C
The Plan



5.0
Big Moves, Ideas, and Actions

In support of the Vision and Guiding Principles, the study explored the goals, ideas and priorities shared through engagement by the community, Indigenous partners, license and lease holders in consultation with City staff, for the future of the Western Beaches. This section presents 14 big moves and 52 ideas with supporting actions to guide future planning, design, investment, and decision-making across the study area.

5.1 Plan Structure

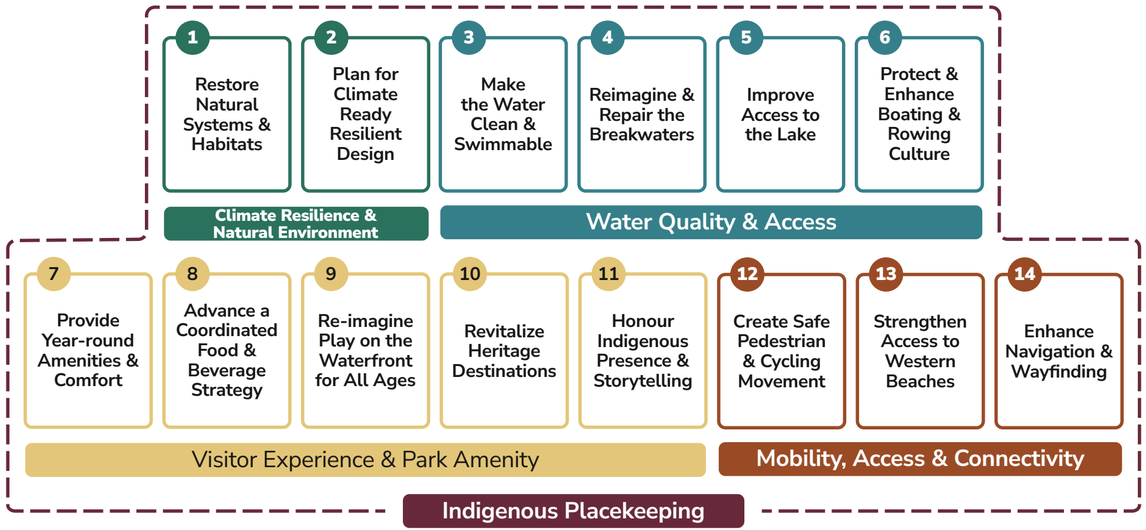
5.1.1 Big Moves and Themes

Through the engagement process, and inventory and technical analysis completed by DIALOG, a number of consistent directions began to emerge. While participants identified a wide range of site-specific ideas and opportunities, many of these ideas shared common priorities and objectives for the future of the Western Beaches.

These site-specific ideas were synthesized into a set of overarching “big moves” for the Western Beaches. Each 'Big Move' establishes a key direction to guide future planning, design, investment, and decision-making across the study area. They respond to what was heard through engagement, are informed by site location, policy context, and technical analysis, and build on the vision established through previous waterfront planning.

The big moves are organized under four broad themes: Climate Resilience & Natural Environment; Water Quality & Access; Visitor Experience & Park Amenity; and Mobility, Access & Connectivity. This thematic structure provides a clear and accessible framework for presenting the Plan and organizing the ideas and actions and presenting the Plan that follows.

A fifth theme, "Indigenous Placekeeping", is positioned as an overarching framework that informs and provides guidance to each of the other four themes. Indigenous Placekeeping is not presented as a standalone theme, but as an overarching theme that provides guidance to each of the other four themes. Through engagement with Treaty partners and Indigenous communities, Indigenous knowledge, cultural perspectives, and place-based teachings helped inform directions related to water, land, ecology, storytelling, movement, and gathering.



Western Beaches Big Moves

5.2 Indigenous Placekeeping

5.3 Climate Resilience & Natural Environment

1. Restore Natural Systems & Habitats
2. Plan for Climate-Ready, Resilient Design

5.4 Water Quality & Access

3. Make the Water Clean & Swimmable
4. Reimagine & Repair the Breakwaters
5. Improve Access to the Lake
6. Protect & Enhance Boating & Rowing Culture

5.5 Visitor Experience & Park Amenity

7. Provide Year-round Amenities & Comfort
8. Advance a Coordinated Food & Beverage Strategy
9. Reimagine Play on the Waterfront for All Ages
10. Revitalize Heritage Destinations
11. Honour Indigenous Presence & Storytelling

5.6 Mobility, Access & Connectivity

12. Create Safe Pedestrian & Cycling Movement
13. Strengthen Access to Western Beaches
14. Enhance Navigation & Wayfinding

Together, the big moves and themes provide a clear organizational framework for the Plan.

5.1.2 Ideas and Actions

The following sections present the ideas and supporting actions for the Western Beaches Public Realm Plan, organized by theme and corresponding big moves. Each big move is supported by ideas and actions as the next steps towards realizing the Plan. The ideas and actions describe a range of potential projects, design directions, and considerations that provide the framework for future investment, design development, and implementation.



5.2 Indigenous Placekeeping

Indigenous Placekeeping is an overarching theme that informs many of the ideas and actions throughout the Plan. The study area is part of a broader cultural landscape that includes the Humber River and Lake Ontario shoreline, which have long been places of cultural significance for Indigenous peoples. In particular, the mouth of the Humber River is recognized as a place of significance and is proposed through this Plan as an Indigenous hub within the study area, a key location for Indigenous placekeeping and placemaking through storytelling, teaching, and community gathering and ceremony.



Through engagement with the IAC and MCFN, the project team heard the importance of recognizing Indigenous presence, supporting cultural practices, restoring relationships with land and water, and creating opportunities for ceremony, storytelling, teaching, and stewardship. Indigenous partners emphasized that Indigenous placekeeping should be reflected throughout the landscape, not limited to a single site.

In response, this Plan proposes a combination of site-specific and landscape-wide actions. While the mouth of the Humber River is identified as a primary location for Indigenous storytelling and teaching landscapes, many other ideas related to Indigenous Placekeeping are distributed throughout the Western Beaches and are embedded within the four themes of this chapter.

Many of the natural systems, shoreline, and water-related ideas and actions also align with Indigenous stewardship principles and support a light-touch approach that works with natural systems and avoids over-building or over-programming the shoreline.

The following ideas were identified through engagement as being related to Indigenous Placekeeping and are distributed across the four themes:

- Explore options to enhance the beach between the Royal Canadian Legion and Boulevard Club
- Create opportunities for ceremonial water access
- Explore opportunities to enhance connections to High Park
- Initiate a Western Beaches wayfinding plan
- Introduce a nature play zone to integrate with and expand existing play spaces
- Advance placekeeping through art and signage
- Establish a narrative trail: “Walking with story”
- Celebrate the mouth of the Humber River as an Indigenous place of significance
- Cultivate Indigenous teaching landscapes to support Indigenous programming
- Restore ecological systems at the Humber River mouth
- Design considering fluctuation in seasonal water levels
- Create soundscape and sensory water experience
- Support wildlife and habitat networks
- Support aquatic habitat networks
- Cultivate native plant habitats
- Celebrate medicinal and Indigenous planting practices
- Explore ways to design for water retention and filtration
- Plan for resilient shoreline and seasonal water conditions

Indigenous Placekeeping is expressed through cultural storytelling and gathering spaces, ecological restoration and stewardship, water relationships, and a landscape that is shaped by natural systems and seasonal change.



5.3 Climate Resilience & Natural Environment

Western Beaches includes a mix of managed parkland, fragmented habitat areas, and largely engineered shoreline conditions, with the Humber River mouth standing out as an area of greater ecological value and restoration potential. This theme explores opportunities to restore habitats, strengthen ties to natural systems, and improve climate resilience through landscape-led strategies that work with water, shoreline processes, seasonal change, and long-term ecological health.



1. Restore Natural Systems & Habitats

Focus: Explores opportunities to restore ecological systems and create a connected habitat network across Western Beaches through wetland and riparian restoration, shoreline naturalization, native and medicinal planting, and sensory and educational landscape experiences.

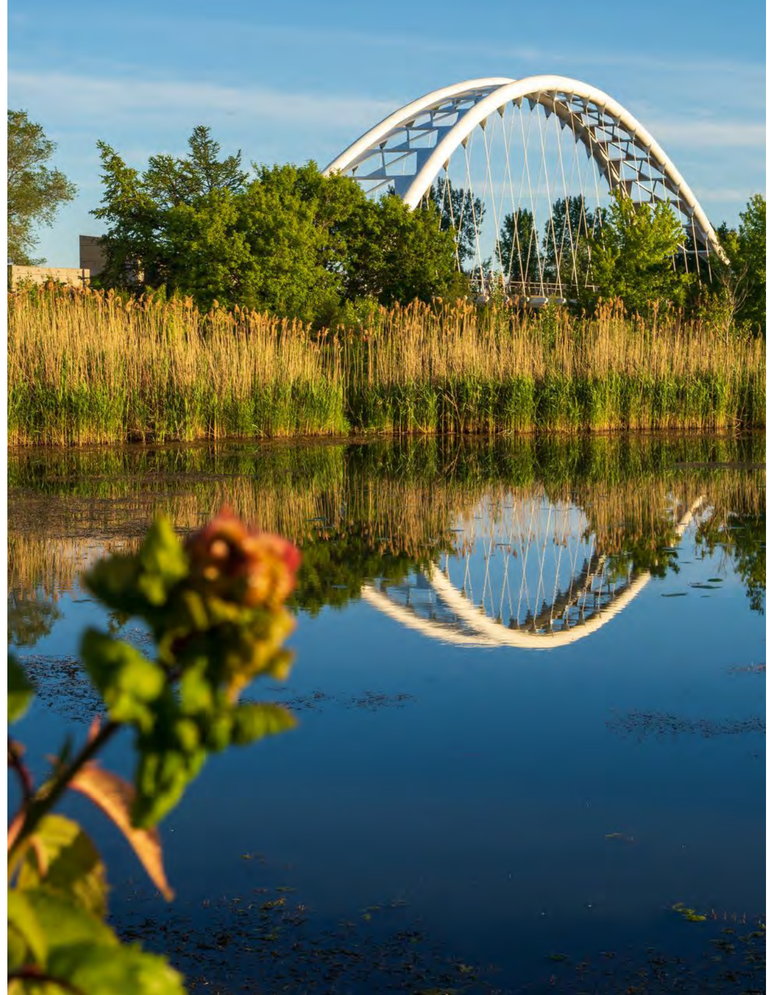
» 1.1 Restore ecological systems at the Humber River mouth

» 1.2 Support wildlife and habitat networks

» 1.3 Support aquatic habitat networks

» 1.4 Cultivate native plant habitats

» 1.5 Celebrate medicinal and Indigenous planting practices



CLIMATE RESILIENCE & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Restore ecological systems at the Humber River mouth

Description:
Rebuild the wetlands and habitat where the Humber meets Lake Ontario, slowing stormwater, filtering runoff, and restoring the river's natural rhythm.

Potential Locations:
» The Humber River Mouth

Actions:
» 1.1.1 Reintroduce wetland shelves and riparian planting to slow and clean stormwater.

» 1.1.2 Create fast and slow flow zones to improve water quality and habitat diversity.

» 1.1.3 Retrofit stormwater outlets with natural systems (wetlands, swales, filtration basins).

» 1.1.4 Use native plants like cattails, sedges, and willows to stabilize soils and support wildlife.

» 1.1.5 Shape the land with gentle grading to adapt to changing lake levels.

» 1.1.6 Add logs, stones, and woody debris to create fish refuge and aquatic habitat.

» 1.1.7 Explore adding floating wetland platforms near the mouth of the Humber River to support aquatic habitat and ecological diversity.

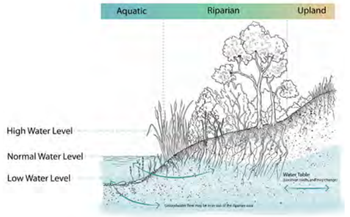
» 1.1.8 Explore relocating the existing off-leash area away from the mouth of the Humber River to support ecological restoration and respect Indigenous placekeeping and opportunities for programming.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- • Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Floating wetland: aquatic habitat and water-quality enhancement



CONCEPT DIAGRAM

Conceptual section showing aquatic, riparian, and upland habitat zones across fluctuating water levels.

1.2 Support wildlife and habitat networks

Description:
Restore layered vegetation and quiet spaces so birds, mammals, and other wildlife can thrive alongside people.

Potential Locations:
Vegetated buffers, restored wetlands, meadow areas, and quieter park edges especially near the Humber River mouth.

Actions:

» 1.2.1 Plant a diverse mix of native shrubs, grasses, and shoreline plants for nesting and year-round habitat.

» 1.2.2 Restore meadow, dune, and wetland areas to support songbirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl.

» 1.2.3 Expand forested and shrub zones to provide shelter for mammals and predatory birds.

» 1.2.4 Create soft transitions between meadows, wetlands, and woodlands for safe wildlife movement.

» 1.2.5 Limit lighting and noise in key habitat areas and add light-touch interpretive signage.

» 1.2.6 Identify opportunities at underpasses, street corridors, and low-conflict crossings to improve habitat continuity and reduce barriers for land-based wildlife movement.

Plan Alignment:

- o Ongoing Initiative
- • Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Riparian woodland edge: native understory planting supporting habitat continuity and shade



PRECEDENT

Shoreline meadow: native flowering plants supporting pollinators and riparian habitat

1.3 Support aquatic habitat networks

Description:
Soften the shoreline and rebuild aquatic habitats to support the return of native species that once thrived here before the shoreline was hardened and filled.

Potential Locations:

» Coves, inlets, and stormwater outfalls with space for aquatic and wetland restoration away from swim zones.

Actions:

» 1.3.1 Create shallow aquatic shelves with native plants for spawning and nursery habitat.

» 1.3.2 Add natural physical elements in the water to shelter fish and other aquatic species.

» 1.3.3 Introduce native aquatic vegetation to stabilize sediment and improve water quality.

» 1.3.4 Restore gravel and cobble beds near inflows for salmon, trout, and invertebrates.

» 1.3.5 Form wetland pockets and turtle/amphibian zones with planted edges that filter runoff and offer shade.

Plan Alignment:

- o Ongoing Initiative
- • Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Biidaasige Park, Toronto, ON: Restored wetland and riparian habitat (Design: MVVA; Image: Waterfront Toronto)



PRECEDENT

Mimico Waterfront Park, Toronto, ON: softened shoreline with native planting and stone edging (Design: Cosburn Nauboris Ltd.; Image: Waterfront Toronto)

1.4 Cultivate native plant habitats

Description:
Restore native grassland, meadow, and savannah ecosystems, similar to those in High Park, to create a resilient, low-maintenance landscape that supports pollinators, wildlife, and soil stability.

Potential Locations:
Open lawns, dune areas, and trail-adjacent buffers across the Western Beaches.

Actions:

» 1.4.1 Reintroduce or add native oak species, shrubs, grasses, wildflowers, pollinator gardens and meadow pockets to provide food, shelter, shade and habitat for birds and small mammals.

» 1.4.2 Develop a no-mow strategy to replace mown turf with native meadow plantings that bloom through the seasons and support pollinators.

» 1.4.3 Include interpretive elements and gentle stewardship with TRCA and community partners to support long-term biodiversity.

Plan Alignment:

- o Ongoing Initiative
- • Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



PRECEDENT

High Park, Toronto, ON: Black Oak savannah supporting native canopy and biodiversity



PRECEDENT

No-mow meadow: native grasses and wildflowers supporting biodiversity and pollinators

1.5 Celebrate medicinal and Indigenous planting practices

Description:
Reintroduce medicinal plants and create spaces for reflection, ceremony, and cultural learning in partnership with Treaty partners and Indigenous knowledge keepers.

Potential Locations:

» Quiet meadows, shaded areas, and designated planting zones, particularly near the mouth of the Humber River.

Actions:

» 1.5.1 Co-create a medicine wheel garden featuring tobacco, sweetgrass, sage, and cedar.

» 1.5.2 Design accessible paths and gathering spots aligned with the four directions.

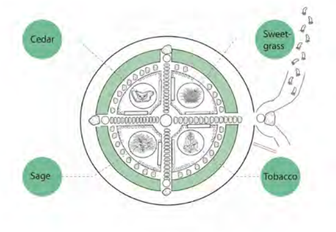
» 1.5.3 Include Three Sisters gardens to demonstrate Indigenous agricultural practices.

» 1.5.4 Follow seasonal guidance from Indigenous partners for planting and harvesting.

» 1.5.5 Plant supporting species to support pollinators and educational opportunities.

Plan Alignment:

- o Ongoing Initiative
- • Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



DIAGRAM

Medicine Wheel Garden: Four Directions expressed through planting, colour, and spatial organization



PRECEDENT

Medicine Wheel Garden (Gitigaan Mashkiki), Brampton, ON: sacred medicines and the Four Directions integrated into a living teaching garden (Indigenous partner: Four Colours Drum Circle; Image: TRCA).

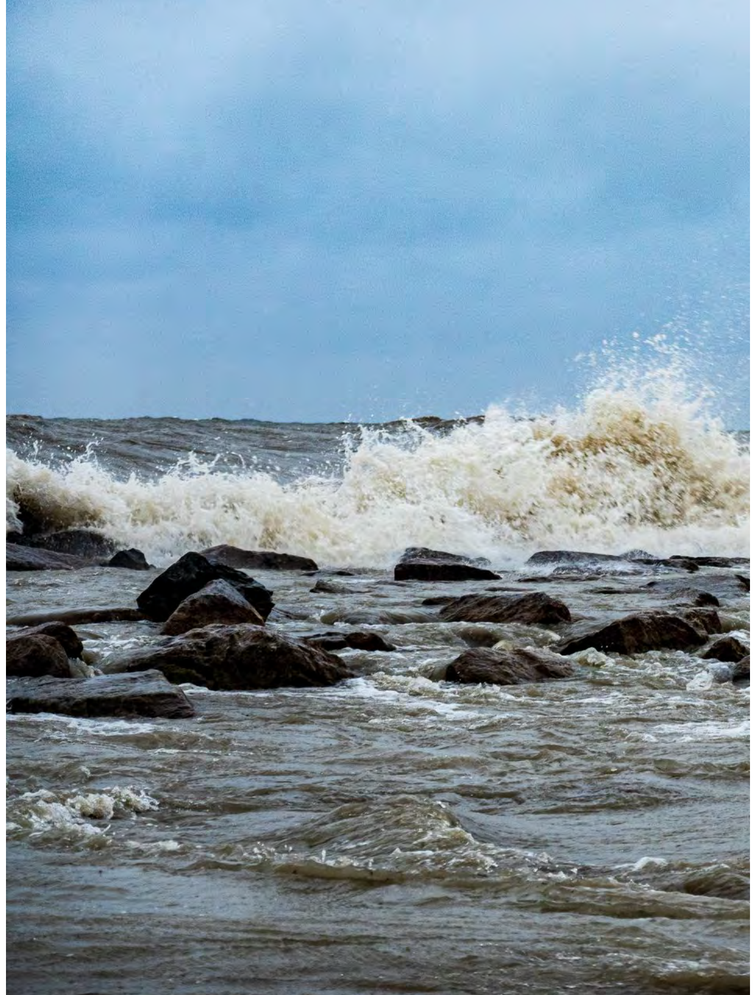
2. Plan for Climate-Ready, Resilient Design

Focus: Explore opportunities to improve long-term resilience through strategies for water retention and filtration, snowmelt management, shoreline protection, and seasonal water conditions that respond to climate change and work more effectively with natural systems.

» 2.1 Explore ways to design for water retention and filtration

» 2.2 Consider opportunities to capture and treat snowmelt runoff

» 2.3 Plan for resilient shoreline and seasonal water conditions



2.1 Explore ways to design for water retention and filtration

Description:
Use rain gardens, bioswales, wetlands, and holding ponds to slow, store, and filter runoff before it reaches Lake Ontario.

Potential Locations:
Near parking lots, service areas, trail intersections, low points, storm outfalls, and sheltered coves across the Western Beaches.

Actions:

» 2.1.1 Add large rain gardens near parking areas and trail intersections to capture runoff.

» 2.1.2 Build vegetated swales and infiltration corridors along natural low points.

» 2.1.3 Create holding ponds or storage areas that slowly release water after storms.

» 2.1.4 Install constructed wetlands and detention basins at storm outfalls to settle sediment and pollutants.

» 2.1.5 Retrofit existing outlets with naturalized filtration, such as oil-grit separators and vegetated swales.

Plan Alignment:

- o Ongoing Initiative
- • Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Edmonton Valley Zoo, Edmonton, AB: constructed wetland supporting stormwater retention and filtration (Design: DIALOG + Studio Hanson Roberts; Image: DIALOG)



EXISTING CONDITION

Humber River mouth, Toronto, ON: existing stormwater management pond

2.2 Consider opportunities to capture and treat snowmelt runoff

Description:
Explore ways to reduce the amount of road salt and salt-laden snowmelt reaching Lake Ontario, recognizing that snowmelt behaves differently than stormwater and requires tailored approaches.

Potential Locations:
» Parking lots, impermeable surfaces and snow storage areas.

Actions:
» 2.2.1 Test snow-storage berms and melt zones near rain gardens as pilot locations for filtering salt-laden meltwater.

» 2.2.2 Use salt-tolerant native plants and soils in areas where meltwater naturally flows.

» 2.2.3 Expand permeable paving and low-salt maintenance zones to reduce salt use and ice build-up.

» 2.2.4 Review snow-clearing equipment environmental impacts and explore practices that reduce salt application.

» 2.2.5 Work with City partners on pilot projects to study snowmelt mitigation, even though full snowmelt modelling is not typical.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



CONCEPT DIAGRAM

Conceptual stormwater strategy using permeable surfaces, bioswales, and storage areas to capture and filter runoff.

2.3 Plan for resilient shoreline and seasonal water conditions

Description:
Plan for changing lake levels, storm events, wave action, ice movement, and erosion by shaping shoreline edges to be safe, resilient, and ecologically supportive. Shoreline improvements should balance protection, public access, habitat creation, and adaptation to seasonal and extreme weather conditions, including major storm events.

Potential Locations:
» Along shoreline edges and low-lying waterfront areas.

Actions:
» 2.3.1 Assess current shoreline conditions to identify areas vulnerable to erosion, flooding, wave action, ice movement, and major storm events, including 100-year storm conditions where applicable.

» 2.3.2 Develop shoreline design approaches that respond to both seasonal water level fluctuations and extreme storm conditions, recognizing that different areas may require different treatments.

» 2.3.3 Replace or retrofit hard shoreline edges, where feasible, with gentle, stepped, angled, or terraced shoreline forms that soften wave energy, improve safety, and create habitat opportunities.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

» 2.3.4 Combine armourstone, planted terraces, wetland pockets, habitat shelves, submerged rock reefs, and log structures to create hybrid shoreline conditions that support resilience and ecological function

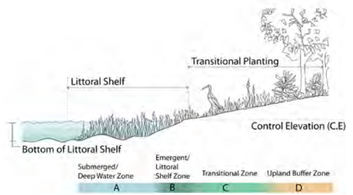
» 2.3.5 Explore flexible or floating elements, such as docks or habitat platforms, in appropriate locations where they can adapt to changing water levels without compromising safety, ecology, or shoreline protection.

» 2.3.6 Create seasonal wet meadows, temporary pools, or low-lying planting areas where appropriate to hold and filter water after storms while supporting habitat and landscape diversity.

» 2.3.7 Use durable, climate-appropriate materials that can withstand freeze-thaw cycles, wave action, ice movement, and long-term exposure to changing waterfront conditions.

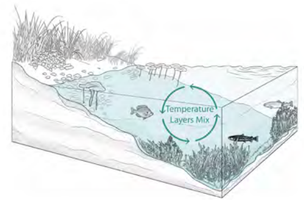
» 2.3.8 Coordinate shoreline resilience work with City divisions, TRCA, Indigenous partners, agencies, and other partners to align ecological restoration, public access, safety, and long-term maintenance.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- • Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



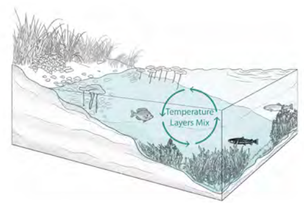
CONCEPT DIAGRAM

Conceptual section of a planted littoral zone transitioning from submerged habitat to upland planting.



CONCEPT DIAGRAM

Summer section illustrating water-column mixing and temperature stratification that support seasonal aquatic habitat.



CONCEPT DIAGRAM

Winter section illustrating ice cover and deeper-water refuge conditions for aquatic life.

5.4 Water Quality & Access

This theme focuses on improving water quality, strengthening physical and visual access to Lake Ontario, and supporting a range of water-based and water-related experiences along the Western Beaches. The ideas under this theme address improving shoreline conditions, advancing work on in-water infrastructure, enhancing beach quality and amenities, and finding more diverse opportunities for people to safely interact with the water, while also supporting ecological health and resilience of the broader Lake Ontario, Humber River, and parkland network ecosystem.

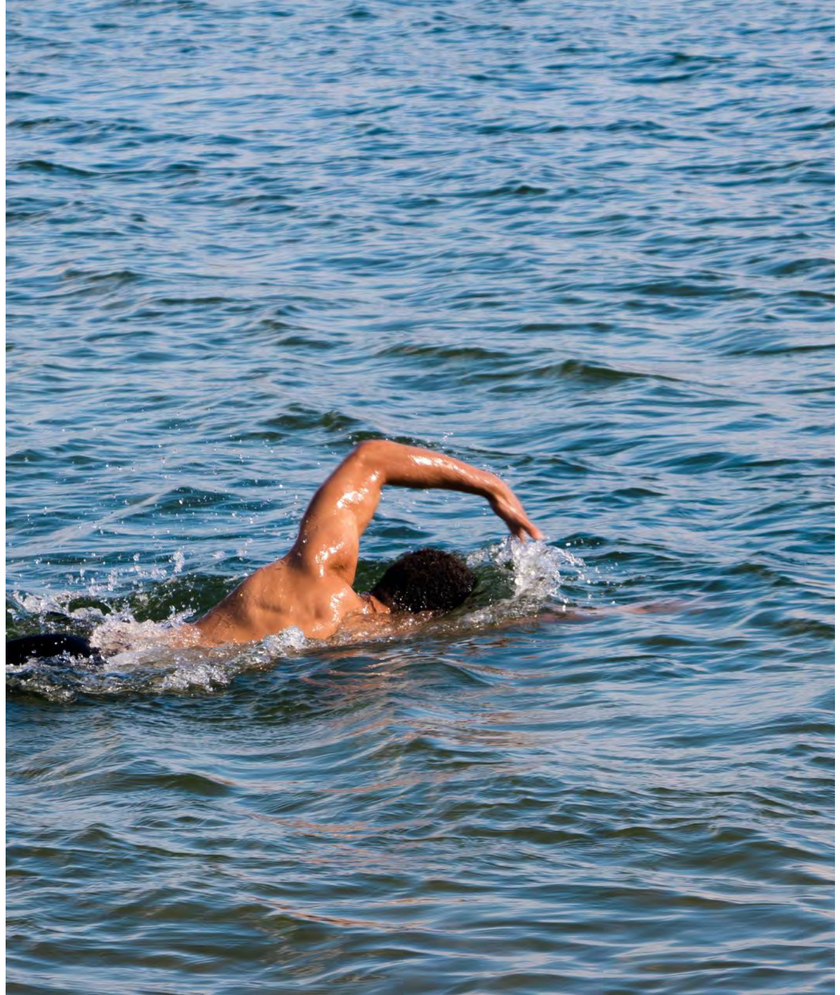


WATER QUALITY & ACCESS

3. Make the Water Clean & Swimmable

Focus: Improving water quality and public confidence in swimming conditions through continued infrastructure investment, monitoring, and coordination with ongoing City and watershed initiatives.

- 3.1 Promote City's progress on improving combined sewer overflows (CSOs)
- 3.2 Implement real-time water quality and CSO monitoring system
- 3.3 Advance Upstream Watershed Maintenance and Cleanout



3.1 Promote City's progress on improving combined sewer overflows (CSOs)

Description:
The City is working on the largest and most significant stormwater management program in the city's history to improve water quality by keeping combined sewer overflow (CSO) out of our waterways, which includes CSOs connected to the Western Beaches Storage Tunnel. This initiative highlights the City's continued progress in improving water quality.

Actions:
- 3.1.1 Work with Toronto Water to improve and increase communication about their planned infrastructure improvements with clear, accessible diagrams and short videos.

Plan Alignment:
- Ongoing Initiative
- Indigenous Placekeeping
- Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- New Initiative

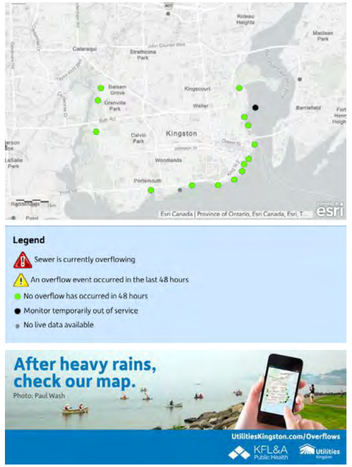
3.2 Implement real-time water quality and CSO monitoring system

Description:
Install real-time sensors at key outfalls and swimming zones to provide immediate, transparent updates on water quality and combined sewer outfalls (CSO) activity.

Potential Locations:
Near CSO's and swimming areas

Actions:
- 3.2.1 Develop a public interface (website/app + beach-entry signage) to share results in real time.
- 3.2.2 Collaboration with City divisions, agencies and potential partners such as Toronto Public Health, TRCA, and Swim Drink Fish, to support data collection, communication, and system rollout.

Plan Alignment:
- Ongoing Initiative
- Indigenous Placekeeping
- Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- New Initiative



PRECEDENT

City of Kingston, Kingston, ON: sewer overflow mapping communicates water-quality conditions (Image: City of Kingston)

3.3 Advance Upstream Watershed Maintenance and Cleanout

Description:
Explore upstream watershed maintenance and cleanout measures to improve water quality at the Western Beaches by reducing sediment, nutrient loading, and debris, and pollutants before they reach Lake Ontario.

Actions:

» 3.3.1 Revisit and evaluate the City–TRCA stormwater pond cleanout and maintenance pilot project.

» 3.3.2 Collaborate with City divisions, agencies and partners to identify additional upstream ponds, outfalls, and sediment traps within the Humber River watershed where enhanced cleanout and maintenance could reduce downstream impacts.

» 3.3.3 Coordinate with implementation of the Black Creek Drainage Improvement Study to support watershed-wide efforts to reduce wet weather flows, sewer surcharge, and combined sewer overflows that affect downstream water quality.

Plan Alignment:

- Ongoing Initiative
- Indigenous Placekeeping
- Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- New Initiative



EXISTING MAPPING

Humber River watershed: upstream watersheds and stormwater ponds influencing Western Beaches water quality

WATER QUALITY & ACCESS

4. Reimagine & Repair the Breakwaters

Focus: Long-term repair and reimagining of the breakwaters to improve shoreline protection, ecological function, and the experience of the water's edge.

» 4.1 **Explore options to integrate nature-based design approaches into breakwaters**

» 4.2 **Advance work to repair existing breakwaters**



4.1 Explore options to integrate nature-based design approaches into breakwaters

Description:
Explore options to reimagine and/or retrofit the existing breakwaters as multi-functional green infrastructure that improves ecological function, water quality, and shoreline resilience.

Actions:
- 4.1.1 Consider reconstructing breakwaters in poor condition as green infrastructure, considering durability, plant protection, and bird management.
- 4.1.2 Pilot project is recommended (Environmental Assessment will likely be required).
- 4.1.3 Evaluate options for safe pedestrian access where technically feasible.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative

4.2 Advance work to repair existing breakwaters

Description:
Continue to advance the Western Beaches Breakwaters Action Plan, which is a coordinated effort to restore the aging breakwater structures.

Actions:
- 4.2.1 Prioritize repair of deteriorated and high-risk breakwater segments based on the ongoing TRCA condition assessment.
- 4.2.2 Coordinate with federal and provincial partners to confirm long-term ownership, maintenance, and funding agreements.
- 4.2.3 Integrate habitat restoration and ensure safe navigation needs are integrated into future breakwaters design and construction.
- 4.2.4 Develop public education initiatives to increase awareness of the role of breakwaters in protecting the shoreline, reducing wave energy, and supporting safe recreational and navigation conditions along the waterfront.

Plan Alignment:
- • Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- o New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Vegetated breakwater: wave attenuation integrated with aquatic and shoreline habitat

WATER QUALITY & ACCESS

5. Improve Access to the Lake

Focus: Create more opportunities for people to safely see, touch, and experience the water through overlooks, beaches, docks, and ceremonial access points.

- 5.1 **Improve opportunities to overlook and experience the water's edges**
- 5.2 **Explore options to enhance the beach between the Royal Canadian Legion and the Boulevard Club**
- 5.3 **Create opportunities for ceremonial water access**



5.1 Improve opportunities to overlook and experience the water's edge

Description:
Introduce elements along the water's edge, such as viewing decks, promenades and/or platforms, that let people safely approach, sit by, or overlook the water.

Actions:
- » 5.1.1 Ensure all elements are universally accessible.
- » 5.1.2 Ensure design approach strengthens flood and storm resilience.
- » 5.1.3 Connect new decks and terraces directly to the boardwalk and trail network.
- » 5.1.4 Add clear signage and design cues to ensure safety and deter small-craft launching.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative

5.2 Explore options to enhance the beach between the Royal Canadian Legion and the Boulevard Club

Description:
Transform the existing stretch of beach into a safe, accessible, and well-serviced destination with essential beach amenities.

Actions:
- » 5.2.1 Enhance the existing beach through shoreline stewardship to support resilience.
- » 5.2.2 Create clear, accessible pathways from the MGT to the beach.
- » 5.2.3 Consider adding amenities such as seating areas, shade structures, and fire pits.
- » 5.2.4 Design the beach as a quiet, contemplative waterfront space for passive recreation and reflection.
- » 5.2.5 Integrate opportunities for Indigenous placekeeping through culturally meaningful design elements developed with Indigenous partners.
- » 5.2.6 Establish seasonal maintenance practices to align with program.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- • Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Marie Curtis Park, Toronto, ON: water's-edge seating supporting direct shoreline engagement

5.3 Create opportunities for ceremonial water access

Description:
Collaborate with Indigenous communities to create a more open approach to support ceremonial, spiritual, and Indigenous cultural relationships with water along the shoreline.

Potential Location:
- » Open areas along the shoreline that consider safety and accessibility
- » Humber River mouth, a site of cultural and historical significance.
- » Avoid locating directly within high-traffic recreational or rowing corridors.

Actions:
- » 5.3.1 Co-design locations and cultural elements with MCFN and the urban Indigenous community.
- » 5.3.2 Provide simple, respectful spots for water offerings (e.g., platforms or stone edges).
- » 5.3.3 Use culturally significant plantings around ceremonial areas.
- » 5.3.4 Create soft-edged, accessible pathways designed for elders, youth, and all generations, may be distinct from recreational access points.
- » 5.3.5 Incorporate small, protected ceremony spaces such as bermed groves, seating circles, or recessed alcoves.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- • Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Ceremonial water access: quiet shoreline space supporting gathering, reflection, and cultural practices



PRECEDENT

Trillium Park, Toronto, ON: natural-stone gathering space supporting ceremony and reflection (Design: LANDinc with West 8; Image: Nadia Molinari)

WATER QUALITY & ACCESS

6. Protect & Enhance Boating & Rowing Culture

Focus: Supporting existing rowing and paddling activities while improving safety, access, and shared use of the water.

- 6.1 Establish safe rowing and paddling corridors, separate from swimming zones
- 6.2 Add public dock amenities for paddlers and swimmers
- 6.3 Strengthen on-water safety protocols and enforcement
- 6.4 Evaluate and refine approach to paddle craft rentals based on current pilot



6.1 Establish safe rowing and paddling corridors, separate from swimming zones

Description:
Focus: Support existing rowing and paddling activities while improving safety, access, and shared use of the water.

Actions:
- 6.1.1 Install directional and navigational buoys with clearly delineated safe routes and restricted zones.
- 6.1.2 Post large-scale maps at all launch points showing rowing lanes and swim areas, noting motorcraft restrictions.
- 6.1.3 Coordinate corridor locations with clubs and TRCA based on environmental conditions and operations.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative

6.2 Add public dock amenities for paddlers and swimmers

Description:
Provide new public docks and launch points, separate for paddlers and recreational swimmers, with wide ramps, floating docks, and staging areas, designed to be accessible and safe for the intended user.

Potential Location:
- Between Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club and Argonaut Rowing Club for paddlers
- Sunnyside Park beach area, close to an existing parking lot for paddlers
- Within swim-zones for swimmers

Actions:
- 6.2.1 Design floating docks with universal access gangways, railings, and non-slip surfaces.
- 6.2.2 Consider swim steps, ladders, and child-friendly features such as life-jacket loaner stations.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- • Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- o New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Swim-area markers: buoy lines clearly define safe swimming zones



PRECEDENT

Banfield Park, Victoria, BC: accessible dock supporting swimming and paddling (Image: City of Victoria)

6.3 Strengthen on-water safety protocols and enforcement

Description:
Develop a stronger framework of on-water safety, combining policy enforcement with education for rentals, clubs, and casual users.

Actions:

» 6.3.1 Improve signage and public communication of existing harbour speed and wake regulations.

» 6.3.2 Strengthen enforcement of harbour speed and wake regulations through coordination with Toronto Police Marine Unit and periodic on-water monitoring.

» 6.3.3 Require all non-motorized rental operators to brief customers on navigation rules, safe routes, and right-of-way practices before launching.

» 6.3.4 Support rowing/paddling clubs to lead safety training and education for members and public programs.

Plan Alignment:

- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Safety signage: clear speed and wake requirements at waterfront launch areas



PRECEDENT

Pre-launch safety briefing: guidance on navigation, right-of-way, and safe paddling

6.4 Evaluate and refine approach to paddle craft rentals based on current pilot

Description:
Evaluate and refine the City's beach rental pilot to better integrate design into park context, to improve visitor experience, while ensuring accessibility and environmental protection.

Actions:

» 6.4.1 Evaluate visitor experience impacts, including usage, safety, customer satisfaction, and community feedback to assess overall performance of the pilot.

» 6.4.2 Use a clear decision framework to determine whether benefits outweigh drawbacks before moving to a permanent designs solution and/or program.

» 6.4.3 Explore options for temporary and purpose-built attractive facilities that minimize impacts to beach view sheds and beach experience.

» 6.4.4 Prioritize locating in secondary or buffered areas where possible, minimizing impacts to beach view sheds and beach experience and maintaining public access, while aligning with proposed public dock locations to support convenient launching and shared waterfront access.

» 6.4.5 Explore partnership models with operators that support equitable access with public benefit.

Plan Alignment:

- • Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- o New Initiative



EXISTING CONDITION

Sir Casimir Gzowski Park, Toronto, ON: existing seasonal beach rental container



PRECEDENT

Natural-material rental kiosk: example of a simple timber kiosk for waterfront equipment rental and storage.

5.5 Visitor Experience & Park Amenity

Western Beaches is a well-loved waterfront destination with a wide range of parks, beaches, trails, and recreational amenities that support many different activities. This theme explores opportunities to enhance the overall visitor experience by expanding park services and amenities, supporting year-round use, and improving comfort by creating more places for people to gather, rest, and spend time along the waterfront.



VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND PARK AMENITY

7. Provide Year-Round Amenities and Comfort

Focus: Improving comfort and supporting year-round use of Western Beaches through amenities and design strategies that make the waterfront more comfortable and usable in different seasons and weather conditions.

- 7.1 Strengthen the visual cohesion of park furnishings and public realm elements in the Western Beaches
- 7.2 Explore ways to improve the cycling experience with more consistent and supportive amenities
- 7.3 Upgrade quality and quantity of visitor amenities
- 7.4 Integrate thermal comfort consideration into all future park design
- 7.5 Deliver accessible, year-round washrooms
- 7.6 Mitigate visual and noise impacts from the adjacent transportation infrastructure



7.1 Strengthen the visual cohesion of park furnishings and public realm elements in the Western Beaches

Description:
Develop design guidelines that connect key elements and strengthen the Western Beaches' visual identity. The guidelines should respond to lakefront conditions and support safety, accessibility, durability, and year-round comfort.

Actions:

- **7.1.1** Develop design guidelines that considers the natural character of the area to establish a guideline for materials, lighting, furnishings, and landscape elements across all parks and public spaces.
- **7.1.2** Apply accessibility, durability, and inclusive design principles consistently across public spaces.
- **7.1.3** Implement a coordinated lighting approach that improves evening safety, visibility, and comfort for pedestrians, cyclists, and park users, aligned with City standards, park closure hours and coordinated with planned and future capital projects.
- **7.1.4** Integrate seasonally responsive design measures such as shading, wind mitigation, and warming elements, linking to the broader thermal comfort strategy (See idea 7.4).

Plan Alignment:

- Ongoing Initiative
- Indigenous Placekeeping
- Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- **New Initiative**



PRECEDENT

St. Andrew's Playground Park, Toronto, ON: coordinated seating and tables create a cohesive furniture family (Design: DTAH; Image: DTAH)



PRECEDENT

HTO Park, Toronto, ON: coordinated seating and shade create a distinctive waterfront identity (Design: Claude Cormier + JRS)

7.2 Explore ways to improve the cycling experience with more consistent and supportive amenities

Description:
Implement a coordinated bike infrastructure strategy to support active transportation and create a more connected experience.

Actions:

» **7.2.1** Implement a consistent and phased approach to Bike Share Toronto stations and personal bike parking across the Western Beaches, considering safety, accessibility and needs in high-demand areas through all seasons.

» **7.2.2** Ensure that bike infrastructure does not interfere with pedestrian movement or contribute to the cluttering of natural areas.

» **7.2.3** Add bike repair stations at regular intervals.

» **7.2.4** Replace existing mismatched personal bike parking with the new design standard (see idea 7.1) over time to achieve visual and functional consistency.

» **7.2.5** Locate new personal bike parking strategically in visible, well-lit, and convenient areas near major destinations.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • **New Initiative**



EXISTING CONDITION

Western Beaches, Toronto, ON: Bike Share facilities support convenient waterfront access



PRECEDENT

Trillium Park, Toronto, ON: bike parking integrated into the waterfront landscape (Design: LANDinc with West 8; Image: Nadia Molinari)

7.3 Upgrade quality and quantity of visitor amenities

Description:
Implement a coordinated strategy to improve consistency of park amenities across the Western Beaches, prioritizing high-traffic areas while ensuring they are safe, accessible, and year-round. (e.g. drinking water access, seating, hygiene stations, and gathering spaces).

Actions:

» **7.3.1** Improve access to potable water by upgrading existing fountains, adding bottle-filling stations and combined stations with pet-accessible bowls.

» **7.3.2** Enhance visitor experience by adding outdoor showers and foot-wash stations in beach zones, and ensuring access and accessibility, clear sightlines and ease of operations and maintenance.

» **7.3.3** Introduce gathering areas that may include natural seating and/or a fire pits, coordinated with Toronto Fire Services and Parks & Recreation.

» **7.3.4** Explore opportunities for programming such as Indigenous storytelling, ceremony, and cultural education centred on fire.

» **7.3.5** Prioritize amenity improvements in high-traffic locations for visitor experience and community connection along the waterfront.

» **7.3.6** All recommendations to align with City standards and the Western Beaches design guideline (see idea 7.1).

» **7.3.7** Identify opportunities for more seating including benches, picnic tables, loungers, and Muskoka chairs.

» **7.3.8** Leverage existing Toronto Water infrastructure in the study area as opportunities for public education, using signage or interpretive features. Where public education opportunities are not promoted, improve water infrastructure interface on parkland to make it more discreet.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • **New Initiative**



PRECEDENT

Corktown Common, Toronto, ON: seating and gathering amenities support varied park use (Design: MVVA; Image: Waterfront Toronto)



PRECEDENT

Leslie Lookout Park, Toronto, ON: flexible seating and picnic amenities (Design: CCxA; Image: CCxA)

7.4 Integrate thermal comfort consideration into all future park design

Description:
Introduce shade and cooling elements for summer and add warming stations, shelters, and windbreaks for winter to support year-round comfort and create a welcoming four-season destination.

Potential Locations:
- Key gathering areas such as food kiosks and picnic zones.
- Playgrounds and open lawns requiring additional shading or cooling amenities.
- Beach access points and trail edges exposed to wind or direct sun.
- Explore safe and suitable locations for temporary winter programs, installations or small event pavilions.

Actions:
- **7.4.1** Develop a Thermal Comfort Strategy to guide design, placement, and programming of shade, windbreak, and warming amenities across the Western Beaches.
- **7.4.2** Consult the City of Toronto's Thermal Comfort Guidelines to ensure that interventions respond to micro-climate, user needs, and seasonality.
- **7.4.3** Monitoring and evaluation: track seasonal comfort levels through user feedback, and adjust interventions accordingly.

Plan Alignment:
- **Ongoing Initiative**
  - Indigenous Placekeeping
  - Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
  - New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Playground shade structure: integrated shade improves thermal comfort during warmer months



PRECEDENT

Trillium Park, Toronto, ON: fire pits and sheltered gathering support colder-season use (Design: LANDinc with West 8)

7.5 Deliver accessible, year-round washrooms

Description:
Add new washrooms and upgrade aging ones in alignment with Parks & Recreation's Washroom Enhancement Program to provide clean, safe, and accessible facilities for all waterfront visitors.

Actions:
- **7.5.1** Install new washrooms in high-use areas where there are existing gaps in service, and water and sanitary servicing connections are feasible.
- **7.5.2** Align upgrades with the City Parks & Recreation's Washroom Enhancement Program with a focus on universal accessibility and year-round use.
- **7.5.3** Promote high-quality design and innovation, and better communicate washroom hours.
- **7.5.4** Improve cleaning schedules, maintain accurate posted hours, and ensure online information matches on-site conditions.
- **7.5.5** Incorporate design-based safety measures such as improved lighting, clear sightlines, and durable, easy-to-clean materials to promote safety and cleanliness during peak seasons.

Plan Alignment:
- **Ongoing Initiative**
  - Indigenous Placekeeping
  - Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
  - New Initiative



Existing and potential location for Washrooms



PRECEDENT

Canuck Pavilion, Downsview Park, Toronto, ON: universally accessible, all-season washrooms (Image: Downsview Park)

7.6 Mitigate visual and noise impacts from the adjacent transportation infrastructure

Description:
Use landscape-based buffering strategies to reduce visual and noise impacts from Gardiner Expressway, Lake Shore Boulevard West, and rail corridor while maintaining safety, visibility, and strong connections to the waterfront. Where appropriate, these strategies can also create small places where people can pause and listen to increased natural sound opportunities, such as water, planting, and wildlife.

Actions:

» **7.6.1** Implement landscape-based buffering strategies, including layered tree planting, evergreen screens, and naturalized planting to soften views and help reduce noise from the transportation corridors.

» **7.6.2** Explore earth berms and sculpted landforms where feasible, particularly along the MGT and road edges, to provide subtle visual and acoustic buffering.

» **7.6.3** Design buffers to maintain clear sightlines and safety, applying CPTED principles to avoid creating concealed areas and ensure comfortable, well-observed park environments.

» **7.6.4** Increase opportunities to listen to natural sounds, such as wetlands and outfalls that create gentle ripples and cascades, planting rustling vegetation and strengthening habitats for songbirds, insects and amphibians.

Plan Alignment:

- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Corktown Common, Toronto, ON: layered planting and landform buffer adjacent infrastructure
(Design: MVVA; Image: Waterfront Toronto)



PRECEDENT

Brooklyn Bridge Park, Brooklyn, NY: sculpted, planted berms buffer traffic noise from the adjacent Brooklyn-Queens Expressway while creating sheltered park spaces and habitat.
(Design: Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates)



8. Advance a Coordinated Food & Beverage Strategy

Focus: Explore a coordinated approach to food and beverage on the Western Beaches aligned with the future Parks and Recreation food & beverage strategy.

» 8.1 Explore ways to expand and diversify food and beverage options

» 8.2 Enhance picnic areas in key locations



8.1 Explore ways to expand and diversify food and beverage options

Description:
In alignment with the Parks and Recreation's broader food & beverage strategy, develop diverse options for healthy and affordable food and beverage in a variety of formats and locations. These amenities will support local entrepreneurs, activate underused areas, and strengthen the waterfront as a social and vibrant destination.

Actions:

» **8.1.1** Introduce a mix of kiosks, seasonal cafés, and mobile food vendors offering healthy, affordable, and culturally diverse menus, located in high-use areas and aligned with the Sidewalks to Skylines Action Plan to strengthen local business opportunities and public-realm activation.

» **8.1.2** Support local entrepreneurs, Indigenous food vendors, and community-led food programs through flexible licensing, scalable pop-ups, and a vendor framework that prioritizes inclusivity and community benefit.

» **8.1.3** Prioritize sites with feasible servicing and operations, ensuring electrical hook-ups, waste facilities, safe queuing space, and clear access that complements adjacent park uses.

» **8.1.4** Enhance visitor experience by adding park amenities and wayfinding that encourage visitors to gather and connect near food nodes, considering thermal comfort and the Western Beaches design guidelines (see Idea 7.1, Idea 7.4, and Idea 14.1).

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative

8.2 Enhance picnic areas in key locations

Description:
Refurbish existing picnic shelters, and improve accessibility and seating while integrating new barbecue facilities that will enhance usability and comfort for park visitors and community gatherings.

Actions:

» **8.2.1** Upgrade picnic shelters, tables, seating, and surfaces to meet accessibility and universal design standards.

» **8.2.2** Consider the addition of new barbecue amenities in appropriate locations, preferably integrated with existing picnic pavilions, and determine the suitable number and type of BBQ units, considering servicing and maintenance access through operational and technical review.

» **8.2.3** Provide clear signage, wayfinding, adequate waste receptacles, and enforcement support to guide safe, permitted use of picnic areas.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative

VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND PARK AMENITY

9. Reimagine Play on the Waterfront for All Ages

Focus: Expand the range of play and recreational experiences along the Western Beaches, including nature play, water play, informal play, and active recreation for people of all ages, integrated throughout the waterfront.

» **9.1 Introduce a nature play zone to integrate with and expand existing play spaces**

» **9.2 Refurbish existing playgrounds and explore ways to enhance play experience**

» **9.3 Improve the existing outdoor fitness zones**

» **9.4 Enhance and better integrate the existing BMX facility within the park**



9.1 Introduce a nature play zone to integrate with and expand existing play spaces

Description:
Integrate nature play zones and small-scale play moments across the Western Beaches to connect children with the land, water, and ecology while reflecting Indigenous history and environmental themes. Add pop-up, whimsical, and four-season play installations that inspire exploration year-round.

Actions:

» **9.1.1** Introduce small nature play zones using gentle topography, natural materials and native planting integrated with the park and waterfront ecology, supporting sensory play, biodiversity, and enhancing resilience.

» **9.1.2** Embed teachings about land and water through interpretive art, sculptural elements, and material choices that honour Indigenous history, storytelling, and relationships with nature.

» **9.1.3** Introduce pop-up, whimsical, kinetic, or illuminated play installations for four-season enjoyment, with storage or shared facility solutions for temporary programs.

» **9.1.4** Incorporate ecological education features to promote inclusive play, curiosity and environmental awareness among children.

» **9.1.5** Design all play elements to withstand heavy use and reduce vandalism risk.

Plan Alignment:

- o Ongoing Initiative
- • **Indigenous Placekeeping**
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • **New Initiative**



PRECEDENT

Biidaasige Park, Toronto, ON: nature-based play integrated into the park landscape (Design: MVVA; Image: Waterfront Toronto)



PRECEDENT

Nature play: simple timber elements support informal, active play.

9.2 Refurbish existing playgrounds and explore ways to enhance play experience

Description:
As part of the City's existing Playground Enhancement Program (PEP), continue to assess the conditions of existing playgrounds to identify opportunities for renewal and enhancement that reflect the vibrancy of the Western Beaches and support year-round, intergenerational play.

Potential Locations:
- Sunnyside "Dinosaur" Park
- Sir Casimir Gzowski Park Playground

Actions:
- **9.2.1** Include accessible, sensory-rich play equipment for children of all abilities, following AODA principles, and replace aging structures with traditional, natural, and adventurous features for year-round play, while providing shaded seating, picnic areas, and accessible surfacing to support caregivers, seniors, and diverse users.
- **9.2.2** Consider expanding existing water play opportunities inspired by the lake's edge — playful in summer, sculptural in winter.
- **9.2.3** Use native materials to integrate playgrounds into the waterfront landscape and collaborate with Indigenous communities on storytelling and design motifs that reflect Indigenous teachings.
- **9.2.4** Align playground upgrades with Parks & Recreation's Playground Enhancement Program to coordinate scheduling, prioritization, and design standards for future improvements.
- **9.2.5** Preserve and thoughtfully integrate iconic and beloved features, such as the dinosaur sculptures, into future upgrades to maintain the area's charm and identity.

Plan Alignment:
- **Ongoing Initiative**
- Indigenous Placekeeping
- Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- New Initiative



EXISTING CONDITION

Sunnyside "Dinosaur" Park: distinctive play features reinforcing local identity



PRECEDENT

Biidaasige Park, Toronto, ON: climbing and imaginative play integrated into the landscape (Design: MVVA)

9.3 Improve the existing outdoor fitness zones

Description:
Enhance and expand outdoor fitness areas to create a connected network of accessible wellness spaces for all ages and abilities. Upgrade existing sites with improved equipment, surfacing, shade, seating, and signage, and explore opportunities for new fitness nodes closer to the water.

Potential Locations:
- Existing outdoor fitness areas (Sir Casimir Gzowski Park and near the Royal Canadian Legion Branch)

Actions:
- **9.3.1** Expand and upgrade outdoor fitness areas with inclusive equipment for strength, cardio, mobility, and adaptive or low-impact exercises that support all ages and abilities, in line with AODA standards.
- **9.3.2** Provide a mix of fixed and body-weight stations with improved surface, shade, and lighting to enable safe, year-round use.
- **9.3.3** Add benches and social seating areas to support rest, observation, and intergenerational interaction.
- **9.3.4** Integrate wayfinding and signage to nearby amenities.
- **9.3.5** Partner with health and community groups to offer fitness programming and seasonal activations.

Plan Alignment:
- Ongoing Initiative
- Indigenous Placekeeping
- Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- **New Initiative**



PRECEDENT

Centennial Park North, Howard County, MD: accessible strength, cardio, and mobility equipment (Fitness design: KOMPAN; Image: KOMPAN)



PRECEDENT

Canoe Park, Ottawa, ON: compact multi-user fitness hub (Fitness design: Park N Play Design; Image: Park N Play Design)

VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND PARK AMENITY

9.4 Enhance and better integrate the existing BMX facility within the park

Description:
Recognize the existing BMX facility as an important recreation asset and youth gathering space. Integrate the BMX facility into future park planning and design to improve safety, visibility, and connections while maintaining its grassroots character. Explore opportunity for revitalization of the existing building to integrate and support the Plan, the BMX facility, and connections to High Park to the north.

Actions:

» **9.4.1** Collaborate with local BMX users and community groups to ensure future upgrades address user needs and support community-led programming and events.

» **9.4.2** Integrate outcomes of the Plan with planned BMX facility improvements noted in the 2026-2034 Parks and Recreation Capital Plan.

» **9.4.3** Explore opportunities to add a complementary skate spot or pump track nearby to broaden youth recreation options.

» **9.4.4** Improve safety, access, and sightlines from adjacent trails and park areas.

» **9.4.5** Enhance navigation and wayfinding to better connect the BMX facility with the broader Western Beaches park system and surrounding amenities.

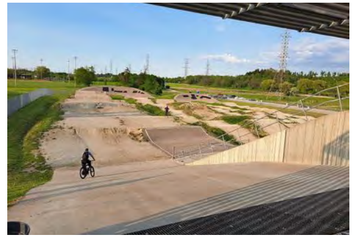
Plan Alignment:

- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • **New Initiative**



PRECEDENT

Rose Valley Community Park, Oshawa, ON: pump tracks and cycling features integrated into the park (Image: City of Oshawa)



PRECEDENT

Centennial Park Pan Am BMX Centre, Toronto, ON: varied jumps and riding features create a dedicated cycling destination (Design: KMA + Elite Trax)

VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND PARK AMENITY

10. Revitalize Heritage Destinations

Focus: Explores opportunities to restore, revitalize and enhance existing heritage assets as active cultural and community anchors, gathering spaces and important landmarks along Western Beaches.

» **10.1 Reinforce Sunnyside Pavilion as a community hub**

» **10.2 Reimagine the Joy Oil Station as a hub**

» **10.3 Reveal Western Beaches' stories through the development of an interpretive plan**



10.1 Reinforce Sunnyside Pavilion as a community hub

Description:
Reinforce Sunnyside Pavilion as an iconic, all-season gathering space with updated amenities, lighting, and programming that revive its historic spirit of leisure and entertainment and strengthen its role as a vibrant waterfront destination.

Actions:

» **10.1.1** Complete a Cultural Heritage Study specific to the Sunnyside Pavilion to inform decision making, interpretation and storytelling for improvements to the area while collaborating with Heritage Toronto, TRCA, partners and key interest groups to respect the Pavilion's cultural character and environmental context.

» **10.1.2** Develop a coordinated Sunnyside Pavilion Plan to guide design, programming, accessibility, servicing upgrades, food and beverage offerings, and public realm improvements across the forecourt, terrace, entrance and beach edges promoting four season use.

» **10.1.3** Reimagine the forecourt and beach terrace as a unified plaza with flexible seating, sheltered areas (sun and wind), native planting, integrated lighting, and universal access.

» **10.1.4** Explore opportunities for nighttime activation through partnerships, heritage planners, Indigenous groups, artists, and event organizers, supporting concerts, art markets, dining, skating pop-ups, light installations, and projection art though all seasons.

» **10.1.5** Enhance visitor experience and extend seasonal uses with portable heaters, retractable wind screens, canopy or string lighting, improved electrical power supply, and upgraded washrooms.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



HISTORIC IMAGE

Sunnyside Amusement Park, Toronto, ON: historic waterfront rides and attractions, c. 1950 (Image: historic postcard / Wikimedia Commons)



HISTORIC IMAGE

Sunnyside Bathing Pavilion, Toronto, ON: historic waterfront swimming and gathering activity (Image: City of Toronto Archives)

10.2 Reimagine the Joy Oil Station as a hub

Description:
Repurpose the Joy Oil Station as a year-round visitor hub and gateway to the Western Beaches, transforming it into a destination for food, café uses, art, and cultural programming that complements nearby trails and park amenities.

» **10.2.1** Advance the adaptive reuse of the Joy Oil Station as a small café and visitor hub, building on previous plans and consultations and coordinating with Heritage Toronto on interior fit-out and reversible service upgrades.

» **10.2.2** Implement a flexible program that combines food and beverage service, cycling amenities, environmental education, and small-scale art or interpretive displays.

» **10.2.3** Explore transforming the forecourt into a welcoming micro-plaza with café seating, native planting, lighting, bike parking, and paving or furniture details that echo the station's geometry.

» **10.2.4** Celebrate the station's heritage character through restored signage, discreet lighting, and interpretive storytelling, and explore partnerships with community groups for programming, exhibitions, tours, and long-term operations.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- • Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- o New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Park café: outdoor seating supporting food service and social gathering



EXISTING SIGNAGE

Joy Oil Station, Toronto, ON: existing heritage interpretation

10.3 Reveal Western Beaches' stories through the development of an interpretive plan

Description:
Develop an interpretive plan that layers new storytelling experiences onto existing monuments and landscapes, while reanimating cultural histories through creative, contemporary forms of interpretation.

Potential Locations:
» Existing monuments (e.g., Sir Casimir Gzowski Memorial and Tenth Anniversary of Hungarian Uprising 1956).
» Sites of "disappeared" or transformed cultural landscapes (e.g., former Sunnyside Amusement Park and Sunnyside Stadium, Miss Toronto Pageant stages).

Actions:
» **10.3.1** Restore and elevate existing monuments with improved accessibility, lighting, planting, seating, and contextual interpretation that invites reflection, learning, and rest.

» **10.3.2** Explore opportunities for partnerships to develop creative methods to interpret the Western Beaches history through experiential interpretation such as soundscapes, augmented reality overlays, QR-linked oral histories, and projection-based storytelling to animate lost histories in situ - working in collaboration with Toronto History Museums and local historians to assemble archives, photographs, music, oral histories, and community memory collections.

» **10.3.3** Introduce new commemorative moments along existing and new trails that celebrate cultural and recreational memory including Sunnyside's dance halls, swimming culture, Miss Toronto pageants, waterfront leisure, immigrant gathering spaces, and community traditions.

» **10.3.4** Develop partnerships to co-curate rotating or seasonal installations to ensure stories remain dynamic, relevant, and responsive to contemporary waterfront culture.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



HISTORIC IMAGE

Sunnyside Beach, Toronto, ON: waterfront swimming and amusement activity, 1922 (Image: Toronto Public Library, Pictures-R-596)



HISTORIC IMAGE

Sunnyside Amusement Park, Toronto, ON: midway activity and waterfront crowds, 1925 (Image: Library and Archives Canada, a098485)



VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND PARK AMENITY

11. Honour Indigenous Presence & Storytelling

Focus: Explore opportunities to meaningfully reflect Indigenous presence, knowledge, and storytelling across the Western Beaches through art, interpretation, teaching landscapes, and culturally significant places developed in collaboration with Indigenous partners.

- **11.1 Establish a narrative trail: “walking with story”**
- **11.2 Advance placekeeping through art and signage**
- **11.3 Cultivate Indigenous teaching landscapes to support Indigenous programming**
- **11.4 Celebrate the mouth of the Humber River as an Indigenous place of significance**

Image: Campfire, Humber Bay Shores, Toronto — Michael Belmore + Herman Mejia, 2024



11.1 Establish a narrative trail: “walking with story”

Description:
Establish a trail that weaves together stories of land, water, and cultural continuity while transforming the Western Beaches into a journey of reflection, learning, and connection.

Potential Locations:

» **11.1.1** Connect the Narrative Trail to a wider network of culturally significant sites along the Humber River, High Park, and the shoreline, highlighting stories of travel, gathering, and transformation across the landscape.

» **11.1.2** Work with Indigenous artists, linguists, and Elders to curate language, narratives, and site-based teachings, acknowledging altered or lost places such as Teiaiagon, Withrow, and the High Park Burial Mounds.

» **11.1.3** Create an immersive storytelling experience through text, carvings, sound, lighting, or other interpretive installations integrated along the boardwalk and trail system.

» **11.1.4** Explore larger-scale recognition through municipal, provincial, and federal heritage, museum, and tourism programs to elevate the trail’s cultural significance.

» **11.1.5** Integrate the Narrative Trail with mobility projects and public art initiatives, using durable, accessible, AODA-compliant materials suitable for year-round use.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- • **Indigenous Placekeeping**
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • **New Initiative**



PRECEDENT

Story Trail, Tsútswecw Provincial Park, BC: place-based interpretation integrated into a walking route (Image: BC Parks Foundation)



PRECEDENT

Sho’arí̓shon Park, Lincoln, ON: Indigenous storytelling and public art integrated into the park landscape (Indigenous partners: Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Niagara Regional Native Centre + Plenty Canada; Design: Two Row Architect + adesso design inc.; Image: Town of Lincoln).

11.2 Advance placekeeping through art and signage

Description:
Position public art as a catalyst for learning and identity through an Indigenous-led network of place-based artworks, language, and interpretive elements that share relationships to land and water.

Potential Locations:

» Humber River Confluence: Monumental or landscape-based pieces marking the meeting of land and water.

» Boardwalk & Trails: Smaller integrated interventions in lighting, seating, or paving.

» Other Sites: To be confirmed through engagement and scaled to the intervention. Public art may be fixed or distributed, physical or experiential, and should be placed in highly visible public locations.

Actions:

» **11.2.1** Establish an Indigenous-led process for discovery, consultation, design, and decision-making.

» **11.2.2** Integrate teachings and place-based narratives rooted in Indigenous worldviews and community knowledge, such as the Seven Grandfather Teachings, Seven Generations, dodem symbols, constellations, petroglyph imagery, and stories of water, ecology, and renewal. These may be expressed through sculpture, planting, natural materials, light, sound, ceremonial lighting, and interpretive language.

» **11.2.3** Prioritize landscape-integrated approaches that use organic forms and natural materials, ensuring that artworks feel embedded in the waterfront setting rather than imposed upon it, and avoid excessive signage or visual clutter.

» **11.2.4** Embed artworks across the landscape from the Humber River mouth to Sunnyside using durable, low-maintenance materials, anti-graffiti coatings, and vandal-resistant details informed by Indigenous partners.

» **11.2.5** Support cultural continuity through mentorship, youth participation, and intergenerational knowledge-sharing in the design, fabrication, and installation of permanent and temporary artworks.

» **11.2.6** Develop long-term stewardship and maintenance approaches co-created with Indigenous partners, and coordinate artworks with other ideas such as lighting strategies, narrative trails, and the Humber River celebration projects (see Idea 7.1, Idea 11.1, and Idea 11.4).

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- • **Indigenous Placekeeping**
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • **New Initiative**



PRECEDENT

Ravine with Moccasin Identifier, Trillium Park, Toronto, ON: Indigenous placekeeping integrated into the landscape through engraved cultural markers (Indigenous partner: Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation; Design: LANDinc with West 8; Image: Ontario Place)

VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND PARK AMENITY

11.3 Cultivate Indigenous teaching landscapes to support Indigenous programming

Description:
Cultivate Indigenous Teaching Landscapes that share stories of resilience and collective care through quiet ceremonial areas, gathering circles, and nature-connected places for reflection, where the land itself becomes the teacher.

Potential Locations
» Close to Humber River Mouth
» Open lawn areas of Budapest Park and Marilyn Bell Park

Actions:
» **11.3.1** Engage Treaty partners, Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers, and educators to co-develop landscapes, programming, and interpretive design grounded in cultural protocols and community governance.

» **11.3.2** Create outdoor classrooms and gathering circles inspired by the Sacred Circle and directional teachings, with consideration of east-facing orientation where appropriate. Integrate intergenerational spaces with natural materials, seating elements, softer ground surfaces, sound buffering, and strong proximity to nature.

» **11.3.3** Develop a plant knowledge framework incorporating culturally significant species such as wild rice, cattail root, bulrush, pawpaw, and winter berries, alongside Anishinaabemowin names, seasonal uses, and cultural stories, with clear guidance from Indigenous partners on respectful harvesting, access, and stewardship.

» **11.3.4** Use interpretive landforms, planting, art, and temporary or movable structures such as seasonal pavilions or storytelling shelters to support Elder-led walks, youth programs, workshops, and ceremonial events.

» **11.3.5** Support cultural learning through City staff training, Indigenous-led stewardship and maintenance practices, and collaborations with schools and community groups to activate the landscapes throughout the year.

» **11.3.6** Design these landscapes as quiet, restorative environments that offer grounding experiences and an antidote to digital overload, particularly for youth, while supporting reflection, ceremony, and connection to land and water.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- • **Indigenous Placekeeping**
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • **New Initiative**



PRECEDENT

Awen' Gathering Place, Collingwood, ON: Anishinaabe teachings shape gathering, learning, and cultural interpretation (Design: Brook McIlroy + Envision-Tatham; Indigenous knowledge: Dr. Duke Redbird, Saugeen First Nation; Image: Brook McIlroy)

VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND PARK AMENITY

11.4 Celebrate the mouth of the Humber River as an Indigenous place of significance

Description:
Create an Indigenous-led constellation and cultural storytelling experience that extends the significance of the Humber River into the Western Beaches through place-based installations, lighting, symbols, petroglyph-inspired elements, and visible trail markers, while restoring missing signage and expanding interpretation with Indigenous partners.

Actions:
» **11.4.1** Restore and maintain Indigenous artworks, interpretive features, and Shared Path markers at the Humber River mouth, ensuring they are visible, accessible, and culturally supported.

» **11.4.2** Create a seasonal shade or ceremonial gathering structure designed in partnership with Indigenous communities, with sensitive seating, seasonal access, and opportunities for a future year-round pavilion.

» **11.4.3** Integrate storytelling through sculpture, land-based materials, light, sound, and water-focused themes, including playful, family-friendly elements inspired by local wildlife and teachings.

» **11.4.4** Strengthen physical and interpretive connections between the Humber River and the Western Beaches by enhancing trail linkages, lighting, signage, and places for reflection, learning, and ceremony.

» **11.4.5** Collaborate with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Indigenous artists to guide restoration priorities and develop new installations that extend along the shoreline and reinforce the river's cultural and ecological significance.

» **11.4.6** Explore opportunities for place-based installations at and under the bridge, including constellation teachings and large scale artwork integrated into bridge infrastructure, using culturally and environmentally appropriate materials and developed in close collaboration with Indigenous partners. The bridge itself already incorporates Indigenous-inspired design elements, including an abstract Thunderbird form and snake and turtle motifs, which should be acknowledged when developing future interventions.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- • **Indigenous Placekeeping**
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • **New Initiative**



EXISTING SIGNAGE

Humber River mouth, Toronto, ON: Shared Path marker recognizing Indigenous presence and cultural connection

5.6 Mobility, Access & Connectivity

Focus: Improve how people move to, from, and through the Western Beaches, with an emphasis on safety, accessibility, and clarity of movement for all users. Ideas under this theme address pedestrian and cycling conditions, connections to surrounding neighbourhoods and destinations, transit access, wayfinding, and the management of conflicts between different modes of travel. Together, these ideas aim to create a more connected, legible, and comfortable mobility network that supports year-round use and improves access to the waterfront for a wide range of users.



MOBILITY, ACCESS & CONNECTIVITY

12. Create Safe Pedestrian & Cycling Movement

Focus: Improve safety, comfort, and continuity for pedestrians and people cycling through the Western Beaches, particularly along the MGT and key conflict points such as bridges, driveways, and parking areas.

- 12.1 Explore opportunities to provide continuous pedestrian connection along the waterfront
- 12.2 Identify segments to continue a pedestrian-only path parallel to MGT
- 12.3 Turn Aquatic Drive Trail portion of MGT into a slow zone
- 12.4 Improve safety conditions at driveways and parking access points along the MGT
- 12.5 Improve secondary paths to meaningfully connect to destinations
- 12.6 Improve safety at the Humber Bay Arch Bridge
- 12.7 Communicate that MGT is a shared path
- 12.8 Improve bridge landings



12.1 Explore opportunities to provide continuous pedestrian connection along the waterfront

Description:
Explore options to extend the boardwalk along the Western Beaches shoreline to provide a safe, continuous pedestrian connection that improves access and enjoyment of the waterfront.

Actions:
- 12.1.1 Initiate a feasibility study and establish a stakeholder working group with the existing Lease holders within the impacted area along the shoreline to ensure Lease holder operational needs are met with new public shoreline access created.
- 12.1.2 In locations where extending the boardwalk directly along the waterfront proves not feasible, an alternative solution is to create a parallel pedestrian path that connects back to the MGT. This ensures continuity of the pedestrian experience across the Western Beaches while respecting site limitations.

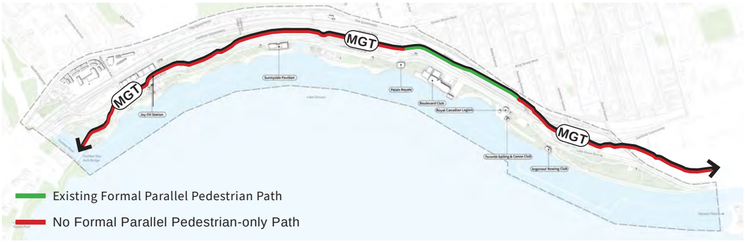
Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- • Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- o New Initiative

12.2 Identify segments to continue a pedestrian-only path parallel to MGT

Description:
Identify segments where a dedicated, parallel pedestrian-only path is feasible to improve safety, accessibility, and comfort along MGT. Building on existing paths and visible desire lines beside the MGT creates a dedicated pedestrian network that offers options for all ages and abilities.

Actions:
- 12.2.1 Conduct a feasibility study to identify segments where a parallel pedestrian-only path is required and feasible in particular near intersections with north-south streets, bridges, and park facility entrances.
- 12.2.2 Use adjacent grass areas or buffer zones to extend pedestrian-only routes where space allows.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- • Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- o New Initiative

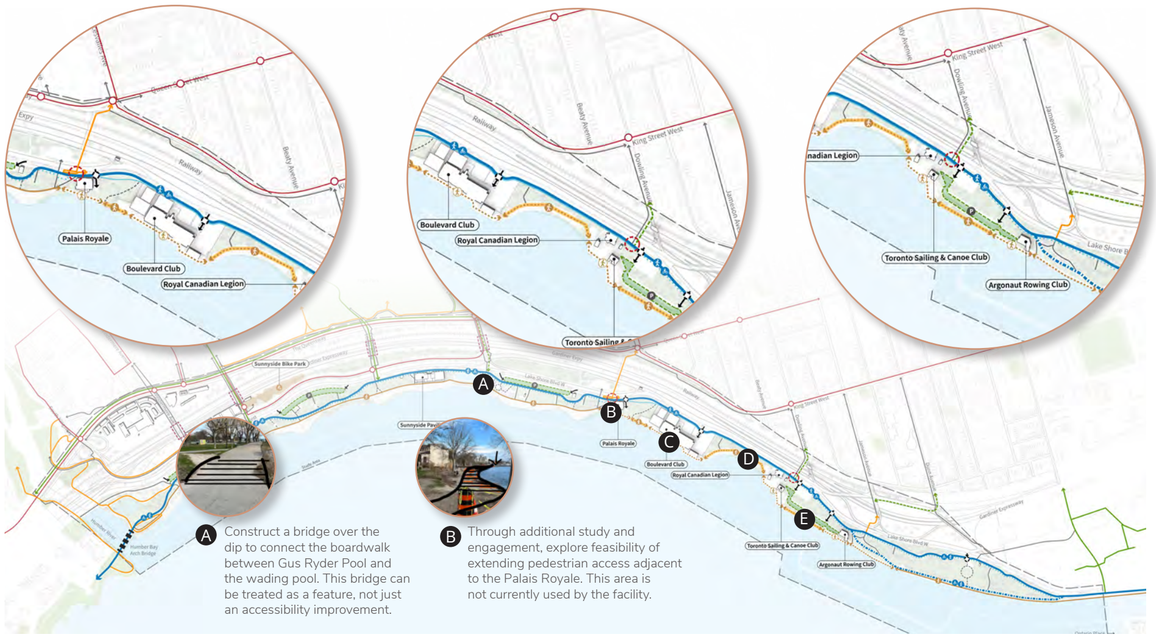


Draft mapping showing existing pedestrian parallel path and desired lines

C Through additional study and engagement, explore feasibility of extending pedestrian access adjacent to the Boulevard Club. A precedent example is Hamilton Pier 5–7, where the public boardwalk was extended past Macassa Bay Yacht Club.

D Introduce a new boardwalk along the beach area between the Legion and Boulevard Club, creating a continuous connection. Current fencing could be addressed by limiting public access to certain hours if needed.

E Through additional study and engagement, explore feasibility of extending pedestrian access adjacent to the water's edge between TSCC and the Argonaut Rowing Club, to connect to the existing boardwalk to the east.



A Construct a bridge over the dip to connect the boardwalk between Gus Ryder Pool and the wading pool. This bridge can be treated as a feature, not just an accessibility improvement.

B Through additional study and engagement, explore feasibility of extending pedestrian access adjacent to the Palais Royale. This area is not currently used by the facility.

Draft mapping showing potential locations of boardwalk extension (12.1)

12.3 Turn Aquatic Drive Trail portion of MGT into a slow zone

Description:
Along Marilyn Bell Park, the MGT splits into two routes. Formally differentiate them by designating the southern waterfront path as a slow, all-ages recreational zone and reinforce the northern trail as the preferred route for continuous cycling to better balance user needs and reduce safety conflicts.

Actions:

» 12.3.1 Apply distinct pavement treatments or surface textures to visually signal the slow zone.

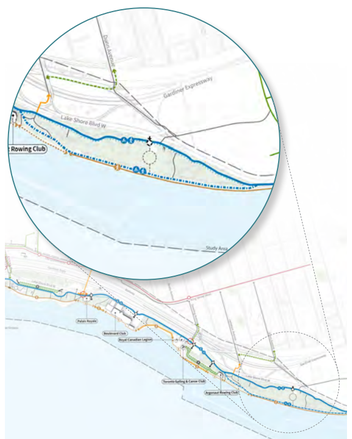
» 12.3.2 Install signage to designate the southern waterfront trail as a recreational/ slow zone, particularly at entry points.

» 12.3.3 Consider reduced cycling speed signage and pilot digital speed feedback signs to test effectiveness.

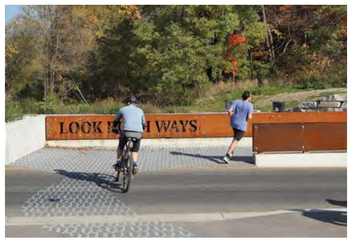
» 12.3.4 Enhance visitor experience features, such as benches, rest points, shade structures, interpretive signage and viewing decks or gathering spaces.

Plan Alignment:

- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



Map showing location of Aquatic Drive Trail portion of MGT



PRECEDENT

Pottery Road trail crossing, Toronto, ON: textured paving and narrowed access encourage slower movement



PRECEDENT

Slow-zone treatment: speed-feedback signage and surface treatments reinforce reduced speeds

12.4 Improve safety conditions at driveways and parking access points along the MGT

Description:
Explore additional measures to improve safety and reduce conflicts between vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians where the MGT intersects with several vehicular access points. All trail improvements will be designed and implemented in accordance with the City of Toronto Multi-Use Trail Guidelines.

Actions:

» 12.4.1 Explore opportunities for additional safety improvements, such as pavement markings, warning signs, bump outs, raised trail crossings or improve/add textured pavement at vehicle intersections.

» 12.4.2 Evaluate installation of dedicated turning lanes on vehicle approaches to enable vehicles to slow down in advance of driveway entrance.

» 12.4.3 Realign the MGT where parking lot entrances cut through the trail and explore opportunities to optimize parkland and balance parking needs.

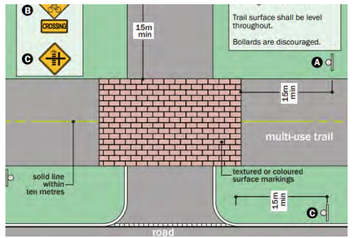
» 12.4.4 Add clear signage to identify pedestrian/cyclist crossings and signal trail priority to vehicles.

» 12.4.5 Use digital speed feedback signs to encourage compliance with posted speed limits.

» 12.4.6 Close unused vehicular access points where feasible and reclaim these areas for parkland use.

Plan Alignment:

- Ongoing Initiative
- Indigenous Placekeeping
- Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- New Initiative



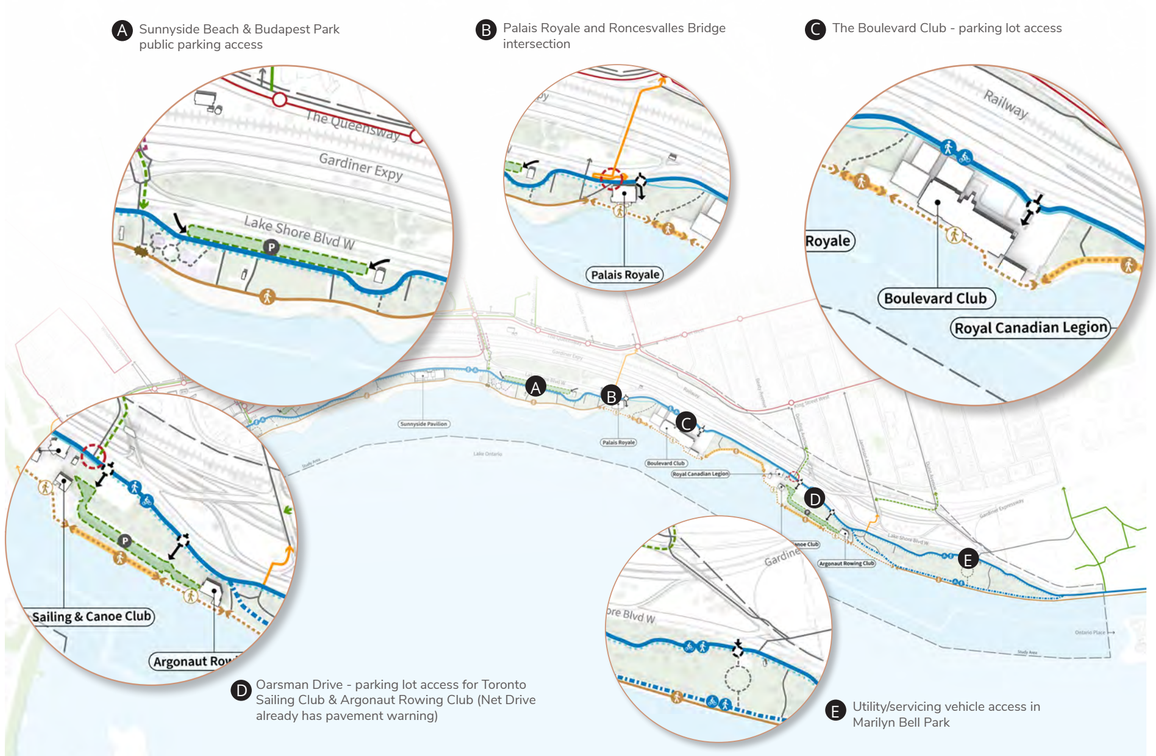
EXISTING GUIDELINE

City of Toronto Multi-Use Trail Guidelines: trail-crossing treatments improve safety and visibility (Image: City of Toronto)



PRECEDENT

Rotary Frenchman's Bay West Park, Pickering, ON: trail crossing and traffic calming improve safety at vehicular access (Image: City of Pickering)



Draft mapping showing location of key areas of improvement

12.5 Improve secondary paths to meaningfully connect to destinations

Description:
Improve the secondary path network so routes are accessible, direct, and clearly connected to destinations such as the boardwalk and key amenities, strengthening overall trail network connectivity and safety.

Actions:
- 12.5.1 Audit existing paths to identify missing connections.
- 12.5.2 Re-route or extend paths so they lead to destinations (e.g. boardwalk, facilities, amenities).
- 12.5.3 Upgrade surfaces for universal accessibility, ensuring paths are barrier-free and weather-resilient.
- 12.5.4 Introduce clear sightlines and wayfinding markers at junctions.
- 12.5.3 Increase the frequency of connections between secondary paths and main circulation routes (e.g. boardwalk, MGT).
- 12.5.4 Introduce new secondary paths only where necessary to achieve an appropriate balance between hardscape and softscape areas.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- • Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- o New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Corktown Common, Toronto, ON: secondary paths connect park amenities and gathering spaces (Design: MVVA; Image: Waterfront Toronto)



PRECEDENT

Hunter's Point South Waterfront Park, Queens, NY: secondary paths connect waterfront destinations and naturalized areas (Design: SWA/Balsley + WEISS/MANFREDI; Image: SWA/Balsley)

12.6 Improve safety at the Humber Bay Arch Bridge

Description:
Improve safety for all users and wayfinding at Humber Bay Arch Bridge especially at pinch points near viewing areas and considering east and west landing areas.

Actions:
- 12.6.1 Explore opportunities for safety improvements at bridge approaches.
- 12.6.2 Add lighting to enhance safety and comfort, particularly at bridge landings and viewing areas.
- 12.6.3 Evaluate options for spatial delineation, including enhanced pavement markings, more legible and strategically placed signage, and potential separation of slow movement/ viewing area from active trail zone.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative

12.7 Communicate that MGT is a shared path

Description:
Improve signage, markings, and public education to reinforce that the MGT is a shared space for pedestrians, cyclists, rollerblades, skateboards, and mobility-device users, reducing conflicts and unsafe interactions.

Actions:
- 12.7.1 Install clear pavement markings indicating shared use.
- 12.7.2 Add consistent signage, (e.g., directional arrows, designation symbols, etc.) reminding users to keep right, yield when appropriate, signal when passing, and follow posted speed limits.
- 12.7.3 Launch an educational campaign (e.g., posters, social media, trail ambassadors) to raise awareness of trail etiquette.
- 12.7.4 Use universal design principles and icons to ensure accessibility across languages and abilities.
- 12.7.5 Incorporate communication elements into existing wayfinding and interpretive systems for cohesion.
- 12.7.6 Consider pilot programs with temporary or seasonal signage to test messaging effectiveness.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



EXISTING CONDITION

Humber Bay Arch Bridge, Toronto, ON: constrained shared-use conditions highlight safety and communication needs

12.8 Improve bridge landings

Description:
The pedestrian and cycling bridges that connect nearby neighbourhoods to the waterfront are critical gateways into the Western Beaches. Improving the bridge landings will enhance comfort, legibility, and safety. Planned work on Parkdale Bridges replacement will further strengthen connectivity.

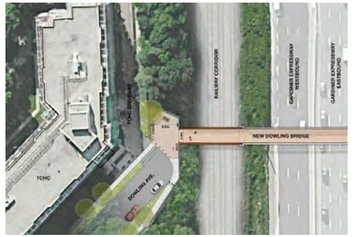
Potential Locations:
- Roncesvalles Pedestrian Bridge
- Dowling Avenue – planned replacement offers opportunities to integrate public realm features

Actions:
- 12.8.1 Add wayfinding and identity markers to signal arrival at the waterfront.
- 12.8.2 Enhance landscaping and provide seating, shade, and small gathering areas to create a welcoming transition from bridge to park space.
- 12.8.3 Use planting, paving, and lighting buffers to soften adjacent private frontage and high-speed corridors.
- 12.8.4 Explore opportunities for public art, cultural markers, or interpretation to reinforce sense of place.
- 12.8.5 When opportunities for bridge replacement arise:
  - Redesign landings with clear sightlines, lighting, and safe, direct crossings to parks and trails.
- Realign pedestrian and cycling connections at the Roncesvalles landing

Plan Alignment:
- Ongoing Initiative
- Indigenous Placekeeping
- **Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP**
- New Initiative



Draft mapping showing areas of bridge landings



PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

Dowling Avenue Bridge, Toronto, ON: proposed landing integrates seating, planting, and accessible connections (Image: City of Toronto)

13. Strengthen Access to Western Beaches

Focus: Improve connections between surrounding neighbourhoods and the waterfront by strengthening north–south connections, improving transit access, and making gateways to the Western Beaches more visible, welcoming, and accessible.

- 13.1 Improve Underpasses
- 13.2 Explore ways to reimagine parking areas as welcoming gateways
- 13.3 Explore opportunities to enhance connection to High Park
- 13.4 Work with TTC to consider transit improvements to Western Beaches



13.1 Improve Underpasses

Description:
Enhance lighting, widen pathways, and improve design treatments under the Gardiner Expressway and rail corridor to transform these underpasses into safe, welcoming gateways to the waterfront.

Potential Locations:
- Windermere Avenue Underpass
- Ellis Avenue Underpass
- Colborne Lodge Drive Underpass
- Parkside Drive Underpass

Actions:
- 13.1.1 Install bright, energy-efficient lighting to improve safety and visibility.
- 13.1.2 Incorporate public art, murals, or cultural markers to create welcoming experiences.
- 13.1.3 Enhance maintenance standards for regular cleaning and repairs.
- 13.1.4 When opportunities for road work arise, explore possibilities to:
  - Install sound mitigating measures where possible.
  - Widen sidewalks and install and/or upgrade existing cycling infrastructure to comfortably accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists.
  - Upgrade surface treatments for accessibility (smooth pavement, clear drainage).

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- • Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- o New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Lansdowne Avenue Underpass, Toronto, ON: public art and lighting create a more welcoming pedestrian connection (Image: City of Toronto)



PRECEDENT

5th Street S.W. Underpass, Calgary, AB: protected pedestrian and cycling connection beneath major infrastructure (Design: DIALOG + Jill Anholt Studio; Image: City of Calgary)

13.2 Explore ways to reimagine parking areas as welcoming gateways

Description:
Enhance parking areas with landscaping, safe pedestrian routes, and improved layouts to make parking areas safer, more welcoming, and easier to navigate. These spaces can also support seasonal community uses throughout the year.

Actions:
- 13.2.1 Establish designated pick-up and drop-off areas to reduce congestion.
- 13.2.2 Consolidate or reconfigure parking layouts to prioritize safe circulation and minimize paved areas, while working within the existing one-way configuration. Initiate parking reconfiguration at Carpark 206 (2001 Lake Shore Boulevard West) as a pilot location, given its proximity to the Humber River and opportunity to test improved layouts, greening, and circulation strategies.
- 13.2.3 Improve parking lots with eco-friendly elements (e.g. trees, stormwater features, bioswales, permeable paving) following the City's "Greening Surface Parking Lots" guidelines.
- 13.2.4 Provide clear pedestrian routes, wayfinding, and signage from parking areas to the waterfront.
- 13.2.5 Assess opportunities to repurpose parking areas during off-peak seasons for community uses like markets, mobile food vendors, or winter activities

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Greened parking area: planting, bioswales, and pedestrian routes reduce hardscape impacts



PRECEDENT

Permeable parking area: permeable paving, tree canopy, and EV charging improve environmental performance

13.3 Explore opportunities to enhance connection to High Park

Description:
Strengthen the relationship between High Park and the Western Beaches as a culturally significant landscape shaped by Indigenous history and the Carrying Place Trail, improving access, legibility, and the overall experience for people and wildlife moving between park and waterfront.

Potential Locations:
- Existing street corridors along Ellis Avenue, Colborne Lodge Drive, and Parkside Drive.

Actions:
- 13.3.1 Create clear, story-rich wayfinding from High Park to the waterfront, weaving in cultural markers that reflect Indigenous presence and connection to the land and lake.
- 13.3.2 Enhance Ellis Avenue, Colborne Lodge Drive, and Parkside Drive as green corridors with planting, shade, and safe walking/cycling routes, using landscape buffers and berms to reduce noise and visually separate traffic.
- 13.3.3 Explore opportunities to support wildlife movement between High Park and the waterfront through planted corridors, habitat buffers, underpass improvements, and culvert enhancements where feasible.
- 13.3.4 When opportunities for road work arise, explore possibilities to:
  - Consolidate utilities (signs, light poles, parking meters) into a narrow service corridor to declutter sidewalks.
  - Improve safety at intersections with pavement marking changes, signal timing adjustments, pedestrian crossings, or raised crosswalks.
  - Coordinate with planned improvements on Parkside Drive to align design quality and accessibility.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- • Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



EXISTING CONDITION

Colborne Lodge Drive, Toronto, ON: Lake Shore Boulevard interrupts the direct High Park–waterfront connection

13.4 Work with TTC to consider transit improvements to Western Beaches

Description:
Work with the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) to expand seasonal transit service, add strategic stops along Lake Shore Boulevard West, and improve summer frequency to make the Western Beaches more accessible by transit.

Actions:
- 13.4.1 Partner with TTC to pilot an extended 203 route from High Park Station to Sunnyside and Western Beaches (June–September, weekends and holidays).
- 13.4.2 Conduct a ridership study to identify peak summer travel patterns to justify service adjustments.
- 13.4.3 Increase bus and streetcar frequency during summer weekends and special events.
- 13.4.4 Coordinate signage, wayfinding, and real-time trip information at key destinations.
- 13.4.5 Promote expanded service through TTC trip planners, social media, and on-site signage.
- 13.4.6 Align with parking and mobility strategies to reduce car dependency at the waterfront.

Plan Alignment:
- o Ongoing Initiative
- o Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Cherry Beach, Toronto, ON: seasonal TTC service provides direct summer waterfront access



PRECEDENT

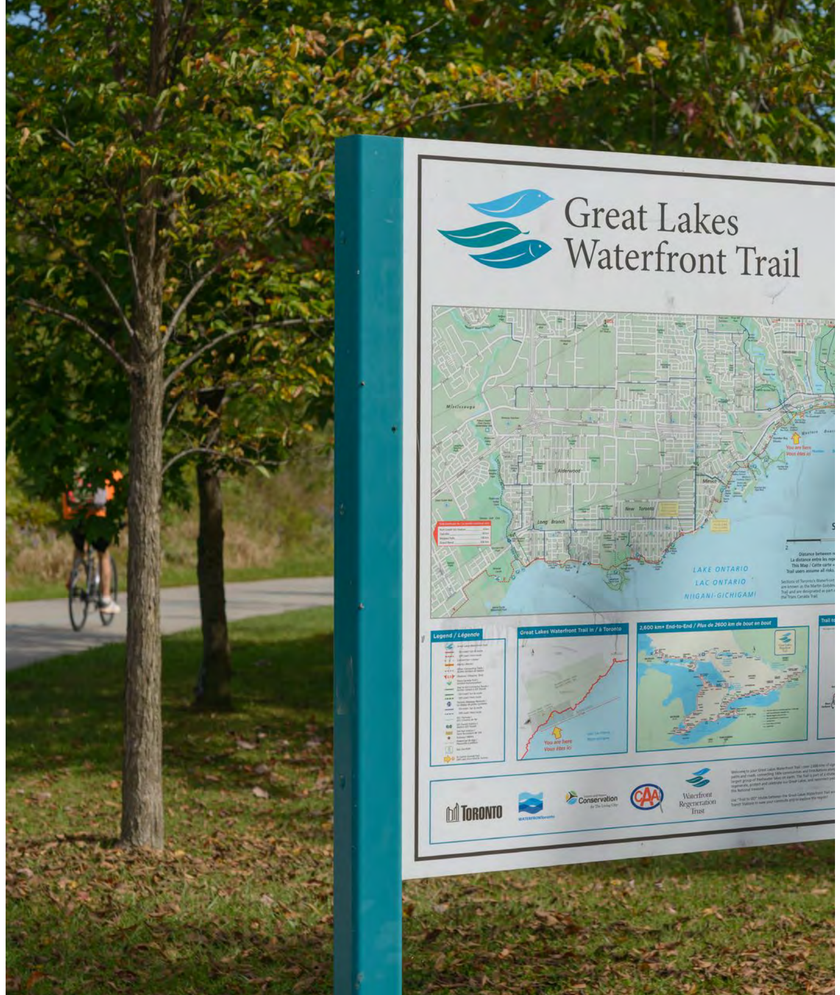
TTC Route 203 High Park, Toronto, ON: seasonal service connects High Park Station with Colborne Lodge Drive

MOBILITY, ACCESS & CONNECTIVITY

14. Enhance Navigation & Wayfinding

Focus: Improve consistent navigation and orientation through a coordinated wayfinding system and cohesive visual language across the Western Beaches.

» 14.1 **Initiate a Western Beaches wayfinding plan**



14.1 Initiate a Western Beaches wayfinding plan

Description:
Develop a comprehensive wayfinding plan to unify how people navigate the waterfront, from bridges and underpasses to parks, trails, and beaches. This plan should align with the City's TO360 and Parks & Trails Wayfinding standards and recognize the Martin Goodman Trail as part of the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail and the Trans Canada Trail.

Actions:

» 14.1.1 Develop a comprehensive wayfinding plan for Western Beaches, in alignment with City's TO360 Wayfinding Program and Parks & Trails Wayfinding, to determine sign types, locations, and unique content specific to the Western Beaches.

» 14.1.2 Clarify path hierarchy by differentiating primary and secondary routes through paving, width, and surface texture, and create small decision-making nodes or resting points where paths converge.

» 14.1.3 Collaborate with Indigenous partners to include dual-language (English and Anishinaabemowin) signage and Indigenous-led wayfinding, such as marker trees—young trees traditionally shaped to mark trails and tell land and water stories—as demonstrated through the Marker Tree Stewardship Program at Biidaasige Park.

» 14.1.4 Consider digital QR codes linking to online maps and real-time facility information.

» 14.1.5 Identify opportunities to recognize the Martin Goodman Trail as part of the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail and the Trans Canada Trail through coordinated signage, mapping, and digital wayfinding.

Plan Alignment:

- o Ongoing Initiative
- • Indigenous Placekeeping
- o Carried Forward From 2009 WWMP
- • New Initiative



PRECEDENT

Biidaasige Park, Toronto, ON: marker trees support Indigenous-led wayfinding and placekeeping (Design: MVVA + Two Row Architect; Image: Waterfront Toronto)



CITY STANDARD

City of Toronto parks wayfinding signage: coordinated signage supports navigation at key decision points