

Hello, friends,

Have you wondered what is going on beyond the fence at the east side of the Baselands?

It's the Ashbridge's Bay Treatment Plant Landform Project...

Most of the visitors to the Spit/TTP are aware of the massive project taking place on the waterfront east of the Baselands natural area. Friends of the Spit was invited by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to visit the site this summer.

This construction is taking place to provide additional lands for the expansion of the Ashbridge's Bay Treatment Plant. The Toronto Region Conservation Authority is overseeing this project and are using it as an opportunity to improve erosion protection, provide enhanced fish and fish breeding habitat, allow public access along a designated trail along the water's edge, and expand the landform of the Spit/TTP.

The project along an 1800 metre stretch of shoreline will establish 16.4 hectares of useable land and 5.6 hectares of erosion control structures. It is estimated that approximately 2.5 hectares of land on the west end will be planted with native species and eventually become part of Tommy Thompson Park. This is approximately where Cell 1 (red) is located, shown in Photo 1.

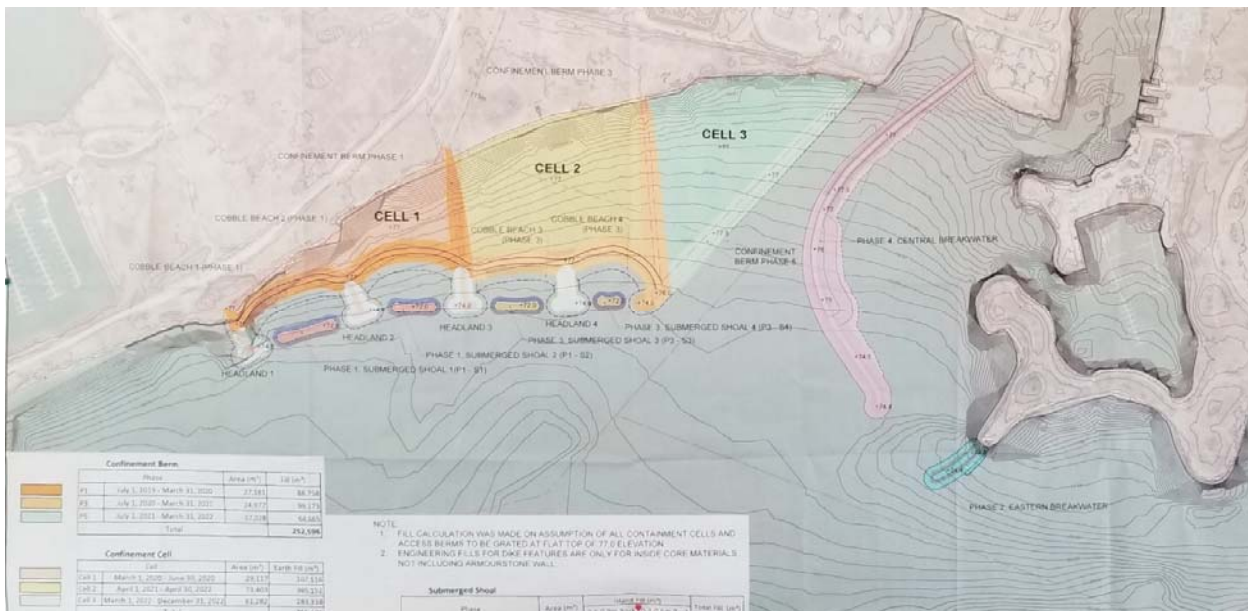


Photo 1

The majority of the fill in the cells is made up of material being removed from the tunnelling of the ABTP outlet pipe beneath the floor of Lake Ontario.

The area designated to be part of the landform at The Spit/TTP still requires a lot of work including stabilization of the shoreline and eventually the addition with a thick layer of topsoil to support the recommended plantings.

Friends of the Spit has been told that we will be consulted regarding the plantings and their proposed arrangements. It is estimated that the plantings won't be taking place until 2024. Photo 2 is taken from the landform on July 13, 2022 looking west towards the Spit/TTP.



Photo 2

Two of the three cells have been filled and cell 3 is in the process of being filled. Photo 3.



Photo 3

The headlands are massive structures constructed with huge pieces of armour stone. Whenever possible the TRCA re-uses existing materials from its other projects. Photo 4.

The area between these structures will have barrier islands constructed as well as shallow areas adjacent to gently sloping “gravel” beaches to create sheltered areas to provide breeding habitat for fish.

Plans are for a public trail to be constructed parallel to the shoreline extending to the eastern-most point facing the new breakwater (under construction) and Ashbridge’s Bay Park. A considerable amount of planning is required by the TRCA in order to prevent access to the Ashbridge’s Bay Treatment Plant and to prevent access to areas along the shoreline which may pose a danger to the public.



Photo 4

Photo 5 will give the reader some idea of the scale of this project and an appreciation for the amount of time required to complete it.



Photo 5

Friends of the Spit appreciates, and is looking forward to, this opportunity to assist the TRCA in the planning for the plantings and certainly looking forward to this increase in land area for The Spit/TTP.

More information regarding this project is available at <https://trca.ca/conservation/green-infrastructure/ashbridges-bay-erosion-sediment-control-project/#status>

Friends of the Spit, October 2022.