



**City of Kingston  
Information Report to Rural Advisory Committee  
Report Number RAC-15-020**

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**To:** Chair and Members of the Rural Advisory Committee  
**From:** Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services  
**Resource Staff:** Neal Unsworth, Manager, Parks Development  
**Date of Meeting:** October 26, 2015  
**Subject:** Waterfront Master Plan Update

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In 2014 Council approved the undertaking of a comprehensive waterfront master plan. The plan is intended to become a guiding document that organizes and prioritizes the renewal of public waterfront spaces as well as the improvement of access and connectivity along the waterfront.

The objectives of the plan are to:

- Provide an overall strategic approach to the implementation and improvement of the City's waterfront;
- Form a guiding document that organizes and prioritizes a plan for the renewal of public waterfront spaces;
- Increases access to waterfront lands that are currently not accessible to the public;
- Improves connectivity along the waterfront.

A multi-disciplined consulting team lead by Thinc Design landscape architects has been engaged to complete this plan within a two year time span. The plan is currently nearing its final draft stage following an extensive 18 month public consultation and strategic planning process.

**Recommendation:**

This report is for information purposes only.

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**Authorizing Signatures:**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer**

**Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:**

Cynthia Beach, Corporate & Strategic Initiatives	Not required
Denis Leger, Transportation, Facilities & Emergency Services	Not required
Jim Keech, President and CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desiree Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required

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**Options/Discussion:****Project Scope and Methodology**

The Waterfront Master Plan considers physical improvements to areas along 280 kilometres of waterfront reaches. These reaches were separated into urban and rural waterfront areas. The urban area includes the shorelines from Collins Bay to Treasure Island and the Great Cataraqui River. The rural area was identified as the Rideau River system, the St Lawrence River east of Treasure Island and the southern tips of Collins and Loughborough Lakes.

The scope of the project, as approved by Council, includes study and planning for a fully connected waterfront pathway vision in the urban reaches with enhanced parks and open spaces. Nodal enhancements, improved waterfront parks and open spaces are identified for the rural waterfront reaches.

The shoreline areas were further broken into six focus areas of similar characteristics and user catchment areas. The rural waterfront was identified as Focus Area 2. Major projects in the rural waterfront area include the Grass Creek Park renovation and the development of Cecil and Wilma Graham Park.

**Community Feedback**

The project kickoff began in June of 2014 with a public meeting where staff and consultants overviewed the project and hosted a visioning charette on the entire 280 kilometres of shoreline and took in feedback on what was important to residents about Kingston's waterfront. Further consultation occurred in the form of surveys, online chats, stakeholder interviews and community outreach. The project also includes a Council appointed working group of resident volunteers, agency representatives and two City Councillors.

Each focus area had a specific public meeting where concept plans were presented and feedback was received in a workshop setting. The dates were as follows:

- Focus Area 1 December 18, 2014 (The Great Cataraqui River)
- Focus Area 2 January 26, 2015 (Rideau River system, St. Lawrence River east of Treasure Island, Collins and Loughborough Lakes)
- Focus Area 3 February 23, 2015 (Collins Bay to Elevator Bay)
- Focus Area 4 March 23, 2015 (Lake Ontario Park to Simcoe Street)
- Focus Area 5 April 22, 2015 (Simcoe St to Wolfe Island Ferry Dock)
- Focus Area 6 May 20, 2015 (Fort Frontenac to Treasure Island)

The City and its consultants also participated in a traditional First Peoples circle to learn about the community's relationship to the water and its waterfront and feedback from that community will be incorporated into the principles of the waterfront master plan.

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On June 24, 2015 a full day open house was hosted by staff and the consultant team featuring all of the panels and concepts that had been developed for the six focus areas. Participants were asked to prioritize projects through a dot-mocracy exercise. The exercise allowed participants to identify priorities for varied categories of projects including large and small projects and projects which were on land not currently accessible to the public.

**Next Steps**

The waterfront master plan is in its final phase of study which includes analysis and priority recommendation. Community feedback, received through the entire public process to date is being incorporating into a final priority implementation plan for waterfront improvements. In addition to community feedback, the priority implementation plan incorporates best practices in recreational waterfront planning and follows the approved mandates for the project and considers larger corporate and Council strategic priorities.

A draft final report including the priority implementation plan will be presented publically late this year and further feedback will be considered and incorporated. Following that, the final plan is expected to be presented to Council for endorsement.

**Existing Policy/By-law:**

Not applicable

**Notice Provisions:**

Not Applicable.

**Accessibility Considerations:**

All public sessions were required to meet publishing and communications accessibility guidelines.

**Financial Considerations:**

Not applicable

**Contacts:**

Neal Unsworth, Manager Parks Development ext. 1811

**Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:**

Not applicable

**Exhibits Attached:**

Exhibit A – Focus area mapping

