

Concept

The concept for the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network realizes our vision by building on the existing regional trail system and capitalizing on current growth and development opportunities to strategically expand greenspace and trails through a variety of development mechanisms.



In the evolving areas of northern Vaughan, Richmond Hill, King, Mayfield and Bolton, opportunities exist for land acquisition to grow, enhance and protect habitat and provide trails. New communities coming to northern Markham and Seaton hold exciting prospects to acquire greenway corridors that would link the spectacular Rouge River and Duffins Creek systems to the Lake Ontario waterfront.

There are approximately 530 kilometres of regional trails in our greenspace system. The concept proposes almost 570 additional kilometres of trail to complete a regional trail system of 1,100 linear kilometres. It also proposes investment in 10 conservation destination areas to enhance the trail network and provide amenities. The proposed trail alignments are conceptual and represent goals.

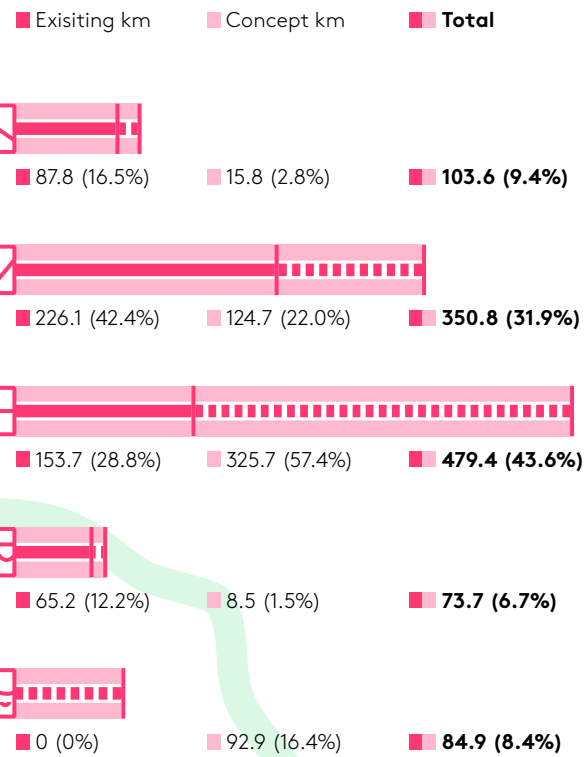
Where possible, conceptual trails are located within the natural system of our watersheds to provide a continuous trail system in greenspace. Where this is not possible, conceptual trails are located within the urban fabric of our communities to facilitate the goal of regional connectivity to greenspace, neighbourhoods, employment lands, transit and mobility hubs.

In realizing these future connections, the detailed trail alignments, design and operation should avoid, mitigate and/or compensate for impacts to the natural system. Trails should be sited to avoid sensitive habitats, species and natural hazards, consistent with *The Living City Policies*. Many of the conceptual trails extend beyond lands that TRCA owns or manages and require collaboration with member municipalities, private landowners and other agencies. The following is a summary of the concept for the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network.

The concept proposes almost 570 additional kilometres of trail to complete a regional trail system of 1,100 linear kilometres.



Figure 4.a: Trail Typologies



Five trail typologies comprise the conceptual framework for the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network. These categories of trail are: **Ridge, Valley, Corridor, Waterfront** and **Blue** trails. Some of the trails described by these typologies are existing regional trails, while others are new corridors or gap connections.

The **Ridge trails** feature the historic Bruce Trail, spanning the rugged Niagara Escarpment and the Oak Ridges Trail, stretching across the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The **Valley trails** comprise existing north-south ravine and valley routes, including the Black Creek Trail, the Etobicoke Creek Trail, the Humber Trail, the Lower Don Trail, the Pan Am Path and the Seaton Trail, as well as proposed expansions of trails that traverse urban forests and valley lands.

The **Corridor trails** provide additional east-west greenway linkages integrated into existing roadway, railway, pipeline and hydro corridors.

The **Waterfront trail** stretches along the shore of Lake Ontario, connecting communities, parks and natural areas across the waterfront.

The **Blue trails** propose opportunities to explore certain navigable shoreline areas of Lake Ontario and the mouths of the Humber, Don and Rouge Rivers and Duffins Creek.

This cohesive framework provides the backbone for building out the diversity of experience found in our regional trail network (see Figure 4.a: Trail Typologies).

Concept



Ten destinations provide key places of interest throughout the network where visitors can be immersed in nature, experience year-round seasonal beauty and observe breathtaking scenery. The concept proposes investment in these conservation hubs to enhance the network as a world-class, nature-based trail experience.

- At the **Hills of the Headwaters**, the cliffs and caves of the Niagara Escarpment converge with the forests and hills of the Oak Ridges Moraine and nature can be explored at Glen Haffy and Albion Hills Conservation Areas.
- In the **Humber Valley Wilderness**, Nashville Conservation Reserve, Kortright Centre for Conservation and Boyd Conservation Areas form a continuous corridor of mixed forests, valleys and meadows along the Humber Trail.
- The **Kettle Lakes** district in the Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve (ORCCR) provides vistas of Lake Wilcox, Swan Lake and Bond Lake along the Oak Ridges Trail through the growing community of Richmond Hill.
- A national gem, **Rouge National Urban Park** is a rich tapestry of working farms, Carolinian forests, marshes, beaches and trails.
- The largest area of interior forest habitat, as well as exceptional hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails can be found in the **Forested Headwaters** at TRCA's East Duffins Headwaters properties.
- Further south, the **Black Creek Parklands** offer urban greenspace in proximity to transit, active transportation routes and rapidly densifying communities, from the future Vaughan Metropolitan Centre to Downsview Park.
- Toward Lake Ontario, the **Humber Parklands** connect people to the idyllic greenspaces of the Eglinton Flats, Humber Marshes and the Humber Bay Park.
- In the heart of Canada's largest city, the **Toronto Harbour** engages us with the shoreline and the water that sustains us.
- The **Forks of the Don** evokes Toronto's industrial past, with Todmorden Mills and the Don Valley Brick Works situated in Toronto's lush ravines.
- Along the waterfront, the **Scarborough Bluffs** are a natural wonder that soar up to 90 metres above Lake Ontario.

This network prioritizes active living, connecting people to public transit and active transportation opportunities while discouraging automobile use while discouraging automobile use.

The Greater Toronto Region Trail Network will connect people to these 10 exceptional destinations through recreational and active transportation-based trail experiences that cross regional boundaries. This network prioritizes active living, connecting people to public transit and active transportation opportunities while discouraging automobile use. Providing trails that support these activities is a key resiliency strategy in favour of climate change adaptation and mitigation for our region by helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This network supports active transportation by providing a safe off-road network within greenspace for people to move about their daily lives, linking people to greenspace, neighbourhoods, employment lands, transit and mobility hubs. It helps address the first-and-last-mile regional transit issue, as well as combating road congestion. It will create more equitable access to trails and greenspace by improving accessibility to conservation areas and greenspace across our region. It will allow a wider population to access a backyard nature experience. It will move us closer toward building sustainable communities that minimize our collective impact on the environment. The concept for the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network is illustrated in Figures 4.b.- 4.f: Concept Maps.

Concept

Figures 4.b.- 4.f:

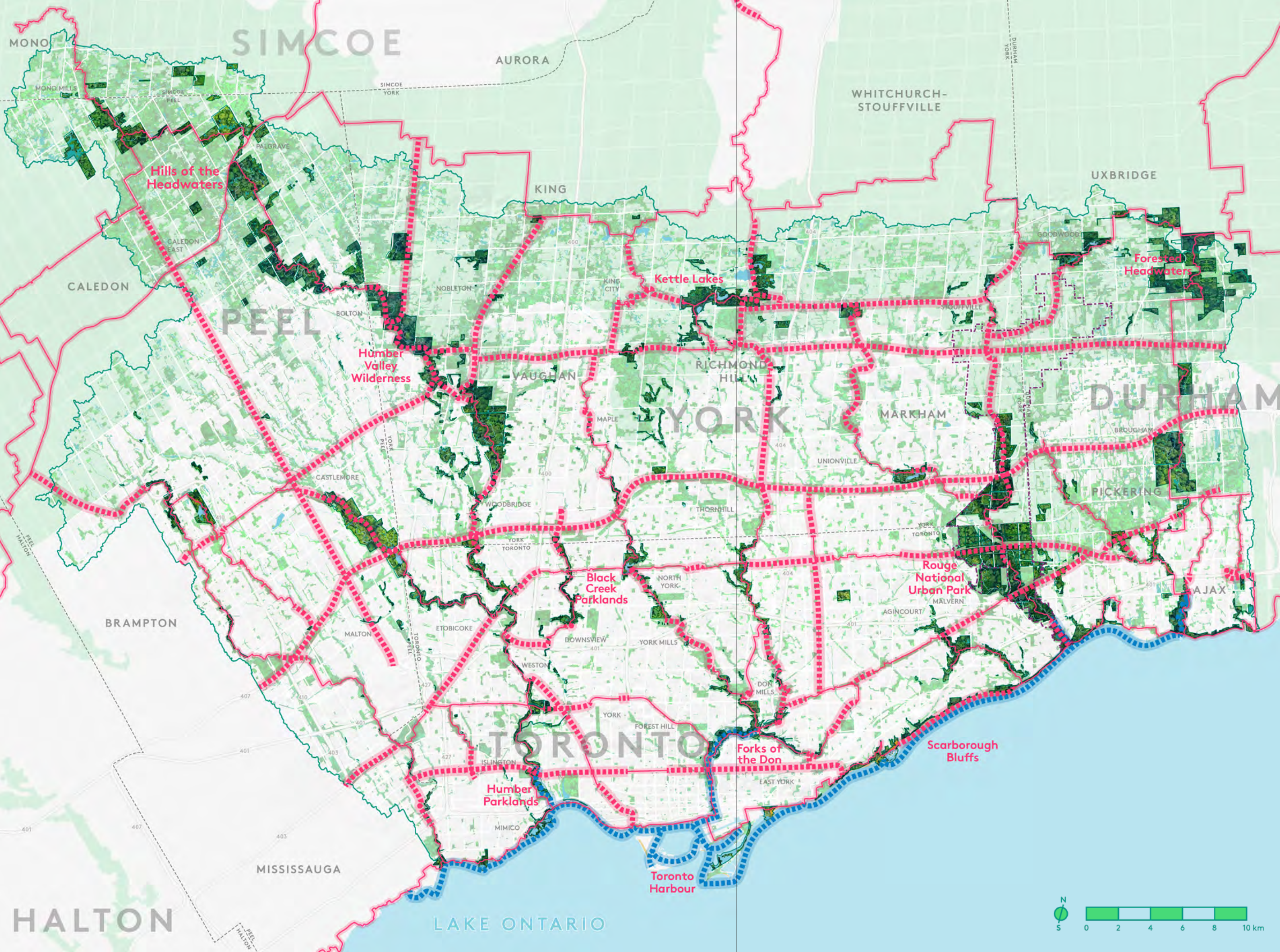
Concept Maps

The following pages of Concept Maps illustrate the proposed Greater Toronto Region Trail Network. The concept identifies the existing trail system, growth areas and key missing links and proposes opportunities for trail connections to TRCA Conservation Areas and destinations that would link into the regional and municipal trail systems. Many of the opportunities to be investigated extend beyond TRCA's greenspaces and will require collaboration with member municipalities, private landowners, and other agencies. This concept builds on current growth and development opportunities. The proposed alignments are conceptual corridors and represent goals.

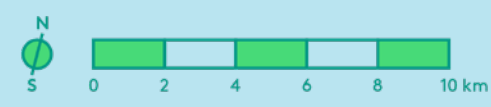
The conceptual alignments are based on data current as of November 2018.



Figure 4.b:
Concept Plan: Greater
Toronto Region Trail
Network



- Trails:**
- Existing
 - Proposed
 - Blue proposed
- Land Use:**
- TRCA jurisdiction
 - TRCA property
 - Rouge National Urban Park
 - Greenbelt





Right →

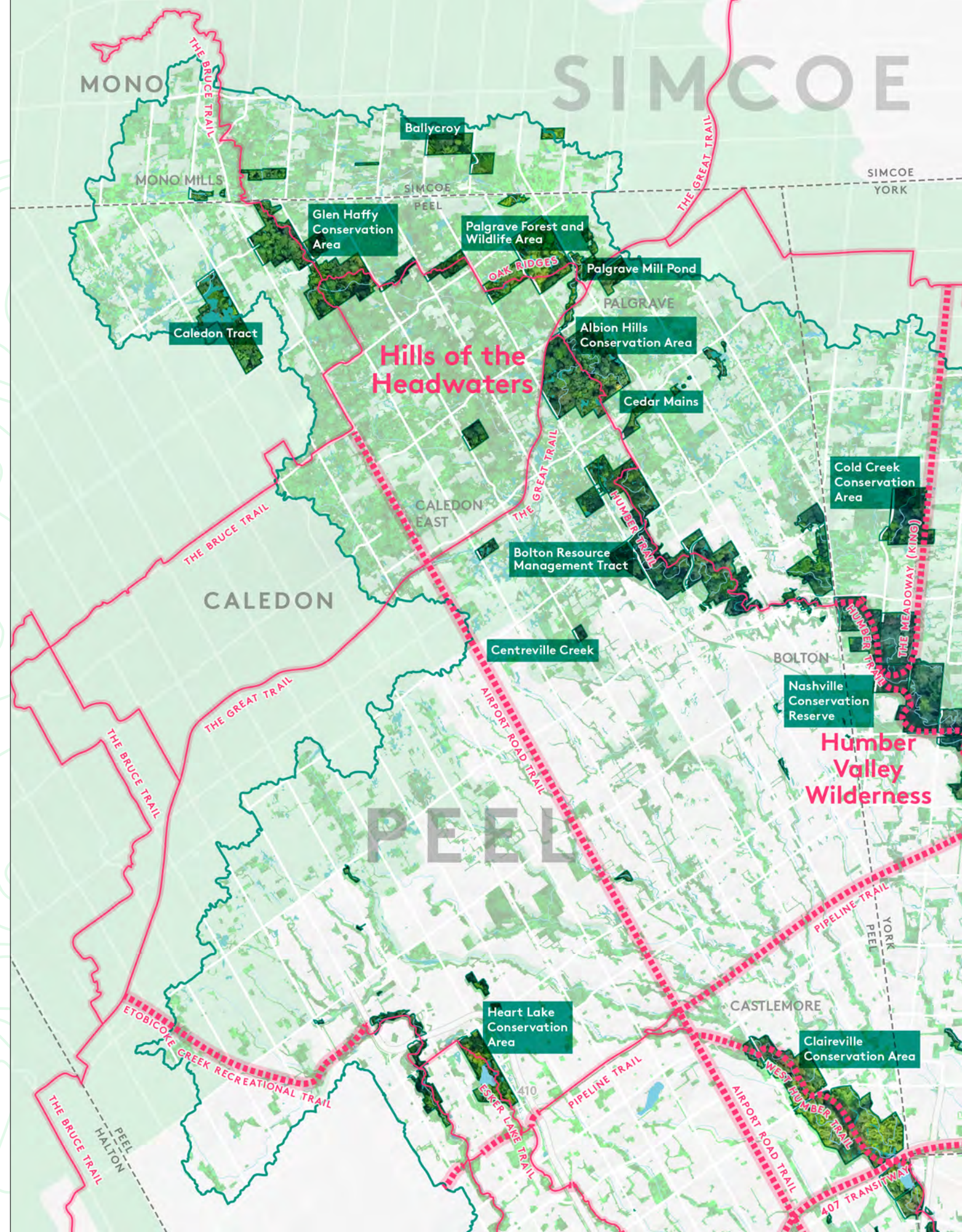
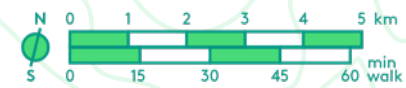
Figure 4.c: Concept Plan: North West

Trails:

-  Existing
-  Proposed

Land Use:

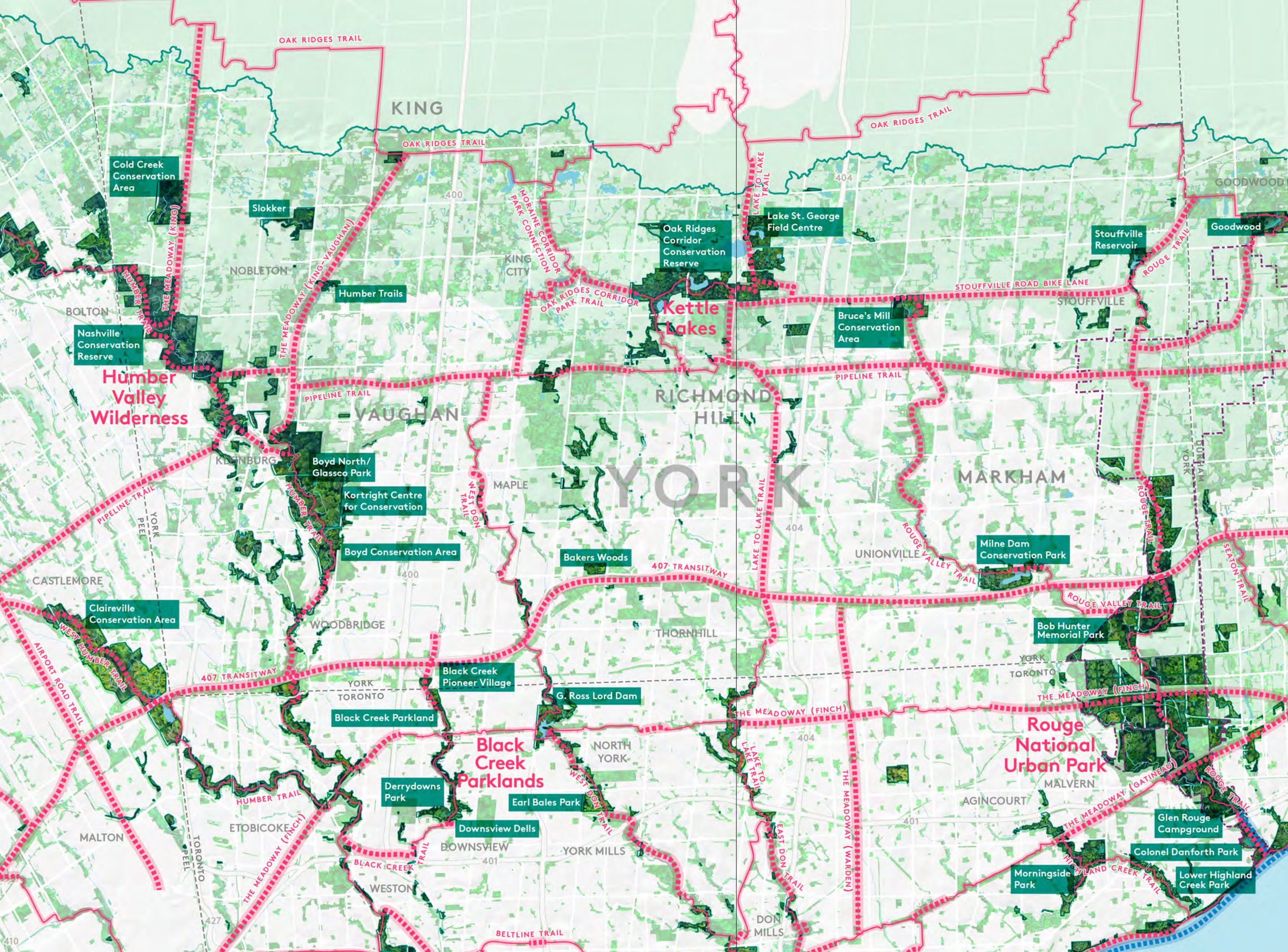
-  TRCA jurisdiction
-  TRCA property
-  Rouge National Urban Park
-  Greenbelt





← Left

Figure 4.e: Concept Plan: Central

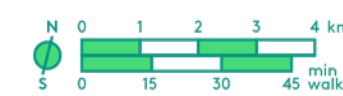


Trails:

- Existing (solid red line)
- Proposed (dashed red line)
- Blue proposed (dashed blue line)

Land Use:

- TRCA jurisdiction (light green outline)
- TRCA property (dark green fill)
- Rouge National Urban Park (dashed red outline)
- Greenbelt (light green fill)








Right →

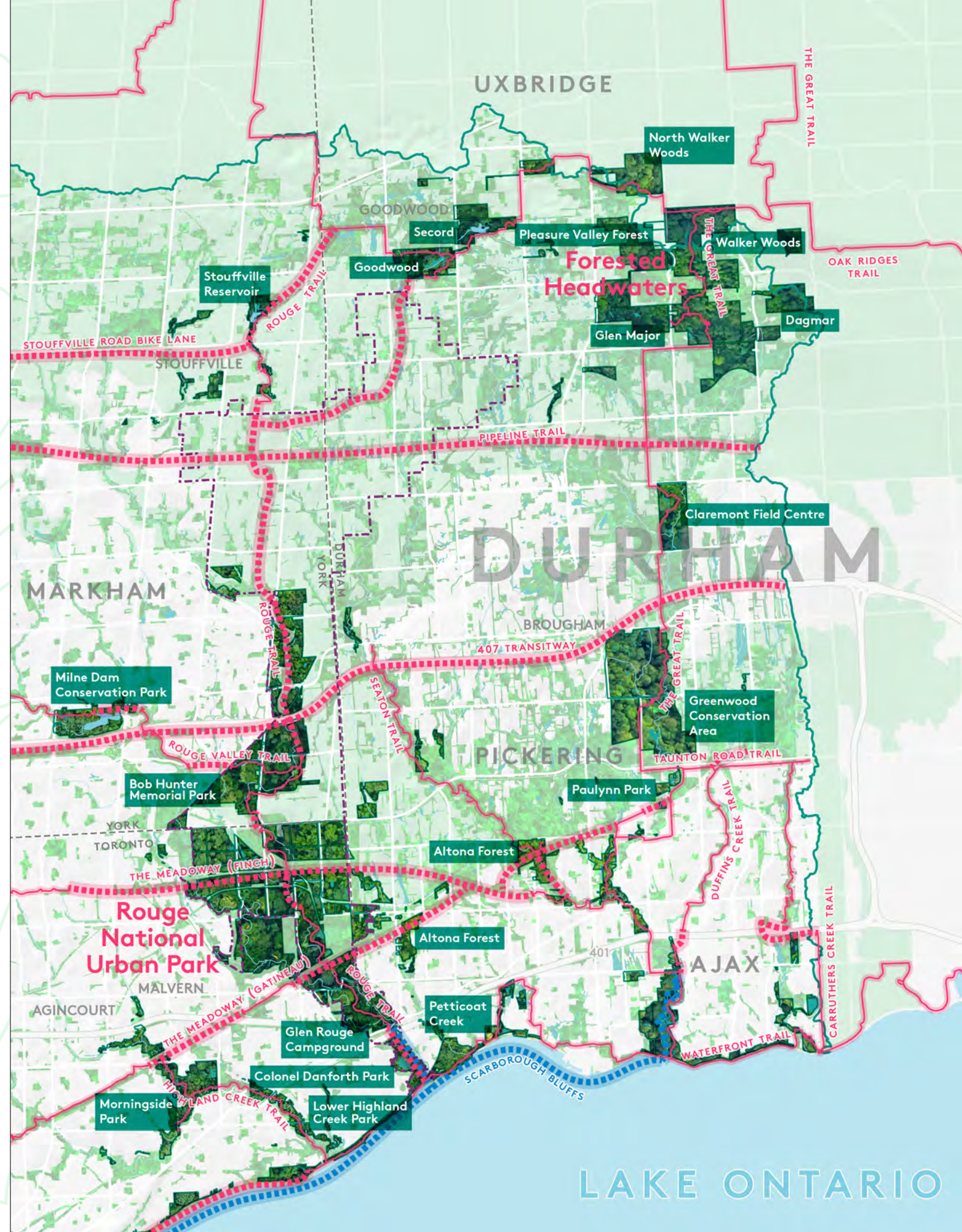
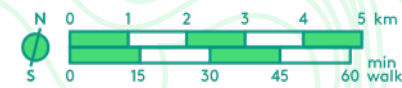
Figure 4.d: Concept Plan: North East

Trails:

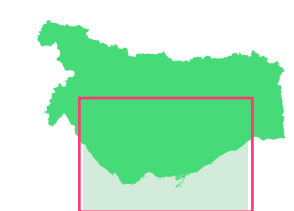
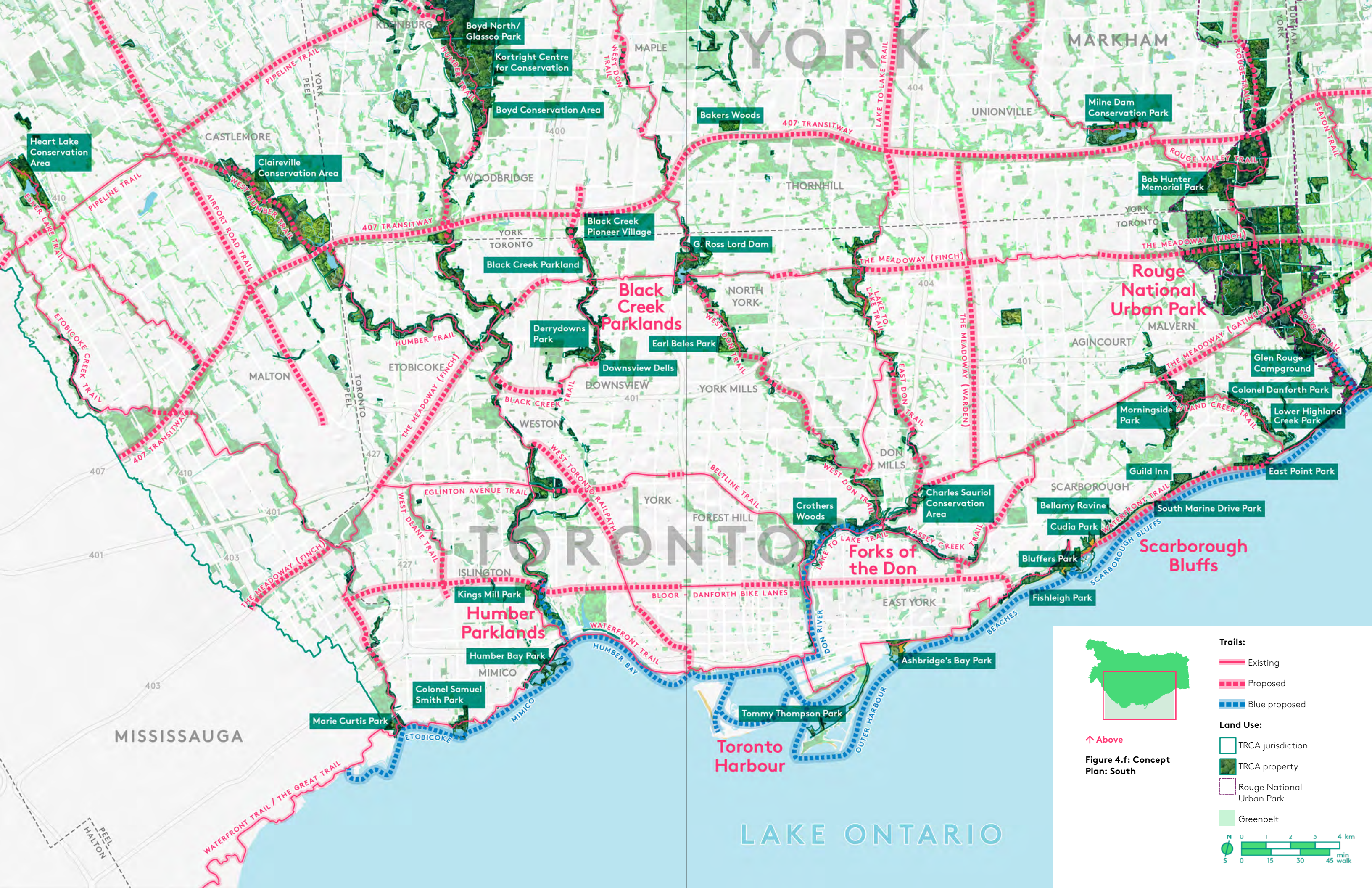
-  Existing
-  Proposed
-  Blue proposed

Land Use:

-  TRCA jurisdiction
-  TRCA property
-  Rouge National Urban Park
-  Greenbelt



LAKE ONTARIO



↑ Above
 Figure 4.f: Concept Plan: South

- Trails:**
- Existing
 - Proposed
 - Blue proposed
- Land Use:**
- TRCA jurisdiction
 - TRCA property
 - Rouge National Urban Park
 - Greenbelt
- 0 1 2 3 4 km
 0 15 30 45 min walk