



Belle Park Ideas: Public Input Session

Welcome





Our goal is to engage the public in informing future opportunities for Belle Park



Today's Agenda

- Introductions
- How did we get to today?
- Public engagement and our process
- The opportunity
- Facilitator and instructions
- Workshop breakout
- Table presentations
- Wrap up and evaluation



Belle Park History

- Operated as a municipal dump from 1952-1972.
- Turned into a multi-use public open space including a nine-hole golf course, a driving range, tennis courts, and walking paths in 1974.
- Golf activity removed from Belle Island in 2016.



Belle Park Fairways



- Legend
- Tee Box
 - Hole Location
 - Sand Trap
 - Water Hazard
 - Foot Bridge
 - Washroom
 - Fountain
 - Parking
 - Fairway
 - Greens
 - Transit Stop



Belle Park Golf Course

Inner Surface

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The Issue and Context

- The golf operation has had a declining membership over the past 6 years.
- Membership (excluding locker and golf cart) has gone from 174 in 2010 down to 68 in 2016, representing a 61% decrease.
- It should also be noted that there was a slight increase from the 52 members in 2015 to the 68 in 2016.
- With the decline in revenues comes an increase in the annual operational deficit averaging \$201,000 over the past 4 years.



The Working Group's Focus

Belle Park Working Group (BPWG) formed by Council in 2014 to provide advice to staff on matters related to operations and upgrades to the park as a whole. From 2014 to 2017, the Working Group and staff met monthly to conduct meetings and site visits to discuss the issues on the course and how improvements could be achieved over time.

In 2016 two distinct surveys were created:

1. *A golf member specific survey* – to capture what was liked and what needed to be improved upon to increase the golfing experience at the park
2. *A survey for the public at large* – to capture input from a broader audience and what they used the park for



The Working Group's Focus

The member specific survey returned the following results from 46% of the membership.

- The overall satisfaction rating was 7.4 out of 10
- Positive comments: staff, location, flexibility in tee times and maintenance
- Negative comments: course condition, most specifically fairways



The Working Group's Focus

The public survey received 290 responses:

- 67 respondents use it for golf (23%)
- 52 respondents use it for pickleball (18%)
- 167 use it as mixed use parkland (57.5%)
- The remainder do not currently use Belle Park

Based on this data, the Belle Park Working Group discussed strategies for servicing all of the park users in a more proportional manner.

Council's Direction

Subsequently, the BPWG recommended to Council in its end of term 2016 report, and that motion was carried at the December 20th, Council Session

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.

Public Engagement

What Is It?

Public engagement identifies ways that Residents, Councillors and City employees can be involved and participate collaboratively in problem solving and decision-making processes in order to make sustainable decisions.

Our Vision

The City of Kingston engagement practices will encourage broad participation from all members of our community in a transparent and positive process supported by clear and accurate information, and resulting in directions that are for the benefit of the community at large.



Public Engagement Criteria

- Clarity of purpose related to the role participants will play
- Reflective of diverse populations and opinions
- Participants' opinions are heard, considered, and help to inform decision making
- Based on accurate information
- Organized and well facilitated
- Communication of results and how input informed the final outcomes

Public Engagement Key Principles

1. **Inclusivity** – accurate representation of the community using a range of techniques
2. **Early Involvement and timely communication** – accurate information as early as possible
3. **Respect** – respectful of decision making protocols, jurisdictions and diverse views, beliefs and interests
4. **Transparent and accountable** – efficient and effective use of taxpayers' dollars and a transparent process and outcome
5. **Clear and coordinated approach** – use of plain language and different yet coordinated communication channels
6. **Continuous improvement** – Regular evaluation and amendments to enhance public engagement



Belle Park Public Engagement Process

- Pop Up Events: Ongoing
 - Public Session Workshops: May 31, June 1, and June 8, 2017
– *Today!*
 - Belle Park Tours: to occur in Summer 2017 (date to follow pending conditions)
 - Online public survey based on feedback: July 2017
 - Focus Groups: focus groups in July/August 2017
 - Public Session Recap: August 17, 2017
 - Report to Council and Recommendations: Target - September 2017
- * Reporting back to occur after each session/event

Belle Park: The Opportunity

- Site is 45ha (110 Acres)
- Naturalization opportunities could include: planting more trees developing woodland, developing open meadows, creating safe and natural open spaces, maintaining green spaces, expanding granular pathways systems and nature trails, providing access and views of the river and the Great Cataraqui marsh, understanding and designing to enhance seasonal wetlands and flooding.
- Recreational opportunities heard from the survey include:
 - enhanced trails for walking and biking
 - increased access to the water front
 - sports fields
 - winter sport opportunities such as cross country skiing, and snow shoeing
 - off leash dog park

Belle Park: The Opportunity

- The City is in a rare position to ensure that future of Belle Park gels within the context of other larger projects within the City's purview:
 - the Waterfront Master Plan
 - K&P Trail
 - Inner Harbour Trail
 - North Kings Town visioning
- Also need to consider legislation, technical and environmental realities, and operating costs
- Need to consider the ever changing demographics in Kingston and what those populations will need in the future in terms of recreation and leisure at this site



Waterfront Master Plan

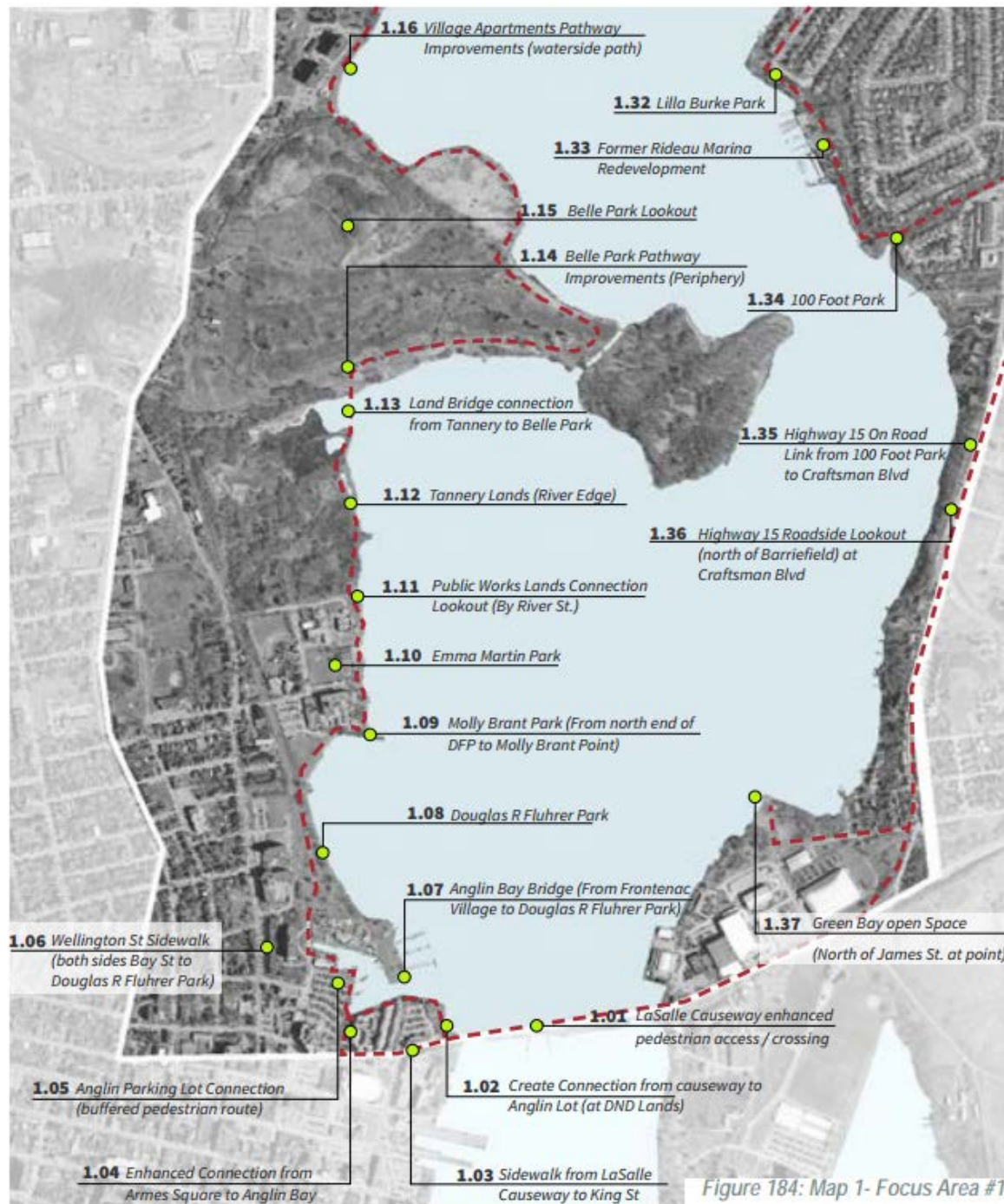


Figure 184: Map 1- Focus Area #1

Pathway Improvements

1.14 Belle Park Pathway Improvements (Periphery)

18



Description

Belle Park is a landfilled marshland that extends into the Kingston Inner Harbour from the west bank of the Great Cataraqui River to Belle Island. This project proposes improvements to the circulation network.

Recommended improvements:

- Enhance network of pathways
- Close and realign trails as required to improve connections
- Narrow and wide trails
- Landscaping / planting enhancements
- Provide views from shoreline
- Opportunity for habitat restoration
- Work with First Peoples regarding sanctity of Belle Island site
- Remediation interpretation

Project Risks and Challenges

- Soil contamination and remediation measures
- Respect for First Peoples access to Belle Island

Details

size / area

45.00 ha

ownership

City of Kingston

project partners

Friends of Belle Park

estimated budget

\$ 350,000

priority ranking

29/137

associated initiatives

1.13 Land Bridge Connection from Tannery to Belle Park

18

Land Bridge Connection

Land Bridge Connection 1.13 (from Tannery to Belle Park)

19



Description

Continuing north from the Davis Tannery Lands this proposed land bridge would be constructed as a permanent link to Belle Park.

Project improvements will include:

- ▷ Pedestrian Connection from Tannery to Belle Park
- ▷ Physical connection for pedestrians
- ▷ Shoreline work / habitat restoration opportunity
- ▷ Opportunity to incorporate a lookout
- ▷ Soil/ water remediation

Project Risks and Challenges

- ▷ Soil contamination and existing remediation measures

Details

size / area

1.50 ha

ownership

Other

project partners

Cataraqui Region Conservation
Authority
Adjacent Land-Owners

estimated budget

\$ 910,000

priority ranking

42/137

19

Parks Development – Doug Fluhrer Park



Public Feedback – Site Improvements
Vision should focus on these park improvements

Parks Development – Grass Creek Park

Grass Creek Park



- LEGEND**
- BRANDSBLUFF
- BRANDSBLUFF WITH SPECIES TREES
- PLAYGROUND
- PARKING AND PARK LAND
- BRANDS
- SHRUBS WARD
- BRANDSBLUFF WOODS AREA
- EXISTING TREE
- PROPERTY LINE



Similar Sites – Tommy Thompson Park - Toronto

- A unique 500-hectare urban wilderness minutes from downtown Toronto on the waterfront
- Located on a man-made peninsula, known as the Leslie Street Spit, extending five km into Lake Ontario
- The site has been used for the disposal of dredged material from the Outer Harbour and surplus fill from Toronto development sites
- Other recreational opportunities include hiking, cycling, rollerblading and fishing



Similar Sites – McLennan Park - Kitchener

39-hectare site

Landfilling operations stopped at this site in 1978.

McLennan Park currently offers a number of amenities, including:

- accessible play-structure
- beach volleyball
- basketball courts
- bike park
- large lawn areas
- leash-free dog park
- pedestrian trails
- picnic shelter
- playground
- other amenities



Similar Sites – Beare Road Landfill - Scarborough

Today the landfill is now part of [Rouge Park](#). Includes:

- visitor centre
- grass and dirt trails
- some wooded areas



Today's Goal

What does the future of Belle
Park look like?

We need your input and ideas!



Workshop Guidelines

1. Everyone participates. No one dominates.
2. Please be respectful.
3. Let's listen and stay open to divergent opinions and perspectives.
4. Please propose vs. dispose.
5. Permission to move along in order to stay on time.



Workshop Questions

1. What do you love about Belle Park?
2. How do you use Belle Park?
3. What improvements, experiences, features and elements would you like to see in Belle Park?
4. What changes at Belle Park would you not like to see?

- You have a note taker at your table.
- Please select someone at your table to present a 3-minute presentation to the larger group of the key highlights and insights shared at your table.



Table Presentations

In 3 minutes or less, please share the key highlights and insights from your table.



Next Steps

- Pop Up Events: Ongoing
- Public Session Workshops: June 1 and June 8, 2017
- Belle Park Tours: 2 tours over the Summer 2017 (date to follow pending conditions)
- Online public survey based on feedback: July 2017
- Focus Groups: focus groups in July/August 2017
- Public Session Recap: August 17, 2017
- Report to Council and Recommendations from BPWG: September 2017

Wrap Up and Thank You

Thank You for Your Input

Please complete the session evaluation form

