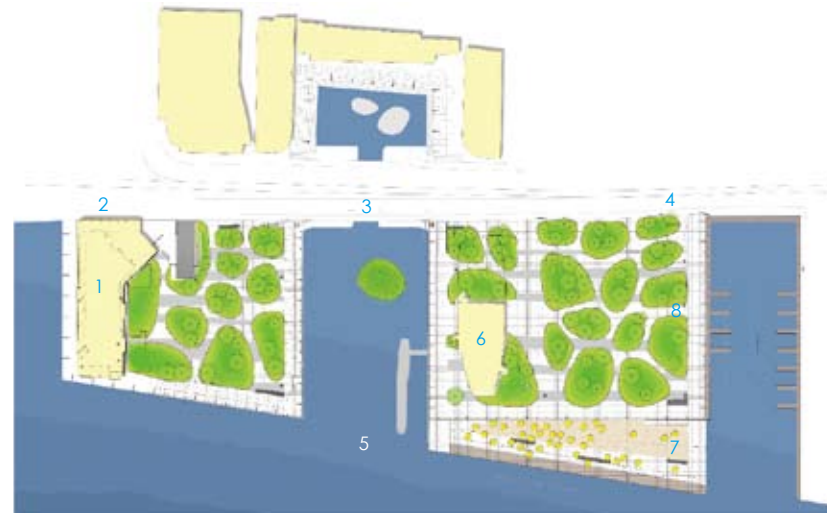


HtO

Location: Toronto, Canada **Designer:** Janet Rosenberg + Associates, Claude Cormier Associates, Hariri Pontarini Architects **Photographer:** Jan Becker, Neil Fox **Completion date:** 2007 **Site area:** 24,281 sqm



1. Metropolitan Toronto Condominium
2. HtO Park West
3. Queens Quay West
4. HtO Park East
5. Lake Ontario
6. Fire Station
7. Urban Beach
8. Urban Dunes

HtO, an urban beach along Toronto's waterfront, is not only an adored, seasonally adaptive public space where people of all ages can spend extended time by the water away from downtown commotion, but it is also a catalyst for the city's future waterfront development, having set high design standards. Transformed from an abandoned industrial site, the park is a welcoming, branded destination that effectively draws visitors to the waterfront and animates it with colour and activity.

As a flexible public space that allows for passive and active uses and as a one-of-a-kind, iconic destination, HtO, as soon as it opened, became highly popular. Nearby residents spend the day sun tanning on the beach; strolling tourists admire the site, which offers majestic views of the Toronto skyline and the lake. The topography of HtO allows visitors to go uphill through a series of green berms as they enter the park and then they descend down towards the beach and the lake, feeling as though the city and the elevated expressway are left behind.

But the design of the park had many challenges, the biggest of all being environmental concerns. HtO sits on a site with history and a legacy of environmental damage. The design had to address issues of soil contamination and other remnants of industrial progress. Contaminated soils were capped and on-site storm water management systems were put in place such as pervious surfaces that infiltrate water and gradually dispersing infiltration pits. In addition, all the water that is used for irrigation is lake water. To revive some of the natural ecologies in the lake, fish habitats were built along the edge of the park and in the slip using recycled concrete from the site and rip-rap.

Award description:

- 2009 ASLA Honour Award
- 2008 CSLA Regional Honour Award
- 2007 Gold Award, Design Exchange



Right: A boardwalk extends along the edge of the park

