

NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION  
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

<b>No.</b>	2021-P103
<b>To</b>	Board of Directors
<b>Date</b>	2021-01-21

<b>For</b>	DECISION
<b>Subject/Title</b>	
Gatineau Park Master Plan – 2021	
<b>Summary</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gatineau Park Master Plan (the Plan) continues to give precedence to conserving the Gatineau Park’s natural areas while also seeking to get park users more actively involved in achieving these conservation objectives.</li> <li>• The Plan focuses on reducing the ecosystem fragmentation impacts of recreation activities, notably by limiting unsanctioned activities and by conducting a comprehensive review of the points and means of access to the Park.</li> <li>• The Plan recommends adjusting Gatineau Park boundaries to include NCC properties located directly outside to existing boundaries. It also recommends increased cooperation with local stakeholders and authorities to strengthen the Park’s ecological linkages and connections by way of enhanced ecological corridors.</li> <li>• The Plan’s content has been refined based on the results of the latest round of public consultations.</li> </ul>	
<b>Risk Summary</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plan could be met with resistance from some user groups, given that new conditions will be imposed on the practice of certain activities (e.g., a number of recreation activities will be restricted to specific trails and locations), making Plan implementation more difficult.</li> <li>• There could be a negative public response to measures aimed at reducing motorized access to the Park, as this could be perceived as restricting Park access to certain users.</li> <li>• These risk factors can be mitigated with an appropriate communications strategy.</li> </ul>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the 2021 Gatineau Park Master Plan be approved in accordance with Section 10 of the <i>National Capital Act</i>.</li> <li>• That the Gatineau Park boundaries be adjusted in accordance with those shown in the Master Plan document.</li> <li>• That the implementation of the Plan be delegated to the Capital Stewardship Branch and Capital Planning Branch, in keeping with their respective mandates, starting with the development of an implementation plan.</li> </ul>	

- That all applicable projects associated with the implementation of the Gatineau Park Master Plan be submitted for review based on the requirements of Section 12 of the *National Capital Act*, and submitted for Federal Land Use Approval, as required.

**Submitted by:**

Kalen Anderson, Vice-President, Capital Planning Branch  
Name



Signature

**Submitted by:**

Anne Ménard, Vice-President, Capital Stewardship Branch  
Name



Signature

## 1. Strategic Priorities

- NCC Corporate Plan (2020-2021 to 2024-2025) – Corporate Priority 4: Initiate, renew and communicate land use plans, and provide timely and effective coordination of federal land use and design in the National Capital Region.
- Plan for Canada’s Capital (2017-2067) – The PCC calls for the review and update of the Gatineau Park Master Plan.

## 2. Authority

*National Capital Act*, subsection 10(1).

## 3. Context

- The Gatineau Park Master Plan (2005) review process was initiated in the fall of 2017.
- The Plan provides a long-term vision for the Park. In addition to addressing current and emerging issues, the Plan incorporates the findings and recommendations of thematic plans completed since the approval of the current GPMP in 2005, including:
  - The Gatineau Park Ecosystems Conservation Plan (2010)
  - The Gatineau Park Ecological Corridors Characterization Study (2012)
  - The Gatineau Park Recreation Activities Plan (2012)
  - The Gatineau Park Sustainable Transportation Plan (2015)
  - The Gatineau Park Cultural Heritage Plan (2015)
  - The Gatineau Park Interpretation Strategy (2015)
- The Gatineau Park Master Plan Review Process is divided into 5 phases, as follows:
  - Phase 1 – Baseline Research and Existing Conditions (Fall 2017)
  - Phase 2 – Vision and Strategic Directions (Spring 2018)
  - Phase 3 – Planning Concept and Land Use Designations (Fall 2018 – Winter 2019)
  - Phase 4 – Draft Revised Master Plan (Fall 2019 – Summer 2020)
  - Phase 5 – Approval of the new Master Plan by the NCC Board (Fall 2020 – Winter 2021)
- The new Master Plan is based on the detailed observation and analysis of the Park’s existing conditions, issues and features, including:
  - Gatineau Park is the National Capital Region’s largest natural area. It contains a broad range of ecosystems and natural habitats and is home to several species at risk.
  - There remain just outside of Park boundaries a number of natural corridors providing ecological linkages to other large natural areas.
  - The Park is a very popular destination for outdoor activities. As such, it contributes directly to the quality of life and well-being of the region’s residents and visitors.

- The Park has a long and rich history, and its heritage and cultural features must be showcased in a manner consistent with the protection and conservation of the Park's natural areas.
- Given its close proximity to urban neighborhoods in the capital region, the Park is a prime recreation destination for the local population, and the high visitation rates are a strain on Park operations and its natural environment.
- The increased development and use of unsanctioned trails and the multiplication of points of access to the Park are major contributors to natural habitat fragmentation.
- The Park accommodates many types of users with different needs, which in turn may not be entirely compatible with each other or with the Park's conservation objectives. This requires planning and implementing proper rules for cohabitation.
- The automobile remains the primary mode of access to the Park, notably given the lack of public transit services. This results in a certain inequality of access. At certain times of the year, in certain locations, there are major traffic congestion issues that have a negative impact on the quality of the Park experience and visitor safety.
- The *National Capital Act* provides the legal framework and authorities for Park management and conservation activities. Certain members of the public and stakeholders would like to see this legal framework amended and additional legal instruments given to the NCC to further enhance the Park's conservation mandate.

#### 4. Options Analysis

The final draft of the new Gatineau Park Master Plan, which includes changes made in response to comments and input collected during online consultations with the public and key stakeholders, is submitted for approval (see Appendix A).

- The comments received during the most recent public consultations showed a wide range of conflicting views on park management objectives, which points to a pressing need for the NCC to bring people together on key issues such as balancing conservation and use, equitable access for all and the use of Park infrastructures for recreation purposes.
- The new Plan confirms that Gatineau Park is first and foremost the Capital's conservation park and it encourages Park users to support this conservation mandate as they enjoy their outdoor recreation activities.
- It is essential to protect the Park in its entirety, as it encompasses important ecosystems and natural habitats, some of which include species at risk that are protected by law.
- The Park's ecological linkages to surrounding large natural areas must be supported by protecting nearby ecological corridors.
- The Master Plan's vision is to create an exceptional and inclusive visitor experience whereby all members of the public are invited to discover this Capital park's many features at specific locations and facilities.

- The Master Plan aims to provide a range of outdoor recreation opportunities while also reversing the fragmentation of the Park's natural habitats, most notably by engaging the public's active involvement in eliminating the majority of the Park's unofficial and unsanctioned trails. The Gatineau Park Responsible Trail Management Project included a detailed inventory and assessment of each individual trail with the intent of protecting the habitats of species at risk and ecologically sensitive areas, while also better responding to the needs and aspirations of Park users (such as loop circuits and narrower trails) and by channelling additional recreation activities toward less ecologically sensitive locations.
- The planning concept identifies a number of wilderness conservation areas where no recreation activities are allowed. These areas located west of the Eardley-Masham Road and along the Eardley Escarpment have been designated because they encompass fragile, rare or diversified ecosystems, or because they are linked to other large natural areas by existing ecological corridors.
- The new Master Plan also aims to enhance the ecological value and conservation functions of the Park's designated recreation areas by restricting recreation activities to the trails only, as opposed to the previous the Plan, where park users were allowed to circulate everywhere within park boundaries.
- Based on the inspiration provided by discussions with the Indigenous community, the Plan incorporates the notion that First Nations' culture, history and traditions are an integral part of Gatineau Park, and that the Anishinabe community is involved in making this better known. Indigenous communities consider that people are part of nature. This perspective has been incorporated into the Master Plan. The Plan also encourages collaboration initiatives that will be beneficial to Indigenous peoples in addition to contributing to Park preservation and safeguarding its archaeological resources. The Plan provides interpretation opportunities for a number of sites that are of importance in Indigenous culture, in addition to providing a physical meeting place to the Indigenous community.
- The Park will continue to provide an extensive programme of outdoor recreation activities by way of the official trail network and existing facilities. The overall ecological impact of these infrastructures and recreation sites will not be allowed to increase in the future.
- It will not be possible to accommodate increases in visitation by adding additional parking areas within Park boundaries, but by developing a new access and transportation strategy focusing on improved public transit services and the development and use of parking facilities on the Park periphery. The time has come to reorganize visitor access and vehicular traffic within Park boundaries in order to provide more equitable access and to reduce the number of vehicles inside the Park.
- Cooperation among stakeholder organizations and increased Park user engagement are essential to achieve the Plan's objectives. Therefore, the new Plan will call for increased stakeholder involvement and an openness to new shared management approaches in order to compensate for continued operational and budgetary constraints.
- The need to achieve greater autonomy in the financing of recreation activities and other operations, and the need to distribute these costs more equitably among Park

users will require a reorganization of the existing fee framework and new revenue generation programs that are compatible with Park objectives.

- The comments and input from the Fall 2020 public consultations proved very useful in shaping the final content of the Gatineau Park Master Plan. Key improvements include a stronger commitment to ecosystem conservation throughout the Park; clear direction for the management of rock-climbing and night-time recreation activities; a plain and simple definition of the code of conduct purpose and intent; acknowledgement of the presence of private residences within Park boundaries and of the NCC's limited power to control construction activities on private land; support for the development of facilities encouraging access to the Park by bicycle and electric vehicle.

A summary of key changes to the 2005 GPMP is included in Appendix B.

The revised Gatineau Park Master Plan incorporated comments received from the Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty (ACPDR), which are summarized in Appendix C.

## 5. Financial Details

The total cost to complete the new Gatineau Park Master Plan (approx. \$97,000), was covered by the Planning and Transportation Division operations budget.

## 6. Opportunities and Expected Results

- The Plan is based on a 10-year planning horizon, with a view to achieve the stated strategic directions in the next 50 years.
- The Plan will serve as the principal long-range planning instrument and reference document for Gatineau Park. It is designed to guide Gatineau Park staff in their decision-making in the areas of planning and development, project management and operations management.
- The Plan provides the tools to improve Park visitation and use management and strengthen the Park's ecological integrity, in addition to paving the way for reconciliation with the Indigenous community.

## 7. Risks and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Planned Response
The Plan could be met with a lack of buy-in from some user groups, given that new conditions would be imposed on the practice of certain activities (e.g., restricting a number of recreation activities to	High	Minimal	Remind Park users that the Plan must represents the best possible combination of conservation and use.  Continue raising awareness and support for this policy and continue

specific trails and locations), making Plan implementation more difficult.			dialoguing and working with user groups to achieve its' objectives.
			Engage new user groups to help raise awareness about the importance of environmentally-sound recreation practices.  Increase the surveillance of fragile ecosystems.
There could be a negative public response to measures aimed at reducing motorized access to the Park, as this could be perceived as restricting Park access to certain users.	Medium	Minimal	Alternative means of access and transport will need to be implemented progressively, over time.  It remains necessary to reduce automobile traffic within Park boundaries to achieve lower conflicts between user groups, wildlife impacts and GHG emissions.

## 8. Consultations and Communications

- Consultations have been held at each phase of the project with the Public Advisory Committee, the public, elected officials, municipal authorities, government agencies and Kitigan Zibi community representatives.
- A final consultation on the Draft Master Plan was held in the Fall of 2020 with key stakeholders and the public.
- A progress report on the GPMP Review Project was submitted to ACPDR in May and December 2018, and in February 2020. Excerpts of those ACPDR meeting minutes are included in Appendix C.
- Project updates have also been submitted to the NCC Board for information purposes at key phases throughout the planning process.

## 9. Next Steps

- Develop the implementation plan.

## **10. List of Appendices**

Appendix A –Gatineau Park Master Plan (2021)

Appendix B – Summary of the key changes to the 2005 Gatineau Park Master Plan

Appendix C – Excerpts from the May 2018 and February 2020 ACPDR meeting minutes

Appendix D – Public Consultation Report Summary

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

Kalen Anderson, Vice President, Capital Planning Branch (CP)

Anne Ménard, Vice President, Capital Stewardship Branch (CS)

Lucie Bureau, Director, Long-Range Planning and Transportation, CP

Christie Spence, Director, Quebec Urban Lands and Gatineau Park, CS

Andrew Sacret, Chief, Long-Range Planning and Transportation, CP

Hugues Charron, Senior Planner, Long-Range Planning and Transportation, CP

Catherine Verreault, Senior Manager, Natural Resources and Land Management, CS

# **Gatineau Park Master Plan Review 2021**

## **Reconfirmed Elements and Key Changes to the 2005 Gatineau Park Master Plan**

Despite a major revision, the new master plan will reconfirm the following elements of the 2005 plan::

- i. Gatineau Park remains the Capital's Conservation Park.
- ii. Internal and external ecological connectivity at the center of the plan: connecting the park to other natural areas and maintaining the quality of the internal habitat (defragmentation).
- iii. A place to experience the outdoors in a respectful manner.
- iv. Development of new transportation options in order to make Park access more equitable and to limit the impact of motor vehicles on the Park experience, wildlife and visitor safety.
- v. Review of the user fee system in order to provide equitable access and to better support conservation, recreation and maintenance activities.

The new GPMP also includes a number of major changes, as described below:

### **CONSERVATION**

- i. Strong commitment to the protection of clearly defined ecological corridors and the preservation of other properties of strategic importance outside of Park boundaries.
- ii. Expansion of the boundaries of Gatineau Park to include NCC lands adjacent to the Park's boundaries.
- iii. Further limit access to the Eardley Escarpment and the area west of Eardley-Masham Road – both areas being designated for wildlife conservation.
- iv. Intent to relocate the existing snowmobile route within the newly designated Eardley-Masham Recreation and Tourism Corridor.

### **EXPERIENCING NATURE**

- i. Activities authorized only on designated trails and the parkways (off-trail activities not permitted).
- ii. Implementation of the Responsible Trail Management Project, which includes the addition of 100 km of new trails and the elimination of 200 km of existing unofficial and unsanctioned trails.
- iii. Limited recreation opportunities on the escarpment (rock-climbing sites and hiking trails).
- iv. Land Use Plan that is easier to communicate to Park users.
- v. Less extensive activity areas.
- vi. Specific guidance limiting the number and location of Park infrastructures.
- vii. Integration of the Camp Fortune site in the Park's offer of recreation activities.
- viii. Reassessment of Park events, and elimination of night-time events (Dark-Sky Policy).
- ix. Prohibition of certain drone-related activities, and

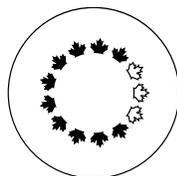
- x. Management of types of accommodation.

## EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ACCESS

- i. Encourage alternative modes of transportation in order to progressively improve the management of vehicular traffic throughout the Park.
- ii. Additional parking facilities just outside of Park boundaries.
- iii. Confirmation of new official points of access from adjacent neighbourhoods.
- iv. Main Visitor Centre in Chelsea with new satellite visitor facilities in Lusville and at Relais Plein-Air.
- v. Improve access and use equality – elimination of exclusive use privileges for specific user groups.

## ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

- i. Clear commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous communities (i.e. involvement, place naming, cultural activity sites).
- ii. Change of corporate mindset with a new openness to sharing stewardship responsibilities with Park users and partners (conservation and maintenance).
- iii. Promotion of the Park exclusively through education and conservation messaging.



## NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

Excerpt of the Minutes of the

Advisory Committee  
on Planning, Design and Realty

Meeting of February 27 and 28, 2020

2020-P103 - Gatineau Park Master Plan  
Review – 30% Draft (C)

Members received a presentation on the Gatineau Master Plan Review at 30% completion. They made the following comments:

### Indigenous Contribution

- The consultation with indigenous people should be deeper and more authentic. The aspect of reconciliation should be felt in the document.
- Indigenous people could be engaged differently (ex. Kouchibouguac Park in co-management with Micmac 25 years ago).
- Human beings do not protect nature; they are part of nature. For indigenous people, there is no distinction between culture and nature.
- The park should be considered as a natural environment with recreational and cultural components.
- The park's health assessment should be shared with indigenous people to include them in the project.
- The indigenous way of managing the forest with burn practices and harvesting of

Extrait du procès-verbal du

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

Séance des 27 et 28 février 2020

2020-P103 - Révision du Plan directeur du parc  
de la Gatineau – Ébauche achevée à 30 %

Les membres assistent à une présentation sur l'ébauche achevée à 30 % de la révision du Plan directeur du parc de la Gatineau. Ils font les commentaires suivants :

### Contribution autochtone

- L'étape de consultation avec les Autochtones devrait se faire de façon plus approfondie et authentique. On devrait ressentir un aspect de réconciliation dans le document.
- Les Autochtones pourraient être impliqués différemment (ex. la cogestion du parc Kouchibouguac avec les Micmac il y a 25 ans).
- Les êtres humains ne protègent pas la nature; ils en font partie. Pour les Autochtones, il n'y a pas de distinction entre culture et nature.
- Le parc devrait être considéré comme un milieu naturel qui comporte des éléments récréatifs et culturels.
- On devrait transmettre l'évaluation de la santé du parc aux Autochtones afin de les inclure dans le projet.
- La façon autochtone de gérer la forêt avec les pratiques de brûlis et de récolte des noix

2020-P103 - Gatineau Park Master Plan  
Review – 30% Draft (C)

nuts and berries could be considered in some portions of the park.

- Meaningful Indigenous places could be reflected in toponymy.

#### Ecological Features

- Ecological corridors should be presented in the context of all the east North American parks, as some of them could be used by species in transit.
- More interrelated ecosystems are needed.
- Nature cannot always defend itself against invasions and should be helped (humans could also be considered as an invasive species).

#### Architecture

- The development of specific architectural guidelines for Gatineau Park buildings is required.

#### Language Shift

- The language should be elevated to be more strategic.
- The term “stewardship” should be used instead of “conservation”.
- The starting point would be different with a different language (ex. Niagara Escarpment Plan).

#### Recreation

- The fact that the park is heavily used should be reflected in the plan.
- Human access should be controlled, and balanced.
- Private property should be managed more proactively.

#### Communication

- The plan should be used as a marketing tool, with half graphics and half words.

2020-P103 - Révision du Plan directeur du parc  
de la Gatineau – Ébauche achevée à 30 %

et des petits fruits pourrait être envisagée dans certaines parties du parc.

- Les lieux significatifs pour les Autochtones pourraient se refléter dans la toponymie.

#### Caractéristiques écologiques

- Les corridors écologiques devraient être présentés dans le contexte des parcs de l’est de l’Amérique du Nord, puisque certains d’entre eux pourraient être utilisés par les espèces en transit.
- On a besoin de plus d’écosystèmes interreliés.
- La nature ne peut pas toujours se défendre contre les invasions, et elle devrait recevoir de l’aide (les humains aussi pourraient être considérés comme une espèce envahissante).

#### Architecture

- L’élaboration de lignes directrices architecturales spécifiques au parc de la Gatineau est nécessaire.

#### Modification du langage

- Le langage devrait être élevé au plan stratégique.
- On devrait utiliser le terme « intendance » au lieu de « conservation ».
- Le point de départ serait différent avec un langage différent (ex. plan d’aménagement de l’escarpement du Niagara).

#### Activités récréatives

- Le fait que le parc soit fortement utilisé devrait se refléter dans le plan.
- L’accès humain devrait être contrôlé et équilibré.
- La propriété privée devrait être gérée de façon plus proactive.

#### Communication

- Le plan devrait être utilisé comme plan de marketing, avec une moitié graphique et une moitié sous forme de mots.

2020-P103 - Gatineau Park Master Plan  
Review – 30% Draft (C)

2020-P103 - Révision du Plan directeur du parc  
de la Gatineau – Ébauche achevée à 30 %

- The document is voluminous and should be adapted to its users.
- The appearance of the document should reflect the ambitions.

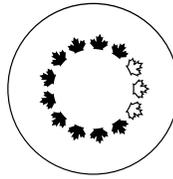
- Le document est volumineux, et devrait être adapté à ses utilisateurs.
- L'apparence du document devrait refléter les ambitions.

Committee Secretary

Secrétaire des comités

*Caroline Bied*

CAROLINE BIED



## NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

Excerpt of the Minutes of the

Advisory Committee  
on Planning, Design and Realty

Meeting of May 24, 2018

2018-P103 - Gatineau Park Master Plan  
Review – Progress Report (I)

Members received a presentation on the progress report for the Gatineau Park master plan review. They offered the following comments:

### Scope of the Plan / Vision Statement

- More flexibility and adaptability are needed.
- Nature / Culture and Recreation / Conservation should not be opposed in the plan.
- The vision should lean more towards nature, as some actions are irreversible.
- The notions of 'paysage' and landscape should be integrated.
- The need to increase the size of the park should be evaluated.
- The park's role for the Capital should be defined more clearly as it is next to neighbourhoods and 85% of the visits are from locals.
- The link with the NCC mandate must be clear.

### Indigenous Worldview

- The indigenous worldview should be

Extrait du procès-verbal du

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

Séance du 24 mai 2018

2018-P103 - Révision du plan directeur du  
parc de la Gatineau – Rapport d'étape (I)

Les membres assistent à une présentation sur le rapport d'étape de l'examen du Plan directeur du parc de la Gatineau. Ils offrent les commentaires suivants :

### Portée du plan et énoncé de vision

- Plus de flexibilité et d'adaptabilité sont nécessaires.
- La nature et la culture, de même que les loisirs et la conservation, ne devraient pas être opposés dans le plan.
- La vision devrait pencher davantage vers la nature, puisque certaines actions sont irréversibles.
- Les notions de paysage et de « landscape » devraient être intégrées.
- Il faudrait évaluer le besoin d'accroître la taille du parc
- Il faudrait définir avec plus de clarté le rôle du parc pour la capitale, puisqu'il est adjacent à des quartiers et que 85 % des visites sont effectuées par la population locale.
- Le lien avec le mandat de la CCN doit être clair.

### Vision du monde des autochtones

- On devrait adopter la vision du monde des

2018-P103 - Gatineau Park Master Plan  
Review – Progress Report (I)

adopted.

- The park should be rebranded as a sacred place with an Algonquin name and people made aware it is a privilege to be there.
- The indigenous perspective is needed in the document.
- The capital needs to show leadership in reconciliation: nature, indigenous point of view, and cultural history should be harmonized.
- The vision statement should also be provided in Algonquin language.

#### Natural resources

- Conservation should dominate, and the reasons why the park should be protected should be explained.
- Conservation is a collective responsibility: people should be educated towards stewardship.
- The park is small, compared to other conservation areas, but it has an important place within the region: it is a natural heritage asset of great value.
- Humans are one of the species in the ecosystem.
- A strategy is needed on the management of the 12 ecological corridors: the advantages for the cities should be defined, and the priorities identified.
- The examples of UNESCO World Heritage Sites Mount Fuji (now Fujisan) or Uluru (formerly Ayers Rock) should be looked at.

#### Use of the Park

- Management of recreational activities is needed to protect the ecology of the park.
- There is a lot of accommodating different wants in such a small space. Some

2018-P103 - Révision du plan directeur du  
parc de la Gatineau – Rapport d'étape (I)

autochtones.

- On devrait redésigner le parc comme endroit sacré et lui donner un nom algonquin. Les gens devraient être sensibilisés au fait que c'est un privilège de s'y trouver.
- On a besoin de la perspective autochtone dans le document.
- La capitale a besoin de faire preuve de leadership en ce qui a trait à la réconciliation : la nature, le point de vue des autochtones et l'histoire culturelle devraient être harmonisés.
- L'énoncé de vision devrait aussi être inclus en langue algonquine.

#### Ressources naturelles

- La conservation devrait dominer et les raisons derrière la protection du parc devraient être expliquées.
- La conservation est une responsabilité collective. Les gens devraient être éduqués par rapport à l'intendance.
- Le parc est petit, en comparaison avec d'autres aires de conservation, mais il occupe une place importante dans la région. Il est un attrait naturel de grande valeur.
- Les humains sont une des espèces de l'écosystème.
- Une stratégie est nécessaire pour la gestion des 12 corridors écologiques : il faudrait définir les avantages pour les villes et cerner les priorités.
- Il faudrait se pencher sur les exemples des sites du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO comme le Mont Fuji (désormais Fujisan) ou Uluru (anciennement *Ayers Rock*).

#### Utilisation du parc

- Une gestion des activités récréatives est requise pour protéger l'écologie du parc.
- Dans un milieu aussi petit, on accommode diverses demandes. Certaines activités de

2018-P103 - Gatineau Park Master Plan  
Review – Progress Report (I)

outdoor activities are incompatible with one another. The loudest voices are sometimes the least representative of the public's needs.

- Unnecessary trails should be closed.
- Decisions should be made based on science and human psychology.
- Resources are finite: the number of visitors and the number of visits by visitor should be reduced.
- Consultations with women and younger people are important
- The backyard function in a growing urban area should be managed: people need to have access to a high-quality recreational area.
- Studies should be undertaken to evaluate the capacity of the park.
- Market research should be applied.

Access

- Access by public transportation should be provided.

Committee Secretary

2018-P103 - Révision du plan directeur du  
parc de la Gatineau – Rapport d'étape (I)

plein air sont incompatibles avec d'autres. Les voix qui s'élèvent le plus sont parfois celles qui sont les moins représentatives des besoins du public.

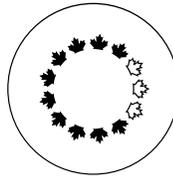
- Les sentiers inutiles devraient être fermés.
- Il faudrait fonder les décisions sur la science et la psychologie humaine.
- Les ressources sont limitées : on devrait réduire le nombre de visiteurs et le nombre de visites par visiteur.
- La consultation des femmes et des personnes plus jeunes est importante.
- La fonction de « terrain de jeu » du parc, dans un milieu urbain en expansion, devrait être gérée : les gens ont besoin d'avoir accès à un espace récréatif de qualité.
- Il faudrait entreprendre des études pour évaluer la capacité du parc.
- Il faudrait appliquer une étude de marché.

Accès

- Il faudrait fournir des moyens de s'y rendre en transport en commun.

Secrétaire des comités

*Caroline Bied*



## 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-P103 - Gatineau Park Master Plan  
Review – Concept (C)

Members received a presentation on the Gatineau Park Master Plan Review Concept. They provided the following comments:

### Plan Development

- The plan needs to be clear on objectives and how choices are made (compromise between nature and activities).
- Detailed policy and guidelines are important as part of the plan.
- There is a need to change users' fees structure and policy.

### Indigenous Worldview

- In addition to consultations with Indigenous people, it would be important to integrate in the vision the indigenous worldview according to which all things are related.
- Humans are part of nature, and should not be perceived to be in opposition to nature.
- One needs to understand how each element contributes to the whole.
- Schools and other institutions could be involved (for example botanical classes in

Extrait du procès-verbal du

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

Séance des 6 et 7 décembre 2018

2018-P103 - Révision du Plan directeur du  
parc de la Gatineau – Concept (C)

Les membres assistent à une présentation sur le concept de la révision du plan directeur du parc de la Gatineau. Ils font les commentaires suivants :

### Élaboration du plan

- Le plan doit être clair sur les objectifs et la façon dont les choix sont faits (compromis entre nature et activités).
- Les politiques détaillées et les lignes directrices sont une partie importante du plan.
- Il est nécessaire de changer la structure et la politique des frais d'utilisateurs.

### Vision autochtone du monde

- En plus des consultations avec les autochtones, il serait important d'incorporer dans la vision la vision autochtone du monde selon laquelle toutes choses sont liées.
- Les humains font partie de la nature et ne devraient pas être perçus comme étant en opposition.
- On doit comprendre de quelle façon chaque élément contribue à l'ensemble.
- Les écoles et les autres institutions pourraient être impliquées (par exemple

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the park) as part of the indigenous philosophy of learning with nature.

#### Balance Activities/Conservation

- The park is important as a unifying element in the region between Ottawa and Gatineau.
- The level of conservation expected should consider the park's urban location.
- The park does not have to accommodate every recreational activity. Activities that are disruptive to nature should be phased out, and more compatible locations outside the park should be identified with the community.
- Activities should be limited to the smallest space possible.
- The NCC should explore ways activities could be more beneficial to nature.
- To reduce the impact of activities, efficient measures are needed, including more controls.
- Users need to contribute to land maintenance and conservation through concrete actions like clean-up duties, for example.
- There could be collaboration with universities and scientist to measure the impact of activities and ensure there is no net loss of environmental assets.

#### Private Properties

- Some private properties should remain in the park: residents can enhance the ecosystems' health.

#### Design

- A clear design language should be part of the plan to provide clear direction for the design of entrances, pathways, connectors, that should also fit the

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des classes de botanique dans le parc) dans le contexte de la philosophie autochtone d'apprendre avec la nature.

#### • Équilibre activités/conservation

- Le parc est important comme élément unificateur de la région entre Ottawa et Gatineau.
- Le degré de conservation auquel on s'attend devrait tenir compte de l'emplacement urbain du parc.
- Le parc n'a pas besoin d'accueillir toutes les activités récréatives. Les activités qui perturbent la nature devraient être abandonnées, et des lieux plus compatibles en dehors du parc devraient être identifiés avec la collectivité.
- Les activités devraient être restreintes au plus petit espace possible.
- La CCN devrait étudier la façon dont les activités pourraient être plus bénéfiques pour la nature.
- Pour réduire l'impact des activités, des mesures efficaces sont nécessaires, y compris la réglementation.
- Les usagers doivent contribuer à l'entretien des terrains et à la conservation par le biais d'actions concrètes tels que des corvées de nettoyage par exemple.
- Il pourrait y avoir une collaboration avec les universités et les scientifiques pour mesurer l'impact des activités et s'assurer qu'il n'y a pas de perte nette des actifs environnementaux.

#### Propriété privées

- Certaines propriétés privées devraient rester dans le parc : les résidents peuvent améliorer la santé des écosystèmes.

#### Conception

- Le plan devrait être clair en ce qui a trait au langage de conception afin de donner une orientation à la conception des entrées, des sentiers, des liens, qui devraient

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ecosystems.

Communication

- It is important to communicate why some informal trails are being closed, why different activities need to share the same space, and what is the benefit to the environment.

Committee Secretary

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également être en harmonie avec les écosystèmes.

Communication

- Il est important de communiquer pourquoi certains sentiers informels sont supprimés, pourquoi différentes activités partagent le même espace, et quels sont les avantages pour l'environnement.

Secrétaire des comités

*Caroline Bied*

## Appendix D

### Phase 4: Consultation Report, August/September 2020

#### *Consultation and Engagement Activities—Phase 4*

##### **PAC Meeting and Workshop**

Date and time: September 8, 2020, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm (EN session) and 2:45 pm to 4:15 pm (FR session).

Location: Online

Format: Microsoft Teams meeting

Participation: 8 participants

##### **Public Consultations**

###### *Online consultation*

Date: August 27 to September 21, 2020

Format: Online comment box

Participation: 937 survey responses

#### *Consultation Format*

##### **Online consultation**

The final phase of public consultation on planning documents emphasizes transparency and accountability: members of the public are provided the full draft of the plan and a final opportunity to shape its contents before it is submitted to the NCC's Board of Directors for approval. In addition to making the full draft of the plan available online, we created a web page that summarized the most prominent features of the plan, along with the general context in which it was drafted. Public feedback was collected via a comment box on the same page, as well as by email. Interested participants were also invited to review public consultation reports published as part of previous phases of engagement. At the end of the three-week consultation period, all comments were entered into an Excel spreadsheet, reviewed by the project team, and assigned a series of tags corresponding to the type of feedback provided. This permitted the NCC to identify patterns and to more effectively summarize public input.

## Consultation Highlights—Phase 4

The following is a high-level summary of the input received through the online comment box and via email. It is important to note that this phase of public consultation on the Gatineau Park Master Plan was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that some of the feedback provided by participants reflects these unique circumstances.

### What we heard

- **Most of the comments received during this phase of public consultation responded to perceived inadequacies in the NCC's approach to managing the tension between conservation and recreation in Gatineau Park.** Among many participants, there is a sense that the draft plan is unduly restrictive—that it goes too far in curbing recreational pursuits in the name of conservation. For others, the plan does not go far enough.
- **Transportation management was another polarizing topic.** Many participants expressed support for the recent closure of the parkways during the COVID-19 pandemic and a desire to see the closures extended. Others expressed misgivings about this policy and highlighted the barriers it raised for certain users. These and other participants stressed the importance of equity in relation to access and affordability.

**Many of the comments provided by participants included recommendations about the management of, and support for, specific recreational pursuits or conservation initiatives in the park.** A number of participants advocated for changes that would enhance the user experience of members of their sporting community and urged the NCC to closely collaborate with user groups. Other participants advanced proposals to strengthen protections of natural habitats and reduce the human footprint in the park.

The comments provided by public consultation participants were carefully reviewed by the project team and, when relevant to operations, were shared with park managers.

In the paragraphs below, the project team responds to some of the feedback provided during this final phase of public consultation on the review of the Gatineau Park Master Plan.

- As a conservation park located near densely populated urban areas, one of Gatineau Park's greatest challenges is to balance the recreational needs of users with the protection of the park's natural environment. The park's management approach is based on the [IUCN's definition of a Category II Park](#). This category aims to protect large-scale ecological processes and provide, among others, a foundation for environmentally sustainable recreational opportunities. In keeping with this overarching mandate, the master plan cannot accommodate all requests for additional or expanded outdoor activities. Certain decisions, such as those pertaining to limits placed on off-trail recreation and the closure of unofficial trails, also reflect the outcomes of

public engagement initiatives such as the [Responsible Trail Management Project](#) that have involved extensive collaboration with users and stakeholders in the pursuit of sustainable recreation. The only changes on this front currently being considered apply to activities carried out in areas immediately adjacent to trails.

- The project team has redrafted certain passages to strengthen the plan's commitment to improve the protection of the park's ecological integrity in every sector. The authors also edited the document in order to clarify that one of the plan's objectives is to attract a broader *diversity* of visitors, rather than to attract a greater *number* of people.
- The project team added details to the plan that better explain the NCC's limited authority on private properties located within Gatineau Park. The authors also clarified the framework within which a code of conduct will be developed for the park. Regulations that apply to nighttime activities in the park were also clarified: individual recreational pursuits that require the use of headlamps will be permitted during the evening, but not in the dead of night.
- Much of the feedback related to transportation, parkway management and fee structures were found to be compatible with the master plan's objectives and will be considered as part of the program implementation phase of these initiatives.
- Many of the insights shared by participants with regard to the management of different sites and activities (e.g. activities permitted on a given trail or the times at which certain sites should be open to the public) were communicated to park managers. It is worth noting that many of the elements that participants felt were absent from the master plan (e.g. monitoring protocols for the park's ecosystems) are instead covered in one of the five sub-plans that continue to be in effect for Gatineau Park. These are the [Ecosystem Conservation Plan](#), the Outdoor Activity Plan, the Sustainable Transportation Plan, the [Cultural Heritage Plan](#), and the Interpretation Strategy.

## Next Steps

Where possible and compatible with the plan's overall strategic framework, the project team has integrated the feedback provided by members of the public in the final draft of the Gatineau Park Master Plan.

The final version of the Master Plan will be presented to the NCC's Board of Directors for approval in January 2021.