



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park

PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT
DECEMBER 2021

Canada

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1. Project description

1.1. Background

The National Capital Commission (NCC) has begun a three-year planning process for the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park. The area of focus is a 13-kilometre stretch of federal lands along the south shore of the Ottawa River. The study area is made up of 600 hectares of land, comprising the parkway, trails, and a mix of public and private recreational space. The area extends from Rideau Hall at Princess Avenue at its westernmost end to the end of the parkway in the Greenbelt at St. Joseph Boulevard at its easternmost end. Offering a variety of landscapes, from farmers' fields to limestone cliffs, the area connects users to some of the Capital's most scenic views, and is currently enjoyed as a place for visitors to appreciate the beauty of nature. The NCC hopes to compliment the current use of the park and improve elements that presently do not meet public needs or aspirations.

Planning for the Capital park is consistent with the NCC's planning priorities of enhancing the shoreline, placemaking and animating the Capital for all users. This priority works in concert with the NCC's role as steward of federal lands in the National Capital Region.

The area is regarded as a signature feature and a central element in the building of a lively Capital. As steward of federal lands in the National Capital Region, the NCC is responsible for protecting and preserving the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park for all Canadians. This is a responsibility that is not taken lightly, as the study area runs along a designated heritage river and historically significant landmark in the Capital: the Ottawa River.

1.2. Project overview

The NCC has just completed the first round of public consultation. The goal of this round is to support the planning work centred on developing the vision and guiding principles for the riverfront park. This consultation was the first step in helping develop the framework for the planning, management and use of the riverfront lands that comprise the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park. The hope is for the public to be involved at the onset of the planning process and to play a significant role shaping the framework to best meet the needs and expectations for the area.

The planning process will take approximately three years. There are five phases of the project, and public consultations will occur at four key times during this process. The projected dates for the future engagements include fall 2022, spring 2023 and spring 2024.

Additional information about the project, including planning objectives, process and timeline, and the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park Plan workshop presentation can be found on the NCC's website via the link provided below.

[Sir George-Étienne Cartier Park Plan on the NCC's website](#)

2. Public consultation process

2.1. Overview

More than 650 individuals took part in this first round of public consultation, which took place in early December 2021. The consultation included activities such as an online web page to share information, an online questionnaire and online public consultation event, as well as stakeholder and public advisory committee (PAC) meetings to gather feedback on the project.

The online questionnaire was hosted on the QuestionPro platform between December 2, 2021, and December 16, 2021; an online public consultation event was held on December 2, 2021, via Microsoft Teams; a PAC meeting was held on November 30, 2021; the stakeholder meeting was held on February 23, 2022, via Microsoft Teams. We continue to conduct outreach and research to identify additional stakeholders to engage.

Similar content was presented to the public and stakeholders through the online questionnaire, such content included background information followed by a series of questions.

In the meetings, the discussion focused on answering questions about the project and gathering feedback on the opportunities, concerns and aspirations in relation to the planning opportunities, as well as information about the challenges for this area.

Participants were invited to share feedback via an online questionnaire on different aspects of the project. The full questionnaire is included in Appendix A.

Participants were also given the option of providing feedback via email, or by calling the NCC's client services.

The public consultation was promoted through a paid digital advertising campaign. An email invitation to participate in the online consultation was sent to the NCC's public engagement newsletter subscriber list. A similar invitation was also sent to a targeted list of stakeholders.

This interactive consultation process includes NCC engagement with Indigenous partners, a public advisory committee, the general public and other stakeholders to collect feedback at each key milestone.

2.2. Consultation objectives

This first round of public consultation on the planning process allowed the project team to share information with the public, stakeholders and PAC members, as well as to gather feedback on opportunities, issues, proposed vision, values and aspirations for enjoyment of the area by future generations.

In this round of consultation, we did the following:

- shared the proposed planning framework for the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park with members of the general public, PAC and stakeholder groups
- provided further details on existing conditions, opportunities and challenges, proposed visions and principles
- gathered feedback and comments related to concerns about and aspirations for the riverfront park

2.3. Dates

Public Advisory Committee meeting

- November 30, 2021

Online consultation

- December 2 to 16, 2021

Stakeholder meeting

- February 23, 2022

Meetings continue to be organized through follow-ups and discussions with stakeholders and the PAC.

3. Consultation procedure and tools

3.1. Public Advisory Committee meeting

The PAC meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams. It featured a presentation by the project team, followed by a question-and-discussion period. An NCC staff member took notes throughout the meeting. The PAC is composed of representatives from a range of local community and stakeholder groups with an interest in the development of the park.

PAC members provided input on the following core themes related to the vision and planning principles:

- sustainability and physical environment (natural environment, conservation, landscape, views and scenic areas)
- transportation (mobility, access and connections)
- culture and heritage (arts, culture and heritage)
- recreational and leisure activities (cycling and walking, skiing and boating)
- economic development and tourism

3.2. Online consultation

The online consultation contained three parts. The first directed participants to a page on the NCC website which provided the following:

- the project's background functional requirements and schedules
- a video highlighting the historical context of the study area
- objectives for the current round of public consultation
- intentions for the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park plan

Participants were invited to complete an online questionnaire on the QuestionPro survey platform about different aspects of the project, including the following:

- opportunities for the Riverfront Park
- issues with the existing conditions
- vision and values
- how they hoped the park would be enjoyed by future generations
- additional comments or concerns about the project

The full questionnaire is included in Appendix A.

Members of the general public were also invited to take part in an online public consultation event via Microsoft Teams about the same aspects of the project as listed above. Participants were divided into discussion groups to talk about the planning process in greater detail. This interactive bilingual exercise consisted of seven smaller discussion groups, six in English and one in French.

Participants were also given the option of providing feedback via email, or by calling the NCC's client services.

3.3. Stakeholder meeting

A meeting with stakeholders was held virtually via the Microsoft Teams platform. This meeting featured a presentation on the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park project, which included the following information:

- background information about the riverfront park project
 - introduction to the plan
 - existing conditions
 - opportunities and challenges
 - proposed vision and principles
 - project timeline
- public consultation: opportunities, issues, proposed vision and hopes for future enjoyment of the park

This was followed by an informal discussion period where stakeholders were asked to provide the following: feedback on the opportunities and challenges, three words they would hope to see in the vision, and a description of how they hoped the park would be enjoyed in the future. It also included a question-and-answer session.

4. Invitation and promotion

4.1. Public Advisory Committee meeting: November 2021

A call of interest to join the Public Advisory Committee was sent during the first week of November 2021. This initial communication also indicated that the first meeting would be on November 30, 2021.

A call of interest was sent to 11 people, nine of whom confirmed their interest in joining the public advisory committee. These members were identified as representing the following key areas of interest:

- sustainability and physical environment (natural environment, landscape and vegetation, views and scenic vistas)
- transportation (mobility, access and connections)
- culture and heritage (arts, culture and heritage, including the Franco-Ontarian culture)
- recreational and leisure activities (cycling, walking, skiing, boating and so on)
- economic development and tourism

A reminder message was sent on November 26, 2021, to confirm the meeting date and provide members with the link for the online meeting.

Another follow-up message was sent on the day of the event (November 30, 2022), with the link for the online meeting.

4.2. Online consultation: December 2021

An email invitation to participate in the online consultation was sent to more than 6,504 individuals and organizations on the NCC's public engagement newsletter subscriber lists, which includes members of the general public registered to receive news and updates about public consultations.

The invitation to take part in the consultation was sent to the subscriber list on November 19, 2021, and a reminder was sent on December 2, 2021, with a link to connect to the online event.

A paid digital advertising campaign was used throughout the duration of the online consultation. The promotional campaign for the online consultation generated over 220,000 impressions. The following platforms were used to launch the campaign:

- *Le Droit*
- *Ottawa Citizen*

4.3. Stakeholder meetings: February 2022

Invitations to meetings were sent to 14 stakeholders. These stakeholders were identified as being directly impacted by the project and include groups such as National Research Council Canada, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and representatives from various sectors of activities at the City of Ottawa, among others. The full list is as follows:

- Canada Aviation and Space Museum
- Canada Lands Company
- City of Ottawa (invited divisions)
 - Environment
 - Infrastructure
 - Public Realm and Urban Design
 - Recreation
 - Robert O. Pickard Environmental Centre
 - Transportation — Pathways
- Montfort Hospital
- National Research Council Canada
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police, National Headquarters Assets Management
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- Rockcliffe Flying Club

The individual invitations were sent out on February 8, 2022. Follow-ups were conducted on February 22 and 23, 2022, where participants were given a link to connect to the online meeting.

5. Participants

5.1. Public Advisory Committee meeting: November 2021

A total of nine participants representing the following organizations took part in the PAC meeting:

- Alliance pour les espaces verts de la capitale du Canada
- Manor Park Community Association
- New Edinburgh Community Alliance
- Ottawa New Edinburgh Club
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- Rockcliffe Park Residents' Association
- Rothwell Heights Property Owners Association
- Ski Heritage East
- Société franco-ontarienne du patrimoine et de l'histoire d'Orléans (SFOPHO)

The Public Advisory Committee is guided by terms of reference for the length of the project.

5.2. Online consultation: December 2021

- A total of 523 respondents from the general public took part in the online questionnaire, 293 of whom completed the questionnaire from start to finish.
- A total of 46 respondents from the general public who took part in the online public consultation event.

5.3. Stakeholder meetings: February 2022

A total of seven participants representing the following organizations attended the stakeholder meetings:

- Canada Aviation and Space Museums
- Montfort Hospital
- Parks and Facility Planning, City of Ottawa
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- Transportation Planning, City of Ottawa
- Urban Design, City of Ottawa

6. Findings and integration of results

6.1. Public Advisory Committee

The NCC created a Public Advisory Committee to collaborate with the public in an ongoing and formal way throughout the project. The main purpose of the committee is to provide advice and guidance based on the committee members' experience and use of the green space or their technical knowledge, to assist the NCC with the development of the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park Plan. PAC members are invited to share their questions and provide feedback throughout the main stages of the planning process (i.e. the vision, land use concept, and development of policies and strategies).

PAC members were invited to share their hopes for the riverfront park, given their unique perspectives and expertise. The feedback focuses on both opportunities and potential issues. A summary of the comments is included below.

Opportunities

Most comments focused on economic development and opportunities in terms of tourism, honouring the Indigenous heritage of the park and improving the active mobility infrastructure. The opportunities are detailed below.

- There is an opportunity to develop infrastructure that supports the current recreational spaces and tourist destinations while encouraging economic development and tourism (e.g. the NCC River House, formerly the National Capital River Pavilion and the Ottawa River Boathouse).
- There is an opportunity to honour Indigenous heritage as a fundamental component of the project with commemorative elements integrated in the park.
- There is an opportunity to further animate the river by offering rental equipment for water sports. It was specified that this should not include jet ski rentals due to safety concerns.
- The new riverfront park plan could encourage active use of the park by improving the active mobility infrastructure. This could be done by addressing safety risks related to combined uses of the space (e.g. by separating the pathway based on use, or widening shoulders).

Issues

Other PAC members focused their attention on the issues that users may currently face in the area. These concerns were largely centred around limited community access, timelines of the project, safety and the environment. The potential issues are detailed below:

- Access to the parkway is limited to local communities due to insufficient crosswalks and speeding limits (e.g. Manor Park, Beacon Hill).
- Concerns over the time required for planning, and timing of the implementation of the new park plan.
- A need to integrate greater access points across the length of the riverfront park to improve public access and use of the river. Easy access is currently limited to members of various private businesses or organizations, like the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club.
- There is currently insufficient lighting and monitoring of safety concerns related to the parking lots along the riverfront park.
- There is a need to address the deterioration of the park's natural environment and habitat and to invest in conservation efforts (e.g. focused on wildlife and promoting plant pollination).

General feedback including questions and answers

Part of the discussion was dedicated to answering questions as PAC members familiarized themselves with the details and broader implications of the project. Members were also asked to think about specific words they would like to see in the vision and how they felt the park would be enjoyed by future generations. The discussion focused on some recurring themes, including preserving the natural environment, water-based recreation, rehabilitation and education. The comments are detailed below.

- Balance development goals with preservation efforts (i.e. make enhancements to the space without taking away the feeling of being in nature).
- Consider animating the river with commercial boat trips, recreational sailing, rowing and paddling.
- Examine the requirements and costs of the rehabilitation of the beacon in the river, north of the Beacon Hill neighbourhood, and work toward its reconstruction.
- Include some educational elements in the park about native plant species found in the area.

6.2. Stakeholder meetings

The workshops were organized to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to discuss the plans for the riverfront park with the project team. Here, stakeholders could share questions and provide feedback on the opportunities and issues, and share their thoughts on how the park could be used by future generations.

Stakeholders were invited to share how the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park Plan might impact them, their business or community. The feedback focuses on both opportunities and potential issues. A summary of the feedback is included below.

Opportunities

Most comments focused on the opportunities that could be created by the park plan, including opportunities to better integrate a variety of transportation options, improve river access, achieve greater involvement of Indigenous partners in the planning process and increased promotion of Indigenous culture, as well as increased connectivity with local parks, trails and additional public spaces. The opportunities are detailed below:

- This process provides the opportunity to plan for better integration of a variety of transportation options (e.g. active, public and vehicle transportation).
- The development of the riverfront park plan provides the opportunity to address conflicting interests and create a better balance between the two, that is, providing unimpeded access to the river and promoting conservation efforts and minimizing potential negative environmental impacts.
- The creation of this new plan provides an opportunity to partner with Indigenous communities in a meaningful way on the planning and development of this project.
- This new project provides the opportunity to improve connectivity between the study area and the neighbouring parks and trail networks.

Issues

Other stakeholders focused their attention on existing issues they had identified which they thought should be addressed in the new plan, including a public access to the trail networks, integration with the City of Ottawa's and Ville de Gatineau's public transportation network, and the potential safety concerns identified in the region around soil stability and flooding. The potential issues are as follows:

- insufficient access points to the trail network in the study area and the need to improve integration between existing trail networks
- poor access to the park by users without vehicles, and insufficient integration with the wider public transportation network in the City of Ottawa and Ville de Gatineau
- safety risks related to soil stability, which could be made worse by large gatherings, and require additional maintenance of the pathways (i.e. in instances of severe flooding or landslides)

General feedback, including questions and answers

While engaging with the material, stakeholders expressed their thoughts and questions as they arose. The discussions focused on some recurring themes, including City of Ottawa plans and policies that could impact the study area, such as planning for a new park in the neighbouring area, and if the development of the project will have an impact on the hospital. The comments and questions are detailed below:

- There is a need to collaborate with the City of Ottawa on plans and policies relating to federally owned parkways, green spaces and transportation. This could provide better alignment between federally owned and city-owned lands.
- There is a need to take into account the risks identified in the City of Ottawa's New Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan, which highlight areas that could potentially be or become hazardous because of events like flooding, among others. These potential impacts should be considered in the development of the new riverfront park plan.
- The planning of Kishkabika Park has begun, which has the potential to provide opportunities for collaboration related to a future community centre and public washrooms. The proposed park is located north of Hemlock Road and west of Codd's Road.
- Stakeholders wondered whether the development of the riverfront park would have an impact on the Montfort Hospital. To which the project team replied that the hospital is located beyond the scope of the study area which ends on Hemlock street.

6.3. Online consultation

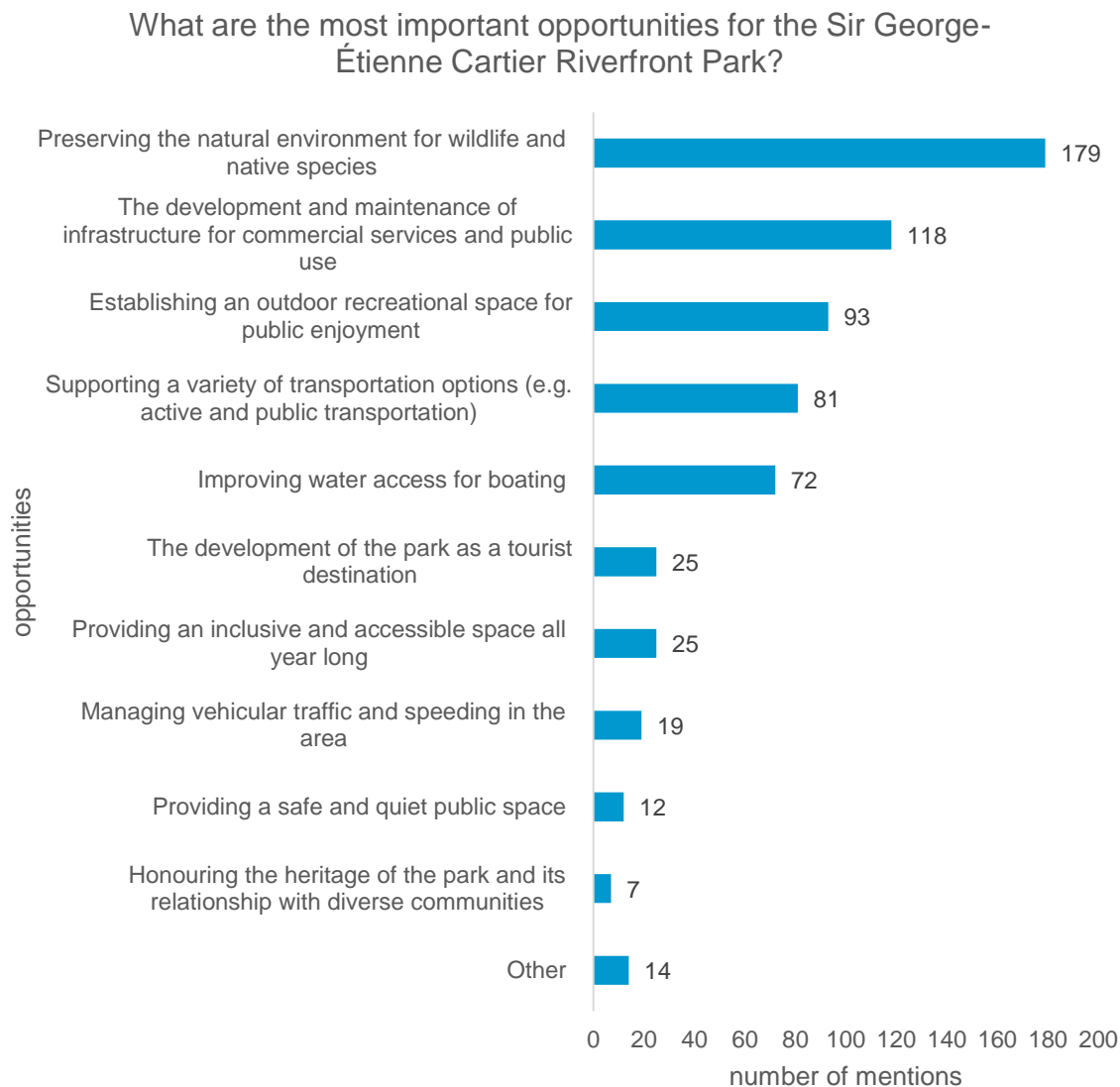
Involving the public in interactive engagement activities increased enthusiasm for the planning of the riverfront park. Here, the public had a say in the initial planning process and what they would like to see in the National Capital Region. They were able to identify anticipated opportunities, potential issues, as well as values and the vision they would like to see reflected in the new Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park. The passionate responses by the general public are summarized below. Sample comments from the questionnaire are included in Appendix B.

The survey comments and feedback received during the online event have been integrated in the summary below.

Opportunities

After learning more about the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park planning process and timeline, respondents were asked a series of questions in which they could reflect on how changes to the park could impact them and their community. Respondents were asked about what they felt were the greatest opportunities presented by the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park. Here, respondents had the opportunity to think innovatively about what future improvements could look like.

Chart 1: The chart below illustrates the responses from 279 respondents.



The most frequently made comment was about preserving the natural habitat for wildlife of native species (179 mentions). Respondents were concerned about the current ecological conditions of the site and thought overdevelopment could be a risk to the future of the green space. Respondents asked that the project team strike a balance between open green space and leisure. Some saw an opportunity to celebrate the pre-existing natural beauty, with dedicated observation stations for bird and wildlife watching.

The development and maintenance of infrastructure for commercial services and public use was also mentioned by many (118 mentions). Most of those interested in commercial development underscored the need to build additional public washrooms and parking. Commercial development was a divisive subject, as some participants looked forward to the opportunity to visit the park's potential bistros, coffee shops and restaurants, while others indicated that these amenities could come at the expense of protecting green space.

Establishing an outdoor recreational space for public enjoyment was the third most frequently mentioned opportunity (93 mentions). Respondents highlighted the opportunity to provide a family-friendly environment that could offer a comfortable space for all visitors to enjoy and engage in various outdoor activities. Expanding upon the idea of having a recreational space, some respondents noted that they wanted to maintain the existing tennis facilities near parking lot P3 and the River House. Others highlighted the need to enjoy various outdoor recreational activities in all seasons. Some examples include team sport activities, rowing, skiing, snowshoeing, tennis and walking.

Some respondents saw that the opportunity for a park that is better suited to support a variety of transportation options (81 mentions). These options were focused primarily on active and public transportation. Many thought that the cycling infrastructure could be improved by widening and paving pathways to support multiple uses such as hiking, cycling and dog walking. Respondents mentioned that improved connections from the city-owned road network need to go beyond vehicles to include public transportation or a free shuttle bus. This was said to potentially help provide visitors with access to and inside the park.

Some mentioned that access to the waterfront could be improved, and suggested reopening the River House. Others who wanted improved access to the river (72 mentions) saw an opportunity to address water safety and boating traffic on the water, and provide access to various points along the river for boating and fishing.

The development of the park as a tourist destination with scenic views for the public to enjoy (25 mentions) received the same number of mentions as providing an inclusive and accessible space all year long (25 mentions). Both opportunities relate to the continued public enjoyment of the space.

Improving the management of traffic congestion and speeding in the area garnered interest by some respondents who were concerned primarily about safety (19 mentions). A smaller number of respondents mentioned the importance of a park that is a safe and quiet public space for all users (12 mentions). These comments expanded on previous concerns related to providing adequate lighting and considering the unique risk factors that impact diverse communities.

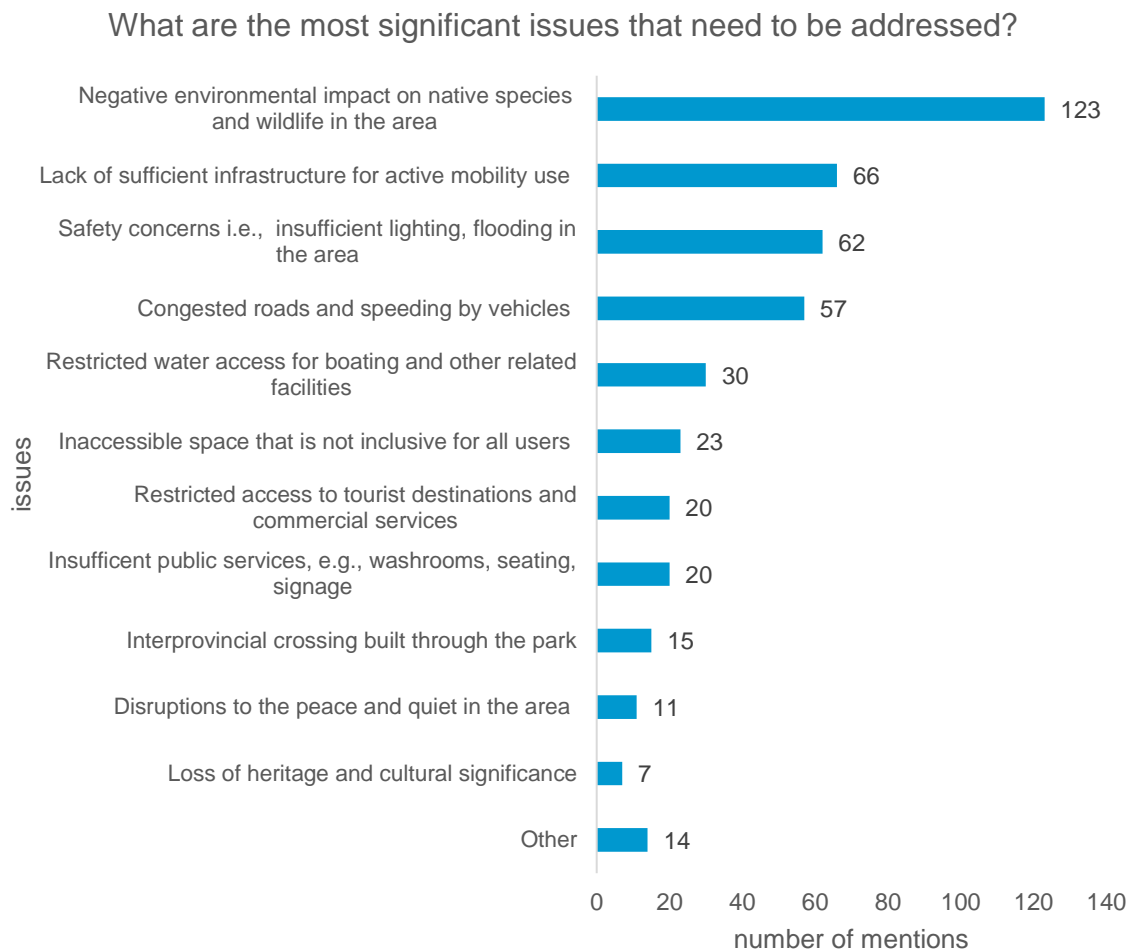
Honouring the heritage of the park and its relationship with Indigenous peoples garnered 7 mentions. Respondents noted the opportunity to commemorate Indigenous history and use of the river, while mentioning the importance of working in partnership with Indigenous peoples.

The other category captures comments that were not related to opportunities for the riverfront park (14 mentions). This category also includes comments referenced fewer than five times by respondents. Some examples include educational materials to inform the public about the use of the land and the local environment. A few respondents mentioned an opportunity to build an interprovincial crossing at Kettle Island or Lower Duck Island.

Issues

Next, respondents turned their attentions to the issues that they had identified as most pressing in the study area: those that they believe negatively affect them and their communities. The chart below shows the most frequently mentioned issues they would like the project team to address.

Chart 2: The chart below illustrates the answers from 273 respondents.



Mirroring the opportunity section, most respondents were concerned about the negative environmental impact on native species and wildlife in the area (123 mentions). This topic received nearly twice as many mentions as the next issue area. Respondents highlighted the importance of sustainability and the need to mitigate negative environmental impacts.

The second most mentioned topic was the lack of sufficient infrastructure for active mobility use (66 mentions). The park provides space for active mobility. However, many noted that the current pathways fail to provide adequate room for both cyclists and pedestrians.

Some respondents noted safety concerns such as insufficient lighting and flooding in the area (62 mentions). Of those mentions, some comments highlighted that inadequately lit areas may uniquely impact women and other disenfranchised individuals. Others also had concerns over the risk of flooding in the area and the negative impact that this could have on the safety of those who seek to use the park, and specifically the pathway along the river's edge.

Respondents who saw an opportunity to improve the flow of traffic highlighted congested roads as being a major issue for those who are seeking access to the park. Another concern they identified related to vehicles is speeding (57 mentions).

Concern over limited or restricted access frequently came up regarding water access for boating and other water-related activities and facilities (30 mentions). These activities include speeding by recreational motorized boats on the river. This was related to safety concerns where paddlers and rowers are competing with motorized boats for space on the river.

Restricted access to tourist destinations and commercial services that are already existing in the area was mentioned by users who want to continue to enjoy destination spots in the area (20 mentions). Some examples include the Canada Aviation and Space Museum, Rockcliffe Flying Club and Yacht Club, and neighbouring parks and restaurants. Separately, respondents indicated that additional elements needed to be accounted for when considering the inclusiveness of the park. For some, this meant the need to increase access to the park for users with reduced mobility (23 mentions). Other respondents indicated that the space did not adequately meet public needs, for example, insufficient public washrooms, seating, or adequate interpretation or directional signage (wayfinding) (20 mentions).

Others mentioned their concern about disruptions that could impact the park from the construction of an interprovincial crossing (15 mentions). This included access and enjoyment of the park, noise during the construction period and additional traffic. A smaller number of respondents were concerned that development of the park would result in animation that could disturb the general peace and quiet in the area (11 mentions).

Some noted that the river's cultural significance to Indigenous peoples could be compromised by the development of the area, and asked the project team to honour the heritage of the area and traditional Indigenous land uses (7 mentions). This point is further elaborated upon in the Indigenous considerations section on page 20.

The other category captures comments that were not related to potential issues for the riverfront park (14 mentions). This category also includes comments referenced fewer than five times by respondents. Some examples include the lack of public awareness of the appropriate use of the space, a public consultation process that lacks transparency, the negative impacts on neighbouring communities and residents, and, finally, the cost and timing of the project.

Vision of the park plan

We asked respondents to think big and creatively when it came to the future of the park. The next question was a planning exercise where participants were able to express how they saw the area being enjoyed in the future, and to identify the three key words they would like to see reflected in the vision of the park plan. The figure below shows the words most frequently mentioned by participants. The top five words were *nature* (62 mentions), *natural* (40 mentions), *accessible* (29 mentions), *access* (26 mentions) and *recreation* (21 mentions).

Figure 1: The figure below illustrates the answers from 270 respondents.

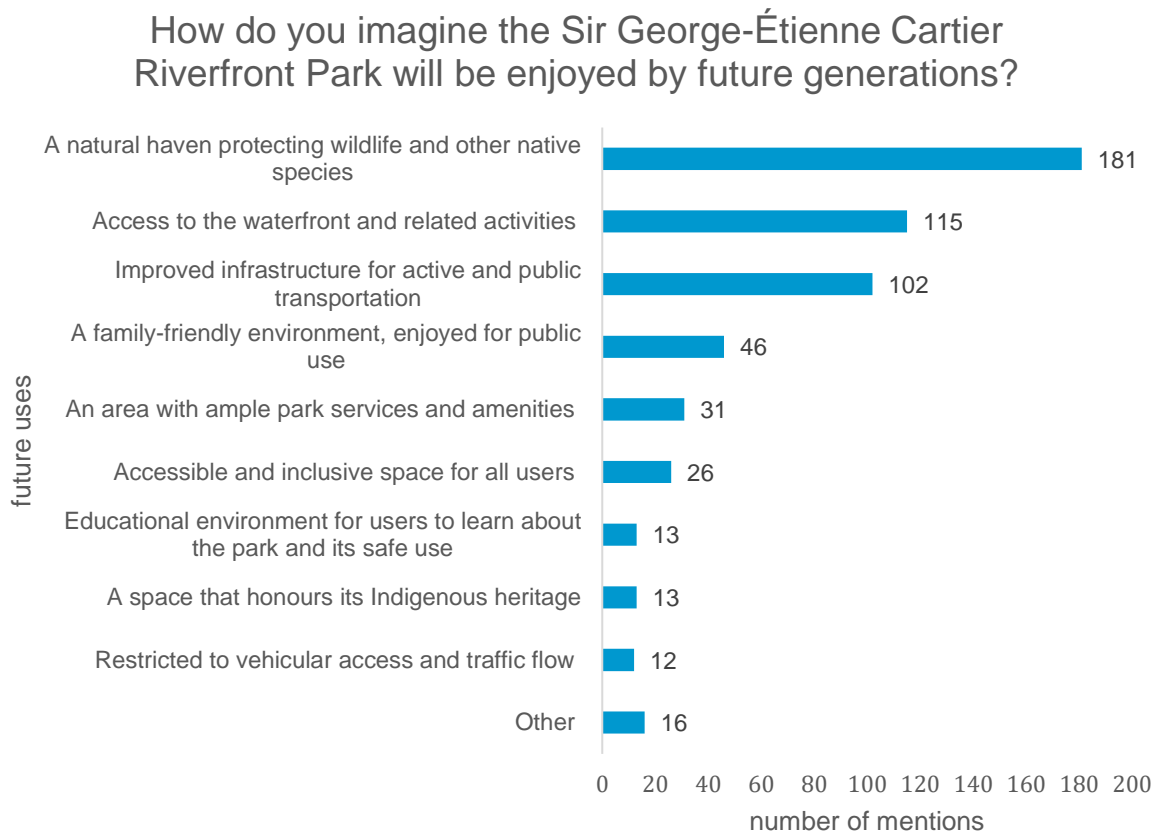


This exercise gave participants the opportunity to shape the vision for the plan. These terms reflect prior sentiments shared in the opportunities and issues sections, on topics such as nature, accessibility, recreation, active transportation and leisure.

Looking forward: Enjoyment by future generations

Following the trend of the previous exercise, participants were asked how they hoped that the park would be enjoyed by future generations. Here, they were able to be forward-thinking about the use and enjoyment of the area. The chart below shows the most frequently mentioned aspirations they identified.

Chart 3: The chart below illustrates the answers from 264 respondents.



Respondents built upon the ideas they had identified in the opportunities and issues they sought to resolve in the park. They hoped to have the riverfront park stand as a natural conservation site used for the preservation of wildlife and other native species (181 mentions).

Many mentioned their desire to have unrestricted access to the waterfront for boating, paddling and other water-related activities (115 mentions). These activities include boating, kayaking and paddleboarding.

Thinking about the future uses of the park encouraged some respondents to share their hope that future infrastructure and transportation networks to access the park would be improved for future generations (102 mentions). These modes of transportation include active mobility, public transportation and vehicle transportation.

Public transportation was identified for its potential to provide access to the park for visitors who live beyond the neighbouring communities.

Some respondents focused their attention on park enjoyment, and wanted to have an inviting space that could be inclusive for different users and their families (46 mentions). Expanding upon this idea of inclusivity, some respondents used this as an opportunity to identify their objective of having an accessible space that is safe and welcoming for a diverse range of park users (26 mentions).

Other participants used this space to outline the various park and river amenities and services that they hoped could be provided (31 mentions). These amenities were directly related to park uses, and called for the commercial development of the space. Some of their suggestions include NCC Bistros, outdoor event spaces by the water, picnic areas and another boat launch.

Notably, the theme of education reappeared, with some respondents suggesting that the NCC should invest in interpretive signage and other educational materials that could help inform park users on how to safely interact with the park and the natural ecological habitat (13 mentions).

As previously mentioned, the significance of Indigenous history informed the desire that future generations could be aware of the role Indigenous heritage plays in the space and its use. Here, some suggested commemorative art as a way to appropriately honour the area's Indigenous history, while also ensuring that any advancement on this front is done so in partnership with Indigenous communities (13 mentions).

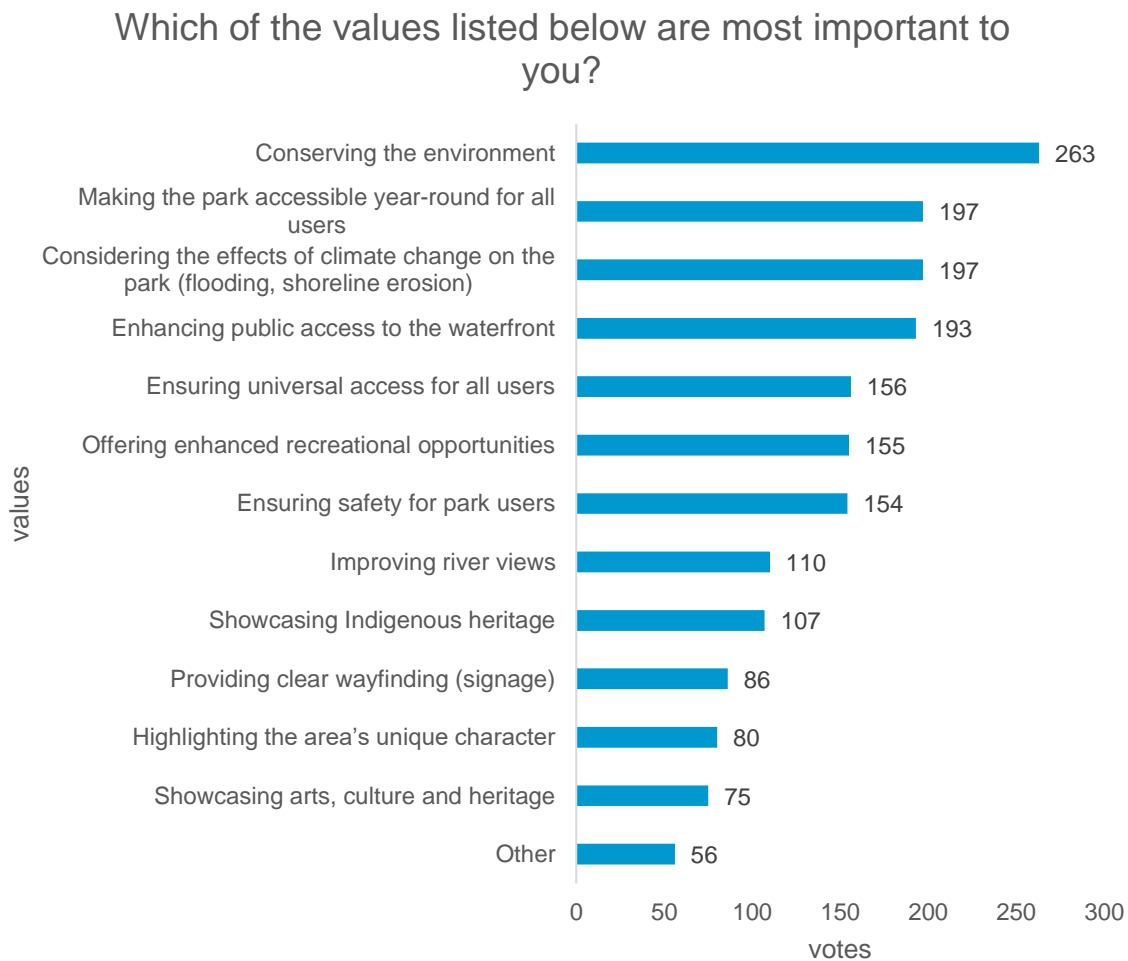
Some respondents again noted their frustrations related to the use of vehicles in the area. While some advocated for the restriction of vehicle access, others saw this idea as a barrier in terms of accessibility for users who require a vehicle to reach certain points of the park that would be otherwise inaccessible. Other respondents used this space to express their hope that traffic congestion could be improved for future park users (12 mentions).

The other category captures comments that were not related to this question (16 mentions). This category also includes comments referenced fewer than five times by respondents. These comments include population growth leading to changing public needs in the area and the importance of keeping a peaceful and tranquil environment.

Values

Respondents were given the opportunity to vote for the values that they thought were the most important with regard to planning for the future of the park. The chart below shows the most frequently mentioned issues that they would like the project team to address.

Chart 4: The chart below illustrates the answers from 293 respondents.



In this voting exercise, conserving the environment received the most votes, at 263 out of 293 respondents. This was followed by making the park accessible year-round for all users and considering the effect of climate change on the park, which were tied at 197 votes each. The fourth most significant value was enhancing public access to the waterfront, which received 193 votes.

The points distribution indicates that respondents were enthusiastic about many of the values listed above. It is notable that at least 65 percent of respondents who answered the question voted for conserving the environment, making the park accessible year-round for all users, considering the effects of climate change, and finally enhancing public access to the waterfront. This demonstrates to the project team that, while all of the values are important among respondents, these top four were prioritized by a large volume of respondents.

Others allocated their points among ensuring universal access for all users (156 votes), offering enhanced recreational opportunities (155 votes), ensuring safety for park users (154 votes), improving river views (110 votes), showcasing Indigenous heritage (107 votes), providing clear wayfinding (86 votes), highlighting the area's unique character (80 votes), showcasing arts, and culture and heritage (75 votes).

Respondents were given the opportunity to share their own value, if they felt the list provided did not fully capture the most significant values with respect to the exercise. The following are the most frequently mentioned comments:

- connecting with other recreational pathways and routes in the city
- opening new business and commercial opportunities for the public; encouraging businesses to offer food, beverages and entertainment
- take an education-based approach with a focus on conserving urban wildlife, where the public can learn about native species and how best to coexist with native plants and animals
- consulting and engaging with Indigenous peoples to honour and share Indigenous heritage, some suggesting Indigenous art exhibits
- maintaining the area as it currently is, while keeping the park free of heavy infrastructure and heavy traffic

Final thoughts

Respondents were given the opportunity to share some final comments regarding the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park. The top additional comments were the following:

- restricting vehicle access to the park due to concerns over speeding and traffic congestion (29 mentions)
- the study area should not be developed and, instead, the current conditions ought to be preserved (24 mentions)
- hopes to improve water access for all users, specifically as it relates to the new NCC River House (20 mentions)
- concerns over plans to build an interprovincial bridge and desire to improve transportation connectivity to the park (12 mentions)

- honouring Indigenous heritage and values of diversity and inclusion by changing the name of the park (12 mentions)
- investing in the commercial development of the study area by expanding it and including washrooms, benches and features of interest to tourists (12 mentions)

6.4. Indigenous considerations

As part of the analysis of survey responses, we have applied analytical frameworks, like Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus), to help us better understand how the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park plan might impact diverse communities, as well as find solutions to address any differential impacts that may result from the planning of this project.

In the context of this consultation, the analysis highlights the special consideration made to understand impacts on Indigenous peoples. Some respondents who self-identified as Indigenous expressed their desires to the project team to see the historical connection to the area honoured as the project advances. While there is a separate but parallel process of engagement with Indigenous groups, particularly the Algonquin Nation, we appreciate all respondents who took the time to share with us their histories and perspectives.

The information shared can be understood as opportunities and issues raised by those who identified as Indigenous in Canada, as well as others who did not, but still felt strongly about providing feedback.

Opportunities

- Some respondents were happy to see that there is a separate engagement process for Indigenous communities, and expressed their aspirations to have Indigenous commemoration be at the forefront of this project.
- A few hoped to see a greater strategic effort to connect urban Indigenous peoples to the waterfront.
- Some shared their desires to restore the Indigenous portage at Portage Bay.
- An opportunity was identified by some to have educational and interpretive material accessible to the general public to inform park users of the historical uses of the river. Noting that across from the parkway is a significant Algonquin archaeological site.
- Others suggested that interactive exhibits featuring Indigenous history could help honour the Indigenous heritage of the area, and some suggested including exhibits by Indigenous artists.
- Commemorate and celebrate Indigenous peoples who relied on the river, the river's logging history and traditional Indigenous land uses with the conservation of the natural environment.

- Honouring the Indigenous connection with the waterfront, by discussing how the renovated boathouse near the NCC River House can better meet the needs of urban Indigenous peoples through paddling and rowing programs, a historical exhibition space in the boathouse in partnership with other museums, and Indigenous ceremonial gathering places that respect these needs.

Issues

- Some respondents found the name of the park to be insensitive toward Indigenous peoples, and suggested that the park name be changed.
- A few noted that the NCC should be mindful when engaging with and seeking feedback from non-Indigenous Canadians with respect to Indigenous heritage, recognizing that non-Indigenous Canadians cannot fully grasp the weight of Indigenous concerns, and providing as an example the ancestral trail systems and portages.
- Some felt that the project did not include enough local urban Indigenous involvement, and it was suggested that the project team seek to establish an advisory committee of local urban Indigenous residents who use this land and river, in addition to those who already host programs on the river.

6.5. Questionnaire feedback results

At the end of the online questionnaire, respondents were asked to reflect on their experience, and share their feedback on the online consultation process. These reflections will be used to improve future consultations on the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park and other consultations at the NCC.

Based on the feedback provided to us, we are committed to making the following improvements:

- provide more contextual information to allow participants to learn more about the project, before expecting them to meaningfully engage
- keep public information accessible by writing in plain language
- provide links to supplementary resources for respondents to review, which provide more detailed information from what is included in the questionnaire
- include more detailed and specific maps to help participants visualize the plan for the area for future consultations

The feedback results are provided below.

Chart 1: This chart illustrates the distribution of answers provided by 286 respondents who selected one of the answer options listed.

The instructions were sufficient and clear, allowing me to fully participate in the consultation process.

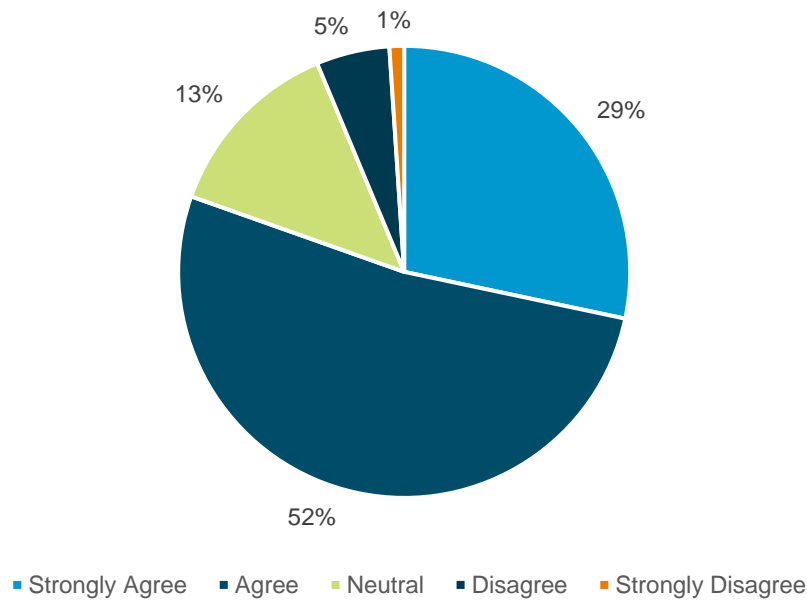


Chart 2: This chart illustrates the distribution of answers provided by 281 respondents who selected one of the answer options listed.

The information in this survey was accessible (e.g. language, readability, font size and so on).

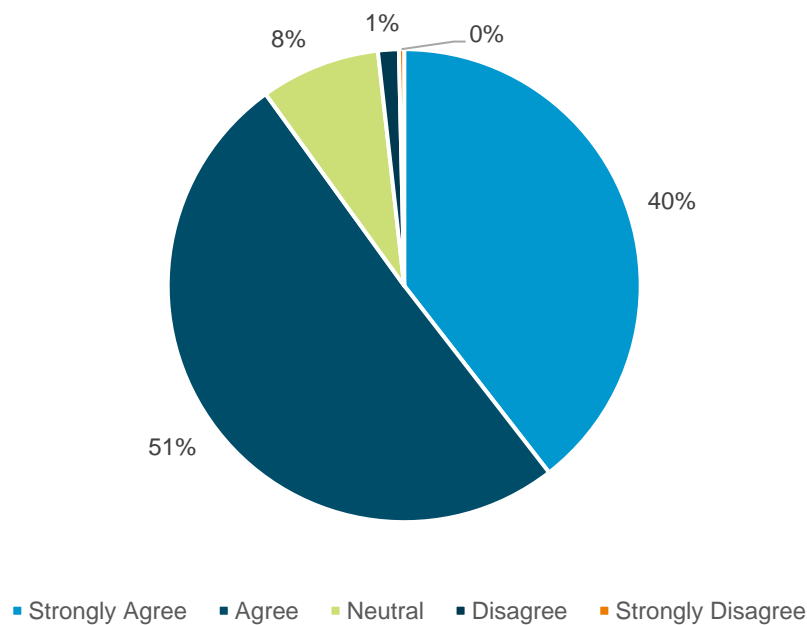


Chart 3: This chart illustrates the distribution of answers provided by 282 respondents who selected one of the answer options listed.

I am confident that my feedback will be considered as project moves forward.

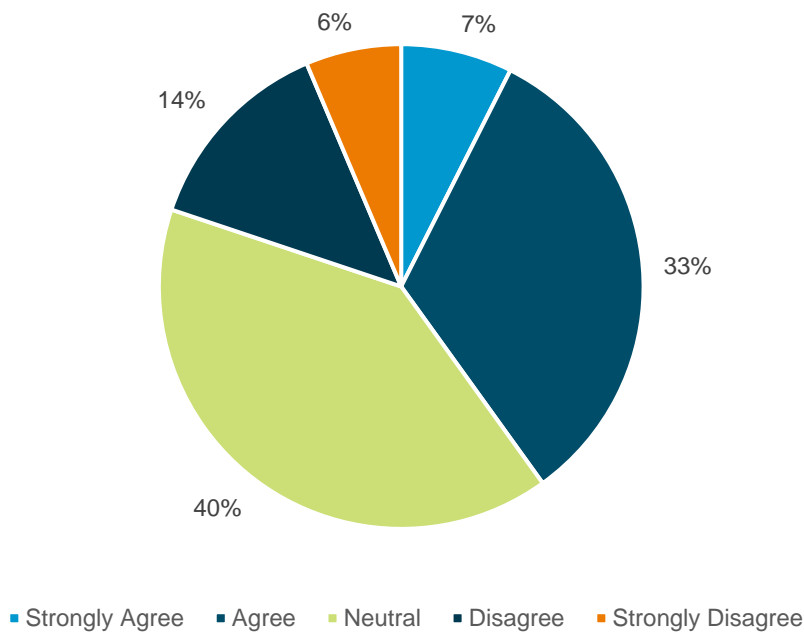


Chart 4: This chart illustrates the distribution of answers provided by 283 respondents who selected one of the answer options listed.

Overall, I am glad that I took part in this survey.

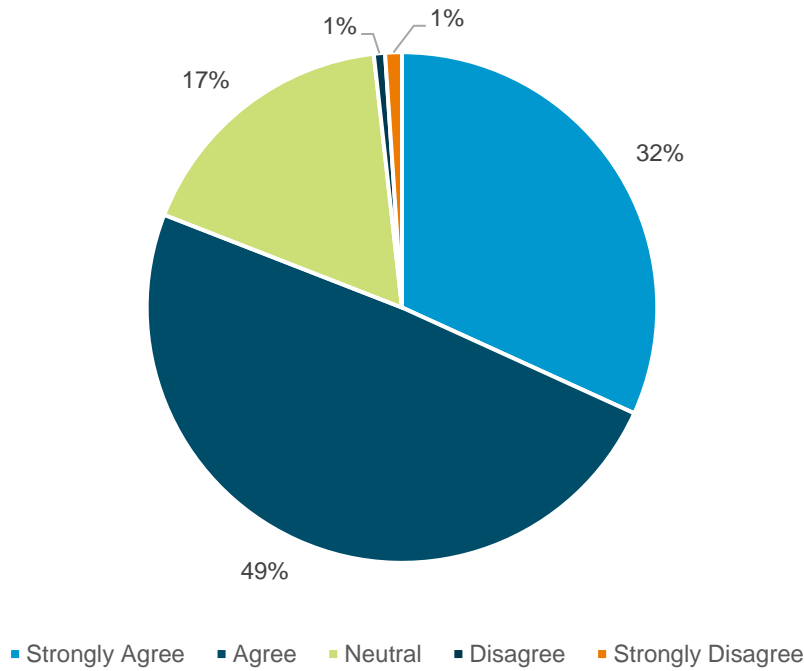


Chart 5: This chart illustrates the distribution of answers provided by 289 respondents who selected one of the answer options listed.

I would like to take part in future consultations on the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park project.

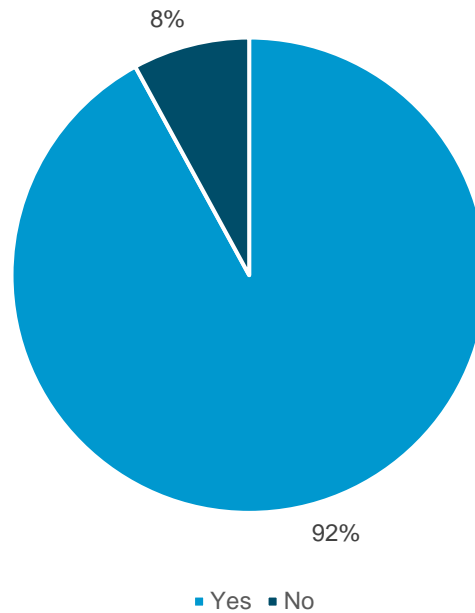


Chart 6: This chart illustrates the distribution of answers provided by 276 respondents who selected one of the answer options listed.

After completing this survey, do you feel that you have learned more about the topic?

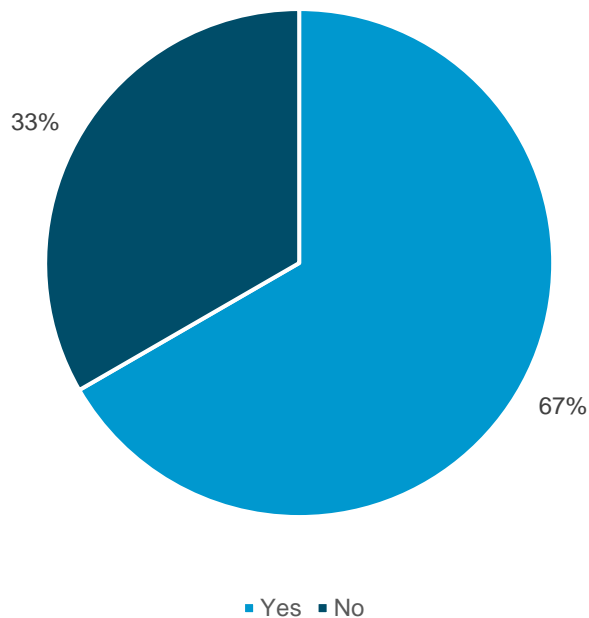


Chart 7: This chart illustrates the distribution of answers provided by 274 respondents who selected one of the answer options listed.

Were there any unforeseen problems you experienced with the survey?

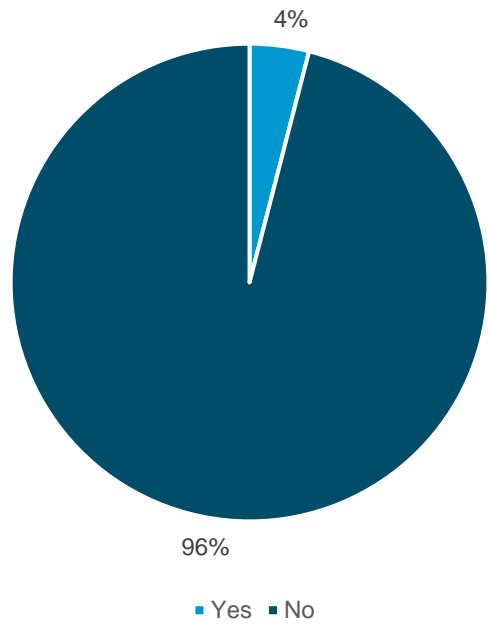
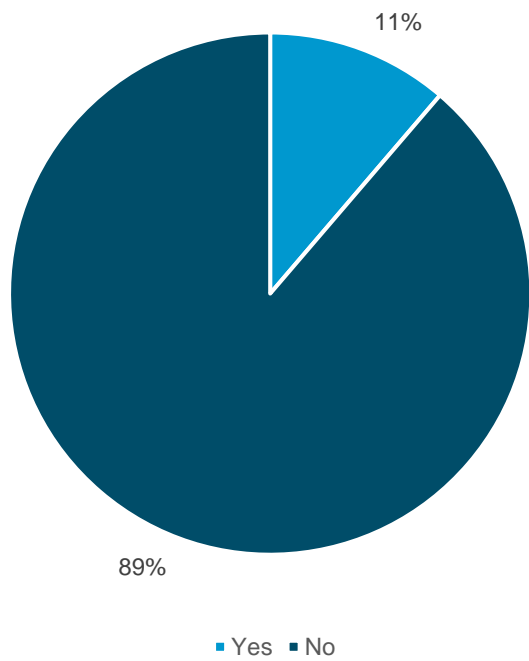


Chart 8: This chart illustrates the distribution of answers provided by 275 respondents who selected one of the answer options listed.

Do you have any additional comments on the survey?



7. Response to feedback

We thank all community members and stakeholder groups who participated in the consultation process. Their thoughtful comments and input have helped the project team to better understand public needs and plan for the future of the site. The feedback provided by the public will be integrated by the project team in the plan's vision statement, guiding principles and goals, as appropriate.

The plan's strategic statements are those of a long-range land use plan that optimizes the park's location along the Ottawa River and the opportunities it presents when its environmental, heritage and cultural elements, as well as recreational opportunities are considered. The vision statement will be drafted on the basis of input received through the PAC and public workshops, as well as online public input. This input will also guide the development of themes, objectives, strategies and guidelines for the plan's implementation.

The preliminary goals of the plan are as follows:

- to achieve the set objectives related to environmental sustainability, urban design and recreation
- to develop a framework that builds upon and acknowledges environmental, scenic, recreational and cultural value in the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park
- to respond to public desires for safe and unimpeded access to the river during each season
- to provide the springboard for future collaboration to further the goals of environmental stewardship, while also fostering a connection to the park among users

These goals will be revised as a result of further public consultations.

The overall objective of the planning process is to envision a vibrant, active area that will improve residents' quality of life, and enhance visitors' experience in the National Capital Region.


8. Next steps

Following this first round of consultation, the project team has started working on the next steps to develop the plan, which focuses on drafting a vision statement, the main guiding principles, themes and objectives of the park plan. Once these elements are developed, the team will begin drafting a concept plan for the park and its future nodes.

The next round of public consultation (round 2) is expected to take place in the fall of 2022. This will be an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to provide their input on the concept, as well as the strategic statements. The project team will continue to engage with stakeholders on an ongoing basis during and between formal rounds of public consultation.

Appendix A: Online survey

Image 1: Welcome page



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE


SIR GEORGE-ÉTIENNE CARTIER RIVERFRONT SURVEY

3%

Exit Survey

Welcome!

The National Capital Commission (NCC) is launching a three-year planning process for the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park. The area of focus is a 13-kilometre stretch of federal lands along the south shore of the Ottawa River. Planning for the Capital park is consistent with the NCC's role as planner and steward of federal lands in the National Capital Region.



The NCC invites you to take part in an online survey to provide your feedback and share new ideas to plan the park.


This survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

We thank you for your participation!

Start

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Image 2: Privacy notice statement



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

SIR GEORGE-ÉTIENNE CARTIER RIVERFRONT SURVEY

7%

Exit Survey

Privacy notice statement

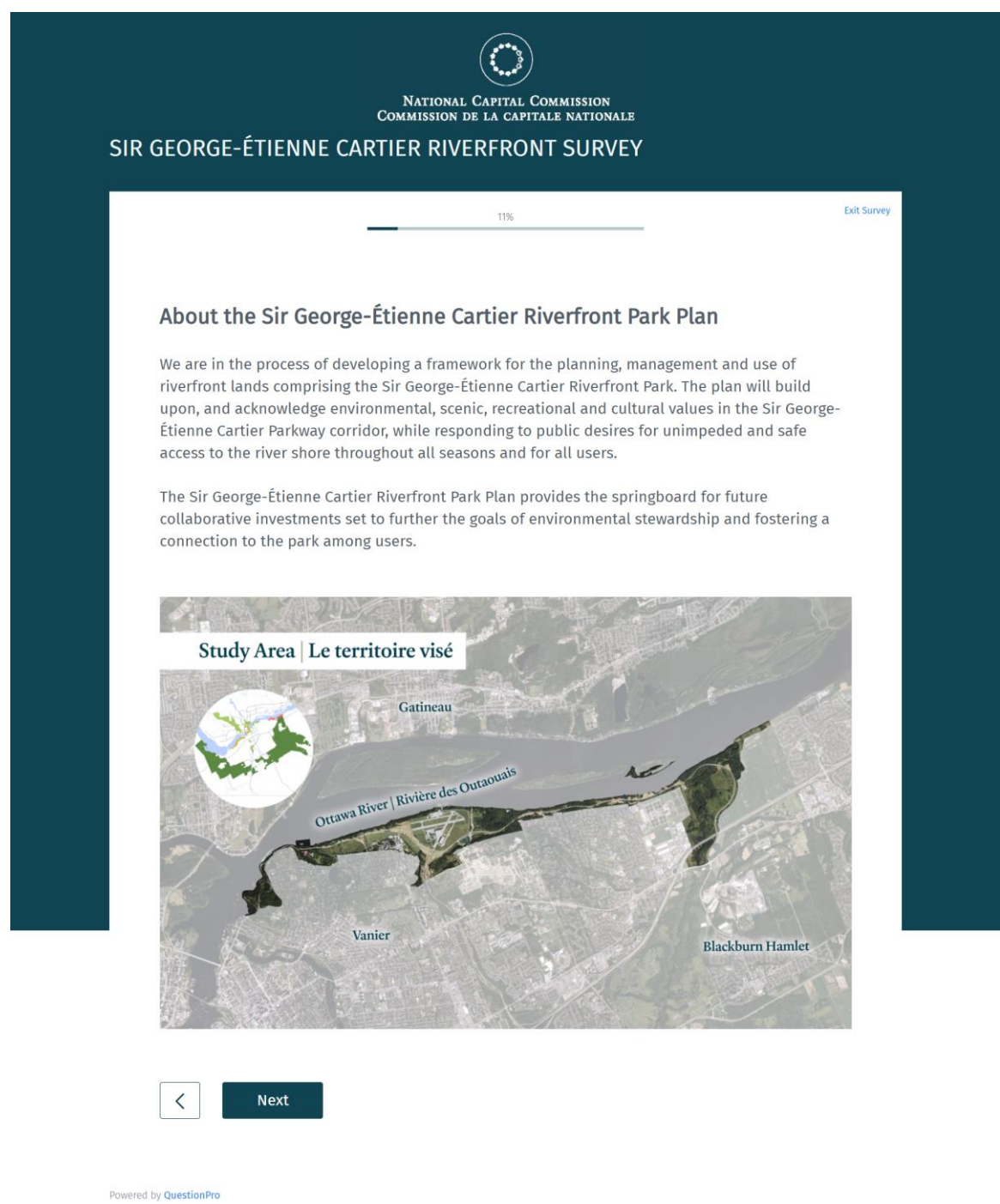
The collection and use of your personal information in this questionnaire is in accordance with the *Privacy Act* and authorized under the *National Capital Act*. We will use your responses for the following purposes: to inform the planning of the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park project and to better understand the reach of the NCC's public engagement initiatives. Information relating to "Outreach Activities" is described in Personal information Bank PSU 938. The information is protected in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy Act*. Your personal information will not be shared unless explicit consent to share information is provided. Under the *Privacy Act*, you have the right to access your personal information, request corrections if you believe that some personal information is erroneous or incomplete, and add a notation to the information at issue. If you wish to access your personal information contained in Personal Information Banks PSU 938, you should communicate with the Chief, Access to Information and Privacy, at telephone 613-239-5678, extension 5788, or via the following email address: atip-aiprp@ncc-ccn.ca.

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Image 3: About the project



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

SIR GEORGE-ÉTIENNE CARTIER RIVERFRONT SURVEY

15%

Exit Survey

Overview

This is the first of multiple public engagement opportunities. We want to know what you think, and encourage you to provide your input to help us develop a vision for the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park. See this as your chance to identify the park's **issues, concerns, strengths** and **opportunities**.

Major Milestones | Principaux jalons

2021 Spring Printemps

Existing Conditions, Studies and Surveys
— Études des conditions actuelles

Surveys Sondages

2021 Fall Automne

Vision, Roles and Planning Principles
— Vision, rôles et principes de planification

PAC / CCP

2022 Summer Été

Concept and Goals
— Concept et buts

PAC / CCP

2023 Spring Printemps

Strategies, Policies and Sector Plans
— Stratégies, politiques et plans de secteur

PAC / CCP

2024 Spring Printemps

Final Plan
— Plan final

PAC / CCP

Public consultation
Consultation publique


Online Consultations
Consultations en ligne

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Image 5: Questions



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

SIR GEORGE-ÉTIENNE CARTIER RIVERFRONT SURVEY

26%

Exit Survey

Questions

When providing your responses to the following questions, think about how changes to the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park may benefit you and your community.

What are the most important opportunities for the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park?


What are the most significant issues that need to be addressed?

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Image 6: Questions



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COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

SIR GEORGE-ÉTIENNE CARTIER RIVERFRONT SURVEY

34%

Exit Survey

How do you imagine the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park will be enjoyed by future generations?


What three words would you like to see in the vision?

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Image 7: Questions



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SIR GEORGE-ÉTIENNE CARTIER RIVERFRONT SURVEY

38%

Exit Survey

Which of the values listed below are most important to you? Select all that apply.

☐ Conserving the environment

☐ Improving river views

☐ Enhancing public access to the waterfront

☐ Ensuring safety for park users

☐ Showcasing arts, culture and heritage

☐ Considering the effects of climate change on the park (flooding, shoreline erosion)

☐ Providing clear wayfinding (signage)

☐ Offering enhanced recreational opportunities

☐ Showcasing Indigenous heritage

☐ Ensuring universal access for all users

☐ Highlighting the area's unique character

☐ Making the park accessible year-round for all users


☐ Add your own value (optional)

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Image 8: Final Thoughts



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COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

SIR GEORGE-ÉTIENNE CARTIER RIVERFRONT SURVEY

42%

Exit Survey

Final thoughts

Is there anything else you would like to share with us about the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park project?

☐ Yes


☐ No

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Image 9: About you: Demographic questions



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

SIR GEORGE-ÉTIENNE CARTIER RIVERFRONT SURVEY

65%

[Exit Survey](#)

About you

Responses to the following questions are entirely optional. Your responses, should you choose to share them, will be used to improve future consultations, and ensure that we are engaging in an inclusive manner.

What is your age group?

-- Select --

According to the *Accessible Canada Act*, disability means “any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment—or a functional limitation—whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person’s full and equal participation in society.”

Do you identify as a person with a disability?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Prefer not to say

With which of the following gender identities do you identify?

-- Select --

Do you identify as a member of a visible minority?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Prefer not to say

Do you identify as an Indigenous person?

☐ Yes


☐ No

☐ Prefer not to say

[<](#)[Next](#)

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Image 10: About you: Demographic questions



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

SIR GEORGE-ÉTIENNE CARTIER RIVERFRONT SURVEY

73%

Exit Survey

If you identify as an Indigenous person in Canada, please specify if you wish.

-- Select --


What are the first three characters of your postal code?

<

Next

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Image 11: Feedback questions



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

SIR GEORGE-ÉTIENNE CARTIER RIVERFRONT SURVEY

84%

Exit Survey

Give us Your feedback!

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The instructions were sufficient and clear, allowing me to fully participate in the consultation process.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The information in this survey was accessible (e.g. language, readability, font size and so on).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am confident that my feedback will be considered as the project moves forward.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall, I am glad that I took part in this survey.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

I would like to take part in future consultations on the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park project.

☐ Yes


☐ No

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Image 12: Feedback questions



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

SIR GEORGE-ÉTIENNE CARTIER RIVERFRONT SURVEY

100%

[Exit Survey](#)

If you would like to take part in future consultations on the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park, please provide your contact information below.

Name

Email Address

After completing this survey, do you feel that you have learned more about the topic?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Were there any unforeseen problems you experienced with the survey?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Do you have any additional comments on the survey?

☐ Yes

☐ No

<

Finish

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Appendix B: Sample comments from survey results

The tables below contain samples of verbatim comments made by participants in each survey question of the online consultation.

Table 1: What are the most important opportunities for the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park?

Topic(s)	Sample comment
Improved access Outdoor recreation	Continuing and improved access by the public to the waterfront and adjacent lands for outdoor recreation is most important. These areas are now used for cycling, rowing, sailing, kayaking, power boating, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, running, tennis, dog walking, picnicking and possibly other uses. All these uses should be preserved. There should not be any new developments or structures or rules that impede access by the general public to these lands for outdoor recreation as described above. These parklands are a civic gem which should be preserved.
All-season access Boathouse	<p>Maintaining access to the public for recreational activities both summer and winter.</p> <p>Reopening of the ONEC boathouse for those who for generations have been enjoying waterfront activities.</p>
Honour heritage Outdoor recreation	[Translation] Highlight heritage so that citizens can benefit as much as possible — by engaging in many sports and outdoor activities — in every season. Allow citizens to take ownership of the trails and shorelines.
Active transportation Paved pathways	100% we must dramatically improve safe pedestrian and cyclist crossing the parkways and develop the on-road use of the parkways for cyclists and pedestrians. From the Air Museum eastward, we need a paved bike/pedestrian pathway paralleling the parkway. Winter commuting by bicycle is not safe eastward from ONEC.
Accessibility Education Nature	We are so lucky to have these natural oases and waterways in our city, but not everyone can access them. If we allow more access, it is also an opportunity to educate people on the significance and importance of respecting our waterways and natural environment.
Public Enjoyment Public services	[Translation] A space to enjoy the park as a family or with friends, that is, a picnic area (tables, BBQs, shelters), washrooms similar to the ones at Vincent Massey Park.

Topic(s)	Sample comment
Accessibility	Access to the river for watercraft (or more). Accessible pathway for those in wheelchair or walker or even strollers. The cinder path is great for many, but a bit more paving in some sections (not all) welcome.
Preservation Honour heritage	[Translation] The park offers the possibility of having a natural habitat in an urban environment and protecting the wetlands that are necessary for plants and wildlife along the Ottawa River. With the flooding that we experienced in 2017 and 2019, the park also serves as a buffer zone to allow the river to run freely during high floods. Cultural heritage (Indigenous and European) related to this section of the Ottawa River (if applicable) could also be highlighted.

Table 2: What are the most significant issues that need to be addressed?

Topic(s)	Sample comment
Noise Pollution	Removal of motor vehicles to reduce noise and pollution.
Parking Multi-use pathways	Lack of parking in peak times. I would like to see the parking areas expanded on the other side of the road. Use the existing parking areas for disabilities and seniors only. Secondly, expand the existing pathways to allow multi-use. Currently, while cross-country skiing, I have to leave my tracks to accommodate others (dog walking, snow biking, snowshoeing). It should be wide enough for all. Thirdly, I would love to see a dedicated running track with no ice or snow. Imagine a soft running surface for 10 km!
Public services	Long linear park with not much to do, and no/few facilities, e.g., water, toilets, rest areas and scenic overlooks)
Maintenance Signage	I find some parks lack sufficient garbage and recycling containers. Also, if there are any dangers such as poison ivy, it would be good to have signs.
Accessibility	Access. Not everyone who would benefit from this park lives nearby. People from all across the city should be able to enjoy the area. Although “active transportation” (i.e. cycling) is the big thing being encouraged, a large portion of the people who will want to enjoy it will need cars to get to the park. Cars may be the big “no-no” today, but cars are needed to gain access to this recreational space. Public

Topic(s)	Sample comment
	transport limits capability. If a couple wish to take their children on a bike ride, they are not going to take public transportation to move 4 bikes, 2 adults and 2 kids.
Safety Protecting the environment	Dogs off-leash harassing other path users, erosion of the shore. Overpopulated beavers destroying shore treeline leading to erosion. Overpopulated beavers do cross the path to ring trees on the other side of the path and can be aggressive to path users and dogs.
Interprovincial crossing	Avoidance of a ground level or above ground level interprovincial crossing. The noise, pollution are significant disincentives to using the shoreline or the river itself. An interprovincial crossing will ruin what is a spectacular, unimpeded downriver view. It is heartbreaking to think of a bridge being placed at Kettle or the Duck islands.
Accessibility Safety Speeding	The parkway paved path along the river should be widened for public safety. Families, seniors and those with disabilities are endangered by cyclists who go by them, even if the cyclists are below the speed limit (often ignored). A wider path would allow better [and] safer separation of users of the multi-user path. It would allow those who are faster to safely go around walkers, especially seniors and children. The path must be safe for all.

Table 3: How do you imagine the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park will be enjoyed by future generations?

Topic(s)	Sample comment
Family Public enjoyment	Families, large and small groups of people. Riding bikes, playing ball, enjoying the river and what it has to offer.
Animation	[Translation] Similar to today, but with more animation (recreational, cultural, etc.)
Education Equipment rentals	It will educate visitors about the history of previous users of the river and riverfront, the present-day flora and fauna, and what opportunities there are in the park. There will be guided walks as there are in the Gatineau Park, that feature topics such as birds, mushrooms, water creatures, trees, nighttime... There will be non-motorized watercraft to rent, such as canoes and kayaks.

Topic(s)	Sample comment
Accessibility Transportation Nature	<p>[Translation] Future generations should be able to enjoy it as we today have the privilege of doing: the park should remain accessible to a large number of people via active transportation and public transit, as well as continue to be a destination for those who do not have access to large natural areas on the shores of a major waterway. People today enjoy huge physical and mental health benefits associated with access to nature, trees and water. And, over time, these benefits will only increase for future generations.</p>
Nature	<p>It will be a great gift that will benefit many coming generations. Adding a "lung" to the city.</p>
Accessibility	<p>Again, keeping it free of charge for users and pristine, provision for babes and wheelchairs.</p>
Nature Public services Accessibility	<p>[Translation] As a space to enjoy nature in an urban setting, and gather as a family. Vincent Massey Park is a good example: it is easily accessible, and has the necessary services — such as washrooms, shelters, tables, BBQs — to facilitate access to people of all ages and those with reduced mobility.</p>
Indigenous heritage Water access Public enjoyment Preservation	<p>For anyone familiar with the Indigenous and settler history of this area, it is a special place that has been a refuge from the growing urbanization of this region. For example, Kettle Island was undoubtedly a good place to canoe camp by Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Later, it became a place where recreational paddlers and rowers would go to escape the city. The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club was like a giant shared cottage for paddlers, rowers and sailors. An electric street car would bring people to this rural region as an refuge from urban life, to alleviate stress and participate in healthy activities. In the boathouse, there were community parties and dances for the public to meet and congregate. Many people on both sides of the river met their future partners there. Paul Anka sang there, along with other musicians who played, from the 1920s onwards. Since then, Kettle Island has been used as a place to paddle and row to, to take breaks on its beaches, and imagine we are far away from the urban core. In the heart of Kettle Island is a lake where, in springtime, you can paddle into and see all sorts of wildlife. It can be quiet there for viewing bald eagles, deer, beaver, owls and great blue herons. I would like to see that this area is protected as a natural refuge for generations to come. As an Indigenous person, I understand that, as our people intermarry with</p>

Topic(s)	Sample comment
	settlers, one day most Canadians will be of Indigenous ancestry too. That means we need to design cities to reflect the Indigenous values of our land, and this includes protecting natural areas in our city. If we don't, we will get things like a Kettle Island bridge that will destroy our places to appreciate nature. The city will reflect instead a colonial version of how we must live, and not how we would choose to live.

Table 4: Which of the values listed below are most important to you? [add your own value]

Topic(s)	Sample comment
Separate paths Active mobility	Allow the opportunity to delineate park uses by activity (e.g. separate trails for walking and biking/skiing, not unlike Gatineau Park, where appropriate).
Commercial development Indigenous heritage	Public boat launch, year-round restaurant with river views, interactive Indigenous history exhibits.
Invasive species	[Translation] Management of invasive species.
Safety	Getting rid of all motorized watercraft (except for police), and the self-centred, irresponsible, inconsiderate operators that drive them.
Against development	Leave it be, really; don't make it Disneyland — please... I enjoy the rural aspect along the river as it is now. It's a great place to bike away from the traffic of it all... peaceful, it is now. Please don't make it Disneyland like Toronto or Vancouver.
Maintenance	The NCC should plow the existing upper bike path (not the path along the river), so that it can be used for active transportation during the winter.
Accessibility Parking	Accessibility for families, which means some parking which later can be converted.
Transportation Outdoor recreation	Connectivity for alternative and sustainable transportation options. Exercise (ski, run, bike, "natural" playground and workout stations).

Table 5: Is there anything else you would like to share with us about the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park project?

Topic(s)	Sample comment
Natural beauty	This place has potential. Right now, it looks like it was developed 50+ years ago when Ottawa had a smaller population. Its natural beauty needs to be built upon by enhancing its current features.
Maintenance Funding Paved pathways	Do not overdevelop. We already have an amazing natural resource. Maintain what we have, and invest in what we have now before wasting money on other ideas, i.e., there is currently a go-fund-me page to maintain the cross-country trails during winter, by the public. This should be funded. The pathway is in need of repair. This should be funded. There is no pathway (paved) between the Aviation Museum eastwards. This should be funded. Why ask for new ideas when these simple issues are yet to be addressed?
Against development Water access	Do not overdevelop the area. It is currently a piece of country in an urban setting. This is a chance to keep it that way while improving access. People can feel that they are in the country without having to travel great distances to do it. They can spend an afternoon in the country in just a short drive. In a natural setting, trees will obscure the view of the water. Create a few outcrops but don't cut down all the trees. If I visit a lake, river or other waterway, I don't expect to see that water every foot of its shoreline.
Commercial development	Keeping it free to visit, keeping private business ventures from capitalizing on public lands.
Speeding Traffic flow	The vehicular roads that go thru the area need to be controlled better. I bike and drive [through] the area frequently, and speeding is a big issue. Traffic control! Also, during the pandemic, increased times for non-motorized traffic were used. I think that this should be expanded; maybe a daily period of no cars each day during the non-winter periods could be considered.
Recreation Connectivity	The legacy of the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club as the builder of the boathouse and as the provider of recreation/fitness activities for almost 140 years needs to be recognized. The east end of the park at Governor's Bay needs to be connected to the Rideau River to provide a connecting pathway and to recognize the old Indigenous portage route.
Indigenous heritage	With respect to Indigenous people, the park should be renamed.

Topic(s)	Sample comment
Speeding	More policing by bylaw to enforce speed limits by those biking. Bells rarely used.