



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park Plan

Jan 12-2018

DRAFT

Canada

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Message from the CEO to come.....

Dr. Mark Kristmanson
Chief Executive Officer



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Imagine in 2050 the Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park Plan as...

“A riverfront park that strengthens the relationship of people to the nature, culture, beauty and spirit of the dynamic Ottawa River”.



1 INTRODUCTION

The Ottawa River is a symbol of Canadian unity. It provides spectacular view corridors to monuments, Parliament Hill, the Gatineau Hills and other national symbols. The parkway is a legacy example of design excellence in scenic road building in Canada, and it celebrates the river as a natural feature and symbol of Canada's relationship to nature. The Ottawa River is a crucial piece of the Capital's natural heritage, which is now the subject of rigorous attention as a special destination. The river corridor displays the area's cultural, heritage, recreational, scenic and environmental story.

The Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park Plan sets the future vision and program elements for the riverfront park, while providing the National Capital Commission (NCC) with a tool to support implementation.

This plan builds on the understanding that the waterways hold a special place for Canadians and the Capital. For thousands of years, waterways provided major travel ways for Indigenous peoples to establish trade routes and ritual places and, later, enabled the later newcomers to settle and develop along the river. The plan also acknowledges the collective expectations to reclaim the shorelines for public enjoyment and to reimagine the water culture of years gone by.

The park is situated along the Ottawa River, just outside the core area of Canada's Capital and adjacent to local, dynamic residential neighbourhoods. The plan's vision establishes a framework for the park's use and development over the next 50 years, and allows the NCC to provide a variety of recreational, social and economic opportunities in a manner that acknowledges the park's natural, social and cultural environments.

The plan guides the park's gradual, staged transformation, and offers various recreation areas and activities that strengthen people's relationship to nature, as well as the culture, beauty and spirit of the Ottawa River.

The plan sets park development priorities, guides design and recommends programming. Key strategic goals include improved integration and connectivity in terms of people and the waterfront, promotion of year-round use, improved interprovincial connections, introduction of more sustainable design elements, promotion of a stronger relationship between the park and natural systems, and safer cycling and pedestrian access and mobility.

Further, the park concept proposes seven animation nodes of different levels of intensities, some contemplative, and others more for active group activities.





1.1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the riverfront plan is to provide a blueprint for the park's continued revitalization.

The plan aims to do the following:

- Guide park planning/design and land use decisions to enhance the riverfront and reconnect people to the river.
- Recommend actions to protect and enhance the riverfront's intrinsic qualities for the benefit of park users.
- Identify key park elements that will contribute to year-round enjoyment and greater continuity.
- Provide a strategic and organized approach to the revitalization of the riverfront.
- Improve safe public access to the shoreline respecting its sensitive natural features.
- Improve connectivity to and along the riverfront, through redesigned, segregated Capital pathways and enhanced opportunities for active mobility.
- Develop an understanding of the cultural heritage of the Ottawa River and its shoreline, and celebrate the river's unique scenic, historical and cultural features.
- Enhance water features, support culture and eco-tourism, and encourage interpretive and educational initiatives.
- Integrate a variety of intensities for recreational uses, and improve the recreational amenities in a context-sensitive manner.
- Balance recreation features with the need for an environment that offers healthy, natural and resilient outdoor opportunities year-round.
- Protect and enhance natural aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitats.
- Increase and enhance opportunities for leisure and quiet recreation and non-motorized activities.

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1.2 PLANNING CONTEXT

As planner and steward of federal lands in Canada's Capital Region, the NCC is responsible for protecting and preserving the Capital's green spaces and waterways for public use. One of the NCC's corporate priorities is to improve public access and offer new connections to allow visitors and residents alike to discover the shorelines and waterways. The riverfront plan supports this corporate priority.

The park is situated within the City of Ottawa and, accordingly, the NCC has regard for the City's planning policies for intensification, municipal services and transportation infrastructure.

1.3 NCC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Capital planning framework interrelates and hierarchically structures the NCC's land use plans. The Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067¹, is the NCC's premier planning document. It outlines the future of federal lands in the National Capital Region between Canada's sesquicentennial in 2017, and its bicentennial in 2067.

Under the overarching Plan for Canada's Capital, and echoing its three thematic goals, the Capital Urban Lands Plan develops land use designations and policies in more detail. Both plans frame the riverfront plan that in turn builds on the policy directions set by the Plan for Canada's Capital and the Capital Urban Lands Plan.

The Plan for Canada's Capital emphasizes the value of keeping natural green features and waterways for posterity.

One of its goals, Milestone 10¹ is to improve river access and develop riverfront parklands. The Plan for Canada's Capital identifies the riverfront park as a key priority to meet this goal. Furthermore, the plan's implementation is in line with the NCC's mandate, as it will enhance the shoreline's recreational, cultural, aesthetic and Capital amenities, and help promote sustainable design.

The Capital Urban Lands Plan has land use designations and policies that this plan respects.²

¹ *The Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067 (NCC, 2017)*

² *Capital Urban Lands Plan (NCC, 2015)*

Several other NCC plans and policies have informed this plan: the Sustainable Development Strategy (2016), the Policy for Parkways and Driveways (NCC, 1984), Canada's Capital Commemoration Strategic Plan (NCC, 2006), Ottawa River Integrated Plan (2003 & 2009), and the Ottawa River Shoreline Initiatives (2013). The Tunney's Pasture Master Plan by Public Services and Procurement Canada has also informed this plan. (Appendix 1 provides a list of background research and technical supportive studies and plans.)

1.4 NCC–CITY OF OTTAWA AGREEMENT ON THE WESTERN LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

The City of Ottawa is one of this plan's key stakeholders. In early 2015, the NCC and the City of Ottawa signed the 100-day Agreement for the western light rail project. Through this document, the City is contributing funds to the enhancement of the riverfront park in exchange for approval to use a section of the parkway corridor for the light rail.

This agreement has initiated a parallel detailed design exercise for the improvement of a 2.4-kilometre stretch of the parkway corridor within the project's study area to be completed as part of the reinstatement works of the western light rail transit (LRT) corridor. Extensive collaboration with the City of Ottawa's Transportation and Planning departments has resulted in the NCC's preparing detailed design proposals for the areas impacted and funded by this agreement.

DRAFT – FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**1.5 PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT****1.5.1 PROCESS**

The riverfront park plan was developed over three main phases.

PHASE 1: EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH (2014-2015)

The analysis provided a thorough description of the park's existing physical conditions, including the following:

- an exhaustive inventory and knowledge of its geophysical conditions,
- its relation to adjacent neighbourhoods, and
- the constraints and opportunities for improving shoreline access.

From this information, a series of maps were consolidated to better understand the issues and opportunities associated with this corridor.

While the analysis examined the conditions of the corridor, extensive research of other waterfront or riverfront parks in Canada and around the world were examined by the Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning Project as case studies to seek inspiration and lessons learned to build the proposed park plan. The project also provided an existing conditions review, a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis, design features and a public engagement exercise that led to an inspiring vision statement and implementation proposals.

PHASE 2: VISION AND CONCEPT (2015) AND 2.4-KM STRETCH CONCEPT (WESTERN LRT) (2016)

A vision of the riverfront park was developed in consultation with Algonquin Anishinabeg, the public and stakeholders. The park concept embraces the vision, concept and the four roles, and provides an overview of the desired functions and qualities of the park.

Detailed concepts for the 2.4-km stretch were submitted to the City of Ottawa, as required by the western LRT letter of intent, which included the revegetation strategy, the parkway realignment, the segregation of pathways, as well as demonstration plans for Rochester Field and Westboro Beach/ Atlantis Avenue.

PHASE 3: STRATEGIES, GUIDELINES & RECOMMENDATIONS (2017)

The purpose of these strategies and guidelines is to execute the conceptual design presented for the parkway over time, with measurable objectives that respect the corridor's ecological integrity and reimagine the potential of the Capital corridor. The design elements, landscaping features and built forms outlined in the conceptual design should also aim to be designed, sited and implemented in such a way as to project the essence of a Capital parkway and identity.

1.5.2 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The riverfront park is situated in the Capital urban lands, and connects to and links several communities and neighbourhoods. Public and stakeholder engagement for planning in such a high-profile area is critical to the plan's success.

The development of this plan has benefitted from extensive public engagement (see Appendix 2) and input collected through multiple consultation sessions, the NCC website, mailed self-administered comments and an online survey. This input was considered in the development of the vision and key principles that guided the creation of this document and shaped the respective roles and designs of activity areas.

Key highlights from public input are summarized as follows:

- Protect intrinsic environmental, ecological, scenic and heritage attributes.
- Prioritize people and their connection with the heritage river, nature and history.
- Maintain and enhance vegetative canopy and buffer.
- Interpret the landscape and site history.
- Establish recreational waterfront areas for activities and programming.
- Establish safer cycling and walking facilities through segregation of pathways.
- Reduce parkway traffic volumes and speeds.
- Create greater parkway permeability and safe crossings.
- Create animation nodes with different intensities.
- Provide more and improved public washroom facilities, seating and lookouts, bicycle parking, and other strategic amenities.



- Establish iconic space at the front door of the Capital and the setting for recreational activities, commemorations and public art, festivals and events.
- Create new and enhanced viewing opportunities of the Ottawa River.
- Create compelling and improved recreational opportunities year-round that will contribute to the health and wellness of all users.

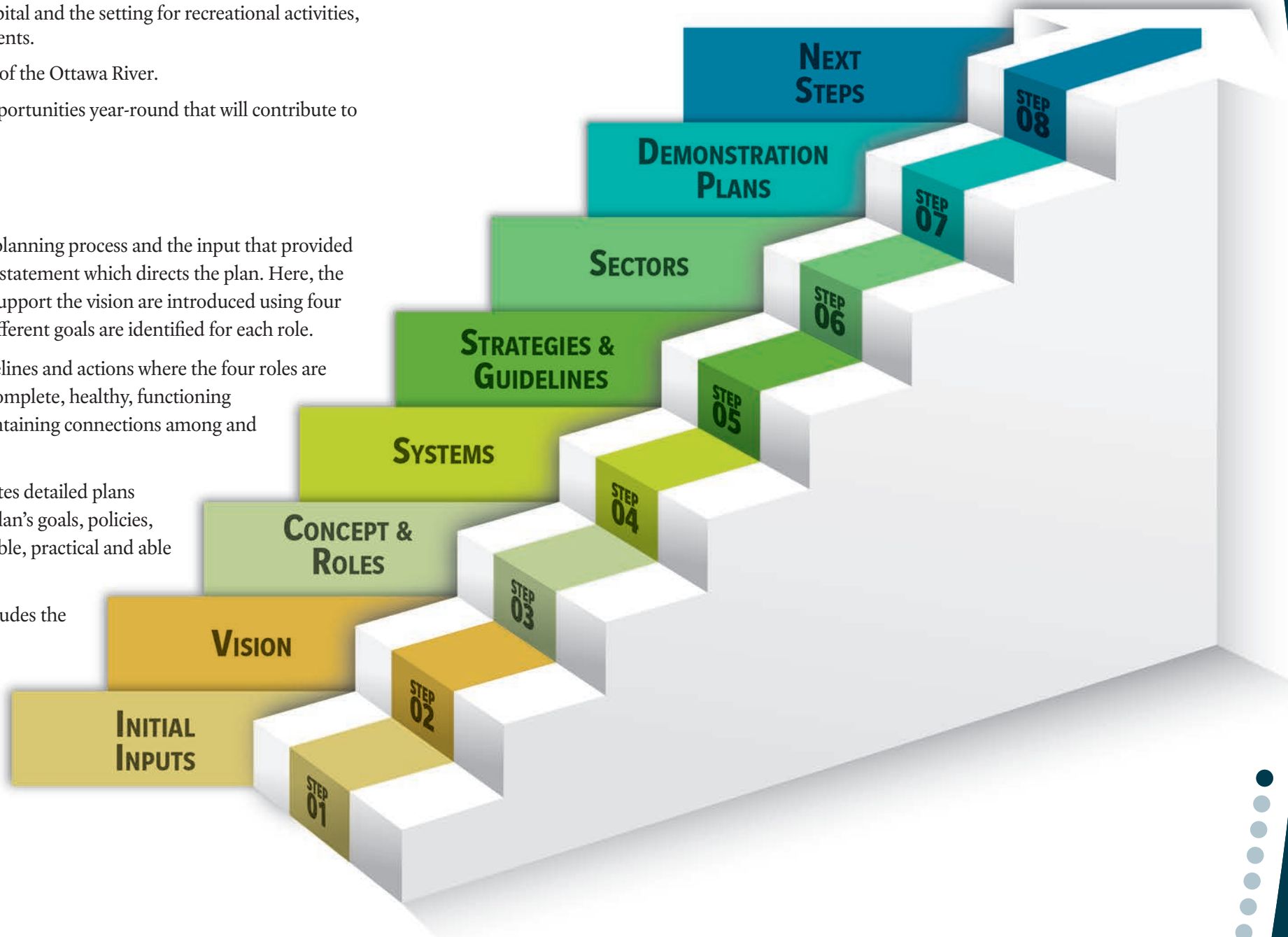
1.6 PLAN CONTENT

Chapters 1 and 2 present the plan's background, the planning process and the input that provided the base for its content. Chapter 3 presents the vision statement which directs the plan. Here, the fundamental premises and strategic statements that support the vision are introduced using four roles: waterfront, nature, culture and connections. Different goals are identified for each role.

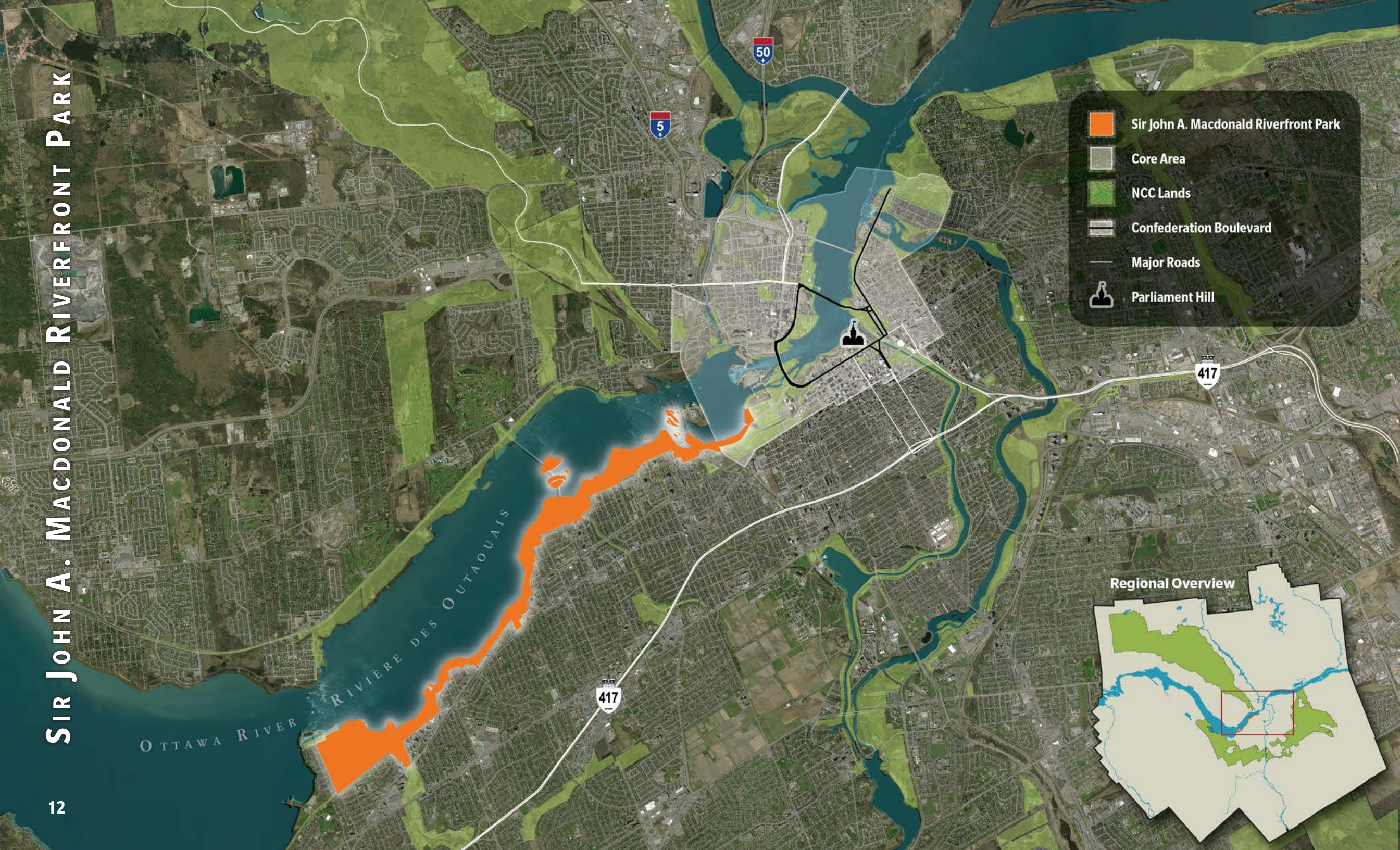
From this base, Chapter 4 establishes strategies, guidelines and actions where the four roles are divided into 11 interrelated conceptual elements. A complete, healthy, functioning riverfront park will emerge from developing and maintaining connections among and between the systems.

Chapter 5 recommends four sector plans, and illustrates detailed plans for each animation node. Through this exercise, the plan's goals, policies, strategies and actions are demonstrated as being feasible, practical and able to be implemented.

A discussion about how to implement measures concludes the plan in Chapter 6.



SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD RIVERFRONT PARK



-  Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park
-  Core Area
-  NCC Lands
-  Confederation Boulevard
-  Major Roads
-  Parliament Hill





2 LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The riverfront park comprises 220 hectares of publicly owned lands along the southwest shores of the Ottawa River, between LeBreton Flats and Mud Lake. The entire corridor is owned and managed by the NCC and is part of the National Interest Land Mass (NILM). The park corridor is nine kilometres long, and three sets of rapids can be found along its length: Deschênes Rapids near Mud Lake, Rémic Rapids at the Champlain Bridge and Little Chaudières Rapids at the Rémic Rapids Lookout. The park also includes the Trans Canada Trail (also known as the Great Trail) and multi-use pathways along both sides of the parkway.

There are some pedestrian linkages from the neighbouring communities to the pathways and parklands along the river's edge. The park has historical and cultural significance, and aims to deliver a “parkway experience” for all users of the park, through many vistas that can be viewed while travelling along the roadway and pathways.

The corridor contains natural landscapes and environmental areas such as Mud Lake and the surrounding Britannia Conservation Area situated at the western edge of the park. It includes recreational amenities like Westboro Beach, picnic tables and resting areas, as well as viewpoints and significant landmarks like Kitchissippi Lookout and Rémic Rapids. It also includes other focal points, such as the historic Prince of Wales Bridge and the Champlain Bridge, as well as large parks and picnic areas that offer scenic views of the water.

The NCC designed the parkway following the recommendations of the Gréber Plan, to provide uninterrupted, pleasurable driving in a park-like setting. Commuting motorists, and the presence of the City of Ottawa's rapid transit services within the wide four-lane configuration challenge this experience. In spite of these transportation challenges, the NCC has noted that the light rail project provides the NCC with the perfect opportunity to address the public's concerns and to plan for and protect this corridor as a meaningful and special place for residents and visitors.



SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD RIVERFRONT PARK





2.1 A SHORT HISTORY

The Ottawa River is the natural and cultural heart of Canada’s Capital Region. It has also played a key role in Canada’s history. Indigenous peoples occupied the shoreline as early as 8,000 years ago. They were followed many millennia later by European explorers and settlers who sought furs, timber and land.

Jacques Gréber’s General Report on the Plan for the National Capital (1950) recognized the value of the Ottawa River shoreline—then dominated by rail lines—as an important opportunity to reclaim lands. The intent was to design a beautiful scenic drive and pathways along the water, with picturesque views of the river, the Quebec shore and Parliament Hill. In order to implement his plan and create the parkway, the federal government acquired lands along the shoreline. This involved expropriation, not only of railway lands, but also, in some cases, of private properties, and the transformation of neighbourhoods. Parkway construction began in 1964, and was completed in

1967, Canada’s centennial year. It was renamed in 2012 in honour of Canada’s first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald.

Today, the Ottawa River is an important recreational resource and home to valued natural habitats and ecosystems. It continues to be significant as a unique landscape feature that shapes the Capital Region. As a learning environment, the Ottawa River provides opportunities to learn about the natural world and its connection to the urban landscape. As a social environment, it offers expansive recreational opportunities and areas for public events and social connections.

The riverfront park connects us with the natural and cultural heritage of the Ottawa River and thus provides a gateway to our nation’s shared history. It provides countless, educational, recreational and social opportunities and contains remarkable views. The park is a significant signature attraction within Canada’s Capital, and it reflects the Capital’s unique identity. This value was recognized and used as a basis upon which to plan the park.







2.2 THE PARKWAY TODAY

AT THE OUTSET OF THIS PROJECT, THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT ELEMENTS WERE NOTED, AND INFORMED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PLAN:

- Spectacular views of the Ottawa River and toward Parliament Hill
- Extensive environmental assets and potential health benefits
- Mud Lake/Britannia Conservation Area
- Riparian and littoral habitats
- Pedestrian and bicycle pathways
- Heritage and culture

OPPORTUNITIES

- Algonquin-Anishinabeg involvement
- Community involvement
- Excellence in landscape design

KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- A lack of Indigenous representation in the riverfront park
- Fast-moving and heavy traffic along the parkway
- The parkway's barrier effect on river access
- Poor community access and lack of safe crossings
- A lack of amenities, such as toilets and drinking fountains
- Inadequate or absent signage and wayfinding
- Increased conflict on multi-use pathways due to their increasing popularity and speeding cyclists
- Shoreline erosion
- A significant increase in invasive non-native plant species, which alter ecosystems
- Water quality affecting swimming and aquatic habitat
- Increased incidence of flooding due to climate change







3 THE VISION

The NCC is reimagining the future of its parkway riverfront lands to create a vibrant public realm that will reconnect the city—and people—to the riverfront. With improved north–south connections and enhanced river access, the riverfront park will stretch between LeBreton Flats and Mud Lake, along the southern shore of the Ottawa River.

This vision recognizes the significant intrinsic cultural, economic and natural characteristics of the scenic Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway corridor and the Ottawa River. It also furthers the goals of the *Plan for Canada’s Capital, 2017–2067* and the Capital Urban Lands Plan mentioned in Chapter 3, in terms of policies and strategies that address the natural environment, shoreline access, heritage and cultural features, mobility, programming, and recreational activities.

A riverfront park that strengthens people’s relationship with nature, as well as with the culture, beauty and spirit of the dynamic Ottawa River.

THE VISION HAS FOUR ROLES:



Waterfront Experience

Facilitate a variety of all-season recreational opportunities and experiences for people of all ages.



Environment

Protect, enhance and highlight the natural and scenic assets of the riverfront corridor.



Culture

Communicate the rich cultural and natural history of the Ottawa River and the riverfront corridor.



Connectivity

Reconnect people with the river, and facilitate year-round access to the leisure opportunities that the parkway offers.

3.1 PLANNING PRINCIPLES

The planning principles articulate the basis for the development and management of this park and the corporate values and commitments that support the plan’s strategic directions. They place an emphasis on contributing to the identity and enhancement of Canada’s Capital by providing a natural setting, valued ecological and cultural resources and a diversity of uses, activities and experiences for all Canadians. They reflect those expressed in the *Plan for Canada’s Capital, 2017–2067*.

These principles are as follows:

- Promote access and connectivity to and along the waterfront.
- Promote a sense of integration within and between the sites by permitting complementary uses and requiring harmonious urban design.

- Give priority to cyclists and pedestrians over vehicle traffic, except where special access and parking are required.
- Embed cultural, heritage and art considerations in all decisions.
- Support financial responsibility where public investment in the park is a catalyst for revenue generation and a stimulus to co-investment with economic benefits.
- Ground plans and projects through the use of affordability strategies.
- Recognize the significance of green space and ecological values as irreplaceable assets.

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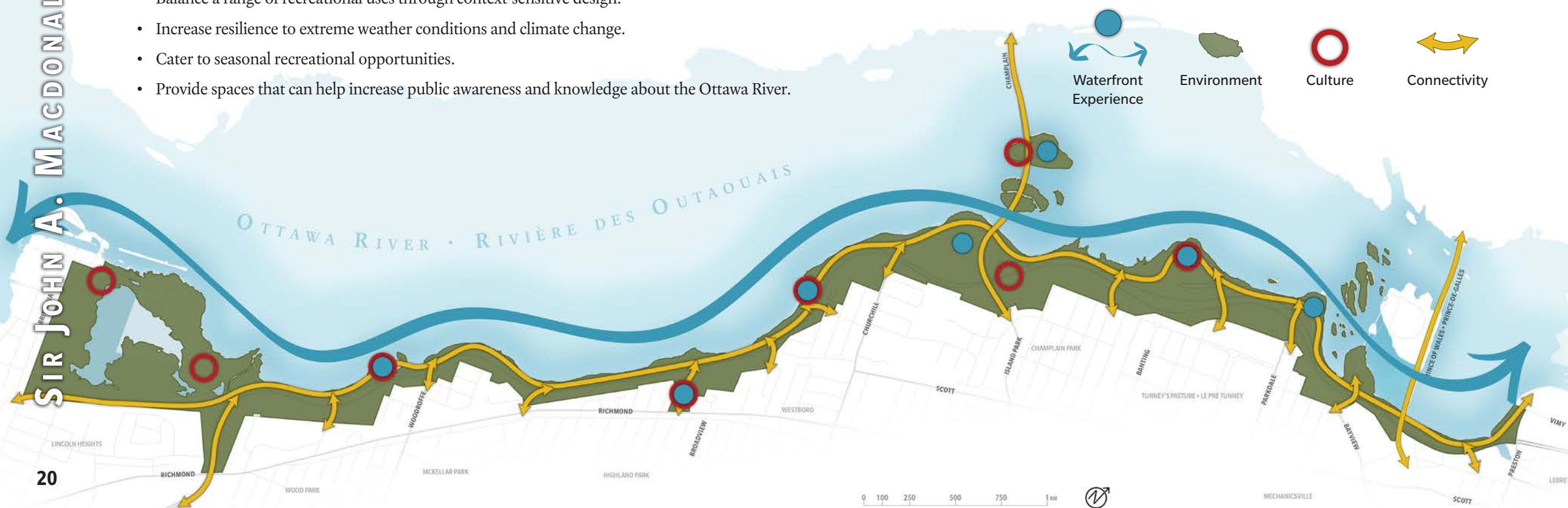
3.2 THE CONCEPT PLAN

The long-term concept for this park builds on the aforementioned vision and its four roles, defines the scope of facilities and amenities, and provides the framework for how the NCC and its stakeholders can and will proceed to implement this plan. It also reflects public and stakeholder input. The concept for the park is as follows:

- Provide a compelling recreational, entertainment and leisure resource for the Capital community, with varied features that incorporates a balance between quiet and animated spaces.
- Connect people with the river, enhance public access, and link park facilities and amenities to each other via safe walking and cycling paths, in addition to the parkway.
- Protect a diversity of terrestrial and aquatic habitats, including an ecologically significant conservation area.
- Balance a range of recreational uses through context-sensitive design.
- Increase resilience to extreme weather conditions and climate change.
- Cater to seasonal recreational opportunities.
- Provide spaces that can help increase public awareness and knowledge about the Ottawa River.

FUNDAMENTAL PREMISES

- The vision for the riverfront park is based on several fundamental premises:
- That it remains in the public domain as a riverfront park.
- That it is a cohesive, distinguishable and significant park in the Capital.
- That it contributes to a healthy environment and to quality of life in the Capital.
- That it continues to promote education, outreach and partnership with citizens, organizations and governments to develop a broad constituency in support of the park and to foster a sense of pride.
- That it ensures continuity of the regional green space network which reinforces the “green and blue capital” image.
- That it showcases the heritage of the Ottawa River.
- That it accentuates scenic quality and lively experiences.
- That it provides physical and visual access to the river.





Waterfront Experience



Environment



Culture



Connectivity

- Waterfront improvements
- Public amenities
- Range of public open space

- Protection and restoration
- Views and vistas
- Hydrology and stormwater management

- Cultural and heritage elements
- Events and programming

- Sustainable mobility
- Access and connections
- Winter recreation

Focuses on people, the river and recreation. It is about placemaking, creating healthy environments with a wide range of recreational opportunities and strengthening the experience of the river.

Focuses on the conservation, restoration and prominence of the corridor’s natural heritage as a key identifying feature of the Capital. It focuses on the protection of valued natural habitats and ecological functions, and restoration of the shorelines, as well as ensures that iconic riverfront lands are maintained in perpetuity as valued open space.

Focuses on protecting, strengthening and promoting the park’s natural and heritage qualities in order for it to be well recognized, understood and valued by visitors and residents.

Focuses on providing safe and segregated bike paths and supporting healthy and active mobility. Aims to ensure that the riverfront linear park is universally accessible to help ensure that all users enjoy their visit.

- Create a continuous and interconnected riverfront park that is a source of pride. Ensure accommodation of activities and services for people of all ages and abilities.
- Develop signature context-sensitive spaces that draw people to the river, and contribute to health and well-being.
- Offer activities, facilities and services that are respectful of the natural, cultural and scenic character of the parkland.
- Provide public spaces to encourage and support spontaneous public use of the riverfront.
- Inspire memorable experiences through high standards of design and a wide array of services.
- Provide infrastructure and facilities that make the river accessible for leisure, recreation and general public enjoyment.
- Support the park’s winter activities and events.

- Protect and restore the valued natural habitats.
- Create an environmentally sustainable and resilient riverfront park through protection, enhancement and restoration of the shorelines and green spaces.
- Maintain continuity with the Capital green space network.
- Enhance visual quality and protect scenic resources, and viewsheds throughout the riverfront to the maximum extent possible, with particular emphasis on Parliament Hill, the Ottawa River, and the Gatineau Hills.
- Ensure sound context-sensitive practices throughout the park, including shoreline protection and stormwater management.

- Protect and conserve significant cultural heritage resources, including archaeological resources, over the long term.
- Display and communicate the stories of peoples’ relationship with the river, from the earliest occupation by Indigenous peoples, to the era of early European explorers and settlers, to the period of industrialization and urbanization.
- Make public art and landscape architecture integral components of the park’s storytelling function.
- Place importance on discovery and learning.
- Partner with local communities and groups to enhance visitors’ and users’ experience of the park’s cultural and natural heritage.

- Serve as a gateway connecting the symbolic and heritage importance of the river with the celebration of recreational and cultural opportunities offered via the parkway corridor.
- Transform the parkway to offer a low-volume, low-speed pleasure drive that serves primarily the needs of the riverfront park.
- Provide strategic links with the river shore for pedestrian and cycling paths that support accessible and interconnected park spaces.
- Highlight the distinctive and memorable experiential qualities of the parkway.
- Support healthy, active mobility options.
- Plan for year-round access and recreation.
- Ensure inviting and intuitive connections between neighbouring communities and the parkways and Capital Pathway network.





4 STRATEGIES AND GUIDELINES

This chapter brings a systems-based approach to the planning and organization of the structuring elements of the riverfront park. In this approach, the structuring elements are defined as conceptual elements and are grouped as interdependent components working in harmony to achieve a specific function. The function of each group of structuring elements is clearly stated at the outset of the section, and its components are further elaborated through a series of descriptions and guidelines.

Used systematically, the conceptual elements and policies provide strategic guidance to achieve the plan's vision. The plan reflects the input, objectives, information and resources available at the time that the plan was approved. The strategies and guidelines cannot take into account all the future intricacies and sensitivities within the study area and do not replace good management practices and design solutions at the implementation stage. However, all future actions taken within the study area should be assessed and verified against the system plans in order to validate that they will result in positive contributions toward the plan's long-term objectives, and that the actions will not result in adverse effects to the realization of other interrelated systems.

HOW TO USE THE SYSTEMIC APPROACH

The following plans lay out the park's spatial framework. The groups of conceptual elements are conceived to achieve a balanced functional composition that supports the long-term objectives for the study area. These are interdependent and closely connected and should be considered and interpreted as detailed layers of a larger whole, not stand-alone entities.

Decisions made in order to achieve the functions of a given conceptual element create specific constraints and limitations for other systems, and vice versa. Future management plans, improvement plans, site plans, design competitions and maintenance work should be leveraged toward achieving the functions laid out in these groups of conceptual elements.

HOW TO USE THE GUIDELINES

The guidelines that accompany each conceptual element elaborate on the role of their various components and the relationships that connect them. The guidelines are intended to provide clarification on the intent, rationale and purpose of the various components. Future decisions, works and improvements should be made with a sound understanding of and in keeping with the spirit of the guidelines.





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STRUCTURE

This chapter is divided into the following structure based on 11 interrelated groups of conceptual elements that were derived from the four roles: Waterfront Experience, Environment, Culture and Connectivity.



4.1 WATERFRONT EXPERIENCE

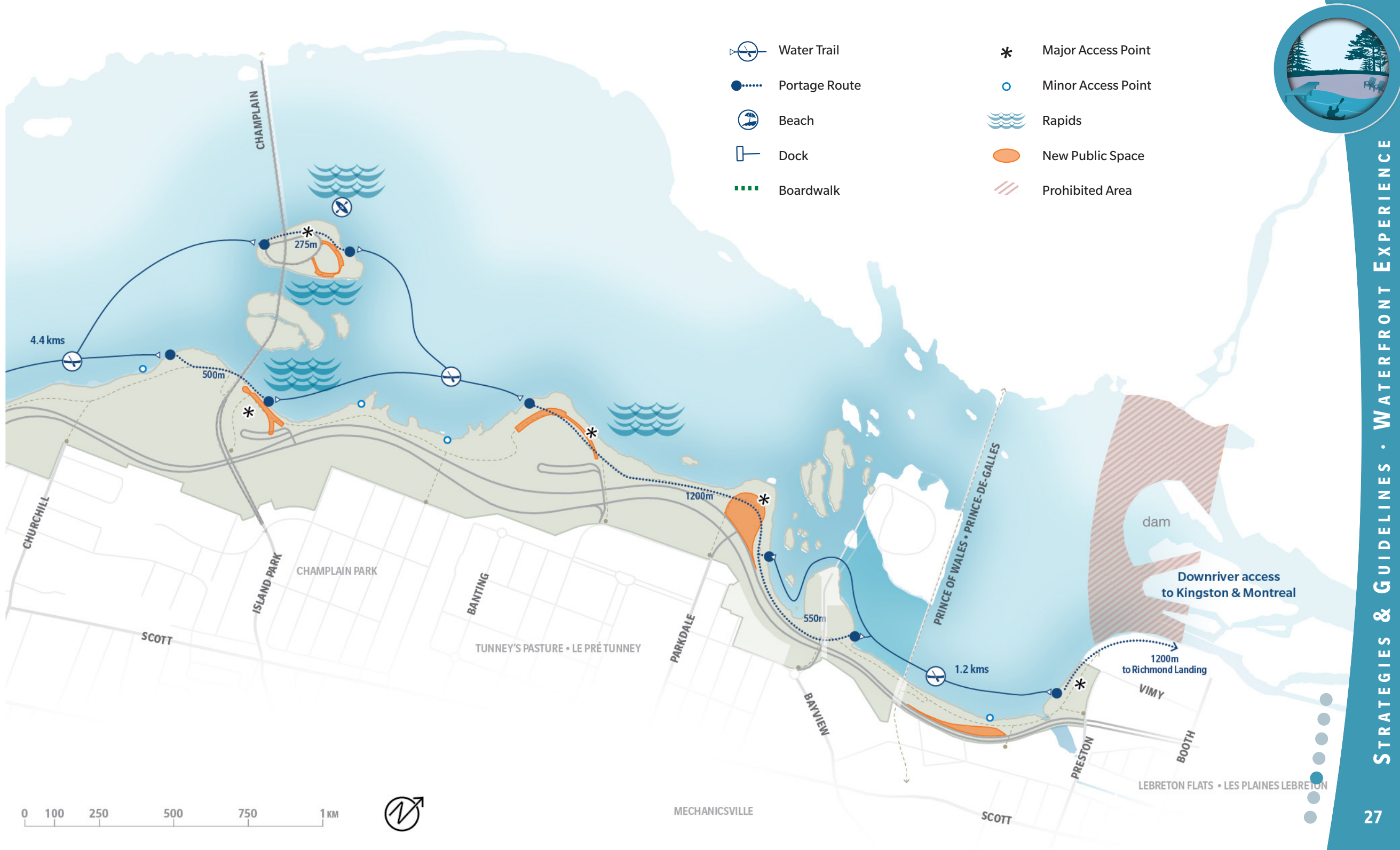
4.1.1 WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS

Enhance users' interactions with the Ottawa River by creating new waterfront places and features.

AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Establish a safe and welcoming environment for the park's users in ways that encourage a diversity of users.
- Create an environment that highlights the Ottawa River.
- Provide a balanced distribution of different types of waterfront uses for many different user types.





BACKGROUND

One of the purposes of the riverfront park plan is to create an environment where people may benefit from the recreational, relaxation and educational opportunities that the Ottawa River offers or may offer. At the same time, contact with the river will help raise people’s awareness about the importance of riverfront lands as a community asset and the importance of water quality and the environment.

The goal of the waterfront improvements policies is to enhance users’ interaction with the Ottawa River through the creation of new waterfront places and features and by implementing universal access wherever appropriate.

Instead of focusing on physical features that can be identified and protected or managed, this section of the plan looks at principles that can be developed to enrich people’s experience within the park as it relates to the Ottawa River:

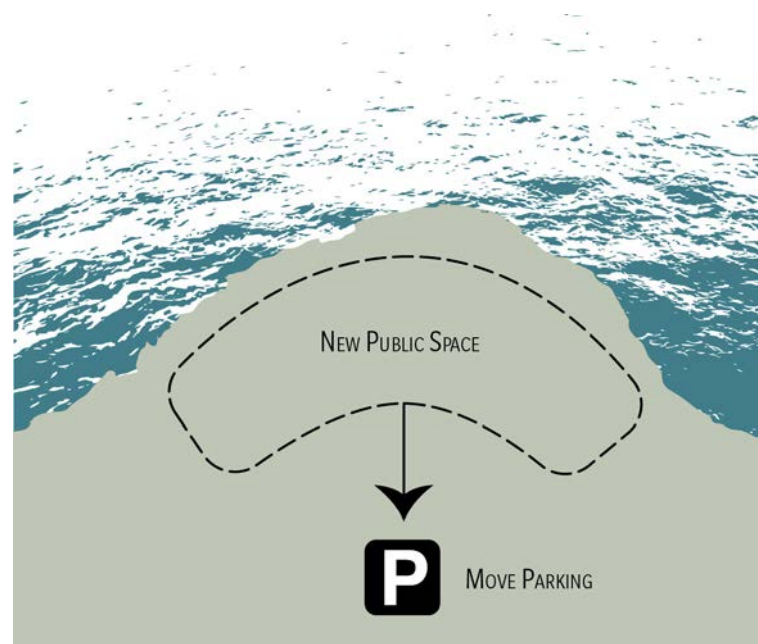
- placemaking
- diversity of waterfront experiences
- opportunities to access and interact with the water
- use of the riverfront as a water trail

4.1.1.1 PLACEMAKING

The NCC will adopt a placemaking approach by designing active, unique locations throughout the park that are people-friendly, accessible, safe and walkable.

STRATEGIES

- Reclaim wasted space such as existing parking lots or vacant lawn areas to create new people-oriented waterfront locations.
- Create new spaces separate from the pathways for people to stop, linger and enjoy.



4.1.1.2 WATERFRONT DIVERSITY

Establishing accesses, uses and activities along the waterfront that the park’s users and stakeholders want to experience will result in waterfront diversity.

STRATEGIES

Create unique and context-appropriate waterfront installations that offer opportunities for visitors to physically or visually access the water’s edge, such as the following:

BOARDWALKS



Elevated, floating pathways that allow visitors to pass through and over the waterfront landscape can create opportunities for bird and wildlife viewing.

GUIDELINES

- Include handrails and edges to design (include a middle rail for small children).
- Base ramp gradient (on and off the boardwalk) on federal and provincial accessibility standards.
- Minimize and/or mitigate impact on the environment.

BOAT LAUNCHES AND DOCKS



Elevated or floating platforms that provide an opportunity to get onto the water can serve as mooring or put-in/take-out locations for small non-motorized watercraft, or fishing locations.

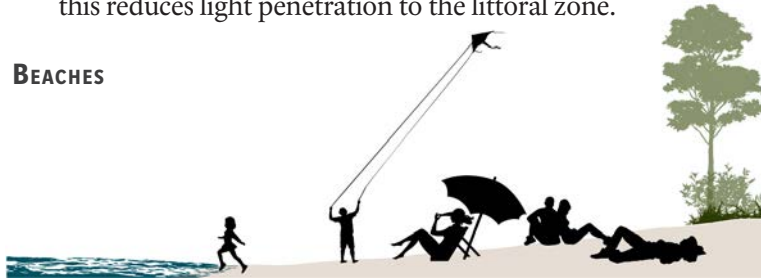
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GUIDELINES

- Make boat launch areas as small as possible while still allowing for shoreline activities.
- Be very selective about the preservatives used on any material that comes into contact with the water.
- Prevent potential spills and ensure that disturbance during construction is minimal.
- Make cleaning stations available on site, where possible, to clean boats and equipment before they make contact with the water, to avoid the spread of invasive species.
- Use dock surfaces that have grates or other openings to allow maximum light penetration for aquatic species.
- Prohibit the use of side planking or skirts on the docks, since this reduces light penetration to the littoral zone.

BEACHES



Beaches are shallow, sandy swimming locations maintained and operated for public use. Establish them in appropriate locations in consultation with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

GUIDELINES

- If adding sand, use highest available grain size to provide greatest stability.
- Do not add sand where it destroys fish/wildlife habitat or protected vegetation.
- Make sure all sand is isolated above the high water mark to avoid it being washed into the water.

- Do not install public beaches in areas critical to species at risk.

STEPS

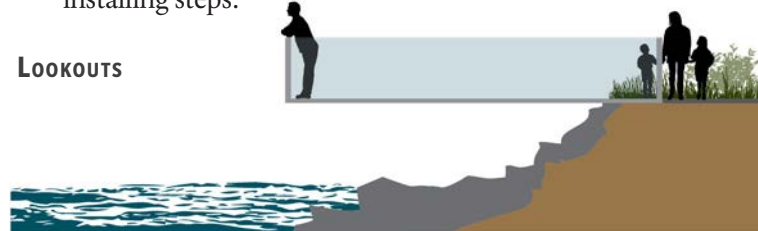


Steps are defined as a terraced shoreline providing access to the water's edge. They can be used as a place for informal seating, fishing or non-motorized boat launch.

GUIDELINES

- Plan to preserve/re-establish vegetation that is disrupted through construction.
- Implement bioengineering techniques when constructing/ installing steps.

LOOKOUTS



Lookouts are spaces or structure projections that provide opportunities to appreciate the visual connection to the water's edge and the experience of being “over” the water.

OBSERVATION TOWERS

OBSERVATION TOWER SKETCH TO COME

An observation tower is a raised structure that provides dramatic panoramic views from an elevated perspective to implement one of the programming activities proposed in the Mud Lake/Britannia Area Plan (2004).

4.1.1.3 WATER INTERACTION

Opportunities for interaction with the water will incorporate a balance between recreational use and the character of the shoreline for all users.

STRATEGIES

- Provide universal access to the water's edge wherever possible.
- Ensure that water access opportunities are equitable for a range of users and activities and evenly distributed throughout the corridor.
- Ensure that the public can safely enjoy the shoreline year-round.

WATER INTERACTION SKETCH TO COME



4.1.1.4 WATERFRONT TRAIL

The trail will be designed to enhance the experience and enjoyment of the waterfront in a safe and convenient manner and to highlight water-focused recreational opportunities.

STRATEGIES

- Categorize access points by type (e.g. emergency only, general use).
- Establish paddling and portage routes in consultation with stakeholders in this industry.
- Provide the necessary infrastructure, such as access points and wayfinding elements, to allow users of non-motorized watercraft to navigate the river.
- Develop a series of put-in and take-out points above and below rapids sections to allow flat water paddlers to safely travel up and down the river and white water paddler to access the rapids.
- Engage the local paddling communities to foster a sense of ownership and collaboration.
- Offer opportunities to all levels of canoeing/kayaking experience and ability.

WATERFRONT TRAIL
SKETCH TO COME

PHOTOS
TO COME

DRAFT – FOR DISCUSSION ONLY



4.1.1.5 INITIATIVES—WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS

GENERAL	PLACEMAKING	WATERFRONT DIVERSITY	WATER INTERACTION	WATERFRONT TRAIL
Explore opportunities to engage the Algonquin-Anishinabeg communities in placemaking at the waterfront. Strive for design excellence when designing sites, their features and associated programming incorporating sustainability, safety, universal accessibility and cultural elements.	Provide access and connections to nodes, pathways and shoreline from roads, sidewalks and the light rail station at locations that maximize sightlines and minimize conflicts. Ensure nodes, pathways and the shoreline are universally accessible to users where feasible. Establish management standards to maintain an appropriate cleanliness and maintenance level for infrastructure and amenities. Consider the character of the adjacent built and natural environments when designing the node/public area. Consider the importance of comfort when designing rest areas. Develop activity plans for the public area while leaving room for spontaneous social interactions to encourage return visits and pride of place.	BOARDWALKS Consider carefully where the boardwalk will be constructed. Avoid negative impacts on site when installing over/through a sensitive area. Locate the boardwalk to maximize visitor experience to view/enjoy or learn about the wetland/natural feature that would be otherwise inaccessible. BOAT LAUNCHES Build the least disruptive option. Minimize the boat launch’s length to preserve the river’s navigability. Minimize shoreline and littoral zone disruption while constructing and using the boat launch. BEACHES Identify which natural features can be maintained and incorporate them into the beach design.	Minimize impact on the natural environment when designing access and interaction sites with the river and the shoreline. Explore creative opportunities to encourage learning about the river and the park’s environment through interpretive media or landscape design. Prepare programming for active and quiet uses of the river and its shorelines.	Identify river access points in terms of user type and appropriateness of use. Permit only non-motorized boats/water craft to access the river within the park, with the exception of emergency or companion boats. Identify appropriate safety considerations. Identify any portages and historic or current routes. List and map each site’s facilities. Establish regulations—i.e., hours of operation, overnight stays, motorized versus non-motorized vehicle use, etc. Communicate regulations to the public in a variety of ways, minimizing the amount of signage. Strive for positive messaging rather than negative “do not” messages.

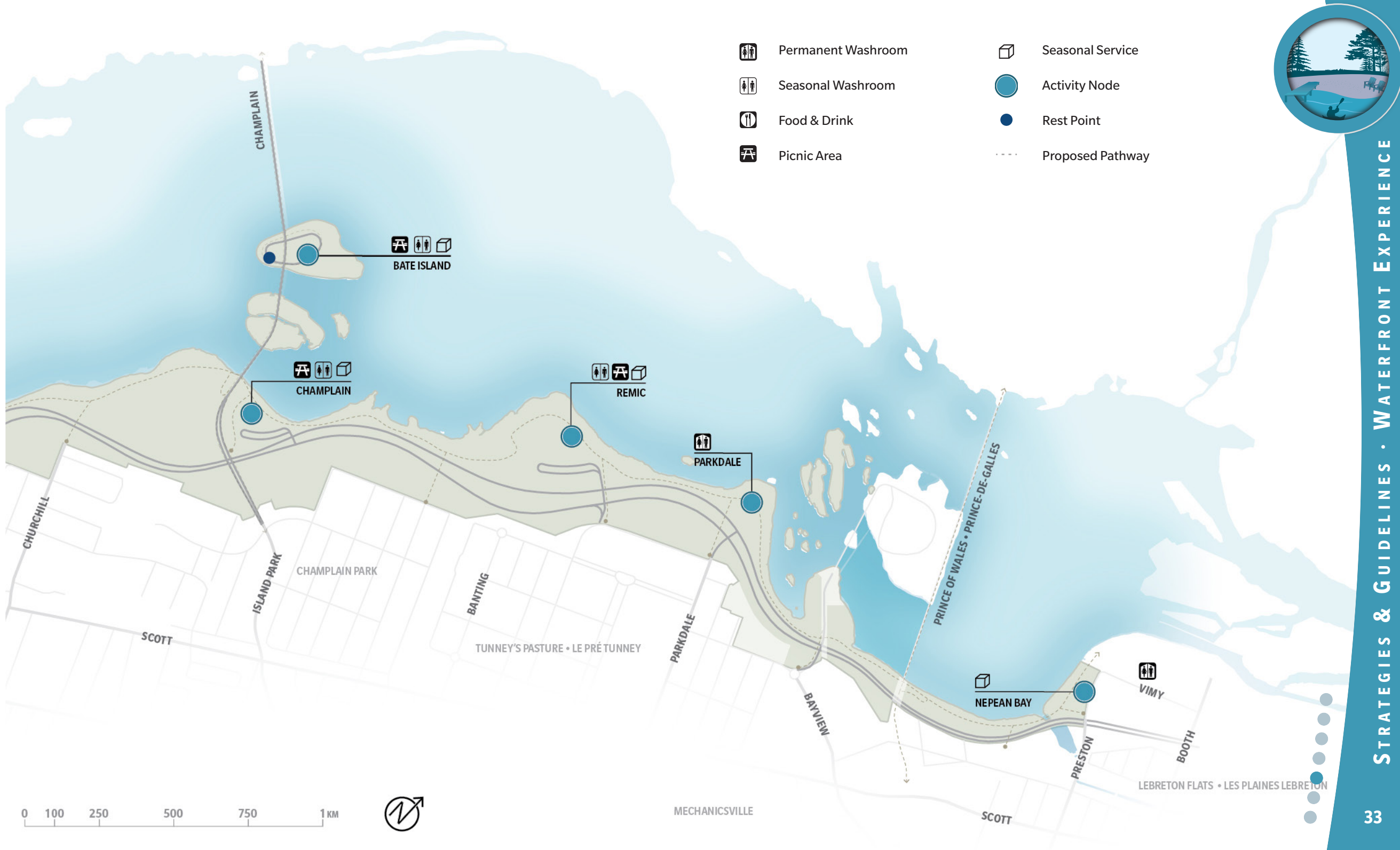
4.1.2 PUBLIC AMENITIES

Create, establish or install public amenities throughout the park to enhance the visitor experience and provide convenience and benefits during their stay.

AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Provide universal access to the park's public amenities where feasible.
- Provide amenities appropriate to the scale and use of the park in order to enhance the visitor experience.
- Support commercial and recreational service providers through the provision of appropriate amenities and the approval of complementary uses and developments.
- Permit amenities that support potential recreational activities in the park or along the shore.





Permanent Washroom



Seasonal Washroom



Food & Drink



Picnic Area



Seasonal Service



Activity Node



Rest Point



Proposed Pathway



BACKGROUND

One of the key aims of developing the park is to create a space that draws people in, a space that encourages its use. The NCC is seeking to develop a vibrant and exciting destination, a place where people want to go and feel safe while being there. To help achieve this objective, the NCC is proposing to establish a variety of attractions and experiences within the park, not only along its length but in particular at nine activity nodes. These sites will be centres where people, the park and programming come together in unique ways, with the design of each node drawing from elements such as location, natural features or size. Part of the park development will include the provision of certain facilities and amenities like washrooms and water fountains and services like equipment rentals and commercial services. The balance will be pathways, the parkway and various areas left in their natural state. Finally, it should be noted that all park development shall occur using sustainable planning, construction and facility management approaches, as the NCC is committed to develop and manage our own assets in an environmentally responsible manner.

The following features and amenities will help users fully enjoy what the park offers:

- activity nodes
- services
- diplomatic missions
- energy efficiency and sustainable site management

The goal of the policies for public amenities is to enhance the visitor experience and sense of place within the park by providing amenities and services throughout the park and within each unique activity node, using methods and practices and installing features that promote energy efficiency and respect environmental sustainability.

4.1.2.1 ACTIVITY NODES

Activity nodes will offer different types of park experiences that are properly located and serviced.

STRATEGIES

- Provide different types and scales of activity nodes along the corridor.
- Provide options for different interactions with the natural environment, ranging from quiet reflection to nautical activities.
- Ensure that site development is suitable in terms of its size, scale, location and planned use.
- Ensure that desired activity level is planned for in terms of volume, traffic and the type of facilities.
- Cluster services and facilities in and around activity nodes.
- Offer commercial services in appropriate locations in terms of scale, customer traffic and footprint of the facilities and their inherent operations.

GUIDELINES

- Differentiate components of activity nodes as appropriate, using space, changes in elevation, hard and soft barriers (e.g. fences, planters and so on).
- Provide universal access as much as possible.



ACTIVITY NODES
SKETCH TO COME

4.1.2.2 SERVICES

Services will be provided to park users in a manner that enhances park experience, as well as supports its natural and aesthetic features.

STRATEGIES

- Ensure that approved commercial uses are consistent with and supportive of the site’s character and theme, the desired traffic level and the presence of facilities in the park.
- Explore opportunities for partnerships with the Algonquin-Anishinabeg communities with respect to service provision.
- Ensure that services are universally accessible and open to all members of the public where feasible.
- Encourage partnerships in support of privately run bicycle and winter equipment rentals within the park.
- Install facilities in a way that
 - is as flexible as possible to accommodate changing needs and desires;
 - does not adversely affect the user experience or the visual quality of the areas;
 - does not occupy areas that are meant to be public open spaces;
 - integrates the architecture of the temporary or permanent facilities with the surroundings; and preserves natural features.



SERVICES
SKETCH TO COME



- Ensure that there is a range of affordable commercial uses.

GUIDELINES

- Establish walkability criteria to and between nodes to ensure node designs are walker friendly and universally accessible.

4.1.2.3 NATIONAL, CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

Diplomatic missions will provide site-specific functions.

STRATEGIES

- Allow the installation of a national or cultural institution or diplomatic missions in existing buildings or on plots of land set aside for that purpose (see section 5, Parkdale Sector).

GUIDELINES

- Please refer to municipal zoning and official plan policies.

INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
SKETCH TO COME

4.1.2.4 ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE SITE MANAGEMENT

Site management will respect the environment and be economically responsible.

STRATEGIES

- Apply an approach to development that respects and complements the natural environment so that it will maintain or enhance the environmental quality of the natural features.

- Ensure that proposed design solutions are reliable over the long term and can be economically maintained.
- Ensure proposed building plans/designs exhibit high levels of energy efficiency.

GUIDELINES

- Use materials for built facilities that reflect materials used in nearby built and natural heritage sites such as brick, stone, copper and wood where appropriate. Aluminum and vinyl siding, concrete blocks and stucco are not desirable.
- Use environmentally sustainable design wherever feasible including building orientation to ensure access to natural light and ventilation, low water and energy-use applications, native plant species, permeable paving materials, green roofs and alternative energy generation.
- Use local materials, recycling and innovative technologies for energy conservation and waste management.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & SUSTAINABLE SITE MANG.
SKETCH TO COME

PHOTOS
TO COME



4.1.2.5 INITIATIVES—PUBLIC AMENITIES

ACTIVITY NODES	SERVICES	INSTITUTIONS	ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE SITE MANAGEMENT
Design outdoor areas as extensions to built environments.	Provide adequate services to park users at a level suitable to their needs (e.g. electricity, water, site maintenance).	Ensure that development at activity nodes is compatible with and sensitive to adjacent community values and concerns.	Design nodes with a smaller ecological footprint.
Arrange activity areas in a complementary manner to adjacent uses and respect the site capacity.	Develop specific management/maintenance plans tailored for the activity nodes.	Establish partnerships with institutions to discuss projects and programs that will enhance the park’s vitality.	Apply regulations to promote energy efficiency and sustainability.
Design while taking into account topography, landforms and natural features.	Support and welcome community and volunteer efforts that help with maintaining and improving park amenities and facilities.	Support green building design.	Set up demonstration projects at activity nodes where appropriate.
		Ensure context-sensitive building design is integrated into the park’s natural setting and landscape.	



**PHOTOS
TO COME**



4.1.3 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

Provide an open space network that allows for a range of experiences that are safe, accessible and designed for their purpose, as well as for year-round use of the park.

AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Make the river shoreline an attractive and important destination, inviting to people on foot and cycling.
- Ensure a balanced and diverse offering of landscape typologies resulting in a wide array of opportunities.
- Develop areas near the river for relaxation and quiet contemplation.
- Apply a typology of indicators to determine what features go where within public open space areas.





BACKGROUND

The riverfront park plan represents a second generation of Capital placemaking. The first phase, in 1960, was marked by land acquisitions and greening of former residential and industrial lands to create a continuous transportation and green space corridor along the Ottawa River shoreline. The transformation of the shoreline during this period was intended to beautify the Capital shoreline, relocate the railway and improve quality of life by removing heavy industrial use. The result was a carefully designed picturesque parkway that celebrated the Ottawa River.

This plan establishes a new phase that builds upon the initial greening of this corridor. The Capital Urban Lands Plan 2015 designates the vast majority of the park as Capital Urban Greenspace. A small portion of the lands within the corridor presently have special ecological significance and have been designated as valued natural habitat. The purpose of the Capital Urban Greenspace designation is to “offer opportunities for passive enjoyment and recreation with less intensive formal infrastructure requirements and protect parkland links...” (Capital Urban Lands Plan 2015, pg.53). Today, the demands on our urban green spaces are diverse. They must simultaneously serve as ecological assets, public places and recreational amenities. Population growth, infrastructure needs, and urban development and intensification all place increasing pressures on these valuable assets.

The following policies, when implemented, enhance the public’s open space experience:

- site animation
- design quality
- climatic and resilient design
- health and safety
- goose management

The goal of the public open space policies is to ensure that the Capital shoreline responds to the widest array of potential recreation opportunities at the most appropriate locations along the corridor.

4.1.3.1 SITE ANIMATION
The park will offer a variety of experiences to people of all ages and abilities.

STRATEGIES

- Offer a diverse range of experience areas ranging from tranquil spaces for quiet uses to more active, vibrant areas.
- Vary the landscaping to give each site its own character and make it recognizable.
- Make places inviting and comfortable by developing them in a context-sensitive manner.
- Make sites vibrant and attractive by increasing the number of inviting living spaces around points of interest (small plazas, places to sit, fountains, artwork, flowerbeds, open-access games, refreshments, restaurants, rental services, interpretive installations, lookout points, etc.).
- Accommodate river-dependent and river-related recreational activities in animation nodes and in buildings, and where feasible and appropriate, include park-related commercial uses.
- Implement the river’s functional requirements such as cultural history and recreation through building form and design.

GUIDELINES

- Observe maximum distances between small plazas (75 to 100 metres) to promote movement within and entry into the park.

- Landscape sites using native materials to accommodate a variety of gatherings and events.
- Choose multi-purpose materials for site surfaces that accommodate organized activities.
- Provide flexibility in park furniture that allows the public to be active and to appropriate the space to make it theirs.
- Allow informal sports and recreational activities that do not require permanent infrastructure.



4.1.3.2 DESIGN QUALITY
A high level of suitable design quality will reflect the significance of Canada’s Capital.

STRATEGIES

- Prioritize design solutions that enhance the aesthetics of the landscape and showcase Capital landmarks.
- Foster design that is of a suitable quality to properly reflect a federal seat of government.



GUIDELINES

- Demonstrate high levels of design excellence in facilities and amenities for the public realm, and follow best practices for maintenance procedures.
- Design and locate lighting bearing in mind sustainability and impacts of light pollution.
- Provide downcast pedestrian-level lighting in high-traffic pedestrian and cycling areas that are night sky-friendly to minimize light pollution.
- Install lighting fixtures in accordance with existing NCC standards, and consider all maintenance implications.
- Apply the guidelines identified in Section 4.2 Urban Design of the *Capital Illumination Plan* when lighting is proposed.

DESIGN QUALITY
SKETCH TO COME

4.1.3.3 CLIMATIC AND RESILIENT DESIGN

Appropriate design will enhance the comfort and experience of park users in varied temperatures and weather conditions.

STRATEGIES

- Include landscape elements such as plantings, furniture and site topography that maximize the benefits of climatic design.
- Consider year-round use of the park and pathway in the park’s design.

GUIDELINES

- Plant predominantly deciduous trees that are tall enough to provide shade and that shield against winds but with the bottom of their canopies high enough to allow views.
- Plant trees individually as opposed to large groups or reforestation, with low understory plants, such as meadow or lawn.
- Place shade trees on the south side of pathways.
- Determine areas where there is sun exposure in the activity nodes and provide shade at least in some areas, particularly seating areas, leaving others with full sun.
- Design parking lots to reduce the heat island effect in accordance with BNQ 3019-190 guidelines.

CLIMATIC AND RESILIENT DESIGN
SKETCH TO COME

4.1.3.4 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and safety will be key considerations in park design, management and use.

STRATEGIES

- Prevent plant encroachment onto the pathway.
- Apply Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles and best practices into site design.

GUIDELINES

- Establish a planting strip between the parkway and pathway that is a minimum one metre wide. Low maintenance lawn is preferred, but hardy, salt-tolerant perennials, such as day lilies, can be used if the maximum height is 30 cm.
- Establish a planting strip between the cycling and pedestrian paths that is a minimum one metre wide consisting of mowed lawn between the pathway edge and any other plant material such as shrubs or perennials.
- Limit the width of planting strip between the pedestrian pathway and shoreline vegetation (e.g. trees, shrubs and perennials) to a minimum two-metres width of mowed lawn. Exceptions are possible where there is insufficient space.
- Use coordinated lighting on buildings and points of interest to enhance the sites’ appeal and functionality.

HEALTH & SAFETY
SKETCH TO COME

- Orient pathways to building entrances and windows.
- Maintain landscaping to limit overgrowth.
- Plant dense/thorny plants to reinforce fences and direct/control access to site.
- Address vandalism issues through design.
- Implement the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design guidelines to manage vandalism and create a safer park environment.

4.1.3.5 **GOOSE MANAGEMENT**
Minimize the conflicts between people and Canada Geese, a highly valued natural resource.

STRATEGIES

- Include habitat modification techniques and provide seasonal deterrents to reduce the populations of Canada geese or any other invasive/nuisance species present in the parks.
- Provide a continuous buffer between the shoreline and lawn areas that is difficult for geese to traverse.

GOOSE MANAGEMENT
SKETCH TO COME

GUIDELINES

- Create vertical drops 45–60 cm at top or bottom of slope (geese find these difficult to navigate).
- Establish the following characteristics for the buffer between the shoreline and grassed areas:
 - a width of at least six metres;
 - minimum vegetation height of 50 cm—vegetation should be dense and favour plants with tough stems and leaves (e.g. goldenrod, asters), woody plants, as well as species with alkaloids and tannins;
 - avoidance of creeping bentgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, fine fescues, clover, and tender aquatic vegetation like pondweed, bulrush, sedges and cattails.
- Use fencing as a last resort. It should be monofilament lines, such as poultry wire, mounted at two heights: 20 cm and 40 cm.
- Enhance vegetation, or where not feasible replace it with large boulders, angular or rounded, >60 cm diameter, at the top or bottom of slopes.
- Vary the sequence and techniques used to scare the birds so that they do not become habituated.

PHOTOS
TO COME



4.1.3.6 INITIATIVES—PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

GENERAL	SITE ANIMATION	DESIGN QUALITY	CLIMATIC AND RESILIENT DESIGN	HEALTH AND SAFETY	GOOSE MANAGEMENT
Provide maximum greenery and sufficient forest cover in riverside parks. Arrange developments in a way that protects the green spaces and woods that structure the landscape.	Provide formal and informal ways to sit or linger (benches, seating wall, steps, etc.), in different locations, in different arrangements and of different heights. Provide places off the main pathway where people can stop, spend time or chat. Use landscaping or surface treatments to more clearly delineate defined public spaces.	For buildings and facilities, promote high-quality green architectural language that highlights the defining characteristics of the sites. Ensure that permanent and temporary signs and advertising do not interfere with the visual quality of the riverfront lands.	Provide shade along pathways and in activity nodes through plantings. Ensure that plantings do not obscure river views. Determine areas where winds should be blocked and provide wind breaks, primarily evergreen vegetation, to protect against prevailing winds in colder weather, particularly around areas focusing on winter activities. Arrange developments in a way that takes advantage of the sunlight, to provide sunny and shaded areas.	Ensure that there are no “entrapment” areas or areas that have limited visibility and access to the site. Enhance opportunities for natural surveillance.	Obstruct access to lawn areas by constructing barriers along the shoreline. Disturb birds as soon as they arrive using various humane scaring techniques.



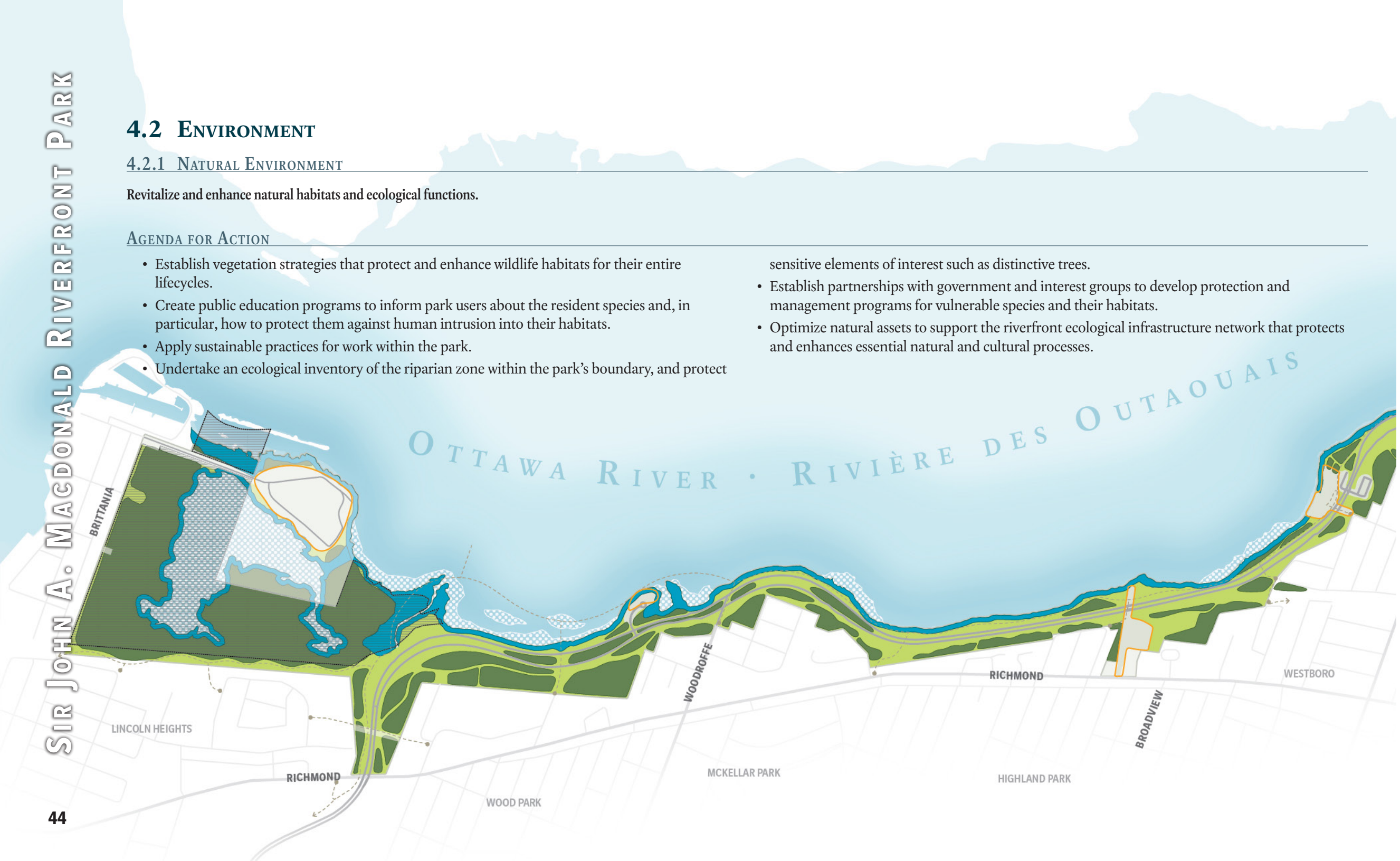
4.2 ENVIRONMENT

4.2.1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Revitalize and enhance natural habitats and ecological functions.

AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Establish vegetation strategies that protect and enhance wildlife habitats for their entire lifecycles.
- Create public education programs to inform park users about the resident species and, in particular, how to protect them against human intrusion into their habitats.
- Apply sustainable practices for work within the park.
- Undertake an ecological inventory of the riparian zone within the park's boundary, and protect sensitive elements of interest such as distinctive trees.
- Establish partnerships with government and interest groups to develop protection and management programs for vulnerable species and their habitats.
- Optimize natural assets to support the riverfront ecological infrastructure network that protects and enhances essential natural and cultural processes.





BACKGROUND

The natural environment is a significant component of the park. The existing environmental habitats are identified on the adjacent map and include woodland, prairie, wetlands/riparian, aquatic habitats and valued natural habitats. These habitats may be connected, and more than one feature may exist in the same area, allowing for species’ migration and the interconnectedness of natural functions across the park as a whole.

As per Natural Capital: The Economic Value of the National Capital Commission’s Green Network (NCC, 2016), the corridor offers limited economic value in terms of ecosystem services.

The following are the park’s key environmental features:

- invasive species
- species at risk
- important bird areas
- trees

And the following are the park’s key environmental habitats:

- valued natural habitat
- wetland and riparian habitat
- woodland habitat
- aquatic habitat
- prairie habitat

As structured in the other roles, the environmental features and habitats section introduces strategies with their respective guidelines. However, many of these guidelines also need to be applied to the other environmental categories. To avoid repetition, the guidelines provided for invasive species, important bird areas, species at risk and trees will also apply to valued natural habitats, woodland habitats, prairie habitats, wetland and riparian habitat, and aquatic habitat.

The goal of the following policies is to foster ecological health and diversity while allowing increased access to and responsible use of resources for educational uses and passive, low-impact recreational uses.

4.2.1.1 INVASIVE SPECIES

Prevention, management and control of invasive species will minimize the loss and degradation of the park’s natural habitats.

STRATEGIES

- Protect critical habitats listed under the federal or provincial species at risk legislation.
- Control invasive plants in the park to protect existing and potential habitats for species at risk.

GUIDELINES

- Target 100 percent removal of all invasive species.
- Use non-invasive plant species, with a strong preference toward native species.
- Use materials that are free of weeds and invasive species (seeds, soil, plantings, mulch, sand, gravel, topsoil, etc.).
- Make sure removal of invasive species occurs immediately before replanting.
- Manage established and spreading invasive species through eradication, containment, control and restoration.
- Start working in non-infested areas before moving to infested areas.
- Clean sludge, earth and plant material from equipment and tools used in areas infested by invasive species, at the

INVASIVE SPECIES
SKETCH TO COME

infestation site.

- Monitor work sites for the emergence of invasive plants for a minimum of two years after project completion.
- Include monitoring of invasive species in follow-up and maintenance programs.

4.2.1.2 IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

Important bird areas (IBAs) are significant for bird conservation while allowing for public education.

STRATEGIES

- Conserve forests and/or treed areas surrounding natural vegetation on NCC property.
- Conserve marsh habitat.

GUIDELINES

- Contribute to the Lac Deschênes–Ottawa River IBA conservation plan.
- Establish protection protocols for bird habitats and nests and/or nesting colonies.

IBA
SKETCH TO COME



4.2.1.3 SPECIES AT RISK

Protect essential habitats for identified species at risk from the impacts of human activities.

STRATEGIES

- Establish actions recommended in recovery plans for federally and provincially identified species at risk.
- Advise how individuals and organizations can avoid harming endangered species and their habitats.

GUIDELINES

- Work with government agencies and environmental organizations to develop action and recovery plans for species at risk.

SPECIES AT RISK
SKETCH TO COME

- Implement tree protection measures during all works through requirements for construction permits and/or the application of a perimeter boundary.
- Respect a minimum distance of two metres from any tree when excavating or installing structures.
- Prohibit vehicle or machinery parking or material storage within the tree dripline where feasible.
- Install protectors at the tree dripline or at the critical root zone, whichever is a greater distance from the roots to ensure trees are not damaged or cut as a result of construction activities.
- Forbid all vehicle use and routes within the trees' root zones and within two metres of the edge of the tree canopy.

Apply replacement ratios or other compensation measures for cut-down trees in proportion to their ecological, landscape or symbolic value.

TREES
SKETCH TO COME

4.2.1.4 TREES

Trees damaged as a result of development will be protected, restored and replaced.

STRATEGIES

- Establish actions to protect trees from the impacts of development activity.

GUIDELINES

- Conserve distinctive trees.

4.2.1.5 VALUED NATURAL HABITAT

Valued natural habitats will be maintained, conserved and restored.

STRATEGIES

- Manage the two valued natural habitats (Mud Lake, and the Champlain Bridge islands and Lemieux Island) as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

category IV to maintain, conserve and restore habitats and support sensitive species.¹

- Identify and maintain ecological conservation zones and the incremental measures required to achieve ecological connections.
- Respect and implement the guidelines for valued natural habitats approved through the Capital Urban Lands Plan.
- Ensure protection and awareness of paleontological and geological sites.
- Collaborate with municipalities, conservation agencies, and public and private partners to consolidate and protect biodiversity and the natural environment.

VALUED NATURAL HABITAT
SKETCH TO COME

4.2.1.6 WOODLAND HABITAT

Conservation will be undertaken for habitats, sites and their connections.

STRATEGIES

- Protect and restore wooded areas to assure a succession of native species.

GUIDELINES

- Make sure all new tree plantings are native species.

¹ The IUCN program builds upon IUCN's role as an authority on biodiversity conservation, nature-based solutions and environmental governance. www.iucn.org

- Target tree canopy coverage with specific targets of 75 percent within valued natural habitats, 25 percent in activity nodes and 50 percent along the shoreline.

WOODLAND HABITAT
SKETCH TO COME

4.2.1.7 PRAIRIE HABITAT
The prairie habitat will attract pollinators and supplement regional and international efforts to reverse the loss of pollinator habitat.

STRATEGIES

- Protect existing meadow habitats and create new ones to attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies.
- Prevent encroachment onto prairie habitats by activities, events and programs.

GUIDELINES

- Maintain plant corridors to connect the various habitats.
- Plant a variety of native flowering plants, trees and shrubs that bloom throughout the growing season.

PRAIRIE HABITAT
SKETCH TO COME

4.2.1.8 WETLAND AND RIPARIAN HABITAT
The plan will preserve and enhance habitat while allowing for increased public access and recreational activities.

STRATEGIES

- Establish a 15-metre riparian buffer within which no land shall be disturbed except by conservation programs or public water access.

GUIDELINES

- Restrict access in sensitive riparian areas to protect species at risk and essential habitats.
- Integrate measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change when designing and building riverfront edge amenities, facilities and green infrastructures.
- Manage pathways and observation points along the river’s edge to allow for nature appreciation while minimizing the impact on the shoreline and riparian habitat.

WOODLAND RIPARIAN HABITAT
SKETCH TO COME

4.2.1.9 AQUATIC HABITAT
The plan will maintain and enhance habitat while allowing responsible exploitation for education and passive recreation.

STRATEGIES

- Maintain a healthy vegetation buffer at the edge of the water.
- Maintain and protect wetlands.

- GUIDELINES
- Protect fish and fish habitats, including aquatic species at risk, their residences and their critical habitats.
 - Plan in-water work to respect timing windows to protect fish, including their eggs, juveniles, spawning adults and/or the organisms upon which they feed.
 - Minimize duration of in-water work where feasible.
 - Ensure that all in-water activities or associated in-water structures do not interfere with fish passage, constrict the channel width, reduce flows, or result in the stranding or death of fish.
 - Ensure sediment and erosion control measures are in place before beginning work.

AQUATIC HABITAT
SKETCH TO COME

- 4.2.1.10 GENERAL STRATEGIES
- Respect the sensitive times of the year for wildlife when undertaking operational and maintenance activities.
 - Provide ecological crossings and linkages for species in areas where appropriate.
 - Apply the guidelines identified in Section 5.2.1 Dark Zones of the *Capital Illumination Plan* when lighting is proposed as development may have an impact on a large number of animals and birds.
 - Apply the bird friendly building design guidelines in the implementation of the park plan.



4.2.1.11 INITIATIVES—NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

GENERAL	VALUED NATURAL HABITAT	WOODLAND HABITAT	PRAIRIE HABITAT	WETLAND AND RIPARIAN HABITAT	AQUATIC HABITAT
Incorporate conservation measures into the preplanning, design and implementation of projects.	Establish a buffer zone between the natural environment and activity areas.	Identify replacement planting areas for conservation of trees and landscape.	Allow milkweed to grow and flower to provide habitat and food for butterflies.	Stabilize soils, the shoreline and riverbanks to prevent erosion.	Provide signage in boating areas to protect turtles that are swimming and those present in shallow water.
Require development and redevelopment proposals to support the conservation of the natural landscapes, where feasible.		Apply replacement ratios or other compensation measures for cut-down trees in proportion to their ecological, landscape or symbolic value.	Establish plant corridors to encourage connections between prairie habitats, wetlands and the river.	Preserve and improve shoreline quality during site redevelopment.	Establish cleaning stations at boat launch areas to minimize/avoid the propagation of invasive species.
Develop conservation plans and restore areas where habitat degradation has occurred.			Plant a variety of native flowering plants to provide food for bees.	Conduct a complete ecological inventory of the riparian zone and fish habitat areas.	
Maintain a harmonized landscaping approach that respects the original parkway landscape.			Update maintenance programs to ensure compliance with current best management practices.	Restore priority areas.	
Recognize where and when species relocation may be required before starting site works.			Review maintenance practices such as reducing mowing frequency, reconsidering the need for mowing certain areas and timing the mowing strategically.	Maintain and reinstate native riparian vegetation. Add greater diversities that help with bank and shoreline protection.	
			Establish boundaries for activities, events and temporary installations, and establish a maintenance program to protect established meadows.		

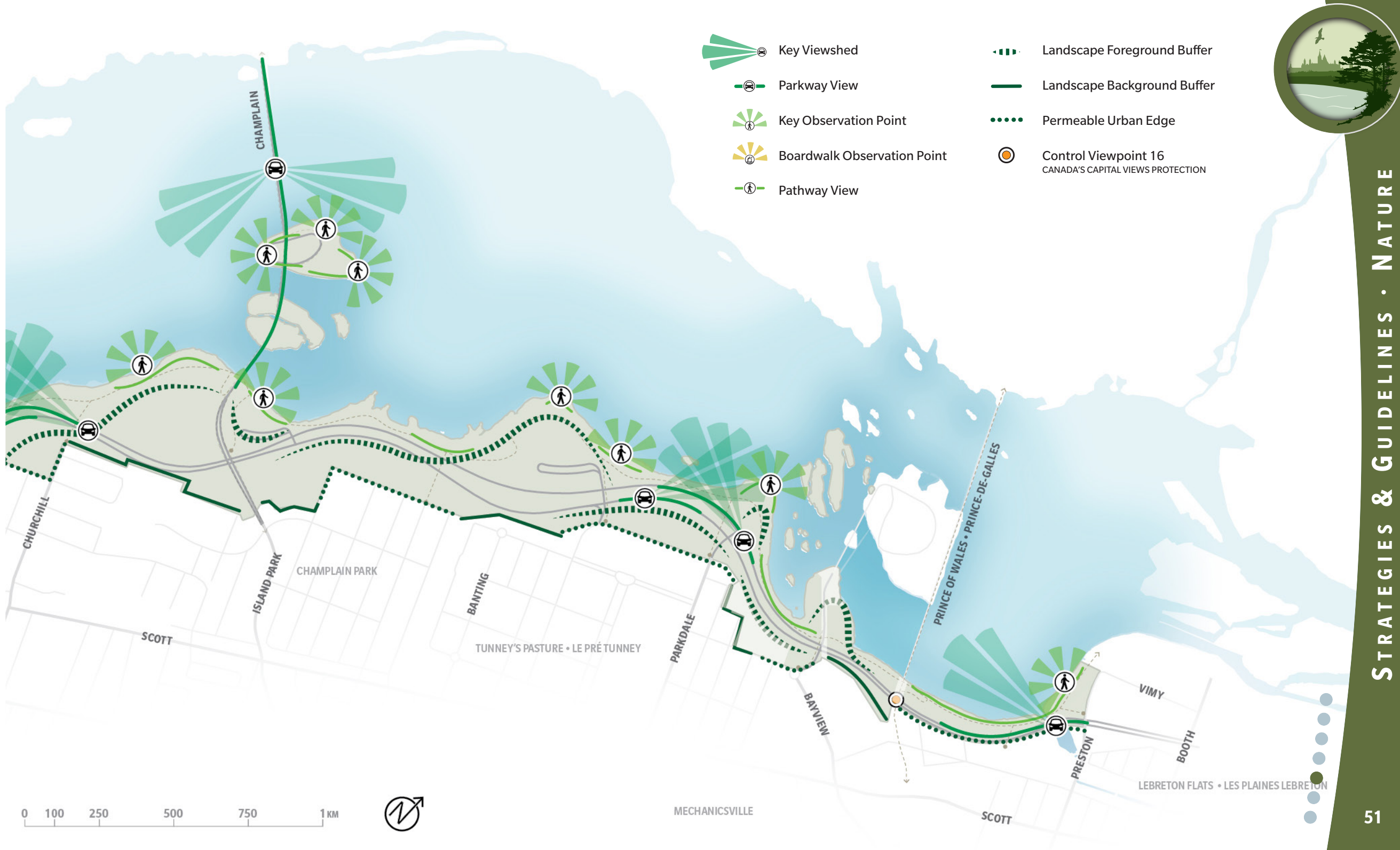
4.2.2 VIEWS AND VISTAS

Design the riverfront park to showcase its intrinsic character and picturesque beauty.

AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Make the river more visible.
- Ensure that enhancement of the riverfront park is supportive of and respects retention of scenic views of the river and beyond.
- Maintain and enhance the visual character of landscape views from pathways, working in partnerships and using a variety of approaches.
- Develop new lookout points on riverfront lands as part of the development of new Capital discovery corridors.





BACKGROUND

The riverfront's green edge and views beyond offer some of the most dramatic natural scenes within the Capital. The Ottawa River Parkway Corridor Visual Assessment Report" in 2005 revealed that the corridor has good scenic quality but it is the panoramic views along the corridor that have the highest value. It is one of this plan's objectives to maximize the benefits of the Ottawa River location by reinforcing key views to and from the river, as well as toward Parliament Hill, not only to improve the quality of the overall views but also to enhance the visitors' experience. The overall look along the parkway should be natural, with curvilinear, flowing forms, native vegetation and forested areas that balance the need for high visual quality with variety, attractive views and strong spatial definition.

This plan identifies strategies for the following elements:

- key sightlines
- natural aesthetic
- dynamic view experiences
- visual openings
- visual buffers

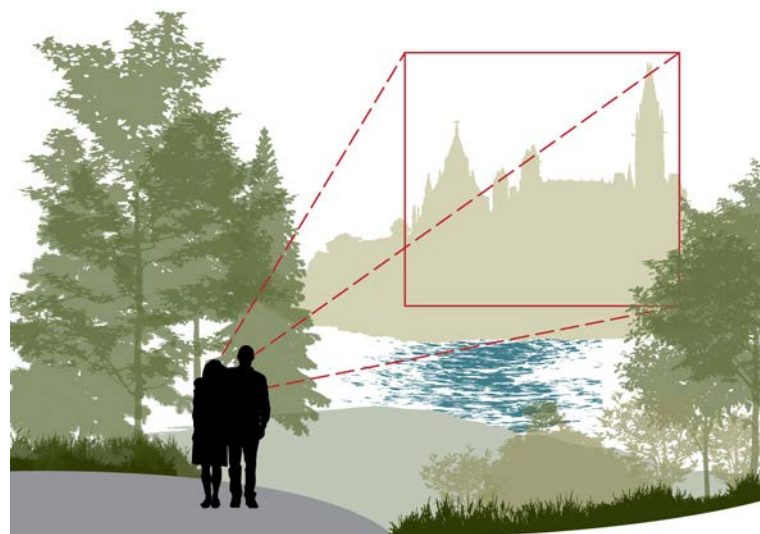
The goal of the park's policies on views and vistas is to improve the scenic quality of the Capital's unique character and significance through the preservation and enhancement of valued public views along the corridor.

4.2.2.1 KEY VIEWSHEDS

Sightlines toward iconic landmarks and natural features (such as Parliament, the Gatineau Hills, the rapids and historic sites), in particular, will be protected.

STRATEGIES

- Enhance key sightlines by framing the focal point and preserving an open viewshed.
- Consider all built and natural elements within the frame as part of the view, and ensure that they contribute to the overall visual quality.
- Provide high experiential quality at viewing locations through design elements and seating.
- Ensure the sightline is not obscured by vegetation, structures or temporary installations.

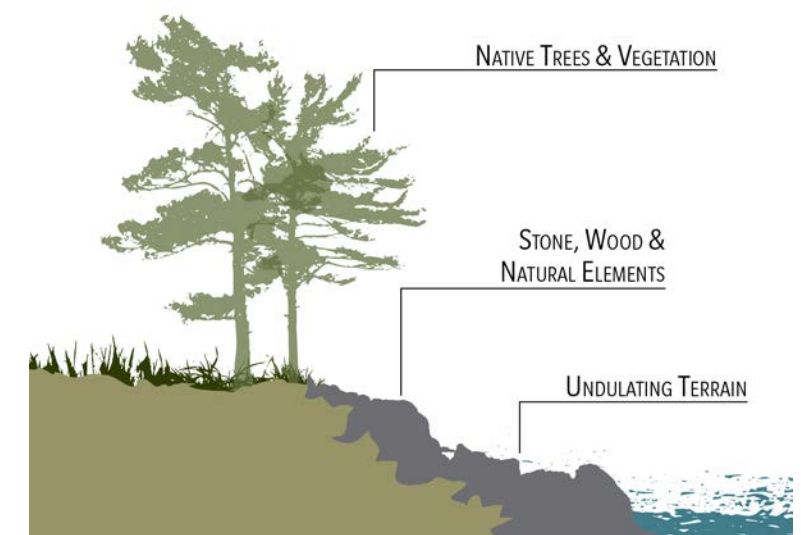


4.2.2.2 NATURAL AESTHETIC

The natural aesthetic of the riverfront corridor will contribute to its character and picturesque beauty.

STRATEGIES

- Plant native species indicative of the region (such as white pine, birch and maple).
- Preserve areas along the parkway that exhibit high-quality natural conditions and seek to replicate their character and diversity in areas that have been disturbed by human interference.
- Promote designs that utilize uneven and organic shapes and forms along with natural materials such as wood and stone.
- Increase variety and complexity in the landscape to provide more visual interest.
- Replace dead, scruffy, weedy vegetation with higher quality, native species.
- Reduce fragmentation of the landscape through consolidation and stronger spatial massing.





4.2.2.3 DYNAMIC VIEW EXPERIENCES

Consideration will be given to present dynamic views as a sequence, in addition to each representing a particular experience.

STRATEGIES

- Balance the view experience of various users, ensuring that modifications made for one purpose do not negatively impact the views of others.
- Ensure a diversity of spatial experiences, balancing low open areas such as lawns and meadows with taller massing such as forested areas.

GUIDELINES

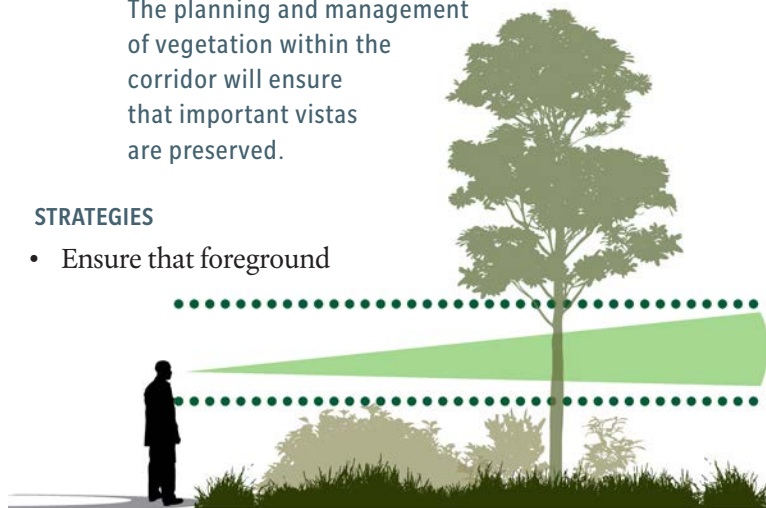
- Place and choose sizes for signage, including road signs and commercial signs, in a way that mitigates the impact on the visual quality of the landscape.
- Use selective plant removal and plantings to optimize the views.

4.2.2.4 VISUAL OPENINGS

The planning and management of vegetation within the corridor will ensure that important vistas are preserved.

STRATEGIES

- Ensure that foreground



vegetation will not obscure the views over the long term.

- Keep short, permeable view openings into park space from adjacent public streetscapes.

GUIDELINES

- Plant competitive and self-sustaining groundcover vegetation in areas where visual permeability is required.

4.2.2.5 VISUAL BUFFERS

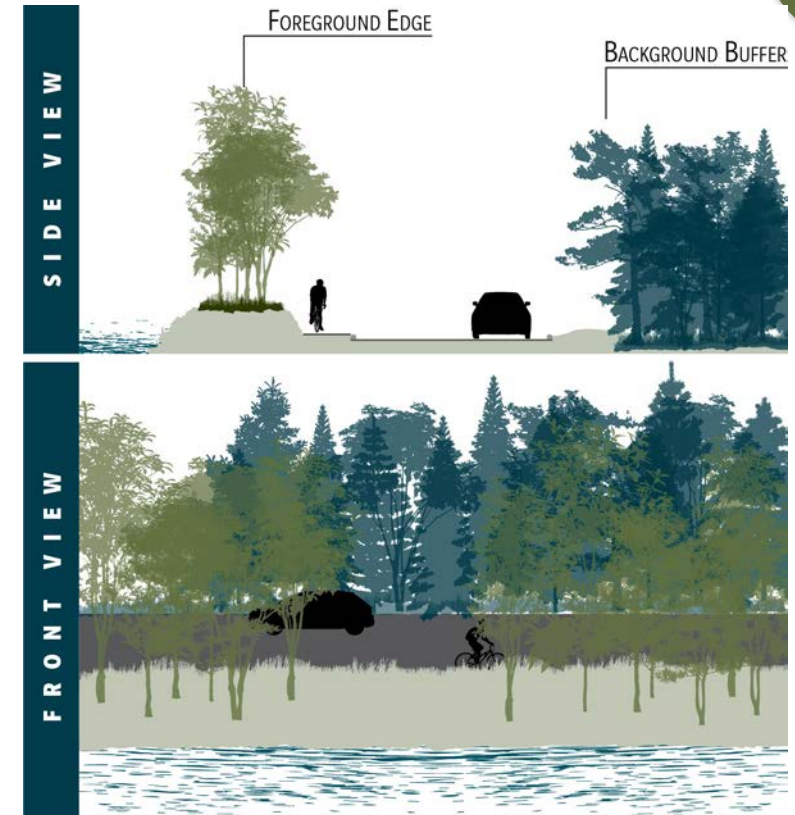
Vegetation, as shown in the plans, will define the foregrounds and backgrounds of the views along the riverfront.

STRATEGIES

- Diminish the visual impact of adjacent buildings and structures by using tall dense background vegetation or strategically placed foreground vegetation.

GUIDELINES

- Use vegetation and landforms to buffer against noise, lights and other forms of disturbance within the park.



Caption to come



4.2.2.6 INITIATIVES—VIEWS AND VISTAS

GENERAL	ICONIC SIGHTLINES	NATURAL AESTHETIC	DYNAMIC VIEW EXPERIENCES	VISUAL OPENINGS	VISUAL BUFFERS
Work with the City of Ottawa and other partners to protect these views.	Analyze the important visual, compositional characteristics of the views from sightlines.	Establish a generally natural look, using native vegetation and forested areas.	Provide meandering and sinuous trajectories for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists where scenes come into and out of focus as they move through the landscape.	Place and choose sizes for signage, including road signs and commercial signs, in a way that mitigates the impact on the visual quality of the landscape.	Make sure vegetation defines the southern boundary of the corridor and screens views toward the urban development immediately adjacent to the corridor.
Remove all view obstructions.	Define where building heights should be controlled from the key sightlines.	Balance the need for high visual quality with variety.		Design buffers while considering who will be viewing and from where.	Increase the density of the vegetative buffer against the urban edge.
Remove invasive vegetative species such as buckthorn. This species is the single greatest factor in blocking both views and access to the river.	Define appropriate measures or standards for protecting the visual integrity of the subjects in each of the views.	Increase variety and complexity in the landscape to provide more visual interest.	Design buffers while considering who will be viewing and from where.	Use selective plant removal, plantings and pruning to optimize the views.	Reduce the visual impact of elements like traffic signals, signage, lighting, etc.
Update the corridor’s visual assessment.	Undertake ongoing landscape feature maintenance to preserve/protect the views.	Replace dead, scruffy, weedy vegetation with higher quality, native species.		Reconfigure the typical cross section of the shoreline to improve visual connections to the water for pedestrians and cyclists.	Plant natural features wherever analyses show that the visual quality would be enhanced by visual screens.
Establish design guidelines that provide for landmark view preservation in site plan proposals.		Reduce fragmentation of mowed lawn and other vegetation through consolidation and stronger spatial massing.		Avoid walls of tall dense vegetation along the shoreline that completely obscure eye-level views (often as a result of invasive species or unsustainable plant communities).	Provide a continuous/layered foreground edge along the length of the riverfront park. Where gaps occur, ensure a background buffer fills the void.
					Plant dense evergreen background buffers along private property boundaries.
					Screen delivery, loading and waste storage and collection areas from the parkway, parking sites and public spaces.



**PHOTOS
TO COME**

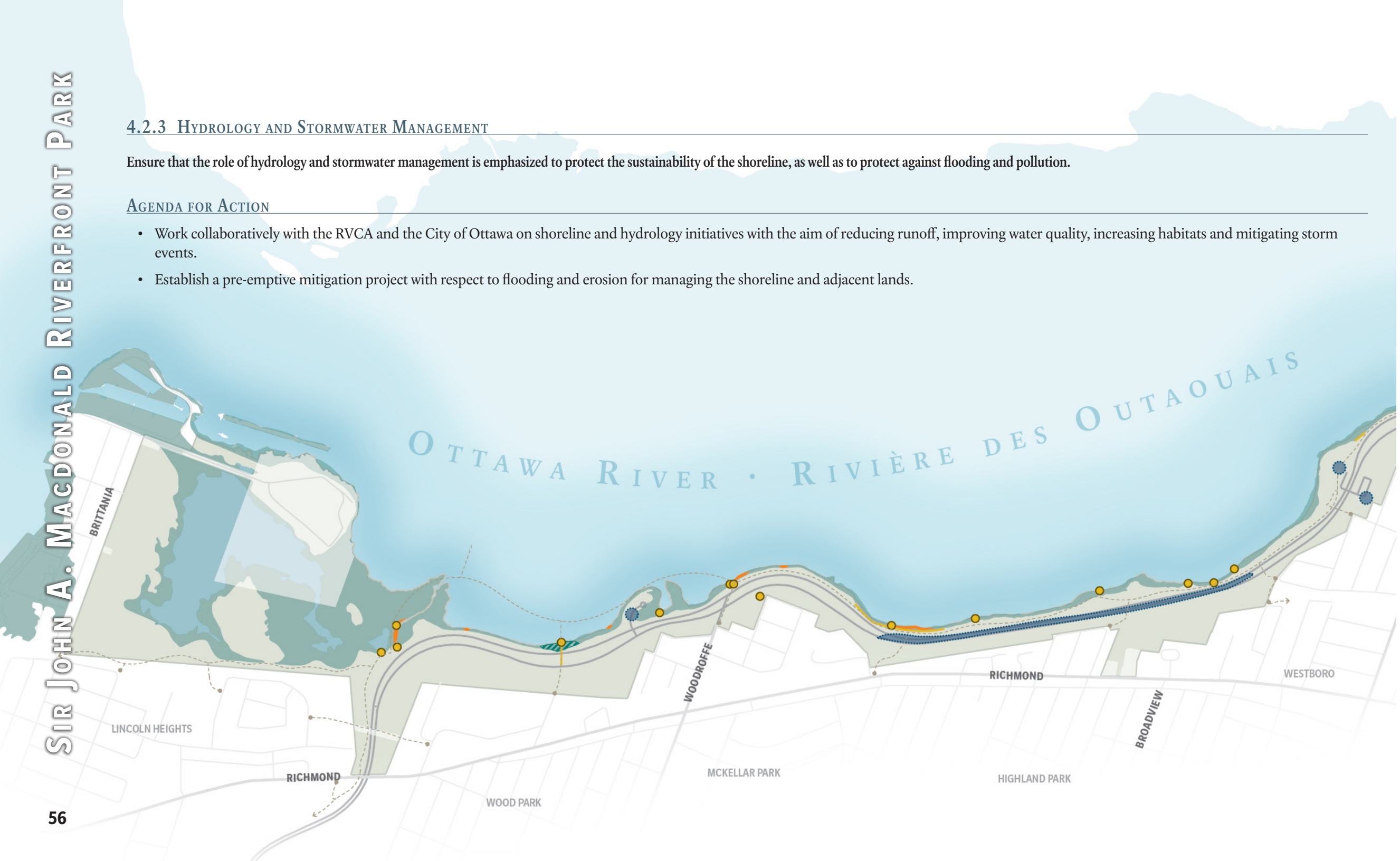


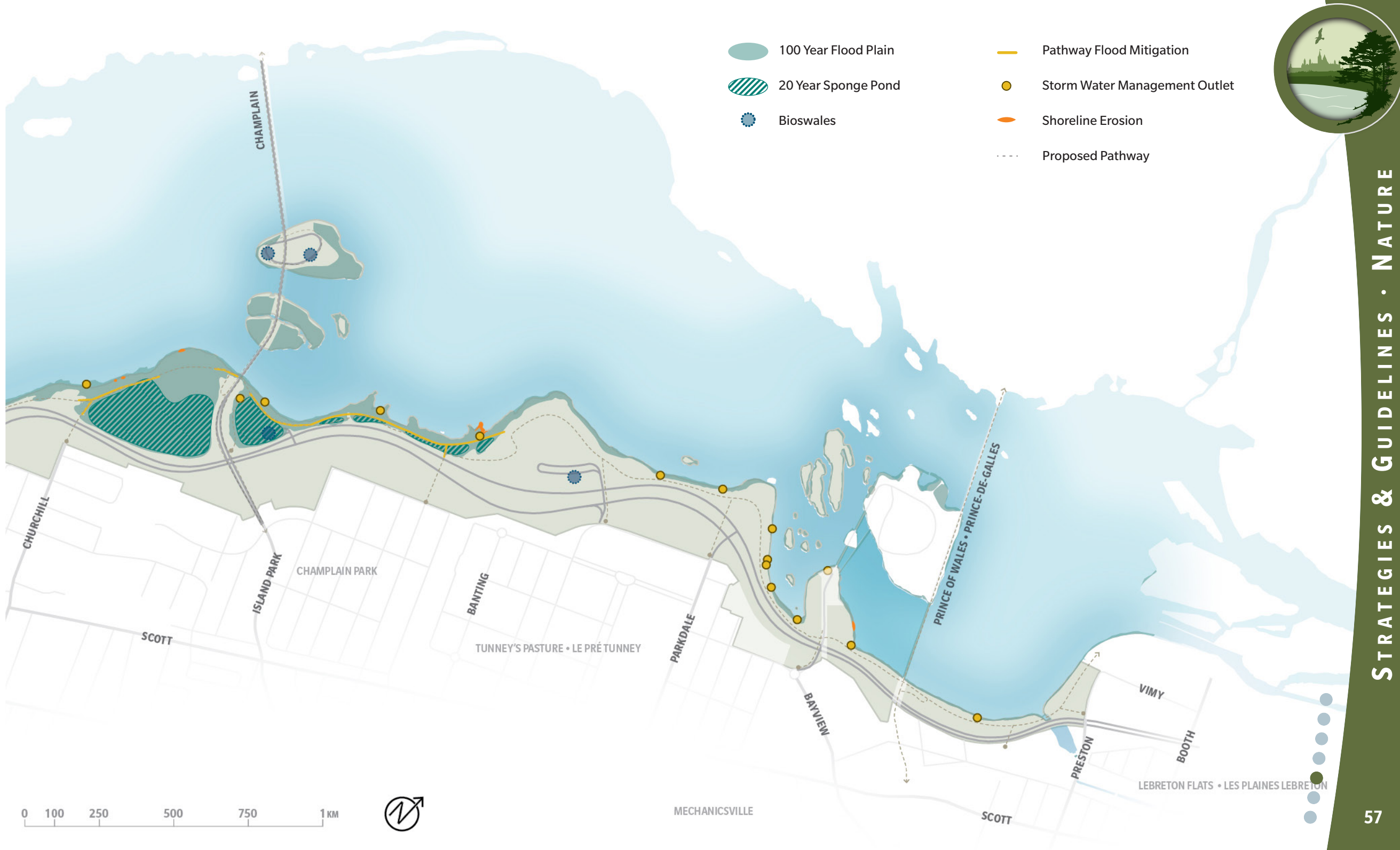
4.2.3 HYDROLOGY AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Ensure that the role of hydrology and stormwater management is emphasized to protect the sustainability of the shoreline, as well as to protect against flooding and pollution.

AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Work collaboratively with the RVCA and the City of Ottawa on shoreline and hydrology initiatives with the aim of reducing runoff, improving water quality, increasing habitats and mitigating storm events.
- Establish a pre-emptive mitigation project with respect to flooding and erosion for managing the shoreline and adjacent lands.





BACKGROUND

The ecological health of the Ottawa River is a visible marker of conservation efforts being made to protect/enhance portions of its watershed within NCC jurisdiction—and the NCC recognizes the importance of protecting these assets through the application of responsible stormwater management approaches in this plan.

The NCC approach to stormwater management is currently guided by the Stormwater Management Information Manual. The NCC is presently working on a new policy and procedures document for approval in 2018. For purposes of this plan, the following policy direction is taken by the NCC regarding stormwater management on park lands:

- consistency with applicable and relevant federal legislation and policies
- avoidance and minimization of adverse environmental impacts to federal lands
- minimization and mitigation of erosion and sedimentation
- protection and enhancement of aquatic and terrestrial habitats
- management of water quantity
- improvement of water quality

Hydrologic and stormwater management strategies are key factors in the resiliency of the NCC’s riverfront lands and assets. Increasingly severe weather patterns have consequences such as flooding, drought, shoreline erosion, and flora and fauna destruction due to climatic stresses. Also, dramatic fluctuation in seasonal water levels present challenges to infrastructure design and shoreline access.

The NCC must manage and prepare for flooding impacts. In the park, existing shoreline conditions are relatively stable, except in some specific locations where gradual erosion is expected to occur. These vulnerable areas should be improved through pre-emptive mitigation. In addition, there are some areas where the wider pathway configurations proposed by this plan will require some spread past existing slopes and alignments. In these instances, works should be undertaken to avoid negative impacts caused by high water levels, volumes and velocities on the shoreline and within the park.

This plan defines the NCC’s key beliefs in relation to hydrologic and stormwater management including the importance of the following imperatives:

- preserving and enhancing river water quality
- controlling flows into the river
- protecting groundwater and avoiding depletion or contamination
- increasing public awareness with respect to stormwater management
- maintaining a balanced water-based ecosystem along the river
- improving shoreline conditions
- eliminating recurring flood issues
- demonstrating responsible best practices in water quality and stormwater management

Therefore the plan should focus on the following areas:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • groundwater recharge | • riparian buffer zone |
| • flood plain and flood mitigation | • construction projects |
| • stormwater management | • plastic filters and microplastics |
| • shoreline erosion control | |

4.2.3.1 GROUNDWATER RECHARGE
Groundwater recharge areas will be protected and restored.

STRATEGIES

- Conduct hydrological and geotechnical study and monitoring to assess the level and condition of groundwater.
- Promote diversion and absorption of elevated spring river volumes to recharge surface groundwater for slow release over summer months Encourage the use of porous surfaces that meet maintenance requirements for areas requiring paved surfaces.



4.2.3.2 FLOOD PLAIN AND FLOOD MITIGATION
A variety of corrective and preventive measures will be applied to mitigate flooding and to reduce flood plain damage.

STRATEGIES

- Work in partnership with the RVCA to undertake flood plain modeling/analysis for all new projects within the park.
- Design and engineer hard structures to withstand flood levels and currents.
- Relocate and/or raise pathways to remove them from the flood plain where feasible.



FLOOD PLAIN AND FLOOD MITIGATION
SKETCH TO COME

4.2.3.3 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The park will feature methods that provide multiple environmental benefits and protect the public against flooding and pollution hazards.

STRATEGIES

- Ensure the presence of bio-retention basins at storm sewer outlets so water can be retained and filtered on site.
- Manage runoff from new developments so as not to add to the amount of peak discharge.
- Create bio-pools and bioswales to reintegrate natural environments into developed areas. Create new riparian habitats where possible in conjunction with stormwater management practices.

GUIDELINES

- Design stormwater facilities to be attractive amenities and to double as tranquil open space areas.
- Naturalize the edges of stormwater management facilities to act as a barrier, to make them safe and to reduce goose habitats, with access points provided for maintenance purposes.
- Manage landscaping to minimize interference with stormwater facility function.
- Provide interpretive materials at stormwater management facilities to promote education and safety awareness.

- Minimize impervious surfaces adjacent to stormwater management facilities.
- Consider a range of stormwater runoff volume reduction techniques including infiltration, reuse and rainwater harvesting, canopy interception, evapotranspiration and/or other complementary techniques.
- Give high priority to best management practices/low-impact developments² that include volume reduction. Employ filtration techniques as a secondary preference, followed by rate control.
- Conduct and consider hydro-geotechnical and environmental impact studies as part of any design, which may override the preceding requirements.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
SKETCH TO COME

4.2.3.4 SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL

Environmentally responsible shoreline stabilization efforts will be a focus of the park.

STRATEGIES

- Pursue a program to monitor the physical condition of shores, and implement a shoreline stabilization program.

² Stormwater Management Planning and Design Manual, “MOECC, 2003”

- Abide by environmental standards during construction work, to reduce sedimentation in the river.
- Manage erosion using modern bioengineering techniques.

SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL
SKETCH TO COME

4.2.3.5 RIPARIAN BUFFER ZONE

Management will focus on undertaking environmentally responsible efforts to stabilize the shoreline.

STRATEGIES

- Where possible, replace artificial/engineered shorelines with natural or bio-engineered shores and prioritize sustainable and ecological management of riparian environments.
- Manage shoreline forest cover to reduce erosion caused by sediment detachment.
- Allow native vegetation to re-establish itself along the shoreline by actively managing invasive plants.

RIPARIAN BUFFER ZONE
SKETCH TO COME

4.2.3.6 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Best Management Practices will follow consistent and agreed-upon policies and procedures, allowing for clarity and ease of project planning.

STRATEGIES

- Prepare an erosion and sediment control plan and specifications for all construction projects within the riverfront park.

GUIDELINES

- Restrict vehicle movements to a stabilized access point.
- Divert upslope stormwater away from construction site and excavated areas.
- Limit disturbance and duration of excavation.
- Install a sediment fence at downslope site perimeter.
- Install filters and sediment control measures around on-site drains.
- Place sand and soil stockpiles behind a sediment fence.
- Wash equipment in a designated area.
- Leave vegetated surfaces in place during construction where possible, and reinstate finished surfaces at the earliest possible point in the schedule.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
SKETCH TO COME

- Show project limits and property lines, limits of disturbance, existing topography and drainage patterns, erosion prevention measures, sediment control measures, temporary sediment basins, stockpile locations, check dams, and silt fencing on plans.

4.2.3.7 PLASTIC FILTERS AND MICROPLASTICS

Plastic filters and microplastics will be managed to protect the park environment and the water quality of the Ottawa River.

STRATEGIES

- Discourage the use of plastic filters and microplastics in the park.
- Control/capture plastic products passing through the park before they enter the river.

PLASTIC FILTERS AND MICROPLASTICS
SKETCH TO COME

PHOTOS
TO COME



4.2.3.8 INITIATIVES—HYDROLOGY AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

GENERAL	GROUNDWATER RECHARGE	FLOOD PLAIN AND FLOOD MITIGATION	STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
Require project plans to show the interrelationship between new developments and seasonal-low, seasonal-high and flood conditions.	Create parking lots with porous surfaces.	Create sponge ponds and inland retention basins that add controlled storage capacity and filtration benefits for 5 – 50 year flood events.	Maintain and restore artisanal stone stormwater headwalls where they exist along the parkway corridor.
Require project plans to show existing natural features with a view to protecting them and improving their condition.	Secure contaminated sites to protect human health and ensure good water quality for wildlife and plants.	Plan for regularly flooded zones to be predominantly vegetated surfaces in order to maximize the benefits of soil absorption and minimize the effects of flood damage to hard paved surfaces and structures.	Utilize permeable pavements, bioswales and other sediment and filtration techniques to filter storm runoff prior to discharge into overflow storm systems.
Design pathway thoroughfares to be at minimum above the 20-year flood levels, thereby avoiding regular seasonal flooding and flood damage. Undertake mitigation measures such as bridging, levees, ridges and boardwalks at locations shown in plans, to address low points in the pathway network.	Delay overland flows and create depressions for water retention and absorption.		
Balance cut and fill within the flood plain to ensure no net change to storage capacity.			
Locate all services and utilities outside the 100-year flood plain and in accordance with RVCA regulations.	SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL	RIPARIAN BUFFER ZONE	PLASTIC FILTERS AND MICROPLASTICS
Ensure no electrical services are installed below the 100-year elevation.	Re-green the segments of shoreline that have been stabilized (with riprap) against erosion while also maintaining reinforcement where needed.	Expand natural habitats in the riparian strip	Design and install bio-filters or engineered strainers to capture plastic products at their source, so that they do not enter the river.
Prohibit use of hard materials below the two-year flood line.	Reduce shoreline erosion by controlling and slowing stormwater runoff.	Construction Projects	Clean and dispose of filtered plastics regularly, as per environmental best practices.
Use hard, natural materials in steeper situations such riprap or retaining walls.		Inspect sites and ensure they conform to approved erosion and sediment control plan specification measures.	
Combine plant material, such as vines, with hard materials to soften the visual and environmental impact.			
Create a 15-metre buffer zone from the natural high water mark wherein permanent infrastructure should not be located.			
During construction, make sure to do the following:			



4.3 CULTURE

4.3.1 CULTURAL ELEMENTS

Reflect the past, present and future cultural significance of the Capital riverfront.

AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Guide the NCC and its partners to identify culture and heritage programs and develop future initiatives through various actions.
- Safeguard culture and heritage in the park, including objects and cultural places that are historically or otherwise tangibly or intangibly significant.
- Commit to sustained engagement and partnership with Indigenous groups, heritage groups and others, with the recognition that all communities play key roles in advancing and elevating Indigenous voices and accomplishments.
- Create experiential learning opportunities and programs for park users in partnership with Indigenous communities and heritage groups.
- Work with agencies, organizations and communities to develop programs and activities for youth and elderly segments of the population to promote best use of resources to satisfy respective needs.



MUD LAKE



MAPLELAWN AND GARDENS
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



WESTBORO BEACH





BACKGROUND

The Ottawa River is one of the most important cultural elements in the Ottawa Valley. It is a Canadian Heritage Rivers System site and bears witness to 10,000 years of pre-contact and European settlement history. Archaeological evidence shows that the National Capital Region lies at the heart of what once was a far-reaching communications and trade network through which raw materials, goods and ideas flowed into the region over considerable distances.

Today, known and potential archaeological resources within the parkway corridor can inform our understanding of the region’s history, and can chart a way forward in our planning for the future.

In the 1960s, the NCC designed and constructed the Ottawa River Parkway in the spirit of earlier Capital plans. Frederick Todd’s vision of a “necklace” of parks throughout the Capital was reflected in Jacques Gréber’s plan to replace railway corridors with scenic drives. The parkway is a carefully designed landscape intended to reflect the picturesque character of the Capital, as well as to highlight the Capital’s national symbols such as Parliament Hill and the connections across the Ottawa River.

This park plan will further the objectives of recognizing the key cultural elements of the parkway by looking at the following:

- Algonquin-Anishinabeg participation
- heritage sites
- archaeological resources
- cultural landscapes
- interpretation and commemorations

Because of its commitment to planning for a capital that all can experience, the NCC also works to provide opportunities to learn,

- interact and participate in the waterfront’s richness. To this end, the plan also considers the following interactive and interpretive components:
- public art
 - thematic framework
 - interpretation
 - education
 - community participation
- The goal of implementing strategies for cultural elements in the park plan is not only to connect visitors with the heritage of the Ottawa River and its shorelines, but also to enhance their experiences. This will be done by communicating stories that reflect thousands of years of human history and by creating points of interest and gathering spaces.
- 4.3.1.1 ALGONQUIN-ANISHINABEG PARTICIPATION**
Indigenous participation will reveal heritage stories along the riverfront through the use of public art, events and artifacts at appropriate locations.
- STRATEGIES**
- Engage with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg with respect to the implementation of the park plan.
 - Integrate cultural perspectives and knowledge of these two communities into understanding, designing, interpreting and experiencing the park.
 - Identify locations and approaches within the park for communicating past and present Algonquin-Anishinabeg culture and history.
 - Explore economic development opportunities for the Algonquin-Anishinabeg communities within the park.

- 4.3.1.2 HERITAGE SITES**
Buildings and their surroundings will be protected, enhanced and promoted in order that they may tell the story of the Capital Region.
- STRATEGIES**
- Seek ongoing Algonquin-Anishinabeg and local community input, including oral history, to inform understanding of the park and its heritage.
 - Conserve sites of cultural heritage and archaeological significance.
 - Encourage the creative and adaptive use of heritage sites in a way that is compatible with their heritage values.
 - Protect and enhance the setting of built and natural heritage elements and significant views thereof.
- HERITAGE SITES**
SKETCH TO COME
- 4.3.1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**
Preserved, managed and maintained archaeological resources will highlight the park’s history.
- STRATEGIES**
- Ensure the application of the existing protocol between the NCC, the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation for the co-management of archaeological resources.
 - Ensure the protection and management of known and



potential archaeological resources in accordance with federal government legislation and polices.

- Incorporate archaeological resources in interpretation and public education programs.
- Transmit knowledge about past land use and occupancy, ways of life and cultural adaptation based on archaeological resources.
- Encourage the development and implementation of archaeological digs in collaboration with the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and the local community, to enhance public awareness of the importance of protecting and managing archaeological resources.
- Develop an overarching strategy that, through partnerships with the public and private sectors, will foster a greater understanding of the cultural, educational and tourism value of archaeological resources as well as contribute to increased scientific knowledge.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

SKETCH TO COME

4.3.1.4 CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Cultural landscapes will reflect the distinctiveness of the park's setting along the Ottawa River, a historic transportation corridor.

STRATEGIES

- Seek Algonquin-Anishinabeg and community input, including oral history, to inform the NCC's understanding of the park and its heritage.

- Conserve and interpret the park as a rich and layered cultural landscape that evolved through time, and include evidence of its prior uses and transformation over time.
- Recognize and protect the parkway's heritage values and character-defining elements as a designed cultural landscape.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

SKETCH TO COME

4.3.1.5 COMMEMORATIONS

Interpretive and commemorative elements will be designed using expressions that reflect contemporary Canadian diversity.

STRATEGIES

- Build on the overarching theme of the river as identified in the thematic strategy for the park, which considers heritage conservation as part of environmental and social well-being.
- Recommend sites that demonstrate an appropriate potential for commemorative monuments, in accordance with the joint Canadian Heritage commemoration sites plan.
- Work with Canadian Heritage in its efforts to develop commemoration in the park to communicate the value attached to the river and the park as landscapes comprising natural, Indigenous, historic, social and spiritual values.

COMMEMORATIONS

SKETCH TO COME

- Collaborate with Canadian Heritage to communicate to park users the varied experiences, themes and stories associated with pre-contact, contact and post-contact between Indigenous and European cultures.

4.3.1.6 PUBLIC ART

The installation of public art will enhance users' recreational experience by communicating the park's stories and creating points of interest and gathering spaces.

STRATEGIES

- Cooperate with Canadian Heritage in identifying opportunities for the use of public art, building design and materials, as well as landscape features, as methods for interpretation in the park.
- Promote public art and features to enhance spaces and buildings to add to the distinctiveness of the riverfront park.

GUIDELINES

- Install only displays of nationally significant public art and commemorations in the park that play a role in enhancing as well as promoting the Capital identity.
- Display public art and commemorations in public spaces in the park where it is most appropriate and does not result in safety impediments as per the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design guidelines (2013).
- Respect the City of Ottawa zoning and RVCA flood plain regulations when siting and implementing temporary and

PUBLIC ART

SKETCH TO COME

- permanent displays of public art and commemorations.
- Design, site and install temporary displays of public art in areas where the physical surroundings will experience minimal to no impact upon their removal.

4.3.1.7 **THEMATIC FRAMEWORK**
Establishing themes for the park will enhance the interpretation and communication of the heritage, culture and national significance of the riverfront lands.

The park’s overall theme is to use the beauty and spirit of the riverfront park to connect us to our shared history, to nature and to our communities.

In partnership with Canadian Heritage, the plan promotes a thematic framework³ that has three subthemes in the landscapes, media, furniture, messaging, interpretation panels, etc.

SUBTHEME 1

The Ottawa River carries our shared history and stories, spanning 8,000 years of human activity on its shores.

SUBTHEME 2

The riverfront park provides urban residents and visitors with much-needed access to nature.

SUBTHEME 3

The beauty and spirit of the riverfront park inspires healthy communities.

The plan communicates the overall theme, subthemes and stories with visitors through design.

3 Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park Plan, Thematic Planning Framework, Cal Martin, 2017

- Build on the overarching theme of the river as identified in the thematic strategy for the park that considers heritage conservation as part of environmental and social well-being.
- Collaborate with Canadian Heritage to communicate to park users varied experiences, themes and stories associated with pre-contact, contact and post-contact between Indigenous and European cultures.

STRATEGIES

- Promote the overall theme with the three subthemes in the landscapes, media, furniture, messaging, interpretation panels, etc., in partnership with Canadian Heritage.
- Communicate the overall theme, subthemes and stories with visitors through design.



4.3.1.8 **INTERPRETATION**
Media will educate, honour and provide an understanding of the significance of important people, places and events.

STRATEGIES

- Provide interpretation opportunities that reflect diverse audiences, varying levels of interest and different lengths of visiting times.
- Establish outreach programs to connect to park users and parkway commuters, including mobile or portable information social media applications.
- Develop and maintain a signage plan that identifies the

parkland’s sign needs and recommends solutions that comply with the broader NCC sign program, while at the same time boosting the park’s identity and improving user experience with wayfinding and site identification signs.

GUIDELINES

- Follow the standards of the NCC graphic identity and branding models for park signage and interpretive media.
- Place orientation panels at primary park gateways to provide 24-hour user information, orientation and interpretation of the park.
- Place consistent, non-intrusive interpretive signs for cyclists, walkers and motorists at primary gateways to provide the regulatory, orientation and interpretive information necessary to have safe and enjoyable visits.
- Consider the material palette and geometric form against that of the landscape in order to merge the interpretation into the overarching design approach and form an integrated interpretive system.



4.3.1.9 **EDUCATION**
Strategies will build on the many natural, scenic, heritage and archaeological assets of the park for educational and research purposes.

STRATEGIES

- Maintain and provide access to naturalized areas and valued natural habitats for enhanced public education and



information while avoiding/minimizing disruption to natural processes.

- Treat the Mud Lake Conservation Area as the riverfront park’s primary resource for environmental education and understanding of ecosystems and habitats.
- Support the communication of the meaning of the cultural heritage of the park and the river to a range of audiences through accepted methods and cultural traditions.

GUIDELINES

- Support the provision of exhibits, waysides, publications, audiovisual programs, mass and/or electronic media, study guides, workbooks, and educational kits as educational media, where feasible.
- Identify and work with partners including Indigenous people, communities, agencies, the City of Ottawa and educational institutions in the development and delivery of educational materials, methods and services related to the park and its assets.

EDUCATION
SKETCH TO COME

4.3.1.10 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Opportunities for community participation will be encouraged and pursued in the development and implementation of park programming.

STRATEGIES

- Augment and support ongoing programming that promotes “green” living, including collaborative work with Friends

of Maplelawn Garden to explore ways to showcase the relationship between health and sustainable and eco-friendly kitchen gardening (Rochester Field sector).

- Encourage inclusiveness in the interpretation of the parkland’s cultural heritage by facilitating the involvement of stakeholders and affected communities in the development and implementation of interpretive programs. Support partnerships and efforts to facilitate understanding and appreciation of cultural heritage sites and foster public awareness and engagement in the need for their protection and conservation.
- Safeguard tangible and intangible values of cultural heritage sites in their natural and cultural settings and social contexts.

COMMUNITY PART.
SKETCH TO COME

PHOTOS
TO COME



4.3.1.11 INITIATIVES—CULTURAL ELEMENTS

GENERAL	ALGONQUIN-ANISHINABEG PARTICIPATION	HERITAGE SITES	ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES	CULTURAL LANDSCAPES
Identify and document, in partnership with the Algonquin-Anishinabeg, partners and stakeholders, the heritage value of the landscapes, buildings and structures.	Carry out all the following actions in collaboration with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg:	Apply the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada when managing the park’s heritage buildings and structures.	Ensure the protection and management of archaeological resources in accordance with federal government legislation and policies.	Apply the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada when managing the park’s cultural landscapes.
Conserve the park’s heritage through proactive planning and management.	Identify places in the park that are of special significance to these two communities.	Assess impacts to the heritage character of buildings and structures in the context of new interventions or development.	Ensure the full application of the protocol between the NCC, the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation for the co-management of archaeological resources.	Develop a statement of significance for the cultural landscape of the 1960s-designed Ottawa River Parkway that can be used to guide future interventions.
Ensure that new interventions and contemporary design respects and protects the park’s heritage values.	Identify locations and methods to convey Algonquin-Anishinabeg culture and history within the park.	Find uses for heritage buildings and structures that enable their conservation, are compatible with their heritage character and enhance public appreciation of their heritage value.	Consider geology and geomorphology when interpreting the natural environment, culture and history to inform the public about their influence on pre-contact and historical land use and occupancy in the Capital Region.	Apply context-sensitive native vegetative treatments to landscapes associated with heritage sites and features in the park.
Work with Canadian Heritage to communicate and interpret the park’s heritage through various media, configurations, and park furniture and landscape designs.	Incorporate Anishinabeg terminology into park interpretation.	Prepare a conservation plan for Maplelawn and Gardens National Historic Site (also classified a federal heritage building), in consultation with key stakeholders.	Integrate known archaeological resources in the development of interpretive programs.	Develop design standards for furnishings, guardrails, signage, lighting and other landscape elements that are sensitive to the park’s cultural landscape context.
Create a historical river corridor map and guide for park and recreational path users.	Identify opportunities for integrating Algonquin-Anishinabeg natural and scientific knowledge systems into park management activities.	Ensure the new Rochester Field park’s connectivity and enhancement, recognizing its historic connections with Maplelawn.	Assess impacts to the archaeological resources in the context of new interventions or development.	Protect and integrate, where feasible, existing landscape elements that formed the 1960s design of the Ottawa River Parkway.
Develop an interpretive network of markers, plaques, pavilions, historic trails and lookouts that will serve to identify and commemorate historic sites, places and buildings on both sides of the river.	Identify locations within the park that could be used by the Algonquin-Anishinabeg communities for events and activities.	Work with the City of Ottawa to ensure an active use for the Prince of Wales Bridge that conserves its heritage value and character-defining elements.		Enhance the visibility and understanding of the Skead’s Mill ruins as part of the park’s landscape.
	Assist in the development, with the local non-Indigenous community, of an overall heritage interpretation plan for the park.	Prepare a statement of significance for the Champlain Bridge and incorporate conservation of its character-defining elements into asset management programs.		
	Assist in the planning for the re-establishment in the park of indigenous flora and fauna of cultural importance to the Algonquin-Anishinabeg.	Rehabilitate the Westboro Beach pavilion, preserving its heritage value and character-defining elements, while accommodating new uses.		
		Engage with the local community to explore ways to highlight Westboro Beach’s heritage and those of other locations within the park.		



COMMEMORATIONS	PUBLIC ART	THEMATIC FRAMEWORK	INTERPRETATION	EDUCATION	COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
Assist Canadian Heritage in its development of an interpretation plan for the park.	Distribute temporary or permanent public art pieces through the nine-kilometre park.	Use the best method that communicates the theme among the various interpretive media options, such as sculptures, themed playgrounds, panels, apps, etc.	Collaborate with Canadian Heritage and other stakeholders in the development of programs and media, and share research.	Explore and encourage the most effective ways to promote active recreational uses and invasive special events in the park.	Work in partnership with the Friends of Maplelawn Garden to provide interpretive programs at the Maplelawn and Gardens National Historic Site and the agricultural/industrial history of Rochester Field (Rochester Field sector).
Update the location of commemoration sites in the park in collaboration with Canadian Heritage; in the interim, maintain the existing sites identified in the commemorative sites plan.	Develop a public arts program, including commemorations and interpretive programs that will give artists the opportunity to exhibit their works along the river corridor.		Develop strategies and guidelines for interpretation and presentation of cultural and heritage elements, including technologies, research and training, with such guidelines being appropriate and sustainable in their social contexts.	Examine opportunities with Canadian Heritage for interpretation of the environmental and cultural features that show the variety of existing species, the quality of the water, special characteristics of the sector, and the ecological functions served by natural and riverfront environments.	Establish and strengthen partnerships with community and other groups to provide activities and programs that foster sound environmental stewardship of parklands.
Select new potential sites, where appropriate, that are context-sensitive and respectful of the adjacent uses.					Support Canadian Heritage in its efforts to develop and implement a heritage interpretation plan for the park.
Install commemorative monuments so that they serve as points of interest and gathering places within the park and so that they support daily use.					



4.3.2 EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

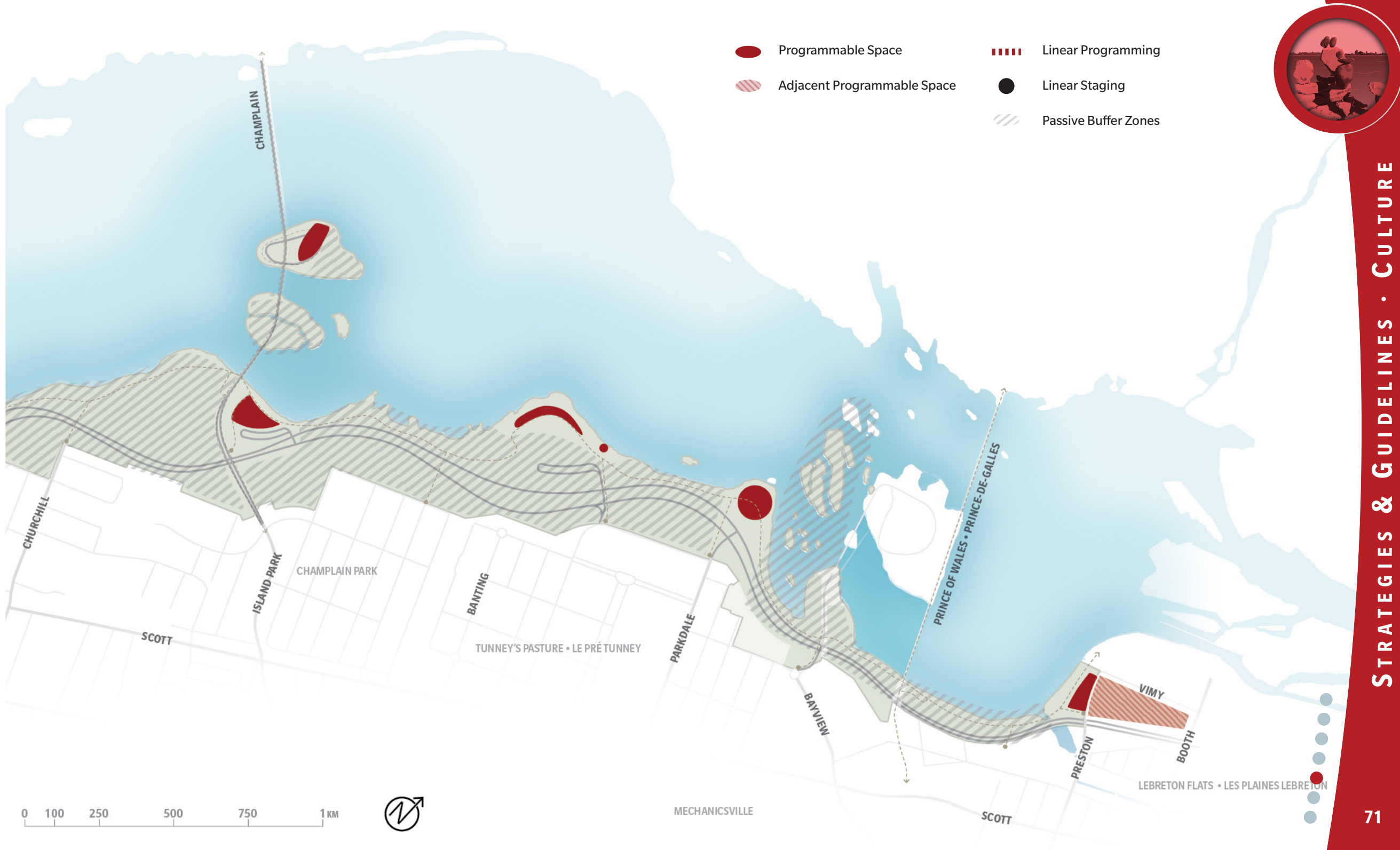
Create spaces to host social events and programmed activities.

AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Entice more residents and visitors to enjoy context-sensitive gathering spaces.
- Create a park that is a year-round destination with adequate year-round amenities.
- Integrate innovative public art and cultural attractions throughout the park.
- Ensure adequate green space for tranquil and passive enjoyment.
- Integrate events with water activities where appropriate.

OTTAWA RIVER • RIVIÈRE DES OUTAOUAIS





BACKGROUND

This section looks at how to responsibly manage the park’s existing natural landscape and the Ottawa River shoreline to create active, animated public spaces where appropriate. Although the shoreline and the park’s significant natural features are and should be protected, some areas could be developed for public use. Implementation of the strategies below will transform presently underused green space into public gathering areas, event spaces and waterfront recreation areas that will encourage visits and enhance people’s enjoyment of the park.

This section presents strategies that identify and protect important environmental features and existing natural systems. Lands not identified as significant or as historic and archaeological sites may then be considered as available potential recreation space. Major recreation spaces are being proposed through seven animation nodes that combine different animation intensity areas to offer diverse recreational opportunities, interests and abilities.

The seven animation nodes are proposed with different intensity combinations based on considerations such as the scale, intensity, duration and frequency of events. These factors have direct impacts on where and how to use sites for programmed activities. This information is important because, given their size, environmental sensitivity and setting, the events will need to be context-sensitive and respectful of the surrounding environment.

This section will therefore describe the following components:

- programmable event spaces and event capacity
- unprogrammed riverfront green space
- passive buffer zones
- spontaneous public use

The goal of the events and programming policies is to create spaces to host social events and programmed activities while minimizing the impact of the other important riverfront park features and functions.

4.3.2.1 PROGRAMMABLE EVENT SPACES

Event spaces will be designed in a manner that brings people to the park.

STRATEGIES

- Capitalize on active mobility systems and public transportation.
- Design event sites to be flexible and adaptable to temporary programmed uses.
- Provide permanent services, utilities, amenities and equipment that are in keeping with the sites’ context, vocation and carrying capacity.
- Respect site carrying capacities in terms of size, environmental sensitivity, the setting and recovery times, in accordance with the surface and development type.
- Consider the placement of pathways and plazas in relation to event areas to facilitate operations during setup and takedown periods.
- Preserve scenic views when installing event facilities.

GUIDELINES

- Provide hard paved surfaces for frequent high traffic event areas.
- Provide staging areas for events within the boundaries identified on the plan, for equipment storage and trailer parking.
- Consider the placement of equipment, staging areas and lighting away from neighbouring communities.

- Provide sufficient times between events to allow for site recovery.
- Vary the location and setup of events to ensure context sensitivity, respect for site environmental capacity and minimization of impact on the ecological footprint.

PROGRAMMABLE EVENT SPACES
SKETCH TO COME

4.3.2.2 UNPROGRAMMED RIVERFRONT GREEN SPACE

The park will include spaces for passive recreational use.

STRATEGIES

- Keep certain areas accessible to the public at all times, particularly riverfront pathways and lookout points.

UNPROGRAMMED RIVERFRONT GREEN SPACE
SKETCH TO COME



4.3.2.3 PASSIVE BUFFER ZONES

Buffer zones will protect the natural environment and adjacent communities from the impact of public events and activities taking place in the park.

STRATEGIES

- Protect sensitive ecological features against damage caused by temporary events and activities.
- Mitigate the visual, auditory and physical intrusions into sensitive natural habitats and cultural and passive recreational areas.

GUIDELINES

- Respect defined buffer zones between activity areas and natural areas.

PASSIVE BUFFER ZONES
SKETCH TO COME

4.3.2.4 SPONTANEOUS PUBLIC USE

Areas at activity nodes will support unstructured public uses.

STRATEGIES

- Ensure that sites function as lively public places when not in use for programmed events.
- Establish event size standards to guarantee sufficient site area for spontaneous use.
- Ensure balanced timing between controlled access for scheduled gatherings or events and spontaneous/everyday use.

GUIDELINES

- Ensure that hoarding, fencing, gates and other crowd-control devices do not impede access to, circulation in or enjoyment of the adjacent public area.
- Ensure public access and spontaneous use of riverfront lands during setup, occupation and takedown of events.
- Ensure the active transportation network stays free-flowing during events.

SPONTANEOUS PUBLIC USE
SKETCH TO COME

PHOTOS
TO COME



4.3.2.5 INITIATIVES—EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

PROGRAMMABLE EVENT SPACES AND EVENT CAPACITY	UNPROGRAMMED RIVERFRONT GREEN SPACE	PASSIVE BUFFER ZONES	SPONTANEOUS PUBLIC USE
Direct organized activities to the appropriate site according to the event classification guide.	Restrict spontaneous and higher intensity organized activities to areas away from nature conservation and preservation areas.	Keep spontaneous and higher intensity organized activities away from nature conservation and preservation areas.	Control event size to guarantee sufficient site area for spontaneous use.
Ensure that events and equipment will respect the environment and will not conflict with surrounding park amenities (e.g. commemorations at Island Park and in the vicinity).		Arrange temporary and permanent facilities in ways that protect vegetation and habitat typologies	Ensure balanced timing between controlled access for scheduled gatherings or events and spontaneous/ everyday use.
Use parking lots for event organizing purposes, to meet logistical/staging needs.			
Respect recovery periods between events, and limit the number of repeat events during a season.			
Vary the location and setup of events to avoid site overuse.			
Require amenities (secure bike parking, bike lockers, etc.) be provided by event organizers to promote cycling.			
Encourage off-street parking managers in adjacent neighbourhoods to make their facilities available on evenings and weekends to meet event needs.			



**PHOTOS
TO COME**



4.4 CONNECTIVITY

4.4.1 SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

Plan and design the park to support healthy, active mobility options and to reduce the negative impacts of the vehicle corridor.

AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Support efforts and initiatives that steer the park in a less conventional car-reliant fashion.





BACKGROUND

The sustainable mobility section aims to provide for safe, active, year-round travel along and to the riverfront in a way that links communities, is enjoyable and meets user needs. It offers recommendations on how mobility in the park can be more multi-modal with emphasis on cycling and pedestrian users. Traffic on the parkway will likely continue to increase with a corresponding deterioration in the level of service at intersections. This increase is not a result of planned community intensification. It is primarily due to growth in suburban commuter background traffic, including through traffic coming in from the west and southwest.

This plan recognizes that the parkway and its overpasses, parking sites and pathways are all generally due for major lifecycle habilitation. Deferred maintenance due to budget limitations resulting in the deteriorating condition of the lanes and overpasses along the entire parkway raises questions about the long-term viability of its continued function as a four-lane thoroughfare along the portion with the lowest traffic volumes west of Island Park Drive. This offers the opportunity to examine and test potential feasibility of repurposing or decommissioning eastbound and/or westbound lanes or portions thereof, while continuing to provide a continuous parkway, albeit with reduced lanes. It also offers the opportunity to analyze the benefits of a reduced parkway footprint for improved maintenance of the parkway and additional public shoreline space for the riverfront park improvements.

The emphasis on vehicular traffic needs to be reduced to accommodate more active, multi-modal mobility options. The NCC recognizes the increasing popularity of the paths and trails as commuting routes as well as recreational resources, and tries to provide safer bicycle and walking infrastructure that suit the

needs of both the commuter cyclist and the recreational path user. The NCC is confident that developing a network of segregated pathways, winter trails and river walks will encourage alternative modes of mobility through all seasons, thereby accommodating increasing demands for more continued active and healthy lifestyles.

The following strategies provide for a significant mix of mobility that respects the scenic, environmental and cultural qualities of the riverfront lands while responding to mobility demands and trends:

- parkway
- parking
- pathways
- wayfinding

The goal of the sustainable mobility policies is to establish a framework for the transformation of the park’s mobility system in a way that encourages alternative mobility modes while providing safer infrastructure for all users.

4.4.1.1 PARKWAY
Management and design will evolve to accommodate increased demands for a safer, suitable and sustainable multi-modal transportation corridor.

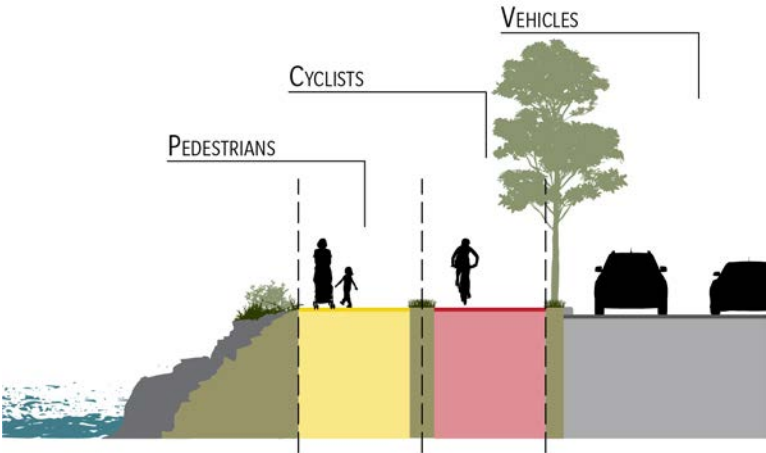
STRATEGIES

- Develop a parkway that is safe for all users and not a barrier to unfettered and safe access to the river.
- Develop the parkway as the principal gateway to the riverfront park that is more riverfront-friendly.
- Create a park setting that is viewed in a manner that positively contributes to the parkway visitor’s experience, with views from the parkway that appear natural and retain high to very high scenic integrity.

- Cultivate a more attractive infrastructure environment for cyclists and pedestrians with slower and less vehicular traffic on the parkway.

GUIDELINES

- Respect, preserve and reinforce the design identity of the parkway and surrounding landscape, including lane cross section, median, topography and plantings.
- Exhibit natural heritage resources, without attempting to recreate a nostalgic or false sense of history through new elements or features.
- Be consistent while promoting creativity.
- Establish a maximum posted speed limit of 50 km/h and, in transition areas approaching crossings, a limit of 35 km/h.
- Place traffic calming measures a minimum 400 metres apart to ensure that the parkway functions properly, while preventing motorists from speeding.
- Implement context-sensitive design as the principal guide for any future restoration, repair and rebuild of the parkway consistent with the heritage aspects of the river and with the NCC parkways policy.





- Restrict the crossing distance for pedestrians and cyclists to a maximum of 12 metres of parkway lanes without a median or island rest point.
- Establish a minimum of five metres’ width for parkway medians to accommodate vegetation.
- Preserve the spaces and relationships that are part of the parkway, including the continuous adjoining open spaces.

4.4.1.2 PATHWAYS

Pathways for pedestrians and cyclists will form part of a sustainable mobility network linking park features and providing safe access to recreational opportunities in the park.

STRATEGIES

- Provide segregation of cycling and walking pathways to the greatest extent possible.
- Improve pedestrian and cycling safety at crossings and at principal park gateways by slowing the speed of traffic on the parkway.
- Locate walking pathways on the north side along the river’s edge to optimize user experience.
- Unify the parklands pathway system with consistent design elements.

PATHWAY
SKETCH TO COME

GUIDELINES

- Design, construct and maintain the pathways system to the highest standards to ensure the protection of the natural environment while offering safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities for all park users.
- Establish characteristics for the south-side path as follows: two-metre width and no centre line.
- Provide even pedestrian- and cycling-scale lighting.
- Use fully shielded fixtures for any light fixtures illuminating cycling and pedestrian paths.
- Ensure that points of pedestrian and cycling confluence at parkway crossings are clearly visible from the parkway and connecting paths. They should be enhanced and well defined via merging materials, textures, colours, elevations, etc.
- Ensure that the parkway reflects NCC expectations for excellence in engineering, design, preservation, management and safety as well as an allegiance to the parkway’s intrinsic qualities.
- Bidirectional cycling lanes should be adjacent—i.e., not separated by pedestrian paths.

4.4.1.3 PARKING

Parking will be managed in a proactive way and provided in the best and most appropriate locations away from the shoreline and in a sustainable manner.

STRATEGIES

- Provide parking that supports park-related recreation uses.
- Accommodate bicycle parking and car-share/rideshare privilege options, including tour buses, to make them more available and attractive.
- Relocate existing parking and locate any new parking away from the river shore.

- Promote “green” parking that includes pervious surfaces, where feasible.
- Minimize and mitigate potential adverse visual and physical impacts of parking infrastructure on the park.
- Safely integrate parking facilities with the segregated pathways network.
- Minimize and mitigate environmental effects of salting through the use of alternatives in accordance with the NCC environmental strategy.
- Support safe universally accessible parking for all animation areas and public facilities in the park.
- Explore partnership opportunities with the private and public sectors to share parking facilities/areas.
- Optimize pervious land surfaces and green space.

GUIDELINES

- Where pathways must cross a parking lot driveway, give priority to cyclists and pedestrians.
- Avoid potential conflicts between cars and pedestrians/cyclists at parking access and egress driveways.

PARKING
SKETCH TO COME

- Provide landscaping for partial visual screening of parking sites so that they may be viewed from the parkway and pathway.
- Shield parking lighting from the sky and any adjacent properties and structures, through exterior shields or through optics within the fixtures, with the direction of lights being downward.
- Provide the appropriate entry/exit throat lengths between the parkway and parking site to prevent vehicles from obstructing and thereby endangering any pedestrians and cyclists, and preventing vehicles from causing queuing onto the parkway.

4.4.1.4 WAYFINDING

Systems will be established to guide visitors through the park in an informed manner.

STRATEGIES

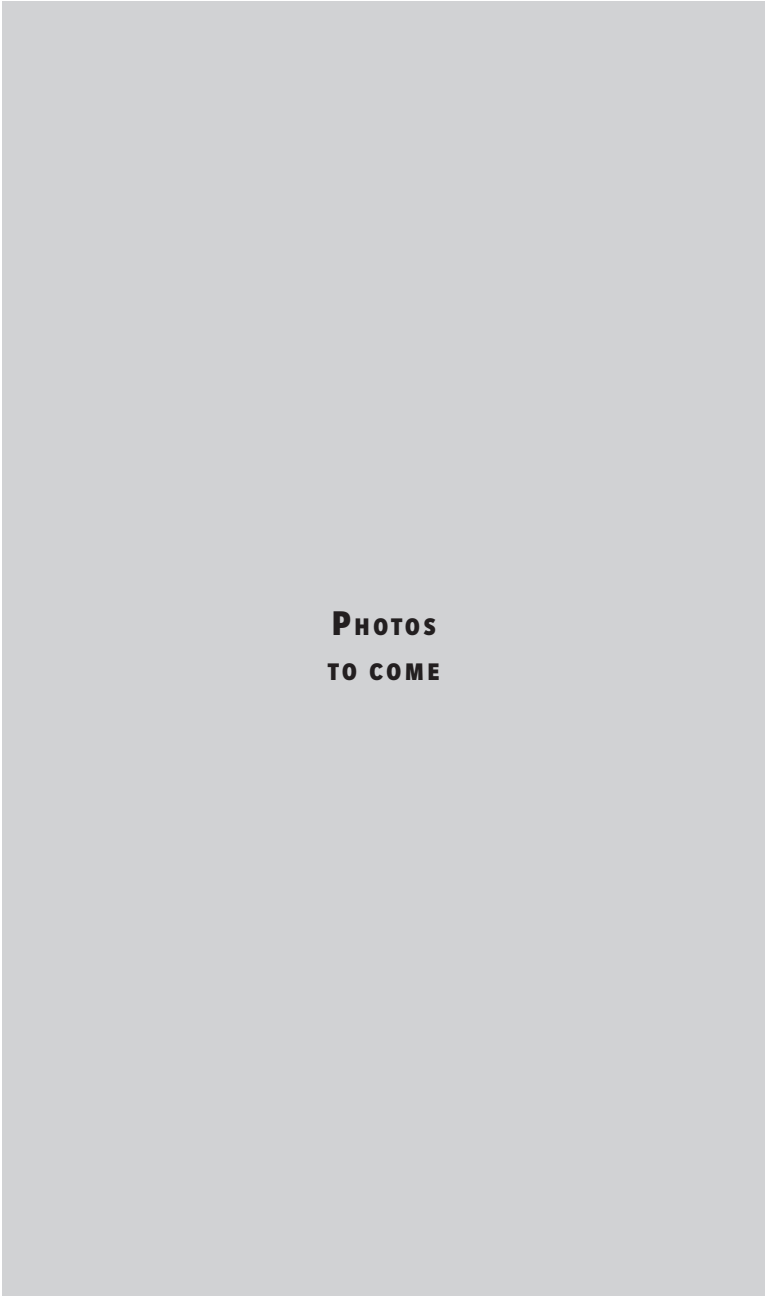
- Promote consistency, continuity and connectivity through a common wayfinding system that provides cohesive visitor information to guide, identify and help interpret the significance of the parkway and riverfront park lands.
- As much as possible, use infrastructure design elements such as paving details rather than signage to convey direction and guide behaviour.
- Coordinate wayfinding signs with existing and future cyclist/ pedestrian wayfinding plans to avoid sign clutter and confusion.
- Follow signage lettering, shape and other applicable standards consistent with the recommendations of the Gatineau–Ottawa unified wayfinding strategy.
- Ensure a wayfinding system that caters to the needs of all user types.

GUIDELINES

- Design compatible styles of wayfinding, identification and directional signage in the park.
- Use a consistent graphic design language across park wayfinding elements.
- Ensure that all wayfinding signs are trilingual (French, English and Algonquin).
- Locate wayfinding signage in a consistent manner where most effective in terms of decision points and information needs.
- Illuminate signage uniformly where appropriate, and use appropriate contrasting backgrounds to ensure visibility and legibility for night hours, taking care to avoid or minimize glare and reflection.
- Ensure signage is made of high-quality, durable materials that require minimal periodic maintenance and are resistant to vandalism.



WAYFINDING
SKETCH TO COME



PHOTOS
TO COME



4.4.1.5 INITIATIVES—SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

GENERAL	PARKWAY	PATHWAYS	PARKING	WAYFINDING
Collaborate with and encourage involvement of all stakeholders in the accessibility, connectivity and mobility initiatives.	Update parkway policies.	Segregate cycling and walking pathways where feasible on the north side of the parkway.	Provide abundant and convenient bicycle parking and end-of-trip facilities at park amenities and public facilities.	Employ wayfinding measures and programs that provide directional and destination information in concert with the broader Capital wayfinding plan.
Encourage active mobility choices.	Continue with occasional parkway closures to allow people to walk, cycle and exercise.	Develop a code of conduct for pathway users. Integrate results into signage and wayfinding plan.	Relocate parking facilities from the shoreline to south of the parkway where and when appropriate and feasible and in a gradual manner.	Help people find their way to and through the riverfront park via a simple and coherent modal wayfinding system.
Ensure improved public safety.	Construct/implement intersection treatments that slow traffic and mitigate commuter impacts on the parkway, as opportunities arise.	Provide public bicycle sharing opportunities.	Provide adequate parking within reasonable distances from watercraft launch areas.	Integrate wayfinding with light rail stations to navigate people to nearby pathways and attractions, as well as adjacent community amenities and attractions.
Ensure all public information is signed according to the NCC corporate brand and identity.	Maintain the parkway as a significant and distinctive road, and treat it as part of the Capital cultural landscape.	Ensure logical interim connectivity and continuity during the phased implementation of the segregated pathway network.		
Preserve the distinctive parkway design features as part of the park corridor.	Instill a corporate and community expectation for excellence in design, management and safety.	Ensure regular maintenance of existing pathway segments.		



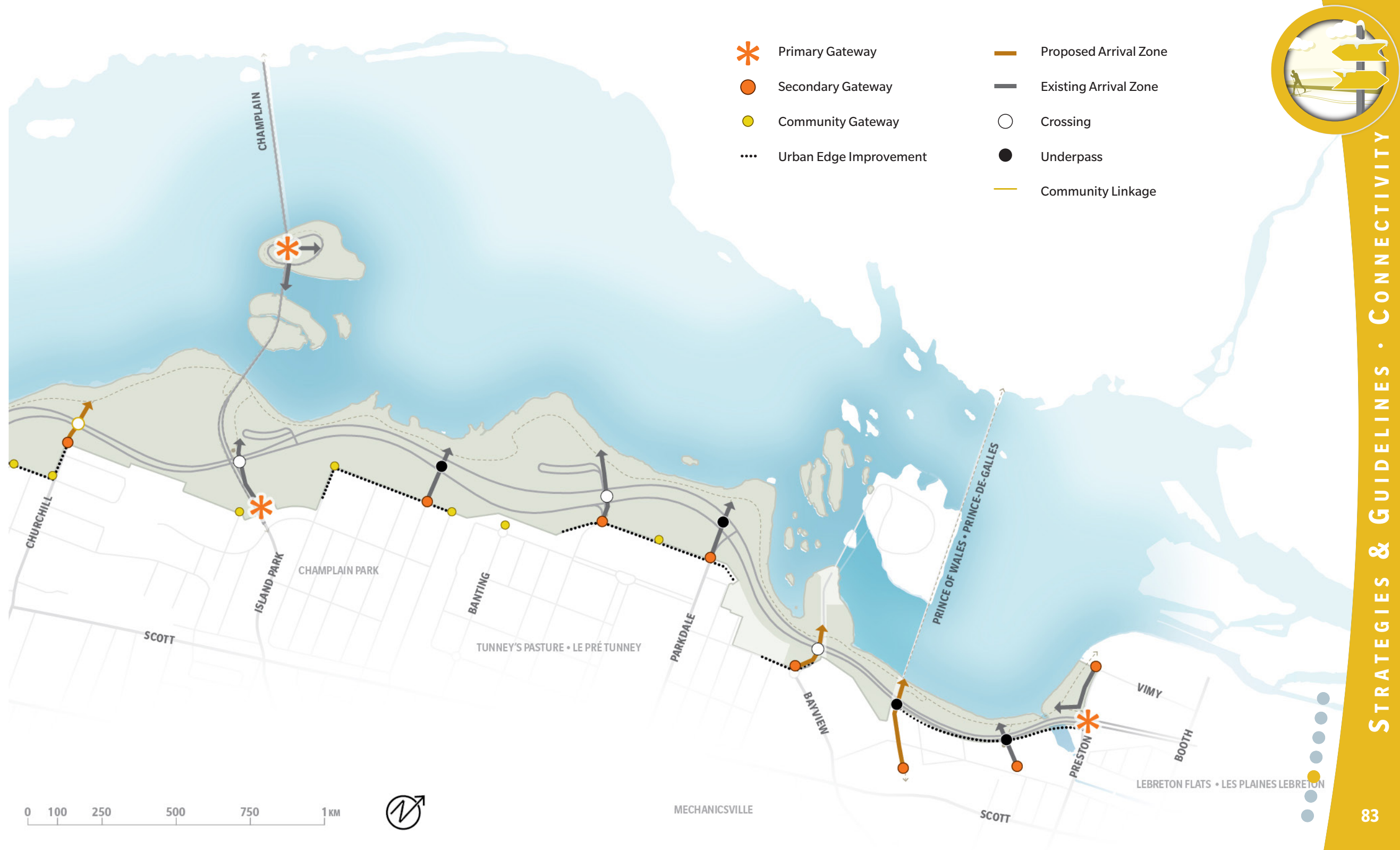
4.4.2 ACCESS AND CONNECTIONS

Provide inviting and intuitive connections to the riverfront and the parklands.

AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Improve access to and along the park, focusing on non-motorized modes.
- Ensure that the segregated pathways and recreational features are universally accessible.
- Continue to work with the City of Ottawa and others to monitor the performance and improve the safety of at-grade pedestrian and cycling crossings of the parkway.
- Support future efforts to reconfigure the parkway to enhance park access and user experience and benefit the park lands.
- Support the use of technologies including cell phone applications to improve access to the park and communicate information about parking in the park.





BACKGROUND

Currently, the park lacks consistent physical and visual access and connectivity between its elements and with adjoining communities. This plan works to address these limitations. Access to the park by transit will improve with the development of light rail along the eastern segment of the riverfront corridor. Many of the city streets that lead to the parkway are becoming more multi-modal and are being redefined as complete streets with appropriate context-sensitive landscaping. Their redevelopment will allow cyclists and pedestrians to have more safe and convenient routes to and across the river.

The three components listed below together will guide the recommended improvements to the park and parkway with regard to access to the river, interconnected pathways and enhanced connections between the park’s proposed activity nodes:

- access
- connectivity
- gateways

The goal of the access and connectivity policies is to improve the park’s integration and connectivity with surrounding communities and the Capital Region.

4.4.2.1 ACCESS
Access to and throughout the park will be safe and accessible.

STRATEGIES

- Provide safe, continuous, context-sensitive and attractive segregated pathways, including the river boardwalk.
- Improve and increase pedestrian crossings and controlled access from the communities to the park.

- Support safe universally accessible parking for all animation areas and public facilities in the park.
- Establish signals that prioritize pedestrian and cycling movement and safety at crossings, with increased time to cross for users of all ages and abilities.
- Apply comprehensive, integrated and data-driven programs and measures to evaluate performance and user satisfaction of the parkway and parkway crossings, and identify potential areas of concern.

GUIDELINES

- Improve access to the park through connectivity with municipal walking and cycling networks.
- Establish connections for cyclists along the outer edge of the parkway crossings so they are not conflicting with animation nodes.
- Establish a coherent modal wayfinding system to help people find their way to and through the park, which promotes non-motorized transport modes.
- Integrate wayfinding with light rail stations to navigate people to nearby pathways and attractions, as well as adjacent community amenities and attractions.
- Refer to the NCC’s branding strategy and to the draft integrated wayfinding strategy for design guidance on the park’s wayfinding system.

ACCESS
SKETCH TO COME

4.4.2.2 CONNECTIVITY
Transportation modes and features will connect activity nodes with the riverfront, delivering efficiency and improved accessibility.

STRATEGIES

- Promote improved interprovincial cycling, walking and transit connectivity and continuity.
- Make it easy for people to find the riverfront park from principal roads.
- Improve pathway connections leading to the riverfront park.

GUIDELINES

- Strategically place transitions from three-metre multi-use pathways to segregated pathways (e.g. at Lincoln Fields).

CONNECTIONS
SKETCH TO COME

4.4.2.3 GATEWAYS
Gateways will be established at certain points between the park and adjacent communities, as well as along the riverfront.

STRATEGIES

- Inform motorists of a meaningful transition and arrival at the park through gateways as a first measure in adjusting the perception and behaviour of motorists.
- Create bold and highly visible primary and secondary



- gateways.
- Facilitate safe and unencumbered pedestrian and cycling access to the park.
 - Establish gateways at community access points for pedestrians and cyclists, and direct them through these entries to parkland amenities and safe parkway crossings to access the river.

GUIDELINES

- Establish distinct arrival points for parkway users, and at these locations convey the nautical and logging heritage of the riverfront lands using local natural wood, stone and metal.
- Provide orientation toward the park facilities and commercial areas, through secondary gateways to communities.
- Develop gateways with input from nearby communities and groups so that they will be sensitive to the natural and heritage contexts of the area.

GATEWAYS
SKETCH TO COME

4.4.2.4 INITIATIVES—ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

GENERAL	ACCESS	CONNECTIVITY	GATEWAYS
Collaborate with and encourage involvement of all stakeholders in the accessibility, connectivity and mobility initiatives.	Remove existing chain-link fencing along public land and public street right-of-way points adjoining the parklands, where feasible, while respecting adjacent private properties.	Provide opportunities for intermittent and scenic visual access from the urban edge to the shoreline.	Create recognizable gateways to the park that identify and inform the public that they are entering a special and distinctive place, which establish and convey the character the park, in accordance with the following gateway typologies:
Encourage active mobility choices.	Provide opportunities for intermittent and scenic visual access from the urban edge to the shoreline.	Work with the City of Ottawa and the Ville de Gatineau in developing a cycling and walking link using the Prince of Wales Bridge.	Primary: The major arrival points at the extremities and mid-point intersections of the riverfront park corridor. The primary gateways should be highly recognizable by both active users and motorists. The primary gateways will serve as key landmarks and wayfinding elements and set the tone for the character of the riverfront park.
Ensure improved public safety.	Monitor performance and implement a program for ongoing improvements to resolve emerging issues of safety and comfort related to walking and cycling paths and crossings.		Secondary: Points from which pedestrians and cyclists can access the riverfront park. These should accommodate and cue access for pedestrians and cyclists, and be directly connected to arrival zones that provide safe and unfettered access across the parkway to the riverfront.
Ensure all signage, gateways and public information are signed according to the NCC corporate brand and identity.			Tertiary: Nearby neighbourhood access points that provide pedestrian entry and direct users toward arrival zones where they can cross the parkway to access the riverfront. The tertiary gateways should be integrated into the urban edge, but be clearly recognizable as access points to the riverfront park.
			Work with the City of Ottawa to improve landscape and urban forest treatments along municipal roads and public lands bounding the parkland.

4.4.3 WINTER RECREATION

Provide facilities and amenities to accommodate year-round park access and activities.

AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Make provisions for and capitalize on year-round recreational opportunities including various winter recreation opportunities and events that allow users to experience the riverfront landscapes in the winter.
- Provide sheltered spaces and windbreaks for rest and respite when needed.
- Build on successful community engagement initiatives to extend maintained winter trails for skiing/winter biking throughout the corridor.
- Use alternatives to salting in accordance with the NCC Sustainable Development Strategy to avoid or minimize the environmental effects.
- Support partnerships with private sector and community groups to offer commercial and retail services in support of winter recreational and sporting activities including snowshoeing, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, skating, winter biking, etc.





- ❄ Winter Destination
- 🚻 Washroom
- P Winter Parking

- Proposed Winter Trail
- Groomed Trail
- (ALL TRAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

BACKGROUND

As a northern capital, we experience about four months per year with average temperatures at or below zero degrees Celsius. The Capital Region averages 52 days of snowfall, for an average annual total of 175.4 cm. The winter climate poses unique challenges to the way we design and utilize our public spaces. However, the changing seasons also offer opportunities for dynamic and ever-changing user experiences that can be leveraged to reimagine our public realm. For example, the NCC recently collaborated with the Westboro cross-country ski community on a pilot project offering urban cross-country ski/walking trails along the shoreline. The facility was entirely managed by volunteers from this group. User feedback was very positive.

The winter recreation system can be divided into the following elements:

- winter activities
- winter trails

PHOTOS
TO COME

4.4.3.1 WINTER ACTIVITIES

Winter access will be improved by seasonally transforming park elements into multi-purpose winter amenities to help extend the park’s use and safe enjoyment.

STRATEGIES

- Design assets and park elements for multi-purposed seasonal transformation into winter amenities.
- Provide safe and easy access to key winter activity nodes, while allowing snow accumulation where needed for recreation and leisure.
- Develop a winter-specific lighting and illumination strategy that adapts to winter conditions and promotes a unique and high-quality experience for winter park users.
- Support the provision of public pause or rest areas and other related amenities along winter trails for winter events, including food and beverage concessions where feasible.
- Identify areas to plant conifer trees and shrubs to control snowdrifting in areas where driver and park user safety and visibility may be problematic.

WINTER ACTIVITIES
SKETCH TO COME

GUIDELINES

- Require site orientation and climate-sensitive design to maximize solar exposure during winter months, particularly at locations intended for winter gatherings.
- Develop any shoreline and on-water infrastructure in partnership with the relevant regulatory agencies and requirements and based on acceptable and proven design.

4.4.3.2 WINTER TRAILS

Multi-function features will be placed in non-environmentally sensitive areas that allow for actively mobile and recreational park uses to continue year-round.

STRATEGIES

- Develop a network of winter-only trails that connect the park to communities through gateways.
- Establish winter-only trails as temporary features that permit non-motorized winter active mobility and recreation activities.
- Respect the NCC environmental strategy and principles regarding protection of valued ecosystems and habitats in the planning, construction and management of winter trails and trail areas.
- Recognize the multi-function of winter trails as regional infrastructure for non-motorized and self-propelled uses as well as for motorized recreational uses by including them in the network plan.
- Cooperate with communities and other stakeholders in establishing and maintaining winter trails intended for active winter recreational mobility.
- Ensure that existing winter-only trails connect seamlessly with the pathway network.
- Develop a network of winter-only trails that connect the park



to communities through gateways.

GUIDELINES

- Adopt trail location and design guidelines that offer a range of trail specifications applicable to the unique characteristics of the park.
- Design pathways to protect ecological features and functions and blend in with the surrounding natural environment, when required.
- Use local materials where safe and compatible, and ensure visual compatibility within the park setting.
- Incorporate site orientation and climate-sensitive design for pathways to maximize solar exposure during winter months, particularly at locations that would accommodate connectivity with winter-only trails.
- Adapt lighting and illumination to winter conditions.

WINTER TRAILS
SKETCH TO COME

4.4.3.3 INITIATIVES—WINTER RECREATION

GENERAL

Use portions of parking surfaces where bioswales or bio-retention areas are provided for snow storage.

Maintain and remove snow from parking areas that support winter trail and recreation activities.

Offer winter recreation activity lessons and equipment repair at facilities in designated park sites that are easily accessible by the winter trails.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Design outdoor shelters such as warming huts in a complementary manner to adjacent uses.

Provide temporary skating pads.

Ensure that new winter recreation amenities/facilities as well as improvements to existing amenities/facilities provide barrier-free access.

Provide stations and rest areas along the winter trails for warming up, along with fire pits and concession stands

WINTER TRAILS

Ensure that existing winter-only trails connect seamlessly with the segregated pathway network.

Connect the winter trails with communities through gateways.

Make provisions for cross-country ski and snowshoe trails at the parkway’s grade-separated and at-grade crossings, where feasible.

Work with the community to identify, promote and maintain winter trails.

PHOTOS
TO COME



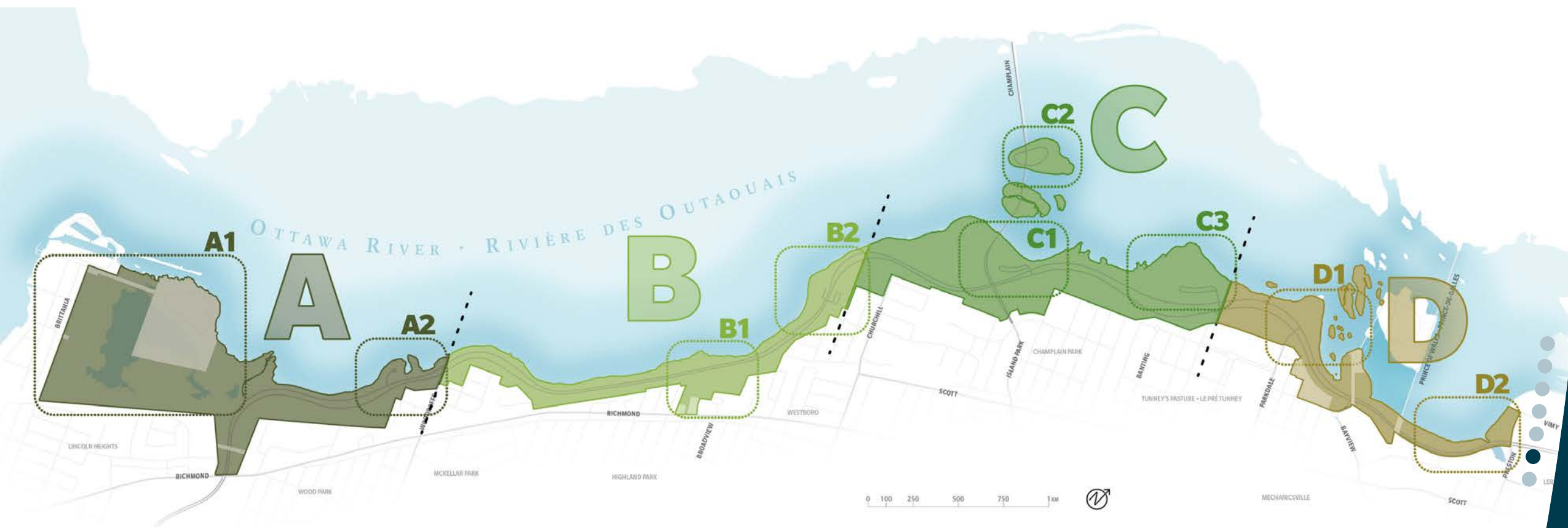


5 SECTOR AND DEMONSTRATION PLANS

This chapter articulates sector and demonstration plans, for illustrative purposes, that exemplify how to implement culture, nature, habitats, recreation, scenic qualities, amenities, services, facilities, pedestrian and cycling connections, and public placemaking into the park.

The chapter divides the nine-kilometre riverfront lands into four sectors that collectively build on the park's broader strategic directions while individually having particular principles that are sensitive to the local site context and conditions. Each sector contains demonstration plans for activity nodes with particular features, amenities, facilities and services for active and tranquil recreation purposes.

The demonstration plans are a visualization tool to clearly communicate the plan's overall intent and expected outcomes and to facilitate discussion. The sector and demonstration plans each represent one potential depiction that addresses all the planned systems and strategies within the riverfront park plan. The demonstration plans are illustrative examples and not prescriptive of a specific final design. These plans are a first step toward articulating a common future condition for the riverfront park lands. A continued process of exemplary design, innovative management, and strategic collaboration and partnerships are all-important to realizing the ambitious initiatives of the riverfront park.



A1

SECTOR A

A2





5.1 SECTOR A • MUD LAKE/BRITANNIA CONSERVATION AREA TO DESCHÊNES

SECTOR DESCRIPTION

This westernmost section of the Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park is located within the Lac Deschênes–Ottawa River Important Bird Area¹ and is a significant migratory bird corridor. It extends from Mud Lake/Britannia Conservation Area to just beyond the Deschênes lookout at Woodroffe Avenue. This sector consists of the Mud Lake/Britannia Conservation Area and Deschênes nodes.

Mud Lake/Britannia Conservation Area is an important environment for bird conservation, and is recognized as one of the most popular urban sites for birdwatching in Canada, with 269 bird species identified in the area. Mud Lake, which covers 59 hectares, is identified as a provincially significant wetland and an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) by the Government of Ontario. The International Union for Conservation of Nature also classifies it as a protected area. This conservation area is close to the Britannia Village and Woodroffe-Lincoln Heights communities. Downstream from the conservation area, shallow wetlands create an ideal habitat for migrating birds and a range of wildlife, providing habitat for eight species at risk and 44 rare plants. These natural features make this sector the park's environmental/ecological gateway.

The Deschênes node has shallow water and an open river shore habitat. There is high native biodiversity in the area, with 61 native plant species observed in a small, homogenous aquatic area. The node features recreational activity and parkway access to the natural area, plus pathways and parking near the shoreline.

CHALLENGES

Several non-native plant species, covering about 29 percent of the total area, threaten the biodiversity of the Mud Lake habitat.

There is a need for public facilities and wayfinding to improve a sense of place and trail interconnectivity in Mud Lake.

Stormwater runoff at the mouth of Pinecrest Creek has caused significant degradation of valuable natural habitat. The Pinecrest Creek/Westboro Stormwater Management Study² commissioned by the City of Ottawa in 2011, concludes that cooperation would be required to complete the necessary habitat improvements and improve water quality in the Ottawa River.

Along the riverfront between Mud Lake and Deschênes lookout, the parkway corridor narrows, bringing pedestrians and cyclists close to automobile traffic.

There is a demand for safe and more formal crossing of the parkway in this sector.

SECTOR CONCEPT SNAPSHOT

An ongoing project was started in 2015 to remove invasive plant species in the Mud Lake/Britannia Conservation Area, to help re-establish native species and help preserve its ecological integrity. The Mud Lake vegetation management project falls under the NCC's management strategy for aggressive invasive alien species, which covers all of the NCC's valued natural ecosystems and habitats.

² J.F. Sabourin and Associates, 2011. *Pinecrest Creek/Westboro Stormwater Management Study*. Prepared for the City of Ottawa, May 2011.

The sector concept connects people to nature and provides a sanctuary for park users where they can appreciate the area's beauty. In respecting the site's sensitive nature, the concept tries to educate visitors about nature and habitats and facilitates the area's enjoyment while limiting potential impacts on the ecosystem. This concept will seek to provide safer access and clarity of signage to its location.

It also proposes initiatives to restore protect and manage the shoreline through stormwater management and erosion control measures.

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

- rare birds
- aquatic habitat/Mud Lake
- Deschênes Rapids

¹ <http://www.ibacanada.org/site.jsp?siteID=ON112>

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD RIVERFRONT PARK

NODE 1

SECTOR A

NODE 2





SECTOR A • MUD LAKE/BRITANNIA CONSERVATION AREA/DESCHÊNES

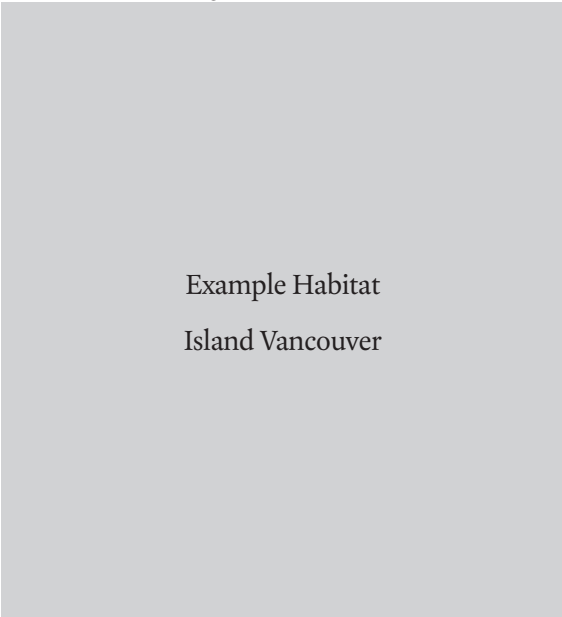
SECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Work to complete key aspects of the 2004 Mud Lake and Britannia Area Plan in order to provide accessible habitat viewing in the conservation area for all users.
- 2 Provide a secondary gateway trailhead to inform people they are entering the linear park, and a link to draw in cyclists and pedestrians from Britannia Beach.
- 3 Add some curves to the pathway to make it more a more pleasant and shaded experience for pedestrians between the Britannia Road and Howe Street entrances and the start of the boardwalk at the outlet of Pinecrest Creek.
- 4 Improve shoreline access at the eastern end of the Deschênes boardwalk in support of Pinecrest Creek revitalization.
- 5 Work with the City of Ottawa in improving stormwater management conditions along the river shore and around the stormwater ponds at the primary gateway.
- 6 Examine in detail, and in cooperation with the City of Ottawa, the feasibility of reconfiguring the Woodroffe Avenue intersection to create a safer pedestrian and cycling environment and be consistent with NCC objectives to reduce traffic speed on the parkway and minimize the parkway’s footprint.
- 7 Treat the western extremity of the park at Richmond Road as a primary gateway, and enhance the arrival experience.
- 8 Study the feasibility of adding a safe, signalized, at-grade crossing of the parkway to connect the pathways between Ambleside and Britannia, and provide direct connection to the Mud Lake pathway network.

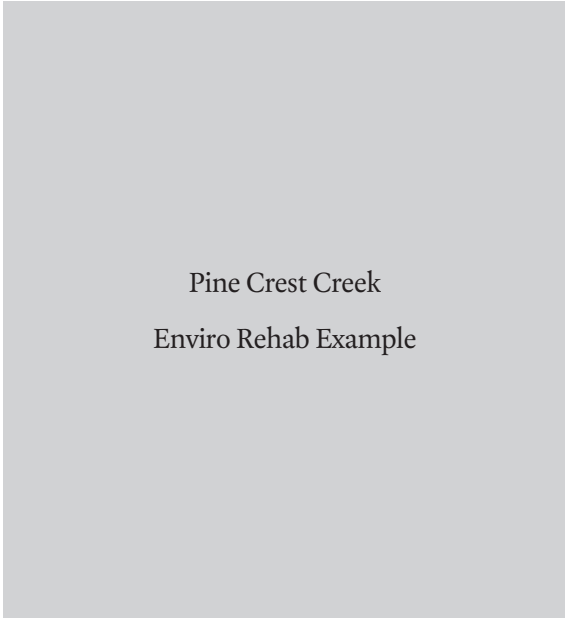
ROLE INDICATORS



Boardwalk Rendering



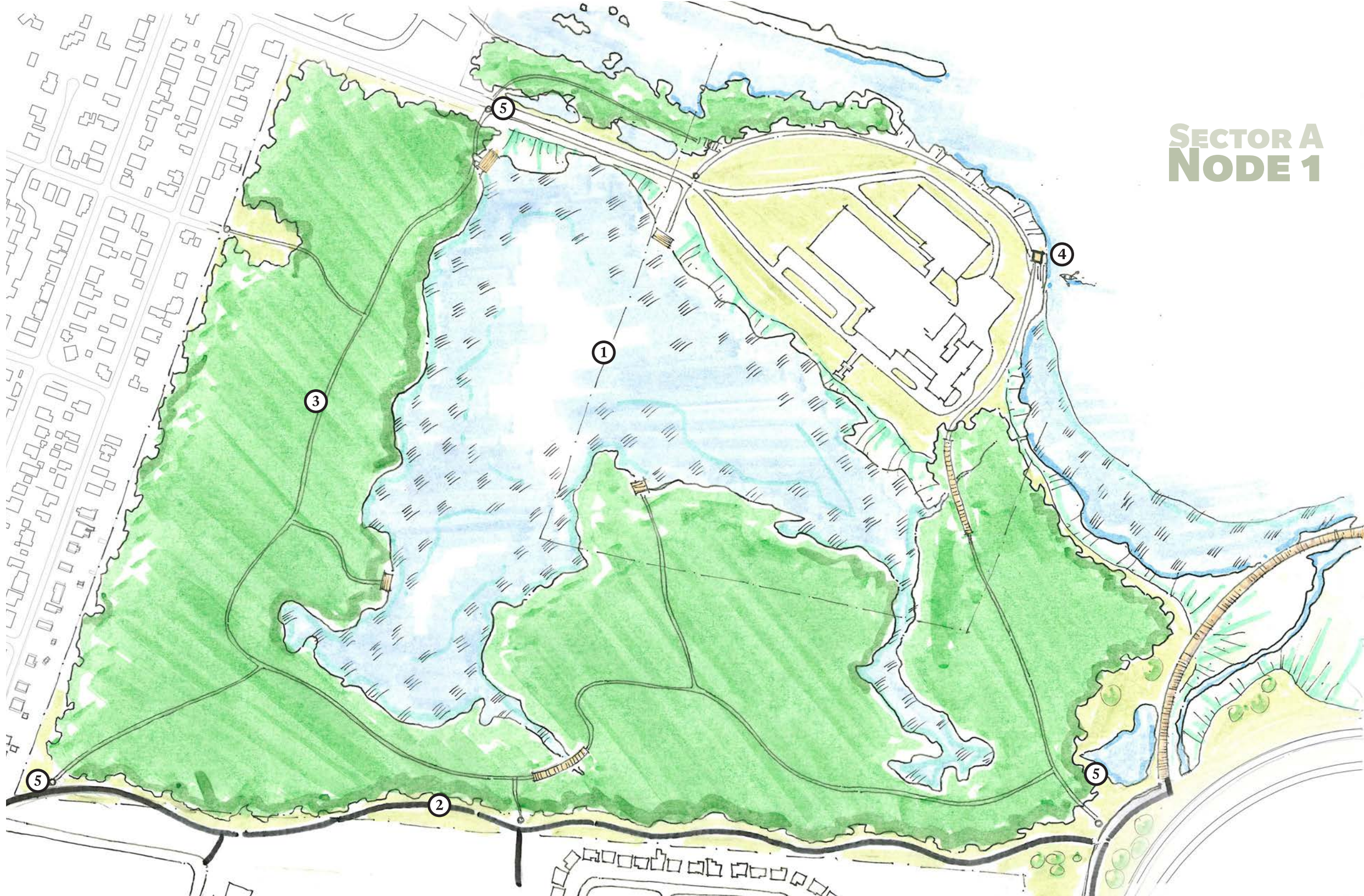
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Mudlake





SECTOR A • NODE 1 • MUD LAKE/BRITANNIA CONSERVATION AREA

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Complete the 2004 Mud Lake and Britannia Area Plan to achieve its objectives, including gap completion in the trails system, gateway enhancement, trailheads, wayfinding, public/universal accessibility, viewing areas, toilets, education/interpretation, and boardwalks over wetland portions, shared parking, and enhanced identity and profile to the conservation area.
- 2 Explore with partners and stakeholders additional opportunities for environmental education and interpretation that are compatible with sensitive terrestrial and aquatic habitats, such as tactile interpretation or an outdoor classroom on the park's southern edge and near gateways.
- 3 Continue to remove invasive plant species at Mud Lake and replace them with native plant species, to protect the biodiversity and safeguard valued habitats that support the Capital Region's ecological functions.
- 4 Install a boat launch for paddlers using a portage route around the Deschênes Rapids, and create an aquatic gateway at the west end of the paddling route. This will allow paddlers of all abilities to access Lac Deschênes and the 44-kilometre navigable route west to Barrage des Chats.
- 5 Improve pathways' configuration and wayfinding for public safety at the trailheads and gateways to the Mud Lake area.

ROLE INDICATORS

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SECTOR A • NODE 2 • DESCHÊNES

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Subject to more detailed studies and regulatory approvals, create the on-water, river-edge boardwalk between the Pinecrest Creek pathway and the Deschênes lookout.³ This lookout shall be in keeping with the riverfront's image and the protection and enhancement of sensitive environments. The boardwalk will connect with the linear segregated pathways, be universally accessible, and be constructed and maintained using best practices to avoid adverse impacts on the river and aquatic environment.
- 2 Provide aquatic habitat and improve shorelines by collaborating with Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and nearby communities,
- 3 Relocate the existing parking at Deschênes lookout away from the shoreline to increase public park space, possibly south of the parkway, subject to feasibility and community consultation.
- 4 Provide access for non-motorized watercraft near the Deschênes lookout.

ROLE INDICATORS



Precident Tranquil Public Shoreline

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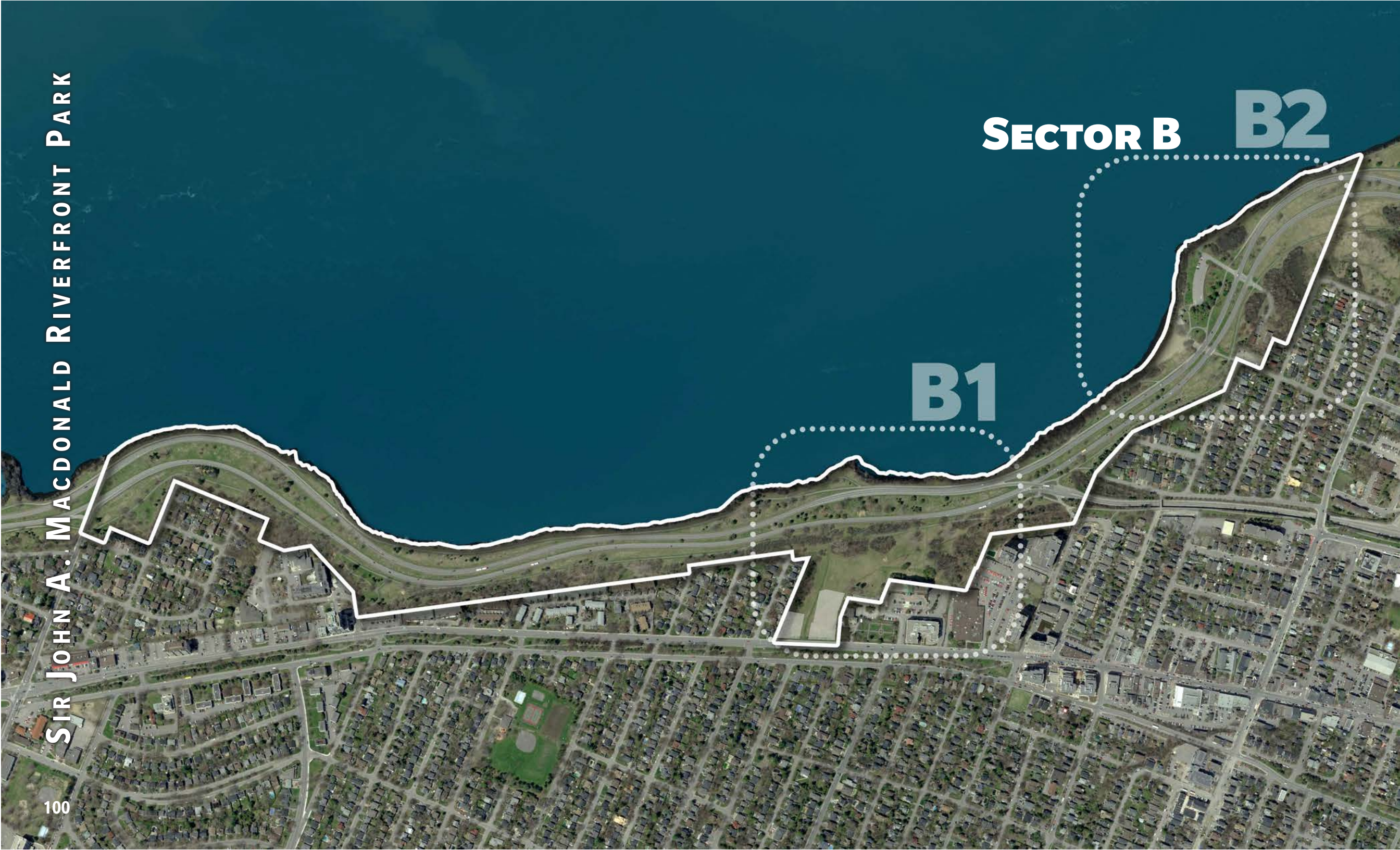
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³ W.F. Baird and Associates, 2015. Sir John A. Macdonald Boardwalk Feasibility Study. Prepared for the National Capital Commission, October 2015.

SECTOR B

B2

B1





5.2 SECTOR B • WOODROFFE AVENUE TO WESTBORO BEACH/ATLANTIS

SECTOR DESCRIPTION

This 2.4-kilometre stretch of the park spans from Woodroffe Avenue to Westboro Beach. The river currents in this sector are calm and inviting for various recreational opportunities. The area is rich in history, and the heritage sites in the sector reflect 200 years of early settlement, industry and urbanization. Maplelawn and Gardens National Historic Site of Canada and Rochester Field represent the early settlement and farming in the area dating back to 1817. The remnants of the former Skead’s Mill are one of the few vestiges of 19th century industry along the parkway. Westboro Beach is one of Ottawa’s oldest community places, a public beach for over 100 years. The community continues to play an active role in the area’s stewardship, with organizations such as Friends of Maplelawn Garden, the Westboro Community Association and the Ottawa Riverkeeper as prominent examples.

With strong community involvement over many decades, the beach has become a four-season destination for active and passive recreation.

CHALLENGES

This sector is comparatively narrow, allowing limited opportunity for greater shoreline green space. The parkway continues to be a barrier for safe public access to the river.

Parking for Westboro Beach is presently near the waterfront. This parking provision model is not well suited for the riverfront park, as it occupies potentially more functional shoreline park space than is optimal. As the riverfront park attracts more people and activities, increased parking capacity will be required notwithstanding the intended increase in transit modal share with

light rail. Planning and design should consider strategic parking sites and shared use sites to accommodate increasing demand near significant north–south connections and park destinations to improve accessibility to waterfront features and amenities.

SECTOR CONCEPT SNAPSHOT

This 2.4-kilometre stretch is the focus of the initial step in the realization of the park plan, due to the light rail transit project. Facilities/amenities at Rochester Field and Westboro Beach are the park’s hallmark precincts that will be realized in conjunction with the completion of the western light rail transit line.

The transformation of Rochester Field into a people-focused space represents a significant transformation to connect the river with the communities. A key component of the concept is the dominant axis between Richmond Road and the river, crossing the parkway at grade and thereby allowing unimpeded and safe cycling and walking access between the communities and the river.

This development must be carefully developed to be sensitive to the historic context of Maplelawn, given that the house, garden and associated grounds represent one of the oldest and best preserved historic sites in the National Capital Region.

A Westboro Beach redesign will provide enhanced pedestrian and bicycle access, canoe and kayak launching, and a larger multi-purpose building in addition to the traditional beach uses. Parking will be established south of the parkway at the former Atlantis depot. Parking for universal accessibility as well as servicing will be provided adjacent to the proposed multi-purpose building. The concept retains and respects built and cultural heritage elements,

offers park-friendly services and facilities, includes stormwater eco-management, and enhances physical and visual river access.

As compensation for the use of NCC lands for the western light rail line, the City of Ottawa has committed \$30 million for works that will advance the development of this section of the riverfront park, including detailed design concepts for Westboro Beach and Rochester Field, realignment of the parkway, realignment and segregation of pathways, and revegetation.

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

WESTBORO BEACH

- a public beach for over 100 years
- Westboro Beach Pavilion—constructed 1965–1967, architect James Strutt; submitted to FHBRO for heritage evaluation.

SKEAD’S MILL RUINS

- one of the largest steam saw mill operations west of the Chaudière Falls; includes stone foundations, archaeological remains, and log boom anchor fragments 100 metres off shore

MAPLELAWN AND GARDENS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

- classified federal heritage building and National Historic Site of Canada
- reminder of Ottawa’s early agricultural history
- one of the best preserved walled gardens in Canada
- house is an excellent example of traditional 18th century British classical style architecture



SECTOR B





SECTOR B • WOODROFFE AVENUE TO WESTBORO BEACH/ATLANTIS

SECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Create an underpass at Cleary Avenue to facilitate pedestrian and cycling connectivity between the light rail transit and the east end of the Deschênes boardwalk.
- 2 Create a signature people place at Rochester Field that provides unimpeded visual and physical access to the park and safely connects people to the river. Provide park-related services, amenities and facilities that are context-sensitive and respect the heritage, environmental and community context. It may also include incorporating public art and heritage recognition (natural, built, cultural) into the concept design as it unfolds.
- 3 Capitalize on the proximity of the light rail transit’s Dominion Station to provide attractive and easy links with the segregated pathways, and be sure to appropriately buffer and screen all light rail structures to minimize and mitigate visual and auditory impacts for park users.
- 4 Ensure that enhancements to the Westboro Beach facilities are sensitive to the site’s visual qualities and to community values. Safeguard against adverse impacts on the shoreline, beach conditions and access, and respect the area’s built and cultural heritage elements.
- 5 Upgrade parkway stormwater management via bioswales along the median, where feasible.

ROLE INDICATORS



LRT



Maplelawn and Gardens National Historic Site



Westboro Beach



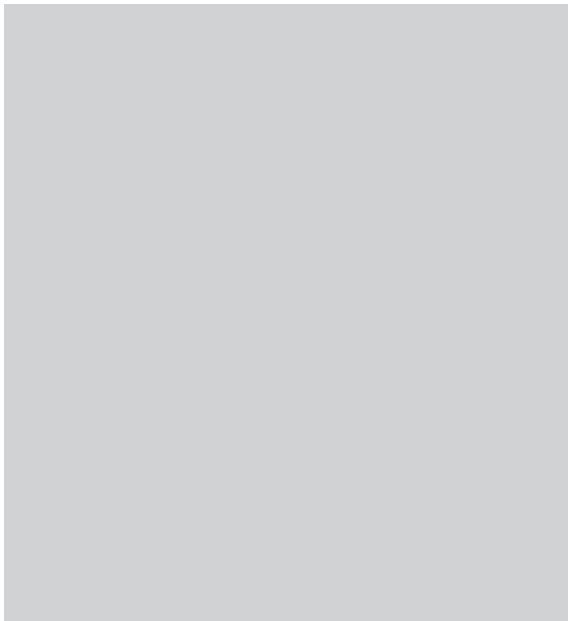


SECTOR B • NODE 1 • ROCHESTER FIELD

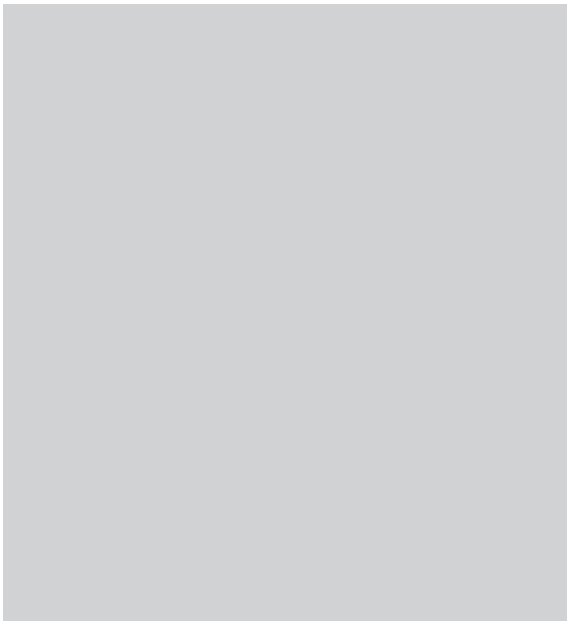
NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Work in partnership with the Friends of Maplelawn Garden and assist Canadian Heritage in identifying the potential for interpretive programs that showcase the Maplelawn and Gardens National Historic Site and its relationship with the riverfront park.
- 2 Support a balance of tranquil and programmed spaces for public recreational uses.
- 3 Create a public space with a distinctive gateway feature, including a water element, seating and washrooms.
- 4 Create a strong north–south linear axis for safe cycling and walking connectivity between the community and the river, including a signalized at-grade crossing of the parkway.
- 5 Reflect the City of Ottawa’s zoning for future development along Richmond Road.
- 6 Ensure new development in the vicinity of Maplelawn and Gardens National Historic Site is sensitive to the heritage values of the site and its setting.
- 7 Create a new lookout at the shoreline:
 - Provide access to the water’s edge on the west side of the lookout and build a children’s play area with a water cascade and other water elements
 - Create new shoreline habitat enhancements on the east side of the lookout and install seating elements setback appropriately from the shoreline.

ROLE INDICATORS



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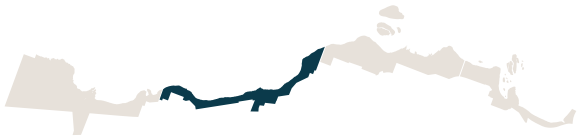


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Maplelawn and Gardens National Historic Site





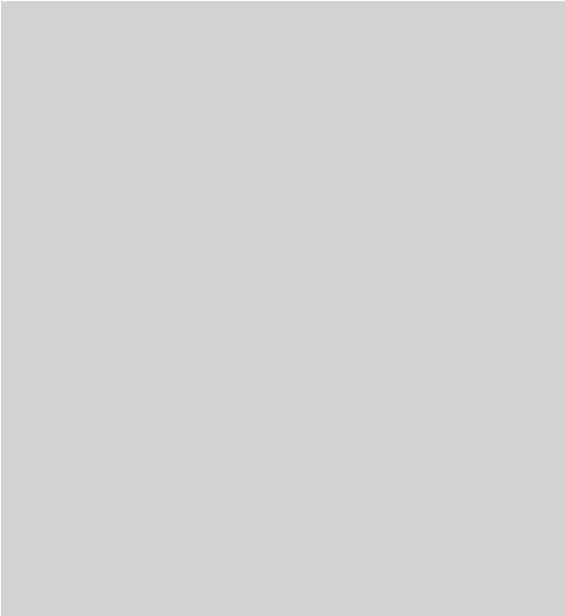
SECTOR B • NODE 2 • WESTBORO BEACH

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

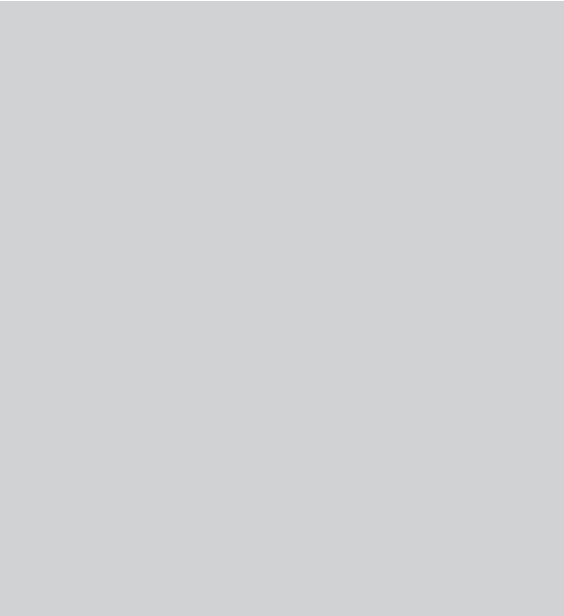
- 1 Involve the community in the development plans for the site, and explore ways to recognize the important contributions of community members to the continued vitality of the area.
- 2 Relocate parking from the shoreline to the former Atlantis NCC work yard to gain more park space at the river and support the enhancements to the facilities and amenities at Westboro Beach.
- 3 Retain Westboro Beach’s character and function while trying to optimize riverfront asset development and management to generate long-term, sustainable commercial returns.
- 4 Renovate and redesign beachfront amenities to offer improved user experience. Consider the heritage elements of the beach building designs in revitalization concepts and designs, further to evaluation by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office.
- 5 Design improvements to the Westboro Beach facility to include year-round public and park-related services such as washrooms, restaurant, rentals, repairs, community space, etc.
- 6 Work with Canadian Heritage to identify potential enhancement opportunities to integrate the built heritage and archaeological features of the former Skead’s Mill as part of the park interpretative strategy.
- 7 Protect the aquatic habitat west of the beach and beachfront facilities.

ROLE INDICATORS

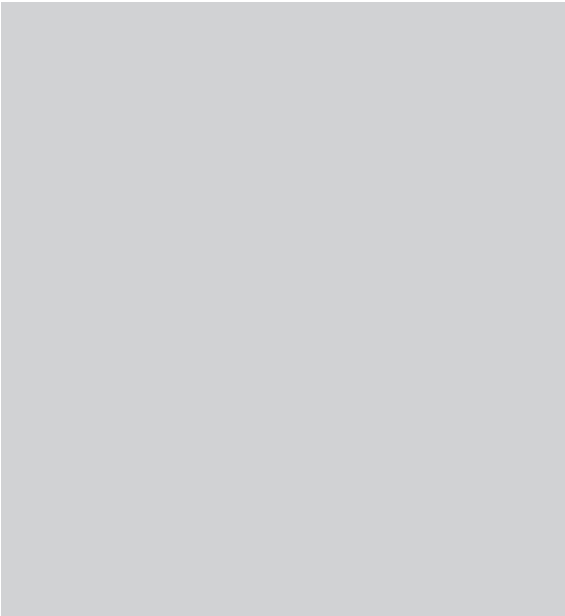
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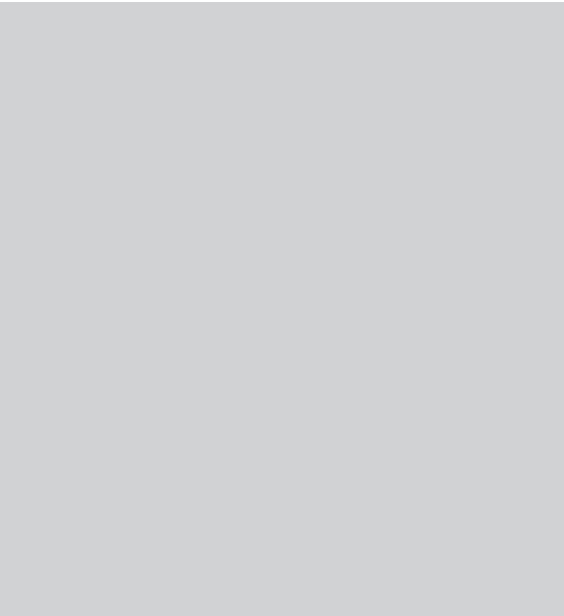
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SECTOR C





5.3 SECTOR C • CHAMPLAIN TO REMIC RAPIDS

SECTOR DESCRIPTION

This sector includes three animation nodes: Champlain, Bate Island and Remic.

The Champlain node is on both sides of the Champlain Bridge. The western portion known as Champlain Woods consists of forest cover and is within the seasonal flood plain. On the eastern portion of Champlain, there is water access for boating and fishing. Parking is located along the shoreline, and cyclists and pedestrians can access the pathways to the west via an underpass beneath the Champlain Bridge. Riopelle and Cunningham islands have a very high native plant biodiversity, although the site has shown signs of severe impacts from invasive plant species.

Visitors to Bate Island presently use it as a tranquil recreation site with high-quality river views to the north, west and east. It has a canopy structure, picnic tables, benches and interpretive panels. Fishing is possible on the east side. Experienced kayakers have access to a launch area on the northeast side. It has been the location of the Level Six Capital Cup competition and draws paddlers from great distances.

Remic Rapids is a very popular destination, renowned for the balanced rock sculptures⁴ and exceptional views of the Capital core area and Gatineau shoreline. The area is within the NCC's natural valued habitat designation called Chaudière Rapids and Lemieux Island. It is a very important zone for migratory birds and an integral part of the Lac Deschênes–Ottawa River Important Bird Area. The abundant green space and views are important attractions for tourists, the adjacent communities and employees at Tunney's Pasture. There is a lookout on top of a pump station

for Tunney's Pasture facilities, where users can get a view of the Ottawa River and downtown Ottawa and Gatineau.

CHALLENGES

A significant portion of this sector at Champlain and Bate Island is within the 100-year flood plain, which means there is frequent flooding and erosion along this shoreline. These events undermine subsurface integrity and restrict the ability to construct permanent infrastructure. The existence of invasive species within the Champlain Woods severely affects the site's natural systems. Goose management is a key issue in this sector, particularly at Bate Island. At Champlain lookout and Remic, the existing paved parking occupies prime locations for river views and access.

There is a conflict between the recreational and commuting cyclists on the existing multi-use pathway.

SECTOR CONCEPT SNAPSHOT

In this sector, the purpose of the recommendations is to take advantage of the area's natural assets while considering how visitors will appreciate it. The concept improves landscape design by increasing programmable space and opening shoreline access to park users by relocating the parking away from the water.

The concept for this sector also recognizes the importance of building on the success of the winter trails that are a perfect addition to the nation's winter capital and are accessible for both residents and visitors. With the participation of the local community volunteers, the trails bring this part of the riverfront alive and promote Ottawa as a destination for winter tourist activity.

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

- Champlain Woods
- Remic sculptures
- Bate kayakers
- commemoration Monument to Fallen Diplomats

⁴ Created and managed by the artist John Ceprano.

SECTOR C



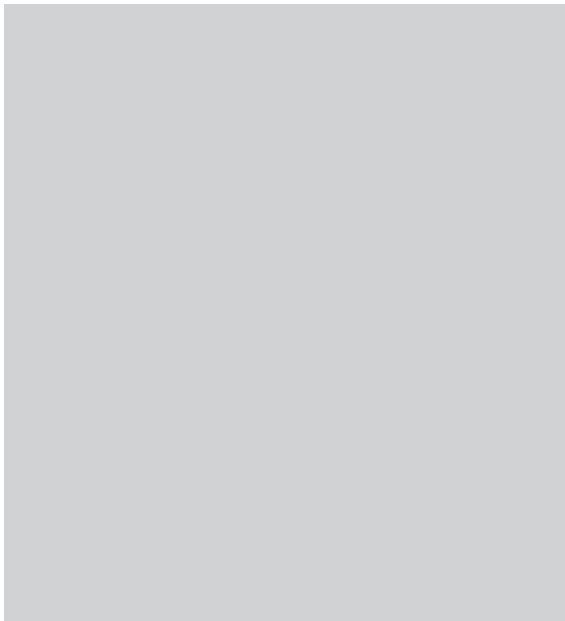


SECTOR C • CHAMPLAIN TO REMIC RAPIDS

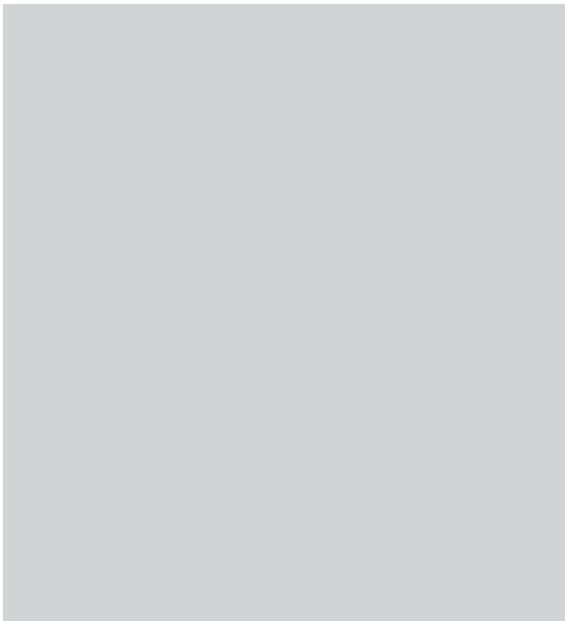
SECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Provide secondary gateway at the future signalized at-grade crossing proposed at Churchill Avenue.
- 2 Reforest and create looped trails for summer and winter use through Selby Plains. Preserve spaces as meadow habitat.
- 3 Rehabilitate Champlain Woods and redesign the Champlain lookout access area.
- 4 Reinforce the primary gateway and accentuate the pedestrian arrival experience at Island Park Drive and Bate Island.

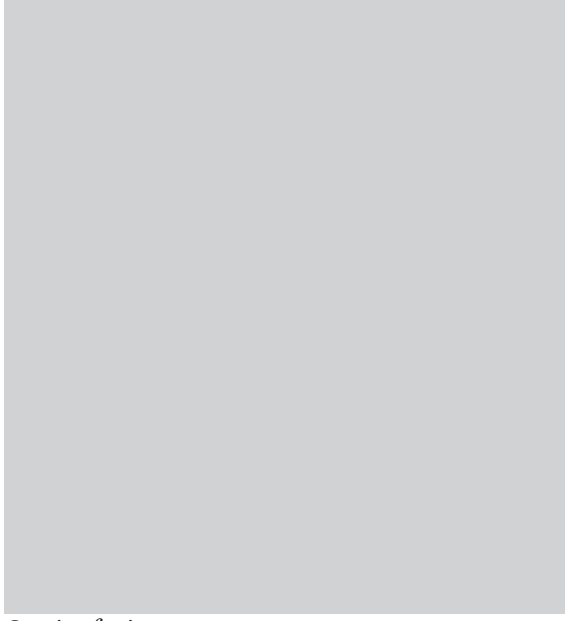
ROLE INDICATORS



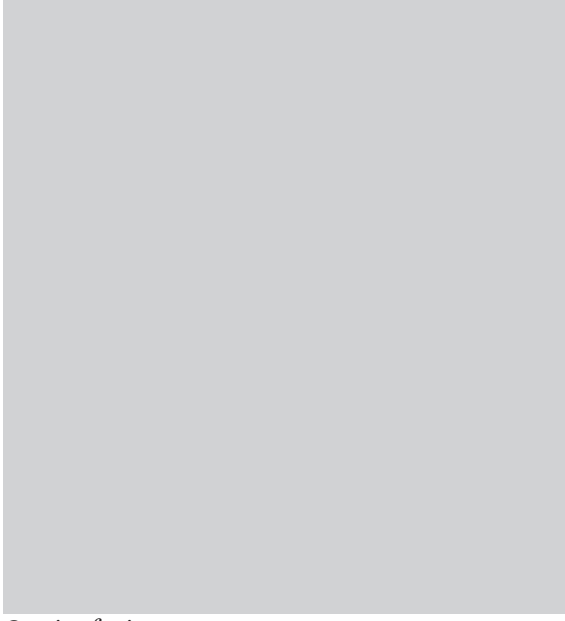
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SECTOR C
Node 1

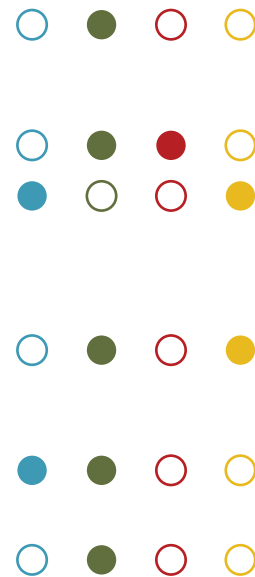


SECTOR C • NODE 1 • CHAMPLAIN WOODS (WEST PORTION)

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

ROLE INDICATORS

- 1 Revitalize the woodlot near Champlain Bridge through removal of fallen ash trees (from emerald ash borer), which will provide space for planting native tree species.
- 2 Reinstate the creek to create a silver maple swamp.
- 3 Consider interactive and educational opportunities in Champlain Woods that are context-sensitive to the natural environment, such as a boardwalk leading to the woodland play area using natural materials and themes (low tree lookouts, tree huts, balance beams, etc.).
- 4 Include the 100-year flood plain in pathway design and include boardwalks in the Champlain Woods area to ensure resilience during seasonal floods.
- 5 Create inland sponge ponds with walkways and small bridges that allow for continued use of pathways during normal spring flooding.
- 6 Provide meadows for migratory bird nesting and habitat for butterflies in the northern section of this node and support educational and interpretive panels.

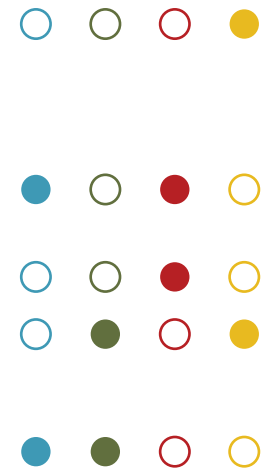


CHAMPLAIN LOOKOUT (EAST PORTION)

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

ROLE INDICATORS

- 7 Improve landscape design of the eastern portion of the Champlain node by relocating parking farther south with adequate vegetative buffer, and allow a parking configuration that will accommodate tour buses.
- 8 Increase programmable space for temporary events and mobile restaurants.
- 9 Provide temporary washrooms at Champlain lookout.
- 10 Explore the feasibility of a cantilevered path under the Champlain Bridge in order to separate pedestrians and cyclists and improve safety, and ensure that nighttime lighting is respectful of animal species.
- 11 Improve shoreline access for fishing, as well as for appreciating the views of the river and the Gatineau shoreline.



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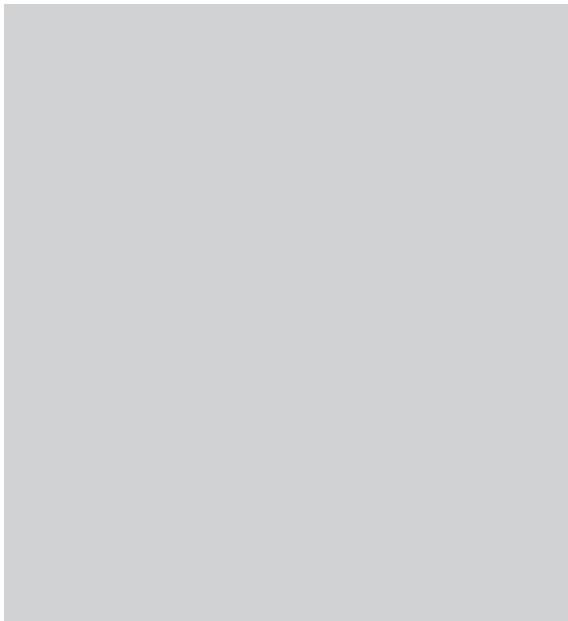


SECTOR C
Node 2

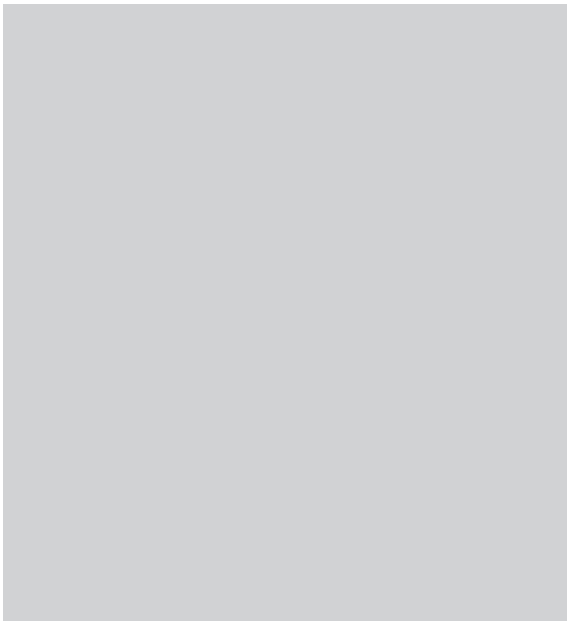


SECTOR C • NODE 2 • BATE ISLAND

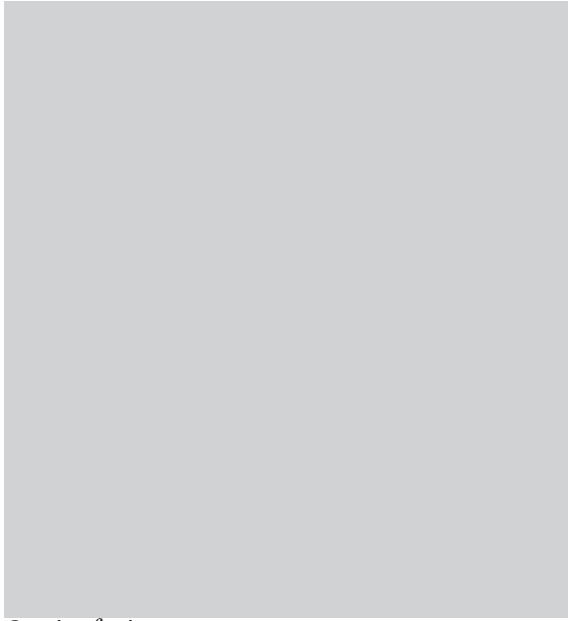
NODE RECOMMENDATIONS		ROLE INDICATORS			
1	Consolidate parking on Bate Island to allow revegetation in the eastern portion of the island within the 100-year flood plain and mitigate/manage goose population impacts.	●	●	○	●
2	Make provisions for safe river access for fishing.	●	○	○	○
3	Create a gateway feature at the existing entry to the island on the Champlain Bridge.	○	○	○	●
4	Provide an official access route for launching watercraft on the east side of the island where kayakers and surfers access the river. This would allow for portage around the rapids.	●	○	○	○
5	Soften river access on the west side of Bate Island by moving the pathway and by eliminating/relocating parking from the edges.	●	○	○	●
6	Accommodate a permanent bar/café/restaurant above the flood plain on the southeast corner of the island. In the interim, provide for mobile restaurants outside of the flood plain in support of festivals and events.	●	○	○	○
7	Create an observation point at the eastern tip of the island capitalizing on the views toward Parliament Hill.	●	●	●	●
8	Create access to the river on the northeast side of island for kayakers to complete their portages. This access does not need to be as large as the one to the east, as the primary users will be boaters who walk with their equipment from the pathway to the northeast boat launch.	●	○	○	●



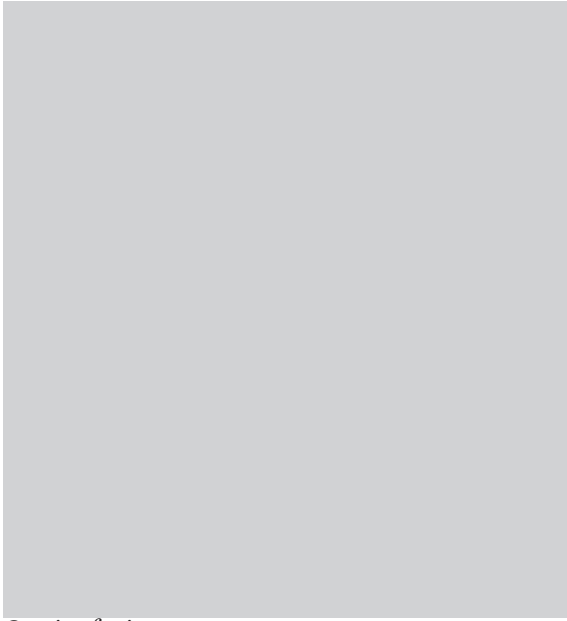
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SECTOR C
NODE 3



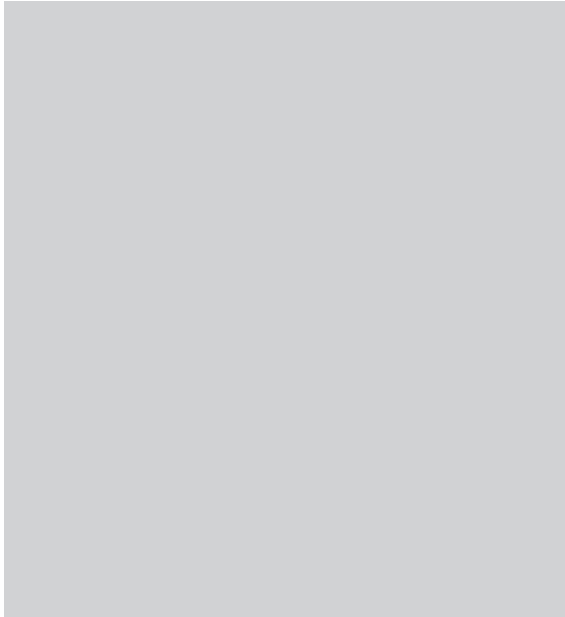
1:2500 25 50 75 100



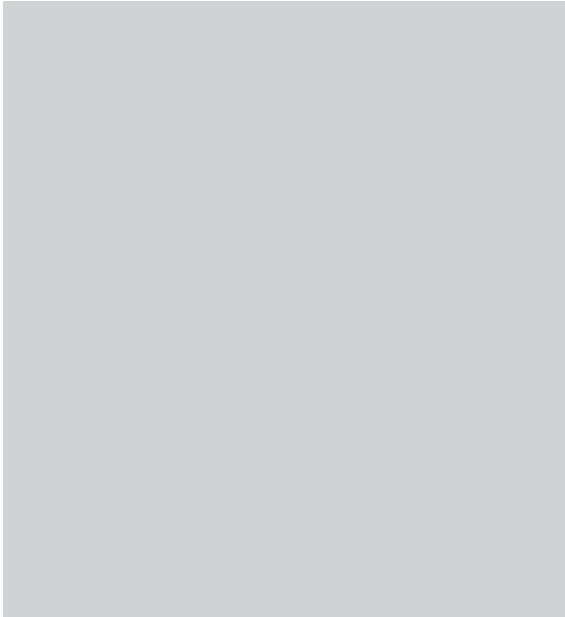
SECTOR C • NODE 3 • REMIC RAPIDS

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS	ROLE INDICATORS			
1 Relocate the existing parking closer to the parkway with appropriate vegetative buffering, while taking into account functional connectivity with Tunney’s Pasture.				
2 Consider a partnership with Public Services and Procurement Canada to arrange for off-peak shared parking opportunities.				
3 Expand programmable space for a range of events and activities (e.g. festivals, yoga on the river, fishing activities) while considering the site’s landscape design to ensure the conservation of all mature trees in the area and enhance the experience’s overall quality.				
4 Engage with the community and stakeholders to accommodate winter recreation activities—snowshoeing, cross-country skiing—and provide more promotion and marketing of winter trails for users of all ages.				
5 Create a portage on the western part of the point that will allow people to view the rapids safely and provide for fishing opportunities.				
6 Enhance the shoreline to support an amphitheatre-like feature in its natural setting.				
7 Continue to support the public art initiative of rock sculptures and explore the potential to expand the range of public events and programs (e.g. music, performance, other public art, natural themed art displays, etc.).				

	ROLE INDICATORS			
8 Collaborate with Public Services and Procurement Canada to allow for universal accessibility at the pumping station, and retrofit the structure as an observation point.				
9 Work with Canadian Heritage to identify opportunities for interpretation of the pumping station’s heritage elements.				
10 Consider proposals for a facility that can accommodate public amenities and services including an environmental centre with interpretation space, community space, washrooms, etc.				
11 Create looped trails throughout the Rémic Rapids park space for all-season use.				
12 Continue monitoring and evaluating the performance and function of the wetland restoration project completed by the NCC in partnership with Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.				

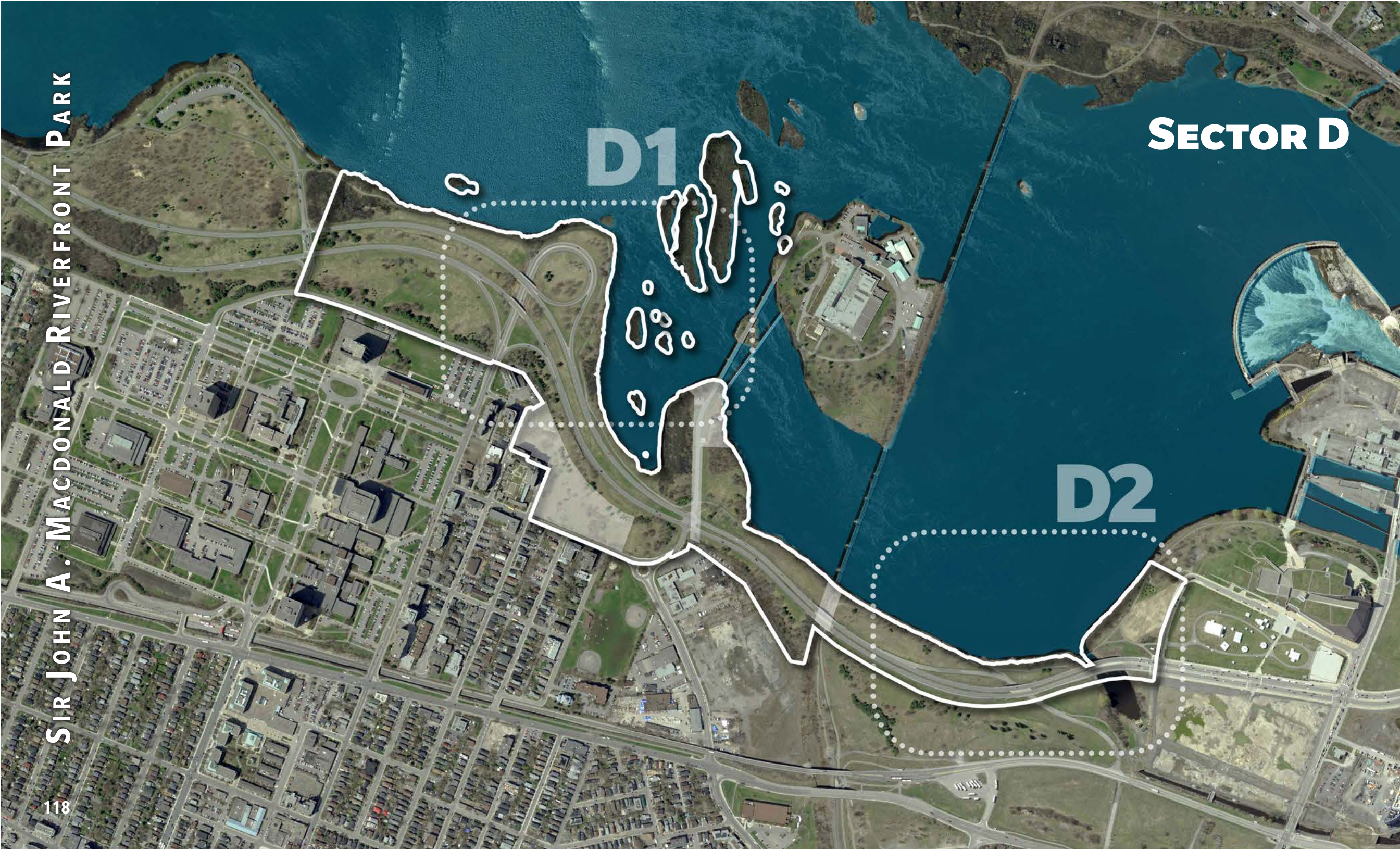


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D1

SECTOR D

D2



5.4 SECTOR D • PARKDALE TO NEPEAN BAY

SECTOR DESCRIPTION

A series of rapids and a chain of islands mark the river at this easternmost sector of the riverfront park. As part of constructing the parkway in the 1960s, the NCC engineered much of the shoreline above the flood plain. Now, this sector contains some significant natural features and it offers some of the most spectacular views of the Ottawa River, Gatineau shoreline and the Capital core.

The Tunney’s Pasture federal employment area is located immediately to the south, where its master plan will guide the area’s transformation to a vibrant, mixed-use neighbourhood, founded upon transit-oriented development best practices. The Tunney’s Pasture master plan envisions the following:

- an employment/support retail hub
- office and other employment opportunities for approximately 22,000–25,000 employees
- multi-unit residential areas with approximately 3,400–3,700 units
- a community park
- a green corridor linking with the park
- enhanced connectivity pedestrian/cycling routes and enhanced community linkages, etc.

The Indonesian embassy is located adjacent to the site south of the park boundary, east of Tunney’s Pasture.

This sector represents the riverfront park’s gradual transition from the urban character of the Capital core area to the more natural setting toward Mud Lake.

CHALLENGES

The parkway continues to be a perceived and real barrier to unencumbered and safe access to the shoreline.

Many invasive plant species that prohibit excellent views and access to the river cover most of the shoreline.

This sector contains highly rated elevated views of two very different river experiences: the panoramic views of the Ottawa River’s main channel and the calmer water and enclosed space of the bay of islands.

The multi-use pathway is very close to the shoreline, limiting the area usable to stop and appreciate these views. The two-tier landscape would provide a great vantage point for pathway users and a potential development of park-related opportunities. It would also allow for the segregation of pathways for pedestrians and cyclists.

The Prince of Wales Bridge, a former railway bridge now owned by the City of Ottawa, is an interprovincial link that provides a great opportunity to enhance transit and active mobility.

SECTOR CONCEPT SNAPSHOT

The Parkdale node offers beautiful views of the river, Core area and Gatineau Hills to the northwest. In the long term, the concept proposes to reconfigure the intersection of the parkway which would result in an increased park space along and creates the potential for park facilities and animation opportunities.

This concept will also emphasize public space at Nepean Bay and will transition with the developed urban LeBreton Flats and the recreational character of the park.

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

- lazy bay archipelago
- Prince of Wales Bridge



SECTOR D





SECTOR D • PARKDALE

SECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

ROLE INDICATORS

ROLE INDICATORS

- 1 Work with the City of Ottawa, Public Services and Procurement Canada and community stakeholders over the long term to examine the feasibility of reconfiguring or removing the Parkdale Avenue on-ramp and converting the shoreline lands to public park space. This will restore the shoreline, reduce impediments to pedestrian/bicycle river access and support sustainable mobility.
- 2 Determine in cooperation with Canadian Heritage the future disposition of commemoration sites.
- 3 Improve the at-grade crossing at Slidell Street to encourage safe pedestrian and cycling access from Laroche Park and adjacent communities.
- 4 Work with the City of Ottawa to maintain and possibly enhance access to the Lemieux Island Water Purification Plant for public enjoyment of and functional connectivity with the riverfront park.
- 5 Ensure seamless connectivity at the end of the Trillium Pathway as a gateway with Bayview Station, including appropriate wayfinding.
- 6 Complete multi-use pathway linkage from Bayview Station to the Ottawa River pathway, and incorporate wayfinding to the transit station.
- 7 Support efforts to improve interprovincial connectivity for cycling and walking on the Prince of Wales Bridge.
- 8 Treat the eastern edge of the riverfront adjacent to LeBreton Flats as a signature transitional gateway with appropriate landscaping and park furniture and amenities.

●	○	○	●
○	○	●	○
○	○	○	●
○	○	○	●
○	○	○	●
○	○	○	●
○	○	○	●
○	○	○	●

- 9 Accommodate the diplomatic missions at Burnside Avenue:
 - Set aside land for the diplomatic missions as a special provision in this park.
 - Remove the park designation from the diplomatic missions once development is complete, given that this is a special use prohibited from the parklands.
 - Prohibit direct access between the diplomatic missions and the parkway.
 - Provide a visual and security buffer between the diplomatic missions and the park.

○	●	●	●
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Prince of Wales Bridge







DRAFT – FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

SECTOR D • NODE 1 • PARKDALE

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

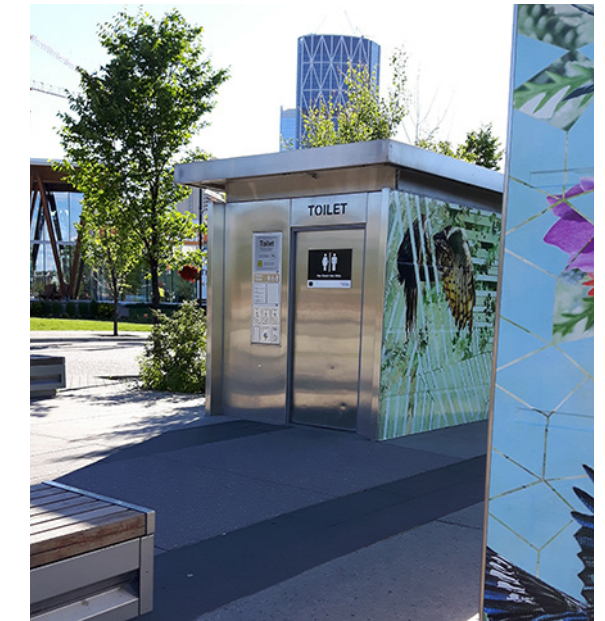
ROLE INDICATORS

- 1 Transform the shoreline space into programmable space following the reconfiguration of the Parkdale intersection, by including a pavilion with lookout, restaurant, café, restrooms, segregated pathways, park-related commercial, over-the-water viewing platform, etc.
- 2 Create a possible cantilevered lookout or viewing pavilion that provides the experience of being over the water.
- 3 Realign the parkway, over the long term, west of the Parkdale Avenue ramp to create more space at the shoreline.
- 4 If the feasibility study is supportive of an intersection, treat Parkdale Avenue as a gateway and extension of the Tunney's Pasture green corridor.

●	●	●	●
●	●	○	●
●	○	○	●
○	○	○	●



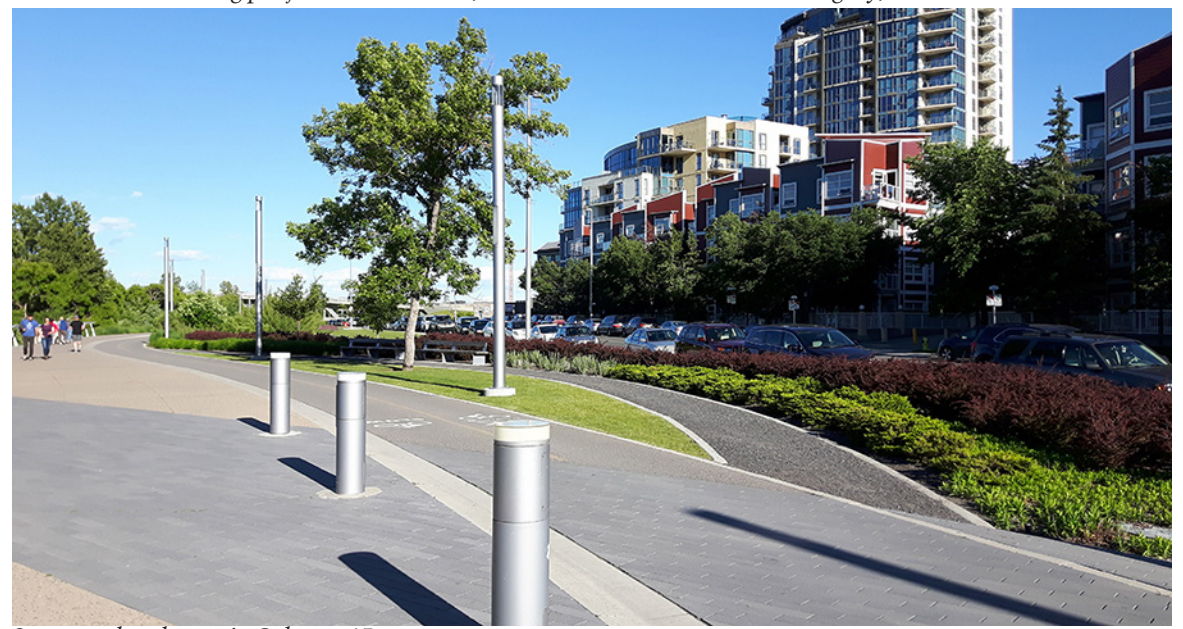
Over the water viewing platform in Vancouver, BC.



Public restroom in Calgary, AB.

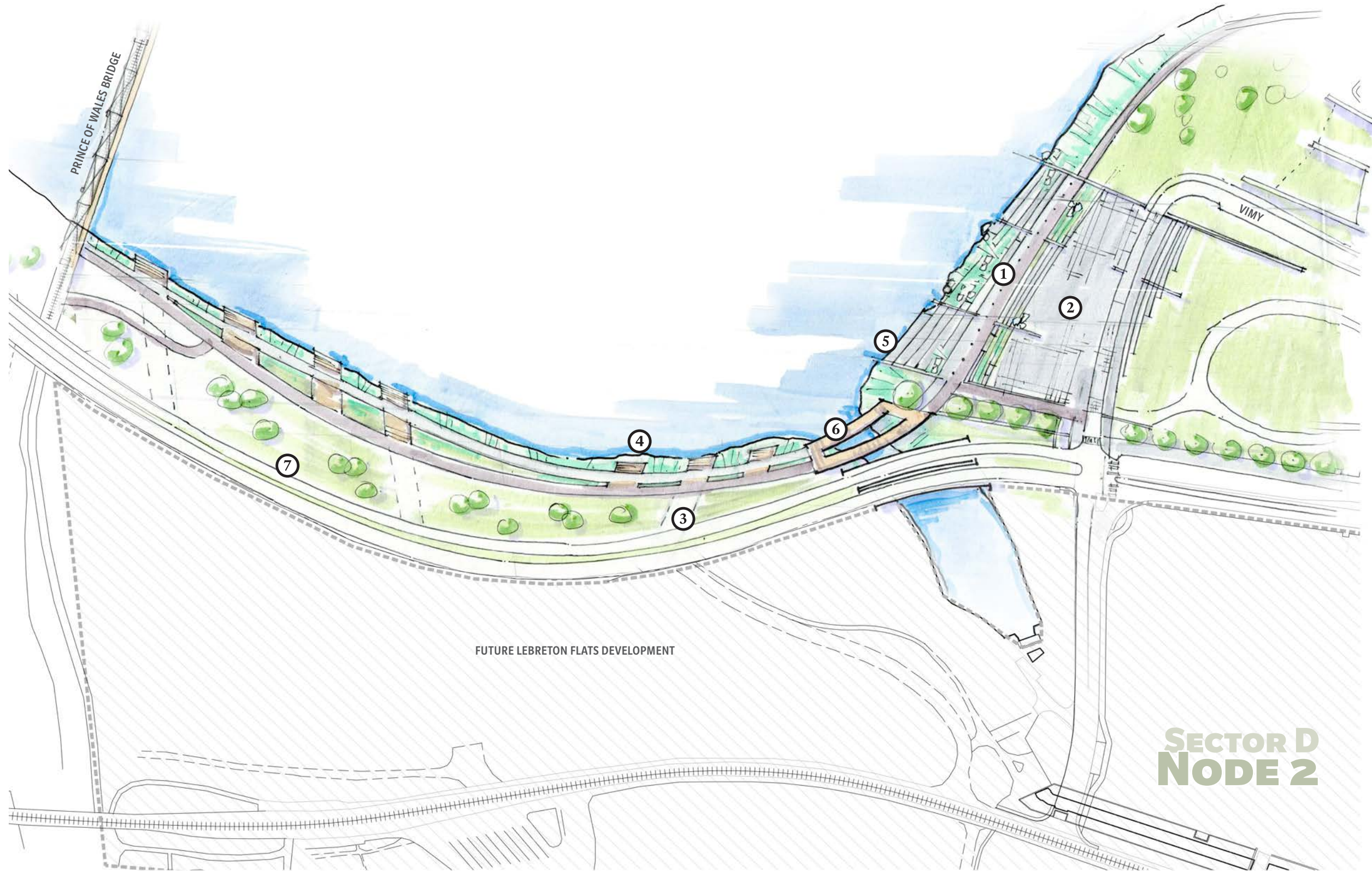


Café/commercial on Rideau Canal in Ottawa, ON.



Segregated pathways in Calgary, AB.





SECTOR D
NODE 2



SECTOR D • NODE 2 • NEPEAN BAY

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

ROLE INDICATORS

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Transform the shoreline edge east of Lebreton Flats to provide river access and capitalize on dramatic upriver vistas across Nepean Bay to the Prince of Wales Bridge and Lemieux Island. | ● | ● | ○ | ○ |
| 2 Try to reserve a portion of the area as programmable event space. | ● | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| 3 Convert the former Transitway underpass to a new pedestrian/cyclist access point linking the future LeBreton redevelopment with the shoreline. | ○ | ○ | ○ | ● |
| 4 Capitalize on the steep slope between the parkway and the pathway when designing for views and vistas. | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 5 Add a portage at Nepean Bay to bypass the Chaudière Falls and provide wayfinding to connect to the lower section of the Ottawa River. | ○ | ○ | ○ | ● |
| 6 Expand pathway bridge capacity at Nepean Bay to accommodate segregated multimodal use. | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| 7 Work with the preferred proponents of the LeBreton Flats development on their provision of a safe parkway crossing close to the Prince of Wales Bridge. | ● | ● | ● | ● |



Waterfront in Vancouver, BC.



Lebreton event in progress





6 MOVING FORWARD

This chapter makes recommendations to achieve the desired outcome presented in the Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park Plan. It recommends action for the implementation of the plan initiatives. The initiatives are consistent with the objectives of the vision articulated in the Plan for Canada’s Capital 2017–2067, and the Capital Urban Lands Plan and go into further detail, building on the public and stakeholder input throughout the engagement process. It identifies next steps to move forward with the plan, including additional studies, federal review and approval processes, and a recommended implementation phasing.

6.1 PLAN ADMINISTRATION AND STEWARDSHIP

The success of this plan rests on a collaborative ongoing process by the NCC and its partners to develop a series of sites and activities that can, where appropriate, be complemented by the private sector incrementally over time.

More detailed area plans will be needed for the implementation of the plan and its featured projects, supported by further studies and completed by the development of planning and monitoring tools. The NCC is committed to ongoing public engagement of stakeholders and the public to sustain a long-range development going beyond the short-term time frame, to support specific projects, and to acquire the necessary public and private sector support and funds.

Subsequent to plan approval, implementation will be under the principal responsibility of Capital Stewardship Branch. An action plan will be developed and it should include prioritization and phasing, with initiatives having high profile and ease of implementation being given priority, especially where cost is not prohibitive. More complex initiatives will require time, funding and/or additional studies to deal with details required for implementation.

Setting priorities for implementation would be based notably on the following considerations:

- consistency with NCC plans, corporate goals and priorities
- immediate environmental and economic impacts
- best funding opportunity
- timeline for any environmental, infrastructure or servicing issues
- opportunity for partnerships
- coordination with ongoing or future projects.

6.2 APPROVAL OF THE SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD RIVERFRONT PARK PLAN

The Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park Plan comes into effect upon approval by the NCC Board of Directors. A federal approval granted by the NCC confirms the plan’s effective date and established conditions of the plan’s approval (see Appendix 4). This plan will become the primary plan reference for matters affecting federal lands within the study area. More focused land-use plans apply in certain areas under federal ownership. The planning directions and policies of these plans will continue to apply. Where contradictions exist between the area-focused plans and the Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park Plan, the Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park Plan will take precedence.

6.3 FEDERAL APPROVALS

The federal approvals process (federal land-use, design and transaction approvals) will play a key role in ensuring that all proposals affecting federal lands apply best practices and are consistent with the objectives and strategies of this plan.

6.3.1 RELATED PLANS AND PROJECTS

The NCC will develop an implementation plan to prioritize key investments in capital projects and other collaborative initiatives that will enhance the park in accordance with the NCC’s corporate priorities and the objectives identified in this plan.

Examples of high-priority areas include the following actions:

- Implement the City and NCC 100-day Western Light Rail Transit agreement for the 2.4 km stretch of rail line that encroaches into the park.
- Improve public access and facilitate the animation and discovery of the Capital’s shorelines.
- Conserve the Capital’s urban greenspaces, natural features and cultural assets.
- Collaborate with federal custodians to improve the integration of federal facilities into urban communities.

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Further planning will be done to refine this plan, such as site development concepts and designs for Westboro Beach, including community engagement.

6.3.2 FURTHER SUPPORTING STUDIES AND TOOLS

While some of the initiatives recommended may be straightforward, many will require more detailed studies and designs to facilitate their implementation, and will include but not be limited to the following:

- update of the visual assessments
- traffic and feasibility study for reconfiguration of the Parkdale intersection, and others to be defined
- environmental assessment of the proposed on-river boardwalk at Deschênes
- environmental and feasibility study of shoreline habitat creation/restoration
- goose management strategy
- traffic-calming measures to support speed reduction on the parkway
- revegetation strategy, which includes the following:
 - native plant list and typical planting communities for habitat typologies
 - rehabilitation initiatives and identification of priority areas
 - invasive plant species management procedures
 - compatibility with view management
 - heritage management plan to address archaeology, heritage sites and cultural landscape elements

The plan recommends developing specific tools in response to detailed needs, to support the NCC and its partners as they advance toward shared future objectives. These tools will assist future designers, managers and decision-makers as they work to implement the plan’s future stages, and will ensure the consistency and homogeneity of a comprehensive vision.

Such tools include but are not limited to the following:

- guidelines, notably for design, landscape, siting and setting, such as park elements, furnishing and light standards
- parking management guidelines
- oral history interviews
- programming guidelines with respect to site capacity for events
- wayfinding strategy and associated signage design guidelines
- interpretation strategy, via the leadership of Canadian Heritage.

The implementation will also need to respect view protection and management strategies, the built heritage inventory and action plan, and the archaeological monitoring strategy.

6.3.3 FEDERAL OWNERSHIP, INVESTMENT AND LAND TRANSACTIONS

Property required to support the planning and development of the Capital should be kept under federal ownership as it ensures direct management control of land use and design through the federal approvals process under the National Capital Act.

The National Interest Land Mass (NILM) identifies lands that are essential to the achievement of the NCC’s mandate and is a key vehicle for the implementation of its long-range plans,

including the Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park Plan. Lands identified within the NILM are required to support the symbolism, functions, physical structure, and natural and cultural landscape qualities of Canada’s Capital. An NILM designation indicates a formal expression of the federal government’s interest in the long-term use of these lands in a manner that supports Canada’s Capital. The intent of the NCC is to secure key NILM lands not under public ownership through negotiated settlement and collaboration with landowners over time.

The NCC will continue to identify those projects that will benefit from federal investment to ensure the projects are made a reality in achieving the vision of this plan and of the *Plan for Canada’s Capital*.

A number of formal agreements (e.g. agreements with municipalities, leases, service contracts, etc.) have been signed over time affecting NCC-owned Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park lands. Some of the agreements, perhaps dating back decades, may not be entirely consistent with the direction set by the Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park Plan.

Over time, the NCC will work to harmonize existing formal agreements to ensure consistency with the plan’s directions, goals and policies. When one of these instruments is eligible for renewal or renegotiation, it will be examined and adjusted where necessary to bring it into line with the plan by the NCC division responsible for the agreement. Where changes in land uses are proposed in relation to the negotiation or renegotiation of an agreement, the federal approvals process must be followed.

The negotiation of the terms and conditions of leases will be consistent with the objectives of the underlying land designation and general policies of the plan. Proposals for the expansion or changes to land use foreseen by formal agreements will



be reviewed through the federal approvals process. Where a proposed physical expansion or time extension related to an existing agreement is inconsistent with the plan's objectives, land designation or policies, a plan amendment may be required.

6.3.4 REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Restrictive covenants registered on non-federal properties in favour of the NCC and its predecessors will be reviewed in accordance with the objectives of the *Capital Urban Lands Plan* and the Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park Plan.

6.4 COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Continued collaboration and development of partnerships are key to the successful achievement of this plan and the projects it puts forward. The NCC needs to build strong ties with multiple partners, including the Algonquin-Anishinabeg communities, the City of Ottawa, the federal family (notably Public Services and Procurement Canada and Canadian Heritage), the private sector, and the various stakeholders, including institutions and local schools tenants.

6.5 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The elaboration of the plan benefited from important input from the public represented through community groups such as but not limited to the following:

- Westboro Community Association
- Hintonburg Community Association
- Mechanicsville Community Association
- Friends of Maplelawn Garden

- Ottawa Riverkeeper
- Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

As indicated in the *Plan for Canada's Capital*, 2017 - 2067, the NCC is committed to continue to consult with the Anishinabeg, the public and stakeholder groups throughout the implementation of this plan and the development of projects.

6.6 PLAN MONITORING AND MEASURING SUCCESS

The NCC is committed to working in partnership with all authorities and local groups interested in monitoring and safeguarding the Capital's valued natural features within the urban area, including its sensitive habitats, significant forests, wetlands, shorelines and waterways.

Monitoring and plan evaluation are essential to the success of the plan. Ongoing monitoring of metrics and evaluation, including community and stakeholder engagement, are essential.

Ongoing data collection should be conducted to properly assess the effectiveness and impacts of park initiatives and measure success. There are several key categories for measurement and evaluation of the plan. The following indicators are examples of proposed metrics to track the progress of realization for the various plan components:

- economic and social indicators
- quality of experience
- environmental health
- other indicators, developed through further studies.

6.7 MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE PLAN

The plan establishes the orientations, roles, goals, policies and strategies required to fulfill the vision of the Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park Plan. It may be necessary to modify or amend certain provisions due to emerging trends or new information, to ensure the conformity of other NCC plans and programs, to reflect changes resulting from detailed plans for a specific sector, or as a result of land-use requests that are inconsistent with the plan.

Amendment requests may be initiated by the NCC itself, other federal agencies or departments, or other interested parties. All amendment requests are subject to a thorough review carried out through the federal approvals process.

Any amendment must be justified to be in the public interest, must be consistent with the *Plan for Canada's Capital*, 2017-2067 and the *Capital Urban Lands Plan*, and conform to the objectives of this Park plan. The amendment process must follow that defined in the Capital Urban Land Plan.

6.8 PLAN REVIEW

Regular review is required to ensure that the plan continues to effectively respond to evolving needs and conditions. In response, a cursory review of the plan is recommended every five years and thorough update every 10 years to take into account demographic, policy, urbanization, environmental and economic changes. Public and stakeholder consultations will be part of the 10-year review. Heritage, culture, interpretation, wayfinding and arts are recommended to be part of the review.

7 APPENDICES

7.1 APPENDIX 1

APPLICABLE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

NCC

- Plan for Canada’s Capital
- Canada Urban Lands Plan
- Environmental Strategy: Building a Greener Capital (2009) Lac Deschênes, Ottawa River Conservation Plan
- Capital Views Protection Plan
- Ottawa River Parkway Corridor Visual Assessment Report
- Ottawa River Shoreline Initiatives
- Protocol for the Co-management of Archaeological Resources, between the NCC, the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation
- The NCC’s Heritage Management Framework and associated Corporate administrative policies and procedures
- Event Guidelines Manual for the Use of NCC Lands
- Canada’s Capital Commemorations Strategic Plan
- The Policy for Parkways and Driveways
- Pathway Network for Canada’s Capital Region – Strategic Plan
- The NCC’s Heritage Management Framework and associated Corporate Administrative Policies and Procedures
- Capital Illumination Plan
- Stormwater Management Information Manual
- Sustainable Development Strategy

- Mud Lake/Britannia Area Plan
- Maplelawn, Ottawa – Landscape History
- Ottawa River Parkway Corridor, Cultural Landscape Study
- Caractérisation des berges de la rivière des Outaouais
- Management Recommendations for the Valued Natural Ecosystems and Habitats of the Greenbelt and Urban Lands
- Aggressive Invasive Alien Species Management Strategy for National Capital Commission Lands.
- Répertoire des écosystèmes et habitats naturels valorisés dans la ceinture de verdure et les terrains urbains.
- Unofficial Trails Monitoring Report.

FEDERAL STATUTES

- Fisheries Act , Canada
- Migratory Birds Convention Act
- Species at Risk Act (Canada)
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
- Pesticides Act (Canada)
- Important Birds Area Act
- Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada
- Treasury Board Policy on the Management of Real Property
- The Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO) Code of Practice
- Guidelines for the Co-management of Archaeological Resources
- The Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO) Code

of Practice

PROVINCIAL STATUTES

- Ontario Endangered Species Act 2001 – Bill 184
- Species at Risk Act (Ontario)
- Pesticides Act (Ontario)

OTHER STUDIES AND REPORTS

- Ontario Regulation 174/06 – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Guidelines
- The Tunney’s Pasture Master Plan
- Re-imagining the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway: A Linear Waterfront Park for Canada’s Capital. Queen’s School of Urban and Regional Planning Project Course, December 2014
- A Background Study for Nomination of the Ottawa River Under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, 2005
- Conservation Plan for the Lac Deschênes – Ottawa River Important Bird Area. Nature Canada.
- Grainger, R. (2005). “Early Days in Westboro Beach Reflections and Images”. *Westboro Beach Community Association*. Dollco Printing, Ottawa.



7.2 APPENDIX 2

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Three public consultation workshops were organized since the launch of this project. The first (May 2014) focused on issues and opportunities. The second consultation, in May 2015, proposed a draft preliminary concept with strategic statements. The main messages heard are as follows:

- Parkway reduction
- Segregation of pathways for cyclists and pedestrians
- Connectivity improvement and safe crossing
- Placemaking
- Access to the water
- Ecological stewardship
- Shoreline restoration
- Support for a boardwalk at Deschênes
- More public facilities and amenities
- Four-season park

All consultation results were made available on the NCC website.

First consultation report, May 2014:

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/ncc-ccn/documents/sjam-consultation-report.pdf?mtime=20170419154106>

Second consultation report, May 2015:

http://s3.amazonaws.com/ncc-ccn/documents/public_consultation_report_sjam_may_2015_e_final.pdf?mtime=20170419154320

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT, MARCH 2016

On March 23, 2016, a third consultation was held with the public on the revised concept, an on-water boardwalk project, as well as demonstration plan options for Rochester Field, Westboro Beach / Atlantis, and the parkway and pathway configuration (four lanes versus two lanes). A questionnaire was also available online until April 13, 2016, to obtain comments. We received a total of 2,064 completed questionnaires.

The main ideas received from this last consultation are as follows:

- Responses very much supported the proposed concept, including the seasonal opportunities.
- There was strong support for the on-water boardwalk at Deschênes, as long as it does not jeopardize terrestrial and aquatic habitats.
- The concept provides a safer environment for cyclists and pedestrians if the two-lane parkway is selected. There was some disapproval of bike lanes on the parkway.
- The concept offers a good balance of animated areas and serene park space. A few suggestions were made to keep the Champlain and Rémic nodes for quiet leisure.
- A few concerns were raised that there is still inadequate public access to the river, and suggestions were received to manage pedestrian safety (e.g. minimize at-grade crossings or even build an overpass).
- The ecosystems and shoreline are well protected and very much support aquatic habitat enhancement.

- Some feel that the parkway is needed as a commuter route, and do not feel that its function as a scenic route is as important.
- Rochester Field:
 - Strong concerns about the at-grade crossing on the parkway
 - Mid-rise development was often opposed
 - Approval of the water features, flea market / Christmas market, and public art display
 - Good maintenance of river views from Richmond Road
 - Some suggested that the preservation of parkland should be maximized.
- Westboro Beach / Atlantis:
 - Suggestion to make the building bigger and as public as possible
 - Several concerns about the conservation centre
 - Agreement with stepped beach access
- Parkway and pathway reconfiguration:
 - Large concern about the traffic impact on Kanata
 - Suggestion to add a reversible central lane on the parkway
 - Strong push to lower traffic speed

Third consultation report, March 2016:

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/ncc-ccn/documents/Sir-John-A.-Macdonald-Riverfront-Park-Plan-Public-Consultation-Report-2016.pdf?mtime=20170707083146>

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QUANTITATIVE SURVEY (OTTAWA WEST RESIDENTS), MARCH AND APRIL 2016

The NCC directed a consultant to conduct a quantitative telephone survey to gauge the perceptions and opinions of Ottawa residents west of Island Park Drive who include the parkway in their selection of regular and frequent automobile travel. The survey findings will help inform ongoing planning for the Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Linear Park concept. Twenty percent of the total 600 survey sample consisted of Ottawa cellphone numbers, and 80 percent were from landline samples from particular forward sortation areas or postal codes.

Survey results:

http://s3.amazonaws.com/ncc-ccn/documents/appendix_d_3a_nielsen_executive_summary_final.pdf?mtime=20170419153645

7.3 APPENDIX 3

FEDERAL LAND USE APPROVAL

To come

7.4 APPENDIX 4

SUMMARY OF THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

To come

