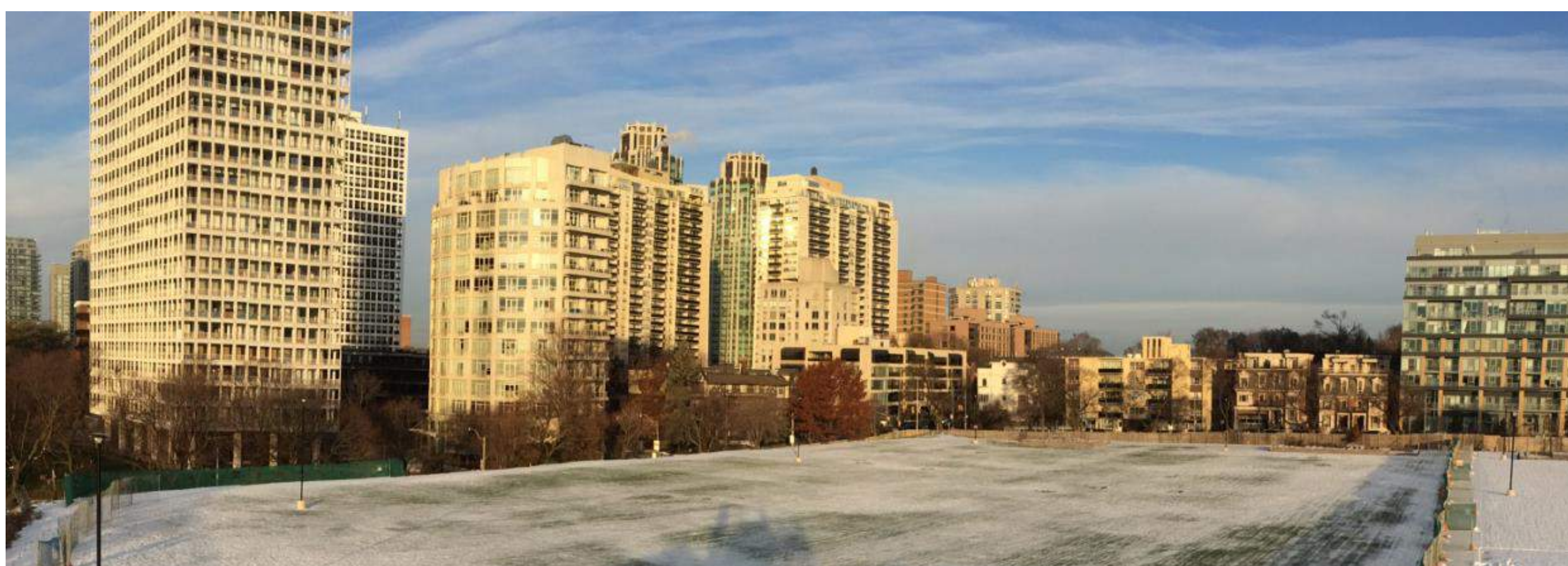
Re-sodding and landscaping of the park area

Key activities to be completed for the remainder of Phase 2 include the reinstatement of park features such as the playground, tennis courts, and off-leash area.

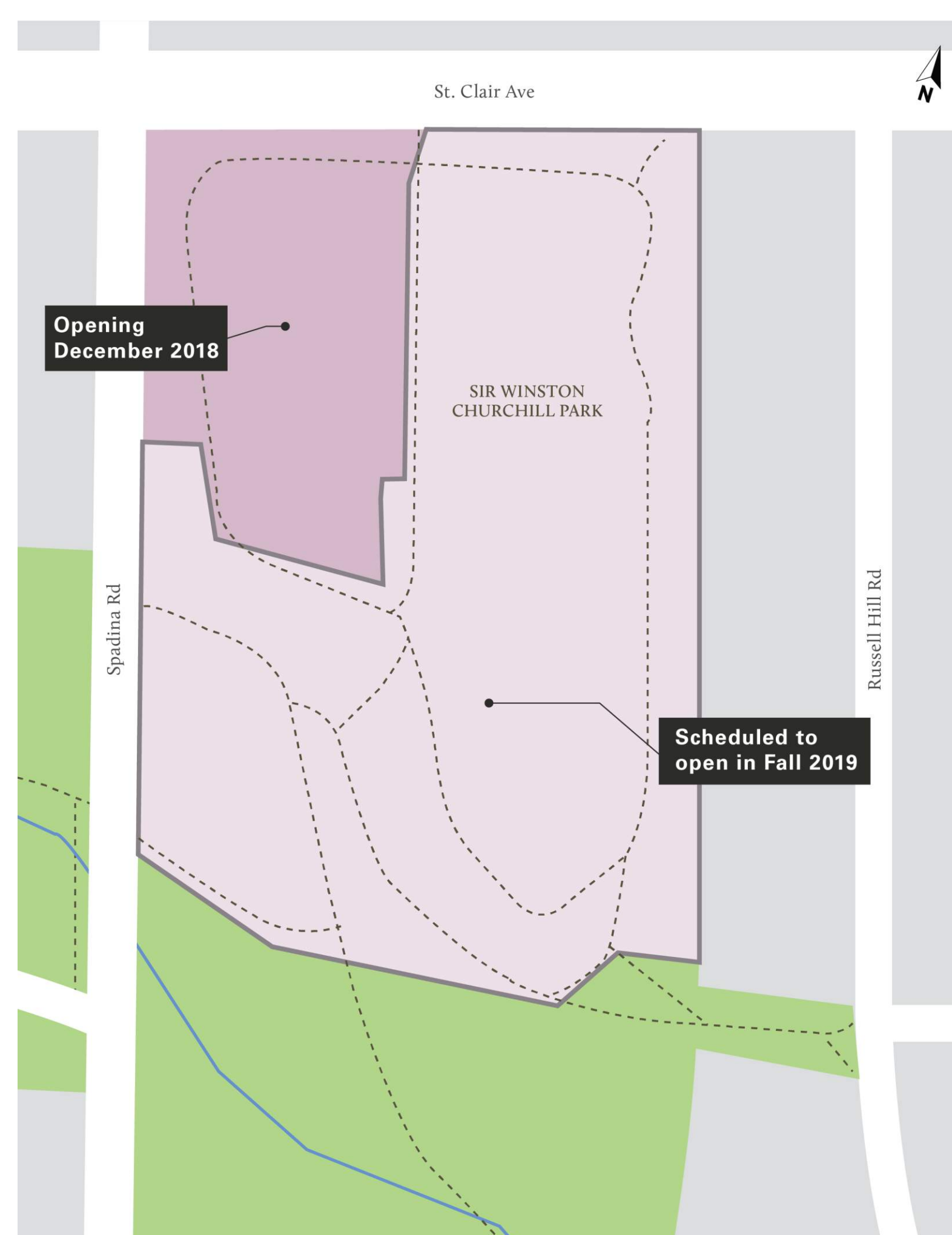
# St. Clair Reservoir Rehabilitation Project

## Northwest Section of Sir Winston Churchill Park: Opening December 2018

- Sir Winston Churchill Park is scheduled to fully re-open in Fall 2019
- Rehabilitation work on the northwest section of the park has been completed **one year ahead of schedule**. This part of the park will re-open in **December 2018**.
- The remaining areas of the park are scheduled to re-open in Fall 2019



A view of the northwest section of the park that will re-open in December 2018, one year ahead of schedule.



Map showing the area of the park reopening in December 2018, and the area that will remain closed until project completion.

# Reinstatement of Dogs Off-Leash Area (DOLA)

- As part of the St. Clair Reservoir Rehabilitation, the Dogs Off-Leash Area (DOLA) was to be reinstated in the same location upon completion of the rehabilitation work
- The Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation & Parks (formerly MOECC) informed the City that the location atop the reservoir could put the City in contravention of the Ontario Safe Drinking Water Act
- Proper monitoring would require removal of the DOLA and all surface materials on a regular basis to investigate, as well as dewatering the reservoir and taking it offline during the monitoring period
- The City has determined that this level of monitoring is not feasible



The previous DOLA had poor drainage during rainy periods due to the location atop the reservoir



# People, Dogs and Parks - Off-Leash Policy

- The City recognizes the importance of a Dogs Off-Leash Area to the community, and has worked closely with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to assess other possible locations within the park for relocating the DOLA



- A suitable alternate location has been identified that meets the location criteria for the establishment of off-leash areas in the *People, Dogs and Parks Off-Leash Policy*. This criteria includes:
  - Neighbourhood characteristics (adjacent land uses, population density, housing types, licensed dog population, proximity of existing and other potential off-leash areas located within a 15 minute walk or 1 kilometre)
  - Compatibility with the park's design, established uses, features and components
  - Potential impacts on the park's functionality, condition and natural environment
  - Proportion of park to be taken up by the proposed off-leash area
  - Proximity to residences and off-leash area exclusions

*Source: People, Dogs and Parks – Off-leash Policy*

- Off-leash areas are established to promote responsible dog ownership in parks and to manage increases in park usage by dog owners and dogs

# Proposed New Dogs Off-Leash Area (DOLA) Location

- The proposed location is approximately 125m southwest of the previous DOLA location, immediately east of the Spadina Road Bridge
- Geotechnical studies of the park were conducted to determine the suitability of the soil at this location
- All relevant regulatory authorities have been consulted about the new location of the DOLA and have approved the project in principle. This includes Urban Forestry (Ravine and Natural Feature Protection), Parks Standards and Innovation, Parks Development and Capital Projects, and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)
- The proposed location is the **only location** within the park that meets the criteria for establishment of off-leash areas outlined in the *People, Dogs and Parks – Off-Leash Policy*



Map and satellite view of the previous and proposed DOLA locations

# DOLA: Regulatory and Geotechnical Requirements

- The City also recognizes the importance of the Nordheimer Ravine to the community
- Every effort has been made to find a location within the park that will not adversely impact the Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) in the ravine
- The proposed DOLA would be located entirely within the grassed area southwest of the reservoir
- This location has served as the soil storage area during the rehabilitation project
- No trees would be injured or removed to build the DOLA
- The proposed location complies with the *Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-law* and TRCA regulations



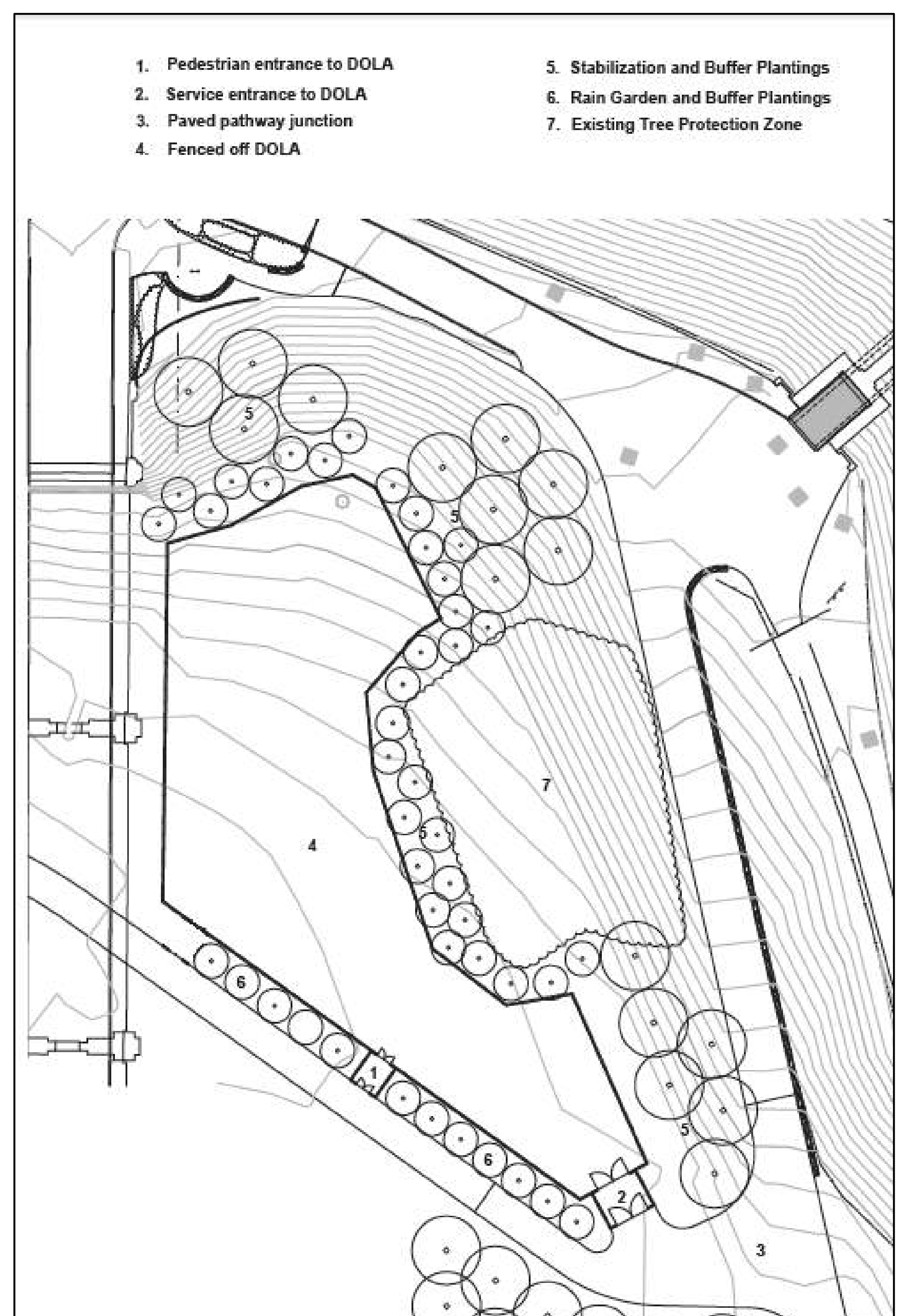
Location of proposed DOLA and nearby Environmentally Significant Areas



Facing south towards the Spadina Road Bridge, these photos show the proposed DOLA location as a grassed area prior to the rehabilitation project, and as the soil storage area during the project.

# Proposed DOLA: Environmental Design

- The proposed DOLA would not be located on the steeply sloped area
- Approximately **800 new trees and shrubs** would be planted to re-naturalize the slope and area surrounding the DOLA
- Plantings would include a mix of stock sizes for structural diversity and a mix of species for biodiversity
- Native trees and shrubs would be planted, including some species to attract pollinators
- A subsurface drainage system with connection to sanitary sewers would be installed to reduce water ponding and runoff into the surrounding area
- A rain garden with buffer plantings would be installed at the south end of the DOLA to capture additional runoff
- Detailed designs of the proposed off-leash area will be reviewed by TRCA as part of the permit application process



Design Concept of Proposed  
Dogs Off-Leash Area

# Proposed DOLA: Specifications and Features

- The proposed DOLA would be approximately 2022m<sup>2</sup>
- Although smaller than the previous DOLA, the proposed area would meet the target size of 2000m<sup>2</sup> for new DOLA construction.
- The proposed DOLA would conform to Design and Development Standards set by Parks, Forestry and Recreation for:

- Materials
- Accessibility
- Gates
- Pathways
- Signage



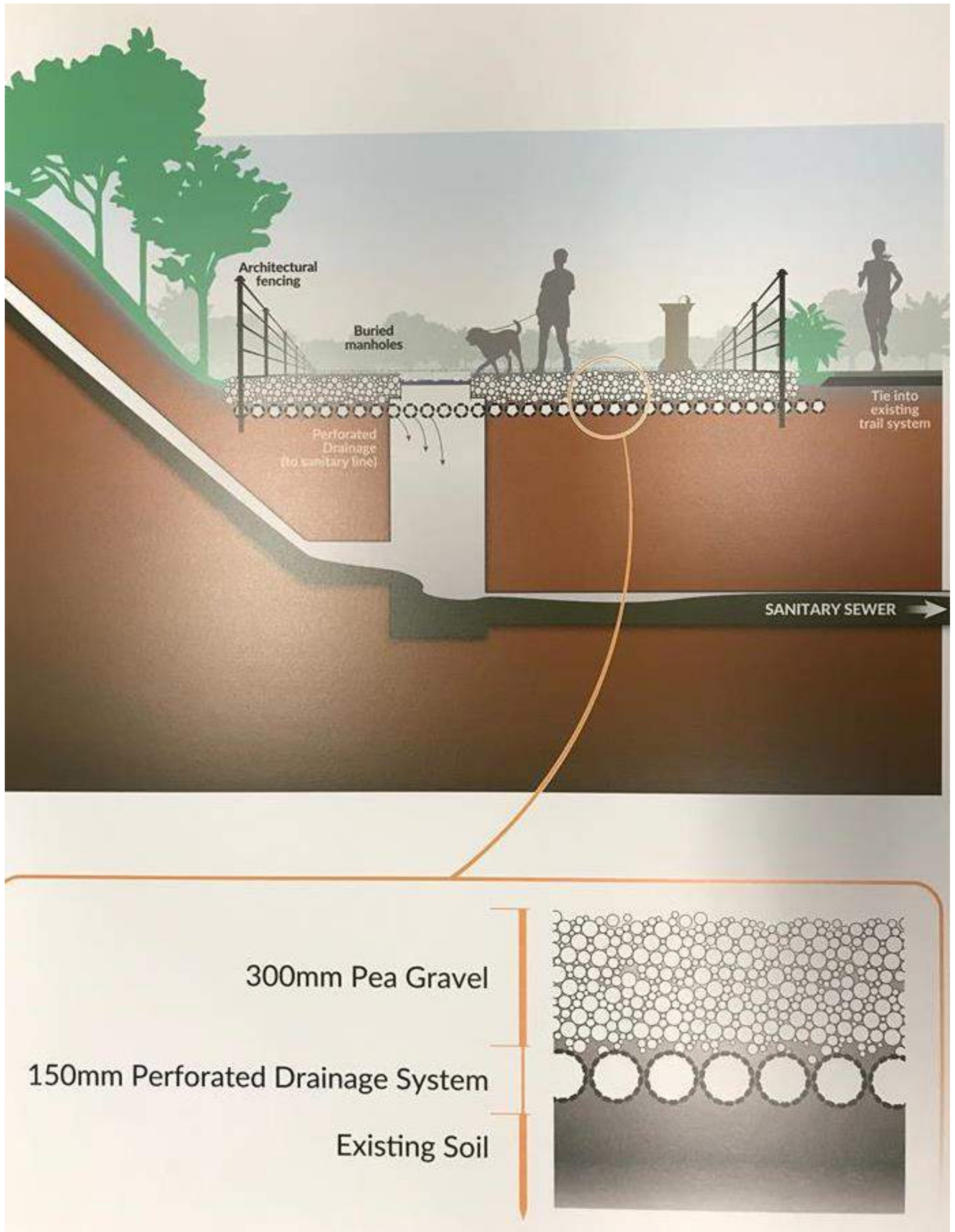
Example of a recently constructed DOLA in a ravine setting in Colonel Danforth Park  
(\*chain link construction fence is temporary and is removed when DOLA opens)

- The proposed DOLA would include a water source
- Shade would be provided by the Spadina Road Bridge
- Appropriate lighting in the area would be determined by a lighting study, and guided by best practices
- Proposed DOLA hours would be same as previous DOLA (6 a.m. to 11 p.m.)

# Proposed DOLA: Concept Plan



# DOLA: Underground Drainage System



# Proposed DOLA: Design Rendering



**Concept Design Rendering of Proposed Dogs Off-Leash Area**



# Location of nearby Dogs Off-Leash Areas



# Summary of Options for DOLA Relocation

**Option A:** Dogs Off-Leash Area is relocated to proposed area

**Option B:** Dogs Off-Leash Area is removed from park (proposed location would be planted with grass and restored to previous condition)

***Note: other options/uses for the proposed location are not within the scope of the St. Clair Reservoir Rehabilitation Project and consultation process.***

Please fill out a feedback form to have your opinion recorded. Feedback forms are available at the registration table and online at [www.toronto.ca/stclairreservoir](http://www.toronto.ca/stclairreservoir).

All comments will be reviewed and considered by staff as part of the decision-making process.

# Proposed Addition of Tennis Courts

- The St. Clair Reservoir Rehabilitation Project also includes the reinstatement of 10 floodlit tennis courts to their previous location in Sir Winston Churchill Park
- The Sir Winston Churchill Park Tennis Club administers the use of the tennis courts in the park; the City of Toronto owns the courts and clubhouse



Aerial view of Sir Winston Churchill Park prior to rehabilitation project



The proposed additional tennis courts would be located to the south of the 10 original courts that will be reinstated

- The SWCP Tennis Club is interested in adding two to three (2 to 3) additional tennis courts to the south side of the existing courts

# Proposed Addition of Tennis Courts

- The proposed new 2-3 tennis courts would not have lights and would be intended for daytime use only
- Lighting will be reinstated for the original 10 tennis courts
- Due to the nature of the rehabilitation work, this is likely the only opportunity to add to the tennis courts for up to 75 years, until the next major reservoir rehabilitation
- The SWCP Tennis Club has pledged to cover the construction costs of 2 to 3 additional tennis courts
- The addition of tennis courts is contingent on securing this funding

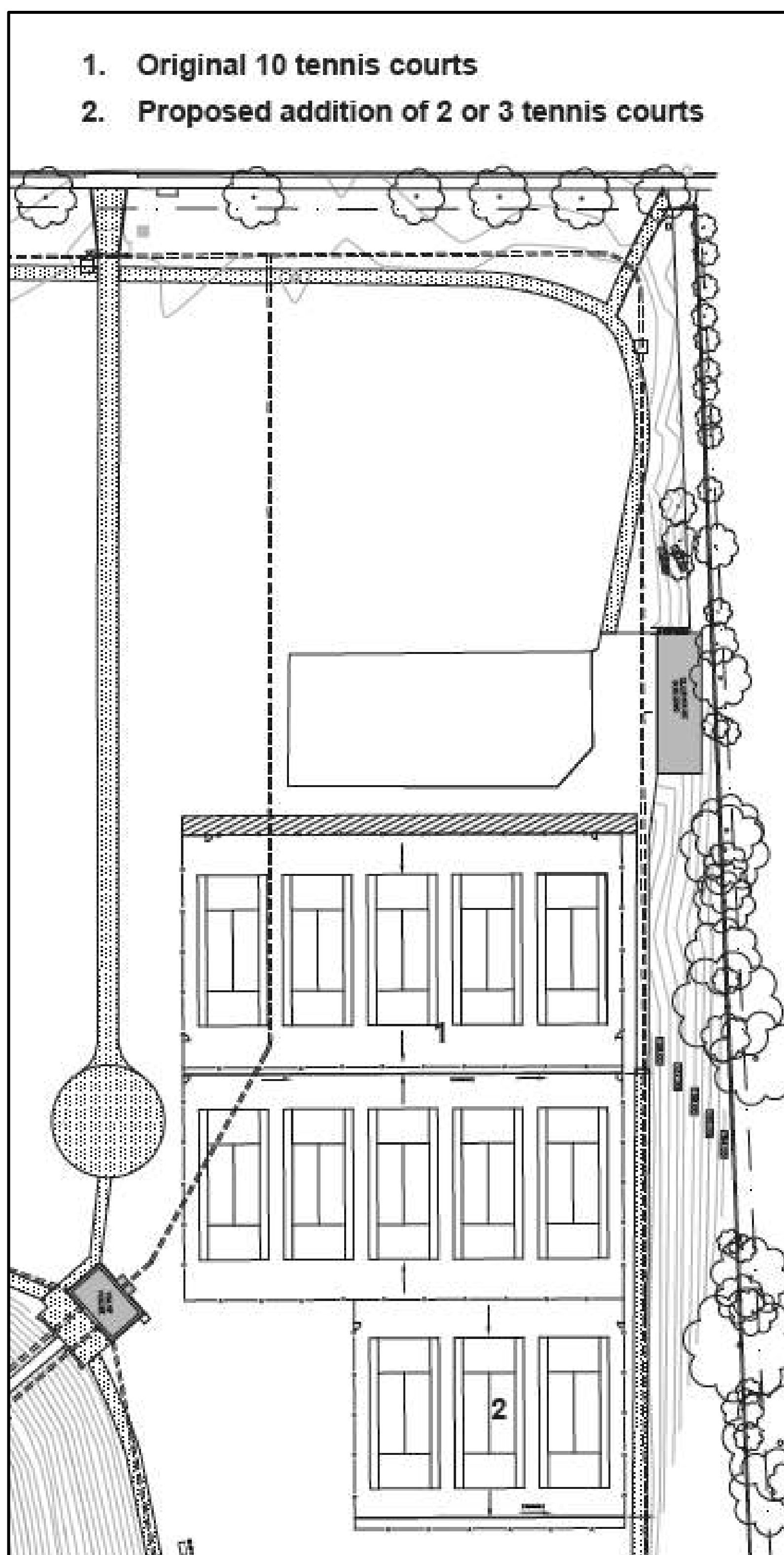


Location of 10 tennis courts to be reinstated and proposed addition of 2-3 new courts

# Proposed Addition of Tennis Courts: Rendering



**Concept design rendering showing 10 original tennis courts with proposed addition of 3 courts**  
*(note: full size trees near tennis court fence have been removed and will be replaced with planter boxes to protect reservoir structure)*



**Concept design showing 10 original tennis courts with proposed addition of 3 courts**

# Proposed Addition of Tennis Courts



- The request from the SWCP Tennis Club meets the guidelines for Facility Changes and Additions as established in the *City of Toronto Policy for Outdoor Community Tennis Club Operations*
- As per this policy, the Sir Winston Churchill Park Tennis Club courts are open to the public at certain times of the week
- **The proposed tennis courts do not impact the relocation of the DOLA.** In consultation with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the City has determined that the DOLA must be moved from the top of the reservoir, and the proposed addition of tennis courts is not a factor in the decision to relocate the DOLA.
- If the additional tennis courts are added, the remaining area of the previous DOLA location will be planted with grass. If the additional tennis courts are not added, the entirety of the previous DOLA location will be planted with grass.

# Summary of Options for Proposed Addition of Tennis Courts

**Option A:** Two (2) or three (3) tennis courts are added to the proposed area

**Option B:** No tennis courts are added to the proposed area

*Note: other options/uses for this area are not within the scope of the St. Clair Reservoir Rehabilitation Project and consultation process.*

Please fill out a feedback form to have your opinion recorded. Feedback forms are available at the registration table and online at [www.toronto.ca/St-Clair-Reservoir](http://www.toronto.ca/St-Clair-Reservoir).

All comments will be reviewed and considered by staff as part of the decision-making process.

# Additional Proposals and Recommendations for Sir Winston Churchill Park

- Members of the public and local groups have made recommendations and requests regarding the restoration of Sir Winston Churchill Park
- Such recommendations and proposals are not within the scope of the St. Clair Reservoir Rehabilitation Project
- Ideas and requests can be brought forward in the future which could then be considered by Parks, Forestry and Recreation as part of the 10-year Capital Plan for Sir Winston Churchill Park





## Next Steps

- The public comment period for the proposed changes to Sir Winston Churchill Park is open until **January 4, 2019**
- Submit a feedback form at this event or via the project website at [www.toronto.ca/stclairreservoir](http://www.toronto.ca/stclairreservoir)
- The City will review all feedback and advise of decisions on the Dogs Off-Leash Area and tennis courts
- If you would like to be informed directly, please ensure that your name and contact information has been added to the contact list
- If the proposed DOLA location is approved by staff, the City will then begin the permitting process with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)
- If the TRCA permit is approved, construction of the DOLA is scheduled to be completed by fall 2019
- If approved, the construction of the additional tennis courts is to be completed by fall 2019

Please visit the website for more information:  
[www.toronto.ca/stclairreservoir](http://www.toronto.ca/stclairreservoir)

**Thank you for taking the time to participate in this event.**