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CDNS 4403 - Assignment 3

REVIVING NATURAL HERITAGE of the DON RIVER

Corktown Commons - Toronto, Ontario

Sustainable Heritage Case Study
Class Presentation
November 24, 2022.

TIMELINE

1879

Economic Success

Don River is a working landscape (Industrial Revolution), brings economic success to Toronto at the cost of the Lower Don River

1996

Province of Ontario Takes Title to Lands

Past efforts to clean the river fail - Hurricane Hazel (1954) makes matters more pressing and \$350M used for clean up was inadequate to get rid of soil contaminants

2014

Corktown Commons Park is Complete

Official opening takes place after completing construction in 2012

1886

First Attempt to Clean

The Don River Improvement Project is created to help clean sewage from river - project fails due to lack of ecological knowledge at the time

2005

Waterfront Toronto Develops Framework

WT's sustainable framework guides all waterfront projects after its creation in 2001 by the local, provincial and federal government

Indigenous Habitation

Women made pottery from clay deposits, Wendat longhouse villages developed along the river to cultivate corn

Once adjacent Ashbridges Bay Marsh

1787: York purchase

"Sacrificing the Don River was the price of progress."



Laura Solano. FROM WATERLAND TO PARKLAND: THE MAKING OF CORKTOWN COMMON

DESCRIPTION

Where: Lower Don River, Toronto

Construction led by: Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates

Fully completed in: 2012

- Park in the downtown core
- Enhances natural contours of land
 - Wet side: absence of planted trees
 - Dry side: social gathering + well-being
 - Northern entrance: connection to urban landscape
- Environmental + social sustainability

**URBAN PARKS
FLOOD PREVENTION
GATHERING
RENEWABLE ENERGY
ECOLOGICAL
LANDSCAPE
WELL-BEING
DON RIVER
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE**





Meghan Hogan, Dowers, Tennille. FROM THE ARCHIVES: CORKTOWN COMMON

WHO IS INVOLVED

RIGHTS HOLDERS

- Waterfront Toronto (municipal, provincial, federal government)
- Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

STAKEHOLDERS

- City of Toronto, Province of Ontario, federal government - Waterfront Toronto
- Bring Back the Don
- West Don Lands Committee
- Local residents of the Corktown Commons and Lower Don Lands
- Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates
- Extended design team: Maryann Thompson Architects, ARUP, **Pine and Swallow Environmental, Great Eastern Ecology, Creative Irrigation, Trow, The Planning Partnership, Greenberg Consulting**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 3 - social

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



SDG 11 - social

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 7 - environmental

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



SDG 15 - environmental

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

economical

Attracts visitors and locals alike, in contrast to its past as brownfield and ecological disaster zone

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 3

Promotes the usage of walking/biking (barrier-free)



SDG 11

Park protects area against flooding + acts as a neighbourhood amenity

SDG 7

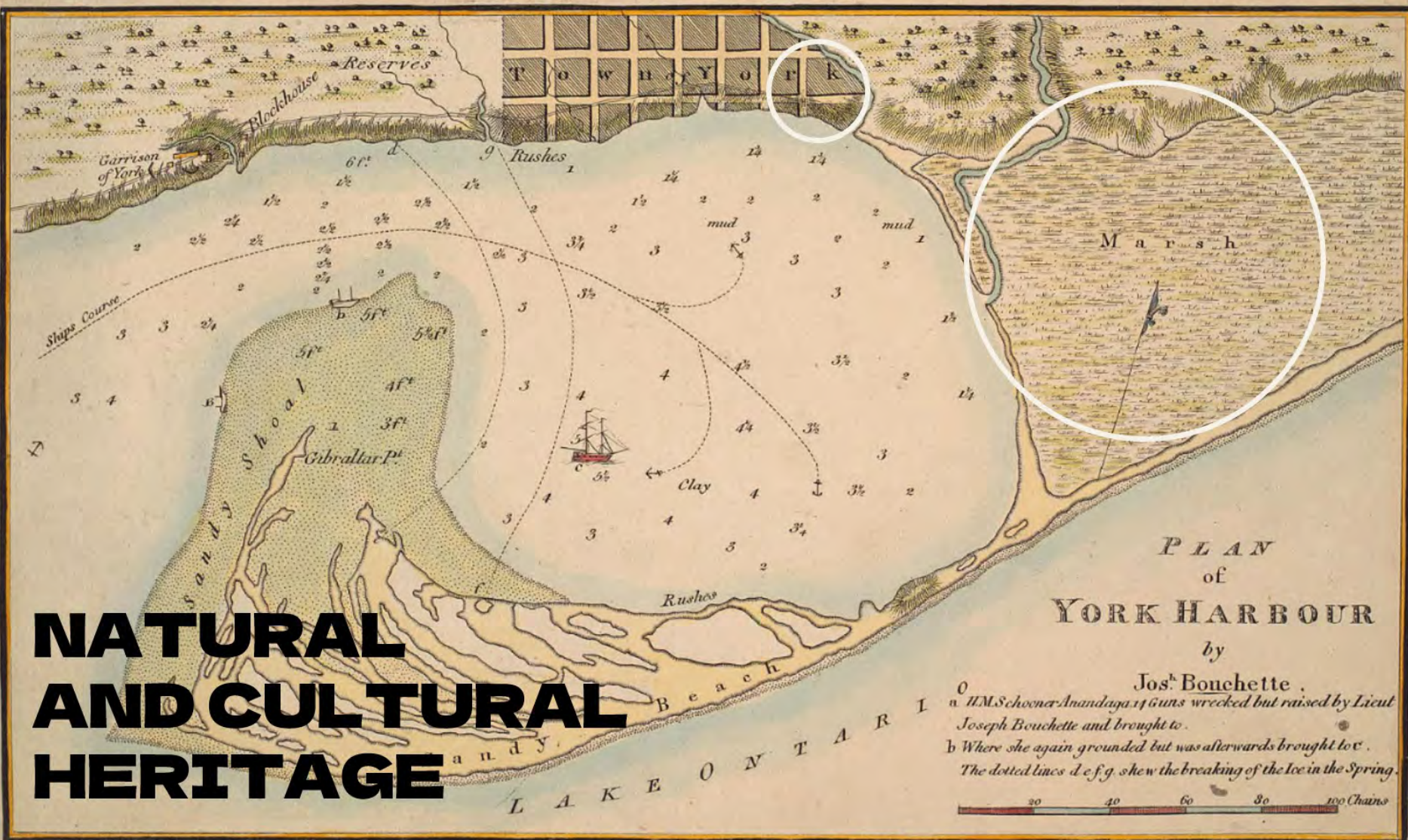
Solar panels on south side (onsite power needs) + rainwater collection/management



SDG 15

Local species of plants are planted to promote local propagation and benefit wildlife in the region

Stormwater management system collects rainfall for irrigation + filtration



**NATURAL
AND CULTURAL
HERITAGE**

PLAN
of
YORK HARBOUR
by
Jos. Bouchette

0
a HMSchooner Anandaga, 14 Guns wrecked but raised by Licut Joseph Bouchette and brought to.
b Where she again grounded but was afterwards brought to c.
The dotted lines d e f g shew the breaking of the Ice in the Spring.

20 40 60 80 100 Chains

Published by W. Faden Charting Cross Street Aug 20 1815

J. Walker Sculp.

Laura Solano. FROM WATERLAND TO PARKLAND: THE MAKING OF CORKTOWN COMMON



NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Laura Solano. FROM WATERLAND TO PARKLAND: THE MAKING OF CORKTOWN COMMON

NATURAL

- Embracing the ecological characteristics of Ashbridges Bay Marsh and the surrounding environment
 - Wet and Dry Side
- Use of natural materials (clay) as a way to stabilize and strengthen the landmass foundation

CULTURAL

- Resource for Indigenous communities
- Large role in Toronto's economic success during the Industrial Revolution
- Don River as a whole guides major Toronto roadways
- Destruction of built environment added to its character and history

NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

LESSONS LEARNED

Placing more focus on Indigenous history is vital, especially considering the emphasis on waterways and natural landscapes.

Funded efforts alone do not guarantee a solution to a project and that specialized knowledge and work is vital to its success.

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