



NATIONAL CAPITAL
CORE
AREA PLAN

Volume I | June 2025



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

Canada

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

I am pleased to present this new edition of the National Capital Core Area Plan. It updates the previous edition of the plan from 2005, establishing a long-term vision for the centre of the Capital at the middle of this century and beyond.

The core area of Canada's Capital Region encompasses the downtowns of Ottawa and Gatineau. It is home to many of Canada's most important landmarks and serves as a reflection of Canadian identity to the world. Visitors and residents alike enjoy the rich history and natural beauty of the core that features cultural attractions, distinct parks, distinctive neighbourhoods and a network of pathways and streets to connect them.

Running through the middle of the core area is the Ottawa River, bordered by waterfalls, rocky outcrops, iconic buildings and riverfront pathways and parks. The river is a key part of the core area experience that makes Canada's Capital a unique destination.

Still, there are so many opportunities to enhance the capital experience. We're imagining new shoreline parks and amenities, high-quality spaces and places for gathering and better connectivity throughout the core area, all with the goal of creating a beautiful and inspiring place for residents and visitors.

As we work to implement these projects, we will continue to be adaptable in our goal of responding to shifting trends and new and ongoing challenges. We're planning for more people to live in our downtowns, new transportation connections in and around the core area and new things to do for everyone visiting. Meanwhile, we'll continue to build a resilient capital in the face of climate change and respond to the important responsibility of being home to Canada's Capital.

The revised Core Area Plan addresses these challenges and changes. It reflects the outcome of extensive public and stakeholder consultation. We are grateful to all individuals and partners who took part in the planning process, providing feedback and ideas as the plan evolved, and I'd like to thank all NCC staff who have worked on this landmark project.

We are looking forward to realising the vision of the 2025 National Capital Core Area Plan. Its innovative approach will guide exciting new projects that will continue to shape the Capital over the next 20 years and beyond. I encourage you to explore the plan and the core area, and to participate in achieving its vision.

Tobi Nussbaum
Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2020, the National Capital Commission (NCC) initiated an iterative, design-led process to review and update the National Capital Core Area Plan, which was last updated in 2005. The purpose of the plan is to provide policies and recommendations to guide the development and management of the core area over a 20-year planning horizon.

The core area is located in the heart of the National Capital Region, encompassing the metropolitan downtowns of the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau. The area includes distinctive natural features and many of Canada's most significant national landmarks.

The plan serves as the lead policy document governing the planning and development of federal lands in the core area. It also aims to present a unifying vision that paints a cohesive picture of the entire study area. The planning process included four rounds of public consultation, ongoing stakeholder engagement and engagement with the Algonquin Nation.

Volume I of the plan includes a vision, themes, concepts and sector-specific recommendations. Accompanying policies and objectives guide the implementation of new interventions, ongoing stewardship and maintenance of NCC assets.

The plan's vision speaks of a beautiful, sustainable, vibrant and entertaining place with a high-quality built form and public realm that reflect the national significance of the Capital.

The six themes expand on the plan's vision and provide direction for key functions across the entire core area:

- Democracy and Meaning;
- Beauty and Majesty;
- Sustainability and Resilience;
- Vibrancy and Animation;
- Tourism and Local Economy;
- Access and Mobility.

The plan's concept illustrates the main spatial patterns of the core area and provides form-based policy direction. Central ideas, including the centrepiece at the heart of the capital and the balance of capital and civic functions, encourage a thoughtful integration of these spatial patterns to achieve a coherent and seamless capital experience. From these ideas emerges the Capital Realm, which includes nationally important sites and symbols.

Three "big moves" serve as the main catalysts for change in the plan:

- Turn towards the water;
- Make great places;
- Create connections.

These big moves translate the vision's direction into action and serve as the key drivers of transformation in the core area.

Five concept layers are the primary spatial tools of the Core Area Plan:

- Capital Waterfront;
- Capital Open Space;
- Capital Fabric;
- Capital Streetscapes;
- Capital Destinations.

Each layer provides policies that will guide the planning and approval of future projects. These tools range from description-based features classes that provide criteria for design and implementation to identifying areas for key interventions. The layers include key objectives that provide overall orientation, concept maps to direct policy and interventions, and policy categories that will apply to projects and interventions.

The study area is divided into 11 sectors. The Core Area Plan's discussion of each sector includes a map and sector-specific recommendations for the conservation, enhancement and addition of features in the core area. Volume II of the plan will include an implementation strategy to guide the prioritization and implementation of projects and demonstration plans for each sector. The demonstration plans will show pending and future initiatives and will be accompanied by area-specific policies.

This is a long-range plan. It sets a vision for the core area over the next 20 years and aims to be comprehensive, flexible and adaptable.



1

INTRODUCTION

1 INTRODUCTION

The National Capital Core Area Plan is the NCC's primary land-use policy, guiding federal lands in downtown Ottawa and Gatineau. Covering over 30% of the core area, these lands require close collaboration between federal, provincial and municipal partners. The plan, last updated in 2005, is being renewed to address modern challenges such as population growth, climate resilience, the housing crisis, reconciliation and shifting work patterns. Aligned with the Plan for Canada's Capital (2017–2067), it fits within the NCC planning framework, which organizes policies, master plans and projects.

This chapter outlines the plan's scope, its role within the NCC planning framework, and its iterative, design-led process. It also introduces the plan structure, summarizing key chapters that shape the vision, policies and implementation strategies guiding the core area's future.



1.1 SCOPE

The National Capital Core Area Plan is a comprehensive land-use masterplan and the NCC's primary planning reference for the most important federal sites at the centre of the National Capital Region.

The study area spans across the Ottawa River and straddles the provincial boundary between Ontario and Quebec. It covers a landmass of 9 km² including 34 km of shoreline.

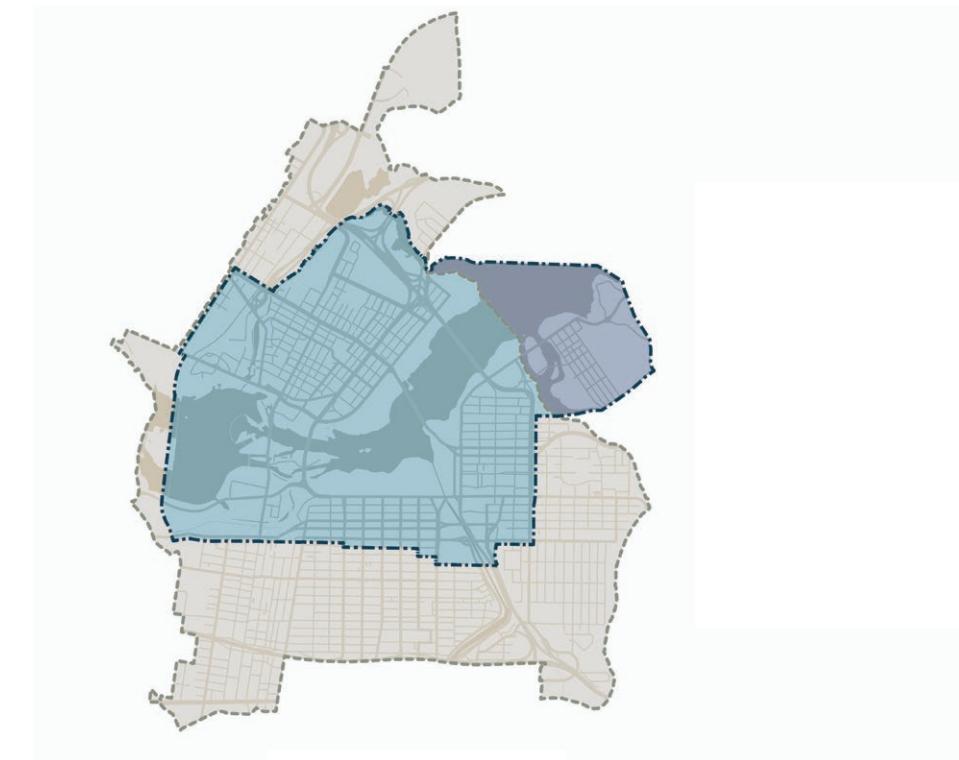
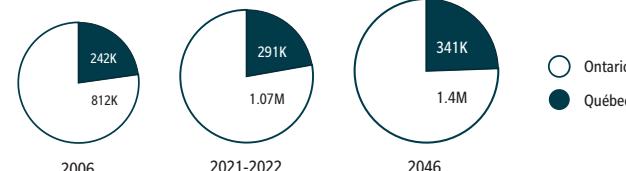
The study area overlaps the downtowns of both Ottawa and Gatineau and fits largely within their collectively defined metropolitan downtown core. While the Core Area Plan is distinct from municipal plans and policies, it is designed to be complementary and aligned with broader urban planning frameworks and objectives in both cities.

Both cities are granted municipal planning authorities under their respective provincial planning acts. As such, they are primarily responsible for local land use planning, zoning and development approvals within their jurisdictions. The plan, while aligning with municipal objectives, provides a broader, long-term vision that reflects national priorities, cross-jurisdictional coordination and the unique role of the Capital. It guides the implementation of new interventions and sets the vision for the future of the Capital core area.



National Capital Region

Population



Ottawa and Gatineau
Metropolitan Boundaries

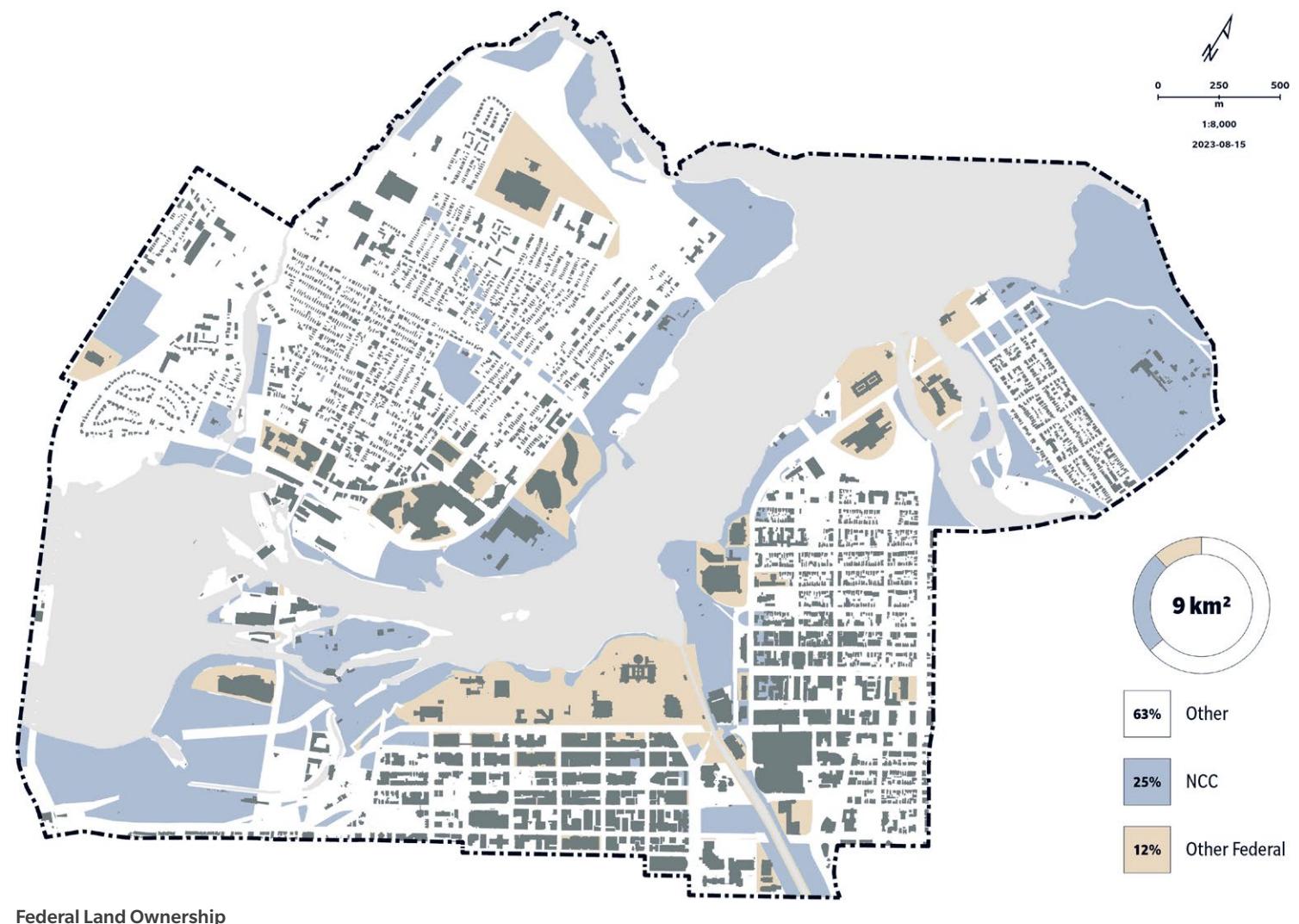
- Core Area Boundary
- Metropolitan Downtown Core
- Metropolitan Downtown Core Only
- Both Areas
- Core Area Boundary Only

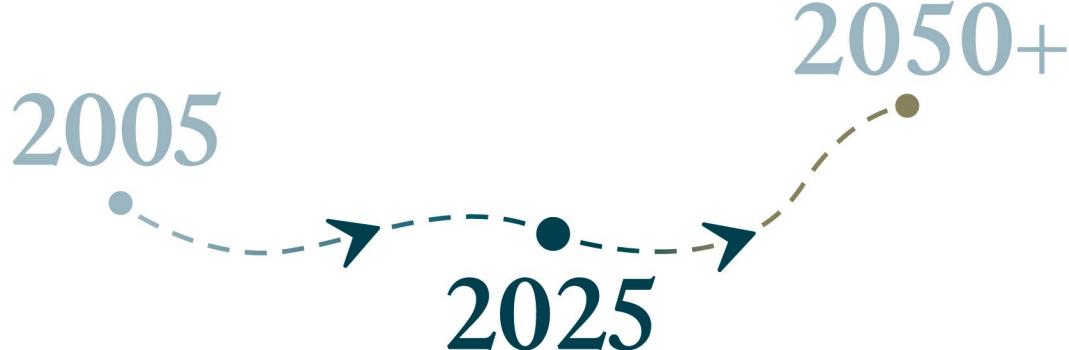
1.2 NCC MANDATE

As mandated by the *National Capital Act*, the NCC prepares plans for federal lands in the National Capital Region, with the purpose to plan, protect and promote the long-term vision of Canada's Capital. The NCC is the principal planner of the National Capital Region and the steward of federal lands owned by the NCC. The NCC ensures that development aligns with national interests, enhances the region's symbolic and functional roles, and reflects high standards of design and sustainability.

Over 30% of the lands in the core area are owned by the Government of Canada. The NCC is the single largest land holder. These lands include key cultural and institutional sites, parks, shorelines and critical infrastructure that contribute to the identity and livability of the Capital.

The NCC oversees a rigorous federal approvals process to ensure that projects align with National Capital planning objectives. This authority results from the NCC's role as the planner for the capital and regulator of federal land use and development. Through this process, the NCC plays a key role in shaping a resilient, dynamic and inclusive Capital Region.





1.3 PURPOSE

The Core Area Plan has a planning horizon of approximately 20 years, envisioning the future of the Capital at mid-century. The previous plan was adopted in 2005. Since that time, a number of legislative, social and contextual changes have occurred that have required updating and integration in this plan. Some of these trends and topics include:

- Updating the NCC's Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067, and its milestone projects;
- Passing of the Accessible Canada Act and the need for greater accessibility and inclusivity;
- Implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action;
- Recognition of the Rideau Canal as a UNESCO World Heritage Site;
- Security considerations for the design of institutions and public spaces;
- Global pandemic that impacted the use of and demand for public spaces;
- Shifting hybrid work and movement trends;
- Increasing the frequency and intensity of climate change impacts;
- Intensifying and developing new neighbourhoods such as Zibi and LeBreton Flats; and
- Observing population growth in the National Capital Region resulting in mounting pressures on housing, infrastructure and green spaces.

To address these challenges and opportunities, the Core Area Plan outlines policies and recommendations that will guide the future development of federal lands, reinforcing the continued distinctiveness and vitality of the heart of the National Capital. Success will depend on the commitment and collaboration of federal, provincial and municipal partners, along with key stakeholders.

Further details regarding the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and partners will be outlined in the implementation strategy, as part of Volume II, ensuring a coordinated approach to implementation and long-term stewardship of the core area.

1.4 INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

The core area is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Nation. The NCC recognizes the deep connections that the Algonquin Nation has to these lands and acknowledges its historical and ongoing presence in the region.

The NCC has a longstanding relationship with the communities of the Algonquin Nation and is committed to fostering meaningful, respectful and ongoing engagement.

The NCC will continue its ongoing engagement with the Algonquin Nation and will provide opportunities for further engagement on specific projects or initiatives stemming from this plan. This includes:

- Ongoing collaboration in the development and implementation of projects;
- Opportunities for cultural recognition within public space, commemorations and interpretive initiatives;
- Consideration of traditional knowledge and perspectives in planning and design.

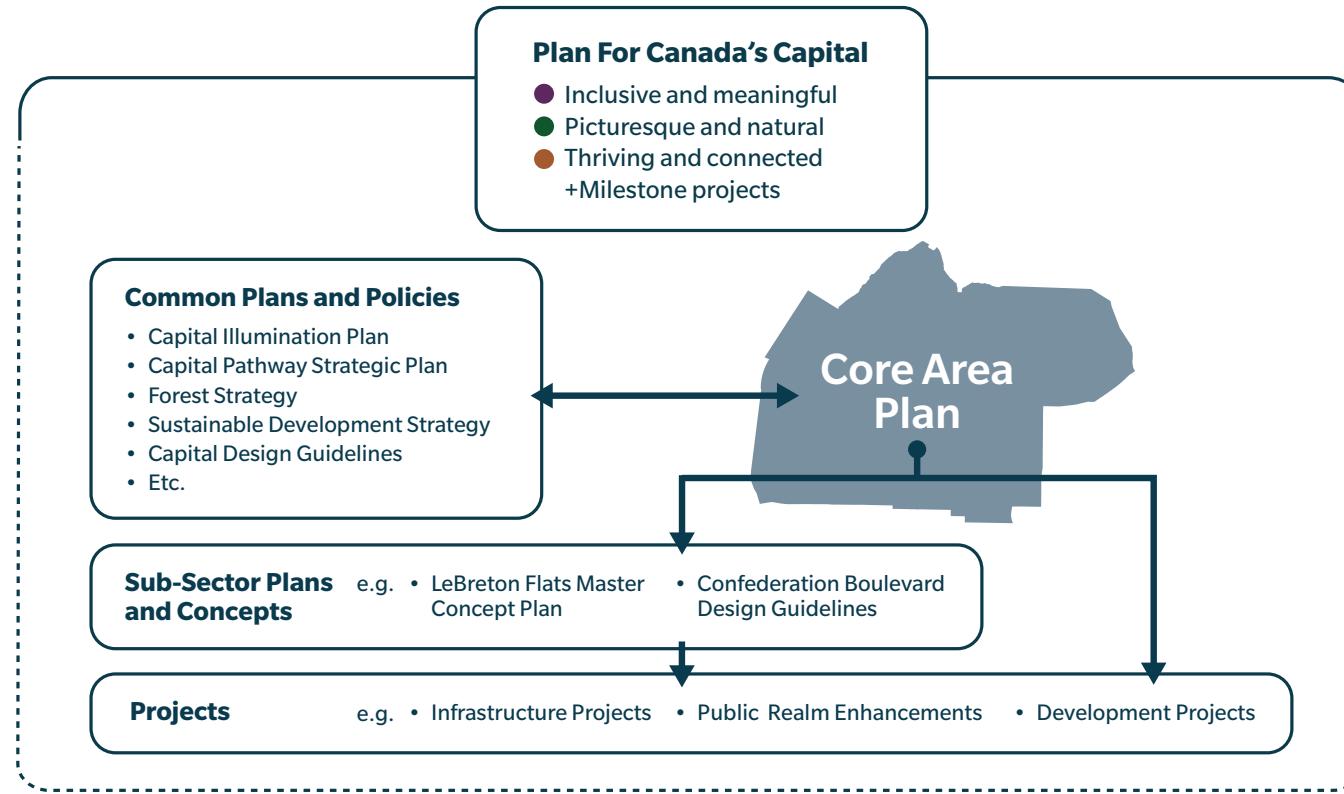
Through these efforts, the NCC aims to strengthen relationships, support truth and reconciliation and ensure that Indigenous perspectives are meaningfully reflected in the future of the core area.

1.5 NCC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Core Area Plan works within the broader NCC Capital planning framework. This framework establishes a hierarchy and structure of federal land-use plans and policies.

The Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067, is the NCC's premier planning document. It outlines the future of federal lands in the National Capital Region between Canada's sesquicentennial in 2017, and its bicentennial in 2067. It establishes three broad goals to create an inclusive and meaningful, picturesque and natural, and thriving and connected Capital. These goals, along with milestone projects, provide the foundation for all subsequent planning efforts. Beneath the Plan for Canada's Capital, four master plans provide comprehensive land-use planning policies for specific geographies within the region: the core area, urban lands, the Greenbelt and Gatineau Park. The Core Area Plan responds to, and expands upon, the overarching goals and policies established by the Plan for Canada's Capital (2017).

The Core Area Plan is complemented by several supporting NCC plans that provide more detailed policies and guidelines on particular themes and topics, including: the Capital Illumination Plan, the Capital Pathway Strategic Plan, the Forest Strategy, the Sustainable Development Strategy, Canada's Capital Views Protection and the Capital Design Guidelines. These documents provide targeted guidance on various elements in order to ensure that all initiatives align with broader planning objectives.

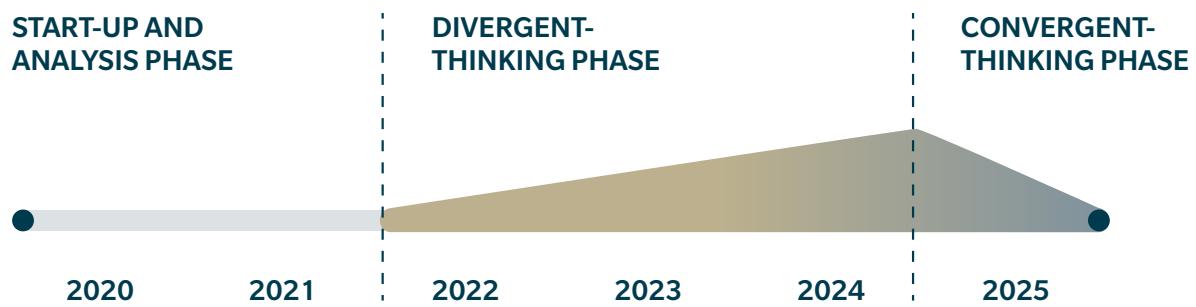


In addition, the Core Area Plan is supported by several nested subsector plans and concepts. These plans focus on specific locations and districts and include the LeBreton Flats Master Concept Plan, the Ottawa River North Shore Parklands Plan and the Confederation Boulevard Design Guidelines. In special instances, subsectors may include other federal plans such as the Long Term Vision & Plan for the Parliamentary Precinct Campus and the Judicial Precinct Master Plan. These plans help bridge the high-level policies with site-specific strategies, ensuring that federal lands evolve in a cohesive and meaningful way.

At the implementation level, various projects put these planning concepts into action. These can include infrastructure projects, public realm enhancements and real estate development projects.

1.6 PROCESS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Core Area Plan was developed through an iterative, design-led process based on three key phases.



1 Start-up and analysis phase, to understand the current context, opportunities and constraints to inform the plan update. This included a third-party evaluation of the prior plan (2005), as well as extensive mapping and analysis work to identify key inputs, geographic data and pending projects.

- Evaluation of 2005 plan
- Existing conditions report
- Mapping and base plans

2 Divergent-thinking phase, to explore a broad range of ideas and possibilities and develop key components and options for discussion. This included public workshops, kiosks, surveys and pop-up events, as well as inputs from subject matter experts, community representatives and partner agencies to explore ideas and alignment.

- Vision, big moves and themes
- Concepts and sectors

3 Convergent-thinking phase, to inform decision-making and validate the plan's recommendations. This included public and stakeholder review and feedback.

- Draft plan
- Demonstration plans and visuals

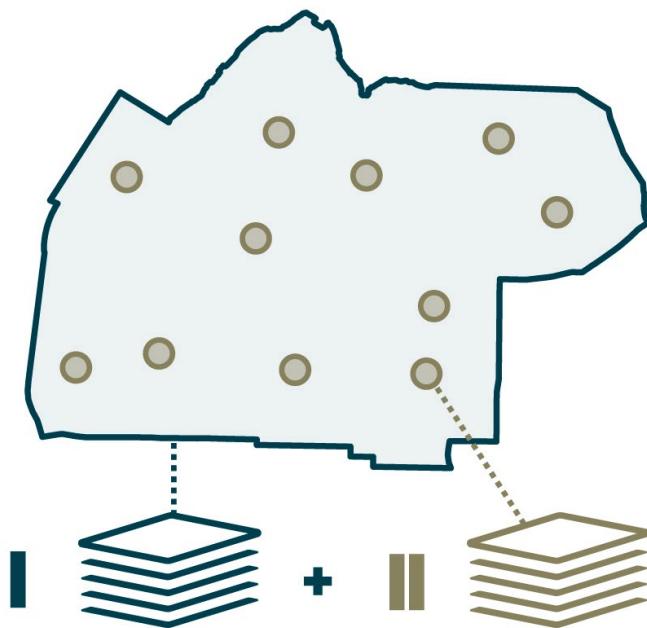
Throughout the process, stakeholder engagement and public consultation have played a crucial role in shaping the plan's development. Participation in this process has included valuable input from a number of participants, including a public advisory committee, community associations, business associations and the public at large.

The NCC appreciates everyone who has contributed time and comments to the development of this plan.



1.7 PLAN STRUCTURE

The plan is divided in two volumes as follows.



Volume I

- **Vision.** Presents the long-term vision for the Capital core area through to mid-century, underpinned by five guiding principles.
- **Place and Setting.** Explores the layered history and evolution of the core area, including its cultural landscapes, built heritage and planning legacies. It identifies character-defining features and foundational concepts to be carried forward in the plan.
- **Themes.** Presents key objectives organized under six overarching categories. These themes reflect the broad and unique functions of a National Capital and apply across the entire core area as a whole; they serve as aspirational guiding statements, to frame decision-making future intent.
- **Concepts.** Translates the vision into a spatial framework and structuring land-use policies. It introduces three big moves that will drive the most impactful changes for the future. It further defines feature-based policies organized around five distinct concept layers, each providing qualitative criteria to guide future projects and interventions.
- **Sectors.** Provides key recommendations for specific geographic areas within the core area. Volume II will include detailed policies for each sector.
- **Plan Administration.** Outlines the adoption, authorities and processes to administer the plan, such as federal approval requirements, review and amendment of the plan.

Volume II

- **Demonstration Plans.** Presents geographic plans and policies for each sector that serve to illustrate and visualize the intended outcome. They do not necessarily represent the ultimate future outcome, but offer a baseline scenario that includes pending and future planned projects that will aid in the planning and evaluation of future projects.
- **Implementation Strategy.** Describes the roles, responsibilities and partnerships required to implement the plan as well as short-, medium- and long-term priorities. It also presents monitoring and evaluation targets to measure the success of the plan over time.



2

VISION

2 VISION

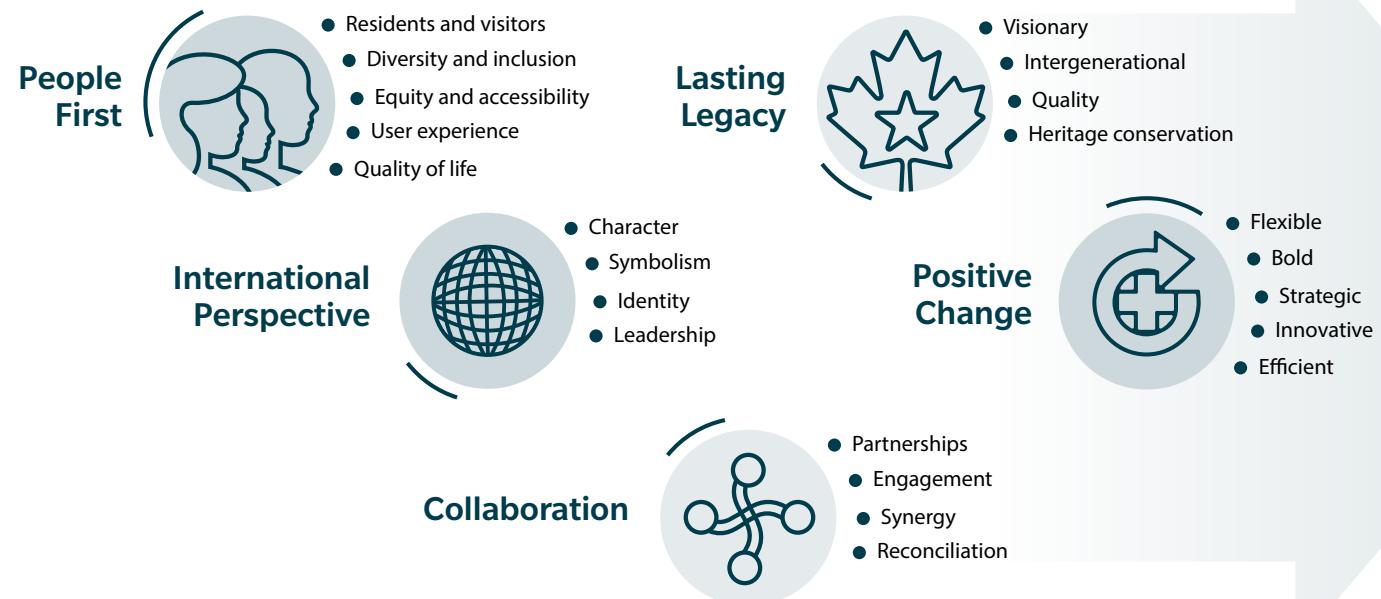
The Core Area Plan establishes a long-term vision for the centre of the Capital at the middle of this century and beyond. Projects and interventions that stem from the Core Area Plan should contribute to the overall vision for the future of the heart of the Capital.

This vision statement carries forward the most important aspects of past plans and emphasizes crucial aspects of national importance. It describes what success will look like over the coming decades, and establishes a benchmark for future actions.

Vision Statement

“The heart of the Capital is a beautiful, sustainable, vibrant and entertaining space for living, working and discovering Canada, a place where all Canadians and visitors can gather and celebrate in all seasons.

The core area houses the seat of the Government of Canada, its high-quality built form and public realm reflect its national significance and enhance the Capital’s international presence.”



Guiding Principles

The vision is supported by five guiding principles. These principles are aligned with the NCC’s corporate values and commitments and should be used as lenses for decision-making.

People First: Start with the public experience.

International Perspective: Represent Canada for the world.

Lasting Legacy: Think and invest long-term.

Positive Change: Leverage changes as bold opportunities.

Collaboration: Mobilize and empower a variety of actors.



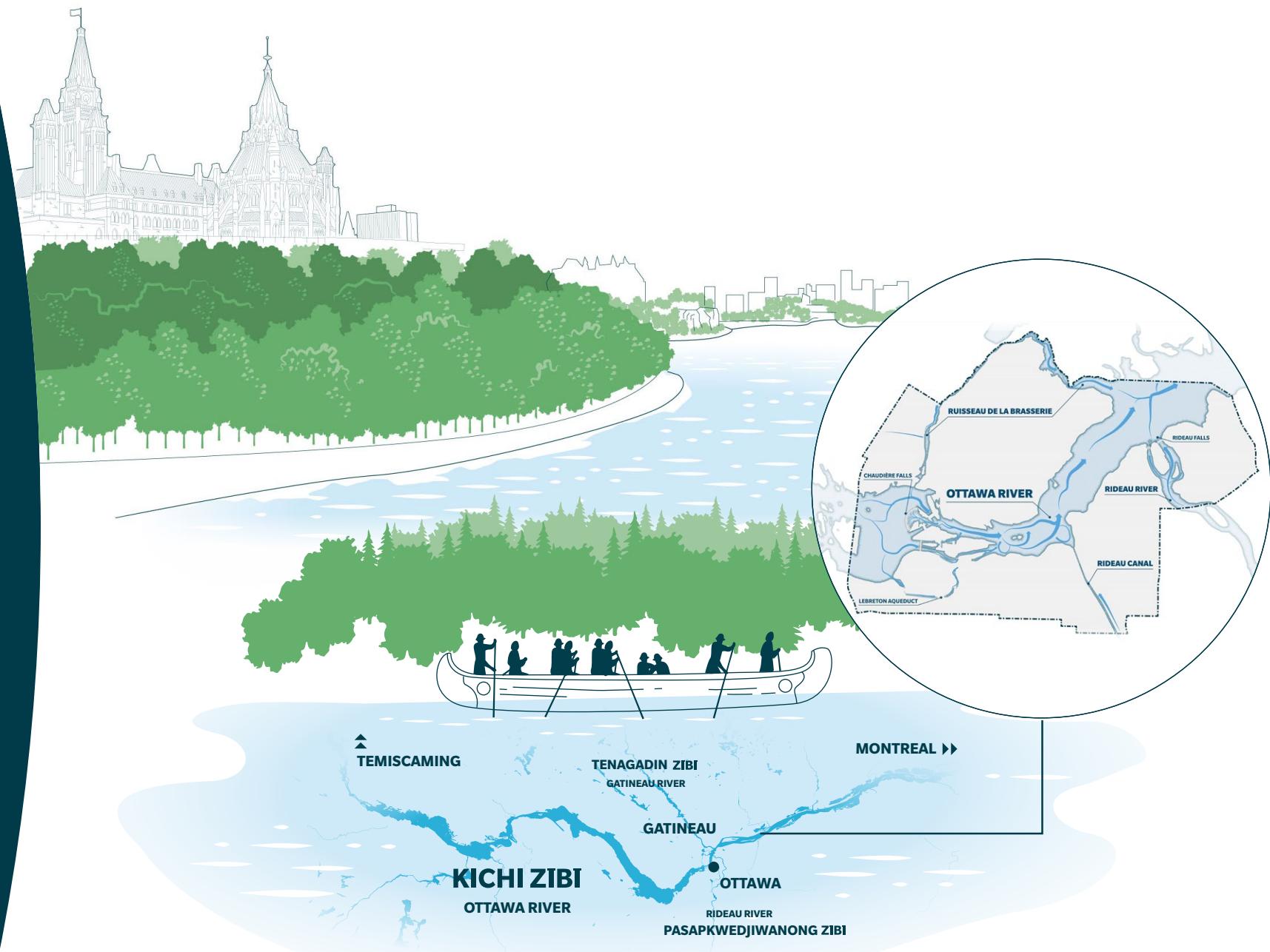
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PLACE AND SETTING

3 PLACE AND SETTING

The core area is a richly layered tapestry of iconic sites and places of meaning set within the natural beauty of its northern geography. It contains many of the Capital's most important landmarks and is a reflection of Canadian identity to the world.

Canada's capital is located at the confluence of the Ottawa (Kichi Zībī), Gatineau (Tenagadin Zībī) and Rideau (Pasapkwedjiwanong Zībī) rivers. It is situated on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Nation, along Kichi Zībī, or "the Great River," which stretches from Temiscaming to Montreal. Its picturesque natural beauty of steep escarpments, rocky outcrops, lush vegetation and dramatic waterfalls is the setting for iconic places and national symbols that reflect Canadian identity to the world.



3.1 A BRIEF HISTORY

Traditional Territory

The Algonquin Nation has had a continuous presence along the Ottawa River for thousands of years. The Kichi Zibī watershed has been used by First Nations for cultural exchanges and to sustain life. Oral histories and archaeological evidence have revealed traces of seasonal camps, harvesting and winter preparations, gatherings and ceremonies and portage routes. To this day, the history and culture of the Algonquin Nation is intrinsically linked to the land and waters of the region. The Ottawa Valley contains hundreds of archaeological sites, telling a part of the story of the intimate relationship with the land, extensive trade routes and communication networks enabled by the Great River and its tributaries.

European Exploration and Trade

The Algonquin Nation facilitated early European exploration, leading to cohabitation and exchanges. The river was a major route for European explorers and fur traders. The natural features which give the National Capital Region its beauty and character, namely the rivers and pristine forests, were also the impetus for settlement and development beginning in the early 19th century. The area's first permanent settlers laid roots on the north shore of the Ottawa River. This settlement became Hull. The timber trade dominated the region's economy throughout the 19th century and brought with it an influx of people.



Capital City

Military defence of Britain's North American colony in the early 19th century led to the construction of the Rideau Canal beginning in 1826. An engineering marvel, this 202 km long navigable waterway connecting Montreal and the Ottawa River with Lake Ontario at Kingston was one of the first of its kind built for steam-powered vessels, boosting commercial development in the fledgling settlement of Bytown. Bytown was renamed Ottawa in 1855 and two years later Queen Victoria chose Ottawa—with its defensible location and situated on the border of Ontario and Quebec—as the capital of the Province of Canada. Sweeping transformations to the townscape followed. The spectacular promontory overlooking the Ottawa River was selected as the site of the Parliament buildings, officially opened in 1866. With Canadian Confederation (1867), federal planning was largely concentrated around Parliament Hill, and it was also at this time that Government House (Rideau Hall) was acquired as the official residence of the governor general.

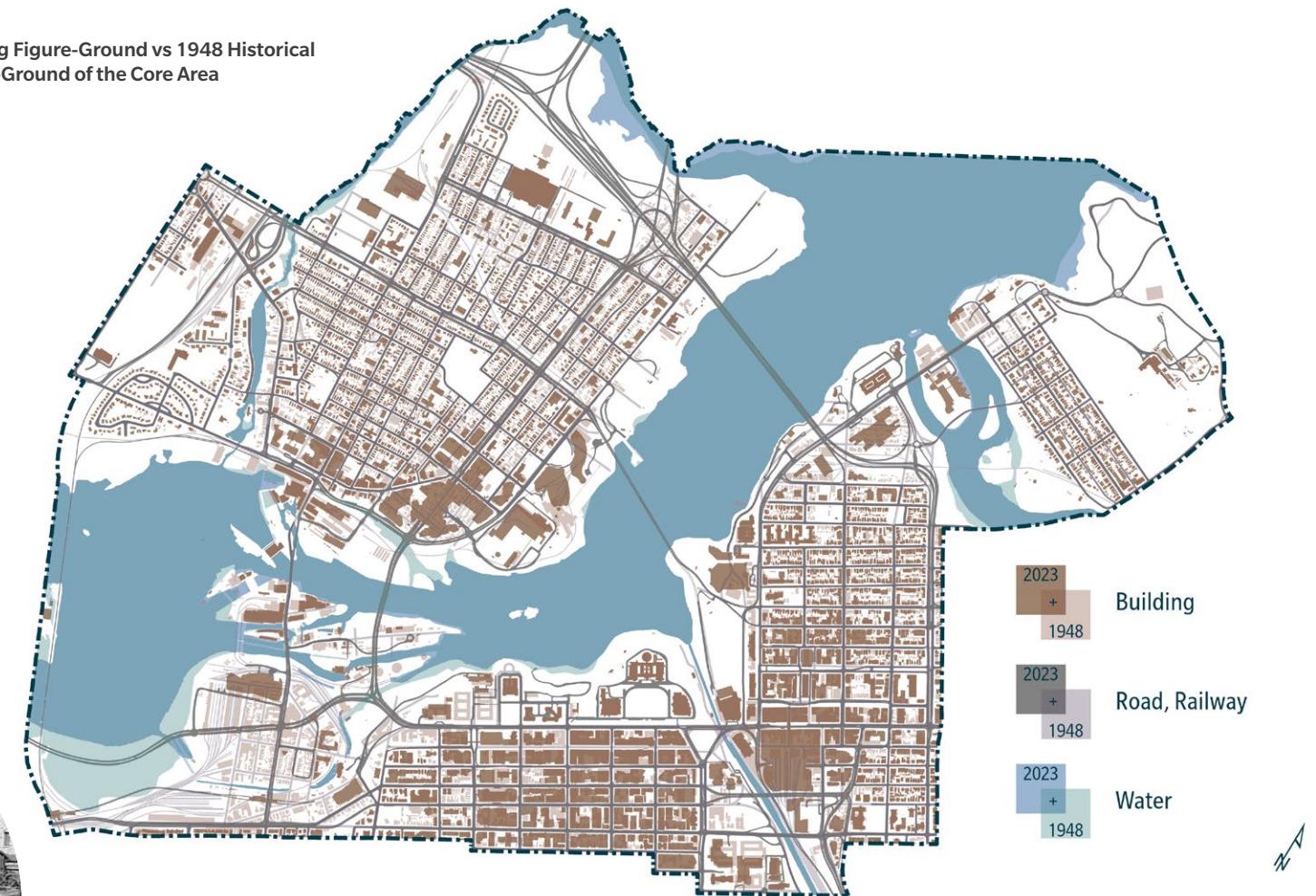


Expansion

Connections by water, rail and road enhanced expansion of the Capital. Not only was the Ottawa River used to float impressive rafts of timber to eastern markets, but many industries were established at the river's edge near the Chaudières and Rideau falls for waterpower. In the late 19th century, the force of the Chaudières Falls was harnessed for hydroelectric power, driving innovation and transforming the Capital. This new technology illuminated streets and buildings, powered streetcars and electrified the industrial landscapes of Ottawa and Hull. Bridges played an important role in connecting people and businesses around the core area, while the arrival of the railway in the 1850s led to an expanding rail network serving the urban core. Elements of all these transformative eras can still be seen in the fabric of the core area today.



Existing Figure-Ground vs 1948 Historical Figure-Ground of the Core Area





National War Memorial

3.2 CORE AREA LANDMARKS

The core area's geography and history combine to create a unique cultural landscape. Over time, the features and context have evolved to serve as the foundation on which we continue to build. It is crucial to consider the physical and cultural heritage and history when proposing interventions and projects. The intertwining of physical and cultural features includes the image of Parliament rising out of the escarpment overlooking the Ottawa River, and the "pleasure grounds" on the perimeter plateau of Parliament Hill. The core area is home to many features that collectively form part of its history and cultural landscape. Each of them contributes to the shared history and context. Many of these places are designated for their heritage value representing international, national and municipal significance. While others hold no formal designation they nevertheless contribute to the overall historic context. The following list is not exhaustive but provides an overview of some of the landmarks that make the Capital core area distinct.



Parliament Hill

When Ottawa was selected as the capital of the Province of Canada in 1857, the commanding site overlooking the Ottawa River where military barracks stood was selected for the future Parliament buildings. The design of the neo-Gothic buildings and their remarkable landscape with magnificent uninterrupted vistas led to a striking and symbolic image of Parliament rising out of the escarpment overlooking the Ottawa River. Parliament Hill, a national historic site and classified federal heritage complex, is critical to the functioning of Canada's democracy, and is a destination for millions of visitors every year.



Supreme Court of Canada

The Supreme Court of Canada is the preeminent symbol of Canada's justice system at its highest level. Strategically sited on a promontory west of Parliament Hill, the Supreme Court Building is the focal point of the Capital's Judicial Precinct. It is the location of many decisions of national significance.



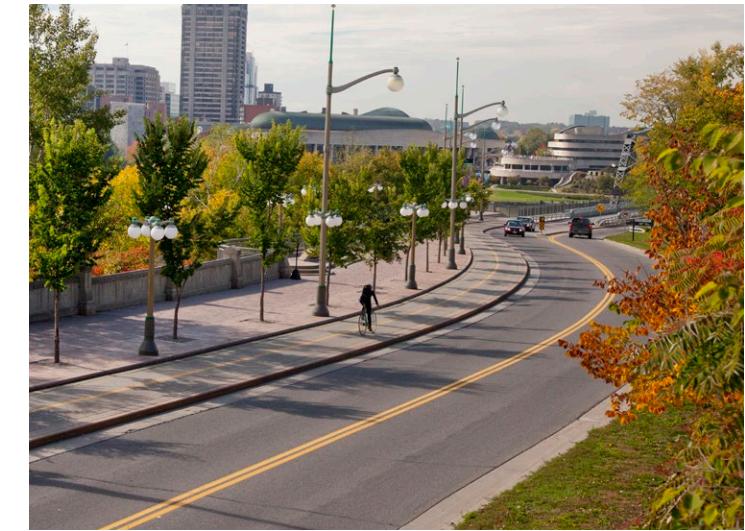
Rideau Hall

Following the establishment of Ottawa as the Capital, in 1865, Rideau Hall became the official residence and workplace of the governor general, the Crown's representative in Canada. This picturesque estate is a national historic site and classified federal heritage complex and the site where many of the constitutional and ceremonial functions of the governor general take place, including citizenship ceremonies, honours and award ceremonies and official visits from dignitaries from around the world.



The Rideau Canal

The Rideau Canal has international heritage value as well as national historic and cultural importance. Constructed between 1826 and 1832, this engineering marvel launched the settlement of Bytown, later Ottawa, and promoted its economic and social development. Still fully operational, the inspiring views to and from the Ottawa Locks, boaters locking through in the summer and the throngs of skaters that flock to the canal in winter are experiences unique to Canada's Capital.



Confederation Boulevard

As Ottawa evolved from a rough timber town to a fledgling capital on the world stage, the route between Rideau Hall and Parliament Hill took on increasing ceremonial importance and added interest as a stately drive to beautify the Capital. This became a priority of the Ottawa Improvement Commission when it was established in 1899. It evolved over the twentieth century to eventually become Confederation Boulevard. Officially inaugurated in 2000, Confederation Boulevard is the Capital's discovery route, linking both sides of the Ottawa River and aims to present a unique Canadian identity that is representative of all Canadians.



National Gallery of Canada

Many other significant sites make up the fabric of the Capital Core Area. Vibrant, historic neighbourhoods such as Lowertown, Old Hull and the ByWard Market attract residents and visitors alike to local businesses and sites. A network of commemorations and monuments illustrate the rich history along with national museums, galleries and event spaces, such as the National Gallery of Canada, the Canadian War Museum, the National Arts Centre and the Canadian Museum of History. The core is also home to several distinct urban parks that offer stunning views of the Capital skyline and waterways, and unique Capital experiences such as Major's Hill Park, Jacques-Cartier Park, Kiweki Point and Confederation Park. These features, and many others, contribute to the cultural landscape of the Capital Core.



ByWard Market



Canadian Museum of History



Rideau Falls



Maison Charron



Château Laurier



Sussex Courtyards



Major's Hill Park



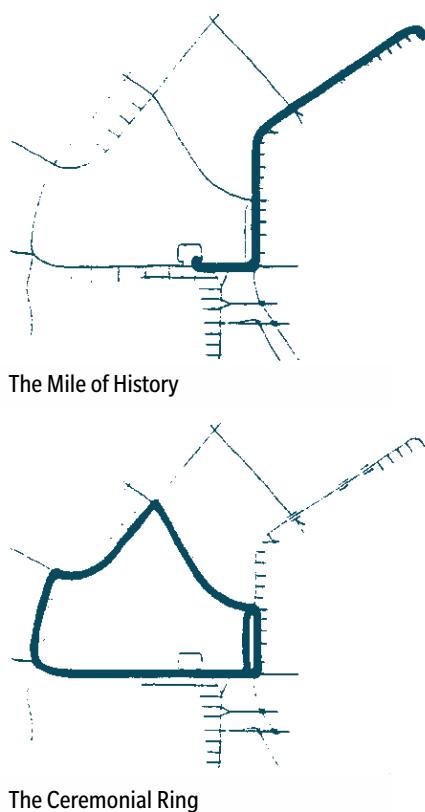
Canadian War Museum



Kiweki Point

3.3 CAPITAL PLANNING LEGACIES

The Core Area Plan continues a Capital-planning legacy spanning over 125 years. Since 1899, the National Capital Commission and its predecessors have worked to plan and build the Capital as a reflection of Canadian values and aspirations. Early plans provided a long-term vision for a National Capital Region spanning both sides of the Ottawa River. Many of these early ideas and initiatives proposed for the Capital have survived to this day and continue to shape the future of the core area.

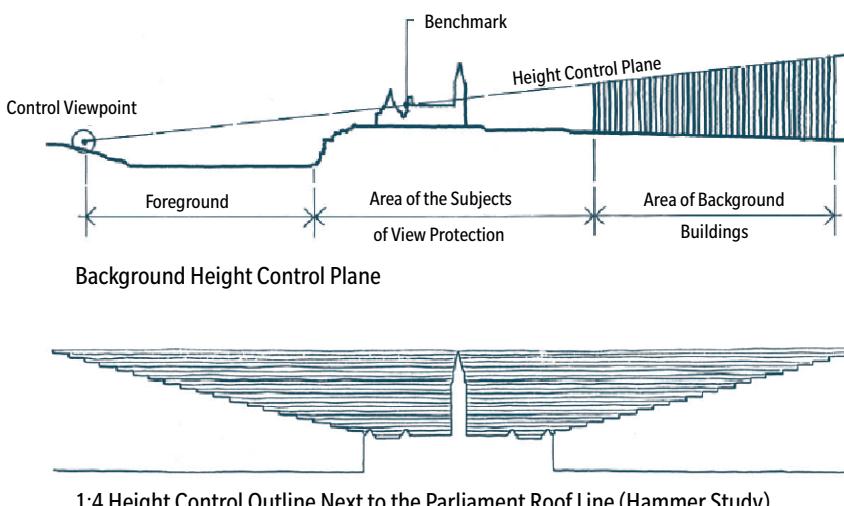


Ceremonial Route

A ceremonial route from Rideau Hall to Parliament has evolved into a discovery route that physically and symbolically links key destinations, such as the Parliamentary and Judicial precincts, and showcases the unique character of Canada's Capital. The Capital's national role is reinforced by the ceremonial function of this route for the opening and dissolution of Parliament, official state visits, the Changing of the Guard, as well as national commemorations, celebrations and democratic expressions.

View Protection

The need to visually protect symbolic buildings in Canada's Capital is important in protecting their national value. The buildings in their landscape setting form a unique ensemble of great significance. Key view planes of iconic national symbols shall be conserved, maintaining vistas that will be visible and prominent for generations to come.

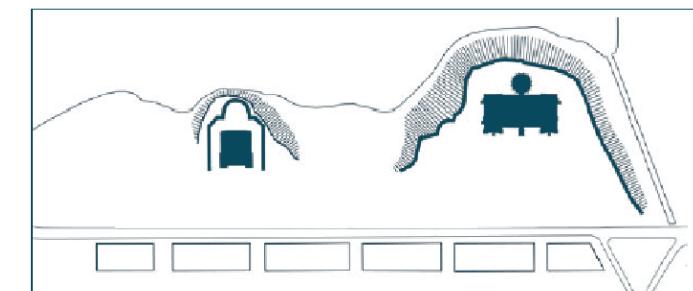


Two Promontories

The sites of the Parliament buildings and the Supreme Court each sit atop a promontory over a heavily vegetated escarpment above the Ottawa River, a symbol of the legislative and judicial branches of our government. Its commanding location persists as an important symbol of Canadian democracy.

Greening the Capital

Since the Capital's earliest plans, federal lands have been purchased, conserved and remediated to create a network of green spaces lining waterways, ensuring permanent public access, and linking key Capital nodes. Previously industrial sites freed up land for new institutions such as the Canadian War Museum and riverfront parks such as Jacques-Cartier Park, that provide vibrancy and access to nature.



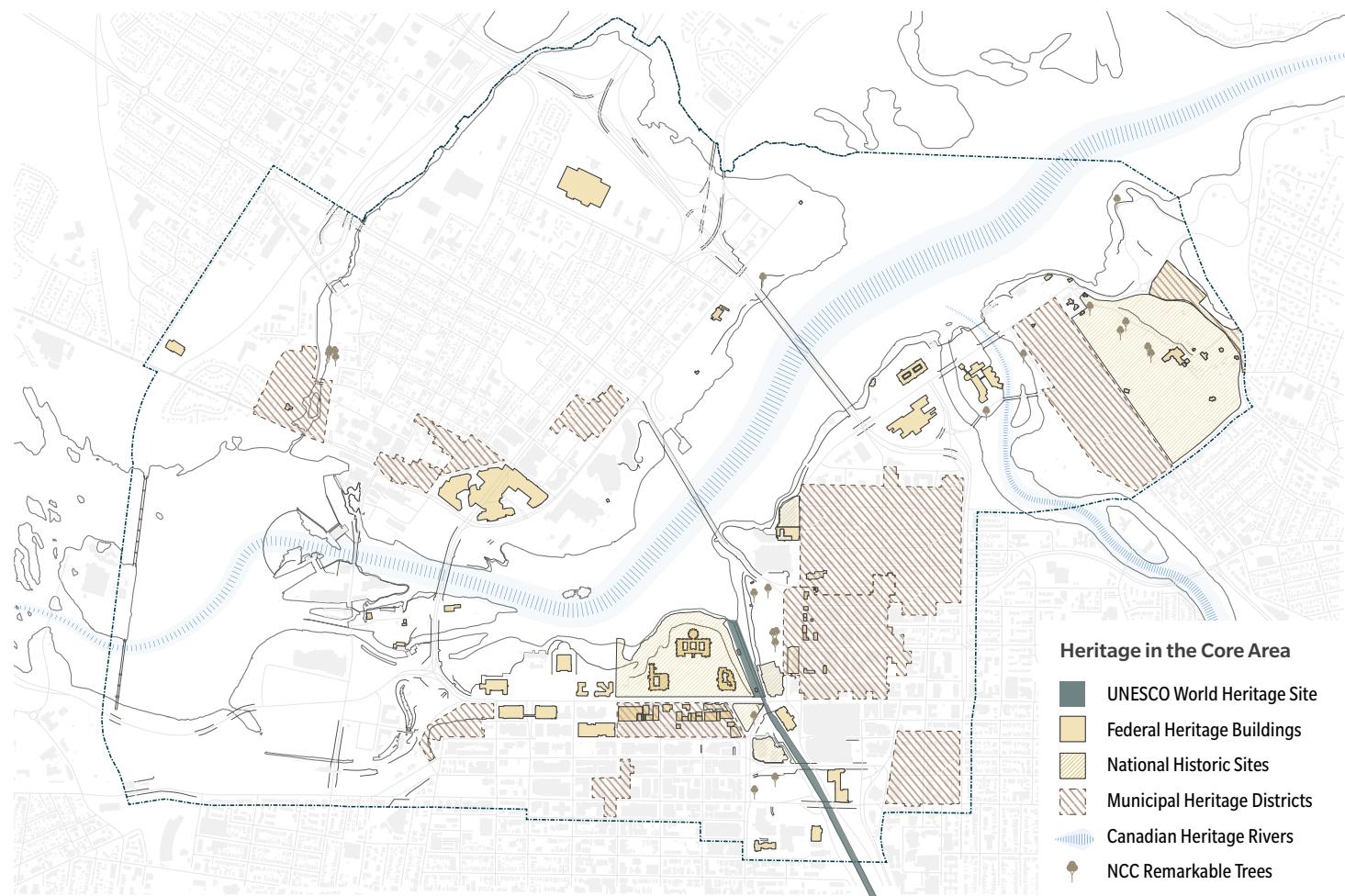
Two Primary Symbols, on Promontories

3.4 HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

The core area encompasses cherished historic places which embody cultural values, traditions, practices and knowledge. Together, these physical and intangible aspects help define Canadian identity. Heritage conservation is at the core of the NCC's mandate under the National Capital Act, its obligations under the Impact Assessment Act and its vision in the Plan for Canada's Capital (2017–2067). The NCC works to conserve and develop sites and landscapes of national interest so that we leave meaningful and inspiring places entrusted to our care for future generations.

In its planning, federal approval and stewardship roles, the NCC has a strong influence over heritage in all its forms: artifacts, archaeological resources, buildings, structures, monuments, landscapes, natural features and intangible elements of heritage value. The NCC also plays an instrumental role in supporting the Government of Canada's heritage policies in the National Capital Region, such as those outlined in the Treasury Board Directive on the Management of Real Property and the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada.

The following map shows designated heritage buildings, sites, districts and natural heritage features that contribute to the overall culture and character of the Capital core area.

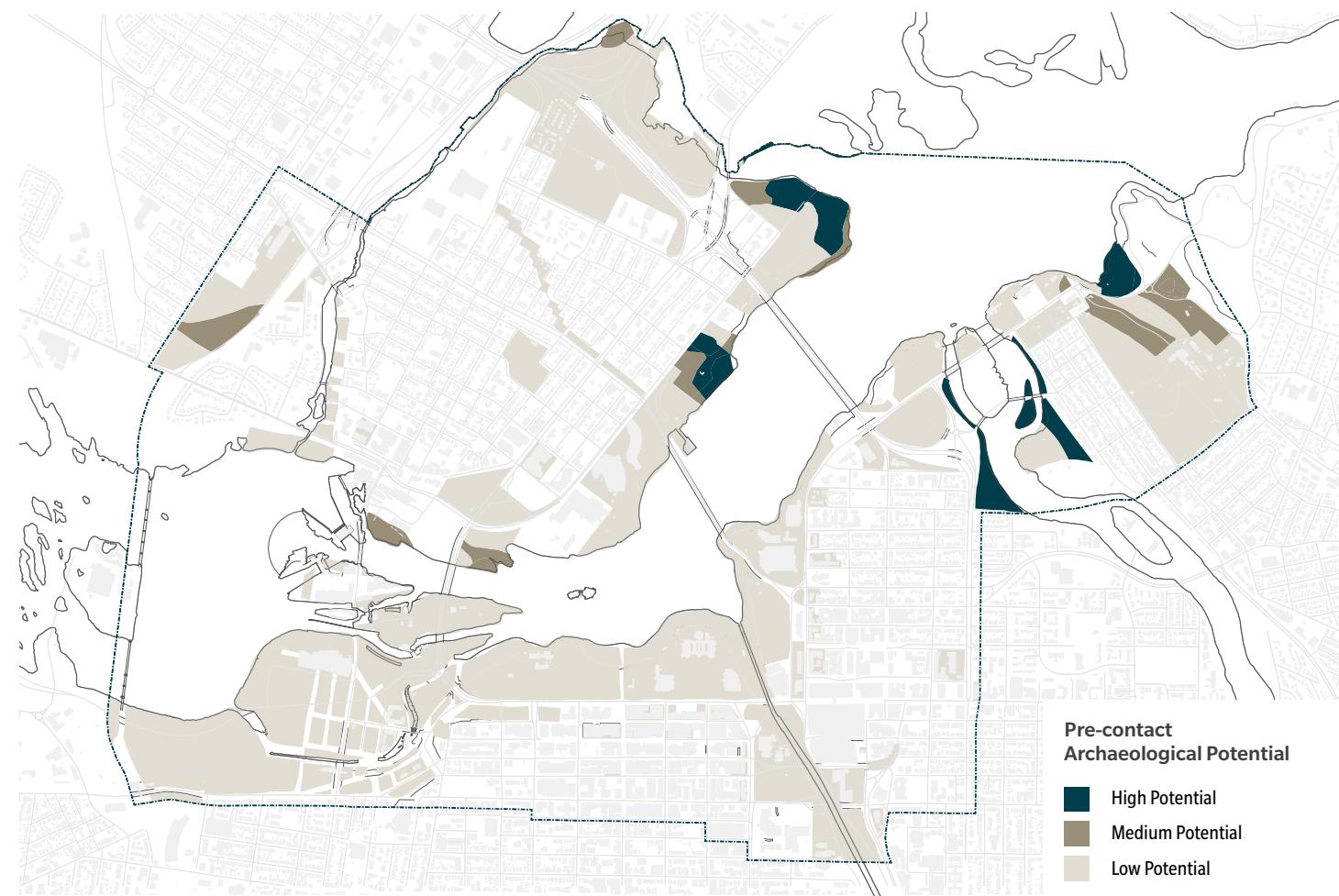


3.4.1 Heritage Policies

- 1 Ensure a heritage conservation approach in the core area that is meaningful and inclusive, honouring Indigenous perspectives and reflecting a diversity of voices, values and stories.
- 2 Acknowledge difficult histories in a spirit of truth and reconciliation.
- 3 Use toponomy to convey heritage values.
- 4 Strive for design excellence and exemplary stewardship in the conservation of heritage buildings, sites and districts, in the core and prioritize their ongoing use and vitality.
- 5 Integrate new additions to heritage buildings and sites, including accessibility, sustainability and security features in a manner that respects their heritage values and character-defining elements.
- 6 Breathe new life into heritage buildings that require new uses, while conserving their heritage value.
- 7 Support a living culture and heritage in the core through partnerships that bring art, cultural activities and interpretation to heritage sites.
- 8 Ensure that historic places in the core are welcoming and accessible to enable public understanding and appreciation of the core area and its history.
- 9 Conserve cultural landscapes and natural heritage features in the core, including remarkable trees and the historic network of Capital parks and boulevards.
- 10 Work together with Parks Canada, Canadian Heritage and the City of Ottawa to protect, conserve, enliven and interpret the Rideau Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Canadian Heritage River and National Historic Site.

3.4.2 Archaeology Policies

- 1 Address the identification and protection of archaeological resources at the earliest stage of project planning.
- 2 Define measures for impact mitigation to allow for the conservation of archaeological resources, and if possible, for their integration within the project.
- 3 Develop a management plan to protect archaeological resources against erosion, irreversible loss of shoreline archaeological sites and other forms of interference where possible.





4
THEMES

4 THEMES

This section outlines overarching policies for key functions across the entire core area, organized into six themes:

- 1 Democracy and Meaning;
- 2 Beauty and Majesty;
- 3 Sustainability and Resilience;
- 4 Vibrancy and Animation;
- 5 Tourism and Local Economy;
- 6 Mobility and Access.

The themes reinforce directions from the Plan for Canada's Capital and alignment with other NCC plans and policies. Together they provide a comprehensive framework to plan and coordinate actions within the core.

Each theme identifies key objectives that will act as organizational targets and should be used as criteria to plan and evaluate projects and initiatives throughout the core area. Both tensions and synergies will exist between many of these guiding statements. In each instance, projects and initiatives will need to carefully consider how they can align and support these aspirations and how competing elements will be harmonized, reconciled or prioritized.





4.1 DEMOCRACY AND MEANING

The Capital is a symbol of democracy, and the core area must highlight Canada's democratic, judicial and cultural institutions as a source of pride and a reflection of our layered histories.



4.1.1 Seat of Government and Justice

The Parliamentary and Judicial precincts are important places of federal business, where the legislative, executive and judicial branches work on behalf of all Canadians. The core area must ensure the safe and effective functioning of the precincts, while preserving and emphasizing the dignity of national symbols.

- 1 Conserve and enhance the symbolic primacy and the visual integrity of Parliament Hill and the Supreme Court of Canada as pre-eminent national symbols.
- 2 The Parliamentary Precinct must embody and express the importance of national democracy. Within the Parliamentary Precinct, promote an integrated campus approach that ensures key functions are centrally located around Parliament Hill, with secondary functions located in proximity and seamlessly integrated into the surrounding urban context.
- 3 The Judicial Precinct must embody and express the fair adjudication of Canadian rights and freedoms. Within the Judicial Precinct, employ a campus approach that consolidates federal court and justice functions, while ensuring clear separation between the two precincts to maintain judicial independence.
- 4 Incorporate appropriate facilities and infrastructure to support the independent operation of the two precincts, as well as the effective and coordinated movement of accredited people and goods throughout the precincts.

4.1.2 Democratic Access

Public access to government sites and institutions for expression, assembly and peaceful protest are essential to a fair and transparent democratic governance. The core area must provide visitor access and educational opportunities for citizens to engage with, and learn about, their democracy.

- 1 Ensure open and secure access to Parliament Hill and lawn, as well as other federal sites, for public assembly, peaceful protest, and engagement with democratic institutions.
- 2 Provide participatory and educational opportunities such as visitor centres, tours and public access to key institutions.
- 3 Provide access and accommodations for press, ensuring media access to democratic institutions and maintaining public spaces where citizens can freely share in ideas and participate in national discourse.

4.1.3 National Presence

The Capital represents Canada internationally, through its physical identity and functions such as embassies and diplomatic missions that foster cultural exchanges and diplomatic relations. The core area must present a dignified and recognizable identity to the world, through landmarks and imagery that attract and welcome visitors worldwide and enrich the Capital's global presence.

The core area must also establish appropriate locations for the fulfillment of international representation and related activities.

- 1 Promote and position the Capital's core area as the primary location for major national and international events, conferences, summits and state visits.
- 2 Promote a cohesive image and regional identity that showcases iconic landmarks and nationally significant institutions.
- 3 Integrate and showcase embassies and diplomatic missions in ways that elevate the international image of the Capital and their respective countries of origin.
- 4 Locate mission offices and diplomatic residences in ways that integrate with and contribute positively to the urban fabric.

4.1.4 Pluralism and Representation

The stories and symbols of the Capital communicate the shared values and the collective Canadian identity. These features include meaningful and inclusive interpretation and commemorative elements that should reflect the diversity and pluralism of Canadians, from Indigenous peoples to new immigrants, as well as across Canada's provinces and territories.

- 1 Support stories or the commemoration of nationally significant people, events and ideas.
- 2 Enhance the symbolic role, aesthetic and educational experience of the core area by ensuring that a comprehensive range of Canadians' perspectives are conveyed through commemorations and public art.
- 3 Coordinate with commemorations and public art programs to provide a diverse offering throughout the core area.
- 4 Recognize the Algonquin Anishinabeg as the host Indigenous nation and engage in the planning and cultural representation of the region.
- 5 Include diverse perspectives of Indigenous peoples from across Canada in keeping with commitments to reconciliation and undertake dialogue with Indigenous communities in the development of interpretive programs.

4.1.5 Federal Workplaces

Federal institutions and administrative functions ensure the execution of federal governance. The core area must accommodate efficient and secure workplaces that support the delivery of federal services and programs.

- 1 Co-locate federal workplaces in walkable areas served by existing or planned public transit and which also support residential and commercial uses.
- 2 Ensure that both federally owned and leased buildings contribute to the overall image, dignity and public trust of the federal government.
- 3 Design federal buildings and workplaces to contribute to the creation of an active and adaptable public realm.
- 4 Support the consolidation of existing federal offices and the disposal of excess properties that are not nationally significant or have reached the end of their lifecycle, as part of the government's long-term real property optimization plans.
- 5 Support government priorities for federal workplaces such as reducing environmental impacts and improving accessibility.



4.1.6 Security

The safe and secure functioning of our democratic institutions is essential to public trust and access to democracy. Appropriate measures must protect the safety and welfare of public officials, public servants and visitors, while maintaining open and transparent access throughout the public realm of the Capital.

- 1 Integrate surveillance and security features thoughtfully into the public realm to minimize visual or physical impacts.
- 2 Coordinate and consolidate vehicle screening and control points, and incorporate perimeter controls into building envelopes, public realm and/or decorative site features with appropriate stand-off distances.
- 3 Design open spaces to be clear, visible and appropriately lit, and encourage adjacent uses that promote regular and frequent activity and movement throughout the spaces.

4.1.7 National Historical Significance

Heritage properties and cultural landscapes embody the history and evolution of the Capital. The core area must showcase and interpret historical sites to foster an understanding of the nation's past and evolution.

- 1 Conserve and showcase archaeological sites and resources, cultural landscapes and heritage buildings and integrate interpretive elements that highlight their historical significance and enhance public understanding.
- 2 Maintain the integrity and historical significance of heritage properties and cultural landscapes by identifying and preserving character defining features such as architectural expression and details, site design, mature trees and patterns of cultural use.
- 3 Promote the adaptive re-use of existing heritage structures and address evolving requirements and innovation including accessibility, sustainability and inclusivity.
- 4 Ensure that new development and landscape interventions are integrated with and fully complement existing sites and national landmarks.

4.1.8 Official Residences

The official residences symbolize the authority and dignity of our constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy. These sites must reflect their historical significance and serve as venues for state receptions, diplomacy and cultural legacy.

- 1 Maintain residences to the highest standards of sustainability, fiscal responsibility and heritage conservation to conserve their function and legacy.
- 2 Provide a secure and dignified environment that ensures privacy, comfort and safety for Canada's leaders, their families, as well as dignitaries and guests.
- 3 Modernize to meet operational and security needs for occupants, employees and visitors in a manner that does not preclude access to surrounding public facilities, open spaces, or detract from the public experience.

4.1.9 Pageantry and Ceremony

Pageantry and ceremonial events play a crucial role in celebrating national achievements, honouring dignitaries and reinforcing civic pride, which contribute to the Capital's cultural vibrancy and international prestige. The core area must deploy flags and banners and provide space for recurrent and ephemeral ceremonies to highlight and symbolize important national moments and events.

- 1 Maintain and enhance Confederation Boulevard's role as the primary ceremonial and visitor experience, including flags, banners and displays for national celebrations and events.
- 2 Encourage the integration of public art in ceremonial spaces to enhance their cultural significance.
- 3 Provide programmable spaces adjacent to Confederation Boulevard that have the capacity to host ceremonial or governmental activities related to the functions of the National Capital.





4.2 BEAUTY AND MAJESTY

The Capital core area must present a dignified character and identity to the rest of the country and to the world, embodied by the elevated quality of its buildings, landscapes and public spaces.



4.2.1 Character and Sense of Place

The intrinsic riverfront landscape and contrasting collection of iconic buildings impart a distinct character, unique amongst world capitals. The core area must showcase the wild picturesque landscapes and unique design features that contribute to its regional character and strong national identity.

- 1 Create a coherent local identity within sectors of the core area, with unique and memorable landmarks and features.
- 2 Incorporate elements of national and local culture, heritage and traditions into the design of buildings and public spaces to reinforce the unique local context.
- 3 Protect, conserve and, where possible, rehabilitate natural features to reinforce the wild picturesque character of the escarpment and riverfront landscape.

4.2.2 Views and Skylines

The Capital's skyline and scenery reflect its identity and memorable image. The core area must conserve the distinctive skyline and visual prominence of Parliament Hill and present beautiful vistas, panoramas and recognizable scenes and landmarks through the strategic arrangement of sightlines and their foreground and background elements.

- 1 Conserve the symbolic primacy of Parliament Hill and the Peace Tower through background building height controls and a curated skyline.
- 2 Prior to any interventions, identify sightlines towards landmarks and dynamic view sequences of Capital significance and demonstrate through the design process how the proposal will enhance the foreground and/or background of these views.
- 3 Treat sites and buildings within the foreground of important Capital scenes and panoramas with heightened importance and ensure that any interventions enhance and frame important views.

4.2.3 Scale and Grandeur

The dramatic topography and landmarks of the Capital create majestic and awe-inspiring settings and experiences. The core area must create grand public spaces and buildings that emphasize the national importance and dignity of the public realm, while enhancing the human-scale experience and intricacy of the urban environment.

- 1 Create grand-scaled public spaces for national gatherings and celebrations that can also function as interesting and intimate places to explore and discover between events.
- 2 Design monumental signature buildings and landmarks at strategic focal points within the Capital.
- 3 Develop fine-grained architecture and public realm designs that create pleasing pedestrian environments and interfaces.

4.2.4 Composition

The core area is an ensemble, comprised of many districts, neighbourhoods and places of special meaning. Careful consideration must be given to the arrangement, form and hierarchy of buildings and public spaces to create a pleasing and visually coherent urban environment.

- 1 Arrange the patterns of streets and buildings to frame public spaces, activate building frontages and create beautiful and permeable entrances into public parklands and plazas.
- 2 Locate new buildings to frame and engage adjacent street fronts, parklands and waterfronts.
- 3 Discretely locate parking, loading and delivery services in ways that sensibly screen and camouflage their presence.

4.2.5 Architectural Expression

The Capital's collection of iconic and vernacular buildings reflects its history, creativity and evolving cultural and societal values. Buildings must be carefully designed and detailed to emphasize and complement the surrounding context through appropriate and contextual forms and styles that reinforce and enhance streetscapes and districts, sometimes as standout iconic features or as supporting background tableaus.

- 1 Architectural forms should be compatible with the adjacent patterns, styles and proportions of adjacent structures through massing and rhythm of division.
- 2 Promote refined, timeless building envelopes and structures that are adaptable to future uses.

4.2.6 Public Realm

The streets, parks and public spaces of the Capital are crucial to its public experience and ambiance. The public realm must demonstrate beautiful verdant landscaping, furnishings and high-quality public streets and plazas to create a beautiful, accessible and pleasing ambiance for civic life, punctuated by art, focal points and lighting.

- 1 Apply elevated standards of public realm design and streetscape elements and develop bespoke designs and furnishings to enhance important sites and places, where appropriate.
- 2 Provide finely detailed patterns and materials that add visual interest and refinement to the public realm.
- 3 Promote human-scaled design, accessibility, inclusivity and engagement for all users and visitors in the public realm.



4.2.7 Quality and Materials

The importance of national buildings and public spaces is conveyed through the quality of design, craftsmanship and materials employed. The core area must maintain a high quality of design through refined detailing, patterns and motifs that enhance the core area's visual appeal and cultural richness, as well as a palette of authentic and noble materials that add texture and character and that will age gracefully for decades to come.

- 1 Ensure high-quality urban design standards and materials for all federal properties, buildings and infrastructure projects, appropriate to their significance and location.
- 2 Consider processes such as national design competitions to promote Canadian designs for important developments.
- 3 Promote the use of noble and authentic building materials from Canadian or local sources, (such as natural stone and metals) that will age gracefully and contribute to the long-term patina and legacy of the Capital.

4.3 SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

The Capital core area must champion sustainability and demonstrate national leadership in climate resilience.



4.3.1 Responsible Consumption

Responsible consumption is essential to minimizing environmental impacts by limiting waste, conserving resources such as water and promoting sustainable practices. The core area must exemplify resource-efficient practices and technologies, such as the repurposing of underutilized buildings and structures and the use of low-carbon and recyclable building materials.

- 1 High-density, compact urban development is the norm in the core area.
- 2 Prioritize the rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of existing buildings and the use of low-carbon building materials to reduce embodied carbon and maximize the lifespan of structures.
- 3 Design buildings to reduce resource consumption and demand for water and energy, and to be net-zero carbon ready.
- 4 Adopt enduring, high-quality design principles that prioritize longevity, divert waste from landfills and reduce the need for replacement or disposable materials.

4.3.2 Climate Change

The impact of climate change is being felt globally and locally and is expected to continue to intensify and affect the National Capital Region. The core area can anticipate a rise in extreme heat, intensification of precipitation, more frequent and extreme weather and flooding, as well as a shift in seasonal variability. Therefore, the core area must adopt innovative solutions to create a low-carbon, livable and resilient urban environment in the face of a changing climate.

- 1 Encourage renewable energy solutions such as district energy systems or on-site renewable energy sources.
- 2 Deploy energy-saving technologies and green infrastructure in public spaces and buildings such as green and cool roofs, water features, natural ventilation, shading elements and thermal mass considerations to reduce reliance on energy-intensive heating and cooling technologies.
- 3 Support active transportation and public transit to reduce the reliance on private vehicles and lower transportation emissions.
- 4 Select street trees and ornamental urban plantings suitable to future climate projections, such as drought-tolerant or heat-tolerant species that reduce erosion, regulate water cycles and enhance filtration.
- 5 Prioritize on-site stormwater management solutions, such as bioswales and permeable surfaces that decrease storm run-off.
- 6 Anticipate future flood projections and design flood-resilient waterfront developments, infrastructure and parkland to increase lifecycle and reduce financial risks.
- 7 Develop programs and activities to seasonal variabilities such as variable winter temperatures with frequent freeze-thaw events, and hotter and drier summers.

4.3.3 Natural Capital

Green spaces and natural assets add exceptional value to the core area. They deliver an array of services such as recreation, air quality control, stormwater management and climate regulation. The core area must conserve and enhance ecosystem services to maximize the economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits of natural assets and ensure that residents and visitors have access to diverse, high-quality green spaces that promote health and well-being while sustaining biodiversity.

- 1** Where the existing or planned context allows, prioritize infrastructure solutions in the following order: natural, enhanced, engineered asset, grey infrastructure.
- 2** Increase the total coverage and health of the urban forest (including parkland and street trees) with the increased planting of large canopy trees and understory vegetation.
- 3** Diversify parkland vegetation to create biodiverse urban habitats, and protect sensitive and unique areas of riparian, meadow or woodland habitat.
- 4** Improve urban habitat connectivity and biodiversity by creating green corridors, implementing native planting and bird protections for developments and managing invasive species and ecological threats, where possible.





4.4 VIBRANCY AND ANIMATION

The Capital core area must be, and project the image of, a dynamic place that offers opportunities for recreational activities, cultural programming and gatherings that infuse it with urban energy and vitality.



4.4.1 Cultural Institutions

Cultural attractions, including museums and galleries, serve as focal points for cultural exchanges, education and tourism, enriching the Capital's cultural fabric and attracting visitors from around the world. The core area must present a collection of cultural institutions and installations that showcase national and local expressions of history and culture.

- 1 Enhance the network of existing national cultural attractions to showcase performances and displays of national calibre.
- 2 Support diverse cultural venues of varying scales (including federal, municipal, public and private) that offer a range of programming and artistic expressions to engage a wide array of audiences.
- 3 Activate the spaces around cultural institutions, ensuring that their entrances and interfaces are welcoming, accessible, lively and visually engaging.

4.4.2 Events and Celebrations

Events and celebrations are integral to the vibrancy of the Capital and foster community interest and national pride. The core area must showcase national celebrations as well as enable a range of festivals, concerts and public gatherings, to create opportunities for social interaction, economic growth and cultural exchanges.

- 1 Improve the network of parks, plazas and animation points to accommodate a range of national and local events and celebrations year-round.
- 2 Prioritize Confederation Boulevard and Parliament Hill as a backdrop and iconic setting for national events and celebrations.
- 3 Minimize impacts on public spaces by designing purpose equipped sites for major national events.

4.4.3 Street Life and Public Space

Streets and public spaces serve as the stage for urban life and social interaction and enable services and amenities. The core area must cultivate and support vibrant street life and neighbourhood ambiances by promoting pedestrian-friendly environments, activating underutilized spaces, and enabling active building frontages, street vendors and performances.

- 1 Support a critical mass of businesses and residents capable of supporting sustained foot traffic and economic vitality.
- 2 Encourage buildings that offer ground-floor retail, cafes, restaurants and community services, especially those near public spaces.
- 3 Support spill-out zones, courtyards, plazas and transition spaces that can support lively patio and courtyard uses, designed to be accessible and safe with sufficient amenities and furnishings.
- 4 Consider the temporary use of streets and plazas for public events and festivals, both local and national.

4.4.4 Art and Cultural Offerings

A diverse array of art and cultural offerings enhances the vibrancy of the Capital. The core area must promote and foster national and local artists, cultural events, commemoration and interpretation activities and other experiences that create a diversity of experiences for residents and visitors alike.

- 1 Feature public artworks that add visual interest throughout the public realm such as sculptures, murals and interactive, ephemeral or temporary installations.
- 2 Support temporary and event-based art, enabling pop-up installations, performances and digital media that reflect the evolving cultural identity of the Capital.
- 3 Celebrate national and local culinary and food culture, supporting markets, food festivals and diverse culinary experiences that highlight regional and cultural traditions.

4.4.5 Nightlife and All-Season

A vibrant nightlife scene is especially important to the enjoyment and allure of a Capital during all seasons. The core area must include safe and inviting nightlife destinations, with beautiful lighting, services and activities that create a lively and dynamic experience after dark and year-round.

- 1 Employ a coordinated Capital lighting strategy to showcase key landmarks in a dramatic and ecologically appropriate manner.
- 2 Promote a network of nightlife destinations and encourage cultural attractions and businesses to stay open late into the evening (considering the impacts on adjacent neighbourhoods).
- 3 Provide intimate, high-quality urban lighting around pedestrian destinations and attractions to create a safe, comfortable and inviting ambiance (especially during the winter months).
- 4 Consider winter appeal and provide seasonal installations such as decorative lighting, warming stations and colourful displays to add interest and comfort during longer evenings and inclement weather.



4.4.6 Play and Discovery

Play and discovery contribute to the overall vibrancy and pleasure of the Capital, especially for families and young residents. The core area must provide interesting interactive and participatory opportunities and installations that invite creativity and imagination, and instill a sense of belonging for residents and visitors of all ages.

- 1 Promote unstructured, creative play opportunities throughout Capital parks and the public realm (such as climbing, swinging, seating, tactile experiences and bespoke play elements that encourage exploration and social interaction).
- 2 Enhance storytelling and learning experiences through interpretation, cultural and historical references, and artistic installations that responds to touch, movement or sound, which can engage people of all ages and encourage exploration.
- 3 Design for all ages and abilities through inclusive, accessible, multi-generational installations and amenities that consider diverse needs, backgrounds and experiences.

4.4.7 Services and Amenities

Universally accessible public services and amenities are essential to the user experience of the Capital. The core area must provide key services such as washrooms, drinking water and wayfinding to enhance the user experience.

- 1 Provide public washrooms to support the use and enjoyment of the public realm such as stand-alone, self-cleaning units or within public-facing federal buildings.
- 2 Ensure access to drinking water, incorporating public fountains and bottle refill stations in high-traffic areas and parks, and along active transportation routes.
- 3 Enhance wayfinding and visitor information, using prelingual iconography and multilingual signage, interactive digital kiosks and tactile elements to improve navigation and accessibility for all users.
- 4 Promote services and amenities that improve the experience for residents and visitors.



4.5 TOURISM AND LOCAL ECONOMY

The Capital core area must contribute to the economic vitality of the region by supporting tourism, commerce and a diverse mix of uses, services and amenities for visitors and residents.



4.5.1 Tourism

Tourism plays a vital role in the economy of an international capital. The core area must provide accommodations, entertainment, excursions and cultural experiences that attract visitors, generate revenue and create employment opportunities in the hospitality and service sectors.

- 1 Position and showcase federal cultural institutions (such as national museums, galleries and performance venues) as key tourism anchors.
- 2 Enhance visitor services and experiences, ensuring a range of hotels, guided and self-guided tours and excursion opportunities that showcase national monuments and institutions, heritage sites, public artworks and local culture.
- 3 Strengthen the Capital as a premier destination for conferences and major events, expanding capacity for international summits, cultural festivals and business conventions through high-quality venues, accommodations and infrastructure.

4.5.2 Employment and Accommodation

The federal government is a major employer and economic anchor within the region. The core area must leverage the role of federal employment and strengthen and support secondary sectors to create a diverse and sustainable mix of public and private employment opportunities. Further, post-pandemic changes to working technologies have enabled remote and telework scenarios. The core area must leverage this change to better utilize available space and create a more resilient and diverse mix of people living and working downtown, at all hours.

- 1 Reinforce the core area as a hub for federal employment, prioritizing the location of government agencies, headquarters and key institutional functions, and improve integration with surrounding neighbourhoods.
- 2 Support a diverse employment base, encouraging a mix of federal, private and institutional employers while promoting the creation of mixed-use employment areas that provide commercial and community services for residents and employees.
- 3 Adapt to evolving work patterns, repurposing underutilized office space for housing, innovation hubs and new economic opportunities that contribute to an active and resilient downtown.

4.5.3 Real Estate and Housing

The Capital requires a flexible building stock that accommodates a diverse mix of uses that can support a growing population and economy. The core area must provide a balanced mix of housing and commercial and government accommodations to enable sustainable growth and densification.

- 1 Increase the number of residents living and working within the core area, prioritizing diverse housing options (including affordable, family-friendly and rental housing) to intensify the downtowns.
- 2 Support the conversion of underutilized office space into mixed-use housing and ground-floor commercial uses.
- 3 Ensure new buildings are adaptable for long-term use, incorporating flexible design, modular layouts and structural designs to accommodate evolving needs and future growth.

4.5.4 Commercial Services

Private commercial ventures contribute to the offering of services for visitors and residents and to job creation, community cohesion and economic resilience. The core area must accommodate a diverse mix of commercial offerings that create a livable community for residents and a great destination for visitors.

- 1 Support small and local businesses by providing accessible, affordable spaces and streamlined processes that encourage entrepreneurship and enhance the local economy.
- 2 Ensure a diverse range of commercial offerings, including both essential services (e.g., grocery stores, healthcare, personal services and childcare) and other local businesses, to meet the needs of residents and visitors while building economic resilience.
- 3 Foster strategic partnerships with the public and private sectors to introduce complementary commercial services, such as rentals, food and beverage, recreational programming and events that animate the public realm.





4.6 MOBILITY AND ACCESS

The Capital core area must provide a variety of safe and equitable transportation options ensuring an enjoyable mobility experience for residents and visitors, while seamlessly connecting the region.



4.6.1 Pedestrian Realm

Enhancing the pedestrian realm is crucial for fostering an inviting and vibrant urban experience in the core area, especially along Confederation Boulevard. The core area must promote a safe, universally accessible, comfortable and high-quality public realm that encourages people to walk, roll and linger.

- 1 Prioritize the comfort, safety and enjoyment of pedestrians and ensure that walkways and sidewalks are universally accessible, well maintained and free of obstructions.
- 2 Create people-first streets that are safe and attractive, with clear and frequent at-grade pedestrian crossings.
- 3 Identify opportunities for car-free zones or time-based vehicle restrictions in strategic locations—particularly during national celebrations or special events—to enhance the pedestrian and visitor experience.

4.6.2 Active Mobility Network

The core is a compact, walkable and connected area that is best navigated and experienced at slow speeds. The core area must prioritize active transportation by consolidating sidewalks, bike lanes, pathways and intersections into a safe, inclusive and seamless network that facilitates access to and movement through the core.

- 1 Implement universal accessibility features to offer barrier-free journeys throughout the core area, including accessible pedestrian signals, tactile surfaces, rest areas and accessible signage and wayfinding.
- 2 Complete and consolidate the Capital Pathway network along Confederation Boulevard and maintain continuous access through all seasons.
- 3 Complete the Capital Pathway network along shorelines and parklands, including with rerouting or adding secondary routes to detour around flood-prone areas wherever possible.
- 4 Enhance safety and integration for cyclists by implementing protected bike lanes, cross-rides and improved intersection designs that prioritize safe interactions between cyclists and vehicles, without impeding or encumbering pedestrian spaces.
- 5 Establish clear guidelines and designated areas for the use of e-mobility and micromobility devices (e.g., e-bikes, e-scooters) and ensure they do not compromise pedestrian safety or accessibility.
- 6 Support enforcement of parking prohibitions on sidewalks, bike lanes, transit facilities and other public realm locations where motor vehicles are not desired.

4.6.3 Public Transit and Shared Mobility Services

Public transit is the backbone of a livable city, moving people in an efficient, affordable and sustainable way. The core area must support the development of integrated, higher-order transit alongside efficient bus routes, shuttles, water taxis and shared mobility services to access destinations in and outside the core area.

- 1 Promote an integrated and efficient higher-order interprovincial transit network with enhanced service to capital destinations, seamless fare integration, harmonized signage and real-time information to improve orientation and enhance the visitor experience.
- 2 Pursue the development of an interprovincial transit loop between downtown Ottawa and downtown Gatineau.
- 3 Expand options to help residents and visitors access Gatineau Park and other attractions and destinations in and outside the core area, including shuttles and water taxis.
- 4 Encourage transit priority measures such as high-occupancy vehicle lanes and transit signal priority, including on interprovincial bridges.
- 5 Support regional bikeshare and carshare systems to complement public transit and reduce the need for private car ownership.

4.6.4 Regional Connections and Goods Movement

With its five interprovincial bridges and major road connections, the core area serves as a central hub for regional transportation. This concentration of interprovincial bridges generates significant car and truck traffic that moves through the core area without stopping. The high volume of interprovincial trucks using downtown streets, primarily in Ottawa, to connect between the Quebec and Ontario provincial highway networks, has negative noise, pollution and safety impacts on surrounding neighbourhoods. New interprovincial infrastructure projects, combined with municipal measures to prohibit heavy trucks on Rideau Street and King Edward Avenue, must reduce truck volumes and the associated impacts in the core area.

- 1 Increase people-moving capacity on interprovincial crossings and their approaches by repurposing vehicle lanes to public transit and/or active mobility, to reduce traffic in the core area.
- 2 Seek opportunities to re-route long-haul regional truck traffic and cut-through car traffic away from the downtown core and enhance the streetscape character and pedestrian experience of key corridors.
- 3 Support mitigation strategies to minimize the impacts of truck movements on surrounding communities.
- 4 Support the development of urban logistics solutions, such as mini hubs, to reduce the number of heavy vehicles driving through the core area.

4.6.5 Transportation Demand Management

Given the core area's density and urban character, effective transportation demand management strategies are essential to mitigate congestion, reduce emissions, and enhance overall mobility and quality of life. The core area must prioritize and promote the use of alternatives to private cars among residents, commuters and visitors.

- 1 Encourage federal employers to implement incentive programs to increase the adoption of sustainable transportation choices by employees (such as the provision of transit passes, parking cash-out programs, carpool programs, guaranteed ride home programs, the provision of electric vehicles and bicycles for business travel, as well as secure bike parking and changing facilities).
- 2 Encourage major destinations, events and festivals to actively promote alternative modes by prioritizing public transit and active transportation, providing shuttle options or incentives for car-free visitors.
- 3 Support the study of potential programs to incentivize public and active transportation and disincentivize driving in the core area.
- 4 Encourage the collection and sharing of mobility data with partners, academia and the public to support regional transportation planning and encourage the development of innovative solutions.



4.6.6 Parking and Access

Some surface parking lots and access routes occupy valuable urban space, especially when they are located on prime waterfront lands. The core area must consider solutions to accommodate the operational needs of federal agencies and institutions while aiming to reduce parking overall. This includes redesigning parking lots and service routes to repurpose urban spaces for more beneficial uses and improve public access to the waterfront.

- 1 Minimize surface parking in the core area and provide compact, efficient parking supply ways that reduce impacts on the public realm.
- 2 Create well-designed woonerfs and shared spaces that minimize the impacts of the functional requirements of service routes, laneways and loading facilities, especially through public parks and around public institutions.
- 3 Support the development of a curbside management strategy that prioritizes pick-ups, drop-offs, deliveries and short-term parking to optimize space utilization, including accessible and tour bus parking spaces to support tourism and the visitor experience.

4.6.7 Multimodal Information and Wayfinding

Accessible information and effective wayfinding are essential for promoting sustainable mobility and ensuring residents and visitors have a pleasant experience when travelling to and around the core. The core area aims to facilitate multimodal travel planning and provide standardized directional signage tailored to diverse users, including pedestrians and cyclists, to help them navigate safely and seamlessly.

- 1 Design and install consistent and accessible directional signage across the core area adapted to different users, including cyclists and pedestrians, and clarify directional signage at key decision points and junctions (such as bridges and major intersections).
- 2 Promote multimodal trip planning tools to help residents and visitors plan trips to and around the core area and take advantage of sustainable transportation modes.
- 3 Leverage digital solutions to provide universally accessible, real-time information and personalized navigation assistance for residents and visitors.

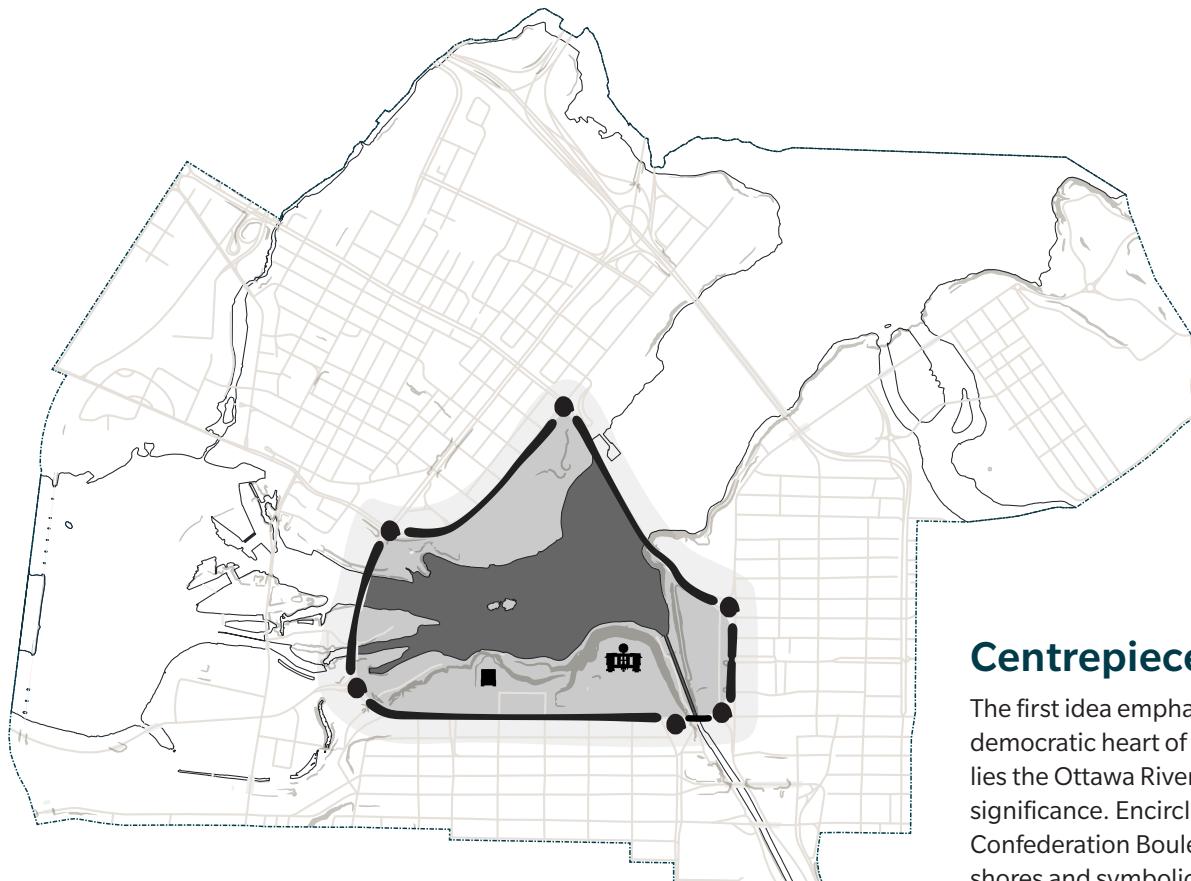




5 CONCEPTS

5 CONCEPTS

The concept is the guiding framework that illustrates the spatial patterns and arrangement of the core area. The concept carries forward many ideas from prior plans, while introducing new elements and nuances. It is based on two key notions: the centrepiece and the Capital-city duality.



Centrepiece of the Capital Core Area

Centrepiece

The first idea emphasizes the symbolic and democratic heart of the Capital. At its centre lies the Ottawa River, a place of great cultural significance. Encircling the river basin, Confederation Boulevard connects both shores and symbolically links together a series of sites of national importance, including Parliament Hill and the Supreme Court of Canada, the preeminent symbols of Canadian democracy and justice. Sites encircling the centrepiece form the foreground of the Capital's identity and character and are of utmost symbolic importance. These require particular design priority and stewardship.



Capital-City Duality

The second idea recognizes the synergies and overlaps between national and local scales - the Capital is a city, and the city is a capital. While the primary mission of the NCC is to build an inspiring capital for all Canadians, the civic nature and livability of the area cannot be ignored. This concept recognizes the duality and synergy between the local and national scales. It presents a more nuanced and expansive interpretation of the existing "Town and Crown" concept, capable of reconciling aspects of form, function and experience.

- **The Capital layer** is a symbolic reflection of national identity and democracy. This layer reflects the international role, image, presence and reputation of the National Capital, including monumental architecture, grand public spaces and functions of national importance. This importance evolved into planning concepts such as the National Interest Land Mass (NILM) and the symbolic primacy of national symbols and cultural institutions. Maintaining these symbols visible and at the forefront of the core area is vital for preserving the international presence and character of the seat of the Government of Canada.
- **The city layer** represents the fine-grained local character and day-to-day life and operations of the two cities within two provinces, and their residents. This aspect reflects the economic vitality, livability and vibrancy of the core area which underpins and enriches the Capital layer.

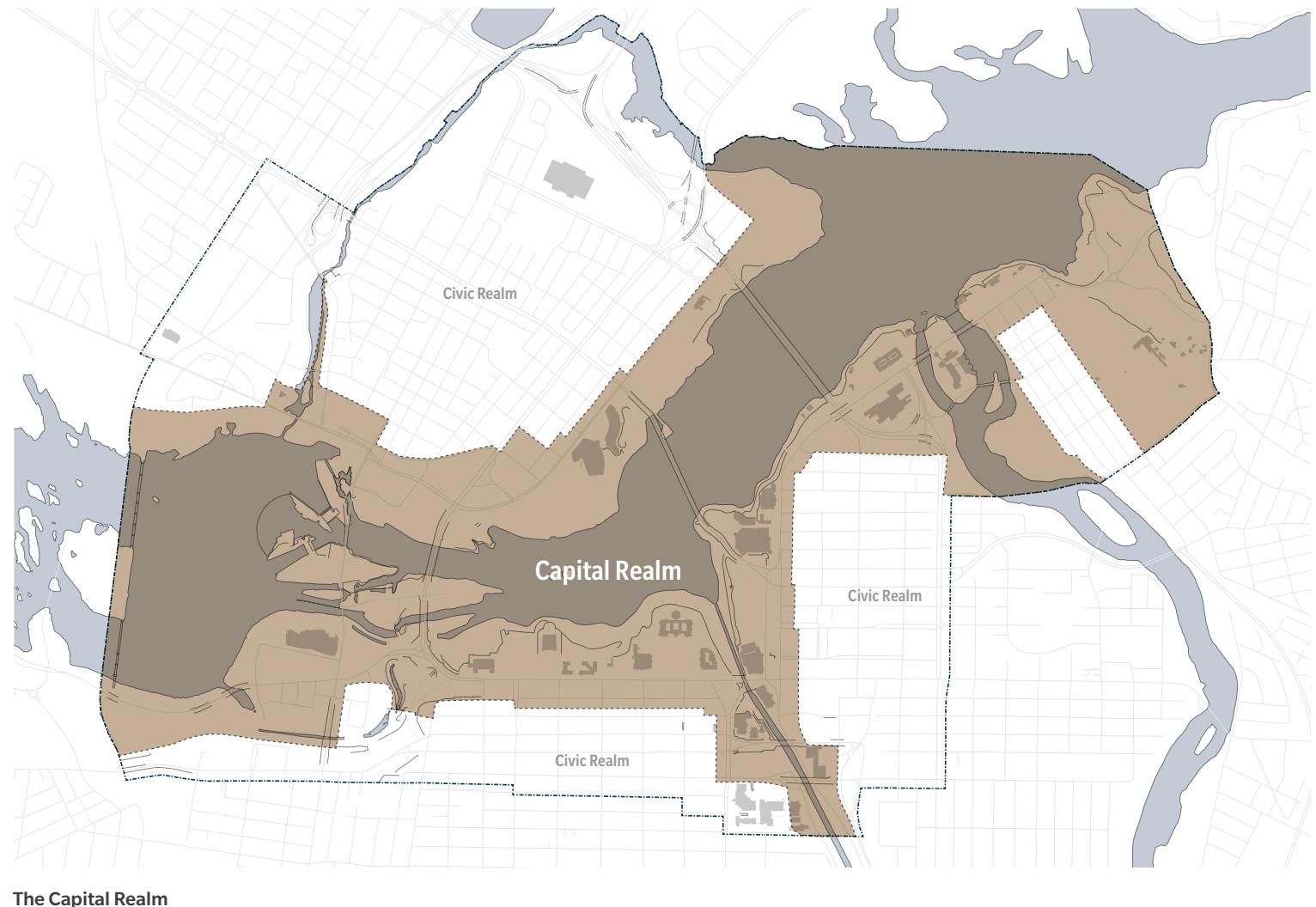
The duality between the two layers is significant but inseparable. It is important that the Capital supports civic functions and that the cities support capital functions. In practice, this means that collaboration and cooperation between the federal and municipal levels of government are essential for the continued improvement of the core area.

The division of these two layers is not drawn along firm physical boundaries. The capital and civic functions are interwoven and complex with varying levels of emphasis accorded to each depending on location and context. The core area concept encourages a thoughtful integration of capital and civic features and interfaces, to achieve a coherent whole for a seamless capital experience.

Capital Realm

From these two ideas emerges the Capital Realm. The primary role of the NCC and its federal partners is to ensure that the needs and functions of federal governance are accommodated, while ensuring the Capital is designed in a manner befitting its national importance as the seat of the government of Canada.

The Capital Realm includes the most nationally important federal sites and symbols, and thereby the highest order of design quality. The components within it include landmark buildings, national monuments, ceremonial routes, public grounds and parks, striking waterfronts and distinctive gathering sites. Within this area, the capital features must be prioritized and emphasized to preserve and enhance the symbolic importance and distinguished character. Radiating out from the Capital Realm, the emphasis shifts towards the civic realm – including the surrounding neighbourhoods, streetscapes, markets, public and private spaces that infuse the Capital with local character and vitality. The boundary between these two areas is varied and nuanced, and the interfaces and transitions warrant special attention.



Big Moves

The three big moves are the main catalysts for change in the plan. These ideas will drive transformations and help prioritize projects and investments to shape the future of the core area. The big moves take the vision's direction and offer direct pathways to future interventions.

The three big moves are:



Turn Towards the Water

Enhance the waterfront and shoreline with new water-oriented spaces, places and features

- Orient new buildings to face the water.
- Enhance waterfront spaces with complementary amenities.
- Activate building frontages along the waterfront.
- Create new wharves, docks and water connections.

Make Great Places

Create and enhance unique and memorable destinations and that enliven the public realm and Capital experience.

- Enhance existing destinations.
- Repurpose and reimagine underutilized spaces and undeveloped lots.
- Weave the distinctiveness of the northern natural and cultural landscape into placemaking initiatives.
- Add program services and amenities.

Create Connections

Create public infrastructure that promotes sustainable and active transportation.

- Prioritize pedestrians.
- Connect pathways and destinations.
- Enhance interprovincial transit.

Concept Plan

The underlying ideas of the concept plan are further elaborated through five distinct layers, that treat the capital and civic realms holistically:



1 Capital Waterfront



2 Capital Open Space



3 Capital Fabric



4 Capital Streetscapes



5 Capital Destinations

These layers provide a variety of policy tools to guide the planning and approval of future projects. The tools range from explicit land designations and overlays that prescribe the permitted use and functions of certain lands to description-based feature classes that provide qualitative criteria for design and implementation of desired features and elements. Together, these policies provide a flexible and nuanced framework that offers clear parameters for key land-uses, such as building sites and open space allocations, as well as broadly applicable criteria for common features and scenarios.



The Core Area Plan Concept

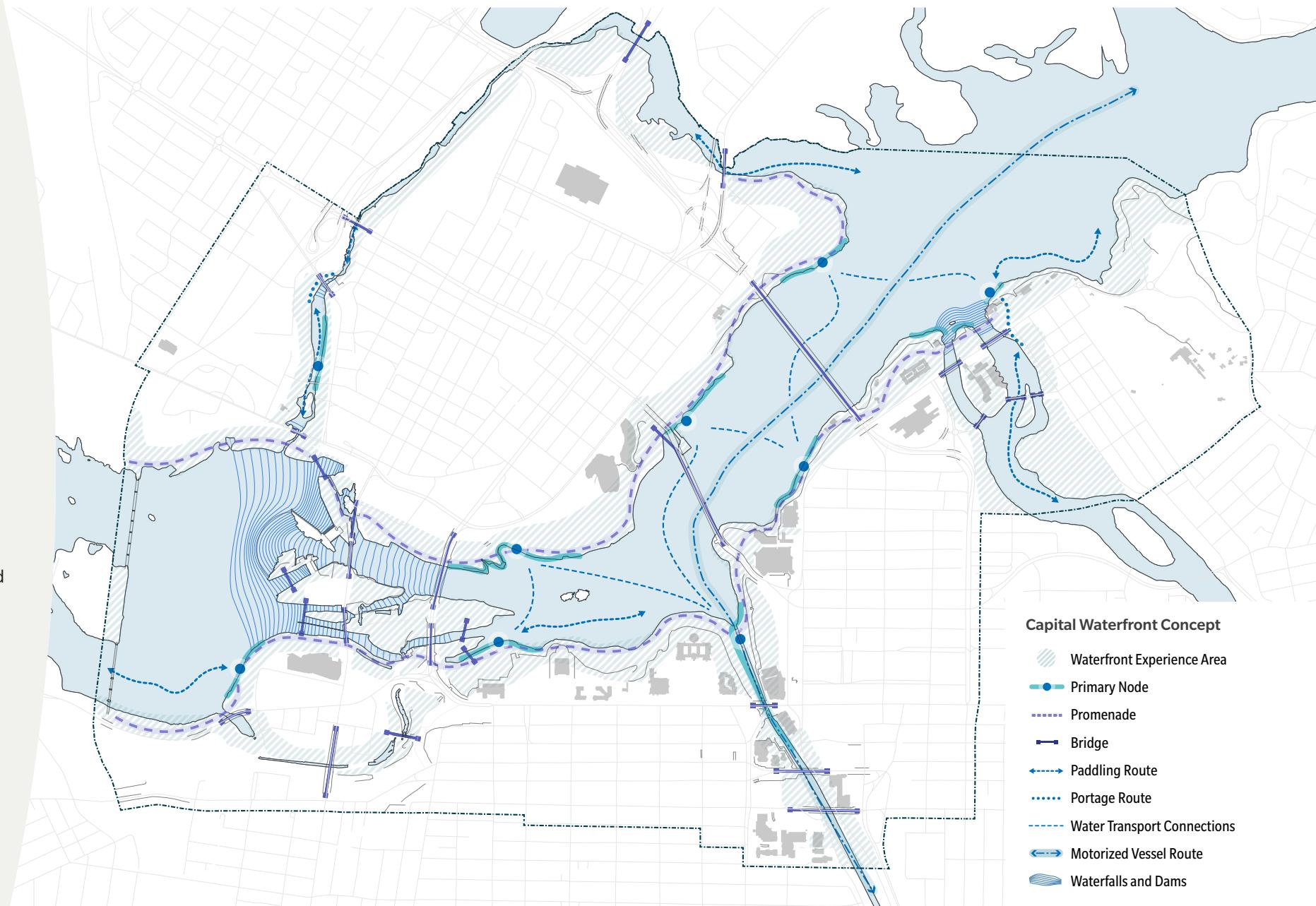
● Primary Waterfront Node	■ Urban Block	--- Confederation Boulevard Connection	--- Urban Avenue
--- Water Connections	■ Institutional Grounds	● Confederation Boulevard Node	■ Main Street
--- Linkage	■ Intervention Area	— Capital Side Street	▲ Landmark Institution
■ Open Space	■ Confederation Boulevard	— Confederation Boulevard	★ Future Institution
		— Capital Parkway	● Significant Place

5.1 CAPITAL WATERFRONT

A lush and resilient ribbon of urban shorelines and promenades flows through the city, punctuated by vibrant points of animation and activity that connect with the waterways.

Key Objectives

- 1 Provide a range of urban waterfront experiences set within naturalized riverfront landscapes.
- 2 Enhance access points and capitalize on topography to create interesting waterfront promenades and vantage points.
- 3 Provide recreational services and amenities to create engaging and vibrant nodes and places to linger.
- 4 Incorporate docks and infrastructures for water-related activities, such as boating, paddling and swimming.
- 5 Employ resilient and nature-based design solutions that increase biodiversity and ecological integrity, prevent erosion and mitigate flood risk.



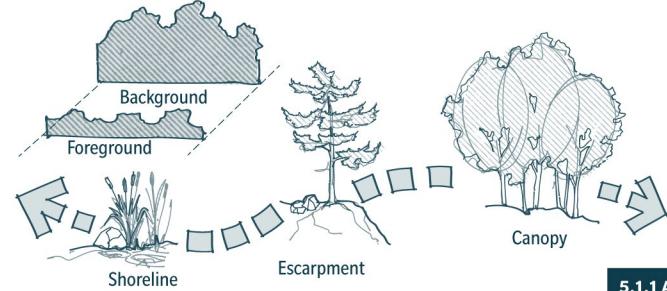
5.1.1 Waterfront Experience

There is approximately 35 km of shoreline within the core area, ranging from human-made canals and urban shorelines to naturalized riverfront areas. The design of waterfront spaces should introduce urban placemaking opportunities and experiences while respecting and reinforcing the cultural landscapes and significance of the waterways.

A Riverfront Landscapes

Waterfront designs must be integrated into their landscape setting in order to preserve the iconic riverfront character of the Capital.

- i Consider the overall cultural landscapes and character-defining features of the waterways and develop designs that respect their unique historical legacies and current cultural significance.
 - a Continue dialogue with the Algonquin Nation about the uses of riverfront lands and animation opportunities, including interpretation.
- ii When designing within the riverfront setting, assess the context of the site.
 - a Consider the role of the landscape as a foreground of important Capital scenes and vistas and design vegetation and built features to enhance the overall composition.
 - b Retain rocky outcrops and incorporate native vegetation where possible to reflect the regional character.



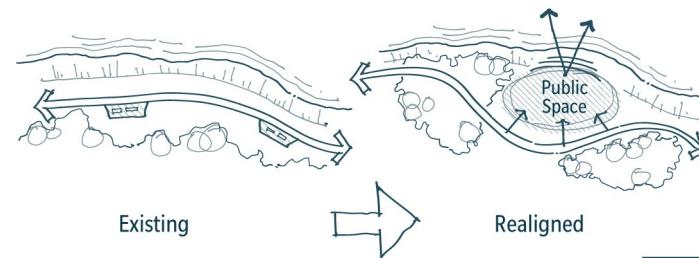
5.1.1 A

- iii Maintain the verdant character of the waterfronts by designing vegetated corridors that connect urban habitats and parkland spaces to support ecological functions and urban biodiversity.
- iv Where built interventions are required or planned, integrate engineering and infrastructure features into the riverfront landscape through exemplary placemaking treatments and quality architectural elements.

B Placemaking

Along the waterways, configure spaces and pursue opportunities to create unique, vibrant and meaningful spaces that contribute to the character and identity of the waterfront.

- i Design spaces that celebrate the river's history and cultural significance.
 - a Engage Algonquin communities and relevant stakeholders in the design process to incorporate the cultural and historical significance of the river.
 - b Incorporate public art, interpretive displays and cultural markers.
 - c Create spaces for public events or gatherings, making the shoreline a focal point for urban activity.
- ii Create waterfront gathering spaces.
 - a Re-align pathways to avoid monotonous linear shoreline conditions.

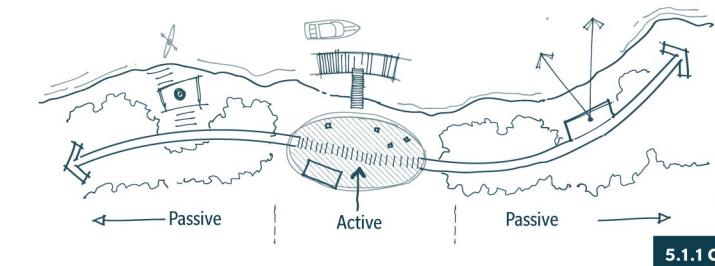


5.1.1 B

C Nodes

Waterfront nodes provide punctuated points of placemaking along the waterfront. These installations should be located to optimize interaction with the waterways at key locations and coordinate investment in and use of waterfront lands.

- i Design a logical sequence of new and existing primary and secondary nodes, providing a range of urban waterfront experiences and offerings.
- ii Co-locate amenities and services to create a coordinated and complementary critical mass of public services and activity.
- iii Create punctuated areas of concentrated activity offering a mix of vendors, public amenities and services.
- iv Any commercial installations at waterfront nodes must prioritize public access and public-oriented amenities so as to not privatize the shoreline experience.
- v Between nodes, maintain passive spaces that provide tranquil and contemplative settings.



5.1.1 C



5.1.1 Waterfront Experience

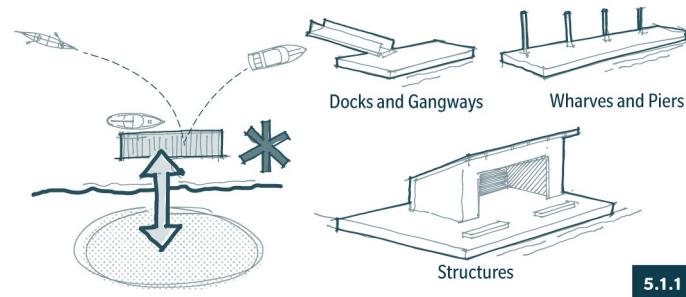
vi Primary nodes represent the most intensive infrastructure and public realm investments along the waterfront. Nine primary nodes are envisioned in the concept: the Rideau Canal, Ruisseau de la Brasserie, Nepean Bay, Cliff Street, Scott Point Inlet, Jacques-Cartier Park South, Lady Grey Drive, Jacques-Cartier Park North and Rideau Falls.

- a** Create enhanced waterfront public spaces with features such as plazas, boardwalks or other built interventions that function as significant destinations.
- b** Include major waterfront installations, such as piers, wharves and docks where required to support navigation and water-based activities.
- c** Provide appropriate complementary services and public amenities, such as washrooms, pavilions and small-scale commercial offerings such as rental services.
- d** Locate primary nodes near major waterfront access and viewpoints, transport hubs and popular tourist destinations.

vii Secondary nodes are small- to medium-scale points of interest between primary nodes.

- a** Locate secondary nodes in appropriate locations away from extreme currents and hydrological forces as well as environmentally sensitive areas.
- b** Include interventions such as docks and platforms, belvederes, steps and paddling route connections.
- c** Create passive public spaces for lounging and enjoying the waterfront setting.

D Waterfront Amenities



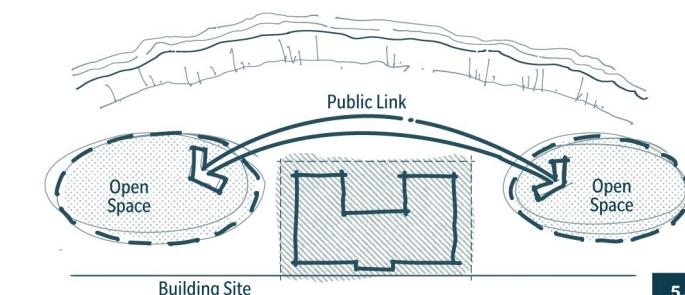
5.1.1 D

- i** At appropriate nodes and waterfront locations, design waterfront-specific amenities and shoreline installations to enable public use of the waterways, including:
 - Public docks and piers: generous platforms to accommodate multiple users, involving seating and public space to touch and engage with the water;
 - Marinas, moorings and boat launches: public and private installations to accommodate water-based travel and recreation;
 - Portage routes: a network of put-in/take-out locations and demarcated portage routes for paddlers to access the waterways and safely navigate around locks, dams and waterfalls;
 - Floating structures: barges and other floating structures to provide seasonal offerings and installations at certain waterfront nodes where shoreline space or impacts are limited.

5.1.2 Promenades

Along the core area's waterways, create continuous public waterfront corridors and high-quality waterfront experiences.

- i** Enhance waterfront pathways with generous pedestrian spaces and edges that provide visual connections to the waterfront.
 - a** Provide wide, accessible paths with rest points and seating areas.
 - b** Create continuous, well-lit pathways and walkways along the shorelines and waterfront plateaus, allowing for a variety of activities, such as walking, cycling and jogging.
- ii** Design for continuity along the riverfront to support ecological corridors and recreational pathways.
 - a** Wherever possible, preserve generous public waterfront corridors around public institutions and private land uses and connect these to adjacent public spaces.



5.1.2

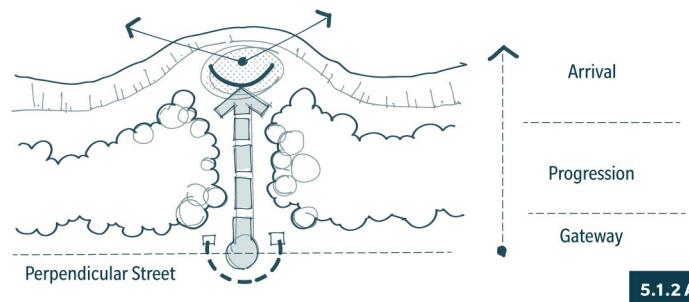
- iii** Prioritize public spaces and restrict vehicular access to waterfront areas.
 - a** Reclaim public space and improve connections by removing where possible service routes, surface parking and utilitarian structures and spaces.
 - b** Incorporate structural obstructions to motor vehicle access, which may include retractable bollards to allow only authorized access for authorized purposes at authorized times.



5.1.2 Promenades

A Arrival Points

Emphasize and reinforce arrival points to improve public access to and wayfinding in waterfront spaces and promenades.



5.1.2 A

- i Emphasize the basic urban design principles of entrance, progression and sense of arrival to the waterfront.
 - a Design major arrival points to provide grand public spaces and visual connections to the waterfront.
 - b Provide high-quality public realm elements, such as lighting, furnishings and landscape treatments to demarcate and emphasize the sense of public arrival.
- ii Emphasize links between shorelines, adjacent trails, parks and neighborhoods and design seamless connections with pathway and streetscape networks.
 - a Reinforce perpendicular streetscapes and pathway connections as arrival points.

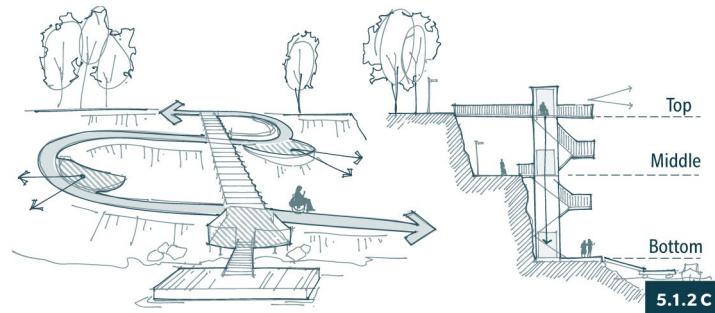
B Rest Points and Seating Areas

At regular intervals along waterfront promenades, create rest points and seating areas for visitors to stop and appreciate the shorelines.

- i Provide rest points and places for visitors to pause, enjoy the scenery and interact with the environment at regular intervals along the shoreline.
- ii Consider introducing belvederes and elevated or cantilevered platforms, offering unique viewing experiences and additional public space along pathways and promenades.
- iii Design spaces and installations that promote lingering and social interaction, such as comfortable seating, hammocks, shade structures, and interpretive or artistic installations.

C Escarpments and Embankments

Address the significant topographic features of the riverfront to ensure public access and enhance the user experience.



5.1.2 C

- i In publicly accessible areas with steep terrain, create top, middle and bottom of escarpment experiences and construct universally accessible pathways, ramps and staircases to connect levels.

- ii Provide punctuated spots with elevated views, such as lookouts and belvederes, to provide wide, unobstructed panoramas of the waterfront.

- a Emphasize elevated views over the river. These areas can be highlighted as both scenic vistas and public viewing platforms.

- iii Create terraced levels and interesting sequences of public space offering universally accessible rest points and grades that are appropriate for a wide range of abilities.

- a Where topography does not permit at-grade connections, provide universally accessible, surface-level connections, along with clear indicators and alternative routes.

- b Consider mechanical connections, such as elevators or funiculars, at strategic locations and destinations to facilitate universal accessibility.

- c Ensure that interventions conserve the inherent qualities of natural landmarks and geographic features.

- d Ensure that the location, design and use of built infrastructure avoid adverse environmental impacts to sensitive escarpment habitats.

D Bridges and Crossings

To enhance the connectivity and public enjoyment of the riverfront, design interprovincial and active transportation bridges to connect pathways and waterfront promenades and to act as destinations themselves.

- i Active Transportation Bridges:
 - a Connect adjacent shorelines and channels with active transportation bridges and crossings to complete the Capital Pathway discovery routes and link islands.
 - b Ensure bridges are generously wide (>5 m width) to accommodate future usage and demand.

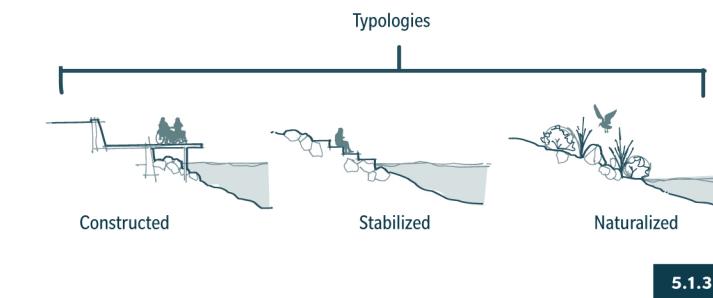


5.1.2 Promenades

- c Incorporate structural obstructions to motor vehicle access, which may include retractable bollards to allow only authorized access for authorized purposes at authorized times.
- ii Interprovincial Bridges:
 - a Include generous and safe pedestrian and cyclist facilities on all major bridge structures to improve regional connection.
 - b Improve pathway connections at bridge abutments to emphasize waterfront arrival points.
 - c Incorporate belvederes and observation points to capitalize on dramatic views and panoramic vistas offered when crossing waterways.

5.1.3 Shoreline Typologies

Before intervening along a shoreline, identify the typology and approach required to provide the intended use and installation. Shoreline interventions fit broadly into the three following typologies: constructed, stabilized and naturalized.



A Shorelines

Shoreline interventions should include a mix of the three typologies to create animated and resilient places.

- i Prioritize constructed shorelines around nodes and urban public places.
- ii Utilize stabilized shorelines in areas to protect pathways, built assets and shorelines susceptible to erosion.
- iii Where possible, re-naturalize and enhance shorelines to improve ecological benefits and minimize ongoing maintenance.
- iv These typologies can be combined in various ways and are not mutually exclusive (e.g., a constructed boardwalk above a naturalized river edge).

B Constructed Shoreline

This typology prioritizes human interaction with the water, featuring walls, wharves and structural elements. It includes highly engineered shorelines, designed primarily for human use, with extensive infrastructure, public amenities and active recreational spaces.

- i Constructed shorelines should be located adjacent to public spaces, such as urban parks, plazas, docks and marinas, in proximity to or on the waterfront.
- ii Constructed shorelines may include:
 - a Significant structural elements, such as retaining walls, piers, jetties and abutments to support high-use human activity;
 - b Hardened shorelines intended to withstand flooding and erosion and provide public access up to and in some cases into or over the water.

- iii Ensure integration of urban elements, such as lighting, seating, signage and built structures to activate the waterfront.

- a This may include public services and recreational amenities, such as rental facilities, buildings, pavilions and seasonal kiosks.

- iv Ensure all structures are flood-resilient, with innovative stormwater management systems integrated into the infrastructure.

- v Constructed shorelines may require creative shoreline mitigation and environmental enhancements such as vegetation islands to offset human uses.

C Stabilized Shoreline

This typology is usually employed to prevent erosion and protect built assets, such as pathways, parkland and recreational features. It may consist of both engineered and enhanced green assets and nature-based solutions to maintain stability and balance human activity with ecological processes.

- i Stabilized shoreline interventions should be used where necessary.
- ii The typology may require hard engineering measures, such as riprap, geotextile fabrics and stone revetments, to stabilize the shoreline and protect adjacent features, especially in areas with strong currents and wave action.
- iii Include terraced designs in appropriate locations and shoreline variations to create visually appealing spaces and allow for human interaction with the water's edge.
- iv Prioritize bio-engineering methods wherever feasible (e.g., living shorelines).
- v Plant flood-resistant species along the shoreline for erosion prevention and to enhance ecological value.
- vi Design flood-tolerant landscaping and elevated structures to mitigate the impacts of seasonal or extreme flooding.



5.1.3 Shoreline Typologies

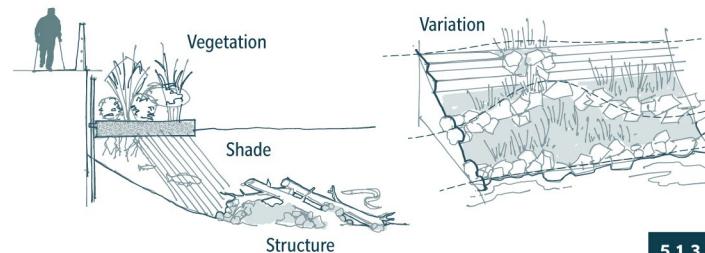
D Naturalized Shoreline

A naturalized shoreline refers to a waterfront area that has been restored to a more natural state, often by planting native vegetation and creating habitats for local wildlife. This process helps to stabilize the shoreline, reduce erosion, create urban habitats and improve water quality by filtering pollutants. It also enhances the beauty and ecological value of the area, providing a more sustainable and resilient environment.

- i Focus on restoration and enhancement of riparian vegetation to provide habitat for wildlife and improve ecological functions through sustainable native plantings and removal and control of invasive species.
- ii Prioritize natural infrastructure and nature-based solutions, such as ecological flood management strategies featuring wetlands and floodplain buffers that absorb excess water during flooding events.
- iii Minimize the use of hard structures by incorporating planting buffers, riparian zones and vegetated slopes for natural erosion control and habitat restoration.
- iv Naturalized shorelines may include raised boardwalks or permeable trails to allow pedestrian movement without disturbing the ecosystem.

E Ecological Enhancements

Shorelines perform important ecological functions and support a wide variety of aquatic, terrestrial and riparian species. Within all shoreline typologies there are opportunities to leverage interventions to provide nature-positive solutions that increase riparian and aquatic biodiversity.



- i Diversify shoreline conditions to create niche habitat features and a variety of ecological conditions.
 - a Prioritize bioengineering techniques suitable to the strength of the river current and changing river levels and capable of withstanding peak flooding and erosion forces.
 - b Meander shoreline designs and introduce multiple levels and terraces exposed to various seasonal water levels.
 - c Construct submerged ledges or shelves along walls to provide aquatic habitat and reduce turbulence near the shoreline.
- ii When implementing new shoreline installations, minimize environmental impacts and improve the local ecological integrity to the extent practicable.
 - a In areas with limited biodiversity, introduce vegetation to restore degraded shorelines and enhance habitat features.
 - b Consider floating wetlands or anchored planting platforms to integrate natural elements into heavily constructed zones.

c Prioritize features like submerged logs, root wads and native aquatic vegetation to provide shelter and spawning grounds for fish and amphibians.

d Incorporate features like crevices, planting pockets or underwater ledges in the design to create habitat for fish, birds and invertebrates.

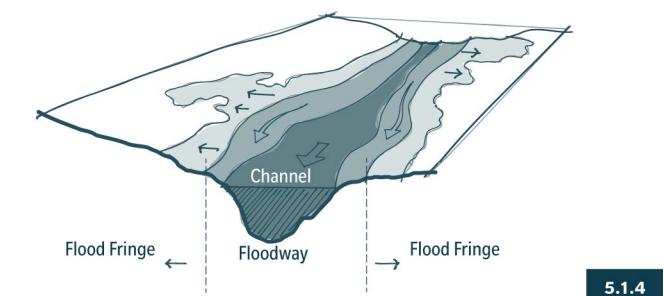
iii Address runoff by directing flow to vegetated or controlled areas for treatment.

a Integrate bioswales, rain gardens or permeable surfaces to filter and slow stormwater before it enters the river.

b Maximize the presence of vegetation along the shoreline and incorporate site features and drainage patterns to slow and filter run-off.

5.1.4 Flood Conditions

The Ottawa River and its tributaries are spring freshet river systems, characterized by annual seasonal flooding. Land areas adjacent to these waterbodies are subject to periodic inundation within predictable seasonal periods. The flood plain consists of two primary sub-components that differ in terms of flood risk, hydraulic function and regulatory restrictions: the floodway and the flood fringe.



5.1.4 Flood Conditions

A Floodway

Represents the most dynamic and hazardous part of the floodplain where water flows most rapidly during major flood events.

- i Features and assets along the floodway must be designed to withstand high water volume and flow velocity.
- ii Design landscape treatments and infrastructure to resist erosion and scouring forces caused by flood events and major currents.
- iii Prioritize the protection and restoration of natural floodway functions, including wetlands, riparian buffers and vegetative corridors to stabilize shorelines.
- iv Avoid permanent buildings or critical infrastructure.
- v Prioritize open space, ecological restoration and water-compatible uses (e.g., trails, boat launches and habitat areas).
- vi Design all elements to be flood-resilient, with minimal or no damage during inundation.

B Flood Fringe

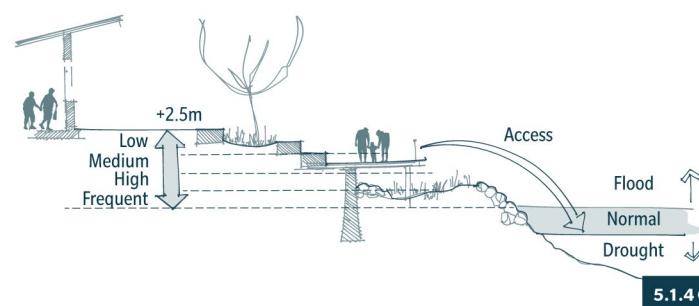
Represents the outer portion of the floodplain, which is subject to occasional or less severe flooding and receives and stores standing water during flood events.

- i Installations in the flood fringe must include flood mitigation measures, such as elevated foundations or watertight barriers and resilient utility systems.

- a Structures must be flood-adaptive—with elevated service utilities, flood-resistant materials and accessible evacuation routes—and supportive of natural river dynamics where possible.
- b In some instances, consider raising the elevation to accommodate interventions and/or implement structural flood control measures to protect vulnerable assets.
- ii Design parks, trails and public spaces in flood fringe zones to accommodate occasional inundation while continuing to operate as functional and attractive public spaces during non-flood conditions.
- iii Allow for more intensive public uses where flood risks are lower and manageable.
- iv Acceptable uses may include recreational amenities, pavilions, plazas or flexible structures.
- v All structures must incorporate flood-resilient design features (e.g., raised floors, floodable materials and sacrificial zones).

C Flood Probability

The floodplains are a significant part of the Capital's open space network, providing important parkland, public spaces and access to the shorelines. The rivers are highly dynamic, and seasonal variation is predictable.



- i Regular water level variations occur each season as outlined below:

- Normal variation: approximately 1.3 m from spring to summer conditions (normal high/low water mark);
- Flood conditions: up to 2.5 m of water above median spring levels, during major flood events;
- Drought conditions: as much as 0.4 m below median levels.

- ii The intensity and frequency of flood events is expected to increase with climate change.

- Integrate future flood projections and climate change scenarios into probability forecasts and design assumptions.

- iii Flood probability can be categorized as follows:

- a Frequent Flood Zone (within the historic 5-year flood plain): Most frequently flooded areas, typically impacted by annual fluctuation of spring melt water and resulting in normal/minor flood events. Also subject to major events;

- b High Probability Zone (within the historic 5-year to 20-year flood plain): Highly vulnerable area with high likelihood of recurrent minor events plus infrequent major events;

- c Moderate Probability Zone (within the historic 20-year to 100-year flood plain): subject to less frequent periodic flooding;

- d Low Probability Zone (within the historic 100-year to 350-year flood plain): subject to infrequent but impactful floods with wide-ranging risk to assets and infrastructure.

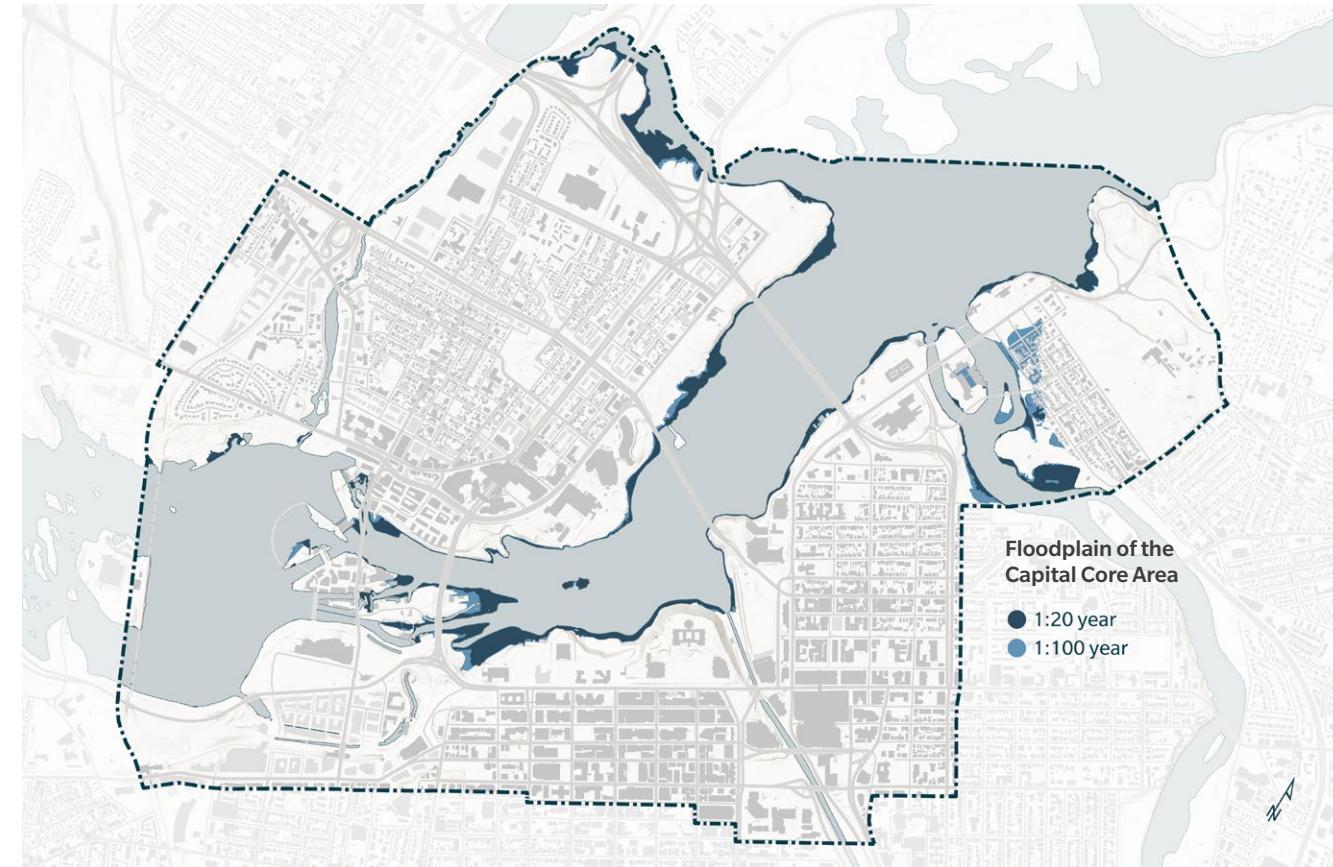


5.1.4 Flood Conditions

D Risk Management

All assets and infrastructure within the floodplain are susceptible to varying levels of flood risk, which are expected to increase in the future due to the impacts of climate change. Therefore, all investments should be planned in accordance with the following risk framework.

- i Flood risks can be defined by the equation, risk = probability x severity, where:
 - a Probability refers to the likelihood or frequency of occurrence.
 - b Severity refers to the potential consequences or impacts of a flood event. This pertains to both the intensity of the flood (e.g., depth and velocity) and the vulnerability of the exposed assets.
- ii Vulnerability describes the susceptibility of a given location, structure or system to flood damage. Key considerations include:
 - a Asset type, e.g., critical infrastructure (such as utilities), buildings or open space;
 - b Tolerance for disruption or loss, e.g., critical facilities versus recreational spaces;
 - c Adaptability, i.e., the capacity of the landscape asset to absorb or recover from flood impacts.
- iii Investment within the floodplain should be aligned with the level of flood risk, as determined by the following framework.
 - a Prioritize investments in infrastructure with low vulnerability to damage and disruption.
 - b Avoid or minimize investment in high-cost permanent or difficult to replace elements in high-risk areas such as the floodway.
 - c Where vulnerable assets are necessary (e.g., utilities and service kiosks), ensure they are designed for rapid recovery or easy replacement.



5.1.5 Floodplain Design

Design and construction within regulated floodplains should comply with environmental and regulatory requirements while minimizing risks to people, property and ecosystems. The design of spaces and installations requires mitigation techniques to minimize risks while providing public benefit.

A Parkland

Public parkland is less vulnerable to flood risk and is an excellent use of flood-plain areas.

- i Typical features include resilient parkland, seasonal pavilions and modular components that can be easily removed or replaced post-flood.

5.1.5 Floodplain Design

- ii Design areas that can transition between recreational use during dry periods and inundated water retention zones during floods.
 - a Select durable, low-maintenance materials that can withstand periodic inundation and water exposure.
 - b Incorporate features such as floodable plazas, absorbent green spaces and bioswales to capture and manage floodwater and overland flows.
 - c Allow flood waters to flow and recede naturally without causing damage. Avoid rigid infrastructure that impedes water flow.
- iii Design should account for the lifecycle of assets, recognizing that public spaces, utilities and infrastructure may experience multiple minor floods over their operational life.
 - a Requires resilient, constructed or stabilized shoreline designs and/or riparian vegetation to stabilize shoreline embankments.
 - b Use flood-tolerant or easily replaceable elements capable of withstanding periodic saturation and erosion forces.
- iv Pathways should be located outside of the floodplain where feasible, or a clear and accessible alternative route should be identified during flood events.
 - a Account for possible inundation and damage during major infrequent weather events.
 - b Parkland designs within the flood plain must be designed to be floodable.
 - c Elevate vulnerable features a minimum of 0.5 m above the projected 100-year flood level.

B Buildings

Buildings are highly vulnerable to flood damage and require special consideration in proximity to waterways.

- i Under special circumstances, some buildings may exist or be constructed within the flood fringe.
- ii Buildings are highly vulnerable to flood damage and therefore considered high-risk assets.
 - a Ensure that buildings and infrastructure within flood-prone areas are designed for resilience, with elevated structures, flood-resistant materials and adaptive designs where appropriate.
 - b Consider flood protection measures to lessen impact of extreme weather events.
 - c In special circumstances, consider flood mitigation techniques to divert or redirect water away from vulnerable buildings.

C Infrastructure

It is unavoidable that some essential infrastructure exists or will be constructed within floodplains and in proximity to waterways.

- i Raise essential built infrastructure, such as mechanical and electrical components, above high probability flood levels (5-year to 20-year).
- ii Some built elements, such as bridge abutments, structural foundations or retaining walls, may be required along the floodway.
 - a Ensure design and engineering withstand maximal flood forces and volumes.

D Shoreline Installations

Shoreline installations are essential to provide public access to waterways, and vulnerability will vary depending on type and location.

- i Create opportunities to reach the low summer water level via gangways, steps and ramps or via terraced or submerged levels that reach the water's edge.
 - a Typical features include seasonal docks and gangways to access the water level.
 - b Permanent features may include piers, boardwalks, elevated viewing platforms, public seating and landscape elements.
- ii Design installations to be highly resilient to floodway conditions and frequent flooding events.
 - a Use durable, immersible materials fitted to withstand frequent wetting.
 - b Prioritize modular, removable, or easily repaired or replaced elements.
- iii Design shoreline installations to be resistant to regular water fluctuations, ice scouring and erosion forces.
 - a Elevate permanent built elements above the normal high-water mark and winter ice conditions.
 - b Consider seasonal and/or removable features to minimize risks.



5.2 CAPITAL OPEN SPACE

A network of Capital parks, plazas, public places and green spaces that are seamlessly integrated into federal lands and provide greenways and linkages throughout the cities.

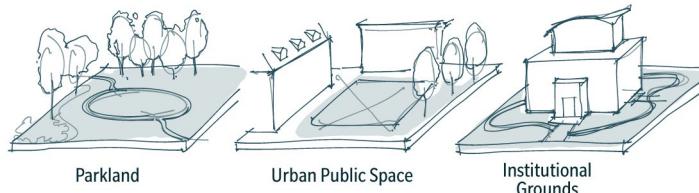
Key Objectives

- 1 Provide a network of public open spaces that offer a range of user experiences and ecological functions.
- 2 Protect and enhance the ecological functions of green spaces to ensure their longevity, beauty and resilience in the face of climate change and intensification pressures.
- 3 Ensure that programming is in line with the capacity and public use of these spaces, which contribute to canopy cover, provide valued ecosystem benefits and respite and relaxation for people, or that desired programming capacity is planned adequately to also maintain other functions.
- 4 Design public spaces to be multifaceted, offering flexible programming opportunities throughout all seasons.
- 5 Design pedestrian-priority pathways and greenway connections to link public spaces and provide a high-quality user experience.
- 6 Provide pavilions, services, art, play and recreation opportunities to animate urban parks and open spaces.



5.2.1 Open and Public Spaces

Capital open and public spaces include a broad range of open and natural areas identified for long-term public use. These lands provide a diversity of experiences and opportunities for public enjoyment as well as important ecological, environmental, cultural education and heritage benefits that contribute to the livability and quality of urban life.



5.2.1

A Parkland

Includes a variety of Capital parks that offer a range of experiences, activities and programming opportunities.

- i Provide a range of parkland scales and typologies to accommodate a variety of recreation, cultural, ecological and social functions.
 - a Provide a diversity of landscape typologies appropriate to the intended use with varied plantings that promote biodiversity.
 - b Reserve lawns for areas that provide recreational benefits such as urban parks and leisure areas.
- ii Incorporate flexible spaces that support both programmed and unprogrammed uses across different times of day and seasons of the year.
- iii Strengthen the integration of parkland into the surrounding urban fabric by ensuring clear connections to nearby streets and pathway networks.

iv Integrate parkland into broader networks of public space and mobility systems through continuous pathways, green corridors and multimodal access.

v Activate park spaces through a variety of programs that encourage public usage.

vi Introduce elements of play and discovery, such as fountains and water elements, climbing structures and interactive public art, to increase the enjoyment of the parks for users of all ages and abilities.

vii Where applicable, integrate Indigenous perspectives and offer opportunities for learning about the historical or cultural significance of the site.

viii Provide insights into the region's past and the evolution of the urban space by interpreting historical sites, monuments and artifacts.

ix **Capital Parks** include signature park spaces that provide distinctive experiences in the core area.

a Conserve cultural and historical features as part of the design of Capital Parks to reflect the national significance and character of these spaces. When lifecycle replacements are required, prioritize replacement of architectural and urban furniture and fixtures in the same style as the originals.

b Concentrate capital investments and co-locate services and amenities in Capital parks to maintain their quality and public appeal.

c Maintain and enhance the accessibility, connectivity and aesthetic value of Capital Parks through careful landscape design, ensuring they serve as welcoming destinations for both passive and active recreation.

d Provide complementary facilities and services that enhance the user experience of each park.

e Develop park-specific management plans and guidelines that conserve and enhance the beauty of each park and guide ongoing maintenance, planting and infrastructure interventions.

f Permit pavilions that complement the character of the park and act as flexible spaces that can host a variety of uses. Ensure that their design matches, or is visibly referential to, the established style of the park and its design era.

x Encourage the integration of municipal parks into the overall network of public spaces, using walkway and pathway connections.

B Urban Public Space

Includes predominantly hard-surfaced places such as Sparks Street, the Sussex Courtyards, and other plazas and urban public spaces.

- i Promote urban public spaces as places for concentrated formal and informal activity.
- ii Ensure a high standard of design in urban public spaces that includes considerations for lighting, furnishing and materiality.
- iii Permit complementary small-scale commercial services and user amenities in plaza areas that bring vibrancy, animation and comfort in keeping with the character and intent of the site.
- iv Where appropriate, permit public uses such as markets and vendors, events, social gatherings and seasonal programming.



5.2.1 Open and Public Spaces

C Institutional Grounds

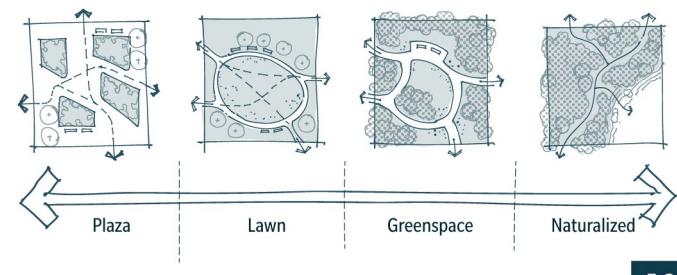
Includes the lands surrounding large institutional buildings, such as museums, galleries and public administrative sites.

- i Ensure that institutional grounds are publicly accessible spaces, where appropriate, and that their design reflects the significance, identity and welcoming character of the institution.
- ii Create well-proportioned and inviting forecourt and entrance spaces that are universally accessible and accommodate and reflect the role and purpose of the institution.
- iii Maintain and enhance a formal, highly manicured design approach. Design hard and soft landscape elements, such as paving, furnishings and surfaces, to high quality standards and include pedestrian paving treatments and ornamental plantings.
- iv Frame key views to and from institutional buildings and from surrounding streets and approaches through landscape design, ensuring visual prominence and legibility.
- v Prohibit commercial uses or amenities that detract from the dignified character and setting of the grounds.



5.2.2 Landscape Typologies

Open spaces incorporate a range of landscape treatments from urban plazas to naturalized areas. These typologies should be combined and arranged within open spaces using a green infrastructure approach in ways that create high-quality urban spaces, while enhancing the overall biodiversity and urban ecology of the core.



A Plazas

Includes predominantly hardscaped urban spaces usually near buildings and streetscapes designed as prominent gathering spaces, commemorative sites or other points of interest.

- i Design plaza areas as flexible, multifunctional spaces that can accommodate heavy foot traffic.
- ii Incorporate public seating, shade structures and green elements like urban trees and ornamental plantings to ensure a comfortable human environment.
- iii Emphasize public squares and plazas through specialty design features, lighting and focal points, such as commemorative and public art installations, water features and pavilions, where appropriate.

B Lawns

Includes sodded surfaces that accommodate a range of functions, from formal gathering spaces to passive leisure.

- i Design and maintain formal lawn areas to withstand intended uses and foot traffic based on the context.
- ii Provide clear spatial definition, through grading, edge treatments or framing with planting, while maintaining openness for flexible programming and unstructured use.
- iii Ensure universal accessibility to and across lawn areas, through gently sloped grades, firm perimeter surfaces and accessible pathways, where appropriate.

C Green Space

Includes vegetated passive spaces that add to the natural character of the core, provide opportunities to engage in outdoor activities and provide places of respite from hot weather.

- i Improve the quality and functionality of green spaces, using formal planting, terraforming and thoughtful design.
- ii Integrate pathways and walkways through green spaces that improve the connectivity within green spaces and to other sites.
- iii Increase the number of trees in green spaces.
- iv Prioritize resilient planting of ornamental perennials and native species that increase biodiversity.
- v Provide comfort elements such as shade, furniture for rest and facilities such as drinking fountains and bathrooms.
- vi Introduce facilities and limited commercial services that complement the usage of the green space.

5.2.2 Landscape Typologies

D Naturalized Areas

Includes areas and habitats (sometimes restricted from access) that add to the natural character of the Capital and are important for the maintenance of biodiversity.

- i Conserve and enhance naturalized areas by maintaining their ecological integrity, promoting biodiversity and ensuring natural features are protected.
- ii Use vegetation to create buffer zones between activity areas and natural environments.
- iii Promote ecological restoration and enhancement to increase biodiversity and ecological services:
 - a Manage and limit the spread of invasive plant species.
 - b Restore understory biodiversity, such as native shrubs, ferns, forbs and ephemeral plants, through targeted planting initiatives in disturbed locations.
 - c Consider regeneration techniques such as mini-forests or selective removal and succession planting.
- iv Encourage appropriate uses and installations compatible with their character and ecological capacity such as boardwalks, belvederes and elevated structures with minimal impacts.
 - a In certain cases, restrict access to naturalized areas where required for safety, security or ecological priorities.
- v Prioritize resilient native plant species and diverse self-sustaining plant communities with canopy, understory and ground cover species.
- vi Employ creative and innovative ways to introduce and integrate small scale naturalized areas into parks and public spaces, such as mini forests or bioswales.



5.2.3 Connections

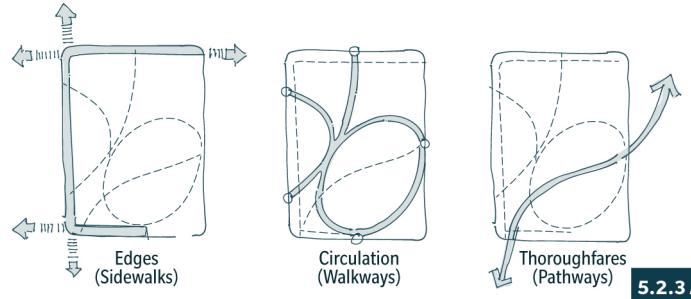
Includes a network of pathways and public linkages throughout the cities that supports both a walkable urban environment and ecological connectivity.



5.2.3 Connections

A Walkways and Linkages

Create a clear hierarchy of pathway and walkway connections that create comfortable environments for pedestrians and provide intuitive connections through public spaces.



- i Create a clear pedestrian network of esplanades, pathways and walkways that connect to streets and sidewalks and link destinations.
 - a Ensure that parks and public spaces are integrated with surrounding pathways and transit networks to promote easy access.
 - b Emphasize entrance plazas and arrival points into park spaces at logical street intersections, with appropriate lighting and amenities to create a comfortable user environment.
 - c Employ pavement details, signage and site design to distinguish and reinforce pedestrian priority throughout the core area.

- ii Provide wayfinding, directing people to public spaces from high-traffic urban areas.

- iii Provide universally accessible ramps and complementary staircases where necessary to navigate changes in elevation. Consider elevators or alternative mechanical devices to provide universal access in challenging locations.

B Capital Pathways

The Capital Pathway is a network of over 200 kilometres of off-road multi-use pathways in Canada's Capital Region that connects people to destinations, open spaces and other mobility corridors.

- i Prioritize the construction of missing segments to improve the overall connectivity of the entire active mobility network.
- ii Design high-quality, off-road, multi-use pathway corridors that prioritize a safe and comfortable user experience.
- iii Prioritize the pedestrian experience throughout the urban core:
 - a Provide calming measures, such as slow zones and pathway segregation in busy areas and demarcate through routes, including bikeways for cyclists and micro-mobility devices.
 - b Simplify pathway connections and junction points to improve navigation and reduce conflict points between user groups.
- iv Embed structural obstructions to motor vehicles, such as walls, bollards and railings to ensure the integrity of the pathway for its intended users.

C Parkways

The landscapes along Capital parkways serve as important greenspace corridors and active mobility linkages throughout the National Capital Region. These areas should be designed to improve parkland connectivity and character.

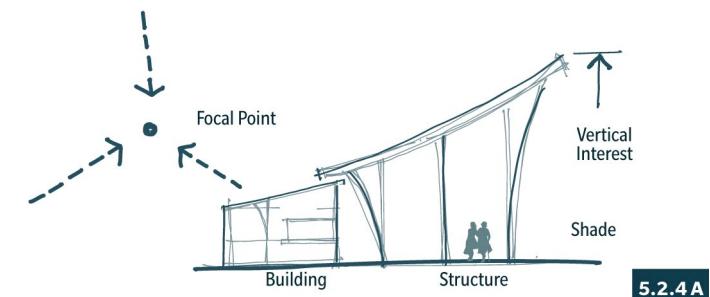
- i Protect picturesque views to enhance entryways from parkways into the Capital core.
- ii Minimize the proliferation and visibility of signage along parkways to conserve high-quality views and visitor experiences.

5.2.4 Activation

Installations, services and amenities within Capital open spaces provide public benefit and improve user experiences. The following features may be employed in appropriate locations to increase the urban vitality of public spaces.

A Pavilions and Focal Points

Includes standalone structures designed for recreational, cultural, commercial or gathering uses in a park or other open space.

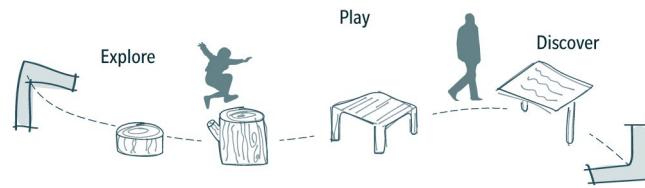


5.2.4 Activation

- i May include enclosed or open-air structures that provide shelter from the sun and weather.
- ii Pavilion structures should be designed as architectural focal points within the public realm and should exemplify design excellence.
 - a Pavilion design should support and contribute to each site's unique sense of place.
 - b Pavilions should be constructed of durable materials that suit the context.
- iii Pavilions must be public-facing and should be planned to complement the intended purpose of the site. Examples would include:
 - a Performance stage and/or support infrastructure for event sites;
 - b Picnic shade structures for relaxation, community gatherings and special events;
 - c Co-location of public services (washrooms, drinking fountains, etc.) and small-scale commercial offerings.
- iv In addition to pavilion structures, consider other vertical structures to serve as focal points:
 - a Pergolas, walls and arbours to define spaces and edges;
 - b Shade sails and trellises to create comfortable refuge areas;
 - c Decorative fountains, lighting, and commemoration or artistic installations.

B Play and Discovery

Includes interactive elements that encourage fun, play and discovery in public spaces.



5.2.4 B

- i Incorporate tactile or interactive elements, such as public art, nature play, lighting displays, swings and climbable elements into the site design for public spaces to engage a wide range of users of all ages and abilities.
- ii Permanent installations must be context-sensitive and custom-designed to respect the theme, purpose and character of the site.
 - a Interactive elements should have a distinctive look and user experience that visually and functionally sets them apart from those in neighbourhood parks.

C Commercial Services

Include complementary, small-scale commercial services and vendors to offer more user amenities.

- i Commercial services should be integrated in key parks and plazas to activate public spaces, providing amenities such as vendors, kiosks and cafés.
 - a Commercial services should be compatible in location, scale and design with the surrounding environment, maintaining an aesthetic appeal and heritage character and ensuring that operations do not detract from the public or ecological functions of the space.

- ii Leverage commercial partnerships to fund the maintenance and programming of open spaces, ensuring a sustainable model for long-term activation and vitality.

- iii Where commercial services are planned, provide service requirements including power sources, water connections, waste management infrastructure and vehicle access. These services should be appropriate to the space and should not interfere with its public usability.

D Facilities

Include essential public services and facilities required to improve comfort and equity within the public realm.

- i Facility design must respect the character and materiality of the site in which the facility is situated.
- ii Consider washroom facilities in central, visible locations, especially in extensive parkland areas without easy access to adjacent public buildings.
 - a Provide non-gendered, universally accessible facilities that are capable of serving the greatest number of users.
 - b Co-locate with other park and public realm features such as plazas and pavilions.
- iii Distribute drinking fountains and bottle filling stations throughout the core area in convenient locations and along pathways.

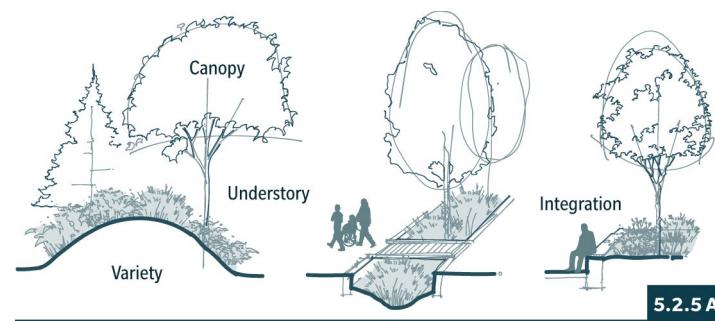


5.2.5 Landscape Elements

Appropriate furnishings and landscape features are required to create high-quality public spaces. All public spaces must be designed to reflect their individual character while contributing to the overall design quality and experience of the public realm.

A Trees and Vegetation

Includes urban trees and ornamental plantings throughout the core area that promote the natural character of the core and support biodiversity and resilience in the face of climate change.



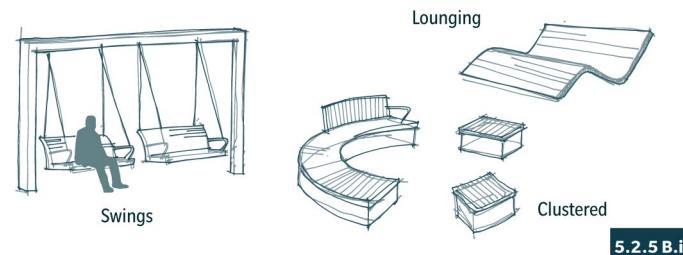
- i Incorporate low-maintenance plants and trees in urban spaces.
 - a Prioritize high-impact perennial plantings and floral displays that provide recurring, four-season interest with minimal annual maintenance.
 - b Prioritize the planting of native species, including a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees to enhance ecological resilience and ensure year-round visual interest (e.g., the fall colours), shade and wind protection.

- ii Encourage the protection and conservation of vegetation and mature trees, especially those identified as remarkable trees or as character-defining elements of heritage sites.
 - a Protect critical root zones by locating new infrastructure outside of those areas and limiting the size of events where these may pose a risk to valued trees and vegetation.
- iii Plant a variety of large and small tree species that will contribute to the urban forest cover.
 - a Avoid the overuse of small ornamental trees (such as crab-apple, tree lilac, etc.) that block views into and through public spaces and offer little shade.
 - b Carefully consider the use of dense coniferous trees in urban settings that may block, sever or obscure public spaces.

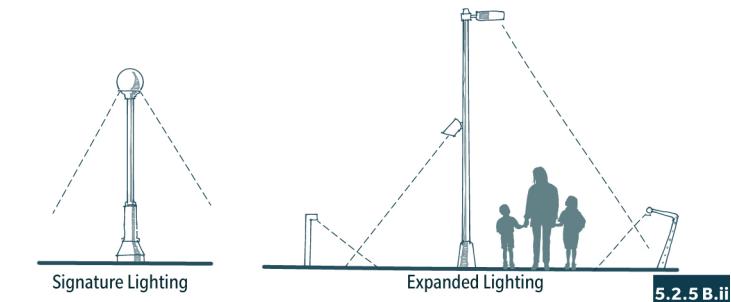
B Furniture

Includes the families of benches, waste bins, bike racks and other furnishings throughout the public realm.

- i Site furnishings should respond to established families of design aesthetic and reflect a particular site's sense of place, heritage value and character-defining elements.



- ii Expand the palette of standard light fixtures to include bollard, railing, catenary and directional lighting options to help create interesting night-time environments.



- a Emphasize lighting in urban plazas and Capital Park entrances.
- b Transition to low-level, ambient lighting strategies in riverfront and parkland areas.
- iii Furniture should be placed in strategic locations throughout parks and plazas to encourage social interaction, provide seating and enhance accessibility.
- iv Offer a variety of furnishing types, such as social seating clusters and lounging platforms, to provide diverse use opportunities that cater to a wide range of preferences and abilities.
 - a Provide universally accessible furnishing options to accommodate users of all ages and abilities.
 - b Explore creative and dynamic furnishing options, such as swings and hanging benches, hammocks, and rocking or reclining forms, to expand the typical public realm experience.



5.2.5 Landscape Elements

C Materials and Hardscaping

Includes the colours, finishes and materials of public realm design that are intended to achieve a high-quality palette of public spaces.

- i Where possible, prioritize local materials that reflect the character of the space in which they are situated.
- ii Maintain a neutral and cohesive colour palette and choose options that are easily repainted or repaired.
 - a Use bold primary colours selectively and intentionally to emphasize points of interest and add visual interest, particularly for ephemeral installations or winter activities.
- iii Use hardscaping in Capital parks, green spaces and in forecourts of institutions to define entrance points and provide an elevated public realm around key landmark destinations.

D Site Drainage

Includes natural and engineered methods to ensure adequate and sustainable stormwater drainage and management.

- i Prioritize permeable materials and green infrastructure to aid in stormwater management in hardscaped areas.
- ii Encourage stormwater retention and volume control prior to discharge.
- iii Encourage stormwater practices and designs that make use of natural filtration and infiltration processes.
- iv Design any stormwater retention or infiltration features to successfully integrate with the public realm experience.



5.3 CAPITAL FABRIC

A mosaic of public grounds, heritage sites and institutions is complemented by mixed-use urban blocks that frame public spaces, showcase landmark buildings and achieve a coherent, human-scaled pattern of frontages and interfaces.

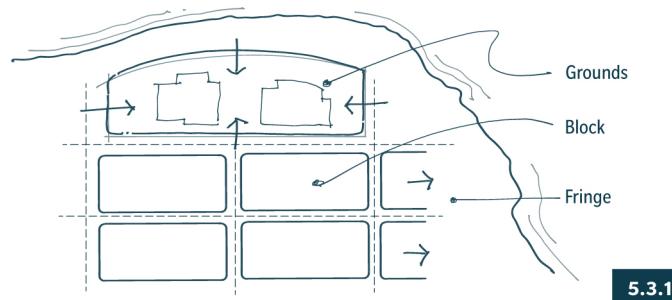
Key Objectives

- 1 Protect iconic views and showcase the national symbols, landmark buildings and heritage sites of the Capital.
- 2 Promote a fine-grained, walkable pattern of blocks and buildings that enhance the public realm and pedestrian experience.
- 3 Consolidate or subdivide irregular lots and parcels into appropriately sized open spaces and buildable areas.
- 4 Allocate future buildable areas for appropriate building types and ensure new structures complement their surroundings.
- 5 Reserve prominent locations for signature buildings, commemorations and public cultural institutions.
- 6 Ensure that buildings are designed for ground-floor activation and that all façades contribute positively to the public realm.



5.3.1 Block Patterns

The city comprises several block patterns with unique characteristics. Buildings and interventions must be planned in keeping with the following established patterns of urban fabric.



5.3.1

A Institutional Grounds

Include iconic public and institutional spaces with complementary public grounds and landscapes.

- i Maintain and create distinct institutional ensembles that emphasize the grand public nature of civic and cultural institutions.
- ii Establish clear, formal and dignified patterns of laneways, forecourts and access routes throughout the grounds.
- iii Ensure high-quality landscape treatments to create a cohesive ensemble of buildings in the public realm.
- iv Remove and/or reduce surface parking around heritage buildings and sites where parking diminishes their heritage value. Restore or establish new landscape approaches that respect the heritage character of these sites and enhance the public realm.
- v Reserve prominent locations for new civic and symbolic structures.

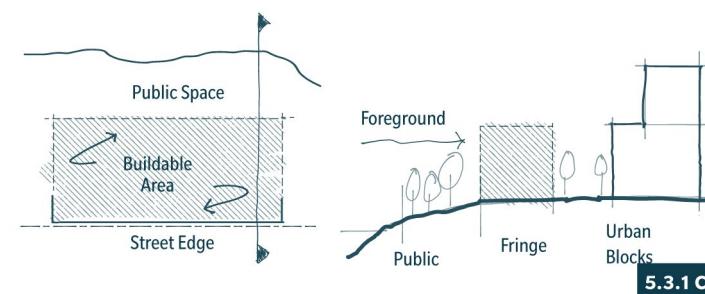
B Urban Blocks

Includes typical urban blocks bounded by public streets, with established patterns of building form and street frontage.

- i Maintain a block configuration that is consistent with the surrounding grid and an arrangement of buildings that is oriented towards the street.
- ii Respect the established pattern of vernacular buildings and respond to predominant patterns of architectural style, rhythm and proportion (including build-to setbacks, cornice heights and fenestration patterns).
- iii Establish mid-block connections, parkettes, courtyards and internal laneways to increase permeability and pedestrian circulation.

C Fringe Blocks

Includes irregular parcels and edge-block conditions with development potential. Interventions that overlap with urban open space or institutional grounds must carefully define the layout and footprint of the site to ensure the continued enjoyment and usefulness of the remainder of the site.



5.3.1 C

- i Subdivide large irregular parcels into logical configurations of buildable and non-buildable areas. Create new city blocks of dimensions and configuration consistent with the surrounding grid, where parcel size is sufficient.

- ii Ensure building placements respect adjacent land uses and continue and/or engage primary street frontages.

- iii Create logical transitions in height and mass between foreground fringe lots and adjacent urban lots.

- iv Preserve public connections and corridors around fringe lots to maintain parkland and waterfront continuity.

- v Design transitional edges with public zones and frontages, green buffers and/or stepped massing to harmonize between open spaces and high-density zones.

5.3.2 Building Typologies

Building interventions must respond to their appropriate role, based on the following typologies.



5.3.2

A Landmarks

In specific cases, design iconic structures of national, cultural or civic importance that are set apart by distinctive design and architecture (e.g., symbolically important buildings, sports or event centres, museums or major cultural facilities).

- i Site signature buildings in prime locations, such as along Confederation Boulevard, at waterfront locations, and at key intersections or vantage points.



5.3.2 Building Typologies

- ii Ensure landmark buildings are visually prominent, recognizable and symbolically significant.
- iii Exhibit architectural excellence, prioritize public access and enhance the civic identity of the core area.
- iv Massing and proportions shall convey a sense of balance, order and permanence aligned with the prominence of federal institutions.
- v Maintain historic continuity or embrace architectural style evolution to create a cohesive yet dynamic urban fabric, based on any site-specific direction that may be provided in this or other NCC plans or directives.

B General Purpose and Mixed-use Buildings

Build flexible building stock which is convertible to multiple future uses such as residential, commercial or office uses.

- i Prioritize dense, mixed-use development along primary streets and intersections.
- ii Concentrate residential, commercial and office functions near mass transit stations or intermodal nodes to support walkability and transit-oriented development (TOD).
- iii Incorporate active ground-floor uses, transparent façades and amenities that enhance the public realm.
- iv Design general purpose buildings to create a cohesive urban backdrop, one which is respectful of surrounding signature buildings and national landmarks.

C Secure Functions

Includes dedicated buildings and installations with heightened security requirements that are incompatible with general-purpose uses (e.g., military, intelligence or specialized federal functions).

- i Where appropriate, site secure buildings discreetly to maintain overall urban patterns and minimize impacts to the surrounding public realm.
- ii Buildings with secure functions should not front onto main streets or areas intended for at-grade commercial or ground-oriented uses to animate the public realm.
- iii Use innovative architectural and urban design to visually integrate secure buildings into the surrounding context without compromising safety.
- iv Establish clear security perimeters and access points while maintaining high-quality public realm design at the interface.

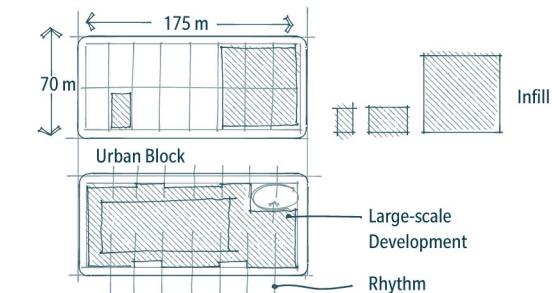
D Special Function and Utilitarian Buildings

Includes functional structures, such as parking, service facilities and material handling centres.

- i Integrate utilitarian buildings into the urban landscape through thoughtful façade treatments, screening strategies and landscape buffers.
- ii Locate utilitarian facilities in secondary or less visually prominent areas but ensure accessibility for operational efficiency.
- iii Dual-purpose designs, where utilitarian functions are combined with public amenities (e.g., rooftop green spaces or public art installations) are expected unless they are demonstrably infeasible.

5.3.3 Intervention Areas

Building developments can range from adaptive reuse of existing structures and small-scale infill to large-scale redevelopment. At the outset of building and development projects, identify the appropriate block context and building typology and then determine the appropriate intervention as follows.



5.3.3

A Reuse

Whenever possible, prioritize the rehabilitation, conversion and/or expansion of existing structures before building new.

- i Prioritize the adaptive reuse of existing structures to retain cultural, architectural and material value while reducing environmental impact.
- ii Encourage creative conversions that provide updated functionalities while respecting original building character.
- iii Support sensitive expansions that enhance the use, sustainability and resilience of historic buildings.



5.3.3 Intervention Areas

B Small-grain Infill

Within an established block and street wall pattern, employ contextual, incremental development within the existing urban fabric.

- i Design small-grain infill to fully integrate with and complement the established architectural character and pattern of adjacent building typologies.
- ii Maintain the rhythm and scale of streetscapes by matching setbacks, façade treatments and heights.
- iii Maintain continuous building frontages.

C Large-scale Development

Includes full-block or multi-parcel projects that must be well-integrated into the surrounding urban context.

- i Large-scale, block-sized development must be designed to fit into the urban context.
- ii Prioritize mixed-use, general-purpose developments where possible to ensure a variety of tenure, activation and interfaces throughout the block.
 - a Avoid large-scale monofunctional buildings that could sterilize the surrounding area.
- iii Integrate green spaces or courtyards where possible to enhance the public realm.

D Redevelopment Zones

In some instances, past industrial uses and mid-20th century planning interventions have created superblocks, gaps in the urban fabric and/or roadway patterns resulting in urban discontinuity. Redevelopment and urban fabric repair are required to consolidate and reconfigure the existing parcel fabric to establish new block patterns.

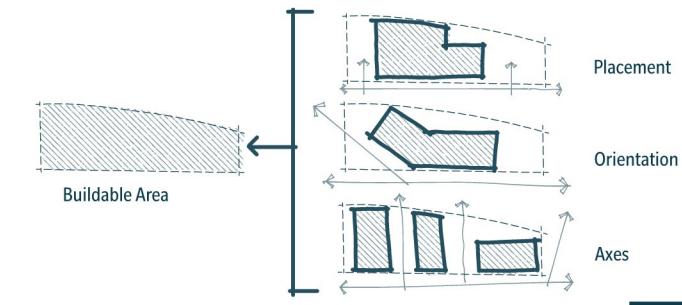
- i Reconfigure rights-of-way and consolidate or subdivide irregular lots to create logical parcels and a compact and efficient arrangement of buildable areas.
- ii Where historical grid patterns previously existed, establish lot patterns that reflect the original urban fabric, or the closest approximation thereof in terms of parcel size and configuration.
- iii Establish clear pedestrian axes and corridors to guide building placement, connect streets and pathways and promote walkable, integrated urban development patterns.
- iv Conserve and creatively interpret cultural and historical elements to maintain a sense of place and continuity.
- v Support phased redevelopment to ensure a smooth transition and minimize disruption to existing communities.

5.3.4 Layout and Footprint

Includes buildable area, footprint and frontage considerations.

A Buildable Area

The buildable area prescribes the general size and proportions of the development based on the intended future building.



5.3.4 A

- i The buildable area may accommodate several discrete building configurations.
- ii In certain cases, mid-block, internal circulation corridors may be required to further subdivide and structure the buildable area.
 - a The site should be designed with clear and safe pathways for pedestrians and vehicles.
 - b Consider how the building will interact with surrounding streets, parking areas and pedestrian connections, especially regarding access and servicing requirements.
- iii The site design should aim to efficiently use the available buildable area, balancing circulation spaces, open areas and usable zones.

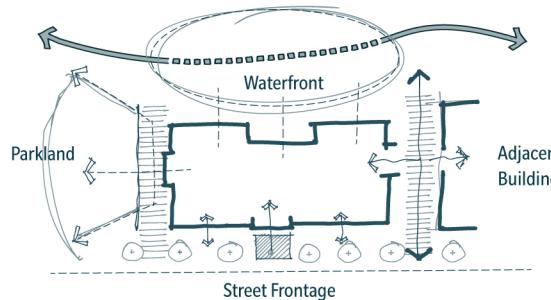


5.3.4 Layout and Footprint

- iv The building should be designed to complement the surrounding urban fabric, considering the character of the neighbourhood, neighbouring structures and existing street patterns.
 - a In urban block contexts, minimize setback from the street and locate buildings to engage the street front.
 - b For institutional buildings with public grounds, ensure appropriate landscape treatments and interfaces to enhance the public realm.
- v The building layout should create a sense of continuity and contribute positively to the surrounding public realm.
- vi For public buildings with a very important cultural or historical association, design the site layout and landscape architecture with consideration for opportunities for commemorative and public art installations.

B Frontages

Depending on the block pattern, design the frontages according to the following adjacent uses.



5.3.4 B

i Street Wall Frontages: Where buildings engage a public street, avenue or boulevard:

- a Maintain consistent street walls with active ground-floor uses (e.g., retail and cultural spaces).
- b Main façades and entrances must face a public street or, in its absence, a public open space with direct plaza and/or walkway connections to a public street.
- c Provide street-level spaces accessible to pedestrians for daytime and evening uses to foster a 24-hour environment.
- d Showcase Canadian craftsmanship and cultural heritage along Confederation Boulevard and key streets, through detailed façades, patterns, ornamentation and motifs.
- e Ensure corner infill developments provide inviting, pedestrian-oriented edges on both streets, with features such as public art, seating areas or high-transparency façades.

ii Waterfront Frontages: Where buildings have direct proximity to watercourses or waterfront public spaces:

- a Prioritize public access along waterfronts, incorporating pedestrian promenades, cycling paths and clear sightlines to the water; and
- b Design frontages for buildings bordering waterways with the following in mind:
 - i Provide safe, convenient and accessible pedestrian connections to waterfronts, while minimizing impacts on natural resources.
 - ii Incorporate amenities and/or spill-out zones (e.g., cafés, seating and gathering spaces) that encourage year-round, daytime and nighttime public use.
 - iii Support the creation of waterfront public spaces and contribute to their active use throughout the year.
 - iv Do not restrict public access to the shoreline or privatize frontages.

iii Parkland and Public Realm Frontages: Where buildings are directly adjacent to public parks and public spaces:

- a Design park-adjacent building frontages to foster seamless transitions between built form and open spaces.
- b Encourage active frontages with accessible edges, transparent façades, and spill-out spaces for cafés, markets or public seating.
- c Ensure visual permeability to create strong connections between buildings and adjacent public spaces, thereby enhancing safety and engagement.
- d Integrate elements such as shaded walkways, green roofs and terraces to visually and functionally extend parkland into building design.

iv Security Perimeters: When buildings or ensembles require a secured perimeter:

- a Integrate security requirements seamlessly into an inviting public realm through streetscape and site furnishing elements (e.g., planters and seating) rather than imposing visible physical barriers.
- b Maintain pedestrian pathways and public connections through security-sensitive sites, wherever feasible.
- c Ensure that security design requirements, such as building envelope, stand-off distances and stand-offs, remain visually integrated and do not disrupt the urban character.



5.3.5 Skyline

The skyline of the Capital is a composition of many buildings and natural features that work in harmony. Each building must consider its role as part of an ensemble, with consideration for its placement within the scene.

A Silhouette

Consider the overall form and design of new buildings to present an iconic skyline.

- i Protect the primacy of the national symbols (most notably the Centre Block) in the landscape and silhouette of the Capital skyline.
- ii New elements must support and enhance the composition of the Capital skyline. They may be legible and distinctive in form but should not block, compete or detract from existing scenes.
 - a Use tall buildings, spires, and pitched and/or sculpted rooflines to define focal points that enhance the Capital's silhouette without overwhelming the skyline.
 - b Design rooflines thoughtfully to contribute to visual interest when viewed from afar, incorporating green roofs, articulated forms or culturally significant motifs.
 - c Use sculpted rooflines, decorative cornices and spandrels to enhance skyline and streetscape visibility.
- iii Balance iconic structures with cohesive skyline elements to maintain a sense of order and visual rhythm.

B Foreground

Includes buildings in the foreground of Capital scenes (especially along Confederation Boulevard or the interface with the Capital realm).

- i Ensure a high quality of façade treatment and detailing.
- ii Design foreground buildings with fine-grained detail and human-scale proportions that are legible from a distance and up-close.
- iii Maintain a consistent street wall while allowing architectural diversity to avoid monotony.
- iv In general, match the height and proportion of existing and similar foreground elements or tree line to create a cohesive visual ensemble.
- v To avoid a dominating or looming effect, judiciously employ accentuated focal points, such as towers, spires or rooflines.

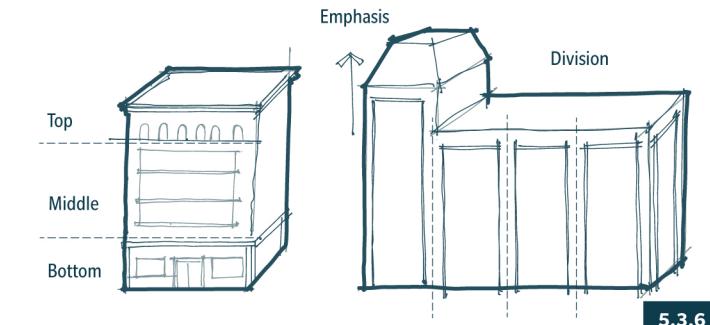
C Backdrop

Where buildings play a supporting role in supporting mid- to high-rise buildings that define the broader urban profile:

- i Encourage mid-rise developments (i.e., five to nine storeys) that establish a balanced urban profile and support transitioning between foreground elements and taller structures.
- ii Maintain contextual harmony by scaling backdrop buildings appropriately near heritage assets and low-rise districts.

5.3.6 Building Design

Includes functional, stylistic and material considerations for new and existing buildings.



A Height and Massing

Numerous building configurations are possible within a buildable area. Building proposals must identify appropriate forms according to the following.

- i Establish building heights and rooflines, including penthouse utility and mechanical units, to respect established view planes towards Parliament.
- ii Define the overall composition and placement of buildings relative to the buildable area with consideration for axes through the site, frontage and servicing requirements in ways that frame and define residual public and open spaces.
- iii Where appropriate, transition building heights to respond to adjacent heritage buildings, public spaces or lower-scale neighbourhoods.
- iv Subdivide the mass into legible building elements, such as architectural bays, podium and tower, or other distinct components, that help break down the scale, enhance visual interest and create a human-scaled streetscape.



5.3.6 Building Design

B Façade Design and Articulation

Includes the exterior envelope and treatment of building exteriors.

- i Ensure a refined and detailed treatment of all building façades.
- ii Articulate façades to break down large volumes, using elements such as recesses, projections, fenestration patterns and material variations.
- iii Maintain façade continuity in key streetscapes, while allowing variations that reflect building typology and context.
- iv Introduce façade elements that reference adjacent building character, such as cornices, rooflines, window spacings and aligned floor heights.
- v Design ground-level façades to enhance and prioritize pedestrian engagement through transparent glazing, articulated entrances and interactive elements.
- vi Integrate awnings, arcades or canopies to define and shelter entrances and sidewalks, especially along primary pedestrian corridors.

C Materiality

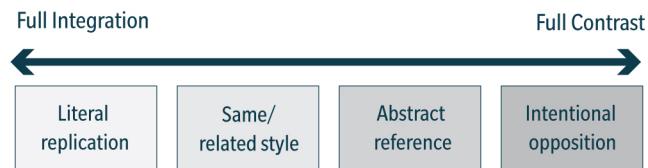
Select materials and treatments to enhance urban character and environmental performance.

- i Ensure that materials reflect durability, sustainability and craftsmanship, with careful attention to color, texture and tactile quality.
- ii Prioritize locally sourced and noble materials that will age gracefully, such as stone, metals and authentic, natural materials.
- iii Use a palette that reinforces visual continuity within the surrounding built context (including references to colours and textures), while allowing for artistic expression in detailing.

D Style

The determination of appropriate architectural style should be established early in the design process. This plan provides guidance at two levels: more deliberate guidance for first-tier locations and more general guidance for all other locations.

- Permit a range of architectural styles—from traditional to contemporary—provided they exhibit thoughtful design, quality materials and integration with their urban context.

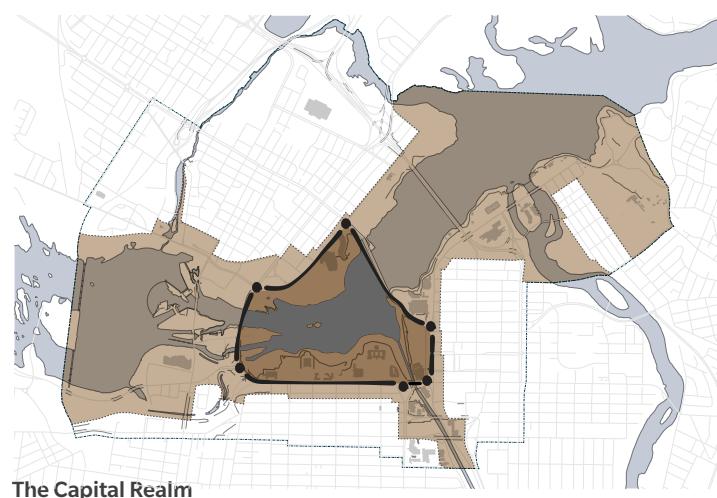


- ii Aim to contribute positively to the local area's distinct identity, while balancing the twin goals creative expression and functionality.
 - a Assess the character of the surrounding built environment, including heritage assets, adjacent architectural styles and public spaces, to inform design direction.
 - b Within the context of pre-1950 buildings, the architectural style of additions or new infill must be in the same style as or visibly referential to the original, in terms of scale, materials, patterns and details of ornamentation. Any departures therefrom must be adequately justified.
- iii When constructing new buildings:
 - a Promote design innovation, enabling the recreation, replication or reinterpretation of traditional forms, new technologies and sustainable building practices.
 - b Balance individuality and cohesion by complementing adjacent structures while allowing for architectural diversity.

5.3.6 Building Design

Design Priority:

- iv The Capital Realm constitutes a design priority area, and all building sites must express a heightened quality of architectural design.
- v Any new buildings or additions within the design priority area should be designed in styles that are faithful to and reflective of Canada's national identity and should source their design inspiration in Canada's, and the Capital's, historical architectural references.
- vi The architectural style should be carefully selected through a comprehensive process that includes an analysis of classical, traditional, vernacular or contemporary expressions and an account of how such a selection might express a deliberate direction for historical continuity and proper integration with highly symbolic or heritage contexts or, where adequately justified, a departure therefrom, and to what extent.



The Capital Realm



E Architectural Elements and Symbolism

Architectural designs and interventions on federal buildings should include details that add character and narrative to buildings.

- i Incorporate culturally significant symbols, artistic elements or public art to express civic pride and identity.
- ii Provide architectural lighting to animate façades and highlight key features of federal buildings.
 - a Consider accent lighting to showcase and celebrate cultural landmarks during evening hours.
 - b Provide a balanced lighting approach that enhances safety, reinforces architectural character and minimizes light pollution.
- iii Foster appreciation for Canadian traditions and design by integrating patterns and motifs.

F Environmental Performance

Interventions to existing buildings or construction of new buildings are expected to demonstrate excellence in environmental performance and sustainable design.

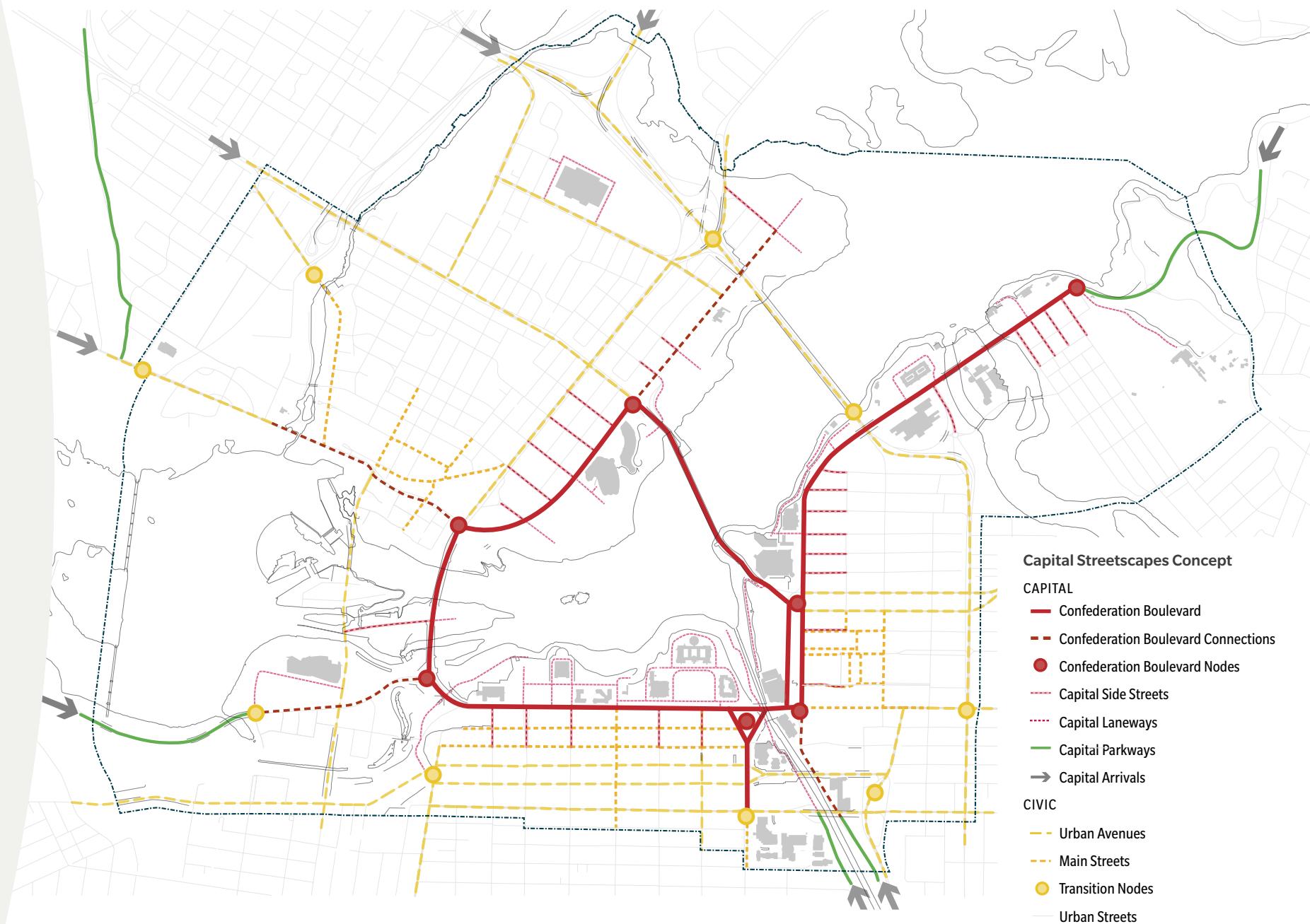
- i Reuse existing structures or materials where possible and implement a construction waste diversion plan.
- ii Any new buildings should be optimized for energy efficiency and climate resilience.
 - a Maximize building envelope performance, insulation, thermal mass, passive solar gain and natural ventilation to reduce operational energy demand.
 - b Consider green roofs or high-albedo surfaces to reduce urban heat island effects.
 - c Leverage building orientation, thermal mass, operable windows and external shading devices to minimize reliance on mechanical systems.
 - d Prioritize regionally sourced, renewable materials such as mass timber and recycled content to reduce embodied carbon.
- iii Create flexible floor plates, access to daylight and durable materials to support the long-life and future adaptive reuse of the building.

5.4 CAPITAL STREETSCAPES

A network of high-quality urban streets and avenues, anchored by Confederation Boulevard to create pleasing urban environments and connect both sides of the Ottawa River.

Key Objectives

- 1 Enhance streetscapes through thoughtful urban design, improved walkability, greenery and amenities, to serve as vibrant public spaces.
- 2 Ensure Capital arrivals and scenic entries connect and transition into urban avenues and boulevards.
- 3 Emphasize the junctions of key streetscapes to create interesting and memorable plazas, squares and landmarks.
- 4 Convert service routes and parking lots into public streets, plazas and esplanades.



5.4.1 Capital Streets

The streetscape of the Core Area can be considered under two categories: Capital Streetscapes and Civic Streetscapes. The Capital Streetscapes are the roadways of highest national importance. Confederation Boulevard is the anchor in this network, which physically and symbolically links both cities.

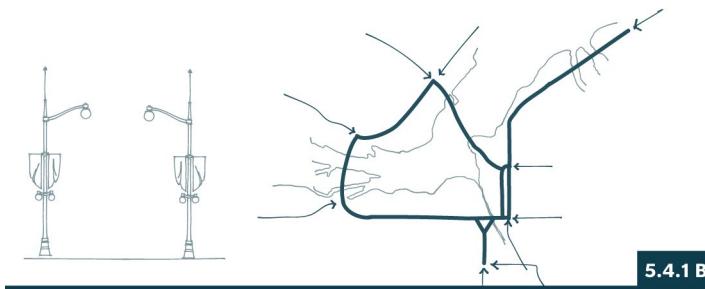
A Confederation Boulevard

It includes the centrepiece and ceremonial routes at the centre of a hierarchy of high-quality urban streets and avenues. Confederation Boulevard is the primary destination area in the capital and connects major institutions and landmarks.

- i Maintain a consistent palette of streetscape furnishings, including distinct lighting, banners, railings and paving materials with a unified aesthetic that conveys its national importance.
- ii Embed elements of national symbolism and identity within the streetscape design to reinforce the symbolic significance of the boulevard (such as interpretive, commemorative and public art installations).
- iii Incorporate flagpoles and banners to commemorate and celebrate national holidays, personalities, institutions or events.
- iv Ensure continuous and high-quality pedestrian connectivity between major institutions and landmarks, including generous esplanades and pedestrian zones.
- v Introduce pedestrianized areas, crossings, plazas and bollards to reinforce pedestrian priority.
- vi Design Confederation Boulevard to support a balanced integration of pedestrian, cycling, public transit and vehicular traffic.

B Confederation Boulevard Connections

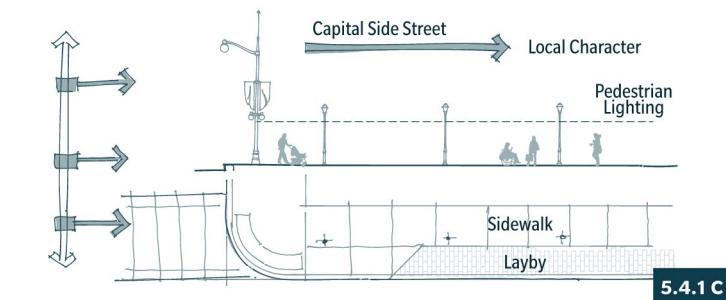
Includes co-linear segments of Confederation Boulevard, or adjacent boulevards and avenues that connect to Confederation Boulevard nodes and/or link to parkways.



- i Ensure that connections between Confederation Boulevard and adjacent boulevards or avenues prioritize seamless integration of pedestrian, cycling and transit infrastructure.
- ii Pursue a distinctive and high-quality palette of streetscape furnishings, lighting and materiality.
- iii Maintain a consistent design language along connecting corridors through coordinated landscaping, lighting and wayfinding elements that reinforce the identity of Confederation Boulevard while respecting the character of the adjacent area.

C Capital Side Streets

Includes perpendicular streets adjacent to Confederation Boulevard that require special design attention to enhance their connection to national sites and landmarks. These street segments are transition zones between Capital and civic streetscape typologies.



- i Elevate the design standards and minimize signage clutter along side streets.
 - a Encourage pedestrian scale lighting to emphasize their role and transition to adjacent neighbourhoods, urban areas and commercial districts.
- ii Harmonize the palette of sidewalk materials, vegetation and intersection design at the approach to Confederation Boulevard.
- iii Emphasize the quality of urban design for private developments and federal institutions fronting onto side streets.
 - a Ensure service access, material handling and security requirements along side streets are thoughtfully integrated into the streetscape environment.
- iv Emphasize the junction of key side streets to prioritize pedestrian crossings and secondary nodes along Confederation Boulevard, resulting in memorable plazas, parkettes and landmark nodes.



5.4.1 Capital Streets

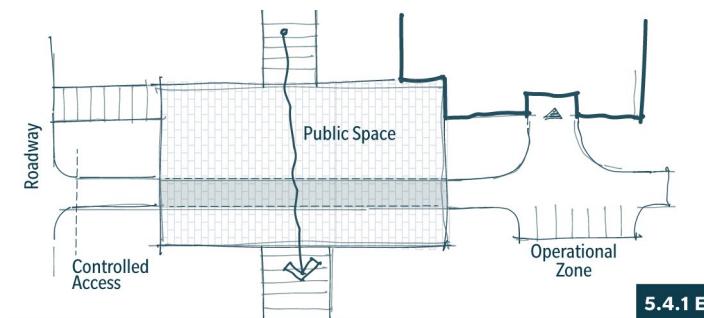
D Capital Parkways

Includes scenic roadways extending throughout the National Capital Region, providing connections to shorelines, parkland and open spaces.

- i Where parkways enter the core area, create appropriate transitions to urban avenues and boulevards offering a high-quality streetscape character (see Connections).
- ii Provide safe crossings and prioritize pedestrian and cyclist movement and connections to adjoining facilities (bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.) where parkways enter the core area.
- iii Reduce traffic speeds and explore opportunities to reclaim space for other modes (including pathways, bike lanes and/or public transit).

E Capital Laneways

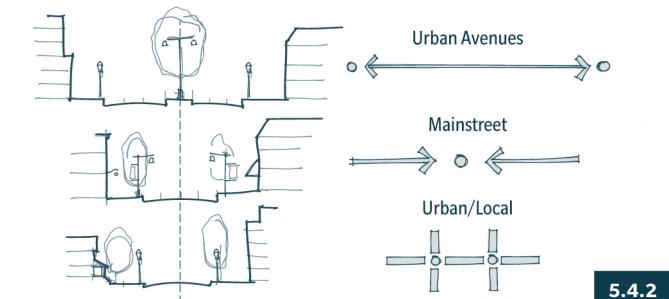
Includes service routes and public corridors that provide internal site circulation and access to and within federal sites.



- i In areas of highest pedestrian circulation, design Capital laneways as pedestrian priority spaces with high quality surface treatments to delineate the extents of the roadways and act as traffic calming device for vehicles and cyclists.
- ii Explore opportunities to convert service routes into pedestrian-friendly spaces and integrate into the public realm.
 - a Where possible, limit access to accredited vehicles and consider off-hour delivery schedules to minimize circulation.
 - b Provide appropriate delineation to restrict the circulation of vehicles (such as bollards, curbing and landscape features) and formalize pedestrian movement patterns.
 - c Consider shared space designs such as woonerfs and or plaza spaces.
- iii Design esplanades and laneways to enhance the pedestrian experience and activities through seating areas, public art and lighting to create engaging spaces.
- iv On a context-specific basis, determine the appropriate treatment (from the very urban to the softer landscaped) to establish vibrant and visually appealing edges, interfaces and spaces.
- v Support the activation of these spaces with programs, pop-up events and public art that encourage lively public spaces.

5.4.2 Civic Streets

Civic streets form the urban armature of the city, supporting daily life, local businesses, neighbourhoods and vibrant public spaces. They are designed for people first, balancing mobility, livability and a sense of place while adapting to the diverse needs of residents, workers and visitors.



A Urban Avenues

Includes broad streets and boulevards that serve as primary connectors between neighborhoods and key civic destinations. These avenues are character-defining corridors that accommodate a range of transportation options and high user volumes.

- i Recognize the importance and unique identity of urban avenues by promoting high-quality streetscape design, active frontages and a cohesive public realm.
- ii Encourage character defining streetscape designs that reinforce the concentrated urban character.
- iii Integrate green spaces, urban trees and public amenities like benches and plazas to create elegant, comfortable and visually appealing environments.
- iv Encourage mixed-use development along urban avenues to create vibrant corridors that enhance the urban experience.
- v Encourage the continuity of the built environment and active edges along urban avenues to ensure the development of instinctive links between areas or districts.



5.4.2 Civic Streets

B Main Streets

Includes the lively urban streets that host active retail, social and civic life, with an emphasis on local businesses and community connections. These streets offer a dynamic environment for both residents and visitors.

- i** Support the development of a distinct streetscape character and the use of a consistent palette of materials.
- ii** Support the design of pedestrian-friendly streetscapes on main streets by implementing wide sidewalks, street furniture, landscaping and traffic calming measures that promote walkability, support cycling and enhance local business vitality.
- iii** Ensure main streets are vibrant year-round by supporting public markets, seasonal events and cultural activities that engage the community and encourage tourism.
- iv** Implement design guidelines that enhance the visual character of main streets, incorporating high-quality materials, consistent signage and architectural elements that celebrate the identity of local neighborhoods.

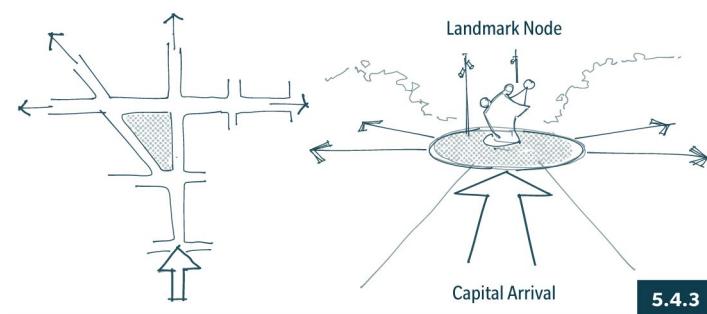
C Urban and Local Streets

Includes primarily residential or low-density, mixed-use streets that provide local access to homes and smaller community spaces. These streets are more intimate and support quieter, less congested environments.

- i** Encourage traffic-calming measures, pedestrian crossings and green infrastructure to reduce vehicle speeds.
- ii** Ensure neighbourhood streets are well-connected to the broader urban fabric through convenient access to transit and pedestrian and cyclist facilities.
- iii** Encourage community spaces and interfaces such as parkettes, plazas and public gathering spots.

5.4.3 Gateways and Nodes

Gateways and nodes define key entry points and focal areas within the Capital, enhancing a sense of arrival experiences and urban connectivity.



5.4.3

A Capital Arrivals

Includes key entry points into the Capital, such as bridges, highway entrances and gateway intersections. These spaces serve as ceremonial or symbolic thresholds into the Capital that signify moments of arrival.

- i** Improve the treatment and identification of gateways and entry nodes with appropriate signage, landscaping and design.
- ii** Consider elevated lighting standards (such as gobo or directional lighting) to emphasize arrival experience.
- iii** Where underutilized medians, traffic islands and residual spaces exist at prominent entry locations – consider opportunities for commemorative installations, public art or other visually interesting installations.
- iv** Where highways and major roads enter the core area, deliberately transition to urban avenue and boulevard typologies and employ traffic calming measures to reduce speeds.

B Confederation Boulevard Nodes

Includes high-profile public spaces designed for national landmarks, events and ceremonies. They serve as focal points along Confederation Boulevard and intersecting routes.

- i** Design Confederation Boulevard nodes as dynamic public spaces with landmark architecture, green spaces and pedestrian plazas that encourage social interaction and celebrate Canada's cultural identity.
- ii** Ensure each node is integrated into the broader street network with clear wayfinding, convenient transit connections and safe pedestrian connections.
- iii** Where arterial intersections exist, redesign to prioritize sustainable modes of transportation, enhance pedestrian safety and improve overall accessibility.
- iv** Explore the redesign of nodes and key intersections to incorporate, where so designated, commemorations or monuments that may form the central focus of such nodes.



5.4.3 Gateways and Nodes

C Transition Nodes

Includes important intersections and transition areas often between the Capital and civic realms, such as highway approaches, medians and urban avenue connections.

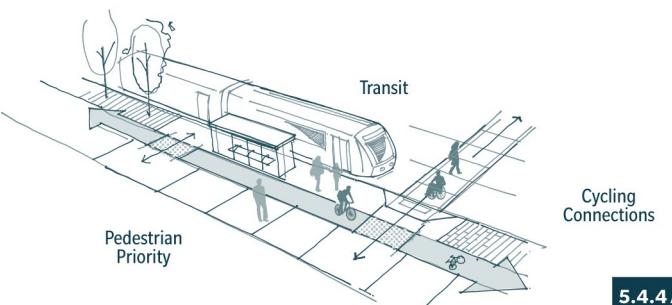
- i Demarcate intersections and transitions through installations and embellishments that achieve a visually cohesive human scale and character.
- ii Introduce public art and enhance the public realm through landscaping and signage to create visual interest and continuity between adjoining streetscapes.
- iii When transitioning to Capital streetscapes, ensure a cohesive integration with Confederation Boulevard or other established standards.

5.4.4 Streetscape Elements

All streets within the Core area contribute to the overall downtown character and impression of the Capital. As such, they should be designed to an elevated urban standard.

A Active Mobility

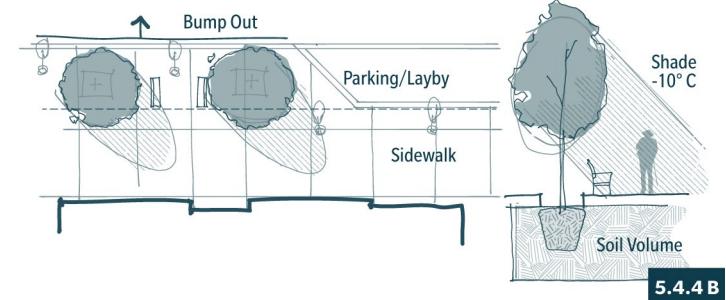
Includes people walking, cycling, traveling using mobility aids and assistive devices and other small-wheeled transportation modes.



- i Prioritize safe, accessible and high-quality pedestrian environments with wide sidewalks, universally accessible crossings and pedestrian-priority intersections, ensuring seamless connectivity across the urban fabric.
- ii Where possible, increase the pedestrian zone to provide generous sidewalks and esplanades.
- iii Design clear connections to off-street pathways and walkways in adjacent spaces, with formalized pedestrian surfaces and movement patterns.
- iv Ensure the clear and consistent integration of street-side bikeways and Capital Pathway connections throughout the core area.
- v Where demand and feasibility permits, provide fully separated cycling facilities.
- vi Along key corridors, incorporate dedicated, protected bike lanes and intersections, complemented by secure bike parking and end-of-trip facilities to support cycling as a primary mode of urban mobility.

B Street Trees

Street trees provide significant benefits for urban cooling and streetscape quality. Special care and consideration are required to ensure their long-term survival in tough urban environments.



- i Prioritize the protection and conservation of existing street trees.
- ii Create well-maintained space for trees with adequate soil and drainage to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of street trees.
 - a Integrate street trees into open planters, bioswales and/or adjacent softscape areas where possible.
 - b When planted in hardscaped surfaces, provide soil-cells, grates, tree rings or raised planters to encourage growth and protect against damage.
- iii Where possible, locate street trees to ensure adequate light exposure.
 - a Where space is limited, consider asymmetrical roadway cross-sections to consolidate space for trees (i.e., northern side of the streetscape).
- iv Plant a diversity of street tree species, appropriate to urban growing conditions and increasing heat.
- v Protect street trees from damage caused by operational requirements.



5.4.4 Streetscape Elements

C Planting

Urban plantings contribute to streetscape aesthetics, microclimate and permeability.

- i Prioritize permanent perennial plantings at strategic locations within streetscape designs to enhance the streetscape environment.
 - a Consider bulb-outs within parking and lay-by lanes to create additional space for planting.
 - b Leverage adjacent spaces and building frontages to increase streetscape plantings.
- ii Consider raised planters with durable walls and edges to reduce salt spray and damage and winter damage to planting zones.
- iii Integrate seating walls and other multifunctional elements into planter designs to provide seating, define spaces and enhance the pedestrian experience while protecting plantings.
- iv In prominent public streetscape locations (such as plazas, markets and main street locations) consider seasonal planting displays such as planters and hanging baskets.

D Stormwater Management

Includes natural and engineered methods to ensure adequate and sustainable stormwater drainage and management.

- i Plan surface water capture and discharge within rights-of-way.
 - a Consider bioswales and planted areas to capture, slow and filter rainwater.
 - b Consider permeable pavements, soak away areas, etc. at appropriate locations.
- ii Prioritize the planting of diverse, native species and resilient plants that support biodiversity, manage stormwater and provide shade along streetscapes.

E Furnishing

Includes the family of furniture, signage and other amenity features throughout the streetscape.

- i Develop consistent streetscape furnishing families to reinforce streetscape character.
- ii Prioritize furniture location between the curb and sidewalk to separate pedestrians from vehicles.
- iii Co-locate signs and furnishing within amenity zones to minimize sidewalk clutter.

F Safety and Security

Includes permanent and temporary physical features that limit vehicular access to pedestrianized and operational areas.

- i Integrate appropriate physical security measures into the surrounding context.
- ii Prioritize security measures that enhance the streetscape such as planters, lighting fixtures, furniture or other elements typically found in the streetscape.

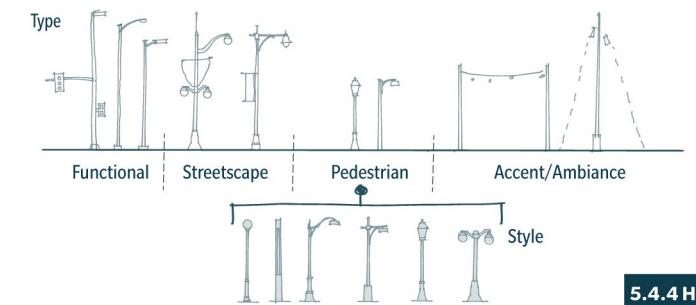
G Pavement Materials

Includes the palette of hardscaping materials used within the streetscape.

- i Where specialty streetscape finishes are required, prioritize durable and sustainable pavement materials of lasting quality that reflect the character of the surrounding architecture and public space, contributing to a cohesive streetscape design.
- ii Employ material variation instead of paint to demarcate pedestrian priority and public space.

H Street Lighting

Includes lighting for traffic, safety, pedestrians and ambience.



5.4.4 H

- i Lighting necessary for traffic safety should:
 - a Maintain or enhance the character of the street.
- ii Prioritize pedestrian-scale lighting that:
 - a Enhances the ambiance and character of the street.
 - b Increases real and perceived safety.
- iii Introduce a diverse range of lighting types in streets and nodes with high pedestrian activity such as seasonal lighting, projection, catenary lighting and fixtures integrated into other street furniture.

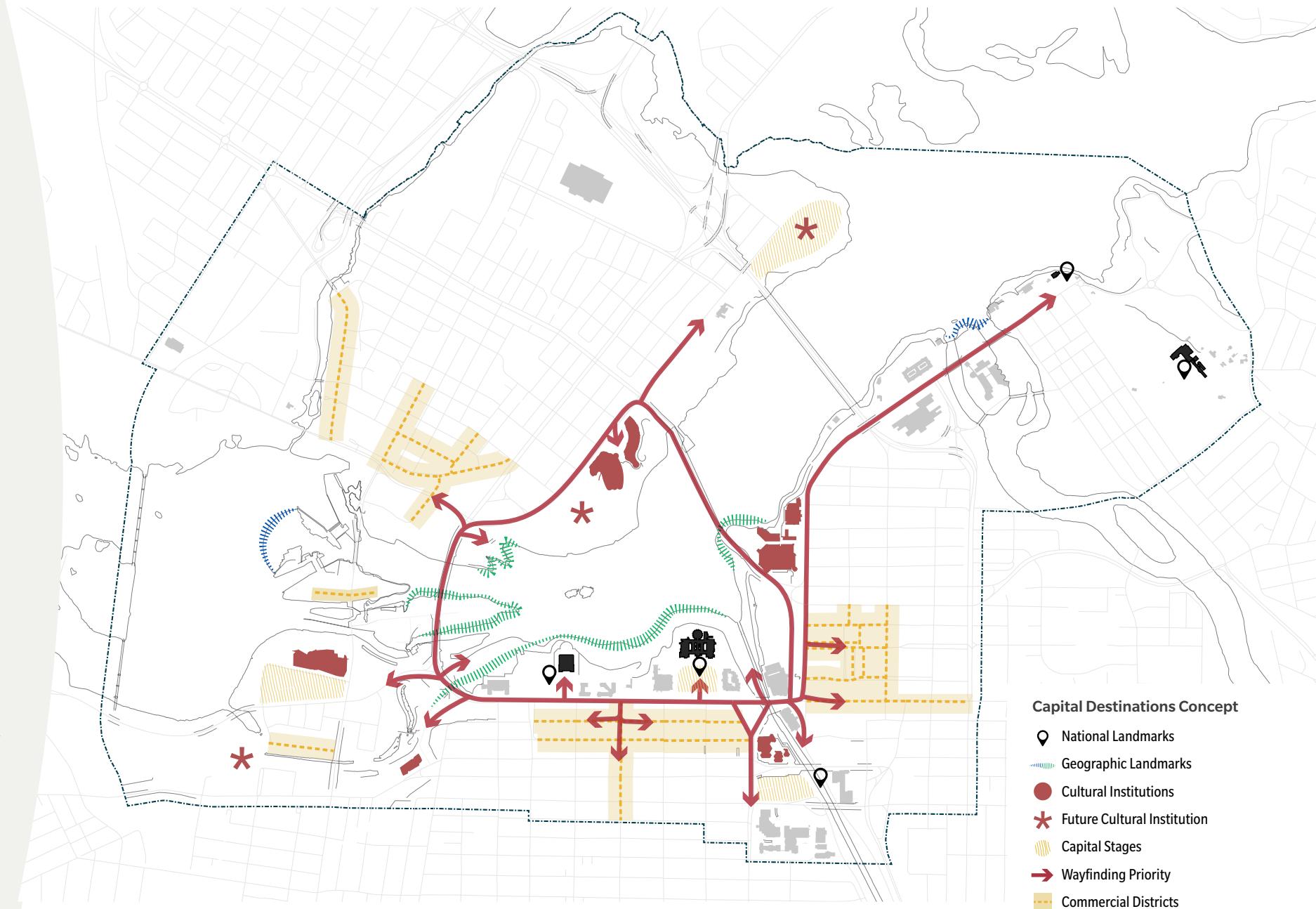


5.5 CAPITAL DESTINATIONS

A constellation of national landmarks and institutions set against a backdrop of civic places and neighbourhoods, creating a diversity of destinations for visitors and residents.

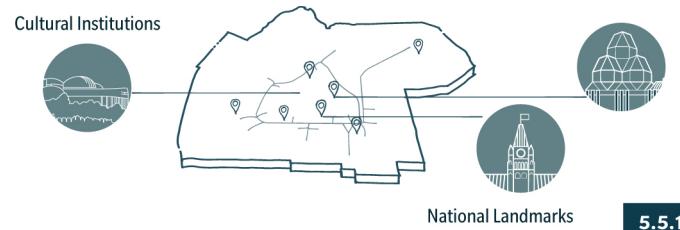
Key Objectives

- 1 Preserve the visual and symbolic primacy of Parliament Hill and the Judicial Precinct.
- 2 Highlight national cultural institutions and civic buildings as important public destinations.
- 3 Plan, provide and coordinate event sites to accommodate a range of event types, sizes and capacities.
- 4 Improve the wayfinding and mobility services to key tourist sites inside and outside the core area.
- 5 Reinforce neighbourhoods, main streets and commercial districts as lively places to visit.
- 6 Enhance and showcase the natural features of the Capital including the waterfalls, parks and riverfronts.



5.5.1 Capital Destinations

The concentration of significant national sites, buildings, venues and landmarks contribute to the importance of the Capital Realm.



A National Landmarks

Includes major federal sites and historic places that embody Canada's national identity and heritage.

- i Conserve and protect National Landmarks including Parliament Hill, the Supreme Court of Canada, Rideau Hall, 24 Sussex and the Rideau Canal to maintain their cultural and historical integrity.
- ii Enhance public access and visitor experience through the design of visitor centres, guided tours, and interpretation programs that can provide engaging and educational experiences while ensuring security and site preservation.
- iii Develop and integrate interpretative elements, such as signage, exhibits and digital tools to communicate the historical and national significance of these landmarks.



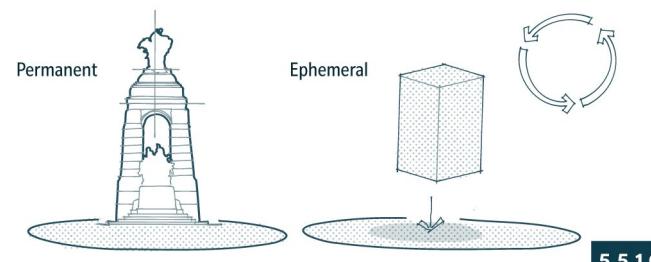
B Cultural Institutions

Includes nationally significant museums, galleries, performance venues and event spaces that showcase Canadian achievement and excellence.

- i Showcase, grow and improve a network of cultural institutions that encourages visitors and residents to explore the core area and learn about Canada.
- ii Support the growth and evolution of national institutions within the core area by facilitating partnerships with governments, as well as private stakeholders, to ensure the preservation, accessibility and relevance of national sites.
- iii Reserve prominent sites for future cultural uses and distribute new institutions in ways that activate underdeveloped areas of the Capital Realm.

C Commemorations and Public Art

Includes public monuments, commemorations and artworks that commemorate, celebrate and showcase Canada's history and diversity.

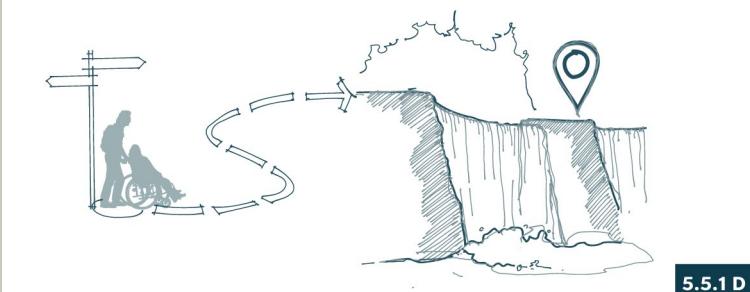


- i Integrate monuments, commemorations and public art into the design of the public realm.
 - a Prioritize installations of national importance.
 - b Increase the presence of diverse public art throughout the core area in highly visible locations with a focus on showcasing artworks.
 - c Provide flexible public spaces for temporary and ephemeral installations.

- ii Foster a coordinated deployment of national and local commemoration and public art programs.
 - a Provide opportunities for both national and local artists to exhibit their works in the core area.
 - b Identify residual spaces such as traffic islands, walls, bridge abutments etc., that could be candidate locations for installations.

D Geographic Landmarks

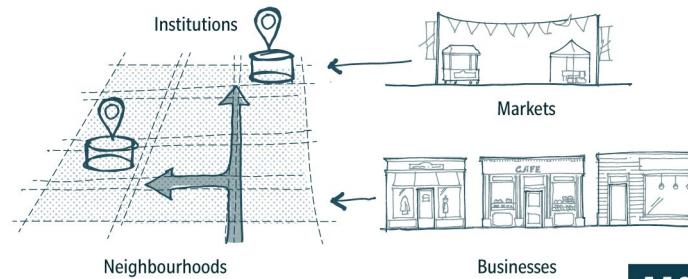
Includes iconic geographic features and destinations that support and convey the tourism character and experience of the capital.



- i Showcase the core area's natural features, geographic landmarks and key symbolic views. Key features include: the Parliament Hill escarpment, the Ottawa River, the Chaudière falls, the Rideau Falls, Victoria Island, Scott Point, Kiwaki Point and the views to Gatineau Hills.
- ii Provide visitor amenities such as seating and interpretive signage at the core area's natural landmarks including the escarpments, waterfalls and waterways.
- iii Introduce new lookouts and vantage points to create visual links between key sites.
- iv Incorporate geographic landmarks into the wayfinding and understanding of the Capital.

5.5.2 Local Destinations

Includes private and public destinations that offer services and amenities that attract visitors and residents.



5.5.2

A Local Institutions

Includes key public buildings services and venues such as libraries and event spaces that contribute to the vitality of the core area.

- i Target, in the introduction of new visitor experiences and destinations, underdeveloped parts of the core where additional activity is needed to create a critical mass or functional continuity between districts.
- ii Encourage downtown destinations, venues and anchor institutions that strengthen the regional significance and role of the metropolitan downtown core.
- iii Strengthen the role of local institutions in the core area as hubs of local activity by designing spaces for public dialogue and community events.
- iv Create opportunities for future local destinations that bring vibrancy and opportunity to the core area.
- v Improve connectivity between institutions, surrounding neighborhoods and federally managed properties, creating pedestrian-friendly corridors and accessible public transit links to guide visitors.



- vi New local institutions should be designed to complement the character of the core area, incorporate sustainable and accessible design principles, and provide flexible spaces that support a range of community, cultural and civic activities.

B Commercial Districts

Includes vibrant urban areas that offer a mix of commercial services that contribute to the local economy and social life.

- i Improve existing, and support the development of new, vibrant, mixed-use commercial districts within the core area that integrate retail, cultural, and recreational spaces, ensuring a balance of local businesses, national retailers and unique offerings.
 - a Promote the revitalization of the Sparks Street Mall, as a destination, an important heritage area, an open space amenity, and a key interface and connector between the Capital and civic realms and between different parts of the core area.
 - b Carefully and deliberately curate the retail and commercial mix within the emerging LeBreton neighbourhoods to ensure an adequate balance between locally supportive services and offerings that have regional and tourist appeal and reach.
 - c Encourage and promote the revitalization and vitality of downtown commercial districts in Ottawa and Gatineau including: ByWard Market, Bank Street, Downtown Hull and Rue Montcalm.
- ii Introduce incentives for desirable commercial providers to attract vibrant businesses to the core area.
 - a Promote a diverse range of locally owned businesses, markets and artisanal shops offering both residents and visitors an authentic, memorable experience that supports the local economy and enhances the overall tourist appeal.

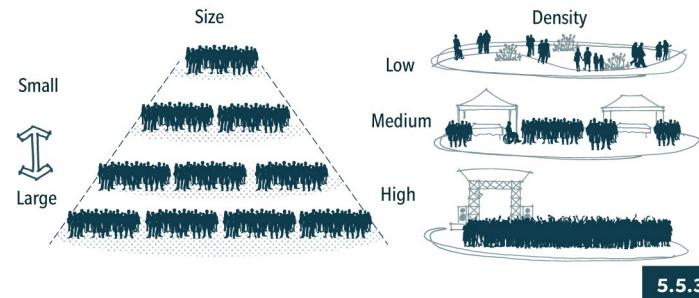
C Neighbourhoods

Includes local neighbourhoods, businesses and residents that support the character and vitality of the core area.

- i Promote mixed-use, complete neighborhoods that are great places to both live and visit.
 - a Support a mix of commercial and essential services (i.e., grocery stores, hardware stores, daycares, etc.) within walking distance of densely populated areas.
 - b Introduce events and amenities that attract and serve local residents.
- ii Promote architecture and urban design that reflects the unique character of each neighbourhood, with local art, cultural landmarks and public installations that connect visitors to the Capital's local heritage and communities.
 - a Ensure that residential neighborhoods in the core area are well-integrated with the broader urban fabric, providing easy access to key civic, cultural and recreational destinations through multi-modal transportation networks.
 - b Retain and reinforce the character of neighborhoods through ground-oriented units and building frontages that contribute to the local street character.

5.5.3 Event Sites and Programming

Spaces must be planned to host large-scale national events such as Canada Day and Winterlude, as well as smaller scaled regional events, programs and seasonal installations.



A Capital Stages

Includes capital parks and public spaces that serve as venues for major national events as well as high-quality urban spaces.

- i Primary Capital Stages include: LeBreton Commons, Parliament Hill Lawn, Jacques Cartier Park North and Confederation Park.
- ii These sites must support large-scale national gatherings and events while remaining functional as everyday public spaces that contribute to the civic and cultural identity of the Capital.
 - a Maintain high public realm standards (e.g., greenery, seating and shade) to ensure sites remain welcoming outside of major events.
 - b Provide integrated event infrastructure such as power sources, water connections and secure anchor points for temporary structures (stages, tents, screens).
 - c Ensure built-in drainage and surface durability to support high foot traffic and protect landscapes from damage during events (such as trampling and soil compaction).

iii During event periods:

- a Utilize modular event infrastructure (e.g., retractable seating, digital screens and lighting) to enable flexible programming.
- b Designate back-of-house areas for event logistics (e.g., storage, washrooms and audio-visual support)
- c Incorporate barrier-free accessibility and prioritization (e.g., ramps and viewing platforms) for diverse audiences.
- d Design spaces with clear entry/exit points and safe crowd circulation routes to accommodate peak event crowds and security.
- e Ensure cordoned event perimeters allow continued public use of adjacent pathways and public spaces.

B Temporary and Seasonal Programming

Includes flexible, small-scale installations to support major events or increase seasonal interest.

- i Small-scale events and installations may be permitted to activate public spaces and increase year-round interest for residents and visitors.
 - a Create a range of flexible, accessible gathering spaces that can be used for both formal and informal gatherings, from large-scale public celebrations to smaller community meetings, ensuring they are well-distributed throughout the core area.
 - b Support the ongoing programming and activation of gathering spaces through partnerships with federal departments and institutions, cultural organizations, artists and community groups to host events, performances, markets, kiosks and activities that encourage public involvement.

- ii Consider the temporary closure and use of streets and parkways, for seasonal events such as Winterlude, weekend bike days, summer zones, etc.
- iii Promote seasonal installations such as light displays, banner programs, and artistic installations - especially during winter months.

5.5.4 Visitor Experience

Showcase and leverage capital landmarks and other destinations as important visitor and tourism anchors, to support the regional appeal and tourism potential of the capital.

A Wayfinding

Includes informational resources that help people navigate the core area with ease.

- i Prioritize visitor wayfinding experiences to and from national landmarks and cultural institutions concentrated along Confederation Boulevard.
- ii Promote a coordinated multi-party wayfinding strategy throughout the core area, to help visitors better orient themselves and move around the Core Area.
- iii Include civic, non-federal attractions in the wayfinding strategy to better reflect the visitor experience and vibrancy of the core area.
- iv Consider digital displays and platforms enabling regular update and assessment based on user feedback and changing visitor patterns to ensure continuous improvement in ease of navigation and accessibility for all.



5.5.4 Visitor Experience

B Visitor Transportation Services

Includes accessible and sustainable transportation options that link people to and from destinations in the core area and beyond.



5.5.4B

- i** Expand and enhance a network of visitor transportation services, including shuttle networks and bike-share programs, to reduce congestion and provide seamless, eco-friendly options for visitors exploring the core area.
 - a** Consider special-purpose public transit and/or shuttle options which help visitors get to attractions and Capital destinations (such as a Confederation Boulevard loop tram, shuttle, water taxi/bus, etc.).
 - b** Provide transportation options that expand public access to Capital destinations outside the core area such as Gatineau Park, the Greenbelt, etc.
 - c** Coordinate tour bus services, access points and loading zones to achieve appropriate curb-side management at designated locations without encumbering the public realm.

- ii** Support bike share and scooter services, located in convenient central locations, that provide micro-mobility options to tourists and visitors.
- iii** Create key departure points and connections close to tourist centres and services.
 - a** Co-locate tourism and information services to provide maximal visitor benefit.
 - b** Coordinate private tour kiosks with public information where possible.
 - c** Near national landmarks, ensure high-quality design and integration of private kiosks and vendor services without encumbering the public realm.





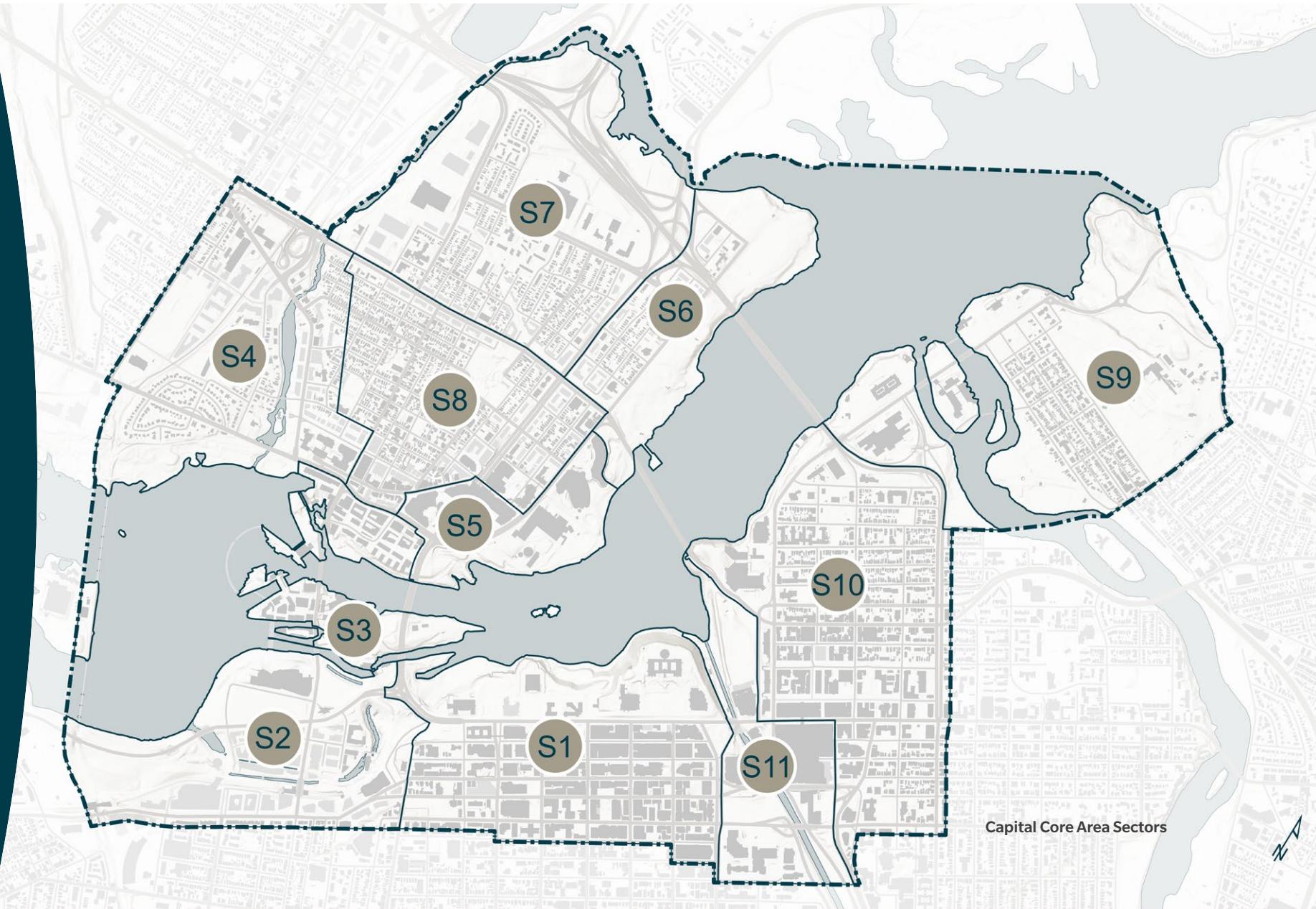
6
SECTORS

6 SECTORS

The core area is comprised of multiple sectors, each with its own unique context and geography. Based on public participation and feedback, this section presents the most impactful planning and design recommendations envisioned for the future of each sector. Further detailed demonstration plans and site-specific policies will be included in Volume II of the plan, in keeping with the recommendations of this chapter.

There are 11 sectors as follows:

- S1** – Central Ottawa
- S2** – LeBreton Flats and Aqueducts
- S3** – Chaudière and the Islands
- S4** – Ruisseau de la Brasserie (Brewery Creek)
- S5** – Scott Point to Museum of History
- S6** – Jacques Cartier Park
- S7** – De l'Île Pathway
- S8** – Downtown Gatineau
- S9** – Sussex Drive North and Rideau Falls
- S10** – Sussex Drive South and ByWard Market
- S11** – Rideau Canal



Methodology

The Core Area Plan is a comprehensive master plan that provides long-term intentions and broad policy directions to guide decision making towards a common vision. As such, it provides a big-picture view of how the Capital could look by mid-century. The Core Area Plan aims to harmonize numerous proposed plans and projects at various stages of development. The plans are part of a georeferenced GIS database that includes the following data sources:

Base Plan

- **Existing:** as-built and GIS data of existing natural, geographic, building and infrastructure features ;
- **Pending:** digitized linework, representing approved plans and concepts from existing federal and municipal plans, as well as detailed site designs from known projects under development;
- **Future:** annotations and conceptual symbology representing emerging concept features and key recommendations; in part II, demonstration plans will illustrate key recommendations as baseline for future planning intent.

Complementary Plans

In addition to the Core Area Plan, NCC plans and other federal and municipal reference documents are used to visualize and guide the intentions for specific sites and districts. These plans are iteratively updated to address the current context and needs of their respective agencies. Examples include:

Federal Sub-Sectors Plans

- The Parliamentary Precinct Long Term Vision and Plan, the Judicial Precinct Master Plan and the LeBreton Flats Master Concept Plan. Other examples may include the master concepts and site plans for national institutions, museums and galleries.

Municipal Plans

- City of Ottawa: Downtown Ottawa Urban Design Strategy, Secondary Plans, Sparks Street Public Realm Plan, and the ByWard Market Public Realm Plan.
- Ville de Gatineau: Plan particulier d’urbanisme (PPU) Île de Hull

Key Recommendations

The following sections provide key recommendations for the conservation and enhancement of specific features within the core area.

Milestone Projects

The Plan for Canada’s Capital (2017) includes 17 milestone projects. These are important targets to track the implementation of the PFCC over the coming decades. Fifteen of the milestone projects apply within the core area. As such, the following recommendations build upon the established visions and milestones of the PFCC and add additional recommendations to provide a comprehensive overview of future objectives within the study area. Further detail regarding roles, prioritization and monitoring of specific recommendations will be provided in the implementation strategy as part of Volume II.

S1 Central Ottawa Recommendations

- 1 Wellington Street:** Explore opportunities to integrate tram-based public transit, cycling and civic spaces into a high-quality Confederation Boulevard streetscape environment.
- 2 Capital Plateau:** Enhance the grounds of the Parliamentary and Judicial Precincts and reimagine Vittoria Way to provide a continuous public promenade along the top of the escarpment plateau.
- 3 Bank Street Valley:** Pursue greening and re-naturalization of the lower Bank Street valley incorporating new terraces, public spaces, commemorations and pathway connections towards the riverfront.
- 4 Judicial Triad Building:** Reserve the site for a future landmark building to complete the Judicial Triad.
- 5 Energy Services Acquisition Program:** Integrate the ESAP Cliff Plant into the grounds of the Judicial Precinct and capitalize on the elevator connections from the top to the bottom of the escarpment.
- 6 Portage-Wellington Node:** Redesign the Portage-Wellington intersection to create a new landmark plaza node and improve connections to the riverfront.
- 7 Cliff Parking Lot:** Convert the existing parking lot into a flood-friendly riverfront park space, with possible future development, recreational facilities and waterfront amenities.
- 8 Richmond Landing:** Design new pedestrian bridges linking to Richmond Landing and Victoria Island.
- 9 Central Business District:** Diversify the downtown by converting federal office spaces to mixed-use housing and ground floor commercial uses where possible.
- 10 Sparks Street:** Re-animate Sparks Street as a major civic destination and improve north-south connections towards Wellington Street and the precincts.



Sector 1 - Central Ottawa

S2 LeBreton Flats and Aqueducts Recommendations

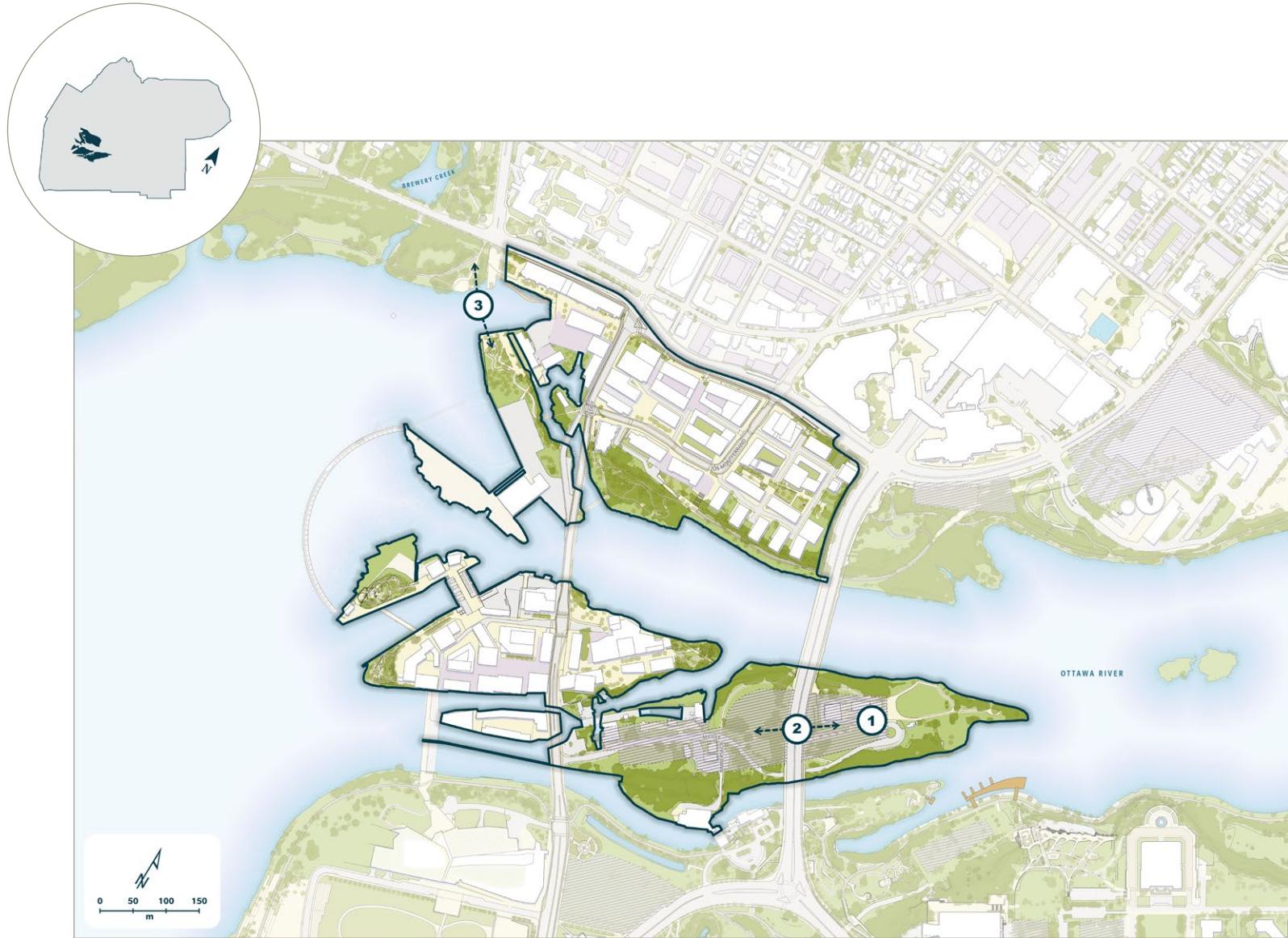
- 1 Nepean Bay:** Create new urban waterfront experiences and grand event spaces.
- 2 Bronson Park:** Redesign Bronson Park to provide a dramatic public space and a vantage point overlooking LeBreton Flats and the riverfront.
- 3 Bronson Escarpment:** Establish an east-west vertical connection between Sparks Street and LeBreton Flats via the Pooley's Bridge corridor.
- 4 Commissioner Street Valley:** Redesign the pathway and street network to create a new structure of urban blocks and parkland, providing new buildings, amenities and points of interest.
- 5 Kichi Zibī Mīkan Parkway:** Enhance the capital arrival and create a high-quality urban boulevard treatment between the parkway and Confederation Boulevard.
- 6 Bronson Channel Lands:** Design new, mixed-use buildings with active street frontages and courtyard spaces that activate adjacent streetscapes and the Bronson Channel.
- 7 LeBreton Flats:** Redevelop LeBreton Flats as a diverse transit-oriented, mixed-use neighbourhood with high-quality public realm, commercial frontages and ground-oriented units.
- 8 Preston Street:** Construct a signature pedestrian bridge linking LeBreton Flats north and south of the light rail transit (LRT) corridor.
- 9 Major Event Centre Site:** Develop an arena/event centre as a new anchor institution, between the Bayview and Pimisi O-Train stations.



Sector 2 - LeBreton Flats and Aqueducts

S3 Chaudières and the Islands Recommendations

- 1 Victoria Island:** Collaborate with the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation to advance the Kabenishinân Minitig Plan and create a place of special significance and cultural traditions.
- 2 Middle Street:** Design a new at-grade intersection to connect Portage Bridge and Middle Street, providing new access to Victoria Island and enhanced street frontages onto the island.
- 3 Voyageurs Pathway:** Design a cycling and pedestrian bridge connecting Zibi to Voyageurs Park to complete the Capital Pathway along the riverfront.



Sector 3 - Chaudières and the Islands

S4 Ruisseau de la Brasserie (Brewery Creek) Recommendations

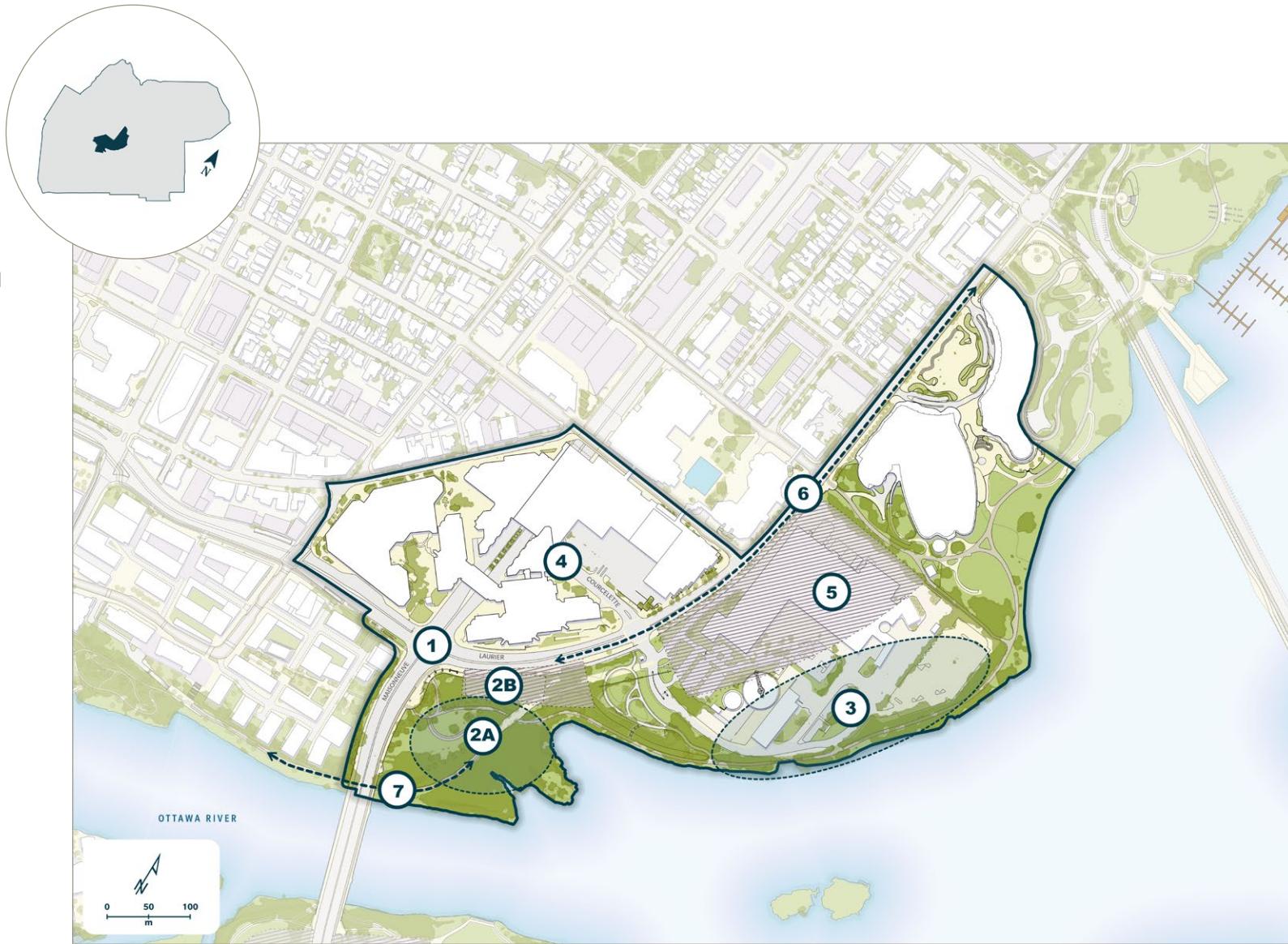
- 1 Ruisseau de la Brasserie (Brewery Creek):**
Decontaminate lands and develop a generous public realm waterfront, with complementary mixed-use housing and commercial space along Montcalm Street.
- 2 Capital Pathway:** Construct a new pathway segment and a pedestrian bridge over the Rapi-bus corridor to connect to Gatineau Park.
- 3 Wright-Scott House:** Pursue adaptive re-use of the Wright-Scott House and improve public access and possible connections to Théâtre de l'Île Park.
- 4 Taylor Street:** Integrate a continuous multi-use pathway experience into the streetscape along Taylor Street.
- 5 Parc des Chars-de-Combat:** Formalize the park space and recreational amenities and create transit-oriented development along the Rapibus corridor.
- 6 Alexandre-Taché Boulevard:** Improve the Capital arrival experience, including streetscape character and improved connections to adjacent public realm and parklands.
- 7 Highway 50: Support efforts to** re-imagine the terminus of the highway as a possible urban boulevard and transit-oriented redevelopment.



Sector 4 - Ruisseau de la Brasserie (Brewery Creek)

S5 Scott Point to Museum of History Recommendations

- 1 Laurier-Portage Node:** Create a new Confederation Boulevard plaza node offering grand terraced public space and enhanced connections to the riverfront.
- 2 Scott-Point:** Preserve the natural character of the rugged outcrop and provide public access, reconcile the pathway and create public spaces to showcase the river (2A). Potential location for future building (2B).
- 3 Parkland:** Reclaim parking areas and provide new park space, waterfront connections, and shoreline installations and experiences along the riverfront.
- 4 Place du Portage:** Improve the interface with Confederation Boulevard and consider integration with the surrounding urban areas and the sub-level parking structure.
- 5 Kruger Plant:** Reconsider the long-term use of the site, including its Indigenous significance, potential for public waterfront parkland and the creation of new urban blocks and a possible signature building site fronting Laurier Street to animate Confederation Boulevard.
- 6 Laurier Street:** Integrate bi-directional cycling and public transit and encourage active frontages that animate the streetscape.
- 7 Voyageurs Pathway:** Consolidate the Capital Pathway network and improve connections towards Confederation Boulevard and the interprovincial bridges.



Sector 5 - Scott Point to Museum of History

S6 Jacques-Cartier Park Recommendations

- 1 Alexandra Bridge:** Replace the Alexandra Bridge with a new signature structure that promotes active mobility, improved connections to the waterfront, and possibility for future use by rail transit.
- 2 Laurier-Allumetières Node:** Redesign the Alexandra Bridge approach and intersection to create a new plaza node and terraced public space opening towards the Ottawa River.
- 3 Jacques-Cartier Park South:** Strengthen the entrance at the Laurier-Allumetières node, and redesign the park space as a four-season, urban waterfront destination with public services and amenities.
- 4 Hull Wharf and Marina:** Revitalize marina and wharf facilities and provide water-based tours, excursions and water taxi services.
- 5 Waterfront Promenade:** Redesign the shoreline as a flood-friendly promenade to provide a range of waterfront experiences, rest-points and public amenities.
- 6 Monastery:** Pursue adaptive re-use of the Servantes de Jésus-Marie Congregation Monastery to provide housing, commercial and public-facing uses that integrate with and frame the surrounding greenspace.
- 7 Jacques-Cartier Park North:** Create a new waterfront node and redesign the park as a large-scale event space with appropriate infrastructure and amenities. In the long-term, reserve space for a possible signature cultural institution compatible with the riverfront parkland uses.



Sector 6 - Jacques-Cartier Park

S7 De l'Île Pathway Recommendations

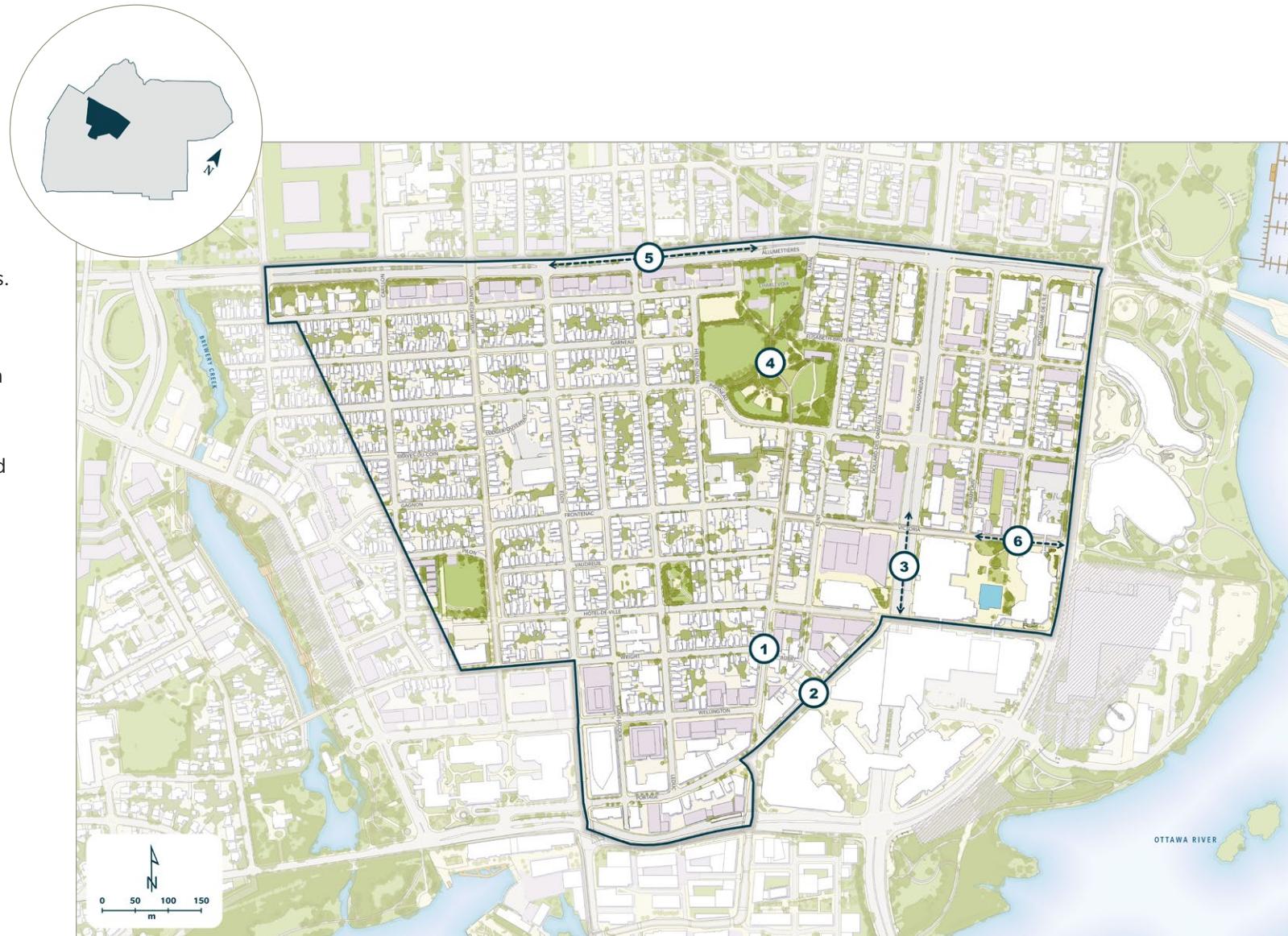
- 1 De l'Île Pathway:** Develop a network of interconnected pocket parks and enhanced public realm along the pathway corridor.
- 2 National Printing Bureau:** Conserve the former National Printing Bureau and Heating Plant and consider adjacent infill development and improved frontages to Saint-Henri Street and Sacré-Coeur Boulevard.
- 3 Regional Goods Movement:** Support efforts to re-route regional trucking away from the Core Area and improve Capital arrival experiences.
- 4 Ruisseau de la Brasserie (Brewery Creek):** Consolidate parkland uses and improve pathway and public connections and placemaking along the creek.
- 5 Bridge:** Design a new cycling and pedestrian bridge to enhance active mobility connections across the creek between the Rapi bus and Sacré-Coeur Boulevard.



Sector 7 - De l'Île Pathway

S8 Downtown Gatineau Recommendations

- 1 Old Hull:** Support and reinforce the historic commercial centre of old Hull around Laval Street through improved connections to and from adjacent federal properties.
- 2 Place du Portage:** Improve the entrances and frontages to complement the adjacent streetscapes and encourage circulation through the internal courtyards and public spaces.
- 3 Maisonneuve Boulevard:** Enhance overpasses and crossings to improve pedestrian experience and wayfinding.
- 4 Parc Fontaine:** Reinforce Parc Fontaine as a civic destination and important community green space.
- 5 Boulevard des Allumettières:** Reinforce as a Capital arrival and important connection between Confederation Boulevard and Gatineau Park.
- 6 Victoria Street:** Acknowledge Victoria Street as an important axis connecting to the Ottawa River and enhance streetscapes, signage, and at-grade uses to link the federal and municipal realms.



Sector 8 - Downtown Gatineau

S9 Sussex Drive North and Rideau Falls Recommendations

- 1 24 Sussex:** Renew and possibly transform the official residence for the prime minister of Canada.
- 2 Sussex Blocks:** Redevelop the urban blocks as mid-rise, mixed-use buildings in traditional architectural style faithful to the New Edinburgh style, and develop a new urban park, to support the Rideau Hall tourist anchor and reinforce the historic neighbourhood character.
- 3 50 Sussex:** Consider infill opportunities and reconfigure the John Street parking area as a public corridor and waterfront access, including new docks and shoreline animation.
- 4 Rideau Falls:** Redesign the banks of the Rideau River and Green Island parklands to create a meaningful public space experience and appreciation of the falls and riverfront landscape.
- 5 Promenade/Pathway:** Connect the Ottawa River Pathway to the Rideau River and Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway via pedestrian promenades along the shoreline and/or bidirectional bikeway facilities along Sussex.
- 6 National Research Council Building:** Reduce parking areas and re-establish public parkland and possible infill buildings to activate the waterfront and grounds of the site.
- 7 Sussex Frontages:** Redesign the arrival zones of federal institutions to improve their relation to the street.
- 8 Rideau River:** Improve riverfront parklands and create waterfront installations and places to experience and engage with the riverfront and islands.



Sector 9 - Sussex Drive and Rideau Falls

S10 Sussex Drive South and ByWard Market Recommendations

- 1 Lady Grey Drive:** Transform the roadway into a pedestrian waterfront promenade overlooking the river, with possible future connections to Kiweki Point.
- 2 Ottawa River Pathway:** Add a bi-directional bikeway along Sussex Drive to connect to Rideau Falls and new animation points along the waterfront.
- 3 Sussex Infill:** Explore mid-rise, mixed-use infill with public services and amenities to animate the waterfront and draw visitors and residents to the area.
- 4 Brûère Lane:** Create a pedestrian connection to the waterfront and public realm enhancements around the Royal Canadian Mint and the Global Centre for Pluralism.
- 5 Queen's Wharf:** Provide new public access to the historic wharf location and develop a public offering of waterfront installations, services and amenities.
- 6 Sussex Heritage Courtyards:** Extend the network of courtyards and animate them with commercial frontages, patios and dwellings, including ground-oriented units.
- 7 St. Patrick Street:** Redesign the intersection to remove the slip-lane and provide an enhanced public realm entrance to Kiweki Point.
- 8 ByWard Market:** Reinforce the historic character of the Lowertown neighbourhood and enhance the public realm to capitalize on the tourism potential of the market.
- 9 King Edward Avenue:** Re-route truck traffic away from the core area and emphasize a distinguished urban avenue and pedestrian-friendly Capital arrival.
- 10 Nicholas Street:** Re-imagine the Capital arrival experience, including residual spaces and opportunities for landmark features and streetscape enhancements.



Sector 10 - Sussex Drive and ByWard Market

S11 Rideau Canal Recommendations

- 1 Rideau Canal – Ottawa Locks:** Reinforce the UNESCO World Heritage Site and improve the design quality of Canal Lane/Bytown Museum.
- 2 East Wharf:** Create a new waterfront node to enjoy the riverfront and improve pathway grades and access routes to the Canal.
- 3 Pioneer Way and 1 Wellington:** Redesign the corridor as a pedestrian promenade linking the Chateau Laurier to the new Alexandra Bridge and explore public uses of 1 Wellington.
- 4 Sussex-Rideau Node:** Redesign the intersection to remove the Mackenzie-Colonel By overpass and create a new at-grade public plaza.
- 5 2 Rideau:** Pursue adaptive and public-facing use for the current Senate of Canada building including a possible new building with active frontage towards the Rideau-Sussex node.
- 6 National Arts Centre:** Improve the interfaces and connections with the surrounding Canal and streetscapes, including the Mackenzie King Bridge, to create inviting pedestrian experiences and public spaces.
- 7 Confederation Park:** Reinforce the high quality Capital Park character with permanent pavilions, services and new amenities to support a range of year-round uses and redesign the space fronting the Canal as a public-oriented plaza with functional event capacity.
- 8 Queen Elizabeth Driveway:** Improve the active mobility routes into the core and enhance the arrival experience quality, and continuity of the Canal edge.
- 9 Colonel By Driveway:** Reinforce the Rideau Canal Esplanade and transition of the parkway design to connect to Confederation Boulevard.
- 10 National Defence Headquarters:** Re-imagine the long-term use and possible retrofit of building facades to engage and frame the Canal and the Laurier-Nicholas intersection.



Sector 11 - Rideau Canal and Elgin



7

PLAN ADMINISTRATION

7 PLAN ADMINISTRATION

The Core Area Plan conveys a multi-decade vision of the Capital at mid-century and beyond. It features long-term objectives to guide future projects and programs over time. This chapter outlines the administrative components of the plan, including future plan amendments and reviews.

Authority

Volume I of the Core Area Plan has been developed under the authority of the *National Capital Act*. It is the result of extensive consultation and incorporates feedback from key stakeholders, including two advisory committees: the Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty (ACPDR) and the Advisory Committee on Universal Accessibility (ACUA). The plan comes into effect upon approval by the NCC's Board of Directors.

Volume II will be further developed in line with the approved sector recommendations and overall vision of the plan and will be submitted for approval as a separate document. It will include:

- **Demonstration plans** and land-use policies to further refine and clarify the sector recommendations; and
- An **Implementation strategy**, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, to clarify roles, priorities and evaluation.

Application

The plan serves as the primary guiding policy document for federal lands within the study area.

- Project Approvals: The NCC is the federal approval agency. The plan will be used to assess and approve federal projects under the Federal Land Use Design and Transaction Approval Process. The federal approval process ensures that proposals are compliant with all relevant policies and guidelines.
- The National Interest Land Mass (NILM) is derived from NCC plans and serves to identify lands of national importance for which the NCC and federal agencies have a direct interest in planning and ownership. Future updates to the NILM will be undertaken in alignment with the concepts and policies of this plan.

Revision and Amendment

Amendments to the plan may be necessary to modify certain provisions that emerge from evaluations or to respond to specific project proposals and requirements. Any amendments must be demonstrated to be in the public interest and conform to the overall objectives of the plan.

A comprehensive review of the plan should be initiated within a 10-year period. Periodic review and reporting on key performance indicators will be undertaken as directed in the implementation strategy.



8

APPENDICES

GLOSSARY

Big Move: A broad policy direction that the plan's implementation intends to prioritize and align with.

Capital Destinations: The concept layer that represents the array of national landmarks, institutions and attractions in the core area.

Capital Fabric: The concept layer that encompasses a pattern of urban blocks and institutional grounds that frame public spaces.

Capital Open Space: The concept layer that contains the range of parks, plazas and other public places throughout the core area.

Capital Park: Capital Parks are tied to natural and built features or historic events, acting as major contributors to the Capital's image. They have distinct characters and are designed and maintained with high design standards and accommodate monuments, commemorations, interpretative installations and event sites.

Capital Realm: The Capital Realm represents the political, judicial, administrative, institutional and symbolic centre of the Capital. It differs from the federal realm present elsewhere in that these lands have real or symbolic capital functions.

Capital Stage: A capital stage is a large open space that accommodates events and public activities of Capital significance.

Capital Streetscapes: The concept layer that includes the network of streets, anchored by Confederation Boulevard, that create pleasing urban environments in the core area.

Capital Waterfront: The concept layer that encompasses the shorelines and waterways within the core area.

Civic Realm: Zone of urban blocks, streets and squares that frames and sustains the Capital Realm. The Civic Realm comprises the most central portions of the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau and forms the "edge" of the Capital Realm.

Confederation Boulevard: A 7.5-kilometre ceremonial route in the centre of the Capital. It is the seam between the Capital and Civic Realms, defining their edges and stitching them together. Confederation Boulevard is a structuring element, organizing land use and federal investment in the core area.

Core Area: Encompasses the downtown areas of Ottawa and Gatineau and extends over approximately 11 square kilometres on both sides of the Ottawa River.

Cultural Landscape: For the NCC, cultural landscapes represent a set of ideas and practices embedded in a place where the relationship between human interactions and a place's physical features are attributed heritage value.

National Capital Act: Act incorporating the NCC and delimiting its mandate, roles, responsibilities, jurisdiction and powers. Passed in 1958 and amended in 2013.

National Capital Commission (NCC): A Crown corporation of the Government of Canada, the National Capital Commission (NCC) was created in 1959 as the steward of federal lands and buildings in the National Capital Region. Its role is to plan, develop and use these properties as a source of pride and unity for Canadians.

Naturalized Areas: Areas that provide natural habitats and increase biodiversity with less frequent human disturbance. Most of the lands in the core area that have a natural character were previously disturbed lands that have since been re-naturalized, either with human intervention or through natural processes over time.

Plan for Canada's Capital: The federal government's long-term, lead policy statement on the physical planning and development of Canada's Capital Region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Advisory Committee on Universal Accessibility

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The steering committee has
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We appreciate the thoughtful
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across the NCC towards the
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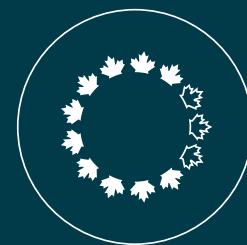
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