

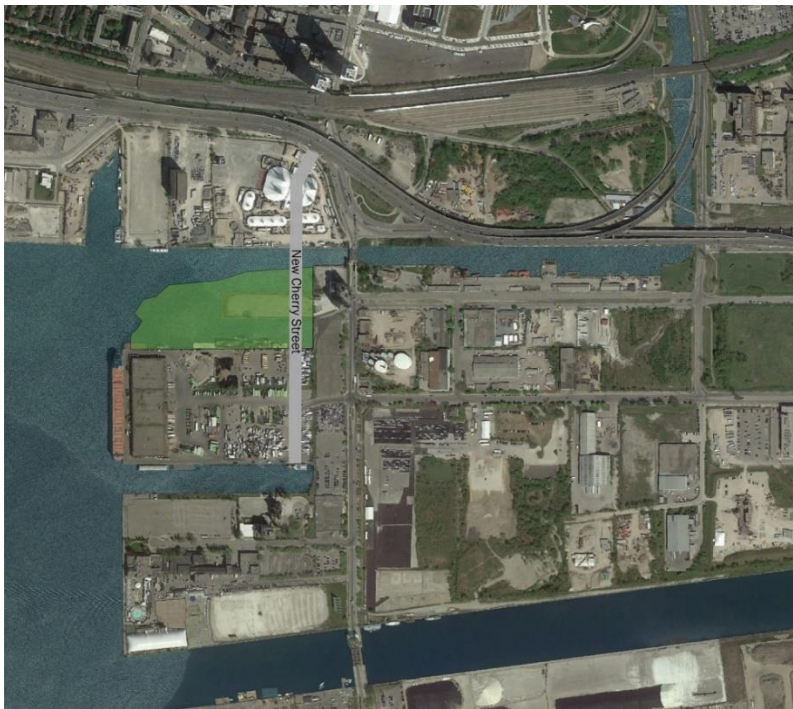
BACKGROUND: ESSROC QUAY LAKEFILLING PROJECT

The Port Lands: Context

The Port Lands, bounded by the Keating Channel/Don River and Lake Shore Boulevard in the north, the Toronto Inner Harbour in the west, Ashbridges Bay in the east and Lake Ontario and Tommy Thompson Park in the south, is a man-made area created by decades of infilling what was once one of the largest wetlands on Lake Ontario. Beginning in the 1880s, the area was gradually filled in to make more land available for industry and shipping. As the natural mouth of the Don River was filled in, the Keating Channel was created to provide an outlet for the Don River watershed into Lake Ontario and a means to convey storm water. Today, the Port Lands area sits within a designated flood plain, which is defined as an area anticipated to experience flooding in the event of a regional storm or the 100 year flood – whichever is greater.

Essroc Quay Lakefilling Project

Essroc Quay is located on the south side of the Keating Channel, where it meets Toronto's Inner Harbour. The project will create new landmass around the current Essroc Quay (please see image below) through lakefilling. This will stabilize the area shoreline under flood conditions, as the current dockwall on Essroc Quay is old and is at risk of collapsing under flooding conditions. This provides a direct benefit for storm water conveyance.



Essroc Quay Lakefilling shown above in green; future re-aligned Cherry St. in grey

Infilling Essroc Quay is an important element of safely conveying increasing storm and flood waters, although it does not eliminate the flood plain designation in the Port Lands. It will also improve water quality, optimize water and storm infrastructure, and create new naturalized open spaces and aquatic habitat.

This project is a prerequisite for significant work required to address a related major storm water conveyance issue: currently, the existing Cherry Street Bridge over the Keating Channel causes a significant restriction to storm water flows during flood events. In order to remove this restriction, lakefilling around Essroc Quay is necessary to facilitate the future re-alignment of Cherry Street and the construction of a new bridge that will have a higher span over the Keating Channel to accommodate anticipated flood levels.

An additional part of the project is to divert an existing storm sewer that currently discharges storm water into the Essroc Quay.

The project also includes two pilot studies that will be conducted:

- 1) To assess alternative technologies for dredging and managing sediment in the Channel
- 2) To determine how excavated and dredged materials from the Port Lands and other brownfield sites may be treated through innovative technologies to allow for their potential reuse for purposes such as lakefill – resulting in sediment being treated as an asset, as opposed to a liability.

The project will also enhance aquatic habitat and ultimately form part of the proposed Promontory Park, which is a component of the larger Port Lands Flood Protection project.

Completing this work will further accommodate the construction of roads and transit into the Port Lands as part of the economic revitalization of this area.

Subject to Toronto City Council approval, the project will start construction in mid-2017 and will be completed within 18 months. Funding for the project is provided as follows:

- Government of Canada: \$32,500,000
- Province of Ontario: \$16,250,000
- City of Toronto: \$16,250,000

The Essroc Quay Lakefilling project, while part of the proposed scope of work for the larger Port Lands Flood Protection project is a self-contained and stand-alone project that can be advanced independently of the larger scope of work.

The Vision for the Port Lands Flood Protection Project

This is a project that will spur innovation and economic growth, while creating mixed-use communities for all ages and income levels that are sustainable, livable, and beautiful.

The Port Lands Flood Protection project will deliver climate-positive strategies, setting a compelling environmental and economic example for cities to follow. As cities around the world gain a better understanding of the necessary changes to design, planning, transit, infrastructure, and technology to create more sustainable and livable cities, this project will serve as an ideal testbed for solutions to tackle the challenges posed by climate change. The Port Lands will serve as a platform to showcase and bring to scale innovative products, policies, solutions and processes in strategic economic sectors such as clean technology, design, sustainable construction and energy systems. This will both attract private equity investment and spur collaboration between governments and private enterprises.

The Port Lands Flood Protection Project

The Port Lands Flood Protection and Enabling Infrastructure Project is a comprehensive plan for flood protecting 290 hectares (715 acres) of southeastern downtown Toronto – including parts of the Port Lands, South Riverdale, Leslieville, south of Eastern Avenue and the First Gulf/Unilever development site – that are at risk of flooding. The Project addresses the fundamental challenge of transforming the underused and post-industrial Port Lands into a long-term asset that will support Toronto’s growth and economic competitiveness.



Aerial view of proposed full vision for the Port Lands Flood Protection Project

The Port Lands Flood Protection Project would create a new mouth for the Don River in the middle of the Port Lands between the ship channel and the Keating Channel, as well as a new urban island neighbourhood called Villiers Island, continuous riverfront open space and expanded opportunities for interaction with the water. It will also enhance habitat for natural species and will re-establish wetlands in the area, which provide social and environmental benefits and naturally moderate the effects of flooding and erosion.

Naturalizing the mouth of the Don River will provide the necessary flood protection and unlock the development potential of this premier waterfront area. Providing flood protection for the Port Lands was identified as a top priority by all three levels of government when they first established Waterfront Toronto in 2001.

Two key approvals necessary to advance the Port Lands Flood Protection Project have been received by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change:

- The Don Mouth Naturalization and Port Lands Flood Protection Project Environmental Assessment (DMNP EA), which addresses the flood protection and naturalization of the river. The DMNP EA was initiated by Waterfront Toronto and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) in 2005 and was approved by the province on January 28, 2015.
- The Lower Don Lands Environmental Assessment (LDL EA), which addresses associated city building, including the transit, roads, bridges, water, wastewater and storm water management. The LDL EA was initiated in 2008 and approved in 2014.

Waterfront Toronto is currently finalizing its Port Lands Flood Protection and Enabling Infrastructure Due Diligence Report, which will provide greater certainty on the costs, risks, scheduling and implementation strategy associated with the proposal to naturalize the mouth of the Don River and provide flood protection to the area. The report will inform government decision-making on this project. Waterfront Toronto will making the report public later this fall.



Left: Present day view looking east across the Port Lands. **Right:** Conceptual future vision looking east across the Port Lands. Villiers Island will emerge as a connected and complete community with parks and opens spaces along the Don River, The Keating Channel and Lake Ontario.



Rendering showing Essroc Quay lakefilling in the context of the full Port Lands Flood Protection project.

Additional media:

This 30-second fly-through animation shows what the naturalized mouth of the Don River and nearby neighbourhoods might look like in a decade's time. View [here](#).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IU-VMedUJZg>

This two-minute video describes some of the challenges and the unfulfilled potential of the Port Lands as well as the vision for a new Don River channel and reimagined waterfront community. The solution for providing needed flood protection is to make more room for the Don River to flow – a green approach to vital infrastructure that will improve Toronto's resiliency. View [here](#).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7gisPx_TZvo

For more information and to swipe through a dynamic 'Before and After' gallery showcasing eight (8) points of transformation resulting from the Port Lands flood protection project, please visit:

www.portlandsto.ca

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