

Proposed National Urban Park

Public Open House #2



June 13, 2023 – 6:30pm to 8:30pm EDT
Town of LaSalle Event Centre – 970 Front Road

Welcome to the 2nd Public Open House!

Today, we invite you to....



Sign-in and
take a look
around



Discover the
proposed
national
urban park



Learn about
studies and
process for the
proposed
national urban
park



View summaries
of previous
engagement
sessions



Provide
feedback - let
us know what is
important to
you

Your feedback is important and will be incorporated and considered!

Options to provide feedback:



- Fill out our Open House feedback form!
- Email: nationalurbanpark@citywindsor.ca
- Drop off: Ojibway Nature Centre OR Town of LaSalle Civic Centre

- Mail your feedback to City of Windsor or Town of LaSalle:
- Marc Di Domenico, Infrastructure Services, Engineering Department – Corporate Projects Division, City of Windsor, P.O. Box 1607, Windsor, ON N9A 6S1
- Peter Marra (Deputy Chief Administrative Officer) or Gudrin Beggs (Director of Planning & Development) Town of LaSalle, 5950 Malden Road, LaSalle, ON N9H 1S4

Involvement of Indigenous Peoples

City of Windsor and Town of LaSalle occur on lands that are in the traditional territory of First Nations peoples. Due to the unique location near the Detroit River, many First Nations peoples have connections to this area. Currently, Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island reside or work in this area.

Nation-to-Nation Engagement

- Engagement on the proposed national urban park with local First Nations is separate and distinct from public and stakeholder engagement, occurring on a nation-to-nation basis for all aspects of the park project.
- Shared stewardship and cooperative management of the park that respects and fosters Indigenous knowledge and "two-eyed seeing" approach to management.
- Local First Nations are represented on a Partner Committee that provides guidance and direction to the project.

Engagement with Urban Indigenous Community



- Engagement included a round-table discussion at Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre (January 2023) and Visioning Workshop (April 2023)

National Urban Parks Program

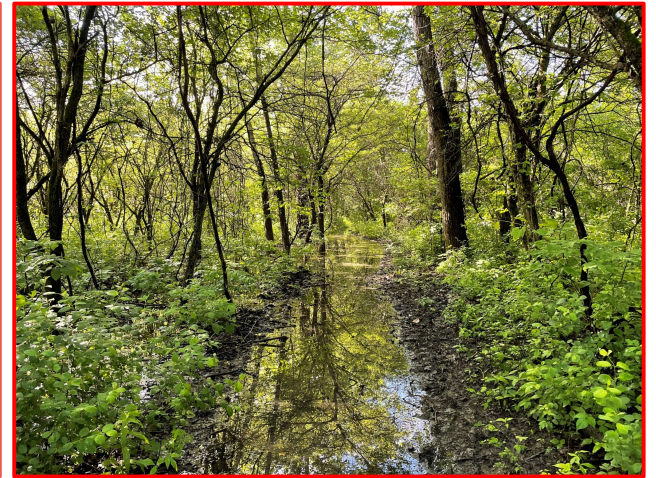
- In August 2021, Parks Canada launched the National Urban Parks Program with the aim to create a network of national urban parks across Canada.
- To create these new urban parks, Parks Canada is working collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples, communities, land holders and stakeholders to:
 - Protect biodiversity
 - Support climate change resilience
 - Increase social inclusion
 - Connect people with nature and land
 - Improve mental health and wellbeing
- The national urban parks will be managed under a range of flexible governance models.



Spring Garden Natural Area



Reaume Park

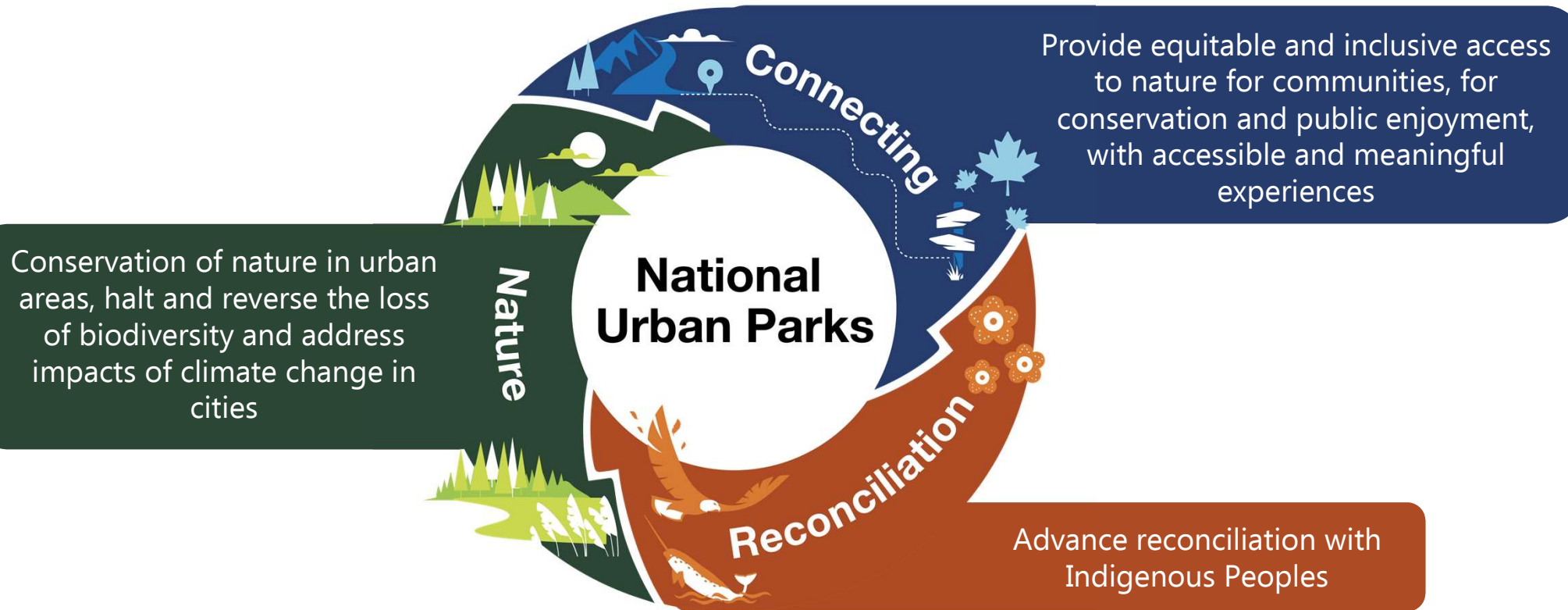


South Cameron Woodlot

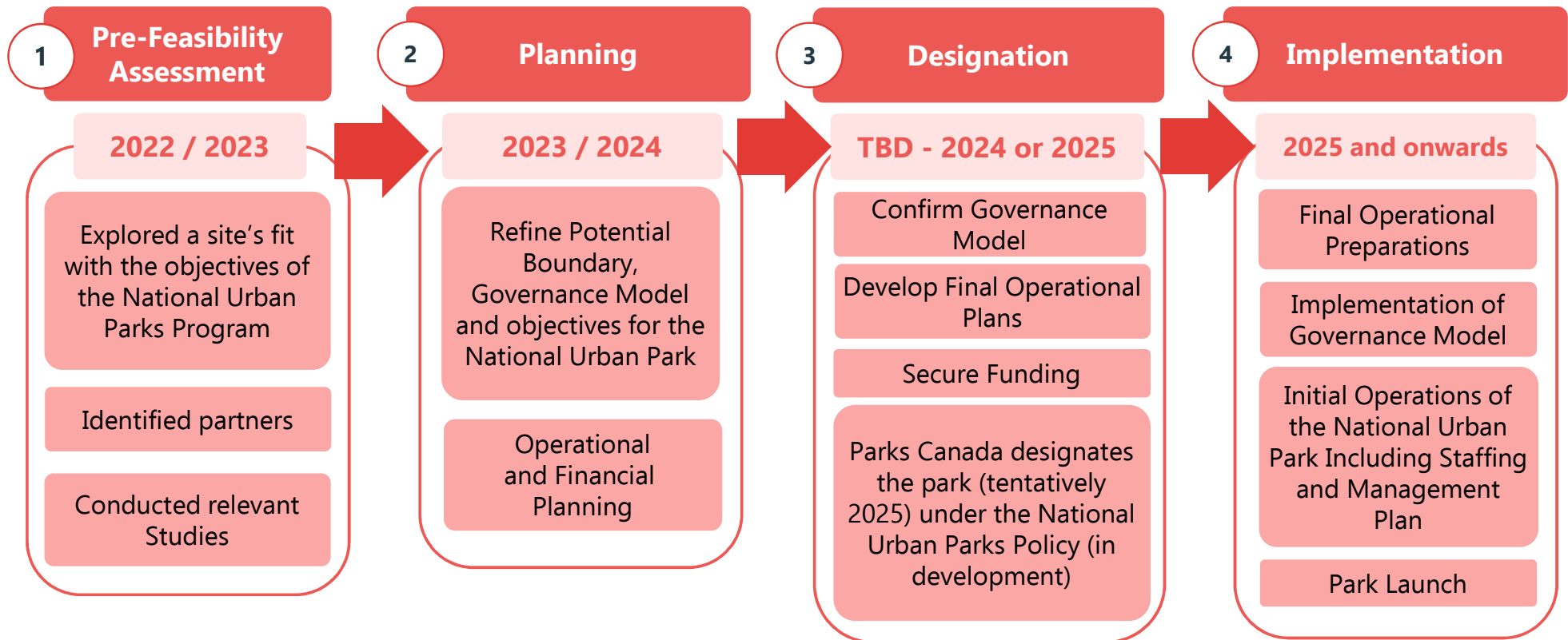
Candidate National Urban Parks



Key Objectives of National Urban Parks



Parks Canada-led Anticipated Designation Process



Ongoing engagement with public and stakeholders as well as collaboration and decision making with key partners and Parks Canada throughout entire process.

The Parks Canada-led approach allows for flexible governance, voluntary partnership, shared costs, and opportunity for strong leadership and stewardship by Indigenous partners.

Updated Study Area for Proposed National Urban Park

The candidate lands were selected based on natural heritage features and include public and privately held lands. Landowners will be engaged prior to designation of any lands. The Study Area does not represent the boundaries for the proposed national urban park. The park boundaries will be determined through further consultation and studies.



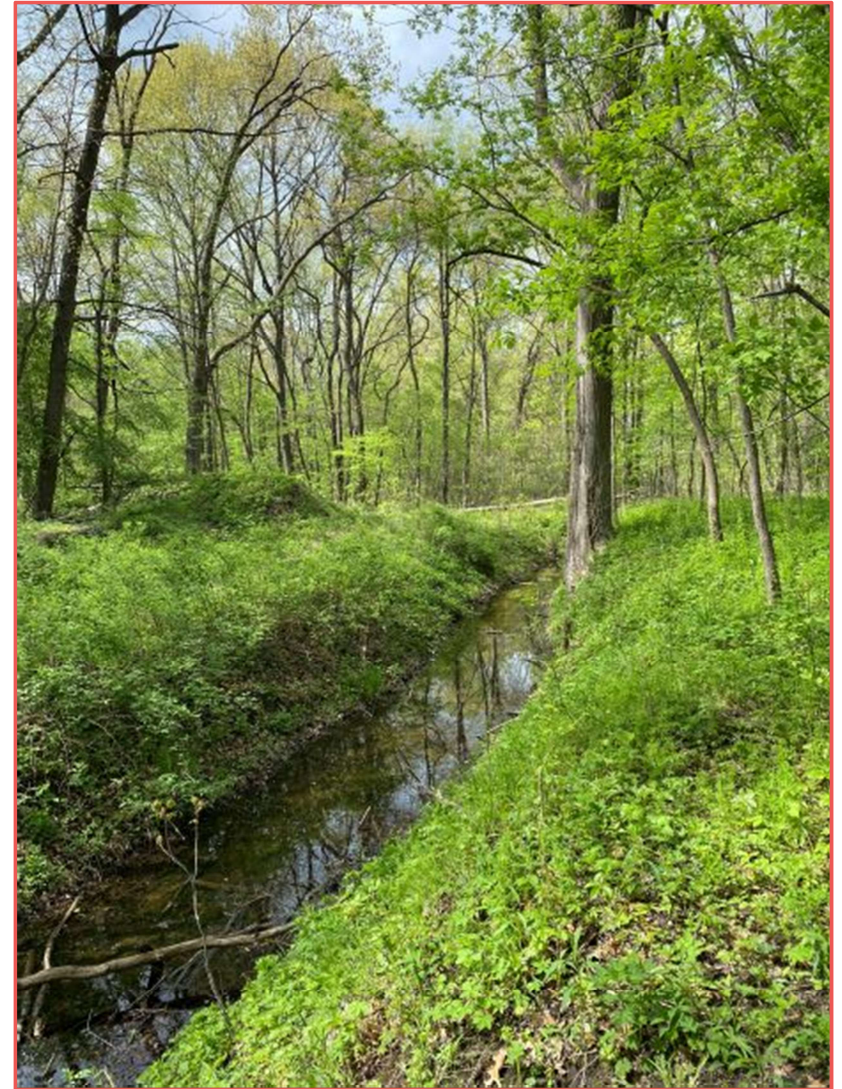
Lands within Town of LaSalle

In addition to lands within the City of Windsor, the following parcels within the Town of LaSalle have been put forward for the study area as of June 2023:

- Turkey Creek
- Stanton Woods
- Reaume Prairie
- Town Centre Woodlot
- LaSalle Woodlot / Brunet Park
- Villa Maria Woodlot

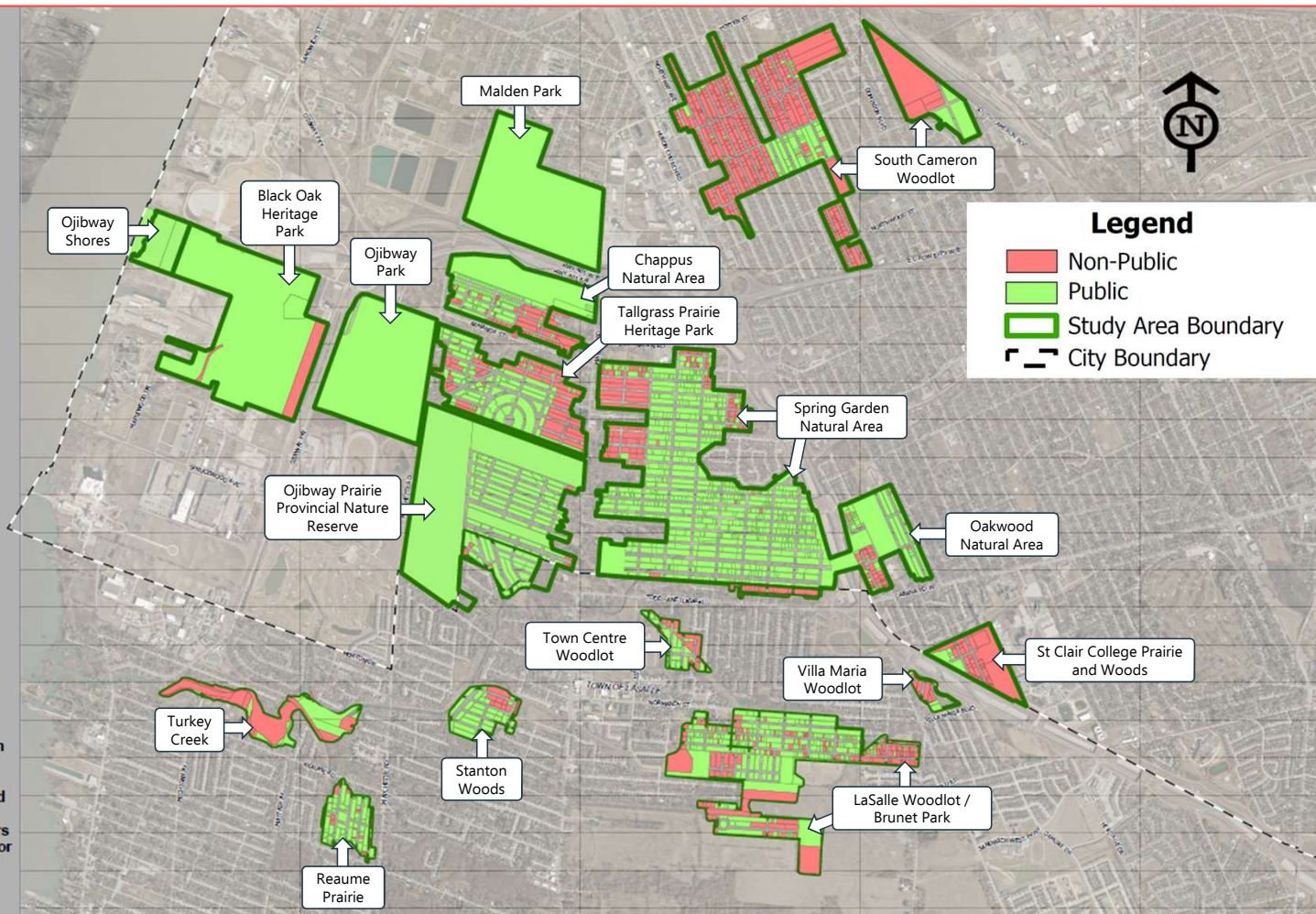
Pre-feasibility assessments, including environmental and natural heritage studies, are currently underway within the additional lands.

Feedback on the expanded Study Area that includes Town of LaSalle parcels is welcome. If there are any additional lands which should be included within the study area, please let us know! Note that consultation with landowners and administrators will occur prior to finalizing the park boundaries.



LaSalle Woodlot / Brunet Park

Land Administration Map



Land administration of each parcel has been documented to better understand the composition of the areas, lands for consideration, and potential boundaries. Administration of additional study area lands, as they are added, will be assessed.

Consultation with land administrators will occur prior to inclusion of lands within the final area of the national urban park. **Lands will only be added to the final area of the national urban park with clear and express consent of existing land administrators.**

Overview of Pre-Feasibility Assessment Studies

Pre-feasibility assessments have been undertaken for the study area within the City of Windsor only; further assessments are underway for study area within the Town of LaSalle (added recently).

Cultural and Archaeological

- Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment

Environmental & Natural Elements

- Ecological Land Classification (ELC)
- Old Growth Tree Stand Surveys
- Species At Risk Sightings and Wildlife Surveys
- Animal Monitoring
- Natural Heritage Assessment
- Invasive Species Management Strategy
- Evaluation of Significance

Mapping & Connectivity

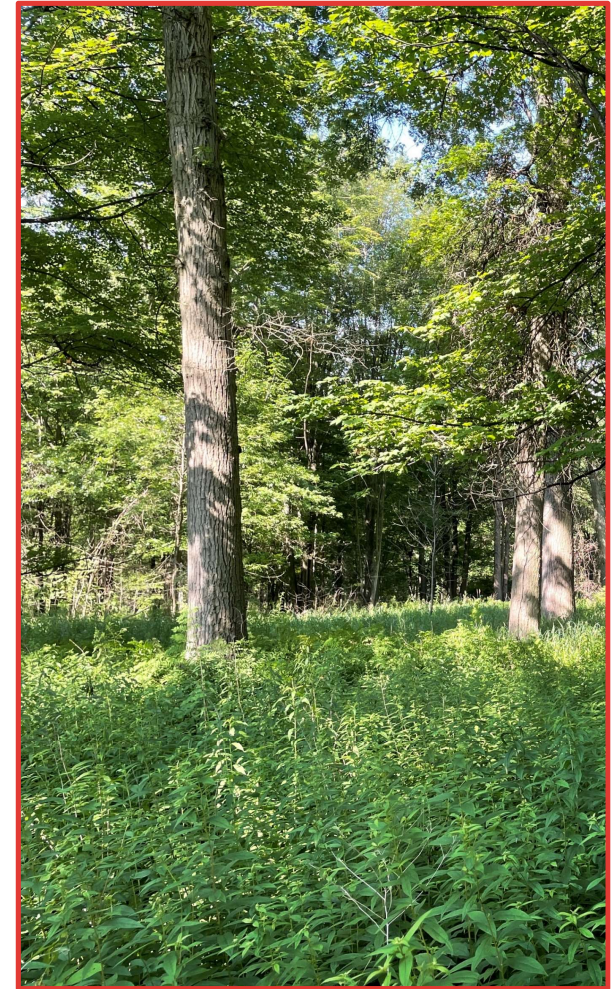
- Study Area
- Natural Areas Trail Network and Accessibility
- Connectivity of Natural Areas
- Nearby Areas of Interest

Land & Property

- Land Parcel Mapping
- Zoning/Land Use Mapping



Turkey Creek



Ojibway Park

Engagement Opportunities

2022

Apr to May 2022
Stakeholder Focus
Group Sessions

Nov 17, 2022
Open House #1
at Ojibway
Nature Centre

Dec 7, 2022
Public Drop In – John Muir Library
&
Multicultural Council Engagement
Session

**Nov 17 – Dec 15,
2022**
Survey

2023

Jan 17, 2023
Can-Am
Indian
Friendship
Centre
Engagement
Session

Jan 18, 2023
Public Drop In –
St. Clair College
&
Public Drop In –
University of
Windsor

Feb 23, 2023
Public Drop In
–
Marlborough
Public School

Mar 30, 2023
Natural
Heritage
Workshop

Apr 13, 2023
Visioning
Workshop

Apr 19, 2023
Indigenous-
Specific
Visioning
Workshop

June 13, 2023
Open House
#2

**WE
ARE
HERE**

Stakeholders and the public will be advised of future opportunities for engagement during future phases of this project.

What We Heard – Nature

Potential for parallel governance systems and joint management, including knowledge and partnership with Indigenous Peoples

Education for the public regarding invasive species and management practices



Create awareness campaigns about unique ecosystems and restore respect for nature within the area

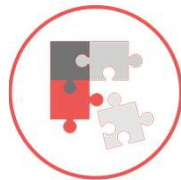
Loss of biodiversity, potential of more species becoming at risk



Black Oak Heritage Park should continue to be preserved with more naturalized areas

Collaborate and communicate with wider variety of nature organizations, governments, and communities

Increase enforcement of unauthorized access and / or habitat destruction



Create educational degrees, certifications, and programs focusing on conservation

More planting of native species and improve protection of species and habitats



Consolidate research into one hub with easy access

Modify of land use planning and by-laws to conserve nature



Promote of eco-friendly tourism practices

Create a dark sky preserve

Connectivity plans should prioritize ecological connectivity for nature, including more ecopassages and ecological corridors

Include additional lands:

- Detroit River shoreline
- Former Windsor Raceway
- Aboriginal Park
- Underused or former industrialized areas
- Small public parks
- Peche Island
- Waterways
- Ecological corridors

The information provided on this slide summarizes feedback received from engagement sessions, including the recent Visioning Workshops.

What We Heard – Connecting

Improve of transportation connections to park, including:

- On-road separated cycling lanes with more traffic control
- Direct shuttle buses from downtown and post-secondary institutions
- Walking trails, including permeable hard surfaces for increased accessibility
- More frequent public transit
- Cycling connections to proposed Gordie Howe Bridge, Via Rail Station, and cruise ship port

No fees for entry or use of spaces

Dedicate private areas for use by Indigenous Peoples, including for spiritual or ceremonial use

Increase educational opportunities for all, including in different languages

At key locations in the broader region (nodes), add information and maps about the park to help orient and inform prospective visitors.

Indigenous stewardship and partnerships

Improve communication through increased signage, dedicated website and translation into different languages

Outdoor and indoor rooms and spaces for educational programs or activities

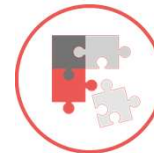
Increase number of accessible bathrooms, waste bins, tables

Prioritize active transportation over car travel

Preserve nature by limiting access to certain areas of the park

More safety on trails and walkways, especially for young families, children, and youth

Improve municipal standards and development requirements to be more inclusive of accessibility needs



Design park with buffer zones between heavily developed and utilized urban areas (e.g. commercial, residential) and natural areas

Increase bike and scooter racks and secure storage facilities

Add safe and well-lit pathways

The information provided on this slide summarizes feedback received from engagement sessions, including the recent Visioning Workshops.

What We Heard – Connecting to the Park

During the Visioning Workshops, participants were asked to suggest potential improvements, both for physical access to the park (e.g. additional bike lanes) and inclusivity (e.g. ceremonial space for Indigenous Peoples) within the park. Each colour represents a different type of access consideration, as per the legend on the right side of the map. Further studies and consultation are required prior to any modifications based on feedback received during the Visioning Workshop.



What We Heard - Reconciliation

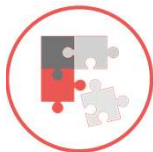
Update descriptions of important spaces (e.g. Windsor Aboriginal Park) for accuracy and portray significance of sites

Incorporate educational programs, cultural practices, and gathering areas for Indigenous Peoples (e.g. teachings with Elder(s) in residence, medicine garden(s), healing gardens, artwork by local artists, local history)

Create of an Indigenous Advisory Council to provide guidance during planning and operations activities

Communication with Indigenous communities must be meaningful, with every opportunity to incorporate conversations about truth of the area

As Traditional Council and Band Council may have separate perspectives, it is important to engage with and include both



Provide suggestions for reconciliation within the park to Indigenous Peoples for consideration

Follow actions outlined in Truth and Reconciliation Final Report and provide summaries of initiatives, programs, and progress

Create areas for urban Indigenous youth and multiple different Nations to gather

Create private spaces for sacred fires that could be used at any time

Add private places of ceremony and learning (e.g. longhouse, teaching lodge, storytelling circle)

Personhood status for proposed park

Ensure that local First Nations and urban Indigenous community are engaged throughout all steps

Signage throughout the park in different Indigenous languages, including endangered dialects from the area

Provide access to Detroit River shoreline for Indigenous Peoples

Increase education and awareness of Indigenous knowledge and world views for visitors and urban residents

The information provided on this slide summarizes feedback received from engagement sessions, including recent Visioning Workshops.

What We Heard - Visioning

The following hopes and expectations for visions of the park in 20 years time were expressed during engagement:

Diversity of historical, cultural, and conservation education, practices, and signage

A sense of community responsibility for protecting nature and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and local First Nations

Better, safer, and more connected public transportation, cycling lanes, and pedestrian pathways

Create a model of effective environmental management to be used for other natural areas

Welcome visitors to the park, while ensuring protection of these rare and unique ecosystems

Create permanent, long-term protection with a potential to make this a world class park

Meaningful consultation with Indigenous Peoples and establishment of stewardship practices

Model of effective environmental management and land-use planning

Restoration and enhancement of natural ecosystems, protection of Species at Risk (SAR), and potential reintroduction of species

Improvement of community knowledge, conservation incorporated into curriculums, and partnerships with local organizations

Work with regional partners to mutually support and promote awareness of overlapping designations (e.g. UNESCO World Heritage Designation of the Detroit River)

The information provided on this slide summarizes feedback received from the Visioning Workshops.

Next Steps

- “What We Heard” Report
- Planning phase of Parks Canada-led process toward park designation

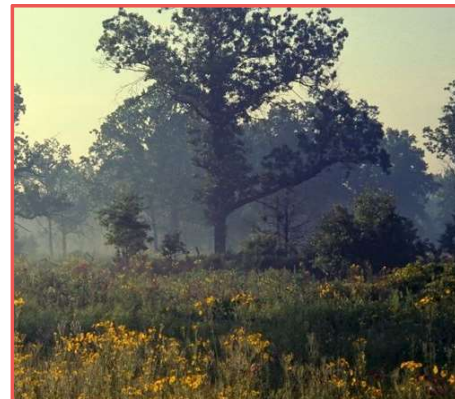
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Division, City of Windsor, P.O. Box 1607, Windsor,
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- OR
- Peter Marra (Deputy Chief Administrative Officer) or
Gudrin Beggs (Director of Planning &
Development) Town of LaSalle, 5950 Malden Road,
LaSalle, ON N9H 1S4



For more information, please use the
QR Code or visit:

[https://letstalk.citywindsor.ca/
national-urban-park-windsor](https://letstalk.citywindsor.ca/national-urban-park-windsor)



Information regarding future engagement opportunities will continue to be shared. Keep engaged on the online platform for more information or sign up for a notification list!