



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION  
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

**No.** 2019-P190

**To** Board of Directors

**For:** INFORMATION

**Date:** 2019-04-11

**Subject/Title**

Lac Philippe Campground Rehabilitation

**Summary**

- Presentation of the vision and design principles to guide the Lac Philippe Campground Rehabilitation Project in Gatineau Park.

**Risk Summary**

- N/A

**Recommendation**

- N/A

**Submitted by:**

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Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## 1. Strategic Priorities

The Lac Philippe public campground is an important asset that plays a key role in helping the National Capital Commission (NCC) achieve many of its strategic objectives.

The NCC's current commitments to the maintenance and improvement of the Lac Philippe Campground are outlined in the following documents:

- NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2023:
  - Priority 3: Offer public access and new connections for Canadians to discover the shorelines and waterways.
  - Priority 5: Be a value-added partner to create lasting legacies that serve as sources of pride for Canadians. The Lac Philippe Campground brings traffic to local businesses. Over the last few years, a program of special offers was developed in order to encourage campers to experience different adventures and products in various local attractions.
- Gatineau Park Outdoor Activity Plan;
- Gatineau Park Master Plan.

The campground service offer also contributes to other government strategic objectives and priorities, including:

- Provide opportunities for access and enjoyment of the Lac Philippe shoreline natural environment and recreation facilities (canoe and kayak rentals, hiking trails, play areas, beaches, picnic areas and interpretation programs) – (*Strategic result: public access to shorelines*);
- Provide opportunities to immerse in significant and active experiences in an exceptional natural setting in Canada's Capital Region (*Program activity architecture – Outdoor Experiences*);
- Provide significant opportunities for youth engagement, to promote a better understanding and appreciation of nature, fostering a stronger commitment to environmental stewardship (*Government priority: Youth Engagement*);
- Provide reasonably priced accommodations and a jumping-off point for visitors to discover everything the Capital has to offer (*NCC mandate*).

## 2. Authority

- *National Capital Act*, subsection 10(1) and paragraph 10(2) f).
- NCC By-laws, subsection 3.2, paragraph 3.2.5.

## 3. Context

Camping is included in the list of services and activities that are deemed relevant to the environmental conservation mandate. The Lac Philippe Campground, located in the northern section of Gatineau Park, was originally built in the late 1950s in keeping with the standards of the day and has gradually evolved with changing needs.

The current campground infrastructure rehabilitation program started with the refurbishment of the sanitary facilities. However, other structures and facilities have not been upgraded in the last 30 years.

With every passing year, the aging facilities are increasingly out of touch with camper expectations and do not meet quality standards. It is becoming more difficult to offer an appealing product, while campgrounds in other national and federal parks are being upgraded and modernized.

On several occasions in recent years, the rationale and business case for, and conceptual approach to, the campground project was presented to the Board of Directors.

The conclusions from recent studies and analyses formed the basis for the following proposed approaches to modernize the campground and improve the overall experience:

- Increase the number, quality and functionality of infrastructure;
- Enhance visitor services thereby improving visitor experience;
- Minimize environmental impact.

In June 2018, the Board approved the project in principle and funding for design up to 20% of the project budget. The project team was asked, however, to first return to the Board to validate the vision for the campground and design principles.

In order to inform the presentation to the Board, a presentation was made to the Advisory Committee on Planning Design and Realty (ACPDR) on December 7, 2018 (see the excerpt of the minutes in Appendix A).

## **4. Options Analysis**

### **The Vision**

The vision for the Lac Philippe Campground is:

To provide an intimate and comfortable experience in an exceptional natural setting, in line with camper expectations.

Although we are looking to attract a broader clientele, including some RV campers (a large and growing market segment) and to encourage longer stays, campers must feel that they find themselves in a conservation park.

As a first step, we are proposing the following design elements:

- Design based upon the various biophysical elements of the site. Secluded campsite clusters based on different accommodation types and providing different experiences (refer to Appendix B)\*:

- The Meadow
- The Creek
- The Escarpment
- The Woodland
- The Hills
- The Beach

*\* In order to acknowledge First Nations' presence in the region, the names of the various sectors should be presented in Anishinabeg, French and English.*

- Maintain the existing ecological footprint.
- Protect sensitive natural elements and ecological restoration:
  - Withdrawal from the lakefront and shoreline restoration;
  - Revegetation with indigenous plants and shrubs;
  - Protection of sensitive species;
  - Reduce motor vehicles access;
  - Encourage low impact modes of transportation on the campground (walking and biking).
- Sustainable infrastructure:
  - Built with noble materials and in harmony with the natural setting;
  - Superior environmental performance.
- Standardized design elements:
  - Quality of the sites;
  - Design excellence.
- Enhancement of visual quality:
  - Benefit from natural appeal of setting.

## 5. Financial Details

N/A

## 6. Opportunities and Expected Results

The modernization and camping improvements at Lac Philippe present an opportunity to better promote Gatineau Park in the heart of the capital, to enhance the visitor experience, and to make camping more profitable by increasing the number of campers and extending the duration of their visits. They also provide an opportunity to improve universal access and to acknowledge First Nations' presence in the region.

The expected result is a site recognized for its beauty and the excellent quality of the visitor experience. The increase in annual revenues will cover the costs of operation, so it is expected that the campground would achieve full cost recovery and potentially generate a net profit.



## 7. Risks and Mitigation Measures

N/A

## 8. Consultations and Communications

Conduct external consultations with the following stakeholders:

- Demsis
- Tourisme Outaouais
- Camping Québec
- Canadian Camping and RV Council
- Canadian Parks Council
- Huttopia Sutton
- Kampgrounds of America
- Logos Land
- Ontario Parks – Head Office and Campgrounds Management
- Parcs Canada – Head Office and Campgrounds Management
- SÉPAQ – Head Office and Campgrounds Management
- Toronto Regional Conservation Authority Office – Head Office and Campgrounds Management
- United States National Park Service
- A for Adventure
- Biome Canada

Conduct internal consultations with the following:

- Marketing Group
- Finance Group

## 9. Next Steps

- Undertake the detailed design phase for key project components (service centre, infrastructure and renaturalization).

## 10. List of Appendices

Appendix A – Excerpt of the minutes of the Advisory Committee on Planning Design and Realty (ACPDR) meeting of December 7, 2018

Appendix B – Visual analysis of the existing campground services offer

## **11. Authors of the Submission**

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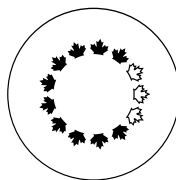
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## NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

Excerpt of the Minutes of the

Advisory Committee  
on Planning, Design and Realty

Meeting of December 6 and 7, 2018

2018-P190 - Lac Philippe Campground  
Rehabilitation (C)

Members received a presentation on the lac Philippe campground rehabilitation. They provided the following comments:

### Mission

- Elsewhere in the park, the NCC is buying private properties that will be re-naturalized in time. The rationale for not doing the same with the lac Philippe campground should be communicated clearly.
- Camping is a democratic activity that is essential to nature discovery.
- The NCC should not compete with private businesses but offer a different experience:
  - excellence in architecture and public space design;
  - best practices and research in sustainable architecture;
  - exploring the traditional way of camping.

### Site Master Plan

- The attributes, opportunities, and constraints of each zone should be identified:
  - topography;
  - soil;
  - septic system;

Extrait du procès-verbal du

Comité consultatif  
de l'urbanisme, du design et de l'immobilier

Séance des 6 et 7 décembre 2018

2018-P190 - Réaménagement du camping  
du lac Philippe (C)

Les membres reçoivent une présentation sur le réaménagement du camping du lac Philippe. Ils font les commentaires suivants :

### Mission

- Ailleurs dans le parc, la CCN achète des propriétés privées qui seront re-naturalisées en temps voulu. La logique de ne pas faire la même chose pour le camping du lac Philippe devra être clairement communiquée.
- Le camping est une activité démocratique essentielle à la découverte de la nature.
- La CCN ne devrait pas entrer en compétition avec les entreprises privées, mais offrir une expérience différente :
  - excellence en architecture et en conception de l'espace public;
  - meilleures pratiques et recherche en architecture durable;
  - examiner la façon traditionnelle de camper.

### Plan directeur du site

- Les attributs, les opportunités, et les contraintes de chaque zone devraient être identifiées :
  - la topographie;
  - les sols;
  - le système septique;

2018-P190 - Lac Philippe Campground  
Rehabilitation (C)

- drainage;
- access by car.
- The program should match landscape limitations and attributes.
- The larger context should be provided:
  - roads / highways;
  - hierarchy of roads;
  - entrances.
- Closing camping sites periodically (fallow period) for regeneration should be considered.
- Conversion of camping sites to ready-to-camp sites should be monitored carefully.

Circulation

- Cars should be limited to meadows and woodlands, and the opportunities to drive reduced.
- Lighter vehicles like electric / solar golf carts should be provided to reduce car circulation.

Design

- The experience should be different from one zone to the other, and campers should be encouraged to explore on foot or bicycle.
- The beauty of the landscape should be showcased.
- The design should be done in an elemental way (use of wood for example).

Committee Secretary

2018-P190 - Réaménagement du camping du  
lac Philippe (C)

- le drainage;
- l'accès en auto.
- Le programme devrait correspondre aux limites et aux attributs du paysage.
- Le contexte général devrait être donné :
  - routes / autoroutes;
  - hiérarchie des routes;
  - entrées.
- On devrait envisager de fermer les sites de camping de façon périodique (période de jachère) pour permettre la régénération.
- La conversion des sites de camping en prêt-à-camper devrait être dosé avec soin.

Circulation

- On devrait limiter les autos aux prés et aux bois, et on devrait réduire les opportunités de conduire.
- Des véhicules plus légers, tels que des voiturettes de golf électriques ou solaires devraient être fournis pour réduire la circulation automobile.

• Conception

- L'expérience devrait être différente d'une zone à l'autre, et les campeurs devraient être encouragés à explorer à pied ou à bicyclette.
- La beauté du paysage devrait être mise en valeur.
- La conception devrait se faire de façon élémentaire (utilisation de bois par exemple).

Secrétaire des comités

*Caroline Bied*



GATINEAU PARK  
**LAC PHILIPPE CAMPGROUND**  
Visual analysis

National Capital Commission • Fall 2014

Document prepared by: C.Latimer & V.Rouette,  
LA-UD section, Capital Planning  
Fall 2014

Document reviewed by: Y.Charette  
LA-UD section, Capital Planning  
Fall 2014

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# 01

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Gatineau Park is a popular destination for recreation within the National Capital Region. The Lac Philippe Campground, the only serviced campground in the Park, allows users to escape to a beautiful natural environment while still being only a short drive from the downtown core of Ottawa/Gatineau. In recent years, however, the National Capital Commission (NCC) has noticed a decrease in the number of users frequenting this campground. The Landscape Architecture section of the NCC was tasked with assessing physical factors that may be contributing to the decline of visitors over the past few years and to initiate a plan to revitalize Lac Philippe Campground remaking it a sought-after camping destination.

The team looked at the Lac Philippe Campground in comparison with other camping experiences being offered within the area. The analysis included many national and provincial parks and the selection of comparable campgrounds was assessed and contrasted against the Lac Philippe experience. This study clearly illustrated that the Lac Philippe Campground has fallen behind with respect to the selection and quality of its amenities and services. The lack of services (electricity, water to the site, Wi-Fi, etc.) and the poor quality of certain sites are all elements that are detracting from the visitor experience. The types of services offered, the physical experience within the campground, and the image/branding are all elements that require careful consideration moving forward.

The team also conducted a visioning session with key NCC employees. The outcomes of this session was inspiring and really helped to consolidate our initial thoughts and design vision.

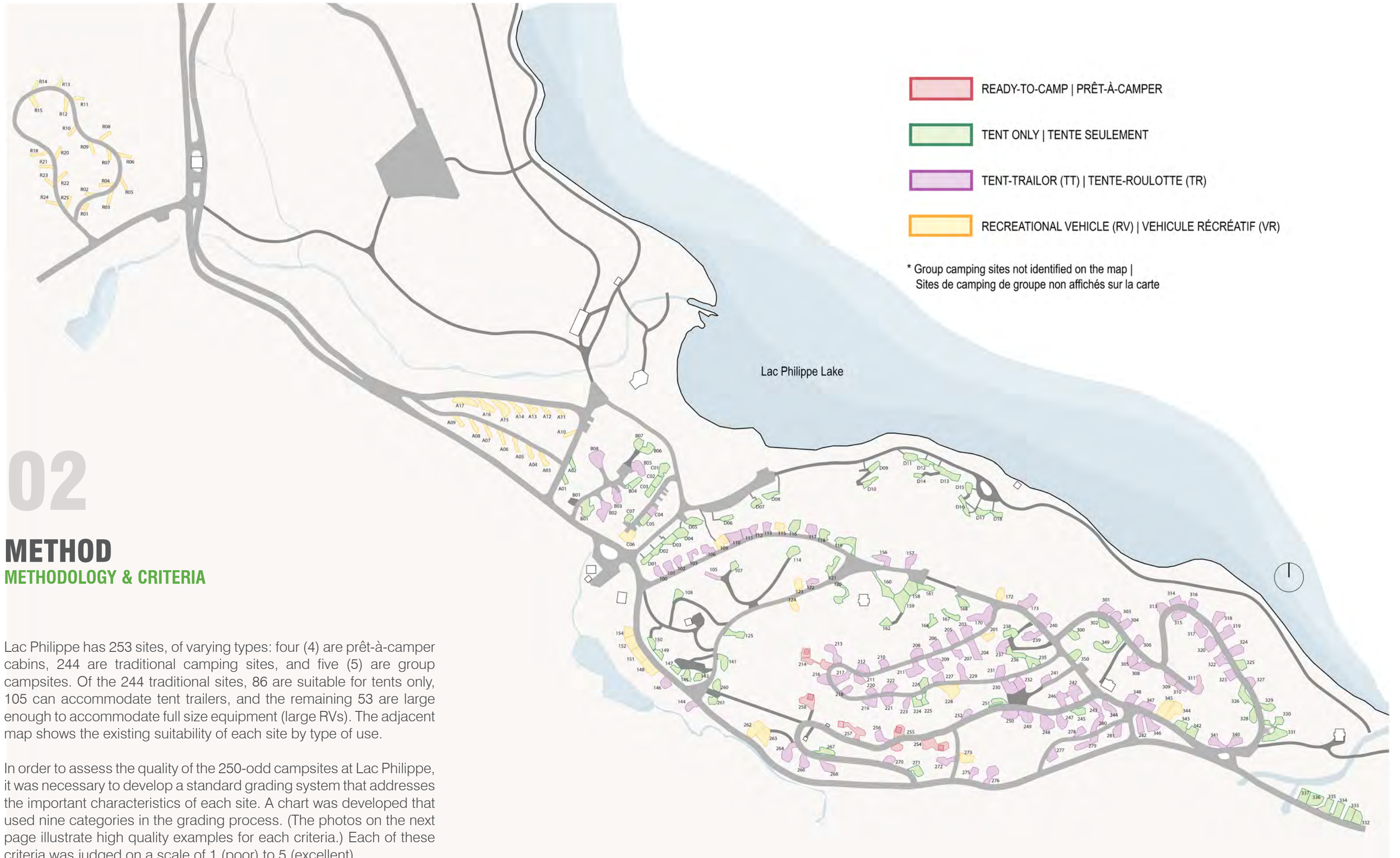
In order to determine specific physical improvements to the Lac Philippe Campground, a visual analysis of the existing campsites was required. This study is the summary of the results of this analysis and will determine the strengths and weaknesses of the campground—that is, which physical features need to be changed (either marginally or drastically), and which features benefit the Park and should be enhanced and repeated. The results of this study will form the basis for a cohesive set of design recommendations for future improvements to the campground. It is hoped that these recommendations will be used to revamp the campsite now, and be used in the future to guide further maintenance and development operations.

In the section 02 of this document, the reader will learn about the methodology and criteria used during the visual analysis of the campground. Section 03 presents an overview of the results through maps and graphic images. In section 04, the team has compiled a list of major issues identified within the campground. Finally, section 05 presents some general concepts, areas of potential development and solutions to help with major issues present on site and to serve as a starting point for the eventual creation of a new Master Plan by the project team.











CRITERIA'S DESCRIPTION

01. SITE DIMENSIONS

The overall size and shape of a site affects the amount of equipment and activities that can be accommodated. The ideal site should spaciously accommodate camping equipment and living space. Tent sites must be able to accommodate a minimum of one car (5x2m), a 6-person tent (4x3.5m), and a kitchen shelter (4x4m). RV sites must be able to accommodate one RV (12.5x3m) and a kitchen shelter (4x4m). (5= large spacious site; 1= too small to accommodate intended users)

02. QUALITY OF GROUNDCOVER

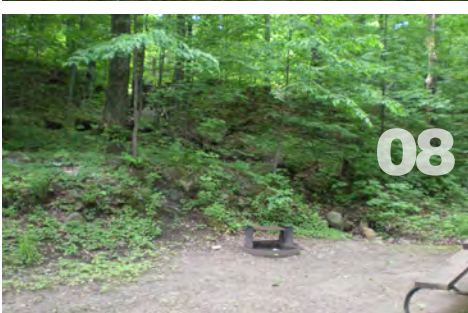
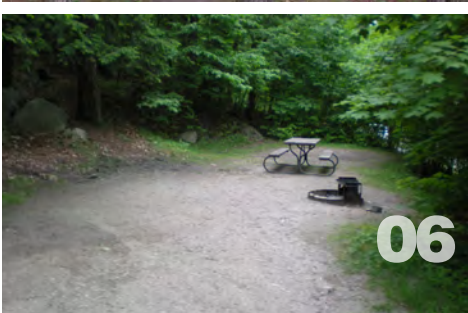
The quality of a site’s ground cover has direct impacts on the cleanliness, comfort, and character of the camping experience. The site should have a clean, smooth, firm surface free from uneven roots, rocks and debris. (5=smooth clean site; 1=rocky, rutted or eroded site)

03. SLOPE

Sleeping outside is a defining element of the camping experience. The slope of a site has direct impacts on the availability of level sleeping spots/places to set up a trailer, and the surface flow of rain water which can be the difference between a pleasant or disastrous camping experience. The ideal site should have adequate level spaces for tents and trailers as well as positive drainage. (5=flat dry site; 1=rugged, sloped or wet sites)

04. DISTANCE FROM OTHERS

Many people go camping to escape the bustle of urban life, and the distance between sites has a direct impact on the tranquility of the camping experience and the perceived sense of privacy. The ideal site is far enough away from its neighbours not to overhear general conversation. (5=Far from all neighbours; 1=right next to many neighbours)



05. PROXIMITY TO POINTS OF INTERESTS

Camping is about finding the happy balance between exploration and basic necessities. Critical amenities, such as washrooms, showers, potable water, store, beach, etc. add a diversity of experience and general quality of life to the camping experience. The ideal site is within short walking distance of amenities and points of interest. (5=within eyesight of key amenities;1=requires driving to basic amenities)

06. VISUAL SCREENING

The experience of stepping into another world and reconnecting with nature is a major reason why people continue to camp, year after year. The ideal site should be surrounded by a visual buffer that screens views of/from neighbours, public spaces, and undesirable elements (such as hydro posts, parking areas, etc.) (5=surrounded on all sides by a dense natural buffer; 1=completely exposed on all sides)

07. QUALITY OF VIEWS

Majestic, spectacular views are the strongest and most unique character defining attributes of a camping location. The ideal site optimizes and accentuates incredible views and vantage points that best reflect the quality of the Gatineau Park camping experience. (5=possesses unique, spectacular views, 1= possesses views detracting from the camping experience (parking lots, washrooms, maintenance zones, etc).

08. QUALITY OF VEGETATION

Most campers are seeking an experience that makes them feel at one with nature, and the vibrancy of the surrounding natural environment is not only an attraction but a character defining element of a camping location. The ideal site is surrounded by healthy, varied, and visually interesting native plant material. (5=healthy vibrant ecosystem, 1= un-vegetated, unhealthy, or completely foreign vegetation)

09. CANOPY COVER

When there is no roof above your head, the weather takes on a character of its own. Too much sun or too much shade can make for a very uncomfortable trip. The ideal site has a balanced mix of sun and shade and is comfortably protected from the elements.  
*(5=40-60% cover; 1=0-10% or 90-100% Cover)*

FIELD METHOD

In order to remain as objective as possible in the judging of sites, at least two people were involved in the grading process when possible. Due to time constraints, some sites were only graded by one person, but only after having worked with others on several occasions to develop consistency in the method.

Once all the field data was collected, it was entered into a spreadsheet where the information for all sites could be compared. Final scores were calculated by adding up the scores for each of the nine categories, resulting in a number between 9 and 45. That number could then be ascribed a quality, based on the following breakdown:

SCORE	QUALITY
9-16	low
17-24	medium low
25-31	medium
32-38	medium high
39-45	high

WEIGHTING OPTIONS

There was some debate as to the most appropriate way to tabulate the final qualitative scores. The first option was to simply tally the numbers, giving equal weight to each criteria. The second option was to highlight certain criteria that more heavily influence the camping experience, and apply a different weighting to their score.

In the end, it was decided that weighting was not beneficial to this analysis, as different campers value different criteria; for example, to consider close proximity to amenities more important than visual screening may contradict the preferences of those looking for a more rustic camping experience. Thus, it would be most useful here to analyse the data in terms of the overall experience for all campers, as this is a general study. Any analysis with a more specific demographic in mind (e.g. more traditional campers versus modern “glampers”) could be done at a later date by using this same data set and simply applying a weighting scheme to it, depending on those preferences.

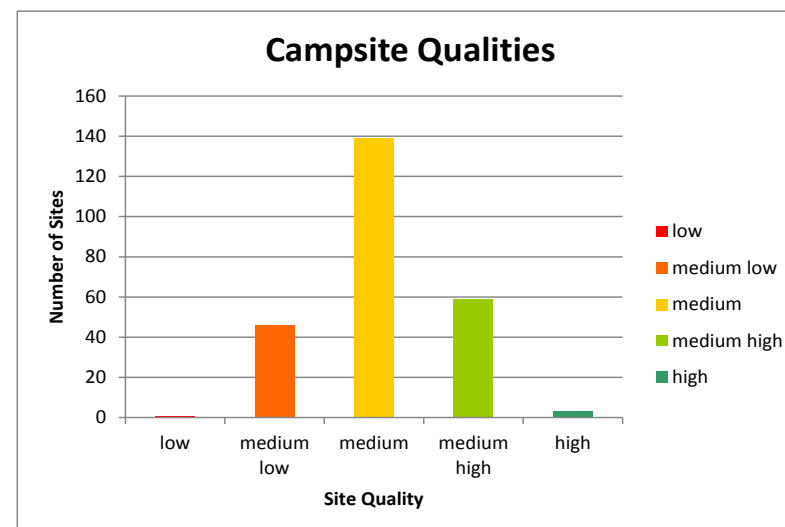






# 03

## RESULTS OVERVIEW OF THE ANALYSIS



On the whole, the Lac Philippe campground was given a rating of medium, as the chart above demonstrates. Some sites are exceptional, but there are almost as many that are of poor quality. (See map on p.12) The greatest shortcoming in sites is inadequate screening, either between neighbouring sites or from the road (or both); higher-rated sites typically scored higher in these categories than ones that did not. Twenty (20) sites were judged best suited for closure, sixteen (16) sites should be merged to improve their quality, and two (2) trios (6 sites total) need to be reorganized into two (2) distinct new sites.

During the analysis, the team also identified when a score could be improved through the implementation of an intervention on the site, such as more planting around the site to serve as screening or which views would benefit from being opened to showcase the natural beauty of Gatineau Park (see following maps of the present section). The team also noted many other issues, benefits or expansion possibilities of the sites and of the campground in general (in section 04).

### **POOREST SITE : NO.237 (RANKING OF 15/45)**

This campsite has many issues for campers. Primarily, it lacks definition, and appears to be only an open swath of uncomfortable dry dirt and gravel sitting partially on the road and partially on the path to the site beside it, leaving little room for actual camping. Its openness leaves it exposed both to the elements and to the neighboring sites on both sides. This is a great example of how not to arrange a desirable campsite.

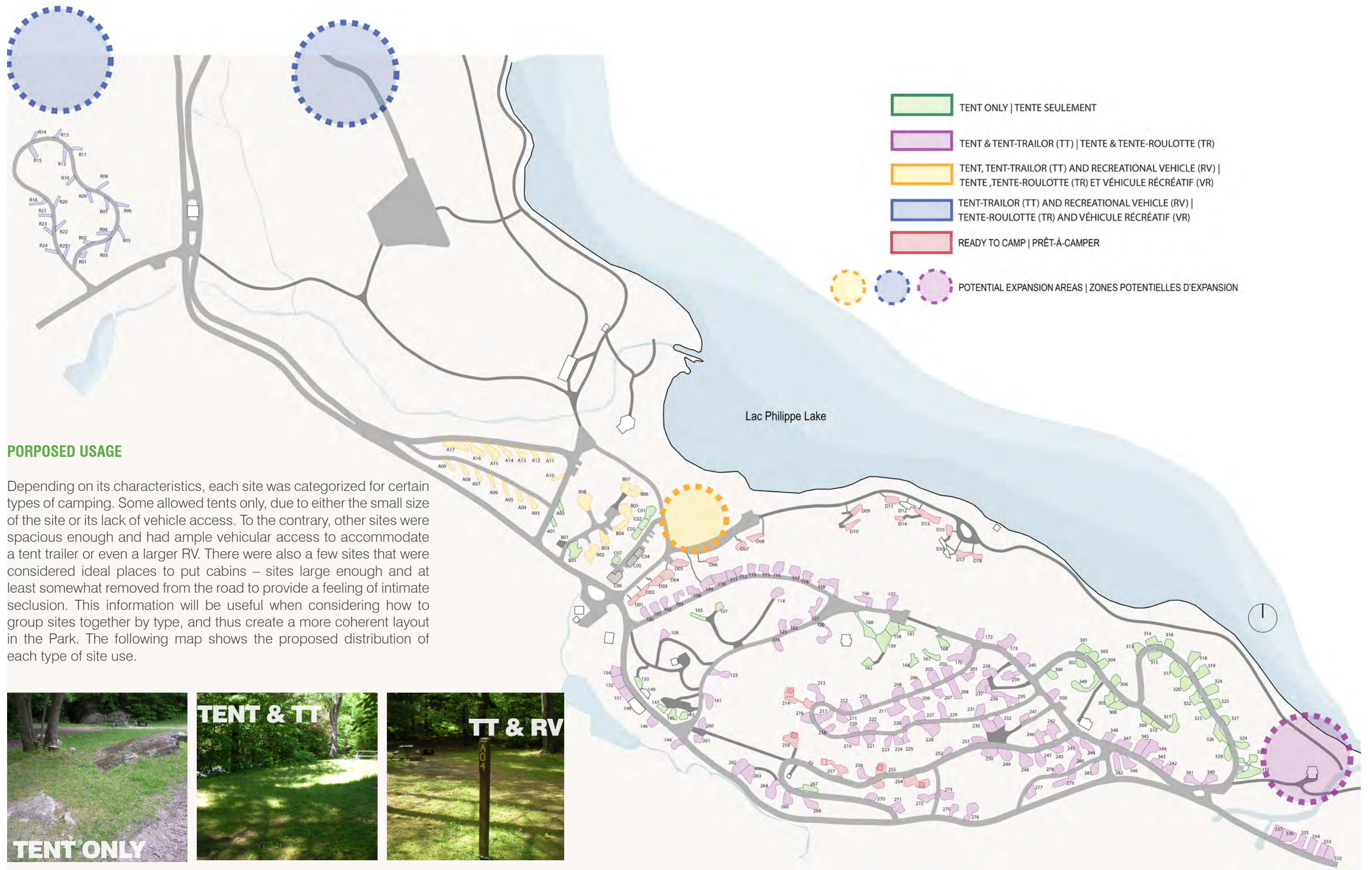
### **BEST SITE : D5 (RANKING OF 42/45)**

The D-series of sites had the highest overall quality scores, and D5 combined the best features of all its neighbours, giving it a nearly perfect grade. The space is large and flat, and in good condition. The combination of being set back from the road and screened fully from its neighbouring sites makes this spot feel desirably secluded. This setting in the woods makes one truly feel like they're in Gatineau Park – it is this experience that campers come here for specifically. For some, it may be a drawback that there is no vehicular access to the site and that there are a few stairs to climb, but on the whole the team feels this adds to the close-to-nature feel of D5.

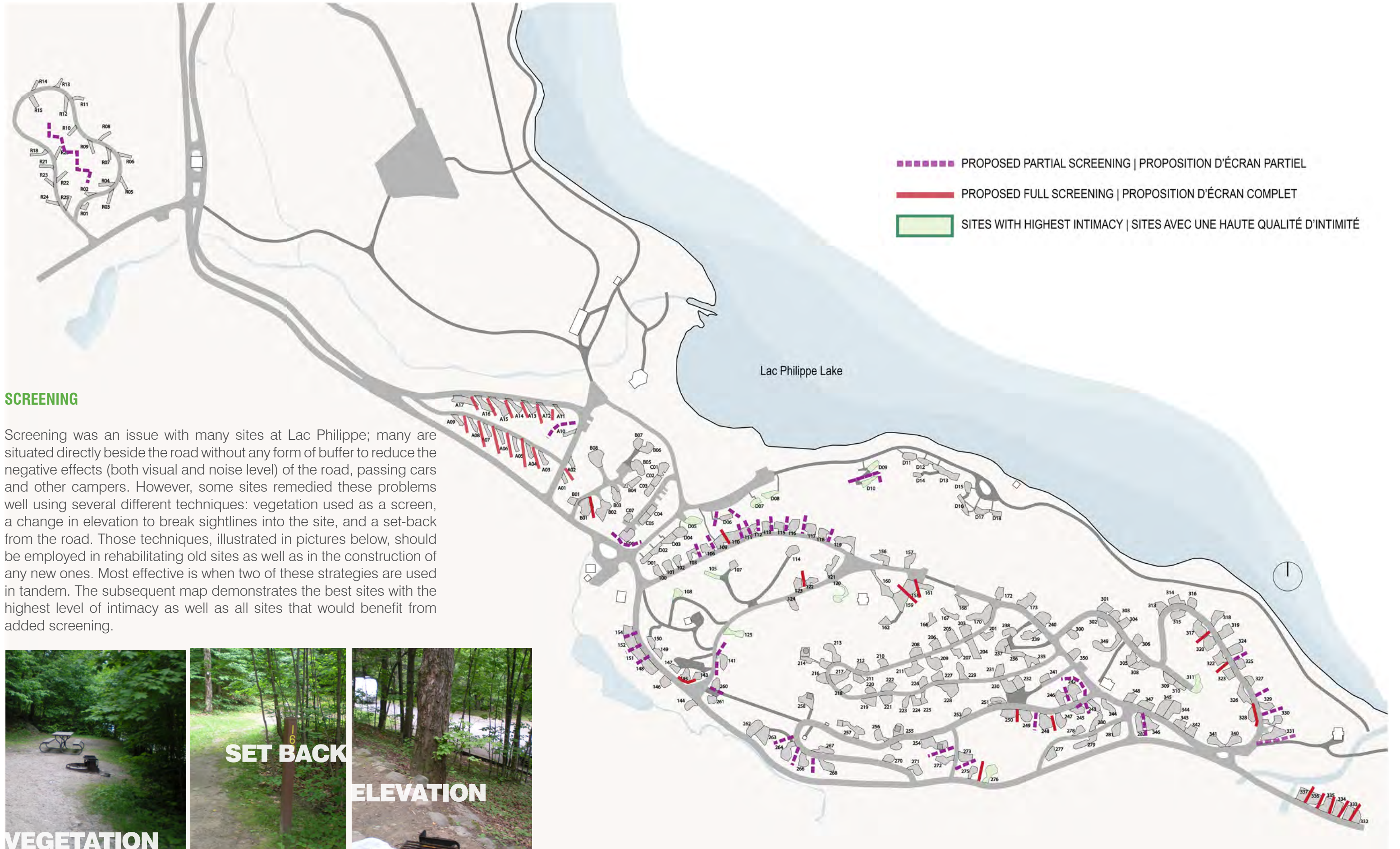




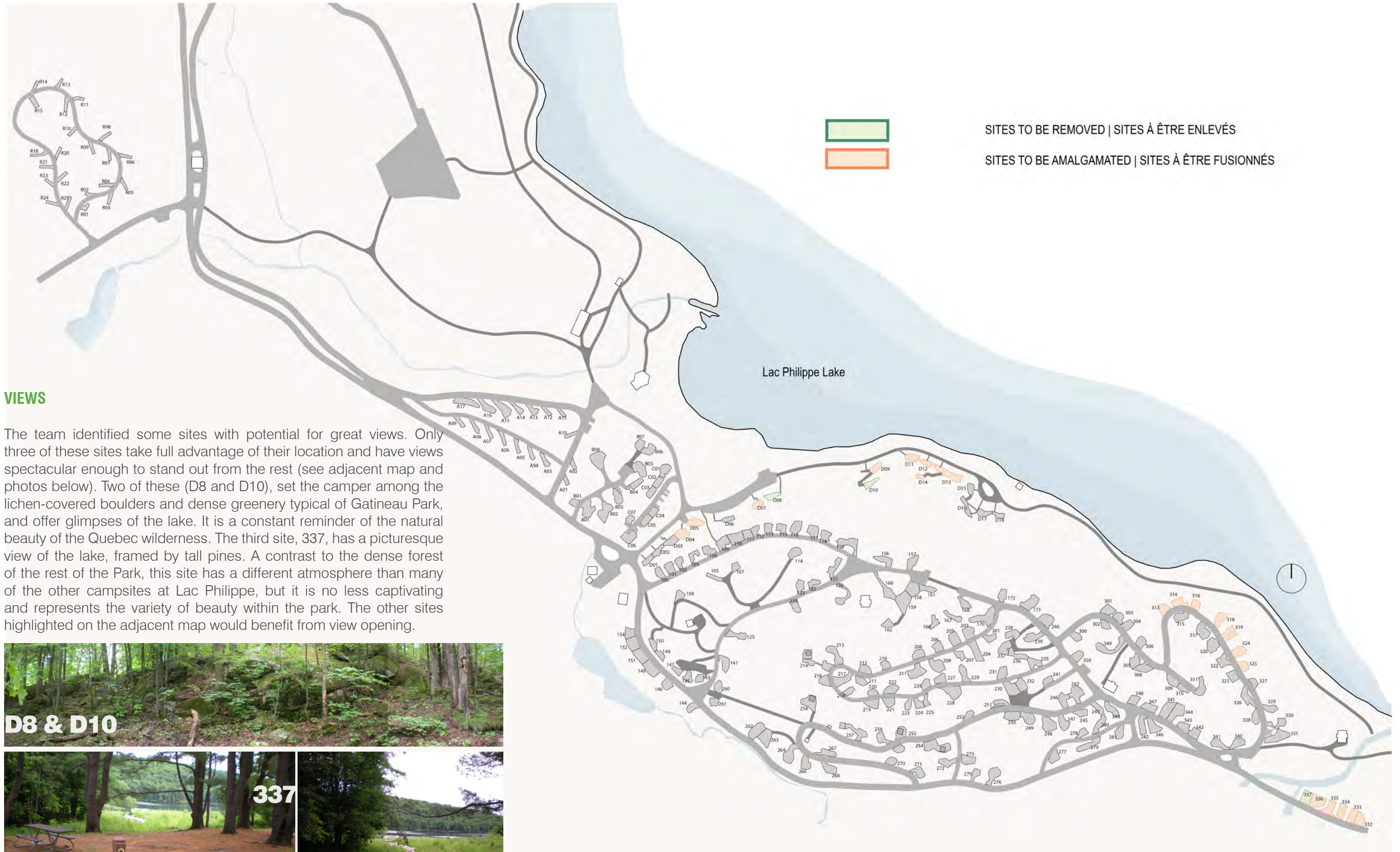










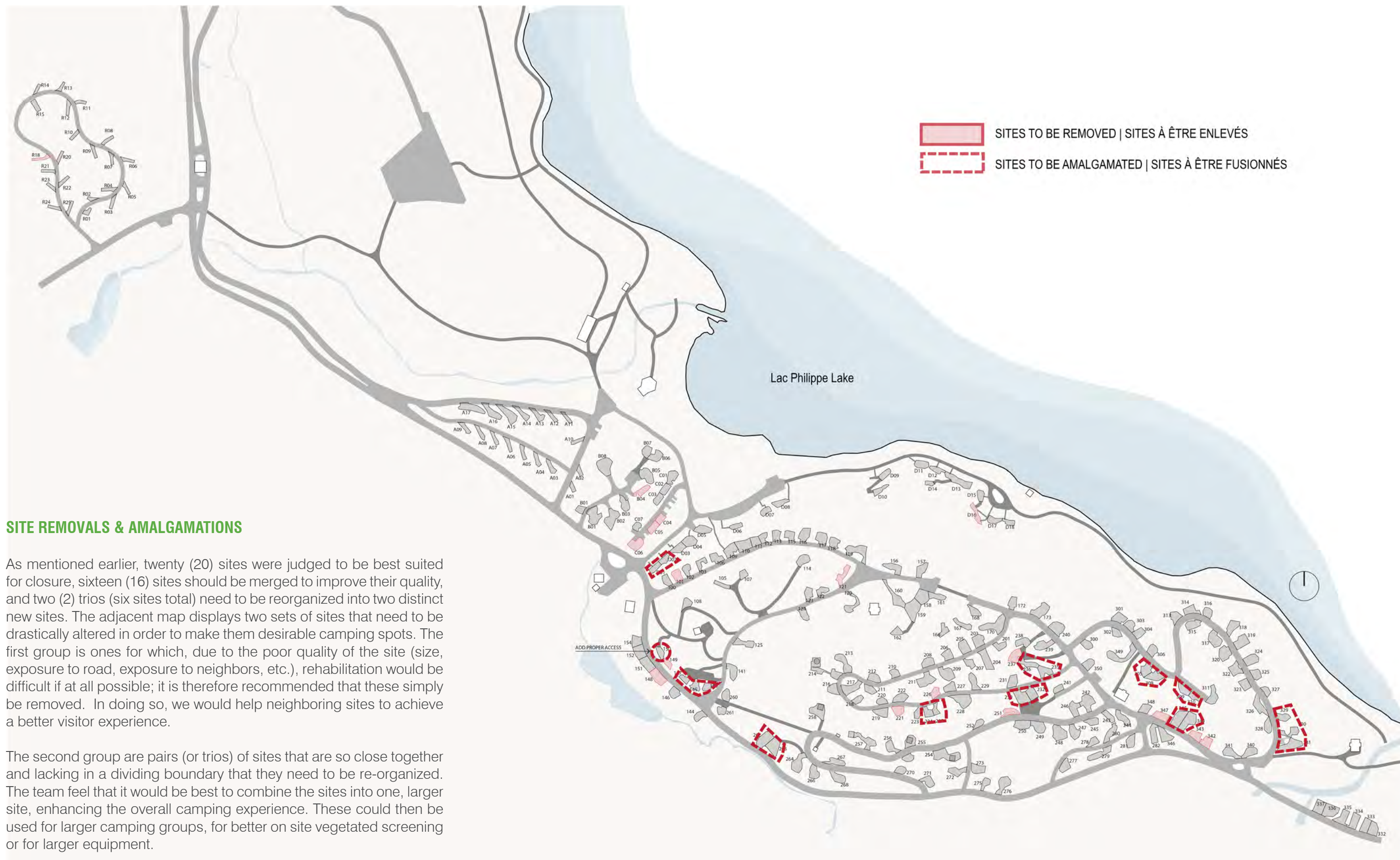


### VIEWS

The team identified some sites with potential for great views. Only three of these sites take full advantage of their location and have views spectacular enough to stand out from the rest (see adjacent map and photos below). Two of these (D8 and D10), set the camper among the lichen-covered boulders and dense greenery typical of Gatineau Park, and offer glimpses of the lake. It is a constant reminder of the natural beauty of the Quebec wilderness. The third site, 337, has a picturesque view of the lake, framed by tall pines. A contrast to the dense forest of the rest of the Park, this site has a different atmosphere than many of the other campsites at Lac Philippe, but it is no less captivating and represents the variety of beauty within the park. The other sites highlighted on the adjacent map would benefit from view opening.







## SITE REMOVALS & AMALGAMATIONS

As mentioned earlier, twenty (20) sites were judged to be best suited for closure, sixteen (16) sites should be merged to improve their quality, and two (2) trios (six sites total) need to be reorganized into two distinct new sites. The adjacent map displays two sets of sites that need to be drastically altered in order to make them desirable camping spots. The first group is ones for which, due to the poor quality of the site (size, exposure to road, exposure to neighbors, etc.), rehabilitation would be difficult if at all possible; it is therefore recommended that these simply be removed. In doing so, we would help neighboring sites to achieve a better visitor experience.

The second group are pairs (or trios) of sites that are so close together and lacking in a dividing boundary that they need to be re-organized. The team feel that it would be best to combine the sites into one, larger site, enhancing the overall camping experience. These could then be used for larger camping groups, for better on site vegetated screening or for larger equipment.



SITE REMOVALS

Below is a list of all the sites that the team feels should be removed (20 sites in total). Those sites will need to be properly landscaped, planted and sometimes graded. Their reintegration to the natural settings of the campground is important. By removing each of these below, will greatly enhance the quality of the surrounding sites.



*Smallest of the B-series sites, and very close and open to its neighbouring sites; it should be closed and revegetated to serve as a buffer between B3 and B5 and improve their qualities respectively.*



*Several years ago, an existing creek passing through the C-series sites behind the convenience store was channelized. The team would like to see the day-lighting of this creek to create a better ecosystem and provide visual interest. This work would mean that campground C4, C5 and C6 would need to be closed. C4 and C5 are very small and narrow spaces, without screening from the road or from the surrounding sites. They are both so small and can barely accommodate small vehicles. C6 is a better site, although it lacks screening from the main entrance. The creek opening would greatly benefit the remaining sites in this area by giving them great view point to the new exposed creek and enhancing the character of the area. (C1, C2, C3 and C7).*



*D12 is very exposed to the neighbouring sites. It should be closed and revegetated to improve the quality of the neighbouring sites.*



*D16 has severe erosion issues, an awkwardly sized platform with no clear purpose, and is very open to nearby sites. It should be closed and revegetated to improve the quality of neighbouring sites. If D-series become an area for prêt-à-camper cabins, D-16 could be used as a common entrance, an area to place a shared wood shelter or a shared bathroom.*



*Site 101 is very open to the neighbouring sites. Closing and revegetating it will improve the landscape quality of sites 100 & 102.*



*Site 121 is very open to the neighbouring sites and to the road. It is situated in a very open corner, in the middle of many sites, lacking trees and definition. It offers a potential area for a Kitchen Shelter, in a very central location.*



*Site 148 is uncomfortably open to the road and it experiences some severe erosion issues. The team believes it would be beneficial for surrounding sites to eliminate and revegetate site 148.*



*Site 149 has no clear access, is very long and very narrow and uncomfortably open to road and nearby sites. Closing and revegetating it, will improve the landscape quality of sites 147, 150 and 151..*





Site 221 is very open to the neighbouring sites and to the road. Closing it and revegetating it will improve the landscape quality of sites 209, 220, and 222.



Site 226 is situated right on the road edge, is small, close to other sites and has poor boundary definition from neighbouring sites. Closing it and revegetating it will improve the landscape quality of sites 224, 225, 227 and 228.



Site 234 is situated right on the road edge, is small, awkwardly shaped, and very exposed to nearby sites.



Site 237 is half on the road, half on the path to neighbouring site and therefore has negligible actual camping space. This stony ground site scored the lowest during our analysis.



Site 251 has poor access from the road. It is tiered which greatly limits the size for equipment. Closing it and revegetating it will improve the landscape quality of sites 230 and 250.



Site 342 is situated right next to the road with no visual screening; it has gravelly earth and is quite small.



Site 343 is situated right next to the road and is very exposed to all adjacent sites.



Site 347 is situated right next to the road, has an awkward shape and is very small.



Awkwardly long and narrow shaped, Site R16 has no shade and is directly beside the road.



Site R18 is half in the forest, half beside the road. The site is small and very segmented.



SITE AMALGAMATION

Below is a list of all the sites that should be amalgamated and the rationale for doing so. The team is proposing to amalgamate 16 sites in total creating 8 new high quality sites. Once again, proper landscaping, planting and regrading of the site will need to happen to ensure the new sites are at their optimum capacity.



The lack of any buffer makes sites D1 and D2 feel like one site already; despite the great intimacy level and a good location, the team feel that these 2 sites should become one.



There is no clear definition between site 224 & 225. These two already feel like one site. Site 224 has very little parking room on its own, and would benefit being paired up with 225.



There is no clear definition between site 230 & 232. These two already feel like one site.



These two sites are each relatively small, and lack division between them; it would be best to combine them into one site. To further improve the visual quality, make a buffer from the road by vegetating the front portion of the site, from the electricity poles overhead.



There is a lack of definition between these two sites and they feel like one site already. The area is otherwise well secluded from other sites and has a lush grassy groundcover. The team believes these sites would greatly benefit from being amalgamated.



There is a lack of definition between these two sites and they feel like one site already. The team believes these sites would greatly benefit from being amalgamated.



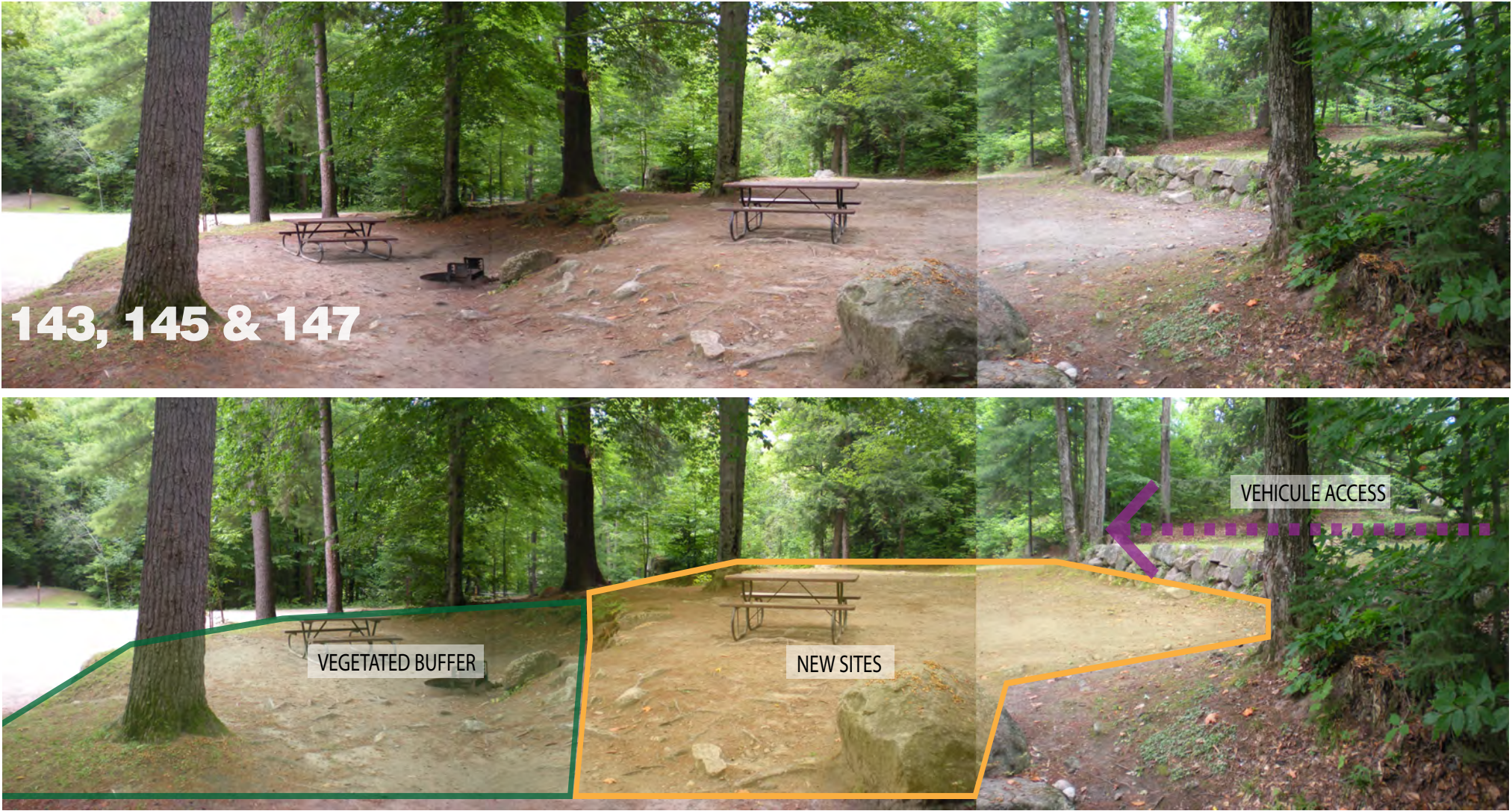
There is a lack of definition between these two sites and they feel like one site already. The area is otherwise well secluded from other sites. The team believes these sites would greatly benefit from being merged.



There is no division between sites 344 & 345 and each site is too sloped. The team believes these sites would greatly benefit from being amalgamated to create one desirable level site.



OTHER SPATIAL RECONFIGURATIONS



*This is a large space with much untapped potential. At present, sites 143, 145 and 147 are small spaces, on cramped ledges. Yet behind them there is a large open space that should be utilized. The proposal is to close all three sites and to use the larger area behind as two sites which would require a planted buffer between them. The vehicle access could be done via the road by site 141 which can accommodate tent-trailers.*



*Site 150 is in a unique spot; with great intimacy due to its elevation and set back in the trees. However, it has difficult access with no clear demarcation. Adding an access route from the snowshoe trail is achievable and would greatly improve the overall experience of this site. Due to the stairs, this site would be available for tent camping only; parking space could be available by the stairs.*



*This area is spacious, but not quite spacious enough for the three sites that are presently on it – they are cramped and not well defined from each other. To better utilize the space, the area should be restructured so as to have two high quality sites, with a vegetated buffer between them.*



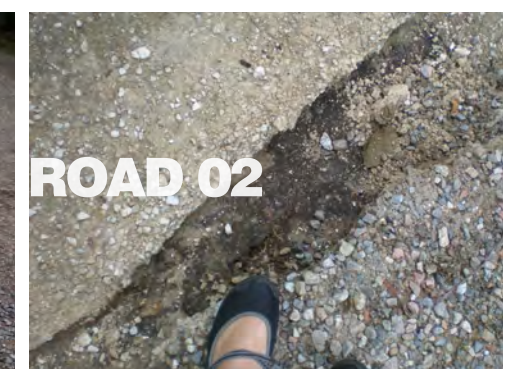
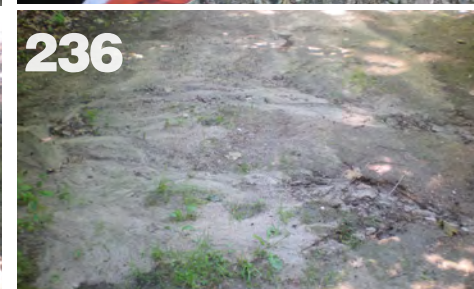
# 04

## OTHER NOTED ISSUES

### EROSION

In our visual analysis, the team noticed that many sites in the park have erosion issues, ranging from slight to severe. Surprisingly, about a third of Lac Philippe campsites are affected. Erosion through a site can negatively affect the experience of the camper, especially during heavy storms where the run-off can flood tents and equipment. Failure to address these conditions can lead to campers taking matters into their own hands, excavating ditches and channels, which if done incorrectly, can cause damage to nearby trees or even further exacerbate erosion issues.

To rectify the damage done, the sites should be individually assessed to determine what sort of solution is required, whether it involves raising the ground plane of the campsite or diverting runoff. The sites below are the most severely affected sites and should be prioritized, along with any instances of erosion along the roads.





WAY-FINDING AND MAPS

Lac Philippe is a difficult campground to navigate for first time visitors. The layout of the campground is circuitous and meandering, and is often confusing even with the use of a map. First-time campers may be frustrated and deterred by this.

A cohesive signage strategy would be beneficial. This strategy should keep in mind that Gatineau Park has a rustic aesthetic, and therefore, signs at every intersection would contrast with that image. One or two strategically placed park maps in highly visible areas (e.g. by the general store) would likely be sufficient without damaging the natural appeal of the campground.

Secondly, the numbering of the campsites is inconsistent and arbitrary – some of the sites are labelled with letters, while others with numbers; some numbers are located far from their adjacent numbers (e.g. 260 and 261 are found between 141 and 144); and some numbers are missing entirely. Furthermore, some sites that do not exist are marked on the booking map, while others either have a poorly visible or missing signpost. This marking system should be overhauled so as to be more logical and intuitive, both on the ground and on a map. Missing signs must be replaced, and signs that are difficult to see should be either moved, or made more visible (such as by trimming back obscuring vegetation). Naming the roads by area would also be easier to navigate for park users.

Lastly, the campground map is very confusing and not intuitive. It is our understanding that those were recently updated but the team firmly believes that a more user-friendly hand out map would be greatly beneficial to the experience and should be done in conjunction with physical changes to the campground layout.



DUAL ENTRANCE

A confusing feature at Lac Philippe is the double entrance. Upon entering Gatineau Park, there is an attended gatehouse where park information is available and where campers go to register. Farther down the road, an unattended, empty building with a mechanized admittance system welcomes the campers. The second entrance is to separate the campers from the daily park users. We understand the desire to separate both users but the team believes that the double entrances are redundant and useless. It is superfluous to have two structures serving the same purpose, and this service should be centralized into one building – preferably one of the existing structures, but possibly elsewhere if that is deemed ideal. The remaining building(s) should be repurposed into another asset for the campground (e.g. information centre, rental area, interpretation centre, etc.).



CONVENIENCE STORE

The existing general store is at the end of its life cycle. It is outdated, in an advanced state of disrepair and no longer keeps up with the facility standards upheld elsewhere in Gatineau Park. Throughout the visual analysis, its location was also questioned and the team believed that the Park should use the opportunity to resituate it in a slightly better location. In doing so, as previously mentioned, we would be able to day-light a channelized creek and greatly enhance the visual and ecological interest in the area.

The size of the future convenience store could be slightly augmented to allow for more usage like a lounge area for instance, with free Wi-Fi and an outdoor terrace. Parking around should be minimized and the dumping station should be relocated.





AMPHITHEATRE

Like the convenience store, the amphitheater is showing its age; at the very least, a repainting would be beneficial. However, the continued necessity of this feature should be considered. It is not very well integrated and its location was questionned during the visual analysis. Perhaps it would be more advantageous to remove it entirely, and repurpose the space (either for a new public space or more campsites). Another idea could be to have the amphitheater adjacent to an interpretative center where the space could also be used as an informal gathering space or a meeting point for interpretation activities.

Activities like movie under the stars and storytelling could be planned bi-weekly in busy summer months to add entertainment and diversity to the camper’s experience.



PARKING BARS

Some sites have timber bars placed at the entrance to the site. Ostensibly, this is to prevent car access into the site and provide more usable space. However, it may actually be more beneficial to remove them. If they were gone, those sites would be able to accommodate tent trailers and RVs (providing the site is large enough), and thus making them usable to a greater number of users. This would be useful if it is determined that those sites should be used by more than tent campers alone.



GROUP CAMPSITES

Lac Philippe has five group campsites along the road between Lac Philippe and Lac Taylor. On the whole, they are decent sites that would meet a group’s needs. Each has a distinct feel, due to their variety in location; GR3 is wide open to the surrounding hills, while GR4 is tightly enclosed by the forest. Site size varies as well, some sites have cabins while others only have a wood shelter, and some are closer to the amenities of Lac Philippe. The particular features of each site may be desirable or undesirable, depending on the needs of the group. If Gatineau Park wishes to retain group camping, altering the sites is not necessary.

However, some group sites could be converted into smaller campsite clusters, if the park wishes to increase their overall number of sites. Because of their remote location, converting the group sites might also mean implementing a new facility block in this vicinity (already being discussed with the Park).

PRET-À-CAMPER CABINS

Lac Philippe has four pret-à-camper style cabins, which are semi-permanent tents for campers who prefer a less rustic camping experience. Available all year round due to their propane heating system, these cabins are in high demand at Lac Philippe, especially during the cold season for winter campers. They are in a quiet area of the campground, set in the forest and well screened from nearby sites.

Site 255 is of a slightly poorer quality, but only because the site is split by the road, with the cabin on one side and the picnic area on the other. Some vegetation around the structure could be cleared to make room for the picnic table and recreational space in order to remediate the problem.

These prêt-à-camper cabins are excellent campsites and the team strongly believes that the park should invest in more units, for a popular 4 season experience. The new cabins or pret-à-camper tents should reflect the uniqueness of Gatineau Park and should be outstanding examples of green self-sufficient architecture.



SUMMARY OF RESULT AND PROPOSED GESTURES

Site number	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10	A11	A12	A13	A14	A15	A16	A17	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5
Score	35	35	32	33	33	34	34	33	34	33	30	28	31	30	30	31	30	26	35	33	26	36
Proposed Usage	T	T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T		RV, TT, T
Proposed Screening	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N		N
Proposed view opening	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		N
Propose removal or amalgamation	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Erosion Control required	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		N
Comments										Very sunny site- could add trees	Power line overhead	Power line overhead / Very sunny site- could add trees		Very Shady site	Muddy at entrance, could add gravel	Muddy at entrance, could add gravel		Parking is across the road	Move firepit	Power line overhead / low branches need trimming		Move firepits

Site number	B6	B7	B8	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	D10	D11	D12
Score	34	37	40	30	29	30	27	25	32	31	28	28	33	37	42	34	35	37	39	36	33	33
Proposed Usage	T	T	RV, TT, T	T	T	T				T	T or C	T or C	T or C	T or C	T or C	C	C	C	C	C	C	
Proposed Screening	N	N	N	N	N	N				N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	
Proposed view opening	N	N	N	N	N	N				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
Propose removal or amalgamation	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Erosion Control required	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y				N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	
Comments	Foot access only	Foot access only	Power line overhead				Creek restoration	Creek restoration	Creek restoration		Combine with D2	Combine with D1										

Site number	D13	D14	D15	D16	D17	D18	100	101	102	103	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116
Score	35	32	32	29	27	32	31	29	34	36	35	35	30	37	31	29	30	30	31	31	32	28
Proposed Usage	C	C	C		C	C	TT,T		TT,T	TT,T	T	TT,T	T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T
Proposed Screening	N	N	N		N	N	N		N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Proposed view opening	Y	Y	N		N	N	N		N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Propose removal or amalgamation	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Erosion Control required	N	N	N		N	N	N		N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
Comments														Access hard to find	Need boundary definition	Need boundary definition	Move firepit					



Site number	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	141	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	154	156
Score	29	26	24	35	27	29	32	33	35	29	20	26	19	27	24	23	24	25	23	22	23	28
Proposed Usage	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T		TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	T	TT,T	T	TT,T	T			T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T
Proposed Screening	N	Y	N	N		Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N			Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Proposed view opening	N	N	N	N		N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			N	N	N	N	N
Propose removal or amalgamation	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Erosion Control required	Y	Y	N	Y		N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N			N	N	N	N	N
Comments		Need boundary definition			Very open to road and very central, could be converted into kitchen space						Amalgamate with 145 & 147		Amalgamate with 143 & 147		Amalgamate with 143 & 145			Rework access and parking				

Site number	157	158	159	160	161	162	165	166	167	168	169	170	172	173	201	203	204	205	206	207	208	209
Score	34	29	28	28	31	37	29	30	28	29	32	31	35	29	38	32	25	29	31	26	25	23
Proposed Usage	TT,T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T
Proposed Screening	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Proposed view opening	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Propose removal or amalgamation	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Erosion Control required	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Comments				Need boundary definition				Rethink access														Need boundary definition

Site number	210	211	212	213	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233
Score	32	25	26	33	27	23	25	24	21	27	25	23	20	20	19	22	27	26	21	21	21	22
Proposed Usage	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T		TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T		TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T
Proposed Screening	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		N	N	N	N		N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Proposed view opening	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		N	N	N	N		N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Propose removal or amalgamation	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
Erosion Control required	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		N	N	N	N		N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Comments													combine with 225	Combine with 224		Need boundary definition			Combine with 232		Combine with 230	

Site number	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	256	260	261
Score	17	19	18	15	23	21	27	33	29	26	27	30	32	34	31	32	28	23	32	28	22	26
Proposed Usage		TT,T	TT,T		TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T		TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T
Proposed Screening		N	N		N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		N	N	Y	Y
Proposed view opening		N	N		N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		N	N	N	N
Propose removal or amalgamation	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Erosion Control required		N	Y		N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		N	N	Y	Y
Comments		Combine with 236	Combine with 2350			Sign is missing											Need boundary definition					

Site number	262	263	264	266	267	268	270	271	272	273	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	300	301	302	303
Score	23	24	34	29	23	31	30	33	29	25	28	35	36	33	33	30	31	28	31	24	22	27
Proposed Usage	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	TT,T	T	T	T	T
Proposed Screening	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Proposed view opening	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Propose removal or amalgamation	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Erosion Control required	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Comments	Combine with 263	Combine with 262						Make sign more visible								Make sign more visible		Need boundary definition				

Site number	304	305	306	308	309	310	311	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327
Score	28	24	28	24	26	25	34	25	25	25	27	26	26	29	28	27	25	29	25	24	25	26
Proposed Usage	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
Proposed Screening	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Proposed view opening	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
Propose removal or amalgamation	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Erosion Control required	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Comments		Combine with 308		Combine with 305	Combine with 310	Combine with 309																

Site number	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	R1
Score	25	21	22	20	25	25	26	25	31	34	29	28	23	24	25	25	29	19	22	26	27	27
Proposed Usage	T	T	T	T	TT, T	TT, T	TT, T	TT, T	TT, T	TT, T	TT, T	TT, T			TT, T	TT, T	TT, T		TT, T	T	TT, T	RV, TT, T
Proposed Screening	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N			N	N	N		N	N	N	Y
Proposed view opening	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N			N	N	N		N	N	N	N
Propose removal or amalgamation	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Erosion Control required	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			N	N	N		N	N	N	N
Comments		Combine with 330 & 331	Combine with 329 & 331	Combine with 329 & 330	Change vehicle access	Change vehicle access	Change vehicle access	Change vehicle access	Change vehicle access	Change vehicle access					Combine with 345	Combine with 344						

Site number	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14	R15	R16	R17	R18	R19	R20	R21	R22	R23
Score	29	28	29	27	29	28	29	27	30	25	30	29	30	29	23	29	23	29	26	26	27	26
Proposed Usage	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T		RV, TT, T		RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T
Proposed Screening	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Proposed view opening	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		N		N	N	N	N	N
Propose removal or amalgamation	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N
Erosion Control required	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		N		N	N	N	N	N
Comments																						

Site number	R24	R25
Score	27	27
Proposed Usage	RV, TT, T	RV, TT, T
Proposed Screening	Y	Y
Proposed view opening	N	N
Propose removal or amalgamation	N	N
Erosion Control required	N	N
Comments		







# 05

## GENERAL CONCEPT

### LANDSCAPE ZONES

The visual analysis demonstrates that Lac Philippe, despite its natural beauty, lacks structure, definition and in some instances, identity. The meandering and circuitous layout adds complexity to the experience and can make it quite frustrating for first time visitors to orient themselves.

The team is proposing to restructure the campground based on 6 clearly defined landscape zones that would add a rationale and character to the camping experience. Each proposed landscape zone reflects a landscape topology or an ecosystem found in Gatineau Park. They each have a clear and distinct feel and target specific types of users based on their varied attributes. By embracing the existing landscape typologies the campground will reinforce the unique character of the park as a whole, and in turn these categories set clear guidelines and rules for the development and maintenance of each zone.

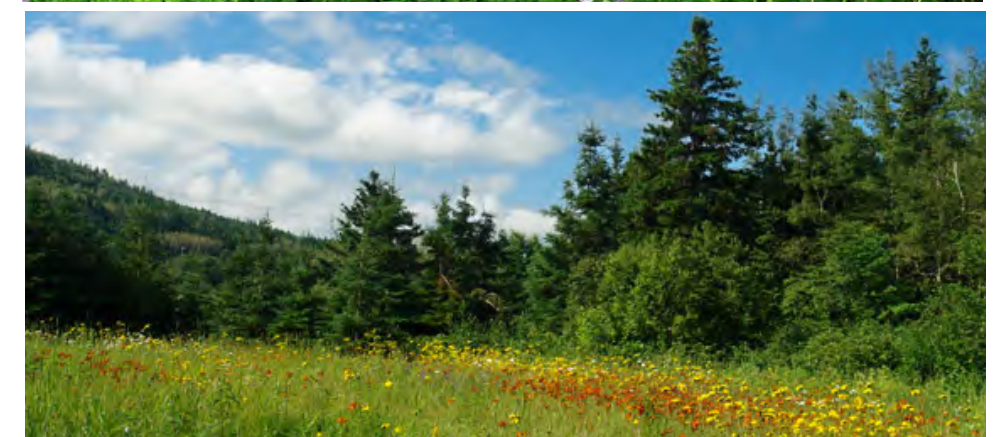
There are multiple benefits to the creation of landscape zones. Firstly, the zones add clarity in the numbering of the sites and assist in navigating and way finding within the campground. It becomes much easier to find Campsite Woodland 15, for instance, by identifying the area and then the specific site, than to find site 321. In addition, the landscape zones provide educational experiences with respect to the natural diversity found in our beautiful Park. By showcasing different vegetation, topography and ecosystems, they connect the visitor to the Park with a direct, immersive and multi-sensorial experience. And lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the landscape zones will capture the imagination of the visitor from the moment the reservation is made. The visitor is no longer camping at site 321 but instead, he finds himself looking forward to camping in the meadow, which affords him the opportunity to explore the nearby Creek and Escarpment on the way to the Beach.

The proposed Landscape Zones include the following:

#### 01. THE MEADOW (LE PRÉ) –41 CAMPSITES

The meadow is the first landscape zone encountered as the visitor enters the campground; however, it is still fairly removed from the heart of the campground and is thereby peaceful and serene. The meadow has an atmosphere of openness with tall native grasses, wildflowers and occasional trees. The campers in the meadow are self-sufficient, well-equipped and seeking a fully serviced family and friend camping experience.

The sites in this area are fairly large and can accommodate large equipment like RVs and tent-trailers. Access is easy from the road, and water and electricity are brought directly to the site. The views between sites are open and the result is a neighbourly, communal feeling, away from the general bustle of the campground.

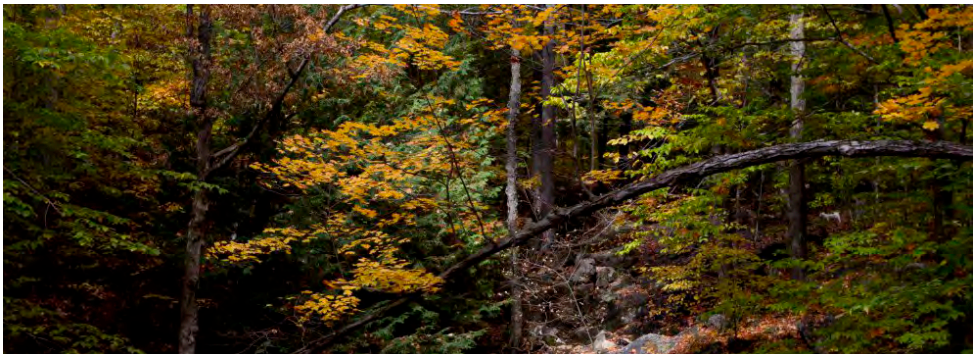




02. THE CREEK (LE RUISSEAU) – 32 CAMPSITES

The creek is bursting with life and activities. Located near the entrance of the Park, it also offers major services like the convenience store. The landscape is characterized by native riparian vegetation, large boulders and of course, the newly opened creek. The campers in the creek are seeking a family-fun experience in the heart of the campground where the buzzing of activities is omnipresent.

The sites are medium to large in size and can accommodate smaller RVs, tent-trailers and traditional tents. Access is easy, the intimacy level is low to medium and the screening between sites is somewhat present. Electricity is brought to all the sites, but water is shared at specific access points.



03. THE ESCARPMENT (L'ESCARPEMENT) –19 CAMPSITES

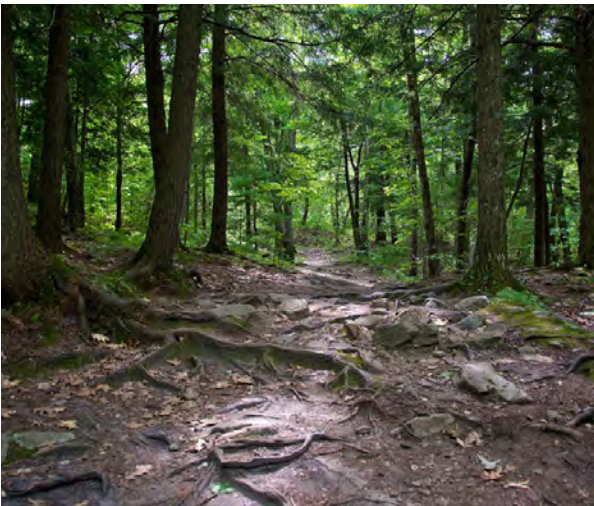
The campsites in this section all have a distinct feature: they are all elevated from the road. Exposed bedrock is often seen and the density of the deciduous forest, common of the Gatineau Park area, makes for shadier sites. Filtered glimpses of the beautiful lake appear through the trees. The campers in the escarpment zone are seeking a more secluded, rugged and unique experience.

Small green self-sufficient cabins or prêt-à-camper tents are scattered amongst the escarpment and the proximity to hiking trails makes this an exciting year-round destination. The rest of the campsites are smaller and for tent users only. The intimacy level is high with lots of screening between the sites. Electricity is brought to all the sites but access can be more difficult as most of the sites are only accessible via sets of stairs.

04. THE WOODLAND (LE BOISÉ) – 115 CAMPSITES

The woodland zone is the largest of the six zones and offers a very traditional camping experience. Deciduous trees and thick, diverse understory are characteristic of this zone. The sites are high quality, flat, and intimate: ideal for campers looking for a classic family camping experience.

Medium size campsites can accommodate tent and tent-trailers and access is easy. Electricity is provided to every site but water is shared at specific access point.





05. THE HILLS (LES COLLINES) – 28 CAMPSITES

The campsites in this zone are situated on top of a little plateau, overlooking lac Philippe. Filtered views of the lake are enjoyable through the trees. The campers in the Hills zone are seeking a secluded, “rustic” and unique experience.

Sites are smaller and can only accommodate tents, ideally suited for couples and small groups looking for a rejuvenating outdoor experience. The intimacy level is high, sites are further from one another and the planted buffer is mostly deciduous tree and grassy understory. Electricity is not provided. Water is shared at specific access point.



06. THE BEACH (LA PLAGES) – 22 CAMPSITES

Lastly the beach is the last landscape zone and the furthest away from the entrance. This zone has some of the greatest views to the water. The landscape is quite open and very typical of our Canadian wilderness beaches (large coniferous pines with scattered riparian bushes and tall grasses). Campers in this landscape zone are seeking a little Canadian oasis in the middle of Gatineau Park where coarse sandy soil and beach vegetation are omnipresent.

The sites are of medium size and can accommodate tents and tent-trailers. Electricity is not provided and water is shared access. The intimacy level between the site is medium to low as the sites are closer to one another and the screening buffer is very open to ensure great views from all campsites.

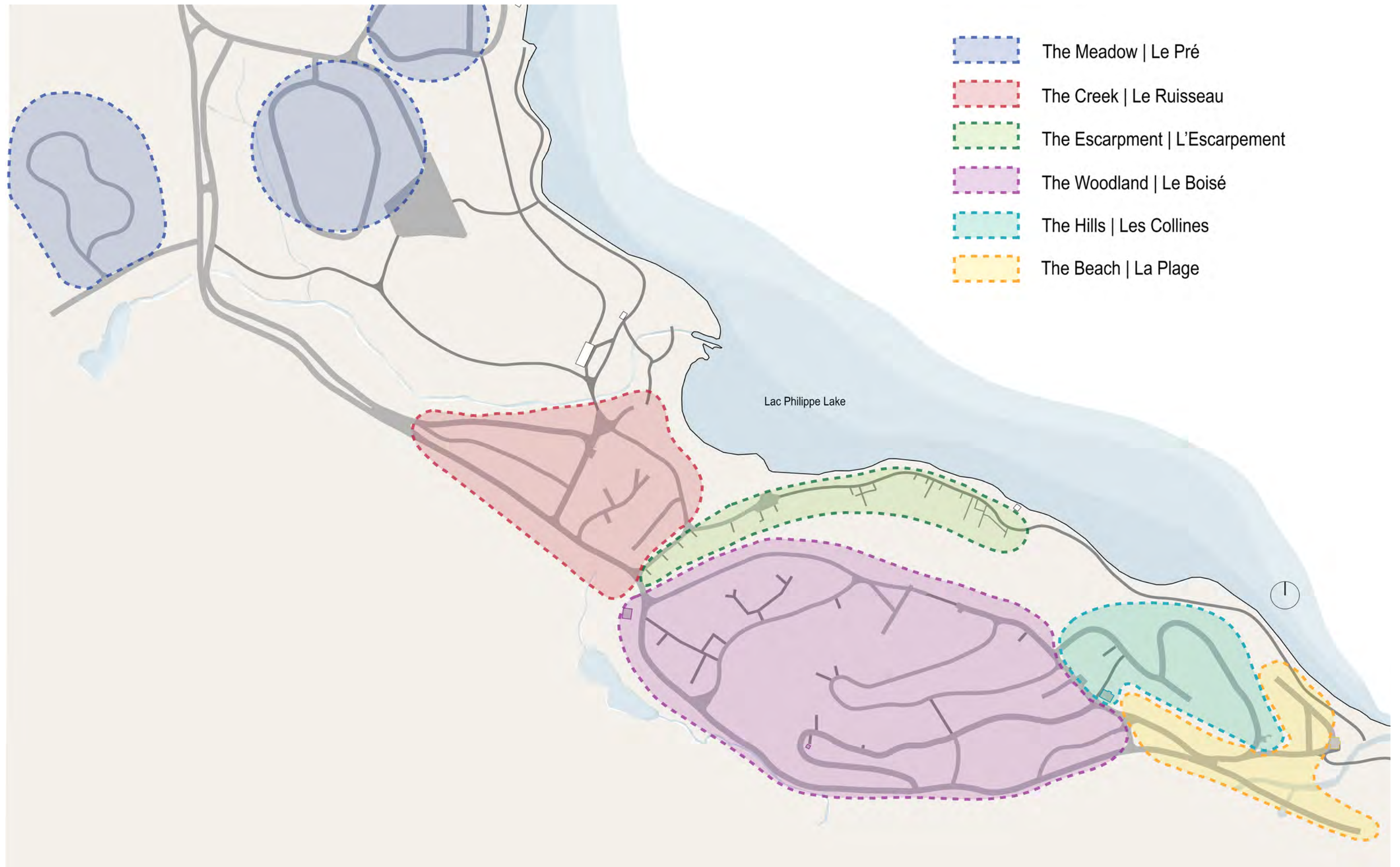
PROPOSED TOTAL: 256 CAMPSITES

- Tents only : 32 sites
- Tents and tent-trailors: 132 sites
- Tents, tent-trailors and RVs: 32 sites
- Tent-trailors and RVs: 41 sites

Prêt-à-camper cabins : 19

Group sites: 6







No.	Zone	Number of sites	Targeted users	Size of campsite	Access	Intimacy	Buffer	Distance between sites	Proximity of points of interest	Electricity	Water	Spectic Tank	Landscape experience	Trees	Understory
1	The Meadow // Le pré	45 sites	Larger RV & Tent-Trailer	Large	Easy	Low	Low and thin	Small	Far	Yes	To site	Yes	Native spruces and amelanchers are scatter through a meadow of ornamental native perennials. A nearby group of native poplars make beautiful sounds during windy days. The understory should be minimized with shrub plantings and favour herbacious plantings.	Picea Glauca, Picea rubens, Populus balsamifera, Populus Grandidentala, Populus Tremuloides, Betula Papyrifera, Amelanchier Arborea, Crataegus spp. elaeagnus commutata	Rudbeckia spp., Coreopsis spp., Anemone canadensis, Penstemon spp., Echinacea spp., Dancus carota, kalmia angustifolia
2	The Creek // Le ruisseau	32 sites, 1 interpretation center, 1 Kitchen shelter, 1 convenience store, 1 comfort station	Smaller RV, Tent-Trailer & Tent	Large to medium	Easy	Medium	Medium	Medium	Close	Yes	Shared	No	Medium height shrubs are planted in clumps along the banks with tall pines, tamarack and cedars. Typical creekside vegetation is present.	Pinus Strobus, Larix laricina, Abies balsamea, Thuja occidentalis	Cornus spp., Salix Spp, Myrica Gale
3	The Escarpment // L'escarpement	4 sites, 14 cabins or prêt-à-camper, 4 toilets (or one toilet in every cabin)	Pret-à-Camper & Tent	Small	Difficult	High	Large & dense	Large	Medium	Yes	To site	Yes	Strategic management of existing forest is important. Identification of key plants to protect is important. The buffer zone should be made innaccessible to allow for healthy plant succession. Ideally, deciduous understory trees would be thick and healthy.	Acer spp., Picea spp., Quercus Spp., celtis occidentalis, Tilia americana, Tsuga canadensis	Understroy 01 - medium height tree: Acer spicatum, Carpinus caroliniana, Ostrya Virginiana // Understory 02 - lower shrubs and ground cover: Gaultheria, Trillium, Sanguinaria canadensis
4	The Woodland // Le boisé	110 campsites, 5 prêt-à-camper, 3 kitchen shelters, 2 comfort stations, 1 toilet	Tent-trailer & Tent	Medium	Easy	Medium	Medium & dense	Medium	Medium	Yes	Shared	No	This zone represents the very typical forest of Gatineau Park. As much as possible, the emphasis should focus on plantings of tall shrubs to create dense buffer zones between sites. Maintained lawns should not be part of this Zone.	Acer spp., Picea spp., Quercus Spp., celtis occidentalis, Tilia americana, Tsuga canadensis	Understory 01 - medium height tree: Cornus spp., ribes spp. Diervilla lonicera, Hammamelis virginiana, Rosa blanda, shepherdia argentea // Understory 02 - lower shrubs and ground cover: Gaultheria, Trillium, Sanguinaria canadensis
5	The Hills // Les collines	28 campsites, 1 kitchen sheter, 1 comfort station,	Tent	Small	Medium	High	Large & dense	Large	Medium	No	Shared	No	The Hills is a more rugged area of the woodland. Tree species are very similar. The understory should be smaller shrubs to allow views down the Hills to the lake.	Acer spp., Picea spp., Quercus Spp., celtis occidentalis, Tilia americana, Tsuga canadensis	Understory 01: Juniperus communis, ferns
6	The Beach // La plage	22 campsites, 1 comfort station	Tent-trailer & Tent	Medium	Easy	Low	Low and thin	Medium	Close	No	Shared	No	Trees in this zone are stand alone speciment trees (Pinus spp. And Quercus). Succesion of trees shall be carefully monitored to avoid bare areas in the future. This site is more open and the understory is mainly unmaintained tall grasses that move gracefully in the wind.	Pinus Strobus, Quercus alba, Quercus macrocarpa,	Phleum pratense, Poa trivialis, Agrostis alba, Trifolium Repens (mixt already used in the Park)



ELECTRICITY AND WATER

Our previous research showed that Lac Philippe Campground is the only campground in the area that does not offer electricity to any sites. The same research clearly demonstrated that the provision of on-site electricity and water are important factors for campers, especially RVs and tent-trailer users.

Parc de la Mauricie (Parks Canada) recently conducted a similar research. The Parc de la Maurice actually offers 62 sites with electricity and they wish to double their offers with an additional 60 sites. During data analysis, they realized that their sites with electricity were the first ones to get booked and that campers using electrified sites usually extend their stays one day longer than campers on non-electrified sites.

According to a recent conversation with Martin Soucy, vice-president of operation at la SEPAQ, offering electricity on some campsites is a must. Traditional camping is decreasing rapidly and on-site electricity and water allows campgrounds to attract an entirely different type of camper: the tent-trailer and RV campers.

The team is proposing to electrify 206 sites (Meadow, Creek, Escarpment, and Woodland) with 50 campsites remaining without electricity (Hills & Beach). Although this number seems high, the decline of traditional tent camping is significant and the team believes that Lac Philippe Campground should be pro-active in adjusting its amenities and services.

As a caveat, the site integration of the electrical post and electrical kiosks will be very important in the success of providing widespread electrical service throughout the campground. Although the aim will be to provide modern sophistications, the visual quality of the natural environment must remain a major driver in the electrification strategy. Electrical bollards and infrastructure must be well positioned, discrete, and blend into the natural surroundings.

CONVENIENCE STORE

The existing convenience store is in an advanced state of disrepair. It no longer responds to the campground needs and detracts from the overall image of the Park. After careful consideration, the team felt that its general location (within the Creek Landscape Zone) was appropriate. It is central and accessible from all major parts of the campground. Everyone camping in the Escarpment zone, the Woodland zone, the Hills zone and the Beach zone has to drive, walk, or bike by this main road in order to reach their campsite. The team is suggesting to move it slightly south-east, and largely reduce its parking space in order to allow adequate room for the creek rehabilitation/daylighting.

Another potential area that the team looked at was to locate the new convenience store between campsite 161 and 169. This location is open, level and somewhat central. However, the team felt that the existing location was an important node within the campground that acts as a visual landmark demarcating the camper’s arrival. The convenience store would have more impact and be more easily accessible in its current place.

The new proposed architecture will have to be based on comprehensive design guidelines that would be applied to all new infrastructures within the campground. The team believes that any new buildings must promote green and sustainable architecture, must be open to the surrounding landscape and must strongly reflect to the park’s character defining elements.



New Chalet being built in the Park (2014-2015)

Inside, the convenience store should have a comfortable and inviting feel. Ice cream, healthy snack options, wood, coffee, and maybe even already prepared meals could be offered. Maps of the area and lists of activities, general info and Wi-Fi could be provided to campers. Outside, tables, hammocks and Adirondack chairs would offer visitors a place to sit back, sip on their delicious coffees and hot-chocolates, and enjoy a beautiful view on the newly re-opened creek. The dumping station has to be relocated elsewhere, to a more discrete, but easily accessible location.

Below are inspiration images for the new convenience store:



Cape Lazon Park



Tremblant National Park



INTERPRETATION CENTER

During our previous research and visioning session, the idea of a welcoming interpretation center was often tabled. This interpretation center would be a place to understand the ecological importance of Gatineau Park, to discover its richness and to inform and educate campers about best practices and initiatives within the Park.

The center could offer equipment rentals (canoe, kayak, hammock, bikes, etc.) as well as lessons on how to use them. It could have an adjacent outdoor amphitheater where interpretive activities, storytelling and even movie-under-the-stars events could be held. The center would also provide a refuge and sheltered activities to campers on rainy days: board games, Wi-Fi, launderette and many more services.

The team is suggesting to reuse the Parent Beach Snack Bar and to convert it into a new interpretation center. Its great location, by the water, right in the center of the Creek zone and accessible both for campers and day users, makes it a great choice. The unique architecture creates interesting geometry and provides interesting sight lines to the water and hills. An extension, respecting the same architectural guidelines as the convenience store would need to be added to provide adequate space for its new functions. There is also a potential synergy that could be explored between a revamped interpretive centre and the new convenience store; thereby creating one exceptional multi-purposed structure and freeing up space within the campground.



Tremblant National Park



Tremblant NP Visitor Center



Anasazi Visitor Center



Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center



Interpretation activities

KITCHEN SHELTER

We propose including Open Air Kitchen Shelters as a value-added amenity within the campgrounds. These new constructions would be quite small and offer a couple of sinks, grills, counter space and tables for campers in need of an area to prepare and clean food, do dishes, or eat safely during stormy days. We are proposing the addition of 5 kitchen shelters spread throughout the campground in different landscape zones.

One could be implemented in the Creek Zone, near site A10. Three would be added to the Woodland zone, replacing the old amphitheater, replacing site 121 and replacing site 217. The last one could be added to the Hills zone, near the existing sanitary block and would also be accessible to the Beach zone campers. The campers in the Meadow (mainly in RVs and Larger Tent-Trailers) and the campers in the Escarpment zone (mainly in cabins) won't need such installations.

The team envisions these shelters as small integrated structures. The architectural guidelines would once again, need to be respected with distinct roof lines, materials and sustainable best practices.



Vincent Massey Park - Green sustainable building



Gatineau Park - Beach facility with outdoor sinks



CABINS (PRÊT-À-CAMPER)

As demonstrated in previous studies, the pret-à-camper experience is gaining in popularity. Lac Philipp campground already offers this service but the team believes that further investment in this type of infrastructure would be beneficial for the campground. Being connected to the National Capital Region and therefore having such a substantial amount of international visitors, the “package” or “Hotel-camping” experience, where everything is included and all you have to do bring is your clothes and toiletries, could be quite popular. This type of camping also allows opening our door to another type of user: the 4-season camper.

The team believes that these new cabins should reflect design excellence and that these should be unique to our Park. They should reflect the National Capital Region and promote best practices in sustainable architecture.

Their site integration is important. Each of the cabins should feel secluded from the rest of the world and have no direct views on its neighbouring cabins. The team placed them in a very dense forest with great potential views of the lake adding a very positive element to the experience. Ideally, every cabin would offer water and electricity, a toilet, a sink, gas stove top, wood burning fireplace, a mini-fridge and 2 to 4 beds.



A good example of uniqueness and site specific design - Ecocamp Patagonia



Smith Beach Creek Rehabilitation Project, Summer 2013

DAYLIGHTING THE EXISTING CREEK

In 2013, the daylighting of the Smith Beach creek was completed leaving the area with a beautiful free flowing natural tributary. The initiative to daylight the existing creek running through the campground is in direct keeping with the Gatineau Park Master Plan’s emphasis on ecosystem protection while showcasing the environmental beauty of the Park and focussing on public enjoyment. Free flowing stream channels reconnect people to their natural surroundings through the look, feel, and smell of open water and contact with aquatic and streamside creatures and vegetation. From an environmental perspective, the benefits of daylighting the creek are numerous including:

- improved water quality by exposing water to air, sunlight, vegetation, and soil, all of which help to transform, absorb, and neutralize pollutants;
- recreation of aquatic habitat and facilitating the passage for important fish, amphibian, and insect species; and
- Recreation of valuable riparian habitat and corridors for wildlife movement.

The intended expansion of the creek will have an impact on the surrounding sites as well as on the Convenience store. The creek is at present a minor feature that offers the pleasant background sounds of running water, but no visual connection. The intent is to widen the naturalized area around the watercourse, and turn it into a natural asset.

The new construction of the Convenience store will turn its focus on the creek and gives opportunity for campers to enjoy it up-close.

FUTURE CAMPGROUND EXPANSIONS

As part of the campground restructuring, the team proposes to close several campsites. In order to avoid losing revenue opportunity, 4 additional areas where campsites could be implemented have been identified. Those new zones would require more in-depth analysis (environmental, visual and feasibility studies) to understand the best way possible to develop these future areas.

Two of the new proposed camping areas (01 & 02) would be situated near the entrance of the park within the Meadow Landscape Zone. Those areas would accommodate large RVs and tent-trailers and would have electricity and water directly to the sites. The team envisions the addition of 25 to 30 new campsites within these 2 additional areas. One of the areas (the northern one) is in proximity to a wetland but there is no endangered species noted and the site is not within the shoreline protected area. Its future development will require careful consideration and planning.

The third area (03) is further in the campground, near Smith Beach comfort stations. Approximately 10 non-electrified sites could be added in this area. The landscape character of the Beach will need to be respected in its development. The environmental visual analysis noted the presence of Butternuts (an endangered species) in this area. The team do not envision the cutting of any trees in the future development of this area, but if need be, tree cutting should be done very respectfully and sensitively.

A last potential area is an opening through the wood culturally known as Curé Belisle (04). This fourth potential development area is further away from the campground and could represent higher integration challenges. The team is suggesting making this area a 7th landscape zone with different target users and other landscaping guidelines.

These expansions should be done gradually and over time. They should not be a priority for the Park and should be added on over the years, once the existing conditions and issues have been addressed.



