
TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: HERITAGE PARK MASTER PLAN

WARD: ALL (WARD 2)

PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT: W. LOEVENMARK, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL PLANNER
EXT. 4743

SUBMITTED BY: MICHELLE BANFIELD, RPP, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: B. ARANIYASUNDARAN, P.ENG., PMP, GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That the Heritage Park Master Plan Final Report dated April 29, 2022 as prepared by SHIFT Landscape Architecture attached as Appendix "C" to Staff Report DEV012-22, be approved in principle.
2. That the Heritage Park project with an estimated total capital cost of \$11,167,292 be considered when preparing the 2023 – 2032 10-year Capital Plan including an estimate of the annual operational expenses required upon completion of the project.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

3. The purpose of this Staff Report is to recommend the approval in principle of the Heritage Park Master Plan and Final Report for a phased implementation pending future capital budget approvals by City Council.
4. On February 26, 1979, City Council adopted motion 79-G-163 as follows:

"That the new park development being created bounded by Bayfield Street, Lakeshore Road, Mulcaster Street and the water be named Heritage Park."
5. On June 24, 1991, City Council adopted motion 91-G-336 regarding HERITAGE PARK, PHASE I – CONSTRUCTION IN 1991 as follows:

"That the Heritage Park, Phase I Development Plan as presented by Stefan Bolliger be approved for construction in 1991."
6. On February 13, 2017, City Council adopted motion [17-G-024](#) regarding the 2017 BUSINESS PLAN which included approval for Intake Form Number 1180 for the redesign and reconstruction of the existing water feature and splash pad in Heritage Park to replace surface materials and supporting infrastructure along with additional measures to reduce water consumption, with a cost forecast of \$40,000 for Design (2017), \$275,000 for Construction (2017) and \$125,000 for Construction (2018).

7. On January 28, 2019, City Council adopted motion [19-G-016](#) regarding the 2019 BUSINESS PLAN, which included approval for the Heritage Park Redevelopment – Master Plan, Project Number 00616, in the amount of \$100,000.00. The Capital Project Summary in the 2019 Capital Project Detail Report noted that plan was needed to address aging infrastructure in the park and ensure continued service and public safety.
8. On June 14, 2021, City Council adopted motion 21-G-166 regarding HEART BARRIE LANDMARK SIGN as follows:
 1. That further to motion 21-G-040, a Heart Barrie landmark sign (landmark sign), no more than 8 feet tall be installed in Heritage Park and identified as Appendix “A” to Staff Report ACC002-21.
 2. That if Councillor McCann has 100% fundraising commitment of \$200,000 by October 10, 2021 – with 75% of donations paid to the City by October 10, 2021, staff in Access Barrie issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to secure a company that can provide three (3) sign concepts and install the landmark sign at the approved location before July 1, 2022.
 3. That the donors be recognized by having their names embossed and colour branding in the concrete at the base of the landmark sign, with the size of the donor names embossed, being appropriate to their financial contribution and that each donor be provided with a memento of the sign.
 4. That \$15,000 be added to the Operations Department budget beginning in 2022 to cover costs of potential graffiti removal and winter maintenance on and around the sign.
9. On November 8, 2021, City Council adopted motion 21-G-246 to receive the REPORT OF THE CITY BUILDING COMMITTEE DATED OCTOBER 26, 2021, which included minutes noting a MEMORANDUM FROM W. LOEVENMARK, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PLANNER DATED OCTOBER 26, 2021 CONCERNING THE HERITAGE PARK MASTER PLAN be received for information purposes regarding an update on the progress of the Heritage Park Master Plan (Appendix “A”).

ANALYSIS

10. Heritage Park sits on a land infill project abutting the former rail bed which defined Kempenfelt Bay’s northern shoreline at the time. Infilling of the approximately 3.9 ha hectare site began in the early 1970s and the park development began in 1991, as per motion 91-G-336 noted above. This included the construction of the artificial pond and stream, water sculpture courtyard with washrooms and the pumphouse, the walkways, the Gazebo, and the horticultural display gardens. The [Sea Serpent](#) sculpture was added in 2016. No major physical upgrades or master planning has occurred since Heritage Park’s original construction was completed over 30 years ago.
11. The name “Heritage Park” was approved by City Council in 1979, further to motion 79-G-163.
12. In 2016, a capital project intake form was submitted for the Heritage Park Splash Pad Rehabilitation. The form described the original concrete surface as being in poor condition and showing signs of advanced deterioration, including cracks and uneven pavement. The business case included the recommendation to reconstruct a more energy efficient and modernized water play feature. User levels were noted at several hundred children per day and full reconstruction was urged to provide the community with the expected levels of service for this popular recreational amenity.

13. Funding was approved in 2017 for the design and construction of the splash pad. However, due to the pre-tender cost estimate significantly exceeded the project budget, and that staff through the design development identified a number of additional critical issues in the park, the project was deferred until it could be addressed through a comprehensive Park Master Plan process.
14. Development Services issued a public consultation survey for a project called “Barrie’s Waterfront For Tomorrow” in 2020 on buildingbarrie.ca to explore ways to improve waterfront planning and management in response to city population growth and waterfront challenges such as the increased utilization during the COVID-19 Pandemic (DEV026-20). The survey results offered comments in the following areas that were relevant to Heritage Park:

THEME	COMMENT
Access & Parking	Water access for everyone is appreciated and the convenience of parking for residents. More parking for bikes should be included.
Values	People value clean, beautiful, peaceful surrounding, with views and no overcrowding.
Amenities	More personal watercraft launch points are requested, people enjoy fishing, exercise groups, events and strolling. People would like food truck eateries, a busking station, more shade, and lots of seating options.
Environment	People value greenspace, clean water and fresh air. Some requested more trees, pollinator plants and native species and natural garden spaces.
Wayfinding	Water-oriented wayfinding (with park identification and list of amenities) for personal watercraft is requested.
Maintenance	Reduced watering practices, GHG emitting leaf blowers and grass mowers are favoured, along with more geese and waterfowl control.
Planning	People would like to protect shorelines for all members of the community as parks, sports areas, and community events.

15. A capital project intake form for the Heritage Park Master Plan was submitted and approved in the 2019 Capital Plan. The 2019 Capital Project Detail Report noted that the Master Plan would undertake a detailed review of the park’s future rehabilitation, including its current and future programming as a major year-round waterfront park while determining its role and uses as a landscape park with floral displays, a gateway to the North Shore Trail, the site of Barrie’s only waterfront water feature/spray pad, a location to host arts and culture programming and its role connecting the waterfront to the downtown and Meridian Place with its outdoor stage. The redevelopment plan would allow the park to continue to be a destination waterfront attraction for the city. A Request for Proposal for the Master Plan was prepared and issued in 2019.

Vision

16. The project was awarded to consulting firm SHIFT Landscape Architecture in February 2020 to develop a vision for Heritage Park as a regenerative urban oasis. This vision would:
 - respond to current and future social, cultural, and environmental needs and trends;
 - provide rich, four-season experiences and opportunities for people to reconnect with nature and each other;
 - complement Meridian Place to further attract residents and visitors to the waterfront and city centre for longer and repeat visits; and,
 - address the aging and deteriorating infrastructure, such as the water feature, irrigation system, paverstone pathways, electrical supply system and seating amenities.

17. Key Reference documents guiding the project included, but were not limited to:

- a) [Growth Management \(the Growth Plan, Province of Ontario\)](#): The Heritage Park Master Plan will use park capacity as one of the core drivers for identifying a new vision. The overall growth projection (298,000 in 2051) for Barrie, combined with the location of Heritage Park against the downtown Urban Growth Centre along with lessons learned about elevated park use during the COVID-19 Pandemic, collectively point toward a dramatic increase in user demand without an accompanying expansion of existing park boundaries. This intensified use requires park development that is multi-purpose, multi-season and multi-layered.
- b) The [2015 Waterfront + Marina Strategic Plan](#) placed Heritage Park in the Primary Activity Centre category along with Centennial Park, Allandale Station Park, and the Spirit Catcher Park/City of Barrie Marina, noting that “ the quality of design and provision of facilities in these parks will reflect their high profile...drawing visitors from across Barrie and beyond”.

The following recommendations are given for the Central Waterfront section:

- i) Develop a program to annually replace non-native plantings with native species that are well suited for well-drained sandy soils associated with the former Lake Algonquin shoreline (i.e., red oak, white oak, sugar maple, red maple, white pine, serviceberry). (Environmental Recommendations, item 4, page 24)
- ii) Following the approach used on the offshore “habitat islands” and Kidd’s Creek, incorporate native plantings along the edge of the rip-rap armoured shoreline to assist with soil stabilization and to create a habitat that discourages geese from encroaching on the public park system from the Bay. (Environmental Recommendations, item 5, page 24)
- iii) Ensure natural heritage features are retained and protected within the Central Waterfront area, including the Kempenfelt Bay shoreline plus a 30 m buffer, and the open creek systems that drain into the bay in accordance with the Conservation Authorities 30m buffer requirements. (Environmental Recommendations, item 6, page 24)
- iv) Integrate waterfront Beacons in Heritage Park (at the terminus of the boardwalk and at the foot of Mulcaster Street), Centennial Park, and Tiffin Boat Launch. (Other Park Improvements, item 10, page 30)
- v) Ensure ongoing maintenance of the landscape/streetscape features in Heritage Park (walkways, seating, lighting paths, softscaping) to freshen its appearance and demonstrate the importance of the area as an interface between the downtown and waterfront. Coordinate upgrades (i.e., the replacement of landscape/streetscape features) with streetscape improvements in the downtown to establish a sense of continuity. (Other Park Improvements, item 11, page 30)
- vi) Establish stronger connections between Heritage Park, the waterfront and downtown by:
 - completing upgrades to the walkway between Heritage Park and Memorial Square to provide a clear, safe, and attractive pedestrian connection (i.e., using consistent surface materials and enhanced intersection treatments);
 - encouraging the development of commercial frontages at the rear of buildings on streets adjacent to the waterfront, to create a main street feel and connection to downtown;

- creating a trail head and gateway to the North Shore; and,
- completing the hardscaped walkway at the water's edge to create a visual connection to the rest of the waterfront promenade. (Other Park Improvements, item 12, page 30)

- vii) Develop diversified programming in Heritage Park to maximize arts and cultural opportunities and to encourage year-round use of this public space. (Other Park Improvements, item 13, page 30)

The current Council approved *Waterfront + Marina Strategic Plan* (WMSP) recommends that Heritage Park be upgraded to ensure its long-term appeal as a major waterfront destination and demonstrate the park's importance as an interface between the downtown and the waterfront. The Master Plan has incorporated many of the WMSP's recommendations and is also aligned with the strategic direction of the update to the *Waterfront + Marina Strategic Plan* now in progress and targeted for completion in early 2023.

- c) The [Climate Change Adaptation Strategy](#) supports the use of native species and increasing cooling structures. **Goal 5: Protect Biodiversity and Enhance Ecosystem Functions, Action 5.7** states "Promote the planting of native vegetation along lakes, creeks and ravines to reduce erosion risk, maintenance needs, and enhance local biodiversity." Under **Goal 7: Build Community Resilience, Action 7.4** states "encourage natural and constructed shade and cooling structures on public and private property."
- d) Barrie became the 30th [Bee City](#) in 2019, and committed to develop, restore, and preserve pollinator -friendly habitats across Barrie. This initiative represents a call to action to protect and create native species in parkland wherever and whenever possible, and to further enhance pollinator habitat by leaving seed heads, berries and leaves over winter and waiting until late spring to cut back plants.
- e) The [Urban Forest Strategy](#) outlines the many benefits of trees, and prescribes diversification and age-class distribution of park trees (life cycle management), noting that "Diversification of the tree species within parks and on boulevards provides a healthier, more robust tree inventory that is less prone to serious pest issues (i.e. Insects and diseases)" and "an even-aged class distribution of trees within parks and on boulevards reduces issues of peak year declines due to natural mortality". The Strategy further encourages "the planting of fruit and nut trees on City open space lands."
- f) Trails Master Plan: Heritage Park sits at a major trail junction, connecting to five municipal, county, and national trail networks, bringing recreational and economic opportunity within the park and to the downtown. The trails include:
- i) Waterfront Heritage Trail (municipal)
 - ii) North Shore Trail (municipal)
 - iii) Simcoe County Loop Trail (county)
 - iv) The Martyrs' Shrine Pilgrim Route (county)
 - v) Trans Canada Trail (national)
- g) Mobility Master Plans - [2020 Parking Strategy](#), [Transportation Master Plan](#) (includes Transit): The Parking Strategy does not recommend constructing additional parking facilities to meet summer weekend parking demand since the facilities would take away additional green space and would remain unused during the majority of days of the year. Instead, strategies to mitigate parking demand are recommended such as a shuttle pilot project that would connect underutilized downtown parking lots with the waterfront. The Transportation Master Plan sets targets to increase walking, cycling and transit ridership.

Heritage Park sits in close proximity to the City's main transit station at 24 Maple Avenue, which is the main hub for Barrie Transit and InterCity carriers such as Ontario Northland and Metrolinx GO.

18. The project's vision for the park as a regenerative urban oasis was guided by twelve (12) specific objectives:
- Enhance social cohesion and equity;
 - Create spaces that promote multigenerational interaction and all-ages programming;
 - Support pedestrian connections and active modes of transportation;
 - Incorporate universal and inclusive design principles to ensure accessibility and barrier-free access;
 - Connect waterfront open spaces and natural heritage systems;
 - Design for four-season passive and events-based programming incorporating "Winter City" design principles;
 - Design restorative landscapes that assist to support urban wellness and community health;
 - Incorporate resilient and ecologically-driven design;
 - Create direct water access to enhance the visitor experience and park programming;
 - Provide opportunities for natural heritage education and interpretation;
 - Meet the needs of an increasing downtown population, evolving downtown and region; and,
 - Revitalize the park infrastructure including the electrical, water and stormwater servicing.

Although conceptual designs for civil infrastructure and facilities were excluded from the project scope, recommendations for park infrastructure managed by other City departments were included.

Master Plan Development

19. The conceptual development began with the internal stakeholder consultation process involving Infrastructure, Operations, Economic & Creative Development, Recreation & Culture, and Corporate Facilities. Additional consultation with the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority occurred. Staff also reached out to the Barrie Native Friendship Centre for consultation and although the project team was unable to obtain a dedicated meeting time, comments regarding Indigenous interests were received during PIC#2. Key takeaways from the stakeholder consultation process focused on:
- Servicing:** The electrical and water services that are relied upon for community programming and events are past the end of their useful life. The public washroom and water feature infrastructure is aged and places high demands on maintenance staff and is ill-suited for contemporary needs. There is an opportunity currently to identify the appropriate level of service that achieves event, facility and maintenance performance standards and ensures a safe and enjoyable user experience.
 - Mobility:** Mobility and accessibility to and within the park needs to be addressed. This includes active transportation, accessible parking spaces (location and amount), ease of use of the paths and bridges for every age and ability of visitor. Also desired is accommodating safe ways to view Kempenfelt Bay and enjoy the water-based amenities. Launch areas for personal watercraft (canoe, kayak, stand-up paddleboards) would increase the possibility of arriving to the park by means other than a car.
 - Flexible Spaces:** Heritage Park is the site of many events and a destination for passive use year-round. There is a desire to better equip the park for community events with the design of flexible-use spaces and event zones. Passive and spontaneous use (walking, cycling, eating, reflecting, gathering) needs to be accounted for as well with the inclusion of diverse spaces with a range of options for seating and gathering.

20. The issues and recommendations obtained from the above consultation process were considered in association with the project vision and objectives to develop three concepts titled **REFRESH**, **REHAB** and **RETHINK**. All three conceptual plans included a reconsideration of the circulation network to better accommodate programming, the failing infrastructure, improved accessibility, and draw on the regional landscape to enhance the “sense of place”. From this baseline, the three concepts were developed to illustrate increasingly graduated levels of intervention and their associated estimated level of re-investment:

CONCEPT	APPROACH	REDEVELOPMENT	CONSTRUCTION COST
REFRESH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responds to the minimum immediate outdoor facility needs to maintain public use and safety (water spray feature). Adds minor enhancements (new shade structure and two new wood deck overlooks). 	Low	\$4M - \$5M
REHAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a new aesthetic for the park by augmenting entrances and pathways, reshaping the park landforms with berms and seat walls enhancing public gathering and seating spaces. Connection to water is improved through boardwalks, deck overlooks and improved pond access. Small scale entrepreneur space is explored. 	Medium	\$6M – \$7M
RETHINK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a contemporary redesign of the park to realize its full potential to enhance the quality of life and user experience for residents and visitors within a revitalizing and intensifying downtown. People connect to the park through built form that maximizes sensory experience with extensive water access, four-season spaces, social connections and restorative quiet spaces. 	Highest	\$8M - \$8.5M

Please refer to Appendix “A” to review the three concepts that were included in the memo to City Building Committee dated October 26, 2021, including a comparison chart of the amenities and elements included in each and a detailed cost estimate for each of the three levels of redevelopment.

21. As per the memorandum to Council dated May 17, 2021, two virtual Public Information Centres (PICs) were held on May 27, 2021, to obtain feedback on the three concepts for Heritage Park. The PIC presentation is available online at buildingbarrie.ca. The PIC was advertised through social media, notices of the PIC were mailed to adjacent landowners within a 150-metre radius of the park’s boundaries, and email invitations were issued to internal and external stakeholder groups. Public and stakeholder comments were collected during the live presentation via email and through an online survey hosted on buildingbarrie.ca. Please refer to the Master Plan Final Report - Appendix #2 (attached here in Appendix “C”) to review the full Feedback Summary Report, which is further available on buildingbarrie.ca.

The survey results ranked the following items in order of importance:

SURVEY ITEM RANKING (226 RESPONSES)	VERY IMPORTANT/ IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
1) Environmental health of shoreline	206	3
2) Trees and gardens	205	1
3) Accessible washrooms	188	6
4) Ability to adapt to climate change	186	6
5) Shade	186	5
6) Ability to get close to Kempenfelt Bay	176	11
7) Water features for water play	153	20
8) Quieter areas	144	17
9) Areas for group gathering	140	28
10) Open space for cultural events	128	26
11) Recognition of Indigenous histories	119	29
12) Public art	92	52
Other requests: Watercraft launch, winter picnic areas, food opportunities and noise pollution to be considered.		
How often do you visit Heritage Park?	Once a week: 85 Once a month: 58 Few times a year: 41 Daily: 37	
How do you get to the park?	Car: 45 Active/ Public Transportation: 167	

The key messages received from the PICs feedback included:

- **Water:** Increased and better access to the water by creating safe and easy ways to view and physically access Kempenfelt Bay and a waterplay feature along with integrating water-based active transportation modes (e.g., Stand Up Paddle Boards).
- **Environment:** The environmental health of the park is a common theme, indicating it is a critical aspect of any future design direction, including the ecological health of the waterfront, the introduction of pollinator gardens, and climate change adaptation strategies.
- **Accessibility:** A safe and universally accessible park was important to many attendees. Paths, lookouts, seating, and special site features should prioritize ease of use through universal design standards and adherence to the Design of Public Spaces Standard O. Reg 413/12 within the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*.

22. As result of the feedback received from the first PIC, a Draft Master Plan was created which reflects the priorities indicated by community members and stakeholders, addresses the needs of a growing and diversifying community, and celebrates the prominence of this waterfront park locally and regionally. The Draft Master Plan recommended proceeding with the highest level of reinvestment, building upon the “**RETHINK**” concept with a focus on:

- Circulation & accessibility
- Water access
- Community and private event space and services
- Public gathering, seating, and sensory experiences
- Building the local economy and cultural programming
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Rehabilitated infrastructure and servicing

23. The elements of the recommended Draft Master Plan were summarized in a memo dated October 26, 2021 (Appendix "A") and a presentation to the City Building Committee, as recorded by motion 21-G-246 noted above, to receive any preliminary comments prior to proceeding to the second Public Information Centre. The Amenity Comparison Chart included below provides an overview of the park elements provided by the increased reinvestment in each concept. A cost analysis of each concept is provided in Appendix "A."

AMENITY COMPARISON CHART BY CONCEPT					
FEATURE	ELEMENT	FINAL	REFRESH (Low)	REHAB (Medium)	RETHINK (Highest)
Park Entryways	Enlarging Entryways	x	x	x	x
	Entry responds to Meridian form	x			x
	Entry seating	x		x	x
	Entry water feature	x			x
	Entry Trellis shade feature	x			x
	"Heart Barrie" Sign	x			
	Street at Simcoe redone, possibly no curb	x			x
Paths	Circulation (paths and bridges)	x	x	x	x
	Boardwalk			x	
	Covered Bike Parking, extra bike parking	x			
	Event Allée - more space for market stalls	x		x	x
	Lighting features, light as art focal points	x		x	x
Exercise Stations	Exercise station relocated		x	x	x
Event Space	Preserved	x	x	x	x
Pond	Enhanced pond walkway & seating area	x		x	x
	New pond deck	x			
	New pond cantilevered platform	x			x
	Pathway all around pond	x			x
	Stream viewing deck	x	x	x	x
	Stream step stone bridge				x
	Remove pond island	x	x	x	x
Water Feature	Redesigned Small Water Feature/Play	x	x		
	Redesigned Large Water Feature/Play			x	x
	Refinish cladding on buildings	x		x	x
Planting	New planting Ideas – natural, seasonal	x	x	x	x
	Increased landscape planting areas	x		x	x
	Riparian (water edge planting)	x			x
	Infiltration planting beds	x			
Seating	New mounds or seat walls	x		x	
	Sea Serpent seating enhancement	x			x
	Fireplaces	x	x	x	x
	New Shade Structure	x	x	x	x
	New Gathering Area	x			x
	Boulder focal points	x		x	x
Market Lane	More space for market stalls			x	x
Art Location	In new Gathering Area Plaza	x			
Kempfenfelt Bay	Physical access to Kempfenfelt Bay			x	x
	Personal Watercraft Launches & storage	x			
	Wood Decks		x	x	x
	Cantilevered wood decks	x		x	x

	Spit decking			x	x
	Spit seating	x			x

Based on the responses from the first Public Information Centre and supportive comments from the City Building Committee, the project team continued to develop the Draft Master Plan based on the highest level of amenity provision and reinvestment.

24. Following the presentation to the City Building Committee, the Draft Master Plan was presented to the community at the second community engagement on Thursday, November 25, 2021, through a virtual meeting, following the same promotion and notification process as the first PIC. The Draft Master Plan and a second survey was posted on buildingbarrie.ca/HeritagePark to invite public feedback. A full summary of the feedback can be found in the Master Plan Final Report Appendix #3 attached in Appendix "C". The majority of respondents supported the recommended approach to continue with a Master Plan based on the highest level of reinvestment. An overview of the comments received is provided below:

- a) The majority of respondents agreed or offered a neutral response that the Draft Master Plan showed:
 - i) Improved accessibility
 - ii) Ability to accommodate cultural events
 - iii) Improved ability to arrive via alternative modes of transportation
 - iv) New ways to interact with natural elements
 - v) Support for gathering in groups
 - vi) Additional open lawn for picnicking/gathering informally
 - vii) Introduction of biodiverse areas for bird and insect habitat
 - viii) Addition of more shade
 - ix) More spaces for public art
- b) Respondents felt that:
 - i) Additional upgrades are needed to the washroom beyond AODA standard upgrades (65%) around improved cleaning and safety, year-round availability with longer hours, new separate changerooms, gender-neutral washrooms and touch-free appliances.
 - ii) More educational and interpretive opportunities regarding environmental processes could be offered.
 - iii) They would visit all year around (74%) or visit depending on the weather (19%), primarily for an event or a quiet, restorative walk.
 - iv) Their favourite proposed addition was the lookout decks (30), canoe/kayak launch (16), shaded areas (11), naturalization (11), spray pad or fireplaces (8), and pathway upgrades (5).
 - v) There was future opportunity to include events and activities beyond what has been offered in the past.
 - vi) Heritage Park could be a location option for a ceremonial firepit, and this preference is being explored among other options through a survey-based consultation process with Community and Corporate Services.

Master Plan

25. With community and City Building Committee support to continue with a concept based on the highest level of investment, the Master Plan was further refined (Appendix "B"). Although discussed in more detail in Appendix "C" of the Final Report, the final Master Plan defines Heritage Park as *A Park of Places*. This approach meets the original objectives of the study and delivers a great public

space that is universally appealing, accessible, attractive, resilient and adds vibrancy to the downtown. A high-level summary of the fundamental elements included in *A Park of Places* is found below:

- a. A Four-Season Place – Heritage Park should be attractive, educational, and accessible all year round. Planting should offer interest all year and offer shade. Main paths should be safely managed during winter to allow visits and event programming.
 - b. A Delightful Place – Heritage Park should be a desirable and safe place after the sun has set through a well-planned lighting scheme to offer well-lit paths, accentuate the architectural and landscape character of the park, and highlight artistic focal points.
 - c. A Natural Place – Heritage Park should be a restorative place providing solace in natural elements for visitors through a multi-sensory plant palette with high ecological function, supported by an enhanced maintenance plan.
 - d. An Accessible Place – Heritage Park should offer a seamless and uninterrupted experience, no matter age, ability, or cultural background and based in universal design. Heritage Park should be easy to navigate and a pleasure to use by all, with multiple options for arriving via alternative transportation modes on land or water.
 - e. An Eventful Place – Heritage Park should efficiently host City events with consideration for maintenance, event turnaround, infrastructure needs (electrical and water) and flexible spaces for different scales of events on land and for water viewing.
 - f. A Water Place – Heritage Park should renew visitors' connection to water through views and physical access, increasing passive and active engagement with water. The existing water feature should be redesigned to offer the renewed park programming, be multifunctional and accessible, providing ways to safely interact with water.
26. A preliminary schedule of the major project phases that would be used to prepare a Capital Project Intake Form in the 2023 – 2032 Capital Budget is provided below with an estimated percentage of the total project cost by phase and year. Staff are recommending a standard Design-Bid-Build project methodology. The final schedule is contingent upon approval in the upcoming capital plan based on overall affordability of the total Capital Plan.

HERITAGE PARK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT PHASES			
YEAR	PHASE	ITEM	PROPORTION OF OVERALL COST
2024	Request for Proposal	Q1-Q2: Request for Proposal for Landscape Architecture Design Services & Award	0%
2024-2025	Design	Q3 2024 through Q3 2025: Studies, Detailed Design & Tender Document Preparation	6%
	Public Tender	Q4 2025: Public Tender	0%
2026	Construction	Construction Year 1	70%
2027		Construction Year 2 and Park Commissioning	24%

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27. The redevelopment of Heritage Park would require all or significant areas of the park to be closed to public use throughout the term of construction. This could impact annually scheduled spring, summer and fall events. Parks Planning have consulted with Recreation and Culture Services to discuss how park events might be managed until the park reopened. The following comment was received:
- “Heritage Park is a popular location for community events with typically over 20 Special Event Permits being issued annually for a variety of fundraising walks and festivals. For safety, use of Heritage Park and the trails will be limited during this project, therefore a strategic accommodation plan will need to be developed with various City Departments. Special Events staff, Parks Planning, and other members of Barrie’s Event Action Team (BEAT) will work with event organizers to try to find suitable alternate space that can accommodate the needs of the event wherever possible.
- Due to limited municipal spaces with the site services required for events and existing bookings in other spaces, it may result in some events having to change dates, postpone until project completion, or temporarily relocate to private property or another site outside of Barrie. As the process for planning an event can begin more than a year in advance and organizers may strategize years out, development of an accommodation plan should begin soon and notification of the potential for this project should be distributed to event organizers that currently permit Heritage Park as well. Throughout the planning and implementation of this project, event organizers will be provided updates by Special Events staff.”
28. The Sophia Creek Owen Tributary Project is a separate infrastructure project that is planned to extend the Sophia Street box culvert from Meridian Place, through the west frontage of Heritage Park, and outletting into the Transient Marina Basin that could impact the park redevelopment schedule above. The box culvert work is forecast to commence in 2023 and will require extensive excavation within the park. Staff continue to examine opportunities to minimize the year-over-year impacts to the park and its users through the potential coordination of construction contracts and activities.
29. The redeveloped park with its new features and enhanced four-season programming will require a level of maintenance and operational support by the Operations Department that is higher than is currently provided.
30. Staff in the Operations Department indicate that increased operating resources would be required in a future Operating Budget to maintain and operate the redeveloped park year-round, during weekends, and evenings which includes the addition of two (2) full-time Park Attendants. Elements requiring additional inspection, maintenance and operational support include:
- a) Winter maintenance of pathways, bridges, decks and plazas;
 - b) Enhanced horticultural displays;
 - c) Personal watercraft launch and storage inspections and maintenance;
 - d) Passive winter programming including seating, outdoor fireplaces, windbreaks and other winter city design elements;
 - e) Increased community and private event support;
 - f) Enhanced lighting and water feature(s) maintenance and programming;
 - g) Increased year-round waste management.
31. Included in the estimated capital cost of the project is the funding identified by the Operations Department for the purchase of additional fleet and equipment required to support the maintenance and operation of the year-round redeveloped park. Please refer to the Financial Section below for further details.

32. In summary, the Heritage Park Master Plan Final Report has delivered a multi-dimensional vision for Heritage Park which responds to current and future community needs. Staff recommend that the Heritage Park Master Plan Final Report as attached in Appendix "C" be endorsed and that the estimated total redevelopment cost of \$11,167,292 be considered in the 2023-2032 10-year Capital Plan, including an estimate of the annual operational expenses required upon completion of the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT MATTERS

33. The following environmental and climate change impact matters have been considered in the development of the recommendation:
- a) **Avoiding In-water Disturbances:** Underwater construction is avoided using cantilevered deck construction. All above-water shoreline disturbance will be restored in compliance with Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority requirements. No encroachments into Kempenfelt Bay are proposed.
 - b) **Increasing Native Species:** Prioritizing native species in the planting palette creates both habitat and food for local insects, birds (migratory songbirds), small terrestrial mammals and small aquatic mammals such as mink and muskrat leading to a more biodiverse ecosystem. Native species have adapted to local conditions over millennia and have greater resilience in response to extreme climate change events, thus providing less disruption to the local ecosystem and faster recovery. Using native species in planting zones against the water creates water quality enhancing filtration zones and protection against shoreline erosion. Using native species also creates opportunities for new maintenance practices such as leaving seed heads on plants to overwinter to provide off-season pollinator habitat.
 - c) **Park Lighting:** All park lighting will utilize high efficiency LED lighting technology to limit energy usage within the park.
 - d) **Biological Carbon Sequestration & Heat Sinks Offsets:** Consideration has been given to the role of parkland to offset urban heat islands with added shade and to increase carbon sequestration through increased planting beds and tree planting along the streetscape and within the park. Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing, securing, and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in plants through the process of photosynthesis. Soil can also store carbon as carbonates. Native ornamental grasses sequester most of their carbon underground, leaving carbon fixed in the ground even after trimming.
 - e) **Phosphorus Reduction:** Using natives plant species promotes soil ecology and reduces dependence on artificial fertilizers, an important consideration within Conservation Authority regulated areas adjacent to Lake Simcoe.
 - f) **Improved Water Efficiency:** By replacing the outdated water circulation system, Barrie can move to a higher efficiency circulation system for the water feature(s), reducing overall water consumption.
 - g) **Alternative Energy Options:** The Heritage Park Master Plan offers an opportunity to incorporate renewable energy generation through the deployment of solar photovoltaic (PV) on the roof of the new Shade Structure, subject to a Feasibility Study. More details are included below in the Financial Section.
 - h) **Fish Habitat:** Shade and refuge for fish will be created by maximizing overhanging native shrub plant cover directly adjacent to the shoreline by planting/seeding within the existing boulders, as approved by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

ALTERNATIVES

34. The following alternatives are available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1

General Committee could select to maintain the existing level of park asset condition and services.

This alternative is not recommended as it will not address the existing failing infrastructure, public safety concerns, need for enhanced accessibility, and community event programming requirements.

Alternative #2

General Committee could alter the proposed recommendation by directing staff to proceed to refine and include the REFRESH or REHAB concept for inclusion into the 2023-2032 10-Year Capital Budget instead of the RETHINK concept.

Although these alternatives are available, direction to proceed with the lower levels of reinvestment would not address the improvements required to serve the diversifying and intensifying downtown and the rapid expansion of Barrie's overall population. It would leave existing issues of public safety, event management, accessibility, and environmental sustainability only partially addressed and require future park closures to undertake future park rehabilitation projects.

FINANCIAL

35. A total project budget of **\$11,167,292.10** has been identified to meet core project costs associated with redeveloping Heritage Park Master Plan. Please refer to the table below for an overview of estimated project costs. For detailed project cost breakdowns, please refer to the Master Plan Final Report in Appendix "C."

Park Construction Costs		
Demolition, site prep, permits		\$393,750.00
Grading and Earthworks		\$150,000.00
Paving & Surfacing		\$1,641,800.00
Shoreline Stabilization		\$250,000.00
Electrical, site servicing		\$650,000.00
Site Features, Furnishings		\$2,330,000.00
Water Feature & Lighting		\$1,500,000.00
Planting		\$340,000.00
Architectural Elements		\$450,000.00
	Subtotal	\$7,705,550.00
	Contingency @ 20%	1,541,110.00
	Final Total	\$9,246,660.00
Design and Administration Fees		
Detailed Design and Contract Documents	6%	\$554,799.60
Contract Administration	3.5%	\$323,633.10
Escalation	5%	\$462,333.00
Project Management by City	4%	\$369,866.40
Geotechnical, Topographic Survey and Testing	Lump Sum	\$60,000.00

Maintenance Equipment	Lump Sum	\$150,000.00
Total		\$1,920,632.10
Total Combined Estimated Project Cost		\$11,167,292.10

Exclusions		
Solar Photovoltaic System and Feasibility Analysis	Lump Sum	\$275,000.00

36. Council's climate emergency declaration, issued in the fall of 2019 provides direction for the corporation to target net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Renewal projects provide an ideal opportunity to incorporate net zero carbon strategies to assist in achieving the 2050 target. As part of the Heritage Park reconstruction project, incorporating renewable energy generation through the deployment of solar photovoltaic (PV) can offset the energy consumption associated with the park's services, potential reducing or eliminating energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Embedding a solar photovoltaic panel system within a new park amenity, such as a shade feature, can assist in reducing the capital costs of the renewable energy asset while enhancing the park's appeal. A new solar PV system sized to offset all the electrical energy used for the park's service is estimated to cost **\$275,000** that would generate an annual cost savings of **\$20,000**. A feasibility analysis is required to determine if the park location can support a solar PV system from a regulatory and utility perspective.

37. Operating Maintenance Cost Impacts have been represented in the table below:

NEW ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS FOR REDEVELOPED HERITAGE PARK	
Item	Amount
Utilities	\$70,000
Repairs & Maintenance	\$100,000
Park Maintenance Salaries & Benefits	\$125,000
Total	\$295,000

LINKAGE TO 2018–2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

38. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report support the following goals identified in the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan:

- ☒ Growing Our Economy
- ☒ Fostering a Safe and Healthy City
- ☒ Building Strong Neighbourhoods
- ☒ Offering Innovation and Citizen Driven Services
- ☒ Improving the Ability to Get Around Barrie

39. The 2018-2022 Strategic Plan goals are supported by the Heritage Park Master Plan in the following ways:
- a) **Growing Our Economy:** Heritage Park represents a prime recreational destination locally and regionally:
 - i) Heritage Park attracts visitors to Barrie and the downtown by hosting events and cultural offerings (i.e., Theatre/Movies in the park), which encourages positive economic spin-off spending within our local economy.
 - ii) Heritage Park's link to downtown merchants facilitates reoccurring and occasional retail purchases by park or trail users, bringing an audience of potential customers to the downtown and filtering a residential population through downtown to Heritage Park on a regular basis, creating habitual connections i.e., coffee and a walk.
 - iii) Improved Park facilities designed to support small-scale new businesses will enhance the local economy and provide low-cost opportunities (i.e., pop-up market space) for start-ups and cultural sector to showcase their products and offerings to attract new customers.
 - b) **Fostering a Safe and Healthy City** – A redeveloped Heritage Park will foster greater public safety through several components; from emotional safety in a welcoming space, to physical safety from well-lit public spaces and upgraded standards to universally accessible design. Environmental health, which is currently challenged by climate change, is supported through fostering native species, biodiversity, resilience and offering connections with nature through multi-sensory experiences. From a community health perspective, the COVID-19 Pandemic has placed a spotlight on resident and visitor use of Barrie's waterfront, demonstrating how crucial well-designed greenspace is for all dimensions of human health along the continuum between physical and psychological wellness.
 - c) **Building Strong Neighbourhoods** – Well designed and programmed public spaces, which invite regular use, build a sense of place and a sense of belonging in the community. The Master Plan demonstrates an attractive, safe place to wander independently or gather in groups to support safe neighbourhoods. The park offers a variety of user experiences where everyone can feel welcome and comfortable through the universal access and qualities of water and nature. Strong iconic architecture and design will reinforce a sense of identity and community.
 - d) **Improving the ability to get around Barrie** – The Master Plan identifies upgraded bicycle parking as a priority for the park to support active transportation for park visitors. The personal watercraft ramp also encourages alternative transportation using non-motorized watercraft to connect to the park and downtown from points across the lake.

Attachments: Appendix "A" – Memo to City Building Committee
Appendix "B" – Recommended Master Plan Concept (RETHINK)
Appendix "C" – Heritage Park Master Plan Final Report 2022

APPENDIX "A"

Memo to City Building Committee



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TO: CITY BUILDING COMMITTEE

FROM: W. LOEVENMARK, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL PLANNER, EXT. 4743

NOTED: M. BANFIELD, RPP, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
B. ARANIYASUNDARAN, P.ENG, PMP, DIRECTOR OF
INFRASTRUCTURE/GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND
GROWTH MANAGEMENT (ACTING)
M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: HERITAGE PARK MASTER PLAN (WARD 2/AII)

DATE: OCTOBER 26, 2021

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Committee with an update regarding the Heritage Park Master Plan project and to seek feedback on the draft Master Plan options prior to the continuation of the public consultation process. Additional project details can be found at [buildingbarrie.ca/Heritage Park Master Plan](http://buildingbarrie.ca/HeritageParkMasterPlan).

Background & Vision

Heritage Park originated as an infill project in the 1980s against the former rail bed encircling Kempenfelt Bay. Since its original construction, complete with ornamental landscaping, buildings, and water features, no major physical upgrades or master planning have occurred. To begin to address the long-overdue revitalization of this key waterfront park, Parks Planning retained consulting firm SHIFT Landscape Architecture to undertake the development of a new Master Plan for Heritage Park. The Master Plan Report will include a Master Plan design, order of magnitude cost estimate, recommendations and an implementation plan. The vision for Heritage Park is to revitalize this key public space as a regenerative urban oasis that:

- responds to current, and future social, cultural, and environmental needs and trends;
- provides rich, four-season experiences and opportunities to re-connect land and people, people to people;
- complements Meridian Place to further attract residents and visitors to the waterfront and city centre for longer and repeat visits; and,
- addresses the aging and deteriorating infrastructure.

The current *Waterfront + Marina Strategic Plan* (WMSP) recommends that Heritage Park be upgraded to ensure its long-term appeal as a major waterfront destination and demonstrate the park's importance as an interface between the downtown and the waterfront. The draft Master Plan has incorporated many of the WMSP's recommendations and is also aligned with the strategic direction of the update to the *Waterfront + Marina Strategic Plan* commencing this fall.

The location of the Heart Barrie landmark sign was council-endorsed based on the recommendation of staff report ACC002-21 (Motion 21-G-166). The first round of Public Information Centres for the Heritage Park Master Plan took place before Council approved the recommendation. Through the master plan work for this project, the consultant has suggested an alternate location for the Heart Barrie landmark sign that considers the long-term vision of Heritage Park.



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Project Objectives

Updating this park's Master Plan presented an opportunity to create an iconic conceptual framework that ties together flexible programming, contemporary landscape forms grounded in native and regional materials, social and ecological supports, and facilitating more connections to water. The process may include recommendations for park infrastructure managed by other City departments but will not include conceptual designs for civil infrastructure and facilities.

Specific objectives of the project include:

1. Enhancing social cohesion and equity;
2. Creating spaces that promote multigenerational interaction and all-ages programming;
3. Supporting pedestrian connections and active modes of transportation;
4. Incorporating universal and inclusive design principles to ensure accessibility and barrier-free access;
5. Connecting waterfront open spaces and natural heritage systems;
6. Design for four-season passive and events-based programming incorporating "Winter City" design principles;
7. Designing restorative landscapes that assist to support urban wellness and community health;
8. Incorporating resilient and ecologically driven design;
9. Creating direct water access to enhance the visitor experience and park programming;
10. Provide opportunities for natural heritage education and interpretation;
11. Meet the needs of an increasing downtown population, evolving downtown and region; and
12. Revitalizing the park infrastructure including the electrical, water, and stormwater servicing.

Conceptual Development

The conceptual development began through an internal stakeholder consultation process involving numerous technical and end-user City work groups from Infrastructure, Operations, Economic & Creative Development, Recreation & Culture, and Corporate Facilities. Additional consultation with the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has been undertaken.

The key takeaways from the consultation process identified a focus on:

1. **Servicing:** The electrical and water services that are relied upon for community programming and events is past the end of its useful life. The public washroom and water feature equipment and infrastructure is maintenance-heavy and ill-suited for contemporary needs. There is an opportunity now to identify an appropriate level of service that achieves event, facility and maintenance performance standards which ensure a safe and enjoyable user experience.
2. **Mobility:** Mobility and accessibility to and within the park needs to be addressed. This includes active transportation, accessible parking spaces (location and amount), ease of use of the paths and bridges for every age and ability of visitor. Also desired is accommodating safe ways to view Kempenfelt Bay and enjoy the water-based amenities. Launch areas for personal watercraft (canoe, kayak, stand-up paddleboards) would increase the possibility of arriving to the park by means other than a car.
3. **Flexible Spaces:** Heritage Park is the site of many events and a destination for passive use year-round. There is a desire to better equip the park for community events with the design of flexible-use spaces and event zones. Passive and spontaneous use (walking, cycling, eating, reflecting, gathering) needs to be accounted for as well with the inclusion of diverse spaces with a range of options for seating and gathering. There are particular opportunities with the water feature and at the water's edge to create spaces that maximize functionality and accommodate the greatest number of visitors across all age ranges.



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The issues and recommendations obtained from the above consultation process were considered in association with the project vision and objectives to develop three conceptual master plans. The three plans illustrate graduated levels of intervention, quality and preliminary estimated level of re-investment:

- Concept 1 - Refresh: Low Intervention (\$4M - \$5M)
- Concept 2 - Rehab: Medium Intervention (\$6M – \$7M)
- Concept 3 - Rethink: Highest Intervention (\$8M - \$8.5M)

All three conceptual plans include a reconsideration of the circulation network to better accommodate programming and accessibility and draw on the regional landscape for design inspiration to enhance the idea of “place”. Please refer to Appendix “A” and “Appendix B” to review the three conceptual master plans and for a comparison chart of the key design elements included in each.

Community Engagement

As per the memorandum to Council dated May 17, 2021, two virtual Public Information Centres (PICs) were held on May 27, 2021, to obtain feedback on the three conceptual master plans for Heritage Park. The PIC presentation is available online at buildingbarrie.ca. Public and stakeholder comments were collected during the live presentation via email and an online survey hosted on buildingbarrie.ca. Please refer to Appendix “C” for an overview of the feedback received during the consultation period.

More specifically, the results of the survey ranked following items in order of importance as shown below in Figure 2, below:

Survey Item Ranking (226 Responses)	Very Important/ Important	Not Important
1) Environmental health of shoreline	206	3
2) Trees and gardens	205	1
3) Accessible washrooms	188	6
4) Ability to adapt to climate change	186	6
5) Shade	186	5
6) Ability to get close to Kempenfelt Bay	176	11
7) Water features for water play	153	20
8) Quieter areas	144	17
9) Areas for group gathering	140	28
10) Open space for cultural events	128	26
11) Recognition of indigenous histories	119	29
12) Public art	92	52
Other requests: Watercraft launch, winter picnic areas, food opportunities and noise pollution to be considered.		
How often do you visit Heritage Park?	Once a week: 85 Once a month: 58 Few times a year: 41 Daily: 37	
How do you get to the park?	Car: 45 Active/ Public Transportation: 167	

Figure 2: Survey Results Ranked According to Community Perceived Importance

The key messages received from the PICs feedback include:



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- **Water:** Increased and better access to the water by creating safe and easy ways to view and physically access Kempenfelt Bay and a waterplay feature along with integrating water-based active transportation modes (e.g., SUPs).
- **Environment:** The environmental health of the park is a common theme, indicating it is a critical aspect of any future design direction, including the ecological health of the waterfront, the introduction of pollinator gardens, and climate change adaptation strategies.
- **Accessibility:** A safe and universally accessible park was important to many attendees. Paths, lookouts, seating and special site features should prioritize ease of use through universal design standards and adherence to the Design of Public Spaces Standard O. Reg413/12.

Draft Master Plan

As result of the feedback received from the first PIC, a draft final Master Plan has been created which reflects the current and future priorities indicated by community members and stakeholders, meets the needs of a growing and more diverse community, and celebrates the prominence of this waterfront park locally and regionally. Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation that highlights the key elements of the draft Master Plan provided concurrently with this report.

Next Steps

Following the consultation with the City Building Committee, staff will review and consider any revisions to this draft of the Master Plan prior to the second community engagement event. The next PIC is scheduled for Thursday, November 25, 2021. The development of a Communication Plan is in process that will include an update to buildingbarrie.ca and a memorandum to Council. It is anticipated that the Zoom format will be used for the PIC, subject to COVID-19 Pandemic requirements.

The project team will analyze the results of the second PIC feedback for adjustments to the draft Master Plan and prepare a staff report to Council that is projected for early 2022. The staff report will include a Master Plan Report, final recommended design, cost estimate and implementation schedule.

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Three Preliminary Concepts, Available At buildingbarrie.ca

Refresh



Refresh focuses on responding to the minimum immediate facility needs to maintain public use and safety (water spray feature), while adding minor enhancements through a new shade structure and two new wood deck overlooks.

Rehab



Rehab creates a new look for the park by augmenting entrances and pathways, remolding the park topography into mounds and seat walls. Water connection improves through boardwalks, deck overlooks and pond access. Small scale entrepreneur space is explored.

Rethink



Rethink creates a future-forward redesign of the park to bring it to its full potential to provide quality of life for everyone under intensified use. People connect to the park through built form that maximizes sensory experience with extensive water access, four-season gardens, social stimulation and quiet moments spaces.

APPENDIX "B"

Heritage Park Concept Development Comparison

Feature	Element	Final	Refresh (Low)	Rehab (Medium)	Rethink (Highest)
Park Entryways	Enlarging Entryways	x	x	x	x
	Entry responds to Meridian form	x			x
	Entry seating	x		x	x
	Entry water feature	x			x
	Entry Trellis shade feature	x			x
	Potential "I Heart Barrie" Sign	x			
	Street at Simcoe redone, possibly no curb	x			x
Paths	Circulation (paths and bridges)	x	x	x	x
	Boardwalk			x	
	Covered Bike Parking, extra bike parking	x			
	Event Allée - more space for market stalls	x		x	x
	Lighting features, light as art focal points	x		x	x
Exercise Stations	Exercise station relocated		x	x	x
Event Space	Preserved	x	x	x	x
Pond	Enhanced pond walkway & seating area	x		x	x
	New pond deck	x			
	New pond cantilevered platform	x			x
	Pathway all around pond	x			x
	Stream viewing deck	x	x	x	x
	Stream step stone bridge				x
	Remove pond island	x	x	x	x
Water Feature	Redesigned Small Water Feature/Play	x	x		
	Redesigned Large Water Feature/Play			x	x
	Refinish cladding on buildings	x		x	x
Planting	New planting Ideas – natural, seasonal	x	x	x	x
	Increased landscape planting areas	x		x	x
	Riparian (water edge planting)	x			x
	Infiltration planting beds	x			
Seating	New mounds or seat walls	x		x	
	Sea Serpent seating enhancement	x			x
	Fireplaces	x	x	x	x
	New Shade Structure	x	x	x	x
	New Gathering Area	x			x
	Boulder focal points	x		x	x
Market Lane	More space for market stalls			x	x
Art Location	In new Gathering Area Plaza	x			
Kempfenfelt Bay	Physical access to Kempfenfelt Bay			x	x
	Personal Watercraft Launches & storage	x			
	Wood Decks		x	x	x
	Cantilevered wood decks	x		x	x
	Spit decking			x	x
	Spit seating	x			x



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APPENDIX "C"

Heritage Park Public Information Centre #1 Summary of Results

Please note a fuller version of this Summary is available on buildingbarrie.ca/Heritage Park.

Introduction

SHIFT Landscape Architecture, in coordination with the City of Barrie, hosted a public information centre (PIC) on May 27, 2021, to provide information on the proposed design concepts for Heritage Park.

This was the first opportunity for the general public to review the direction of the design concepts and master plan concerns, including the project objectives, site background, precedents, and three design concepts.

The three design concepts were presented in a graduated approach, meaning there were three levels of intervention and investment, with consistent basic ideas across all three. The common threads introduced to all concepts were:

- A reconsideration of the circulation network (paths) to better accommodate programming and accessibility,
- Drawing on the regional landscape for design inspiration; and
- To make more legible the idea of "place."

The three concepts, from lowest level of investment to highest, were the **"Refresh"** concept, the **"Rehab"** concept, and the **"Rethink"** concept.

PIC Overview			
Session 1	Session 2	Website	Responses
2-4pm	6-8pm	633 visits	226 surveys
33 viewers*	27 viewers*	197 downloads	7 emails
10 comments	11 comments		21 PIC comments

*Unique viewers by registered email. There could have been more than 1 viewer at home for each unique viewer email.

Survey Design

Respondent demographic and visiting information

Of the 226 responses, 219 respondents reside in Barrie, 1 respondent owned property in Barrie, and the remainder (6) were not residents of Barrie. Most respondents reside in wards located adjacent to Heritage Park and Kempenfelt Bay; however, all wards were represented, showing the level of interest in the greater community in the master planning process. The data generally shows the ages of users is varied and design decisions related to the master plan need to account for the large range, in terms of accessibility, safety, and function.

Respondents By Ward				Age		How do you get to the park?		How often do you visit the park?	
1	35	6	10	14-25	11	Car	145	Daily	37
2	53	7	14	26-44	99	Walk	118	1x/week	85



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3	10	8	35	45-65	79	Bike	45	1x/month	58
4	13	9	15	66+	35	Bus	5	Yearly	51
5	12	10	19						

The high use of active transportation to visit the park indicates the master plan and design concept need to integrate environmentally conscious ways to support existing and new ways people access the park. The high number of users that arrive by car indicate the need to continue to support alternative ways to get to the park, while accommodating the existing parking, keeping in mind the requirement for parking lots for events. There should be options included in the master plan and design concept for better use of parking spaces to mitigate heat island and stormwater runoff factors.

Survey Results

Overview of uses, needs, and activities

PIC participants were not asked outright which concept they preferred; however, the graduated concepts provided some context to engage participants on the value they apply to the activities (and the supporting elements) shown in the concepts. Please find below a summary of the ranked responses to the survey questions based on need/activity topics, with email and PIC comments included, as appropriate, to the 224 survey responses received online and associated recommendations. More detailed analysis of the results is available online at buildingbarrie.ca/Heritage Park.

Survey Item Ranking (226 Responses)	Very Important/ Important	Not Important	Comment
1 Environmental health of shoreline	206	3	The master plan and design concept should include ways to improve the Kempenfelt Bay shoreline while considering visitor access, accessibility, safety, and ecological function, while continuing to consult and partner with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA).
2 Trees and gardens	205	1	The master plan and design concept development process should continue to integrate trees and gardens within the overall park design, while considering mental restoration, quiet, shade, pollinators, and native gardens. The challenge will be to find a balance between views to the bay and spaces for events with the desire for trees and gardens.
3 Accessible washrooms	188	6	The master plan document should include basic guidelines for a washroom renovation, highlighting the need for accessibility, safety, and functional needs, related to AODA standards at a minimum.
Shade	186	5	The master plan and design concept should improve and make clear the need for shade.



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4	Ability to adapt to climate change	186	6	The master plan and concept design should clearly highlight and state the responses to this topic and make legible the related improvements, also in consultation with the LSRCA.
5	Ability to get close to Kempenfelt Bay	176	11	The existing park design does not safely accommodate reaching (walking, rolling, etc.) the shoreline and truly engaging with the water's edge. The master plan and design concept should continue to explore ways to fulfill the desire for this activity.
6	Water features for water play	153	20	The master plan and concept design should make it clear the importance of water play, while considering accessibility, safety, and integration into the overall objectives of the park master plan, i.e.: mental restoration, introducing nature and art in an urban environment.
7	Quieter areas	144	17	As Barrie grows in population, considering downtown specifically, Heritage Park will continue to be a busy, urban place. The master plan and design concept should clearly identify the need and location of areas that support this activity in a safe and accessible manner.
8	Areas for group gathering	140	28	The master plan should be clear in introducing areas for eating and passive group gathering with tables.
9	Open space for cultural events	128	26	The master plan and design concept should clearly designate well-supported event spaces and find ways to balance these spaces against the need for shade and quiet areas, while communicating the need for updated water and electrical services for events.
10	Recognition of indigenous histories	119	29	Of societal importance is reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. The master planning process should identify opportunities related to this topic. Staff have reached out on several occasions to but have not connected yet with the Barrie Native Friendship Centre but will continue to invite comment and discussion.
11	Public art	92	52	The master plan and concept design should include a guideline for partnering with arts organizations for the display of temporary and permanent sculpture at Heritage Park. Sculptural art has already been demonstrated as a positive addition to the public realm in Barrie and Heritage Park and its use as a place-maker should be considered.
Other requests: Watercraft launch, winter picnic areas, food opportunities and noise pollution to be considered.				



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Conclusion

The 3 concepts (Refresh, Rehab, Rethink) shared common themes but different levels of investment and intervention, which was evident in some of the layout and elements presented. The graduated concepts provided a framework for engaging participants in discussion on the value they apply to the existing and potential activities (and the supporting elements) shown in the presentation material.

The survey, along with emailed comments and PIC discussion, provided a lot of confirmation of the approach, so far, furthermore, it provided elements to think about going forward.

The feedback provided from the community suggests that Heritage Park is a much-loved space in the City of Barrie. There appears to be a desire from most to strive for a thoughtfully designed, high quality park which will fulfill the needs of the city across a wide range of programmatic and experiential opportunities.

Going forward, a master plan will be developed that considers these desires in tandem with future capital expenditures that are deemed realistic to City staff, based on comparables both within the City of Barrie as well as with projects in Cities of a similar size. This information will allow the City to make sound decisions from both a park planning point of view and an economic one.



Heritage Park Concept Cost Comparison

REFRESH Concept

Cost Estimate - Class D - April 2021				
Item	Unit	Unit Price	Quantity	Quantity Cost
1.0 Demolition, site prep, permits				\$ 293,275.00
1.1 Site mobilization, bonding, survey etc	ls	\$ 100,000.00	1	\$ 100,000.00
1.2 Removals	ls	\$ 150,000.00	1	\$ 150,000.00
1.3 Temp. site perimeter fencing	lin m	\$ 30.00	750	\$ 22,500.00
1.4 Silt Fence @ perimeter	lin m	\$ 7.70	750	\$ 5,775.00
1.5 Tree protection fencing	ls	\$ 15,000.00	1	\$ 15,000.00
2.0 Grading and earthworks				\$ 85,000.00
2.1 Strip and stockpile topsoil	ls	\$ 35,000.00	1	\$ 35,000.00
2.2 Site grading	ls	\$ 50,000.00	1	\$ 50,000.00
3.0 Paving + Surfacing				\$ 785,000.00
3.1 Pathways (material??)	sq. m	\$ 100.00	4200	\$ 420,000.00
3.2 Market lane path	sq. m	\$ 100.00	550	\$ 55,000.00
3.3 Central entry plaza	sq. m	\$ 150.00	700	\$ 105,000.00
3.4 East plaza	sq. m	\$ 150.00	275	\$ 41,250.00
3.5 West plaza	sq m	\$ 150.00	200	\$ 30,000.00
3.6 ? Surface at pavilion	sq m	\$ 150.00	200	\$ 30,000.00
3.7 Concrete steps at pond edge	sq m	\$ 250.00	175	\$ 43,750.00
3.8 Concrete walls throughout	ls	\$ 1,000.00	60	\$ 60,000.00
4.0 Shoreline stabilization				\$ 150,000.00
4.1 Shoreline work	ls	\$ 150,000.00	1	\$ 150,000.00
5.0 Electrical, site servicing				\$ 400,000.00
5.1 Storm servicing ??	ls	\$ 100,000.00	1	\$ 100,000.00
5.2 Electrical site servicing upgrades	ls	\$ 150,000.00	1	\$ 150,000.00
5.3 Water servicing	ls	\$ 150,000.00	1	\$ 150,000.00
6.0 Site features, furnishings				\$ 637,500.00
6.1 Wood decks at waterfront + water feature	sq m	\$ 500.00	125	\$ 62,500.00
6.2 Feature pavilion	ls	\$ 150,000.00	1	\$ 150,000.00
6.3 Stone details throughout park	ls	\$ 200,000.00	1	\$ 200,000.00
6.4 Spit/ breakwater upgrade	ls	\$ 175,000.00	1	\$ 175,000.00
6.5 misc. Furnishings	ls	\$ 50,000.00	1	\$ 50,000.00
7.0 Water Feature + Lighting				\$ 950,000.00
7.1 Proposed Water feature	ls	\$ 750,000.00	1	\$ 750,000.00
7.2 Lighting	ls	\$ 200,000.00	1	\$ 200,000.00
8.0 Planting				\$ 125,000.00
8.1 Gardens including soil, mulch plants etc	ls	\$ 125,000.00	1	\$ 125,000.00
8.2 New irrigation	ls	\$ 80,000.00	1	\$ 80,000.00
9.0 Architecture				\$ 275,000.00
9.1 Upgrades to washrooms	ls	\$ 150,000.00	1	\$ 150,000.00
9.2 Reclad/ re roof existing	ls	\$ 125,000.00	1	\$ 125,000.00
10.0 Additions				\$ -
Subtotal				\$ 3,700,775.00
Contingency @ 20%				\$ 740,155.00
TOTAL				\$ 4,440,930.00

REHAB Concept

Cost Estimate - Class D - April 2021				
Item	Unit	Unit Price	Quantity	Quantity Cost
1.0 Demolition, site prep, permits				\$ 393,275.00
1.1 Site mobilization, bonding, survey etc	ls	\$ 150,000.00	1	\$ 150,000.00
1.2 Removals	ls	\$ 200,000.00	1	\$ 200,000.00
1.3 Temp. site perimeter fencing	lin m	\$ 30.00	750	\$ 22,500.00
1.4 Silt Fence @ perimeter	lin m	\$ 7.70	750	\$ 5,775.00
1.5 Tree protection fencing	ls	\$ 15,000.00	1	\$ 15,000.00
2.0 Grading and earthworks				\$ 125,000.00
2.1 Strip and stockpile topsoil	ls	\$ 50,000.00	1	\$ 50,000.00
2.2 Site grading	ls	\$ 75,000.00	1	\$ 75,000.00
3.0 Paving + Surfacing				\$ 905,500.00
3.1 Pathways (material??)	sq. m	\$ 100.00	4200	\$ 420,000.00
3.2 Market lane path	sq. m	\$ 175.00	550	\$ 96,250.00
3.3 Central entry plaza	sq. m	\$ 250.00	710	\$ 177,500.00
3.4 East plaza	sq. m	\$ 200.00	265	\$ 53,000.00
3.5 West plaza	sq m	\$ 200.00	175	\$ 35,000.00
3.6 ? Surface at pavilion	sq m	\$ 275.00	200	\$ 55,000.00
3.7 Concrete steps at pond edge	sq m	\$ 250.00	275	\$ 68,750.00
4.0 Shoreline stabilization				\$ 250,000.00
4.1 Shoreline work	ls	\$ 250,000.00	1	\$ 250,000.00
5.0 Electrical, site servicing				\$ 500,000.00
5.1 Storm servicing ??	ls	\$ 150,000.00	1	\$ 150,000.00
5.2 Electrical site servicing upgrades	ls	\$ 200,000.00	1	\$ 200,000.00
5.3 Water servicing	ls	\$ 150,000.00	1	\$ 150,000.00
6.0 Site features, furnishings				\$ 1,142,500.00
6.1 Wood decks at waterfront + water feature	sq m	\$ 500.00	375	\$ 187,500.00
6.2 Feature pavilion	ls	\$ 250,000.00	1	\$ 250,000.00
6.4 Stone details throughout park	ls	\$ 325,000.00	1	\$ 325,000.00
6.5 Spit/ breakwater upgrade	ls	\$ 300,000.00	1	\$ 300,000.00
6.6 misc. Furnishings	ls	\$ 80,000.00	1	\$ 80,000.00
7.0 Water Feature + Lighting				\$ 1,300,000.00
7.1 Proposed Water feature	ls	\$1,000,000.00	1	\$ 1,000,000.00
7.2 Lighting	ls	\$ 300,000.00	1	\$ 300,000.00
8.0 Planting				\$ 175,000.00
8.1 Gardens including soil, mulch plants etc	ls	\$ 175,000.00	1	\$ 175,000.00
8.2 New irrigation	ls	\$ 80,000.00	1	\$ 80,000.00
9.0 Architecture				\$ 375,000.00
9.1 Upgrades to washrooms	ls	\$ 200,000.00	1	\$ 200,000.00
9.2 Reclad/ re roof existing	ls	\$ 175,000.00	1	\$ 175,000.00
10.0 Additions				\$ -

Subtotal \$ 5,166,275.00
Contingency @ 20% \$ 1,033,255.00

TOTAL \$ 6,199,530.00

RETHINK Concept

Cost Estimate - Class D - April 2021				
Item	Unit	Unit Price	Quantity	Quantity Cost
1.0 Demolition, site prep, permits				\$ 393,275.00
1.1 Site mobilization, bonding, survey etc	ls	\$ 150,000.00	1	\$ 150,000.00
1.2 Removals	ls	\$ 200,000.00	1	\$ 200,000.00
1.3 Temp. site perimeter fencing	lin m	\$ 30.00	750	\$ 22,500.00
1.4 Silt Fence @ perimeter	lin m	\$ 7.70	750	\$ 5,775.00
1.5 Tree protection fencing	ls	\$ 15,000.00	1	\$ 15,000.00
2.0 Grading and earthworks				\$ 125,000.00
2.1 Strip and stockpile topsoil	ls	\$ 50,000.00	1	\$ 50,000.00
2.2 Site grading	ls	\$ 75,000.00	1	\$ 75,000.00
3.0 Paving + Surfacing				\$ 1,337,750.00
3.1 Pathways (material??)	sq. m	\$ 100.00	3960	\$ 396,000.00
3.2 Market lane path	sq. m	\$ 250.00	550	\$ 137,500.00
3.3 Central entry plaza	sq. m	\$ 250.00	1250	\$ 312,500.00
3.4 East plaza	sq. m	\$ 250.00	350	\$ 87,500.00
3.5 West plaza	sq. m	\$ 250.00	200	\$ 50,000.00
3.6 Stone surface at pavilion	sq m	\$ 400.00	370	\$ 148,000.00
3.7 Concrete at waters edge	sq m	\$ 125.00	150	\$ 18,750.00
3.8 Concrete ramp to waters edge	sq m	\$ 200.00	150	\$ 30,000.00
3.9 Concrete steps at pond edge	sq m	\$ 250.00	350	\$ 87,500.00
3.1 Concrete wall (grass and pond edge)	lin m	\$ 1,000.00	70	\$ 70,000.00
4.0 Shoreline stabilization				\$ 250,000.00
4.1 Shoreline work	ls	\$ 250,000.00	1	\$ 250,000.00
5.0 Electrical, site servicing				\$ 500,000.00
5.1 Storm servicing ??	ls	\$ 150,000.00	1	\$ 150,000.00
5.2 Electrical site servicing upgrades	ls	\$ 200,000.00	1	\$ 200,000.00
5.3 Water servicing	ls	\$ 150,000.00	1	\$ 150,000.00
6.0 Site features, furnishings				\$ 1,625,000.00
6.1 Wood decks at waterfront + water feature	sq m	\$ 500.00	650	\$ 325,000.00
6.2 Feature pavilion	ls	\$ 300,000.00	1	\$ 300,000.00
6.3 Entry pavilion	ls	\$ 150,000.00	1	\$ 150,000.00
6.4 Stone details throughout park	ls	\$ 400,000.00	1	\$ 400,000.00
6.5 Spit/ breakwater upgrade	ls	\$ 350,000.00	1	\$ 350,000.00
6.6 misc. Furnishings	ls	\$ 100,000.00	1	\$ 100,000.00
7.0 Water Feature + Lighting				\$ 2,200,000.00
7.1 Proposed Water feature	ls	\$1,500,000.00	1	\$ 1,500,000.00
7.2 Entry water feature	ls	\$ 300,000.00	1	\$ 300,000.00
7.2 Lighting	ls	\$ 400,000.00	1	\$ 400,000.00
8.0 Planting				\$ 250,000.00
8.1 Gardens including soil, mulch plants etc	ls	\$ 250,000.00	1	\$ 250,000.00
8.2 New irrigation	ls	\$ 100,000.00	1	\$ 100,000.00
9.0 Architecture				\$ 500,000.00
9.1 Upgrades to washrooms	ls	\$ 200,000.00	1	\$ 200,000.00
9.2 Reclad/ re roof existing	ls	\$ 300,000.00	1	\$ 300,000.00
10.0 Additions				\$ -

Subtotal \$ 7,181,025.00
Contingency @ 20% \$ 1,436,205.00

TOTAL \$ 8,617,230.00

APPENDIX "B"

Recommended Master Plan Concept [RETHINK]



APPENDIX "C"

Heritage Park Master Plan Final Report 2022