East Don Trail Factsheet

Website: https://trca.ca/conservation/green-infrastructure/east-don-trail-project/

Frequently Asked Questions: https://yoursay.ca/east-don-trail/faqs

Key Messages:

Construction

- Construction commenced in September 2018 for Phases 1 and 2. Phase 2 is expected to be completed in December 2019*, and Phase 1 to be completed in fall 2020* (*pending approvals from Metrolinx for proposed tunnel, pedestrian overpass, and trail improvements within existing underpass).

- Phase 1 spans 3.1km from the Lower Don Trail at the south end, to the future Gatineau Corridor Trail at Bermondsey Road at the north end. Phase 2 spans 1.4km from the existing East Don Trail off Wynford Heights to Wigmore Park on Elvaston Drive (Victoria Village). The trail will be multi-use, asphalt, and 3.0 - 4.0 meters wide.

Background

- The project is being implemented by the City of Toronto (Transportation Services and Parks, Forestry and Recreation) and the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority.

- Under the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF) – Phase 1, the Government of Canada is investing up to $11.25 million for the East Don Trail project. The City of Toronto is matching this funding contribution.

- This project will connect existing trail systems, provide a safe way for people to access the valley system, provide a viable transportation route for cyclists and will create outdoor recreational opportunities for a variety of users.

- The new multi-use trail connection will fill a significant gap in the Don Valley Trail System and provide a valuable connection along this trail network which extends from the north end of the city south to Lake Ontario. It will also provide a key connection to the existing Gatineau Trail and future Meadoway.

- The trail is included in the City's Cycling Network Plan, which was recently updated and approved by City Council in June 2019.

- The City completed a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for this project in December 2016.

Consultation

- Extensive public and stakeholder consultation was undertaken as part of the Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

- Stakeholder groups included the public (interested persons and Community Liaison Committee), Indigenous communities, Review Agencies, Technical Advisory Committee, Key Stakeholders (agencies and businesses that own land or utilities within the project Study Area) and local politicians.

- Three Public Events and seven meetings of the Community Liaison Committee were held over the course of the Study.

- First Nations communities contacted as part of the EA process include:

  - Beausoleil First Nation
  - Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation
  - Chippewas of Rama-Mnjikaning First Nation
  - Conseil de la Nation Huronne-Wendat

- − Coordinator of the Williams Treaty First Nations
- − Curve Lake First Nation
- − Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council via Haudenosaunee Development Institute
- − Hiawatha First Nation
- − Kawartha Nishnawbe First Nation
- − Metis Nation of Ontario
- − Mississaugas of Alderville First Nation
- − Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation
- − Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
- − Moose Deer Point First Nation
- − Six Nations of the Grand River

- Additional information on the consultation process, including consultation with First Nations communities, is included in the Environmental Study Report, which is available on the project website at https://yoursay.ca/east-don-trail/documents.

Trail Access and Surface

- The trail will replace a number of informal trails in the area, which in their current state pose a safety risk to users. The asphalt trail will provide better access for people of all ages and abilities, which is in line with the City of Toronto's Official Plan Policies, the City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines, and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). A single trail will also reduce the environmental impact that many informal trails have on the local environment.

- The trail surface will be asphalt. Asphalt was chosen because it is a firm and stable surface, is resistant to erosion, and has lower maintenance costs than other materials (e.g., natural surface, limestone screenings, woodchips, etc.). It is also able to support a variety of users and abilities (i.e., children, users with mobility issues, and elderly users) and will facilitate emergency vehicle access. Asphalt is considered a standard trail surface for multi-use trails by the City of Toronto.

Tree Removals

- A tree removal and compensation plan was developed for the project. The majority of trees to be removed are saplings, invasive species, ash trees (that would prematurely decline and eventually succumb to the Emerald Ash Borer) and/or trees in poor health.

- The trail alignment was selected to minimize impact on healthy, native, mature trees.

- Compensation for these tree removals has been coordinated with Urban Forestry and will include 3,859 native trees to be replanted in the area of the East Don Trail, including 640 native trees to be planted as part of future community plantings and 1,362 native trees near the Eglinton Avenue East and Lawrence Avenue East entrances to the Don Valley Parkway.

- Woody material from the tree removals will be repurposed and used for different projects such as woodchips and root wads to be used within habitat enhancement projects (such as Tommy Thompson Park, Lakeview Waterfront Connection project and other TRCA habitat enhancement projects).

- Additional information is included in the Tree Removal Factsheet available on the project website at https://yoursay.ca/east-don-trail/documents.

Project Contacts

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