

Integrated Feedback Summary Report: Phase 2 Deep Dives



Phase 2: April 2022

Overview

In March 2022, the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division (PFR) hosted four Deep Dives as part of Phase 2 of engagement on the Toronto Island Park Master Plan. The purpose of the Deep Dives was to share and discuss the details of emerging ideas and actions in a Draft Demonstration Plan, focusing on four topics:

- Enhancing Visitor Experience on March 3 with approx. 40 participants
- Supporting a Dynamic Environment on March 7 with approx. 40 participants
- Improving Access and Connections on March 10 with approx. 30 participants
- Elevating Equity and Belonging on March 24 with approx. 10 participants

The Deep Dives were part of a series of connected community engagement activities in March 2022. Other activities included a Public Open House (March 1), an Indigenous Community Sharing Meeting (March 9), and two surveys, one on the Draft Demonstration Plan and one on a Draft Wayfinding map (March 7 to 25).

Across all four Deep Dives, approximately 120 participants attended. Participants included members of the public, waterfront-based community organizations, park users from the across the city, organizers of Island-based events, Toronto Island residents, and more.

All four Deep Dives followed the same format. Each began with a welcome and land acknowledgement from City of Toronto staff, followed by an overview presentation from members a consultant Design Team. Participants then asked questions of clarification and discussed the ideas through a facilitated discussion. In the discussions, participants shared feedback about:

- Ideas they found exciting
- Ideas they found concerning
- Suggestions and additions around the ideas

This Integrated Report summarizes key messages from each Deep Dive. See Appendix 1 for a detailed list of the ideas shared in the Deep Dives.

Enhancing Visitor Experience

Key themes in feedback on the Enhancing Visitor Experience ideas included:

General support for the ideas. Most participants liked the ideas to enhance the visitor experience, particularly the ideas



to help visitors plan their visit, enhance the ferry landings (especially in winter), add rental facilities for bicycles and watercraft, and winterize washrooms. A few said that, while they supported enhancing the visitor experience generally, they felt it was important for the team to prioritize protecting nature and/or balance serving people with protecting nature. They also said the team should protect flexible spaces and ensure the park doesn't become over-programmed.

Support for ideas to share information, with caution to avoid overdoing it. Many liked the ideas to provide visitors with more information to help them plan a visit, saying that providing good information at Bay and Queens Quay and at Jack Layton Ferry Terminal would be especially important. They said both digital tools (a website, digital signage, alerts, or self-guided app-based walking tours) and non-digital tools (like signs and "park guides") would help better share information with visitors. Several said they'd like to see a light touch to signage in the park — with a few saying they'd like non-digital signs only — and several said signs should be designed in a way that integrates with the natural environment. Suggested information to communicate included: what food is available, current weather conditions, and whether all ferries are operational.

Some concern about food and events. A few shared concerns about potential food concessions, including at Ward's Island Landing. They said that, if the City is placing concessions at ferry landings, it should consider how well that concession will function when there are large crowds or ferry line-ups, whether there are existing food options nearby that could serve a similar purpose, the safety of location (including during intense weather events), and whether there is a viable business model for the business to operate year-round. There was also concern about adding infrastructure to support large events on Hanlan's Island, with a few saying the west side of the park is currently a more peaceful area and home to rare species (including the piping plover). The City should think carefully about where (and for what) it is providing event-supportive infrastructure.

Interest in Island-appropriate, high quality, natural design. Participants said they would like to see a focus on high quality design, both in the architecture of any new buildings or structures and in landscape elements like lighting, pavers, and plantings. For buildings or structures, the City should invest in organic, nature-inspired design that uses wood and curving designs instead of concrete, boxy shapes (reinforcing the island's identity as "the opposite of the city"). Investing in the Island's design could make it a magical place, comparable to Vancouver's Stanley Park.

Support for ideas to enhance water-based uses. Participants generally liked the ideas to support water-based uses. Many liked the ideas to provide watercraft rentals and create new water nodes, Island landings, and mooring areas. Participants suggested that these ideas should take into consideration respect for the environment, waterfowl and plants. Some participants liked the idea of creating a non-motorized zone on Long Pond and said that non-motorized areas would make water activities more accessible to people since the dangers of boat traffic can be a deterrent for new paddlers. There were also some who shared concern that this change would prevent those that require a motor for accessibility reasons from enjoying this area. Participants suggested other ways the team could enhance water-based uses, including identifying safe spaces for families and children to do water-based activities, a clear pathway for paddlers to travel between the Island and the mainland, and more and clearer launch points on the mainland (such Cherry Beach).

Support for four season access. Many appreciated the team's efforts to improve the winter experience at Toronto Island Park, especially the ideas to winterize washrooms and enhance ferry landings. Participants suggested ways the team could take this idea even further, including identifying skating, snow-shoeing, or cross-country trails (such as on the Avenue of the Islands); more waiting sheds and spaces for warming; and locations for pop up hot chocolate (or other winter experiences). A few mentioned that skating on the lagoons is a popular winter activity that offers a unique (but risky) experience.

Other suggested ways to enhance the visitor experience, including:

- Re-think existing destinations, including Centreville (which could be a unique, small-scale, special amusement park similar to Tivoli Park in Copenhagen) Franklin's Garden (which could include more programming), Gibraltar Point (which could be recognized as a spiritual place rather than a destination), and Hanlan's Beach (which would benefit from an access point further north to help people spread out.
- Consider providing reservable fire pits and wood sources throughout the Island, including on beaches, similar to Ontario Place. Visitors are having illegal fires today, and

they take wood from natural areas to do it; supporting and formalizing this activity could reduce impacts on the environment.

- Some participants suggested fixing and maintaining basketball courts and tennis courts currently on the Island. A few participants suggested that the Island perhaps wasn't the appropriate place for sports amenities and suggested that those spaces could be allowed to be reclaimed by nature.
- Enforce existing rules to limit bicycle speeding and illegal fires
- Update existing sports areas and ensuring they're maintained
- Locate washrooms closer to busier areas (like beaches)
- Provide shade structures by the beaches
- Add Bike Share stations across the Island that integrate with the mainland system
- Relocate service vehicle parking near Ward's Ferry Landing.

Supporting a Dynamic Environment

Key themes in feedback on ideas in Supporting a Dynamic Environment included:

Strong support for the ideas in this lens as well as the Master Plan's overall focus on the protecting natural environment.



In general, participants were supportive of the ideas regarding Supporting a Dynamic Environment and were happy to see the progress made by the project team since the previous phase with the additional detail and understanding within these areas. Participants suggested that the project team prioritize this lens, and any efforts to protect and restore the environment, and any activities on the Island that have minimal impact to nature. There was, however, another comment that cautioned the use of the phrase "dynamic environment," which could be open to different interpretations including being lenient towards invasive species. The suggestion was to use "dynamic natural environment" instead and focus efforts on restoring the environment in addition to protecting it.

Strong support for seasonal closures, no-go areas, and restoration efforts. Some

participants said they liked that the ideas were sensitive and adaptive to ecological conditions (i.e., flooding, nesting, migration, regeneration, etc.) and suggested nature should dictate allowable activities and closures on the Island, especially for any pathways into Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs).

Support for and interest in improving access to natural heritage, with some caution.

Some participants said they liked the idea of using raised boardwalks to bring people to natural areas and reducing the number of informal pathways in sensitive areas. It was, however, suggested that the main goal of these boardwalks should be preservation and education. Participants suggested the team consider using physical design and other passive efforts to intentionally guide people through these spaces, for example these walkways could be used to direct traffic away from meadows and planted areas. There were also suggestions to consider partial boardwalks or lookouts as opposed to full loops. Some said it will be important to ensure that trails are accessible to all users. A few suggested there could be a deck that looks over Trout Pond (so people can see and be closer to fish) and elevated boardwalks so wildlife can pass underneath. Others said it's very important to keep any impacts to habitats and wildlife minimal. Some also expressed concern about creating new access into ESA's citing concerns around misuse, trampling, invasive species, etc. and said it's very important to keep any impacts to habitats and wildlife minimal.

Interest in managing access to natural areas. Some said it is important to consider and manage how people are misusing some of the natural spaces around the Island, for example, the impacts of social gatherings on various habitats and concerns about people who use the bushes as a washroom or go into ESA to gather firewood for bonfires. Others suggested increasing signage, education, and enforcement to deter behaviour impacting the natural environment.

Support for non-motorized zones in the waterways. Participants suggested the team consider additional exclusion zones in areas with a high number of nesting species. Some also said it isn't only motorized boats that are disruptive, but also paddlers and others who play music and "try to take selfies with the birds." A few said there should be enforcement of the non-motorized areas since, depending on the water level, motorized boats could go under the bridges and get into the non-motorized zone.

Bring more stewardship programs to the Island and engage youth. Some suggested bringing the Toronto Nature Stewards program (where the City trains and supervises a volunteer group who help with invasive species removal) to the Island. Others also reinforced the importance of engaging youth as stewards, so they are mindful of the Island and environment when they grow up. To engage youth, some suggested better communication of the programming available for youth and to invest in the Island Natural Science School and outdoor educational areas like at Tommy Thompson Park.

Support for informative and educational signage. Participants said it is important to have informative signage and to focus public education on environment, stewardship, and etiquette. They shared support for signage on the Island that explain seasonal closures (i.e., closed for nesting etc.) and why some spaces are protected; share the history and significant ecological features on the Island; highlight restoration efforts; and any rules for public use. Participants suggested that signage could also include QR codes, be offered in different languages, and include options for people with different abilities (such as sounds for those with visual impairment). Others suggested including etiquette signage on the Disc Golf Course because the shared use of space is currently unclear. Additionally, there could be interpreters that can help visitors on the Island.

Other suggestions for educational and stewardship opportunities, including more frequent Doors Open events at the lighthouse and Artscape; art installations with audio

descriptions; and a live camera feed in nesting areas for people to view and connect with nature.

Support for repairing and repurposing existing structures. Some participants said this idea is a good way to add infrastructure with minimal impacts on the natural environment.

Other suggestions and considerations to support a dynamic environment:

- The Master Plan should consider the broader context of parks in the city, that Toronto Island is one piece of the system, and explore opportunities to connect programs and/or transportation from Toronto Island to Tommy Thompson and Cherry Beach.
- Provide more plantings across the Island to support pollinators (e.g., monarch butterflies, etc.).
- Educate the public that the Island is an important part of the Bird Flyway and that the City of Toronto received a Bird-Friendly City certification.
- Incorporate policies or initiatives for: sustainable waste management, water, and energy; moving towards carbon neutral and electric vehicles; using less or banning plastic on the Island; and only allow natural fiber products to be sold by businesses on the Island.
- Consider conducting a detailed analysis of the pollution from (and impact of) vehicles on the Island. Vehicle usage on the Island should be reduced to minimize pollution.
- Recognize that Environmental Significant Areas (ESAs) do not follow property lines. For example, the ESA by Hanlan's should extend into the airport.
- Consider how airport operations impact or limits potential uses for on Toronto Island.

Improving Access and Connections

Key themes in feedback on ideas in Improving Access and Connections:

Support for improvements to the existing ferry service and

landings. Participants generally supported ideas that improve



the current ferry service such as winter ferry service to Centre Island and recognizing and improving the different characteristics the ferry landings. Additionally, some participants suggested: exploring opportunities to improve wheelchair access to ferries; providing service to Gibraltar Point, and; addressing crowding and long line ups for the ferries (including when visitors who come via water taxi leave by the ferry) and improving pedestrian pick-up and drop-off at the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal.

Consider routes and passenger service from the Port Lands service ferry landing to Centre Island. Some suggested adding more service and passenger routes from the proposed Port Lands service ferry landing to Centre Island. A few suggested providing parking and passenger pick-up/drop-off in the Port Lands so that visitors do not have to travel downtown to get to the Island.

Interest to learn more about the proposed water shuttle network. Participants wanted to learn about how water taxis and water shuttles would work with each other, the types of boats being considered, service frequency and operating times, and if there would be additional routes outside of the inner harbour.

Support for ideas to improve getting around the Island. Participants liked the proposed new trails around the Island and were interested to learn more about pathways and bridges that go into ESAs. Some said new routes into ESAs are a good idea because they can guide people through and bring them closer to nature (like to Mugg's Island and by the water treatment plant). A few said it's important to be mindful and minimize any impacts to sensitive habitats and species. Participants also shared strong support for a network of new bike rental locations across the Island, the accessible tram, and rest areas along long pathways. Several suggested separating pathways for cyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles to minimize conflicts between the different ways getting around the Island.

Support for improving and encouraging more ways get around by water. Participants generally liked ideas to improve travelling around the Island's waterways by kayaks, canoes, and stand-up paddleboards. However, they said there should be amenities to support these activities such as safe areas to board and/or beaches – currently Donut Island would be a difficult place to get out of and into a kayak. There was also a suggestion to consider short-term storage areas – like at train stations.

Support for improving overall wayfinding and signage on the Island. Participants shared overall support for adding wayfinding and informative signage, with suggestions to identify and include information about Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) and ESAs so visitors can learn more about why those spaces are important.

Consider a broader digital strategy for sharing information. Participants said it would be helpful if there were digital ways to access information for ferry schedules, line up times, weather updates, events, and maps. They suggested making this information accessible via QR code or an app would be helpful and recognized that Wi-Fi is needed.

Differing opinions on a pedestrian bridge or tunnel to the Island. Some suggested the team consider proposing a pedestrian bridge or tunnel to address the financial and physical barriers some face to accessing the park. Others were not supportive of this idea, saying that bringing more people to the Island risks negatively impacting the environment and sensitive habitats on the Island.

Elevating Equity and Belonging

Key themes in feedback on the Elevating Equity and Belonging included:

Strong support for the ideas to elevate equity and

belonging. Participants strongly supported the ideas on



elevating equity and belonging. They said strategies like relieving economic barriers, developing strategic partnerships, diversifying representation in businesses, and making it more welcoming for a diversity of visitors – including youth, seniors, people with disabilities, newcomers, and people from outside Toronto – were all important considerations. Participants also expressed concerns around the lack of (and confusing) information needed to plan visits to the Island and acquire permits and that the permitting process could be simplified or eliminated.

Support for diversifying representation in businesses on the Island. Participants said the current retail options focused on essential supplies and food are limited and expensive. They said they would like to see more affordable options that represents the diversity of the city. Many said it is important to meaningfully support and sustain small businesses and entrepreneurs from Indigenous, racialized, and immigrant communities. Others suggested providing: food entrepreneurship training and food handler courses; community gardens and community kitchen infrastructure (such as tandoori ovens in Thorncliffe Park) to support people in producing and bonding through food; adding innovative, scalable markets like food trucks or shipping container markets (similar to the Scadding Court Community Center Market 707; and the former Asian night market by T&T in Port Lands). Some suggested considering businesses outside of food industries that could contribute to the economy of the Island, such as promoting the Island as an alternate out of office workspace.

Support for strategic partnerships with small businesses and artists. Participants said the Island presents a unique opportunity to add: music venues (which are disappearing in the city), multi-purpose spaces, spaces supporting small art & crafts, and new programs and businesses. Participants suggested that partnering with BIPOC artists, musicians, and/or youth would attract and welcome these communities to the Island. There were also suggestions to partner with STEPS initiative and Artscape for public art, YMCA for youth

and sports programming, Regent Park Music School for classical music events, and with wineries from Niagara on the Lake and Prince Edward County. Participants also recommended working with Indigenous peoples and organizations to ensure that Indigenous culture is recognized and has a permanent place on the Island.

Support for exploring diverse programming and making it easy for a diversity of visitors to get to the Island. Participants supported the idea of expanding programming and services to make the Island accessible and appealing to youth, seniors, and to people from outside Toronto.

- For youth, participants said providing free ferry tickets at the end of the school year (like schools do currently for the Exhibition) could encourage children and youth to visit the Island, including those who live outside of the downtown core. Some suggested increasing subsidized school field trips and prioritizing schools in lower income communities.
- For seniors, participants said that easily accessible rentals for activities such as crosscountry skiing, along with shorter trails and improved wayfinding, would enhance seniors' experience of the Island. Participants suggested the team consider activities for people who can't walk as far.
- For visitors from further away, participants shared concerns over the difficulties of getting to the Island for people living outside Toronto, and those further away from downtown. They said that getting to the Island can be a whole day affair or feel like a field trip. Some suggested exploring free shuttle services across the waterfront and additional water-based access (like water taxis and water shuttles) to the Island from places outside the city core, like Oshawa and Sunnyside Beach. Participants suggested that if this was available more people from outside the City would come.

Support for improving access for visitors with disabilities. Participants strongly supported actions to make the Island accessible for people with disabilities, such as creating shorter trails and rest areas for seniors and those with mobility challenges. Participants also supported creating multisensory wayfinding for people with disabilities, including features that are easily recognizable for people with dementia. They said it is important to make ferry boarding easier for people with mobility challenges and recommended docks that float on the water to ensure easy and level access (instead of a ramp). Many were also interested in play structures that respond to the needs of children with disabilities.

Support for relieving economic barriers. Participants supported ideas to make visiting the Island less expensive and shared suggestions such as: adding more smaller and diverse businesses (as opposed to exclusive business leases), providing free ferry tickets to children at the end of school year, and enabling visitors to prepare food on the Island (i.e., community oven, BBQs, etc.). They also recommended having free ferry tickets for seniors and younger visitors and/or integrating ferry tickets with Presto. Several supported more affordable bike rentals options and encouraging people to bring their own bikes.

Consider easier ways to obtain permits or eliminate permits. Participants were concerned about the lack of currently available information and general awareness of permits on the Island. They suggested making permits easier to obtain with informative signage, or eliminating the permit process altogether (since those who are unfamiliar with the process have other barriers, such as language, and would not know to apply for permit). Participants said that lack of information about permits can result in over-policing or feeling unwelcomed for racialized communities, newcomers, and those from outside the city.

Interest in extended ferry hours (later, all-night, and year-round). Participants suggested the team develop options to visit the Island during "off-hours" – such as late evenings and early mornings – to increase access for people with varied working hours, people with limited time during the day, and people who want to experience the Island at night or early in the morning (e.g. cycle at night, view stars close to the city, or do sunrise photography).

Other suggested ways of enhancing equity and belonging, included:

- Consider renaming places on the Island. There was a suggestion to include Indigenous names and to reconsider the name "Hanlan's" because of its history as a commercial tourist destination.
- Consider providing storage lockers on the Island to offer flexibility to people and families who bring supplies for picnics. These should be located in places where people feel safe leaving larger items such as strollers and bikes.
- Consider providing more picnic benches making it easier for people to have picnics along with wagon rentals (to make it easier to carry food and supplies). Picnic benches should also be available year-round throughout the park.
- Consider options for free golf cart shuttles to transport people with mobility challenges.
- Consider creating dog off-leash areas with designated areas for dogs to go into the water, recognizing that not all people might be comfortable with off-leash dogs.

Other feedback

Across all the Deep Dives, many participants also shared the following points:

• **Questions about the Master Plan process.** Many wanted to learn more about any timelines for construction, whether there is budget allocated to the proposed ideas, how the plan considers the presence of the airport, and impacts to existing business leases.

Response from the City: The Master Plan will be a guiding document considering the next 25-30 years with opportunities to update as needed. The Master Plan itself has some implementation funding identified for implementing the Wayfinding Strategy. Priority projects will be identified through Phase 3 and will be coordinated with other approved budgets where it makes sense such as key recommendations from the TRCA's Flood Mitigation Environmental Assessment. The airport is being considered as an adjacent space abutting the Master Plan – it is not part of the scope of work. The team is accepting comments relating to the potential uses of this space, however. The Business Strategy is assessing the terms of existing business leases, and these will be considered in the final recommendations.

• **Appreciation for public engagement.** Many shared appreciation to the project team for their efforts on public engagement about the Master Plan. There were also a few comments that the presentations were too long, and a few participants said they would have liked opportunity to review the materials in advance.

Response from the City: The team has designed the presentations to be topic specific and need to cover a lot of material. The project team assessed the option of sharing materials in advance but decided that it was better to provide a detailed explanation of the plans and provide the opportunity for public comments first, then share the materials following each session.

Appendix 1: List of Ideas shared at each Deep Dive, by topic

Enhancing Visitor Experience

Ideas: 7

- 1. Sharing information to help plan your visit
 - Improve communication about how to get places and where to go (map)
 - o Provide useful and consistent wayfinding signage island-wide
 - Expand infrastructure to support on-Island digital access to information
 - Create accessible and scalable open spaces at arrival points and distributed throughout the park that can adapt to seasonal fluctuations, and special programming to deliver a consistent visitor experience and help plan your "Day on the Island"
 - Provide clearer and friendlier access to information, both online and in-person at the ferries, landing and throughout the park using Island Ambassadors
- 2. Expanding opportunities for play and exploration for all ages and abilities
 - o Revitalize and expand existing play spaces across the islands
 - Identify opportunities for new non-structured play elements (e.g. hammocks, landform)
 - o Identify opportunities to enhance existing sports offerings



- 3. Expanding opportunities for food, rental and retail
 - A. Create a destination at Centre Ferry Landing to provide year-round visitor amenities and programming at Centre Island
 - B. Create new rental opportunities for bikes, boats and beach equipment distributed throughout the park where people need them
 - C. Revitalize ferry landings and gateways to provide a sense of arrival and amenities to address visitor's needs and requirements in peak and off-peak seasons
 - D. Create new space at Gibraltar Point to promote Island-wide activity, embrace opportunities near the Lighthouse and Trout Pond and better connect Centre Island with the west side of the park



- 4. Enhancing uses on water
 - A. Promote Long Pond Non-Motorized Zone for safer paddling
 - B. Expand locations for new water nodes with integrated short-term storage and rental opportunities for non-motorized watercraft across the islands
 - C. Improve safe and universal access to the Cove and Eastern Channel mooring wall
 - D. Improve swim experience on all beaches



- 5. Enhancing uses on land
 - A. Create dedicated welcoming spaces, or hubs, at all ferry landings to mark arrival, share information, orient visitors, and provide access to key facilities and amenities to start and end visits to the Island
 - B. Formalize infrastructure to support event space at Hanlan's Point (e.g. landform, amphitheatre)
 - C. Create affordable overnight camping along a portion of the Hanlan's Mooring Wall and north of Trout Pond to take advantage of existing facilities nearby
 - D. Revitalize Olympic Island to mitigate flooding and restore pavilion and structures to celebrate and enhance views of the city skyline
 - E. Expand Hanlan's Beach clothing optional area
 - F. Enhance and revitalize existing structures across the islands to create spaces for gatherings of various sizes in all seasons

- G. Identify opportunities for new structures, warming shelters and winterized washrooms associated with new and existing circulation routes and activity hubs to support year-round use of island facilities
- 6. Sharing all the Island stories
 - Enhance online information and storytelling
 - Expand Wayfinding island-wide
 - Curate Narrative Trail and loops / lookouts
 - o Identify and share history and cultural heritage of the entire Island
 - Establish strategy for Cultural markers and flags in alignment with City policy
- 7. Celebrating the role of art in placemaking
 - Identify opportunities to partner with existing Island establishments to deliver programming and enhance existing offerings
 - Explore opportunities to deliver seasonal, year-round, and permanent installations
 - Identify opportunities for installations, projects, and programs at varying scales to suit sites, expertise, and capacities of partners

Supporting a Dynamic Environment

Ideas: 4

- 1. Promoting stewardship and resilience
 - Better engage Island residents and others as champions and partners in the management, activation, and advocacy of the park
 - Develop Island Charter to help communicate Island etiquette towards use and behaviour that benefits long term vision for the islands
 - Develop a Coordinated Landscape Resource Management Plan

 Identify opportunities to partner with and promote existing and planned City and TRCA restoration initiatives, including ecological enhancements of specific areas and future flood mitigation measures



MAP ENV-01: Supporting a Dynamic Environment - Protection IDEAS & ACTIONS: 2. Enhancing protection of the natural environment

 IDEAS & ACTIONS:
Enhancing protection of the natural environment
A. Identify "no-go" areas to protect sensitive habitats
B. Identify opportunities for planned seasonal access and closures to support ecosystem function and health and protect habitats during nesting seasons

Supporting a Dynamic Environment | 3

- 2. Enhancing protection of the natural environment
 - A. Identify "no-go" areas to protect sensitive habitats
 - B. Identify opportunities for planned seasonal access and closures to support ecosystem function and health and protect habitats during nesting seasons



- 3. Improving access to natural heritage
 - A. Create Lagoon Loop pathway connection to provide controlled access and integrate undervalued natural areas of the park and support Long Pond Non-Motorized Zone through use of bridges as physical barriers to large watercraft
 - B. Develop Trout Pond Boardwalk to communicate and advocate for the value of diverse habitats both on land and water
- 4. Sharing the importance of the Island's natural history
 - Investigate and communicate ecological integrity of the Islands through comprehensive and on-going natural heritage and ecological assessments
 - A. Curate programs and teaching about importance, function, and management of significant areas specific to Toronto (ESAs), as well as provincially significant areas (ANSIs and PSWs) with PFR staff and external partners as part of a larger curated approach

B. Develop interpretive elements to share information about habitat and ecosystems on the Island that are area- and habitat-specific promoting protection

Improving Access and Connections

Ideas: 3



MAP ACC-01: Improving Access and Connection - Ferries

MAP ACC-01: Improving Access and content IDEAS & ACTIONS: 1. Improving (Water) Transportation to the Island A. Provide year-round access to Centre Landing to support expanded programming and seasonal offerings with complementary on-Island transportation to support in all seasons

Perries B. Enhance Ferry landings to support Ferry Fleet replacement, improved accessibility, sustainability, flood mitigation and improved visitor amenities C. Provide dedicated servicing ferry from the Port Lands to eliminate vehicle and pedestrian mixing at Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

Improving Access and Connection | 4



- 1. Improving (Water) Transportation to the Island
 - A. Improve Ferry frequency and align with programming and events
 - B. Provide year-round access to Centre Landing to support expanded programming and seasonal offerings with complementary on-Island transportation to support in all seasons
 - C. Enhance Ferry landings to support Ferry Fleet replacement, improved accessibility, sustainability, flood mitigation and improved visitor amenities
 - D. Provide dedicated servicing ferry from the Port Lands to eliminate vehicle and pedestrian mixing at Jack Layton Ferry Terminal.
 - E. Create a Water Shuttle network to provide new predictable connections to destinations across the waterfront and islands
 - F. Enhance access to short-term docking and servicing for personal watercraft



- 2. Improving Circulation on the Island
 - A. Expand pedestrian trail networks to support expanded and intensive uses
 - B. Consider new pedestrian bridges within the park at key points to improve accessibility across the islands
 - C. Create opportunities to use the internal waterways to move through and experience the park through water nodes and enhancement of rental opportunities
 - Enhance wayfinding with new signage on land and water and digital information sharing



- 3. Enhancing Accessibility
 - A. A. Provide Accessible Tram service to all ferry landings and stops at key destinations across the island
 - B. Provide accessible connections to existing spaces (beaches, in-water, ESAs)
 - Create integrated rest areas within new pathway system and along existing routes
 - Explore opportunities for digital wayfinding including curated interpretation and signage elements at key locations

Elevating Equity and Belonging

Ideas: 5

Diversifying representation in Island businesses and programs

- Create a variety of spaces and opportunities to attract and retain diverse and underserved service providers to the Island
- Simplify park permit processes (e.g. BBQs and Fire Pits)
- Provide more picnic tables and shelters distributed through the park
- Implement Business Strategy recommendations to support diverse procurement and business operations

Expanding opportunities for food, rental and retail

- Create a destination at Centre Ferry Landing to provide year-round visitor amenities and programming at Centre Island
- Create new rental opportunities for bikes, boats and beach equipment distributed throughout the park where people need them
- Revitalize ferry landings and gateways to provide a sense of arrival and amenities to address visitor's needs and requirements in peak and off-peak seasons
- Create new space at Gibraltar Point to promote Island-wide activity, embrace opportunities near the Lighthouse and Trout Pond and better connect Centre Island with the west side of the park.

Expanding opportunities for visitors experiencing disabilities to explore the park

- Encourage multi-sensory experiences within natural areas (such as quiet areas to encourage listening for wildlife)
- Provide accessible transportation to and from the island and throughout the park
- Provide accessible paths within natural areas and water access at beaches and within the water
- o Create rest and gathering areas along pathways and access routes

Enhancing uses on water

- o Improve safe and universal access to the Cove and Eastern Channel mooring wall
- Improve swim experience on all beaches

Relieving economic barriers

- Explore program opportunities to provide affordable access and activities for all ages, abilities, and incomes on the Island
- Reinvest in existing infrastructure and spaces to enhance affordable experiences and enjoyment of the park
- o Provide affordable and diverse food options

Encouraging strategic partnerships to promote access and programs

- Explore opportunities to enhance existing programs and partner with new service providers who specialize in affordable community programming
- Identify opportunities to revitalize and share existing island facilities and infrastructure to deliver complementary programs and improve access through partnerships through all seasons

Sharing information to help plan your visit

- Improve communication about how to get places and where to go (map)
- Provide useful and consistent wayfinding signage island-wide
- Expand infrastructure to support on-Island digital access to information
- Create accessible and scalable open spaces at arrival points and distributed throughout the park that can adapt to seasonal fluctuations, and special programming to deliver a consistent visitor experience and help plan your "Day on the Island"
- Provide clearer and friendlier access to information, both online and in-person at the ferries, landing and throughout the park using Island Ambassadors