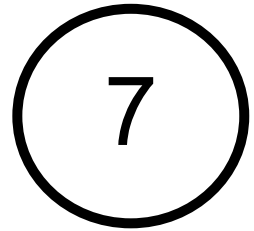


District Plan Bulletin Series

# District Plan Submission: Proposed Parks and Natural Heritage Features



April 2021

*This is the seventh in a series of Bulletins being produced by Canada Lands, with the support of their consultant team, to synthesize key topics discussed and respond to community questions related to the future of the William Baker Neighbourhood and the District Plan Submission to the City of Toronto.*

## Overview

Following two years and three phases of community consultation, Canada Lands has submitted their proposed William Baker District Plan (for the entire William Baker neighbourhood) and rezoning and subdivision applications (for Phase One of the neighbourhood) to the City of Toronto for review.

Since submitting the proposed District Plan to the City, there has been a keen interest in learning more about how Canada Lands' proposal for the woodlot (an important natural heritage feature) and park space compares to what was included in the 2011 Downsview Area Secondary Plan. The maps and table on the next page provide this comparison and show that the District Plan Submission includes:

- A net gain of greenspace;
- A green connection to Downsview Park;
- A mix of natural heritage and green spaces for active and passive recreation; and
- A maximum 2-minute walk to greenspace for all future residents of the William Baker neighbourhood.

Canada Lands remains committed to preserving and enhancing the woodlot during development of the neighbourhood, including when servicing the site and establishing requirements of future builders.

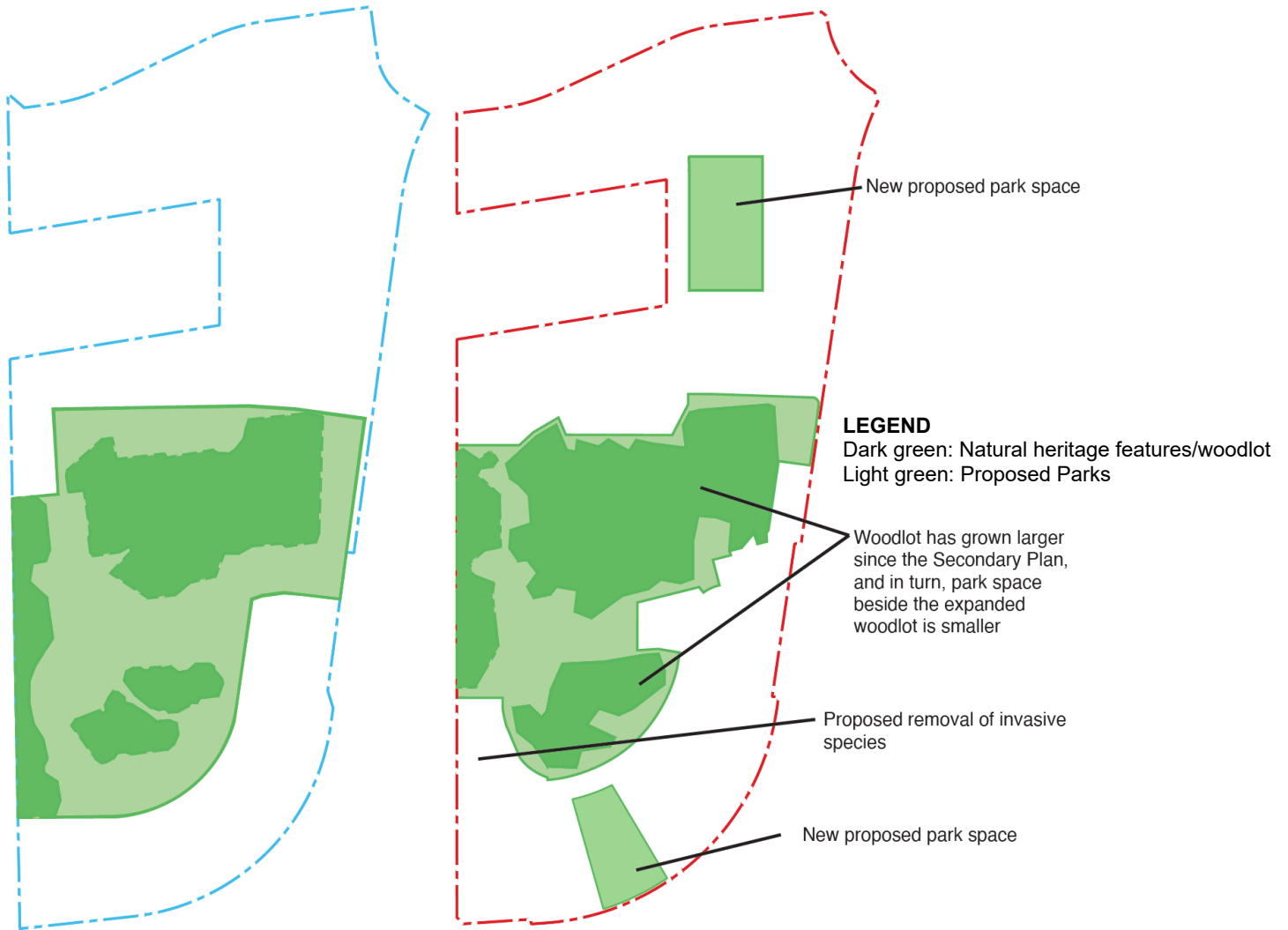
The proposed District Plan and applications will be reviewed and refined, as necessary, following consultation with the community, and in collaboration with the City of Toronto. During the review period, which is anticipated to take approximately two years, the City will lead public consultation. Following the review of the District Plan, Canada Lands will turn over the woodlot and park space to the City for long term stewardship.

### **This Bulletin includes information about:**

- How the woodlot and park space included in Canada Lands' William Baker District Plan submission provides a net gain of greenspace when compared to the 2011 Downsview Area Secondary Plan (p. 2)
- Steps being taken to preserve and enhance the woodlot during development (p.3)

## 2011 Downsview Area Secondary Plan

## William Baker Neighbourhood District Plan Submitted to the City of Toronto by Canada Lands



	2011 Downsview Area Secondary Plan*	Canada Lands' District Plan Submission	Difference	% of Total William Baker Area (62 acres)
<b>Total Area of Greenspace</b>	<b>22.5 acres</b> (9.1 ha)	<b>23.2 acres</b> (9.4 ha)	<b>+0.7 acres</b> (0.3 ha)	<b>37%</b>
Natural Heritage Features/Woodlot	10.6 acres (4.3 ha)	13.1 acres (5.2 ha)	+2.5 acres (1 ha)	21%
Proposed parks	11.9 acres (4.8 ha)	10.1 acres (4.1 ha)	-1.8 acres (0.7 ha)	16%

\*The 2011 Downsview Area Secondary Plan establishes a high-level vision for the William Baker District with maps that are conceptual and not to scale. The numbers included here are approximate estimates only for the purposes of comparison with Canada Lands' District Plan Submission.

## Preserving and enhancing the woodlot

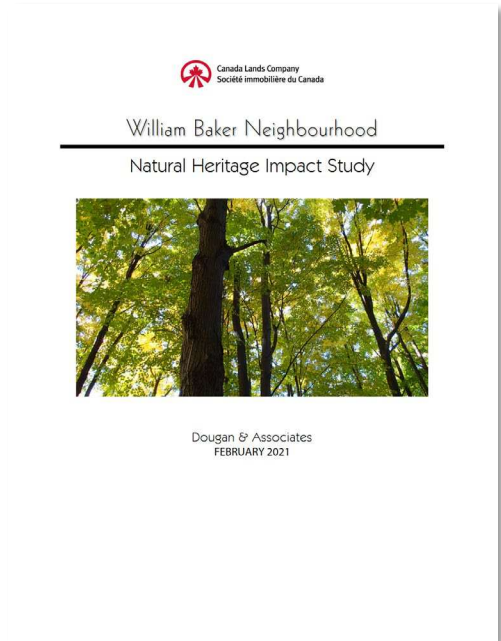
### Natural Heritage Impact Study

A key component of Canada Lands' District Plan submission to the City is the Natural Heritage Impact Study (NHIS). The NHIS proposes an Ecological Vision and principles, includes mitigation and compensation strategies, and recommends the preparation of an Ecological Management Plan that preserves and enhances the woodlot and park space.

The mitigation and compensation strategies include:

- canopy and habitat creation within the proposed park space;
- enhancement and restoration of edge and buffer areas around the woodlot and park space;
- Trail planning;
- Invasive species management; and
- Protection of existing trees in the woodlot and park space.

The full Natural Heritage Impact Study is publicly available online through the City of Toronto's Application Information Centre ([linked here](#)) under the supporting documentation tab.



### Ecological Management Plan

Work on the Ecological Management Plan (EMP) has begun and will guide development to ensure it conforms with City policies. The EMP will guide the achievement of an overall gain of woodlot and naturalized habitats, including tree replacements to offset any losses outside of the woodlot and park space (existing trees in the woodlot and park space will be protected). The EMP will also recommend monitoring of groundwater and post-construction conditions.

The Ecological Management Plan will be publicly available once complete.

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## For more information checkout the William Baker website

[www.williambakerneighbourhood.ca](http://www.williambakerneighbourhood.ca) or contact:

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