

Town of Georgina

Waterfront Parks Master Plan

What We Heard Report #1
October 2020



 **The Planning
Partnership**

PLAN B Natural Heritage
Baird
TOURISTICS
SCS Consulting Group

Introduction

The Town of Georgina is preparing a Waterfront Parks Master Plan to establish a vision and framework for implementation and direction for operations and management for Georgina's waterfront parks. The Waterfront Parks Master Plan is being done in three parts, with the first part approved by Council. The first part focuses on parks along the south shore of Lake Simcoe:

Zone 1: Willow Beach

Zone 2: Franklin Beach Conservation Area & De La Salle Park

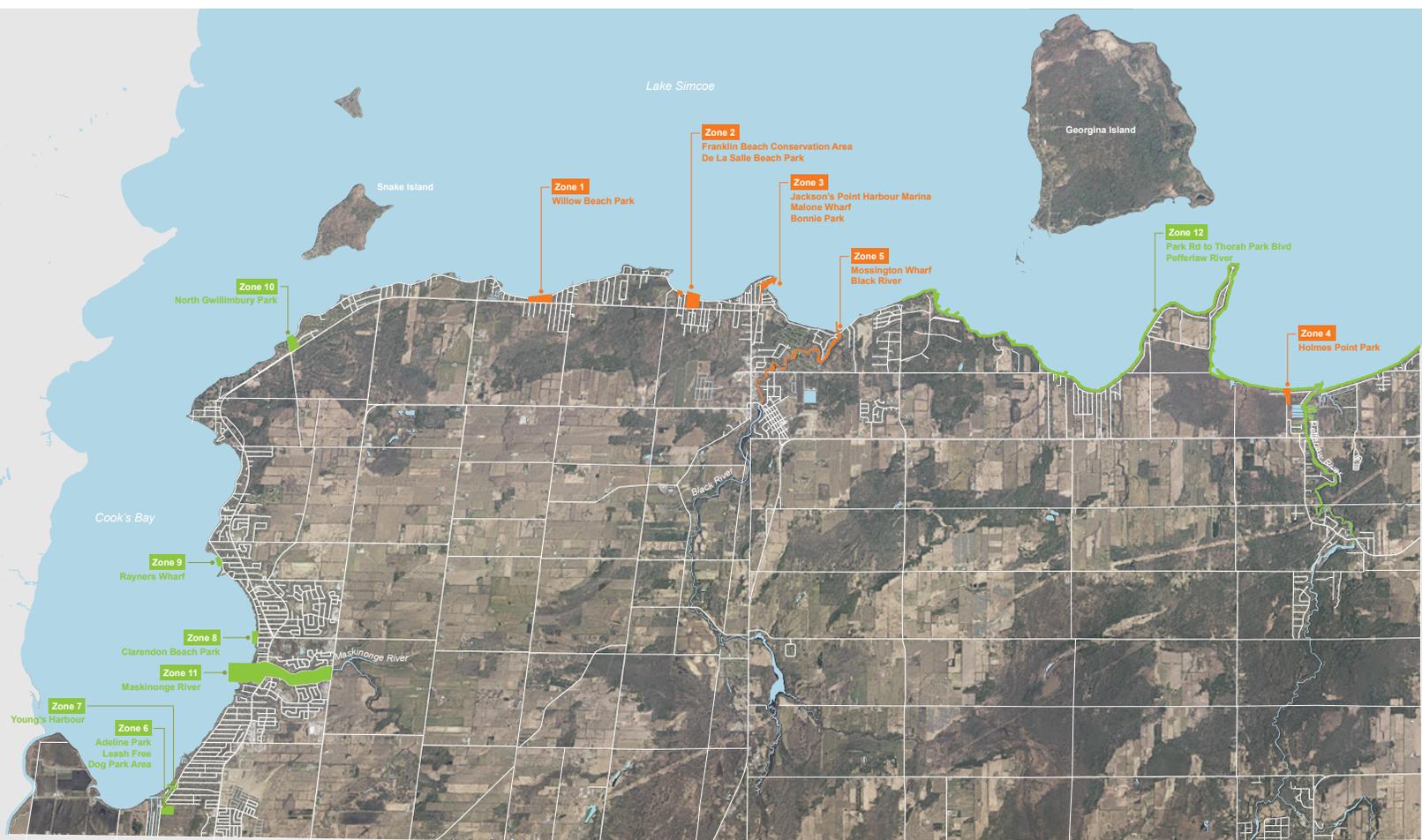
Zone 3: Jackson's Point Harbour Marina, Malone Wharf & Bonnie Park

Zone 4: Holmes Point Park

Zone 5: Mossington Wharf, Black River

The Waterfront Parks Master Plan is in the early stage when the team is seeking input to help understand issues at each one of the park zones and the key opportunities for change.

This document provides a summary of what we've heard during a series of on line meetings for each one of the waterfront parks. Two online meetings were held for Jackson's Point Harbour Marina, Malone Wharf and Bonnie Park and Willow Beach Park due to a high number of registrations. This document also summarizes comments received on the Zones through emails over the past few months. Approximately 115 people joined the 8 on line meetings. Each meeting was recorded and posted to the project web page on the Town of Georgina's website.



Zone 1 Willow Beach Park

No change, stay the way it is

Site Conditions

- Terrain is wet making many areas unusable
- Terrain is undulating, making it difficult to walk
- Need more trees, especially with removal of many ash trees due to Emerald Ash Borer
- Keep park as natural as possible

Lake Drive in front of Willow Beach

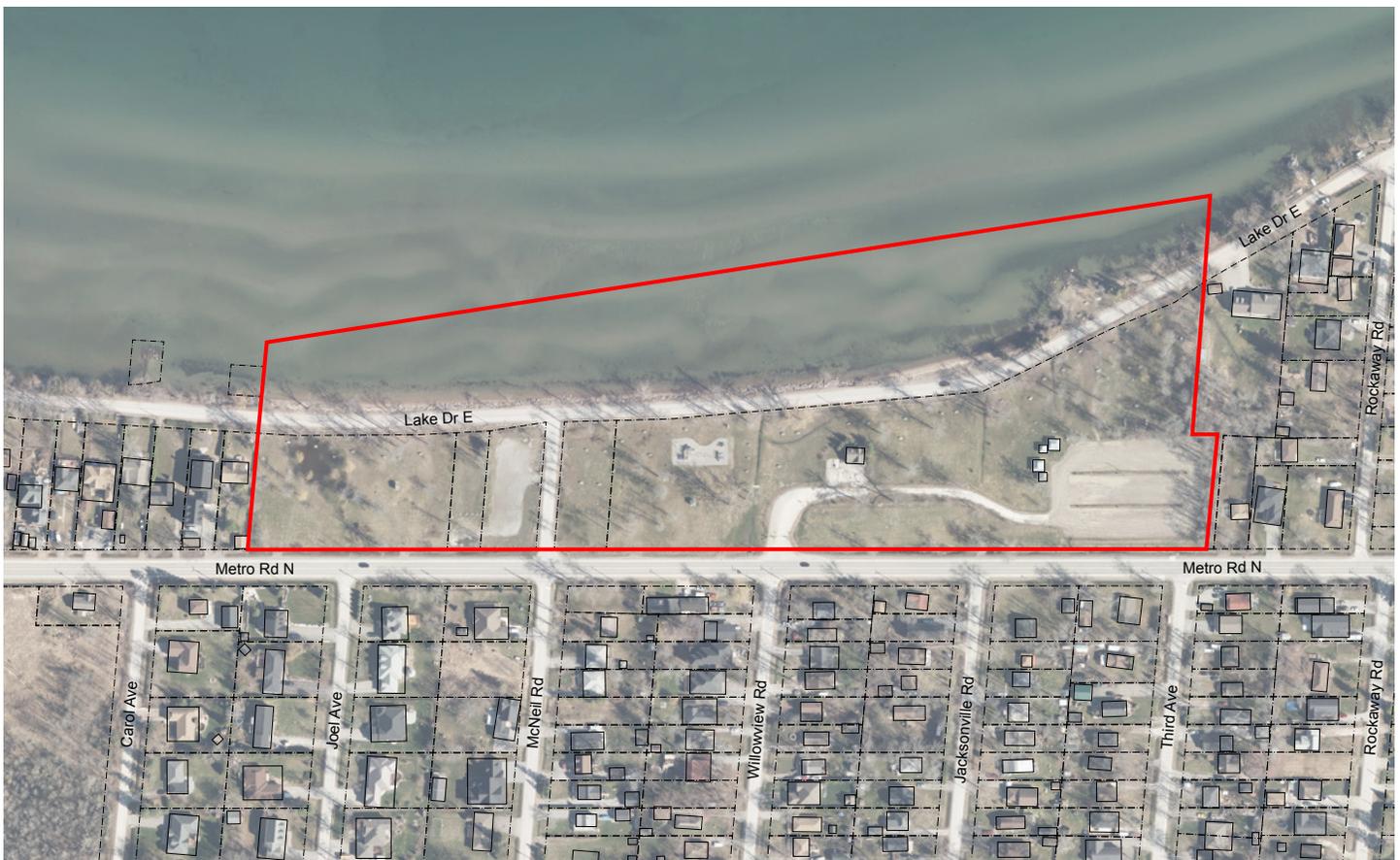
- Leave as is, otherwise will lose the link on the scenic drive and have traffic congestion
- Leave as is with speed bumps
- Leave as is with crosswalks
- Implement a ‘pilot project’ to test road closure
- Seasonal closure with access by cyclists, pedestrians and emergency vehicles only,

with new driveways through the park

- Seasonal closure using temporary bollards and redirecting traffic to adjacent public streets
- One-way traffic seasonally
- One-way traffic year-round, with a multi-use path for pedestrians and cyclists (either direction is ok)

Operations

- Manage the number of visitors
- Smell from Sewage Pumping station makes use of the park unpleasant
- Increase level of operations – especially with respect to garbage pick up
- Give everyone who’s parking in the lots a garbage bag to make sure they clean up after themselves
- More signage to advise against BBQ and tents



Beach

- Need wheelchair access
- Existing rocks/boulders along the beach make it difficult to access the water
- Need to add buoys to keep boats well away from beach
- Boardwalk/deck
- Is there an opportunity to designate a small area for dogs to go in the water without disturbing other swimmers
- Is it possible to have residents only access through the park to the beach/ residents only on the weekend?
- Need a place on the beach to launch kayaks, canoes, paddleboard
- During the week, the park is lightly used

Parking

- Need a residents only parking area
- Better management of parking on side roads
- Increase the cost of parking to non-Georgina residents
- Dedicate shorter term parking spaces

Facilities and amenities

- Add additional facilities – such as disc golf, fitness stations, small area for outdoor events
- Washrooms/change rooms need to be upgraded
- Would be an ideal location for a boating club such as competitive rowing
- Movie nights

Boating

- Consider area for paddleboards, kayaks, kite sailing
- Could add storage racks for human powered boats
- Need to keep boats well back from the beach

Commercial

- No commercial, will bring too many people, too much garbage, people can bring their own food
- Food truck
- Pop up retail/café/food/boat rental
- Seasonal retail/café/food/boat rental. (including winter and holidays)
- Permanent restaurant would be great for area residents

Year-round use

- Connect with Snowmobile/ATV trails
- Maintain winter access for ice fishing

Zone 2 Franklin Beach CA & De La Salle Park

Franklin Beach CA

Lake Drive

- No change in road from current conditions
- One way east could be considered
- No change in roads closed off at Metro

Signage

- Improved signage to clarify that Salvation Army beach is private

Facilities and amenities

- Portable toilets are all that's needed
- Bike lock station would be a good idea
- No food/retail, no bbq

Beach

- Need buoys to stop boats from coming too close to beach
- Need mobi mats to enable access to the beach for people of all abilities

Parking

- Need to identify a few handicap parking spaces

Character

- Best location to watch storms
- A gathering space

Year round use

- Maintain access for ice fishing, snow machines



Operations and Management

- More garbage cans, more pick up of garbage
- Increased enforcement to address fires on beach, bbq, illegal parking etc.

Landscape

- consider adding plants that hold cultural importance to First Nations

De La Salle Park

Lake Drive in front of De La Salle

- Leave as is
- Seasonal one way (with pedestrian and cycling access)

Operations

- Manage the number of visitors
- Increase level of operations – especially with respect to garbage pick up

Beach

- Improve notices re: water quality at the beach
- Need a permanently placed floating barrier to keep boats well away from beach

Parking

- Consider connecting north and south parking lots internal on site
- Consider designating north lot for residents only
- Consider more parking on “Jericho” lands
- Park off site and have shuttles take visitors to beach
- Better management of parking on side roads
- Increase the cost of parking to non-Georgina residents
- Increase fines

Facilities and amenities

- Consider an Education Centre
- Washrooms/change rooms need to be upgraded
- Need an accessible washroom at the beach
- Add bike racks
- More benches, shade structures near sports field

Boating

- Consider area for paddleboards, kayaks, kite sailing
- Could add storage racks for human powered boats
- Need to keep boats well back from the beach

Commercial

- Food truck
- Pop up retail/café/food/boat rental would be suitable
- Seasonal retail/café/food/boat rental
- Cycling tours

Year round use

- Connect with Snowmobile/ATV trails
- Maintain winter access for ice fishing

Mobility

- Improve pedestrian link between De La Salle and Jackson’s Point
- Add cross walk signal for pedestrian crossing to beach

Signage

- better signage and wayfinding for parking

Zone 3 Jackson's Point, Malone Wharf & Bonnie Park

Operations

- Beach is dirty and not well maintained compared to other beaches in Georgina
- Horrible smell from Sewage Pumping station

Bonnie Park Beach

- Do not loose the beach at the expense of the marina
- Always been a local beach for people to walk to
- Need swimming barriers
- Breakwater has ruined water quality of beach
- Need to bring back a dock by the beach for people to sit on, not the small one that's there now
- Need to manage geese, add more sand

Parking and Roads

- Consider parking for trailers on land between Lorne and Jackson's Point Avenue
- Protect the space between Lorne and Jackson's Point Ave – it is a trail and active green space
- Parking along the canal
- Allow more visitor parking on Lorne Street
- Lorne Street is designated for extra parking for residents
- Speed on Lorne Street
- Don't give so much space to cars and trailers

Commercial/Retail in the Park and Marina

- Need facilities to attract more boaters (in particular larger boats) – waterfront restaurant, café, ice cream
- Pop up food/shops with dedicated patio area
- Food trucks
- Need year-round facilities
- No commercial – people should support businesses on Lake Drive

- Limited market for commercial uses in this area
- Purchase building from private owner for bait shop, ice cream

Facilities and amenities in Bonnie Park and Lorne Park

- Playground needs to be upgraded; perhaps a splash pad
- Terrain is low and wet
- Washroom needs to be upgraded
- Need bike facilities – water station
- Small boat rentals, seadoo rentals



- Splash pad
- Give local businesses first option to run commercial businesses
- Need to maintain both parks

Boating

- Town needs to purchase private lands along the channel for a boat launch
- Boat launch location cannot sacrifice the beach
- Gas, pump out, hydro needed for slips
- Leave gas and pump out to private operator
- Need transient slips with hydro for boats 26-46 ft
- Town tried attracting transient boaters before and they did not come, don't need transient slips
- Don't need slips for boats 36 ft and up, no facilities in the harbour
- This is a community harbour
- Focus on providing slips for smaller boats
- Not enough slips for larger boats
- Water lot inhibits options for expansion
- Expand the slips
- Don't expand the marina, no room
- Need place for kayaks and paddleboards to launch
- Need to balance the marina with the use of Bonnie Park, Lorne Park and Malone Wharf
- Area not suitable for a launch, water too shallow, too difficult to maneuver trailer

Heritage

- Marine Museum to celebrate the rich history of the harbour
- Interpretive signage/story boards to describe the history
- Revitalize the area in a respectful way

Private lands

- Town should purchase the private lands on the channel
- Swap land with the private owner to secure lands along the channel

Malone Wharf

- Needs a washroom
- Better organization of parking
- Add walkway on the breakwall
- Place for birdwatching with small blind or look out
- Interpretation of the history
- Create a second swimming area
- Can't create a swimming area as sand would be washed out
- Location presents challenges to encouraging more use re: swimming or launch, no room to turn around
- Historic artifact on lake bottom, needs to be protected

Year-round use

- Need beach for access to the lake year round

Other

- Need private/public partnerships to enhance the area (with local business, cottage/boater associations/rotary)
- Needs to be a year-round working harbour
- Developers and Ramada owners are key players for a successful plan
- Need better pedestrian connection to the village and De La Salle Park
- Can the area of focus include the fire dock off of Pinery Lane
- Whatever happens next has to be budget and community friendly
- Green space and natural heritage features very important

Zone 4 Holmes Point Park

Operations

- Need to have additional enforcement of rules
- Beach is not clean
- Update water quality signage

Beach

- Park gets crowded, need a way to manage capacity
- Entire park should be for residents only
- Safer access to beach
- Increase the sand beach – cut back into the park

Parking

- Space on west side of Holmes Point Road should be for residents only parking
- Pave the parking lot

Facilities and amenities

- Need permanent washrooms

Boating

- Kite boarders use the park at off times, does not disturb other park uses

Commercial

- Pop up commercial for rental of kayak and paddleboards
- No pop up or seasonal rental, leave it to the area businesses

Site Character

- Needs additional landscape, planting



Zone 5 Mossington Wharf/Black River

Hedge Road

- Bridge is one lane only, limits public access
- Speeding
- Single lane bridge helps to calm traffic
- Promote a walking and cycling connection

Parking

- No place to park
- No land for public access or parking
- This summer foreshadowed what is to come with public access: traffic, angry visitors, no parking, no washrooms
- Wharf should be available to pedestrians, with public parking
- Could have parking located elsewhere with shuttles to Mossington

Natural Heritage

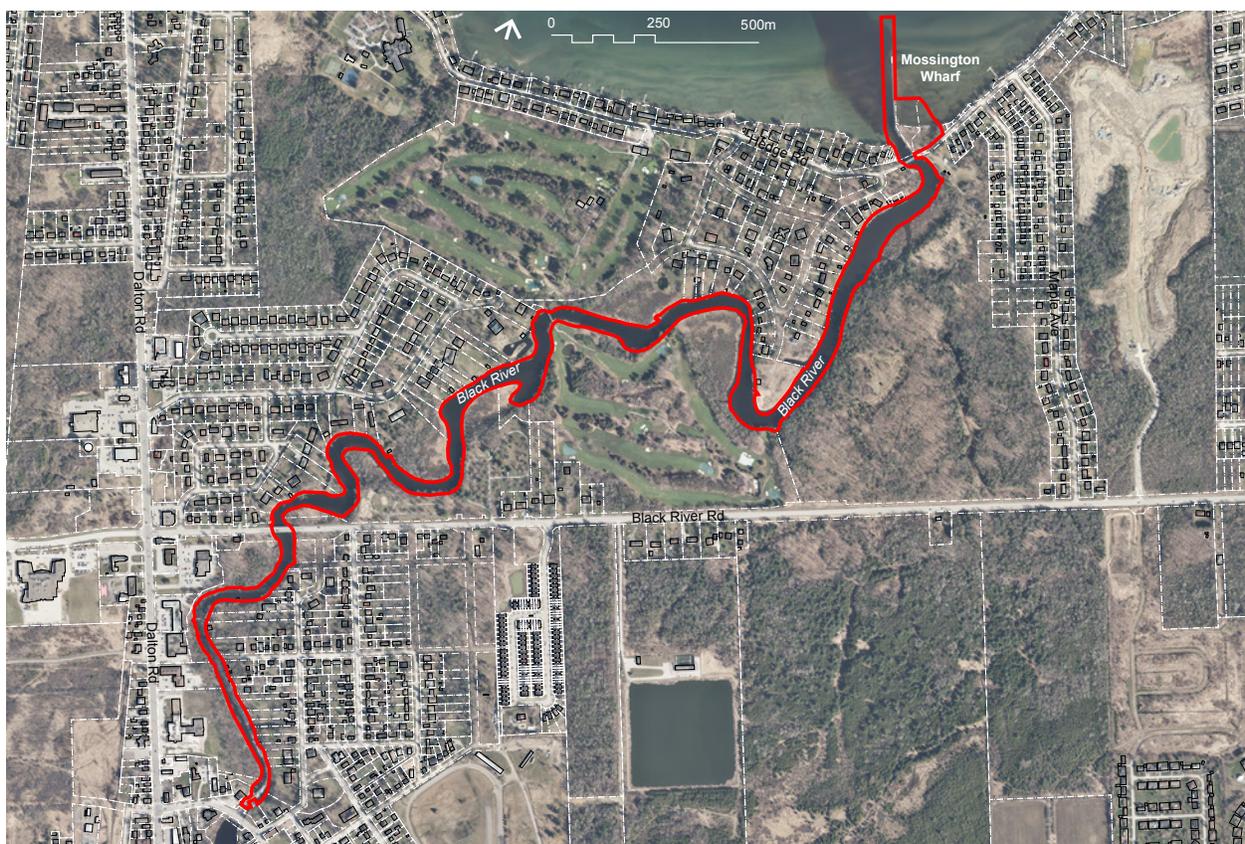
- Must protect the natural heritage features of the area
- Dredging at the mouth could be beneficial to fish habitat

Boating

- Important to allow small boats, canoes, kayaks up the river
- Dredging does not make sense
- Needs better signage in Sutton re: access points for small boats
- Add a secondary floating dock to Mill Pond
- Remove the wharf

Facilities and Amenities

- Could be a suitable location for a Water Research Centre
- Fear of uncontrolled noise and traffic





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