



National Capital Core Area Plan

Frequently asked questions

1. What are the goals of the National Capital Core Area Plan?

The plan aims to:

- Highlight Canada's political and cultural institutions as a source of pride and reflection of our history.
- Build a beautiful and majestic capital that promotes excellence in architecture and urban design.
- Guide sustainability and climate mitigation and adaption in the National Capital Region.
- Position the Capital core as a vibrant, meaningful and inspiring space for Canadians and visitors to Canada.
- Contribute to the economic success of the National Capital Region.

2. What themes are being explored under the National Capital Core Area Plan?

The National Capital Commission (NCC) is exploring five primary themes during the review process:

- Democracy and meaning
- Beauty and majesty
- Sustainability and resiliency and
- Vibrancy and animation
- Thriving economy

These themes represent different ways of looking at elements under the plan, based on the NCC's mandate. They do not preclude the possibility of discussion about other priorities in the core area (e.g. safety and security).

3. What "big moves" is the NCC proposing in the plan?

Three big moves are being considered to guide the planning and enhancement of the National Capital Region over the coming decades:

- Locate and orient buildings, public space and amenities to face the our waterways, animate the shorelines and create new connections to facilitate better access.
- Repurpose and reimagine NCC assets to create memorable places and destinations that enhance the public realm and Capital experiences.
- Create public infrastructure that promotes public and active transportation.

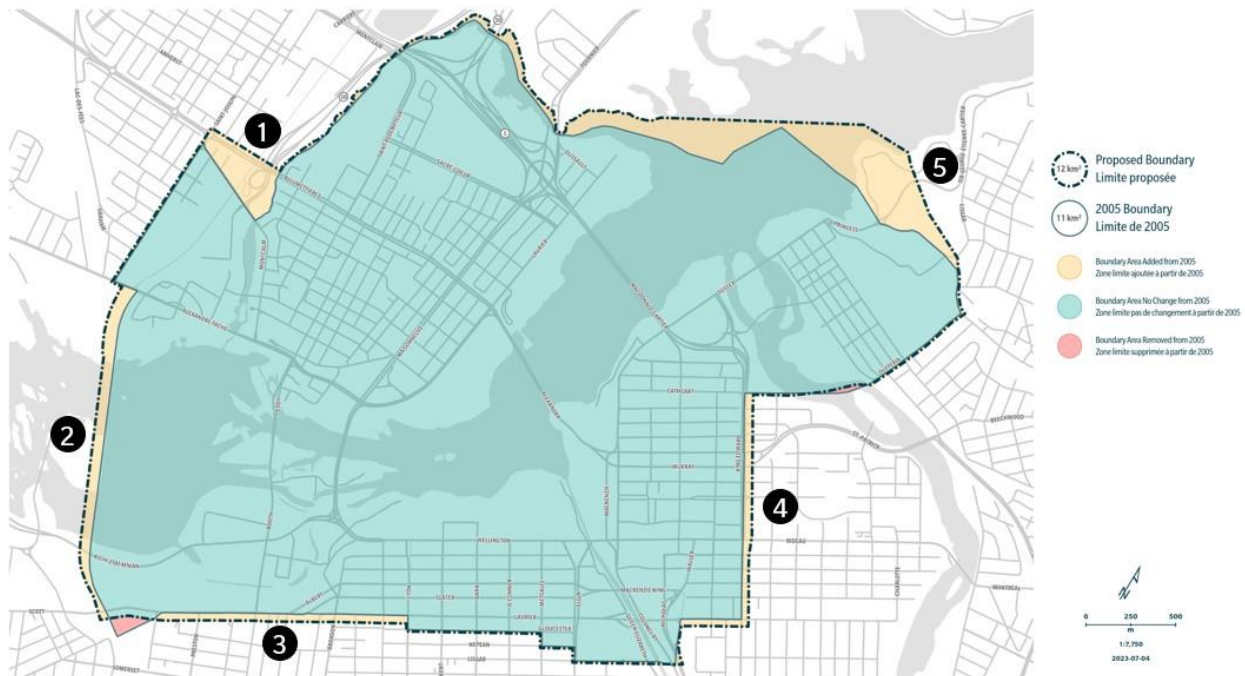


4. What are the geographic boundaries of the National Capital Core Area Plan?

The core area covers the central riverfronts and downtown centres of Ottawa and Gatineau.

The map below shows the five areas where the core area boundary will be changed. The core area now includes “gateway” places that connect it to other neighbourhoods and features, for example, the southwestern boundary, which is now connected with the entrance to the Kichi Zībī Mīkan (Parkway). Under the 2025 plan, the geographic boundaries of the plan will be:

- St. Joseph Boulevard, des Allumettières Boulevard, Ruisseau de la Brasserie, and the Gatineau River (Gatineau) to the north (approximately area #1)
- Chief William Commanda Bridge (Ottawa-Gatineau) to the west (approximately area #2)
- Albert Street and Laurier Avenue (Ottawa) to the southwest (approximately area #3)
- Gloucester, Metcalfe, Elgin and Lisgar Streets (Ottawa) to the south (approximately area #3)
- Laurier Avenue East and King Edward Avenue (Ottawa) to the southeast and east (approximately area #4)
- Northern and eastern extremities of Rideau Hall (Ottawa) to the northeast (approximately area #5)





5. How were the geographic boundaries of the plan decided?

The geographic boundaries were originally established in the 2005 Canada's Capital Core Area Sector Plan. The new version of the plan will revise the boundaries of the core area to reflect the evolution of the region over the past twenty years.

6. Will the National Capital Core Area Plan include recommendations on redevelopment?

Yes, in a sense. The NCC works closely with federal agencies (e.g. Public Services and Procurement Canada) for real estate projects supporting federal activities, as well as with local public and private sector stakeholders. The National Capital Core Area Plan identifies areas where redevelopment is being considered to foster new animation, provide new or increased uses for land, or contribute to housing availability in the National Capital Region.

7. Which elements of the National Capital Core Area Plan can the public weigh in on?

Public feedback will be considered on the vision, the three big moves, and the five key themes guiding the redevelopment of the National Capital Core Area Plan. We encourage members of the public to voice their opinion on the needs and ongoing issues related to those ideas and themes. By contributing to the consultation process, you will help our experts assess needs for the ongoing development of the capital. You will help us refine our understanding of trends and strategic opportunities.

8. What will be the tangible outcome and deliverables of the National Capital Core Area Plan, both in the short term and in the long term?

The overall outcome of the review will be an updated National Capital Core Area Plan that can provide land-use policies and urban design policies for the coming decades, until the mid-twenty-first century. These policies will affect [planning](#) and [approval](#) for federal projects that involve the design and improvement of public spaces and buildings in the core. The plan will also provide direction for partnerships (e.g. with municipal governments) for the implementation of future projects.



9. What are some of the main federal assets and projects in the core area?

Ottawa:

- [Canada's Parliamentary and Judicial Precinct](#)
- [Sussex Drive](#)
- [Rideau Hall](#)
- [LeBreton Flats](#)
- [The Rideau Canal](#)
- [Confederation Boulevard](#)

Gatineau:

- [Jacques Cartier Park](#)
- [Gatineau central waterfront](#), including the [Capital Pathway](#)
- [Brewery Creek](#)
- [Victoria Island](#)
- [Confederation Boulevard](#)

Map of the federal lands in the core area.





10. What are some examples of projects that could be impacted by the plan?

The goal of the National Capital Core Area Plan is not to develop specific assets in the core. Typically, NCC assets in the core are developed through individual plans. For example, although LeBreton Flats is located within the core, its development is guided by the LeBreton Flats Master Concept Plan. The National Capital Core Area Plan, in this example, is more involved in exploring how LeBreton Flats will be developed in coordination with the rest of the core area, to ensure a coherent approach guided by an overarching long-term vision.

The National Capital Core Area Plan lays out capital-building guidelines to which other sector plans are subject. When we consider the tangible outcome of the 2005 plan, we are not looking at individual buildings or parks so much as the overall character and development of the core area. Rather than looking to build or develop assets as quickly as possible, we are considering how those assets and development opportunities across jurisdictions can complement each other to build a better capital.

11. What are the timelines for the implementation of the National Capital Core Area Plan?

The National Capital Core Area Plan has a timeframe (planning horizon) of approximately 20 years. The revised plan will be approved in 2025. Implementation will take place from 2025 to 2045. An implementation strategy will be developed after plan approval to prioritize NCC actions and fund key recommendations.

12. How does the plan relate to municipal government implementation timelines for projects?

The NCC collaborates with the region's municipalities on many issues, including urban planning, safe and active transportation, and property and land stewardship. The City of Ottawa and the Ville de Gatineau are key stakeholders in the review of the National Capital Core Area Plan.



13. Which elements of the core area “belong” to the NCC, and which “belong” to the cities?

The NCC is responsible for [planning](#) and [approval](#) for development of federal land in the National Capital Region. This is a big role, because it involves not just the NCC’s properties, but all federal land in the region. Federal land in the core area includes government institutions, museums, interprovincial bridges, commemorative sites, capital parks and public spaces. Approvals for municipal spaces and functions (private development, services and utilities, municipal parks, roadways and public transportation) are handled at the city level.

14. Does the plan apply to other levels of government and to private landowners?

The National Capital Core Area Plan is the NCC’s lead policy document for the downtown cores of Ottawa and Gatineau. It contains policies and guidelines explaining how federal agencies can develop federal land. Implementation of the plan will require partnerships and collaboration with the City of Ottawa and the Ville de Gatineau. The plan presents an opportunity for the NCC and the cities, in partnership with federal agencies, to advance mutually beneficial projects and strategies.

15. What are the next steps for the National Capital Core Area Plan?

Timeframe	Actions
Fall 2023	Public consultation - Online survey - Pop-up kiosks - Thematic workshops
Winter and spring 2024	Urban design scenarios for different development possibilities Public consultation
Summer and fall 2024	Draft plan and policies Public consultation
Winter 2025	Final plan

16. How can I stay informed about the National Capital Core Area Plan?

Stay tuned to our PlaceSpeak page for more information on consultation opportunities for the National Capital Core Area Plan. We will also regularly update our [webpage](#) and social media outlets ([X/Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#)).



17. Can I contact the project team for further discussion?

If you have any questions about the consultation process, we encourage you to reach out to our Public Consultations team at consultations@ncc-ccn.ca.