



Transition Sports Fields in the Port Lands

Increasing Recreational Opportunities on the Waterfront

Improving public access to the waterfront and giving people more reasons to use it are key objectives of the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation (TWRC). TWRC is delivering on these objectives by leading revitalization with the development of new parks and public spaces and increasing waterfront recreational opportunities.

Transition Sports Fields Project

In 2004, TWRC received \$5 million to develop transition sports fields in the Port Lands. The project is supported by the federal, provincial and municipal governments. The City of Toronto's strategic plan for parks and recreation, "Our Common Ground," identifies the need for playing fields as a top priority, especially in the south end of the city. The fields are in keeping with TWRC's mandate to expand recreational opportunities on the waterfront.

Two regulation sports fields are being built on the south side of Unwin Avenue just west of Regatta Road. This area falls within the boundaries of the future Lake Ontario Park. The Lake Ontario Park Master Plan, which is currently under development, identifies the area south of Unwin as the ideal place for active recreation uses, including playing fields. With a life of about 10-years, these sports fields are considered transitional. The number and location of permanent playing fields will be determined through the Lake Ontario Park Master Plan. Additionally, by 2010, Commissioners Park will be complete. This park is also located in the Port Lands between Commissioners Street and the Keating Channel, and will include four regulation size playing fields.

Site preparation work for the transitional sports fields will begin in January 2007 and construction will be complete in the spring—in time for the 2007 children's soccer season.

Key Elements

- ✓ Two regulation size playing fields constructed of artificial turf
- ✓ Composting toilet facilities
- ✓ Children's playground
- ✓ Extensive landscaping including the addition of approximately 1000 trees



Lake Ontario Park

Lake Ontario Park is one of the signature new parks TWRC is developing as part of waterfront revitalization. Extending from Cherry Beach to Ashbridges Bay and including the Leslie Street Spit, the park will offer an urban wilderness, water sports, recreation and culture along 37 kilometres of shoreline. A master plan is currently being developed for the park and is scheduled to be complete in summer 2007.

Recognizing the Existing Character of the Port Lands

In planning the sports fields and developing the Master Plan for Lake Ontario Park, TWRC has recognized the intrinsic value of the character of existing spaces in the area including Cherry Beach, the Baselands, Tommy Thompson Park and the Don Greenway. These areas are made up of more than 500 acres which allows for the introduction of additional complimentary uses. In the case of the sports fields, TWRC has committed to a significant tree planting strategy and designed a berm at the south end of the site to act as a buffer between the active recreation uses on the fields and the more naturalized, passive uses to the south.



Public Consultation

Community consultation has been an important part of the sports fields project. TWRC held the first open house in April 2006 followed by another open house and public meeting in September. Input has also been received through several meetings with the Port Lands Action Committee starting in the summer of 2006.

Environmental Benefits

In addition to meeting important recreational needs, the sports fields project also has significant environmental benefits.

Site Clean-up

Like much of the Port Lands, the site is contaminated from previous industrial use and lead levels on the site are well in excess of Ministry of the Environment (MOE) standards. As part of the sports fields project, the site will be brought up to MOE standards with a strategy approved by Toronto Public Health.

Tree Replacement Strategy

The widely accepted method to address lead contamination is to add a cap of clean soil. This cap will kill the roots of the existing trees on the site – approximately 500 – but TWRC will be replacing the trees at a rate of about 5:1. Two-thirds of these trees being planted on the sports fields site. The landscape plan also includes planting about 1200 native shrubs. The large stand of trees at Cherry Beach are not affected by the sports fields project.

Storm water Management

A ditch currently provides drainage on the site. A culvert will be installed to protect site users from the contamination in the ditch and to allow surface drainage from Unwin Avenue under the sports fields. An effective storm water management system will be installed and run-off will be monitored on a continual basis.



Sports Fields Implementation Schedule

January 2007	Site preparation starts
April 2007	Site preparation complete
April 2007	Field construction and landscaping, including tree planting starts
May 2007	Construction and landscaping complete

Contact Us

For more information about the sports fields and/or the Lake Ontario Park Master Plan go to the TWRC website at www.towaterfront.ca or call 416-214-1344 ext. 248