

NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

Westboro Beach Pavilion and Landscape Design

PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT DECEMBER 16, 2020, TO JANUARY 18, 2021

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I. Project description

A. Background

The National Capital Commission (NCC) is in the process of designing a new and rehabilitated pavilion and surrounding landscape at Westboro Beach, as part of its plan to revitalize the south shore of the Ottawa River. This project is an important part of the NCC's ongoing efforts to ensure that the National Capital Region is a dynamic and inspiring source of pride for all Canadians.

This project fits within two of the NCC's broader planning initiatives: the <u>Plan for Canada's</u> <u>Capital, 2017–2067</u>, the <u>Capital Urban Lands Plan</u> (2015) and the <u>Ottawa River South Shore</u> <u>Riverfront Park Plan</u>.

The Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan is the fruit of numerous consultations with the Algonquin Anishinabe community, members of the public and various community stakeholders. It aims to revitalize a nine-kilometre stretch of the city's shoreline between LeBreton Flats and Mud Lake, and to reconnect people and communities to the Ottawa River. In keeping with these objectives, it provides guidance on facilities, amenities and design improvements needed at Westboro Beach.

The NCC and the City of Ottawa have an agreement for the light rail transit Stage 2 project. As part of this agreement, the City will finance parkland improvements on a 2.5-km stretch of the riverfront park, including the proposed improvements at Westboro Beach.

B. Project overview and timeline

The Westboro Beach Area Redevelopment project will be one of the first steps in making the Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park Plan a reality. The plan's proposals for Westboro Beach include new amenities, design improvements and facilities, the most significant of which is a new multi-purpose pavilion.

Public consultations are woven into the timeline ahead of important junctures to ensure that public feedback can be integrated effectively into the decision-making process. The consultations include the following:

- A meeting held in September 2017 with members of the communities adjacent to Westboro Beach to discuss a proposed parking lot at 234 Atlantis Avenue for the proposed Westboro Beach Redevelopment project. (A report that summarizes the feedback received at this meeting is available <u>on the NCC's website</u>).
- <u>Two workshops and an online consultation</u> on site design and uses, held in April and June 2019.
- A final round of public online consultation on the proposed design held from December 2020 to January 2021, whose outcome forms the basis of this report.

The NCC also intends to engage in a separate dialogue with members of the Algonquin Nation regarding the project.

Public consultations in turn feed into an iterative design process, which extended from March 2019 to January 2021. Its principal milestones are as follows:

- An internal design competition held between March and October 2019, the designs
 were reviewed by a jury composed of members of the Advisory Committee on Planning,
 Design and Realty (ACPDR) and representatives from the local community and the
 Algonquin Nation, and a preferred design that best meets the project's goals and
 objectives was selected by the NCC for further development.
- Design review by the full ACPDR committee in fall 2020.
- Approval of the preliminary design by the NCC's Board of Directors in January 2021.
- Approval of the final design by the NCC's Board of Directors in winter 2022.

The project, which will be implemented in several phases starting in summer 2020, has the following expected milestones:

- Demolition of two derelict buildings at 234 Atlantis Avenue in June 2020.
- Service upgrades made to the Westboro Beach site by mid-summer 2021.
- Construction of the parking lot on the opposite side of the parkway in 2022.
- Construction of the new and revitalized Westboro Beach pavilion and landscape to start in spring 2022.

C. Objectives

The objectives of the project are as follows:

- Building a new pavilion that will offer space for beach and community amenities and commercial operations in the form of food services.
- Providing enhanced, year-round experiences for beachgoers and site users.
- Identifying opportunities to revitalize and celebrate the beach's built heritage and archaeological features, including the existing pavilions and the former Skead Mill.

This project will ultimately create a more vibrant, active area that will improve residents' quality of life, and enhance visitors' experience in the National Capital Region.

II. Public consultation process

A. Overview

During the <u>previous phase of public consultation</u>, we asked members of the public about their preferences, ideas and concerns in relation to this exciting project. The feedback we received was rich, thoughtful and, though diverse, made some shared aspirations loud and clear. In keeping with what we heard, the NCC developed a preliminary design that

• is sensitive to the existing and beloved character of the site, and seeks to enhance it, rather than transform it;

- favours uses and experiences that are down-to-earth, that make the most of the site's unique features and that are accessible to all;
- embraces all four seasons; and
- fosters sustainability, respects the area's natural environment, and preserves and improves its breathtaking views.

As part of the latest phase of public consultation, we shared the fruits of these efforts with members of the public, and solicited their input.

a. Consultation objective

Provide stakeholder groups and members of the public with an opportunity to

- learn about the proposed pavilion and landscape design for Westboro Beach
- share feedback on the proposals with the NCC

b. Date and time

Meeting with stakeholder groups

• December 16, 4:30 to 6:00 pm

Online consultation

- December 18, 2020, to January 18, 2021
- B. Consultation procedure and tools
- a. Meeting with stakeholder groups

The workshop with stakeholder groups was held via Microsoft Teams. It featured a presentation by the project team, followed by a question and discussion period. NCC staff took notes throughout the meeting.

b. Online consultation

The online consultation consisted of a project web page, paired with an online survey.

The <u>project web page</u> featured a video in which members of the project team presented the proposed pavilion and landscape design. The presentation script was made available, along with several images of the proposed design. The web page also featured information about the project background, timeline and past public engagement initiatives.

Participants were invited to complete a survey. In the survey, participants were asked to provide feedback on the following:

- what they liked most about the proposed pavilion and landscape design
- what they would most like to see improved

- their preferences regarding specific landscaping options and potential amenities
- general comments on the project

Interested members of the public were also invited to provide feedback on the project by contacting NCC client services by phone or email.

C. Invitation and promotion

a. Meeting with stakeholder groups

Stakeholder groups received an email invitation asking for their participation in a bilingual meeting held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

b. Online consultation

An email invitation for the online consultation was sent using NCC distribution lists, which include the following stakeholders:

- interest groups, user groups and heritage groups
- residents' associations
- members of the general public

Messages were also posted on the NCC's social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter), soliciting the participation of all interested members of the public. A paid digital advertising campaign was also launched on social media throughout the duration of the survey.

D. Participants

a. Meeting with stakeholder groups

Invited community associations and stakeholder groups:

Westboro Beach Community Association Westboro Community Association Wellington Village Community Association Hampton-Iona Community Group Champlain Park Community Association (CPCA) McKellar Park Community Association Barclay Condos Island Park Towers Residents Association Westboro Housing Co-operative Inc. Ottawa Riverkeeper Bike Ottawa Heritage Canada A total of four groups/persons participated:

- Bike Ottawa
- Westboro Beach Community Association
- Two people, representing groups and/or associations not identified

b. Online consultation

- A total of 1,528 survey participants, 750 of whom completed the survey from start to finish.
- The NCC also received 15 emails during the consultation period with comments about the proposed design.

III. Public consultation highlights

Public consultation participants were overall very supportive of the proposed pavilion and landscape design, and felt that there were many things to like among its distinctive features and amenities.

Some of the most frequently lauded elements of the pavilion design included the rehabilitation of the Strutt Pavilion, the provision of year-round access to indoor amenities, and the general aesthetic of the pavilions. Among the additional amenities requested by participants were performance space, room to dance and separate change rooms. The proposed gender-neutral washrooms were a source of discomfort for some.

The elements of the landscape design that attracted the greatest number of plaudits from participants centred on enhancements to the site's natural features that leave its most prized attributes untouched. The expansion of parkland, the addition of scenic lookouts, native plant gardens, pollinator meadows and other natural embellishments were greeted with enthusiasm by many. In keeping with feedback provided during previous rounds of public consultation, the preservation of the beach, grassy hill, and trees were similarly applauded. The elements that elicited the greatest number of recommended changes involved circulation in and around the site, and risks of collisions where pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles meet.

Survey results also revealed the following:

- A majority of participants (69%) supported the proposal to add a row of trees at the top of the hill to create a visual barrier between the pathway and parkway.
- A majority of participants said they would be interested in renting paddleboards, kayaks, canoes, cross-country skis and snowshoes on-site.
- Participants would overwhelmingly prefer a mix of seating types (movable and fixed, selected by 79%) as opposed to just one or the other.
- Participants were split evenly (50%-50%) as to the ideal location of the proposed picnic and barbeque area.
- Be it in summer or winter, the Park Pavilion dining option with the widest appeal was casual or bistro-style.

• The most widely preferred experiences at Westboro Beach all involved stationary outdoor pursuits: sitting out on a patio (selected by 61%), relaxing outdoors in the shade (59%) or in the sun (56%), quietly contemplating nature (48%), and having a picnic (44%).

IV. What we heard

A. Meeting with stakeholder groups

Following the presentation, participants expressed support for the following proposed features:

- the inclusion of a multi-purpose room
- the design and scaled down footprint of the pavilions
- plans to expose and protect the Skead Mill ruins
- the inclusion of a broom closet to store equipment used by volunteers
- new parking spaces for bicycles
- replacement of the existing interpretation panels

Participants also expressed interest in the following:

- 24-hour access to storage space
- indoor space in which to display historical images
- community input on the selection of restaurant and café operators
- the availability of healthy meal options at the restaurant and café
- installation of a mat that would enable wheelchair access to the water

Participants expressed an interest in creating a space for outdoor skating and features that would facilitate future maintenance of a rink. Others mentioned the need for flexible space in the event that a restaurant facility is not economically feasible. An interest in preserving the Skead Mill ruins was expressed, along with concern over graffiti issues and late night campfires in the area.

B. Online consultation

a. The pavilions

What participants like most

The rehabilitation of the Strutt Pavilion was one of the most frequently lauded of the proposed design features. In particular, participants appreciated the use of glass for the roofs and beachlevel entrance that will allow more natural light into the building. The general aesthetic of the two pavilions was also praised by many participants, who variously mentioned the pavilions' profile, modernity, materials, and compatibility with the existing landscape and character of the site as commendable qualities. A number of participants expressed appreciation for the proposed design's modest built footprint, and the fact that it does not unduly encroach on park space. Others noted the beautiful views of the surrounding area that the pavilions will provide.

The functionality of the pavilions also received many plaudits from participants. The features most frequently mentioned in this regard were the following:

- year-round access to the Park Pavilion and its amenities
- the commitment to make the Park Pavilion a sustainable, zero-carbon building
- additional dining options, chief among them being the Park Pavilion restaurant
- upgraded and gender-neutral washroom facilities
- more indoor space for public/community use, including a multi-purpose room
- enhanced outdoor seating options, including patio space at both the Strutt Pavilion and the Park Pavilion levels
- the bottle filling station
- enhanced accessibility
- the opportunity to rinse off using outdoor solar-heated showers at the lower terrace
- the relocation of the café to provide more space by the beach and better acoustic separation

A few participants expressed dislike for the proposed design, some of whom would prefer the site to remain as it is now. Some did not wish to see the Strutt towers rehabilitated.

What participants would most like to see improved

In response to this question, a number of participants simply indicated that the design looks great to them, and that they had nothing further to add. Many others provided detailed feedback on elements of the design that they felt would improve the form and function of the pavilions.

While there was a significant degree of consensus around what participants liked about the aesthetic of the pavilions, opinion among participants differed greatly regarding how the appearance of the pavilions could be improved. Comments on this subject were very specific, and touched on a range of qualities such as materials, colours, shapes, the visual compatibility between the two pavilions and the atmosphere created by the pavilions (warmth, invitingness, cleanliness and so on). The most frequent suggestions on this front included using less concrete and injecting more colours into the design. Several participants also expressed distaste for the Strutt towers, and suggested removing them altogether. Some felt that the footprint of the Park Pavilion was still too large, and that it should be further reduced. Others simply noted the sorry state of the current building, and welcomed change.

The majority of improvements recommended by participants, however, dwelled not on appearances, but rather on what amenities and experiences will be available to visitors on-site.

There was a great deal of interest in creating more performance-friendly spaces on the patios. Participants were especially enthusiastic about opportunities to enjoy live music and dance. A stage, more seating, a dance floor, and shelter from rain and the sun were among the requests made by participants for the patio space. Some participants also expressed misgivings about the outdoor space allocated to the beach-level café, which they felt was insufficient to maintain its current appeal and use as a music venue. Others were concerned that the relocation would rob the café patio of beach and river views. A few participants stressed the importance of measures to dampen noise so that residents in surrounding neighbourhoods are not disturbed by live music.

A number of participants used this opportunity to underscore the importance of providing visitors with access to clean, modern washrooms year-round. Others felt uncomfortable about the prospect of gender-neutral washrooms, and would like there to be separate washrooms for men and women. Several participants also requested change room facilities that would be separate from the washrooms.

Several participants noted the large number of steps in the images of the proposed design, and wondered how persons with disabilities would be able to move freely through the pavilions and into outdoor spaces. These and other participants stressed the importance of ensuring that the pavilions and site as a whole are accessible to as wide a range of users as possible, including persons with disabilities, seniors, visitors with strollers and children.

Several participants indicated that they would like a range of amenities to be available to visitors in the winter. In addition to washrooms, these participants mentioned change rooms, warm spaces in which to take a break and enjoy a meal, fireplaces, and outdoor fire pits. A few participants suggested creating an outdoor skating area.

Some participants thought that the pavilions should provide more space for local businesses and commercial activity. Examples included pop-up vendors, a yoga/dance studio and a gift shop. Several participants also expressed interest in rentals, including bicycles, skis and water sport equipment. From a culinary angle, several participants hoped that food and drink options offered at the café and proposed restaurant would be varied, healthy and of high quality.

Other suggestions included the following:

- Going beyond carbon neutrality in a bid to make the buildings even more sustainable (e.g. zero-waste, composting, harnessing wind and solar energy and so on).
- Taking security into greater account, in particular measures to address criminality onsite (drug use/dealing, vandalism and so on)
- Ensuring that the building is bird-safe.
- Including public art or a space where art can be displayed.
- Including more or a larger space for community gatherings and/or events.
- Limiting dining options to a single establishment.

b. The landscape

What participants like most

The space accorded to nature and the way in which that space is curated were among the elements of the proposed landscape design of which participants were most fond. Many participants expressed strong support for the relocation of the existing parking lot, and welcomed the new parkland that would take its place. Others simply indicated that what they liked best is the fact that the site will include green space — and lots of it. Several of these participants shared a sense of the space being opened up and reclaimed by nature. A number commented on the general aesthetic qualities of the landscape design: its beauty, invitingness, and clean appearance. For others, it was all about the details: the garden of native plant species, pollinator meadows, the removal of invasive species and the large number of trees were all singled out by participants as particularly attractive features. Some participants indicated they were pleased with the emphasis on sustainability and support for wildlife.

Many participants were enthusiastic about new opportunities to take in the beautiful views of the surrounding landscape. The proposed lookouts, new seating options, boardwalk and picnic area were hailed by numerous participants as exciting additions to the site. Several participants liked that the benches would be made from trees removed as part of the City of Ottawa's LRT construction work. The exposure of the Skead Mill ruins, inclusion of children's play features and integration of interpretive panels were also greeted with approval by participants. For some, the main appeal of the proposed landscape design lay in what it left undisturbed. Many participants were especially pleased that existing trees would be preserved. Others were similarly thrilled that the hill over the beach (which is used for tobogganing in the winter) and the beach itself would be kept as they are.

Many participants also cited improvements to pathways and traffic flow as commendable features of the proposed design. In particular, participants pointed to the separation of pedestrians and cyclists and to enhanced safety overall as especially welcome changes. Better integration with winter ski trails was also mentioned by several participants, along with new amenities like ski and bike racks. Some felt that access to the site and its natural features in general was enhanced.

Several participants were supportive of new opportunities for active recreation, including the volleyball courts and wide-open spaces for various sports.

A number of participants simply indicated that they like and approve of the proposals. Some similarly indicated that, in their view, the proposed design made better use of the space.

What participants would most like to see improved

As was the case with the pavilions, there was more variety in what participants would like to see improved about the landscape design than in what they liked most about it.

The elements of the proposed landscape design that attracted the most feedback in this section were the pathways and parking arrangements. A number of participants expressed concerns about the zone near the pavilions where cyclists would cross paths with pedestrians and be expected to yield to them. Some of these participants viewed this mixed zone as undesirable

from the perspective of cyclists and suggested that an alternative configuration be considered that would keep cyclists and pedestrians separated throughout the site or that their respective routes be more clearly defined. Several participants were skeptical that cyclists would actually slow down in this zone, and feared that their behaviour would lead to accidents. Several participants were similarly concerned about potential for accidents on the segment of the multiuse pathway that runs alongside the parkway over the underpass. Some of these participants recommended installing a physical barrier between the two. A few participants also recommended widening this pathway to enhance safety.

While many participants appreciated the proposal to locate most of the parking space across the parkway, some expressed concerns about the new location with access to Westboro Beach enabled via a signalized intersection. Some questioned the safety of a signalized at-grade crossing, preferring underpasses instead. Others view it as an inconvenience for site users who have a lot of equipment to carry or children in tow, and for persons with disabilities unable to secure a universally accessible parking spot near the pavilions. A few simply were not keen to see another set of traffic lights installed on the parkway. Several others were concerned about the negative impacts the new parking lot might have on residents who live on adjacent streets (e.g. increased traffic on residential streets, noise and so on). A number of participants simply stressed the importance of providing sufficient parking, while a smaller number thought that there should be fewer parking spots.

Accessibility issues were again raised in this section by several participants. Some felt that four universally accessible parking spots close to the pavilion and an additional one in the other parking lot would be insufficient to meet demand for the site, and/or that the drop-off area should be larger. Others encouraged the NCC to consider accessibility as part of decisions around various operational and design features, such as snow removal, the use of stairs, the availability of handrails, seating ergonomics and access to the beach.

A number of participants expressed interest in particular outdoor amenities and services. These included the following:

- more shade provided by trees, parasols or other means (e.g. an overhead shelter)
- more picnic tables
- a larger children's playground or splash pad
- more seating throughout the site
- an outdoor skating rink
- a boat launch
- more bike racks
- equipment rental
- performance space (live music, dance, theatre)
- enhanced linkages to public transit
- year-round maintenance with a high standard of excellence
- more dedicated space for activities (e.g. spikeball, bocce ball, horseshoes, soccer, badminton, pickleball, ultimate frisbee and so on)
- an adequate number of garbage, recycling and compost bins throughout the site

- expansion of the beach to address overcrowding
- planting of more trees
- sufficient habitat for the local fauna
- more natural, unmanicured areas

Some would prefer that the proposed volleyball court be removed from the design, while others proposed moving it to a sandy area (instead of having it on grass). Several participants also expressed support for the removal of invasive species and the inclusion of floral elements, including gardens, native species, flower beds and pollinator meadows. A few participants were either unsure about or opposed to the addition of a boardwalk.

Other suggestions included the following:

- ensuring that there is adequate lighting
- mitigating disturbances to neighbouring residents
- including outdoor public art
- addressing water quality issues (e.g. algae, bacteria)

A number of participants indicated that the proposals look good to them, and that they had nothing further to add.

Many participants in the last round of public consultation asked that the grassy hill above the beach be left untouched, as it is used for tobogganing in the winter and for enjoying the view of the river in the summer.

We therefore proposed leaving the hill itself untouched. However, we asked participants to indicate the degree to which they supported adding a row of trees between the top of the hill and the pathway and parkway to create a visual barrier between the two spaces.



How supportive are you of the proposal to add a row of trees at the top of the hill?

Note: This chart illustrates the responses of 760 participants.

A majority of participants (69%) were supportive of adding a row of trees at the top of the hill, against 17% who were opposed.

c. Amenities

Rentals

We asked participants to indicate their level of interest in potentially renting different types of recreational equipment at Westboro Beach.



Note: This chart illustrates the responses of 725 participants.

The three types of equipment whose rental most interested participants were kayaks, paddleboards and canoes. A majority of participants also said they would be interested in renting cross-country skis and snowshoes. Conversely, a majority said they were not at all interested in renting bicycles or fat bikes.

Seating

When faced with a choice of movable chairs, fixed seating, or a combination of the two, participants overwhelmingly preferred the third of these options (selected by 79%).



Note: This chart illustrates the responses of 686 participants.

Picnic and BBQ area location

Opinion was evenly split with regard to the ideal location of a proposed picnic and BBQ area. Half of participants would prefer that the picnic area be located in the shaded area near the universally accessible parking lot. The other half would prefer it to be in the field across from the multi-use pathway.



Note: This chart illustrates the responses of 673 participants.

Food and drink

In the initial round of public consultation, many public consultation participants expressed a preference to keep a laid-back, beach-side snack bar. This was included in the proposed Strutt

Pavilion design. Like the current snack bar, hours of operation would be seasonal. By contrast, the new Park Pavilion will include space for a food/drink vendor that will be open year-round.

In the latest consultation, we asked participants to indicate which kind of dining establishment they would be most likely to frequent in the Park Pavilion.



Note: This chart illustrates the responses of 741 participants.



Note: This chart illustrates the responses of 738 participants.

Be it in summer or in winter, the dining option with the widest appeal was casual or bistro-style. Sixty percent of participants indicated that they would consider frequenting this kind of establishment in the summer, and 47% indicated the same for the winter season. Fast casual

was the next most popular option, with 27% of participants indicating that they would consider frequenting this type of establishment in the summer, and 23% in the winter. Family-style and fine dining were the options with the narrowest appeal.

Preferred experiences

For most participants, enjoyment of Westboro Beach is about relaxing outside. The most widely preferred experiences all involved stationary outdoor pursuits: sitting out on a patio (selected by 61%), relaxing outdoors in the shade (59%) or in the sun (56%), quietly contemplating nature (48%), and having a picnic (44%). In contrast, playing spots / being active and enjoying indoor amenities were the least preferred experiences (selected by 30% and 25% of participants, respectively).



Note: This chart illustrates the responses of 731 participants.

Most exciting amenities

The amenity about which participants are most excited is the new lookouts (selected by 54%), followed by the proposed picnic area (selected by 18%). Children's play features and the volleyball court came in last (selected by 9% and 4% of participants, respectively). Fifteen percent of participants indicated that they were not excited by any of the listed options.



Note: This chart illustrates the responses of 730 participants.

d. Additional feedback

At the end of the survey, we provided participants with an opportunity to share any additional thoughts they had about the proposed pavilion and landscape design. The majority of the comments in this section echoed those made earlier in the survey.

Participants expressed interest in a range of amenities and services. These included the following:

- performance space for live music and other cultural programming
- a dance floor
- washrooms accessible year-round
- a playground
- various outdoor activities (bocce ball, soccer, hockey, Ping-Pong, basketball, frisbee, pickleball and so on)
- a bar
- various kinds of food (food trucks, ice cream, poutine, healthy food, high-quality food and so on)
- a skating rink
- picnic tables
- equipment rentals
- enhanced access to public transit
- year-round maintenance with a high standard of excellence
- more shaded areas
- more public art
- an adequate number of garbage, recycling and compost bins throughout the site
- interpretation panels with information about the history of the area

Several participants again stressed the importance of accessibility, and encouraged the NCC to be more forward-thinking on this front. These participants would like the designs to afford all site visitors the same opportunities and experiences regardless of physical ability.

Some participants raised concerns related to certain design decisions. These included the following:

- safety concerns and discomfort related to gender-neutral washrooms
- potentially increased traffic and noise in the surrounding residential neighbourhoods due to insufficient parking, or to visitors accessing the parking lot via residential streets rather than via the parkway
- risk of accidents at the signalized intersection, at the area where the multi-use pathway runs alongside the parkway, and in the zone where cyclists would mix with pedestrians
- overcrowding due to increased popularity and access
- insufficient or inconveniently located parking
- issues related to smoke from barbeque pits should they be placed near recreational spaces
- the encroachment of recreational amenities on natural, tranquil, unprogrammed spaces

Some felt that the consultation had not been sufficiently publicized, and worried that many seasonal site users did not have an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed designs. Others fear that the new pavilions and amenities will detract from the site's existing character and simplicity. A few participants felt that the proposed new location for the beach-level café robbed it of its existing appeal, and they opposed its relocation.

In keeping with comments made in previous sections of the survey, some participants stressed the importance of prioritizing and supporting the area's natural features, including trees, native plants and wildlife.

Several participants used this opportunity to simply share their enthusiasm for the proposals and to say they were glad that the project was coming to fruition.

Торіс	Sample comment
Most appreciated features:	I love the highlighted architectural feature and integration into the landscape!
pavilion	I think the design for both is great and will greatly increase public use of the public facilities at the beach.
	I like the integration of the sites and maintaining the historic structure while beautifying it at the same time
	Public washrooms accessible year-round. Outside shower to rinse [sand] from [feet].

The following table provides a few examples of the comments received as part of the online consultation.

	Community spaces available year-round
	Minimal overall footprint that preserves as much park space as possible
	The glass bringing the light inside the buildings, which have always been a bit damp and dark.
	I like the fact that it is very welcoming and is a year-round facility. I do like the low profile and the integration with the natural landscape.
	Environmental considerations such as natural lighting and zero-carbon sustainability. As well, the option of a gender-neutral washroom.
	Restaurant and community space and zero-carbon footprint
	It seems to blend in very well with surrounding environment and has very natural feel about it.
	Good use of site, keeping original building and adding sustainable new features.
Suggested changes: pavilion	Dance space! Many communities need good dance space and it should include this.
	I'm not a huge fan of the diagonal wood on the upper-level building. It is too much like stuff out of the 1970s. I would prefer vertical or horizontal wood, which would coincide with the natural setting around the river landscape.
	That in all design phases, the NCC aims to make the project a visible statement of the very best in inclusivity and accessibility for people with visible and invisible disabilities, seniors, and others with episodic or permanent issues.
	The space should have a sheltered bandstand of some sort for public musical performances, and some space in front of it for dancing. One could also have small theatrical performances there. One could also consider having space sheltered from rain for some audience members. This should not be controlled by a private restaurant entrepreneur. It should be a City-run entity.
	Possibly less concrete at beach level.
	Probably premature, but rather than a "burgers and fries" place, I would like something with better food and perhaps the ability to have a glass of wine.
	I don't like the gender-neutral washrooms. While I would support a gender-neutral washroom, I think that traditional men's and women's

	washrooms should still be available. Particularly if this is also intended to serve as a changing room. I wouldn't be comfortable with the idea of allowing my kids to use a communal washroom/change room unattended.
	Two things I have seen no mention of: where will live bands/music play? How/where will public be seated to listen, and also be able to dance? If there is a space for performances, how have acoustics been designed to ensure best performance sound possible? Also, it is great that there will be a winter café, but what about an indoor space for skiers, etc. to eat their own lunch and warm up a bit? On the Quebec side, the Lac Leamy building includes this.
	Restroom accessibility — available year-round
	I would like the Strutt Pavilion to include space for plenty of outdoor seating for live concerts.
	Use of alternative energy (solar or wind).
	More colours. In 20–50 years, this will look old. Add some colour!
	Not clear to me that there will be adequate change rooms. Toilet stalls are not change rooms! Will there be a foot-wash station?
	I want thought given to security. The beach is an after-dark teen drinking area, with vandalism. I anticipate rocks through the tower tops and defaced signage.
	Ensure that the proposed structures use safeguards to prevent birds from colliding with windows.
Most appreciated features:	Reusing trees cut for LRT into benches. Preserving trees and adding more lookouts.
landscape	Lots of green space and better use of the whole area.
	Opening up the area by removing invasive plants to allow for more lookouts and access to the river's most beautiful sunsets!
	I love the native plant gardens.
	Creating more openness and space.
	As with the pavilions, very attractive design, integrated with natural surrounding topography.

	I greatly support the removal of the parking lot on the north side of the parkway [and] using it as green space.
	Revealing the Skead Mill ruins. I didn't even know they exist or that the site was ever industrial.
	Pollinator areas and integration with winter activities.
	I like the new lookouts.
	Improving circulation, with separated cycling and pedestrian pathways! Also, moving the parking lot, keeping the existing trees, replacing invasive plants with native plants that benefit the local fauna, keeping the rocky shoreline (the place I launch my kayak from).
	The fact you're keeping the existing mature trees (willows and pines). And moving the parking lot to the other side of the road, converted into a grassy area.
	I like the separation of cyclists and pedestrians. I also like the increased seating areas and designated lookouts, and the boardwalk.
	Preserves trees and mindful of habitats
	The integration of nature and activities for children and adults
	What works is being left alone (i.e. beach and toboggan hill), invasive species being removed, interpretation plaques and winter amenities.
	I love it! It's imaginative, thoughtful and inviting.
	It looks like a vast improvement from what is there now.
	I think the proposed landscaping idea is wonderful.
Suggested	Accessibility — more railings, seating that is more
changes: landscape	comfortable/ergonomic, especially for older people and the disabled.
landscape	Ideally, an extended beach area.
	Cyclists moving through and not stopping at Westboro Beach should have a completely separate throughway.
	The point at which the multi-use pathway goes over the SJAM underpass is dangerous, because it's immediately beside the SJAM. This can be a busy area and potential collision point, because it's so narrow. There are fast-moving vehicles inches away, and people are distracted and looking at beachgoers or the beautiful river views. I always feel unsafe biking

there with my kids. Please consider adding a barrier or guardrail between the road and multi-use pathway at this location for everyone's safety. Thank you.

Ensure lots of picnic tables and greenery.

I would like to see a dock or separate area for those who want to launch a canoe or kayak in the summer. Whether the beach is intended for that or not, many people use the area for that purpose, and it would be nice to separate that activity from the small children playing along the water's edge.

I feel like the relocation of the parking lot could cause issues due to a pedestrian crossing. I think that pedestrians, cars and cyclists should stay separated.

Sand for volleyball courts (not grass). Hockey rink in winter in recreation area. Outdoor Ping-Pong tables.

The redesigned route for the bike path appears to collide with walkers and users of the beach. As a car driver AND an avid cyclist, [I feel that] you must separate the pedestrians walking to and from the beach from the cyclists.

The beach and grassy hill are very hot in the summer, and people flock to find some shade. I understand about leaving the hill and beach untouched. However, some shade option in that area would be advisable.

A play structure would add a lot of value for families visiting, particularly during shoulder seasons.

Plant at least 3 trees (in this area) for every tree removed.

Just general upkeep. Westboro Beach looks neglected now.

Again, it's an issue with numbers. I don't think you have enough space and parking for the number of people you seem to want to attract.

Pickleball courts?

General
commentsPlease put in an outdoor dance floor. Polished concrete could also be
used for a small ice rink in winter.Westboro Beach is not an isolated amenity. It is part of the local
community. An in-person community drop-in event would be
appropriate, showing the full design, impact, time scale for construction.

I consider a well-managed landscape to be a big priority for me. Many times, new landscape plans calling for native species and naturalistic styles tend to fall into poor repair after a few years. With all of the major landscaping projects happening in the Capital over the coming years, I hope to see some more New Perennialist gardens and good management of these spaces in the long term.

There are a lot of stairs — another example of how this site is not inclusive. Someone with mobility issues sees a spot they would like to sit. They were the only person around, [but] by the time they get around the accessible pathways, someone who was able to use the stairs has now taken the spot. Going to the beach is not going to be enjoyable. It's going to be a lot of work for people with mobility issues. Think of the parents who are pushing a stroller, handling kids plus everything they had to bring to enjoy the beach and now they have to walk out of the way to get to where they need to go. It's exhausting.

I am concerned that the bike and pedestrian paths are not well enough separated to prevent collisions. Bike lanes should be completely separated and clearly marked so that there are no accidental collisions which there will be, with the current design.

Please allow for the live music to continue! Also, I would really love it if cross-country skis and canoes could be rented.

Please include vegetarian and vegan menu items for both fast-food and indoor dining.

Please include more bathrooms, changing areas and other beach amenities.

Some concern about overcrowding. There is no description of the 90vehicle parking lot. Would that be accessed through the neighbourhood or parkway or both? (We're not residents but empathize with them.)

I would like to point out one more time, that mixing the BBQ area with the recreation area is a very bad idea if you want to protect people with lung issues. There will be more of us suffering with allergies, breathing and lung illnesses after COVID-19. I believe all parks' BBQ areas should be moved to a secluded area with no personal fires/smoke allowed — so we can all enjoy the outdoors.

Overall, the city (I know not necessarily NCC property) has a number of parks for activities of all sorts. This site is unique or nearly unique in that it provides a beautiful view of the river and the waterfront. Thus, in my view, the priority should be on contemplating nature through casual and quiet observance (could include canoe or ski/snowshoe rental), as

opposed to high-energy (noisy) activities such as volleyball, BBQs, kids' play, etc. Lose the Strutt Pavilion towers; don't waste design effort and compromise a potentially better design for the site by accommodating these mistakes. Insufficient thought has been given to the number of parking spots allocated for gatherings. Given the toys/picnic hampers to be used here, the use of buses is impractical, so cars it is. Why so few parking spots? We love the live music and karaoke and reggae and other attractions. That should be a priority. I love that the NCC is renovating this area. It has potential to be a gem if this is done with care. Ensure easy access to transit. There should be women's-only washrooms. Women should have their own washrooms where there is safe space.

V. Integration of results

Respondents provided in-depth comments on a range of issues regarding the landscape and pavilion design.

The project team has identified that, for the landscape design, a trend emerged among those who shared their appreciation for the volleyball courts and their aspirations for other active sport opportunities. Moreover, some shared their desires to move more facilities onto the beach, including volleyball courts and picnic tables. On the topic of picnic tables, there was a strong support for picnic facilities, including some suggestions for what this area could look like. Another topic that elicited universal support was the separation of drivers and pedestrians. However, concerns were expressed on a suggested pedestrian priority zone.

Many appreciated the improvements of the views to the Skead Mills ruins. A few participants requested the inclusion of a skating rink. A few participants identified a need for more shaded areas on the beach, while some wanted the beach to be expanded. An appreciation for the plan to replace the parking lot with green space was shared by multiple participants. Some shared their desire for a dedicated access to water for boating. Some shared their aspiration for a variety of bike racks to be included in the design plan. Some participants identified an opportunity to highlight the site's fossils. Accessibility and safety concerns were prioritized by those who expressed a need to improve accessibility between the upper and lower patio of the café and the narrowness of the pathway over the underpass.

With regard to the pavilion design, some highlights from these results include split thoughts on Strutt tower, where some supported rehabilitation, while others were in favour of its removal.

The topic of gender-neutral bathrooms elicited both sentiments of support and concern. Some respondent shared their views with the stair design in the lower terrace raising concerns of accessibility. Several respondents shared concerns over the size of the café and performance space in the lower patio.

Overall, there was strong support for the design plans. Some features elicited both support and concerns. In responding to the central results of the online consultation, the NCC is providing the following responses:

Landscape design

What participants shared	The NCC's response
Many respondents appreciated the volleyball courts, and suggested adding other active sports opportunities, such as pickleball, while others preferred to keep active sports out of the park. Those interested in volleyball, prefer sand instead of grass.	Locating the volleyball courts on the outer edge of the park should minimize impacts on adjacent users. To achieve a balance of passive and active uses, we don't plan to add other active sport features. We will consider sand as the surface for the volleyball courts.
Some expressed a desire to locate more facilities at the beach such as picnic tables and volleyball courts.	Since the beach is already crowded, it is better to locate new amenities in the new park area on the other side of the pavilion. Moreover, adding structures like posts and tables interferes with sand grooming.
Respondents expressed strong support for picnic facilities. Some suggested including a covered picnic area and placing tables closer to the river. While some appreciated the BBQ pits, slightly more were concerned about the smoke.	We will consider placing picnic tables closer to the river and including a covered feature, and will also consider cancelling the BBQ pits.
A few respondents requested a skating rink.	We will consider adding facilities to support a City- or community-operated skating rink, in consultation with those partners.
Some commented on the need for more shade at the beach.	Trees and umbrellas would impact views and sand-grooming operations. While trees would be difficult to establish in sand, we will consider adding some at the edges of the beach. We have forwarded the suggestion for the rental of umbrellas to our City Parks and Facilities partners.
There was universal support for separating bikes and pedestrians, but many respondents were concerned about conflicts in the	The placement of the pathway for cyclists passing through the site is limited by the need to avoid making cyclists cross the vehicle area and by the new situation where

pedestrian-priority zone near the drop-off area.	cyclists must cross paths with pedestrians coming from the new intersection. We will consider improving the design so that the cycling route is shorter and more clearly defined.
Many respondents appreciated removing the parking lot and making it a green space, while others expressed concerns about locating it on the other side of the parkway, as well as the configuration of the drop-off area and signalized intersection.	We will consider widening and improving the visibility of the pedestrian crossing at the intersection. There will be a direct pathway from the new parking area to the nearby underpass, which some users might prefer to use, rather than the at-grade intersection.
Some commented on the lack of a dedicated access to the water for boating.	We are considering a pathway to the water for paddling watercraft.
Many respondents voiced safety concerns about the narrowness of the pathway over the underpass and the lack of a barrier between it and the parkway.	The pathway over the underpass will be widened.
Some expressed the desire for a variety of bike racks, including some for bikes with trailers and some covered bike racks.	We will consider these suggestions.
Some commented on a need to define and separate the upper edge of the toboggan hill from the pathway and parkway, while others appreciated the view from there to the beach.	We will consider adding vegetation that is lower than eye level at the top of the toboggan hill, with some trees to provide a balance of views from the pathway/parkway and shade/screening for hill users.
Some expressed interest in seeing the beach area expanded.	We shared this comment with the City of Ottawa Parks and Facilities staff. However, they have limited resources to staff an expanded beach.
Some respondents pointed out the opportunity to highlight the site's fossils, including stromatolites.	We will add interpretive content about these important geological features.
Some conveyed the need to improve accessibility between the upper and lower patio at the café and restaurant end, as well as to the river's edge at the beach.	We are considering replacing the stairs with a ramp between the patios that would be well- integrated into the landscape as well as adding an accessible pathway to the river's edge.
Many respondents appreciated the improvement of views to the Skead Mill ruins and providing interpretive content about it.	We will consider adding some vegetation around the ruins, so that they are partially hidden, as well as to create a shadier area for

In fact, some respondents who didn't know the ruins existed were pleasantly surprised to learn about them. Two respondents expressed a desire to keep the ruins at least partially hidden.

those enjoying the view and the interpretive panels.

Pavilion design

What participants shared	The NCC's response
The rehabilitation of the Strutt towers was both applauded and discouraged by members of the public, with some calling to remove them entirely and others supporting the proposed rehabilitation.	While many view these brutalist towers as oppressive and foreboding, this federally recognized heritage structure does warrant rehabilitation, based on its historical, architectural and environmental value. For this reason, a key priority for this project has been to uplift public perception of this heritage building. Some of the strategies used to achieve this are to restore original features which have been lost, such as the glass roofs and wooden benches in the tower interiors, ensuring that the public has improved access to the unique tower interiors, and provide modern, updated washroom facilities.
The gender-neutral washrooms were supported by many members of the public. However, they have also been identified as a source of concern for others.	The design for the washrooms at Westboro Beach is meant to provide the greatest degree of accessibility, inclusivity and safety for all visitors to the site. Gender-inclusive washrooms will not only benefit people of all genders, but they can also make life easier for parents with children of different genders and caregivers of elderly people or people with disabilities whose gender is not the same as their own. Each washroom stall will be designed to be fully accessible and will be designed as an enclosed room, ensuring maximum occupant privacy. Further refinements to this layout will be considered in the design development, including the possibility of removing the wall between the entrance pavilion and the washroom, and putting individual sinks into each stall. In instances where this arrangement causes discomfort, two genderless accessible washrooms (separate rooms) will be available for public use in the Park Pavilion.

It was noted by some of the respondents that there were too many stairs at the lower terrace, and that the site presents too many inaccessible spaces.	The schematic design has sought guidance from the NCC's Advisory Committee on Universal Accessibility, as well as from the City of Ottawa's Accessibility Advisory Committee. The design is in line with the <i>Accessibility Canada Act</i> , adopted by the federal government in 2019, to which the NCC adheres as a Crown corporation. Accessibility issues throughout the project will continue to be evaluated and refined during the design development.
Several respondents to the survey had concerns about the café and performance space at the lower patio not being large enough in the new design.	The café was relocated to the west side of the Strutt Pavilion, in response to concerns from the neighbouring community about noise, as well as to allow the south side of the patio to be used for outdoor showers, and to provide additional seating for café patrons (not drinking alcohol) or for those who have brought their own food and drink. The relocated café maintains the same size as current conditions, through an expansion of the patio area into the escarpment, and a covered area has been provided for performers in inclement weather. Further refinements and modifications to the patio areas will be explored in the design development stage.

VI. Next steps

The NCC is working with an external consultant to finalize the design for the Westboro Beach pavilion and landscape plan for Board approval in early 2022. Following rezoning and building permit application, construction tendering is targeted for early spring in order to start construction in early summer 2022.

We thank all community members and stakeholder groups who participated in the design process. Their thoughtful comments and input allowed the design team to create an inclusive and accessible design that meets the needs of the public and celebrates the heritage of the site. The NCC will share the final design plans with the public when they are completed.

VII. Appendix 1: Online survey



	6%	Exit Sur
Privacy Notice S	tatement	
Act, and authorized u inform the design an public engagement in Information Bank PSI Your personal inform personal informatior incomplete, and add that is contained in P	se of your personal information in this questionnaire is in acco under the <i>National Capital Act</i> . We will use your responses for t d programming of Westboro Beach and to better understand t ititatives. Information relating to "Outreach Activities" is descr J 904. The information is protected in accordance with the pro ation will not be shared. Under the <i>Privacy Act</i> , you have the r i, request corrections if you believe that some personal inform a notation to the information at issue. If you wish to access yo personal Information Banks PSU 904, you should communicate acy, at 613-239-5678, extension 5788, or via the following email	the following purposes: to he reach of the NCC's ribed in Personal visions of the <i>Privacy Act.</i> ight to access your hation is erroneous or bur personal information with the Chief, Access to







		47%			Exit Su
Amenities					
Q. Please indicate your leve	el of interest in potential	ly renting one of the	following at Westbo	oro Beach.	
	Very interested	Somewhat interested	Not at all interested	Don't know	
Kayak	0	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Nayan					
Paddleboard	0	0	\bigcirc	0	
-	0	0	0	0	
Paddleboard	-			0	
Paddleboard Canoe	0		0	0	
Paddleboard Canoe Bicycle	0		0	0	





	66%	Exit Surv
Amenities		
preference to keep a laid-back design. Like the current snack	ood and drink options, many public consultation par k, beach-side snack bar. We have included this in the : bar, hours of operation will be seasonal. By contrast k vendor that will be open <u>year-round</u> .	proposed Strutt Pavilion
Q. From among the following p likely to frequent?	potential dining options located in the Park Pavilion,	which would you be most
In the summer:		
 Fast casual 		
O Casual dining, bistro		
O Family-style		
O Fine dining		
O None of the above		
In the winter:		
O Fast casual		
O Casual dining, bistro		
O Family-style		
O Fine dining		
None of the above		

	75%	Exit St
Amenities		
Ameniaes		
	re that some of the proposed features be delaye nderstand which of the proposed features matte pout any potential trade-offs.	
Q. Which of the following best apply.	t describe your preferred experience at Westbor	o Beach? Please select all that
Relaxing outdoors in the sun.		
Relaxing outdoors in the shade.		
Enjoying the views and amenities	s indoors.	
Sitting out on a patio.		
Playing sports / being active.		
Quiet contemplation of nature.		
Having a picnic.		
None of the above.		
Q. From among the following c	options, please select the amenity that you are r	most excited about.
O Picnic area		
Children's play features (e.g. wate	er pump)	
○ Volleyball court		
Lookouts		

	81%	Exit Su
Final Thoughts		
Yes No		
Q. Please share your though	ts with us in the box below.	

	100%	it Survey
Your Profile		
	questions is entirely optional. Your responses, should you choose to provide nderstand the reach of this online engagement and how different groups might	
Q. Are you a resident of Cana	da's Capital Region?	
⊖ Yes		
O No		
Q. What is your age?		
Select	~	
Q. Do you identify as a memb	ver of a visible minority in Canada?	
O No		
O Prefer not to say		
Q. Do you identify as Indigen Yes No Prefer not to say	ous — that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Metis or Inuit?	
intellectual, cognitive, learnin	<i>e Canada Act,</i> disability means "any impairment, including a physical, mental, g, communication or sensory impairment — or a functional limitation — ry or episodic in nature, evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, ual participation in society."	
Do you identify as a person w	ith a disability?	
○ Yes		
No Prefer not to say		