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What We Heard

Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Phase Two Report – Summer 2022





The City of Toronto gratefully acknowledges that the area covered by the Toronto Island Master Plan is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of New Credit, the Anishinaabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat people and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The City of Toronto also acknowledges that Toronto is covered by Mississauga Treaty 13 (1805) signed with the Mississaugas of New Credit, and the Williams Treaties (1923) signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

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Overview

For thousands of years, the Toronto Islands have been a place for healing and ceremony for the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and other diverse Indigenous communities. Today, it is one of Toronto's signature parks and acts as an oasis for Torontonians from many walks of life. In recent years, however, the park has faced increasing pressures on aging infrastructure as a result of city growth, including increased use, changing demographics, and flooding.

The Toronto Island Park Master Plan will address these issues and ensure the park can be a cherished gathering place for generations to come. The Master Plan is being co-created with Indigenous rights-holders, local communities, and the public through an iterative engagement process from 2021 to 2022. It will be a long-term guiding document that outlines a Vision, Values, Guiding Principles and Big Ideas to inform change and investment in Toronto Island Park over many years.

About this report:

This report provides an overview of what we heard across engagement in Phase Two of the engagement process. The feedback summarized reflects a synthesis of different engagement tactics and tools. Detailed summaries of each are appended.

A Park Master Plan is:

- A dynamic and long-term planning document.
- A blueprint to guide future decision-making around improvements, programming, and park management.
- A guiding document to protect and enhance what works and improve the things that don't work as well.
- A strategic way to introduce new park features, amenities and innovations over time, considering diverse opportunities and collaborations.

The Toronto Island Park Master Plan focuses only on the parkland managed by the City's Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) Division. The residential communities, water treatment plant, and Billy Bishop Airport are not part of the scope. In addition to the feedback from the engagement process, the Master Plan will be based on research into similar parks around the world, professional expertise and experience, and coordination with related initiatives (like the [City's Ferry Fleet Replacement Strategy](#), the TRCA's [Toronto Island Park Flood Mitigation Environmental Assessment](#), and [Waterfront Toronto's Marine Use Strategy](#)).



The Toronto Island Park Master Plan engagement process

Toronto Island Park Master Plan engagement is following a three-phase process.

Phase One, which ran from January to April 2021, was about developing a Vision, Values, and Guiding Principles for the park. The second phase — the focus of this report — built on the Vision,

Values, and Guiding Principles developed in Phase One, to first identify Big Ideas and then, based on those Big Ideas, to develop a Draft Demonstration Plan. In the third phase, the Master Plan team will refine the Draft Demonstration Plan to inform the Draft Master Plan that it will share and discuss in a final round of engagement.



Big Ideas:

Big Ideas are strategic ideas that help to implement the Vision, Values and Guiding Principles for Toronto Island Park. They are informed by the outcomes of Phase One engagement as well as feedback received during the Big Ideas engagement in Phase Two.

The Draft Demonstration Plan:

The Draft Demonstration Plan is a way to share ideas that relate to the proposed physical improvements to Toronto Island. It reflects the Vision, Values, Guiding Principles and Big Ideas and includes proposed improvements for specific areas on the Island or to roll-out across the Island. This plan was developed using feedback received in previous engagement activities.

More about Phase Two

Big Ideas engagement

Phase Two began with the launch of a Big Ideas engagement across a range of platforms and formats. The Master Plan team proposed dozens of Big Ideas to initiate thinking and spark conversations while inviting Torontonians to rate, comment on, and add their own Big Ideas and suggestions on how to build a better future Toronto Island Park. This co-creative process unfolded on an online idea board, in a Public Workshop, with the help of a Youth Ambassador Team, and through meetings with advisory groups and committees. The Big Ideas engagement collected over 140 ideas, 75,000 ratings, 900 comments, and connected with about 300 people.

Draft Demonstration Plans engagement

Working with the insights and feedback gathered through the Big Ideas engagement, the Master Plan team then met with key partners, collaborators, and advisors to further organize and refine the Big Ideas into a Draft Demonstration Plan. The Draft Demonstration Plan painted a more complete picture of a possible future for the park and illustrated how publicly generated ideas could come to life, in context and in relation to other ideas that emerged from the multi-faceted, collaborative engagement process. The Draft Demonstration Plan translated the Big Ideas into a series of mood sketches, maps, and concepts organized into five related but distinct lenses reflecting key Master Plan priorities:

1. Revealing an Indigenous Place
2. Enhancing the Visitor Experience
3. Supporting a Dynamic Environment
4. Elevating Equity and Belonging
5. Improving Access and Connections

Although specific ideas were included under each lens, many of the ideas are interconnected and crosscutting through one or more of the lenses.

Rights-holders are Indigenous governments whose historic connection to the territory includes Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*.

After sharing and discussing the Draft Demonstration Plan with key focus groups and advisory bodies — and in parallel with discussions with the MCFN and Rights-holders — the team launched a second wave of engagement related to the Demonstration Plan, including a multi-pronged digital outreach promotion to drive interest and participation through a range of engagement opportunities, including an online survey, virtual Public Open House, and a series of topic-specific Deep Dives. Almost 1,000 people participated across all of the Draft Demonstration Plan engagement activities. This feedback will help inform the next and final stage of the Toronto Island Park Master Plan design process: developing the Master Plan itself.

The Big Ideas stage of engagement concluded with the second Public Forum of the project: **Towards Belonging**. The forum welcomed experts and community leaders and included a vibrant discussion about ideas for equity, inclusion, and belonging parks and how those ideas might be reflected in the future of the Toronto Island.

How we engaged

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the Phase Two engagement activities were conducted virtually and remotely. This phase included Indigenous engagement through placekeeping discussions and sharing meetings; targeted engagement with advisory groups and key organizations and individuals; a youth ambassador program; the City's Accessibility Committee and broader public engagement.



Indigenous engagement

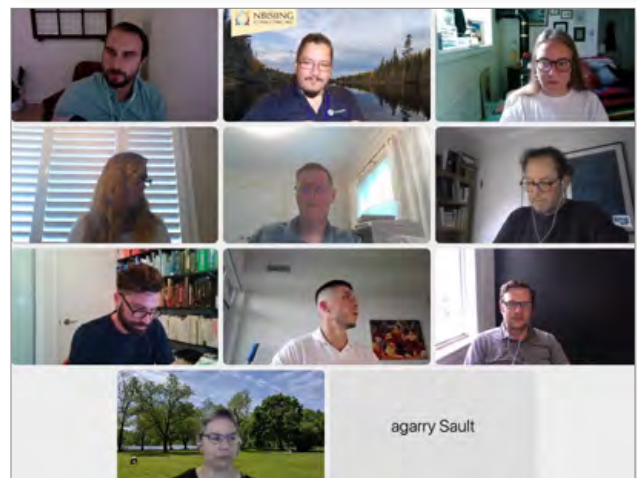
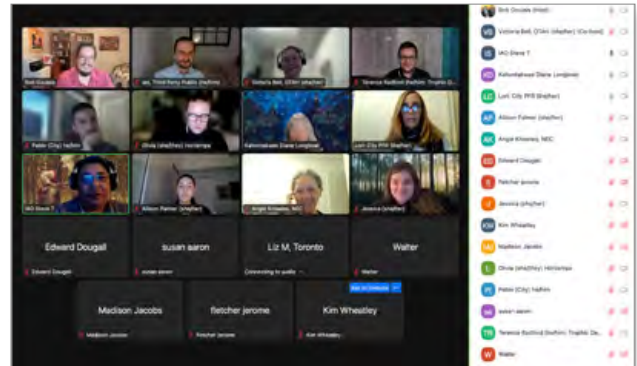
Given the significance of the Toronto Islands to Indigenous communities and Rights-holders, the Toronto Island Park Master Plan engagement process includes both seeking advice with respect to Indigenous placekeeping from rights-holders and Indigenous Sharing meetings with the urban Indigenous Community. Phase Two included:

Two placekeeping discussions with Mississaugas of the Credit elders and knowledge holders, one about Big Ideas and one that served as a "virtual site walk" to discuss emerging Ideas and Actions to reveal an Indigenous place.

Four meetings with First Nations rights-holders about Ideas and Actions to reveal an Indigenous place, including meetings with the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Huron-Wendat Nation, and Six Nations of the Grand River, and the Toronto-York Region Métis Council.

An Indigenous Community Sharing Meeting, welcoming local urban Indigenous communities, about ideas and actions to reveal an Indigenous place.

Beyond these dedicated placekeeping and Indigenous engagement meetings, the Master Plan team invited interested Indigenous organizations and individuals to participate in all community and public engagement activities, including Community Advisory Committee meetings, public meetings, online surveys, and the public forum.



Screenshots of meetings

Indigenous placekeeping is an approach to design based on land stewardship that is centred around recognizing the rights of landscape as a living being first and considering our responsibilities to a place now and into the future. Indigenous placekeeping thinks beyond our immediate benefits and defines a relationship of reciprocity to all living things and systems and how they work together.



Targeted engagement

Targeted engagement for Phase Two of the Toronto Island Park Master Plan included topic and audience-specific conversations as well as advisory group meetings. The aim of the targeted engagement was to gather more information to help refine the Big Ideas and to provide interested organizations and communities that may be affected by the ideas with an opportunity to learn more, provide additional information and background to inform the Draft Demonstration Plan. Targeted engagement included:

Youth-led engagement, in which a diverse Youth Ambassador Team shared and sought feedback on Big Ideas from other youth and their communities.

One meeting with the City's Accessibility Steering Committee to explore the topic of accessibility in more detail considering different perspectives and needs.

Two meetings with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), with one focusing on identifying Big Ideas and one focused on discussing select topics in the Draft Demonstration Plan.

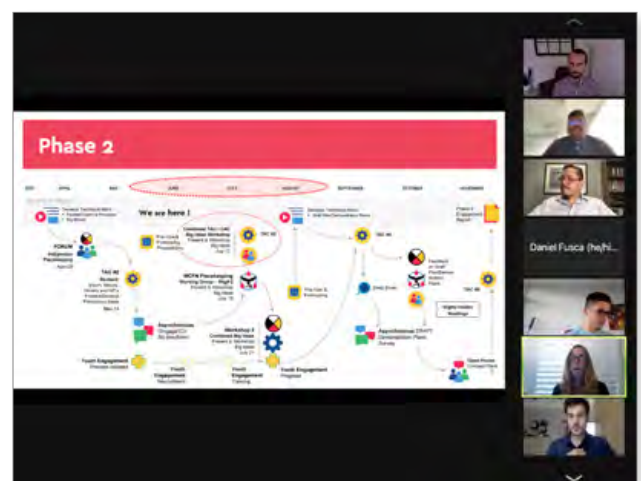
A combined workshop with the Community Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee (CAC), which focused on collectively analyzing and prioritizing Big Ideas.

A meeting with the Community Advisory Committee to discuss select topics in the Draft Demonstration Plan.

Twelve focus groups and targeted discussions with a range of audiences and organizations, focusing on discussing the Big Ideas and refining them into physical and connected spaces in the Draft Demonstration Plan. Topics discussed were focussed on improving the visitor experience, Island access and accessibility, the natural environment, the significance of Hanlan's Point to LGBTQ2S+ communities, cultural heritage, and more.



Photos of youth-led engagement



Screenshot from the Combined CAC and TAC Workshop



Broader public engagement

Public engagement in Phase Two of the Toronto Island Park Master Plan included a wide range of tactics designed to support a process of co-creating the Master Plan. Public engagement included:

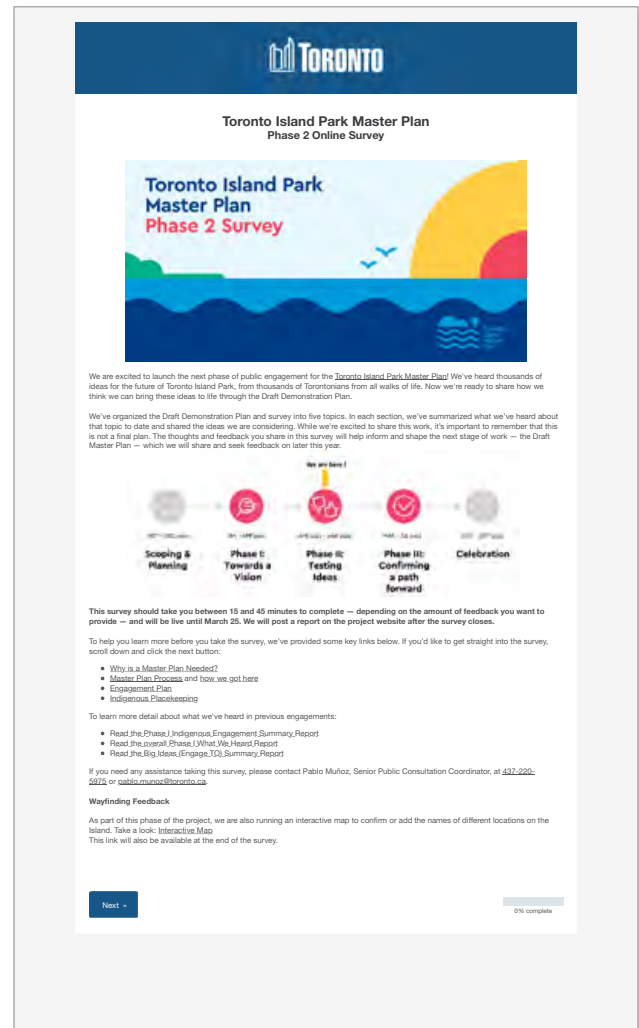
Four online engagements, including a “Big Ideas” online idea board, an “Eat Play Explore” survey focusing on business and visitor experience on the Island, a Draft Demonstration Plan survey about the Master Plan team’s emerging Ideas and Actions, and a Wayfinding Survey about the Draft Wayfinding Map of Toronto Island Park.

One public workshop, in which participants reviewed, discussed, and made suggestions about Big Ideas for the park.

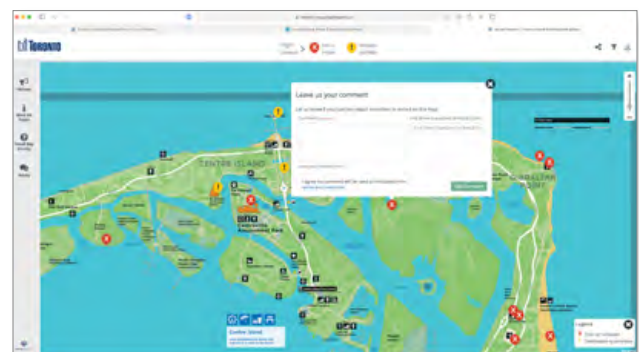
A virtual Open House, which gave participants an opportunity to learn about the Draft Demonstration Plan and choose the lens to learn about and discuss with the project team.

Four Deep Dives, each focusing on a different lens within the Draft Demonstration Plan, including Improving Access and Connections, Supporting a Dynamic Environment, Elevating Equity and Belonging, and Enhancing the Visitor Experience. The Deep Dives were intended to expand on information shared in the Draft Demonstration Plan, giving opportunity for more detail oriented and topic specific discussions.

A Public Forum titled Towards Belonging that was about promoting a sense of equity and belonging in parks which was a platform for community, thought leaders, artists, and experts to explore the concept of “belonging” in public spaces and how the Master Plan could best create a park that is open, accessible, and welcoming for all.



Screenshot of Big Ideas survey



Screenshot of wayfinding survey

How we got the word out

Phase Two promotion built on the energy and momentum created through the project launch and Phase One engagement. It was intended to build the interest to engage with the public and advisory groups more deeply to spark conversation and collaboration about the Big Ideas and the Draft Demonstration Plan. For Phase Two, the project team used social media ads and organic posts to maximize reach. The posts targeted key stakeholder demographic groups in keeping with the project's effort to make the Master Plan engagement process as equitable and inclusive as possible. Consistent with Phase One. Those groups included:

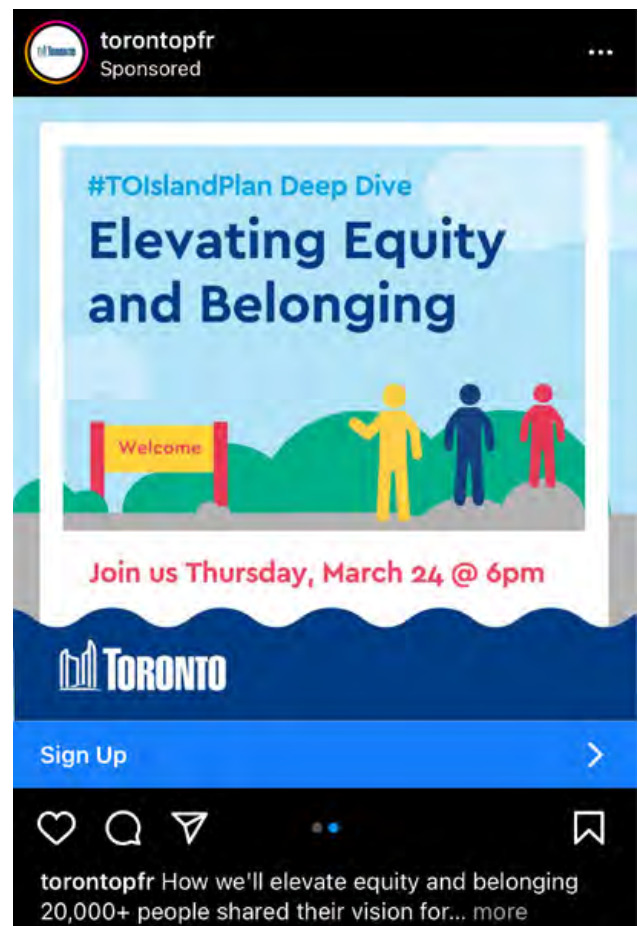
- Indigenous communities and rights-holders
- Equity-deserving communities
- Neighbourhoods outside of Toronto's downtown core
- Waterfront residents
- Youth
- Toronto residents (excluding suburbs and waterfront)

Overall, marketing and promotions activities for Phase Two continued to drive strong outreach and engagement to fuel public participation and drive awareness for the process. In total, the paid and organic social campaigns in Phase Two delivered the following performance.

- Over 1.5 mil. Torontonians reached
- Over 25,000 total engagements
- Over 21,000 link clicks
- Over 13,000 Survey responses
- Over 55 Creative assets created






Screenshot of organic post



Screenshot of paid post

Phase Two Snapshot

The following graphic illustrates all Phase Two engagement tactics and tools, with key statistics highlighted.

MAY 14  2 nd Technical Advisory Committee 30 participants	MAY 27 → JUN 20  Big Ideas Online Engagement 145 Ideas +75,800 ratings	JUL 13  Workshop Combined Technical Advisory Committee and Community Advisory Committee 30 participants	JUL 15  2 nd Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Placekeeping Dialogue 8 participants
JUL 21  Public Big Ideas Workshop 100+ participants	AUG 03 → AUG 16  Eat Play Explore Survey 1,500 survey respondents	AUG 09 → AUG 20  Youth-Led Engagement, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindy Lou Park (North York) pop up • Centre Island Pop Up • Neilson Park (Scarborough) pop up • Virtual Trivia Night • Virtual Games Night 	SEP 28  City of TO Accessibility Steering Committee
SEP 28 → JAN 06  Targeted Discussions 8 sessions	OCT 20  Island as a Natural Resource Focus Group 10 participants	OCT 26  Programming, Events, Tourism Focus Group 5 participants	OCT 27  Island Programs and Activation Focus Group 8 participants
NOV 19  3 rd Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Placekeeping Dialogue (virtual site walk) 5 participants	NOV 30  4 th Technical Advisory Committee 32 participants	DEC 01  Hanlan's Beach Focus Group 11 participants	DEC 09  Forum #2: Towards Belonging 65 participants

JAN 06  <p>Heritage Preservation Services</p> <p>11 participants</p>	FEB 16  <p>3rd Community Advisory Committee</p> <p>20 participants</p>	FEB 22  <p>Rights-Holder Meeting: Six Nations Lands and Resources</p> <p>9 participants</p>	FEB 25  <p>Rights-Holder Meeting: Huron-Wendat Nation</p> <p>2 participants</p>
FEB 28  <p>Rights-Holder Meeting: Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation</p> <p>1 participant</p>	MAR 01  <p>Public Open House</p> <p>130+ participants</p>	MAR 02  <p>Rights-Holder Meeting: Toronto York Region Métis Council</p> <p>7 participants</p>	MAR 03  <p>Deep Dive 1: Enhancing the Visitor Experience</p> <p>37 participants</p>
MAR 07  <p>Deep Dive 2: Supporting a Dynamic Environment</p> <p>38 participants</p>	MAR 07 → MAR 25  <p>Two Surveys: Demonstration Plan and Wayfinding</p> <p>550 participants</p>	MAR 08  <p>Indigenous Community Sharing Meeting</p> <p>20 participants</p>	MAR 10  <p>Deep Dive 3: Improving Access and Connections</p> <p>28 participants</p>
MAR 24  <p>Deep Dive 4: Elevating Equity and Belonging</p> <p>10 participants</p>	Onwards to Phase Three →		

Check out the Appendices for more information about the Indigenous engagement process and to read the detailed summaries of feedback.

By the numbers



meetings with
advisory groups



targeted discussions
and focus groups



online engagements with a total of

13,000

respondents



Indigenous engagement
and placekeeping meetings
involving

52
participants

+430

attendees at public
engagement events



+1.5 million

people reached through social media
promotion with

+25,000
engagements



By the numbers, continued



145

Big Ideas collected



+75,800
ratings



+900
comments/
replies



4+1

4 Deep Dives and 1 Indigenous Sharing Meeting



Youth Ambassador-led
pop ups in 3 parks:
Toronto Island Park
Lindy Lou Park
Neilson Park



89%

of survey respondents
are **supportive of**
the ideas in **Draft**
Demonstration Plan

21,000

unique link clicks generated
from social media



+100

attendees in the
Belonging in Parks
Forum



What we heard about the Big Ideas

The first part of Phase Two engagement focused on Big Ideas: ideas for the future of the park that build on the Vision, Values, and Guiding Principles developed in Phase One. This section of the report summarizes feedback during this part of Phase Two, including overall feedback as well as feedback highlights from different engagement activities.

Overall feedback about the Big Ideas

The following themes emerged consistently in feedback and discussions about the Big Ideas:

- **Support for Indigenous placekeeping ideas** at Toronto Island Park. In both Indigenous and broader public engagement, participants were supportive of Big Ideas that would help reveal an Indigenous place at Toronto Island Park, especially ideas related to creating a dedicated ceremonial space, supporting Indigenous teaching and learning, and identifying Indigenous place names.
- **Advice to avoid over-commercialization.** Participants were generally less supportive of Big Ideas that might lead to commercialization of the park, including large scale destination dining or theme parks.
- **Keen interest in protecting and restoring the park's environments and ecosystems,** including prioritizing the needs of the natural environment (land and water / flora and fauna) over the needs of humans.
- **Support for ideas that would address access barriers,** including financial barriers, physical barriers, safety barriers, and programmatic barriers.
- **Desire to see Toronto Island Park transformed into a year-round destination,** especially through winter programming, activities, and infrastructure like warming huts.
- **Interest in protecting and enhancing LGBTQ2S+ space at Hanlan's Beach,** through strategies like expanded clothing optional areas, plaques and signage, and supporting community outreach groups.
- **Other common suggestions include:** improved arrival experiences and information at gateways; more food and beverage options Island-wide; better communication (including information sharing and wayfinding); more on-island transportation rental options; and improved beach experience and safety.

Feedback highlights from Big Ideas engagement activities

Highlights from the online Big Ideas generation board

This stage of engagement asked participants to review, rate, and add to Preliminary Big Ideas seeded by the Master Plan team (developed by using feedback and inputs shared through Phase One engagements). Participants felt that most of the Preliminary Big Ideas the project team had identified were on the right track.

The highest rated ideas included ideas around:

- Creating programming and activations to promote and educate visitors on the dynamic and sensitive environments and wildlife on the Island.
- Ensuring the Toronto Islands do not become a theme park like the CNE or Wonderland.
- Devoting resources to maintain whatever is built for generations to come.
- Preserving beaches through habitat restoration, education, and improved access to facilities and amenities, and restricting waste brought to and left on the island.
- Providing better planning and signage for watercrafts in inner channels and making some waterways non-motorized only (especially the inner lagoons, like Long Pond).
- Making the Ferry Landings a "cooler, greener welcome" (like Hanlan's Landing) to encourage people to linger and enjoy their time as they wait for the ferry.
- Ensuring Toronto Island Park is more accessible for people with disabilities.
- Providing year-round washrooms (supported by clear wayfinding) and free water bottle refill stations so visitors can "stop getting dehydrated."
- Protecting the Island's ecosystems and complex habitats.
- Opening up the "land before time" that's north of the Island Water Treatment Plant.
- Creating "easy island rentals," including for watercraft.

Ideas that received many supportive ratings included:

- Re-establishing and introducing Indigenous place names, providing spaces for demonstrating and sharing teaching on Indigenous ways of knowing and being, and identifying dedicated spaces for ceremony, gathering, and cultural use.
- Creating viewing stations and events to support dark sky viewing, making the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal feel like part of the Island, and developing an observation tower in the park to help people see it from a different perspective.
- Celebrating and protecting wildlife, providing better access to nature and water (while protecting sensitive areas), and protecting the island from disturbances like smoking, litter, and loud music.
- Helping visitors navigate waterways with landing point and short-term storage for personal watercraft, connecting the Island to the rest of the city through programming and amenities, and rebuilding the grandstand.
- Enforcing a litter free, single-use plastic free park, creating and "Island Rangers" program to support visitors and manage public spaces, "rewilding" Toronto Island Park, and placing "nature first," above the needs of people.
- Helping people learn where to go and how to get there (even before getting to the Island), addressing barriers to island access (high cost, frustrating from long line-ups), and continuing to provide a refuge for LGBTQ2S+) communities.

- Creating a “year-round staycation destination” (potentially with a resort or hotel), creating an outdoor heated swimming pool or therapy waters, and developing “flexible space for fun and games.”
- Supporting more diverse and better food options, developing an “international botanical garden” (such as on the Avenue of the Island), and transforming the Island into a “global sustainable discovery hub.”
- Using part of the island for publicly owned festival and concert grounds, making “a party Island” with a beach club and bar, and a more “adult friendly” park with arts and culture programming (beyond the kid-friendly offerings currently available).
- Creating areas that can accommodate scalable events (i.e. “right sizing”).
- Finding new and innovative uses for older buildings.

Highlights from the Eat Play Explore survey

The City of Toronto is also developing a Business Strategy in concert with the Toronto Island Park Master Plan. The Business Strategy includes a current state assessment and a business plan that will make recommendations to optimize park visitor experiences and maximize revenues for the City.

In Phase Two, the project team hosted an “Eat Play Explore” survey focused on understanding what types of activities, businesses, and experiences visitors to the park were interested in to support the development of a Business Strategy for Toronto Island Park. The survey was promoted using social media ads and organic posts and collected responses from over 1,500 respondents from August 3 to 16, 2021.

Key insights from this survey included:

- Visitors are requesting more food and beverage variety on the Island.
- Most high scoring meal categories lend themselves to a wide variety of ingredients, cuisine and tastes.
- Potential opportunities exist to expand food service offerings for handheld food and snack items, fruits, salads and desserts.
- Appropriate food and beverage concepts should be tailored to visitor needs with an emphasis on portability.
- All recommendations should take the preservation of the Island’s natural amenities and green spaces into account, as the top ranked attraction for the Island.
- A portion of merchandise available on the Island should be tailored to meet the needs of visitors living outside of Toronto.
- Bicycles and a tram system are the most preferred on-Island transportation options.
- Apart from bicycles, water sport and beach rentals are most sought after by respondents.

Highlights from the Youth Ambassador Team

As part of a dedicated effort to broaden outreach and engage key park user groups, the City recruited, trained, and supported a Youth Ambassador Team to share and seek feedback on (and additions to) the Preliminary Big Ideas. Ten Youth Ambassador team members hosted pop ups at Centre Island, Lindy Lou Park in North York, and Neilson Park in Scarborough; as well as virtual trivia and games nights from August 9 to 20, 2021. Refer to the Appendices more details about the Youth Ambassador Program.

A few themes emerged in the advice of participants in Youth Ambassadors engagement activities, including:

- Agreement with and support for Big Ideas focused on centering Indigenous stories and cultures and creating spaces for ceremony and gathering. Some wanted to see programming to learn from and connect with Indigenous youth and Indigenous businesses and food options.
- Excitement about the potential for stories to attract youth to visit the island (like the lighthouse ghost story).
- Interest in a garbage-free Island, with more education for visitors on how to care for it, learn about its eco-systems, and participate in stewardship (like tree planting).
- Desire for sustainability, including more plants, trees, flowers, and gardens and more clean energy (including on the ferries and any on-island transportation).
- Lack of awareness that the park exists, and that youth are welcome. To attract more youth, there should be youth-friendly information, experiences, and events (like day trips and overnight stays).
- Parking and cost are deterrents – it should be easier and cheaper for youth to get to the park, potentially via a youth discount on ferry fares.
- Support for Big Ideas around making the Island a year-round destination, such as ice skating and warming station.
- Safety concerns, including concerns about "getting stranded" on the Island and a recent homophobic assault.
- Interest in more diverse food options, more benches, and prayer space.



Highlights from Indigenous engagement

The Master Plan team discussed Preliminary Big Ideas with knowledge holders and elders from the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. While they liked the Big Ideas, elders and knowledge holders shared detailed feedback on particular ideas, especially those around creating a dedicated ceremonial space and a cultural centre or hub. In discussing the ceremonial space, they said it should:

- be located away from crowded and busy areas, have the ability to be closed or isolated from other park users, and strictly forbid drugs and alcohol.
- be large enough to accommodate ceremonial teaching lodges, include places for sacred fires and a sweat lodge area, have accommodation and space to allow for camping, toilets, fresh water, power, and space for gathering together in community to feast.

Discussions about the idea of creating a cultural hub, knowledge holders and elders said:

- it could include a combination of indoor and outdoor space (and any indoor space or building should be self-sustaining and environmentally friendly).
- be able to host round dances, smaller pow wows, and other uses.

Elders and knowledge holders also said there should be strategies to educate all visitors that Toronto Island Park is an Indigenous place, such as permanent signage, art, landscape installations, flags, welcoming and informative gateways at all four ferry landings, and sharing information on the ferries themselves. Using Indigenous languages is a priority, including the local Michi Saagiig Anishinaabemowin dialect.

Finally, elders and knowledge holders suggested there should be ideas around stewardship and protecting and respecting the environment, including and exploring different ways to talk about the trees, plants, fishes, and medicines, the spiritual connection to the land and water.

What we heard about the Draft Demonstration Plan

The Draft Demonstration Plan was intended to illustrate how the Big Ideas might come together in a physical plan for the future of Toronto Island Park. It reflected the Master Plan team's intentional "light touch" approach and considered change very carefully, to ensure protecting what is great about the park while addressing some of its challenges and considering new opportunities.

The Draft Demonstration Plan was intended to show what Toronto Island Park's future could be. To help explain the Draft Demonstration Plan — including highlighting distinct but interrelated ideas — the Master Plan team organized the ideas into five lenses:

- Revealing an Indigenous Place
- Elevating Equity and Belonging
- Supporting a Dynamic Environment
- Enhancing Visitor Experience
- Improving Access and Connections

This section of the report summarizes key themes and feedback gathered across engagement activities about the Draft Demonstration Plan overall, as well as each of the Draft Demonstration Plan's five lenses.

Throughout this section, we have included examples of the ideas shared in the Draft Demonstration Plan as well as highlights from the Draft Demonstration Plan survey (with over 500 respondents) and highlights from Indigenous engagement relative to the respective Master Plan lenses.

Turning the Big Ideas into a Draft Demonstration Plan

The project team compiled the insights and feedback collected during Phase One and the Big Ideas engagement and discussed them with specific audiences and park user groups through a series of focus groups and targeted discussions. These discussions helped the project team spatially tie down ideas in a more realistic way, organizing ideas into a Draft Demonstration Plan. Feedback received during this transitional phase included interest in seeing efforts to improve accessibility; ideas to support tourism and the visitor experience, programming; improved boating experiences; protecting the Island as a natural resource; improving Hanlan's Beach, and more.

Overall feedback

Overall support for the ideas in the Draft Demonstration Plan. In general, participants were supportive of all the ideas in the Draft Demonstration Plan.

Most support and interest in Revealing an Indigenous Place. Participants in the online survey liked the ideas in Revealing an Indigenous place the most in the plan. They said it is important that Indigenous communities are involved throughout the process if these ideas are implemented.

Strong support and interest in protecting and restoring nature at the Island. Participants liked that protecting and restoring nature is part of the vision of the Master Plan and suggested these ideas should be prioritized. The most common concern shared by participants related to potential impacts to the natural environment, and whether adding more people and activities to the park will add to those impacts.

Make going to the Island easier and more affordable. Across all engagement activities, participants said they wanted getting to the Island to be easier for everyone, especially for people with disabilities or people who live far away. They also suggested ensuring the overall experience is more affordable.

Survey Highlight:

On average, survey respondents were 89% supportive of all ideas in Draft Demonstration Plan.

The top three lenses that people supported the most were:

- Revealing an Indigenous Place
- Elevating Equity and Belonging
- Supporting a Dynamic Environment



Lens: Revealing an Indigenous Place

The project team shared and sought feedback the following seven ideas regarding Revealing an Indigenous Place:

1. Identifying dedicated space for ceremony
2. Integrating Storytelling and Interpretation through the park
3. Identifying spaces for teaching, learning, and sharing Indigenous knowledge
4. Identifying opportunities for naming and re-naming
5. Enhancing landings and gateways
6. Identifying opportunities and spaces to support Indigenous artists, craftspeople, food vendors, and broader businesses
7. Exploring opportunities for co-management

Unless otherwise noted, the feedback summarized in this section, reflects the thoughts of participants in Indigenous engagement events and placekeeping discussions.

Highlights from the Draft Demonstration Plan Survey: On average, survey respondents were 91% supportive of the ideas in this lens.

The top three ideas respondents supported the most in this lens were:

- Enhancing landings and gateways
- Identifying opportunities for naming and re-naming
- Integrating Storytelling and Interpretation throughout the park



What we heard

General support for the ideas. Overall, Indigenous rights-holders and community members were pleased about the Revealing an Indigenous Place lens and the Indigenous placekeeping ideas presented in the Draft Demonstration Plan. In broader public and community engagement, most participants strongly supported the ideas as well, with several non-Indigenous respondents saying that they were supportive of the ideas as long as members of the Indigenous communities were also supportive of them and felt they were meaningful.

Ceremonial space is exciting and needs careful thinking around management, representation, and safety. First Nations were excited about the idea for creating a more private space for ceremony on Snake Island, saying it has the potential to be a culturally appropriate space to conduct community traditional gatherings (including ceremonies and sweat lodges) and doing so would help give a sense of ownership to the community to have a space of their own. Indigenous women were appreciative that the ceremonial space will be close to the water, saying the connection to the water for full-moon ceremonies is important.

Some were concerned about how the ceremonial area, sacred fires, and sacred medicine gardens would be managed within the park. For example: who would manage the sweat lodges? Participants said these aspects of the space should be managed by Indigenous peoples and that the City should directly partner, in a sovereign manner, and transfer control and autonomy to Indigenous peoples, as opposed to subservient or contractual co-management agreements. While many supported the location of Snake Island for the ceremonial space, some were concerned about

Example of an idea in the Demonstration Plan:
ceremonial space at Snake Island



nearby water quality and the potential disturbance of what is currently a largely naturalized area.

First Nations participants also shared a range of feedback about structures at the ceremonial space. Some suggested building a semi-permanent structure such as a longhouse. First Nations participants said there may be a high cost to creating Wendat and Haudenosaunee longhouses as materials need to be weatherproof and fireproof and meet local building code, however. Others suggested including representations and interpretations of the different styles of ceremonial lodges and longhouses including the Anishinaabe Lodge, Haudenosaunee longhouse, Wendat longhouse and the sweat lodge.

The ceremonial area, cultural markers, signage and other Indigenous placekeeping elements will need security to ensure its ongoing protection from vandalism and malicious damage.

The idea of naming and renaming is very important and must be done meaningfully.

First Nations participants said the prospect of naming and renaming the Island and Island spaces is important and needs to be done in meaningful and equitable ways. Names reflect the sacredness of these places and should also reflect the different communities who came to this as a meeting place. Since naming is a means of reclaiming Indigenous place and prominence, there must be a permanence to that naming such that placekeeping isn't diminished or diluted over time. First Nations participants also said it is important to find a good balance in naming, renaming, and co-naming: names and places reflect the diversity of Indigenous nations, and the naming process has to be inclusive of the different communities, rights-holders, and the fact that some places have multiple names in different languages. Some names may be difficult to pronounce, so pronunciation guides will be necessary.

Indigenous people must be involved in co-management and programming.

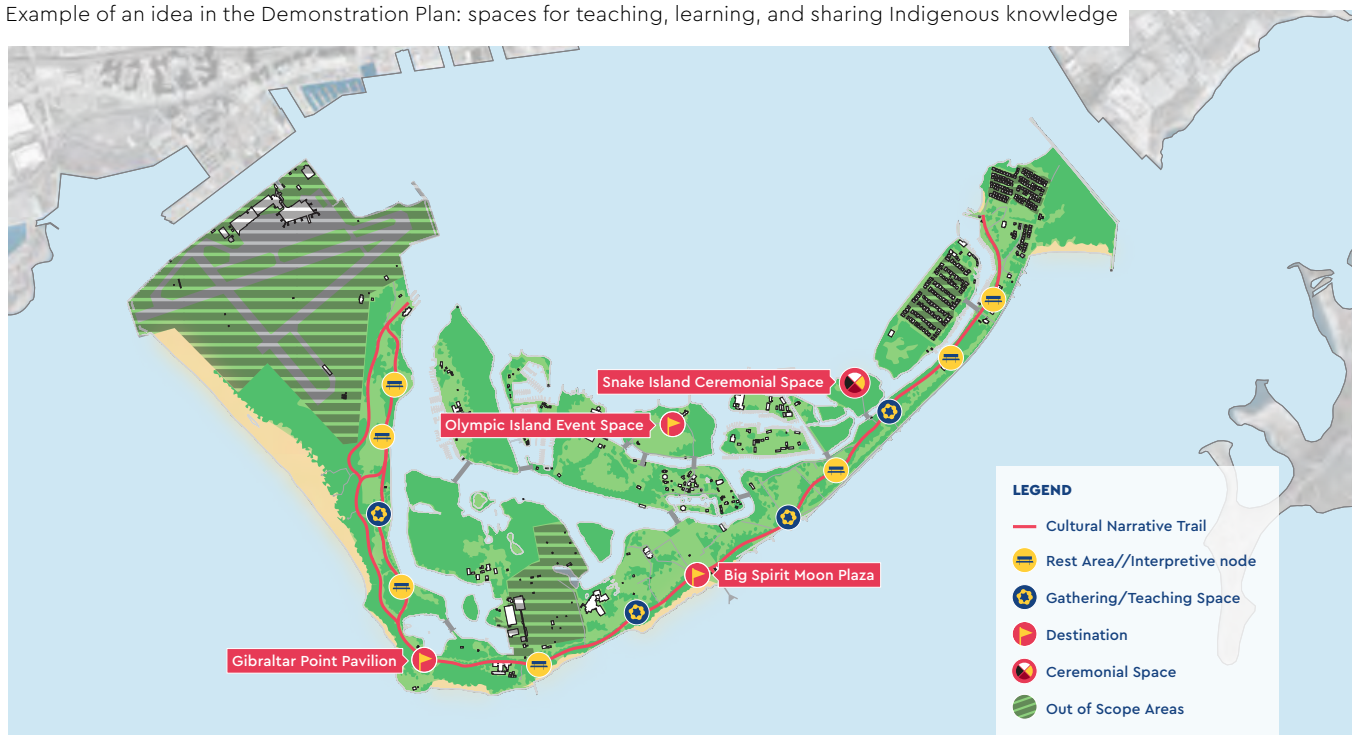
First Nations participants said there is great value in collaboration and co-management of Indigenous cultural programming, traditional gatherings, and ceremonies between the City of Toronto, community organizations, and rights-holders. They said the City will need to consider supporting and funding Indigenous spaces and cultural programming and include Indigenous people in marketing and promotional activities. Without this involvement, Indigenous people are concerned that these spaces may sit empty. Indigenous people should be brought in early, and the City should build partnerships in designing, developing, and implementing Indigenous placekeeping and cultural programming.

There is incredible opportunity to develop Indigenous cultural programming, including: having a dedicated place for canoe building; considering nation-specific cultural celebrations including during National Indigenous History Month (for example: a Wendat cultural gathering that includes games and fun activities); considering dog sledding and snow snake games as options for winter

programming; considering an Indigenous New Year's Celebration, including Wendat storytelling of the seven big stars (Pleiades) that are directly above during the New Year celebration; during Thanksgiving, hosting an Indigenous celebration of the harvest or festival of the Corn Moon, and; during the winter, creating a life-sized ice sculpture of a longhouse that is secured by a metal frame.

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Example of an idea in the Demonstration Plan: spaces for teaching, learning, and sharing Indigenous knowledge



Interpretation and storytelling should embrace the diversity of stories from multiple nations.

Stories are meant to be different, from the 13 Grandmother Moons, plants and animals, the history of Tkaronto, and the story of the Mnisiing (Toronto Island) itself. The relevance and importance of waterways to Métis peoples should be highlighted, including the connection with Lake Ontario, the Great Lakes, the Humber River, and the Toronto Carrying Place trail.

Plantings should reflect Indigenous cultures, uses, and local species. Indigenous plantings and food gardens should include sacred food plants including the three sisters (beans, corn, squash), as well as wild rice, strawberries and sunflowers. Indigenous medicinal plants need to be grown, managed, and protected by Indigenous people in areas away from dogs and unauthorized harvesting. Consider planting these types of gardens nearby the ceremonial space on Snake Island.

Finally, Indigenous participants suggested prioritizing the planting and protection of Indigenous plant species that highlight the local vegetation and ecologies, including oaks, maples and paw paw trees.

Other suggestions, considerations, and advice.

First Nations participants other advice included:

- A ceremonial cleansing of the Toronto Islands.
- The Moccasin Identifier should have a prominent place on the Toronto Islands.
- Play Toronto Islands Indigenous history and storytelling during the ferry ride.
- There needs to be space and infrastructure and servicing to support and prepare traditional foods and feast foods for ceremonies and community gatherings rather than relying on commercialized options since feasting together is an important cultural tradition.
- Private signage indicating "private property" cause confusion among park users and may give the perception that some parts of the Toronto Island Park are private.



Aaniin.
Sago.
Taanishi.
Hello.

Lens: Elevating Equity and Belonging

The project team shared and sought feedback the following four ideas regarding Elevating Equity and Belonging:

1. Diversifying representation in Island businesses and programs
2. Expanding opportunities for visitors experiencing disabilities to explore the park
3. Relieving economic barriers
4. Encouraging strategic partnerships to promote access and programs

The feedback summarized in this section, unless otherwise noted, documents feedback shared by participants across the many different various public engagement activities.

Highlights from the Draft Demonstration Plan Survey:
On average, survey respondents were 91% supportive of the ideas in this lens.

The top three ideas respondents supported the most in this lens were:

- Relieving economic barriers
- Expanding opportunities for visitors experiencing disabilities to explore the park
- Diversifying representation in Island businesses and programs



What we heard

General support for the ideas to elevate equity and belonging. Across the various engagement activities, participants generally supported the ideas to elevate equity and belonging. They shared feedback and suggestions on relieving economic barriers, developing strategic partnerships, diversifying representation in businesses, and making the Island more welcoming for a diversity of visitors – including youth, seniors, people with disabilities, newcomers, people from LGBTQ2S+ community, and people from outside Toronto.

Businesses on the Island should represent the city's diversity. Participants said they would like to see more affordable options to buy food and essential supplies on the Island. They said smaller businesses that represent the city's diversity should be meaningfully supported and sustained to achieve this, with specific focus on supporting businesses and entrepreneurs from Indigenous, racialized, and immigrant communities.

Participants also suggested providing food entrepreneurship training, creating community gardens and community kitchen infrastructure (such as tandoori ovens in Thorncliffe Park), which allow people to produce their own food, share it with others and bond over it; along with innovative, scalable markets like food trucks or shipping container markets, like at Scadding Court Community Center (Market 707); and the former Asian night market by T&T in Port Lands. Participants also suggested encouraging business ideas outside of food vendors that could contribute to the economy of the Island, such as creating remote workspaces with Wi-Fi,

The Island needs improved access for visitors with disabilities and/or limited mobility.

Participants said that it is important to ensure access for people with visible as well as invisible disabilities. Shorter trails, more washroom along the trails, and having more places to sit and rest, would improve the Island experience for people with disabilities and for seniors. Participants said it is also important to make ferry boarding easier for people with disabilities, and recommended docks that float on the water to ensure easy and level access (instead of ramps). For people who use mobility aids, assistive devices, and strollers, participants said having widened pathways with less interlocking pavers and more smooth paving will improve access, along with having stations to charge assistive devices when needed, ramps to the beach area and into the water including areas for boating, and free golf cart shuttles to transport people with disabilities.

Participants said nature and animal activity on the Island can be of great value to visitors' mental health. They suggested creating multisensory approaches to wayfinding, including wayfinding features and park elements that are easily recognizable for people with dementia; and suggested having designated quiet zones for people with sensory issues. Participants were also interested in play structures that responds to the needs of children including children with disabilities.

Extended ferry hours (later, all-night, and year-round) would appeal to diverse visitors.

Participants said having options to visit the Island during 'off-hours' – such as late evenings and early mornings – would 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).

Visiting the Island needs to be more affordable.

Participants said getting to the Island, and the experience on the Island need to be more affordable for visitors. They also said if financial accessibility is improved, there should be robust

communication campaigns to raise awareness about it. Participants said ferry prices are a financial barrier and suggested providing free ferry tickets or reduced fares to children at the end of school year (similar to the Canadian National Exhibition); free ferry tickets or reduced fares for seniors, younger visitors, visitors from Equity Deserving communities and for those on social assistance; and integrating ferry tickets with Presto with options to include tickets in Presto passes. They suggested partnering with Toronto Public Library and community organizations to provide free tickets and food vouchers. The Island should have more smaller and diverse businesses as opposed to exclusive business leases, and there should be infrastructure for visitors to prepare their own food on the Island (i.e., community oven, BBQs, etc.). Participants also said they would like to see more affordable bike rentals and increased access and services (bike parking) for people to bring their own bikes.

Process to get permits should be simplified or eliminated.

Participants said that there needs to be more awareness about permit requirements, and simpler ways to obtain the permits. They suggested having more information about permits online, informative signage, being able to acquire permits on site, or eliminating the permit process altogether. They said that those who are unfamiliar with the requirement or process often have other barriers, such as language, and would not know to apply for permit. Participants also said that the lack of information about permits can result in over-policing which in-turn results in people feeling unwelcome or targeted as part of racialized communities, newcomers, or those who are not "in the know" from outside the city.

Programming should be environmentally-friendly, and appeal to diverse visitors. Participants said programming should only be expanded in ways which do not disturb the natural habitat of the island, or alter the current 'rugged', spontaneous, and park-like experience. They said programming should be spread year-round based on capacity of current services (such as ferries and access to washrooms and on-Island transportation), and

consider impacts to traffic on the island. For winter activities, participants said there should be easily accessible rentals for activities such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Many also said that expanding programming and services could make the Island more appealing and accessible to youth, seniors, and to people from outside Toronto.

- For youth, participants said that providing free or reduced fare ferry tickets at the end of the school year could encourage children and youth to visit the Island, including those from outside Toronto. Some participants also suggested to increase subsidized school field trips to the Island school and to prioritize schools in lower income communities.
- For seniors, participants said shorter trails and improved wayfinding would enhance the experience of seniors visiting the Island. Participants suggested the team should also consider activities for people who can't walk as far including wheelchair services at ferry docks.
- 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 to explore free shuttle services across the waterfront, and opportunities for additional water-based access (like water taxis and water shuttles) to the Island from places outside the city core, like Oshawa and Sunnyside Beach.

Local artists and smaller businesses should be strategically supported. Participants said the Island presents a unique opportunity for music venues (which are disappearing in the city), multi-purpose spaces, small art & crafts, and new programs and businesses because once you are on the Island, there is already a captive audience. Participants suggested that partnering with BIPOC artists, musicians, and/or youth would attract and welcome these communities to the Island. To support this, they suggested strategic partnerships with local and community-based initiatives and organizations, such as STEPS initiative and Artscape

for public art offerings, 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.

Safety for LGBTQ2S+ community should be prioritized. Participants said that Hanlan's Point should be formally recognized as a safe space for people from LGBTQ2S+ community, and additional measures should be taken to ensure safety of the community on the Island such as programming and service improvements.

Other suggestions, considerations, and advice, 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.
- Provide storage lockers on the Island and/or opportunities to rent wagons for people and families to bring supplies for picnics. These should be places where people can feel safe leaving larger items such as strollers and bikes.
- Provide more picnic benches to make it easier for people to have picnics.
- Maintenance of current infrastructure and amenities should be prioritized, and amenities like bike parking should be added.
- Work closely with Waterfront Toronto and other entities to make sure everyone is on the same page regarding the Master Plan.

Highlights from Indigenous engagement relating to Elevating Equity and Belonging:

Need to relieve economic barriers.

Participants said the Master Plan should reflect needs of vulnerable community members, including women and single families, and suggested having childcare programs for parents participating in ceremonies. They said that financial supports might also be required for Indigenous entrepreneurs to do business on the Island.

Ensure inclusion in business strategy.

Participants said the Master Plan's business strategy should include specific considerations for Indigenous-owned and operated businesses. First Nations have expressed their desire to obtain benefit from tourism opportunities arising from the Toronto Islands. Opportunities may be related to co-management, offering amenities, experiences, etc.

Need for meaningful strategic collaborations.

Participants focused on need for meaningful collaborations for environmental protection, and for creating shared business and marketing strategies. They suggested working with organizations like Kayanase and Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) to promote and protect the local vegetation and ecologies. They also suggested collaborating with rights-holder's business entities, tourism and economic development corporations to create shared business and marketing strategies for the Island; and strategic partnerships with First Nations tourism and marketing entities, including Tourisme Wendake and Indigenous Tourism Ontario.



Lens: Supporting a Dynamic Environment



The project team shared and sought feedback the following four ideas regarding Supporting a Dynamic Environment:

1. Promoting stewardship, restoration, and resilience
2. Enhancing protection of the natural environment
3. Improving access to natural heritage
4. Sharing the importance of the Island's natural history

The feedback summarized in this section, unless otherwise noted, documents feedback shared by participants across the many different various public engagement activities.

Highlights from the Draft Demonstration Plan Survey:
On average, survey respondents were 89% supportive of the ideas in this lens.

The top three ideas respondents supported the most in this lens were:

- Improving access to natural heritage
- Promoting stewardship, restoration, and resilience
- Sharing importance of The Island's natural history

What we heard

Strong overall support for the ideas for Supporting a Dynamic Environment as well as the Master Plan's overall focus on the protecting natural environment. In general, participants were supportive of the ideas shared regarding Supporting a Dynamic Environment. Additionally, participants suggested that the project team prioritize efforts to protect and restore nature and maintain biodiversity on the Island. There were many who liked the explicit mentions of restoring the environment with native species and many who suggested to include the word "natural environment" in the title of the lens instead of 'Dynamic' since it could be interpreted in many different ways. There were comments highlighting the importance of the Island as being a significant part of the Migratory Bird Flyway and contributing significantly to greenspace and biodiversity in the City. There were also many comments that acknowledge the difficulties of balancing, protecting and restoring nature with improving programs and amenities to better serve the needs of a growing population in Toronto.

Highlights from Indigenous engagement for Supporting the Dynamic Environment:

Participants shared broad support for the focus on sustainability, restoring native species, and consideration of environmental sensitivity on the Island and said the rights of the island, land, water, flora and fauna are of the highest priority for Indigenous communities; and this priority should be foundational in the Master Plan.

They also shared concerns their increased human uses (activities, businesses, partying, etc.) will add to garbage, litter, and impacts to the natural environment, and suggested encouraging people to bring their own food and containers so people leave no trace. They said the park should

not consider hosting large activities, such as music festivals.

Water quality is a significant concern and there should be ongoing improvements to wastewater infrastructure and the City should continue to monitor and improve water quality. There is a perception that the shore along Snake Island is unclean due the impacts of the City's wastewater and this needs to be better monitored. When considering the water, Anishinaabe-kwe (Indigenous women) should be included in consultation processes.

Support and interest in ideas to promote stewardship, restoration, and resilience.

Participants suggested bringing the more stewardship programs (like the Toronto Nature Stewards program) to the Island and reinforced the importance of engaging youth as stewards, so they continue to be mindful of the environment and their important role in protecting it – including when they visit Toronto Island. To better engage with youth, some suggested better communication about additional

programming available for youth and to invest in the programming for youth. Other suggestions included expanding educational opportunities and stewardship opportunities, included the idea of having staff on the Island that teach people about nature, 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 (e.g., for Piping Plovers and others).

Example of an idea in the Demonstration Plan: No-go areas and planned seasonal access



Overall support for ideas to enhance protection of the natural environment with interest to learn more the ideas. Participants generally shared support for seasonal closures, no-go areas, and restoration efforts, with some caution of too many restrictions. 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 what is allowed or closed on the Island, especially for any pathways into Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs). They also indicated that there should be better communication about seasonal closures to help people understand and better plan their visits. Concerns were also expressed about 'no-go' areas that said it's important to be mindful not to create too many 'no-go' areas – cutting off access to spaces around the Island might become too restrictive and may unintentionally keep people away and limit their experience and access to nature.

Participants shared support for non-motorized zones in the waterways and suggested to expand the no go zones to areas with a high number of nesting species, and potentially other areas across the Island such as important beach dune habitats. It will also be important to consider if and how these no go zones will be communicated with the public and enforced, including changes to permitted areas of the mooring walls.

Additionally, many also suggested to incorporate policies or initiatives for: sustainable waste management, improved water quality, green energy; better litter pick-up; moving towards carbon neutral and electric vehicles/ferries; and reducing or banning single-use plastics at the Island. Some also said it is important to consider how airport operations impact or limits potential uses for Toronto Island Park. There were some comments from participants on their preference to provide off-leash dog areas both for and against.

Example of an idea in the Demonstration Plan: Enhancing access to natural heritage areas

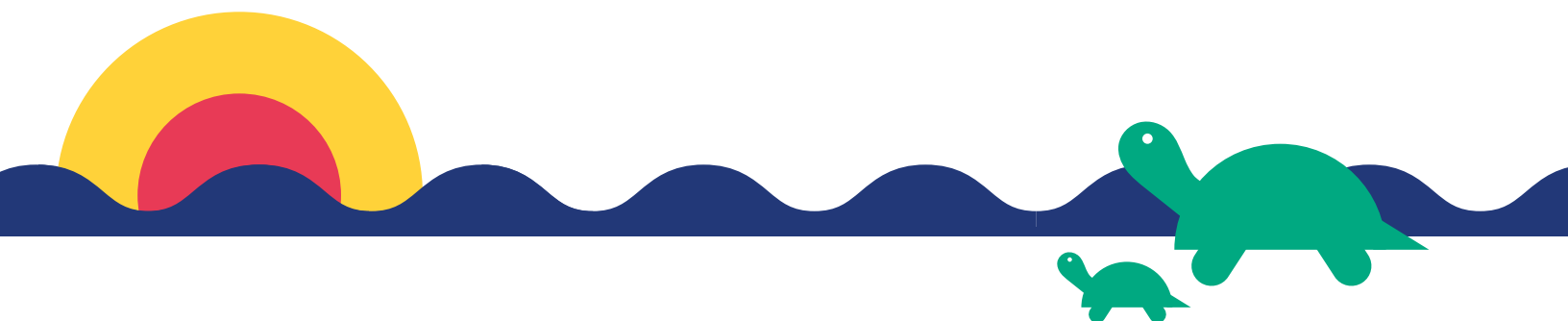


Strong support and interest for learning more about improving and managing access to natural heritage areas. Overall, participants said they liked the idea of using trails, raised boardwalks and new bridges to bring people to natural areas and reducing the number of informal pathways in sensitive areas and additionally suggested using physical design and other passive efforts to intentionally guide people through these natural spaces (i.e., away from meadows and planted areas). It is also important to ensure that trails are accessible to all users and the need for the trail needs to be justifiable. In addition, safety and EMS access to trails needs to be considered including a location tracking system.

Many also said it's very important to avoid or minimize any impacts to habitats and wildlife minimal, with some who said access should be completely restricted. There were a few that preferred pathways to be further away from Island residences.

Share the importance of the Island's natural history with informative and educational signage. Participants said it is important to have informative signage and to focus public education on environment, stewardship, and etiquette. They supported ideas for signage on the Island that would explain how some of the spaces need to be managed to adapt to changing lake levels and climate change, flooding seasonal closures (i.e., closed for nesting etc.) and why some spaces are protected at certain times of year; share the history and significant ecological features on the Island; and highlight restoration efforts. There were also suggestions to have signage and enforcement to deter behaviour impacting the natural environment such as trampling of beach dune habitats.

Signage could include QR codes, be offered in different languages, and include options for people with different abilities (such as sounds for those with visual impairment) and facilitate self-guided tours. There could also be Island Ambassadors that could help orient visitors upon their arrival to the Island.



Lens: Enhancing Visitor Experience

The project team shared and sought feedback the following seven ideas regarding Enhancing Visitor Experience:

1. Sharing information to help plan your visit
2. Expanding opportunities for play and exploration for all ages and abilities
3. Expanding opportunities for food, rental and retail
4. Enhancing uses on water
5. Enhancing uses on land
6. Sharing all the Island stories
7. Celebrating the role of art in placemaking

The feedback summarized in this section, unless otherwise noted, documents feedback shared by participants across the many different various public engagement activities.

Highlights from the Draft Demonstration Plan Survey: On average, survey respondents were 85% supportive of the ideas in this lens.

The top three ideas respondents supported the most in this lens were:

- Expanding opportunities for play and exploration for all ages and abilities
- Enhancing existing uses on water
- Sharing information to help plan your visit



What we heard

General support for ideas to enhance visitor experience. Overall, 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 watercrafts, and winterize more washrooms. While they supported enhancing the visitor experience generally, participants felt it was important to balance serving people with protecting nature, since more visitors often results in more garbage, noise, partying and impacts to the land. They also said the team should protect flexible and natural spaces and ensure the park doesn't become over-programmed. Participants also consistently suggested more washrooms in busy areas, like the beaches, and shade structures or shelters throughout the Island including places to warm up in the winter.

Strong interest in more ways to find information to help plan a visit with a caution to avoid over saturating the park with signs. Participants 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, at Jack Layton Ferry Terminal, and all three Island ferry docks 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 staff or Island Ambassadors) would help share information with

visitors upon arrival. Participants said they'd like to see a light touch to signage in the park — with some saying they'd like non-digital signs only — and others saying signs should be designed in a way that is integrated with the natural environment. Some people suggested a need for a Visitor Centre or arrival hub — while others wanted to see things

remain as is with no new buildings. Suggested information to improve communications include maps, what food is available, current weather conditions, event information, line-up times, ferry schedules — real-time updates, and whether all ferries are operational are delayed or schedules have changed.

Example of an idea in the Demonstration Plan: Expanding Opportunities for Food, Rental and Retail



Strong support for more food, rental, and retail opportunities at the Island. Across all engagement activities, participants consistently shared support for more food rental and retail opportunities, especially for affordable and/or small locally owned and operated businesses. Participants would like to see an improved diversity of food options, that reflects the diverse culture of Toronto and which is suitable for different dietary needs (like Halal, vegetarian, kosher and vegan options), are affordable and better distributed

throughout the Island. There was also support for expanded bike and watercraft rentals, with a number of suggestions to include watercraft rentals on the mainland as well so people can kayak or canoe over to the Island. There were many who suggested to incorporate Bike Share on the Island. Some participants also said repurposing existing structures for food and retail opportunities is a good way to add infrastructure with minimal impacts on the natural environment.

Some concerns about adding more food options, vendors, and events.

Participants also shared concerns that adding more to the Island will add to current challenges already faced on the Island such as crowding, long line ups, congested ferry landings, garbage and litter, different activities competing for the same space, and other impacts resulting from human use, such as trampling of beach dunes. There were also some that questioned whether there is a viable business model for businesses to operate year-round due to seasonal visitors and increasing intense weather events. Participants said the team should carefully consider where it is providing new food and retail options and event-supportive infrastructure to minimize any potential impacts.

Support for ideas to enhance water-based uses.

Participants generally liked the ideas to support an increase in water-based uses and programs. Many liked the idea of providing watercraft rentals and creating a new network of water nodes, Island landings, and mooring areas (so long as these ideas don't impact on water habitats, waterfowl, and/or plants). Access for safety and EMS also needs to be considered. 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 frequent and clearer launch points on the mainland (such as Cherry Beach). There were also some participants that would like to see more development of the ideas to supporting anglers and fishing activities.

Highlights from Indigenous engagement about Enhancing Visitor Experience:

Interest in Indigenous Food Providers.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit participants said they want to see diverse food offerings that include Indigenous foods. This may include opening up opportunities for businesses and ways for people to access food contracts on the Island. This is also consistent with the City's goals to support Indigenous businesses.

Support for non-motorized zone and interest in paddling.

Indigenous participants supported non-motorized zones in the internal waterways and efforts to protect the shoreline. There should be safe paddling opportunities between downtown and the Island, and consideration for all-season mooring of houseboats.



Support for expanding Hanlan's Beach, with some concerns about more noise and partying.

Participants generally supported expanding Hanlan's Beach, especially since it is a well-used beach and very important cultural and queer space – it is important that Hanlan's and the Island, is welcoming to all users. There were also participants who shared concerns about existing and future additional noise and partying – with some suggesting that there could be a designated area for loud activities, and that other areas of the Island should be the quiet spaces.

A range of opinions on overnight camping opportunities.

Some participants shared strong support for overnight camping opportunities on the Island and can see it being well used by youth groups like the Girl Guides and others who want to experience nature close to the city. There were also some that shared concerns that it will compete against other activities for space on the Island, add to nighttime noise and partying, not be equitable to all, contribute to garbage and litter, and potentially encourage encampments.

Interest in role of art in placemaking. Participants want to see art included on the Island that features and celebrate work from artists who are local, Canadian, from independent neighbourhood groups, and/or from equity-deserving groups.

There were also suggestions to include sculptures throughout the Island that are inspired by nature (both permanent and temporary).

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 human-scaled, 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").

Support for four season access. Participants 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; more waiting sheds and spaces for warming; extending winter ferry service to other areas of the Island and providing locations for pop up hot chocolate (or other winter experiences). Some said that skating on the lagoons is a popular winter activity that offers a unique (but risky) experience.

Lens: Improving Access and Connections



The project team shared and sought feedback the following three ideas regarding Improving Access and Connections:

1. Improving Water Transportation to the Island
2. Improving Circulation on the Island
3. Enhancing Accessibility

The feedback summarized in this section, unless otherwise noted, documents feedback shared by participants across the many different various public engagement activities.

What we heard

General support for ideas to improve getting to and around the Island. Across all the engagement activities in Phase 2, participants generally supported any efforts to improve getting to and around the Island, especially actions that improve the experience for people with disabilities and/or mobility challenges. When thinking of improving access and connections, participants said it is important to carefully consider the environmental impacts of bringing more people to the Island and closer to nature, and suggested using environmentally-friendly ferries and boats, and other green modes of transportation to get to and around the Island. Some also suggested to explore opportunities to connect programs and/or transportation from Toronto Island to other parks like Tommy Thompson and Cherry Beach.

Strong support and interest for ideas to improve the Island ferry service. Overall, participants welcomed improvements to the ferry service and suggested a number of additional improvements. Participants particularly shared support for expanding winter ferry service to Centre Island

Highlights from the Draft Demonstration Plan Survey:
On average, survey respondents were 89% supportive of the ideas in this lens.

The idea respondents supported the most in this lens was improving circulation on the Island, followed by improving water transportation to the Island and enhancing accessibility.

and revitalizing ferry landings. Concerns commonly shared by participants focussed on challenges related to getting to the ferry or waiting for the ferry such as: long line ups, crowding and congestion at ferry docks; lack of real-time information on ferry schedule and delays; available and affordable parking near Jack Layton; and general accessibility of the ferries.

Participants consistently suggested that there should be other places around the City to board a ferry or transportation to get to the Island, like in the Port Lands and elsewhere on the central waterfront or from west or east ends of the City. The ferry experience should be made more accommodating and accessible; there should be easier ways to look up ferry schedules, book tickets and get updates on line-up/crowding at the ferry docks; and there should be consideration to reduce the ferry fees or integrated with transit fares (i.e. TTC or Presto).

Example of an idea in the Demonstration Plan: Improving water transportation



The proposed water shuttle network is interesting and should consider traffic in the inner harbour as well as passenger traffic.

Participants wanted to learn more about the proposed water shuttle network and 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 and landings outside of the

inner harbour and central waterfront to the east and west ends of the City. Participants said it is also important to consider the safety of non-motorized watercrafts in the inner harbour if the water shuttle will be adding to the boat traffic in the busy inner harbour; and it is also important to consider the increased foot traffic from passengers at the proposed water shuttle landings by the residences on Ward's and Algonquin Island.

Example of an idea in the Demonstration Plan: Improving circulation



Highlights from Indigenous engagement on Improving Access and Connections:

Indigenous participants shared support for using the Cultural Narrative Trail, new pathways, and boardwalks to offer space for interpretation and to better manage and mitigate erosion around the Island. They also said it is important to replace the existing ferry fleet with more environmentally-friendly vehicles or means of transportation and that there might be interest in business opportunities with the ferries.

Support for ideas to improve getting around the Island while being mindful of any impacts to the environment. Overall, participants liked the proposed new trails around the Island and were interested to learn more about pathways and bridges that go into ESAs. Those that supported new routes into ESAs, said it's a good idea because these paths can guide people through and bring people closer to nature (like to Mugg's Island, Trout Pond, and by the water treatment plant). Other participants cautioned that it is also very important to be mindful and minimize any impacts to sensitive habitats and species and that bringing people into ESA's can have negative impacts such as invasive species and disturbance to nesting etc.

Participants also consistently shared support for new bike rental opportunities, as well as suggestions to separate pathways for cyclists and pedestrians to minimize conflicts between the different ways getting around the Island. It was suggested that service vehicles should have designated routes and hours. And there were also suggestions to keep the use of motor vehicles to a minimum and to reduce speed limits.

Support for improving and encouraging more ways get around by water. Participants were generally interested in ideas to improve travelling around the Island's internal waterways by non-motorized watercraft like kayaks, canoes, and stand-up paddleboards. They also said it will be important to provide the amenities required for mooring to support more non-motorized

watercrafts in the internal waterways. Participants liked the idea of being able to rent or store non-motorized water vessels on the Island so that they didn't have to cross the busy and often risky harbour. There was also interest in having the option to travel from the mainland to the Island in non-motorized watercrafts and to ensure that it can be done safely in a coordinated way considering all the other boat traffic in the inner harbour.

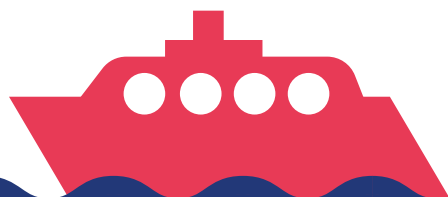
Support for enhancing accessibility and mobility, as well as the tram. In general, participants shared support for any efforts to improve accessibility on Toronto Island overall. Participants like the proposed accessible pathways and bridges, rest areas along main pathways and the idea of an accessible tram. Some, however, shared concerns about the proposed accessible tram (people mover) and said it needs to consider routing, stops and any conflicts with pedestrians and cyclists on multi-use paths and it should be a green vehicle that is quiet and clean.

Support for improving overall wayfinding and signage on the Island. Participants shared overall support for adding wayfinding and informative signage, with suggestions to include unique design features for the Island and information about environmentally sensitive areas and cultural heritage. There were also suggestions to include wayfinding for watercrafts in the internal waterways.

Differing opinions on a pedestrian bridge or tunnel to the Island. Across all engagement activities, there were participants that suggested the team consider proposing a pedestrian bridge or tunnel to the Island, and those that shared concerns about a physical connection. Those that want a bridge or tunnel said it would address the financial and physical barriers some face to

accessing the park. On the other hand, those who were not supportive of this idea, said it would contribute negative impacts to the environment from additional people visiting the island, that it would impact the unique experience of getting there by ferry and may negatively impact the quietness and sense of escape that is part of the Island's identity and sense of charm.

Example of an idea in the Demonstration Plan: Enhancing accessibility



Highlights of feedback on a Draft Wayfinding Map

The Draft Island Wide Wayfinding Map



At the same time as the Master Plan team was seeking feedback on the Draft Demonstration Plan, it also shared and asked for feedback on a Draft Island Wide Wayfinding Map developed as part of a Toronto Island Park Wayfinding Strategy. The team specifically asked the public to comment on how accurate the map was, what destinations should be prioritized, if anything was inaccurate and if they had any other feedback and advice.

Overall, respondents said:

The map is generally accurate, with only a few errors, omissions, or mis-labelled features.

The map should highlight a range of Island destinations, such as Ned Hanlan's statue, bird sanctuaries near Donut Island and Trout Island, and the public gardens on the Avenue of the Island.

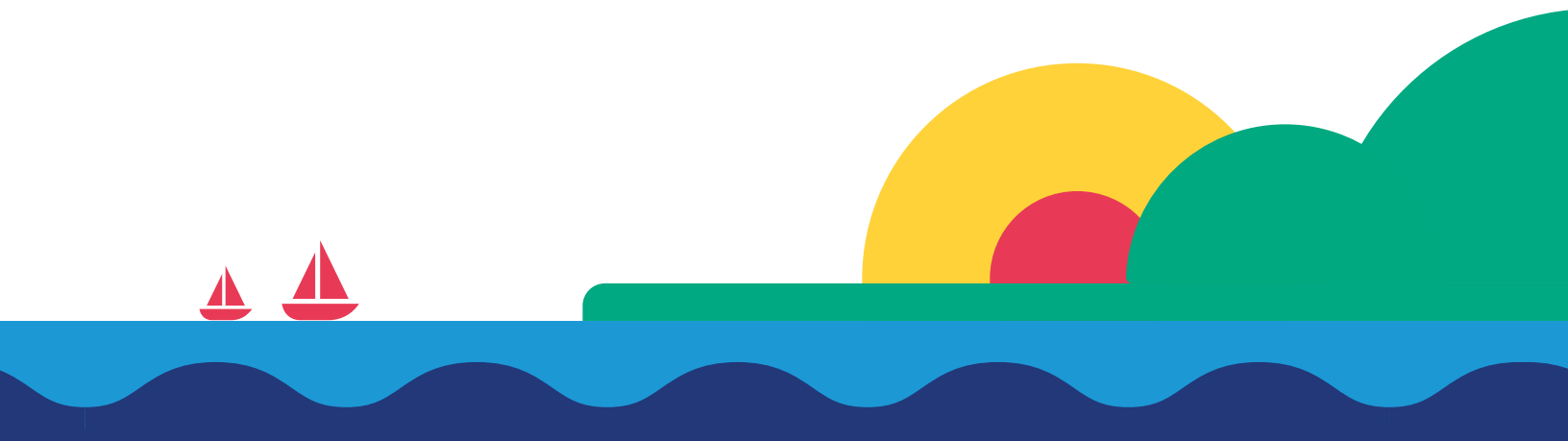
The map should include information about changing, inconsistent, and dynamic features, like operating hours, seasonal access, degree of public access, and other changing features.

Phase Two Outcomes

The insights, ideas and feedback received during the Phase Two engagement served as one of several key inputs to the evolution and progress of the Master Plan. Following the Big Ideas engagement, public and advisory group feedback informed how and where the Big Ideas were integrated within the Preliminary Demonstration Plan and helped to shape their first physical layout within the park.

The Demonstration Plan engagements and advisory groups assisted the Master Plan team in refining the Demonstration Plan to better reflect key priorities and initiatives identified, such as: creating gateways and hubs of activity and information sharing; modifying proposed opportunities for access throughout the park to better protect and buffer sensitive environments and habitat areas; formalizing desire-line pathways as part of the pedestrian paths and trail networks; and improving equitable access and accessibility to diverse features across the park in an integrated and seamless way.

Moving into Phase Three, the feedback from all previous engagement will continue to inform and contribute to the evolution of the Master Plan, including exploring ways to maintain a light touch approach while the team integrates what we heard about the importance of resilience, sustainability, and the Island leading by example. The Master Plan team will establish key recommendations and strategies within the Master Plan that prioritize environmentally and socially responsible practices and consider multiple aspects of park spaces, visitor experience, and operations. The next phase of work will also include prioritizing key recommendations and ideas towards a phased approach to implementation.



This report was prepared for the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation by Third Party Public (formerly called Swerhun Inc.), Nbisiing Consulting, and Co-Effect Creative.

Toronto Island Park Master Plan Consultant Team:

Engagement team

Third Party Public
Nbisiing Consulting
Co-Effect Creative
Isobar

Design team

DTAH
Trophic Design
Steer
Common Bond Collective
North-South Environmental
A.W. Hooker

Business strategy team

fsSTRATEGY
urbanMetrics

