

Toronto Island Park Master Plan (TIMP)

Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Advisory Committee

April 29, 2025





Toronto Island Today

- 242 ha of parkland (598 acres)
- Place of Indigenous Significance
- 1.5 million annual visitors
- Home to over 700 residents
- Hanlan's Beach Significance to 2SLGBTQ+
- Six ESAs, (2 monitored as part of federal sustainability index), a candidate ANSI and a Provincially Significant Wetland
- Toronto Water Treatment Plant
- School, Centreville, Public Marina, Yacht Clubs, etc.
- Billy Bishop Airport
- A natural oasis and escape from the city

Council Direction

City Council has adopted the following, related to TIMP

- [Toronto Island Park Master Plan](#) (2024.IE15.2 – July 2024)
- [Toronto Islands' Environmentally Significant Areas](#) (2024.IE18.10 – December 2024)

And the following items specifically relating to Hanlan's Point Beach and Surrounding Area:

- [Authorization to Release Section 42 Funds to Amend the 2024-2033 Capital Budget and Plan for Parks, Forestry and Recreation to Advance Hanlan's Beach Priority Initiatives in Ward 10](#) (2024.MM16.25 – March 2024)
- [Critical Measures to Restore Ecology and Preserve the History and Culture of Hanlan's Point Beach and Surrounding Area](#) (2023.MM7.15 – June 2023)
- [Recognizing the Importance of Queer History and the Ongoing Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer \(2SLGBTQ+\) Community Presence at Hanlan's Point Beach and Surrounding Area](#) (2023.MM6.22 – May 2023)

Toronto Island Park Master Plan

- The Toronto Island Park Master Plan is a **25-year vision and roadmap** to protect the Island's ecology and cultural significance, and to re-invest in aging infrastructure while ensuring Toronto Island remains resilient, accessible, and inclusive for future generations.
- The Plan addresses climate pressures, rising visitor demand, Indigenous placekeeping priorities, and improvements to the visitor experience to support a more **sustainable and welcoming Island Park**.
- The Plan is the result of **4 years of strategic design and engagement** that reached thousands of people.
- Proposed approach is a **'Light Touch'** implemented over time through priority projects, changes to park operations and programming, continued engagement and approved budgets.
- **Fully coordinated** w/ ferry fleet replacement, Jack Layton Ferry Terminal improvements, visitor experience, TRCA Flood Mitigation, and Marine Use Strategy
- PFR's approved Budget and 10-year Capital Plan includes **\$23M for new Toronto Island capital projects** in addition to funded projects related to flood protection, Jack Layton Ferry Terminal, Ferry Fleet Replacement, and other investments.

Toronto Island Master Plan

6 GOALS



15 STRATEGIES



GOALS

STRATEGIES

REVEALING
AN INDIGENOUS
PLACE

Reconciliation
+ Placekeeping

IMPROVING
ACCESS AND
CONNECTION

Wayfinding

Movement
On Land

Movement
On Water

SUPPORTING
THE NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT

Natural Area
Protection

Shorelines +
Park Environments

Resilience
+ Sustainability

ENHANCING
VISITOR
EXPERIENCE

Programming
+ Events

Interpretation

Four-Season
Park

Park
Amenities

ELEVATING
EQUITY AND
BELONGING

Equity

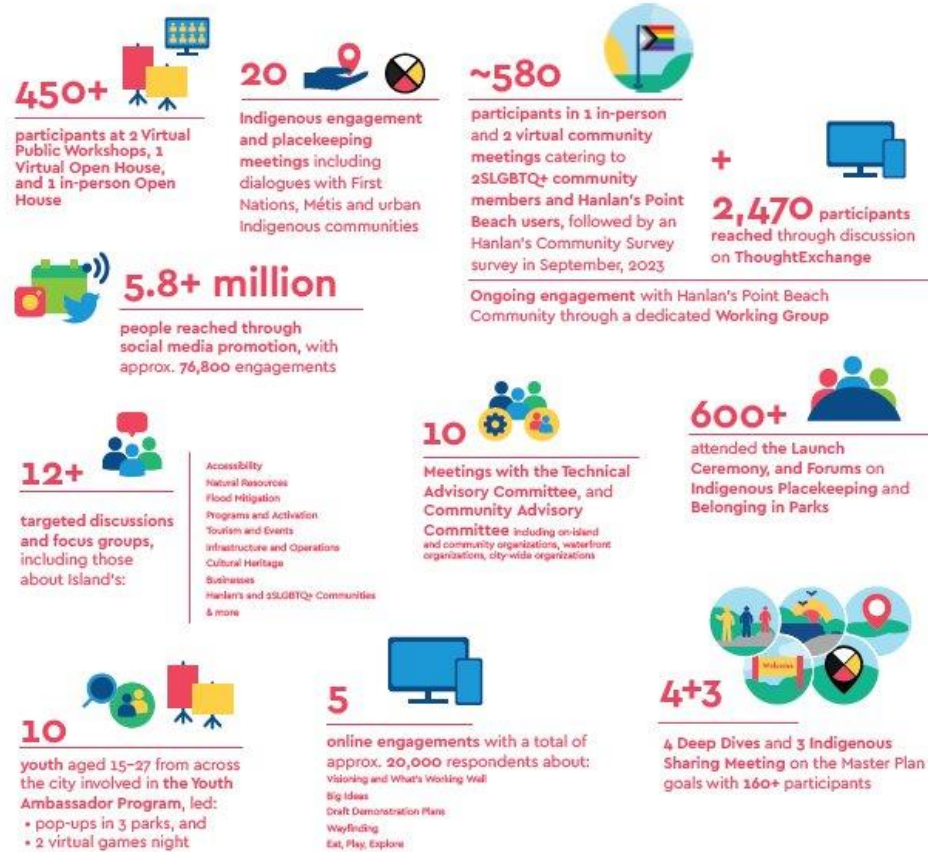
Accessibility

Cultural
Heritage

CELEBRATING
2SLGBTQ+
SIGNIFICANCE

Approach
to Hanlan's

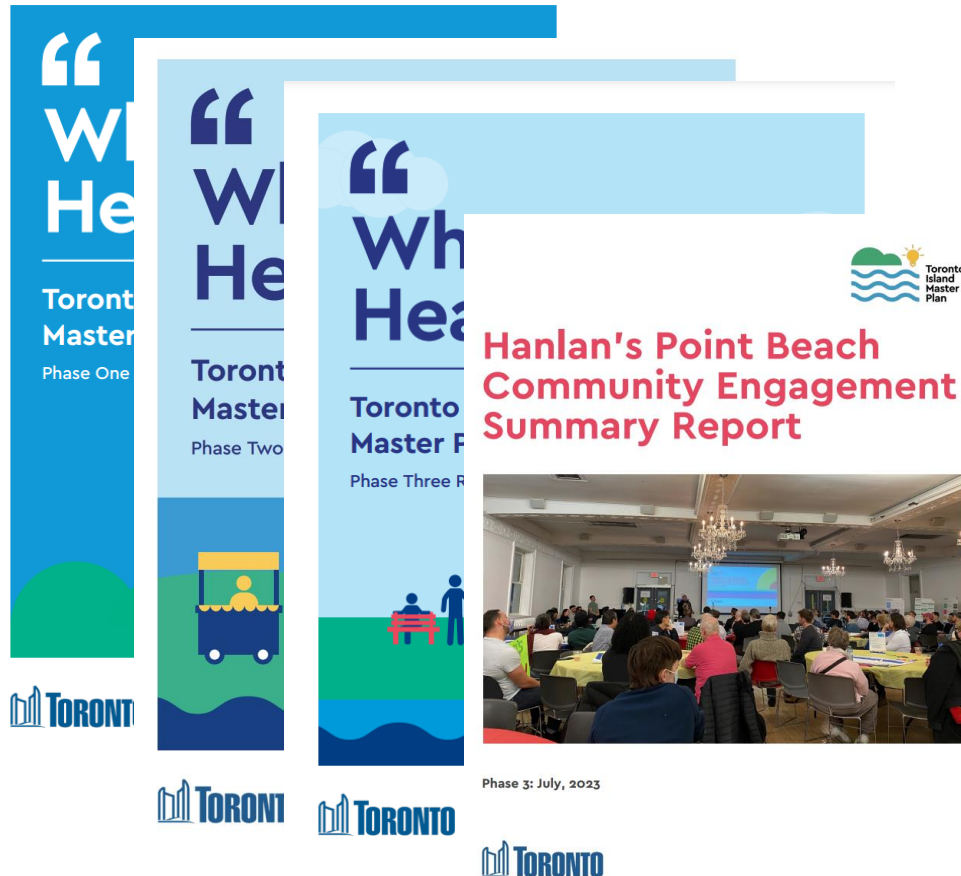
Who was engaged...



www.toronto.ca/islandmasterplan

- Over 24,000 people engaged
- All feedback documented and shared through 'what we heard reports', available online
- Engagement has included First Nations, Urban Indigenous communities, Island residents, business and advisory groups, Hanlan's Point users, 2SLGBTQ+ people and organizations, equity deserving communities and youth, and the broader public

...what we heard...



- Ferry passenger improvements and visitor experience
- Recognition of Hanlan's Point significance to 2SLGBTQ+ and related improvements
- Protection of natural environment
- Prioritizing flood mitigation
- Co-management opportunities, ceremonial space, and Indigenous naming (e.g. Mnissing)
- Access and accessibility

...and how we'll keep the conversation going

- Implementation of TIMP projects will provide opportunities for engagement with community members and stakeholders including 2SLGBTQ+, Indigenous, Black, and equity-deserving communities, racialized populations, and low-income communities.
- Engagement will continue through the Indigenous Advisory Circle, Toronto Island Working Group and the Hanlan's Point Beach Working Group, re-launching before summer.
- Working groups will reflect Council recommendation for stakeholder participation specifically from representatives of Indigenous and diverse communities.
- Ongoing outreach for specific projects or issue areas (e.g. Natural Environment, Island-side ferry landing design, visitor experience).
- Transitioning from the 'Master Plan' to demonstrate that actions are underway!



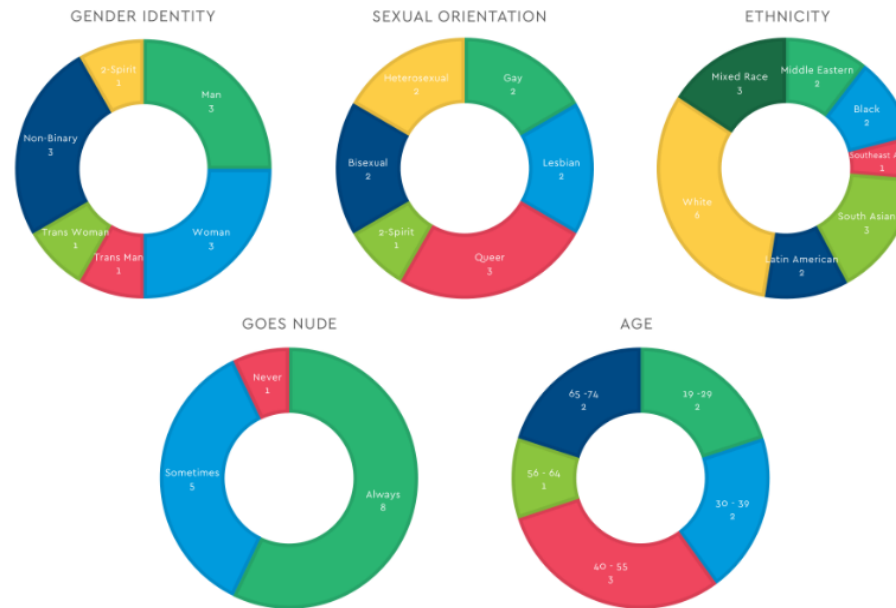
Hanlan's Point Beach Working Group

Current group composition

Community Representatives

Friends of Hanlan's (x2)
Hanlan's Collective (x2)
Trans Lobby Group/Toronto Trans Coalition
Pride Toronto
The 519
Federation of Canadian Naturists
Members-at-large (x3)

Community Members



- Composition made up of community representatives and through a Civic Lottery* of beach users based on demographic data

**A Civic Lottery is a random selection of participants based on demographic composition. Selection by Civic Lottery helps ensure the Working Group reflects the full diversity of beach users*

Highlights of short-term projects

- Flood mitigation design
- Island Working Groups and Charter
- Hanlan's focus in 2024-2025 reflecting TIMP priorities and MM directions
- Interim Visitor Experience Improvements
- Ferry Landing Design
- Beach Accessibility
- On-Island transportation
- Wayfinding



Highlights of mid- and long-term projects



- Indigenous place names and Ceremonial and gathering spaces within the park
- Managing and protecting natural areas and monitoring the park's ecological performance
- Establish a Welcome Centre at Centre Island landing
- Improvements to ferry landings (four-season experience, circulation, amenities)
- Complete trail improvements to improve park accessibility
- Define a non-motorized zone for low-impact water-based activities, like canoeing and kayaking
- Assess the feasibility of a marketplace at Centre Island Landing to support four season use
- Develop a Park Management Plan to protect and manage uses in active and natural areas holistically

Approach to Hanlan's

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

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

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

The Master Plan goals ensure that the integrity of Hanlan's Point Beach as a safe space for 2SLGBTQ+ communities is both maintained and strengthened."

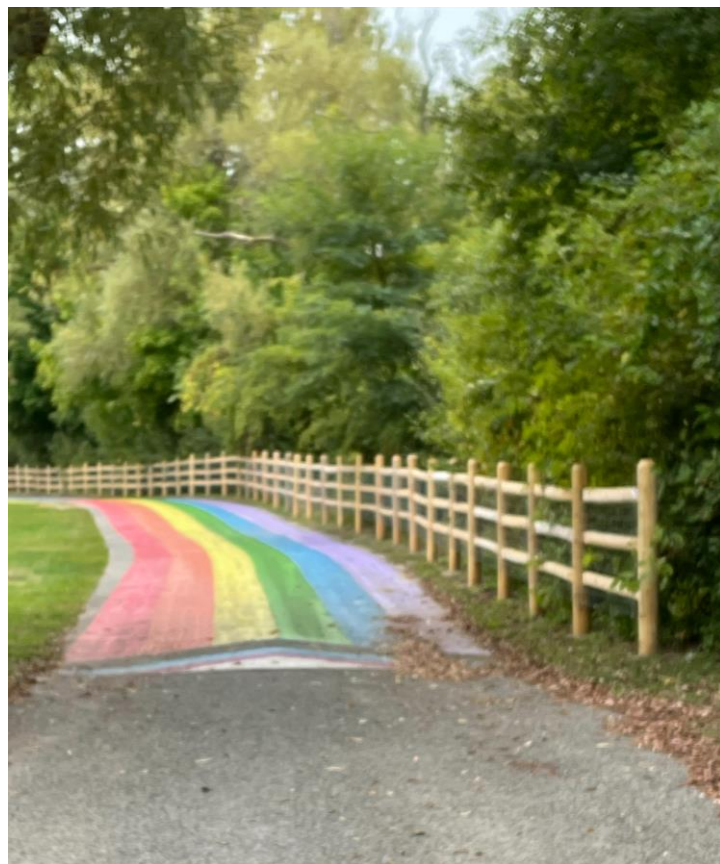
- Toronto Island Master Plan, page 118

Celebrating 2SLGBTQ+ Significance



TIMP Project/Initiative	Description
Establish Hanlan's Working Group	Re-launch Spring 2025
Restore and Protect Hanlan's Point Beach Ecology	- Fencing installed to protect ESA and dunes - Invasive species management - Renaturalization of at least 19,000 m² in 2025 - Beach renourishment study underway
Enhance Community Safety	- New beach signs to signify Historic Queer Space and Clothing Optional Area - Trail re-alignment to protect privacy for beachgoers
Reveal Cultural Heritage Significance of Hanlan's Point	- Installation of Heritage Plaque - Rainbow Road and Signage - New flagpole with Pride Progress Flag
Enhance Hanlan's Amenities	- Clothing optional area has been expanded - New accessible paved pathways - New water bottle filling stations - New bicycle racks - Opening existing showers for public use

Celebrating 2SLGBTQ+ Significance



TIMP Project/Initiative	Next Steps
Establish Hanlan's Working Group	• Regularly occurring meetings to review Hanlan's and TIMP projects
Restore and Protect Hanlan's Point Beach Ecology	• Continue invasive species management and renaturalization • Beach renourishment study continues
Enhance Community Safety	• Develop Community Safety Plan with Hanlan's Working Group
Reveal Cultural Heritage Significance of Hanlan's Point	• Cultural Heritage Interpretation
Enhance Hanlan's Amenities	• Beach showers • Mermaid Café landscape design • Cultural heritage interpretation

Staying engaged

- Parks and Recreation will continue to invite stakeholders from diverse communities to participate in engagement for projects on Toronto Island
- Toronto Island Working Group will be expanded with a civic lottery, to enhance representation from across Toronto
- In 2025, the [Toronto Island Community Engagement website](#) will be updated and publicized through social media and stakeholder channels

Thank You