



Toronto Island Park Master Plan

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City of Toronto
Parks, Forestry, & Recreation Division

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Land Acknowledgment

The City of Toronto gratefully acknowledges that the Toronto Islands is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.





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Looking out from Ward's Island Beach in winter



There is no key to this place and, in a sense, no door.

– Gwendolyn MacEwan, Animal Syllables (1982)

Executive Summary

Toronto Island is a place like no other. It is a place of Indigenous significance, a landform central to the establishment of Toronto, a refuge from urban life and home to Island communities. It plays a significant integrated role as part of a larger ecological system and wildlife network that extends well beyond the park's boundaries.

The Toronto Island Park Master Plan builds on established city-wide, downtown, and waterfront policies and initiatives to deliver a comprehensive strategy for managing the park. The plan presents a vision for the evolution of the Island and a framework for immediate and longer-term decision-making with an emphasis on enhancing the visitor experience without erasing the unique identity and spirit of the place.

The plan has been informed by broad and meaningful investigations of the park's physical form, natural systems and cultural significance. It has also been informed by an extensive and iterative engagement process. Guidance is grounded in real conditions and context while also flexible enough to adapt to changing realities, both environmental and social.

The plan seeks to reveal the intrinsic value of the park—supporting it as a place of meaning and destination—and the dynamic nature that has always existed and will continue to influence the Island.

Toronto Island Today

About the Island

242

ha of Publicly-Accessible
Parkland

15

Islands
(4 Water Access Only)

3

Scenic Ferry Routes

6

Environmentally Significant Areas
(ESA)

1

Provincially Significant Wetland
(PSW) Complex

1

Trans-Continental Migratory Bird
Flyway

4

Blue Flag Beaches
(1 Clothing Optional)

1

Amusement Park

1

Year-Round Disc Golf Course

2

Year-Round Communities
(700+ Human Residents)

1.5M+

Annual Visitors
(20k per day in July/Aug)

1000+

Years of Uninterrupted
Indigenous Presence

We have heard...

Toronto Island has long been a place of rest and respite for all living beings. It has been a place of healing and escape for generations of humans and a home to many unusual and significant natural habitats and wildlife that are integral to the health and resilience of local and global natural systems.

The Island has served as a place of significance for many communities over generations, specifically Indigenous Peoples. It has been a place to meet and gather, to celebrate what makes us unique and what we share. It has long stood as common ground where all who came here were visitors and shared what the islands could provide.

The dynamic sand-swept landscapes of Toronto Island elicit awe and wonder every visit. Its restorative character creates ideal spaces for recreation and escape while attractions evoke nature's playground and near-endless opportunities for adventure.

Toronto Island Tomorrow

Vision for the Island

Protect + Restore



Toronto Island Park will be a place where nature and community are prioritized. Where dynamic and sensitive natural environments are enriched through stewardship, education, and care. A place to seek refuge from urban life and stresses and experience the healing and restorative powers of being immersed within nature. It will be a park for generations to enjoy and call home.

Honour + Celebrate



Toronto Island Park will be a place that honours the sovereignty of the land, water and sky as living beings, sharing the Indigenous significance of the territory through placekeeping, place-making, and place-revealing. It will be a place where diversity is celebrated through sharing the identity, character, and legacy of the islands by revealing all the stories, new and old.

Play + Explore



Toronto Island Park will embrace the wonder and joy of the ever-changing landscape for all ages and abilities. It will deliver experiences that embody the unique and diverse character of the city and islands—past, present, and future—and in four seasons. It will prioritize accessible spaces, experiences, and connections that invite all to come and explore the natural and man-made wonders of this one-of-a-kind place.



Using a Light Touch

Owing to the natural character, ecological value, and wealth of undervalued physical assets already present within Toronto Island Park, the need for a “light touch” approach was identified.

This impacted the master plan in two key ways:

- 1. the plan adopted a nature positive framework to ensure the critical functions of the natural systems are not sacrificed in the pursuit of other park improvements.*
- 2. site-specific responses to improvements were identified to create opportunities to achieve the goals of the plan while respecting the unique character of each space within the park.*

Through this approach, change within the park should prioritize enhancing what already exists, targeting investment, strengthening the ecological integrity of the islands and bolstering resilience.

The Structure of the Master Plan

The Toronto Island Park Master Plan document is divided into four parts. The first part outlines the vision and six goals for the park over the next 25+ years. Part two, the core of the master plan, identifies strategies and related recommendations to achieve the master plan goals. Part three speaks to how the plan will be realized through the leadership of the City and through collaboration with many parties. The final part explores how the guidance of the master plan could be realized in potential projects and improvements throughout the park.

Supporting Existing Initiatives

The master plan builds on and references several City policies and inter-agency initiatives that align with objectives identified for the park. Most importantly, the Toronto Island Park Master Plan supports and contributes to the four principles of the City of Toronto's Parkland Strategy in the following ways:

- EXPAND:** Create year-round offerings on the Island to provide increased opportunities to experience the park within the existing park footprint.
- IMPROVE:** Encourage the reinvestment in existing spaces and features while also identifying opportunities for strategic improvements to enhance resilience and sustainability of the park.
- CONNECT:** Leverage improvements to the Ferry Fleet, landings and natural areas to create a more robust and resilient series of networks for people and wildlife to travel the islands.
- INCLUDE:** Address physical and economic barriers that impact equitable access to the park.

Building Relationships

The master plan engagement process has been envisioned as a first step in working together for the benefit of the park over the long-term. Extensive engagement with Rights Holders, Indigenous communities, Island residents, key stakeholders and members of the public during the preparation of the master plan will inform ongoing processes. Additional partnerships and engagement will continue to support detailed design processes, ongoing park management, and continued identification of priorities for the park.

Six Goals

The Toronto Island Mater Plan defines six strategic goals for realizing the plan. The goals are distinct, but also work together to help address the complexity of Toronto Island Park. Each goal is tied to specific strategies as a way of achieving each of the goals. Each strategy includes recommendations and actions to deliver the objectives and outcomes of the plan.



Six Master Plan Goals: Each goal can be considered independently and works with the other goals to deliver a coordinated plan.

Revealing An Indigenous Place



Mnisiing, the Ojibwe name referring to Toronto Island, has long been integral to Indigenous practices, life, and ceremony. Through on-going work with Indigenous communities, spaces for ceremony, teaching and learning traditional practices, and sharing the rich and ongoing stories of this place and all its inhabitants will be identified. Through honouring the deep and uninterrupted legacy of Indigenous peoples within these lands and waters an Indigenous place will be revealed for all who set foot on the Island.

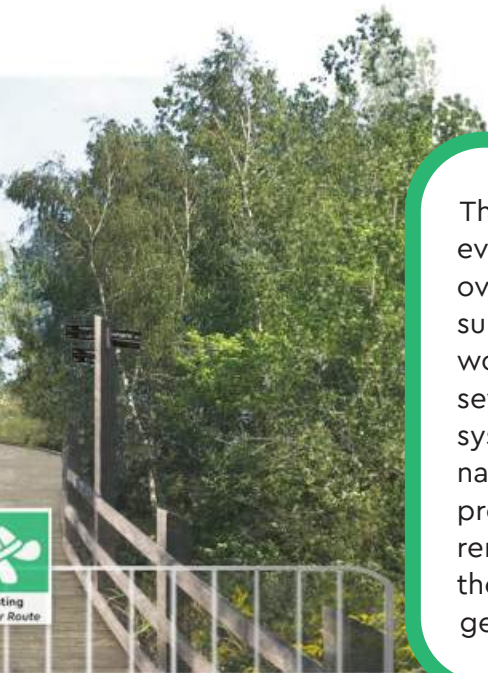
Supporting the Natural Environment



Improving Access And Connection



Through improvements to the ferry service, introduction of larger vessels, enhancements at all landings and investment in making getting around more accessible and comfortable for all visitors, the park will be more inviting and enjoyable.



The Toronto Islands are an ever-changing place. Formed over centuries, today's park supports diverse ecologies and works as an important part of several regional and local natural systems. Putting the needs of nature first in decision-making processes will ensure the park remains a place that supports the city and larger region for generations to come.

Enhancing Visitor Experience



Toronto Island Park offers a visitor experience unlike any other with spaces that have been shaped by many hands over time. Improving communication, simplifying how things are done, enhancing what already exists, and working with partners to introduce different ways to experience the park year-round will help protect the most vulnerable spaces while creating new opportunities to enjoy the park.

Celebrating 2SLGBTQ+ Significance



Elevating Equity And Belonging



Belonging is central to creating a strong sense of community, safety, and well-being within a place. Toronto Island Park is a place with deep community connections that will continue to be strengthened and shared to promote inclusion and understanding.



Toronto Island Park, and more specifically Hanlan's Point, has long been a safe space for the 2SLGBTQ+ community in Toronto and beyond to freely express themselves. Continued support for community to share and celebrate the history, legacy and significance of this place will promote awareness and safety in this beloved space.

Aligning Recommendations to Goals

The master plan establishes a series of recommendations to be implemented over the next 25 years. The recommendations, organized under the six goals and related strategies, provide a comprehensive road map for investment, partnership, engagement and other actions to realize the plan's vision.

The plan includes project/initiative, and process-related recommendations organized within the following master plan goals and strategies:

Revealing An Indigenous Place

- ▶ Reconciliation + Placekeeping

Improving Access and Connection

- ▶ Wayfinding
- ▶ Movement On Land
- ▶ Movement On Water

Supporting the Natural Environment

- ▶ Natural Area Protection
- ▶ Shorelines + Park Environments
- ▶ Resilience + Sustainability

Enhancing Visitor Experience

- ▶ Programming + Events
- ▶ Interpretation
- ▶ Park Amenities
- ▶ Four-Season Park

Elevating Equity and Belonging

- ▶ Equity
- ▶ Accessibility
- ▶ Cultural Heritage

Celebrating 2SLGBTQ+ Significance

- ▶ Approach to Hanlan's

Key recommendations to realize the overarching master plan goals include:

- ▶ Prioritizing the protection of the natural areas of the park and sharing the significance of the natural environment in a responsible way;
- ▶ Improving the visitor experience through new ferries, as well as island-wide transportation and wayfinding improvements;
- ▶ Establishing a four-season approach that would include winter programs, diverse food and beverage a new Welcome Centre and marketplace at Centre Landing;
- ▶ Celebrating the many stories, unique character and communities of the island through interpretation, cultural markers and art;
- ▶ Revealing the significance of the Island for Indigenous communities through spaces for truth-revealing, gathering and ceremony; and
- ▶ Celebrating the 2SLGBTQ+ history and significance of Hanlan's Point.

Coordination Beyond the Island

The nature of the park's form and geography (that of islands and waterways) requires that recommendations also consider impacts to operations, access and programming on the mainland and in adjacent non-park facilities. These considerations are outlined to help inform future conversations and decision-making that could impact park use and character. The guidance focuses around the following topics:

- ▶ Connections to the Mainland,
- ▶ Marine Use Strategy,
- ▶ The Core Circle and Blue Park,
- ▶ Wet Weather Flow Master Plan,
- ▶ Island Water Treatment Plant Site,
- ▶ Airport Lands, and
- ▶ Park Governance and Management.

Delivering The Vision

The master plan is not intended to be a capital improvement plan. Identified recommendations and priorities consider improvements to park spaces and amenities, program delivery, or process-based initiatives that advance the objectives of the plan and support other initiatives through coordinated efforts. The Implementation approach considers initiatives that can be realized within a 25-year project horizon. Projects and initiatives are organized as short, mid-, and long term according to their complexity or dependency on other priorities.

To quickly build momentum for the overall plan, catalyst initiatives (either underway or immediately realizable) have been identified on the following map.

In addition to the identified tasks to realize the master plan, the implementation approach advocates for monitoring and reporting back to adapt protocols, revise prioritization, and improve project delivery. The master plan should continue to be reviewed and updated to ensure its relevance.

Delivery of all projects identified within the master plan will be based on consideration and approval by Council through future budget submissions. Future steps towards implementation will be informed by ongoing engagement with First Nations, working groups, the public, and regular Staff Reports to Council.

Demonstrating Improvements

Demonstration plans are used to illustrate recommendations and provide one interpretation of the recommendations. The demonstrations depict a full realization of the master plan well into the future and may inform detailed design processes and further engagement with communities and stakeholders on specific projects.

Projects are grouped into focus areas to demonstrate how improvements can be coordinated to enhance an entire area. The focus areas are grouped into the following park areas:

- ▶ Jack Layton Ferry Terminal,
- ▶ Hanlan's Point,
- ▶ Gibraltar Point,
- ▶ Centre Island, and
- ▶ Ward's Island.

Honouring Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being Through Revealing an Indigenous Place:

Building on relationships and processes developed through the master plan, all improvements should explore opportunities for co-design and co-operative management with community, especially the Treaty Holders and Rights Holders.

Master Plan By The Numbers

- 5** km Cultural Narrative Trail – for Indigenous storytelling and sharing Island stories.
- 4** ferry landing revitalizations with new information, wayfinding, seating, and more.
- 3.5** km of enhanced or restored shoreline.
- 23** ha of flood-protected land.
- 2** new all-electric ferries with increased capacity (by 2026–2027).
- 2800** tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions removed annually (once full ferry fleet is replaced).
- 1** new accessible tram service (covering at least 5.5 km).





The Port Lands

Jack Layton Ferry Terminal
Information, Wayfinding, Terminal/ Area Improvements

4 New Electric Ferries
2% Capacity Improvements

Park Access
Pathway Improvements to Inaccessible Park Areas

Ward's Landing
Four-Season Services, Information, Wayfinding, Access/Area Improvements

Flood Mitigation
Shoreline Improvements

Snake Island
Ceremonial Space, and Access/Amenity Improvements

Centre Landing
Island Welcome, Information, Access/Area Improvements

Accessible Beach
Access Improvements; Explore Expanded Equipment Lending

Ward's Island
Cultural Narrative Trail
5km Interpretive Experience with Rest and Gathering Spaces

Island-Wide Initiatives

Rental Nodes
Expanded Rental Offerings (vary by sites); Concession and Washroom Improvements, where needed

Park Area Naturalization
Expand Habitat, Naturalize Shorelines

Natural Area Protection
Identify/Protect Ecological Function of the Park; Integrated Management Plans; Ongoing Monitoring/ Reporting

Food and Beverage Improvements
Expand Diversity of Options and Explore Four-Season Service

Accessible Transportation
Assess Expansion of Tram Tour and/or Shuttle to landings

Algonquin Island Community
RCYC
Lakeshore Ave Boardwalk

Centre Island Beach
Centre Island Pier

Centre Island Pier

PART I:
VISION FOR
THE ISLAND



Approach

The Toronto Islands have been a place for healing and ceremony for Indigenous people since before record. The islands have acted as a refuge and sanctuary for people from diverse lived experiences for generations and they continue to hold significance for many of those communities today. They are also home to numerous sensitive and threatened species and ecologies.

The importance of the islands to all living beings within the region were further highlighted during the COVID epidemic, when the importance of parks for mental and physical health became paramount for Torontonians and through the return of wildlife to many area of the city during the lock-downs. The Toronto Islands are central to the identity, development and legacy of the city of Toronto and form a unique and defining place for inhabitants and visitors to Toronto.

Revealing an Indigenous Place:

Throughout the master plan process and this report, efforts have been made to integrate teaching moments that share Indigenous ways of knowing and being, history, Treaty recognition, and the ongoing significance of the Island while also enhancing cultural awareness through the master plan process.



1.1 Why a Master Plan?

*What "the mountain" is to the Montrealer,
'the island' is to the people of Toronto.*

- G. Mercer Adam (1882)

The sandy shoals and shifting waterways of what we now call the Toronto Islands have influenced movement and settlement for millennia. Today, the landforms and waterways are home to diverse species of birds, amphibians, fish, and mammals—including humans. The plant communities include the full spectrum from highly-sensitive threatened and endangered species to common introduced and invasive plants. The conditions make the Island a truly significant place for all living things.

Visitors from across Toronto and beyond are drawn to Toronto Island Park for its beaches, amusement park, marina and yacht clubs, nature trails, cultural places and events. The park has a broad collection of structures and spaces that each carry significant meaning and complex histories that are not always known or shared. The park faces continued pressures, including increased use and demands from expanded waterfront development, aging infrastructure, climate change and flooding.

Through understanding the deeper significance and value of the various features of the park for all beings, a master plan would address the need to align objectives for the park with initiatives for the surrounding areas. It would reveal a place that is like no other and worthy of care and protection so future generations may continue to experience it's wonders.

The Purpose of the Master Plan

The Toronto Island Park Master Plan is a long-term planning document that acts as a blueprint to inform future decision-making and future actions by the City and its partners.

The master plan identifies areas for protection, enhancement, and programming, as well as recommendations for improving overall management of the park. It informs operations and prioritization of future park improvements.

The master plan was designed through an iterative public process and is intended to be a responsive framework for the future of the Toronto Islands. It is intended to provide an adaptive and principle-based approach to address the challenges of the park and ensure it can continue to be a cherished gathering place and natural refuge for generations to come. The plan should be monitored and updated over time to respond to changing needs and address evolving practices.

The Study Area

The Toronto Island Park Master Plan encompasses the 15 islands and internal waterways that make up the park as well as the area surrounding the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal. While the study does consider the impacts, conditions and uses of all areas of the islands on the park, it does not include the following spaces within the recommendations:

- ▶ Island's residential areas at Ward's Island and Algonquin Island,
- ▶ Island Water Treatment Plant and radio towers, and
- ▶ Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport.

At 242ha (or 598 acres), Toronto Island Park is one of the largest open spaces in Toronto and includes many unique features not found in other parks. It provides significant ecological value for the city and region and forms a critical segment of the Core Circle and Blue Park initiatives identified in within the TOcore plans (2018/2019).



Fig. 1-1 Toronto Island Park Master Plan Study Area

1.2 Engagement

The Toronto Island Park Master Plan has been developed through an extensive and iterative process of Rights Holder, public, and stakeholder engagement. Throughout the study, the project team have actively sought dialogues with the Indigenous Rights Holders, First Nations and urban Indigenous communities, island and waterfront communities and businesses, Hanlan's Point and Beach users, as well as the general public to develop a master plan.

The master plan engagement was modeled as a first step in the building of meaningful relationships to work together for the benefit of the park over the long-term. Additional partnership and engagement will support detailed design processes, the implementation of recommended investments and changes and ongoing park management.

Toronto Island Park Master Plan engagement followed a three-phase process:

- Phase 1: Towards a Vision took place between January and April 2021. The phase commenced with an Opening Ceremony which integrated traditional Indigenous protocols to ensure the project started in a good way. Over the course of activities in this phase the vision, values, and guiding principles for the project were developed and shared.
- Phase 2: Ideas to Demonstrations occurred from May 2021 to March 2022. In collaboration with community, it developed big ideas and actions for realizing the objectives of the master plan. The ideas were then illustrated using a demonstration plan to help ground initiatives and explore possible improvements to meet project objectives.
- Phase 3: Identifying the Direction and Confirming the Direction was divided into two parts and took place from April 2022 to April 2024. Building on previous feedback, work shared during this phase informed a refined demonstration plan and draft master plan including strategies and recommendations for realizing the objectives of the master plan.

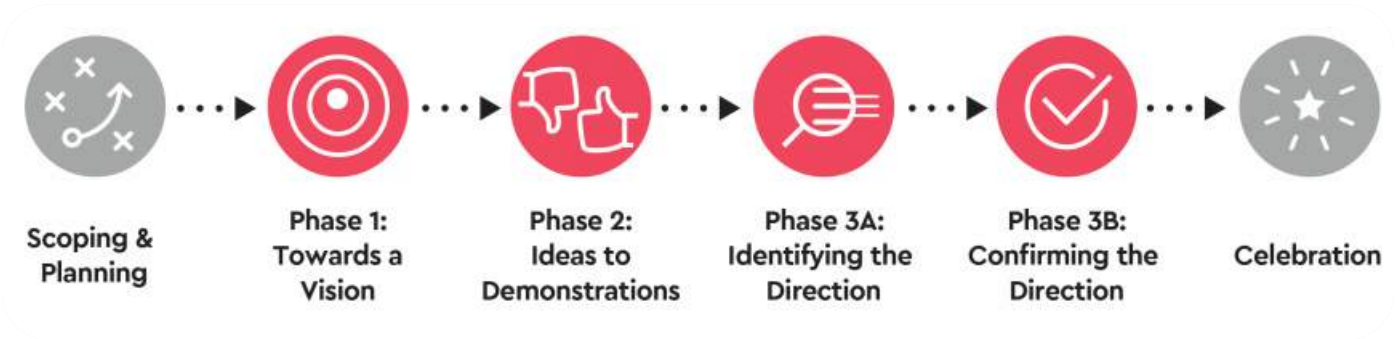


Fig. 1-2 Engagement Process

Who Informed the Master Plan?



Fig. 1-3 Master Plan Inputs

During each phase, the project team met with Indigenous Rights Holders and communities, project advisory groups, and the general public. Feedback from each discussion was considered independently and as part of a broader context to consider the needs of specific groups and inform key directions for the overall project. Third Party Public (formerly Swerhun Inc.) served as third-party facilitators for public engagement activities, while Nbisiing Consulting guided conversations with Indigenous rights holders, communities and advocacy groups. Key message summaries and records for each phase of the engagement were compiled and shared with the public to support a transparent and accountable process.

In Spring 2023, an additional set of engagement activities were undertaken to address concerns that proposals for Hanlan's Point and Beach had not meaningfully engaged the 2SLGBTQ+ community. These events were led by City of Toronto staff and served to inform specific aspects of this plan as well as laying the foundation for next steps that will take place following the completion of the master plan process.

Summaries of all engagement processes have been published to the project's website and are included as an appendix to the master plan.



1.3 Concurrent Studies

The recommendations of the master plan have been considered against the recommendations of two concurrent projects to ensure consistency and a holistic approach to improvements on the Island. Each project focuses on a specific aspect of the park and also considers how these aspects contribute to the overall experience of the park.

Toronto Island Park Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment (CHRA)

The Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment was commissioned by the City of Toronto as part of the Toronto Island Park Master Plan. Common Bond Collective looked holistically at the park to document and analyze the Island's history to ensure that properties of potential cultural heritage value or interest are appropriately identified, understood and conserved.

The recommendations of the CHRA have informed several aspects of the Toronto Island Park Master Plan, including identifying the need to meaningfully identify the heritage value of specific areas, structures and the park overall through a Cultural Landscape Study.

Toronto Island Park Flood and Erosion Mitigation Project – Class EA

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), in partnership with the City of Toronto, is undertaking a flood and erosion control study at Toronto Island Park. To complete this study, TRCA initiated a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) and retained Baird to complete the study. The goal of the project is to develop long-term flood and erosion mitigation measures to protect the Toronto Islands from future high-water level and flooding events.

This work builds on studies initiated by the TRCA following the 2017 and 2019 high-water level events and includes the development of alternative designs to formalize temporary measures installed in 2017 and 2019, integrate emergency works initiated in 2020 and develop preferred alternatives to inform future works.

The master plan and EA teams have worked collaboratively through both processes to ensure that each project considers the goals and outcomes and contributes to a cohesive vision for the islands.

1.4 Study Process

The City of Toronto and TRCA, working with partners such as Waterfront Toronto and Ports Toronto and drawing from ongoing initiatives on the Island, established the following objectives for the study.

The Toronto Island Park Master Plan will:

- ▶ Identify park entrances, gateways, lookouts and improve access year-round
- ▶ Improve wayfinding and signage
- ▶ Help to uncover the natural and cultural history of Toronto Islands, including their significance to the Mississaugas of the Credit and other Indigenous communities
- ▶ Consider improvements to shore treatments and marine activation
- ▶ Review existing programs and uses (including events) and make recommendations for future uses
- ▶ Improve service delivery and businesses on the Island to meet the needs of park visitors
- ▶ Build a comprehensive understanding of the existing value of business opportunities within Toronto Island Park
- ▶ Identify opportunities to improve the overall experience for visitors to Toronto Island Park

To address these preliminary objectives the project team developed an iterative approach. As the project moved through each milestone and received feedback through the engagement process, the team reviewed directions against previous work to ensure consistency and integration of the values, vision and guiding principles with the recommendations.



Fig. 1-4 Master Plan Structure

1.5 Plan Structure and Use

The master plan has been developed primarily as a tool for City staff, partner organizations, design professionals and members of the public to guide future work within Toronto Island Park. Recommendations are focused on City-owned properties with additional consideration for how the park and improvements might interface with spaces on the islands outside Parks management.

Once approved by Council, the plan will inform future decision making towards, capital plans, infrastructure planning, financial strategies, operations and management plans, service and business improvements. It will also guide engagement to achieve master plan goals and reassess priorities over time.

Guidance within the master plan is intentionally broad and adaptable instead of specific and rigid to create flexibility for the detailed implementation of master plan recommendations. The guidance should be revisited at regular intervals to ensure the plan remains relevant to the best practices and evolving demands on the park.

Plan Structure

The Plan is divided into four sections, Part I: Vision for the Island outlines the "Why" of the plan. It includes the drivers, values, vision, goals and guiding principles. This section also discusses the process and approach taken to complete the master plan.

Part II: Master Plan lays out the recommendations organized under the six goals and related strategies, identify improvements that can be realized across the Island. It also looks at considerations that will impact recommendations from outside the study area. It explores considerations for the future of the airport and the water treatment plant, as well as how to integrate park improvements, such as ferry servicing, as part of larger marine use initiatives.

Part III: Implementation speaks to the "How" of the plan. This section references the priorities identified in Part II and categorizes their delivery over a 25-year planning horizon.

Part IV: Demonstration Plans illustrate one interpretation of the guidance and provide a description of the improvements as well as how to approach integrating several recommendations in a coordinated way.

A large, white, stylized number '2' is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image. The background is a photograph of a river flowing through a dense forest, with a green color overlay. The river is calm, reflecting the surrounding trees and sky. In the foreground, there are some aquatic plants and lily pads. The overall scene is serene and natural.

2

Towards a Vision

Toronto Island Park is a beloved place with rich meaning and history that is both known and unknown by many of its visitors. This section outlines a vision for acknowledging this significance and supporting the continued evolution of the park as a place for gathering, honouring, and belonging. It outlines the values, goals and principles that inform and guide the changes so that the islands can continue to be a place of natural wonder along Toronto's shorelines and a refuge for all living things within the larger Great Lakes region.



2.1 Drivers of Change

Toronto Island is a dynamic, ever-evolving place shaped by unique natural conditions, human use and environmental changes at the regional and global scales as well as changes in the growing city on the mainland. The many drivers of change are both challenges and opportunities for the continued vitality of the park and necessitate a coordinated master plan response.

The Island's one-of-a-kind identity is uncelebrated.

Since time immemorial, the Island has been a place of escape, respite and healing. It is also a meeting place for family and friends that welcomes a wide range of visitors including the Indigenous community, newcomers and 2SLGBTQ+. Toronto Island is a one of a kind place and yet its natural character, rich and storied past and unique identity are largely unknown.

The Indigenous history and significance of the Island is not well known.

The Island is an important Indigenous place, and has been for millennia. For the Michi Saagiig, it was simply known as Mnisiing, meaning "on the islands." Later, they were collectively known as Aionwatha or Hiawatha's Island. It has also been long considered as a meeting place and a place of healing and ceremony for Indigenous people. This rich history and living culture is not reflected in Toronto Island Park as it exists today.

Reconciliation // an ongoing process of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships.

Revealing an Indigenous Place on the Island is not only about sharing stories and teachings of the past, but also revealing the diverse living culture, practices, and knowledge systems of Indigenous peoples in a current context. To support the on-going reconciliation efforts as outlined in the City of Toronto's **Reconciliation Action Plan 2022–2026**, the Toronto Island Park Master Plan explores opportunities directly related to the following six Strategic Actions:

- 2. Enhance Indigenous Education
- 9. Address Racism
- 15. Support Indigenous Place-keeping
- 16. Celebrate Indigenous Arts and Culture
- 17. Support the Revitalization of Indigenous Languages
- 18. Improve Access to Traditional Foods and Medicines

The Island's cultural and natural heritage are undervalued.

The Island is a place rich in cultural and natural heritage. It includes several significant ecosystems that contribute not only to local ecological processes, health and function, but also form part of larger important regional systems, including being a part of migratory bird flyways. The diverse and complex history of human use and interaction within the Island's natural and built spaces and its value as a refuge and escape for many under-served communities are also unshared and not well known. Many people are unaware of the origins of the Island's natural land form and significance as a defining feature for the inner harbour and the role this played in the establishment of Toronto as a settlement, and the city that we know today.

The Toronto Island visitor experience could be improved.

Toronto Island is a special place that offers a different experience to everyone that visits or lives there. People come to Toronto Island for many different reasons, for example: hiking, biking, picnicking, spending time at Centreville, participating in events and celebrations, cruising on boats, paddling the internal waterways or spending a lazy afternoon at the beach. Many people simply come to escape the city—to recharge and reconnect with nature. Despite the many different reasons for coming, the Toronto Island visitor experience has untapped potential and has room for improvement.

The Island has unrealized and under-realized business opportunities that should be explored and improved to advance a holistic visitor experience.

The Toronto Island is a dynamic place with many opportunities for small and large businesses to provide diverse and high-quality visitor experiences. These opportunities should be better coordinated island-wide to ensure Toronto Island Park reaches its full potential. Currently, there are gaps in commercial offerings and it is difficult for small and diverse suppliers to enter the Island's market. These challenges also extend to customer service, commercial offerings, improving the operating environment and trying to reduce or remove some of the logistical challenges of running an on-island business. Current business operations on the Island need to be examined to ensure the City is doing all it can to facilitate high-quality and diverse service offerings which respond to the needs of Toronto Island Park visitors through all seasons.

Access and Accessibility – It can be difficult to get to the Island.

Toronto Island should be a place for everyone with limited or no obstacles and barriers to getting there and getting around the Island itself to share in the many Island experiences. This includes accessing dock areas, ferries, buildings, and park amenities, as well as the Island attractions, beaches (including the water) and the many natural experiences the Islands have to offer.

Toronto Island is a dynamic environment that is constantly changing.

The Toronto Islands originated as a sandbar. The landform is vulnerable to the forces of wind and waves, evolving over time into the islands that make up the park we are familiar with today. The Island's environment is constantly changing, presenting ongoing operational, service delivery and management challenges that require on-going investment.

Toronto Island and its supporting infrastructure is aging.

Much of the Island's infrastructure was installed decades ago and is aging and in various states of repair. In addition, environmental impacts from high lake effect, flooding and erosion have contributed to the decline of Island infrastructure. Despite ongoing capital investments and improvements to ensure the safety of the public and continued use of the park facilities and amenities, additional investments and updates are required. To ensure public safety and mitigate environmental impacts of flooding and erosion, a more strategic plan for coordinating these improvements is needed. This will help to ensure that the future function and sustainability of the park is maintained for future generations.

Population Growth is placing increasing demands on Parks.

The population of downtown Toronto is growing at a pace that far exceeds the population growth for the city as a whole, with an estimated 10,000 residents added each year. According to the City's new TOcore Downtown Secondary Plan, downtown could nearly double in size by 2041, to reach a population of 475,000. The TOcore Parks and Public Realm Plan has also identified that downtown Toronto is highly parkland deficient and has linked population growth with increased demand and use of parks. In response, the City's Parkland Strategy has identified Guiding Principles to Expand, Improve, Connect and be more Inclusive with our Park system to respond to the city's growth and to ensure our parks become more accessible, functional, connected and resilient. Toronto Island Park can help to achieve these goals for the benefit of the downtown core and overall city.

2.2 Shared Values

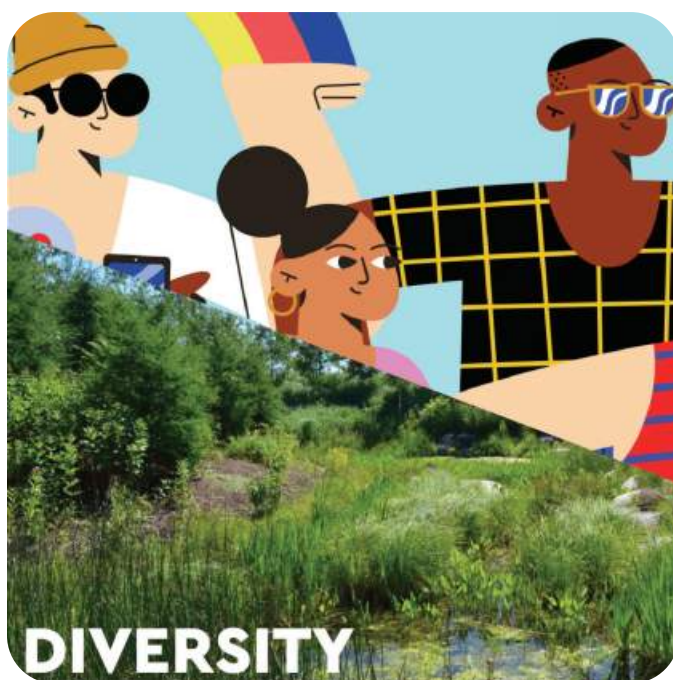
Values are fundamental requirements for guiding the master plan. They are overarching and universally true, regardless of context or specific conditions. Through engagement and collaboration with Rights Holders, City staff, community representatives, and the general public, the following values were developed to guide the master plan process and recommendations.

The master plan will:



Demonstrate RESPECT for both people and nature by:

- ▶ Acknowledging the land as a living being;
- ▶ Advocating for the rights of all living beings and systems first – and as part of interconnected and interdependent systems and existence; and
- ▶ Honouring the practices and rights of past, present and future inhabitants.



Embrace DIVERSITY of cultures, practices and people as well as biodiversity by:

- ▶ Prioritizing inclusion and celebration of differing worldviews, experiences, and abilities;
- ▶ Ensuring equitable access to amenities, facilities, and services; and
- ▶ Protecting and restoring sensitive environments and habitats.



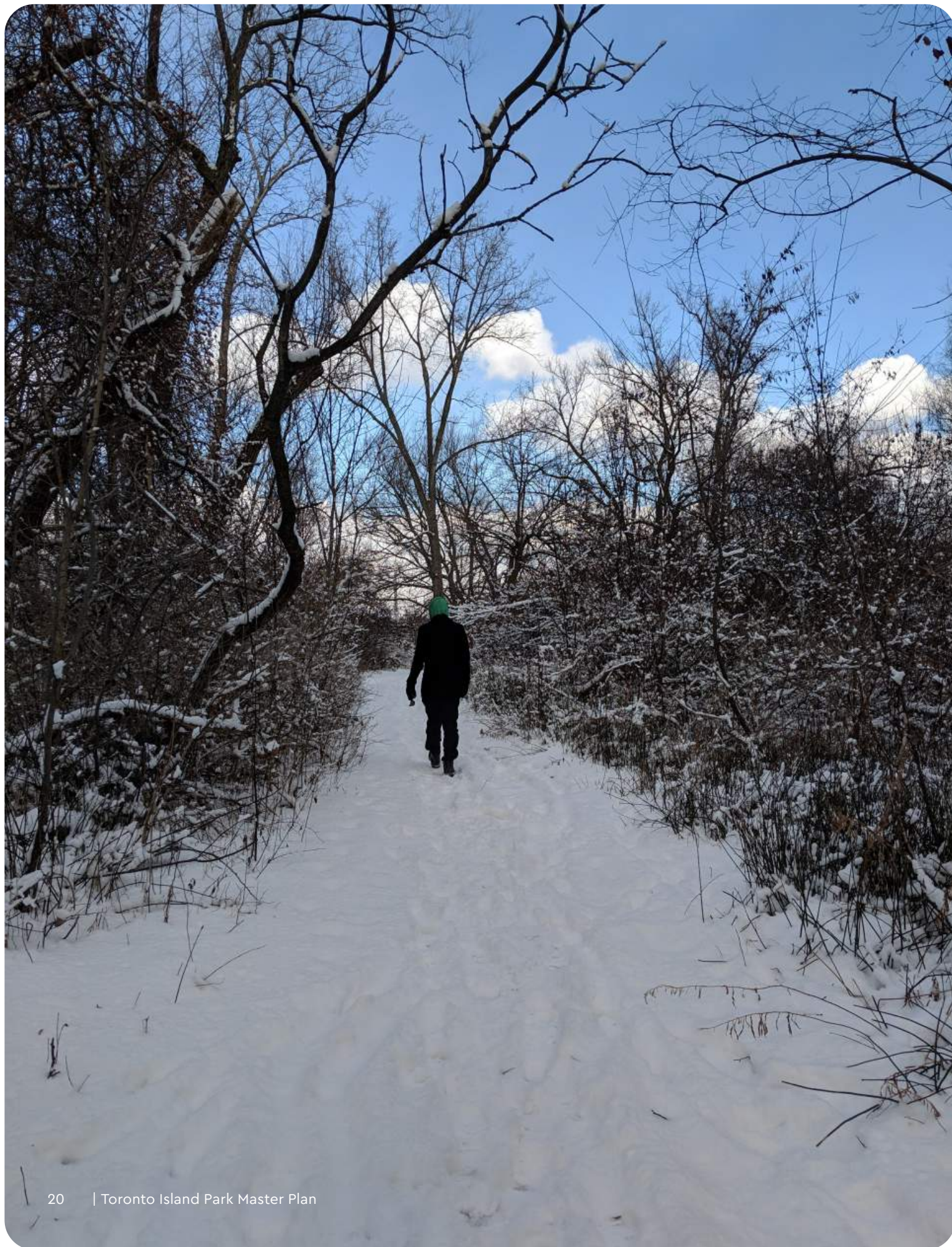
Advocate for BALANCE between active and passive, local and visitor, long-term and short-lived by:

- ▶ Considering the needs of all parts of a system in the sharing and distribution of resources;
- ▶ Prioritizing the needs of the natural environment in complement to human use and comfort; and
- ▶ Taking a light touch approach that builds off what already exists.



Embody ACCOUNTABILITY in process, practice and principles by:

- ▶ Committing to transparency by measuring, achieving, and sharing results;
- ▶ Developing sustainable investment in social, environmental, and economic initiatives; and
- ▶ Cultivating lasting relationships with Rights Holders, stakeholders, and communities in stewardship of this place.



2.3 Treading Lightly

The natural character and ecological function of the park are two of the most significant contributions the Island makes to the city and extends beyond the boundaries of designated natural areas (such as ESAs). Consideration for any change within the park needs to ensure these qualities are not overshadowed by a drive to improve the park's visitor experience. Protection of these functions should not be a static and unwavering cessation of change within the park, but rather a shift to consider regenerative and nature positive opportunities for the park.

A light touch approach should be driven by informed decision making that considers how spaces throughout the park are used and what they are prioritized for. Refurbishment, reuse and adaptation of existing elements should be leveraged to minimize disturbance to the established ecologies and maximize the embodied carbon of the park. Improvements should be tactical while still facilitating bold and meaningful change that prioritizes nature positive outcomes.

How do you explore change in a place that everybody loves and wants to protect?

The Island is beloved by many. The complex and dynamic nature of the park requires that this master plan considers contextual and targeted intervention over whole-scale change. This plan is not a grand gesture of design and transformation but has the potential to usher in a paradigm shift for how the park is managed and spaces are used.

How does protecting the natural environment drive the change we consider?

The light touch approach integrates a balanced consideration for the ecological character and function of the park with an understanding that human use will continue. The light touch should encourage intentional improvements using nature positive approaches and best practices to protect the most sensitive ecologies and identify opportunities where human activity can benefit the natural function of the islands.

A light touch approach does not mean there will be no change within the park. As a natural system, change is a constant, but ensuring that change within the park supports regeneration of the natural systems and optimization of the built form is the key. If the approach depletes the ecological systems of the park, there will be no park for visitors to travel to.

2.4 Vision

The vision identifies the aspirations and speaks to the end goals of the master plan. It looks to the past for context and understanding, while identifying a path forward to realizing the outcomes of this master plan.

The park will be a place to:

- ▶ **Protect + Restore**
- ▶ **Honour + Celebrate**
- ▶ **Play + Explore**

For Toronto Island Park, these three themes frame the vision. The themes stem from early conversations about what makes the park special today and what the park needs to demonstrate in the future. The vision aims to acknowledge the deep and complex legacy of this place for all its visitors. The vision seeks to hold space for diverse experiences and worldviews to support an inclusive and welcoming future for the park.

Protect + Restore

Toronto Island has long been a place of rest and respite for all living beings. It has been a place of healing and escape for generations of humans and a home to many unusual and significant natural habitats and wildlife that are integral to the health and resilience of local and global natural systems.



Toronto Island Park will be a place where nature and community are prioritized. Where dynamic and sensitive natural environments are enriched through stewardship, education, and care. A place to seek refuge from urban life and stresses and experience the healing and restorative powers of being immersed within nature. It will be a park for generations to enjoy and call home.

Honour + Celebrate

The Island has served as a place of significance for various communities over generations. It has been a place to meet and gather, to celebrate what makes us unique and what we share. It has long stood as common ground where all who came here were visitors and shared what the islands could provide.



Toronto Island Park will be a place that honours the sovereignty of the land, water and sky as living beings, sharing the Indigenous significance of the territory through placekeeping, place-making, and place-revealing. It will be a place where diversity is celebrated through sharing the identity, character, and legacy of the islands by revealing all the stories, new and old.

Play + Explore

The dynamic sand-swept landscapes of Toronto Island elicit awe and wonder every visit. Its restorative character creates ideal spaces for recreation and escape while attractions evoke nature's playground and near-endless opportunities for adventure.



Toronto Island Park will embrace the wonder and joy of the ever-changing landscape for all ages and abilities. It will deliver experiences that embody the unique and diverse character of the city and islands—past, present, and future—and in four seasons. It will prioritize accessible spaces, experiences, and connections that invite all to come and explore the natural and man-made wonders of this one-of-a-kind place.



2.5 Master Plan Goals

Six goals emerged through the development of the vision for Toronto Island Park. They linked and organized the diverse opportunities for the park and are used to address distinct aspects of the complex conditions of the park in a consistent way. The goals bind together the vision and values of the master plan, clearly stating the aspirations for how the Island will evolve and thrive. They also provide a structure for the recommendations of the plan and their coordinated implementation.



Fig. 2-1 Six Master Plan Goals

Revealing An Indigenous Place

Mnisiing, the Ojibwe name referring to Toronto Island, has long been integral to Indigenous practices, life, and ceremony. Through ongoing work with Indigenous communities, spaces for ceremony, teaching and learning traditional practices, and sharing the rich and ongoing stories of this place and all its inhabitants will be identified. Through honouring the deep and uninterrupted legacy of Indigenous peoples within these lands and waters an Indigenous place will be revealed for all who set foot on the Island.



Improving Access and Connection

At 242 hectares (598 acres), the Island is one of the largest parks in Toronto with many diverse features that support a wide variety of park experiences for visitors. Through improvements to the ferry service, introduction of larger vessels, enhancements at all landings and investment in making getting around more accessible and comfortable for all visitors, the park will be more inviting and enjoyable.



Supporting A Dynamic Environment

The Toronto Islands are an ever-changing place. Formed over centuries, today's park supports diverse ecologies and works as an important part of several regional and local natural systems. Putting the needs of nature first in decision-making processes will ensure the park remains a place that supports the city and larger region for generations to come.





Enhancing Visitor Experience

Toronto Island Park offers a visitor experience unlike any other with spaces that have been shaped by many hands over time. Improving communication, simplifying how things are done, enhancing what already exists, and working with partners to introduce different ways to experience the park year-round will help protect the most vulnerable spaces while creating new opportunities to enjoy the park.



Elevating Equity and Belonging

Belonging is central to creating a strong sense of community, safety, and well-being within a place. Toronto Island Park is a place with deep community connections that will continue to be strengthened and shared to promote inclusion and understanding.



Celebrating 2SLGBTQ+ Significance

Toronto Island Park, and more specifically Hanlan's Point, has long been a safe space for 2SLGBTQ+ communities in Toronto and beyond to freely express themselves. Continued support for communities to share and celebrate the history, legacy and significance of this place will promote awareness and safety in this beloved space.

2.6 Guiding Principles

The guiding principles are the rules for the master plan. Guiding principles differ from values in that they reference the specific goals and context of the Toronto Islands and may not apply to other initiatives within the City.

The Park should:

Honour and respect Indigenous communities, placekeeping, and their rights and responsibilities to the islands and water

Through collaboration and support of Indigenous communities to: contribute to the management and protection of the islands and water; and advocate for and share the value of the place from multiple perspectives.

Celebrate and protect the unique cultural identity and spirit of the islands

By empowering and elevating communities with strong connections to the spaces of the islands, and identifying and sharing stories about the significance of their spaces on the islands.

Prioritize, protect, and advocate for the ecological integrity of the islands for wildlife and ecological benefit

Through identification of significant wildlife, habitats, and ecological communities, monitoring function and health of the islands, and sharing knowledge about the value of the islands for the city and beyond.

Leverage the dynamic nature of the islands and waterways to support adaptive and flexible uses

By identifying opportunities to embrace the ever-changing character of the physical islands and support uses that allow for and embrace seasonal change.

Demonstrate resilience, sustainability, and responsible landscape and water management

Through initiatives that consider long-term use, overall impacts, and maintenance requirements to promote solutions that provide net positive ecological benefits for the islands.

Prioritize equitable access and inclusion

Through the identification of gaps in service and opportunities to make the park a place free of barriers.

Enhance visitor experience for all seasons

By considering opportunities and services that make places on the islands accessible and a destination for activity year-round.

Provide diverse amenities and experiences to encourage exploration, sharing, and discovery

By sharing information about different experiences, activities and events happening so visitors know where to go to see something new.

Support opportunities for diverse and sustainable businesses to thrive

By simplifying access for a wide variety of artisans, vendors and operators to build successful and sustainable businesses to support the park's visitor experience.

Develop evidence-based strategic investment to ensure long-term and continued support of improvements

Through opportunities to combine efforts, integrate economic sustainability, and modernize processes to re-invest in the Island.

Prioritize the enhancement and adaptation of underused assets to support new uses

By identifying what can be reused on the Island before building new to minimize the impacts of construction on the sensitive environment and complex operations of the island

Ensure any new improvements embody the spirit of the Island's character

Through consideration of scale, aesthetic, and function as key to supporting and reinforcing the "Island-ness" of the park.

PART II: **MASTER PLAN**

An aerial photograph of a coastal area, likely a beach or park, with a prominent rocky breakwater extending into the water. The image is overlaid with a large, white, stylized number '3'. The entire image has a blue tint and rounded corners.

3

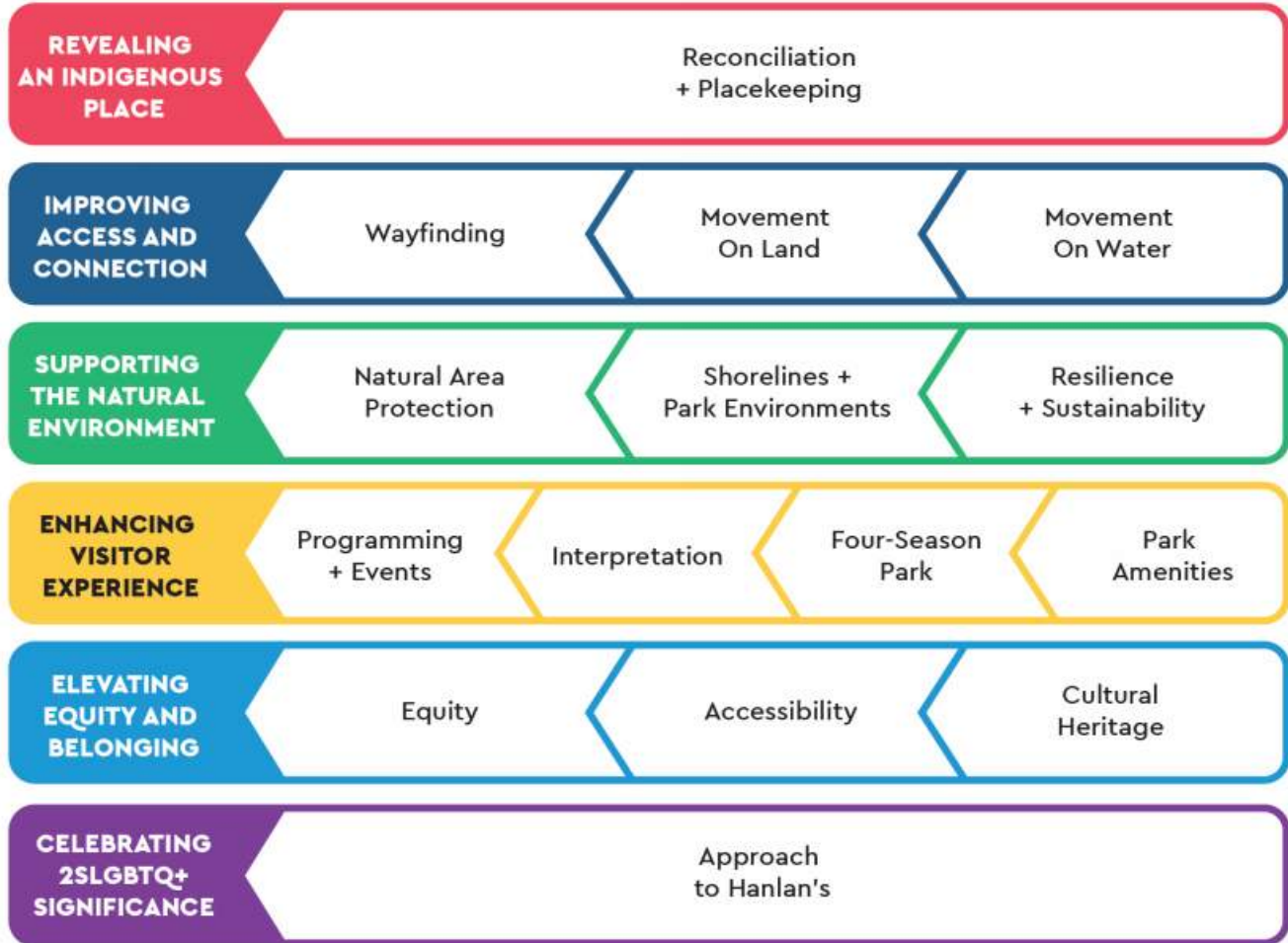
Strategies and Recommendations

In support of delivering the six goals of the master plan, holistic approaches to park improvements are needed that address the complexity and interconnected nature of the park. Each strategy includes recommendations to support coordinated responses and consideration for the complex systems and spaces of the park as a whole.

These strategies should be used as best practices—a starting point to be adapted to a specific context and updated over time to reflect innovations and new approaches to the conditions of the park.

GOALS

STRATEGIES



Organization of the strategies that support each of the six Master Plan goals

How To Use This Section

This section presents recommendations organized under a series of strategies and the six Master Plan goals they most strongly support. The strategies are focused on specific conditions and outcomes but should also be considered against other goals within the master plan.

Each strategy includes a description, series of objectives, and recommendations.

The **description** outlines the overall intent of the strategy.

Objectives speak to conditions that support coordinated realization of the strategy.

Recommendations speak to the preferred end result for the strategy and are categorized as one of the following types based on how they are used:

Project/Initiative. Deliver specific outcomes that are realized as physical improvements or formal documents to guide future work.

Process. Adapt existing procedures, practices, and protocols to align with the master plan. Invest in education, training, and outreach to bring in new skills and knowledge, and broader community engagement. Improve processes to document, share, and achieve higher levels of consistency and integration across projects.

3.1 Revealing An Indigenous Place

REVEALING AN INDIGENOUS PLACE

Reconciliation
+ Placekeeping

Strategies supporting the Revealing an Indigenous Place goal

The Toronto Islands have a long, uninterrupted history and significance for Indigenous communities around the Great Lakes. The park has an opportunity to be a catalyst for meaningful and enduring acts of reconciliation that acknowledge the past and future of the Island for Indigenous peoples.

The following considerations have been identified through collaboration with Indigenous partners and engagement with stakeholders in support of sharing and honouring the Island as an Indigenous place with visitors:

- ▶ Identify space for Indigenous ceremony and community gathering;
- ▶ Explore opportunities for co-management and capacity building with Indigenous communities on the Island; and
- ▶ Support acts of placekeeping, placemaking and place-revealing across the Island.

One strategy is identified over the following pages to support revealing Indigenous significance throughout the park.

Placekeeping as a framework for Placemaking

Revealing an Indigenous Place: Placekeeping recognizes that the Island is already a place rich with history and ongoing practices for Indigenous communities. Placemaking should strive to understand what the existing spirit of the place is and serve to enhance those histories and activities through meaningful interpretation and intervention.

3.1.1 Reconciliation + Placekeeping

Description:

In support of the City's commitment to the Reconciliation Action Plan, each project or improvement for the Island should consider how it can meaningfully contribute to revealing the Indigenous significance of the park, the lands, waters and skies, and the history of this territory for generations of inhabitants—considering all living beings.

Efforts to share the Indigenous significance of the Island should be prioritized in visible locations and associated with a variety of spaces and uses in the park. Design processes for all placekeeping opportunities should be led by Indigenous designers, artists or Knowledge Holders. The design and management of other spaces, and processes throughout the park should engage Indigenous communities, Elders, and Knowledge Holders to ensure cultural considerations are met and respected.

Objectives:

Share Indigenous Significance. Consider opportunities for gathering and practicing ceremony in private and public spaces. Work with Indigenous communities, integrate art, storytelling and language throughout the park in both permanent and temporary features. Prioritize opportunities to restore the lands, waters and skies, and celebrate the significance of this place for all species—not just humans.

Improve Access from Land and Water. Support the Reconciliation Action Plan, explore ways to reduce financial barriers and improve physical access for all to cultural spaces.

Continue Open Dialogues and Build Relationships. Support Placekeeping as an ongoing process and not tied to specific project timelines and objectives. Prioritize and support ongoing investments and commitments. Integrate traditional knowledge and land-based practices to support a decolonized approach to managing the park. Facilitate conversations to build relationships, promote co-development, co-management, and expand capacity between communities and the City.



Fig. 3-1 Indigenous Placekeeping Opportunities



Spaces for Reconciliation

Through engagement with community, several opportunities to reveal the Indigenous significance of the Island and create space to share Indigenous ways of knowing and being within community and for the general public were discussed. The design process for all spaces should be lead by Indigenous designers, artists and Knowledge Holders and actively engage Indigenous communities.

Cultural Narrative Trail. Interpretive and functional improvements along the Lakeshore-Cibola Park Spine leverage small rest areas and larger gathering spaces to share broad teachings and diverse perspectives at multiple sites.

Ceremonial Spaces. Separated from high-intensity park uses, secluded spaces for ceremonial practices are designed with Indigenous communities to ensure respect for Indigenous values. Consider opportunities for collaborative management protocols throughout these spaces.

Gathering Spaces. Spaces for community gatherings and public cultural events that are shared and accessible for all communities, but may include protocols for prioritizing certain uses and activities over others. Design should consider access and operational needs for hosting a variety of event types and sizes.

Teaching Spaces. Spaces for sharing knowledge and teaching land-based practices designed to meet the needs and protocols of Indigenous communities.

Cultural Markers and Gateways. Used as both wayfinding tools and to prominently signal Indigenous significance and arrival to the Island.

Recommendations:

PROJECT/INITIATIVE

Designate and Support Ceremonial Use:

- Identify space at Snake Island as ceremonial space for Indigenous communities.
- Work with communities to co-develop and update use and management protocols for ceremonial space.
- Identify facility needs and resources to support ongoing community uses.
- Explore funding mechanisms and design processes that support collaborative development and management of Snake Island.

Create Gateway Markers at Landings:

- Co-design and implement cultural markers at gateways to share Indigenous significance of the Island at arrival points, including short term markers with the Moccasin Identifier program.
- Develop coordinated vision for the markers in collaboration with Elders and Knowledge Holders.
- Consider opportunities to expand use of markers to minor gateways and other Island sites, as appropriate.
- Explore opportunities to enhance markers through interpretative programming.

Create a Cultural Narrative Trail:

- Explore the creation of a linked series of spaces that extend along the Lakeshore-Cibola spine in a continuous and rich narrative experience.
- Co-develop a vision for the trail with Elders and Knowledge Holders.
- Engage in a collaborative design process with Indigenous communities for spaces and interpretive materials to support a robust and layered experience year-round along the trail.

Develop Community Gathering Program at Olympic Island:

- Identify operational needs to support Indigenous community gatherings at Olympic Island.
- Explore opportunities to support year-round program.

PROCESS

- Update permit procedures and fee structure to improve Indigenous community access to Island spaces for ceremony and traditional practices.
- Identify protocols to ensure Indigenous representation in the creation, design, delivery and management of features and programming throughout the park.
- Integrate engagement with Elders and Knowledge Holders in the identification of teachings, stories, and cultural protocols for all park improvements.
- Build capacity and integrate cultural practices, protocols, and programming for managing and caring for the Island and larger region in collaboration with Indigenous communities.
- Co-develop programming and interpretative materials to share knowledge about the significance of the Island and all its living beings.
- Engage Indigenous Rights Holders and communities in the identification and design of infrastructure and facilities needed to support co-management and integration of traditional practices within designated park areas.

3.2 Improving Access and Connection



Strategies supporting the Improving Access and Connection goal

Through improvements to the ferry service, the introduction of larger vessels, enhancements at Jack Layton Ferry Terminal and at all landings, and investment in making getting around the Island more accessible and comfortable for all visitors, exploring the park will be more inviting and enjoyable.

The following considerations have been identified in support of improving how visitors get to and move across the Island:

- ▶ Revitalize the landings and ferries to make the experience of traveling to the Island more predictable, enjoyable, and accessible to all;
- ▶ Improve connections between Island spaces to support equitable access throughout the park; and
- ▶ Enhance wayfinding and information sharing to inform how people navigate to and around the Island.

Three strategies are identified over the following pages to support the improvement of travel to and across the Island.



-hiaton- // make tracks; to write; to mark something.

Revealing an Indigenous

Place: We heard that Huron-Wendat peoples use similar words to indicate the act of writing and making paths. They are told that making trails is how living beings write upon the Earth and should be done with consideration for the tracks that are left behind.

3.2.1 Wayfinding

Description:

Effective wayfinding support for Toronto Island Park is critical to deliver programming and navigate the large park. Wayfinding should help communicate where to go, distances between spaces and things to do along the way. To align with other city parks, wayfinding elements within Toronto Island Park should follow the *Toronto Parks and Trails (TP&T) Wayfinding Strategy*.

Integrating interpretive material with wayfinding signage within the *TP&T Strategy* should be leveraged where appropriate to demarcate interpretive trail heads and avoid the installation of multiple signage elements close together.

Objectives:

Support Natural Area Protection. Prioritize information about where to go and promote use of designated pathways to support natural area protection efforts. Leverage opportunities to integrate information about the ecology and management of the park areas to promote and prioritize sustainability and resilience.

Enhance Water-Based Navigation. Develop new sign types to help navigate within the internal waterways. Use signs to promote water-based uses for waterfront parks. Signage should be resilient and support expansion of water-based recreation over time.

Integrate Cultural Elements. Consider naming and interpretive content to enhance sense of place and share diverse stories of the Island. In collaboration with communities, consider use of Indigenous languages or symbols appropriate to the space and information.

Make Wayfinding Accessible. Align with the City's accessibility requirements. Explore a range of formats (e.g., digital signs, audio tours, self-guided experiences, etc.) to help navigate the Island. Explore ways to develop multi-lingual options to make the park accessible for visitors from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

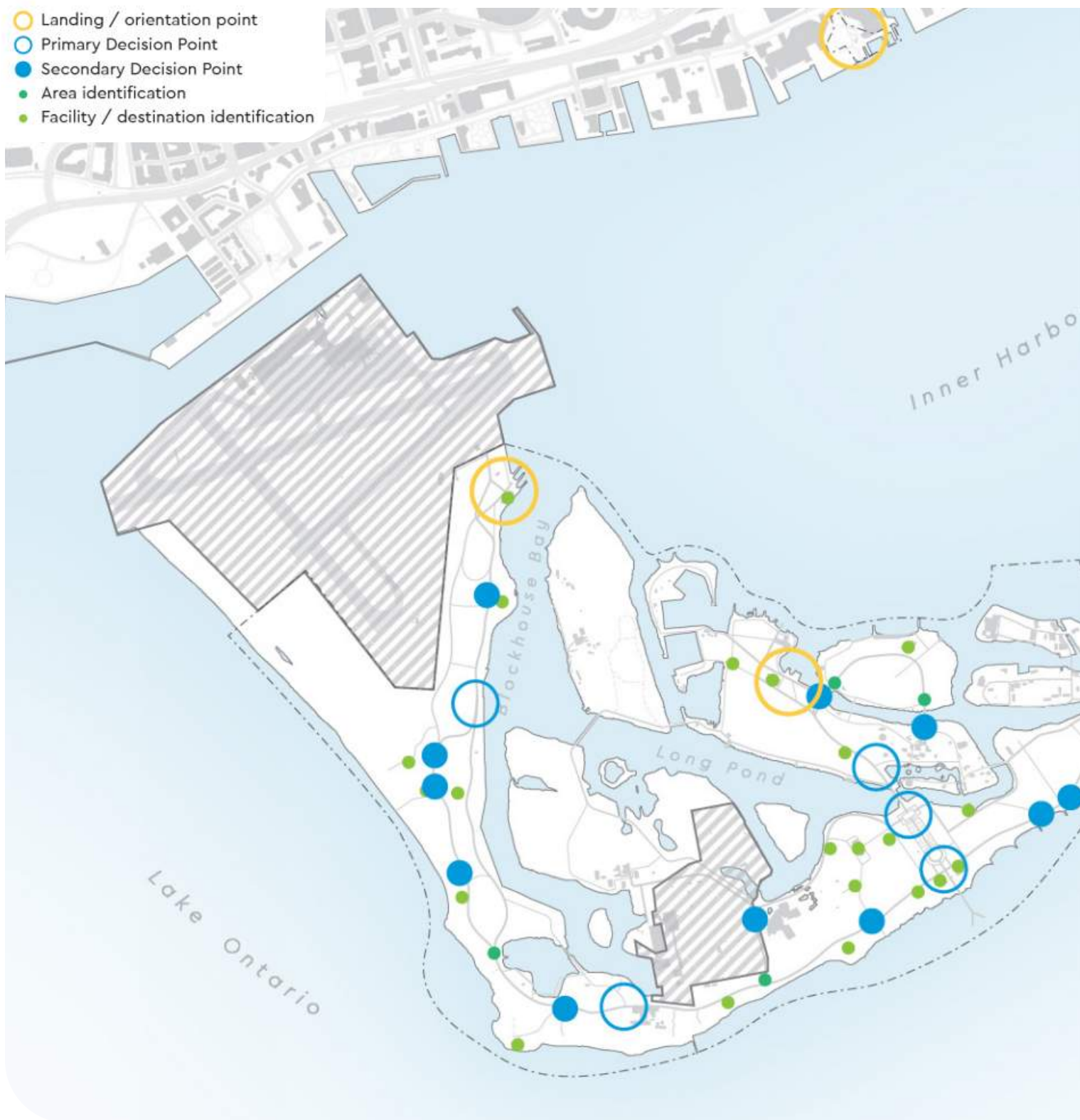


Fig. 3-2 Wayfinding Opportunities



Wayfinding Framework

Wayfinding needs on Toronto Island are centred around a hierarchy of orientation and decision points, and facilities or destinations. The most suitable wayfinding installation at each point will vary and should be informed by the specific information being communicated. Wayfinding improvements should be implemented beginning at JLFT and then in a logical sequence outward from Island landings.

Integrating interpretive content with wayfinding elements should also be informed by guidance provided in 3.4.2 Interpretation.

Landing/Orientation Point. Typically at points of arrival to the park or major thresholds within the park, wayfinding information placed here should help visitors identify their current location and direct them to key destinations.

Primary Decision Point. Located at pathway intersections, wayfinding information placed here provide directional information and distances to nearby destinations.

Secondary Decision Point. Similar to Primary Decision Points in function, these occur at minor intersections. Wayfinding information placed here may point to minor points of interest as well as key destinations.

Area Identification. Located at thresholds to key areas or larger park features, wayfinding information placed here clearly indicate place names and may provide additional use information, such as hours of operation or etiquette.

Facility/Destination Identification. Reserved for individual facilities within the park, wayfinding information placed here prioritize address information and place names.

Recommendations:

PROJECT/INITIATIVE

Enhance Park Wayfinding:

- ▶ Support improved information sharing to help people get around the park.
- ▶ Indicate distances between destinations to support accessibility and encourage exploration of park spaces.
- ▶ Update *Toronto Parks and Trails Wayfinding Strategy* and develop signs for natural areas and on-water navigation to support responsible access to new park areas and improved safety using Emergency ID system.
- ▶ Implement multi-lingual and accessible sign protocols in alignment with City policies.

PROCESS

- ▶ Place signs to support movement and flow of visitors at arrival points and through the park. Ensure signs are located at decision points and minimize visual clutter.
- ▶ Identify opportunities to integrate passive wayfinding using intuitive site design as well as physical features such as paving, furnishings, art and visual elements to supplement signage strategy.
- ▶ Strategically locate wayfinding to manage natural area access and promote natural area protection within the park.
- ▶ Use colour selectively to support accessible viewing and legibility for a wide variety of visitors.



3.2.2 Movement On Land

Description:

Pathways and roadways throughout the park are critical to enhancing not only the visitor experience, but also accessibility and operations on the Island. A clear hierarchy of pathways should support multi-modal connections and reduce conflicts between different user groups. Pathways should support year-round uses and accessible movement through continuous, well-marked, and maintained routes.

The Island is predominantly car-free. Movement by foot and cycle should be prioritized with vehicular use limited to specific routes and times of day. Pathways and park roads should be safe and comfortable for general park use.

Objectives:

Reinforce "Car-Free" Experience. Encourage active transportation (such as walking, cycling) as a primary way to move around the park. Design and maintain pedestrian pathways to support accessible year-round use and universal accessibility. Leverage park-wide accessible transportation system to help visitors explore the park.

Expand Cycling Options. Ensure cycling facilities are consistent across the park and meet the expanding needs for park visitors. Locate supporting features (such as racks, repair stations, and water filling stations) at key destinations. Explore expanded bicycle rental options park-wide.

Optimize Operational Access. Promote sustainable operations for park management and services. Explore coordinated approaches to serving the park, businesses and residents. Plan operational movement and access to minimize impacts on park experiences and spaces.




-  Ferry Landing
-  Primary Route
-  Existing Bridge
- 1 Lakeshore-Cibola Park Spine
- 2 Avenue of the Islands
- 3 Lakeshore Boardwalk



Fig. 3-3 Island Circulation Opportunities



Island Circulation

Movement for everything other than people on the Island should continue to be limited to the Lakeshore-Cibola Park Spine and Avenue of the Islands. The Algonquin Island and Manitou bridges are key to supporting emergency access and servicing the Island but present their own challenges for accessibility. While the Lakeshore Boardwalk is not suitable as a servicing route, it represents a significant heritage route and interpretive connection for the history of settlement on the Island. All three primary routes on the Island should continue to support multi-modal use. Operational changes (such as off-peak servicing) should be prioritized over expansion of these routes.

Lakeshore-Cibola Park Spine (1). Varying in width from 8m to 37.5m with a planted median, the path surface should not be expanded. Improvements should focus on addressing flood impacts, creating comfortable spaces to rest, enhancing wayfinding, and tree planting to support biodiversity and naturalization.

Avenue of the Islands (2). The primary corridor to carry pedestrians, cyclists and servicing vehicles between the Toronto Island Marina, Centre Landing, Centreville, Manitou Bridge and the Centre Island Pier. Focus improvements on accessibility and enhancing the pedestrian experience through interpretation, rest areas and planting.

Lakeshore Boardwalk (3). Primarily a pedestrian route, the significance of the boardwalk and break wall should continue to support access to spaces along the southeast shore and provide interpretive value for the Island.



Fig. 3-4 Pedestrian Priority Pathway Opportunities



Pedestrian Priority Routes

Throughout the park, pathways should be designed to prioritize pedestrian movement and support accessibility. Opportunities to enhance sustainability should be balanced with maintenance needs. Pedestrian priority pathways should be designed to support multi-use trail travel speeds and leisurely cycling and include rest areas and shelter. Widths should be optimized for demonstrated needs and avoid oversizing to establish and maintain trail hierarchy, especially near or within sensitive natural areas.

Beach Access. Designed to suit the pedestrian volumes and ecological context of the location, routes may include temporary or seasonal paths with seasonal operations clearly communicated.

Accessible Beach Access. Located at every designated swim beach, accessible routes should be designed to accommodate wider gathering and turnaround areas and combined with amenities and resources (such as staff and equipment) to facilitate visitors' safety and equitable access to the water.

Nature Trails. Only considered where there is a demonstrated or documented need for access, locations and designs should be informed by rigorous understanding of the ecological function and health of the natural areas and prioritize use by pedestrians and mobility devices only and discourage cycling and pet access.

Bridges. A defining feature for the Island, renovation to existing bridges and design of new structures should respond to the specific context and character of their location within the Island.

Accessible Transportation System. A fully accessible and integrated people-mover system should be considered for the Island to improve both accessibility and enhance the visitor experience of the park. The system should build on the existing Island Tram Tour program by integrating a thematic tour experience with hop-on-hop-off opportunities at key destinations throughout the park. The system should run on existing park roads where possible to eliminate the need for duplicate infrastructure across the park.

Design and operational constraints for the Manitou Bridge limit the feasibility of using the existing Tram Tour vehicles to serve Centre Landing. To facilitate the implementation of a scalable transportation network for the park, a primary route between Hanlan's Landing and Ward's Landing should be supplemented by a secondary service operated along Avenue of the Islands. Interim service from Centre Landing may consider the use of an on-demand courtesy shuttle instead of a formal scheduled multi-vehicle tram. The shuttle should service both the Lagoon Road and Lakeshore Avenue stops.



Fig. 3-5 Accessible Transportation System Opportunities

Recommendations:

PROJECT/INITIATIVE

- **Expand Cycling Infrastructure:** Expand bike parking facilities park-wide to promote cycling as a primary mode of transportation for visitors. Explore opportunities for repair stations, water filling stations and integration of rental options throughout the park.
- **Develop Island-Wide Accessible Transportation Service:** Build on Island Tram tour experience to explore fully accessible transportation system for the park. Identify route and intermediate stops to support hop-on-hop-off operations. Explore opportunity to embed interpretive tour within transit operations. Explore alternative connections and infrastructure improvements to support service across Manitou Bridge.

PROCESS

- Integrate visitor experience improvements with infrastructure investment along all types of park circulation.
- Explore opportunities to limit service vehicle travel along all park circulation to off-peak hours.
- Consider pilot projects to test and evaluate new multi-use trail enhancements (such as markings and signage) as part of Island-wide rehabilitation of roadways.



3.2.3 Movement On Water

Description:

Getting to and from the park is central to the character and experience of Toronto Island Park. The ferry trip from Jack Layton Ferry Terminal marks the beginning and end of most visitors' journeys to the Island, but opportunities to expand reliable and consistent harbour transportation through implementation of recommendations from the Marine Use Strategy could introduce new landings to better connect the park and Central Waterfront.

Internal waterways support general circulation and tourism opportunities for charter boat tours and harbour cruises by third party providers. Many tourist vessels can only operate in specific channels and should continue to be limited to protect sensitive habitat and environmental conditions in shallower waters.

The use of the waterways for circulation and exploration of the park should be encouraged and supported through facilities and programs, including enhanced watercraft rentals but limited to waterways that can better support recreational activity away from the busy inner harbour. Designated routes and waterways should be clearly marked to indicate points of interest, landings and restricted areas.

Objectives:

Prioritize Movement At Landings. Landings are gateways to the park, marking the transition between the city and the Island. Ensure landings are accessible through four seasons and support a consistent visitor experience for the park.

Enhance Travel Through the Harbour. Enhance travel within the Inner Harbour. Invest in ferry fleet replacement and explore new ways of moving people and things across the harbour.

Reconnect Through the Waterways. Explore the internal lagoons and waterways as a unique way to experience the park. Develop infrastructure to help visitors use and navigate the waterways. Expand existing partnerships with service providers and community organizations to bring visitors of all ages, abilities, and levels of experience along and through the waterways.



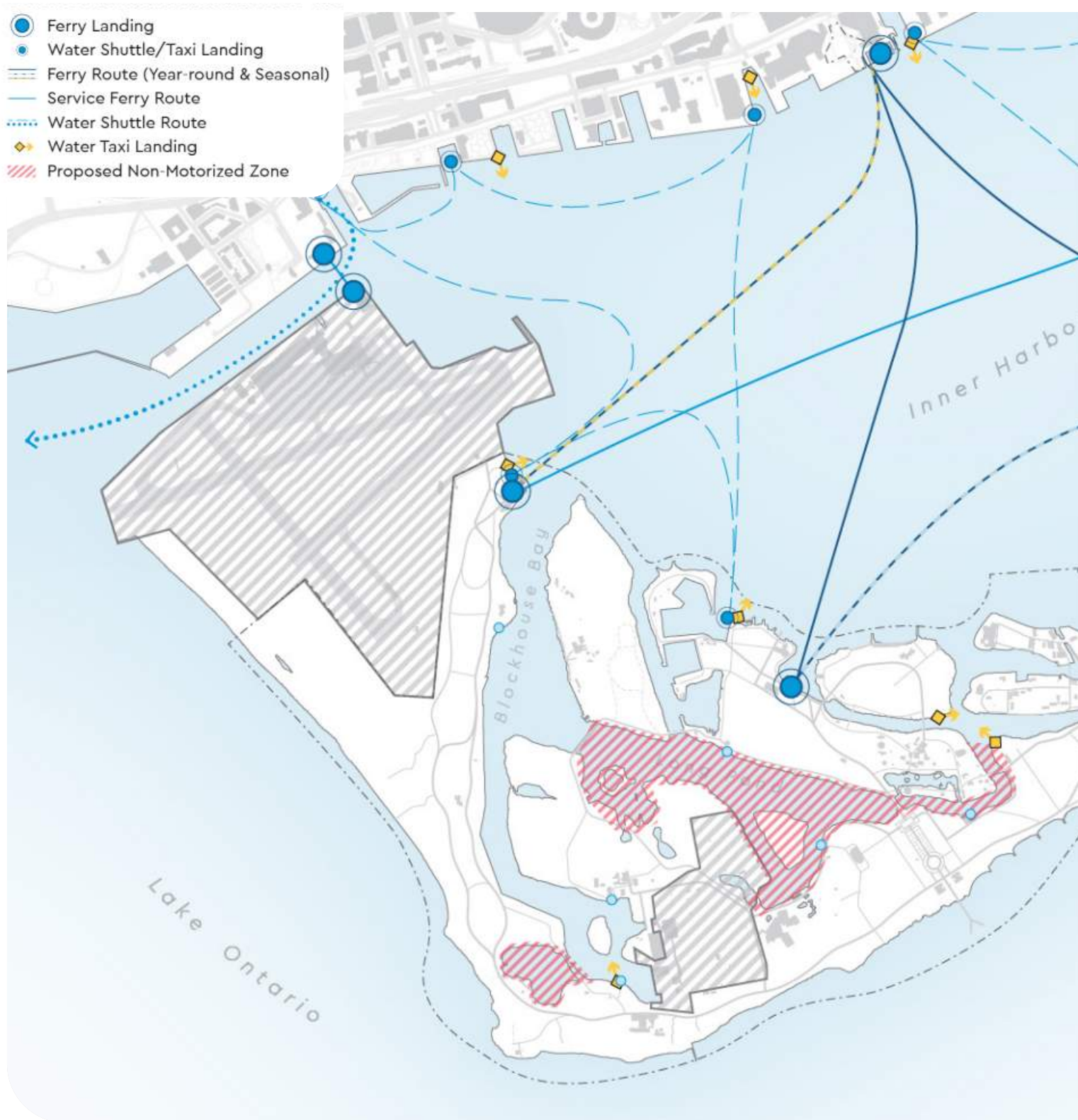
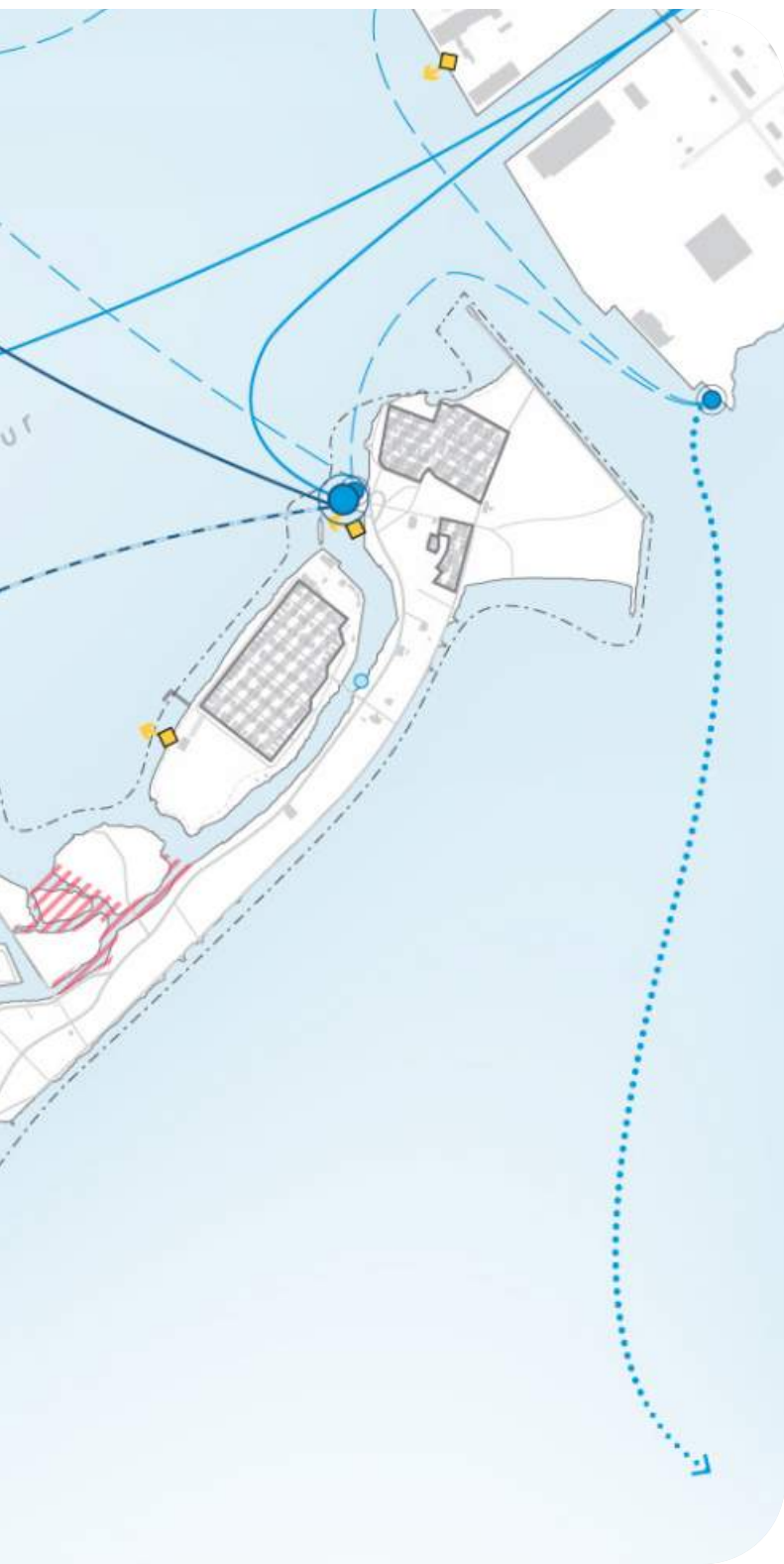


Fig. 3-6 Harbour Circulation Opportunities



Harbour Movement

Movement on the water is critical and unique experience to Toronto Island Park and should leverage improvements across the Central Waterfront, Port Lands and farther. Alignment with the *Marine Use Strategy* will help realize these opportunities.

Ferry Landing Revitalization. To support enhanced service and new vessels, improvements to all landings should consider the needs of each location independently.

Ferry Fleet Replacement. New electric-powered vessels to replace existing fleet and address capacity, accessibility, servicing, and maintenance concerns.

Servicing Ferry. Dedicated service vehicle ferries from the Port Lands to Hanlan's and Ward's Landings. Prioritize operations outside park peak times to minimize conflicts at the landings.

Water Shuttle Network. A water-based people-mover network connecting the Island, Port Lands, and Central Waterfront to reduce pressures on Jack Layton Ferry Terminal. Loops could integrate with larger network initiatives with minimal impacts to existing ferry routing.

Water Taxi Landings. Clearly marked and consistent in their design and accessibility, taxi landings should be limited to harbour-adjacent sites and only access Olympic Island, St. Andrew's Church, and the Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts through internal waterways.

Connections beyond the Inner Harbour. Consider opportunities to link the Island and Inner Harbour with other waterfront sites, such as Humber Bay Park, Western Beaches, Ontario Place and Eastern Beaches to create a new water movement network for the city.





-  Non-Motorized Priority Zone
-  Internal Waterway Routes
-  Portage Route
-  Watercraft Launch
-  Water Access
-  Portage Point



Fig. 3-7 Internal Waterways Opportunities



Internal Waterway Circulation

Travel within the waterways of the Island is central to the character, history and experience of the park. Priority for non-motorized watercraft should be supported to protect the sensitive aquatic ecologies throughout the waterways and create safe conditions to promote paddling within Toronto's Harbour. Facilities improvements should be supported by staffing and affordable programming and rentals to create opportunities for novice and experienced paddlers alike.

Non-Motorized Priority Zone. Areas to support safe and accessible travel within internal waterways for novice and experienced paddlers. Additional considerations for supporting aquatic habitat protection and restoration should inform further restrictions within these zones.

Watercraft Launches. Small staffed landing points with rental or storage facilities and near other park amenities. Docks or shoreline access structures to support temporary mooring for groups and community programming. Where appropriate, accessible watercraft launches could be co-located with accessible equipment lending locations to leverage staff and facility supports.

Water Access Points. Small landing points along shorelines to provide access for visitors using personal non-motorized watercraft, including soft landings and temporary dock structures. Seasonal and movable to respond to impacts and management needs of shorelines and adjacent park areas.

Portage Points. Unstaffed access points and routes to travel across narrow land areas between inner harbour, internal waterways, and the lake. Identified and clearly marked on maps and through park wayfinding.

Recommendations:

PROJECT/INITIATIVE

Revitalize Ferry Landings:

- Upgrade ferry landings in conjunction with ferry fleet modernization.
- Explore improvements to ensure weather events, such as seasonal flooding and ice build-up, do not limit use of landings.
- Integrate circulation and wayfinding improvements at all landings.

Improve Water-based Transportation:

- Leverage City's Ferry Fleet Replacement project to realize ferry service improvements.
- Enhance ferry landings and upgrade infrastructure to support new vessels and address weather-related impacts to support expanded year-round operations.
- Explore improvements for water taxi and shuttle services in alignment with *Marine Use Strategy*.
- Identify opportunities for servicing ferry operations to mitigate conflicts with passenger ferry use.

PROCESS

- Ensure internal waterways are maintained to support emergency vessel access as required.
- Prioritize non-motorized use of the internal waterways to support restoration and enhancement of aquatic and terrestrial habitat.
- Leverage park circulation locations and design to mitigate ecological impacts from park uses on the ecology of the Island and waterways.
- Identify access routes within internal waterways suitable for motorized vessels based on ecological considerations and to mitigate impacts on recreational non-motorized use.

3.3 Supporting the Natural Environment



Strategies supporting the Supporting a Dynamic Environment goal

The following considerations have been identified in support of the management and regeneration of the dynamic environment of the Island:

- ▶ Prioritize regeneration and protection of ESAs and natural areas throughout the park and waters to enhance habitat value and ecological integrity of the Island;
- ▶ Collaborate with partners to manage and enhance the ecology of the Island; and
- ▶ Enhance education and advocacy about the diverse and sensitive ecologies present in all areas of the park to build awareness about human impacts, support opportunities to engage with visitors, and communicate protocols for experiencing nature within the park.

Three strategies are identified over the following pages to support the protection and management of ever-changing environments—both natural and constructed—on the Island.





Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) // Classification of areas that provide critical roles and functions to support wildlife and habitat

Supporting a Dynamic Environment: Many parts of the Island are identified as SWH and need to consider not only how they are used by park visitors but also how they support wildlife and contribute to regional ecosystems.

3.3.1 Natural Area Protection

Description:

Natural areas within the park (including ESAs) form critical pieces of the local and regional natural systems and ecologies. These spaces should be protected and considered holistically with all improvements for the park and adjacent infrastructures. Impacts to these sensitive environments are not limited to disturbance within and at their boundaries.

To support the protection of natural areas across the Island, nature, wildlife, and an expanded understanding for natural processes should be prioritized in the decision-making framework for the park, from operations to programming. The ecological integrity and value of the Toronto Islands should be prioritized.

Within protected natural areas the gathering of foods and medicines by Indigenous peoples may be desired. Where access is needed, protocols should be co-developed with Indigenous communities, Elders, and Knowledge Holders to support this practice and minimize impacts on the surrounding areas.

Objectives:

Protect Existing Resources. Assess and identify areas for protection to minimize human impacts on sensitive areas. Explore protection of areas through seasonal restrictions (i.e. during nesting season), as well as design and programming of adjacent spaces to prioritize overall ecological health of park.

Reduce Fragmentation. Actively pursue opportunities to restore natural areas and reconnect habitat. Manage pathways and access to minimize habitat loss and establishment of invasive species.

Enhance Edges. Identify spaces to expand and buffer sensitive ecologies through naturalized planting and adapted management to mitigate impacts on protected areas. Engage visitors within the naturalization processes. Develop clear communication about suitable uses and access.

Protect Aquatic Habitat. Manage access to some waterways to prioritize ecological function and wildlife needs in aquatic habitat. Communicate the ecological importance of aquatic habitat for the park and region. Manage human impacts on nesting, spawning, and other seasonal processes. Explore opportunities for shoreline restoration as part of on-going park improvements interfacing with the water's edge.

- Environmentally Significant Area
- Area of Natural and Scientific Interest
- Provincially Significant Wetland
- Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators Monitored Area

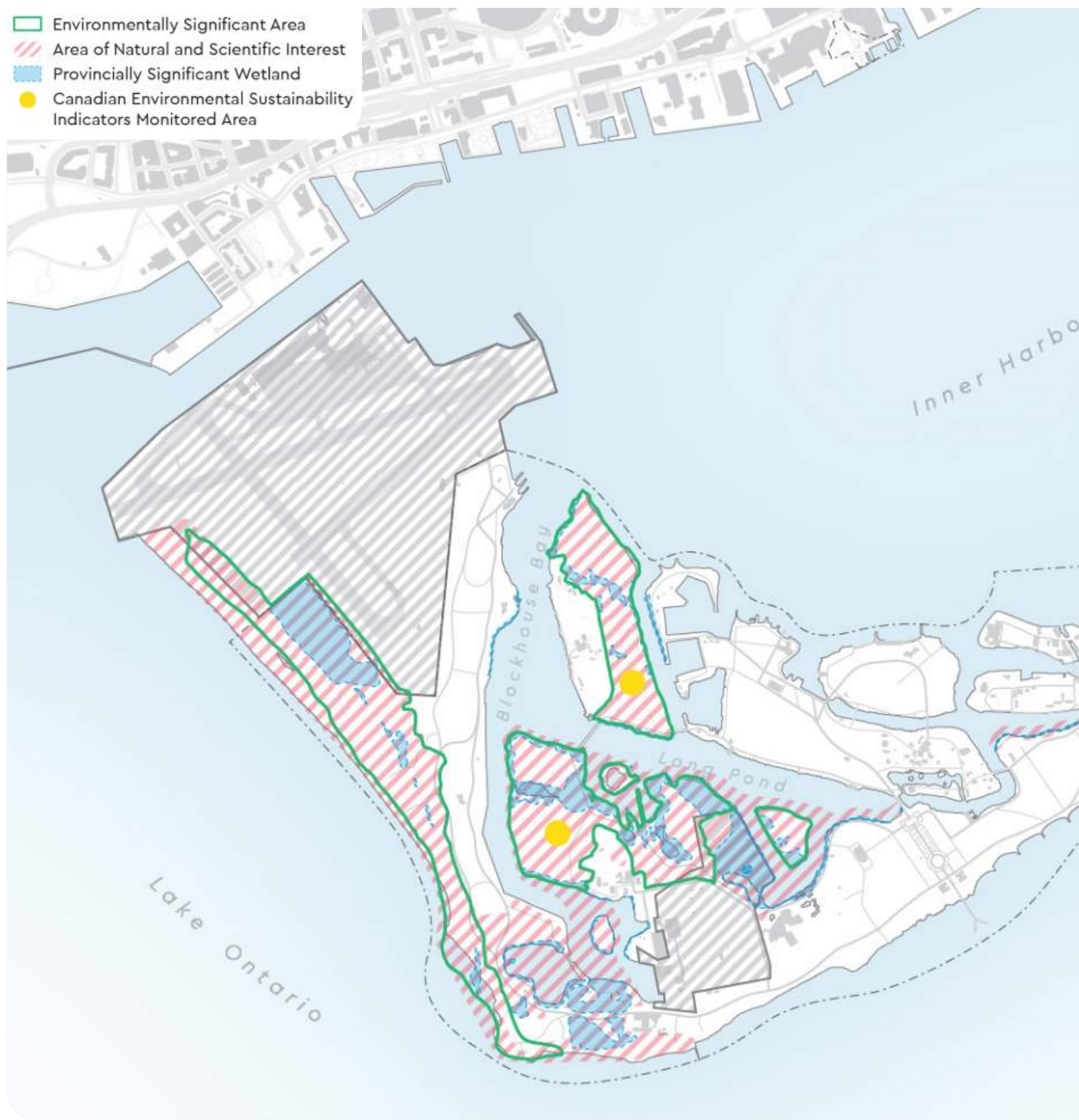


Fig. 3-8 Designated Natural Area Opportunities



Natural Area Management

The policies and management of designated natural areas on the Island should be consistent with established best practices and management plans set out by authorities having jurisdiction. Opportunities to support the resilience and biodiversity of designated natural areas through naturalization, and consolidation with other nearby ecologies (regardless of their protection status) should be prioritized.

Environmentally Significant Area (ESA).

Identified through Toronto's Official Plan, ESAs provide significant habitat value for birds, amphibians, and other animals and may be particularly sensitive to human disturbance. Efforts to protect ESAs through enhancing biodiversity and limiting access should be prioritized.

Provincially Significant Wetland Complex (PSW).

Regulated through provincial policies, closures and access restrictions around PSWs should be prioritized and integrated into the planning and operations of the park to mitigate damage caused by disturbance to vegetation within PSWs.

Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

Based on representation of processes and features specific to Ecodistrict 7E-4, prioritize preservation of the full range of representative native vegetation communities and special features through management of boat traffic, trampling and invasive non-native species.

Canadian Environmental Sustainability Index (CESI) Conservation Area.

Monitored through the federal CESI program, areas are subject to active intervention for management purposes to ensure the maintenance of habitats and/or to meet the requirements of specific species as identified in the designation.



Recommendations:

PROJECT/INITIATIVE

Prioritize Biodiversity and Natural Area Protection:

- Assess conditions of park natural areas as a composite whole.
- Identify areas suitable for targeted expansion, protection of wildlife and sensitive habitats, and opportunities to support access for limited interaction within natural areas.
- Identify natural areas as well as terrestrial and aquatic habitats for protection with management protocols to prioritize ongoing ecological function.
- Support ongoing habitat and invasive species management and enhance buffers along edges.
- Identify opportunities to enhance tree canopy, biodiversity, naturalization, and habitat restoration and support in all park areas.

Manage Natural Area Access:

- Assess and monitor access routes to and within natural areas to mitigate human impacts on the sensitive ecologies of the park and waterways.
- Identify natural area access priorities and trail improvement opportunities.
- Develop consistent funding to support natural area access pathway management throughout the park.
- Explore feasibility of Parks Yard restoration loop and south segment of Lagoon Loop in alignment with Parks works facility improvements.
- Prioritize reduced impacts and meaningful education delivery for all interpretive opportunities within natural areas.

Develop Transparent Monitoring and Public Reporting Protocols:

- Supported by best practices, build public awareness and advocacy for the protection and restoration of natural systems through sharing key metrics of ecological performance gathered from the park.
- Identify monitoring and public reporting protocols for supporting public communication of park performance.
- Prioritize consistent metrics for evaluating ecological integrity and habitat value to help communicate the benefits of nature positive practices, measure impacts on habitats from park use, help mitigate invasive species impacts and manage resources over time and in-relation to other spaces across the city.
- Leverage partnerships with TRCA and others to identify and maintain records and develop tools to inform identification of an approved list of areas, uses and access points.

PROCESS

- Prioritize needs of habitat and wildlife within all park improvements to avoid negative impacts resulting from increased or altered human activity within or near designated natural areas. Considerations for limiting access (i.e., seasonal closures or prohibiting pets within some areas year-round), or modifying park uses adjacent to sensitive areas may be appropriate.
- Prioritize management and conservation of habitat and biodiversity within designated natural areas and their immediate surroundings.
- Encourage creation of habitat connections throughout the park using naturalization of landscapes and management practices that support biodiversity and ecological function in all park spaces.
- Monitor structural diversity and identify opportunities for enhancement to create conditions that support a range of habitat and ecological functions.
- Leverage gradual restoration and replacement efforts to provide cover, forage and habitat to migrating birds and other wildlife and maintain ecological function.
- Leverage seasonal uses and closures to support ecological function and health of the park.
- Engage with community partners to monitor and advocate for the health and sustainable management of landscapes and shorelines throughout the park.

3.3.2 Shorelines + Park Environments

Description:

Toronto Island Park hosts a unique collection of park spaces and uses, both on the water and on land. Understanding the interdependence of water, shore and land is central to planning for the Island. Improvements at the water's edge should consider impacts on the adjacent land and vice versa. The management of shorelines and park environments should consider opportunities to enhance the value of experiences and embed resilience within park spaces. Understanding for the unique conditions and challenges of Island spaces should inform all management practices within the park.

While all shoreline and landscape features should prioritize support for natural systems, many also serve critical program and activation needs for the vibrant park. Understanding and enhancing opportunities for community benefits should be central to the management of spaces throughout the park. In addition to creating spaces that support visitor experience and enjoyment of the park, education, advocacy, and stewardship are central in supporting the cultural shifts needed to realize the long-term vision of the master plan. Providing opportunities for public, first-hand experience within a broad range of park environments is critical to sharing the significance and benefits of the park for the health and well being of all living things across the waterfront, city, and region.

Leading based on Seven Generations

Revealing an Indigenous Place:

We heard about the traditions of many Indigenous cultures in looking not only to the past for guidance, but also considering what benefits the future. To make decisions about territories under their stewardship, leaders take council from the lessons of seven generations of their ancestors; their own lived experiences with consideration for all their relations; and consideration of what will support the continued flourishing of a place through seven generations of descendants.



Objectives:

Leverage Floodable Landscapes. Reintroduce and support landscapes and spaces designed for flooding. Demonstrate adaptable access and uses during high water levels while respecting the ecological resilience of the park.

Enhance Flood Infrastructure. Enhance park spaces in alignment with ongoing flood mitigation EA infrastructure improvements. Consider habitat creation, programming support, circulation and access improvements.

Promote Biodiversity. Prioritize use of naturally-occurring or adapted ecologies to enhance sustainability and resilience park-wide. Leverage increased biodiversity to support and enhance low-intensity management practices. Communicate benefits of biodiversity as part of park management practices.

Naturalize Park Spaces. Identify park spaces adjacent to and between designated natural areas for naturalization. Prioritize habitat links and "stepping stones" to enhance overall park resilience. Encourage biodiversity to support variety of habitats and conditions.

Encourage Relationships with Park Environments. Continue to leverage planting and park clean-ups to promote awareness about the park's ecological value and the importance of protecting park spaces. Engage communities with limited access to nature to support city-wide stewardship and equity initiatives.

Protect and Enhance Island Tree Canopy Health. Monitor and manage existing tree inventory throughout the park to support healthy tree canopy. Implement succession plantings to ensure ongoing tree canopy coverage throughout park. Identify suitable species for Island conditions and to promote ecological benefit for a variety of open spaces.



Fig. 3-9 Shoreline Opportunities



Note: Final recommendations of the TRCA-led Toronto Island Park Flood and Erosion Mitigation Project – Class EA will supersede any recommendations noted here.

Shoreline Management

The Island contains a variety of edge conditions, from engineered structures to floodable landscapes. Management of these shorelines requires an understanding of their function and opportunities to benefit the overall park. The following conditions are proposed within the park and should be implemented based on their suitability within specific conditions and overall ability to enhance the ecological or program benefits for the park.

Floodable Landscapes (1-2). Education and interpretation about the function and role of floodable landscapes in the larger waterfront and Great Lakes ecosystems should be provided to communicate their importance and deter disturbance. Floodable landscape conditions should be supported in any location where seasonal or intermittent flooding poses minimal risk to infrastructure or human safety.

Beaches and Dunes (1). The Toronto Islands include several significant slough and trough wetlands as well as other dune and beach ecologies which are dependent on natural disturbances like wind and wave action. These should also be supported and managed to mitigate impacts from erosion and human use. Implement a coordinated approach to dune management for the Toronto Island to ensure the ongoing function of these ecologies.

Vegetated Shore (2). Where conditions dictate, opportunities for restoring and enhancing vegetated shore conditions should be prioritized, especially where significant habitat value for aquatic and terrestrial plant species as well as waterfowl can be realized.

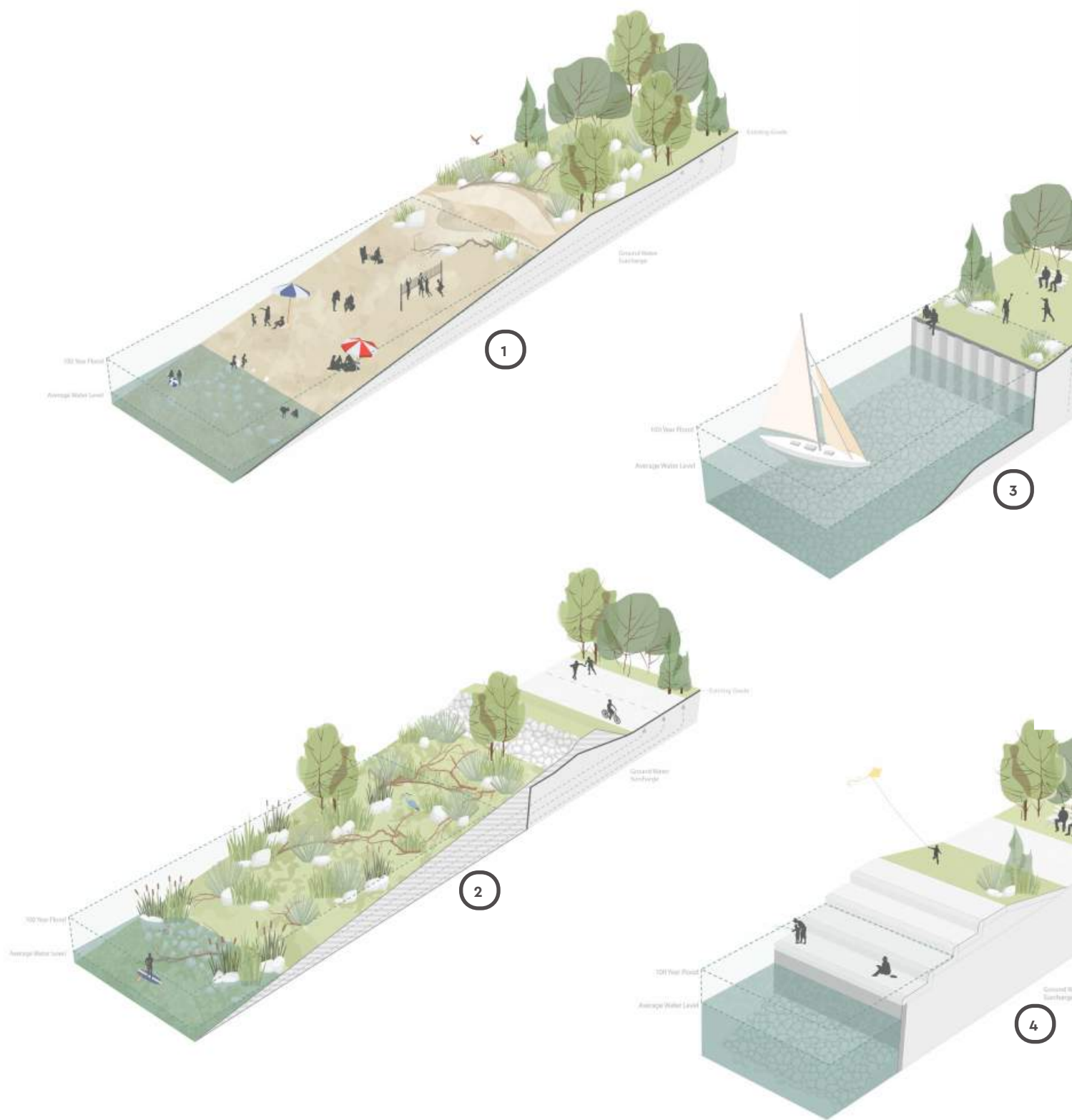
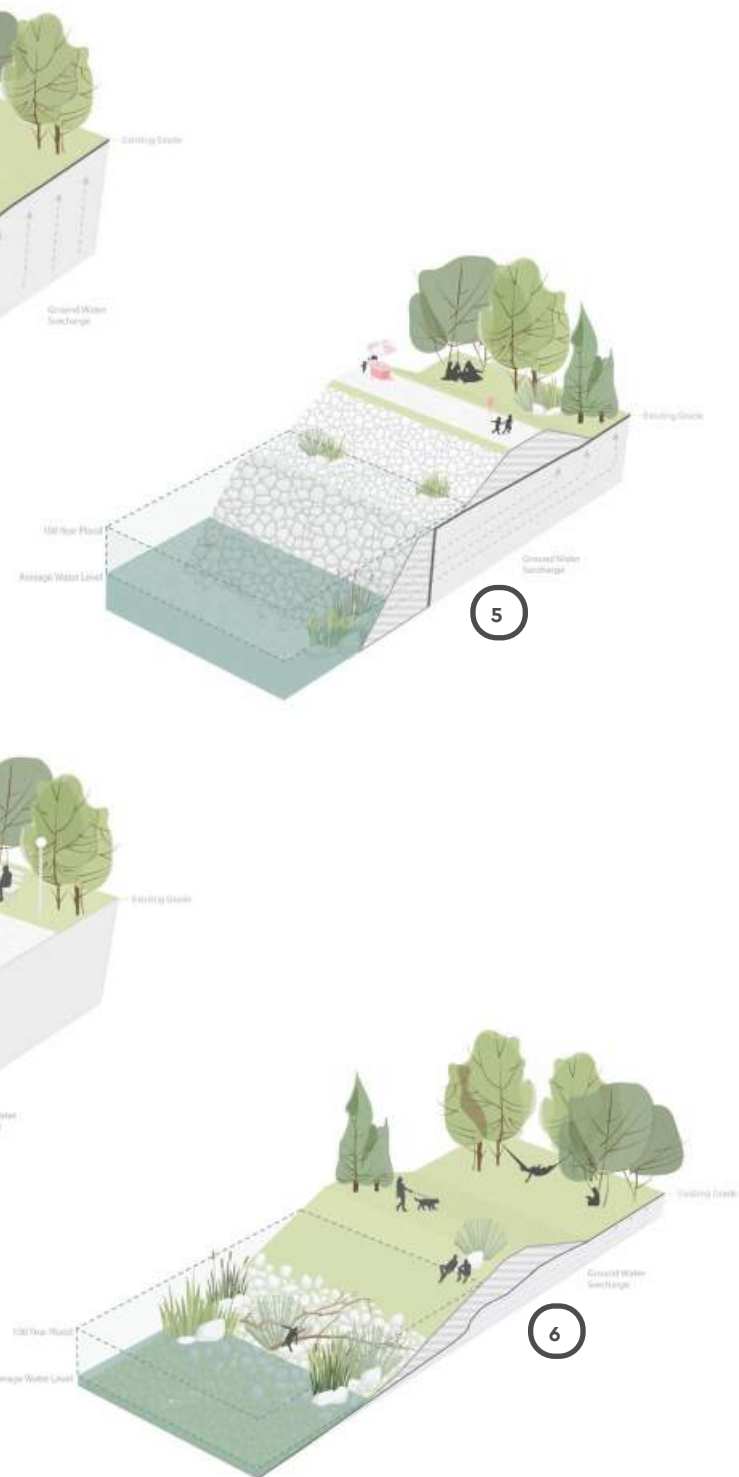


Fig. 3-10 Potential Shoreline Types



Flood Infrastructure (3–6). Where protection of critical infrastructure or human safety during flood events is challenging, engineered infrastructures may be required. Opportunities to integrate park benefits, such as pathways, habitat or landings should be explored in active park areas.

Vertical Wall (Steel Sheet Pile, Concrete, Stone) (3). For constrained sites where a minimal footprint is available, vertical structures should consider integration of walkways, lookouts and mooring facilities to activate the park. Opportunities to provide enhanced accessibility along the shoreline may be considered along vertical lake walls where safety can be achieved.

Stepped Embankment (Concrete, Stone, Metal) (4). Stepped structures should be used in areas where activation and programming support engaging with the water's edge. Steps can be constructed out of concrete, stone or metal to provide opportunities to sit for extended periods of time (such as watching floating movies or performances) or short stops (such as waiting for a ferry).

Sloped Revetment (Stone) (5). Where space adjacent to the shoreline has minimal constraints, sloped revetment flood mitigation infrastructure may be appropriate. Sloped revetment should integrate enhanced planting, habitat creation and opportunities for access along the top of the slope where possible to support opportunities for interpretation and education about flooding and diverse approaches to managing and mitigating the impacts on significant landform.

Impermeable Berm (Vegetated) (6). Impermeable berms should be used to introduce additional vegetated buffering and achieve increased erosion protection where visitor access to the shoreline is not desirable. Impermeable berms may be suitable where space does not permit a full vegetated floodable landscape.



Fig. 3-11 Park Environment Opportunities



Parkland Character

Throughout the Island, many programmed park environments and spaces contribute to the ecological function of the park. The management of these spaces should consider both the active uses and supporting habitat and wildlife throughout the park.

Grassland Meadow. Emergent spaces primarily resulting from naturalization efforts within the park, these spaces enhance the biodiversity and resilience of the park and should be explored where passive park uses are preferred.

Woodland. Consisting of dense plantings of trees and shrubs within manicured areas or successional growth of young trees along shorelines, many of these areas are primarily dominated by non-native species, or by short-lived native species. Focus restoration on improving diversity of native species, and enhancing structural diversity through shrub and ground flora plantings.

Open Parkland. Central to many experiences of the Island, vast open parkland spaces should be managed to reduce ecological impacts of large lawns. Integrate flowering plants, shrubs, trees and a diversity of grasses to enhance biodiversity.

Plazas. Critical to programming and active uses within the park, manage plazas to facilitate activation of park areas while limiting damage to soft landscapes. Scale plazas to support intensive uses and suit program needs. Locate new plazas in active park areas to minimize impacts to sensitive ecologies and address identified need for program support. Integrate planting, embed green infrastructure, and leverage sustainable design principles within plazas to support nature positive approaches.

Gardens. Demonstrating a diverse range of horticultural characters, gardens within the park should transition to demonstrations that support and enhance ecological functions of the park. Plant communities should showcase native, adapted and biodiverse plantings that support wildlife and enhance resilience within the park. Explore opportunities to integrate traditional Indigenous plant knowledge and land management practices within gardens. Gardens should be limited to active park areas and replaced with naturalized plantings and ecologies in passive park areas.

Trees. Building on the established tree tour, tree planting on the Island should prioritize biodiversity and native species that suit the conditions of the park and enhance ecological value within the park. A variety of short-lived and long-lived species should be planted to increase diversity of habitat for cavity-nesting wildlife. Existing plantings of non-native invasive species should be managed and replaced with native tree species in all areas of the park. Memorial tree programs on the Island should be limited to species that have been identified as suitable to the park's conditions, without exception. Tree planting should support city-wide canopy cover targets.



Naturalizing Parkland: Restoration within High Park to reintroduce naturally occurring ecologies.

Recommendations:

PROJECT/INITIATIVE

Deliver Flood Mitigation Improvements:

- In collaboration with TRCA, advance implementation of flood mitigation work associated with the Toronto Island Flood and Erosion Mitigation Project.
- Coordinate an Island-wide approach to integrate floodable landscapes and embrace flooding as an ongoing experience within the park.
- Prioritize opportunities for habitat creation and enhancing the park's natural character.
- Identify opportunities to expand mitigation to active park areas historically impacted by flooding but not included in the ongoing EA process (such as Olympic Island).

Create Integrated Park Management Plan:

- Develop comprehensive landscape management plan for the entire park to ensure natural and active park areas are considered holistically.
- Develop plan as both public-facing (to support education and advocacy about the practices and priorities) and internal-facing (to inform specific operations, monitoring, and management protocols for the park).
- Embed procedures and protocols for integrating nature positive approaches into design, decision-making and governance to prioritize resilience park-wide.

PROCESS

- Avoid locating critical infrastructure in areas prone to flooding. If alternative locations are not suitable, design infrastructure to accommodate flooding and work with natural drainage patterns to mitigate impacts on infrastructure.
- Collaborate with Indigenous communities to develop management practices and planting strategies that integrate traditional knowledge and practices for active and natural park areas.
- Support monitoring and management of naturalized landscapes through consistent staff resources and training.
- Ensure community benefits (e.g., pathways, habitat, mooring opportunities, etc.) are integrated within detailed design and planning of flood mitigation infrastructure projects.
- Engage with community partners to monitor and advocate for the health and sustainable management of landscapes and shorelines throughout the park.
- Use intentional plant selection and site design to manage dynamic shore conditions and support interpretive and educational communication about flooding and benefits of naturalized shores in mitigation.

3.3.3 Resilience + Sustainability

Description:

Sustainability within the context of Toronto Island Park should consider caring for the park today and supporting the park's legacy so it can be enjoyed for generations to come. This should be supported through how the park is managed, prioritizing processes and practices that positively impact the natural environment and actively pursuing initiatives that result in positive ecological gains—building on successes over time to develop a more sustainable and resilient park.

Sustainability should also be considered as a target for buildings and development—championing reductions in carbon emissions or innovations in renewable energy and material uses. Opportunities to re-purpose existing facilities, reduce and divert waste, and prioritize biodiversity and habitat support within a highly-used public space should be prioritized.

Communicating and monitoring net gains from new initiatives (e.g., the ferry fleet modernization) with on-going innovations (e.g., the Toronto Water Solar Farm) and operational shifts should be leveraged to showcase the Island as a model for the City of Toronto's commitment to resilience.

Gikinoo'amaadiwin //
Stewardship, the act of responsibly managing and protecting the Earth's resources.

Revealing an Indigenous Place: *Thinking about how we protect and responsibly use the resources of the park and treat the land and water when we visit should be part of every experience. Our decisions should be in the best interest of future generations to ensure the park remains a place for those that come after us.*



Objectives:

Prioritize Nature Positive Outcomes. Prioritize positive benefits for the Island's natural systems in all park spaces. Enhance biodiversity and ecological function within active-use and natural park areas. Demonstrate leadership in sustainable and resilient practices and innovation park-wide.

Share Performance Progress. Identify performance targets to communicate and advocate for the significance of the Island. Explore ways to report performance to support long-term sustainability, biodiversity gain, and resilience within the park. Share progress and outcomes for individual and park-wide initiatives.

Support Habitat in Park Spaces. Leverage habitat to enhance the ecological value of the Island. Plan improvements to suit level of use as well as specific wildlife needs to minimize conflicts. Consider integrating design features like bat boxes, nest boxes—where suitable.

Integrate Traditional Knowledge and Practices. Co-develop procedures and protocols for land management throughout the park with Indigenous communities, Elders, Knowledge Holders and practitioners.

Optimize Park Operations. Scale park management and operations to park needs. Explore improvements that benefit the natural environment as well as park services, businesses, and residents. Adapt operations to support four-season park uses and reduce reliance on mainland resources and harbour transportation.

Promote Sustainable Park Spaces. Explore opportunities to improve efficiency of spaces and reduce facility footprints, where possible. Identify opportunities to adapt existing structures and spaces as well as enhance buffers to minimize impacts on natural environment. Develop park-specific lighting approach enhance sustainability, and reduce light pollution on habitat and wildlife.

Prioritize Sustainable Movement. Replace equipment used to move to and around the Island with zero-emission green fleet options. Consider smaller-scaled vehicles to suit Island scale and capacities. Leverage park amenity improvements to reduce the need to transport goods to the park. Prioritize sustainable movement options for visitors and operations for the park.

Rethink Waste Management. Explore waste reduction incentives for park businesses, such as compostable packaging or enhanced diversion programs. Improve communications about waste impacts on the park.



Fig. 3-12 Park Facility Opportunities



Park Management Facilities

Facilities should be distributed throughout the park to optimize access and locate resources where they are needed. Centralized facilities should be discouraged to reduce transportation and operational constraints within the park. Design of facilities should demonstrate leadership in sustainability and resilience. Facilities should appear invisible to park visitors and support the overall character of the park.

Parks Maintenance Facility. Explore consolidation of the current Parks Works Yard with facilities at IWTP to reduce the footprint and impacts within the Centre Island Meadow/Wildlife Sanctuary ESA. Prioritize reuse and modernization of existing facilities over constructing new structures to support overall sustainability objectives.

Park Depots. Operate smaller-scale facilities at discreet locations throughout the park to reduce space pressures on the Parks Maintenance Facility. Optimize spaces for the demonstrated needs of the area. Consider opportunities to integrate small structures to provide weather protection and staff facilities. Depots may function as drop points for materials and park waste. Service depots regularly in off-peak hours to reduce storage needs and potential conflicts with park visitors.

Reduce Parking and Vehicle Reliance. Co-locate parking areas for servicing vehicles with Park Depots. Design parking to prioritize green fleet improvements. Parking areas should be screened and not publicly accessible. Opportunities to integrate green infrastructure, such as permeable paving, should be explored to reduce the ecological impacts of paved areas within park management areas.

Recommendations:

PROJECT/INITIATIVE

Enhance Nature-Based Education and Advocacy:

- Explore opportunities to expand partnerships to deliver nature-based public programming and education within the park, including Indigenous teachings and land-based practices.
- Identify opportunities to expand partnerships with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, educational institutions, and allied organizations to contribute to park management.
- Identify trail-based interpretive and educational opportunities in alignment with park-wide interpretive strategy and management plan recommendations.
- Coordinate with Island Communications Plan and Island Charter to build awareness about management practices used within the park.
- Leverage the care and use of park spaces as an interpretive layer to share the ecological significance of the Island.

Develop Island Charter:

- Co-create social protocols to support the stewardship, education and advocacy for the natural environment of the Island.
- Develop communications to support inclusive and safe use of the park for vulnerable communities.
- Integrate with wayfinding and digital sign implementation to ensure consistent information is available across multiple sources and media.
- Integrate with park website upgrades to support accessible and engaging communications.

Demonstrate Leadership in Park Sustainability:

- Develop Island-specific design standards and protocols to support ongoing reporting and performance monitoring.
- Review facilities within the Centre Island Meadow/Wildlife Sanctuary ESA to reduce operational footprint and identify opportunities to restore and buffer sensitive habitats.
- Explore opportunities to relocate management facilities and uses to optimize operations, build redundancy and resilience, reduce vehicle reliance, and minimize conflicts with park users.
- Identify opportunities to modernize resources and facilities to develop an Island-specific approach to vehicle and equipment sustainability and performance.
- Leverage City fleet modernization policies to introduce zero-emissions service vehicles scaled to the needs of the Island and reduce the need to transport service vehicles on the ferries.

PROCESS

- Ensure construction of new structures and renovations support the City's *Biodiversity Strategy* and *Green Development Standards*.
- Conduct regular reviews of park management facilities to optimize footprint and facility needs, including seasonal staffing changes to reflect changes in Island programming.
- Identify opportunities to integrate resilience and nature positive practices, including low intensity, non-mechanical, non-chemical and passive land management and naturalization of open lawn spaces, into park management and operations.
- Leverage park operations facilities to test and demonstrate sustainable practices and reduce impacts on the park's natural systems.

3.4 Enhancing Visitor Experience



Strategies supporting the Enhancing Visitor Experience goal

Through extensive engagement, the following considerations have been identified as key to support enhancing the visitor experience of spaces and services on the Island:

- ▶ Create unparalleled ways for visitors to experience and explore the Island that leverage the character and identity of the park;
- ▶ Invest in programming, services, and spaces to meaningfully inform and assist visitors with learning about and enjoying the park; and
- ▶ Celebrate the diverse and dynamic stories and spaces of the Island.

Four strategies are explored over the following pages to support the enhancement of the visitor experience within the park.



3.4.1 Programming + Events

Description:

Programming and events within the park have traditionally focused on the summer months. Opportunities to expand ongoing programming and special events should focus on supporting the four-season experience of the Island and identifying partnerships that enhance and invest in the park over time. Opportunities to partner with Indigenous communities and Indigenous-led businesses in the development and delivery of tourism services that reflect the Indigenous significance of the park should also be supported.



Objectives:

Build On Successes. Celebrate and continue to invest in the spaces that make the park a destination. Target improvements to enhance spaces and respect the park's natural character. Align programming and services with expansion of four-season park experiences and access.

Connect to City Experiences. Explore opportunities to collaborate with community festivals, events and programming throughout the city to deliver Island-scaled experiences. Consider co-program opportunities with other waterfront partners to support a vibrant culture across the city's waterfront.

Prioritize Island-Scaled Activation. Develop an Island events strategy to inform protocols to host events within the park. Identify suitable spaces for events that minimize impacts on natural areas and established park uses. Consider events that align with the values and character of the park. Align existing permit procedures with master plan goals—including protecting the natural environment of the park as a priority.

Prioritize Community Uses. Support opportunities to hold community programming or events on the Island. Work with community to identify suitable spaces, sizes, and operational practices (including ferry and resource scheduling improvements) that help plan, reduce barriers, mitigate impacts and respect the character of the park.

Integrate Art. Use art to enhance the experience of the park through all seasons. Encourage installations that share the layered history of the park and cultural significance of park spaces. Consider art (temporary and permanent) as a way to program and activate park spaces. Encourage installations that respond to and respect unique site conditions and views within existing active park areas.

Provide Consistent Information. Make information about the Island easy to access and consistent. Develop a coordinated communications strategy for the Island to align website, public information, and wayfinding to help visitors plan their visit and find what they need.

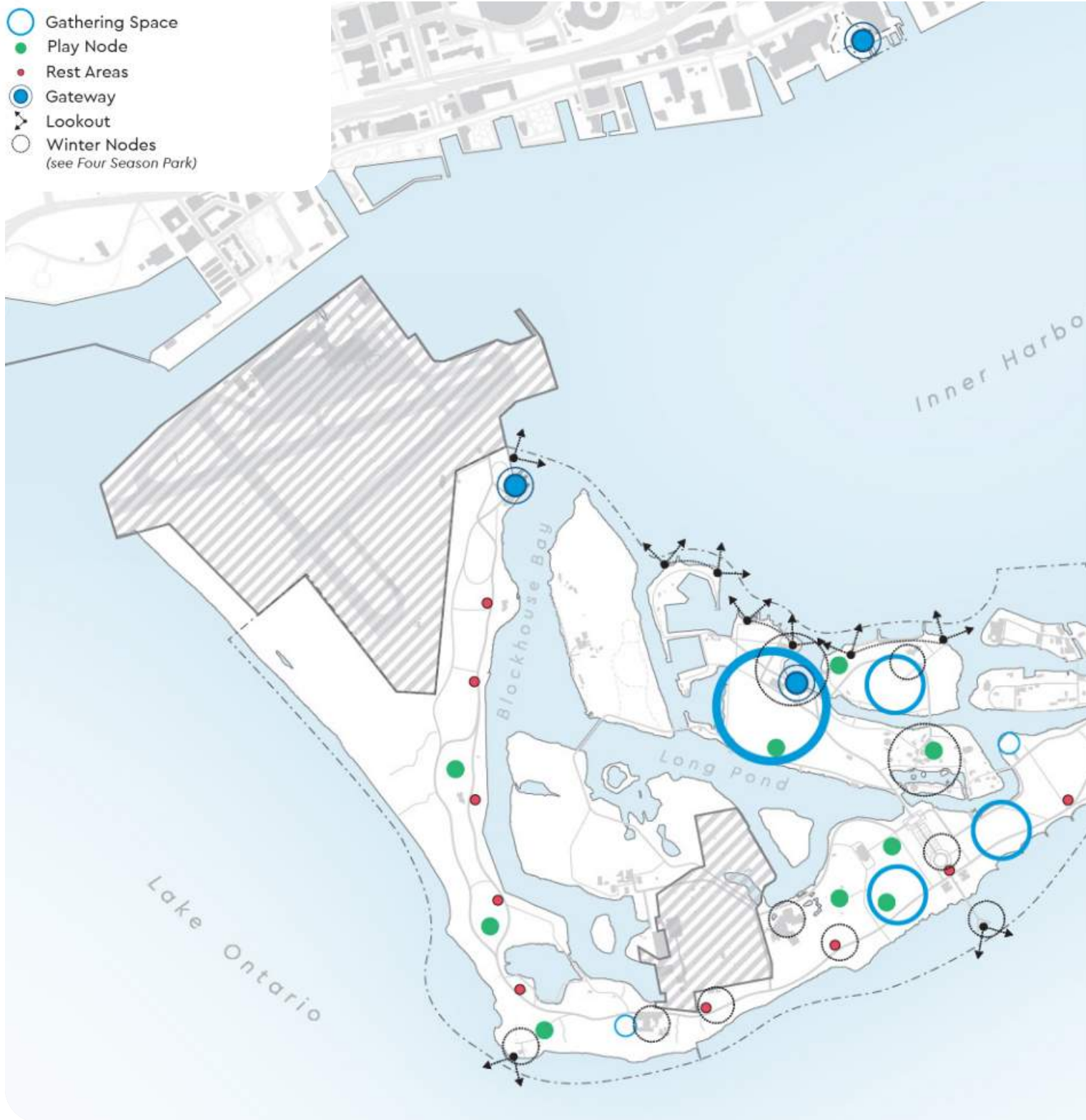


Fig. 3-13 Activation Node Opportunities



Activation Nodes

Destinations for specific activities or programming exist throughout the park in various forms from small nodes to larger park areas. Their size and use should reflect the character and ecological function of their surrounding park and may differ from the types described here.

Where possible, program areas should demonstrate flexibility and universal accessibility to support adaptive park uses and address the dynamic nature of the Island. Opportunities to support four-season activities within program areas should be informed by the ecological character, proximity to other park uses and access.

Gathering Space. Significant spaces at key intersections, gathering places should be designed to accommodate varying scales of community gatherings and small-scale activation. The context and proximity of the gathering space to sensitive ecologies should dictate the scale and program of the place.

Play Node. Engaging stops along pathways and at rest areas to encourage exploration throughout the park. Spaces may include playful elements (e.g., swings, balance beams, hammocks, etc.) or natural features (e.g., mounds, boulders, etc.) that appeal to a wide range of ages and abilities.

Rest and Seating Area. Integrate seating, shade (either from trees or shelter), lighting and access to drinking water as basic elements. Consider additional seating and shelter where integrated with stops on the Island Transportation Network. All seating within the park should prioritize accessibility and comfort for a variety of ages, abilities, and sizes.

Gateway. Use gateways to signal arrival to the Island (e.g., at landings), major destinations or meeting points, or at transitions between distinct park areas. Embed wayfinding and navigation cues as well as interpretive narratives and knowledge sharing to enhance program opportunities at gateways. Gateways should respond to their context and may include built elements, public art or plantings to contribute to placemaking and placekeeping.

Lookout. Create opportunities to leverage key views along shorelines and within the park. Lookouts should contribute to the experience of the park and create opportunities to interact with or view shorelines. Integrate interpretive material to communicate unique conditions, habitats and natural features or interesting information about the park's history or cultural significance.



Recommendations:

PROJECT/INITIATIVE

Upgrade Park Visitor Services:

- Prioritize improvements to the park's digital presence through revised park website and online resources supporting trip and activity planning.
- Develop interpretive content to support visitor experience.
- Integrate digital and physical interpretive and information content park-wide through wayfinding, programming and service delivery.

Develop Island Ambassador Program:

- Integrate visitor information services and facility improvements with investments in staff to serve as ambassadors for the Island.
- Locate staff at enhanced information centres and throughout the park to help visitors to the Island.
- Leverage opportunities for staff to contribute to interpretive experiences within park.

Coordinate Island Communications:

- Develop consistent package of resources and recognizable visual identity aligned with established City branding to promote consistent look and feel for use across all communications and throughout the park.
- Coordinate wayfinding and park website improvements in an overall communications strategy.

Support Island-scaled Events and Programming:

- Develop Island Events Strategy, including guidelines for appropriate sizes and types of events, to inform decision-making and operations related to events for the Island.
- Engage Island communities and partners in development of guidelines, programming and spaces to support Island activation.
- Coordinate programming and events planning throughout the park and waterfront to create experiences that extend across the Island and encourage exploration to new destinations.
- Develop public-facing Community Calendar to help plan, coordinate, and share events and activities across the park.

PROCESS

- Ensure programming, events, and temporary activations throughout the park align with over-arching interpretive themes to create connected experiences, seasonal variety, and unique opportunities to explore the park year-round.
- Ensure special events and programming are coordinated with general activation across the park year-round.
- Support implementation of the City's *Public Art Strategy* within the park considering both temporary and permanent installations across the Island that are Island specific and consider interaction with their park and the public.
- Ensure character, scale, and facilities for a program areas respond to adjacent park context and needs while minimizing impacts to the natural environment.



3.4.2 Interpretation

Description:

The complex history of the islands as a natural environment, a place of ceremony and healing for Indigenous peoples, and a refuge makes it an ideal place to develop a land-based practice of commemoration, interpretation and storytelling. Diverse Island stories should be represented through a variety of media, both permanent and temporary, and include exciting and thought-provoking displays and methods of communication through flexible spaces and programming.

Interpretive material for the park should be planned as open-air and immersive experiences that encourage visitors to explore and learn as they move through the islands, both on land and water through a layered and coordinated four-season strategy.

Objectives:

Celebrate Natural Heritage. Share stories and information about the natural spaces, wildlife, restoration and management practices that can be experienced across the islands and waterways. Share the significance of the Island's role within regional and local ecological systems.

Storytelling Through Activities and Art. Design spaces and use art to support creative storytelling about the park. Consider opportunities to link spaces as part of interpretive experiences. Explore the use of performance or cultural programming to contribute to storytelling on the Island.

Share Indigenous Knowledge. Engage with Elders, Knowledge Holders, and practitioners to co-develop programming to share traditional knowledge. Explore opportunities to support sharing of traditional land-based teachings and cultural programming throughout the park and considering an ongoing coordinated approach.

Explore Digital Storytelling. Explore developing digital resources to enhance interpretation and storytelling within the park. Identify opportunities to build on existing resources and experiences to improve digital access to information (such as the Island Stories campaign, or Toronto Island Guide app).



Fig. 3-14 Interpretive Route Opportunities



Interpretive Routes

The Island is a large park with many unique and significant spaces and features. Interpretive routes should be informed by cultural heritage and interpretive studies to share stories of the lands, waters, wildlife, and communities of the Islands. Interpretive routes can take a variety of forms and should explore opportunities to layer information to reflect the complexity and significance of the park for diverse interests and worldviews.

Cultural Narrative Trail Layered Storytelling.

Storytelling along the Cultural Narrative Trail should share both Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge. Explore opportunities to integrate maritime, settler, ecological, and cultural teachings within the overall interpretive framework for the trail. Leverage diverse perspectives to present contrasting and complementary dialogues throughout the Island.

Trout Pond Boardwalk (1). Design route to provide views within the area but avoid critical habitats. Consider blinds, elevated platforms and seasonal closures to complement interpretive narrative. Use physical signs and digital resources to integrate education and advocacy about the ecological value, sensitivity, function and management of Trout Pond and the surrounding area. Explore partnerships with Toronto schools (including the Island Public/Natural Science School) and public outdoor education programs or citizen science groups and community organizations to enhance experience and programming.

Lagoon Loop (2). Explore the complex and layered conditions of Long Pond and the surrounding islands from ecological and cultural perspectives including untold stories about the importance of the waterways and landforms as well as the wildlife and communities they

support. Consider lookouts and turnaround points to support gradual implementation and seasonal closures of the route. Explore connections at secondary routes and water access to explore beyond the loop.

North Shore Trail (3). Promote public access and provide diverse opportunities for visitors to engage with the waters along the harbour edge of the park. Explore segments from the Toronto Island Marina to Centre Landing, along the north shore of Olympic Island, along the northwest edge of Algonquin Island and from Ward's Landing to the Eastern Channel. Consider opportunities to highlight key views, events, and conditions through the use of lookouts and shoreline conditions, coordinated with flood mitigation infrastructure improvements. Explore opportunities to work with Indigenous communities and Island stakeholders to present diverse perspectives and expand access along the entire north shore of the park.

Ward's Loop (4). Leverage the looped trail to share the ecological and cultural significance of Ward's Island, both as a community and the former peninsula connected to the Port Lands. Design the route to minimize impacts on the Ward's Island residential area and ESA. Consider a connection through the Ward's Island Beach ESA to reduce trampling within the dunes and provide education and advocacy opportunities for the unique Island environments. Leverage pathway improvements along Lakeshore Ave. and within the ESA to connect the Eastern Channel and stories about the port.



Recommendations

PROJECT/INITIATIVE

Undertake Island Interpretive Strategy:

- Support ongoing development of living history projects and formal cultural heritage studies.
- Develop consistent approach to document and share diverse experiences and information about the park Island-wide.

Celebrate Island Character:

- Leverage cultural heritage studies and Interpretive Strategy to inform development of a coordinated identity for the park.
- Use thematic trails, art and cultural markers to share diverse stories and reinforce the identity of the Island, its natural heritage, and wildlife in all seasons.

Develop Digital Interpretive Experience:

- Explore a variety of digital approaches to supplement and enhance physical wayfinding, storytelling and knowledge-sharing on the Island.

PROCESS

- Identify Island-specific naming protocols based on City commemoration policies and in support of the City's Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Integrate interpretive elements, including cultural markers, as part of a comprehensive approach to storytelling about the park.
- Update interpretation to align with ongoing cultural heritage and natural heritage studies.



3.4.3 Four-Season Park

Description:

The Island is a place that can be enjoyed at any time of year but expanded support through facilities, park amenities, and activation are needed to turn the Island into a year-round destination. Programming considerations should embrace the seasonal change throughout the park. Washrooms and visitor amenities need to be available at all seasons and activation nodes and designed and planned to operate through winter.

Objectives:

Prioritize Year-round Access. Explore off-peak access improvements to create year-round experiences on the Island. **Identify opportunities to provide seasonal access in diverse spaces throughout the park to support a variety of four-season uses.**

Communicate Seasonal Access. Use communications about temporary or seasonal access impacts (such as nesting season) to support awareness about the natural processes of the park. Share information about year-round access and activation with park visitors.

Activate Beyond Summer. Explore four-season programming and activation for the park in alignment with service improvements. Prioritize programs and events outside summer to support park experiences in all seasons.

Modernize Facilities. Prioritize improvements of park facilities at Winter Activation Hubs and to support sustainable activation of the park. Leverage upgrades to improve the overall sustainability and resilience of the park year-round.

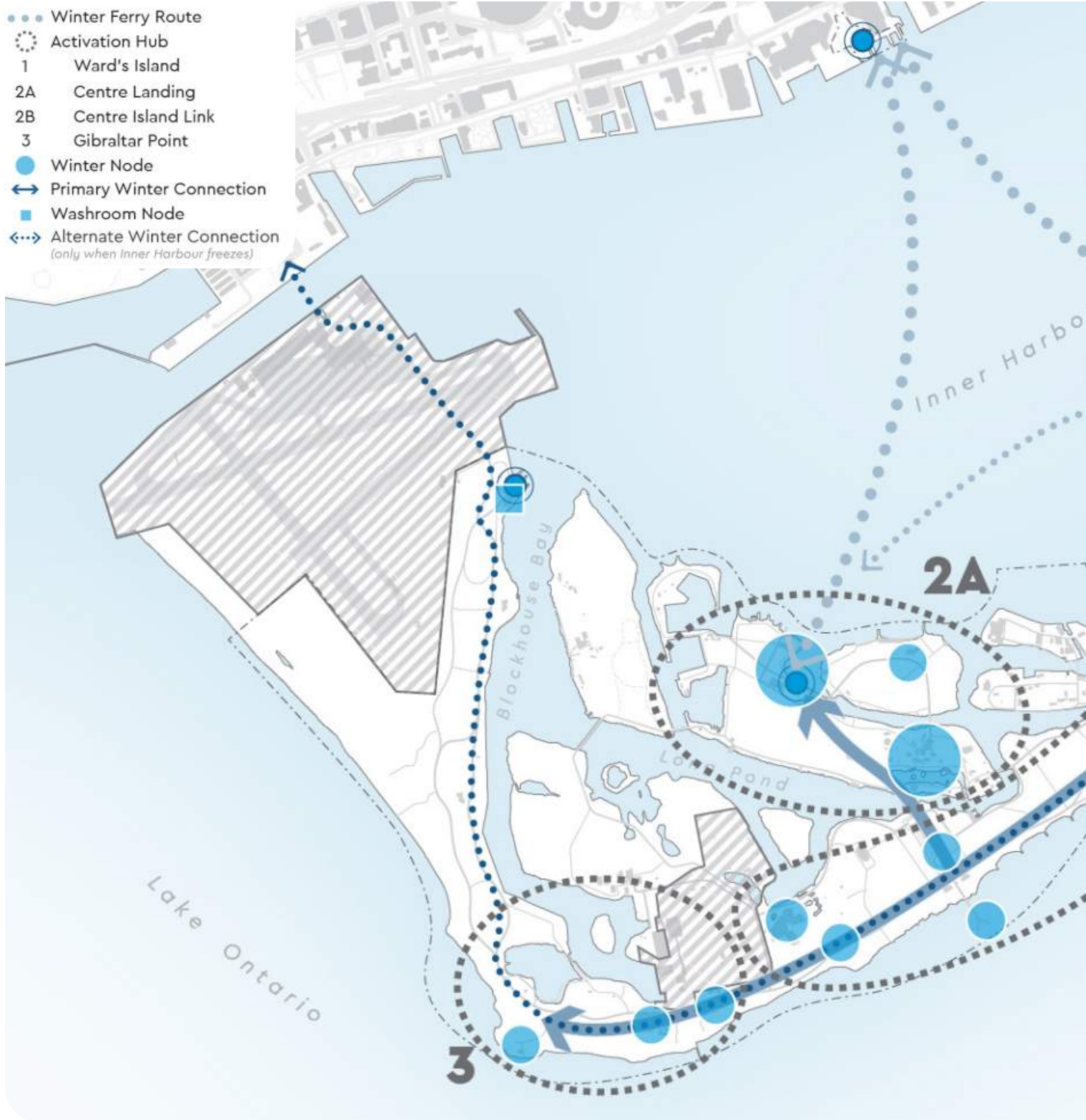
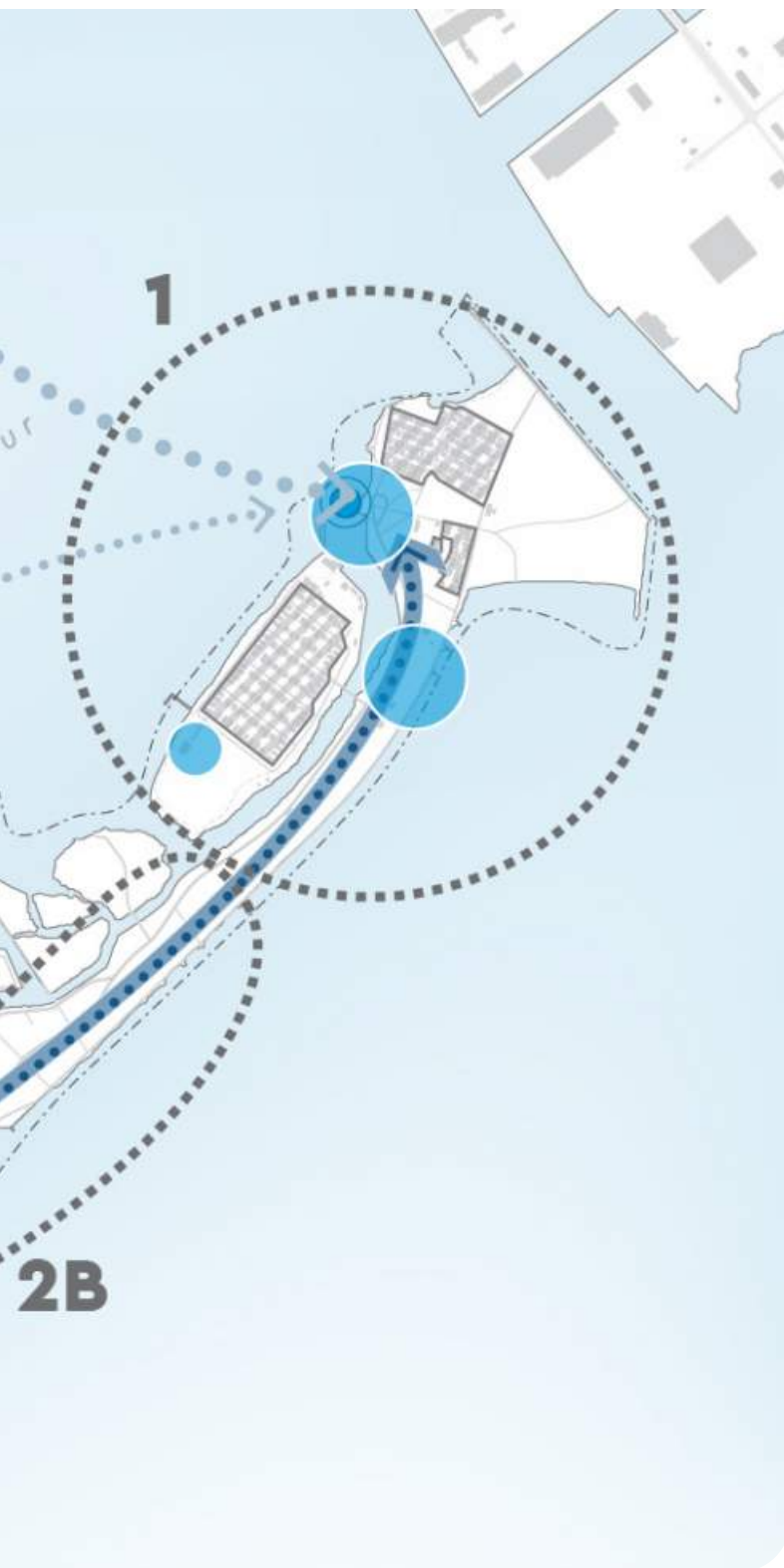


Fig. 3-15 Winter Activation Opportunities



Plan for Winter Activation

To ensure an enjoyable and reliable experience for visitors to the park, winter activation and programming should be linked to locations where winter shelter and existing facilities suitable for off-peak seasonal uses can be supported. Progressive expansion should consider ferry service, opportunities to build programs gradually, test capacity and interest over several seasons, and adapt and innovate services and program delivery at various scales.

Ward's Island Activation Hub (1). Leverage existing ferry service and opportunities at Ward's Landing to introduce winter activities and limited programming to the Island in a coordinated way. Benchmarking and monitoring winter uses should be explored to focus efforts, identify ongoing needs and monitor program success. Consider opportunities that can be scaled to respond to seasonal conditions or coordinated events.

Centre Island Activation Hubs (2A/2B). If year-round ferry service expands to Centre Landing, coordinated programming and services to support winter use should be explored. A revitalized Centre Landing should consider winter opportunities within the updated facilities and potential activation at Centreville and Olympic Island. Facilities such as a skating rink or trail could provide a unique waterfront experience and attract visitors to the park in winter. If Centre Landing develops as a winter destination, activation could expand to include lakefront areas and links to the Ward's Island Hub.

Gibraltar Point Activation Hub (3). Winter activation and programming may extend as far as Gibraltar Point and explore opportunities to experience the spaces at the point including Gibraltar Point Lighthouse and Trout Pond.

Recommendations:

PROJECT/INITIATIVE

Enhance Year-round Experience at Ferry Landings:

- Support four-season programs and use including access to park services, facilities, and shelter (including warming).
- Align improvements at landings with on-going flood mitigation work and ferry fleet replacement projects.
- Integrate information sharing, including wayfinding, navigation and park programming.
- Explore expanded food, beverage, retail and rentals.
- Develop approach to signage and public communications to support closures.

PROCESS

- Concentrate winter activities at park locations and winter activation hubs that include access to staff, critical services, warming and shelter.
- Integrate planning for seasonal access within park management and activation.
- Identify staffing needs and operational considerations for all projects within Activation Hubs to support four-season experiences throughout the park.
- Provide clear communications, online and in the park, to identify temporary service disruptions or amenity closures and build awareness to inform and educate visitors on the importance of habitat protection and cycles of the natural systems of the park.

3.4.4 Park Amenities

Description:

Visitors need to feel confident that the Island's amenities will support their visit. Clear communications about what services and amenities are available at various times of year and at various island locations is critical to supporting consistent and quality experiences on the Island.

Objectives:

Adapt to Changing Visitor Needs. Expand concessions, retail, and park services to align with four-season park use. Introduce scalable options that respond to seasonal programming. Cluster activities and offerings at hubs to optimize service delivery. Prioritize opportunities that adapt existing structures to additional uses or expand seasonal options.

Revitalize and Reinvest. Prioritize amenity upgrades to leverage what already works. Prioritize improvement to services and offerings that are unique to the park or support ongoing resilience and sustainability objectives. Ensure cycling facilities are consistent across the park and meet the expanding needs for park visitors. Locate cycling support features (such as racks, repair stations, and water filling stations) at key destinations. Explore expanded bicycle rental options park-wide. Cluster amenities to leverage existing infrastructure and minimize disturbance.

Prioritize Choice and Flexibility. Provide diverse and equitable food options and experiences within the park. Support options that can easily scale and relocate to meet seasonal needs. Consider short-term agreements to support pop-ups and pilots allowing independent businesses to access the Island.

Create Safe and Comfortable Spaces. Ensure site furnishings support a consistent park-wide character and function. Design spaces to consider universal accessibility, micro-climate, planting and safety at all landings and into the park. Explore lighting improvements park-wide to support safety year-round. Address infrastructure limitations (including communications) to support safe and convenient experiences throughout the park in all seasons.



Fig. 3-16 Enhanced Rental Opportunities



Enhanced Rentals

Throughout the park, rentals should be used to improve accessibility and reduce barriers to exploring the park. Prioritize multi-location networks for services and rentals to encourage consistency across the park. Explore opportunities to provide affordable rentals and equipment lending through partnerships and alternate funding models.

Recreational Bicycle Rental Network. Expand the existing recreational network to multiple locations across the park. Explore opportunities to rent at one location and return to another to reduce pressures at existing rental locations.

Point-to-Point Bicycle Rental Network. Consider opportunities to integrate within larger city networks, such as Toronto Bikeshare. Locate docking stations at consistent intervals and in reasonable proximity to destinations throughout the park. Ensure locations at ferry landings are clearly visible and minimize conflicts with pedestrians. Explore a variety of bike types (including pedal-assist and cargo bikes).

Watercraft Rental Network. Expand existing watercraft rentals to create a coordinated network. Coordinate rental locations with nearby water-based and park infrastructure (such as docks, showers, and washrooms). Explore opportunities to develop a point-to-point watercraft system to support alternate movement through the park and consider integration with other harbour sites.

Equipment Rentals. Provide rental locations throughout the park, especially at beaches. Equipment should vary based on location and reflect nearby uses and needs. Equipment rentals should prioritize items that can reduce waste and improve operations and sustainability for the park.

- Landing Hub
- * Seasonal (No Winter Service)
- Rental Hub
- Concession + Washroom
- Washroom



Fig. 3-17 Park Amenity Opportunities



Amenity Hubs

Amenities should be clustered to minimize impacts on the park and create destinations to support programming within the park. Integrate shelter within all amenity hubs to support year-round use of the park.

Landing Hub. Located at each ferry landing, each hub should include visitor information, rental, concession, and washroom facilities. Additional program opportunities, such as retail or interpretive spaces, may be considered. Landing hubs should be four-season facilities. Until consistent four-season ferry service can be supported, seasonal facilities and programming should be maintained at landing hubs. Hanlan's Landing may remain a seasonal space.

Rental Hub. Located at key locations throughout the park, rental hubs should include rentals, concession, and washroom facilities. Rental hubs may include visitor information, but at a smaller scale than landings. Rental hubs should be four-season facilities to support year-round activation of adjacent areas, with offerings adapting to seasonal needs.

Concession + Washroom. Prioritize adaptive re-use of existing concession stations throughout the park. Develop a seasonal food and beverage strategy for the park that leverages mobile (e.g., food trucks, carts, etc.) or temporary locations as part of the larger vendor procurement modernization exercise for the Island. Provide improved access to food and reliable washroom facilities. Refurbish existing facilities to provide year-round facilities.

Washroom. Locate close to destinations and distributed across the park to support a consistent level of service. New washroom structures should support year-round use. Opportunities to integrate low-impact or off-grid facilities in or near sensitive areas to mitigate impacts of conventional servicing should be prioritized.

Bike Facilities. Coordinate with other circulation and rental improvements. Provide places to lock and repair bikes near gateways to park features. Distribute parking over several locations near popular destinations with clear signage directing visitors between sites.

Water Filling Stations. Install at destinations throughout the park. Consider bottle-filling, drinking fountain, and dog-bowl configurations, as required, based on the programming and activation requirements of the area. Stations should be designed to function year-round and support seasonal programming.

Park Facility Enhancements

Enhancements throughout the park should take a light-touch approach. The existing character of the park should be enhanced through intentional improvements to facilities. Considerations for impacts to cultural landscapes and heritage structures should be assessed holistically as part of ongoing efforts to respect and respond to the park's intrinsic character. Restoration of existing structures should be prioritized where it can support the established character of the park and reduce impacts on surrounding park spaces and natural environments.

New structures, either enclosed buildings or open shelters, should be designed to respond to the context of their surroundings. New structures should reflect the park character while supporting an overarching utility and responding to their direct context.

Bathing Structures. Purpose-built bathing facilities or showers should be considered for exterior or interior applications that can be linked to the seasonal use of the beaches.

Park Pavilions and Shade Structures. Explore new pavilion structures that meet or exceed City requirements for sustainability and resilience. Where wind protection and winter shelter is not a priority, consider open-air structures.

Visitor Information. Prioritize locations at all landings. Adapt size, staff resources, and program support to identified needs at each location. Coordinate visitor information facilities within a new Welcome Centre at Centre Landing to serve as a four-season hub.

Multi-Purpose Park Buildings. Multi-purpose park buildings should adapt to diverse and changing program needs, possess timeless design aesthetic and build on the character of existing park pavilions. Ensure facilities support four-season use and basic amenities (washrooms, shelter). Consider suitability of concessions, retail, rentals, interpretive and visitor information based on site context. Explore opportunities for an Island Welcome Centre at Centre Landing, a four-season pavilion at Gibraltar Point and enhanced washroom and visitor pavilion at Ward's Landing. Explore adaptive reuse of heritage structures elsewhere in the park to bridge gaps in services.

Recommendations:

PROJECT/INITIATIVE

Expand Food and Beverage Services:

- Improve access to affordable and diverse food and beverage options park-wide.
- Explore updates to procurement processes, locations and seasonal options to support Island character and master plan goals throughout the park.
- Embed waste reduction measures with procurement updates to support sustainability in park services.

Create an Island Welcome Destination:

- Explore development of a welcome centre on the Island to support expansion of programming.
- Identify space needs to staffing for four-season programming and facility optimization park-wide.
- Consider opportunities to integrate administrative uses with visitor services to support year-round uses.
- Ensure structure is scaled to suit the character of the park and optimized to provide critical amenities for the park.

Enhance Park Facilities and Infrastructure:

- Coordinate improvements to support winter activation hubs and four-season program planning.
- Develop Island specific design standards for site furnishings and lighting to ensure a coordinated implementation.
- Prioritize opportunities to renovate, adapt, or re-purpose existing facilities to support expanded year-round use.
- Align opportunities to mitigate future flood impacts through park facility improvements, such as revitalizing Olympic Island as a community gathering space.
- Integrate improvements to supporting infrastructure, such as cellular or WiFi coverage, as part of expansion planning for four-season activation and enhancing safety on the Island.

Expand Rental Offerings:

- Expand bike rental services, including recreational and point-to-point options, to multiple locations throughout the park.
- Explore feasibility of expanded water-based rental programs and locations to promote use of internal waterways to explore the park.

PROCESS

- Prioritize the use of consistent forms, natural materials and durable finishes to minimize maintenance requirements and support a cohesive park character and experience.
- Ensure designs of new structures reflect the established design aesthetic, character and scale of the park and heritage assets, as well as reflect recommendations of applicable heritage impact assessments and conservation plans.
- Integrate approaches and elements that support habitat creation for specific wildlife (e.g., bird nesting, perches, etc.) as part of new structures to support and enhance natural heritage functions within active and natural areas of the park.
- Promote flexible use and universal accessibility in all park amenities.
- Integrate rental network planning with park programming and activation to create mobility options that support and enhance activity throughout the park.
- Ensure waste management practices to support expanded food offerings and initiatives to reduce waste or divert it from landfill are easy to understand and follow for vendors and visitors.

3.5 Elevating Equity and Belonging



Strategies supporting the Elevating Equity and Belonging goal

The following considerations have been identified in support of equitable access and representation across the Island:

- ▶ Create a welcoming and inclusive space year-round;
- ▶ Celebrate the layered history and significance of the Island for many communities, as well as diverse experiences and worldviews of Island visitors; and
- ▶ Ensure affordable access to spaces and services throughout the park.

Three strategies are identified over the following pages to address the need for equity and a sense of belonging for all communities on the Island.



3.5.1 Equity

Description:

The Island should be a place that anyone can enjoy, regardless of the age, ability, what communities they belong to, or how they identify. Part of that comes from how visitors access and interact with services, staff, and spaces. It is also informed by who is able to access the spaces. The Island should be a place where procedures and services are simple to navigate, open, and intuitive. Protocols should alleviate barriers for people who may not have detailed knowledge of the Island.

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Living life to the fullest sense.

- Mary Siisip Geniusz

Revealing an Indigenous

Place: We have heard about how our actions need to come from a place of respect for all our relations. That we need to consider reciprocal benefits for not just the communities we identify with but all living beings. This informs equitable use not just for humans, but also needs to consider the rights of beings that cannot represent themselves within our decision making processes: the plants, animals, land, water, and sky.



Objectives:

Address Representation. Engage members from diverse communities in decision making through community advisory and working groups. Create diverse spaces to attract and support independent vendors, service providers, and artists to operate across the park. Co-develop cultural markers with communities to help identify spaces of significance. Integrate digital and physical elements supporting multiple languages in wayfinding and interpretation to enhance inclusion and cultural sharing in the park.

Relieve Economic Barriers. Identify and reduce factors limiting experiences on the Island for all visitors. Promote affordable and partner-supported programs and services throughout the park. Explore processes to attract diverse, independent operators to Island spaces. Improve access to and distribution of picnic areas, shelters and BBQs to support gathering on the Island.

Collaborate Through Management. Engage with Rights Holders, Indigenous communities, community organizations, schools, and the public (including Island residents) to identify ways to care for the Island collaboratively. Explore co-management of ceremonial spaces with Indigenous communities to ensure respect for cultural protocols.

Prioritize Community Well-being. Ensure the park is welcoming and safe for any visitor. Prioritize opportunities to address community safety throughout the park using a wellness and harm reduction protocol. Engage with community service providers to inform a Community Safety Plan for the Island. Identify operational considerations that support safety for vulnerable park users and emergency protocols.

Recommendations:

PROJECT/INITIATIVE

Expand Opportunities for Engagement and Collaboration with Communities:

- Engage Island communities in meaningful and on-going ways through standing advisory body.
- Encourage diverse representation and broad perspectives to inform ongoing implementation of the master plan over time
- Identify opportunities to collaborate with communities and agencies on the management of park spaces.

Develop Community Safety Plan:

- Engage communities to develop and deliver park-wide community safety plan that prioritizes well-being and safety for vulnerable users.
- Coordinate approach to address visitor and community safety throughout the park.
- Explore creation of specially-trained Island Ambassador positions and community partnerships to help deliver harm reduction and support services in specific areas of the park to promote well-being and belonging throughout.

Enhance Affordability of Island Experiences:

- Prioritize affordability for programming, services and products offered on the Island.
- Identify partnerships with community organizations and programs (such as the Toronto Public Library's Museum + Art Pass program) to help make a trip to the park more affordable.
- Encourage diverse and affordable food options to reduce financial barriers to enjoying the Island.

PROCESS

- Explore coordinated approach to flags and cultural marker use across the Island.
- Provide access to information about the park and events in multiple languages through digital and printed resources.

3.5.2 Accessibility

Description:

The Island is a place anyone should be able to enjoy without physical barriers. The park should include opportunities to: experience the land and water; venture out on the sandy beaches or into the wilderness using pathways designed for mobility devices; hear the quiet birdsong in the middle of a wetland; or join friends for a snack break after a long morning of paddling next to an accessible boat launch. Physical accessibility should be considered for any activity.

Objectives:

Prioritize Accessible Experiences. Consider experiences that support independent and assisted active recreation opportunities, including land and on the water. Identify opportunities to partner with organizations to support existing programs, such as the Blind Sailing program. Promote activities that consider neuro-diversity and broader sensory experiences to enhance universal accessibility within the park.

Prioritize Accessible Movement. Prioritize comfortable and intuitive movement between destinations. Explore accessible movement options from the ferry landings to destinations throughout the park and integrate opportunities for interpretation as part of the experience.

Expand Accessible Equipment Lending. Explore opportunities to provide accessible equipment lending and staffing throughout park to suit the activities of the immediate surroundings. At beach locations, consider mobility devices that can operate on sand and in the water. Prioritize options for accessible movement around the park beginning at landings.

Create Accessible Spaces. Ensure new and enhanced facilities meet the City's design standards for accessibility. Design new pathways and bridges to alleviate physical obstacles to exploring the park. Where adapting significant heritage features, ensure accessibility improvement are informed by an understanding of the cultural heritage value. Within park spaces, incorporate a variety of conditions to reflect support users of a range of ages, abilities, and sizes.

Recommendations:

PROJECT/INITIATIVE

Enhance Park-wide Accessible Movement:

- Address physical barriers to enhance movement and improve universal accessibility park-wide.
- Enhance the experiences for visitors of all abilities while they travel to and across the park.
- Include rest areas at reasonable intervals, shelters and shade, and wayfinding improvements to ensure equitable and accessible movement.

Improve Pathway Accessibility:

- Regularly assess pathways and bridges throughout the park to inform capital planning and accessibility for the park.
- Leverage pathway improvements to create new experiences for visitors of all ages and abilities.

Enhance Park Accessibility for Spaces and Services:

- Design park spaces to incorporate a variety of conditions to reflect support users of a range of ages, abilities, and sizes.
- Expand accessible equipment lending to all landings and into a variety of park spaces.
- Communicate information about available equipment including reservation opportunities and lending and return procedures through park website.
- Support lending services with staff resources to assist caregivers and independent visitors.
- Expand lending and support services to include experiences in- and on-water where possible.

PROCESS

- Develop consistent approaches to improving accessibility across a variety of unique environments on the Island in support of and in compliance with city and provincial standards and objectives.
- Encourage programs and activities throughout the park that consider people experiencing the full spectrum of visible and invisible disabilities, and not just physical limitations.
- For addressing accessibility within heritage features, ensure improvement are informed by an understanding of the cultural heritage value of the resource.

3.5.3 Cultural Heritage

Description:

The Toronto Islands are a place of deep significance and meaning for Indigenous cultures, Island residents, 2SLGBTQ+ communities and the broader city. Understanding the significance and celebrating stories should be prioritized as part of the ongoing cultural heritage work for the park. Additionally, some significance exists holistically throughout the entire landscape. Opportunities to celebrate the significance of the park should consider both an understanding of physical elements and the connections and relationships between cultures, places and the environment.

The understanding of cultural heritage is not universal and what is considered significant varies greatly between cultures. Additionally, the form of heritage interpretation should reflect the communities it references. To support respectful and meaningful processes and ensure stories reflect the voices of those documented, development of resources and histories should be co-created with the communities they reference and celebrate.

Leaving No Trace

Revealing an Indigenous Place:

Through engagement we heard that many Indigenous communities feel great pride in leaving no trace of their presence on the land. When considering history, cultural heritage, and significance of the Island to various communities we need to acknowledge that relying on the evidence of physical artifacts is not reflective of all peoples who traveled and lived within specific territories. Working with Indigenous Elders and communities to reveal their connection to a place, similar to how the Moccasin Identifier Initiative marks places of Indigenous significance using symbols from many nations, should be explored as part of heritage studies and honouring principles of treading lightly on the Island through ongoing management practices.



Objectives:

Reveal Untold Stories. As informed by the Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment (CHRA), undertake studies to identify cultural significance within the park for various communities. Expand the existing understanding of the park and support equity objectives for the park and city. Consider Traditional Knowledge studies and oral history projects (i.e. Indigenous, Island Residents, 2SLGBTQ+, etc.) to document stories in collaboration with communities. Consider opportunities to adapt existing structures for new public uses and promote the cultural heritage value and character of the park.

Celebrate Diverse Communities. Explore opportunities to share broad experiences and perspectives in complementary and coordinated approaches. Layer stories of distinct voices (such as residents and Indigenous communities) to demonstrate unique values and significance within shared park spaces. Engage with communities to identify stories and improve representation with the park's history and interpretation.

Explore Land and Water. Investigate archaeological potential within land and maritime contexts. Leverage ongoing studies to inform further cultural heritage studies about the history and significance of land and water-based uses for the Island.

Protect and Restore Existing Features. Apply best conservation practice to the park's heritage resources as they are identified. Identify priorities for protecting and designating existing structures and features in the park. Prioritize a Cultural Landscape Study for the overall park as well as independent studies for specific features and areas as recommended by the CHRA. Identify opportunities to restore and enhance existing heritage resources throughout the park. Integrate conservation protocols and heritage impact measures for any park improvement at early design stages.

Share Significance. Leverage cultural heritage studies to inform interpretation of Island heritage. Explore unique and engaging ways of sharing histories and significance across the park, both through physical elements and activation opportunities. Work with communities to identify and integrate diverse cultural significance in meaningful ways.

Recommendations:

PROJECT/INITIATIVE

Enhance Diversity in Island Heritage:

- In alignment with CHRA, undertake studies to reveal diverse histories and significance of the park and Island spaces.
- Engage with communities to identify significant stories, events, and places.
- Explore heritage within cultural landscapes and maritime contexts.
- Expand and support representation of diverse communities within heritage interpretation to create a culture of belonging and understanding on the Island.
- Leverage study findings in the development of interpretive experiences throughout the park.

PROCESS

- Existing structures should be renovated to support universal accessibility in accordance with City of Toronto and Provincial policy guidelines for public facilities and open space.
- Where modifications to existing structures or the surrounding site are required, heritage and ecological impacts to the structure and site should be assessed and mitigation measures should be identified, including but not limited to archaeological investigation prior to any excavation within the park.
- Consider existing significant cultural and natural features to inform future improvements. Consider renovation of existing structures to introduce new program and uses. Conserve heritage value of identified heritage assets through appropriate heritage studies including heritage impact assessments, conservation plans, and adaptive reuse studies.



3.6 Celebrating 2SLGBTQ+ Significance

CELEBRATING 2SLGBTQ+ SIGNIFICANCE

Approach to Hanlan's

Strategies supporting the Celebrating 2SLGBTQ+ Significance goal

Through extensive engagement, the following considerations have been identified in support of honouring the significance and value of Hanlan's Point to the 2SLGBTQ+ community:

- ▶ Recognize the ongoing importance of Hanlan's Point Beach to Toronto's 2SLGBTQ+ communities;
- ▶ Acknowledge the historic significance of Hanlan's Point Beach to 2SLGBTQ+ communities; and
- ▶ Prioritize the safety of 2SLGBTQ+ communities on Toronto Island.

The following guidance is developed as a site-specific approach and builds on recommendations and strategies within all the goals as they relate to Hanlan's Point.



3.6.1 Approach to Hanlan's Point

Description:

For more than half a century, Toronto Island Park – and particularly Hanlan's Point Beach – has been a place of refuge for Toronto's 2SLGBTQ+ communities. The history of Hanlan's Point is deeply entwined with the 2SLGBTQ+ rights movement in both Toronto and across the country. Its importance as an inclusive and welcoming space, including its designation as one of the only clothing-optional beaches in Canada, makes it a place to be celebrated and protected.

Recently, the beach and its surrounding area have suffered from the significant impacts of high lake levels and erosion, which have reduced the overall size of the beach and impacted the safety and enjoyment of beach users. Ongoing efforts to expand the clothing-optional area, enhance the ecology of the beach and dunes, and share the unique significance of Hanlan's should prioritize active and meaningful engagement with the Hanlan's communities.

The following approach draws together recommendations from the preceding strategies as well as initiatives specific to Hanlan's to ensure that the integrity of Hanlan's Point Beach as a safe space for 2SLGBTQ+ communities is both maintained and strengthened.

Objectives:

Deliver A Community-Guided Process. Inform improvements through meaningful community input. Establish a working group for Hanlan's specific improvements. Develop collaborative processes to reflect the values of the users and respect the conditions that make Hanlan's Point special. Engage beach users and communities to identify amenity improvements.

Protect Beach Ecology. Enhance the ecological function and health of the beach, dune, and vegetated buffer at Hanlan's Point Beach. Restore and expand naturalized planting. Explore development of an environmental assessment to inform and support long-term protection and potential for expansion of the beach.

Prioritize Community Safety and Well-Being.

Acknowledge the significance of Hanlan's Point Beach for 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Work with beach users to develop a Hanlan's Point Beach Safety Plan that leverages community stewardship to ensure the unique needs of 2SLGBTQ+ and nudist users are prioritized. Explore partnerships to support a harm reduction and community safety approach. Address safety concerns in beach spaces, including natural areas and along pathways, with consideration for limiting impacts on the sensitive ecologies.

Reveal Cultural Significance. Undertake a focused cultural heritage study for Hanlan's Point. Use findings to communicate the history and significance of Hanlan's Point Beach as one of Canada's oldest and most significant 2SLGBTQ+ spaces. Prioritize opportunities to share the rich significance of the area, including the Gay Day Picnic in 1971, an event deeply tied to the emergence of Canada's gay rights movement.



Recommendations:

PROJECT/INITIATIVE

- ▶ **Restore and Protect Hanlan's Point Beach Ecology:** In alignment with park-wide initiatives, enhance the function and health of the beach, dune and vegetated buffer at Hanlan's Point Beach. Explore erosion mitigation and beach restoration measures to address ongoing impacts of flooding and wave action on the beach. An environmental assessment should be considered for identifying and developing mitigation measures.
- ▶ **Enhance Community Safety:** Acknowledge Hanlan's Point as a 2SLGBTQ+ Safe Space. Develop a community safety approach specific to Hanlan's Point in collaboration with community input. Address physical site concerns to improve visitor safety and minimize habitat impacts. Identify community partners to help deliver community safety, harm reduction and support services at Hanlan's Point.
- ▶ **Reveal Cultural Heritage and Significance of Hanlan's Point:** In alignment with Island-wide initiatives, improve the recording and sharing the cultural significance of Hanlan's Point through a focused cultural heritage study. Leverage findings to inform the identification, design and implementation of cultural markers and interpretive materials. Engage Elders and communities in the identification of culturally significant park spaces.
- ▶ **Enhance Hanlan's Beach Amenities:** Expand designated clothing-optional beach boundaries. Assess beach amenities and washrooms to consider feasibility for amenity enhancements, including showers.

PROCESS

- ▶ Establish a Hanlan's Point Beach Working Group to build trust and work with community to advance implementation of improvements in an on-going capacity.
- ▶ Develop coordinated approach to restore areas of Hanlan's Point Beach from impacts of erosion and human use.
- ▶ Enhance the Island Ambassador program with a Hanlan specific Community Ambassador Program that leverages existing community groups and expertise to support community safety, harm reduction and stewardship of environmentally sensitive areas.
- ▶ Improve beach and in-water safety.
- ▶ Develop an approach within a coordinated Island Interpretive strategy to share the stories and historic importance of Hanlan's Point Beach for Toronto's 2SLGBTQ+ communities and Canada's gay rights movement.
- ▶ Engage with community to co-design art, cultural markers, and other interpretive tools to support sharing the cultural significance of Hanlan's with the broader park.

3.7 Studies to Support Future Work

The master plan identifies diverse objectives to deliver a comprehensive approach to the management and enhancement of the park. In order to realize these broad goals, additional studies have been identified to inform and coordinate individual initiatives. The studies noted below fall into three categories: ongoing studies, new studies, and updates to existing studies.

Ongoing Studies

Occur throughout the implementation of the master plan and are informed by park improvements, as identified.

Cultural Heritage Studies

- ▶ Prioritize studies based on recommendations of the CHRA.
 - ▶ Complete studies related to specific features and heritage resources identified for modification or impact in advance of design work and construction.
 - ▶ Undertake an equitable approach to documenting the significance for diverse communities and experiences.
 - ▶ Undertake informed and transparent processes for naming, renaming, and commemoration within park spaces that responds to established City policy and community initiatives to share and celebrate diverse legacies throughout the park.
-

Natural Heritage Impact Assessments

- ▶ Complete studies related to specific wildlife, natural features, and areas identified for modification or impact in advance of design work and construction.

New Studies

Occur as funding is identified or in preparation for specific park-wide improvements.

Island Charter

- ▶ Co-create social protocols to support the stewardship, education and advocacy for the natural environment of the Island and support inclusive and safe use of the park for vulnerable communities.
-

Communications Strategy

- ▶ Develop consistent package of resources and recognizable visual identity that leverages the unique character of the park and creates a consistent look and feel for use across all communications and throughout the park.
 - ▶ Integrate with wayfinding and digital sign implementation to ensure consistent information is available across multiple sources and media.
 - ▶ Integrate with park website upgrades to support accessible and engaging communications.
-

Events Strategy + Operations Plan

- ▶ Develop coordinated approach to planning and hosting events at specific sites within the park.
- ▶ Embed protocols that prioritize the ecological and operational capacities of the islands over commercial opportunities.
- ▶ Identify strategies to minimize impacts from events on daily park experience.
- ▶ Coordinate with tourism and programming partners to prioritize experiences that are suited to the character of the park.

Community Safety Plan

- ▶ Integrate outcomes from community-driven initiatives, including a proposed Community Safety Plan for Hanlan's Point Beach, into a terms of reference for a park-wide plan.
- ▶ Develop coordinated and consistent approach to community safety and well-being across the park that considers diverse experiences and Island-specific challenges.
- ▶ Integrate with Events Strategy to inform safety planning for special events and capacity of Island and waterfront resources to host large groups.

Interpretation Plan

- ▶ Coordinate themes for sharing diverse stories of the islands that complement seasonal and year-round uses, programming and activation.
- ▶ Identify strategies to collaborate with partner organizations to deliver interpretive, educational and advocacy content in consistent ways to enrich the experience and sense of belonging for island visitors.
- ▶ Identify opportunities to leverage existing heritage resources to help tell stories and share the extensive collections of artifacts already included in the City's inventory.

Updates to Existing Studies

Occur as funding is identified or as review cycles for existing policy occur. Focus on adapting existing approaches to suit Island conditions.

Island Wayfinding Strategy

- ▶ Adapt Toronto Parks and Trails Wayfinding Strategy to include new standard wayfinding approaches for natural areas and on-water navigation and wayfinding.
- ▶ Identify implementation framework to deliver wayfinding consistently across the park.

Emergency Access Strategy

- ▶ Collaborate with emergency services to develop and maintain protocols for evacuating and managing access within the park during emergencies.
- ▶ Identify capacities and shelter sites to ensure visitor, staff and resident safety when island access is limited by weather and unforeseen events.

Integrated Park Management Plan

- ▶ Review and update ESA natural heritage inventories.
- ▶ Prepare coordinated ESA management plans for each of the six designated areas.
- ▶ Adapt established park management protocols to support coordinated open space and natural area management procedures for the Island.
- ▶ Align management of park and natural spaces, including aquatic environments, with partners (such as TRCA) to deliver coordinated and collaborative improvements for habitat and ecological health of the region.
- ▶ Refine management protocols to mitigate invasive species, support re-naturalization of park spaces and improve connectivity of designated natural areas (including ESAs).
- ▶ Identify benchmark conditions and performance metrics for monitoring and restoring natural area and habitat function of Island ecologies and for evaluating impacts from park improvement proposals.