

TORONTO

Sustainability Tour

Self-Guided



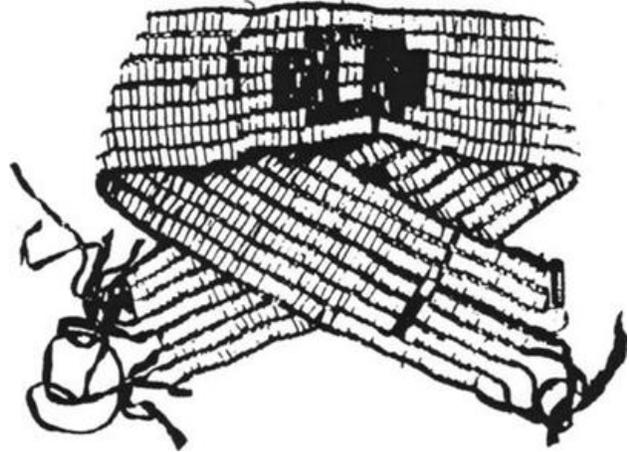
**Green Economy Bridging Program
G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education,
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Table of contents

<u>Indigenous Land Acknowledgement</u>	2
<u>Introduction</u>	2
<u>About Toronto</u>	3
<u>Food - Feed It Forward</u>	4
<u>Habitat - Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat</u>	6
<u>Transportation - Humber Bay Arch Bridge</u>	8
<u>Recreation - High Park</u>	10
<u>Energy - Exhibition Place, Enercare Centre</u>	12
<u>Health - Trinity Bellwoods Park</u>	14
<u>Waste reduction/Control - Toronto Tool Library</u>	16
<u>Sense of Place - Harbourfront Centre</u>	18
<u>Design -TD Center, Art Gallery of Inuit Art</u>	20
<u>Natural Capital - Don Valley Brick Works Park</u>	22
<u>Sites' Location and Bike Routes</u>	24
<u>Other sites to visit</u>	26
<u>List of Contributors</u>	27
<u>Acknowledgements</u>	27
<u>Photo Credits</u>	27
<u>Invitation</u>	27
<u>References</u>	28

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that Toronto lies within the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit. (City of Toronto, February 2019).



Source: Indian Time

Introduction

Sustainability is about using the resources of the planet to satisfy our needs without affecting the needs of future generations. It is about considering the planet, people and their prosperity in any decision(s) or action(s) we take, individually and collectively but above all Sustainability is something we can practice in our own lives. When we all do this, harmony between people and the environment will increase and the future will be better.

But we need to understand how sustainability works and the best way to do it is experiencing real examples. The Toronto Sustainability Tour takes you to 10 sites. Each site demonstrates an aspect of one of the 10 Themes of Sustainability. As defined by the Ottawa Biosphere Eco-City Initiative, a Theme is an area of direct action for sustainability – such as Transportation, Habitat, Food or Waste. When we tour a site, we can get a feeling for its Theme, and we may decide that we want to take our own action within that Theme too.

For each of the 10 Toronto sites profiled in this booklet, you will find:

- An explanation of the Theme it represents and how the site relates to that Theme;
- A brief physical description of the site;
- Suggestions on what to see and do there;
- An outline of the site's history or culture;
- Mention of nearby community features you may wish to visit
- Site location and logistics for visiting by bicycle, bus or car
- Relevant website references

How to do the tour:

Visit all sites in one day, or make an outing to one site at a time, the ten sites are listed and shown on the map on page 24. Make your visit green by biking or busing if you can. Bring friends to share the experience. Take pictures. Share your posts and photos with the Hashtag #TorontoSustainabilityTour on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn (Toronto Sustainability Tour Group) and Instagram. See page 26 of this booklet for a list of other sites in Toronto that also illustrate aspects of the 10 Themes.

About Toronto

The Mohawk word ‘Toronto’ means ‘meeting place’ because many aboriginal tribes came together there for trade, political and social events. Present-day Toronto has been dubbed the most multicultural city in the world, and is a meeting place for people from every nation.

Toronto rests on the shore of Lake Ontario, one of the five great lakes that contain 21% of the world’s surface fresh water. It is also in the middle of Canada’s most productive agricultural land, which stretches from Windsor to Quebec City. Yet Toronto is also North America’s fourth largest city, and the potential conflict between human activity and natural processes is great.

Fortunately, the people of Toronto are recognizing their special responsibility to embrace sustainability and the city is aiming to reduce the impacts of climate change and become a Low-Carbon city. This may be seen in terms of municipal policies, corporate activities, and individual actions. A large “green belt” now surrounds the urban area, urban gardens are being planted and green roofs are appearing all over the city. Sustainability is growing in “Toronto the good.” This booklet is designed to help you see and understand it better. It invites you to take a small journey to select sites that may lead to a personal journey towards sustainability.



Feed It Forward

Theme 1: FOOD “Local food, heritage and organic crops and animals, gardens, access to food”



Food is a major area for moving towards sustainability. Using local food reduces transportation costs, heritage foods preserve agricultural biodiversity, and gardens provide people with fresh food. Food waste is a topic of major concern, with the average single-family household in Toronto wasting a quarter of its food purchases (about \$31 billion nationally). In addition, food decaying in landfills creates methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. At the same time, many people do not have adequate access to affordable food.

Description

Feed it forward, located in the west end of Toronto, is Canada’s first pay-what-you-can grocery store, bakery and coffee shop. It receives donations of excess food from grocery stores, restaurants and food distributors. This includes high-end items such as organic greens, frozen meals for students, as well as bulk items such as sugar, flour and oatmeal. This store makes a great difference for people who cannot otherwise manage good nutrition because of a lack of local grocery stores or a lack of income. Open Monday to Saturday.

What to see and do here

You’ll find shelves on both walls and bins of produce in the middle of this compact store. Take just what you need and pay only what you can (putting your money in an old Toronto Transit fare box). If you have time, sit by the window with a bowl of organic tomato soup, a quality meat dish or baked item. Relish the feeling that this place exists. Thank the volunteers before you leave and go home to enjoy high quality food.

History/Culture

In 2018 Chef Jagger Gordon had seen enough food waste in his catering business, knew the problem of hunger was large in Toronto, and launched Feed it Forward. He and his volunteers “rescue” food from many establishments, where it would otherwise go to waste. Chef Gordon does not expect to make a profit, but hopes to cover costs. This project includes a bakery and

cafe and is the latest endeavor from Gordon’s zero-waste and food security campaign, dubbed “Feed It Forward”.

Nearby community features

George Bell Arena, David Appleton Community Centre, High Park, Etienne Brule Park.

Cycling: For map and route, see page 24.

Bus: Dundas St West at Runnymede Rd. Stop ID: 3521. TTC 30, 312
Runnymede Rd at Dundas St West. Stop ID: 7057. TTC 71, 79

Parking: Street parking meters, parking lot at 3358 Dundas St W.

Website: <https://feeditforward.ca/>

Location: Feed It Forward Toronto, 3324 Dundas St W, Toronto, ON M6P 2A4.
Coordinates: [43.6658° N, 79.4809° W](#)



Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat

Theme 2: HABITAT “Living places for plants and animals (Nature from a non-human perspective)”



Natural habitats are disappearing in urban areas with the expansion of the built environment. Many plants and animals cannot survive and species diversity is decreasing. The Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat is a self-sustaining plant community to support the diversity of Toronto’s butterflies. Other ways to support habitat in urban areas are: tree planting, pollinator gardens, green

roofs and maintenance of healthy streams.

Description

The Humber Bay Butterfly Project has restored two hectares (4 acres) of critical habitats in the west of Toronto along Lake Ontario. With native plants such as wildflowers, trees and grasses, these small ecosystems support many species of butterflies through all stages of their life cycles. Interpretative signs help visitors understand and enjoy the butterflies and their habitats. The City of Toronto maintains this area as a park.

What to see and do here

From April to October, you can see a large variety of native butterflies, as you walk through three different types of habitat: Short Grass Prairie, Wildflower Meadow, and Home Garden. You can gather an idea for a butterfly space where you live. In September be thrilled by the huge number of monarch butterflies, getting ready for migration to Mexico. Avoid hot, windy or rainy weather for best viewing. Use the interpretive signs for a self-guided tour, or request a group tour information by email: greentoronto@toronto.ca.

History/Culture

The Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat was opened in September 2002 through the work of Humber Bay East, which continues to manage it in association with the Toronto Community Stewardship Program.

Nearby community features

Humber Bay Pedestrian Bridge, Humber Bay Park East, Humber Bay Shores Park, Sheldon Lookout (Great spot for lake and city views).

Cycling: For map and route, see page 24.

Bus: Opposite 2155 Lake Shore Blvd West Stop ID: 14542. TTC 66B
2155 Lake Shore Blvd West, Stop ID: 5175. TTC Streetcar 501

Parking: Street parking available along Marine Parade Drive.
Parking lot near Humber Bay East Road East and Parks Pond.

Website: <https://www.toronto.ca/311/knowledgebase/kb/docs/articles/parks,-forestry-and-recreation/urban-forestry/humber-bay-butterfly-habitat-hbbh.html>

Location: Marine Parade Drive and Silver Moon Drive, Toronto, ON M8V 1A1
Coordinates: [43°37'27.6"N 79°28'38.1"W](#)



Humber Bay Arch Bridge

Theme 3: TRANSPORTATION “Movement of goods and people”



Transportation systems are major users of land and energy. Vehicles also contribute to pollution, noise and threats to safety. Sustainable transportation options include: good pedestrian and bicycle access to work, home, shopping and recreation; as well as convenient public

transit. The Humber Bay Arch Bridge, as a high-use pedestrian and bicycle bridge, is a very good example of how to address pollution, noise and safety issues in a high-use area.

Description

The Humber Bay Arch Bridge (also known as the Gateway Bridge) is located south of Lake Shore Boulevard West in Toronto. Completed in the mid-1990s, the 139 metres (456 ft) bridge is part of the Martin Goodman Trail. With a clear span of 100 metres (330 ft.) over the mouth of the Humber River, its twin arch design protects the waterway’s environmental integrity. This landmark has received numerous local architectural, design and engineering awards.

What to see and do here

The Bridge is one of the most popular pedestrian and cycling routes in Toronto, the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail that connects communities, First Nations areas and parks of a wider region. Pause on the bridge for a spectacular view of the Toronto skyline. Visit the adjoining Humber Bay Park East with walking trails through trees and shrubs that take you to butterfly and native wildflower habitat. Breathe in lakeshore breezes. See the city and nature at sunrise and sunset.

History/Culture

This beautiful bridge sits on top of what was a heavily-travelled First Nations trading route for hundreds of years. The top of the bridge displays the Thunderbird, an important symbol for First Nations people. Under the bridge, you can find bronze images of turtles, canoes, snakes and salmon embedded in the concrete walls as a commemoration of First Nations influence on the area. The shoreline here was also the site of a French trading post in 1720.

Nearby community features

Sir Casimir Gzowski Park, Butterfly Garden, High Park, Sunnyside Bike Park, Colborne Lodge Historical Museum.

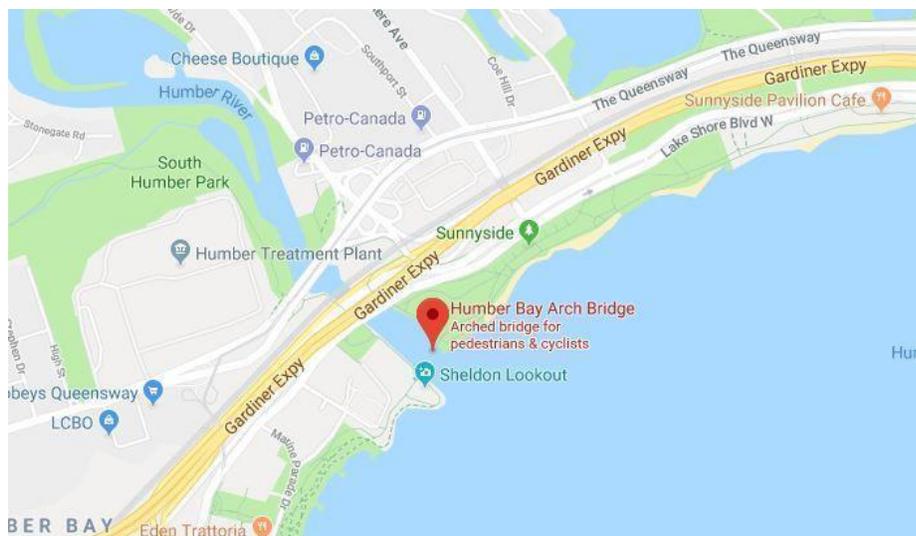
Cycling: For map and route, see page 24. The bridge is part of a multi-use pathway that will eventually parallel the entire north shore of Lake Ontario.

Bus: Lake Shore Blvd West at Windermere Ave. Stop ID: 14824. TTC 145
Lake Shore Blvd West at Marine Parade Dr East Side. Stop ID: 14852. TTC 66, 145

Parking: Green P Parking Lot, 5 Marine Parade Dr. Parking, Humber Bay Park Rd E Parking.

Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humber_Bay_Arch_Bridge

Location: Martin Goodman Trail , Between Humber Bay Shores Park, and Sir Casimir Gzowski Park, Toronto, ON, JGJH+VG
Coordinates: [43°37'55.4"N 79°28'16.2"W](#)



High Park

Theme 4: RECREATION “Non-motorized, low environmental impact, connected to nature, farm vacations”



Parks provide sustainable recreation because they enable non-motorized forms of outdoor leisure and recreation, and because they promote interaction with nature. The City of Toronto operates over 1500 parks, which cover approximately 8,000 hectares (12.7 % of the city’s land base). High Park is one of the largest

and oldest of these, and is iconic as a recreation facility.

Description

High Park is in the middle part of Toronto, just north of the Gardiner Expressway along the lakeshore. Its 161 hectares combine extensive natural areas with parkland, recreation facilities and even a small zoo. One third of the park remains in its natural state of rare Oak Savannah. Two deep ravines traverse the park and a marshland hosts a rich variety of fauna.

What to see and do here

Visit in the spring to view the Japanese cherry trees in bloom, or come any time to hike some of the city’s longest trails. Fish in Grenadier Pond. High Park is also a top spot to see birds and butterflies. You can spend the day at the Colborne Lodge Historical Museum, the Hillside Gardens, the Grenadier Café, and the Amphitheatre. For the sports minded, come to enjoy one of the park’s 6 tennis courts, 3 baseball diamonds, 2 soccer fields, skating rinks, swimming pool or picnic areas. Children can visit several playgrounds, or the zoo, and ride on a ‘trackless train’. Year round there are outdoor nature education and park stewardship programs.

History/Culture

The land was bequeathed to Toronto by John and Jemima Howard and the Park was opened to the public in 1876. Archeological evidence indicates that long before John Howard called it “High Park”, this land had been travelled and inhabited by thousands of Indigenous people since the last Ice Age when glaciers receded 11000 years ago. Indigenous feet and paddles created the trails, and water routes that would eventually become the networks of European fur traders.

Nearby community features

Keele Community Centre, High Park Nature Centre, High Park Public Library, Howard Park Tennis Club, Sir Casimir Gzowski Park.

Cycling: For map and route, see page 24.

Cycling is permitted on paved roadways only.

Bus: Keele or High Park TTC Subway station

High Park Loop, Stop ID: 1252. TTC Streetcar 506

The Queensway at Colborne Lodge Drive West Side, Stop ID: 14393. TTC Streetcar 501

Parking: 2 free parking lots, one at Grenadier Restaurant in the middle of the park and one on Spring Road at the South East corner of the park.

Website: <http://www.highparktoronto.com>

Location: 1873 Bloor St W, Toronto, ON M6R 2Z3

Coordinates: [43°38'48.4"N 79°27'49.4"W](#)



Exhibition Place, Enercare Centre

Theme 5: ENERGY “Used for buildings, transportation, manufacturing, communication and agriculture”



High energy use is a hallmark of modern urban life, as well as the agricultural and transportation systems that support it. Unfortunately, it can cause many problems including greenhouse gas (GHG) production and urban ‘heat islands’.

Making energy use sustainable involves reduction of energy needs (better insulation, greater

efficiency) and application of renewable energy sources. The City of Toronto’s Climate Change Strategy aims to generate 75% of the needed energy from renewable or low-carbon sources. Exhibition Place and its Enercare Centre showcase a wide range of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

Description

Exhibition Place is a landmark entertainment, trade and business destination, and urban park, right on Toronto’s Lake Ontario waterfront. It is full of significant heritage and modern buildings that reflect the history, evolution and growth of the city. One of these structures is the Enercare Centre, with gold certification from LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). With over 1 million square feet of space, Enercare hosts some of North America’s largest conventions. It saves energy with a trigeneration system, in which waste heat from power generation can be used to support heating and cooling systems. Also Enercare is linked to a 130,000 square feet photovoltaic plant.

What to see and do here

Take the streetcar to Exhibition Place and wander around its buildings, gardens and artwork. Or take a walking tour to understand the architecture, history and leading-edge technology of the site. If you can, visit Enercare Centre to see many innovations in energy saving, such as its Trigeneration Facility. The Photovoltaic Plant, one of the largest in Canada, shares the roof of the Horse Palace with a garden. Nearby, is located the 30 storey Triec Tower, it is North America’s first urban wind turbine, providing enough electricity for 250 homes. Also at Exhibition Place you can spot electric vehicle charging stations, a geothermal plant and LED streetlights.

History/Culture

Exhibition Place was established in 1879 and has evolved into a world class venue where visitors can find modern and heritage buildings like the Princes' Gates, the Beanfield Centre or the last fort of Toronto, the “Stanley Barracks”. The Enercare Centre is one of the focal points of the complex, its construction was completed in March of 1997 and it is the largest trade show facility in Canada and the sixth largest in North America.

Nearby community features

Ontario Place, Fort York National Historic Site, High Park, Trillium Park, BMO Field, the Better Living Centre, The Horse Palace.

Cycling: For map and route, see page 24, Bike Share hub, bicycle parking.

Bus: Princes' Gates Loop. Stop ID: 14363. TTC BUS 121
Manitoba Dr at Strachan Ave West Side. Stop ID: 1063. TTC Streetcar 509, 511

Parking: Numerous parking locations both above and below ground.

Website: <https://www.explace.on.ca>

Location: ENERCARE CENTRE, 100 Princes' Blvd. Toronto, ON M6K 3C3
Coordinates: [43°38'06.2"N 79°24'44.7"W](#)



Trinity Bellwoods Park

Theme 6: HEALTH “Clean air and water, safe and tranquil access to the outdoors, indoor air quality”



Trinity Bellwoods Park contributes clean air and water, as well as safe and tranquil access to the outdoor environment. These all support sustainable health of Torontonians. As the city's largest downtown greenspace, its natural setting provides a place to relax. As well, on site recreation facilities support active living, which provides important health benefits. In the era

of modern technology and internet, people of all ages and physical condition need some physical activity for good health and well-being.

Description

Located in west Toronto between Queen Street West and Dundas Street, this 14.6 hectare (36 acre) park contains trees and lawns, bicycle and walking paths, a greenhouse, a playground, a dog off-leash, picnic areas, sports fields, and an indoor sports facility. Many cultural events take place in the park in the spring, summer and fall. There is also a Tuesday's farmers market.

What to see and do here

Stroll through the park, clearing your lungs and mind as an escape from work or shopping. Eat your lunch here or bring your children to play. Watch or practice tennis, volleyball, football, softball, rugby or ice-skating in the park. Buy fresh healthy food at the summer's farmers market. Take a self-guided tour of trees or enjoy one of the many cultural and community events like book fairs, live theater or the September outdoor art gallery.

History/Culture

The park sits atop the grounds of the former Trinity College (1852 to 1950s) and the college gates still stand on the edge of the park as a reminder of the greatness of the former site.

Nearby community features

As the Queen West neighbourhood is saturated with artists one can enjoy a variety of sidewalk musical renditions. The park does not have a restaurant in it but there are countless options on either side of the park to grab a coffee/tea/beverage and/ or a delicious snack or meal. The alleys and laneways around the park are full of amazing local street art.

Cycling: For map and route, see page 24.

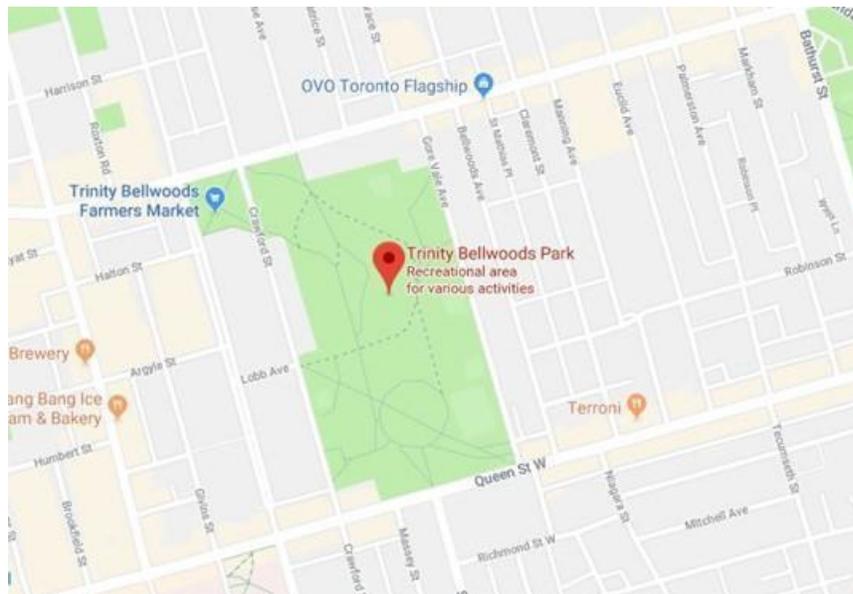
Bus: Queen St West At Strachan Ave, Stop ID: 6854. TTC Streetcar 501 and 301

Parking: Street parking meters, Green parking at 1117 Dundas St W.

Website: <http://www.trinitybellwoods.ca/>

Location: Trinity Bellwoods Park. 790 Queen St W, Toronto, ON M6J 1G3

Coordinates: [43°38'52"N, 79°24'51"W](#)



Toronto Tool Library

Theme 7: WASTE “Reduce, reuse, recycle; waste processing, conversion to energy”



Waste management in a city the size of Toronto is a complex task. The municipality manages 80,000 tonnes of waste a year and has limited landfill space. It is developing a long-term strategy with a waste diversion goal of 70% by 2026. With a focus on individual behaviour, the Toronto Tool Library support

this by encouraging reuse and reduction of throw-away habits and supports the City’s move towards a circular economy and zero waste future.

Description

The Toronto Tool Library provides access to thousands of tools for home renovations, gardening, lawn maintenance, repairs, do-it-yourself projects and more. It has three locations on 1499 Queen St. West, 830 St. Clair Ave. West, and 192 Spadina Avenue. The makerspace at Spadina has a wood shop, laser cutters, 3d printers, skill training and a market space.

What to See and do here

Visit one of the three locations to see the collection of tools, games and event supplies. Purchase an annual membership for less than a cup of coffee per week. Borrow what you need. Meet your community. Attend a workshop. Create in the makerspace. Volunteer.

History/Culture

The first Tool Library started in Berkley, California in 1979. A group of friends in Toronto founded the Institute for a Resource Based Economy to launch the Toronto Tool Library in 2012. Tool donations came from everywhere and membership grew quickly, as people discovered the potential of resource sharing. Does everyone need a drill for 13 minutes of use and store it?” Why not share tools as a community instead!

Nearby Community Features

Trinity Bellwoods Park, Kensington Market, Old Toronto City Hall, Nathan Phillips Square, TD Gallery of Inuit Art

Cycling: For map and route, see page 24.

Bus: Spadina Avenue at Sullivan St North side. Stop ID: 8131. TTC Streetcar 310, 510

Parking: Street parking.

Website: <https://torontotoollibrary.com>

Location: 192 Spadina Ave, Toronto, ON. M5T 2C2

Coordinates: [43°39'00.7"N 79°23'51.0"W](#)



Harbourfront Centre

Theme 8: SENSE OF PLACE “Feeling of belonging to a community leading to environmental stewardship”



A Sense of Place is a strong feeling of attachment to a particular location. It comes from the experiences one has there and the internal images developed about the location. When people feel they belong to a neighbourhood or a city, they are willing to make extra efforts to take care of it. This naturally leads to

better stewardship for the local environment and also more care for people there. The culture and history of an area contribute to Sense of Place. So do its built and natural landmarks. This is the case with Harbourfront Centre, which is a popular destination and even a “second home” for some. It is also a fine example of “placemaking” (creating a Sense of Place). With activities based on walking, Harbourfront Centre emphasises sustainability.

Description

Harbourfront Centre is a 4 hectares (10 acre) site, with a magnificent view of Lake Ontario that hosts over 4000 events per year. As a multi-use public space, it showcases Canada’s creative cultures to the world, and attracts over 17 million visitors annually. It can enliven, educate and entertain a diverse audience. The restored industrial buildings of Harbourfront Centre provide a spacious campus-like site, and house theatres, a gallery, craft studios and other facilities. Outdoors, there are boardwalks, marinas, plazas, playgrounds, stages and displays, as well as a pond for paddleboats which becomes a rink in the winter.

What to see and do here

You can come here simply to walk around and enjoy the ambiance, as many do. There are also shops, galleries, restaurants, and play areas for children. Visit an artist-in-residence, go to a World Stage contemporary performance, or attend one of the very many other festivals and events at Harbourfront Centre. Many events are free or subsidized to make them accessible. Don’t miss the opportunity to experience world-class theatre, dance, visual arts, music, literature and multidisciplinary cultural events in the heart of Toronto’s downtown waterfront.

History/Culture

Harbourfront Centre was established in 1991, to convert a derelict area of unused buildings into a cultural hub for the city. It was part of Toronto's waterfront revitalization that aimed to use culture, education and recreation to bring Torontonians back to the lake and attract visitors.

Nearby community features

The Toronto Music Garden which design is inspired by Bach's First Suite for Unaccompanied Cello. The CN Tower, the landmark 553-metre tower, is iconic to the Toronto skyline. Enjoy also the Ripley's Aquarium of Canada as well as the nearby, Toronto Railway Museum.

- Cycling:** For map and route, see page 24. Martin Goodman Trail or enter through Queens Quay West to the scenic waterfront route.
- Bus:** Queens Quay West At Harbourfront Centre, Stop ID: 15333. Streetcar 509, 510A and 310
- Parking:** Underground parking is available on-site at 235 Queens Quay West, or above-ground one block west at Rees Street and Queens Quay West.
- Website:** <http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com>
- Location:** 235 Queens Quay W, Toronto, ON M5J 2G8
Coordinates: [43°38'21.2"N 79°22'58.5"W](#)



TD Centre, Art Gallery of Inuit Art

Theme 9: DESIGN “of buildings, communities and infrastructure”



“How buildings, neighbourhoods and infrastructure are designed has a great impact on how sustainable a part of a city can become. Well-designed buildings and business districts, for example, can reduce energy use, serve as transportation nodes, improve indoor air quality, reduce outdoor pollution, provide entertainment and recreation options, and create a sense of place for people who use them. Transportation and communication infrastructure,

within and among buildings, can increase efficiency and therefore support sustainability too. “Designing to have a livable and sustainable built environment is an ongoing process that is transforming this great city and the TD Center is a great example of it.

Description

“TD Centre is a group of buildings in the financial district of downtown Toronto, which serves as the global headquarters of the Toronto Dominion Bank. It provides office and retail space for many businesses, and meets many of the needs of its 21,000 workers, as well as others within walking distance of the complex. TD Centre was the first complex in Canada to receive EB Gold Certification under LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), and the TD Central Tower was the first in Toronto to achieve LEED Platinum Certification for an Operations and Maintenance Program. The Gallery of Inuit Art here is a destination for many visitors.

What to see and do here

“Admire the architecture of black steel, granite, travertine and English Oak. Visit one of the most comprehensive collections of Inuit sculptures, with contemporary and historical pieces. View Joe Fafard’s seven life-sized bronze cows in “the pasture” off Wellington Street. Dine in elegant or casual restaurants, visit shops and enter the world’s largest underground walkway (<https://www.cfoffice.ca/property/foodshops/cf-td-centr>)

History/Culture

“The design for the complex was commissioned to Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, a renowned German-American architect, as headquarters for the newly-merged Bank of Toronto and Dominion Bank. The first tower, completed in 1967, was Toronto’s first modern skyscraper. A pavilion and five additional tower followed, from 1969 to 1995. They helped develop the city’s financial district. For their influence on the architectural Modern Movement in Canada, the buildings received Ontario Heritage Act designation (2003).

Nearby community features

Scotia Bank Arena, Metro Convention Centre, Princess of Wales Theatre, Nathan Phillips Square, Old City Hall.

Cycling: For map and route, see page 24

Bus: Wellington St West at York St, Stop ID: 4712. TTC 509. Union Subway Station

Parking: Underground parking at King Street (two-way access) and from the north and south sides of Wellington Street West (one-way access west)

Website: <https://www.tdcsustainability.com>

Location: Gallery of Inuit Art and South Tower- 79 Wellington Street West, Toronto, ON M5K 1B1. Coordinates: [43°38'48.1"N 79°22'52.4"W](#)

North Tower – 77 King Street West. TD Bank Tower 66 Wellington Street West
West Tower – 100 Wellington Street West. Ernst & Young Tower – 222 Bay Street 95 Wellington Street West



Don Valley Brick Works Park

Theme 10: NATURAL CAPITAL “Soil, water, wood and other natural materials that serve human needs (Nature from a human use perspective)”



It is important that people understand how we depend on natural resources and learn to use them wisely. When this lesson is presented in a park setting, it is an enjoyable experience. Environmentally Significant Areas within Toronto’s natural heritage system are protected because they provide important ecological functions. They filter the air and water, cool the city in the summer, and help prevent flooding by absorbing storm water.

Description

The abandoned but restored buildings of the brickworks give an idea of the scale of use of local clay that produced bricks for many of Toronto’s buildings for almost 100 years. Now this industrial site has been converted to other functions of natural capital, including cleaning the air and water. It is also an educational site with important ecological features. The former quarry on the site now boasts a wetland, wild flower meadows, and a forest habitat. It also contributes to the Don Valley Watershed in terms of water management and fishing. Don Valley Brick Works Park is one of the city’s most valuable environmentally significant protected areas located in the heart of the Lower Don River watershed.

What to see and do here

The park showcases a variety of features where visitors can enjoy nature and learn about the park’s history, restoration and ecological importance. Visit the Brick Works education centre, located in one of the 16 historic buildings on site or take a look of the TD Future Cities Centre that displays ideas and solutions on thriving and sustainable cities from across Canada and the world. Learn about the use of natural materials, environmental activities and sustainability.

Outside, view Pleistocene geology in the exposed glacial and fossil deposits on site. Stroll through Carolinian trees and plants, as well as a wildflower meadow. Take one of the guided Saturday tours, from May through September.

History/Culture

The Don Valley Brick works is known historically as a quarry where the vibrant industry of brick-making thrived back in the 1800's. It was established in 1889 by William Taylor and his brothers John and George Taylor, as they made use of the rich clay deposits that were found in the area. Over the century the Brick Works was responsible for approximately 43 million bricks in its peak year and was the building material for many of Toronto's important buildings. The Brick Works changed owners a number of times throughout the century and closed its doors in 1984. Restoration of the site began in 1994 and it was opened to the public in 1997.

Nearby community features

Evergreen Brick Works Centre, Todmorden Mills Heritage Site.

- Cycling:** For map and route, see page 24.
<https://www.evergreen.ca/downloads/pdfs/EBW-Bike-Map-Downtown.pdf>
<https://www.evergreen.ca/downloads/pdfs/EBW-Bike-Map-East.pdf>
- Bus:** 550 Bayview Ave, Stop ID: 14494. TTC 28
Evergreen Shuttle departs from Corner of Erindale Ave and Broadview Ave
- Parking:** 3 parking lots on-site, managed by TargetPark Inc. Paid parking is in effect 7 days a week. No parking is allowed on Bayview Avenue.
- Website:** <https://www.evergreen.ca/evergreen-brick-works/>
- Location:** 550 Bayview Ave, Toronto, ON M4W 3X8.
Coordinates: [43°41'15.0"N 79°21'55.8"W](#)



Sites' Location and Bike Routes



Cycling Tour Route

This route was developed and tested by tour volunteers. It is approximately 34 Kilometres that consist of parks, lakeshore paths and urban areas. The sites are numbered from 1 to 10 (from West to East) in sequence with the suggested bike route. See previous Google Map for suggested bike route(s).

Feed It Forward (3424 Dundas st,)-to-Butterfly Garden , via Runnymede Street, 7.6 Km. Head west on Dundas Street West toward Runnymede Road, Turn left onto Runnymede Rd, turn left onto Morningside Avenue, Turn right onto Ellis Ave, Turn right toward Humber River Recreational Trail, Turn right onto Humber River Recreational Trail, Turn left to stay on the Humber River Recreational Trail, Turn right toward Humber Bay Park East Trail, Turn left onto Humber Bay Park East Trail, make a slight right to stay on Humber Bay Park East Trail, Turn left and you are at the Butterfly Garden.

Butterfly Garden-to-Humber Bay Arch Bridge, via Humber Park E trail, 1.1 Km. Head northwest, make a slight left toward Humber Bay Park East Trail, Turn right onto Humber Bay Park East Trail, make a slight left to stay on Humber Bay Park East Trail, Continue onto Martin Goodman Trail. The destination will be on the right.

Humber Bay Arch Bridge-to-High Park, via Martin Goodman Trail, 2.2 Km. Head northeast on Martin Goodman Trail toward Sunnyside Boardwalk, Turn left toward Martin Goodman Trail, Turn right toward Martin Goodman Trail, Turn left toward Lake Shore Blvd West, Turn right onto Lake Shore Blvd West, Turn left onto Colborne Lodge Dr, Turn left onto Deer Pen Rd. You have arrived at your destination.

High Park-to-Enercare Centre, via Martin Goodman Trail, 4.8 Km. Head southeast on Colborne Lodge Dr., Turn right onto Parkside Dr, Turn left onto Martin Goodman Trail, Turn left and then right towards the pedestrian bridge. Turn right onto Princes' Blvd and in 600 metres you will arrive at your destination.

Enercare Centre-to-Trinity Bellwood Park, via Strachan Ave, 2 Km. Head East on Prince's Blvd., Turn left onto Canada Blvd, Turn left onto Strachan Avenue. Stay on Strachan Ave. for 1.1 Km until you reach Queen St. You will arrive at your destination.

Trinity Bellwood Park-to-Toronto Tool Library, via Dundas St., 2.1 Km. Head North toward Dundas St West, Turn right onto Dundas St West. In about 1.1 Km turn right onto Spadina Avenue. In about 360 metres you will see your destination on the right.

Toronto Tool Library-to-Harbourfront Centre, via Spadina Ave and Martin Goodman Trail, 2.2 Km. Head South on Spadina Avenue for 2.2 Km., Turn left onto Martin Goodman Trail, Turn right at Lower Simcoe Street. Your destination will be on the right.

Harbourfront Centre-to-TD Dominion Centre, via lower Simcoe St., 1.4 Km. Head North toward Simcoe Street, Turn right onto King Street. The destination will be on your right.

TD Dominion Centre-to Evergreen Brickworks, via lower Don River trail/Rte 45, 10 Km. Head West onto King Street, Turn right onto Bay Street, Turn left onto Queens Quay West. In 130 metres turn right toward Martin Goodman Trail. In approximately 2 Km, Turn right onto the Lower Don River Trail/Route 45. Continue straight to stay on the Lower Don River Trail/Route 45. Turn left on Pottery Road and then Turn left on Bayview Avenue. Your destination will be on the left.

Other sites to visit

TRANSPORTATION

- EV Discovery Centre. 1126 Finch Ave W Unit 1, North York, ON M3J 3J6
<https://www.plugndrive.ca/electric-vehicle-discovery-centre/>
- William G. Davis Trail at Trillium Park. 955 Lake Shore Blvd W, Toronto, ON M6K 3B9
- Toronto's Waterfront Trail. Martin Goldman Trail From Bathurst St to Yonge Street
<https://www.toronto.ca/311/knowledgebase/kb/docs/articles/parks,-forestry-and-recreation/parks/martin-goodman-trail-waterfront-trail-route.html>

ENERGY

- The Barrymore Building – Knoll Showroom. 109 Atlantic Ave, Toronto, ON M6K 1G1
<https://www.knoll.com/knollnewsdetail/knoll-toronto-showroom-knoll-project-profile>

DESIGN

- George Brown Waterfront Campus. 51 Dockside Drive, Toronto, ON M5A 1B6
<https://www.georgebrown.ca/campuses/waterfront/>

HABITAT

- Tommy Thompson Park. 1 Leslie St, Toronto, ON M4M 3M2
<https://tommythompsonpark.ca/>

FOOD

- Riverdale Farm. 201 Winchester St, Toronto, ON M4X 1B8
<http://riverdalefarmtoronto.ca/>
- Black Creek Community Farm. 1000 Murray Ross Pkwy, North York, ON M3J 2P3
<https://blackcreek.ca/>

NATURAL CAPITAL

- Rouge National Urban Park. Zoo Rd, Toronto, ON M1B 5W8
https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/on/rouge/visit/se-rendre-get-there/toronto/zoo?utm_source=gmb&utm_medium=rouge

HEALTH

- Toronto Botanical Garden. 777 Lawrence Ave E, North York, ON M3C 1P2
<https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/>

RECREATION

- Humber River Recreational Trail, Old Mill Toronto, Toronto, ON
<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/canada/ontario/west-humber-river-recreational-trail>

SENSE OF PLACE

- The AIDS Memorial. 519 Church Street, Toronto, ON
<https://www.the519.org/programs/aids-memorial-and-vigil>

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Invitation

We also invite other Canadian cities and others around the world to jump on the sustainability bandwagon and develop their distinct self-guided Sustainability Tour.

Liability Disclaimer:

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