



Big Ideas Summary Report

09/28/2021



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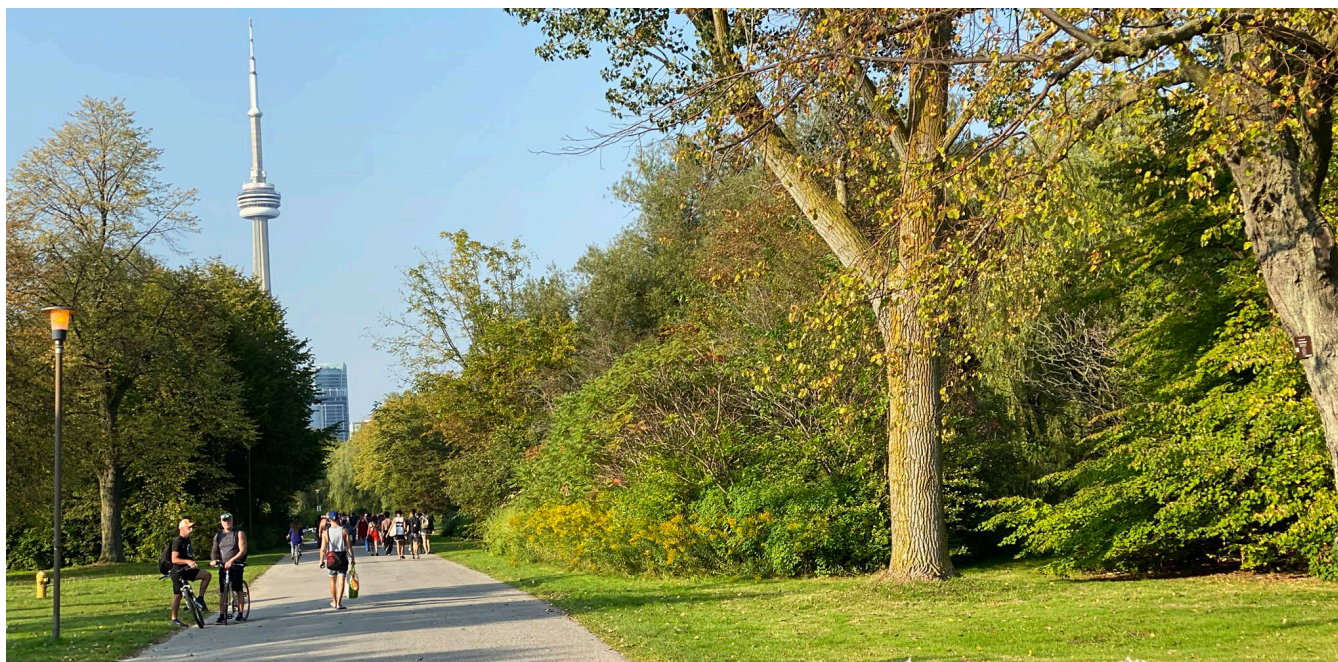
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Introduction



The City is co-creating the Toronto Island Park Master Plan with Indigenous rights holders, local communities and the general public! That means we're collating thoughts, ideas and feedback in gradual stages and in a variety of ways to ensure your voices and ideas are reflected in the final Master Plan.

There are three phases in the engagement process, which will run from 2021 to 2022. During the first phase of the project, we collaborated with Indigenous rights holders, Torontonians from all walks of life and City staff to develop a Vision, Guiding Principles and Values for the Toronto Island Park.

The second phase is called "Ideas to Concepts" and runs from June 2021 until November 2021. In this phase, the project team is confirming the Vision, Values and Guiding Principles and developing "Big Ideas" and Concept Plans for Toronto Island Park.

This document is the summary of an online engagement tool used in Phase Two to share and seek feedback on Big Ideas. Through a City of Toronto digital platform, we invited members of the public to review, rate, and comment on preliminary Big Ideas from the Master Plan as well as to submit Big Ideas they thought would bring our collective vision to life.

Vision, Values and Guiding Principles

The following Vision, Guiding Principles and Values – which are meant to drive all aspects of the master plan including the Big Ideas - were developed in consultation with stakeholders, rightsholders, and the public through the first phase of the project. In total for Phase One, the project team met with 2 advisory groups, held 8 Indigenous engagements and workshops, and engaged nearly 6,000 respondents across all engagement tools. To read a detailed summary of Phase One engagement, visit the project website: www.toronto.ca/islandmasterplan.



A vision for the park

Toronto Island Park will be a place to:

Protect + Restore

The Environment: through stewardship and management of sensitive environments and habitats

The Community: to be safe, accessible and welcoming for all living beings

The Self: to be a place of healing and respite, away from busy urban life and in touch with nature

Honour + Celebrate

The land, water and sky, as well as all living beings that call Mnissing home: through Indigenous place-keeping, place-making and place-revealing

The identity, character and legacy of the islands: through Indigenous, Settler, Immigrant, Refugee and Visitor perspectives

Toronto's diverse communities: through creating a space that is inclusive and celebratory of Indigenous communities, Black communities, People of Colour, LGBTQ2S+, women and gender non-conforming people, disabled people, children and youth, seniors, people experiencing poverty and all equity-deserving communities

Gather + Support

Explore collaborative governance, partnerships and coordinated program opportunities
Promote sharing, learning and teaching: through land-based practices, partnerships and programs
Ensure equitable access: through accessible and affordable spaces, experiences and connections

Values of the Master Plan

The Toronto Island Park Master Plan must embody:

Respect

By acknowledging the land as a living being
By advocating for the rights of all living beings and systems first and as part of interconnected and interdependent systems and existence
By honouring the practices and rights of past, present and future inhabitants

Diversity

By prioritizing inclusion and celebration of differing worldviews, experiences, and abilities
By ensuring equitable access to amenities, facilities, and services
By protecting and restoring sensitive and unique environments and habitats

Balance

By considering the needs of all parts of a system in the sharing and distribution of resources
By prioritizing the needs of the natural environment over human use and comfort

Accountability

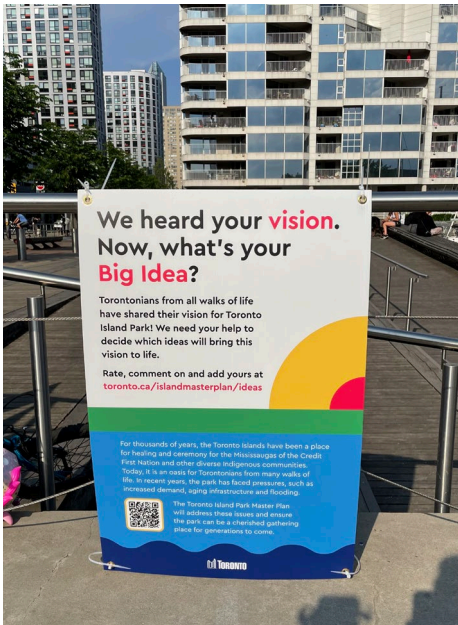
By committing to transparent processes
By developing sustainable investment in social, environmental and economic initiatives
By cultivating lasting relationships with rights holders, stakeholders and communities

Guiding Principles

1. Honour and respect Indigenous communities and their rights on the islands and water
2. Celebrate and reveal the cultural identity and spirit of the islands
3. Prioritize, protect and advocate for the natural significance and value of the islands
4. Leverage the dynamic nature of the islands and waterways to support adaptive and flexible use
5. Demonstrate resilience, sustainability and regenerative landscape management
6. Prioritize equitable access and inclusion
7. Enhance the visitor experience for all seasons
8. Provide diverse amenities and experiences to encourage exploration, sharing and discovery
9. Support opportunities for diverse and sustainable businesses to thrive
10. Develop evidence-based strategic investment to ensure long-term and continued support of improvements

Big Ideas by the Numbers

How we got the word out



Organic (Facebook, Instagram & Twitter)

60 posts were shared organically across @TorontoPFR social media channels

564 organic link clicks

66% of organic link clicks were from Twitter

1,880 organic post engagement (48% from Twitter and 46% on Instagram)

Paid (Facebook & Instagram)

Ads reach summary

Over 280,000 people reached

Over 77,000 people in suburbs and NIAs reached

Over 50,000 waterfront residents and visitors reached

At least 73,000 people reached with Indigenous or equity deserving group interests

49% of people reached were 13-34 years old

29% of people reached were 13-24 years old

Ad link clicks summary

Over 9,700 unique link clicks

31% of unique link clicks were from 13-34 year olds

At least 23% of unique link clicks were from people with Indigenous or equity deserving group interests

Over 2,300 unique link clicks were from people in the

suburbs or NIAs

Over **1,100** unique link clicks from **waterfront residents and visitors**

Big Ideas by the numbers

11,004 total site users

145 Ideas

75,819 ratings

916 comments/replies

Biggest ideas

Highest rated idea: Year-round washrooms (4.8 stars - 975 ratings)

Most rated idea: Year-round washrooms (4.8 stars - 975 ratings)

Lowest rated idea: Close the Islands (1.2 stars - 556 ratings)

Most commented idea: Diverse food options (27 comments)

Funniest idea: Two-way petting zoo (2.5 stars - 125 ratings)

Big Ideas by Guiding Principle

NOTE: Ideas submitted by the public were, as best as possible, kept unedited. The wording in some ideas have been slightly changed for clarity.



Principle 1: Honour and respect Indigenous communities and their rights on the islands and water

Total number of ideas related to this principle: 9

Highest rated idea(s):

Gidakiiminann, We Are All Stewards: The Island includes designated environments and wetlands, as well as supporting habitats for fish, wildlife and migratory birds, however many people are unaware of the dynamic and sensitive nature of this place. Create programming and activations that can be aligned with city-wide events (Toronto Bird Celebration, community clean-ups, etc.) to promote and educate visitors on the dynamic and sensitive environments and wildlife on the Island.

Overall Rating: 4.3 (rated 776 times)

Most rated idea(s) :

Place-naming: Toronto Island is a significant Indigenous place. Re-establish and introduce Indigenous place names across Mníssing.

Overall Rating: 3.9 (rated 793 times)

Dibaajimowin/Kinoomaagwewin (Storytelling/Teaching): Indigenous communities have a wealth of traditional knowledge and Indigenous stories about Toronto Island. Provide spaces for demonstrating and sharing teachings on Indigenous ways of knowing and being, Indigenous nationhood, history, treaties and the diverse and evolving living cultures of Toronto's Indigenous communities.

Overall Rating: 3.9 (rated 793 times)

Dedicated Indigenous Space: The Indigenous engagement process has revealed a desire for dedicated spaces on Toronto Island for ceremony, gathering and cultural use. Create partnerships and leadership positions with Indigenous communities for the use and management of dedicated Indigenous spaces for ceremony and lodges.

This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 3.7 (rated 771 times)

Other idea(s) :

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Engage Indigenous communities in the planning and implementation phases of projects and include Indigenous art (one idea, rated 4 with 686 ratings).
- Increase the Indigenous presence on and around the Islands, including at the ferry docks. Consider a museum (one idea, rated 3.7 with 699 ratings).
- Establish an Indigenous Reconciliation Centre where the public can learn about Indigenous ways of knowing, culture, and traditional practices (one idea, rated 3.5 with 379 ratings).
- Give back to Indigenous people control over the land (one idea, rated 3.4 with 541 ratings).
- Give Indigenous people full autonomy to make decisions about the Toronto Islands (one idea, rated 2.7 with 412 ratings).

Principle 2: Celebrate and reveal the unique cultural identity and spirit of the islands

Total number of ideas related to this principle: 16



Highest rated idea(s) :

The Toronto Islands are NOT the CNE or Wonderland:
Toronto has sacrificed the waterfront East of Front street to the developers. Please don't let that happen to the Islands. Make improvements for sure, but don't turn a silk purse into a pig's ear!

Overall Rating: 4.6 (rated 785 times)

Maintenance: There are no shortage of great ideas for the islands. Whatever path is selected, as long as it is done with exceptional quality in design and execution, will be a success. My big idea: just maintain it! Devote the proper resources to maintain whatever is built for generations to come, and the park will be a true and lasting success.

Overall Rating: 4.6 (rated 649 times)

Most rated idea(s) :

Dark Sky Viewing: The Island is a place to experience the night sky and honour the Star World. Create viewing stations and run regular star-gazing events and programs for urban youth and the general public to appreciate the unique assets and experiences of dark sky viewing in the city including considering opportunities for low-level lighting infrastructure.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 3.8 (rated 820 times)

Bring the Island to the Mainland: The Jack Layton Ferry Terminal is the start and end of most trips to the Island but feels separated and disconnected from the experience. Create inviting, engaging and comfortable spaces at the ferry terminal to begin each Island getaway, share information to excite visitors about the experience ahead, and welcome visitors back to the mainland with information about future activities and events to encourage their return.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 3.6 (rated 800 times)

Observation Tower: See Toronto Island's beautiful surrounding nature and Toronto skyline! An observation Tower is great way for people to see the Island in a different perspective. Centre Island is famous for taking skyline picture of Toronto. An Observation Tower will be a great addition to the 'nature and urban exploring' experience!

Overall Rating: 2.3 (rated 797 times)

Other idea(s) :

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Relocate vehicular access across the Island to be more discrete, operate in off-peak hours, and ensure pathways for all Island visitors are safe with minimal conflicts between vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 4.2 with 783 ratings).
- Create a structure/committee to organize regularly occurring, voluntary, community-based efforts to give back to the land and to connect with others who enjoy the Toronto Islands (i.e. Clean Toronto Together) [two ideas with a combined rating of 3.9 with 962 ratings].
- Expand partnerships with artists, creatives, and arts organizations to explore new opportunities for temporary and permanent art, residencies and programming throughout the Island. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 3.6 with 769 ratings).
- Make the south part of the Islands a NO fly zone for recreational pilots to reduce noise pollution (one idea, rated 3.6 with 427 ratings).
- Restore the old Toronto City Center Airport terminal into an Aviation museum (one idea, rated 3.6 with 322 ratings).

- Leverage on-Island advocates through partnerships to take a leading role in exploring future program offerings, activations and events that celebrate the unique opportunities of the Island. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement [two ideas with a combined rating of 3.3 with 1064 ratings].
- Expand interpretation of the Island's rich history through diverse and complementary programs, activities and elements such as temporary installations, public art, discovery walks, plaques and on-line tools. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement. Build off the Indigenous history of the Islands as a restorative place by building beach saunas where you can take a dip in the lake after to help with circulation. They could be a year round destination for those looking to relax and sweat it out [two ideas with a combined rating of 3.3 with 934 ratings].
- Add an adult focused Ferris Wheel to Centre Island that is big enough to see the city (one ideas, rated 1.9 with 570 ratings).

Principle 3: Prioritize, protect and advocate for the natural significance of the Islands



Total number of ideas related to this principle: 11

Highest rated idea(s):

Preserve the Beaches: Beaches are core to the identity and use of the Island, but erosion, overcrowding, insufficient amenities, and lack of awareness for the sensitive environment threatens their health and opportunities to experience these spaces in the future. Protect the beach environments through habitat restoration, education, improved access to facilities and amenities, and restrictions on waste brought to and left on the Island.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 4.8 (rated 889 times)

Most rated idea(s) :

Celebrate and Protect the Wildlife: The Island has rich communities of wildlife. The Master Plan should acknowledge and respect this and include specific policies to protect and celebrate wildlife.

Overall Rating: 4.6 (rated 846 times)

Accessing Nature and Water: The natural environment and access to Lake Ontario are key reasons for visiting the Toronto Island. Balance access from land and water to these unique spaces considering ecologically sensitive improvements to existing infrastructure in some areas that ensure the overall health of the Island and the protection of sensitive environments for future generations.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 4.4 (rated 809 times)

Sharing The Island Respectfully: The islands are for all but too many times these parks are disturbed by smoking, litter, and excessively loud music at all times of the day/night. There should be a respectful use policy clearly signed at the entry points of the Island and on ferries. These are intrusions into the wild spaces that the islands afford us city dwellers that is so special and distinct from our other parks.

Overall Rating: 3.9 (rated 613 times)

Other idea(s) :

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Keep the islands clean from litter with more litter bins, more regular garbage pickups, proper signage, announcements on the ferries, and heavy fines (\$1,000) for litter infractions (one idea, rated 4.7 with 421 ratings).
- Improve the quality of the sand at the beaches by cleaning it regularly (one idea, rated 4.4 with 434 ratings).
- Keep the islands as natural as possible so that they remain a great escape from the city (one idea, rated 3.5 with 16 ratings).
- Keep it simple. Enhance what exists, close the airport and allow people to enjoy the surroundings without distractions [four ideas with a combined rating of 3.2 with 1727 ratings].

Principle 4: Leverage the dynamic nature of the islands and waterways to support adaptive and flexible use



Total number of ideas related to this principle: 6

Highest rated idea(s) :

Boating Guidance: Better planning and signage for various watercrafts in the inner channels. Powerboats exceed speed limits and make unsafe maneuvers around canoes and kayaks. Some areas should be clearly non-motorized. Signs should be added to make it clear where larger boats can/cannot go. Eg. sensitive wetlands around Donut Island should have signs so larger boats don't enter and get stuck.

Overall Rating: 4.4 (rated 159 times)

Make the lagoons peaceful quiet zones: Make the lagoons quiet zones, off limits to power and large boats. The area around the lagoons - especially Blockhouse Bay and Long Pond and the Hanlan's Mooring Wall have become loud, overcrowded party zones from May to October. They are under-monitored by Parks and the police. Boats raft up in Long Pond and blare pounding music all day on summer weekends. It affects anyone who wants a pleasant experience in the area. Tour boats go through with music pounding. The lagoons should be peaceful places where waterfowl and fish can survive and people can enjoy the area with their families.

Overall Rating: 4.4 (rated 170 times)

Most rated idea(s) :

Navigate the Island Waterways: The Islands internal waterways and access to small non-motorized watercraft to experience the Island from the water are limited. Create landing points and short-term storage for personal watercraft (canoes, kayaks, paddleboards) within the internal lagoon network and along outer edges to provide access throughout the Island and promote water-based recreation and transportation.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 3.7 (rated 726 times)

The Island as Part of a Network: Toronto Island Park is part of a larger system of City Parks encircling the inner harbour and connected to the City's ravine system. Design the Island's programs, services and amenities to consider this larger context and complement and integrate into the city and waterfront parks and facilities across the Toronto Harbour.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 3.4 (rated 685 times)

Rebuild the Grandstand: Rebuild the Grandstand to permit regattas to take place on the Allan A. Lamport Regatta Course on Centre Island. Each year, several community-based water sports organizations (dragon-boating, canoeing, kayaking, rowing) stage regattas on the Regatta Course, providing many entertainment opportunities for the visitors to the Island. Visitors learn about different sports and can find community-based sport/recreation organizations where they can learn to paddle, row, Stand-up-paddle, kayak, etc. One of the Regattas, the Dominion Day Regatta, has been staged on the Island regatta course for over 135 years. Help preserve Toronto's history by restoring the Grandstand, which has been negatively affected by two years of Lake Ontario high water levels (2017 and 2019).

Overall Rating: 3.6 (rated 178 times)

Other idea(s) :

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Create long docks for fishing, especially ones that are safe for use by kids (one idea, rated 3 with 100 ratings).

Principle 5: Demonstrate resilience, sustainability and regenerative landscape management

Total number of ideas related to this principle: 7

Highest rated idea(s) :

A Cooler, Greener Welcome: The current waiting area surrounding the Hanlan's ferry arrival has sparse tree cover and large asphalt areas that make the area feel not human-scaled. As part of the re-greening effort, the open grass zones can be planted with native vegetation/returned to the wilderness, and the hard landscaping can be redone with natural materials like stone pavers or wood decking (where feasible) to create a friendlier, less harsh arrival atmosphere. At the moment, few people linger there despite the presence of the food concession and the Ned Hanlan statue; I believe that with a bit more shade, lush greenery and softer, more inviting material finishes, this spot has the potential to become more than just a waiting line for the ferry, even as it retains its functionality as an access point for vehicles.

Overall Rating: 4.6 (rated 483 times)

Most rated idea(s) :

Enforce Litter and Single-Use Plastic Free Islands: The islands are a precious area that needs to be respected and not overrun and trashed by humans. The amount of litter and single-use plastics already polluting our beaches, parks and lake on summer weekends is appalling. While creating more access and facilities on the islands may seem helpful, if it brings more pollution then in fact maybe we need to limit human access even further. (There certainly was much less litter at Woodbine beach when the parking lots were closed at the start of the pandemic.) Let's make the islands a litter and single-use plastic free zone. (And all of Torontos beaches, parks and lakefront too, for that matter)

Overall Rating: 4.4 (rated 959 times)

Island Rangers: Using Island Rangers to be on the Island to direct, answer questions, assist, tidy and control public spaces. Preferably from the Indigenous community as much as possible. Welcoming newcomers and first time visitors and using well trained interpersonal skills to build a rapport with the public and informing them of the opportunities, expectations, history and ecology of the Island.

Overall Rating: 2.6 (rated 644 times)

Rewild Toronto Island: Most of Toronto Island is currently covered by grass or development. Commit to reforesting sections of Toronto Island with native species to help in the fight against climate change and support biodiversity. Ensure the space is still usable and enjoyable for visitors by creating a network of forest trails with signage to teach visitors about native plants and animals. Offer free tours with indigenous and environmental experts.

Nature First: The islands need to be rewilded and much more focused on nature, environment, biodiversity and species habitat. THAT should be the guiding principle- to make this one of the very few places left where other species are given primacy and not expected to serve homo sapiens. There are plenty of other places to feed the "entertainment" fixation of some.

Two ideas.

Overall Rating: 4 (jointly rated 1173 times)

Other idea(s) :

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Create more parks and establish a healthier ecosystem (one idea, rated 4.5 with 311 ratings).
- Cap the number of ferry tickets sold from June - September to improve access without overcrowding (one idea, rated 2.2 with 438 ratings).
- Stop all human activity on the islands (one idea, rated 1.2 with 556 ratings).

Principle 6: Prioritize equitable access and inclusion



Total number of ideas related to this principle: 35

Highest rated idea(s):

Disabilities: Please make the Island more accessible for people with disabilities.

Overall Rating: 4.5 (rated 490 times)

Most rated idea(s) :

Knowing Where to Go and How to Get There: The current network of pathways on the Island is not well signed to help people navigate around the Island. Create a clear network of walking trails and paths including walking times and distances.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 4.4 (rated 908 times)

Island Access: While the trip across the Toronto Harbour is usually a highlight of any Island visit, ticket purchase, boarding boats and planning trips that use multiple modes of transit can be overly expensive, frustrating and create barriers to accessing the Island. Improve integration of ferry service with other transit providers (TTC, GO) to promote a seamless and less expensive experience, and to improve access to the Island beyond the downtown core.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement. Seven similar ideas were also submitted by the public.

Overall Rating: 4.1 (rated 877 times)

A Refuge for LGBTQ2S+: The Island has played an instrumental role in providing safe haven for LGBTQ2S+ communities. Celebrate the significant places (such as Hanlan's Beach), stories, and culture that the Island embodies for the LGBTQ2S+ community.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 3.7 (rated 795 times)

Other idea(s) :

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Construct a trail to connect Muggs Island to the public realm and to improve access between the Centre Island and Hanlan's Point Ferries (one idea, rated 4.2 with 431 ratings).
- Fly the pride flag at the docks and add a fun rainbow arch sculpture to the path just past the ferry docks. Make it clear this is a queer safe space on indigenous land (one idea, rated 4.1 with 405 ratings).
- Increase the accessibility and usable space on Hanlan's and make it easier for nudists and queer folks to not compete for space by making the whole beach clothing-optional (one idea, rated 3.8 with 478 ratings).

- Make water sports, like sailing, more accessible to Torontonians of all incomes. Partner with private sailing clubs to engage with and facilitate learning of sailing with average park users or the general public (one idea, rated 3.8 with 299 ratings).
- Establish speed limits and traffic calming measures for bikes (one idea, rated 3.7 with 175 ratings).
- Establish a frequent, affordable, ferry service for pedestrians and active transport only between Cherry Beach and Wards Island within the Eastern Channel (one idea, rated 3.6 with 369 ratings).
- Create a nudist only section (preferably with barriers blocking the view from everyone else), for the safety and comfort of nudists using Hanlan's (one idea, rated 3.4 with 417 ratings).
- Build a pedestrian or cycling bridge to the Island. Install a walking/cycling bridge from cherry beach to the Island [six ideas with a combined rating of 3.3 with 2954 ratings].
- Improve paddling access from Woodbine Beach (one idea, rated 3.3 with 321 ratings).
- Establish a water shuttle system that would ferry visitors between the Toronto Islands and area greenspaces such as Tommy Thompson Park, Ontario Place, Humber Bay, and Ashbridges Bay (one idea, rated 3.2 with 708 ratings).
- Enhance access to all public areas of the park, including those that are hard to reach, feel private, or are physically obstructed, and ensure seamless and continuous connections throughout the Island where possible. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 3.2 with 604 ratings).
- Add another circuit to the Centreville Railroad to allow families to board the train from the Centre Island Ferry to Centreville, Hanlan's Point, and Wards Island to act as an integrated long distance transport method that feels like part of the park experience (one idea, rated 3.2 with 353 ratings).
- Create targeted programs for equity deserving communities as a way to make the Island more inclusive. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 3.1 with 611 ratings).
- Buy new, clean energy ferries. Make ferry service more frequent and inexpensive, and add new routes (one idea, rated 2.9 with 14 ratings).
- Getting on and off the Island shouldn't have to be a matter of line-ups and crowding. Establish additional access points on both the mainland and islands [three ideas with a combined rating of rated 2.8 with 1227 ratings].
- Reduce the access bottleneck by allowing people to get to the Island via the airport tunnel (one idea, rated 2.7 with 478 ratings).
- Install gondolas on the Island to supplement ferry service, make it easier to get around, and provide beautiful views of the harbour and downtown, while maintaining the Island's unique status as a place away (one idea, rated 2.2 with 210 ratings).

Principle 7: Enhance the visitor experience for all seasons

Total number of ideas related to this principle: 25

Highest rated idea(s) :

Year-Round Washrooms: The availability of quality washroom facilities in all seasons are important to a positive Island experience. Provide year-round washrooms close to points of interest across the Island including a clear wayfinding strategy to help identify these important facilities.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 4.8 (rated 975 times)

Let's Stop Getting Dehydrated: I'd like to see free water bottle refill stations on the Island, instead of just drinking fountains and expensive vending machines. We always run out of water here, and it's \$5 for a drink at the vending machine!

Overall Rating: 4.8 (rated 164 times)

Most rated idea(s) :

Year Round Staycation Destination: Everyone agrees that the vast majority of the Island should remain parkland. However, having a small part of the Island as a resort or hotel could truly be a magical place. It would provide breathtaking views, and would be an international draw. It could also be year-round, in the Winter there could be hot baths people could swim in. There is a precedent for this, there used to be a hotel on the Island. We could have great restaurants and patios on the Island too connected to the hotel and/or resort and have the entire complex be relatively small, but a huge draw for Torontonians and International visitors alike.

Healing Waters: I would love a year round, outdoor, heated swimming pool / therapy waters with a breathtaking view of the lake. It needs to be massive, accessible to all, and architecturally exquisite and memorable. I am thinking of how wonderful the Pam McConnell Aquatic Centre is - and a bonus if the

energy for the heating can be 100 % solar, wind, geothermal, etc. It would be a gem for Torontonians and visitors alike.

Two ideas.

Overall Rating: 2 (jointly rated 1646 times)

Warm Up Winter: The Island is a beloved place year-round, but there are limited amenities and facilities that support this use in winter. Provide winterized facilities and expanded winter activities and programs across the Island to make the Island a winter destination.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 4.3 (rated 896 times)

Flexible Space for Fun and Games: People come to the Island to have fun engaging in amusements, recreation, arts and culture, music and events of various sizes in an Island park setting. Enhance existing infrastructure, facilities and amenities that support these uses to improve the activities and experiences of the Island and promote all seasons use.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 3.6 (rated 831 times)

Other idea(s) :

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Expand bike Infrastructure on the Island: Equip ferries with special areas for bikes. Bring BikeshareTO to the Island. Make sure bike paths are well maintained, smooth and well lit. Ensure there are sufficient lock posts [three ideas with a combined rating of 4 with 1060 ratings].
- Improve the City's website or create an app to help people plan their trip (one idea, rated 3.8 with 379 ratings).
- Build a provincial park-style campsite structure with amenities like bathrooms and showers and allow camping for a max two nights stay [two ideas with a combined rating of 3.7 with 972 rating].
- Provide multi-lingual information using digital platforms, and diverse tools on- and off-Island (including enhanced maps and signage) to expand outreach and share information about the Island, events, programming, history, and dynamic environment to visitors of all backgrounds and abilities. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 3.6 with 792 ratings).

- Build a big, naturalized play space. Incorporate the values of the overall master plan and prioritize Indigenous voices in its design (one idea, rated 3.6 with 385 ratings).
- Build a large adult gymnastics/workout facility like in Miami, Bogota or Los Angeles, with rings, double bars, trapeze, etc. These spaces create movement culture in cities and help build gymnastics communities (one idea, rated 3.4 with 149 ratings).
- Establish charcoal bbq areas with charcoal disposals (one idea, rated 3.4 with 127 ratings).
- Consider expanding permitted, affordable and low-impact opportunities to stay overnight on the Island. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 3.2 with 809 ratings).
- Move the Ferry Terminal to the bottom of Yonge Street (one idea, rated 3.1 with 433 ratings).
- Expand the William Meany Maze to be bigger and better, or build a new one with a higher difficulty. The Gijs Van Vaerenbergh labyrinth in Genk, Belgium is an inspiring example (one idea, rated 3 with 385 ratings).
- Cell reception and WI-FI are unreliable or not available on the Island. Improve infrastructure to provide more consistent cell service and consider free public wi-fi in key areas on the Island. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 2.8 with 794 ratings).
- Make better signage for the frisbee golf course (one idea, rated 2.8 with 471 ratings).
- Protect view-sheds and viewing areas by creating formalized stations to capture views of the city and lake during the daytime, nighttime and in all seasons. *This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement (one idea, rated 2.7 with 687 ratings).
- A lot of dogs accompany families to the islands. Create a dog-off-leash area with proper signage, disposal area, and fencing (one idea, rated 2.5 with 779 ratings).
- Introduce scuba diving lessons as a way of increasing awareness of nature and the water and to teach people a new skill (one idea, rated 2.5 with 664 ratings).
- Establish a bicycle race on Toronto Island (one idea, rated 2.1 with 156 ratings).

Principle 8: Provide diverse amenities and experiences to encourage exploration, sharing and discovery

Total number of ideas related to this principle: 11

Highest rated idea(s) :

Protect the Island Environment: Toronto Island is composed of dynamic ecosystems and complex habitats that support unique visitor experiences within the natural areas of the Island. Identify select areas to provide accessible pathways within natural areas and edges to promote learning and exploration within the natural environment while protecting the most sensitive areas from trampling.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

The Land Before Time: There is a sizable area/Island north of the Island Water Treatment Plant that is inaccessible to all... and partially used as a dumping/staging ground? There should be trails and access to this massive area of unused park lands.

Two ideas.

Overall Rating: 4.4 (jointly rated 1244 times)

Most rated idea(s) :

Diverse Food Options: There is desire for quality food options that represent and celebrate the diversity of the City. Provide year-round diverse food options throughout the Island (destination restaurant, food trucks, Indigenous and cultural food providers, food carts, beach stands, picnic baskets, etc.) that are not limited to concession areas alone.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Overall Rating: 4.1 (rated 938 times)

International Botanical Gardens: The Toronto Islands needs more formal gardens. Imagine a botanical garden area with gardens that represent each of the ethnic groups that live in Toronto. We are the most multicultural city in the world. Celebrate it with an international garden area.

Avenue of the Island Botanical Garden and Waterplay: The Avenue of the Island is an essential part of the park and should be expanded and improved as the only-ish non-natural focus area to the Island's park space. Working with the Toronto Botanical Gardens to design a vibrant garden mixed with an array of water fountains, reflections and features (waterfalls, jumping fountains, drip art, hydro screen) to create a beautiful active and engaging plaza type area. Park users are encouraged to jump in an experience the fountains and water-art - Harkening a 'Please walk on the grass' type sentiment.

Two ideas.

Overall Rating: 2.9 (jointly rated 1088 times)

Global Sustainable Discovery Hub: The Island should be a hub for all cultures in Toronto to find a space in. Supported by unique food and cultural pavilions and with better access points. It should be a destination for our community but also the global community. And at its core should be a 100% renewable energy source and zero emission footprint!

Overall Rating: 2.8 (rated 701 times)

Other idea(s) :

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Open the Water Treatment Plant to the public for educational tours. Focus on environmental engineering such as the role Lake Ontario plays in deep lake water cooling and on promoting active and future projects that harness the energy of the lake like Toronto Hydro's pilot of the world's first offshore compressed-air energy storage (one idea, rated 4.1 with 358 ratings).
- Create a global art destination with a curation of outstanding global sculptures along the Island's trails (two ideas with a combined rating of 3.1 with 18 ratings).
- Create an augmented reality tour/scavenger hunt that will showcase the history of certain landmarks to users. This is also a great way to showcase how aboriginal history and culture ties into some of the landmarks on the Island. Establish a learning scavenger hunt, where you collect stamps for learning about the history of the Toronto Islands, including its Indigenous origins [two ideas with a combined rating of 2.5 with 451 ratings].
- Include a two-way petting zoo (one idea, rated 2.5 with 125 ratings).

Principle 9: Support opportunities for diverse and sustainable businesses to thrive

Total number of ideas related to this principle: 15

Highest rated idea(s) :



Easy Island Rentals: Equipment rentals on the Island are not currently convenient, coordinated, or accessible. Provide locations to rent bikes and non-motorized personal watercraft (canoes, kayaks, paddleboards) at key destinations across the Island, the central waterfront, and the inner harbour.

*This Big Idea was developed using feedback from previous community engagement.

Water Recreation Rentals: Many people can't afford a kayak or canoe or don't have a place to store one and the means to get it from home to the beach. Affordable rentals for day use of things like canoes, kayaks, paddle boards or pedal boats would be a great way for people to use the lake and docks on either side would let people paddle across instead of needing to use the ferry.

Two ideas.

Overall Rating: 4.2 (jointly rated 1543 times)

Most rated idea(s) :

Publicly Owned Festival/Concert Grounds: Using a part of the islands as publicly owned grounds for festivals and concerts could be spectacular, especially if it was designed to function as regular parkland when not in use. Whether facing the lake or the harbour, the setting could be truly spectacular. It would enliven nights on the Island, and could be a revenue source that could help fund so many of the other amazing projects suggested here (perhaps it could be owned by a public trust that can only spend money on the islands). Summer concerts overlooking the harbour and city could really be magical.

MAKE A PARTY ISLAND (like Scooby Doo Spooky Island): With fewer clubs being open every year and having the title of The most boring city in the world by The Guardian, we all deserve better entertainment in our city Toronto. Toronto Islands can be a great recreational place for all residents and visitors of the city. Building a beach club with a swimming pool, music, sun beds, imported golden sand and a bar is crucial for our city. Toronto can finally have the opportunity not just to be a downtown of Canada but a decent place to live and have a great work/life balance.

Two ideas.

Overall Rating: 2 (jointly rated 1420 times)

Better Restaurants: The islands need a variety of decent restaurants located in spectacular waterside locations at a variety of price points. Some should serve locally grown food and beverages and showcase Canadian culinary arts.

Overall Rating: 3.6 (rated 752 times)

Arts/Culture/Amenities: One thing we have learned during the pandemic is how much we value connecting over live music, arts events, theatre, outdoor films and how much artists build identity and contribute to placemaking. Currently the Island is kid-friendly with Centre Island but not very adult or teen friendly in terms of programming and entertainment. Culture extends to the overall vibe of a place - there should be a good balance between remote feel/relaxation and more lively things going on. Examples: a brewery, floating restaurants, murals, studio spaces and more opportunities for varied arts retreats, rehearsal spaces, interactive public art, busker spaces, opportunities for festivals like TIFF to do outdoor screenings in select areas in the Island and hammocks/relaxation spaces etc. One person on another thread talked about making the Island more overnight friendly, I think the Island should create more incentive for night visits too.

Overall Rating: 2.5 (rated 703 times)

Other idea(s) :

Other popular ideas falling under this principle include:

- Need more cafes and restaurant options (not chains) with good diverse food choices unlike the choices on the Island now (one idea, rated 4.2 with 328 ratings).
- Build a funky bar/resto on the beach at Hanlan's (one idea, rated 3.4 with 156 ratings).
- Make it possible for people to rent a picnic kit on the Island for the day instead of having to lug picnic equipment over. There could also be a micro grocery store that sells picnic basics with an emphasis on low waste, environmentally friendly packaging (one idea, rated 3.1 with 419 ratings).
- Expand the Centerville Amusement Park to include a one of a kind mini golf course for all ages (Toronto themed, designed to inspire and engage) [one idea, rated 2.8 with 358 ratings].
- Establish a paddle-up restaurant where paddlers can grab a snack or a drink, or attach themselves to a floating anchor to enjoy local artists performing, all without having to leave their human-powered watercraft to establish Toronto as a world-class water community. Make it a zero-waste experience by asking paddlers to bring-their-own utensils (one idea, rated 2.5 with 639 ratings).
- The islands should do more to implement diverse culinary experiences and avant-garde arts events showcasing Toronto's open-mindedness and pluralism. These can showcase women, BIPOC, and LGBT chefs (one idea, rated 2.1 with 641 ratings).
- Toronto Islands can be a great recreational place for all residents and visitors of the city by building a beach club with a swimming pool, music, sun beds, imported golden sand and a bar (one idea, rated 1.7 with 576 ratings).
- Create a work-hub centre with work-friendly amenities that would allow you to easily work from the Toronto Islands. Secure indoor/door space allowing you to work throughout the year. Charge a nominal fee to pay for services like locker spaces, seating, vending, secure workspaces, conference call booths, washrooms, etc (one idea, rated 1.6 with 561 ratings).
- Introduce a Beer Store or LCBO on the Island (one idea, rated 1.6 with 390 ratings).