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# Beyond the Park

Throughout the Master Plan process several ideas and questions arose about how the Island ties into the surrounding context of the waterfront. These ideas are supported through the TOcore Downtown Parks and Public Realm policies, but are limited by the Island's exclusion from the Central Waterfront Secondary Plan that guides much of the intended revitalization of Toronto's waterfront.

While this study was limited to the boundaries of the park and territories within the purview of the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation division, the following larger city-wide moves were identified and should be considered in the on-going implementation of the Master Plan and larger city and waterfront initiatives.

## 4.1 Connections to the Mainland

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The master plan has been developed to address present-day priorities related to visitor experience and access and with consideration for the City's ongoing procurement of new electric ferry vessels. Delivery of new vessels will expand capacity to and from the Island while also aligning the fleet with the City's goals related to greenhouse gas emission reduction.

The new ferries represent a significant investment in an improved Island experience and a step forward in implementation of the Master Plan vision. Additional measures are recommended to further enhance movement across the harbour. The master plan does not propose the delivery of a new fixed link (bridge or tunnel). Such an initiative would be a generational project, requiring detailed study and analysis of site conditions and operational considerations that inform feasible design alternatives. The issues of transportation and access for the park are immediate and should not rely solely on a long-term project to improve conditions based on a hypothetical future.

In the context of any future study of a fixed connection, the following should be considered to ensure infrastructure aligns with the principles and recommendations of this Master Plan:

- ▶ Any proposed link should prioritize pedestrian and cyclist access. The park should remain a car-free environment.
- ▶ Proposed alignments should prioritize positive benefits and minimal impacts on the sensitive environments of the islands.
- ▶ Opportunities for integrating ecologically supportive design elements (habitat support, carbon-neutral materials, micro-climate mitigation, etc.) should be pursued.
- ▶ Design elements should embody the scale, context and character of the park and reflect conservation best practices for natural and cultural heritage.
- ▶ Design processes should demonstrate the values, vision, goals, and guiding principles of the master plan.

## 4.2 Marine Strategy

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In 2019, the City of Toronto, Waterfront Toronto, PortsToronto and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, began an update to the Marine Use Strategy to support the implementation of the vision for creating a more active, safe, and accessible waterfront. The Strategy highlights ways that the diverse uses of Toronto's harbour can be balanced while exploring how opportunities can be realized for people to more easily access and interact with the harbour either by water or by land.

Since the adoption of the plan in 2020, several discrete programs have advanced. First, a coordinated repair and renewal of dock wall infrastructure has been launched, prioritizing state of good repair investment in these critical components of both industrial and pedestrian infrastructure along the waterfront. More recently, a water taxi and sea-bus feasibility study has been undertaken to better understand and identify opportunities for expanding water transportation systems. These opportunities include potential pick-up and drop-off locations (kiss'n'sails) for private short-term, day-use docking sites as well as locations for public canoe and kayak storage and rental facilities.

The combined effect of these, and future, projects will be an interconnected, cohesive, and accessible water-based transportation, recreation, and commercial network anchored off-shore by the Toronto Island Park and on the mainland by the ongoing revitalization of the Central Waterfront.

The Toronto Island Park Master Plan considers the recommendations of these studies and tailors the approach in consideration of the Master Plan – Vision. One of the 6 overarching goals of the plan 'Improving Access and Connection' makes specific recommendations to tie to the Marine Strategy including the integration of expanded ferry service, establishing a dedicated service ferry, water taxi landing areas and connecting to the future vision for a on-water transportation system.





## 4.3 The Core Circle and Blue Park

The Core Circle transformative idea is identified in the Downtown Parks and Public Realm Plan, one of the five infrastructure strategies developed to implement TOcore, Toronto's Downtown Plan. The policy builds on the assets of the downtown and guides how its parks and public realm network will be expanded, improved, and connected.

The chain of Toronto Island Park, Cherry Beach and Tommy Thompson Park form the southern arc of the "Core Circle", a conceptual ring of 900 hectares of parks, buried watercourses, and ravines that collectively frame Toronto's downtown as a landscape system. Building on Toronto's identity as a "city within a park", the Core Circle seeks to connect the large landscape features of the Don River Valley, Garrison Creek, the Lake Iroquois shoreline, and the Toronto Islands into a continuous circular network of open spaces.

Recognizing that Toronto's Inner Harbour is a key component of the overall parks and public realm network that comprise the Core Circle, the Downtown Parks and Public Realm Plan also conceptualized the water between the Toronto Islands and the mainland as a park in its own right. Building on the ongoing revitalization of the Central Waterfront, the Blue Park concept envisions the Inner Harbour as a civic space that encircles the waterbody through a diverse and connected network of places.

Supporting the vision for a Blue Park includes promoting water-based recreation on Toronto's Inner Harbour and improving access to the water's edge around the Inner Harbour for pedestrians and cyclists. Access could include bridges (e.g. the bridges over the heads of slips), peninsulas and water transport connections to bring Torontonians to the water's edge, out on the lake and towards Toronto Island Park.

The projects and recommendations of the Toronto Island Park Master Plan are aligned with the vision for the Core Circle by prioritizing access to Toronto Island Park, improving wayfinding and visitor experience, and celebrating the layers of natural, Indigenous, and cultural history of this unique waterfront geography. The vision for the Blue Park by prioritizing access to Toronto Island Park, improving the shoreline condition to address erosion control, flood mitigation, habitat improvement, recreational opportunities, and visitor experience, while celebrating the layers of natural, Indigenous, and cultural history of the Island.



*Core Circle Parks concept showing Toronto Island Park as key segment around south edge of downtown Toronto. (Public Work)*

## 4.4 Wet Weather Flow Master Plan

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Supporting a water-based placemaking initiative requires investing in the water itself. To that end, Toronto has embarked on the largest and most significant storm water management program in the city's history. With a program budget of more than \$3 billion, the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan will virtually eliminate the release of combined sewer overflows and polluted water to Lake Ontario along with key infrastructure upgrades at Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant to improve system capacity.

When fully implemented, the capital investment program in cleaning up the Inner Harbour will deliver substantial benefits including improving the water quality in the Inner Harbour, improving aquatic habitat for fish and other wildlife, and reducing nutrient levels that cause excessive algae growth. Over the next 25 years, both Toronto Island Park and the waters that surround and link it together will benefit from the historic investment in Toronto's waterfront.

The projects and recommendations of the Toronto Island Park Master Plan requires the park is considered holistically in its waterfront context to integrate potential infrastructure improvements, connections, and activities that can be realized on the Central Waterfront and beyond as part of the modernization of Toronto's storm water management systems.



## 4.5 Island Water Treatment Plant Site

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The Island Water Treatment Plant (IWTP) facility sits on the site of Toronto's first water treatment plant and continues to be an integral part of the city's infrastructure and contributes to the character of the Island. The majority of the IWTP site is necessary to continue to serve its current function, but could be better integrated with the park from a program and communications perspective. Areas adjacent to the secured site could be unlocked to facilitate connections to the Lagoon Loop interpretive trail. Access from the Lagoon Loop would allow controlled access to the Parks Yard area where adaptive reuse of underutilized facilities and restoration of significant areas of the Centre Island Meadow and Wildlife Sanctuary ESA could address many goals of the Master Plan.

Existing initiatives to promote sustainability should be part of an overall sustainable technologies interpretive narrative for the Island. Interpretation should highlight partnerships with Enwave to deliver Deep Water Cooling for Toronto's downtown core and support for pilot projects and innovative technologies such as the Hydrostor A-CAES energy storage demonstration project. Opportunities to learn from facility modernization projects at IWTP and leverage the proven sustainable practices should be explored as demonstrations for improvements to city facilities to support park operations. Learnings can be shared both internally to inform project planning as well as publicly to celebrate and communicate real examples of sustainability in municipal infrastructure and city-owned properties.

### Facility Modernization

Future and ongoing projects, such as the planned development of a solar photovoltaic panel array (or farm) over the settling beds and the construction of new facilities to improve overall system resilience should be monitored and integrated within interpretive and educational programming

To ensure safe and uninterrupted operation of the critical infrastructure housed within the IWTP, the site should continue to be restricted from public access on a day-to-day basis, but opportunities to operate tours (such as for city-wide events like Doors Open) or special events may be suitable to support the interpretive efforts.

Various underutilized structures within the site and in adjacent areas pose significant opportunities for adaptive reuse and activation to enhance the park experience and create sustainable destinations within undervalued areas of the park. Where safety and security considerations are satisfied, conversion of these structures and spaces to public use should be considered.

## **Future of the Radio Towers**

Within the IWTP site and adjacent to its facilities are a series of radio towers which are leased by the city to two private broadcasters. The towers operate on older technology which may have limited application in the continued shift to digital broadcasting. Considerations for future decommissioning may be appropriate.

Given the current value of the radio towers site as habitat, natural area restoration and habitat support should be considered instead of converting the area to active park uses. The meadow marsh ecology is of unusually high quality, and creates significant opportunities for migratory bird nesting as well as shoreline and aquatic habitat conditions that could support additional waterfowl, reptile and fish species. The site may also be appropriate for demonstrating traditional land management practices on a significant and visible area of the park while still limiting access by humans to prevent trampling and disturbance.





## 4.6 Airport Lands

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The property is currently managed under a tripartite agreement with properties owned by the City of Toronto, the federal government (via Transport Canada) and PortsToronto. The 50-year lease for the commercial operation of an airport on the Island expires in 2033, and the airport's operator (PortsToronto) has expressed interest in commencing a process to review and update existing lease terms. To date, no such process nor timelines have been determined by the three signatories (City of Toronto, PortsToronto, and Transport Canada) to the airport's current lease agreement.

There are a number of important considerations to take into account as part of that future public consultation and lease review process, including: the compatibility of an airport in close proximity to several significant and impacted natural areas; and also the economic and strategic advantages for the continued operation of the airport. In alignment with current Official Plan policy, if the airport were to cease operating, it is the policy of the City of Toronto to seek conversion of the airport lands to park uses, or a combination of park and residential uses. However, this policy does not affect ownership of the airport lands, which are today approximately 20% City-owned.

In the interim, City staff continue to liaise regularly with PortsToronto and Transport Canada on the safe use and operation of the airport, and will stay closely engaged on the airport's forthcoming Master Plan update in order to coordinate and maximize compatibility between these neighbouring airport and park system uses.







## 4.7 Park Governance and Management

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Given its size and context, its role as a destination for residents and tourists alike, its ecological and cultural significance, and the number and diversity of stakeholders and program partners, Toronto Island Park is unlike any other park in the city.

As such, there are opportunities to consider improvements to how various aspects of the park are managed and how the implementation of the priorities and recommendations identified within the master plan can benefit from a more collaborative approach.

### **Any changes to park management should:**

- ▶ Acknowledge the importance of looking at the Island as a unique park with overall 'Visitor Experience' in-mind (tourist destination, economic growth etc.).
- ▶ Better address the complexity and the changing needs of the park user and the overall visitor experience.
- ▶ Prioritize the need to Invest strategically in the Park, including working with existing and future partnerships on physical and program improvements.
- ▶ Consider the establishment of:
  - ▶ *An inter-divisional (city staff) table to ensure coordinated approach to inform decision making using the vision, values and guiding principles as the touchstones for all work;*
  - ▶ *Working groups to support various island areas and interests with clearly defined and overlapping terms of reference to ensure coordination and alignment of outcomes from each group;*
  - ▶ *A structure and approach for review, prioritization, and coordination of upcoming projects (considering a variety of factors including budgetary); and*
  - ▶ *Aligned budgets and staff resources to support plan implementation and working groups*
- ▶ Support the ability of PFR to better coordinate and collaborate:
  - ▶ *Internally to implement the master plan with visitor experience as a priority; and*
  - ▶ *With new and existing partners, including lease holders.*
- ▶ Support ongoing implementation and realization of priorities of the Reconciliation Action Plan considering opportunities for co-management of identified spaces with Indigenous Rights Holders, communities, and agencies.
- ▶ Ensure ongoing protection and restoration of natural and cultural heritage resources in accordance with ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and best practices.
- ▶ Balance the need to generate revenue with other goals identified within the master plan.





# PART III: IMPLEMENTATION

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# Plan to Reality

Decisive action is required to achieve the proposed vision for Toronto Island Park. The path to implementation is an incremental process with each step building upon those before it. Certain initiatives, already underway, will generate momentum to help advance future projects.

This section identifies discrete tasks—as either a project or action—that the City and partners will carry out to implement the overall master plan vision. In addition to addressing specific goals, the tasks should support the “light touch” approach for the park. Projects should enhance the Island’s ecological processes and value through targeted and meaningful interventions. Actions should leverage sustainable practices to support the resilience of the park through policy and guidance.



## 5.1 Implementation Approach

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The improvements recommended in this section will largely proceed as a public undertaking. However, the City may choose to engage partners to assist with various aspects of any project. Specific funding and partnership arrangements will be identified through the appropriate park planning and design processes.

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### Key Considerations

#### 1. Work in a Coordinated and Strategic Way.

The City is the lead agency for Toronto Island Park, but will need to work collaboratively within its divisions and partner agencies to successfully deliver the recommendations presented in this plan. This implementation plan should be linked to City and partner work plans to ensure the efficient delivery of each project.

#### 2. Engage Working Groups and Advisory Tables.

Build on the momentum of the master plan and leverage established technical and community advisory bodies. These groups should continue to inform and shape the plan through implementation. The City should also establish an inter-divisional table composed of internal staff and allied agencies to ensure a coordinated approach to realizing the plan and operating within the park.

#### 3. Partner with Communities to Build Capacity.

Through engagement and ongoing conversations related to the master plan, several significant relationships have been developed with communities and partners both on and off the Island. These relationships should be supported to help deliver initiatives within the master plan.

#### 4. Focus Funding and Physical Improvements in Concentrated Areas.

Most of the projects will rely heavily on municipal funds to deliver the improvements to existing assets. To the project's advantage, several in-progress improvements already have funding committed. A few initial projects can go a long way to serve as the catalyst for future improvements.

#### 5. Update Regularly.

The City should revisit and update this phasing and implementation strategy on a recommended annual basis. Any changes should be done with due regard to the main principles of this Plan. The overall plan, conceived as a generational framework, should be revisited on a ten-year cycle to align with capital planning.

**6. Create Project Guidelines.** The City should develop guidelines and design strategies for the site improvements and standard features, like site furniture and lighting, using this Implementation Plan as a starting point. These guidelines should be prepared in collaboration with all project partners, including TRCA.

**7. Measure Success Over Time.** The plan has a long-term time frame, and not all projects identified will occur within the current planning horizon. Several factors will determine the pace of progress: funding availability, and changes in City and community priorities. However, the plan identifies short to mid-term priority projects and actions that the City can comfortably move forward in the coming years and coordinate with the City's 10-year Capital Improvement Plan, which is updated on an annual cycle. The City should take steps to document the successes that result from improving the initial Island projects and apply those lessons to the those that follow.

# 5.2 Priority Tasks

Each of the initiatives identified in the recommendations can be delivered sequentially or in parallel through a series of tasks. The sequencing noted here considers alignment and mutual benefits with other City initiatives to support delivery of the master plan and management of the Island through coordinated efforts.

Phasing is organized into four categories:

**Master Plan Catalysts:** Projects or initiatives that are already **underway (U)** or that can start **immediately (I)** and build momentum for future work.

**Short Term (S):** Projects or initiatives that build off existing and ongoing initiatives and set stage for later projects.

**Mid-term (M):** Projects or initiatives that build off short-term outcomes and undertake larger objectives requiring additional lead time or integrated processes.




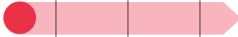
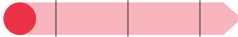
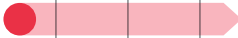

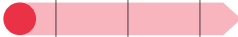
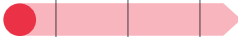


**Long Term (L):** Projects or initiatives that build off previous work and rely on integrated and complex processes that need to be coordinated. Long-term priorities may start early in the overall implementation, but full implementation will take more time than other initiatives.

The prioritization considers many factors, including:

- ▶ Project complexity and related work;
- ▶ Alignment with multiple master plan goals;
- ▶ Optimizing benefits and outcomes;
- ▶ Partnerships and opportunities to leverage collaborative work;
- ▶ Available budgets and approvals; and
- ▶ Relationship and impacts to island access and park operations.

## 5.2.1 Priorities by Goal

Project/Initiative	Related Strategy	Time-frame			
		U/I	S	M	L
Revealing an Indigenous Place					
Designate and Support Ceremonial Use	Reconciliation + Placekeeping				
Identify Indigenous Ceremonial Space at Snake Island.		<div></div>			
Work with communities to co-develop and update use and management protocols for ceremonial space.		<div></div>			
Identify ongoing community and park amenity needs to support ceremonial use.			<div></div>		
<b>Legend:</b> U – Underway; I – Immediate; S – Short Term; M – Mid-term; L – Long Term; <div></div> – Ongoing					

Project/Initiative	Related Strategy	Time-frame			
		U/I	S	M	L
<b>Create Gateway Markers at Landings</b>	Reconciliation + Placekeeping				
Work with Moccasin Identifier program to develop short term markers at landings.					
Work with communities to co-develop vision for permanent gateway markers at landings.					
Design and implement permanent gateway markers at landings in alignment with landing improvements.					
<b>Simplify Permit Procedures</b>	Reconciliation + Placekeeping				
Update permit procedures and fee structure to improve Indigenous community access.					
<b>Co-develop Knowledge Sharing Protocols</b>	Reconciliation + Placekeeping				
Identify protocols for engaging with Rights Holders, Elders, and Knowledge Holders to explore knowledge sharing opportunities.					
Explore Indigenous stories, teachings and narrative programming.					
Undertake Traditional Knowledge Study.					
<b>Explore Co-operative Management Protocols</b>	Reconciliation + Placekeeping				
Engage with Indigenous Rights Holders and communities to identify opportunities and capacity for co-management.					
<b>Identify Place-Naming Opportunities and Protocols</b>	Reconciliation + Placekeeping				
Confirm potential locations for incorporating Indigenous naming in park spaces and align protocols with city-wide policies.					
<b>Create a Cultural Narrative Trail</b>	Reconciliation + Placekeeping				
Develop terms of reference to undertake visioning and overall thematic approach for Cultural Narrative Trail.					
Identify, co-design and implement short term projects to support Cultural Narrative Trail.					

**Legend:** U – Underway; I – Immediate; S – Short Term; M – Mid-term; L – Long Term;  – Ongoing

Project/Initiative	Related Strategy	Time-frame			
		U/I	S	M	L
Work with community to co-design and implement remaining projects of Cultural Narrative Trail.				●	
<b>Develop Community Gathering Program at Olympic Island</b>	Reconciliation + Placekeeping				
Collaborate with Indigenous communities to identify programming needs to inform Olympic Island revitalization.					●
<b>Improving Access and Connection</b>					
<b>Enhance Park Wayfinding</b>	Wayfinding				
Update and replace park maps at landings.		●			
Adapt City wayfinding standards and implementation approach for park.		●	➡		
Implement short term wayfinding improvements (landings, main routes, focus on intermediate short term park improvements).			●		
Implement mid-term wayfinding improvements (secondary routes, natural areas, subsequent park improvements).				●	
Develop park specific approach to integrate interpretive and educational content and multi-lingual support within wayfinding standard.				●	
Develop and implement water-based wayfinding.					●
<b>Develop Coordinated Movement Strategy for the Island</b>	Movement On Land				
Develop terms of reference for a park-wide study to identify pedestrian, cycling, accessible transportation, and servicing opportunities for the park.		●			
<b>Expand Cycling Infrastructure</b>	Movement On Land				
Explore park-wide implementation of point-to-point bike rentals.		●			
Improve cycling facilities, expand bike parking and repair, park-wide.		●			
Expand recreational bike rentals to Hanlan's and Ward's Landings.			●		

**Legend:** U – Underway; I – Immediate; S – Short Term; M – Mid-term; L – Long Term; ● ➡ – Ongoing



Project/Initiative	Related Strategy	Time-frame			
		U/I	S	M	L
Expand recreational bike rentals to other island locations to support network as needed.				●	
<b>Revitalize Ferry Landings</b>	Movement On Water				
Improve Jack Layton Ferry Terminal circulation and access.		●			
Explore landing improvements to support ferry fleet modernization and infrastructure improvements.		●			
Expand four-season access and operations at Ward's and Centre Landings.				●	
<b>Improve Water-based Transportation</b>	Movement On Water				
Replace ferry fleet.		●			
Improve ferry service to Ward's Landing and expand to Centre Landing to support four-season activation in park.				●	
Explore dedicated servicing ferry.					●
Explore water shuttle network to supplement ferry and water taxi systems within Inner Harbour.					●
Identify and explore opportunities to support expanded water-based rental programs.					●
<b>Enhance Pedestrian Access and Connectivity</b>	Movement On Land				
Prioritize implementation of North Shore Trail as part of ongoing flood mitigation improvements.			●		
Explore pedestrianized extension of Beach Road between Hanlan's Point Beach and Hanlan's Landing to support park-wide access improvements.			●		
Explore pathway improvements to Toronto Island Marina and north segment of Lagoon Loop.				●	
Explore opportunities to create pedestrian connection between Gibraltar Point Lighthouse and Hanlan's Mooring Wall.				●	
Explore opportunity to revitalize lake wall and pedestrian connections to Eastern Channel to support park amenity improvements and Ward's Loop interpretive experience.					●

**Legend:** U – Underway; I – Immediate; S – Short Term; M – Mid-term; L – Long Term; ● ———> – Ongoing

Project/Initiative	Related Strategy	Time-frame			
		U/I	S	M	L
<b>Develop Island-Wide Transportation Service</b>	Movement On Land				
Expand Tram Tour routing to connect and stop at Hanlan's and Ward's Landings.			●		
Assess requirements for on-Island transportation network through a Island-wide movement strategy considering all modes of transportation.				●	
Implement transportation-related service improvements.					●
<b>Supporting the Natural Environment</b>					
<b>Prioritize Biodiversity and Natural Area Protection</b>	Natural Area Protection				
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 for enhancing biodiversity, naturalization, and habitat restoration and support in all park areas.		●			
<b>Address Flood Mitigation Impacts</b>	Shorelines + Park Environments				
Implement TRCA Toronto Island Flood Mitigation EA recommendations.		●			
Explore expanded flood mitigation study for Olympic Island.				●	
<b>Enhance Nature-Based Education and Advocacy</b>	Resilience + Sustainability				
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.				●	

**Legend:** U – Underway; I – Immediate; S – Short Term; M – Mid-term; L – Long Term; ● – Ongoing

Project/Initiative	Related Strategy	Time-frame			
		U/I	S	M	L
<b>Manage Natural Area Access</b>	Natural Area Protection				
Identify natural area access priorities and trail improvement opportunities		●			
Develop program to consistently fund natural area access pathway management throughout the park to minimize impacts and maintain accessibility, as suitable.		●			
Explore feasibility of Parks Yard restoration loop and south segment of Lagoon Loop in alignment with Parks works facility improvements.				●	
<b>Develop Transparent Monitoring and Public Reporting Protocols</b>	Natural Area Protection				
Identify monitoring and public reporting protocols for supporting public communication of park performance.		●			
Undertake ongoing public reporting of park performance in alignment with communications strategy for park.			●		
<b>Develop Island Charter</b>	Resilience + Sustainability				
Work with Working Groups to co-create social protocols to support stewardship of the Island.			●		
<b>Create Integrated Park Management Plan</b>	Shorelines + Park Environments				
Develop plan to coordinate management of natural areas and actively programmed park spaces.			●		
<b>Demonstrate Leadership in Park Sustainability</b>	Resilience + Sustainability				
Develop Island-specific design standards and protocols to support ongoing reporting and performance monitoring.			●		
Evaluate Parks works facility locations and management procedures.			●		
Identify under-utilized park facilities and spaces suitable for revitalization and adaptive reuse.			●		
Undertake green fleet feasibility studies for goods, services, and people movement across the Island.				●	
Establish operations and management targets and pathways park-wide to demonstrate nature positive outcomes					●

**Legend:** U – Underway; I – Immediate; S – Short Term; M – Mid-term; L – Long Term; ● – Ongoing















Project/Initiative	Related Strategy	Time-frame			
		U/I	S	M	L
Enhancing Visitor Experience					
Upgrade Park Visitor Services	Programming + Events				
Improve park website to address accessibility, usability, and future four-season operations.		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
Improve visitor information services at landings, prioritizing Jack Layton Ferry Terminal.		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
Expand Island information sharing at all landings.		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
Celebrate Island Character	Interpretation				
Develop Island Interpretive strategy to support expansion of meaningful interpretation park-wide.		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
Develop digital interpretive material to supplement and pilot delivery of enhanced interpretive experience for park.		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
Integrate information about the unique natural heritage of the park within interpretive themes expressed across the park.		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
Explore Indigenous Teaching opportunities identified through Traditional Knowledge Study Island-wide.		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
Identify opportunities for public art throughout the park in alignment with both interpretive strategy and public art strategies.		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
Develop Island Ambassador Program	Programming + Events				
Pilot Island Ambassador programs at landings to support wayfinding and information sharing at points of arrival.		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
Explore park-wide Island Ambassador programs to support park programming and activation.			<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
Enhance Year-round Experience at Ferry Landings	Four Season Park				
Improve Jack Layton Ferry Terminal visitor experience year-round.		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
Explore landing improvements to support four-season ferry services at Ward's and Centre Landings.		<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
Expand four-season services at Ward's and Centre Landings.				<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>

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Project/Initiative	Related Strategy	Time-frame			
		U/I	S	M	L
<b>Expand Four-Season Park Uses</b>	Four Season Park				
Prioritize modernization of year-round facilities (washrooms, shelters) at identified Winter Activity hubs.		●			
Develop four-season program aligned with Winter Activity hubs.			●		
Explore expanded four-season food and beverage opportunities aligned with Winter Activity hubs.				●	
<b>Expand Food and Beverage Options</b>	Park Amenities				
Expand food and beverage diversity park-wide.		●			
Explore opportunities for revitalizing existing concession locations to expand offerings and implement improvements.			●		
Identify opportunities for new concession locations to supplement existing sites and address gaps in service.					●
<b>Coordinate Island Communications</b>	Programming + Events				
Develop Island communications approach to support consistent information sharing and visual identity for the park.			●		
Explore seasonal communications to support year-round maintenance, access, and programming.			●		
<b>Support Island-Scaled Events and Programming</b>	Programming + Events				
Develop Island Events Strategy, identifying appropriate sizes and types of events for the Island.			●		
Develop Community Calendar to help plan, coordinate, and share Island events and programming.			●		
<b>Create an Island Welcome Destination</b>	Park Amenities				
Explore feasibility for Island Welcome Centre and program opportunities to support four-season activation.			●		
Design and implement Island Welcome Centre and initiate supporting programming.				●	
Explore feasibility for a marketplace at Centre Landing and pilot approach.				●	

**Legend:** U – Underway; I – Immediate; S – Short Term; M – Mid-term; L – Long Term; ● – Ongoing

Project/Initiative	Related Strategy	Time-frame			
		U/I	S	M	L
Implement Centre Landing marketplace.					
<b>Enhance Park Facilities and Infrastructure</b>	Park Amenities				
Develop Island specific design standards for site furniture, lighting and structures to support park-wide sustainability and character.					
Prioritize revitalization of park facilities impacted by flooding.					
Expand water filling station locations.					
Expand communications coverage and access (Wi-Fi and cellular).					
Explore opportunities for adaptive reuse and revitalization of structures throughout the park.					
Identify opportunities for Olympic Island revitalization.					
Explore feasibility for enhanced Gibraltar Point pavilion to support new activity hub.					
<b>Expand Rental Offerings</b>	Park Amenities				
Identify opportunities for rentals to serve park uses (chairs, umbrellas).					
<b>Elevating Equity and Belonging</b>					
<b>Expand Opportunities for Engagement and Collaboration with Communities</b>	Equity				
Develop terms of reference for standing advisory committee of community members to advise on park-wide improvements.					
Explore partnership opportunities to support collaborative management and sharing traditional practices within park spaces.					
<b>Enhance Park Accessibility for Spaces and Services</b>	Accessibility				
Expand accessible equipment lending programs and communications about services at landings.					
Explore community partnerships to deliver accessible programming.					

**Legend:** U – Underway; I – Immediate; S – Short Term; M – Mid-term; L – Long Term;   – Ongoing

Project/Initiative	Related Strategy	Time-frame			
		U/I	S	M	L
Develop accessible equipment lending services and programming for beaches.				●	
<b>Improve Pathway Accessibility</b>	Accessibility				
Expand rest areas and shelters alongside pathway improvements.		●			
Assess park-wide accessibility.			●		
Implement accessibility improvements for pathways and bridges.		●			
<b>Community Safety Plan</b>	Equity				
Develop Park-wide Community Safety Plan to address emergency preparedness and community well-being.			●		
<b>Enhance Affordability of Island Experiences</b>	Equity				
Explore opportunities for reducing economic barriers for accessing Island.			●		
Expand affordable programming and rentals park-wide.				●	
<b>Enhance Diversity in Island Heritage</b>	Cultural Heritage				
Undertake cultural heritage studies to expand diverse understanding of Island significance and inform interpretive strategy.		●			
Explore partnerships to enhance diverse representation through art-based installations and programming.		●			
<b>Enhance Park-wide Accessible Movement</b>	Accessibility				
Develop short term accessible transportation options for all landings in alignment with park-wide Movement Strategy.			●		
Explore integration of accessible transportation as part of proposed Island transportation service.				●	

**Legend:** U – Underway; I – Immediate; S – Short Term; M – Mid-term; L – Long Term; ● – Ongoing

Project/Initiative	Related Strategy	Time-frame			
		U/I	S	M	L
Celebrating 2SLGBTQ+ Significance					
Establish Hanlan's Working Group	Approach to Hanlan's				
Establish terms of reference and form a working group to advise on Hanlan's Point improvements.		●			
Restore and Protect Hanlan's Point Beach Ecology	Approach to Hanlan's				
Identify opportunities for naturalization and habitat restoration in park areas near Hanlan's Point.		●			
Restore and enhance Hanlan's Beach and dune habitats.		●	▶		
Develop terms of reference and undertake Hanlan's Beach EA.		●	▶		
Implement Hanlan's Beach EA recommendations.				●	
Enhance Community Safety at Hanlan's	Approach to Hanlan's				
Develop Community Safety Strategy specific to Hanlan's Point communities and spaces including a Hanlan's specific Charter.		●	▶		
Develop a Hanlan's specific Island ambassadors program to support community safety and well-being.			●		
Assess beach access and pathways for habitat impacts and safety.			●		
Reveal Cultural Heritage and Significance of Hanlan's Point	Approach to Hanlan's				
Install Progress Pride Flag at Hanlan's Beach.		●			
Co-design and implement cultural interpretive elements honouring the pride picnic and other events, people, or spaces as identified, including the significance for Canada's gay rights movements.		●	▶		
Undertake Hanlan's Cultural Heritage Study.				●	
Legend: U – Underway; I – Immediate; S – Short Term; M – Mid-term; L – Long Term; ● – Ongoing					

**Legend:** U – Underway; I – Immediate; S – Short Term; M – Mid-term; L – Long Term; ●▶ – Ongoing

Project/Initiative	Related Strategy	Time-frame			
		U/I	S	M	L
<b>Enhance Hanlan's Beach Amenities</b>	Approach to Hanlan's				
Expand Clothing Optional Beach.		●			
Assess facility and service needs for Hanlan's Beach users.			●		
Explore improvements to beach amenities.				●	➡

**Legend:** U – Underway; I – Immediate; S – Short Term; M – Mid-term; L – Long Term; ● ➡ – Ongoing





## Island-Wide Initiatives

### Rental Nodes

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

### Natural Area Protection

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

### Park Area Naturalization

Expand Habitat, Naturalize Shorelines

### Food and Beverage Improvements

Expand Diversity of Options and Explore Four-Season Service



### Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

Information, Wayfinding, Terminal/ Area Improvements

### 4 New Electric Ferries

42% Capacity Improvements

### Hanlan's Landing

Information, Wayfinding, Access/ Area Improvements

### Centre Island

### Centre Landing

Feasibility for Island Welcome Centre, Information, Wayfinding, Access/Area Improvements

### Snake Island

Ceremonial Space and Access/Area Improvements

### Hanlan's Point

### Clothing Optional Beach

Expand Designated Area

### Hanlan's Point Beach

Recognize Significance, Beach Habitat Protection, Naturalization and Safety Enhancements

### Park Access

Pathway Improvements to Inaccessible Park Areas

### Gibraltar Point



## 5.3 Summary

Identified in the map at left, some projects and initiatives will build momentum to support the overall realization of the master plan. These tasks are either underway already or should be realized in a shorter time frame. Where initiatives cannot be attributed to a single specific location they are listed as "Island-wide".

This list is a snapshot of the recommended improvements and may be adjusted to reflect opportunities to leverage related or planned initiatives by partners and within City divisions to efficiently deliver on the master plan goals. Review of these catalysts should be aligned with capital improvement planning and updated in accordance. Additional details in the previous matrix and recommendations in section 3 of this report should be reviewed to help inform other opportunities as they arise.

### Distributing Improvements

Improvements are intentionally distributed across the park in support of the light touch approach. No park area is ever fully closed and overall impacts to existing spaces can be mitigated more easily. If multiple projects are planned in close proximity, impact assessments and mitigation plans will need to consider how to minimize impacts on wildlife, ecologies, and existing human uses as part of the evaluation of project suitability.

By distributing improvements the master plan also considers the operational challenges of carrying out work on the Island. Assessment of the amount of work each landing can support while continuing to support park use will need to be part of the planning and scheduling of potential improvements.



# **PART IV: DEMONSTRATION PLANS**



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# Demonstrations

Within this section, the recommendations of the master plan are presented through a series of demonstration plans (or illustrations) showing potential changes to Toronto Island Park. The illustrations consider site-specific interpretations of the recommendations outlined in previous sections. Projects are grouped within focus areas to help show how recommendations can be coordinated between locations.

The plan illustrations show the park after all changes are complete to help demonstrate one possible future. Rigorous analysis, design, and engagement processes must be undertaken to inform the actual implementation of projects as funding is identified. As a result, actual projects may be realized in very different forms from what is shown here and this section should be revised as needed moving forward.











Fig. 6-1 Master Plan Park Areas

# 6.1 Focus Areas and Improvements

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## Park Areas

The master plan identifies five distinct areas within the park based on the existing and future use and character of the spaces. Each area is also informed by how visitors may experience the park in the future. The areas contribute in a specific way to the overall identity of Toronto Island. Some areas are active year-round, while others may be quieter in specific seasons.

Access within and to areas may also vary. Some areas have very established cultural connections to specific communities while others are significant to a broader range of park visitors. The following demonstrations explore specific spaces and features of each area as well as potential projects that could occur and would be informed through further consultation.

## Potential Improvements

To demonstrate potential physical and program-based improvements, a series of area and site-specific plans have been explored here. These plans are not final designs but demonstrate one possible approach to implementing the recommendations.

The improvements identified in this section are one interpretation of the guidance. Following completion of the master plan, individual projects will only proceed after projects are prioritized, budgets are approved, and a detailed design and public engagement process is completed. The outcomes of these processes may alter how the projects are realized and will be developed in consultation with communities, stakeholders, and advisory groups.

### A Note About Demonstrations:

The following sections list potential projects within each focus area identified in the master plan. These projects are interpretations of the master plan recommendations and subject to change based on the implementation of the plan and ongoing consultation.



# 6.1.1 Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

Jack Layton Ferry Terminal (JLFT) is the only city-side landing for the ferries to Toronto Island. The terminal and surrounding park are part of an overall strategic initiative to revitalize and relink the spaces of the Central Waterfront and Inner Harbour into a continuous Blue Park and water's edge experience. Projects identified within the Toronto Island Master Plan are intended to support and integrate with future waterfront and harbour initiatives and address shorter-term objectives.

## Improvements List

### Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

- ▶ Terminal Facility Upgrades
  - ▶ Queens Quay Gateway
  - ▶ Island Gateway Information Hub
  - ▶ Visitor Drop-Off and Vehicle Access
  - ▶ Harbour Square Park Upgrades
  - ▶ Parking Relocation
- ▶ Water's Edge Promenade
  - ▶ Yonge Slip Enhancements
  - ▶ Watercraft Launch
  - ▶ Water Taxi Landing
  - ▶ Terminal Wayfinding
  - ▶ Winter Activation

#### LEGEND

- 1
- Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

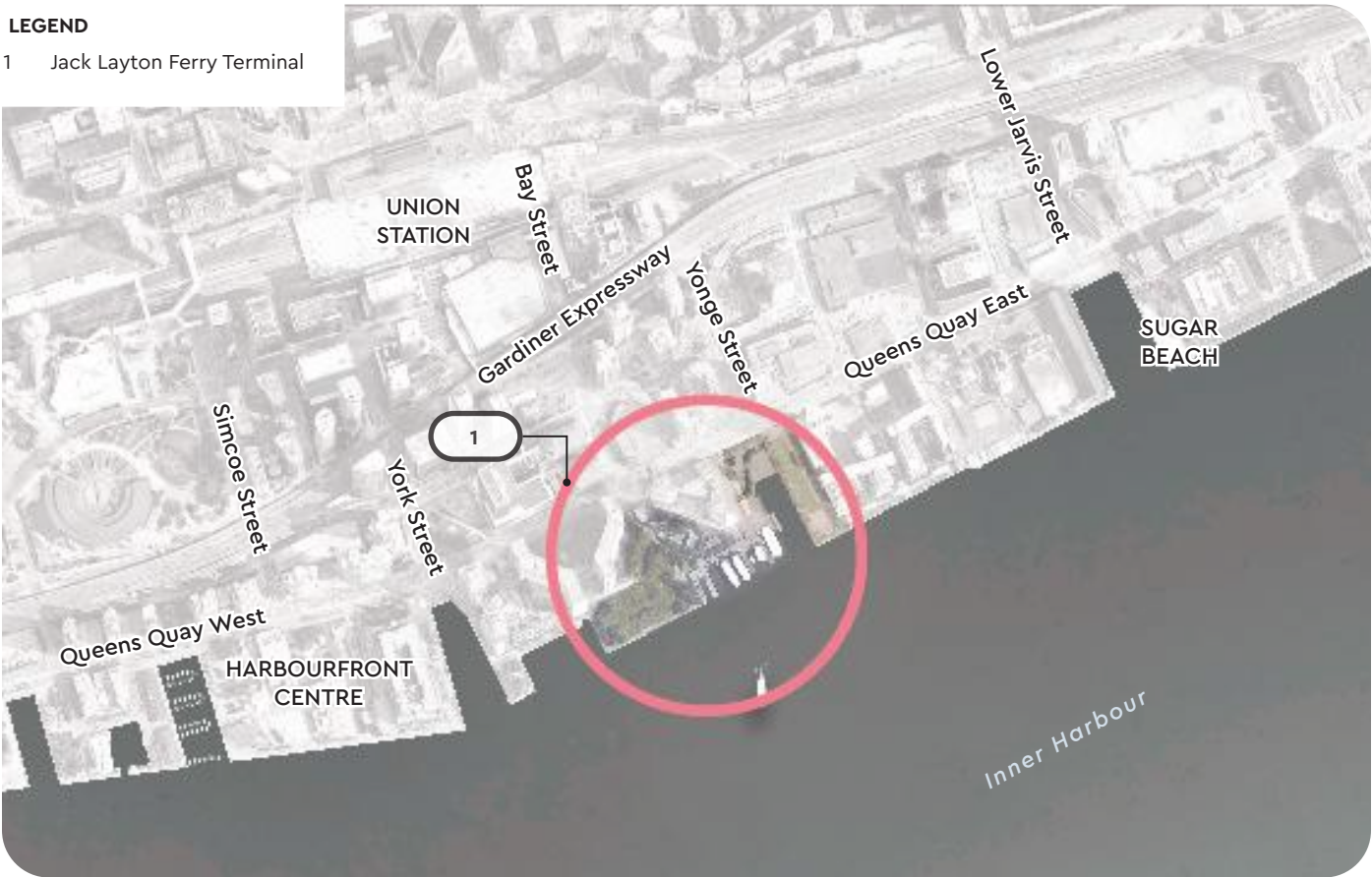


Fig. 6-2 Jack Layton Ferry Terminal Area Plan

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## Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

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The revitalization of Jack Layton Ferry Terminal (JLFT) is being driven by the need to address servicing and capacity concerns for the ferries, terminal, and surrounding public open spaces. Improvements should prioritize wayfinding and access enhancements. The terminal will continue to act as the primary gateway to the Island for most visitors and should help orient and educate visitors on the ecological and cultural significance of the shore, lake, and Island and provide information to guide their visit.

### Potential Improvements:

**Terminal Facility Upgrades.** Invest in upgrades to existing terminal structures and infrastructure to support other city initiatives, including the Ferry Fleet modernization and electrification project. Leverage improvements to enhance safety, accessibility, visitor experience, and sustainability throughout the facility.

**Queens Quay Gateway.** Explore identity and wayfinding opportunities to enhance the visitor experience and navigation from Queens Quay and across the waterfront. Explore opportunities to use existing structures or features to create a signature gateway feature for the ferry terminal and Island.

**Island Gateway Information Hub.** Provide visitor information, event and programming updates, and stories about the Island. Create a dedicated location for an information hub and staffing to support visitor and programming needs. Explore opportunities to provide interpretive information about the Indigenous significance of the shoreline, waters and

islands that link the park to the mainland.

### Visitor Drop-Off and Vehicle Access.

Integrate anticipated changes to the slip end and guest drop-off to support the existing hotel to adapt expanded vehicle operations and realign the driveway entrance to the JLFT. Consideration for reducing vehicle access through JLFT should be explored in coordination with the future relocation of the vehicular/servicing ferry to the Port Lands.

**Harbour Square Park Upgrades.** Prioritize elements that will improve access and navigation within the open space and support information sharing about the Island, waterfront, and waters. Create seating areas, meeting places, and landmarks to make the park more inviting and helpful for visitors new to the terminal and waterfront.

**Parking Relocation.** Surface parking serving the Harbour Square condominium should be relocated out of the park space. The newly cleared open space should be restored to open parkland to support flexible programming and passive uses associated with the existing Harbour Square Park and as a spill-over space for activating JLFT.

**Water's Edge Promenade.** Connect the Water's Edge Promenade between York Quay and the revitalized waterfront east of Yonge through Harbour Square Park. Opportunities to enhance the water's edge for humans and wildlife should be prioritized. Considerations for how the enhanced dock wall could support water-based transportation (such as water taxi pick-up/drop-off) may be explored.



## LEGEND

- 1 Queens Quay Gateway
- 2 Island Gateway Information Hub
- 3 Harbour Square Park Upgrades
- 4 Parking Relocation
- 5 Water's Edge Promenade
- 6 Terminal Facility Upgrades
- 7 Visitor Drop-Off and Vehicle Access
- 8 Yonge Slip Enhancements
- 9 Water Taxi Landing

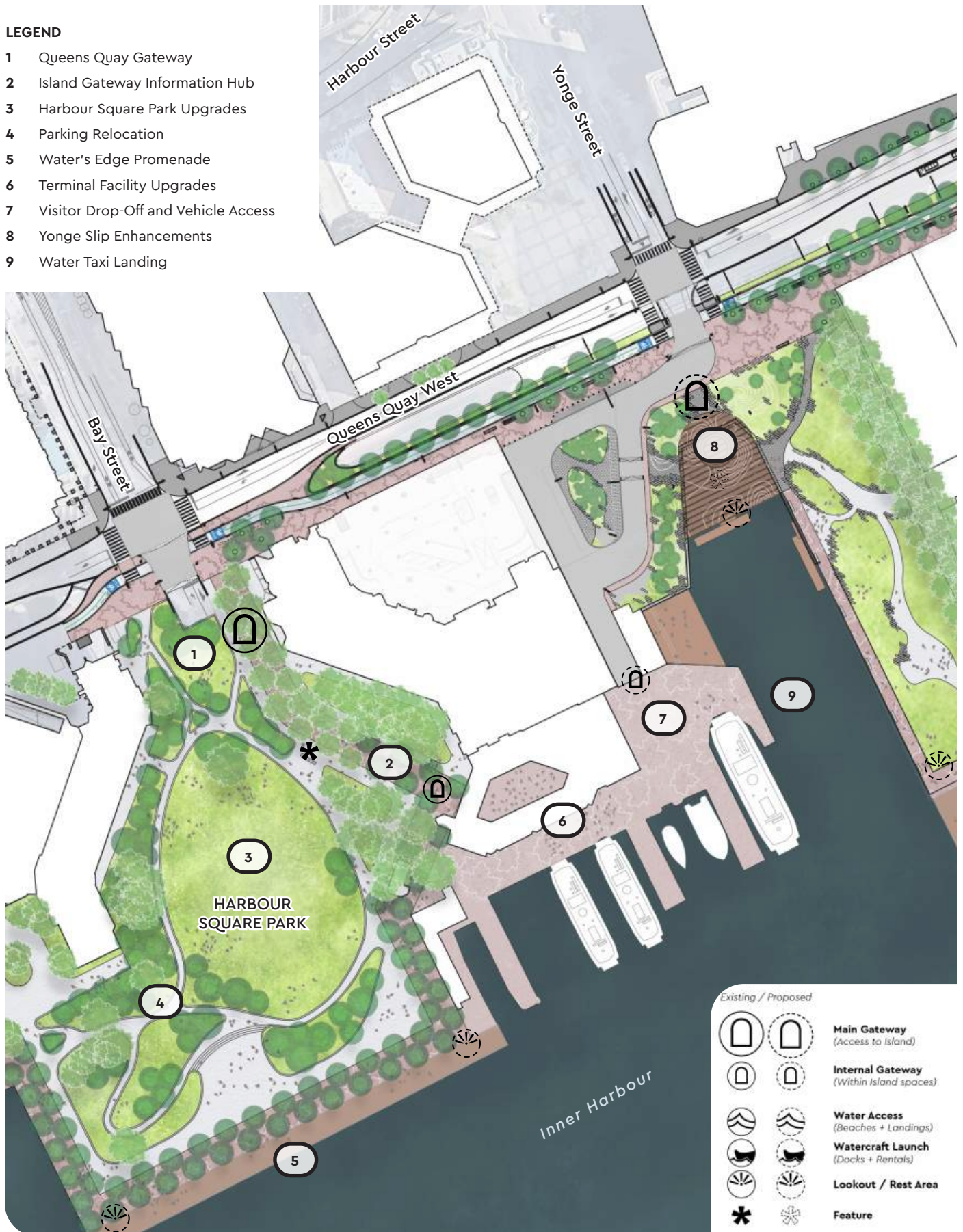


Fig. 6-3 Jack Layton Ferry Terminal Focus Area Plan

**Yonge Slip Enhancements.** As part of future implementation of right-of-way improvements to Queens Quay, explore opportunities to create a more engaging and welcoming visitor experience at the east side of JLFT.

**Water Taxi Landing.** Anticipated improvements to the slip end will impact existing water taxi landings and require the relocation of some docks. New docks should be considered to support continued water taxi operations and a water shuttle network.

**Terminal Wayfinding.** Prioritize signage improvements to direct visitors to the ferry and effectively share information about schedules and programming. Consider both static or digital displays that build on the established standards and visual identity for the Island. Leverage signs to coordinate visitor experience between the Island and the mainland.

**Winter Activation.** Expand winter programming at JLFT to serve as an anchor for experiences between the Island and waterfront as four-season activation is expanded on the Island. Relying on an expanded winter ferry service, leverage the journey between JLFT and Centre or Ward's Landing as part of the experience of the Island in all seasons.

## 6.1.2 Hanlan's Point

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Mostly visited in summer, Hanlan’s Point extends southward from the edge of the Billy Bishop Toronto Centre Airport to the end of Hanlan's Point Beach. The park area contains Hanlan's Point Beach, Hanlan's Point Beach Environmentally Sensitive Area, Hanlan's Mooring Wall, two pavilions, picnic areas, tennis courts, and broad open park spaces. Circulation within this district is primarily served from Hanlan's Landing and Lakeshore Avenue.

### Improvements List

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#### Hanlan's Landing

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- ▶ Pavilion + Information Hub
- ▶ Gateway Feature
- ▶ Rental Node
- ▶ Ned Hanlan
- ▶ Plaza
- ▶ Grove & Flexible Lawn

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#### Mooring Wall

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- ▶ Pavilion Revitalization
- ▶ Dock Reconfiguration
- ▶ Watercraft Rental Node

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#### Hanlan's Parkland

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- ▶ Beach Road Extension
- ▶ Rest Node
- ▶ Picnic Lawn
- ▶ Sport Court Revitalization
- ▶ Concession Revitalization

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#### Hanlan's Point Beach

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- ▶ Cultural Markers
- ▶ Clothing-Optional Area Expansion
- ▶ Access Routes
- ▶ Beach Washrooms and Showers
- ▶ Accessible Beach Area
- ▶ Wetland Protection
- ▶ Dune and Habitat Management and Restoration
- ▶ Beach Vendors and Rentals



**LEGEND**

- 1 Hanlan's Landing
- 2 Mooring Wall
- 3 Hanlan's Parkland
- 4 Hanlan's Point Beach



Fig. 6-4 Hanlan's Point Area Plan



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## Hanlan's Landing

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Hanlan's Landing will be re-imagined to create a new sense of arrival for Hanlan's Point. Reconfiguration of the arrival plaza will create a space that puts pedestrians first. It will become a welcoming and seamless space that supports movement for all visitors as they start their island adventure, elevating the landing to a destination in its own right. Visitors will be encouraged to stay and enjoy the view out to the harbour from the redesigned north lake wall, savour unique food from the revitalized pavilion, or wander over to learn about Ned Hanlan (the man and the tugboat).

Activities at Hanlan's Landing will quiet down in the winter, as the area will only be served by ferries when weather conditions limit access to the other landings at Centre and Ward's Islands. All facilities should be winterized to ensure they can be used when needed, but planned operations of the businesses and information hub should be optimized for three seasons, considering spring, summer, and autumn.

### Potential Improvements:

**Pavilion + Information Hub.** Rehabilitate the existing pavilion to provide a sheltered space for waiting for the next ferry, enjoying a snack, and learning about what's happening on the Island from the new visitor information hub. Replace existing lighting, patio furnishings, and railings to create a welcoming and open space for any time of day or season. Introduce different furniture types, such as modular and movable seating, to help activate the hub and facilitate use by visitors of diverse ages and abilities.

**Gateway Feature.** Use art and markers at the landing to support the arrival experience. Consider permanent and temporary installations that support a consistent visual identity for the Island. Explore cultural markers to identify the Indigenous significance of the islands, water, and surrounding territories. Identify Hanlan's Point as a 2SLGBTQ+ safe space.

**Rental Node.** Consider re-use of an existing wood building to support the creation of a new bike rental node. Explore opportunities for both Point-to-Point and Recreational bike rentals. Use clear wayfinding signs throughout the landing to safely direct bike users to the node.

**Ned Hanlan.** Relocate the statue of Ned Hanlan and the eponymous tugboat to frame the arrival plaza. Use the features to share the stories of the Hanlan family on the islands and highlight the Island's maritime history. Leverage the lawn between the elements to provide an informal gathering space near the ferry and water taxi/shuttle landings.

**Plaza.** Leverage the continuous ground treatment to facilitate barrier-free movement by pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. Use the plaza to support the pick-up and drop-off functions of an accessible island transportation network and connect major destinations across the park. Create seating areas outside vehicle travel routes.

**Grove & Flexible Lawn.** Selectively remove and replant dense vegetation with the existing traffic island to create an open lawn and shaded grove. Support passive uses such as wandering, picnics or waiting. Consider opportunities to integrate temporary art (including performance-based works).

## LEGEND

- 1 Pavilion + Information Hub
- 2 Gateway Feature
- 3 Rental Node
- 4 Ned Hanlan
- 5 Plaza
- 6 Grove & Flexible Lawn

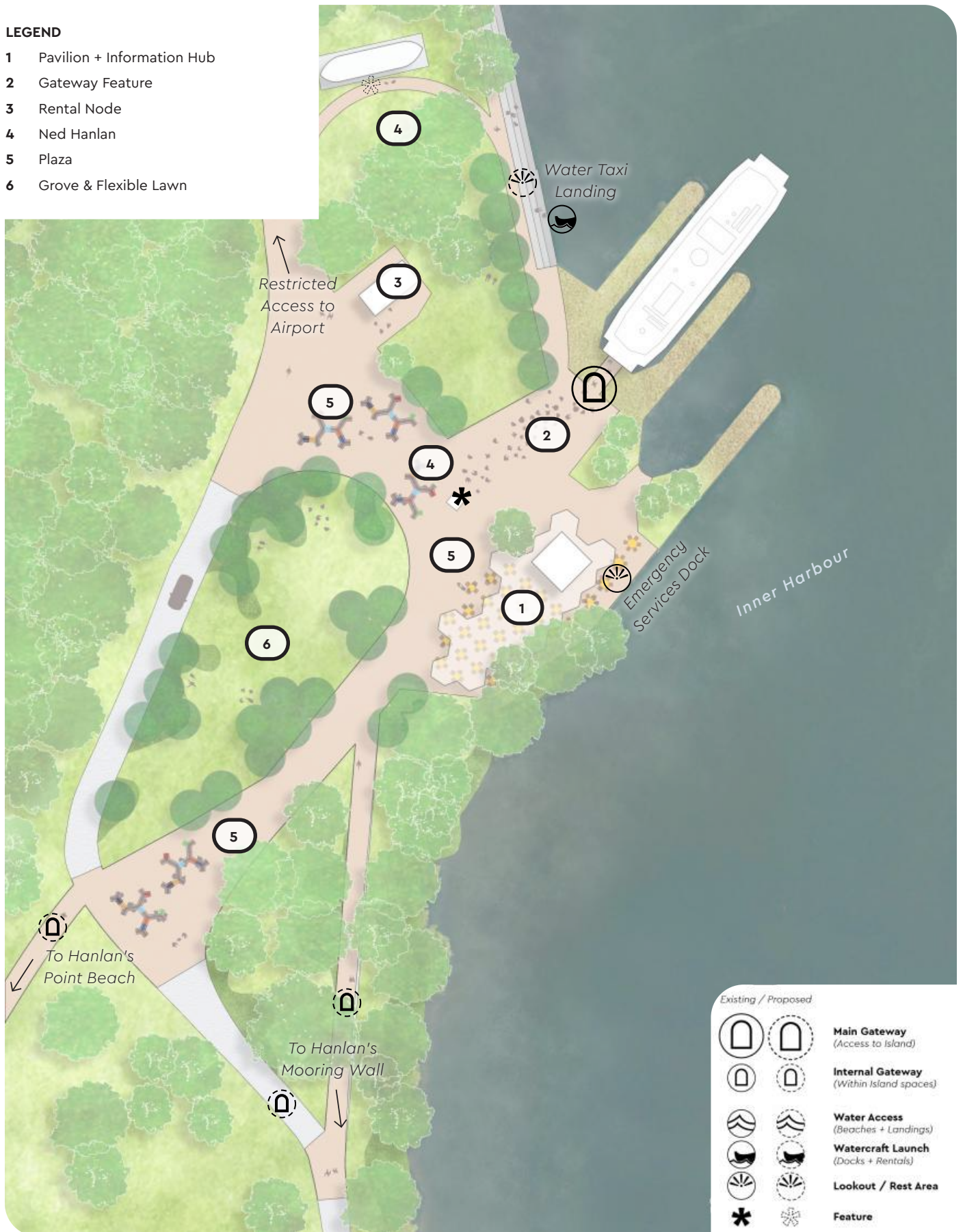


Fig. 6-5 Hanlan's Landing Focus Area Plan

## LEGEND

- 1 Pavilion Revitalization
- 2 Dock Reconfiguration
- 3 Watercraft Rental Node
- 4 Beach Road Extension
- 5 Rest Node
- 6 Picnic Lawns
- 7 Sport Court Revitalization
- 8 Concession Revitalization
- 9 Access Routes
- 10 Accessible Beach Area
- 11 Wetland Protection
- 12 Dune and Habitat Management

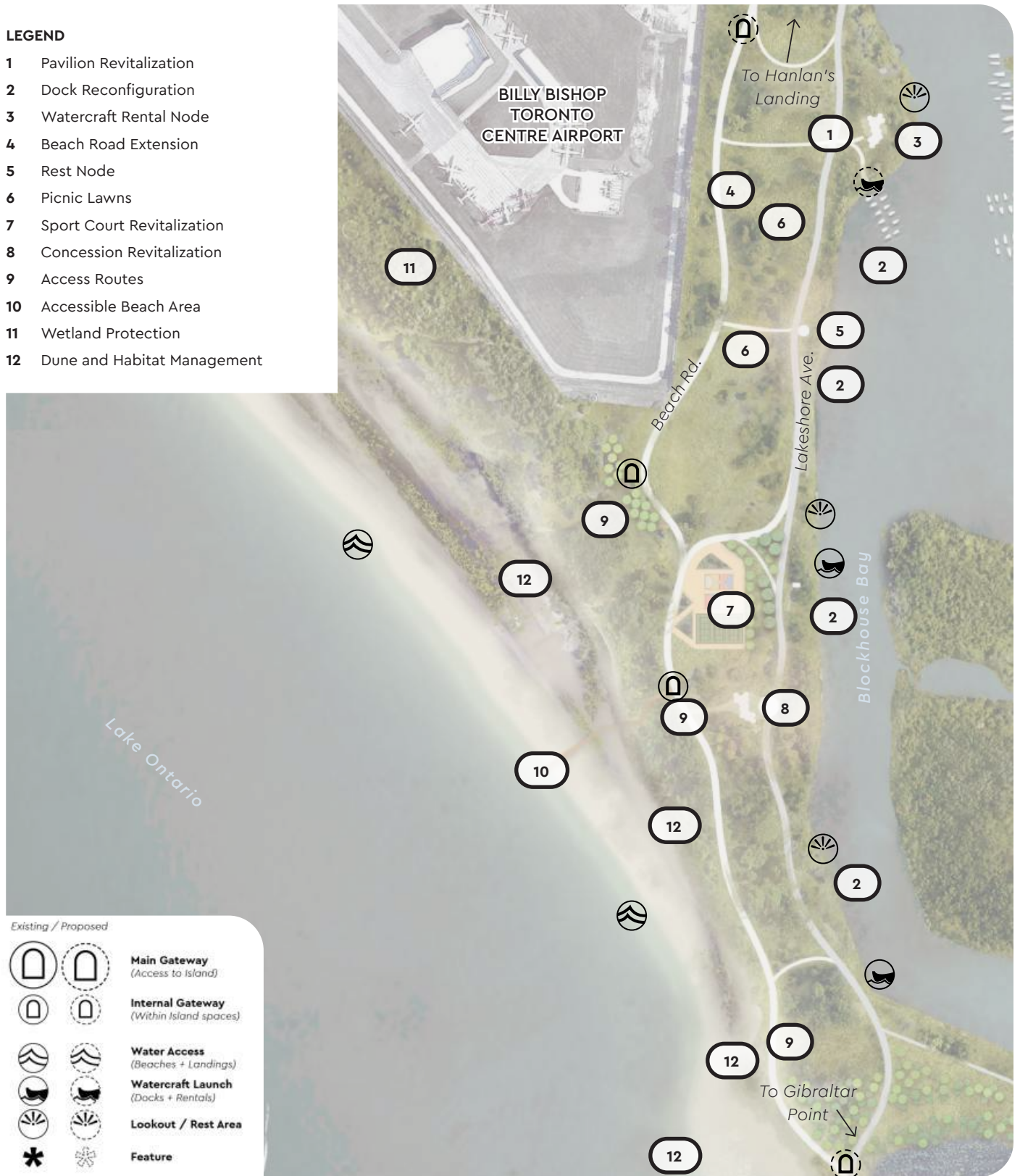


Fig. 6-6 Mooring Wall, Hanlan's Parkland, and Hanlan's Point Beach Focus Areas Plan



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## Mooring Wall

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The dock wall along Blockhouse Bay is a popular destination for short-term mooring during summers. Through the proposed revitalization of the north pavilion and expansion of more docking options, opportunities to integrate a watercraft rental node could create a space that better serves the needs of park users without significant changes to the existing infrastructure. Additionally, opportunities to remove a portion of the southern dock wall to reinstate a vegetated shoreline condition should be explored.

### Possible Improvements:

**Pavilion Revitalization.** Rehabilitate the existing pavilion to support adjacent park improvements. Improve washrooms and showers as part of Island-wide facility upgrades, including incorporation of a universal washroom. Revitalize the concession space to support diverse food options for the Island.

**Dock Reconfiguration.** Expand short-term mooring opportunities along the existing dock wall. Consider infrastructure improvements to improve accessibility. Explore the use of floating docks along the dock wall to enhance use in high-lake level conditions. Reinstate finger docks at the north end of the mooring wall. Consider diverse docking configurations to support use by different watercraft vessels.

**Watercraft Rental Node.** Create a new rental node to support water-based circulation across the park. Consider opportunities to provide a staffed node for the rental of various types and sizes of watercraft. Explore short-term vessel docking and storage for rental operations and as a park service. Consider visual impacts on the existing pavilion and park spaces for the design and siting of storage fixtures.

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## Hanlan's Parkland

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The open lawns and trees of Hanlan's should continue to support the existing character and function of the passive park while considering critical service improvements for the area. Prioritize biodiverse planting and sustainable management practices within the passive park areas. Develop interpretive elements and public art with communities to support revealing untold stories about Hanlan's Point. Consider opportunities to integrate pedestrian pathway improvements with interpretive experiences and art between Hanlan's Landing and Beach Road.

Prioritize accessibility improvements for pathways, rest areas, sports courts and planted areas to provide spaces to meet, eat, or play. Revitalize existing concessions and washrooms associated with the Mermaid Café and adjacent to the Mooring Wall to create a more consistent visitor experience throughout the park.

### Potential Improvements:

**Beach Road Extension.** Extend a pedestrian priority route along the edge of the airport between Hanlan's Landing and Hanlan's Point Beach. Explore the use of permeable paving options to enhance sustainability. Explore opportunities to develop interpretive markers and experiences to share the significance of Hanlan's Point for 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Enhance the route with plantings and rest areas.

**Rest Node.** Support accessibility within the park through a new rest area along Lakeshore Ave. Integrate seating with biodiverse planting and a water-filling station. Explore opportunities to support the Cultural Narrative Trail.

**Picnic Lawns.** Enhance an existing flexible lawn space through biodiverse groundcover and tree planting. Consider opportunities to enhance ecological value through naturalized plantings.

**Sport Court Revitalization.** Refurbish existing tennis and multi-sport courts. Consider current uses to identify opportunities for introducing new sports and creating more flexible gathering spaces to support the courts. Enhance planting to include shade and biodiversity.

**Concession Revitalization.** Renovate the existing park pavilion to modernize washrooms (including providing universal washroom facilities) and upgrade concession facilities to support a potential independent operator and more diverse food options throughout the park. Consider site improvements to enhance the patio and support picnicking and "bring-your-own" dining options.

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## Hanlan's Point Beach

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Hanlan's Point Beach should continue to be a vibrant space that nurtures a sense of belonging within the park for 2SLGBTQ+ communities. It should continue to be a seasonal space, enjoyed mostly in the heat of summer, but with opportunities to explore boardwalks through nature even when the water turns icy. Hanlan's importance as a 2SLGBTQ+ safe space and Toronto's only clothing-optional beach should be celebrated. Considerations for naming, designation and recognition of features or spaces within Hanlan's Point Beach should be informed by ongoing community conversations and formal cultural heritage studies.

### Potential Improvements:

**Cultural Markers.** Develop a process to reveal the history and significance of Hanlan's Point and Beach with Hanlan's Beach and 2SLGBTQ+ communities. Identify meaningful opportunities to celebrate and share the significance of the area. Consider a range of forms to help tell the stories in diverse and engaging ways.

**Clothing-Optional Area Expansion.** Mitigate erosion impacts on Hanlan's Point Beach and specifically the clothing-optional area. Expand the limits of the designated clothing-optional area to create a more inclusive beach experience. Explore opportunities to restore planting adjacent to beach areas to provide shadier or more secluded areas along the beach.

**Access Routes.** Explore opportunities to improve accessibility, safety and servicing of the beach from existing facilities within the park. Locate cycling infrastructure (docking stations, racks, repair stations), water filling stations, universal washrooms and showers near new access points (both park-side and beach-side) to encourage use of the path and reduce trampling in nearby dunes.

**Beach Washrooms and Showers.** Explore suitability for new universal washroom and shower facilities closer to beach access points. Consider off-grid facilities to reduce environmental impacts on the beach, dunes and water quality. Consider alternate servicing strategies based on best practices for facilities in protected natural areas (such as National Parks).



**Accessible Beach Area.** Leverage the accessible boardwalk and ramp at the centre access path to the beach to support access to and into the water for people of all ages and abilities. Explore opportunities to provide staffed resources to support accessible use and equipment lending at the beach. Designate an accessible beach area and integrate wayfinding and other park-wide accessibility initiatives to support consistent levels of service across the Island.

**Wetland Protection.** Implement protocols for protecting habitat within designated natural areas of the park. Monitor areas to ensure human uses do not degrade the function of the ecologies. Develop communications about the sensitive nature of the habitats to discourage trampling. Explore the suitability of designating adjacent beach and access routes dog-free areas to further protect and support the ecological health of the wildlife habitat.

**Dune and Habitat Management.** Continue efforts to manage and restore the Hanlan's Point Beach ESA. Develop processes to proactively engage beach users in management activities and educate the public on the function, value and significance of the area. Through ongoing collaboration with TRCA, continue to manage the restored dune habitat and new near-shore reef erosion control and aquatic habitat.

### 6.1.3 Gibraltar Point

Located at the most southern point of the Toronto Islands, Gibraltar Point does not have a dedicated ferry landing. The area connects the south end of Hanlan's Point to the west end of Centre Island. Visitors use Lakeshore Avenue to reach Gibraltar Point from either Hanlan's Landing to the north or Centre Landing to the northwest. The area contains Gibraltar Point Beach, Trout Pond, the Gibraltar Point Lighthouse, and Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts. Opportunities for year-round uses will focus on providing improved access to unique seasonal experiences and supporting unobstructed accessibility and movement within and through the area regardless of the weather.

#### Improvement List

##### Gibraltar Point Lookout

- ▶ Pavilion Building
- ▶ Sunset Lookout & Fire Circle
- ▶ Community Lawn

##### Gibraltar Point Beach

- ▶ Beach Rentals
- ▶ Accessible Beach Area
- ▶ Habitat Restoration and Management
- ▶ Beach Access and Landing

##### Trout Pond

- ▶ Overlook
- ▶ Habitat Protection
- ▶ Pathways
- ▶ Gibraltar Point Lighthouse

##### Arts District

- ▶ Open Space Enhancements
- ▶ Former Island School Revitalization
- ▶ Former Laboratory Building Revitalization

#### LEGEND

- 1 Gibraltar Point Lookout
- 2 Gibraltar Point Beach
- 3 Trout Pond
- 4 Arts District

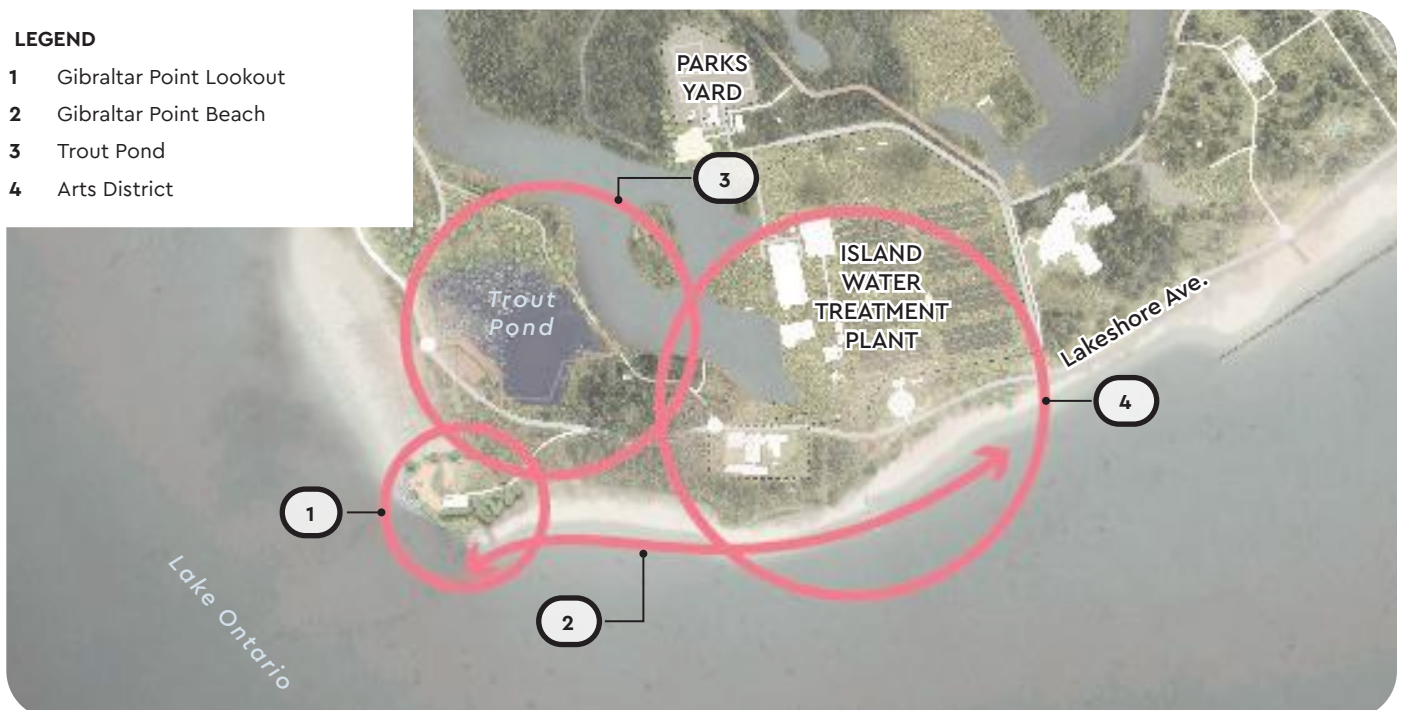


Fig. 6-7 Gibraltar Point Area Plan

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## Gibraltar Point Lookout

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Envisioned as a revitalized community hub and multi-purpose space, upgrades to an existing washroom building will support potential year-round uses. A multi-use pavilion should anchor the community lawn and plaza with biodiverse planting and screened views of the lake. A fire pit and lookout will support framed sunset views of the lake. Pathway connections to and around Trout Pond will support teaching and learning about natural heritage in the area. Consider opportunities for expanded park programs as well as providing shelter for future cool-season uses.

### Potential Improvements:

**Pavilion Building.** A new flexible year-round pavilion should replace the existing washrooms to expand program opportunities and bridge services between Hanlan's Point and Centre Island park areas. The pavilion structure should be designed to demonstrate leadership in sustainable design and integrate potential year-round community uses within the pavilion and the Fire Circle and adjacent park spaces. Opportunities to support enhanced rentals, accessible equipment lending and accessible services should be explored at the pavilion to support Gibraltar Point Beach.

**Sunset Lookout & Fire Circle.** Design the lookout and fire circle with Indigenous and beach user communities. Frame views to support cultural protocols and screen views of clothing-optional spaces. Consider opportunities to support cool-season and winter community programming.

**Community Lawn.** Enhance planting around the existing open space adjacent to the new pavilion to create a flexible community

space. Screen views from community lawn to clothing-optional beach. Explore biodiverse groundcover and plantings to reduce management requirements and improve the resilience of the active park space.

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## Gibraltar Point Beach

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A hidden gem among the Island's beaches, this space should continue to be a cherished Island refuge. Improvements should prioritize strengthening the resilience of the dynamic beach ecology and providing accessible facilities and services to an underserved park area. The beach should rely on the adjacent Gibraltar Point Lookout facilities and spaces to support the Island-wide expansion of key services (rentals, food, washrooms). Any improvements on the beach should prioritize the protection of the unique quiet character and avoid duplication of other park experiences.

### Potential Improvements:

**Beach Rentals.** Primarily supported by the new pavilion at Gibraltar Point Lookout, consider low-impact operations, avoid waste, and address site-specific needs for the beach.

**Accessible Beach Area.** Create an accessible path between the Gibraltar Point Lookout and the beach to provide barrier-free access to and into the water for people of all ages and abilities. Explore opportunities to provide staffed resources to support accessible use and equipment lending at the beach. Designate an accessible beach area and integrate wayfinding and other park-wide accessibility initiatives to support consistent levels of service across the Island.

## LEGEND

- 1 Pavilion Building
- 2 Sunset Lookout & Fire Circle
- 3 Community Lawn
- 4 Accessible Beach Area
- 5 Habitat Restoration and Management
- 6 Beach Access and Landing
- 7 Overlook
- 8 Habitat Protection
- 9 Pathways
- 10 Gibraltar Point Lighthouse
- 11 Former Island School Revitalization
- 12 Former Laboratory Building Revitalization

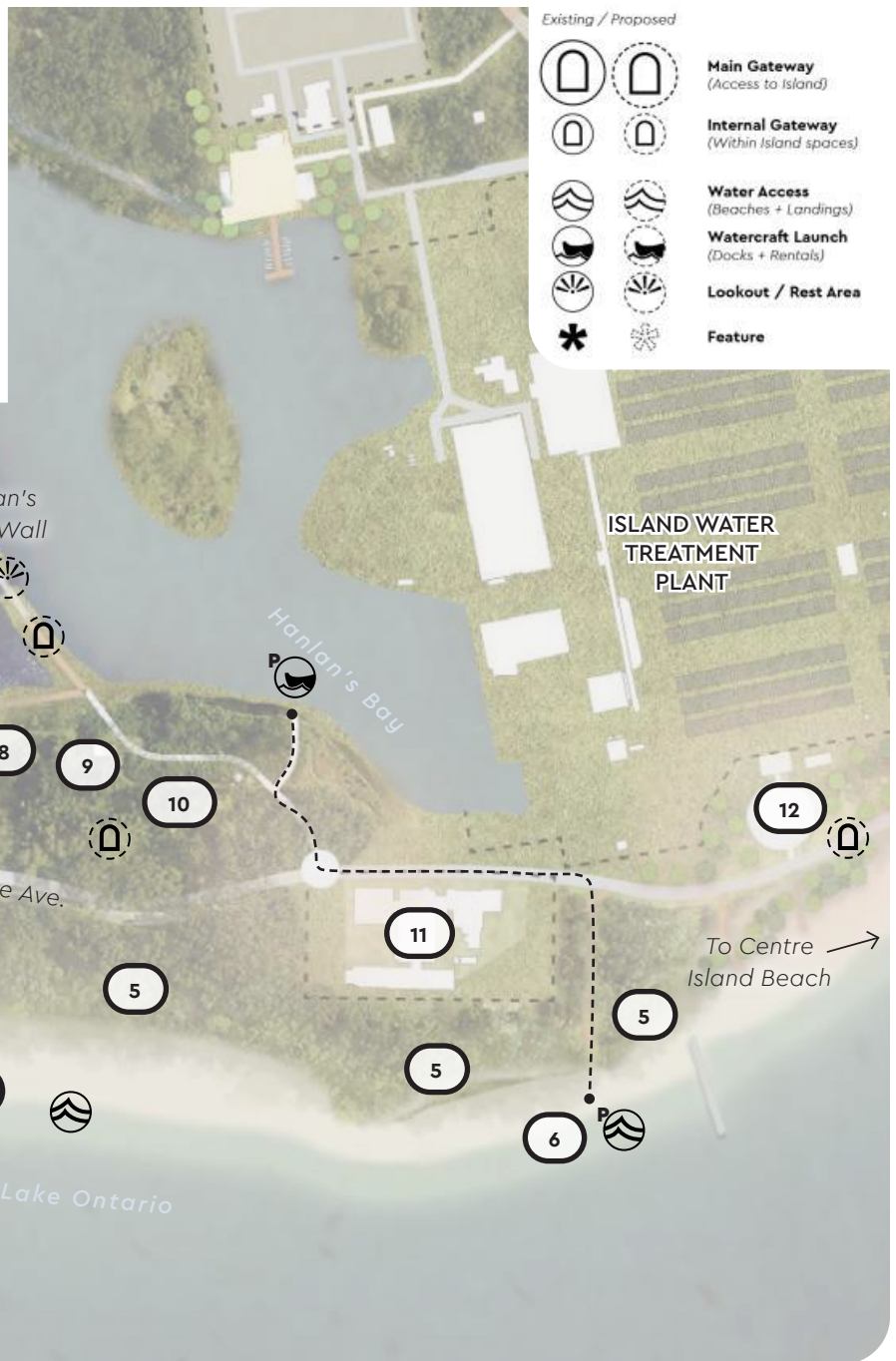


Fig. 6-8 Gibraltar Point Lookout, Gibraltar Point Beach, Trout Pond, and Arts District Focus Areas Plan

**Habitat Restoration and Management.**

Manage dune and woodland areas adjacent to the beach for invasive species and human impacts to mitigate expanded and formalized activities at and around the beach. Explore seasonal closures and managed access to areas of the beach to support the management of surrounding habitats.

**Beach Access and Landing.** Opportunities to formalize beach access pathways to connect to facilities at Gibraltar Point and facilities at the former Island School (currently used by Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts) and reduce impacts on adjacent natural areas should be prioritized. Considerations for designating a watercraft landing area at the beach should be explored and supported through wayfinding updates.

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## Trout Pond

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Trout Pond is a critical aquatic habitat and natural resource for the Island. The significance of the diverse environment should be protected and managed to prioritize the function and value of the ecology. Where appropriate, interpretive walkways and materials should be integrated to support education and advocacy about the unique spaces and features of Trout Pond and other aspects of the internal waterways of the Island. The area also includes the Gibraltar Point Lighthouse which is significant to the history of settlement in Toronto. The area surrounding the lighthouse and Trout Pond should be enhanced to capture these unique stories and celebrate two distinct themes within the park.

**Potential Improvements:**

**Overlook.** Consider an elevated walkway and gathering space located near Lakeshore Avenue to serve as an educational node for Trout Pond. Explore opportunities for year-round programming. Connect to other seasonal pathways around Trout Pond. Consider interpretation themes that support teaching opportunities about both colonial and Indigenous management practices. Explore opportunities to support programming using the Gibraltar Point Pavilion during cooler seasons.

**Habitat Protection.** Actively manage and protect the terrestrial and aquatic habitat of Trout Pond and its surroundings. Manage invasive species, structural diversity and biodiversity of vegetated areas. Monitor human access within and near habitat to mitigate impacts and adjust access. Consider seasonal closures to facilitate the restoration of the area's ecologies.

**Pathways.** Identify suitable pathway connections to minimize trampling and fragmentation while supporting access to the watercraft launch and water taxi landing and around the lighthouse. Consider opportunities to create a seasonal route between the lighthouse and Hanlan's Mooring Wall. Ensure pathways are designed to support accessible movement and mitigate human impacts on adjacent ecologies.

**Gibraltar Point Lighthouse.** Consider heritage designation of the listed property to protect and recognize its value in the development of the city. Protect and manage the lighthouse structure and surrounding area following best practices. Undertake additional studies and conservation plans for this site, as required.





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## Arts District

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The existing character and use of spaces around the Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts should be supported through strategic investment and enhancement of facilities at the former Island School as well as the former laboratory building adjacent to the IWTP property. Opportunities to explore art in the landscapes between structures should be leveraged to create a linked experience within the area and the larger park. Temporary and permanent installations and activations should be explored as part of an integrated Island-wide approach to art.

### Potential Improvements:

**Open Space Enhancements.** Create a bold and engaging arts-based experience that supports the integration of art throughout the park. Explore partnerships with area agencies and creators to create an Island-specific expression of art in the park. Consider permanent and temporary installations and activations that support the delivery of programs and events beyond the immediate area.

**Former Island School Revitalization.** Work with the leaseholder to explore opportunities to expand the concept of creating and sharing art within the landscapes of the Island. Undertake heritage and condition assessments to identify opportunities to rehabilitate or replace the structures. Ensure improvements address flood mitigation requirements. Engage the direct community of the site in any design process.

**Former Laboratory Building Revitalization.** Undertake heritage and condition assessments to identify opportunities to rehabilitate or replace the structure and identify potential programming. Consider opportunities to support arts-based programs and services or as an interpretive space for the park.



### 6.1.4 Centre Island

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Centre Island is the primary destination for most visitors to the Island. Existing destinations of Centreville, the William Meany Maze, playgrounds, and park amenities will continue to operate and support the implementation of new initiatives, improvements and management practices elsewhere in the area. New walkways and destinations around Long Pond, Olympic Island, Avenue of the Islands and Centre Island Beach and Pier will enhance the year-round appeal and opportunities at Centre Island. A re-imagined Centre Landing would provide a welcoming arrival point and support flexible spaces that could adapt to seasonal use and special programming while also serving as a key location to share the importance of the Island for a variety of communities.

#### Improvements List

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##### Centre Landing

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- ▶ Gateway Feature
- ▶ Arrival Plaza
- ▶ Island Welcome Centre
- ▶ North Shore Trail – Centre Landing
- ▶ Centre Landing Marketplace
- ▶ Destination Restaurant
- ▶ Pavilion and Washroom Revitalization
- ▶ Picnic Lawns
- ▶ Toronto Island Marina
- ▶ North Shore Trail – Toronto Island Marina

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##### Olympic Island

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- ▶ Gathering Space
- ▶ Revitalized Pavilion
- ▶ North Shore Trail – Olympic Island
- ▶ Midpoint Bridge
- ▶ Winter Activation

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##### Lagoon Loop

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- ▶ Pedestrian Bridge
- ▶ North Edge Promenade
- ▶ Regatta Course
- ▶ Grandstand
- ▶ South Shore
- ▶ Donut Island Lookout
- ▶ East Loop

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##### Parks Yard

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- ▶ Works Yard Optimization
- ▶ Landscape Restoration
- ▶ Restoration Loop
- ▶ Plaza
- ▶ Heritage Structure Rehabilitation
- ▶ Watercraft Launch Node

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##### Avenue of the Islands

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- ▶ Garden Rehabilitation
- ▶ Manitou Road Interpretation
- ▶ Gathering Circle

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##### Centre Island Beach

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- ▶ Centre Island Pier
- ▶ Centre Island Pier Pavilions
- ▶ Beach Rentals
- ▶ Beach Access and Landing
- ▶ Accessible Beach Area

# **LEGEND**

- 1 Centre Landing
- 2 Olympic Island
- 3 Lagoon Loop
- 4 Parks Yard
- 5 Avenue of the Island
- 6 Centre Island Beach



Fig. 6-9 Centre Island Area Plan



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## Centre Landing

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Centre Landing is the primary gateway for visitors to Toronto Island Park. To support enhanced, winterized facilities and amenities that celebrate the changing seasons of the park and expand the visitor experience, Centre Landing should be served by year-round ferry service. Several existing programs and structures will benefit from improvements that modernize facilities, expand offerings and introduce new opportunities to activate and engage in the bustling atmosphere of Centre Island.

### Potential Improvements:

**Gateway Feature.** Create a signature feature at the landing to signal the arrival to the Island and celebrate the park as an Indigenous place. Engage Indigenous communities in the design of the feature, both in advisory and creative roles. Consider opportunities to link themes across all landings and other spaces within the park as part of an interpretive experience.

**Arrival Plaza.** Support expanded activities and seasonal uses through a redesigned arrival space. Prioritize accessibility and movement through intuitive wayfinding to help visitors explore the Island. Integrate green infrastructure and biodiverse planting to enhance the sustainability of the plaza and reduce maintenance needs. Provide rest and meeting spaces outside of primary travel paths. Create clear sightlines between key destinations in the landing.

**Island Welcome Centre.** Design a new structure that reflects the scale, materiality, and character of the Island. Undertake a needs assessment to identify the program and space needs for the building. Consider a flexible primary space to support a year-round destination to provide

information, washrooms, concession, and an interpretive centre. Explore opportunities to leverage exterior spaces to expand programming beyond the building in warmer seasons.

**North Shore Trail – Centre Landing.** Provide a new trail along the north water's edge to capture views of the city skyline and harbour. Integrate path improvements with proposed flood mitigation work. Explore a stepped condition at the landing to encourage visitors to explore right up to the water's edge and provide an informal place to sit and enjoy views of the ferries.

**Centre Landing Marketplace.** Provide flexible spaces to expand the retail and food offerings at the landing. Consider fixed and movable configurations to support seasonal expansion of the market spaces. Dedicate spaces for Indigenous artists and craftspeople. Consider opportunities to occupy a revitalized pavilion as an open-air shelter for market use.

**Destination Restaurant.** Provide an enhanced restaurant experience to support the four-season activation of the landing. Provide diverse and accessible food options with dine-in and take-away offerings. Encourage four-season operation in alignment with year-round ferry access. Avoid visible back-of-house spaces by creating active frontages on all sides. Activate the surrounding park and leverage the views of the harbour and city in all seasons from exterior and interior spaces.

**Pavilion and Washroom Revitalization.** Explore rehabilitation of the existing pavilions and washroom structure. Explore opportunities to support the marketplace program as well as provide shelter from weather in spring, summer, and fall. Explore the relocation of the existing food program to the Welcome Centre to facilitate year-round service. Consider



Fig. 6-10 Centre Landing Focus Area Plan

winterizing washroom facilities to support and supplement new year-round uses and programs at the landing and park spaces beyond.

**Picnic Lawns.** Explore biodiverse and trample-resistant lawn planting to support reduced maintenance requirements and accommodate intense uses, including markets, special expanded events, or picnics. Provide pathways within the lawns to frame areas for expanded market events and connect the landing to the Toronto Island Marina. Explore materials that positively contribute to the climate resilience goals of the park and meet accessibility requirements.

**Toronto Island Marina.** Rehabilitate dock infrastructure to elevate the public realm of the marina. Create new pedestrian pathway connections to bring visitors from Centre Landing and the larger park through a new “front door” experience to the Upper Deck restaurant, tender launch and marina administration office. Maintain service access from Avenue of the Islands. Support pedestrian connections for the Lagoon Loop interpretive route along the Long Pond shoreline.

**North Shore Trail – Toronto Island Marina.** Enhance existing routes from the main hub of the Toronto Island Marina along the north shore and harbour edge. Create opportunities to enjoy views and explore the shoreline, including opportunities for soft landing areas for watercraft. Explore partnerships with the marina operator to provide short-term canoe, kayak or SUP storage or water shuttle landings along the northern shore.

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## Olympic Island

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The legacy of Olympic Island as an event space should continue with a new focus on community and cultural events and gatherings. The existing Lagoon Theatre should remain and be enhanced to continue providing unique and accessible arts-based programming. Improvements should focus on raising critical infrastructure and facilities above flood levels to facilitate access and planning for year-round programming. Consider opportunities to create intentionally floodable landscapes to demonstrate passive flood management within the park. New pathways and connections should be accessible year-round and integrate opportunities for winter use (such as skating) within this already well-serviced landscape.

### Potential Improvements:

**Gathering Space.** Explore the construction of earthworks to raise the existing lawn above the high-water level and allow for consistent use for community events and gatherings at various times of the year. Explore biodiverse and trample-resistant lawn planting to support Island-wide landscape management initiatives. The design of the space should engage with Indigenous organizations and communities as well as event programmers as part of an Island-wide Events strategy. Ensure considerations for gatherings and cultural events include an understanding of operations and logistics for hosting events scaled to the Island.

**Revitalized Pavilion.** Explore opportunities to rehabilitate the existing pavilion structure as a destination food space to support the gathering space. Explore rehabilitation of facilities to support use by a variety of food vendors. Refurbish washroom facilities to support park-



wide winterization and sustainability objectives. Explore opportunities to expand the exterior patio to enhance the North Shore Trail.

**North Shore Trail – Olympic Island.** Create a continuous route adjacent to vegetated shore conditions on the northern edge of Olympic Island. Expand public access to views of Toronto Harbour through lookouts. Introduce play nodes to activate the route. Explore the use of elevated boardwalks where flooding may occur to support year-round access.

**Midpoint Bridge.** Explore the construction of a new bridge to improve accessibility

and safety on Olympic Island. Consider designs that reflect the character of adjacent structures and support the creation of habitat supports within structures in the park.

**Winter Activation.** Leverage its proximity to the ferry landing and flexible space to deliver four-season programming, activities, and events, as well as unparalleled views of the city. Winterize facilities serving Olympic Island. Explore opportunities to create natural ice rinks or an artificially refrigerated skate trail to further expand winter offerings.

#### LEGEND

- 1 Gathering Space
- 2 Revitalized Pavilion
- 3 North Shore Trail – Olympic Island
- 4 Midpoint Bridge

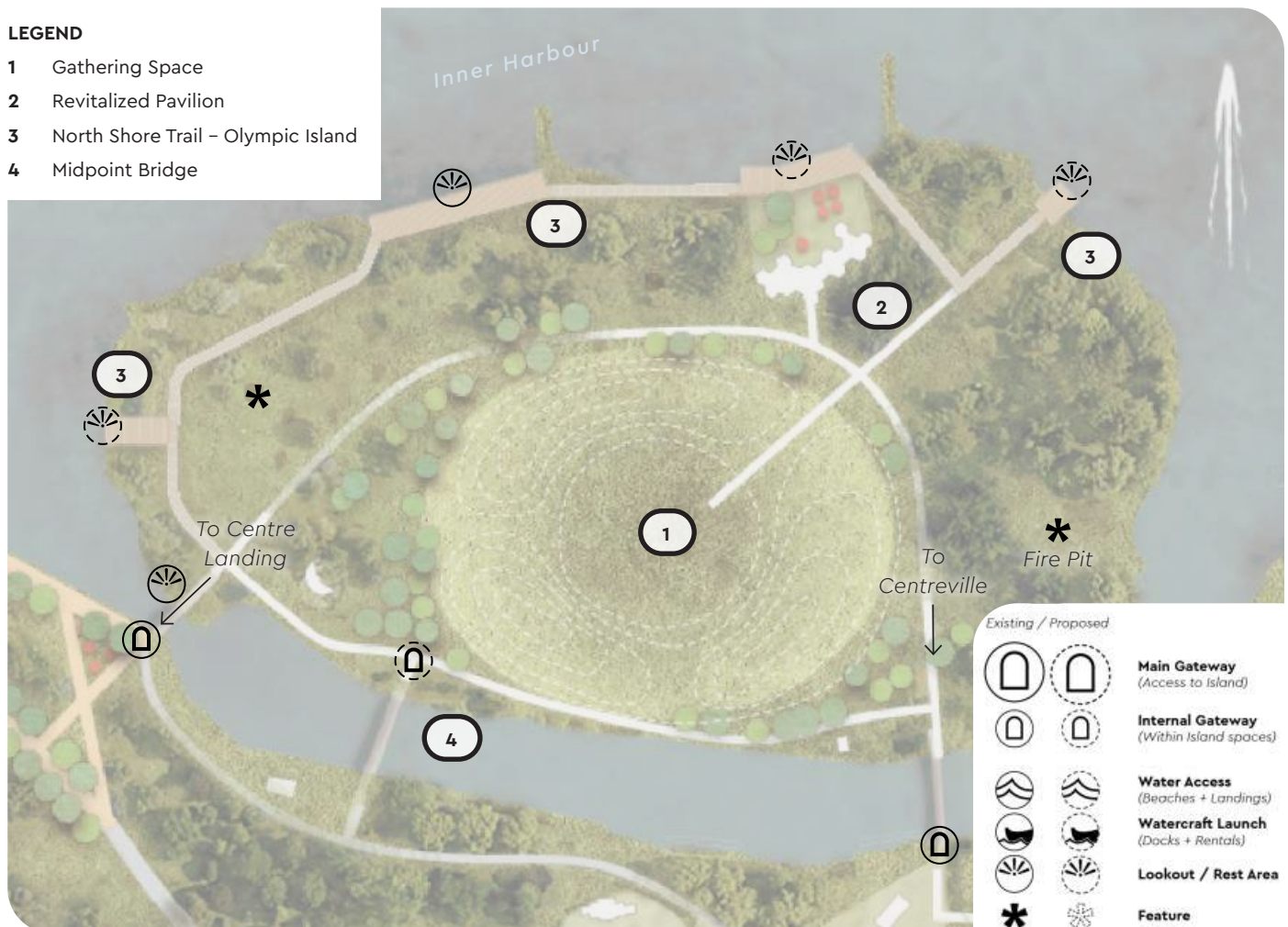


Fig. 6-11 Olympic Island Focus Area Plan





Fig. 6-12 Lagoon Loop, Parks Yard, Avenue of the Islands, and Centre Island Beach Focus Areas Plan



## Lagoon Loop

Envisioned as a new 3.5km interpretive experience, the east and west loops that comprise Lagoon Loop would reconnect the diverse spaces around Long Pond in a continuous journey through the park's natural and programmed areas. The existing Manitou Bridge located on the Avenue of the Islands would serve as the dividing point between the east and west circuits. The overall loop is intended to frame Long Pond and mark the boundaries of a potential Non-Motorized Priority Zone using accessible bridges at key locations.

Along the loop, several types of nodes, lookouts and interpretive opportunities should be leveraged to celebrate and share information about the diverse conditions, histories, and sensitive ecologies of Long Pond without negatively impacting the ecological function of the area. The path should also provide connections to new water access and watercraft launch nodes with existing facilities and amenities to support an improved water-based circulation network through the park.

### Potential Improvements:

**Pedestrian Bridges.** Provide accessible pedestrian bridges at three locations: the west end of Long Pond, across Deep Cut at the south end of the marina, and at the east end of Far Enough Farm and Centreville. Design bridges to allow accessible movement and demonstrate the character and values of the park. Consider opportunities to use bridges as visual markers for the proposed limits of a Non-Motorized Priority Zone within Long Pond. Explore opportunities to restore existing features and reconfigure approaches to meet accessibility standards at existing crossings. Design new bridges to

accommodate access by emergency services within the waterways and park, as required.

**North Edge Promenade.** Explore the use of elevated boardwalks and at-grade pathways within established park areas adjacent to the northern edge of Long Pond to enhance the connection to the water. Consider opportunities to link existing park destinations with currently inaccessible spaces on Mugg's Island and at the Parks Yard. Explore the use of lookouts along the boardwalk to provide viewing opportunities for sporting and recreational events. At suitable locations along the boardwalk, consider openings to the shore to allow for water access nodes.

**Regatta Course.** Maintain existing operations of the regatta course on Long Pond. Consider opportunities to locate a new boat launch near Manitou Bridge to support the drop-off and pick-up of vessels for races.

**Grandstand.** Revitalize the existing Grandstand to address flood damage and enhance its use as a multi-purpose structure in the park. Reconfigure the Grandstand's design to improve sight lines and visibility to Long Pond and enhance water-facing and park-facing activation. Consider upgrades to support flexible use and programming. Integrate servicing upgrades, including support for lighting and A/V. Explore relocation of the Lions pavilion from Centre Landing.

**South Shore.** Within previously inaccessible shorelines and natural areas (either ESAs, PSWs or other non-designated areas), prioritize minimal impacts on and access into sensitive

spaces while allowing for views to habitat from pathways. Consider the use of elevated boardwalks and on-grade pathways to suit a variety of conditions. Undertake rigorous studies of the ecological function and health of the natural areas to inform the design and routing of pathways. Identify opportunities for education and advocacy programming to help build awareness of the complex and significant systems that contribute to the overall ecological health of the park and area.

**Donut Island Lookout.** Provide a lookout to mitigate impacts on the sensitive aquatic habitat surrounding Donut Island (a former settling basin from an earlier water treatment plant facility). Access from the South Shore path and Long Pond should be considered. Integrate educational signage and physical barriers that protect the shallow waters and communicate ways to respectfully enjoy or explore the area. Close the lookout and surrounding waterways as needed to support the ecological health and function of the area.

**East Loop.** East of Avenue of the Islands, revitalize existing pedestrian pathways and construct a new bridge between Far Enough Farm and St. Andrew's by the Lake Church to create the East Loop experience. Use the enhanced path to improve access and wayfinding for destinations on the 1.0km loop. Explore opportunities to create a short interpretive experience to share information about the former communities on the Island.



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## Parks Yard

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The Parks Yard area should continue to support park operations and maintenance needs while providing improved opportunities along the perimeter of this space for new walkways, restoration and regeneration within one of the most significant natural areas on the islands. Underused buildings should be re-purposed to support concession and washroom amenities and seasonal rentals. Buildings should be used to frame a new plaza and watercraft landing. Following a facilities audit and the creation of several depots across the park, the city could reconfigure the works yard to reduce its impacts on the ESA and take advantage of existing facilities in the administration building and IWTP site. Any reconfigured yard should incorporate a significant buffer to separate public and operational spaces and mitigate environmental impacts on the ESA.

### Potential Improvements:

**Works Yard Optimization.** Following recommendations from a park operations audit, consider opportunities for optimizing and enclosing the works yard and relocating some operations to other sites within the park. Provide an ecological buffer to delineate the boundaries of the yard, visually screen the facility from new public uses, and mitigate impacts from park management and operation activities on the surrounding environment.

**Landscape Restoration.** Restore disturbed landscapes surrounding the works yard. Explore opportunities to use restoration areas as educational spaces for visitors. Demonstrate innovative methods of regenerating disturbed landscapes. Consider additional requirements based on CESI designation, as required.

**Restoration Loop.** Provide a pathway to connect new program areas at the plaza with nearby amenities in the park. Use the pathway through the disturbed landscape to connect to the Lagoon Loop interpretive route and provide visitors with opportunities to observe landscape restoration activities and processes first-hand. Use a combination of elevated structures and at-grade pathways to reduce impacts on the surrounding areas. Integrate teaching spaces for nature-based educational programming along the loop.

**Plaza.** Create a new public open space to support the re-imagined year-round destination and rehabilitated heritage structures of the area. Consider opportunities for patios and seating areas to support possible concession spaces and provide rest areas. Accessible seating and facilities within the open space should be considered for visitors on foot and arriving from the water.

**Heritage Structure Rehabilitation.** Rehabilitate and consider adaptive reuse for two identified heritage structures associated with the Island Water Treatment Plant (IWTP), the former incinerator and stables. Include public washroom facilities within the structures. Explore interpretive opportunities including support for an educational hub.

**Watercraft Launch Node.** Re-purpose an existing dock structure to create a new watercraft rental node and accessible launch. Consider opportunities for short-term personal watercraft (canoes, kayaks, SUPs) storage and docking.



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## Avenue of the Islands

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A significant example of modernist landscape design, the formal gardens of Avenue of the Islands are the central promenade of the 1960s park design for Toronto Island. The rehabilitated gardens should be replanted to demonstrate sustainable horticulture practices using native and Indigenous plants. A re-imagined space at the south end of the gardens could integrate space for gathering and celebration around a central fire and engage in dialogues about the rich and complex history of the Island. In addition to stories about the former communities of the Island, this space should provide opportunities to share the significance of Toronto Island as an Indigenous place through its design and programming and should become a space to teach, learn, and share Indigenous practices.

### Potential Improvements:

**Garden Rehabilitation.** Gradually replant the existing formal planting beds with species that reflect horticultural applications of native and adapted species. Consider opportunities to demonstrate traditional Indigenous food and medicine planting even if harvesting is not appropriate. Consider opportunities to develop plant palettes and management protocols with Elders and knowledge holders

to demonstrate traditional land management. Carry out management in collaboration with Indigenous communities to ensure appropriate protocols and practices are observed.

**Manitou Road Interpretation.** Within the context of the modernist landscape and gardens that replaced the former community, explore opportunities to meaningfully acknowledge and interpret the history that created the Island and made it a place people seek out. Consider opportunities to share the stories of the former main street, the broad history of human settlement and uses, and the ecological and cultural significance of the Island for the city.

**Gathering Circle.** Identify a space along the central axis of Avenue of the Islands to adapt for a Gathering Circle or similar cultural form to accommodate public-facing ceremony, teaching, storytelling, and acts of reconciliation in the centre of the park. Include a place for fire and consider shelter and seating options that could support year-round use. Integrate the space as part of the Cultural Narrative Trail.

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## Centre Island Beach

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Centre Island Beach is a place to play and explore with family. Located near many family-oriented destinations, the beach includes a break-wall structure that makes it ideal for novice swimmers. The accessibility at the beach should be enhanced through the use of sand mats, all-terrain mobility devices, floating wheelchairs and staff on hand to assist visitors. Expanded beach rentals and enhanced food offerings at the existing concession and washroom areas should provide affordable and diverse options and help reduce the number of things visitors have to bring with them. The proximity to existing play spaces should continue to support opportunities to explore and play near the beach. The pier should continue to be a destination for incredible views, day and night, year-round.

### Potential Improvements:

**Centre Island Pier.** Leveraging the unparalleled views of Lake Ontario, the Island, and the sky, explore opportunities for night sky viewing from the pier. Upgrade lighting to protect night sky viewing potential and maintain safety on the structure.

**Centre Island Pier Pavilions.** Continue operating recreational bike rentals at the pier. Winterize washroom and change facilities to support year-round activation and enjoyment of nearby park areas. Prioritize space for accessible beach services and equipment lending within the existing pavilions.

**Beach Rentals.** Identify opportunities to expand rentals from the pier to include low-impact and contextually appropriate opportunities at the beach. Consider a second location for on-beach rentals at the west end of the beach to support both Centre Island and Gibraltar Point Beaches. Ensure structures to support on-beach locations are temporary and movable to minimize impacts on the beach ecology.

**Beach Access and Landing.** Expand beach access pathways to connect to Lakeshore Avenue, park play spaces and facilities at Centre Island Pier. Explore potential locations for a watercraft landing area at the beach. Support any new landings through wayfinding updates and Island-wide water-based transportation and recreation initiatives.

**Accessible Beach Area.** Create an accessible path between Lakeshore Avenue and the beach to provide barrier-free access to and into the water for people of all ages and abilities. Explore opportunities to provide staffed resources to support accessible use and equipment lending at the beach. Designate an accessible beach area and integrate wayfinding and other park-wide accessibility initiatives to support consistent levels of service across the Island.

### 6.1.5 Ward's Island

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An enhanced Ward's Landing will continue to serve as the easternmost arrival point to the Island and primary landing for the residents of the Ward's Island and Algonquin Island communities. The area should support year-round access and serve as a gateway to experiences along the Eastern Channel, Ward's Island Beach, and community spaces of the Cove, Pirate Park and at the south end of Algonquin Island. Larger park-wide experiences, including the Toronto Island disc golf course, would continue, while new spaces for dedicated Indigenous use at Snake Island and facility improvements to support community programming from Avenue of the Islands to the Eastern Channel.

#### Improvements List

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##### Ward's Landing

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- ▶ Ferry Dock Renovation & Shelter
- ▶ Gateway Feature
- ▶ Warming Shed Surrounds
- ▶ North Shore Trail – Ward's Landing
- ▶ North Shore Beach
- ▶ Washroom & Visitor Pavilion
- ▶ Rental Node

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##### The Cove

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- ▶ Lookout
- ▶ Island Trust Open Space Integration
- ▶ Freda's Garden and Beach

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##### Eastern Channel

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- ▶ Dock Wall Rehabilitation
- ▶ North Point Lookout
- ▶ Lakeshore Avenue Pathway
- ▶ South Point Lookout

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##### Ward's Beach

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- ▶ Washroom Revitalization
- ▶ Dune Habitat Management
- ▶ Natural Area Pathway
- ▶ Accessible Beach Area
- ▶ Beach Rentals
- ▶ Watercraft Landing
- ▶ Portage Access

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##### Pirate Park

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- ▶ Shelter and Community Gathering Space
- ▶ Play Area Revitalization
- ▶ Sport Court Expansion
- ▶ Lakeshore Boardwalk
- ▶ Remnant Lots Interpretation
- ▶ Parks Depot and Parking
- ▶ Watercraft Launch Node
- ▶ Portage Access

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##### Algonquin Island

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- ▶ North Shore Trail – Algonquin Island
- ▶ Wyandot Avenue Lookout
- ▶ Meadow Walk

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##### Snake Island

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- ▶ Gateway and Bridge
- ▶ Expanded Washrooms
- ▶ Beach Access and Pathway
- ▶ Ceremonial Space

**LEGEND**

- 1 Ward's Landing
- 2 The Cove
- 3 Eastern Channel
- 4 Ward's Beach
- 5 Pirate Park
- 6 Algonquin Island
- 7 Snake Island



Fig. 6-13 Ward's Island Area Plan



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## Ward's Landing

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Ward's Landing should continue to be a year-round destination to support the ongoing needs of the residential communities and operations of the park overall. Supporting the refurbished Warming Shed, new shelters and facilities are needed to create a more welcoming and comfortable experience on chilly winter waits for the ferry. A revitalized arrival plaza and gateway feature should share the significance of the Island for both Indigenous and local communities and provide an enjoyable place to linger.

The landing will continue to be surrounded by flexible open space that can continue to host art installations, community events and passive park uses. The Ward's Island Dock Committee should continue to be an active partner in the design and activation of the landing area. Indigenous communities should be engaged in the design of Ward's Landing given its role as a gateway to significant Indigenous spaces and home of the Toronto Island and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations Friendship Group.

### Potential Improvements:

**Ferry Dock Renovation & Shelter.** Revitalize the ferry dock to address seasonal and environmental impacts (such as ice build-up and wave action). Realign security fencing to create a more welcoming experience at the dock. Consider opportunities for weather shelter and expanded landing at the north side of the landing. Explore opportunities to incorporate short-term docking for small non-motorized watercraft.

**Gateway Feature.** Create a signature feature at the landing to signal the arrival to the Island and celebrate the park as an Indigenous place and home to thriving communities. Engage Indigenous communities and local residents in the design of the feature, both in advisory and creative roles. Consider opportunities to link themes across all landings and other spaces within the park as part of an interpretive experience.

**Warming Shed Surrounds.** Leveraging flood mitigation work by TRCA, integrate shoreline restoration with landscape improvements to enhance access and aesthetics of the heritage feature. Explore opportunities to enhance views of the harbour and city.

### North Shore Trail – Ward's Landing.

Enhance access and opportunities to explore various shoreline conditions around the landing. Integrate community benefits with ongoing flood mitigation improvements. Create pathways and landforms to provide more direct connections and accessible routes to spaces around the landing.

**North Shore Beach.** Improve access to the beach both from park spaces and the water. Manage beach conditions and monitor water quality to support safe use. Consider opportunities to include a northern access point as part of a Ward's Island portage route for experienced paddlers between Ward's Island Beach and the Inner Harbour.

**Washroom & Visitor Pavilion.** Create a new washroom pavilion including a scaled-down visitor hub south of the landing. Provide wayfinding, interpretation, and programming support to help orient visitors, share what is going on at the Island, and help visitors choose where to go.

## LEGEND

- 1 Shelter + Dock Renovation
- 2 Gateway Feature
- 3 Warming Shed
- 4 North Shore Trail – Ward's Landing
- 5 Washrooms + Visitor Pavilion
- 6 Rental Node
- 7 North Shore Beach

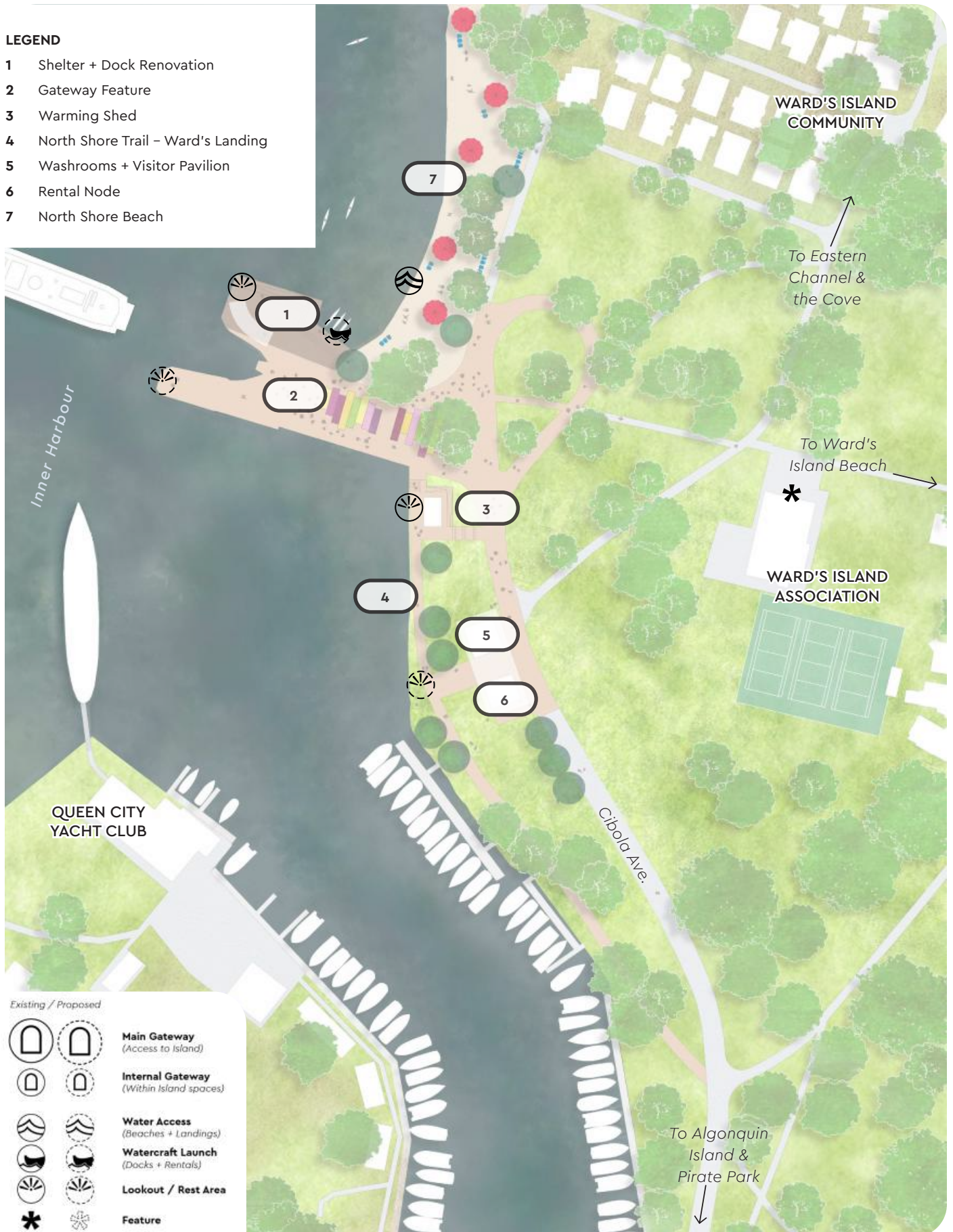


Fig. 6-14 Ward's Landing Focus Area Plan

**Rental Node.** Paired with the new washroom and visitor pavilion, create a dedicated bike rental hub at the south end of the landing site area to minimize conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians. Explore rentals to support recreational and point-to-point services. In winter, explore opportunities to provide winter-focused equipment rentals for the park and area.

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## The Cove

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Taking advantage of planned flood mitigation improvements, the Cove could be connected to the larger experience of the park through the creation of informal walkways and strategic landscape elements. Working closely with the Island Trust and TRCA, flood mitigation improvements and connection opportunities between Ward's Landing and the Eastern Channel dock wall should consider opportunities to establish a new interpretive loop. The complete loop should provide opportunities for storytelling, interpretation and the celebration of significant views to the north and east and provide opportunities to share the cultural and ecological significance of Ward's Island with visitors.

### Potential Improvements:

**Lookout.** Consider opportunities to extend existing walkways along shorelines or over the water to create unique views and connect spaces. Design pathways and lookouts with suitable buffering to the private residences on Ward's Island. Explore opportunities to support restoration and monitoring of the shoreline at the exposed north point.

**Island Trust Open Space Integration.** Work with the Island Trust to identify opportunities for integrating orphan spaces at the fringes of the Ward's Island residential community into the open space network of the overall park. Explore management and access opportunities to support a consistent park-wide approach to shorelines.

**Freda's Garden and Beach.** Consider opportunities to connect the beach to pathways at Channel Avenue and First Street. Avoid significant changes within the gardens and continue to collaborate with the community on the design and management of the community space. Explore opportunities to provide a connection across the beach to the Eastern Channel and support the Ward's Loop interpretive experience.

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## Eastern Channel

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The Eastern Channel dock wall should be rehabilitated and connected with the Ward's Loop interpretive route to reveal a hidden treasure in the park. Aging infrastructure should be replaced to support emergency mooring along the channel in inclement weather as well as create a new public space for experiencing the edges of the Island. Connections with Ward's Beach through the ESA should be formalized and controlled to minimize trampling. Improvements to the Lakeshore Avenue access should enhance accessibility and connect park spaces around the perimeter of the Ward's Island community.



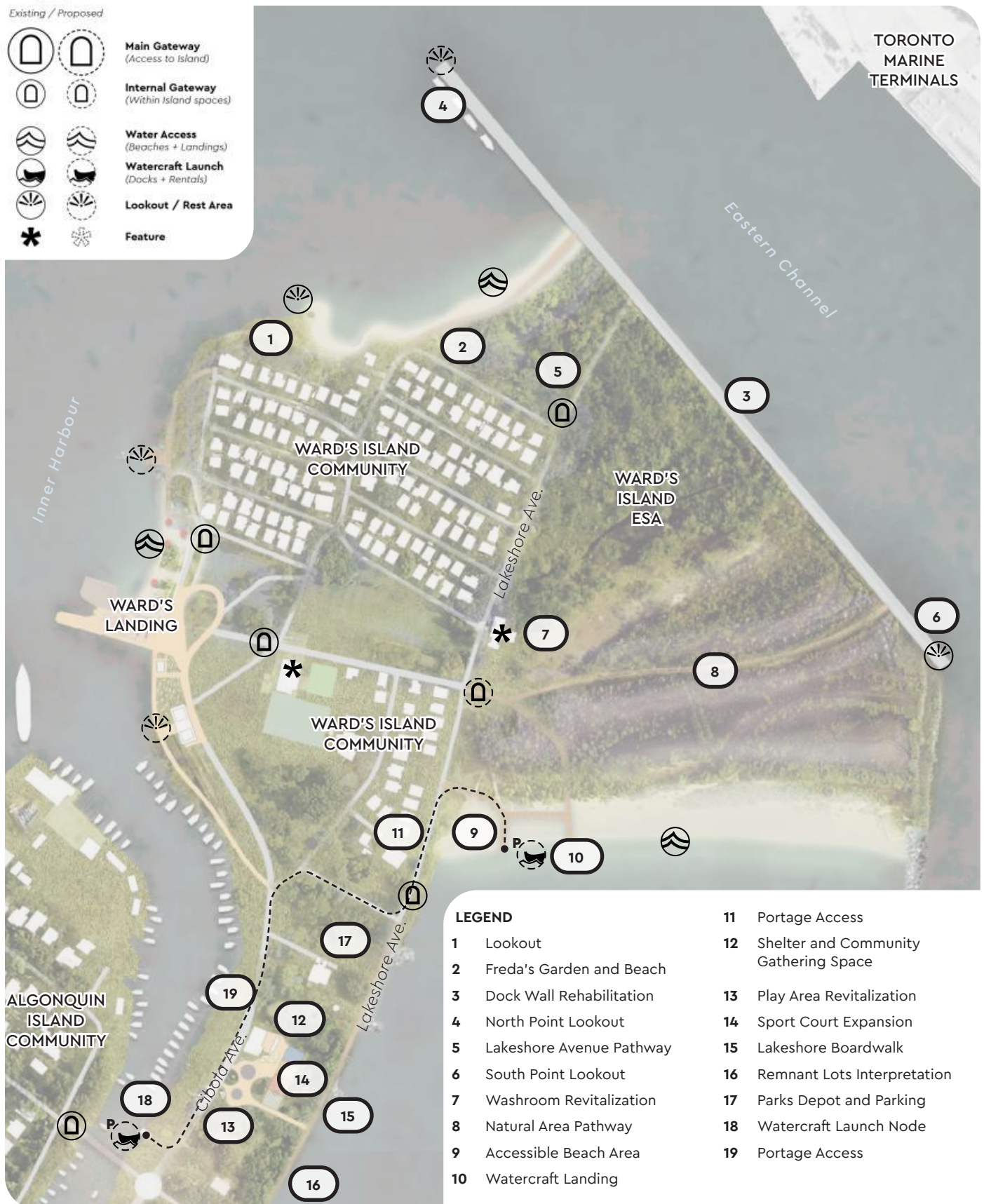


Fig. 6-15 The Cove, Eastern Channel, Ward's Island Beach, and Pirate Park Focus Areas Plan



## Potential Improvements:

**Dock Wall Rehabilitation.** Investigate the condition of the dock wall to identify rehabilitation needs. Identify opportunities for integrating public uses along the wall, including lookouts, seating areas and emergency mooring. Explore opportunities for public mooring outside the shipping channel boundaries.

**North Point Lookout.** Integrate a new lookout feature with dock wall rehabilitation work. Include interpretive information about the maritime history of the Island and harbour.

**Lakeshore Avenue Pathway.** Enhance the walkway connection from the Ward's Island community along Lakeshore Avenue. Integrate features of the Ward's Loop interpretive route. Prioritize physical accessibility and support opportunities to view areas within the Ward's Beach ESA while minimizing human impacts on the sensitive ecologies.

**South Point Lookout.** Enhance an existing lookout at the south end of the dock wall. Integrate seating and interpretive information. Create a destination to showcase unique views of the Outer Harbour and Tommy Thompson Park. Share information about the history of the channel and harbours as well as the physical and ecological links to these nearby destinations.

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## Ward's Island Beach

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Ward's Island Beach is primarily seen as the community beach for residents of the Island. Opportunities to revitalize the playground and washroom structure should be explored to enhance the community uses of these facilities. New pathways along the beach

should support accessible use and water access. A new boardwalk through the adjacent ESA should consolidate worn paths, reduce fragmentation, manage access, and provide an accessible connection to future revitalization along the Eastern Channel dock wall.

## Potential Improvements:

**Washroom Revitalization.** Evaluate the condition of the existing winterized washroom and shower building. Identify upgrades to support year-round enjoyment of the area and sustainability of the facility. Explore opportunities to integrate equipment storage to support beach uses.

**Dune Habitat Management.** Protect the spaces within the Ward's Island ESA. Continue efforts to manage invasive species and support the biodiversity and function of the area. Integrate interpretive content to celebrate and showcase the unique ecology of the space. Consider lookouts or blinds within the ESA to provide views of nature while mitigating impacts.

**Natural Area Pathway.** Identify a route within ESA to link Ward's Island Beach with the Eastern Channel. Design the pathway to minimize human impacts, reduce fragmentation, and support habitat regeneration. Explore the suitability of designating the access route as dog-free to further protect and support the ecological health of the ESA. Explore opportunities to connect the pathway as part of Ward's Loop interpretive experience.

**Accessible Beach Area.** Create an accessible path between Lakeshore Avenue and the beach to provide barrier-free access to and into the water for people of all ages and abilities. Explore opportunities to provide staffed resources to support accessible use and equipment lending at the beach. Designate an accessible

beach area and integrate wayfinding and other park-wide accessibility initiatives to support consistent levels of service across the Island.

**Beach Rentals.** Primarily supported by the existing washroom facility, consider low-impact operations, avoid waste, and address site-specific needs for the beach.

**Watercraft Landing.** Enhance beach use through the designation of a soft watercraft landing site. Explore opportunities for an accessible launch at the beach based on staff support. Integrate wayfinding to support park-wide and water-based transportation.

**Portage Access.** Identify transfer points and create wayfinding to formalize a portage route for experienced paddlers between the beach and other landings on the Inner Waterways of the islands. Provide distance and directional information between watercraft landings.

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## Pirate Park

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Opportunities to enhance an existing community destination should be realized through strategic improvements and enhancement of existing facilities. A new weather shelter should be created for the area. Improvements should engage community and park visitors in identifying new spaces for community programs and small-scale activities. New facilities should support ongoing programming and expand opportunities to explore and play in the open spaces and waterways nearby. A new Parks depot and operations space could relocate existing parking from Ward's Landing and provide additional space to support

park management. Opportunities to enhance existing park programming and amenities, such as camps and watercraft rentals, and partner facilities, such as the Queen City Yacht Club, Riviera Restaurant and Toronto Island Canoe Club, should be considered.

### Potential Improvements:

#### **Shelter and Community Gathering Space.**

Use a new weather shelter to frame the expansion of program space at Pirate Park. Support ongoing recreational programming, including camps. Explore opportunities to expand public programming and serve as a hub for year-round experiences in the park.

#### **Play Area Revitalization.**

Prioritize activities for a diverse range of ages and abilities. When identified for improvement, consider opportunities to adapt or enhance the play area to reflect the evolving needs of the park. Explore opportunities to integrate nature-based play and education.

#### **Sport Court Expansion.**

Explore expansion of the existing court space to support community needs. Explore the integration of a flexible court space to support camps and visitor programming. Design expanded court areas to minimize impacts on the surrounding natural areas and provide links between nearby pathways and spaces.

#### **Lakeshore Boardwalk.**

Continue to maintain the Lakeshore Boardwalk as a signature promenade experience along the south shore of the Island. Explore opportunities to introduce, revitalize or restore connections from the boardwalk to adjacent spaces. Explore opportunities to introduce nature-positive design elements as replacement and refurbishment of the lake wall structure and boardwalk are identified.

**Remnant Lots Interpretation.** Explore opportunities to showcase existing foundation walls along the Lakeshore Boardwalk as heritage features of the Island. Integrate information about Island settlements with features to share the stories of Islanders, past and present.

**Parks Depot and Parking.** Relocate staff parking areas from Ward's Landing to a new screened parking area and depot site. Create a new purpose-built, secure depot space for Parks staff, operational vehicles and city contractors. Integrate green infrastructure to minimize impacts on surrounding park spaces. Limit storage capacity within the site to minimize overall footprint.

**Watercraft Launch Node.** Work with existing partners to integrate the existing watercraft rental node into area programming. Consider opportunities for short-term personal watercraft (canoes, kayaks, SUPs) storage and docking.

**Portage Access.** Identify transfer points and create wayfinding to formalize a portage route for experienced paddlers between Ward's Island Beach and the watercraft launch. Provide distance and directional information between destinations.

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## Algonquin Island

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Building on flood mitigation work by TRCA, enhance improvements on the south, west and northwest edges of Algonquin Island to include community benefits. Focus improvements on enhancing the ecological health and value of new and existing habitats and ecologies. New pathways around the ESA should limit trampling and facilitate restoration. Consideration for an elevated boardwalk in

some locations may allow for access during seasonal flooding events and reduce impacts on the ecological function of the ESA.

### Potential Improvements:

**North Shore Trail – Algonquin Island.** Integrate opportunities to enhance the harbour edge with an accessible route along Seneca Avenue. Consider opportunities for lookouts that accommodate berming and grade-raising to mitigate wave over-topping.

**Wyandot Avenue Lookout.** Explore opportunities to enhance an emergency vessel access dock at Algonquin Island with a discreet lookout. Provide opportunities to share information about the maritime heritage of Toronto Harbour.

**Meadow Walk.** Maintain the West Algonquin Island ESA as a floodable landscape. Explore opportunities to integrate education and advocacy programming and interpretation along the route. Identify opportunities to integrate lookouts and blinds and support activities such as birdwatching based on a comprehensive understanding of the health and function of the ESA.

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## Snake Island

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Identified through engagement as a space that has been used for ceremony on the islands, Snake Island should be co-developed with Indigenous communities as a designated ceremonial space on the Island and protected as a designated ESA. Opportunities to develop co-management protocols should be explored to ensure that the resulting space supports the cultural practices and needs of the communities and users. Snake Island should support the

# **LEGEND**

- 1 North Shore Trail – Algonquin Island
- 2 Wyandot Avenue Lookout
- 3 Meadow Walk
- 4 Gateway and Bridge
- 5 Expanded Washrooms
- 6 Beach Access and Pathway
- 7 Ceremonial Space



Fig. 6-16 Algonquin Island and Snake Island Focus Areas Plan



practice of ceremony in privacy and out of view of the public while also continuing to be a place for community gatherings. A reconstructed bridge would support the ability to limit public access to the area, when appropriate.

### **Potential Improvements:**

**Gateway and Bridge.** Create a new gateway feature to identify Snake Island as a special place and support overall placekeeping initiatives in the park. Replace the existing bridge to improve accessibility and enhance safety. Consider access controls and management protocols to support privacy requirements for ceremonial uses.

**Expanded Washrooms.** Replace the existing washrooms located near Cibola Avenue to support community and ceremonial use on Snake Island and year-round use. Explore the addition of showers to support community uses on Snake Island and to support ongoing camps and recreational programming in adjacent park spaces.

**Beach Access and Pathway.** Formalize the main access path to provide an accessible connection between the main park and the beaches on the north shore. Explore enhancements on the beach to support water access, including landings for canoes and access for ceremony. Engage with Indigenous communities to identify the scale and types of facilities needed for ceremonial uses.

**Ceremonial Space.** Designate space to practice ceremony on Snake Island in support of the outcomes of engagement with Indigenous Rights Holders, Elders and communities. Design and develop management protocols for the space with the communities that will use it. Engage with Indigenous communities to identify facility and program needs for the space. Engage Indigenous communities in the design of the space, both in advisory and creative roles. Provide basic services (water and electrical connection points) to support community uses.







