

Mount Dennis EcoNeighbourhood Initiative

A community perspective on local sustainable development



November 17, 2018

The ecoNeighbourhood concept has
been very well received

BIA Mural

Toronto Hydro Net Zero Community

Crosslinx Energy Storage

Crosslinx Community Benefits

501 Alliance private and platinum!

West Park redevelopment to Leed silver

1234 Child Care Net Zero

Time is of the essence

Climate change is not 40 years away. It is here. Now. And its getting worse daily.

This September Secretary General raised the alert that world's nations are badly off track in reaching the Paris Agreement targets for greenhouse gas reduction.

Cities are recognized as actively pursuing actions to reduce GHG emissions

Toronto is a City of Neighbourhoods.... We are working to make ours sustainable!

**65 years of
TTC
planning at
Yonge and
Eglinton**



This is why the community should not allow the city to be in charge of planning

George Taylor Denison III, buried in our cemetery, volunteered to fight Louis Riel

Yet Mount Dennis is on the Shared Path, used by many First Nations since the glaciers retreated.

History needs to be inclusive and tell the bad with the good. Thousands came here to die from TB. History should be embedded in redevelopment.

An ecoNeighbourhood looks both to the past and the future.



Mount Dennis

MDCA has taken up the challenge of making needed change happen

MDCA has a history of community engagement

- Community environment clean up days
- Support for stewardship for the area's natural assets: Humber River, Black Creek, Topham Pond (Toronto's Greenest Neighbourhood!)
- Tree planters, tree huggers, and tree recyclers
- Floods and community resilience in extreme weather
- A vision of connecting to the emerging green economy based in hard won experiences

Walking the talk

- Collapse of anchor industry Kodak
 - **Proposed Response:** Kodak lands redevelop as Green Centre of Excellence, research/innovation and local jobs
- Georgetown GO Line improvements
 - **Co-organized Clean Train Coalition**, pressed for electrification of UP Express and Regional Rail
- TTC Transit City and Metrolinx Mobility Hub
 - ‘**Making Green Work**’ looked at the range of places to get green economy happening locally by working collaboratively
 - Transit Investment recognized as the critical driver for change
 - Vision and achievement of **Community Benefits**
 - Social-Economic inclusion of youth and employment disadvantaged; access to procurement for social business; addressing opportunity for neighbourhood improvement and eco-action
 - **Vision** for Sustainable Transportation and Green Development

Eco Neighbourhood?

- an integrated Action Learning approach for building community understanding and capacity for action
- Wayne Olsen, Architect and member of Green Building Council, and TO-ENI
- The Portland model as starting point
- Initial visioning discussions and consultations
 - Principles and partnership building
 - Guiding vision statement
 - Community profile, challenges and opportunities
 - Key themes for action planning

Mount Dennis Area EcoNeighbourhood Project

A Vision and Action outline for community discussion



Mount Dennis Community
Association TO EcoNeighbourhoods
Initiative October 30, 2015



Mount Dennis

A Vision
disc

Background

The Mount Dennis area is a historic and dynamic community dealing with both significant economic challenges AND exciting opportunities for transit connected to major transit investment.

Members of the Mount Dennis Community Assoc

Vision

A Mount Dennis area EcoNeighbourhood prototype for the sustainable neighbourhoods, where positive investment and facilitated by

livability, equity, health and prosperity, and the community's environmental footprint.

Guiding Principles

Mount Dennis Area Eco-neighbourhood Vision and Action Plan will embody broad sustainability at a community scale by addressing the following priority areas:

Environment and Infrastructure

Livability

Equity

Health

Prosperity

The eco-neighbourhood visioning process will be collaborative; with early and ongoing participation of residents, businesses, governments, policy makers, property owners and not-for-profits.

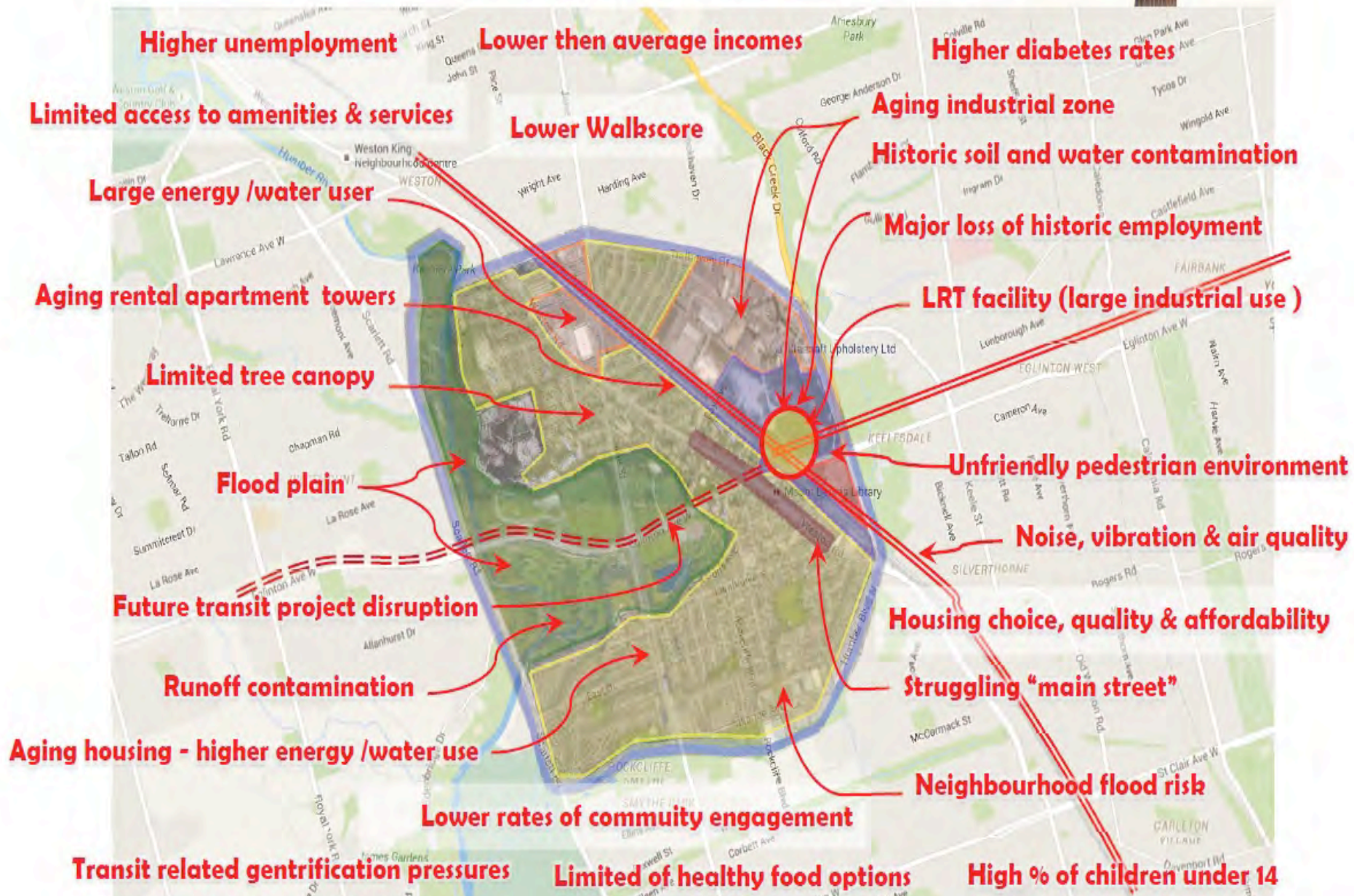
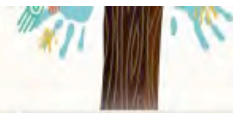
The eco-neighbourhood vision will build on and enhance existing community, city and regional initiatives, programs and priorities.

The eco-neighbourhood vision will encompass a broad range of integrated short, medium and long term actions and investments.

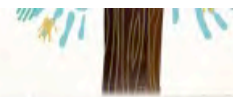
The eco-neighbourhood vision will include strategies that leverage cross-sector collaboration and address multiple priority areas.

Successful implementation will require ongoing community based stewardship, evaluation and reporting.

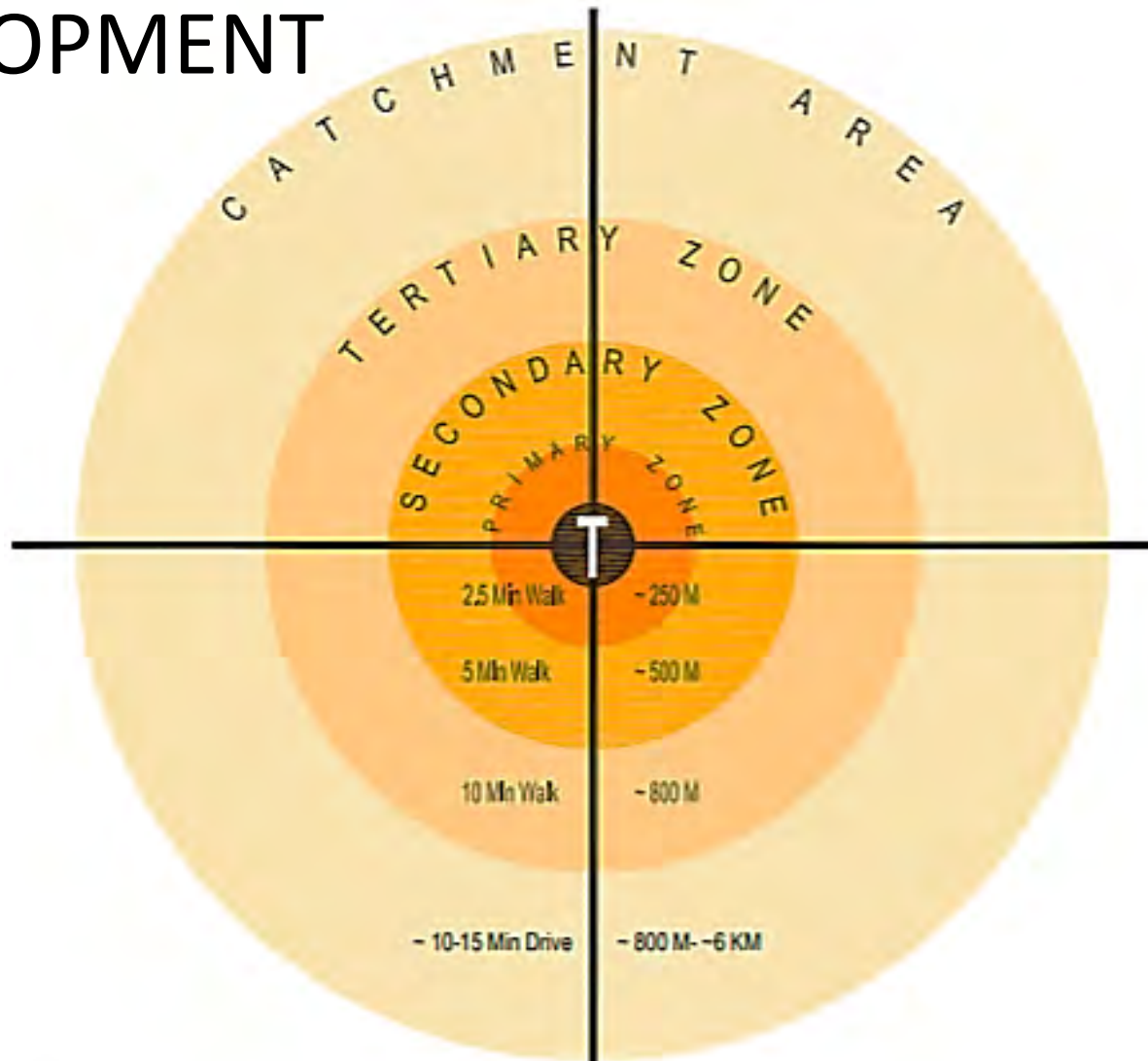
CHALLENGES MAP (preliminary)



OPPORTUNITIES MAP (preliminary)

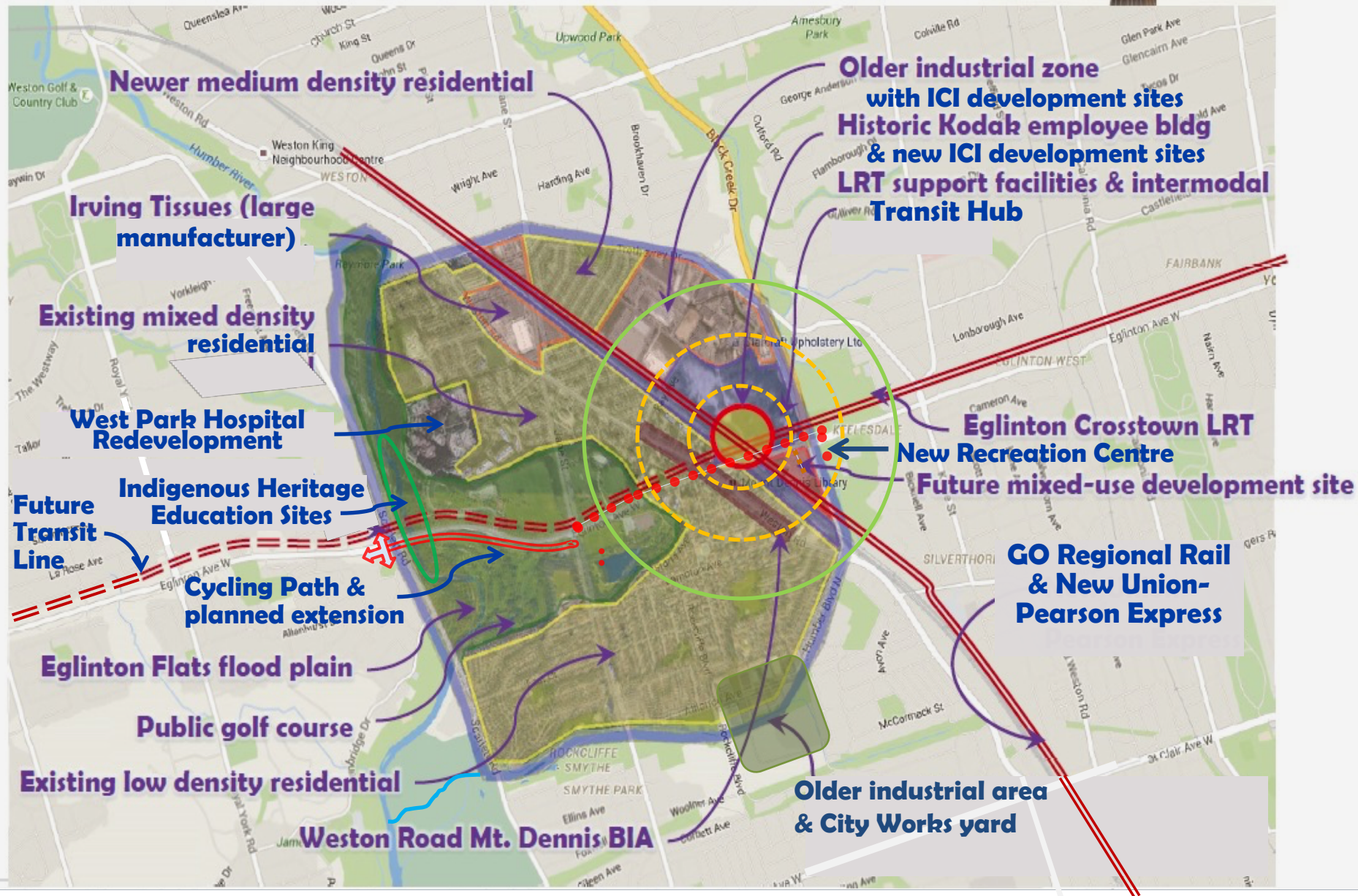


TRANSIT IS THE BACKBONE FOR DEVELOPMENT



Metrolinx Mobility Hub Catchment

CONTEXT MAP (preliminary)



Resource Struggles

- ~~Trillium Collective Impact~~
- ~~Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Community Partners~~
- ~~Cap and trade: GreenON~~
- ~~Toronto Atmospheric Fund~~
- ~~Political presence, then change of government~~

Developing Action Partnerships

- **Community Benefits Agreements** as part of the development process
- Community Energy: **we won the Big Battery Battle** (with the help of Sustainable Designer Greg Allen) , now its time for serious community-based organizing for
 - Resilient local grid
 - Distributed renewable generation
 - Community Development Corporation
 - Retrofit of old buildings, building green
 - Green jobs in energy tech, electrifying transportation

Green Economic Development

- Eco-Action Community Hub, including Centre for Indigeneity as a global peoples connector
- Tech Innovation and Incubation: Better Building Materials; Shift off Natural Gas; Alliance innovators; Black Creek Business Park (TTC Barns, Postal Depot + Metrolinx Yards—Electric Vehicles)
- Green Walls Everywhere!
- Circular Economy: Compost digesting, materials re-use; community green market, bikes are Best!

Why is MDCA different ?

Perhaps how we are different is the key. Why is far too complicated.

MDCA includes home owners and tenants, business owners and representatives from charities, real estate agents and developers, teachers and retirees.

About 1/3 of our revenue is from the local businesses that advertise in our newsletter. We promote our businesses and showcase them at our events.

We try to propose better ways to do things rather than oppose, and developed positive working relationships with Metrolinx and Toronto Hydro

When we were approached to become a pilot ecoNeighbourhood, we realized that a holistic approach matched our vision statement, which is

Toronto's Greenest Neighbourhood

Thank You!

Questions?