

NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

Ottawa River North Shore Parklands Plan

PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT JULY 6 TO 24, 2017

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I. Description of the project

A. Background

Riverfront lands in the Capital's Core Area run adjacent to urban neighbourhoods and key federal government landmarks. They are an important part of Downtown Gatineau's green infrastructure, providing wide open spaces that can accommodate large public gatherings. A number of regional actors therefore have varied interests in these lands. It is therefore important to ensure proper coordination of how these riverfront areas are used.

The NCC's planning mandate is established under the *National Capital Act*, which confers upon the NCC sole responsibility for planning, developing and improving the Capital and, more specifically, federal lands. Capital Core Area riverfront lands are largely federal property. The vast majority of these lands are part of the National Interest Land Mass (NILM), which consists of land that has been identified as key to the NCC's mandate.

Since 2014, the NCC has held three rounds of consultations with stakeholders and the public to gather their feedback on the **Ottawa River North Shore Parklands Plan**.

- **2014**: Planning workshop to receive ideas and comments from participants on the future use and management of shoreline parks and green spaces.
- **2015**: Workshop to evaluate the Ottawa River North Shore Improvement Plan.
- **2017**: Online public consultation held from July 6 to 24, 2017. The purpose of this ultimate last consultation was to gather public feedback on the draft version of the Ottawa River North Shore Parklands Plan

B. Objective of the project

The objective of the Ottawa River North Shore Parklands Plan is to identify land uses and establish guidelines for improving federal lands in the study area.

The plan is meant to guide planning projects and activities on federal lands. The plan will also serve as a decision-making tool for federal approvals regarding land use, design and real estate transactions.

II. Online public consultation process conducted July 6 to 24, 2017

A. Overview

a. Objective of the consultation

To obtain comments and suggestions from participants on the latest version of the Ottawa River North Shore Parklands Plan.

b. Dates

Thursday, July 6 to Monday, July 24, 2017

c. Format

Online survey

B. Consultation process and tools

The online survey with a dozen questions enabled respondents to become familiar with and provide their opinions on the proposals for the various sectors. Respondents could choose the sectors on which they wanted to comment.

C. Invitation and promotion

Announcements were placed in the July 9, 2017 issues of the *Ottawa Citizen* and *Le Droit* newspapers, and on Facebook and Twitter, throughout the consultation. A notice was sent to the regional media.

An email invitation was sent to subscribers to the Public Affairs Division's distribution lists, which include the following stakeholders:

- Individuals;
- Interest groups (community associations, environmental groups, tourism agencies, merchants);
- Municipal and federal partners.

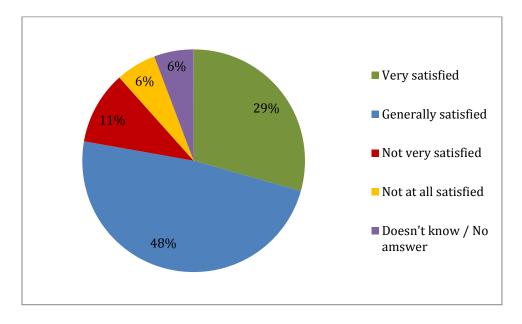
Municipal, provincial and federal elected officials were notified of the consultation.

Indigenous groups were consulted as part of a separate process. A presentation was given to the Kitigan Zibi community in spring 2017.

D. Participation

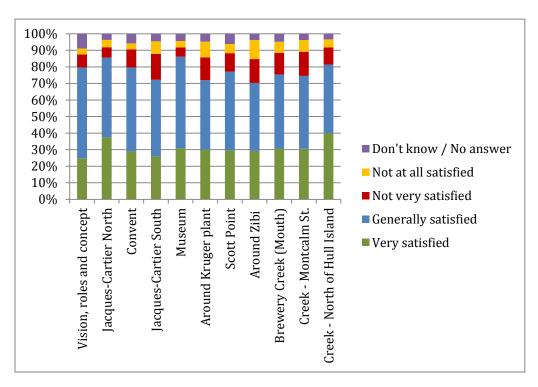
- In total, 650 people started the survey and 347 completed it. Note that partial answers were taken into account.
- o Respondents' place of residence
 - Province of Quebec: 31%
 - Province of Ontario: 65%
 - Elsewhere or unknown: 4%

III. Highlights from the online public consultation



• In total, **77%** of the survey respondents said that, overall, they are "very satisfied" or "generally satisfied" with the proposals in the plan.

- The sector with the highest level of satisfaction is the one involving the lands around the Canadian Museum of History, with **86%** of respondents saying they are "very satisfied" or "generally satisfied" with the proposals for it.
- The sector with the lowest satisfaction level is the one involving the lands near the Zibi neighbourhood, with **70%** of respondents indicating they are "very satisfied" or "generally satisfied" with the proposals for it.



• Distribution of the satisfaction levels by sector:

IV. Analysis of the survey results and public feedback

A. Analysis of the results

a. Question 1

Results

To what extent are you satisfied with the vision, roles and overall development concept presented in the plan?

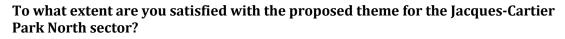
60.0% 54.9% 50.0% 40.0% Very satisfied Generally satisfied 30.0% 24.8% ■ Not very satisfied Not at all satisfied 20.0% Don't know / No answer 8.9% 7.9% 10.0% 3.5% 0.0% Vision, roles and concept

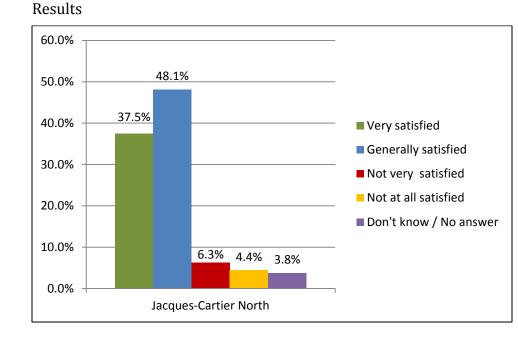
Most respondents, i.e. nearly **80%** of them, said they are "very satisfied" or "generally satisfied" with the proposed vision, roles and overall land-use planning concept.

However, **11%** of participants answered that they were "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied" with them for the following reasons.

- They would have liked the plan to place greater importance on:
 - protecting the environment (natural shorelines, water quality);
 - o maintaining the green spaces and public access;
 - Indigenous culture;
 - adding shops and activities;
 - o urban development on the waterfront lands.
- Some would have liked possibilities considered for the Zibi neighbourhood other than those proposed in the current plan.
- Others would have liked the vision to be more clear.

b. Question 2





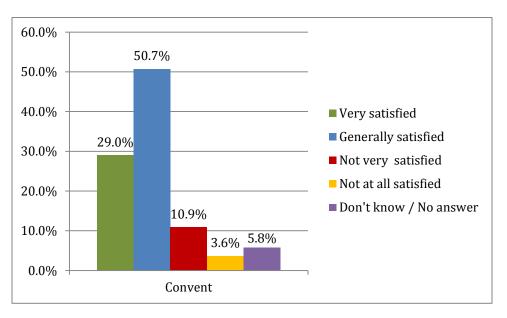
Over **85%** of respondents indicated that they were "very satisfied" or "generally satisfied" with the proposed theme for the Jacques-Cartier Park North sector.

Those who responded "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied", i.e. **11%** of participants, made the following suggestions.

- Add shops, restaurants, attractions and sports facilities.
- Place greater importance on Indigenous culture.
- Increase the shoreline vegetation and add trees in the park.
- Make access to the sector easier.

c. Question 3

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the sector comprising the convent and its surroundings?



Results

Nearly **80%** of respondents stated being "very satisfied" or "generally satisfied" with the proposed theme for the sector comprising the convent and its surroundings.

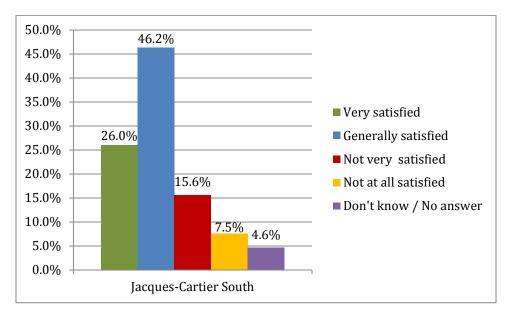
However, **14%** of participants responded that they were "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied" and made the following suggestions.

- Place greater importance on Indigenous culture.
- Tell about the history of the premises (convent, Hull).
- Increase the woodland areas and provide more parks.
- Include shops and restaurants.

d. Question 4

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the Jacques-Cartier Park South sector?

Results



Over **72%** of respondents stated being "very satisfied" or "generally satisfied" with the proposed theme for the Jacques-Cartier Park South sector.

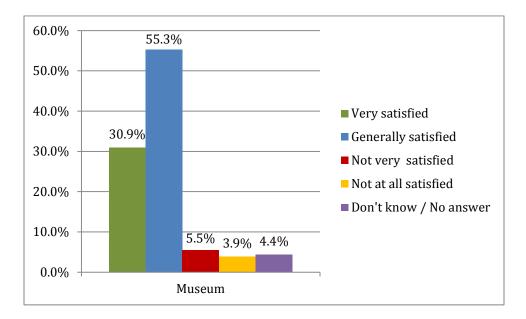
However, **11%** of participants answered that they were "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied" and made the following suggestions.

- Keep the green spaces and trees and don't develop the lands any further.
- Provide more activities, animation and services like restaurants, a bistro and shops.
- Showcase Indigenous culture and history.
- Reduce the amount of boating to facilitate the use of non-motorized craft.
- Separate cyclists and pedestrians on the paths.

e. Question 5

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the sector comprising the Canadian Museum of History grounds?

Results



Over **86%** of respondents indicated being "very satisfied" or "generally satisfied" with the proposed theme for the sector comprising the lands around the Canadian Museum of History.

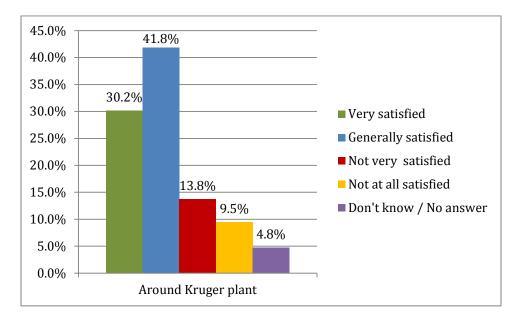
Less than **10%** of participants answered that they were "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied" and made the following suggestions.

- Provide more permanent interactive animations.
- Provide a safe path for pedestrians.
- Ensure public access to the lands when there are special events.
- Increase the number of trees.
- Acknowledge the use of the land by Indigenous peoples.
- Ensure that the lands are not over-used.

f. Question 6

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the sector comprising the Kruger plant and its surroundings?

Results

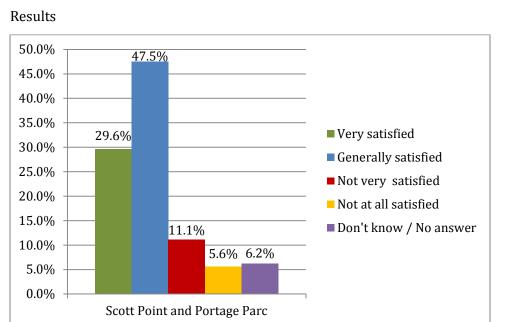


Over **71%** of respondents stated being "very satisfied" or "generally satisfied" with the proposed theme for the sector comprising the Kruger site and its surroundings.

However, **23%** of participants answered that they were "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied" and made the following suggestions.

- Convert the factory site into a park or animated urban sector.
- Acknowledge the use of the land by Indigenous peoples.
- Naturalize the shorelines.
- Widen the paths to give pedestrians more room.
- Keep the factory lands with the aim of establishing an institution one day.

g. Question 7



To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the Scott Point and Portage Park sector?

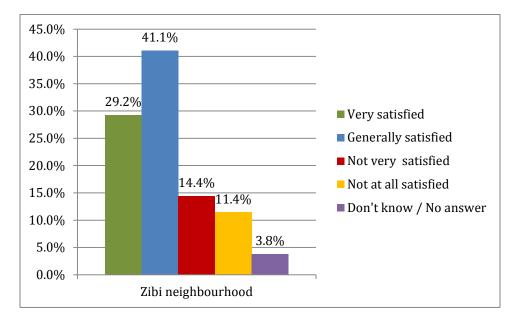
Over **77%** of respondents indicated being "very satisfied" or "generally satisfied" with the proposed theme for the Scott Point and Portage Park sector.

Nearly **17%** of participants answered that they were "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied" and made the following suggestions.

- Place more importance on Indigenous culture.
- Provide separate paths for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Animate the sector by recalling the history of the area.

h. Question 8

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the sector comprising the riverfront lands near the Zibi neighbourhood?



Results

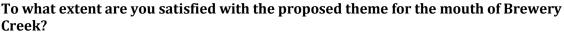
Over **70%** of respondents said they were "very satisfied" or "generally satisfied" with the proposed theme for the sector comprising the waterfront lands near the Zibi neighbourhood.

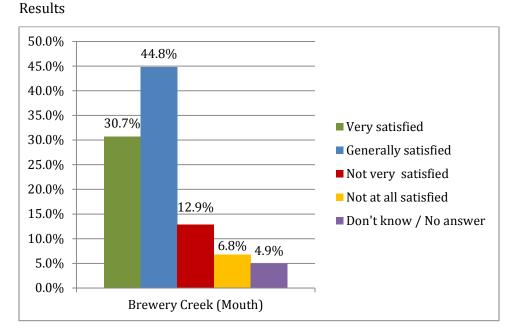
A little over **25%** of participants answered that they were "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied" and made the following suggestions.

- Put more emphasis on Indigenous culture, acknowledge the value of these lands for First Nations, develop the area as an Indigenous site.
- Create safe places for pedestrians.
- Add shops.
- Develop the sector by showcasing its history and industrial past.
- Naturalize the shorelines.
- Further clarify the plan's objectives.

The land going towards developing the Zibi neighbourhood on the Gatineau side essentially used to be private property (Domtar). Therefore, the plan's proposals pertain only to the waterfront corridor.

i. Question 9





In total, **75%** of respondents said they were "very satisfied" or "generally satisfied" with the proposed theme for the sector involving the mouth of Brewery Creek.

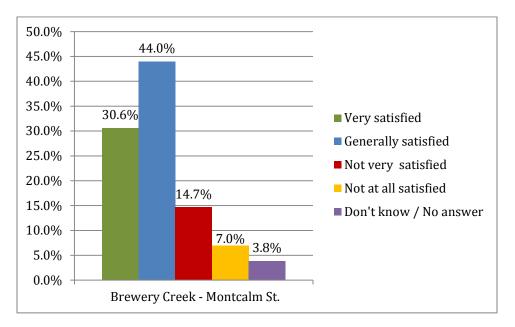
A little under **20%** of participants responded that they were "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied" and made the following suggestions.

- Allow small craft to go through (kayaks, canoes). •
- Put more emphasis on Indigenous culture. •
- Naturalize the shorelines and more natural spaces. •
- Establish a spot for holding small concerts, etc. •
- Plant more trees. •

j. Question 10

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the sector comprising the Montcalm Street section of Brewery Creek?

Results

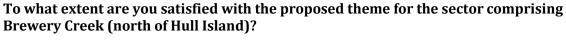


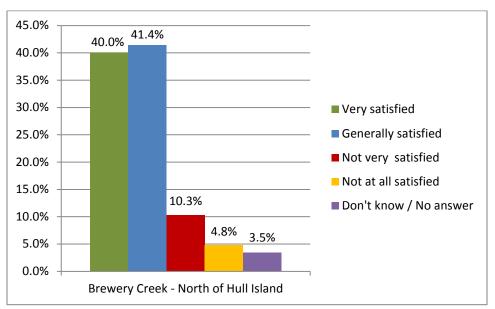
In total, **74%** of respondents said they were "very satisfied" or "generally satisfied" with the proposed theme for the Montcalm Street section of Brewery Creek.

A little over **21%** of participants answered that they were "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied" and made the following suggestions.

- Naturalize the shorelines.
- Maintain and enhance the verdant nature of the land.
- Put in a safe path.
- Establish shops.
- Put more emphasis on Indigenous culture.
- Reserve some space for cultural animation.
- Allow boating on the creek.
- Allow residences and businesses to be built.

k. Question 11





Results

In total, **81%** of respondents stated being "very satisfied" or "generally satisfied" with the proposed theme for the Brewery Creek sector (north of Hull Island).

However, **15%** of participants answered that they were "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied" and made the following suggestions.

- Ensure better safety on existing and future paths.
- Put more emphasis on Indigenous culture.
- Focus the environmental protection efforts.
- Facilitate boating on the creek.

I. Question 12

Please provide any other comments that you would like to share regarding the Ottawa River North Shore Parklands Plan.

These are the main comments received:

- A number of respondents appreciate the shoreline restoration efforts and the added vegetation on the waterfront.
- The intention to add small recreational shops for further animating the land is very well received.
- The proposal to add places from where kayaking and canoeing can be done is also well received.
- A number of respondents pointed out that it's important for the land's main purpose to continue being parkland.
- A number of respondents suggested emphasizing Indigenous culture and acknowledging these lands as Indigenous territory.
- Some suggest increasing services, for example by adding restaurants, equipment rental outlets, games for children, interactive furnishings and exercise stations.
- Some people are concerned that the green spaces and parks are being reduced.
- Some respondents suggested increasing the shoreline vegetation, in keeping with its natural state.
- Some people are concerned that increasing the animation reduces public access to the waterfront lands.
- The suggestion was made to separate pedestrians and cyclists on the paths.
- Some mentioned the plan's lack of clarity <u>as it was presented during the</u> <u>consultation</u> and would have liked its objectives to be further clarified.*

* Respondents had to click a link to access the full document. The questionnaire included only a general statement that summarized the theme for each sector.

m. Question 13

In what way would you generally use the riverfront lands included in the plan?

The participants essentially use the lands targeted by the plan for cycling, outings and getting around. A number of them also go there to walk and take part in cultural activities. Many other uses were mentioned, including relaxation, picnics, contemplating the scenery, photography and a number of sports activities.

V. Incorporating the results

The feedback received was reviewed and will go towards drafting the final version of the Ottawa River North Shore Parklands Plan. The following changes will be made to the Plan based on the feedback from the public.

- Clarifying the boundary of the federal lands.
- In the English version, clarifying the meaning of the word "development" (in French, "aménagement") to express the NCC's intention to increase the animation of the lands, while maintaining their purpose as parkland.
- Better explaining the small amount of commercial and recreational services planned.
- Clarifying the intention to maintain the network of paths over the lands.
- Better acknowledging the role of those lands for Indigenous peoples:
 - by further explaining the historical context;
 - by promoting Indigenous culture via interpretive tours;
 - by providing for partnerships with First Nations for site design during implementation of the plan.

VI. Next steps

The consultation process is now finished. The final version of the Ottawa River North Shore Parklands Plan will be submitted for approval by the NCC's Board of Directors in winter 2018.

VII. Appendix 1 – Survey

Introduction

The Ottawa River North Shore Parklands Plan is a planning tool that will be used is to identify land uses and establish guidelines for improving the federal lands in this area.

Let us know what you think of the draft plan by answering the following Survey. Your comments will inform the final draft of the plan, which will be submitted to the NCC Board of Directors for approval in fall 2017.

The Survey will take you about 15 minutes to complete, and it will be available online until July 16, 2017.

Overall direction of the plan

During the discussions held concerning the plan, and particularly during the most recent public consultations, various themes emerged regarding the future direction for the north shore riverfront lands.

The plan proposes a **vision** for these lands, as well as **four main roles** that they should play in the Capital. This vision and the four roles, presented below, will be implemented according to an **overall development concept**.

Vision

The riverfront lands are a destination for people, in the heart of a green capital.

Roles

- Offer a wide range of experiences
- Provide access to the river
- Showcase the symbolism of the Capital
- Enhance the natural environment

Overall development concept

Riverfront lands will be used to create a series of distinct, but interconnected public spaces that will benefit from the Capital's natural environment and landscapes along the river.

To what extent are you satisfied with the vision, roles and overall development concept presented in the plan?

Very satisfied
Generally satisfied
Not very satisfied
Not at all satisfied
Don't know / No answer

[TO BE ASKED ONLY IF THE ANSWER TO Q1 IS Not very satisfied OR Not at all satisfied]

Sector planning

The area is divided into 10 sectors, and a development concept has been proposed for each one. Please choose the sectors you wish to comment on.

Jacques-Cartier Park North

• Theme

Jacques-Cartier Park North will be a large, welcoming, multi-purpose urban green space that occasionally hosts short and medium-length events. The central area will be able to accommodate events that are too big for Jacques-Cartier Park South. Most of the time, however, the area will be for spontaneous, unscheduled activities, and the park will continue to be primarily a place for a combination of public recreation and recreational services and relaxation areas that are popular in the Capital. Jacques-Cartier Park North will also be the place where non-motorized watercraft can access the Ottawa River. This opens this door for complementary nautical amenities as well. Park improvements will provide captivating lookout points and extensive contact with nature in the core of the Capital, while also preserving a tranquil ambiance in ecological areas.

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the <u>Jacques-Cartier</u> Park North sector?

□Very satisfied □Generally satisfied □Not very satisfied □Not at all satisfied □Don't know / No answer

[TO BE ASKED ONLY IF THE ANSWER TO Q3 IS Not very satisfied OR Not at all satisfied]

Convent and surroundings

• Theme

The **convent sector** could accommodate activities that would contribute to Jacques-Cartier Park's recreational dynamic, as well as to its function as a gathering place, tourist destination and place of cultural expression. The open spaces around the building will be integrated into the public space of Jacques-Cartier Park. They will offer a tranquil ambiance on a scenic site.

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the sector comprising the convent and its surroundings?

□Very satisfied
□Generally satisfied
□Not very satisfied
□Not at all satisfied
□Don't know / No answer

[TO BE ASKED ONLY IF THE ANSWER TO Q4 IS Not very satisfied OR Not at all satisfied]

Jacques-Cartier Park South

• Theme

Jacques-Cartier Park South will become a destination where a diverse clientele can enjoy a variety of recreational experiences. The park will augment this north shore focal point, which is currently centred on the Canadian Museum of History. The park will become an additional attraction around Confederation Boulevard. The sector will be vibrant, and will support ongoing spontaneous use through inspiring and welcoming urban developments, as well as attractive recreational amenities. Events can still be held here, in properly equipped, multipurpose spaces, and public access to other park facilities will continue to be maintained. The waterfront experience will be enhanced by nautical activities and the creation of spaces where users can come in contact with the Ottawa River and enjoy its natural features.

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the Jacques-Cartier Park South sector?

Very satisfied
 Generally satisfied
 Not very satisfied
 Not at all satisfied
 Don't know / No answer

[TO BE ASKED ONLY IF THE ANSWER TO Q5 IS Not very satisfied OR Not at all satisfied]

Canadian Museum of History grounds

• Theme

The **<u>Canadian Museum of History grounds</u>** represent one of the main attractions in Gatineau. This sector will liven up the core area by providing a gathering place that will maintain public access to the riverfront, where people can view the Capital's most defining symbols.

The site's original architectural intent will be preserved. Through improvements to and uses of the premises, the site will be treated in a dignified manner to reflect the significance of the Capital core area's icons and to showcase the sense of place, which features an Indigenous presence and historical elements.

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the sector comprising the Canadian Museum of History grounds?

Uvery satisfied

Generally satisfied

□Not very satisfied

Not at all satisfied

Don't know / No answer

[TO BE ASKED ONLY IF THE ANSWER TO Q6 IS Not very satisfied OR Not at all satisfied]

Kruger plant and surroundings

• Theme

Increasing the public areas along the riverfront corridor around the **Kruger plant** (p.79) would contribute to the river's natural landscape and increase access to the river. The parking lot located on the south side of the Kruger plant, between Laurier Street and the riverfront corridor could potentially be redeveloped as public parks. If this is done, the design would also provide areas for users to stop and enjoy the river and the Capital scenery. The small size of the spaces will be better suited for quiet relaxation areas.

The industrial facilities could be maintained for as long as they are in operation. In the long term, the Kruger plant site is destined to become a Capital park, hosting large-scale festivities and taking advantage of its prime location directly connected with Parliament Hill and the vibrant sectors of downtown Gatineau.

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the sector comprising the Kruger plant and its surroundings?

- Uvery satisfied
- Generally satisfied
- □Not very satisfied
- Not at all satisfied
- Don't know / No answer

[TO BE ASKED ONLY IF THE ANSWER TO Q7 IS Not very satisfied OR Not at all satisfied]

Scott Point and Portage Park

• Theme

The **Scott Point and <u>Portage Park</u> sector** will become fully integrated into the riverfront corridor, and will contribute to the Capital's defining landscape. Scott Point will be a new public site conducive to relaxation, where visitors can enjoy panoramic views of the river and Parliament Hill. This scenic site will serve as a junction in the Capital core area riverfront experience by linking Scott Point, the future park south of the Kruger plant, the Confederation Boulevard walkway and the Zibi neighbourhood riverfront area.

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the Scott Point and Portage Park sector?

□Very satisfied
Generally satisfied
□Not very satisfied
Not at all satisfied
Don't know / No answer

[TO BE ASKED ONLY IF THE ANSWER TO Q8 IS Not very satisfied OR Not at all satisfied]

Riverfront lands near the Zibi neighbourhood

• Theme

The **riverfront lands near the Zibi neighbourhood** will be accessible to the public. They will extend the waterfront experience beyond the Chaudières Bridge, and give users the opportunity to appreciate the strong river currents and falls.

The riverfront corridor will be a point of contact between the river and the vibrant Zibi neighbourhood, which will become a popular pedestrian corridor. This corridor could also occasionally provide a place that would serve as an extension for festive activities taking place in the urban neighbourhood and public square.

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the sector comprising the riverfront lands near the Zibi neighbourhood?

Very satisfied
Generally satisfied
Not very satisfied
Not at all satisfied
Don't know / No answer

[TO BE ASKED ONLY IF THE ANSWER TO Q9 IS Not very satisfied OR Not at all satisfied]

Mouth of Brewery Creek

• Theme

The mouth of Brewery Creek will mark a gateway into the heart of the Capital, and will include safe, inviting places for users to enjoy the waterways. The sector will continue to be a more accessible downtown oasis of greenery. The sector will reflect its importance as a crossroads and a point of passage in multiple senses (portage, Capital entrance, wildlife crossing, etc.). It will be a transition zone between the Voyageurs corridor and downtown.

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the mouth of Brewery Creek?

Very satisfied
Generally satisfied
Not very satisfied
Not at all satisfied
Don't know / No answer

[TO BE ASKED ONLY IF THE ANSWER TO Q10 IS Not very satisfied OR Not at all satisfied]

Brewery Creek (Montcalm Street section)

• Theme

The lands in the **Montcalm Street section of the Brewery Creek sector** will contribute to the emergence of a cultural neighbourhood with regional influence, and will help unite the urban sector and Brewery Creek. This space will offer developed public places that can accommodate lively events and cultural facilities, as well as businesses contributing to this ambiance. The site design will remain open for the most part, and will offer a recreational experience in both summer and winter.

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the sector comprising the Montcalm Street section of Brewery Creek?

Very satisfied
Generally satisfied
Not very satisfied
Not at all satisfied
Don't know / No answer

[TO BE ASKED ONLY IF THE ANSWER TO Q11 IS Not very satisfied OR Not at all satisfied]

Brewery Creek (north of Hull Island)

• Theme

The sector comprising **Brewery Creek (north of Hull Island)** will be preserved to make it possible for users to observe and enjoy nature. Development will be kept to a minimum. Users will be able to explore this natural corridor, which extends all the way to Montcalm Street, without disturbing any species or existing natural habitats. Allowing access to this sector will make it possible to complete the recreational corridor around Hull Island.

To what extent are you satisfied with the proposed theme for the sector comprising <u>Brewery Creek</u> (north of Hull Island)?

□Very satisfied □Generally satisfied □Not very satisfied □Not at all satisfied □Don't know / No answer

[TO BE ASKED ONLY IF THE ANSWER TO Q12 IS Not very satisfied OR Not at all satisfied]

Other comments

Please provide any other comments that you would like to share regarding the Ottawa River North Shore Parklands Plan.

In what way would you generally use the riverfront lands included in the plan?

Please provide the first three characters of your postal code _____

Thank you for taking part in this Survey!