

The background of the slide features a large, abstract geometric design. It consists of several overlapping triangular and quadrilateral shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from a deep navy to a light sky blue. The shapes are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, with some areas appearing to recede into the background while others come forward. The overall effect is modern and professional.

HALIFAX

Rehab Lands Park Planning Park Concepts Presentation

Parks & Recreation

2021-09-24



Park Planning for the Rehab Lands

The municipality is developing a park on the former Halifax County Rehabilitation Centre Property.

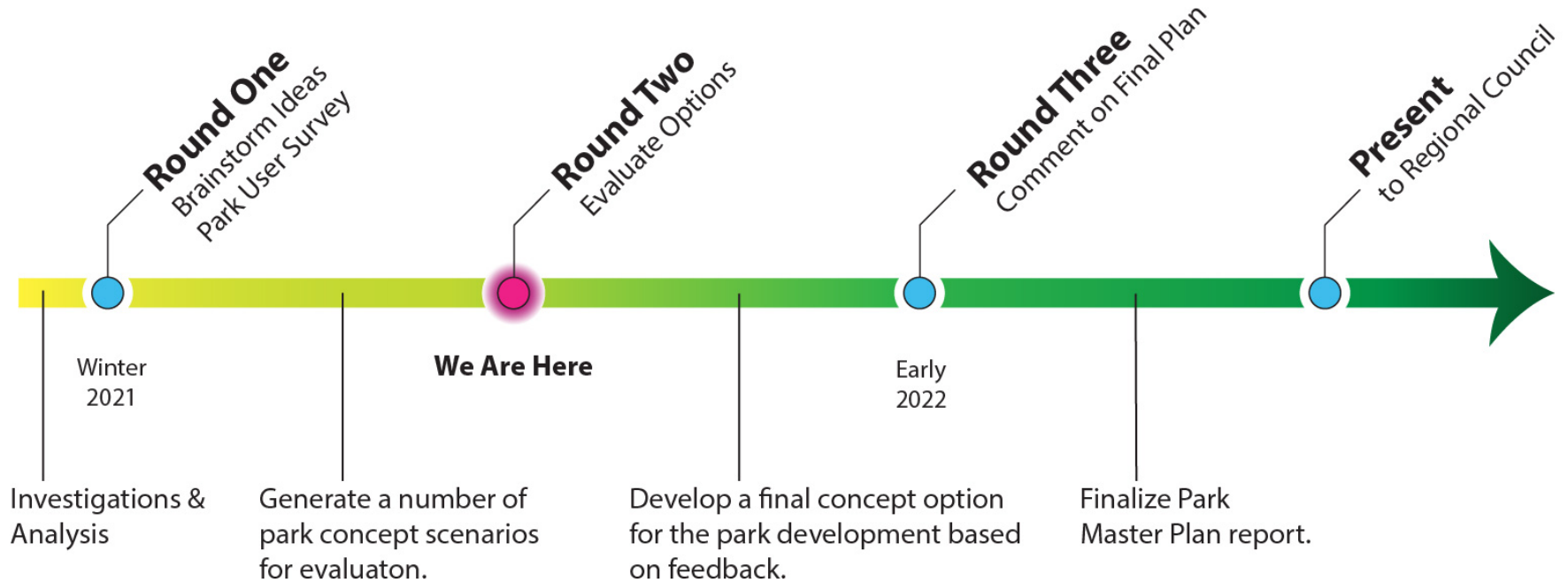
The purpose of this project is to identify park and open space programming for the site.

This presentation will give an overview of the project and walk through three concept scenarios for the park.





Planning & Engagement Process





The Rehab Lands are located on Bissett Road in Cole Harbour N.S.

Most people will drive to the park, but some use the Bissett Trail to walk, cycle or roll to the park.

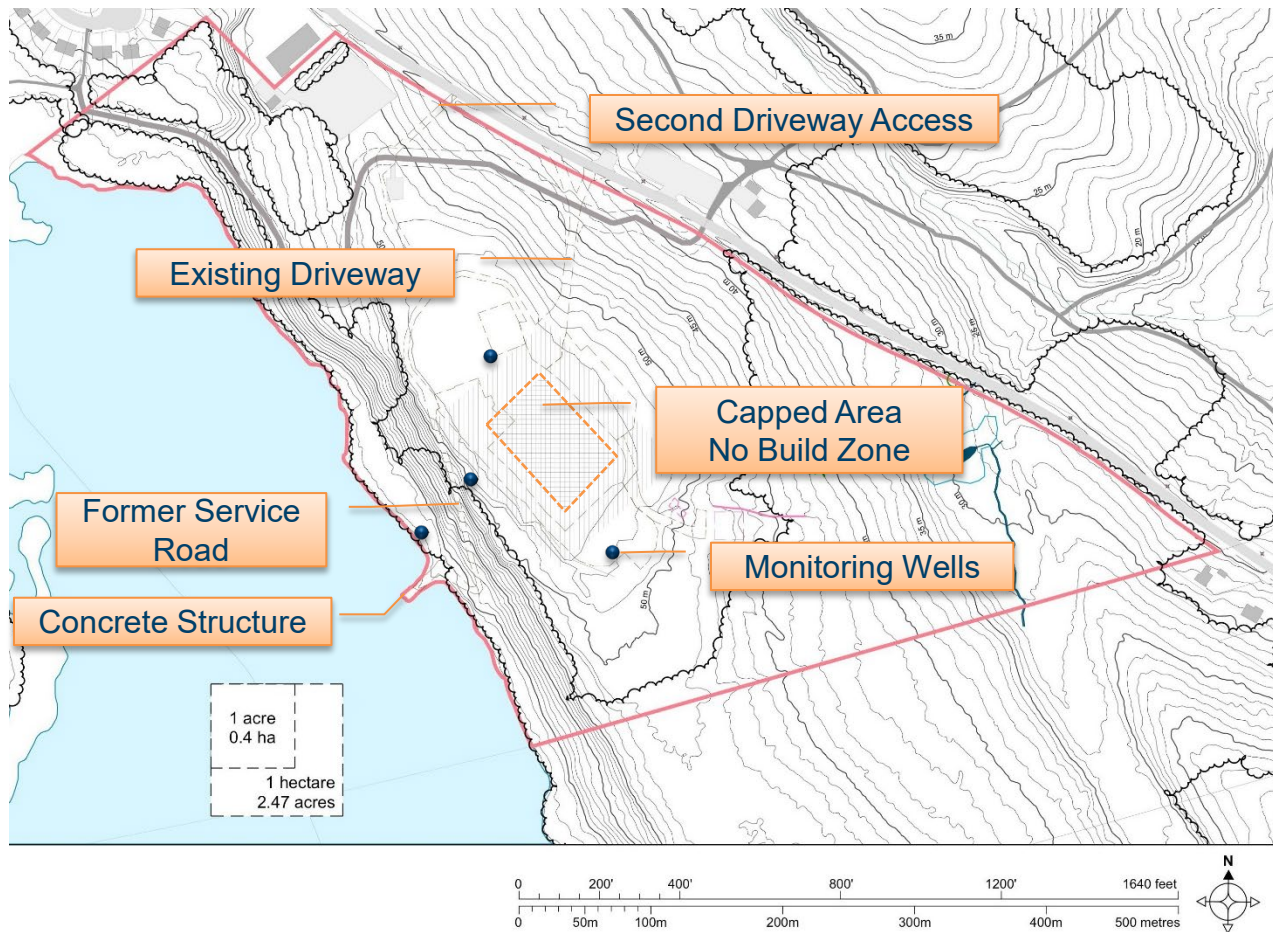
People can also paddle across the lake to the park. There is a boat launch at Bissett Lake Park.



The property is 20.8 ha in size (51.4 acres).

All buildings have been demolished and the site remediated.

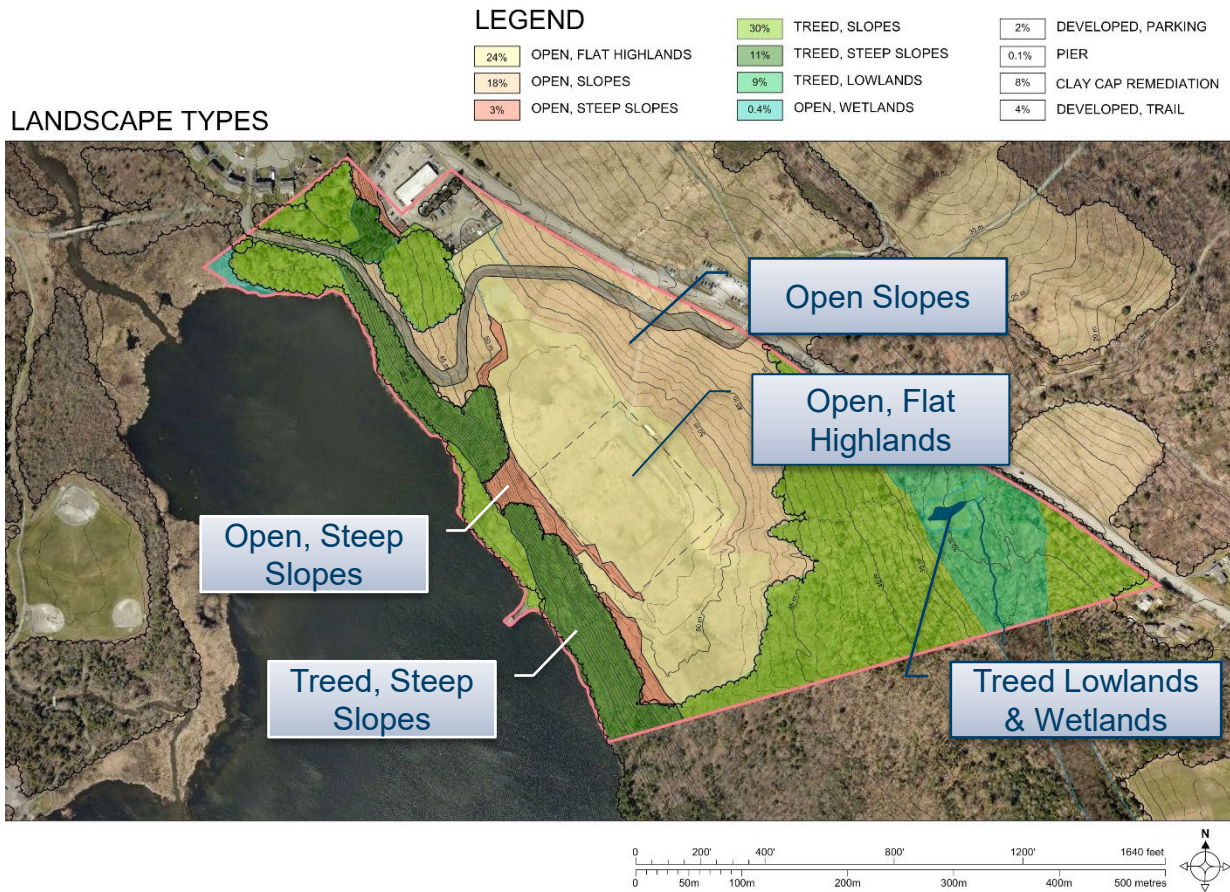
A contaminated area is capped and monitored. It is suitable for parkland but cannot be punctured or have buildings.



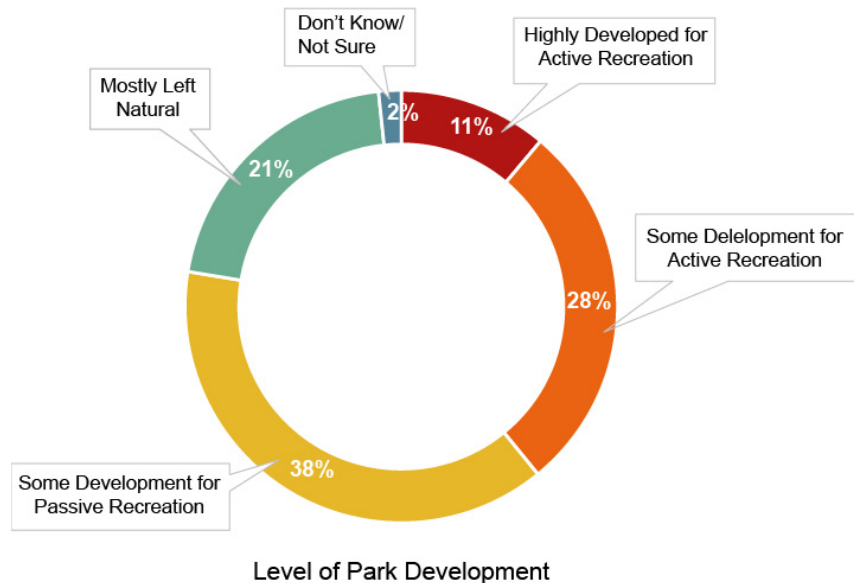
The lands are on a drumlin which rises over 16 meters above Bissett Lake with steep slopes on the west side of the hill.

The top is a flat, open meadow with open slopes to the northwest. The east section is treed.

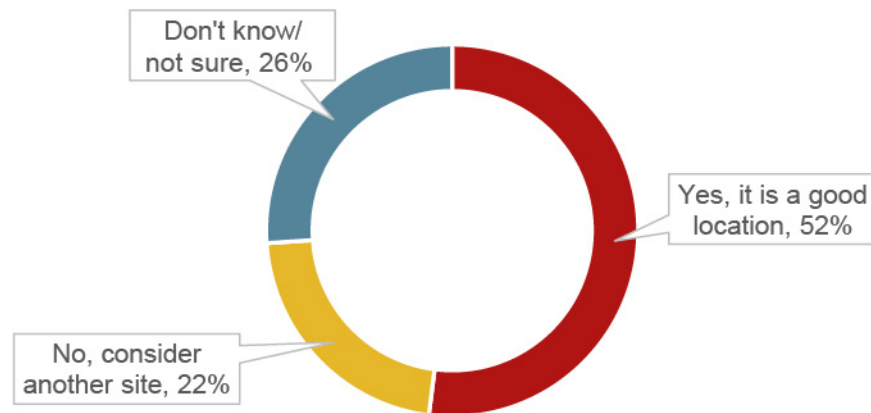
There is 700m of shoreline along Bissett Lake with a treed bank 30m to 60m wide.



Park User Survey – What We Heard



- Keep the site mostly natural with some development.

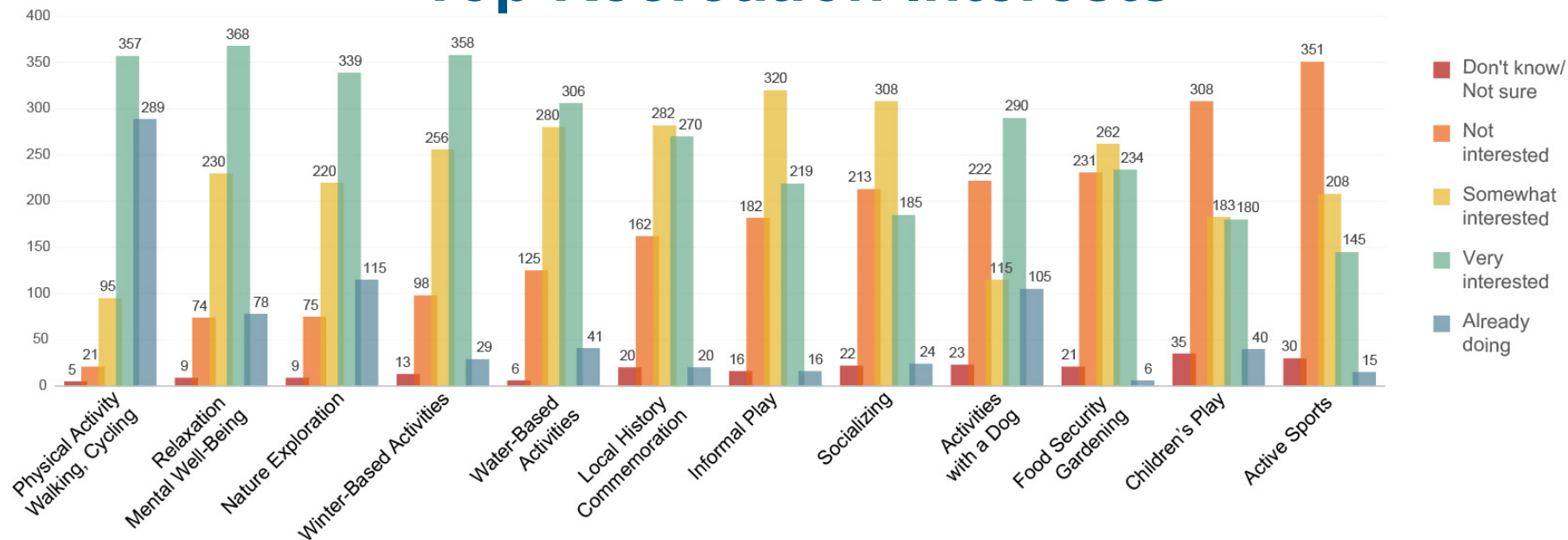


Q. Do you feel the Rehab lands is a good location for a dog off-leash area?

- Good location for a dog off-leash area but more detail is needed.



Top Recreation Interests



- Physical Activity
- Relaxation and Mental Well-being

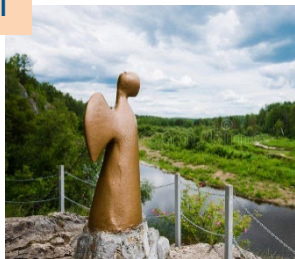
- Nature Exploration and Appreciation
- Winter-based Activities

- Water-Based Activities
- Local History and Commemoration



Some Ideas Submitted

1



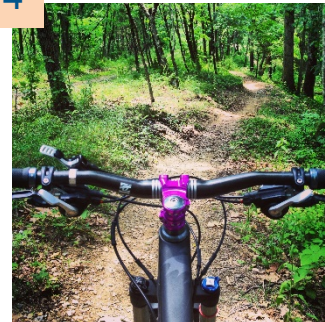
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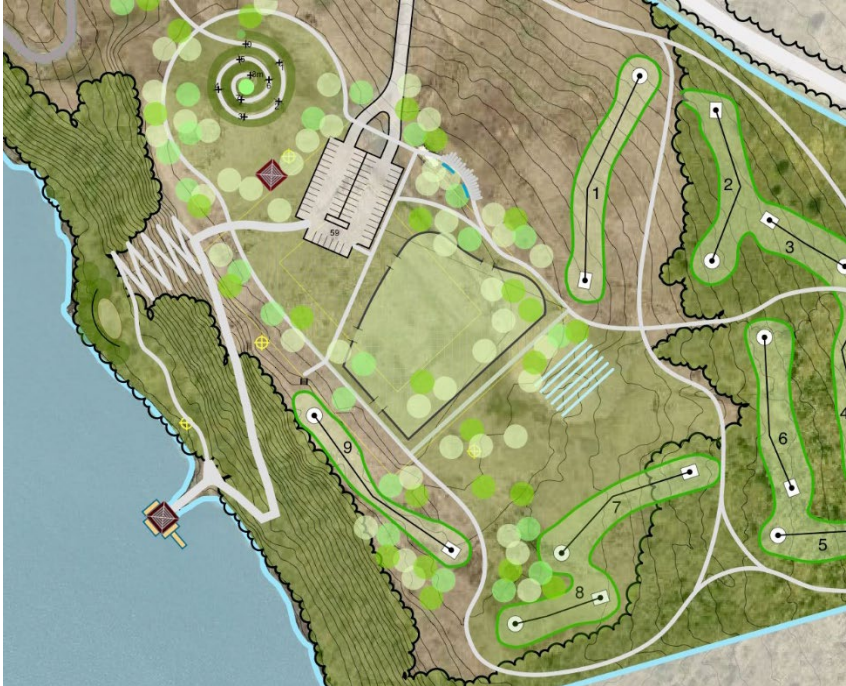
1. Garden of Hope
2. Memorial labyrinth
3. Disc golf course
4. Mountain biking trails
5. Sundial
6. Trailer Park Boys tribute
7. Winter activities

Rehab Lands Park Concept Plans



Three concept scenarios were designed around popular themes and ideas that emerged during the first round of public engagement.

Concept One: A Place to Play



This scenario looks at the park as a place for having fun. Perhaps it's a place to stop on the way to the beach for a round of disc golf or a family picnic.

There's a shaped hill for winter sledding and a pier with docks to tie up a kayak.

Popular shows filmed on location could be recognized on the site.

Overview:

- 1 Trail Rest Stop
- 2 Spiral Ramp Lookoff
- 3 Hilltop Picnic Area
- 4 Lookoff and Interpretation
- 5 Colossal Climber
- 6 Lakeside Picnic Area
- 7 Paddling Pier & Docks
- 8 Fenced Dog Lawn
- 9 Sledding Hill
- 10 Disc Golf Course
- 11 Single-Track Trails
-  Fitness Stations
-  Parking Lot



Dog Off-leash Area:

- Open mowed lawn with shade trees
- Located over the capped remediation area
- Fully enclosed with stone walls or fencing

Parking Lot:

- Centrally located at top of hill
- Uses existing driveway
- Vehicle access crosses AT trail.
- Close to park activity areas
- Uses the flat area of site that could be better used for park activities



Trail Development:

- Single-track trails for hiking and mountain biking.
- Dogs to be on-leash on trails for biking and disc golf.

Shoreline Access:

- “Colossal Climber” – accessible switchback ramps with central staircase
- Service driveway to lake reinstated
- Minimal disturbance to trees and sloped bank

Water Access:

- Pier with floating docks for kayaks, canoes and paddleboards
- Boat launch across lake at Bissett Park



Winter Activities:

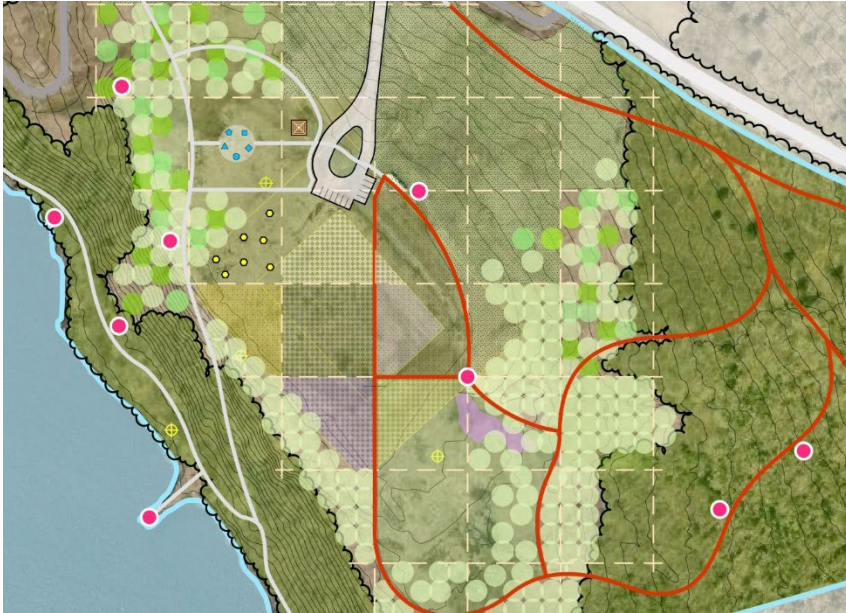
- Sledding Hill – reshape land for sledding with runout space at bottom

Other Key Features:

- Trail rest stop with drinking water fountain and bicycle repair kiosk
- Spiral ramp lookoff – built up earthen mound with a gentle path up to the top with elevated views of the Basin
- Hilltop picnic area with picnic tables, shelter, and outdoor cooking (pizza oven)
- Lakeside picnic area with picnic tables set in clearings in the woods
- Beginner friendly 9-hole disc golf course



Concept Two: A Place to Learn



This scenario looks at opportunities to learn more about the natural environment and strategies for adapting our open spaces for climate change.

The brownfield site is rehabilitated through naturalization projects with research opportunities for meadow and forest regeneration.

There are opportunities for learning more about Indigenous knowledge of ecosystems, and the plants, berries and trees the Mi'kmaq use for food, medicines and craft.

Overview:

- 1 Park Entrance
- 2 Weather Equipment
- 3 Outdoor Classroom
- 4 Drop-off
- 5 Hilltop Lookoff
- 6 Pollinator Gardens
- 7 Meadow Plots
- 8 Forest Regeneration
- 9 Hiking/Snowshoe Trails
- 10 Dog Off-leash Trails (red)
- 11 Dog Off-leash Lawn
- Nature Info Panels
- P Parking Lot

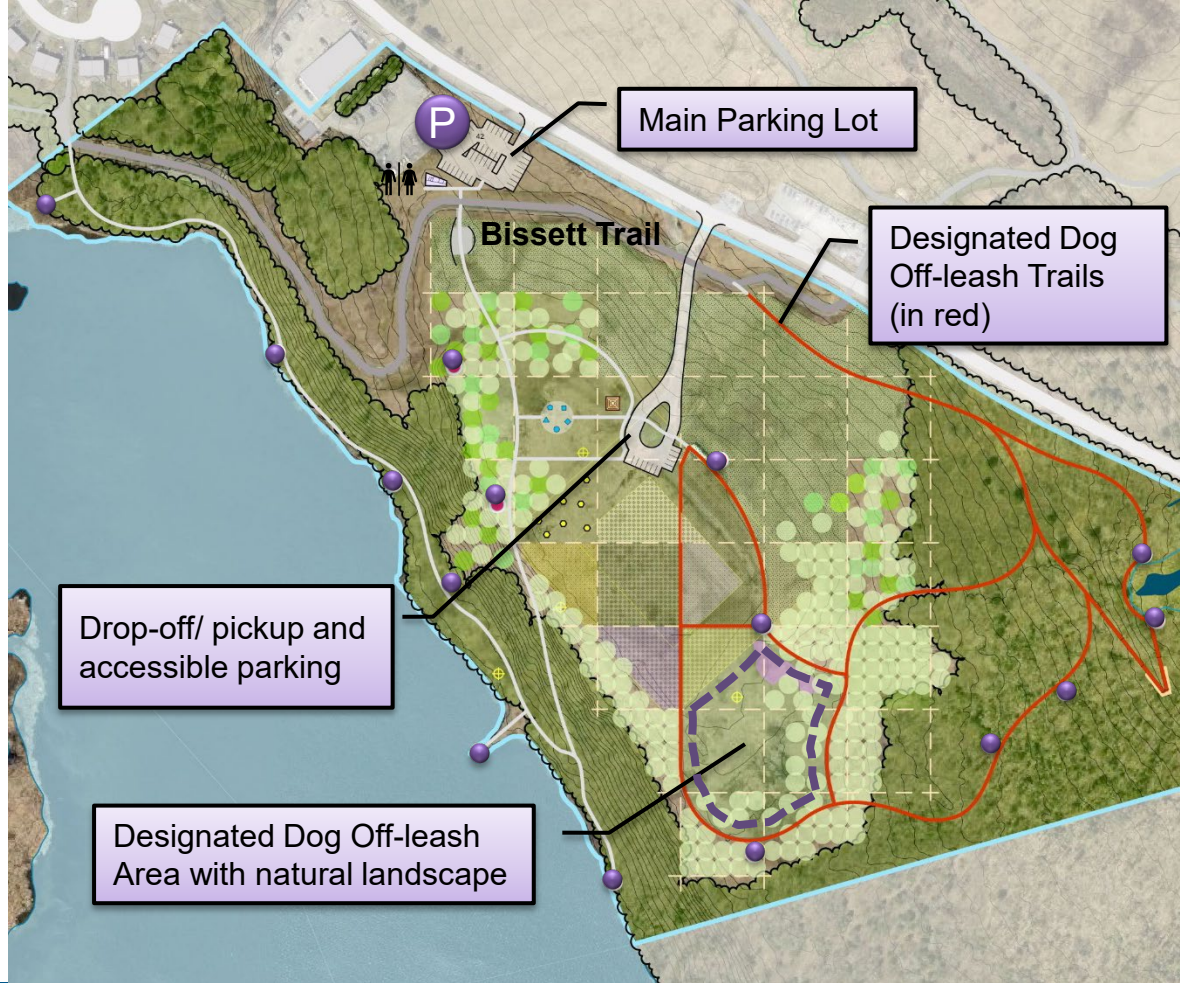


Dog Off-leash Area:

- Open lawn area with mix of trees and meadows
- No fencing - defined by vegetation borders and signage
- Trails on eastern half of the park designated for off-leash (shown in red)

Parking Lot:

- Main lot close to Bissett Road. Uses second driveway access. Doesn't cross Bissett Trail.
- Drop-off loop for accessible parking and summer day camp use.



Trail Development:

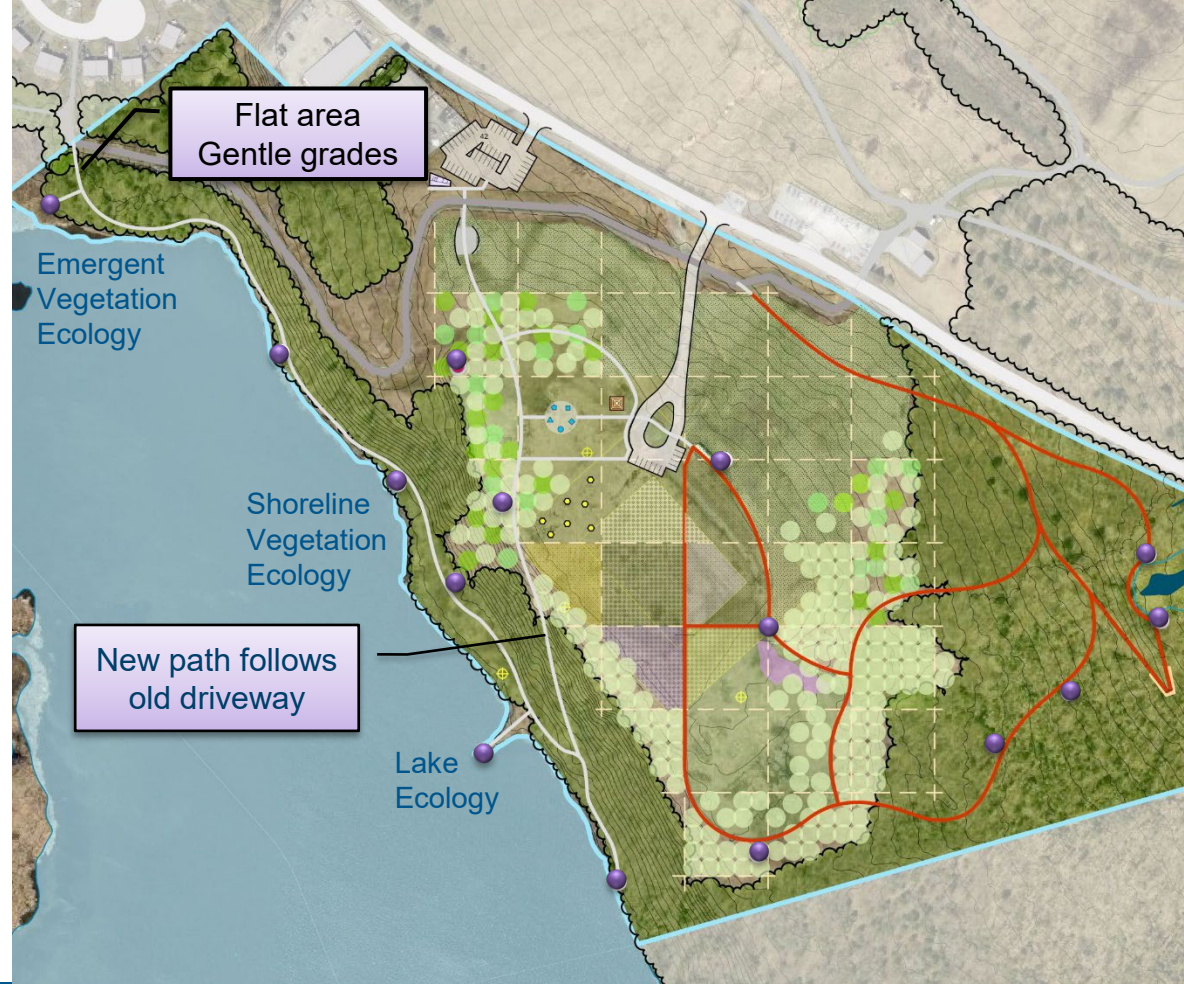
- Accessible walking trails with gravel paving
- Snowshoeing in the winter
- Nature interpretation panels set along trails

Shoreline Access:

- Trail along shoreline accessed from north end where grades are flatter.
- Service driveway to lake reinstated as a trail.

Water Access

- Ecology stations: interactive interpretation about shoreline and lake ecology



Winter Activities

- Trail development for winter hiking and snowshoeing

Other Key Features:

- Ecology stations and nature interpretation
- Outdoor classroom
- Weather observation equipment
- Pollinator gardens
- Test plots for meadow and forest naturalization



Concept Three: A Place to Unplug



This scenario is about relaxation,
connecting to nature and unplugging from
our hectic lives.

As the site of the former Rehabilitation Centre, Concept Three explores how natural areas and parks can be therapeutic places for our mental well-being.

There are opportunities for commemoration to bring awareness to mental health issues.

Overview:

- 1 Meditation Labyrinth
- 2 Yoga Lawn
- 3 Sun Dial/ Night Sky
- 4 Hope Garden & Statue
- 5 Meadow Meanders
- 6 Forest Meanders
- 7 Lakeshore Meanders
- 8 Fishing Pier/ Pavilion
- 9 Walking Paths
- 10 Dog Off-leash Paths
- 11 Dog Off-Leash Area
- Quiet Seating Spots
- P Parking Lot



Dog Off-leash Area:

- Fenced area with mix of trees and meadows. Minimal lawn mowing.
- Outer perimeter trails designated for off-leash (shown in red) accessed from both ends of Bissett Trail and parking lot.

Parking Lot:

- Terraced parking built into the hill and out of view from the hilltop.
- Driveway less steep than former driveway
- Vehicle access crosses Bissett Trail



Trail Development:

- Wider perimeter trail
- Narrower trails that meander through forest, meadow and shoreline areas.

Shoreline Access:

- Trails down bank constructed for accessibility (5% slope).
- Access from north end and south end of shoreline.
- More tree cutting and alterations to the bank.

Water Access

- Fishing pier and shade pavilion built over existing structure.



Winter Activities

- Skating on lake when ice conditions are safe.
- Some trails maintained for year-round use.

Other Key Features:

- Meditation Path/ Labyrinth.
- Lawn area for instructor led classes such as yoga, tai chi.
- Large sun dial marking solstices and equinox.
- Garden of Hope with views toward Basin.
- Quiet seating and meditation spots.





Thank You!

If you have any questions, please email Carolle Koziak Roberts at:
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