

## Outer Harbour Recreational Node Backgrounder

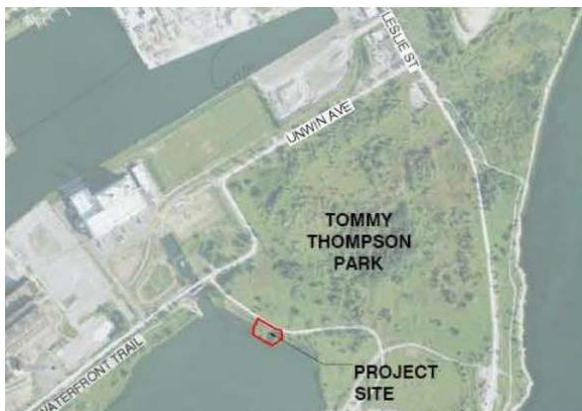
The Outer Harbour Recreational Node is located in the eastern basin of the Outer Harbour, located southeast of the Hearn Generating Station and west of the Outer Harbour Marina Road. The node is a formalized public access point to the waterfront and provides a safe and accessible space for recreational fishing, birding and nature appreciation. It is accessible by bike or foot along the Martin Goodman Trail, by transit via the 83 Jones Southbound TTC route, or by car along Leslie Street with parking available at Tommy Thompson Park on weekends.

**Funding:** Waterfront Toronto (\$140,000), Environment Canada (\$25,000)

**Construction:** Toronto and Region Conservation

### Design:

- The recreational node is approximately 1,800 square metres
- Designed to be safe and accessible and is connected to the Martin Goodman Trail
- Access to the node complies with City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines (2004)
- Contoured to minimize waver overtopping
- Surrounding area will be augmented by planting nodes consisting of native plant species
- Course wood debris is incorporated into the shoreline to provide shading and refuge for a variety of fish and amphibian species
- Aquatic habitat will benefit from the addition of structural aquatic habitat features as described in the *Toronto Waterfront Aquatic Habitat Restoration Strategy (TWAHRS, 2003)* and the *Greater Toronto and Area Waterfront: An Urban Recreation Fisheries Plan, 2014*. The nearshore adjacent to the Node is surcharged with a variety of aggregate sizes to create submerged shoals that provide increased shoreline irregularity and structural habitat.
- A fishing line recycling bin will be installed to ensure that discarded line does not impact wildlife
- Interpretive signage will be installed with information including ethical and environmentally responsible fishing
- Remaining project components, including plantings, signage and bicycle racks will be completed later this spring.



## **Quick Start Projects:**

To continue enhancing recreational and ecological opportunities on the waterfront, Waterfront Toronto, in partnership with City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Planning, Transportation Services and Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), are working collaboratively on a series of initiatives for Lake Ontario Park and Tommy Thompson Park, referred to as “Quick Starts”.

The proposed Quick Start projects are based on concepts included in broader vision for park planning, design and decision-making in the Tommy Thompson Park area. The objective of the Quick Start initiative is to implement a series of projects that can deliver a wide range of public benefits within a reasonably short period of time.

Over the past year, the team reviewed a wide range of options and met and consulted with a variety of stakeholders and interest groups in an effort to develop a short list of proposed projects. In addition to feedback, the availability of funding was also a key consideration in choosing projects. Additional public and stakeholder consultation will take place in 2015 to provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on the projects.

After extensive review, a list of 13 projects was established, seven of which are either fully or partially funded. The completion of the Outer Harbour Recreational Node was funded by Waterfront Toronto and Environment Canada with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority completing the planning and construction of the park improvements.