

# BACKGROUND

## Bikeway Trails Implementation Plan

During the summer of 2011, the City of Toronto conducted an audit of its existing major multi-use trail network to assess the viability of new trail connections. New trail connection opportunities were identified, evaluated, and prioritized.

Evaluation and prioritization was based on the following four broad criteria:

- Land ownership and approvals
- Estimated cost to build the trail
- Technical requirements and design challenges
- Network connectivity

The findings were produced as the *Bikeway Trails Implementation Plan*, which recommends 77 km of new trails be added to the existing trail network. The Plan was approved by City Council at its meeting on June 6 2012.

Local communities will be consulted as part of the development of each of the Trail projects recommended in the *Bikeway Trails Implementation Plan*.

## Multi-Use Trails in Toronto

Multi-use trails are important fixtures in many of Toronto's neighbourhoods. Currently the City of Toronto has over 286 km of major multi-use trails.

Multi-use trails are facilities separated from the roadway and support a number of users - walkers, runners, cyclists, inline skaters, wheelchair users, people with baby strollers and people walking dogs.

# BACKGROUND

## The East Don Trail Project

The East Don Trail is the largest and most complex multi-use trail project in the *Bikeway Trails Implementation Plan* and is identified as a short-term priority.

In May 2012, a feasibility study was completed to assess the potential for a trail system through the East Don Corridor. The study determined that a trail was possible and identified potential technical challenges. In order to determine the best trail route, further investigations and environmental studies were recommended.

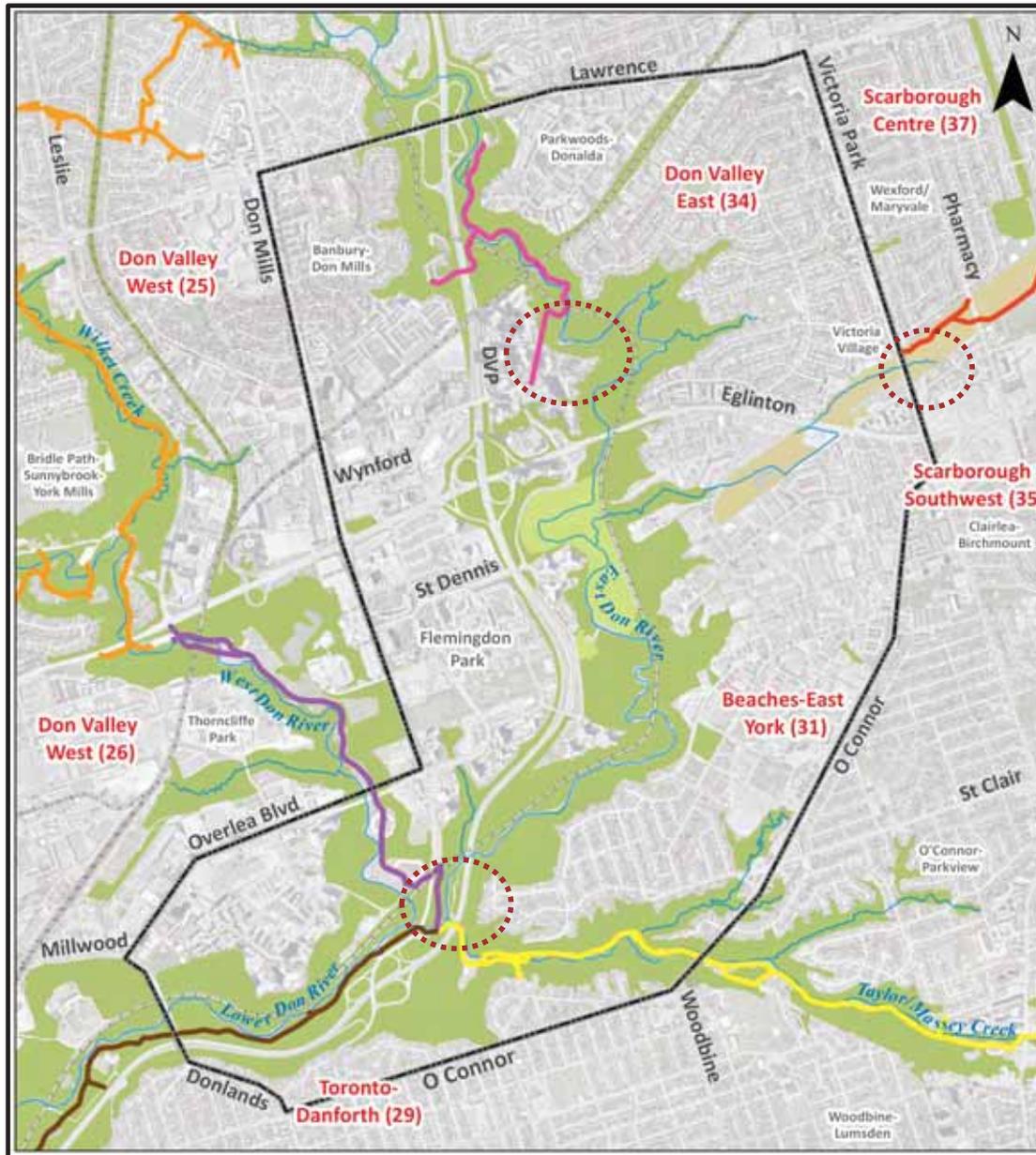
The next step in realizing the completion of the East Don Trail will involve a comprehensive planning and design process facilitated through an Environmental Assessment.



# STUDY AREA

We invite you to identify where you access the East Don Corridor, how you use the area, and what you notice while you are visiting.  
 (please see maps located on adjacent table)

Our Project Team will use the information you share to inform the existing conditions and requirements for a new multi-use trail in the East Don Corridor.



## Legend

- |   |  |   |                                  |   |                        |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
|  | Regional Study Area                            |    | Taylor Creek Trail               |  | Flemingdon Golf Course |
|  | Existing Multi-use Trail                       |    | West Don Trail                   |  | Don Corridor           |
|  | Gatineau Corridor Trail                        |    | Potential Trail Connection Point |  | Hydro Corridor         |
|  | Lower Don Trail                                |  | Railway                          |  | Watercourses           |
|  | North End of Charles Sauriol Conservation Area |   |                                  |   |                        |

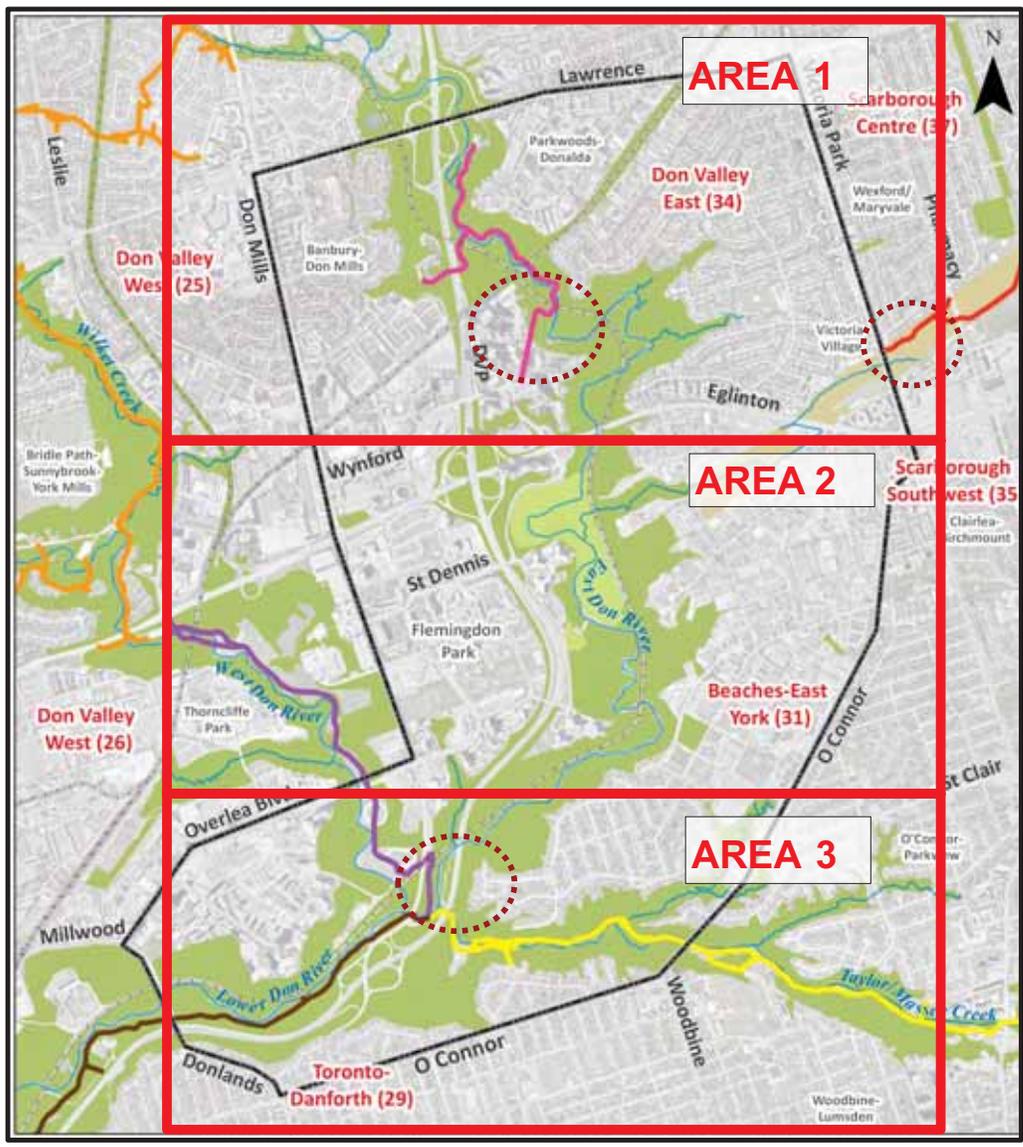
# STUDY AREA

## What do you notice while you are in the East Don Valley Corridor?

Take some time to share how you use the East Don Valley Corridor.

Use the dots to indicate where you access the East Don Valley Corridor. Use the yellow sticky notes to indicate the types of activities you participate in and where. Use the green sticky notes to indicate any interesting features or areas of concern (please explain).

**Access Point**  
**Activity** (e.g. hiking, dog walking, cycling, etc.)  
**Features or areas of concern**



Legend

- |  |                                  |                        |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Regional Study Area                            | Taylor Creek Trail               | Flemingdon Golf Course |
| Existing Multi-use Trail                       | West Don Trail                   | Don Corridor           |
| Gatineau Corridor Trail                        | Potential Trail Connection Point | Hydro Corridor         |
| Lower Don Trail                                |                                  | Railway                |
| North End of Charles Sauriol Conservation Area |                                  | Watercourses           |

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

## Objectives

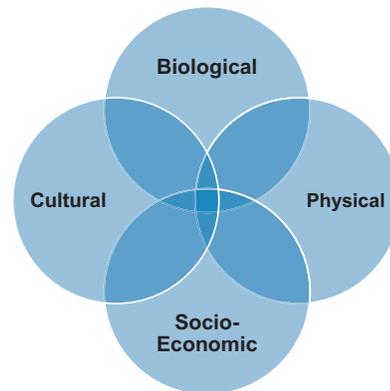
The EA process will ensure that the following is considered during the planning and decision-making for the East Don Trail:



### The Environment

- Aim to minimize, prevent or avoid negative environmental effects.
- Ensure proper impact management taking necessary actions to prevent, change, mitigate or remedy any potential negative environmental effects of the alternatives or undertaking.

Environmental Effects that will be considered include:



### Meaningful Consultation

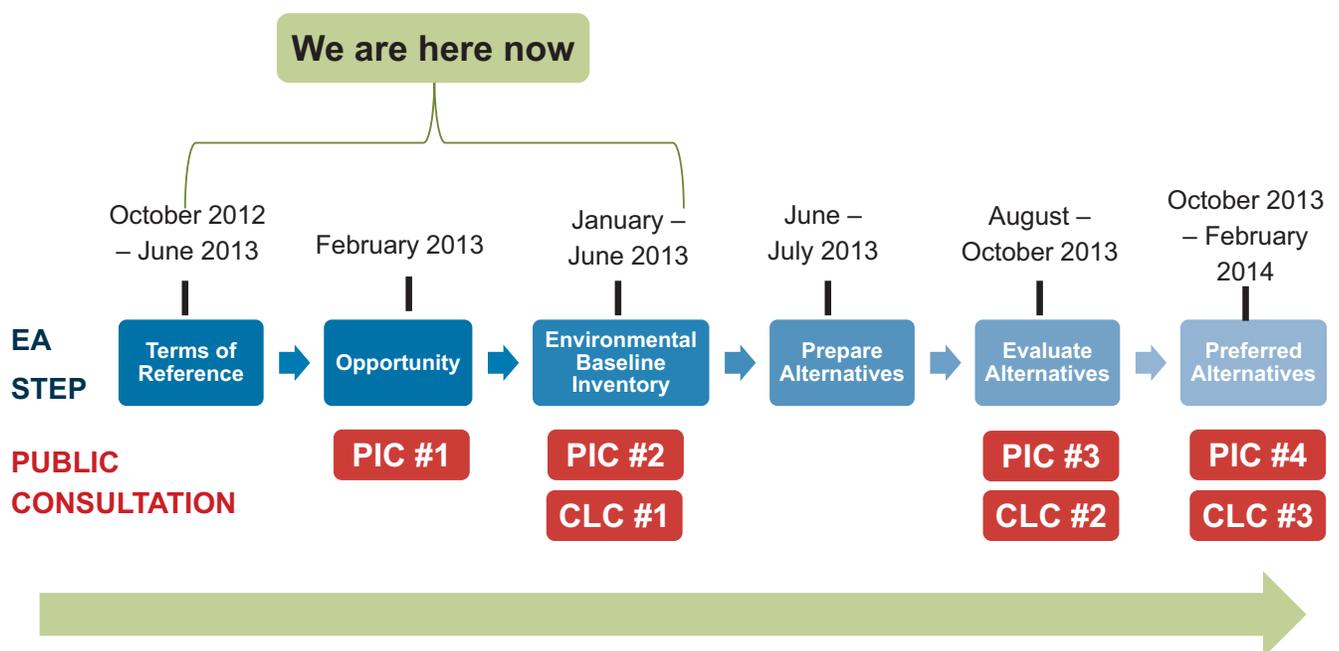
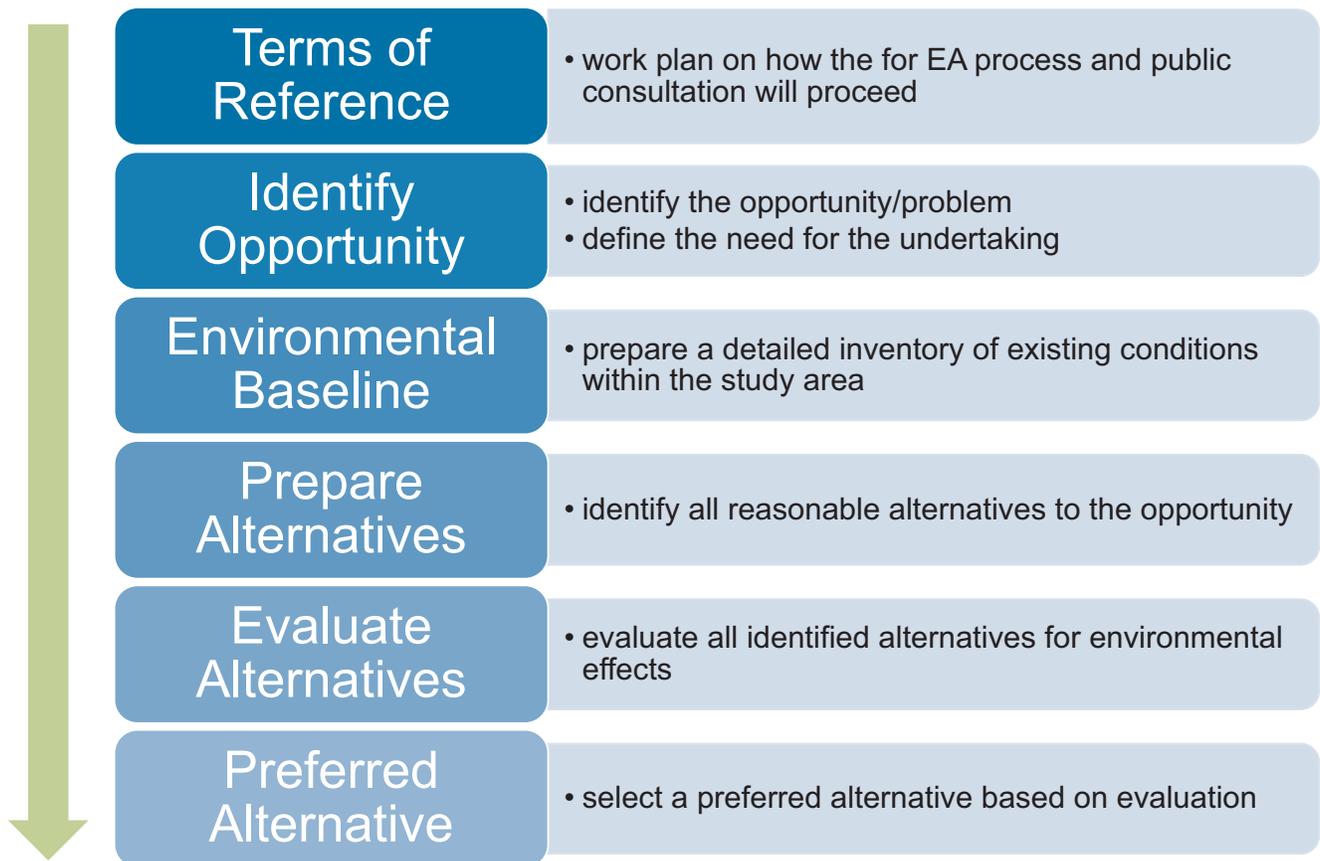
- Ensure all interested persons inputs, comments, and feedback will be heard and incorporated where appropriate.
- Stakeholders include: user groups, landowners, near by residents, affected aboriginal communities, interested and affected persons/groups, regulatory agencies, Councillors, MPs, and MPPs.

### Financially Feasible

- Ensure that the implemented trail design (preferred alternative) will be one that is practical, financially realistic, and economically viable.

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

## Process and Timeline



PIC: Public Information Centres

CLC: Community Liaison Committee

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

## Public Consultation

The East Don Trail EA process will provide all those with a potential interest in the project opportunities to contribute their views during the planning stages of the project

- Consultation with the public, property owners, Aboriginal communities, affected agencies, government agencies, and other interest groups is a pivotal part of the EA process.
- During key points in the EA process interested individuals and groups will be provided an opportunity to contribute to the decision making in a meaningful way.
- Consultation can include such activities as public notices, information distribution, Public Information Centres and a Community Liaison Committee.

### Public Information Centre (PIC)

PICs are meetings in which the public are invited to learn more about the project and provide comments and input. Up to **4** PICs will be held for the East Don Trail EA

### Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

A committee made up of stakeholder representatives will be formed to inform the planning of the East Don Trail. The two key functions of the CLC will be to identify items of public concern related to the impact and design of the project and to offer potential advice or solutions to resolve these concerns. Approximately **3** CLCs will be held for the East Don Trail EA.

We want to hear from you if there are any other ways we can engage the community and provide opportunities for participation.

# EAST DON TRAIL

**Opportunity statement:** A significant gap in the multi-use trail network exists within the East Don Corridor between the north end of Charles Sauriol Conservation Area, the Gatineau Trail and the Lower Don Trail. The East Don Trail will fill this existing gap in the trail network thus creating a continuous connected trail network.

## Trail Objectives

A successful preferred trail route for the East Don Trail will address these 5 main objectives:



### Connections

- The East Don Trail will provide a key connection route linking to local and inter-regional trail systems.

### Public Safety

- The East Don Trail will provide a safe way for people to access the valley system.
- The trail will provide safe off road options (where possible) for cycling and recreational use.
- The trail will investigate options to accommodate emergency and City park maintenance vehicles.

# EAST DON TRAIL

## Trail Objectives

### Natural Environment

- The East Don Trail will be designed to be respectful of the natural environment.
- The trail will provide a single focused route through the green space within the East Don Corridor, assisting in the management of informal trails.
- The trail will be located in an area to minimize negative environmental impacts and thus preventing informal trails from potentially affecting more environmentally sensitive areas.

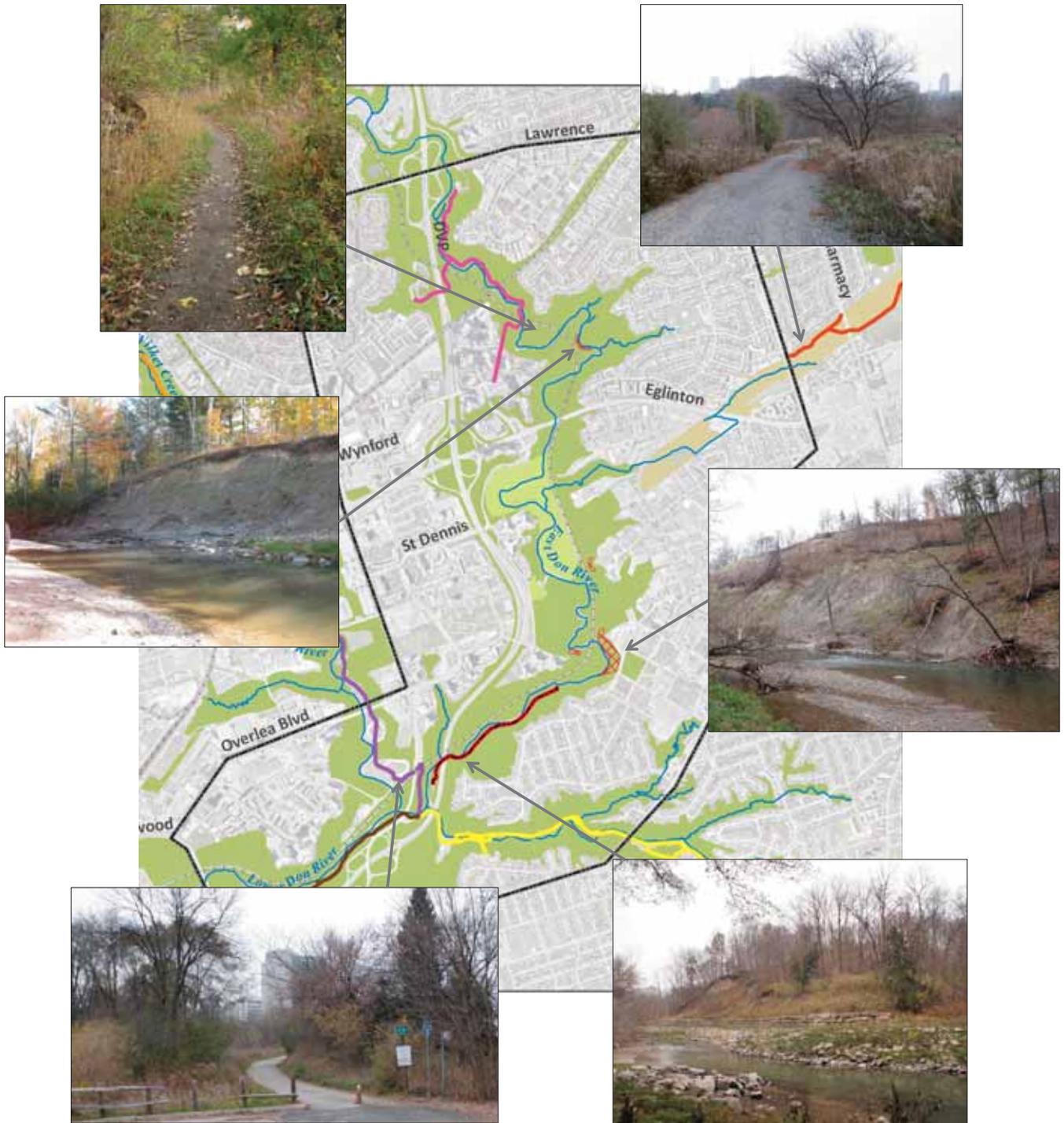
### Recreation

- The East Don Trail will create outdoor recreational opportunities for a variety of users.
- This multi-use trail will provide recreational opportunities for neighboring communities.
- The trail will increase access for people to discover and appreciate natural areas within the City.

### Transportation

- The East Don Trail will function both as a recreational destination and as a commuter route for a variety of users including cyclists.

# EXISTING CONDITIONS



## Legend

- |   |  |   |                                     |   |                        |
|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
|  | Regional Study Area                            |  | Taylor Creek Trail                  |  | Flemingdon Golf Course |
|  | Existing Multi-use Trail                       |  | West Don Trail                      |  | Don Corridor           |
|  | Gatineau Corridor Trail                        |  | Existing Toronto Water Access Route |  | Hydro Corridor         |
|  | Lower Don Trail                                |  | Watercourses                        |  | Erosion Area           |
|  | North End of Charles Sauriol Conservation Area |  | Railway                             |   |                        |

# EAST DON TRAIL

## Trail Specifications

The East Don Trail will be designed as a multi-use trail to support a number of users including (but not limited to): walkers, runners, cyclists, in-line skaters, people with baby strollers, and dog walkers. Accessibility for wheel chair users will be investigated as part of the design process.



Newly constructed trail in north end of Charles Sauriol Conservation Area

General trail specifications that will be investigated and considered as part of the planning and design process will include:

- Width**
  - a trail width of approximately 3.5 to 4 meters to allow bi-directional trail use.
- Markings**
  - a centre line to separate directional paths and arrow markings to remind all users to travel on the right.
- Grade**
  - where possible maintain flat grades. Design trail slope as required for drainage and to accommodate topography. Where possible slope grades will be kept below 5%.
- Surface**
  - City of Toronto standard trail surface for multi-use trails is asphalt as the hard surface supports a variety of trail users and abilities. In addition asphalt does not erode and has low maintenance costs.
- Signage and Wayfinding**
  - adequate signage will be incorporated including: regulatory, warning and informational. Signs will be placed in clearly visible locations.

Detailed specifications will be developed as part of the Environmental Assessment process.

# EAST DON TRAIL

## Trail Etiquette

All multi-use pathway users have a responsibility to be considerate and respectful of all park/trail users.

The following tips are provided to help ensure that all pathway users have an enjoyable and safe experience:



**Cyclists rollerbladers, and similar faster-moving persons must yield to pedestrians.**

**Faster trail users should pass on the left and keep to the right when on the trail.**

**Only pass when it is safe to do so and the trail is wide enough.**

**When riding a bike, let people know you are approaching by ringing your bell or giving a friendly greeting.**

**Dogs should be kept on a leash in parks, except in designated off-leash areas.**

**To protect the pathways and parks, stay on the trail and don't litter.**

**According to the Parks By-law, trail users including cyclists and rollerbladers and skateboarders should not exceed the speed of 20km/h when traveling in a park.**

**If the pathway is busy with pedestrians, consider walking instead of cycling, rollerblading or skateboarding**