

Wascana Centre 2023 Master Plan Review and Renewal Public Participation, June 2023 Stage 3: Draft Master Plan

Welcome to the final in-person public events for the Wascana Centre 2023 Master Plan Review and Renewal.

In Stage 1, we heard the key topics and issues that matter most when it comes to Wascana Centre. In Stage 2, we shared a draft vision and updated planning principles for the master plan.

For Stage 3, we are sharing the key recommendations and updated demonstration plans that reflect what we've heard to date.



Feedback

We welcome your feedback on our work to date.

Please speak with members of our team or go to wascana.ca and follow the link to complete the online survey from your own device.

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How Feedback Informs the Master Plan Review and Renewal

While the master plan review and renewal process endeavours to address and integrate opportunities identified through public participation, not everything we hear can be addressed through a master plan process.

Following the public participation activities and stakeholder engagement in Stage 2, DTAH worked with the Provincial Capital Commission (PCC) on integrating feedback to update the draft master plan for the Wascana Centre Master Plan 2023. All public and stakeholder input was considered for either the updated master plan, with DTAH's professional master planning expertise, or PCC's operational and strategic plan as appropriate.

In Stage 3, Key Recommendations have been developed and shared based on what we heard previously. They are organized into two categories to help inform responsibility:

- Recommendations for the master plan; and
- Recommendations for PCC's operations.

What We Heard from Stage 2

Heritage and Culture

- Questions about what qualifies as heritage continue to be expressed.
- Support for the incorporation of Indigenous significance and reconciliation into heritage, history, culture, teaching and sharing within Wascana Centre.
- Support for creating spaces within the Centre for Indigenous ceremony as well as acknowledging Indigenous presence and treaty rights.

Tensions Between Uses/Users

- Overcrowding in popular areas of the Centre, like pathways, is a concern.
- Concerns regarding potential over-programming and over-developing of well-used areas within the Centre.
- Concerns over the accessibility of amenities and spaces with the park.

Redefining Landscape Character

- Climate change and the need to consider more adapted landscapes and management practices are critical to the future of Wascana Centre.
- Participants increasingly consider it important to adopt more prairie landscapes in the Centre, while some participants support maintaining formal landscape designs.
- Concerns regarding pesticide and chemical use and where to limit use in favour of regionally adapted and native plantings.
- Support for enhancing the ecological quality and function of the landscapes within the Centre.

Strengthen Language

- Calls for clearer definitions of the uses and principles related to Wascana Centre.
- Commercial uses continue to be identified as the primary concern; however, many participants also noted that the prioritization of conforming uses within the Centre needs to be better defined.
- The need for the vision and principles of Wascana Centre to be shared in simple, easy-to-understand language.

Addressing Representation

- Participants value opportunities for all potential users and communities to contribute to the master plan process.
- Desire to increase representation in Wascana Centre decision-making beyond the master plan update, through appointed positions or advisory groups.

Decision Making

- Concerns about the authenticity of the master plan process and how future decisions about Wascana Centre will be made.
- Requests for clarity on roles and responsibilities for implementing the master plan, who oversees management, programming, and funding for spaces and facilities within Wascana Centre, and ensuring accountability in the governance of the park.
- Concerns that the Board does not include formalized community or Indigenous input.
- Recommendation to create Indigenous advisory roles to improve representation in decision making and work toward Reconciliation.

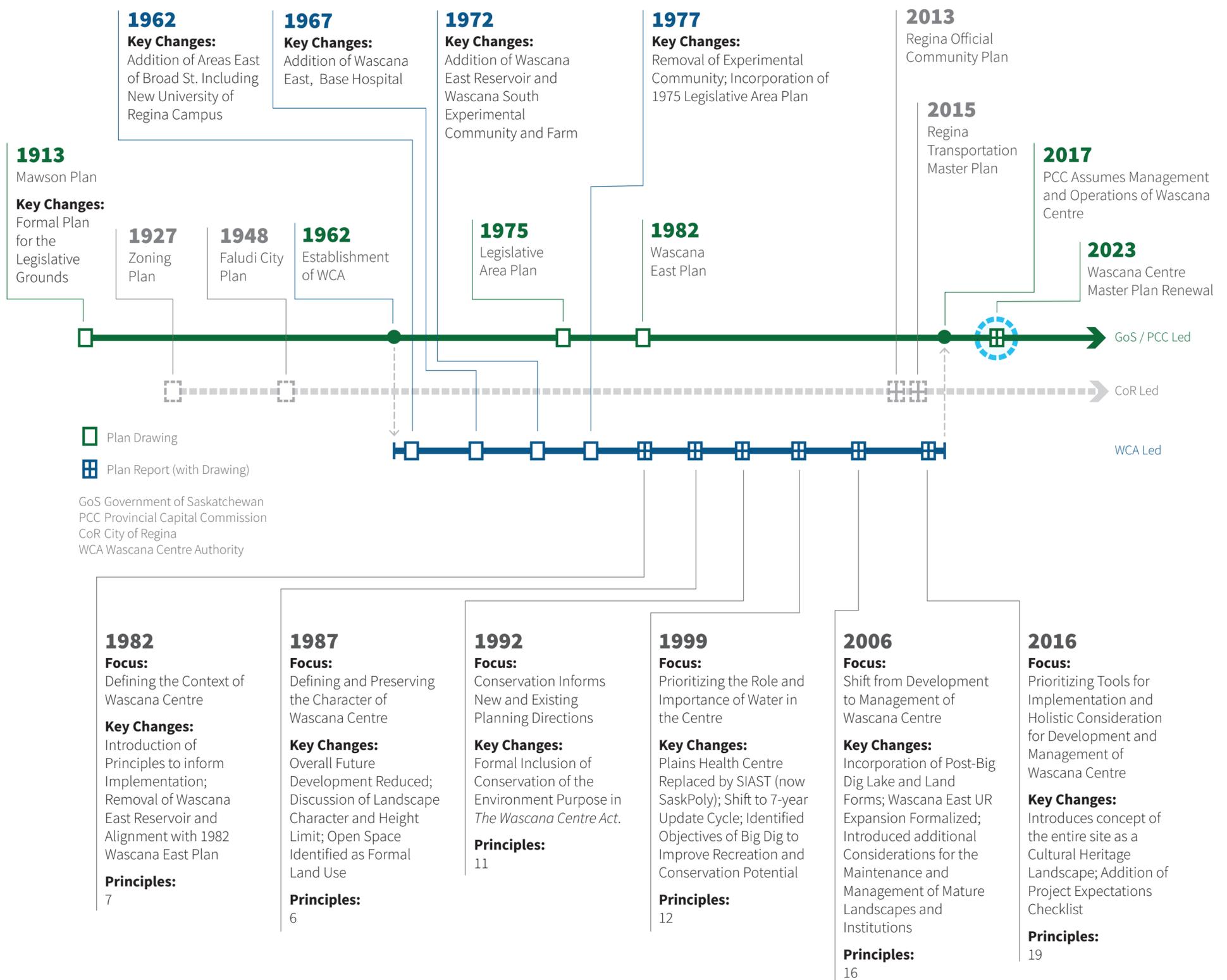
Read the full Stage 2 What We Heard Summary at https://wascana.ca/pub/wcmp-2023_wwh-stage02_public.pdf

Evolution of Wascana Over 110 Years

The concept of Wascana as a place of significance predates the establishment of the provincial capital. However, the first recorded plan for this area was prepared more than 100 years ago to coincide with the development of the Legislative Grounds. That plan set out an organizing framework of spaces that would inform the development of this plan, and laid the groundwork for an approach to stewardship and land management that is unlike any other.

The plan is not static.

Both the form and content of the plan have changed significantly over the 110 year history of planning for Wascana Centre. Uses, spaces, and structures have been added, removed, expanded and reduced. In 1982, a report with supporting planning directions was introduced to explain the rationale behind different shifts in the layout of Wascana Centre. These directions (or principles) shed light on public and institutional priorities for each update.



Timeline: Planning Evolution for Wascana Centre (DTAH)

Reconciliation

In a master plan context:

Reconciliation is a process that requires ongoing commitment and work by all partners. It cannot be achieved with a single act but should be developed collaboratively through meaningful discussion. This update elevates and centralizes the process of Reconciliation to inform the recommendations, including:

Master Plan Recommendations:

Work with communities to identify and designate space for practicing ceremony, sharing Indigenous knowledge, languages, history, arts, and living culture.

Identify opportunities within Wayfinding and Interpretation to integrate Indigenous language and history to elevate awareness for Indigenous presence within Wascana Centre.

Integrate Indigenous knowledge and land-based practices in the management of open spaces.

Operational Recommendations:

Develop protocols to better enable permitting and hosting Indigenous ceremonial and cultural events.

Create permanent, sustainably-funded advisory and staff roles for Indigenous knowledge holders to share practices, protocols, and inform decision-making.

Sustainability

In a master plan context:

Sustainability impacts several aspects of the master plan from how spaces are designed and cared for to suitable and compatible uses throughout Wascana Centre. Sustainability prioritizes the needs, values and benefits of the natural environment as a limited resource over the desires of users within a place. This master plan update considers sustainability through the following recommendations:

Master Plan Recommendations:

Expand opportunities to integrate local prairie ecologies throughout active park and conservation areas.

Leverage ecological functions of habitats and plantings around and within the lake to support water quality management.

Create opportunities to observe wildlife within Wascana Centre while minimizing human impacts on habitat.

Identify performance standards for infrastructure and facilities that support low-emission, low-impact operations.

Operational Recommendation:

Develop pesticide-free management practices.

Equity

In a master plan context:

Equity is concerned with creating opportunities that support users of diverse ages, abilities, socio-economic status and backgrounds within the spaces of Wascana Centre. It considers the needs of the most vulnerable users to support safety for a broad audience, as well as alleviating physical and economic barriers. This master plan update promotes equity through the following recommendations:

Master Plan Recommendations:

Identify opportunities to dedicate active transportation trails to enhance safety for all park users.

Leverage site improvements to enhance safety year-round and at all times of day.

Ensure year-round activities and program sites integrate convenient access to washrooms and facilities.

Operational Recommendations:

Simplify and clearly communicate procedures and protocols for hosting community events within Wascana Centre.

Develop community advisory roles to inform decision-making processes beyond the master plan.

Heritage

In a master plan context:

Heritage explores what makes a site significant through physical objects, experiences, and the stories of the place. It should reflect the diversity and complexity of all inhabitants as well as the rich natural history of Wascana Centre. This update will consider not only what has taken place in the past but what will occur through the following recommendations:

“Heritage is not a catalogue of what is dead and gone, but the texture of daily life and the constant creation of a rich and valuable future.”

- Vision for Saskatchewan’s Heritage, Interim Heritage Council (Heritage Saskatchewan), 1999

Master Plan Recommendations:

Prioritize placemaking and placekeeping as approaches to elevate Indigenous stories.

Expand cultural heritage protections to include significant landscapes and open spaces as well as places of importance for diverse communities.

Identify spaces and features to share and celebrate the living history of Wascana Centre.

Operational Recommendation:

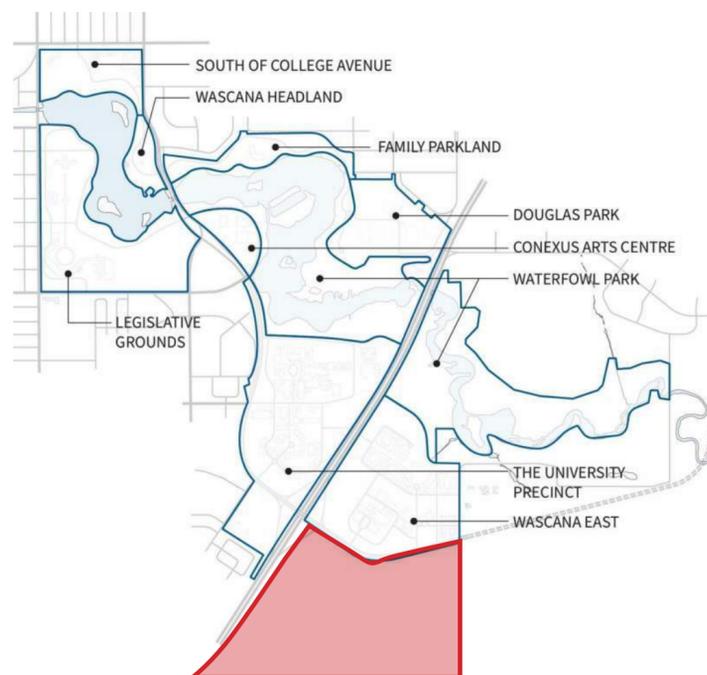
Work with communities to develop land-based approaches to commemoration and reduce reliance on monuments in park areas.



Removal of Wascana South

In July 2023, the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement and the Saskatchewan Health Authority announced their intent to construct a specialized long-term care facility on lands identified as Wascana South. The lands have been used for agriculture for many years, and through the Wascana Centre Master Plan were identified for a combination of community, recreational and institutional uses, but no development or improvements for park uses had been identified.

The PCC Board in accordance with section 4-3 of *The Provincial Capital Commission Act*, through majority, voted to remove this land from the boundaries of Wascana Centre so that the Government of Saskatchewan can proceed with their development planning. This decision was intended to serve the public good.





credit: Greg Huzar

A Vision For The Next 100 Years

Wascana Centre is a place to gather, share, and celebrate the history and diversity of Saskatchewan. It demonstrates stewardship of public land for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations through conservation, recreation, education, and culture.

Principles

Within the master plan, principles provide overarching guidance and intent for how to implement various initiatives. Some principles are broad and apply to conditions throughout Wascana Centre, while others only relate to specific elements within the plan.

In Stage 2, we shared reorganized principles using groups to make them easier to understand. Based on the feedback we received, the principles have been further refined.

Reconciliation

Within Wascana Centre

Reconciliation*

Elevate the role of Wascana Centre as a place of truth-revealing, gathering, and healing for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

Placekeeping and Placemaking

Within Wascana Centre

History*

Reveal the ongoing story of Wascana Centre from diverse perspectives.

Mature and Developing Areas

Prioritize improvements within spaces that can accept change throughout Wascana Centre.

Landscape Character

Cultivate experiences that are true to the unique landscapes and nature of Wascana Centre.

Built Heritage

Protect and celebrate features that embody the legacy and significance of Wascana Centre.

Commemoration^Δ

Create meaningful opportunities within Wascana Centre to honour and celebrate the people of Saskatchewan.

Public Art, Interpretation and Communication^Δ

Engage visitors to Wascana Centre through art, storytelling, and effective information sharing.

Use and Experience

Throughout Wascana Centre

Universal Access

Make Wascana Centre a place for visitors of all ages and abilities to enjoy.

Plan for All Seasons

Promote Wascana Centre as a destination year-round.

Safety and Well-Being*

Ensure Wascana Centre supports safe and comfortable experiences for all visitors.

Recreational Use*

Enhance programming and facilities throughout Wascana Centre to support vibrant and active uses.

Significant Views^Δ

Protect views to landmarks to support navigation and celebrate the character of Wascana Centre.

Views within the Centre^Δ

Enhance lakeshore and pathways views to support placemaking within Wascana Centre.

Surrounding Views^Δ

Ensure buildings and structures surrounding Wascana Centre positively contribute to the park's character.

* New Principle for the 2023 Master Plan Update.

^Δ Revised Principle for the 2023 Master Plan Update. Either combined, split, or renamed from one or more Principles in the 2016 Master Plan Update.

Movement

Within Wascana Centre

Active Transportation[△]

Prioritize safe and comfortable movement year-round for pedestrians and cyclists throughout Wascana Centre.

Pedestrian Trails[△]

Create a variety of pathway experiences to enhance pedestrian movement throughout Wascana Centre for all ages and abilities.

Micro-Mobility^{*}

Provide a safe and convenient network to support short trips to, through, and from Wascana Centre.

Orientation and Wayfinding[△]

Provide an intuitive and accessible information and directional system to help navigate Wascana Centre.

Roads Through Wascana

Create safe and equitable routes to support the needs of people visiting and working within Wascana Centre.

Scenic Drives

Leverage unique views and routes to create significant experiences along roadways within Wascana Centre.

Access Routes and Parking

Create convenient and accessible connections and parking to support activation throughout Wascana Centre.

Stewardship and Sustainability

Within Wascana Centre

Land Stewardship^{*}

Prioritize benefits for the land over the needs of users within Wascana Centre.

Landscape Management

Deliver sustainable and nature supportive approaches to managing the land of Wascana Centre.

Ecological Protection / Conservation^{*}

Prioritize opportunities and management practices that support habitat and wildlife within Wascana Centre.

Soil Management^{*}

Develop sustainable and holistic practices to support the cultivation of living soils throughout Wascana Centre.

Water Stewardship / Water Use[△]

Reduce dependence on irrigation and potable water use throughout Wascana Centre.

Water Quality^{*}

Practise nature-supportive approaches to improving water quality throughout Wascana Centre.

Water Access^{*}

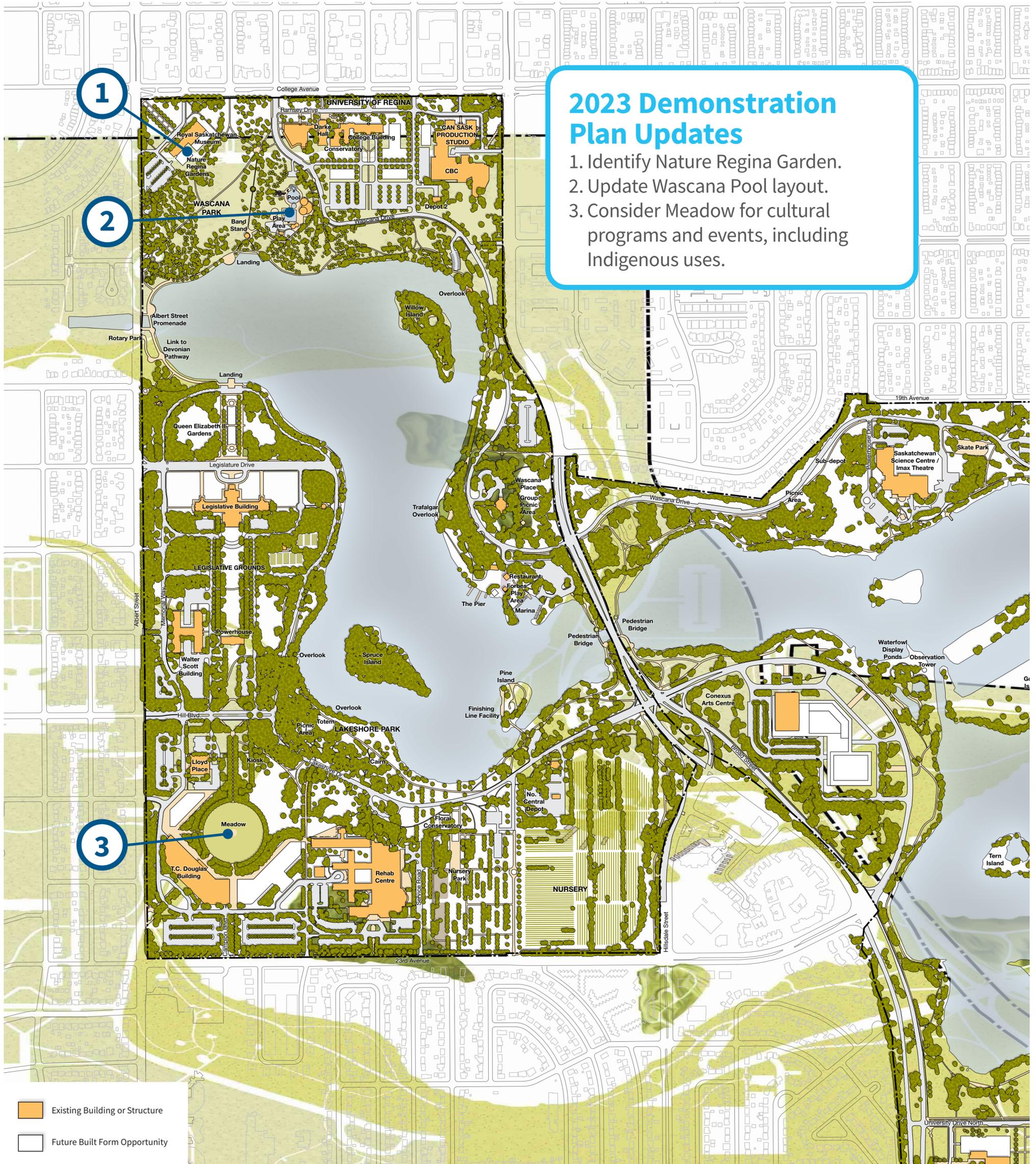
Ensure safe and accessible transitions points to support ongoing recreation on the water within Wascana Centre.

* New Principle for the 2023 Master Plan Update.

△ Revised Principle for the 2023 Master Plan Update. Either combined, split, or renamed from one or more Principles in the 2016 Master Plan Update.

South of College Avenue / The Legislative Grounds / Wascana Headland

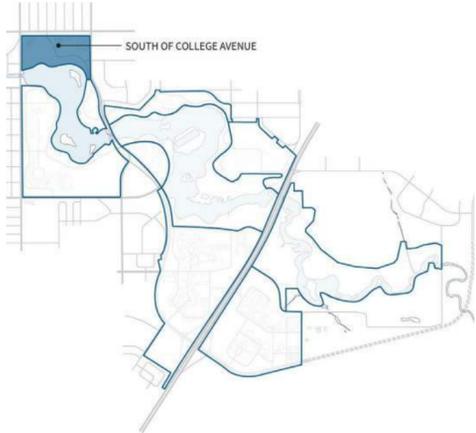
Wascana Centre
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October 2023



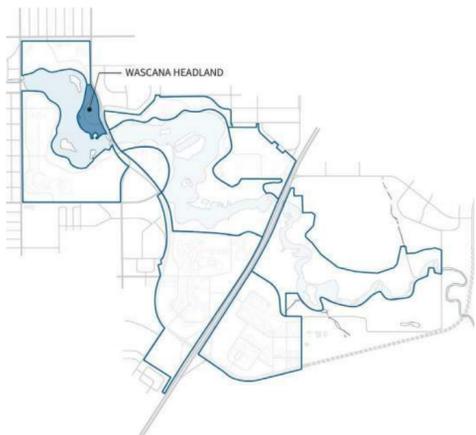
Wascana Centre Demonstration Model

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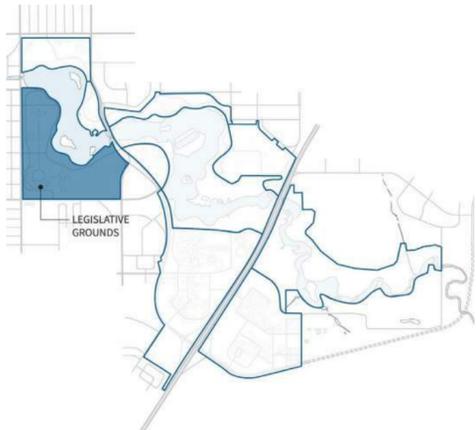
South of College Avenue



Wascana Headland

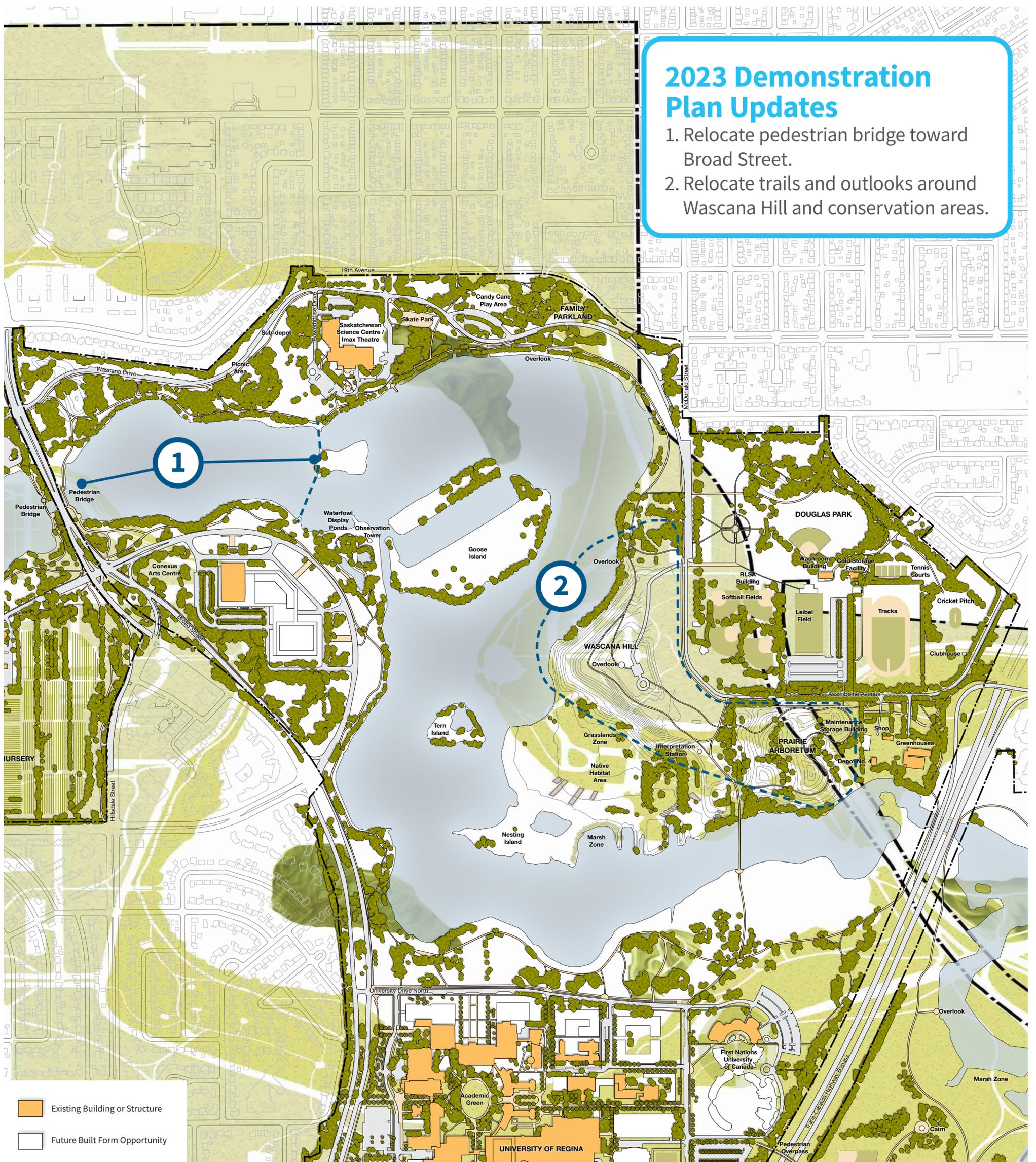


The Legislative Grounds



2023 Demonstration Plan Updates

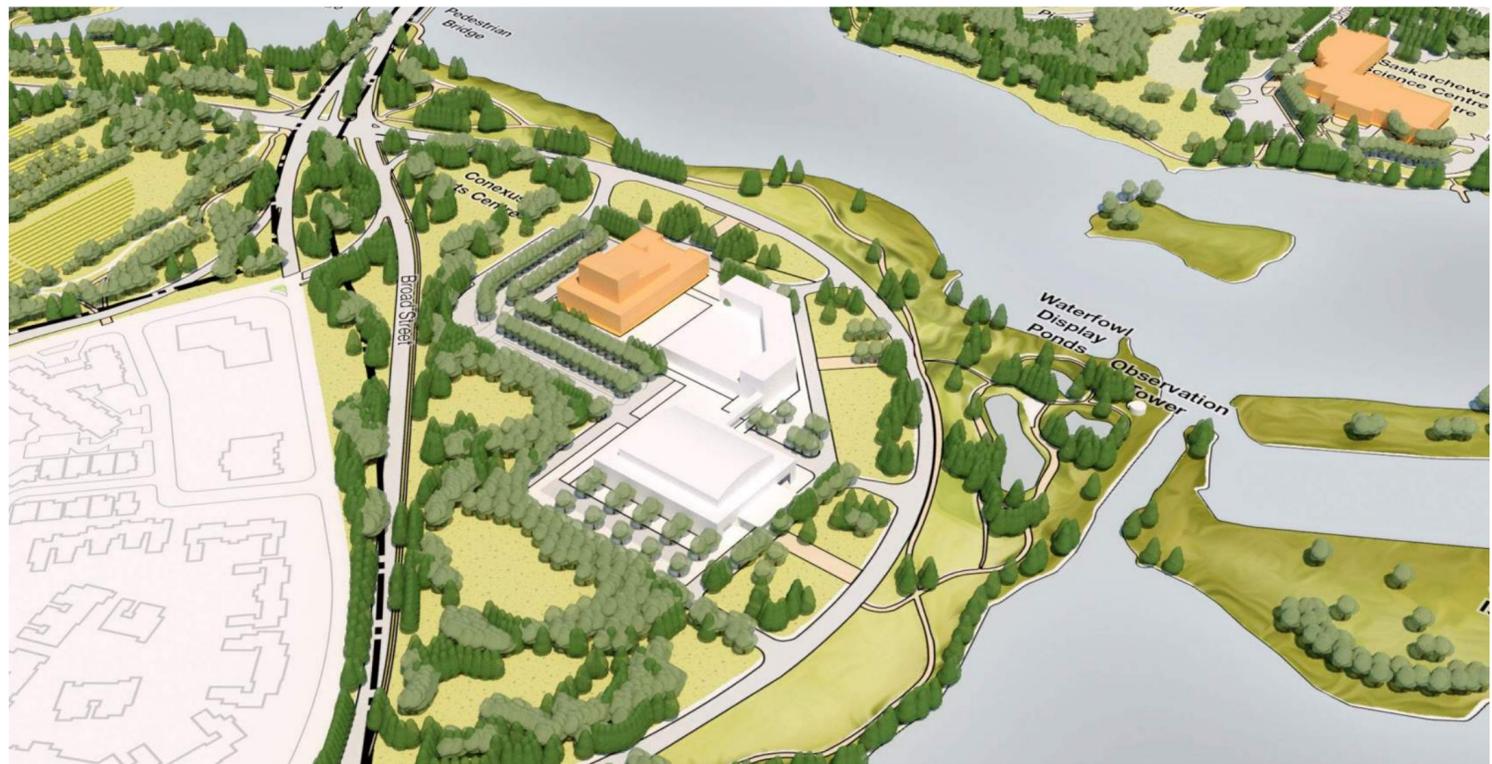
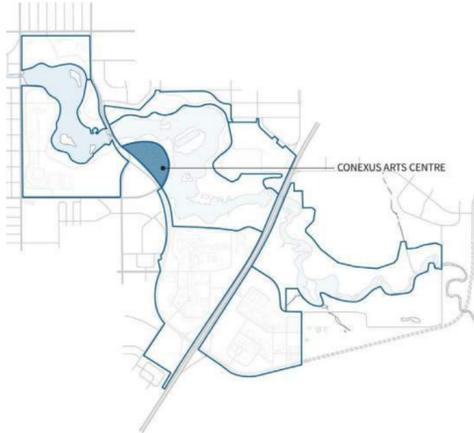
1. Relocate pedestrian bridge toward Broad Street.
2. Relocate trails and outlooks around Wascana Hill and conservation areas.



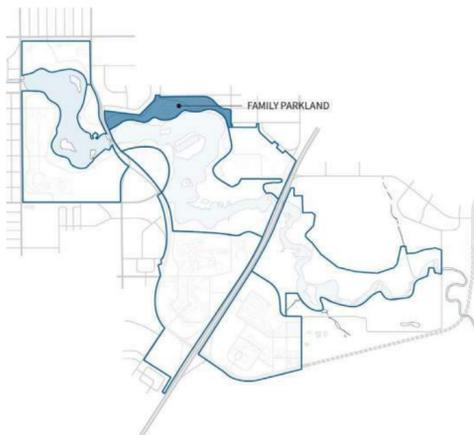
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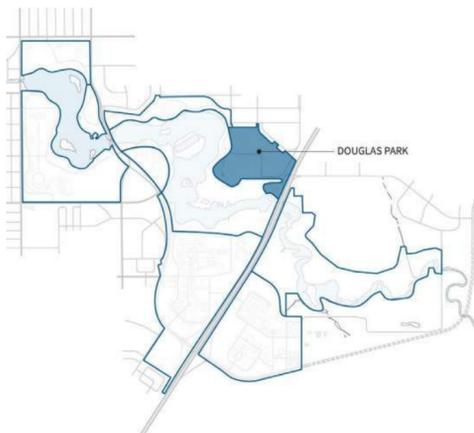
Conexus Arts Centre



Family Parkland



Douglas Park



2023 Demonstration Plan Updates

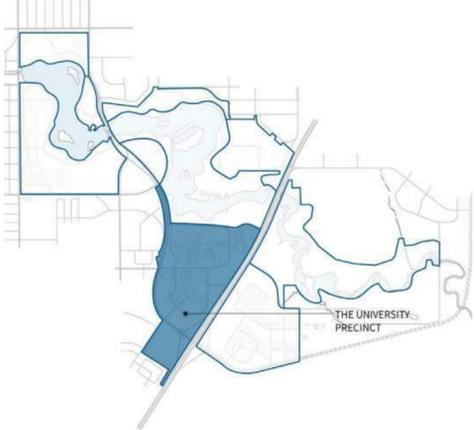
1. Remove Wascana South from study boundary.
2. Show full extents of Waterfowl Park and trails included in study area.



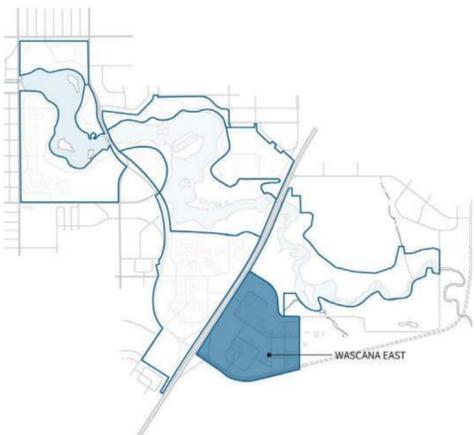
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University of Regina Main Campus



Wascana East



Waterfowl Park

