

- ① BRIDGETOWN BANKS \*
- ② BLACKFRIARS MILL RACE AND THE SIMCOE SNEAK \*
- ③ HARRIS PARK HABITAT \*
- ④ THE WADING POOL \*
- ⑤ THE RIFFLE \*
- ⑥ DUNDAS PLACE
- ⑦ MUSEUM PLAZA
- ⑧ RIVERSIDE PLAZA
- ⑨ THE RIBBON
- ⑩ FORKS COVE
- ⑪ THE FISH TAIL
- ⑫ MASSIE'S RESTAURANT AND BOATHOUSE
- ⑬ ROBIN'S NEST
- ⑭ BECHER BRIDGE
- ⑮ PENMAN'S PERCH
- ⑯ LONDON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
- \* NOT VISIBLE IN THIS VIEW

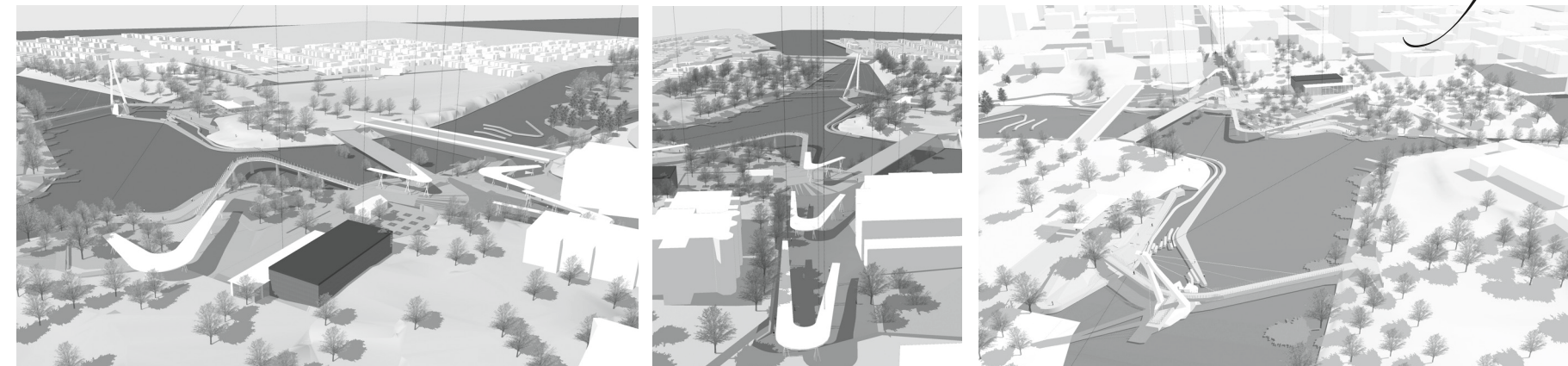


The Forks is the heart and historic center of London. So many elements, artifacts and activities that built the city happened here, or crossed through here. This is the hub of the agricultural domain of the city and the nexus of rail, industrial, and mercantile activity. But from the beginning, this was also the focus of recreation - the original Massie's Boathouse, the Rowing and Bowling Club, fishing, pleasure boating, swimming and general water play are all part of London's heritage.

Our concept works with the natural dynamics of the river - its scours and depositions - by formalizing the depositional sand bar that has existed for decades below the Blackburn Fountain and in front of our proposed new Massie's Boathouse and the associated second-floor restaurant. The formalized sandbar, The Fish Tail, will be reinforced to make it a permanent accessible feature that creates a quiet pool in its lee to allow safe, easy paddle access to the river for all users. Imagine yourself as a 12 year old with your friends and paddleboards spread out on the Thames having a day of play in the river!



The most impactful components of our design at the Forks are the Becher Bridge, The Ribbon and Massie's Boathouse. Yet these are also elements that will take significant planning, approvals, and private partnerships to develop. Similarly, the creation of Dundas Place as a pedestrian way will require closing the street and bridge to general traffic, something that will require additional planning, engineering, approvals and funding. Our design features a sequence of shade structures leading to the Ribbon, and a mosaic of pedestrian paving, lighting and furnishings. This sequence from Ridout to the river is a perfect opportunity for us to collaborate with local artists to add life and meaning to the walk. The site above Ivey Park, requires a significant civic building. Could this be the new site for The Performing Arts Center as shown?



**Focus Area: The Forks**

You will soon be able to stroll down Dundas Place, past the new Museum Plaza with its outdoor dining and events be treated to a totally new experience as you stroll on The Ribbon Bridge. You will be projected out over the river, able to feel, hear and smell the breeze, the current, birds and sky. To your left is Penman's Perch, an elevated walk that pokes out of the forest. Ahead is a school class listening to a naturalist on the Robin's Nest stair. Below are kids in canoes playing in the water at the Ribbon, and on the right are people dining on the terrace at Massie's.

Below The Ribbon is the Cove, a continuously accessible terraced area for events, gatherings and relaxing at the river in Ivey Park. Here you are connected into the Thames trail with easy access to anywhere along the Ribbon of the Thames. Harris Park is now a pleasant walk, just meters to the north. We propose to remove the failed gabions, develop a naturalized and soft shoreline that allows safe river access, and to develop a play pool for wading.

Our concept includes the creation of a number of smaller side channels behind Harris Park, and through the natural area located opposite the park. These channels create safe opportunities for enhanced connections to the river for the river. The reactivation of the former Millrace behind Harris Park provides a unique opportunity for an interpretive program explaining the history of the site, and for a shady walk along this restored heritage feature.

Our design involves the placement of fill within the floodway, which will be balanced with removal of material in other areas such as the new side channels. Further, there are several areas where bank improvements will integrate design features with stormwater runoff in the form of new rain gardens and vegetated water quality terraces. These will serve to cleanse urban waters before they enter the river, including the major outfall beneath Dundas Place.

For the reasons detailed above, we propose to develop the terraces of the Forks Cove as the Inaugural Project. This will allow for the earliest access to the river, the creation of new events and gathering spaces that can be programmed for planned activities prior to other elements of the project, and opening up the "front" of downtown to the Forks. Note that the terraces will be designed to accommodate either river elevation, depending on the disposition of the Springbank Dam.

Technology links us together. People tweet and post their experiences in real time, telling others where they are what they're experiencing. Increasingly, people are drawn to specific locations based on WiFi availability. For this reason, WiFi should be provided at The Forks to draw people from downtown to the river before work, during lunch, and at the end of the day, or for an outdoor work session during the week. Furnishings should accommodate the use of digital devices, and could include solar charging capabilities.

# The Forks Inaugural Project



One cannot easily walk from Harris Park to River Forks Park and across to the Blackburn Fountain. The secret to activating public spaces is triangulation - the ability to see from point to point, and to get from point to point. The only way to triangulate the Forks is with the addition of our proposed Becher Bridge across the Main Branch of the Thames. With this bridge, its signature mast and stairway (the Robin's Nest) down to the river, we can instantly activate all sides of the Forks into one great central park for London.

# The Forks Inaugural Project

- ① THAMES VALLEY PARKWAY (CONCRETE PAVING)
- ② THE RIBBON (NOT IN PHASE ONE)
- ③ ONE DUNDAS COFFEE AND GELATO
- ④ PROTECT EXISTING WATER FEATURES
- ⑤ BIO-FILTER WETLAND AT OUTFALL
- ⑥ CONCRETE STEPS (SAND FINISH)
- ⑦ STONE COBBLE PAVING
- ⑧ ARMORSTONE SEATWALLS
- ⑨ ARMORSTONE RETAINING WALLS
- ⑩ IPE WOOD DECKING
- ⑪ PROTECT EXISTING TREES
- ⑫ PROTECT EXISTING PLAY STRUCTURES (AND ADD NEW PLAY STRUCTURES AND PLAY SURFACE)
- ⑬ SLOPING LAYOUT LAWN TERRACES
- ⑭ ENHANCED NATIVE PLANTED EDGE
- ⑮ PLAZA WITH PATIO SEATING
- ⑯ PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NOT IN PHASE ONE)



