Lower Don Trail Master Plan Refresh
2018-ongoing

Partnership between City of Toronto and Evergreen

Corktown Common to the Forks of East and West Don

8.1 kilometres of Trail

2.4x size of High Park
Project Purpose

The Master Plan Refresh:

• Provides high level direction and identifies potential future projects.

• Considers that each project (or bundle of projects) will have its own design process and engagement activities.

• Does not make commitments to funding or timing.
Process

1 Data Collection, Analysis + Integration
   - Summer 2018 / Fall 2018
   - Existing Conditions Inventory and Analysis
   - Draft Framework and Long List of Options
   - Stakeholder Meetings
   - Coordination with Parallel Projects

2 Identify Constraints + Opportunities
   - Fall 2018 / Spring 2019
   - SWOT Analysis Option Refinement
   - Principles and Guidelines
   - Staff Review Meeting
   - Directors Meeting #1

3 Develop Master Plan + Cost Estimates
   - Spring 2019 / Fall 2019
   - Evaluation / Selection of Preferred Options
   - Directors Meeting #2
   - Public Open House September 17, 2019
   - Identify Partnerships + Engagement Strategies
   - Cost Estimates
   - Draft and Final Reports: Full and Promotional
Context:
Why This is Important.
1890 to c.1910
Lower Don Straightening and Don Roadway
1890 to c.1910
Lower Don Straightening and Don Roadway
1890 to c.1910
Estuary Draining for Port Lands
1950s
Don Valley Parkway
1960s Baseball Stadium Location Study
1989
Task Force to Bring Back the Don

Bringing Back The Don
The Task Force To Bring Back The Don
with Hough Stansbury Woodland Limited
80,000 + New Residents

The intensification and development of new communities in the Lower Don Valley neighbourhoods will bring over 80,000 estimated new residents into the core of the city.
West Don Lands
Lower Don Lands
Lower Don Trail Access, Environment and Art Master Plan 2013

Themes

• Access + Connectivity
• Environment + Habitat Restoration
• Public Art + Interpretation

Conceptual Framework

• Landscape Connectivity
• Parallel Routes
• Links + Loops
• Precincts + Nodes

Demonstration Plan

• 21 Potential Projects in 2 Main Categories
  » Management and Improvements to Existing Infrastructure
  » New Infrastructure
• Phased Implementation
• Opportunities for Future Exploration
New Access to Valley
New Parks
IN FALL 2015, Evergreen brought together over 75 landscape architects and designers, architects and urban planners, City and Toronto Region Conversation Authority staff, artists and students from Ryerson University's Ecological Design Lab and the University of Toronto's Master of Landscape Architecture in a design charette to 'Imagine a Don Valley Neighbourhood'.

The groups were asked to address a big question: how can the Lower Don landscape from Corktown Common to Evergreen Brick Works be the centrepiece for Canada’s largest city and how can it inspire the world? Over three days, three design teams strategized creative solutions to imagine a bold design vision for the Lower Don River – not as a linear corridor, but as a vast river valley in the centre of our city, a vibrant urban park with a coherent and strong identity, and the collective backyard for over 250,000+ Torontonians.

The energy and ideas generated by charette participants was outstanding and has significantly shaped the vision for the Don River Valley Park. Evergreen gratefully acknowledges the contributions of all of the charette participants.

Imagine the Possible at donrivervalleypark.ca

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

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Don River Charrette 2015
The Don River Valley Park
The Don River Valley Park will be the centerpiece of Toronto’s rapidly growing downtown: a 200-hectare park spanning Pottery Road to Corktown Common. Underutilized, unsound and largely inaccessible land will be transformed into a remarkable new civic space that connects neighbourhoods and new developments to parkland, brings people back to the river’s edge, revitalizes an ecologically degraded and flood-prone valley, and introduces opportunity for solitude, recreation, bicycle commuting, art and culture.

Built on a solid foundation of past community engagement efforts, this vision boldly looks to the future and serves as the proverbial first mile of a broader city-wide ravine revitalization strategy. Prototyping new collaborative ways of reimagining and realizing the potential of our ravines, the Don River Valley Park will demonstrate what’s possible across Toronto.

“A bold idea is in motion... A city-wide ravine strategy to name the system and engage partnerships to help restore, connect and animate the 11,000-hectare system... that holds the promise to define Toronto, offer a significant “place making” opportunity for those of us who live here and to share our unique natural assets with visitors from around the world.”

- MAYOR JOHN TORY
“Super Park”
PUBLIC WORK

North: Davenport Road Bluff

East: Don River Valley Ravine and Rosedale Valley Ravine

South: Toronto Islands and Toronto Bay

West: Garrison Creek Corridor

Diagrammatic representation of the diversity of species and vegetation communities including forests, wetlands and meadows that comprise the Core Circle landscapes, Toronto, Canada
Toronto's unique ravine landscape was carved into the land more than 12,000 years ago by the retreat of the Wisconsinan glaciation. On the edge of the Downtown, with dramatic topography and a rich and layered physical, natural and cultural heritage landscape history, Toronto's ravine landscape has been neglected and abused for the past century. Now is the time to restore and re-harmonize the ravine landscape, to leverage the dramatic topography and Indigenous cultural heritage landscape for creative placemaking and interpretation.
East Harbour
Keating Channel Precinct
Villiers Island
Mouth of the Don Naturalization
Mouth of the Don Naturalization
Port Lands: River Park
Wonscotonach Parklands
Naming Event / Indigenous Placemaking
2013 to 2019, Looking Forward.
Lower Don Trail Access, Environment and Art Master Plan 2013
Phase 1 Improvements: Completed
Phase 1 Improvements: Completed

- Pottery Road Pedestrian Bridge
- Bayview Avenue Multi-use Path (Pottery Road to Rosedale Valley Road)
- Belleville Underpass
- Pottery Road Trailhead
- Trail Improvements
Phase 2 Improvements: 2019
Phase 2 Improvements: 2019
Phase 2 Improvements: 2019

- Riverdale Bridge Ramp
- Dundas Staircase
- Trail Improvements in the Narrows
Lower Don Trail Master Plan
Refresh 2019
2019: MP Study Area

2013: Corktown Common to Pottery Road

2019: Corktown Common to the Forks of East and West Don

8.1 kilometres of Trail

2.4x size of High Park
Re-engaging the River

- Opportunities to see, experience and perhaps even touch the river
- Will include discussion of Indigenous programming
- The river as the focal point of the Park

Embracing Neighbourhoods

- The Park as a meeting place for communities, with greater opportunity for programming
- Links and loops, parallel trails and highlighting ‘ravine portals’ where the Park is accessed

Re-imagining Infrastructure

- Tying trail and parkland improvements to future infrastructure replacement
- Reconsidering aging infrastructure in the Park: opportunities for reuse or redesign
2019: Projects + Implementation

Five Segments from North to South

- Crothers-Coxwell
- The Mills
- Riverdale
- The Narrows
- East Harbour
Recommended Projects

- 96 Individual Projects
- Improvements / New Infrastructure
  - Portals
  - Lookouts/Rest Areas
  - Water Approaches
  - Canoe Launches
  - Rotating Public Art Sites

Future Engagement

Each individual project/phase of projects will include its own engagement activities with stakeholders and the public.
Phased Implementation

- Approved / Under Construction: 12 Projects
- 1 to 5 Years: 23 Projects
- 5 to 10 Years: 28 Projects
- Future Consideration: 25 Projects
Demonstration: Re-engaging the River
Snowdrop Park
Demonstration: Re-engaging the River
Snowdrop Park
Demonstration: Re-engaging the River

Snowdrop Park
Demonstration: Re-engaging the River
Snowdrop Park
Demonstration: Re-engaging the River

Water Approaches
Demonstration: Embracing Neighbourhoods

Broadview Riverdale Promenade
Demonstration: Embracing Neighbourhoods

Thorncliffe Ravine Portal
Demonstration: Embracing Neighbourhoods
Thorncliffe Ravine Portal
Demonstration: Re-imagining Infrastructure

Inner Portal
Demonstration: Re-imagining Infrastructure

**Improved Trails**
Demonstration: Re-imagining Infrastructure

Improved Crossings
Demonstration: Re-imagining Infrastructure
Bayview Avenue as Scenic Street
Next Steps

Phase 3: Master Plan_FINAL
End of September 2019

Document Layout:
Technical and Promotional
October 2019
Questions for Clarification
For More Information

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