

Toronto Island Master Plan

Centre Island District

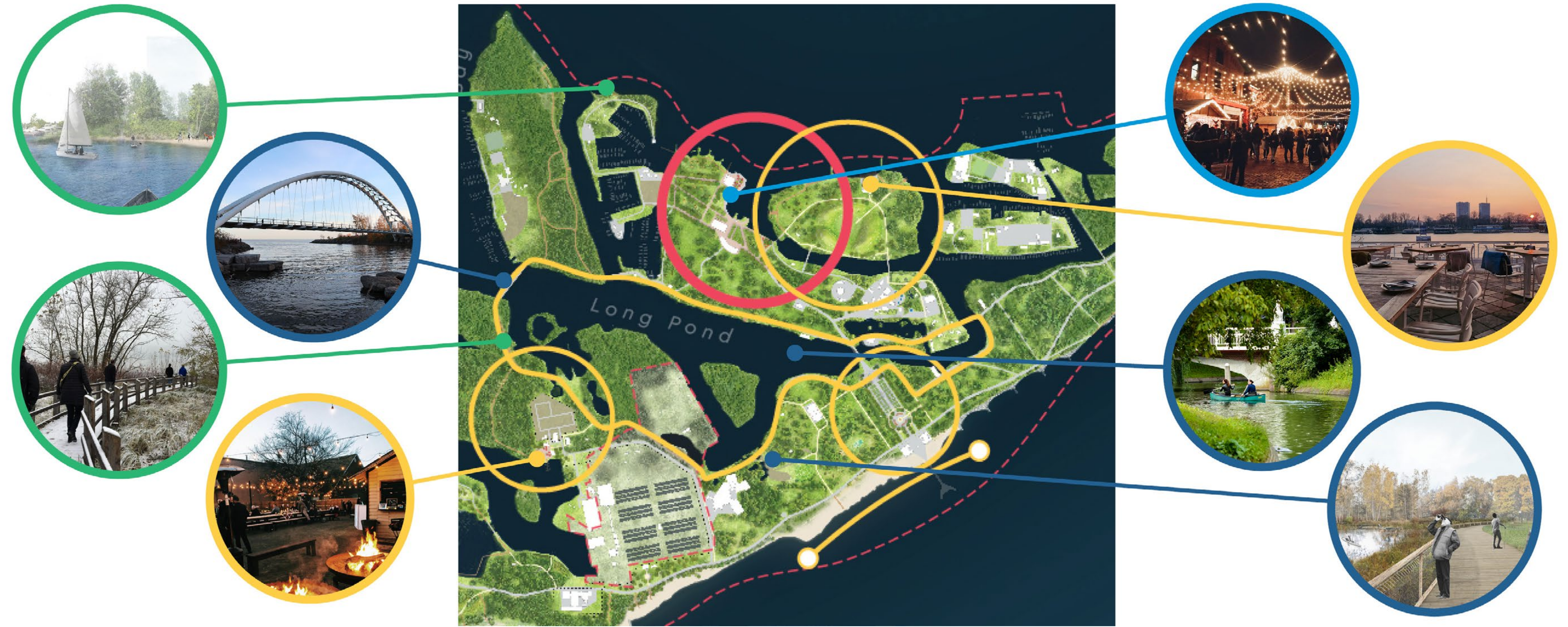


Existing Destinations

Today, Centre Island is the primary destination for visitors to the park. In addition to the attractions at Centreville and Far Enough Farm, Centre Island boast family favourites such as the Franklin Children's Garden, the William Meany Maze, and Centre Beach and Pier. The formal gardens of Avenue of the Islands are a central part of the Modernist park revitalization of the 1960s. Olympic Island has been home to many festivals and events, but recent high lake water levels have impacted the ongoing programming and viability of this important cultural space. Public assets at Toronto Island Marina and the Island Public/Natural Science School are valuable partners in the daily life of the islands and yet are overshadowed by more widely known Centre Island destinations.

Future Destinations

In the future, the Master Plan proposes that Centre Island should be a year-round destination, with expanded winter ferry service and a new year-round visitor centre to support activities throughout this district. All of the existing destinations will continue to operate, with targeted improvements to expand opportunities outside of peak summer activation. A new pedestrian loop around Long Pond could connect Mugg's Island, the Parks Yard, and other facilities along the lagoon edge into the core park experience. This could serve to frame a proposed non-motorized priority zone within Long Pond to expand and support safe watercraft use within the lagoons. New accessible bridges and pathways could create connections to support expanded areas for exploration by visitors of all ages and abilities.



- Short-Term Priority
- Business Plan Integration
- Revealing an Indigenous Place
- Elevating Equity and Belonging
- Enhancing Visitor Experience
- Supporting a Dynamic Environment
- Improving Access and Connection

www.toronto.ca/IslandMasterPlan

Toronto Island Master Plan

Centre Landing

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

As the busiest arrival point on the Island, Centre Landing is re-imagined to include a new year-round Visitor Centre and flexible community space. The new structure will be scaled to suit the character of the Island and needs of the visitors. It could include spaces for information sharing, bicycle rentals and administrative functions. It is envisioned to integrate washrooms, a new cafe for hot drinks in winter and cold treats in summer, a flexible space that can house rotating displays and exhibitions of the incredible heritage and cultural collections and host small community events. The Visitor Centre would be designed to meet the current Toronto Green Standard and use principles of Net-Zero and Passive House design to ensure the structure is a model for sustainable construction and aligns with the City's ongoing climate resilience objectives.

A new promenade is proposed to frame the north water's edge, allowing visitor to enjoy unparalleled views of the city skyline and harbour. The promenade will link the ferry landing with the enhanced Destination Dining venue and extend to meet the landing dock for the Marina tender and relocated water taxi landings. A re-designed, stepped water's edge would encourage visitors to explore right up to the water's edge and provide an informal place to sit and wait for the ferry.

Between the Destination restaurant and the existing food pavilion, a new Centre Landing Marketplace is proposed. The space could provide an opportunity to expand the retail and food offerings at the landing, supporting both permanent and temporary vendors and addressing the challenge of arriving at the park without your sunscreen. West of the marketplace, the Master Plan imagines reconfigured lawns as flexible spaces to host markets, for special expanded events, or picnics after picking up snacks from the local vendors. Pathways bisecting the lawns will help frame the expanded market events and also connect the landing to the front door of the Toronto Island Marina. With expanded food offering throughout this new space, the existing pavilion will be restored to a shelter that can provide space for the market or visitors waiting for a ferry.

To support the expanded activities and seasonal use of Centre Landing, the plaza could be redesigned to prioritize ease of movement through intuitive wayfinding and logical and intentional spaces that help visitors on their adventure on the Island. While primarily a paved plaza, new planting could be introduced to demonstrate models of green infrastructure and sustainable landscapes in urban and active settings.

Key Considerations:

1. Gateway Feature
2. Revitalize Plaza
3. New Visitor Centre
4. Restore Pavilion
5. Centre Landing Marketplace
6. New Harbour-side Promenade
7. New Pathways to Marina
8. Destination Dining
9. Four-Season Flexibility
10. Wayfinding



- Short-Term Priority Business Plan Integration Revealing an Indigenous Place Elevating Equity and Belonging
Enhancing Visitor Experience Supporting a Dynamic Environment Improving Access and Connection

www.toronto.ca/IslandMasterPlan

Toronto Island Master Plan

Focus Areas – Centre Island



Avenue of the Islands

A significant example of Modernist landscape design, the formal gardens of Avenue of the Islands are the central promenade of the 1960s park design for Toronto Island. The Master Plan proposes that the gardens should be replanted to demonstrate sustainable horticulture practices using native and Indigenous plants. A re-imagined space at the south end of the gardens would create a space for gathering and celebration around a central fire. This space could provide opportunities to engage in complex dialogues about the significance of Toronto Island as an Indigenous place through it's design and programming and could become a space to teach, learn, and share Indigenous practices.



Key Considerations:

General Considerations

- Support opportunities for naming & renaming
- Explore layered and diverse history of Toronto Islands within a continuous landscape

Location-specific Considerations

1. Provide space for gathering and sharing Indigenous teachings, storytelling and practices for public and communities
2. Integrate art and traditional building practices in the design and activation of landscape
3. Revitalize gardens through the use of native and Indigenous plants to demonstrate design of ecologies and management practices
4. Provide accessible pathways



Olympic Island

The legacy of Olympic Island as an event space will continue, but the focus could shift to community and cultural events and gatherings. Improvements are proposed to focus on raising critical infrastructure and facilities above flood levels to facilitate access and planning. Non-programmed spaces should be allowed to flood and drain as required. New pathways and connections could permit access year-round and present opportunities to integrate winter activities (such as a skate trail) onto this already well-served island.

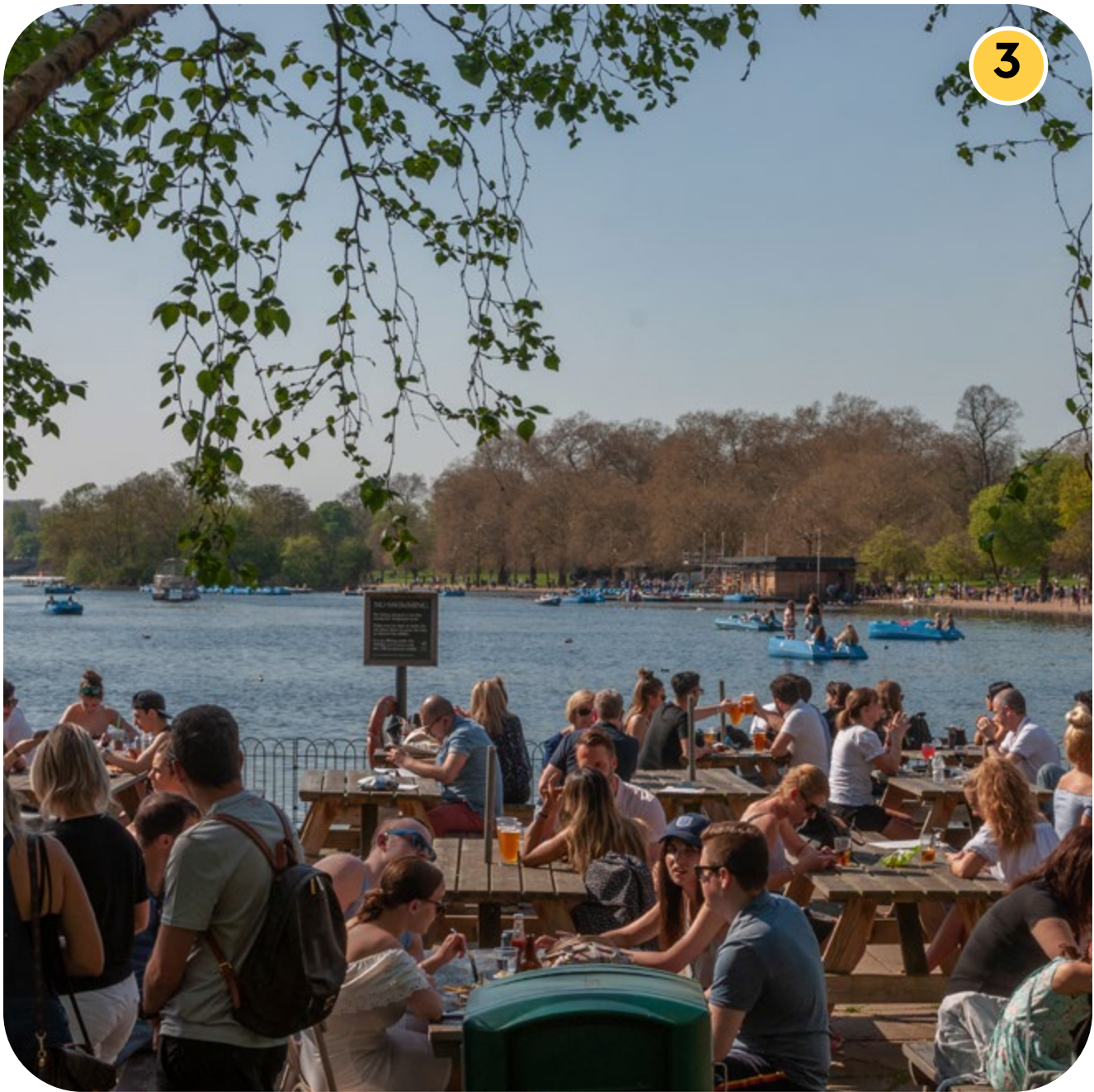
Key Considerations:

General Considerations

- Support opportunities for naming & re-naming

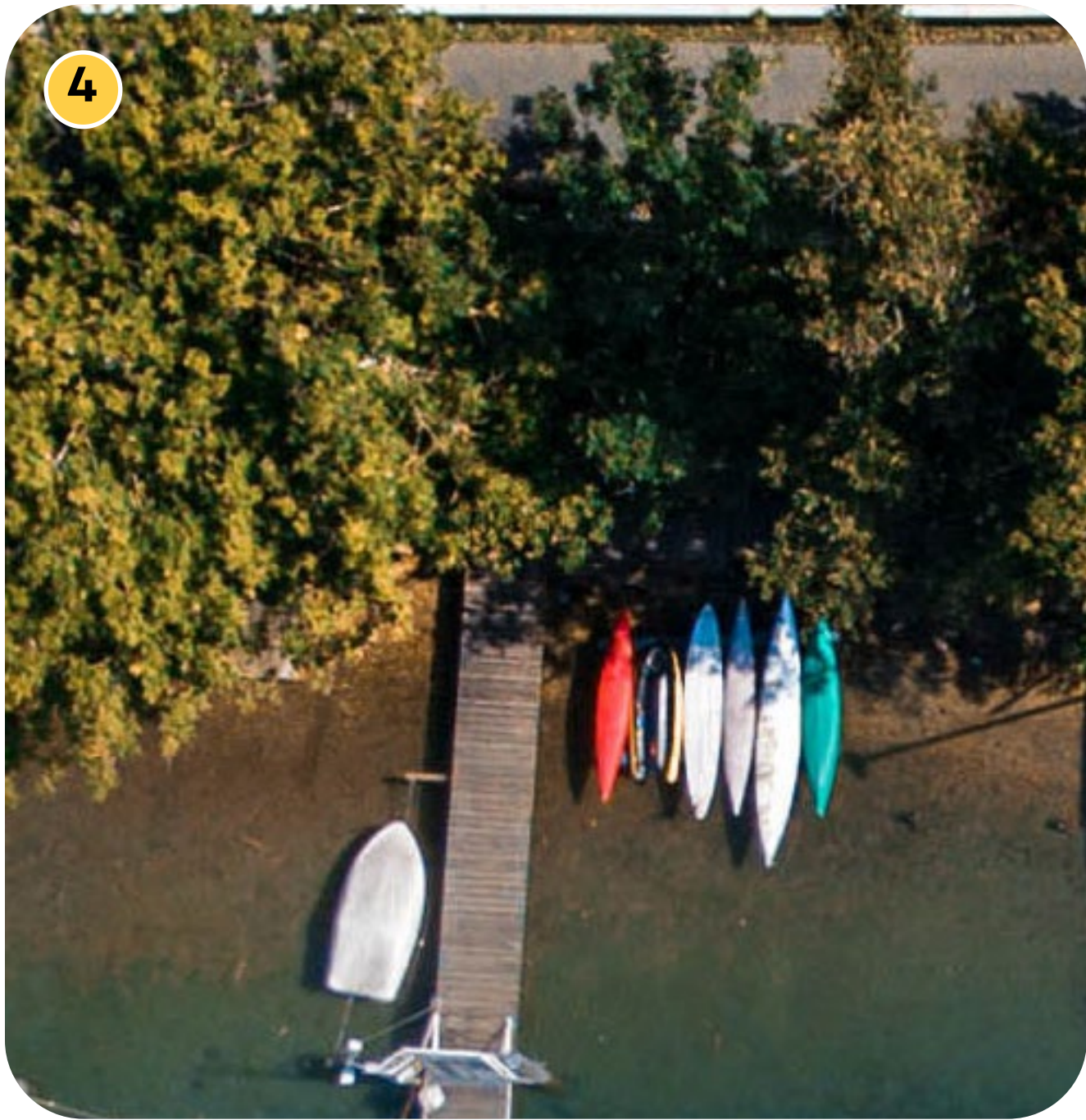
Location-specific Considerations

1. Use land form and raise lawn to revitalize event space to host gatherings and community cultural events and minimize flood impacts
2. Provide Harbour-side Promenade and elevated boardwalks to allow for access to north shore during flooding events
3. Revitalize concession pavilion and expand patio to create new food experiences
4. Explore opportunities to develop skate trail or natural ice rink using revitalized paths and open spaces
5. Raise and realign pathways to limit closures during high-lake events
6. Provide new accessible bridge to access gathering space and provide alternate routes on and off Olympic Island during events



Toronto Island Master Plan

Focus Areas – Centre Island



Lagoon Loop

The Master Plan proposes a new circulation loop as a 3.5km interpretive experience. Lagoon Loop would reconnect the diverse spaces around Long Pond in a continuous journey through the park's natural and programmed areas. The loop is intended to frame Long Pond and mark the physical boundaries for a potential Non-Motorized Priority Zone using proposed accessible bridges at key locations. The loop would also connect new watercraft rental nodes and landing areas with existing facilities and amenities to support an improved circulation network through the park.

Key Considerations:

General Considerations

- Opportunities for naming & re-naming
- Provide consistent wayfinding to help navigate new areas
- Integrate storytelling and interpretation throughout loop
- Support partnerships to enhance equitable access to nature on the Island

Location-specific Considerations

1. Provide accessible pathways within natural heritage to support multi-sensory experiences
2. Create new opportunities to play and explore around Long Pond
3. Support Non-Motorized Priority Zone
4. Integrate watercraft rental/landing nodes
5. Revitalize existing Grandstand
6. Manage controlled access to ESAs to mitigate human impacts on sensitive ecologies
7. Connect under-served areas of the park with new pathways and bridges, where needed



Parks Yard

The Master Plan proposes that the Parks Yard should be optimized to become a more efficient space that continues to support parks operations and maintenance needs while providing improved opportunities along the perimeter of this space for new walkways, restoration and regeneration within one of the most significant natural areas on the islands. Re-purposed buildings could support year-round food and seasonal rental amenities framing a new plaza space that could include a watercraft landing. The Parks works yard will remain in place, but benefit from a new fence and buffer that will separate public and operational spaces.

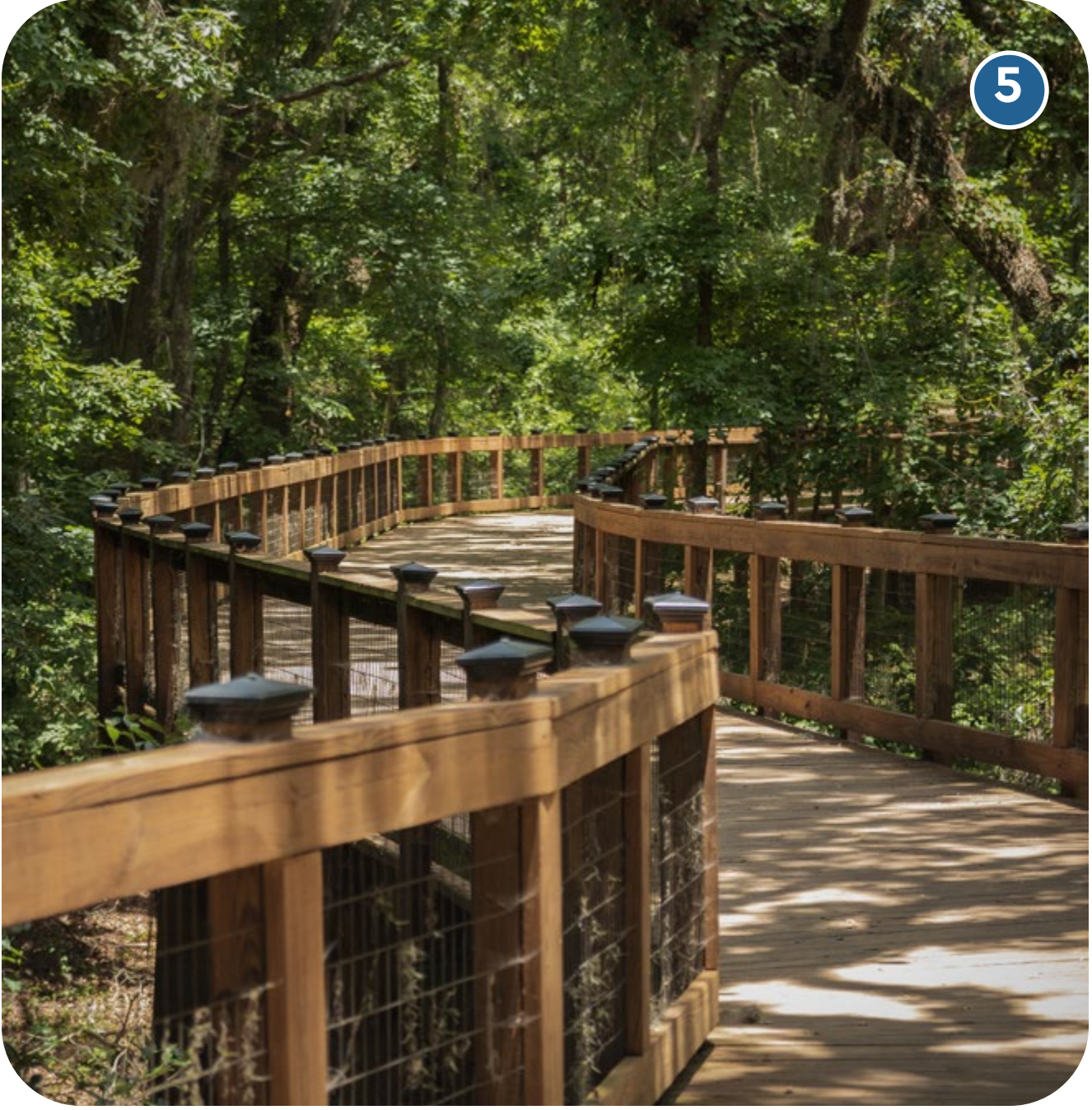
Key Considerations:

General Considerations

- Support opportunities for naming & re-naming
- Expand partnerships to deliver unique and diverse program through new hub

Location-specific Considerations

1. Provide spaces for teaching, learning and sharing Indigenous practices on land management and restoration
2. Renovate existing heritage structures to provide new diverse food, rental and cultural spaces
3. Provide water node to support water-based circulation network and rentals
4. Optimize Parks works yard operations to restore ESA
5. Provide controlled access pathway through restored area to demonstrate natural succession processes



Toronto Island Master Plan

Focus Areas – Beaches + Edges



Ward's Beach

Ward's Beach is the community beach of the islands. The Master Plan proposes new pathways onto the beach that could support accessible use of the beach and getting into the water. Existing washroom and storage facilities north of the beach should be revitalized to support their ongoing use for beach-goers and the community. A new boardwalk through the adjacent Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) could consolidate worn paths, manage access, and provide an accessible connection to future revitalization along the Eastern Channel dock wall.



Key Considerations:

General Considerations

- Support ongoing use of the beach as a ceremonial space

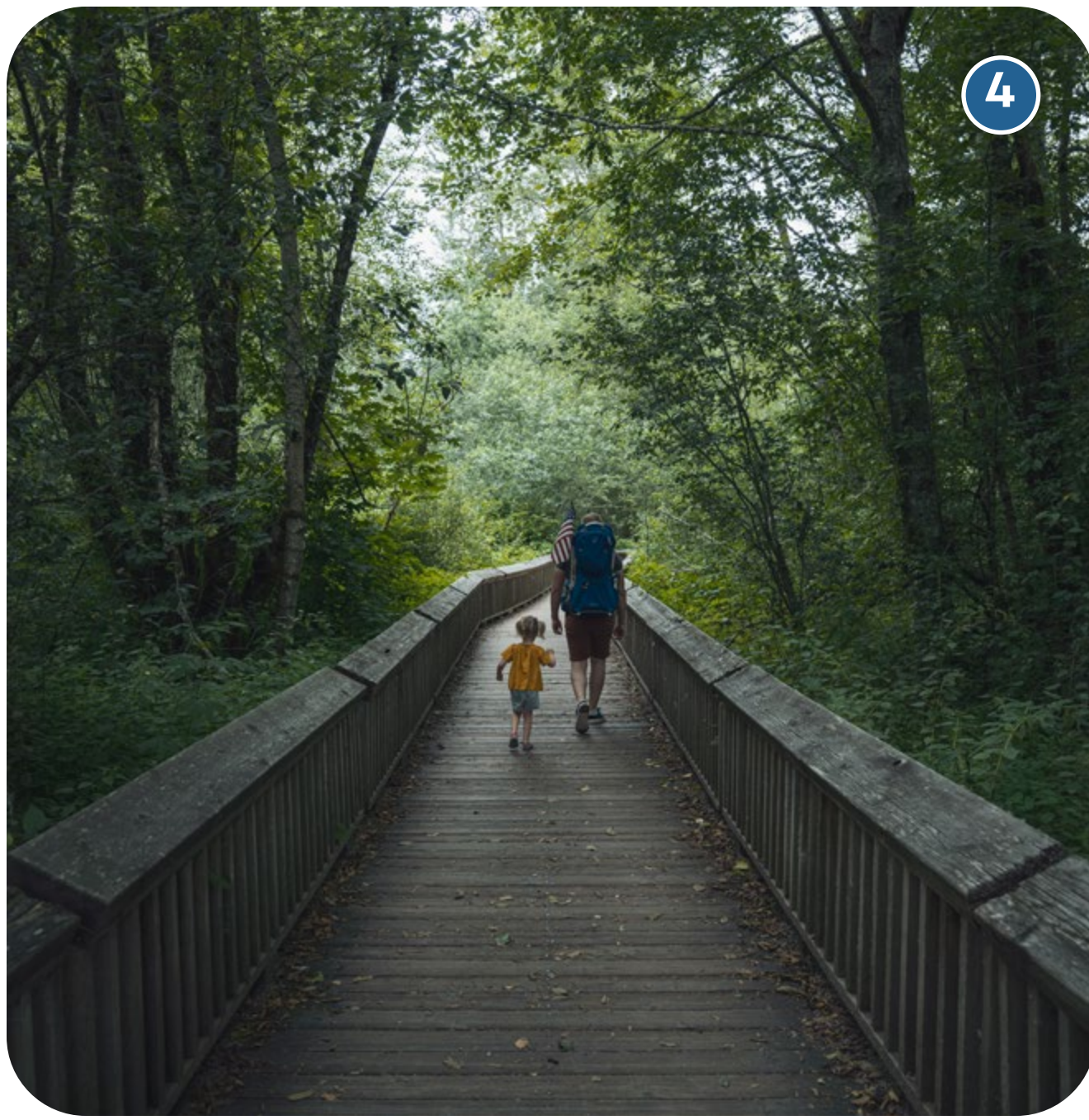
Location-specific Considerations

1. Provide access to water using beach mats, all-terrain mobility devices and floating wheelchairs as well as staff support
2. Provide opportunities to expand beach rentals through renovation of existing underused facilities
3. Manage disturbance within ESA through invasive species removal, replanting, and path removal
4. Provide controlled access path through ESA along existing worn path
5. Connect beach to revitalized Eastern Channel



Eastern Channel

A revitalized Eastern Channel dock wall and circulation loop is proposed to reveal a hidden treasure of the current park. Aging infrastructure should be replaced to support emergency mooring along the channel in inclement weather as well as create a new public space for exploring the edges of the Island. Connections with Ward's Beach through the ESA should be formalized and controlled to minimize further trampling. A new route to the Cove could connect the north edge of Ward's Island around the community and provide unparalleled access to the water's edge as well as unique views across the lively Toronto Inner Harbour.



Key Considerations:

Location-specific Considerations

1. Provide accessible connections along dock wall
2. Revitalize and enhance dock wall to include seating and emergency mooring tie-offs
3. Restore adjacent natural areas and mitigate impact through removal of informal paths
4. Connect dock wall to nearby circulation to create a continuous loop around Ward's Island community and link park spaces

Toronto Island Master Plan

Ward's Island District



Existing Destinations

Today, Ward's Island acts as the community heart of Toronto Island Park. As the only landing that is serviced year-round, Ward's ferry dock is where most people arrive when they visit outside the summer months. The charm of the neighbourhood, the cottages, and the narrow residential streets are the last remnants of the homes that used to span the islands. The park spaces nestled within this district take on a more community-focused character, including playgrounds and sports fields that are less prominent in other areas of the park. This district also includes Toronto's first disc golf course and program spaces used by the city's Recreation department and YMCA to support popular camp programs. The restaurants within Ward's Island have a distinct character and provide an example of how the Master Plan could support small and independent operators across the Island.

Future Destinations

In the future, the Master Plan proposes that Ward's Island should continue to be a year-round destination with new and enhanced facilities and amenities to support public use. New walkways within the natural areas could consolidate worn paths and minimize trampling within the environmentally sensitive spaces. Improvements at the north east could support existing access and restoration initiatives within this district. This could also set the stage for future consideration of a broader connection (by water or land) to the developing Port Lands communities. The dedicated Indigenous ceremonial space at Snake Island could provide a safe and meaningful space to practice ceremony outside the public eye while still being an important part of the community and character of the park.



- Short-Term Priority
- Business Plan Integration
- Revealing an Indigenous Place
- Elevating Equity and Belonging
- Enhancing Visitor Experience
- Supporting a Dynamic Environment
- Improving Access and Connection

www.toronto.ca/IslandMasterPlan

Toronto Island Master Plan

Ward's Landing

The Master Plan propose that Ward's Landing should continue to be a year-round destination to support the ongoing needs of the residential communities and operations of the park overall. New shelters and facilities are needed to create a more welcoming and comfortable experience on chilly winter waits for the ferry. A revitalized arrival plaza and gateway feature could share significance of the Island for both Indigenous and local communities and provide an enjoyable place to wait for the next ferry to arrive.

A reconfigured ferry dock is proposed to include a new weather shelter and may also include access to short term docking for small non-motorized watercraft. Landing space at either the reconstructed dock or soft landings at the adjacent beach could also be supported by short-term storage to allow visitors to paddle themselves to the islands and then continue on foot. Docking space would be located out of the path of the ferry to minimize conflicts between boats and enhance safety for paddlers arriving from the Port Lands.

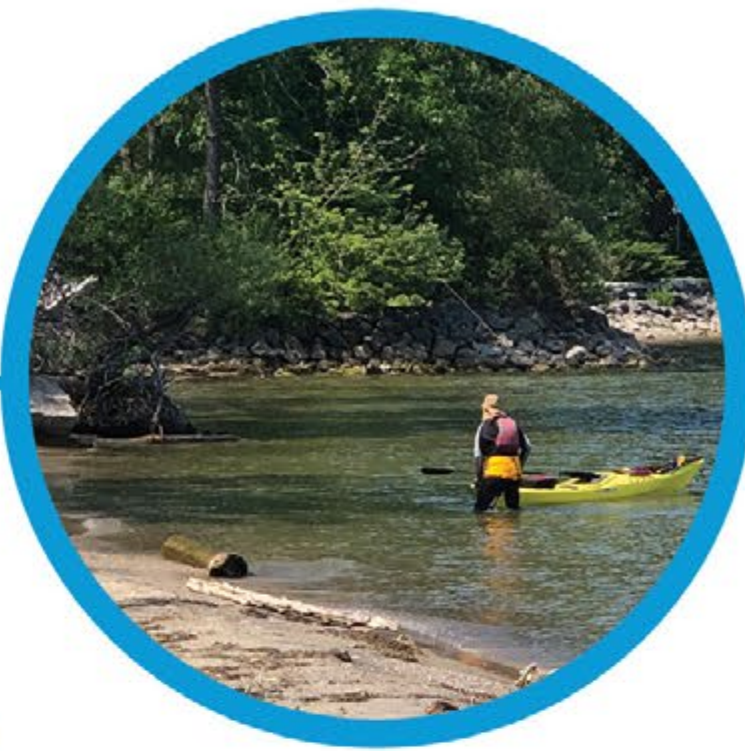
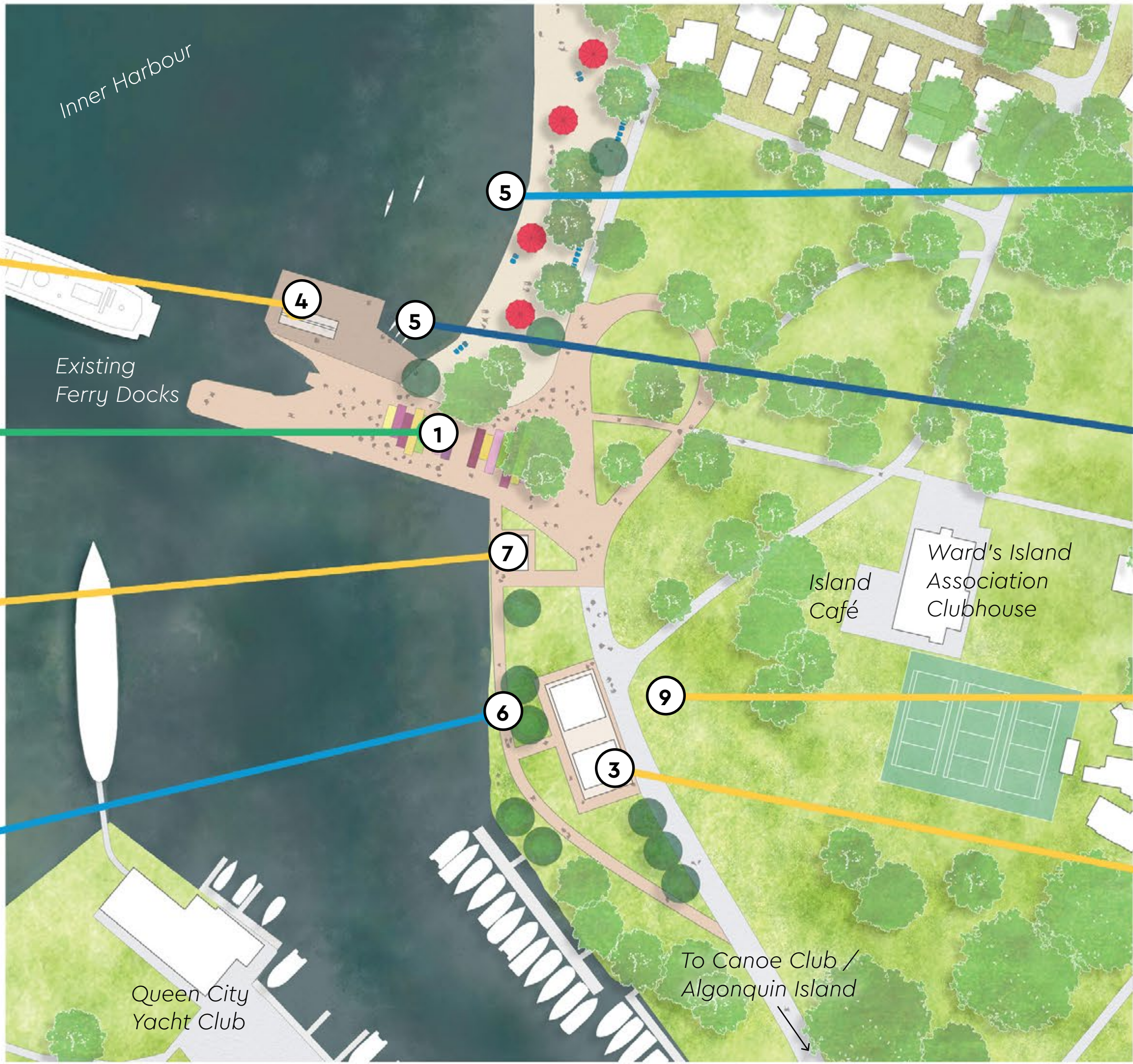
In support of ongoing flood mitigation work by the TRCA, shoreline armouring and raising could be integrated with general landscape improvements to create a seamless and enjoyable park experience. New stepped lake wall edges should consider the integration of pathways to allow visitors to enjoy views over flood mitigation measures. The new pathways and landforms could also help integrate the restored Warming Shed into the overall landscape and landing area design to provide more direct connections and accessible routes to the heritage structure.

A new washroom pavilion would be paired with a scaled-down visitor hub south of the landing. The new facilities would be paired with the opportunity to add a bike rental depot at the south end to decrease congestion around the ferry dock and minimize the number of bikes within the busy arrival area. A new wayfinding map would be located near the visitor hub to help orient visitors and to find out more about what is going on at the Island and where they want to go.

The landing will continue to be surrounded by flexible open space that can continue to host art installations, community events and passive park uses.

Key Considerations:

- 1. Enhance Arrival Plaza + Gateway Feature
- 2. New Washroom Pavilion
- 3. New Visitor Hub + Rental Node
- 4. New Dockside Shelter
- 5. Watercraft Landing Areas
- 6. Water's Edge Access
- 7. Enhance Warming Shed
- 8. Four-Season Flexibility
- 9. Wayfinding



- Short-Term Priority
- Business Plan Integration
- Revealing an Indigenous Place
- Elevating Equity and Belonging
- Enhancing Visitor Experience
- Supporting a Dynamic Environment
- Improving Access and Connection

www.toronto.ca/IslandMasterPlan

Toronto Island Master Plan

Focus Areas – Ward's Island



The Cove

Taking advantage of planned improvements by TRCA to mitigate flooding along the west and north shore of Ward's Island, the Master Plan proposes that the Cove could be integrated back into the larger experience of the park through the creation of intentional walkways and strategic landscape elements. The proposed shoreline walkway would carry visitors around the perimeter of the residential community and link the ferry landing with the Eastern Channel dock wall and Ward's Beach through a new themed loop. The complete loop could provide opportunities for storytelling, interpretation and the celebration of significant views to the north and east.



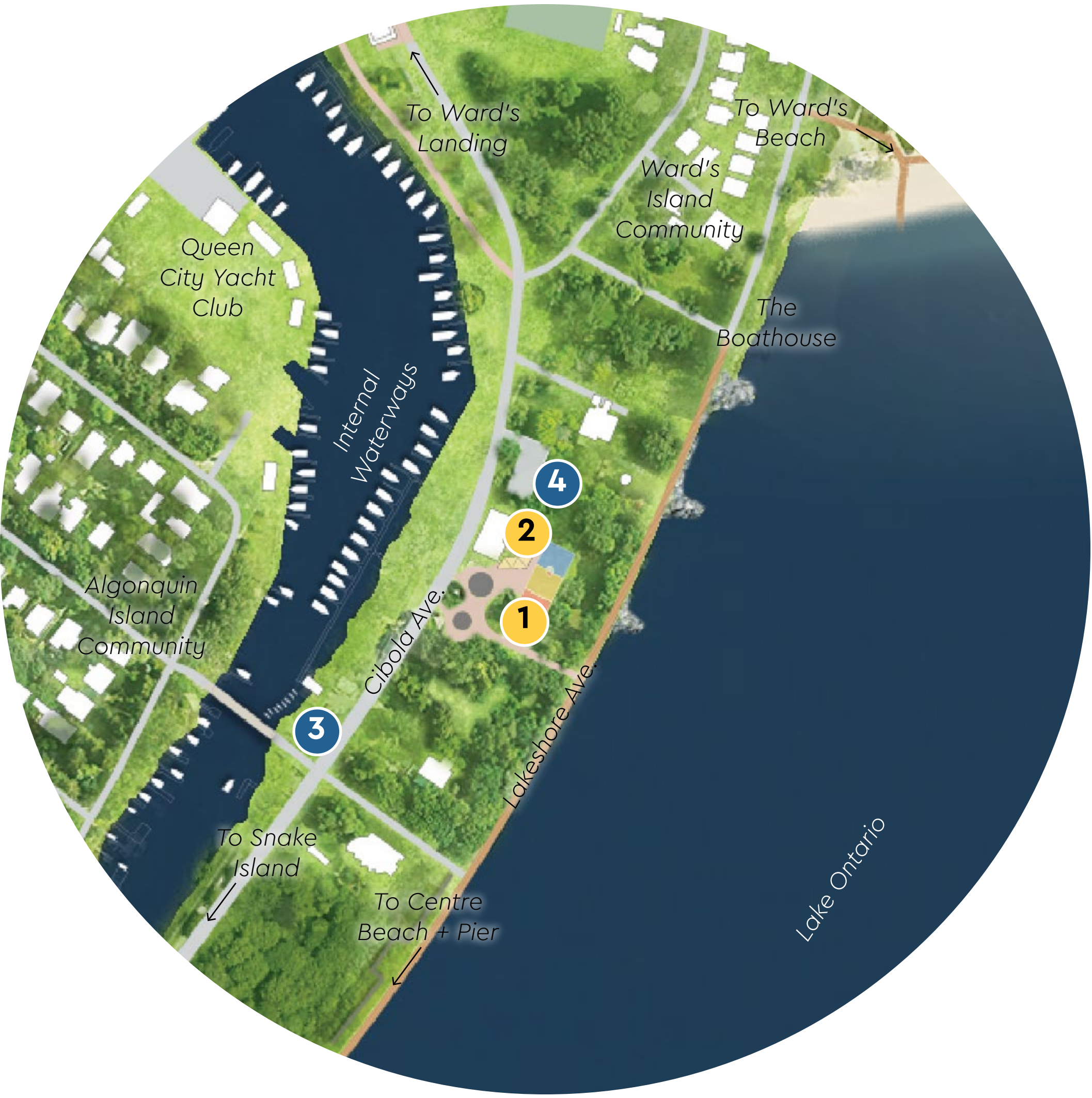
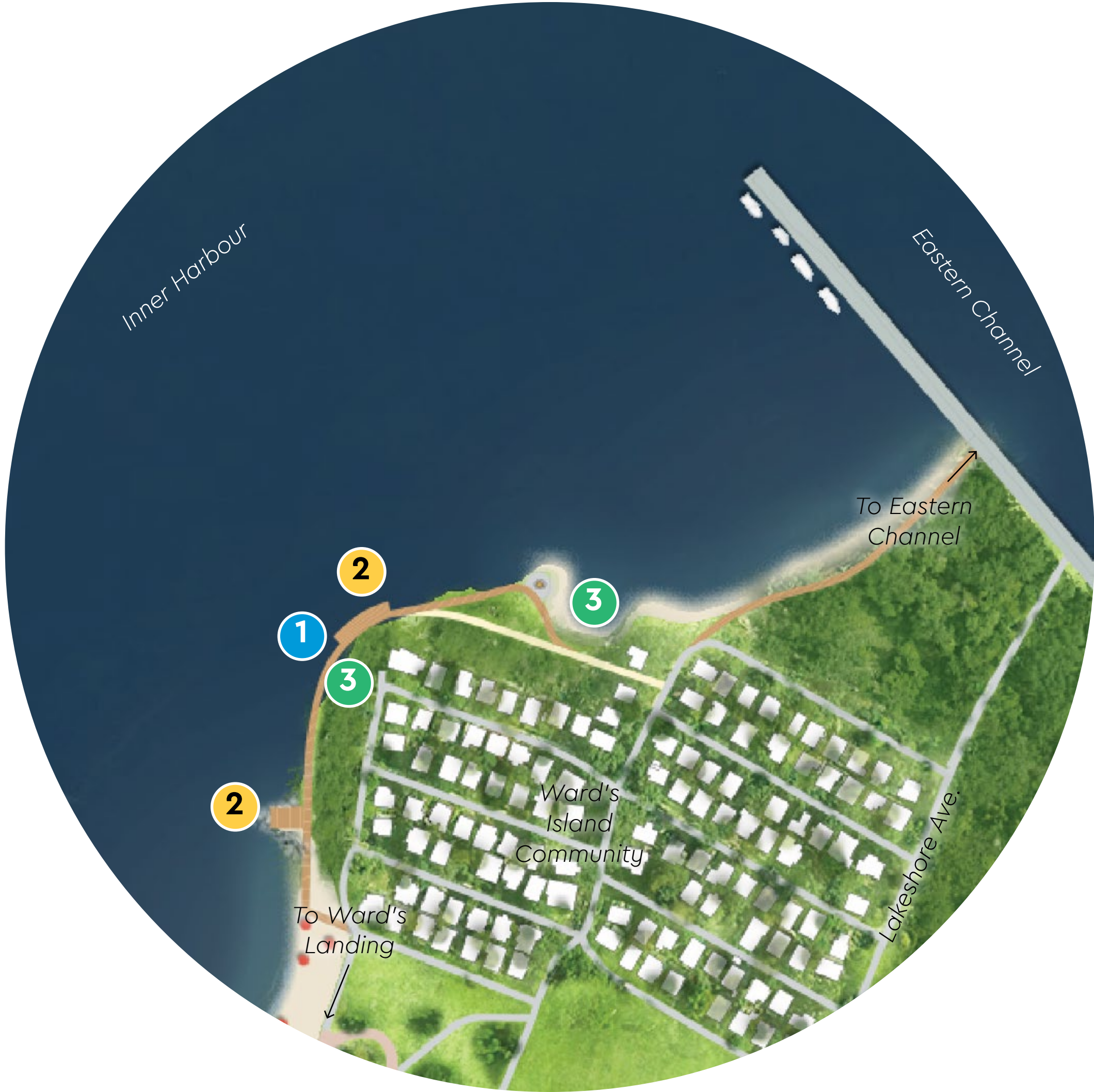
Key Considerations:

General Considerations

- Provide opportunities to develop interpretation and storytelling about the marine history and ecology of the islands

Location-specific Considerations

1. Provide continuous accessible route to experience the edge of Ward's Island
2. Showcase key views from new lookouts
3. Leverage TRCA flood mitigation work connect the patchwork of open spaces surrounding the Ward's Island community into a cohesive linear experience that encourages exploration while preserving residents' privacy



Canoe Club

The Master Plan proposes a new community hub near the existing playground and courts that could be realized through strategic improvements and expansion of existing buildings and facilities in the area. The proposed improvements could engage community and park visitors and expand space for programs and smaller scale community events. New facilities will help support ongoing community and recreation programming in the space and expand opportunities to explore and play in the parks open spaces and waterways. A new Parks depot and operations space proposes the relocation of existing parking from Ward's Landing and provides additional space for a satellite operations hub to support the east end of the park.



Key Considerations:

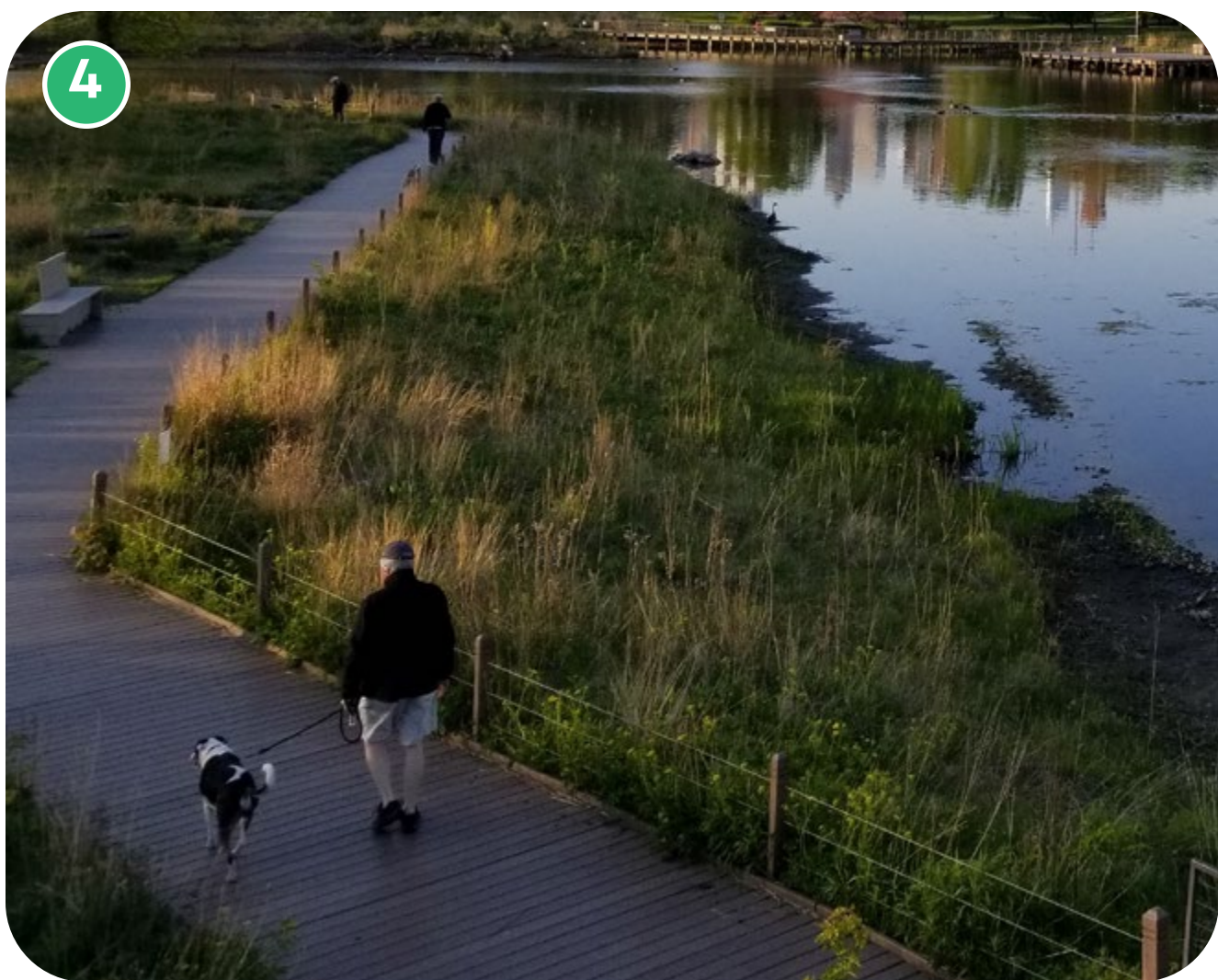
Location-specific Considerations

1. Expand free and affordable amenities to support play and community program partner use within hub
2. Provide shelter from weather in summer and informal small event space for community activation
3. Support expansion of watercraft rental node to support networked system
4. Relocate parks operations and parking space away from Ward's Landing in screened depot yard



Toronto Island Master Plan

Focus Areas – Ward's Island



Algonquin Island

Building on flood mitigation work by TRCA, improvements on the south, west and northwest edges of Algonquin Island will be focused on enhancing the ecological health and value of new and existing habitat and ecologies. The Master Plan proposes a new elevated boardwalk at the south to limit trampling and facilitate restoration of the ESA while also allowing for seasonal flooding. New near-shore habitat along the northwest shore will protect against future flood events and enhance the ecology of the island.

Key Considerations:

General Considerations

- Opportunities for naming & re-naming
- Develop interpretive elements and communication strategy about the value and function of ESAs
- Provide consistent wayfinding to help navigate new areas

Location-specific Considerations

1. Create teaching spaces to share Indigenous land management and ecological practices for the unique ecologies within this ESA.
2. Provide accessible pathways to water's edge
3. Showcase significant views of the City skyline
4. Leverage TRCA flood mitigation infrastructure improvements to provide park benefits and habitat along northwest shoreline
5. Expand trail network to include controlled access path through ESA
6. Provide emergency vehicle access directly to Algonquin Island



Snake Island

Identified through engagement as a space that has been used for ceremony on the islands, the Master Plan proposes that Snake Island should be co-developed and potentially co-managed with Indigenous communities to ensure that the resulting space supports the needs of the communities that will use the space. Snake Island also allows for the practice of ceremony in privacy and out of view of the public. The Master Plan proposes the renovation of the bridge to improve accessibility, enhance safety measures, and integrate art and markers to help signal the sacred nature of the place.

Key Considerations:

General Considerations

- Provide opportunities to support Indigenous business, service providers and artists
- Support opportunities for naming & re-naming
- Commit to ongoing support for management of land and water that align with Indigenous teachings and worldviews

Location-specific Considerations

1. Create a dedicated space for ceremony
2. Provide spaces for teaching, learning and sharing Indigenous histories and practices
3. Provide accessible connection to beaches to support ceremony and arrival by canoe
4. Provide opportunities to integrate art and markers to signal arrival on ceremonial lands
5. Revitalize infrastructure and facilities to support community use

