

WASCANA CENTRE MASTER PLAN 2023  
REVIEW AND RENEWAL

# Stage 1: What We Heard Summary Report

April 27, 2023



credit: Greg Huszar



Prepared for the Provincial Capital Commission  
Prepared by DTAH and Praxis Consulting





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## Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land on which we gathered for the conversations summarized in this report is located on Treaty 4 Territory and Home of the Métis. We also acknowledge and honour Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 within the Province of Saskatchewan. We offer our thanks to the First Nations for their care of and teaching about our earth and our relations. May we honour those traditions.



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# 1

## Process Overview

This report provides an overview of the public and stakeholder engagement implemented in Stage 1 of the Wascana Centre Master Plan Review and Renewal.

Stage 1 engagement activities sought to share information about the project and gain input from the public and other stakeholders on key topics and issues that matter most to them regarding Wascana Centre. The feedback summarized in this report reflects a synthesis of what we heard through all tactics and tools.

## 1.1 Master Plan Review and Renewal

The Wascana Centre Master Plan provides a roadmap to guide future growth, development and sustainability. The role of the master plan is to ensure that ongoing development, both landscape and institutional, furthers the founding vision of Wascana Centre.

The vision of Wascana Centre includes the following five purposes (pillars):



The original plan for the area that now includes Wascana Centre was prepared in 1913. The first master plan was prepared in 1962. The most recent update to the master plan was completed in 2016. All Wascana Centre master plans have a 100 year, long-term vision.

The master plan is currently up for a review and renewal. The 2023 Master Plan will be the 11th Wascana Centre Master Plan. This master plan renewal will expand on the 100 year, long-term vision and include ten-year conceptual deliverables.

## 1.2 Public Participation Plan

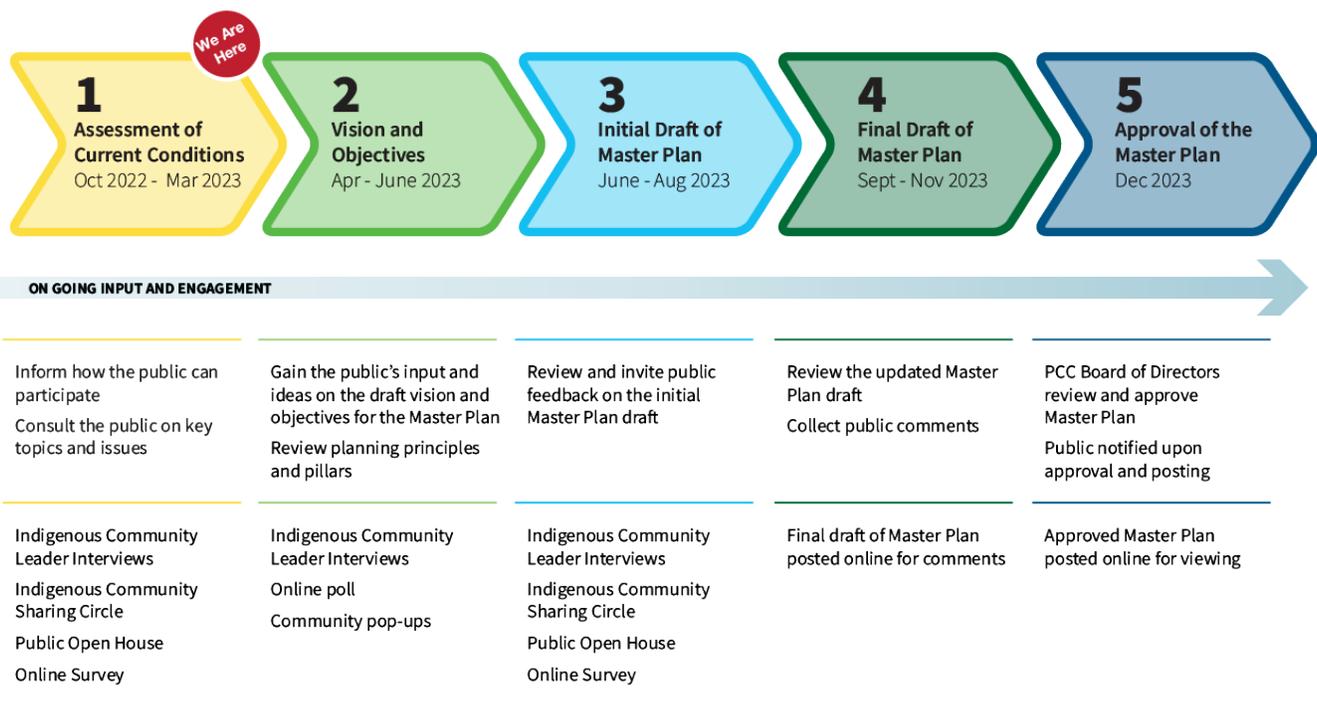
Public and stakeholder engagement is a critical aspect of the Wascana Centre Master Plan Review and Renewal. All Saskatchewan residents interested in the future growth, development, and sustainability of the Wascana Centre are encouraged to participate in the review and renewal process.

The full Public Participation Plan can be found on the Wascana Centre website here:

<https://wascana.ca/pub/wc-public-participation-plan---version-3.pdf>

### Public Participation on the Master Plan

The Master Plan Review and Renewal Process includes five stages. The engagement process follows those stages and includes opportunities for the Saskatchewan public at large and stakeholders to participate in a meaningful way. DTAH and Praxis will continue to work with the Provincial Capital Commission (PCC) Administration, Master Plan Public Advisory Committee (MPPAC), and the PCC Board of Directors to confirm where the public is situated on the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum of public participation at each stage of the review and renewal process. This will ensure that engagement does not build unrealistic expectations for the process or its outcome. DTAH and Praxis will gain input and feedback from a broad range of public participants and ensure all public engagement is conducted with an IDEA (inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility) lens.



## Principles

Public participation for the Master Plan Review and Renewal is informed by guiding principles set out in the PCC *Public Participation Policy (Policy 601)*. These principles will ensure public participation occurs in a respectful and constructive manner.

The guiding principles are:

**Transparent and Accountable:** Public participation will be well-defined in terms of the public input to be gathered and the use of that input to guide decision-making; the results of public participation activities will be publicly accessible.

**Provincial Perspectives:** Public participation will incorporate a broad range of provincial perspectives—community-based, local, and regional—in the development process wherever possible.

**Time Sensitive:** The public will be provided with adequate notice to participate in the engagement process and will be consulted early in the process to be considered in decision-making; public notice of decisions of PCC will be shared without delay.

**Meaningful:** Public participation will be genuine and for the purpose of assisting PCC in decision-making before final determinations are completed.

**Inclusive and Accessible:** Public participation will involve as broad a range of communities, stakeholders, and individuals as possible, especially those directly impacted by a decision, and will be accessible to individuals and groups, providing multiple methods for the public to participate.

**Mutually Respectful and Understandable:** Public participation will be cooperative and aim to achieve a solid mutual understanding of the issues, goals, and expectations of all parties involved; it is recognized that public participation may not always end in agreement, however, the goal is to obtain a better understanding of all opinions.

**Consistent:** The public participation process will seek to be consistent for all proponents; depending on the project, public participation plans may vary depending on the nature, size, and scope of the project.

**Innovative and Continuously Improving:** Public participation initiatives will be continuously evaluated with the purpose of improving procedures and processes.

### 1.3 Stage 1: Assessment Of Current Conditions

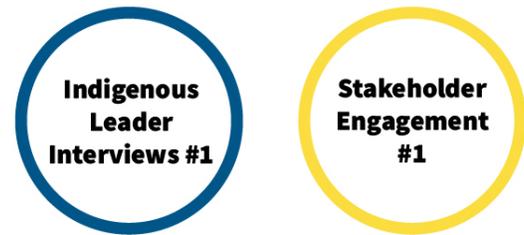
Stage 1 informed the public of engagement opportunities where interested stakeholders could identify and discuss key topics and issues related to the Wascana Centre that mattered to them. There were a variety of opportunities and methods for stakeholders to engage and provide feedback in Stage 1.

#### Engagement events for Stage 1:

Events Completed in February 2023



Events Completed in March 2023



#### By the Numbers



## Stage 1 Activities Described

Details on each of the public and stakeholder engagement activities are described below, including the methods used to generate awareness and uptake for each event.

### Interviews with Indigenous Community Leaders

Eight interviews were conducted with various leaders representing local First Nations and Métis communities and organizations. The list of interviewees was developed with and approved by the PCC. Interviews were conducted by phone, through Microsoft Teams, and in person depending on the interviewees' preference. The interviews took place between February 10, 2023, and March 29, 2023.

Each interview discussed the following questions related to Stage 1 of the Master Plan Review and Renewal:

- What key topics or issues are most important to you when it comes to Wascana Centre?
- Are there any unique considerations pertaining to reconciliation or cross-cultural relations that you believe are important to the future plan for Wascana Centre?
- What place or feature do you like most about Wascana Centre?
- What place or feature would you like to see improved at Wascana Centre?
- What additional features would you like to see in the Wascana Centre 2023 Master Plan?

### Indigenous Sharing Circle

An Indigenous Sharing Circle event was held at First Nations University of Canada from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on February 13, 2023. Ten participants attended, shared food, and discussed key topics and issues that mattered to them when thinking about Wascana Centre. Participants engaged throughout the duration of the evening. An Elder in attendance provided an opening and closing blessing.

Following the opening blessing, DTAH provided a presentation on the Master Plan Review and Renewal process and the current state of the Wascana Centre Master Plan from 2016. In addition to the presentation, 16 panel boards were set up throughout the room. Materials are available for viewing on Wascana.ca.

Project notification and event invitations for the Sharing Circle were communicated using the following media:

Media	Distribution
Wascana Centre website ( <a href="https://www.wascana.ca">https://www.wascana.ca</a> )	• Information was posted on the Wascana Centre web page.
Mail Drop	• A postcard mail drop was distributed the week of the event to homes and businesses within a 100m radius of Wascana Centre (over 11,700 copies sent by mail).
Facebook and Instagram posts	• Information was posted on Wascana Centre's Facebook page and Instagram grid two weeks in advance of the event and the week of the event.
Direct Emails and Faxes	• Direct emails or faxes were distributed to over 25 known community members and potentially interested organizations.
Posters	• Posters were shared with the Regina Public Library branches and posted at the māmawêyatitân centre.

## Public Open House

A public open house was held at Wascana Place from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in a ‘come and go’ style on February 15, 2023. A total of 162 people attended and took part in the event. The open house included a presentation led by DTAH that provided an overview of the Master Plan Review and Renewal process and the current state of the Wascana Centre Master Plan from 2016. The presentation was repeated twice throughout the evening. It is available for viewing on Wascana.ca.

The open house featured 16 panel boards throughout the room that explained the project and showed images from the 2016 Master Plan. Input was encouraged from all in attendance as they circulated the room and viewed the panel boards. An open question and answer period was held following each of DTAH’s presentations.

Following the presentations, participants were divided into four groups to further provide their input and ideas with a facilitator regarding the following questions:

- What key topics or issues are most important to you when it comes to Wascana Centre?
- What place or feature do you like most about Wascana Centre?
- What place or feature would you like to see improved at Wascana Centre?
- What additional features would you like to see in the Wascana Centre 2023 Master Plan?
- Are there any additional purposes (pillars) you would like to see included for land use within *The Provincial Capital Commission Act*?

Project notification and event invitations for the public open house were communicated with the following media:

Media	Distribution
Wascana Centre website ( <a href="https://www.wascana.ca">https://www.wascana.ca</a> )	• Information was posted on the Wascana Centre web page.
Mail Drop	• A postcard mail drop was distributed the week of the event to homes and businesses within a 100m radius of Wascana Centre (over 11,700 copies sent by mail).
Facebook and Instagram posts	• Information was posted on Wascana Centre’s Facebook page and Instagram grid two weeks in advance of the event and the week of the event.
Direct Emails	• Direct emails were distributed to over 260 known community members and potentially interested organizations.
Newspaper Advertisements	• Newspaper advertisements in the Regina Leader Post and the Saskatoon Star Phoenix three weeks in advance of the event (January 25, 2023).

## Public Survey

An online public survey was developed and made available on the Wascana.ca website from February 13, 2023, to February 26, 2023.

A total of 685 survey responses were received. Highlights of the survey findings are included in this report.

The online survey was communicated through the following efforts:

Media	Distribution
Wascana Centre website ( <a href="https://www.wascana.ca">https://www.wascana.ca</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A direct link for the online survey was posted on the Wascana Centre web page for two weeks.</li> </ul>
Facebook and Instagram posts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information was posted on Wascana Centre’s Facebook page and Instagram grid.</li> </ul>
Direct Emails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct emails were distributed to over 260 known community members and potentially interested organizations.</li> </ul>
Sharing Circle Event February 13, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The online survey was promoted at the Sharing Circle Event on February 13, 2023, through posters and QR codes available for all attendees.</li> </ul>
Public Open House Event February 15, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The online survey was promoted at the Public Open House Event on February 15, 2023 through posters and QR codes available for all attendees.</li> </ul>

## Stakeholder Meetings

Meetings with invited stakeholders were held from February 15, 2023, to March 24, 2023. Participants were invited to one of four events targeted at specific groups of users and partners within the Centre.

Over 60 participants provided input that represented groups ranging from community events to maintenance staff, single users to institutions within the Centre. Feedback focused on considerations to support ongoing activation and enjoyment of the Centre.

Stakeholder meetings were communicated through the following efforts:

Media	Distribution
Direct Emails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct emails were distributed to over 230 known community members and potentially interested organizations.</li> </ul>

## 1.4 How Feedback Informs the Master Plan

Feedback provided through each public participation and engagement activity was reviewed and considered in the context of whether it can be addressed using the Master Plan process and is it supported by the existing policy framework. Feedback from each activity was then synthesized by the project team into key themes and messages for the entire stage to help evaluate and identify ideas we heard across diverse groups.







# 2

## What We Heard

Feedback was recorded throughout all public participation and stakeholder engagement events in Stage 1. The focus of Stage 1 was to gain an understanding of key topics and issues concerning Wascana Centre. The following is a summary of the insights and perspectives shared. We extend our thanks and gratitude to everyone who participated and shared their input.

## 2.1 Key Messages

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### Heritage and Culture

Questions about what qualifies as heritage were raised in multiple conversations. Many identified concerns with the narrow definition of heritage and culture in previous updates to the master plan. Many supported creating spaces within the Centre to provide for Indigenous ceremony as well as acknowledging Indigenous presence and treaty rights.

### Tensions Between Uses/Users

Wascana Centre is a significant place for many diverse users and uses. The challenge lies in how to accommodate the volume of users without putting people and sensitive ecological places at risk. Many participants identified issues with the intense use of the pathways and balancing increasing use in more popular areas of the Centre. Some inquired whether there was a hierarchy or priority within the Purposes that could help inform what gets improved and where. Many participants expressed concerns about the potential for over-programming and over-developing well-used areas within the Centre.

### Redefining Landscape Character

Participants acknowledged the need to consider changes to what defines the park landscape and experience. Many identified a desire to adopt more low-impact and sustainable management practices throughout the Centre such as introducing more prairie landscapes and integrating edible plants throughout the Centre. Concerns were identified over how pesticides and chemicals are used and where to limit their use to support more regionally-adapted and native plantings. Participants also noted the desire to prioritize the ecological quality and function of the landscapes within the Centre.

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## Strengthen Language

Many participants want clearer definitions of the uses allowed in Wascana Centre. Several voiced concerns about any uses not currently permitted in the legislation as defined by the Five Purposes, with commercial uses as the biggest issue. Some had asked if smaller scale commercial uses in support of other conforming uses and facilities, such as the Wascana Pool, might provide an acceptable amenity to park users.

## Addressing Representation

Several participants want to ensure all potential users and communities can contribute to the master plan process. Wascana Centre was founded as a space to represent all of Saskatchewan, and not just those in the vicinity of the Centre. There is a strong desire to better engage communities that may not have established communication networks for the project. Many also asked how to best provide communities the opportunity to have an active role in initiatives that directly impact them beyond the master plan update.

## Decision Making

Many participants identified concerns about the authenticity of the master plan process and who would consider their input given recent decisions that have impacted the Centre. Many identified issues with the changes to the composition of the Board that oversees Wascana Centre since the transition to the stewardship of the Provincial Capital Commission. Others also expressed confusion over public awareness for who oversees management, programming, and funding for spaces and facilities within Wascana Centre. All these concerns contributed to a general concern and lack of understanding for how decisions are made in the master plan and the Centre.

## 2.2 Specific Feedback

### Reconciliation or Cross-Cultural Considerations for Wascana Centre

Participants shared a variety of input and suggestions regarding how reconciliation or cross-cultural considerations can be considered for Wascana Centre and the 2023 Master Plan, as summarized below.

 **Create Space for Ceremonial and Cultural Use:** Ensure Indigenous people can pray, gather, celebrate and contemplate, build relationships, and establish spiritual connections in the natural environment by reconnecting to the land. “The ability to put your fingers and toes into the grass is so treasured with Indigenous Peoples.” Establish dedicated spaces for Indigenous ceremonial and cultural uses (e.g. pow wows) that are safe and accessible. Currently there is a lengthy process to request to pray in spaces, and there is little opportunity for urban Indigenous people to practice and exercise their sovereignty. Remove both political and physical obstacles for cultural and spiritual practices. Access to fire, water, and space are among the needs for practicing ceremony. Include First Nations University of Canada in discussions on future ceremonial spaces.

 **Identify a Space for a Sweat Lodge:** Some participants would like to see a space to include a sweat lodge within the Wascana Centre grounds.

 **Recognition of Shared Land:** Recognize Indigenous Peoples as the original stewards of the land, and that Wascana Centre is directly situated on Treaty 4 land. Re-affirm the relationship of shared land-use established with the signing of the numbered treaties. Incorporate the Treaty Medal on the grounds and provide recognition of the Hereditary Chiefs of Treaty 4 in front of the legislature. Provide a land acknowledgement when entering the park and on the main Wascana.ca website.

 **Recognize the Heritage and History:** Ensure that the history of Wascana Centre is told accurately and include the many diverse historical experiences and perspectives. There's a desire for the accurate history and meaning of the name Wascana to be shared and communicated.

 **Recognize the History of Residential Schools:** Provide educational examples of the history of residential schools.

 **Incorporate Indigenous Languages:** Incorporate Indigenous languages into the naming, wayfinding, and interpretive elements and signage throughout the park. Acknowledge the many distinct Indigenous language groups throughout Treaty 4 and Saskatchewan. Include the language of the Métis.

 **Re-introduce Traditional Plants:** Integrate traditional and medicinal plants, such as sage, into the Centre's ecosystem. Eliminate the use of herbicides and pesticides on all plants in the area, including those utilized for ceremonial and medicinal purposes.

 - Indicates feedback heard from Indigenous Voices

✦ **Consider the TRC Calls to Action and UNDRIP:** Consider the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in relation to all elements of the Master Plan. Feature the TRC Calls to Action through plaques displayed within Wascana Centre. Weave reconciliation into all pillars of the Master Plan. Hold an annual TRC Calls to Action commemoration for all people to come together in respect.

✦ **Provide Opportunities to Showcase Métis History and Culture:** Showcase Métis art and culture. Provide information on the history, culture, language, and land base for Métis Peoples. Establish opportunities for Métis resurgence and an opportunity for Métis Peoples to reclaim their identity.

**Incorporate Land-Based Learning:** Provide land-based learning for students in Wascana Park spaces. Include this in the educational pillar.

✦ **Show Commitment to Follow Through on Indigenous Input Received:** Exhaustion is present with some Indigenous respondents as a result of previous consultation processes that have not led to meaningful change or action.

✦ **Provide Culturally Appropriate Engagement:** Be intentional about where Indigenous Peoples are being invited to gather. Support Indigenous-led engagement. Ensure that bus routes and other accommodations for travel are considered. Times selected may imply the gathering is happening over a meal, be clear with invitations and details.

✦ **Support Indigenous Leadership of Future Projects:** Support the desires of Indigenous people to lead something in the park and develop their own proposals and projects.

## Places or Features to Be Improved at Wascana Centre

Participants had several diverse ideas and perspectives related to how places or features can be improved at Wascana Centre, as described below.

**Reduce Motor Traffic and Its Impact:** Reduce motor traffic passing through Wascana Centre. Establish idle-free zones (e.g., around the bridge area). Reduce traffic noise and prevent racing by adding more speed bumps.

**Consider Solutions for Less Invasive Car Traffic at Douglas Park:** Ensure the area remains accessible but consider ways that car traffic in the area, particularly on the road up the hill, can be less invasive.

**Improve Multi-Use Trails:** Address congestion issues on the multi-use trails. Consider including bike lanes along all roads. Ensure cross-country ski tracks are respected and maintained along the pathways (e.g., when clearing the pathways of snow, ensure dirty, sandy snow is not dumped onto the groomed cross country ski trails).

**Improve Douglas Park Trails:** Improve the multi-use trails throughout the Douglas Park Hill area and the Arboretum. This includes improved mountain bike trails and permeable surface trails that respect natural habitat and user safety.

**Improve Maintenance:** Maintain current and future green spaces. Improve maintenance of the east and west sides of the legislative building including the promenade and formal gardens. Ensure general maintenance is upheld including waste management and pathway repairs. Maintain the area around Douglas Park through regular garbage clean up and the addition of recycling bins. Continue to recruit and hire summer students to assist with maintaining the park. Educate park users on how to contribute to park care.

**Improve Transportation Accessibility Throughout Wascana Centre:** Consider opportunities to improve integration with public transit and provide increased service to locations throughout Wascana Centre.

**Balance Parking:** Increase parking in the park at key destinations as well as ensuring designated handicapped parking spaces are provided. Ensure improvements to park amenities account for parking demands in their design and implementation and do not rely on existing parking that is at capacity. Wascana is a great place for attractions, festivals, and community celebrations but it is very difficult to park and gain access to the events. Consider how parking outside the Centre can be used to support special events.

**Improve Access for All Abilities:** Ensure para-athletes can safely access the water near the Marina. Consider a heated sidewalk for better accessibility in winter. Prioritize improvements to pathways that support accessible enjoyment of the park.

**Strengthen Park Use Language in the Master Plan:** Ensure there is greater strength and clarity on the definition of what is or is not a conforming use (e.g., commercial uses and developments).

**Integrate Use of Technology to Enhance Learning in the park:** Integrate technology, such as interactive signage, to connect information on features of the park with the Wascana.ca website. This can enable park users to learn more about the park in real time and while in the park (e.g., a link to an interactive map using QR codes on printed signage could help users locate spaces and features in the park more efficiently).

**Eliminate Pesticide Use:** Support growing of edible plants and medicines through banning the use of pesticides in the Centre. Limit pesticide use in naturalized areas and active park areas where people gather to minimize harmful environmental impacts.

**Monitor Water Quality:** Increase awareness of the importance of water quality and how it is impacted by invasive species, human interaction, and waste. Consider the relationship with wildlife and how it benefits the watershed.

**Prioritize and Highlight Native Plants:** Integrate edible plants and medicines into the park and improve signage to provide environmental education on plants for park users. Consider a Living Prairie Museum (e.g., the 13 hectare tall grass prairie preserve in Winnipeg).

**Restore and Preserve the Prairie Landscape:** Improve soil, water, and air quality to support maintenance and restoration of the natural landscape and ecosystem. Review current stewardship practices such as the management of Canada geese because they have a significant impact on the park landscape. Protect plants, animals, water, and ecosystems and keep the spaces as natural as possible.

**Seek Public Input on New Recreational Amenities:** Ensure public input is considered when deciding which recreational amenities to include. Consider existing uses and new uses collectively and engage public in identifying facility needs and ideal locations.

**Improvements for Lighting in the park:** Some participants mentioned improving lighting in the park to reduce light pollution. They suggested dimming the lights and deflecting them downward, (e.g., lighting near Darke Hall). Others suggested that the lighting at night is not sufficient in some areas of the park, which is a safety concern.

**Improve Accessibility of Bathrooms:** Increase the number of bathrooms throughout the park. Improve physical accessibility of bathrooms and ensure year-round access.

**Focus on Year-Round Activities:** Focus on investing in year-round, all-season activities in the park.

**Prioritize Conservation:** Ensure new pathways and park improvements do not negatively impact habitat and ecological function of park areas. Limit disturbance of wildlife, especially in nesting, feeding and stopover areas.

## **Additional Purposes (pillars) to be Included for Land Use Within *The Provincial Capital Commission Act***

Some participants shared recommendations for additional pillars to be included for land use in Wascana. Others sought out more information on the definition of the purposes and whether they are currently weighted.

New pillar ideas suggested included:

- Outreach to new Canadians
- Truth and Reconciliation
- Climate change
- Addition of space for land-based learning (i.e., expand the education pillar to include dedicated space for land-based learning)
- Land use that supports pollinators (creating a proper mix of habitat for pollinators to thrive)
- Healthcare and promoting health within the Centre

## Most Liked Places or Features at Wascana Centre

Participants shared places and features that they like best about Wascana Centre. Some expanded on their preferences by including ways these places or features could be improved.

### **Appreciation for Nature and Wildlife:**

The natural, green, open, and quiet environment creates an escape from city activities, which is especially important for those without yard space. The landscape starting from College Ave. along Broadway Ave. is nice and relaxed. The nature trails between Broad St. and Albert St., and the natural features including the trees, wildlife (animals and birds) are well liked areas in the park. Consider how the wildlife and habitats are being protected (i.e., are there laws or policies in place to enforce this protection).

**Enjoyment of Pathways:** The running paths made of woodchips are set away from the sidewalk and roads providing a safe option for runners to protect their joints. The path around Lakeshore and the west part of the lake are spaces to enjoy. The fat bike and cross-country ski trails in the winter are also well liked. Recreational amenities and pathways offer places where people can be active and safe.

**Disc Golf Course:** The Disc Golf Course was among the recreational amenities that are well liked.

**Appreciation for Wascana Park as a Gathering Space:** The park provides a “backyard” for many families, who use it for social gatherings and activities. Candy Cane Park and other common spaces are great for family gatherings.

 **Contribution to Mental Health:** The availability of a green space is vital to mental health.

 **Additional Well-Liked Features:** Additional spaces and features mentioned by Indigenous interviewees included Wascana Pool, the Legislature Buildings, restaurants (e.g., Bar Willow and Sky Café), and the Science Centre.

## Additional Features to Be Included in the Wascana Centre 2023 Master Plan

Participants shared a variety of ideas regarding additional features for inclusion in the 2023 Master Plan, as summarized below. Some of this section may repeat topics previously noted depending on how participants chose to share their feedback.

**Enhance Conservation and Care for Nature and Wildlife:** Maintain the water level to address climate change, and support habitat restoration and preservation. Develop natural barriers and bio-retention to help mitigate flooding and sedimentation. Implement measures to prevent runoff from entering the creek or lake. Balance accommodation of various park uses to preserve the natural habitat.

**Promote Interaction with Nature in the Park:** Promote opportunities to hear nature in the park. Designate a “quiet park day” (e.g., Tues, Wed, or Thurs) to accommodate those who appreciate total quiet to enjoy nature.

**Develop Botanical Gardens:** Integrate botanical gardens, edible plants, and berries in the park. Develop a turf demonstration garden that can help educate the public on alternatives to blue grass such as native horticulture plants and turf (e.g., Missouri Botanical Garden).

**Attract and Support Pollinators:** Support floral conservatory and pollinator establishment in the park by planting milkweed around the Arboretum. Consider making the native garden at the southwest corner of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum a pollinator garden.

**Year-Round Access to Floral Conservatory:** Develop a floral conservatory with year-round access and programming. Benefits would include healing and mental health.

**Consider Community Gardens:** Some participants suggested space for community gardens, while others felt these should be closer to where people live.

**Provide Clarity on PCC Operations:** Engage the public on potential uses and changes in Wascana Park, including the benefits and drawbacks of proposals. Provide more clarity around how decisions get made, specifically about what input gets used, what does not, and what gets funded (e.g., are there proposals already ‘on board’).

**Suggestions for Community Inclusion on the PCC Board:** Recommendation to have two to three appointed community members to the PCC Board, as was the case in the past.

**Allocate Proper Budget for Park Maintenance:** Maintenance budgets should match park plans. Specifically, at the Arboretum, watering budgets need to be included so plants and shrubbery can thrive.

**No Further Commercial Buildings:** Do not allow for further commercial development in the park area including commercial and rental buildings. Consider the impact of surrounding construction on the park.

**Consider New Recreational Amenities and Programs:** Create a permanent orienteering course around the park (starting point near Surveyor’s Park) and an outdoor parkour course near Candy Cane Park. (Parkour is a sport activity that involves negotiating obstacles by running, jumping, and climbing.) Provide recreational activities such as snowshoeing, canoeing, and electric scooters. Ensure recreational opportunities are affordable and consider availability of recreational equipment. Offer recreational programming for people to enjoy physical activity outdoors.

**Inclusive Use of Douglas Park Hill:** Ensure Douglas Park Hill bike trails are inclusive by including slower speed pathways and adjusted elevations. Trails need to serve walkers and runners as well (not only mountain bikers).

### **Sustainability Practices for Wascana**

**Pool:** Consider using salt water instead of chlorine at Wascana Pool as a more sustainable option. Introduce better water pressure and temperature control to manage pool cleanliness sustainably.

### **Consider Access for All Abilities:**

Consider locating dedicated accessible parking near facilities that provide accessible programming (e.g., Wasana Pool). Ensure barrier-free access that does not require crossing roadways.

### **Consider Transit Access for**

**Destinations:** Integrate public transportation access for major destinations (e.g., Wascana Pool), especially for those with accessibility concerns and to reduce demands on parking.

### **Improve Consideration for Disc Golf**

**Users:** Create approaches to achieve better and fairer consideration for disc golf users in the park.

### **Address Safety and Security**

**Concerns:** Ensure those using amenities in the park are physically safe, and feel safe using the park, including at night. Address visibility concerns on the through road from College Ave. (along the pool and Conexus) by widening the road and replacing trees with short vegetation. Increase security and police presence on bikes and in cars. Increase the number of security cameras and use signage to remind drivers to slow down in the area. Clarify whether alcohol consumption within the park is permitted or not.

### **Clarify Language:**

Provide clear definitions of what should be considered a Conforming and Non-Conforming land use. Ensure "public good" is a criteria for evaluating projects within the Centre.

### **Improve Integration with the**

**City:** Consider improvements on the fringes of the park to improve connection and continuity with the surrounding city and institutions. Create ways for destinations throughout the park to use open spaces and not just buildings.

## **Additional Ideas for Features in the Master Plan**

- Find ways to connect to other community parks where there is more space, instead of adding more amenities or infrastructure to Wascana Park.
- Improve integration of art and culture.
- Carefully consider siting of park element and amenities (e.g., benches, fitness equipment) to avoid impacts on other features of the park, (e.g., blocking art, impacting views).
- Consider renewable energy options.

## **Additional Public Open House Break Out Session Input**

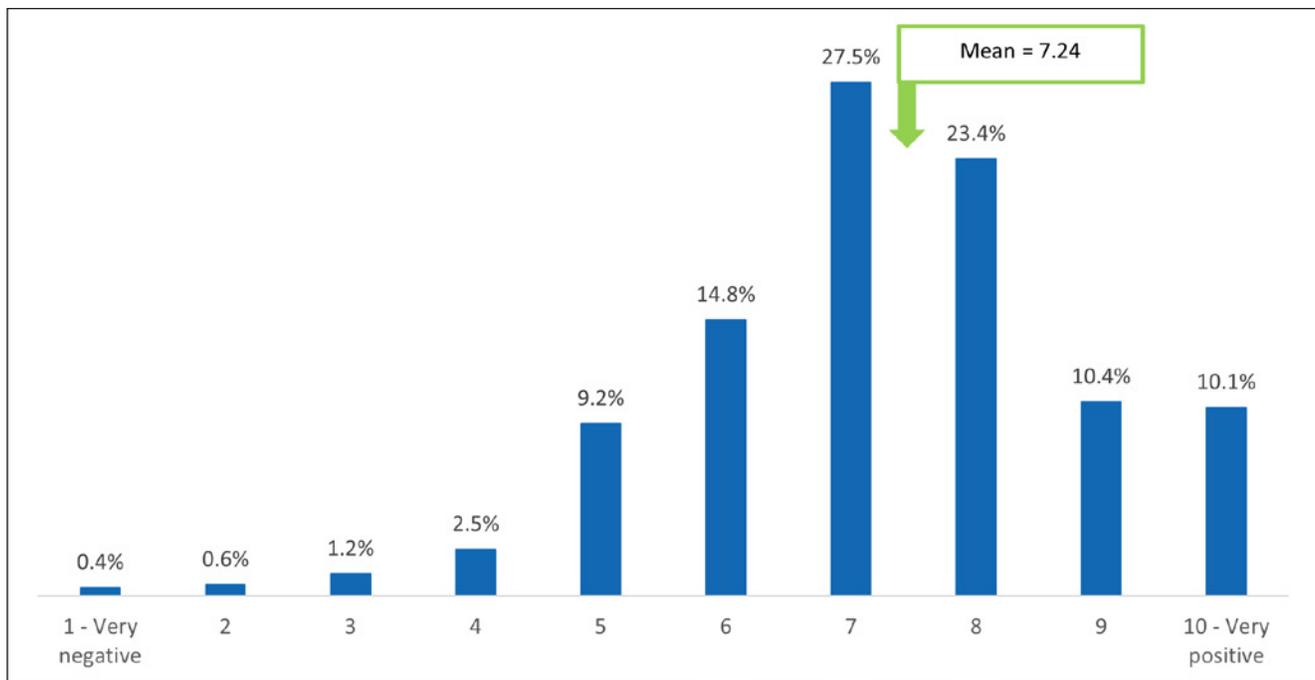
- If everything is successful, will there be competition for space and or overuse of the park?
- How will use be quantified for activities/uses that do not require permits?
- Why are pickleball courts not shown on plans?

## Stage 1 Public Online Survey Highlights

The graphs and descriptions below provide a brief snapshot of the findings from the Stage 1 Public Online Survey. The survey was available over two weeks in February 2023.

### What is your overall impression of Wascana Centre currently?

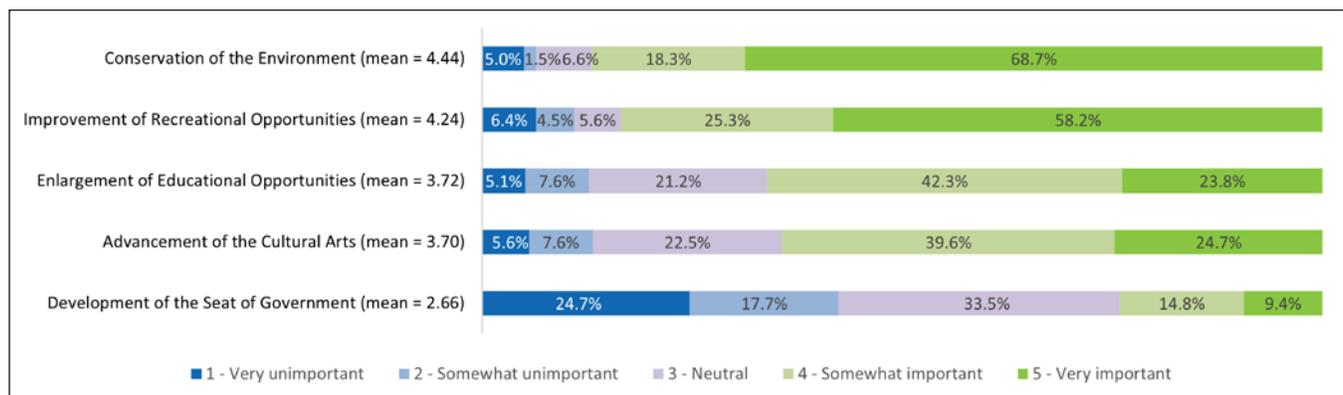
Nearly half of all respondents (43.9%) rate their overall impression of the Wascana Centre at either an 8 (23.4%), 9 (10.4%), or 10 (10.1%) out of 10. Overall, the mean score of 7.24 out of 10 indicates that respondents have a generally positive impression of the Wascana Centre.



### In your opinion, how important are each of these five purposes (pillars)?

Of the five purpose (pillars), importance is rated highest for the ‘Conservation of the Environment’ with nearly nine out of ten (87.0%) providing a rating of either somewhat (18.3%) or very (68.7%) important. This is followed by the ‘Improvement of Recreational Opportunities’ with eight out of ten (83.5%) providing a rating of either somewhat (25.3%) or very (58.2%) important.

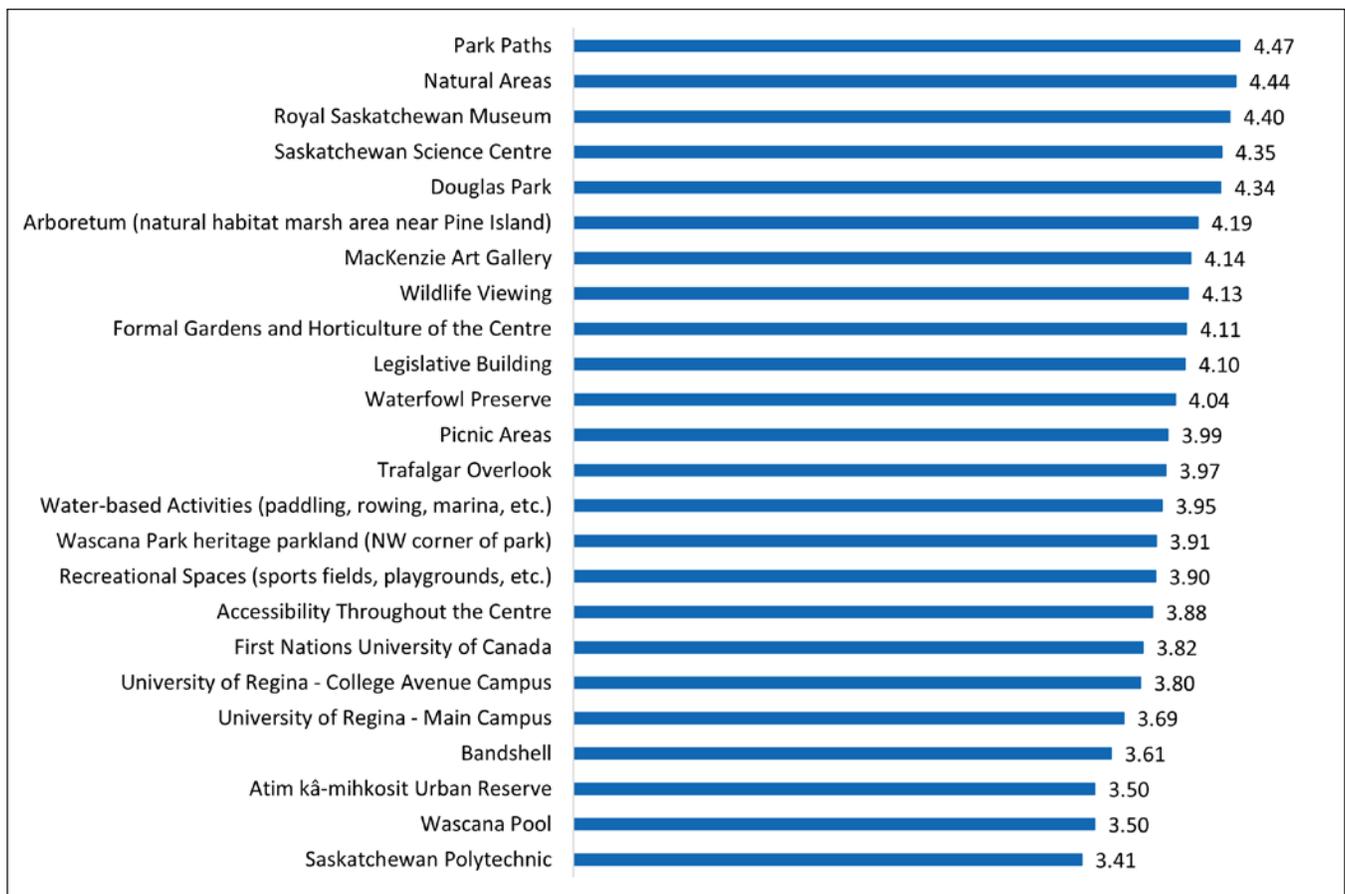
The ‘Development of the Seat of Government’ is deemed to be least important, with less than one in four (24.2%) providing a rating of either somewhat (14.8%) or very (9.4%) important. A total of 42.4% rate this pillar as either very (24.7%) or somewhat (17.7%) unimportant.



**To what extent do you like or dislike each of the places or features within Wascana Centre?**

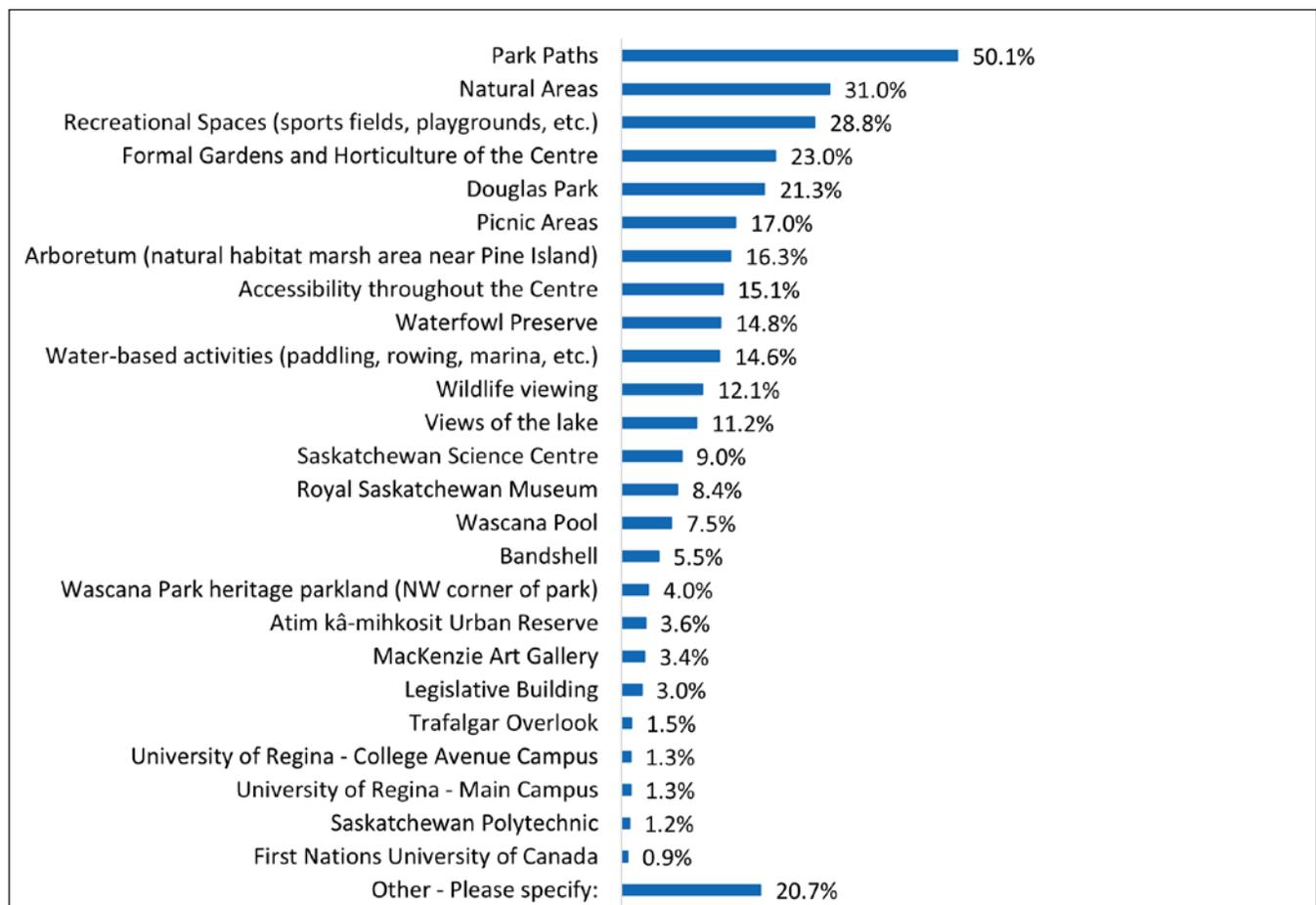
When asked to rate the extent to which they like or dislike a series of features provided, respondents indicate that ‘Views of the Lake’ (mean of 4.61 out of 5.00) is the feature most liked. This is followed by ‘Park Paths’ (4.47), ‘Natural Areas’ (4.44), and ‘the Royal Saskatchewan Museum’ (4.40) features.

While still rated positively, features that were rated comparatively lower include the ‘atim kâ-mihkosit Urban Reserve’ (3.50), ‘Wascana Pool’ (3.50), and ‘Saskatchewan Polytechnic’ (3.41).



**In your opinion, what place/feature/use should be prioritized for improvement at Wascana Centre?**

Half (50.1%) of respondents indicate that ‘Park Paths’ should be prioritized for improvement at Wascana Centre. This is followed by ‘Natural Areas’ (31.0%), ‘Recreational Spaces’ (28.8%), and ‘Formal Gardens and Horticulture of the Centre’ (23.0%).





## 2.3 Next Steps

Following the public participation activities and stakeholder engagement in Stage 1, DTAH will work with the Provincial Capital Commission on a draft vision and objectives for the Wascana Centre Master Plan 2023. The vision and objectives will consider all public and stakeholder input alongside PCC policies and procedures and DTAH's professional master planning expertise. The draft vision and objectives will be shared with the public and other participants for input and feedback as part of Stage 2.

Stage 2 public participation will include a series of public 'pop-ups' where DTAH and Praxis consultants will set up stations throughout Regina to gain input and feedback on the draft vision and objectives through discussion and an online survey. Stage 2 will also include Indigenous interviews. For more information and updates, please visit [Wascana.ca](https://wascana.ca).



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