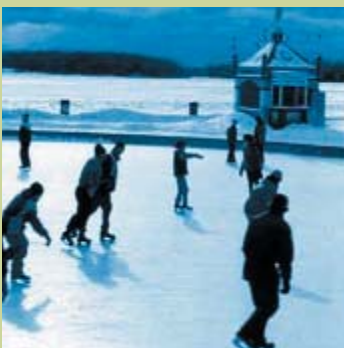


## PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUMMARY

# WHAT WE LEARNED FROM YOU

waterfront  
parks strategy



Prepared By:  
**Brook McIlroy Inc. / Pace Architects**  
in conjunction with:

Poulos and Chung Ltd.  
Terraprobe  
Baird and Associates  
Philips Engineering Ltd.

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# Public Consultation Summary

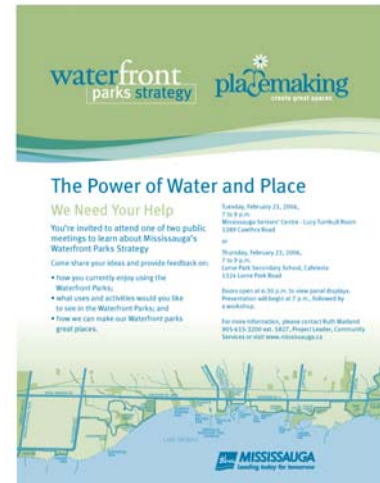
## Introduction

On February 21 and 23, 2006 The City of Mississauga, in conjunction with the Consulting Team of Brook McIlroy Inc. / Pace Architects *Urban Design and Landscape Architecture*, Baird and Associates *Coastal Engineers*, Poulos & Chung *Transportation Engineers*, Terraprobe Engineering *Soils Experts*, Philips Engineering *Infrastructure*, hosted a public open house and workshop to seek additional public input in regards to current use of parks and kick off phase 1 on the waterfront parks strategy.

## Who came to the public consultation sessions and workshops?

Poster, flyers and portable signs were distributed throughout the City and media advisory to invite anyone who was interested in participating in the open house. The following is a brief summary of who attended:

- Residents from the park neighbourhoods
- Residents from other communities in the City
- Business owners
- Media
- Special interest groups: Environment, Leash Free, Trails etc.



## What was presented?

A series of boards, a slide presentation and workshop questionnaires were presented at the meetings to provide background information about the waterfront park strategy and garner participation from the public.







## What was the outcome?

The workshops began by asking participants to collect into discussion groups and to complete ‘post-it’ note exercises, which were designed to determine each participant’s three most important uses or things that make a great waterfront park system and subsequently, what makes a great waterfront park. The following is a summary of the Post-it note exercises.

## February 21, 2006 Workshop

### Top Uses or Things for a Great Waterfront Park System:

1. Safe connectivity (15)
2. A balance of programming: retail and cultural events (12)
3. Accessibility to all: transit, barrier free and all seasons (10)
4. Access to the lake: views, fishing, boating swimming (10)
5. Environmental protection: wildlife friendly, education (9)
6. Cleaner parks: dogs, geese, water quality (7)
7. Improved trail conditions: separate bike and pedestrian trails (7)
8. Washrooms and comfort facilities (5)
9. All season access (3)
10. Trails through green space not a road (2)
11. Play facilities for kids (6)
12. Improved picnic areas
13. Special elements: water feature, boardwalk, splash pad, beaches, beach volleyball, meeting place, workout place (1 ea.)
14. Traditional to specific design and by land to link parks (1)
15. No high density or retail (1)
16. Financial commitment (1)



### Top Uses or Things for a Great Waterfront Park:

1. Landscaping: green all season, unique, natural, educational (14)
2. Access to the water: views, swimming, boating, water sports and kites, free access (14)
3. Balanced programming: leash free, festival space, restaurants and patios, sunbathing, trails, no sports fields (11)
4. Environment: trees, clean water, wildlife and unique (11)
5. Trails: well-organized, marked, separate for bikes and walking (7)
6. Safety and lighting: accessible to all (4)
7. Children's facilities (4)
8. Maintenance: garbage and cleanliness, geese (4)
9. All season appeal: skating (3)
10. Picnic areas (1)
11. Trail exercise stations (1)



### Individual Group Comments:

#### Group 1:

- Parks should be unique first with common elements like universal signage, posted maps, monitored leash free areas
- There should be more BBQ pits, picnic tables, landscaping, boat mooring opportunities, trails and trail connections, beach volleyball
- Improve maintenance, empty garbage bins more often
- JC Saddington – splash pad, new marina, restaurants, tennis courts, more trees, landscaping, lighting, all season uses, garbage cans and maintenance, ped. Bridge to connect to east boardwalk, create a loop, docking, boat launch with trailer parking, freeze pond and maintain rink, bike parking
- Small concert pit or amphitheatre, more programming for music
- Port Credit Memorial West – boat rental, canoes, benches, lighting
- Marina Park – boardwalk, trees connect to Memorial on east side, docking, boat launch, passive recreation
- Lakeside Park – create as destination park, have BBQ's, recreational areas, tennis, comfort stations and refreshments
- Fusion Park – passive recreation



#### Group 2:

"It's not what makes a great waterfront park system. It's not what makes a great waterfront park. It's who pays for this and how much are we, the residents of Port Credit, going to bear the consequences?"



#### Group 3

- Washrooms should be priority – need more, open for longer hours, cleaner, more frequent maintenance, keep open in the winter
- Restore both sides of the Credit River
- Parking is always an issue – should also be free
- Parks close too early

Group 4:

- Connectivity, use transportation hubs
- Mixed use and theme parks from natural to urban designed to facilitate a higher exchange of activity
- Landmark elements
- Activities for all ages
- Clean and safe washroom facilities, lighting at night
- More beachscapes + better maintenance to preserve
- Cycling right of way
- Maintenance and washrooms
- Seasonal opportunities
- Introduce public art program
- Music, festivals, organized activities
- Housing – higher density to sustain transportation system



Group 5:

- Park linkages, better connectivity between parks
- Cleared paths in the winter months
- Parks should be unique, diverse with some common elements like signs, maps, safety kiosks, parking lots
- Linkages through environmental education, enhance cultural and historical connections to park, neighbourhood provide educational opportunities
- Partnership with private development to provide canoe and bike rentals, one-way shuttles, coffee wagons, healthy food choices
- More variety for different sized events, different parks for different venues
- Clean water and water's edge, control the geese
- Protect the environment, approve only sustainable development, educate
- Improve transportation to parks
- By-law enforcement more involved



**Summary of Questionnaires (based on 17 questionnaires collected at the workshop):**

***Question: Do the parks need a unified vision or should each park be distinct and unique, or can they be both?***

Most participants thought that the parks should be distinct and unique but that they could contain common elements like signage, safety kiosks, parking lots and maps. Parks should be seamlessly tied together but allow for variability. Aspects to be unique: watersedge, children's facilities, vegetation, marinas, historic and cultural learning.

***Question: How do you use the waterfront park system today, what would enhance your park experience?***

Participants use the waterfront park system to cycle, walk, run, ice skate, enjoy nature and plants, walk dog, roller blade, picnic and BBQ, run businesses (charter boats). Full waterfront access, controlling the geese, improving cleanliness, separate bike/pedestrian trails, boardwalk, clearing trails in the winter and groomed trails for x-country skiing would enhance the park experience.

***Question: Which park is your favourite and what would make it more comfortable and beautiful?***

Lakefront Promenade, Arsenal, Rhododendron Park, Ben Machree were some of the favourite parks listed. Improved maintenance, better sand beaches, more picnic areas, concessions, lifeguards, more trails and beach volleyball would make them more comfortable and beautiful.

***Question: What opportunities do you see for the priority parks, Port Credit Memorial (west side of Credit River), Marina Park, J.C. Saddington Park, Lakeside Park and Not Yet Named Park (Fusion)?***



In general more community events, especially during the summer and around the Christmas holidays. People would like to see more gardens, seasonal displays, festivals, children's imagination/educational play areas, rock walls, a bandshell, naturalized areas and soccer fields

- Marina Park: Fishing, clean up area, link to Saddington Park, parking will be a challenge, boardwalk, trees and landscaping, connections to memorial docking, upgrade boat launch, passive recreation, new charter docks, art show, concerts, vendors, buskers
- Memorial Park: Narrow, small, opportunity to naturalize, provide some fishing areas
- Lakeside Park: Dirty air from industry, provide access to lake and boating - conflict with small craft boating and industrial docking uses? BBQ areas, tennis courts, comfort station and refreshments, buffer from industrial, leash free area
- Fusion Park: Boat launching, windsurfing and small boat sailing, improve public access, passive recreation, keep natural, buffer from industrial areas
- JC Saddington: All season use, generally well used but look dated, needs to be 'spruced' up, add tennis, splash pad, bike racks, skating, marina with launch facility and trailer parking, pedestrian bridge to east boardwalk, improve lighting and maintenance, beach

## February 23, 2006 Workshop

### Top Uses or Things for a Great Waterfront Park System:

1. Trails: for biking, rollerblading, walking; way-finding (signage); linkages and north-south connections (28)
2. Aesthetics: history and culture; unique identity; green and natural; improved maintenance (10)
3. Access to Lake: lake views; boating and swimming (9)
4. Environment: clean and healthy; control geese and dogs (8)
5. Natural Areas: wildlife and vegetation; heritage; passive (7)
6. Programming: seating areas; all season and all weather; balance of passive and active; outdoor arts; picnic areas; cultural heritage (7)
7. Children's Play: wave pool and play grounds (7)
8. Accessibility and Safety: sep. trail users; universal (6)
9. All Season Activities: skating – natural and artificial; skiing and tobogganing (5)
10. Parking: sep. from trail and water; over-use (2)
11. Access to Park: all forms of transportation (1)

### Specific Elements:

- Band shell (5)
- Ice cream (1)
- Boardwalk (3)
- Sports Facilities: volleyball and baseball (2)
- Party/BBQ (1)
- Lawn Bowling (1)
- Rentals: bikes and canoes (1)
- Restaurant (1)

**Note: In the interest of time and efficiency, the post it note exercise was not repeated for the second part of the questionnaire.**

### Individual Group Comments:

#### Group 1:

- Jack Darling., Arsenal, Lakefront Promenade Parks, right size to become a node
- Far west park required
- Water quality – boat pollution...?
- Dog Runs/Parks....where is there place...down to waters edge?
- Missing linkage between Jack Darling and Rattray Marsh
- Trail linkages: signage especially outside parks, more signs on paved streets – way-finding within parks and between parks
- Large map sign with legend – in certain parks, to list what facilities are where
- Better maintenance especially west of Credit River, north of Lakeshore
- Marina Park – no need for parking lot
- Saddington – no change of use, just “freshen’ up” existing
- Fusion and Lakeside – parking needed



Group 2:

- Most transportation to parks is by car
- Public Transportation needs north-south connections
- Restaurants allow all-season use and safe and secure night time use
- Public-private relationships
- Dogs are neat and fun to watch and engage with, consider separate areas
- Signage – keep unique parks but universal way-finding (km)
- Rentals – bikes, skates, canoes, rollerblades so people can visit from distances without having to carry equip. with them
- Fusion – cultural events and variety of service/restaurants: not exclusive
- Need places to rent canoes, kayaks, bikes, rollerblades, ice skates etc.
- Bike Lanes on Lakeshore Road because it is wide enough...make it the unifying link/access point for many of the parks



Group 3:

- Linkage between parks – add more paths and signs
- Cleanliness and washrooms – over-use and summer line-ups especially at Jack Darling Park
- Keep parks unique and design for specific use
- J.C. Saddington: pool, squash, tennis courts needed by community
- Memorial Park needs maintenance
- Jack Darling and Marina Park needs a walkway to link (JJ Plaus to Marina needs pedestrian link)
- “Pedestrian Only” bridge over Credit 1k north of Lakeshore
- Richards Memorial Park– approved pavilion for Trans Canada Trail



Group 4:

- Unified Signage to indicate history of park and community/neighbourhood
- Connect parks under banner of Mississauga
- Cleanliness
- Preserve natural areas
- Heritage buildings need to be preserved and kept
- Safety awareness through design
- Commercial possibilities: tea house, docks for fishing
- Already have 2 “leash free” in south side, maybe add to parks in north?
- Memorial Park West-side - watching the river – natural seating/berm framed with trees to watch rowing club activities



Suggestions from a resident:

A waterfront trail should established along the southern strip of Petro-Canada's property, connecting a narrow strip from Lakeside Park “leash free” to Meadowwood Park, then linked to Rattray Marsh via city streets.





### **Summary of Questionnaires:**

#### ***Question: Do the parks need a unified vision or should each park be distinct and unique, or can they be both?***

Each park should have a unique experience that contributes to the overall waterfront trail theme/visions –Water. Parks should be well planned to incorporate all facilities.

#### ***Question: How do you use the waterfront park system today, what would enhance your park experience?***

Participants use the park system for walking, running, rollerblading, playgrounds and splash pads, biking, sitting and picnics, bird watching, dog walking, enjoying nature, solace. Rental opportunities for watercraft, safe night time uses, restaurants, safe bike travel on Lakeshore from Oakville to Etobicoke, good concession stands with water, ice cream, Gatorade, dinner cruises, km markings on trail system, better maintenance, accessible trails and washroom facilities, open air concert area, better wayfinding with signs and pavement markings would enhance the park experience.

#### ***Question: Which park is your favourite and what would make it more comfortable and beautiful?***

Lakefront Promenade, Jack Darling Park, St. Lawrence Park, Rattray Marsh was listed as one of the more favourite parks. It should be left alone.

#### ***Question: What opportunities do you see for the priority parks, Port Credit Memorial (west side of Credit River), Marina Park, J.C. Saddington Park, Lakeside Park and Not Yet Named Park (Fusion)?***

Public and private partnerships, boat cruises, exercise equipment rentals, bandshell area, Horseback riding?, cafes and restaurants, integrated water experiences on beach

- Fusion Park: Gateway Park, Wellness centre, outdoor 'Guild Inn' – display salvaged building materials from historic buildings – purchase farm on north side of Lakeshore and operate as working farm like Springdale in Milton, design of park should be completed by public competition.
- Lakeside Park: Paths through forest area on east side, paved trail from parking area to watersedge and trail, needs icon – 'Giant Salmon'
- Memorial Park: Pedestrian bridge joining Memorial Park to railway bridge, canoe rentals, walkway along water linking to JC Saddington and Marina
- Marina Park: Picnic tables, no parking, drop off areas for families and picnic supplies
- JC Saddington: Market Square, sports facility, cultural centre, special events venue,

### **How will this feedback guide the Waterfront Parks Strategy?**

**It has been used to determine the Key Guiding Directions outlined on the on the following pages.**

## Key Guiding Directions – Based on Consultation Input

### 1. Connecting the Parks

#### **North/South connections:**

- Rerouting bus routes to engage parks
- Propose waterfront shuttle services during peak months
- Improve signage from Lakeshore Road,
- Lakeshore/NS linking road intersection as gateway to park, provide signage, built element and planting to identify
- NS streets between Lakeshore and lake to be 'green' links to waterfront, make recommendations
- Improve bicycle route connections north south, dedicated lanes
- NS connection between Memorial West to Marina Park

#### **East/West connections**

- Lakeshore as overall linking east west corridor, recommend streetscape treatment
- Dedicated bike lane on Lakeshore
- Signage/gateways at north south streets leading to the waterfront, recommend treatment
- Propose east west shuttle system during peak months
- Waterfront trail east west connections, unify trail typologies to support cohesive, recognizable trail system
- Missing link trail connections – citizen's proposed new waterfront link on Petro Canada lands between Rattray Marsh and Lakeside Park
- Treatment of street linkages between parks, make recommendations, propose land acquisitions parks

#### **Park entry and edges**

- Treatment of north and south side of Lakeshore where parks meet blvd
- Create standard guidelines for sequence of entry, for people in all modes of travel
- Create welcoming, accommodating and safe entry points, identify places for rental equipment, provide adequate lighting, comfort facilities, directional mapping and information, introduce park identity
- Emergency service access, no duplication of surfaces for this use

#### **Access to the lake, its all about the water**

- Major EW connection to be explored
- All parks to access lake physically or visually, create view corridors, look-out piers, boardwalks, ramps, beaches
- Opportunities for motorized and non-motorized access to shore
- Provision for variety of water related activities, provide rental facilities for non-motorized water craft

#### **Signage and Wayfinding**

- Can be the common thread linking all of the unique parks
- Signage graphics and installation design to be distinct and recognizable, eg. sign posts become markers
- Use pavement markings Incorporate distance measures from EW and WE, include information about distances to parks
- Can include commemorative aspect – disks in pavement to identify waterfront trail

## 2. Ensuring Unique Park Identity

### **Cultural heritage interpretation and education**

- Combine with park entry kiosk, and entry feature
- Provide interactive ways of displaying the park story, graphic timelines, public art, artefact display

### **Park aesthetics**

- Distil the character of a park, passive vs. active, vegetated vs. open, urban vs. bucolic
- Enhance and promote its unique qualities through landscaping and park built elements such as shelters, nodes, play areas
- Standardization of site furnishings such as benches, trash cans etc.? Some unique elements

### **Park Location**

- Identify park location in grand scheme of system
- Look at park significance in terms of natural systems, regional significance – physical location and function in the waterfront landscape
- Location can begin to support the overall theme of waterfront, e.g. east-west references evolving into dawn-dusk, beginning-end, upstream-downstream theme.

### **Park program and facilities**

- Facilities are to be appropriate for the identity of each park e.g. a bandshell in a neighbourhood park is not a appropriate facility for the park
- Facilities need to be supported by park size and layout, needs to be a good physical fit

*Thank you for participating...*