

Port Union Waterfront Improvement Project Presentation

OAIA Conference 2018

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Presentation Outline

- Project Overview
- Vision
- Key Challenges
- Resolutions
- Lessons Learned



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Project Overview

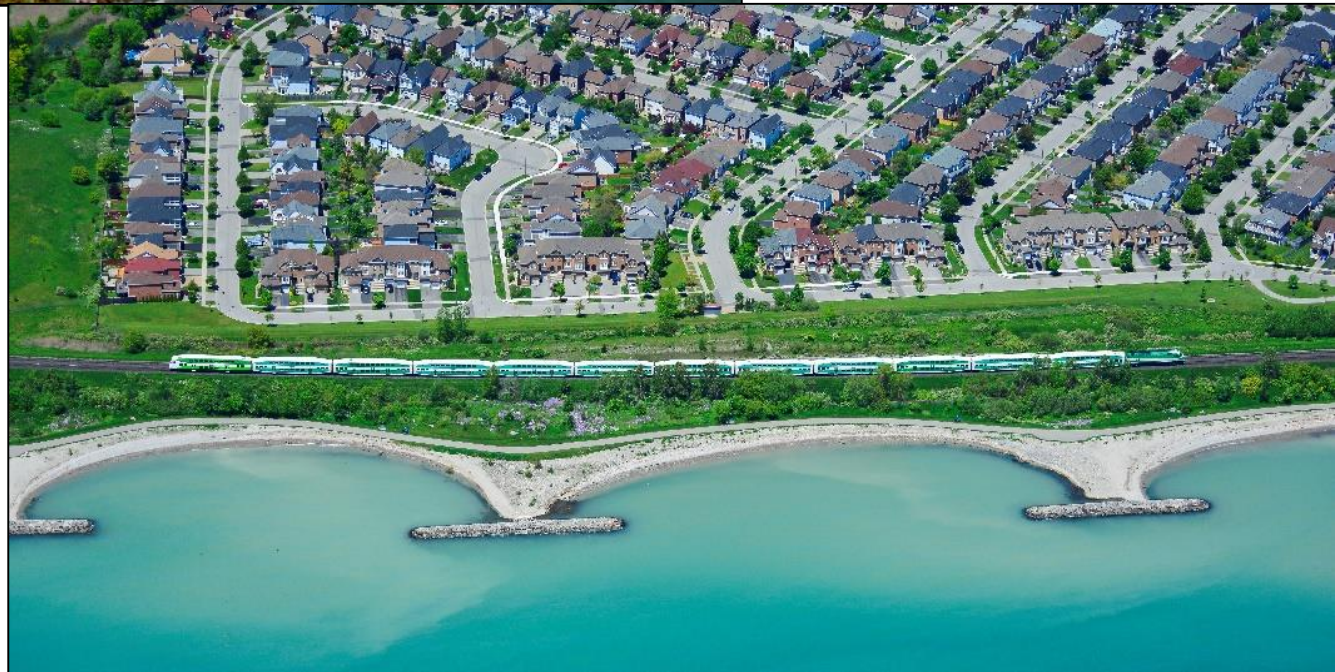


Photo credit: Waterfront Regeneration Trust



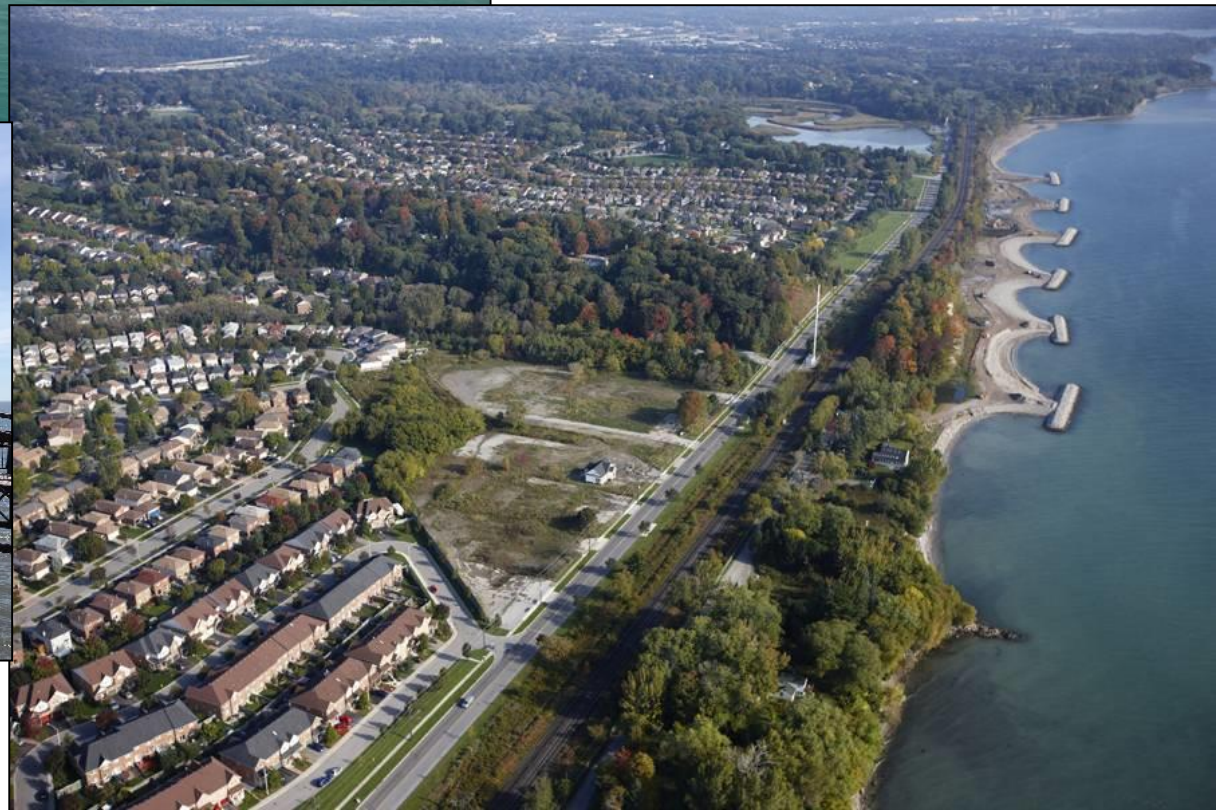
Before

After





Port Union – Phase 1



Port Union – Phase 2



Highland Creek Bridge

The implementation of the Project included recreational access to the waterfront where none previously existed: shoreline protection, the creation of additional terrestrial and aquatic habitat, and remediation of contaminated sites.



Vision

“The Port Union Waterfront Project will provide a public amenity which improve the overall health of its users and provide connection to other greenspace opportunities in the waterfront area. The new shoreline corridor will enhance the attractiveness and sustainability of the waterfront communities within the City of Toronto.”



Photo credit: TRCA

Key Challenges

The PUWP was a unique example of a water resource-related project whose ultimate goal resolved the following challenges:



Public Safety

Site Contamination

Marine Archeology

Regulatory Requirements

Save the Beach Campaign

Key Challenges

Public Safety

- There were significant public access and safety concerns as adults and children were crossing the railway corridor to get to the waterfront.



Photo credit: Centennial Community Recreation Association



Photo credit: TRCA

Key Challenges

Site Contamination

- Historic Industrial land uses left areas of soil contamination which had to be remediated prior to any public use.

Marine Archeology

- Significant resources identified in a Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment

Key Challenges

Regulatory Requirements

- Conflicting public desire for a large iconic park and the requirements of regulatory agencies to minimize the extent of lakefill.

Save the Beach Campaign

- Letter campaign from Canadian Federation of Naturists to preserve an unsanctioned “clothing optional” beach at the Highland Creek.

Resolutions

- Public Access
- Site Contamination
- Marine Archaeology
- Regulatory Requirements
- Save the Beach Campaign



Lessons Learned

- Role of community leaders in educating and informing members of the public
- Role of a letter writing campaign
- Dealing with issues comprehensively gives the public the bigger picture

Thank You!

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