

Waterfront for All Preliminary Position on The Toronto Island Master Plan, March 2021

Improve Environmental protection

- As the waterfront population is expanding and the number of visitors growing, protection of the island's unique, car-free natural environment is uppermost. This includes ESAs, land affected by flooding and shoreline erosion, natural vegetation, trees, beaches, animal species.
- Protection from all sorts of pollution: garbage, air pollution, sewage contamination and debris in water as well as noise impacts from the airport and loud music. Beaches and public areas should have adequate maintenance and upkeep budgets and crew.
- Protection of birds as we seek an Island designation for the Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary.
- Special off-limit wilderness areas should be preserved for distant viewing from boardwalks or platforms only.

Promote the use of Island Resources

- Low impact recreational enjoyment of the island for all age groups taking advantage of the unique land and water opportunities in ALL seasons: paddling sports, kayaking, canoeing, SUPs, sailing, tennis, snow shoeing, skiing and skating, bird watching, hiking, biking, pony rides and hayrides in the winter. Infrastructure to facilitate the above through trails, rinks, docking and storage facilities, possible contests and races etc. Rental opportunities of equipment for all of the above.
- Attracting diverse groups. Gathering places for Indigenous communities through special areas to celebrate Indigenous

culture, Pow-Wows, traditional dances, fire-pits. Protected areas for native plants and tree species. Outreach to New Canadians to introduce them to Canadian outdoor experiences. Special cultural events and festivals eg. kite flying contests popular in South Asian communities.

- Food offerings with multi-ethnic cafes to make the Island experience attractive to diverse visitors.

Recognize Existing Island Landmarks and History

- Improve the visitor experience by recognizing of the island's unique history: Early Indigenous history, later settler and residential history of the small town that existed on the island before the park. History of the current island community and its struggle to save their island homes. Remembering notable characters and their historical records eg. Elizabeth Simcoe, Ned Hanlan, the Ward family, the lighthouse keeper J.P. Rademuller and the ghost story. The above and many First Nations gave Island streets and landmarks their names.
- Recognition of the island's existing assets: Artscape, Far Enough Farm and Centreville, the maze, the Island Filtration Plant, WIA, AIA, as well as the heritage St. Andrew's church, Gibraltar Point Lighthouse, Ned Hanlan statue, etc. Many are itemized in the ERA report submitted to the MP staff.
- Historical plaques and story-telling markers for the above. Seek partnership for this with Heritage Toronto.
- New and compatible assets that will enhance the Island experience eg. gardens and green houses similar to Allan Gardens, adventure playgrounds as in the Brickworks and former Ontario Place.

- Much like our advocacy for Ontario Place the Island experience should be free to all. Fees and commercialization of experiences are not desirable.

Improve Access and Way-finding

- Uppermost, improving aging infrastructure, replacing the aging ferries, year-round heated bathrooms, lake safety ladders. Addressing the winter failings of the Ward's dock and its ice build-up. Resolving jurisdiction issues and responsibility for crumbling seawalls in the Eastern Gap and mitigation for shoreline erosion and tree loss.
- Improved access for all Torontonians. Better, more frequent ferry scheduling, ticket purchasing and loading and unloading management to avoid long lineups. Ongoing research into visitor numbers capacity and future limits.
- Vehicle drop-off zones for disabled visitors with wheelchairs, people with baby carriages and picnic hampers. A better accessible TTC arrival point at the QQ station with a working elevator. (Coordinate here with the LRT East proposals, including the underground tunnel.)
- Better way-finding on the island through signage but also smart-phone digital means. Possible use of electric trolley that might cross the island from Hanlan's to Ward docks and facilitate movement for older and disabled visitors.

Include the Airport Land in MP Planning

- Finally, and not the least: Although the BBTCA airport lands have unfortunately been excluded from the Island MP planning, the BBTCA Island airport is incompatible with the vision, principles and objectives of the Toronto Island Master Plan as proposed in its mandate and materials.

- We would like to see a parallel process with public consultations that addresses the Island airport lands. We recommend that it begin soon given the expiry of the Tripartite Agreement and City's lease in 2033. In the meantime we eagerly await the inclusion of the 215-acre airport lands into the Island Park.