

CITY OF KINGSTON

BELLE PARK


MASTER PLAN



Prepared for the City of Kingston, August 2019 by

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Executive Summary

Executive Summary

The Belle Park Master Plan is a 15 year strategy to provide guidance on improvements and revitalization of the park. The plan is recommended to be revisited and assessed one or more times during that period to ensure that recommendations in the plan are consistent with changing trends and community needs.

Purpose of the Master Plan

The Belle Park Master Plan provides a comprehensive vision to guide how the park is to be revitalized as a public space for all to enjoy. Specific details on how improvements will be implemented are not included as part of the scope of the plan but would be assessed at each phase of the project.

Study Area

The Belle Park Master Plan is multi-phase 15-year development plan that seeks to transform a once municipal landfill and former 9 hole golf course into a naturalized and recreational park with varied park use amenities and opportunities. The park's potential is significant. It is approximately 44 hectares in area and is located near the city's downtown core easily accessed by streets, pathways and transit. It is the largest City owned public open space in the urban area. Its extensive waterfront and location in the Great Cataraqui River, which is part of the UNESCO Rideau Canal Waterway, is a significant quality in the park's ability to serve as a highly desired regional naturalized and recreational oasis. It is expected that the park's unique location and proposed naturalization approach will also serve as a destination cooling respite from the urban area's worsening heat island effects associated with climate change.

Belle Island is not included as part of the master plan as it is managed in a partnership agreement between the City of Kingston and the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs.

Study Process

The park master plan process was founded on extensive public engagement process to ensure the park addresses community need and interests in the short term as well as inform and guide long-term improvements and operational practices in the park. Since 2018, this public engagement process has included 13 Working Group Meetings, 5 Open Houses, 4 Indigenous Focused Consultations and 5 Online Surveys.

Through the consultation process, seven key attributes were identified as significant aspects to the park:

-  1. Natural Environment
-  2. Trails, Access and Views
-  3. Social
-  4. Cultural, Heritage and Education
-  5. Land Management
-  6. Recreation
-  7. Infrastructure

Each attribute has been considered with the community for its opportunities and challenges within the park. The plan acknowledges that the site is a former landfill, is prone to flooding, and has a relationship with Belle Island that must be respected in the design and implementation of improvements.

Study Plan

The master plan visualizes the park through a graduated landscape strategy in a series of five inter-related landscape zones: Manicured Lawn, Grassland/Meadow, Tall Grass Prairie/Savannah, Succession and Woodland. Immersed in the graduated landscape strategy is a variety of programmed areas as per the needs and desires of the community, identified through public consultation process. These areas include: Central Area, The Peninsula, Active Elements (Playcourt and Park), South Area (Off-Leash Dog Area), and Hilltop Lookout.

Study Methodology

An adaptive management plan implemented over many years will respond to changing site conditions with key recommendations that include managing and addressing the past, guiding the future, natural heritage, parkland and recreation and infrastructure. These are further organized into approximately 40 projects, and placed into 3 phases of implementation to be completed over the course of 15 years and beyond. Below are the highlights of each phase:

Phase 1

Natural Environment: Woodland Clean-up and planting strategy

Trails, Access and Views: Pathways

Social: Playground, Off-leash dog area, Outdoor education and indigenous gathering space

Cultural, Heritage and Education: Interpretation Strategy

Recreation: Pickleball courts, disc golf

Infrastructure: Park street appeal improvements and improve accessibility of washrooms

Phase 2

Natural Environment: Planting

Trails, Access and Views: Pathways

Social: Picnic area, Shade shelter

Recreation: Natural Fitness Circuit, Multi-Use Field

Phase 3

Trails, Access and Views: Hiking Trails and lookouts

Infrastructure: Clubhouse and restroom renovation

Recreation: Driving Range, Pitch n' Putt

The Belle Park Master Plan recognizes that an active transportation multi-use pathway from the K&P trail to the 3rd Crossing bridge will be developed as part of the bridge project and run along the western limit of the park.

End Goals

The master plan provides users with a diverse and unique multi-functional park with a balance of both active and passive experiences, with goals including:

- Promote biodiversity and naturalization of the park through areas of passive activity, the graduated landscape strategy, native planting and habitat creation
- Provide recreational facilities for Kingston residents who require space to play
- Transform Belle Park into a thriving natural environment and a top destination for users, and in doing so transform current perceptions of the park
- Create flexible space that is multi-functional and accessible to users of all ages and abilities
- Work alongside all stakeholders of Belle Park to make informed plans for the park carrying through the next 15 years, through various means of public consultation and engagement
- Provide project phasing through an implementation strategy that can be carried out by the City of Kingston
- Align master plan recommendations with related Belle Island Management Principles
- Foster positive relationships amongst all users of the park
- Consider ways to mitigate issues related to climate change, particularly flooding of the peninsula
- Determine locations for programming that are most beneficial to the greatest number of users
- Plan for maintenance that is achievable
- Encourage education of culture and history of the site through wayfinding and interpretation
- Develop a sense of communal ownership among all users
- Create opportunities to stroll through a hardwood forest, explore different areas of the park, attend a weekend event, or a means to stay healthy, all of which are integrated into the master plan



Project Background

Council Direction
History and Evolution of Belle Park
Marshland
Municipal Landfill
Belle Park
Risk Assessment and Leachate Management
Golf Course Closes
Initiation of Master Plan Process
Belle Park Timeline
City Context
North King's Town Secondary Plan (2019)
Waterfront Master Plan (2016)
Active Transportation Master Plan (2018)
Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2010-2025)
Engage for Change
3rd Crossing (2019-2022)
Belle Island

Council Direction

Council's direction in 2017 provided the framework for the master planning process of Belle Park. This includes consideration of a wide range of recreation and naturalization activities with a focus on public engagement, a reduction in manicured/maintained areas, Indigenous culture, and the potential for partnerships with rugby and pickleball associations.

On September 19, 2017 Council approved the closure of the park's 9 hole golf course and endorsed recommendations to develop a master plan to redevelop Belle Park. The recommendations had stemmed from a series of public consultation held in 2017. The consultation included input from the Belle Park Working Group, the general public through on-line survey, public meetings and targeted focus groups. The consultations were held to discuss the opportunities for Belle Park, given the continual operational challenges of the golf course. The golf course operations ended at the end of 2017 season but the driving range remained.

Based on the results of the 2017 public consultations, council directed staff to include the following amenities as part of master plan exercise, along with efforts to increase naturalized and wild areas:



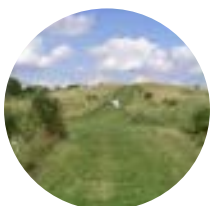
Golf Activities:

- Driving Range
- Chipping/Putting Green
- Pitch and Putt Course



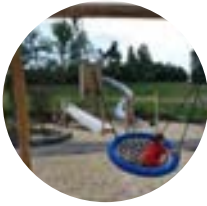
Outdoor Recreation:

- Trails and Paths that allow for hiking, walking, biking, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing
- Multi-purpose sports fields (rugby, soccer, ultimate frisbee, etc)
- Sports courts with dedicated pickleball courts



Naturalization Activities:

- Protected shoreline
- Areas that can be left in a natural/wild state
- Plantings, botanical demonstration/arboretum



Other Amenities:

- Picnic and shade structures
- Improvements to the clubhouse
- Playground
- Parking organization
- Education or representation on the history of the site and Indigenous culture

It was also recommended that discussions with the Kingston Panthers Rugby Club and the Kingston Pickleball Association be explored for potential partnership opportunities for Belle Park.

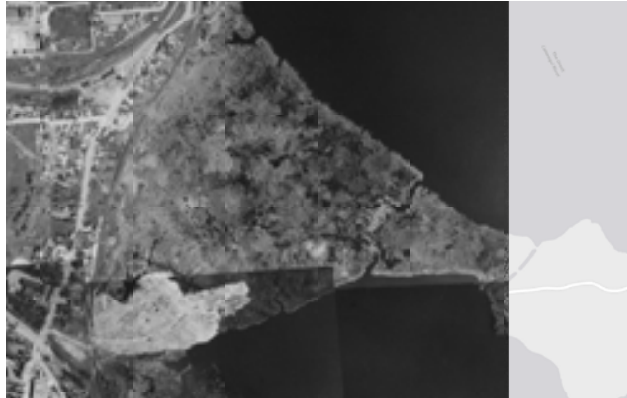
The full Staff Report is provided in Appendix A.

Evolution of Belle Park through Aerial Photography

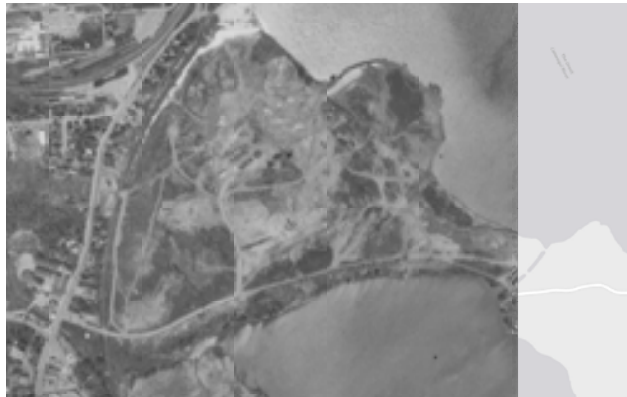
Over the last 60+ years, the area known as Belle Park had evolved from marshland, to landfill and ultimately to parkland.



1924 - Belle Park is marshland



1955 - Site used as a landfill for municipal waste



1970 - Marshland is almost completely covered with landfill



1998 - Belle Park includes a golf course, driving range, tennis courts, and walking trails

History and Evolution of Belle Park

Since the establishment of the landfill site 60+ years ago in the marsh located between the shoreline and Belle Island, the area has undergone considerable changes. The following provides an overview of the evolution from marsh to parkland.

Marshland

The area where Belle Park is now today, between Montreal Street and Belle Island, was originally a marsh. It was likely similar to the marshland in the Great Cataraqui River, north of the park and south of the highway.

Municipal Landfill

Between 1952 to 1974, the area was operated as a landfill. The landfill started as a small site to the south near the existing Orchard Street marsh, which then expanded to the whole area now known as Belle Park. In addition, the Federal Government dredged material for the Cataraqui River and deposited it along the north shore, creating the large rounded land form adjacent to Belle Park. The dredged material is contained within a coarse stone seawall and is known as the (Parks Canada) hump.

Belle Park

In 1978 the park opened and offered recreational programming including a 9-hole golf course, multi-use courts, connections to Belle Island, clubhouse, and walking paths. The rail line along the west side of the park was also decommissioned.

Risk Assessment & Leachate Management

Since 1997, the City has undertaken a number of projects to protect to improve the environment at Belle Park including a long term management plan to manage leachate from the former landfill.

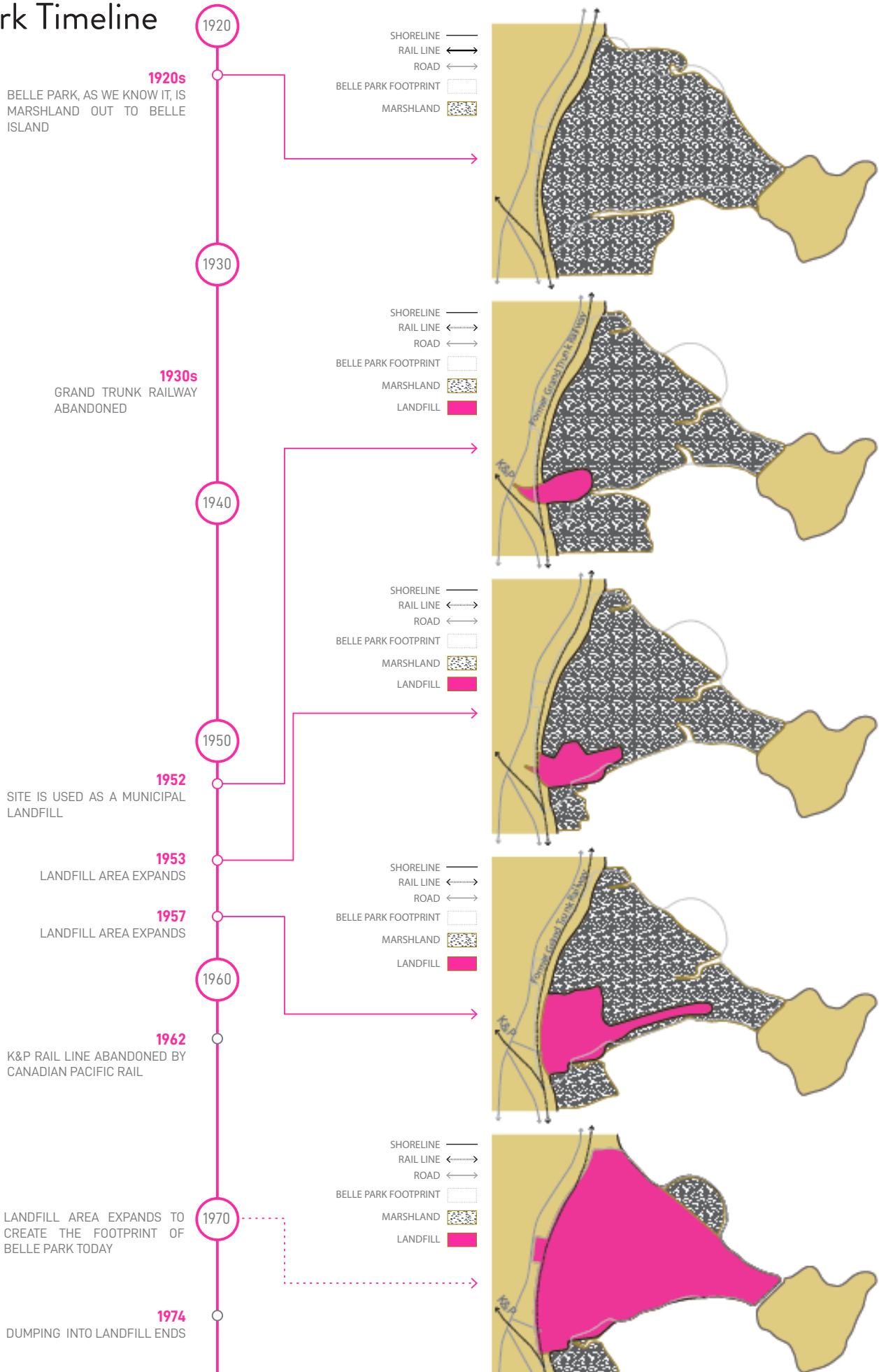
Golf Course Closes

In 2016 Council directed a public engagement process to look at reduction of golf activities and increase alternative recreation activities and naturalization measures. At the end of the 2017 season, the 9-hole golf course closed while the driving range remains in operation.

Initiation of Master Plan Process

In 2018, the process to create a vision and a long range improvement plan for Belle Park was initiated. In 2018 and 2019, public consultation with various stakeholders, the Belle Park Working Group, local Indigenous community members and the general public was held in support of developing the master plan.

Belle Park Timeline



1978
 BELLE PARK IS OPEN AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING INTRODUCED:
 •9-HOLE GOLF COURSE,
 •MULTI-USE COURTS,
 •CONNECTIONS TO BELLE ISLAND
 •CLUBHOUSE CONSTRUCTED
 •WALKING PATHS
 •THE FORMER GRAND TRUNK RAIL LINE IS DECOMMISSIONED

1986
 K&P RAIL LINE USED RECREATIONALLY

•DRIVING RANGE IS ADDED
 •TREE CANOPY PLANTED ALONG SOUTH ROAD BEGINS TO EXPAND

1997
 CITY OF KINGSTON UNDERTAKES MEASURES TO ASSESS RISKS AND ADDRESS LEACHATE

1998
 AFTER ICE STORM, CITY REPLANTS TREES ALONG SOUTH SHORELINE TO REPLACE DAMAGED CANOPY

2004
 TREE CANOPY INCREASES THROUGHOUT PARK

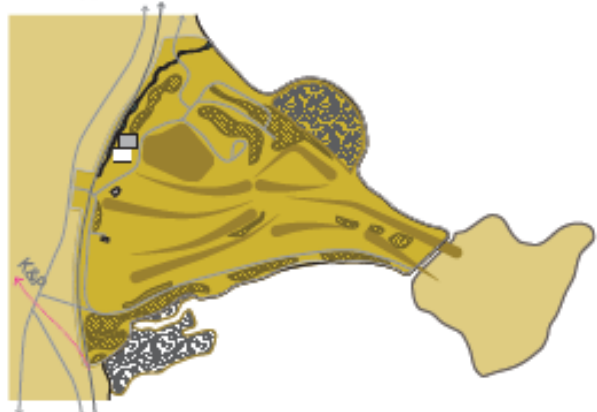
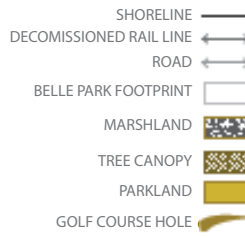
MID-2000s
 TREE INTENSIFICATION PLAN ESTABLISHED TO REMEDIATE SOIL AND WATER

2014
 REMOVAL OF GOLF OFF BELLE ISLAND

2016
 COUNCIL DIRECTS A PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS TO LOOK AT REDUCTION OF GOLF AND INCREASE OF ALTERNATIVE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND NATURALIZATION MEASURES

2017
 CLOSURE OF 9 HOLE GOLF COURSE

2018
 TODAY



•GRAPHIC INFORMATION INTERPOLATED FROM HISTORICAL MAPS AND AERIALS

City Context

Located north of Kingston's downtown on the west side of the Great Cataraqui River, Belle Park is the largest public open space in the urban area owned by the City. Lake Ontario Park is 1/3 the size of Belle Park. Lemoine Point Conservation Area is almost three times larger than Belle Park but is located in a suburban area of the City, close to the airport. Grass Creek Park is similar in size to Belle Park but is located in rural east Kingston. Belle Park's size can support a wide range of park activities and facilities while still providing extensive space to enjoy the natural environment. With future plans in place for an Active Transportation off-road multi-use pathway that connects to the Third Crossing bridge and the K&P trail as well as the park's proximity to the urban core, the park will be highly accessible to a large portion of Kingston residents.



Lemoine Point Conservation Area
135 Hectares



Lake Ontario Park
16 Hectares



Belle Park
45 Hectares



Grass Creek Park
38 Hectares



K&P Waterfront Master Plan and Trails

North King's Town Secondary Plan

The North King's Town Secondary Plan, is comprised of the Inner Harbour and the Old Industrial areas of the city, when complete, will be recognized through area specific policies in the Official Plan. Although the detailed technical work for the secondary plan is currently underway, during its initial visioning phase, Belle Park was acknowledged to be an important public space in the Inner Harbour area that should be preserved as an open space land use. Details of the specific functions, design, and development of Belle Park are not in the scope of the secondary plan. While the specific design of Belle Park is not addressed, the interface of the park with the adjacent North King's Town community is considered through mention of creating good pedestrian connections and a streetscape presence

Waterfront Master Plan (2016)

This plan provides a framework for long term waterfront planning (30+ years) across the entire 280 kilometres of city shoreline, including Belle Park. Recommendations are focused on improved access, connectivity and enhancements. Recommendations with specific implications to Belle Park include:

- Recommendation 1.13 – Land Bridge Connection from the former Tannery Lands to Belle Park
- Recommendation 1.14 – Pathway Improvements including enhancements associated with habitat creation, naturalization, interpretation and preserving the sanctity of Belle Island
- Recommendation 1.15 – Creation of a formal lookout at the park's high point of land
- Recommendation 1.16 – Village Apartment Pathway Improvements to link Belle Park to the existing waterfront Pathway to the north

Active Transportation Master Plan (2018)

This plan identifies a comprehensive network of on and off road active transportation routes to support multi-modal travel within the City. One of the neighbourhood routes identified in the first phase is an off road multi-use path (MUP) that stems off of the former rail bed, through a portion of Belle Park to the waterfront. This neighbourhood route is proposed to connect between the access from the proposed Third Crossing bridge and the downtown via the existing K&P trail and waterfront pathway. A connection to Montreal St. is recommended over a storm sewer located south of Village Dr. The multi-use path is identified to be implemented in 2021 to 2022 in the Active Transportation implementation plan.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan assists decision makers, stakeholders and the public to determine the needs and priorities surrounding the services and facilities for parks and recreation in the City of Kingston. It is an action plan that directs the development of future municipal facilities and services in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner, guiding the city until the year 2025. It follows the Mission Statement: "Kingston places importance on parks and recreation services to enable residents to lead healthy lives, embrace environmental stewardship and strengthen our sense of community pride and spirit." The Parks and Recreation Mater Plan was approved in 2010 and is now currently being reviewed and updated.

Engage for Change

Engage for Change is an initiative mandated by Council in 2015 to re-frame the relationship between the Indigenous/First Peoples and the non-Indigenous people in Kingston. In 2018, Phase 2 of the initiative began. In this phase, the focus is on:

- Developing a plan for the creation of an Indigenous community committee or advisory board that will work with the City to explore issues of shared concerns
- Developing a plan for the creation of an Indigenous community cultural centre or space in Kingston
- Continued support for Indigenous educational and programming initiatives

As to not overlap mandates in the Engage for Change initiative, the Belle Park Master Plan does not provide a recommendation on these subjects but will remain adaptable in that the park could integrate initiatives specific to Belle Park that come out of the Engage for Change process.

Third Crossing (2019-2022)

The Multi-use Path (MUP) associated with the Active Transportation Master Plan is expected to be developed in conjunction with the third Crossing works. It is expected that these MUP works expected to occur approximately when the Belle Park Master Plan Phase 1 projects are proposed to be advanced. The new third Crossing vehicular and active transportation connection to the east side of Kingston will provide a convenient opportunity to expand upon the range of city residents and the number of park users in the community.

Belle Island

Belle Island is agreed by both governments to be co-owned by the City of Kingston and the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs (MNCC). An agreement between the City and the MNCC, colloquially referred to as the Belle Island Accord, spells out the terms of the partnership. In general, the City is responsible to care for the island. The parties will follow principles associated with the island's management, known as the Belle Island Management Principles (BIMP). The island is also of significant importance to local Indigenous residents. It has ceremonial, spiritual, historical, ancestral, conciliatory and physical place value to many people. The Belle Park Master Plan (BPMP) recognizes the value of the island and the generally agreed peaceful and solemn nature of the visitors experience on the island.

The Belle Park Master Plan has been developed in a way that respects the Belle Island Accord and the regular island visitors. The adjacent Belle Park improvements are expected to be tempered to an appropriate and complimentary scale and approach such as increased woodland, naturalization near the island and a more modest intensity of park pathway development near the island.

The BPMP recognizes a need to provide improved access through the park to the island for those visitors who are respectful of the island while not promoting or providing inappropriate scale of access to those who are not. High water restrictions to access have been considered as part of this master plan.

The BPMP does not include recommendations on Belle Island, the channel between the park and the island or the aging bridge that connects to the island. These subjects must be considered as part of the Belle Island Accord in partnership with the MNCC.

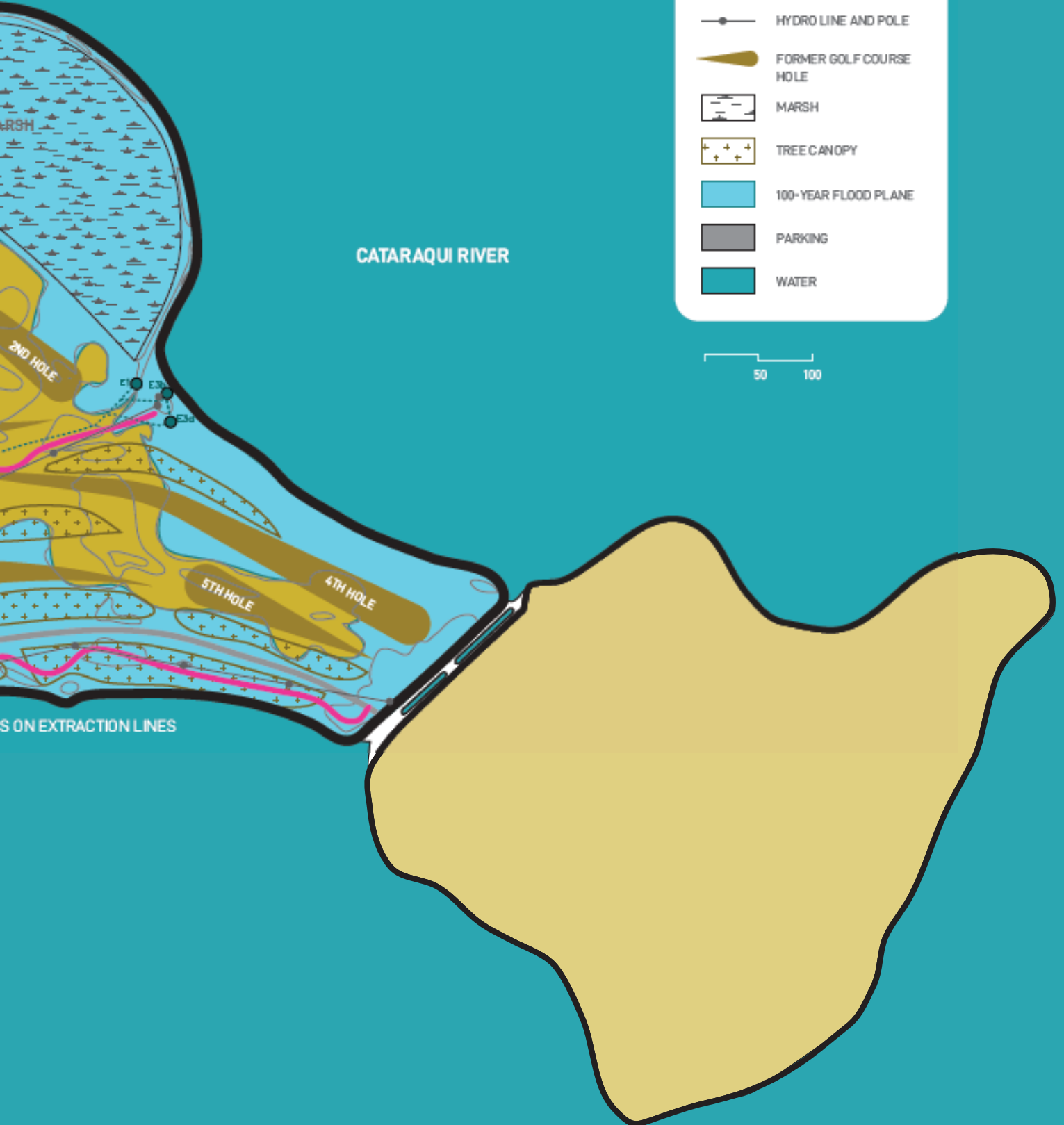


Site Review

Inventory + Analysis
Extraction and Monitoring Wells
Hydro Lines and Poles
Golf and Recreation
100-year Flood Plain
Topography
Vegetation
Pedestrian Circulation
Views
Built Infrastructure

Existing Inventory





- SLOPE DIRECTION
- PEDESTRIAN TRAIL (INCLUDING INFORMAL FOOTPATHS)
- PARK ACCESS
- EXTRACTION WELL AND 75MM PIPE
- EXTRACTION WELL AND 150MM PIPE
- HYDRO LINE AND POLE
- ▲ FORMER GOLF COURSE HOLE
- ▭ MARSH
- ▭ TREE CANOPY
- ▭ 100-YEAR FLOOD PLANE
- ▭ PARKING
- ▭ WATER

50 100

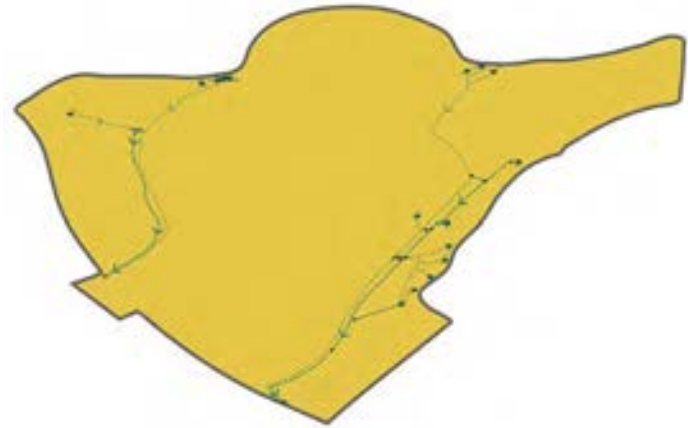
Inventory and Analysis

The following provides an overview of the park's existing conditions organized under the following categories:

- Extraction and monitoring wells
- Hydro lines and poles
- Golf and recreation
- 100-year flood plain
- Topography
- Vegetation
- Pedestrian circulation
- Built infrastructure

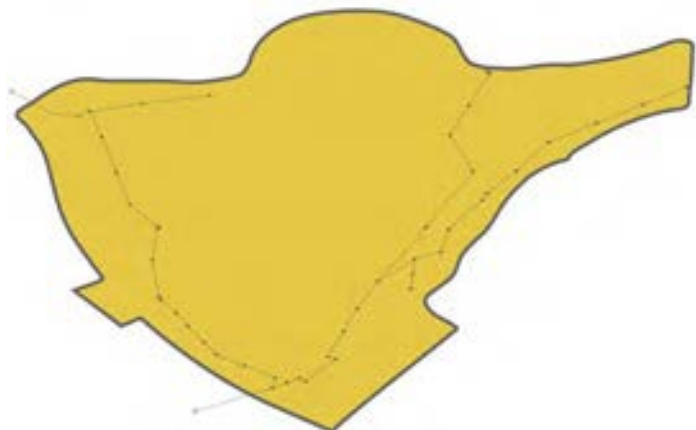
Extraction and Monitoring Wells

- Key infrastructure associated with leachate monitoring and diversion into the sanitary sewer
- Currently 37 (approx.) wells located throughout the site
- Wells must stay in current locations to address leachate
- Maintenance and monitoring access to wells required and must be maintained
- Relocation not possible
- New wells may be added or relocated based on monitoring and management needs
- Possible to improve aesthetic



Hydro Lines and Poles

- Should stay in their current location to support extraction and monitoring wells
- Some pole relocation may be possible but very expensive





Golf and Recreation

- Nine hole golf course closed in 2017 – greens, tees and fairways remain but have grown to seasonally mown meadows
- Driving range (20 tees) continues to operate seasonally
- Tennis courts in poor condition - some courts have been refurbished to allow for pickleball play
- Basketball nets in poor condition



100-Year Flood Plain

- Site prone to seasonal flooding near shore
- New amenities should be located closer to centre of park
- Proposed amenities near shore need to consider potential for flooding



Topography

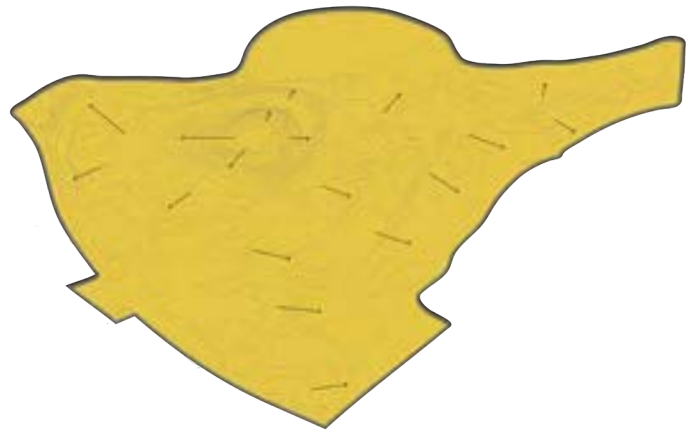
- Undulating topography with high point just north of centre of park
- Highest elevation is 96m
- Lowest approx. 75.5
- Hill provides views to south and east
- Digging and excavation is highly restrictive on site to avoid disturbing landfill
- Any changes to grades should be achieved primarily through filling with imported material





Vegetation

- Existing naturalized or wild area of the park is 8 ha (25%)
- There are clusters of existing hybrid poplar trees on site that are planted for extracting pollutants from the former landfill
- Since the closing of the golf course, the City has been doing rough seasonal mowing to help control invasive species, to promote the establishment of native species and to create usable, safe public space



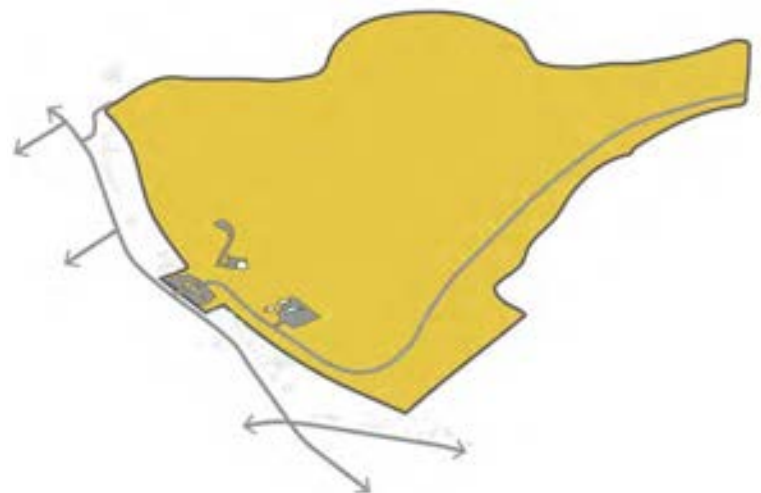
Pedestrian Circulation

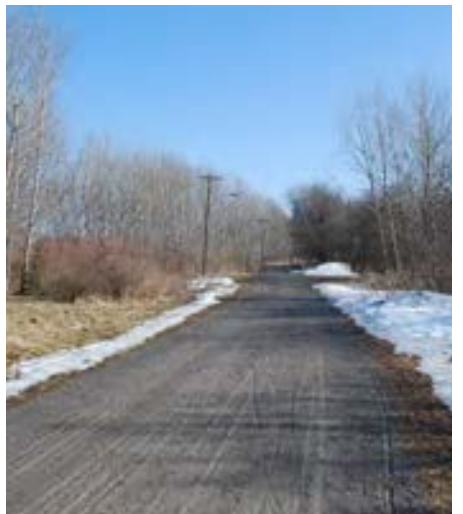
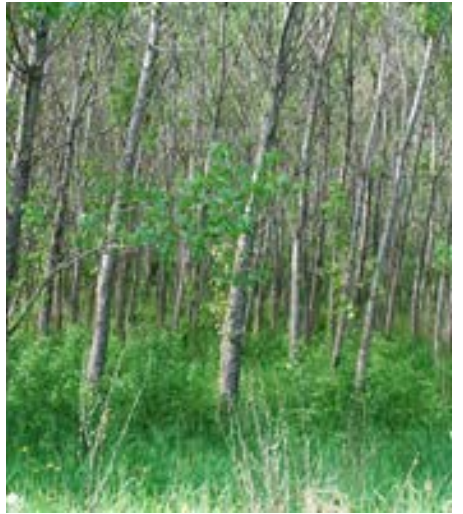
- Well established network of trails, both formal and informal
- Approximately 10 minutes to walk across
- No trail hierarchy
- Opportunity to reconfigure trail network of master plan process



Built Infrastructure

- Site currently includes a number of buildings, such as the maintenance and storage buildings and a clubhouse, which currently contains washrooms
- Parking currently focused at main entrance off of Montreal St.
- Service road through park Belle Island follows south shore of park
- Service road must remain for emergency vehicle access to Belle Island and access to monitoring wells to manage the former landfill







Master Plan Process

Belle Park Working Group

Belle Park Working Group Meeting Minutes Summary

Open Houses

Open House #1 Summary

Open House #2 Summary

Open House #3 Summary

Open House #4 Summary

Open House #5 Summary

Online Engagement

Indigenous Consultation

Indigenous Consultation #1 Summary

Indigenous Consultation #2 Summary

Indigenous Consultation #3 Summary

Indigenous Consultation #4 Summary

Mohawk Nation Council Chief (MNCC) Consultation Summary

Guidelines for participation

- Be respectful of all participants;
- Be open to all ideas;
- Adhere to the established process and time frame;
- Change process during a session only by group decision, if necessary;
- Allow everyone the opportunity to speak;
- Allow people to speak without interruption;
- Try to include everyone; and
- Turn cell phones off/mute.



Master Plan Process

The development of the Belle Park Master Plan involved an extensive community engagement process including input from the Belle Park Working Group, five open houses, 4 Indigenous focused consultation sessions and the posting of material online for feedback.

In 2014, Council created a Belle Park Working Group to provide staff advice on matters related to operations and upgrades to the park. In 2016, surveys were conducted to understand how the park space is used, particularly with respect to golf. Based on public feedback, the Belle Park Working Group recommended the City consult the public and explore options to reduce, modify or eliminate golf and increase other recreation or naturalization opportunities.

In the summer of 2017, a series of public engagement sessions were hosted including workshops, focus groups, park tours, and surveys to seek ideas on future opportunities for Belle Park. As a result of the public feedback in September 2017, Council directed staff to eliminate the operations and maintenance of the 9-hole golf course, initiate discussions with the Kingston Pickleball Association and Panthers Rugby Club to explore partnership models for Belle Park and to undertake a master planning exercise that includes recommendations as described in Report 17-249 provided in Appendix A.

In Early 2018, the City retained the services of consultants thinck design to work with Staff and the community to develop a master plan for the park. The process since 2018 has involved a significant amount of public engagement. This includes:

- 13 Working Group Meetings;
- 5 Open Houses;
- 4 Indigenous Focused Consultations; and,
- 5 Online Surveys and feedback opportunities

Belle Park Working Group

The Belle Park Working Group has acted as a sounding board for the project as the City and consulting team prepare plans and recommendations for the park.

The working group has provided feedback and advice on maintenance, programming, events, potential partnerships, advertising and marketing opportunities, as well as capital renovations and upgrades related to Belle Park. The Belle Park Working Group is comprised of 6 members of the public that change yearly to represent various public interests including Indigenous interest.

During the Belle Park Master Plan development process, there were two terms of the working group that were involved. There were 8 meetings in 2018 and 5 in 2019. Below is a brief summary of the meetings held throughout the master plan process.

In 2018, the Belle Park Working Group (BPWG) included: Travis Canadien, Mary Louise Adams, Tricia Knowles, James Ostler, Krista Clement, and Tracy Johnston

- March 2018: Confirmation that thinc design is the lead consultant for the master plan.
- April 2018: Draft of the conceptual work and confirmation that Inclusive Voices has been retained for Indigenous community engagement. Two additional people were suggested to be consulted as part of the Indigenous consultation.
- May 2018: Draft of the two concepts were presented to the group, as well as proposed engagement methods and dates, in which suggestions on changes were provided.
- June 2018: Results from the initial engagement process were presented. Neither concept was preferred. It was discussed that the elements of the concepts had come from the 2017 public engagement survey, which formed the terms of Council's direction on the concepts. Inclusion of an event space for the park was discussed.
- July 2018: There was discussion that more feedback and background on the process to date should be given to the public in order to progress with the master plan.
- August and October 2018: A phased approach in which the park would be developed, similar to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was discussed and agreed by the BPWG that it would be more feasible. Additional public consultation is anticipated in November. Additional Indigenous consultation was suggested by the BPWG to be included as part of the master plan process.
- November 2018: Proposed presentation slides and proposed method of public consultation were presented to the BPWG for feedback. It was suggested that clarification of what was presented before in May is explained as it was the source of confusion before. There was discussion on the Indigenous culture and educational space that was suggested

during the Indigenous consultation and how there are overlapping mandates of the Engage for Change Initiative.

In 2019, the Belle Park Working Group (BPWG) included: Travis Canadien, Mary Louise Adams, Tricia Knowles, Bill Walsh, Krista Clement, and Tracy Johnston

- February 2019 – An overview of the master process to date was provided as there were some new working group members. Results of the public meeting sessions in November 2018 were discussed. Off-leash dog park was a highly desired element that was not previously considered or incorporated previously. There will be additional online engagements, and Indigenous consultations are scheduled in which Georgina Riel was hired to assist thinc design on that aspect. Some members suggested that Belle Park be more of a destination park rather than a neighbourhood park.
- March 2019 – Summary of results and process to date on the master plan was provided. Based on the feedback to date, preliminary ideas grouped into categories were presented to the group. Some trends were forming as a result of the additional consultation, more active elements including play structures and picnic areas are desired but suggested to be located closer to Montreal Street. While more natural elements were preferred closer to Belle Island, especially by the Indigenous community consulted. The preliminary ideas reflected these trends. It was suggested that more research on how the park naturalizes could be done and that the location of the existing wells and service roads are important considerations for Belle Park. There was consensus that dividing the park into smaller areas may be easier for people to understand scale.
- April 2019 – Proposed concepts and presentation slides were presented to the BPWG for feedback prior to a May open house. There was discussion that some have heard complaints about the online survey is hard to understand yet it was the often the highest public participation method. Members commented that they have enjoyed the Belle Park Master Plan process to date and appreciate that their input has been included.
- June 2019 – A draft of the master plan was presented to the group. It was suggested that a brief summary of each approach, especially the proposed phased approach and what is a master plan may help readers understand the creation of the plan and manage expectation for implementation. It was also suggested some Indigenous trees be included in the woodland species such as black ash or black oak.
- August 2019 - A draft staff report and refinements to the master plan was presented to the group. The general direction of the master plan was supported by the group.

Open Houses

Five open houses were held for this master plan to present ideas and receive community feedback:

1. May 22, 2018 Open House
2. November 28, 2018 Open House (Recreation focus)
3. November 29, 2018 Open House (Naturalization Focus)
4. February 27, 2019
5. May 1, 2019

Open House #1: May 22, 2018

At this first open house, two preliminary concepts were presented for community feedback. Many participants felt the two concepts were too similar and too focused on active recreation. Others felt the recreation aspects of the concepts were not developed far enough to understand whether the design would address their particular needs. It was following this open house, that it was decided that the team needed to go back to the drawing board, and work closer with the community in developing a plan that could be more broadly supported.

Open House #2: November 28, 2018

The open house on November 28 was the first of two information sessions, on consecutive nights, outlining the Belle Park Master Planning process. Council's direction for the project was explained, an overview of work done to date was provided, and community feedback from May 2018 was discussed.

Following the presentation, a card storming exercise was conducted to explore various topics related to Belle Park which focused on nature and the environment. The participants were asked to write the first word that came to mind for the following questions:

1. What word best describes what you like most about Belle Park?
2. What historic or cultural aspect of the park should be considered?
3. What public experience are we missing in this area of the City?
4. What recreational aspect do you currently like most about Belle Park?
5. What should be the primary consideration in the master plan for Belle Park?
6. Who do you go with to Belle Park?
7. What do you do in your favourite park that is NOT Belle Park?

The exercise helped inform the categories of the community's interest and values for the park: Social, Nature, Trails, Culture, and Recreation. Significant support was also given by the community in support of pickleball, biking, wildlife and Indigenous culture.

Open House #3: November 29, 2018

The November 29 open house was structured similarly to the previous night's open house. The same presentation from November 28th was given, followed by a design charrette exercise. Working in groups, participants located the following items on a plan using lines, shapes and labels:

1. Areas for more forest/trees
2. Main areas that should be protected
3. Pathways (paved)
4. Natural trails (unpaved pathways)
5. Best location for sports fields
6. Best location for sports courts
7. Best location for playground
8. Label/identify any other recommendations of interest

From this charrette, it became evident that participants had a desire to concentrate more active recreation elements closer to Montreal Street and to naturalize the central, east and shoreline portions of the park.

Noted from both Open House #2 and Open House #3, were general topics including:

- environmental conditions of Belle Park and associated topography with respect to amenity placement
- access by water and transit
- repairs to bridge connecting Belle Park and Belle Island,
- connections from Orchard St. marsh to the south and federal lands to the north,
- value in providing gathering spaces, a shelter, natural playground and seating,
- interpretive historical information on site
- recreation fields should not conflict with Parks & Recreation Master Plan
- consider existing and proposed amenities to prioritize them, in particular the unmaintained tennis courts.

Open House #4: February 27, 2019

Held at the Rideau Heights Community Centre, with approximately 30 people in attendance, this open house reviewed and discussed preliminary ideas and phasing interest.

General points from this consultation are summarized as follows:

- phasing the amenities was generally well received, reflecting what the public said in November
- area does not feel safe, and recreation may mitigate this
- introduction of trail system allows for exploration
- entrance of the park requires an iconic park sign or public art, with pedestrian connection
- sports field was taken as being a rugby field despite soccer being shown on the plan
- golf is a good fit for the site in reference to its historical significance
- pickleball club would like dedicated pickleball courts that can house tournaments, and others would like to see more flexible court space, or to renovate existing courts
- dog off-leash area has mixed reviews, with some people wanting it and others saying it will disturb peace in the park
- driving range could be shared with dog park area, although dog owners either prefer an off-leash nature trail or fencing
- some people want shoreline left as refuge, and others want a small-craft launch, or landing
- buffer zone to protect Belle Island from influx of visitors, perhaps in the form of an arboretum/woodland
- naturalization needs to be defined as restored to Ontario species, not maintaining current state
- disc golf, indoor tennis and mountain biking highlighted,
- desire for location to park bikes, pollinator garden, and amphitheater
- material use is important to natural setting, with the potential to renovate the clubhouse to a more sustainable style.

Open House #5: May 1, 2019

The May 1 open house was held at the Belle Park clubhouse to present the proposed concepts for the master plan in morning, afternoon and evening sessions. The evening session included a question and answer period. General points taken from this open house:

- good balance between urban recreation and natural space
- parking concerns still an issue with placement, accessibility, and allocation of space

- number of pickleball courts good for players, but seemed excessive to non-players
- inclusion of an indoor tennis bubble not yet resolved, where some people think its necessary and others question its need
- some believe keeping the driving range maintains history of the park and others think it will require too much maintenance
- the off-leash dog area should have some type of fencing, natural areas and a small dog area
- mountain biking location is seen as both an exciting amenity but in conflict with nature
- many like the variety of trails but some feel smaller trails will fragment the natural environment, with suggestions to block off or defer creating a trail on the Parks Canada hump until it can be made safer for users
- lookouts seen positively, particularly in areas by the shoreline
- a great space for nature education, history and culture

Online Engagement

Coinciding with each Open House, the presented material (presentation and panels) was posted online for feedback through the City's Get Involved website during the following periods:

1. May 24 to June 8, 2018
2. November 29 to December 27, 2018
3. March to April 12, 2019
4. May 15, to June 3, 2019

This included specific survey questions pertaining to the material, as well as the opportunity to provide general feedback on the project and process. The information received through Get Involved Kingston was reviewed and assessed at every stage of the process to help understand the community's reception to the material and provide direction on improvements to the plan as the project moved through the master planning process. The draft master plan document was posted online through the Get Involved website for final feedback between July 12, 2019 to July 26, 2019.

Indigenous Consultation

Due to the proximity of Belle Park to Belle Island, Indigenous feedback is considered to be important in the development of the Belle Park master plan. The process with local Indigenous residents initiated with a talking circle on May 25, 2018 hosted by Inclusive Voices Incorporated at the Belle Park clubhouse. RIEL Cultural Consulting was retained by thinc design to lead further Indigenous consultation for Belle Park. Three additional consultation sessions were held with the community to discuss the park and obtain more feedback throughout the master planning process:

- Talking Circle (February 22, 2019)
- Focus Group (March 25, 2019)
- Open House and Presentation (May 2, 2019)
- In addition to local Indigenous consultation, the City consulted with the MNCC, partners on Belle Island

Talking Circle: May 25, 2018

At the first talking circle, 14 residents provided feedback on the two initial concepts proposed and shared their knowledge of the space. Beautification of the front entrance area and incorporating more Indigenous culture into the park design such as adding native plant species, signs along trails, and the creation of a cultural centre were identified. Land management of the site in terms of environmental clean up was also a major interest in the participants present.

Talking Circle: February 22, 2019

A second talking circle was hosted to re-initiate the Belle Park master planning process with the local Indigenous community. Ten members of the public attended, at which the public consultation process to date was explained, the area in which the master plan will apply was reviewed, and the need to receive further feedback before advancing the concept plans was discussed.

Discussion points from the talking circle included:

- all works related to the master plan are within Belle Park, not Belle Island, with some discussion of bridge repair between the two
- the Belle Park Master Plan must be inclusive for all Indigenous people
- how everyone can contribute to conversations with a wider cultural context, sharing place and space within the park
- sheltered gathering space/pavilion for teaching to honour all nations of people on shared lands
- sharing space while including specific cultural elements such as a fire pit, signs that explain the sacredness of the space, signs in different languages specific to the people,
- ceremonial and education space that can be used year-round, in the form of a round house, longhouse wigwam, or tipi, and its proximity to the

clubhouse for shared storage

- opportunity to host events such as a two day pow wow
- paths must be wheelchair accessible and safe for elders and families with strollers and children, as well as a bus shelter and rest areas along paths,
- buffer zone to prevent influx of people from Tannery lands from trespassing onto Belle Island
- natural materials preferred for pathways and seating,
- inclusion of more Indigenous plants along shoreline of Belle Park to heal the land, black ash, and sunflowers,
- 2 theories on how to clean water: removing contaminants through an invasive method, or allowing mother nature to trap contaminants to the floor of the water, Henry Lickers and Suzanna Brant as contacts,
- work needs to be done "by people for the people" (words by Onagottay).
- process of handling bones or artifacts in construction

Focus Group: March 25, 2019

In this focus group meeting, staff and consultant from the Engage for Change Initiative had also attended to receive feedback and answer question on the City's broader Cultural Centre discussions. Attendees received updates to the master plan, including summaries of previous three engagement sessions (May 2018, November 2018, February 2019). Preliminary ideas were presented in the same themes presented in the February 22 open house: Natural Environment, Social, Recreation, and Infrastructure. In addition, some initial rough concepts were presented for feedback.

At the meeting there was discussion about the relationship of Belle Island and Belle Park. Although the idea of creating less intensive use near Belle Island is well received, more discussion of the area is needed on how best to protect the island from intense traffic and vandalism. Many liked the idea of a dog park as it would keep dogs off-leash to one area and away from the island. Symbols used in the park to represent Indigenous communities was also discussed, it was noted that something that is more universally representative is needed. Dish with One Spoon or circles were suggested. Although heavy recreation on the entire park is not desired, creating a more diverse use of the space would be more inclusive of Indigenous community, such as lacrosse play on a multi-use recreation field.

Open House and Presentation: May 2, 2019

At the Belle Park Club House, thinc design presented a slide show of concepts for Belle Park master plan and feedback received to date, followed by a question and answer period.

A summary of the points made during and after the slide show is as follows:

- dog-off leash area remains a concern, particularly with respect to waste left uncollected by dog owners, interference with wildlife and proximity of it near the playground and the pavilion. The pavilion should be kept away from the dog park.
- wheelchair accessible pathways to picnic/social area, and parking lot,
- mindful "Earth will heal itself if you leave it alone" mentality

- consideration of emergency vehicles needed near the bridge when planning out tree planting
- why are there more courts
- no asphalt should be used anywhere in the park because of seepage, trails need to be made of natural materials,
- community members liked the slides depicting natural elements,
- need for a bus shelter
- pavilion should be made of natural materials
- indoor or dome tennis structure was not favoured
- as many native plants as possible should be planted on shoreline
- an increased need for community engagement with Indigenous community partners, teaching and spreading awareness in the park,
- keeping ownership of the land and surrounding is important

Mohawk Nation Council Chief (MNCC) Consultation Summary:

April 17, 2019

Reviewed proposed master plan with Paul Williams, Mohawk Nation Council Chief representative to City on Belle Island Accord. Discussion included:

- Quieting/lessening activity and more natural space as the park gets closer to the island.
- Respect the island as a place of cultural consolation.
- Organizing more intensive activities up near clubhouse.
- Graduated landscape approach on Savannah demonstration zone.
- Belle Island Management Principles were shared and it was discussed that Master Plan would consider these values as part of plan and for future works.
- That some of the Belle Island Management Principles were specific only to Belle Island and would not be relevant to Belle Park.



Proposed Park Elements

Park Elements & Opportunities + Challenges

Belle Island Management Principles 'Relevant Principles to Belle Park Master Plan

Natural Environment

Trails + Access + Views

Social

Culture + Heritage + Education

Land Management

Recreation

Infrastructure

Proposed Park Elements

The programming opportunities in Belle Park are diverse. Given the site is in close proximity to downtown and the Cataraqui River, its large size, and potential for accessibility to many residents, a wide range of park activities and facilities was desired and should be considered.

Through the consultation process, seven park categories were identified to be important aspects of the park:

1. Natural Environment
2. Trails, Access and Views
3. Social
4. Cultural, Heritage and Education
5. Land Management
6. Recreation
7. Infrastructure

However, with these opportunities comes challenges. The park is a former landfill site, is prone to flooding, and has a relationship with Belle Island that must be considered in the design and implementation of all improvements.

The following section outlines relevant principles from the Belle Island Management Principles and goes on to provide more details on these seven categories, identifying some of the primary opportunities and challenges associated with them.

Belle Island Management Principles

The Belle Island Management Principles are a joint approach to caring for Belle Island that have been agreed to with the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs and the City. The Belle Park Master Plan recommends seeking consistency to the relevant principles of the Belle Island Management Principles when managing Belle Park and when making improvements in Belle Park as a result of the Master Plan. As described in the Belle Island Management Principles, the relevant principles include::

4. We will promote the growth and protection of Indigenous plants on the island.
5. We will promote the Indigenous biodiversity on the island, typical of the Cataraqui microclimate.
6. We will work together to prevent the growth of invasive plants on the island.
7. We will promote the planting, growth and protection of endangered and threatened Indigenous plants.
8. We will promote the creation of habitat that will welcome and feed endangered and threatened animals, insects, birds, and fish.
9. We will address the plants and animals in the waters around the island as well as on the island.
10. We will carefully plan for the protection of the island biome in the light of climate change, changes in water levels, and urban development.
11. Belle Park, next to the island, is a capped waste disposal site. While the cap shall not be disturbed, the use and plantation in the park, especially adjacent to the island, shall be harmonious with, and respectful of, the principles that govern the island.
14. Implementing these principles will require participation by Indigenous people who live in Kingston, as well as the support of the people and government of Kingston, and of the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs.

For more details on the full list of Principles see Appendix E.





Natural Environment

Given the site was formerly maintained as a golf course, and prior to that a landfill, the process of implementing naturalization can be challenging. Some areas of naturalization exist in the park but they are mostly along the shorelines. A large percentage of the community is interested in natural places when considering the future of the park, both as a space for wildlife, and as a place to experience nature in an urban area.

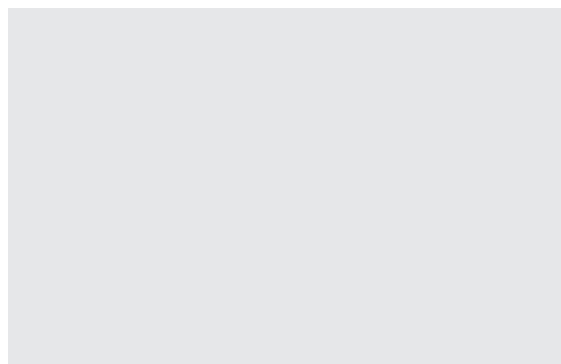
A key aspect of Belle Park's natural environment is understanding the term "Naturalization" in the context of Belle Park. For Belle Park, "naturalization" refers to continuing the current management trend of creating a non-manicured landscape, while promoting and planting native species in the park. This is done through controlling invasive species, and encouraging a relatively self-sustaining, biologically diverse landscape. This initiative requires further detailed planning and may include species specific selection and consideration of amending soil cover on the site. The increased tree cover and reduced grass cutting is expected to help reduce factors that affect climate change.





Natural Environment Opportunities

- Identify and protect sensitive habitat and enhance existing habitat, including along the shorelines where turtles, osprey and other wildlife are situated
- Create wildlife habitat for endangered species such as Monarch Butterflies
- Bird houses and bird watching amenities
- Increase opportunities for biodiversity, especially near the existing marshlands and natural areas of the park
- Increase native species on the site, especially close to Belle Island
- Creation of wildlife viewing opportunities
- Provide natural education opportunities for the community, school groups and the public
- Introduction of interpretive signs of the natural environment
- Create natural and quiet spaces near Belle Island
- Continue communication and consult the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs and the local Indigenous community when proposing new naturalization projects/planting plans, especially when in proximity to Belle Island
- Create a guiding planting and naturalization strategy for the park





Natural Environment Challenges

- The site is large making it difficult to manage invasive plants, noxious weeds and pests, as they become more abundant
- Invasive species may affect biodiversity- monitoring and controlling the spread of invasive species is needed, especially near Belle Island. There are invasive species on Belle Island as well that should be considered
- Planting management will require coordination with overall site remediation practice and takes time to fully develop
- Increased water levels and fluctuations due to climate change may prolong flooding of certain areas- selection of species during planting may reduce the impacts of these seasonal changes
- Instilling a sense of ownership for the community as Belle Park suffers from a legacy of being viewed as derelict land
- Potential conflict between park users and wildlife





Trails + Access + Views

Trails, access and views were considered by many to be of high importance for the park. Of particular interest was providing access to different areas of the park during all seasons and to support a variety of recreational pursuits. This includes walking, cycling, cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

Trails should also be designed with careful consideration of enhancing connectivity to and between key destinations, linkages to the surrounding community, and to provide views of the surrounding landscape including the hilltop and of the waterfront..





Trails + Access + Views Opportunities

- Create a trail hierarchy to reflect level and type of use, a respect for future natural environments, and accessible connections that meet FADS and AODA criteria as well as the landscape character of the pathways surrounding
- Consider:
 - MUP (wider, asphalt surface)
 - Major trails (wider, granular surface)
 - Minor trails (narrower, granular surface)
 - Hiking trails (single track, natural surface trails)
- Wayfinding signage and mapping to allow visitors to easily navigate the trails system
- Regrade to allow drainage and reduce ponding issues
- Capitalize on the significant views throughout the site (from the hill top and the bay)
- Linking of site amenities and provide opportunities for seating
- Creation of notable entries, gateways and special spaces
- Provision of strategic lighting at the front of the park to increase safety
- Improve the connections to the surrounding community and trail system (K&P Trail) and MUP connecting to 3rd Crossing
- Strategic areas can be protected by focusing access in a developed trail system
- Provision for future connections
- Trail elements of the park would account for all seasons but would not be plowed
- Increase perception of safety throughout the park by increasing public access





Trails + Access + Views Challenges

- Increased access to the park must respect Indigenous concerns, by continuing to provide access to Belle Island but not creating significant trail systems that promote Belle Island as a destination for the general public
- Large sections of the site, especially near the shoreline where the views are situated, are seasonally wet and inaccessible
- No existing accessible paths
- Protecting and addressing wildlife needs such as the potential of turtle nesting along the trails near the waterfront
- Managing views would require some strategic vegetation removal
- The large scale of the park and nature of the landfill may require developments of trails to occur over multiple phases and beyond the Master Plan's 15-year horizon





Social

In order to make Belle Park a successful destination in Kingston, gathering spaces for both larger and smaller groups is important. These could be in the form of:

- Picnicking (including accessible picnic tables and barbecues)
- Natural playground
- Off leash dog area
- Shade and picnic pavilion/shelter
- Open air program spaces for education/school groups/cultural gathering
- Open air space for community events





Social Opportunities

- Increase opportunities for informal gathering spaces throughout the site
- Create a large multi-use flat lawn area to host special events or sports
- Use of existing club house building to support community events and gatherings
- Provide for opportunities for picnicking and large gatherings
- Provision of a natural playground and other programmable spaces
- Increase education opportunities for the community, school groups and the public
- Provide special spaces for local Indigenous activities, such as a sacred fire space
- Provide a spaces for off leash dog use





Social Challenges

- Off leash dog area could potentially conflict with other user groups interested in a nature hike
- Monitor programming schedule to ensure no overuse of the space occurs
- Site's remoteness could permit antisocial or illicit activities which may lead to unsafe public space or destruction of property/vandalism



Cultural, Heritage, and Education



Belle Park possesses many cultural, historical and educational opportunities to promote. The site is unique in that its shores form part of the Great Cataraqui River, which is part of the UNESCO- designated Rideau Canal waterway. There has been significant changes in land use over the history of the site, such as, the former landfill. Belle Island is a significant area for the Indigenous community, and given that it is adjacent to Belle Park, development and programming of the park could consider Indigenous culture.

As a result, the park's design needs to consider:

- Indigenous culture
- Nature/environment/culture interpretation
- Interpretation regarding the landfill and legacy of managing the site
- Community and school group planting programs
- Spaces for education (outdoor classrooms)



Some members of the local Indigenous community have voiced a strong desire to establish an interpretive education or cultural centre on the Belle Park site. The BPMP does not make a recommendation on this subject. Engage for Change is a community consultation process, currently underway that is tasked in the discussion on what, how and where a Indigenous cultural centre should be developed. The proposed park improvements in the BPMP leave adequate space for other initiatives in the future park, such as a cultural interpretation centre, should direction be given to explore this site.





Culture, Heritage, and Education Opportunities

- Provision of Indigenous culture, historical and nature interpretation throughout the site both in the form of signs and public art
- Increase education opportunities for the community, school groups and the public (interpretation, meeting spaces for educational experiences)
- Community driven planting programs
- Outdoor class styled spaces in the park
- Opportunity to build upon the current story of the site (from wetland to landfill to park) and connect with local history
- Central area provides opportunity for cultural events (festivals or other large community gatherings)
- Integration of landfill monitoring and control into interactive educational program
- Create a guiding interpretation strategy for the park





Culture, Heritage, and Education Challenges

- Activities will require coordination with various community-led interpretation projects and resource departments at the City such as Culture and Environment
- Developing and managing a consistent messaging through all aspects of the park's design, interpretation and educational programming
- Potential vandalism of the signs, especially along trails or more remote areas





Land Management

It is recognized that given the former golf course use and minimal existing native species on site, ongoing control of invasive species, noxious weeds, and pests as well as keeping the park clean is required to create a safe and enjoyable environment for park users and to develop a more sustainable space.





Land Management Opportunities

- Beautifying the site, particularly at the front entry to help to attract more park users to the space
- Create distinct Belle Park landscape zones (meadow/tall grass prairie savannah/succession/woodland)
- Management of invasive species to protect native biodiversity (mowing, woodland management, planting strategy)
- Creation of strategic view corridors
- Strategic mowing of parkland with reduced manicured lawn to help reduce maintenance costs and emissions
- Creating temporary trail routes with mown paths
- Opportunity for public role in helping monitor park conditions





Land Management Challenges

- Ongoing monitoring of the park will be required to deal with existing anti-social behaviour, vandalism, and dumping in the park
- Uneven grounds and seasonal flooding are challenges when maintaining the site
- Tree planting near Belle Island must consider emergency access needs





Recreation

Keeping active is important to residents to stay healthy and improve quality of life. Recreation amenities add diversity and opportunity for more park use which is expected to improve the success of the space. Therefore, various types of recreation areas have been identified for the park, including but not limited to:

- Courts (pickleball, tennis, basketball)
- Walking, jogging and dog walking on trails and multi-seasonal use paths
- Multi-use field (soccer, rugby, ultimate frisbee, lacrosse, community events)
- Golf (pitch n' putt, driving range, chipping/putting green)
- Disc golf
- Cycling (off road mountain biking and cycling on pathways)
- Other sports: tobogganing, fitness stations, and kite flying

Courts

There are existing courts on site. These existing courts are to be reconfigured, improved and expanded to help address the park's deteriorating infrastructure and to address some of the City's broader recreation needs. Using the existing location helps with soil management during construction. The Kingston Pickleball Club has not formalized any proposal to contribute or partner with the City on court development.

Trails

There are some existing trails on site as well as service roads that are currently used to access remote areas of the park including Belle Island. Given the size of the park, there is an opportunity to create more trails to explore different areas of the site and have a low impact means of maintaining health.

Multi-use Field

A natural grassed field to allow for multiple uses creates opportunities for a greater array of park users. This field could support a wide range of organized sports activities including soccer, ultimate frisbee, rugby, and lacrosse, as well as other park activities involving large gatherings including concerts, community celebrations and festivals. The original council direction identified that multi-use fields be considered. Early versions of the master plan designs included 2 multi-use fields. This was felt by the community as too intense a recreational footprint in the park. The Master Plan calls for one field to be established which has been met with support overall. The Kingston Panthers Rugby Club has not formalized any proposal to contribute or partner with the City on field development.

Pitch N' Putt

A small golf practice green with 3 pitch n' putt holes is compatible with the driving range use and offers an experience that is for a wide range of age groups and abilities. Careful consideration of the layout will be required.

Driving Range

The driving range currently exists on site, but it may be realigned to allow for more efficient use of space. Netting will be relocated as required between the driving range and pedestrian areas.

Disc Golf

A disc golf course can be integrated within the park in a non-intrusive manner. It is recommended that a partner provider be sought out to develop in the city a 9-hole course.

Outdoor Natural Fitness Circuit

Along the proposed trail network, a number of natural styled fitness stations are proposed to give park users an opportunity to undertake a short circuit of various exercises such as stretches, pull-ups, sit-ups, and other agility and strength exercises using purposefully built equipment with signage instructing users of proper form and technique.

Mountain Biking

A facility integrated with unmanaged trails can impose upon the natural environment. Creating hard boundaries such as designated trails to contain the use may help to create a balance between the spaces. Since Belle Park has one of the only significant hills in city parks (making it the only potential location that can be considered for this amenity), a mountain bike facility is recommended to be developed only if a partner group comes forward to develop and maintain, to city standards. Consideration of soil capping and erosion/infiltration would be a requirement.







Recreation Opportunities

- Reconfiguration of the driving range (dual purpose with pitch n' putt)
- Provide greater array of court sports (tennis/pickleball/basketball)
- Integration of a multi-use field grassed area for a wide range of organized sports and activities (lacrosse, ultimate frisbee, soccer, other field sports, festivals)
- Outdoor fitness for all ages integrated into park experience
- Provision of a central natural playground
- Creation of an organized, well signed trail network will encourage all season trail use for all skill levels and abilities - trails would not be plowed in winter
- Provide a park for all seasons, with activities at all times of year (i.e cross country skiing, fat biking, snowshoeing)





Recreation Challenges

- Balancing recreation with the natural environment requirements
- Conflict between potential user groups
- Construction of facilities over top of a former landfill site (earthworks limitations, geotechnical stability, footing depth, cost)
- An update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is currently under review. Although facilities such as an indoor tennis bubble can be considered as an option for Belle Park, implementation of it in the City will need to respect guidelines from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.





Infrastructure

Infrastructure changes will need to be carefully considered as part of the upgrades in Belle Park. This includes but is not limited to:

- Clubhouse & public restrooms
- Bike parking
- Accessibility enhancements
- Small craft landing and launch area
- Benches
- Trash and recycling receptacles
- Parking lot improvements
- Front of park lighting (safety)
- Ongoing landfill monitoring and control





Infrastructure Opportunities

- A renovation of the clubhouse and washrooms provides user groups with improved facilities
- Site service existing (water, electrical and sanitary) at Club House and Works Yard
- Parking lot improvements to provide well designed parking while reducing overall visual and physical impact
- Improvements to site amenities (i.e. seating, benches, trash/recycling receptacles)
- Provision of accessibility (FADS and AODA) enhancements throughout the site (walking and site amenities)
- Multi-use outdoor shade and picnic pavilion provides multiple user groups access for diverse activities
- Improve/create opportunities for small craft landing and launch . This amenity would be conditional on the feasibility related to ensuring landfill stability at shoreline
- Consider use of natural materials to be compatible with the surroundings or recycled material for sustainable development





Infrastructure Challenges

- Improvements to the park will require coordination with former landfill management practices and requirements, particularly along the south shore. Shore sediments should not be disturbed
- Providing site services (water, power, sanitary) beyond existing buildings where services currently exist in Belle Park would be challenging and likely cost prohibitive due to landfill material below grade
- Potential vandalism of amenities
- When improving or developing parking lots and other infrastructure, there needs to be consideration for the environmental management requirements for the site





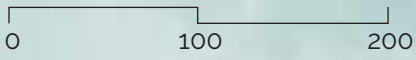
The Plan

Graduated Landscape Strategy
Central Area
The Peninsula
Active Elements
South Area (OLDA)
Hilltop Lookout

Belle Park Master Plan



- 1 - Central Area
- 2 - The Peninsula
- 3 - Active Elements
- 4 - South Area (OLDA)
- 5 - Hilltop Lookout



Graduated Landscape Strategy

Each landscape typology will have its own character and management requirements, with all five zones potentially supporting plantation as part of the City's leachate management strategy.

The Graduated Landscape philosophy for Belle Park is based on the idea of five inter-related landscape zones:

- Manicured Lawn
- Grassland/Meadow
- Savannah/Tall Grass Prairie
- Succession
- Woodland



Manicured Lawn

The manicured lawn zone is characterized by primarily manicured landscape including, turf and ornamental plantings such as trees, shrubs and perennials. This zone will be established around the park's high activity areas such as the park's entrance, parking lot, clubhouse, playground, courts, picknicking, golf activities and multi-use field. The planting palette will be focused on low maintenance, native species. Many of the plant species will also be found in the other four landscape zones.



Grassland/Meadow

Adjacent to the manicured landscaped areas will be the grassland zone. This zone will support primarily native grasses with woody material and invasive species controlled through seasonal mowing. Once established, it will be maintained as a meadow with long grass that is seasonally mown. The grassland zone will allow for the establishment of view corridors across the site between key destinations and from the park's a central activity area south east towards the Great Cataraqui River and unstructured mown paths could be created in the meadow.



Savannah/Tall Grass Prairie

The savannah landscape will evolve from grassland into a tall grass prairie oak savannah. Overtime, this zone will include a range of native tall grass species and tree species such as Pin Oak, Swamp White Oak, Bur Oak, Black Oak and pines. To support this zone a management technique will need to be undertaken to help control non-native and woody species while allowing the characteristic oak savannah species to thrive. One of the reasons oak savannahs have become so rare in southern Ontario is due to human intervention preventing the natural occurrence of fire in the landscape. Controlled grassland burns may be considered as part of the savannah.



Succession

The succession zone in Belle Park will be located between the savannah and woodland forest. It is characterized by a diverse landscape of both understory (groundcovers, grasses and shrubs) and canopy tree species, but mostly dominated by understory plants. Periodic management is needed to prevent invasive species from crowding out the native species. Once established, it may transition into a woodland as a result of each area's management approach.



Woodland

This zone will represent the park's climax landscape of tall native hardwood canopy trees. It will take many years to establish a dense forest of hardwoods across designated sections of site. To achieve this zone, additional soil may be needed to establish good tree growth since the soil depths are shallow. Selection of floodplain trees with a high tolerance of compacted and low oxygen soils should be considered, particularly the areas within the 100-year floodplain. Similar to the succession zone, active management through tree planting and selective tree cutting will be required in the initial phase of establishment to achieve a sustainable forest zone. Consider including native plant species found on Belle Island as the woodland will be adjacent to the island.

- Existing Woodland: the existing woodland will require pruning and invasive tree removal over time. Diverse native trees and shrubs should be replanted in these zones in order to establish a healthier and more natural woodland.
- Hybrid Poplar Plantations: the existing hybrid poplar plantations should be integrated within all landscape zones as they perform a key function in the management of leachate. Additional stands of poplars may be required throughout the park in the future.

Plan for Belle Park Graduated Landscape

Legend

- Manicured Lawn
- Grassland
- Woodland (Existing)
- Woodland (Increased)
- Savannah
- Succession
- Marsh



0 100 200

Montreal Street

Woodland (Existing)

Manicured Lawn

Grassland

Savannah

Suc

View Corridor

Woodland (Existing)

Marsh



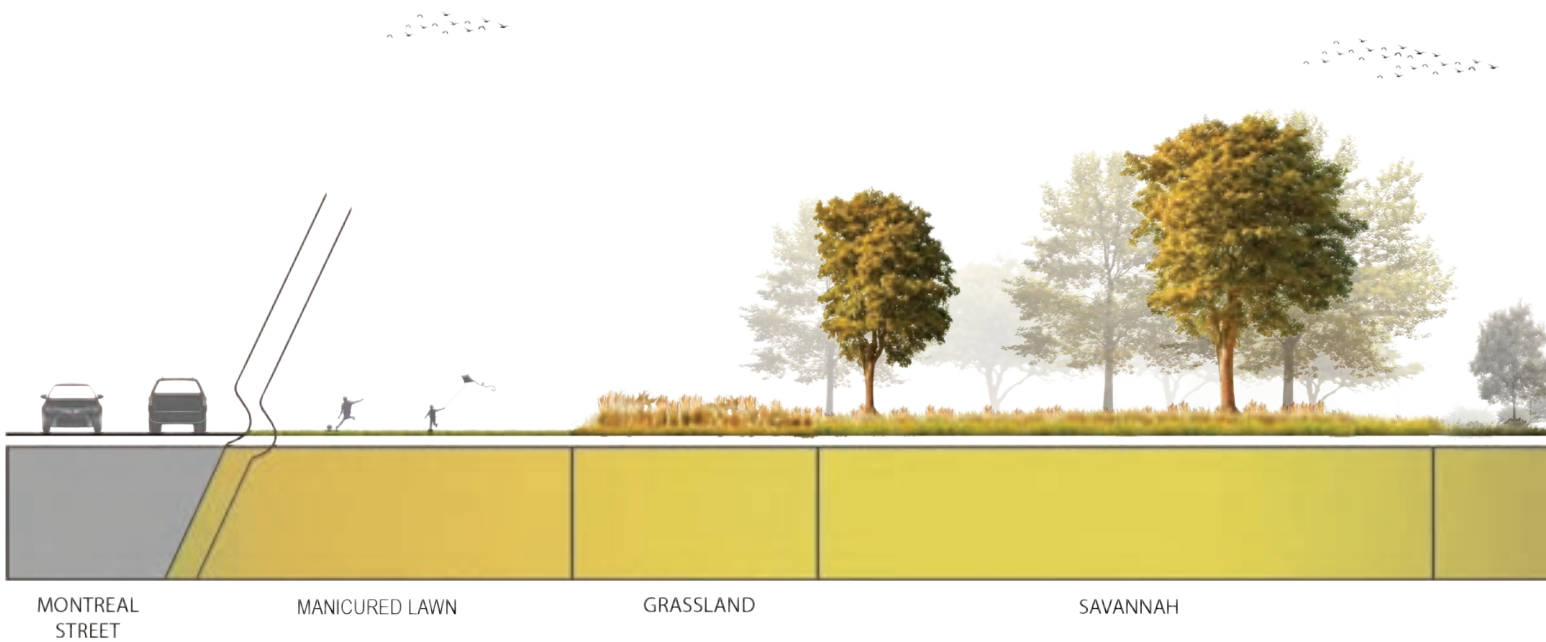
Marsh

ccession

Woodland (Increased)

Belle Island

Typical Section through Belle Park Graduated Landscape





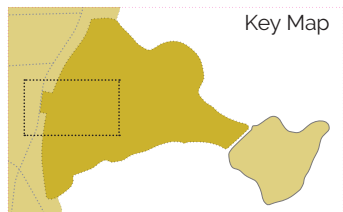
SUCCESSION

WOODLAND

BELLE ISLAND

NOTE: Section illustrates the graduated landscape concept in regards to the transition of landscape typologies from Montreal Street to Belle Island. The scale of the drawings and width of the landscape zones illustrated is diagrammatic only and is not to scale. To understand the size of each landscape typology, please refer to the plan provided on the previous page.

Central Area

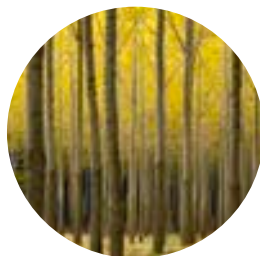


The central area will act as a gateway to the park and will set the stage for the park visitor's experience. Key features include:

- Gateway Entry
- Rolling Landscape
- Picnic Area
- Natural Playground
- Clubhouse & Washrooms
- Shade Structure & Outdoor Gathering Space
- Parking

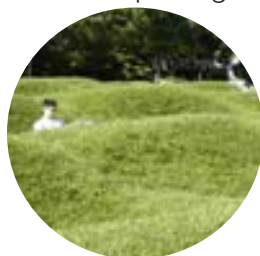
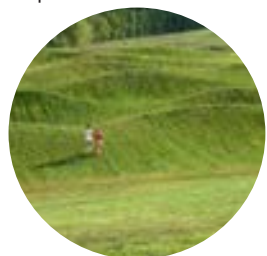
Gateway Entry

The park requires an iconic entry feature which celebrates the park and its unique aspects. This could be in the form of public art or iconic park signage. The design of the gateway needs to provide a presence on Montreal Street while at the same time being sensitively integrated with the park's landscape. Suggested materials include wood, metal and stone to help enhance the gateway's connection with the natural environment. The park identification should consider emergency response requirements in the design.



Rolling Landscape

The rolling landscape feature is proposed as a playful interpretation of the site's history as a man made creation which overlays the park over the formal landfill. The feature will need to be designed to be an interesting landform which is still conducive to regular mowing and maintenance. This landscape will be developed in place of the current south front parking lot.



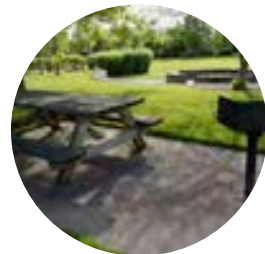
View Corridor

In order to connect daily park users to the waterfront experience in a stronger way, it is recommended that a view corridor be created from the front entry area of the park, south east across the park to the Great Cataraqui River. This view corridor will require brush and tree thinning and new plantings and structures developed in the park should be mindful of this intent and be positioned to reinforce and focus on those views.



Picnic Area

Located in close proximity to the playground, the picnic area will provide the opportunity for individuals, families and even larger groups to gather outdoors to enjoy the Belle Park environment. Picnic tables and barbecues will be provided throughout the central area.



Natural Playground

The playground for Belle Park will be located in this zone to allow for easy access for local residents. In keeping with the natural style the park, a custom designed and built playground constructed primarily out of wood is preferred.



Clubhouse & Washrooms

The existing clubhouse will be re-imagined into a central park build to support a variety of park uses including, but not limited to, interpretive display, meeting space for groups or clubs, city staff and a publicly accessible washroom. Final determination of composition of use in the clubhouse will be determined through detailed design.

Washrooms at this location will help support the playground, picnic use and the neighbouring recreational uses. Recycled materials are recommended to be utilized in the improvements, considering former use of the land as a landfill.



Shade Structure and Other Outdoor Gathering Space

Centrally located within the park is a large shade structure for group gatherings or to escape the elements. A round shape is preferred for the pavilion to accommodate Indigenous ceremonies. An outdoor gathering space is also proposed where ceremonial fires may be held.



Parking

The central area proposed to keep the north front parking lot at Montreal Street. It can be used by park visitors and utilized as a Park and Ride lot. This lot is proposed to be upgraded over time so that it can be more easily maintained in the winter. Further east, a drop off loop is proposed to provide pickup and drop off inside the park. The loop proposed to be large enough to sufficiently handle potential school bus turning as well as vehicles. Two internal parking areas are proposed to be developed in phases.

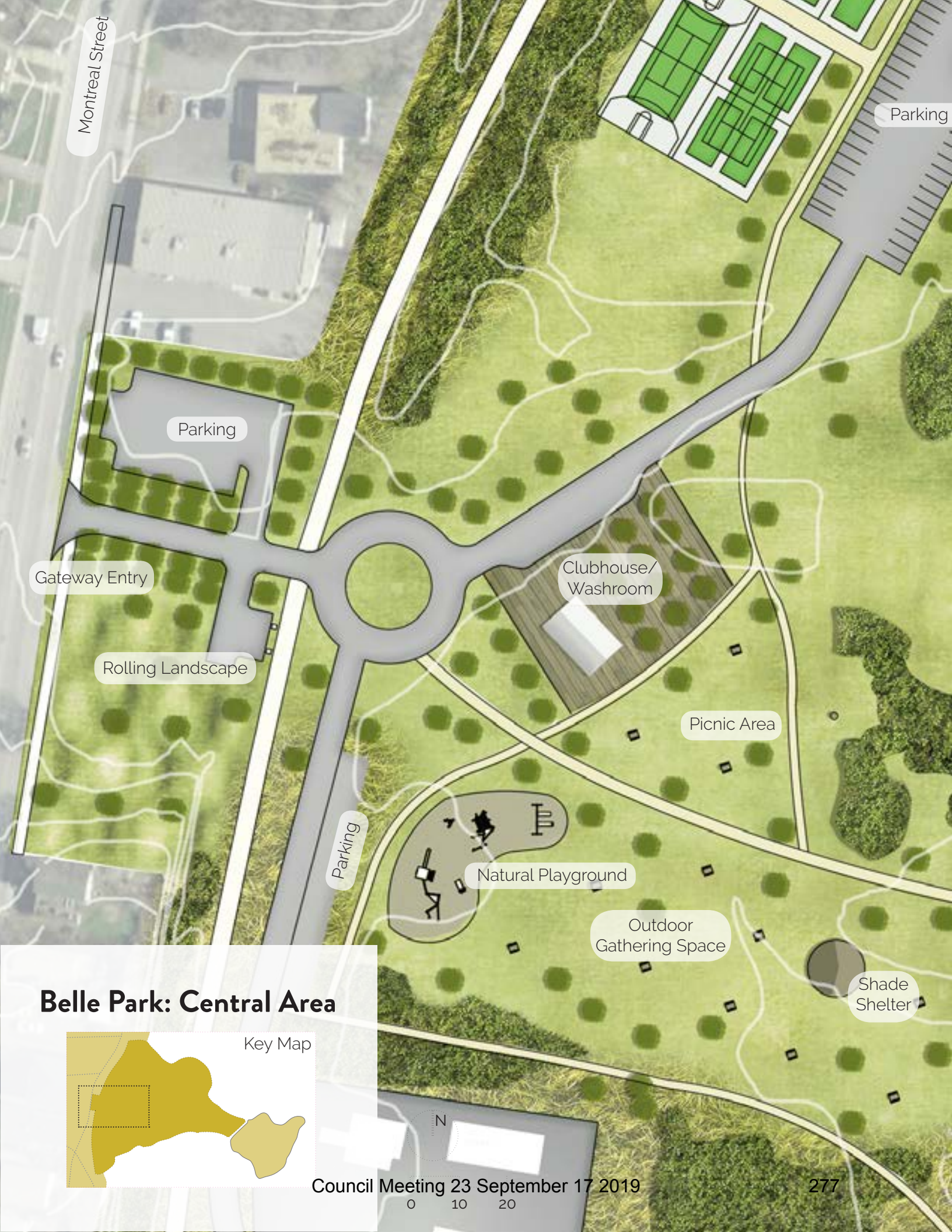




BEFORE: Current Gateway Entrance



AFTER: Proposed Gateway Entrance



Montreal Street

Parking

Parking

Gateway Entry

Rolling Landscape

Clubhouse/
Washroom

Picnic Area

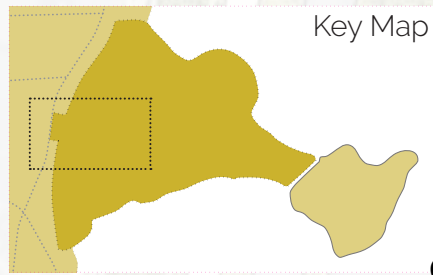
Parking

Natural Playground

Outdoor
Gathering Space

Shade
Shelter

Belle Park: Central Area



Key Map

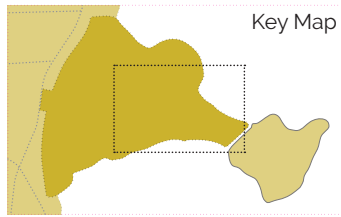




Multi-use Field



The Peninsula



The peninsula zone will provide opportunities for users to enjoy the natural environment through a range of nature based activities including walking (snowshoeing and cross country skiing in winter), wildlife viewing, views across the Cataraqui River, and outdoor education. The woodland landscape will help enhance separation between the more active areas of the park to the west and Belle Island to the east.

Woodland



The peninsula landscape will transition from savannah on the west to woodland at the east. The presence of a mature, dense tree stand will help buffer Belle Island from park activities closer to Montreal Street. The woodland landscape will be comprised of a variety of native species typically found within the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region including but not limited to:

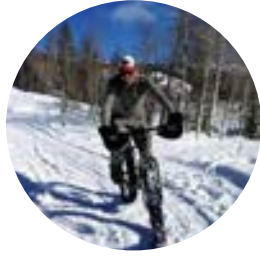
- Sugar Maple
- Red Maple
- Red Oak
- Basswood
- White Elm
- Beech
- White Oak

Pathways and Trails



Throughout this area of the park, a hierarchy of trails is proposed to provide a range of user experiences. This includes the main pathway down the spine of the park, the existing service road which traverses the south side of the park, and a series of secondary pathways and trails to create recreation loops and access to other destinations throughout the park.

Winter Recreation



Trails will also support winter recreation including but not limited to cross country skiing, snowshoeing and fat biking.

Wildlife Habitat & Observation



The Peninsula area offers an excellent opportunity to introduce and integrate into the landscape new and improved wildlife habitat which will provide wildlife viewing opportunities. This includes but is not limited to:

- Osprey nesting pole/platforms
- Turtle basking logs and gravel beaches for the laying of eggs
- Snake hibernaculum
- Bird boxes
- Milkweed areas for Monarch butterflies

Views



The Peninsula provides a variety of opportunities to access the shoreline which provides views of the Great Cataraqui River, the marsh, Belle Island, and the west shoreline of the river. Designated viewing areas are identified which would offer seating, signage, and interpretation.



BEFORE: Current Park at The Bump



AFTER: Proposed Savanna Walk (The Bump)



Views

Natural Trails

Wildlife Observation

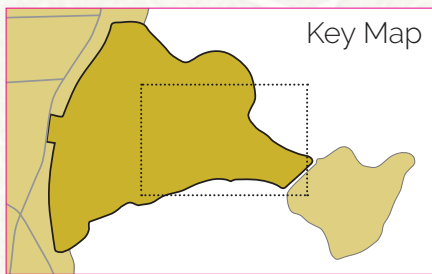
Savannah

Succession

Minor Trails

Woodland

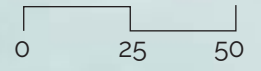
Belle Park: The Peninsula



Key Map

Major Trails





erving

n

Stone
Lookout

Woodland

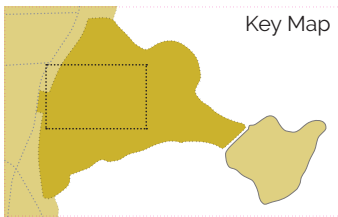
Garden
Lookout

Views

Views

Stone
Lookout

Active Elements (Playcourts and Park)



The existing playcourts and park should be reconfigured, improved and expanded to help address the park's deteriorating infrastructure and to address some of the City's and local community's recreation needs. This includes pickleball, tennis, basketball, multi-use playfield, disc golf, pitch n' putt, driving range, and outdoor fitness. Parking and improved trail connections to the surrounding community should also be addressed.

Pickleball



Due to the deterioration of the existing courts and new demand for pickleball courts throughout the City, recommended improvements to the existing courts includes:

- Eight (8) dedicated pickleball courts and potential for expansion based on future needs
- Consider low fencing between some of the courts to contain the ball during play
- Potential for eight (8) additional pickleball courts through line marking on two (2) multi-purpose tennis courts for tournament needs
- Tree planting to provide shade on some courts
- Consider lighting for the courts to allow evening use

Tennis



South of the pickleball courts, two tennis courts are proposed:

- Two (2) multi-purpose tennis courts with basketball hoops and pickleball lines
- Space for potential future winter use indoor tennis (bubble) south of courts.

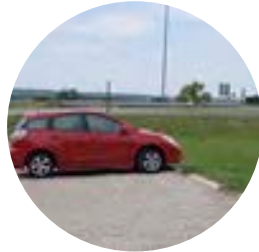
- Determination of an indoor tennis bubble will be consistent with the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which is currently being reviewed and updated. The indoor tennis option would undergo a city wide location analysis before considering it in Belle Park. A community led or private operator for bubble would be recommended in that situation.

Basketball



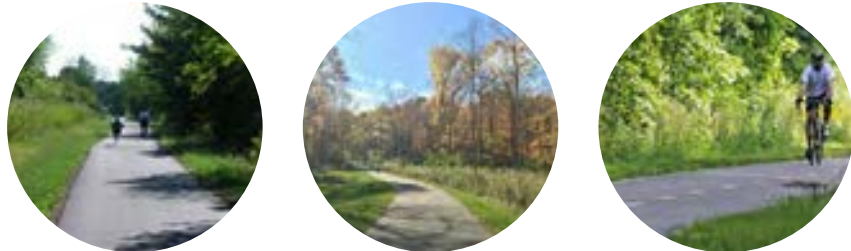
One of the above noted courts to be provided with basketball hoops and markings.

Parking



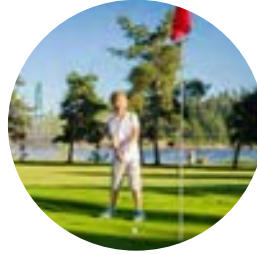
Parking lot(s) immediately east of the courts will be configured to allow direct link to the current future surrounding uses. Parking needs are to be monitored and adjusted based on usage. This lot will be developed in phases should demand warrant.

Major Trail



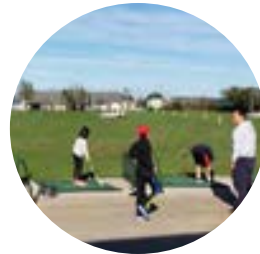
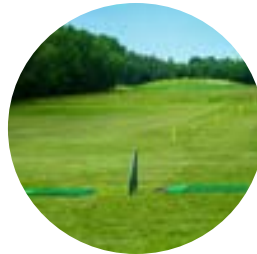
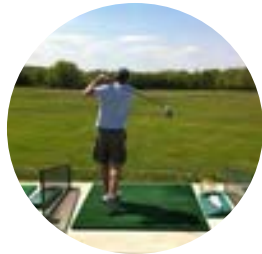
West of the courts is a future major multi-use pathway connection that provides direct links between the existing K&P trail to the south and the future 3rd Crossing bridge pathway connections, as part of the Active Transportation corridor.

Pitch n' Putt



A small golf practice green with pitch n' putt is proposed between the driving range and multi-use field. Careful consideration of the layout will be required to optimize the footprint while allowing for an interesting experience for a wide range of player abilities. Ideally, the putting and chipping practice area will be located close to the parking lot next to the driving range. Consider the use of artificial turf for some of the amenity to minimize ongoing maintenance cost.

Driving Range



The driving range will be located in its current location but realigned in the future to allow more efficient use of space and the development of the pitch n' putt. It is anticipated that netting will be needed between the driving range and pedestrian areas.

- Consider the use of artificial turf to minimize ongoing maintenance cost
- Base on future demand and need, the driving range space could consider a 6 hole golf course instead of a combined practice green and driving range.

Disc Golf



A disc golf course creates opportunities for a variety of users in Belle Park. Using the proposed trail network to access the course, small baskets can be integrated amongst trees in a non-intrusive manner in the park. A nine-hole course would initially be constructed with a second nine holes proposed in the future should demand warrant.

Multi-use Field



A natural grassed flat field for multiple uses is proposed. This field would support a wide range of organized sports activities including soccer, ultimate frisbee, rugby, and lacrosse, as well as other park activities involving large gatherings including concerts, community celebrations and festivals.

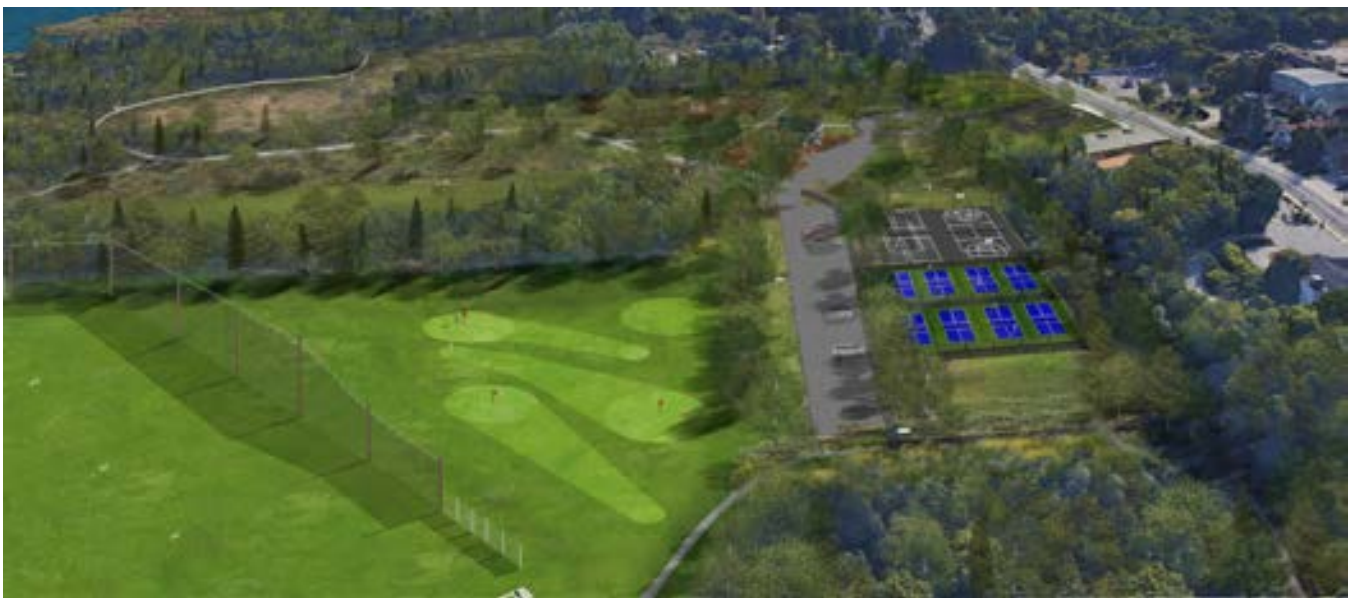
Outdoor Fitness



Along the proposed trail network, a number of natural styled adult fitness stations are proposed to give park users an opportunity to undertake a short circuit of various exercises such as stretches, pull-ups, sit-ups, and other agility and strength exercises using purposefully built equipment with signage instructing users of proper form and technique.



BEFORE: Current courts and driving range



AFTER: Proposed courts and driving range



BEFORE: Current playfield



AFTER: Proposed Play field



Playcourts

Parking

Pitch n' Putt

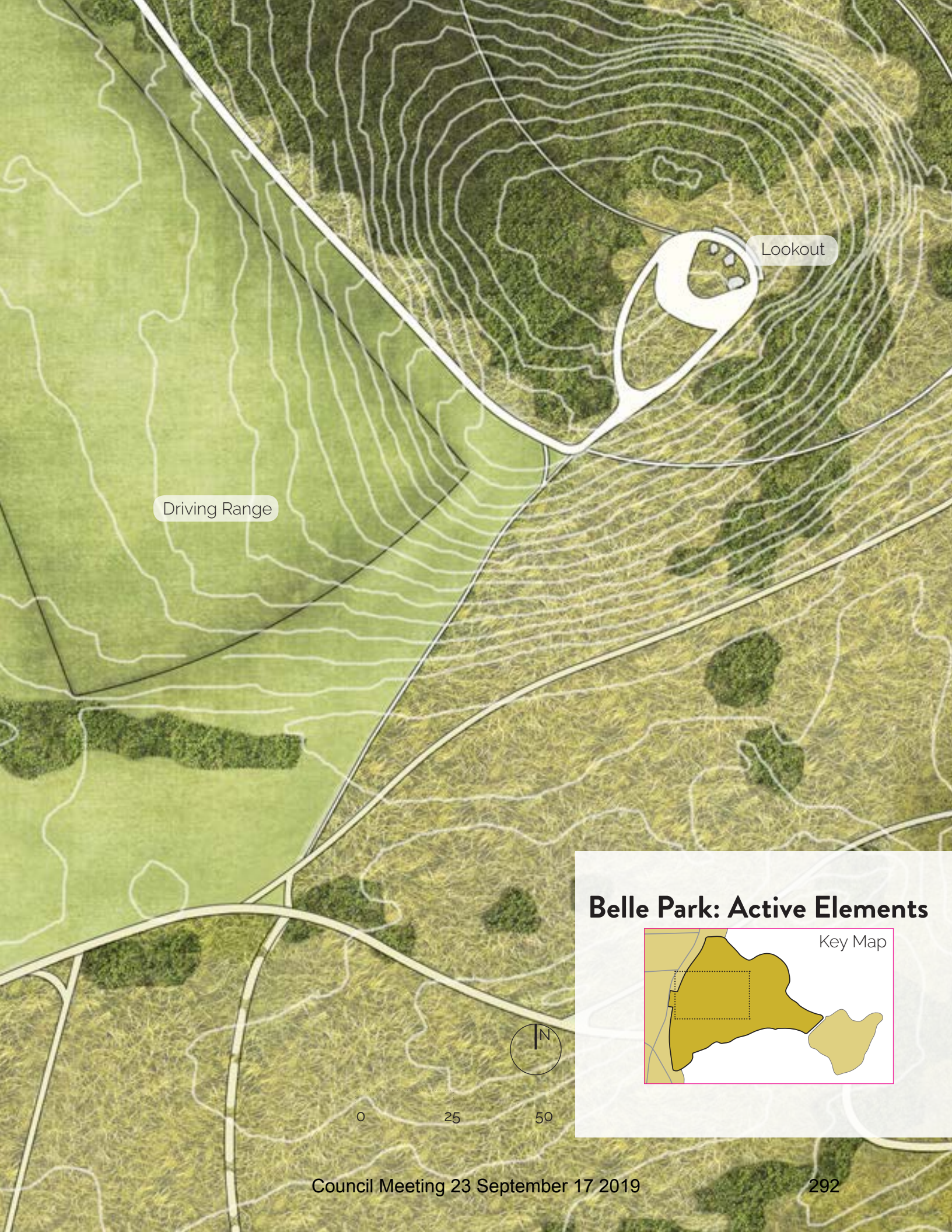
Clubhouse/
Washroom

Multi-use Field

Natural Playground

Outdoor
Gathering Space

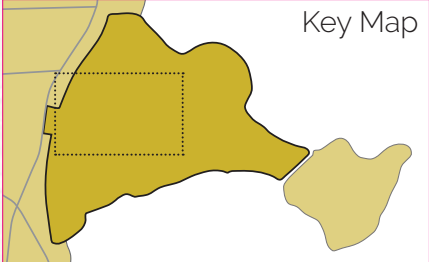
Shade
Shelter



Driving Range

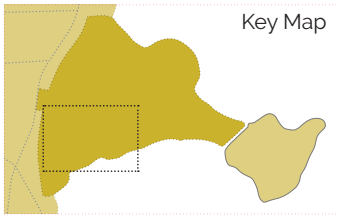
Lookout

Belle Park: Active Elements

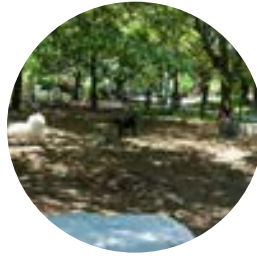
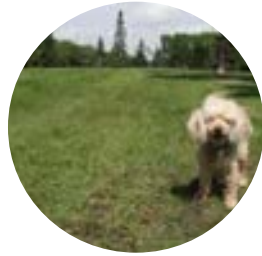


Key Map

South Area (OLDA)



Located south of the recreation field, an off leash dog area (OLDA) is proposed. The limits of this leash free zone would be defined by a combination of signage, land form, planting, fencing and other landscape features, to help better integrate it into the park's surrounding environment. Throughout the OLDA, there is space for dog owners to congregate, as well as space to integrate trails in a natural environment, taking into consideration the need for periodic land management as a result of the use.



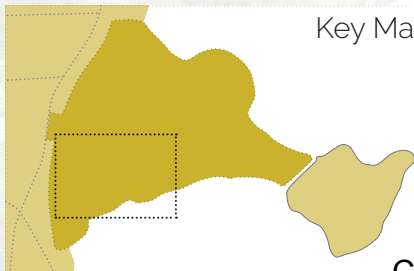
Playground

View Corridor

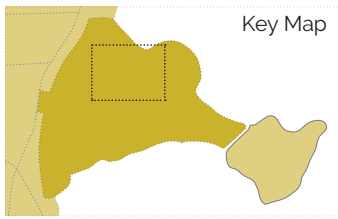
OLDA

Belle Park: South Area (OLDA)

Key Map



Hilltop Lookout



At the park's high point of land, the hilltop lookout would be enhanced to create a destination in the park with views towards downtown and overlooking the Great Cataraqui River. Selective tree cutting will be required to provide views, with alternative pathway routes provided down from the hilltop as well as along the ridge of the hill. Views to the north and south will be created by tree removal. The south face of the hill, where cleared for views, will function as a lounging and exercise hill in summer with tobogganing potential in winter. Lookout amenities to support seating, outdoor education for schools and other groups, and interpretation panels would be sensitively integrated along the trails.



Off-road Biking

Off-road biking is considered along the backside of the hill within the existing woodland area, recognizing the need for periodic land management as a result of the use. This use will only be considered if there is a user group interested in partnering with the City to create the space and maintaining the space, given the higher amounts of maintenance and complexity of the amenity.



BEFORE: Current Hilltop



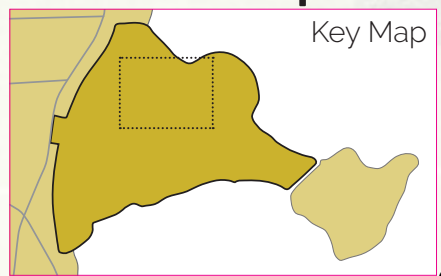
AFTER: Proposed Hilltop Lookout



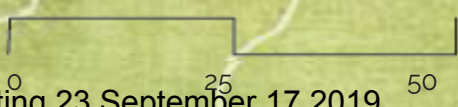
Driving Range

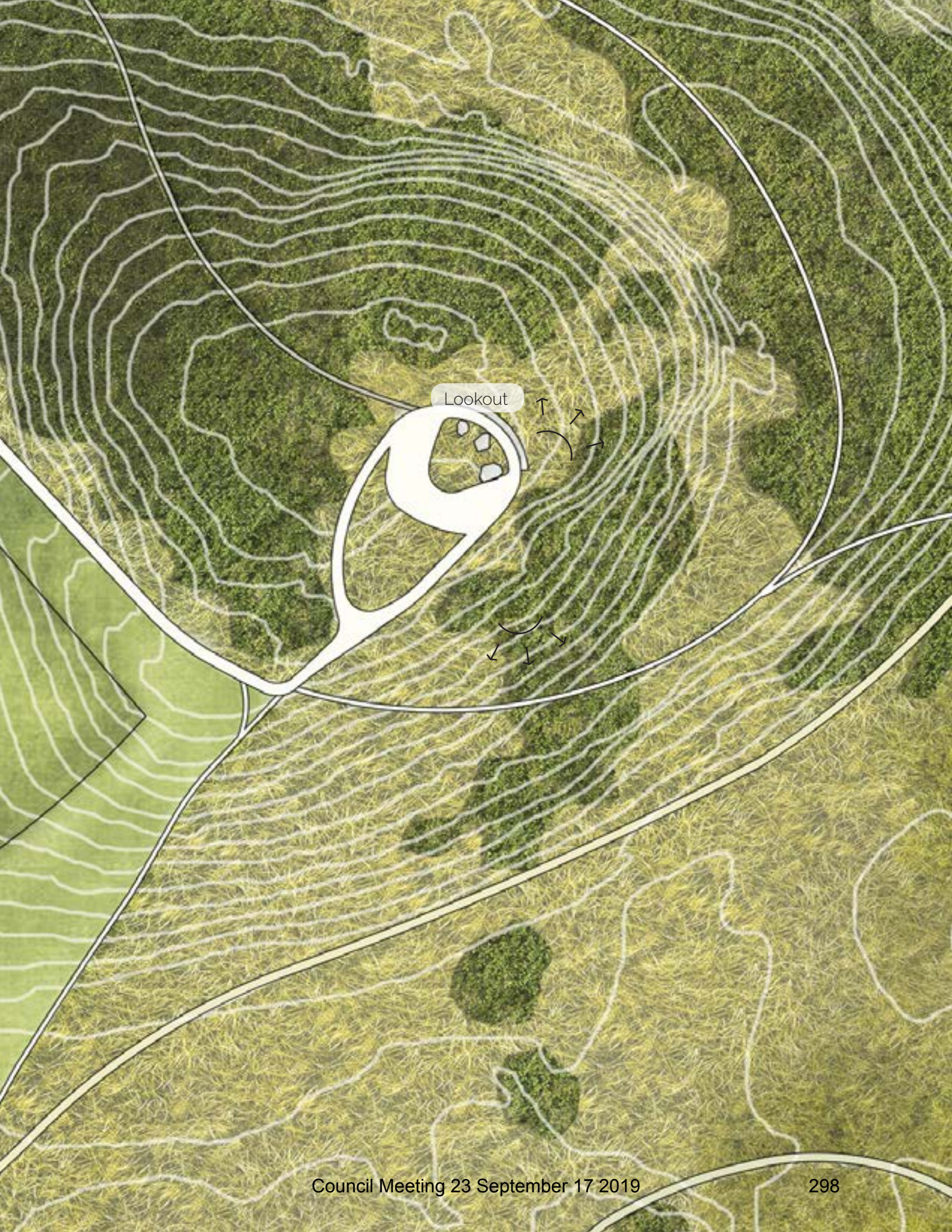
Pitch n' Putt

Belle Park: Hilltop Lookout



Key Map





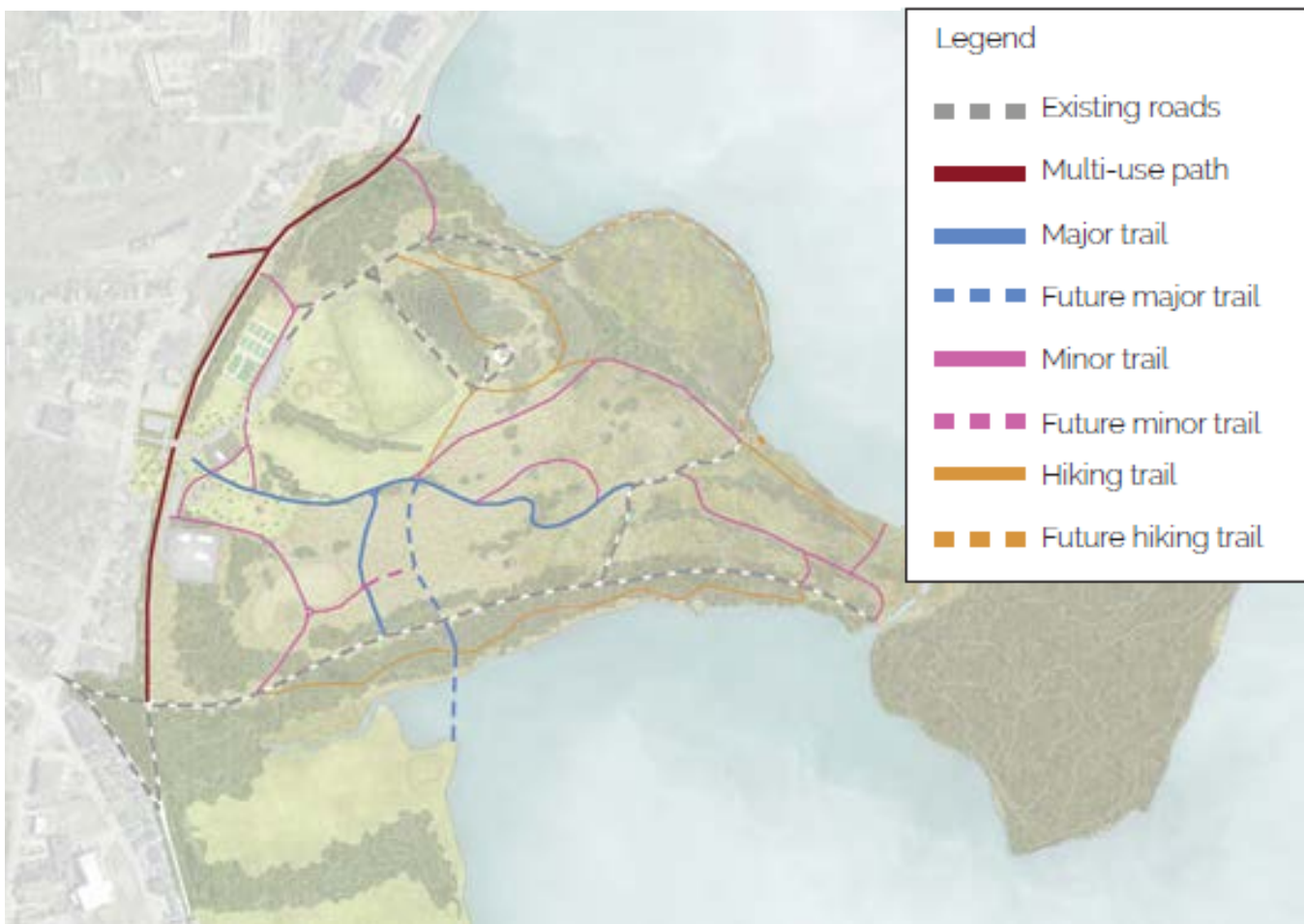
Lookout

Pathways + Circulation

Providing a connected network of trails is an important aspect of the plan for Belle Park in order to experience different parts of the park.. Three types of pathways are proposed:

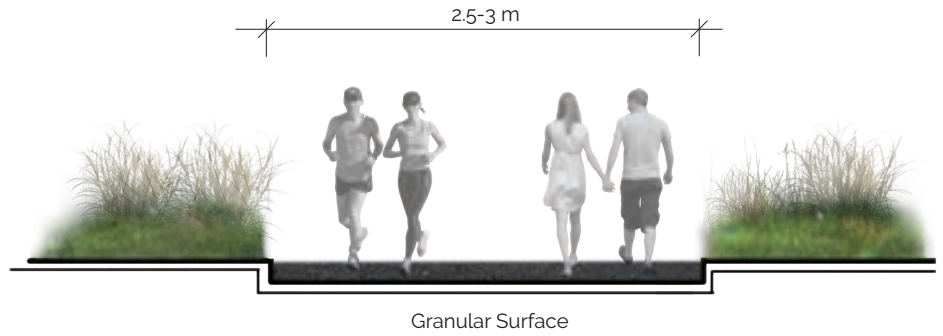
- Major Trails
- Minor Trails
- Hiking Trails

There are existing service roads on site, which will continue to be maintained for maintenance and environmental management needs. Along the abandoned Grand Trunk rail bed, a multi-use path (MUP) active transportation corridor is proposed to connect residents between the existing K&P trail and the future Third Crossing bridge.



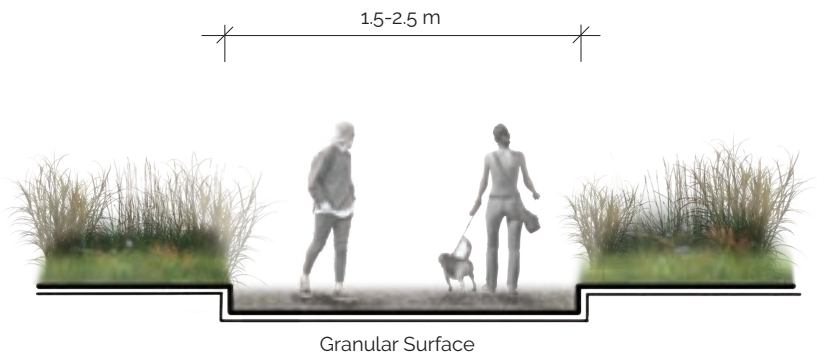
Major Trails

- Main pedestrian spine through the park.
- Granular surface
- 2.5-3 metres wide
- Walking, cycling and cross country ski route in winter



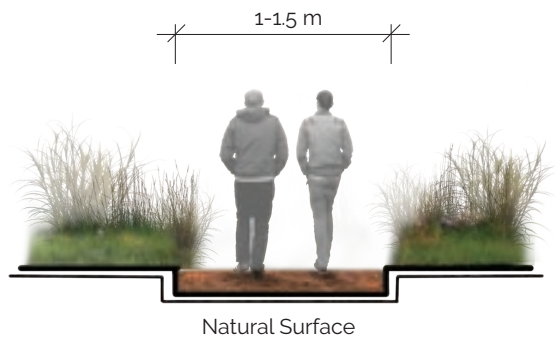
Minor Trails

- Secondary pathway
- Granular surface
- 1.5-2.5 metres wide
- Walking, cycling and cross country ski route in winter



Hiking Trails

- Tertiary level trails
- Natural surface
- 1-1.5 metres wide
- Hiking and snow shoeing in winter





Management

Managing and Addressing the Past
Guiding the Future
Natural Heritage
Parkland and Recreation
Infrastructure

Adaptive Management

Due to the complexity and history of Belle Park, the City will require an adaptive management plan implemented over many years. The plan will need to adapt to changing site conditions and adapt as this unique environment emerges from its post industrial roots.

The following are some key recommendations and principles to manage this process.

Managing and Addressing the Past

Belle Park has a rich history. Evolving from marsh to landfill, to a recreational site. Now it has the opportunity of becoming a managed naturalized urban park space with a balance of recreational opportunities.

Cultural heritage of the Indigenous peoples provides an opportunity for expression throughout the park. This relationship is important to maintain. In addition, in order to respect the co-ownership of the Belle Island Accord with the Mohawk Nations Council Chief, the Belle Park improvements should consider relevant Belle Island Management Principles in accordance with the Belle Park Management Principles.

Ongoing environmental monitoring and management of the former landfill will play a major role for every proposed improvement made in Belle Park. A continued dialogue with the City environment team will be necessary to guide the implementation process.

Principles

- Respect of the natural, cultural and historical heritage of the neighbouring island in accordance with relevant Belle Island Management Principles (Appendix E)
- Work with community groups to permit them to integrate interpretation of Indigenous, cultural and historical elements in the park
- Jointly collaborate with the City environmental team to set guidelines for project work proposed for the site
- Consider impacts on climate change when designing amenities in the park, and seek opportunities to combat climate change to adapt to the changing climate

Guiding the Future

To continue Belle Park's evolution, ecologists, Indigenous groups, local community groups and park users will need to be consulted.

Principles

- All future park development will integrate sustainable and ecological principles into the design
- Consult on detailed design

- Revisit master plan more than once during the 15-year plan to determine if trends and interests in the park are consistent

Natural Heritage

This master plan promotes movement of the current remediation landscape into the grander scheme of ecological regeneration and naturalization. While the site is creating its own ecological identity, this process will need to be managed to promote the continued planting and species progression.

Flora

For vegetation, this plan proposes the use of a graduated landscape. A layered system of landscapes with a determined set of ecological outcomes: this includes parkland, grassland/meadow, oak savannah and tall grass prairie, succession and woodland.

Some suggested species for the woodland and successional planting:

Suggested Floodplain trees (high tolerance of compacted and/or low oxygen soils)	Floodplain appropriate trees requiring acidic soils or loose soils
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Cottonwood • Almost any of the other Populus species & hybrids (Aspen, Poplar) • American Sycamore • American Elm (Dutch Elm Disease resistant varieties) • Oaks - (Bur, Shumard, Chinquapin, Shingle, Black, Red) • Hackberry • Blacklocust • Honeylocust • Kentucky Coffee Tree • Basswood • Hickories (Bitternut, Shagbark, etc.) • Dawn Redwood • White Cedar • Black Walnut • Alder • Ohio and Yellow Buckeyes • Weeping Willow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sourwood (Nyssa) • Oaks (Pin, Swamp White) • Bald Cypress • Tulip Tree • White Pine • Cucumber Tree (Magnolia acuminata) • River Birch • Red Maple • Oaks (Pin, Swamp White) • Bald Cypress • Tulip Tree • White Pine • Cucumber Tree (Magnolia acuminata) • Black Ash
<p>Not recommended: Eastern Hemlock or Green Ash</p>	

With the help of the findings from future studies, these landscapes provide the structure of ecological systems to be planned and developed in the specific portions of the park.

Inclusion of native plants such as black oak, weeping willow and non-invasive species found on Belle Island should be considered in Belle Park.

Fauna

As habitat is returning to Belle Park, the site is developing a unique ecological identity. Detailed ecological study and sensitive management will provide the guidelines to create a unique post industrial urban habitat. Foster environmental education opportunities and seek out other institutional initiative of similar studies to reduce overlap of work during the development of the ecological study.

Principles

- Execute a complete and detailed planting strategy to provide guidelines
- Strike an ecological balance
- Protect and promote the growth of Indigenous flora and fauna of Belle Park
- Create a suitable plant species mix for grasslands, meadows and forests
- Main and clear portions of the brush to facilitate views
- Enhance the aesthetic quality of the forest (transition from purely remediation practices)
- Active management of invasive species
- Encourage soil quality and depth
- Allow for sensitive wildlife viewing
- Integration of Belle Park into regional ecological corridors
- Maintain and understand the importance of water to both ecological systems and Indigenous peoples
- Use of community volunteer planting

Parkland and Recreation

Although a large portion of this site will be ecologically driven, there is a portion of the site which will be directly related to traditional (active and passive) park activities.

Principals

- Maintain access for recreational activities
- Beautify the frontage of the park and provide opportunities to integrate art throughout the park
- Explore opportunity (location and configuration) for an off leash dog area
- Provide opportunities for multi-generational recreation. Considering all demographics and income levels when accessing recreation needs of the park
- Integrate the trail network with the naturalization of the site and consider sensitive ecological conditions
- Accessible to all mobility levels

Infrastructure

A minimal approach to infrastructure is included in the Master Plan of the park.

Principals:

- Integrate natural, historical and cultural heritage into all proposed infrastructure improvements
- Creation of formalized parking
- Provision of a safe facilities
- Consider beauty in the infrastructure
- Creation of accessible facilities
- Increase pedestrian connection opportunities for public transit and connections to the community



Implementation

Phasing Strategy

Belle Park Implementation Strategy

This plan illustrates a long-term vision for Belle Park and identifies specific projects that could be implemented incrementally and independently from each other, or sequentially, depending on future needs and funding. The details of the projects are subject to a detailed design process and consultation, budget approvals and regulatory requirements.

Implementing the Belle Park Master Plan will take time and considerable investment. This plan has identified approximately 40 projects to be implemented over a period of approximately 15 years. It may take longer depending on budget approvals and, environmental conditions and unforeseen costs experienced during detailed study. These projects are organized into seven types:

- Natural Environment
- Trails, Access & Views
- Social
- Cultural, Heritage and Education
- Land Management
- Recreation
- Infrastructure

Many of the larger projects requiring construction of facilities will need to be implemented in phases. This includes designing and implementing the trail system, recreation facilities and associated infrastructure such as parking. While initiatives related to naturalizing the park and managing succession will be ongoing. In many instances the naturalization work should be coupled with facility and infrastructure improvements for efficiency. During detail design of the amenities, requirements of the various departments, existing policies and regulations need to be considered.

Phasing

The sequence for implementing these projects into 3 phases considers the following:

- Input from all public consultation sessions and online regarding scheduling of projects
- Project dependencies – projects which should be implemented first to facilitate future projects are scheduled earlier in implementation sequence
- Consider efficiency and cost effective means when implementing projects, while considering use of the space in the interim by the community that offers something for everyone.

The total estimated cost for all improvements is estimated to be as follows:

Phase 1:	\$2,545,625
Phase 2:	\$1,557,270
Phase 3:	\$1,896,675
Total	\$ 5,999,570

Beyond 15 Years: not budgeted

These costs assume the following:

- 10% for removal and disposal of excess soils.
- 10% Design and planning fees
- 10% Contingency
- 2019 dollars

The following tables provide a detailed breakdown of each project by phase and type.

Project Implementation Phases

Phase 1

#	Type	Project	Description	Budget	Comments
1.1	Natural Environment	Planting Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site assessment/review and recommendations to achieve master plan's objectives in regards to naturalizing the park and realizing the graduated landscape design 	\$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake as one of the first projects (at same time as initial design) Provide recommendations regarding planting, invasive species management and wildlife habitat creation Consider seeking other initiatives by others such as Queens University, to reduce overlap of work
1.2	Natural Environment	Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree and Shrub Planting as per strategy (1.1) May be integrated with other projects or be a stand alone initiative" 	\$100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree, shrub and herbaceous planting as per planting strategy to be coordinated with phase projects
1.3	Natural Environment	Woodland Clean-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleanup of existing wooded areas to promote a healthy forest/woodlot 	\$50,000	
1.4	Trails, Access & Views	Major Pathway Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Granular pathways 500 linear metres 	\$75,000	
1.5	Trails, Access & Views	Minor Pathway Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathways 750 linear metres 	\$85,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pickleball to clubhouse Turning circle to clubhouse Parking lot to playground Provides access to playground, picnic area

#	Type	Project	Description	Budget	Comments
1.6	Trails, Access & Views	Lookout along shore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop lookout in conjunction with trail section • Natural materials (stone, wood, etc.) 	\$40,000	• Allowance
1.7	Social	Natural Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground structure to be based on a natural theme (wood and ropes) • Engineered wood fibre safety surface 	\$225,000	• Consider custom designed playground and some minor picnic/seating elements
1.8	Social	Education Circle Gathering Spaces (outdoor - Indigenous gathering)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accommodate community gatherings and school groups • Ceremonial fire space and pathway 	\$75,000	• Coordinate with Interpretation Strategy consider location near former practice green
1.9	Social	Off Leash Dog Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meadow grass surface approximately 1-2 ha in area • Consider fencing portion of area, landform and planting to help separate dogs from park • Provide accessible route to entrance 	\$75,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with community to develop design for OLDA • Focus on lower cost solutions (Consider paige wire fence and natural separations). • Policy update may be required
1.10	Cultural Heritage & Education	Front Entrance Improvements (remove one of the parking lots)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce or remove of one of the existing front parking lots • Park sign - consistent with standards but unique for place making • Tree planting • Line painting on existing asphalt to ""narrow"" driveway • Landform 	\$150,000	Scope to fit budget

#	Type	Project	Description	Budget	Comments
1.11	Cultural Heritage & Education	Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop plan to outline interpretive strategy for Belle Park organized into three topics: Natural Environment, Indigenous and Cultural (including public art) First phase of implementation 	\$75,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy to outline interpretive program for park Strategy to provide graphic look detailing for physical interpretive elements General interpretive topics and themes to be developed for further research and refinement
1.12	Recreation	Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 new basic amenity short term dedicated pickleball courts to be developed on existing tennis courts through operating budgets before Ph1 construction - these 4 short term courts should be considered to be converted to short term multiuse pickleball w. tennis after Ph1 construction - Lifecycle unknown. 8 permanent pickleball and 1 permanent multiuse court (tennis and basketball - temporary lines for 4 pickleball courts can be added to this multiuse court for tournaments) 	\$560,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installed in 3 stages Asphalt surfacing Nets on permanent courts Fencing on permanent courts Grading around perimeter Geo-textile membrane Landscaping Existing 4 basic amenity pickleball courts will be removed to accommodate new permanent court construction"
1.13	Recreation	Disc Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Holes Integrated in park start and finish near front of park Includes pad, signage and cages 	\$40,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tee pads Signage/Course maps Cage Seek out partnership and subject matter expert
1.14	Infrastructure	Parking Improvements at Courts (West half - Phase 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking for approximately 45 cars Approximately 1500 square metres for parking - granular" 	\$75,000	

#	Type	Project	Description	Budget	Comments
1.15	Infrastructure	Parking at playground/ future off leash area	• Granular Surface 300 m2	\$25,000	
1.16	Infrastructure	Organize parking in front of club house	• Granular Surface 300 m2	\$25,000	
1.17	Infrastructure	Drop off Loop	• Approximately 1500 square metres for access road and drop off loop in front of club house	\$150,000	• Asphalt/granular • Including signage, gates, bollards, and lighting • Consider granular surface as part of earlier phase with asphalt provided in the future
1.18	Infrastructure	Washroom Improvement	• Improving the accessibility of the existing washrooms	\$50,000	

A. Phase 1 Project Items	\$1,875,000
B. 10% Soils Removal (.10 x A)	\$187,500
C. 10% Contingency (.10 x A+B)	\$206,250
D. 1Phase 1 Estimated Construction Cost	\$2,268,750

Design, Detailed Estimating, Value Engineering, Survey, Testing (10% x D) Budget 1-2 years in advance of Construction - Adjust budget based on investigation - survey, geotechnical, detailed cost estimates, etc. Includes dedicated budget for planting strategy. \$276,875

Sub Total Phase 1 Estimated Costs \$2,545,625.00



Phase 1

Phase 2

#	Type	Project	Description	Budget	Comments
2.1	Natural Environment	Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree and Shrub Planting as per strategy (1.1) • May be integrated with other projects or be a stand alone initiative 	\$100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be integrated with other projects or be a stand alone initiative each year • Should be combined with other initiatives in collaboration with Conservation Authority or other programs
2.2	Natural Environment	Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide wildlife habitat (i.e. turtle habitat, snake hibernacium, bird houses, etc.) 	\$25,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be integrated with other projects or be a stand alone initiative each year • Should be combined with other initiatives in collaboration with Conservation Authority or other programs
2.3	Natural Environment	Woodland Clean-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleanup of existing wooded areas to promote a healthy forest/woodlot 	\$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of each phase
2.4	Trails, Access & Views	Major Pathway Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary connecting walkway through park • Second phase of primary connections east-west • Approximately 400 linear metres this phase" 	\$60,000	
2.5	Trails, Access & Views	Minor Pathway Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1200 lm Around Amphitheater and to end of peninsula 	\$150,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 metres wide to end of peninsula some section of pathways around second fairway
2.6	Trails, Access & Views	Lookout along shore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop lookout in conjunction with trail section • Natural materials (stone, wood, etc.) 	\$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowance

#	Type	Project	Description	Budget	Comments
2.7	Social	Picnic Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picnic tables and BBQ's grading of lawn area (5000 m2)" 	\$150,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On and off pad Accessible
2.8	Social	Pavilion/ Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shade structure strategically located in close proximity to picnic area, playground and multiuse play field - consider waterfront views Consider providing a unique structure (round) 	\$150,000	
2.9	Social	Amphitheater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armour-stone seating and gathering space 	\$50,000	
2.10	Cultural Heritage & Education	Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretation (Indigenous, natural environment and cultural) Program to be developed as part of Interpretation Strategy 	\$50,000	
2.11	Recreation	Natural Fitness Circuit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five to ten natural styled fitness stations Stations organized along proposed network of pathways to create fitness trail 	\$60,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Price based on 5 stations
2.12	Recreation	Multi-use Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximate area 120 metres long x 70 metres wide) Natural grass surface Constructed above existing grade (fill)" 	\$275,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For sport and community event use

A. Phase 2 Project Items				\$1,170,000	
B. 10% Soils Removal (.10 x A)				\$117,000	
C. 10% Contingency (.10 x A+B)				\$128,700	
D. Phase 2 Estimated Construction Costs				\$1,415,700	

Design, Detailed Estimating, Value Engineering, Survey, Testing (10% x D) Budget 1-2 years in advance of Construction - Adjust budget based on investigation - survey, geotechnical, detailed cost estimates, etc. **\$141,570**

Sub Total Phase 2 Estimated Costs \$1,557,270.00



Phase 2

Phase 3

#	Type	Project	Description	Budget	Comments
3.1	Natural Environment	Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree and Shrub Planting as per strategy (1.1) May be integrated with other projects or be a stand alone initiative each year 	\$100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be integrated with other projects or be a stand alone initiative each year Should be combined with other initiatives in collaboration with Conservation Authority or other programs
3.2	Trails, Access & Views	Hiking Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connections to lookout 750 metres 	\$60,000	
3.3	Trails, Access & Views	Minor Pathway Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathway connection south of dog off-leash area 200 lm 	\$25,000	
3.4	Trails, Access & Views	Lookout along shore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop lookout in conjunction with trail section Natural materials (stone, wood, etc.) 	\$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowance
3.5	Trails, Access & Views	Restore hiking trail along south shoreline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural surface trails Approximately 1,000 metres (this phase) 	\$65,000	
3.6	Trails, Access & Views	Minor Pathway Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peninsula Connection 400 linear metres 	\$50,000	
3.7	Trails, Access & Views	Lookout on hilltop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathering and viewing space on high point of land at centre of park Pathway connection part of Minor Trail project 	\$100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to design and develop lookout in conjunction with other projects: Minor Trails Clearing of trees required to provide views to south and west

#	Type	Project	Description	Budget	Comments
3.8	Recreation	Driving Range/Pitch n' Putt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconfiguration of existing driving range • Provide space for future pitch n' putt south of reconfigured driving range • West of new parking lot 	\$350,000	• Allowance
3.9	Infrastructure	Clubhouse and Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washroom upgrades with exterior access • Community meeting space • Plaza space around clubhouse 	\$575,000	
3.10	Infrastructure	Parking Improvements at Courts/ New Driving Range and Pitch 'n Putt (East half)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking for approximately 32 cars • Approx. 1000 square metres 	\$50,000	• Extension of parking (east side)

A. Phase 3 Project Items	\$1,425,000
B. 10% Soils Removal (.10 x A)	\$142,500
C. 10% Contingency (.10x A+B)	\$156,750
D. Phase 3 Estimated Construction Costs	\$1,724,250

Design, Detailed Estimating, Value Engineering, Survey, Testing
(10% x D) Budget 1-2 years in advance of Construction - Adjust
budget based on investigation - survey, geotechnical, detailed cost
estimates, etc. \$172,425

Sub Total Phase 3 Estimated Costs \$1,896,675



Phase 3

Beyond 15 Years

Works forecast beyond 15 years are not budgeted as part of the Belle Park Master Plan but should be considered for implantation should opportunities become available, such as through operational practices, other project initiatives (such as WFMP or other parkland development), as part of environmental works, shoreline stabilization, through donations or community partnerships and as a result of privatization in future BP master plan update exercises (More than 1 update is recommended during the 15 year horizon).

#	Type	Project	Description	Budget	Comments
B.1	Natural Environment	Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree and Shrub Planting as per strategy (1.1) May be integrated with other projects or be a stand alone initiative 	\$100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be integrated with other projects or be a stand alone initiative each year Should be combined with other initiatives in collaboration with Conservation Authority or other programs
B.2	Natural Environment	Woodland Clean-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleanup of existing wooded areas to promote a healthy forest/woodlot 	\$50,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of each phase
B.3	Natural Environment	Selective cutting/thinning of woodland & management of invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cutting and thinning of woody growth to encourage development of grassland and savannah landscape as part of graduated landscape concept Removal of invasive species as part of site naturalization 	\$60,000	
B.4	Trails, Access & Views	Minor Pathway Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary north-south connecting walkway through park 2.4 to 3 metres wide Approximately 300 metres 	\$40,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two phases Small sections will require boardwalk to address seasonal flooding/wet areas Consider coordinating with South Marsh/Tannery connection timing.

#	Type	Project	Description	Budget	Comments
B.5	Trails, Access & Views	Future Trails (hump and south marsh connection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised walkway around Federal land (sediment deposit) • Short sections of boardwalk through seasonally wet areas • Approximately 500 metres 	\$490,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term initiative • May be required when drainage is poor or seasonally wet connection to Tannery site beyond south marsh not included in this budget
B.6	Social	Additional amenities - Off Leash Dog Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fence upgrades Small dog area interior pathways around and through off-leash area 	\$150,000	
B.7	Recreation	Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 permanent pickleball courts and 1 multipurpose court (tennis and basketball - temporary lines for 4 pickleball courts can be added to this multiuse court for tournaments) 	\$350,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term pickleball / multiuse courts removed prior to implementing
B.8	Recreation	Lighting for Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 poles (assumes 4 lights for tennis and 6 lights for pickleball) 	\$175,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires parking lot lighting as per FADS
B.9	Infrastructure	Light poles and fixtures at parking lot east of sports courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 poles (assumes lighting spaced approximately every 20-25 metres) 	\$210,000	
B.10	Infrastructure	Upgrade parking (Entrance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking for approximately 30 cars • Approximately 1000 square metres • Asphalt surface 	\$225,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including signage, gates and lighting • Curbs



Beyond 15 Years



Appendices

Appendix A - September 19, 2017 Report to Council

Appendix B - Open House and Survey Summaries

Open House & Indigenous Focus Group #1 Summary

Open House #2 Summary

Open House #3 Summary

Open House #4 Summary

Open House #5 Summary

Appendix C - Indigenous Focus Group Summaries

Indigenous Focus Group #2 Summary

Indigenous Focus Group #3 Summary

Indigenous Focus Group #4 Summary

Appendix D - Indigenous Focus Group Consultant Reports

Inclusive Voices Incorporated Summary August 2018

RIEL Cultural Consulting Summary - February 22, 2019

RIEL Cultural Consulting Summary - May 2, 2019

Appendix E - Belle Island Management Principles

Appendix F - Residents Written Feedback Provided Outside of Open Houses and Surveys (13 Submitters)



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 17-249**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff: Luke Follwell, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services
Date of Meeting: September 19, 2017
Subject: Belle Park Ideas & Recommendations - Public Engagement

Executive Summary:

As per Report Number [17-012](#) submitted to Council on December 20, 2016, staff is reporting back to Council with recommendations on the future opportunities and planning for Belle Park after an extensive public consultation process.

The current Belle Park Working Group (BPWG) is comprised of Mary Louise Adams, Frank Dixon, Mariah Hamilton, Tracey Johnston and John McLean. In consultation with the working group and based on the direction from Council, staff developed a public engagement strategy to ensure that a broad cross section of the public could be reached in order to provide input on the future of Belle Park. The strategy was to hold a series of public meetings in order to gather ideas on how the public currently uses the site and how they would like to use the site in the future. Feedback from these sessions was used to create an online survey. Prior to the survey going live, staff held a golf specific focus group to gather further input on the creation of the survey. This information was presented to the BPWG to reach consensus on the survey format and language. The survey was divided into four sections regarding opportunities at Belle Park; Golf, Naturalization, Recreation and Other. The public had an opportunity to rank their selections in each area.

The survey opened on July 17, 2017 and closed on August 9, 2017. The survey saw 1,090 respondents which makes this survey the third most popular of any City of Kingston survey. Highlights from the survey include that 742 (68%) of respondents chose “no golf at all” in the golf category and 647 respondents (59%) indicated the addition of Field Sports to the site as a selection with Recreation opportunities. There was a strong response rate from individuals highlighting the passive use of the site in walking (64%), hiking (60%) and biking (52%) and a consistent voice throughout asking for the site to remain naturalized with certain areas left in a wild state (54%). Detailed results of the survey are examined in the discussion section of this

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report.

After the survey data was compiled, staff then met with a targeted focus group of community stakeholders. The intent was to review the survey data and the potential changes that the public is requesting while receiving input from the group.

A final meeting with BPWG was held on September 6, 2017 to discuss the findings from the public consultation and to work with City staff on recommendations contained in this report.

Based on feedback received during the public engagement process, it is recommended that staff propose the following key initiatives which would decrease the amount of manicured/maintained areas and increase the amount of naturalized/wild areas.

Golf activities to include:

1. Driving Range
2. Chipping/Putting Green
3. Pitch and Putt Course

Outdoor Recreation activities to include:

1. Hiking, walking and biking trails (allow for cross country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter months)
2. Multi-purpose sports fields (rectangular fields for rugby, soccer, ultimate Frisbee)
3. Dedicated pickleball courts

Naturalization activities to include:

1. Protected shoreline
2. Areas that can be left in a natural/wild state
3. Botanical/arboretum

Other changes to include:

1. Picnic and shade structures
2. Improvements to the clubhouse
3. Playground
4. Parking organization

Staff heard from the public that the history and culture of the indigenous community should be told in some fashion at Belle Park. Staff also heard from members of the indigenous community that before acting on any of the suggestions offered, they should first engage with the community to ensure that any cultural representation that may occur is done so with respect of their traditions.

The above items would be included in a detailed design process with continued public engagement. Implementing these types of changes will allow for a decrease in the manicured/maintained areas of the park, while at the same time increasing the naturalized and wild areas.

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Although it is anticipated that the proposed changes will provide a reduction in tax contribution of approximately \$100,000 to the operations of the site, staff's recommendations are based on the public input and suggestions, and not on a detailed financial analysis, as per Council's direction.

Recommendations:

That Council direct staff to eliminate the operations and maintenance of the 9-hole golf course at Belle Park at the end of the 2017 season and continue to operate the driving range and practice putting/chipping green functions in 2018; and

That Council direct staff to incorporate the reduction in golf operations as described in Report Number 17-249 for the purpose of the 2018 operational budget process; and

That Council direct staff to initiate discussions with the Kingston Panthers Rugby Club to explore partnership models for Belle Park and to report back to Council; and

That Council direct staff to initiate discussions with the Kingston Pickleball Association to explore partnership models for Belle Park and to report back to Council; and

That Council direct staff to undertake a master planning exercise that includes the recommendations as described in Report Number 17-249.

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Authorizing Signatures:

Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services

Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer Not required

Denis Leger, Commissioner, Corporate & Emergency Services Not required

Mark Van Buren, Acting Commissioner, Transportation & Infrastructure Services Not required

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Options/Discussion:

In the third BPWG progress report to City Council, staff detailed the survey work that had been completed in 2016. A City wide survey was developed to engage residents who used Belle Park in any capacity. The goal was to capture data from current golfers, but also to reach a broader audience and capture those that use it solely as parkland. The survey results suggested that park users outnumbered golf users by nearly a 3:1 ratio. Based on this data, the BPWG discussed strategies for servicing all of the park users in a more proportional manner.

Subsequently, the BPWG made the following recommendation and Council approved the following motion at its December 20, 2016 meeting:

That Council direct staff to explore options to reduce, modify or eliminate some or all golf activity and increase alternate outdoor recreational and naturalization opportunities at Belle Park; and

That Council direct staff to report back to Council with recommendations on the future opportunities and planning for Belle Park after public consultation; and

That Council extend the term of the current members of Belle Park Working Group for 2017 and any vacancies be filled through the nomination process including at least one First Peoples representative to allow for continued participation during the public consultation.

Public Engagement Process

In consultation with the BPWG, staff developed a public engagement plan to run from May to August of 2017. The intent was to reach out to as many members of the public as possible through public meetings, focus group sessions and surveys. The consultation schedule included the following events/meetings:

- Public Workshops: May 31, June 1, and June 8, 2017
- Focus Group Meeting with Golfers: July 6th
- Pop Up Events: Completed on July 25th, July 30th and August 3rd
- Online Public Survey: Available from July 17th to August 9th
- Focus Group Meeting with Community Stakeholders: August 18th
- Public Session Recap: August 22nd
- Belle Park Working Group Recap: September 6th

During each phase of the public engagement process, communications, results and presentations were uploaded to the City of Kingston website.

Public Workshops (May 31st, June 1st and June 8th)

The three public workshops, which by design, were the same session held on three separate dates, at different times and at different areas of the City to maximize the outreach and participation. Approximately 87 people participated in these sessions. Each session began as a public meeting where staff would explain a brief history of Belle Park and what has led to engage with the public on potential changes to the site. The introductory remarks were followed

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by a facilitated workshop where the group would break into smaller tables and be asked the same set of questions regarding their current use of the site and what changes they would like to see. The sessions ended with each table discussing their findings so that everyone in the room knew what other tables had discussed.

Staff compiled the information presented by the public and themed the commonalities. The information was the basis for four separate and distinct areas of discussion regarding potential activities for Belle Park: Golf, Recreation, Naturalization and Other. Given the breadth of the options, a ranking system was used in the survey where respondents could choose one or several options and indicate their first choice, second choice, etc. in each area. Finally, the respondent was asked to rank their interest in each of the four sections.

Focus Group Meeting with Golfers (July 6th)

Invitations were mailed and emailed to current and past members of Belle Park (of the last three seasons) to participate in a golf specific focus group on July 6, 2017 at the Belle Park Clubhouse. Approximately 23 people attended this session and staff reviewed the options that were to be included in the golfing section of the survey. The golfers asked why “leave the golf course as is” was not an option on the survey; staff focused on the exact verbiage of the Council direction which does not provide for golf to remain as is. Staff were asked to include an option for “modify current golf activities” to which they could add what they wanted to see on the survey and the draft survey was updated to reflect this.

Staff then met with the BPWG to present the draft survey and walk through each section. The BPWG asked for a few nominal changes in verbiage and the order of which options were presented. Once the changes were made there was consensus from the group on the structure and content of the survey.

Pop Up Events (July 25th, July 30th and August 3rd)

The pop up events were designed to be completed while the survey was live. Staff attended two busy market days at Springer Market Square on July 25th and August 3rd. Staff also attended the Memorial Centre Farmers Market on July 30th. At all of these events, staff engaged with the public and provided information and answered questions on the public engagement process that was underway concerning Belle Park. Staff pointed the public to the Belle Park website to complete the survey or handed out printed surveys with return envelopes. Staff engaged with several dozen members of the public and handed out 27 printed surveys during the pop up events.

Public Survey (July 17th to August 9th)

The survey was then promoted through the e-city news, social media, City of Kingston website, local news and the radio. Staff emailed the survey link to the Belle Park Ideas distribution list and mailed printed surveys with return envelopes to current and past golf members for that past three years. Printed surveys were also available at the Belle Park Clubhouse and the Invista Centre. When the survey closed, 1,098 people had responded making it the third most popular survey within the City of Kingston to date. The questions, ranking and additional comments are provided in the next section of this report.

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Survey Results

As the survey employed a ranking system for each choice, certain weights were applied to those choices. The respondent's most preferred choice (which they ranked as #1) has the largest weight, and their least preferred choice (which they rank in the last position) has a weight of 1. The weights are applied in reverse, if a ranking question has 5 answer choices, weights are assigned as follows:

- The #1 choice has a weight of 5
- The #2 choice has a weight of 4
- The #3 choice has a weight of 3
- The #4 choice has a weight of 2
- The #5 choice has a weight of 1

In this manner, a score is then calculated based on the weights for each option. The survey results displayed below for each section are represented from highest score to lowest, with the number of people that selected that option both shown in parenthesis.

Question: Out of the categories presented, what interests you the most about this site?

Ranking in order of priority and total score from public survey:

1. Outdoor recreational activities (3.52 from 768 respondents)
2. Naturalization opportunities (2.95 from 604 respondents)
3. Additional amenities (2.28 from 486 respondents)
4. Golf activities (2.00 from 484 respondents)

Question: What outdoor recreation activities would you like to see at Belle Park?

Ranking in order of priority and total score from public survey:

1. Hiking and walking (6.58 from 657 respondents)
2. Field sports (rugby, soccer, lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee, field hockey) (5.98 from 647 respondents)
3. Biking (5.45 from 567 respondents)
4. Canoeing and kayaking (5.40 from 597 respondents)
5. Winter sports (such as cross country skiing and snowshoeing) (5.34 from 609 respondents)
6. Court sports (such as pickleball, tennis and basketball) (5.03 from 533 respondents)
7. Other outdoor recreational activities (listed below) (3.42 from 330 respondents)
8. None of the above (2.69 from 299 respondents)

Comments received included:

- Sport fields/rugby (85)
- Boat launch (19)
- Dog park (15)

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Boat Launch information

Staff received numerous inquiries over the possibility of a dual boat launch with appropriate truck & trailer parking at Belle Park through our public engagement process. Belle Park was an ideal opportunity with the amount of shore access and the potential for parking. The south shore was indicated as a preferred location given that it's partially protected and that the north shore would require too much dredging given its shallow depth. The entirety of the shore water lot is owned by Parks Canada as it's attached to the UNESCO designated site. Approvals for accessing the shoreline in this location would need approval from Parks Canada.

Apart from potential impacts on wetlands and protected species, and the seasonal presence of very dense accumulations of aquatic weeds, one of the main concerns expressed by our Environment Division was the incompatibility of boat launching and boating activity with the management of contaminated sediments located along the south shore of Belle Park. Dredging these sediments for a boat launch and navigation channel construction would become very expensive due to the environmental condition of the sediments and requirements for disposal. Additionally, costs would be required to work with the water lot owner (Parks Canada) to evaluate the environmental impacts of constructing and operating a boat launch and the mitigation measures required to prevent the disturbance of contaminated sediments that are at relatively shallow depths. It is quite possible that Parks Canada would not support a boat launch along the south shore of Belle Park due to these environmental factors. For these reasons staff are indicating that Belle Park is not a suitable or feasible site for further consideration of such a launch/parking facility.

However, the level of interest and success of boat launches in neighboring communities has not gone unheard. Staff will investigate the possibility of a boat launch/truck and trailer parking facility with harder shoreline surfaces, minimal contamination and where more appropriate water depths may be present.

Question: What naturalization opportunities would you like to see at Belle Park?

Ranking in order of priority and total score from public survey:

1. Walking trails (7.29 from 701 respondents)
2. Protected shoreline and habitat for wildlife (6.84 from 644 respondents)
3. Areas that can be left in natural "wild" state (6.37 from 594 respondents)
4. Shoreline access enhancements (5.97 from 599 respondents)
5. Green space (5.79 from 595 respondents)
6. Pathway enhancements (5.75 from 602 respondents)
7. Botanical garden (4.80 from 533 respondents)
8. None of the above (3.97 from 397 respondents)
9. Other naturalization opportunities (listed below) (3.03 from 340 respondents)

Comments received included:

- Sport fields/rugby (24)
- Increased naturalization (23)
- Boat ramp (11)
- Enhanced pathways (10)

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Question: What other changes would you like to see at Belle Park?

Ranking in order of priority and total score from public survey:

1. Picnic and shade facilities (9.21 from 563 respondents)
2. Four season clubhouse with warming station (8.61 from 527 respondents)
3. Improvements to existing clubhouse (showers, change rooms) (8.32 from 495 respondents)
4. Playground (7.92 from 475 respondents)
5. Event space (7.56 from 431 respondents)
6. Indigenous heritage centre (7.09 from 438 respondents)
7. Parking improvements (6.82 from 436 respondents)
8. Food vendors (6.34 from 397 respondents)
9. No additional facilities needed (4.81 from 284 respondents)
10. Other (listed below) (4.68 from 269 respondents)
11. None of the above (4.59 from 258 respondents)

Comments received included:

- Sport fields/rugby (35)
- Boat launch (24)
- Engage indigenous community (15)

Question: What golf activities would you like to see at Belle Park?

Ranking in order of priority and total score from public survey:

1. No golf at all (4.45 from 742 respondents)
2. Putting green (4.13 from 601 respondents)
3. Driving range (3.88 from 612 respondents)
4. Shorter golf course (3.71 from 562 respondents)
5. None of the above (3.53 from 567 respondents)
6. Modify current golf activities (listed below) (3.17 from 519 respondents)

Comments received included:

- Sport fields/rugby (52)
- No golf (34)
- Upgrade golf (28)
- Putting green/mini golf (28)
- Keep golf as is (23)

Focus Group Meeting with Community Stakeholders (August 18th)

After the data from the survey was compiled, staff invited key stakeholders to attend a targeted focus group session to discuss the results of the survey and receive input. Attendees at this focus group session included the following:

- Mary Louise Adams – BPWG member
- David Bussiere – Kingston Pickleball Club

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- Paul Carl – Member of the Indigenous Community
- John Clark – Kingston Panthers Rugby Club
- Frank Dixon – Golfer, BPWG member
- Mary Farrar – Friends of Inner Harbour
- Anne Lougheed - North Kings Town Working Group
- Eleanor Macdonald – community member
- Anne MacPhail – Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health

Belle Park Working Group Meeting (September 6th)

The meeting was focused on reviewing the entire public engagement process to date and what was heard from the public in terms of the future of Belle Park. There was unanimity from the working group that staff had done an excellent job throughout the process of public engagement for Belle Park and the data that it had produced was deemed invaluable. Staff presented a draft of potential recommendations based on public feedback after touching nearly 1,300 members of the public.

The BPWG had differences of opinions based on their current interest of the site.

Environmental Considerations

Through the public engagement process, questions were raised regarding environmental implications for any of the proposed changes. Typically, an assessment of any proposed redevelopment concepts for Belle Park would be required to identify aspects that are either incompatible with the current environmental management program of the closed landfill or best environmental management practices in general or would need mitigation to allow them to proceed safely. It is expected that these assessments will be part of the design phase based on the recommendations.

The City's Real Estate & Environmental Initiatives Department is not recommending completing a site-wide comprehensive environmental site assessment to guide which redevelopment concepts might be best to proceed. This scope of work has already been completed at Belle Park and staff has an excellent understanding of site stratigraphy, environmental conditions of soil, groundwater, surface water and near shore sediments. The scope of any new assessments should be limited to evaluating potential impacts from recommendations.

Financial Analysis

Although staff's recommendations are based on public input and suggestions and not on a financial analysis, staff have received requests to provide financial statements for the Belle Park operations from 1975-1999. The Office of the City Clerk has been involved and has provided all documentation available to the City. Exhibit B has also been added which summarizes rounds played, memberships and revenues/expenses in the past five (5) years.

Current Conditions and Next Steps

Belle Park fairways and waterfront trails represent approximately 32 hectares of land. Staff are currently manicuring (grass cutting) 24 hectares which represents 75% of the total area. The

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remaining 25% of the area (8 hectares) is currently left in a more naturalized or wild state. Table 1.0 below summarizes the current areas of Belle Park.

Table 1.0: Current Belle Park Areas

Description of Areas	Area (hectares)	% of Total
Manicured areas (driving range, cutting/putting area, 9-hole golf course)	24 hectares	75%
Naturalized/wild	8 hectares	25%
Belle Park Total	32 hectares	100%

Based on feedback received during the public engagement process, staff are recommending the following key initiatives which would decrease the amount of manicured/maintained areas and increase the amount of naturalized/wild areas.

Golf activities to include:

1. Driving range
2. Chipping/putting green
3. Pitch and Putt course

Outdoor recreation activities to include:

1. Hiking, walking and biking trails (allow for cross country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter months)
2. Multi-purpose sports fields (rectangular fields for rugby, soccer, ultimate Frisbee)
3. Dedicated pickleball courts

Naturalization activities to include:

1. Protected shoreline
2. Areas that can be left in a natural/wild state
3. Botanical/arboretum

Other changes to include:

1. Picnic and shade structures
2. Improvements to the clubhouse
3. Playground
4. Parking organization

The above items would be included in a detailed design process with continued public engagement. Implementing these types of changes will allow for a decrease in the

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manicured/maintained areas of Belle Park, while at the same time increasing the naturalized or wild areas. Table 2.0 below summarizes the recommended area changes based on feedback received.

Table 2.0: Recommended Belle Park Areas

Description of Areas	Area (hectares)	% of Total
Manicured areas (driving range, cutting/putting area, pitch & putt, sports fields, walking/hiking, playground)	12 hectares	35%
Naturalized/wild	20 hectares	65%
Belle Park Total	32 hectares	100%

Using the current conditions at Belle Park and comparing it to the recommended areas, the most significant reduction would be the manicured areas. This would result in a reduction of 12 hectares that currently requires significant maintenance activities at Belle Park. It is recommended that this reduced 12 hectares be utilized as an opportunity to increase the naturalized and wild state of Belle Park. Table 3.0 below summarizes the current versus the recommended uses at Belle Park.

Table 3.0: Comparison of Current Versus Recommended Areas

Description of Areas	Current Area (hectares)	Proposed Area (hectares)	Difference in Area (hectares)	% Change in Area
Manicured areas	24 hectares	12 hectares	-12 hectares	- 50%
Naturalized/wild	8 hectares	20 hectares	+ 12 hectares	+ 150%

High Water Level Impacts

Staff continue to monitor the high water level and their impact on Belle Park. The golf course has not been open to the public in 2017 as a significant portion was flooded. The driving range and chipping/putting area have been open for the season. Some areas of the course at Belle Island are still very wet and saturated. It is estimated that approximately 5.5 hectares of the golf course was under water earlier this year. This represents close to 23% of the golf course. Restoring this area would require stripping existing grass/weeds and importing significant amounts of topsoil and seed to cover the area in question. Staff received an early estimate to repair this area of the course at a minimum cost of \$500,000. High water levels and how they

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are managed was explained throughout the public engagement process. There is an ever present risk that even with the absence of the 100 year rain event that occurred in 2017, the International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board now allows for greater variances of water levels which will impact Belle Park given its location on the river/flood plain.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

Not applicable

Notice Provisions:

Not applicable

Accessibility Considerations:

Not applicable

Financial Considerations:

By removing the 9-hole golf course from Belle Park it is expected that a reduction in costs of \$100,000 will be realized in the 2018 operating budget. Capital costs to make improvements on the site are unknown and are not included in this report at this time. Any cost related to rugby activities would be financed by the Kingston Panthers Rugby Club as described in [Report Number 17-188](#).

Contacts:

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Luke Follwell, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services 613-546-4291 extension 1815

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Adam McCluskey, Manager, Recreation Facilities, Recreation & Leisure Services

Neal Unsworth, Manager, Parks Development, Recreation & Leisure Services

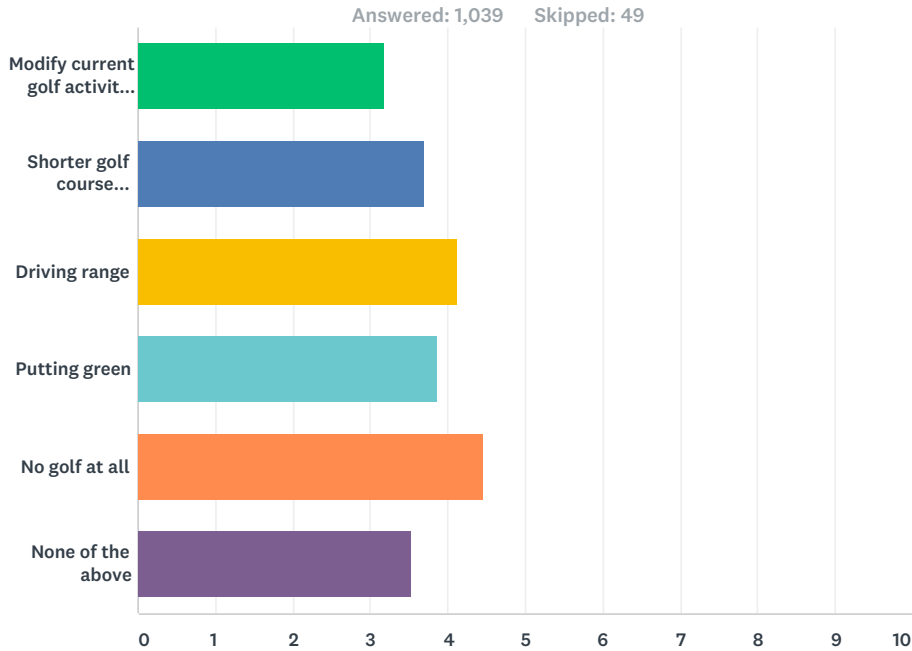
Paul MacLatchy, Environment Director, Real Estate & Environmental Initiatives

Exhibits Attached:

Exhibit A Detailed Survey Results from Public Consultation

Exhibit B Summary of Belle Park Operations (2010-2016)

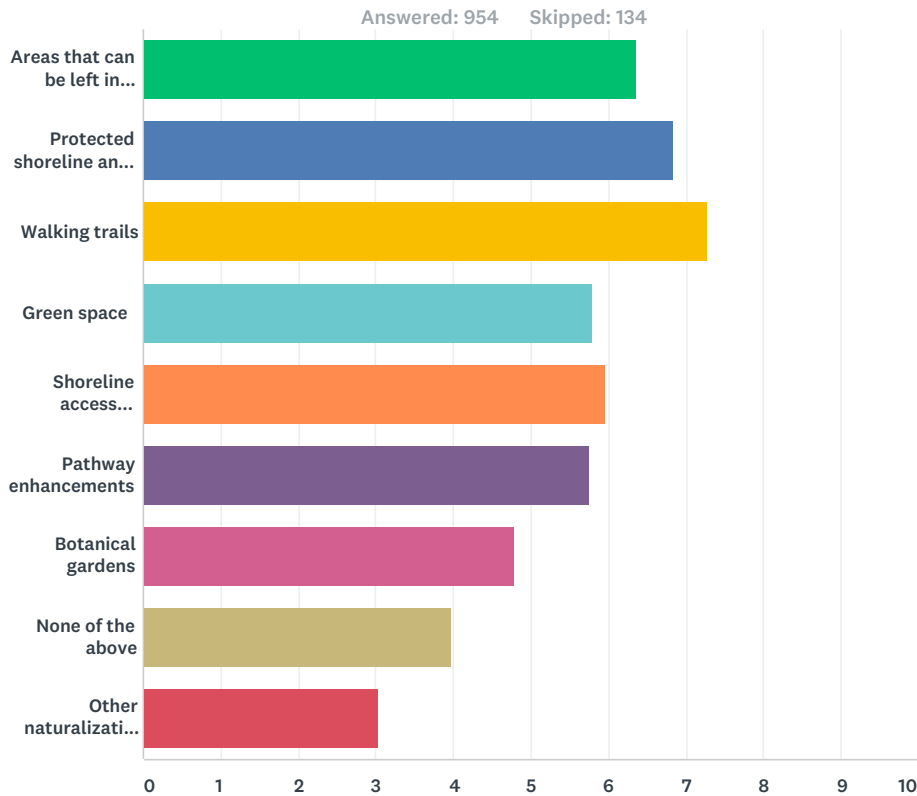
Q1 1. What golf activities would you like to see at Belle Park?



	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Score
Modify current golf activities (list below)	22.16% 115	8.09% 42	10.40% 54	10.98% 57	20.23% 105	28.13% 146	519	3.17
Shorter golf course (executive style)	17.44% 98	18.33% 103	14.95% 84	22.60% 127	20.28% 114	6.41% 36	562	3.71
Driving range	18.30% 110	24.13% 145	23.79% 143	23.63% 142	6.66% 40	3.49% 21	601	4.13
Putting green	9.64% 59	22.55% 138	35.62% 218	16.99% 104	8.33% 51	6.86% 42	612	3.88
No golf at all	52.83% 392	11.32% 84	5.26% 39	3.50% 26	13.21% 98	13.88% 103	742	4.45
None of the above	29.45% 167	17.81% 101	4.23% 24	5.82% 33	9.70% 55	32.98% 187	567	3.53

Question 1 comments	Total
Sport-fields/Rugby	52
No Golf	34
Upgrade Golf	28
Putting Course/Minigolf	28
Keep Golf as is	23
Frisbee/Disc Golf	8
Shorter course	8
Driving Range	7
Naturalized/Wild Areas	7
Golf Lessons/youth/family	6
Multi-Use Park	5
Pitch & Putt	4
Winter Sports	3
Boat Launch	3
Chipping Range	3
Bike Paths	1
Clothing Optional Area	1
A Pub on Site	1
Lights for nighttime	1
Hackgolf	1
Botanical Garden	1

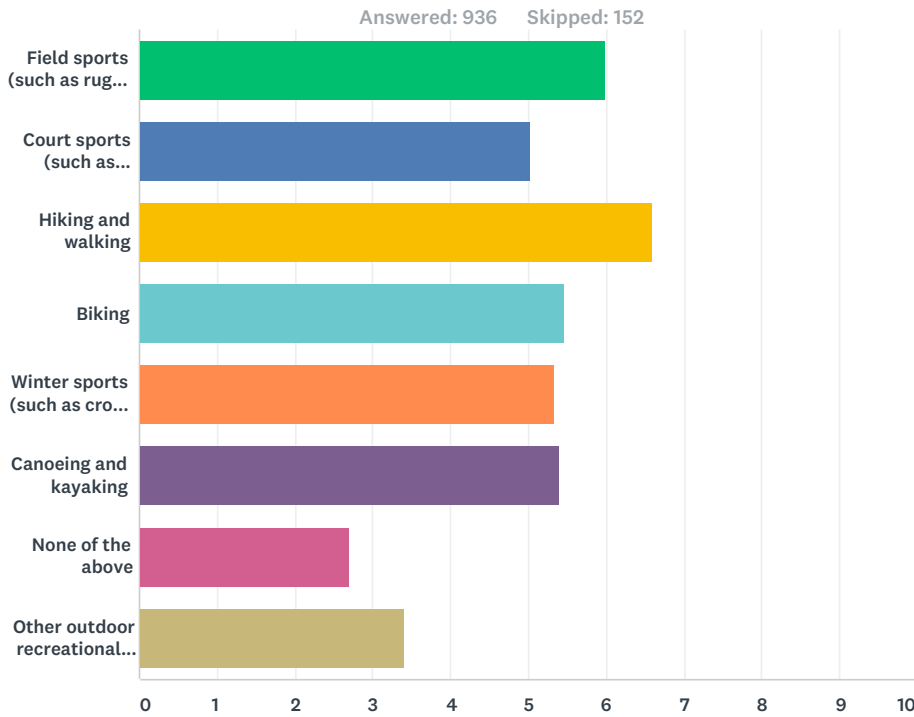
Q3 2. What naturalization opportunities would you like to see at Belle Park?



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total	Score
Areas that can be left in natural "wild" state	24.41% 145	19.19% 114	13.13% 78	7.91% 47	9.76% 58	9.09% 54	9.43% 56	3.54% 21	3.54% 21	594	6.37
Protected shoreline and habitat for wildlife	24.22% 156	27.02% 174	13.04% 84	10.09% 65	9.16% 59	8.39% 54	3.88% 25	3.11% 20	1.09% 7	644	6.84
Walking trails	30.10% 211	21.11% 148	23.82% 167	11.55% 81	5.99% 42	3.28% 23	2.14% 15	1.28% 9	0.71% 5	701	7.29
Green space	6.72% 40	10.08% 60	17.14% 102	24.71% 147	18.82% 112	11.76% 70	8.24% 49	1.01% 6	1.51% 9	595	5.79
Shoreline access enhancements	17.20% 103	13.86% 83	12.85% 77	13.36% 80	15.19% 91	11.69% 70	9.18% 55	4.17% 25	2.50% 15	599	5.97
Pathway enhancements	9.14% 55	14.12% 85	14.78% 89	16.11% 97	14.12% 85	19.77% 119	7.97% 48	2.33% 14	1.66% 10	602	5.75
Botanical gardens	7.88% 42	6.00% 32	12.01% 64	11.63% 62	13.13% 70	13.13% 70	23.26% 124	6.38% 34	6.57% 35	533	4.80
None of the above	26.95% 107	1.26% 5	1.01% 4	2.02% 8	2.02% 8	1.51% 6	5.79% 23	32.75% 130	26.70% 106	397	3.97
Other naturalization opportunities (please list below)	9.12% 31	4.71% 16	2.35% 8	2.06% 7	3.53% 12	4.12% 14	10.59% 36	25.29% 86	38.24% 130	340	3.03

Question 2 Comments	Count
Sports-fields/Rugby	24
Increase naturalization	23
Boat Ramp	11
Enhanced Pathways	10
Engage Indigenous community	10
wildlife observation/education centre	9
Golf	8
Dog Park	7
Botanical Garden	7
Community Garden	5
Cleanup the waste	4
Shoreline Access	4
Mix Used Park	3
No golf	3
Playground for Kids	3
Picnic Area	2
No one will pay to use this site	2
Boardwalk to the Shoreline	2
No Change	2
Bioremediation	2
Increased Recreation	1
Swimming	1
Senior Fit Park	1
Beach	1
Arboretum and hedge maze	1
Pickleball	1
Planned Meadow	1
Event Space	1
Sculpture Park	1
Goat Farm	1
Baseball Diamond	1
Apiary	1

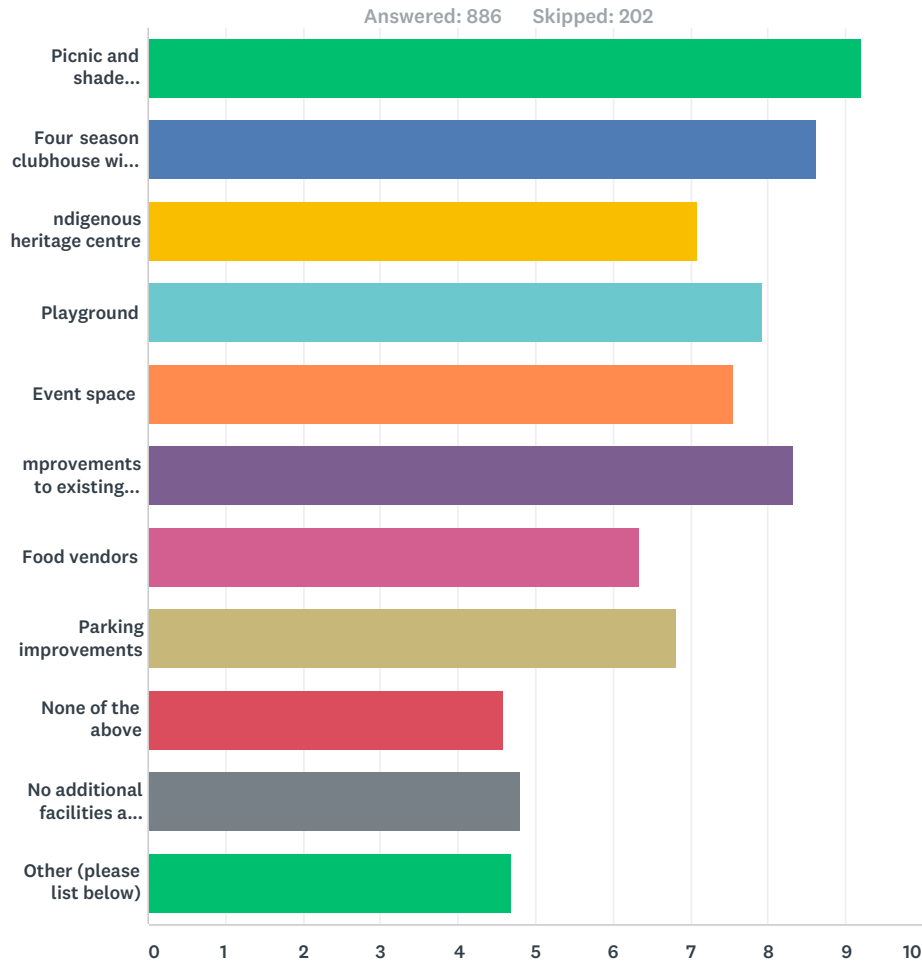
Q5 3. What outdoor recreational activities would you like to see at Belle Park?



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	Score
Field sports (such as rugby, soccer, lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee, field hockey)	53.32% 345	3.09% 20	4.64% 30	7.26% 47	10.36% 67	9.12% 59	4.95% 32	7.26% 47	647	5.98
Court sports (such as pickleball, tennis, basketball)	17.07% 91	18.01% 96	10.13% 54	9.76% 52	15.20% 81	16.70% 89	6.57% 35	6.57% 35	533	5.03
Hiking and walking	35.92% 236	24.96% 164	19.18% 126	10.05% 66	4.87% 32	2.13% 14	1.52% 10	1.37% 9	657	6.58
Biking	6.53% 37	25.75% 146	19.93% 113	20.46% 116	13.40% 76	10.23% 58	2.65% 15	1.06% 6	567	5.45
Winter sports (such as cross country skiing and snowshoeing)	7.06% 43	20.20% 123	22.66% 138	20.53% 125	14.29% 87	11.33% 69	2.30% 14	1.64% 10	609	5.34
Canoeing and kayaking	8.04% 48	19.60% 117	24.46% 146	18.26% 109	13.90% 83	13.74% 82	1.68% 10	0.34% 2	597	5.40
None of the above	11.37% 34	1.67% 5	2.34% 7	3.01% 9	5.02% 15	4.01% 12	32.78% 98	39.80% 119	299	2.69
Other outdoor recreational activities (please list below)	15.45% 51	4.85% 16	5.15% 17	4.55% 15	6.36% 21	7.27% 24	26.67% 88	29.70% 98	330	3.42

Question 3 Comments	Total
Sport-fields/Rugby	85
Boat Launch	19
Dog Park	15
playground	11
Golf	11
Pickleball facility	10
Disk Golf	8
Beach Volleyball	8
outdoor Skating rink	7
repair existing courts	6
Engage Indigenous Community	6
Splash pad	5
Bike Park/Pump Track	5
BBQ/Picnic Area	5
Skating rink	4
Baseball Field	4
Running Oval/Track	3
Snow boarding/skiing	3
lawn-bowling/Shuffleboard	3
Senior Fit Park	2
Botanical Garden	2
Event space	2
kayak/canoe launch	2
Zip Line	2
Tennis Bubble	1
Skate Park	1
Swimming area	1
Art Activities	1
Boxing	1
Cricket	1
Community Garden	1
no golf	1
Go Karts	1
Children's summer camp	1
large amusement park	1
docks/marina	1
AFL Oval	1
Camp Sites	1
Pool	1
commercial development	1
indoor golf	1
Cricket	1
yoga/outdoor fitness	1

Q7 4. What other changes would you like to see at Belle Park?



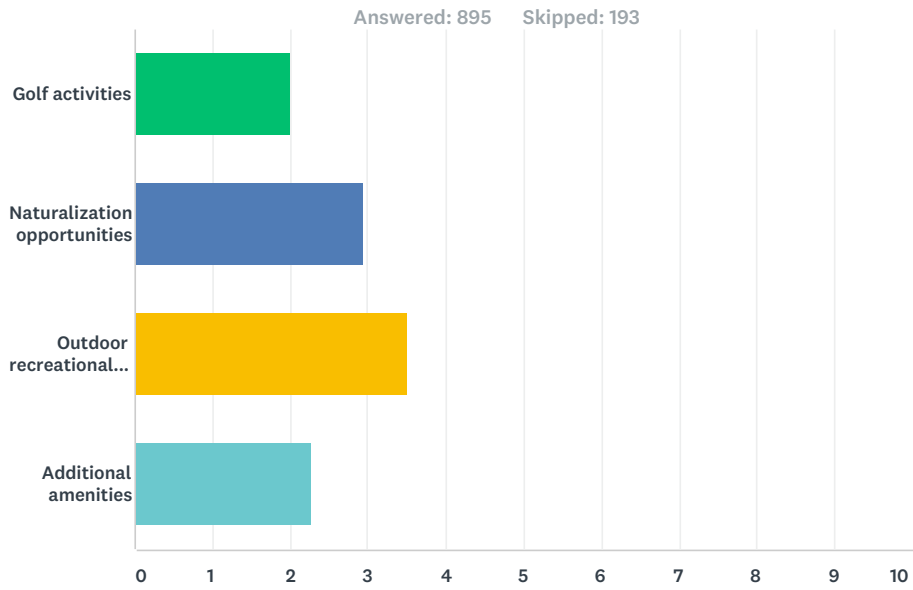
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total	Score
Picnic and shade facilities	32.15% 181	23.98% 135	16.52% 93	11.72% 66	6.22% 35	3.20% 18	2.31% 13	1.60% 9	0.71% 4	0.71% 4	0.89% 5	563	9.21
Four season clubhouse with warming station	33.59% 177	20.11% 106	11.01% 58	6.83% 36	8.35% 44	5.69% 30	2.66% 14	4.17% 22	1.71% 9	3.61% 19	2.28% 12	527	8.61
Indigenous heritage centre	20.78% 91	11.87% 52	10.73% 47	9.36% 41	8.68% 38	5.48% 24	5.71% 25	10.50% 46	3.42% 15	2.28% 10	11.19% 49	438	7.09
Playground	9.05% 43	20.00% 95	20.63% 98	14.74% 70	11.16% 53	8.21% 39	7.16% 34	3.58% 17	1.89% 9	1.89% 9	1.68% 8	475	7.92
Event space	7.89% 34	11.14% 48	19.72% 85	17.17% 74	16.47% 71	10.21% 44	7.66% 33	3.48% 15	2.78% 12	2.09% 9	1.39% 6	431	7.56
Improvements to existing clubhouse (showers, change rooms)	30.30% 150	18.38% 91	8.48% 42	7.07% 35	8.89% 44	9.49% 47	5.66% 28	4.04% 20	4.44% 22	1.82% 9	1.41% 7	495	8.32
Food vendors	4.53% 18	6.55% 26	11.59% 46	12.59% 50	9.32% 37	15.87% 63	15.87% 63	13.10% 52	3.78% 15	3.53% 14	3.27% 13	397	6.34
Parking improvements	5.73% 25	12.61% 55	13.99% 61	12.39% 54	9.40% 41	9.17% 40	15.14% 66	12.84% 56	4.59% 20	2.06% 9	2.06% 9	436	6.82

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None of the above	14.34% 37	3.49% 9	2.33% 6	1.16% 3	1.94% 5	4.26% 11	5.81% 15	9.30% 24	27.52% 71	18.60% 48	11.24% 29	258	4.59
No additional facilities are needed	10.92% 31	7.39% 21	5.63% 16	3.17% 9	4.93% 14	3.52% 10	3.52% 10	7.39% 21	14.79% 42	24.65% 70	14.08% 40	284	4.81
Other (please list below)	17.84% 48	4.46% 12	3.35% 9	2.60% 7	1.86% 5	4.09% 11	4.46% 12	5.58% 15	11.52% 31	15.24% 41	29.00% 78	269	4.68

Question 4 Comments	Total
Sports-fields Rugby	35
Boat Launch	24
Engage Indigenous Community	15
Upgraded Facilities (showers, meeting rooms)	8
Event Space	7
splash pad	5
dog park	5
bike/pump track	5
Golf	5
Commercial Development	3
wildlife education centre	3
Pickle Ball	2
Skating Rink with Artificial Ice	2
Dome	2
Pickle Ball	2
Accessible walking trails	2
Beer Garden	1
X Country ski trails	1
indoor/outdoor tennis	1
Volleyball	1
shortened golf course	1
café	1
heated spa pool	1
kayak/canoe launch	1
Childrens Camp	1
Cleanup the site	1
Bike Rentals	1
yurt	1
outdoor pool	1
Keep wild	1
picnic/bbq space	1

Q9 5. Out of the categories presented, what interests you the most about this site?



	1	2	3	4	Total	Score
Golf activities	22.31% 108	8.68% 42	15.29% 74	53.72% 260	484	2.00
Naturalization opportunities	31.29% 189	38.08% 230	24.50% 148	6.13% 37	604	2.95
Outdoor recreational activities	66.80% 513	22.14% 170	7.16% 55	3.91% 30	768	3.52
Additional amenities	11.11% 54	26.34% 128	41.98% 204	20.58% 100	486	2.28

Summary of Belle Park Operations

Table 1.0: Rounds Played

Month	2016 Member	2016 Green Fee	2015 Member	2015 Green Fee	Difference (2016-2015)
May	1,097	367	806	348	310
June	1,127	390	863	338	316
July	1,023	479	965	453	84
August	954	356	902	379	29
September	973	320	781	311	201
October	283	108	365	243	-217
Sub Total	5,457	2,020	4,682	2,072	723
Total	7,477		6,754		

Table 2.0: Membership Summary (2010-2016)

Year	Restricted				Full			SUB Total	Other			TOTAL
	Couple	Senior	Adult	Junior	Couple	Senior	Adult		Range	Locker	Cart	
2016	3	44	10	2	0	6	1	66	2	29	8	105
2015	2	29	9	5	0	2	1	48	4	29	12	93
2014	6	57	10	12	0	9	1	95	5	29	15	144
2013	13	74	10	4	0	9	6	116	6	31	16	169
2012	15	74	22	1	0	13	6	131	7	33	13	184
2011	0	90	18	5	0	17	8	138	7	35	17	197
2010	0	110	25	6	0	16	8	165	9	32	20	226

Table 3.0: Revenue Summary

Revenue	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Locker rental	\$2,046	\$2,045	\$1,901	\$2,224	\$2,389
Club rentals	\$2,122	\$2,910	\$2,549	\$1,444	\$7,404
Cart rentals	\$12,758	\$11,491	\$12,985	\$16,874	\$10,637
Daily green fees	\$32,155	\$31,519	\$31,634	\$44,532	\$60,768
Driving range fees	\$26,727	\$26,654	\$24,587	\$32,989	\$37,689
Cafeteria revenue	\$969	\$1,092	\$3,889	\$6,908	\$8,922
Memberships	\$31,089	\$35,903	\$38,450	\$46,060	\$50,417
Merchandise sales	\$787	\$831	\$1,414	\$1,773	\$2,406
TOTAL	\$108,653	\$112,445	\$117,409	\$152,804	\$180,632

Table 4.0: Operational Deficit

2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
\$236,424	\$204,566	\$195,248	\$227,496	\$171,363

- Open House & Indigenous Focus Group #1 Summary
- Open House #2 Summary
- Open House #3 Summary
- Open House #4 Summary
- Open House #5 Summary



Belle Park Master Plan - Engagement Summary

After a year of consultation on potential uses for Belle Park, the first initial master plan concepts for Belle Park were presented on May 22, 2018 from 5 to 7pm at Belle Park. The open house was followed by a survey that ran from May 24 to June 8 and a pop-up event at Belle Park on June 6 to review the two draft concepts. Approximately 80 members of the public attended the open house in May, followed by approximately 350 responses through the online survey.

On May 25, a talking circle held at Belle Park was hosted by Inclusive Voices Incorporated on behalf of the City to engage the local indigenous residents with respect to the proposed draft concepts.



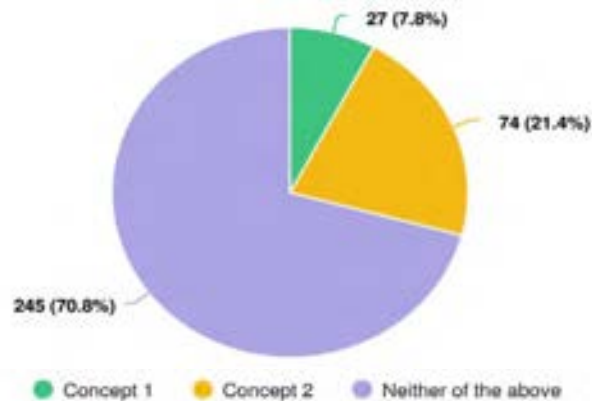
In these public engagements, a presentation was presented on the history of the site, past public consultation and Council direction as a result of the 2017 consultation, two concepts of the proposed amenities and how naturalized areas would be increased and the manicured areas decreased as a result of the proposed concepts.



What the City heard?

The following general topics were noted:

- Based on the survey data, neither of the proposed concepts was preferred. It was felt that the concepts did not provide enough variation nor represent the values of the general public.



- The balance between active recreation and naturalized area created the greatest reaction from the proposed concepts presented. Some sports users were satisfied with the balance of sports activities proposed. Some felt there were not enough recreational amenities provided, while others felt the recreational activity should have been smaller and more compact.
- Many respondents thought the plan needed to focus more on naturalization, the natural environment, protection of the shorelines and nature trails. There was concern raised about the effect of sports activities, any potential sports lighting and traffic related to sports on the natural environment, in particular, on the wildlife. Wider buffers between different types of park uses were suggested.
- Some residents did not like the sports fields and golf activities in centre of the park and some didn't want the sports fields to take away from the unique character of the waterfront park.
- It was felt that there was a need for indigenous culture to be incorporated into the park design, such as adding native plant species or signage along trails.
- Other suggested amenities included a dog park, lawn bowling, indoor tennis courts, natural style playground, community garden, splash pad, pump track for mountain biking or amenities for the art community such as a small amphitheater.
- There were mixed views on the required amount of parking for the park and its impact on the appearance of the park frontage. Many sports users felt there was

not enough parking, while others felt too much parking, along the street frontage of the park would be counter-intuitive to the walkability of the area to the downtown and take away the much needed beautification of the park frontage.

- It was suggested that the building could be repurposed for sports use, a cultural or education centre for First Nations and Belle Island or an interpretive centre for the natural environment. The accessibility of the current washrooms was raised as a concern.
- The idea of a new playground and picnic area were positively received. However, there were competing opinions on the location of these amenities near the street and abutting sports fields. Some residents felt playground and picnic areas could be larger and be set back from Montreal Street for children safety yet some respondents felt that these neighbourhood type uses shouldn't be located too far from the street so to still allow for public surveillance and visibility. Locating playgrounds near sports fields also drew conflicting feedback. People who were interested in sports activities felt it would be good to have the playground visible from the sports location for parental surveillance while some parents thought children should not be located close to sports fields due to the potential for inappropriate behavior and language associated with some types of adult sports use.
- Sport users suggested that pickleball courts be located away from resident's backyards due to the potential noise that this type of sport can create.
- Some local indigenous people felt there is a need to reduce the number of connections to Belle Island to reduce potential traffic to their sacred land, but at the same time consideration of public safety should be taken into account, such as maintenance of the bridge, and providing better visibility to reduce antisocial activities in both Belle Island and Belle Park.
- A talking circle was hosted for the Belle Park master plan and many local indigenous community representatives attended the talking circle. It was felt that not one person could speak for everyone in that community. More communication with local indigenous people was recommended considering Belle Park's proximity to Belle Island and the Cataraqui River which was historically an important trading route.
- As there has not been much partnership discussion prior to the open house, despite council's direction to discuss partnership with the rugby club, the rugby club members could not provide an opinion on the concepts. Discussions on the perceived service level, needs and long term implications still needed to be discussed prior to considering the location and potential partnerships with the rugby club at Belle Park.

Next Steps

Further consultation with residents, sports stakeholders and the various indigenous communities on the approaches for the operations and long term improvement plan of Belle Park are planned for next year. A series of public consultations are proposed for winter and spring 2019.

For ongoing and additional information on this project or to provide written comments, please view the City's website <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/city-hall/projects-construction/belle-park-master-plan> or contact:

Neal Unsworth
Manager, Parks Development
Nunsworth@cityofkingston.ca
Phone: 613-546-4291, ext. 1811

WHAT WE HEARD THE MOST

- More focus on naturalization and natural environment (75)
- Would like to see more variation between the options (16)
- Less golf facilities / amenities (16)
- Too much sports field area (12)

OTHER FREQUENTLY MADE COMMENTS

- Would like an off-leash dog park (10)
- Create a concept concentrating on natural areas (8)
- Make it a "conservation" area (6)
- Provide opportunities for outdoor education (6)
- More indigenous culture incorporated into the design (6)

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

- Opportunities for community Gardening (4)
- Amenities for the art community (3)
- Splash pad (3)
- Baseball diamonds (2)
- Natural playground (2)
- Tennis facilities (2)
- Lawn bowling (1)

(#) = approximate number of responses on survey.

Please note: There are respondents that did not provide detail comments.

Sample of comments provided through the survey

Naturalized / Conservation

- Keep as much of the site naturalized as possible, with other supporting facilities clustered close to Montreal Road.
- We need quiet spot to view the Inner Harbour and nature.
- Less sport focus and more natural space.
- Rugby, pickleball, and pitch and putt would disrupt the serenity of the park.
- Concern with the park turning into a more naturalized area, the K&P trail was naturalized and it is ugly.
- Ensure animals have a safe space to travel and connect with other travel ways.
- Current conservation areas are located on outskirts of City, which make getting to them difficult for people who do not have a car.
- Belle Park could be a small Lemoine Point that is accessible by transit and within walking distance to downtown.

Sports and Recreational Amenities

- This a brownfield site in the city that should be used for sports, this is a poor neighbourhood so this would give the kids something to do and a chance in life by being in a club that builds team spirit.
- Sports fields are limiting and exclusive to certain income bracket and to a larger extent gender.
- There are four apartment buildings around here and many children have no place to play. A naturalize play area within the park would be amazing.
- The new K&P trail is a golden opportunity to bolster additional cycling and walking trails on this property.
- I oppose the new sports fields and the pitch and putt and would prefer to see it somewhere else.
- There should be multiple sports fields and a dedicated clubhouse for the rugby team.
- Increase the size of the pitch and putt.
- Increase the number of pickleball courts

Other amenities

- It's a perfect gathering place and would be great to be able to easily host community events, concerts, etc.
- Off leash dog park would be great here as Memorial Centre offers no shade or area to walk your dog on a trail.
- The current Belle Park plan would not offer enough parking for sports teams and games.
- Development should be limited to public transit station, covered bicycle storage, washrooms and sheltered picnic area(s).
- There is nothing for the art community.
- The current clubhouse could be an interpretive centre explaining the history of the land and explaining the remediation measures that have been successful there.

Consideration of Indigenous culture

- An Indigenous cultural centre is greatly needed.
- Maybe a spot where people can gather outside to do drumming or a fire.
- A system of trails through wild space would be a more appropriate as an entrance to Belle Island, to honour Indigenous sacred land.
- Out of respect for association of this land has with indigenous people and the environment I believe we should maintain its natural state.
- Bringing the public to Belle Island will disrupt our scared land. Too much traffic already.



Community Engagement Summary

(Comments from Phase 2 will be considered in conjunction with stakeholder feedback from Phase 1 as well as future consultations)

On November 28 and 29, 2018, The City of Kingston hosted two information sessions to re-initiate the Belle Park master planning process (Phase 2). Both events explained Council's direction for the project, provided an overview of the work done to date and reviewed the community's comments on concept plans presented in May 2018 (Phase 1). The consultants discussed the benefit of working with the community further before advancing any more concept plans.

Two different public exercises were facilitated to better understand values and to help develop some community ideas for the park: a card storming exercise (November 28th) and a design charrette (November 29th). In addition, a survey was provided and made available online in December. Approximately 45 members of the public attended the information sessions. Over 400 survey responses were received. The results of these two consultation sessions, as well as online commenting, are summarized below.



Questions and Comments Provided During the Information Sessions

The following general topics were noted:

- There were questions about the environmental conditions of Belle Park. It was suggested that the City should consider the whole ecosystem and ecological successions as part of the master plan. The topography is also something that needs to be reviewed in detail in the future when considering the location of the amenities to minimize environmental concerns.
- Discussion of how the site could be accessed was discussed, such as by transit, particularly for seniors, or by water. The idea of access by water had some conflicting views as it was felt that there is already small craft access nearby at Emma Martin Park.
- Questions were asked if Belle Island or how close to the island should the master plan consider. Belle Island is an important land which connects Indigenous people to their ancestors. The bridge to the island was noted to be in need of repair.
- Connections through the Orchard Street marsh from the south or the federal lands to the north could be considered but both may be beyond the 15 year plan.
- Outdoor gathering spaces, a shelter, a natural playground and seating areas were suggested as valuable amenities for the space.
- Since the site has a lot of history it was suggested it, and general information about the site, could be further shared in some form, such as interpretation.
- It was suggested that the implementing recreation play fields in this area should not conflict with the direction in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that is currently under development.
- The master plan will need to consider and prioritize the various existing and proposed amenities, including the currently unmaintained tennis courts

Please see **Appendix A** for further questions and answers.

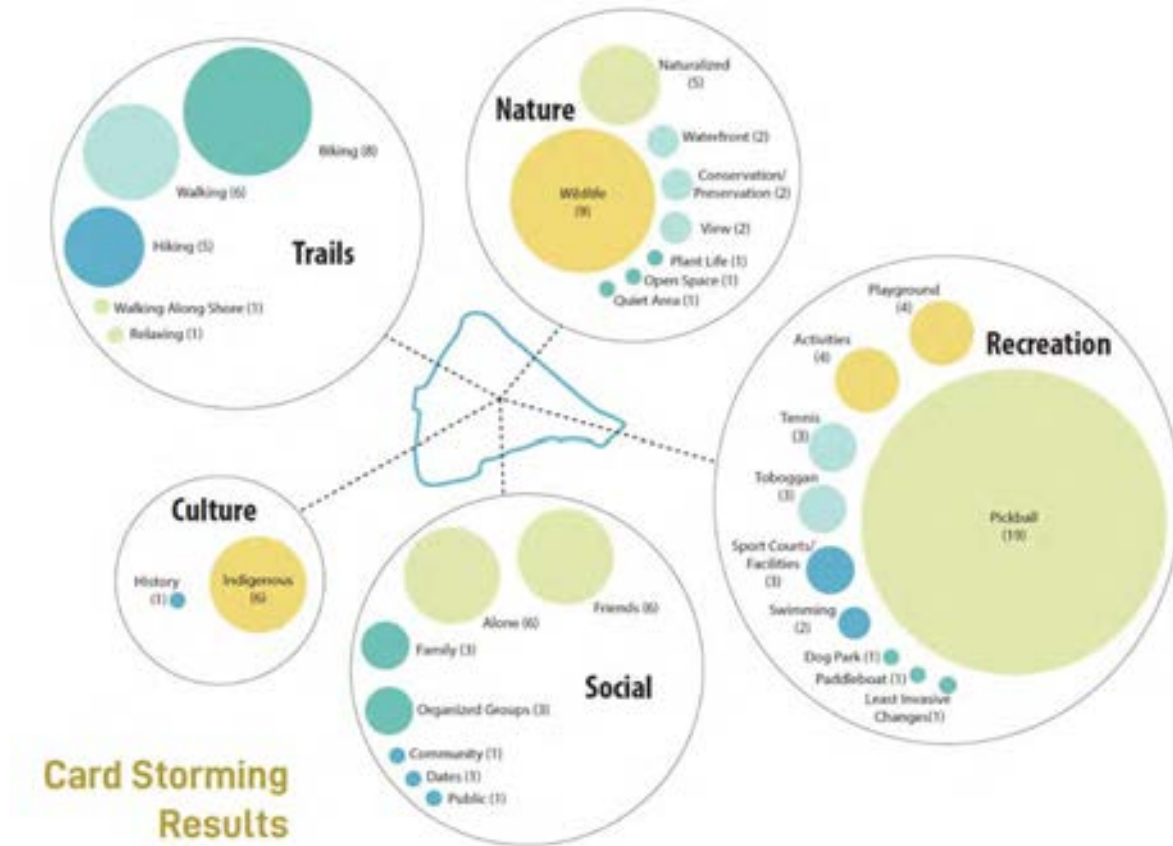
Card Storming Exercise

A card storming exercise was undertaken with the public on November 28th to help explore topics related to Belle Park. The participants were asked to write the first word that came to mind on a card as a response to a question. Following the questions the participants worked together to organize their responses into categories. The results were collected to be used to inform the design for Belle Park.

Questions Asked:

1. What word best describes what you like most about Belle Park?
2. What historic or cultural aspect of the park should be considered?
3. What public experience are we missing in this area of the City?
4. What recreational aspect do you currently like most about Belle Park?
5. What should be the primary consideration in the master plan for Belle Park?
6. Who do you go with to Belle Park?
7. What do you do in your favourite park that is NOT Belle Park?

The results from this exercise helped to understand the framework of the park by organizing it into five themes: Social, Nature, Trails, Culture and Recreation. While many different program elements were suggested, support for pickleball, biking, wildlife, and indigenous culture were significant. The graphic below helps to illustrate the responses and their groupings into themes.

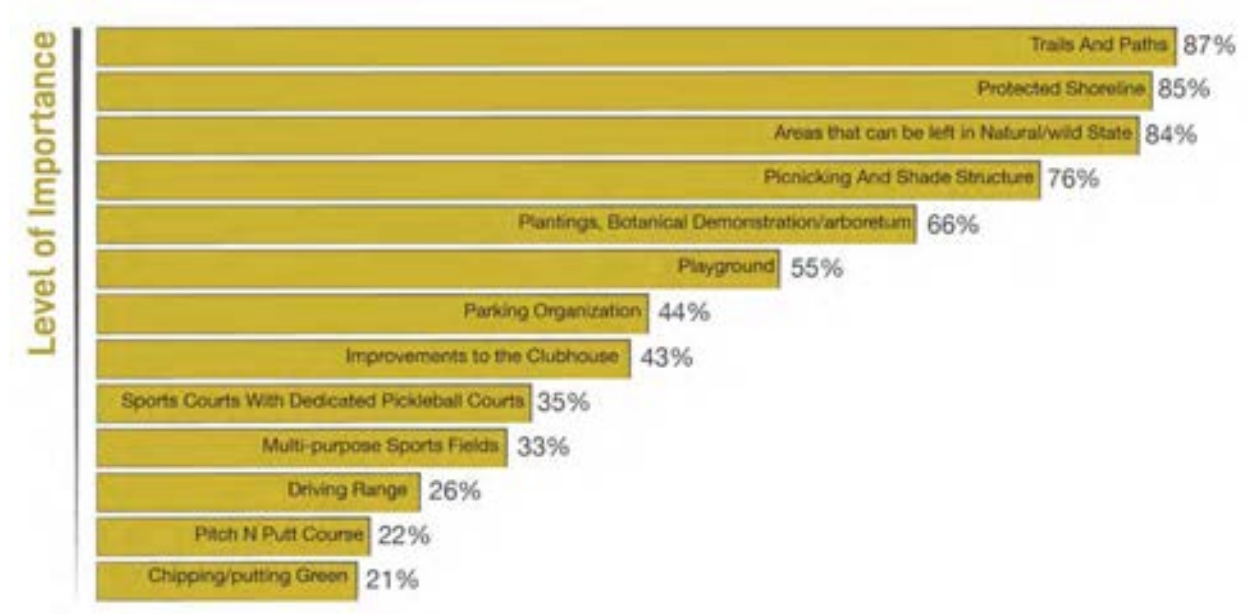


Online Questionnaire

From November 27th 2018 to December 27, 2018 a survey was provided for community feedback. From the survey, it was noted that approximately 50 percent of respondents use Belle Park once or twice a year. Almost 50 percent of respondents access the site by car. 80 percent of the respondents live further than one kilometre from the site. Access through walking was the second common means (almost 40 percent of respondents).

Participants were asked to rate the level of importance regarding the park supporting various park features with 1 being the highest importance and 5 being the lowest importance. Percentages shown below are based on the total selections that were rated 1 or 2 in importance (highest and next highest) divided by the total number of responses.

The results of this survey show significant interest in trails and pathways, naturalization and more passive park activities, with lower focus on recreation including recreation play fields, court sports and golf related activities.



Appendix A

- **How often do people monitor the water in Belle Park?**

The shoreline of Belle Park is monitored on a weekly basis. Sampling and testing of surface water, groundwater, and waste water occurs twice a year and is reported out to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks.

- **What pollutants are present at Belle Park?**

The pollutants present at Belle Park are typical of the landfill that operated on the site for 20 plus years, which included waste from residential, commercial, institutional and industrial. The site is operated under an approved management plan to ensure compliance with Provincial regulations and minimize impact on the river environment.

- **What are the possible toxins on the ground that might have health effects on people using the property?**

In accordance with a human health risk assessment conducted by the City in 1999, a cover of clean soil over buried wastes is maintained to ensure that park users are separated from the underlying landfill wastes. The development of new park uses would consider user risk and would include any mitigation required.

- **What investigations have the City done to evaluate the possibilities of cleaning up the site and removing the contents of the landfill completely or prevent leachates? It would be best to understand this as an option, even though it is expensive.**

A variety of management methods were evaluated in 2006, including, complete removal of buried wastes. A detailed report of the [Assessment of Long-Term Management Alternatives](#) is available on the City's website. The main challenge for a complete removal of waste other than the extraordinary cost is the impracticality of working below the level of the river water and groundwater table. The current system of clean soil cover, groundwater collection pumps, hybrid tree plantations, improvements to site drainage and regular monitoring and testing was the leachate management solution that scored the highest based on effectiveness, regulatory requirement, cost, and potential impact to the existing site and the natural environment.

- **How long is the shoreline of Belle Park?**

Approximately 1,100m

- **Can the floodplain be adjusted?**

No. The flood plain is a condition of the river's elevation. We are not contemplating any significant adjustments to the park's elevation, within the floodplain, as part of this initiative. Work can however, be completed within the floodplain under a permit with the Cataraqui Conservation Authority and Parks Canada for this site such as clean fill cover, plantings, amenities, pathways, etc.

- **What is the regulation around wildlife? Who is responsible for the wildlife such as beavers?**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks are responsible for regulating activities that may impact wildlife in Ontario. While there is no regular wildlife management or control on site, any work done in response to a perceived wildlife issue is done in accordance with provincial regulations using qualified contractors. When projects are undertaken that require earthworks, measures are put in place based on qualified biologist's recommendations and assessments of the site to ensure vulnerable wildlife are protected from planned work areas.

- **Could the waterway separating Belle Island from the mainland be widened to improve waterflow?**

Yes, but there are many important considerations that must be examined before making such decisions. Introducing a new and increased flow during higher water levels could scour contaminated river sediments south of the park and create new unwanted environmental impacts elsewhere. At low water times of the year a widened channel would not likely create any increased flow. Widening would likely require excavation of buried landfill wastes requiring disposal at a landfill outside of Kingston at significant cost with likely little environmental benefit. Extensive engineering controls and permits would be required to ensure that no new environmental impacts were created due to new leachate seepages, erosion of sediment and damage to existing wildlife and habitats.

As the channel is bound on the east shore by Belle Island, these works are outside of the scope of the Belle Park Master Plan.

- **How dangerous is dredging with respect to leachate?**

The dredging of river sediment in itself is not necessarily dangerous, however, substantial assessment and controls would be required to eliminate the potential for existing contaminants to be released further into the environment, prevent sediment impacts to the aquatic environment, not create new impacts by disrupting existing groundwater flow patterns, and to ensure worker health and safety. Collected contaminated river sediment would need to have an initial dewatering with appropriate collection and treatment of water before being

transported for disposal at a licensed landfill site somewhere else outside of Kingston.

Works on the river bed are outside of the scope of the Belle Park Master Plan.

- **How close to edge of Belle Island can something be done?**

We are not aware of any regulatory distances that need to be maintained from Belle Island, however, any works occurring immediately adjacent to or connecting to the island would need consultation with the relevant Indigenous stakeholders.

- **Would pickleball be better than sportsfields for this site due to cap surface?**

Any sports field constructed on the former landfill will need to be designed to promote good surface drainage so there would be no advantage of one type of amenity over another assuming they are both managing drainage and not worsening water infiltration.

- **What is the status of the ruby field discussion?**

The rugby club and City continue to discuss options for their recreational programming needs. Belle Park continues to be an option for the club's consideration. Discussion is ongoing.



Belle Park Master Plan Community Engagement Summary

Open House – February 27, 2019

(Comments from Phase 2 will be considered in conjunction with feedback from previous phases as well as future consultations)

On February 27, 2019, the City of Kingston hosted an open house, at the Rideau Height's community centre, in which preliminary ideas were reviewed and discussed. Approximately 30 people attended the session. Following the open house, an online survey was made available between March 11 to April 12 (in which approximately 175 people completed), number of stakeholder meetings were held throughout March and April, and a pop-up at Belle Park on April 27 as part of Earth Day celebrations.



The following general points were made during the consultation:

- The preliminary ideas proposed and the idea of phasing the amenities was generally well received. It was thought that the ideas proposed closely reflect what people had said in the November meeting. However, it is important that the phasing should be well thought out.
- The area currently does not feel safe and welcomes improvements to the space.
- The introduction of the different trails throughout the park is a great as it allowed the exploration of different areas of the park.
- There is a need for pedestrian connection at the front of the park and potential for school buses to access the site.
- The sports field was received to be only rugby related. A dedicated facility for rugby was perceived not to be a good fit for the site.
- Golf is considered to be a good fit for the site since it attracts a variety of age groups and has been on the site for a long time.
- Some think the dog off leash area is great as it helps manages the activity that already exists on site, while others do like having a dog park on site as it may interrupt peaceful walks through the park.
- If the driving range is underutilized, it was suggested that perhaps it can be shared for dog park area. However, many dog owners would prefer a nature trail off leash area than a fence only area for the site, even though having some form of fencing or restriction is noted to be important.
- Many felt the shoreline should be left as a refuge for while wildlife, particularly aquatic animals, while others would like a vehicular access boat launch. Small craft landing areas such as for canoes has been considered a good fit for the site.
- Given the future influx of the people in the surrounding area, a protective buffer zone is needed for Belle Island. This buffer could be in the form of an arboretum with labelled native species.
- It was felt that if the existing courts could fixed up then more users can enjoy the space sooner.

- The pickleball club would like to have dedicated pickleball courts with lights and fence, and even help maintain the facility. There is a desire from the club to not only have practice space but space to hold tournaments. Others, while they agree pickleball courts should be included, a multi-use courts for other activities such as tennis and basketball is also desired.
- The term naturalization needs to be clearly defined. There is a desire to have the plants managed and restored to native species in Ontario rather than left alone in its current state.
- Frisbee golf, indoor tennis and mountain biking were mentioned as being needed in Belle Park, given its central location.
- Other small amenities such as secure location to park bikes, pollinator garden and amphitheater for gathering are desired.
- Material use on the site is important to be in keeping with the surrounding natural setting. The clubhouse building could be renovated into a more sustainable system such as recycled material and grey-water recycling.

During the open house and online, people were asked to identify elements and activities they preferred most for the park, as well as identify preferred phasing of their preferred elements and activities to be implemented.

The hierarchy of result was as follows for elements and activity preference:

1. Natural Environment – 22.5%
2. Trails, Access and Views – 20.5%
3. Recreation – 18.5%
4. Social – 14%
5. Infrastructure – 12.5%
6. Culture, Heritage, Education and Land Management – 12%

The top result was as follows for phasing:

Phase 1

1. Public washrooms (82%)
2. Lighting at front of park (71%)
3. Major pathways (69%)
4. Naturalization (66%)
5. Wildlife habitat (60%)
6. Indigenous interpretation (59%)
7. Parking improvements (55%)
8. Gathering spaces (38%)

- 9. Picnic areas (37%)
- 10. Recreation fields (37%)
- 11. Playground (36%)
- 12. Dog off leash area (34%)
- 13. Sports courts (31%)

Phase 2

- 1. Minor pathways (51%)
- 2. Boardwalk (42%)
- 3. Outdoor learning spaces (35%)
- 4. Lookouts (34%)
- 5. Small craft launch (33%)

Phase 3

- 1. Driving range (46%)
- 2. Frisbee golf (43%)
- 3. Pitch n' Putt (42%)
- 4. Practice Green (36%)

		COMBINED AVERAGE OF OPEN HOUSE AND ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS				
		PHASE 1 (0-5 YEARS)	PHASE 2 (5-10 YEARS)	PHASE 3 (10-15 YEARS)	BEYOND 15 YEARS	ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION
A.	Naturalization	66%	90%	4%	3%	18%
	Wildlife habitat	60%	78%	6%	2%	16%
B.	Major pathways	65%	78%	4%	4%	9%
	Minor pathways	29%	51%	8%	4%	8%
	Walking trails	69%	20%	2%	1%	8%
	Boardwalk	27%	42%	20%	12%	0%
	Lookouts	24%	34%	23%	10%	9%
C.	Gathering spaces	38%	33%	16%	8%	7%
	Playground	36%	36%	16%	6%	6%
	Picnic areas	37%	29%	28%	7%	7%
	Dog off-leash area	34%	27%	15%	26%	5%
D.	Indigenous interpretation	59%	12%	8%	9%	12%
	Environmental interpretation	48%	22%	10%	7%	13%
	Outdoor learning spaces	26%	35%	12%	10%	12%
E.	Sports courts (pickleball, tennis, basketball)	21%	23%	14%	27%	6%
	Recreation fields (soccer, rugby, open play lawn)	27%	18%	13%	25%	8%
	Pitch n' putt	13%	29%	19%	42%	7%
	Driving range	22%	14%	18%	46%	7%
	Practice area	19%	22%	23%	36%	0%
	Frisbee golf	14%	19%	16%	43%	8%
F.	Parking improvement	55%	28%	9%	10%	7%
	Public washrooms	82%	12%	2%	1%	3%
	Small craft launch	23%	33%	29%	17%	6%
	Lighting at front of park	79%	17%	6%	6%	6%

Sample of comments provided:

Naturalization / Conservation

- I prefer natural restoration to “do nothing” naturalization.
- Keep the area as nature orientated as possible so it will be a green space for people to enjoy without any interruption.
- The Belle Park Master Plan should prioritize naturalization in order to mitigate climate change and foster biodiversity.
- Consider the long term carefully. For example, building an amphitheater 10 years AFTER an area has been naturalized is a waste of resources and would also destroy a lot of nature in the process.
- It should be respected and rehabilitated as a "wild" space, not littered with game courts and playgrounds.

Recreational Amenities

- While the Belle Island Caretakers group may oppose sports and recreation in Belle Park, the park itself is a former garbage dump and is not part of the Island. It is in fact the perfect site for a sports field and recreation activities. These can occur in conjunction with the natural environment. There is space available for both to co-exist.
-
- There could be more uses for a driving range when it is not in full demand (ie. middle of the day when people are at work). The driving range could double as 3 holes for pitch and putt that can be used during the days for sports camps or junior programs.
- Golf doesn't need to be part of this Park. participation in golf is declining and many golf courses now are barely used.
- Can we not have another dog park taking up space.
- My major objection concerning the proposed plans is that rugby is not a good fit at Belle Park.
- The Kingston Panthers have a great track record of supporting local youth, especially impoverished youth.

- There is a large ultimate frisbee community here and the closest frisbee golf course is 1.5 hrs away.
- With regards to sports - Pickleball is a fad and will fade out. Tennis is an enduring sport so I would prefer that the focus be on tennis.
- I would like to see an improved clubhouse and multisport playing field.
- Recreational facilities are important and I support their expansion but not if it means further disrespect of the bodies interned on that land and their descendants.

Culture / Social

- I think there needed to be more emphasis on the Indigenous considerations for this park. I only saw a few options that mentioned Indigenous considerations and I think that should have been at the forefront of many options considering the history.
- Please consider indigenous representation for each part of this plan and prioritize indigenous needs in this unceded territory.
- To help mother nature heal herself after the city's abuse, Belle Park should be left as natural as possible. This would allow the connected area of Belle Island to be treated as a sacred place and honour the Accord signed with the chiefs.
- Although we know that there is much contamination in the area, the park and its connected wetlands are important for wildlife habitat and the site has intricate connections with Indigenous histories.
- I feel strongly that there should be an outdoor performance/gathering space such as an amphitheater. A place for festivals, celebrations, concerts, theatre, etc.

Others

- It should be a park for everyone regardless of individual interests.
- I think this is an amazing initiative that can benefit so many people in the community.
- We could also use more signs about keeping dogs ON leash because the swans were already chased off the first nesting site.

- The whole area needs to be cleaned up. I found it somewhat dangerous to run through the area (people camping out, bonfires, garbage).
- I would prefer a long off-leash walking trail and roaming area rather than yet another small fenced-in dog park



Belle Park Master Plan Community Engagement Summary Open House – May 1, 2019

(Comments from Phase 3 will be considered in conjunction with feedback from previous phases)

On May 1, 2019, the City of Kingston hosted an open house at the Belle Park clubhouse where proposed concepts for the Belle Park master plan was presented. A morning, an afternoon and an evening session were offered to allow people to view and comment on the proposed concept. In the evening session, the concept was also presented by Thinc Design, followed by a question and answer period. The presentation included a history of the site, Council direction, results of public consultation to date and details of the proposed concept. Approximately a total of 45 people attended the open house sessions. Following the open house, an online platform was also made available between May 15 to May 28. Over 200 residents provided feedback online.

The following general points were made:

- The proposed concept appears to offer a lot to various people. It is felt that many of the concerns and request has been considered, but still offers a great balance between urban recreation and natural.
- There are opposing opinions on the amount of parking and location of the parking. Some felt the parking should not be in the park beyond the frontage, while others, especially those with accessibility concerns, want the parking closer to amenities. Parking related to dog park users and circulation routes should be considered.
- Pickleball players think the proposed number of courts is appropriate due to the growing demand and aging community in Kingston. Currently, there are some nights where there just are not enough courts for everyone who wants to play. While others find the number of courts to be excessive and believe that this is sport is just a fad that will not last.
- Mix opinions on the potential indoor tennis bubble. Some loved the idea as there currently there is a lack of indoor tennis in Kingston and will allow people to be active in the winter. Currently, only pickleball is available for play indoors. Some wanted the indoor tennis dome to also include pickleball. Others do not like the idea of indoor tennis and question the compatibility of the facility with nature. If one is to be done, it was recommended that 4 courts are a minimum needed to have active programming based on past experience.
- Some mixed opinion on maintaining the driving range since it takes a lot of space and the netting needed may block some views. While others are happy that some of Belle Park's golf

history of the park is maintained and suggest the pitch and putt and driving range located to allow better integration into the more traditional park activities around the clubhouse.

- Within the dog off leash area, there are desires for natural elements such as trees and trails, but also separations between smaller and larger dogs. Although there are opposing opinions on whether or not there should a dog off leash area or if it should be fenced, more people felt the dog off leash area would need some type of fencing to keep dogs, other park users, and wildlife safe.
- Different views on the location of the mountain biking location behind the hill. Some are excited for the proposed amenity while others fear it might damage plants and wild life habitat.
- Many like the variety of trails and scale to see nature and the opportunities for winter activities such as cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Some fear that the smaller nature trails may fragment the natural environment in case people create unofficial trails. It was suggested to block off access or defer creating a trail on the Parks Canada hump until the marsh and space can be made safe for users.
- Happy to see lookouts, especially by the shore on the plan. For the lookout on the hilltop, it was suggested that it is better if kept simple.
- The space was seen to be a great place for education on nature as well as history and culture.

Questions raised:

- **There was some confusion on the term successional landscaping if it meant it was to be maintained that way and how it will be developed as it is expected it would be developed at the same time.**

It is a zone between grass land and woodland where smaller forms of landscaping may exist such as shrubs.

- **What is the cost to develop the woodland? How many trees can the land at peninsula support without impacting the land fill?**

This would be determined as part of a detailed design process in the future.

- **What is the water source of the wet area near the proposed dog off leash area?**

The land is seasonally wet from swales draining into the low point in the land. This can be adjusted with grading.

Sample of comments provided through the survey

- This area seems to be well thought. It concentrates all built infrastructure and areas for programmed activities near the Montreal St. corridor, and away from the peninsula.
- I appreciate you're attempting to meet diverse needs and desires.

- I am glad that the end of the peninsula near the indigenous land, will remain untouched (be made natural).
- I like that some form of Belle Park's golf history is being preserved in this plan and generally like how many different uses of the space are being offered in this plan, something it seems for everyone here.
- 12 pickleball courts seems a lot for a sport that is very recent and MAY have a "short shelf life"
- I am happy to see that there are a decent number of courts indicated for pickleball. This sport is definitely not a fad and is being embraced by many small municipalities and regions in a big way. In excess of 500 people are registered for the Nationals at the Invista Centre which says a lot about this sport.
- I like the plan. It utilizes the space in a way that caters to many different groups.
- This appears to have been well thought out and planned with a long-term outlook.
- Plenty of variety and home for the wildlife. Deer should still feel safe.
- So far the design seems to have many different areas of interest to a great variety of users, which is what I was hoping for. We came to Kingston from Whitby, which has a beautiful waterfront park for its citizens. It tremendously improves the quality of life for everyone who uses it. Kingston's Belle Park will no doubt be as beneficial.



Belle Park Master Plan Community Engagement Summary

Online Draft Master Plan – July 12, 2019 to July 26, 2019

A draft copy of the Belle Park Master Plan was posted on the GetInvolved.CityofKingston.ca on July 12, 2019 until July 26, 2019. Approximately 30 residents provided comments through the GetInvolved guestbook system, social media or via email.

Below is a summary of comments made:

Public Feedback

- Glad to see disc golf proposed in the park
- Believes the plan offers a good balance of opportunities to enjoy nature and sport activities
- Like that there is attention to multi-generational recreational opportunities
- Good to see there is acknowledgement on need to be flexible and adapt to possible recommendations of Engage for Change, including possibility for Indigenous Interpretive and / or cultural centre.
- Concern that the Interpretive center is not built until the later phase. Interpretive and a cultural community centre are different.
- Consider including a street address at the entrance of the park
- There is too much focus on organized human activity
- Suggest reducing impact to ecosystem by minimizing trail system in the park. Could fewer trails be left in the middle of the park?

Response

- Interpretive center or cultural community center is not proposed in plan. Neither amenity is precluded from future consideration in park.
- Yes
- Plan maintains a balance of both active activity and passive. Less active park use, given its size and configuration would be expected to lead to park neglect, safety concerns, dumping and antisocial behavior.
- Different scales of trails have been introduced to minimize impact to the natural environment. There has been significant interest for a connective trail system in the park. Amount of use is not expected to impact ecosystem.

- Suggest a longer trail system along the waterfront
- The natural area should be managed and kept neat from garbage and underbrush.
- Clarify the timing of implementing the multi-use pathway to Third Crossing
- There are people who are glad to see pickleball in phase 1 but others think the progression of development is too slow.
- Assumes pickleball courts will have lighting
- The previous May concept had identified for future expansion of pickleball courts and now it has changed
- Concerns about the length of time to implement the master plan, particularly with respect to pickleball courts.
- Suggest not combining tennis and pickleball on the same court. Both sports should have dedicated courts.
- Indoor tennis is not compatible, please remove.
- 12 pickleball courts is a lot. Consider more diverse use of the space.
- Suggest use of artificial turf to lower operational cost of the golf amenities
- Suggest that instead of a combination of driving range, pitch and putt and practice green space, the space be converted for a 6 or 9 hole golf course, which will likely get more use.
- Off leash dog area needs to be fully fenced to protect other park users
- The main central trail through the park was designed in a location that provides an
- There is a connective trail system proposed in the master plan with various alternative routes and waterfront connections.
- Woodland control of invasive species is included in the master plan. Underbrush would be cleared during implementation of pathways as necessary.
- This pathway is expected to be implemented in 2021 and 2022.
- Timing of development once the master plan is approved will be subject to budget approvals. A short term court improvement has been proposed to be advanced prior to Phase 1.
- No. Lighting for pickleball would be a future consideration but not precluded by the master plan.
- Future consideration of courts is not precluded by the master plan.
- The proposed phasing schedule has pickleball in first phase and a short term court improvement is to be advanced prior to Ph. 1
- 8 dedicated pickle ball courts are proposed. No dedicated tennis courts are proposed. Shared tennis and basketball is proposed which also can be used for pickleball tournament overflow.
- Indoor tennis is not proposed in the implementation plan. Future consideration of a tennis bubble is not precluded by the master plan.
- 8 dedicated pickleball courts are to be implemented over the next 15 years. Space for 4 additional dedicated pickleball courts is designed into the plan but is not part of the 15 year budget.
- Yes. Artificial turf for the driving range targets, pitch and putt targets and practice green has been included.
- A future golf course option is not included in the master plan.
- To be determined in detailed design. Concern of dogs at large in park is recognized in master plan.

- Suggest off leash dog area where people can walk their dogs on trails such as on the north side set of trails instead of a tree less area. It is expected that people will have their dogs off leash on the trails regardless.
- There was suggestion for a boat launch, but at the same time, there was opposition to the boat launch.
- Suggest to minimize asphalt use and preserve trees
- Suggest picnic tables and garbage cans, wooden walkways or decorative fountain.
- Mountain bike feature is incompatible with the rest of the design.
- The totem pole should be restored before the centre is built.
- Suggest building a breakwater to resolve ongoing seasonal flooding problem
- Suggest no lines, lights, or wavy edges on the field to allow people to imagine the different ways of using it.
- Off leash times or trails are not proposed in the master plan. There is significant concern about having dogs off leash in a non-contained space.
- A boat launch is not proposed for the master plan. A small landing for kayaks, SUPs and canoes is considered
- Asphalt use has been minimized where possible. Most of the pathways are proposed to be granular. These details will be reviewed at the detail design stage. For benefit of long term environmental management of the site, maintenance and operational needs, some areas may need asphalt.
- These details would be reviewed at the detail design stage. Picnic area is proposed in the master plan. A fountain is not proposed in the plan.
- The amenity is not proposed as part of the City implementation plan. It is preserved space for a partner group. Detailed design would be required to ensure compatibility should a partner group express interest and demonstrate resources.
- The totem pole is part of the City's cultural collection and not part of the master plan.
- Raising the flood prone peninsula lands could have merit for the park and landfill, but is such a large scale of project that it is not proposed in the plan.
- These details would be reviewed at the detail design stage. Sports field lines are required for sports plan, but other more fixed sports field amenities like fencing, bleachers and lights are not proposed for the field.

Sample of comments provided:

- Look like after all the time and efforts that went into getting this Redevelopment Plan completed, the City was able to respond to the needs of the various groups. Nature trails, sport activities, off leash park, etc. It's a great design. Recreational activities including off-leash at the front end of Park (near the Clubhouse) so the rest of park can be use for nature trails, look outs, etc. Let's not forget, we are dealing with an old dump site, so a lot of environmental issues to deal with. This plan is doing a great job to address these. Hopefully, this plan will be approved quickly by the Review Committee and City Council. Funding will then be the next issue to move on with this project.
- I appreciate that a diversity of activities would be welcome in the park. However, in the grand scheme of Kingston, there is a lack of truly wild spaces where human management is minimal. I would appreciate if the trail system was even more minimal in the park. I think leaving the area as a wild space would benefit the local ecosystem and the community by letting activities

in the park remain informal. Informal activities are essential for creativity and letting the ecosystem thrive.

- It would be nice to finally have some decent pickleball courts .The master plan looks awesome if it were just going to happen soon. Unfortunately the city does not have a reputation to act in a timely matter.
- Please get on with this. Look at smaller Ontario towns, Sarnia, north bay, Landsdowne, bath, for how to get Pickleball going in town. The Kingston Pickleball club did not submit a formal proposal to the city as we were uncertain as to whether anything was going to happen. We are very interested in putting together a plan that can hopefully start very soon. Each week in the summer there are over 100 people playing for at least a couple hours at Belle Park. Likely more in one week then play tennis in the whole season. Please look at other cities for inspiration and let's get this project going now.
- In a mixed-use park, which is what the draft plan is setting out, having dogs run off-leash must only be done within fenced in areas. Having dogs run freely in a park such as Belle Park is simply begging for all manner of conflicts between humans and the dogs. Dogs, bikes, children and other uses of the park should simply not meet or interact together when the dogs are off-leash.
- There are a lot of things that are really good about the plan: the importance given to respecting the park's relationship to Belle Island, and the clear statement that any development of the park be in alignment with the Belle Island Management principles that have been agreed to by the City and the MNCC. The inclusion of the relevant management principles in the document is important. The buffer zone is key along with the recognition that Belle Island should not be encouraged as a destination.

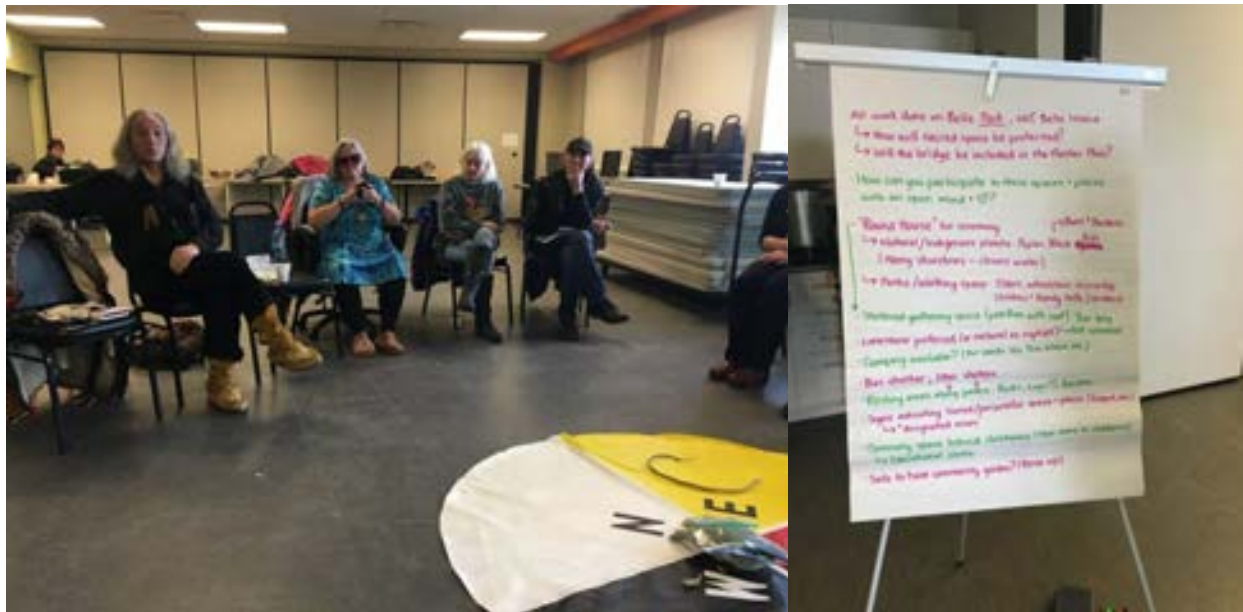
Indigenous Focus Group #2 Summary
Indigenous Focus Group #3 Summary
Indigenous Focus Group #4 Summary



Community Engagement Summary

(Comments from Phase 2 will be considered in conjunction with feedback from Phase 1 as well as future consultations)

On Feb 22, 2019, the City of Kingston and RIEL Cultural Consulting hosted a talking circle to re-initiate the Belle Park master planning process with Indigenous community. In the event, it was explained the public consultation process to date since the last talking circle, the area in which the master plan will apply and that there is a need to receive further feedback before advancing the concept plans. Approximately 10 members of the public attended the talking circle.



The discussion points at talking circle are summarized below:

- All works related to the master plan are proposed to be within Belle Park, not Belle Island. It is still to be determined if any improvements related to the bridge should be included as part of the Belle Park master plan.
- The Belle Park Master Plan needs to be inclusive for all Indigenous peoples.

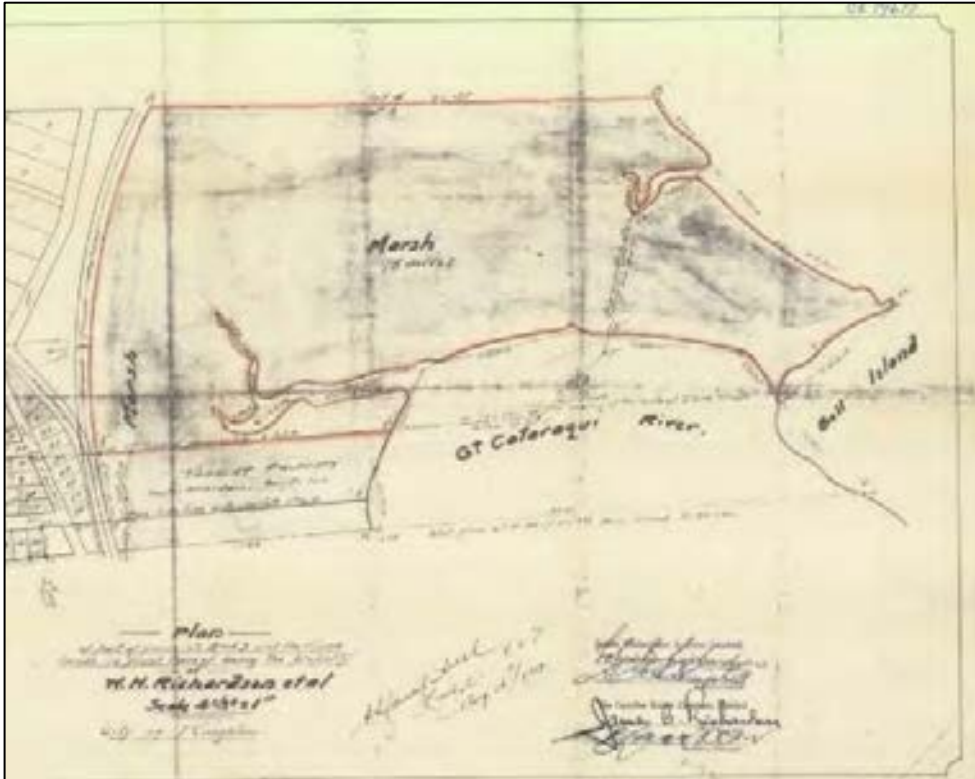
- How can we all participate in these places and spaces with an open mind and heart? How can we contribute to these conversations outside of a very specific or narrow cultural context? Belle Park is a large park, the space should be shared and a greater variety of uses should be considered, including both physical recreational activity as well as passive uses.
- A sheltered gathering space such as a pavilion for teaching (more so than a specific “cultural” space), so we can learn from one another and honour all nations of peoples that walk on these shared lands.
- A space that can be used by everyone, but also needed for specific cultural purposes such as a firepit. Signs that explain the sacredness of a space help share the culture, educate others, and protects the space. If the signs were in different languages it would appeal to more people (Kanien’keha, Anishinaabemowin, English and French).
- A need for a ceremonial and education space that could be used year round. The space could be in the form of a round house, longhouse, wigwam or tipi. If the space was close to the clubhouse then cultural and ceremonial items could be stored there when not in use.
- Opportunity to host events such as a two-day Pow Wow. In recent years, there has been challenges with booking camping space for these events at the Legion. Greater community partnership would be beneficial.
- Paths and walking spaces need to be wheelchair accessible, safe for elders and families with young children and strollers. Other items that help with accessibility to and in the park include a bus shelter at the entrance of the park, resting areas along the paths and wide paths.
- Even though the route to Belle Island is a desired route for accessible vehicle access by some, at the same time, there was concern about the future influx of people from the Tannery lands that may access Belle Island. It was suggested that a creation of a “buffer zone” between the park and the island may help to prevent people from trespassing onto sacred land.
- Natural materials are preferred (such as limestone, natural sources) for pathways and seating.
- Inclusion of more natural or Indigenous plants along the shorelines of Belle Park to help heal the land. It is understood that poplar trees help cleanse the land but is often attracted by beavers. Black ash or sunflowers also help heal the land, and black ash is less desirable for beavers. There is a fear of people raiding sunflowers if it is used in abundance.

- There are two different theories on how to clean the water. One is removing the contaminants out of the water through an invasive method, while, the other is to allow mother nature take its course through the decay of vegetation that traps the contaminants to the floor of the water. Indigenous science should be considered for healing Belle Park. Notable people to contact include, Henry Lickers (environmental science officer – Akwesasne) and Suzanne Brant (president of FNTI – Tyendinaga).
- Work needs to be done “by people for the people” (words by Onagottay)

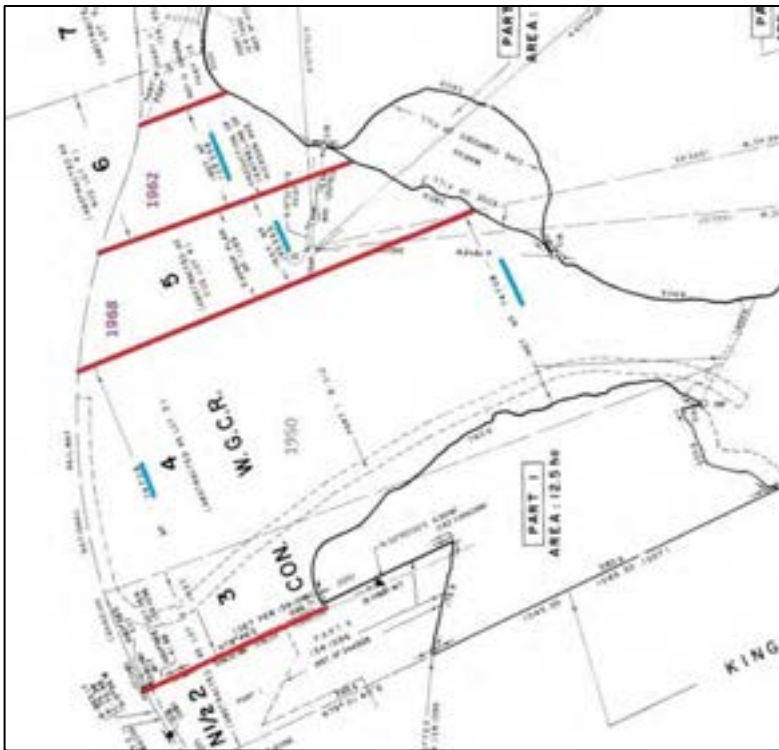
Questions raised:

- Is it safe for a community garden in Belle Park?
 - It is possible to raise the garden beds and bring in soil and put in geotextile between the planting bed and the ground, however, extra caution would be needed in construction and awareness for use considering its former use as a landfill.
- What happens if bones or artifact is found during construction? What is the process in handling the situation?
 - Even though the site is a former landfill, Belle Park has been identified as having archaeological potential in the Archaeological Master Plan. Prior to construction, further archaeological investigation would be reviewed by a licensed archaeologist under whose authority consultation with affected community would be conducted.

Any artifacts uncovered are subject to the legislation of the Ontario Heritage Act and Kingston Archaeological Master Plan.
- Does the City of Kingston own Belle Park and/or Belle Island? Treaties (pre-contact and post-contact) and the site being a former marsh were discussed.
 - The City co-owns Belle Island with Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs. View the [original Council report](#) on how the relationship started.
 - Belle Park was purchased by the City from private owners through a number of years, starting from 1950.



Deed of Belle Park from 1950



Belle Park land assembly between 1950 to 1968



Belle Park Master Plan Community Engagement Summary

Indigenous Focus Group – March 25, 2019

(Comments from Phase 3 will be considered in conjunction with feedback from previous phases as well as future consultations)

On March 25, 2019, the City of Kingston and RIEL Cultural Consulting hosted an Indigenous focus group session, at the Rideau Height's community centre, in which preliminary ideas and concepts were reviewed and discussed. Approximately 10 people attended the session.

The following points were made during the consultation:

- The idea of a dog park is great, as it keeps the off-leash area to one area and away from Belle Island. However, the area should be fenced.
- Precedent images of dog park should not be by the shoreline as there is concern about potential leachate in the water. Integrity of the shoreline should be maintained.
- At the top of the hill could be a place for turtle shell teaching.
- The medicine wheel symbol at the look out area on top of the hill is merely to show local indigenous inclusion. The local indigenous community is a mix of nations, further discussion would be needed amongst the indigenous community to ensure an appropriate symbol is used that is more representative of all nations.

The medicine wheel is more of an Anishinaabe based symbol but signifies an ancient system of traditional indigenous knowledge that many nations share under different names about balance and harmony including mix of races, which is represented by the four different colours. It was suggested that circles are a more common idea among nations. Dish with One Spoon, sometimes known as the Bowl, was also suggested as a symbol that could be more representative of

all nations since it represents a treaty between Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee to share the territory and protect the land and inclusive of other nations as well. It embodies that everyone eats out of the dish, shares this territory, with only one spoon.

- Indigenous sports and games such as lacrosse, peach stone hockey, and snow snakes tobogganing are needed. If the field could be used for lacrosse, it would allow more inclusivity considering the history of the sport and Indigenous People.
- Golf is considered to be a settler's sport and is not preferred by some.
- The washroom stalls should be accessible and consider child change area needs.
- Fire pits should not be located beyond the front area of the park near Montreal Street. It may be difficult for fire trucks to access if located along the shoreline.
- More natural material for pathways should be considered, such as a boardwalk on the hump, which is not owned by the City.
- A need for a cultural space to share various indigenous culture, history of the land, significance of the island, understanding the natural healing practices and about nature and the environment. The space could be one area or along an interpretive trail, and was suggested to be in various languages such as English, French, Mohawk and Ojibway. Providing opportunities to create understanding of Indigenous perspectives helps with reconciliation.
- Wildlife habitat and the natural environment should be respected, particularly nests and the shoreline.
- Suggest considering the concept of Two-eyed seeing developed by Albert Marshall when developing naturalized areas and healing the land. Some resources to consider include Diana Beresford-Kroeger on Urban Forests, Henry Likers from Akwesasne environmental, Susanne Brant Herbiologist FNTI Tydeninaga, Geography and Environmental Departments at Queen's, Royal Military college's Engineering Department.
- Poplar trees were noted because they clean the contaminants and water. Trees help greenhouse gases, but too much tree coverage makes it harder to monitor contaminants. Eventually trees would need to be systematically removed since poplars only have a 20 year life span. Some areas of the park, there may not be enough soil depth to support tree to withstand wind.

- Signs such as no dogs off leash should be considered in the park, particularly near Belle Island.

Questions raised:

- Further discussion about the designs in the peninsula area is needed in terms of how best to protect the island from intense traffic and the need to clean up from the potential traffic and other anti-social behaviour.

If there is more traffic through a space on a regular basis, there are less chances of anti-social behaviour occurring and dumping of garbage as there would be more eyes in the park to self regulate these activities.

- What is the potential impacts of the look outs on the floodplain and potential frequency of damage?

Construction of a look out along the shore would be in accordance to the Conservation Authority's requirements for protecting the floodplain and will be designed to withstand normal flooding events. Floods within the 100 year floodplain have a 1% chance of occurring in any given year, although with our changing climate, we may see this frequency increasing.

- Erosion caused by off road biking is a concern considering the former landfill.

Development of an off-road biking will comply with all landfill management requirements and may require placement of additional fill to prevent risk of ruts exposing the underlying landfilled wastes.

- Is the water safe for dogs and children to be in?

The City does not recommend Belle Park for swimming by people or pets. The Public Health Unit does not monitor water quality for Belle Park as it is not a recognized public swimming area. Environmental sampling done as part of annual landfill monitoring shows surface water quality to be generally good but the water depths surrounding the park are very shallow, soft organic river sediments contain historic contamination and physical hazards (branches, debris, etc.) may be present below the water's surface that could hurt swimmers.

- Is the land safe for long term intensive use given the former use as a landfill and golf course pesticides?

The City has undertaken detailed environmental risk assessments of the former landfill site to ensure it is safe for users, which involves examining numerous potential contaminants such as pesticides, and implemented numerous

measures to provide clean soil cover, control contaminated groundwater movement and make sure excavations or activities do not expose buried landfill waste. Any changes to park use will consider the risks presented by the former landfill and will make sure that the park remains a safe place for people to use.

BELLE PARK MASTER PLAN PLACE THE DOTS

How to use:

- Each participant has 10 dots.
- Place the dots on improvements you have chosen or prefer.
- Place only one dot on one improvement.
- Dots will be tallied at the end of the evening.

BELLE PARK MASTER PLAN VOICE YOUR CHOICE

How to use:

- Please identify which improvement you would like to see implemented in which phase.

IMPROVEMENTS	PHASE 1 2019-2021	PHASE 2 2021-2023	PHASE 3 2023-2025	PHASE 4 2025-2027
A. LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS				
B. WALKS & BIKEWAYS				
C. SPORTS				
D. SPECIAL USES & ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES				
E. SERVICES				



Belle Park Master Plan Community Engagement Summary

Indigenous People's Consultation – May 2, 2019

(Comments from Phase 3 will be considered in conjunction with feedback from previous phases)

On May 2, 2019, the City of Kingston and RIEL Cultural Consulting hosted an Indigenous People's consultation at the Belle Park clubhouse, in which proposed concepts for Belle Park master plan were presented by Thinc Design, followed by a question and answer period.

This event was an opportunity for the Indigenous community and their allies to meet and ask questions from the team. 6 residents attended the session.

The following points were made by community members during the consultation:

- It was explained by Indigenous members who have been involved through the whole consultation process that there is a distinct difference between what had been proposed May 2018 and May 2019. They liked the multi-use idea of the play field and less intensive nature of the amenities proposed. The woodland area near Belle Island and natural elements were well received.
- The location of the off leash dog area remains a concern as it appears too close to proposed children's playground and pavilion area. Future operations of not only the off leash dog park but dogs in the park in general is also a concern, including dog fecal, or risk of dogs potentially chasing water fowl and other animals in their natural habitat. There should be signs about no off leash on the island.
- More parking may be needed closer to the picnic areas, especially when considering accessibility needs.
- Greater accessibility from Montreal Street should be created such as the creation of a bus shelter. Space for bus inside the park should also be considered.

- Mentioned that there is a need for drinking fountains and washroom near play areas.
- Belle Park needs a place to share knowledge, awareness and understanding of Indigenous histories and cultures. Education components of the site could be displayed not only in the form of text but art. Sometimes less is more.
- Natural materials should be considered for the pavilion and trails. Asphalt was thought to seep into the soil and damage the earth, thus, this material is not desirable for the park. However, accessibility needs of the trail should still be considered.
- Planting native plants will help heal Mother Earth, especially along the water.
- Space is needed to be preserved on the bridge and when planning the tree planting to allow sufficient space for ambulance or emergency access to the island. However, the pathway to Belle Island should prevent the public from entering to protect the island.
- Indoor tennis was not a desirable amenity from the community members.
- Need for continual communication with the Indigenous community and Native Leaders.

Questions raised:

- **There was a desire to know how large the pavilion structure and clubhouse is proposed and whether it was large enough to gather.**

These details would be determined in the future when a detailed park plans were developed and shared with the community in future years. It wouldn't be determined at a high level master plan stage however, the master plan will recognize the desire for community gathering in the shade pavilion..

- **The video of Neal Unsworth's interview had mentioned that the land could turn fallow if there is not enough interest in the land. It was not clear what is meant by fallow land?**

If the site does not have adequate amenities for people to want to come and use the space, maintain a sense of ownership of the space and engage with the park then be it can become less used, feel abandoned and become abused and be less safe.

- **There was mention that Earth can heal itself if left alone. Why not leave it alone?**

The park is not a natural space below the surface. It's a managed former landfill and improvements are required to guide the parks changes from a golf course on a landfill to a natural park on a landfill. A metaphor was given, comparing the land to a child, much like kids, some guidance and principles /structure are needed to be instilled to set them on the right path.

- **There was mention that there is a lot of tennis around the City, how much do we need of this facility?**

Referring to the need for a seasonal air supported structure (bubble) indoor tennis facility, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which is currently under review, will inform the need for this type of facility in the City. If approved, the plan will also lay out an approach to determining the right site in the City for the initiative of which Belle Park is one option.

Inclusive Voices Incorporated Summary - August 2018
RIEL Cultural Consulting Summary - February 22, 2019
RIEL Cultural Consulting Summary - May 2, 2019

INDIGENOUS GUIDANCE and DIRECTION for the BELLE PARK MASTER PLAN: Recommendations for THE CITY OF KINGSTON



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1. OVERVIEW

Inclusive Voices Incorporated is pleased to submit this report to the City of Kingston offering initial recommendations for the creation of the Belle Park Master Plan from local First Nations, Inuit and Métis residents of the city and surrounding region.

This information is intended to assist the City of Kingston (CoK) in the creation of a 3-year strategic plan and associated funding cycle to incorporate the knowledge and experiences of the regional Indigenous community in their ancestral and modern relationship with the region now known as Belle Park. This investigation was a qualitative assessment, based on a community dialogue and the sharing of interactions with the landscape surrounding Belle Park including Belle Island and the shoreline of the Cataraqui River.

A publically advertised talking circle was held on May 25th, 2018 at the Belle Park Golf Club and engaged fourteen critical voices to share their knowledge and teachings about the history of the landscape and the community's story and connection to the space.

The range in Indigenous experiences and understanding about the evolution of how Belle Park came to be and its current use was evident at the circle. As this was a first time meeting of specifically the Indigenous community on Belle Park the participants were surprised to see preliminary concept plans for the space where the majority of contributions to date had come from sporting groups. More transparent conversations about the history and future intentions of the space was requested of the CoK by the participants as this planning process continues.

Overall, the request by the community to retain the space as green space, accessible by and for all, and most importantly to establish initiatives to purify and clean the land and shoreline from historic contaminants deposited during industrial activity stood out as the main priorities. A request to pursue the transition of the Club House into an Indigenous Community Cultural Centre was also proposed.

2. INCLUSIVE VOICES INCORPORATED PERSONAL STATEMENT

As a member of the Kingston urban Indigenous community, I, Terri-Lynn Brennan, self-identify as a Kanien'kehá:ka/Mohawk and British woman, and have professionally and personally engaged with diverse residents across the Kingston region for the past five years with a focus on Indigenous inclusion and knowledge promotion. Offering my subject-position in the work that I do, is important toward telling you the reader and audience of my research, how my particular lens sits within the scope of Indigenous knowledge and worldview. My intent with this and all my work, is to capture the voices of residents as sincerely and accurately as possible, so as to offer a true and genuine promotion of local voices, as opposed to my interpretation of those conversations. My voice does not speak for the larger community and it is important that readers understand that many voices, especially Indigenous, need to contribute to all community conversations going forward on Turtle Island in this sector (parks and recreation) and across sectors.

3. BACKGROUND

As the City of Kingston's *First Peoples Purposeful Dialogues Report* (2015) suggests, the fluidity of space and occupancy of the Kingston region is very complex and multi-faceted. What is known is that communities of Wendat, Algonquin and Haudenosaunee (pre-1500's) existed and perhaps even co-existed but later developed or merged into their modern descendant First Nations across what is now considered southern, south-eastern Ontario, upper New York state and western Quebec.¹ When the first Europeans, particularly French military began to arrive in Southern Ontario in the early 1600's, the north shore of Lake Ontario and the area originally known as Katarokwi was a shifting home between the Huron-Wendat Peoples, the Anishinaabe speaking Mississauga, and the Five Nations/Haudenosaunee.² In the Mohawk language, the name Katarokwi means *a place where there is clay or where the limestone is*, and is defined by two rivers, the Cataraqui River and the St. Lawrence River, while Lake Ontario ecologically marks the region.³ The French translation of the Anishinaabe/Algonquin use of the term *Cataracoui*, means *great meeting place*.⁴

With the British defeating the French in Quebec for possession of what was to become known as Upper and Lower Canada in 1759, they established more permanent colonies along the north and western shores of Lake Ontario. In particular, with the British occupation and expansion of the Katarokwi area, the Mississauga, who had established a community in the region in the early 1700's, agreed to share Kingston and the surrounding territory with the British who were defeated in the American Revolution, the United Empire Loyalists, and their Mohawk allies of Upper New York in 1783 with the signing of the Crawford Purchase.⁵ Within 30 years, the Mississauga shifted their main occupation to Grape Island in the Bay of Quinte, but within two decades after that, settled further north in two separate communities, the area known today as Bedford, and along the southern border of Rice Lake in the community of Alderville.

When the American-based United Empire Loyalists agreed to move peacefully into British Upper Canada territory during the late 1700's early 1800's, trading with the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples continued in Katarokwi, then to become known as Kingston. As the community grew and flourished as an important site for political and judicial institutions over the 18th and 19th centuries, Market Square, behind what is now Kingston City Hall, and only a kilometer away from what is Belle Park, was the main trading location where food stuffs, especially rice, tobacco and hides exchanged hands between Indigenous First Peoples, the United Empire Loyalists and other recent immigrants to the established British Colony of Upper Canada right up until modern times.

Of particular importance to the future of Belle Park, is its proximity to multiple Indigenous historically/archaeologically sensitive areas along the western shoreline of the Cataraqui River.⁶ Just

¹ <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/explore/culture-history/history/engage-for-change>; Alan McLeod, 2013, The Third Crossing Environmental Assessment Report on First Nations Consultations, p.7.

² Master Plan of Archaeological Resources 2010, Technical Report, passed by the City of Kingston, p.22.

³ Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs, November 2011, Tsi Niionkwahskò:ten, Cataraqui River: Proposed Third Crossing; oral history shared from community Mohawk Grandmother.

⁴ Brian S. Osborne and Donald Swainson, 2011, Kingston: Building on the Past for the Future.

⁵ Master Plan of Archaeological Resources 2010, Technical Report, passed by the City of Kingston, p.22; Osborne & Swainson, p. 20.

⁶ <http://www.carf.info/kingston-past/kingston-archaeology/kingston-outer-station>

north of John Counter Boulevard, the Outer Station Site documents centuries of occupation as a fishing village, while Belle Island off the point of the Belle Park was the location of a repeatedly occupied Indigenous camp site as well as Indigenous, (mostly likely Huron-Wendat), human remains, and continues to be held as a sacred island by the local Indigenous community. Within the grounds of Fort Frontenac, centuries old pottery interpreted to be in relation to an extensive camp site, occupied for centuries, have also been recovered, and this style of pottery, also seen at the Outer Station site, represent the most eastern location of this style of pottery across all of Canada.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that the Belle Park Strategic Planning process is taking place at the same time as the Third Crossing project, which entails the creation of a vehicle extension bridge at John Counter Boulevard from the western shore of the Cataraqui River to Gore Road on the eastern shore. The CoK has just launched Phase IV (in June 2018) of the Third Crossing project. At the time of the completion of Phase I in 2012, the Environmental Assessment (EA) Study Report identified 37 registered archaeological sites within and adjacent to the environmental study area pertaining to the Third Crossing project, and “...given the rich ecological resources of the Cataraqui River and the archaeological evidence found in nearby areas, the EA study area, in all likelihood, would have been used and periodically inhabited by peoples for the last 10,000 years or more.”⁷

It is particularly worth noting directly from the EA:

Areas within the EA study area containing known or potential archaeological resources include the following:

- 1. Significant archaeological resources are present on both sides of the LaSalle Causeway. Despite the extent of modern developments in that area, intact archaeological remains representing PreContact First Nations, French and British Military Periods (especially at Fort Frontenac, RMC and Fort Henry), and remains relating to subsequent urban development are present.*
- 2. The area between the LaSalle Causeway and Belle Island contains fourteen registered EuroCanadian shipwrecks in its southern portion and intact Euro-Canadian archaeological remains relating to subsequent urban development.*
- 3. Belle Island contains an extensive Middle Woodland Period archaeological settlement site and cemetery. Only two small portions of the island have been archaeologically tested and the archaeological potential of the untested areas is very high. Despite recent developments, portions of the shoreline opposite Belle Island also have a high archaeological potential for Pre-Contact First Nations, Historic First Nations, and Historic Euro-Canadian archaeological sites. The archaeological significance of Belle Island is further reinforced by the 2001 City Council resolution acknowledging Belle Island as a site of significant Aboriginal cultural heritage. This resolution engaged a strategy that was subsequently formalized through negotiation between the City and representatives of local First Nations communities and is*

⁷https://www.cityofkingston.ca/documents/10180/45631/EA_Report_No+Figures.pdf/3d5f7026-6fe5-47a5-a11e-d1fb85ee28a6, pp.39.

embodied in an agreement that was endorsed by City Council in 2006. The framework of the agreement includes a process that would set Belle Island physically apart from the mainland and place Belle Island under the joint ownership of the City of Kingston and the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs.

4. The Kingston Outer Station site north of Belle Island, John Counter Boulevard and the Music Marina on the west side of the Cataraqui River contains intact archaeological remains of a PreContact First Nations and Historic First Nations hunting and fishing camp.

5. While other areas north of Belle Island have had minimal development disturbance to date, there is high potential for Pre-Contact and Historic First Nations archaeological remains in this portion of the EA study area.⁸

Modern Belle Park, originally known as Cataraqui Park, is approximately 44 hectares (108 acres) in size.⁹ Citizens, businesses and institutions in the City of Kingston used this site as a municipal landfill from 1952 to 1974. After the landfill was closed in accordance with Ministry of the Environment requirements, the City developed the site into a multiple use recreational facility that includes a nine hole golf course, tennis courts, and walking paths. According to their website¹⁰, the “*City of Kingston is committed to managing the former Belle Park Landfill Site in an environmentally responsible way. Since 1997, the City has undertaken a number of projects to protect and improve the environment at Belle Park. The City continues to work with the Ministry of Environment and the community to design and implement a long-term solution for Belle Park — a solution that will protect the environment, be publicly acceptable and financially sustainable.*

4. DELIVERY and SCOPE

One public talking circle occurred on May 25th, 2018, at the Belle Park Golf Club. The talking circle invited Indigenous community members to participate in a three hour conversation on what the space has come to mean to the community and how it can and should evolve through the CoK master plan. The participants were shown three concept drawings for the revised space, based on recommendations in a Report to Council on September 19, 2017.¹¹

Thirteen community members attended the talking circle, as well as Adam McCluskey, Manager, Recreation Facilities, for the City of Kingston. Traditional Knowledge Keeper *Anataras*, Alan Brant, opened and closed the circle in a good way, while presiding over and contributing to the conversation. *Anataras* was one of three representatives on behalf of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, Tyendingaga Community to preside over the repatriation of Indigenous Wendat human remains to Belle Island in 2005. The remains were accidentally recovered in 1988 during an environment impact assessment. In 2006 the City passed a resolution of shared stewardship entitled The Belle Island Accord with The

⁸ *ibid*, pp. 39.

⁹ <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/environment-sustainability/environmental-improvement-projects/belle-park-landfill>.

¹⁰ *ibid*.

¹¹ https://www.cityofkingston.ca/documents/10180/21232042/COU_A2117-17249.pdf.

Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs on behalf of the surrounding Indigenous communities, to protect, preserve and maintain Belle Island as a natural habitat going forward.¹²

Protection of the burials is of particular interest to the Indigenous community when discussing any aspect of the Belle Park region. Clarification was offered up front to the participants that the master planning vision to be discussed at this particular circle would not physically impact Belle Island in any way. The Belle Island Accord is still adhered to by the City of Kingston and surrounding Indigenous communities and ongoing conversations by signatories continue to this day to ensure effective stewardship of the island.

Half way through the talking circle an Indigenous meal was provided by the Kingston National Indigenous Peoples Day Committee. Participants were encouraged to not only speak freely about their impressions of the concept drawings, but also to speak on their experiences with living and using the park. Participants wrote some of their strongest thoughts down on notes.

5. SHARING in CIRCLE

The talking circle discussion positioned the following question at the center of the conversation:

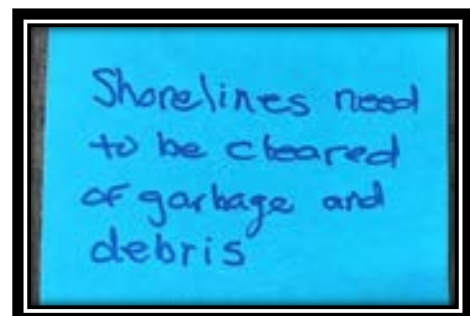
How can we preserve, protect and respect the Belle Park landscape?

Every participant was asked to offer their connection to the community and Belle Park as well as recommend ways forward for the space and landscape. Reoccurring themes arose during the conversation.

5.1 Cleaning and Healing

For each of the community members at the talking circle, Belle Park is consistently introduced as a spiritual place, where Indigenous peoples use the area as a space to focus on self, healing and recovery. Belle Park is a place of quiet, and needs to remain a place of quiet. Local peoples have offered ceremony in this space to the ancestors for centuries, and most recently requesting for patience as *“the living get their act together”*. Knowledge of some local community members who act as caretakers of the space was shared, but there should be more caretakers offering patrols to protect the land from fire and pollutants such as drug paraphernalia.

The Indigenous community also offered a unified impression of the physical landscape, which is in much need of help. As one participant asked the group *“Are we going to remember our mistakes, in the sense of overshadowing (ignoring the presence of) the dump?”* This reflection, that *“Belle Park is a garbage dump and needs special care to move forward”* was a common theme throughout the whole of the conversation. Yet, the impact of garbage removal was keenly known by some participants and it was shared that



¹² https://www.cityofkingston.ca/cok/council/agenda/2006/A21_Rpt110.pdf.

the garbage should not be disturbed and risk contamination of more land, water and air, but rather be left alone and continually monitored to contain leeching.

One participant requested that *“the land shouldn’t be left feral, but rather managed and monitored, and not manicured.”* As there appear to be leeching issues from the landfill, cleaning up the earth is essential to create a healthy landscape for vegetation and fauna to thrive. It was suggested that non-indigenous flora to the area should be allowed to die, and indigenous plants should take their place if at all possible. But as certain trees are known to be better for cleaning up ‘brown lands’ and industrial contaminants, the use of those trees and vegetation options was considered a priority if they could clean up the land faster and safer than other absorption methods. The request to keep the space as natural as possible for the long-term was also unanimously shared.

One participant suggested that perhaps a collaboration between the CoK and Queen’s University’s department of Biology and Environmental Sciences could be sought, with Indigenous Peoples taking the lead. It was further suggested that Henry Lickers, the Environmental Science Officer with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and/or Suzanne Brant from First Nations Technical Institute be approached to advise of a proper cleaning and healing process, which could *“use the medicine wheel approach to healing... and bring back Indigenous species or new species to provide balance to the space.”*

It was suggested that beautifying the front entrance with more flowers and trees, such as raised gardens would be appropriate. As well, participants would like to know more about the history and status of the current totem pole at the entrance and how, or if, it should be recovered, healed, given a plaque and/or laid to rest. The totem pole at the entrance to Belle Park was created by West Coast Indigenous members of the Native Brotherhood, inmates of both Joyceville and Collin’s Bay Correctional Institutions of Canada. This Belle Park totem was gifted to the CoK in the early 1970’s and erected in its current location shortly thereafter. At approximately the same time, two other totems were gifted to stand in Thunderbird Park, now known as Lake Ontario Park. Those two particular poles have since been transferred back to Correctional Services Canada, and stand revitalized on CSC Headquarter grounds at the corner of Union Street and Sir John A Macdonald Boulevard in Kingston.

Although these totems represent a blending of west coast and eastern woodland images and stories, the call by participants to highlight Indigenous connections to totems was important in the conversation and should be recognized by the wider community. Belle Park is a space for the community to come together and not only share Indigenous culture with one another, but also to share culture with the rest of Kingston, and so as *“[Indigenous Peoples] are more inclined to try to be in harmony with [what] the land needs, the [Indigenous] presence needs to be at the front door to establish context for the lands use and healing.”*

As one community member offered, *“... forests and lands go through their normal and natural succession of species over time... [Indigenous Peoples] may take the lead on the [healing and] spiritual part [of that succession] with ceremonies but other races and cultures can be encouraged to join us, in our ways, use our examples to do their own or do multi-faith collaboration, [for] the earth has an immense capacity to try to heal itself, [and it can go] so much easier and quicker if we cooperate with her and follow her rhythms.”*

5.2 Indigenous Cultural Space

All of the community participants shared the need for a welcoming and comfortable cultural space in the region, open to everyone. It was suggested that “[t]he park site can be used for intercultural education and reconciliation/action as part of remembering and learning from the past, [the] past history of the area and by also remembering what happened to the land there.” Reference to the use of



the Cataraqui River, and its importance as a trading route up until the time of voyageurs is a history many people don't know about or talk about locally, according to one participant. Reference to the significance of

the Outer Station Site was also mentioned in conversation, but the majority of participants were not aware of this sites history. A participant suggested that the clubhouse be made into a public information space or interpretive center dedicated to Belle Island and the regional Kingston Indigenous village sites showcasing Indigenous [archaeological] artifacts from the region.¹³ It was suggested that approaching Kingston Tourism to create an interpretation centre would enhance Kingston as an Indigenous Tourism destination.

The club house space should be used “to fill in the dark spots of history; Indigenous missing histories.” It was thought if the club house could be converted into a cultural space, then the whole Kingston community could “recognize and learn of the history of Peace and Friendship treaties and all treaties through time, their original intent of good will, trust and peace.” The club house could become a publically open space for community workshops, dinners, and help bring the community back together under one roof in a good way, much like the Indigenous Friendship Centre had in its beginnings. The club house as a cultural centre could also act as a space to educate and protect the history of Belle Island. Perhaps a longhouse, a round house and/or a ceremonial fire could be erected in and around the park to strengthen stories and experiences. There was a request to place more of an emphasis on culture than on sport in this region, with further conservation of the green space, and/or even the presence of a stratigraphic wall to show the landfill and its recovery process as part of the cultural story.

There were thoughts around establishing signage along the pathways to describe indigenous flora and non-indigenous flora over time, including medicines and their uses. Signage was also requested to be offered in the main 4 languages of the region, Mohawk, Anishinaabek/Ojibwe, French and English. As there was a strong unified push for the space to be used as a cultural space, the community also were cautious in asking how this space can be used respectfully so as to not showcase Indigenous peoples and ceremonies in a fishbowl, but in a safe, comfortable, authentic way.

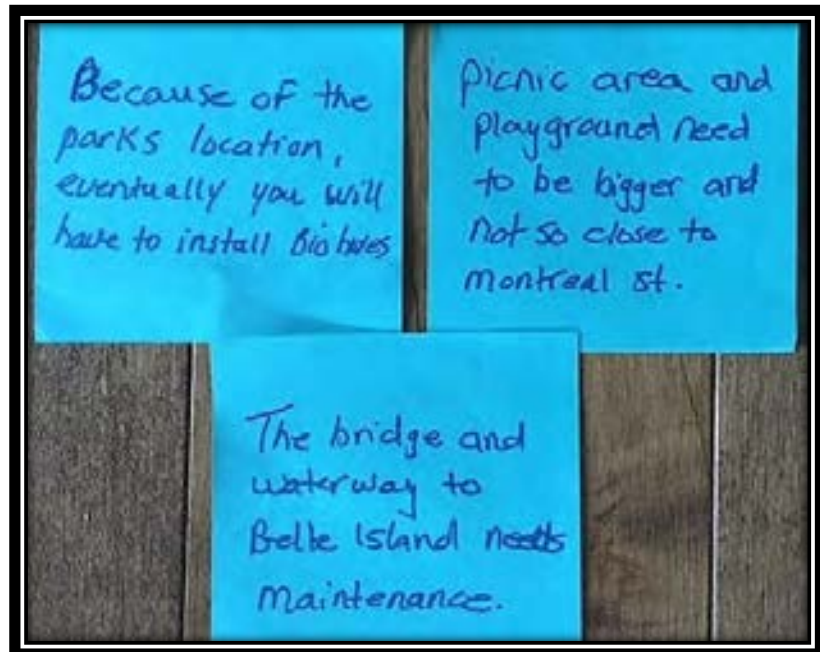
¹³ https://www.cityofkingston.ca/documents/10180/14295/MasterPlan_Archaeological_Planning.pdf/a9a15045-a677-4d3a-8105-09baefceeabe.

5.3 Response to the Concept Drawings

If the concept drawings are to be taken forward within the strategic plan, participants suggested the following adjustments:

- Reduce the amount of 'built-up' manicured space to increase more livable areas for insects and fauna;
- Could the space become a 25% sporting and 75% public green space ratio (as opposed to the reverse as it now sits)?;
- Option 2 was preferred over Option 1 because the playground is by the picnic area;
- Hook the secondary path together (from the park to the island and remove 2nd connection);
- Scrap the path connection from the tannery (the K&P Trail is enough and increases foot traffic to the Island which is wanting to be avoided);
- The picnic area and playground need to be bigger and not so close to Montreal street for safety/protection of children;
- Ensure that the club house and playground, especially the swing sets, are built according to accessibility guidelines, including guide-dog friendly.

Further logistical recommendations were shared, including a request to post signs indicating 'no camping', 'no dumping', 'no fires' along the secondary path and main road. Further signage such as 'no motorized vehicles' and 'no drugs or alcohol' was also requested. There was also an inquiry if the secondary path could be paved. Community members asked for increased remediation efforts to help reduce flooding where birds nest in the spring, as well as a call to not disrupt the marsh or shoreline so as to not displace any beaver, turtle or bird habitats as they exist. As well, there was a request for more routine maintenance of the bridge and waterway to Belle Island.



There was a call for an increased presence of garbage and recycling receptacles, as well as bio-boxes and bins for sharp implements and needles with signs indicating their presence and availability. Furthermore there was discussion around a reduction of trees in areas that are known to decrease visibility of people who are setting up campsites or misusing the park, dumping garbage, etc.

One community member asked for the provision of a dock along the shoreline of the Cataragui River at the edge of the park offering a stop for dragon boat racers, canoeists, kayakers, etc. Another

community member asked if through the visioning process for this space, if any extra supports could be provided for homeless folks who often camp in Belle Park and on Belle Island throughout the year. To compliment this request, there was a further request for the service road to Belle Island to be properly maintained for access all year.

5.4 Transparency and Leadership

Throughout the talking circle conversation many questions arose as to how the City had arrived at this stage in the visioning process for Belle Park without yet providing a specific opportunity for Indigenous input and recommendations. The community shared many “hear-say” notions of how Belle Island and Belle Park are being looked after because of the limited amount of, according to some, transparent and sincere outreach engagements the City has offered the Indigenous community on this space. Indeed there were many misconceptions offered about Belle Island and Belle Park in regards to ownership, occupation and long term intentions. Therefore it was put forth that the CoK needs to ensure due diligence in including the voices of the Belle Park and Belle Island caretakers, council and working group members in all discussions and decisions made about the area going forward.

One community participant shared their knowledge that as the Cataraqui River/Rideau Canal is recognized as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site, the designation takes in Belle Island and the edges of the shoreline and is therefore monitored to ensure protection, preservation and care according to international standards. Belle Park’s shoreline is therefore a zone requiring extra protection and caution in its alteration. Furthermore, the same community member suggested that the designation could also be more widely promoted to ensure the landfill and its story is not ignored/repeated but perhaps used to showcase how brown lands can be recovered with the input of local Indigenous caretakers, council and committee members.

To the Indigenous community, the concept drawings reinforced ideas that the CoK is in promotion of gentrifying the area and simply increasing the number of sporting locations across the region. The talking circle participants reaffirmed that what is missing from the Kingston landscape is a cultural centre and that Belle Park would be an ideal location for it. It was recommended that as ongoing negotiations appear to be happening between the CoK and the local rugby and pickle ball associations, perhaps the Indigenous community could establish a unified voice through an association or community group to offer equal weight in the conversation on the future of Belle Park.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The importance of engaging local community members on the future of Belle Park is a critical step in strengthening relations between the City of Kingston and the Indigenous community. It is then anticipated that these recommendations can be adopted and given consideration for the strategic plan for the Belle Park region.

RECOMMENDATION #1

- The City of Kingston will create a public opportunity, in talking circle format, to share the evolution of the Belle Island Accord, including the findings of the Outer Station village site and adjacent Indigenous historical data and evidence with the local Indigenous community. As many

signatories to the Accord should be encouraged to attend and extend their understanding of the space and its ongoing transparent stewardship.

RECOMMENDATION #2

- The City of Kingston will establish a 3 to 10 year plan in collaboration with the Indigenous Community as supported through the Belle Island Working Group Committee outlining how the landfill will be “cleaned and healed” in an environmentally conscious and safe way.

RECOMMENDATION #3

- The City of Kingston will conduct a public consultation either through on-line survey or public open meetings toward transitioning Belle Park and its associated club house into an Indigenous Cultural Interpretation Centre. In support of this motion, the current on-line survey option, located at <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/city-hall/get-involved/belle-park-ideas> will be altered to include language surrounding the option for an Indigenous Cultural Interpretation Center, with the survey given an extension until October 31st, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION #4

- The City of Kingston, in implementing either Concept 1 or 2 as showcased publically in May 2018, will increase signage, accessibility and naturalized green space over manicured sporting space as suggested by the Indigenous community in this report.

RECOMMENDATION #5

- Finally, The City of Kingston will share their findings of the Belle Park totem pole investigation with the Belle Park Working Group Committee, including the totem’s history and current structural status. The Belle Park Working Group Committee will then establish a plan forward for the totem as decided in collaboration with the local Indigenous community, including members of Joyceville Institution CSC/Brotherhood Members, at a public Grandmother’s, ONWA or other-said organized group event.

7. CONTACT

If you have questions or comments pertaining to this report, feel free to contact Dr. Terri-Lynn Brennan, CEO Inclusive Voices Incorporated, at your earliest convenience by email at terri.brennan@inclusivevoices.com or by phone at 613-484-9019.

Belle Park Talking Circle

February 22nd, 2019



Discussion points:

- All work needs to be done on Belle Park, not Belle Island.
 - How will sacred space be protected?
 - Will the bridge (improvement, etc.) be included in the Master Plan?
- How can we all participate in these places and spaces with an open mind and heart? How can we contribute to these conversations outside of a very specific or narrow cultural context?
- Uses of the existing clubhouse
 - “Round House” for ceremony
 - Necessity for a sheltered gathering space that can be used year-long, and not just for seasonal ceremonies (such as a pavilion with a roof)
 - Use of the space behind the clubhouse for a longhouse, wigwam and tipi and access to the clubhouse to store cultural and ceremonial items
 - Use of the clubhouse as an educational centre or “museum”
 - Teaching space (more so than a specific “cultural” space) so we can learn from one another in a good way and honour all nations of peoples that walk on these shared lands
- Inclusion of more natural or Indigenous plants along the shorelines of Belle Park
 - Poplar trees (cleanse the land)
 - Black Ash (can be used for baskets, or to burn)
 - Sunflowers (fear of being raided)
- Paths and walking spaces – need to be wheelchair accessible, safe for elders and families with young children and strollers
 - Natural materials are preferred (such as limestone, natural seed) over asphalt
 - Bus shelter at the entrance to the park
 - Shelters and resting areas along the paths: natural materials that can endure snow removal, and can endure seasonal weather conditions (giant rocks, logs, benches, etc.)
 - Trails leading to the bridge crossing to Belle Island need to be wide enough to accommodate for the access bus, and accessible vehicles (keys to gates, materials for trails need to be considered for driving purposes)
- Will camping be available? (for events such as a two-day Pow Wow)

- Signage indicating sacred/ceremonial/purposeful/designated areas, spaces and places (such as a firepit – can be used by everyone, but also needed for specific purposes)
 - Signs need to be in different languages (Kanien’keha, Anishinaabemowin, English and French)
- Is it safe to have a community garden on polluted lands? (It is possible to raise up garden beds, and bring in soil)
- Possibility of more community partnerships – networking with the Legion, a nearby building, for shared use of their kitchens and yard space for camping (This item indicated as a future endeavor outside of the Belle Park Master Plan)
- Will land be excavated for the construction of sports fields, etc.?
 - Need respectful protocols to be in place if bones and/or historical artifacts are found
 - Ceremony needs to be present throughout this entire project
- Importance of physical activity and recreation in this space
 - Passive spaces (walking paths, dog parks) vs. sports fields (tennis, soccer, etc.)
- There will be an influx of people living in the Belle Park area (the City of Kingston has future plans for low-income developments, affordable housing complexes, condos, etc.)
 - Creation of a “buffer zone” between the park and the island to prevent people from trespassing on significant lands for Indigenous peoples (burial grounds are present on Belle Island)
- Who are the legal owners of the land?
 - Treaties (pre-contact, and post-contact)
 - Does the City of Kingston own Belle Park and/or Belle Island?
- Work needs to be done “by people for the people” (words by Onagottay)
- The Belle Park Master Plan needs to be inclusive for all Indigenous peoples

Notable people to contact:

- Henry Lickers (environmental science officer – Akwesasne)
- Suzanne Brant (president of FNTI – Tyendinaga)

BELLE PARK MASTER PLAN



Community Engagement Summary

On May 2nd, 2019, the City of Kingston and RIEL Cultural Consulting hosted an Indigenous Consultation at Belle Park Club House which thinc design presented a slide show providing a different option of processing the Belle Park Master Plan in addition to the Panel Images.

This event was an opportunity for the Indigenous community and their Allies to meet and ask deeper questions from the thinc design team, City staff representatives and Georgina Riel from RIEL Cultural Consulting. The Indigenous community were provided with, "Community Engagement Summary" prepared to date documents for easy to follow discussion points.

Peter from thinc provided a 40 mins. slide show presentation with a Q&A follow up.

The following points were made during the slide show consultation:

- The off leash Dog Park remains a constant concern by members of the community. Concerns of dogs leaving fecal matter, will there be waste place for the doggy fecal matter, risk factor of dogs chasing water fowl and other small animals in their natural habitat.
- Will there be fresh drinking fountains and drinking spots dedicated for dogs
- Keep Pavilion away from the Dog Park
- Wheelchair picnic areas close to pathways and parking areas for easy navigation
- Mindful the "Earth will heal itself if you leave it alone" instead of putting a Golf Course
- Appropriate space by the 911 Bridge for Emergency Medical and Fire Services
- Why is this park for more "courts" since the City already has lots of space for sports
- No Asphalt to be used anywhere in the park it will seep into the soil and damage the Earth
- Community members "Liked" the slides showing the natural elements
- The park should have create a space for a bus shelter
- Space should be created to permit two city bus pads inside the park area
- A large Shelter/Pavilion needs to be made out of all natural materials
- Parking area to the Social Area is too far for people with limited mobility, no mobility and with small walking children

BELLE PARK MASTER PLAN

- The community understands people are requesting Sports to be a factor in the park but no competitive team sports permitted, keep it an organic recreational sports area for all families to enjoy
- Trails on the existing “Concept Images” to use only natural materials but easy for everyone to walk on
- Indoor Tennis or Tennis with a Dome for the winter was not in favour for community members
- Plant as many Native plants to help heal Mother Earth especially along the water
- Continue with speaking with Native Leaders if Kingston wants to be a city that is a community leader of sustainability
- Belle Park needs to increase the community engagement with Indigenous community partners
- Belle Park needs to be a teaching area to share knowledge, awareness and understanding of Indigenous histories and cultures
- Complete protection of the shared entrance way too Belle Island – keeping the paths far from the area to prevent the public from entering
- The community welcomed Neal’s’ words, “Fallo”, using to keep ownership/engagement to the lands so people will want to use the park.

The Indigenous community has attended three Community Engagement Consultations (Feb 22nd, March 25th and May 2nd) hosted by the City of Kingston and RIEL Cultural Consulting. The Indigenous community has shared their thoughts of the Belle Park Master Plan over the last four months to be an *Inquiry Process*, continue with community collaborations, driven by a process of transparency an opportunity of various forms of community engagement with direct contact with City of Kingston staff and Georgina Riel from RIEL Cultural Consulting. An opportunity for Indigenous members to present the thoughts on *Indigenous Pedagogy* by adopting a Holistic Perspective too park renovations. In addition too, focusing on the importance of the Medical Wheel approach by the Anishnaabe people of caring for and healing the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual components of the park in relationship to the community. Continue accessing the wisdom which exists within the communities across Kingston. The Indigenous community welcomes these ongoing ways of community building as a true form of *reciprocity*.

Belle Island Management Principles

These principles reflect the accord that exists between the Corporation of the City of Kingston and the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs, and have been agreed upon by the Implementation Team created pursuant to that accord, which is responsible for fulfilling the commitments in Paragraph 8 of the accord.

8. The implementation Team will meet as frequently as necessary to implement the terms of this Accord in the spirit of respect and trust that has governed the Parties in their work together. The members of the Implementation Team may be limited by law or policy in the scope of their work, and shall report to and take direction from the Parties. In particular, the Implementation Team will, in consultation with whatever advisors they choose.
- a. Jointly create a plan for the protection and landscaping of the Burial Area which will protect the burials from erosion and disturbance;
 - b. Jointly create a plan for the future use of the island which will protect and enhance its natural grace and dignity;
 - c. Consider whether the island should be designated pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act and submit a report about that to the Parties;
 - d. Consider whether the island should receive designation pursuant to any Canadian or other national heritage laws and submit a report about that to the Parties;
 - e. Review the progress made by Kingston in physically and legally setting apart the island, submitting interim reports to the Parties or any other purpose, and a final report once these processes have been completed;
 - f. Consider whether a plaque or other form of official explanation, information or recognition should be placed on the island; and
 - g. Consider whether and how the island should be officially renamed.

-
1. Our accord is about the entire island, rather than only about the burial area that has received active protection.
 2. The burial area requires specific physical protection. It requires additional layers of earth, for the burials are quite shallow, and to protect burials against erosion, disturbance, and changes in water levels. It requires the kind of landscaping that causes people at that place to behave respectfully. It also requires plantations that will discourage incompatible uses of the burial area.
 3. The clearing that was the golf green and tee is no longer part of the golf course. Our agreement provides that it will be renaturalized. The general principles that will be applied to the entire island will also be applied to this area.
 4. We will promote the growth and protection of indigenous plants on the island.
 5. We will promote the indigenous biodiversity on the island, typical of the Cataraqui microclimate.
 6. We will work together to prevent the growth of invasive plants on the island.
 7. We will promote the planting, growth and protection of endangered and threatened indigenous plants.

8. We will promote the creation of habitat that will welcome and feed endangered and threatened animals, insects, birds, and fish.
9. We will address the plants and animals in the waters around the island as well as on the island.
10. We will carefully plan for the protection of the island biome in the light of climate change, changes in water levels, and urban development.
11. Belle Park, next to the island, is a capped waste disposal site. While the cap shall not be disturbed, the use and plantation in the park, especially adjacent to the island, shall be harmonious with, and respectful of, the principles that govern the island.
12. The Belle Island Accord provided for restoring the creek separating the island from the mainland. This should be done without interfering with the environmental protection measures taken with respect to the park.
13. We agree there are other burials on the island. This requires human activities on the island to be quiet and respectful, but it does not mean human activities should be forbidden.
14. Implementing these principles will require participation by Indigenous people who live in Kingston, as well as the support of the people and government of Kingston, and of the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs.
15. An area of the island shall be apart for ceremonial use by Indigenous people.
16. A path runs through much of the island. The Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs will consider making this into a path that reflects the thinking of the ceremony of condolence, to ease the minds of people who are grieving.
17. Our sharing of this island embodies our continuing path to reconciling.

Denny Buchanan – May 31, 2019

I have an interest in protecting the endangered Monarch Butterfly and would like the city parks department to assist by planting Milk Weed plants in the Belle Park area and in Douglas Fluher Park

As you know the milk weed is essential for the butterfly to nest and proliferate.

Could I meet with you to discuss? Thanks

Denny Buchanan



Belle Island Species Inventory - H. 15/11/57

Red Oak	Greater Scaup
Sugar maple	Lesser Scaup
Eastern Hemlock	Bufflehead
Eastern White Pine	Common Goldeneye
White Cedar	Hooded Merganser
Red Pine	Common Merganser
Hickory	Ruddy Duck
White Ash	Double-crested Cormorant
Beech	Bald Eagle
Shaggy-bark Hickory	Ring-billed Gull
Speckled Alder	Herring Gull
Winterberry	Black-capped Chickadee
Choke Cherry	Northern Cardinal
Hawthorn,	Great Black-backed Gull
Dogwood	American Crow
Nannyberry	American Wigeon
Canada Goose	Bonaparte's Gull
Mute Swan	Mourning Dove
Trumpeter/Tundra Swan	American Goldfinch
Gadwell	House Sparrow
Mallard	Northern Shoveler
Redhead	American Coot
Ring-necked Duck	Pied-billed Grebe
	American Robin
	North Pintail
	Great Blue Heron
	Northern Harrier
	Caspian Tern
	Common Tern

Downey Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch
American Black Duck	Canvasback
Green-winged Teal	Red-breasted Merganser
Blue Jay	Turkey Vulture
Osprey	Long-tailed Duck
Tree Swallow	Red-throated Loon
European Starling	Horned Grebe
Rock Pigeon	American Bittern
Song Sparrow	Greater Yellowlegs
Red-winged Blackbird	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Common Grackle	Dark-eyed Junco
House Finch	Green Heron
Wood Duck	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Killdeer	St. John's Wort
Eurasian Wigeon	New Jersey Tea
Red-necked Grebe	Fringed Loosestrife
Spotted Sandpiper	Moneywort
Belted Kingfisher	Purple-flowering Raspberry
Eastern Kingbird	Black Medic
Warbling Vireo	Wild Garlic
Barn Swallow	Hedge Bindweed
Gray Catbird	Oxeye Daisy
Cedar Waxwing	Orange Hawkweed
Yellow Warbler	White Avens
Chipping Sparrow	Yellow Avens
Peregrine Falcon	Rose
Common Loon	Bittersweet Nightshade
Black-crowned Night Heron	Multiflora Rose
Chimney Swift	Dewberry

Flowering Spurge	Elderberry
Common Speedwell	Hairy Hedge Nettle
Cow Vetch	Cow Parsnip
Wild Parsnip	Water Hemlock
Bedstraw	Tall Mead Rue
Chickweed	Red Clover
Wild Grape	Aster
Buttercup	Enchanter's Nightshade
White Clover	Golden Alexanders
Hobble Bush	Bushy Aster
Wild Mustard	Dandelion
White Sweet Clover	Lady's Thumb
Canada Anemone	Garlic Mustard
Viper's Bugloss	Blue Vervain
Chicory	Alsike Clover
Common Mullein	Milkweed
Daisy Fleabane	Giant Bur-reed
Yellow Hawkweed	Common Agrimony
Common Cinquefoil	Bird's Foot Trefoil
Yellow Rocket	Flowering Rush
Milk Vetch	Currant
Trout Lily	Curly Dock
Jack-in-the-Pulpit	Motherwort
Early Meadow Rue	Alfalfa
Mayapple	Rough-fruited Cinquefoil
Wild Geranium	Day Lily
Spotted Touch-me-not	Stinging Nettle
Butter-and-eggs	Queen Anne's Lace
Cinquefoil	Canada Thistle

Kate Humphrys – December 24, 2018

Good Day Neal,

I hope this email finds you in 2019 after some holiday time!

I came across this website and thought it might be useful for your Belle Park planning work.

This is a Canadian company, based in Hamilton, so they should align with the appropriate standards.

I also love that they offer workshops and training- how amazing would it be to see a city run drop-in facilitated play program at Belle Park?!? (like the City Park program) <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/recreation/programs/other/neighbourhood-park-program>

Anyhow, please take a peak at this and pass along to appropriate staff!

<https://www.naturalplaygrounds.ca>

<https://www.naturalplaygrounds.ca/design/safety-and-compliance>

Babcock mill playground

<image001.png>

https://www.google.com/maps/place/Babcock+Mill+Park+Playground/@44.275236,-76.7210358,3a,75y/data=!3m8!1e2!3m6!1sAF1QipPJ0KBG3YCG_82MyI_-y3PUDikF6dXauYw3GOwM!2e10!3e12!6shttps:%2F%2Fih5.googleusercontent.com%2Ffp%2FAF1QipPJ0KBG3YCG_82MyI_-y3PUDikF6dXauYw3GOwM%3Dw188-h106-k-no!7i4032!8i2268!4m13!1m7!3m6!1s0x4ccd55f4bab4bc4f:0xb93b4c84dd58cde4!2sPoplar+Grove,+Kingston,+ON+K7L+4V1!3b1!8m2!3d44.245055!4d-76.4254349!3m4!1s0x4cd2b5d2df87527f:0x1f7d3e3c6f993a52!8m2!3d44.2752362!4d-76.7210356

Thanks & Happy New Year!

Kate Humphrys

Laura Niles – March 13, 2019

Chanda

I had an afterthought that I should have included in the survey, hope you don't mind if I just email you directly with the thought.

The significant financial investment to implement this plan means to me that there should be a relationship between the number of people that are likely to use the service/change and the phase its recommended to be implemented in. Having lived in Kingston all my life, there is a real stigma for people to come to the "North End" to use facilities (which I am sure you already know). The only way to combat that is to have facilities that people want to use regardless of where they live in the city. The more that people talk about how wonderful it is in Belle Park - the more likely the barriers will drop and everyone will enjoy it. For example, there are much more likely that people are going to use the recreational parts of the plan e.g. pickle ball, major walkways, dog parks than birdwatching or small boat launch. There is no point in putting an environmental learning information if no one sees it. Lets get the people there first - then enhance it.

Bottom line - the more people that come, the safer it will be and the greatest value for the investment that all taxpayers in Kingston are contributing to. Lets break down the "north end" barriers and integrate all our beautiful city has to offer.

Sorry - but the thought was on my mind and I should have included in the online-survey.

Thank you for considering the thought.

L

Lydia Ackley – June 23, 2019

Hi Debbi

I know that all surveys and such are probably closed for Belle Park. I did have one final thought for the course putting greens since it looks like that is going to happen.

A nice mini golf course would be fantastic for those of us that real 'are not into' golf but love mini golf. I could also be moved indoors for the winter months!

Just a thought!

Lydia Ackley

Mary Farrar – March 26, 2019

Hi Georgina, Neal and Chanda,

Thanks so much for yesterday's Belle Park meeting.

Here are the links to Diana Beresford-Kroeger's film and book I was talking about.

She really is a remarkable woman with huge knowledge of Urban Forests

Link to Diana Beresford-Kroeger's amazing film about Urban Forests called Call of the Forest.

<http://calloftheforest.ca/>

Her book is equally amazing The Global Forest

<https://www.amazon.ca/Global-Forest-Forty-Ways-Trees/dp/B008PGOG2E>

She was born and grew up in Ireland and now lives in South-Western Ontario.

I think it would be amazing to hire her as a consultant for the Peninsula area of Belle Park as one of the earlier Integrated Forest Management projects in the large scheme of things.

Cheers,

Mary

April 20, 2019

Hi Neal and Chanda

I had tried to get Simon Smith to accompany us on the stroll but he was busy.

However he did send along these comments.

You probably know all of this already but I thought I would send it along anyway.

He also said he was partial to the idea of a fenced-in off-leash dog park with grass and trees.

"The soil overlaying the clay landfill cap is thin and of poor quality which obviously impacts tree growth. The most successful trees will be those whose roots penetrate the clay landfill cap and dive into the water table. As well as the organic compound contamination, there are lots of elemental salts (eg. iron) which we don't want in the river but are actually really good for trees.

Floodplain trees with a high tolerance of compacted and/or low oxygen soils

1. Eastern Cottonwood
2. Almost any of the other Populus species & hybrids (Aspen, Poplar)
3. American Sycamore
4. American Elm (Dutch Elm Disease resistant varieties)
5. Oaks - (Bur, Shumard, Chinquapin, Shingle)
6. Hackberry
7. Manitoba Maple
8. Honeylocust
9. Kentucky Coffee Tree
10. Basswood
11. Hickories (Bitternut, Shagbark, etc.)
12. Dawn Redwood
13. White Cedar
14. Black Walnut
15. Alder
16. Ohio and Yellow Buckeyes

Not quite as keen on floodplain appropriate trees requiring acidic soils or loose soils

1. Sourwood (Nyssa)
2. Oaks (Pin, Swamp White)
3. Bald Cypress
4. Tulip Tree
5. White Pine
6. Cucumber Tree (Magnolia acuminata)
7. River Birch
8. Red Maple

I don't recommend Eastern Hemlock or Green Ash thanks to pests.

There are a number of other appropriate species but they are impossible to find outside of specialty ecological restoration nurseries."

btw, Simon is also familiar with that amazing Sycamore in Enterprise.

Cheers,

Mary

February 23, 2019

Hi Neal, Michael and Peter,

As a member of the North King's Town working group, I have become increasingly concerned about the relationships between both the North King's Town demographic and the proposed population increases with the design of Belle Park.

1) Population Increase and protection of Belle Island In truth - with the desperate need for both Affordable and affordable housing, North King's Town will be a real hub of building activity as soon as the NKT report is completed. It is too far from the university to be good for students which is good because single moms and youth wanting out of unhappy home situations need places to live - let alone all sort of other people in need. Hopefully these new builds will accommodate all socio-economic levels. A mix is good for all sorts of well documented reasons. Approximately 1500 units are planned for the Tannery. If you look at the current pics of projected housing in NKT, even more mid-high rises are planned for the area at the intersection of Rideau, Montreal and Railway. So we are looking at potentially 2000-3000 more park users then we have now - most probably more. SO, I really do think that the eastern third of Belle Park should be a sort of buffer zone to protect Belle Island. Perhaps it could be a sort of Arboretum with labeled trees of different species. Definitely something to consider.

2) In my opinion, the major cycling and pedestrian route should go along the current main access to Belle Island but only as far as half way where the current maintenance road for the old golf course goes north through the park to the northern edge. The large western section section of the park lends itself to heavier pedestrian and cycling travel. Anything east of that cut-through road would best be natural - almost as natural as Belle Island. That would discourage a huge amount of use and ultimately protect Belle Island - as well as retain what most park users love most about the park.

3) Demographics and Recreation Most of the residents in the area are young professionals ages 20-35 without children. Most users of the park are middle aged women. Many have

dogs. It is a very popular dog walking area. When young people decide to have families, they tend to move out to the suburbs. SO, recreational facilities like the proposed rugby fields are not actually good for the people who live in the area. Organized fields like those proposed would actually take away from the passive recreation that most residents use the park for. Centre 70 is a better location for rugby. I would not be surprised if there are actually fewer children in this part of town than anywhere else in the city. Shouldn't local parks reflect the needs and desires of local populations?

4) Stone dust is wheelchair friendly when hard. The current path through Belle Park is stone dust and it is accessible. The only real problem is when it gets potholes. Long-term, it is cheaper to maintain than asphalt. The worst sort of path is asphalt that is not maintained. That was in Breakwater Park for years. The city always has problems with spending money for maintenance. We certainly don't want to have to deal with fixing asphalt after 10 years. Also stone dust is much more environmentally friendly than asphalt. It absorbs water rather than causing run-off problems.

Change is happening. Years ago, the area was mostly large young families. No longer.

Hoping these thoughts are useful.

Cheers,

Mary

February 23, 2019

Hi Neal, Michael and Peter,

1) Stone dust is wheelchair friendly when hard. The current path through Belle Park is stone dust and it is accessible. The only real problem is when it gets potholes. Long-term, it is cheaper to maintain than asphalt. The worst sort of path is asphalt that is not maintained. That was in Breakwater Park for years. The city always has problems with spending money for maintenance. We certainly don't want to have to deal with fixing asphalt after 10 years. Finally stone dust is much more environmentally friendly than asphalt. It absorbs water rather than causing run-off problems.

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Cheers,

Mary

Michael Purcell – December 27, 2018

Neal,

We discussed operating a golf course within a shared vision for the Belle Park site. I attached an outline of what I was suggesting. Interestingly I was discussing with Mary Farrar, whom I would have taken as an opponent and she offered support and suggested I contact Frank Dixon. So, I take that as a positive sign.

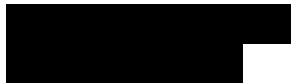
I have been busy and away, however please find attached a general outline to consider in conjunction with the other ideas generated at the last Belle Park sessions.

Please pass on to the appropriate parties.

Best of the season,

Michael

Michael Purcell



BELLE PARK - Vision for shared use

GOAL: Sharing resources and access. Make recreation and urban pathways compatible

Value of reintroducing golf.

- A proposal for shared usage of the Belle Park Site
- Nominally can have 20 – 30 users an hour with over 200 users a day.
- Consistent with original survey numbers where golf was the largest identified used when not broken down into specific categories

COURSE USAGE

- Golf starts at 8 and last tee off at 4. (idea from trust course in Kauai, Hawaii)
- Course area open to hikers/runners in morning and evening
- Course use can continue with frisbee golf or other types of use safe to hikers.
- No tee off times
 - Ball racks for groups and separate rack for individuals
 - Encourage foursomes and people meeting people and playing together
- No power golf carts?
 - Promote walking
 - Encourage enjoyment of walking the site
 - Allows other walkers to walk with the paths with the players

OTHER DAYTIME USERS

Does not have to exclude other walkers during golf hours

- Increase distance from green to next tee.
- Create biodiverse areas in larger space between green and tee.
 - Holes could be named for the areas
 - Willows in wet areas?
 - Increase other wooded areas
 - Wildflowers
 - Encourage birds (bird houses for swallows?)
- Introduce more trees
- Have walking paths behind tees and along fairways throughout the course
- Shorter holes can reduce fairway width
- Walking trails around perimeter of golf course area
- Course provides wide walking areas
- Mowing large areas reduces concerns about wild growth and ticks

DRIVING RANGE

Eliminate driving range?

- Substitute nets with 10 teeing areas.
- Slope ball return to tee. Cost \$5, return \$2 if basket refilled?
- Uses less space
- Possibly opens the area for following
 - Allow use of hill lookout area
 - Accessible path around hill to lookout
 - Lookout to have Indigenous aspects of first nations
 - Interpretive information and local view points of colonialism
 - Rugby field with hill overlook for spectators
 - Allow children play area
 - Perhaps part of the hill manicured so kids can climb and roll down
 - Do not want nettles
 - Something I remember doing on Murney Tower hill

REVENUE

Do not gouge golfers - Golf is only elitist if we make it so.

- Users do not pay for maintenance at other parks,
- Users do not pay for baseball diamonds,
- Users do not pay for outdoor rinks and personnel,
- Concerns for course water management due to global warming are no different than the effect on outdoor ice rinks
- Belle Park building still in use with personnel – no charge to pickle ball users? Why golf.
- Allow accounting for some extra costs - weed management, special green needs.
 - Green fees related to those costs
 - Perhaps \$10 or less for 9 holes
 - Membership limit at \$500 per year
 - Juniors – perhaps less for both daily and memberships
- Allow volunteers to fix the course
 - Divots replaced, ball marks repaired (better to teach users)
 - Volunteers can attend to the course outside playing times
 - Repair divots with soil/grass mixture
 - Allow a 9-hole pass for an hour of volunteering (idea from public course in Kauai, Hawaii)
- Many golfers have extra club/bag/balls for new players
 - Require that users clean the clubs after use
 - Local golfers teach new golfers etiquette and safe play

Subsequent ideas - Belle Park vision

From Talking Circle Feb 22'19 w Georgina – prepared by Michelle Webb

The following vision document references two specific and distinct locations – **Belle Island** and **Belle Park**. Within these locations are identified themes with a series of identified potential activities and issues. There is overlap in some cases. Identified themes include accessibility & transportation, communication, stewardship, education & experiential learning, accessibility, safety & security, naming, recreation.

BELLE ISLAND

Accessibility & transportation

1) *Does the city still have golf carts from the city owned golf course?*

Reasoning- could be used to do security checks of the park, change garbage etc. Interpretive centre could be hub for Indigenous to sign one out for use to access island (park it at bridge). Would be good for seniors and handicapped that do not use a scooter/wheel chair. Could sign out by leaving a driver's license etc.-One reserved for Indigenous use (-if more than one saved from golf course general population could sign out if needed?)

Also use interpretive centre to have the chain lowered for car access to road if needed ie. group access or clean up etc. or Belle Island Caretaker monitoring of island.

No vehicle access on island (except Bell/Hydro?).

2) *Space at bridge to access Island – How much?*

Connected to Mandy Smart's comments on ownership of the land and not giving up too much and Mary Farrar's Idea of buffer zone between park and island.

****We need to really look at how much land at that end of the park we want/need to reserve for present and future.**

We as Indigenous want Island to be as freely accessible to us as possible, understanding that Bell/Hydro also needs access when they need it. If we were to do a ceremony on the island as a community when WE want, is there room for everybody's needs at the bridge at the same time?

Porta potties, garbage, recycle, access bus, ambulance, a few vehicles to transport stuff for the ceremony and (any other needs to be brain stormed by community...) All of this located off the island at the bridge at the same time.

(Porta potties since not want to disturb land for plumbing. Should one handicapped porta potty be there as only potty, or have a men's and women's? Should it be there and serviced year round or ordered for only when ceremony on island? Don't want to encourage squatters but may have more intensified access to island from spillover from park, and not want people doing their business in the open on island)

Communication, Stewardship

1) *Need to discuss with Accord signatories usage and access to the island.*

Need to also come up with guidelines for community to follow for usage and guidelines for reporting issues discovered on island (like finding squatters, drugs, garbage etc) -with subsequent intensification of population and park use, expect usage of the park to spill over into island. I hear that the accord members are keeping quiet at the moment, wanting knowledge of the island's significance to be kept quiet from the general public at present, to keep it safe. We need to work with accord members and establish stronger relationships with them.

Local community needs to further refine how they are organizing themselves as guardians. Different people and groups have taken on various levels of guardianship involvement, but all indigenous have a guardianship responsibility relationship with this land, this island especially. Need to communicate with everyone and share common goals and aspirations. Especially for group voice to city relationship. Ultimately want and need all Kingstonians and visitors to understand and respect island. The park is a public park, but the island is special as a sacred burial ground and part of UNESCO.

Ultimately people using the land should leave it as clean, or cleaner than when they arrived and report concerns so they can be dealt with. Need to know who to report to about what etc. (grateful to be presently having city helping and supporting 3 major clean ups on island, may need future help

with additional major clean ups. May need help with ongoing ability to clean up island regularly with increased public access, may not necessarily be able to fund this fully through indigenous tourism, especially immediately).

** –if interpretive centre and indigenous tourism in the park, there will be employees, as well as community members, to check on, clean and monitor island more often.

We need to decide when we are making the island's significance known publicly. Especially as development of the park evolves and progresses. I think the best protection of the land is to have a presence on it and eyes watching out for it. We need to continue to develop structures, guidelines and communication strategies as an Indigenous community, for our governance concerning the island (but these skills will also help the community with acquiring a Native Centre or sharing HWY 15 land use etc).

BELLE ISLAND & BELLE PARK

Stewardship

1) Golf course chemicals for green lawn are actually cancerous.

Do we have a remediation plan? Testing to monitor levels receding or if getting into river, affect turtles? Harmful to children and pets who get closer to the ground.

Need plan to deal with invasive species and noxious weeds where land no longer manicured. Use goats and sheep periodically? Need to help return to natural meadows and support wildlife with natural succession of species. Do species count and head count of species? Restrict certain areas from use during sensitive life cycle stages like nesting of Osprey or turtles? Will they be adversely effected by intensification of land use?

Recreation

1) floating dock for canoe launch beside island.

-winter storage of birch canoes at canoe club? –possible races against dragon boats? or start indigenous dragon boat team? Engage indigenous students at public schools for team members?

BELLE PARK

Education & Experiential Learning

1) Interpretive Centre

The centre can be the welcoming centre to introduce the public to the locations of all the parks amenities.

Cost of build/renovation for Interpretive Centre and cultural structures to be funded by city park plan. Future ongoing expenses to maintain are to be paid by city, since to be run as an experiential museum/ tourist attraction. Should be able to have some hired positions at the park filled by Indigenous, definitely those that are cultural tourism related. Income generated by cultural tourism events/workshops to pay for supplies etc to run them, and may end up being sufficient to be able to be used to offset costs of maintenance of island and possibly maintenance of cultural structures. Since Centre to be of multiple uses, Indigenous revenue not required to cover all maintenance costs to run centre itself. Indigenous community to identify and organize maintenance tasks for indigenous structures in the cultural area.

City can use “Low income cut off” for determining access to “city subsidy program” (like swimming and sports) so that attendance at cultural workshops can be accessible to low income.

-Interpretive Centre to feature indigenous history, French History, maybe Irish history because of involvement in building Rideau Canal, other usage of the site through history, including usage as a dump site. Need to feature the understanding of the significance of the island, the UNESCO status of the land and entrance to the Rideau Canal, and the Accord relationship. Also very important to feature and explain to public what is happening with the land clean up and why, how it is progressing, who collaborating etc. Sources of info can come from copies of info from historical society and archeological society as examples. Can be presented as laminated booklets to read at centre and poster displays etc and/or as outdoor book like at train engine downtown, so available when centre is closed.

Archeological artifacts found in the area could be on temporary or rotating display? (Definitely photos available to look at with information including

their storage location, to instigate further research. Security of the park site may not be sufficient for display of actual artifacts). Maybe computer terminal with all this info permanently saved for viewing, as a permanent archive?

Have found only one copy of a pamphlet on French history in the area, should be more printed, so available. Since Fort Frontenac is property that is military owned and private, maybe they could provide some photos and historical documentation to the centre for public knowledge of historical French presence. A walking tour on video would be a nice touch, since not accessible to the general public!

Different cultural groups could have pamphlets of their history in Kingston available as well, with locations of their cultural centres included in them, along with their hours of operation, contact person to connect to cultural community etc, if they decide to contribute this. BUT the focus of interpretive centre should be for indigenous reconciliation efforts with the rest of Canadians as part of the Calls to Action of the TRC. (Important for immigrants to also have a chance to be educated.) Kingston has the unique opportunity to be on the cutting edge of this as “The First Capital” to lead Canada back to the understanding of the Peace and Friendship Treaties that were the original basis of our relationships as a country. The centre can become a cultural interface for learning to understand indigenous teachings and world view and our treaty relationship to welcome people to the park.

At centre can advertise and enroll participants for awareness education workshops and experiential learning opportunities etc, as part of the indigenous tourism activities available within the park. The Kingston area indigenous community to participate in and help facilitate. Also to have invited Elders and Knowledge Keepers to teach at. Culturally homey atmosphere for overnight room for them to stay in to be located on location?

Indigenous community to create the design of content for souvenir posters, post cards, photos, pamphlets for advertising and educational purposes. Indigenous community to jury sources of indigenous souvenirs for

purchase, if there is a gift shop. Proceeds to be income for tourism endeavor/business with excess monies for Belle Island maintenance first, then for cultural park maintenance, then general park maintenance, of special concern is shoreline maintenance. Inventory of all local indigenous crafters and knowledge keepers to be available at centre, so Centre may be able to distribute business cards and pamphlets upon request. All of this available for use as part of networking and mutual support. This inventory could be used to organize periodic craft fairs on site or possibly in collaboration with the Legion. Crafters can mentor each other with skills and network in supporting each other in the creation of workshops that could take place at the Centre or other more suitable locations. Centre can be hub for info on other indigenous events in surrounding Kingston area.

Canadian Bushcraft located at Hiawatha First Nation in Keene could maybe mentor us in our Indigenous Tourism business model.

May ultimately decide Centre needs to expand in size. Physical park space needs to be reserved for that in Master Plan.

Centre needs display cases. Some cultural items of community members have been saved and ear marked for display at a centre for educational purposes.

A TV and VCR /DVD has been ear marked for use at a centre for cultural video sharing for the teaching experience. APTN TV station could be featured there as well, to help the public realize how much of an untapped resource this can be to the general population about native issues across Canada. APTN is known to feature news stories that other channels will not tell! A lot of the general population is unaware of this resource. The interpretive centre could explain show scheduling in the various languages occurs at different times of the day and why certain shows are of significant value and importance to the indigenous community.

Centre grounds to be storage area for poles to make arbor for a Pow Wow? (Pow Wow to take place at Lake Ontario Park on front lawn, promoted as a tourism event. Overnight stay over for vendors and dancers, like overnights allowed for with Dog Agility Shows. In the past our Pow Wows at Lake Ontario Park always funded themselves. Possibility of a shuttle bus from St Lawrence College transfer point to pick up along King St and drop off into

Lake Ontario Park, provided by the city to make it readily accessible for the Friday Children's Pow Wow and Sat Sunday)

***Belle Park is on polluted lands and is not suitable for all of our needs

Centre could be hub to rent limited number of snowshoes and cross country skis? Three types of traditional shoes that I know of, for different snow and conditions. Can we find an example of all these kinds? Do we keep them for display or let all of them be used as rental so people can understand the differences? Wood with the tail is easiest to find in this region. (One set ear marked for Centre display already) (Modern could be for rental since traditional need snowshoe boot)

Centre used to store cultural things for teaching and tourism events if needed, especially fire bowl for ceremony to be used on site.

Centre to have a stove, microwave, fridge and freezer to store and handle traditional foods for teaching and tourism events-needs to be certified kitchen? May be able to negotiate additional kitchen space for food prep for large feasts with an agreement with the Legion. Public feasts of indigenous foods could then be an Indigenous tourism event in the future. Need Apt size washer and dryer for kitchen linen but esp for cleaning bedding needed for Elder stay over room.

Centre needs fully accessible bathroom with child diaper changing. Should this be for indigenous tourism needs only, especially if clubhouse renovated only and not rebuilt? Use porta potties for larger events in cultural area? This would enable fully accessible bathroom for use of Elder overnight room.

I am assuming the land closest to Montreal St is not as affected by the dump. Will the picnic area near the swings etc have a bathroom house and heat and lights, so that it can be hooked into city utilities and be accessible year round. If so, non handicapped at tourism events could maybe make use of these facilities and reduce use of handicapped bathroom at centre, making it more available for handicapped use and available close at hand.

2) How much Indigenous Footprint?

If we are going to do cultural teaching and indigenous tourism, we need to figure out how much of a foot print we need to have reserved for us.

Long House -Would be nice if Mandy, maybe with help of David Jock figure out what size of Long House to be built. Assuming a traditional historic home, with furs and wood dishes, Not modern with kitchen facilities. Kitchen would be at centre and maybe share facilities with Legion across Montreal St? (Or should we have a Longhouse capable of dining hall use, with folding tables, kitchen, bathrooms etc for feasting, and have longhouse socials also available to be done there as well, for a tourism/educational experience? Need side benches for seating for long house social dances, therefore removable folding tables for eating. Closed longhouse ceremonies to remain at Tyendinaga etc.)

Round House -Morris to be consulted to help with plan and layout of "round house" Turtle Lodge for sacred fire pit to be used for ceremony. (Like Turtle Lodge in Saskatchewan?) Would like the roof designed to be vented for the smoke to escape, rain not come down in and wind not blow roof off. Benches for seating or open space for lawn chairs? Would like to have 4 entrances/doorways for the four directions indicated somehow. Maybe paint on the floor, if cement? (Not natural but no erosion from use going down into dump layers, as will be used in all weather conditions). Round house needs to accommodate wheelchairs/scooters/walkers and Service Dogs in seating plan. Maybe metal eyelets around top outer edge of roundhouse (and at vertical posts) so can attach tarps to any side to create windbreaks during year round use? Ability to have extension cord for incandescent bulb in top of round house for safe night use of round house, like for moon ceremonies? Or hydro line so can also use a sound system (amp and mic) to help with a microphone so people can hear in larger crowds, maybe use headsets for hearing impaired at some point if felt needed (if developing over time maybe can start with a rechargeable Power Pack if enough power to run a sound system or light, people can be asked to bring lanterns with your lawn chair when attend)

- Size and foot print of wikoum, space for a tipi? a lean to,
- Area to invite Plenty Canada for wild rice Prep –come do fire to roast wild rice so can be danced in their big iron kettles - prepare for storage or

cooked immediately to sample -demo or workshop participation? –cast iron cookware already earmarked for centre for meal prep

- space to canoe build, prepare ash for baskets, chop and store wood for sacred fire, preparation/storage of Ash Wood ashes or etc to put on land to heal it.
- ashes from cooking fires and sacred fires
- area to Start tree seedlings or medicine plants to introduce to park ecology
- lacrosse field (share use with soccer? May need modification, consult Elders to see if soccer field appropriate) –if interest can prepare teams for Indigenous Games-with possible future host of games in Kingston area – source Kingston tourism dollars through admission fees for spectators and hotel rentals etc
- snow snake area
- Archery, Atlatl -barebow with maybe artificial animal targets, maybe some moving-need isolated corner of property for safety-possible collaboration with archery club to use and possible help with upkeep- their trainers may coach Indigenous in compound bow for competition- possible city LICO funds for recreation costs to supplement archery club helping indigenous youth or Can Tire Jump Start? –possible collaboration with Queen’s Archery club for an outdoor course for them to use and them help coach indigenous youth in prep for post secondary teams?
- games of chance including Peach pit and Waltes
- clean hides and lye corn demos and workshops
- Cook over open fire- with cast iron or heat stones to cook in wooden trough – maybe guy on HWY 2 can make trough for us – (possible language nest trip there to see how made?)
- voyageur relays organized with Metis Nation of Ontario- maybe axe throwing, short range shooting etc (like they have at Metis Rendez Vous) – Kingston could host one on this property as part of education workshops and demo (Rendez Vous may need to be held at Lake Ontario Park) (St John Baptist Day used to be held at Lake Ontario Park, should again -is there interest and labour force to organize these kinds of things?)
- crushed stone pathways between workshop sites, no asphalt- withstands frost heave better and no mud/erosion of soil surface above garbage dump
- place for studies or equipment by RMC, Queen’s, FNTI, turtles etc for monitoring land remediation?

- is Emerald Ash Bore an issue in Kingston? Are we cutting down Ash trees in Kingston? If so we should be burning them so doesn't spread, not chipping them, ash can be put on the parkland to clean the land.

Accessibility & Inclusivity

1) On walking path around park – walkway is crushed stone again.

Seven stations one for each Grandfather Teaching each to be explained posted on a plaque multi lingual (FR, ENG, Mohawk, Ojibway, maybe braille imprinted as well). Other cultural groups can help prepare translation pamphlets. Can have a bench to sit on while contemplate teaching, shade available, garbage receptacle. (See note on bench option below).

(Handicapped should be able to make use of walkers on gravel pathway but can be rough and lots of vibration for wrists BUT could have option to rent or sign out a golf cart. There is an all terrain walker on the market that could possibly be purchased for rental. Others can use their motorized wheelchair or scooter. May need a station where they can recharge batteries so they can make it home again. Located at centre)

Coloured flag posted on each station, one for each teaching creating a rainbow. Legend containing the "colours located at other stations with name of their teachings" to be posted at each station to enable visitor to know to visit all of the stations to read all the details of the teaching posted at that location. Makes it kind of like a pilgrimage walk, or stations of the cross meditation etc. Each station could have a poster from the Scott Mission about the Golden Rule of each religion. (One is available to see inside the front doors of Hotel Dieu Family Medicine). Colour order of red orange yellow green blue purple white (White being "race colour blind" and black being the colour when all colours are combined). (Explain it is a modern innovative concept to associate a colour to each Grandfather Teaching.) Use this concept to illustrate that each colour in a rainbow builds on another. White light refracts into its parts, all parts needed for light.

**Makes a rainbow for inclusion of everyone, including LGBT community who use the rainbow flag. Can decide to include info on "Two Spirited within the Indigenous Culture" at the Interpretive Centre (or decide to present understanding at tourism workshops?)

- 2) Public access by city bus requires double bus pad. Suggest separate spot for local Montreal route and another for Express route. Expect a lot of traffic due to population intensification and due to fact this location is the only fully accessible big park in Kingston. Expecting a lot of strollers on these routes and into park. (Lake Ont Park no bus access right in to amenities and Little Cat Creek no bus access and cost to enter park). Need 2 bus shelters for shade and winter waiting esp for handicapped.
- 3) Parking area needs to accommodate a parked school bus with use of handicapped ramp accommodated for. Will need drive through or turn around space. Also need space for Access Bus drop off pick up at front entrance of park near Centre and Unity Village to be able to come in at same time. But will also need Access Bus drop off pick up at picnic/swing area as well.

Safety & Security

- 1) ***1) Since park is within city and in north end, should we consider "help buttons" on poles?***

(maybe at Grandfather teaching stations) for security, with one by Belle Island entrance. (Maybe put Respect teaching there?) Like blue lights at Queens. A lot of people have cell phones but not everybody does. Use for emergency communication with Administration at Centre to ask for help or or ask for call for an ambulance. (Or Walkie Talkie system , if using the island?)

Should we consider them for along entire parkland trail of Cataraqui River/Rideau Canal due to the intensification? (Emergency communication with 911 ?)

Recreation

- 1) ***1) Off leash park near swings and picnic area.***

Portable fencing so yard location can be rotated in order to rest the land and reduce erosion down into the dump layer. Size of the yard therefore would not have to be that large. This reduces the cost of fencing needed. Ability to rotate the location of the yard needs to be designed into the park layout. Having the dog park to poop in and pick up in can reduce the dog poop elsewhere in the park. Use of a dog park usually requires a car which restricts the use of dog parks for some people. This end of the city needs to have a dog park. Dog –dog socializing reduces dog aggression issues. Having

an off leash area will help control the issue of dogs running loose in the park, so everyone can enjoy the park, and wildlife in the wetland will not be harassed.

There should be a strict policy of no off leash in the park and no dogs (accept certified/registered Service Dogs under control) in the Indigenous tourism area or on the island. Signage may be necessary especially for the island. "Sacred Land, enjoy the experience but take nothing, leave nothing. No Dogs, No Vehicles". (Don't need any bones dug up or poop).

***"Informed" Indigenous Community to help create policy and directives for an info package concerning Service Dog access which is informative and fair to concerns of all parties, disabled and native sensitivities based on culture and ceremony protocols. Michelle Webb specifically to help with this. Need respectful inclusion both ways!

2) benches and picnic tables

Picnic area near swings etc. - resin laminated tables and benches (do not get as hot as painted metal ones)–tables to have some with wheelchair accessible extension –handicapped swing might be nice

Benches in park proper idea -rustic log construction –example Flea market on Collin's Bay Rd has a chip truck with rustic log bench and picnic table with umbrella option – unvarnished not painted or treated, year round exposure for 4 years now -I have taken a photo of them in the snow – need better photos after spring melt to closely examine the design, can maybe replicate

-maker lives on HWY 2 has lots of stuff and wood carvings in yard -I hear he is going to sell his place and is selling off his stuff -may find 7 assorted options for seating at 7 Grandfather teaching stations for a good price

- wooden "Gallange" Swing (face to face bench swing) preferably made of timbers- would be sturdier (could be in indigenous workshop part of park or in picnic swing area) –French and Eastern Metis cultural item – allows a family to swing together

Naming

1) If Belle Park to keep name of Belle Park

Then name Interpretive Centre “Belle Park Interpretive Centre” or “Belle Park Interpretive and Administrative Centre”. What is history of name Belle Island? Belle in French, means Beautiful! Is there a history of different names?

In relation to Experiential Learning - To keep workshops etc. separate from Centre and to have the workshop location identifiable - call cultural area “(Native Name) Indigenous Unity Village” –use word “unity” since workshops and teachings to also educate Indigenous as well as Canadians about “Indigenous Cultural Diversity”. The village will include the round house, longhouse, wikuom work areas etc. As an example people could be told “an event is at the round house in the unity village” or “to meet at the interpretive centre for further directions” etc.

Kingston could help decide on concept for native name of village if another name is wanted? Indigenous community to have final say on what to use and to decide on what translation for the concept will be used, and in which Indigenous language. Could decide to keep Katarowki since on the Catarauqui River. Therefore, would be called the “Katarowki Indigenous Unity Village”. Name not to be used for incorporation of the indigenous tourism business, so can be permanent!! Tourism business under city museums as an experiential museum, have city help us run the business aspect. We, as community, to make use of the facilities and direct content of museum and workshops as part of the Indigenous Tourism.

Michelle Web – March 20, 2019 Design Ideas for Round House in Unity Village

I am not sure what Anagotay had in mind for a Round House when he brought the subject up at the Feb 22 Talking Circle. Something like this is what I had envisioned behind the (clubhouse) Interpretive Centre, but it needs to be discussed by the Indigenous Community. (There may be issues that I have not foreseen with my drawing that will modify it. Therefore these are draft ideas only to enhance discussion). We need to be decide on size and capacity and actual construction design.

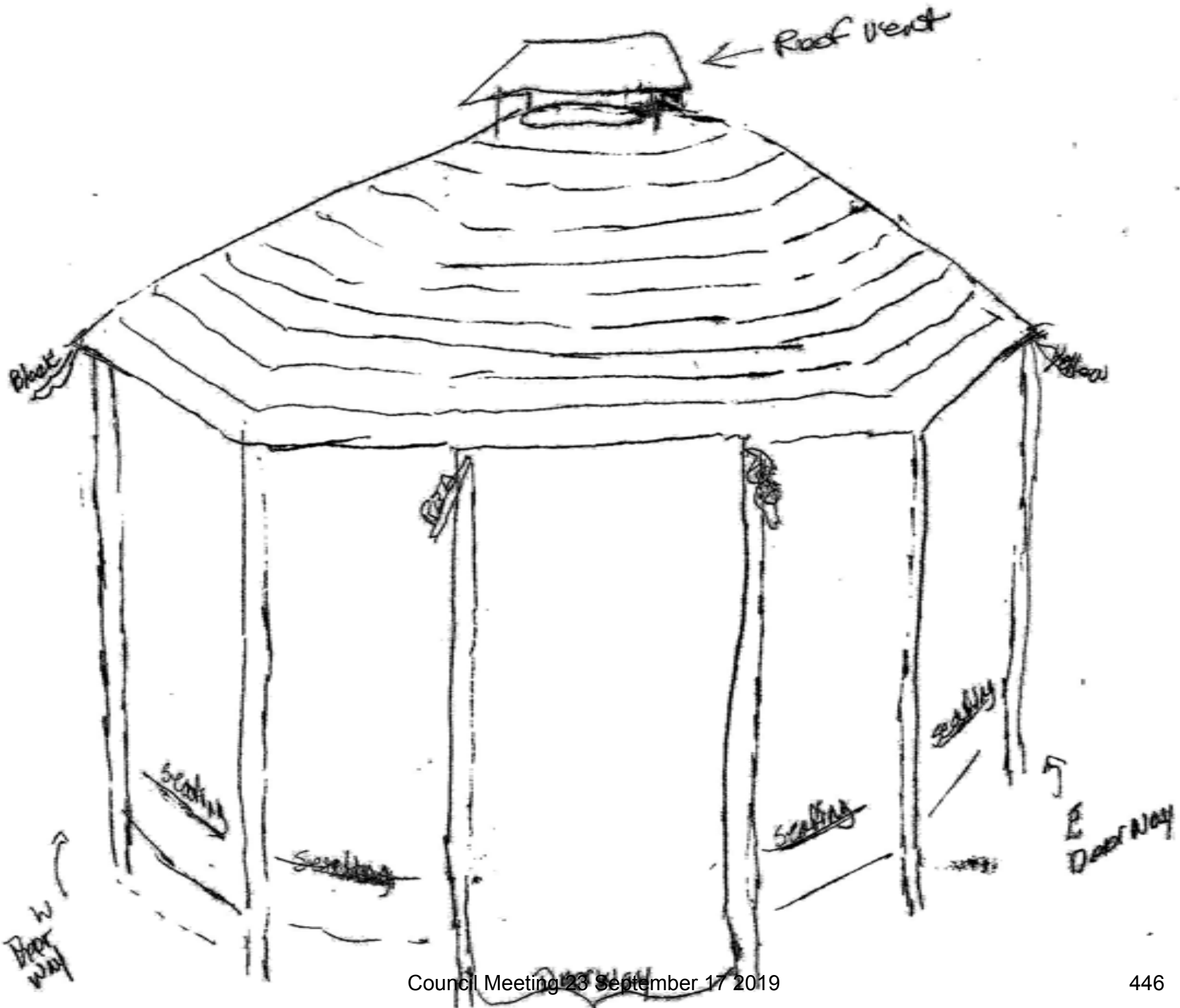
Suggest

- Enough overhang behind the seating so that rain does not run down people's backs
- Around the outer edge of roof and base of outer vertical posts to have metal eyelets so that tarps can be attached to make a wind break on one side or additional shade depending on time of day.

I envision it to be made out of wood with enough roof venting to draw the smoke up and out. Mixed type of seating to allow for accessibility (wheel chairs walkers and possibly strollers and Service Dogs) and use of seating with backrests (like camp chairs or hard chairs from the Interpretive Centre) to be brought in if needed. Alleyways wide enough to remain accessible from the 4 directions. A removeable firebowl to be stored at the Interpretive Centre would allow for some open space in the centre for animating story telling and Inuit dancing. This structure to be separate from public picnic shelter in public picnic area. Predominantly for Indigenous based events but other groups could make use of the layout if suitable for their event.

Once a building design blueprint has been finalized for construction, if it works out satisfactorily for our needs, maybe the city can consider building additional structures in various parks around the city. Workshops and ceremonies could then take place in various locations around the city to allow for a more equal access to them by the entire Kingston Community ?

Nmu'ltes M



12 side

W

W

yellow

E

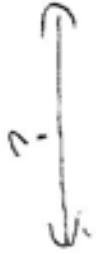
yellow

circles posts
to hold up roof

chairs

Camp chairs
esp children

walkers



walk chairs

Camp chairs
esp children

benches

Remove
- table
Fire
Bench

S

S

Belle Park Priority List- Michelle's Opinion March 29, 2019

- 1) Manage Dump, Heal Land (Ceremonial and Natural Methods Included), Nesting Sites Kept Intact. No extensive digging to disturb garbage layer. (This includes some space for study of environment and success of healing methods by utilizing collaboration with partners to increase amount of skills and Info available to apply to unique history of land. Can organize public informative hands on workshops to get some management tasks completed with community labour and involvement, so shared community stewardship developed)
- 2) Protect Island (Sacred Burial and Unesco Shoreline)
- 3) Cultural Space-for understand Indigenous History, Significance of Island & other burial sites in area, and understanding land healing practices. Method is museum archive and display, Indigenous "Land Based Teaching" stations for workshops, along with on leash walking trails with Interpretation of Naturalization and Healing Practices.
- 4) Share culture-among different Native Peoples and with general population to help with understanding Native Cultural Diversity and Commonalities. Purpose to help with Reconciliation –understand Native perspective and understanding
- 5) Recreation

Turn Page for more details

- 1) M –Is land safe for long term intensive use (toxins in garbage, burping, leaching and golf course pesticides) esp for children and pets) ?
 - Is water at shoreline safe for exposure esp for children and pet ?
 - test for contamination leakage, post condition of water surrounding
 - not unduly disturb earth layer above dump (no extensive digging or wear and tear through layer)
 - naturalize with Indigenous vegetation in natural cycles of land evolution (can't neglect, needs continuous monitoring, may need open spaces to be able to monitor)
 - intro species that clean the land eg/ poplars and Black Ash (but don't leave dead wood to re-contaminate ?) – ashes from burnt Black Ash that has been contaminated, may not heal the land- and may unduly expose community to toxins ? –need to study
 - protect shoreline
 - on leash walking trails with interpretation of Naturalization Efforts and Healing Practices- on leash to maintain control of dogs and increase comfort of those

whose culture, religion or previous personal experience makes them avoid dogs- on leash will also protect sensitive areas - protect dogs from the toxins in the shoreline water from the dump etc, they will want to drink- will also help to control accumulation of dog waste as people will be aware of when their dog is going and hopefully stoop and scoop and make use of garbage receptacles

-Make use of “bear bins” (Tye Dee Bins for garbage so that animals not get into garbage and spread it?)

H –heal land through regular ceremony for the land
-natural methods to be included eg Poplar & Black Ash Trees –Black Ash ashes would come from controlled fires, may use Ash Trees from elsewhere in the city (Emerald Ash Bore infested trees need to be burned)
-Indigenous involvement in stages of building to help heal land of construction trauma through ceremony
-glycosate fertilizers on golf course?
-sprinkler system under golf course?`
M-nesting sites to be kept intact by supporting surrounding environment

2) Protect Island (Sacred Burial &Unesco)-use of all or big chunk of Park as buffer zone to protect Island

- Protect shoreline Island and Park, this includes protecting water as well as part of Unesco and Accord regulations and obligations
- strategies to protect Island from toxin release with 3rd Crossing build
- glycosate fertilizers on golf holes on island?
- limiting access to island to protect artifacts and bones-park is buffer zone-(limit recreational development of park to ¼ -1/2 to create a buffer or keep park to nature walks in wildlands?)
- no vehicles on island except (bell? If needed)
- repair major bridge-fully remove golf course bridges-restore water flow between park and island as part of Phase One of Master Plan
- work with caretakers to clean island, may need more than 3x/yr major cleans due to increased traffic in park (city to include in budget)
- supports for squatters and homeless to be able to be elsewhere not in park or island, through education and encouraging outreach by service agency workers, utilize minimal aggressive and punitive means (since increased gentrification in the area will mean less affordable accommodations available to lowest income Kingston residents) –intensification may increase chances of fires and drug use, meth production

- too much tree coverage in park means larger areas to clean and monitor from squatting, garbage and fires
- too much tree coverage makes harder to monitor toxins ?
- yet trees can help with toxins which will ultimately protect the waters, and do reduce green house gases
- trees will ultimately need to systematically be removed from the land to remove the toxins in them- where will they go? - hybrid poplars have 20 yr lifespan, may be good choice – soils layer in a lot of the park may not be deep enough to support a lot of trees OR interconnecting root system may enable them to withstand high wind etc
- need to balance naturalization and toxin management
- need to do collaborative research that includes “Two-Eyed Seeing” (google this and Albert Marshall to more fully understand concept) –make use of expertise of Diana Beresford-Kroeger on Urban Forests, Henry Likers from Akwesasne environmental, Susanne Brant Herbolologist FNTI Tyendinaga, Geography and Environmental Depts at Queen’s, RMC Engineering
- involve Kingston Community Indigenous, Settler and Immigrant in activities and workshops that contribute to

monitoring and maintaining the Park and Wildland with walking trails with interpretation – utilize them to make translate materials and ideas into other languages, so all can participate

*** selfish human use and recreation should take back seat to the lands needs, since this land is not pristine but compromised** – what learned here about sustainable land stewardship, through **hands on experiential learning** opportunities which hopefully will reset people attitudes towards how they care for other park space in Kingston and how they manage their own production and disposal of garbage

*******Therefore use of site should have Educational Focus
-chance to learn from past mistakes by remembering past, all of it

Feature

- history of dump
- history Inner Harbour and Industrial Use of Land
- history of land management strategies to date
- current toxin management strategies, why and how progressing
- Indigenous History and Treaty History in Canada esp featuring an understanding of ALL Treaties apply specifically to Kingston area- We Are All Treaty Peoples with roles and responsibilities

-Belle Island Accord

-French History

-Irish History and contribution to Rideau Canal Build etc
Site should be funded through city like other museum-
type locations in Kingston

This info can be archived but can have rotating displays
and also references to other sources of this kind of info
housed elsewhere in Kingston area.

-make use of resource people to collect this info and
help with rotating display ideas eg/ Laura Murray Inner
Harbour, Sue Bazley French History etc

-use renovated Club House Structure to house this and
coordinate collaborative management efforts and
administer hands on experiential workshops

-Club house room for indoor experiential workshop or
indoor orientation as prep for outdoor activity

-How to re design? Is it large enough space for all uses
or need to enlarge?

- 3) Cultural Space –some cultural space set aside to share
Indigenous Culture with general population-culturally
specific design may help with comprehending
Indigenous perspective and understanding more fully
-this can further help with understanding the
significance of the Island and Traditional Land Healing

Practices. General population can learn how to participate and Engage with different kinds of Indigenous people

-use indoor orientation area in Club House and Round House structure outside-wikuom, Long House, Tipi and work stations that are specifically Indigenously oriented that would be made available outside also (as well as the work stations for land management activities that the general public can participate in that may not have Indigenous orientation)

-land for work stations to be set aside in plan

- Indigenous work stations in Unity Village Area? –or on land where needed?

*Need to determine size and structures needed for all work stations/workshop stations, will be based on needs of work to be done-(may only require level spot and portable work bench or table and tools. Tools could be stored at Club House, tables and benches in Storage building ?)

NOTE Indigenous Community needs safe and accessible land for “land-based hands on learning/teaching” for Indigenous People. This site would be for cooperative non Indigenous participation as well. Therefore this one location probably insufficient to all of Indigenous Communities needs. Nor should only one place in Kingston be Indigenous. If Round

House Design, in terms of size and configuration can be built in a safe and permanent structure, maybe one can be built on a park in each of Kingston's electoral areas. This would create equal access to Indigenous style cultural space across the city. Workshops created and facilitated at Belle Park Site could then be delivered in multiple locations increasing accessibility. (AS the needs of this park land come first, Belle Park location may not be appropriate for any or all Indigenous land based activities on a full time basis. Consultation with Elders and Knowledge Keepers and Environmentalists may required)

4) Share Culture –park interface to Interact for Indigenous and Settler and Immigrant

-repository of info on all cultural groups in Kingston including their history in Kingston, where their cultural Centres are located and contact people so that newcomers and immigrants in Kingston can connect with cultural groups – this can help them interact and collaborate

-can be used to network with other cultural groups by everyone, but esp for “Indigenous and other hands on experiential workshop organizers” to use for liason to plan workshops appropriate to a particular cultural groups understanding and needs –this could facilitate

their use of the park and programs, allowing any needs for translations to be mutually prepared ahead of time to increase enjoyment of the experience

-general population could participate in Indigenous Tourism Types of Activities as workshops - info and support of other cultural groups acquired through this “Cultural info hub and contact list” could be used to help to culturally and linguistically translating the Indigenous activity

-Possible business mentor for Indigenous Tourism Activity Canadian Bushcraft Hiawatha First Nation in Keene Ontario, which may be a signatory to the Accord

5) Recreation

-Limit amount of land use to what is appropriate to land’s needs

NOTE land use by general public increases the chance of Indigenous and Settler interaction, and sharing which can increase acceptance of understanding of Indigenous Knowledge and Perspective. This answers the TRC’s Calls to Action and will hopefully lead to concern and implementation of human activities that counter green house gases and Climate Change

I have set out a plan for Indigenous perspective use of part of the parkland in Belle Park based on its uniqueness as an urban green space and proximity to the island. There are plenty of other parks that can be produced for recreation facilities. Kingston is in a unique position to take advantage of this both as urban green space and lugs for the city but for Reconciliation and Action. Following the cancelation of the golf course for not making money for the city, I have (felt forced) to submit a model for Indigenous Tourism in my “Subsequent Ideas for Belle Park” as an alternative money making endeavor. It was meant to help people think outside the box and was submitted as a topic to stimulate conversation among the Native Community as well as the non Indigenous and the city. Due to past colonial history, Indigenous people feel that they have to fight have Space or to maintain it, we have historically been pushed out or our voice and needs drowned out or pushed back down our throats. The land needs to be deemed appropriate from an Indigenous perspective based on the land’s needs and requires Indigenous support and concensus for this plan to go forward. Community input is needed for refinement.

Just wanted to clarify my position on dogs in Belle Park and Island as Aboriginal, a handicapped person who is also a Service Dog user and a licensed dog owner who follows bylaws and makes use of city buses and off leash parks. I had a chance to think about the issues more since our discussion and think this needs to be clarified while we are still in the brainstorming stage.

FYI At our One on One at the Belle Park Drop In, Neal Unsworth and I....

Michelle Webb – April 6, 2019

Agreed no dogs should be on the island. It is a cemetery and we don't want bones being dug up. (Also do not need a poop issue. Until the Squatters issue completely sorted out, danger of needles etc.) (On leash Service Dogs in "Working Mode" could be allowed access on the island because would do their business elsewhere and be fully under control).

Neal thinks that Kingston has more off leash parks per capita than any city. Doesn't think we should have another off leash park. I told him there are not enough. He somehow did not know that dogs are not allowed on the city bus and that it is too far to go to the off leash park for most, esp in summer when it is too hot. [I think they are a great way for dogs to get enough exercise and socialization, which can reduce dog on dog aggression in communities when they are out walking. It is a great way to network and help educate other dog owners (on breed specific issues, trainers available, training aids to try etc) especially for the inexperienced. While you will always have irresponsible dog owners no matter where they live or walk their dogs, they tend to conform or stay away due to peer pressure at the park, since we like to ensure all dogs have a good experience there not just our own].

Told Neal I am in agreement for off leash park here at Belle Park as a means to protect the site since I do not want dogs off leash in the rest of the park. We need to protect habitat, protect the shoreline which only has about 6 inches of soil over the garbage (therefore no digging) and it is not safe for dogs to drink the toxic water nor to lick it off of their fur.

(If they get their energy out in the off leash area, they will be more likely to stroll controllably in the rest of the park and hopefully people will not feel the need to be off leash in the rest of the park. Lemoine's Point is not off leash).

Neal is worried about the wear and tear around the entrance ways to off leash parks, which I agree can be an issue. I am suggesting regularly rotating the location of the off leash to give the land a rest. And to seed it with grasses that have a tough and tangled root system. Portable fencing could be used and the size of each "rotated plot" may not have to be huge. Could have a single path that branches to the multiple locations that are rotated, before they get too chewed up.

Neal seems to be fixated on an off leash area that is not fenced off. We ended the conversation here. He needed to get to the Drop In. I felt I had made agreement on important issues of no dogs on island and dogs not at the beach/shoreline, so dropped the issue. Thinking about it more, I need to impress upon everyone the need to have dogs on leash. Leash laws exist in Kingston for a reason, people do not have control over their dogs when not on leash. As more housing is created in north end and amenities increase at the park, there will be more park usage. If the park is to be for everyone to enjoy, then Muslims who do not want dog saliva, people who are afraid of dogs, people who want to picnic, small children who could be knocked over, elderly and handicapped using Service Dogs etc should be able to use the park land unmolested by loose dogs. (There are enough injuries at off leash parks when dogs are focused on play, while their owner is actively paying attention to their own dog, in an area that is contained by fencing. Squirrels, pizza, drones and balls

can make great distractions and attractions outside the play zone.) I have experienced this in Kingston before we had off leash parks to use.

Presently there are people making use of the park with their dogs off leash. At their own risk but perhaps not understanding the dangers to themselves and their dogs. As park usage increases this will not be safe. There are places they can walk off leash, like Rideau Trails, though this is not sanctioned by the city.

Off leash parks are use at your own risk, but do have bylaw officials come by when there are issues. They are supported by dog liscencing fees and fine people higher for non liscenced dogs and dogs not fixed.

An expert court witness in dog aggression came to speak at St Lawrence College the other year. He suggested that dog owners of non aggressive breeds be covered for liability under a tenant or homeowner insurance for \$1M liability. This means your insurance should have liability for \$1M minimum, but that was a few years ago now. When I inquired about my Service Dog being covered under my liability for my insurance, I was told yes because of his breed (and he is well socialized and trained unlike most dogs). Some breeds will cost extra insurance. Some breeds may not be insured at all.

My question is: If the city promotes an open (unfenced) off leash area, does the city assume some of the liability if something should happen at the park with an off leash dog. (I am certain that not all tenants have insurance and alot may not have enough liability coverage).

Belle Park Survey responses May 2019

Central Area Rendering

Should scrap **rolling landscape** feature unless put in playground area away from road

-should keep parking there - with increased park use, will need more parking, not less or equal amount – less plan shows no parking for playground, picnic or dog park (none for this side of the park) –picnickers will not want or (be able) to carry coolers etc from tennis area, if that is only parking left (shouldn't be parking temporarily in round about)

-in rolling landscape area need to reserve space for 2 bus pads, one for express and one for local traffic – need to be sheltered for multi-season use

-park needs more washrooms than one male one female at club house –rolling feature may be location for washrooms close to Montreal St sewers or they could go over into picnic playground area (since also need place to get drinking water there) –would probably be best for washroom facility at tennis end and at picnic end of park –picnic area needs fully accessible and child change table

Pavillion is actually to be a Round House Structure as design was submitted –it needs to be close to hydro for lighting and sound system, also close to parking for accessibility of seniors and handicapped in our community – does not have to be right behind the club house if club house used for noisy things but disappointed to see it inaccessible in the back 40

-there are photos in the presentation of a picnic shelter which is a great idea for the picnic area –this is not the Round House as proposed – people may want the picnic shelter closer to the park entrance for accessibility

-need Interpretation Centre in renovated “Club House” building or near it and Totem Pole (if club house building not deemed suitable). Renovated building with its signage should be welcome to the park - hopefully winterized –need to price out cost to renovate and winterize and have fully accessible washrooms (compare to rebuild) -should be administration hub to reserve courts and golf, also rent

limited number of snowshoes and xcross skis –non alcoholic drinks could be served (hot chocolate in winter) –can have rotating photos and displays of Belle Park and Island history throughout seating area –TV terminal for informative videos and photo show of the area historically and throughout the many seasons –computer terminal with permanent archive of history of the area -can also have storage of history of cultural groups in Kingston, with their cultural centres listed and a contact person

Peninsula Rendering –be mindful of flood plain erosion, esp with building infrastructure –need to work on root base and other modes to reduce erosion – woodland landscape to enhance separation between park and island is fabulous idea, will take time and effort to build soil depth and root base to support it.

Play Courts Rendering – indoor tennis no, other locations better –use part of that space for outdoor drinking water source, washrooms and outdoor kiosk for refreshments –use other half of it for outdoor archery with a safety barrier to separate. (Or can move all courts up towards the club house, with refreshments near club house end and put archery closest to “existing woodland” for added safety –still use safety barrier in case arrows go past the back wall)

-turn around is interesting idea, like a kiss and ride – will this work out OK for access bus waiting or need extra spot – do we need a school bus pick up drop off as part of front parking area –left hand existing parking area already kinda has a drive through effect already

Park Rendering – mixed use field great idea –maybe can do lacrosse as well as events – Round House can be in triangle behind Club House

South Area Rendering –DOLA needs to be fenced –not all owners have control over their dogs –should not be placed over the old pond, with climate change and flooding issues this could be too wet and have an erosion issue

-spaces for dog owners to congregate is good –Gravenhurst had a shelter built by local prison inmates that is rectangular in shape. It has benches on 3 sides which face inwards –there is a raised platform with circular holes to drop in metal bowls

for water –it has a box with a hinged lid to store dog toys and knobs to hang leashes -it can have a solar panel for evening lighting for winter

Hilltop Rendering –erosion with off road biking or packed crushed stone surface?

Graduated Landscape Rendering –Great idea follows natural succession of forests

-not sure city will cover expense of added soil for root base of the extensive tree planting that is proposed –erosion issue esp where in flood plain need to research and consider additional means of erosion control –expect area won't be as densely forested as presumed in “Algonquin Park” photos –mixed shrubs and other plants will help with root base –hybrid poplar with limited lifespan may be great help in forming extensive root base quickly –if mix the ages of the trees can use select cut to remove trees when getting too big and unstable without disturbing the entire area

Mike Bell – November 30, 2018

First, thanks for leading the two public sessions this week. I admit to having reservations about the format adopted and time management choices but that does not diminish my appreciation for the opportunity.

1. Whatever the concept(s) next arrived at, I recommend that a proper community safety audit be included and informed by subject matter experts. Inviting many more users to the park translates into more risk to be managed Perhaps this is already in scope. Hope so.
2. The group I worked with Thurs felt a amphitheatre feature to south of club house locale could be dual purpose as a kids climbing area were limestone blocks to be utilized along with grading changes. A more dynamic play area may fit in nearby in time.
3. Not added to our map, but discussed as a attractive feature, was a large scale labyrinth. Perhaps round, perhaps square.

Path edges would be mounded slightly and planted with low growing grasses or bushes. A path straight through the feature for the less ambitious would be useful.

Chatted about locating it toward southern property edge and east of rail line boundry with it having an eastern exit onto an east bound park pathway branch aimed toward Belle Island.

Alternative was to locate it as close to the island as is feasible. This would make getting to it a bit of a journey in itself. Echos purpose of a labyrinth in fact. Being adjacent to an island considered sacred fits as well.

The flood prones of this locale would of course inform the plant material option list. Suggested trail bed was wood chips. They may be, in part, from old poplar trees on site needing recycling.

3. Golf: Not withstanding the surprising level of loathing expressed for this activity, the fact is there are, in Kingston, likely 50 active golfers for every Pickle Ball player. Both groupings need and warrant accommodation.

There are fitness and socialization benefits to both that are well established especially for middle aged and older set.

Golf is a solo sport played in the company of others. It is frustrating to many because the skill and knowledge needed to perform satisfactorily (by your own measure) are elusive. Practice is needed to address this.

Practice itself is healthful and enjoyable if conditions are condusive.

For these reasons we think 'golf' options in the plan should include a driving range and a pitch and put area (P&P).

It is not apparent that a P&P 'course' is that useful for practise motivated since being chased on a course by followers conspires against the objective. The Landings course is basically a P&P course option many enjoy as an alternative to longer courses.

While driving ranges are on offer at most courses (not all), a proper P&P area is rare. Area needed is pretty extensive for them to consider on site near club house.

The driving range area should ideally offer both artificial and real turf options. This maximizes attraction for skill improvement seekers as it simulates real course conditions. Driver club practise (250+ yd range) section can be artificial tee while a rotation managed natural turf area section is needed for chipping distance practise up to 70 yards or so. The current range area appears large enough to provide this reconsidered approach.

The P&P area referred to could, we think, snuggle up to the northern boundry of the range area with some grading efforts. The area would ideally be well manicured and planted in a fashion you might see at a high end course. This enhances the experience and feel of the place. Errant ball strike protection netting needed in design as well.

User fee structure/user exp. mgt TBD of course

The other key here is golf activity programming imagination and promotion of the activity space. This was quite lacking in the past and contributed to the decline of the golf course's popularity in the view of many.

Affordable lessons and coaching camps (some volunteer led) for all ages could be developed to compliment individual user visits.

Linkages with area course operators is warranted and lead to more Belle Park participants since the operators would in turn benefit from more fees from more enthusiastic paying visitors.

Lastly, my take away from the public sessions is that despite the fervent wishes of purist naturalization voices, a Belle Park redevelopment will indeed need to feature more manicured activity areas for the public to enjoy. For some reason the voice of golfers, for one, is currently not active as far as I can see and it should be.

I and a few others are keen to help that voice emerge and, with it, ally with other actors wishing to see various activity areas find a home within a more naturalized Belle Park. We are planning to soon get together to plan our approach to this advocacy role and will

keep you informed should you wish. We will also be reaching out to other identified interest groups.

In the meantime, good luck with the concept definition work now just ahead and please feel free to contact me at any time should you or others wish.

Cheers.

December 6, 2018

Hello again Neil.

I used a recent social get together with golf friends to share recent Belle Park goings on and share views.

The consensus was varied as to what might best fit or not into the redevelopment planning re golf but we wanted you to know that we remained open to chatting further about options or issues that arise with you and others involved.

Finally, I'm providing a few links to golf activity options several folks found of interest. Please have a look and share as you see fit. Place holders basically.

Cheers.

A European pitch and putt aerial video:

<https://youtu.be/KGm3-C8HY-I>

An Ottawa area golf facility:

<http://www.kevinhaime.com/practice/#short-game>

Second Ottawa area golf facility:

<http://www.kevinhaime.com/practice/#driving-range>

Ryan Hanes – March 26, 2019

Hi Chanda,

I can share with you that our membership found the last session at RHCC extremely frustrating. It felt to all of us as though nothing has been accomplished in the last year and a half since council directed city staff to specifically explore designated pickleball courts at Belle Park. Despite our group having repeatedly represented ourselves in large numbers to council my understanding is we had one bad showing in a survey which brought everything to a grinding halt. It is difficult to go to a group over and over for endless surveys, meetings and feedback without fatigue setting in.

Further to this, the temporary courts provided to us were not maintained at all last summer with massive weeds taking over the perimeter of the courts and the new facility was opened in the North End without Pickleball in mind, improper lines and courts dangerously close together. Plans for additional temporary courts were also abandoned.

Now I am being told that we are being lumped in with Tennis. Are you aware that tennis cannot be played on permanent designated pickleball courts? Did I miss council advising staff to consider tennis in conjunction with pickleball? Last time I checked there were a large number of empty purpose built tennis courts across the city for use.

The general feeling of the Kingston Pickleball Club board is that we are not being taken seriously by city staff and that this process has been a great waste of taxpayer money and city resources as we are essentially in the same position we were 2 years ago. We have a meeting on Monday and I know that there will be a continued push to take these issues right to the city council and media. As president of the club I have been able to keep this from happening as I think it is a last resort and out of appreciation and respect for Luke Folwell (who I have copied on this email) and the assistance he provided us in hosting the Eastern Canadian Championships for the past two years.

We are doing our part, we continue to grow this life long sport locally and we have established Kingston as the tournament hub of Ontario having just run our annual Limestone Classic with 250 participants and having secured the Canadian National Championships for the next 2 years which will see 500+ participants each year. We had an opportunity to lead the way with a proper facility but we have quickly been left behind by other municipalities.

We are not interested in meeting about shared courts at Belle Park with tennis unless it is specifically for a bubbled winter option. We would be happy to meet about designated pickleball courts on our own.

Thanks.

Ryan Hanes

Sue Livesey – January 15, 2019

City Council ought to be protecting and enhancing the Belle Park area (& other areas!). Parking lots, roads, and sports fields can be built to destroy what natural areas we have, or they can go somewhere already in a more developed state. Somewhere where we would not be losing a location uniquely able to provide nourishment to the citizenry and the planet.

I write this fully aware that this area was filled in with garbage. While we are not likely to return the area to its natural marshy state any time soon, we can still move forward with better choices.

I do not dispute the importance of sports fields and the value of physical activity. I do see the importance of thinking carefully where we put them and where we do not put them.

They do not belong near ecologically valuable and sensitive areas.

They do not belong near sacred sites.

Belle Island is an under valued and under protected piece of mother earth. The cultural significance to the indigenous people of this place can not be transferred to some other area. It is specific to this one place. The earth holds energy that must be celebrated and protected if "the most sustainable city" or the planet is to survive.

The truth is that Belle Island is culturally significant & is being considered for UN Sacred Site designation. To reconcile and respect this truth, we need to honour the area by protecting it. Belle Park is the buffer zone for the sacred Belle Island. It should be used, at best, for facilities that support Belle Island's health and use. Assuming that no structures or roadways would be developed on Belle Island, Belle Park could hold any amenities needed to enhance Belle Island's role as sacred land. A building (the existing clubhouse may work for now) and the existing parking lots and roads could provide meeting and gathering areas for those going to the island itself, or for those visiting Belle Park as guests to enjoy gatherings and interpretive programs and events as offered.

Perhaps Belle Park could have a self guiding interpretive/educational walk with plaques along the way with information about the area.

Perhaps Belle Park could have a self guiding walk with experiential exercises along the way to encourage a connection to the earth and ones own sacredness. These could be in keeping with indigenous traditions.

It is really quite exciting to imagine the space developed in this way. Now THAT would be a proud achievement for the city!

In trying to keep this short i will end here.

Thank you for you time and consideration,

Sue Livesey

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Tim Saunders – October 23, 2018

Hi Luke,

I had an idea about what could be done with the area of a Belle Park. When I looked up how to get my idea to listening ears, I found your email.

So it seems like I may be too late, but I wanted to suggest that some of the land be dedicated to a disc golf course. 9 or 18 holes would be a great attraction to the area. A course would require minimum upkeep, and could be built with sponsorship money. Each hole would have a identification post, or plaque, which could have a small advertisement for the sponsor.

Let me know what you think.

Thanks,
Tim Saunders

Travis Canadien – June 23, 2019

As was brought up at the previous Working Group meeting, the inclusion of a Sacred Fire space at the center of the Pavillion as part of the redevelopment of the Park. It would be an easy thing to include, especially since the image shown, for the Pavillion, already has an Opening in the Centre ☒

Here is the article that Sparked the Idea,

"The Sacred Fire will be used for spiritual gatherings by local Indigenous groups for celebration, prayer, gratitude, and personal healing. Fire Keepers will support local Indigenous groups using the sacred fire according to their own unique traditions."

<https://guelph.ca/2019/06/indigenous-community-partners-with-city-to-create-sacred-fire-space-in-royal-city-park/?fbclid=IwAR2vczO-rRRWwEpiU3sfziC3hcuuRcfIN8CHDsh57loFDg9t78Ppiesk03U>

This is another Win-Win

March 27, 2019

Aim for the moon and reach the stars Neal ☒

Biggest part of that statement is the buffer zone and no sports fields, most of what you have proposed is acceptable to me and will be discussed further at the next Belle Island Caretakers Council on Saturday April 13th 12-5 at hars.

You are welcome to attend to relieve worries about the buffer zone, as to the other developements (Pickleball courts/building, proposed dog park, rec areas for ppl to flock to, walking trails in the denser planted treed areas, and lookouts to see the beauty of the Cat river and Kingston) are a foregone fact of redevelopment of the Park.

I can only Speak for me at this stage because we have not had a Circle to discuss the developements yet, but I am happy with the proposed concepts (aside from one addition and one alternation that will be discussed at the Circle) and very happy with the Buffer Zone that we figured out at the last Working Group meeting (the peninsula replanted with denser forest with walking paths). Glad the opportunity will give you the chance to improve the grading/slope of the peninsula... flooding at that site is the major source of contaminates that seep into the Cat river.

I have been contacted to do an interview with ckws on Tuesday about the Indigenous view of the redevelopment to the park.

Wearing two hats, Working Group and Caretakers' Council, I will be in a unique position. I will use the opportunity to Speak to the Buffer Zone, which is acceptable, the ongoing consultation process with the Indigenous community, the work/steps the city has taken in mitigating the impact of the decommissioned landfill... extraction wells and the planting of trees to remove metals from the site. With the last step the city is Healing the Land (Mother Earth) with Mother Earth's Standing Family (Trees).

I am going to stress that point in the interview as it is right inline with the Indigenous Ways... Healing Mother with Mother.

It would be nice if I can say the Buffer Zone that was/is proposed is all but a sure thing... its a win-win for both sides... the city gets the chance to do do a proper grading/slope and is adequate buffer between the Island and the Park.

Skennen'kó:wa

March 14, 2019

Speaking from experience when we were forming the Belle Island Caretakers' Council, We started with Talking Circle and gathered the committee from those in attendance. Due to the Nature of the Council we leave the membership open.

Here is my idea, hold a Talking Circle that has proper advanced notice and attendance over 13 members and form a committee (sub committee to the Working Group) from those participants. Committee meeting will be held by same group hired to do the Talking Circle. A report on items/concerns/ideas raised at the Talking Circle and a Executive Summary of the committee's progress should be made available to the Indigenous community as early as possible.

The purpose of the sub committee will be to plan out the placement of the various items/ideas that arose from the Talking Circle and those put forth by the City. Three of these sessions should be adequate to attain desired results. The City ideas are essential to making Belle Park a sustainable addition to Kingston... the expenses to keep up the environmental aspects, mitigating the effects of the Cat river/Turtle and Fish habitat, total over 300K each Year.

Combined with the operating costs of the golf course (lost about 200k/y), the city was losing over 500k/y.

Development to mitigate or alleviate these expenses are crucial to the long term investment of Belle Park... sustainable development combined with abundant green space (vegetation cap).

