

Master Plan Overview



About the Master Plan

The Toronto Island Park Master Plan is a long-term road map that outlines a vision, defines values, establishes guiding principles, and makes recommendations to guide investment, decision-making and improvements over the next 25+ years. It will be a living document that can be adapted over time to address changing needs.

Why the Island needed a Master Plan

The City made a Master Plan to address both challenges and opportunities, including:

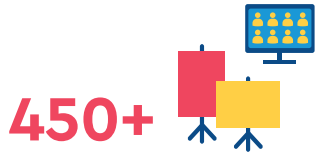
- Toronto Island's one-of-a-kind identity is uncelebrated;
- The Indigenous history and significance of Toronto Island is not well-known;
- Toronto Island is a place rich in cultural and natural heritage which is currently not well recognized;
- The Toronto Island visitor experience could be improved;
- It can be difficult to get to Toronto Island;
- Toronto Island is a dynamic environment that is constantly changing;
- Toronto Island and its supporting infrastructure are aging;
- Population growth is placing increasing demands on Toronto Island Park.

What informed the Master Plan



Engagement Snapshot

Since Spring 2021, we've heard many ideas, from thousands of Torontonians across the City and from all walks of life, who shared what they would like to see in the future of the park. Here is a snapshot of some of the engagement activities we have completed so far:



450+ participants at 2 Virtual Public Workshops, 1 Virtual Open House, and 1 in-person Open House



20 Indigenous engagement and placekeeping meetings including dialogues with First Nations, Métis and urban Indigenous communities



~580 participants in 1 in-person and 2 virtual community meetings catering to 2SLGBTQ+ community members and Hanlan's Point Beach users, followed by an Hanlan's Community Survey survey in September, 2023



+ **2,470** participants reached through discussion on ThoughtExchange



5.8+ million

people reached through social media promotion, with approx. 76,800 engagements

Ongoing engagement with Hanlan's Point Beach Community through a dedicated Working Group



12+ targeted discussions and focus groups, including those about Island's:

- Accessibility
- Natural Resources
- Flood Mitigation
- Programs and Activation
- Tourism and Events
- Infrastructure and Operations
- Cultural Heritage
- Businesses
- Hanlan's and 2SLGBTQ+ Communities & more



10 Meetings with the Technical Advisory Committee, and Community Advisory Committee including on-island and community organizations, waterfront organizations, city-wide organizations



600+ attended the Launch Ceremony, and Forums on Indigenous Placekeeping and Belonging in Parks



10 youth aged 15-27 from across the city involved in the Youth Ambassador Program, led:

- pop-ups in 3 parks, and
- 2 virtual games night

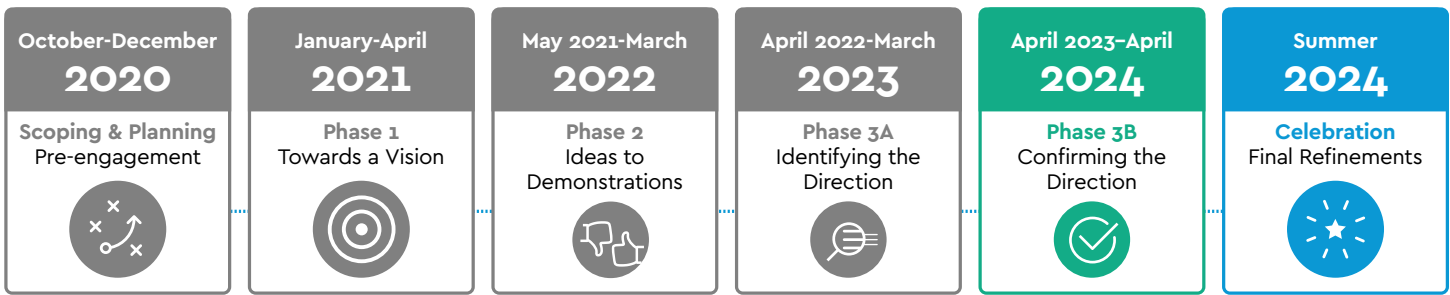


5 online engagements with a total of approx. 20,000 respondents about:

- Visioning and What's Working Well
- Big Ideas
- Draft Demonstration Plans
- Wayfinding
- Eat, Play, Explore



4+3 4 Deep Dives and 3 Indigenous Sharing Meeting on the Master Plan goals with 160+ participants



Toronto Island Park Master Plan timeline

The Engagement Process

The following is an overview of the engagement process that helped shape the Toronto Island Park Master Plan:

Scoping and Planning

The project began with pre-engagement with key audiences. It introduced the project, project team, and ask for advice on how participants wanted to be engaged in the process.

Phase 1: Towards a Vision

Phase 1 was dedicated to identifying a vision for the Master Plan and included:

- **Two** Technical Advisory Committee and the Community Advisory Committee **meetings**
- **Dialogues** with First Nations rights-holders, **three focus groups and a sharing meeting** with Indigenous audiences
- A **virtual project kick-off ceremony**
- Digital and analogue **engagement tools** for the public
- A public, virtual **visioning workshop**
- A **public forum** about Indigenous Placekeeping

Phase 2: Ideas to Demonstrations

Phase 2 began by determining the Big Ideas to focus on for the project and later refining these into Demonstrations. Engagement included:

- **Two** Technical Advisory Committee **meetings**
- **Online engagement** (tools, two surveys and an interactive map)

- A **workshop** with advisory committees
- **Dialogues** with First Nations rights-holders
- A public **workshop, forum, virtual open house** and four topic-specific **sessions**
- **Youth Ambassador Team** engaging peers
- Series of **targeted discussions**
- **Dialogues and virtual site visit** with First Nations rights-holders
- Community Advisory Committee **meetings**

Phase 3: Confirming a Direction Forward

Phase 3 focused on sharing information and seeking feedback on different topics in the emerging Master Plan. The Phase concluded by sharing the final draft Master Plan, with potential prioritization of its proposed improvements. Engagement included:

- Series of **Island Pop-Ups** for the public
- Technical Advisory Committee and Community Advisory Committee **meetings**
- **Dialogues** with First Nations rights-holders
- In-person **public open house** sharing Draft Master Plan and site-specific ideas
- **Series of meetings, online ThoughtExchange, a community workshop, survey and public meeting** for Hanlan's Island and Beach
- Indigenous **sharing meeting**
- In-person **public open house**

What we heard through...



Indigenous engagement

- Indigenous communities must be meaningfully involved in co-management, programming, and implementation.
- Ceremonial space is exciting and needs careful thinking around management, representation, and safety.
- The idea of naming and renaming is very important and must be done meaningfully.

Suggestions to:

- Make Indigenous history, identity, and living culture more visible, including through signage, interpretation, landscaping, and more.
- Create economic opportunities for Indigenous businesses.
- Create space for arts and cultural programming.



The Community Advisory Committee is composed of island, waterfront, and city-wide organizations.



The Technical Advisory Committee is composed of City and other public agency staff.



engagement with Hanlan's Point and Beach users

- Opposition to a formalized event space on Hanlan's Point (noting potential safety impacts to the 2SLGBTQ+ Community and impacts to the beach and natural environment).
- Concern about the condition of Hanlan's Point Beach as a result of high lake effect, erosion and over-crowding.
- Desire for cultural markers and interpretive elements to recognize and celebrate the significance of Hanlan's Point to the 2SLGBTQ+ Community (i.e. first pride picnic)
- Advice to preserve and protect Hanlan's ecology, especially its dunes and water.
- Apprehension towards the police and commercialization.
- Concern about 2SLGBTQ+ safety and establishing ways to improve safety at Hanlan's Point



broader engagement

- People love the park and feel that, while some things could be improved, change needs to be done sensitively and carefully.
- Support for revealing the significance of the Islands to Indigenous peoples.
- Strong desire for the Plan to focus on and prioritize the protection and restoration of ecosystems and habitats.
- There's a need to acknowledge, celebrate, and protect the significance of Hanlan's Island Beach to 2SLGBTQ+ communities.
- Advice to reduce barriers and make the park easier to visit, learn about, and get around for people of all abilities.

Interest in:

- more diverse, year-round, and cheaper food options.
- seeing the park as a year-round destination through programming and upgraded facilities (like four-seasons washrooms).

Master Plan by the numbers

- **5 km Cultural Narrative Trail** – for Indigenous storytelling and sharing Island stories.
- **4 revitalized ferry landings** with new information, Island Map, wayfinding, seating, and more.
- **Indigenous Ceremony and gathering spaces** throughout the Park
- 3.5 km of **enhanced or restored shoreline**.
- 23 Ha of **flood-protected** land.
- 4 new **all-electric ferries** with increased capacity (2 ferries in service by 2026–27).
- 2,800 tonnes of greenhouse gas **emissions removed** (once full ferry fleet is replaced).
- On-Island transportation improvements (i.e. tram and bike rentals)

Other Key Outcomes

- **Expansion of the clothing optional beach** area to include all of Hanlan's Beach from the Billy Bishop Airport to Gibraltar Point (completed in Summer 2023).
- New small-scale **non-motorized watercraft launches** in key locations.
- Well defined **portage points** and non-motorized boat-launch locations.
- Additional **four-season washrooms**, park facilities and amenities.
- **Rental nodes** with expanded rental offerings.
- Food and beverage improvements.
- New **Welcome Centre** at Centre Landing

