

Public Event Information Sheet

East Don Trail Environmental Assessment

East Don Trail Objectives

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

- **Connection:** the trail will provide a key connection route linking to local and inter-regional trail systems.
- **Public Safety:** the trail will provide a safe way for people to access the valley system.
- **Natural Environment:** the trail will be designed to be respectful of the natural environment.
- **Recreation:** the trail will create outdoor recreational opportunities for a variety of users
- **Transportation:** the trail will function both as a recreational destination and as a commuter route for a variety of users including cyclists.

Thank you for attending the first public meeting on the East Don Trail Environmental Assessment (EA). Your comments are important. All comments will be reviewed by the Project Team and will help inform the EA process. All meeting materials will be made available online. For more information, visit www.toronto.ca/eastdontrail or contact:

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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

Background

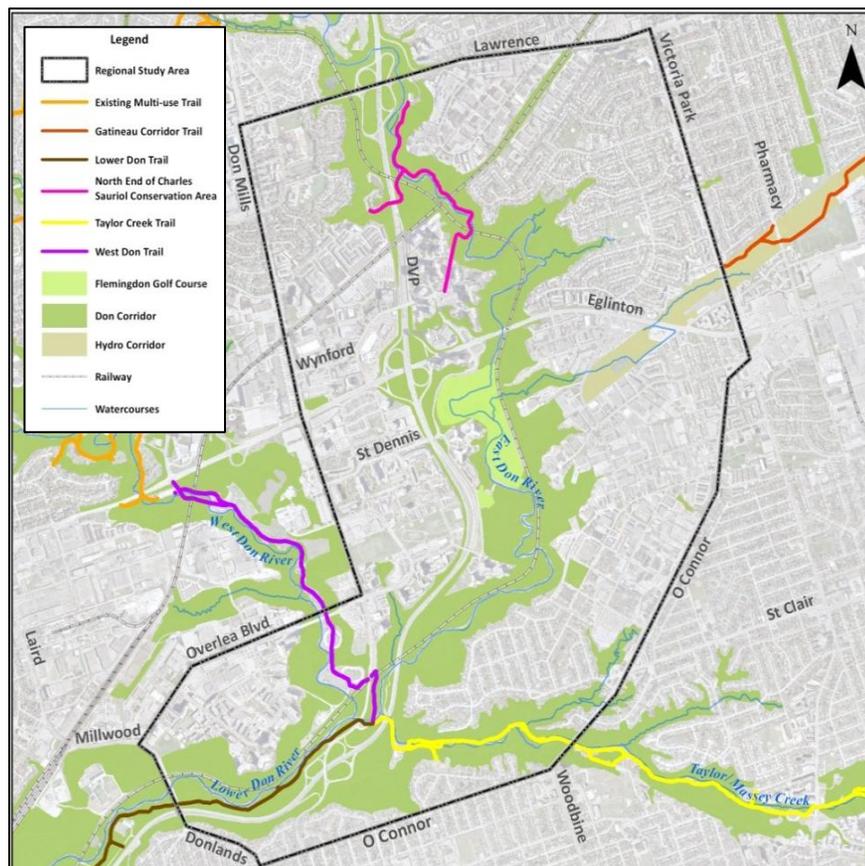
During the summer of 2011, the City of Toronto conducted an audit of its existing major multi-use trail network to assess the viability of new trail connections. The findings were produced as the *Bikeway Trails Implementation Plan*, which recommends 77 km of new trails be added to the existing trail network. The Plan was approved by City Council at its meeting on June 6 2012. The East Don Trail is the largest and most complex multi-use trail project in the Plan and is identified as a short-term priority.

In May 2012, a feasibility study assessed the potential for a trail system through the East Don Corridor from the north end of Charles Sauriol Conservation Area to the intersection of the Don Valley Parkway and Don Mills. 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

The boundaries of the regional study area are Lawrence Avenue to the north, O'Connor Drive to the south, Victoria Park Avenue to the east, and Don Mills and Laird Drive to the west. The area is surrounded by several existing multi-use trail systems including the Lower Don Trail, West Don Trail, Taylor Creek Trails, Gataineau Corridor Trail and the newly built trail at the north end of Charles Sauriol Conservation Area.



Environmental Assessment

The East Don Trail Project is being carried out under a provincially mandated Environmental Assessment (EA) process. A range of alternatives will be identified and evaluated to determine a preferred main trail route. The evaluation process will consider:

- Technical feasibility
- Terrestrial and aquatic impacts
- Social impacts
- Cost and constructability
- Operations and maintenance

The EA process will provide the community and area residents opportunities to contribute at each stage in the process.

Environmental Assessment Objectives

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

- The Environment: the process will aim to minimize, prevent or avoid negative environmental effects including the biological, physical, cultural, and socio-economic.
- Meaningful Consultation: the process will ensure all interested persons inputs, comments, and feedback will be heard and incorporated where appropriate.
- Financially Feasible: the process will ensure that the implemented trail design will be one that is practical, financially realistic, and economically viable.

