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What We Heard

Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Phase Two Report
Appendices





Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Meeting Summary

Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting #2 on May 14th, 2021

Overview

On Friday, May 14th, the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry, and Recreation Division hosted the second Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting for the Toronto Island Park Master Plan. Representatives of thirty internal City departments, as well as the project team and consultants, participated in the meeting. From the project team, representatives from the City of Toronto's PFR Division attended along with members of their consultant Design Team (DTAH), Business Strategy Team (fsSTRATEGY), and Engagement Team (Swerhun Inc and Nbsiing Consulting). The participant list is attached as Appendix A.

The purpose of the second meeting was to share the revised Vision, Values, and Guiding Principles, as well as present and seek feedback on the preliminary Big Ideas in preparation for Phase Two. The meeting agenda is attached as Appendix B.

PFR opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement and welcomed City staff and partners. Following the opening, the City reviewed the Master Plan process, shared Phase One outcomes, and presented the preliminary Big Ideas. After the presentation, TAC members joined breakout

rooms, each focusing on one of the six broad themes for the Big Ideas. In the breakout rooms, PFR facilitators asked participants to brainstorm ideas - big or small - on how to action or achieve one of the preliminary Big Ideas. Following a short break, the groups rotated to a different room. Each facilitator reported back highlights of their discussion from each group before the meeting wrapped.

Swerhun Inc. third-party facilitation firm retained by the City to help support community engagement for this project, prepared this Key Messages Summary. The intent of this Key Messages Summary is to provide a high-level overview of themes in TAC members' advice; it is not intended to provide a detailed summary or verbatim transcript. Swerhun Inc. and the City shared a draft with participants for review before finalizing.

1. Summary

In breakout rooms, Technical Advisory Committee members brainstormed ideas for how to action the preliminary Big Ideas. The breakout rooms were organized based on six broad themes, including:

- Revealing an Indigenous place
- Linking the island, waterfront, and beyond
- Working together for the island
- Investing in what already works
- Celebrating what makes the island special
- Sharing all the island stories.

The following section summarizes the ideas generated under each theme:

To reveal an Indigenous Place, consider:

- **Supporting programming for Indigenous communities** including education, sports, employment, arts, businesses, and planting. Create dedicated public and private spaces for these activities.
- **Educating visitors** through educational programs and installations on Indigenous history, culture, ways of knowing and by making the Island a visually Indigenous place through artwork and design.
- **Centering Indigenous storytelling and voices** through ongoing partnerships, embedding Indigenous engagement in Island Park governance, and acknowledging the diversity and connectedness of Indigenous stories.
- **Partnering with Indigenous communities** by creating spaces for celebrating Indigenous ways of knowing, like sunrise and sunset ceremonies, areas for sweat lodges (which can be semi-permanent or a shared space if they are designed collectively), Indigenous sports such as lacrosse, and medicinal plants (which can be incorporated in the landscape and will have to be managed).
- **Making it clear that the island is an Indigenous space** by integrating Indigenous art into the ferries and including Indigenous vendors (e.g., food, arts and crafts, etc.). Consider renaming

Islands to reflect Indigenous cultures and dedicate an Island exclusively for Indigenous peoples and ceremonies.

To link the island, waterfront, and beyond, consider:

- **Improving connection to the island** by proceeding with acquisition of new boats); adding more mooring locations for personal watercrafts (especially on the east shore, where the current dockwall is in disrepair and where the water is very clean); transforming island-side ferry docks to more of a “home base” (as opposed to their current “bus platform” feel) and; reducing fares/integrating with Presto. Several participants were not supportive of a bridge or other fixed link, while a few said one could be useful to help evacuate the island in an emergency. Some suggested improving access near the airport — even if the airport does remain — by creating smaller islands beside the runway that could help people connect to the mainland.
- **Improving access to and around the island**, including: creating an inter-island (on land) and, water-based transportation network in the island’s lagoons; creating a “canoe share” system that integrates with Bike Share; creating paths along the north and east shores, and; enabling some kind of connection between the park and the airport.
- **Integrating the Island with the City’s broader natural areas and green space**, including building on the TOcore “core circle;” protecting the Island wildlife and habitats, and as a place for migratory birds by closing gaps and following the recently adopted bird friendly guidelines.
- **Connecting the Island to the City through arts, sports, winter, water, and Indigenous-focused programming**, by enabling a “core circle” marathon that connects to Toronto Island Park; building a Toronto Island Park recreation centre; hosting Winter Stations (and other temporary installations) at Toronto Island Park, and; encouraging more water-based activities considering all the water clean-up efforts underway.
- **Creating partnerships and synergies with mainland services and organizations**, including One Yonge Street, BIAs, amusement parks, government funders, Metrolinx, and school boards.

To work together for the island, consider:

- **Creating partnerships and relationships to improve access to the island**; offer educational and recreational programming that enhances learning about the Islands history, significance to the City and dynamic nature; support visitors in navigating and learning about the island (such as through an ambassador program);

- **Capitalize on existing programs and explore ways to plug-in to others** to better integrate the Island into the broader waterfront by connecting to other parks and programs.
- **Offer new services and amenities based on current needs and trends** (e.g., improved rentals for bikes and canoes and kayaks considering storage and parking).

To invest in what already works, consider:

- **Supporting existing recreation** including bike rentals, kayak/canoe rentals, skiing, fishing nodes, etc.
- **Enhancing infrastructure** including upgrading Artscape and other existing buildings, winterizing amenities and other infrastructure, expanding internet and mobile service, and improving access throughout the island.
- **"Right Sizing" or planning areas for scalable events large, medium and small** that consider access, amenities, services, and proximity since one event space may not be suitable for all events
- **Enabling community-led initiatives and programming** including Indigenous storytelling, self-guided tours, heritage storytelling, initiatives by the BIAs and schools, and resident-led activities.

To celebrate what makes the island special, consider:

- **Supporting self-guided and operated tours** including flora and fauna tours, bird watching, food tours, snowshoeing, self-discovery trails, scavenger hunts, warming huts, winter stations and dark sky viewing.
- **Providing information to visitors** through a visitors' centre, permanent art installations or monuments, an integrated QR code system and Toronto Island website, and information about island etiquette.
- **Protecting and recognizing the environment** including its everchanging character, unique spaces, spiritual and health benefits, and dark skies.
- **Enhancing existing amenities and attractions** including all-seasons programming, food, viewing stations, art, and Centreville (keep investing and re-assessing uses and needs).
- **Be mindful and celebrate the night** by ensuring there is no light pollution and there are opportunities for seeing the stars. Consider programs and events for evening – not just daylight hours.

- **Create an interactive visitor centre** that can be used as a hub for information about the ecology of the island, museum or to orient people on how to move through the island.
- **Incorporate raised walkways** that create opportunities for people to interact with nature without damaging ecosystems.
- **Activate the waterways** by creating a water-based transportation system within the islands channels and conduct an audit to ensure there is sufficient space underneath bridges for canoes and small water vessels. Create opportunities for low-income communities to interact with the water and engage in water activities.

To share all the island stories, consider:

- **Sharing the Island's diverse culture heritage** through cultural events and festivals, heritage studies, amplifying local artists, and curating stories.
- **Go back to basics by create opportunities for story telling** such as oral histories, which can be as simple as storytelling circles around the fire and opportunities for intimate gatherings.
- **Using new tools to share the unique history of the island** such as technology-enabled storytelling and social media, an interactive visitors' centre, wayfinding and educational signage, and artistic interpretations of the island's stories.
- **Find new and innovative uses for older facilities and buildings** to function in new ways as information hubs to share new information
- **Share the importance of the Island ecosystem** by acknowledging and sharing with visitors the stories of the dynamic nature of the Island, the significance of the land and the water, the habitats, the heritage (indigenous and settler), the Island residents from the past and the current community, and the story to reinforce the importance and significance of the environmentally sensitive areas.

2. Additional feedback received after the meeting

Participants shared additional comments after the meeting. Points shared in the post-meeting feedback that wasn't otherwise shared in the meeting included:

- **Consider establishing the protection and enhancement of the Island's unique natural habitats as a first priority in the Master Plan** to avoid diluting the objective or conflicting with other park objectives. The Master Plan should provide guidance on how

to protect and restore the Island Park's ecological integrity using Indigenous knowledge and data-driven methods.

- **Explicitly acknowledge the natural environment under the “Revealing an Indigenous Place” Big Idea**, given the importance of nature to Indigenous ways of knowing and culture.
- **Consider shifting away from “balancing” different human uses with environmental protection to integrating uses together**, so that visitor experience and educational activities complement and support ecological integrity and resilience. Especially when discussing visitor experience, considering how visitors interact and interface with the natural environment.
- **Leverage the Master Plan engagement process to educate park visitors on the ecological importance of the island and ongoing projects to restore the island ecology.**

Appendix A – List of TAC Participants and City of Toronto Divisions

Participants

Alok Sharma - Economic Development and Culture

Andrea Chow - PFR

Andrew Farncombe - Community Planning / Strategic Projects

Anne Fisher - Heritage Planning

Antonella Nicaso - BIA Lead

Bryan Bowen - City Planning Waterfront Secretariat

Cathy Hargreaves - Permits

Chris Glaisek - Waterfront Toronto

Emilio Borges - Park Development and Capital Projects

Eric Beales - Heritage Planning

James Dann - Waterfront Parks

Jane Weninger - City Planning

Janette Harvey - PFR, Natural Environment Specialist

Jeanne Holmes - Economic Development

Jennifer Franks - Indigenous Affairs Office

Jet Taylor - TRCA

Jo Ann Pynn - Urban Forestry

Johnny Bergeron - Recreation

Kaylyn Crawford - Urban Forestry, RNFP and NECP

Kim Statham - Urban Forestry, RNFP and NECP

Kristina Reinders - Community Planning / Strategic Projects

Mike Tanner - Economic Development

Netami Stewart - Waterfront Toronto

Pamela Ferrante - PFR, Client Services

Paula Jacobi - Recreation

Rebecca Salvatore - TRCA

Sally Han - Cultural Partnerships

Shahid Sharif - EMS

Stefany Hanson - Accessibility / Community Development

Project team and consultants

Master Plan

City Team:

Dave O'Hara, Program Manager Strategic Projects

Lori Ellis, Project Officer Strategic Projects

Casey Morris, Senior Project Coordinator

Consultants:

DTAH: James Roche - Principal, Victoria Bell - Project Manager

Trophic Design: Terrence Radford - Principal

Engagement and Communications

City Team:

Daniel Fusca – Manager, Public Engagement

Pablo Munoz - Senior Public Consultation Coordinator

Alex Lavasidis – Senior Public Consultation Coordinator

Sejal Kapadia Pocha - Supervisor Outreach and Communications

Sally Antown, Research Trainee

Consultants:

Swerhun Consulting: Ian Malczewski - Engagement Lead, Athavarn Srikantharajah – Engagement Support

Nbisiing Consulting: Bob Goulais - Principal

Business Strategy

City Team:

Christina Iaconvino - Manager Business Services

Alex Deighan - Policy Development Officer

Consultants:

FS Strategy: Jeff Dover - Principal

Urban Metrics: Rowan Faludi - Principal

Appendix B – Meeting Agenda

Technical Advisory Committee #2

May 14th, 2021

Friday, May 14th, 2021

1:00pm-3:30pm ● Meeting held virtually

Meeting Purpose: Building on the Vision, Values and Guiding Principles and revised Drivers of Change developed through Phase 1 of the project, the TAC will work together to explore “ideas” that will help plans for the island evolve through Phase 2 of the Master Plan.

Agenda

1:00	Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Introductions, Project Overview	Dave O'Hara / Lori Ellis
1:10	DTAH Presentation Phase 1 Outcomes	James Roche / Victoria Bell
1:30	Breakout – Ideas Part 1 (30 min)	Facilitation Team
2:00	Break	
2:10	Breakout – Ideas Part 1 (30 min)	Facilitation Team
2:40	Break	
2:50	Report Back and Discussion (30 min)	Daniel Fusca and Team
3:20	Wrap-up / Next Steps	Dave O'Hara / Lori Ellis
3:30	Adjourn	



Big Ideas Summary Report

09/28/2021

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Introduction



The City is co-creating the Toronto Island Park Master Plan with Indigenous rights holders, local communities and the general public! That means we're collating thoughts, ideas and feedback in gradual stages and in a variety of ways to ensure your voices and ideas are reflected in the final Master Plan.

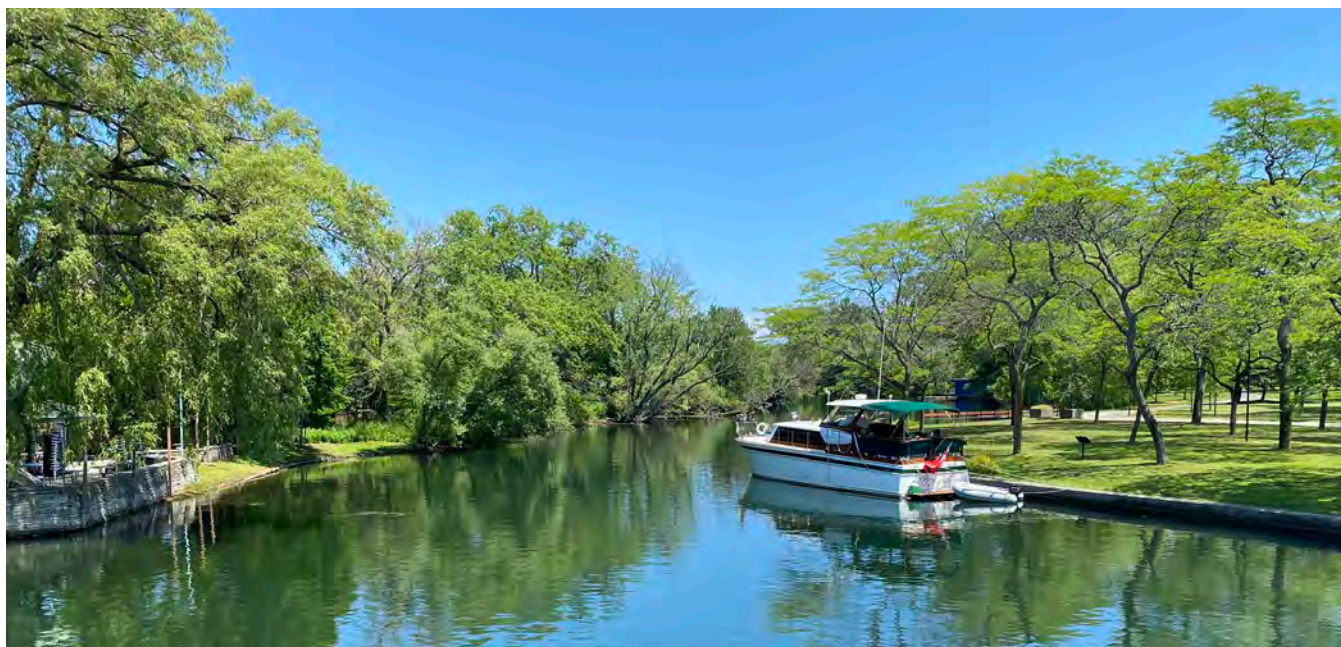
There are three phases in the engagement process, which will run from 2021 to 2022. During the first phase of the project, we collaborated with Indigenous rights holders, Torontonians from all walks of life and City staff to develop a Vision, Guiding Principles and Values for the Toronto Island Park.

The second phase is called "Ideas to Concepts" and runs from June 2021 until November 2021. In this phase, the project team is confirming the Vision, Values and Guiding Principles and developing "Big Ideas" and Concept Plans for Toronto Island Park.

This document is the summary of an online engagement tool used in Phase Two to share and seek feedback on Big Ideas. Through a City of Toronto digital platform, we invited members of the public to review, rate, and comment on preliminary Big Ideas from the Master Plan as well as to submit Big Ideas they thought would bring our collective vision to life.

Vision, Values and Guiding Principles

The following Vision, Guiding Principles and Values – which are meant to drive all aspects of the master plan including the Big Ideas - were developed in consultation with stakeholders, rightsholders, and the public through the first phase of the project. In total for Phase One, the project team met with 2 advisory groups, held 8 Indigenous engagements and workshops, and engaged nearly 6,000 respondents across all engagement tools. To read a detailed summary of Phase One engagement, visit the project website: www.toronto.ca/islandmasterplan.



A vision for the park

Toronto Island Park will be a place to:

Protect + Restore

The Environment: through stewardship and management of sensitive environments and habitats

The Community: to be safe, accessible and welcoming for all living beings

The Self: to be a place of healing and respite, away from busy urban life and in touch with nature

Honour + Celebrate

The land, water and sky, as well as all living beings that call Mníssing home: through Indigenous place-keeping, place-making and place-revealing

The identity, character and legacy of the islands: through Indigenous, Settler, Immigrant, Refugee and Visitor perspectives

Toronto's diverse communities: through creating a space that is inclusive and celebratory of Indigenous communities, Black communities, People of Colour, LGBTQ2S+, women and gender non-conforming people, disabled people, children and youth, seniors, people experiencing poverty and all equity-deserving communities

Gather + Support

Explore collaborative governance, partnerships and coordinated program opportunities

Promote sharing, learning and teaching: through land-based practices, partnerships and programs

Ensure equitable access: through accessible and affordable spaces, experiences and connections

Values of the Master Plan

The Toronto Island Park Master Plan must embody:

Respect

By acknowledging the land as a living being

By advocating for the rights of all living beings and systems first and as part of interconnected and interdependent systems and existence

By honouring the practices and rights of past, present and future inhabitants

Diversity

By prioritizing inclusion and celebration of differing worldviews, experiences, and abilities

By ensuring equitable access to amenities, facilities, and services

By protecting and restoring sensitive and unique environments and habitats

Balance

By considering the needs of all parts of a system in the sharing and distribution of resources

By prioritizing the needs of the natural environment over human use and comfort

Accountability

By committing to transparent processes

By developing sustainable investment in social, environmental and economic initiatives

By cultivating lasting relationships with rights holders, stakeholders and communities

Guiding Principles

1. Honour and respect Indigenous communities and their rights on the islands and water
2. Celebrate and reveal the cultural identity and spirit of the islands
3. Prioritize, protect and advocate for the natural significance and value of the islands
4. Leverage the dynamic nature of the islands and waterways to support adaptive and flexible use
5. Demonstrate resilience, sustainability and regenerative landscape management
6. Prioritize equitable access and inclusion
7. Enhance the visitor experience for all seasons
8. Provide diverse amenities and experiences to encourage exploration, sharing and discovery
9. Support opportunities for diverse and sustainable businesses to thrive
10. Develop evidence-based strategic investment to ensure long-term and continued support of improvements

Big Ideas by the Numbers

How we got the word out



Organic (Facebook, Instagram & Twitter)

60 posts were shared organically across @TorontoPFR social media channels

564 organic link clicks

66% of organic link clicks were from Twitter

1,880 organic post engagement (48% from Twitter and 46% on Instagram)

Paid (Facebook & Instagram)

Ads reach summary

Over **280,000** people reached

Over **77,000** people in suburbs and NIAs reached

Over **50,000** waterfront residents and visitors reached

At least **73,000** people reached with Indigenous or equity deserving group interests

49% of people reached were **13-34 years old**

29% of people reached were **13-24 years old**

Ad link clicks summary

Over **9,700** unique link clicks

31% of unique link clicks were from **13-34 year olds**

At least **23%** of unique link clicks were from people with **Indigenous or equity deserving group interests**

Over **2,300** unique link clicks were from **people in the**

suburbs or NIAs

Over **1,100** unique link clicks from **waterfront residents and visitors**

Big Ideas by the numbers

11,004 total site users

145 Ideas

75,819 ratings

916 comments/replies

Biggest ideas

Highest rated idea: Year-round washrooms (4.8 stars - 975 ratings)

Most rated idea: Year-round washrooms (4.8 stars - 975 ratings)

Lowest rated idea: Close the Islands (1.2 stars - 556 ratings)

Most commented idea: Diverse food options (27 comments)

Funniest idea: Two-way petting zoo (2.5 stars - 125 ratings)

Big Ideas by Guiding Principle

NOTE: Ideas submitted by the public were, as best as possible, kept unedited. The wording in some ideas have been slightly changed for clarity.



Principle 1: Honour and respect Indigenous communities and their rights on the islands and water

Total number of ideas related to this principle: 9

Highest rated idea(s):

Gidakiiminann, We Are All Stewards: The Island includes designated environments and wetlands, as well as supporting habitats for fish, wildlife and migratory birds, however many people are unaware of the dynamic and sensitive nature of this place. Create programming and activations that can be aligned with city-wide events (Toronto Bird Celebration, community clean-ups, etc.) to promote and educate visitors on the dynamic and sensitive environments and wildlife on the Island.

Overall Rating: 4.3 (rated 776 times)

Most rated idea(s):

Place-naming: Toronto Island is a significant Indigenous place. Re-establish and introduce Indigenous place names across Mníssing.

Overall Rating: 3.9 (rated 793 times)

Dibaajimowin/Kinoomaagwewin (Storytelling/Teaching): Indigenous communities have a wealth of traditional knowledge and Indigenous stories about Toronto Island. Provide spaces for demonstrating and sharing teachings on Indigenous ways of knowing and being, Indigenous nationhood, history, treaties and the diverse and evolving living cultures of Toronto's Indigenous communities.

Overall Rating: 3.9 (rated 793 times)

Dedicated Indigenous Space: The Indigenous engagement process has revealed a desire for dedicated spaces on Toronto Island for ceremony, gathering and cultural use. Create partnerships and leadership positions with Indigenous communities for the use and management of dedicated Indigenous spaces for ceremony and lodges.

This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 3.7 (rated 771 times)

Other idea(s):

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Engage Indigenous communities in the planning and implementation phases of projects and include Indigenous art (one idea, rated 4 with 686 ratings).
- Increase the Indigenous presence on and around the Islands, including at the ferry docks. Consider a museum (one idea, rated 3.7 with 699 ratings).
- Establish an Indigenous Reconciliation Centre where the public can learn about Indigenous ways of knowing, culture, and traditional practices (one idea, rated 3.5 with 379 ratings).
- Give back to Indigenous people control over the land (one idea, rated 3.4 with 541 ratings).
- Give Indigenous people full autonomy to make decisions about the Toronto Islands (one idea, rated 2.7 with 412 ratings).

Principle 2: Celebrate and reveal the unique cultural identity and spirit of the islands

Total number of ideas related to this principle: 16



Highest rated idea(s):

The Toronto Islands are NOT the CNE or Wonderland:

Toronto has sacrificed the waterfront East of Front street to the developers. Please don't let that happen to the Islands. Make improvements for sure, but don't turn a silk purse into a pig's ear!

Overall Rating: 4.6 (rated 785 times)

Maintenance: There are no shortage of great ideas for the islands. Whatever path is selected, as long as it is done with exceptional quality in design and execution, will be a success. My big idea: just maintain it! Devote the proper resources to maintain whatever is built for generations to come, and the park will be a true and lasting success.

Overall Rating: 4.6 (rated 649 times)

Most rated idea(s):

Dark Sky Viewing: The Island is a place to experience the night sky and honour the Star World. Create viewing stations and run regular star-gazing events and programs for urban youth and the general public to appreciate the unique assets and experiences of dark sky viewing in the city including considering opportunities for low-level lighting infrastructure.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 3.8 (rated 820 times)

Bring the Island to the Mainland: The Jack Layton Ferry Terminal is the start and end of most trips to the Island but feels separated and disconnected from the experience. Create inviting, engaging and comfortable spaces at the ferry terminal to begin each Island getaway, share information to excite visitors about the experience ahead, and welcome visitors back to the mainland with information about future activities and events to encourage their return.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 3.6 (rated 800 times)

Observation Tower: See Toronto Island's beautiful surrounding nature and Toronto skyline! An observation Tower is great way for people to see the Island in a different perspective. Centre Island is famous for taking skyline picture of Toronto. An Observation Tower will be a great addition to the 'nature and urban exploring' experience!

Overall Rating: 2.3 (rated 797 times)

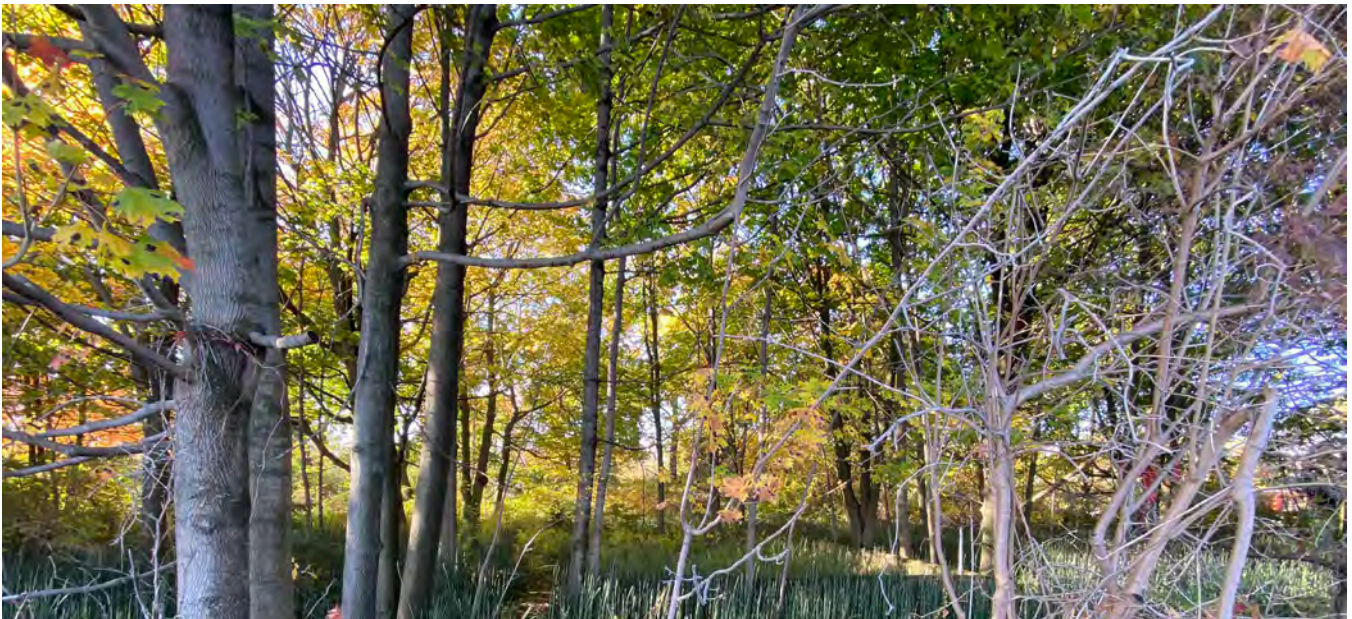
Other idea(s) :

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Relocate vehicular access across the Island to be more discrete, operate in off-peak hours, and ensure pathways for all Island visitors are safe with minimal conflicts between vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 4.2 with 783 ratings).
- Create a structure/committee to organize regularly occurring, voluntary, community-based efforts to give back to the land and to connect with others who enjoy the Toronto Islands (i.e. Clean Toronto Together) [two ideas with a combined rating of 3.9 with 962 ratings].
- Expand partnerships with artists, creatives, and arts organizations to explore new opportunities for temporary and permanent art, residencies and programming throughout the Island. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 3.6 with 769 ratings).
- Make the south part of the Islands a NO fly zone for recreational pilots to reduce noise pollution (one idea, rated 3.6 with 427 ratings).
- Restore the old Toronto City Center Airport terminal into an Aviation museum (one idea, rated 3.6 with 322 ratings).

- Leverage on-Island advocates through partnerships to take a leading role in exploring future program offerings, activations and events that celebrate the unique opportunities of the Island. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement [two ideas with a combined rating of 3.3 with 1064 ratings].
- Expand interpretation of the Island's rich history through diverse and complementary programs, activities and elements such as temporary installations, public art, discovery walks, plaques and on-line tools. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement. Build off the Indigenous history of the Islands as a restorative place by building beach saunas where you can take a dip in the lake after to help with circulation. They could be a year round destination for those looking to relax and sweat it out [two ideas with a combined rating of 3.3 with 934 ratings].
- Add an adult focused Ferris Wheel to Centre Island that is big enough to see the city (one ideas, rated 1.9 with 570 ratings).

Principle 3: Prioritize, protect and advocate for the natural significance of the Islands



Total number of ideas related to this principle: 11

Highest rated idea(s):

Preserve the Beaches: Beaches are core to the identity and use of the Island, but erosion, overcrowding, insufficient amenities, and lack of awareness for the sensitive environment threatens their health and opportunities to experience these spaces in the future. Protect the beach environments through habitat restoration, education, improved access to facilities and amenities, and restrictions on waste brought to and left on the Island.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 4.8 (rated 889 times)

Most rated idea(s):

Celebrate and Protect the Wildlife: The Island has rich communities of wildlife. The Master Plan should acknowledge and respect this and include specific policies to protect and celebrate wildlife.

Overall Rating: 4.6 (rated 846 times)

Accessing Nature and Water: The natural environment and access to Lake Ontario are key reasons for visiting the Toronto Island. Balance access from land and water to these unique spaces considering ecologically sensitive improvements to existing infrastructure in some areas that ensure the overall health of the Island and the protection of sensitive environments for future generations.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 4.4 (rated 809 times)

Sharing The Island Respectfully: The islands are for all but too many times these parks are disturbed by smoking, litter, and excessively loud music at all times of the day/night. There should be a respectful use policy clearly signed at the entry points of the Island and on ferries. These are intrusions into the wild spaces that the islands afford us city dwellers that is so special and distinct from our other parks.

Overall Rating: 3.9 (rated 613 times)

Other idea(s):

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Keep the islands clean from litter with more litter bins, more regular garbage pickups, proper signage, announcements on the ferries, and heavy fines (\$1,000) for litter infractions (one idea, rated 4.7 with 421 ratings).
- Improve the quality of the sand at the beaches by cleaning it regularly (one idea, rated 4.4 with 434 ratings).
- Keep the islands as natural as possible so that they remain a great escape from the city (one idea, rated 3.5 with 16 ratings).
- Keep it simple. Enhance what exists, close the airport and allow people to enjoy the surroundings without distractions [four ideas with a combined rating of 3.2 with 1727 ratings].

Principle 4: Leverage the dynamic nature of the islands and waterways to support adaptive and flexible use



Total number of ideas related to this principle: 6

Highest rated idea(s):

Boating Guidance: Better planning and signage for various watercrafts in the inner channels. Powerboats exceed speed limits and make unsafe maneuvers around canoes and kayaks. Some areas should be clearly non-motorized. Signs should be added to make it clear where larger boats can/cannot go. Eg. sensitive wetlands around Donut Island should have signs so larger boats don't enter and get stuck.

Overall Rating: 4.4 (rated 159 times)

Make the lagoons peaceful quiet zones: Make the lagoons quiet zones, off limits to power and large boats. The area around the lagoons - especially Blockhouse Bay and Long Pond and the Hanlan's Mooring Wall have become loud, overcrowded party zones from May to October. They are under-monitored by Parks and the police. Boats raft up in Long Pond and blare pounding music all day on summer weekends. It affects anyone who wants a pleasant experience in the area. Tour boats go through with music pounding. The lagoons should be peaceful places where waterfowl and fish can survive and people can enjoy the area with their families.

Overall Rating: 4.4 (rated 170 times)

Most rated idea(s):

Navigate the Island Waterways: The Islands internal waterways and access to small non-motorized watercraft to experience the Island from the water are limited. Create landing points and short-term storage for personal watercraft (canoes, kayaks, paddleboards) within the internal lagoon network and along outer edges to provide access throughout the Island and promote water-based recreation and transportation.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 3.7 (rated 726 times)

The Island as Part of a Network: Toronto Island Park is part of a larger system of City Parks encircling the inner harbour and connected to the City's ravine system. Design the Island's programs, services and amenities to consider this larger context and complement and integrate into the city and waterfront parks and facilities across the Toronto Harbour.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 3.4 (rated 685 times)

Rebuild the Grandstand: Rebuild the Grandstand to permit regattas to take place on the Allan A. Lamport Regatta Course on Centre Island. Each year, several community-based water sports organizations (dragon-boating, canoeing, kayaking, rowing) stage regattas on the Regatta Course, providing many entertainment opportunities for the visitors to the Island. Visitors learn about different sports and can find community-based sport/recreation organizations where they can learn to paddle, row, Stand-up-paddle, kayak, etc. One of the Regattas, the Dominion Day Regatta, has been staged on the Island regatta course for over 135 years. Help preserve Toronto's history by restoring the Grandstand, which has been negatively affected by two years of Lake Ontario high water levels (2017 and 2019).

Overall Rating: 3.6 (rated 178 times)

Other idea(s):

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Create long docks for fishing, especially ones that are safe for use by kids (one idea, rated 3 with 100 ratings).

Principle 5: Demonstrate resilience, sustainability and regenerative landscape management

Total number of ideas related to this principle: 7

Highest rated idea(s):

A Cooler, Greener Welcome: The current waiting area surrounding the Hanlan's ferry arrival has sparse tree cover and large asphalt areas that make the area feel not human-scaled. As part of the re-greening effort, the open grass zones can be planted with native vegetation/returned to the wilderness, and the hard landscaping can be redone with natural materials like stone pavers or wood decking (where feasible) to create a friendlier, less harsh arrival atmosphere. At the moment, few people linger there despite the presence of the food concession and the Ned Hanlan statue; I believe that with a bit more shade, lush greenery and softer, more inviting material finishes, this spot has the potential to become more than just a waiting line for the ferry, even as it retains its functionality as an access point for vehicles.

Overall Rating: 4.6 (rated 483 times)

Most rated idea(s):

Enforce Litter and Single-Use Plastic Free Islands: The islands are a precious area that needs to be respected and not overrun and trashed by humans. The amount of litter and single-use plastics already polluting our beaches, parks and lake on summer weekends is appalling. While creating more access and facilities on the islands may seem helpful, if it brings more pollution then in fact maybe we need to limit human access even further. (There certainly was much less litter at Woodbine beach when the parking lots were closed at the start of the pandemic.) Let's make the islands a litter and single-use plastic free zone. (And all of Torontos beaches, parks and lakefront too, for that matter)

Overall Rating: 4.4 (rated 959 times)

Island Rangers: Using Island Rangers to be on the Island to direct, answer questions, assist, tidy and control public spaces. Preferably from the Indigenous community as much as possible. Welcoming newcomers and first time visitors and using well trained interpersonal skills to build a rapport with the public and informing them of the opportunities, expectations, history and ecology of the Island.

Overall Rating: 2.6 (rated 644 times)

Rewild Toronto Island: Most of Toronto Island is currently covered by grass or development. Commit to reforesting sections of Toronto Island with native species to help in the fight against climate change and support biodiversity. Ensure the space is still usable and enjoyable for visitors by creating a network of forest trails with signage to teach visitors about native plants and animals. Offer free tours with indigenous and environmental experts.

Nature First: The islands need to be rewilded and much more focused on nature, environment, biodiversity and species habitat. THAT should be the guiding principle- to make this one of the very few places left where other species are given primacy and not expected to serve homo sapiens. There are plenty of other places to feed the "entertainment" fixation of some.

Two ideas.

Overall Rating: 4 (jointly rated 1173 times)

Other idea(s):

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Create more parks and establish a healthier ecosystem (one idea, rated 4.5 with 311 ratings).
- Cap the number of ferry tickets sold from June - September to improve access without overcrowding (one idea, rated 2.2 with 438 ratings).
- Stop all human activity on the islands (one idea, rated 1.2 with 556 ratings).

Principle 6: Prioritize equitable access and inclusion



Total number of ideas related to this principle: 35

Highest rated idea(s):

Disabilities: Please make the Island more accessible for people with disabilities.

Overall Rating: 4.5 (rated 490 times)

Most rated idea(s):

Knowing Where to Go and How to Get There: The current network of pathways on the Island is not well signed to help people navigate around the Island. Create a clear network of walking trails and paths including walking times and distances.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 4.4 (rated 908 times)

Island Access: While the trip across the Toronto Harbour is usually a highlight of any Island visit, ticket purchase, boarding boats and planning trips that use multiple modes of transit can be overly expensive, frustrating and create barriers to accessing the Island. Improve integration of ferry service with other transit providers (TTC, GO) to promote a seamless and less expensive experience, and to improve access to the Island beyond the downtown core.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement. Seven similar ideas were also submitted by the public.

Overall Rating: 4.1 (rated 877 times)

A Refuge for LGBTQ2S+: The Island has played an instrumental role in providing safe haven for LGBTQ2S+ communities. Celebrate the significant places (such as Hanlan's Beach), stories, and culture that the Island embodies for the LGBTQ2S+ community.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 3.7 (rated 795 times)

Other idea(s):

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Construct a trail to connect Muggs Island to the public realm and to improve access between the Centre Island and Hanlan's Point Ferries (one idea, rated 4.2 with 431 ratings).
- Fly the pride flag at the docks and add a fun rainbow arch sculpture to the path just past the ferry docks. Make it clear this is a queer safe space on indigenous land (one idea, rated 4.1 with 405 ratings).
- Increase the accessibility and usable space on Hanlan's and make it easier for nudists and queer folks to not compete for space by making the whole beach clothing-optional (one idea, rated 3.8 with 478 ratings).

- Make water sports, like sailing, more accessible to Torontonians of all incomes. Partner with private sailing clubs to engage with and facilitate learning of sailing with average park users or the general public (one idea, rated 3.8 with 299 ratings).
- Establish speed limits and traffic calming measures for bikes (one idea, rated 3.7 with 175 ratings).
- Establish a frequent, affordable, ferry service for pedestrians and active transport only between Cherry Beach and Wards Island within the Eastern Channel (one idea, rated 3.6 with 369 ratings).
- Create a nudist only section (preferably with barriers blocking the view from everyone else), for the safety and comfort of nudists using Hanlan's (one idea, rated 3.4 with 417 ratings).
- Build a pedestrian or cycling bridge to the Island. Install a walking/cycling bridge from cherry beach to the Island [six ideas with a combined rating of 3.3 with 2954 ratings].
- Improve paddling access from Woodbine Beach (one idea, rated 3.3 with 321 ratings).
- Establish a water shuttle system that would ferry visitors between the Toronto Islands and area greenspaces such as Tommy Thompson Park, Ontario Place, Humber Bay, and Ashbridges Bay (one idea, rated 3.2 with 708 ratings).
- Enhance access to all public areas of the park, including those that are hard to reach, feel private, or are physically obstructed, and ensure seamless and continuous connections throughout the Island where possible. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 3.2 with 604 ratings).
- Add another circuit to the Centreville Railroad to allow families to board the train from the Centre Island Ferry to Centreville, Hanlan's Point, and Wards Island to act as an integrated long distance transport method that feels like part of the park experience (one idea, rated 3.2 with 353 ratings).
- Create targeted programs for equity deserving communities as a way to make the Island more inclusive. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 3.1 with 611 ratings).
- Buy new, clean energy ferries. Make ferry service more frequent and inexpensive, and add new routes (one idea, rated 2.9 with 14 ratings).
- Getting on and off the Island shouldn't have to be a matter of line-ups and crowding. Establish additional access points on both the mainland and islands [three ideas with a combined rating of rated 2.8 with 1227 ratings].
- Reduce the access bottleneck by allowing people to get to the Island via the airport tunnel (one idea, rated 2.7 with 478 ratings).
- Install gondolas on the Island to supplement ferry service, make it easier to get around, and provide beautiful views of the harbour and downtown, while maintaining the Island's unique status as a place away (one idea, rated 2.2 with 210 ratings).

Principle 7: Enhance the visitor experience for all seasons

Total number of ideas related to this principle: 25

Highest rated idea(s):

Year-Round Washrooms: The availability of quality washroom facilities in all seasons are important to a positive Island experience. Provide year-round washrooms close to points of interest across the Island including a clear wayfinding strategy to help identify these important facilities.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 4.8 (rated 975 times)

Let's Stop Getting Dehydrated: I'd like to see free water bottle refill stations on the Island, instead of just drinking fountains and expensive vending machines. We always run out of water here, and it's \$5 for a drink at the vending machine!

Overall Rating: 4.8 (rated 164 times)

Most rated idea(s):

Year Round Staycation Destination: Everyone agrees that the vast majority of the Island should remain parkland. However, having a small part of the Island as a resort or hotel could truly be a magical place. It would provide breathtaking views, and would be an international draw. It could also be year-round, in the Winter there could be hot baths people could swim in. There is a precedent for this, there used to be a hotel on the Island. We could have great restaurants and patios on the Island too connected to the hotel and/or resort and have the entire complex be relatively small, but a huge draw for Torontonians and International visitors alike.

Healing Waters: I would love a year round, outdoor, heated swimming pool / therapy waters with a breathtaking view of the lake. It needs to be massive, accessible to all, and architecturally exquisite and memorable. I am thinking of how wonderful the Pam McConnell Aquatic Centre is - and a bonus if the

energy for the heating can be 100 % solar, wind, geothermal, etc. It would be a gem for Torontonians and visitors alike.

Two ideas.

Overall Rating: 2 (jointly rated 1646 times)

Warm Up Winter: The Island is a beloved place year-round, but there are limited amenities and facilities that support this use in winter. Provide winterized facilities and expanded winter activities and programs across the Island to make the Island a winter destination.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 4.3 (rated 896 times)

Flexible Space for Fun and Games: People come to the Island to have fun engaging in amusements, recreation, arts and culture, music and events of various sizes in an Island park setting. Enhance existing infrastructure, facilities and amenities that support these uses to improve the activities and experiences of the Island and promote all seasons use.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 3.6 (rated 831 times)

Other idea(s):

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Expand bike Infrastructure on the Island: Equip ferries with special areas for bikes. Bring BikeshareTO to the Island. Make sure bike paths are well maintained, smooth and well lit. Ensure there are sufficient lock posts [three ideas with a combined rating of 4 with 1060 ratings].
- Improve the City's website or create an app to help people plan their trip (one idea, rated 3.8 with 379 ratings).
- Build a provincial park-style campsite structure with amenities like bathrooms and showers and allow camping for a max two nights stay [two ideas with a combined rating of 3.7 with 972 rating].
- Provide multi-lingual information using digital platforms, and diverse tools on- and off-Island (including enhanced maps and signage) to expand outreach and share information about the Island, events, programming, history, and dynamic environment to visitors of all backgrounds and abilities. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 3.6 with 792 ratings).

- Build a big, naturalized play space. Incorporate the values of the overall master plan and prioritize Indigenous voices in its design (one idea, rated 3.6 with 385 ratings).
- Build a large adult gymnastics/workout facility like in Miami, Bogota or Los Angeles, with rings, double bars, trapeze, etc. These spaces create movement culture in cities and help build gymnastics communities (one idea, rated 3.4 with 149 ratings).
- Establish charcoal bbq areas with charcoal disposals (one idea, rated 3.4 with 127 ratings).
- Consider expanding permitted, affordable and low-impact opportunities to stay overnight on the Island. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 3.2 with 809 ratings).
- Move the Ferry Terminal to the bottom of Yonge Street (one idea, rated 3.1 with 433 ratings).
- Expand the William Meany Maze to be bigger and better, or build a new one with a higher difficulty. The Gijs Van Vaerenbergh labyrinth in Genk, Belgium is an inspiring example (one idea, rated 3 with 385 ratings).
- Cell reception and WI-FI are unreliable or not available on the Island. Improve infrastructure to provide more consistent cell service and consider free public wi-fi in key areas on the Island. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 2.8 with 794 ratings).
- Make better signage for the frisbee golf course (one idea, rated 2.8 with 471 ratings).
- Protect view-sheds and viewing areas by creating formalized stations to capture views of the city and lake during the daytime, nighttime and in all seasons. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 2.7 with 687 ratings).
- A lot of dogs accompany families to the islands. Create a dog-off-leash area with proper signage, disposal area, and fencing (one idea, rated 2.5 with 779 ratings).
- Introduce scuba diving lessons as a way of increasing awareness of nature and the water and to teach people a new skill (one idea, rated 2.5 with 664 ratings).
- Establish a bicycle race on Toronto Island (one idea, rated 2.1 with 156 ratings).

Principle 8: Provide diverse amenities and experiences to encourage exploration, sharing and discovery

Total number of ideas related to this principle: 11

Highest rated idea(s):

Protect the Island Environment: Toronto Island is composed of dynamic ecosystems and complex habitats that support unique visitor experiences within the natural areas of the Island. Identify select areas to provide accessible pathways within natural areas and edges to promote learning and exploration within the natural environment while protecting the most sensitive areas from trampling.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

The Land Before Time: There is a sizable area/Island north of the Island Water Treatment Plant that is inaccessible to all... and partially used as a dumping/staging ground? There should be trails and access to this massive area of unused park lands.

Two ideas.

Overall Rating: 4.4 (jointly rated 1244 times)

Most rated idea(s):

Diverse Food Options: There is desire for quality food options that represent and celebrate the diversity of the City. Provide year-round diverse food options throughout the Island (destination restaurant, food trucks, Indigenous and cultural food providers, food carts, beach stands, picnic baskets, etc.) that are not limited to concession areas alone.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 4.1 (rated 938 times)

International Botanical Gardens: The Toronto Islands needs more formal gardens. Imagine a botanical garden area with gardens that represent each of the ethnic groups that live in Toronto. We are the most multicultural city in the world. Celebrate it with an international garden area.

Avenue of the Island Botanical Garden and Waterplay: The Avenue of the Island is an essential part of the park and should be expanded and improved as the only-ish non-natural focus area to the Island's park space. Working with the Toronto Botanical Gardens to design a vibrant garden mixed with an array of water fountains, reflections and features (waterfalls, jumping fountains, drip art, hydro screen) to create a beautiful active and engaging plaza type area. Park users are encouraged to jump in an experience the fountains and water-art - Harkening a 'Please walk on the grass' type sentiment.

Two ideas.

Overall Rating: 2.9 (jointly rated 1088 times)

Global Sustainable Discovery Hub: The Island should be a hub for all cultures in Toronto to find a space in. Supported by unique food and cultural pavilions and with better access points. It should be a destination for our community but also the global community. And at its core should be a 100% renewable energy source and zero emission footprint!

Overall Rating: 2.8 (rated 701 times)

Other idea(s):

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Open the Water Treatment Plant to the public for educational tours. Focus on environmental engineering such as the role Lake Ontario plays in deep lake water cooling and on promoting active and future projects that harness the energy of the lake like Toronto Hydro's pilot of the world's first offshore compressed-air energy storage (one idea, rated 4.1 with 358 ratings).
- Create a global art destination with a curation of outstanding global sculptures along the Island's trails (two ideas with a combined rating of 3.1 with 18 ratings).
- Create an augmented reality tour/scavenger hunt that will showcase the history of certain landmarks to users. This is also a great way to showcase how aboriginal history and culture ties into some of the landmarks on the Island. Establish a learning scavenger hunt, where you collect stamps for learning about the history of the Toronto Islands, including its Indigenous origins [two ideas with a combined rating of 2.5 with 451 ratings].
- Include a two-way petting zoo (one idea, rated 2.5 with 125 ratings).

Principle 9: Support opportunities for diverse and sustainable businesses to thrive

Total number of ideas related to this principle: 15

Highest rated idea(s):



Easy Island Rentals: Equipment rentals on the Island are not currently convenient, coordinated, or accessible. Provide locations to rent bikes and non-motorized personal watercraft (canoes, kayaks, paddleboards) at key destinations across the Island, the central waterfront, and the inner harbour.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Water Recreation Rentals: Many people can't afford a kayak or canoe or don't have a place to store one and the means to get it from home to the beach. Affordable rentals for day use of things like canoes, kayaks, paddle boards or pedal boats would be a great way for people to use the lake and docks on either side would let people paddle across instead of needing to use the ferry.

Two ideas.

Overall Rating: 4.2 (jointly rated 1543 times)

Most rated idea(s):

Publicly Owned Festival/Concert Grounds: Using a part of the islands as publicly owned grounds for festivals and concerts could be spectacular, especially if it was designed to function as regular parkland when not in use. Whether facing the lake or the harbour, the setting could be truly spectacular. It would enliven nights on the Island, and could be a revenue source that could help fund so many of the other amazing projects suggested here (perhaps it could be owned by a public trust that can only spend money on the islands). Summer concerts overlooking the harbour and city could really be magical.

MAKE A PARTY ISLAND (like Scooby Doo Spooky Island): With fewer clubs being open every year and having the title of The most boring city in the world by The Guardian, we all deserve better entertainment in our city Toronto. Toronto Islands can be a great recreational place for all residents and visitors of the city. Building a beach club with a swimming pool, music, sun beds, imported golden sand and a bar is crucial for our city. Toronto can finally have the opportunity not just to be a downtown of Canada but a decent place to live and have a great work/life balance.

Two ideas.

Overall Rating: 2 (jointly rated 1420 times)

Better Restaurants: The islands need a variety of decent restaurants located in spectacular waterside locations at a variety of price points. Some should serve locally grown food and beverages and showcase Canadian culinary arts.

Overall Rating: 3.6 (rated 752 times)

Arts/Culture/Amenities: One thing we have learned during the pandemic is how much we value connecting over live music, arts events, theatre, outdoor films and how much artists build identity and contribute to placemaking. Currently the Island is kid-friendly with Centre Island but not very adult or teen friendly in terms of programming and entertainment. Culture extends to the overall vibe of a place - there should be a good balance between remote feel/relaxation and more lively things going on. Examples: a brewery, floating restaurants, murals, studio spaces and more opportunities for varied arts retreats, rehearsal spaces, interactive public art, busker spaces, opportunities for festivals like TIFF to do outdoor screenings in select areas in the Island and hammocks/relaxation spaces etc. One person on another thread talked about making the Island more overnight friendly, I think the Island should create more incentive for night visits too.

Overall Rating: 2.5 (rated 703 times)

Other idea(s):

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Need more cafes and restaurant options (not chains) with good diverse food choices unlike the choices on the Island now (one idea, rated 4.2 with 328 ratings).
- Build a funky bar/resto on the beach at Hanlan's (one idea, rated 3.4 with 156 ratings).
- Make it possible for people to rent a picnic kit on the Island for the day instead of having to lug picnic equipment over. There could also be a micro grocery store that sells picnic basics with an emphasis on low waste, environmentally friendly packaging (one idea, rated 3.1 with 419 ratings).
- Expand the Centerville Amusement Park to include a one of a kind mini golf course for all ages (Toronto themed, designed to inspire and engage) [one idea, rated 2.8 with 358 ratings].
- Establish a paddle-up restaurant where paddlers can grab a snack or a drink, or attach themselves to a floating anchor to enjoy local artists performing, all without having to leave their human-powered watercraft to establish Toronto as a world-class water community. Make it a zero-waste experience by asking paddlers to bring-their-own utensils (one idea, rated 2.5 with 639 ratings).
- The islands should do more to implement diverse culinary experiences and avant-garde arts events showcasing Toronto's open-mindedness and pluralism. These can showcase women, BIPOC, and LGBT chefs (one idea, rated 2.1 with 641 ratings).
- Toronto Islands can be a great recreational place for all residents and visitors of the city by building a beach club with a swimming pool, music, sun beds, imported golden sand and a bar (one idea, rated 1.7 with 576 ratings).
- Create a work-hub centre with work-friendly amenities that would allow you to easily work from the Toronto Islands. Secure indoor/door space allowing you to work throughout the year. Charge a nominal fee to pay for services like locker spaces, seating, vending, secure workspaces, conference call booths, washrooms, etc (one idea, rated 1.6 with 561 ratings).
- Introduce a Beer Store or LCBO on the Island (one idea, rated 1.6 with 390 ratings).



Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Combined CAC/TAC Workshop Meeting Summary

July 13th, 2021, 6:00 – 8:30 PM
Via Zoom

Overview

On Tuesday, July 13th, 2021, the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division (PFR) hosted a combined workshop with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Toronto Island Park Master Plan. The Combined Workshop was part of the City's iterative engagement approach to developing Big Ideas in Phase II of the Master Plan engagement process.

Over 30 participants attended the combined workshop, including representatives from fourteen on-island and waterfront organizations, city-wide organizations, Indigenous communities, as well as representatives from several City divisions and partner organizations. From the project team, representatives from the City of Toronto's PFR Division attended along with members of their consultant Design Team (DTAH), Business Strategy Team (fsSTRATEGY), and Engagement Team

(Swerhun Inc. and Nbisiing Consulting) – see Appendix A for the full participant list. In addition to the CAC and TAC, the City engaged several other audiences about the Big Ideas in Phase II:

- elders and knowledge keepers from the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation through a dialogue on July 15;
- the broader public through a Big Ideas online engagement in June and a Public Big Ideas Workshop on July 21; and,
- equity-deserving audiences through Youth Ambassador led engagement in August.

PFR's intent with the combined workshop was to involve CAC and TAC members in a collective analysis effort, asking participants to review and prioritize 130 Big Ideas (see Appendix C), including ideas suggested by the public in the Big Ideas online engagement and preliminary ideas developed by the Design Team. PFR combined the CAC and TAC for this meeting to give both groups the opportunity to listen to each other's perspectives.

Lori Ellis, Senior Project Coordinator with City, opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement. Following the land acknowledgement, Bob Goulais of Nbisiing Consulting shared an Indigenous teaching moment, speaking to the importance of ceremony in Indigenous ways of knowing and culture. The project team then shared an overview presentation covering the Master Plan process, Phase I outcomes, and a summary of ideas from other parks. Participants asked plenary questions of clarification and then joined one of four breakout rooms, where, in about an hour, a technical team member provided an overview of between 20 and 30 Big Ideas (as grouped under the Master Plan's Guiding Principles by PFR engagement staff) and a facilitator helped steward and document discussion using a virtual whiteboard. The discussion focused on participants' thoughts on which Big Ideas to prioritize as short term "must haves," medium term "should haves," or longer term "nice to haves." Participants also offered advice on how to make the Big Ideas a reality and other feedback about the Big Ideas. See Appendix B for the meeting agenda.

This meeting summary is structured by the following sections:

- Key themes
- Detailed summary of feedback
 - Questions of clarification

- Breakout Rooms - Big Ideas Discussions
 - Environment
 - Visitor Experience
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - History, Culture, and Storytelling
- Next steps

This summary was written by Swerhun Inc. It is not intended to be a verbatim transcript, rather it summarizes key points shared during the meeting. Participants reviewed a draft of this summary before it was finalized.

Key themes

The summary points below reflect key overall themes that emerged throughout the discussion and are intended to be read along with the more detailed feedback received during the breakout sessions that follows in Section 3 of this report.

- **Overall, the Master Plan is on the right track.** Participants said they liked the way the project team was thinking about Toronto Island Park, particularly the Big Ideas.
- **Protecting the park's natural environment remains a priority.** Participants said the protection of Toronto Island Park is very important, prioritizing Big Ideas around limiting waste, protecting and expanding Environmentally Sensitive areas, and making sure planning of events and access to the park are informed by an understanding of its carrying capacity.
- **Continued support for Indigenous placekeeping.** As with previous CAC and TAC meetings, participants were very supportive of the project team's focus on Indigenous placekeeping. They prioritized Big Ideas around bringing Indigenous place names to Toronto Island Park, establishing an Indigenous Cultural Hub, and identifying spaces for ceremony, gathering, and cultural use.
- **The Master Plan needs to consider equity,** including by recognizing and protecting Hanlan's Point Beach as a significant LGBTQ2S+ space and addressing financial barriers to visiting the Island.

- **Differing opinions on making it easier for more people to visit the Island.**
Participants shared differing opinions about improving physical connections to the Island, both in terms of whether making it easier for more people to visit should be a goal at all (since more people visiting could lead to additional stress on the Island's delicate eco-system) and if/how physical connections could be improved (with suggestions ranging from using the existing pedestrian tunnel to improving ferry service to building a bridge).
- **Improving what's already there is important.** Participants prioritized Big Ideas that focused on enhancing existing facilities and infrastructure, perfecting what is already working well as well as making it easier to get around with better wayfinding and improved cell service.

Detailed summary feedback

This section summarizes questions, suggestions, and comments participants shared, both after the overview presentation and in the final, concluding plenary. Where provided, responses from the project team follow in *italics*.

Questions of clarification

Where did the ten guiding principles come from? *The Master Plan team said the principles were developed, in part, through previous rounds of engagement. They are not final, and the project team is open to feedback about them.*

Why doesn't the Master Plan speak to the future of the Island Airport, especially considering the tripartite agreement is set to expire in 2033? *The City said the team is aware the tripartite agreement is expiring in 2033 and is mindful of the airport's impact on the park. Since the future of the airport and its lands will be determined by City Council and other levels of government, not PFR, the Master Plan is focusing on the lands within PFR's control and jurisdiction. If the airport lands are transferred to parkland in the future, the City will study adding it to the Master Plan framework.*

Breakout Rooms - Big Ideas Discussions

The following section organizes the feedback CAC and TAC members shared about the results from the Big Ideas Online Engagement. Participant feedback is organized

under four themes that were the focus of each breakout session: Environment; Visitor Experience; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and History, Culture, and Storytelling. This report summarizes participants' feedback about the Ideas using each theme to help organize them. Participants were asked to comment on the following:

- which ideas participants suggested prioritizing in the short, medium, and long term (along with suggestions on how to make those ideas become a reality)
- which ideas participants suggested removing
- any additional Ideas participants thought were missing
- other feedback about the Big Ideas

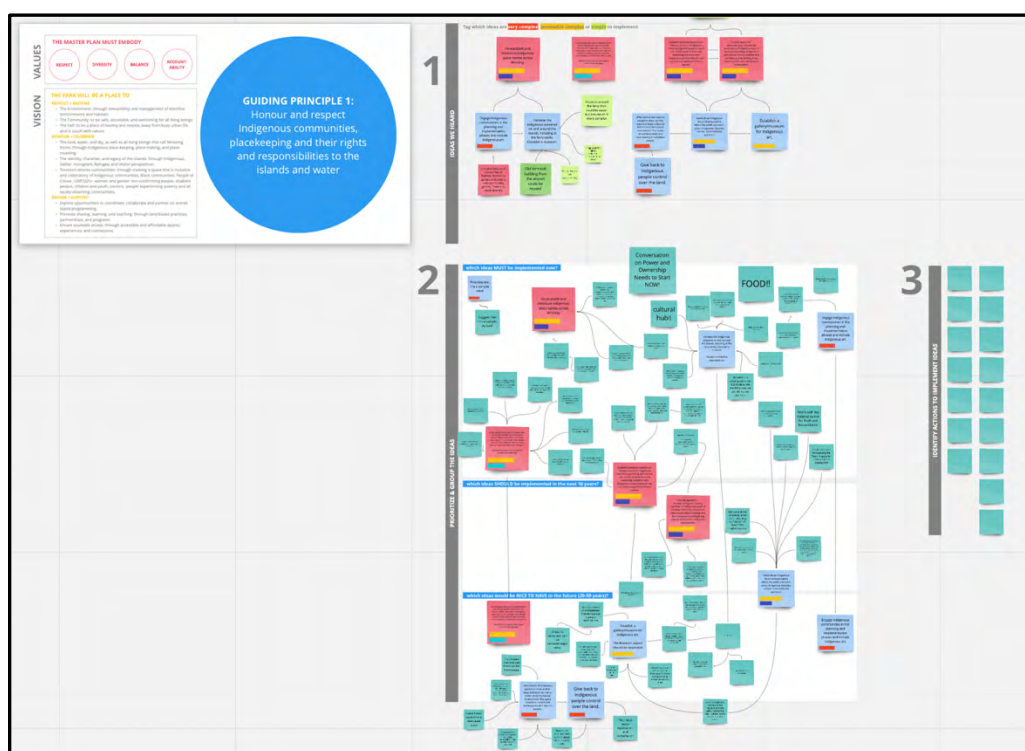


Figure 1: Miro Boards – A tool for documenting feedback

In each of the four breakout sessions, the project team shared virtual whiteboards that included dozens of sticky notes, each describing an idea resulting from the online Ideas Engagement and synthesized for this session by PFR engagement staff). Facilitators in each room used the Ideas sticky notes as a discussion tool – moving them around the whiteboard to reflect participants inputs and suggestions about prioritization of the Big Ideas and providing additional thoughts and suggestions for

the removal and elimination of some). Facilitators also added new sticky notes to identify participants suggestions for new Ideas as well as how to turn their ideas into a reality.

Given the high volume of Big Ideas shared and the number of questions discussed in the breakout rooms (as well as the differing interests of participants), each group's discussion was slightly different from the others. As a result, the sections below differ slightly from room to room to best reflect the substance of their discussion.

Environment

For a complete list of the Big Ideas shared in the Environment Breakout Room, see Appendix C.

Big Ideas to prioritize in the short term

Big Ideas participants suggested prioritizing in the short term included ideas around:

- **addressing crowding and garbage on the Island.** Many prioritized ideas to add waste disposal, implement regular garbage pickups and community clean-ups, add more signage (including a “respectful use policy”), impose fines for litter infractions, ban single use plastics, and create an “Island Rangers” program to educate, answer questions, and keep the area tidy. They said younger demographics — the people that tend to party on the Island — should be engaged as part of this Master Plan process.
- **realizing opportunities for re-naturalizing, planting, protecting existing Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs), and finding balance.** Participants prioritized ideas around identifying new areas for planting, conducting additional studies on which areas are most sensitive and should be protected (including identifying additional ESAs), naturalizing areas that are most affected by climate change and could support biodiversity, and planting open grass areas with native species (i.e., the open grass areas by Hanlan's dock).

Big Ideas to prioritize in the medium or long term

Participants had differing opinions on whether some of the Big Ideas should be prioritized as medium or longer term. These included ideas focused on:

- **addressing the impact of party boats and personal watercrafts, especially in the lagoons.** Some prioritized ideas promoting personal watercraft and water-based recreation throughout the Island's lagoon and waterway systems, restricting party and tour boats from lagoons, and adding educational and safety signage for watercrafts. To make these ideas a reality, participants suggested:
 - assessing the water quality of the lagoons and identifying ways to protect them
 - identifying specific landing points and short-term storage for personal watercraft within the internal lagoon network
 - educating boaters about any changes to the use of lagoons well in advance (since behaviour change can take a long time).
- **addressing the impacts of parties and festivals.** Participants liked ideas around addressing the impacts of festivals, entertainment, and parties, saying these attract large numbers of people who often leave behind garbage, create noise, and impact the natural environment.
- **promoting stewardship.** A few said stewardship should be a longer-term idea since culture change is slow. To make Big Ideas around stewardship a reality, consider involving the school board in outdoor education programming.

Big Ideas to consider adding

Participants suggested the team consider:

- using goats from the farm to help maintain open areas through grazing
- limiting water taxi activity after midnight since late-night water taxis can be a noise issue.

Big Ideas to consider removing

Participants did not identify specific Big Ideas to remove in the Environment breakout room. A few said that the City should avoid adding off-leash dog areas, saying dogs impact on the environment and off-leash dog areas are mis-aligned with the Vision.

Other suggestions shared in the Environment breakout room

Participants said the project team should revisit some of the language in the Environment Big Ideas, specifically:

- use the word “re-naturalize” instead of “re-forest” to better indicate that not all naturalization efforts involve forests
- use a word other than “cleaning” when referring to the beaches, since cleaning can contradict the concept of ecological integrity and can negatively impact rare species.
- make sure any re-naturalizing efforts include strategies to identify resources for monitoring, maintenance, and other operating requirements (including, potentially, using revenue from ferry fares to support maintenance).
- support low-impact winter activities like snow showing and cross-country skiing.

Visitor Experience

For a complete list of the Big Ideas shared in the Visitor Experience Breakout Room, see Appendix C.

Big Ideas to prioritize in the short term

Big Ideas participants suggested prioritizing in the short term included ideas around:

- **enhancing and improving existing infrastructure and amenities (rather than building new or additional ones).** Where participants suggested building new amenities, they suggested adding more of amenities that are already on the Island, such as BBQ or fire pit areas, water refill stations, and washrooms. There was also a suggestion that the City rebuild the grandstand as a multi-functional amenity — it was damaged in recent flooding and is part of a 135-year tradition of regattas in Toronto. Participants also supported ideas to provide access to natural areas while protecting sensitive areas from trampling.
- **improving wayfinding and cell service on the Island.** Many supported ideas like creating a connected trail system, digital or audio tours, digital maps and

accompanying QR codes, themed entrances as gateways, a scavenger hunt that could adapt to different themes, seasons, and landmarks, and augmented reality experiences. Some said making free Wi-Fi available across on the Island was very important to improving wayfinding, while others were less enthusiastic about improved wireless connectivity, saying the Island should be a place to unplug.

- **improving winter experience and offerings.** Participants supported the idea of providing additional year-round washroom across the island, winterized facilities, expanded winter programming such as winter-themed walks, sports, warming stations, and rain shelters; some said several of these ideas could be implemented relatively easily. Some felt that giving the Island landscape “time to rest” in the Winter months could benefit the park, saying perhaps it would be ok if the volume of people was limited in the off-season.
- **centralizing information about the Island and making it broadly accessible.** Participants said wayfinding should start on the mainland and/or on the ferry (before you get to the park). To make this idea a reality, they suggested the team consider developing an app or well-designed website that could include all the information necessary for visitors (including history, wayfinding, rentals, and programming) in different languages and accessible to people with differing abilities.

Big Ideas to prioritize in the medium or longer term

Big Ideas participants suggested prioritizing in the medium or longer term included ideas around:

- **making the Island a “global art destination.”** Many supported ideas around making art a focal point of Toronto Island Park. To make these ideas a reality, the said art programming should be driven by local artists, be fluid and rotating (not necessarily permanent), speak to the uniqueness of Toronto, and be community-based and grassroots.
- **“right-sizing” events on the Island.** Many felt large events are not compatible with the Island, preferring smaller and medium-sized events. Participants suggested providing electrical services (in a few specific locations) to support event operations and balancing vendor/visitor needs with the environment.

- **diversifying food options**, including ideas to host a food truck festival (and/or other seasonal food events) and to provide food options that match people's varying needs and preferences. A few suggested that food was not an important focus for the Island and that providing it contributes to garbage

Big Ideas to consider adding

Participants suggested additional ideas to consider, including:

- improving or adding more water fountains and water bottle refill stations and banning the sale of water bottles on the Island.
- introducing scuba lessons to teach people new skills and about water and nature.
- expanding the hedge maze.

Big Ideas to consider removing

Some CAC and TAC members suggested the project team remove some of the Big Ideas from further consideration, including ideas around: creating a beach resort, sauna, or spa; hosting bike races; adding a botanical garden since these ideas are not in keeping with the Principles and Vision for the Master Plan. The idea of opening the water treatment plant to the public was discussed and not fully supported, although there was some support for providing public education about infrastructure on the Island that supports the city's water supply and cooling of the downtown core).

Other themes in the Visitor Experience breakout room

Other themes in participants' feedback in the Visitor Experience room included:

- **General support for Big Ideas.** While participants did not prioritize all the Visitor Experience Big Ideas, they did support several of them, including ideas to: make the Island accessible to people with disabilities; protect/preserve view sheds and viewing areas on the Island; enhancements to the disc golf course, and considering outdoor fitness and gymnastics equipment (like in Miami, Bogota, and Los Angeles).
- **Cautious support for camping.** While participants supported ideas around creating camping opportunities at Toronto Island Park, they said it would be important to be cautious as camping could bring impacts from garbage,

waste, and fires. To address concerns around the idea of camping, participants suggested making provisions for camping in designated areas only (which has happened on Snake Island before) and modelling any camping approaches after provincial campgrounds, which requires staffing and oversight and regular maintenance.

- **Different opinions about accommodating dogs.** Some said the City should provide a dog off-leash area with proper signage, disposal area, and fencing, saying it would be important to accommodate dogs on Toronto Island Park. Others disagreed, saying dogs could have an environmental impact.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

For a complete list of the Big Ideas shared in the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Breakout Room, see Appendix C.

Big Ideas to prioritize in the short term

Big Ideas participants suggested prioritizing in the short term included ideas around:

- **creating a clear accessible network of trails and paths with walking times and distances.** Many said identifying and designating pathways for improved accessibility was very important. To make these ideas a reality, participants said the team explore road markings, speed limits, traffic calming for cyclists, and signage that indicates walking times and distance.
- **creating accessible transportation to ferry landings and destinations across the Island.**
- **creating targeted programs for equity deserving communities.** Many prioritized ideas like developing affordable or pay-what-you-can programs for equity deserving communities and making water sports (like sailing) more accessible for Torontonians of all incomes. To make these ideas a reality, some suggested businesses operating on the Island could offer discount days on services and rentals (similar to some museums and galleries).
- **celebrating and protecting significant places for the LGBTQ2S+ community on the Island,** especially Hanlan's Point Beach. Participants said ideas around LGBTQ2S+ placemaking are urgent to maintain the safety and security of the

beach. Suggested ways to make these Big Ideas a reality included: flying the pride flag at the docks, addressing the increasingly loud sound systems from boats, adding a rainbow arch sculpture, creating audio stories that capture LGBTQ2S+ history, creating a nudist only section of Hanlan's beach (a strategy some said could be medium- or longer-term since some thought it might require Council approval).

- **integrating ferry service with other transit providers.** Schedule changes and fare integrations could happen in the short term, while more complex ideas (such as connecting with the future Ontario Line and establishing a ferry network connecting Toronto Island with other key waterfront green spaces) could be medium or longer term.
- **adding innovative new culinary and food service on the Island.** Participants' suggestions on how to make these ideas a reality included:
 - creating a variety of waterfront restaurants that serve locally grown food and showcase Canadian culinary arts (including BIPOC, women, and LGBTQ2S+ chefs)
 - creating a “world café” or marketplace to showcase diverse food offerings
 - building a “funky bar or restaurant” at or near Hanlan's beach
 - supporting a floating/paddle-up restaurant where paddlers can grab a snack or watch a local artist perform
 - revisiting the City's contract with Beasley Entertainment, which limits small, independent businesses from operating on the Island.
- **adding new bike rental and non-motorized personal watercraft rentals,** like Bike Share, canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards.

Big Ideas to prioritize in the medium or longer term

Participants suggested prioritizing ideas to create new multipurpose arts and cultural spaces that can function as parkland in the medium or longer term (including ideas to create space for festivals, buskers, rehearsal, studios, arts retreats, and outdoor screenings). To make these ideas a reality, some suggested adding semi-permanent infrastructure stored at the Island to help minimize transportation costs and traffic.

Suggested Big Ideas to consider adding

Participants suggested additional Visitor Experience Big Ideas, including:

- set a restoration fee charged on tickets or merchandise sold at events (to support restoring the site used for the event) – a model in use at Fort York
- add a circuit to the Centreville Railroad for families use as a long-distance transport method across the Island (in the long term)
- offer picnic rental kits, including groceries and other items, so that visitors do not have to bring lots of equipment with them to the Island.

Suggested Big Ideas to consider removing

Participants suggested the team consider removing some Big Ideas, including:

- creating a work-hub centre with work-friendly amenities that would allow people to easily work from Toronto Island Park
- building a beach club with a swimming pool, music, sun beds, imported golden sand, and a bar
- setting aside a small part of the island as a resort or hotel (saying this idea does not align with the Vision or Values of the Master Plan).

Other feedback about the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Big Ideas

In the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion room, participants shared differing opinions and suggestions on how to increase the number of people able to visit the Island, including:

- adding new ferries and adding additional access points within the next 10 years (likely long term due to complex and cost).
- establishing ferry service between the Islands and the Eastern Gap, connecting to either Cherry Beach or another location.
- building a gondola, potentially using private investment. Some did not support this idea, saying a gondola would be impractical and inconsistent with the Island's character.

- establishing a pedestrian or cyclist bridge. Some supported this idea, saying a bridge would make the Island more accessible to all. Others said they would prefer improving access though using the existing airport tunnel. Whatever the approach, participants suggested the City evaluate the carrying capacity of the Islands when considering any new connections that would result in an increase in the number of park users and potential environmental impacts.

History, Culture, and Storytelling

The discussion in the History, Culture, and Storytelling room focused largely on ideas related to making Toronto Island Park feel like a more Indigenous place. Other Big Ideas related to History, Culture, and Storytelling are included in Appendix C.

Big Ideas participants liked

Big Ideas participants liked included idea around:

- **exploring Indigenous placenames**, including ideas around creating a catalogue, identifying priorities, and consulting on different place-naming opportunities. While the process could be complex, implementing a place-naming strategy could begin in the short-term.
- **increasing Indigenous visibility on and around the Islands**, including changing the names and look of ferries, adding flags at docks, and establishing a cultural hub. Some supported establishing a museum focusing on vibrant, living culture of Indigenous communities, potentially as a longer-term goal.
- **establishing dedicated spaces for ceremony, gathering, cultural use, and teaching**. Participants liked ideas to create an inventory of available spaces, partner with organizations to identify or confirm spaces, and consult on what types of spaces are needed (such as pow-wow space, like at Fort York). There was a suggestion that Artscape may play a large role in hosting events and providing space. Some suggested focusing on creating teaching spaces in the near term, though others said these could be more of a medium- or long-term idea since they could require discussions with elders about stories, traditions.
- **establishing an Indigenous Cultural Hub**, which would act as both a centre for reconciliation and as a museum. The centre should be an active place for truth sharing and implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94

commitments. It would require partnership with federal, provincial, and municipal levels of government. Any museum should go beyond the “typical” museum and focus on past, present, and seven generations into the future. This Cultural Hub could be situated near the ferry docks and should host rotating Indigenous art galleries.

- **promoting Indigenous art, food, and culture.**

Suggested additional Big Ideas to consider

Participants suggested the project team consider additional ideas related to History, Culture, and Storytelling, including:

- **co-managing Toronto Island Park with Indigenous communities** by returning control over portions of the Island to then to support redistributing land, power, and wealth. Participants suggested the City host extensive engagement with diverse Indigenous communities and groups. There was also a comment to be mindful not to create a “Disney-land” of culture.
- **engaging and partnering with Indigenous communities.** Partnerships will be important when implementing these ideas and initiatives.

Next steps

The team thanked Community Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee members and committed to sharing the presentation and a draft summary. The team also explained that the CAC and TAC’s input would help the project team refine the Big Ideas — a process that will also include cross referencing with other strategic initiatives, policies, and the Design Team’s expertise. They said the next meeting about the Big Ideas would be a Public Big Ideas Workshop, which was scheduled for the week following the combined workshop.

Appendix A – List of Organizations and Participants

The City invited the following organizations to participate in the combined Community Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Those who attended are bolded below.

Community Advisory Group

Artscape

Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Association

Centreville Amusement Park

Cycle Toronto

Friends of Cherry Beach and Outer Harbour

Harbourfront Community Association

Huron-Wendat Nation

Island Bike Rental

Island Café

Island Public / Natural Science School

Island Yacht Club

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

Nishnawbe Homes

Pirate Life Theatre

ProtectNatureTO

Queen City Yacht Club

Shadowland

Sunshine Senior's Centre

The Pirate Taxi by Water Taxi Now

Toronto Field Naturalists

Toronto Island / MNCFN Friendship Group

Toronto Island Canoe Club

Toronto Island Community Association

Toronto Island Disc Golf Course

Toronto Island Marina

Toronto Island SUP

Toronto Islands Residential Community Trust Corp

Toronto Public Space Committee

Urban Minds

Waterfront BIA

Waterfront for All

Waterfront Montessori Children's Centre

West Don Lands Committee

William Beasley Enterprises Limited

Technical Advisory Committee

Accessibility/Community Development

Archeology and Heritage

ArtworksTO

BIA Lead

Community Planning and Strategic Projects

Cultural Partnerships

Economic Development

Emergency Medical Services

Indigenous Affairs Office

Parks Development and Capital Projects

Permits

Policy and Strategic Planning

Ports Toronto

Recreation

Toronto Regional Conservation Authority

Urban Forestry

Waterfront Secretariat

Waterfront Toronto

Project Team in attendance

City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division

Alex Deighan, Policy Development Officer

Daniel Fusca, Manager, Public Consultation

David O'Hara, Project Manager, Strategic Projects, Parks Development and Capital Projects

Lori Ellis, Senior Project Coordinator

Pablo Muñoz , Senior Public Consultation Coordinator

Casey Morris, Senior Project Coordinator

Consultant teams

Design team

Victoria Bell, DTAH

Terence Radford, Trophic Design

Business Strategy team

Jeff Dover, FS Strategy

Engagement team

Bob Goulais, Nbisiing Inc

Ian Malczewski, Swerhun Inc

Athavarn Srikantharajah, Swerhun Inc

Appendix B – Meeting Agenda

Combined CAC/TAC Workshop Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Tuesday, July 13th, 2021

6:00pm – 8:30pm • Meeting held virtually

Meeting purpose

To share an update on the Toronto Island Park Master Plan and to workshop the revised Big Ideas.

DRAFT Proposed agenda

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 6:00 PM | Welcome, land acknowledgement, agenda review, introductions
City of Toronto & Swerhun Inc. |
| 6:10 | Indigenous teaching moment |
| 6:15 | Master Plan update and Big Ideas overview
City of Toronto and DTAH
<i>Questions of clarification (approximately 6:35-6:40)</i> |
| 6:40 | Discussion: Big Ideas <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Which Big Ideas do you think <u>must</u> be implemented now for the Master Plan to be successful? Which ones do you think <u>should</u> happen, but could wait or take longer? Which ones would be <u>nice to have</u> in the future?2. Do you have any suggestions on how to make the Big Ideas a reality?3. Do you have any other suggested changes or refinements to the Big Ideas? |
| 8:00 | Report back and plenary discussion |
| 8:25 | Wrap up and next steps |
| 8:30 | Adjourn |

Appendix C – Complete list of Big Ideas

The following list of ideas are organized under their respective guiding principles that were included in each breakout room.

Environment Breakout Room

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 3: Prioritize, protect, and advocate for the ecological integrity of the islands

Ideas:

- The Master Plan should acknowledge and respect the Island's rich communities of wildlife and include specific policies to protect and celebrate them.
- Protect the beach environments through habitat restoration, education, improved access to facilities and amenities, and restrictions on waste brought to and left on the Island.
- Balance access from land and water to the Island's unique natural spaces. Consider ecologically sensitive improvements to existing infrastructure to ensure the overall health of the Island and the protection of its sensitive environments.
- Harness the energy and knowledge of the Island community of resident stewards to advocate for the well-being of the Island and share their understanding of the Island and its natural environment for the benefit of all living things on the Island.
- Keep the islands as natural as possible so that they remain a great escape from the city.
- Keep it simple. Enhance what is there, get rid of the airport and allow people to enjoy the surroundings without distractions.
- Improve the quality of the sand at the beaches by cleaning it regularly.

- Establish a respectful use policy that is clearly signed at the entry points of the island and on ferries. Humans can be intrusions into the wild spaces.
- Keep the islands clean from litter with more litter bins, more regular garbage pickups, proper signage, announcements on the ferries, and heavy fines (\$1,000) for litter infractions.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 4: Leverage the dynamic nature of the islands and waterways to support adaptive and flexible uses

Ideas:

- Design the Island's programs, services and amenities to consider the larger park context and to complement and integrate into the city and waterfront parks and facilities across the Toronto Harbour.
- Better planning and signage for various watercrafts in the inner channels. Powerboats exceed speed limits and make unsafe maneuvers around canoes and kayaks. Some areas should be clearly non-motorized. Signs should be added to make it clear where larger boats can/cannot go.
- Restrict party and tour boats in lagoons by making them off-limits to power and large boats. The lagoons should be peaceful places where waterfowl and fish can survive and people can enjoy the area with their families.
- Create landing points and short-term storage for personal watercraft (canoes, kayaks, paddleboards) within the internal lagoon network and along outer edges to provide access throughout the Island and promote water-based recreation and transportation.
- Create nice long docks for fishing, specially safe ones for kids to try fishing.
- Rebuild the Grandstand after damage to flooding to once again allow regattas to take place on the Allan A. Lamport Regatta Course on Centre Island. Regattas are an Island tradition dating back more than 135 years and the Grandstand is a part of Toronto's history.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 5: Demonstrate resilience, sustainability, and responsible landscape and water management

Ideas:

- Make the islands a litter and single-use plastic free zone.
- Plant the open grass zones at Hanlans ferry dock with native vegetation and return it to the wilderness. Redo the hard landscaping with natural materials like stone pavers or wood decking (where feasible) to create a friendlier, less harsh arrival atmosphere.
- Create more parks and establish a healthier ecosystem.
- Commit to reforesting sections of Toronto Island with native species to help in the fight against climate change and support biodiversity. Offer free tours with indigenous and environmental experts.
- Cap the number of ferry tickets sold from June - September to improve access without overcrowding.
- Restore the existing infrastructure to new or better than new condition. Modernize it with energy efficient options.
- Create a structure/committee to organize regularly occurring, voluntary, community-based efforts to give back to the land and to connect with others who enjoy the Toronto Islands (i.e. Clean Toronto Together).
- Create an Island Rangers program to direct, answer questions, assist, tidy and control public spaces, welcome newcomers and first time visitors and build a rapport with the public to inform them of the opportunities, expectations, history and ecology of the island.

Visitor Experience Breakout Room

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 6: Prioritize equitable access and inclusion

Note: The same list of ideas was also discussed in the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Breakout Room.

Ideas:

- Celebrate the significant places (such as Hanlan's Beach), stories, and culture that the Island embodies for the LGBTQ2S+ community.
- Create a clear network of walking trails and paths including walking times and distances.
- Getting on and off the island shouldn't have to be a matter of line-ups and crowding. Establish additional access points on both the mainland and islands.
- Improve integration of ferry service with other transit providers (TTC, GO) to promote a seamless and less expensive experience, and to improve access to the Island beyond the downtown core.
- Provide accessible transportation to ferry landings and key destinations across the Island.
- Build a pedestrian or Cycling Bridge to the Island
- Install gondolas on the Island to supplement ferry service, make it easier to get around, and provide beautiful views of the harbour and downtown, while maintaining the Island's unique status as a place away.
- Enhance access to all public areas of the park, including those that are hard to reach, feel private, or are physically obstructed, and ensure seamless and continuous connections throughout the Island where possible.
- Create targeted programs for equity deserving communities as a way to make the Island more inclusive
- Make water sports, like sailing, more accessible to Torontonians of all incomes. Partner with private sailing clubs to engage with and facilitate learning of sailing with average park users or the general public.
- Establish speed limits and traffic calming measures for bikes
- Fly the pride flag at the docks and add a fun rainbow arch sculpture to the path just past the ferry docks. Make it clear this is a queer safe space on indigenous land.
- New ferries, preferably clean energy. Ferries should be designed with a dedicated area for bikes to make sure people have space for other riders.

Ferry service should be every 10-15 minutes per route as well as adding routes, see map and they should be inexpensive.

- Establish a frequent, affordable, ferry service for pedestrians and active transport only between Cherry Beach and Wards Island within the Eastern Channel.
- Make the island more accessible for people with disabilities.
- Add another circuit to the Centreville Railroad to allow families to board the train from the Centre Island Ferry to Centreville, Hanlan's Point, and Wards Island to act as an integrated long distance transport method that feels like part of the park experience.
- Reduce the access bottleneck by allowing people to get to the Island via the airport tunnel.
- Create a nudist only section (preferably with barriers blocking the view from everyone else), for the safety and comfort of nudists using Hanlan's.
- Increase the accessibility and usable space on Hanlan's and make it easier for nudists and queer folks to not compete for space by making the whole beach clothing-optional.
- Establish a water shuttle system that would ferry visitors between the Toronto Islands and area greenspaces such as Tommy Thompson Park, Ontario Place, Humber Bay, and Ashbridges Bay.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 7: Enhance visitor experience for all seasons

Note: The same list of ideas was also discussed in the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Breakout Room.

Ideas:

- Provide multi-lingual information using digital platforms, and diverse tools on- and off-Island (including enhanced maps and signage) to expand outreach and share information about the Island, events, programming, history, and dynamic environment to visitors of all backgrounds and abilities.
- Opportunities to stay overnight on the Island are in demand, but only available through private rentals that limit accessibility to this experience. Consider

expanding permitted, affordable and low-impact opportunities to stay overnight on the Island like camping. Ensure it is accessible for low income and equity deserving communities.

- Cell reception and WI-FI are unreliable or not available on the Island. Improve infrastructure to provide more consistent cell service and consider free public wi-fi in key areas on the Island.
- To improve the experience of the Island, provide year-round washrooms close to points of interest and use a clear wayfinding strategy to help identify these important facilities.
- Provide winterized facilities and expanded winter activities and programs across the Island to make the island a winter destination.
- Protect view-sheds and viewing areas by creating formalized stations to capture views of the city and lake during the daytime, nighttime and in all seasons.
- Build free Water Bottle Refill Stations.
- People come to the Island to have fun engaging in amusements, recreation, arts and culture, music and events of various sizes in an Island park setting. Enhance existing infrastructure, facilities and amenities that support these uses to improve the activities and experiences of the Island and promote all seasons use.
- Improve the City's website or create an app to help people plan their trip
- Build off the Indigenous history of the Islands as a restorative place by building beach saunas where you can take a dip in the lake after to help with circulation. They could be a year round destination for those looking to relax and sweat it out.
- Build a big, architecturally beautiful and memorable facility with year round, outdoor, heated swimming pool / therapy waters with a breathtaking view of the lake.
- Set aside a small part of the island as a resort or hotel for a truly magical experience. It would provide breathtaking views, and would be an international draw. In the Winter there could be hot baths for people to swim in.

- Make better signage for the frisbee golf course.
- Build a provincial park-style campsite structure with amenities like bathrooms and showers and allow camping for a max two nights stay.
- Build a large adult gymnastics/workout facility. Miami, Bogota and Los Angeles have some fantastic examples complete with rings, double bars, trapeze, etc. These spaces create movement culture in cities and help build gymnastics communities.
- Build a big, naturalized play space within an existing green space, without cutting down all the vegetation but respecting and making use of it. Incorporate the values of the overall master plan and prioritize Indigenous voices in its design.
- Establish charcoal bbq areas with charcoal disposals.
- Expand the William Meany Maze to be bigger and better, or build a new one with a higher difficulty. A creative and well designed labyrinth could be a Toronto and community landmark. The Gijs Van Vaerenbergh labyrinth in Genk, Belgium is an inspiring example.
- A lot of dogs accompany families to the islands. Create a DOLA with proper signage, disposal area, and fencing.
- Expand bike Infrastructure on the Island: Equip ferries with special areas for bikes. Bring BikeshareTO to the Island. Make sure bike paths are well maintained, smooth and well lit. Ensure there are sufficient lock posts.
- Introduce scuba diving lessons as a way of increasing awareness of nature and the water and to teach people a new skill.
- Establish a bicycle race on Toronto Island.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 8: Provide diverse amenities and experiences to encourage exploration, sharing and discovery

Note: The same list of ideas was also discussed in the History, Culture and Storytelling Breakout Room.

Ideas:

- Open the Water Treatment Plant to the public for educational tours. Focus on environmental engineering such as the role Lake Ontario plays in deep lake water cooling and on promoting active and future projects that harness the energy of the lake like Toronto Hydro's pilot of the world's first offshore compressed-air energy storage.
- Establish a learning scavenger hunt, where you collect stamps for learning about the history of the Toronto Islands, including its Indigenous origins.
- Have volunteers from the Island Community provide tours of the various parts of the Island. Homes, schools, gardens, clubs etc
- Create a global art destination with a curation of outstanding global sculptures along the Island's trails.
- Identify select areas where pathways could provide access to the natural environment so that people can explore and learn about it while protecting the most sensitive areas from trampling.
- Provide year-round diverse food options throughout the Island (destination restaurant, food trucks, Indigenous and cultural food providers, food carts, beach stands, picnic baskets, etc.) that are not limited to concession areas alone.
- We are the most multicultural city in the world. Celebrate it by establishing botanical gardens with areas that represent each of the ethnic groups that live in Toronto.
- The Island should be a hub for all cultures in Toronto to find a space in, supported by unique food and cultural pavilions and with better access points. At its core should be a 100% renewable energy source and zero emission footprint!
- Create an augmented reality tour/scavenger hunt that will showcase the history of certain landmarks to users. Using either a phone app or rental tablets, users can venture around the island of their own will and still learn about the historical and cultural significance of the landmarks on the island. This is also a great way to showcase how aboriginal history and culture ties into some of the landmarks on the island.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Breakout Room

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 6: Prioritize equitable access and inclusion

Note: The same list of ideas was also discussed in the Visitor Experience Breakout Room.

Ideas:

- Celebrate the significant places (such as Hanlan's Beach), stories, and culture that the Island embodies for the LGBTQ2S+ community.
- Create a clear network of walking trails and paths including walking times and distances.
- Getting on and off the island shouldn't have to be a matter of line-ups and crowding. Establish additional access points on both the mainland and islands.
- Improve integration of ferry service with other transit providers (TTC, GO) to promote a seamless and less expensive experience, and to improve access to the Island beyond the downtown core.
- Provide accessible transportation to ferry landings and key destinations across the Island.
- Build a pedestrian or Cycling Bridge to the Island
- Install gondolas on the Island to supplement ferry service, make it easier to get around, and provide beautiful views of the harbour and downtown, while maintaining the Island's unique status as a place away.
- Enhance access to all public areas of the park, including those that are hard to reach, feel private, or are physically obstructed, and ensure seamless and continuous connections throughout the Island where possible.
- Create targeted programs for equity deserving communities as a way to make the Island more inclusive
- Make water sports, like sailing, more accessible to Torontonians of all incomes. Partner with private sailing clubs to engage with and facilitate learning of sailing with average park users or the general public.

- Establish speed limits and traffic calming measures for bikes
- Fly the pride flag at the docks and add a fun rainbow arch sculpture to the path just past the ferry docks. Make it clear this is a queer safe space on indigenous land.
- New ferries, preferably clean energy. Ferries should be designed with a dedicated area for bikes to make sure people have space for other riders. Ferry service should be every 10-15 minutes per route as well as adding routes, see map and they should be inexpensive.
- Establish a frequent, affordable, ferry service for pedestrians and active transport only between Cherry Beach and Wards Island within the Eastern Channel.
- Make the island more accessible for people with disabilities.
- Add another circuit to the Centreville Railroad to allow families to board the train from the Centre Island Ferry to Centreville, Hanlan's Point, and Wards Island to act as an integrated long distance transport method that feels like part of the park experience.
- Reduce the access bottleneck by allowing people to get to the Island via the airport tunnel.
- Create a nudist only section (preferably with barriers blocking the view from everyone else), for the safety and comfort of nudists using Hanlan's.
- Increase the accessibility and usable space on Hanlan's and make it easier for nudists and queer folks to not compete for space by making the whole beach clothing-optional.
- Establish a water shuttle system that would ferry visitors between the Toronto Islands and area greenspaces such as Tommy Thompson Park, Ontario Place, Humber Bay, and Ashbridges Bay.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 7: Enhance visitor experience for all seasons

Note: The same list of ideas was also discussed in the Visitor Experience Breakout Room.

Ideas:

- Provide multi-lingual information using digital platforms, and diverse tools on- and off-Island (including enhanced maps and signage) to expand outreach and share information about the Island, events, programming, history, and dynamic environment to visitors of all backgrounds and abilities.
- Opportunities to stay overnight on the Island are in demand, but only available through private rentals that limit accessibility to this experience. Consider expanding permitted, affordable and low-impact opportunities to stay overnight on the Island like camping. Ensure it is accessible for low income and equity deserving communities.
- Cell reception and WI-FI are unreliable or not available on the Island. Improve infrastructure to provide more consistent cell service and consider free public wi-fi in key areas on the Island.
- To improve the experience of the Island, provide year-round washrooms close to points of interest and use a clear wayfinding strategy to help identify these important facilities.
- Provide winterized facilities and expanded winter activities and programs across the Island to make the island a winter destination.
- Protect view-sheds and viewing areas by creating formalized stations to capture views of the city and lake during the daytime, nighttime and in all seasons.
- Build free Water Bottle Refill Stations.
- People come to the Island to have fun engaging in amusements, recreation, arts and culture, music and events of various sizes in an Island park setting. Enhance existing infrastructure, facilities and amenities that support these uses to improve the activities and experiences of the Island and promote all seasons use.
- Improve the City's website or create an app to help people plan their trip
- Build off the Indigenous history of the Islands as a restorative place by building beach saunas where you can take a dip in the lake after to help with circulation. They could be a year round destination for those looking to relax and sweat it out.

- Build a big, architecturally beautiful and memorable facility with year round, outdoor, heated swimming pool / therapy waters with a breathtaking view of the lake.
- Set aside a small part of the island as a resort or hotel for a truly magical experience. It would provide breathtaking views, and would be an international draw. In the Winter there could be hot baths for people to swim in.
- Make better signage for the frisbee golf course.
- Build a provincial park-style campsite structure with amenities like bathrooms and showers and allow camping for a max two nights stay.
- Build a large adult gymnastics/workout facility. Miami, Bogota and Los Angeles have some fantastic examples complete with rings, double bars, trapeze, etc. These spaces create movement culture in cities and help build gymnastics communities.
- Build a big, naturalized play space within an existing green space, without cutting down all the vegetation but respecting and making use of it. Incorporate the values of the overall master plan and prioritize Indigenous voices in its design.
- Establish charcoal bbq areas with charcoal disposals.
- Expand the William Meany Maze to be bigger and better, or build a new one with a higher difficulty. A creative and well designed labyrinth could be a Toronto and community landmark. The Gijs Van Vaerenbergh labyrinth in Genk, Belgium is an inspiring example.
- A lot of dogs accompany families to the islands. Create a DOLA with proper signage, disposal area, and fencing.
- Expand bike Infrastructure on the Island: Equip ferries with special areas for bikes. Bring BikeshareTO to the Island. Make sure bike paths are well maintained, smooth and well lit. Ensure there are sufficient lock posts.
- Introduce scuba diving lessons as a way of increasing awareness of nature and the water and to teach people a new skill.
- Establish a bicycle race on Toronto Island.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 9: Support opportunities for diverse and sustainable businesses to thrive

Ideas:

- Create a spectacular setting for festivals and concerts designed to function as regular parkland when not in use. Whether facing the lake or the harbour.
- Provide locations to rent bikes and non-motorized personal watercraft (canoes, kayaks, paddleboards) at key destinations across the Island, the central waterfront, and the inner harbour.
- Create a work-hub centre with work-friendly amenities that would allow you to easily work from the Toronto Islands. Secure indoor/door space allowing you to work throughout the year. Charge a nominal fee to pay for services like locker spaces, seating, vending, secure workspaces, conference call booths, washrooms, etc.
- Create lots of restaurants located in spectacular waterside locations at a variety of price points. Some should serve locally grown food and beverages and showcase Canadian culinary arts.
- Make it possible for people to rent a picnic kit on the Island for the day instead of having to lug picnic equipment over. There could also be a micro grocery store that sells picnic basics with an emphasis on low waste, environmentally friendly packaging.
- Create more arts a culture amenities like a brewery, floating restaurants, murals, interactive public art, studio spaces and rehearsal spaces, busker spaces, more opportunities for varied arts retreats, and opportunities for festivals like TIFF to do outdoor screenings in select areas in the island.
- Toronto Islands can be a great recreational place for all residents and visitors of the city by building a beach club with a swimming pool, music, sun beds, imported golden sand and a bar is crucial for our city.
- Expand the Centerville Amusement Park to include a one of a kind mini golf course for all ages (Toronto themed, designed to inspire and engage).
- Build need more cafes and restaurant options (not chains) with good diverse food choices unlike the choices on the island now.

- The islands should do more to implement diverse culinary experiences and avant-garde arts events showcasing Toronto's open-mindedness and pluralism. These can showcase women, BIPOC, and LGBT chefs.
- Build a funky bar/resto on the beach at Hanlan's
- Establish a paddle-up restaurant where paddlers can grab a snack or a drink, or attach themselves to a floating anchor to enjoy local artists performing, all without having to leave their human-powered watercraft to establish Toronto as a world-class water community. Make it a zero-waste experience by asking paddlers to bring-their-own utensils.

History, Culture and Storytelling Breakout Room

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 1: Honour and respect Indigenous communities, placekeeping and their rights and responsibilities to the islands and water

Ideas:

- Provide spaces for demonstrating and sharing teachings on Indigenous ways of knowing and being, Indigenous nationhood, history, treaties and the diverse and evolving living cultures of Toronto's Indigenous communities.
- Re-establish and introduce Indigenous place names across Mnisiiing.
- Create programming and activations that can be aligned with city-wide events (Toronto Bird Celebration, community clean-ups, etc.) to promote and educate visitors on the dynamic and sensitive environments and wildlife on the Island.
- Establish dedicated space(s) on Toronto Island for Indigenous ceremony, gathering and cultural use. Create partnerships and leadership positions with Indigenous communities for the use and management of these spaces.
- Engage Indigenous communities in the planning and implementation phases and include Indigenous art.
- Increase the indigenous presence on and around the Islands, including at the ferry docks. Consider a museum.

- Offer land to First Nations people to show us their ways and teach us how to better serve the natural environment. This space should be created and developed by First Nations people.
- Establish an Indigenous Reconciliation Centre where the public can learn about Indigenous lifestyles, culture, and traditional practices.
- Establish a gallery/museum for Indigenous art.
- Give back to Indigenous people control over the land.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 2: Celebrate and protect the unique cultural identity and spirit of the islands

Ideas:

- Create a dark sky viewing stations and run regular star-gazing events.
- Toronto has sacrificed the waterfront East of Front street to the developers. Please don't let that happen to the Islands. Make improvements, but don't turn a silk purse into a pig's ear!
- Expand partnerships with artists, creatives, and arts organizations to explore new opportunities for temporary and permanent art, residencies and programming throughout the Island.
- Leverage the strength of these on-Island advocates through partnerships to take a leading role in exploring future program offerings, activations and events that celebrate the unique opportunities of the Island.
- Expand interpretation of the Island's rich history through diverse and complimentary programs, activities and elements such as temporary installations, public art, discovery walks, plaques and on-line tools.
- Create inviting and comfortable spaces at the ferry terminal, share information to excite visitors about the experience ahead, and welcome visitors back to the mainland with information about future activities and events to encourage their return.
- Relocate vehicular access across the Island to be more discrete, operate in off-peak hours, and ensure pathways for all Island visitors are safe with minimal conflicts between vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists.

- Make the south part of the Islands a NO fly zone for recreational pilots to reduce noise pollution.
- Add an adult focused Ferris wheel to Centre Island that is big enough to see the city. Properly maintain Centerville.
- Restore the old Toronto City Center Airport terminal into an Aviation museum.
- Create a structure/committee to organize regularly occurring, voluntary, community-based efforts to give back to the land and to connect with others who enjoy the Toronto Islands (i.e. Clean Toronto Together).
- Build an observation tower so people can see the beauty of the Islands from above as well as view the Toronto skyline.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE 8: Provide diverse amenities and experiences to encourage exploration, sharing and discovery

Note: The same list of ideas was also discussed in the Visitor Experience Breakout Room.

Ideas:

- Open the Water Treatment Plant to the public for educational tours. Focus on environmental engineering such as the role Lake Ontario plays in deep lake water cooling and on promoting active and future projects that harness the energy of the lake like Toronto Hydro's pilot of the world's first offshore compressed-air energy storage.
- Establish a learning scavenger hunt, where you collect stamps for learning about the history of the Toronto Islands, including its Indigenous origins.
- Have volunteers from the Island Community provide tours of the various parts of the Island. Homes, schools, gardens, clubs etc
- Create a global art destination with a curation of outstanding global sculptures along the Island's trails.
- Identify select areas where pathways could provide access to the natural environment so that people can explore and learn about it while protecting the most sensitive areas from trampling.

- Provide year-round diverse food options throughout the Island (destination restaurant, food trucks, Indigenous and cultural food providers, food carts, beach stands, picnic baskets, etc.) that are not limited to concession areas alone.
- We are the most multicultural city in the world. Celebrate it by establishing botanical gardens with areas that represent each of the ethnic groups that live in Toronto.
- The Island should be a hub for all cultures in Toronto to find a space in, supported by unique food and cultural pavilions and with better access points. At its core should be a 100% renewable energy source and zero emission footprint!
- Create an augmented reality tour/scavenger hunt that will showcase the history of certain landmarks to users. Using either a phone app or rental tablets, users can venture around the island of their own will and still learn about the historical and cultural significance of the landmarks on the island. This is also a great way to showcase how aboriginal history and culture ties into some of the landmarks on the island.

Toronto Island Park Master Plan

MCFN Knowledge Keepers and Elders Meeting

July 15th, 2021, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Meeting held virtually

Participants

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation:

- Carolyn King
- Garry Sault
- Mark Sault
- Val King
- Daniel Secord
- Veronica King
- Caitlin LaForme, Culture & Events Coordinator, MCFN
- Jai King-Green, Culture & Events Assistant, MCFN

City of Toronto:

- Daniel Fusca, Manager of Public Consultation, Parks Forestry & Recreation
- David O'Hara, Program Manager Capital Projects, City of Toronto, PFR

Lori Ellis, Project Officer of Strategic Projects & Project Lead, Parks Forestry & Recreation

- Pablo Munoz, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, Parks Forestry & Recreation

Consultants:

- Bob Goulais, Facilitator, Nbisiing Consulting Inc.
- Olivia Horzempa, Record Keeper, Sister Circle Consulting
- Ian Malczewski, Consultant, Swerhun Inc.
- Jeff Dover, Business Strategist, FS Strategy
- Terence Redford, Landscape Architect, Trophic Design
- Victoria Bell, Landscape Architect, DTAH

Record of Discussion

Bob welcomed participants and outlined the purpose and intentions of the meeting. He asked Elder Garry to provide an invocation to start our meeting. Garry began by introducing himself in Anishinaabemowin. He said, “let’s take the food we need to have good minds and good thoughts so that we can talk about what we’re looking for. What are we looking for? I didn’t see it – it’s a gathering of all the Elders and knowledge keepers on the reserve... I think we have all good minds here... we’re here to introduce ourselves or what are we going to do?” Bob said, “I’ll take us through it!” Garry continued, “that’s what I’m saying – agendas are important because they let us know what you’re asking for. If we don’t know what you’re asking for it’s... hard to give an invocation because we’re praying for everything... everything is all connected anyways in one way or another... so **let us begin in a good way**. Miigwetch.”

Bob thanked Garry. He introduced himself in Anishinaabemowin. Bob began, “we’re continuing our discussion on the Toronto Islands project... second meeting we’ve had together – you gave us a lot of ideas and direction from our first meeting, so this is... an opportunity to talk about some of those big ideas that have come from engagement... with community... New Credit... local First Nation community.” He explained that tonight “we’ll talk about those ideas that have bubbled to the top, hoping to get a bit of refinement... [do an] exercise to look at the map of the island to see where some of these things could be located... for example... a place for ceremony... you’re going to determine or give us an idea of where these areas can be.”

Bob passed it to Lori for the **land acknowledgement**. Lori explained the intentions of her acknowledgment of the lands and waters. She said, “I have had reason to visit the island twice in the past two weeks... I marvel at the fact that every time I go over there, I see something new I haven’t seen... last visit, I came upon a wonderful treasure... the moccasin identifier has left its footprints around Ward’s Island... [which I] understand was the outcome of a collaboration with the Friendship Group...it’s great to see Carolyn here as the spearhead of that... great to see initiatives like this are getting started on the island without the plan pushing the agenda... wonderful that these types of things are happening concurrently with the work... look forward to seeing more of that as we move forward...” She went on to acknowledge the land, its original inhabitants, and the treaties that cover it, Treaty 13 and the Williams

Treaty. She concluded, “we look forward to discussing your ideas, the ideas you have shared with us to date in more detail this evening. Thank you.”

Bob thanked Lori. He briefly outlined the **agenda** presented to the participants on the screen. He said, “this is [a] follow-up to our conversation we had... in the winter... opportunity to take those ideas and refine them a bit more.” He continued, “we’ll go through and give everyone an opportunity to introduce themselves.” Bob led everyone through introductions, starting with the elders and knowledge keepers from New Credit, and then onto the consultants and City of Toronto staff. Throughout the introductions, many participants expressed difficulty with their internet/WebEx connections. During his introduction, Garry reflected on when he first started conducting opening ceremonies and providing remarks, “so many people didn’t even know who the Mississaugas were. They had no idea. They had to be informed and coaxed along so they could start to realize who the treaties were and what they were apart of. And I know... there are so many people out there who are still struggling with the same issues that I started out with.”

Following the agenda, Bob grounded the conversation in the intentions of the meeting as both an “accountability report back” as well as an opportunity to “talk about *where* some of these locations could be for... the big ideas.” He continued, “we are in the ‘big ideas phase’, so all of those ideas that we heard from community, yourselves, from New Credit First Nation, from the Indigenous community in the City; all of these ideas have kind of been bounced around... we’re trying to see where some of these land... these ideas will be refined further throughout this phase... and moving into phase 3 where we start putting some meat to the bones.” He continued, “so that’s what the purpose of the meeting is tonight... so, looking forward to sharing this with you.” Bob then turned it over to Terence Radford for the **presentation**.

Terence began, “first we’re going to bring everyone up to speed with a little reminder of where we came from... then jump into the big ideas... end with a sharing dialogue. [We] look forward to getting your feedback.” He said that a core element of the project has been Indigenous engagement, stating “Indigenous placekeeping is a priority for First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities... to see their nationhood, territories, treaties, and culture better reflected in the City of Toronto.” He continued, “we want do to ensure that the master plan is truly reflective of Indigenous perspectives and that it is Indigenous led commemoration of culture [and] history in Treaty 13.”

He spoke briefly about “where we started,” stating “we asked this group what your vision was for Michi Saagig placekeeping on Toronto Island.” He explained that “what we heard from that first meeting was that everything from the land acknowledgement to the vision and actions should **honour the land and water and all living things**, not just humans; that Indigenous knowledge and values need to be considered, that the land water and all living things on the island are important and a part of placekeeping.”

Terence continued, “since our first meeting we had public ideas engagement session... ran 25 days... 120 ideas were generated from the public. The outcome from these big idea sessions and... technical [and] community advisory committee[s] was that many of these ideas were complimentary from many groups and perspectives. [We] started to organize into **themes**: environment, visitor experience, diversity, equity, and inclusion, history, culture, and storytelling.” He explained, “some of the key ideas... included naming and language, the need for a cultural hub and arrival experience, the need for gathering/ceremonial spaces, and the need to protect and preserve the ecological integrity of the island through balance.”

Terence then spoke to the purpose of today's meeting and “where we are going.” He said, “it's to understand what we need to consider [to] design, locate and manage spaces within the park.” He went on to explain how they arrived at the proposed “big ideas.” He said, “our first engagement started out with drivers... the elements that were really driving the need for change on the island and why there is a need for a master plan.” He explained that this informed the development of “values, visions, and guiding principles” He said, “essentially the drivers were the why we were doing this, the values are the rules, and the vision and the guiding principles are what we're going to do and our ideas are how we're going to do it.”

Terence next spoke about the **values**. He said, “it's required in the overall success of the plan... what we've heard... is that we're generally on track... but need to consider capturing ideas of harmony, protection, preservation, sustainability, ecosystem, honesty, integrity, and transparency. Also need to consider how values reflect Indigenous ways of knowing, rights and support reconciliation.” He continued, “the master plan must embody: **respect**, not only between individuals but also with the land water, and all living things on the island..., express the **diversity** of all living beings on the island, **balance**

human use with the environment, [and] must have **accountability**, not only to the current conditions, but to seven generations into the future.”

Terence then spoke to the visions. He stated, “a vision is what it will be. It’s aspirational, it’s an end goal... what we heard so far... is that promotion, preservation, and protection of nature... the respecting, preserving, honouring, and celebrating living Indigenous history, culture, and placekeeping... [and] improving access and providing a safe and welcoming space. Our visions to date are [that] the parks will be a place to protect and restore, honour and celebrate, and gather and support.”

Terence next spoke to the **guiding principles** as “what we need to do.” He said, “they’re similar to values, but more specific.” He explained that the guiding principles they have arranged to-date were “generally supported” but needed to be “consolidated, prioritized” and made “clear and specific.” He said, “the guiding principles that we have are that the park should:

- Honour and respect Indigenous communities, placekeeping and their rights and responsibilities to use the land and water
- Celebrate and honour the unique cultural identity and spirit of the island
- Prioritize [and] protect... the integrity of the island
- Leverage the dynamic waterways of the island to support adaptive and flexible uses of the island
- Demonstrate resilience, sustainability, and responsible landscape and water management
- Prioritize equitable access and inclusion
- Enhance visitor experience for all seasons
- Provide diverse activities and experiences...
- Support opportunities for diverse and sustainable businesses
- Develop evidence based strategic investments to ensure long-term and continued success.”

He confirmed that the values, visions, and guiding principles are not “set in stone” and are still workable.

Terence went on to say, “before we get into our sharing dialogue, we wanted to share some of the ideas we’ve heard...” He said, “one of the first big ideas... is the **need for ceremonial spaces**... can you imagine what types of ceremonial spaces we might include in the master plan? Are these public? Private? How many people may

we need to consider accommodating? How permanent or temporary might it be? What types of ceremonies might we consider including in the master plan?" He continued, "we've heard that the eastern gateway is important... should this be included? How important is it to the design?" He then said, "we've also heard there is a need for **gathering spaces**... how large or small might these gathering spaces need to be? How permanent or temporary might they be?" Terence continued, "we also heard the need for a **cultural hub**, so we'd like to hear from this group... what [should] be included, what elements should there be? Would this include a ceremonial space? A gathering space? Is there a market space?" He asked, "where might be a suitable location? Is that something that you immediately encounter when you enter the island...? Or is it located somewhere else?" Terence then spoke to the importance of **knowledge sharing**, and that the island would be an important space for "passing knowledge down within the community." He also stated that there were some identified spaces where "**re-establishing wild rice**" may be possible. Additionally, he asked if there were other types of plantings that should be "considered to accommodate knowledge sharing." Terence spoke briefly about the importance of "**cultural sharing and public awareness**," including the presenting of Michi Saagig culture and teachings to the broader community. He asked, "what sorts of elements should we consider for cultural sharing and public awareness and are there other considerations we should be aware of?"

Terence passed it back to Bob to start the sharing dialogue.

Bob said, "most of these ideas came from the dialogue we had with you previously." To begin the discussion he said, "let's start with questions, any questions of clarification's you may have?" He elaborated, "we aren't designing, we are not creating, we are creating a master plan, planning for the future. A lot of these things are going to help inform the designs for the future..."

Jai asked "in terms of the cultural hub... where is there a **space designated** for the creation of that? The other question I have is the environmental part of that – will it be... a **self-sustaining building** or... so that it's not drawing so much from Hydro One and it's more an eco-friendly place. I think, as stewards of the land, we tote it and say it but, a lot of times we often negate it and don't really put our money where our mouth is..." Jai continued, "the second part I have a question about is, in terms of **capacity**, what are the limits that... we're held at? Is the 'sky the limit' on the designs and concepts? I think another part too that we often forget about... over the past year when these projects come to Toronto... and I think Garry said it too, but the

biggest thing that I always want to remind people is that **we are treaty people, this is our treaty territory**... you wouldn't go into treaty 3 area and neglect them. You'd make sure to step in that, you'd **talk about colonial history**... so I think that's it for now." Bob thanked Jai and offered some perspective on the ideas of a cultural hub. He said, "it's been mentioned a few times... as perhaps a museum, or gallery, or a welcome centre – we even heard the term 'reconciliation centre.'" He explained that this early in the process, "we don't know what it's going to land on" and that "part of your suggestions and dialogue is critical to that." Bob continued, "with regards to a footprint... actually putting up a building there, perhaps there isn't a place for that... one of the possible answers for any of these things might be that this is not a good thing... if we're taking a footprint off the park for a larger building... as for your considerations for treaty, we did heard that quite strongly from Michi Saagig that when it comes to Treaty 13 that that **education** component should be a big component...."

Bob then passed it to a City representative to answer Jai's question regarding capacity. David replied, "as Bob touched on, we're going through a master planning process... any recommendations... will require moving into more detailed engagement and design...." David stated that after the development of the plan, the City would also be looking for funding and said, "we'll be strategic in trying to get funding together for the priorities and recommendations that we collectively identify." He continued, "to your point about walking the walk... we're very conscious about net zero and being light on the environment... something we would build into our thinking...." He continued, "...we've heard a lot about a cultural hub... have heard about cultural hubs in other sites as well... we certainly have heard also about the need for... a visitor or welcome centre... we need to do more when people land on the island and to tell the story of the island." Lori added "in reference to the fact that we want to contextualize the island in the... larger City and how it works in our system of parks... wouldn't want to duplicate a building here... if it made more sense for it to be on the mainland." She added, "finally, back to the Treaty 13 piece, we acknowledge and in light of recent media and unfortunate events and discoveries... not all the stories that we need to tell... are positive... we have to be able to address... the good the bad and the ugly..." and that "we're prepared to tell the full story... the masterplan isn't going to resolve all of these discussions, it's going to make key recommendations about collective ideas that we all come to some agreement on... and then we build momentum behind each of those individual ideas."

Bob asked if there were any other questions. Val indicated that they had some questions and comments but had cut in and out during the start of Terence's presentation. Val said "some of my thoughts though, I was at Toronto Zoo a year and a half ago and they were doing... a lot of the **art were made out of recycled items** but it was informational, about the different animals... the impact was the garbage that people are putting down and the impact it's having on turtles, dolphins, whales – all these different animals... I'm not saying in that kind of way... but thinking about how the **3 R's** can still show up on the island, about how peoples are on the island, about their **stewardship**... about the trees, plants, fishes, about the medicines and how they are **rooted into the water** and how the water to me is still the main thing that is around the island that needs to be recognized the impact – when you first get off that boat or even when you get on the boat could be a time where they could be reading... or seeing things about the history of the island, or reading passages about how the island is and the importance of stewardship... **so that people become stewards of that land.**" Val continued, "what I could see is some kind of **fountain**... a fountain with some kind of design of meaning behind the gathering of people, the story of the people on the islands there and what it represents...." Bob responded, "great ideas! As you were talking, I was thinking, as people are coming across... on the ferry you could broadcast treaty information, storytelling, you could broadcast the importance of the water and why we need to recycle and look after our garbage and pick up after ourselves, really good reminder Val... chi-miigwetch."

Bob said, "we want to get some information from you about what these spaces – think places for ceremony, spaces for gathering, what that cultural hub could be, how we can share knowledge and provide that teaching.... **What should these spaces look like?** Are there any other spaces that should be included? Val, you mentioned the fountain – that's a perfect example... I think that's a great place to share... teachings of water that the Anishinaabekwe stand for." Bob asked Victoria to project the Miro board on the screen, featuring a map of the islands. He said to the participants, "looking for ideal locations for a lot of these things...feel free to just chime in...." Bob asked Victoria to give a "tour around the island" and to briefly explain how it had been "marked-up." Ian reminded Victoria to also "paint a word picture" for those on the phone.

Victoria began, "what we've done is we've started to look at the islands... that we have a direct influence on in this project... trying to consider first and foremost those spaces before we start looking how any of these ideas extend beyond... the island itself...." She said, "we've talked before about the composition of them... they're a

former sand bar... composed of beaches and dunes, meadows and woods, and waterways that course through and in between the individual islands. Some of these spaces are residential neighbourhoods... that have settler use... we can't necessarily change where those are now... other spaces that are more natural... beaches, Snake Island is one that we've heard... is a significant place and is a natural place within the island." Victoria continued, "other spaces are perhaps more built up – when you arrive from the ferries you arrive into these very developed nodes, what is the story and how can we start telling the various stories at these points... as soon as you step foot on the island? How does the story change if you're landing at Hanlan's Point versus if you're landing at Centre Island...?" They asked, "where are the spaces for ceremony? Do they need to be in places that are private and removed from the main corridors... are they spaces that you are willing to share some ceremony with the public... what we're trying to understand is what you'd like to see and where you'd like to see it...?"

In the chat, Veronica said "I can't see it, it's too small. Are we able to get this power point presentation for comments after this meeting?" In a similar vein, Jai asked, "are the slide decks going to be sent to everyone after this meeting?"

Bob thanked Victoria and asked that they zoom in to the image for more clarity. He then said, "one great example... right where you've identified areas where there could be demonstration projects for wild rice beds. There's a lot of locations around the nooks and crannies in the inner parts of the harbour...could be a place for... wild rice. And then, at those plantings... like you see at the zoo... could have boards that teach, and people can learn about the importance of wild rice that sustained us." He continued, "a couple of the images that Victoria has highlighted there, Snake Island is a big one... we know Snake Island was used for ceremony traditionally... could that be a place for more private ceremonies? And what kind of ceremonies do we want in those spaces? For example, Snake Island – would that be an appropriate place for sweat lodge. Here, Bob read aloud Veronica's comment in the chat that read, "I would like seasonal teachings." Bob replied, "there's a couple of places that DTAH and Terence have shown that could be good places for larger ceremonies... one is just off Centre Island ferry... and then another is on Olympic Island... those could be spaces that could be used for ceremonies." Bob went on to comment that these spaces had also been identified as large enough for a pow wow.

In the chat, Veronica asked, "Are we having a three fires with sacred medicines in the same area?" They then added, "yes to pow wow." Bob said, "that's a good question..."

really, we're looking to hear from you for how you'd like to see the space being used." Lori added, "I think it's important to note that the configuration of the island as it stands right now, it's overwhelmingly very natural – the green areas... are the environmentally sensitive areas, the blue areas are potential open spaces... those blue areas are distinctly more open and outside the tree canopy and they may have supporting amenities, [be it] washrooms or fire pits nearby... not to say that there isn't flexibility in where sacred fires could go...." Bob reflected, "those fire pits that are there are often times for people using the space... one's at Hanlan's Point, two on Olympic Island and one on Snake Island... those continue to be used but it doesn't preclude us from using ceremonial fires if we do find a communal area for a sweat lodge or for a teaching lodge...."

In the chat, Veronica said, "I'm all for any heightening [of] the education and awareness" and "cultural village."

Bob asked if there were any additional thoughts about the "larger areas" on Centre Island. He added, "little bit of concern perhaps that it's so close to the Centre Island ferry, I know that that's the biggest ferry... potential gathering area is just beyond that. But that also means that there are a lot of facilities there, the permanent bathroom is there as well." Bob asked Veronica where she thought the cultural village would be. In the chat, Veronica replied, "would need to see the maps of the island."

Mark asked, "I'm looking at all these islands... how many people live on the island, what's the population there? ...just an estimate." David and Daniel estimated between 700-800 residents. Mark said, "we're talking about all these areas for ceremonies and things, and you know once we **designate a ceremony it means no alcohol or drugs** – just wondering how the population of people that live there feel about all these things we're talking about." Lori said, "if I could maybe describe a little bit... on the east side of the island... there is Algonquin Island which is residential area and Wards Island which is also residential... houses are very densely packed in, very tiny lots... that green zone is Ward's Island beach... and then there's that long peninsula, there's a firehall... seniors centre, boathouse, canoe and kayak rental... and then when you get to Centre Island... there's a central promenade that has some... formal fountains with ornamental gardens that are in a... linear arrangement out to the pier overlooking Lake Ontario." Lori continued, "moving north back toward the City, you go over a bridge and there's Centreville amusement park... very small modest amusement park... amusements that are for kids 12 and under... not like the roller

coasters you see at Canada's Wonderland...." She continued, "then you get to Centre Island dock... that's why it's quite popular... jumping from Centre over to Olympic island... has power on it that can service events... there is a small concession... a washroom facility, and then the... permittable fire pits and then there's a marina which is actually public... but it doesn't feel public... but it is actually a public space... and then there is Mugg's Island which you cannot physically get to... has a large ESA on it, also has a yacht club... can [only] get there by water... [then] you arrive at Hanlan's Point... very different experience, can't even call it commercial... you're just walking amidst trees, grass, and shrubs... go past the airport and you're making your way to a really beautiful stretch of beach, Hanlan's Beach... impacted by the high lake affect and erosion... that's what most people are doing when they go to Hanlan's." She elaborated, "sometimes there are large music festivals... hosted over at Hanlan's because they are away from the residential area...."

Bob replied to Mark, "I definitely want to pick up on your comment, if we're going to have places for ceremony you can't have intermingling with alcohol and drugs so some of those areas are going to need to be considerate of those designations. It's going to take those conversations... any of those larger areas, if you're feeling them - Centre Island, Hanlan's as Lori mentioned, sometimes there's music festivals there and that beach is one of the busiest beaches... might not be the best place for ceremonies, so maybe Olympic Island may be more appropriate."

Val said, "I'm just thinking about the number of people on there... feel like to open everything up to share different pow wow and share our culture with people... but, you know **our ceremonies are our ceremonies**... whatever ceremonies it is whether it's the moon ceremony, or water ceremony, or fire ceremonies... we're getting into teaching, teaching, teaching other people... and in light of the situation that has happened with residential schools and what has been taken away, **we're still at the point of taking things back and putting them back in place**. And yes, this island is a great... space to share and make it environmentally friendly... [but] I still think it should be cautious about how much is opened up to the rest of the world really. Like Vicki's suggestion, even how we do it here, is seasonal things, **maybe four things a year** where we do a fishing camp, or the maple syrup camp or the water ceremony event going on... so four things a year... medicine garden for the summer or pow wow's happening so it's not like continuously? I don't know if that's your idea if you want it open constantly where a bunch of people are coming in constantly... but the other part, the sweats and the ceremonies... I did a moon ceremony there, and a water ceremony there and it was a lot of people... that participated even on the

island so.... I still think that just our own people should be privy to that at this time... and maybe a few people, but it'd have to be more organized or something." Bob thanked Val and asked, "where did you do the water ceremony?" He added, "just to clarify... the teaching aspect and the programming aspect is quite different from the ceremonial aspect. Ceremonies certainly are privy only to whoever is leading the ceremony, so if Mark or Garry is offering ceremony, there is space there and you can use it however you need it... for seasonal ceremonies, if it is just for Mississauga or just for First Nation people, we'll make that available... but certainly if there are public opportunities for ceremonies and it's part of a program, part of a maple syrup camp, that's also seasonal is a great idea...."

Veronica said, "when I was talking about the same thing along the same line as Val with the **cultural village** – that was something we did during Pan Am, we hosted it in the Fort York area. We had three fires and Toronto Islands had one of the fires there, and some of the people that were there – I think Elder Garry Sault knows some of the people, one of the people was David Smiley. He had opened up his house to the boys who were doing the fires for those 3 weeks. People were checking on them. And I thanked them, I think it was the Friends of Toronto Island. So, I think we need to have that... cultural village, as a place... **so we can host people that [are] coming to our territory.**" They added, "not too long ago... the year before COVID... they had people coming in from New Zealand and different parts of the world and they spent a week there... our community was there to host the event, but it was in partnership with some of the colleges and universities... I'm just saying I think **there needs to be a place for the Mississauga people to feel welcome to be there...** and a space for Elders... I don't know where that place would be right now, I've been to the island... I know Elder Sault has done a lot of ceremony around the Snake Island. So that's what I was thinking about. I'm all about heightened education and awareness and I realize it's referred to as a tourism area... millions of people coming through to go there, but when you get off that ferry... what do you see when you first get there? That's the impression that we want to say **you're on the territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit.**" Councillor Veronica continued, "when I'm talking about the seasonal teachings, you know what those are, we have the 13 moons, it could be any time of the year that you'd wanting to do that. I know the area, but it was hard to see it when she was talking about these areas and it's specific areas that we're trying to enhance. And I know we talked about when the elders get there, we need some kind of **transportation** there for them to get back and forth...." Laughing, she added, "I'm getting up there to be one of those elders!"

Caitlin said, “the Toronto Island Friendship Group always talks about this abandoned **air hanger**... not abandoned but empty... and they’re always talking about that spot and wanting to see the Mississaugas take that spot over... I haven’t seen it... they’ve been talking about it for years... probably closer to the airport area...” David replied, “it’s on the airport lands now Caitlin... it’s an interesting suggestion. I know they’re looking for – it’s in a really bad shape, I’ll tell you, but it is actually a national heritage building. But it’s a good point... one of the things we had started talking about was the idea of a visitor centre or welcome centre... we should be looking at how we might repurpose existing buildings... it sounds like there a need for a bit of a basecamp... for Mississaugas of the Credit for doing events on site for the elders... need to do a look at what existing buildings we have too.” Caitlyn said, “yeah, when we do events its... at the generosity of, say we hold at the Ward’s Island Club House and we usually get that space for free... also had kind of like a little house – I can’t remember the name of it now – but we hosted an event there as well...looking at **repurposing**, they always bring that hanger up and want us to reclaim that space or be able to use that space.” David added, “the other building you may have been talking about is the original fire hall? Anyways, we should look at all of them, you’re right.” Caitlin then added, “another thing they have been talking about is **Artscape space**. They really want to do something there, try and get us a space there? They talk about getting us a **permanent space** there but aren’t too sure bout how to go about that... I don’t know if that would be available? Like Councillor Veronica had mentioned, Cathy was involved in a week-long retreat there and that’s a nice space too.” Caitlin continued, “another thing they always bring up is the **flags** and we on our end have to work out flag protocol, I think it’s been brought up to chief and council... I’ve sent quite a few flags out, Ward’s Island Clubhouse was the first spot that raised our flag, that was our first event with the Toronto Island Friendship Group. Since then, the school raised a flag on June 21st of this year, as well as Artscape, and I believe the café wanted a flag. And I’ve heard there’s even some residents that have purchased our flags and put them up at their homes.” She reflected, “I have a friend that put up a flagpole in the water and put our flag in the water, to recognize the Mississaugas... that **we never surrendered the waters**... they really want more **permanent signage**, history or even names of different spaces. I know he was also one who made his own signage and put it up on the permanent signage, and it was in the language and unfortunately it was taken down. So, things like that. And on the ferries, more signage on the ferries while people are riding across, just like plaques or, I think they even hung up the **Chiefs of Ontario Water Declaration**, not sure if those stayed on the ferries or not. Miigwetch.”

Bob said, “I want to acknowledge Elder Garry’s suggestion from our last meeting, a place to acknowledge that water declaration and where that took place on the Island. I just want to make the point as well that I know this evening we’re just talking about placekeeping and different places where ceremony or cultural hub, but there are also some big ideas about access to the island – those things are coming about and they are going to be apart of the masterplan... maybe not in the placekeeping discussion, but part of making sure that First Nations people can **access the island**. Mobility, Veronica, how people can get around the island as they need to, especially the elders. If we’re going to have ceremonies in a more remote place such as Snake Island... want to make sure that elders can get there comfortably... interested to hear where ceremonies have been held in the past.”

Veronica added a follow-up to what Caitlin had mentioned regarding the **water claim**. She said, “you have to keep in the back of your mind, realize we have a water claim, so we’ll have to put up another plaque.” As everyone chuckled Veronica added, “I was telling Carolyn, I have this grant application for the youth and I wanted to take them on a bus and go around all our territories and look at all the plaques, so this will be another stop!”

Carolyn said, “I’m just thinking about all the points that were brought together... thinking about the big picture... this is a tourist destination, and I say Toronto wants it to be that. One question is **the airport going to be there forever?** I’m told it’s got a 30-year lifespan so is that going to be ongoing? Can New Credit go in and claim that airport? That might be just a question for our Council. But the other thing is, when I think about people coming – I think all of these ideas and how we link this all together... can be accommodated, based on the work I’ve done around the Island.” Carolyn continued, “when I think about how we want to educate people... when we get off the ferry you’ve got some kind of indication that they’re going to the island... somewhere, somebody’s touched your sense that **this is Indigenous**. So, when they get off, I can envision something **modern, artistic**, and telling about, that you have entered an Indigenous space, that’s going to show you this. I’ve seen a couple pictures that was profiled... when we were talking about a hub... I can see that if we want to make an impression to all of the diverse peoples that go there... they have no idea what we mean when we talk about us and the land... something that is **very visual and impactful**... for them to walk forward and literally have to **experience something**, walk through something, to have them know that this is an Indigenous place and, as I go further I’m going to see other things... that may be walkways, or gardens, we may not want to promote ceremonial spaces except for special things.

And there's lots of activities that could make it Indigenous... we're using the water... [using] the plants that are there... just thinking of something big and impactful... it would become like the front of the brochure... this **could tell our story about coming back to the island...**" Bob responded, "I raised that to the group this afternoon... and we're thinking is that when you're coming off the Ward's Island ferry? Or the Centre Island ferry? Or the Hanlan's point? And I was thinking Hanlan's point, because there's a little bit of space there and it's a little more remote... less in your face than the residents' destination or the Centreville destination... what do you think?" Carolyn replied, "**I'm thinking all three – why not! They could all be connected?**" Veronica added "I agree with Carolyn!" Bob remarked that when Carolyn had raised this idea in a separate meeting a day earlier, he was excited to tell the team and had been "telling everyone about it."

Lori added, "It's interesting that you're bringing this up... there could be nuance in it at the Jack Layton Terminal as well because, we're trying to tie the arrival points, and what we're referring to as the gateways to the island need to be considered together and we haven't said what that 'together' is going to be tied to... but the thought about walking through something and impactful and visual the minute you get off the ferry... I think that's a really strong thing to build on." Veronica said, "as a follow up and, especially when they're in the discussions about the waterfront with the Quayside and the Ontario side, it's a good opportunity to start building that up now at the same time."

Terence said, "I just wanted to get feedback from the group, I really like this idea of **four** – one from the Jack Layton Terminal and then at each ferry terminal, kind of have four **cardinal directions**. Jack Layton is our north, Centre Island is our southern most, and then Ward's and Hanlan's define the eastern and the western. There could be some really rich design and teachings that relate to these four points."

In response to Veronica's earlier question regarding the map, Bob said "we're going to figure out how to send it by email so you can give us comments." Bob asked the group, "any other thoughts, ideas, maybe where programming can happen? You talked about canoeing, maple syrup workshops, youth workshops, ways to teach our history and culture to visitors. Any thoughts where that can be on the island?"

Val spoke, stating that they were experiencing difficulty trying to join the conversation. Val said, "I was trying to get on the question part... I just want to say a couple more comments on the imagery that I was thinking about at the beginning about that impact of the water. I was thinking about that movie *Moana*, and **how the**

water moves, and I just really think it's really important for people to realize **[the water] is a living breathing entity**. It's not something just docile, just sitting there when we're honouring it. It's something live to us, and I think that message needs to come alive to the people. A lot of the images I see is Mother Earth... and that imagery of Mother Earth encompassing the water, how that's **her blood** and how **it's all connected**... that's what I was thinking about, that it's a breathing entity. The earth, the water, and everything around that. And all those other things that you're talking about... the things that can be done; the water ceremony that I did, Caitlin was the one that had organized it, and I think it was off of Hanlan's... I walked everyone down to the water. But there were tons of people." Caitlin chimed in to add "that was on Ward's Island beach."

Bob thanked Val and Caitlin. He read from the chat David's comment, which said, "programming opportunities with existing partners like the Friendship Circle, Artscape, Toronto District School board, YMCA, Park day camps etc." Bob added, "I know Caitlin mentioned Artscape – Artscape wants to be a partner... there's also the school, YMCA and other day camps. The [City of Toronto] parks have day camps, so there are other opportunities to partner on so many of these learning opportunities. Could also mean business... and co-management opportunities and involvement of artists in the park as well." Bob also raised input received from the Indigenous Place-Making Advisory Circle, who had suggested incorporating "the **knowledge that comes from the star realm** – can we find a place where we appreciate and have a place where you could take out your telescope and view the night sky without light pollution. There might be spaces for that... on either side of the Centre Island piers... appreciate any of your thoughts on any of those things and locations...." He added, "the other things I'm going to suggest to, is as the public health rules are starting to relax... perhaps there might be an opportunity for a tour, take a golf cart – is there such a thing? Or a way to go around... take a look at these places and put down our tobacco and see if that spirit can speak to us." Bob added, "I want to acknowledge Val's words about that spirit – that water is alive, the land is alive. Those plants and animals that are there are apart of that great network of spirit that's part of the earth."

Daniel said, "I was interested in the discussion about ceremonies... **issues still with staying over on the island**. A lot of times we have to spend time on the island, so I think those kinds of things have to be looked at, not just with the design, but there's a lot of different ways, whether it's outdoors or having a building or base camp or somewhere to go. That's something we brought up in the beginning – a lot of times

we go to the island and then we have to... get off the island to board the ferries... so, placeholders or people host... **we're just there and then we have to leave.**" He added, "I like a lot of the ideas." Note, that some information was missed here due to poor internet connection for the record keeper. Daniel also said, "kind of interested in some of those places that were mentioned, I wasn't aware that were buildings that aren't being used... I'll leave it at that, I'll get back to you because I do have to get going as well." Bob told Daniel to send him an email given he had such difficulty joining the conversation as it was progressing.

Bob said, "the repurposing of buildings and even that idea of a cultural hub. I really love that idea, and I know it's on that property, but you know there's that walkway... on Hanlan's Point where there is access to that building back there. Might have been one of the main access... to the airport back in the day... it's a great space and already has a footprint... don't want to build something where you already have greenspace... so might work for Carolyn's idea for... an actual building of some sort. But if we could repurpose that building at some point, I know David Smylie mentions that that lease is up for renewal in 2033, so it'll be some time until we know the result of that. And Carolyn suggests that Council should look at a claim or some... work to see how that space can be reappropriated back to the Mississauga people."

Veronica said, "I'm looking for something sooner than 2033. When I talked about the cultural village, you might refer to it as office space... where it would have the **displays** about everything **about the Mississaugas of the Credit**. When we talk about our history, our culture, all the education – we could have different artisans displayed, their paintings or their crafts, talking about the hunting, the archery, the medicines, talked about the camps we're doing now, the seeds and how they grow. That's what I was talking about for the seasonal plants... I know Carolyn is part of that, the artifacts, and the museum pieces... that's what I meant about the cultural village. That all of that should be there. And that we **have someone from the Mississaugas there year-round**... exactly what Daniel was talking about...that accommodation piece and that when we host people from around the world that they **have a place to go and meet**. Miigwetch." Bob said, "miigwetch. The other idea I had when you were speaking was, we need four season space – one of the visions that we have for the island is that this is four season, so we do need indoor space too Veronica, so maybe cultural village can accommodate round dances, or indoor ceremonies or indoor space, especially during the winter."

At this point, Bob indicated that they would begin “wrapping up,” again proposing that there could perhaps be an opportunity to come together in-person and work towards a visit to the islands to really be able to envision the spaces and what is possible. Mark said, “I’d like to get there too, I see these [what] look like rivers... and wild rice just might... but I’d have to see it, see how deep it is, to see if it’s possible.” Bob said, “yeah it’s very sensitive as you know Mark to replant, even as a demonstration... you have to have that expertise, know how it takes root, and it’s got to be cared for... especially in this environments, there’s lots of boats there... especially in the yacht club area, not going through some of these smaller spaces but there’s lots of paddling too so... can’t have a lot of interaction with those rice beds....” Mark said, “that’s the other thing I was wondering about the people, how they would feel about having rice beds there in their waterways....”

Here, Bob made a comment about the “overwhelming support for Michi Saagiig” in their recognition of place and the need that Indigenous Peoples must be connected to the land. Bob stated that people “know that Michi Saagiig and Anishinaabe care for the environment and [that] stewardship is so important for those who live there.”

Caitlin said, “another project the Toronto Island Friendship Group is interested in is... how residents have these little display boxes... and you can highlight different things... artwork, or information in these... **wooden boxes with plexiglass**, so you can see in them... so that’s another thing we’ve been discussing about promoting the Mississaugas, can put different items and artwork and whatnot in those display boxes and put them in different areas throughout the island.” She continued, “they’re really big into the **plants**. They mentioned that they do have some invasive species on the island so they were really interested in trying to go back to **native species**... and we’ve been working with Jonathan Ferrier... and Mark Sault... oh, and the wild rice of course, they’ve been wanting to see that, but again, there’s a lot of flooding too so I don’t know if that affects the rice beds at all, the fluctuation of the water levels.” Bob reflected, “the display boxes, it’s the residents that are really pushing that... you mentioned the flags, some of them are putting flags in their windows and on the flagpole. They want to see that representation on the park.” Bob then asked Lori, “I know the Toronto Region Conservation Authority was going to start work on the flood environmental assessment... any update for this group...? Have we heard back from TRCA?” Lori replied, “we did just very recently meet with the conservation authority, and they are about to... initiate their process... their project notification, etc. and we did actually share that we had heard that you felt that the outreach that TRCA had provided in the past didn’t... measure up to what you would like it to be,

and we did pass that message on. We've had some conversations about how successful this engagement has been... definitely opened any meetings that we will be having with you in the future once their project is up and running, we are going to provide the opportunity for there to be updates on their work and vice versa, when they have meetings we may... provide them with some information to give updates on how the master plan is progressing because... the two really need to speak to one another. So, you will be hearing from them in the very near future."

Bob said, "hopefully everyone has been getting my emails... and getting invited to all of these things that have been happening... we will have a follow-up meeting in the end of this phase... perhaps that can be the time when we do that face-to-face together." Bob asked Lori for closing thoughts.

Lori said "this has been another wonderful dialogue. There are some new ideas that were shared... I can't express enough pleasure in the fact that the way that this has been proceeding, based on all the different conversations we've been having how everyone... no matter what your background is or what your interests are, everybody seems to talk about the island... in a very similar way... albeit they bring their personal point of view. What I feel is wonderful about the conversation tonight is that this is the really authentic conversation, the idea of stewardship, caring capacity of the island, and not overrunning the island with our amazing ideas, but being sensitive to what those ideas are and how they relate to the sensibilities of what these islands has been for millennia, has been to your community... and what they should be for your community moving forward." She continued, "what is wonderful to see is those ideas and... that way of trying to become stewards and treading lightly on the land is not just part of this discussion, it is the same thing we're hearing from the larger public. So, I don't feel like... we're going to be in a head-to-head battle about whose ideas are better. I think we're all... flowing in the same direction... [which] will help build momentum and strength behind bringing these ideas all together, and the challenge is just going to be weaving that all together in a really beautiful and seamless way. We still have our work ahead of us, and I'm grateful that you are here to have these discussions with us... we're willing to have as many conversations as you are willing to have with us. Understanding that everybody is very busy and these evening meetings sometimes can be exhausting... so we're very grateful for your time and I just look forward to continuing the conversation." Lori concluded by confirming that they will be sharing the PowerPoint presentation as well as the Miro board. She noted that unfortunately, the Miro does "not have infinite zoom" but that they will work to

have clearer graphics for the next meeting. Lori closed with, “miigwetch to you all... we’ll look to see how we can make arrangements” to meet collectively on the island.

Bob thanked Lori and all the participants for their time. He reminded participants that if they were interested they were encouraged to register for the public workshop on Wednesday, July 21st at 6pm. and posted the link in the chat (“Toronto Islands “Big Ideas” Public Workshop, Wednesday, July 21 at 6 p.m. Register: <https://swerhun.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlucuyrrTsjHN2EFgYFHH2wXBdjE-aLRwCJ>.) Bob thanked all the participants in Anishinaabemowin and passed it to Garry for closing words.

Garry said, “boozhoo again. A lot of food to digest and we got to be picky of what we are going to eat first. And how we want it all to come together. So, with those kinds of thoughts, I’m leaving you to digest all the stuff you heard tonight and come back with some suggestions on where we’re going to start. And what a consensus on the places that we want to enact first, make them come alive... we haven’t got a lot of money, they said that before, so sometimes I have a song... *Garry sang in Anishinaabemowin...* so, I sing that for us because we’re certainly going to need it to accomplish what we envision. So, let’s make our visions come alive and be of benefit to the next 7 generations. And with those words, baamaapii!”

Bob thanked everyone again and said goodbye to all the participants as they all disconnected.



Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Big Ideas Public Workshop Meeting Summary

July 21st, 2021, 6:00 – 8:30 PM
Via Zoom

Overview

On Wednesday, July 21, 2021, the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division (PFR) hosted a virtual Big Ideas Public Workshop for Phase Two of the Toronto Island Park Master Plan. Over 100 people attended the workshop along with the project team, represented by PFR staff, their consultant Design Team (DTAH), Business Strategy Team (FS Strategy), and Engagement Team (Swerhun Inc.). See Appendix A for the list of project team members.

The Big Ideas Public Workshop was part of the City's iterative engagement approach to developing Big Ideas in Phase II of the Master Plan engagement process. In addition to the Big Ideas Public Workshop, the City engaged several other audiences about the Big Ideas in Phase II, including:

- the broader public through an online engagement in June

- members of its Community Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee in a combined workshop on July 13
- elders and knowledge keepers from the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation through a dialogue on July 15
- equity-deserving audiences through Youth Ambassador led engagement in August

Each of these engagement inputs to the Master Plan are documented separately and will be available on the project website at toronto.ca/islandmasterplan.

The purpose of the Big Ideas Public Workshop was to present and discuss refined Big Ideas to inform the Master Plan. The Big Ideas shared in the Public Workshop were the product of several steps of technical work and engagement, including:

- **Development of Preliminary Big Ideas**, with initial ideas proposed by the Design Team rated on and added to by the public in the online engagement
- **Refinement of Big Ideas** through a collective analysis of the Design Team and public's Big Ideas by the Community Advisory Community and Technical Advisory Committee

Lori Ellis, Senior Project Coordinator with City, opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement. Following the land acknowledgement, the City shared a teaching moment through a video interview about the importance of the Hanlan's Point Beach to Toronto's LGBTQ2S+ community. The project team then shared an overview presentation covering the Master Plan process, Phase I outcomes, and a summary of ideas from other parks (see Appendix for the Presentation). Participants asked plenary questions of clarification and then, in small groups, rotated through four breakout rooms where they learned more about and shared feedback on Big Ideas as grouped under four themes: Environment; Visitor Experience; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and History, Culture and Storytelling. In each breakout room, a Master Plan team member provided an overview of the Big Ideas relevant to the theme, and facilitators helped steward and document the discussion, which focused on which Big Ideas participants liked, which (if any) they found concerning, and their suggestions on how to make the Big Ideas a reality. The meeting concluded with a plenary discussion and wrap up. See Appendix B for the meeting agenda.

This meeting summary is structured by the following sections:

- Key themes
- Detailed summary of feedback
 - Questions of clarification
 - Feedback on the Big Ideas
 - Environment
 - Visitor Experience
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - History, Culture and Storytelling
- Feedback shared after the meeting
- Next steps

Swerhun Inc. — third-party facilitation firm retained by the City to help support community engagement for this project — wrote this meeting summary. This summary is not intended to be a verbatim transcript, rather it summarizes key points of discussion. Participants reviewed a draft of this meeting summary before it was finalized.

Key themes

These points reflect key themes that emerged throughout the discussion. They are intended to be read along with the more detailed feedback that follows.

- **Overall, the Big Ideas are on the right track.** Participants said they appreciated the engagement process and the work done by the Master Plan team, saying they could see feedback from previous public engagement reflected in the Big Ideas.
- **Commercialization, over-development, and crowding remain key concerns.** Participants expressed concerns about the impacts and pressures of development in the downtown core, the potential for commercialization and chain businesses on the Island, and the potential impacts on the environment and the Island's character with increased use.
- **Continued support for Indigenous placekeeping efforts.** Participants said they appreciated the focus on Indigenous placekeeping in the Master Plan. They said it was very important the project team do significant, meaningful

Indigenous engagement to make avoid tokenizing or appropriating Indigenous cultures.

- **The Master Plan should continue to focus on balance.** Consistent with previous public meetings, participants said a key focus of the Master Plan must be balancing increased use of the park with protecting and maintaining the Island's ecology and character for generations to come.

Detailed summary feedback

The following summarizes questions, suggestions, and comments participants shared throughout the meeting. Responses provided by the project team, where provided, are noted below in *italics*.

Questions of clarification

Is there a direct relationship between the number of new developments on Yonge Street and renewed City interest in Toronto Island Park? It appears the City is proposing using Toronto Island Park as the green space for the growing Downtown (as opposed to providing new greenspace in the core). *PFR staff said the City's Parkland Strategy focuses on expanding, improving, and connecting green spaces across the City, including around the waterfront and Downtown, and that Strategy is part of what is informing the reason for the Master Plan.*

Is there the potential for a dogs off-leash area? *Victoria Bell from DTAH said the Design Team has not yet made a recommendation on whether there should be an off-leash area or not. The Design Team is aware that off-leash dogs could affect the other animals and birds on the Island.*

How will you balance the needs of visitors who need bathrooms and amenities but keep Toronto Island Park from turning into a commercialized area like the harbourfront? *Victoria from DTAH said the Design Team has been looking at different ways of identifying the park's carrying capacity. The park already has Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) and Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs), several of which could be expanded. The Design Team is taking a balanced approach, is not intending to accommodate all those in new Downtown development or commercialize the park.*

Are the airport lands part of the Toronto Island Park Master Plan (since the tripartite agreement expires in 2033)? *The City confirmed that the airport lands are not part of the Master Plan. Over the course of the process to date, the project team has heard a lot about the airport lands and is aware the tripartite agreement expires in 2033. Decisions about future of the airport will be made by the different levels of government, not PFR. PFR will pay attention to that decision making process, but for now, the Master Plan team's focus is on the 600 acres within its jurisdiction. The team is also documenting feedback about the airport so that, if there is a decision that would result in some or all of the airport lands being transferred to parkland, that feedback can inform future thinking. The Vision and Guiding Principles that are developed through the Master Plan would apply to any ideas considered for the airport lands.*

Feedback about the Big Ideas

In breakout rooms, participants shared feedback on which Big Ideas they liked, were concerned about, and made suggestions for helping the Big Ideas become a reality. This section organizes the feedback under the four themes of Environment; Visitor Experience; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and History, Culture and Storytelling.

Environment

The project team shared the following Big Ideas in the Environment room (along with examples of how the ideas could be made a reality):

1. Embrace the unique character and diverse experiences of the Island
2. Create experiences and programs that encourage exploration across the islands
3. Share and promote Island information
4. Expand connectivity on the islands
5. Provide facilities and activities year-round
6. Create diverse active recreation options throughout the islands
7. Engage with the Island at night
8. Provide year-round food options that change

Participants shared feedback about what they liked, where they were concerned, suggested additional ideas, and other, broader feedback about the Environment Big Ideas.

What participants liked

In general, participants liked the **Environment Big Ideas**. Specifically, they liked ideas related to protecting and enhancing wild and natural spaces; improving internal waterways for boats, kayaking, swimming, and habitats; balancing natural flooding and flood mitigation efforts; and reintroducing more native species to the islands.

Where participants had concerns or felt something was missing

A few were concerned that consideration of the **Toronto Island Airport** was missing from the Environment Big Ideas, saying its current operations emit noise and air pollution. They suggested the project team consider these impacts as part of the bigger picture context, including considering a potential future without the airport.

Suggested additional Environment Big Ideas

Participants suggested additional ideas focused on protecting natural and wild spaces, including:

- installing boardwalks (especially where trampling happens and in sensitive areas)
- designing spaces for intended uses (fencing and signage may not be enough to protect these areas)
- limiting public access to sensitive and natural areas of the park
- creating educational spaces that share information about local ecology and environmental topics — including changing climate, water conditions, and habitats — similar to the Biosphere Environment Museum in Montreal
- adding more garbage receptacles emptied regularly around the Island
- expecting food vendors to use packaging that produces less waste

Other feedback and advice about Toronto Island Park and the environment

Bigger picture concerns about environmental impacts on the Island including climate change, land erosion, and the pressure put on natural spaces as a result of Downtown's growth. Several talked about the importance of balance, saying the team needs to show how it is thinking about recreation, nature, and community

needs. Others said balancing many different uses, demands, and functions would be challenging.

Toronto Island Park could be a model for sustainability — similar to the Leslie Street Spit or East Bayfront — with efforts to enhance and protect nature serving as a draw. These efforts could include low-impact development, permeable surfaces, solar-energy, and special rules to limit or ban plastics.

The park does not need tremendous improvements since so many people are already drawn to it. The team should avoid “Disney-fying” the park, with a suggestion to do nothing since the park is great as it is.

Visitor Experience

The Master Plan team shared the following Visitor Experience Big Ideas (along with examples of how to make the ideas a reality):

1. Embrace the unique character and diverse experiences of the Island
2. Create experiences and programs that encourage exploration across the islands
3. Share and promote Island information
4. Expand connectivity on the islands
5. Provide facilities and activities year-round
6. Create diverse active recreation options throughout the islands
7. Engage with the Island at night
8. Provide year-round food options that change

Participants shared feedback about what they liked, where they were concerned, suggested additional ideas, and other, broader feedback about the Visitor Experience Big Ideas.

What participants liked

Participants liked Big Ideas about:

- **improving wayfinding**, especially from an accessibility perspective. Some said they favoured physical wayfinding like signage and paper maps, saying the infrastructure needed to support digital wayfinding (like cellular towers) could produce electric and magnetic fields; others preferred digital approaches to wayfinding, saying these approaches could help reduce waste and offer a

seamless experience between apps, the City's webpage, QR codes, and more. A virtual tour could also improve the accessibility of a Toronto Island Park experience.

- **year-round access and winter programming.** Though participants liked the idea of year-round access and winter programming (especially winterized washrooms), some said that, due to climate change, the project team may want to avoid over-committing to activities like skating, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. They suggested instead designing for passive winter activities like winter walking tours.
- **new food options.** Participants liked Big Ideas around new food options, said saying access to more varied and better food options was important to achieving year-round use of the park. Others were less enthusiastic, saying food was not important to their experience at Toronto Island Park and that too many vendors could lead to increased garbage and waste. Those that were concerned about the impacts from new food options said they preferred smaller food operations to destination dining.

Suggestions about the Visitor Experience Big Ideas

Participants suggested additional ideas to improve the Visitor Experience at Toronto Island Park, including:

- expand options for kids and families, including through summer camps about outdoor education and Indigenous ways of knowing
- separate different uses on the Island, especially active and quiet uses
- expand connections throughout the Island, including by leveraging waterways and developing thematic walking circuits
- consider ways to maintain a peaceful natural retreat experience, including moderating loud noise, eliminating garbage, and maintaining the Island's cleanliness and character (especially if exploring night sky viewing or camping).

Other feedback and advice about the Toronto Island Park and Visitor Experience

Most said they would like to see the project team protect and maintain Toronto Island Park's character as a respite and natural oasis away from the City, saying rest and rejuvenation should be at the centre of the plan and visitor experience.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Master Plan team shared the following Big Ideas about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (along with examples of how to make the ideas a reality):

1. Celebrate the Island's identity as a safe and welcoming space
2. Create a continuous network of accessible connections throughout the park
3. Enhance water access within and beyond the park
4. Create opportunities for all park users to participate in programs and activities
5. Expand access to rental equipment
6. Expand access to diverse and affordable food and retail options
7. Build environmental, social, and economic sustainability into the business model for the Island

Participants shared feedback about what they liked and broader suggestions about the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Big Ideas.

What participants liked

Participants especially liked Big Ideas around expanding access to rental equipment, including kayak racks, bike storage, beach umbrellas. They also liked ideas focused on identifying more places for people to dock boats.

Suggestions about the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Big Ideas

Most of the discussion in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion breakout rooms focused on suggestions on how Toronto Island Park could be a more welcoming, inclusive place. Specific suggestions included:

- **Expand, enhance, and protect Hanlan's Point Beach.** Some said that Hanlan's Point Beach is becoming overcrowded with parties and noise from party vessels and that this important LGBTQ2S+ space needs protection. Some suggested adding a "nudist only" designated area (instead of making the entire beach clothing optional).

- **Prioritize making the Island accessible for people with disabilities** by creating destinations close to ferry docks, offering small electric motorized transport (like golf carts) to help people get around, making sure ferries are accessible, providing beach wheelchairs for accessing the water, and ensuring there are rest points and shaded areas across the entire park.
- **Offer affordable options for people to get to the Island**, such as passes for people who live downtown and free tickets for seniors.
- **Enhance water access within and beyond the park** by improving signage and identifying areas of the Island that are not accessible from the water.
- **Build partnerships with community organizations to attract new, diverse users**, including local organizations, schools, and community centres. Allow programs and activities to change and adapt based on interests and who is using them.
- **Prioritize a few simple, affordable food options**, to avoid overwhelming visitors with too many options. Other suggestions included offering picnic baskets with local fruits and vegetables and making ice more accessible.

History, Culture, and Storytelling

The Master Plan team shared the following Big Ideas about History, Culture, and Storytelling (along with examples of how to make the ideas a reality):

1. Celebrate the Island as an Indigenous place
2. Provide spaces within the islands for ceremony, gathering and knowledge sharing
3. Build a culture of stewardship for the Island
4. Share all the Island Stories
5. Support permanent and rotating art installations
6. Create multifunctional spaces for diverse events

Participants shared feedback about what they liked, where they were concerned, and suggested additional ideas about the History, Culture, and Storytelling Big Ideas.

What participants liked

Participants liked several of the History, Culture, and Storytelling Big Ideas, including:

- **the emphasis on Indigenous placekeeping**, suggesting the team look at recent placekeeping efforts at The Forks in Winnipeg as a good example. To make these ideas a reality, participants suggested the project team create opportunities for Indigenous art and places for sacred ceremony. Some suggested the project team engage organizations like Anishnawbe Health and Artscape who already work with Indigenous communities around placekeeping.
- **exploring Indigenous placenames on and around the Island**, including developing a process to identify those names.
- **community-led stewardship of the Islands**, with suggestions for: an enhanced or strengthened role for Island residents (since many already see themselves as stewards or caretakers role) and a Park Ambassador program that volunteers could sign up for to act as stewards. Some suggested that stewardship should be embedded in the park's identity somehow, so that, as soon people arrive at the Island, they understand they're responsible for it (potentially via a code of conduct or public listing of performance indicators of the Island's health).
- **permanent and rotating art exhibits.**

Where participants had concerns or felt something was missing

A few participants were concerned that, without meaningful engagement, Indigenous placekeeping efforts could be tokenistic. They urged the team to be thoughtful and careful in proposing Indigenous placekeeping ideas to avoid appropriating or otherwise tokenizing Indigenous cultures.

Others were concerned about the proposed Big Idea around a multi-functional space for events, saying any multi-functional space should have a minimal footprint and be designed as a primarily outdoor space, not a building.

Suggestions about the History, Culture, and Storytelling Big Ideas

Participants suggested additional ideas about the History, Culture, and Storytelling, including:

- **broaden the concept of sustainability** to think of long-term “living culture” of Indigenous communities as an important component of sustainability

- **consider performance as a way to share culture and stories**, including a performance on the ferry (building off a recent piano installation on ferries that invited the public to play during the journey) or on-island first-person performances that interpret or tell cultural stories.
- **explore ways to tell stories about the importance of the Island to different generations of people**, including people who immigrated to Canada and for whom the Island has special significance.
- **include interpretation of the recent history of the island**, including the history of hotels and the Island's baseball park and the influence different generations of Island residents have had on the Island.
- **recognize that sport culture is important to the Island**, since some sports events are closely connected to the park's identity, like the Dominion Day Regatta, which has a 130 year history and attracts thousands of people.

Feedback shared after the meeting

After the meeting, the project team received e-mails from participants with additional feedback, summarized below. Original e-mails are included in Appendix C.

- promote the use of canoes, kayaks, stand up paddle boards, and paddleboats over gas-powered vehicles and powerboats
- concern about impacts from camping and associated activities, like fires and increased garbage.
- identify capacity targets and make sure ferry service supports those targets
- concern that the Island is becoming overrun with too many visitors and that the master plan needs to consider the capacity of the Island when discussing increased access
- develop a clear policy on dogs (including suggestions to ban dogs from ferries and the park to protect wildlife)

- continue to increase equitable access, such as making beaches accessible via mesh installations on the sand that are navigable by wheelchair ([recently done in Mississauga](#))
- explore small “boutique” food carts that serve a variety of food
- implement walking tours and guided excursions to make the park a better-known tourism destination
- support for exploring winter experiences on the Island
- reserve airport land for park uses, not development, if it is ever removed
- appreciation for engagement efforts, including Indigenous engagement.

Next steps

The project team committed to sharing a draft summary of the meeting for participants to review. They also said they would continue to let participants know of upcoming public engagement opportunities connected to the Master Plan. They said that the next steps of engagement included Youth Ambassador-led engagement in August, and that, following the summer, the Master Plan team would begin work in developing Concept Plans based on the Big Ideas and other work to date.

Appendix A – List of Project Team Members

City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division

Casey Morris, Senior Project Coordinator

Christina Iacovino, Manager, Partnerships and Business Services

Daniel Fusca, Manager, Public Consultation

David O'Hara, Project Manager, Strategic Projects, Parks Development and Capital Projects

Lori Ellis, Senior Project Coordinator

Pablo Munoz, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator

Consultant teams

Design team

Victoria Bell, DTAH

James Roche, DTAH

Business Strategy team

Jeff Dover, FS Strategy

Engagement team

Ian Malczewski, Swerhun Inc.

Jacky Li, Swerhun Inc.

Athavarn Srikantharajah, Swerhun Inc.

Appendix B – Meeting Agenda

Combined CAC/TAC Workshop Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Tuesday, July 13th, 2021

6:00pm – 8:30pm • Meeting held virtually

Meeting purpose

To share an update on the Toronto Island Park Master Plan and to workshop the revised Big Ideas.

DRAFT Proposed agenda

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 6:00 PM | Welcome, land acknowledgement, agenda review, introductions
City of Toronto & Swerhun Inc. |
| 6:10 | Indigenous teaching moment |
| 6:15 | Master Plan update and Big Ideas overview
City of Toronto and DTAH
<i>Questions of clarification (approximately 6:35-6:40)</i> |
| 6:40 | Discussion: Big Ideas <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Which Big Ideas do you think <u>must</u> be implemented now for the Master Plan to be successful? Which ones do you think <u>should</u> happen, but could wait or take longer? Which ones would be <u>nice to have</u> in the future?2. Do you have any suggestions on how to make the Big Ideas a reality?3. Do you have any other suggested changes or refinements to the Big Ideas? |
| 8:00 | Report back and plenary discussion |
| 8:25 | Wrap up and next steps |
| 8:30 | Adjourn |

Appendix C – Additional feedback shared by participants after the meeting

E-mail 1

Hi

I kept losing audio for some reason, so I just wanted to follow up.

I had mentioned in the accessibility group that I had recently been to a beach in Mississauga where they had secured some mesh on the sand, allowing easier access for walkers, wheelchairs, etc.

I found a link with info to that pilot project here:

<https://www.mississauga.ca/city-of-mississauga-news/news/parks-pilot-project-creates-path-to-city-waterfront-and-inclusivity/>

Also, I'm not sure if this was discussed tonight, but I would also like to say that at least in the summer months, I feel that boutique(?) food carts could be a viable solution to adding variety to food offered that is neither permanent nor shuttered and vacant in the winter months due to reduced numbers on the island.

I started attending these meetings because of a ruse, but I was so impressed by how well these meetings have been organized and lead, that I'm now committed.

Thank you,

E-mail 2

I have several concerns about the emerging Master Plan as a result of my experience with Christie Pits and Tommy Thompson Park. The pressure on the Islands will certainly increase as the City adds density without adequate park space.

I would encourage you to add the following:

1. Clear capacity targets and ferry services that support those targets
2. A clear policy on dogs
 - I recommend a no-dog policy in order to protect wildlife.
 - Dogs should be banned from the ferries.
 - Do not add a dog park as control of off-leash dogs will be impossible.
3. Request that the airport be reserved for park space rather than development, if it is released from current use

Thank-you for your well designed and well facilitated on-line consultation.

E-mail 3

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional feedback.

I was very impressed with the presentations last week, and the discussions in my 2 focus groups...

Just wanted to commend the Planning Group for the work completed to date and to again confirm my support to continue with this very important work to revitalize / re-energize the Toronto Islands in a respectful and mindful manner.

My key points of emphasis:

1. continue to enhance visitor experience and move to incorporate all seasons, including winter.
2. Toronto Island to become a better-known tourism venue for the return of "out of country visitors" including their spouses/family members accompanying people attending our many Conventions - implement walking tours and tour guide led excursions.
3. Continue to focus on ways to increase equitable access for our diverse local peoples, including seniors, and those using mobility devices. Increase island

transportation - electric options only & work to eliminate gas vehicles/gas powerboats, while focusing on the use of canoes/kayaks/SUPs/paddle boats!

4. This is indeed a big task when there is also the key need to maintain conservation, increase sustainability and preserve the natural habitat for the existing wildlife while respecting the land and involving indigenous peoples.

I look forward to the next steps and the project's continued progress! Sincerely.

E-mail 4

Thank you for sending the copy of the latest presentation for the Toronto Island Master Plan.

I am having trouble with the how you say there will be an emphasis on the environmental concerns and expansion of the environmentally protected areas, which means re-wilding of some areas, and yet wanting to provide camping and campfires on the Island. Not sure how many of the planning group have been to Hanlan's Point, for example, when there can be over 100 tents erected on any given weekend and seen the devastation with garbage and trampling of vegetation, debris from campfires etc. Makes no sense to me.....the Island cannot be everything to everyone. If you want to preserve some sense of the beauty of the natural environment I don't see camping and allowing fires as viable.

Much talk of winter use and facilities like warming stations, activities etc. So I guess this means that there will really finally be a new ferry which can go through ice in the harbour as opposed to the tiny Ongiara vehicle ferry which was never intended to be an ice breaker. It has been in the works for several years!

Happy to see emphasis on respecting the wildlife and natural environment. Really do hope that is a priority! With the dramatic influx of people moving to the downtown core, I am concerned that the Island will become the go-to place since green-space is so lacking City-side. Recipe for problems....!

Thanks.

E-mail 5

Thank you for the excellent presentations and workshop session last night.

I appreciate the professionalism of your team, and the team's evident sincere commitment to a conservationist approach that will bring minimal changes to Toronto Island Park's sensitive ecology.

Increasing access by non-powered boats, including more links to launching places on Toronto Harbourfront and the portlands (near the Eastern Gap), is important.

The idea of restricting motorboats from certain waterways and to keep them from getting in too close to swimming beaches is excellent.

Thanks,



Youth Ambassador Program

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Report prepared by:

Toronto Island Master Plan Team. Parks Forestry and Recreation.
City of Toronto
islandparkmasterplan@toronto.ca

The City of Toronto acknowledges that the land covered by this Master Plan is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. It also acknowledges that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaty signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

1. Introduction

The purpose of this summary is to provide an overview of the engagement process and outcomes gathered through the Youth Ambassador program for the Toronto Island Master Plan. The Toronto Islands are visited by youth from all over the city. It is the site of many school trips, day camps and family camps, offering a wide range of unique experiences including canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, and exploring the island's ecosystems. Young people also come with their friends and families to visit the beaches, Centreville and the many attractions and amenities offered by the park. However, we know that there are youth across the city for whom getting to the Island (and therefore spending time there), is particularly difficult, because they are unaware of what the Island has to offer, or because they may be experiencing financial, transportation or other barriers limiting their access. It is the goal of the project to meaningfully engage all Torontonians in order to ensure that the future of Toronto Island Park is inclusive and reflective of everyone's voices and needs – including youth. For this very reason, we developed a Youth Ambassador Program, a team of 10 youth from different parts of the city that would support the engagement of their communities and peers to gather ideas and insights for the Master Plan from a youth perspective.

The Youth Ambassadors are part of the wider engagement program and strategy to co-create the Toronto Island Park Master Plan with Indigenous rights holders, waterfront and Island stakeholders, local communities and the general public. By taking this broad engagement approach we are collating thoughts, ideas and feedback gradually, over time and in a variety of ways to ensure Torontonians' voices and ideas are reflected in the final Master Plan.

There are three phases in the engagement process, which runs from 2021 to 2022. During the first phase of the project, we collaborated with Indigenous rights holders, Torontonians from across the City and City staff to develop a Vision, Guiding Principles and Values for Toronto Island Park.

The Youth Ambassador Program is part of the second phase of the Engagement Plan which is titled “Ideas to Concepts” and runs from June 2021 until November 2021. In this phase, the project team is confirming the Vision, Values and Guiding Principles and developing “**Big Ideas**” that will evolve into Demonstration Plans for Toronto Island Park.

Background

What is a Master Plan. A Master Plan is a long-term planning document that acts as a blueprint to guide future decision-making around improvements, programming, and management of a park. It influences decision-making, operations and future park improvements.

It is important to remember that a Master Plan does not get implemented all at once; it guides decision-making in the park over many years.

2. Vision, Values and Guiding Principles

In Phase One, the project team engaged thousands of people through online engagement tools and hundreds of people participated in "in-person" meetings, conversations and workshops to develop the Master Plan's Vision, Values, and Guiding Principles. This framework is intended to guide the decision making and thinking that will shape the Master Plan.

Vision

The Vision identifies the aspirations and the end goals of the Master Plan. It outlines priorities and high-level outcomes for the study. It has been developed using feedback received in Phase One of the engagement process and may evolve through the remaining phases of the project.

Toronto Island Park will be a place to:

Protect + Restore

- The Environment: through stewardship and management of sensitive environments and habitats
- The Community: to be safe, accessible and welcoming for all living beings
- The Self: to be a place of healing and respite, away from busy urban life and in touch with nature

Honour + Celebrate

- The land, water and sky, as well as all living beings that call Mnisssing home: through Indigenous place-keeping, place-making and place-revealing
- The identity, character and legacy of the islands: through Indigenous, Settler, Immigrant, Refugee and Visitor perspectives
- Toronto's diverse communities: through creating a space that is inclusive and celebratory of Indigenous communities, Black communities, People of Colour, LGBTQ2S+, women and gender non-conforming people, disabled people, children and youth, seniors, people experiencing poverty and all equity-deserving communities

Gather + Support

- Explore collaborative governance, partnerships and coordinated program opportunities
- Promote sharing, learning and teaching: through land-based practices, partnerships and programs
- Ensure equitable access: through accessible and affordable spaces, experiences and connections

Values

Values are fundamental requirements for guiding the Master Plan. They are overarching ideals that are universally true, regardless of context or specific conditions. They also apply beyond the limits of this study and align with the City's corporate and divisional strategic initiatives.

The Values have been developed using feedback received in Phase 1 of the engagement process and may evolve through the remaining phases of the project.

The Toronto Island Park Master Plan must embody:

Respect

- By acknowledging the land as a living being
- By advocating for the rights of all living beings and systems first and as part of interconnected and interdependent systems and existence
- By honouring the practices and rights of past, present and future inhabitants

Diversity

- By prioritizing inclusion and celebration of differing worldviews, experiences, and abilities
- By ensuring equitable access to amenities, facilities, and services
- By protecting and restoring sensitive and unique environments and habitats

Balance

- By considering the needs of all parts of a system in the sharing and distribution of resources
- By prioritizing the needs of the natural environment over human use and comfort

Accountability

- By committing to transparent processes
- By developing sustainable investment in social, environmental and economic initiatives
- By cultivating lasting relationships with rights holders, stakeholders and communities

Youth Engagement Guiding Principles

The following nine Guiding Principles were developed by the City Planning Division as part of their Youth Engagement Strategy. They were used to inform the youth engagement done through the Toronto Island Master Plan:

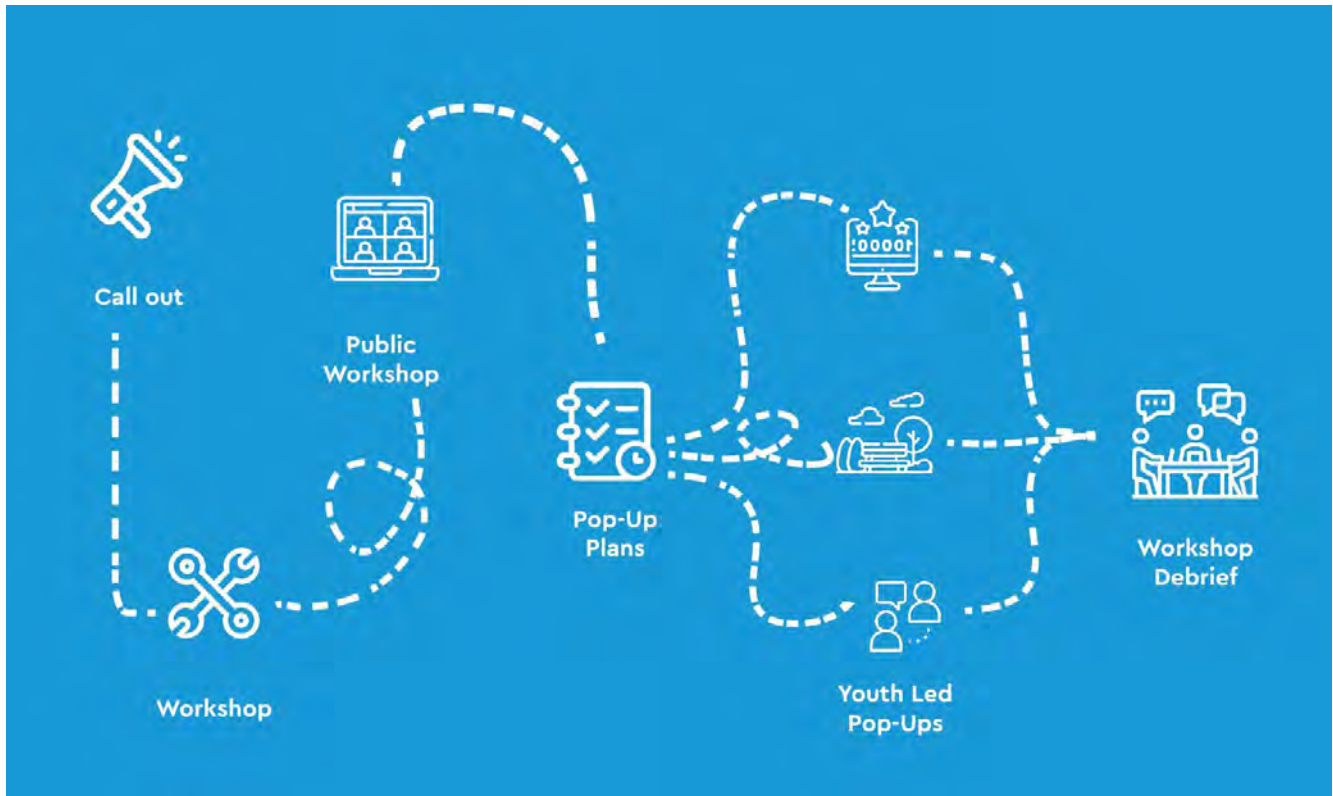
- **Focus on stages of life, not ages.** There are many different stages of life within the youth demographic (high school student, young adult, university/college student, young professional), and each needs a different approach to become engaged in city planning discussions.
- **Engage youth early.** People often develop their core interests, beliefs and habits in their high school years (or, in some cases, even earlier). Sparking a person's interest in planning at this point in their life makes it much likelier they will become active participants in the planning process later in life.
- **Overcome intimidation.** Getting youth to participate means creating an environment where they feel safe, supported and comfortable enough to engage.
- **Put youth in positions of influence.** Youth engagement works best when it's youth-led. When youth see other people their age in positions of influence, it gives them greater confidence that their interests and perspectives will be respected and reflected within City Planning. City of Toronto City Planning Division Youth Engagement Strategy – Final Report 14

- **Consider different geographies and income levels.** Toronto is geographically, culturally and socio-economically diverse. Different approaches will work for different areas and communities, so it's important to consider what works for different audiences.
- **Work towards both short-term and long-term systemic change.** For youth engagement to be most impactful, it needs to include both quick actions and actions that focus on longer-term, systemic change.
- **Go to where youth are.** Meeting youth in the physical and virtual spaces they inhabit can bring them into city planning conversations in a way that is convenient for them.
- **Foster partnerships and build youth capacity.** There are already many youth-focused organizations doing good work with and for youth in Toronto. Leveraging these organizations' networks will help youth develop an interest in city planning and build their capacity.
- **Make it fun!** Youth are more likely to participate in a process that's fun, creative or social. Typical planning processes can feel dry or boring—if you want youth to participate, you have to shake things up a bit.

Youth Engagement Strategy

In 2015, the City of Toronto's City Planning Division published its first Youth Engagement Strategy, a document developed in close collaboration with city of Toronto youth, following a similar process to the one used here. Though the Strategy belongs to City Planning, it guided us in our development of this youth engagement program. The Strategy describes key city planning-related issues that Toronto youth care about, many of which are relevant to the Toronto Island Master Plan and its goals, including: transit and transportation, supporting play, urban design and public realm and the environment. It also outlines youth engagement best practices, which were considered when developing the Youth Ambassador Program.

Process



Outreach

Since the beginning of the project, the project team has been focused on delivering a comprehensive, dynamic and inclusive engagement strategy for the Master Plan. The project team has met with youth as well as organizations and service providers working directly with youth like recreation staff, ENAGBE and the Toronto Youth Cabinet. As part of this outreach, a call for applications to the "Toronto Island - Youth Ambassador Program" was shared with these networks and they were encouraged to share the call broadly. Taking this approach was successful! In total, the City received 45 applications!

Youth Ambassadors

The process to select Youth Ambassadors prioritized youth that demonstrated strong connections to their communities, youth that demonstrated an understanding of equity as well as those having demonstrated facilitation skills. We also prioritized youth that lived outside of the downtown core who were generally underrepresented through other engagement in the Master Plan process. All youth ambassadors were paid an honorarium. In total 10 youth ambassadors from across the city were selected, with ages ranging from 15 to 27, and who collectively speak 9 different languages.

Training Support

Youth Ambassadors attended an orientation session on July 19th facilitated by the project team. The workshop focused on getting the Youth Ambassadors familiarized with the engagement process and outcomes that had been conducted to date, as well as how their feedback was going to be incorporated into the master plan and what resources were available to them. Youth Ambassadors were recognized as experts when it came to engaging their peers and were encouraged to plan fun and creative pop-ups the provided incentives for participating. The goal being that their pop-up engagements didn't just extract information from their communities, but also gave something back.

Youth Ambassadors were asked to engage their communities using the projects Big Ideas as prompts. The Big Ideas are specific ideas to bring the projects vision to live. Big Ideas were collected from the public through a digital platform and ranged from programming to physical changes and more.

The Big Ideas provided an easy entry point to spark young people's imaginations, however pop-up participants were welcomed to provide ideas and feedback beyond the Big Ideas that they saw. Youth Ambassadors that hosted online workshops were given a toolkit for them to present the big ideas virtually. Youth Ambassadors that held in-person pop ups were provided 24" x 36" engagement boards, easels, sticky notes, markers etc. for facilitating their pop ups.

The Youth Ambassadors were also invited to the project's second Public Workshop on July 21st which focused on presenting Big Ideas for the public, providing an example of how Youth Ambassadors might facilitate their workshops.



Pop-Ups

We understand that youth are experts at engaging their peers, which is why we encouraged the Youth Ambassadors to develop their own engagement plans for their pop-ups. Some youth teamed up into groups; one team conducted an online pop-up and others conducted pop-ups in their neighbourhood parks. All youth were each given a **\$200** disbursement budget, which could be used towards engagement materials, prizes and incentives for engaging their communities.

Pop-up at Centre Island

Three Youth Ambassadors, Harani, Michelle and Zhane, hosted a pop-up at Toronto Island Park on Centre Island. They set up engagement boards provided by the project team, in a gazebo a few metres from the ferry dock in order to talk with people as they arrived or departed the Island. The Ambassadors brought snacks, water, Jamaican patties and games for children to play as a way to engage passersby.

Pop-up at Lindy Lou Park (North York)

"There are many ethnic minorities, people who belong to marginalized groups, and socio-economically disadvantaged people in my community. So, I thought there was no better than to talk and invite them in person."

One Youth Ambassador, Neima, hosted a pop up in her local park in North York. Neima promoted the pop-up with her peers, family, neighbours and friends. Neima made an effort to invite people in person whenever possible and also engaged with people walking by the park using an engagement table with freebies and a raffle to invite participants.

Pop-up at Neilson Park (Scarborough)



Another Youth Ambassador, Roshni, hosted a pop up at her neighbourhood park in Scarborough. Leading up to the pop up, Roshni shared invitations with her personal networks, on social media and with "Not-for-Profits" in the neighbourhood. Roshni set up four engagement boards and shared prepackaged snacks as an incentive for participants.

Virtual Trivia Night Pop-Up



A team of 4 Youth Ambassadors, Christine, Beles, Song and Harani, hosted a trivia night followed by 4 breakout room workshops where participants got to comment on the preliminary Big Ideas and share their own ideas, comments and concerns for the Master Plan. Some of the Youth Ambassadors belonged to the Toronto Youth Cabinet (TYC) and promoted the trivia night through the TYC's social media channels, slack channel and networks.

They also created bright posters that they posted in their respective neighbourhoods. The trivia night included questions about the Island and was attended by 75 young people.

Virtual Games Night

"First, I gave some background knowledge to help everyone make educated and intelligent decisions. Then I played a Kahoot to expand people's knowledge a bit further while having fun." - Kishan

Youth Ambassador, Kishan, hosted a virtual games night on zoom. Kishan focused his outreach on Neilson/Scarborough youth using social media and discord group chats. The games night started with a presentation about Toronto Island and was followed by Kahoot games before jumping into a facilitated discussion/workshop about Big Ideas.

3. What did youth ambassadors hear?

History Culture and Storytelling

Indigenous Stories and Culture

Across most of the youth-led pop ups, participants were in agreement that centering Indigenous stories and cultures, and creating spaces for ceremony and gathering, was important. Some youth shared that they would like to see programming to learn about Indigenous cultures and practices with Indigenous youth. Some youth suggested that Indigenous students from Toronto should be able to share their art at the Island, or create participatory art programs that welcomed the larger community. It was also suggested that there should be Indigenous programming for school trips. Lastly, there was also mention of having Indigenous-led businesses and food available at the Island.

Stories are Important to Youth

In one of the workshops, youth were really excited to learn about the "ghost" story of the lighthouse keeper. You indicated that these types of stories would make youth excited about visiting the island. It was also suggested that the many stories of the Island could be shared using QR codes placed in key areas across the Island.

Environment

Garbage Free

Some youth expressed concerns about garbage (particularly at the beaches) as well as concerns with dog owners not picking up after their dogs. A lot of youth thought that there should be education about how visitors could care for the Island and that there should be consequences for littering. It was also suggested that there could be clean-up events that welcome youth who want to volunteer. Youth also wanted to see water bottle filling stations so that people didn't have to buy plastic water bottles.

Opportunities to Learn Ecosystems

Youth shared that they wanted to learn more about the ecosystems at the Island. Some youth suggested that there could be trails with signage about the species and animals that inhabit the Island.

Opportunities for Stewardship

At some pop-ups, youth heard that they wanted to see opportunities and events where they could plant trees and gardens and generally care for the Island.

More Plants, Trees, Flowers and Gardens

The Youth Ambassadors received several suggestions about expanding gardens, planting flowers and trees.

Sustainability is Important

A lot of youth shared that they wished the Island was powered by clean energy, including the ferries and any transportation that is considered or included across the Island.

Visitor Experience

Info Accessibility

Ambassadors heard from many other youth that they met through their engagements that:

- "they didn't even know that the Island existed!"
- "they didn't know it was a place where they were welcome"
- "there were things for them to do there."

Youth also shared that they wanted easier to access, youth-friendly information about events and experiences that were accessible to them. There was some mention about spotty cellphone reception, which limits their ability to access information (their preferred method) once they get to the Island. It was suggested that QR codes would be helpful for sharing information across the Island.

Diversity of Programming

Some youth wanted to see youth-centered events and youth days as well as art festivals and cultural events, especially during important times like Black/Asian History Month. There were also suggestions for QR code-enabled scavenger hunts.

Day Camps and Overnight Stays

"Moms also wanted day camps for children and youth"

Some youth shared that they would like to see opportunities for overnight stays at the island and camping, as well as day camps during the summer.

Expand Connectivity on the Islands

It was suggested that the ferry could be connected to the TTC system. Some supported the idea of a transportation system on the Island, however some youth expressed concerns about the impact that would have on the environment and suggested that transportation on the Island should be only for those who need it. Youth also suggested that there could be bike lanes installed. At a few pop ups, Ambassadors also heard that finding parking and parking costs were a deterrent for visiting the Island. At another pop up, youth suggested more pedestrian bridges connecting different parts of the Island.

Year-Round Activities

"A cooling centre and swimming pool. It is really hot lately. Shelters are good but cooling centres and pools for youth..."

In some of the pop-ups, Ambassadors heard that they would like to see winter activities, ice skating, warming stations and hot chocolate as well as winter light installations. There was also excitement towards night sky viewing both in winter and summer. Cooling centres and pools were also recommended.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Financial Accessibility

"As of right now, the costs to get around the Islands and have fun (renting equipment, amusement park tickets, etc.) make the trip expensive"

Some youth shared that visiting the Island, and visiting it regularly, was not financially accessible. It was suggested that there could be ferry discounts for youth and that there could be days where attractions at the Island were cheaper. Youth also shared that they would like to see less expensive rental equipment like kayaks and paddle boards.

Safety

Some youth shared that they didn't feel safe at the Island and mentioned that they had heard about a homophobic assault. Some youth were concerned about being stranded at the Island, unable to get on a ferry back to the city. At one pop up, youth suggested that there could be increased police presence as well as life guards and first respondents, while at another pop up youth suggested that they would like to see no police presence.

Diverse Food Options

Some youth mentioned that they had cultural dietary considerations and restrictions and commented on the lack of food options at the Island, particularly Halal, vegan and vegetarian options.

Partnerships and School Trips

Some youth shared that it was difficult for their parents to take them to the Island and even more challenging for them to get there on their own. It was noted that for some youth living outside of the downtown core, it can take up to 1.5 hours to get to the Island using public transit. There were many suggestions to expand opportunities for school field trips and to create partnerships with after school programs, community centres, youth centres and libraries.

Accessible Infrastructure

In general, youth commented that they wished the Island was accessible for people with disabilities. It was suggested that pathways needed more benches and places to rest, as well as shelters distributed across the Island.

Prayer Space

Some youth mentioned that they needed to pray at specific times and that a prayer space would make the Island more accessible to them.

4. Conclusion

The feedback collected through this process will be incorporated into the overall feedback that we've heard to date. This collective data will influence the development of the preliminary Master Plan concept plans that will be presented to the broader public for feedback.

Beyond the valuable and nuanced information gathered, the Youth Ambassador program helped the project team develop relationships with young people who will continue to be invited to participate in the remainder of the project. It is the project's intention to centre youth voices when planning the future of Toronto Island Park.

Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Mississaugas of the Credit Placekeeping Dialogue #2 November 19, 2021

Overview

On Friday, November 19, 2021, the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry, and Recreation Division hosted a Placekeeping Dialogue with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation for the Toronto Islands Park Master Plan. The meeting included participants from the MCFN Culture and Events Staff as well as Michi Saagiig Elders and knowledge holders.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide a visual overview of the park, present the placekeeping ideas within the context of the existing park spaces and seek input and feedback on these ideas. The meeting was held in lieu of an in-person park visit that was discussed during the last meeting with the Elders and knowledge holders. That visit is being postponed, tentatively to the Spring of 2022, due to ongoing concerns with the Covid-19 pandemic.

A draft of this record was shared with participants before it was finalized.

Key Points

- The Elders and knowledge holders are supportive of the various design ideas shared, including the 13 Moons narrative trail. They expressed no direct concerns over the concepts and sketches. There is concern over public safety associated with open water and pools. It is unlikely that a large pow-wow would be feasible on the Islands due to the need for parking, logistics and camping for singers, dancers and key participants.

- Elders and knowledge holders expressed concern over permanent infrastructure and structures such as new bridges and water and electrical servicing. These need to take into account increased visitors, capacity and their impacts to the environment.
- The MCFN should continue to be involved and engaged on the continued development of the Master Plan including the selection of public art, the cultural elements included in the design, and in the business opportunities arising in the park.
- There is ongoing concern that these park enhancements may lead to increased visitors and unsustainable usage of the Islands that will increase pressures on natural spaces and the water. The Master Plan should endeavor to be net zero/carbon neutral, zero plastic and emphasize environmental stewardship including the idea to reduce, reuse and recycle.
- There are numerous concerns with regard to the protection of water. This includes understanding water quality and its impact on planting and harvesting wild rice, concern over flooding, flood protection and mitigation, and general concern over parallel infrastructure projects such wastewater management and deep water cooling. The Toronto Regional Conservation Authority (TRCA), the City and other proponents will need to engage the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Elders and knowledge holders on these projects.
- Elders and knowledge holders are supportive of dedicated, private ceremonial space and are curious as to how it will be managed and how it will ensure privacy.
- The market space should prioritize Indigenous vendors, and offer free vendor space to MCFN citizens. The Toronto Islands should also include Indigenous food vendors and Indigenous food offerings.
- The Elders and knowledge holders honoured The Late David Smiley, a founding member of the MCFN Toronto Island Friendship Group.

Participants

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

- Daniel Secord
- Peter Shuler
- Valarie King
- Caitlin LaForme, Culture and Events Coordinator
- Jai King-Green, Special Events and Cultural Events Coordinator Assistant

City of Toronto Staff

- Lori Ellis, Project Manager, Parks, Forestry & Recreation
- Daniel Fusca, Manager of Public Consultation, Parks, Forestry & Recreation
- Pablo Munoz, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, Parks, Forestry & Recreation
- Jennifer Franks, Indigenous Placemaking Consultant, Indigenous Affairs Office
- David O'Hara, Project Manager, Parks, Forestry & Recreation
- Warren Hoselton, Parks Supervisor, Parks Forestry & Recreation

Consultants

- Bob Goulais, Nbsiing Consulting Inc.
- Ian Malczewski, Swerhun Inc.
- Terence Radford, Trophic Design
- Victoria Bell, Landscape Architect, DTAH

Record of Discussion

The meeting began with an opening invocation and thanksgiving by Elder Peter Shuler. Following the opening ceremony, each participant introduced themselves to the circle.

Lori Ellis provided a land acknowledgement speaking to how her family came to be on Michi Saagiig territory. The City has learned that the Toronto Islands is a place with deep meaning to the Indigenous community as a meeting place, a place for healing, and a place for ceremony and celebration. Through the Toronto Islands Master Plan process, they are looking to build trust and new relationships towards exploring meaningful opportunities for place keeping and reconciliation.

Bob Goulais asked the participants their consent to recording the session and providing it to those Elders, knowledge holders, Councillors and staff who were unable to join the meeting. After a short discussion, the participants consented to recording the meeting for sharing with those who were invited to the meeting.

Bob stated that one of the reasons this group was brought together was to conduct a walk of the Toronto Islands and see, first hand, the spaces that are being proposed for Indigenous placekeeping. However, given the pandemic restrictions, the Master Plan team prepared a virtual tour of the Island and will talk about what they've heard so far, and present some of the work they are doing.

Terence Radford introduced the presentation outlining that he has a short video to be shared, after which he will present their initial ideas on placekeeping. He outlined what they heard with respect to vision which included honoring the land, water and non-living things. Indigenous knowledge and values needs to be considered. They need to consider the Islands as a dynamic place that is ever changing. He stated the importance of the Islands as a place of water, the importance of naming and incorporating Indigenous languages, the need for a place to express culture and create an arrival experience. Further, he expressed that they need to separate spaces for public activities from private ceremonial spaces. Finally, he expressed the need to preserve and protect the ecological integrity of the Islands through balance.

Terence introduced the short video tour that will take participants through the key places and spaces we are considering.

Bob reminded the participants that this process is a Master Plan process, and not detailed design. The concepts that you will see are for master planning purposes only. Any further design details, for example on the 13 Moons narrative trail, will be discussed in future and separate processes.

NOTE: The video is available to participants at: <https://we.tl/t-vH3Dn2jjyu>

The video outlined the following:

- A proposed 13 Moons narrative trail along Lakeshore Avenue;
- New, ceremonial and gathering spaces on Snake Island;
- Big Spirit Moon Plaza, a destination space near the Avenue of the Islands;
- A proposed Sunset Pavilion at Gibraltar Point;
- A teaching and learning boardwalk along Trout Pond;
- A potential cultural market space at Centre Island; and
- A Cultural Events space at Olympic Island.

Terence stated that the Master Plan team have not committed to any of these ideas and they welcome any and all feedback the participants may have. The Master Plan is only the first step and is meant to provide general ideas on placekeeping opportunities such as locations, size and considerations for future design. As the City looks into implementation, they will continue to work closely with this group to revise, refine and develop these ideas with refined details.

The team has heard about the importance of language and opportunities for teaching and learning across the Islands. This includes the opportunity for complimentary naming for the whole of the Toronto Islands, such as renaming the Islands “Mnisiing”. Other naming

opportunities could include Trout Pond, Lakeshore Avenue, Gibraltar Point, the Centre Island ferry dock, Olympic Island, the Avenue of the Islands, and Snake Island.

Terence outlined a concept for an interpretive trail within the Master Plan. This concept included a 13 Moons narrative trail along Lakeshore and Cibola Avenues where there would be thirteen places and rest areas in which the Grandmother Moon teachings could be placed. Seven rest areas were identified along the narrative trail for the months of February, April, May, June, July, August and October. There would also be larger gathering and teaching spaces including the months of January, March, September, November, and the floating moon which happens in August or July. These would be larger in scale than the rest area spaces. All areas along the trail would include rest/seating areas, water stations, interpretive signage, wayfinding and plantings designed to reflect the specific moons.

He spoke of the ceremonial space at Snake Island that may include a space for building of permanent or temporary teaching lodges, a sweat lodge area, an outdoor gathering space providing privacy for ceremonies and gatherings with a single access point, and a new bridge to Snake Island to improve accessibility. The area may need to include access to water and for overnight accommodations, including access to facilities such as washrooms and drinking water. A new paved pathway could be added to provide an accessible route to this area with consideration for an accessible connection down to the water at one of the beaches.

Terence spoke of a potential cultural market space at Centre Island. This would include a mix of interior covered and exterior vendor spaces, access to services such as electricity, water and sewer and interpretive signage. Given this is a high-traffic area, it would also include wayfinding elements and public artwork.

Terence also outlined the idea for a teaching and learning boardwalk along Trout Pond with enhanced planting and restoration activities, including potential wildlife patches as well as additional habitat structures. At Gibraltar Point, he shared the concept of a sunset pavilion that could be used for teaching. That may include a winterized structure for all-season use. There is immense potential for food and beverage service with the option to reserve the space for ceremony or other events.

Terence shared the idea and concept for the Big Spirit Moon Plaza proposed along the Avenue of the Islands. In this concept, this plaza is designed as a winter destination space, providing space for up to 100 people with sheltered seating, warming stations and a large fire pit. In the winter it could be used for skating. In the summer, it would include the option for teaching gardens. The area could also include public art and interpretive signage.

Finally, he spoke of a larger, public outdoor gathering space at Olympic Island. This space could accommodate a variety of more public facing events and gatherings such as pow-wows.

Daniel Secord asked about the building of bridges to Olympic Island and Snake Island. Bridges are obviously going to be permanent. They should help with providing access for all ages and all abilities. But he wondered how they are going to manage the continuous flow of people to ceremonial spaces. There are environmental impacts with increased number of people and building these structures.

Bob shared that the idea for ceremonial space was a “big move” shared by this and other Indigenous groups. However, they have not discussed the kind of ceremonies that would take place there. There will be a need to manage this. He reiterated a previous concern with regard to increasing number of people on the Toronto Islands and its sustainability. That is a broader consideration for the Toronto Islands plan. Some people have raised concerns about the overuse of the Islands.

Lori responded stating that there are already bridges existing at these locations. But they are not accessible. DTAH and Trophic are exploring the idea of making access to the spaces more accessible for those with different mobility needs. The goal is not to make it more accessible for a larger group of people. However, they understand that the Islands are a very popular place. They are hoping to address this through the three points of arrival or “Gateways” to the Islands. Through this planning, the hope to alleviate some of the pressures on the Islands. For example, to disperse the crowd and create new points of interest and activity that are spread out around the Islands. They also want to encourage the sense of stewardship for all people who come to the Island and to increase awareness of being more respectful of the environment.

Daniel asked if Snake Island would be exclusively used for ceremony?

Bob responded stating that this would require significant input from the Indigenous community when it comes to how it is used and managed.

Jai raised the concern over the water quality of Lake Ontario. She honestly wouldn't be planting wild rice because of the pollution in that water right now. She also commented that making these ceremonial spaces would emphasize environmental priorities and making the area healthier. She expressed concern over the amount of traffic that goes through the park. She spoke about the cultural spaces including Snake Island and would like to see it be a protected site that is private. They have to be aware of the energy of people coming through those spaces. There's also a potential for vandalism. She would also like to see minimal impacts to the Islands. When you create these new spaces, you're opening them up to more tourism.

Jai spoke about vendor space at the cultural market space. She asked if the vendor space would be free to Indigenous people. She also asked about the management and stewardship of these spaces and who would be the main point person for that?

Jai expressed concern that Olympic Island may not be appropriate or adequate to house a potential pow-wow. Also, pow-wows require security, and parking and enhanced access for participants to bring in food, regalia, chairs, etc. Loading these onto the ferry would be challenging.

Jai asked about public art installations and who would be managing that? Over the past while, the Mississaugas were not consulted on these. As the treaty rights-holders, discussions relating to public art should involve them.

She also expressed public safety concern for some outdoor activities including having children around the pools and fountains.

Bob spoke to the cultural market space question and said that the Master Plan business team is speaking directly with the Mississaugas of the Credit Economic Development Corporation about opportunities. The question about public art is a conversation that is taking place across the City including further involvement of Indigenous people in those conversations.

Bob stated that he has captured Jai's comments with respect to pow-wows and the feasibility of having a pow-wow on the Toronto Islands. That may not be suitable. Also, pow-wow participants require camping space.

Lori said that through the Master Plan they are trying to get a sense of which ideas make sense to implement. Details such as who manages public art, or who pays for the market space booths – those are all the sort of details that the City has to work through.

David O'Hara shared that the Master Plan team will be working with MCFN and others to develop management strategies but the team does not necessarily have the answers or the framework yet. He spoke of the importance of Snake Island and how it is already being used for ceremony. The Olympic Island event space already has servicing. The Master Plan will need to develop a new type of "circuit" including how people arrive and how they manage traffic flow for events. The parking, movement and logistics that Jai speaks of is a bigger challenge. They will not be promoting any more vehicles on the Islands.

Someone in the chat asked if there are environmental impact studies being conducted?

Lori responded stating that there is an Environmental Assessment being done in regards to flood mitigation and erosion control. That's a parallel project that is being led by Toronto

Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). Bob stated that the City is encouraging TRCA to work with the Mississauga of the Credit and the knowledge keepers.

Dan Secord asked if there will be any new or additional infrastructure added to the Islands, such as a wastewater treatment or water intake?

Bob stated that there may be additional servicing, perhaps in the ceremonial area, and other events spaces to support Indigenous events.

Lori stated that there is already robust servicing (including sanitary and storm) across the Islands but the City does need to consider the state of repair of these assets. Toronto Water already has a water treatment plant near Gibraltar Point and the Parks yard. They may be looking to expand that facility with a goal of being net zero and including solar. Enbridge is also completing some work related to upgrades for deep water cooling. They are twinning some existing infrastructure through the inner harbour to support cooling in the downtown core. After they have completed the improvements they will complete restoration work, so the impacts will be minimized and relatively invisible. The Master Plan team is keeping abreast of these continued works.

This is a big concern for Daniel when they are building a wastewater outlet and clean water intake and this all supports another 30,000 people in the downtown. He expressed concern over continued density in Toronto and along the waterfront. He has a lot of concerns with respect to wastewater management and he would like to provide more input. First Nations will have concerns over this and they are not given a lot of information. He said the Master Plan has to be kind of realistic to what else is happening.

The City committed to sharing Daniel's concerns with Toronto Water and others that are leading these parallel projects. Bob offered thanks to Daniel for sharing his perspective.

Peter shared his concern about sightseers standing around the ceremonial area or watching a sweat lodge ceremony. They will need to manage the traffic and consider where a gate can be closed to limit people coming in. He also asked about how the City is managing water levels in these areas? That is something that I think we should keep in mind in whatever is being designed. He gave the example of flooding in British Columbia and said that people are paying the price for disrespect to the earth.

Bob validated his concern over climate change and severe weather. It is expected that the Master Plan and the TRCA's flood management plan will help inform each other.

Lori shared that the TRCA environmental assessment work began as a result of the high lake levels in 2017. The Islands are almost a floodable landscape. They have to go into the Master

Plan with their eyes wide open. She expressed that people are not the masters of the landscape and only have the privilege of using these spaces. They need to be mindful and thoughtful about that ebb and flow of the environment and the water is going to come up and down. They need to design in a way that allows for that.

Val offered thanks to the team for their work. She spoke to the people who lived on the Islands and called them stewards and they know their lands very well. She said she would like to ensure that they have their viewpoints heard and included in the plan.

Bob spoke to a dedicated process for public engagement which includes the residents of the Toronto Islands and the “Friendship Group”. They are also part of the Community Resource Group that the team is meeting with on a regular basis.

Valarie suggested that they are all stewards of the land. She asked “why can’t we have zero plastic?” referencing the garbage there. Val was having connection challenges. Bob said he would capture Val’s comments about reducing the environmental footprint.

Val also spoke about the importance of their own responsibilities include to reduce, reuse and recycle. She asked if electricity is in the plans, can that be solar? She also offered comments about having ceremonial space dedicated for Indigenous people, having open space for festivals and winter gatherings. She also liked the concepts of the 13 Moons narrative trail and sharing the Grandmother moon teachings along the walkway. Part of those teachings are how we live and how we impact the land. She said that bridges and permanent structures are going to have an impact. She supports the use of bikes, walking and all things done in a natural way. She also expressed support to having Indigenous food vendors as a part of the food offerings on the Islands.

Caitlin shared that Toronto Islands resident David Smiley, who was a big part of the MCFN-Toronto Islands Friendship Group, recently passed away. She wanted to acknowledge him today.

Lori offered some closing remarks by offering thanks and appreciation on behalf of the City of Toronto. She also offered thanks to the Master Plan team. They will take these conversations to heart and will re-evaluating the work that they’ve done and be responsive to the advice received. The Master Plan will be shaped over the next few months into next summer.

The City encouraged the Elders and knowledge holders to share any information or comments to help inform the work. She looks forward to continuing the conversation.

Peter offered closing words to the participants and to the Spirit.



Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Key Messages Summary Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #4 on November 30, 2021

Overview

On Tuesday, November 20, 2021, The City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) Division hosted the fourth Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting for the Toronto Island Park Master Plan. Thirty-two representatives from internal City Departments, PortsToronto, Waterfront Toronto, and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) attended the meeting along with project team members from PFR and their consultant teams: Design Team (DTAH), Business Strategy Team (fsSTRATEGY and Urban Metrics), and Engagement Team (Swerhun Inc). The Participant List is attached as Appendix A.

The purpose of the fourth meeting was to share and discuss two demonstration plan options for the Toronto Island Park Master Plan. The meeting agenda is attached as Appendix B.

PFR opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement, welcomed TAC members, and shared the meeting agenda and objectives. DTAH presented the project overview, highlights from feedback shared to date, outcomes from the Ideas engagement, and how these ideas are reflected in the preliminary demonstration plans.

After the presentation, TAC members joined breakout discussion rooms, each focusing on one of three themes in the preliminary demonstration plans. There were three rotations during the breakout discussion period. In the breakout rooms, a member of the project team presented a summary of the room's theme, and a facilitator took notes and facilitated the room discussion.

Swerhun Inc. third-party facilitation firm retained by the City to help support community engagement for this project, along with staff from PFR's Public Consultation team, prepared this Key Messages Summary. The intent of this summary is to provide a high-level overview of themes in TAC members' advice and feedback.

This summary was reviewed by participants before being finalized. During the review of the draft summary, a participant suggested some additional points not shared in the meeting – these points are included as “Additional feedback shared after the meeting” in this summary.

Summary of breakout room feedback

The following section summarizes the feedback shared by TAC members according to the themes in the preliminary demonstration plans:

- Breakout Theme 1: Linking the Island, waterfront + beyond (Access)
- Breakout Theme 2: Celebrating what makes the Island special (Program)
- Breakout Theme 3: Investing in what already works (Natural heritage)

Breakout Theme 1: Linking the Island, waterfront, and beyond (Access)

1. Feedback about water access routes

Passenger ferry routes

Participants liked the proposed improvements to connectivity between the islands and the mainland through new ferry routes and service (including year-round service to Centre Island). They especially liked the proposed stronger connections to Bathurst Quay (and its connected park system) and the Portlands, saying these ideas help reinforce the Core Circle from the TOcore Parks & Public Realm Plan.

A few said an “equity of access” lens was missing, saying it can be cost prohibitive to visit Toronto Island Park. They suggested integration with PRESTO and/or offering discounted fares as ways to bring this equity of access lens to the Master Plan.

Service ferry routes

Many participants liked the proposed relocation of servicing ferries from the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal to the Portlands. They said this change would help with pedestrian and cycling safety

and reduce conflict on Queens Quay (since vehicles accessing the vehicular ferry from the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal for service deliveries, currently have to cross over the Queens Quay multi-use path). This could also relieve pressure from the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal and offer more efficient access for those using servicing ferries.

Water nodes and recreational water routes

Participants liked the proposed “light touch” water nodes, saying they opened up new access points, created opportunities to connect people to great areas, and had the potential to tie into an Island-wide story (through the broader park wayfinding strategy). Encouraging people to use recreational water routes may also result in people getting stuck in more remote locations. It will be important to consider including emergency wayfinding signage and make sure the Toronto Police Service marine unit and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are aware of the proposed changes to advise on the best approach for safety.

2. Feedback about on-island access routes

Pathways

Participants generally liked the proposed network of new primary and secondary pathways, including the proposed Indigenous placekeeping ideas; with some who expressed caution about new pathways within Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs). They shared the following concerns about the new pathways and offered suggestions to address those concerns:

- **Combining pedestrians and cyclists.** In other parks, like Tommy Thompson, the attempt to separate pedestrian and cyclist paths has resulted in cyclists going fast on the main road, making pedestrians feel unsafe. To address this challenge on Toronto Island Park, consider adding speed bumps and/or clearly labelling (or keeping separate) space for different users.
- **Increasing access to ESAs.** Increasing foot traffic in ESAs (from the proposed new secondary pathways), might lead to their deterioration. Any new pathways into these areas would need to be done very carefully potentially by: limiting access to these secondary paths to certain seasons (to avoid disturbing wildlife during nesting periods); prohibiting dogs from these pathways, and; tying the development of new pathways to management criteria and triggers (for example, a new boardwalk might only need to get built if an ESA crosses a certain management trigger or threshold).

Additional feedback shared after the meeting: significant investment will be required for elevated boardwalks that incorporate rest spots, turnarounds, and ramps to achieve an accessible grade and this should be factored into planning.

- **Proximity to Billy Bishop Airport.** The Master Plan team should make sure any new pathways follow required security offsets from Billy Bishop Airport.

Tram routes

Participants liked the proposed new accessible shuttle route, saying it would provide more flexible access to more of the Island. They said that today, the tram operates as a paid (and costly) “ride,” serving less of a people moving role. The team needs to think through all the aspects of changing the tram’s role if pursuing this idea further.

3. Other suggestions

Participants shared other feedback, including feedback about:

- **Confusion about the two options.** It’s not clear what the key differences are and why it’s necessary to discuss two options. If the only difference is between the two is intensity and cost, it may be easier to just focus on Option 2.
- **Wayfinding and the arrival experience.** The ideas shared lend themselves to a coordinated wayfinding approach that also supports environmental education and reconciliation. There is an opportunity to also include public art as a kind of passive wayfinding (such as through markers across the island, at rest stops, and elsewhere). Using wayfinding and public art, there is an opportunity to make the arrival experience really welcoming and user friendly (including using different languages), making people want to come back.
- **Coordination with TRCA’s Environmental Assessment (EA).** A few liked that the “protect and restore program areas” align with what the TRCA is thinking in its EA. It will be important to ensure that other ideas, like on-island water nodes and multi-use trails, are coordinated (especially since the EA will result in elevating 3.5 km of road)
- **Opportunities for public art.** Some were excited by the opportunity the Master Plan presents to create a holistic public art experience at entry points and across the island. There could be opportunities to embed art through the different linkages, such as through culturally significant watercrafts (in addition to the ferries).

Additional feedback shared after the meeting: consider not putting public art in ESAs where it might result in drawing people into sensitive areas and have unintended impacts.

- **Other details, including suggestions to:** add more emphasis on gathering spots and places to look back at the city; consider whether now is the time to revisit membership-only lands in a growing city (such as the land leased to private yacht clubs); ensure there is reliable cell phone service; be ready to share how the team has considered or is considering whether there should be a pedestrian bridge.

Breakout Theme 2: Celebrating what makes the Island special (Program)

1. Environment and Ecosystems

Environmental Impact Concerns

Several participants expressed great concern with providing public access to Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) and Provincially Significant Wetlands. Impacts on the ecosystems, bird habitat, and flora were among the top concerns.

A few participants expressed concerns with bridges and pathways going into ESAs and suggested that some ESAs should remain inaccessible as protected natural areas and wildlife refuge. It was also suggested that any additional trails considered for ESAs could focus on consolidating desire lines and not creating new pathways.

Naturalization of Airport Interface

One participant supported the proposed naturalization near and inside the airport fence, however, they also said strong consideration is needed to ensure the airport security fence line was properly maintained and respected and that vegetation near the airport (existing or proposed) is needed to avoid promoting activity (including wildlife) which may impact airport operations.

Olympic Island and Flooding

Some participants raised questions over the activation of Olympic Island and encouraged the project team to consider flooding. The project team replied that the design of this space will need to consider that this area traditionally floods.

2. Programming

Food Options

Participants agreed that better food options should be available at the Island and provided the following additional considerations:

- **Leverage a culture of sharing food throughout the park.** One participant suggested creating picnic markets where visitors can create their own well-priced picnics or pickup pre-made baskets that can be enjoyed in areas away from current food locations. Participants said public tables should be provided in all food areas to allow visitors to bring their own food and eat with others who are purchasing from food vendors.
- **Showcase Toronto's diversity through food.** Participants noted that future food offerings should encourage variety and not be limited to corporate vendors and food chains. Some also suggested to include Indigenous food options as well as vendors that were reflective of Toronto's diversity and communities.
- **Create destination dining that is equitable and accessible.** Some participants identified concerns over equitable access to food on the Island and did not support the idea of fine dining as a destination for the park. The design team noted that creating destination dining does not limit the offering to only fine dining and more reflects the need to create opportunities for food to be an attraction for coming to the island.

Winter Activation

Participants welcomed the suggestion of activating the Island in the winter. It was suggested that a winter study should be done to better understand how the Island is used. Participants also suggested incorporating the City's art strategy to activate the Island in winter months.

Camping

Participants liked the idea of camping at the Island but had concerns over how to make the booking equitable since space was limited. The project team shared that they were exploring things like yurts that could stay on the Island which would cut the need for equipment, and that they were also exploring partnerships with different program providers and organizations working with communities that experience barriers to accessing the outdoors.

3. Spatial Considerations

Public vs. Leased Areas

Some participants noted that the limits of the privately leased areas were not clear and that future considerations should be made to better integrate any leased areas with the park.

Water treatment plant

Some participants raised concerns with increasing access to the areas surrounding the water treatment plant. Parks staff noted that there is a lot of seasonal equipment like row boats and lifeguard equipment that is stored around the yard.

Mainland

Some participants suggested that the mainland could be better activated, including viewpoints, seating areas, and gathering areas. One participant suggested a pavilion or café on the city side to be able to look out to the Island. The project team said the majority of the mainland is outside the scope of the project.

4. Access and Transportation

Participants suggested that information on where to go should be made available to the public at the Jack Layton ferry terminal. They said the public doesn't really know what the Island has to offer or where to go and it usually results in some areas of the Island being overcrowded and others under used. The project team said part of the goal of the business plan, and master plan, was to make the Island a more fluid experience and facilitate movement.

5. Heritage

One participant raised concerns with the advancement of the plan without having a proper heritage review. The project team said a heritage assessment will happen later in the process.

Breakout Theme 3: Investing in what already works (Natural heritage)

1. Feedback on Proposed Natural Heritage Integration

Proposed Pathways in Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs)

Participants shared a range of feedback about potentially expanding pathways and access into ESAs. Participants generally preferred minimal impacts to existing natural spaces across the Island. A few said expanding pathways could be a good idea because there are many hidden gems around the island and this idea could bring people closer to nature and support educational opportunities (if done carefully).

Most participants shared concerns about expanding access and consistently said there must be careful management of new pathways because new opportunities into sensitive areas will result in greater impacts to natural areas since people will not stay on the paths, and it will be very tough to manage the increased foot traffic in ESAs. They said if access is going to be provided,

it should be limited and should only be considered during non-breeding periods to protect wildlife. Some suggested a Management Strategy will be key and needs to be inclusive of Indigenous Stewardship.

Some participants also suggested that the team be clear in the Master Plan about the rationale and “triggers” for expanding pathways into ESAs and said there must be a strong rationale or sensitivity analysis for adding new trails in natural areas, such as using trail counters to show where there is demand.

Other concerns and suggestions participants shared about expanding access into ESAs include:

- Acknowledge that enforcing people to stay on trails will be difficult. If expanding paths, the team should consider having active surveillance, raised boardwalks, and limit to areas that are less sensitive.
- Identify a range of management tools to control access in ESAs and to re-enforce new behaviour. Simply putting up fencing is not effective, people will ignore fencing, which is happening today at Hanlan’s Beach and the Scarborough Bluffs.
- Only consider expanding paths where appropriate and necessary. This may include designating some areas for no additional paths/access at all.
- For areas that allow access within ESAs, consider limiting access during breeding seasons to protect wildlife and supporting habitat areas.
- Consider other resources such as the Ravine Strategy, and what the City has done in at High Park and the Leslieville Spit to promote education and messaging as well as how best to manage access and protect sensitive areas. These resources and precedents have set the stage.
- *Additional feedback shared after the meeting:* if there are any new activation hubs adjacent to ESAs, ensure that potential impacts are considered, and that protection of adjacent ESAs is integrated into any design.

Education and Natural Heritage Interpretation

Participants generally liked expanding natural heritage educational opportunities and restoration efforts on the Island. They said there are good opportunities to engage youth about the environment and the team should partner with schools to bring kids to the Island. They also said educational and stewardship opportunities should involve Indigenous partners and include Indigenous culture as pathways to support reconciliation. There was also a suggestion to

specifically engage with Torontonians who may not know about the Island or face barriers accessing the Island in educational and stewardship opportunities.

Emergency services

A few participants said plans to expand access into ESAs and internal waterways must also consider the response time of emergency services. These participants said if someone is hurt on the Island, they have to get themselves back to the ferry since it is challenging to get emergency services to many different remote areas of the Island. If access to the internal waterways is expanded, the team needs to consider safety and access and engage with EMS including the Marine Police Unit. Ports Toronto and Transport Canada should also be consulted as part of the plan since they have governance over these areas and can support - with monitoring and enforcement of By-laws. A participant also shared that the highest response time target is nine minutes.

Limiting motorized boat access

There were also suggestions to restrict motorized boat access in internal waterways to improve safety and to extend the buoys in the area to limit boat access at Hanlan's to expand the safe swimming area. A participant said there is only 1 lifeguard stand for the clothing optional beach and more should be added to improve safety.

Four seasons use and expanded maintenance

A couple participants said seasonal operations and maintenance must also consider which pathways will be maintained during the winter to provide safe access to four season programs and accommodate necessary EMS access as well.

2. Existing Natural Heritage + Restoration Projects

One participant suggested the team provide clarity on the location and extents of the "Protect + Restore Areas" to help educate people about these projects and why they are important. The maps should also provide clarity about what areas are part of the ESAs and Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs), and which are not - as this is currently unclear, for example the location of Gibraltar Point Dune Restoration is mislabelled and should be on the west side of the Point.

3. Other suggestions

Participants shared other feedback, including feedback about:

- **Access and Connectivity to the broader area.** The Island is part of the Downtown Parks and Public Realm Plan, and the Master Plan should consider how the Island integrates to the broader system of nearby parks and open spaces like Don River and Garrison Commons. Including a reference would be good so staff can connect it to other City initiatives and future programming networks in other parks.
- **Private clubs on the Island.** The team should look into the status of their leases and work to bring this space back to the public; they are currently seen as public space for private use and we should work to improve access.
- **Ownership of other water and dock infrastructure.** The Master Plan process is a good opportunity to also think about the condition and investment of the dock walls on the Island, as well as the distribution and placement of buoys within the water to control and manage uses around the Island.
- **Consult with the TRCA on appropriate locations for fishing nodes.**

Appendix A: Participant List

Technical Advisory Committee Participants:

City of Toronto

Adey Worku, Community
Development Officer

Alex Way, PFR

Andrea Chow, PFR

Andrew Farncombe, City
Planning

Anne Fisher, Heritage
Planning

Bryan Bowen, City Planning
Waterfront Secretariat

Cathy Hargreaves, Permits

Daniel Gagliotti, Park
Development and Capital
Projects

Emilio Borges, Park
Development and Capital
Projects

Eric Beales, Heritage
Planning

James Dann, Waterfront
Parks

Jane Weninger, City
Planning

Janette Harvey, PFR, Urban
Forestry

Jeanne Holmes, Economic
Development

Johnson Ngo, Public Art
Officer

Kaylyn Crawford, PFR,
Urban Forestry

Kristina Reinders,
Community Planning /
Strategic Projects

Liz McFarland, City
Planning

Peter You, Paramedic
Planning and Emergency
Management

Raymond Vendrig, PFR,
Urban Forestry

Sidney Chu, Paramedic
Planning and Emergency
Management

Stefany Hanson,
Accessibility / Community
Development

Warren Hoselton, PFR,
Parks Supervisor

Ports Toronto

Christopher Sawicki

Gene Cabral

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Jet Taylor

Karen McDonald

Rebecca Salvatore

Valerie Francella

Waterfront Toronto

Chris Glaisek

Netami Stuart

Pina Mallozzi

Toronto Island Project Team and Consultants:

Master Plan

David O'Hara, Program Manager Strategic Projects, City of Toronto

Lori Ellis, Project Officer Strategic Projects, City of Toronto

Victoria Bell, DTAH

Business Team

Alex Deighan, Policy Development Officer, City of Toronto

Jeff Dover, fsSTRATEGY

Rowan Faludi, Urban Metrics

Engagement Team

Daniel Fusca, Manager, Public Engagement, City of Toronto

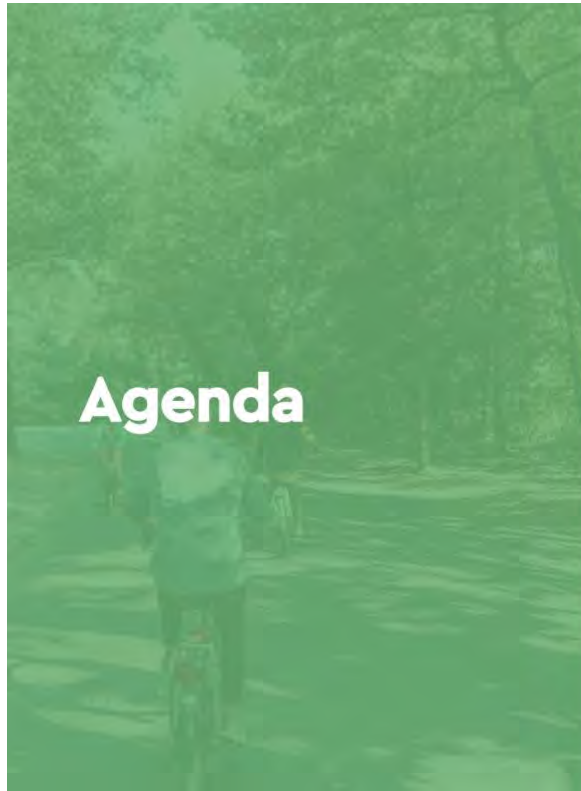
Pablo Muñoz, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, City of Toronto






Alex Lavasidis, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, City of Toronto

Ian Malczewski, Swerhun Inc.

Jacky Li, Swerhun Inc.

Appendix B: Meeting Agenda



-  **Welcome / Land Acknowledgement**
 - Introductions
 - Teaching Moment
-  **Project Overview**
 - Project Structure & Status
 - What We Have Heard
-  **Phase 2: Ideas Outcomes**
 - Ideas Engagements
-  **Phase 2: Demonstration Plans Discussion**
 - Linking the Island, Waterfront & Beyond
 - Celebrating What Makes the Island Special
 - Investing in What Already Works
-  **Report Back / De-Brief**
- Wrap-up & Next Steps**
- Adjourn**



Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Meeting Summary

Community Advisory Committee

Meeting #3 on February 16th, 2022

Overview

On Wednesday, February 16, 2022, the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division (PFR) hosted the third Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting for the Toronto Island Park Master Plan. Representatives from approximately 20 on-island and community organizations, waterfront organizations, city-wide organizations attended and participated. The project team members present included representatives from the City of Toronto's PFR Division, representatives from the design team (DTAH, Trophic Design, Common Bond Collective, and North-South Environmental), business strategy team (FS Strategy), and engagement team (Third Party Public [formerly Swerhun Inc.] and Nbisiing Consulting). Councillor Joe Cressy's office was also in attendance. See Appendix A - Participant List for a more detailed list of all participants.

The purpose of the third CAC meeting was to share and discuss the Preliminary Toronto Island Park Demonstration Plan, including the proposed ideas and actions for each of the plan's lenses. The meeting agenda is attached as Appendix B.

The City opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement from Lori Ellis, Project Officer Strategic Projects – Parks Development & Capital Projects. Following the land acknowledgment, Ian Malczewski (Third Party Public) acknowledged the passing of CAC member David Smiley (representative of the Toronto Island / Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Friendship Group), who had participated enthusiastically in the Master Plan process and many other conversations about Toronto Island. Afterwards, Bob Goulais from Nbisiiing shared an Indigenous teaching moment focusing on the 13 Grandmother Moon Teachings.

Victoria Bell from DTAH presented an overall update on the Master Plan, review of feedback heard to date, and overview of the Draft Demonstration Plan, including the five lenses the Master Plan team had organized its ideas. Following the presentation, Third Party Public facilitated questions and discussion in three virtual breakout rooms, where project team members summarized and sought feedback on ideas for the each of the following lenses:

- Improving Access and Connections
- Enhancing Visitor Experience
- Supporting a Dynamic Environment.

The meeting format included three concurrent, rotating discussions that gave CAC members an opportunity to learn about and discuss all three lenses.

This summary was written by Jacky Li of Third Party Public, the independent facilitation team retained by the City to help support community engagement for the Toronto Island Park Master Plan. It is not intended to be a verbatim transcript; rather, it summarizes key points of discussion from the meeting. A draft of this summary was reviewed by participants before it was finalized.

Key themes in the feedback

These points reflect key themes that emerged throughout all the discussions. They are intended to be read along with the more detailed feedback that follows.

General support for many of the ideas. In particular, a few CAC members said the ideas to reveal an Indigenous place and elevate equity and belonging are particularly exciting. Some suggested the project team be clearer on how the ideas and actions support the broader vision of conserving and protecting nature at the Island.

Concern that the ideas are too heavy-handed and risk dramatically changing the park. Some were very concerned by the number of ideas being included in the plan, saying there are too many human-centric interventions that risk “turning the park into Disneyland.” They said they would prefer minimal programming, less human-centric infrastructure, a strong emphasis on protecting nature (over accommodating growth), and a light touch to the park overall.

Suggestions to identify priorities to focus the ideas and discussion. A few people said that the organization of the Ideas into five lenses may be contributing to the feeling that the Ideas being presented were separated and did not appear to relate to one another; and perhaps the Master Plan is proposing too much. They suggested the team consider identifying priority ideas and showing how these how ideas intersect with multiple lenses and themes (rather than discussing the same idea multiple times across different lenses). Another option could be to organize the ideas into near-term and longer-term ideas.

Detailed summary feedback

The following summarizes questions, suggestions, and comments shared by participants throughout the meeting. Responses by the project team are included in *italics*, where provided.

The meeting was organized around discussing the Ideas relating to each of the Master Plan lenses; Improving Access and Connections; Enhancing Visitor Experience; and Supporting a Dynamic Environment; and other feedback and questions.

Feedback about Improving Access and Connections

Ideas participants liked

Generally, participants liked the ideas to improve access and connections. Among the ideas participants liked were:

- **Non-motorized zone in Long Pond.** Some CAC members found this idea interesting but said the Master Plan team should look at how this change would impact on marine congestion. Some boat clubs use Long Pond as “pressure relief valve” when the Hanlan’s dock wall is congested, so removing this area as an option for them could have unintended consequences of further congesting other areas.
- **Pathways and connections.** Many said the proposed internal pathways and connections are great ideas, including the water-based connections and nodes. Participants shared suggestions about pathways and connections, including advice to:
 - think carefully about the accessibility of pathways in winter, since winter use of paths is closely connected to how well-maintained paths are.
 - consider designating these pathways as groomed trails in the winter to support cross-country skiing or snowshoeing (saying these are lower impact uses that don’t require costly and environmentally damaging operations like salting and plowing).
 - identify timed “loops,” like Provincial parks, so that visitors could plan an experience based on time and interest.
 - provide regular rest areas along these pathways so people of all ages can enjoy them.

A few participants were concerned that adding pathways could result in too many hard surfaces on the Island and said they would prefer to see the City direct people to explore the park’s vast open areas. *The project team said that many of the proposed pathways build on existing paths and are not new. These proposed pathways are intended to ensure and improve accessibility to all park users. Formalizing pathways can also better protect areas that currently have ad-hoc trails and are experience trampling.*

- **The idea of an accessible tram service.** It was suggested that this service would be especially useful to Artscape, helping it become more of a cultural institution and supporting visitors participating in its programming. Some were interested in learning more about the tram, including its routes, frequency, and number of stops. *The project team said that it’s too early for that level of detail, but that it will share that detail if the idea advances.*
- **Other ideas shared and appreciated;** expanding the non-motorized area near the beach swim zone, separation of vehicular traffic via the proposed service ferry, and the proposed new bridges (which could be an opportunity to do something creative, not just utilitarian)

Ideas participants were concerned about

Participants were concerned about some of the ideas, including:

- **Combining cyclists and pedestrians on a multi-use trail.** A few said the project team should carefully consider how and when to combine pedestrians and cyclists on the same path. It's especially important to be careful combining different trail users on boardwalks, where broken planks can lead to accidents and injuries.
- **The potential elimination of short-term berthing for private watercrafts.** If the City removes short-term berthing for private vessels, it may be necessary to move this use to another area, like to the south side of Olympic Island, to accommodate people who might require it.

Where participants had mixed opinions

Participants shared a range of opinions about the water shuttle network. Some CAC members said they liked the proposed water shuttle network, saying the additional routes could improve the overall accessibility to the park and help reduce big line-ups at the main ferry terminals. Others shared concerns, including:

- the proposed water shuttle network could result in parts of the harbour becoming busy with motorized uses, making it harder to enjoy the water in a sailboat or canoe.
- the water shuttle network could take business away from the private water taxis.

Several wanted to know more about this idea, including whether the shuttles are intended to replace, supplement, or compete with water taxis, who would operate the vehicles, how frequently they would run, and how big they would be.

Other suggestions

CAC members shared other suggestions about improving and connections, including:

- look at making more of the existing bridges accessible to the existing quadcycles that are available for rent as well as to people with mobility challenges.
- recommend making the park cheaper or free to access – "it doesn't seem right that Toronto residents and park visitors must pay to access a public park."
- make an effort to reduce cars on the Island (including re-thinking whether events that need cars and a lot of equipment are suitable for Toronto Island Park).
- explore some kind of booking system — similar to Provincial parks — to limit the number of people using the park at any given time.
- consider adding a new ferry landing on the south side of the Island, near Gibraltar Point. *The project team responded that it wasn't considering a ferry dock in that location, in part*

because demand in that area is limited and the City's ferries aren't designed for outer harbour water conditions where the lake can become quite rough.

Feedback about Enhancing Visitor Experience

In general, participants were excited about and supportive of the ideas and actions to enhance the visitor experience. Some, however, were concerned that there seems to be too much planned and programmed space, which may leave little space for the natural environment. They said the team should consider explaining how the Enhancing Visitor Experience ideas are compatible with protecting nature (especially migratory birds). They also suggested the team group amenities together to maximize the amount of in-between natural space.

Ideas participants liked

Among the ideas participants liked were:

- **Opportunities for new bike rentals.** Some CAC members shared support for expanding Bike Share onto the Island as well as increasing rental times to encourage exploration by bike.
- **New food areas and options.** Some members suggested that new restaurants could operate out of floating shipping containers that don't take up space on the Island, and the City could survey people about what kinds of food options they prefer; the City should also provide more water fountains instead of selling water bottles at the Island.
- **Sharing information to help plan your visit.** There was a suggestion to use QR codes at ferry landings so people can access a calendar of events and a map of the Island once they arrive to minimize information distributed on paper. It would also be helpful if there was an app where people can access all information related to the Island. *The City said developing an app is out of the scope of this project, but of all future information will be available on the City's website. The Master Plan is also looking to improve the Island's Wayfinding Strategy and the City may also look to supporting this with digital wayfinding – but Wi-Fi would be required and currently not available on the Island.*
- **Improved wayfinding and signage.** New signage should include the nearest washroom, incorporate different languages, and be integrated with public art. Signs could also be colour coded to areas since it may be hard for some people to remember names of places.
- **Opportunities for overnight camping and programming.** This idea was suggested and could include small log cabins or small clusters of tents that could be combined with programming (like sugar shacks in Quebec).
- **Enhancing uses on water.** Some liked the ideas associated with kayaking and canoeing to and around the Island, commenting that this might reduce some of the demand on the

ferries. Enhancing the eastern mooring wall is a good idea, too, but will require a lot of money. They also suggested the Master Plan team should: investigate opportunities for portaging at the Island with pathways to Lake Ontario and work with Transport Canada to provide more space for paddlers in the Inner Harbour.

Other suggestions

CAC members shared other suggestions about enhancing visitor experience, including:

- Explore opportunities to incorporate skating into the Master Plan. The skating experience at the Island is popular and unique in Toronto since it's not in a rink and allows people to explore the Island in different ways.
- Provide more shaded areas at the beaches. People don't want to be out in the sun the entire time, so shaded areas and/or renting umbrellas would be good.
- Consider offering tours (online or in-person and guided or self-guided) to highlight the many different treasures around the Island.
- Consider planning or dividing the uses on the Island by specialized interests, for example, family-oriented activities on Centre Island, nature in a specific area, and sports in another area.
- It would be interesting to hear about how the City thinks about the future of the residential areas and private clubs at the Island and if/how they those areas can be integrated into the park.
- In addition to bonfires and stargazing, support activities like night-time stand-up paddleboarding or night walks (as long as there were still ways for visitors to get back to the mainland after dark).

Feedback about Supporting a Dynamic Environment

In the breakout sessions discussing Supporting a Dynamic Environment, most participants shared a general concern that protection of the natural environment needed to be more central to the Draft Demonstration Plan and clearly made a top priority; the plan was too focussed on uses for people and not protection of the natural environment; and promoting access to the ESA areas will negatively impact the natural environment. Other participants liked ideas about season closures to sensitive natural areas, no-go areas, nature education, and stewardship.

Ideas participants were concerned about

CAC members shared the following points of concern and suggestions:

- **Modify the title to "Supporting a Dynamic Natural Environment" so that the natural environment is a clear priority for the plan.** Some participants suggested that the team should consider saying "natural" environment" instead of "dynamic" because a dynamic environment can apply to the built and natural environment.
- **The plan is too human-centric and should be moved to be more eco-centric approach.** Some participants said the plan was too focussed on uses for people and not protection for habitats, flora, and fauna – particularly birds; natural areas should be left to their natural state instead of opening new connections via land and water; there is a too much talk about "balancing" as opposed to prioritizing environmental protection; and nature cannot accommodate more people and environment should be the most critical lens in the Master Plan.
- **Ensure that the proposed boardwalks do not encroach on and impact sensitive natural environments.** Some participants raised concern about promoting access to Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA) and said there needs to be studies that consider what is being added to the Island and how it will impact the natural areas that are currently there – especially for new trails and boardwalks that go into sensitive natural areas. *The Design Team responded that the Master Plan is not a detailed design yet, but the idea is that boardwalks would provide a different a sensitive way to improve access to the different environments. Any new trails or boardwalks being considered will require detailed study, design, and engagement before they are implemented. The team is also proposing to close parts of some trails at times of the year when natural features are more sensitive, such as when there are ground nesting birds.*
- **Terms like "Island Character" and "Dynamic Environment" need to be better defined** so that the public can understand the balance this plan is trying to achieve. *The Design Team agreed and said it will develop a glossary to better define key terms.*
- **Educational signage should not pollute the natural areas or obstruct views of trees.**
- **Motorboats should be excluded across the Island waterways because they pollute and disturb the environment with gasoline and noise.**

Ideas participants liked

CAC members were generally excited about and supportive of the ideas around:

- **Seasonal closure of some areas on the Island** to accommodate nesting seasons and other seasonal ecological needs and clearly defining and marking "no-go" areas.

- **Promoting education and stewardship (especially Indigenous-led stewardship), naturalization, and efforts to increase visitor awareness of the park's naturalized areas,** such as Muggs Island. Some participants were particularly interested in environmental education and stewardship and provided the following points of feedback and consideration:
 - **Engage with workers on the Island as stewards and champions.** They are knowledgeable about the care of the environment and trained to understand proper maintenance.
 - **The project team should look to conservancy models and partner with businesses or lessees** on the Island, like boat clubs, who could help support a conservancy model.
 - **Include educational elements that are low effort, low budget, and can create a sense of stewardship for visitors** (like the Art Gallery of Ontario). There could be opportunities for people to watch and learn about stewardship at home through online programs and then see it for real at the Island (for example, an audio file downloaded via a QR code that talks about different vegetation or birds). Programs should also include other languages and birdsongs updated seasonally.
 - **Consider creating a program where people can visit different environmental points and use an app to collect stamps (passport of sorts) to learn about the nature on the Island.** Lessons could include bird calls, Indigenous history, and general environmental topics across the Island. Afterwards, people could receive a certificate for participating and have their name displayed digitally. This could create a memorable experience for visitors.

Other suggestions

CAC members shared other suggestions about Supporting a Dynamic Environment, including:

- Consider how to manage visitors' pets. Participants shared a range of opinions about managing dogs on the island, including requiring that dogs be on-leash at all times (enforced through signage) or banning dogs from the Island altogether. *The Design Team said that, through our engagements so far, there hasn't been much feedback on off-leash dog areas. Currently, the team is not thinking of recommending one but would consider if the suggestion came up repeatedly.*
- It is important to acknowledge that, although natural spaces are supposed to be untouched, they will require some level maintenance. The team could consider maintaining access to some spaces that change seasonally for people to see and experience the seasonal nature of the space.

- Medicinal plants are important for cultural and medicinal use by Indigenous groups. Consider protecting these plants on the Island and only allowing access to these areas for knowledge keepers.
- Consider looking at how the broader waterfront park system could accommodate party boats and encourage these boats to go those parks instead. Motorized boats docking on the Island conflicts with efforts to protecting the environment. *The Design Team said it is considering party boats and the role they might play. They said City policy and park bylaws may limit the Design Team's ability to direct party boats to other waterfront parks.*

Other feedback and questions

- **Ensure materials for presentation are made available earlier.** Some said the presentation felt abbreviated and participants need materials at least a week in advance in order to understand all of the content and prepare for the discussion. *Project team shared that they like to provide a context for the material that is being shared at these meetings and then give the opportunity for comments following the meeting. In addition, there are going to be Deep Dive Sessions that will go into more detail on particular topics.*
- **Consider illustrating how Indigenous Placemaking ideas are interconnected across the lenses** like how the Equity and Belonging and Business Strategy components are currently illustrated. It's important to not lose any of these important ideas and this could be especially helpful when advocating for funding.
- **What is the vision for the type of pathway from the Lagoon Loop from Muggs Island to Metro Yard?** *This is a design detailed question, and we currently don't have that level of detail yet.*
- **Will the antenna area near the water filtration plant ever be returned to the parkland?** *The ecological community there is interesting but because it is an antenna area, it can't be designated as an ESA. There is some regulation around access to the area. The proposed path goes alongside the area, not through it.*

Additional feedback shared after the meeting

Participants shared additional comments after the meeting (Appendix D – Participant Submissions). Points shared in the post-meeting feedback that wasn't otherwise shared in the meeting included:

Feedback about the Master Plan project overall

- The project should focus on and offer ways to ensure inclusiveness and belonging in nature for racialized and newcomer groups who face barriers of knowing about and getting to the Island.
- Bring people to the Island, but leave city life, commerce, partying, and live events on the cityside.
- The Master Plan should include some explicit points that speak to:
 - How it creates or supports conditions that help ensure the survival of migratory birds. Especially since the City of Toronto recently received a Bird Friendly City Certification from Canada Nature.
 - How it is consistent with and conforms to nature protection policies in the Provincial Policy Statement and Places to Grow Act; the City's Biodiversity Strategy; and climate change policies.
- It is important that the ideas in the Master Plan work well with the efforts in the TRCA's Flood Protection Environmental Assessment.

Feedback and questions about enhancing visitor experience

- All recreational activities encouraged by the Master Plan should be low impact on the environment, such as hiking trail, bird watching, cycling, cross-country skiing, skating, snowshoeing, etc.
- Event spaces should not significantly impact natural spaces and/or other park users. The proposed event space at Hanlan's may be too small for large events and might encroach into nearby natural spaces.
- The Chemical Building at the Filtration Plant would be a great place for a cafe on ground floor and exhibit about Water Filtration & Deep Lake Water Cooling and Hydrostor (an underwater compressed air energy storage technology).
- Include William Beasley Enterprises Limited in future discussions and collaboration about diversifying food options across the island.
- Will competitive paddling still be accommodated? *Project team response: Existing programs will not be eliminated – unless there is a lack of interest in the program because use patterns have changed. The plan is looking to keep what is working well and enhance or improve where needed.*

- Will the frisbee course be expanded? *Currently there are no plans to expand the disc golf course within the Master Plan context.*
- Any thoughts on reusing buildings at the filtration plan/revitalizing existing buildings like the old Island School/Artscape? *Yes – adaptive re-use of existing buildings is key to our “light touch” approach. We are completing a Cultural Heritage study to help inform and reinforce this idea. Maintaining the Island’s character is key and re-use of existing buildings will go a long way to achieving that.*

Feedback about supporting a dynamic environment

- Support for reforestation and re-naturalizing spaces and minimizing paved surfaces. Hardscape and built infrastructure should be kept to a minimum and only to comfort essentials rather than to facilitate large, noisy programmed events.
- Any new paths into ESAs should be planned after the City has taken an inventory and mapped the flora, fauna, and bird nesting sites, and the paths should have minimum impact on natural areas. Trout Pond has excellent opportunities for accessible and low-cost lookouts and there used to be a building nearby that would make for a good warming or rain shelter.
- Island champions and stewards should also include waterfront residents and naturalist groups, not just Island residents.
- Ensure that the Emergency Evacuation Dock at the Island School is accessible by emergency services if a non-motorized zone is implemented in Long Pond.

Feedback about improving access and connection

- Ferry landing and ramps must be made accessible – they are currently difficult to use by people with mobility challenges.
- Maintaining accessible pathways should also consider sand and seasonal changes in water level that may obstruct accessibility.

Process feedback

- Consider sharing which ideas can be implemented in the short-term and long-term in the next phase of engagement.
- Consider shortening the upfront part of the presentation to maximize time for discussion and consider encouraging participants to change breakout rooms and hear from other groups during the discussion period.

- The Master Plan should consider the 10-year lease horizon of Billy Bishop Airport and how the City might negotiate that lease with the Federal government to ensure those lands can support greater access to the island.
-

Next steps

Lori thanked Community Advisory Committee members and committed to sharing the presentation and a draft summary in the coming weeks. She also shared the dates for upcoming Phase 2 public engagement activities and encouraged the CAC to share it with their networks.

The Design team will consider all of the feedback shared by the CAC, members of the public, and other project stakeholders in Phase 2 as they contribute to refine the Draft Master Plan, which will be presented in Phase 3 of engagement.

Appendix A – List of Organizations and Participants

The City invited the following organizations to participate in the combined Community Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Those who attended are bolded below.

Community Advisory Committee

Artscape

Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Association

Centreville Amusement Park

Cycle Toronto

Friends of Cherry Beach and Outer Harbour

Harbourfront Community Association

Huron-Wendat Nation

Island Bike Rental

Island Café

Island Public / Natural Science School

Island Yacht Club

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

Nishnawbe Homes

Pirate Life Theatre

Pride Toronto

ProtectNatureTO

Queen City Yacht Club

Shadowland

Sunshine Senior's Centre

The Pirate Taxi by Water Taxi Now

Toronto Field Naturalists

Toronto Island / MNCFN Friendship Group

Toronto Island Canoe Club

Toronto Island Community Association

Toronto Island Disc Golf Course

Toronto Island Marina

Toronto Island SUP

Toronto Islands Residential Community
Trust Corp

Toronto Public Space Committee

Trans Lobby Group Toronto Trans Coalition

Urban Minds

Waterfront BIA

Waterfront for All

Waterfront Montessori Children's Centre

West Don Lands Committee

William Beasley Enterprises Limited

City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division

David O'Hara, Project Manager, Strategic Projects, Parks Development and Capital Projects
Lori Ellis, Project Officer, Strategic Projects, Parks Development and Capital Projects
Daniel Fusca, Manager, Public Consultation
Pablo Muñoz, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator
Alex Deighan, Policy Development Officer

Consultant teams

Design team

Victoria Bell, DTAH
James Roche, DTAH
Terence Radford, Trophic Design
David Deo, Common Bond Collective
Ellen Kowalchuk, Common Bond Collective
Sarah Mainguy, North-South Environmental

Business Strategy team

Jeff Dover, fsSTRATEGY'

Engagement team

Ian Malczewski, Third Party Public
Jacky Li, Third Party Public
Khly Lamparero, Third Party Public
Stephanie Quezada, Third Party Public
Bob Goulais, Nbisiing Inc

Appendix B – Meeting Agenda

Community Advisory Committee Meeting #3 Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

6:30pm–9:00pm • Meeting held virtually



Proposed agenda

6:30 PM Welcome, land acknowledgement, agenda review
introductions, teaching moment

City of Toronto, Third Party Public, Nbsiing

6:45 Overview of the Preliminary Demonstration Plan

City of Toronto, DTAH, Trophic

Questions of clarification

7:10 Discussion: concurrent, rotating conversations

Topic 1: improving access and connections

Topic 2: enhancing visitor experience

Topic 3: supporting a dynamic environment

Thinking of the communities you belong to and represent:

1. Which ideas (if any) do you find particularly exciting? Which (if any) do you have concerns about, and what suggestions do you have to address those concerns?
2. Do you have any other suggestions, considerations, or advice?

8:45 Report back and plenary discussion

8:55 Wrap up and next steps

9:00 Adjourn

Meeting purpose

To share and discuss the Preliminary Toronto Island Park Demonstration Plan.

How to share feedback

Please share any post-meeting advice or feedback with Jacky Li of Third Party Public (formerly Swerhun Inc.)

416 572 4365

jacky@thirdpartypublic.ca

The Draft Meeting Summary will include feedback received by **February 23, 2022**.

Appendix C – Chat Transcript

Project team messages are identified in *italics* below.

- *We have opened the chat function as a secondary option for those more comfortable sharing written feedback/questions with the project team. The chat will not be monitored by the project team. Written responses will not be provided in the chat, however all feedback and questions shared will be included in the meeting summary.*
- *To share additional feedback after the meeting, email Jacky Li at jacky@thirdpartypublic.ca. Feedback received by February 23 will be included in the draft summary distributed to participants.*
- Got it
- *For those who are having audio issues, you could call in by dialling: 647 558 0588, Meeting ID: 845 8457 2721*
- *For those who are joined by phone, you can press *6 to mute/unmute your mic and *9 to raise/lower your hand*
- Sport and recreation is important.
- *Hi everyone, there's 5 minutes left in the second breakout room rotation. Please wrap up soon.*
- *Project team members, please move to your final breakout room. Participants, no need to move.*
- *Hi everyone, there's 5 minutes left in the final breakout room rotation. Please wrap up soon.*
- One last thought, as this is a multi-year master plan, I find it disappointing that this study does not engage with the 10 year lease horizon of the island airport and how that future lease can be negotiated with the federal government/ transport Canada o. how those lands and it's infrastructure can support greater access to the island or give it back to the city and its citizens.
- *thanks [name] - understood and we'll track with those negotiating/working on airport discussions.*
- *To share additional feedback after the meeting, email Jacky Li at jacky@thirdpartypublic.ca. Feedback received by February 23 will be included in the draft summary distributed to participants.*

- A big thank you to the project team! I am so encouraged by everything that has been presented tonight! Great Stuff!
- Agreed. Big thanks to the city, the designers and the facilitators for this evening. Great work.
- Thanks! Lots done but more needs to be clarified.
- Thank you.
- Thank you for the opportunity to participate

Appendix D – Participant Submissions

Submission from Waterfront for All

Thanks for the opportunity to respond. Regarding the #3 CAC presentation, next time I would suggest we dive right into the new info without the long introductory preamble of history and where we are in the process, that we have all heard before. We really did run out of time to exchange views and discuss the important new concepts with our fellow CAC members. It would also be good to receive the extensive presentation materials several days in advance. There was no time to digest the large mailing.

Here are my comments. During the discussion, I asked for definitions of “island character” and “dynamic environment”. Is the dynamic change man-made or is it a part of natural forces? Agreeing on the meaning of these terms will help us understand what we’re trying to achieve and will help us to focus.

The long history and attraction of the island is its natural environment, its flora, fauna and bird life. That seems to be the “Island Character”. In this respect it is unique in offering Torontonians a refuge in nature, similar to a conservation area, yet so close to the heart of the city as to make it accessible. People have recognized the attraction of the natural environment and are flocking to the island in unprecedented numbers for that very reason. Languages of new Canadians and tourists are heard on every ferry.

Many stories in the media have documented how much racialized Canadians and newcomers to this country would like to use the outdoors and nature. They don’t always feel welcome. The Island should afford them that opportunity. The island should offer equity, inclusiveness and **belonging in nature**. Noisy partying, large events and club life should be left to the city side. So bring people to nature, leave city life and commerce in the City. If we agree to this description of the island’s unique character then the Master Plan proposals for community programming, business opportunities and partnerships would be designed to enhance that character and afford visitors the opportunities to learn and enjoy it. Interpretive programs focusing on the environment and ecology with guided walks and interpretive displays would be the way to go. The use of the land forms would also be guided by this vision.

I am very supportive of all the Indigenous ideas and initiatives in the materials presented so far. I think they are very much in keeping with the character of the island and the national theme of Reconciliation.

If we adopt the above interpretation of the Island Character then the “landscaping” and land management, in partnership with the TRCA, would flow from that. Hardscape and built infrastructure should be kept to a minimum and only to comfort essentials rather than to facilitate large, noisy programmed events.

All sports, winter and summer, and recreational opportunities encouraged in the Master Plan would be low impact and respectful of the environment. It would be desirable to create more hiking trails which are best experienced in wooded areas. Reforesting and re- naturalizing the extensive grass lawns, which now require mowing and maintenance would be a good first step. Expansive lawns are such a waste of usable space. They are a landscaping vision of the past.

Currently, walking and “hiking” if you can call it that, can only be done on paved roads or lawns. So uninviting. Can we have some paths in the trees with leaves and forest understory under foot? Nature can do much of the work of regenerating itself. “Forest bathing” which offers tranquility and peace, is a new pursuit being practised by many. It’s good to see that the Master Plan has initiatives for the protection and enhancement of ecological areas. But much more can be done and can engage volunteers.

Wooded areas would offer refuge for birds and wildlife, but would also be attractive for X-county skiers, hikers and bird watchers. The town of Collingwood has an extensive network of hiking trails. They are well used during summer for hiking and cycling and winter for skiing and snowshoeing. They are tended by volunteers and are a big tourist attraction.

All the interior of island lagoons should be relegated to non-motorized vessels only, such as kayaks, SUPs and canoes. Motor boats create dangerous wake in narrow lagoons and endanger water fowl and bird nests. The existing club sail boats should be allowed to exit the lagoons to open water under power. But their experienced skippers, are always respectful of navigation right-of-way and know their speed limits.

As first steps could start with improving what exists already and what is affordable. Beaches should be made accessible. Wooden boardwalks, change rooms and rinse-off areas should be provided. Beach maintenance and clean-up is essential. Some of the shoreline areas with water bottles and styrofoam and other refuse, are an embarrassment.

The ferries are a long time problem: annual winter breakdown, summer line-ups, choke points at entry and exit, infrequent and inflexible schedules at peak times, poor communication with users. Transportation and maritime expertise are not a City Parks core service or know-how.

Finally, while I am impressed with the extensive outreach that the TIMP team has undertaken, it's beginning to look to me as if the Plan is trying to be "all things to all people". Trying to please everyone might result in not pleasing anyone. An enormous amount of work is apparent in the material we received. How compatible are these ambitious ideas with the funding and Budget appropriation for the Master Plan. I worry that the Plan's overwhelming vision might lead to nothing being approved. Many well meaning reports have lingered in government limbo forever.

Could we chunk the next steps and talk about near term and longer term "doable deliverables" in future consultations?

Submission from Toronto Field Naturalists

1. MASTER PLAN LENS, "Supporting a Dynamic Environment" Slide 22

Could this explicitly mention the *Natural* Environment.

Could it be stronger: "Protecting the Natural Environment"?

2. A) "Supporting a Dynamic Environment: Promoting stewardship..." Slide 47, point 1:

"Better engage Island residents and others as champions and partners in the management, activation, and advocacy of the park." In the Memorandum, p. 6, there is only mention of Island residents.

Island residents are too few (population apx 600, lots of old people) to draw enough volunteers to undertake activities such as plantings and invasive plant removal in this large park (presumably this is what "activation" means). There are tens of thousands of Waterfront residents for whom the Island is their local park. Also, Naturalist Groups have expertise and experience in stewardship. Could this point be expanded to:

"Engage **Island and Waterfront residents and naturalist groups** as champions and partners in the management, activation, and advocacy of the park."

2. b) "Promoting stewardship... Develop ...charter ... to... communicate etiquette.... benefits long term vision for the Islands." Slide 47, point 2: "long term vision" isn't defined. I suggest:

"...Island etiquette towards use and behaviour **that minimizes impact on the natural environment.**"

3. "Improving Access to Natural Heritage"... Slide 48, point 2, A and B

“A. ...Lagoon Loop Pathway and ...undervalued natural areas” -- these areas *are* valued for their availability to shy wildlife. Route needs to be planned after flora and fauna inventories are undertaken and plant communities and bird nesting sites are mapped.

Criteria for new routes through ESAs should emphasize quality (e.g. interest) over quantity (e.g. length):

1. “Enhancing visitor experience:” provide **maximum** interest by routing through a variety of habitats, with opportunity for diverse interpretative panels (e.g. sheltered inlet; sand-plain tall-grass community; cottonwood woodlands; deep lagoon edge; sheltered lagoon wetland; etc.) and
2. **Minimum** impact on wildlife by only *modest* incursions into ESAs, especially Wildlife Sanctuary.

“Lagoon Loop Pathway ... to provide controlled access... large watercraft:”

- Great to control large boats but there will still be medium-sized boats tying up together in the middle of the lagoon and blasting their sound-systems for hours.
- Will the extremely long bridge (>100 m) across the middle of Long Pond have an opening for police and fire boats? As well as the need to access Long Pond itself in an emergency, the school’s Emergency Evacuation Dock may need to be accessible by emergency services.
- How will the loop get through the Marina – I’ve heard it’s tight for space there already.
- The IYC would need to be aware that it might have to invest \$\$\$ in security.
- How will City service this extensive loop (e.g. garbage, graffiti, damage/rot, beaver felling trees across it) and how will maintenance and operation be funded?

“B. Develop Trout Pond Boardwalk”

Need to determine whether look-out platforms giving great views would be more suitable than full boardwalk; or a combination of the two. Trout Pond has some excellent look-outs that are accessible from the road and could be made wheelchair accessible at a low project cost. There used to be a small building nearby – its existing concrete base would be perfect for a warming/rain shelter.

4. **“Make the Island more accessible for people experiencing disabilities”** slide 14

“Provide accessible transportation to and from the Island...” Slide 34, point 3

a) *Ferry and dock ramps*: In my observation and experience, the first barrier for wheelchair users are the ferry ramps and dock ramps. There are curved metal plates that join the dock ramp to terra firma where wheelchairs often almost tip over, as well as ill-fitting ferry ramps that can be extremely difficult to navigate. We've been told the docks will not be modified for the new ferries but this really needs to be dealt with.

b) "Provide **accessible paths** within natural areas...Slide 34, point 3

Design of *and* maintenance budget of these paths (presumably through the dunes and onto the beach) need to take into account: blowing sand, burying by sand, vandalism, and seasonal and yearly changes in lake level.

c) "Provide **accessible connections to existing spaces**" Slide 54, point 3 B and Slide 87, point 3B

Identify opportunities in **existing** assets: Slide 10 "Poor state of some amenities" Slide 12

The examples of existing assets in slide 10 are all buildings, but paths are also candidates. For example:

- Two existing short paths that should provide wheelchair access from the road to the boardwalk (one of them even passes a washroom) desperately need to be re-paved (no budget currently??);
- The small road/path that meanders along the lagoons (from Works Yard to beyond RCYC bridge) is a charming and ideal wheelchair-accessible path if only there was budget to maintain it. The worst parts were re-paved after the flooding but with frost-heave and use by vehicles taking short-cuts some of it is pretty bumpy. Repair and year-round maintenance of this small road would benefit everybody, able or not, especially with the addition of more rest stops, shelters, and interpretive panels.

5. "Formalize...event space at Hanlan's Point (e.g. landform, amphitheatre)" Slide 42, point 5 B

- Hanlan's is too close to airport to hold concerts or other events that aren't *very* loud
- space between road and airport fence is too narrow for "events" not to impact significantly on other park users (including getting to and from Hanlan's dock and beach)
- as greenspace in Toronto is *continually* being chipped away at, it would be better if the Hanlan's space could be naturalized (e.g. for pollinators) rather than paved over. Hold concerts at Dundas Square!

6. “Reinvesting in **Existing** Infrastructure...” Slide 33, point 1

The “**Chemical Building**” at the Filtration Plant would be a great place for a cafe on ground floor and exhibit about Water Filtration & Deep Lake Water Cooling and Hydrostor on the second

Submission from ProtectNatureTO

I appreciate that ProtectNatureTO was invited to participate in TIMP the Community Advisory Committee's efforts.

ProtectNatureTO and our affiliates advocate for the protection of Toronto's natural areas, especially protected ecosystems - the ESA/ANSIs - focusing on preservation of the natural features and the ecological function.

TIMP was highly anticipated by all naturalists groups and protection advocates hoping to achieve successful implementation of the existing protection policy adopted into the City Official Plan in 2015 (OPA 262 was approved by the Province in May 2016. The OPA is in full force and effect) to ensure preserving for the long term of one of the critical natural area in TO for birds migration and other significant flora and fauna.

Toronto plays a critical role in the North American bird's migration. According to the recent research birds populations are experiencing staggering decline in the North America due to urbanization and climate change.

City of Toronto received recently Birds Friendly City Certification from Canada Nature that comes with obligation to promote/implement progressive municipal policies created to protect bird's populations. Protecting the habitats utilized by birds to ensure nesting and foraging can take place is the most effective way how to stabilize declining birds populations together with safety codes buildings preventing bird strikes.

We know that tall buildings are a big problem but so are our human activities and intense use of the very natural areas providing for the birds and significant/flora/fauna.

I appreciate receiving the link to the presentation from the meeting on Feb 16 as below and extending of the deadline for post-meeting feedback to Sunday Feb 27.

Toronto received Birds Friendly City Certification from Nature Canada

About The Program

Nature Canada has developed a certification standard to certify eligible cities as a "Bird Friendly City", to recognize and celebrate the contributions they have made to save bird lives in their municipalities. The goal of certification is to provide local partners with a clear standard that reflects what a city needs to do to make it safe for birds. Certification is a badge of honor and a source of community pride. It tells the world that your city or town does things to help birds and reverse their declines in your own backyard. We are looking towards **World Migratory Bird Day 2022** as a timeline to certify at least **thirty eligible** Canadian cities as a Bird Friendly City.

Saving bird lives starts with local action! Across Canada, people are coming together to make their cities bird friendly.

Nature groups, municipal officials, and other community groups are teaming up with Nature Canada to ensure our urban environments are safe havens for birds rather than a source of threats. From predation by domestic cats, to window and car collisions, cities and towns present many preventable hazards to birds.



A Bird Friendly City is a community where:

- Key threats to birds are effectively mitigated;
- Nature is restored so native bird populations can thrive;
- Residents are actively engaged in admiring and monitoring local bird populations;
- Organizations are creating events to protect birds;
- Progressive municipal policies are created to protect urban bird populations; and /or existing policies are **IMPLEMENTED**
- A Bird Team has been created to oversee and lead these initiatives.

HOW DO WE REVERSE HUMAN IMPACT?

1. THREAT REDUCTION

Reduce threats to birds through educational and regulatory measures to create more opportunities for birds to survive and thrive.

2. HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Factor in the well-being of birds and communities when planning urban development projects to ensure that habitat conservation and restoration are prioritized.

3. COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Officially recognizing and celebrating days like World Migratory Bird Day will allow communities to celebrate birds and the diverse places they call home.

Memorandum TIMP narrative and the Master Plan lenses seem to tip the focus somewhat away from protection of TI's unique natural areas, critical for migratory birds, in direction of a more commercialized approach aiming to accommodate pressures of the growing city with emphasis on enhancing of visitor's experience and more access.

Rather than prioritizing protection of natural heritage, ESA/ANSI/PSWs, for the long term, as required by the relevant protection policies of the Planning Act, A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement 2014 adopted into the City OP (OPA 262 was approved by the Province in May 2016. The OPA is in full force and effect), **Memorandum emphasizes: “This master plan must consider how to embrace that change, manage, and respond to the pressures of growth, and balance uses and protection—to make all visitors to the Island accountable as Stewards of this space”.**

This below paragraphs from Memorandum sums up this well:

*“Consistently through conversations, workshops, and surveys, we heard that the islands should—for the most part—not change, that new development and expansion of intensive uses should be avoided, and that the sensitive ecology of the islands needed protection. That the park was an oasis and a getaway from the city to **“save and protect”.***

So, while the public desire for protecting and preserving this significant and treasured Island escape is clear, the realities of a growing city and the inevitable change within and around the park will continue. This master plan must consider how to embrace that change, manage, and respond to the pressures of growth, and balance uses and protection—to make all visitors to the Island accountable as Stewards of this space. It must cultivate respect for Land and Water and furthermore elevate belonging through programs, processes and management practices that are transparent and accountable for this generation and generations to come.”

Comment 1

TI Master Plan will determine for foreseeable future how Toronto, as the biggest and fastest growing city in the North America, deals with its obligation to fight climate/biodiversity crisis including creating friendly conditions for enhancing survival of migratory birds.

Several areas at TI were designated as the ESAs for remarkable flora and fauna, while the ecological function is “a notable stop over for migratory birds providing for about 1/3 of birds populations”

*“The City of Toronto is an annual stopover location for thousands of migratory birds. **Seasonal migration is a critical component of many birds’ life cycles in North America,** and elsewhere, and yet this phenomenon is often overlooked as an important consideration in habitat and*

wildlife conservation initiatives. **The diversity and abundance of birds that continue to migrate through Toronto means that the City has both an opportunity and a responsibility to support the safe passage of these birds.** The City has already begun to undertake a number of initiatives targeted at migratory bird conservation (e.g., Bird-friendly Development Guidelines, Bird Flyways Project). The purpose of this report is to summarize the current understanding of bird migration, analyze the available data on migratory birds in the City, and develop recommendations to build on existing migratory bird conservation efforts based on the findings of this report."

"Over the past 17 years the most common migrant bird groups in Toronto have been warblers, shorebirds and sparrows. The most consistent and greatest migratory bird concentrations identified with this data are natural areas on the lakeshore. **The Toronto Islands, Tommy Thompson Park and High Park together account for more than 70% of the TOC's migrant bird records for the period between 1990 and 2007.** Most of the remaining concentration areas are associated with some of the larger natural areas within the City, mainly located along the lakeshore and within the West Don and Humber Creek ravine systems."

Migratory Birds in the City of Toronto, A Literature Review & Data Assessment FINAL REPORT August 2009 DOUGAN & ASSOCIATES Ecological Consulting & Design with North-South Environmental Inc.

"From Graham Saul, Nature Canada, recent communication:

The cities play a vitally important role in the survival of Canada's migratory birds.

Many Canadians think that our most critical habitats are untouched wildernesses far beyond the borders of our cities and towns. While millions of birds nest or over-winter in our cities, billions more pass through or over them during their annual migrations. **Canada's urban centres can tip the balance for the survival of large numbers of birds.**

Over the last three decades, our cities have become increasingly hostile places for birds to survive. Environmental degradation and loss of greenspace has limited nesting areas, light pollution has disrupted flight paths, collisions with glass-windowed buildings, roaming cats and pesticides and plastic pollution are all threats to bird lives.

As a result, North America has lost nearly 25% of our birds. That's almost 3 billion birds fewer, and it includes many common species in our towns and cities. It's heart-breaking!"

Comment 2

TIMP needs be consistent/ in conformity with protection policy relevant in time of conceiving of this plan. This a mandatory requirement.

Provincial Policy Statement:

“2.1.1 Natural features and areas shall be protected for the long term.”

The Places to Grow Act, 2005

*“As provided for in **the Places to Grow Act, 2005**, this Plan prevails where there is a conflict between this Plan and the PPS. The only exception is where the conflict is between policies relating to the natural environment or human health. **In that case, the direction that provides more protection to the natural environment or human health prevails.**”*

Protection is based on **precautionary principle** which means that we are preventing rather than mitigating harm.

Section 3 of **the Planning Act** requires that all decisions and advice affecting land use planning matters **“shall be consistent with” the Provincial Policy Statement**. The **“shall be consistent with”** standard is a strong implementation standard that focuses on achieving policy outcomes.

To protect we **must “recognize the need for the most protection in areas of the province with the greatest development pressures”** as opposed as indicated in Memorandum: ***“This master plan must consider how to embrace that change, manage, and respond to the pressures of growth, and balance uses and protection”.***

On PPS Natural Heritage (Policy 2.1)

*“The Provincial Policy Statement, 2014 aims to protect our environment through policies that safeguard, enhance, and mitigate potential impacts to our natural heritage features and areas, while reflecting geographic variation. The Provincial Policy Statement, 2014 provides clear direction for planning matters and decisions under the Planning Act to protect our water, woodlands, wetlands, coastal wetlands, and endangered and threatened species habitat, **and recognizes the need for the most protection in areas of the province with the greatest development pressures.** Natural heritage features and areas contribute to Ontario’s long term economic prosperity, environmental health, and social well-being and it is in the public interest to protect these resources even where they are abundant.”*

Under pressures of growing city, we must protect more not less to achieve results.

Comment 3

“Balancing of uses and protection” is not in conformity with protection policies as a principle in protected natural areas or in the areas adjacent to these natural areas where **protection is prioritized over use.**

Having to protect more not less is becoming paramount now as climate/biodiversity crisis are deepening.

Proposed Biodiversity Principles for Toronto Islands prepared by Biodiversity Working Group, February 17, 2022 well describes TI’s unique ecosystems, flora and fauna and the framework efficiently accommodating protection principles and praxis for successful conservation efforts and management of public use.

Island Biodiversity Working Group

For Stewardship Committee of Toronto Island Community Association: Jenny Bull, Tony Farebrother

For Toronto Ornithological Club:
John Nishikawa

For Toronto Field Naturalists:
Nancy Dengler, Ellen Schwartzel, Diana Turchin

To protect, it is critical to manage public use:

“Activities will be limited to those that are compatible with the preservation of the natural features and ecological functions attributed to the areas” (bolded text is taken from 2015 Official Plan, City of Toronto, applying to ESAs)

Strategies for managing of public use are crucial to ensure conservation and protection.

Following observations from recent High Park – Terrestrial Biological Inventory prepared by TRCA are also relevant for TIMP:

- *The main disturbances affecting High Park at present are intensive trampling from park visitors and off-leash dogs*
- *The abundance of dogs-off leash found outside the fenced in dog park at Dog Hill may be contributing to the lack of ground nesting birds*
- *As long as traffic on trails within the Study Area is not too high and restricted to foot traffic only (no bikes), these species are less likely to be impacted. However, heavy visitation to the area increases the threat of predation and/or disturbance by off-leash dogs*

- *Uncontrolled recreational activities present a risk to the quality of the habitat in High Park - High participation rates increase the negative effects on habitats and species*
- *At the Study Area, visitor pressure is currently high and is expected to increase. Strategies for managing human-use are needed if ecological health is to be maintained, or enhanced*
- *Some areas should be left as refuges for flora and fauna with minimal access, especially Species of Concern; they are generally sensitive to human presence*
- *Where off-leash dog use occurs (regardless of whether it is officially permitted or is not), there is a considerable risk of disturbance to low and ground-nesting birds and herpetofauna such as American toad and gartersnake in upland foraging habitats*

Comment 4

It is concerning at this point in time that Memorandum and the Master Plan lenses do not deal with climate and biodiversity crisis lenses and do not mention even once the word biodiversity.

If anything, the lenses of deepening climate and biodiversity crisis require from us to give ***“more room for nature”***, while demanding less for ourselves and this way leaving more for nature. In this respect, Memorandum and Master Plan Lenses still represent an anthropocentric view as opposed more ecocentric take on our demands on nature.

Comment 5

We need the Environmental Impact Study or EA to make an informed decisions on these important efforts to evaluate proposed Master Plan Lenses and Ideas from a protection point of view.

TIMP is a monumental undertaking that will make or break the long term ecological carrying capacity of a significant

Toronto natural treasure and critical habitat for North American bird migration.

Before this Master Plan is finalized we need to know how proposed changes may affect the overall TI's natural features and ecological function which is to provide *“a notable stopover for migratory birds”*, including cumulative impacts over time and space.

TRCA and North-South Environmental Inc., e.g. know how to do this and know the requirements of the Provincial Policy Statement and the official guide to PPS, Natural Heritage Reference Manual to conduct such a Study.

With so many ideas and proposed new uses and more access via land and water, the pressures on habitats, fauna and flora will be a big challenge. Increased traffic or any group use creates

disturbance for wildlife, inhibits feeding and nesting. Pets are a particular problem Factsheet Oct 2019 as it also follows from above TRCA Report. Recreational fishing is no longer considered a benign activity as it impacts birds and reptiles in particular: Factsheet: Impacts of Recreational Fishing on Wildlife and the Environment, Updated Apr. 12, 2017

BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL CITY

Toronto Official Plan Office Consolidation - February 2019_Chapter 3,4 Natural Environment

CHAPTER THREE

Development or site alteration, with the exception of trails, where appropriate, and conservation, flood and erosion control projects, is not permitted on lands within the natural heritage system that exhibit any of these characteristics. Activities will be limited to those that are compatible with the preservation of the natural features and ecological functions attributed to the areas. New or expanding infrastructure should be avoided unless there is no reasonable alternative, adverse impacts are minimized and natural features and ecological functions are restored or enhanced where feasible. An impact study, as referred to in Policy 12, will be required for any proposed undertaking in those areas not already the subject of an Environmental Assessment under the Environmental Assessment Act.

Known areas exhibiting these environmentally significant characteristics are shown on Map 12A. Where these areas extend onto lands above the top of bank which have underlying zoning permissions, the lands may be used to calculate permissible density in the zoning bylaw. An impact study, as referred to in policy 12, will be required for any proposed development adjacent to these areas. Any proposed development will avoid these areas, minimize negative impacts and, when possible, restore and enhance the ecological functions attributed to these areas.

15. Provincially significant natural heritage features will be protected by:

- a) prohibiting development or site alteration in provincially significant wetlands;
- b) prohibiting development or site alteration in significant portions of the habitat of threatened or endangered species and fish habitat, except in accordance with provincial and federal requirements;
- c) only permitting development or site alteration in the following locations if it has been demonstrated, through a study, that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or the ecological functions for which the area is identified:
 - i. lands adjacent to provincially significant wetlands, or significant portions of the habitat of threatened or endangered species;
 - ii. lands adjacent to fish habitat; and
 - iii. in or on lands adjacent to provincially significant areas of natural and scientific interest, woodlands, valleylands and wildlife habitat; and
- d) avoiding new or expanding infrastructure unless there is no reasonable alternative, negative impacts are minimized and natural features and ecological functions are restored or enhanced where feasible.

Provincially significant wetlands and areas of natural and scientific interest identified by the Province are shown on Map 12B. Where development is proposed adjacent to these areas, their boundaries will be more precisely determined. The Province may identify additional areas to which these policies apply.

16. Protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural heritage system will recognize the joint role of, and opportunities for, partnerships among public and private landowners, institutions and organizations.

The Natural Heritage System and Inventory (continued)

- terrestrial natural habitat types, including forest, wetland, successional, meadow, and beaches and bluffs;
- significant aquatic features and functions;
- vegetation communities and species of concern; and
- significant biological features that are directly addressed by Provincial policy, such as Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest.

The natural heritage system is illustrated on Map 9, which is not a statutory map. When development is proposed on or near lands shown as part of the natural heritage system, the proposed development's impact on the system is to be evaluated and an impact study may be required. As part of the evaluation, the natural heritage features on or near the property in question and their location will be more precisely defined.

The City of Toronto and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority have developed an Inventory, as part of a Natural Heritage Study, which identifies and contains data on the various components of the natural heritage system and provides strategic direction for improving the natural ecosystem and increasing biodiversity. This inventory information, and any other relevant information provided through impact studies, will be made public, subject to statutory constraints, and used to evaluate development proposals and identify priority locations where the system should be protected, restored and enhanced.

The City has undertaken a program of further study and fieldwork to confirm and identify areas within the natural heritage system that are particularly sensitive and require additional protection to preserve their environmentally significant qualities. These areas are shown on Map 12A. Most provincially significant wetlands and areas of natural and scientific interest that have been identified by the Province are shown on Map 12B. Where development is proposed adjacent to these areas, their boundaries will be more precisely determined and any negative impacts will be identified through an impact study as referred to in Policy 12.

Further study and fieldwork will continue to update and refine the natural heritage system inventory and assist in identifying strategic directions for improving natural ecosystems, promoting biodiversity and increasing resiliency.

Submission from Centreville Amusement Park / William Beasley Enterprises Limited

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the meeting last week. It was a lot of information to take in, and I appreciate the amount of work your team has to take into consideration when accumulating our input to create the plan.

Is it possible to send through the avatar of the proposal for the tram to move island visitors around? It wasn't working in our breakout room, and I would like to review this part of the proposal with my team.

Also, with regards to the aspect of the proposal regarding diversifying food options across the island, we believe this area deserves further clarification and discussion with WBEL directly. We would like to be a direct and integral part of the discussion and possible change that is coming to the island. As stated last week, this plan will not be immediate and will be implemented over a period of years, but in this regard open discussions with our food services can have a direct impact on a collaboration to make the changes more efficiently then waiting for implementation of the plan in full.

With regards to the organization of the meetings, I would like to suggest that the participants change in the breakout rooms instead of the team members. While I found the opinions of the participants in my group informative, I would have gained more insight into the various stakeholders' positions on the plan if I had heard what they also had to say instead of the one-sided perspective of our group towards each module presented.

Submission from Queen City Yacht Club

A couple of items I meant to bring up during the session dealing with existing users on the Island. The competitive paddlers use of Long Pond as an annual Canada Day regatta course was mentioned in passing but I did not hear how that was going to continue to be accommodated under the present proposals.

In a similar vein, I did not hear any discussion related to the existing Frisby Golf course on the Island. Is that to remain? I understand that the Frisby Golfers are actually lobbying for an second 18 holes.

Another item was the proposed reuse of existing buildings on the Island. There are a number of unused buildings in the Filtration Plant. Any thoughts about incorporating them? What is the

thinking around the old Island School? It is now occupied by Artscape. Is that planned on continuing. The building needs extensive repair.

Control of water taxi access has been discussed but I did not see it addressed in any of the recent proposals. The use of new shuttles is being proposed but it is not clear how these would interact with the water taxis.

Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Rightsholders Meeting with Huron-Wendat Nation

Friday, February 25th, 2022,
Meeting held virtually

Participants

Huron-Wendat Nation:

- Dominic Ste-Marie, Conseiller en gestion du territoire
- Lori-Jeanne Bolduc, Conseiller en aménagement du territoire

City of Toronto:

- Lori Ellis, Project Officer of Strategic Projects & Project Lead, Parks Forestry & Recreation
- Pablo Munoz, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, Parks Forestry & Recreation

Consultants:

- Victoria Bell, Landscape Architect, DTAH
- Bob Goulais, Facilitator, Nbisiing Consulting Inc.
- Terrence Radford, Trophic Design

Record of Discussion

The participants began with a round of introductions.

Bob shared that this meeting is the continuation of a dialogue that began with the Huron-Wendat last year. This work will lead to a new master plan for the Toronto Island Park.

Lori Ellis offered greetings from the City of Toronto, and shared that they are committed to working with the Huron-Wendat Nation throughout all three phases of this project. The first phase was about establishing a vision, values and guiding principles. This phase is about shaping ideas. This is a longer phase of work.

Victoria began a presentation providing a review of the engagement process to date. There are a number of activities happening presently including a public open house, deep dive workshops and an Indigenous Community Sharing Meeting scheduled for March 9.

The City has heard that people don't want to see drastic changes. Any improvements will need to consider: how do we explore change in a place that everybody loves and wants to protect? And how do we anticipate the changes that may be needed in the future?

Victoria gave a brief history of the Island, which was once a peninsula made of sand from nearby erosion.

In the master plan, they will consider how to make use of existing built heritage without needing to construct new structures. They are leaning toward a "light touch" when it comes to improvements in the park.

Bob reinforced that the Toronto Island Master Plan is going to be about nature first and ensuring that they are protecting the natural environment and sensitive areas.

Victoria spoke of the identity of the place which includes the island as a refuge from the city. It is both a benefit and a challenge that park users must travel there by boat. There are some environmental challenges because it is such a sensitive ecosystem.

They heard there isn't a lot to do on the Island outside of the peak summer season. They would like to explore park use in all seasons. Yet, the team has heard that the islands are treasured for their natural character. So they need to balance all park activities.

From the Indigenous communities, they heard that the park needs to make the Indigenous history, identity, and living culture more visible. This may include new signage and interpretation. The community is wanting spaces for ceremonies, healing and cultural use. There should also be space for economic opportunities for First Nations and Indigenous businesses. They need to consider the land, water flora and fauna as key stakeholders in the process. The plan has to consider all living things, not just human use.

Victoria shared the list of current drivers or reasons why this master plan process was needed.

Dominic asked if the lake freezes over between the island and Toronto itself.

Victoria responded that it freezes sometimes. It needs to get quite cold, for a few days, in order to freeze over certain parts. The inner harbour can freeze as can the waterways within the islands.

Dominic brought up the idea of dog sledding programs along the beaches and snow snake game as options for winter programming.

Bob shared that dog sledding is an important part of Inuit culture. Dog sledding is another business opportunity. It would be interesting to host arctic winter games which are quite popular in the north.

Dominic shared that there will be an increased demand for paddling including accessing the island through paddling from the mainland.

Victoria shared the four values that will be a foundation to the master plan including: respect, diversity, balance and accountability. The three vision themes of the plan will include: protect and restore, honor and celebrate, and play and explore. The theme of honour and celebrate also includes acknowledging and sharing Indigenous history and culture. She also shared the twelve guiding principles and spoke to planning of the future city, and connectedness of the park systems across the waterfront.

Terence began his part of the presentation by showing the demonstration plan – taking the “big ideas” and mapping them onto their respective island spaces. They did this in the form of five lenses. He will take the Huron-Wendat participants through the lens called “Revealing an Indigenous Place”.

Terence reinforced the importance of looking at the plan through a values lens. When it comes to respect, that means respect of people and also respect for the environment and other living beings on the islands.

The team has heard that the islands are an important space for communities and there is a need for private, ceremonial, and gathering space. The first big idea is a dedicated ceremony space at Snake Island. This could include provision for infrastructure to support programming there.

Another big idea is naming and renaming of places, including in Indigenous languages. They want to incorporate language in meaningful ways, such as in wayfinding and interpretation across the islands.

Big idea number three focuses on the ferry landings as a significant gateway that frames our experience of the islands. This could include cultural markers signifying that this is an Indigenous place.

Bob shared that when you arrive in Quebec City, or you get off the plane in Victoria and Calgary, there are some forms of Indigenous culture there, including artwork.

Terence pointed out there are three landings on the Island, but there is also the departure point from the mainland. This will welcome and frame the experience for users.

Dominic commented that this could begin with the ferry ride as they are a captive audience during that time. You might as well entertain them with the Indigenous history and culture.

Terence shared that the next idea is about storytelling which could begin by broadcasting over the loudspeakers on the ferry. There are opportunities for audio and visual elements.

Dominic suggested making use of Indigenous languages using audio. They might find language difficult to read, but if they hear it, it's not as difficult.

To integrate storytelling and interpretation throughout the park, Terence shared the idea of a cultural narrative trail using (as an example) the 13 Grandmother Moon teachings. The trail could include nodes or programmatic spaces to share teachings and Indigenous knowledge.

The fifth idea includes creating a major gathering and celebration space, including areas of year-round use. This may include a plaza called the “Big Spirit Moon” plaza.

The next idea was to enable opportunities for Indigenous artists, craftspeople, food vendors, vendors and broader businesses. This could take place at the Centre Island Landing marketplace.

The last of the big ideas it’s about exploring opportunities for co-management across the islands, including opportunities related to tourism, interpretation, art and cultural markets and managing and restoring the natural environment.

Terence shared some mood sketches of some of the ideas and concepts. The Snake Island ceremonial area would have access to the water, spaces for sacred fires, and a large clearing area of ceremonial spaces.

Bob shared that although the mood sketch features an Anishinaabe lodge, that a Wendat ceremonial or lodge or longhouse could possibly be created. The space would be flexible.

For Dominic, the longhouse is always on his mind. But it may be more of a representation, or a skeleton (perhaps a metal or weatherproof frame), of a longhouse. A full longhouse could be cost-prohibitive given building code requirements. He shared that having a representative footprint of a longhouse is a lot better than an actual permanent structure. Dominic also shared the idea of the Québec carnival building, which has a metal frame, and a longhouse made of ice.

Terence shared the mood sketch of the cultural narrative trail would feature teaching spaces and sharing Indigenous knowledge.

Finally, Terence shared the overview of the map with each of the ideas identified. Although they are only presenting the one lens, “Revealing and Indigenous Place”, there are four other lenses. They are welcome to review those, ask questions and provide comments on them.

Bob offered that none of the ideas are specific to the Wendat, Anishinaabeg or Haudenosaunee. There are plenty of opportunities throughout the island to express Indigenous culture and worldview. However, too often, Wendat culture is not featured as predominately. The master plan will not go into specifics. There will be future dialogue on various elements before they are implemented.

Dominic said that he really likes the way that some areas are dedicated for more private ceremony spaces. This gives some sense of ownership to First Nations people. He also acknowledges that Toronto is a big city and the island provides a quiet haven for ceremony. There is great value of traditional ceremonies being held in collaboration with the local, Indigenous communities. With regard to tourism, the Huron-Wendat are willing to help with that. Culture is meant to be shared. For example, having an Indigenous celebration on the 21st of June. This can include playing games, hosting activities, and having fun.

Bob said it may be interesting to use the festival space on the island to host a Wendat festival and share more about Wendat culture. He acknowledged that the Huron Wendat Nation are already very good at tourism and marketing citing Le Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations.

Dominic spoke about the importance of naming and finding a good balance in the naming process, and having signage in different Indigenous languages. This is a way to normalize Indigenous culture.

Bob acknowledged that these places had names long before non-Indigenous people arrived.

Victoria spoke of the cultural heritage assessment that is going to be undertaken. They are just at the beginning of that process. The Huron-Wendat participants were asked to identify the most appropriate people to contact for this study.

Lori said that the cultural heritage study is a really important piece as it will document the history and Indigenous significance of the islands.

Dominic said it would be interesting to have as many perspectives as possible. Traditionally, archaeology is very linear. But sometimes these narratives may overlap as these come from different perspectives. It is good to share the different narratives, perspectives and visions. Some people see the Island as a symbol of fire, while to others, it's a symbol of water. It doesn't make anyone wrong. Dominic shared a story about a Cree Inuit Village in northern Quebec that had different stories about the same piece of land from opposite sides of the river. Allowing for different points of view to be shared is important.

Bob acknowledged that this is good advice. Archaeology is only one part of the story. That record may not reflect Anishinaabe people, as they moved around. While

Wendat and Haudenosaunee lived in very elaborate villages over time. There is value in telling stories from each cultural perspective.

Dominic suggested that it may be cool to have a turtle fountain on the island.

Bob reminded the participants that there a number of lenses in the presentation. These can be found within the presentation that was shared via email. The participants are welcome to send any questions or comments by email.

Dominic said their main interest is in cultural heritage, events and placekeeping. They may have some interest in tourism activities. He commented that, in the presentation, there are some great designs and ideas to celebrate Indigenous culture that are being done in many different ways.

Bob shared that future conversations will be needed when it comes to implementation. Bob suggested, when the time comes, they would like to know the Wendat perspectives on the 13 Grandmother Mons, for example.

Although Dominic was not familiar with the 13 Moons, they do have a way of celebrating New Years. Once those seven big stars (Pleiades) are right above, they can have a celebration. Such a celebration could start by simply selecting a moment or a time where you feel something should happen. There are so many opportunities that go far beyond just celebrating green corn, the crops and Thanksgiving.

Bob said I wish we could say that we celebrate green corn but it isn't celebrated locally. It would be interesting to see the Wendat perspective of this.

Dominic said there's an opportunity to find a parallel between that and the euro-Canadian celebration of Thanksgiving.

Lori closed off the discussion with thanks saying that this has been a wonderful conversation. She looks forward to doing some research on green corn and the seven big stars. She reinforced their need to continue to seek diverse voices, recognizing that each culture lived differently on the land.

If at any point, that the Huron-Wendat Nation has questions or comments, they are encouraged to reach out.

Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Meeting with Six Nations Lands and Resources

Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022,
Meeting held virtually

Participants

Six Nations of the Grand River:

- Robbin Van Stone, Consultation Supervisor, Six Nations Lands and Resources
- Lonny Bomberly, Director, Six Nations Lands and Resources
- Phil Monture, Consultant, Six Nations Lands and Resources
- Taylor Hill, Director/Trainee, Six Nations Lands and Resources
- Tanya Hill Montour, Archaeology Supervisor, Six Nations Lands and Resources
- Peter Graham, Land Use Officer, Six Nations Lands and Resources
- Bethany Kunz-Wakefield, Wildlife and Stewardship

Manager, Six Nations Lands and Resources

- Lauren Jones, Wildlife Officer, Six Nations Lands and Resources
- Dawn Russell, Consultation Administrative Assistant, Six Nations Lands and Resources

City of Toronto:

- Lori Ellis, Project Officer of Strategic Projects & Project Lead, Parks Forestry & Recreation
- Pablo Munoz, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, Parks Forestry & Recreation

Consultants:

- Terrence Radford, Trophic Design
- Victoria Bell, Landscape Architect, DTAH

- Bob Goulais, Facilitator, Nbisiing Consulting Inc.

Record of Discussion

Bob provided a brief introduction to the purpose of the meeting which is to share the latest updates and big ideas for the Toronto Island Master Plan. The participants introduced themselves.

Lori Ellis provided greetings on behalf of the City. She explained that this meeting was a continuation of discussions that began with pre-engagement, and a meeting during the first phase. The information being shared today is built upon the engagement process to date. They took the feedback they've heard and are bringing forward ideas that are being tied to the actual physical Toronto Island Park spaces themselves.

In the presentation, the City provided an update and a timeline. The first phase of work was focused on engagement, building the vision, values, guiding principles and coming up with ideas. Although they are in the middle of the process, there is still a lot to do. They are looking to begin wrapping things up in Fall 2022.

Lori stated that the master plan is intended to be a guiding document to be implemented over a long period of time. It will help establish priorities and determine budgets and specific projects that require additional study.

Victoria provided a project update of the three-phase project. They want to be able to share the master plan sometime in the late summer-early fall. They are going to continue working with the rights-holders and local Indigenous communities. Other public engagement audiences include a Community Advisory Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee.

She stated that people don't necessarily want to see change but are willing to consider more subtle changes. The nature of the island itself will influence change as it is made of sand and prone to flooding. The island is a natural place, and an escape or refuge from the city. For Indigenous peoples, it has value as a place of healing, a meeting place and for sharing. The plan will promote and protect natural areas, while

identifying opportunities using existing built heritage, and prioritizing the adaptation and reuse of what's already there, and minimizing the need to build new.

She also acknowledged that this is a unique place, that's quirky and fun, the beaches are unique and it is separated from Toronto. The fact that you have to get there by boat is both an advantage and a challenge.

The team has heard very specific ideas about creating spaces for ceremony, healing and cultural use. They want to make Indigenous history, identity and living culture more visible including using Indigenous languages through naming, wayfinding and interpretation. There are also economic opportunities for First Nations and Indigenous businesses. They also need to prioritize and consider the land, water, flora and fauna, as living beings.

Bethany shared that she was hearing a lot of good stuff, but wondered how you will reconcile the desire for more people to visit the island, more often, but also respect the other non-human beings and the environment?

Victoria replied stating they are identifying specific areas of protection and finding ways to keep people out of those spaces. They also want to teach people to understand how their actions impact the environment, habitat, plants and animals on the island. They hope to elevate the ecological functions of the island on a regional, and continental scale and figure out ways to help share that information. This is a sentiment that is shared by the public and advisory groups.

She spoke to some of the drivers for the master plan including issues around access and accessibility, unrealized business opportunities on the island, and pressures associated with the growing downtown core. Victoria presented the vision which includes to protect and restore the island and the sensitive ecology, to honour and celebrate Indigenous peoples, and to play and explore including having year-round activities. The values for the master plan will include respect, diversity, balance and accountability. This is focused on trying to embrace stewardship and resilience which will be key to managing and maintaining sensitive environments and being able to share this really unique, natural place, for generations to come.

She shared a slide on the guiding principles of the master plan including to honour and respect Indigenous communities, placekeeping, and the rights and responsibilities to the islands and the water.

Bob shared that these guiding principles have also been reinforced by non-Indigenous people.

Robbin asked who will inform, and how will they decide on names? The Indigenous population in Toronto is very diverse. Also, how are you going to address that some Indigenous words are difficult to pronounce?

Victoria said that the master plan itself will not determine the names, although it may define a process that works toward this. Lori shared that the issue is quite complex, and there is no one answer that suits everyone. The master plan will make space for this and identify this as a recommendation and a priority. Bob shared that the City will be coming forward in the future to consider broader considerations for commemoration and place naming.

Peter shared that the Mississaugas are not the only treaty rights holder in the territory and referenced the 1701 Nanfan Treaty. He advised to bear that in mind when considering the naming process.

Bethany stated that people are capable of learning new words. She advised doing this phonetically, by having a pronunciation guide, in brackets, behind the correct spelling. With regards to naming processes, nobody knows exactly how to do that fairly. There is tension as one First Nation feel they are the sole treaty holders. It may turn people off if all the names are in that one language.

Bob shared that one idea is to have co-naming, or multiple names in different languages. He acknowledged the advice that these names shouldn't just reflect one voice. Also, some non-Indigenous may not be willing to give up their names or history either.

Terence began a presentation on "Revealing an Indigenous Place". The big ideas identified include: Having a dedicate space for ceremony and gathering on Snake Island; Identifying opportunities for naming and renaming; Considering the ferry landings and gateways as places for art and cultural markers and signal that the islands are Indigenous place; Integrating storytelling and interpretation throughout the park that may include a cultural narrative trail; Identifying spaces for teaching, learning and sharing indigenous knowledge. The team is suggesting the creation of other teaching spaces across the island to demonstrate indigenous knowledge including an example of using the 13 Moons for teaching and programming in

different space along the trail. The sixth big idea is to identify opportunities and spaces to support Indigenous artists, craftspeople, food vendors, and Indigenous businesses; and finally, exploring opportunities for co-management across the Islands including in managing and restoring natural environments of the Island.

Terence shared some mood sketches including one at the proposed Snake Island ceremonial space. Bob made it clear that the area would be adaptive to ceremonies of all nations and could include a longhouse. Terence agreed saying the space would be used in multiple ways. In the sketch, he wanted to demonstrate the size of the existing clearing – showing examples of elements that can fit there.

Terence shared the mood sketch of the proposed cultural narrative trail including spaces for teaching, language elements, interpretive signage, unique seating elements, gardens or plantings, with unique water and refill stations.

He provided the map-based demonstration plan that included specific locations for the big ideas across the Islands. He highlighted areas for the potential cultural narrative trail, a Big Spirit Moon Plaza, a Centre Landing Marketplace area, and a flexible space for larger public events.

Bob credited Six Nations for sharing the idea of co-management of natural areas including the involvement of Kayanese.

Robbin shared that it was good that the City is considering space for Indigenous people including ceremonial space. But she is hoping that they are not considering building a bridge or tunnel or other means to travel to the island.

Bob said they've heard a number of suggestions, including a causeway and a zipline.

Lori responded stating that the bridge debate has been going on for many years. Some think it's a good idea but others are completely opposed to it. The plan will look to improve accessibility but they are currently going to plan without a bridge. There are talks about a water shuttle system that works across the waterfront. There is already a pedestrian tunnel at the island airport. There may be future discussions of a physical connection. If anything, they may consider a pedestrian and cycling connection but not a bridge to promote vehicular access. They don't want to promote vehicles coming over to the island. This is not going to be a key recommendation of this plan.

Phil stated that this is a challenge. It's important to do the utmost environmentally, but want to accommodate people accessing the park. You have to have controlled access because of the flooding. He felt that keeping this place as an island, and making use of ferries and water taxis, is what is feasible right now.

Peter asked how do you reconcile protection with an exploding population in downtown Toronto? There are a number of priorities about protecting the waters, lands and animals. However, this was shown at the bottom of the list. There should be a focus on protecting the natural way of things rather than developing businesses and activities. Peter also noted that the plan considers seasonal workers on the Island including in the winter. He wondered what kind of ventures would those be attached to?

Lori acknowledged that they have been challenged in how they are communicating environmental priorities in the presentation. With so many big ideas and activities, people may not see the priority placed on protection, preservation and restoration. The City has some homework to do on how they communicate this. For example, the idea of the pathways and boardwalks is about controlling access to specific places. The idea of interpretation and the narrative trail is to teach about stewardship. Education is the underpinning piece for all those who really care about the environment. They are using these concepts to create a smaller footprint within the park. That would open up restoration and protection of sensitive areas.

Victoria shared that they are looking at expansion of the winter ferry service. Presently it only goes to Ward's Island in the winter. Winter activities would be centered around the central park area. They have also talked about how parts of the island maybe open or closed at different times of year to allow for management of the land. Seasonal elements are going to be driven by programming. With regard to camping, that will take place on the existing footprint. Bob stated camping may be necessary to support some ceremonies.

Bethany stressed that the needs of the natural environment have to be put first, including to assess impacts for the non-human beings. If it's an important bird area, for example. They have nothing, in fact, they have the dangers of glass buildings downtown. We need to start with the ecosystem and then work backwards. Start at the ecosystem level and determine what the ecosystem can handle. Do they want us there? Perhaps it means not have music festivals on the island.

In German culture, they have a concept that literally means “to wander” or hike around. It’s an activity that people do that gives them what they need in terms of the mental health. It’s much less impactful on the natural environment. We should be thinking about seven generations in the future.

Lori explained that in the third phase of the project, the City is going to host a forum on the natural environment to speak directly to the points Bethany is bringing up. When you leave the City and step off the ferry, you need to approach things with a light touch and leave no trace. Like visiting a provincial or national park. They want to work on a code of conduct for all visitors to become stewards of that space.

Bob asked that the City invite Six Nations Lands and Resources to that forum.

Bethany said this is not just a messaging issue. It’s a planning issue. These values need to be the foundation of this plan. These are not just lenses but values.

Lauren raised a concern that, with all the efforts to create space for Indigenous people, it could sit empty and not used if there are no resources to maintain and promote it. Are there any plans for promoting these aspects in the plan?

Bob said that the plan will not address all the marketing work in detail. But it will be a consideration. In fact, a whole section of the presentation is on accessibility of the Island. It’s an important factor to make sure people are able to access these things.

Peter noticed the reference to a potential place for an Indigenous gift shop and marketplace. He wanted to see where that was being located. He noted the use of the park by dogs. That raises concern about wildlife disturbances. Also, with the population of downtown Toronto expected to double in the coming decades, with potential opportunity to expand places to buy, eat and drink, this means an increase in garbage. Also, can you talk more about the business team and what they are discussing?

Peter said that the yacht clubs may want to expand the number of slips. With the likelihood of flooding, should the City allow the clubs to have more slips? This will result in even more motorized boats. Have you considered postponing the planning until there’s an opportunity to look at the flooding and erosion assessment?

Victoria shared that the marketplace is being considered for the Center Island ferry landing. The center landing marketplace is a place to arrive at, get what you need on

the island, and then be able to go out and enjoy and experience the island from there.

Lori shared that the full team works closely with the business team although they're not part of this call today. All the subject matter in this meeting has been informed by the business team. Bob mentioned they are not on the call solely to be respectful of numbers. He can arrange to have the business team reach out to Six Nations if they are interested in a discussion.

Lori said that they may have more detailed conversations and focus groups to provide specific input on the business side. But they are not quite there yet.

With regard to garbage, Lori said there is already a lot of retail on the island with existing contracts. They are looking for language within those contracts that might help encourage them to think about recycling and reducing waste. Another stewardship idea would be having Island cleanup days.

Lori was not aware of the yacht club proposing new slips. However, the public marina is proposing some new slips and moving others, likely as a result of damage sustained by flooding.

Lori shared that the TRCA flood mitigation study is underway. The City is working very closely with the TRCA and anything out of that process will be a foundation of the master plan. The master plan and flood mitigation plan will be very much integrated with one another.

Bob asked if TRCA has approached Six Nations on the flood mitigation study? Six Nations was given a notice of an upcoming Public Information Centre, but Six Nations doesn't do PICs. That's notification not consultation. Bob asked the City to encourage TRCA to reach out to Six Nations Lands and Resources.

Bethany remarked that sometimes there is a reason for "red tape" especially when it comes to requiring people to recycle. We have to put requirements on people if they're going to run businesses on the island.

With regard to flood and erosion control, unless it's absolutely unavoidable and as long as it's not anthropogenic in cause that the erosion and flooding should be

allowed to happen as a natural process. That's exactly why values need to be incorporated into the plan as a foundation.

Dawn shared that in pre-teen years, Six Nations came to the island for the day. They were asked to bring their own containers for food and drink. They were told not to bring any garbage that would be left behind. So this concept is not new. The plan can encourage others to do this. It's not impossible, and it's not unreasonable.

Bob encouraged participants to review the full presentation and the remaining lenses and big ideas for the master plan. If there are any comments or questions, they are encouraged to provide written comments by email.

Also, Six Nations is invited to attend the upcoming Indigenous Community Sharing Meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 2022. This doesn't take the place of this engagement, however, they are welcome to observe and participate.

Bethany said she would like to see a response to some of the comments from today. Can they have assurance that their comments are going to be incorporated into the master plan?

Bob said that this is a model he encourages: to show "what we've heard", and "how we responded". They will make best efforts to do that. Obviously there are a lot of priorities and comments, and they are going to capture these. Hopefully, participants will be able to see how it's being used in future work.

Lori offered thanks to all the participants and said that this has been a wholeheartedly, wonderful conversation. The feedback is very progressive and helpful. They will go back to the TRCA and share some of this feedback and will encourage them to reach out to Six Nations. Although they can't check every box, they are trying to do things in different ways, to be very mindful of the way we can protect the environment on the island, reduce garbage, and encourage people to bring their own containers.

Bethany clarified that she doesn't mean to state that these things are not being done. Just that there is a difference between a value and a lens.

Lonny offered his words of closing and thanks saying that we need to consider what we are doing. Not just as Indigenous people, but as human beings, and how we're impacting the natural world. He noted how Bethany has been very articulate in conveying their environmental concerns. The decisions that we're making today will

impact seven generations into the future. We want to make sure that we're leaving something behind that we can feel good about. They want to have access grass and dirt, and not just concrete and steel.

Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Rightsholders Meeting with Toronto-York Region Metis Council Meeting

March 2nd, 2022,
Meeting held virtually

Participants

Toronto-York Region Metis Council:

- Shirley Debassige, President
- Suzanne Brunelle, Senator
- Derek Johnstone, Chairperson
- Luanne Cunningham, Womens Representative
- Lisa Shales, Secretary
- Coreen Caine, Councillor
- Kate Stewart, Councillor

City of Toronto:

- Lori Ellis, Project Officer Strategic Projects | PDCP, Parks Forestry and Recreation
- Pablo Muñoz, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Consultants:

- Terence Redford, Landscape Architect, Trophic Design
- Victoria Bell, Landscape Architect, DTAH
- Bob Goulais, Facilitator, Nbisiing Consulting Inc.

Record of Discussion

The participants began with a round of introductions.

During her introduction, Senator Suzanne Brunelle expressed that this has been a heavy time for herself and for many others. She has Ukrainian relatives, and her thoughts are with them at this time.

Lori Ellis brought greetings on behalf of the City of Toronto and acknowledged Senator Brunelle's sentiments. The news has been quite disheartening lately.

Lori is the project lead on the development of the Toronto Island Master Plan. Today, the City and their design team are going to give a presentation on their draft demonstration plan. They have taken all the ideas shared in the engagement so far and will present them spatially on the map of the Island.

Victoria began the presentation by sharing an overview of the project schedule. They are currently in phase two of the project which is quite a long phase. This is the idea generation phase that began in the fall. An open house was hosted the evening before. There will be an Indigenous Community Sharing Meeting taking place on March 9 and the Council is welcome to participate.

They have had three key advisory groups throughout the project: A Community Advisory Committee, consisting of local experts and community members; a Technical Advisory Committee, consisting of staff and public sector partners like Waterfront Toronto; and Indigenous rights-holders and communities.

They have been told by the public that this place is beloved and any change will need to be light and gradual. They need to consider the dynamic nature of the Island.

Victoria explained how the Islands were formed, by erosion created from the Scarborough bluffs. They also need to understand and reflect the history of the Islands, some of which has been documented while other stories haven't been told. This has been a place of significance for many communities.

The plan will focus on promoting the protection and the value of the natural environment, without degrading these natural assets. There are several significant structures and a complex built heritage on the Island. This gives them opportunities to reconsider, reinterpret, and adapt these existing structures for new uses.

The Island has a unique character as it provides a sense of escape from the city. This brings with it challenges as people have to access the Island by boat. People don't want to see the Island overcrowded or being loved to death.

Indigenous communities have shared ideas surrounding the Island being an Indigenous place. This has led to the creation of a specific lens in the plan called: "Revealing an Indigenous Place". This is about elevating the Indigenous history, identity, and living culture of many Indigenous communities. It can be a place to share stories and Indigenous knowledge about the land. Also, the plan should consider economic opportunities for Indigenous businesses on the Island. It can be a place for cultural and artistic expression.

They heard that it is important to consider the land, water, flora and fauna as equal partners as they are living beings. This was echoed by Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Victoria shared the overarching values of the plan which includes respect, diversity, balance and accountability. Respect includes respect for the environment and respect for plants and animals.

There are three key themes including: Protect and Restore, Honor and Celebrate, and Play and Explore. This includes honoring and celebrating the values and traditions of Indigenous peoples and the diversity of Toronto.

Victoria identified twelve guiding principles that were shared in the presentation. They are really the objectives of the master plan. These are still evolving.

The plan also needs to understand the needs of the future city and how these park systems are going to connect. Specifically with the Port Lands and the waterfront.

They have organized all the "big ideas" into five lenses.

Kate Stewart asked: what part of the park are they upgrading or developing?

Victoria flipped to a map of the area. They are studying the entire Toronto Park, but it excluded the airport lands, the water treatment plant and the residential areas at Algonquin Island and Ward's Island. They will also include the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal.

Kate referred to the Drivers for Change, asking why this was happening right now? Also, if the islands are a place for ceremony, in what ways are they looking at

partnering, in a sovereign manner, and transferring control and autonomy over these spaces?

Bob spoke to the second question, indicating that one the big ideas is about co-management, which may include implementation and operation of the ceremonial areas.

Victoria provided an overview of the nine Drivers for Change including: the Island's "one-of-a-kind" identity is uncelebrated; that Indigenous history and significance are not well known; the cultural and natural heritage are undervalued; the visitor experience could be improved; that business opportunities need improvement; challenges to access and accessibility; that the Island's dynamic environment that is constantly changing; it's supporting infrastructure is aging; and that population growth is placing increasing demands on City parks.

In introducing Terence Radford, Bob stated that they are not able to go into detail about all five lenses. The Council is encouraged to provide any written questions or comments at any time.

In his presentation, Terence indicated they heard that the Toronto Islands have been an important place for Indigenous communities. The first big idea is to dedicate a space for ceremony and gathering on Snake Island. That includes provision of infrastructure to support program uses and accessibility. The second idea is identifying opportunities for naming and renaming parts of the Island. Use of Indigenous languages are an important consideration. They are seeking other opportunities to incorporate language in new ways, such as in wayfinding and interpretation across the islands.

The third idea focuses on the ferry landings as significant gateways and integration of art and cultural marker to signify that the islands are an Indigenous place. The fourth big idea is around integrating storytelling and interpretation. This may include creation of a cultural narrative trail to provide an interpretive experience and Indigenous teaching moments. Big idea number five is about identifying spaces for teaching, learning and sharing Indigenous knowledge. This includes creating a series of nodes along the cultural narrative trail to share teaching and celebrate diverse Indigenous communities. They may use the theme of the 13 Grandmother Moons. There could be a key space along the narrative trail called the Big Spirit Moon plaza. They may also explore a larger gathering and celebration space at Olympic Island.

The sixth big idea is to look at opportunities and spaces to support Indigenous artists, craftspeople, food vendors and businesses. The last of the big ideas is about exploring opportunities for co-management on the islands, including in tourism, integration of art and cultural markers, program delivery, and to manage and restore the natural environment of the Island.

Terence shared some mood sketches of the space including the ceremonial space at Snake Island. His image featured a ceremonial lodge, sweat lodge and a sacred fire. It includes a new accessible pathway with access to the water.

The second mood sketch shows one of the nodes along the cultural narrative trail. This was labelled the Bear Moon. It could include language elements, interpretive signage, unique seating elements, gardens or plantings, unique water refill stations.

Finally, Terence showed the demonstration plan which maps the various big ideas spatially on the Toronto Islands map. It included the cultural interpretive trail along the spine of the Island, the gateways or arrival points on the Island, the Snake Island ceremonial space, and spaces for year-round activities including the flexible event and gathering space identified on Olympic Island. The one area not featured on the map is the ferry terminal.

Lisa Shales asked: Did you mention a sweat lodge as well? Who would be the people running them?

Bob said that the master plan is at a very high level. When it comes to implementation, these questions will come back to the community. To Kate's point, these are things that are likely going to be co-managed. He doesn't see the City deciding who will be giving sweats or managing the booking of the sites. That is likely going to be run by Indigenous people themselves.

Terence stated, that although the sketch shows a lodge and a firepit, they are not necessary proposing these ideas. They have to come from the community. The sketch is to demonstrate the flexibility of the space.

Bob also shared that there wouldn't be one sweat lodge to be shared for everybody to use. It will be up to the sweat lodge carrier to make use of their own protocols.

Lori stated that Snake Island is very much a natural space. It does have a bridge but it does not meet AODA accessibility standards. There is a seasonal restroom facility on the south side of the bridge – not directly on Snake Island,. There are other users

of Snake Island including the YMCA that runs a children's recreation camp. The City is going to have to think about existing and future uses of the space. Dialogues like this will help inform how the future programs being considered plays out.

Derek Johnstone asked what the First Nation's initial responses are, the Mississaugas of the Credit, in particular. First Nations have asserted that this is unceded land. The Métis would want to be in solidarity with their First Nations cousins.

Bob stated that they've been working closely with the Mississaugas throughout. Many of the ideas are being guided by the elders and knowledge holders. The City knows they are always being held accountable especially with regard to the territory and the rights of the land as a living being. So far they've been happy to see all of these enhancements when it comes to culture and identity.

Derek asked if there have been any specific concerns identified to date by any First Nations about the proposal?

Lori said no. The City has been pleasantly surprised, not only in their Indigenous engagement activities, but also the broader public engagement activities. There is almost unanimous support in relation to the cultural and natural heritage landscape. So far, people feel we're mostly swimming in the same direction. There may be future tension when they get into prioritizing ideas. But for the master plan, the vision, values, guiding principles, and overarching ideas, there seems to be a lot of support coming from all directions.

Pablo outlined that they had done a lot of pre-engagement, and engaging people from the very beginning. That has really helped throughout the process as they got off on the right foot.

Suzanne recalls taking part in a pre-engagement meeting back in November 2020. Could they give a bit more information about that?

Bob affirmed that was indeed the pre-engagement process. The kick-off of the master plan process was in February 2021, about a year ago. This was the beginning of phase one. This meeting is the report back from all those conversations and ideas that were assembled.

Lori reinforced that the only activity before pre-engagement was a dialogue with Waterfront Toronto and the Port Authority. At that time, they put out an RFP

process that identified the need for an Indigenous engagement lead and an Indigenous design lead.

Derek said that the Métis are a vibrant, rapidly growing community. The Toronto-York Region Métis may not be a Section 35 community itself, but are made up of a diaspora of Section 35 Métis communities from all over. The waterways are critical to their identity and history as a people. They want to ensure that the promotion and message of the Toronto Island will reflect the Métis Nation and the relevance of the waterways, the Great Lakes, and the Humber River, in particular.

Lori acknowledged Derek's input. It is different, but similar, to what they've heard. They intend to reflect the growing Métis nation, how they are tied into the waterways around the Island, the Humber River and other water systems and watersheds. When they get into telling the story and celebrating Indigenous peoples, they want to do this from different perspectives. She asked if there are people in their community that could take part in providing advice on this.

Bob appreciated Derek's description of the local Métis as a diaspora. He acknowledged the historic Métis communities in Ontario including Georgian Bay, Mattawa, Sault Ste. Marie and other places.

Victoria stated they will be looking for people to participate in a heritage study to talk to about the significance of the Island to the Métis. They will be reaching out in the not-to-distant future.

Kate made reference to the sweats and structures that could be built at the ceremonial space. She recognized that this plan is high-level and will be about designating the space. But she felt that Indigenous people should be brought in early, and for the City to build partnerships. As a Métis person, who has lived here for a while, she would like to know who will be making those decisions. She would feel safe if the Mississaugas were leading this. These sacred, spiritual places need to have caretakers. It's about building those reciprocal long term, relationships. This is very exciting and quite timely and hopeful.

Lori said the City is trying to come at this in a very altruistic way and are putting their best foot forward. But in moving forward, the path isn't always completely clear. It's definitely a process and they're learning as they go. They don't have the answer in regards to what that collaboration and future governance of the spaces would be. But it is really important at this point to be starting those conversations.

Lisa shared a link in the chat to the Reflection Circle at the University of Kings College. She spoke of elders, Dan and Mary Lou Smoke, who led the opening ceremony there. But the circle was built without it facing the four directions. It was a missed opportunity because the conversation started too late. It's good to have the guidance early to help correct any cultural mistakes.

Bob shared that they are indeed being guided by the Mississauga elders, including with cultural advice on many of these ideas. Bob acknowledged Suzanne who was a part of the launch ceremony last February. The elders were there to advise on all of it. He appreciated the reminders from Lisa and Kate.

Lori said, that if anything in the master plan is going to be developed, there will be a whole other design process that may require additional studies and a separate engagement process before anything would be built.

Bob invited the participants to the Indigenous Community Sharing Meeting, on March 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Derek had two questions: With the focus on business opportunities, will there be any business permits and financial supports for Indigenous entrepreneurs? Also, with regard to Snake Island, is it intended to be more of a spiritual place, or a community place for Indigenous communities? There is not a whole lot of green space in the City and the water is critical to the identity of the Métis. If the vision is a community space, it'd be nice to piggyback with existing infrastructure to hold community gatherings and be able to prepare food. Right now, Indigenous people are being forced into commercialized options.

Lori indicated that they are working on a business strategy that does include consideration for opportunities for Indigenous business. There's the idea of a marketplace at center landing. Right now, there's an exclusive contract for food and beverage on the Island. But they're looking to look at different models that will open that up and not be exclusive. But they're going to have to wait for some of those contracts to expire. With regards to funding supports, Lori did not have an answer.

Terence spoke about the Inner Harbour in Victoria, BC where there is designated space for Indigenous vendors. This is the kind of precedent that they've been looking at for this marketplace.

Bob spoke to Derek's question about Snake Island. The big driver from the community was dedicated ceremonial space, that was safe and had controlled

access. But the bridge needs to be replaced for it to be accessible. It can be a community space. The space at Olympic Island could be used for larger, more public gatherings. Bob suggested that this might be a place for a future MNO AGA.

Terence said they have been open to hearing what activities may take place on Snake Island. There is potential to run infrastructure there including water and electricity.

Lori said the Olympic Island, too, has bridges that could have controlled access. It also has a concession building that isn't currently being used. While Snake Island is much more natural with narrow paths and poison ivy that will tickle your ankles. The community could consider using either Snake Island or Olympic Island depending on the scale of the gathering.

Shirley Debassige shared that the Toronto-York Region Métis Council, and MNO Region 8 are hosting the MNO AGA this year. They will be on the Island for one day on August 18th. They would have liked to host the whole gathering there but the wifi is inadequate. They are going to have a Voyageur canoe race/competition on the Island.

Bob shared how the MNO AGA is a wonderful gathering. It isn't just focused on political discussions but Métis culture.

Kate shared that she heard the word "authenticity" a couple of times and feels this is a violent word. She proposed inserting the word "connectedness". Bob acknowledged this and offered thanks to Kate for sharing this advice.

Shirley offered some closing words stating that the presentation was great and the team has done a lot of work. Given the AGA is being held on the Island, this was an important meeting to attend. She offered thanks on behalf of the Toronto-York Region Métis Council.

Lori offered her thanks to the participants, and appreciated the opportunity to create these connections. She is looking to forge this partnership and this connectedness. She would like to see the City support the AGA in any way they can. There's a wonderful group of people that support the Island. She will see how they can support the Council/Region to make that event successful. She looks forward to coming back for a follow-up dialogue in phase 3.

Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Rightsholders Meeting with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

Monday, February 28th, 2022,
Meeting held virtually

Participants

Mississaugas of the Credit:

Mark Laforme, Director, Department of
Consultation and Accommodation

City of Toronto:

- David O'Hara, Program Manager
Capital Projects, City of Toronto,
PFR
- Lori Ellis, Project Officer of
Strategic Projects & Project Lead,
Parks Forestry & Recreation
- Pablo Munoz, Senior Public
Consultation Coordinator, Parks
Forestry & Recreation

Consultants:

- Victoria Bell, Landscape Architect,
DTAH
- Bob Goulais, Facilitator, Nbisiing
Consulting Inc.

Record of Discussion

Mark Laforme provided greetings and informed the group that he has looked over the presentation ahead of time and acknowledges that it is very straightforward and that he paid special attention to the section on “Revealing an Indigenous Place”.

Bob Goulais stressed that importance is being placed on covering the Anishinaabe perspective of the environment as a living being, with the park intended to be a natural getaway from the city.

The participants began a round of introductions.

Mark shared that he was just getting up to speed after being off of work for several months.

David O’Hara extended regrets from Lori Ellis, who had been leading the project but was not present for the meeting.

The floor was then handed to Victoria Bell for the presentation. Victoria reiterated that they have been talking with Mississauga elders but are happy to have a touchpoint with Mark and the Department of Consultation and Accommodation (DOCA) to be certain that everyone is headed in the same direction.

Victoria explained that they are coming to the end of phase two in this three phase project and that they have been engaging with First Nations and Indigenous communities that hold the Island important and have identified several “big ideas” that will be presented into a demonstration plan to ground these ideas in real conditions. She explained that they will be engaging with the public and with community advisors over the next few weeks and will be moving into phase three, the preliminary, draft Master Plan. She then outlined that what she would be sharing is a collection of preliminary ideas that still need work.

Mark raised the concern with the use of the term “Indigenous community” and stressed that there needs to be a differentiation made between First Nations and what people call “Indigenous communities”. Mark brought the point that it’s likely that every major urban centre in Canada has an Indigenous community but they may not be a First Nation who is owed the Duty to Consult by the Supreme Court. They are not rights-holders over the land on which they live. Mark explained that these communities and some First Nations do not have treaty rights in Toronto. He further

explained that the term "Indigenous community" is bothersome for him if there is not a clear differentiation between an urban Indigenous community and First Nations.

Bob acknowledged Mark's concern and stressed that the team is well-aware of the distinction and need to be more aware of how these terms are used in conversations and documents within the project.

Mark agreed that while going through the document he did notice that the distinction was being made and that the Mississauga of the Credit want to be inclusive but also want to ensure that rights-holders are getting proper recognition. Bob confirmed the importance of the conversation and thanked Mark for the reminder.

Victoria continued with her presentation, discussing that phase two has been a long phase with a lot of engagement. She explained that in phase one, and in pre-engagement, they met with rights-holders to identify how, and when, they would like to be engaged during the process, which also resulted in a discussion with elders on placekeeping. She reiterated that this meeting was the first time talking to rights-holders in phase two and that the plan was to bring everyone up to speed on the progress since previous conversations.

Victoria outlined the three key streams of advisory and working groups - the Community Advisory Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee (composed primarily of City staff and public sector partners), and the Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous urban communities.

The discussion then moved to different ways of discussing change around the Toronto Islands, given that it is beloved by the community and there may be resistance to change. Victoria discussed how it is not a place that should be over-developed. They need to think creatively on how to make room for inevitable changes due to natural factors such as climate change and how proposed ideas may have on the Island. She stressed how we are attempting to get ahead of those changes rather than having an ad hoc response.

Victoria acknowledged that to start the process, there needs to be an understanding of how the islands were formed, both geologically and by human use. The importance was stressed of understanding that what makes the Islands unique is their past, including their documented past and oral histories.

The natural environment was discussed as key to the character of the Islands and the importance of promoting the protection and the value of the natural areas was stressed, underlining that the natural character of the Islands is a huge factor in the quality of the park.

The potentially undervalued heritage that had been built on the Islands was discussed. There is potential for repurposing existing structures and built heritage.

Victoria discussed the input of the advisory groups on what they love about the Toronto Islands. This was largely a feeling of oasis and separation from the city. She discussed how there was feedback on what wasn't working well, including the fact that it's a challenge to get there.

Mark asked about the discussion surrounding businesses on the Island and what ideas had been floated, stating his personal reluctance to see the Island as a thriving business hub.

David addressed the question with the assurance that there was no desire to develop the Island with a host of new businesses. He explained that businesses will be closely tied with visitor experience, like providing food and beverages to visitors. He reminded the group that there are already existing businesses like bike rentals and that there's room to grow. But growth would be centered on visitor experience.

There was more discussion between Mark and David on how business would be low impact and grounded in the values and principles that have been established together.

Victoria continued her presentation, talking about the discussions that have taken place with rights-holders and urban Indigenous communities. She highlighted several items of interest that had come up, such as how to elevate the realization that this is an Indigenous place and how this is responded to in the "Revealing Indigenous Place" lens of the project. She talked about creating spaces for Indigenous use and ensuring that history, identity, and living culture of rights-holders and other communities that may use the land is expressed in a respectful and meaningful manner.

The discussion then moved to finding ways to consider the land, water, flora, and fauna as living beings and as an important part of the project.

Victoria stressed that it was the public that wanted to elevate the recognition of the space as an Indigenous place and consider the various environmental elements was raised, reiterating what had already been heard elsewhere.

Victoria went on to discuss a series of drivers and how they underscore a need for a plan for the Toronto Islands. Some of the factors identified were operational challenges for accessibility, the changing and dynamic environment, and the prioritization of visitor experience. The need to take the planning in a direction that makes visitor experience key while also prioritizing the environment was underscored.

The values of the project were discussed, which take into consideration the human perspective, but also the natural environment. Respect among people and for the environment, diversity of visitors as well as biodiversity, active and passive spaces, and finding ways for everything to work in harmony were discussed. Accountability was also mentioned, for both current users and future generations.

Victoria outlined the vision based on the core values, with the vision being based on three themes: Protect and Restore; Honour and Celebrate; Play and Explore. Protect and Restore focuses on integrating stewardship and resilience into environmental management and creating safe spaces for all living beings, keeping the islands an escape for the urban. Honour and Celebrate focuses on understanding the stories of the island and ensuring that the values and traditions of the people are visible in how the island is managed. Play and Explore hopes to make sure the island remains a place of joy and wonder year-round and links back to visitor experience. This Vision together with the guiding principles essentially form the objectives for the overall master plan.

Victoria outlined how these objectives are still in flux, as they were nearly finalized but through conversations, they change and are therefore still fluid and subject to adjustments as new information comes in. Victoria updated that there were ten objectives the last time DOCA was spoken to and two were added for a total of twelve.

The importance of understanding how the Islands supports the current downtown was highlighted, stressing the need to understand the connections to the Core Circle Park System, the Waterfront Park System, and Ontario Place, among others, for a cohesive parks system.

Mark then spoke about his involvement with the development along the Toronto Waterfront and their good working relationship. He also spoke of the work with the Ontario government and redevelopment of Ontario Place. He expressed his concern that, in his experience, there was very little communication between Infrastructure Ontario and Waterfront Toronto and questioned whether there had been any discussion on getting all of the development projects in sync with what they'd like to achieve.

David agreed with Mark's assessment and assured him that they have been working closely with Waterfront Toronto on several fronts and would like to make sure everyone is headed in the same direction and working closely on this project.

Mark acknowledged that Waterfront Toronto doesn't seem to have any issues with the Toronto Island project, and stated his hope that Infrastructure Ontario may be more flexible in reaching out for discussion to tie all of the development projects together.

Victoria continued the presentation, talking about the demonstration plan that had been drafted, which is an illustrative plan that shows how some of the ideas will be put in place. She outlined how, in order to make the plan more consumable, it was ordered into five lenses. She would primarily be talking about the "Revealing an Indigenous Place" lens, but that information on the others was available in the presentation distributed before the meeting.

The "Revealing an Indigenous Place" lens was crafted through conversations with rights-holders and Indigenous communities. Victoria referenced the fact the islands are a place of significance for Indigenous peoples and talked about a plan to create a dedicated ceremonial space on the Islands. She acknowledged that Snake Island has been used this way, but could use additional infrastructure and program support moving forward. She also suggested that this would not necessarily be a public space, but rather one for private ceremonial use.

The second idea presented was an opportunity for naming and renaming. Through discussions, the importance of naming and language were revealed and there is a hope to rename some places of significance throughout the islands. Victoria also discussed other ways to incorporate language in meaningful ways and make it visible throughout the islands. These ideas included wayfinding, place names, and interpretation.

The third big idea discussed was about the ferry landings as gateways that frame visitor's experience of the islands. They are being considered as points for integration of art, culture markers, and other strategies to signal arrival on Indigenous land. These locations are also being considered for interpretive programming to share protocols for respecting the land and water.

With respect to naming and renaming, Mark asked what specific languages were being considered?

Victoria conceded that it would be a complex process, and a conversation to be had with rights-holders. She assured Mark that there was not yet a specific plan, but that it was identified in the master plan as something to be done moving forward.

Mark put forth that this was a concept that was discussed thoroughly during the Port Lands work. Bob asked specifically how that had been done. Mark told the group that it was an ongoing process.

Bob then mentioned co-naming. He discussed how some elements of the existing names may be important to Torontonians and we may consider co-naming some spaces with Anishinaabe names, while co-naming other spaces using other Indigenous languages to create equity. He expressed that although there are conversations being had with the Anishinaabeg elders, they will be sensitive to the Huron Wendat and Six Nations when naming.

Mark again talked about this as a previous point of discussion during the Port Lands naming and stressed the need to be somewhat narrow while also being inclusive.

Victoria continued with idea number four, which centered on integrating storytelling and interpretation throughout the park and finding ways to share traditional knowledge. She spoke on considering the opportunity for a cultural narrative trail, themed on the 13 Grandmother Moons. This would create a continuous experience across the Island where many stories can be told. She emphasized the desire for diverse places and stories that are a part of the expression of the park.

Creating major year-round gathering and celebration spaces was discussed. Olympic Island was pinpointed as a possible gathering space as it is already used for that purpose but could be supported with additional infrastructure. There would also be a major node or plaza along the narrative trail, referred to as the Big Spirit Moon plaza.

Victoria went on to discuss the sixth big idea – creating opportunities to support Indigenous artisans and businesses. She reiterated that the plan is not to heavily develop the Island, but to provide dedicated spaces to highlight indigenous business and that the Business Strategy Team was looking into how that could function from an operational standpoint.

Idea seven focused on ideas for co-management through various avenues like tourism and transportation services. This includes program delivery for Indigenous and non-Indigenous visitors, permanent and pop-up businesses on the Island, and opportunities to manage and restore the natural environment.

Victoria then discussed a sketch of the proposed ceremony space at Snake Island, including a sweat lodge, ceremonial lodge, sacred fire, and other features. The plan also focuses on improving accessibility and minimizing environmental impact.

The discussion then looped back to the cultural narrative trail, and different ways to express Indigenous teachings and culture within the spaces. A comment was made on how some elements could help identify spaces including wayfinding and interpretation.

Victoria then did a quick overview of the proposed spaces that had been discussed, closing out the discussion on the Revealing an Indigenous Place lens.

Mark reiterated that he is very comfortable with the direction the project is headed and Bob acknowledged the contributions of the MCFN elders and that future planning and design would include further discussions with elders and communities.

Mark talked about K.J. (Jules) McCusker, an artist who had proposed an installation on Snake Island. He mentioned the connection to arts and culture and how this installation may connect to the Toronto Islands project. Bob understood that they were still working out the details of the installation. David affirmed that the art installation is a temporary installation.

The meeting wrapped with Mark in general agreement that he was very pleased with the presented package and felt things were moving forward in a very positive direction.



Integrated Feedback Summary Report: Phase 2 Deep Dives

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).

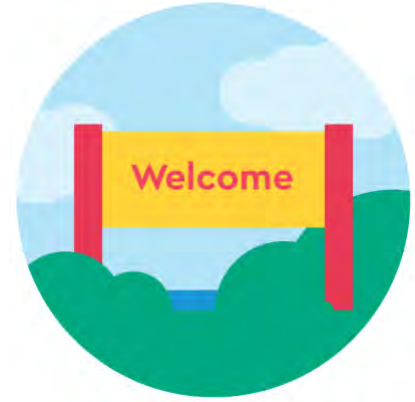
Across all four Deep Dives, approximately 120 participants attended. Participants included members of the public, waterfront-based community organizations, park users from the across the city, organizers of Island-based events, Toronto Island residents, and more.

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 as 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 cross-country 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)
 - 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
 - Revitalize and expand existing play spaces across the islands
 - Identify opportunities for new non-structured play elements (e.g. hammocks, landform)
 - Identify opportunities to enhance existing sports offerings



MAP EXP-01: Enhancing Visitor Experience - Food, Rental, Retail

IDEAS & ACTIONS:

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

C. Revitalize ferry landings and gateways

- D. Create a new space at Gibraltar Point to promote Island-wide activity, embrace opportunities near the Lighthouse and Trout Pond and better connect the park

SYMBOLS:

(F) Food; (W) Washroom; (S) Showers

- Existing to Remain
- Existing to be Enhanced
- New

Enhancing Visitor Experience | 5

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



MAP EXP-02: Enhancing Visitor Experience - Water-based Uses

IDEAS & ACTIONS:

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

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



MAP EXP-03: Enhancing Visitor Experience - Land-based Uses

IDEAS & ACTIONS:

5. Enhancing uses on land

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>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</p> <p>B. Formalize infrastructure to support event space at Hanlan's Point (e.g. landform, amphitheatre)</p> | <p>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</p> <p>D. Revitalize Olympic Island to mitigate flooding and restore pavilion and structures to celebrate and enhance views of the city skyline</p> | <p>E. Expand Hanlan's Beach clothing optional area</p> <p>F. Enhance and revitalize existing structures across the islands to create spaces for gatherings of various sizes in all seasons</p> <p>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</p> |
|---|--|--|

Enhancing Visitor Experience | 7

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
- 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

- o 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
 - 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



MAP ENV-02: Supporting a Dynamic Environment - Access

IDEAS & ACTIONS:

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
 - 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

Supporting a Dynamic Environment | 4

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

- o 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

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
 - 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



MAP ACC-02: Improving Access and Connection - Shuttle / Taxi / Tender

IDEAS & ACTIONS:

1. Improving (Water) Transportation to the Island

D. Create a Water Shuttle network to provide new predictable connections to destinations across the waterfront and islands

E. Enhance access to short-term docking and servicing for personal watercraft

Improving Access and Connection | 5

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



MAP ACC-03: Improving Access and Connection - Land and Water

IDEAS & ACTIONS:

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

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
 - o Enhance wayfinding with new signage on land and water and digital information sharing



MAP ACC-04: Improving Access and Connection - Accessibility

IDEAS & ACTIONS:

3. Enhancing Accessibility

- 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

Improving Access and Connection | 7

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)
 - o Create integrated rest areas within new pathway system and along existing routes
 - o 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 under-served 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
- Create rest and gathering areas along pathways and access routes

Enhancing uses on water

- 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
- 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

Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Indigenous Community Sharing Meeting

March 9th, 2022,
Meeting held virtually

Participants

Six Nations of the Grand River:

- Kahontakwas Diane Longboat, Elder
- Allison Palmer
- Cadhla Gray
- Liz McGroarty
- Jerome Fletcher
- Jessica Sherk
- Kristin Basmadjian
- Kevin Wassegijig
- Walter Lindstone
- Kim Wheatley
- Madison Jacobs
- Meaghan Salisbury
- Michael Noble
- Miranda Black
- Noel Tsui
- Steve Turner

- Susan Aaron
- Edward Dougall
- Lucas James

Project Team:

- Lori Ellis, Project Lead, Parks, Forestry, and Recreation, City of Toronto
- Ian Malczewski, Principal, Third Party Public
- Pablo Muñoz, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
- Victoria Bell, Associate, DTAH
- Terence Radford, Principal, Trophic Design
- Bob Goulais, Nbsiing Consulting
- Olivia Horzempa, Record Keeper, Sister Circle Consulting

Record of Discussion

Bob welcomed Elder Diane Longboat, introduced himself, and explained the purpose of the meeting. Diane offered an invocation and thanksgiving. Bob introduced Lori Ellis, who offered a land acknowledgment. After the project team introduced themselves, Victoria Bell presented an overview of the project.

Victoria described the project area which includes the Toronto Island Park, including fifteen islands, and a small piece of mainland at the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal. She explained that the water treatment plant, trust lands (residential area) and airport lands are excluded from the scope of the project. Victoria explained that the project is coming to the end of Phase 2 which focuses on bringing ideas back to the community which will lead to the development of the formal Master Plan document which is expected to be completed and shared at the end of summer 2022. Victoria said that the team will be coming back to share outcomes as the document is finalized, and that there will be other opportunities for input.

Victoria described that the team is using a “**light touch**” with the intention of elevating the things that make the islands special, to protect the natural environment, and to create a refuge and place of healing for many generations. Victoria stressed the importance of protecting the natural areas as significant places for wildlife and human movement, which are significant for many cultures. Victoria shared the intention is to adapt existing structures, reuse spaces, and to re-imagine existing undervalued features, rather than clearing land for new ones.

Victoria explained that through engagement, they’ve learned what people love about the islands – escape, oasis, and ritual. They’ve also heard what isn’t working well, which is that the islands can be expensive, time consuming, hard to get to, and lacking winter activities. They also heard that there is a lack of understanding regarding the cultural heritage and Indigenous history of the islands. Victoria reflected on the team’s learnings through Indigenous engagement thus far, including:

- The need for space for ceremony, healing, and cultural use; emphasizing these elements as contemporary and evolving, not just historical;
- Creating economic opportunities for Indigenous businesses and spaces for arts and cultural programming; and

- Considering the sovereignty of the land, water, flora, and fauna, as equal partners and the importance of advocating for these living beings.

Victoria shared the important **drivers** of the project, including understanding the dynamic environment, the impacts of flooding and climate change, while also considering the expanding future population. Victoria shared the four **key values** that have underpinned the project including respect, diversity, balance, and accountability. These values “inform everything we are doing and the outcomes of the project.” Victoria explained that the team considers these values from the perspective of the natural environment including: Respect for nature; A space of belonging for all diverse walks of life and the environmental biodiversity; Balance, as the natural environment has balance while also understanding it is a park and will be used actively; and Accountability to the “land” and the “past, present, and future generations of park stewards.” Victoria shared how the team wants to think about these values “holistically” and not just from the human perspective.

Victoria then explained how the **vision** was built around three themes: 1) Protect & restore, 2) Honor & celebrate, and 3) Play & explore. Victoria shared the intention of honoring and celebrating Indigenous peoples while also making space for diverse perspectives while embodying the unique character of the place as well as ensuring the park is accessible and usable year-round. The team also established **guiding principles** to act as the objectives of the plan, the first and most notable being Indigenous placekeeping and honoring the rights and responsibilities to the lands and waters. Victoria paused for questions and comments.

Steve asked if there was a way that the City could explain to the general public that the islands are characteristic of “Carolinian forests” with “unique oaks and maples.” Steve also asked if there was a plan to deal with some of the invasive species, particularly the rats. Lori responded that she hadn’t heard about the rats, so far, and she will look into this. Lori said they need to protect Indigenous tree species as the tree canopy is in decline, due to flooding, the abundance of non-native species, and the high-water table. She explained that through the master plan, they are capturing a high-level understanding of the environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs), the flora and fauna and the existing characteristics. Over the chat, Liz suggested the organization LEAF (<https://www.yourleaf.org/>) as a potential City partner for speaking to the Carolinian forest, given that they often work with the City for giveaways of native tree species.

Meaghan introduced themselves traditionally and shared their existing relationship with the islands. Meaghan heard about a few paw paw trees being planted out there and expressed eagerness to find them, to try their fruit. She explained that they are a native tree to the area and that it would be great to see more of them.

Steve inquired about the houseboats that remained in water year-round and whether they would be relocating or “staying in place.” Lori explained that technically, boats are not supposed to remain in the water year-round, and that there was some “house-cleaning” that would need to be done by the City. Lori went on to explain that the marina is supposed to be a public facing marina for all to use and access. The master plan will explore how to reconfigure the marina to make it more accessible. In the chat, Liz asked if the Toronto Island Marina is the only marina with houseboats?” Lori shared that there were houseboats at the marina as well as at the yacht club. Steve reflected that he had taken walks through the marina area and noticed a lot of people have private property sign” and was confused as they are supposed to be public spaces. He continued that he knows there are many spots where boats are anchored stating, “wherever there seems to be a dock, there’s people.”

Kim introduced themselves traditionally and greeted her relatives. She stated that she loved the overview but that “it irks me that in our home space everything is named after peoples who come from somewhere else.” She asked if there had been conversations about **renaming** to actually reflect the peoples of these lands and how that might happen? Kim elaborated, “we need to reclaim our spaces by actually renaming them in meaningful ways.” She shared, “my father worked on those islands and it holds a special place in my heart.” Kim expressed concern about the rapid increase in population and questioned how long the communities will be able to hold their sense of identity in a space where the population may double in the near future. In the chat, Allison shared that they loved Kim’s renaming suggestions and Jessica agreed.

Terence began by saying he hoped his presentation will answers Kim’s question, and presented the current **design ideas**:

1. A dedicated ceremonial space on Snake Island, that includes infrastructure that accessibly supports programs and community use.
2. Identifying opportunities for naming and renaming and suggesting specific areas to be considered for renaming. Also suggesting additional ways to

incorporate language, such as wayfinding, place names, and interpretation across the island.

3. Signs at ferry landings and gateways that explain the islands are an Indigenous place. Signage will also provide opportunities to demonstrate stewardship protocols for all arriving guests.
4. Integrating storytelling and interpretation throughout the park, via a cultural narrative trail to provide an interpretative experience across the island and to share Indigenous teaching moments.
5. Identifying spaces for teachings, learning, and sharing Indigenous knowledge. This includes the creation of thirteen nodes or spaces along the cultural narrative trail. Further, they suggest the creation of a major gathering space for year-round teachings that could also serve as a key space along the narrative trail. Space for this has been identified on Olympic Island, in a location already used for events.
6. Suggesting the provision of dedicated spaces for Indigenous businesses to sell food, crafts, and wares. As part they recommend simplified access to a variety of spaces and opportunities to attract and retain diverse Indigenous-owned and operated businesses.
7. Opportunities for co-management of the islands related to tourism, integration of art and cultural markers, utilities to deliver programs for Indigenous communities and non-Indigenous visitors, and opportunities to manage and restore the natural environment of the islands.

Terence shared two “**mood sketches**” that showed the locations for some of these ideas. The first depicted a private ceremonial space on Snake Island, chosen as it has a single bridge that connects to the more populated islands and is more private. The image showed their ideas of a “new accessible pathway” and “room to accommodate a lodge and sweats.” The space shown demonstrated access to three small beaches and views of the city.

The second mood sketch demonstrated one of the nodes along the cultural narrative trail. This example showed the potential for teaching space and ceremonies, and there could be language elements incorporated in the roadways, interpretive signage, and creative seating. Terence explained, “we really see this as being open

for many communities to share their individual cultures and languages” along the trail.

Terence shared the demonstration plan, which showed the locations of specific “**big ideas**,” including the gathering space on Snake Island, the ferry landings and Jack Layton Ferry Terminal, the cultural narrative trail, a key destination space which could possibly be a “Big Spirit Moon plaza”, a flexible event space, and finally, a marketplace at Center Island ferry.

Terrence passed it back to Bob, who opened the discussion for participants to share thoughts and ask questions.

Kevin began by reflecting on his journey to Toronto from his home community of Wiikwemkoong, located on an island. He also acknowledged his respect to all involved in the project for the work done so far. But with the work around the island, there’s been mention of environmental sensitivity. “I think everyone is on-board to mitigate climate change. But when we talk about the island, I think what we also need to talk about is the water. We should defer to the Anishinaabe-kwe (women) that are, or will be part of this. Haudenosaunee mothers, Wendat mothers, the Métis women who will be involved around the spirit of the water.” He reflected on how vast and busy the Toronto waterfront is, noting his appreciation for how difficult it will be for the City to have significant impact, but perhaps this project can be a start. He said, “this can be the time to bring it to the forefront – it’s not just about having clean water, but out of respect to our mothers, the spirit of the water be taken care of and respected as we plan all of this work.” In the chat Kim said, “I love what Kevin is saying... it’s already a big problem to clean and respect the water... Perhaps revising the type of ferries to minimize impacts.” Meaghan shared, “I do private water ceremonies out on the beach.”

Diane said, “I just love the plans, I think they’re magnificent. And the fact that we have Snake Island. Our people always named places for specific reasons, so thinking about Snake Island and the snake medicine, it makes me excited.” Diane spoke about a recent conversation with Reconciliation Canada, as they are looking at creating sacred lodges in urban centers across the country. Diane shared their concern about our people who live in the city who are in a vulnerable situation. Diane reflected on the Haudenosaunee ways of life that provide security for the peoples, which is not the case for kin in the city. She remarked that “building something on Snake Island that can actually hold ceremonies all year long is really important to me.” She explained that she does not have a preference for how the lodge looks, only that if

there were ceremonies there, she would attend. Diane went on to speak about the notion of the sacredness of our food systems and our gardens. She said, “it would be amazing to have sunflowers, the three sisters (beans, corn and squash), strawberries – there are so many ceremonial foods that can be grown in a small garden. It’s not so much about the bounty but the presence of it in our ceremonial.”

Diane added that they “love the ideas about water and the ways that we can offer ceremonies for the healing of the water and offer ceremonies for that grandmother who stands there to protect the water. For us as women, having those full moon ceremonies there and being in proximity to water is really important.” Kim shared over the chat, “Gardening in our dedicated space and renewing relationships with what would have been there historically, helps the water creatures and supports our efforts to stay connected spiritually.”

A participant suggested that some of the wayfinding signs “could quote Indigenous authors such as Ojibway author Richard Wagamese, whose meditation book “Embers” has inspired them, and hopefully will inspire others in personal development.”

Steve thanked those for speaking about the water. He mentioned the bad odor of the water that deters him from going to the islands. Steve also spoke about conversations he’s had with Mississauga people and knowing some Haudenosaunee traditions. “That area, the peninsula, was never used as a year-long living site as far as I know.” Steve explained that the islands were used as a fishing station, but it really was never a winter place. He remarked, “I think we might be overdoing it if we’re talking about winter uses” acknowledging that there may be different contemporary interests. In the chat Meaghan said, “winter is awesome for seeing birds!”

Steve asked if the islands have been investigated as potential grave sites. He commented that there aren’t any Huron graves because they did mass graves but that there could be individual graves from when the Seneca and Anishinaabe lived there. Steve shared that he loves the idea of the interpretive trail. He asked if the City is offering any security or protection? He reflected on a longhouse that was at the Woodland Cultural Centre that was burned down. He would like to have the sacred spots that may be developed on the island to be protected and secured.

Steve reflected on Diane and Kim’s comments about planting a medicine garden. He shared his involvement with creating a medicine garden at the Manulife building. “If

we can do something like that, that can be tended to, they can easily be done” although he is concerned about the sandy loam and the height of land. “They can’t do those things if they’re going to be flooded at a particular time of year.” Lastly, Steve stressed to the City that the interpretive trail would need to be explained a little bit better. He reflected on his frustrations with Spadina Road, and that the City doesn’t properly explain that it is in fact an Anishinaabe word – Ishpaadinaa – which means “trail down to the lake.”

Bob said security, among other details, won’t be worked out in the master plan but will hopefully be co-managed with Indigenous people, not just by the City. Victoria explained that they are conducting a **cultural heritage resource assessment** to learn about the heritage of the island including its Indigenous history. This may take time to develop as much of this history is unknown and research needs to be conducted. Victoria explained they will start the study, and make space for traditional knowledge, but that a more detailed study may be delivered after the master plan.

Miranda introduced themselves and explained to the group that they are currently completing their master’s degree with a focus on the Toronto Island. Miranda said it would be beautiful to have the ceremonial space but there are 84 combined sewers that come from the downtown and flow into the lake. She reflected on an existing plan to remove those sewers from the downtown core, but that currently there is a “lot of **sanitary waste** that comes up to Snake Island.” Miranda asked, “will the City actually fix this issue?” Over the chat, Meaghan said “lots of scary stuff washes up on Snake Island recently. Kim remarked in the chat, “that’s awful.”

Lori responded, **water** quality is not an easy fix as there are many sources of pollution and that is not within the scope of this project. Lori talked about Toronto Water’s plans and budget for major infrastructure improvement across the waterfront for improving any combined outflows into the lake. Lori also mentioned other projects focused on the waterfront related to stormwater treatment and that there has been recent water quality monitoring on Ward’s Island. Toronto Island is also the site of 4 of the City’s Blue Flag (swimming) beaches. If further testing needs to be expanded to more locations on the islands, that can be highlighted in the master plan. Lori also mentioned that elevating the importance, stories, and spirituality of the water will also be a component of the plan. Miranda reflected on some of the E. coli testing that is being done on Snake Island but was unsure if that was ongoing.

Miranda mentioned that they were calling from Artscape, where they are concerned about the deep lake cooling project. They said “they feel that the water is screaming and not wanting this project to occur. I know that it brings down the amount of hydro [used]... but this is a really invasive project and it’s really disruptive to the entire ecosystem here.”

Lori responded that the deep water-cooling program is part of the City’s goals to cool the downtown core “in a more green way.” She explained that there was already existing infrastructure on the island and despite the fact it may look like a very significant impact and disturbance to the natural landscape, these areas “will be completely restored to the way they were before, if not better.” Parks, Forestry, and Recreation and the Urban Forestry and Restoration group is being quite vigilant about the restoration, which the master plan will speak to as well. In the chat, Liz commented “Waterfront for All had the City’s water manager as a speaker. This clean-up of the combined sewers will not be funded for many years. We need to pressure the federal and provincial governments for more urgent funding.”

Over the chat, Meaghan mentioned that “someone should look into the police activity and investigations of **remains found**. Ceremonial cleansing of the space would be important.”

Kim reiterated their concern over enormous, expected **growth** of the city and the really, scary impacts of so much traffic going to that island. The ferries are not environmentally friendly. Kim also talked about the condition of Snake Island makes me feel a bit like Indigenous people are an “**after-thought**” and that this is not a desirable space.

Kim shared, “I really hope that [Indigenous Peoples] are the foundational piece in regards for the island because it is our home. All of the land base on the mainland has been gobbled up through colonialism and we don’t have any spaces that are distinctly ours and reflect us.” She reiterated that “there should be a focused response on **renaming** that space to reclaim our place of prominence and permanency so that Indigenous identity on the islands and that doesn’t get diminished or diluted” over time. She noted it needed to be done with more than markers on the ground which are not enough as they are cosmetic in nature. Kim asked, where is the permanency of reflecting our identity and really ensuing that that is the foundational piece moving forward? She mentioned the Moccasin Identifier project, wondering if it has a place on the islands?

Kim also shared concerns about stewardship and felt there should be a dedicated group that can give suggestions on how to practice good stewardship. She noted that the islands are sandy and therefore temporary. She asked, “are we going to be expanding the islands by filling them more and more and more to ensure it stays there?” She noted that when flooding did occur there, it caused a lot of damage to the landscape and halted visitation. The ceremonial area may be susceptible to flooding and erosion. Finally, Kim shared their deep concern about the sheer number of human beings who are going over to the island and the high amount of garbage produced. Kim said, “that this project as a whole leaves me with deep concern about the impacts human beings are going to bring to this space and place.”

Over the chat, Miranda added their concerns about documents and applications required for folks to hold ceremonies on Snake Island and the potential of fire marshals interrupting sacred fires.

In the chat, Steve offered some education saying Anishinaabemowin does not have liquid consonants like “L” and “R’s”. The Haudenosaunee languages do. Therefore, you can tell which nations lived where on name alone: Toronto and Ontario are clearly Haudenosaunee-based words, Mississauga and Temagami are Anishinaabeg words, by way of example.”

Bob thanked Kim for her comments and insights and highlighted that the team was continually focused on the health and well-being of the islands. He mentioned that the cultural narrative trail served many functions, including ensuring that visitors remain on the trail, learning about stewardship along the way. He mentioned that Snake Island was a location suggested by community members themselves. He offered thanks to Miranda for her comments about the waste washing up along the shore, as it had not been previously mentioned.

Lori added that Snake Island was brought up as the location for a dedicated ceremonial area from Indigenous communities, saying there had previously been ceremonies there. She felt this is one of the under-appreciated places on the islands because it does not have a lot of trampling, pavement or people. “It is truly a natural space, which is what makes it so special.” Lori noted that she took note of Miranda’s concern and will explore this further.

Lori said naming is a very important aspect of the work being contemplated yet it is a very complex item to address. She indicated that, while there will be space for it in

the master plan, it will require a “much bigger dialogue on how that naming should take place.”

Lori continued that from a permanence perspective, we have identified the ideas of cultural markers at the gateways so that all visitors are aware that they are on Indigenous lands. Lori also mentioned the “wayfinding strategy” whose signage will follow the parks standard, but that there is potential to “take panels off and on as names change”.

Lori reflected on stewardship piece, “if we do nothing else but make every visitor that comes to the island a steward of the island and make them think different when they arrive and how they behave when there are there.” She indicated that they are considering the “lightest footprint” that visitors and vendors can have on the islands in asking people to be “more responsible in the way they come to the island.”

As for erosion, Lori mentioned that the flood mitigation and erosion study has done a lot of work since 2017/2018 floods in evaluating the critical areas across the island. She spoke to the people impact reflecting on the concerns raised by bringing more people to the islands. She said the intention of the master plan is to be more responsible and accountable to the types of activity and the places we promote for programs. They are trying to think of ways we can disperse people in more thoughtful and sensitive ways to help lessen trampling in some areas. In the chat, Liz commented that it’s “important for non-Indigenous to learn the stewardship by increasing the Indigenous presence all the way from the ferry docks and throughout the islands.”

Madison shared their perspectives as a community member who grew up in the city, accessing the islands. They spoke about the hours of access to the island, as the ferry shuts down at night, saying “if there is any kind of overnight ceremony or a feast” that there would inevitably be parameters put around that. They talked about how currently if you try to stay overnight on the islands or have a fire “you’re met with the police”. They suggested that the area be designated for sacred fires. Over the chat, Miranda said, “Yes! Also, someone to speak to security if necessary!” Madison also spoke about the traveling to Snake Island from the ferry docks for the Elders, noting “it can be uncomfortable sometimes being on the ground for many hours and then making that walk back... it could take a long time.” They remarked that a “place to harvest medicines would be beautiful.” They reflected on their personal struggles to finding medicines in the city. In the chat, Steve said “Madison, when we are ready to harvest in October-ish this year, please contact me. I will invite you and friends over

to pick and braid up our sweetgrass and sage, and you can bring some back to your organization. We have lots.”

Madison asked, if the plan goes forward for a ceremony space “what is there for children to do when their parents are in ceremony, is it close to the Franklin Garden? Will there be staff who are trained and aware and could provide that childcare for families? Madison reflected on the need for folks from the city who are working on the islands to be knowledgeable about the teachings so they can provide those stories stating, “it would be nice to have physical contact with a person who holds that knowledge.”

Bob thanked Madison and shared that he knows the City is working hard to educate fire services and managing fires on the island. He also wanted to point out is “that there are going to be opportunities and space for Indigenous peoples to co-manage these spaces, including how the fires will be... cared for, how Snake Island is cared for.” He reiterated that it won't just be the City, but having Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Wendat and Métis – “all our people managing these things.”

Terence thanked everyone for their feedback and comments. He took an opportunity to acknowledge Kim's comments, stating “I wish we could talk extensively about place naming and signage, but we're very sensitive about what we can commit to at this time”. He indicated that the discussion is at a high, master planning level right now. Terence acknowledged Victoria's work in cataloguing the names on the islands, including buildings, roadways, and the island names themselves. “We've recognized how important names in the language would be.” He acknowledged that naming is something that needs its own space, time, and consideration because it is a very important topic. Lori added over that chat, “I just wanted to mention that the City is funding a new green ferry fleet. I forgot to mention that in my earlier responses.”

Over the chat, Kim shared, “I want to ensure that real permanency of Indigenous folks is not only foundational but is the place where we can reassert our presence. It's also in alignment with TRC recommendations. We as Indigenous community members, all want to see ourselves in this plan in micro and macro ways. I have, and will always be, an optimist and this space can reflect that for the greater good. Miigwech for this impactful work.”

Jerome commented over the chat his appreciation for being allowed to participate and said, “it would be great for our canoe builders to have a dedicated spot, this would be a great learning opportunity, even a healing one too. Fantastic work team!”

Bob thanked everyone for their contributions and shared that if community sees themselves in this plan, they know they've done a good job."

Diane also thanked everyone who shared their recommendations and contributed to the rich dialogue. She offered a prayer in her language to send everyone off for a "very good rest."

Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Public Feedback Report

Toronto Island Park Draft Wayfinding Map Survey

Overview

The City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry, and Recreation Division (PFR) is developing a wayfinding strategy for Toronto Island Park within its Toronto Island Park Master Plan process. The purpose of the Toronto Island Park wayfinding strategy is to help park visitors: learn more about what the Island has to offer, see which areas they can access, and plan and navigate their visit. It also aims to respond to public feedback on making wayfinding to and around the park (including Jack Layton Ferry Terminal) easier and more accessible, especially for those unfamiliar with the park or those of varying physical abilities. The Toronto Island Park wayfinding strategy builds on the City's [Parks & Trails Wayfinding Strategy](#) (coordinated with the City's [TO360 Wayfinding Strategy](#)), which established the look, feel, style, and content for standard wayfinding products.

As a part of the Toronto Island Park wayfinding strategy, the City prepared a Draft Island Wide Wayfinding Map and installed it at the four gateway ferry landings serving the park. The draft map was based on existing City databases, input from City staff, and guidelines and standards from City's Parks & Trails and TO360 Wayfinding Strategies. Consistent with these strategies, the draft map strives to be accessible and easy to use for all users by including features such as readable text, universal icons, strong color contrast, positioning of critical information at an accessible height, and more.

The City shared the draft map for public comment via an online survey (available March 7 to March 25, 2022). This report summarizes feedback shared via the survey, which will help inform both revisions to the map as well as the broader Toronto Island Park wayfinding strategy.



Using Social Pinpoint (an interactive map survey platform), the wayfinding survey invited feedback and suggestions on three topics:

- Overall accuracy of the map;
- Errors and omissions on the map; and
- Destinations to prioritize on the map.

The survey received 58 responses, and participants interacted by dropping pins and adding comments at different locations. This report presents a summary of the feedback and suggestions shared on the interactive mapping tool, organized according to the three focal topics.

Key themes in the feedback

The following themes emerged consistently throughout all respondent feedback on the survey.

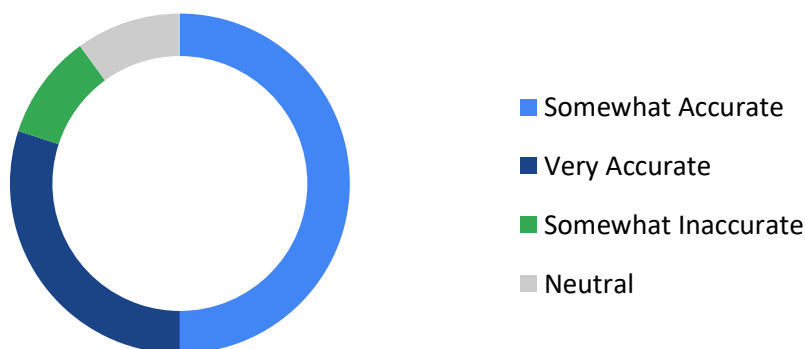
The map is generally accurate. Most respondents said the map was very or somewhat accurate. Only a few identified errors, omissions, or mis-labelled map features.

Include information about changing, inconsistent, and dynamic features. Respondents said that it can be misleading to see services, amenities, and institutions without communicating their operating hours, seasons, degree of public access, and more.

Detailed feedback summary

Feedback about the accuracy of the map, errors, and omissions

10 respondents shared feedback about the accuracy of the map, with 80% indicating that the map is either very accurate or somewhat accurate, 10% indicating a neutral response, and 10% indicating that they found the map somewhat inaccurate.



38 respondents identified errors and omissions on the map. A few identified specific features they felt were missing or mis-labelled, while most suggested other information they felt should be included on the map.

Specific missing features or errors

Specific features respondents said were missing from the map included: water taxi locations, both on the mainland (at Spadina Quay and Queens Quay Terminal) and on the Island; Harbourfront kayak storage racks (near the Toronto Island Sailing Club); the Toronto Island

Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) location (at the Boat Rental icon north of Algonquin Island), and; a “view” icon on the Centre Island Pier.

Respondents identified a few potential errors, including the inclusion of a food icon at Hanlan’s Point Ferry Dock (a food vendor hasn’t been in operation there for a very long time); the “double-labelling” of beaches as both a “beach” and “blue flag beach,” and; the labelling of “Waiting Hut” at the Ward’s Island dock (it should be “Waiting Shed”).

Other suggested information to include on the map

Respondents provided feedback on map features they found unclear or inadequate and suggested adjustments and information they felt should be included to help visitors plan a trip:

- **Seasonality and dynamic information.** Season-specific amenities and services should be identified, including winterized amenities like washrooms and waiting huts. The map should also communicate that a “blue flag beach” status can change.
- **Operating times and schedules.** Businesses, services, and institutions on the Island have inconsistent operating times and differing schedules. The map should include this information to avoid misleading visitors. For example, the map should include the pick-up times for tram stops.
- **Public access.** The map should include information about the public accessibility (or lack thereof) of places like Artscape Gibraltar Point (identified as a cultural destination but not always publicly accessible), the shower north of Forestry Island, and Donut Island and Trout Island (accessible via paddle boats).
- **Environmental features and conservation efforts.** The map should highlight where there have been environmental conservation efforts, including by the TRCA, as well as any significant environmental features like the dunes near Hanlan’s Beach.
- **Terminology.** The map should explain what a “blue flag beach” is and, as much as possible, use language that matches the reality or the colloquial names for places. For example, the Mermaid Café is less of a café and more of an amusement park vendor.
- **Icons.** A few suggested using different icons, such as a universal icon for washrooms. Respondents had differing opinions about some icons, including the use of the train icon for Centreville (with some liking it and other suggesting using a carousel instead) and the “view icon” (which a few said was confusing and looked like “an explosion,” suggesting replacing it with an eye or other icon).

Other feedback about the map

Other themes that emerged in respondents' feedback about the map included:

- **Differing opinions on the maps' "south up" orientation.** Some found this orientation inconsistent with how most people think of the Island, while others said it would be more user-friendly for first-time visitors.
- **Suggestions to include historic photographs and information,** such as on the "Main Drag" on the former Manitou Road.
- **Suggestions to include information on permissible activities in environmentally sensitive areas** (such as the rock groynes and sand dunes) and related penalties.

Feedback about destinations to prioritize

20 respondents shared feedback on destinations to prioritize. Respondents focused on the need to amplify the existing cultural, historical, and natural markers and elevate the visitor experience of these destinations. Destinations respondents said should be prioritized are summarized below (along with the rationale, where given):

- **Ted Hanlan's Statue.** An existing cultural marker and good wayfinding tool.
- **Bird sanctuaries (near Donut Island and Trout Island).**
- **Toronto Island Sailing Club.** A non-profit organization that supports many community members to learn to sail — it should be highlighted to simplify access.
- **Island Public and Natural Science School.** The school hosts middle school children to learn about natural environment. First Nations were involved in the building of the school.
- **St. Andrew by the Lake Church.** The building is symbolic of the settler community that once inhabited the island. It could be a focal point for historical information and tours.
- **The public gardens** on the Avenue of the Island, an important historical marker and easy-to-remember visual waypoint.

Other feedback about Toronto Island Park

Respondents shared other, broader suggestions on how the City could improve Toronto Island Park, including suggestions to:

- repair, maintain, and improve the Eastern Mooring Wall (including adding amenities like seating)

- add amenities like washrooms and showers closer to the beaches
- better protect open and green spaces on the Island
- improve access to the Island through increased ferry service (including in the winter)
- expand skating activity to create a skating destination
- improve the safety of ferry landings (especially for windy days), and
- improve tennis court amenities, like lighting.

Next steps

This Draft Island Wide Wayfinding Map is a part of a larger wayfinding strategy for Toronto Island Park. The feedback received from this survey, along with guidance from the Parks and Trails Wayfinding Strategy, will help inform revisions to the map, and will be used to guide the Island's overall Wayfinding Strategy.