



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 Herbologist 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 IT WORKS:

1. Each participant has 12 dots
2. Place the dots on images/options you have interest in/ prefer
3. Please only use one dot per image/location
4. Dots will be tallied at the end of the evening

A. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

B. TRAILS + ACCESS + VIEWS

C. SOCIAL

D. CULTURE, HERITAGE, EDUCATION + LEISURE MANAGEMENT

E. RECREATION

F. INFRASTRUCTURE

BELLE PARK MASTER PLAN VOICE YOUR CHOICE

RECREATION PLAYFIELD OPTIONS: Please identify locations preferred for the placement of playfields

PHASING: Please identify which phase you prefer the enhancements to realize

ENHANCEMENTS	PHASE 1 (0-5 YEARS)	PHASE 2 (5-10 YEARS)	PHASE 3 (10-15 YEARS)	BEYOND 15 YEARS
A. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT				
- Naturalization	●			
- Wildlife habitat	●			
B. TRAILS + ACCESS + VIEWS				
- Major path/network				
- Minor path/network	●			
- Walking trails				
- Boardwalk				
- Lookouts	●			
C. SOCIAL				
- Gathering spaces	●			
- Playgrounds				
- Picnic areas				
- Dog off-leash area				
D. CULTURE + HERITAGE + EDUCATION + LEISURE MANAGEMENT				
- Interpretive Interpretation	●			
- Environmental Interpretation	●			
- Outdoor Learning Spaces				
E. RECREATION				
- Sports Courts				
- Sports Fields				
- Pitch in park				
- Dining kiosk				
- Practice Area				
- Practice Golf				
F. INFRASTRUCTURE				
- Parking Improvement				
- Public Restrooms				
- Small staff building				
- Lighting at front of park				