



Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation Parks and Public Spaces Framework

The Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation (TWRC) recognizes that, in Toronto, we have had decades of discussion, planning and consultation which have resulted in many reports, including *Unlocking the Portlands*, *Greening the Portlands*, *Fort York: Setting it Right*, *Making Waves*, *Secondary Plan for the Central Waterfront*, *Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan*, *Harbourfront Parks and Open Space* and many more.

For the first time in the history of our waterfront, we have taken the opportunity to compile all of this work and consider it in the current context of waterfront revitalization. Working with the City of Toronto's parks, culture, heritage, planning and urban design staff and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, we have taken all of the existing plans, assessed them and woven the best ideas into an overall waterfront *Parks and Public Space Framework*.

The overall objectives of the *Framework* are:

- To provide the basis for engaging the public in the ongoing discussion about the design of waterfront public space;
- To provide a manageable and structured framework which will guide the planning necessary to achieve the next level of design;
- To articulate an overall set of principles to assist and monitor the decision making process; and
- To identify logical next steps to realizing new and improved waterfront public spaces.

The *Framework* identifies 10 guiding principles for the planning and design of waterfront public spaces:

1. Establish a water's edge that is continuous, publicly accessible and magnificent
2. Create a network of public spaces that attract and invite both Torontonians and the world to our waterfront
3. Require design excellence for all waterfront public spaces
4. Provide a wide-range of public spaces that foster culture and creativity in our city
5. Ensure all public spaces adhere to a high environmental standard

6. Strengthen east/west connections along the waterfront
7. Develop strong link between existing communities and emerging waterfront communities and spaces
8. Improve the aquatic habitat and water quality along the waterfront and integrate them with river and stream improvements
9. Maintain a consistency in waterfront design elements in all public spaces (i.e. park benches and lamp posts)
10. Coordinate the water usage and supporting land base to maximize the economic, recreational and environmental asset of Lake Ontario.

Although intensive public consultation is required, the TWRC identifies the following as potential next steps coming out of the *Framework*:

Lake Ontario Park – Prepare a vision for Lake Ontario Park by engaging the world’s best designers and working with stakeholders and the public to define the future for this waterfront legacy park. To this end, the 250 acres of untapped waterfront land will be the theme at an international design competition to be held later this year in Toronto – some ideas include reforestation, botanical gardens, a butterfly house, trails and formal gardens.

Restoration of the Fort York Lawn- Improve public access to Fort York by relocating existing nursery to the Portlands. The TWRC proposes restoring the Fort’s heritage park lands and creating the legacy of Fort York Park which will encompass Coronation Park.

10,000 Trees for the Waterfront – The nursery relocated from the Fort York lawn will be used to populate the “green spaces” of the waterfront and will be planted in a nursery at the foot of Leslie Street.

Martin Goodman Trail – TWRC will strengthen the east/west connection of the Martin Goodman Trail and revitalize existing parts of the path throughout the central waterfront.

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