Appendix C: Activity Centres Along the Waterfront

Appendix C: Activity Centres Along the Three Shorelines

The following section provides profiles of all Activity Centres along the three shorelines. High level strategic direction is provided to drive future planning efforts for the Activity Centres, including strategic design direction for the three Focus Areas. Activity Centres have been classified as Primary, Secondary, or Tertiary as a framework for waterfront use distribution. The Focus Areas were identified in collaboration with the public and key stakeholders and defined as "a park or portion of the waterfront that the City should focus on revitalizing first in order to have the greatest impact on the inclusivity, resilience and activation of the waterfront as a whole." Conceptual visioning and sketches are provided for the focus areas to provide guidance as those Activity Centres are streamlined into the planning process.

B.1 Activity Centres

The purpose of establishing a hierarchy of Activity Centres is to recognize the varying role, function and activity levels throughout the waterfront and to provide a framework for better distributing events, festivals and recreational activities across Kempenfelt Bay. Currently, events are clustered in the West Shore - particularly at Centennial Beach - an area that has reached its capacity as a waterfront destination, even as the City's population continues to grow. A comprehensive network of Activity Centres across the waterfront is expected to form the basis for potentially redistributing some events, alleviating congestion, and ensuring that the waterfront remains an inviting place that is full of vitality and a resource that is shared among residents and tourists.

To maximize the capacity of the entire waterfront as a destination, the Waterfront Strategic Plan establishes the parameters for redistributing events and recreational activities in revitalized Activity Centres across the waterfront. The scale of programming that each of these centres is intended to accommodate is expressed through the hierarchy, which includes three scales - Primary Activity Centres, Secondary Activity Centres and Tertiary Activity Centres. Each class is defined by its typical catchment area (Regional, City-wide, local), and the level and type of activity generated by the destination. The significance and profile of the Activity Centre, in terms of its role in shaping the image of Barrie, is also reflected in the hierarchy.

B.1.1 Primary Activity Centres

These parks are intended to serve as the City's primary places for large events and recreation along the waterfront. These four parks will draw the largest numbers of visitors, and the quality of design and provision of facilities in these parks will reflect their high profile. Centennial Park/ Will Dwyer Park, Heritage Park, and Allandale Station Park already act as Primary Activity Centres drawing visitors from across Barrie and beyond; proposed upgrades to Spirit Catcher Park and the City of Barrie Marina will elevate these Activity Centres as primary gathering places as well. Combined, the four Primary Activity Centres, along with lower-order Activity Centres will help to disperse activities that are currently concentrated most densely at Centennial Park.

- Centennial Park/Will Dwyer
- Spirit Catcher Park/City of Barrie Marina
- Heritage Park
- South Shore Park

B.1.2 Secondary Activity Centres

As the waterfront evolves, these destinations will have the potential to draw a significant number of visitors, primarily from local neighbourhoods, but in many cases, from across Barrie as well. Each of these destinations has been, or will be, uniquely programmed to accommodate specific types of community events and forms of active recreation. Facilities such as pavilions, sports fields, swimming areas, watersport launch points, and internal trail networks are common in these parks.

Each of these locations will play a key role in defining the image of the waterfront, and like the Primary Activity Centres, these destinations will require planning, ongoing maintenance, and renewal to ensure they deliver a high-quality experience for visitors.

- Johnson's Beach
- Sam Cancilla Park
- North Shore Trail
- St Vincent Park
- Military Heritage Park
- Meridian Place with Memorial Square
- Gables Park
- Tyndale Park
- Minet's Point Park

B.1.3 Tertiary Activity Centres

In general, these Tertiary Activity Centres will generate lower levels of activity than the Secondary Activity Centres. Although the Tiffin Boat Launch and the J.C. Morrison Shipwreck will draw visitors from across Barrie and even beyond, in general, these parks are not intended to serve as primary gathering places along the waterfront. Limited facilities, are common in the Tertiary Activity Centres, related to the more passive forms of recreation for smaller groups of visitors.

- Nelson Square
- Kempenfelt Park
- J.C. Morrison Shipwreck
- Tiffin Boat Launch
- Allandale Station Park
- Dock Road Park
- Tollendale Woods
- Wilkins Park
- Pioneer Park
- Loyalist Woods

B.2 North Shore Activity Centre Strategies

There are five parks situated along the North Shore, either along the water's edge or on the north side of Dunlop Street East. The following section provides an overview of each Activity Centre's existing conditions, park specific policy context, and potential future direction. As recommended in Strategic Priority #10: Create Park Plans that Recognize Each Park's Contribution to the Waterfront— further study into the potential for each park is recommended through a park planning process. As Sam Cancilla Park was identified as a focus destination through community and stakeholder engagement, planning and development of this park should be prioritized.

B.2.1 Johnson's Beach

Existing Conditions

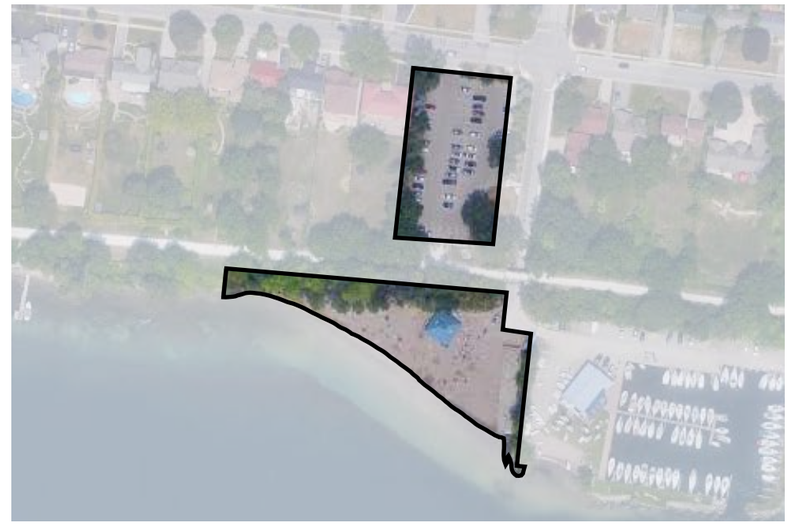
Johnson's Beach is the eastern most park on the North Shore, located near the municipal boundary between the City of Barrie and the Township of Oro-Medonte. It is the second largest beach facility (1.0 acre) within the City and is well used during the summer for swimming and sun bathing. Johnson's Beach is located near the end of the North Shore Trail and serves as a gateway to the North Shore waterfront.

- **Location:** 2 Johnson Street
- **Area:** 1.0 Acres
- **Key Features:**
  - Sandy beach
  - Seasonal lifeguard
  - Parking Lot
  - Washrooms
- **Opportunities:**
  - Alternative to West Shore beaches as a local scale park
  - Adjacent to boating activities at Barrie Yacht Club
- **Constraints:**
  - Parking separated from beach by North Shore Trail

Recommendations

Johnson's Beach has the potential to strengthen its identity as a local beach destination. A Park Plan should be developed for Johnson's Beach to ensure improvements are sustainable, control overcrowding and align with the waterfront vision. The following recommendations should be considered through the design process. These recommendations require further feasibility analysis and are non-exhaustive—they should not limit further visioning as the design process continues.

- Enhance access to Johnson's Beach from the existing parking lot and North Shore Trail through the establishment of a distinct entrance with clear wayfinding to the park that creates a sense of arrival.
- Provide an accessible and maintained pathway from the North Shore Trail and existing parking lot to the beach, to allow for seamless access to the park.
- Consider additional facilities including food and beverage options and lockers.
- Strengthen the sense of place at Johnson's Beach through improved facilities/design, including a notable lookout point from the North Shore Trail and the integration of design excellence through facilities and public art (e.g. lifeguard stands).



- Explore the potential for design competitions to draw interest to the beach outside of peak summer seasons (e.g. a design competition for Winter Warming Huts).
- Explore opportunities to increase accessibility to the beach and water by including mobi mats.
- Expand the drop-off beach area to include one or two dedicated accessible parking stalls and consider providing loading space for a food truck and drop-off zone.
- Coordinate with the Barrie Yacht Club to explore opportunities for programming and community partnerships in the future planning of Johnson's Beach Park.

Precedents

- **A. Amelia Beach**
  Amelia City, FL
  Roll out mat for accessible beach access.

- **B. The Little Mermaid Sculpture**
  Copenhagen, DK

- **C. Sugar Beach North Art Exhibit**
  Toronto, ON

B.2.2 Nelson Square

Existing Conditions

Nelson Square is a 2.1 acre park that includes a playground and treed grassy area. Parkview Community Centre is located on the northeast corner of Nelson Square and offers programs, events and workshops for individuals 55 years of age and older. Nelson Lookout and Vancouver Lookout are located within a few hundred metres of Nelson Square, with the former directly connected with a set of stairs north of Blake Street. The lookouts provide views over Nelson Square and the waterfront.

- **Location:** 189 Blake Street
- **Area:** 2.1 Acres
- **Key Features:**
  - Parkview Community Centre
  - Playground
  - Treed Lawn Area
  - Parking Lot
- **Opportunities:**
  - Capitalize on park as a space used by all ages
- **Constraints:**
  - Access to the water severed by Kempenfelt Drive and the North Shore Trail

Recommendations

Nelson Square Park currently operates as a local community hub with the Parkview Community Centre and playground serving a variety of users ranging in age. A Park Plan should be developed for Nelson Square to ensure improvements are sustainable, continue to serve community members in an accessible way, and align with the waterfront vision. The following recommendations should be considered through the design process. These recommendations require further feasibility analysis and are non-exhaustive—they should not limit further visioning as the design process continues.

- Undertake a Park Plan for Nelson Square Park.
- Further foster the Park as a community hub with the addition of facilities such as a community garden, an outdoor gym, and play equipment such as shuffleboard or pickle ball courts.
- Examine the feasibility/need for an accessible washroom at the Park.
- Enhance safe connectivity to the North Shore Trail and the waterfront through a potential pedestrian crossing along Kempenfelt Drive.
- Undertake a visioning exercise with seniors from Parkview to enhance seasonal use and explore new facilities geared towards active seniors.

Precedents

- **A. Community Garden**
  Barneveld, NL

- **B. Outdoor Fitness Station**

- **C. Shuffleboard Court**

B.2.3 St. Vincent Park

Existing Conditions

St. Vincent Park is a 2.2 acre park with a playground, pavilion and treed lawn area. Visitors enjoy walking, bringing children, socializing, enjoying nature and views at St. Vincent Park.

As a part of the City's Playground Revitalization Program, a new playground will be implemented and serve the surrounding community and provide engaging experiences for all visitors.

- **Location:** 65 Blake Street
- **Area:** 2.2 Acres
- **Key Features:**
  - Playground
  - Pavilion
  - Book Exchange Box
  - Memorial Bench
  - Treed Lawn Area
  - Washrooms
- **Opportunities:**
  - Enhance opportunities for interaction with nature and exploration
- **Constraints:**
  - Pedestrian access to the water severed by Kempenfelt Drive and the North Shore Trail

Recommendations

A Playground Revitalization is currently underway at St. Vincent Park. Continued improvements to the park are recommended to supplement existing efforts. These recommendations require further feasibility analysis and are non-exhaustive—they should not limit further improvements to the park:

- Upgrade and/or replace the washroom facility at St. Vincent Park to current standards, including full accessibility, with the potential for year-round use.
- Enhance safe connectivity to the North Shore Trail and the waterfront through a potential pedestrian crossing along Kempenfelt Drive.
- Demolish and reconstruct the Rotary Pavilion to a modern, inclusive, universal design standard.
- Complete accessible pathway connections to sidewalks and street parking.
- Consider including historical interpretation of the park.

Precedents

- **A. Wheelchair Accessible Swing**

- **B. Chicago Botanic Garden Learning Campus**
  Chicago, IL
  Natural area for children's learning and exploration

B.2.4 Kempenfelt Park

Existing Conditions

Kempenfelt Park is a 1.6 acre sloped, linear park that is most commonly used for passive recreation. The park has a playground and lawn area with excellent views of the water.

- **Location:** 55-115 Kempenfelt Drive
- **Area:** 1.6 Acres
- **Key Features:**
  - Playground
  - Treed and Open Lawn Area
- **Opportunities:**
  - Passive activities with an ecological focus
- **Constraints:**
  - Narrow park in shape
  - Access to the water severed by the North Shore Trail

Recommendations

Kempenfelt Park has the potential to contribute to Barrie's biodiversity through further naturalization and rewilding. A Park Plan should be developed for Kempenfelt Park to ensure future design and environmental interventions are strategic and align with the waterfront vision. The following recommendations should be considered through the design process. These recommendations require further feasibility analysis and are non-exhaustive—they should not limit further visioning as the design process continues.

- Undertake a Park Plan for Kempenfelt Park.
- Consider transforming the park into a pollinator garden with eco-educational features to contribute to Barrie's Bee City initiative.
- Explore the opportunity to implement public art in this park in the form of a sculpture garden.
- Views of Kempenfelt Bay should be highlighted in this park, possibly through enhanced lookout points.
- Elements of play should be maintained in the park, with the potential for upgradation through future park planning efforts. Future playground upgrades should consider the inclusion of exploratory adventure playground equipment, for all ages play in nature.
- Use a mid-century modern urban theme reflecting the local neighbourhood style of architecture.

- Create an accessible connection to the North Shore Trail, include an overlook.
- Reconstruct the Kempenfelt Drive multi-use path and add upgraded lighting (South Shore or higher), seating and wayfinding.
- Consider including outdoor fitness elements.

Precedents

- **A. Planting with Seasonal Intrigue**
  Burlington, ON
  Seasonal Cherry Blossom pathway along the waterfront.

- **B. Tongva Park**
  Santa Monica, CA
  Accessible grade change with overlook.

- **C. Louisiana Museum of Modern Art**
  Humlebaek, Denmark
  Public art, integrated with nature.

B.2.5 North Shore Trail

Existing Conditions

The North Shore Trail is a three kilometre multi-use trail that runs from Heritage Park to Penetanguishene Road along the North Shore of Kempenfelt Bay. The trail existed previously as a rail corridor, but is now a trail surrounded by natural vegetation that is suitable for walking, snowshoeing, skiing, biking and wheelchairs.

- **Opportunities:**
  - Improve health and diversity of existing vegetative and pollinator species
  - Enhance accessibility and gateway entrances
- **Constraints:**
  - Invasive plant species
  - Shoreline erosion

Recommendations

- Extend the Kempenfelt Drive multi-use path through the 3 Vancouver Street linear parkette to connect to Puget Street.
  - Undertake a property survey and develop a User Agreement for all encroachment use by the adjacent 7 Vancouver Street parking lot.
  - Define parkette edges by installing park fencing at the rear lots of 15, 19, 21 Shanty Bay Road and side yard of 10 Puget Street.
- Consider opportunity to add cantilevered decks and hammocks/ lounging nets along the shoreline to increase water proximity.
- Add environmental education along the trail and consider audio and tactile interpretation.
- Enhance the Penetanguishene Road entrance wayfinding signage as Barrie's north gateway to the Waterfront.
- Increase shaded seating opportunities including seatwalls that serve multiple purposes such as edging, safety barriers and erosion control. Explore integrating simple fitness activities, such as a bench with a flex bar shade structure overhead.
- Replace gabions and restore eroded/exposed slopes of the Johnson Street railway bridge with armourstone retaining walls and planting.
- Develop an accessible connection to Kempenfelt Park.

- Explore water access points at Sam Cancilla (consider a portion of urbanized stepped edge for seating), St. Vincent Park and Nelson Square. Consider opportunities to include temporary docking for personal watercraft access to washrooms at these locations.

Precedents

- **A. Trillium Park**
  Toronto, ON

- **B. Waterfront Hammock**
  Norway

GTA
TORONTO

B.3 West Shore Activity Centre Strategies

There are eight Activity Centres situated along the West Shore, along the water's edge. The following section provides an overview of each Activity Centres existing condition, specific policy context, and potential future direction. As recommended in Strategic Priority #10: Create holistic parks plans that recognizes each Activity Centres' contribution to the waterfront—further study into the potential for each park is recommended through a park planning process. As Spirit Catcher Park and South Shore Park were identified as a Focus Destination through community and stakeholder engagement, planning and development of this park should be prioritized.

B.3.1 Heritage Park

Existing Conditions

Heritage Park is the northern most park on the West Shore, located in close proximity to the North Shore and Downtown Barrie. As such, the park serves as an entrance to the North Shore and is closely connected to Sam Cancilla Park. The park is 7.3 acres in size and includes an adult fitness station, artificial stream, water sculpture/splash pad, gazebo, horticultural gardens, washrooms and parking. A large metal sculpture of a serpent is located on the southeastern corner of the park, while on the southwestern corner, is a walkway leading to a waterfront lookout point.

Development of the Heritage Park Master Plan began in March 2020 with the intent of updating the design and programming of Heritage Park. After almost 30 years since it was first opened, the park is being revitalized to serve the current and future needs and desires of community members. The plan was adopted by City Council in June 2022.

- **Location:** 5 Simcoe Street
- **Area:** 7.3 Acres
- **Key Features:**
  - Serpent Sculpture
  - Lookout Point
  - Adult Fitness Station
  - Artificial Stream
  - Water Sculpture/Splash Pad
  - Gazebo
  - Horticultural Gardens
  - Washroom
  - Parking
- **Opportunities:**
  - Reinforce the connection to Downtown Barrie
  - Strengthen the entrances between the North and West Shores

Precedents

↗ **A. Heritage Park Master Plan**
Barrie, ON
Heritage Park is being revitalized as an iconic waterfront destination which incorporates the natural environment.

↗ **B. Domino Park**
New York City, NY
A dynamic waterfront park incorporating play, water features and flexible lawn space for community use.

↗ **C. Jeppe Hein's Appearing Rooms, Southbank Centre**
London, UK

Recommendations

A Master Plan for Heritage Park was developed in 2022. The Master Plan showcases a water-themed passive park complete with an event and gathering lawns, ponds and streams, waterfront viewing decks, a water feature plaza, washrooms, and canoe, kayak & Stand-Up Paddleboard (SUP) Launches. Refer to the Heritage Park Master Plan for additional information. The following recommendations should be considered with future improvements to surrounding parks. These recommendations require further feasibility analysis and are non-exhaustive—they should not limit further visioning as the park planning process continues.

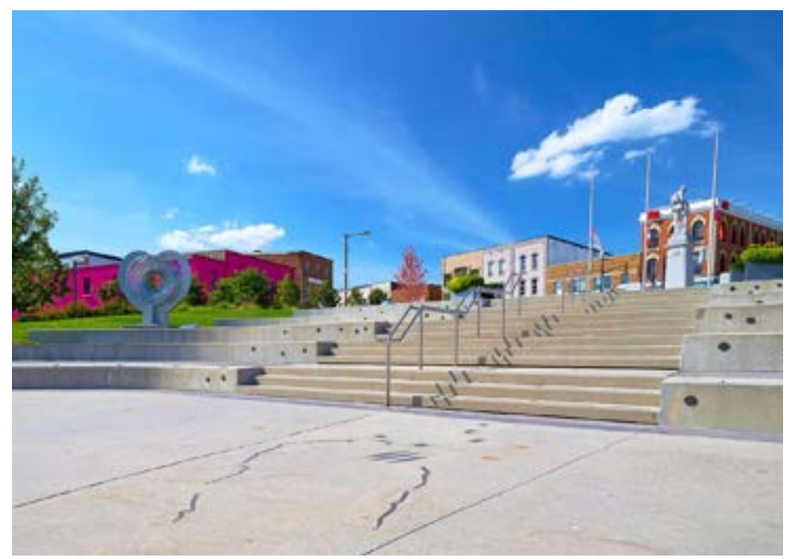
- ↗ Implement the Heritage Park Master Plan and undertake necessary ongoing improvements to ensure the upkeep of the park.
- ↗ Given the park's proximity to Downtown Barrie and the MacLaren Art Centre, additional programming that focuses on arts and culture should be encouraged to stimulate revitalization and economic development.
- ↗ Create an iconic Waterfront Corridor connecting the Market District to the Heritage Park along Simcoe Street, providing a strong sense of arrival and identity to the waterfront, with the Heritage Park renewal as the key attraction. The corridor should integrate/align with the Market Precinct Task Force concept for a 'Green Gateway' along Simcoe Street.
- ↗ Create a central wayfinding hub at Heritage Park, adjacent to the primary crosswalk between Meridian Place from the Downtown and Heritage Park. The wayfinding hub should provide a 'one-stop-shop' for directions and tourist information, providing distance markers to key attractions on the waterfront such as washrooms, parking, food services, trailheads, public art and key destinations. The hub should also align with the overall Iconic Branding Strategy for the Waterfront and integrate a safety beacon for seamless emergency service response to the waterfront.
- ↗ Consider the integration of a Busking Barrie stop within Heritage Park's flexible lawn space.

B.3.2 Meridian Place & Memorial Square

Existing Conditions

Meridian Place & Memorial Square are located at the foot of Owen Street and between Dunlop Street and Heritage Park. The design of this space includes creating a tiered, hardscape event space to relieve demand on other waterfront parks. This space enhances the connectivity between the waterfront and Downtown Barrie through urban landscaping, including the positioning of the cenotaph, integrated seating, allees of trees, pedestrian walkways, water features and enhanced paving.

- **Location:** 30 Simcoe Street
- **Key Features:**
  - Stage
  - Poppy Seating
  - Water Fountain
  - Memorial Square Cenotaph
  - Public Piano
  - Fred Grant Square
  - Urn Wall
  - Robert Hunter Public Art



Recommendations

The recent revitalization of Meridian Plan with Memorial Square has transformed the plaza into a key destination and connection between the Downtown and the waterfront. Continued improvements will focus on the activation and utilization of the space, as a key link to weave the Downtown and waterfront together and encourage their shared use. These may include:

- Enhance event planning of the amphitheatre and plaza, exploring opportunities for all-season animation.
- Create a strong gateway between Heritage Park and Meridian Place, building upon the current pavement painting across Simcoe Street to create an iconic pedestrian experience that invites visitors to enter the Downtown from the waterfront, and vice-versa.
- Provide a Trail Head wayfinding station for the Nine Mile Portage Heritage Trail and include interpretation of the Nine Mile Portage metal inlay imprint in Meridian Square.

B.3.4 Centennial Park and Beach, Will Dwyer Park, J.C. Morrison Shipwreck and Tiffin Boat Launch Area

Existing Conditions

Centennial Park and Will Dwyer Park are the City's primary waterfront event and festival spaces. The parks occupy a total of 18.4 acres located south of the City of Barrie Marina and north of the Tiffin Boat Launch. The parks include the City's largest sand beach, green open spaces, a beach volleyball court, water park, basketball court, playground, concession stand, boardwalk, lookout point, washrooms and parking.

- **Location:** 61, 65, 76, 79, 81, 85, 95, 99 Lakeshore Drive
- **Area:** 18.4 Acres
- **Key Features:**
  - Sandy Beach
  - Beach Volleyball Court
  - Water Park
  - Basketball Court
  - Playground
  - Concession Stand
  - Boardwalk
  - Lookout Point
  - Washroom
  - Parking
- **Opportunities:**
  - Enhance wayfinding over the waterway leading into Dyments Pond, between North and South Centennial Beach
  - Increase amenities in green spaces
- **Constraints:**
  - Visitor demand management

Precedents

- **A. South Beach Park - Basketball Court**
  Fort Lauderdale, FL

- **B. Sugar Beach**
  Toronto, ON

- **C. Central Beach Promenade**
  Tel Aviv, IL
  Beach amenities including shade structures, benches, seating, canopies etc.

Recommendations

Centennial Park and Will Dwyer Park currently operate as a cultural hub for locals and tourists alike to enjoy the beachfront or attend events, including Kempenfelt. As the Park and Beach have recently undergone a revitalization, continued maintenance and on-going improvements are recommended moving forward for their continued enhancement, including, but not limited to:

- Extend of mobi-mats into the Bay to allow access to the water for all users.
- Undertake a feasibility study to understand the potential to provide year-round washroom access.
- Implement kiosks for use by small businesses to sell goods and services along the waterfront.
- Create a system of art installations along the Waterfront Heritage Trail, with a focus on Centennial Park and Will Dwyer Park, to create an Arts Trail that provides a cadence of iconic, interactive experiences along the water's edge.
- Explore opportunities to improve upon food services at Centennial Park, both temporary and permanent, by partnering with local restaurateurs and food trucks. Revisit and consider the revision of the local by-law for the provision and consumption of alcohol on the waterfront to expand upon food and beverage opportunities.
- Conduct a Lighting Design Study to explore vibrant and safe four-season lightscapes while considering lighting impacts on sensitive habitat for insects, birds, animals and their cycles. Lighting should also minimize light trespass to heighten visitor awareness of the night sky.
- Support winter programming increasing colourful, warmer-to-the-touch furniture and wind sheltering structures. Consider warming structures and warming loungers for cold-temperature relief.
- Formalize the Rotary spit surface to asphalt.
- Consider a splashpad in front of the washroom.
- Increase communication regarding pathway uses and separation.
- Improve playground to be fully accessible and add a full-scale adventure playground.
- Add an information hub with wayfinding information.
- Prioritize mobility rental concessions (e.g. Bicycles, tricycles, rollerblades, skates, skateboards, scooter, and segways).
- Rezone 93 Bradford Street to Environmental Protection. Complete the pathway connection to Bradford Street and acquire the 83 Bradford Street environmentally zoned lands through land development land dedication.
- Consider waterfront environmental interpretation oriented to migrating birds and waterfowl species in Bunkers Creek Eco-park.
- Explore an invasive species removal program for Bunkers Creek Eco-Park
- Treat Centennial Park and Will Dwyer Park as an innovation display area to model energy efficient initiatives using alternative energy and environmental design such as green roofs.

Will Dwyer Park

- Add innovative seating structures around basketball courts, including adult swing areas, porch swings and seating nets to attract youth and adults.
- Consider creating a refrigerated skate loop trail using the existing pathway by the basketball courts on the east side of the parking lot in Will Dwyer Park. Add an ice grooming storage building and develop winter programming and warming huts in the centre.
- Consider hardening the shoreline to a terraced shoreline to increase access to the water's edge.

J.C. Morrison Shipwreck

- Include wayfinding information and interpretation regarding the J. C. Morrison Shipwreck and diving access to it.

Tiffin Boat Launch Area

- Repurpose the former Trans Canada Trail pavilion as a gateway pavilion and flexible performance space with electrical service.
- Explore the potential to add interpretive information regarding the fish species found in Kempenfelt Bay in the area.
- Explore increasing boater safety by adding a protection spit with floating dock staging area at the boat launch.

B.3.5 South Shore Park

Existing Conditions

South Shore Park is located south of the Tiffin Boat Launch. The linear park is comprised primarily of open lawn space which is split horizontally by two trails. Of the two trails, one is a two directional multi-use path which allows for the separation of cyclists and pedestrians. The Southshore Community Centre is located on the eastern edge of the park boundary and provides a space for events, Tourism Barrie and the City's rowing and canoe clubs. The park also includes a rose garden, pavilion and historic monument. The Rotary Islands are located just beyond the shores of South Shore Park and provide a habitat for local wildlife.

- **Location:** 155, 205, 225 Lakeshore Drive
- **Key Features:**
  - Southshore Community Centre
  - Rowing Launch
  - Rose Garden
  - Pavilion
  - Open Lawn Area
  - Parking

Recommendations

- Undertake a new Park Plan for South Shore Park and include a Needs Assessment with the Rowing Club, Canoe & Kayak Club, and complete a parking study.
- Explore the addition of a new building next to the Southshore Community Centre to form a Watersports Centre.
- Enhance the Waterfront Gateway, providing a strong sense of arrival for visitors arriving from the Allandale Transit Mobility Hub. This may include an overhead art installation or physical gateway and should be integrated seamlessly with wayfinding to direct visitors to waterfront destinations.
- Consider a series of long, sweeping, low maintenance terraces overlooking Kempenfelt Bay, designed to provide flexibility for use as event space or for community gathering.
- Consider a shade structure, expanding on the existing Kiwanis Pavilion
- Consider incorporating a pollinator garden with native planting and a central water feature, using the grade of the park to terrace down towards the water.
- Maintain the Barrie Waterfront Heritage Trail through the site.
- Explore the opportunity for a small floating outdoor performance space, connected to land with a removable dock
- Explore including accessible cantilevered decks along the shoreline to increase access to the water.
- Consider planting migrating bird food sources.
- Consider relocating the Heart Barrie sign to South Shore Park in front of the proposed Watersports Centre, where it will be visible from the GO Train.

Additional considerations for South Shore Park as the park transitions into the park design process include:

- Explore the potential to add a boardwalk, bridges and lookout points along Rotary Island, with a focus on eco-education.
- Consider the incorporation of Indigenous wayfinding and symbology in the Barrie Heritage Trail to provide education on an alternate perspective of Barrie's roots and the history of the waterfront lands.
- Consider the steps of the planning process for the development of the new South Shore Park building to ensure prompt initiation of the process and that early feasibility studies are undertaken to provide a way forward.
- Review the park names for Allandale Station Park and South Shore Park, and evaluate whether the names should be exchanged to allow the parkland in proximity to the Allandale Train Station and GO Station hub waterfront gateway to reflect the former history and form of the Rail Yards. This would enhance the interpretive sequence provided by the Waterfront Heritage Trail through Station 3 Rail Yards, Station 4 Allandale Village and Station 5 Allandale Train Station, all located in South Shore Park.

B.3.6 Military Heritage Park

Existing Conditions

Military Heritage Park is 6.4 acres in size and located east of South Shore Park. The design of the park is centred around the military history of Canada and the City of Barrie, including the City's relationship to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Borden. The design elements making up the park represent each era of overseas and national military commitment, including significant military campaigns.

The Trans Canada Trail and Waterfront Heritage Trail run through Military Heritage Park. The Waterfront Heritage Trail includes wayfinding beacons and interpretive panels.

- **Location:** 205 Lakeshore Drive
- **Area:** 6.5 Acres
- **Key Features:**
  - Military Heritage Monument
  - Washroom
  - Parking

Recommendations

As the gateway to the Waterfront Heritage Trail, Military Heritage Trail offers a picturesque space to reflect and learn about Barrie's heritage and military service. Recently planned and constructed, it will require minor improvements and upkeep to ensure it is maintained and continues to align with the waterfront vision. The following recommendations may be considered to continue to enhance Military Heritage Park as its surrounding parks are planned and constructed. These recommendations require further feasibility analysis and are non-exhaustive—they should not limit further improvements.

- Per the Military Heritage Park Master Plan, implement the placement of the sculpture on the mound through exploring community partnerships and non-tax payer based funding.
- Undertake ongoing collaborations with the Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Borden to ensure the park continues its legacy in recognizing Canadian military heritage.
- Explore the creation of an app-based Barrie Heritage tour, providing wayfinding and interpretive features, as well as pre-recorded narratives for self-guided educational tours of Barrie's Heritage Trail and military past.
- Implement deficient missing interpretation for all park elements to complete the interpretive plan.

B.3.7 Allandale Station Park

Existing Conditions

Allandale Station Park is located east of Military Heritage Park and west of the South Shore. The City of Barrie's Waterfront Heritage Trail begins within Allandale Station Park. The park is 16.3 acres in size and half covered by mature trees. The other half of the park consists of an open lawn area that is maintained, but largely underutilized. The Trans Canada Trail, Waterfront Heritage Trail and a local footpath run primarily east-west through the park. Allandale Station Park includes a sloping beach which is the only point of access to the water at this park. A parking lot is located nearby, where White Oaks Road meets the end of the Waterfront Trail. The Waterfront Trail is a self-guided walking tour that will lead trail users along a historical path of Barrie. Elements of this tour may highlight geological, Indigenous, topographic, industrial, social and military aspects of Barrie's history.

- **Location:** Lakeshore Drive
- **Area:** 16.3 Acres
- **Key Features:**
  - Beach
  - Adult Fitness Station
- **Opportunities:**
  - Revitalize and improve utilization of the open lawn area
  - Stabilize the sloped beach and increase safety

Recommendations

Allandale Station Park has the potential to contribute to eco-education and rewilding through further naturalization and environmental stewardship. A Park Plan should be developed for Allandale Station Park to ensure future design and environmental interventions are strategic and align with the waterfront vision. The following recommendations should be considered through the park design process. These recommendations require further feasibility analysis and are non-exhaustive—they should not limit further visioning as the design process continues.

- Undertake a Park Plan for Allandale Station Park.
- Introduce enhanced signage and delineation between Allandale Station Park and the adjacent Military Heritage Park and South Shore Park to ensure that a unique identity is created for the park.
- Integrate iconic native species landscaping with integrated public art and stormwater management functionality along the shoreline to provide the dual function of contributing to the an Arts Trail and climate adaptation.
- Revegetate, restore and stabilize the sloping beach against erosion and remove public shoreline access. Enhance as an elevated lookout point.
- Incorporate eco-education opportunities within Allandale Station Park in the form of plaques, art, interactive seasonal installations and native landscaping for habitat creation and rewilding.
- Install waterfront gateway signage at the east entrance with wayfinding.
- Consider restoring the meadow to a dedicated oak savanna by planting oak trees and providing environmental education on the ability of mature oak trees to support the greatest diversity of species and carbon sequestration capacity.
- Review the park names for Allandale Station Park and South Shore Park to explore alternate names, as previously discussed. Further consider the opportunity to consult with the Wendat-Huron Nation to request the gift of an Indigenous name for the Park to commemorate the presence and land use of the historic inhabitants.
- Consider creating a new destination experience through a high-quality, tactile outdoor wildlife sculpture trail at Station 1 of the Waterfront Heritage Trail, supported by interpretation.

5.7 South Shore Activity Centre Strategies

There are eight Activity Centres situated along the South Shore, predominantly along the water's edge. The following section provides an overview of each Activity Centres existing condition, specific policy context, and potential future direction. As recommended in Strategic Priority #10: Create parks plans that recognizes each Activity Centres' contribution to the waterfront— further study into the potential for each park is recommended through a park planning process. As Minet's Point Park was identified as a Focus Destination through community and stakeholder engagement, planning and development of this park should be prioritized.

B.4.2 The Gables Park

Existing Conditions

The Gables is a forested park on the west side of the South Shore, surrounded by residential neighbourhoods. The park is characterized by an abundance of tall trees and walking trails. Parking is provided at the southwest entrance to the park and a gazebo is located near the water on the park's northeast corner.

In 2008, an update to the 2003 Gables Master Plan was adopted in response to the findings of a biological inventory in support of woodlot management and the need to provide servicing to the park's washroom facilities located at the shoreline. The existing Master Plan includes two picnic areas, a beach, walking trails through the woodlot and meadow, parking facilities, and vehicular access from Tollendale Mill Road, as well as fencing along adjacent residences.

- **Location:** 250 Tollendale Mill Road
- **Area:** 35.9 Acres
- **Key Features:**
  - Woodlot with Tall, Mature Trees
  - Walking Trails
  - Gazebo
  - Parking
- **Opportunities:**
  - Enhance public use through facility development and programming
- **Constraints:**
  - Lack of facilities for a large area

Precedents

↗ **A. Stanley Park**
Vancouver, BC

↗ **B. Ambleside Dog Beach**
Vancouver, BC

↗ **C. Hunter's Point South Park**
New York, NY
Wetlands that provide natural storm protection.

Recommendations

The Gables Park is envisioned as a biodiverse local destination with ample walking trails ending with a waterfront vista. The park also offers an optimal location to walk and exercise dogs. An updated Park Plan should be developed for The Gables Park to ensure future design and environmental interventions are strategic and align with the waterfront vision. The following recommendations should be considered through the Park Planning process. These recommendations require further feasibility analysis and are non-exhaustive—they should not limit further visioning as the park design process continues.

- ↗ Undertake an updated Park Plan for The Gables Park.
- ↗ Collaborate with the LSRCA to analyze the impacts of a dog swimming zone on the water quality and shoreline at Gables Park. If feasible, introduce a delineated leash-free dog area within Gables Park to accommodate local dog owners who frequent the area, whilst protecting from environmental degradation.
- ↗ Undertake a feasibility study to understand the demand/potential of recommissioning the washroom facilities at the park.
- ↗ Provide eco-education opportunities for bird watching within Gables Park.
- ↗ Improve the wayfinding within the park to ensure all trails are clearly marked and create an access point to the park that is easily accessible by active transportation and clearly visible to provide an enhanced sense of arrival.
- ↗ Preserve The Gables as a unique waterfront urban wilderness destination by restoring native vegetative species to increase biodiversity.
- ↗ Explore partnering with Nature Barrie to repeat the Biological Inventory and Evaluation of The Gables, 2004 and support opportunities for citizen science.
- ↗ Investigate opportunities to enhance shoreline aquatic habitats to support migratory birds. Offer environmental education regarding the needs of migratory birds and winter birds.
- ↗ Undertake shoreline restoration at uncontrolled water access points along the trails within the park, providing protected boardwalks or look-out points in severely degraded areas to prevent future damage. Where possible, controlled access points to allow visitors to get close to the water should be provided to discourage creation of uncontrolled accesses.
- ↗ Consider the incorporation of an office space for parks maintenance, operations, programming and storage within the park.
- ↗ Provide, if feasible, a safety beacon at the main entrance gateway for improved safety.
- ↗ Continue to explore a trail connection to Brennan Avenue.
- ↗ Explore ways to encourage the owners of 119 -101 Bay Lane to change their driveway access to Brennan Avenue and pursue the acquisition of the remaining 6 Cottage Lane to convert Bay Lane to an internal park road.

B.4.3 Tollendale Woods Park

Existing Conditions

Tollendale Woods Park is a 1.8 acre, local-scale park which includes a playground, dock and treed lawn area. Despite the neighbourhood dock, water-based activities are not encouraged for this site due to the shallow depth of the shoreline. Nevertheless, other low impact recreational activities are common here. Given Tollendale Woods Park is contained within the Tollendale Woods subdivision, this park is almost exclusively used by neighbourhood residents.

- **Location:** 40 Royal Oak Drive
- **Area:** 1.8 Acres
- **Key Features:**
  - Playground
  - Dock
  - Treed Lawn Area

Recommendations

Given the neighbourhood-scale of Tollendale Woods Park it is envisioned to remain a local destination with emphasis on serving the surrounding neighbourhood. The following recommendations should be considered as future improvements. These recommendations require further feasibility analysis and are non-exhaustive—they should not limit further visioning as the park design process continues.

- Improve safe access to the park through the addition of traffic calming features along Royal Oak Drive and a potential crosswalk for pedestrian access from the southern residences.
- Consider the reduction of the speed limit on Royal Oak Drive, from 50km/h to 40km/h, to improve safety.
- Enhance park signage to improve the visibility of the park, aligning with waterfront-wide branding and wayfinding. Provide wayfinding to the park from nearby trail systems for local residents to access the park more easily by active transportation.

B.4.4 Pioneer Park

Existing Conditions

Pioneer Park is a 1 acre park located at the end of Cox Mill Road. Visitors can enjoy a small open lawn area and beach at this park. As a result of its small size, lack of wayfinding and location, visitors are comprised primarily of local residents.

- **Location:** 420 Cox Mill Road
- **Area:** 1 Acre
- **Key Features:**
  - Beach
  - Open Lawn Area

Recommendations

With Pioneer Park's small footprint and lack of visibility, it is envisioned for improvements that strengthen it as a supportive beach destination for residents. Improved wayfinding will enhance the use of Pioneer Park and reduce conflict with adjacent uses. The following recommendations should be considered as future improvements. These recommendations require further feasibility analysis and are non-exhaustive—they should not limit further visioning as the park design process continues.

- Enhance wayfinding signage to the Park.
- Clearly delineate the Park from adjacent lands.
- Create a clear and accessible Park gateway/access point.
- Enhance seating and shade opportunities.
- Enhance native plantings.
- Add bicycle parking.

B.4.5 Tyndale Park

Existing Conditions

Tyndale Park is a 15 acre park at the centre of the South Shore. The northern portion of the park includes a steep but sandy beach, playground, gazebo, volleyball courts, open lawn area, washrooms and parking. The southern portion of the park is a forested area with walking trails. The beach area at Tyndale Park is the City's main Day Camp facility and the beach volleyball courts are popular for charity tournaments and public games.

- **Location:** 45 Tyndale Road
- **Area:** 15 Acres
- **Key Features:**
  - Sandy Beach
  - Playground
  - Beach Volleyball Court
  - Gazebo
  - Parking
- **Opportunities:**
  - More access points and trails in wooded area
- **Constraints:**
  - Steep grade at the beach

Recommendations

Tyndale Park is envisioned as community hub along the South Shore for beach water access, recreation and community gathering. A Park Plan should be developed for Tyndale Park to ensure future design and programmatic additions are strategic and align with the waterfront vision. The following recommendations should be considered through the planning process. These recommendations require further feasibility analysis and are non-exhaustive—they should not limit further visioning as the park planning process continues.

- Develop a Park Plan for Tyndale Park.
- Consider the feasibility for Tyndale Park as a site for the Sea Cadet's relocation.
- Mitigate erosion through shoreline stabilization and controlling access point to the water. Investigate hardening a portion of the shoreline to increase access to the water.
- Explore the addition of an upgraded accessible washroom and changing facility to support the range of community uses and programs provided.

- Explore opportunities to better support community uses such as camps, youth groups, outdoor work-out classes, etc.
- Consider all-season use for future planning, including a splash pad, warming station or potential for a skating rink.
- Explore ways to enhance design excellence in the park through updates or expansion to the Gazebo or the addition of other innovative shade structures.
- Consider the implementation of additional seating and shade structures for community use.

Precedents

- **A. Domino Park**
  New York City, NY

- **B. Michael Comstock Pavilion**
  Toronto, ON

- Enhance wayfinding to the park, including gateway features at all Park entrance points.
- Strengthen linkage to Dock Road Park with wayfinding and park gateway elements.
- Finding a unifying theme for the park.
- Explore opportunities for a lookout.
- Enhance diverse native plantings and law mow zones.

B.4.6 Dock Road Park

Existing Conditions

Dock Road Park is a 3.3 acre park on the eastern side of the South Shore. The park includes a sandy beach, playground, gazebo, open lawn area and parking. A concrete dock is the defining characteristic of this park and is used by neighbourhood residents for water-related activities, such as fishing.

- **Location:** 205 Dock Road
- **Area:** 3.3 Acre
- **Key Features:**
  - Sandy Beach
  - Playground
  - Gazebo
  - Dock
  - Open Lawn Area
  - Parking

Recommendations

Dock Road Park is envisioned as a community-oriented park with the possibility to support local boat launch and water entry through dock upgrades. A Park Plan should be developed for Dock Road Park to ensure future design and programmatic additions are strategic and align with the waterfront vision. The following recommendations should be considered through the planning process. These recommendations require further feasibility analysis and are non-exhaustive—they should not limit further visioning as the park planning process continues.

- Develop a Park Plan for Dock Road Park.
- Explore the possibility for land acquisition of 200C Dock Road, including a First Right of Refusal Agreement with the landowner to expand the Park's presence along the waterfront.
- Work with the recent updates to the Park to further establish a sense of place and define it as a local community destination.
- Undertake a need assessment for an accessible washroom with changing facilities at the Park.
- Optimize connections and view to the waterfront from all areas of the Park.

- Consider opportunities to enhance the dock as a local destination for swimming and personal watercraft use, as well as a location for accessible entry into the water.
- Investigate options for dog water access at specific times of the day/week/year with the Health Unit and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, as well as through community consultation.

Precedents

- **A. Silenai Cognitive Park**
  Vilnius, LT
  Benches with a view of the water for gathering and reflection.

- **B. Pergola**

B.4.7 Wilkins Park

Existing Conditions

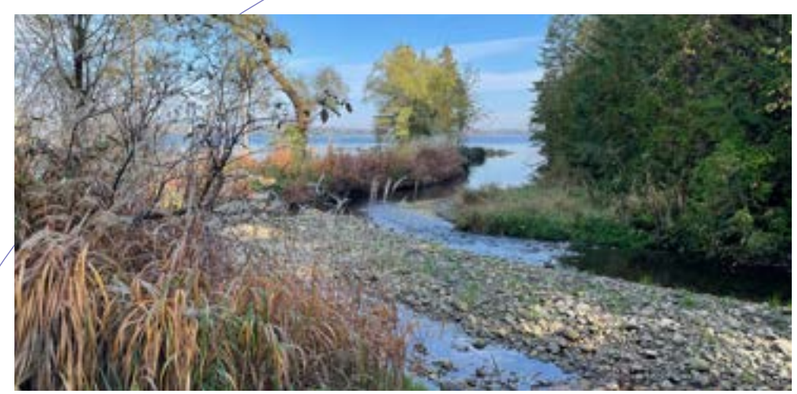
Wilkins Park is a 1.9 acre park that is accessible using the Wilkins Walk Trail, a trail which runs along neighbourhood creeks and through natural environments on the South Shore. Residents can enjoy relaxation in the Park's naturalized setting and proximity to Hewitt's Creek. The park includes a sandy beach, gazebo, walking trails and local plantings. A forested, crushed gravel path leads visitors from the park entrance to the beach.

- **Location:** 205 Dock Road
- **Area:** 3.3 Acre
- **Key Features:**
  - Sandy Beach
  - Playground
  - Gazebo
  - Dock
  - Open Lawn Area
  - Parking
- **Constraints:**
  - Naturalized character and lack of wayfinding makes beach difficult to locate
  - Shoreline and surrounding environmental degradation is resulting from overuse of the beach

Recommendations

Wilkins Park should be celebrated as a serene space for passive reflection and appreciation of nature, with continued efforts undertaken to preserve the Park's ecology. The following recommendations should be considered through the planning process. These recommendations require further feasibility analysis and are non-exhaustive—they should not limit further visioning as the planning process continues.

- Continue efforts for ecological restoration and protection, including consideration for the installation of elevated boardwalks along portions of the trail to discourage uncontrolled access into vulnerable natural areas or areas currently under restoration and to protect the ecology of Hewitt's Creek.
- Implement clear wayfinding at the Park entry, with consideration given to a gateway features.
- Consider the creation of an Environmental Plan for Wilkins Park to support its continued restoration.



- Enforce parking bylaws and improve signage within adjacent neighbourhoods to discourage overuse and illegal parking.

Precedents

- **A. White Water Walk**
  Niagara Falls, ON
  A boardwalk along the water's edge.

- **B. Waterfront Boardwalk**
  Stockholm, SW

- **C. Rattry Marsh Conservation Area**
  Mississauga, ON

B.4.8 Loyalist Woods

Existing Conditions

Loyalist Woods is a woodlot located deep within a subdivision and separated from the waterfront by large estate homes and a future development block. Only walking/nature trails can be developed through this forested area.

- **Location:** Pioneer Trail
- **Key Features:**
  - Heavily treed woodlot
  - Walking / Nature trail with access from Pioneer Trail

Recommendations

Loyalist Woods, while disconnected from the waterfront physically, provides an important connection to the South Shore trail system and should be considered within the waterfront planning process. Continued ecological preservation of the woodlot, as well as trail maintenance and upgradation, as required, should be the primary focus for the area. The following recommendations should be considered in Loyalist Woods' continued maintenance. These recommendations require further feasibility analysis and are non-exhaustive—they should not limit further visioning as the planning process continues.

- Implement clear wayfinding and formalize the trail entry to Loyalist Woods, with consideration given to a gateway features.
- Explore the incorporation of eco-education plaques along the trail (e.g. tree species identification, bird watching) to highlight the emphasis on conservation within the woodlot.
- Consider upgradation of the Loyalist Woods trail connection, as a part of the broader South Shore active transportation system and formalize the connections to and from Loyalist Woods, if feasible, to enhance connectivity with adjacent South Shore parks and surrounding neighbourhoods in South Barrie.

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Precedents

A. Momo Lake County Park Interpretive Signage
Lee Vining, CA
Educational placards.

B. Cleveland Park - Pipeline Trail
North Vancouver, BC
Active transportation connections and wayfinding.