



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION  
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

# Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan

*June 21, 2018*

Canada

National Capital Commission  
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Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



**I**t is with great pleasure that we present the Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan. It aligns with the intent of the Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067, and the Capital Urban Lands Plan 2015, by offering a vision for the future of the riverfront that is based on extensive consultations with Indigenous communities, local residents, stakeholders and the general public. These consultations took place both in person and online, resulting in almost 4,000 responses that guided and informed the plan set out in the following pages.

Incorporating what we heard, the plan reconnects communities to the river and along the river. It embraces the waterfront as a continuous green space along the Ottawa River, and mitigates the impact of the four-lane Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway, which many respondents perceive as a barrier to safe access to the river and our natural heritage.

It creates greater access to the river for recreation, with new and improved public recreation amenities, park facilities and parkway crossings. It capitalizes on opportunities such as new public transit nodes to forge improved connections to the riverfront, to reflect the river's Algonquin history in meaningful ways, and to create new areas of recreational activity. It balances vibrant urban uses, while enhancing tranquility along the waterfront in all seasons. It unifies the riverfront by integrating visions of ecological integrity, environmental health, recreational diversity and cultural vitality. Each distinct locale in this extended riverfront park will be transformed into a source of enjoyment and pride for everyone.

The Ottawa River and its banks have from time immemorial been an important gathering place for Indigenous peoples from across North America and, in the post-contact period, they played a significant role in the economic, political and cultural development of modern Canada. Today, as a precious element of the public realm under NCC stewardship, the riverfront park will strengthen the meaning of this ancient shoreline in terms of our national heritage and identity.

The public's strong desire to reconnect with the lands along the shore fostered a powerful reimagining of the riverfront's revitalization. Our commitment as Capital planners is to carry forward this momentum to realize this desire. Having listened, we refined our early ideas and concepts, and today present a vision for renewing the precious riverfront on the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway, as well as strategies for how meaningful change can be achieved.

For example, the public expressed an interest in toponymy and potentially naming the new riverfront park separately from the parkway itself. The NCC will further consult with the Algonquin First Nation and the public regarding a long-term name. Indeed, we will seize on each opportunity that arises in order to achieve a cohesive, inviting and imaginative waterfront park that all Canadians will enjoy.

To accomplish the initiatives set out in this plan, the NCC will seek the collaboration and support of many partners. Although the plan is ambitious, I believe that it is achievable, and we look forward to seeing it brought to life in the coming years. In closing, I wish to recognize the work of NCC staff, and thank them for their passionate commitment to the formulation and execution of this inspiring document.

We look forward to working closely with all of our stakeholders to fulfill the NCC's mandate of creating a capital that is a growing source of pride for all Canadians.

Dr. Mark Kristmanson

Chief Executive Officer



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan embodies four years of research, analysis, public and stakeholder engagement, and planning. Many people have contributed time, data, and insight to help shape the plan. Grateful acknowledgement goes out to each and every person who participated in this initiative.

We also express thanks to the many other individuals and groups who participated in meetings, responded to comment forms and questionnaires, attended public forums, and provided input to this project. We would like to extend special thanks to the residents and community associations who provided substantial input that helped shape the Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan. Particular thanks go to the talented and dedicated Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning students of 2014 under the guidance of Dr. David Gordon for their insightful contribution to the Reimagining the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway project that has also informed the Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan.

We thank the following persons, whose efforts were integral to the project and without whom the project would not have been possible.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**I**n 2014, the National Capital Commission (NCC) launched the process to reimagine and transform the riverfront lands adjacent to the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway to create an iconic Capital park. This plan is the culmination of a collaborative and inclusive planning process.

Unlike other Capital waterfronts, these lands have long contained important natural areas, and have been a recreational resource. Historically, they have been the front lawn of the Capital, a meeting place for Indigenous peoples, a hub of early industry and commerce, and a popular pastoral retreat. On these lands, bounded to the north by the Ottawa River and south by thriving neighbourhoods, the plan creates a regionally connected network of pathways and recreational attractions, while also reconnecting the Capital with one of its most scenic areas. Through the collective work of NCC staff, stakeholders, groups and members of the public, the plan sets forth a framework for shaping the riverfront lands to be more environmentally sustainable, ecologically healthy, attractive, accessible and recreationally vibrant.

In addition to the collaborative planning process, this plan has also benefited from various background research and studies that identified best practices and innovative opportunities for conserving, enhancing and restoring the riverfront.

The plan covers the riverfront area between LeBreton Flats and the mouth of the Pinecrest Creek corridor. It includes Mud Lake Conservation Area, and encompasses almost nine linear kilometres of waterfront and over 200 hectares of land. The application of the plan and its principles will require collaboration and discussions with numerous stakeholder groups.

This plan includes a vision, roles and principles, as well as strategies for protecting and enhancing key qualities over time. The guiding elements emphasize the riverfront's interactive roles as a place

for environmental and ecological integrity, heritage and cultural enhancement, quality waterfront experience and sustainable mobility.

The park's concept is based on establishing a series of public activity and event areas that offer a diverse range of programming and leisure space opportunities. They serve as key destinations linked by scenic shoreline green spaces, enhanced ecological and natural habitat functions, and a restored and renaturalized shoreline that includes an on-water boardwalk at Deschênes Lake. It provides guidelines for public waterfront park space, restores and creates shoreline habitat, removes invasive plant species, and preserves and enhances terrestrial habitats.



*Multi-use pathway along the riverfront park.*

This plan enhances connectivity with adjacent neighbourhoods, improves the balance and distribution of public recreational spaces, offers more park amenities and services, and includes a range of activity-level intensities. It integrates public art, conveys heritage and culture, offers space for ceremonies and celebrations to honour the river, and is respectful of Indigenous people's culture and heritage.

The plan also takes steps that help transform the parkway from a high-speed roadway to a high-quality park drive that is more waterfront-friendly. It offers a mobility network of segregated pathways and safe at-grade crossings of the parkway that aim to reconnect people with the river. Its measures intend to reduce parkway traffic speeds, and promote high-quality, context-sensitive and thematically appropriate design. Recognizing that Canada's Capital is also a winter capital, the plan provides for a range of winter recreational opportunities, amenities and facilities.

While the total estimated cost of implementing this plan remains to be determined, it is expected to be substantial, which reflects the NCC's recognition that the Ottawa River waterfront is one of the Capital's greatest natural and recreational assets. The public investment must be understood as a significant step toward leveraging private sector and community investment in the riverfront, and ensuring that it remains an attractive, diverse, accessible, vibrant and resilient place for all users.



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Imagine in 2050...

*“A riverfront park that strengthens the relationship of people to the nature, culture, beauty and spirit of the dynamic Ottawa River.”*





# 1 INTRODUCTION

**T**he Ottawa River is a symbol of Canadian unity. It provides spectacular view corridors to the Gatineau Hills, Parliament Hill, monuments and other national symbols. The parkway is a legacy example of design excellence in scenic road building in Canada, and it celebrates the river as a natural feature and symbol of Canada's relationship to nature. The Ottawa River is a Canadian Heritage River that connects us to our shared history, to nature and to our communities.

The Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan sets the future vision and program elements for the riverfront park, while providing the National Capital Commission (NCC) with a tool to support implementation.

This plan builds on the understanding that the waterways hold a special place for Canadians and the Capital. For thousands of years, waterways provided major travel ways for the Algonquin Anishinabe people to establish trade routes and ritual places and, later, enabled the newcomers to the area to settle and develop along the river. The plan also acknowledges the collective expectations to reclaim the shorelines for public enjoyment and to reimagine the water culture of years gone by.

The park is situated along the Ottawa River, just outside the core area of Canada's Capital and adjacent to local, dynamic residential neighbourhoods. The plan's vision establishes a framework for the park's use and development over the next 50 years, and allows the NCC to provide a variety of recreational, social and economic opportunities in a manner that acknowledges the park's natural, social and cultural environments.

The plan guides the park's gradual, staged transformation, and offers various recreation areas and activities that strengthen people's relationship to nature, as well as the culture, beauty and spirit of the Ottawa River.

The plan sets park development priorities, guides design and recommends programming. Key strategic goals include improved integration and connectivity in terms of people and the waterfront, promotion of year-round use, improved interprovincial connections, introduction of more sustainable design elements, promotion of a stronger relationship between the park and natural systems, and safer cycling and pedestrian access and mobility.

Further, the park concept proposes nine activity nodes of different levels of intensities, some contemplative, and others more for active group activities.



*Winter view of the Ottawa River and Champlain Bridge.*





*Autumn scene in the riverfront park.*

## 1.1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the riverfront plan is to provide a blueprint for the park's continued revitalization.

The plan aims to do the following:

- Guide park planning/design and land use decisions to enhance the riverfront and reconnect people to the river.
- Recommend actions to protect and enhance the riverfront's intrinsic qualities for the benefit of park users.
- Protect and enhance natural aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitats.
- Identify key park elements that will contribute to year-round enjoyment.
- Provide a strategic and organized approach to the revitalization of the riverfront.
- Improve safe public access to the shoreline, respecting its sensitive natural features.
- Improve connectivity to and along the riverfront, through redesigned, segregated Capital pathways and enhanced opportunities for active mobility.
- Develop an understanding of the cultural heritage of the Ottawa River and its shoreline, and celebrate the river's unique scenic, historical and cultural features.
- Support culture and eco-tourism, and encourage interpretive and educational initiatives.
- Integrate a variety of intensities for recreational uses, and improve park amenities and comfort stations in a context-sensitive manner.



## 1.2 NCC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Capital planning framework interrelates and hierarchically structures the NCC's land use plans. 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.

Under the overarching Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067, the value of keeping natural green features and waterways for posterity is emphasized. One of its goals is to improve river access and develop riverfront parklands.

The Capital Urban Lands Plan provides more land use and policy details that guide this plan. The Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan builds on these two plans, from a policy perspective.

Several other NCC plans and policies have informed this plan: the Sustainable Development Strategy (in progress), the Policy for Parkways and Driveways (NCC, 1984), Canada's Capital Commemoration Strategic Plan (NCC, 2006), the Ottawa River Integrated Plan (2003 and 2009), and the Ottawa River Shoreline Initiatives (2013). The Tunney's Pasture Master Plan (2014) by Public Services and Procurement Canada has also informed this plan. Chapter 7 includes a list of all applicable policies, legislation and regulation.

## 1.3 CONFEDERATION LINE LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

The City of Ottawa is one of this plan's key stakeholders. In early 2015, the NCC and the City of Ottawa signed the 100-day agreement for the western light rail project. Through this agreement, the City is contributing funds to the enhancement of the riverfront park in exchange for approval to use a section of the parkway corridor for the Stage 2 light rail transit (LRT) line, the Confederation Line extension west.

This agreement has initiated a parallel detailed design exercise for the improvement of a 2.4-kilometre stretch of the parkway corridor adjacent to the LRT line. Extensive collaboration with the City of Ottawa's Transportation and Planning departments has resulted in the NCC's preparing detailed design proposals for the areas impacted and funded by this agreement.

## 1.4 PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### 1.4.1 PROCESS

The riverfront park plan was developed over three main phases.

#### PHASE 1: 2014–2015

##### EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH

Research, studies and analyses provided a thorough description of the park's existing physical conditions, including the following:

- an exhaustive inventory and knowledge of its existing conditions,
- its relation to adjacent neighbourhoods, and
- the constraints and opportunities for improving shoreline access.

From this information, a series of maps were consolidated to better understand the issues and opportunities associated with this corridor.

While the analysis examined the conditions of the corridor, extensive research of other riverfront parks in Canada and around the world were examined by the Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning project as case studies to seek inspiration and lessons learned to build the proposed park plan. The project also provided an existing conditions review, a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis, design features and a public engagement exercise that led to an inspiring vision statement and implementation proposals. Chapter 7 summarizes all the background studies and reports that support this plan.

**PHASE 2: 2015  
VISION AND CONCEPT**

A vision of the riverfront park was developed in consultation with the Algonquin Anishinabe community, the public and stakeholders. The park concept embraces the vision, land use concept and the four roles, and provides an overview of the desired functions and qualities of the park.

**2016  
2.4-KM STRETCH CONCEPT (CONFEDERATION LINE WEST)**

The concepts plans for the 2.4-km stretch were submitted to the City of Ottawa, as required by the LRT agreement, which included the vegetation design, the parkway realignment, and the segregation of pathways, as well as concept plans for Rochester Field park and a parking lot south of the parkway at Westboro Beach.

**PHASE 3: 2017  
STRATEGIES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The purpose of these strategies and guidelines is to execute the conceptual design presented for the parkway over time, with measurable objectives that respect the corridor's ecological integrity and reimagine the potential of the Capital corridor. The design elements, landscape features and built forms outlined in the conceptual design should also aim to be designed, sited and implemented in such a way as to project the essence of a Capital parkway and identity.

**1.4.2 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

The riverfront park is situated in the Capital urban lands, and connects to and links several communities and neighbourhoods. Public and stakeholder engagement for planning in such a high-profile area is critical to the plan's success.

The development of this plan has benefited from extensive public engagement. This input was considered in the development of the vision and key principles that guided the creation of this document and shaped the respective roles and designs of activity areas.

Key highlights from public input are summarized as follows:

- Protect intrinsic environmental, ecological, scenic and heritage attributes.
- Prioritize people and their connection with the heritage river, nature and history.
- Maintain and enhance the vegetative canopy and buffer.
- Interpret the landscape and site history.
- Establish recreational waterfront areas for activities and programming.
- Establish safer cycling and walking facilities through pathway segregation.
- Reduce parkway traffic volumes and speeds.
- Create greater parkway permeability and safe crossings.
- Create animation nodes with different intensities.
- Provide more and improved public washroom facilities, seating and lookouts, bicycle parking, and other strategic amenities.
- Establish iconic space at the front door of the Capital and the setting for recreational activities, commemorations and public art, festivals and events.
- Create new and enhanced viewing opportunities of the Ottawa River.
- Create compelling and improved recreational opportunities year-round that will contribute to the health and wellness of all users.

Once the public input was received through this inclusive process, it was time to start developing the plan itself.

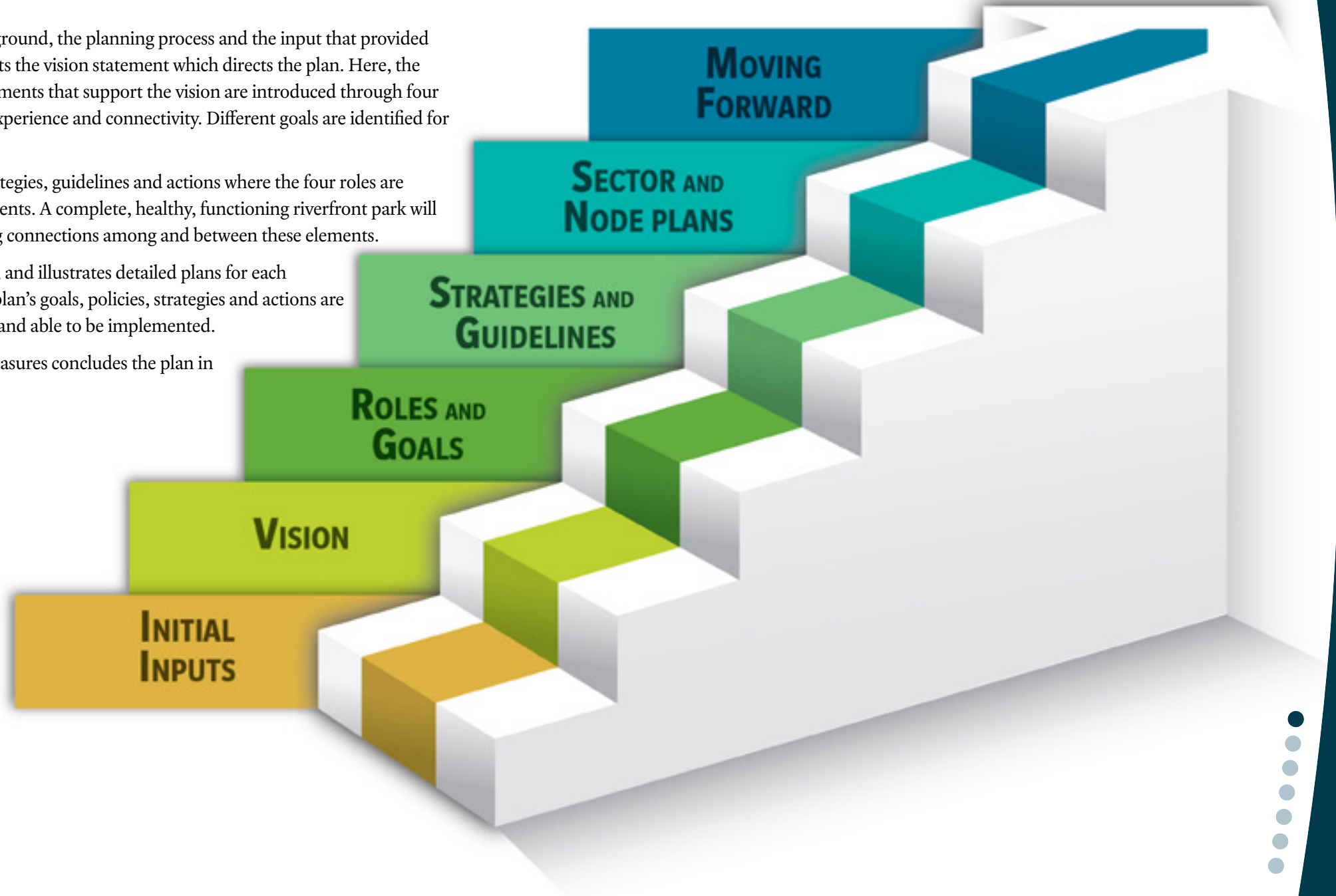
## 1.5 PLAN CONTENT

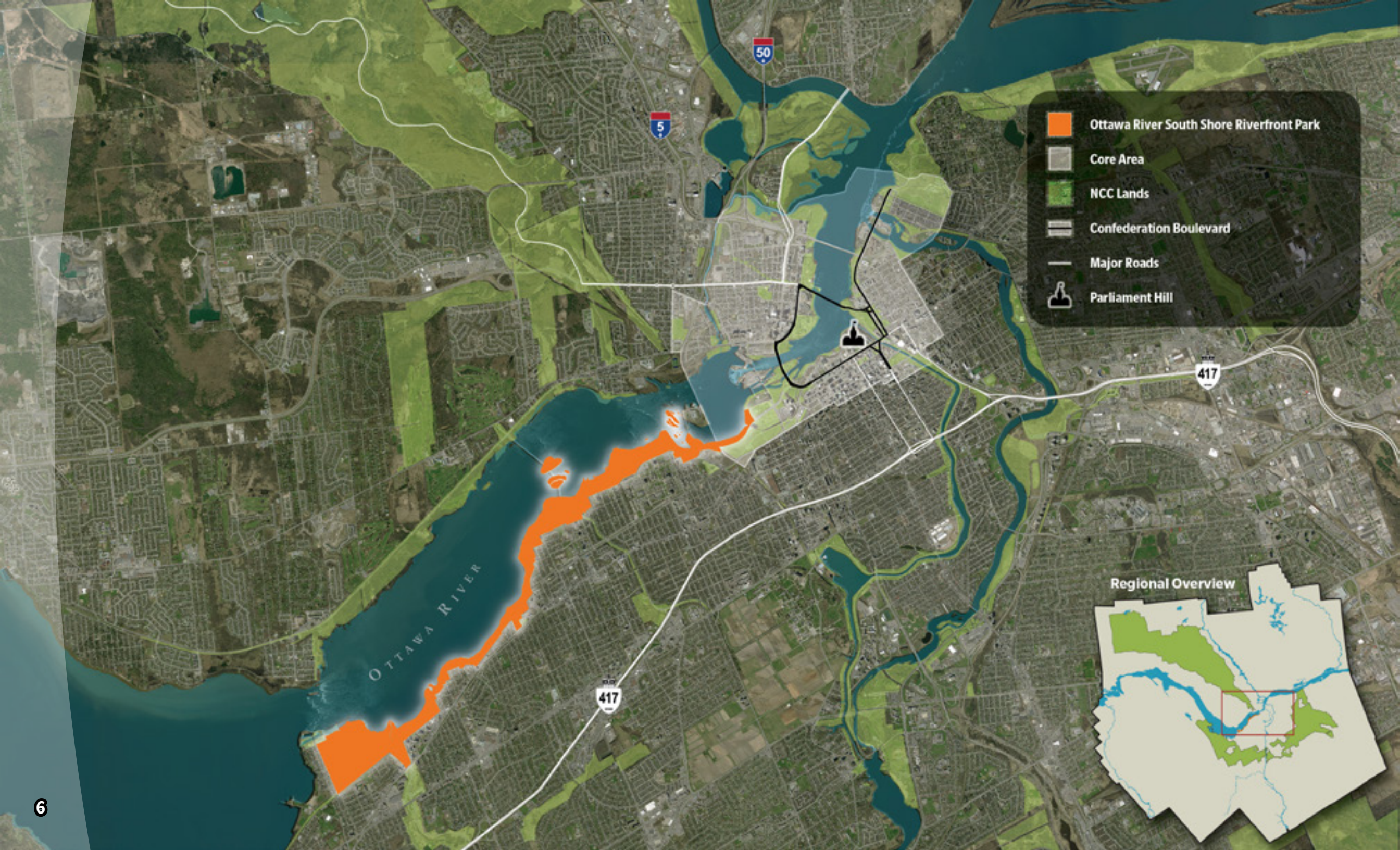
Chapters 1 and 2 present the plan's background, the planning process and the input that provided the base for its content. Chapter 3 presents the vision statement which directs the plan. Here, the fundamental premises and strategic statements that support the vision are introduced through four roles: environment, culture, waterfront experience and connectivity. Different goals are identified for each role.

From this base, Chapter 4 establishes strategies, guidelines and actions where the four roles are divided into interrelated conceptual elements. A complete, healthy, functioning riverfront park will emerge from developing and maintaining connections among and between these elements.

Chapter 5 recommends four sector plans, and illustrates detailed plans for each activity node. Through this exercise, the plan's goals, policies, strategies and actions are demonstrated as being feasible, practical and able to be implemented.

A discussion about how to implement measures concludes the plan in Chapter 6.





-  Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park
-  Core Area
-  NCC Lands
-  Confederation Boulevard
-  Major Roads
-  Parliament Hill





## 2 LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

**T**he riverfront park comprises 220 hectares of publicly owned lands along the southwest shores of the Ottawa River, between LeBreton Flats and Mud Lake. The entire corridor is under the NCC’s stewardship, and is part of the National Interest Land Mass (NILM). The park corridor is nine kilometres long, and three sets of rapids can be found along its length: Deschênes Rapids near Mud Lake, Remic Rapids at the Champlain Bridge and Little Chaudières Rapids at the Remic Rapids Lookout. The park also includes the Trans Canada Trail and multi-use pathways along both sides of the parkway.

There are some pedestrian linkages from the neighbouring communities to the pathways and parklands along the river’s edge. The park has historical and cultural significance, and aims to deliver a “parkway experience” for all park users, through many vistas that can be viewed while travelling along the roadway and pathways.

The corridor contains natural landscapes and environmental areas such as Mud Lake and the surrounding Britannia Conservation Area, situated at the western edge of the park. It includes recreational amenities, like those found at Westboro Beach, as well as viewpoints and significant

landmarks, like Kitchissippi Lookout and Remic Rapids. It also includes other focal points, such as the historic Prince of Wales Bridge and the Champlain Bridge, as well as large parks and picnic areas that offer scenic views of the river.

The NCC designed the parkway following the recommendations of the Gréber Plan, to provide uninterrupted, pleasurable driving in a park-like setting. Commuting motorists and the presence of the City of Ottawa’s rapid transit services within the wide four-lane configuration challenge this experience. The light rail project provides the NCC with the ideal opportunity to address the public’s concerns and to plan for and protect this corridor as a meaningful and special place for residents and visitors.

Today, the Ottawa River is an important recreational resource and home to valued natural habitats and ecosystems. It is significant as a unique landscape feature that shapes the Capital Region. The Ottawa River provides opportunities to learn about the natural environment and its connection to the urban landscape.





*Aerial photo looking downstream toward Parliament Hill (1938).*





## 2.1 A SHORT HISTORY

The Ottawa River is the natural and cultural heart of Canada's Capital Region. It has also played a key role in Canada's history. The Algonquin Anishinabe people occupied the shoreline in Canada's Capital Region as early as 8,000 years ago. They were followed many millennia later by European explorers and settlers who sought furs, timber and land.

Jacques Gréber's *General Report on the Plan for the National Capital* (1950) recognized the value of the Ottawa River shoreline. It identified the opportunity to design a beautiful scenic drive and pathways along the water, with picturesque views of the river, the Quebec shore and Parliament Hill. In order to implement Gréber's plan and create the parkway, the federal government acquired lands

along the shoreline. This involved expropriation, not only of railway lands, but also, in some cases, of private properties, and the transformation of neighbourhoods. Parkway construction began in 1964, and was completed in 1967, Canada's centennial year. It was renamed in 2012 in honour of Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald.

The riverfront park connects us with the natural and cultural heritage of the Ottawa River. It provides a gateway to our nation's shared history. The park is a significant signature attraction within Canada's Capital, and it reflects the Capital's unique identity. This value was recognized and used as a basis upon which to plan the park.



*Historic snapshots along the Ottawa River Parkway.*

*(Photo credit: City of Ottawa Archive/CA014137)*





*Tree bark (Photo credit: Hailey Séguin)*



## 2.2 THE PARKWAY TODAY

### HIGHLIGHTS AND STRENGTHS

At the outset of this project, the following important elements were noted, and informed the development of this plan:

- Spectacular views of the Ottawa River and toward Parliament Hill
- Extensive environmental assets and potential health benefits
- Mud Lake / Britannia Conservation Area
- Riparian and littoral habitats
- Multi-use pathways
- Heritage and culture

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Algonquin Anishinabe involvement
- Community involvement
- Excellence in landscape design



### KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Increase Algonquin Anishinabe representation
- Fast-moving and heavy traffic along the parkway
- Create better community access and additional safe crossings
- Install more amenities, such as toilets and drinking fountains
- Inadequate or absent signage and wayfinding
- Water quality affecting swimming and aquatic habitat
- Increased conflict between various users on multi-use pathways
- Shoreline erosion
- A significant increase in invasive non-native plant species, which alter ecosystems
- Increased incidence of flooding due to climate change
- Lack of services and opportunities for restaurants and so on



*Dock near Westboro Beach (Photo credit: Hailey Séguin)*



## 3 THE VISION

The NCC is reimagining the future of its parkway riverfront lands to create a vibrant public realm that will reconnect the city—and people—to the riverfront.

This vision recognizes the significant intrinsic cultural, economic and natural characteristics of the scenic Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway corridor and the Ottawa River.



**A riverfront park that strengthens people’s relationship with nature, as well as with the culture, beauty and spirit of the dynamic Ottawa River.**

THE PLAN HAS FOUR ROLES:



### 3.1 PLANNING PRINCIPLES

The planning principles articulate the basis for the development and management of this park and the corporate values and commitments that support this plan. They place an emphasis on contributing to the identity and enhancement of Canada’s Capital Region by providing a natural setting, valued ecological and cultural resources and a diversity of uses, activities and experiences for all Canadians.

These principles are as follows:

- Promote access and connectivity to and along the waterfront.
- Promote a sense of integration within and between the sites by permitting complementary uses and requiring harmonious urban design.
- Give priority to cyclists and pedestrians over vehicle traffic, except where special access and parking are required.
- Embed consideration of culture, heritage and art in the decision-making process.
- Support financial responsibility where public investment in the park is a catalyst for revenue generation and a stimulus to work with others to achieve economic benefits.
- Base plans and projects on proven affordability strategies.
- Recognize the significance of green space and ecological values as irreplaceable assets.
- Conform to universal access requirements wherever possible when designing animation nodes.
- Take into account the effects of climate change on all components of the park, such as infrastructure, facilities, environmental habitat and landscape resilience.
- Recognize the changing demographic in the region, as well as the evolving technologies in mobility as part of the implementation of this plan over the long term.

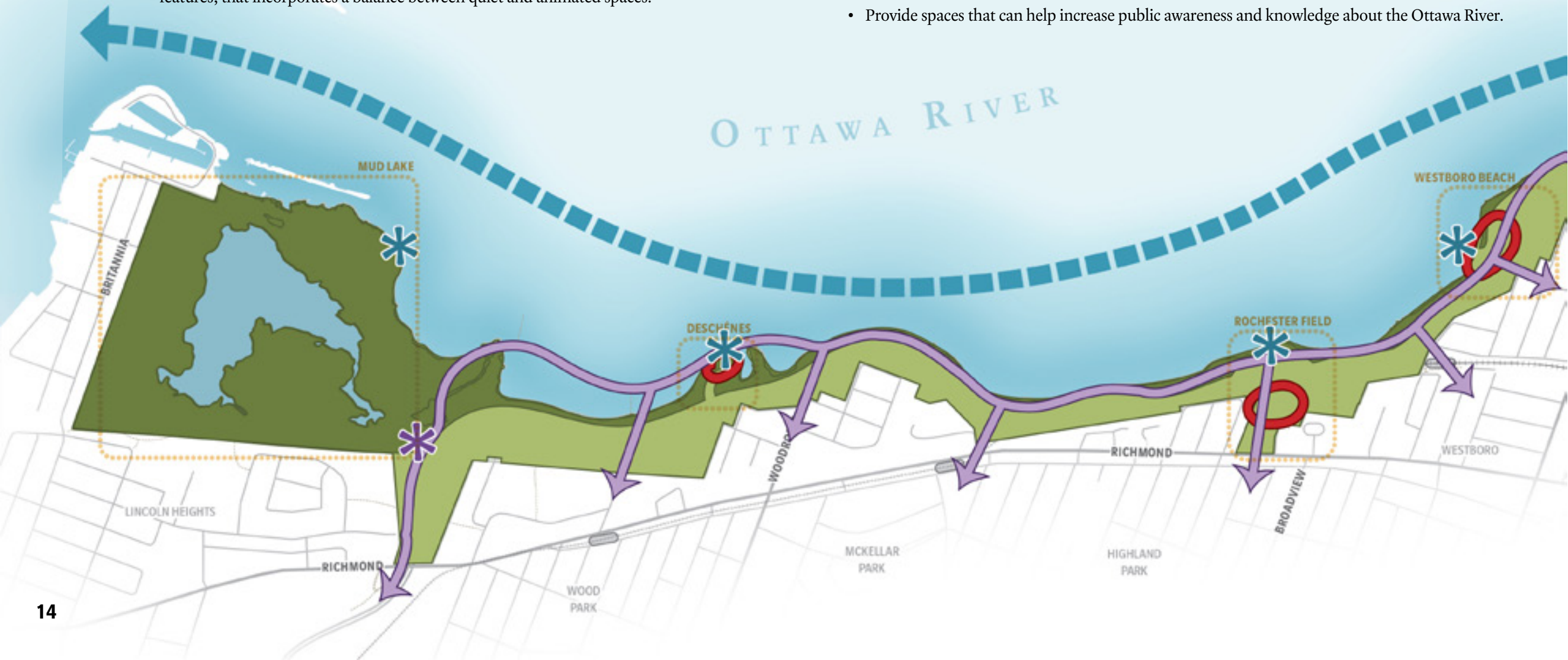


### 3.2 THE CONCEPT PLAN

The long-term concept for this park builds on the aforementioned vision and its four roles, defines the scope of facilities and amenities, and provides the framework for how the NCC and its stakeholders can and will proceed to implement this plan. It also reflects public and stakeholder input. The concept for the park is as follows:

- Provide a compelling recreational and leisure resource for the National Capital Region, with varied features, that incorporates a balance between quiet and animated spaces.

- Connect people with the river, enhance public access, and link park facilities and amenities to each other via safe walking and cycling paths, in addition to the parkway.
- Balance a range of environmental, cultural, recreational, and access and mobility functions through context-sensitive design.
- Protect a diversity of terrestrial and aquatic habitats, including an ecologically significant conservation area.
- Cater to seasonal recreational opportunities.
- Provide spaces that can help increase public awareness and knowledge about the Ottawa River.





## FUNDAMENTAL PREMISES

The vision for the riverfront park is based on the following fundamental premises:

- That it remains part of the Capital realm as a riverfront park.
- That it is a cohesive, distinguishable and significant park in the Capital Region.
- That it contributes to a healthy environment and to quality of life in the Capital Region.
- That it continues to promote education, outreach and partnership with citizens, organizations and governments to develop a broad constituency in support of the park and foster a sense of pride.
- That it ensures continuity of the NCC's green network which reinforces the "green and blue capital" image.
- That it showcases an important part of the heritage of the Ottawa River.
- That it accentuates scenic quality and lively experiences.
- That it provides physical and visual access to the river.



*Black-capped chickadee*

## ENVIRONMENT



**ROLE** Protect, enhance and highlight the natural and scenic assets of the riverfront corridor.

**DESCRIPTION** Focuses on the conservation, restoration and prominence of the corridor's natural heritage as a key identifying feature of the Capital. It focuses on the protection of valued natural habitats and ecological functions, and the restoration of the shorelines, as well as ensures that iconic riverfront lands are maintained in perpetuity as valued open space.

- GOALS**
- Protect and restore the valued natural habitats.
  - Create an environmentally sustainable and resilient riverfront park through protection, enhancement and restoration of the shorelines and green spaces.
  - Maintain continuity with the Capital green space network.
  - Ensure sound context-sensitive practices throughout the park, including shoreline protection and stormwater management.





## CULTURE

Communicate the rich cultural and natural history of the Ottawa River and the riverfront corridor.



Focuses on protecting, strengthening and promoting the park's natural and heritage elements in order for it to be well recognized, understood and valued by visitors and residents.

- Protect and conserve significant cultural heritage resources, including archaeological resources, over the long term.
- Display and communicate the stories of people's relationship with the river, from the earliest occupation by the Algonquin Anishinabe peoples, to the era of early European explorers and settlers, to the period of industrialization and urbanization.
- Make public art and landscape architecture integral components of the park's storytelling function.
- Place importance on exploration, discovery and learning.
- Partner with local communities and groups to enhance visitors' and users' experience of the park's cultural and natural heritage.

## WATERFRONT EXPERIENCE

Facilitate a variety of all-season recreational opportunities and experiences for people of all ages.



Focuses on people, the river and recreation. It is about placemaking, creating healthy environments with a wide range of recreational opportunities and strengthening the experience of the river.

- Create a continuous and interconnected riverfront park that is a source of pride. Ensure accommodation of activities for people of all ages and abilities.
- Develop signature context-sensitive spaces that draw people to the river, and contribute to health and well-being.
- Offer activities, facilities and services that are respectful of the natural, cultural and scenic character of the parkland.
- Provide public spaces to encourage and support spontaneous public use of the riverfront.
- Inspire memorable experiences through high standards of design and a wide array of services.
- Provide infrastructure and facilities that make the river accessible for leisure, recreation and general public enjoyment.
- Enhance visual quality and protect scenic resources, and viewsheds throughout the riverfront to the maximum extent possible, with particular emphasis on Parliament Hill, the Ottawa River and the Gatineau Hills.

## CONNECTIVITY

Reconnect people with the river, and facilitate year-round access to the leisure opportunities that the parkway offers.



Focuses on providing safe and segregated bike paths, and supporting healthy and active mobility. Aims to ensure that the riverfront park is accessible to allow all users to enjoy their visit.

- Serve as a gateway connecting the symbolic and heritage importance of the river with the celebration of recreational and cultural opportunities.
- Transform the parkway to offer a low-speed pleasure drive that serves primarily the needs of the riverfront park.
- Provide strategic links from the river shore and the pedestrian and cycling paths that support accessible and interconnected park spaces.
- Highlight the distinctive and memorable experiential qualities of the riverfront park.
- Support healthy, active mobility options.
- Plan for year-round access and recreation.
- Ensure inviting and intuitive connections between neighbouring communities and the Capital Pathway network.



*Winter recreation: snowshoeing in the riverfront park.*



## 4 STRATEGIES AND GUIDELINES

**T**his riverfront park plan is based on an integrated systems approach that combines various components, including animation areas, open spaces, public amenities and landscape features. These components form the park's public realm. The purpose of each component is described at the outset of each section, and defined in greater detail through a series of strategies and guidelines.

### UNDERSTANDING THE PLAN

The following thematic maps lay out the park's spatial framework. Each thematic map illustrates a balanced composition that supports the long-term objectives for the study area. These are interdependent and closely connected, and should be considered and interpreted as detailed layers of a larger whole, not as stand-alone entities.

Land use decisions, management plans, site plans, design and maintenance work should be leveraged toward achieving the functions laid out in each of these thematic maps.

### HOW TO USE THE STRATEGIES AND GUIDELINES

The strategies in this plan represent broad directions to achieve its goals. The plan's guidelines provide possible implementation approaches to park development. The guidelines also provide clarification on the intent, rationale and purpose of the various components. Future decisions, works and improvements should be made with a sound understanding of and in keeping with the spirit of the guidelines.



*Example of kayak/canoe storage and rental*



*Breathtaking view of the river.*



## STRUCTURE

The structure of this chapter is based on interrelated groups that were derived from the four roles:

- environment
- culture
- waterfront experience
- connectivity



## 4.1 ENVIRONMENT

### 4.1.1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Revitalize and enhance natural habitats and ecological functions.

#### AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Establish vegetation strategies that protect and enhance wildlife habitats for their entire life cycles.
- Create public education programs to inform park users about the resident species and, in particular, how to protect them against human intrusion into their habitats.
- Apply sustainable practices for work within the park.
- Undertake an ecological inventory of the riparian zone within the park's boundary, and protect sensitive elements of interest, including distinctive trees, species at risk, significant wildlife habitat for breeding/overwintering/migratory staging and so on.
- Establish partnerships with government and interest groups to develop protection and management programs for vulnerable species and their habitats.
- Optimize natural assets to support the riverfront ecological infrastructure network that protects and enhances essential natural processes.





- Valued Natural Habitat
- Woodland Habitat
- Meadow Habitat
- Riparian and Wetland Habitat
- Aquatic Habitat
- Eco-passage
- Activity Node



## BACKGROUND

The natural environment is a significant park component. It contains several habitats that are shown on the adjacent map. These habitats may be connected, and more than one feature may exist in the same area, allowing for species migration and the interconnectedness of natural functions across the park as a whole.

As indicated in *Natural Capital: The Economic Value of the National Capital Commission's Green Network* (NCC, 2016), the riverfront corridor contributes to natural capital.

The following are the park's key environmental features:

- important bird areas
- species at risk
- invasive species
- trees

And the following are the park's key environmental habitats:

- valued natural habitat
- wetland and riparian habitat
- woodland habitat
- aquatic habitat
- meadow habitat

The environmental features and habitats section introduces strategies with their respective guidelines. However, many of these guidelines also need to be applied to the other environmental categories. To avoid repetition, the guidelines provided for invasive species, important bird areas, species at risk and trees will also apply to valued natural habitats, woodland habitats, meadow habitats, wetland and riparian habitats, and aquatic habitats.

The goal of the following policies is to foster ecological health and diversity, while allowing increased access to and responsible use of resources for educational uses and passive, low-impact recreational uses.

### 4.1.1.1 IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

Important bird areas (IBAs) are significant for bird conservation, while allowing for public education.

#### STRATEGIES

- Conserve forests, marsh habitat and/or treed areas surrounding natural vegetation on NCC property.

#### GUIDELINES

- Contribute to the Deschênes Lake–Ottawa River IBA conservation plan.
- Establish protection protocols for bird habitats and nests and/or nesting colonies.

### 4.1.1.2 INVASIVE SPECIES

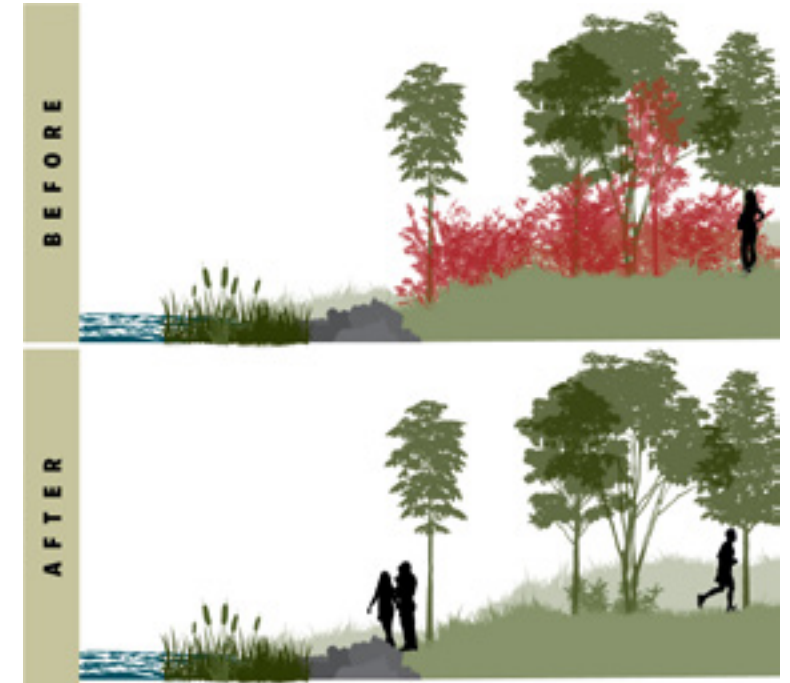
Prevention, management and control of invasive species will minimize the loss and degradation of the park's natural habitats.

#### STRATEGIES

- Protect critical habitats listed under the federal or provincial species at risk legislation.
- Remove invasive plants in the park to protect existing and potential habitats for species at risk.
- Continue with the current NCC program to remove invasive species; avoid using non-native plant species in revegetation initiatives, and ensure that strong preference is given to native plants.

#### GUIDELINES

- When removing invasive species, replace with non-invasive plant species, using a diversity of native and non-native species.
- Include monitoring of invasive species in follow-up and maintenance programs.



### 4.1.1.3 SPECIES AT RISK

Protect essential habitats for identified species at risk from the impacts of human activities.

#### STRATEGIES

- Initiate actions recommended in recovery plans for federally and provincially identified species at risk.
- Create education plans that explain how to avoid harming endangered species and their habitats.
- Restore habitats for species at risk, where feasible.

#### GUIDELINES

- Work with government agencies and environmental organizations to develop action and recovery plans for species at risk.





#### 4.1.1.4 TREES

Trees damaged as a result of climatic events, disease and park-related development will be protected, restored and replaced.

##### STRATEGIES

- Apply mitigation measures that protect trees from the impacts of development activity, climatic events, salt and so on.
- Plant areas impacted by tree loss due to disease and climatic events.
- Plant trees to enhance the tree canopy in the park in accordance with the vegetation strategy presented in this plan.

##### GUIDELINES

- Conserve distinctive trees.
- Implement industry best management practices when work is undertaken.
- Apply the appropriate replacement ratios or other compensation measures for cut-down trees in proportion to their ecological, landscape or symbolic value.

#### 4.1.1.5 VALUED NATURAL HABITAT

Valued natural habitats will be maintained, conserved and restored.

##### STRATEGIES

- Manage the two valued natural habitats (Mud Lake, and the Champlain Bridge islands and Lemieux Island) as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) category IV to maintain, conserve and restore habitats, and support sensitive species.<sup>1</sup>

1. *The IUCN program builds upon the IUCN's role as an authority on biodiversity conservation, nature-based solutions and environmental governance.*  
www.iucn.org



- Identify and maintain ecological conservation zones and the incremental measures required to achieve ecological connections.
- Focus attention on protecting and, where feasible, restoring the cultural landscapes of importance to the Algonquin Anishinabe.
- Ensure protection and awareness of paleontological and geological sites.

#### 4.1.1.6 WOODLAND HABITAT

Conservation will be undertaken for habitats, sites and their connections.

##### STRATEGIES

- Protect and restore wooded areas to assure only non-invasive species, prioritizing native species. Within 10 metres of roadways, priority will be given to species that best tolerate



roadside conditions, such as exposure to salt, pollutants, dryness and wind.

- Ensure species diversity to protect against catastrophic loss when a species or family of trees or wooded areas are wiped out due to a pest invasion or other environmental threats.

##### GUIDELINES

- Give priority to native species proven to be resilient through climate change in the case of new tree plantings.

#### 4.1.1.7 MEADOW HABITAT

The meadow habitat will attract pollinators, and supplement regional and international efforts to reverse the loss of pollinator habitat.



##### STRATEGIES

- Protect existing meadow habitats, and create new ones to attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies.
- Prevent encroachment onto meadow habitats by activities, events and programs.

##### GUIDELINES



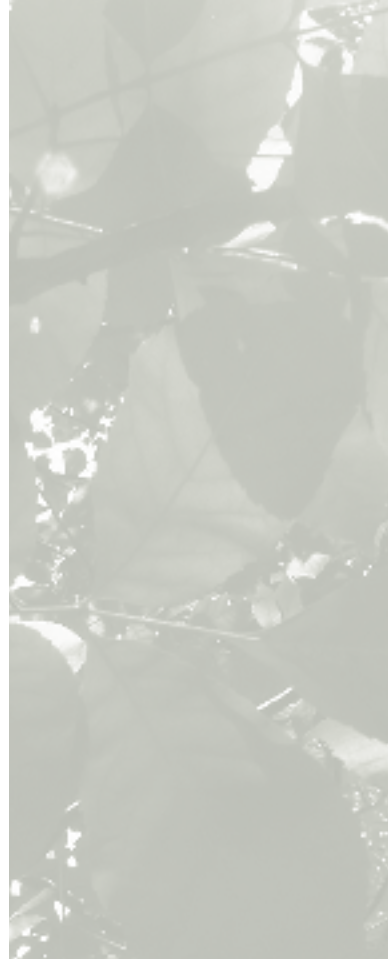


- Ensure that vegetation corridors connect the various habitats.
- Plant a variety of native flowering plants, trees and shrubs that bloom throughout the growing season.
- Time mowing practices for key species such as monarchs.
- Adapt landscape management approaches so that meadow habitats are increased.







#### 4.1.1.11 INITIATIVES—NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

GENERAL	VALUED NATURAL HABITAT	WOODLAND HABITAT	MEADOW HABITAT	WETLAND AND RIPARIAN HABITAT	AQUATIC HABITAT
<p>Focus attention on protecting and, where feasible, restoring plants that are of traditional importance to the Algonquin Anishinabe.</p> <p>Incorporate conservation measures into the preplanning, design and implementation of projects.</p> <p>Require development and redevelopment proposals to support the conservation of the natural landscapes, where feasible.</p> <p>Develop conservation plans, and restore areas where habitat degradation has occurred.</p> <p>Maintain a harmonized landscaping approach that respects the original parkway landscape.</p> <p>Establish vegetation linkages to encourage connections between various habitats, wetlands and the river, where feasible.</p> <p>Create and implement a vegetation strategy.</p>	<p>Establish a buffer zone between the natural environment and activity nodes.</p> <p>Conserve and enhance valued natural habitats, where appropriate, necessary and beneficial, with the aim of restoring ecological functions.</p> 	<p>Identify replacement planting areas for the conservation of trees and landscape.</p> <p>Apply replacement ratios or other compensation measures for cut-down trees in proportion to their ecological, landscape or symbolic value.</p> 	<p>Regularly update maintenance programs to ensure compliance with current best management practices.</p> 	<p>Use best management practices to protect and stabilize shorelines, and control erosion along the river and streams in the park.</p> <p>Preserve, restore and improve wetlands and riparian habitats when work is required.</p> <p>Maintain and reinstate native riparian vegetation. Add greater diversities of species that help with shoreline protection.</p> 	<p>Provide signage in boating areas informing users to be aware of the importance of protecting all wildlife that access and egress the river.</p> <p>Ensure that new boat launch and portage areas incorporate measures to protect fish spawning habitats.</p> <p>Locate watercraft cleaning stations away from boat launch areas so that invasive species do not access and contaminate the water body.</p> 



#### 4.1.2 HYDROLOGY AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Ensure that the role of hydrology and stormwater management is emphasized to protect the sustainability of the shoreline, as well as to protect against flooding and pollution.

##### AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Work collaboratively with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the City of Ottawa on shoreline and hydrology initiatives with the aim of reducing runoff, improving water quality, increasing habitats and mitigating storm events.
- Establish a mitigation project for managing the shoreline and adjacent lands with respect to flooding and erosion.





- Flood Plain  
100 YEAR LEVELS
- Wetland
- Infiltration Zones
- Pathway Flood Mitigation  
20 YEAR LEVELS
- Stormwater Management Outlet
- Shoreline Erosion Control

0 100 250 500 750 1 km



## BACKGROUND

The ecological health of the Ottawa River is a visible marker of conservation efforts being made to protect and enhance portions of its watershed within NCC jurisdiction. The NCC recognizes the importance of protecting these assets through the application of responsible stormwater management, flood mitigation measures and shoreline protection approaches. For example, many parts of the existing pathways are under water every year during the spring freshet.

This plan defines the NCC's key beliefs in relation to hydrologic and stormwater management, including the importance of the following imperatives:

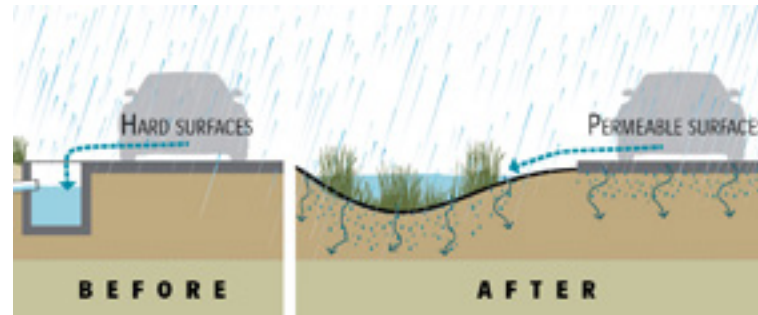
- preserving and enhancing river water quality
- controlling flows into the river
- protecting groundwater and avoiding depletion or contamination
- increasing public awareness with respect to stormwater management
- maintaining a balanced water-based ecosystem along the river
- improving shoreline conditions
- making the infrastructure more resilient to flooding
- demonstrating responsible best practices in water quality and stormwater management

Therefore, the plan should focus on the following areas:

- groundwater recharge
- flood plain and flood mitigation
- stormwater management
- shoreline erosion control
- riparian buffer zone

### 4.1.2.1 GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

Groundwater recharge areas will be protected and restored.



#### STRATEGIES

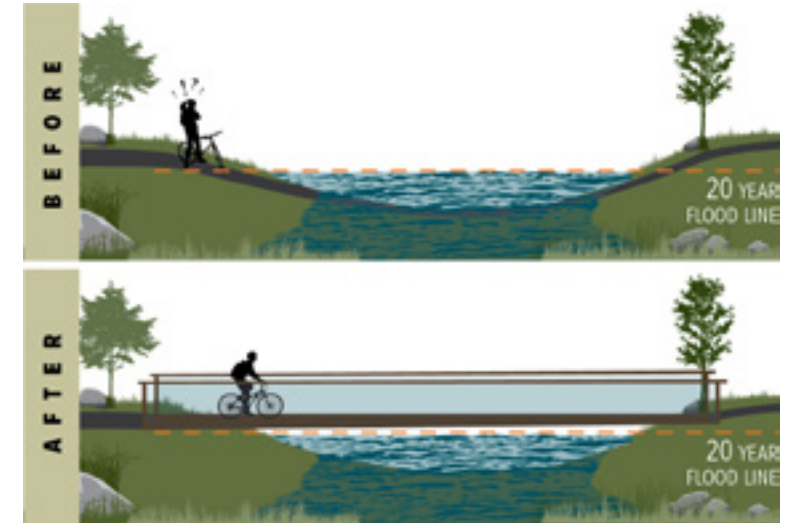
- Conduct hydrological and geotechnical studies and monitoring to assess the level and condition of groundwater.
- Promote diversion and absorption of elevated spring river volumes to recharge surface groundwater for slow release over summer months.
- Encourage the use of porous surfaces that meet maintenance requirements for areas that need harder surfaces.

### 4.1.2.2 FLOOD PLAIN AND FLOOD MITIGATION

A variety of corrective and preventive measures will be applied to enhance flood tolerance, mitigate flooding and reduce flooding damage.

#### STRATEGIES

- Work in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to undertake flood plain modelling/analysis for all new projects within the park, in order to inform each project.
- Reduce risks of damage from flooding in areas within the 100-year flood plain by avoiding buildings and other vulnerable infrastructure.
- Establish the 20-year flooding level as the minimum design requirement for any development or redevelopment.



- Encourage “flood-friendly” designs in areas such as aquatic habitats and wetlands that may benefit from periodic flooding.
- Existing facilities and amenities located in flood hazard areas should be flood-friendly, via temporary or permanent features that reduce the potential for damage due to flowing or standing water.
- Design and engineer hard structures to withstand flood levels and currents.
- Relocate and/or raise pathways to remove them from the flood plain, where feasible. Where not feasible, design the pathways to be flood-tolerant.
- Allow open space uses that are not significantly affected by flooding, such as green park space, recreation amenities.



#### 4.1.2.3 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The park will feature methods that protect the public against flooding and pollution hazards through proven methods and practices.



##### STRATEGIES

- Allow for stormwater management facilities that support only parkland land uses and development.
- Ensure the presence of bio-retention basins at storm sewer outlets so water can be retained and filtered on-site.
- Work with the City of Ottawa to ensure that runoff from new developments from the surrounding areas does not increase the amount of peak discharge.
- Use bioengineering approaches such as bio-pools and bioswales for stormwater management.
- Discourage the use of plastic filters and microplastics in the park.
- Set back stormwater outlets as far as possible from the shoreline, where feasible, to intercept and filter discharge into the river when building new or retrofitting infrastructure.

##### GUIDELINES

- Design stormwater facilities to be attractive amenities and to double as tranquil open space areas.

- Naturalize the edges of stormwater management facilities to act as a barrier, to make them safe and to reduce goose habitats, with access points provided for maintenance purposes.
- Manage landscaping to minimize interference with stormwater facility function.
- Provide interpretive materials at stormwater management facilities to promote education and safety awareness.
- Minimize impervious surfaces adjacent to stormwater management facilities.
- Consider a range of techniques to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff, including infiltration, reuse and rainwater harvesting, canopy interception, evapotranspiration and/or other complementary techniques.
- Give high priority to best management practices/low-impact developments<sup>2</sup> that include volume reduction. Employ filtration techniques as a secondary preference, followed by rate control.
- Conduct and consider hydro-geotechnical and environmental impact studies as part of any design, which may override the preceding requirements.
- Any construction within the 100-year flood plain shall require a cut/fill balance where all filling associated with construction in the flood plain must be compensated for by cutting the equivalent amount of land within the nearby flood plain.

#### 4.1.2.4 SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL

Apply environmentally responsible shoreline stabilization and restoration efforts.

##### STRATEGIES

- Undertake the necessary studies to develop appropriate strategies for shoreline stabilization and erosion control that

2. *Stormwater Management Planning and Design Manual, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, 2003.*



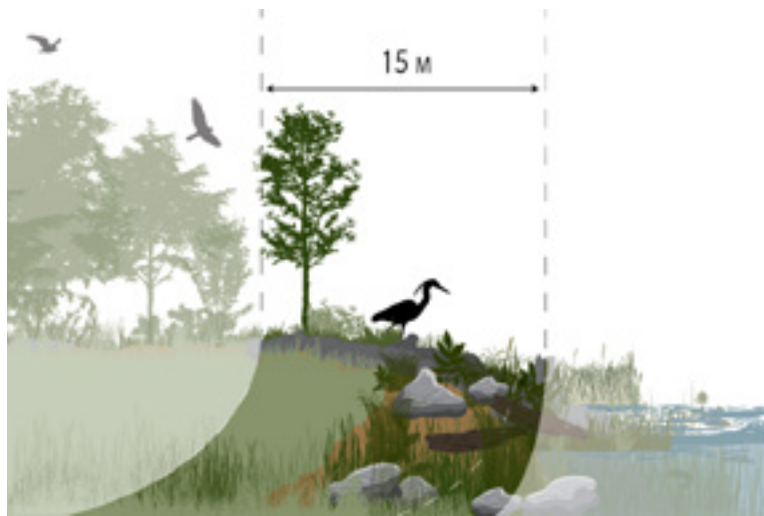
will respect the natural conservation principles established for the park.

- Regularly monitor the physical condition of the shoreline and stream banks, to evaluate the effectiveness of implemented stabilization measures, and identify areas experiencing erosion.
- Ensure compliance with environmental standards during construction work, to reduce sedimentation in the river.
- Manage erosion using modern bioengineering techniques, i.e., natural materials should be favoured over human-made, and slope retention should not have an engineered look.
- Protect and manage archaeological sites in accordance with industry's best practices in terms of management.



#### 4.1.2.5 RIPARIAN BUFFER ZONE

Ensure environmentally responsible efforts to stabilize and renaturalize the shoreline.



##### STRATEGIES

- Where possible, replace artificial/engineered shorelines with natural or bioengineered shores and prioritize sustainable and ecological management of riparian environments.
- Manage shoreline forest cover to reduce erosion caused by sediment detachment.

##### GUIDELINES

- Apply structural and non-structural shore erosion control, shore stabilization and restoration best practices, including, but not limited to, wetland creation for habitats, use of sandy soil as a substrate for plants, proper planting, and stabilization of adjacent cliffs, protections from excessive wave action and proper maintenance.
- Use native vegetation along the shoreline when revegetation and naturalization of shorelines are required.








*Mother duck and her ducklings in their wetland habitat in Mud Lake.*





#### 4.1.2.6 INITIATIVES—HYDROLOGY AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

GENERAL	GROUNDWATER RECHARGE	FLOOD PLAIN AND FLOOD MITIGATION	STORMWATER MANAGEMENT	SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL	RIPARIAN BUFFER ZONE
<p>Ensure that the design plans take into account seasonal low and seasonal high flood conditions for any park-related developments.</p> <hr/> <p>Design pathways to be above the 20-year flood levels (at a minimum), to avoid regular seasonal flooding and flood damage. Undertake mitigation measures such as bridging, levees, ridges and boardwalks at locations shown in plans, to address low points in the pathway network.</p> <hr/> <p>Balance cut-and-fill within the flood plain to ensure no net change to storage capacity.</p> <hr/> <p>Locate all services and utilities outside the 100-year flood plain and in accordance with federal and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority regulations, where possible.</p> <hr/> <p>Combine plant material, such as vines, with hard materials to soften the visual and environmental impact.</p> <hr/> <p>Install permeable surfaces at activity nodes and parking sites, when possible.</p>	<p>Secure contaminated sites to protect human health and ensure good water quality for wildlife and plants.</p> <hr/> <p>Delay overland flows and create depressions for water retention and absorption.</p> 	<p>Create seasonally flooded areas and inland retention basins to add controlled storage capacity and filtration benefits for 5- to 50-year flood events.</p> <hr/> <p>Plan for regularly flooded zones to have predominantly vegetated surfaces, in order to maximize the benefits of soil absorption and minimize the effects of flood damage to hard paved surfaces and structures.</p> <hr/> <p>Update knowledge and understanding of long-term extreme weather conditions on flood plain levels for park infrastructure.</p> 	<p>Maintain and restore stone stormwater headwalls, where they exist along the parkway corridor.</p> <hr/> <p>Design and install bio-filters or engineered strainers to capture plastic products at their source.</p> <hr/> <p>Clean and dispose of filtered plastics regularly, as per environmental best practices.</p> 	<p>Reduce shoreline erosion by controlling and slowing stormwater runoff.</p> 	<p>Expand natural habitats in the riparian strip.</p> 



## 4.2 CULTURE

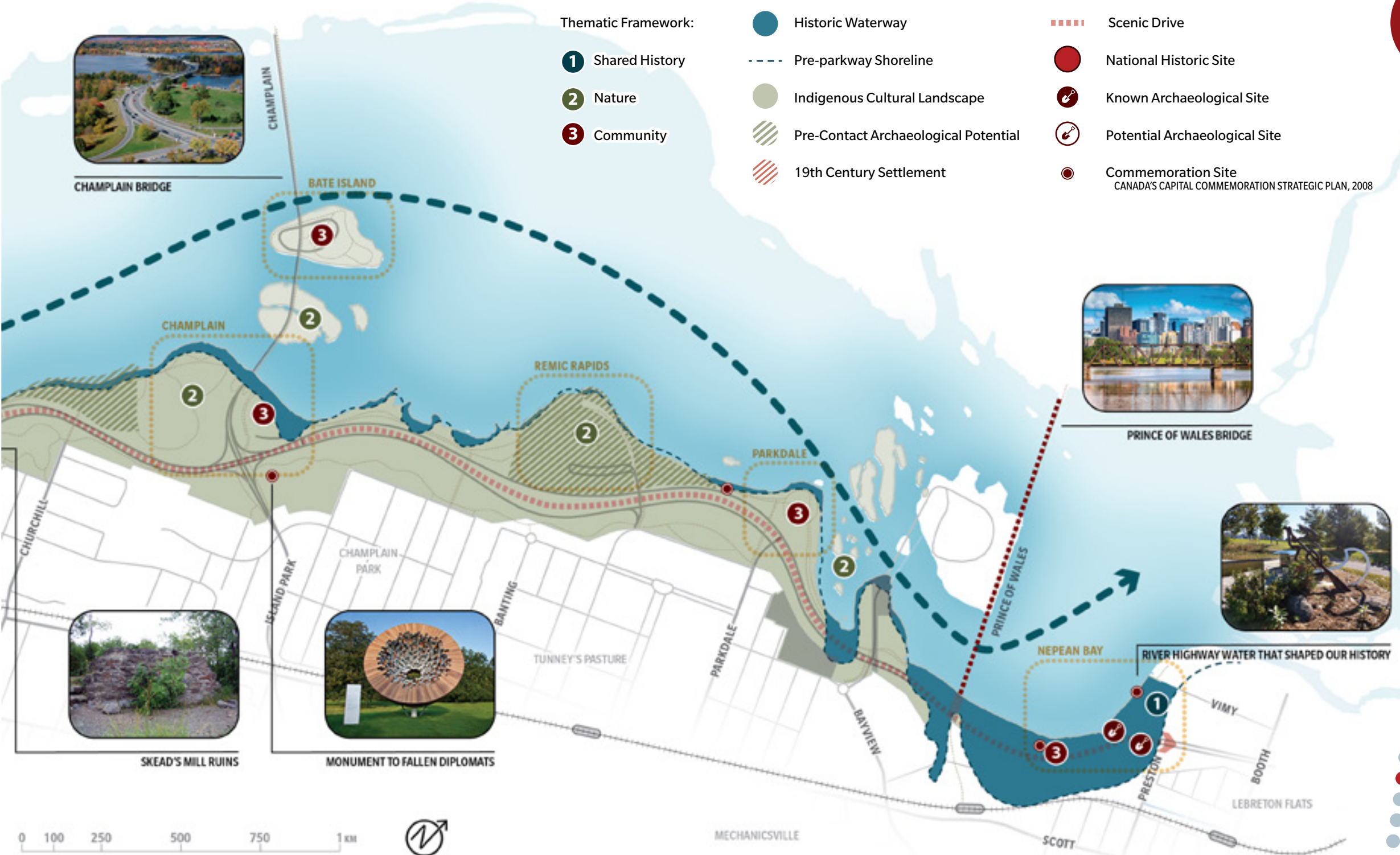
### 4.2.1 CULTURAL ELEMENTS

Reflect the past, present and future cultural significance of the Capital riverfront.

#### AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Safeguard culture and heritage in the park, including archaeological resources, heritage sites, intangible heritage resources and cultural landscapes.
- Advance and elevate Algonquin Anishinabe voices and accomplishments through the meaningful engagement of partnership with the Algonquin Anishinabe people, Canadian Heritage, communities and local heritage organizations.
- Work together with Canadian Heritage in consultation with local residents, community organizations and others to identify, conserve, build understanding of and communicate the Park's tangible and intangible heritage and the river's national significance.





## BACKGROUND

The Ottawa River is a Canadian Heritage River that reflects 10,000 years of human history. Archaeological evidence shows that the National Capital Region lies at the heart of what once was a far-reaching communications and trade network through which raw materials, goods and ideas flowed into the region over considerable distances.

Today, known and potential archaeological resources within the parkway corridor can inform our understanding of the region's history, and can chart a way forward in planning for the future.

In the 1960s, the NCC designed and constructed the Ottawa River Parkway in the spirit of earlier Capital plans. Frederick Todd's vision of a "necklace" of parks throughout the Capital was reflected in Jacques Gréber's plan to replace railway corridors with scenic drives. The parkway is a carefully designed landscape intended to reflect the picturesque character of the Capital, as well as to highlight the Capital's national symbols, such as Parliament Hill and the connections across the Ottawa River.

This plan will further the objectives of recognizing key cultural and heritage elements of the park by taking the following into consideration:

- Algonquin Anishinabe participation
- heritage sites
- archaeological resources
- cultural landscapes
- interpretation and commemorations

Because of its commitment to planning for a capital that all can experience, the NCC also works with Canadian Heritage and other partners to provide opportunities to learn, interact and participate

in the park's rich environmental and cultural setting. To this end, the plan also considers the following interactive and interpretive components:

- public art
- interpretation
- thematic framework
- education

The goal of implementing strategies for cultural elements in the park plan is not only to connect visitors with the heritage of the Ottawa River and its shorelines, but also to enhance their experiences. This will be done by communicating stories that reflect thousands of years of human history and by creating points of interest and gathering spaces.

### 4.2.1.1 ALGONQUIN ANISHINABE PARTICIPATION

Stories relating Algonquin Anishinabe heritage will be communicated through various ways, including public art, events, landscape treatments, design and artifact displays at appropriate locations.

#### STRATEGIES

- Ensure the engagement of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg in the following:
  - the development and implementation of the different components of the park plan;
  - the integration of Algonquin Anishinabe cultural perspectives, knowledge and values in the park's design, interpretation and educational experiences;
  - the identification of locations and approaches for communicating Algonquin Anishinabe culture and history in the park.
- Explore economic development opportunities for the Algonquin Anishinabe communities within the park.

### 4.2.1.2 HERITAGE SITES

Significant buildings and structures will be conserved and interpreted.

#### STRATEGIES

- Protect and conserve cultural heritage sites and archaeological resources.
- Encourage the creative and adaptive reuse of heritage sites in a way that is compatible with their heritage value.
- Protect and enhance the setting of built and natural heritage elements and the associated significant views.

### 4.2.1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The park's history will be highlighted by the development of measures designed to increase public knowledge of its archaeological resources.



#### STRATEGIES

- Ensure that all archaeological investigations undertaken in the park are in strict compliance with the protocol between Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and the NCC for the co-management of archaeological resources.



- Ensure the protection and management of known and potential archaeological resources in accordance with federal government legislation and policies.
- Encourage the development and implementation of archaeological digs in collaboration with Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and the local community, to enhance public awareness of the importance of protecting and managing archaeological resources.
- Develop an overarching strategy that, through partnerships with the public and private sectors, will foster a greater understanding of the cultural, educational and tourism value of archaeological resources, as well as contribute to increased scientific knowledge.

#### 4.2.1.4 CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Cultural landscapes will be identified and conserved.

##### STRATEGIES

- Conserve and interpret the park as a rich and layered cultural landscape that evolved through time, and include evidence of its prior uses and transformation over time.
- Recognize and protect the parkway’s heritage values and character-defining elements as a designed cultural landscape.

#### 4.2.1.5 COMMEMORATIONS

Interpretive and commemorative elements will be designed using expressions that reflect contemporary Canadian diversity.

##### STRATEGIES

- Build on the overarching theme of the river as identified in the thematic strategy for the park, which considers heritage conservation as part of environmental and social well-being.

- Recommend sites that demonstrate an appropriate potential for commemorative monuments, in collaboration with Canadian Heritage and in accordance with the Canada’s Capital Commemoration Strategic Plan Site Inventory (2008).
- Collaborate with Canadian Heritage to communicate to park users the varied experiences, themes and stories associated with pre-contact, contact and post-contact between Algonquin Anishinabe and European cultures.

#### 4.2.1.6 PUBLIC ART

The installation of public art will enhance users’ cultural and recreational experience by communicating the park’s stories and creating points of interest and gathering spaces.

##### STRATEGIES

- Collaborate with Canadian Heritage in identifying opportunities for the use of public art, building design and materials, as well as landscape features, as methods for interpretation in the park.
- Promote public art and features to enhance spaces and buildings and to add to the distinctiveness of the riverfront park.

##### GUIDELINES

- Install only displays of nationally significant public art and commemorations in the park that play a role in enhancing as well as promoting the Capital identity.
- Display public art and commemorations in public spaces in the park where it is most appropriate and does not result in safety impediments as per the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design guidelines (2013).
- Consider Rideau Valley Conservation Authority flood plain regulations when siting and implementing permanent displays of public art and commemorations.

- Design, site and install temporary displays of public art in areas where the physical surroundings will experience minimal to no impact upon their removal.

#### 4.2.1.7 THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

Use the primary theme and subthemes for the park to enhance the interpretation and communication of the heritage, culture and national significance of the riverfront.

The park’s overall theme is as follows:

To use the beauty and spirit of the riverfront park to connect us to our shared history, to nature and to our communities.

In partnership with Canadian Heritage, the plan promotes a thematic framework<sup>3</sup> that is based on the following three subthemes:

##### SUBTHEME 1

The Ottawa River carries our shared history and stories, spanning some 8,000 years of human use and occupation of its shores in Canada’s Capital Region.

##### SUBTHEME 2

The riverfront park provides residents and visitors with access to nature.

##### SUBTHEME 3

The beauty and spirit of the riverfront park inspires healthy lifestyles.

3. Sir John A. Macdonald Riverfront Park Plan, “Thematic Planning Framework,” Cal Martin, 2017.

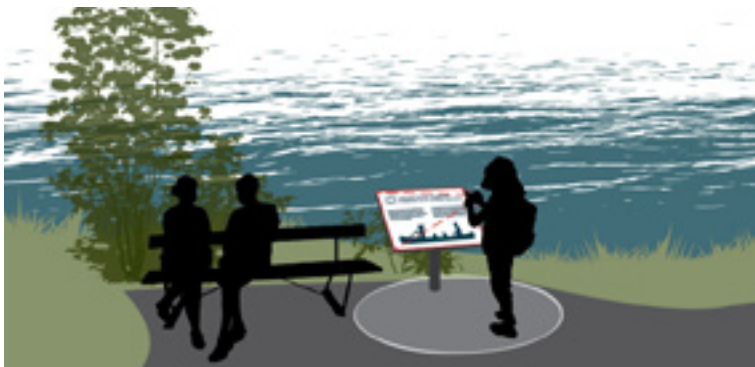


#### STRATEGIES

- Promote the overall theme with the three subthemes in the landscapes, media, furniture, messaging, panels and so on, in partnership with Canadian Heritage, through the park's interpretation plan.
- Build on the overarching theme of the river as identified in the thematic strategy for the park that considers heritage conservation as part of environmental and social well-being.
- Collaborate with Canadian Heritage to communicate to park users varied experiences, themes and stories associated with pre-contact, contact and post-contact between Indigenous and European cultures.
- Engage the Algonquin First Nations and the public to determine the park's toponymy in order for it to define the identity of the place and consider its cultural, traditional and historical values.

#### 4.2.1.8 INTERPRETATION

Media will educate, honour and provide an understanding of the significance of important people, places and events.



#### STRATEGIES

- Provide interpretation opportunities that reflect diverse audiences, varying levels of interest and different lengths of visiting times.

- Provide opportunities for interpretation of natural heritage features.
- Establish outreach programs to connect to park users and parkway commuters, including mobile or portable information, and social media applications.

#### GUIDELINES

- Follow the standards of the NCC graphic identity and branding models for park signage and interpretive media.
- Place orientation and interpretation panels at primary park gateways to provide 24-hour user information, orientation and interpretation of the park.
- Apply the principles and guidelines of the Capital Illumination Plan for the illumination of any interpretation components.
- Take the landscape into account when considering amenity and structure design throughout the park.

#### 4.2.1.9 EDUCATION

Strategies will build on the many natural, scenic, heritage and archaeological assets of the park for educational and research purposes.

#### STRATEGIES

- Maintain and provide access to naturalized areas and valued natural habitats for enhanced public education and information, while avoiding/minimizing disruption to natural processes.
- Support communication of the cultural heritage of the park and the river to a range of audiences, through best practices and cultural traditions.



#### GUIDELINES

- Work with Canadian Heritage to require that the planning and development of park amenities are subject to thematic and interpretive plans approved for the waterfront, and that such development does, in any case, allow for exhibits, waysides, publications, audiovisual programs, mass and/or electronic media and technology, educational guides, natural heritage interpretation and communication, and information media.
- Identify and work with partners, including the Algonquin Anishinabe people, Canadian Heritage, Ottawa Riverkeeper, local communities and agencies, the City of Ottawa, and educational institutions in the development and delivery of educational materials, methods and services related to the park and its assets.



#### 4.2.1.10 INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS

Recognize that play and discovery experiences are fundamental elements in social and physical well-being, and provide opportunities for interactive play that stimulate and engage a wide variety of audiences, ages and abilities.

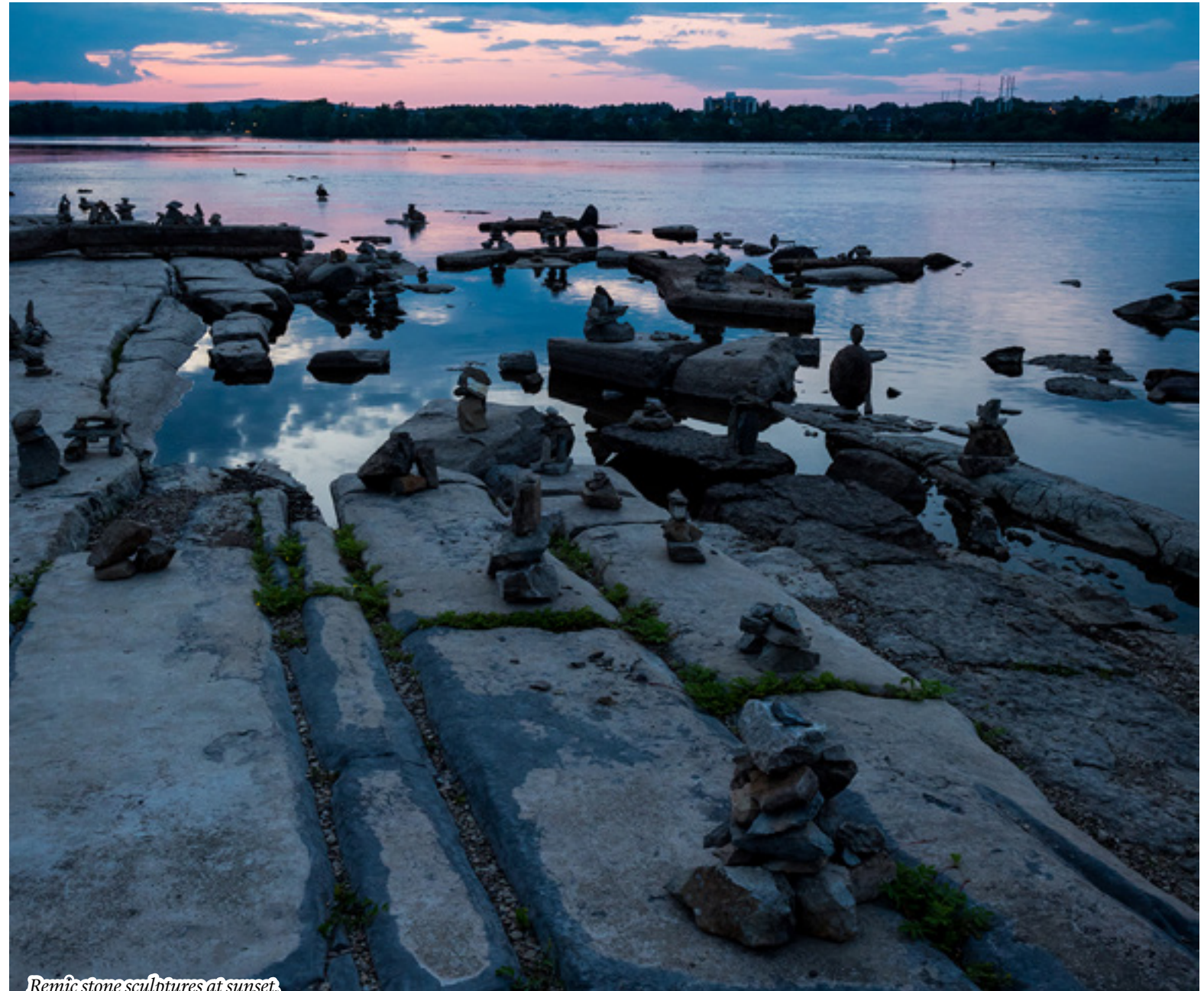


##### STRATEGIES

- Distribute creative, context-sensitive play opportunities throughout the park that foster social interactions and elicit a sensory response, such as visual, auditory or tactile feedback (e.g. water play, nature play or heritage-inspired installations).

##### GUIDELINES

- Interactive elements and installations should be context sensitive and custom designed to respect the park themes and landscape character.
- Interactive elements within the park should have a distinctive look (prioritizing natural materials and elegant design) and user experience that set them apart, visually and functionally, from those in neighbourhood parks.



*Reimic stone sculptures at sunset.*



#### 4.2.1.11 INITIATIVES—CULTURAL ELEMENTS

GENERAL	ALGONQUIN ANISHINABE PARTICIPATION	HERITAGE SITES	ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES	CULTURAL LANDSCAPES
<p>Identify and document, in partnership with Algonquin Anishinabe communities, agencies and stakeholders, the heritage value of the landscapes, buildings and structures.</p> <p>Conserve the park’s heritage through collaborative, proactive planning and management.</p> <p>Ensure that new interventions and contemporary design respect and protect the park’s heritage values.</p> <p>Work with Canadian Heritage to communicate and interpret the park’s heritage through various media, configurations, park furniture and landscape designs.</p> <p>Create a historical river corridor map and guide for park and recreational pathway users.</p> <p>Develop an interpretive network of markers, plaques, pavilions, historic trails and lookouts that will serve to identify and commemorate historic sites, places and buildings on both sides of the river.</p> <p>Use the best method that communicates the theme among the various interpretive media options, such as sculptures, themed playgrounds, panels and applications.</p>	<p>Carry out all the following actions in collaboration with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg:</p> <p>Identify places in the park that are of special significance to these two communities.</p> <p>Identify locations and methods to convey Algonquin Anishinabe culture, history and values within the park.</p> <p>Incorporate Anishinabe terminology into park interpretation, place naming, wayfinding and other signage.</p> <p>Identify opportunities for integrating Algonquin Anishinabe natural and scientific knowledge systems into park management activities.</p> <p>Assist in planning for the re-establishment in the park of indigenous flora and fauna of cultural importance to the Algonquin Anishinabe that are also resistant to climate change.</p>	<p>Apply the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada when managing the park’s heritage sites.</p> <p>Find uses for heritage buildings and structures that enable their conservation, are compatible with their heritage character and enhance public appreciation of their heritage value.</p> 	<p>Ensure the protection and management of archaeological resources in accordance with federal government legislation and policies.</p> <p>Take geology and geomorphology into consideration when interpreting the natural environment, culture and history, to increase public understanding of pre-contact and historical land use and occupancy in the Capital Region.</p> <p>Develop a management plan to protect against erosion and irreversible loss of shoreline archaeological sites</p> 	<p>Apply the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada when managing the park’s cultural landscapes.</p> <p>Develop a statement of significance for the cultural landscape of the 1960s-designed Ottawa River Parkway that can be used to guide future interventions.</p> <p>Apply context-sensitive, native vegetative treatments to landscapes associated with heritage sites and features in the park.</p> <p>Develop design standards for furnishings, guardrails, signage, lighting and other landscape elements that are sensitive to the park’s cultural landscape context.</p> <p>Protect and integrate, where feasible, existing landscape elements that formed the 1960s design of the Ottawa River Parkway.</p> 





### COMMEMORATIONS

Work with Canadian Heritage in its efforts to implement the Canada's Capital Commemoration Strategic Plan Site Inventory (2008) for the riverfront park.

Install commemorative monuments in such a way as to serve as points of interest and gathering places within the park, and to support daily use.



### PUBLIC ART

Develop a public arts program, including commemoration and interpretation programs that will give artists the opportunity to exhibit their works along the river corridor.



### THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

Use the thematic framework in collaboration with Canadian Heritage, Algonquin Anishinabe communities and other stakeholders in the development of park amenities and facilities.

Work with Algonquin Anishinabe communities and the public to develop criteria and an evaluation process toward establishing a new name for the park.



### INTERPRETATION

Assist Canadian Heritage in its development of an interpretation plan for the park, including the development of programs, media and research.

Develop strategies and guidelines for the interpretation and presentation of cultural and heritage elements, including technologies, research and training, and ensure that the guidelines are appropriate and sustainable in terms of social context.



### EDUCATION

Explore and encourage the most effective ways to promote active recreational uses and special events in the park.

Examine opportunities with Canadian Heritage for interpretation of the environmental and cultural features that show the variety of existing species, the quality of the water, special characteristics of the sector, and the ecological functions served by natural and riverfront environments.



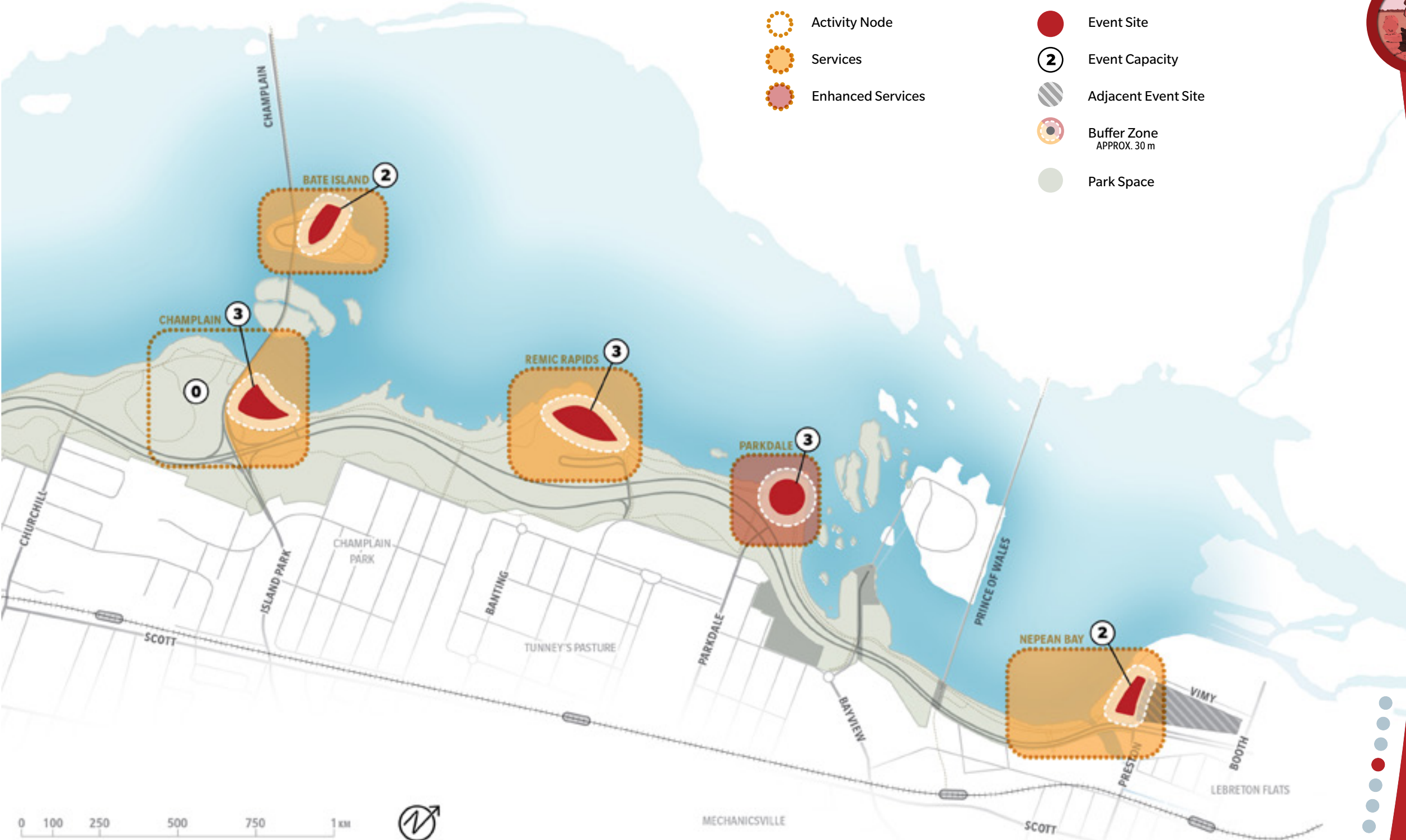
#### 4.2.2 EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

Enhance the visitor experience by providing spaces for programmed events, as well as associated public amenities, at these spaces and throughout the park, to provide convenience and benefits for visitors during their stay.

##### AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Integrate innovative public art and cultural attractions throughout the park.
- Ensure a reasonable balance and mix of park spaces, including green spaces that also support tranquil and passive enjoyment.
- Provide universal access to the park's public amenities, where feasible.
- Provide amenities appropriate to the scale and year-round use of the park in order to enhance the visitor experience.
- Support park-related commercial services, particularly near and at event spaces to support economic sustainability.





## BACKGROUND

The NCC is seeking to enhance the riverfront as a combination of vibrant spaces and leisure areas that are attractive and offer a safe, enjoyable destination. This section recommends strategies to guide the protection, improvement and creation of spaces for public recreation, events and leisure. Seven main areas for various types and levels of recreation are proposed, through nodes offering diverse recreational, educational and experiential opportunities for varied interests and abilities.

These sites will host programmed and leisure recreational opportunities in various ways, with elements and features of each area drawing from the particular characteristics of location, site environment, size and access. Programmable spaces will have ample public facilities and amenities like washrooms, rest areas, fountains and park-related commercial services. Remaining park spaces will include pathways, tranquil natural spaces, and unprogrammed casual recreation opportunities. All park development will apply principles of sustainable planning, improvement and management, as the NCC is committed to develop and manage Capital assets in an environmentally, socially and economically responsible manner.

The types and potential intensities for the nodes take into account the range of scales and intensities of public gatherings, as well as environmental conditions at the sites, ease of multi-modal access and parking, and proximity to neighbourhoods. Events at sites must be context-sensitive and respectful of the surrounding environment.

Public amenities will enhance the visitor experience, and give a sense of place in the park, using approaches and features that promote energy efficiency and resiliency, as well as respect environmental sustainability.

This section covers the following:

- event spaces
- buffer zones
- park spaces
- activity nodes
- services
- energy efficiency and sustainable site management

The goal of this section is to guide the creation, design and management of programmable, as well as leisure, public spaces, while minimizing the impact of the other important riverfront park features and functions.

### 4.2.2.1 EVENT SPACES

Event spaces will be designed in a manner that brings people to the park.



#### STRATEGIES

- Capitalize on active mobility systems and public transportation.
- Design event sites to be flexible and adaptable to temporary/regular programmed and unprogrammed uses.
- Provide permanent services, utilities, amenities and equipment that are in keeping with the sites' context, vocation and carrying capacity.

- Respect site carrying capacities in terms of size, environmental sensitivity, setting and recovery times, in accordance with the surface type.
- Consider the placement of pathways and plazas in relation to event areas to facilitate operations during set-up and takedown periods.
- Preserve scenic views when installing event facilities and services.
- Ensure that ancillary uses required for international and Capital events which require parkway closure do not negatively impact regular park functions.

#### GUIDELINES

- The scope and intensity of events at programmable park venues will be guided by the following considerations:
  - site size
  - proximity to transit, parking, cycling and pedestrian access, car access
  - environmental capacity to safely accommodate proposed event levels
  - pleasant and safe environment for users, tranquil space, shade and rain/snow protection
  - adequate washroom facilities
  - universal accessibility
  - balance between time set aside for event-related, controlled access and time set aside for free and open use
  - sufficient time between events to allow free, open use of the land, once it has recovered
  - maximum surface areas for sites hosting events, according to site intensity levels, as explained in Chapter 7

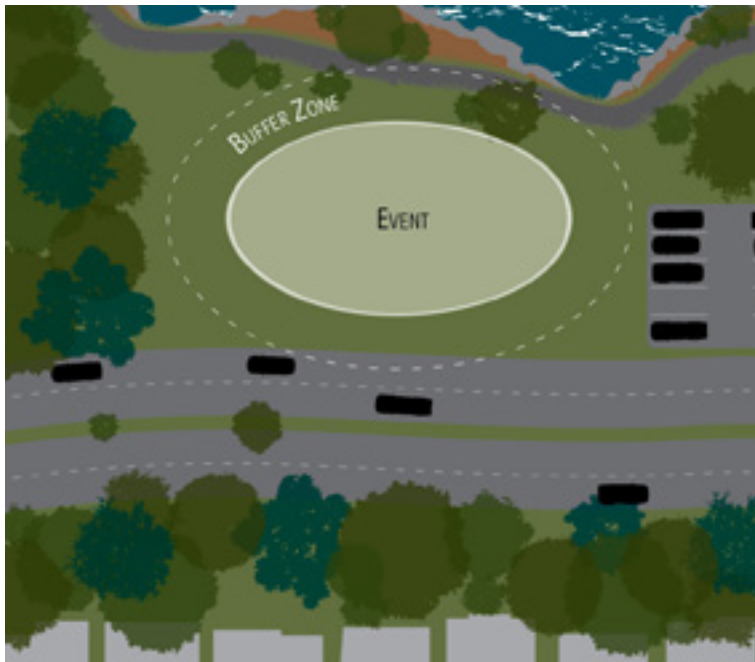
- Request a comprehensive site plan for events requiring staging areas that identifies areas for equipment storage and trailer parking.
- Consider the placement of equipment, staging areas and any lighting away from neighbouring communities.

#### 4.2.2.2 BUFFER ZONES

Buffer zones will protect the natural environment and adjacent communities from the impact of public events and activities taking place in the park.

##### STRATEGIES

- Protect sensitive ecological features against damage caused by temporary events and activities.
- Mitigate the visual, auditory and physical intrusions into sensitive natural habitats and cultural and passive recreational areas.



#### 4.2.2.3 PARK SPACE

The park will include spaces for passive recreational use.



##### STRATEGIES

- Keep unprogrammed areas accessible to the public for low-impact recreational activities.
- Take into account the proximity of parking, light rail stations, animation nodes and the adjacent residential neighbourhoods, when considering passive uses.
- Ensure that activity nodes can accommodate unstructured public uses, when not in use for programmed events.
- Ensure balanced timing between controlled access for scheduled gatherings or events and spontaneous/everyday use.

##### GUIDELINES

- Ensure that hoarding, fencing, gates and other crowd-control devices do not impede access to, circulation in, or enjoyment of the adjacent public area or environmental features.
- Ensure public access and spontaneous use of riverfront lands during set-up, occupation and takedown of events.
- Ensure that the active transportation network stays free-flowing during events, except if the event is on the pathway or parkway.

#### 4.2.2.4 ACTIVITY NODES

Activity nodes will offer different types of park experiences that are properly located and serviced.



##### STRATEGIES

- Provide options for different interactions with the natural environment, ranging from quiet reflection to nautical activities.
- Cluster services and facilities in and around activity nodes.
- Offer commercial services in appropriate locations in terms of scale, customer traffic and footprint of the facilities and their inherent operations.
- Accommodate river-dependent and river-related recreational activities in activity nodes and in buildings, and, where feasible and appropriate, include park-related commercial uses.

##### GUIDELINES

- Differentiate components of activity nodes as appropriate, using space, as well as hard and soft barriers (e.g. fences, planters and so on).



#### 4.2.2.5 SERVICES

Services will be provided to park users in a manner that enhances park experience, as well as supports its natural and aesthetic features.



##### STRATEGIES

- Ensure that approved commercial uses are consistent with and supportive of the site's character and theme, the desired traffic level and the presence of facilities in the park.
- Explore opportunities for partnerships with respect to service provision.
- Ensure that services are universally accessible and open to all members of the public, where feasible.
- Encourage partnerships in support of privately run year-round recreational equipment rentals and repairs within the park.
- Ensure that there is a range of affordable commercial uses.
- Provide seasonal services such as pop-up trucks, temporary restaurants, mobile and repair service trucks, etc. in activity nodes as appropriate.
- Install facilities in a way that
  - is as flexible as possible to accommodate changing needs and desires;

- does not adversely affect the user experience or the visual quality of the areas;
- does not occupy areas that are meant to be public open spaces;
- integrates the architecture of the temporary or permanent facilities with the surroundings; and
- preserves natural features.

#### 4.2.2.6 DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

Diplomatic missions may be located adjacent to and abutting the park lands consistent with the political functions of the Capital, as per the land designations of the Capital Urban Lands Plan (2015).

##### STRATEGIES

- Prohibit diplomatic missions from occupying the riverfront park lands.
- Respect applicable federal and NCC plans and policies when locating diplomatic missions on lands adjacent to the riverfront park.
- Respect the sensitivity, and security and safety requirements of diplomatic missions when creating and implementing riverfront park vegetation and urban edge buffering strategies.
- Prohibit direct vehicle access to the parkway.

#### 4.2.2.7 ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE SITE MANAGEMENT

Site management will respect the environment and be economically responsible.

##### STRATEGIES





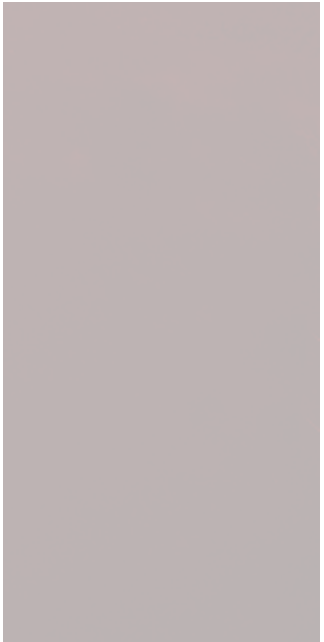
- Apply an approach to development that respects and complements the natural environment in such a way that maintains or enhances the environmental quality of the natural features.
- Ensure that proposed design solutions are reliable over the long term, and can be economically maintained.
- Ensure that proposed building plans/designs exhibit high levels of energy efficiency.

##### GUIDELINES

- Use materials for built facilities that reflect materials used in nearby built and natural heritage sites such as brick, stone, copper and wood, where appropriate.
- Use environmentally sustainable design wherever feasible, including building orientation to ensure access to natural light and ventilation, low water and energy-use applications, native plant species, permeable paving materials, green roofs, and alternative energy generation.
- Use local materials, recycling and innovative technologies for energy conservation and waste management.
- Use bird-friendly design principles, wherever appropriate and/or feasible.



#### 4.2.2.8 INITIATIVES—EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

EVENT SPACES	BUFFER ZONES	PARK SPACE	ACTIVITY NODES	SERVICES	ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE SITE MANAGEMENT
<p>Direct organized activities to the appropriate site, according to Chapter 7.</p> <hr/> <p>Use parking lots for event organizing purposes, to meet logistical/staging needs.</p> <hr/> <p>Respect recovery periods between events, and limit the number of repeat events during a season.</p> <hr/> <p>Vary the location and set-up of events to avoid site overuse.</p> <hr/> <p>Require that amenities (such as secure bike parking, bike lockers and so on) be provided by event organizers to promote cycling.</p> <hr/> <p>Design pathways to facilitate operations during set-up and takedown periods, so that vehicles and machinery do not have to drive on the grass or loose surfaces.</p> <hr/> <p>Arrange facilities in a way that protects existing vegetation, including root systems.</p> <hr/> <p>Maintain a buffer zone of at least 15 metres between activity areas and natural environments.</p> <hr/> <p>Provide hard surfaces for frequent high-intensity event spaces.</p> <hr/> <p>Work with the City of Ottawa and other stakeholders to encourage off-street parking adjacent to the park lands for shared facilities to meet overflow parking needs.</p>	<p>Keep unstructured and higher-intensity organized activities away from key environmental features and habitats.</p> <hr/> <p>Arrange temporary and permanent facilities in ways that protect vegetation and habitat typologies.</p> 	<p>Ensure balanced timing between controlled access for scheduled gatherings or events and spontaneous/ everyday use.</p> 	<p>Design outdoor areas that are complementary to built environments.</p> 	<p>Provide adequate services to park users at a level suitable to their needs (e.g. electricity, water, site maintenance).</p> <hr/> <p>Develop specific management/maintenance plans tailored for the activity nodes.</p> <hr/> <p>Support and welcome community and volunteer efforts that help with maintaining and improving park amenities and facilities.</p> 	<p>Design nodes with a smaller ecological footprint.</p> <hr/> <p>Apply regulations to promote energy efficiency and sustainability.</p> <hr/> <p>Set up demonstration projects throughout the park, where appropriate.</p> 



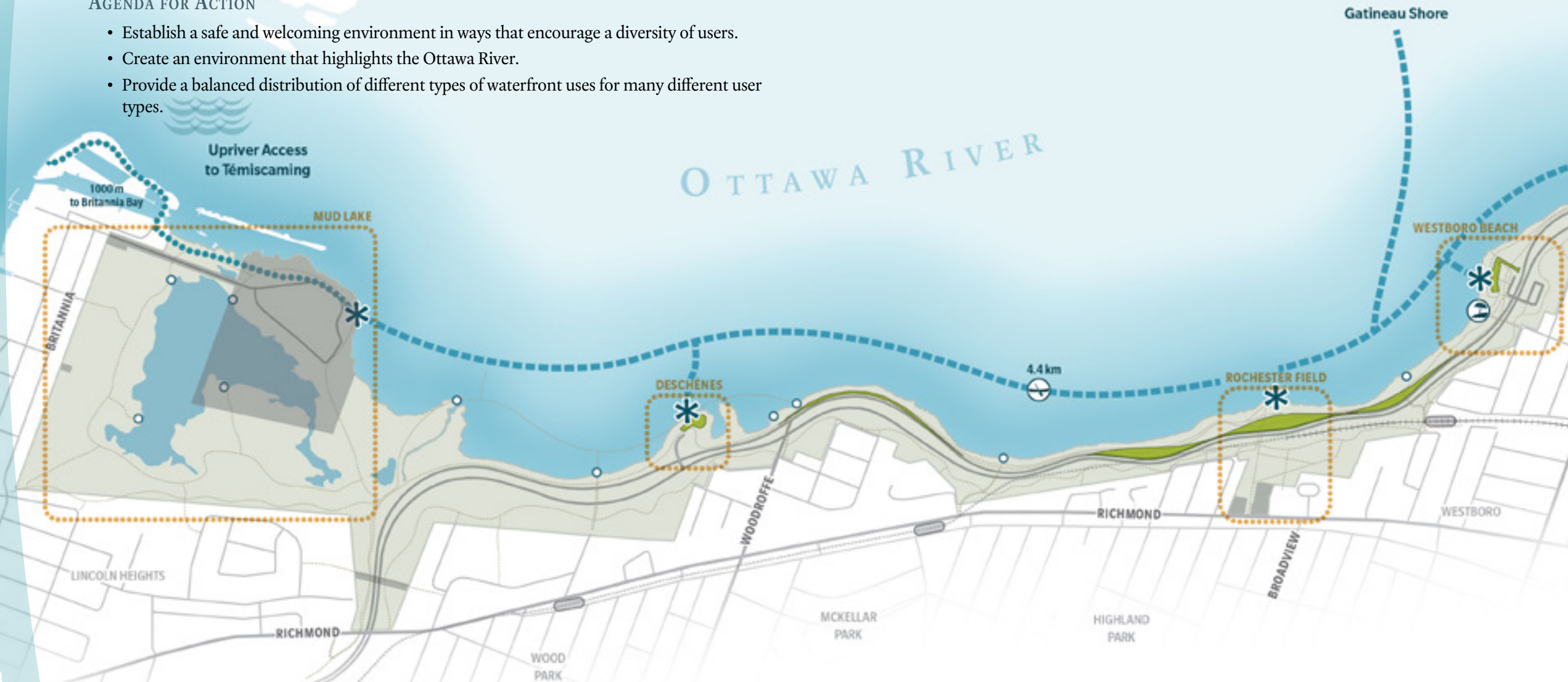
## 4.3 WATERFRONT EXPERIENCE

### 4.3.1 WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS

Enhance users' interactions with the Ottawa River by creating new waterfront places and features.

#### AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Establish a safe and welcoming environment in ways that encourage a diversity of users.
- Create an environment that highlights the Ottawa River.
- Provide a balanced distribution of different types of waterfront uses for many different user types.







- Water Trail — Paddling Route
- Portage
- Activity Node
- Reclaimed Space
- Waterfront Installations
- Informal Water Access

## BACKGROUND

The goal of the waterfront improvement policies is to enhance users' interaction with the Ottawa River, through the creation of new waterfront places and features and by implementing universal access wherever appropriate. At the same time, contact with the river will help raise people's awareness about the importance of riverfront lands as a community asset and about the importance of water quality and the environment.

This section of the plan looks at how the park can be developed to enrich peoples' experience as it relates to the Ottawa River, through the following components:

- placemaking
- diversity of waterfront experiences
- opportunities to access and interact with the water
- use of the riverfront as a water trail



*Small bay along the river south shore.*

### 4.3.1.1 PLACEMAKING

The NCC will adopt a placemaking approach by designing active, unique locations throughout the park that are people-friendly, accessible, safe and walkable.



#### STRATEGIES

- Reclaim space such as existing parking lots or vacant lawn areas to create new people-oriented waterfront locations.
- Create new spaces separate from the pathways for people to stop, linger and enjoy.
- Provide access and connections to nodes, pathways and the shoreline from roads, sidewalks, transit and the light rail stations at locations that maximize sightlines and minimize conflicts.
- Ensure that nodes, pathways and the shorelines are universally accessible to users, where feasible.

### 4.3.1.2 WATERFRONT DIVERSITY

Establishing new and improved connections to adjacent communities, and providing for a variety of uses and activities along the waterfront will enhance the riverfront park's diverse character.

#### STRATEGIES

- Create unique and context-appropriate waterfront installations that offer opportunities for visitors to physically or visually access the water's edge, as described below.

#### BOARDWALKS

##### GUIDELINES

- Include handrails and edges in the design.
- Base ramp gradient (on and off the boardwalk) on federal and provincial accessibility standards.

#### BOAT LAUNCHES AND DOCKS

##### GUIDELINES

- Make cleaning stations available on-site, where possible, for boaters entering and leaving the river, to clean boats and equipment before they make contact with the water, to help prevent the spread of invasive species.
- Use dock surfaces that have grates or other openings to allow maximum light penetration for aquatic species.

#### BEACHES

##### GUIDELINES

- If adding sand, use the highest available grain size to provide the greatest stability.
- Do not add sand where it destroys fish/wildlife habitat or protected vegetation.

- Make sure that all sand is isolated above the high-water mark to prevent it from being washed into the water.
- Avoid locations that are important to species at risk.

#### STEPS

##### GUIDELINES

- Plan to preserve/re-establish vegetation that is disrupted through construction.
- Implement bioengineering techniques when constructing/installing steps.

#### LOOKOUTS/OBSERVATION TOWERS

##### GUIDELINES

- Integrate the tower sensitively into its surroundings to minimize its impacts on views from other vantage points.
- Design the tower to mitigate climatic factors, e.g., wind and rain.
- Ensure accessibility to the viewing platform.



#### 4.3.1.3 WATER INTERACTION

A balance should be achieved between recreational use and the character of the shoreline, when exploring opportunities for interaction with the water.



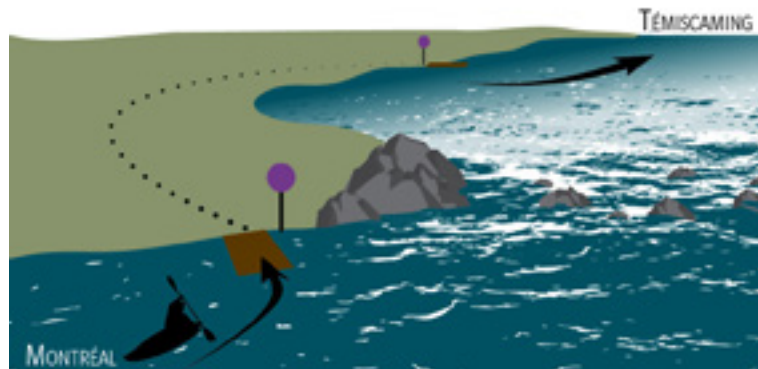
##### STRATEGIES

- Ensure that water access opportunities meet accessibility guidelines, wherever possible.
- Ensure that water access opportunities are equitable for a range of users and activities, and are evenly distributed throughout the corridor.
- Ensure that the public can safely enjoy the shoreline year-round.
- Locate and design water access opportunities to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.



#### 4.3.1.4 WATERFRONT TRAIL

The trail will be designed to enhance the experience and enjoyment of the waterfront in a safe and convenient manner, as well as to highlight water-focused recreational opportunities.



##### STRATEGIES





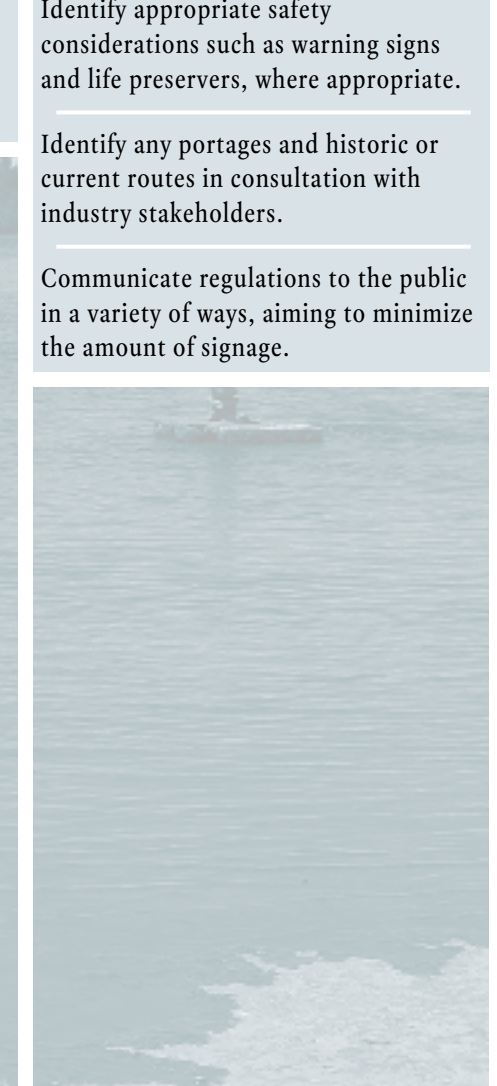
- Permit only non-motorized boats/watercraft to access the river within the park, with the exception of emergency or companion boats.
- Develop a series of put-in and take-out points above and below sections of rapids, to allow flatwater paddlers to safely travel up and down the river and whitewater paddlers to access the rapids.
- Offer opportunities to all levels of canoeing/kayaking experience and ability, if possible.



*Ottawa River canoeing and kayaking*



#### 4.3.1.5 INITIATIVES—WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS

GENERAL	PLACEMAKING	WATERFRONT DIVERSITY	WATER INTERACTION	WATERFRONT TRAIL
<p>Minimize impact on the natural environment when designing sites and site access.</p>	<p>Establish management standards to maintain appropriate levels of cleanliness and maintenance for infrastructure and amenities.</p>	<p>Respect applicable legislation and environmental requirements for waterfront installations such as boardwalks, boat launches and beaches.</p>	<p>Explore creative opportunities to encourage learning about the river and the park’s environment through interpretive media or landscape design.</p>	<p>Identify river access points in terms of user type and appropriateness of use.</p>
	<p>Consider the importance of comfort when designing rest areas.</p> 	<p>Design boat cleaning stations to capture water and dispose of it safely, preventing it from getting into the river or into storm drains leading to the river.</p> 	<p>Prepare programming for active and quiet uses of the river and shoreline.</p> 	<p>Identify appropriate safety considerations such as warning signs and life preservers, where appropriate.</p> <p>Identify any portages and historic or current routes in consultation with industry stakeholders.</p> <p>Communicate regulations to the public in a variety of ways, aiming to minimize the amount of signage.</p> 



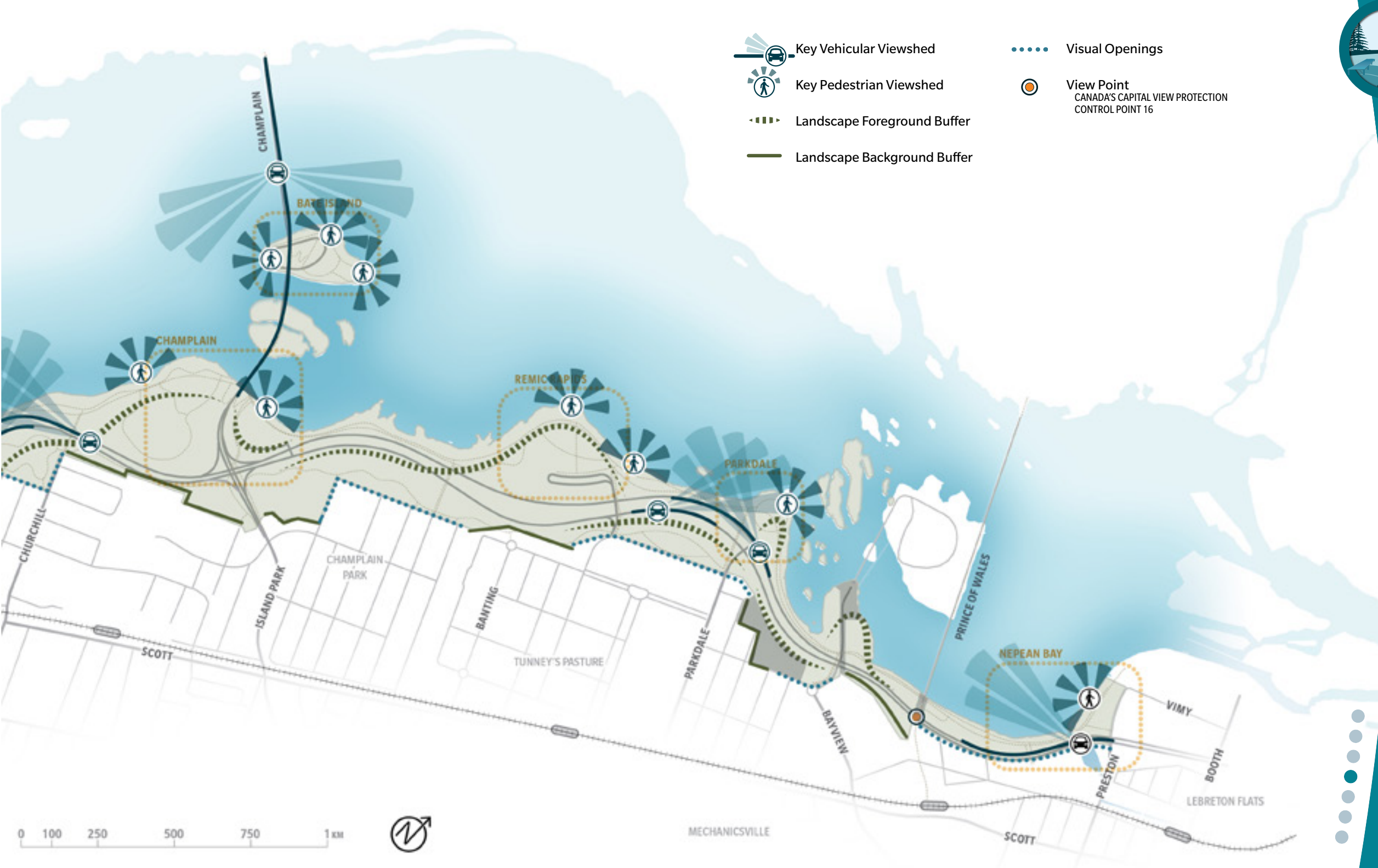
### 4.3.2 VIEWS AND VISTAS

Design the riverfront park to showcase its intrinsic character and picturesque beauty.

#### AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Ensure that the enhancement of the riverfront park supports and respects the retention of scenic views of the river and beyond.
- Maintain and enhance the visual character of landscape views from pathways, through partnerships and a variety of approaches.
- Develop new lookout points on riverfront lands as part of the development of new Capital discovery corridors.





- Key Vehicular Viewshed
- Key Pedestrian Viewshed
- Landscape Foreground Buffer
- Landscape Background Buffer
- Visual Openings
- View Point  
CANADA'S CAPITAL VIEW PROTECTION  
CONTROL POINT 16

## BACKGROUND

The riverfront's green edge and views beyond offer some of the most dramatic natural scenes within the Capital. The 2005 Ottawa River Parkway Corridor Visual Assessment Report revealed that the corridor has good scenic quality, but the panoramic views along the corridor have the highest value. It is one of this plan's objectives to maximize the benefits of the Ottawa River location by reinforcing key views to and from the river, as well as toward Parliament Hill, in order to enhance the visitor experience. The overall look along the parkway should be natural, with curvilinear, flowing forms, native vegetation and forested areas that balance the need for high visual quality with variety, attractive views and strong spatial definition.

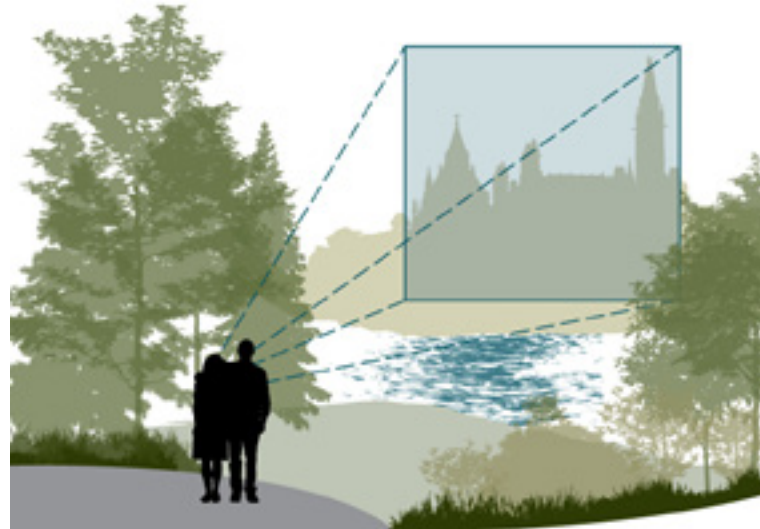
This plan identifies strategies for the following elements:

- key viewsheds
- natural aesthetic
- dynamic view experiences
- visual openings
- visual buffers

The goal of the park's policies on views and vistas is to improve the scenic quality of the Capital's unique character and significance through the preservation and enhancement of valued public views along the corridor.

### 4.3.2.1 KEY VIEWSHEDS

Sightlines toward iconic landmarks and natural features (such as Parliament, the Gatineau Hills, the rapids and historic sites) in particular, will be protected.

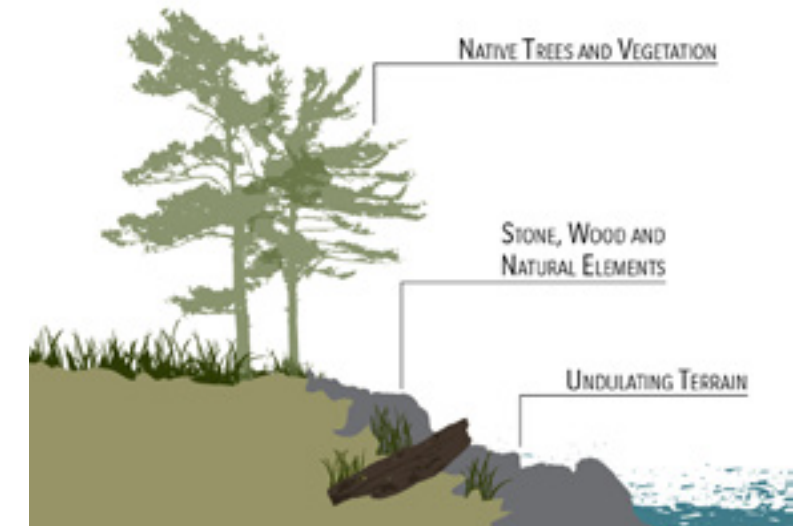


#### STRATEGIES

- Enhance key sightlines by framing the focal point, and preserving an open viewshed.
- Consider all built and natural elements within the frame as part of the view, and ensure that they contribute to the overall visual quality.
- Provide high experiential quality at viewing locations through design elements and seating.
- Ensure that the sightline is not obscured by vegetation, structures or temporary installations.
- Establish and implement a maintenance and pruning strategy to keep the key sightlines.

### 4.3.2.2 NATURAL AESTHETIC

The natural aesthetic of the riverfront corridor will contribute to its character and picturesque beauty.



#### STRATEGIES

- Preserve areas along the parkway that exhibit high-quality natural conditions and seek to replicate their character and diversity in areas that have been disturbed by human interference.
- Promote designs that utilize curvilinear, and uneven and organic shapes and forms, along with natural materials such as wood and stone.



#### 4.3.2.3 DYNAMIC VIEW EXPERIENCES

Consideration will be given to present dynamic views as a sequence, in addition to each representing a particular experience.

##### STRATEGIES

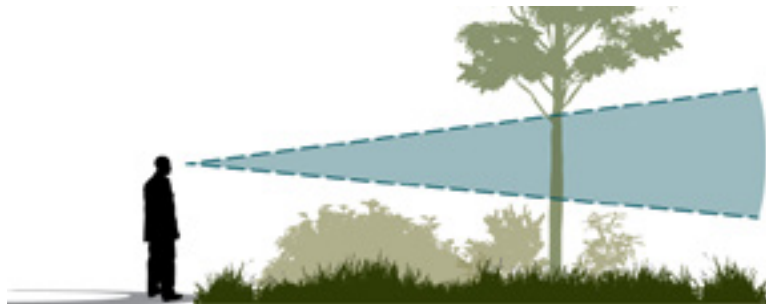
- Balance the view experience of various users, ensuring that modifications made for one purpose do not negatively impact the views of others.
- Ensure a diversity of spatial experiences, balancing low open areas, such as lawns and meadows, with taller massing, such as forested areas.

##### GUIDELINES

- Use selective plant removal and plantings to optimize the views.

#### 4.3.2.4 VISUAL OPENINGS

The planning and management of vegetation within the corridor will ensure that important vistas are preserved.



##### STRATEGIES

- Ensure that foreground vegetation will not obscure the views over the long term.
- Keep short, permeable view openings into park space from adjacent public streetscapes.

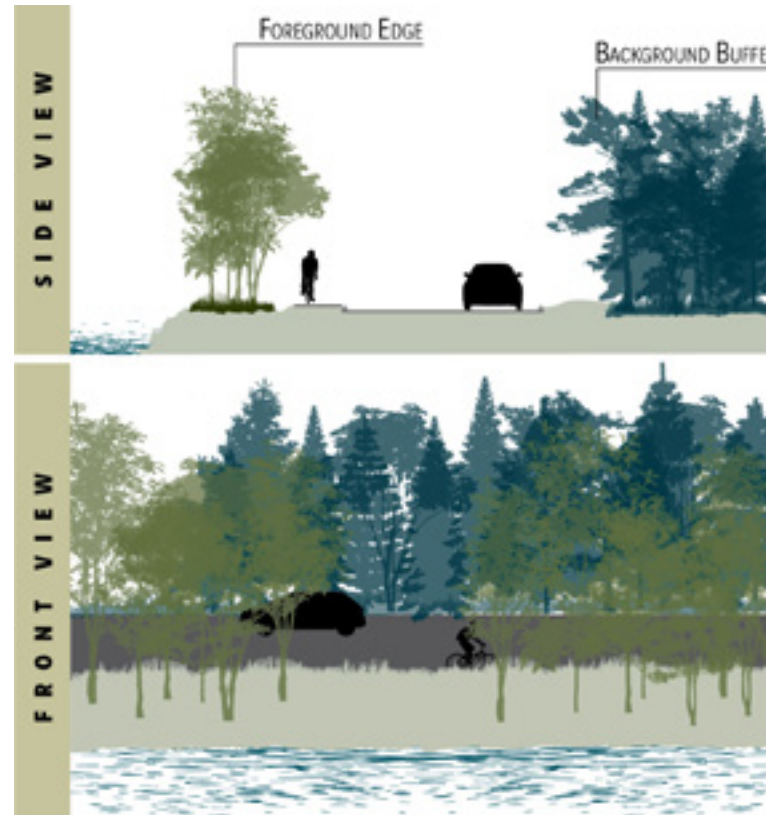
##### GUIDELINES

- Plant competitive and self-sustaining ground-cover vegetation in areas where visual permeability is required.



#### 4.3.2.5 VISUAL BUFFERS

Vegetation, as shown in the plans, will define the foregrounds and backgrounds of the views along the riverfront.

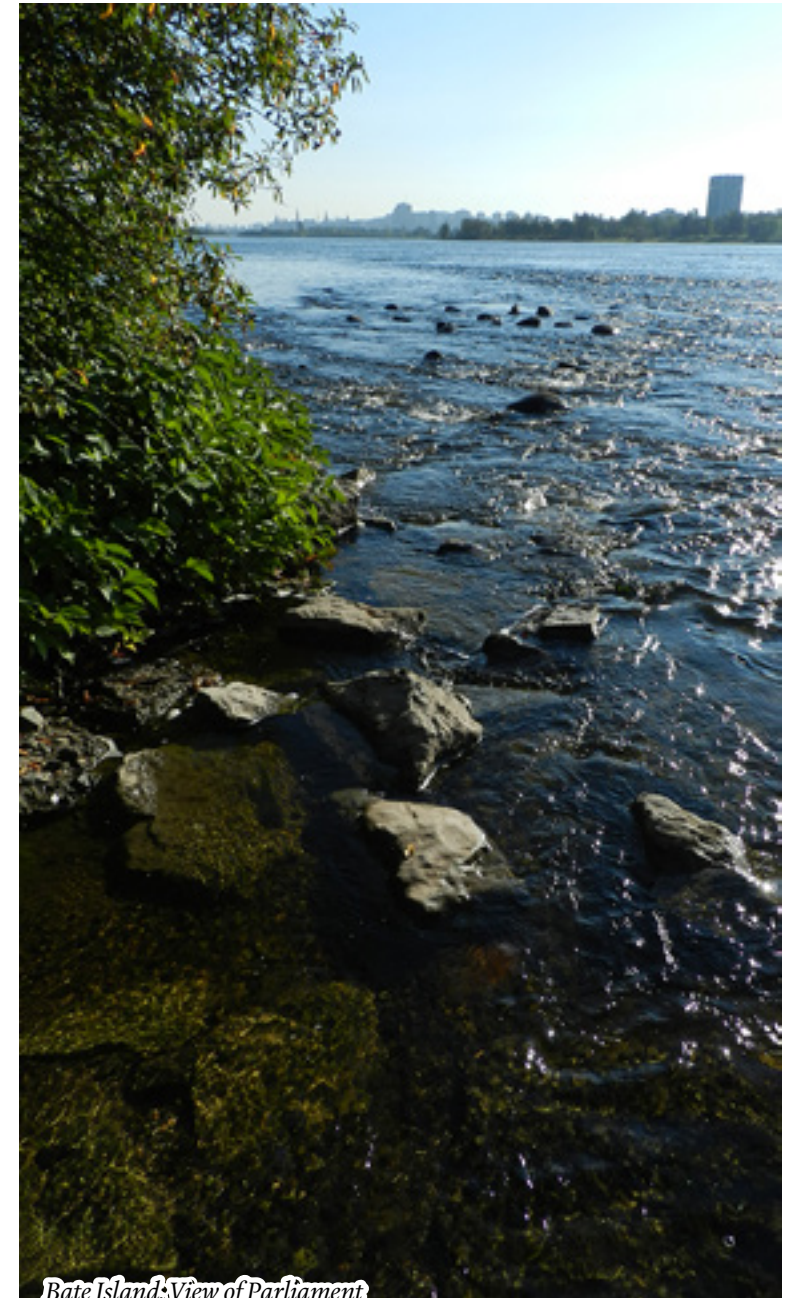


##### STRATEGIES

- Diminish the visual impact of adjacent buildings and structures by using tall, dense background vegetation or strategically placed foreground vegetation.

##### GUIDELINES

- Use vegetation and landforms to buffer against noise, lights and other forms of disturbance within the park.



*Bate Island: View of Parliament*





*Cycling pathway by Prince of Wales Bridge and Hull sector skyline.*



#### 4.3.2.6 INITIATIVES—VIEWS AND VISTAS

GENERAL	KEY VIEWSHEDS	NATURAL AESTHETIC	DYNAMIC VIEW EXPERIENCES	VISUAL OPENINGS	VISUAL BUFFERS
<p>Remove invasive vegetative species such as buckthorn. This species is the single greatest factor in blocking both views and access to the river.</p>	<p>Analyze the views' important visual and compositional characteristics from iconic sightlines.</p> <p>Define appropriate measures or standards for protecting the visual integrity of the subjects in each of the views.</p>	<p>Retain, as much as possible, the natural character of landscapes through native vegetation and the forest canopy.</p> <p>Offer varied landscapes of high visual quality.</p> <p>Increase variety and complexity in the landscape to provide more visual interest.</p>	<p>Provide meandering and sinuous trajectories for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, where scenes come into and out of focus as people move through the landscape.</p> <p>Design buffers while considering who will be viewing and from where.</p>	<p>Use selective plant removal, plantings and pruning to optimize the views.</p> <p>Reconfigure the typical cross-section of the shoreline to improve visual connections to the water for pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>Avoid walls of tall, dense vegetation along the shoreline and urban edge that completely obscure eye-level views (often as a result of invasive species or unsustainable plant communities).</p>	<p>Increase the density of the vegetative buffer against the urban edge.</p> <p>Reduce the visual impact of elements like traffic signals, signage, lighting and so on.</p> <p>Plant natural features wherever analyses show that the visual quality would be enhanced by visual screens.</p> <p>Screen delivery, loading and waste storage and collection areas from the parkway, parking sites and public spaces.</p>

### 4.3.3 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

Provide a landscape network that allows for a range of experiences that are safe, accessible and designed for their purpose, as well as for year-round use of the park.

#### AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Make the river shoreline an attractive and important destination, inviting people of all abilities to experience it, where feasible.
- Ensure a balanced and diverse offering of landscape typologies, resulting in a wide array of opportunities.
- Ensure landscape types to support intended recreational uses including relaxation and quiet contemplation.
- Apply indicators to determine what types of features should be included and where, within public open space areas.





Activity Node

Natural Green Space

Vegetated Park Space

Open Park Space

Urban Park Space

Urban Plaza



## BACKGROUND

The riverfront park plan represents a second generation of Capital placemaking. The first phase, in 1960, was marked by land acquisitions and the greening of former residential and industrial lands to create a continuous transportation and green space corridor along the Ottawa River shoreline. The transformation of the shoreline during this period was intended to beautify the Capital shoreline by relocating the railway and removing signs of heavy industrial use. The result was a carefully designed picturesque parkway that celebrated the Ottawa River and announced the arrival in the core of the Capital for travellers.

This plan establishes a new phase that builds upon the initial greening of this corridor. Today, the demands on our urban green spaces are diverse. They must simultaneously serve as ecological assets, public places and recreational areas. Population growth, infrastructure needs, and urban development and intensification all place increasing pressures on these valuable assets.

The following policies, when implemented, enhance the public's open space experience:

- site animation
- landscape typologies
- design quality
- climatic and resilient design
- health and safety
- goose management

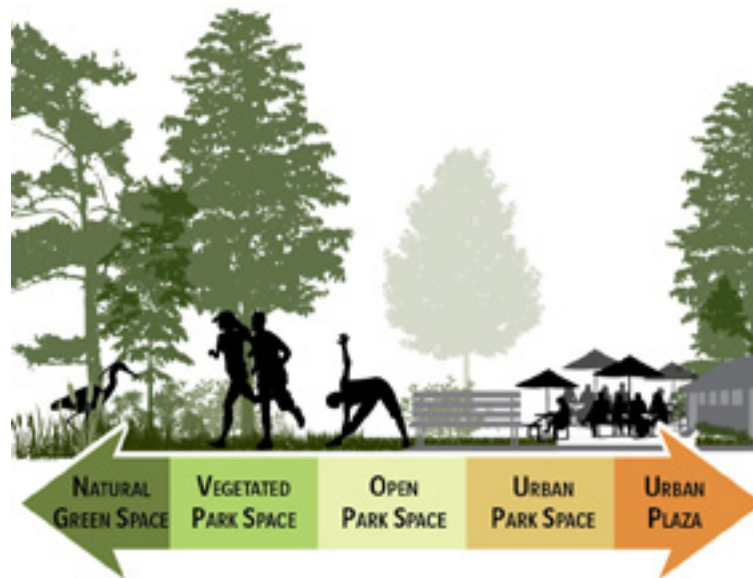
The goal of the public open space strategies is to ensure that the Capital shoreline responds to the widest array of potential recreational opportunities at the most appropriate locations along the corridor.

### 4.3.3.1 SITE ANIMATION

The park will offer a variety of experiences to people of all ages and abilities.

#### STRATEGIES

- Vary the landscaping to give each site its own character, and make it recognizable.
- Make places inviting and comfortable by developing them in a context-sensitive manner.
- Make sites vibrant and attractive by increasing the number of inviting living spaces around points of interest (such as small plazas, places to sit, fountains, artwork, flowerbeds, open-access games, refreshments, restaurants, rental services, interpretive installations, lookout points and so on).
- Recognize and include the value of the river in terms of, for example, cultural history, natural environment, flood storage and recreation through the built form and design of park facilities.



#### GUIDELINES

- Observe maximum distances between small plazas to promote movement within and entry into the park.
- Landscape sites to accommodate a variety of gatherings and events.
- Landscape sites using native materials, where feasible and appropriate.
- Choose multi-purpose materials for site surfaces that accommodate organized activities.
- Provide flexibility in park furniture that allows the public to be active and to appropriate the space to make it theirs.
- Provide educational play features, where feasible.
- Allow informal sports and recreational activities that do not require permanent infrastructure.
- Renaturalize landscapes to suit the environment and create an inviting user experience.

### 4.3.3.2 LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES

The NCC will create landscapes that are suited to the desired ambiance and that optimize land use.

#### STRATEGIES

- The park will contain a spectrum of landscape typologies from natural to urban.
  - **Natural Green Space:** Focused on ecology and natural cycles; preservation and improvement of ecological functions; infrastructure that contributes to the appreciation of nature; priority placed on resistant indigenous species.
  - **Vegetated Park Space:** Focused on green space providing a mix of human use and ecological functions; primarily wooded or containing abundant vegetation; low-impact recreational use.



- **Open Park Space:** Focused on open lawn space; maintained grounds allowing for gathering; mostly unobstructed land; accessible for unrestricted use.
- **Urban Park Space:** Focused on public use; characterized by a moderate number of services provided, presence of ornamental plantings, and a mix of durable and vegetated areas.
- **Urban Plaza:** Focused on vibrant public use; characterized by a high level of services and amenities; predominantly hard surfaces with ornamental planning.

**4.3.3.4 CLIMATIC AND RESILIENT DESIGN**  
Appropriate design will enhance the comfort and experience of park users in varied temperatures and weather conditions.



**4.3.3.3 DESIGN QUALITY**  
The NCC will apply high quality design guidelines and standards toward the enhancement of the riverfront into a mix of tranquil and vibrant park that shows the significance of Canada’s Capital.

**STRATEGIES**

- Prioritize design solutions that incorporate the natural environment, enhance the landscape aesthetics, and showcase Capital landmarks, to protect infrastructure from environmental damage and connect people with nature.
- Strive for design excellence when designing sites, their features and associated programming, incorporating sustainability, safety, universal accessibility and cultural elements.

**GUIDELINES**

- Provide downcast pedestrian-level lighting for pathways at activity nodes that minimizes and, at least, mitigates light pollution.
- Make sure that any lighting fixtures are in accordance with NCC design standards, and consider all maintenance implications.
- Apply the guidelines identified in the Capital Illumination Plan, when lighting at activity nodes is proposed.

**STRATEGIES**

- Include landscape elements such as plantings, furniture and site topography that maximize the benefits of climatic design.
- Take long-term variations in climatic conditions into consideration in the design of the landscape and built facilities/ amenities.
- Integrate measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, when designing and building riverfront edge amenities, facilities and green infrastructure.

**GUIDELINES**

- Consider planting mostly deciduous trees in areas where wind breaks are deemed to be appropriate, while making an effort to maintain the views.
- Plant trees individually, as opposed to large groups or reforestation, with low understorey plants, such as meadow or lawn in woodland habitat areas where views and shade are required at the same time.
- Place shade trees on the south side of pathways.
- Determine areas where there is sun exposure in the activity nodes, and provide shade at least in some areas, particularly seating areas, leaving others with full sun.
- Design parking lots to reduce the heat island effect, in accordance with current industry-approved guidelines.

**4.3.3.5 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Health and safety will be key considerations in park design, management and use.

**STRATEGIES**

- Prevent plant encroachment onto the pathways.
- Apply Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles and best practices into site design.

**GUIDELINES**

- Establish a planting strip between the cycling and pedestrian paths, where possible, that is at least one metre wide and consists of mowed lawn between the pathway edge and any other plant material such as shrubs or perennials.
- Support planting strips between the pedestrian pathways and shoreline vegetation (e.g. trees, shrubs and perennials) as a general rule to a two-metre width of mowed lawn, with narrower strips as exceptions, where there is insufficient space along the shoreline.





- Maintain landscaping to limit overgrowth.
- Plant dense/thorny plants to reinforce fences and direct/control access to the site.
- Address vandalism issues through design.

#### 4.3.3.6 GOOSE MANAGEMENT

Minimize the conflicts between people and Canada geese, a valued natural resource.

##### STRATEGIES

- Include habitat modification techniques, and provide seasonal deterrents to reduce the populations of Canada geese or any other invasive/nuisance species present in the park.
- Provide a continuous buffer between the shoreline and lawn areas that is difficult for geese to traverse, except for places where accesses are planned.

- Stay current in best management practices in terms of Canada goose population control, while minimizing impacts on other in wildlife.



##### GUIDELINES

- Create a vertical drop of 45 cm to 60 cm at the top or bottom of slopes.
- Apply best practices for management, including the following:
  - buffer areas along the shoreline and grassed areas;
  - variable minimum vegetation heights and types;
  - fencing of 50 cm—vegetation should be dense and favour plants with tough stems and leaves (e.g. goldenrod, asters), woody plants, as well as species with alkaloids and tannins;
  - avoid creeping bent grass, Kentucky bluegrass, fine fescues, clover and tender aquatic vegetation like pondweed, bulrushes, sedges and cattails;

- consider using fencing as an option;
- enhance vegetation or, where not feasible, replace it with large boulders—angular or rounded, that are greater than 60 cm in diameter—at the top or bottom of slopes.
- vary the sequence and techniques used to scare the birds in order that they do not become habituated.





#### 4.3.3.7 INITIATIVES—PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

GENERAL	SITE ANIMATION	DESIGN QUALITY	CLIMATIC AND RESILIENT DESIGN	HEALTH AND SAFETY	GOOSE MANAGEMENT
<p>Provide maximum greenery and sufficient forest cover in the riverside park.</p> <p>Develop in ways that protect the green spaces and woods that structure the landscape.</p>	<p>Provide a variety of sitting options and furniture such as benches, terraced steps and so on, throughout the waterfront.</p>	<p>Promote high-quality green architectural language for buildings and facilities that highlights the defining characteristics of the sites.</p> <p>Ensure that temporary signs do not interfere with the visual quality of the riverfront lands and that they follow NCC policy.</p>	<p>Provide shade along pathways and in activity nodes, through plantings.</p> <p>Determine areas where winds should be blocked, and provide wind breaks, primarily evergreen vegetation, to protect against prevailing winds in colder weather, particularly around areas focusing on winter activities.</p>	<p>Ensure that sites remain visible to the passing public and that site access is not impaired.</p> <p>Enhance opportunities for natural surveillance.</p>	<p>Manage the presence of Canada goose flocks by modifying the habitat and adapting vegetation maintenance programs.</p>



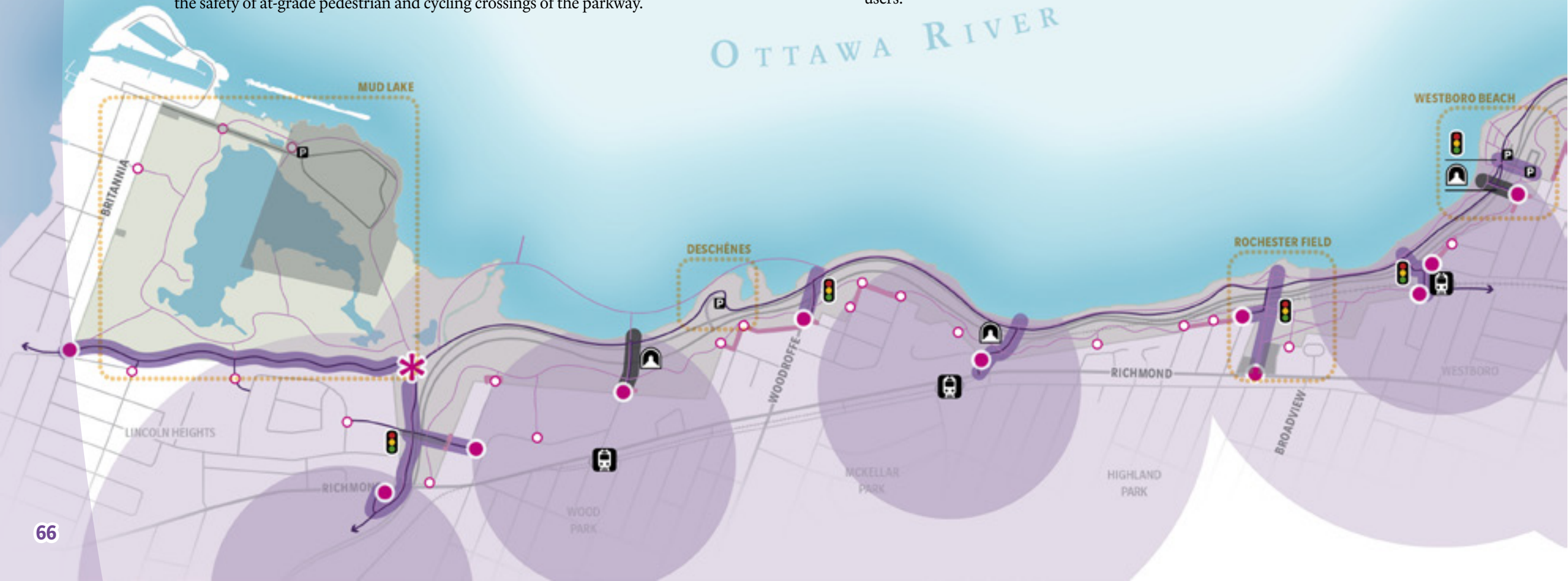
## 4.4 CONNECTIVITY

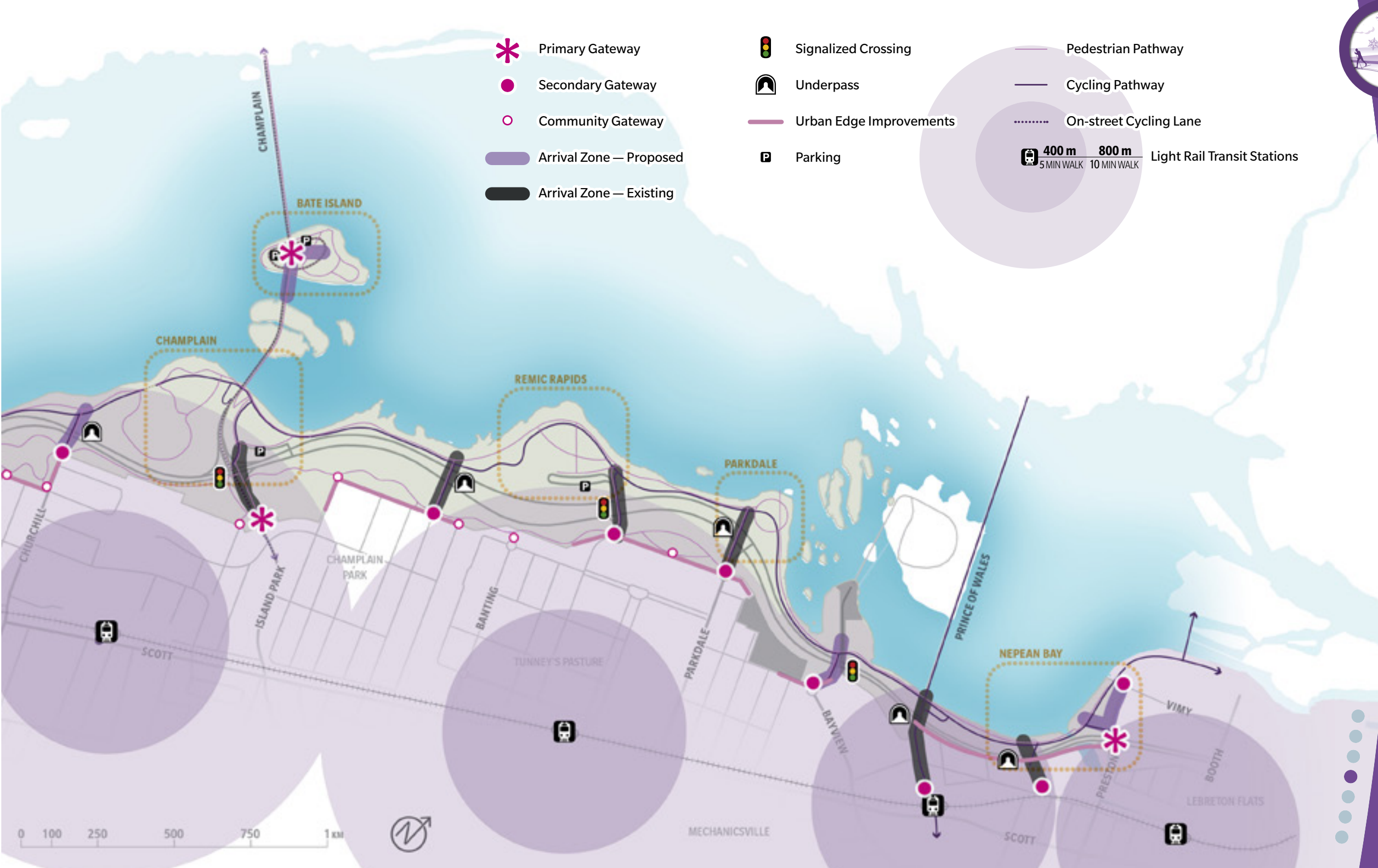
### 4.4.1 SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY, ACCESS AND CONNECTIONS

Connect people to the riverfront, and facilitate access to places throughout the park using a range of mobility options that make it easier to get to and experience the park.

#### AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Support concerted efforts and initiatives that encourage alternative mobility modes and make the parkway more waterfront-park-friendly.
- Ensure that the park's segregated pathways and recreational features are universally accessible.
- Continue to work with the City of Ottawa and others to monitor the performance and improve the safety of at-grade pedestrian and cycling crossings of the parkway.
- Support ways and methods to reduce the “barrier effect” of the parkway and facilitate park access and safe user experience.
- Support the use of technologies, including mobile and virtual reality applications, to facilitate access to the park and to information about the range of mobility and parking options for all users.





## BACKGROUND

The mobility section aims to provide for safe, active, year-round travel along and to the riverfront in a way that links communities, is enjoyable and meets user needs. It offers recommendations on how mobility in the park can be more multi-modal, with an emphasis on cycling and pedestrian use.

This plan recognizes that the parkway and its overpasses, parking sites and pathways are all generally due for major life cycle rehabilitation. In addition, the City of Ottawa's light rail alignment through the eastern part of the riverfront park and two associated stations will be situated in close proximity to the park, servicing the adjacent communities and transit users. The emphasis on vehicle traffic needs to be reduced to accommodate more active, multi-modal mobility options.

The NCC recognizes the increasing popularity of the pathways and trails as commuting routes, as well as recreational resources, and aims to provide safer bicycle and walking infrastructure that suit the needs of both the commuter cyclist and the recreational pathway user. Many of the pathways form part of the Capital Pathway network. They also form part of the Trans Canada Trail, and provide links with the regional pathway system.

The NCC is confident that developing a network of segregated pathways, winter trails and river walks will encourage alternative modes of mobility through all seasons, thereby accommodating increasing demands for more continued active and healthy lifestyles.

Currently, the park lacks consistent physical and visual access and connectivity between its elements and with adjoining communities. This plan works to address these limitations. Access to the park by transit will improve with the development

of light rail. Many of the city streets that lead to the parkway are becoming more multi-modal and are being redefined as complete streets with appropriate context-sensitive landscaping. Their redevelopment will allow cyclists and pedestrians to have additional safe and convenient routes to and across the river.

The following strategies provide for a significant mix of mobility that respects the scenic, environmental and cultural qualities of the riverfront lands, while responding to mobility demands and trends:

- parkway
- pathways
- parking
- wayfinding
- access
- connections
- gateways

The goal of the sustainable mobility, access and connections policies is to provide for safe, active, year-round travel along and to the riverfront in such a way that links communities and is enjoyable, and that encourages alternative mobility modes, while providing safer infrastructure for all users.

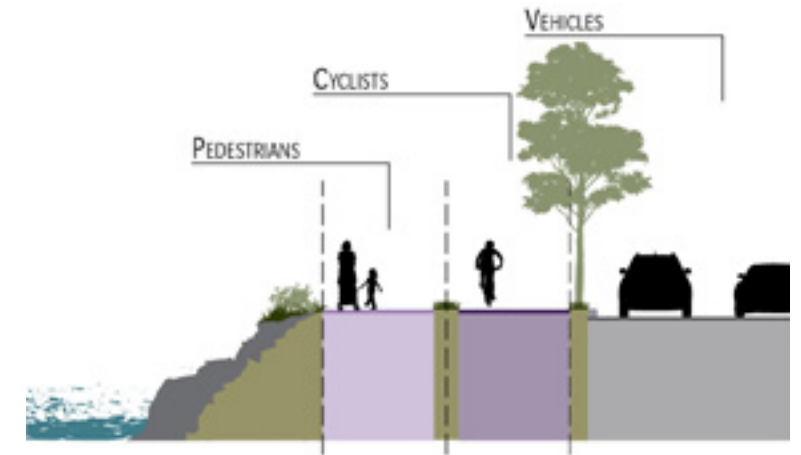
### 4.4.1.1 PARKWAY

Management and design will evolve to accommodate increased demands for a safer, suitable and sustainable multi-modal transportation corridor.

#### STRATEGIES

- Transform the parkway to make it safe for all users, and not a barrier to unfettered and safe access to the river.
- Create a gateway experience to the riverfront park that is more riverfront-friendly, via the parkway.
- Enhance the park setting that is viewed in a manner that positively contributes to the parkway visitor's experience, with views from the parkway that appear natural and retain high to very high scenic integrity.

- Cultivate a more attractive infrastructure environment for cyclists and pedestrians, with slower and less vehicle traffic on the parkway.



#### GUIDELINES

- Respect, preserve and reinforce the design identity of the parkway and surrounding landscape, including lane cross-section, median, topography and plantings.
- Support traffic-calming measures, including, but not limited to, friction elements and adjacent vertical curbside landscaping intended to discourage speeding.
- Implement context-sensitive design as the principal guide for any future restoration, repair and rebuild of the parkway, consistent with the heritage aspects of the river and the NCC parkways policy, and in a way to redesign the parkway to ensure a slower speed.
- Restrict the crossing distance for pedestrians and cyclists to a maximum of 12 metres of parkway lanes without a median or island rest point.
- Establish a minimum of a five-metre width, where possible, for parkway medians to accommodate vegetation.



- Preserve the spaces and relationships that are part of the parkway, including the continuous adjoining open spaces.
- Establish a posted speed limit of 50 km/h.

#### 4.4.1.2 PATHWAYS

Pathways for pedestrians and cyclists will form part of a sustainable mobility network linking park features and providing safe access to recreational opportunities in the park.



#### STRATEGIES

- Provide segregation of cycling and walking pathways to the greatest extent possible.
- Provide signalized crossings at activity nodes.

- Provide universal access to and along the pathways, where feasible.
- Improve pedestrian and cyclist safety at crossings and at principal park gateways, by slowing the speed of traffic on the parkway.
- Ensure year-round pathway connectivity with the light rail stations.
- Locate walking pathways on the north side along the river's edge to optimize user experience.
- Unify the parklands pathway system with consistent design elements.

#### GUIDELINES

- Design, construct and maintain the pathway system to the highest standards to ensure the protection of the natural environment, while offering safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities for all park users.
- Design the south-side pathway as a pedestrian-oriented pathway, with a width of two metres, curvilinear design and no centre line, so that it does not resemble a multi-use pathway.
- Ensure that points of pedestrian and cycling confluence at parkway crossings are clearly visible from the parkway and connecting paths. They should be enhanced and well defined via merging materials, textures, colours, elevations and so on.
- Ensure that the pathway reflects NCC expectations for excellence in engineering, design, preservation, management and safety, as well as an allegiance to the parkway's intrinsic qualities.
- Bidirectional cycling lanes should be adjacent, i.e., not separated by pedestrian paths.

#### 4.4.1.3 PARKING

Parking will be managed in a proactive way and provided in the best and most appropriate locations away from the shoreline and in a sustainable manner.



#### STRATEGIES

- Provide parking that supports park-related recreational uses.
- Accommodate bicycle parking and car-share/ride-share privilege options, including tour buses.
- Relocate existing parking, and locate any new parking away from the river shore.
- Promote "green" parking that includes pervious surfaces and context-sensitive vegetative buffering, where feasible.
- Minimize and mitigate potential adverse visual and physical impacts of parking infrastructure on the park.
- Safely integrate parking facilities with the network of segregated pathways.
- Minimize and mitigate the negative environmental effects of salting, through the use of alternatives, in accordance with the NCC Sustainable Development Strategy.



- Support safe, universally accessible parking for all activity areas and public facilities in the park.
- Explore partnership opportunities with the private and public sectors to share parking facilities/areas outside of the riverfront park.

#### GUIDELINES

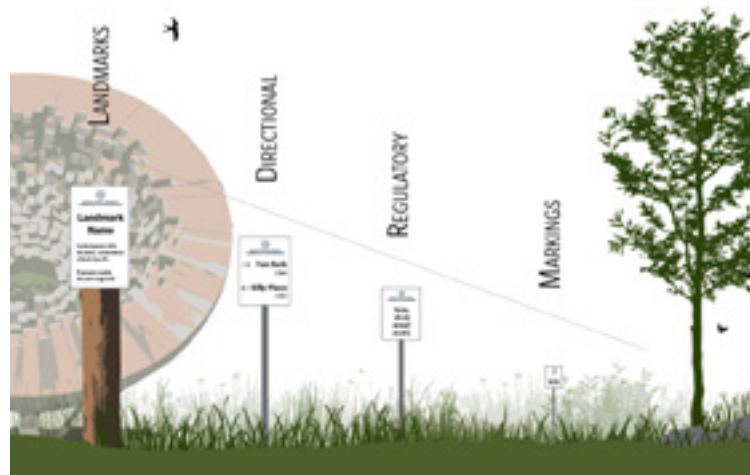
- Where pathways must cross a parking lot driveway, give priority to cyclists and pedestrians.
- Provide landscaping to partially screen parking sites, when and where applicable.
- Parking lighting must be directed downward and shielded from the sky and any adjacent properties.
- Provide the appropriate entry/exit throat lengths between the parkway and parking sites to prevent vehicles from obstructing, and thereby endangering pedestrians and cyclists, and from causing queuing onto the parkway.

#### 4.4.1.4 WAYFINDING

Systems will be established to guide visitors through the park in an informed manner.

#### STRATEGIES

- Promote consistency, continuity and connectivity through a common wayfinding system that provides cohesive visitor information to guide, identify and help interpret the significance of the parkway and riverfront parklands.
- As much as possible, use infrastructure design elements such as paving details rather than signage to convey direction and guide behaviour.
- Coordinate wayfinding signs with existing and future cyclist/ pedestrian wayfinding plans.
- Ensure a wayfinding system that caters to the needs of all user types.



#### GUIDELINES

- Follow the guidelines and other applicable standards consistent with the up-to-date recommendations of the Gatineau–Ottawa unified wayfinding strategy.
- Use a consistent graphic design language across the park’s wayfinding elements.
- Design compatible styles of wayfinding, identification and directional signage in the park.
- Ensure that all wayfinding signs are trilingual (English, French and Algonquin).
- Locate wayfinding signage in a consistent manner where most effective in terms of decision points and information needs.
- Ensure that signage is made of high-quality, durable materials that require minimal periodic maintenance and are resistant to vandalism.

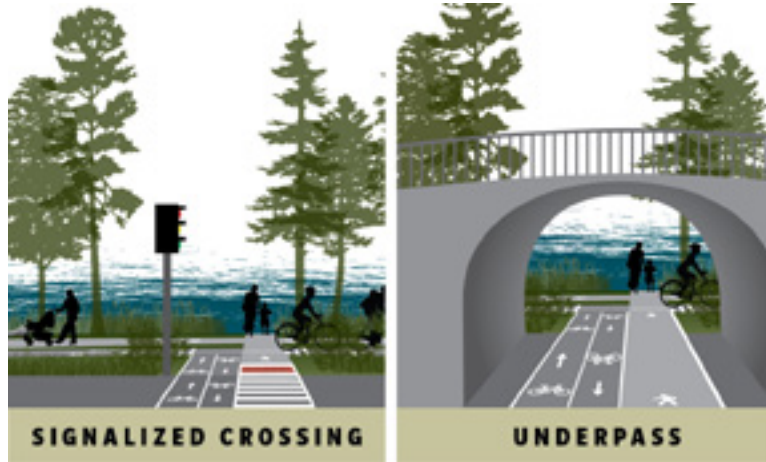
#### 4.4.1.5 ACCESS

Entry to and movement throughout the park will be safe and accessible.



#### STRATEGIES

- Improve and increase pedestrian and cyclist crossings and controlled access from the communities to the park.
- Ensure that at-grade crossings are safe, using, for example, signalization, signage, medians, landscape features and so on.
- Support urban edge treatments that use interdisciplinary approaches which include, but are not limited to, porous community edge landscaping, sustainable stormwater management and flood storage, access to the park, reduced noise, and so on.



**GUIDELINES**

- Improve access to the park through connectivity with municipal walking and cycling networks.
- Establish connections for cyclists along the outer edge of the parkway crossings in such a way that they do not conflict with animation nodes.
- Monitor and evaluate the performance of the parkway and its at-grade crossings to identify potential areas of concern and methods of mitigation.

**4.4.1.6 CONNECTIONS**

Transportation modes will connect activity nodes with the riverfront, improving efficiency and accessibility.

**STRATEGIES**

- Promote improved interprovincial cycling, walking and transit connectivity and continuity.

**GUIDELINES**

- Strategically transition from three-metre, multi-use pathways to segregated pathways (e.g. at Lincoln Fields).



**4.4.1.7 GATEWAYS**

Gateways will be established at certain points between the park and adjacent communities, as well as along the riverfront.



**STRATEGIES**

- Inform motorists of a meaningful transition and arrival at the park through gateways as a first measure in adjusting the perception and behaviour of motorists.
- Create bold and highly visible primary and secondary gateways.

**GUIDELINES**

- Reflect the key themes as determined by the interpretation plan in gateway materials and other design features.
- Establish gateways at community access points for pedestrians and cyclists, and direct them through these entries to the park and safe parkway crossings to access the river, including park-related commercial facilities.
- Design gateway elements with input from nearby communities and groups, in order to make them sensitive to the natural and heritage contexts of the area.



*Gateway example*





*Enjoying the shoreline in many ways in view of Parliament Hill.*





**4.4.1.8 INITIATIVES— SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY,**

GENERAL	PARKWAY
<p>Collaborate with and encourage the involvement of all stakeholders in accessibility, connectivity and mobility initiatives.</p>	<p>Construct/implement intersection treatments that slow traffic and mitigate commuter impacts on the parkway, as opportunities arise.</p>
<p>Ensure that all public information is signed according to the NCC corporate brand and identity.</p>	<p>Maintain the parkway as a significant and distinctive road, and treat it as part of the Capital cultural landscape.</p>
<p>Preserve the distinctive parkway design character as part of the park corridor.</p>	<p>Instill a corporate and community expectation for excellence in design, management and safety.</p>
<p>Collaborate with and encourage the involvement of all stakeholders in accessibility, connectivity and mobility initiatives.</p>	
<p>Ensure that all signage, gateways and public information are signed according to the NCC corporate brand and identity.</p> 	





## ACCESS AND CONNECTIONS

PATHWAYS	PARKING	WAYFINDING	ACCESS	CONNECTIONS	GATEWAYS
<p>Segregate cycling and walking pathways where feasible on the north side of the parkway.</p> <p>Provide public bicycle-sharing opportunities.</p> <p>Ensure logical interim connectivity and continuity during the phased implementation of the segregated pathway network.</p>	<p>Provide abundant and convenient bicycle parking and end-of-trip conveniences at park amenities and public facilities.</p> <p>Relocate parking facilities from the shoreline to south of the parkway, where and when appropriate and feasible, and in a gradual manner.</p> <p>Provide adequate parking within reasonable distances from non-motorized watercraft launch areas.</p>	<p>Integrate wayfinding with light rail stations to help people navigate to nearby pathways and attractions, as well as adjacent community amenities and attractions.</p> 	<p>Improve access to the park by removing existing chain-link fencing along public land and public street right-of-way points adjoining the parklands, where feasible, while respecting adjacent private properties.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for intermittent and scenic visual access from the urban edge to the shoreline.</p> <p>Monitor performance for ongoing improvements to resolve emerging issues of safety and comfort related to walking and cycling paths and crossings.</p> 	<p>Work with the City of Ottawa and the Ville de Gatineau in developing a cycling and walking link using the Prince of Wales Bridge, and encourage improved interprovincial transit integration.</p> 	<p>Implement the following gateway typologies.</p> <p><b>Primary:</b> The major arrival points at the extremities and mid-point intersections of the riverfront park. The primary gateways should be highly recognizable by both active users and motorists. The primary gateways will serve as key landmarks and wayfinding elements and set the tone for the character of the riverfront park.</p> <p><b>Secondary:</b> Points from which pedestrians and cyclists can access the riverfront park. These should accommodate and cue access for pedestrians and cyclists, and be directly connected to arrival zones that provide safe and unfettered access across the parkway to the riverfront.</p> <p><b>Community:</b> Nearby neighbourhood access points that provide pedestrian entry and direct users toward arrival zones where they can cross the parkway to access the riverfront. The community gateways should be integrated into the urban edge, but be clearly recognizable as access points to the riverfront park.</p> <p>Work with the City of Ottawa to improve landscape and urban forest treatments along municipal roads and public lands bounding the parkland.</p> 

#### 4.4.2 WINTER EXPERIENCE

Provide facilities and amenities to accommodate winter park access and activities.

##### AGENDA FOR ACTION

- Make provisions for winter recreation and events.
- Provide sheltered spaces and windbreaks for rest and respite when needed.
- Use alternatives to salting in accordance with the NCC Sustainable Development Strategy to avoid or minimize environmental effects.
- Support partnerships with the private sector and community groups to offer commercial and retail services in support of winter recreational and sporting activities, including snowshoeing, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, skating, winter biking and so on.





-  Winter Activities
-  Warming Stations
-  Winter Parking
-  Winter Trail Network
-  Winter Washrooms



## BACKGROUND

As a northern capital, we experience about four months per year with average temperatures at or below zero degrees Celsius. The Capital Region averages 52 days of snowfall, and an average annual total of 175.4 cm. The winter climate poses unique challenges to the way we design and utilize our public spaces. However, the changing seasons also offer opportunities for dynamic and ever-changing user experiences that can be leveraged to reimagine our public realm. For example, the NCC recently collaborated with the Westboro cross-country ski community on a pilot project offering urban cross-country ski/walking trails along the shoreline. The trails were entirely managed by volunteers from this group. User feedback was very positive.

The winter recreation system can be divided into the following elements:

- winter activities
- winter trails

### 4.4.2.1 WINTER ACTIVITIES

Winter access will be improved by seasonally transforming park elements into multi-purpose winter amenities to help extend the park's use and safe enjoyment.

#### STRATEGIES

- Design assets and park elements for multi-purpose winter uses.
- Provide safe and easy access to key winter activity nodes, while allowing snow accumulation where needed for recreation and leisure.
- Support the provision of public pause or rest areas and other related amenities along winter trails for winter events, including food and beverage concessions, where feasible.

## GUIDELINES

- Encourage orientation and climate-sensitive design of facilities, amenities and pathways to maximize solar exposure during winter months, particularly at locations intended for winter gatherings.
- Develop any shoreline and on-water infrastructure in partnership with the relevant regulatory agencies and requirements, and based on acceptable and proven design.



### 4.4.2.2 WINTER TRAILS

Supporting features and amenities will be placed in areas that are not environmentally sensitive and that allow for actively mobile and recreational park uses to continue year-round.

#### STRATEGIES

- Develop a network of winter-only trails that connect the park to communities through gateways.
- Establish winter-only trails as temporary features that permit non-motorized winter active mobility and recreation activities using new or existing paths.

- Respect the NCC Sustainable Development Strategy and principles regarding the protection of valued ecosystems and habitats in the planning, construction and management of winter trails and the areas around them.
- Recognize the multi-function of winter trails as regional infrastructure for non-motorized and self-propelled uses by including them in the network plan.
- Cooperate with communities and other stakeholders in establishing and maintaining winter trails intended for active winter recreational mobility.
- Ensure that existing winter-only trails connect seamlessly with the pathway network.

## GUIDELINES

- Adopt trail location and design guidelines that offer a range of trail specifications applicable to the unique characteristics of the park.
- Design pathways to protect ecological features and functions and blend in with the surrounding natural environment, when required.
- Use locally sourced materials and ensure visual compatibility within the park setting.





### 4.4.2.3 INITIATIVES—WINTER EXPERIENCE

#### GENERAL

Maintain access to parking areas in the winter.

Offer winter recreational activity lessons and equipment repair at facilities in designated park sites that are easily accessible by the winter trails.



#### WINTER ACTIVITIES

Provide temporary skating pad activity nodes, where determined to be appropriate.

Ensure that new winter recreational amenities/facilities, as well as improvements to existing amenities/facilities, provide barrier-free access.

Provide stations and rest areas for warming up along the winter trails, along with fire pits and concession stands.

Design outdoor shelters such as warming huts in a manner that complements adjacent uses.



#### WINTER TRAILS

Connect the winter trails with communities through gateways.

Make provisions for cross-country ski and snowshoe trails at the parkway's grade-separated and at-grade crossings, where feasible.

Work with the community to identify, promote and maintain winter trails.

Ensure the winter maintenance of pathway segments that link to light rail stations.





*NCC multi-use pathway*

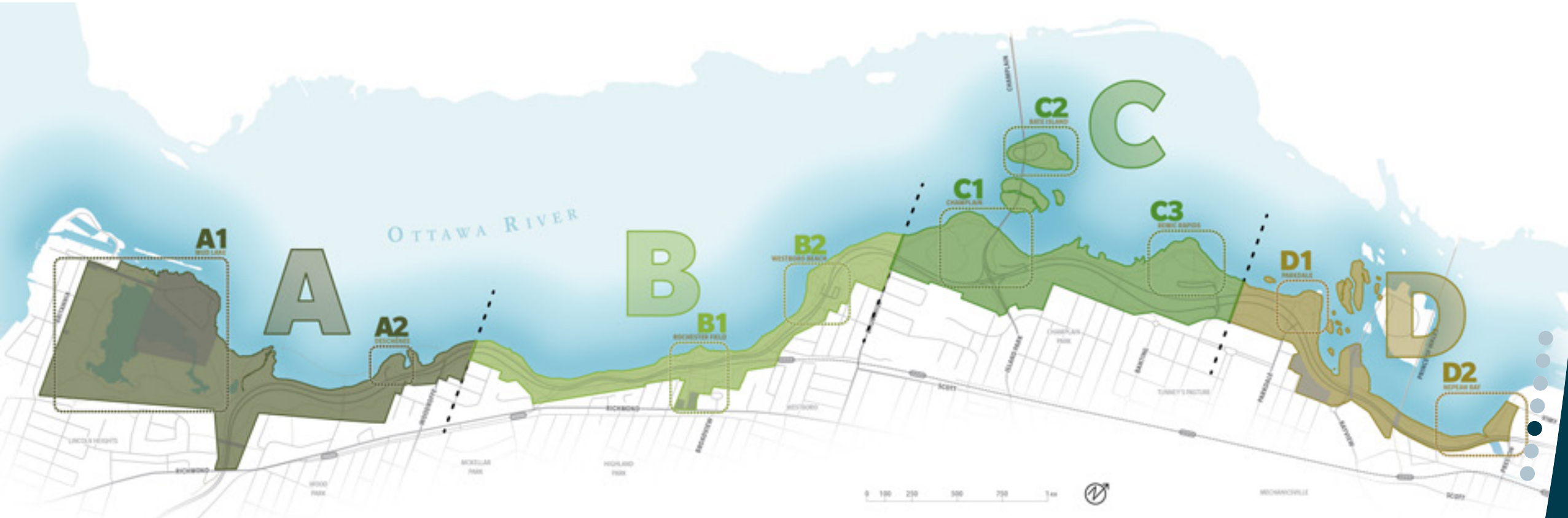


# 5 SECTOR AND NODE PLANS

This chapter articulates sector plans that exemplify how culture, natural habitats, recreation, scenic qualities, amenities, services, facilities, and pedestrian and cycling connections combine to create a hallmark park.

This chapter divides the nine-kilometre riverfront park into four sectors that collectively build on the park's broader strategic directions, while individually being based on specific principles that are sensitive to the context and conditions of the local site. Each sector contains plans for nodes with particular features, amenities, facilities and services for active and tranquil recreational purposes.

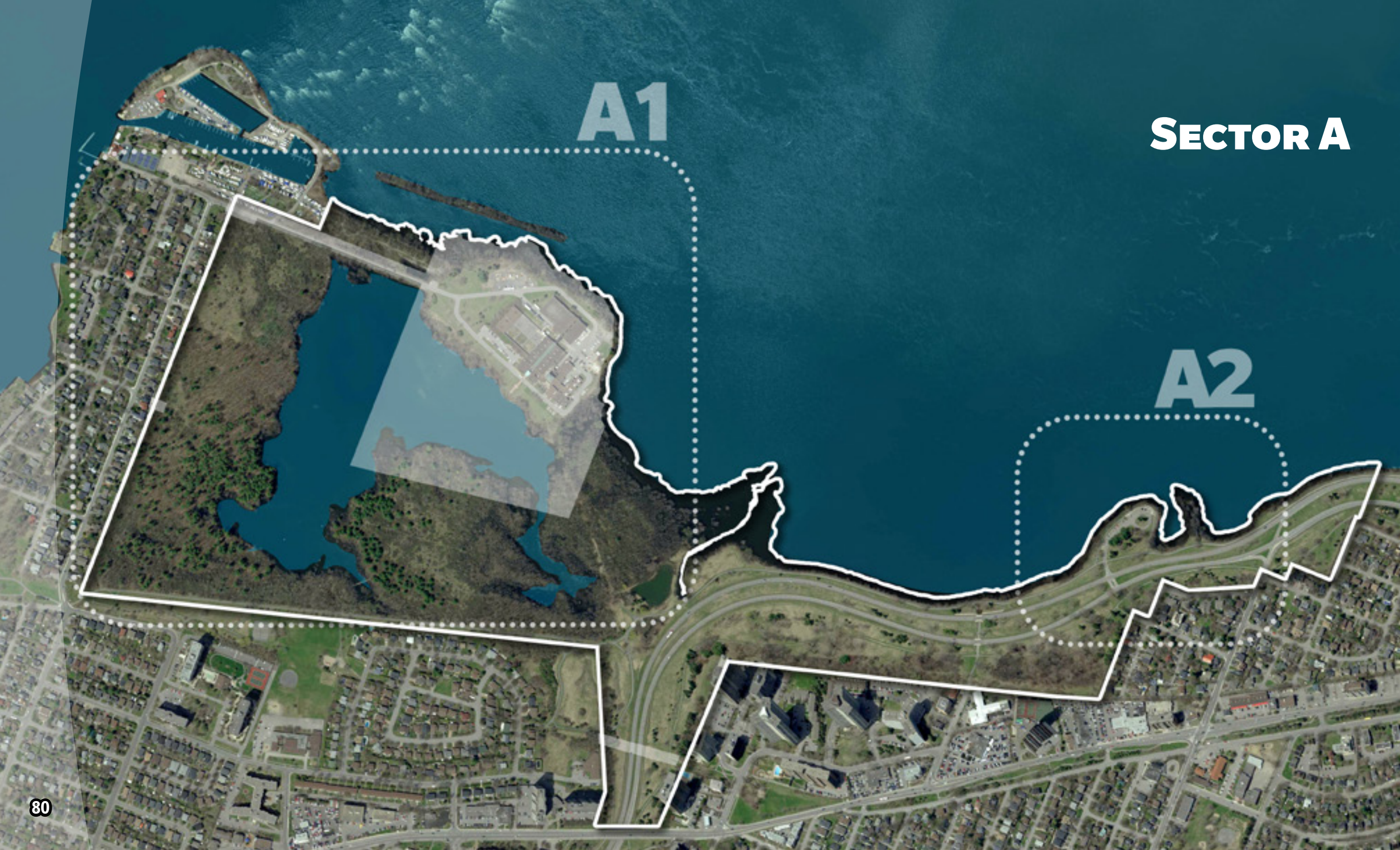
The sector plans provide a visual image to clearly communicate the plan's overall intent and expected outcomes. These plans are a first step toward articulating a common future condition for the riverfront parklands. A continued process of exemplary design, innovative management, and strategic collaboration and partnerships are all-important to realizing the ambitious initiatives of the riverfront park.



# SECTOR A

A1

A2







## 5.1 SECTOR A: MUD LAKE/BRITANNIA CONSERVATION AREA TO DESCHÊNES

### DESCRIPTION

This westernmost section of the riverfront park is located within the Lac Deschênes–Ottawa River Important Bird Area<sup>1</sup> and is a significant migratory bird corridor. It extends from Mud Lake/Britannia Conservation Area to just beyond the Deschênes lookout at Woodroffe Avenue. This sector consists of the Mud Lake/Britannia Conservation Area and Deschênes nodes.

Mud Lake/Britannia Conservation Area is an important environment for bird conservation, and is recognized as one of the most popular urban sites for birdwatching in Canada, with 269 bird species identified in the area. Mud Lake, which covers 59 hectares, is identified as a provincially significant wetland and an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) by the Government of Ontario. The International Union for Conservation of Nature also classifies it as a protected area. This conservation area is close to the Britannia Village and Woodroffe-Lincoln Heights communities. Downstream from the conservation area, shallow wetlands create an ideal habitat for migrating birds and a range of wildlife, providing habitat for eight species at risk and 44 rare plants. These natural features signal this sector as the park's environmental/ecological sector.

The Deschênes node has shallow water and an open river shore habitat. There is high native biodiversity in the area, with 61 native plant species observed in a small, homogeneous aquatic area. The node features recreational activity and parkway access to the natural area, as well as pathways and parking near the shoreline.

### CHALLENGES

Several non-native plant species, covering about 30 percent of the total area, threaten the biodiversity of the Mud Lake habitat.

There is a need for public facilities and wayfinding to improve a sense of place and trail interconnectivity at Mud Lake.

Stormwater runoff at the mouth of Pinecrest Creek has caused significant degradation of valuable natural habitat. The Pinecrest Creek/Westboro Stormwater Management Retrofit Study<sup>2</sup>, commissioned by the City of Ottawa in 2011, concludes that cooperation would be required to complete the necessary habitat improvements and improve water quality in the Ottawa River.

Along the riverfront between Mud Lake and the Deschênes lookout, the parkway corridor narrows, bringing pedestrians and cyclists close to automobile traffic.

There is a demand for safe and more formal crossings of the parkway in this sector.

### SECTOR CONCEPT SNAPSHOT

An ongoing project was started in 2015 to remove invasive plant species in the Mud Lake/Britannia Conservation Area, to help re-establish native species and help preserve the site's ecological integrity. The project is part of the NCC's strategy to manage invasive alien species for all of its valued natural ecosystems and habitats.

The concept for this sector connects people to nature, and provides a sanctuary for park users where they can appreciate the

<sup>2</sup> J.F. Sabourin and Associates, Pinecrest Creek/Westboro Stormwater Management Retrofit Study. Prepared for the City of Ottawa, May 2011.

area's beauty. Focusing on respect for the site's sensitive nature, the concept aims to educate and inform park users about nature and habitats, and facilitate enjoyment of the area, while limiting potential impacts on the ecosystem. This concept also aims to provide safer access by way of clear wayfinding signage.

Further, it proposes initiatives to restore, protect and manage the shoreline through stormwater management and erosion control measures.

### AREA HIGHLIGHTS



Rare birds



Mud Lake aquatic habitat



Deschênes Rapids

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ibacanada.org/site.jsp?siteID=ON112>



*Artist's depiction of on-water boardwalk linking Mud Lake and Deschênes.*



*Pileated woodpeckers in their habitat. (Photo credit: Tiera Zukerman)*

# SECTOR A

**NODE 1**

**NODE 2**



Conceptual plan for illustrative purposes.



SECTOR A: MUD LAKE/BRITANNIA CONSERVATION AREA/DESCHÊNES

SECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Work to complete key aspects of the 2004 Mud Lake and Britannia Area Plan in order to provide accessible habitat viewing for all users in the conservation area.
- 2 Provide a secondary gateway trailhead to inform people that they are entering the riverfront park; create a link to draw in cyclists and pedestrians from Britannia Beach.
- 3 Improve the pathway by making it more curvilinear to provide users a more pleasant experience for pedestrians between the Britannia Road and Howe Street entrances and the start of the boardwalk at the outlet of Pinecrest Creek.
- 4 Improve shoreline access at the eastern end of the Deschênes boardwalk in support of Pinecrest Creek rehabilitation.
- 5 Work with the City of Ottawa in improving stormwater management conditions along the river shore and around the stormwater ponds at the primary gateway.
- 6 Examine in detail, and in cooperation with the City of Ottawa, the feasibility of reconfiguring the Woodroffe Avenue intersection to create a safer pedestrian and cycling environment and be consistent with NCC objectives to reduce traffic speed on the parkway and minimize the parkway's footprint.
- 7 Treat the western extremity of the park at Richmond Road as a primary gateway, and enhance the arrival experience.
- 8 Study the feasibility of adding a safe, signalized, at-grade parkway crossing to connect the pathways between Ambleside and Britannia, and provide direct connection to the Mud Lake pathway network.
- 9 Work with partners to provide pathway connectivity westward along the shoreline to Britannia Beach.

ROLE INDICATORS

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○	○	○	●
○	○	○	●
○	○	○	●



Mud Lake



Important Bird Area habitat



Boardwalk rendering



Geese enjoying Deschênes



# SECTOR A NODE 1



Conceptual plan for illustrative purposes.

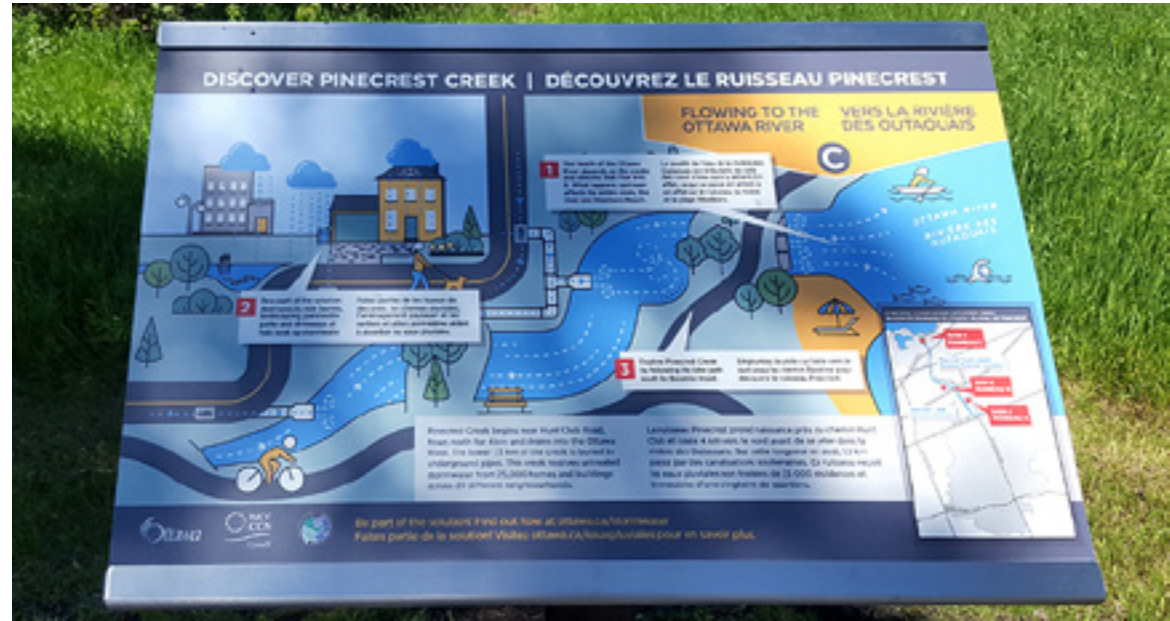


## SECTOR A: NODE 1—MUD LAKE/BRITANNIA CONSERVATION AREA

### NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Implement the 2004 Mud Lake and Britannia Area Plan, including gap completion in the trails system, gateway enhancement, trailheads, wayfinding, public/universal accessibility, viewing areas, toilets, education/interpretation, and boardwalks over wetland portions, shared parking, and enhanced identity and profile to the conservation area.
- 2 Explore with partners and stakeholders additional opportunities for environmental education and interpretation that are compatible with sensitive terrestrial and aquatic habitats, such as tactile interpretation or an outdoor classroom on the park's southern edge and near gateways.
- 3 Continue to remove invasive plant species at Mud Lake and replace them with native plant species, to protect the biodiversity and safeguard valued habitats that support the Capital Region's ecological functions.
- 4 Install a boat launch for paddlers using a portage route around the Deschênes Rapids, and create an aquatic gateway at the west end of the paddling route through the cooperation and approval of the City of Ottawa. This will allow paddlers of all abilities to access Deschênes Lake and the 44-kilometre navigable route west to Sault des Chats.
- 5 Improve the configuration of the pathways, as well as wayfinding, for public safety at the trailheads and gateways to the Mud Lake area.

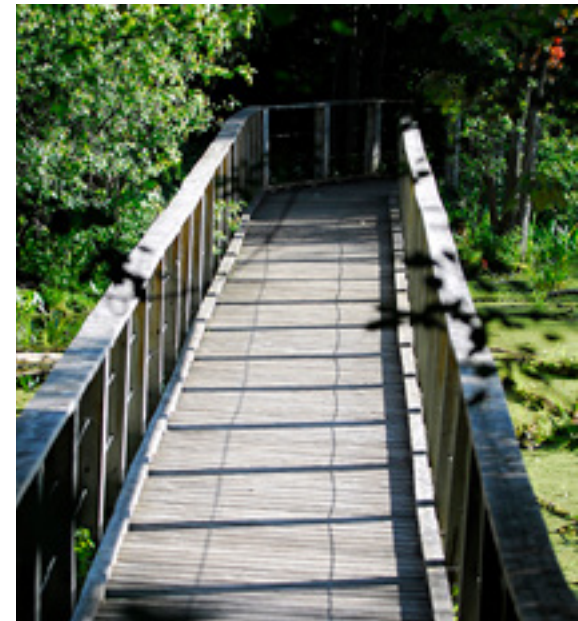
### ROLE INDICATORS

Example of an interpretation panel



Barred owl on NCC land  
(Photo credit: Tiera Zukerman)



Boardwalk in Mud Lake



# SECTOR A NODE 2



Conceptual plan for illustrative purposes.





SECTOR A: NODE 2—DESCHÊNES

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Subject to more detailed studies and regulatory approvals, create the on-water, river-edge boardwalk between the Pinecrest Creek pathway and the Deschênes lookout.<sup>3</sup> This lookout shall be in keeping with the riverfront’s image and the protection and enhancement of sensitive environments. The boardwalk will connect with the linear segregated pathways, be universally accessible, and be constructed and maintained using best practices, to avoid adverse impacts on the river and aquatic environment.
- 2 Provide aquatic habitat and improve shorelines by collaborating with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and nearby communities.
- 3 Relocate the existing parking lot at Deschênes lookout away from the shoreline to increase public park space, possibly south of the parkway, subject to feasibility and community consultation.
- 4 Provide access for non-motorized watercraft near the Deschênes lookout.

ROLE INDICATORS

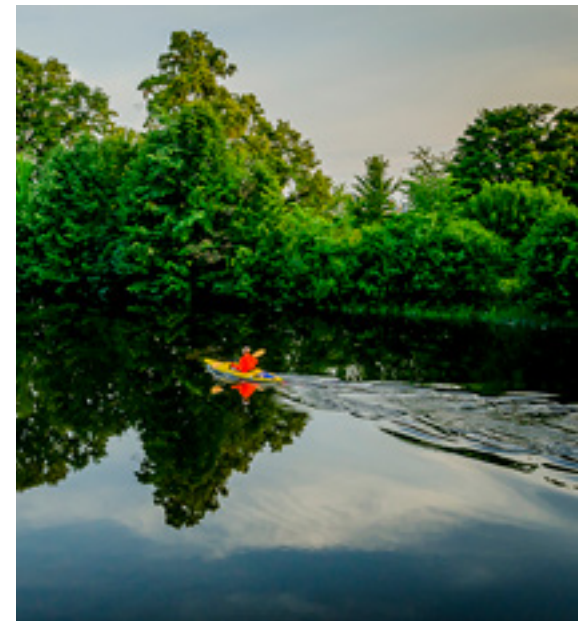
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○	○	●	○



Unprogrammed recreation space with amenities.



Lookout example



Non-motorized recreational boating

3. W.F. Baird and Associates, 2015. Sir John A. Macdonald Boardwalk Feasibility Study. Prepared for the National Capital Commission, October 2015.



**SECTOR B B2**

**B1**





## 5.2 SECTOR B: WOODROFFE AVENUE TO WESTBORO BEACH

### DESCRIPTION

This 2.4-kilometre stretch of the park spans from Woodroffe Avenue to Westboro Beach. The river currents in this sector are calm and inviting for various recreational opportunities. The area is rich in history, and the heritage sites in the sector reflect 200 years of early settlement, industry and urbanization. Maplelawn and Gardens National Historic Site of Canada and Rochester Field represent the early settlement and farming in the area, dating back to 1817. The remnants of the former Skead’s Mill, one of the area’s largest steam sawmill operations, are one of the few vestiges of 19th century industry along the parkway. The ruins include stone foundations and archaeological remains. Westboro Beach is one of Ottawa’s oldest community places, a public beach for over 100 years. The Westboro Beach Pavilion is a recognized federal heritage building conceived by architect James Strutt, and constructed between 1965 and 1967. The community continues to play an active role in the area’s stewardship, with organizations such as the Friends of Maplelawn Garden, the Westboro Community Association and the Ottawa Riverkeeper as prominent examples.

With strong community involvement over many decades, the beach has become a four-season destination for active and passive recreation.

### CHALLENGES

This sector is comparatively narrow, allowing limited opportunity for greater shoreline green space. The parkway continues to be a barrier to safe public access to the river.

Parking for Westboro Beach is presently located near the river shore, thereby occupying functional riverfront public green space. As the riverfront park attracts more people and activities, increased parking capacity will be required, notwithstanding the intended increase in transit modal share with light rail. Planning and design of this node should consider strategic parking sites and shared-use sites to accommodate the increasing demand near significant north–south connections and park destinations to improve accessibility to waterfront features and amenities.

### SECTOR CONCEPT SNAPSHOT

This 2.4-kilometre stretch is the focus of the initial step in the realization of the park plan, due to the light rail transit project. As compensation for the use of NCC lands for the western light rail line, the City of Ottawa has committed \$30 million for these works. Facilities/amenities at Rochester Field and Westboro Beach are the park’s hallmark precincts that will be realized in conjunction with the completion of the western light rail transit line.

The making of Rochester Field into a people-focused park space and gateway represents a significant opportunity to reconnect communities with the river. A key component of the concept is the dominant axis between Richmond Road and the river, crossing the parkway at grade, and thereby allowing safe cycling and walking access between the communities and the river.

This site must be carefully managed to be sensitive to the historic context of Maplelawn, given that the house, garden and associated grounds represent one of the oldest and best-preserved historic sites in the National Capital Region. It is, in fact, a classified federal

heritage building and National Historic Site of Canada which includes one of the best-preserved walled gardens in the country. It will also ensure ample public green space for passive and leisure recreation.

A Westboro Beach redesign will provide enhanced pedestrian and bicycle access, canoe and kayak launching, and a larger multi-purpose building, in addition to the traditional beach uses. Parking will be relocated south of the parkway at the old NCC depot between Atlantis and the parkway. Parking for universal accessibility, as well as servicing, will be provided adjacent to the proposed multi-purpose building. The concept retains and respects built and cultural heritage elements, offers park-friendly services and facilities, includes stormwater eco-management, and enhances physical and visual river access.

### AREA HIGHLIGHTS



Westboro Beach

Skead's Mill ruins

Maplelawn and Gardens National Historic Site of Canada

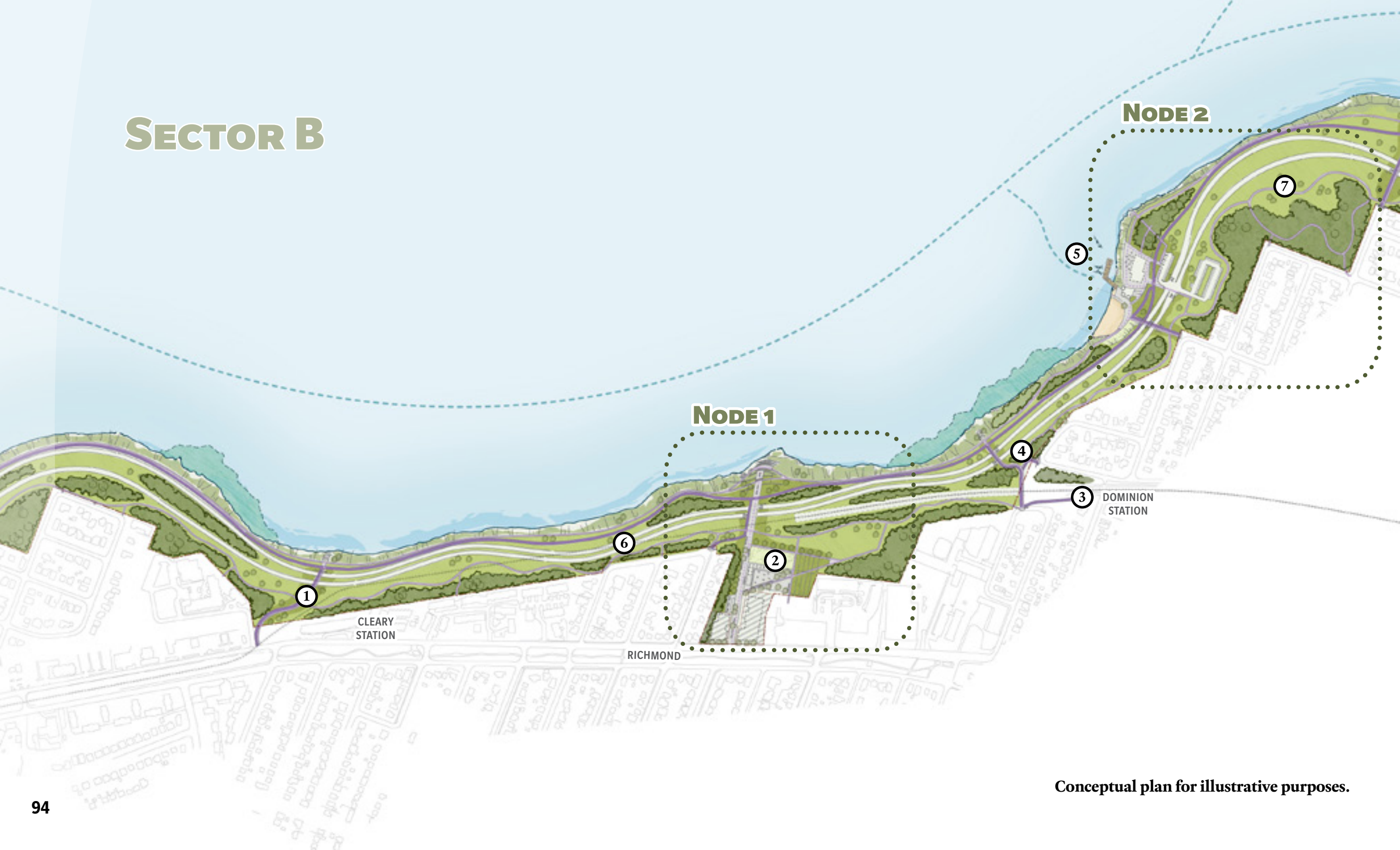


*Artist's rendition of Rochester Field, possible public plaza and green space.*



*Artist's rendition of Rochester Field, possible unprogrammed public green space.*

# SECTOR B



**NODE 1**

**NODE 2**

1

6

2

4

3

5

7

CLEARY  
STATION

RICHMOND

DOMINION  
STATION

Conceptual plan for illustrative purposes.



SECTOR B: WOODROFFE AVENUE TO WESTBORO BEACH/ATLANTIS

SECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Create an underpass at Cleary Avenue to facilitate pedestrian and cycling connectivity between the light rail line and the east end of the Deschênes boardwalk.
- 2 Create a signature people place at Rochester Field that provides visual and physical access to the park and safely connects people to the river. Provide park-related services, amenities and facilities that are context-sensitive and respect the heritage, environmental and community context. It may also include incorporating public art and heritage recognition (natural, built, cultural) into the concept design, as it unfolds.
- 3 Capitalize on the proximity of the Dominion Station to provide attractive and easy links with the segregated pathways, and be sure to appropriately buffer and screen all light rail structures to minimize and mitigate visual and auditory impacts for park users.
- 4 Ensure that the pathway from Richmond Road to the Dominion Station provides year-round access from the community to transit, as well as a welcoming connection to the recreational pathway system.
- 5 Ensure that enhancements to the Westboro Beach facilities are sensitive to the site's visual qualities and to community values. Safeguard against adverse impacts on the shoreline, beach conditions and access, and respect the area's built and cultural heritage elements.
- 6 Upgrade parkway stormwater management via bioswales along the median, where feasible.
- 7 Implement vegetation design that provides a scenic and dynamic experience for visitors, complements and builds on the original design characteristics of the parkway corridor, and satisfies more recently defined objectives related to the environment, park activities and connectivity, for example.

ROLE INDICATORS




Flowers in Maplelawn Garden

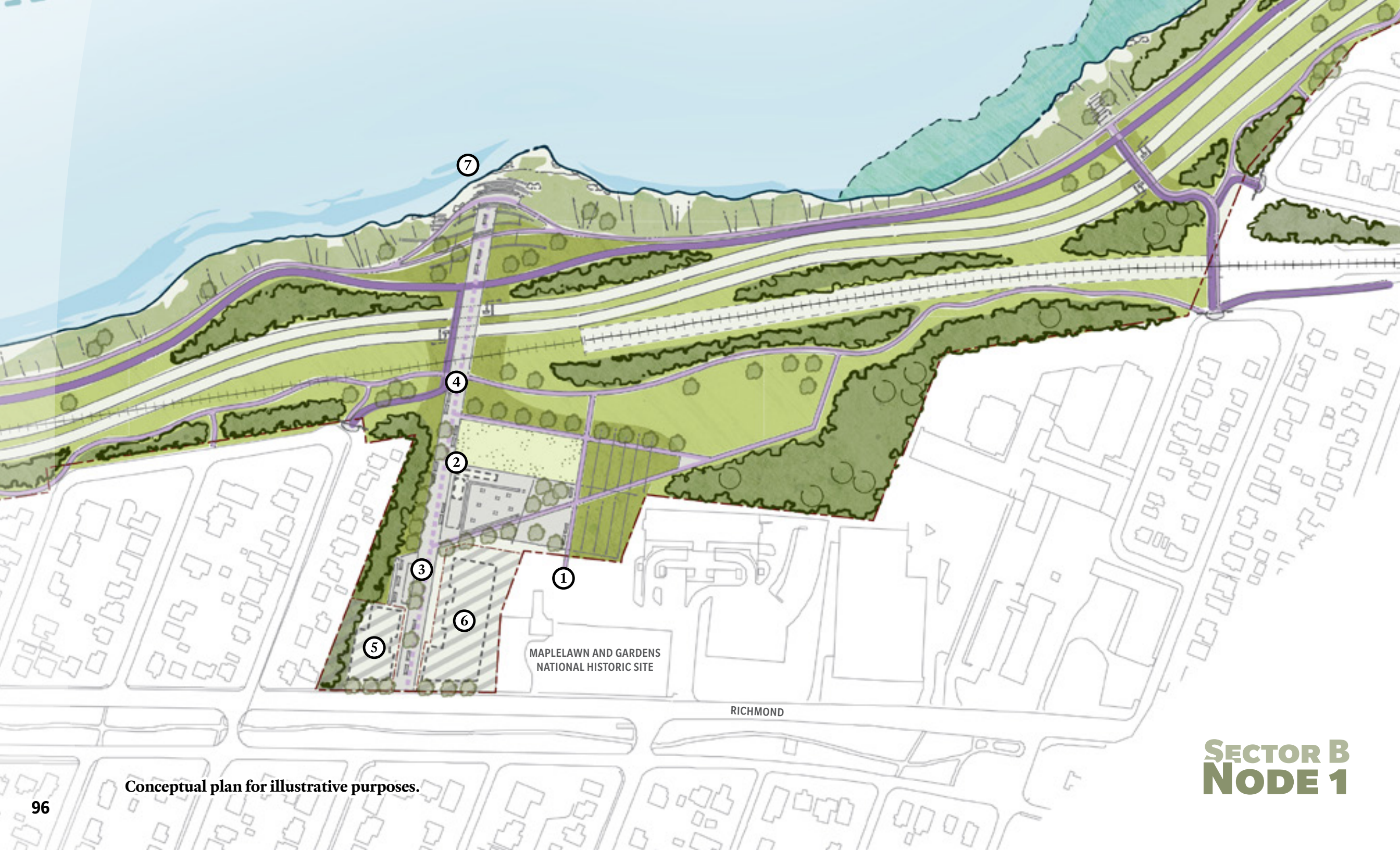


Westboro Beach



Example of light rail transit near the riverfront park





Conceptual plan for illustrative purposes.

# SECTOR B NODE 1





SECTOR B: NODE 1—ROCHESTER FIELD

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Work in partnership with the Friends of Maplelawn Garden and assist Canadian Heritage in identifying the potential for interpretive programs that showcase the Maplelawn and Gardens National Historic Site and its relationship with the riverfront park.
- 2 Support a balance of tranquil and programmed spaces.
- 3 Create a public space with a distinctive feature signalling the entrance, seating and washrooms.
- 4 Create a strong north–south linear axis for safe cycling and walking connectivity between the community and the river, including a signalized at-grade crossing of the parkway.
- 5 Develop a mid-rise, mixed-use area along and set back from Richmond Road that forms a high-quality public plaza and iconic community link with the park, in conformity with the City of Ottawa’s Zoning By-law.
- 6 Work with the City of Ottawa to ensure that the perimeter property along Richmond Road is developed with high regard to the national heritage designation and character of the Maplelawn and Gardens National Historic Site.
- 7 Create a new lookout at the shoreline.
  - Provide access to the water’s edge on the west side of the lookout and build a children’s play area with a water cascade and other water elements.
  - Create new shoreline habitat enhancements on the east side of the lookout and install seating elements set back appropriately from the shoreline.

ROLE INDICATORS

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●	○	●	●
○	●	○	●
○	○	○	●
○	●	○	●
○	●	○	○
●	●	●	●



Artist’s rendering of possible public lookout at Rochester Field.



Maplelawn and Gardens National Historic Site of Canada





Conceptual plan for illustrative purposes.

# SECTOR B NODE 2



SECTOR B: NODE 2—WESTBORO BEACH

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

ROLE INDICATORS

- 1 Involve the community in the development plans for the site, and explore ways to recognize the important contributions of community members to the continued vitality of the area. ● ● ● ●
- 2 Relocate parking from the shoreline to the former Atlantis NCC work yard to gain more park space at the river, and support enhancements to the facilities and amenities at Westboro Beach. ● ● ● ●
- 3 Retain Westboro Beach’s character and function while integrating commercial amenities accessory to the park. ● ● ● ●
- 4 Renovate and redesign beachfront amenities to offer improved user experience. Consider the heritage elements of the beach building designs in revitalization concepts and designs, further to evaluation by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office. ○ ● ● ○
- 5 Design improvements to the Westboro Beach facility to include year-round public and park-related services such as washrooms, restaurant, rentals, repairs, community space and so on. ○ ● ● ○
- 6 Work with Canadian Heritage to identify potential enhancement opportunities to integrate the built heritage and archaeological features of the former Skead’s Mill as part of the park’s interpretive strategy. ○ ● ● ○
- 7 Protect the aquatic habitat west of the beach and beachfront facilities. ● ○ ○ ○
- 8 Revegetate the area providing a looped trail network and educational and play components in a context-sensitive manner that is not detrimental to the environmental conditions. ● ● ○ ●



Playing in the sand at Westboro Beach.



Launching a canoe at Westboro Beach.



Westboro Beach patio



# SECTOR C

C2



C1



C3



## 5.3 SECTOR C: CHAMPLAIN TO REMIC RAPIDS

### DESCRIPTION

This sector includes three activity nodes: Champlain, Bate Island and Remic Rapids.

The Champlain node is on both sides of the Champlain Bridge. The western portion, known as Champlain Woods, consists of forest cover and is within the seasonal flood plain. On the eastern portion of Champlain, there is informal water access for boating and fishing. Parking is located along the shoreline, and cyclists and pedestrians can access the pathways to the west via an underpass beneath the Champlain Bridge. Riopelle and Cunningham islands have a very high native plant biodiversity, although the site has shown signs of severe impacts from invasive plant species.

Visitors to Bate Island presently use it as a tranquil recreation site with high-quality river views to the north, west and east. It has a canopy structure, picnic tables, benches and interpretive panels. Fishing is possible on the east side. Experienced kayakers have access to a launch area on the northeast side. It has been the location of the Level Six Capital Cup competition, and draws paddlers from great distances.

Remic Rapids is a very popular destination, renowned for the balanced rock sculptures<sup>4</sup> and exceptional views of the Capital core area and Gatineau shoreline. The area is within the NCC's natural valued habitat designation called Chaudières Rapids and Lemieux Island. It is a very significant zone for migratory birds and an integral part of the Lac Deschênes–Ottawa River Important Bird Area. The abundant green space and views are important attractions for tourists, the adjacent communities and employees at Tunney's Pasture. There is a lookout on top of a pump station

4. Created and managed by artist John Ceprano.

for the Tunney's Pasture federal employment facility, where users can admire the Ottawa River and core areas of Ottawa and Gatineau.

### CHALLENGES

A significant portion of this sector at Champlain and Bate Island is within the 100-year flood plain, which means there is frequent flooding and erosion along this shoreline. These events undermine subsurface integrity, and restrict the ability to construct permanent infrastructure. The existence of invasive species within the Champlain Woods severely affects the site's natural systems. Goose management is a key issue in this sector, particularly at Bate Island. At Remic Rapids, the existing paved parking occupies prime locations for river views and access.

The emerging popularity of the pathways has led to interactions between various users, and active mobility modes are increasingly causing safety concerns.

### SECTOR CONCEPT SNAPSHOT

In this sector, the purpose of the recommendations is to take advantage of the area's natural assets, while considering how visitors will appreciate it. The concept improves landscape design, through increasing programmable space and opening shoreline access to park users by relocating the parking away from the water.

The concept for this sector also recognizes the importance of building on the success of the winter trails that are a perfect addition to the nation's winter capital, and are accessible for

both residents and visitors. With the participation of the local community volunteers, the trails bring this part of the riverfront alive, and promote Ottawa as a destination for winter tourist activity.

### AREA HIGHLIGHTS



*Champlain Woods*



*Remic sculptures*



*Kayaking at Bate Island*



*Monument to Fallen Diplomats*



*Artist's rendering of possible public space at Bate Island.*



*Artist's rendering of possible public space at Remic Rapids.*

# SECTOR C



**NODE 2**

**NODE 1**

**NODE 3**

CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE

ISLAND PARK DRIVE

TUNNEY'S PASTURE

Conceptual plan for illustrative purposes.



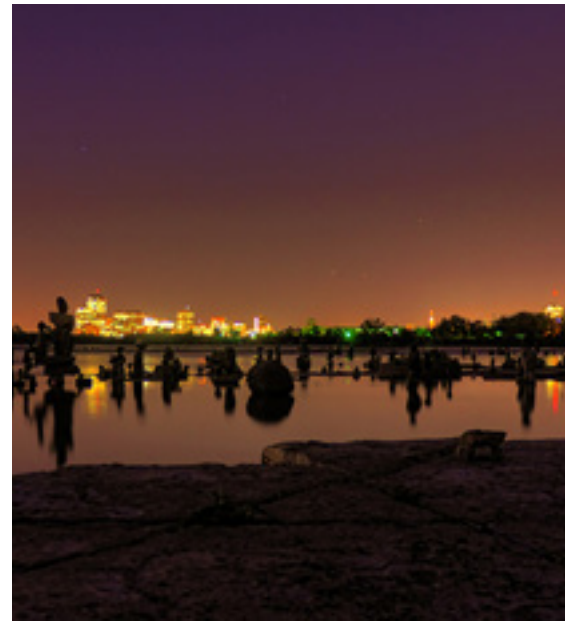


## SECTOR C: CHAMPLAIN TO REMIC RAPIDS

### SECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Provide a secondary gateway at the future signalized at-grade crossing proposed at Churchill Avenue.
- 2 Reforest and create looped trails for summer and winter use through Selby Plains. Preserve spaces as meadow habitat.
- 3 Rehabilitate Champlain Woods, and redesign the Champlain East access area.
- 4 Reinforce the primary gateway, and accentuate the pedestrian arrival experience at Island Park Drive and Bate Island.
- 5 Prepare a statement of significance for the Champlain Bridge, and incorporate conservation of its heritage character-defining elements into asset management programs.

### ROLE INDICATORS

*John Ceprano's rock sculptures at Remic Rapids.*



*Passive, unprogrammed park space  
(Photo credit: Stéphanie Séguin)*



*Winter fat biking*



*Monarch butterfly*

ENVIRONMENT     
 CULTURE     
 WATERFRONT EXPERIENCE     
 CONNECTIVITY



WEST

# SECTOR C NODE 1

EAST



Conceptual plan for illustrative purposes.



SECTOR C: NODE 1—CHAMPLAIN WOODS (WEST PORTION)

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Regenerate the woodlot near Champlain Bridge through removal of fallen ash trees (a result of the emerald ash borer), which will provide space for planting native tree species or those adaptable to climate change.
- 2 Reinstate the creek to assist in wetland compensation.
- 3 Consider interactive and educational opportunities in Champlain Woods that are context-sensitive to the natural environment, such as a boardwalk leading to the woodland play area using natural materials and themes (low tree lookouts, tree huts, balance beams and so on).
- 4 Relocate and redesign pathways to ensure that they are protected from 100-year flood occurrences.
- 5 Provide meadows for migratory bird nesting and habitat for butterflies in the northern section of this node, and support educational and interpretive panels.

ROLE INDICATORS

●	●	●	○
●	○	○	○
●	●	●	●
●	○	○	●
●	●	○	○

CHAMPLAIN (EAST PORTION)

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6 Create resiliently floodable park space with walkways and small bridges that allow for continued use of the pathways during normal spring flooding.
- 7 Improve landscape design by relocating parking farther south with adequate vegetative buffer, and allow a parking configuration that could accommodate tour buses.
- 8 Increase programmable space for temporary events and mobile restaurants.
- 9 Provide seasonal washrooms.
- 10 Explore the feasibility of a cantilevered path under the Champlain Bridge in order to separate pedestrians and cyclists and improve safety, including pedestrian-level lighting that also reduces the carbon footprint and preserves the dark night sky.
- 11 Improve shoreline access for fishing, as well as for appreciating the views of the river and the Gatineau shoreline.

ROLE INDICATORS

●	○	○	●
●	○	●	●
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●	○	○	●
●	●	●	○



Child enjoying winter recreational trails. (Photo credit: Heather Thomson)



Artist's depiction of temporary cafe/food service.

● ENVIRONMENT	● CULTURE	● WATERFRONT EXPERIENCE	● CONNECTIVITY
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SECTOR C: NODE 2—BATE ISLAND

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Consolidate parking on Bate Island to allow revegetation in the eastern portion of the island within the 100-year flood plain and mitigate/manage goose population impacts.
- 2 Make provisions for safe river access for fishing.
- 3 Create a gateway feature at the existing entry to the island on the Champlain Bridge.
- 4 Provide an official access route for launching non-motorized watercraft on the east side of the island, where kayakers and surfers access the river. This would allow for portaging around the rapids.
- 5 Soften river access on the west side of Bate Island by moving the pathway and eliminating/relocating parking from the edges.
- 6 Accommodate a café/restaurant on the island. In the interim, provide for mobile restaurants and associated amenities outside of the flood plain in support of festivals and events.
- 7 Create an observation point at the eastern tip of the island to capitalize on the views toward Parliament Hill.
- 8 Create an access to the river on the northwest side of the island for kayakers to complete their portages. This access does not need to be as large as the one to the east, as the primary users will be boaters who walk with their equipment from the pathway to the northeast boat launch.
- 9 Redesign the vehicle entrance to the island from the Champlain Bridge and vehicle traffic patterns to enhance safety for all modes and users, taking into account the height restriction for buses travelling under the bridge.

ROLE INDICATORS

●	○	○	●
○	○	●	●
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●	●	●	●
●	○	○	●
●	○	○	●



Event space in use.



Whitewater kayaking on the Ottawa River.



View from Bate Island.



# SECTOR C NODE 3



TUNNEY'S PASTURE

Conceptual plan for illustrative purposes.



SECTOR C: NODE 3—REMIC RAPIDS

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

ROLE INDICATORS

ROLE INDICATORS

- 1 Relocate the existing parking lot closer to the parkway, with appropriate vegetative buffering, while taking into account functional connectivity with Tunney’s Pasture. ○ ● ○ ●
- 2 Consider a partnership with Public Services and Procurement Canada to arrange for off-peak shared parking opportunities within the Department’s parking areas to provide more spaces for park users. ○ ● ○ ●
- 3 Expand the programmable area for a range of events and activities (e.g. festivals, yoga on the river, fishing activities, temporary restaurants), while considering the site’s landscape design to ensure the conservation of all mature trees in the area and enhance the overall quality of the experience. ● ● ● ○
- 4 Engage with the community and stakeholders to accommodate winter recreation activities—snowshoeing, cross-country skiing—and provide more promotion and marketing of winter trails for users of all ages. ○ ● ● ●
- 5 Create a portage on the western part of the point that will allow people to view the rapids safely and provide for fishing opportunities. ○ ● ● ○
- 6 Enhance the shoreline to support an amphitheatre-like feature in a natural setting. ○ ● ● ○
- 7 Continue to support the public art initiative of rock sculptures, and explore the potential to expand the range of public events and programs (e.g., music, performance, other public art, nature-themed art displays). ○ ● ● ○

- 8 Collaborate with Public Services and Procurement Canada to allow for universal accessibility at the pumping station, and retrofit the structure as an observation point. ○ ● ● ●
- 9 Consider proposals for a facility that may include public amenities and services, including an environmental centre with interpretation space, community space, park-related commercial space, washrooms. ○ ● ● ○
- 10 Create looped trails throughout the Remic Rapids park space for all-season use. ○ ● ● ●
- 11 Continue monitoring and evaluating the performance and function of the wetland restoration project completed by the NCC in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. ● ● ○ ○



Rock artist in training, Remic Rapids. (Photo credit: Patrick Bunting)



Relaxing moment at Remic Rapids.



# SECTOR D

D1

D2





## 5.4 SECTOR D: PARKDALE TO NEPEAN BAY

### DESCRIPTION

A series of rapids and a chain of islands mark the river at this easternmost sector of the riverfront park. As part of the parkway construction in the 1960s, the NCC engineered much of the shoreline above the flood plain. Now, this sector contains some significant natural features, and offers some of the most spectacular views of the Ottawa River, Gatineau shoreline and the Capital core.

The Tunney's Pasture federal employment area is located immediately to the south, where its master plan will guide the area's transformation to a vibrant, mixed-use neighbourhood, founded upon transit-oriented development best practices. The Tunney's Pasture master plan envisions the following:

- an employment/support retail hub
- employment opportunities for approximately 22,000–25,000 federal employees
- multi-unit residential areas with approximately 3,400–3,700 units
- a community park
- a green corridor linking with the park
- enhanced connectivity pedestrian/cycling routes and enhanced community linkages, etc.

The Indonesian Embassy is located adjacent to the site south of the park boundary, east of Tunney's Pasture.

This sector represents the riverfront park's gradual transition from the urban character of the Capital core area toward the more natural setting at Mud Lake.

### CHALLENGES

The parkway continues to be a barrier to safe access to the shoreline.

Many invasive plant species that prohibit excellent views and access to the river cover most of the shoreline.

The multi-use pathway is very close to the shoreline, which limits the area that is usable for stopping to appreciate these views. The two-tier landscape would provide a great vantage point for pathway users and a place for the potential development of park-related opportunities. It would also allow for the segregation of pathways for pedestrians and cyclists.

The Prince of Wales Bridge, a former railway bridge now owned by the City of Ottawa, is an interprovincial link that provides a great opportunity to enhance transit and active mobility.

### SECTOR CONCEPT SNAPSHOT

The Parkdale node offers beautiful views of the river, the Capital core area and the Gatineau Hills to the northwest. In the long term, the concept proposes to reconfigure the intersection of the parkway at Parkdale, which would result in increased park space and create the potential for park facilities and animation opportunities.

The resulting public space at Nepean Bay would serve as a transition between the riverfront park and the riverfront space component of LeBreton Flats.



### AREA HIGHLIGHTS



*Lazy Bay archipelago*



*Prince of Wales Bridge*



*The River Highway, Water That Shaped Our History*

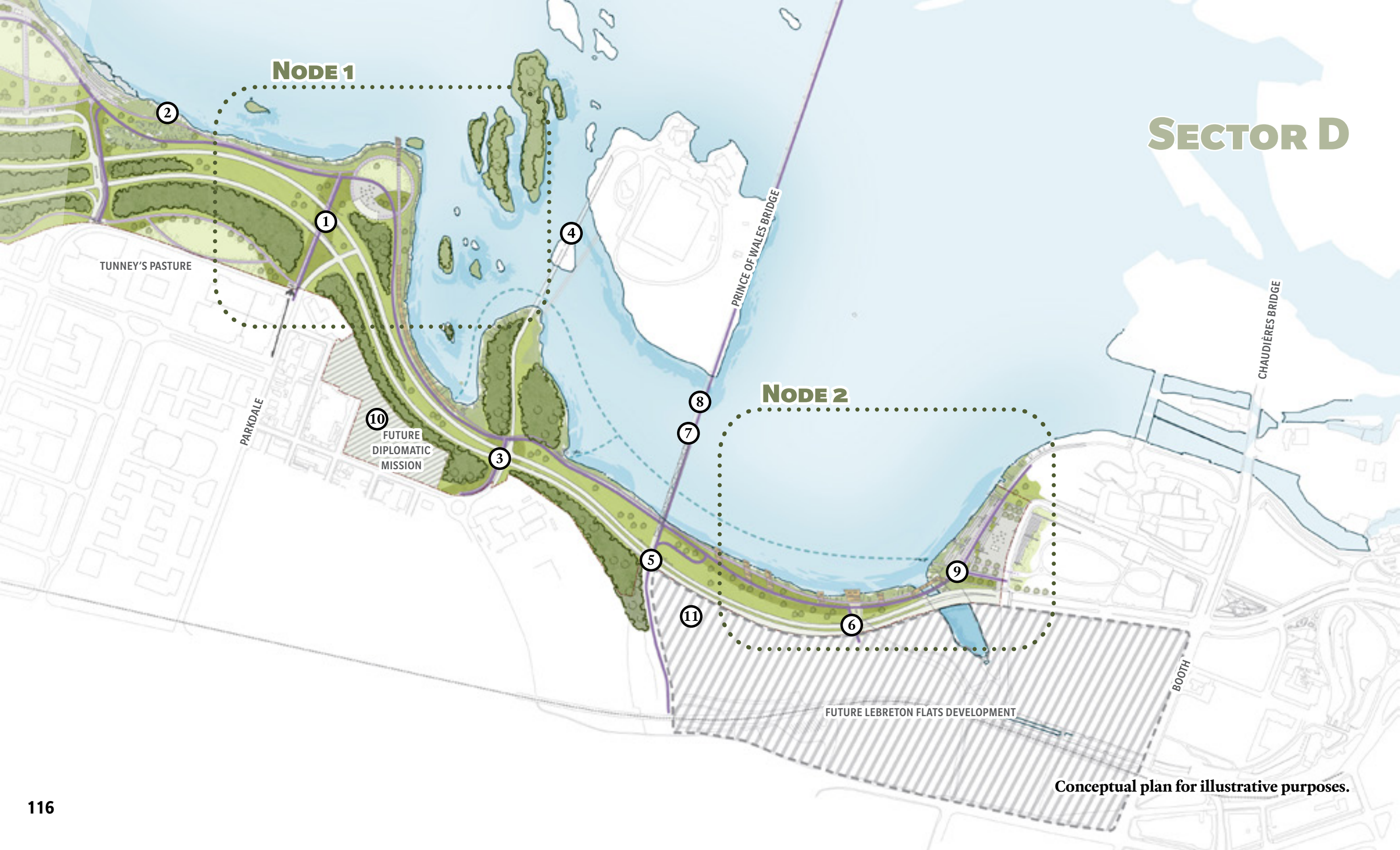


*Artist's rendering of possible winter recreation at Parkdale.*



*Looking at the City of Ottawa through the Prince of Wales Bridge.*

# SECTOR D



**NODE 1**

2

1

TUNNEY'S PASTURE

PARKDALE

10

FUTURE  
DIPLOMATIC  
MISSION

3

4

PRINCE OF WALES BRIDGE

8

**NODE 2**

7

5

11

6

9

CHAUDIÈRES BRIDGE

BOOTH

FUTURE LEBRETON FLATS DEVELOPMENT

Conceptual plan for illustrative purposes.



SECTOR D: PARKDALE

SECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

ROLE INDICATORS

ROLE INDICATORS

- 1 Work with the City of Ottawa, Public Services and Procurement Canada and community stakeholders over the long term to examine the feasibility of reconfiguring or removing the Parkdale Avenue on-ramp and converting the shoreline lands to public park space. This would restore the shoreline, reduce impediments to pedestrian/bicycle river access and support sustainable mobility. ● ○ ● ●
- 2 Determine, in cooperation with Canadian Heritage, the future location of commemorative sites. ○ ● ○ ○
- 3 Improve the at-grade crossing at Slidell Street to encourage safe pedestrian and cycling access to adjacent communities. ○ ○ ○ ●
- 4 Work with the City of Ottawa to maintain and possibly enhance access to the Lemieux Island Water Purification Plant for public enjoyment of and functional connectivity with the riverfront park. ○ ○ ● ●
- 5 Ensure seamless connectivity at the end of the Trillium Pathway as a gateway with Bayview Station, including appropriate wayfinding. ○ ○ ○ ●
- 6 Complete the multi-use pathway linkage from Bayview Station to the Ottawa River pathway, and incorporate wayfinding to the transit station. ○ ○ ○ ●
- 7 Support efforts to improve interprovincial connectivity for rapid transit services, as well as for cycling and walking on the Prince of Wales Bridge in the long term. ○ ○ ○ ●
- 8 Work with partners to conserve the Prince of Wales Bridge's heritage value and character-defining elements. ○ ● ○ ●
- 9 Treat the eastern edge of the riverfront adjacent to LeBreton Flats as a signature transitional gateway with appropriate landscaping, and park furniture and amenities. ○ ○ ○ ●

- 10 Allocate NCC lands adjacent to the park along Burnside Avenue for potential future diplomatic missions consistent with their Capital function, where direct access from the parkway to the site is prohibited under the NCC parkways policy, and include sufficient visual and security vegetative buffering between the site and parklands. ○ ● ○ ●
- 11 Work with partners to provide pathway connectivity eastward through LeBreton Flats and beyond. ○ ● ○ ●



Sunday Bikedays on the parkway.

# SECTOR D NODE 1



Conceptual plan for illustrative purposes.



SECTOR D: NODE 1—PARKDALE

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Work with the City of Ottawa and Public Services and Procurement Canada to examine options for relocating the partial clover leaf intersection to gain more public green space along the river shoreline, with a view to creating a key gateway and enhancing the potential for green space connectivity between the park and the Tunney's Pasture federal employment area.
- 2 Transform the shoreline space into programmable space, should reconfiguration of the Parkdale intersection prove to be feasible, by potentially creating more shoreline park green space, a pavilion with lookout, restaurant, café, restrooms, segregated pathways, park-related commercial space, over-the-water viewing platform and so on.
- 3 Create a possible cantilevered lookout or viewing pavilion that provides the experience of being over the water.

ROLE INDICATORS

●	○	●	●
●	●	●	●
●	○	●	●



Cross-country ski trail along the parkway.



Public restroom in Calgary, Alberta.



Café on the Rideau Canal in Ottawa.



Segregated pathways in Calgary, Alberta.

● ENVIRONMENT     
 ● CULTURE     
 ● WATERFRONT EXPERIENCE     
 ● CONNECTIVITY



# SECTOR D NODE 2

PRINCE OF WALES BRIDGE

VIMY

7

4

3

6

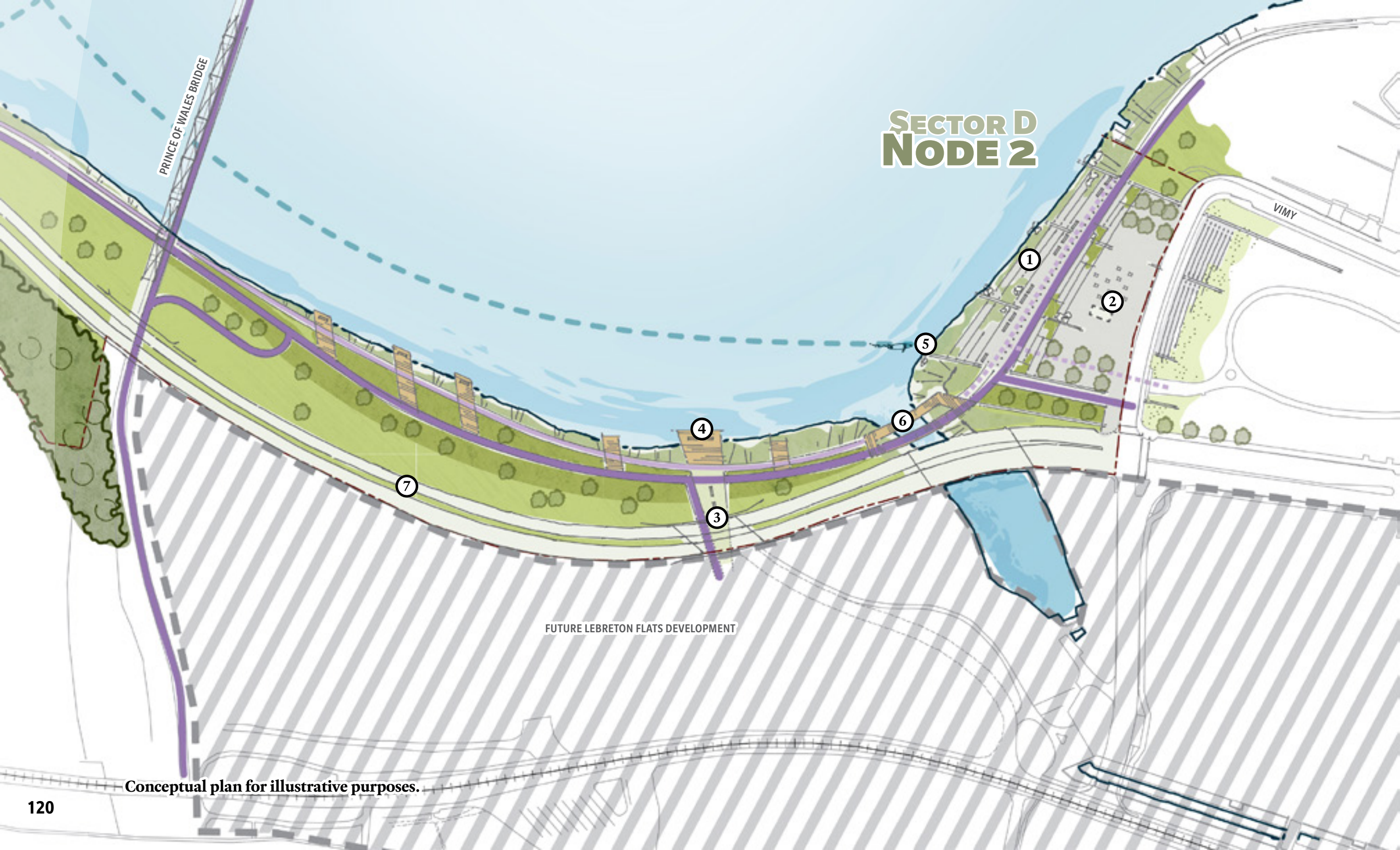
5

1

2

FUTURE LEBRETON FLATS DEVELOPMENT

Conceptual plan for illustrative purposes.







SECTOR D: NODE 2—NEPEAN BAY

NODE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Transform the shoreline edge east of LeBreton Flats to provide river access and capitalize on dramatic upriver vistas across Nepean Bay to the Prince of Wales Bridge and Lemieux Island.
- 2 Examine the potential of the area as programmable event space in conjunction with green space plans of the Canadian War Museum.
- 3 Convert the former Transitway underpass to a new pedestrian/cyclist access point, linking the future LeBreton redevelopment with the shoreline.
- 4 Capitalize on the steep slope between the parkway and the pathway when designing for views and vistas.
- 5 Add a portage at Nepean Bay to bypass the Chaudières Falls, and provide wayfinding to connect to the lower section of the Ottawa River.
- 6 Expand the pathway bridge capacity at Nepean Bay to accommodate segregated multi-modal use.
- 7 Consider the longer-term potential provision of a safe parkway crossing close to the Prince of Wales Bridge, contingent on approved plans for the redevelopment of LeBreton Flats.

ROLE INDICATORS

●	○	●	●
○	○	●	○
○	○	○	●
●	●	●	●
○	○	○	●
●	○	●	●
●	○	●	●



Waterfront in Vancouver, British Columbia



Example of running event on parkway.





*Cycling provides greater access to the animation nodes and their features, Remic Rapids and the shoreline.*



## 6 MOVING FORWARD

**T**his chapter makes recommendations to achieve the desired outcome presented in the Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan. It recommends actions for implementing the plan's initiatives, which are not only consistent with the objectives of the vision articulated in the Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067, and the Capital Urban Lands Plan, but also go into further detail, building on the public and stakeholder input obtained throughout the engagement process. It also identifies next steps to move forward with the plan, including additional studies, federal review and approval processes, and recommended phasing for implementation.

### 6.1 PLAN ADMINISTRATION AND STEWARDSHIP

The success of this plan rests on a collaborative, ongoing process by the NCC and its partners to develop a series of sites and activities that can, where appropriate, be complemented by the private sector incrementally over time.

The NCC is committed to ongoing public engagement of stakeholders and the public to sustain a long-range development going beyond the short-term time frame, to support specific projects, and to acquire the necessary public- and private-sector support and funds.

### 6.2 ACTION PLAN

Subsequent to plan approval, implementation will be under the principal responsibility of the Capital Stewardship Branch. An action plan will be developed which includes prioritization and phasing that are measurable, with initiatives that are high profile and relatively easy to implement, being given priority, especially where cost is not prohibitive. More complex initiatives will require time, funding and/or additional studies to deal with details required for implementation.

Setting priorities for implementation would be based notably on the following considerations:

- consistency with NCC plans, corporate goals and priorities
- immediate environmental and economic impacts
- best funding opportunity
- timeline for any environmental, infrastructure or servicing issues
- opportunity for partnerships
- coordination with ongoing or future projects.



*Cross-country skiing*

## 6.3 APPROVAL OF THE OTTAWA RIVER SOUTH SHORE RIVERFRONT PARK PLAN

The Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan comes into effect upon approval by the NCC Board of Directors. A federal approval granted by the NCC confirms the plan's effective date and established conditions of the plan's approval (*see Chapter 7*). This plan will become the primary plan reference for matters affecting federal lands within the study area. More focused land use plans apply in certain areas under federal ownership. The planning directions and policies of these plans will continue to apply. Where contradictions exist between the area-focused plans and the Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan, this plan will take precedence.

## 6.4 FEDERAL APPROVALS

The federal approvals process (federal land use, design and transaction approvals) will play a key role in ensuring that all proposals affecting federal lands apply best practices and are consistent with the objectives and strategies of this plan. Environmental assessments may be required depending on the projects.

### 6.4.1 RELATED PLANS AND PROJECTS

The NCC will prioritize key investments in capital projects and other collaborative initiatives that will enhance the park in accordance with the NCC's corporate priorities and the objectives identified in this plan.

The following are some of the high-priority actions:

- Implement the City of Ottawa and NCC 100-day western light rail transit agreement for the 2.4-kilometre stretch of rail line that encroaches into the park.
- Improve public access and facilitate the animation and discovery of the Capital's shorelines.
- Conserve the Capital's urban green spaces, natural features and cultural assets.
- Collaborate with federal partners to improve the integration of federal facilities into urban communities.

Further planning will be done to refine this plan, such as site development concepts and designs for Westboro Beach, including community engagement.

### 6.4.2 FURTHER SUPPORTING STUDIES

While some of the initiatives recommended may be straightforward, many will require more detailed studies and designs to facilitate their implementation, and will include but not be limited to the following:

- traffic and feasibility study for reconfiguration of the Parkdale intersection, and others to be defined
- goose management strategy
- programming guidelines with respect to site capacity for events
- revegetation strategy
- guidelines, notably for parking, design, landscape, siting and setting, such as park elements and furnishing.

The implementation will also need to respect all applicable federal legislation.

### 6.4.3 FEDERAL OWNERSHIP, NATIONAL INTEREST LAND MASS, INVESTMENT AND LAND TRANSACTIONS

Property required to support the planning and development of the Capital should be kept under federal ownership, as it ensures direct management control of land use and design through the federal approvals process under the *National Capital Act*.

All federally owned riverfront parklands are designated National Interest Land Mass (NILM). NILM lands are essential to the achievement of the NCC's mandate. Lands identified within the NILM are required to support the symbolism, functions, physical structure, and natural and cultural landscape qualities of Canada's Capital. A NILM designation indicates a formal expression of the federal government's interest in the use of these lands in a manner that supports Canada's Capital. The intent of the NCC is to secure key NILM lands not under public ownership through negotiated settlement and collaboration with landowners.

This plan conforms to existing NILM designations, and does not recommend any changes to them.

A number of formal agreements (e.g. agreements with municipalities, leases, service contracts and so on) have been signed over time, and affect NCC-owned lands within the riverfront park. Some of the agreements, perhaps dating back decades, may not be entirely consistent with the direction set by this plan.

Over time, the NCC will work to harmonize existing formal agreements to ensure consistency with the plan's directions, goals and policies. When one of these instruments is eligible for renewal or renegotiation, it will be examined and adjusted where necessary to bring it in line with the plan by the NCC division responsible for the agreement. Where changes in land uses are proposed in



relation to the negotiation or renegotiation of an agreement, the federal approvals process must be followed.

The negotiation of the terms and conditions of leases will be consistent with the objectives of the underlying land designation and general policies of the plan. Proposals for the expansion of or changes to land use foreseen by formal agreements will be reviewed through the federal approvals process. Where a proposed physical expansion or time extension related to an existing agreement is inconsistent with the plan's objectives, land designation or policies, a plan amendment may be required.

## 6.5 COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Continued collaboration and development of partnerships are key to the successful achievement of this plan and the projects it puts forward. The NCC needs to build strong ties with multiple partners, including the Algonquin-Anishinabe community, the City of Ottawa, the federal family (notably Public Services and Procurement Canada, and Canadian Heritage), the private sector, communities and the various stakeholders, including institutions and local school tenants.

Opportunities for participation will be encouraged and pursued in the development and implementation of the park plan, including ongoing programming, wetland creation, shoreline restoration, tree planting, an interpretation plan and environmental education.

## 6.6 PLAN MONITORING AND MEASURING SUCCESS

Monitoring and plan evaluation are essential to the success of the plan. The NCC is committed to working in partnership with all authorities and local groups interested in monitoring and safeguarding the Capital's valued natural features within the urban area, including sensitive habitats, significant forests, wetlands, shorelines and waterways.

Ongoing data collection would be part of the action plan to assess the effectiveness and impacts of park initiatives and measure success. There are several key categories for measurement and evaluation of the plan. The following indicators are examples of proposed metrics to track the progress of the achievement of the various plan components:

- economic and social indicators
- quality of experience
- environmental health
- other indicators, developed through further studies.

## 6.7 MODIFICATIONS TO THE PLAN

The plan establishes the directions, roles, goals, policies and strategies required to fulfill the vision of the Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan. It may be necessary to modify or amend certain provisions, due to emerging trends or new information, to ensure the conformity of other NCC plans and programs, to reflect changes resulting from detailed plans for a specific sector, or as a result of land use requests that are inconsistent with the plan.

Any amendment must be justified to be in the public interest, must be consistent with the Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067, and the Capital Urban Lands Plan, and conform to the objectives of this park plan. The amendment process must follow that defined in the *Capital Urban Lands Plan* (NCC, 2015).

## 6.8 PLAN REVIEW

Regular review is required to ensure that the plan continues to effectively respond to evolving needs and conditions. In response, a cursory review of the plan is recommended every five years, and thorough update every 10 years to take into account demographic, policy, urbanization, environmental and economic changes. Public and stakeholder consultations will be part of the 10-year review. Heritage, culture, interpretation, wayfinding and arts are recommended to be part of the review.

# 7 APPENDICES

## 7.1 APPENDIX 1

### APPLICABLE POLICIES, LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS (AS AMENDED)

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#### 7.1.1 FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL STATUTES AND POLICIES

##### FEDERAL STATUTES

*Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, SC 2012, c. 19, s. 52.

*Fisheries Act*, RSC 1985, c. F-14.

*Migratory Birds Convention Act*, SC 1994, c. 22.

Migratory Birds Regulations, CRC, c. 1035.

Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations, CRC, c. 1036.

*Navigation Protection Act*, RSC 1985, c. N-22.

*Species at Risk Act*, SC 2002, c. 29.

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##### ONTARIO PROVINCIAL STATUTES

*Beds of Navigable Waters Act*, RSO 1990, c. B.4.

*Endangered Species Act*, SO 2007, c. 6.

*Pesticides Act*, RSO 1990, c. P.11.

#### 7.1.2 NCC PLANS AND POLICIES

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WSP Canada Inc. (2015). Caractérisation des berges de la rivière des Outaouais: inventaires des terrains 2015. Report no. 131-19456-05. National Capital Commission. Ottawa, 253 pp.

### 7.1.3 OTHER STUDIES AND REPORTS

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## 7.2 APPENDIX 2

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Three public consultation workshops were organized since the launch of this project. The first (May 2014) focused on issues and opportunities. The second consultation, in May 2015, proposed a draft preliminary concept with strategic statements. The main messages heard are as follows:

- Parkway speed reduction
- Segregation of pathways for cyclists and pedestrians
- Connectivity improvement and safe crossing
- Placemaking
- Access to the water
- Ecological stewardship
- Shoreline restoration
- Support for a boardwalk at Deschênes
- More public facilities and amenities
- Four-season park

All consultation results were made available on the NCC website.

First consultation report, May 2014:

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/ncc-ccn/documents/sjam-consultation-report.pdf?mtime=20170419154106>

Second consultation report, May 2015:

[http://s3.amazonaws.com/ncc-ccn/documents/public\\_consultation\\_report\\_sjam\\_may\\_2015\\_e\\_final.pdf?mtime=20170419154320](http://s3.amazonaws.com/ncc-ccn/documents/public_consultation_report_sjam_may_2015_e_final.pdf?mtime=20170419154320)

### **PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT, MARCH 2016**

On March 23, 2016, a third consultation was held with the public on the revised concept, an on-water boardwalk project, as well as demonstration plan options for Rochester Field, Westboro Beach, and the parkway and pathway configuration (four lanes versus two lanes). A questionnaire was also available online until April 13, 2016, to obtain comments. We received a total of 2,064 completed questionnaires.

The main ideas received from this last consultation are as follows:

- Responses very much supported the proposed concept, including the seasonal opportunities.
- There was strong support for the on-water boardwalk at Deschênes, as long as it does not jeopardize terrestrial and aquatic habitats.
- The concept provides a safer environment for cyclists and pedestrians if the two-lane parkway is selected. There was some disapproval of bike lanes on the parkway.
- The concept offers a good balance of animated areas and serene park space. A few suggestions were made to keep the Champlain and Rémic nodes for quiet leisure.

- A few concerns were raised that there is still inadequate public access to the river, and suggestions were received to manage pedestrian safety (e.g. minimize at-grade crossings or even build an overpass).
- The ecosystems and shoreline are well protected and very much support aquatic habitat enhancement.
- Some feel that the parkway is needed as a commuter route, and do not feel that its function as a scenic route is as important.
- Rochester Field:
  - Strong concerns about the at-grade crossing on the parkway
  - Mid-rise development was often opposed
  - Approval of the water features, flea market / Christmas market and public art display
  - Good maintenance of river views from Richmond Road
  - Some suggested that the preservation of parkland should be maximized.
- Westboro Beach:
  - Suggestion to make the building bigger and as public as possible
  - Several concerns about the conservation centre
  - Agreement with stepped beach access
- Parkway and pathway reconfiguration:
  - Large concern about the traffic impact on Kanata
  - Suggestion to add a reversible central lane on the parkway
  - Strong push to lower traffic speed

Third consultation report, March 2016:

<http://s3.amazonaws.com/ncc-ccn/documents/Sir-John-A.-Macdonald-Riverfront-Park-Plan-Public-Consultation-Report-2016.pdf?mtime=20170707083146>

[http://s3.amazonaws.com/ncc-ccn/documents/appendix\\_d\\_3a\\_nielsen\\_executive\\_summary\\_final.pdf?mtime=20170419153645](http://s3.amazonaws.com/ncc-ccn/documents/appendix_d_3a_nielsen_executive_summary_final.pdf?mtime=20170419153645)

### **QUANTITATIVE SURVEY (OTTAWA WEST RESIDENTS), MARCH AND APRIL 2016**

The NCC directed a consultant to conduct a quantitative telephone survey to gauge the perceptions and opinions of Ottawa residents west of Island Park Drive who include the parkway in their selection of regular and frequent automobile travel. The survey findings will help inform ongoing planning for the Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park concept. Twenty percent of the total 600 survey sample consisted of Ottawa cellphone numbers, and 80 percent were from landline samples from particular forward sortation areas or postal codes.

Key survey findings include the:

- Regular SJAM Parkway users oppose changes to the parkway, except for making it more pedestrian-friendly and safe.
- Lane reductions, even for a section of the parkway is not supported.
- Only a few users felt that speed and traffic volumes are issues that should be addressed.
- More local road access to the parkway could get some traction among the younger users, but for the most part, there is opposition to this idea.

For a full summary of survey results:

[http://s3.amazonaws.com/ncc-ccn/documents/appendix\\_d\\_3a\\_nielsen\\_executive\\_summary\\_final.pdf?mtime=20170419153645](http://s3.amazonaws.com/ncc-ccn/documents/appendix_d_3a_nielsen_executive_summary_final.pdf?mtime=20170419153645)

### **PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER ONLINE SURVEY, JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018**

The NCC initiated the fourth and final consultation for the draft plan in the form of an online survey. The survey focused on capturing respondents' preferences and levels of satisfaction





in terms of the linear park as a whole, as well as concepts and strategies for the park's four sectors. The survey asked respondents to rate their opinions on the plan elements, and offered respondents the opportunity to provide open-text comments and feedback on each sector, as well as on the overall plan. Access to the survey was provided through an open link that was disseminated via email and social media. In total, the survey attracted 1,723 respondents.

The survey results indicated that park users are interested in keeping open spaces, natural features, natural habitats, ecological functions, tranquil characteristics and views. They also want some event spaces, improved public facilities (including washrooms and food services), safer access to the river, slower parkway traffic, and more seating within the park setting.











The draft plan was updated by staff in response to the survey. This includes the addition of spaces for food trucks and temporary café facilities, more washrooms, a shoreline restoration program, removal of invasive species, enhancement of views, and creation of more tranquil green shoreline space via the relocation of existing surface parking.

### 7.3 APPENDIX 3

#### EVENT SITES CLASSIFICATION

The event sites have been classified according to physical size, which determines the overall capacity. The classified sites respect adjacent land uses and other factors, which include protection of environmental features, proximity of residential areas, unimpeded circulation, public use of park space and so on.

Classification is estimated on the net area, calculated as 75 percent of the gross measured area, in order to account for park features and vegetation within the specified event spaces. The following classifications have been developed for the purposes of this plan and the Ottawa River North Shore Parklands Plan to guide the NCC's consideration of requests for programmed and planned public events and activities. Whereas this park is not considered to be an appropriate venue for major Capital events, consideration will be given only for programmable events and activities that do not exceed Level 3.

2,000 m <sup>2</sup> (50 X 50 m)		LOCAL GATHERINGS / PRIVATE EVENTS	
6,000 m <sup>2</sup> (75 X 75 m)		COMMUNITY EVENTS	
12,000 m <sup>2</sup> (110 X 110 m)		REGIONAL EVENTS	
25,000 m <sup>2</sup> (160 X 160 m)		NATIONAL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS	
		MAJOR CAPITAL EVENTS	

### EVENT DENSITY

The number of people that an event space can accommodate varies depending on the type of event and the installations and equipment required. This is determined by the classification, as well as the crowd density that a given site can host. Density is calculated as a factor of square metres per person, ranging from low to high. In general, the park will support low- to medium-density events.



### EVENT SITES

The table below indicates the site and corresponding surface coverage considered appropriate for public events and activities, while taking into account the protection and preservation of vegetation and sensitive areas, and the retention of spaces that must remain accessible to the public. The table also indicates the range in the number of people that each site can accommodate, according to a variety of event-specific densities, focused on low- to medium-density events, as illustrated to the left.

The table is provided for information purposes only. Proposed events must be considered on an individual basis to determine maximum capacity, safe crowd densities, suitability of infrastructure and impact on the surrounding area. Special exceptions may be permissible at the discretion of the land manager, if appropriate mitigation measures are in place.

### CHARACTER STATEMENTS

The following character statements describe the appropriate ambiance for each of the proposed event spaces, and should be used in conjunction with the site classification to determine suitable event uses that respect the surrounding context and site conditions (such as proximity to symbolic places, surrounding land use and accessibility, sensitive environmental areas, and so on).

- Mud Lake: No events. Informal use only.
- Deschênes: No events. Informal use only.
- Rochester Field Court: A community gathering space. Suitable for medium-density events, such as farmers' markets and seasonal celebrations.
- Rochester Field Lookout: No events. Informal use only.
- Westboro Beach: A lively public place focused on recreation and entertainment, with frequent open-air activities and events. Suitable for medium-density events, such as "movies on the beach" or swimming-related events.
- Champlain East: A flexible public open space with periodic programmed use. Suitable for infrequent medium-density events, such as festivals and capital events. Note: The event space is located within the 100-year flood plain and is therefore not suitable for spring events or permanent infrastructure.
- Champlain Woods (West): No events. Informal use only. Contemplative leisure.
- Bate Island: A water-focused destination. Suitable for medium-density events, such as paddling and surfing festivals.

SITE FROM WEST TO EAST	SIZE m <sup>2</sup>	75% NET m <sup>2</sup>	MAX LEVEL	LOW	MEDIUM		HIGH	
				6 m <sup>2</sup> /p	5 m <sup>2</sup> /p	4 m <sup>2</sup> /p	3 m <sup>2</sup> /p	2 m <sup>2</sup> /p
MUD LAKE	NA	NA	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
DESCHÊNES	NA	NA	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
ROCHESTER FIELD	6,924	5,193	2	865.5	1,038.6	1,298.25	1,731	2,596.5
WESTBORO BEACH	3,862	2,896.5	2	482.75	579.3	724.125	965.5	1,448.25
CHAMPLAIN WEST	NA	NA	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
CHAMPLAIN EAST	9,536	7,152	3	1192	1,430.4	1,788	2,384	3,576
BATE ISLAND	7,398	5,548.5	2	924.75	1,109.7	1,387.125	1,849.5	2,774.25
REMIC RAPIDS	15,750	11,812.5	3	2,151.25	2,581.5	3,226.875	4,302.5	6,453.75
PARKDALE	9,030	6,772.5	3	1,128.75	1,354.5	1,693.125	2,257.5	3,386.25
NEPEAN BAY	5,321	3,990.75	2	665.125	798.15	997.6875	1,330.25	1,995.375 *

\*Occasional high-intensity events may be permitted at Nepean Bay, in conjunction with adjacent LeBreton Flats festivals and programming.



- Remic Rapids: A contemplative natural park space. Suitable for low-density events, such as recreational gatherings or seasonal celebrations.
- Parkdale: A gathering point with dramatic views of the Ottawa River and the Lazy Bay archipelago. Suitable for low- to medium-density events, such as artistic/cultural installations and gatherings.
- Nepean Bay: A vibrant, urban waterfront adjacent to the future redeveloped LeBreton Flats. Suitable for occasional high-density events, such as festivals and concerts.

## 7.4 APPENDIX 4

### VEGETATION STRATEGY

Promote the renaturalization of the parkway corridor through planting, managing and preserving distinct vegetation typologies, based on the following four predominant classifications.

- Woodland
  - Plant predominantly mature trees, while including an understory of shade-loving perennial shrubs and herbaceous plants and leaf litter.
  - Provide deadfall and sheltered coniferous areas that mix pioneer and apex tree species and include diverse understory plant communities.
- Meadow
  - Plant predominantly native grasses and herbaceous plants, with clustered or individual trees. Include flowering perennial wildflowers and sun-loving shrubs.
  - Provide rock piles and shade trees, and create a varied topography to ensure a mix of wet and dry areas.

- Riparian
  - Plant predominantly semi-aquatic and flood-tolerant plant species. Include shoreline herbaceous plants and grasses, shoreline shrubs and water-loving tree species.
  - Provide sand deposits and coastal wetlands for shelter and habitat for reptiles, as well as for semi-aquatic bird and mammal species.
- Aquatic
  - Plant predominantly submerged and emergent vegetation below the normal high-water mark. Include reeds, rushes, floating aquatic plants and algae.
  - Provide a variety of shallow reefs, shaded shoreline areas, deep pools and sheltered inlets to promote diversity and support fish habitats.

## 7.5 APPENDIX 5

### SUMMARY OF THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The National Capital Commission's (NCC) Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan is a land use plan under the Urban Lands Master Plan. It establishes a long-term planning framework for the riverfront park, which comprises 220 hectares along the southwest shore of the Ottawa River. The entire corridor is owned and managed by the NCC, and is part of the National Interest Land Mass. The plan establishes guidelines and sector plans to guide development projects and activities in the park for the next 50 years (2018–2068). A strategic environmental assessment of the plan was undertaken to determine the nature and scope of potential environmental effects caused by the implementation of the plan, as well as to enhance positive potential impacts and mitigate negative effects.

A preliminary scan assessed whether or not the plan's statements and guidelines would advance the objectives of three sustainability-related strategic plans, namely *Framing Our Future: A Plan for Sustainability and Resilience in Canada's Capital Region* (2012), the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (2016–2019), and *The Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067*. The results of this preliminary scan are provided below.

In terms of the Plan for Sustainability and Resilience in Canada's Capital Region, the plan contributes most to the goals of protecting and restoring green and natural systems, protecting water and managing infrastructure, nurturing culture and identity, supporting social development, and encouraging sustainable mobility, followed by the goals of managing growth and development, encouraging the construction of green energy buildings and the use of renewable energy, and building a responsible economy.

In terms of the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy, the plan contributes most to the goals of effective action on climate change, modern and resilient infrastructure, pristine lakes and rivers, sustainably managed lands and forests, healthy wildlife populations, connecting Canadians with nature, and safe and healthy communities.

In terms of the Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067, the plan contributes equally to the three goals of an inclusive and meaningful capital, a picturesque and natural capital, and a thriving and connected capital.

If the guidelines of the Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan are followed, and if measures are taken to avoid any detrimental impacts, the implementation of the plan can avoid potential negative impacts on some of the objectives of the Plan for Sustainability and Resilience in Canada's Capital Region,

namely protecting and restoring green and natural systems, and protecting water and managing infrastructure. Within the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy, negative impacts related within the goals of modern and resilient infrastructure, pristine lakes and rivers, sustainably managed lands and forests, and healthy wildlife populations can be mitigated. No negative impacts were identified within the Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067.

A series of public consultations was undertaken during the development of the Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan in order to determine the public's vision for the park and to obtain comments on the proposed principles, guidelines and sector plans within the overall plan. Upon reviewing the completed plan, the majority of participants in the public consultation (78 percent) were very satisfied or generally satisfied with the plan. The public's wishes for the park included the following:

- maintaining and conserving the natural environment with a focus on protecting wildlife habitat
- improving the pathway network and access to the river
- increasing access and to maintenance of winter trails
- maintaining safe access in areas prone to flooding.

Some participants felt that animation of the sites through events, facilities and services should be modest, and that events should be limited in order to maintain the tranquility of the site. Opinion was divided on whether there should be more or less parking, whether pathways should be segregated, or not, and whether or not traffic calming measures on the parkway should be introduced.

A detailed analysis compared the plan's vision, principles, objectives, and guidelines with biophysical, social and cultural valued environmental elements. It was found that the plan's vision would positively contribute to all the biophysical, social

and cultural valued environmental elements. The principles and objectives generally contribute positively or neutrally to the valued environmental elements. However, some may result in negative effects. For example, initiatives related to improving connectivity to and along the riverfront through redesigned, segregated Capital pathways, and improving safe public access to the shoreline have the potential to remove a portion of the park's green space and disturb riparian and aquatic habitats and hydrological functioning.

Of the specific guidelines, those that have the most potential to positively impact the biophysical valued elements are the plans listed in the sections entitled Natural Environment, and Hydrology and Stormwater Management. The following guidelines have the greatest potential to negatively impact the biophysical valued elements: Events, Programming and Amenities; Waterfront Improvements; Views and Vistas; Public Open Space; Sustainable Mobility, Access and Connections; and Winter Experience. However, the guidelines are meant to help limit and mitigate any potential negative impacts.

Within all the guidelines, no negative impacts on the social or cultural valued elements were identified, with the exception of some potential for negative impacts on the community environment from events that may be offset or balanced by the benefits to the community environment from increased accessibility to the park. Although many of the guidelines will have positive impacts on the valued social elements, very few potential positive impacts on the valued cultural elements were identified. Although the sector plans were not included in the scope of this strategic environmental assessment, in general, these plans meet the conditions set out in the guidelines section of the Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan.

The potential negative impacts of the implementation of the Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan can be mitigated by ensuring that the environmental effects of each individual project are analyzed, and that the guidelines for reducing negative impacts are followed.

- Specific mitigation measures include being highly selective when locating the various types of amenities (e.g. structures, shoreline steps and boat launches, benches, activity nodes) so that they are located outside of valued ecosystems and natural habitats.
- The plan should consider following approaches that use naturalization (e.g. coir logs, plantings of shrubs and plants, and so on) as a means of shoreline stabilization.
- Viewscape interventions should retain vegetative root structures, where possible, to limit soil erosion and filter overland runoff.
- The NCC should carefully program events to manage crowd size, and consider a site's carrying capacity when designing activity nodes.
- Visual and auditory buffers and careful site selection should be applied to limit the impact of events on neighbouring residents. Site areas should be continually reassessed to ensure that unintended negative impacts do not occur.
- Ecological integrity indicators could also be measured at various sites to establish a baseline and be used to monitor the integrity of the sites.
- All development projects and activities should be closely monitored to ensure that they are indeed implementing their proposed action plans and not undertaking actions that are contrary to the guidelines of the Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan.



## 7.6 APPENDIX 6 FEDERAL LAND USE APPROVAL



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION  
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

Canada

### APPROVAL

#### PROTECTED A

KEY INFORMATION		
File : CP2299-16741	IAMIS : 16741	Approval Date: July 23, 2018
Project : Federal Land Use Approval of the Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan		
Fees : None		
PROPONENT		
Lucie Bureau Director, Long Range Planning and Transportation Capital Planning Branch National Capital Commission 202-40, rue Elgin Ottawa, ON K1P 1C7 <a href="mailto:lucie.bureau@ncc-ccn.ca">lucie.bureau@ncc-ccn.ca</a>		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION		
<p>The <i>Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan</i> (the "Plan") provides a framework and direction for the continued revitalization of the southwest shoreline of Ottawa River. The Park consists of 220 hectares of publicly owned NIEM lands along the river between Mud Lake in the west and LeBreton Flats in the east. The Plan guides recreational development projects and activities on these lands and serves as a decision-making tool for federal land-use, design and transaction approvals. This plan falls under <i>Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017-2067</i> and the <i>Capital Urban Lands Plan (2015)</i> in the NCC's planning framework. This Plan is included among the Milestone projects identified in the <i>Plan for Canada's Capital</i>. The proposals contained in the Plan also reflect the NCC's strategic priorities including the objectives to offer public access and new connections to the shorelines and waterways, to modernize the NCC's planning framework and to be a value-added partner in support of Canada's Capital Region.</p> <p>The development of this Plan began in 2014 in parallel with the proposed westward extension of Light Rail Transit (LRT) along a 2.4km segment of the parkway riverfront corridor. An extensive public and stakeholder engagement process was implemented starting in May 2014 which continued until early 2018 with the release of the draft plan for public feedback.</p> <p><b>Plan Area</b> The area of the Plan includes the NCC-owned lands extending along the south shore of the Ottawa River from Mud Lake in the west to the LeBreton Flats in the east. It measures approximately 220 hectares over a 9km stretch along the Ottawa River's shoreline. The corridor contains natural landscapes and environmental areas, recreational amenities such as Westboro Beach, multiuse pathways, parks and picnic areas and scenic views of the river. The Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway, constructed between 1964 and 1967, is a two-directional four lane scenic route that is consistent with the recommendations of the Gréber Plan, designed to provide a pleasurable driving experience in a park-like setting.</p>		

#### Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park

##### Key Planning Principles and Vision

The Plan's vision is driven by a several planning principles including:

- Improved access and connectivity to the waterfront
- Priority to cyclists and pedestrians
- Integration within and between the sites with complementary uses and harmonious urban design
- Celebration of culture, heritage and art in decision-making
- Financial responsibility and proven affordability strategies
- Protection of green space and ecological assets
- Resilience to account for the effects of climate change on the park including infrastructure and landscapes
- To recognize changing demographics and evolving technologies as the Plan is implemented over the long-term

The Plan is based on the following vision: "A riverfront park that strengthens people's relationship with nature, as well as with the culture, beauty and spirit of the dynamic Ottawa River." The Plan then lays out four key roles for the lands comprising the study area:

- Protect, enhance and highlight the natural and scenic assets of the riverfront corridor
- Communicate the rich cultural and natural history of the Ottawa River, Canada's Capital and the riverfront corridor
- Facilitate a variety of all-season recreational opportunities and experiences for people of all ages
- Reconnect people with the river, and facilitate year-round access to the leisure opportunities that the parkway offers.

##### Strategies and Guidelines

The Plan identifies a number of integrated park components and elements that support the four key roles identified. For each, a series of strategies, guidelines and initiatives that are enumerated to identify steps that should be undertaken to achieve the plan's vision. The elements include the natural environment, hydrology and stormwater management, cultural elements, events / programming / amenities, waterfront improvements, views and vistas, landscape typologies, sustainable mobility / access / connections, and the winter experience. When considered together, these layered elements work in concert to achieve the desired public realm and experiential quality of the park.

##### Sector and Demonstration Plans

The Plan provides additional detail in the form of sector and node plans. The park lands are divided into four sectors. Each sector is described, challenges identified and a concept for each sector is defined. Specific recommendations for interventions are identified and referenced using a corresponding numbered map. Areas of particular interest within the sectors are identified as nodes. For each of the nine nodes, a detailed concept plan is provided with corresponding recommendations. Images and conceptual renderings are incorporated, that are intended to inspire proposed interventions as they are advanced to implement the Plan.

#### Plan Implementation

The *Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan* will take effect upon approval by the NCC Board of Directors. This approval will confirm the plan's effective date and establish conditions of the Plan's approval.

#### ANALYSIS

Level of Approval : 3

#### Other NCC Plans:

The Plan for Canada's Capital 2017-2067 (2017)  
Capital Urban Lands Plan (2015)

**National Interest Land Mass (NILM) :** Nearly all parcels within the study area are identified as part of the NILM Pre-contact Archaeological Potential : Low and Medium  
**Strategic Environmental Assessment:** The *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA, 2012) is not applicable to the *Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan*. However, in accordance with the Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals, a Strategic Environmental Assessment was completed in conjunction with the development of this Plan. The assessment concludes that, overall, it is expected that the implementation of the key policy directions of the Plan will have significant positive environmental and social impacts on Canada's Capital Region, provided that the guidelines in the plan are strictly followed with careful planning to ensure protection of sensitive environmental features.

Date of NCC Board of Directors approval : June 21, 2018

#### Analysis

In its analysis, the NCC has taken the following considerations into account:

- The *Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan* presents policy directions to guide land-use and development of the NCC lands south shore of the Ottawa River between Mud Lake in the west and LeBreton Flats in the east;
- The study area forms part of the NCC's urban lands portfolio;
- The *Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan* incorporates the recommendations contained in the *Mud Lake / Britannia Area Plan* (NCC, 2004);
- The *Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan* fulfills, in part, the NCC's mandate under sections 10 and 11 of the *National Capital Act*;
- The Plan provides additional guidance and detailed direction for the lands located within the study area; Generally, the Plan conforms to the policies of the *Capital Urban Lands Plan* (NCC, 2015) and the *Plan for Canada's Capital*;
- The *Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan* encompasses all NCC lands within the plan area;
- A Strategic Environmental Assessment was completed and concluded that the implementation of the *Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan* would result in significant positive environmental and social impacts on Canada's Capital Region
- The *Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan* has taken into account previous feedback and direction provided by the NCC's Board of Directors, the Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty, by federal and municipal partners, and by the public and other interest groups as part of the consultation processes.

#### APPROVAL AND CONDITIONS

FEDERAL LAND USE APPROVAL FOR THE OTTAWA RIVER SOUTH SHORE RIVERFRONT PARK PLAN IS HEREBY GRANTED, PURSUANT TO THE *NATIONAL CAPITAL ACT*, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

#### IMPLEMENTATION

- 1.1 An Action Plan identifying the priorities, the budgetary requirements and those responsible for implementing the various actions to carry out the Plan will be developed by the Capital Stewardship Branch in partnership with Capital Planning Branch and approved by the Executive Management Committee of the NCC.
- 1.2 The National Capital Commission including each respective branch will oversee the implementation of the *Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan* in accordance with their respective responsibilities identified in the Action Plan.

#### LAND USE AND DESIGN

- 2.1 The *Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan* shall be the document that provides detailed planning guidance for the federal lands within the study area. The Plan will guide development projects and activities on federal lands as well as a federal land use, design and real estate transaction approval decisions.
- 2.2 The day-to-day administration of requests for the use of federal lands and the continuing implementation of the Plan will be conducted through the Federal Land Use, Design and Transaction Approval process. All proposals affecting lands within the study that require a Federal Land Use, Design and/or Transaction Approval will be reviewed in conformity with the objectives and policies of the Plan.
- 2.3 If any inconsistencies or contradictions between the *Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan* and the *Capital Urban Lands Plan* (NCC, 2015) or *Canada's Capital Core Area Sector Plan* (NCC, 2005), the *Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan* shall prevail.
- 2.4 Any proposals for amendment to the *Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan* shall be submitted to the Executive Director, Capital Planning for review and, when satisfactory, federal approval. Depending on the scale of the proposed amendment, public consultations may be required, and should respect the appropriate public engagement policies.
- 2.5 All future plans, federal or other, within the study area must be submitted to the Capital Planning Branch for review and if satisfactory, separate approval. The NCC's participation in provincial and municipal planning processes will be consistent with the vision, roles and policies of this Plan.
- 2.6 The NCC shall provide the approved Plan to its partners (e.g., federal, provincial and municipal) for information purposes, and so as to ensure that the maximum harmonization with the Plan can be achieved with their respective policies and plans.

#### ENVIRONMENT

- 3.1 A Strategic Environmental Assessment was completed in conjunction with the development of this Plan. All projects undertaken on federal lands within the National Capital Region will, when applicable, be subject to the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) and any other pertinent federal acts and policies.



## 7.7 APPENDIX 7

### HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- 4.1 As part of the Federal Approval review process, the NCC will implement federal policies on federal heritage buildings and sites, as amended from time to time, and seek advice from the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office, when required.
- 4.2 As part of the Federal Approval review process, the NCC will ensure that best practices regarding the management of cultural resources, notably archaeological and paleontological resources, are considered.
- 4.3 On NCC lands and for NCC projects, NCC corporate policies and guidelines regarding heritage buildings, archaeology and other cultural resources will be implemented.

### MONITORING OF LAND-USE, DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- 5.1 The monitoring of the conditions of this approval will be completed through the Federal Approval process, as well as through the implementation of the Action Plan.

### REAL ESTATE CONDITIONS

- 6.1 All realty transactions that require federal approval under the *National Capital Act* such as, but not limited to land disposals, easements or other realty transactions, will be reviewed for conformity with the *Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan* prior to their approval.
- 6.2 All NCC realty proposals, such as leases and licenses of occupation, will be reviewed for conformity with the *Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan*, prior to the granting of approvals according to internal NCC procedures.

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT**

The Proponent acknowledges and understands that the NCC is subject to the provisions of the *Access to Information Act* and may, as a result of a request under that Act, be required to release this Approval, or any other documents arising out of, or related to, this Approval.

**AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE**

 2018/07/23  
 Daniel Champagne, Executive Director, Capital Planning Date (YYYY/MM/DD)

c.c. : Sylvie Lalonde  
 Arto Keklikian  
 Sandra Cardow  
 Martin Barakengera

### REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan (NCC, 2018)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment - Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan
- Public Construction Report - Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan

### GLOSSARY

#### Action

A specific initiative or program undertaken in order to address a defined management issue. An action requires proactive effort, and results in a product or outcome that contributes to meeting the strategic directions articulated through the vision, goals and policy statements.

#### Active mobility

Any form of human-powered transportation.

#### Activity node

Activity and service points along the green space network, including the parkway's riverfront parks and shorelines as identified in the plan.

#### At-grade crossing

Walking and cycling path crossings of a roadway or parkway with electronic signals warning for motorists at the grade crossing location.

#### Boardwalk

Elevated, floating pathway that accommodates low-speed cycling and walking primarily over the waterfront landscape, and can offer opportunities for bird and wildlife viewing.

#### Boat launches and docks

Elevated or floating platforms that provide an opportunity to get onto the water. They can serve as mooring or put-in/take-out locations for small, non-motorized watercraft, or fishing locations.

#### Buffer zone

A piece of land that alleviates the adverse effects on one area by the use of another. Often, an open green space adjacent to a natural feature, serving as an additional protection from roads or urban development.

#### Capital Pathway

A network of multi-use paths in Canada's Capital Region, primarily owned and managed by the NCC. It is used by various types of active mobility modes, including cycling and walking. A segment of the Capital Pathway, known as the Ottawa River Pathway, is located within the study area of this plan.

#### **Capital urban green space**

Land designation (Capital Urban Lands Plan) includes a broad range of open green spaces and parks.

#### **Conservation**

A series of actions taken to affect long-term protection of a resource, which also includes research and education. The plan looks at two types of conservation: heritage conservation and conservation of natural environments. Heritage conservation includes treatment and preventative care of a resource.

Conservation of the natural environment includes managing a resource and protecting species, habitats and ecosystems.

#### **Context-sensitive approach**

Consideration of a site's potentials and constraints, including physical, environmental, historical and social elements that are taken into account in planning and design.

#### **Critical root zone**

The root area of a tree that needs to be protected from damage. It is the measurement of the land area within a radius of 10 cm from the trunk of a tree for every one centimetre of trunk diameter.

#### **Cultural heritage**

A trace, tangible or not, from those who came before. Its value can be attributed to past, present or future generations. The heritage value may have many factors, such as historical association; architectural, landscape or environmental importance; the continued uses over time; and its integrity. The heritage character can be expressed in many ways, such as its character-defining materials, forms, location, spatial configuration, uses, and cultural associations or meanings. (Source: *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, 2nd Edition, 2010)

#### **Cultural landscape**

As defined by UNESCO, "Combined works of nature and humankind, [cultural landscapes] express a long and intimate relationship between peoples and their natural environment." Cultural landscapes show the evolution of a land, and are expressed in natural, rural and urban environments that form part of the legacy of this capital. They represent one of the most defining heritage features of the Capital, and are part of the tangible cultural heritage.

#### **Development**

The process of erecting, altering, extending built assets, or changing the use of built assets or infrastructure.

#### **Diplomatic mission**

A diplomatic mission is a foreign country representation to Canada's Capital. It is a location to obtain services and information about other countries. Diplomatic missions include embassies, high commissions, chancelleries and diplomatic residences.

#### **Distinctive trees**

Trees of particular intrinsic value as a result of unique or special characteristics, such as age, location, size, appearance, species variety/rarity or other valuable characteristics.

#### **Dynamic view**

Where there is an unfolding sequence of views of the subject from the parkway or a pathway, sometimes clearly seen, sometimes obscured for a while and revealed again later.

#### **Event space**

An open area equipped with infrastructure and adequate space capable of accommodating a particular type and size of event. It is assumed that for the duration of the event, regular public use of the site will be restricted.

#### **Flood event**

There are various scales of flood events that carry with them various risks of damage to people and property:

- 100-year flood is a major flood, which has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year
- 50-year flood has a 2 percent chance of occurring in any given year
- 20-year flood has a 5 percent chance of occurring in any given year
- 5-year flood has a 20 percent chance of occurring in any given year

#### **Flood plain**

A low-lying area near watercourses that is naturally subject to flooding. The Province of Ontario has established regulatory flood levels which, in this part of Ontario, is the 1:100-year flood event. For the purposes of the management and design of the riverfront park infrastructure, such as pathways and parking lots, the 1:20-year flood event is used.

#### **Gateway**

An arrival point having distinctive, identifiable landscape markers that signal the entry into the park and that identify the park's character.

#### **Guiding principle**

A strategic direction or principle for achieving the stated policy, strategy or vision.

#### **Habitat**

An area where an organism lives, where it finds food, shelter, where it can reproduce and so on.

- **Aquatic habitat:** A habitat in areas that are permanently or occasionally covered by water.





- **Meadow habitat:** A field habitat vegetated by grass and other non-woody plants. Meadows are important, because they are open, sunny areas that attract and support plants, animals and insects that could not thrive in other conditions.
- **Riparian habitat:** An area of thick vegetation cover, such as shrubs, vines, trees and grasses, that runs along a riverbank. It is an important habitat for several species such as birds that build their nests in areas away from their predators, and small mammals that can take shelter in the thick plant cover. Some animals use the vegetation as an important source of food.
- **Woodland habitat:** A mostly treed area that is more open than forest, since it has spaces where light can penetrate between the trees. Woodlands vary depending on the dominant tree species within it and the spacing between the trees. Depending on the amount of light reaching the ground, there will be a variety of other plants at ground level within woodland, such as ferns, mosses, herbs, grasses and shrubs.

#### **Hydrologic management**

Methods implemented to resolve water problems such as quality, quantity and availability.

#### **Interactive elements**

Anything that requires the user to act. These elements turn passive users into active participants.

#### **Impervious surface**

Artificial structures, including pavements (roads, sidewalks, driveways and parking lots), rooftops and other surfaces that are covered by impenetrable materials such as asphalt, concrete, brick or stone.

#### **Invasive species**

Flora and fauna that are non-native to an area and that adversely affect the habitats they invade. They disrupt existing natural systems by dominating an area.

#### **Land stewardship**

Responsible planning and management of lands to achieve a desired outcome for NCC lands that is consistent with the policies and guidelines.

#### **Landscape typology**

A classification tool used to distinguish the (mostly physical) characteristics and patterns found within a given area. Landscape typology has a direct effect on the diversity of opportunities offered on public lands.

#### **Lookout**

Spaces or structure projections that provide opportunities to appreciate the visual connection to the water's edge and the experience of being "over" the water.

#### **Management best practice**

The best method or means by which natural resources are protected during development or construction, as recognized by the appropriate industry. For example, measures designed to minimize the impacts on water quality from land development, such as erosion control, preserving natural vegetation and on-site stormwater detention to filter pollutants.

#### **Multi-use pathway**

Pathways forming part of the NCC's regional pathway network and serving a variety of user types, including walkers, runners, cyclists and other non-automotive modes, on a shared surface.

#### **Native plants**

Plants that naturally exist in the park. They may have existed for many years in the Capital area.

#### **Non-native plants**

Plants that have been introduced into the Capital area either on purpose or by accident.

#### **Observation tower**

A raised structure that provides dramatic panoramic views from an elevated perspective.

#### **Park facilities and amenities**

Public infrastructure such as service buildings, washrooms, outdoor furnishings, water fountains and so on that support the use and public enjoyment of the park space.

#### **Park space**

Public lands providing recreational, environmental and general public enjoyment benefits. Park space may take many different forms, from natural to urban in context.

#### **Parkway**

A limited access and lower-speed roadway in a park or landscaped/naturalized setting that connects parks, and from which trucks and commercial vehicles are excluded.

#### **Pathway**

A route intended for active mobility (such as running, walking or cycling). In the context of the plan, pathways are user-specific and segregated, based on the differential in terms of the speed of the various users.

#### **Placemaking**

The act or intention to create unique places that will attract people as a result of being pleasurable, interesting and context-sensitive.

#### **Policy**

A statement that commits the NCC to taking a consistent course of action over the short, medium and long term.

#### **River walk**

The portion of pathways dedicated to enjoyment of the scenery by pedestrians in proximity and parallel to the river's edge.

**Services**

A facility or action provided on behalf of the NCC for park users. Examples include washrooms, water fountains, pathways, snowplowing and landscape maintenance.

**Staging area**

An area used on a temporary basis to stage equipment or supplies in order to host events or conduct works.

**Steps**

A terraced shoreline providing access to the water's edge. They can be used as a place for informal seating, fishing or non-motorized boat launch.

**Stormwater management**

Stormwater comes from rain, ice and snowmelt events. It runs into streets, lawns and other areas. Stormwater management is a series of actions and physical interventions that aim to reduce this runoff (by providing opportunities for it to be absorbed into the ground) and to improve its water quality before it empties into a waterbody like streams and rivers or into wetlands.

**Sustainable mobility**

A range of measures that allow people to travel in an efficient and eco-friendly way.

**Sustainable transportation**

A transportation system that allows the basic access needs of individuals and groups to be met safely and in a manner consistent with human and environmental health.

**Traffic calming**

A variety of measures designed to make roads safer, for example, making them narrower or placing obstacles in them, so that drivers are required to slow down.

**Universal access**

Designing sites and providing services in a way that enables people the opportunity to experience the park.

**Valued natural habitat**

Habitat that is considered important for the maintenance of biodiversity due to the combination of some of the following characteristics: a large diversity of species, habitat for species at risk and/or migratory species, and intact natural processes to support increased genetic diversity.

**Vegetation strategy**

Landscape planning and design that provide a well-orchestrated, scenic and dynamic experience for visitors.

**Viewshed**

The scene or area that is visible from a specific vantage point, including the foreground, middle ground and background.

**Vision**

A guiding statement that sets the tone for long-term planning and development. It is intentionally broad in scope to have longevity, and provide a frame of reference and reminder of the spirit and intent of a plan.

**Water trail**

A water-based recreational route consisting of paddling and portage segments to allow public enjoyment.

**Wayfinding**

The set of architectural or design elements that aid orientation.

