



**NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION  
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE**

**SGEC Park Plan project  
Meeting Minutes**

**30 November 2021  
18:30 - 20:30 Ottawa EST  
Via Microsoft Teams Teleconference**

**Participants:**

**NCC:**

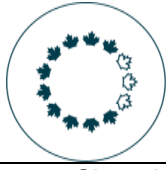
- Benoit G elinas: BG
- Lucie Bureau: LB
-  milie Girard-Ruel: EGR
- Isabelle Hughes: IH
- Patricia McCann-McMillan: PMM
- Sylvie Lalonde: SL
- Arto Keklikian: AK
- Andrew Sacret: AS
- Camille Renaud (Minutes)

**PAC Members:**

- Paul Johanis, Chair, Green Space Alliance of Canada's Capital: PJ
- Heather Matthews, New Edinburg Community Alliance: HM
- Ian Gadbois, President, Ski Heritage East: IG
- Matthew Henderson, Rockcliffe Park Residents Association: MHe
- Jamie Batchelor, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority: JBa
- Meghan Hanlon, President, Ottawa New Edinburgh Club (ONEC): MHa
- Nicole Fortier, Soci t  franco-ontarienne du patrimoine et de l'histoire d'Orl ans (SFOPHO): NF
- Katherine Forster, Manor Park Community Association: KF
- Jane Brammer, Rothwell Heights Property Owners Association: JBr

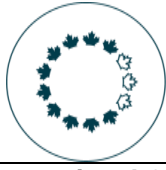
**PRESENTATION**

#	Member	Item	Response/Action
	<b>EGR</b>	Introduction	
	<b>LB</b>	Introduction	
	<b>LB</b>	This plan aims to realize the recreational, social, cultural and environmental potential of this riverfront park plan, in a view that will facilitate safe and unimpeded access to what is a great Capital attraction. Over the past years, our team has been gathering information that is based on our knowledge and user surveys. We will add to this knowledge base what we hear from you today.	
	<b>BG</b>	Teams instructions	
	<b>All</b>	Roundtable	
	<b>n/a</b>	Presentation video	
	<b>PMM</b>	<b>Terms of Reference</b> Mandate <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- This committee is expected to bring knowledge and skills that will help us develop the park plan.</li></ul> Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Provide objective input.</li></ul>	



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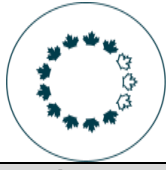
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share information with your respective community.</li> <li>- Express your thoughts on topics of interest to your communities.</li> </ul> <p>Discussed themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Natural environment</li> <li>- Culture and heritage</li> <li>- Transportation and active mobility</li> <li>- All-season recreation and leisure opportunities</li> </ul> <p>Frequency of meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PAC will meet on a quarterly basis.</li> </ul>
<b>PMM</b>	<p><b>Introduction to the Project</b></p> <p>The area has long been regarded as a signature feature and a key element for the capital. The plan is in line with the NCC's planning principles of enhancing the shoreline, placemaking and animating the capital for all users.</p>
<b>PMM</b>	<p><b>Study Area</b></p> <p>The park plan focuses on a 13 km stretch of federal lands along the southeast shore of the Ottawa River. It is approximately 600 hectares and the park contains pathways, trails and a mix of public and private recreational sites.</p>
<b>PMM</b>	<p><b>Major Milestones</b></p> <p>Spring 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existing conditions, studies and surveys</li> </ul> <p>Fall 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vision roles and planning principles</li> </ul> <p>Summer 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concept and goals</li> </ul> <p>Spring 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Final plan</li> </ul>
<b>PMM</b>	<p><b>Build on the Information</b></p> <p>Existing conditions Opportunities and challenges Vision and principles</p> <p>Key findings (surveys)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1300 online responses, 56 surveys at the marinas, 750 responses from pathway users</li> <li>- 3 of 4 respondents visit the park at least once a week during the spring, summer and fall, with almost 60% visiting during the winter</li> <li>- 25% walkers, 23% cyclists, 16% snowshoe/cross country skiers, 9% leisure activities, 7% runners</li> </ul>
<b>PMM</b>	<p><b>Consultation and Communications</b></p> <p>Public Advisory Committee (PAC) Stakeholders General public</p>
<b>PMM</b>	<p><b>Federal Land Use</b></p> <p>The NCC's goal is for the capital region to be a model of urban planning.</p>
<b>PMM</b>	<p><b>Natural Environment</b></p> <p>Values natural habitats Mix of open space and forested areas Key spaces to preserve biodiversity and connectivity Invasive species</p>



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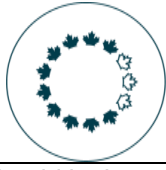
	<b>PMM</b>	<b>Recreational Opportunities</b> Watercraft Ski trails Pathways Leisure recreation
	<b>PMM</b>	<b>Recreational Facilities</b> Rockcliffe Boathouse restaurant and marina Ottawa New Edinburgh Canoe (ONEC) Club Rockcliffe Yacht Club Rockcliffe Flying Club Blair Road boat launch
	<b>PMM</b>	<b>Motorized Transportation</b> Two-lane, 13-km-long Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway Can be accessed via eight different roads Parking for pathway users/site visitors
	<b>PMM</b>	<b>Active Mobility</b> Access to riverfront Two pathways, two experiences Well-connected Weekend Bikedays and special events
	<b>PMM</b>	<b>Initiatives</b> River House Long-term Interprovincial Crossing Plan Pollinator habitat Interpretation park showcasing Franco-Ontarian culture
	<b>PMM</b>	<b>Important Considerations</b> Four-season activities Heritage and culture Diversity of habitats and natural features Accessibility Public facilities and services Views Cultural landscapes and features
	<b>PMM</b>	<b>Strengths</b> Views and scenic landscapes Continuous waterfront Cultural and natural heritage
	<b>PMM</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b> Discontinuous pathway Safety issues Limited direct water access Lack of wayfinding throughout the corridor Lack of facilities
	<b>PMM</b>	<b>Opportunities</b> Enhanced accessibility Historically and nationally significant sites Recreational activities and environmental projects
	<b>PMM</b>	<b>Challenges</b> Invasive species affecting environment and river views Parkway is heavily used by commuters Climate change causing more frequent flooding

#	Member	Item	Response/Action
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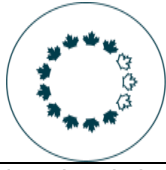
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<b>What are the most important opportunities for the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park? What are the most significant issues that need to be addressed?</b>	
<b>IG</b>	<p>In the Queen's report: No awareness of the current effort being made to animate the trail. This should be corrected.</p> <p>Animation: Opportunity to animate the river/parks; add restaurants and restrooms. Current Rockcliffe Boathouse would be a great spot to have some food and drinks.</p> <p>Access: It is difficult for communities to access the parkway (e.g. Manor Park, Beacon Hill). Should add official crosswalks, reduce speed limits.</p> <p>Timeline: The plan timeline seems long.</p>
<b>PJ</b>	<p>Indigenous heritage: This site is a significant locus of Indigenous heritage. This should be somewhere in the fundamentals of this project.</p> <p><b>PMM:</b> We are aware of this. <b>EGR:</b> There are separate but parallel processes with our Indigenous partners.</p>
<b>MHa</b>	<p>Animation: Great opportunity to think about how to animate the blue space, in addition to the green space. Think about what infrastructure or developments can be put in place that can support the recreational animation that is already there (e.g. increasing visibility).</p> <p>Access: Integrate more access points across the river (for those who aren't ONEC members).</p> <p>Preserving nature: This space provides a way to feel like you are in nature but so close to downtown. This is an opportunity to think strategically about how the plan can make enhancements to the space and people's experience without taking away that feeling of being in nature.</p> <p>Animation: Adding food concession areas.</p> <p><b>EGR:</b> Balancing the development with preserving the nature that is already there.</p>
<b>MHe</b>	Completely agree regarding preservation of natural space.
<b>JBr</b>	<p>Access: Blair Road boat ramp is a major access point to the park and river. It needs greater motorized access to enable greater access for people coming from other parts of the city.</p> <p>Security concerns: Security in the area (burned cars, night activity). Should be a controlled access down to the parking lot and boat ramp area that was timed to daylight hours.</p> <p>Equipment rentals: This particular area has great opportunities such as watersport rentals. Would not recommend rental jet skis (safety issue).</p> <p>Appreciate the seating the NCC has added on both sides of the boat launch area. Great addition.</p>
<b>MHe</b>	<p>Access: Pedestrian access is a big issue.</p> <p>Access: Emphasis on active transportation by facilitating access for the general public (not just club goers)—cycling, running, rowing, canoeing, paddle boarding, skiing, swimming (if feasible).</p>
<b>HM</b>	<p>Animation: Ice cream at the pavilion. Great space for a small concession stand.</p> <p>Dog park: Economic development and tourism; should add an off-leash dog park.</p> <p>History of the land: Anecdote.</p>
<b>KF</b>	Equipment rentals: Support the recommendation of adding equipment rentals at Blair.



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	<p>Should look at ways to separate trail uses based on speed.</p> <p>Access: Identifying drop-off points with OC Transpo instead of adding parking.</p> <p>Animation: More animation with considerations for new development.</p> <p>Some way to access the Rockcliffe restaurant by a pathway.</p> <p>Connection to Wateridge: Old road that links Wateridge to the pathway. Curious if there will be parking at the new wetlands area.</p> <p>Consideration for the birds: We have some important natural areas. Try to keep wood logs intact to keep interior space for birds.</p> <p>Would love to see more encouragement of urban/pollinator meadows.</p>	
<b>MHa</b>	<p>More activities: i.e., astronomy observers, spaces for public plays.</p> <p>Security concerns: Better lighting and security of the pathways.</p> <p>Accessibility: Public transit or bike stations.</p>	
<b>JBr</b>	<p>Safety issues on the parkway: Cyclists not obeying the speed limit. Dual path would be very valuable.</p> <p>Support comments made about active transportation and transit to access the waterfront.</p> <p>Parking overflow at Blair Road: We may need more parking spaces or a way that they can get there without taking up more parking spaces.</p>	
<b>PMM</b>	<p><i>(Chat Comment)</i> The Capital Illumination Plan does not extend into the park east of the governor general's residence.</p>	
<b>IG</b>	<p>Separation of paths: There should be a continuous upper-level path.</p> <p>Wider shoulders on the parkway.</p> <p>Expanding the trail into other communities. Trail up to Wateridge is ideal for expansion.</p>	
<b>NF</b>	<p>Access: From Orleans, unless by bicycle, is not accessible. It would be interesting to think about creating an access road. There's not a lot of parking space.</p> <p>Infrastructure: The closer you get to Orleans, the less infrastructure there is. It would be interesting to think about a mini-infrastructure so that the east could be developed a bit more (washrooms).</p> <p>The Greenbelt and Sir George-Étienne Cartier Park are part of two large tourist networks: Champlain and the Francophone Pan-Canadian Tourism Corridor.</p>	
<b>How do you imagine the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Riverfront Park will be enjoyed by future generations?</b>		
<b>MHa</b>	Recreational sailing, rowing and paddling	
<b>MHe</b>	Natural spaces in the National Capital	
<b>JBr</b>	<p>Tree planting</p> <p>Commercial boat trip to give some history of the river</p>	<p><b>PMM:</b> Lower Duck Island is part of the study area so that the plan can develop policies that will help us protect it from intrusive development and activities.</p> <p><b>JBr:</b> Not boats to the island, but through the rapids.</p>
<b>KF</b>	Access to islands (SUP, kayak, canoe)	



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KF	Educational signage of flora/fauna, ecological history and “living with (nature)”
PJ	Preservation of the park over a 50-year period
JBr	There used to be a beacon in the river. Perhaps we could reconstruct the beacon or have a high-tech indication that it used to be there.
NF	I think there are still ruins where the beacon used to be. It would be interesting to make that area more accessible.
JBa	The park is going to serve a dual role moving forward: recreational and for commute. The LRT coming to the east end will create a denser population and, therefore, more commuters. The pathway will become a major artery for commuting, running, rollerblading and cycling. Will need more and better access at the east end.  Will be the biggest park in the east end. Very important to preserve it. Balance of recreational potential and commuting pressure.
<b>What three words would you like to see in the vision?</b>	
JBa	Recreational oasis
PJ	Nature in the city/La nature en ville
KF	Ecological gem
MHa	Community
MHe	Sustainability, access, recreation
KF	Important breeding bird area
MHa	Inclusiveness
KF	Urban meadows (monarch pathway)
MHa	Welcoming
JBr	Natural, sustainable, recreation
IG	Active winter enjoyment
MHa	Relaxing
HM	Hike, bike, recreation
KF	Four-season animation
NF	Cultural elements
<b>Which values for the park are most important to you?</b>	
KF	(Tiny beach area by Blair; people like to come here and sit; bring a book, even knit. Where can we add more opportunities like this, where people feel directly connected to the water?)