



Chapter

# 05: PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

*The overall Park plan builds upon the symbolic and well-known nature of the Park as a naturalistic forest in the city.*

## 5.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the physical plans for upgrading Point Pleasant Park. These recommendations flow from the current condition of the Park described in the resource inventory (Chapter 2) and the goals for the Park (Chapter 3). The Park's development plan relies heavily on illustrations supported by text to describe how the Park will look in the future. The management plan (Chapter 4) describes the most important actions required to restore the forest, conserve cultural resources and cultivate the experiences that visitors value. This chapter presents an overall development plan for the Park, recommendations for a variety of systems, including circulation, wayfinding and interpretation, and more detailed concepts for 10 particularly important Park sites.

## Key Points from the Park Resource Inventory (Chapter 2)

Before Hurricane Juan, a casual visitor to Point Pleasant might have said that the Park forest was “perfect,” but many community members had concerns about its well-being. The review of prior studies and forest remnants has shown that certain forest qualities that could contribute to the maintenance of resilient and sustainable cover were not at their best. Understanding the ecology of the Park site and Acadian forest helps us describe and manage a Park forest that is more likely to provide visitors with the experiences they value, and to maintain those experiences for future generations.



**From the Guiding Principles (Chapter 3)**

Restoration of a resilient Park forest will be most successfully achieved through the care of the natural systems that have produced the Acadian forest. Forest restoration is vital for ecological reasons, as well as to re-establish the character and look of the Park that the community values. A second cornerstone for the renewal of Point Pleasant Park is the need to conserve cultural resources and to work together with the First Nations community, which has long-established links to the Park. Revisions to the management process will help with carrying out the comprehensive plan’s recommendations, as will a strategy that involves the public in an active and engaged way. The Park should promote a greater understanding of and appreciation for our natural and cultural surroundings, support the safe enjoyment of its spaces and prevent external influences from detracting from its character.



European colonization and First Nations use of Point Pleasant Park have left significant marks, found both in the archaeological record and built structures that remain in the Park. Archaeological investigation required for the hurricane cleanup has thrown additional light on four principal themes: First Nations use, military occupation, early civilian settlement and the history of Point Pleasant as a park. Unfortunately, the most visible remnants of prior use do not always effectively represent the most significant storylines from the past. We have an incomplete understanding of many aspects of human activity in the Park. Care for the Park’s cultural resources will enable ongoing investigation and produce a clearer understanding of history.

The community’s passion for Point Pleasant, and evolving patterns of use over centuries, highlight the Park’s lasting importance as a refuge and a place for recreation. Although patterns of human use have evolved over centuries, the Park remains the favourite destination for the community to enjoy many of life’s simple pleasures. Park restoration can build on established patterns of use and manage the impacts of that use to ensure that future generations can enjoy the Park as it has been enjoyed for more than two centuries.



Summerhouse and Halterm



Tower Road gate

## 5.2 The Idea Behind The Plan

Point Pleasant Park’s development plan builds upon the identity of the site as a naturalistic forest in the city. The plan aims to make the Park “big again” by achieving a balance between forests and glades. The Park will be a combination of great trees, remarkable views, plentiful paths, fascinating destinations and noteworthy landmarks once again.

Point Pleasant Park was created to serve as a place of rest, recreation and appreciation for the city’s residents; it was where urban dwellers came to commune with nature. The intrigue of the fortifications, the ability to interact with and be immersed in nature, the panoramic views of the ocean, the layering of history and the activities that took place in the Park were central to the early experience. These experiences are still as important today as they were in the beginning.

The distinctive connection that exists between what could, at first glance, seem like opposing spaces and uses, defines the Park; for example, sunbathing on defensive military ruins in a lush forest setting. It is this exceptional and complex mix of natural and cultural elements that has given birth to the following simple yet worthy design objective: to make the Park better. This idea, based on creating prime conditions for people and nature working together to sustain the Park, is rooted in understanding current realities and dynamics. Detailed scientific knowledge of physical and natural elements, combined with an understanding of how views, paths and spaces make people feel, is at the root of the renewal efforts. The park development plan will create, sustain and improve Park ecology without negatively affecting beautiful views, and it will restore and enhance valued experiences while caring for nature.

In some cases (circulation, furnishings, signing), design elements will be proposed as Park-wide initiatives that will enhance overall identity and visual consistency. In other cases, design elements will be used to differentiate specific features and to celebrate their distinct qualities.



PATHWAYS



WITNESS GROVES  
(Needleleaved dominant)



TOPOGRAPHY



VIEWS



SOUTH-FACING SLOPES  
(Broadleaved dominant)

*“There is a pleasure in the pathless woods, There is a rapture on the lonely shore, There is society, where none intrudes, By the deep sea, and music in its roar: I love not man the less, but Nature more.”*

– Lord (George Gordon) Byron



**Figure 5.1. Contextual circulation plan**



Legend:

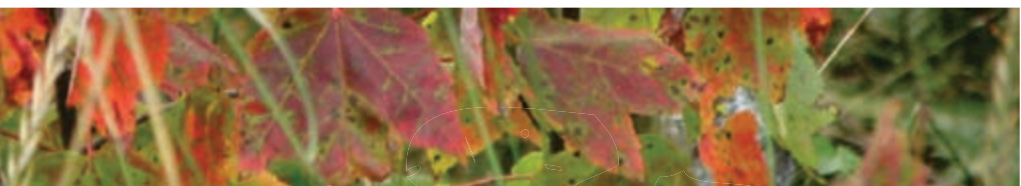
- █ Car access
- █ Bus access
- █ Bike access
- ▶ Park entrances
- Bus stop
- P Car / bike parking

### 5.3 Circulation Plan

Point Pleasant Park is the largest green space on the Halifax peninsula. City streets and plans for an active transportation route encircling the peninsula will link the Park to other green spaces, including Citadel Hill, Merv Sullivan Park, Seaview Park, the Public Gardens and the Halifax Commons. Visitors currently access the Park by car, bus, bicycle and foot.

The development of the Halifax Urban Greenway active transportation route will further improve Park access and accommodate other alternatives to vehicles. Development of the Trans Canada Trail through the port area (terminating at the southern gate of the Halifax Port Authority) will improve connections with the Halifax waterfront and downtown

attractions. Point Pleasant Drive will be narrowed to make room for a four-metre-wide paved off-road trail corridor in order to link these multi-use trails. This will allow the Park to grow, as well as re-establish Point Pleasant Drive as an important part of the site.



### Gateways and Entrances

The Park’s three main entrances will be upgraded to include special paving that extends outside Park limits and creates distinctive “doorways” into the Park. The raised pads and crosswalks will also ease pedestrian access while slowing vehicle speed on nearby streets.

The extension of this paving to the historic gates at Young Avenue will physically reconnect them to the Park, reinforcing their role as the ceremonial gateway. A redesigned water fountain and interpretation plaza facing the gates will complete the improvements in that area.

The Superintendent’s Lodge and garden next to the Young Avenue gate are one of the most interesting architectural features in the Park, inviting greater contact with the public. The small size and nature of the lodge would likely pose limits to reusing its interior for public uses.



Original road from ‘Town’ - Green Bank entrance - now Sailors Memorial Way

A multi-use building at the harbour entrance, now known as the lower parking area, will support indoor and outdoor Park programs. The facility will service group and individual user needs. Upgrades to the harbour-entrance area will improve circulation patterns and address the loose and unappealing boundary where the Park space abuts the container pier.

Upgrades to the two existing parking areas will include greener stormwater management systems along with other improvements that will better reflect the Park’s forest character. The redesign of parking lots and entrance routes will slow traffic. Areas to park and lock bicycles will be placed at all major entrances. The idea

is that restricting the growth of vehicle parking areas will encourage the use of other types of transportation.

Pedestrian entrances will be marked by a new style of stone gateways complementing existing bluestone, slate and granite elements in the Park. Strategically placed openings in the walls will act as “frames” for views of nature. The walls will also be a backdrop for Park-related signs and a place to put site furnishings such as benches. Gateways will be equipped with retractable posts or other barriers to control vehicle access to the Park.



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## Pathway System

Before Hurricane Juan, the distinction between formal paths and trails off the beaten track in the Park was often blurred. The spontaneous creation of paths threatens natural habitats and vegetation and may lead to soil erosion, plus they may expose Park users to dangerous conditions. (Halifax Regional Municipality E, 2007).

The circulation plan proposes that most existing trail alignments and surface treatments be maintained, while some historic roads and trails be revived to re-establish views and circulation patterns with historic significance. The potential for improved performance and stability of pathway surface materials will be studied through a specific design protocol. Some informal trails that developed in the wake of Hurricane Juan will be closed to allow vegetation to fill in, while a few new trail connections will be added, improving links within the Park. Where possible, paths that are steep or difficult to walk on will be upgraded. Those that abruptly terminate at Park destinations or open areas will be considered transition points, and new path extensions may be added.



As well as serving to prevent damage to the regenerating forest, clearly marked circulation routes will help organize activity zones and help reduce possible conflict between activities. Planning of Park circulation will include improvements to pathway routes in relation to topography and use of visual cues and subtle management of vegetation to guide the visitors' experience. This will emphasize the subtle differences in environment, natural features and cultural landmarks throughout the Park.

Though roads, pathways and trails have evolved over time, many of these routes were defined during the early settlement of Point Pleasant and can be located on maps dating back to the 18th century. Wherever possible, historic trails and pathways will

be maintained as part of the Park's cultural heritage. Any change to drainage or usage patterns of these trails must be evaluated for its impact on the resource.

Pathway hierarchy will be defined by width, edge treatment, surface materials, signage and furnishing types. Openings and framed views of the distant landscapes will also help distinguish path categories. Minor paths will be places for individual meditation and quiet reflection, while wider ones will be designed for group experiences, panoramic viewing and activity.



Figure 5.2. Main Pedestrian Paths



**Main Pedestrian Paths  
(5 to 7 metres wide)**

The main paths comprise the upper and lower loops around the Park, offering panoramic views of the area and access to most of its destinations. Efforts will be made to allow public access to all paths, compensating with alternate features such as landmarks, special places or views where total access is not possible. Obstacles to universal access that can be addressed without serious disruption will be removed; accessible routes will be highlighted and mapped. To allow views into the forest, vegetation management on both sides of these paths will provide lighter levels of understorey, simultaneously showcasing Acadian groundcover species.

Main Park roads and pathways will be surfaced in stone dust, providing an attractive and cost-effective treatment that is suitable for high-traffic areas. Due to the material’s susceptibility to movement, additional maintenance measures need to be taken.

One important measure will be the addition of rough-cut stone edging at intersections along all major paths or at high-interest areas. By defining the edge of the pathway, the flush edging will help limit the gradual widening of trail width and provide a benchmark for restoration where widening does occur. Open joints between stone sections will allow water to drain through, while preventing the surface materials from spreading beyond the intended limits. The addition of this stone accent will

also improve the character of major paths and make it easier for visitors to navigate the trails.

Where required, swales, ditches or drainage structures lining the paths will be added. Trail-maintenance trials will explore techniques, equipment and materials to help maintain the fine-gravel trail surfaces.



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Figure 5.3. Secondary Pedestrian Paths



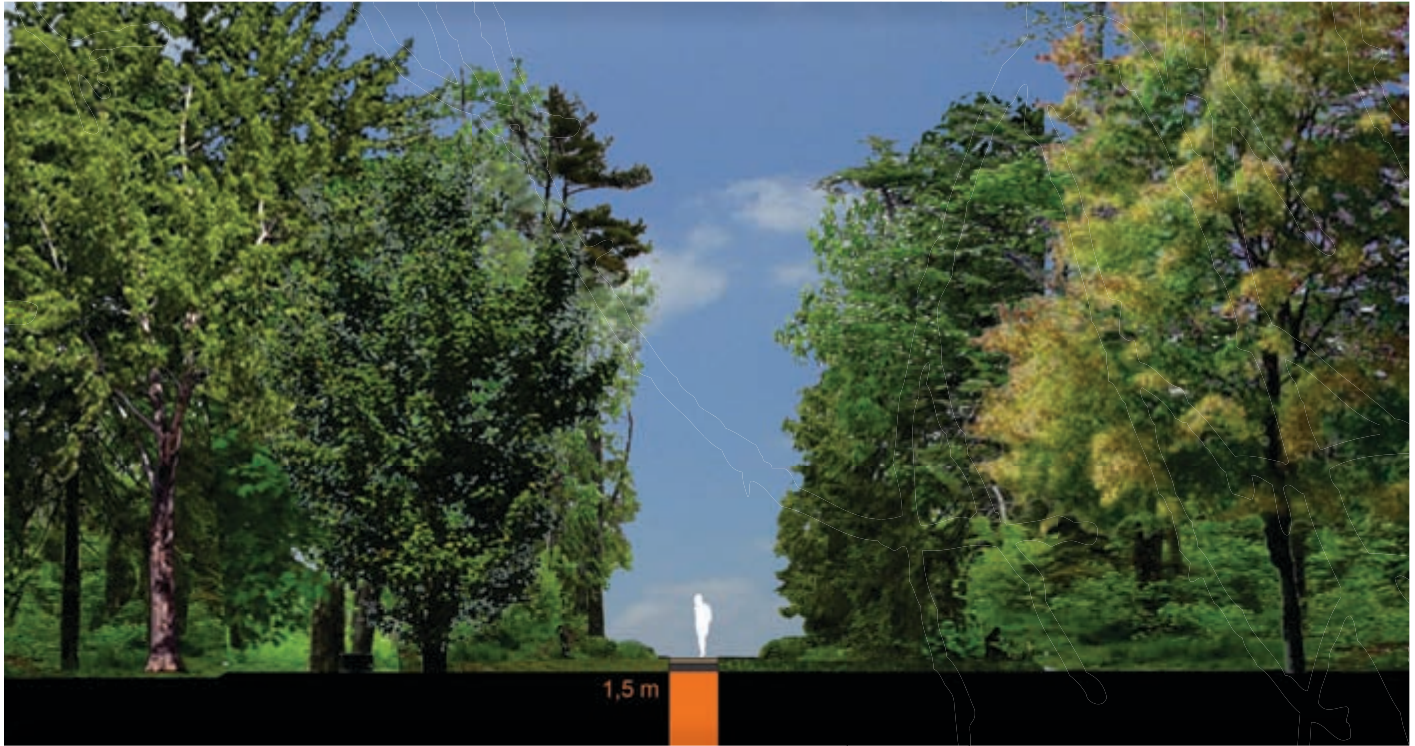
Heather Road

### Secondary Pedestrian Paths (3 to 4 metres wide)

The Park's secondary paths ensure the connection between the upper and lower main paths. Some of these secondary paths are historic links that have been severed over time.

Secondary paths throughout the site will also be surfaced in stone dust. Drainage ditches and other structures will prevent erosion and help prevent the spread of surfacing materials into nearby vegetation. Problem areas should be identified and dealt with according to safety principles that do not compromise the general landscape goals.

Figure 5.4. Minor Pedestrian Paths



**Minor Paths  
(1.5 to 2 metres wide)**

Smaller Park trails and paths will be surfaced with various materials—crushed stone, wood chips or even grass—depending on their location and the site conditions next to them. Where slopes are not too steep to maintain, wood-chip trails will most likely be used. Although wood-chip trails may need to be renewed more frequently than stone-dust paths, wood chips can help reduce the impact of user activity on the environment. It is also a material that is currently plentiful in the Park; it can be supplied from fallen trees or other city tree-maintenance operations. Wood-chip trails help maintain soil moisture and reduce erosion, while adding organic matter to the forest floor.

Vegetation will be allowed more freedom to grow naturally next to these smaller paths. Perspectives will be manipulated to enhance the visitors’ experience and to provide views to important landmarks that may help with orientation. These minor paths will give visitors the opportunity to discover and explore the limits between needleleaved, broadleaved and mixedwood stands of trees, along with their individual qualities and character. These smaller, more intimate paths can be used as an educational tool to reveal the different processes, timeline, and subtleties of natural and human-assisted regenerative processes.



### Special paths

A series of wooden paths are proposed to complete the pathway plans. These special paths will direct circulation and create physical dividers within historically or ecologically sensitive open areas. They will be found at Cambridge Battery, Fort Ogilvie and along Sailors Memorial Way at the eastern shoreline. Wooden paths will resemble national park boardwalks, but will be constructed to allow universal access to Park features. They will also offer seating, performance and interpretation opportunities in certain areas.

### Service roads

Public vehicles will be restricted to public parking areas, and there will be tighter control of vehicle access at all Park access points. Large service vehicles for day-to-day maintenance—for Park patrols, litter collection, snow plowing, upkeep and forest management—will be limited to the wider roads (i.e., Cambridge Drive and Sailors Memorial Way), to avoid negative impacts due to vehicle traffic on narrower paths. All other paths will be limited to small vehicle access.



### Additions and subtractions

About 1,400 metres of trails will be added to the Park to allow historic and program-related circulation patterns to be completed or improved. These trails will be built to high standards, following proposed path hierarchy.



Temporary construction road to be removed - Francklyn Street

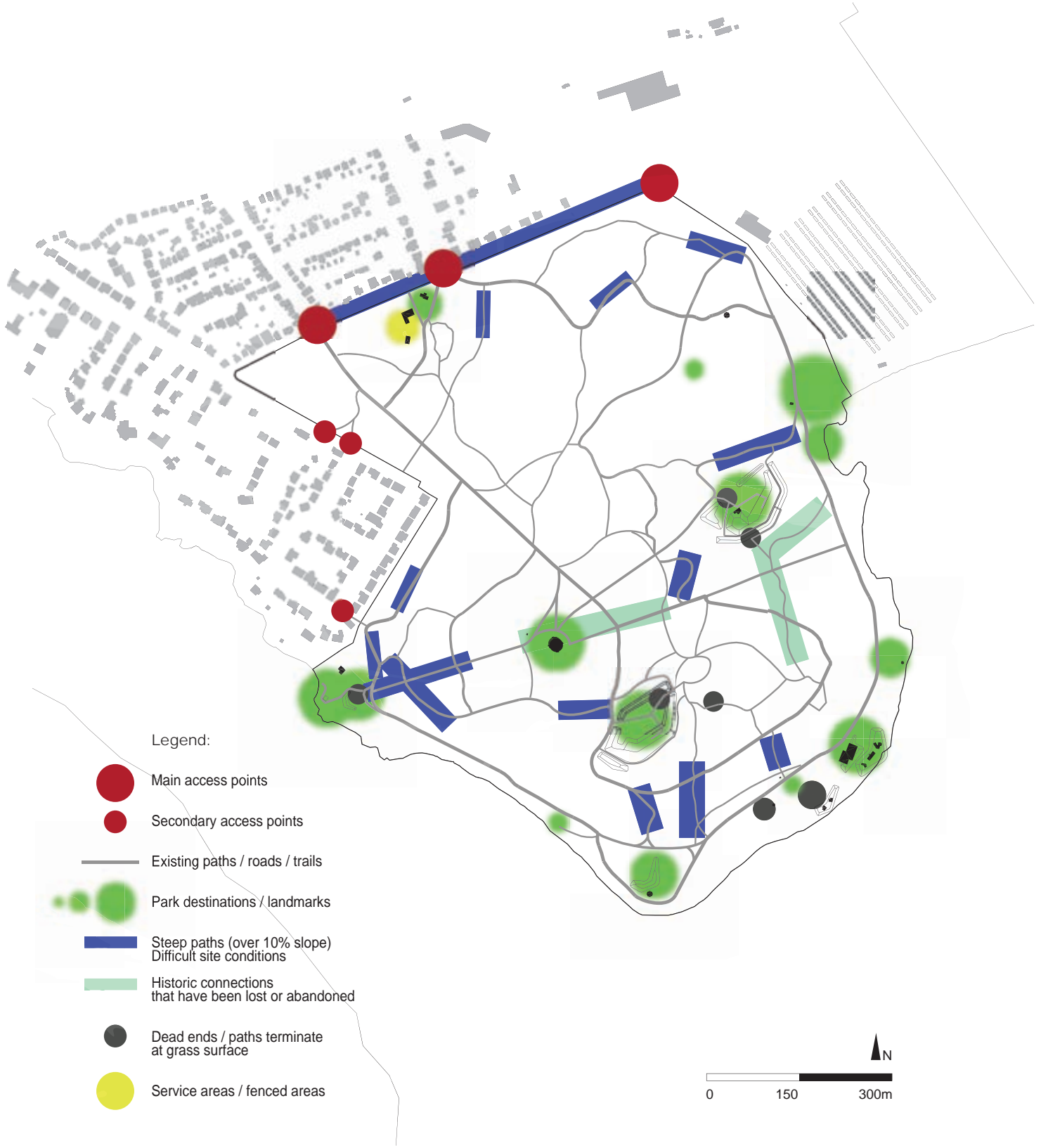
Approximately 350 metres of trails will be removed and re-naturalized by temporary fencing and intensive planting. Unplanned paths created by visitors will be evaluated individually and dealt with according to their relation to the overall Park experience. They will either be formalized or maintained as official paths or they will be restored as required and closed.

MAP 5.1: HISTORICAL ROADS

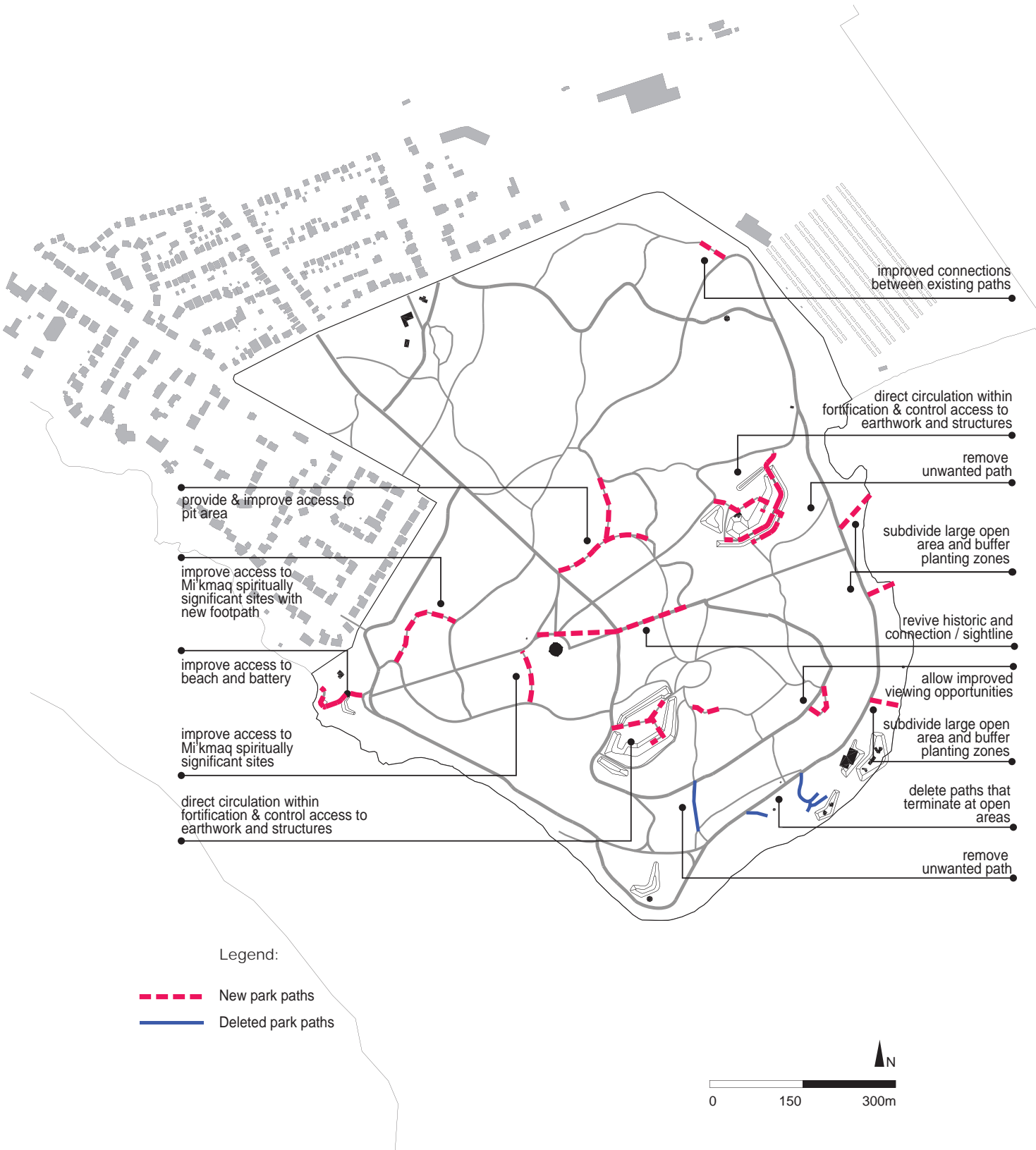


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## MAP 5.2: EXISTING CIRCULATION



MAP 5.3: ADDITIONS AND SUBTRACTIONS



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# MAP 5.4: PROPOSED PATH HIERARCHY



MAP 5.5: PROPOSED VEHICLE ACCESS



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*“Glorious are the woods in  
their latest gold and crimson,  
Yet our full-leaved willows are  
in the freshest green. Such a  
kindly autumn, so mercifully  
dealing With the growths of  
summer, I never yet have seen.”*

*–William Cullen Bryant*



Table 5.1: Landmarks (“Key” references Map 5.7)

Key	Name	Description	Design Strategy	Management Recommendations
1	Young Avenue Gates	Robust historic entry creates a dramatic sense of arrival, evokes feelings of nostalgia and grandeur	Gates to dominate the entry space, use ground plane and forest to tie the Park, street and gate together, support with discrete entry amenities, see detailed plan	Conserve historic integrity of gates, reinforce ceremonial entrance through programming, develop plan for Young Avenue and South Park Street as the bond among major urban parks, utilize durable Acadian broadleaved trees in the streetscape, implement detailed plan for gate area, utilize gate as an orientation feature in wayfinding system
2	Superintendent's Lodge	Novelty structure provides an entrée to the Victorian era in which Point Pleasant Park was formally established as a public park; engages and welcomes Park visitors	Consider future opportunities for the public welcome and engagement at the Lodge and the surrounding landscape; maintain views of Lodge; research and consider restoration of historic landscape	Conserve historic integrity of the Lodge and gardens, document historic form and evolution of the site, program to engage the public with the site, replicate historic seasonal planting (colour, forms and plant selections), develop long term strategy for use of Lodge and garden, utilize as an orientation feature in wayfinding system
3	Park Maintenance Buildings at Point Pleasant Drive	Older buildings lend a genteel quality to the operational aspect of the Park, established surrounding landscape helps them blend into the Park	Consider historically appropriate materials and colour scheme for building exterior and related structures; develop new features in sympathy with existing structure, use native vegetation to improve screening of yard	Preserve historic character in future maintenance of structures and adjacent landscape, enhance plant screening of works yard, relocate fenced compound near Point Pleasant Drive and restore site
4	Prince of Wales Tower	Napoleonic era iconic feature and orientation device for Park users reflects the Park character: robust and mystical in its scale, simple form, dark stone construction and lack of apertures, important example of Military technology, links with other harbour defences and the Duke of Kent	Tower managed by Parks Canada, maintain the simplicity and historical appropriateness of the surrounding landscape, maintain visibility of the tower from key vantage points	Consult with Parks Canada on landscape management for the area adjacent to this National Historic Site, maintain important views, utilize the tower as an orientation feature in wayfinding system
5	Birch Road Summerhouse & Sailors Memorial Way Summerhouse	Scenic refuges and important icons form a link to the traditional use of the Point Pleasant as an urban resort, and the influence of the public parks movement	Maintain as a scenic refuge and Park landmark, extend sheltering influence to the adjacent landscape, preserve filtered views, maintain quality picnic lawn; provide complementary furnishings, consider providing universal access	Define and maintain historic integrity of structures and facilitate their intended use; cultivate lawn sheltered by thin canopy of trees near the shelters, plant, prune or remove trees to provide filtered views year round, maintain historic lawn and path east of Birch Road Summerhouse, develop detailed plans for both areas, utilize as a orientation features in wayfinding system

### 5.4 Landscape Experience

The feelings Point Pleasant evokes in Park users provides a benchmark of how effectively design and management are meeting public expectations and suggest a rough measure of the Park's well-being. Many regular visitors have favourite routes that allow them to enjoy the views, quiet spaces and landmarks that appeal to their own interests and moods. This section sets out design guidelines to help

with the restoration and long-term preservation of valued Park experiences to bolster the public's enjoyment. (A discussion of forest experiences is included in the forest-management section of Chapter 4.)



Woodland understorey

### Landmarks

A series of landscape features stands out from the forest as icons of Point Pleasant Park, orientation devices and welcoming places. Their prominence in the landscape is as important as their fit within the forest and the cultural landscape they help define. In addition to their status as the most obvious destinations in the Park, they also provide clues to the history and significance of the Park (Table 5.1).

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**Table 5.2: Special Places** (“Key” references Map 5.7)

Key	Name	Description	Design Strategy	Management
7	Quarry Pond	Uncommon still water feature a surprise in the Park landscape, a quiet place to sit, play or observe pond life	Highlight natural and historic landscape features, facilitate safe access to the pond edge, preserve intimate quality of the space	Prepare detailed plan for area, maintain water level and thereby preserve habitat value for fauna
8	Cope's Rock	Respected First Nations memorial site to Major Jean Baptist Cope, Mi'kmaq chief who signed the 1752 treaty with the British, killed at Point Pleasant in 1758	Incorporate in First Nations interpretive loop, preserve natural quality of the surroundings, do not overexpose to visitation	First Nations access to area should be encouraged to allow offerings to be made, manage to encourage respectful behaviour at site, manage forest to create small sacred grove at site
9	St. Aspinquid's Day Battle Site	Important First Nations site (Major Cope and Renee Martine killed), reveals little or no human impact, interior visible but does not invite casual exploration	Preserve natural quality of the site, do not overexpose to visitation	Foster dense growth to 1.0 m height at perimeter to deter access, close informal paths that may develop, provide views to the interior, consult with First Nations
10	St. Aspinquid's Chapel	Rock formation and grove sacred to First Nations reveals little or no human impact, interior visible but does not invite casual exploration	Minimal interference, erase signs non-First Nations impacts	Foster dense growth to 1.0 m height at perimeter to deter access, close informal paths that may develop, provide views to the interior, consult with First Nations on management
11	Chain Rock & Chain Rock Beach	Sheltered and secluded natural beach and rock outcrops provide one of the most pristine experiences of the Park shore, historic association with defence of the Arm and prior popularity for swimming	Buffer from developed areas with vegetation, provide safe but unobtrusive access, respect cultural sensitivities of the site	Consider need for detailed design to provide beach access in a manner sympathetic to cultural concerns, conserve the natural quality of the space, protect borrowed scenery, restore damaged landscape at pumping station, monitor conditions to determine if swimming may be permitted in the future
12	Black Rock Beach	A very popular recreation spot for swimming and sunbathing until the mid-1950s, with well-built changing rooms	Enhance separation from Sailors Memorial Way to provide bathing areas with some shelter from view and wind	Consider detailed design to provide improved access and separation, maintain sand beach, monitor conditions to determine if swimming may be permitted in the future
13	Harbour Fields	Best preserved example of 18th century field clearings in Halifax area, subtly revealed in the landscape	Volumes of buildings, field enclosures, or linear patterns of fences and paths revealed through subtle management of plant cover	Work with archaeologist and forest manager to implement through pruning and tree removal
14	Heather Patches	Colourful display in the fall, a reminder of the Scottish military presence in Nova Scotia	Maintain patches while controlling their spread	Maintain patches while controlling their spread, limit tree and shrub growth among the heather
15	Well on Pine Road	Mysterious remnant of 18th-century domestic landscape	Celebrate well, pave surrounding landscape to facilitate continued use, maintained landscape clearing to facilitate use	Consider need for detailed design, conserve as recommended for cultural resources

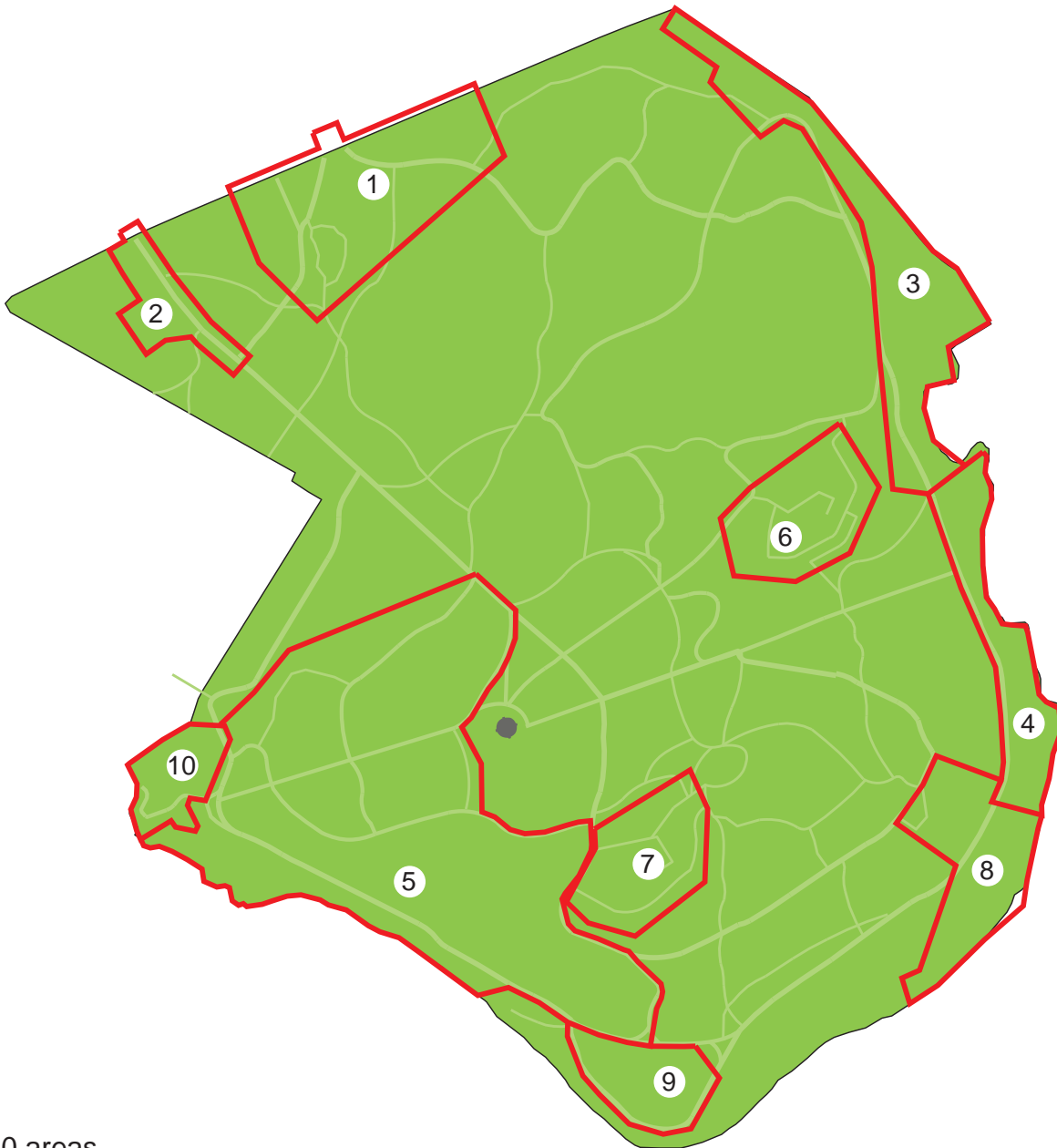
## Special Places

Some of the most valued spaces are the quiet ones that allow visitors to develop a more personal connection with nature. Visitors who know the Park well may be more familiar with these locations, which even after the damage of Hurricane Juan have retained their sense of being out of the way. The special strength of these areas may lay in their subtle nature; they evoke as strong an attachment as the more well-known Park features.



Quarry Pond

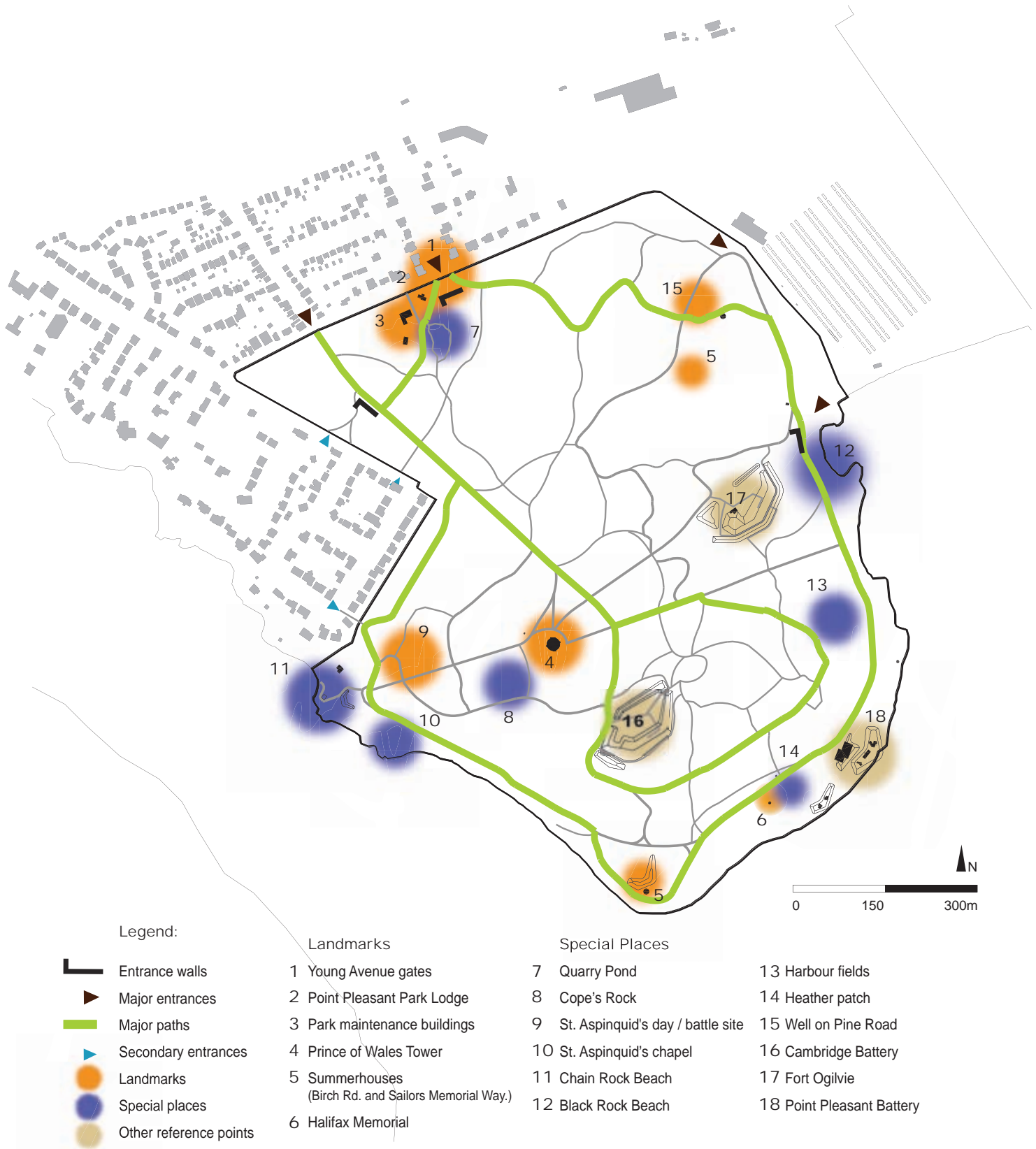
MAP 5.6: AREAS DIAGRAM



10 areas

1. Young Avenue entrance area
2. Tower Road entrance area
3. Harbour entrance area
4. Eastern shoreline area
5. Western resource area
6. Fort Ogilvie area
7. Cambridge Battery area
8. Point Pleasant Battery area
9. North West Arm Battery area
10. Chain Battery area

# MAP 5.7: LANDMARKS AND SPECIAL PLACES



### Historic Views

The military importance of Point Pleasant Park is reflected in the fortifications and earthworks. The opportunity to appreciate the strategic value of the defences and the history of the military presence can be strengthened by maintaining or re-establishing those views that were key to the location and function of the structures. The destruction caused by Hurricane Juan has provided an opportunity to appreciate many of the views and to conserve them through the management of the regenerating forest.



Table 5.3: Historic Views

Historic views from Point Pleasant Park	Visible in the past?	Currently visible?	Historical significance
<b>Prince of Wales Tower to</b>			
The Citadel	Yes	Mostly obscured	High
Fort Charlotte	Yes	Yes	High
Site of Fort Clarence	Yes	Yes	High
Fort Ogilvie	Yes	Yes	High
Ives Point Battery	Yes	Yes	High
Fort McNab	Probably	Obscured by trees on island	Low
Meagher's Beach (Sherbrooke Tower)	Yes	Yes	High
Point Pleasant Battery	Yes	Yes	High
North West Arm Battery	Yes	Yes	High
York Redoubt	Yes	Yes	high
Chain Battery	Yes	Partially obscured by trees	high
<b>Fort Ogilvie to</b>			
The Citadel	Yes	Obscured	High
Fort Charlotte	Yes	Yes	High
Site of Fort Clarence	Yes	Yes (fort destroyed)	High
Ives Point Battery	Yes	Obscured by trees on island	High
Meagher's Beach (Sherbrook Tower)	Yes	Yes (tower destroyed)	High
Fort McNab	Yes	Obscured by trees on island	Low
Point Pleasant Battery	At times	Yes	High
Cambridge Battery	Yes	Yes	High
Halifax Harbour (toward Ives Point)	Yes	Yes	High
<b>Cambridge Battery to</b>			
Fort Ives	Yes	Obscured by trees on island	Low
Fort McNab	Probably	Obscured by trees on island	Low
Meagher's Beach (Sherbrooke Tower)	Yes	Yes	Low
York Redoubt	Yes	Yes	Low
Halifax Harbour (toward Meagher's Beach)	Yes	Yes	High
<b>North West Arm Battery to</b>			
Point Pleasant Battery	At times	Yes	High
McNabs Island	Yes	Yes	High
York Redoubt	Yes	Yes	High
Northwest Arm	Partial	Partial	High
<b>Chain Battery to</b>			
Northwest Arm	Yes	Partially obscured by trees	High
North West Arm Battery	Yes	Partially obscured by trees	High

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Road to Point Pleasant - 1842

### Design Recommendations for Historic Views

Significant views that can be re-established should be. Where broad openings in the forest might once have been cleared to create a more panoramic view, a continuous sightline should be maintained in one location, if possible, and additional clearing should not be done. Pruning and tree removal must be done in a way that is consistent with forest-management goals. Views should be cleared so that people standing at ground level in the Park can see the key features. In many cases, views will be maintained through the management of regenerating forest growth.

Views of the Harbour and the Northwest Arm from Fort Ogilvie, Cambridge Battery and North West Arm Battery were essential to the city's defence. To guard approaches to the city and successfully fire upon enemy vessels, these defences required clear views over specific parts of the harbour. Trees that would have

interfered with the operation of these defences during their time of active use should be removed from the Park.

The blocked view to Citadel Hill will not be re-established in the near future, but an indication of the sightline that would have existed should be created within the Park. Rather than prune or remove trees, this can be accomplished through markings on the ground near the Prince of Wales Tower that indicates the location of the Citadel. Alternatively, discrete vertical elements could be erected that allow a viewer to establish a sightline between the Citadel and the Prince of Wales Tower. At Chain Battery, a viewing platform should be built to allow panoramic views that sweep up and down the Arm.



**Table 5.4: External views.** (“Key” references Map 5.8)

Key	Area	Description	Design Strategy	Management
6	Young Avenue from Point Pleasant Drive north	A green ceremonial approach links the Park to the urban core and other important Park spaces	Predominantly broadleaved Acadian forest growth extends up the streetscape to define a grand alley and park space, drawing the city to the Park	Work with urban forest master plan and the community to realize this green vista, utilize durable Acadian broadleaved species in streetscape planting
7	Birch Road summerhouse to harbour (northeast to southeast)	Historic Park landmark within a pastoral setting to provides commanding panoramic views reminiscent of the early days of Point Pleasant Park	Cultivate a visible but sheltered location emphasizing the commanding views that might have existed in 1866	Prune or remove trees to provide filtered views year round, favour water views and vistas less altered by development
8	Lower parking lot adjacent to Black Rock Beach to harbour mouth	Harbour views to be enjoyed from parked cars	Maintain existing capacity for vehicle occupants to enjoy harbour views	Select, place and manage plants to frame and preserve views, prevent construction of obstacles to view
	Future multi-use building to harbour mouth	Harbour views to be enjoyed from future roof top and ground level spaces	Create entry focal point offering panoramic views of the harbour mouth from indoor and outdoor spaces	Select, place and manage plants to frame and preserve views, prevent construction of obstacles to view, design building to excellent vantage point
9	Ocean look-off to harbour (to east and south)	Historic view related to the military and civilian settlement of Point Pleasant Park	Restored historic viewpoint featured in Mercer’s 1842 watercolour of view over Point Pleasant Battery, military and nearby 18th-century pastoral landscape	Manage vegetation to preserve water view experience depicted in Mercer’s watercolour
10	Sailors Memorial Way summerhouse to harbour (southwest to southeast)	Historic Park landmark within a pastoral setting to provide commanding panoramic views reminiscent of the early days of Point Pleasant Park	Cultivate a visible but sheltered location emphasizing the commanding views that might have existed in 1866	Prune or remove trees to provide filtered views year round, favour water views and vista less altered by development

### Other Desirable Views

Other views in the Park can be justified on experiential grounds; they provide a valued sight, which in most cases also has an undocumented historic value. In many cases, preserving these views is simply a matter of

managing tree regrowth so that view corridors are conserved and can become more clearly defined in relation to the forest over time and as the interior of the Park becomes increasingly enclosed once again.



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**MAP 5.8: HISTORIC AND EXTERNAL VIEWS**



Table 5.5: Internal views (“Key” references Map 5.9)

Key	Area	Description	Design Strategy	Management
	Lodge Road (Point Pleasant Drive to Cedar Walk)	Welcoming entry corridor helps visitors quickly forget the urban environment as they proceed up a gentle grade to the central Park spine; a large interior forest volume normally animated with people and pets	Mystery of unfolding views along broad path pulls visitors into the Park; medium canopy height emphasizes awareness of the forest edge and the transition to the Park interior	Maintain strong visual connection to the lodge and its garden, de-emphasize views of the urban environment, provide glimpses of the Park interior
	Birch Road (starting near Point Pleasant Drive)	Welcoming entry corridor helps visitors quickly forget the urban environment as they descend into a wild forest environment	Mystery of unfolding views along broad path pulls visitors into the Park; medium canopy height emphasizes awareness of the forest edge and the transition to the Park interior	De-emphasize views of the urban environment, provide glimpses of the Park interior and wetlands that help to set this route apart
	Cambridge Drive (Parking lot to Prince of Wales Drive)	Grand entrance corridor both yields a sense of arrival at the Park interior and creates a gregarious social space	High forest canopy and large forest specimens create the sense of a grand forest space; muted light and openness create a comfortable space whatever the weather	Forest management to achieve desired spatial qualities
	Sailors Memorial Way (Shakespeare by the Sea office to canteen)	Elevated all e a more modest entrance corridor that provides a sense of arrival and a social space	Medium height forest canopy; large forest specimens muted light and openness create a comfortable space	Forest management to achieve desired spatial qualities
	Sailors Memorial Way (Canteen to Prince of Wales Drive)	Linear view along broad path sheltered by forest on land side, better define transition between trail and beach area, provide some enclosure for beach area	Forest canopy to provide some shelter on west side, define trail edge and planting at intervals between beach and trail	Forest management to achieve desired spatial qualities
	Fort Ogilvie (northeast to Fort Road)	Overland view from shore important view; helps orient visitors	Preserve view	Manage forest to preserve visual connection
	Fort Ogilvie (east to shore)	Overland view from shore important view; helps orient visitors	Preserve view	Manage forest to preserve visual connection
	Prince of Wales Drive (Tower to the shore)	Important for the prominence it lends the Tower; helps orient visitors	Preserve views in multiple locations	Manage forest to preserve visual connection
	Sailors Memorial Way (adjacent to Sailors Memorial)	Important for views along trail and side views to the sea	Linear view along broad path sheltered by forest on land side, defined with scattered trees framing views to south	Manage forest to preserve views
	Sailors Memorial Way to Point Pleasant Battery	Important view of Battery	Preserve view	Manage forest to preserve visual connection
	Cambridge Battery to Heather Road	Important for the prominence it lends the Fort, helps orient visitors	Preserve view	Manage forest to preserve visual connection
	Arm Road to Purcell's Landing	Important view of ferry landing from trail	Preserve view	Manage forest to preserve visual connection
	Arm Road (Purcell's Landing to Chain Battery)	Important for views along trail and side views to the arm	Linear view along broad path sheltered by forest on land side, defined with scattered trees framing views to south west	Manage forest to preserve views
	Maple Road to Arm Road	Dramatic relief reveals the rugged natural quality of the Park and the city prior to urbanization, a special Park feature	Dramatic change in relief subtly exposed within the forest	Limited pruning or thinning to maintain a view of the steep hillside, important to maintain untouched natural appearance of the area

External views are an important attraction in and of themselves, and they define the context in which the Park is positioned. There is a need for a more detailed study of the implementation of

view corridors to ensure there is a balance between forest conservation and the maintenance of significant views. Management inside the Park may help maintain views over the water. Where views terminate on land, however, the

impacts of human development may affect the quality of views in time. Preserving forest cover along the shore of the Northwest Arm, Purcell's Cove and McNabs Island is particularly important if visitors are to feel that the Park is part

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Table 5.6: Views to Mitigate

Description	Intended Experience	Design Strategy	Management
Park service areas	Subtle presence of Park maintenance facilities reinforce the cultural and ecological emphasis in Park management and reveal the human aspect of operations	Facilities carefully integrated into the Park landscape; new facilities are developed in the least intrusive manner	Facilities to be largely screened from public view; the footprint of maintenance facilities to be controlled
Container pier and helipad	Their presence in the landscape should be subtly diminished using native vegetation where feasible	Planting should aim to block views, light pollution; and sound pollution emanating from these sources, while maintaining a natural appearance	Plan mitigation efforts in co-operation with facility managers; explore with them other options to reduce unwanted impacts
Park washrooms	Structures to be clearly visible at close range, but well integrated into the forest landscape; structures not to draw attention from greater distances	Building design, placement, minimal disruption to natural vegetation and restoration of all disturbed areas be carefully executed in the development of replacement washrooms	Natural vegetation should be managed to enclose washrooms when viewed from a distance; good visibility at close range to be provided
Parking areas	Reduce the negative visual impacts of parking areas while maintaining security; enhance visual quality of parking areas	Establish green islands and overhead canopy where possible in parking areas, screen views of parking area from key vantage points inside Park	Prevent damage to parking-lot vegetation from users, salt and snow plowing
Adjacent urban development	Views of adjacent homes from Park trails should be heavily screened	Rely on native plant form to accomplish screening, plant where required, use highly transparent fences where required to protect Park vegetation	Natural vegetation growth and forest-management processes should create this screening; address any encroachment or unauthorized cutting; promote native planting in urban areas outside the Park boundary

of a larger natural space centred on the water, rather than the last bastion of nature within the city. Control of these visual impacts should be incorporated into the municipal plan and land-use bylaw.

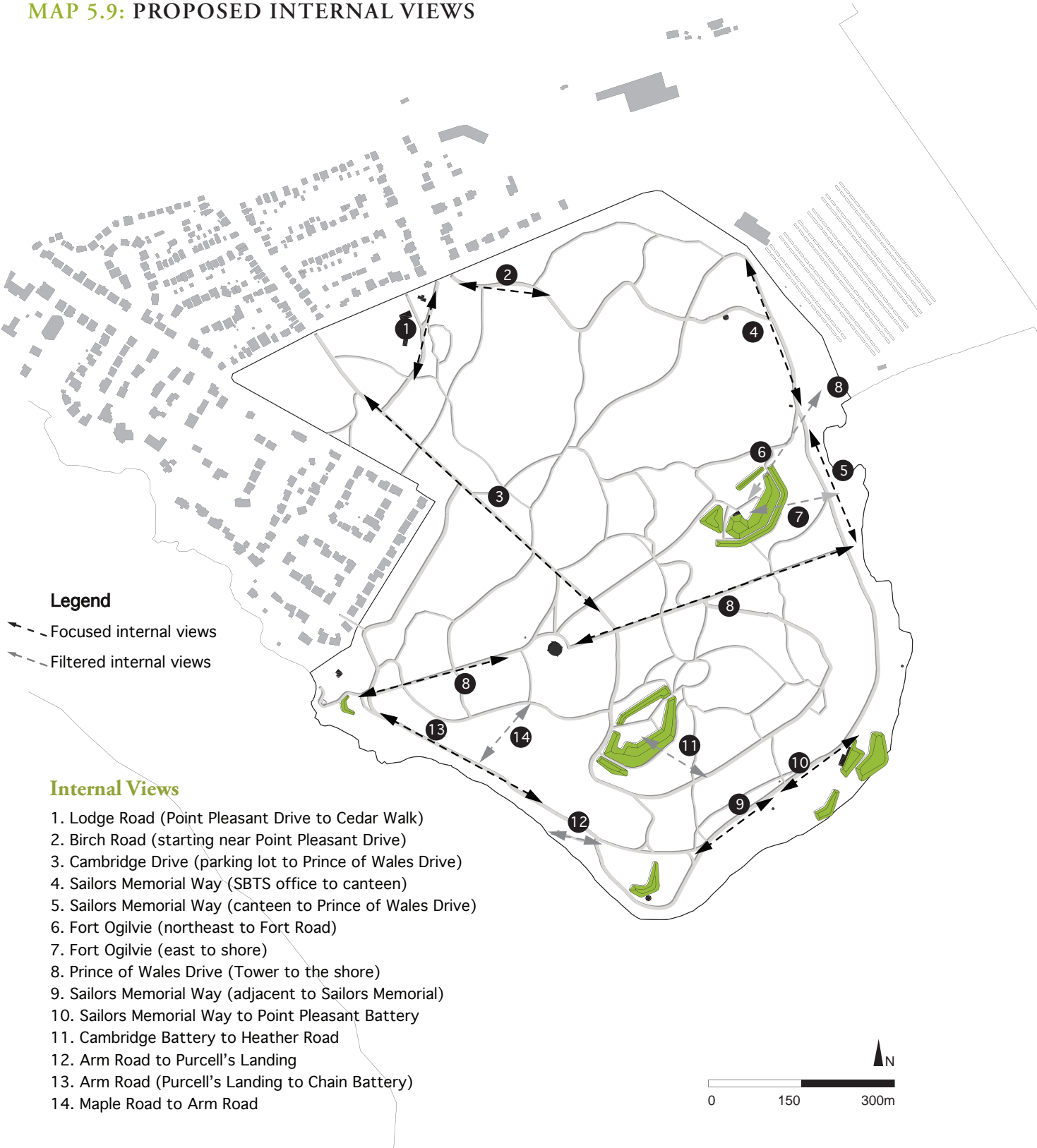
Valued internal view corridors generally lay along trails within the Park. These views will be conserved as the

trails are conserved. Views will be strengthened through the management of the canopy height and corridor width. Views that detract from the Park visitor experience should also be managed to lessen their impacts.

Perimeter wall at Fort Ogilvie



MAP 5.9: PROPOSED INTERNAL VIEWS

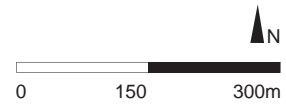


**Legend**

- > Focused internal views
- > Filtered internal views

**Internal Views**

1. Lodge Road (Point Pleasant Drive to Cedar Walk)
2. Birch Road (starting near Point Pleasant Drive)
3. Cambridge Drive (parking lot to Prince of Wales Drive)
4. Sailors Memorial Way (SBTS office to canteen)
5. Sailors Memorial Way (canteen to Prince of Wales Drive)
6. Fort Ogilvie (northeast to Fort Road)
7. Fort Ogilvie (east to shore)
8. Prince of Wales Drive (Tower to the shore)
9. Sailors Memorial Way (adjacent to Sailors Memorial)
10. Sailors Memorial Way to Point Pleasant Battery
11. Cambridge Battery to Heather Road
12. Arm Road to Purcell's Landing
13. Arm Road (Purcell's Landing to Chain Battery)
14. Maple Road to Arm Road



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## 5.5 Amenities and Furnishings

Proposed amenities for Point Pleasant Park include restrooms, drinking fountains, emergency phones, site furnishings, lighting standards and wireless Internet access. All new facilities will meet current standards for universal access.



### Restrooms

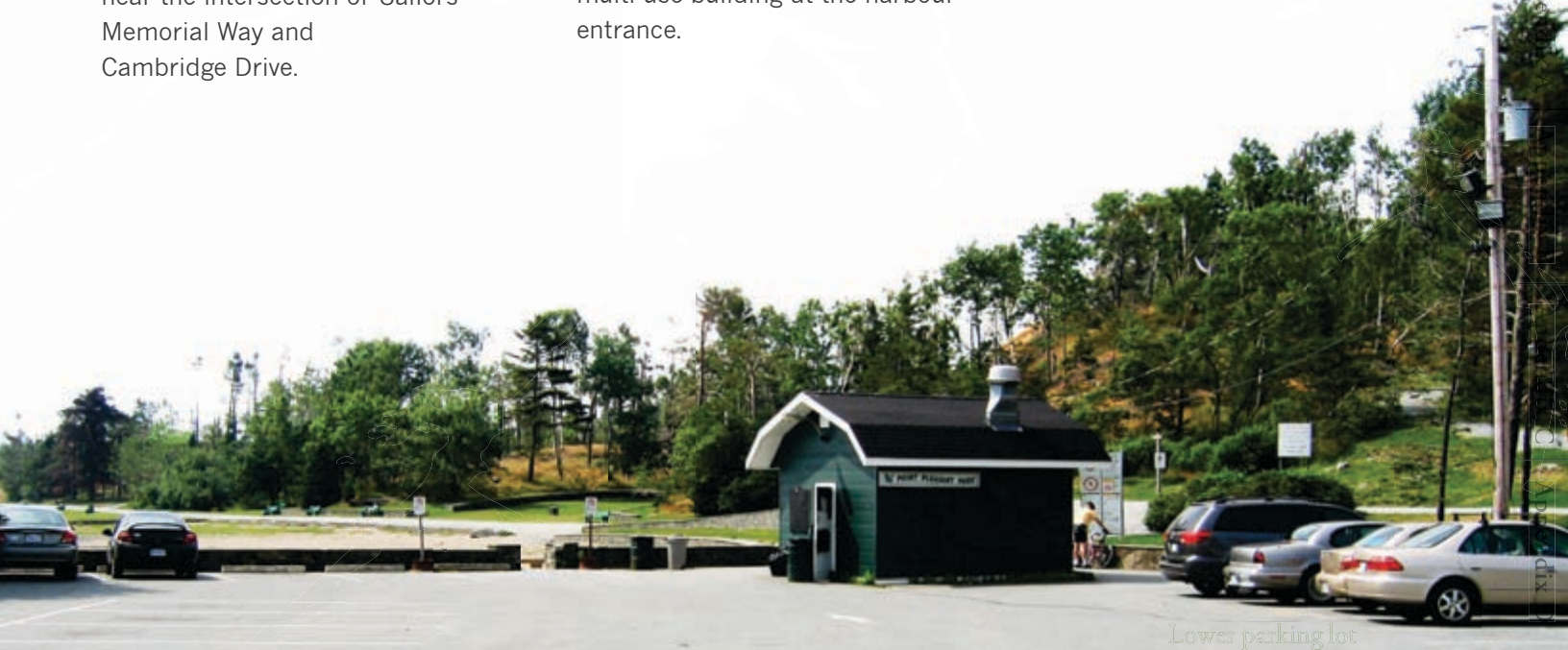
The existing locations of restrooms will be reconsidered, as future service nodes (focal points) in the Park will allow for the removal of certain existing facilities that are in poor condition. Traditional flush toilets will be available at the Greenbank multi-use building, as well as by the western pumping station. As these become operational, it will be possible to remove the older pit toilets from the Park. To ensure the appropriate distribution of restrooms, a new modern composting toilet could be built near the intersection of Sailors Memorial Way and Cambridge Drive.

### Drinking fountains

The availability of drinking water within the Park is currently limited. Water fountains in strategic locations will be a significant addition to the Park and useful to the various groups who use its facilities. Drinking fountains will be proposed at key points along the existing waterline that travels through the Park. A minimum of three drinking fountains will be put in, and all drinking fountains should include a low-level tap for dog water. Additional access to water will be provided at the lodge at Young Avenue as well as the multi-use building at the harbour entrance.

### Emergency phones

Emergency phone locations will be reviewed to provide appropriate coverage in remote areas, as well as in open areas. Visitors walking through the Park should easily see and remember where they last spotted an emergency phone. Emergency phone standards will be replaced with high-visibility models that provide a simple interface for instant communication. A design for emergency phones is presented at the end of this chapter to correspond with the signage.



Lower parking lot

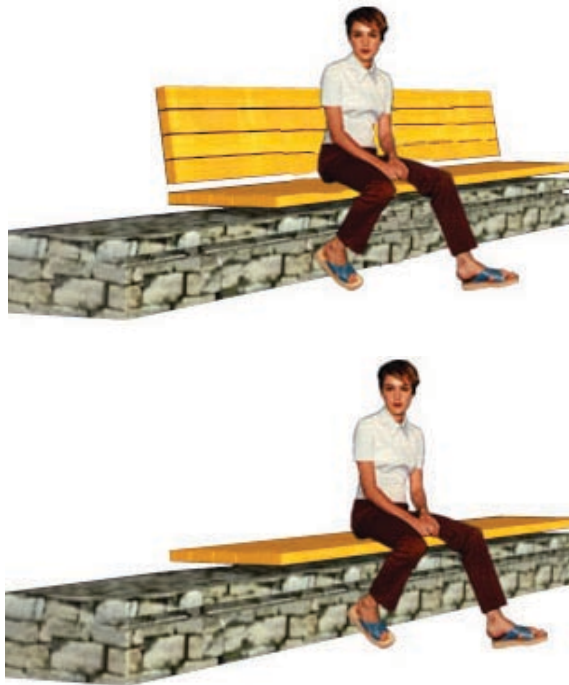
**WiFi Internet access**

The introduction of a wireless Internet access network in Point Pleasant Park is an “invisible” improvement that will promote quiet park use. The network will be an important feature, bringing the Internet free to users of laptops and handheld devices. The WiFi “hot spot” will also permit visitors to download interpretive Park content such as images, videos and audio features.

**Site furnishings**

The introduction and upgrading of appropriate furnishings for all paths and destinations within Point Pleasant Park will help transform the entire site into a functional and comfortable place to visit. Benches, tables, trash receptacles, recycling bins and bike racks, should be organized to provide a variety of places for stopping, resting, eating and gathering. Benches should be placed in forest settings and at panoramic vantage points. Seating should be comfortable and of an appropriate scale and design to contribute to the character of the Park.

**Figure 5.5. Proposed permanent park benches**



High-quality furnishings will reinforce the Park’s identity and character. Entrances, gateways and landmarks will be furnished with simple custom-built and more visually present benches with stone bases. These should be versatile and adaptable to specific site conditions, including optional back and arm rests. Paths will be furnished with wood and concrete elements.

Designs should be simple and understated to allow the Park’s natural and cultural features to take centre stage. Proposed materials include wood, stone, concrete and metal. Current benches made of cast concrete and painted timber will be reconditioned and relocated. Discrete placement and installation of all furnishings will improve the spatial quality of the Park while addressing visitors’ needs.



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## Lighting standards

Exterior park lighting will be limited to buildings and parking areas where it meets a functional need and enhances security. Minimum lighting levels will be used to meet defined needs. Up-lighting of the Halifax Memorial will be retained as a dramatic beacon for people entering the Halifax Harbour by boat. Emergency telephones may be located in lit areas, or their presence in dark areas pinpointed with modest lighting.

Other than lighting the Halifax Memorial, all light fixtures in the Park will be dark-sky compliant, preventing the upward direction of light. As technological advances expand lighting options, opportunities to promote sustainability will be embraced; this may include solar-powered lighting, LED sources and motion-sensitive fixtures that will reduce energy consumption. All lighting should provide a white light, and fixtures should not create false historical statements. New lighting standards should be a modern and understated design, allowing other Park features to be the focus of attention. Opportunities to provide ambient lighting at Cambridge Battery and Fort Ogilvie will require further study as they may increase night use of the Park and its features.



Red spruce grove

## 5.6 Site Concept Plans

### Overall park plan

Point Pleasant Park is bordered by Point Pleasant Drive at its northern end. Here, a mature stand of trees provides a dense wall of vegetation, creating a dramatic transition as you pass from the city into the Park. Extending the Park landscape to overlap with Point Pleasant Drive will create a kind of “anteroom” to the Park and incorporate the proposed active transportation route within a Park-like setting.

There are three major entrances along this edge, two of which permit both vehicles and pedestrians into the Park. The Young Avenue gateway acts as the main ceremonial entrance; here, a proposed interpretive plaza will provide a point for people to gather as they enter and learn about the history of the Park. The plaza will be paved with a distinctive material and pattern that will be adapted to suit each entrance.



Figure 5.6: Landscape Seasonality



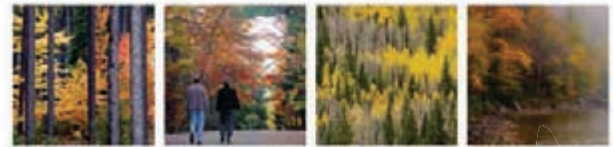
Winter



Spring



Summer



Fall



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MAP 5.10: OVERALL PARK PLAN





Quarry Pond - circa 1900



Quarry Pond - 2002

The Tower Road entrance is located just west of the Young Avenue entrance. Here, the paved entryway leads to a bus drop-off area and parking lot. An existing bluestone wall defines the edge of the parking lot, while at the centre a planted retention basin will be installed to allow stormwater to filter and absorb. Pedestrians are led from the Tower Road entrance through a walkway bordered by planted trees to Cambridge Drive and the heart of the Park.

The third major entrance is located on the eastern side of the Park. Existing stone walls define the interface of the lower parking lot and the proposed multi-use building. These walls mark the historic shoreline and create a separation between the Park and the Halterm container pier. Pedestrian paths crossing the parking lot condense it to a more human scale. These paths lead visitors from the parking surface over ecological catch basins and the entry pavement into the Park. Each of these three entranceways will have site furnishings and contemporary stone walls; this

repeated use of stone walls and a unified palette of furnishings will contribute to a harmonious and consistent character.

As visitors enter the Park, wayfinding signage will guide them to various sites, structures and landmarks. The hierarchy of paths will be made clear by the path width, edge treatments and distinct paving surfaces. Main pathways are visibly wider, link major destinations and act as visual guides to visitors who are less familiar with the park. Smaller and more intimate trails that wind through the forests will create an atmosphere that encourages closer examination of the environment, helping to highlight differences in forest character and reveal historic traces in the landscape.



Throughout the Park, important sightlines will be maintained to conserve historic visual connections between the military structures and a link to the past. Glimpses to important landmarks will not only help create a sense of intrigue along forest walks but will also provide points of reference that will allow visitors to feel more secure. Sudden openings in the forest will offer breathtaking views across the Park and panoramas of the surrounding landscape, the Halifax Harbour and the Northwest Arm.

Where possible, fortifications will be stabilized and maintained to ensure public safety. Once the structures are secured, they will become a space for exploration and learning. The batteries and associated earthworks will be cleared of trees to emphasize these manmade landforms. Wooden boardwalks on Cambridge Battery and Fort Ogilvie will offer safe access and provide views of the harbour. The ocean look-off from Heather Road will emphasize views to Point Pleasant Park Battery and Halifax Harbour.



Heather Road - 2006

Along the eastern shorelines of Point Pleasant Park, sand and cobble beaches and lawns provide open views and tranquil seating areas overlooking the harbour. These areas provide excellent gathering spaces and vantage points for observing harbour activity. In some of these sites, plantings will be added to offset the impact of high winds at the exposed edge of the Park.

Several sites clustered along the Park's western edge have special significance for the Mi'kmaq community, in addition to their historic significance in the broader community. These sites will be recognized, protected and conserved in a manner in harmony with native traditions. Several important sites lie unnoticed in the forest, marked by natural features; they may be discretely managed to protect their hidden identities, while permitting the Mi'kmaq to access them. A memorial to the Mi'kmaq presence in HRM will also be created in the western part of the Park.



**Area 1: Young Avenue Gateway**

The Young Avenue gateway is the ceremonial entrance to the Park. The gates that were hung on Aug. 21, 1886, are an important monument to the official establishment of Point Pleasant Park. Gateway improvements will support them in their role marking the transition from city to Park.

An entry plaza will be built at the Young Avenue gates incorporating the area where the fountain currently lies. The plaza will extend to the edge of the mature forest, creating a dramatic entrance into Point Pleasant that is paved with a distinct material that will be found at all entrances. The plaza will become an important meeting point and place for interpretation of the Park’s natural and cultural significance, including Mi’kmaq traditions. It will not rely on plaques or interpretation panels; instead, stone paving will be inscribed with text and imagery that relay the specific interpretive theme. The entry plaza will blend visually and functionally with existing Park features, including the Superintendent’s Lodge, the Quarry Pond, the old stable and the maintenance buildings.

The area near the Young Avenue gateway will be developed to provide improved services and orientation for visitors. When the maintenance buildings require renovation, as per their normal life cycle, their general appearance will be tailored to complement the nearby lodge. Once improved, this group of buildings could



present opportunities for other uses. The possibility of one day relocating all maintenance activities to the harbour entrance may be investigated. If maintenance functions in the area are ever relocated, open spaces designed for vehicular movement or storage will be reclaimed as Park space.

**Principal Design Components**

- The existing Park gates will be maintained and used to point out the transition between Park and city.
- Plaza construction will seek to save all desirable mature trees in fair health or better.
- Slate, granite or other indigenous materials will be used to develop the entrance plaza, taking in the Young Avenue gates and extending across Point Pleasant Drive to the site of the existing fountain. All improvements that spill into the street will have to meet the approval of transportation officials and other appropriate authorities.

- The new gateway plaza will be framed by the mature forest, creating a dramatic entrance. The paved surface will continue on either side of the plaza, leading visitor circulation into the Park. A new water feature will highlight the site. The entrance plaza will complement the nearby residential neighbourhood.



Young Avenue entrance



Lodge Road entrance

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## YOUNG AVENUE ENTRANCE AREA - DETAIL

### Legend

1. Entrance paving extending in street
2. Historic Park gates
3. Water feature
4. Entry plaza
5. Gateway wall and Park sign
6. Point Pleasant Park lodge and garden
7. Point Pleasant Drive active transportation route
8. Improved Point Pleasant Drive planting and streetscape
9. Landscape composition of Acadian Forest plant material
10. Picnic clearing at north of Quarry Pond
11. View north to Young Avenue

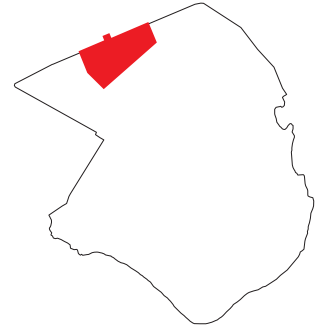


Figure 5.7. Proposed entrance improvements at Young Avenue



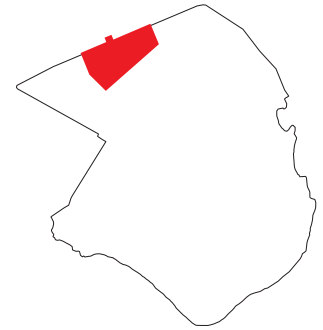
- The signature entrance paving used here will define all major entry points.
- A contemporary stone gateway feature will mark the entrance; it will be repeated as a unifying icon throughout the Park to highlight important places and elements.
- The plaza’s modern design will subtly contrast with the surrounding built landscape but complement the historic gates and stone walls by using materials traditionally found in the Park.
- The physical connection between Lodge Road and Cambridge Drive will be formalized and clarified by clearing views and refining path widths.
- Potential new uses of the superintendent’s lodge and the surrounding landscape to provide visitor services, orientation or refreshments will be considered as a part of the detailed entry-design process.
- When they need major upgrades, the exterior of existing maintenance buildings will be improved to complement the Superintendent’s Lodge.
- The Quarry Pond area will be upgraded by improving the outer loop trail and open picnic area north of the pond.
- The wetland along Birch Road will be re-established and a boardwalk put in along the periphery.
- New site furnishings will complete area improvements.

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## YOUNG AVENUE ENTRANCE AREA

### Legend

1. Historic Park gates
2. Entrance paving extending to street
3. Entry plaza and water feature
4. Superintendent's lodge and garden
5. Renovated maintenance buildings
6. Quarry Pond loop trail and picnic area
7. Birch Road wetland and boardwalk
8. Mature needleleaved-dominant stand



**Area 2: Tower Road Entrance**

The Tower Road entrance will be improved to reflect its importance as a prominent and convenient gateway, while remaining a valued transit and parking area.

Distinct paving treatments will call attention to the transition between city and Park, echoing the treatment of other entry points. The entrance walk will be planted with straight rows of trees to create a formal allée (a walk bordered by trees).

Existing stone walls will be maintained, framing the limits of the reconfigured and upgraded parking lot and entrance area. A stormwater bioremediation system in the centre of the parking lot will filter stormwater runoff and promote natural infiltration.

Beyond the parking area, a pedestrian gateway will welcome and introduce users to Point Pleasant. This gateway will include new stone walls and site furnishings. Signage at major gateways will detail directions, interpretation and rules and regulations.



Tower Road entrance

**Figure 5.8. Proposed improvements - Tower Road entrance**



**Figure 5.9. Proposed improvements - upper parking lot to Cambridge Drive**



**Principal Design Components**

- Enhance transition between city and Park by creating a prominent entranceway using the palette of distinct paving treatments developed for the entrances.
- Extend Park entrance paving from Point Pleasant Drive to take in the intersection of Lodge Road and Cambridge Drive.
- Line entrance walk with straight tree plantings to clarify pedestrian routes and enhance the transition from urban to natural environment.
- Maintain existing stone walls around the parking area.
- Minimize paved surfaces

- by incorporating a planted stormwater filter and recharge feature at the centre of the parking lot and by eliminating unnecessary vehicle traffic and parking surfaces.
- Reduce total parking capacity from 70 spaces (approximate current count) to 60.
- Create bicycle-parking area near pedestrian gateway.
- Relocate restored historic light standards to Young Avenue entrance and Superintendent's Lodge.
- Create pedestrian entrance by providing a gateway wall and seating area.
- Install new site furnishings to complete area improvements.



## TOWER ROAD ENTRANCE AREA

### Legend

1. Entrance paving extending in street
2. Improved Point Pleasant Drive planting and streetscape
3. Tree lined entrance and walkway
4. Open area and gateway monolith
5. Gateway wall and seating area
6. Ecological stormwater system
7. Reconfigured parking (car and bicycle) within existing stone walls
8. Picnic clearing/open area
9. Realigned link to Franklyn Street
10. Halifax Urban Greenway
11. Gathering space and meeting point

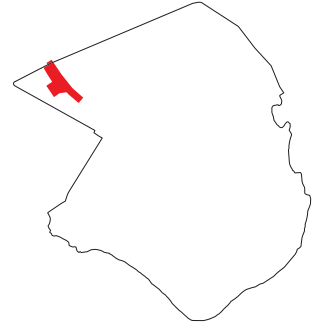


Figure 5.9a. Proposed improvements - lower parking lot



Halterm



Lower parking lot

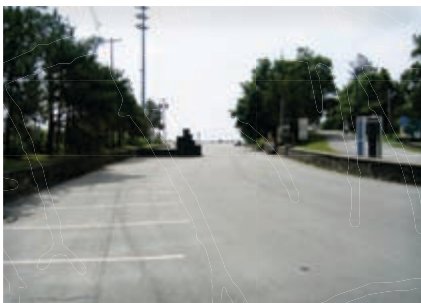
### Area 3: Harbour Entrance

Improvements at the harbour entrance aim to better define the Park’s entrances, improve the appearance of this well-used approach to the Park, slow traffic and incorporate much-needed visitor-service facilities.

Along the northeastern edge of Point Pleasant Park, a potential future site for a maintenance compound has been identified. When the existing buildings need to be replaced, this site may be considered as an alternate location. Here, a maintenance building could act as a gatehouse for the harbour entrance, be a location for a tree nursery and provide a home for environmental research projects linked to the Park.

To the south of this area, the existing gateway and parking area will be redeveloped to clearly organize the arrival of visitors into the Park. The existing stone walls, which mark the location of the coastline of the Park prior to the in-filling that occurred for the building of Halterm, inspire the geometry of a new multi-use building and redesigned parking lot. The implementation of the Greenbank visitor centre in this area will provide visitors with amenities that are presently absent, deficient or remotely located within the Park.

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Harbour entrance

The reorganized and upgraded parking lot will be oriented to the Park, rather than the container pier. The parking lot's layout and construction will better respond to the site's ecology and will frame harbour views. Gradual improvements will allow the number of parking spaces to be reduced. Three pedestrian paths divide the parking area, passing over a green stormwater-infiltration channel, leading visitors from the

Figure 5.10. Harbour look-off



parking lot into the Park. These walks provide vantage points through the trees overlooking the Halterm container pier and connect to the seawall walk. To the west, they will connect to a path leading visitors into the Park along Sailors Memorial Way.

The picnic and wetland areas next to Fort Road will be conserved, restored and highlighted as Park features. The existing low area will be planned as the largest vernal pond (a temporary pool of water created by snow melt and spring rains that usually dry up in summer) in this part of the Park. A future study will be commissioned to investigate the possibility of contouring the wetland to allow the possible installation of a refrigerated skating rink. As at other major

entry locations, entrance paving and a modern gateway wall will announce visitors' arrival. This area also includes Black Rock Beach, which may be reopened to swimming as water and bottom sediment quality improve.

Currently, the harbour entrance is one of the most dynamic yet chaotic areas in the Park. An improved design and new facilities will help turn this space into an organized major entry point.



Existing entrance

**Principal Design Components**

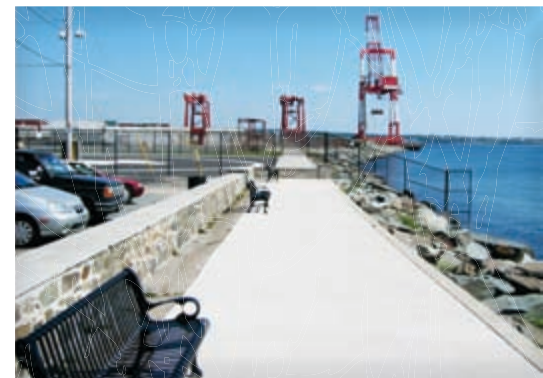
- The geometry of the lower parking area and proposed multi-use building will be defined by the existing stone wall that marks the place of the original shoreline and separates the Park from the Halterm container pier.
- The extent of paved surfaces will be minimized by incorporating planted stormwater filters and recharge features, and by eliminating unnecessary vehicle traffic and parking surfaces.
- Total parking capacity will be reduced from the approximate current number of 320 spaces to 250.
- A drop-off area will be provided at the main entrance of any future Park maintenance building.

- A bus-turnaround area will be created at the Park gate near Pine Road.
- A row of parking spaces with a clear view of the harbour and McNabs Island will be created so visitors can enjoy the ocean views from their cars.
- The parking area will be designed to allow informal and formal events and activities during low-use periods.
- The potential to screen the container pier with a continuous row of trees will be investigated.
- Entrance paving will extend from the parking lot next to the proposed buildings and will lead visitors into the Park at Sailors Memorial Way.

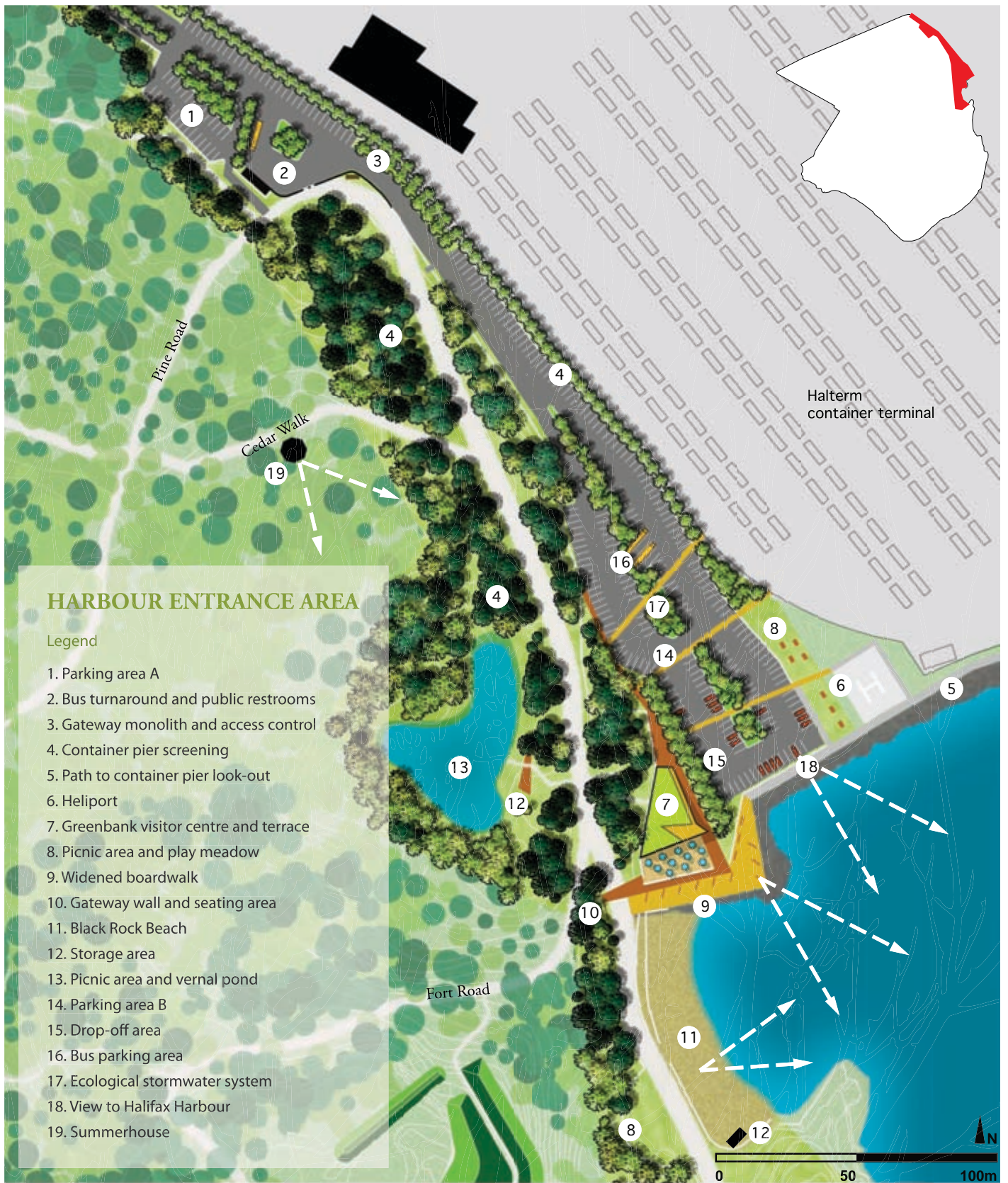
- A new stone-gateway wall will mark the transition from the parking lot into the Park at the new multi-use building location.
- A terrace will provide a year-round seating area with sunrise and ocean views at the southern edge of the multi-use building.
- The large vernal pond and picnic area next to Fort Road, across from the visitor centre, will be established.
- New site furnishings will complete area improvements, including storage space at Black Rock Beach.



Lower parking area



Halterm jetty



### HARBOUR ENTRANCE AREA

#### Legend

1. Parking area A
2. Bus turnaround and public restrooms
3. Gateway monolith and access control
4. Container pier screening
5. Path to container pier look-out
6. Heliport
7. Greenbank visitor centre and terrace
8. Picnic area and play meadow
9. Widened boardwalk
10. Gateway wall and seating area
11. Black Rock Beach
12. Storage area
13. Picnic area and vernal pond
14. Parking area B
15. Drop-off area
16. Bus parking area
17. Ecological stormwater system
18. View to Halifax Harbour
19. Summerhouse

Figure 5.11. Proposed improvements - Eastern shoreline



**Area 4: Eastern Shoreline Area**

Improvements to the shoreline area between Black Rock Beach and Point Pleasant Battery will organize the landscape into a series of unfolding views, buffer onshore winds and increase popular uses of this space. Currently, a lengthy grass carpet extends along the shore where the Bonaventure Anchor is located. The eastern shoreline is a popular gathering space for picnics and play, and provides excellent views of ship traffic at the harbour entrance.

The lack of trees and shrubs along the eastern coast leaves the Park forest exposed to the full force of onshore winds and storms. To provide wind and erosion protection, three belts that run perpendicular to the shore will be planted with native wind-resistant

shrubs and trees. With wooden paths and seating, the buffers subdivide the large expanses of lawn and encourage movement from Sailors Memorial Way to the cobble beach. Grassy berms and seating areas will make it easier to enjoy the panoramic views overlooking the harbour and will echo the earthworks at Point Pleasant Battery. Large grassy areas continue to be a great spot for a variety of informal activities.

**Principal Design Components**

- Views up to Fort Ogilvie and across the water to Fort McNab will be maintained.
- Selected shoreline areas will be planted with hardy coastal shrubs and trees, designed to resist wind and frame water views.

- Bonaventure Anchor will be moved to a nearby coastal location underlain by shallow bedrock to minimize the impact of future coastal erosion on this monument.
- Three boardwalks will extend from Sailors Memorial Way up to the beach; these will incorporate seating, barbecue pits and other features that can be used for public gatherings and picnics.
- Spacious grassy gathering areas will be conserved and managed so they can withstand heavy foot traffic.
- Harbour fields area will be planted with high-canopy and widely spaced trees.
- New site furnishings will complete area improvements.

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## EASTERN SHORELINE AREA

### Legend

1. View to harbour and Fort McNab
2. View up to Fort Ogilvie
3. Open lawn areas/gathering spaces
4. Shoreline buffer plantings
5. Boardwalk connections and barbecue pits
6. Cobble beach
7. Relocated Bonaventure Anchor (to ridge)
8. View to harbour and York Redoubt
9. Seating area and meeting point
10. View to harbour
11. Framed view back to city
12. Framed view to monument and Purcells Cove
13. Framed view to Prince of Wales Tower
14. Seating and observation area at intersection
15. Harbour Fields cultural resource area
16. Picnic area and play meadow



Black Rock Beach and Sailors Memorial Way



**Area 5: Western Resource Area**

The area along the western shoreline of the Park contains a number of sites with special historical, cultural, or spiritual significance for the Mi'kmaq people, and is valued by the broader community as well. In this area, an interpretive route within the larger system of paths will allow visitors to explore and discover the various natural elements that mark sites important to Mi'kmaq customs.

**Principal Design Components**

- The place name for the Mi'kmaq cultural heritage area and its detailed design will take place in consultation with representatives of the Mi'kmaq community.
- Sites significant to the Mi'kmaq will be managed to lessen the chance that they will be used inappropriately.



**Figure 5.12. Proposed improvements - Arm Road near Chain Rock Battery**



- The management of plant cover will promote natural regeneration and natural processes to restore a healthy forest.
- A unique monument to Mi'kmaq culture will be created. The heritage area will also include a traditional ceremonial circle, built within the tranquil forest setting, overlooking the Northwest Arm at the confluence of Arm Road and Tower Hill Road. The monument will be a site for both traditional group ceremonies and individual reflection.
- Dense planting of predominantly evergreen species will surround the pumping station and service road, to screen views from the monument.
- As site topography allows, an accessible loop will be developed to allow visitors to explore this area of the Park and discover the natural features that mark significant sites, and to learn about the Mi'kmaq traditions associated with them.
- A traditional healing garden will be created in this forest setting. A series of native medicinal and useful plants will be interpreted in their natural forest environments. This “garden within the forest” will help visitors learn about the local Mi'kmaq community’s heritage and complement the Park’s renewed focus on maintaining as natural a forest as possible.
- New site furnishings will complete area improvements.

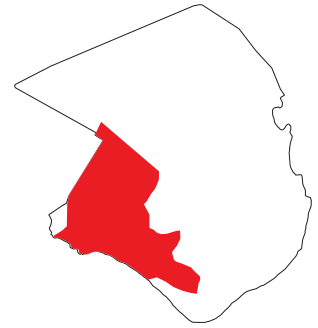
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## WESTERN RESOURCE AREA

### Legend

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Monument to Mi'kmaq culture, ceremonial circle | 9. View to York Redoubt and Purcells Cove |
| 2. Dense birch and evergreen grove                | 10. View to Arm Road and Northwest Arm    |
| 3. Mi'kmaq culture interpretative loop and garden | 11. Framed view up Northwest Arm          |
| 4. New footpath segment                           | 12. Chain Rock Beach and Chain Battery    |
| 5. Dense forest screen                            |   |
| 6. Regeneration area                              |   |
| 7. Framed view to Prince of Wales Tower           |   |
| 8. View to Northwest Arm                          |   |



**Figure 5.13.** Proposed improvement - Fort Ogilvie



**Area 6: Fort Ogilvie Area**

Landscape development at Fort Ogilvie will provide the public with long-term access to the ruins by preserving the cultural resources and developing amenities to permit the safe enjoyment of this focal point.

Fort Ogilvie is an important structure in the Park’s military history; its location on one of the site’s major topographical features offers impressive views to the Park and harbour. To protect and stabilize existing cultural structures, all trees will gradually be removed from the existing landform, battery and defensive ditch. Smaller broadleaf species will be planted around the perimeter of the battery in order to accentuate the distinctive geometry of the constructed landform that contrasts with the forest setting.

A wooden boardwalk and lookout will be constructed to provide direct access to suitable site features and views toward Ives Point Battery. The lawns within the ruins will be kept and improved to be flexible and accommodate casual gatherings of various sizes. The design will provide spaces for Park visitors to rest and explore on their journey through the Park.



Gun emplacement - Fort Ogilvie

**Principal Design Components**

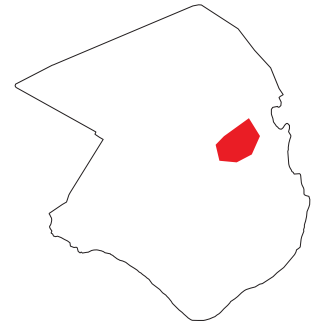
- Structures will be stabilized and maintained to create a safe environment for the public and to conserve cultural resources. Trees on the Fort Ogilvie military site and defensive ditch will gradually be removed and replaced with a combination of indigenous Acadian forest-groundcover plant species with soil retention capabilities, such as lowbush blueberries or ferns.
- Sightlines to the harbour and to Ives Point Battery will be restored and maintained.
- Areas between the proposed boardwalk and the fortifications will be grassed, accentuating the military landform within the forest setting.
- Improvements to the fortification yard will allow for more open play areas.
- New site furnishings and possible feature lighting will complete area improvements.

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## FORT OGILVIE AREA

### Legend

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Entrance wall and destination marker     | 8. Upgraded grass area in fortification yard |
| 2. North earthwork (cleared and stabilized) | 9. View of harbour and York Redoubt          |
| 3. South earthwork (cleared and stabilized) | 10. View to Fort McNab                       |
| 4. Visitor access to earthwork              | 11. View to Black Rock Beach                 |
| 5. Look-out and performance space           | 12. View down ravine                         |
| 6. Stabilized fortification buildings       | 13. Filtered view up to Fort Ogilvie         |
| 7. Cleared defensive ditch and trail        | 14. Picnic area and play meadow              |
|   | 15. Large stone outcrops                     |





### Area 7: Cambridge Battery Area

Landscape development aims to protect the military structures of Cambridge Battery, accentuate its landform within the wooded surroundings and help ensure the appropriate use of the site.

To protect the remains of military structures and re-establish lookout points, trees on the earthworks will progressively be removed and surfaces will be replanted with Acadian forest groundcover species.

A boardwalk and lookout area will provide a safe and clearly defined access to the top of the stabilized structures. The layout of the wooden path will provide a variety of platforms for gatherings, informal play, interpretation and performances. Historic sightlines to the harbour and related military structures will be maintained. The existing lawn will be maintained and upgraded to allow flexible use of the space. Proposed site improvements, including feature lighting, will reinforce Cambridge Battery as a predominant location and destination.

Figure 5.14 Proposed improvement - Cambridge Battery



### Principal Design Components

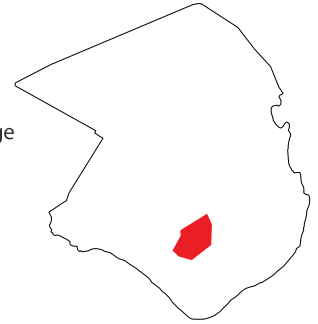
- Structures will be stabilized and maintained to create a safe environment for the public and to conserve cultural resources. Trees on the Cambridge Battery military landform will gradually be removed and replaced with a combination of indigenous Acadian forest-groundcover plant species with soil-retention powers, such as lowbush blueberries or ferns.
- A boardwalk will be built to provide direct access to the site, along with a lookout and seating area.
- Sightlines to the harbour from the top of the earthwork will be framed and maintained.
- The blowdown area will be maintained as a scientific study area and its regeneration monitored.
- Improvements to the fortification yard will be made to allow for more open play areas.
- The blowdown monitoring-and-control area will be left untouched, except for the earthwork on the north side of the study area. This military structure will be stabilized and maintained according to the cultural resource management prescriptions.
- New site furnishings and possible feature lighting will complete area improvements.



## CAMBRIDGE BATTERY AREA

### Legend

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Entrance wall and destination marker                 | 9. Upgraded grass area / gathering space / improved drainage |
| 2. North earthwork (cleared and stabilized)             | 10. Group seating  |
| 3. New pedestrian connexion                             | 11. Maintained open area                                     |
| 4. Visitor access to earthwork                          | 12. View to Fort McNab and Halifax Harbour                   |
| 5. Look-out and performance space                       | 13. Maintain heather patch                                   |
| 6. South earthwork (cleared and stabilized)             | 14. Re-establish European Beech allée                        |
| 7. Stabilized battery structure (with feature lighting) | 15. Old earthwork  |
| 8. Blowdown monitoring / control area                   |  |



**Area 8: Point Pleasant Battery Area**

Works in this area will make the land surrounding Point Pleasant Battery safe for exploration and help slow coastal erosion. Meadows and lawns will diversify landscape experiences and recreation activities in the Park.

The ocean look-off is located in a historic opening; it dates back to the 18th-century pastoral landscape that was later used as part of the Point Pleasant Battery complex. The area overlooks the harbour and provides views of the Hen and Chickens shoal and Fort McNab.

To slow the ongoing deterioration of Point Pleasant Battery, large berms will be created around the existing structures, slowing the decline of the structures and allowing people to visit the site safely. These measures will also allow for the removal of the unsightly fences that currently limit access to the water and the battery.

**Principal Design Components**

- Establish the clearing below the ocean look-off by periodically removing trees and maintaining native shrub and herbaceous species.
- Frame the ocean look-off with broadleaved-dominant plantings. Reveal and accentuate the rock outcropping and stone wall remnants within the open areas.

Figure 5.15 Ocean Meadow - Point Pleasant Battery area



- Construct a lookout plateau from Heather Road overlooking the battery and harbour.
- Maintain views overlooking the Hen and Chickens shoal and the harbour to Fort McNab.
- Plant selected shoreline areas with hardy coastal shrubs and trees, configured to resist wind and to frame water views.
- Entomb Point Pleasant Battery structures that pose security or stability concerns. Remove all fencing around structures.
- Install new site furnishings to complete area improvements.



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## POINT PLEASANT BATTERY AREA

### Legend

1. Entombed fortifications and access to top of earthwork
2. Clearing (native shrub and herbaceous species) and part of former grand encampment area
3. Rock outcrop
4. Ocean look-off and seating area
5. Open lawn areas / gathering spaces
6. Revetment to protect fortifications and shoreline
7. Cobble beach
8. Mixedwood planting (predominantly broadleaved trees) to frame views
9. View to Hen and Chickens, Fort McNab and Meagher's Beach Lighthouse
10. Panoramic views to harbour and Park

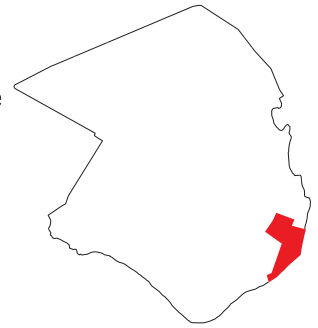


Figure 5.16. Proposed improvements - North West Arm Battery



**Area 9: North West Arm Battery Area**

The North West Arm Battery lies at the Park’s southernmost tip. The location is also home to one of two cast-iron summerhouses in the Park. The mix of Victoriana and military history brings an interesting and unusual character to the site.

**Principal Design Components:**

- Structures will be stabilized and maintained to create a safe environment for the public and to conserve cultural resources. Trees on the North West Arm Battery earthwork and yard will gradually be removed and replaced with a combination of indigenous Acadian forest-groundcover plant species with soil-retention powers, such as lowbush blueberries or ferns.

- Sightlines to the harbour and York Redoubt will be maintained.
- Planting design around the summerhouse will seek to respect the picturesque design principle of uniting architecture with the surrounding landscape.
- Plantings of low species adapted to the shoreline environment will help stabilize slopes and slow erosion.
- Potential for locating a new composting toilet in the area to replace the obsolete structure located near the Halifax Memorial will be studied.
- New site furnishings will complete area improvements.



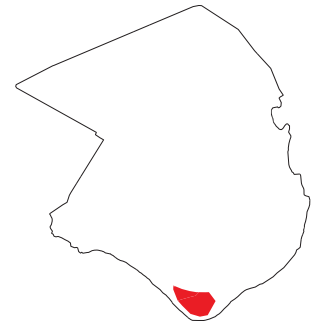
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## NORTH WEST ARM BATTERY AREA

### Legend

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Earthwork (cleared and stabilized)    | 7. Panoramic view to Halifax Harbour and Atlantic Ocean |
| 2. Sailors Memorial Way Summerhouse      | 8. View to Northwest Arm                                |
| 3. Bioengineered slope                   | 9. Framed view up Arm Road                              |
| 4. Battery yard sheltered open space     | 10. Filtered view into courtyard space                  |
| 5. Meadow with smaller broadleaved trees | 11. Framed view of Point Pleasant Battery               |
| 6. Native shrub planting                 |   |





Chain Rock area

**Area 10: Chain Battery Area**

The Chain Battery area is rich with historic and natural features and a spiritually significant Mi'kmaq site. The natural beauty of Chain Rock and Chain Rock Beach should be highlighted. The fortifications and earthworks will be made more visible, as they are currently difficult to locate and access.

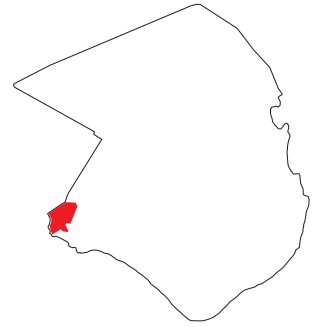
**Principal Design Components:**

- Chain Battery and its associated earthwork will be stabilized and protected. Trees will be cleared from military landforms and planted with soil stabilizing native groundcovers. The area round the battery's concrete foundation will be filled to allow for the proposed path through the site and down to Chain Rock Beach.
- Where possible, framed views to the Northwest Arm from Cable and Arm roads will be reinstated.
- Access to Chain Battery and Chain Rock Beach will be formalized, allowing safe access to the water's edge and historic structures.
- The area surrounding the new pumping station will be replanted and managed to minimize the visual impact of this structure within the natural setting, and erase evidence of site disturbance.
- Local boulders will be used to stabilize the steep slope next to the pumping station, facilitating a dense planting of native vegetation.
- Evergreens will be used to screen views to the pumping station from Cable and Arm roads.
- The pit toilet along Arm Road will be removed and the site restored.
- New site furnishings will complete area improvements, including storage space at Chain Rock Beach.

## CHAIN BATTERY AREA

### Legend

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Military earthwork (cleared and stabilized)       | 11. View across Northwest Arm         |
| 2. Monument to Mi'kmaq culture and ceremonial circle | 12. View up Tower Road                |
| 3. Reconfigured intersection                         | 13. View down Arm Road                |
| 4. Chain Rock  | 14. View up Northwest Arm             |
| 5. Looptrail to Chain Rock Beach                     | 15. Preserved Beech grove             |
| 6. Chain Rock Beach                                  | 16. Unmaintained footpath along beach |
| 7. Balmoral pumping station                          |                                       |
| 8. Pumping station access road and reforested area   |                                       |
| 9. Mixedwood planting area to screen pumping station |                                       |
| 10. Serviced washrooms                               |                                       |



### Greenbank Multi-use Building

An important architectural addition to Point Pleasant Park will be the Greenbank multi-use building, built near the existing canteen in the harbour entrance parking area. The building's location will host visitor services in a less ecologically sensitive area of the Park and provide a central point for activities and programs. HRM's Indoor Recreation Facility (IRF) Master Plan Facility Implementation Model will determine what types of activities and associated spaces should be included in the final design.



This building will be based on green construction models to obtain LEED Canada certification, ensuring that innovative and sustainable architecture strategies will be followed. Design precedents and architectural references could include Nova Scotian vernacular architecture, high-efficiency eco-buildings and successful park visitor centres. The building must create a connection with the shoreline and forest, as it lies at the intersection of both major components. Allusions to Nova Scotian coastal architecture could help bridge land and sea, and reflect the importance of the natural materials in local building traditions.



appropriate yet modern, ensuring that Greenbank will become a new landmark and orientation point. Building volume and proportions should respect anticipated tree heights and site topography. The green rooftop will be designed as an accessible lookout providing panoramic views of the Park and harbour.

The building footprint and layout should maximize harbour views and invite users into the Park. Besides housing multiple program elements, the building will play an important role in organizing the harbour entrance, which lacks structure and focus. The architecture should be contextually



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Existing HRM Park address sign

The building's program will be determined through a future planning process and may consider the following uses:

- park and city-wide information centre
- interpretation area
- canteen and café
- formal sit-down restaurant
- multi-use space for various program groups in case of inclement weather, meeting spaces, etc.
- fully accessible restrooms
- all-season changing rooms for swimming and skating
- Park administration/ office space
- storage space

The proposed building program must reflect a thorough understanding of Park users and community needs.

## 5.7 Wayfinding/ Signing Strategy

The signage system for Point Pleasant Park must be more than just a set of signposts, markers and symbols. It should reflect and complement the Park's unique attributes in order to create a unique identity that is practical in its application and well founded in its conception. The signage will play an important role to ensure visitor safety and easy navigation to points of interest within the Park. These factors will be achieved through the use of gateway monoliths, informational and directional components.

A striking interpretive program will create a memorable experience for visitors by highlighting the ecological and cultural stories embodied in the Park. The initial research and story development are critical to providing the foundation for an effective interpretation program. Interpretation calls for a heightened sensitivity to the Park setting balanced with needs of visitors and the storyline itself.

To create a strong and cohesive visual identity, cultural artifacts and parts of the natural environment have been used in the signage systems. Recurring design elements, such as the horizontal green banding and the background charcoal colour, create a unified look. All signage elements have been designed to complement the Park's physical landscape. Sign examples shown here incorporate the use of naturally rot-resistant timbers and bases constructed of ironstone or granite, inspired by 19th-century military infrastructure on-site. As indicated in the accompanying illustrations, modular sign bases are meant to be adapted to specific sites; they can be expanded to create informal seating or simply act as a sign base. The proposed stone gateway monoliths are designed to complement both the new gateway walls and the natural rock outcroppings found throughout the Park. It is also important to note that all required text has been formatted in Garamond, the standard font for HRM park signage.

Figure 5.17. Proposed gateway monolith



### Gateway Monolith

The height and mass of the gateway monoliths create a strong visual presence that draws people toward each of the three main entrances. These monoliths complement both the gateway walls and the natural rock

outcroppings found in the Park. The outer edge of the monolith can hold short poetic inscriptions. The gateway monoliths will require careful siting and site design to ensure that they fit the site context. The use of seating walls and plantings will enhance these new entry features.

### Gateway Walls

New stone entry walls highlight three major pedestrian entrances to the Park. The walls not only signal the entrance location at a pedestrian scale but also provide a subtle way to accommodate the various rules and regulations and directions required at the main entrances. The form of the wall is modern yet reminiscent of the extensive bluestone wall employed at the Park's boundary, as well as earlier civilian and military structures around the Park.



**Figure 5.18. Proposed kiosk**



### Primary Directional and Information Kiosk

The primary directional and information kiosks will be strategically located at key points along the trail system. These icons act as the visual anchor for all other sign components. Their main function is to provide an illustration of the trail layout and direction to areas of interest and the main entrances via a Park map. Information, about washrooms, parking lots and so on, will be passed along through pictograms rather than text, providing more information for visitors. The kiosks have been designed to accommodate and interpret reproductions of items that depict the Park's history.

The proposed kiosks must be built on a formed, reinforced, concrete base. To ensure longevity and resistance to theft, the information column should be a single unit made from aluminum. All graphics are to be applied via cut-vinyl appliques and will be clear coated to help discourage vandals. The display case will be a hollow tube made of tempered glass.

Figure 5.19. Proposed wayfinding signs



### Wayfinding Signage

The wayfinding signage’s simple modern design reinforces the established Park sign aesthetic, thus providing visitors with an easily identifiable visual cue. Sign placement will mainly direct visitors to desired locations and provide path identification. As with other sign components, a strong wood support made from second-growth cedar or hemlock is recommended, to link with the Park’s natural quality.



Figure 5.20. Proposed interpretive signs



### Interpretive Signage

Interpretive signage components will greatly enhance visitors' Park experience. Images of striking historical, cultural and natural events and elements will be reproduced on tempered-glass panels. As with all other elements, interpretive signage will be designed at a human scale and meet ADA Standards for accessible design; this includes sign placement, height and position, finishes, character placement and font selection. The translucent sign and wood support post permits these sign types to blend into the surrounding landscape. The design and material choice will help promote the cost-effective maintenance and eventual replacement by Park staff. Each panel will be numbered as a key to an audio interpretive tour.

Figure 5.21. Proposed emergency telephones



### Emergency Telephone and Park Tour Markers

Emergency telephone and Park tour markers will be located at regular visual intervals within the trail system. The markers are small yet recognizable as they reflect the overall signage look. Though a minor element in the overall strategy, they are critical to ensuring a safe and pleasant visitor experience.

### Implementation

The signage strategy will play an important role in providing visitors with a positive experience of Point Pleasant Park. The concepts described above require further design development and

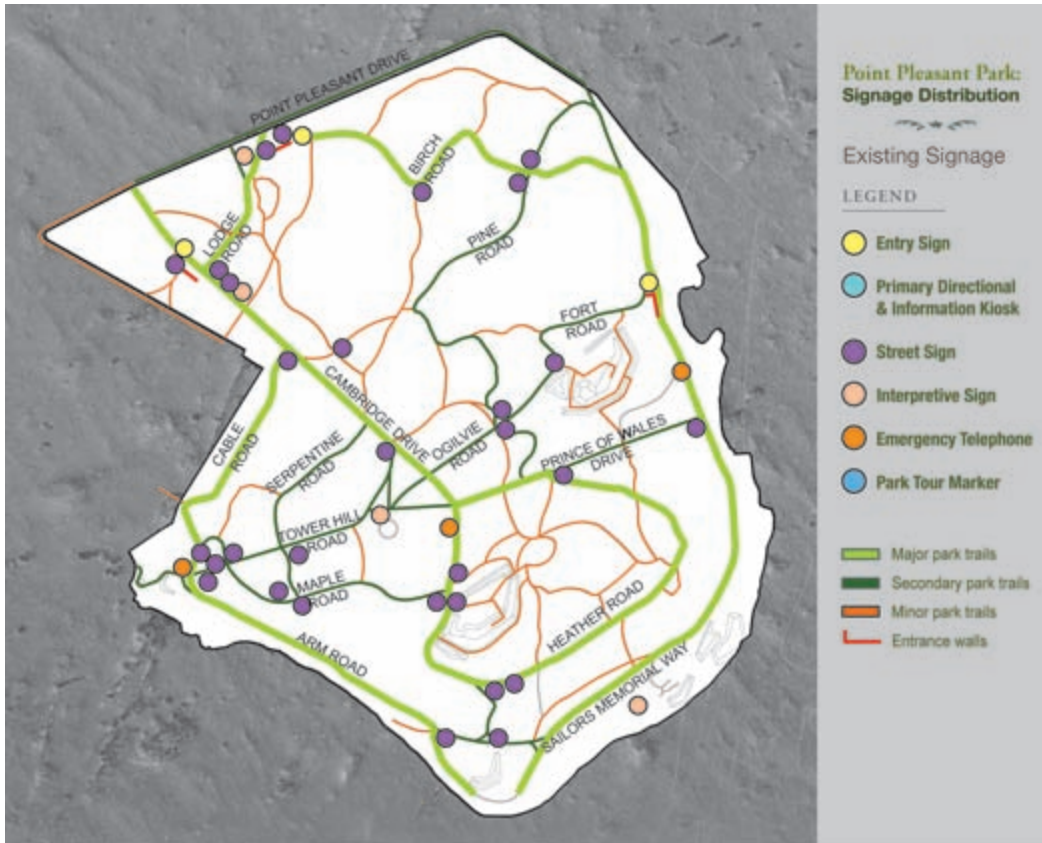


Figure 5.22. Proposed tour markers

improvements before drawings and specifications can be completed. Final drawings will show accurate estimates of construction costs and allow the various sign components to be

made efficiently. A detailed signage schedule will also be needed prior to implementation.

**MAP 5.11**  
EXISTING  
SIGNAGE



**MAP 5.12**  
PROPOSED  
SIGNAGE



Table 5.7 Park interpretive themes

Main Interpretive Theme and Resources	Sub-themes	Location	Commemorative Integrity
<p><b>First Nations</b></p> <p>Old Spring Festival &amp; Feast of St. Aspinquid site (not identified as yet)</p> <p>Historic and pre-Contact sites □ possible burial sites, landform St. Aspinquid's Chapel</p> <p>1758 Mi kmaq battle site</p> <p>Pre-Contact stone axe (2,000 years old)</p>	<p>Antiquity of First Nations use of Point Pleasant</p> <p>Social and spiritual significance of the Park to modern, historic and pre-Contact First Nations peoples</p> <p>Mi kmaq as separate political entities, not only as allies of France and Great Britain in the struggle for control of the Americas</p> <p>The importance of the 1761 Peace Treaty in allowing British settlement at Point Pleasant</p>	<p>Northwest Arm</p>	<p>The clustering of ceremonial and historic First Nations sites at the Park makes them a rare and valuable cultural resource for Canada</p> <p>All sites are fragile and lack obvious heritage visibility</p> <p>The □sense of place□ has been diminished by construction</p> <p>Coastal erosion may have affected sites near to the shore</p> <p>Increased visitation may affect the resources negatively</p> <p>Locations of the Old Spring Festival/ Feast of St. Aspinquid and the battle site may never yield chronologically significant artifacts for interpretive purposes</p> <p>Archaeological assessment of burial sites must use non-invasive methods and be sensitive to community concerns, hence restricted in its effectiveness</p>

### 5.8 Interpretation: Visitor Experience Concept

While creating a detailed interpretive plan for the Park is beyond the scope of the Comprehensive Plan, it is a logical next step in the implementation process. This plan would identify themes and locations for interpretation, interpretive

approaches, thematic design of various elements and detailed design/storyboarding for each element. The process will require major stakeholder input and co-ordination with Parks Canada.

To guide the future interpretive plan and ensure that its outcomes are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, this section outlines some of the

thematic considerations as well as statements of commemorative integrity that should be incorporated. Historic resources related to the four principle themes—First Nations, early European settlement, military occupation and Park history—are scattered across the Park, making it difficult to define distinct geographic zones relating to each, particularly for Park history, a theme represented throughout the Park. Each major theme can be further divided into sub-themes. Defining cultural resource-management zones according to the themes and sub-themes they best represent will help shape coherent interpretation and presentation of the Park in the future.



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**Table 5.8** Park interpretive themes

Main Interpretive Theme and Resources	Sub-themes	Location	Commemorative Integrity
<b>Park History</b> The Superintendent's Lodge (1890's) The Young Gates (1880's) Two Summer houses (1880's) Well on Pine Rd. Walking trails such as Heather Rd. Glasgow light standards Two ferry houses (1850's and 1911) The "Heather Patch" Post WWII Features (lesser historical significance, than above but part of Park infrastructure) Grassy picnic areas Washrooms Shakespeare-by-the-Sea building Garage 100th anniversary fountain Black Rock beach Monuments Canteen	The evolution of Point Pleasant as a park Point Pleasant Park's role in the historical and contemporary urban landscape of Halifax Themes commemorated on monuments in Point Pleasant but only tangentially related to Point Pleasant's history	Various locations around the Park	Most structures have no obvious problems with structural integrity and did not sustain hurricane damage (a tree fell on a summerhouse) Hurricane Juan felled trees near the lower summerhouse, restoring the landscape around it to its original late-19th-century appearance. However, hurricane damage reduced severely the treed landscape typical of most of the Park during the Victorian Era Park history, especially the Victorian pleasure-park history, of Point Pleasant is a theme which should be presented to the public

Presentation planning and the design of interpretive programs are also vital to conservation decisions, as the Park reflects the level of "commemorative integrity" of each resource.

Commemorative integrity is a combination of the state of preservation of a resource and its interpretive value in relation to its commemorative intent. The following table summarizes

the four major cultural resource themes and their sub-themes, material assets, locations and level of commemorative integrity. Threats to their commemorative integrity are also discussed.

Table 5.9 Park interpretive themes

Main Interpretive Theme and Resources	Sub-themes	Location	Commemorative Integrity
<p><b>Military Occupation</b></p> <p>Fort Ogilvie 1793, rebuilt 1860s-70s and its submarine mining establishment)</p> <p>Prince of Wales Martello Tower (1790s), 19th century barracks and related structures</p> <p>Quarry Pond</p> <p>Chain Battery (1762)</p> <p>Cambridge Battery and related structures (1860s, upgraded 1870s)</p> <p>The Old Laboratory, a magazine near Cambridge Battery</p> <p>1855 encampment site for the 76th Artillery Regiment, corresponds to heather Patch</p> <p>Earthwork near the heather patch (1778)</p> <p>Walker Battery (1855)</p> <p>North West Arm Battery (1762, restructured in 1812 )and its barracks</p> <p>Point Pleasant Battery (1762, rebuilt in the 1890s as searchlight emplacement and part of submarine mining establishment</p>	<p>The evolution of the Halifax Defense Complex in response to changing military technology</p> <p>Military upgrades at the Park and their relationship to major wars involving or threatening to involve Britain and Canada</p> <p>The Park's role in the Halifax Defence Complex</p> <p>The transformation of the Park from a military role to an urban park in the late 19th century</p>	<p>18th-20th century British defenses are distributed across the southern half of the Park</p>	<p>The military features, especially the major forts, are the best-known historic resources in the Park. The Martello Tower is managed actively by the Federal government</p> <p>Stabilization, maintenance of some viewplanes, especially to other Halifax Defence Complex structures and interpretation will make these assets more valuable to the general public</p> <p>Tree and vegetation growth has compromised the structural integrity of many of these resources and obscured their function. Modern CRM principles need to be applied and the vegetation needs to be removed prior to stabilization</p> <p>Shoreline erosion threatens Point Pleasant Battery and North West Arm Battery</p> <p>Soil erosion threatens the earthworks at Fort Ogilvie and at other sites and needs stabilization</p>



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**Table 5.10** Park interpretive themes

Main Interpretive Theme and Resources	Sub-themes	Location	Commemorative Integrity
<p><b>Early British Settlement</b></p> <p>Stone walls relating to the 5-Acre Lot initial land grants</p> <p>Wells (often a rich source of artifacts)</p> <p>House cellars</p> <p>18th-century roads and trails</p>	<p>The 5-Acre Lot initial land grants in Point Pleasant</p> <p>European settlement of the Halifax Peninsula</p> <p>18th-century Point Pleasant as an agricultural landscape</p> <p>The transformation of PP from civilian to military use 1750 to 1800</p>	<p>Green Field picnic area</p> <p>Harbour fields between Fort Ogilvie and Point Pleasant Battery</p> <p>Artifact clusters in various areas of the Park</p> <p>Lt. Gov. Fanning's house and garden (yet to be located)</p> <p>18th century roads such as Shore Road, Prince of Wales Drive and Cambridge Drive, plus several minor trails</p>	<p>The field walls at the Park are the last remnants of 18th century farming and settlement on the Halifax peninsula.</p> <p>Since Hurricane Juan, grasses have regrown and the area now looks closer to its 18th century appearance.</p> <p>Harbour fields stone walls have been scavenged for materials for road construction.</p> <p>Only minor damage from tree growth and hurricane damage</p> <p>Regrowth of trees in a now grassy landscape will reduce visibility of the field system.</p>

## 5.9 Drainage Design

The erosion and rapid runoff caused by extensive ditching, erosion of Park paths and displacement of stone dust create ecological and operational challenges. In some areas, soil saturation can worsen soil erosion or contribute to the wearing away of steep slopes. The deposit of large quantities of stone dust

in low-lying woodland areas can alter plant habitats. The design of an effective drainage system should conserve soil moisture and wetland habitats while preventing damage to Park infrastructure and cultural resources that can be caused by flooding and channel or coastal erosion.





British military engineers created roads in the Park that have endured for more than a century; they also developed designs for drainage infrastructure that could be adapted for use in the Park. Rough-hewn local slate, granite and cobbles could be used to form curbs, gutters, drain inlets and ditch lining to help manage runoff more effectively.

Ultimately, a drainage plan should be drafted to document drainage problems and outline solutions tailored to Point Pleasant Park.



Point Pleasant Battery





Existing washroom

## 5.10 Services

### Water Services

New facilities proposed for the Park have been sited to minimize the need for the expensive and potentially disruptive extension of the water-distribution system. The supply of water in the Park is critical for firefighting to protect the forest and the nearby community, and an important service for visitors and their pets.

The existing water-distribution system within and next to the Park should be examined to determine whether it meets fire-fighting needs. Existing Park infrastructure should also be assessed to see

whether it can provide plentiful and safe drinking water for visitors. A long-term strategy must be drafted to better service Park users' needs.

### Sewage

The siting and upgrading of Park washrooms should be co-ordinated with an assessment of the existing sanitary sewage infrastructure. Washroom upgrading should provide visitors with access to clean and comfortable facilities in convenient locations. The existing availability and condition

of sewer services in the Park and in the surrounding area may heavily influence the cost of washroom replacement. The need to respect cultural resources in any construction will also influence the location and need for archaeological remediation required as part of servicing the Park. The provision of any new underground services—water, sewage or electrical, among others—should be properly co-ordinated to take advantage of economies in planning and construction.





**Electrical**

Currently there are no overhead wires within Park green spaces. Wiring in parking lots should be relocated below grade also. The use of alternate technologies should be considered to supply remote Park locations with electricity in the future, should the need arise.

**WiMax**

Services will be extended to permit the use of up-to-date technological devices in Park management and interpretation and by Park patrons. WiMax is a new technology introduced in 2008 that provides a wireless range of several kilometres. A WiMax router or similar device will be installed at a central location for wireless access throughout the entire Park.

