

CITY OF KINGSTON

# BELLE PARK

## MASTER PLAN



Prepared for the City of Kingston, August 2019 by

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Belle Park, February 2018







# Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
Executive Summary	3
<b>Project Background</b>	<b>7</b>
Council Direction	8
History and Evolution of Belle Park	11
Belle Park Timeline	12
City Context	14
North King's Town Secondary Plan	15
Waterfront Master Plan (2016)	15
Active Transportation Master Plan (2018)	15
Parks and Recreation Master Plan	16
Engage for Change	16
Third Crossing (2019-2022)	16
Belle Island	17
<b>Site Review</b>	<b>19</b>
Existing Inventory	20
Inventory and Analysis	22
Extraction and Monitoring Wells	22
Hydro Lines and Poles	22
Golf and Recreation	24
100-Year Flood Plain	24
Topography	24
Vegetation	26
Pedestrian Circulation	26
Built Infrastructure	26
<b>Master Plan Process</b>	<b>29</b>
Master Plan Process	31
Belle Park Working Group	32
Open Houses	34
Online Engagement	37
Indigenous Consultation	38
<b>Proposed Park Elements</b>	<b>43</b>
Proposed Park Elements	45
Belle Island Management Principles	46
Natural Environment	48
Trails + Access + Views	52
Social	56
Cultural, Heritage, and Education	60
Land Management	64
Recreation	68
Infrastructure	74



<b>The Plan</b>	<b>57</b>
Belle Park Master Plan	58
Graduated Landscape Strategy	60
Plan for Belle Park Graduated Landscape	62
Typical Section through Belle Park Graduated Landscape	64
Central Area	66
The Peninsula	73
Active Elements (Playcourts and Park)	78
South Area (OLDA)	86
Hilltop Lookout	88
Pathways + Circulation	92
 <b>Management</b>	 <b>97</b>
Adaptive Management	99
 <b>Implementation</b>	 <b>103</b>
Belle Park Implementation Strategy	105
Phasing	106
Phase 1	107
Phase 2	112
Phase 3	115
Beyond 15 Years	118
 <b>Appendices</b>	 <b>121</b>
APPENDIX A - September 19, 2017 Report to Council	122
APPENDIX B - Open House and Survey Summaries	147
<i>Open House &amp; Indigenous Focus Group #1 Summary</i>	
<i>Open House #2 Summary</i>	
<i>Open House #3 Summary</i>	
<i>Open House #4 Summary</i>	
<i>Open House #5 Summary</i>	
APPENDIX C - Indigenous Focus Group Summaries	177
<i>Indigenous Focus Group #2 Summary</i>	
<i>Indigenous Focus Group #3 Summary</i>	
<i>Indigenous Focus Group #4 Summary</i>	
APPENDIX D - Indigenous Focus Group Consultant Reports	189
<i>Inclusive Voices Incorporated Summary - August 2018</i>	
<i>RIEL Cultural Consulting Summary - February 22, 2019</i>	
<i>RIEL Cultural Consulting Summary - May 2, 2019</i>	
APPENDIX E - Belle Island Management Principles	206
APPENDIX F - Residents Written Feedback Provided Outside of Open Houses and Surveys (13 Submitters)	210







## 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.

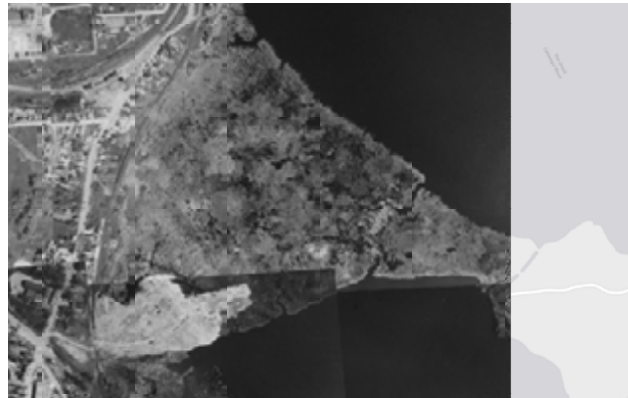
The full Staff Report is provided in Appendix A.

## Evolution of Belle Park through Aerial Photography

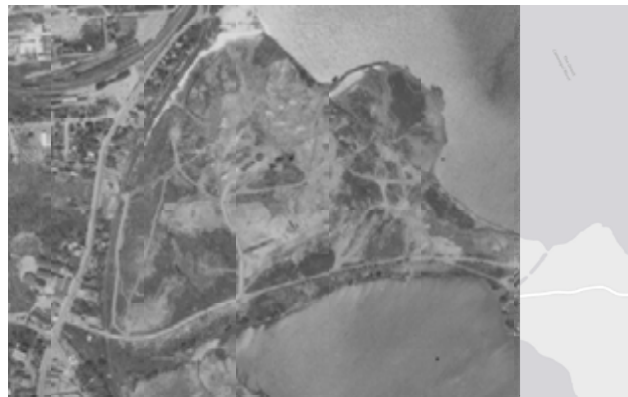
*Over the last 60+ years, the area known as Belle Park had evolved from marshland, to landfill and ultimately to parkland.*



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

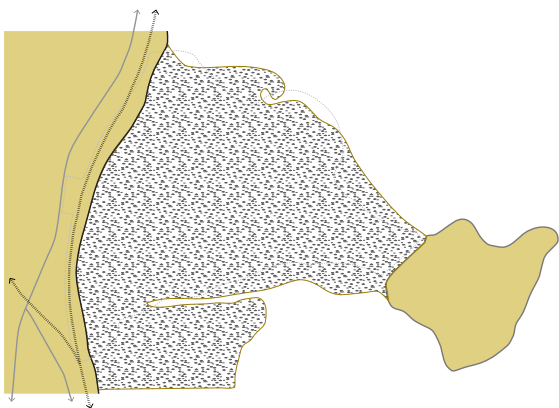
In 2018, the process to create a vision and a long range improvement plan for Belle Park was initiated. In 2018 and 2019, public consultation with various stakeholders, the Belle Park Working Group, local Indigenous community members and the general public was held in support of developing the master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

# Belle Park Timeline

**1920s**  
BELLE PARK, AS WE KNOW IT, IS MARSHLAND OUT TO BELLE ISLAND

1920

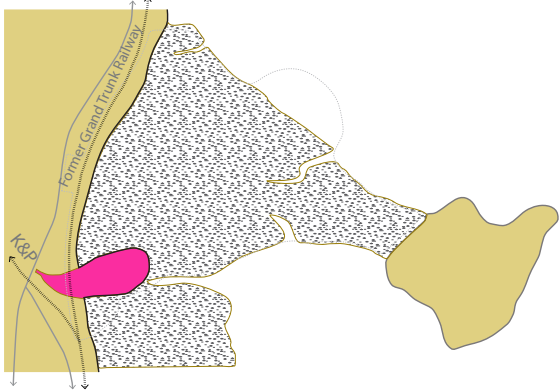
SHORELINE  
RAIL LINE  
ROAD  
BELLE PARK FOOTPRINT  
MARSHLAND  
LANDFILL



**1930s**  
GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY ABANDONED

1930

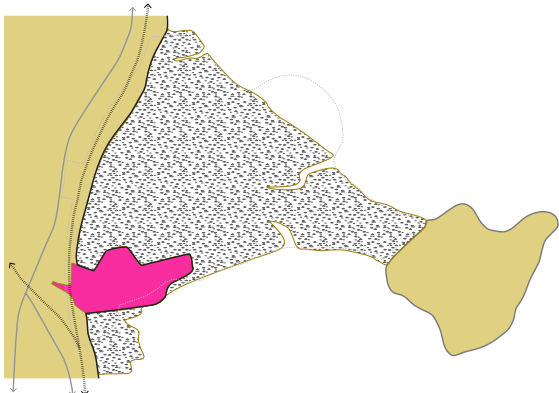
SHORELINE  
RAIL LINE  
ROAD  
BELLE PARK FOOTPRINT  
MARSHLAND  
LANDFILL



**1952**  
SITE IS USED AS A MUNICIPAL LANDFILL

1940

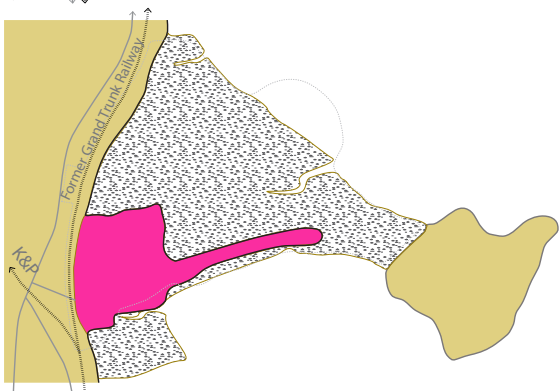
SHORELINE  
RAIL LINE  
ROAD  
BELLE PARK FOOTPRINT  
MARSHLAND  
LANDFILL



**1953**  
LANDFILL AREA EXPANDS

1950

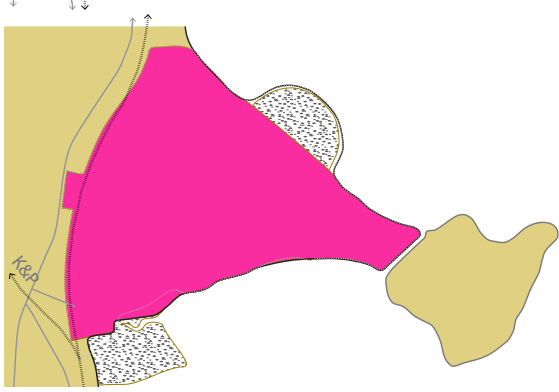
SHORELINE  
RAIL LINE  
ROAD  
BELLE PARK FOOTPRINT  
MARSHLAND  
LANDFILL



**1957**  
LANDFILL AREA EXPANDS

1960

SHORELINE  
RAIL LINE  
ROAD  
BELLE PARK FOOTPRINT  
MARSHLAND  
LANDFILL



**1962**  
K&P RAIL LINE ABANDONED BY CANADIAN PACIFIC RAIL

1970

LANDFILL AREA EXPANDS TO CREATE THE FOOTPRINT OF BELLE PARK TODAY

**1974**  
DUMPING INTO LANDFILL ENDS

**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 DECOMISSIONED

**1986**  
 K&P RAIL LINE USED RECREATIONALLY

**1990**  
 •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

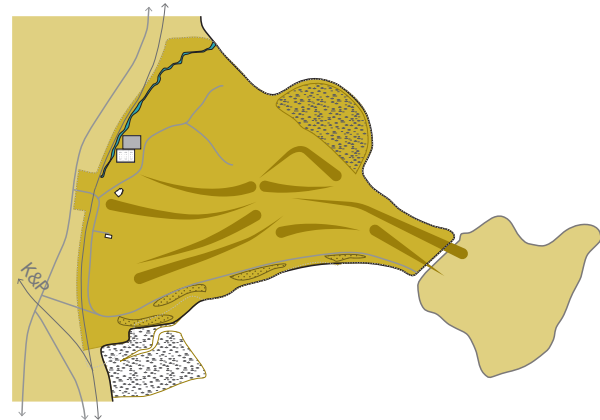
**2016**  
 COUNCIL DIRECTS A PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS TO LOOK AT REDUCTION OF GOLF AND INCREASE OF ALTERNATIVE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND NATURALIZATION MEASURES

**2017**  
 CLOSURE OF 9 HOLE GOLF COURSE

**2018**  
 TODAY



- SHORELINE ———
- DECOMISSIONED RAIL LINE <—>
- ROAD <—>
- BELLE PARK FOOTPRINT [dotted box]
- MARSHLAND [stippled box]
- TREE CANOPY [cross-hatched box]
- PARKLAND [solid yellow box]
- GOLF COURSE HOLE [thick curved line]



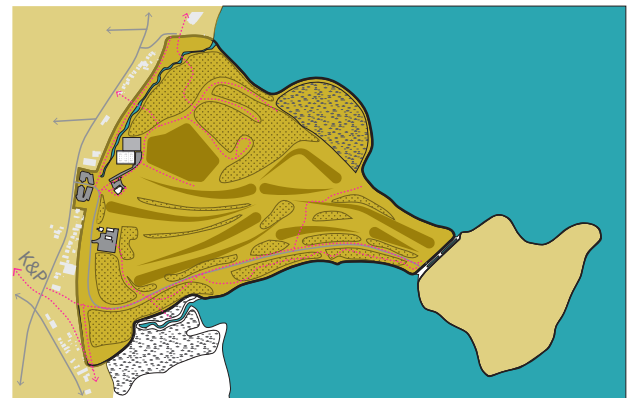
- SHORELINE ———
- RECREATIONAL PATH [dotted line]
- DECOMISSIONED RAIL LINE <—>
- ROAD <—>
- BELLE PARK FOOTPRINT [dotted box]
- MARSHLAND [stippled box]
- TREE CANOPY [cross-hatched box]
- PARKLAND [solid yellow box]
- GOLF COURSE HOLE [thick curved line]



- SHORELINE ———
- RECREATIONAL PATH [dotted line]
- DECOMISSIONED RAIL LINE <—>
- ROAD <—>
- BELLE PARK FOOTPRINT [dotted box]
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- PARKLAND [solid yellow box]
- GOLF COURSE HOLE [thick curved line]



•GRAPHIC INFORMATION INTERPOLATED FROM HISTORICAL MAPS AND AERIALS

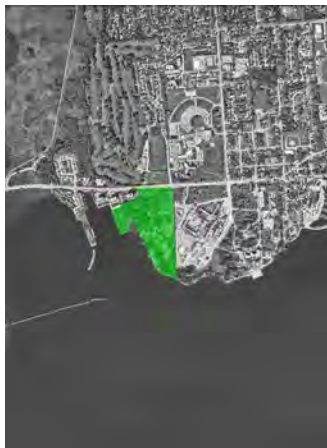


# City Context

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 Master 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

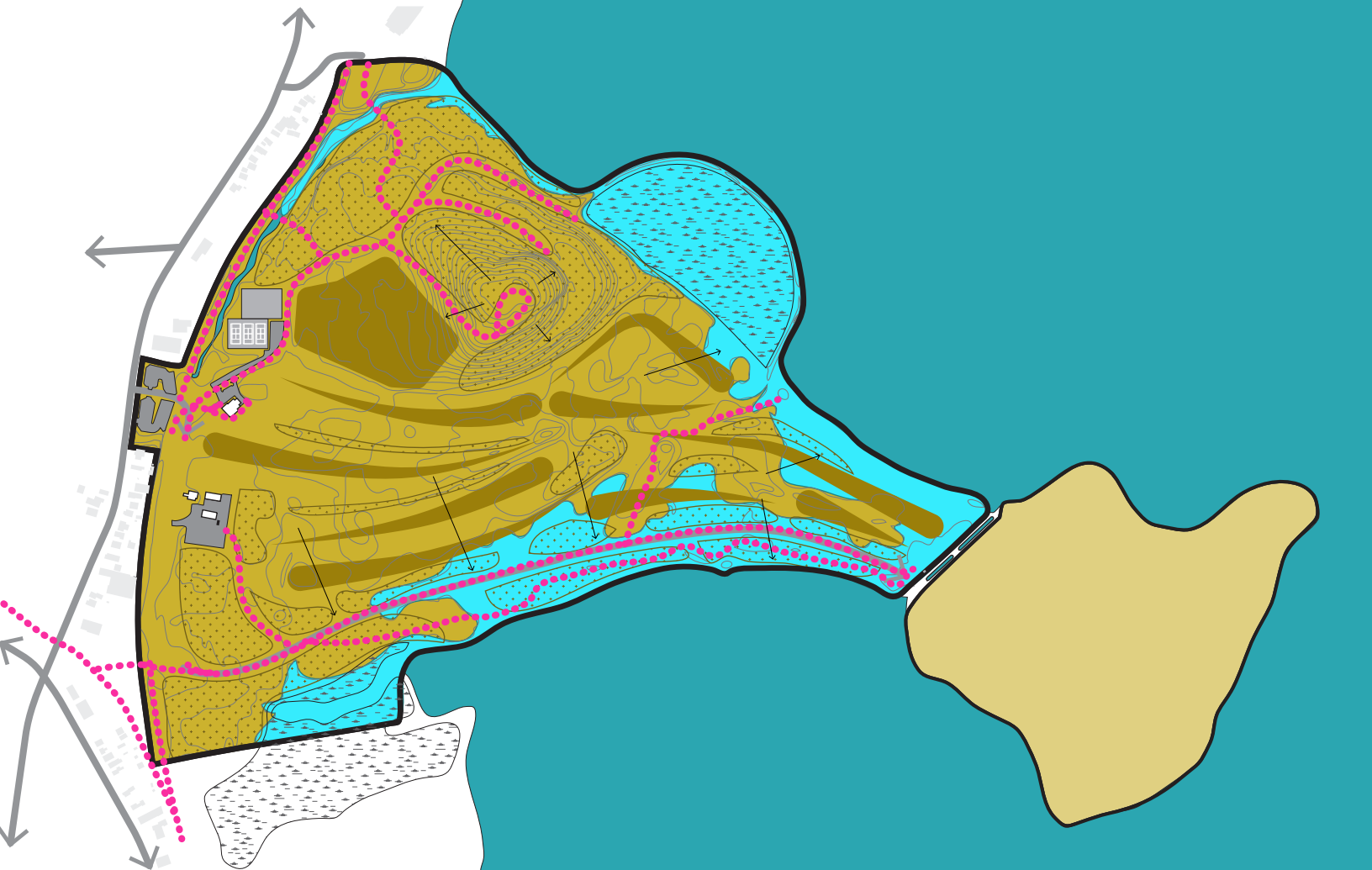
Belle Island is agreed by both governments to be co-owned by the City of Kingston and the Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs (MNCC). An agreement between the City and the MNCC, colloquially referred to as the Belle Island Accord, spells out the terms of the partnership. In general, the City is responsible 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.





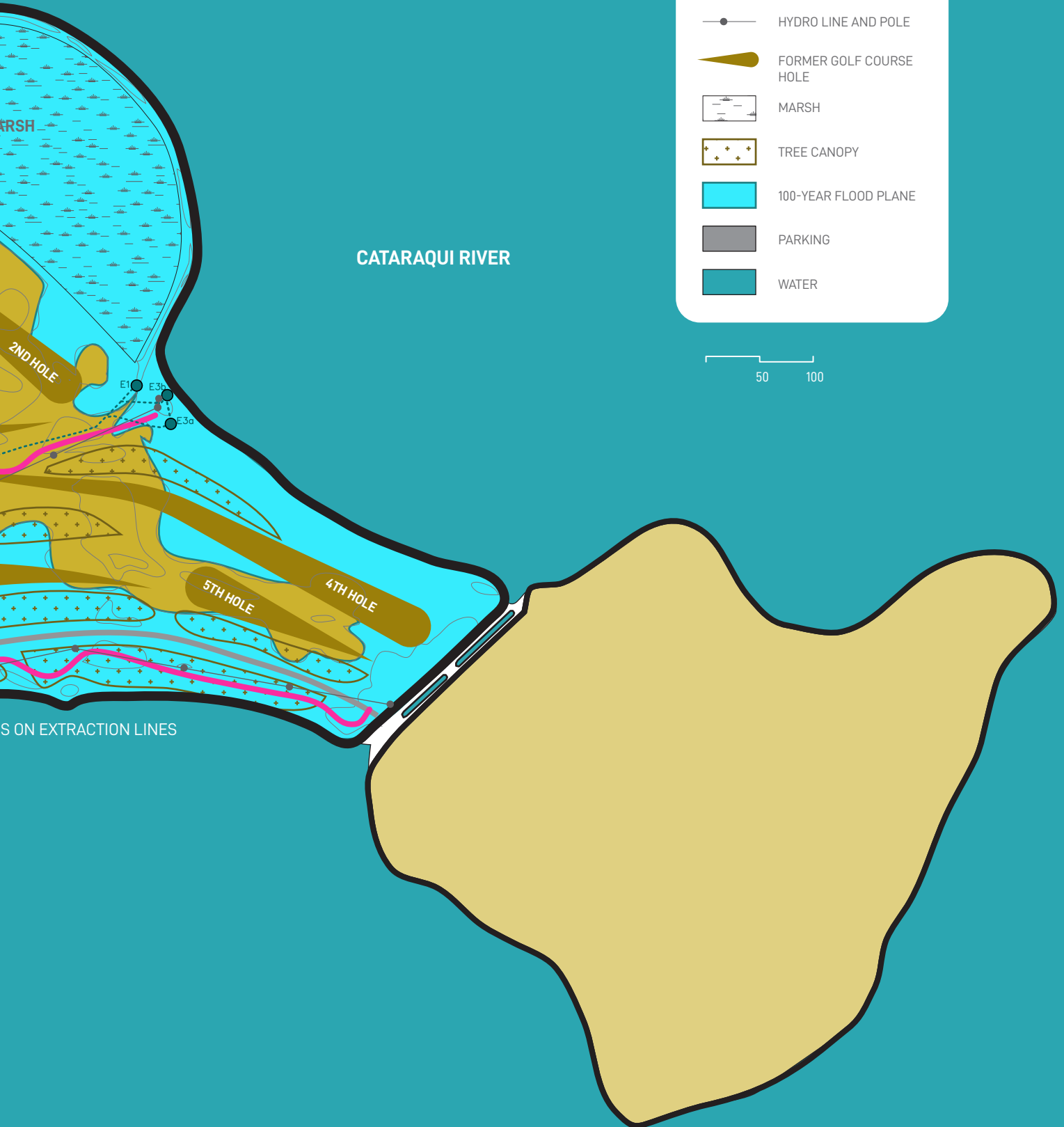
## Site Review

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

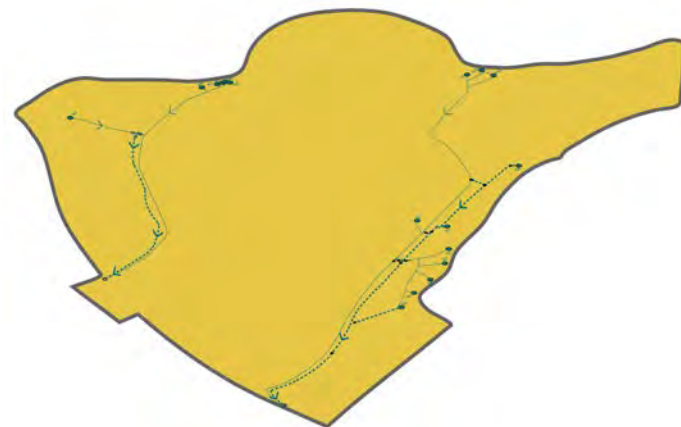
# Inventory and Analysis

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

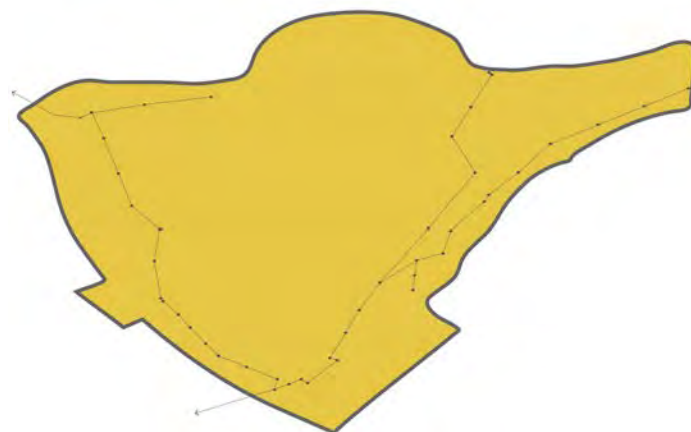
## Extraction and Monitoring Wells

- 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







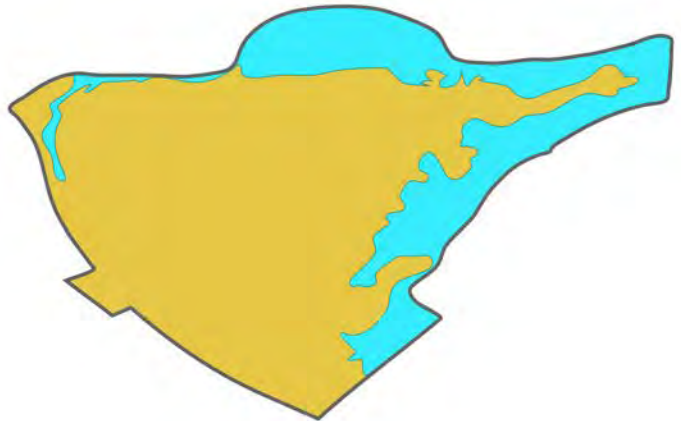
## Golf and Recreation

- 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



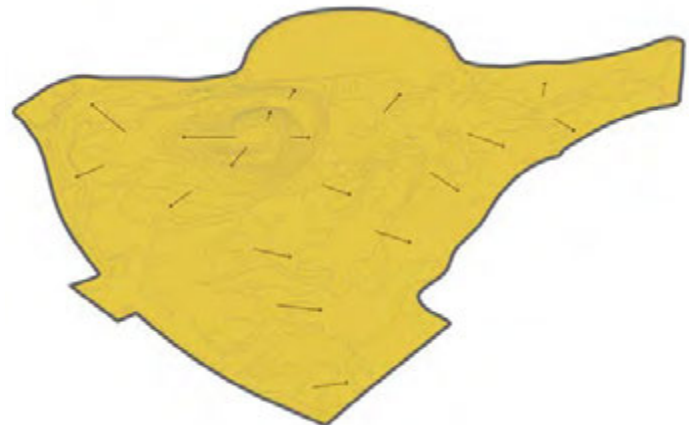
## 100-Year Flood Plain

- 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

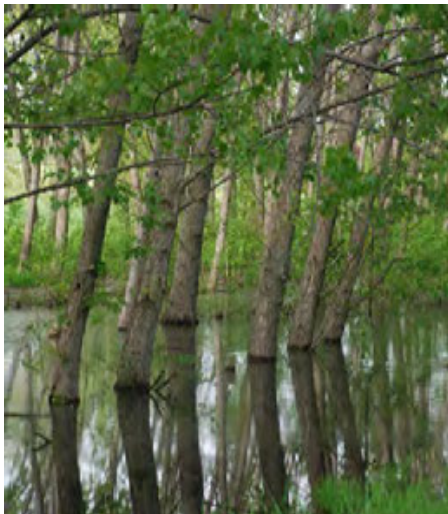


## Topography

- 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



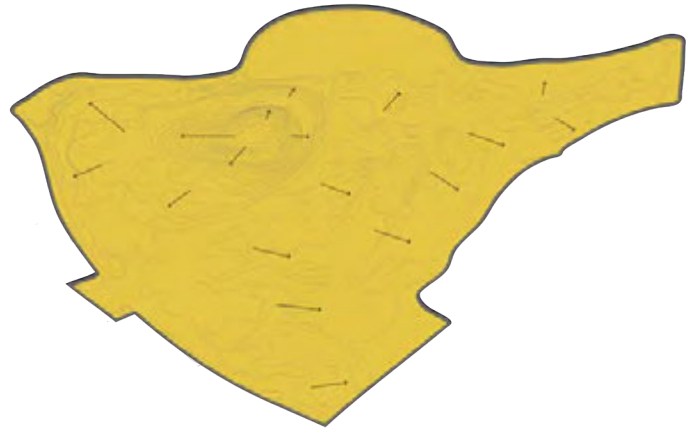






## Vegetation

- 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



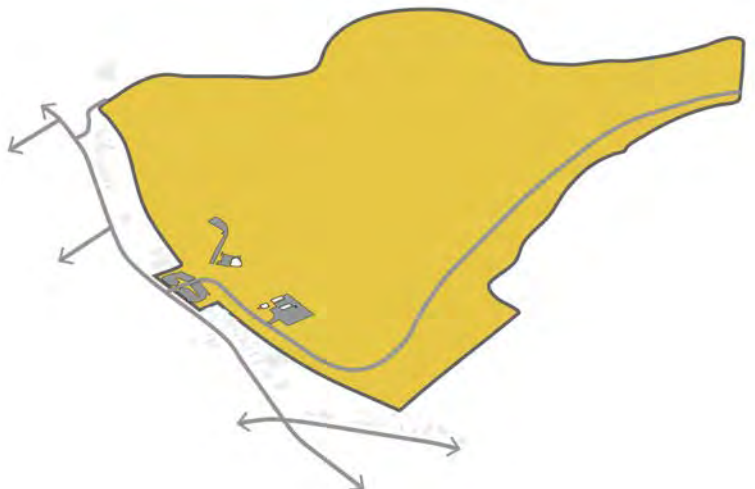
## Pedestrian Circulation

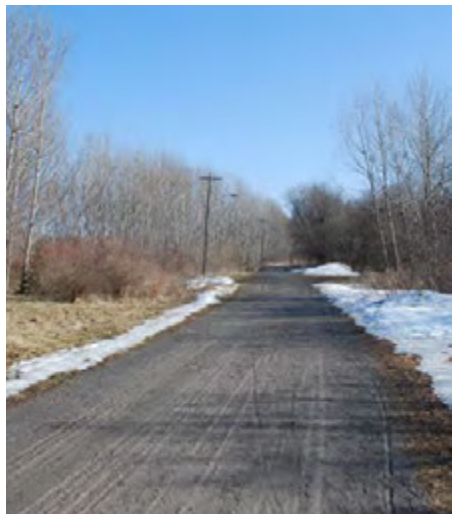
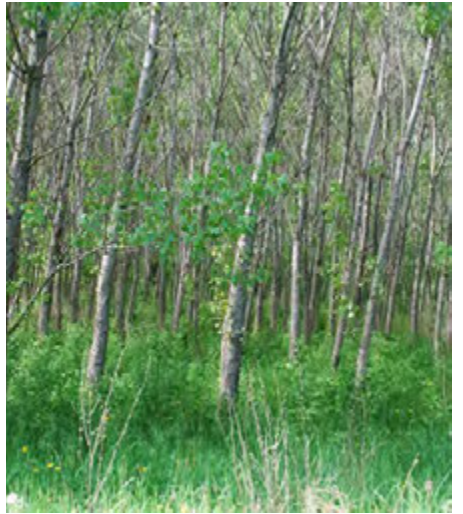
- Well established network of trails, both formal and informal
- Approximately 10 minutes to walk across
- No trail hierarchy
- Opportunity to reconfigure trail network of master plan process



## 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 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 the 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 thinc 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.



Belle Island current Google view, July 2019





## 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.

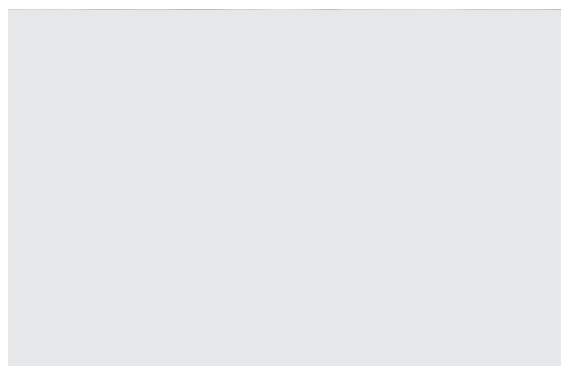
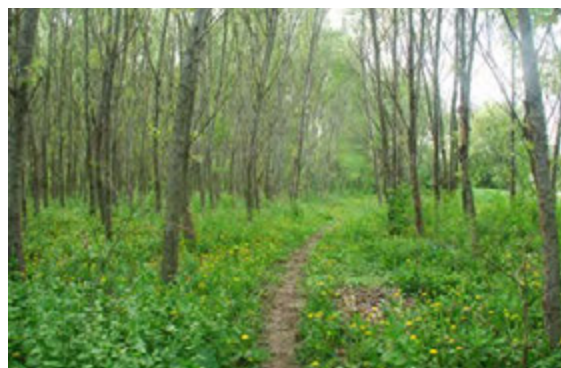






## Natural Environment Opportunities

- 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..



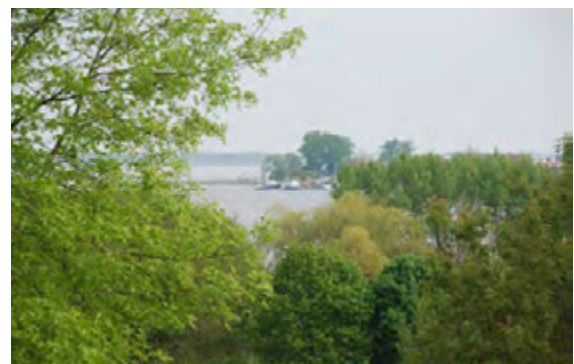






## Trails + Access + Views Opportunities

- 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



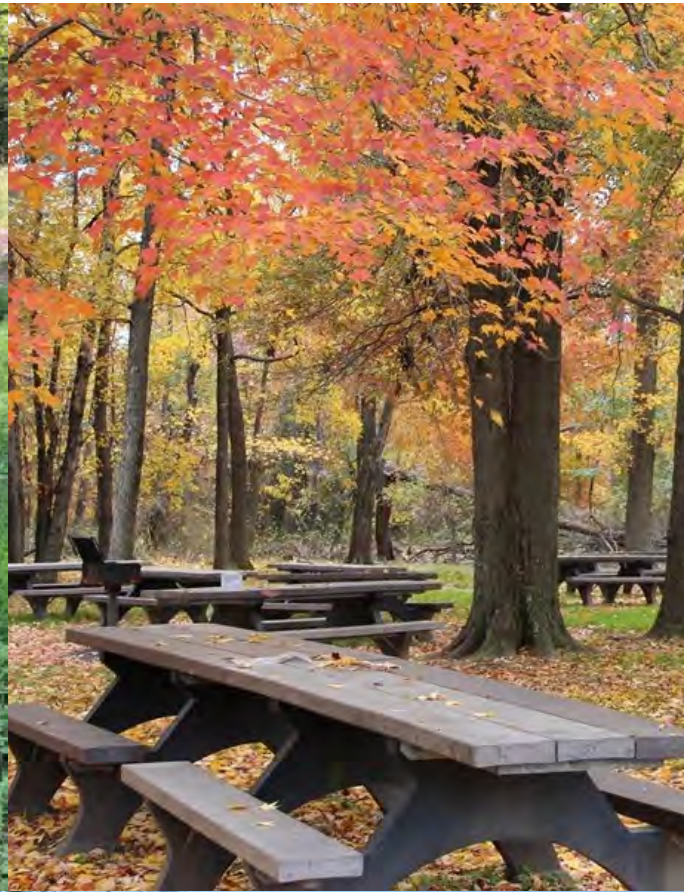


## Social

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



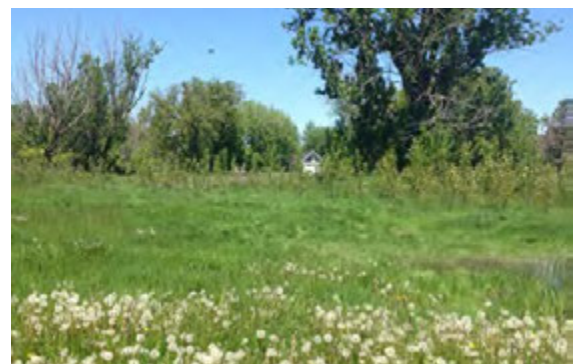






## Social Opportunities

- 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

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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



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# 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





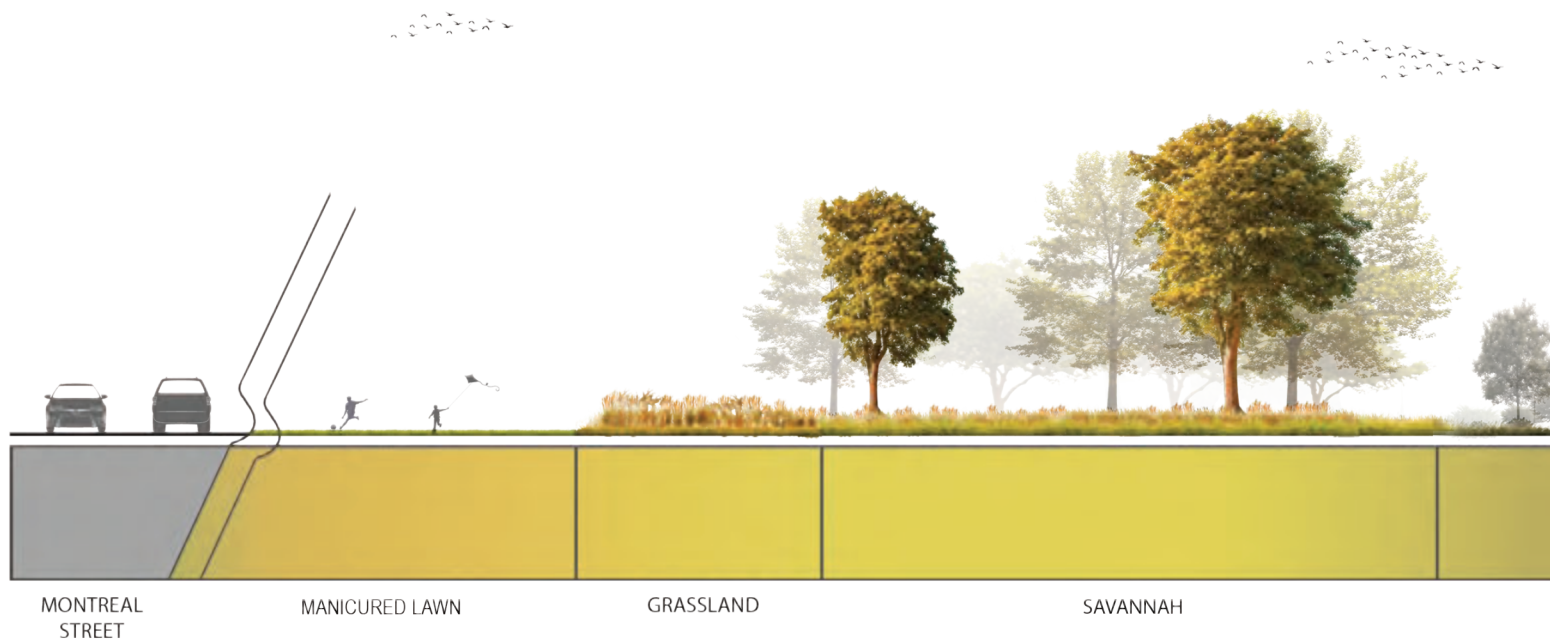
Marsh

ccession

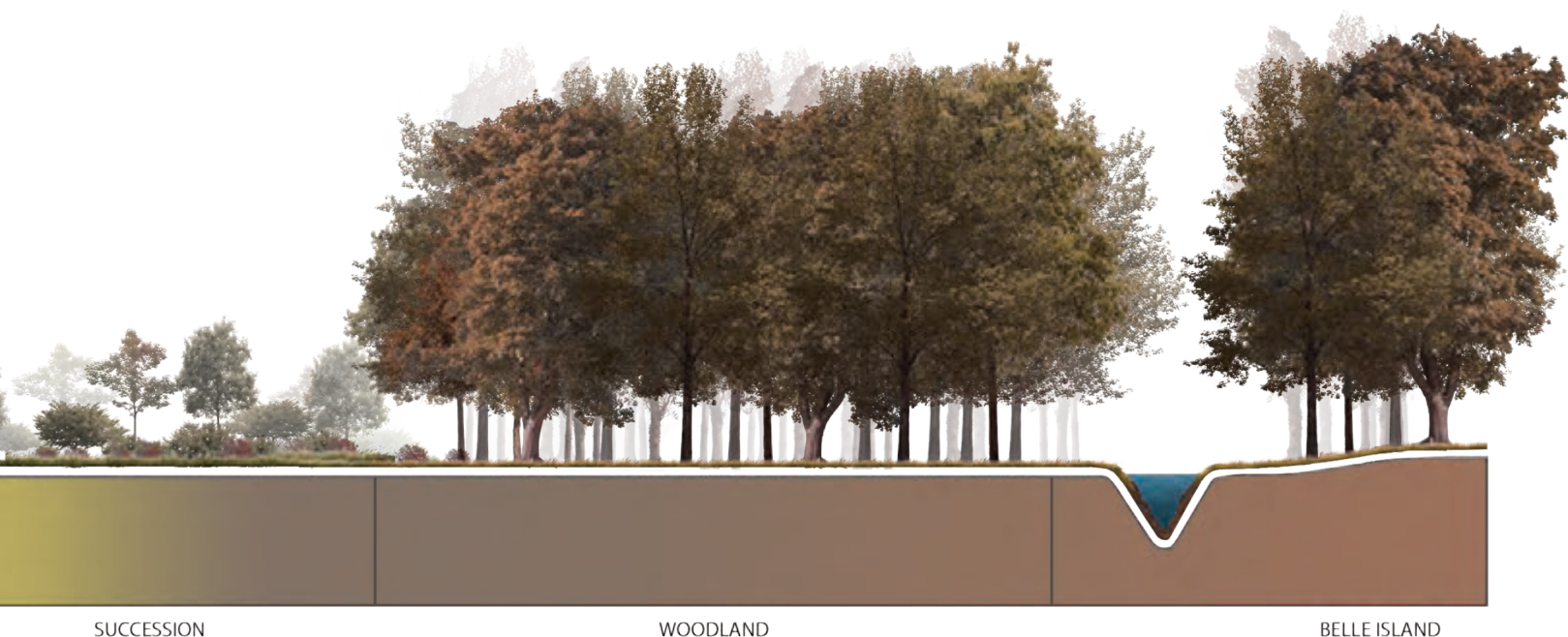
Woodland (Increased)

Belle Island

# Typical Section through Belle Park Graduated Landscape



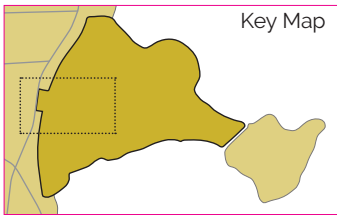




NOTE: Section illustrates the graduated landscape concept in regards to the transition of landscape typologies from Montreal Street to Belle Island. The scale of the drawings and width of the landscape zones illustrated is diagrammatic only and is not to scale. To understand the size of each landscape 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

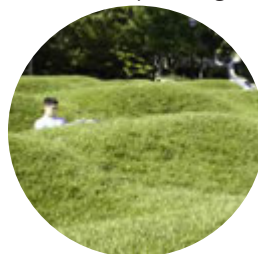
## Gateway Entry

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.





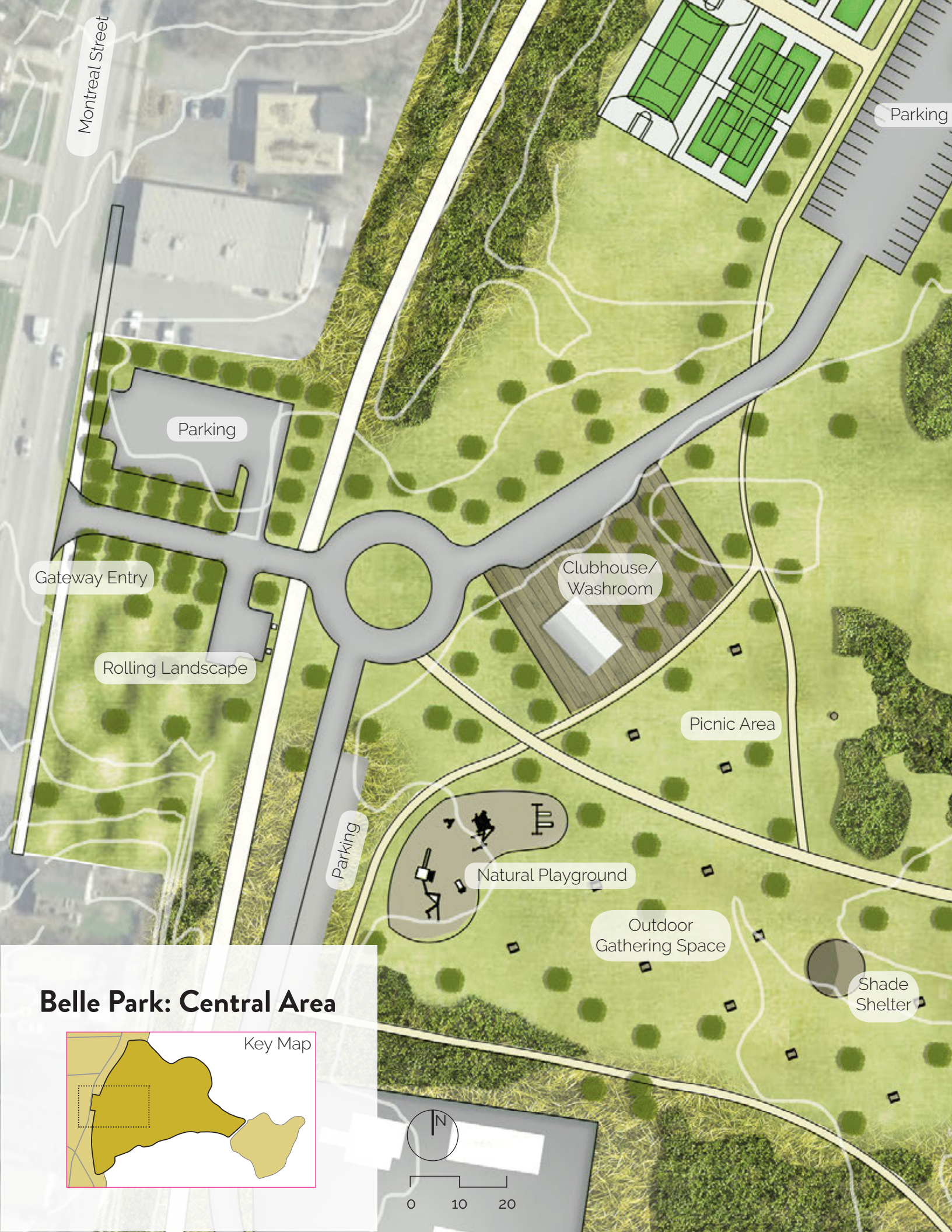


BEFORE: Current Gateway Entrance

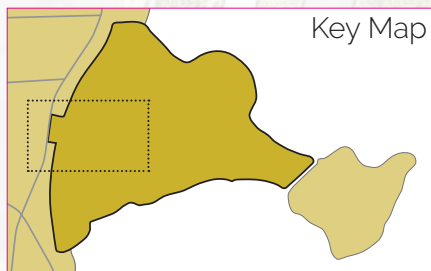


AFTER: Proposed Gateway Entrance

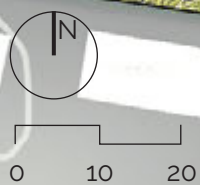




## Belle Park: Central Area



Key Map







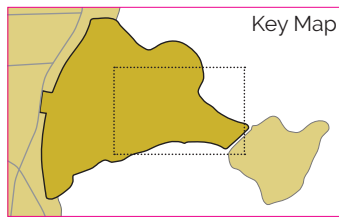
Multi-use Field







# 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



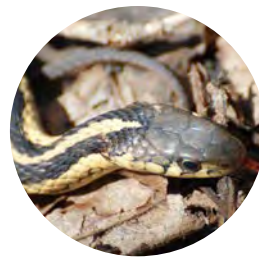
Throughout this area of the park, a hierarchy of trails is proposed to provide a range of user experiences. This includes the main pathway down the spine of the park, the existing service road which traverses the south side of the park, and a series of secondary pathways and trails to create recreation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

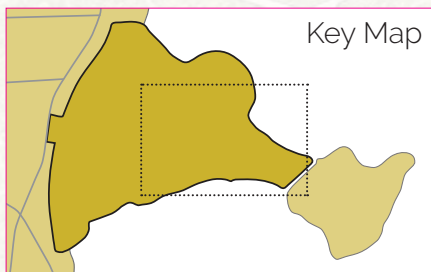


AFTER: Proposed Savanna Walk (The Bump)

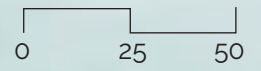




## Belle Park: The Peninsula

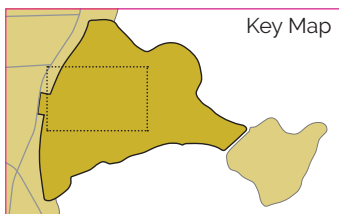








# Active Elements (Playcourts and Park)



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.

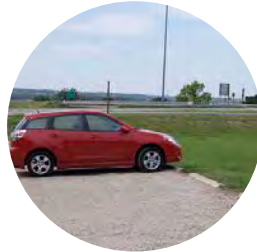
- Determination of an indoor tennis bubble will be consistent with the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which is currently being reviewed and updated. The indoor tennis option would undergo a city wide location analysis before considering it in Belle Park. A community led or private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

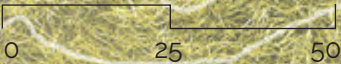
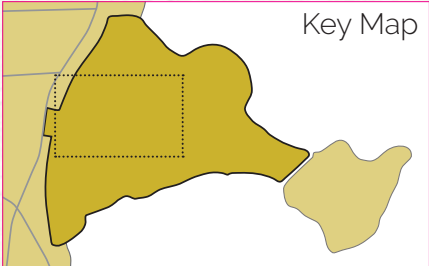




Driving Range

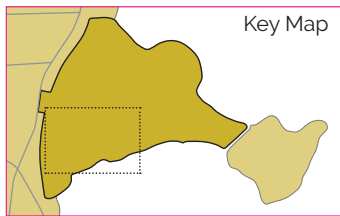
Lookout

# Belle Park: Active Elements





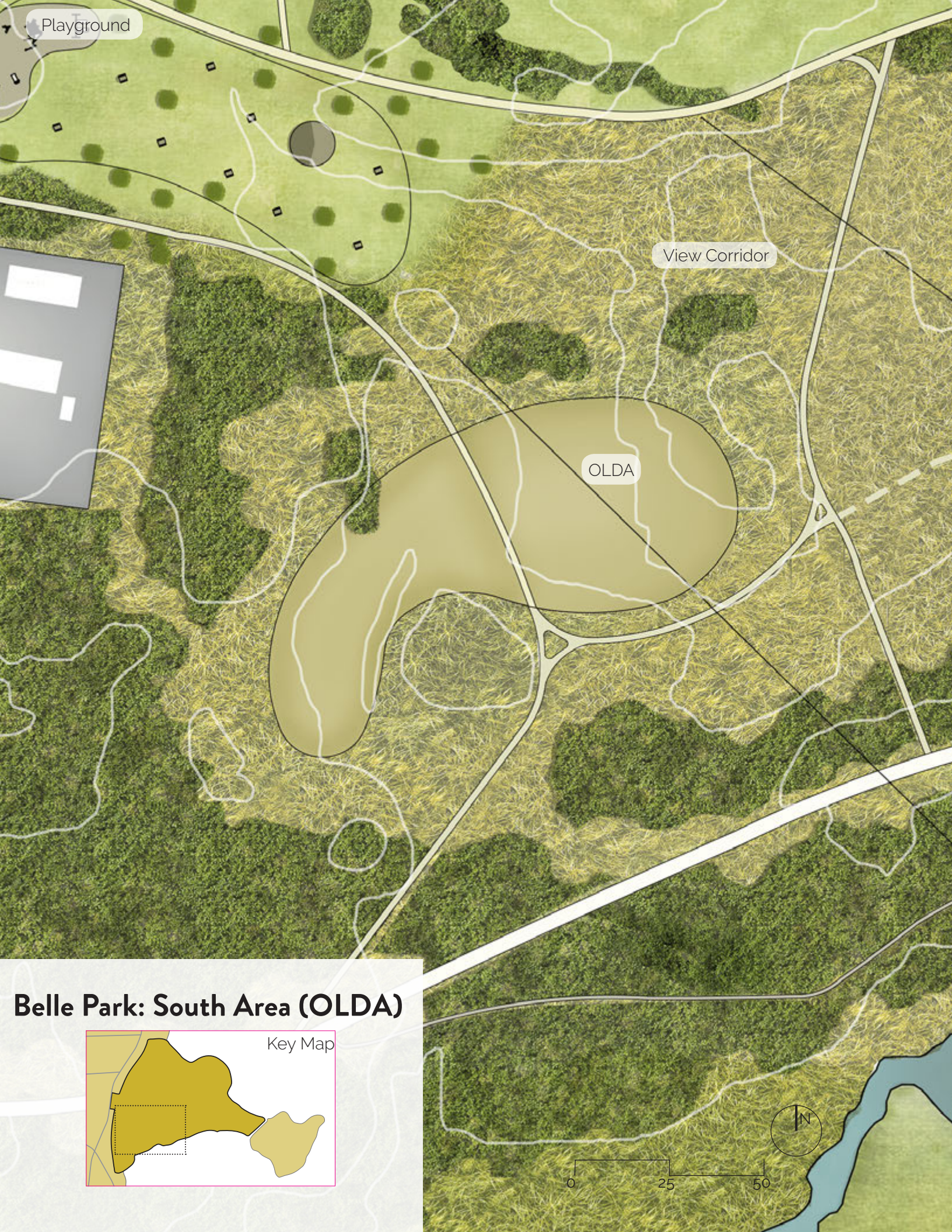
## South Area (OLDA)



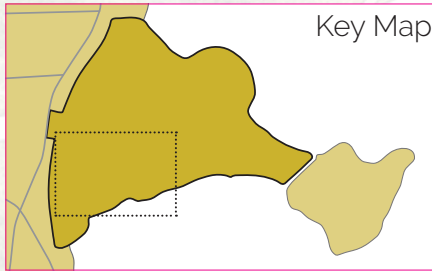
Located south of the recreation field, an off leash dog area (OLDA) is proposed. The limits of this leash free zone would be defined by a combination of signage, land form, planting, fencing and other landscape features, to help better integrate it into the park's surrounding environment. Throughout 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.





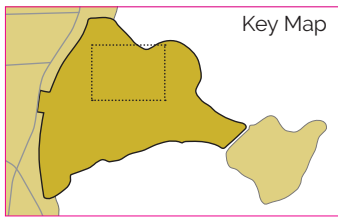


## Belle Park: South Area (OLDA)





# 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

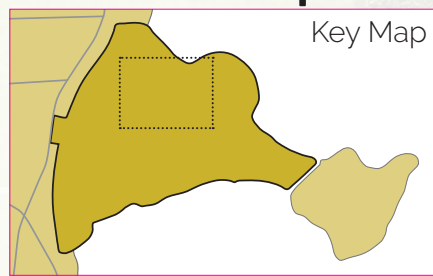




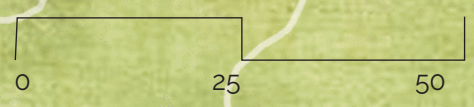
Driving Range

Pitch n' Putt

## Belle Park: Hilltop Lookout



Key Map







Lookout

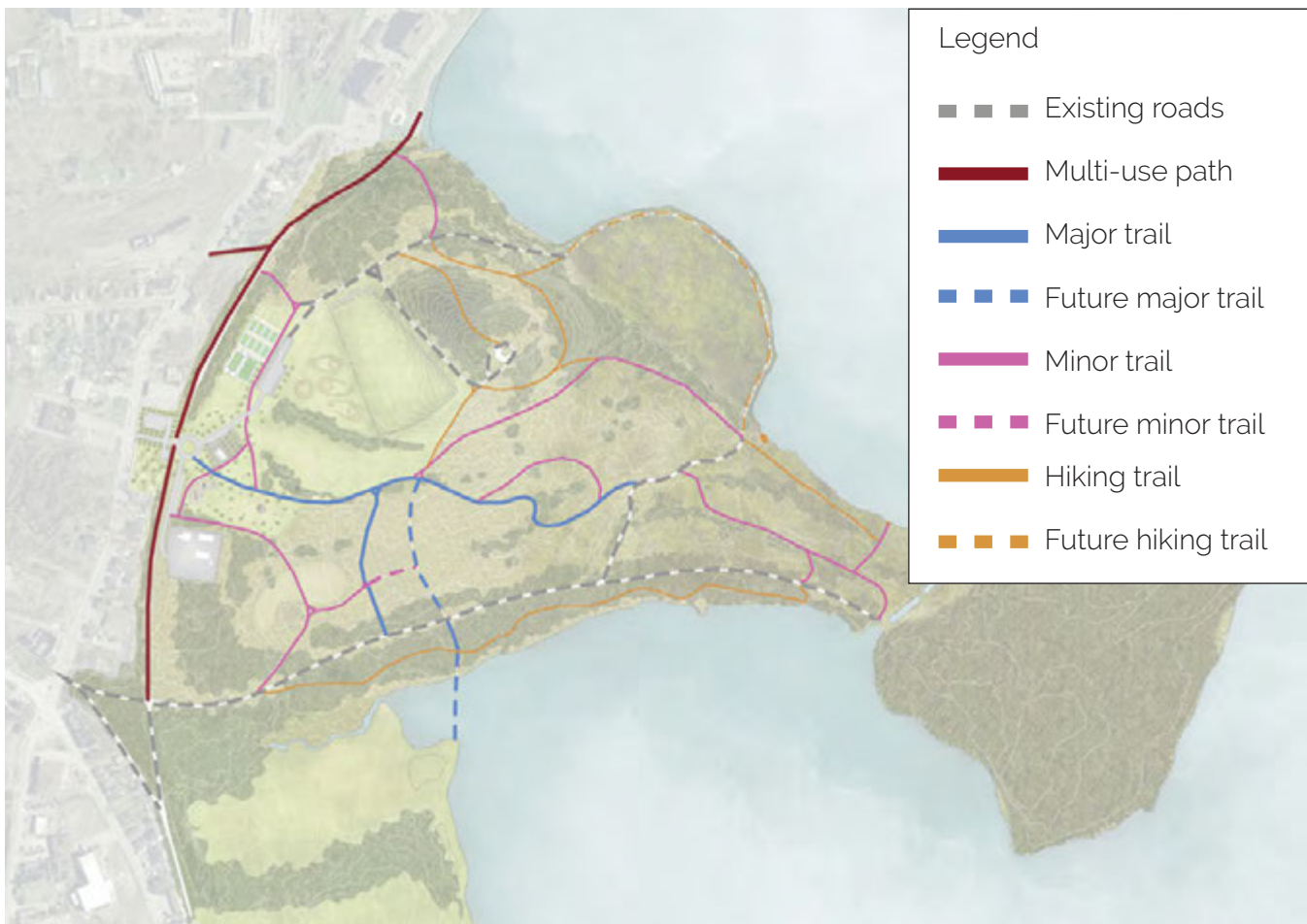


# Pathways + Circulation

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

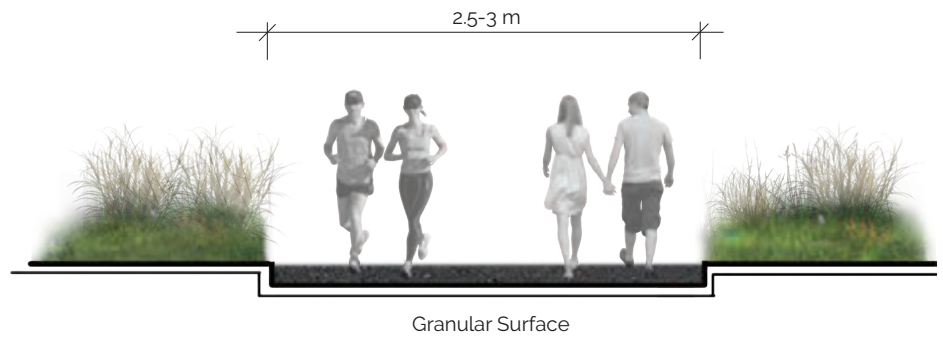
There are existing service roads on site, which will continue to be maintained for maintenance and environmental management needs. Along the abandoned Grand Trunk rail bed, a multi-use path (MUP) active transportation corridor is proposed to connect residents between the existing K&P trail and the future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





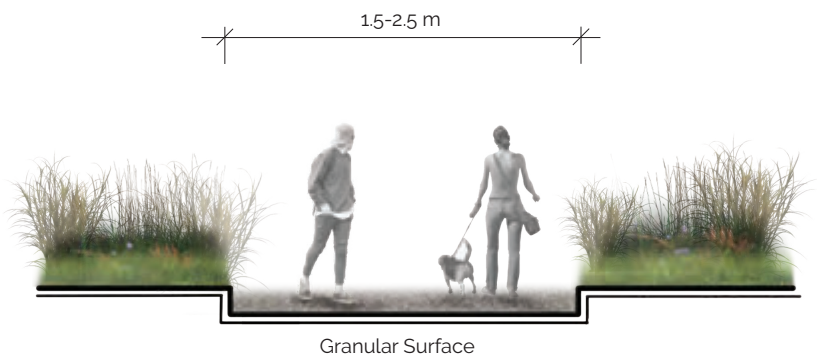
## Major Trails

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



## Minor Trails

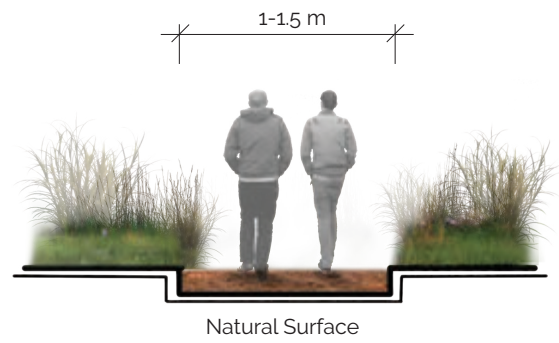
- Secondary pathway
- Granular surface
- 1.5-2.5 metres wide
- Walking, cycling and cross country ski route in winter





## 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:

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

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,999,570</b>

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

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



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

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

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



#	Type	Project	Description	Budget	Comments
2.7	Social	Picnic Area	• Picnic tables and BBQ's grading of lawn area (5000 m2)"	\$150,000	• On and off pad Accessible
2.8	Social	Pavilion/ Shelter	• 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	• Armour-stone seating and gathering space	\$50,000	
2.10	Cultural Heritage & Education	Interpretation	• Interpretation (Indigenous, natural environment and cultural) • Program to be developed as part of Interpretation Strategy	\$50,000	
2.11	Recreation	Natural Fitness Circuit	• Five to ten natural styled fitness stations • Stations organized along proposed network of pathways to create fitness trail	\$60,000	• Price based on 5 stations
2.12	Recreation	Multi-use Field	• Approximate area 120 metres long x 70 metres wide ) • Natural grass surface • Constructed above existing grade (fill)"	\$275,000	• For sport and community event use

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

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

#	Type	Project	Description	Budget	Comments
3.8	Recreation	Driving Range/Pitch n' Putt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconfiguration of existing driving range</li> <li>• Provide space for future pitch n' putt south of reconfigured driving range</li> <li>• West of new parking lot</li> </ul>	\$350,000	• Allowance
3.9	Infrastructure	Clubhouse and Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washroom upgrades with exterior access</li> <li>• Community meeting space</li> <li>• Plaza space around clubhouse</li> </ul>	\$575,000	
3.10	Infrastructure	Parking Improvements at Courts/ New Driving Range and Pitch 'n Putt (East half)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking for approximately 32 cars</li> <li>• Approx. 1000 square metres</li> </ul>	\$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"> <li>Tree and Shrub Planting as per strategy (1.1)</li> <li>May be integrated with other projects or be a stand alone initiative</li> </ul>	\$100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be integrated with other projects or be a stand alone initiative each year</li> <li>Should be combined with other initiatives in collaboration with Conservation Authority or other programs</li> </ul>
B.2	Natural Environment	Woodland Clean-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cleanup of existing wooded areas to promote a healthy forest/woodlot</li> </ul>	\$50,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of each phase</li> </ul>
B.3	Natural Environment	Selective cutting/thinning of woodland & management of invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cutting and thinning of woody growth to encourage development of grassland and savannah landscape as part of graduated landscape concept</li> <li>Removal of invasive species as part of site naturalization</li> </ul>	\$60,000	
B.4	Trails, Access & Views	Minor Pathway Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secondary north-south connecting walkway through park</li> <li>2.4 to 3 metres wide</li> <li>Approximately 300 metres</li> </ul>	\$40,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two phases</li> <li>Small sections will require boardwalk to address seasonal flooding/wet areas</li> <li>Consider coordinating with South Marsh/Tannery connection timing.</li> </ul>

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





# Beyond 15 Years