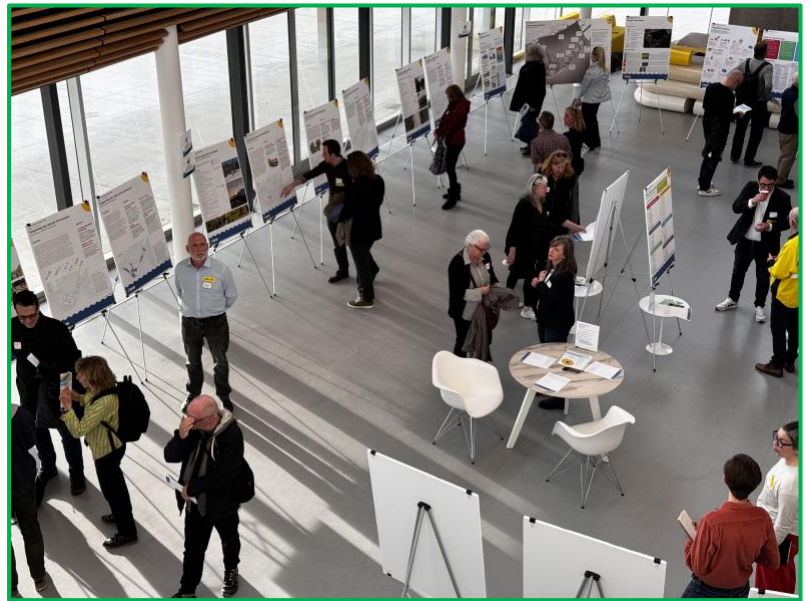




Toronto Island Park Master Plan

Meeting Summary

Open House April 16, 2024



Open House overview

On Tuesday, April 16, 2024, from 6 pm to 8:30 pm, the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division (PFR) hosted the final Open House as part of the Toronto Island Park Master Plan's public engagement process. The Open House was hosted at Bentway Studio Space, and over 55 people attended. Deputy Mayor and Ward 10 - Spadina - Fort York City Councillor, Ausma Malik also attended the Open House.

The purpose of the Open House was to share the Final Draft Toronto Island Park Master Plan, answer any questions, and hear participants' thoughts on proposed Master Plan priorities.

The Open House began with Deputy Mayor Malik welcoming participants and providing opening remarks. Following the Deputy Mayor, Lori Ellis from the City's Parks, Forestry, and

Recreation Division oriented participants to the Open House – including what was being discussed, how to provide feedback, and the next steps in the Master Plan process. Finally, Bob Goulais of Nbisiing Consulting provided an Indigenous teaching moment about the diversity of different Indigenous cultures and Nations on Turtle Islands. The rest of the Open House was a self-guided event, with participants learning more and sharing feedback about the Master Plan through a range of tools. Please see Attachment A for a detailed agenda.

Upon arriving at the Open House, all participants received a Master Plan Overview document, which included a summary of the key information in the Master Plan and a Participant Guide, which included details on what to expect at the Open House, how to provide feedback, and included space to write feedback.

The Open House included 30 display panels, the bulk of which were organized under the six Master Plan Goals. Subject matter experts from the City’s Parks, Forestry, and Recreation Division (PFR) and their consultant team were stationed near the panels to answer participants’ questions and provide information about the Final Draft Master Plan. The project team included representatives from PFR as well as the design team (DTAH, Trophic Design, Common Bond Collective, and Steer), the business strategy team (fsStrategy), and the engagement team (Third Party Public and Nbisiing Consulting).



Participants were invited to provide feedback on two panels which listed all the Master Plan projects and initiatives they would like to see prioritized - by adding green dots to indicate their top 3 priorities. Participants also had the option to provide written feedback on Participant Guides and submit them at the sign-in tables.

This summary was written by Third Party Public, the independent facilitation team retained by the City of Toronto to help support community engagement for the Toronto Island Park Master Plan. This summary is not intended to be a verbatim transcript; rather, it summarizes feedback shared by participants through sticky dots of Feedback Panels, written feedback submitted through Participant Guides, and through conversations with the project team.

Feedback summary

Overall, participants were happy with the Final Draft Master Plan, with several who had participated in previous meetings saying the Plan was clearer and easier to understand. Many said they felt listened to and saw some of their feedback from previous rounds of engagement reflected in the Plan – including feedback about the Master Plan goals on Celebrating 2SLGBTQ+ Significance, Supporting a Natural Environment, and Revealing Indigenous Significance.

Feedback about priorities

On display panels listing the Final Draft Master Plan’s projects and initiatives, participants identified which projects and initiatives they would like to see prioritized as their “top three” using green sticky dots. The visual below illustrates the number of dots each of the projects and initiatives under the 6 goals received.



Revealing an Indigenous Place



Improving Access and Connection



Celebrating 2SLGBTQ+ Significance



Enhancing Visitor Experience



Supporting the Natural Environment



Elevating Equity and Belonging



Other feedback

This section summarizes other feedback participants shared at the Open House, including written feedback and feedback shared in discussions with project team members.

Excitement and support

- Participants generally supported the projects and initiatives in the Revealing an Indigenous Place goal – expressing excitement for cultural narrative trail in particular – and reaffirmed that Indigenous architects should be involved when designing any built environment.
- Participants said expanding options for food and beverage should be a priority and suggested considering how these services can be diversified in the short-term if adding new food locations is a long-term goal. Some also said expanding food services would have a huge positive impact on visitors to Hanlan’s Point.
- There was excitement and support for upgrades to ferry service and winter access and capacity, with a question if this change would impact ferry prices.
- Participants generally supported projects and initiatives focused on enhancing community safety and suggested having safety plans in place to manage visitor traffic and congestion at ferry terminals. Some said that the behaviour of some visitors can be a safety concern for Island residents, and suggested including messaging on website, social media, and on-Island signage to educate visitors about expectations of behaviour on the Island.
- There was excitement about proposed wayfinding improvements. Participants said there’s currently a need for more wayfinding and maps, especially along major routes and suggested a focus on accessibility for people with vision impairments – including colour blindness, when creating the wayfinding signage.

Differing opinions

- There were mixed opinions on year-round programming. Some participants were excited for it and suggested including amenities such as warming spaces and tunnels from the airport to increase pedestrian accessibility in winter. Others were concerned about year-round programming leading to more development and visitor traffic and suggested keeping the park nature and habitat focused.
- Participants generally appreciated the idea of a designated ceremonial space, with some expressing concern about it being on Snake Island and concerns relating to noise impacts on the surrounding residential communities.

Concerns and suggestions

- Some participants were concerned about some of the proposed pathways and trails:
 - i) pathways near residential neighbourhoods: some were concerned that these trails would bring more visitors to residential areas, which may have negative impacts on residents' safety and privacy. There was also a concern about the path ending next to an Environmentally Significant Area.
 - ii) pathways near Hanlan's Point Beach: similarly, there were concerns that pathways near Hanlan's Point Beach would bring more visitors to the area, which may impact the safety and privacy of the 2SLGBTQ+ beach users.

A participant said they would like any further decisions about the pathways to be made in consultation with communities.

- Participants suggested keeping Hanlan's "fun" and remembering the history of Hanlan's hotel and amusement park.
- A participant suggested prioritizing creating manageable amounts of short- and long-term housing for artists, Indigenous peoples, youth, and others, and providing more money to the Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts to do repairs and support more artist residencies.
- Participants also said the plan should include a) mentions of improvements to safety and infrastructure; b) communication protocols for when marine artifacts are found; and c) plans for managing vehicular traffic and parking on the Island.
- Participants also suggested including more beach amenities, increased opportunities for sports and recreation, and bike-locking infrastructure at busy locations like Hanlan's Point.
- Additionally, many participants had questions and concerns about the airport, including concerns about the pollution impacts – noise, CO2, fuel runoff, rubber particles, and clashing with the goal of rehabilitating natural habitats.

Next steps

In the coming months, the project team will make refinements to the Final Draft Master Plan to address feedback and finalize the Master Plan, before presenting the Plan to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee, and then to City Council for their approval. Once finalized, the Master Plan will be shared with those who participated in the engagement process and will also be available on the project website.

During this time, the City project team will also continue to:

- Work within Parks, Forestry and Recreation and with internal City Divisions to coordinate on next steps towards implementation of some of the near-term projects.
- Continue to have conversations with and develop the relationship with Indigenous Rights Holders and the Urban Indigenous Community to identify next steps towards 'Revealing and Indigenous Place'.
- Establish community-based Working Groups that will play an advisory role on projects related to Master Plan implementation.

The Toronto Island Park Master Plan will be a living document with a roadmap for projects and initiatives over the next 25 years. Every 5 years, staff will report back to the Council about progress of the Master Plan.

Attachment A: Participant guide and Agenda



Toronto Island Park Master Plan timeline

Since spring 2021, we have been engaging with and consulting Indigenous rights holders, local communities, and the public to create the Master Plan through an iterative engagement process

We are in the final stages of this process, and are excited to share the Final Draft Master Plan with you!

This **Open House runs from 6:00 to 8:30 pm**. Project Team members from the City of Toronto and their consultants will be stationed near the boards to answer your questions and provide more information.

Learn more about how to provide feedback on the back of this Guide.

Open House Objective

To share the Final Draft Toronto Island Park Master Plan, answer any questions, and hear thoughts on proposed priorities.

Agenda

Land acknowledgement

6:00 pm **Welcome, orientation, and teaching moment**
Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik
Lori Ellis, City of Toronto
Bob Goulais, Nbsiing Consulting

6:20 pm **Open House**

8:30 pm **Adjourn**

If you would like to provide written feedback, please use back of this guide and drop it off at a sign-in table.

You can also provide feedback by reaching out to the project team at islandparkmasterplan@toronto.ca

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Toronto Island Park Master Plan process!

toronto.ca/islandmasterplan
#TOIslandPlan



Our question for you:

Which of the Master Plan priorities are most important to you?

There are two ways to answer this question:

- 1) Put green dots on the Feedback Board:** Pick your top 3 most important priorities and put a green dot next to them on the Feedback Board.
- 2) Write down your thoughts below,** and drop this guide at the sign-in table on your way out.

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