



LAKE VICTORIA LOOP

Preliminary Concept & Feasibility

GHENT
LANDSCAPE



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01

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT OBJECTIVES

Building on the strategic direction established by Destination Stratford, the Lake Victoria Loop is intended to create a year-round, accessible, complete loop that strengthens connections between people, nature, and Stratford's cultural heritage. The project is envisioned as a vibrant and sustainable public waterfront that supports recreation, gathering, discovery, and meaningful connections to the landscape in every season.

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT OBJECTIVES

Envisioned to serve both Stratford residents and the more than one million visitors the city welcomes annually, The Loop will provide a continuous network of trails, gathering spaces, rest areas, and amenities that support everyday recreation, community events, cultural programming, and seasonal experiences. Completing The Loop around Lake Victoria will create a cohesive pedestrian experience, allowing users to experience the waterfront as a connected destination rather than a series of individual spaces. Cultural, educational, and interpretive opportunities throughout the corridor will further celebrate Stratford's unique history, identity, and relationship with the Avon River.

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT OBJECTIVES

Sustainability will remain a fundamental principle throughout the planning and design process. In collaboration with environmental agencies and specialists, future improvements along Lake Victoria and the Avon River will respond to ecological sensitivities, enhance shoreline resilience, and support long-term habitat health & water quality. Proposed boardwalks, trail improvements, landscape interventions, and public amenities will be refined through detailed design to minimize environmental impacts while improving access, ecological performance, and the overall experience of the waterfront.

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT OBJECTIVES

Accessibility, comfort, and long-term functionality will guide the development of the Loop. Trail systems, boardwalks, furnishings, signage, amenities, and facility upgrades will be designed around universal design principles, creating an inclusive experience for users of all ages and abilities. A continuous and intuitive route, supported by appropriate rest areas, wayfinding, and accessible amenities, will allow more people to experience Lake Victoria and the surrounding landscape throughout the year.

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT OBJECTIVES

Through a coordinated approach to connectivity, accessibility, environmental stewardship, and public space design, the Lake Victoria Loop is envisioned as a complete, year-round destination—one that celebrates Stratford's natural and cultural character while creating a resilient and welcoming waterfront for residents and visitors for generations to come.



02

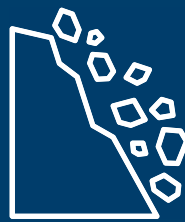
SITE CONDITIONS

Review and analysis of the existing conditions which lead to the objectives and goals for The Lake Victoria Loop

SITE CONDITIONS



Lack of accessibility on North Shore is a major limitation to the functionality, programmability, and the connecting loop



Shoreline erosion at Avon River/Lake Victoria combined with the roadside erosion at William Street yielding unsustainable & inaccessible paths and park amenities



Multiple factors leading to a broken link to connect the loop of Lake Victoria including inaccessible paths, inconvenient pedestrian crossings combined with major shoreline loss



Existing limestone paths lack the durability and surface type to allow for general maintenance for accessibility



Existing stormwater management from adjacent neighbourhood is not designed to allow for major development in North Shore Park. Seasonal flooding and path washout are a major concern





Seasonal flooding and pathway deterioration



William Street shoulder erosion



Broken Connection to Lake Victoria Loop



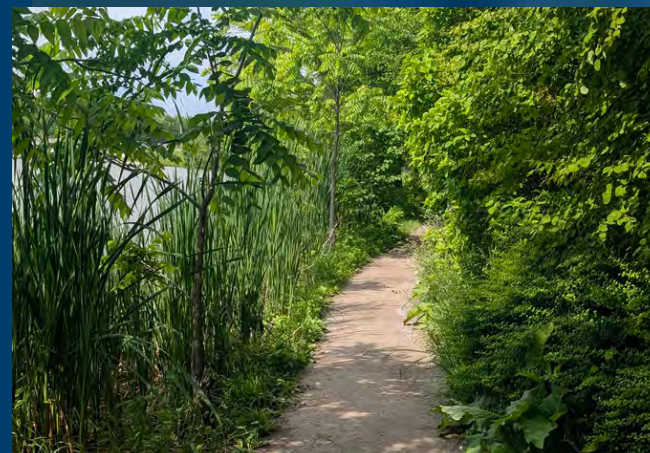
Seasonal limitations to washroom facilities & maintenance access



South Shore accessibility concerns



Lake Victoria erosion and pathway durability



Naturalization of North Shore



Pinch point at William Street & North Shore path



Neighbourly Relationship w/ Pathways



03

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT REVIEW

A comprehensive review of the early stages of design.

LAKE VICTORIA LOOP



FUTURE CITY OF STRATFORD CIVIL PROJECT:
THE FEASIBILITY OF FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS AT NORTH SHORE PARK IS DEPENDENT, IN PART, ON THE CITY'S ABILITY TO ADDRESS BROADER DRAINAGE, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, EROSION, AND PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS AT WILLIAM STREET. FUTURE CITY PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE POTENTIAL INSTALLATION OF CURB AND GUTTER INFRASTRUCTURE, AND /OR LANDSCAPE BERMING TO IMPROVE DRAINAGE, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF A COORDINATED APPROACH TO THE AREA FOR PHASE 2. WHILE THESE IMPROVEMENTS FALL OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE LAKE VICTORIA LOOP PLAN, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH SHORE WILL REQUIRE A BROADER STRATEGY FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND EROSION CONTROL. CITY SUPPORT FOR THESE FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE A KEY CONSIDERATION IN ESTABLISHING A FEASIBLE, RESILIENT, AND SUSTAINABLE FRAMEWORK FOR THE LAKE VICTORIA LOOP AND SURROUNDING LANDS.

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE CONNECTION: IMPROVED PATHWAY EXTENTS WITH A FOCUS ON ACCESSIBILITY, EROSION CONTROL, ECOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS, AND SENSITIVITY TO NEIGHBOURING PROPERTIES



1.4KM LONG IMPROVED MULTI-USE LIT PATHWAYS WITH IMPROVED SHORELINES & PARK AMENITIES

COMPLETING THE LOOP SAFELY: CROSSWALK IMPROVEMENTS FOR INCREASED PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC AND BOARDWALK ACCESS



STRATEGICALLY DESIGNED GATHERING SPACES WITH A SENSITIVITY TO NEIGHBOURS SIGHTLINES AND PRIVACY



EXPLORE EXISTING ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS ALONG THE SHORELINE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HABITAT, VEGETATION, WATER QUALITY, AND SHORELINE STABILITY, AND INFORM FUTURE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS.



DESIGN WITH A SENSITIVE APPROACH TO THE ADJACENT NEIGHBOURS. CONSIDER EXISTING SIGHTLINES, ACCESS TO THE WATER, PRIVACY, AND THE CHARACTER OF THE SURROUNDING PROPERTIES. STRATEGICALLY SELECTED MATERIALS, LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS, AND THEIR PLACEMENT CAN ENHANCE THE SHORELINE EXPERIENCE WHILE CAREFULLY MANAGING VIEWS, SOUND, PRIVACY, AND ACCESS.

PHASE 1

335M LONG RAISED BOARDWALK WITH CONNECTIONS AT WATERLOO STREET & R. THOMAS ORR DAM



COMPLETING THE LOOP MUST INCLUDE ADDRESSING ACCESSIBILITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS ON THE SOUTH SHORE OF LAKE VICTORIA. CROSSWALK IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS WELL AS ADDRESSING SIDEWALK SURFACE MATERIALS AND WIDTHS WHERE APPLICABLE.

PHASE 2

ACCESSIBLE MULTI-USE PATH & PARK AMENITIES

POSSIBLE FUTURE PHASES OF IMPROVED PARK AMENITIES: CONSIDER IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY FOR PARK AMENITIES WITH A FULLY ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND OR A NATURALIZED PLAYGROUND



FUTURE PROOF PATHWAYS: ADDRESS WILLIAM STREET EROSION CONCERNS WITH AN IMPROVED CONNECTION BETWEEN PINCH POINT AT NORTH SHORE PATH AND WILLIAM STREET



SEASONAL-USE WASHROOM IMPROVEMENTS: YEAR ROUND FUNCTIONALITY FOR USE DURING WINTER MONTHS. INSTALL INTERIOR HEATING SYSTEM AND INSULATION. ACCESSIBILITY IS A PRIORITY FOR FUNCTIONALITY AND MAINTENANCE



MINOR SURFACE IMPROVEMENTS TO ADDRESS BRIDGE ACCESSIBILITY, COMPLETING THE LAKE VICTORIA LOOP ENSURING ACCESSIBILITY AND YEAR ROUND MAINTENANCE ARE FEASIBLE



POSSIBLE FUTURE PHASES FOR IMPROVED PARK AMENITIES: NORTH SHORE PARK AMENITIES MISSING DEDICATED GATHERING SPACES. POSSIBLE COLLABORATION WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY FOR GATHERING CIRCLE



LAKE VICTORIA LOOP PRELIMINARY CONCEPT

CONCEPT VISION

The Lake Victoria Loop will create a year-round, accessible, 3.3KM complete loop that connects people, nature, and Stratford's cultural heritage through a vibrant and sustainable public waterfront.

Building on the strategic direction established by Destination Stratford, The Loop is envisioned as a welcoming destination for residents and visitors alike—supporting everyday recreation, cultural experiences, community gathering, and seasonal programming while providing meaningful connections to the landscape and the Avon River.

Sustainability will be fundamental to the vision, guiding how the shoreline, natural systems, infrastructure, and public spaces are planned and managed for long-term resilience. Through thoughtful design, universal accessibility, and sensitive environmental stewardship, the Lake Victoria Loop will become a distinctive public asset that remains inviting, functional, and connected to Stratford for generations to come.

The feasibility phase is intended to explore the opportunities, constraints, and investment required to realize the vision, while considering long-term value and financial feasibility. Investments should strive to create equitable value for both residents and visitors, supporting a waterfront that serves the community while strengthening Stratford's appeal as a destination.

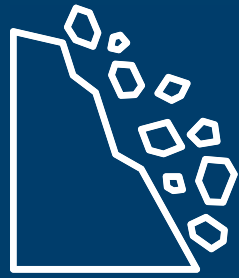
PHASE 1

COMPLETING THE 3.3KM LAKE VICTORIA LOOP. COMBINING A PROPOSED 335M LONG BOARDWALK WITH SHORELINE AND ECOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH THE WATER

PHASE 2

COMPLETE THE YEAR ROUND, ACCESSIBLE, AND SUSTAINABLE CONNECTION FOR A LAKE VICTORIA LOOP WITH IMPROVEMENTS TO PARK AMENITIES, ACCESSIBLE PATHWAYS, IMPROVED CONNECTIONS, SHORELINE EROSION & A SENSITIVE FOCUS ON ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

PHASE 1 - CONCEPT ELEMENTS



Shoreline erosion control methods & proposed ecological improvements to improve water quality and environmental sustainability



Raised Boardwalk proposed connecting Waterloo St to R. Thomas Orr Dam, completing the broken link of a complete loop. Boardwalk conceptualized at **1,100 Linear Feet** including two large viewing platforms. Total Square Footage of boardwalk combining to an impressive **13,400 Square Feet**. This attraction creates a missing North Shore connection and plenty of viewing area for water events, nature observation and passive programming

PHASE 2 & FUTURE CONSIDERATION



Installation of **4600 Linear Feet** of Multi-Use Path, providing an accessible pedestrian route from Lakeside Drive to Waterloo St including additional access points along path



Improvements to North Shore Washroom to allow for use during winter months



Proposed Playground to replace existing. Fully accessible or Naturalized Playground the recommended options



Indigenous Gathering Circle Proposed in North Shore Park



04

VISUALIZATIONS

A review of visual renders to provide a realistic representation of The Lake Victoria Loop









LAKE VICTORIA
LOOP















05

PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY

Introductory budgets to allow for feedback to narrow priorities, goals and objectives as the concept develops

PHASE 1 - BOARDWALK

REQUIRED STUDIES, ENGINEERING & APPROVALS

Topographic & legal survey	\$10,000 – \$30,000
Permitting & agency coordination	\$10,000 – \$25,000
Detailed design services	\$100,000 – \$200,000
Geotechnical investigations	\$15,000 – \$25,000
Environmental assessment / natural heritage studies	\$3,000 – \$5,000
Drainage & stormwater engineering	\$10,000 – \$15,000
Electrical engineering & servicing review	\$5,000 – \$10,000
Subtotal	\$153,000 – \$310,000

Includes anticipated investigations, engineering studies, environmental review, permitting support, and detailed design services required to advance the project from concept through construction documentation.



Prepared by:

GHENT
LANDSCAPE



Prepared for:

**DESTINATION
STRATFORD**
ARTS **THE ARTS ARE
WHAT WE ARE**

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