

The Western Beaches

PUBLIC REALM PLAN

June 2026

TORONTO

The Western Beaches Public Realm Plan
This plan was developed with significant support and input from City of Toronto staff, and the community.

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Executive Summary

A long-term plan for Toronto's Western Beaches

Toronto's Western Beaches are one of the city's most significant waterfront landscapes. Extending along Lake Ontario between the mouth of the Humber River and Ontario Place, this stretch of parkland, shoreline, trails, beaches, and public spaces is both a regional destination and an everyday landscape for nearby communities.

The Western Beaches hold layered historical, cultural, ecological, and recreational significance. They are connected to the Humber River, the Toronto Carrying Place, High Park, the Humber River Watershed, Lake Ontario, and the broader Great Lakes system. They are also shaped by generations of public use, from swimming, walking, cycling, rowing, sailing, gathering, and quiet reflection to major citywide events and daily waterfront movement.

The Western Beaches Public Realm Plan provides an updated long-term vision for this important landscape.

Building on the 2009 Western Waterfront Master Plan, the Plan responds to current conditions, community priorities, Indigenous perspectives, environmental pressures, and implementation realities. It identifies a set of big moves, ideas, and actions to guide future planning, design, investment, and decision-making over the next 20 years.

The Plan is not a fixed capital program. It is a flexible public realm framework that will help coordinate future work, guide detailed studies and design processes, align with ongoing City initiatives, and support phased implementation over time.

WHY THE PLAN IS BEING UPDATED

Since the 2009 Western Waterfront Master Plan was completed, conditions along the Western Beaches have changed. Many improvements have been advanced, including trail upgrades, boardwalk repairs, park enhancements, naturalization, and public realm investments. Other major infrastructure initiatives previously included in the 2009 plan are not currently included in the City budget or 10-year plan, and will not proceed for the foreseeable future (including Waterfront West LRT and the realignment of Lake Shore Boulevard West). These larger infrastructure projects require longer term planning and study. This Plan identifies improvements to be implemented independently and in advance of these potential major infrastructure projects.

At the same time, new pressures and priorities have emerged. Rising lake levels, shoreline erosion, aging breakwaters, changing patterns of public use, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have reinforced the importance of accessible and resilient outdoor spaces. The adoption of the City of Toronto's Reconciliation Action Plan and a growing awareness of the cultural significance of the Humber River mouth have also strengthened the need to centre Indigenous placekeeping and cultural recognition in future planning.

UPDATED PLAN PURPOSE:

The update provides an opportunity to refresh the long-term vision, reassess previous recommendations, carry forward (where appropriate) ideas from the 2009 Plan, identify new priorities, and establish a more implementable path forward.

Western Beaches Today

The Western Beaches are a rare and expansive waterfront landscape where Toronto meets Lake Ontario. They contain historic and cultural destinations and offer recreational and ecological experiences. The area connects to the Humber River and High Park and lies within Treaty 13 lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

The Western Beaches provide access to Lake Ontario and connect to city-wide, regional, and national trail systems through the Martin Goodman Trail, part of the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail and the Trans Canada Trail. Together, these connections directly link the study area to destinations across Toronto and the wider region.



At a Glance

4 km of Waterfront Lands

41 ha of Parkland

5 City Parks
(Marilyn Bell Park, Lake Shore Boulevard Parklands, Budapest Park, Sunnyside Park, and Sir Casimir Gzowski Park)

3 City Beaches
(Sir Casimir Gzowski, Sunnyside, and Budapest Beaches, collectively known as Sunnyside Beach)

2 Major Trails
(Martin Goodman Trail and Humber River Recreational Trail)

3 Major Heritage Destinations
(Joy Oil Station, Sunnyside Bathing Pavilion, and Palais Royale)

4 Waterfront Clubs
(Sunnyside Paddling Club, Boulevard Club, Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club, and Argonaut Rowing Club)

Other Recreational Amenities

- Outdoor Pool
- Washrooms
- Bike Park
- Disc Golf Course
- Water Play
- Adult Fitness
- Tennis
- Playgrounds

A Collaborative Process

The Western Beaches Public Realm Plan was developed through a collaborative process that brought together technical input, Indigenous engagement, and considers inputs from the local community and interest groups, and broader public feedback.

Engagement was central to the development of the Plan, and served to refresh the vision and guiding principles, test emerging big moves, refine ideas and supporting actions and establish priorities as the work progressed. Feedback included technical analysis and policy review to support a plan that can be implemented over time.



The engagement process included:

- **Technical Advisory Committee:** City divisions and agency partners provided technical guidance throughout the Plan Process.
- **The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN):** Direct engagement as Treaty partners in the study area.
- **Indigenous Advisory Circle:** Indigenous leaders, Knowledge Keepers, community advocates, urban Indigenous community members, and design professionals provided cultural insights throughout the process.
- **Community Advisory Committee:** A representative group of lease-holders, interest groups, and community members provided feedback and guidance at key points in the process.
- **Broader public engagement:** Pop-up events, online surveys, a virtual public meeting, and project webpage feedback provided opportunities for wider community input.



***Over 4,000** voices contributed through the engagement process, including approximately 1,500 participants in pre-engagement, approximately 1,600 participants in Phase 1 and approximately 900 participants in Phase 2.*

Vision

The vision and guiding principles provide the foundation for the Public Realm Plan. They describe the desired future for the Western Beaches and establish a shared framework for evaluating ideas, shaping future actions and coordinated work plans towards implementation.

The vision is intentionally aspirational. It reflects the desire for the Western Beaches to be many things at once: a beloved waterfront destination, a connected movement corridor, a place for recreation and reflection, a landscape of Indigenous presence and placekeeping, and a resilient public realm where people, nature, and future generations can thrive.

The 14 guiding principles translate this vision into high-level directions for the future of the Western Beaches.

Vision Statement

The Western Beaches offer a multitude of experiences on land and water, welcoming all users in every season. It will continue to be a deeply loved and adaptable stretch of Toronto's western shoreline, safe and easy to get to, with a series of parks, paths, naturalized areas, beaches, and waterways that invite people to linger, play, reflect, and move through.

Movement will feel easy and intuitive, comfortable for all modes of active transportation, supported by meaningful connections, universal accessibility, and a strong sense of place. The Western Beaches will be a vibrant and welcoming destination for everyone, animated by spaces for quiet reflection, lively gathering, and active recreation.

More than just a view, it will offer a true waterfront experience, where people can see, touch, and feel the water, and enjoy clean, swimmable shores alongside inclusive opportunities for water-based recreation.

Grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing, it will honour deep relationships with the land and water, celebrate Indigenous presence, and reflect the Western Beaches place within a larger living ecosystem, connected to the lake, river, and surrounding watershed where people, nature, and place are deeply intertwined.

Above all, it will be a sustainable, and resilient landscape where all lives, species, and future generations thrive.

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles translate this vision into high-level directions for how the Western Beaches should function, feel, and evolve over time.

They reflect community priorities and serve as the metrics to guide future decision-making across planning, design, investment, and operations.



Diverse and Inclusive Spaces

Design a range of spaces that support diverse activities, from quiet reflection to active play, for people of all ages and abilities.



Indigenous Placekeeping

Celebrate and restore Indigenous presence, values, and teachings through all phases, including planning, design, construction, and operation, through naming, art, storytelling, and cultural interpretation, reflecting the teaching of '*All Our Relations*'.



Year-Round Flexibility

Incorporate flexible programming and infrastructure that embraces all seasons, including Indigenous seasonal calendars.



Identity and Character

Strengthen and reveal the distinct identity of the Western Beaches through design that reflects its cultural history, natural character, and diverse communities.



Mobility and Connectivity

Improve safety for all road, trail and watercraft users.



Access to the Western Beaches

Strengthen connections between communities and the waterfront and improve access to the Western Beaches by active transportation, public transit, and water-based modes.



Naturalization and Habitat Restoration

Restore shoreline habitats, enhance biodiversity, and protect ecological systems through nature-based solutions and considering Indigenous stewardship



Climate Resilience and Adaptation

Strengthen resilience to climate change by designing landscapes that can adapt to changing conditions



Water Quality

Ensure ongoing improvement of water quality is prioritized through measures that protect public health and support safe recreation, contributing to a clean and healthy waterfront.



Lakefront Access and Recreation

Create immersive lakefront experiences that allow people to safely touch, see, and feel the water, while expanding access to water-based recreation.



Gathering and Social Connection

Create welcoming places to gather that encourage social connection, cultural exchange, and celebration that reflect Toronto's diversity.



Food and Beverage Diversity

Enhance opportunities for improved hospitality and food experiences by offering diverse, high-quality, and culturally rich food and beverage options that encourage people to linger and return.



Cultural Storytelling

Incorporate public art, interpretation, and storytelling that encourages learning about the history of the place and its cultures, including Indigenous, local, and immigrant narratives.



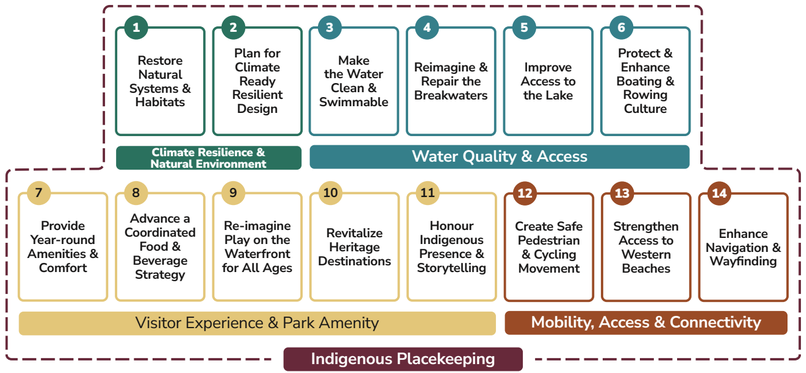
Flexibility for the Future

Create a flexible plan with phased implementation to accommodate future growth, evolving community needs, and changing environmental conditions.

Big Moves

The Plan organizes its recommended actions through 14 big moves and 52 ideas with supporting actions. The 14 big moves were established through extensive engagement, informed by technical analysis and ongoing initiatives, and build on previous waterfront planning work.

For clarity, the big moves are organized under four themes. Indigenous placekeeping is embedded as an overarching framework across all themes, informing directions related to water, land, ecology, storytelling, movement, gathering, and stewardship.





Indigenous placekeeping is not treated as a standalone theme. It is an overarching framework that informs directions related to water, land, ecology, storytelling, movement, and gathering. The Plan identifies the mouth of the Humber River as a primary location for Indigenous presence, storytelling, teaching, and gathering, while also embedding Indigenous placekeeping throughout the broader landscape.

The recommended actions support cultural storytelling and gathering spaces, ceremonial water access, Indigenous teaching landscapes, ecological restoration, medicinal and Indigenous planting practices, and a light-touch approach that works with natural systems and avoids over-building or over-programming the shoreline.

Demonstration Plan

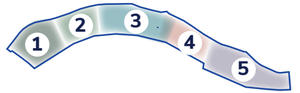
The demonstration plan illustrates how the recommended actions and ideas of the Plan may come together across the Western Beaches. It presents one possible future condition and shows how multiple ideas can be coordinated and layered within specific areas while contributing to an improved parkland system and visitor experience overall.



These illustrations are conceptual. They are not final designs, and actual projects may differ as detailed analysis, technical review, engagement, funding, and implementation processes advance. Their role is to help communicate how the Plan's recommendations could shape a more connected, resilient, and welcoming waterfront landscape.

Park Character

The park character zones help demonstrate how the Western Beaches can evolve as a connected waterfront system while still allowing different parts of the landscape to express distinct qualities. The demonstration plan is described as a series of rooms, each with a distinctive park character. The five park characters are:



Mouth of the River

Western gateway is shaped by ecological systems, Indigenous placekeeping, the Humber River mouth, restored habitat, naturalized landscapes, ceremonial water access, and quieter forms of recreation and reflection.



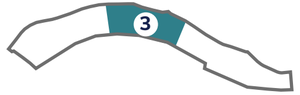
Neighbour-hood Park

This area of the park is a transition area where natural systems meet everyday parkland and recreational uses, including Joy Oil Station, picnic areas, play, Indigenous placekeeping, expanded trails and park access (from the north).



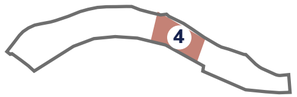
Beachfront

The more active waterfront segment centred on Sunnyside Pavilion, Sunnyside Beach, the boardwalk, family play, beach amenities, food and beverage, and improved pedestrian and cycling movement.



Active Recreation

An area of the park focused on water-based recreation, existing clubs, active use, improved access, continuous pedestrian movement, and opportunities to enhance the beach between the Legion and Boulevard Club.



Passive Recreation

A quieter eastern landscape where open space, lake views, passive recreation, ecological enhancement, and contemplative waterfront experiences are emphasized.



Delivering the Vision

The Western Beaches Public Realm Plan is intended to guide decision making for park improvements over the next 20 years. It provides a long-term framework to ensure a coordinated approach to investment, and future project delivery.

Implementation will occur incrementally through a range of projects, initiatives, partnerships, and additional studies. Some ideas can be advanced in the short-term, while others will require additional study, engagement, coordination and additional funding, technical analysis, environmental assessment, or alignment with broader infrastructure work.

The implementation strategy is based on several key directions:

- **Work in a coordinated and integrated way**: projects should be planned and delivered in coordination with ongoing City initiatives, capital programs, infrastructure upgrades, and partner work.
- **Establish and evolve priorities**: priorities will be refined over time based on readiness, funding, emerging needs, coordination opportunities, and alignment with the overall vision.
- **Advance projects through detailed planning and design:** each recommendation will require further scoping, technical review, design development, and engagement before implementation.
- **Undertake supporting studies and approvals**: some projects will require feasibility studies, environmental assessments, technical investigations, or regulatory approvals.
- **Align funding and delivery mechanisms**: projects will be delivered through municipal budgeting and approval processes, with opportunities to leverage partnerships and external funding where available.
- **Leverage partnerships and collaboration**: implementation will require continued collaboration with Indigenous partners, community groups, agencies, Lease holders, stakeholders, and other City divisions.
- **Deliver incrementally and responsively: t**he Plan is intended to remain flexible, allowing the City to respond to changing conditions, test approaches, and build on early successes.
- **Monitor progress and inform future action**: ongoing monitoring and reporting will help track progress, identify challenges, and refine future work.



A Project Background



1.0 Introduction

Toronto's Western Beaches hold rich historical, cultural, and environmental significance and offer a rare and expansive waterfront landscape where the city meets the lake, shaped by layered histories, diverse public life, and strong connections to land and water.

Toronto's Western Beaches comprise a four kilometre stretch of waterfront, parks, trails and communities along the shoreline of Lake Ontario between the Humber River and Ontario Place. Historically, this area has been an important meeting place and travel route for Indigenous communities, offering resources for sustenance and trade. The area holds rich historical, cultural, and environmental significance.

The Western Beaches provides access to Lake Ontario, connections to major trail networks, and a distinctive landscape defined by its parks, beaches, and recreational facilities. The area is a well-used and highly valued stretch of waterfront parkland that serves both local residents and regional visitors. It is a critical east-west commuter route on the Martin Goodman Trail (MGT) and is home to several waterfront clubs and organizations including the Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club, the Toronto Argonaut Club, the Boulevard Club, and Palais Royale.

These public spaces are separated from the neighbourhoods to the north by a major transportation corridor comprised of The Queensway, the Canadian National Railway Corridor, the Gardiner Expressway, and Lake Shore Boulevard West. They mark a transition zone where the natural landscape meets a growing urban area.

In recent decades, the City has undertaken several initiatives to improve the Western Beaches, including actions stemming from the 2009 Western Waterfront Master Plan.

Since that time, conditions along the waterfront have changed. Rising lake levels, shoreline erosion, aging breakwaters, shifts in public realm use, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the adoption of the Reconciliation Action Plan, and a growing awareness of the historical and cultural significance of the mouth of the Humber River all highlight the need for an updated plan that responds to current challenges and opportunities.



1.1 Study Area Context

Today, the study area includes:

1. 41 hectares of parkland;
2. Two major trails: the Martin Goodman Trail (MGT), which forms part of the Waterfront Trail and Trans Canada Trail along Toronto's western waterfront, and the Humber River Recreational Trail;
3. Three City beaches: Sir Casimir Gzowski, Sunnyside, and Budapest Beaches, collectively known as Sunnyside Beach; and
4. Five City parks: Sunnyside Park, Sir Casimir Gzowski Park, Budapest Park, Lake Shore Boulevard Parklands, and Marilyn Bell Park.

The area also features important historic sites, including the original shoreline of Lake Ontario, the site of the landing of American troops during the War of 1812, the mouth of the Humber River, Joy Oil Station, Sunnyside Bathing Pavilion, and Palais Royale, and is home to several private recreational clubs, such as the Boulevard Club, the Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club, and the Argonaut Rowing Club.

Western Beaches Study Area



1.2 Plan Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this Plan is to provide an updated vision for Toronto's Western Beaches, including recommendations and priorities for improvements over the next 20 years that reflects the changing conditions, current priorities and community needs since the Western Waterfront Master Plan (WWMP) was completed in 2009.

This update to the 2009 WWMP considers the progress made to date, highlights current initiatives, reconfirms projects, objectives and priorities, and identifies new opportunities for improvements to the Western Beaches and its visitor experience.

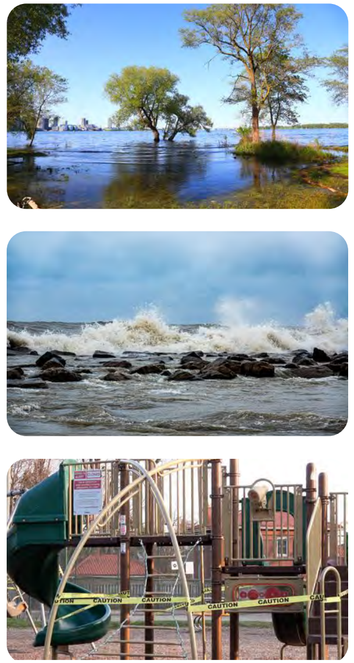
The Plan includes an implementation strategy that describes the subsequent detailed studies, feasibility assessments, and other important and sequential work required to bring the Plan to reality.

1.2.1 Drivers of Change

Since the 2009 Western Waterfront Master Plan, conditions along the Western Beaches have evolved. The City has undertaken a range of projects and initiatives to improve the waterfront, while broader environmental, social, and cultural factors have continued to shape how the area is experienced and used.

Rising lake levels, shoreline erosion, aging breakwaters, and shifts in public use have placed new pressures on the waterfront. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have further influenced patterns of use and highlighted the importance of accessible outdoor spaces. At the same time, the adoption of the City of Toronto's Reconciliation Action Plan and a growing awareness of the historical and cultural significance of the mouth of the Humber River have reinforced the need to centre Indigenous placekeeping and cultural recognition in future planning.

Together, these factors highlight the need for an updated plan that provides a more meaningful response to current challenges and opportunities while setting a clear direction for the future of the Western Beaches.



Images of drivers of change: rising lake levels, aging breakwaters, and closed playgrounds during the COVID-19 pandemic

1.3 Other Studies and Initiatives

This Plan has been informed by and aligned with relevant City studies, plans, policies, guidelines and ongoing initiatives applicable to the Western Beaches. Alignment with these documents helps ensure consistency with City objectives, supports coordinated investment, and promotes a comprehensive approach to improvements within the study area.

Key City of Toronto studies and initiatives considered through this process include, but are not limited to:

- *Central Waterfront Secondary Plan* (applicable to the eastern portion of the study area)
- *Cycling Network Plan*
- *Don River and Central Waterfront & Connected Projects*
- *High Park Movement Strategy*
- *Park Washroom Enhancement Program*
- *Parkland Strategy*
- *Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan*
- *Parks & Trails Wayfinding Strategy*
- *Playground Enhancement Program*
- *Reconciliation Action Plan (2022–2032)*
- *Sidewalks to Skylines: A 10-Year Action Plan for Toronto's Economy*
- *Thermal Comfort Guidelines*
- *Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines*
- *Toronto Green Standard*
- *Toronto Multi-Use Trail Design Guidelines*
- *Vision Zero Road Safety Plan*
- *Waterfront West Transit Project*
- *Western Beaches Breakwaters Action Plan*
- *Western Beaches Storage Tunnel & Eastern Beaches Detention Tanks*
- *Wet Weather Flow Master Plan (WWFMP)*

Where appropriate, this Plan builds on the direction of these initiatives while responding to the unique conditions and opportunities of the Western Beaches.



City studies, plans, policies, guidelines and ongoing initiatives



Reconciliation
Action Plan



Thermal
Comfort Guidelines



Toronto Accessibility
Design Guidelines



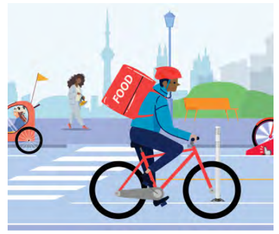
High Park
Movement Strategy



Toronto Multi-use Trail
Design Guidelines



Toronto Green Standard v4



Cycling
Network Plan

TORONTO PARKLAND STRATEGY'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- EXPAND the parks system by creating new parks to support growth and address gaps to ensure an effective parks system that will support the needs of a livable, diverse city.
- IMPROVE the function of existing parks to promote community cohesion, ecological sustainability, and health and wellbeing through active living, access to nature, and the provision of spaces for rest, relaxation, and leisure.
- CONNECT parks and other open spaces, physically and visually, and leverage opportunities to use other open spaces so that people, communities and wildlife have abundant access to parks and open spaces and can seamlessly navigate to and through the parks and open space system.
- INCLUDE everyone by removing barriers so that parks and other open spaces are inclusive and inviting places that are equitably accessible for people of all ages, cultures, genders, abilities, and incomes.



1.4 Study Overview

The Plan update was led by Parks & Recreation, Transportation Services, and City Planning. The study builds on the 2009 Western Waterfront Master Plan and builds from ongoing initiatives, using an iterative engagement approach to refine the Plan as the work progressed.

The baseline for the Plan was established in 2023, through a Public Life Study and a digital mapping exercise using Social Pinpoint across the study area. This provided important insights into public perception, use patterns and movement through the area that informed early areas of focus for the Plan.

Community and Indigenous perspectives were integrated through a variety of engagement approaches:

- Indigenous engagement was undertaken through an Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) and through direct engagement with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) as the Treaty partners.
- A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) provided ongoing feedback and guidance, alongside broader public engagement activities including popup events within the study area and a public virtual meeting.
- The Plan was also informed by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), comprised of City divisions and agency partners that reviewed the work at key milestones to provide technical input and confirm alignment with City policies, standards, and ongoing initiatives.

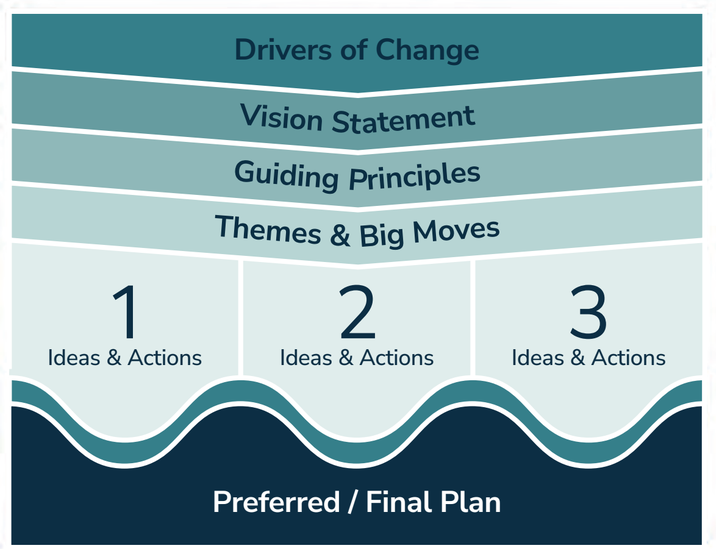
Together, these engagement activities supported a collaborative and iterative process, informing the development and refinement of the vision, guiding principles, and recommended actions of the Plan.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) brought together a broad cross-section of City divisions, agencies, and project partners to provide coordinated technical input throughout the study. Representation included:

- Parks & Recreation
- City Planning, Transportation Planning
- City Planning, Waterfront Secretariat
- Transportation Services
- Indigenous Affairs Office
- Toronto Water Infrastructure Management
- Climate, Environment & Forestry
- Economic Development & Culture
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)
- Toronto Transit Commission (TTC)
- Toronto Parking Authority (TPA)

In parallel with this phased approach, the Plan is structured as a progression from key drivers of change through to the vision, guiding principles, big moves, and recommended actions. This framework translates the factors shaping the Western Beaches into a clear and actionable direction, moving from high-level intent to site-specific strategies.



Study Overview Framework

HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

The Western Beaches Public Realm Plan is organized into four parts.

Part A: Project Background introduces the study area, history, purpose of the Plan, alignment with other City initiatives, the 2009 Western Waterfront Master Plan, and the existing conditions analysis.

Part B: Towards a Vision summarizes engagement and presents the refreshed vision and guiding principles.

Part C: The Plan outlines the big moves and recommendations, and illustrates how they could come together through demonstration plans and character areas.

Part D: Making It Happen describes the implementation approach, phasing, short-term priorities.

Together, these parts move from understanding the Western Beaches today to setting a shared direction for its future and identifying how that direction can be advanced over time

The study was structured around the following phases:

- **PHASE 1A: Public and Indigenous Engagement Plan** Development of the engagement strategy, including the establishment of a Community Advisory Committee and an Indigenous Advisory Circle.
- **PHASE 1B: Background Review, Inventory, and Analysis** Preparation of a summary of existing conditions, opportunities, gaps, and challenges, along with a progress and status review of the 2009 Western Waterfront Master Plan.
- **PHASE 2: Draft Western Beaches Public Realm Plan Options** Development of the draft vision, guiding principles, and big moves, informed by technical review and engagement.
- **PHASE 3: Draft Recommendations and Preferred Options** Refinement of draft big moves and selection of preferred big moves through continued technical review and engagement.
- **Phase 4: Final Public Realm Plan and Implementation Strategy** Finalization of the Plan, including the implementation framework.

Right: Input informing the Plan



Project Workplan

Phase	1a Public and Indigenous Engagement Plan	1b Background Review, Inventory, and Analysis	2 Draft Public Realm Design Options	3 Preferred Public Realm Design Options	4 Implementation Plan
Task	Determine how and when to engage with stakeholders.	Summarize background information.	Translate needs, wants, and background constraints and opportunities into big moves.	Refine and finalize plan options into ideas and actions.	Strategize implementation and costing.
Engagement	**Community Engagement** • Establish Community Advisory Committee (CAC)		• CAC Meeting 1 - introductions • CAC meeting 2 - towards a vision • Pop-up 1 and 2 • Public Survey	• CAC Meeting 3 - Exploring Options • Public Survey • Public Virtual Session	• Public Open House
	Indigenous Engagement • Establish Indigenous Advisory Circle		• Indigenous Advisory Circle Meeting 1 • MCFN Talking Circle 1	• Indigenous Advisory Circle Meeting 2 • MCFN Talking Circle 2	• Indigenous Advisory Circle Meeting 3 • MCFN Talking Circle 3



2.0
2009 Western Waterfront Master Plan Overview

The Western Waterfront Master Plan (WWMP) was approved by Toronto City Council on August 5, 2009 to provide a long-term planning framework for the Western Beaches and to guide future decisions related to improvements to the public realm.

2.1 History of the 2009 WWMP

The WWMP was developed to articulate a coordinated vision for the planning, design, and investment of this portion of Toronto's waterfront over the coming decades. Many of the initiatives identified in the 2009 WWMP were contingent on regional transit infrastructure investment, namely the Waterfront West Light Rail Transit (LRT), and major rehabilitation of shoreline protective infrastructure. As such, the WWMP functioned as a strategic guiding document, intended to inform phased implementation, coordination across City divisions and agencies, and future studies, rather than as a detailed implementation or capital delivery plan.

Many of those decisions are still pending, have been deemed infeasible, or are unlikely to be achieved within the next decade. As a result, the dependent recommendations and initiatives described in the WWMP were revisited and reassessed in light of contemporary financial, policy, regulatory, and operational contexts. Nevertheless, the overarching vision for the future of the Western Beaches remains sound and is generally aligned with the vision that was developed for this Western Beaches Public Realm Plan.



2.1.1 2009 WWMP Vision and Key Initiatives

The vision of the WWMP recognized the importance of this waterfront public space and its role as a destination, with extensive open spaces that provide physical and visual connections to Lake Ontario with beaches, parks and natural areas, alongside its role as a major transportation corridor.

To support this vision, the WWMP identified a set of objectives focused on:

- improving public access to the waterfront;
- expanding recreational opportunities along the waterfront;
- interpreting and celebrating the area's heritage; and
- enhancing the beauty and cohesiveness of the public realm.

The WWMP identified a series of key initiatives intended to guide long-term planning, investment, and coordination along the Western Beaches including:

- **North–South Pedestrian and Cycling Connections**
  The WWMP identified the need to improve north–south pedestrian and cycling connections between adjacent neighbourhoods and the waterfront. These connections were intended to address physical and perceptual barriers created by major transportation infrastructure and to improve access to parks, beaches, and trails along the lakefront.

- **Enhancements to the MGT**
  Improvements to the MGT were identified as a priority to strengthen east–west connectivity along the waterfront. The WWMP proposed enhancements to improve trail continuity, safety, and user experience, recognizing the MGT's role as a major recreational and commuter corridor within the city-wide cycling network.

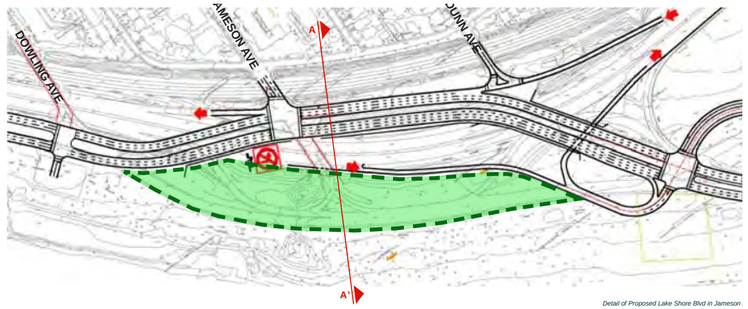
- **Expanded Beaches and Improved Water Quality**
  The WWMP identified opportunities to expand and improve beach areas along the Western Beaches, with a focus on improving water quality and supporting safe swimming and beach use. These initiatives were intended to strengthen the Western Beaches' role as a recreational destination and to improve public access to the lake.

- **Increased Opportunities for Water-Based Recreation**
  The WWMP identified the potential to increase opportunities for water-based recreation along the Western Beaches, including non-motorized activities such as swimming, paddling, and rowing. These initiatives were intended to complement existing land-based recreational uses and strengthen connections between people and the lake.

- **Reconfiguration (Realignment) of Lake Shore Boulevard West**
  As a long-term initiative, the WWMP identified the potential reconfiguration and realignment, of portions of Lake Shore Boulevard West. This concept was intended to consolidate parkland along the lakefront, reduce the physical separation between the city and the waterfront, and support the creation of a more continuous and cohesive public realm.

It was anticipated that the proposed reconfiguration and realignment of Lake Shore Boulevard West would be accomplished as part of the detailed design and construction of the Waterfront West LRT. The Waterfront West LRT was in a preliminary concept design phase at the time the WWMP was written, and was being advanced through an environmental assessment process led by the Toronto Transit Commission.

The Waterfront West LRT is identified as a candidate project in the City of Toronto Waterfront Transit Network Expansion and in the Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan. However, this project has received no funding commitment from either the municipal or provincial government and is not expected to proceed in the foreseeable future.



Lake Shore Boulevard Realignment as shown in the 2009 WWMP



Map 3: 2009 WWMP Master Plan



2.2 Progress to Date

Since the adoption of the WWMP in 2009, the City of Toronto has advanced a range of initiatives that align with the Plan's objectives and key directions. Progress has been made incrementally, often through site-specific capital projects, infrastructure upgrades, and coordination with broader City programs and studies.

As of 2025, improvements since 2009 include enhanced north–south pedestrian and cycling connections, upgrades to the MGT, park and facility improvements across the Western Beaches, urban forestry initiatives, and city-wide stormwater and wastewater infrastructure projects that contribute to improved water quality along the Western Beaches. These actions reflect both implementation of initiatives identified in the WWMP and additional improvements undertaken in response to evolving conditions and priorities.

The status of individual implementation activities varies. Several short- and medium-term initiatives identified in the WWMP have been implemented or partially implemented, including trail realignments and safety upgrades, boardwalk and pathway improvements, park amenity enhancements, and targeted naturalization and tree planting.

Other initiatives remain ongoing, planned, pending, or not implemented, particularly those dependent on major infrastructure decisions, environmental assessment processes, or long-term capital funding, such as the realignment of Lake Shore Boulevard West, significant reconstruction of breakwaters, and new pedestrian bridge infrastructure.

Status update on the implementation strategies outlined in the 2009 WWMP as of 2025



2.2.1 Status Report

The following pages provide a status update on the implementation strategies outlined in the 2009 WWMP as of 2025. It assesses the progress made to date and highlights key areas where action has been completed, is underway, or remains outstanding. The analysis is grounded in the findings of a 2022 Council Report that provided an update on the implementation of the 2009 WWMP and set the groundwork for this 2026 report.

	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY	STATUS (2025)	NOTES
Phase 1 Short Term (2009-2013)	Install beach curtain pilot project, and nourish and expand existing beaches at Sunnyside Pavilion.	Implemented	» On February 23, 24 and 25, 2009, the Council approved the action plan for the Toronto Beaches Plan and a three-year pilot project at Sunnyside Beach to enclose an in-lake swimming area starting in the 2009 swimming season. » Implemented in 2009 as pilot project via Toronto Beaches Plan and made water quality worse.
	Construct land-based recreational facilities at Dowling Docks, including War of 1812 Bicentennial Trailhead.	Not Implemented	—
	Plant trees and naturalize areas adjacent to the mouth of Humber River, as well as related improvements.	Implemented	» Planted 50 large caliper trees and 340 shrubs in the natural area surrounding the mouth of the Humber. Completed 2012. » Replacement of asphalt pathway along the east edge of the Humber River between Lake Shore Boulevard West and Humber River bridge (MGT). Scope included asphalt replacement, armour stone, benches, shrub/tree planting completed in late 2020. Additional planting and naturalization work carried out in 2024.

	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY	STATUS (2025)	NOTES
Phase 1 Short Term (2009-2013)	Build landscape and recreational facilities around Joy Oil Station, and initiate relocation of the existing parking lot to the north of Lake Shore Boulevard.	Ongoing	» Lease agreement pending. » Improvements (concession stand and community space) were scheduled for Spring 2022 but were delayed due to COVID-19 impacts.
	Rebuild and realign the boardwalk from Humber River to just east of the Palais Royale.	Partially Implemented	» Trail, pathway and boardwalk from Sir Casimir Gzowski Park to Sunnyside Pavilion was completed in 2019/2020. » Trail repairs completed in 2021. » Beach trail, pathway and boardwalk repairs underway since 2020.
	Retire Colborne Lodge Drive and Dowling Avenue and re-open as dedicated pedestrian and cyclist links to the Waterfront.	Not Implemented	» Interim geometric safety improvements have been made to the intersection of Colborne Lodge Drive and Lake Shore Boulevard West, including enhanced cyclist/pedestrian pavement markings and signal timing adjustments to allow for a longer cross time. » Dowling Avenue south of 75 Dowling Avenue was closed to vehicle traffic in 2016, and the vehicular bridge replaced with a temporary pedestrian bridge. A feasibility study for a permanent bridge is underway; it anticipates active transportation only. » There are no plans to eliminate vehicular traffic on Colborne Lodge Drive at this time.
	Improve existing pedestrian connections on westbound Lake Shore Boulevard West bridges and Jameson Avenue Bridge over the Gardiner Expressway.	Implemented	» Pedestrian and cycling connections improvements to the crossings and along the bridges, including new sidewalks, one-way bicycle lane and pavement markings since 2012. » A signalized pedestrian crossing has been installed at the intersection of Jameson Avenue and Lake Shore Boulevard West.

	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY	STATUS (2025)	NOTES
Phase 1 Short Term (2009-2013)	Upgrade existing underpasses for pedestrians and bicyclists at South Kingsway, Windermere Avenue, Ellis Avenue and Parkside Drive.	Partially Implemented	» Windermere Avenue currently functions as a mixed traffic connection as intended in the WWMP, with separated cyclist and pedestrian crossing and dedicate bicycle signals since 2016. » A signalized bicycle crossing has been installed along with interim geometric safety improvements at the intersection of Ellis Avenue and Lake Shore Boulevard West, along with the installation of bike lanes on Ellis Avenue from Queensway to Lake Shore in 2016. » Continuous improvements to Parkside Drive, with input from the local community: speed limit reductions from 50km/hr. to 40km/hr. and permanent “Watch Your Speed” signs (2021); automated speed enforcement camera, new traffic signal at the Geoffrey Street intersection, asphalt sidewalk on the west side of the street between Spring Road and just north of The Queensway underpass (2022); improved lighting in the City-owned underpass (The Queensway), paid parking (Green P), in the southbound curb lane between Spring Road and High Park Trail, and new traffic signal at the High Park Trail intersection (2023). » Additional updates on the Parkside Drive Study: City Council endorsed, in principle, the Parkside Drive Study in November 2024 (see item 2024.IE17.4). Recommendations for the planned road safety project include: an on-street bi-directional multi-use trail, designated turning lanes at intersections, new bus stops and intersection safety improvements at Bloor Street West and Lake Shore Boulevard West. Implementation is currently affected by Bill 212.
	Install new municipal water service and extensions to provide servicing to Joy Oil Station, Sunnyside, and Dowling Docks.	Not Implemented	—
	Install municipal wastewater sewers to service Joy Oil Station, Sunnyside and Dowling Docks.	Not Implemented	—

	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY	STATUS (2025)	NOTES
Phase 1 Short Term (2009-2013)	Install a minor storm drainage system west of Parkside Drive, including a series of catch basins, storm sewers, culverts, ditches and swales for storm-water drainage into Lake Ontario.	Not Implemented	» General stormwater improvements but no specific project west of Parkside Drive.
	Undertake further environmental assessment study of Lake Shore Boulevard West, including realignment and potential narrowing, as well as related servicing, wastewater and stormwater management alternatives.	Not Implemented	» It was expected that an environmental assessment would be coordinated with the Waterfront West LRT, however the LRT has not received funding commitment and is not expected to proceed in the foreseeable future. » The 2012 Humber Deflector Arm Feasibility Study recommended not advancing to an environmental assessment due to the proposed works' marginal benefits relative to the anticipated cost at that time
	Work with potential partners to invest in the creation of year-round facilities at Sunnyside Bathing Pavilion, Joy Oil Station and Dowling Docks.	Ongoing	» Lease agreement pending. » Improvements (concession stand and community space) were scheduled for Spring 2022 but were delayed due to COVID-19 impacts. » Pavilion repairs, including washrooms, changing rooms, and perimeter fencing, were completed in 2013. The full realization of the year-round facility concept proposed in the WWMP has not yet been implemented. » No recreational facilities or public docks have been developed at this location as per the WWMP.
	Continue discussions with Boulevard Club and Argonaut Rowing Club regarding the implications of this Plan.	Ongoing	» MGT safety and Boulevard Club entrance intersection upgrades, including raising the trail at the Boulevard Club driveway, completed in 2016. » License renewal term: 26 years; (ie 2003-2029).

	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY	STATUS (2025)	NOTES
Medium Term (2014-2028)	Reconstruct breakwaters and create an enclosed swimming area west of Parkside Drive, including associated recirculation pump, as well as build Humber River Pier.	Ongoing	» City does not own most of the breakwaters. » TRCA is undertaking a new 2025/26 shoreline assessment, informed by both the 2018 Riggs study and current conditions. » Council directed staff to prioritize Western Beaches Breakwaters deflector arm repairs in Provincial/Federal discussions and report back in Q3 2027.
	Rebuild and realign Lake Shore Boulevard West from Humber River to Marilyn Bell Park and redesign Jameson Street bridge as a dedicated pedestrian and cyclist link to the Waterfront.	Not Implemented	» This realignment was linked to the Waterfront West LRT, which has been deferred beyond the 10-year capital plan. » Jameson bridge redesign has not occurred because it was predicated on Lake Shore Boulevard West realignment, although a signalized pedestrian crossing was installed at Jameson Avenue and Lake Shore Boulevard West in 2022.
	Introduce a park service road south of Lake Shore Boulevard West and finish relocation of existing public parking lots to the north.	Not Implemented	» Predicated on Lake Shore Boulevard West realignment.
Phase 2	Rebuild and realign Martin Goodman Trail from Humber River to Marilyn Bell Park, construct Promenade along both sides of Lake Shore Boulevard West, complete Boardwalk, and install secondary trails.	Partially Implemented	» Trail safety improvements design completed in 2018. Safety improvements construction completed in 2020. » Extensive trail realignments and safety improvements completed from 2016 to 2020, including MGT at Boulevard Club and the Royal Canadian Legion, and new trails east of the study area. » Predicated on Lake Shore Boulevard West realignment.
	Construct public docks and soccer pitch at Dowling Docks.	Not Implemented	» Construction of the soccer pitch is predicated on the realignment of Lake Shore Boulevard West.

	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY	STATUS (2025)	NOTES
Phase 2 Medium Term (2014-2028)	Construct recreational facilities and renovate Gus Ryder Pool at Sunnyside Pavilion.	Partially Implemented	» Pavilion repairs, washrooms, changing rooms, and perimeter fencing completed in 2013. » Sunnyside Park beach trail, pathway and boardwalk repair underway since 2020. » Gus Ryder Outdoor Pool renovation is in the 10-year capital plan anticipated in 2028/2029.
	Build landscape, including expanded and nourished beaches, from Humber River mouth to Marilyn Bell Park.	Partially Implemented	» Beach trail and boardwalk repairs at Sunnyside Park and Budapest Park; beach enhancements across multiple areas.
	Flip existing tennis courts and parking lot at the Boulevard Club and provide signalized intersection on Lake Shore Boulevard West for both Palais Royale and Boulevard Club.	Partially Implemented	» Signalized intersection at Palais Royale confirmed.
Phase 3 Long Term (After 2028)	Demolish existing and construct new Roncesvalles Pedestrian Bridge.	Not Implemented	» The existing Roncesvalles pedestrian bridge remains in place and is still being used. It was improved with public art (mural by Justus Roe in 2017) and nearby intersection upgrades have taken place, but no demolition or full replacement.
	Construct Wilson Park Pedestrian Bridge.	Not Implemented	» No changes have been made, and users are expected to cross at Dowling Avenue bridge, approximately 400 meters east.
	If required, construct Deflector Islands at the mouth of Humber River.	Not Implemented	» A feasibility study (2012–2018) explored deflector arm concepts to improve water quality. The study concluded improvements would be minimal and did not justify the cost or risk. The deflector islands were not advanced to environmental assessment.



B
Towards a Vision



3.0 Community Engagement

The Western Beaches Public Realm Plan was developed through a collaborative and iterative process with multiple City divisions and agencies, existing lease holders and businesses within the study area, residents and other community members, community organizations, Treaty partners and the Indigenous community.

Engagement was a central component of the study, helping to refresh the long-term vision and guiding principles for the Western Beaches. It also supported the development and refinement of draft ideas and priorities as the Plan evolved. Across all phases of engagement, feedback was considered alongside technical input to inform decision-making and ensure that the Plan reflects community values, Indigenous perspectives, and implementation considerations.

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), comprised of City divisions and agencies, provided technical guidance and reviewed materials at key milestones in the process to ensure alignment with City policies, standards, guidelines and ongoing initiatives.

Direct engagement was undertaken with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN), as the Treaty partners (Treaty 13) in the study area. Engagement was initiated through the appropriate consultation channels, including the Department of Consultation and Accommodation (DOCA), to address matters related to Indigenous Placekeeping and the cultural significance of the Western Beaches.

An Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC) was also established to support broader Indigenous engagement. The IAC consisted of Indigenous leaders, knowledge keepers, community advocates, members of the urban Indigenous community, and design professionals, and was convened to provide cultural insights throughout all engagement phases of the Plan.

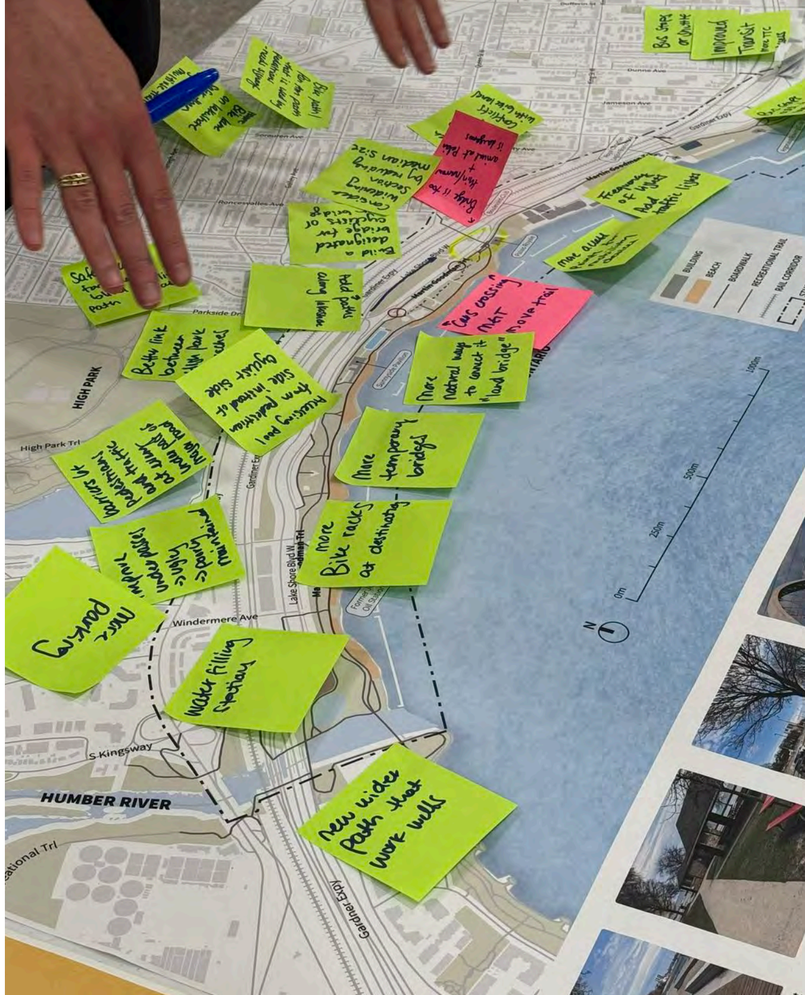
A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was established with a mandate to provide a forum for feedback, guidance, and advice to the project team at key decision points during the community engagement process. The CAC was created by selecting a representative group of community members who reflected the local community demographically. The CAC is not a decision-making body and does not speak on behalf of the entire community.

Input from the broader community was captured through structured in-person and virtual engagement activities, online surveys, as well as through the project webpage on which a project-specific email address was advertised.

Engagement was organized into three formal phases and was informed by earlier City-led engagement and research described in **Section 3.1**, which established a baseline understanding of how the Western Beaches is used and experienced. Together, these engagement efforts allowed ideas to be introduced, tested, and refined over time:

- **Pre-engagement**
- **Phase 1 Community Engagement:** Refreshing the Vision
- **Phase 2 Community Engagement:** Exploring Options
- **Phase 3 Community Engagement:** Communicating the Direction

A summary of engagement activities and feedback was also posted to the website following each activity.



Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

3.1 Pre-engagement

Prior to the start of the Western Beaches Public Realm Plan Update in March 2025, several City-led initiatives were undertaken within the study area to better understand existing conditions and public use patterns.

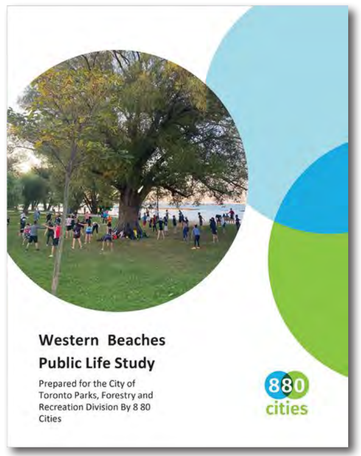
In the summer and fall of 2023, a *Public Life Study* was undertaken across five zones within the Western Beaches study area. The study gathered data on park users' demographics and activities, assessed the provision and condition of amenities, and observed areas of conflict between motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians to better understand usability and safety conditions.

The study identified the underrepresentation of children, teenagers, and older adults in observed activity patterns, and noted that male users were the majority among cyclists and during evening periods. Seasonal patterns were also observed, with summer attracting a higher proportion of visitors from across the city and fall reflecting increased use by local residents.

Over 80 percent of respondents expressed positive perceptions of the Western Beaches, particularly valuing access to the water. Suggestions for improvement included additional food and beverage options, improved water quality, enhanced lighting, better trail delineation, and safer intersection crossings. The findings highlighted opportunities to enhance safety, maintenance, and amenities, and to encourage year-round use through thoughtful public space design.

+1,500

Participants in Pre-Engagement

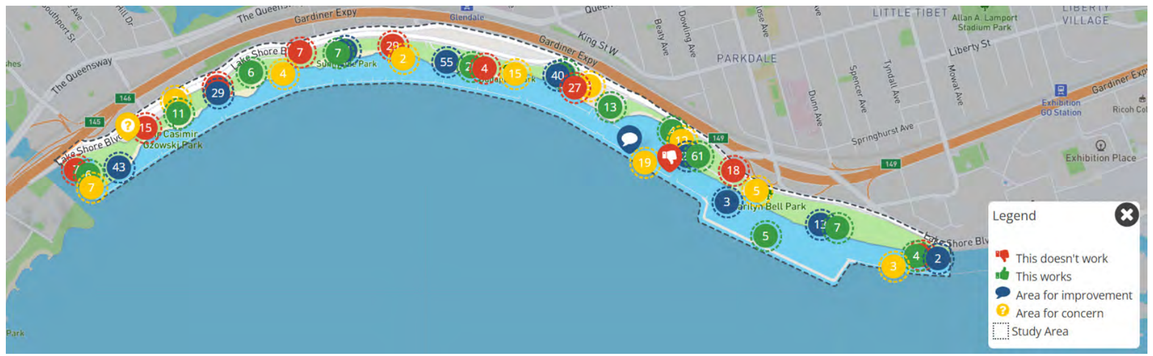


Western Beaches Public Life Study Report's Cover Page

Between October 12 and December 13, 2023, an *interactive mapping exercise* using Social Pinpoint gathered approximately 1,300 comments from around 1,500 unique participants. Through this online forum, participants identified areas of concern and opportunities for improvement within the Western Beaches study area. Strong themes included enhancing user safety and comfort along the MGT, improving accessibility, and recognizing the importance and diversity of community uses along the western waterfront. The mapping results helped identify priority locations and issues for further exploration through the Public Realm Plan Update.

Several of the highest-ranked comments focused on safety at key intersections and access points, including calls for signalized crossings to reduce conflicts between cyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles along Lake Shore Boulevard West. Other widely supported comments reflected differing views about public access routes near private clubs, highlighting both support for strengthened public connectivity and concerns related to youth programming and operational safety. These responses underscored the need to carefully balance mobility, access, and safety considerations within a constrained and highly used waterfront corridor.

Together, these pre-engagement initiatives informed early areas of focus for the Public Realm Plan Update and helped shape the engagement strategy and discussion topics explored in subsequent phases.



Social Pinpoint
interactive mapping exercise

3.2 Phase 1: Refreshing the Vision

This phase focused on reviewing and updating the vision and guiding principles, and on initiating discussion about potential big moves for the Western Beaches. A summary of the site inventory and analysis was shared to provide context for discussion, followed by a review of the draft vision and guiding principles for feedback.

To support conversation and idea generation, precedents from waterfront master plans in Canada and internationally were also introduced. These examples were used to inspire discussion and to help participants articulate their hopes, priorities, and goals for the future of the Western Beaches.

As part of this phase, participants were asked to consider opportunities for big moves, defined as bold and clear ideas that can shape the overall direction of the Western Beaches and guide long-term investment and change across the Study Area.

Engagement activities for this phase included:

» **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings**
- ***TAC #1 (Intro)*** April 14, 2025
- ***TAC Focus Groups***
  Throughout May, 2025
- ***TAC#2*** June 18, 2025

» **Indigenous Engagement Talking Circles**
- ***Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC)***
  May 29, 2025
  2 participants
- ***Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN)***
  June 12, 2025
  3 participants

» **Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings**
- ***CAC #1*** June 26, 2025
  22 participants
- ***CAC #2*** July 3, 2025
  19 participants

~1600
Participants in Phase 1

» **Pop-up Events**
- ***Pop-up #1 (Weekend)***
  July 6, 2025
  100 participants
- ***Pop-up #2 (Weekday)***
  July 15, 2025
  60 participants

» **Online Survey**
July 8-July 27, 2025
1400 participants

» **Community Focus Group Meeting**
August 27, 2025
2 participants representing broader groups







3.3 Phase 2: Exploring Options

This phase focused on exploring options and reviewing draft ideas for the Plan. Building on engagement input from the previous phase and technical analysis. During engagement, participants were presented with a summary of what was heard to date, the refined vision and guiding principles, and the emerging big moves. Draft recommendations corresponding to each big move were then shared, and participants were invited to provide feedback to help identify preferred ideas and areas requiring further refinement.

Engagement activities for this phase included:

» **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC):**
- *TAC #3* October 29, 2025

» **Indigenous Engagement Talking Circles:**
- *Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC)*
  November 12, 2025
  5 participants
- *Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN)*
  November 12, 2025
  2 participants

» **Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings**
- *CAC#3* November 19, 2025
  14 participants

» **Virtual Public Meeting**
November 27, 2025
76 participants

» **Online Survey**
November 11-December 3, 2025
790 participants

~900

Participants in Phase 2



Engagement Sign for Phase 2 Online Engagement Activities







3.4 Phase 3: Communicating the Direction

This phase focused on communicating the final direction of the Plan and demonstrating how feedback from previous phases informed the outcome and confirming alignment with community priorities. Conversations were centred on validating the proposed direction and confirming alignment with community priorities, marking the culmination of the engagement process.

Engagement activities for this phase included:

» Technical Advisory Committee (TAC):
  - *TAC #4* March 27, 2026

» Indigenous Engagement Talking Circles:
  - *Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC)* May 20, 2026
  - *Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN)* May 20, 2026

» Public Open House Event
June 4, 2026







4.0 Vision and Guiding Principles

This section presents the refreshed vision and guiding principles for the Western Beaches Public Realm Plan.

Building on the vision established through the 2009 Western Waterfront Master Plan, and informed by previous studies and engagement, this update reflects evolving conditions, priorities, and community aspirations for the Western Beaches today.

Together, the vision and guiding principles provide a shared framework to evaluate ideas, shape recommendations, and guide implementation. The vision statement describes the desired future for the Western Beaches as a whole. It is intentionally aspirational and sets a common direction to guide planning, design, and decision-making.



4.1 Vision Statement

The Western Beaches offer a multitude of experiences on land and water, welcoming all users in every season. It will continue to be a deeply loved and adaptable stretch of Toronto's western shoreline, safe and easy to get to, with a series of parks, paths, naturalized areas, beaches, and waterways that invite people to linger, play, reflect, and move through.

Movement will feel easy and intuitive, comfortable for all modes of active transportation, supported by meaningful connections, universal accessibility, and a strong sense of place. The Western Beaches will be a vibrant and welcoming destination for everyone, animated by spaces for quiet reflection, lively gathering, and active recreation.

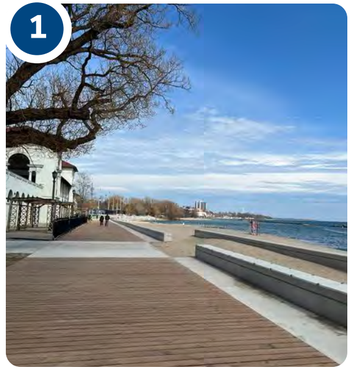
More than just a view, it will offer a true waterfront experience, where people can see, touch, and feel the water, and enjoy clean, swimmable shores alongside inclusive opportunities for water-based recreation.

Grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing, it will honour deep relationships with the land and water, celebrate Indigenous presence, and reflect the Western Beaches place within a larger living ecosystem, connected to the lake, river, and surrounding watershed where people, nature, and place are deeply intertwined.

Above all, it will be a sustainable, and resilient landscape where all lives, species, and future generations thrive.

4.2 Guiding Principles

The guiding principles translate this vision into a set of high-level directions that reflect the community's most important values for how the Western Beaches should function, feel, and evolve over time. Together, the following 14 guiding principles define the desired direction for the Western Beaches:



1. Diverse and Inclusive Spaces

Design a range of spaces that support diverse activities, from quiet reflection to active play, for people of all ages and abilities.



2. Indigenous Placekeeping

Celebrate and restore Indigenous presence, values, and teachings through all phases, including planning, design, construction, and operation, through naming, art, storytelling, and cultural interpretation, reflecting the teaching of '*All Our Relations*'.

THE TEACHING OF '*ALL OUR RELATIONS*'

The teaching of '*All Our Relations*' (or '*All My Relations*') is a core Indigenous worldview emphasizing the deep, spiritual interconnectedness of all things—humans, animals, plants, land, elements, ancestors, and future generations—calling for respect, responsibility, reciprocity, and living in balance, contrasting individualism with a holistic web of kinship where every being has purpose and value. It's a reminder to live harmoniously, acknowledging our shared essence and obligations to the whole family of creation, moving beyond just human-centric views.



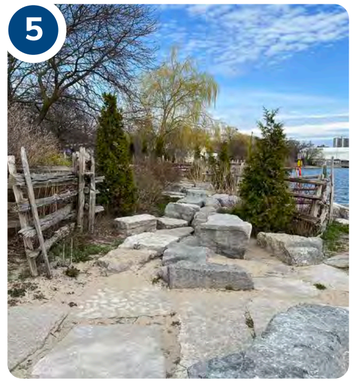
3. Year-Round Flexibility

Incorporate flexible programming and infrastructure that embraces all seasons, including Indigenous seasonal calendars.



4. Naturalization and Habitat Restoration

Restore shoreline habitats, enhance biodiversity, and protect ecological systems through nature-based solutions and considering Indigenous stewardship.



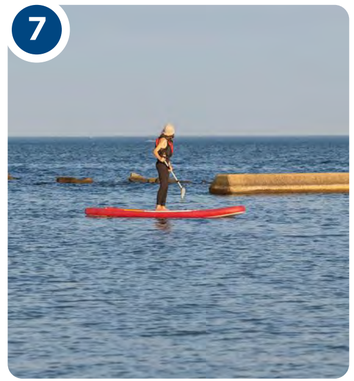
5. Climate Resilience and Adaptation

Strengthen resilience to climate change by designing landscapes that can adapt to changing conditions, from rising temperatures to fluctuating lake levels and more frequent extreme weather, while supporting comfort, safety, and ecological health over time.



6. Water Quality

Ensure ongoing improvement of water quality is prioritized through measures that protect public health and support safe recreation, contributing to a clean and healthy waterfront.



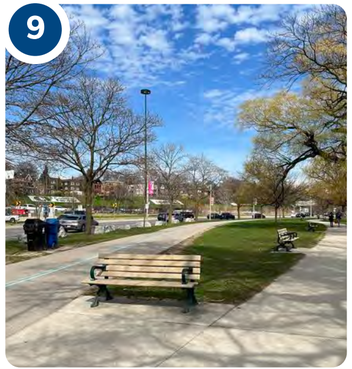
7. Lakefront Access and Recreation

Create immersive lakefront experiences that allow people to safely touch, see, and feel the water, while expanding access to water-based recreation such as swimming, paddling, and beach activities.



8. Identity and Character

Strengthen and reveal the distinct identity of the Western Beaches through design that reflects its cultural history, natural character, and diverse communities.



9. Mobility and Connectivity

Improve safety for all road, trail and watercraft users by providing clear, continuous, and universally accessible paths for walking and cycling, along with well-defined water based corridors for rowing, with an emphasis on managing conflicts among various users and enhancing the experience for all.



10. Access to the Western Beaches

Explore opportunities to strengthen connections between communities and the waterfront and improve access to the Western Beaches by active transportation, public transit, and water-based modes.



11. Gathering and Social Connection

Create welcoming places to gather that encourage social connection, cultural exchange, and celebration that reflect Toronto's diversity.



12. Food and Beverage Diversity

Enhance opportunities for improved hospitality and food experiences by offering diverse, high-quality, and culturally rich food and beverage options that encourage people to linger and return.



13. Cultural Storytelling

Incorporate public art, interpretation, and storytelling that encourages learning about the history of the place and its cultures, including Indigenous, local, and immigrant narratives.



14. Flexibility for the Future

Create a flexible plan with phased implementation to accommodate future growth, evolving community needs, and changing environmental conditions.