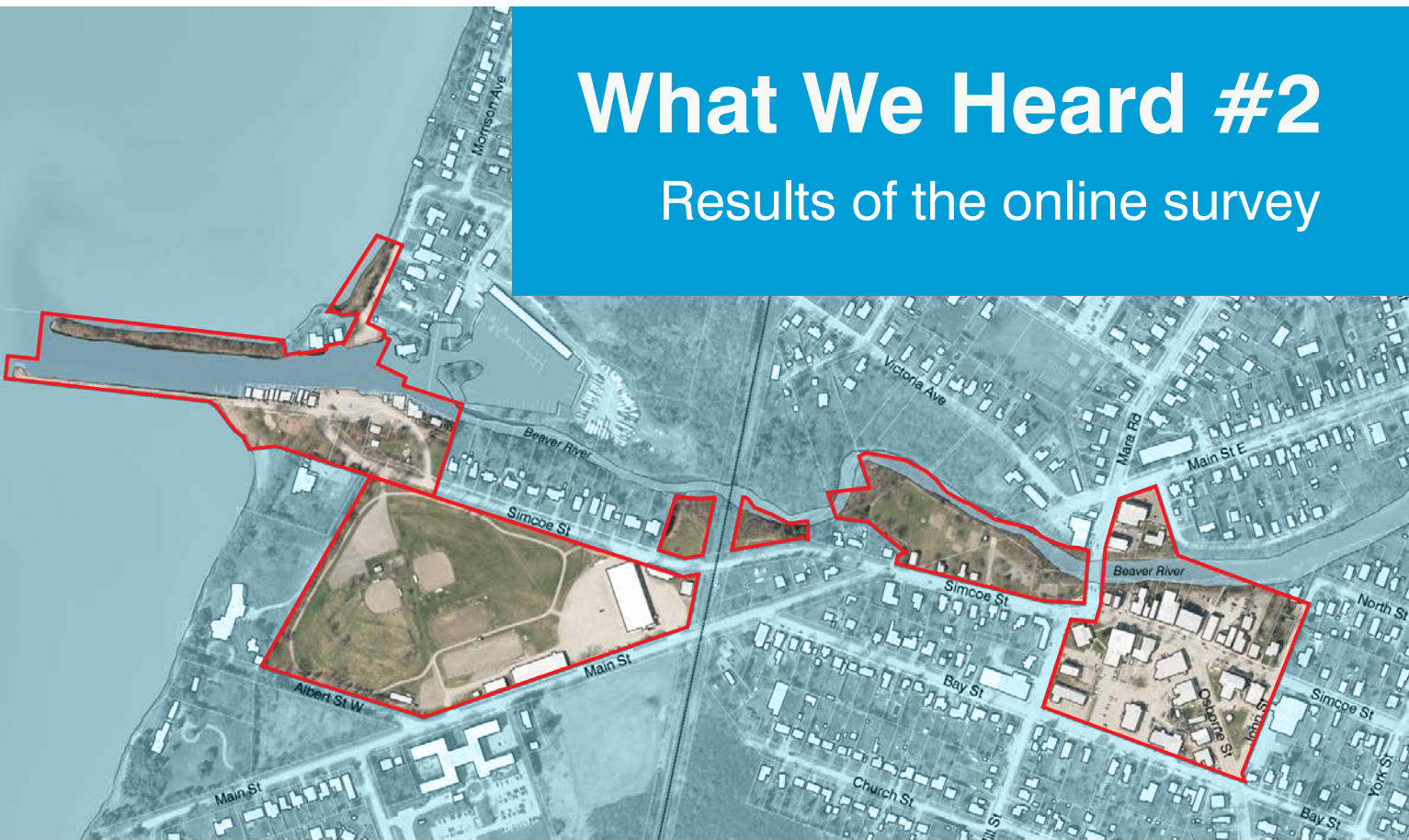


Beaverton Waterfront Plan



What We Heard #2

Results of the online survey



July, 2023



TCI Management Consultants
Baird
PLAN B Natural Heritage

Introduction

The Township is developing a Waterfront Plan that provides a long-term vision for the waterfront on Lake Simcoe and the open space lands that connect Downtown Beaverton to the harbour on Lake Simcoe. The Plan will capitalize on the many attributes of the community and its geographic location.

A public workshop was held on April 20, 2023, to help our team shape three options. The public workshop had a late afternoon and early evening design session where participants were invited to join one of three table groups where designers from The Planning Partnership facilitated discussions to generate one of three concepts.

The options included in this survey represent the scenarios explored at the workshop. The options are purposefully intended to illustrate choices for the study area.

An on-line survey was prepared to seek input on the various components of each of the three options. The survey was posted from **June 22, 2023 to July 14, 2023**. The survey was promoted by the Township throughout the survey period. In addition, comments were received by email to Township staff.

The following summarizes who participated in the survey:

448 people responded to the survey.

Age

- 18 and under — 1%
- 19-30 years old — 8%
- 31-45 years old — 38%
- 45-60 years old— 25%

- over 60 years old - 28%

Household Structure

- Family with young children — 29%
- Family with teenagers/young adults living at home — 23%
- Couple, no children living at home — 39%
- Single — 9%

Do you keep a boat in the harbour?

- yes — 13%
- no — 87%

Do you own a business in the study area?

- Yes — 9%
- No — 91%

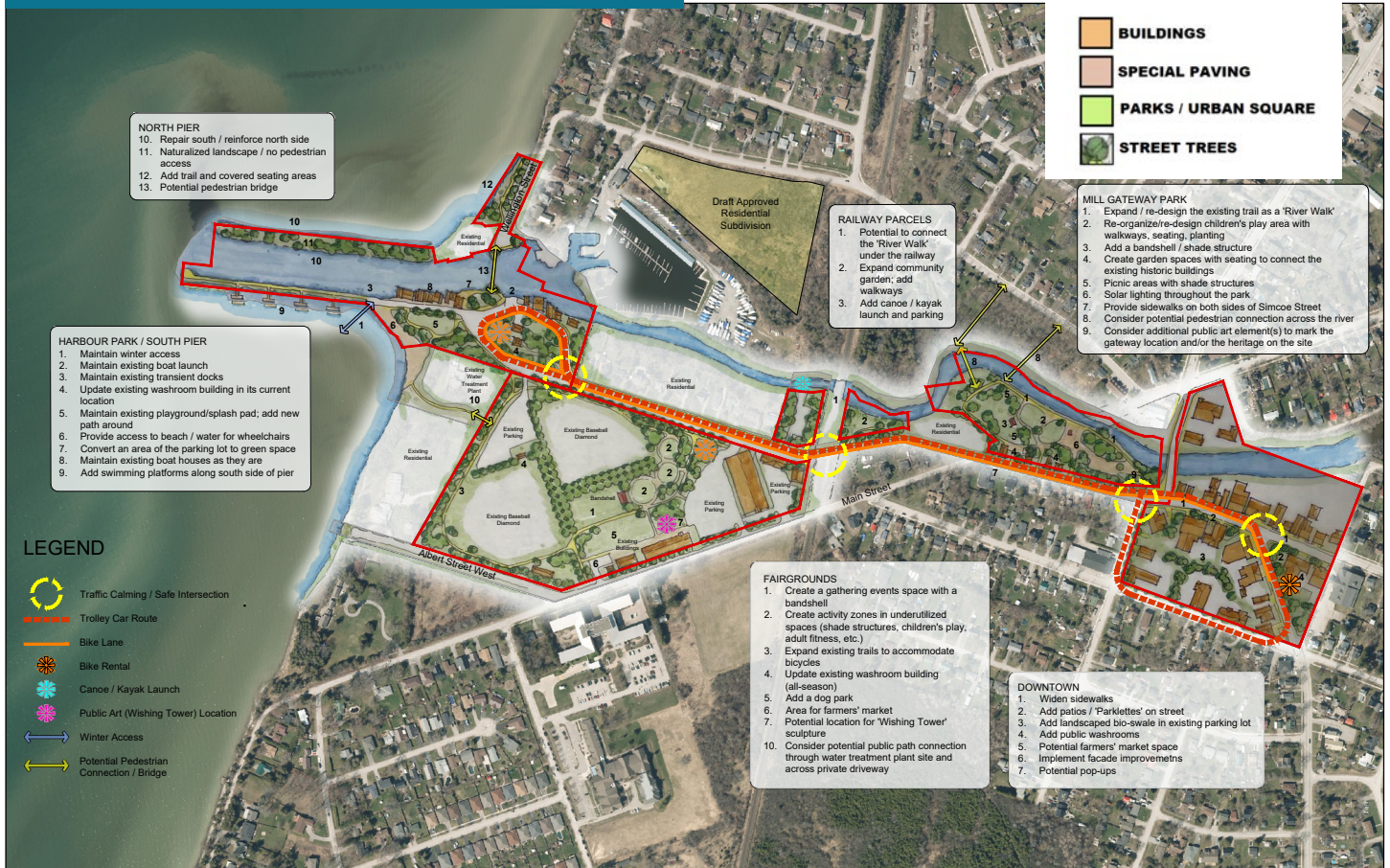
How long have you lived in Beaverton?

- less than 5 years - 19%
- 6-10 years - 18%
- 10-20 years - 24%
- more than 21 years - 39%

What We Heard

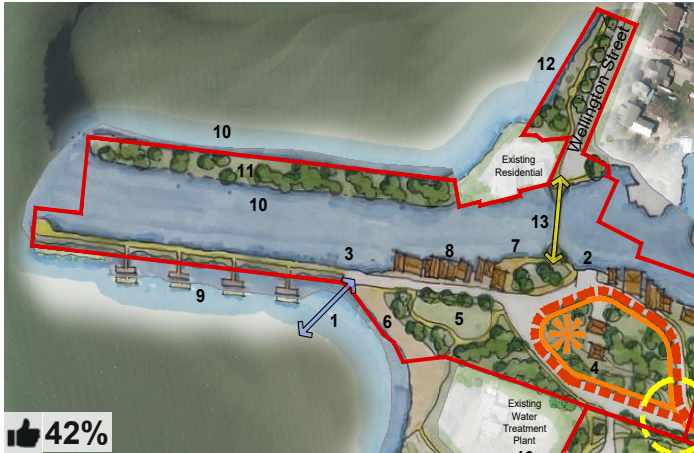
The first part of the survey asked respondents to indicate how they would generally rate each of three options on a five star rating, with five stars being the highest.

Option 1 - 73% Voted 3 Stars or Higher



Maintains most of the existing components as they are and introduces changes primarily focused on improvements to access, mobility and the streetscape. For example, the downtown and waterfront would be linked by a trolley, a bicycle trail and sidewalks.

The second part of the survey asked respondents to indicate their support by choosing thumbs up (agree) or thumbs down (disagree) to the key components of the concept options. The next few pages indicate the percentage of those agreeing with the various components.



North Pier

Repair/reinforce the north pier. No pedestrian access.



South Pier

Provide swimming platforms (#9 on drawing) along the south side of the South Pier.



Boathouses

Maintain the boathouses with the current arrangement for leasing..



Vehicle Access and Parking

Maintain vehicle access to harbour as is with one way travel route.

Components of Option 1



👍 84%

Washroom

Upgrade washroom in its current location.



👍 53%

Public Art

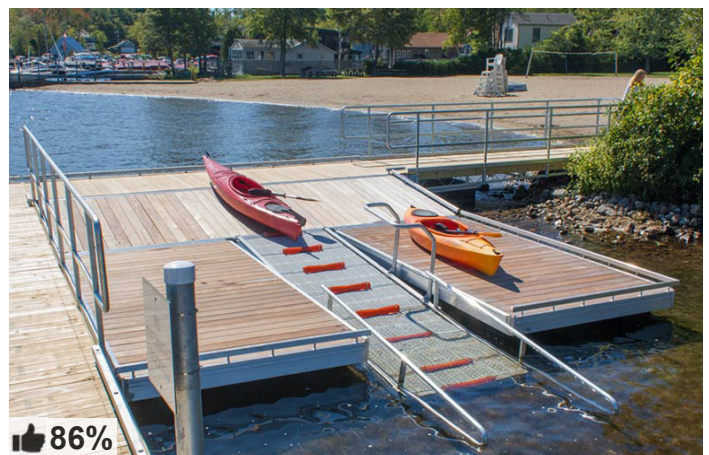
Locate the wishing tower public art in the fairgrounds (pink asterisk on the drawing).



👍 78%

Fairgrounds - Baseball Diamonds

Maintain two baseball diamonds in their current location.

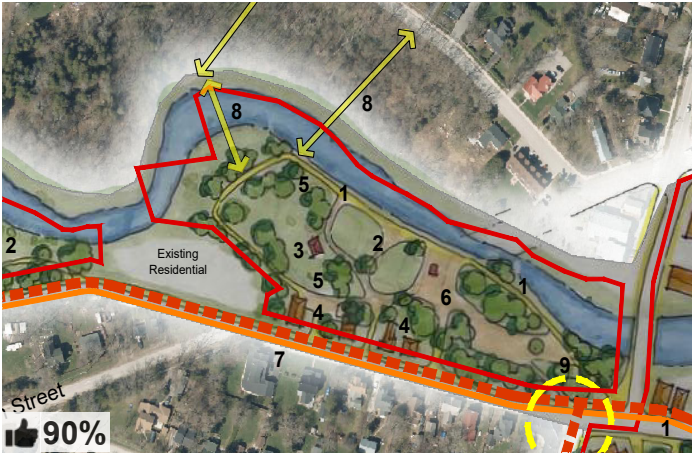


👍 86%

Canoe and Kayak Launch

Add canoe and kayak launch (blue asterisk on the drawing on page 2) along the river on the land parcel on the south side of the railway.

Components of Option 1



Mill Gateway Park

Maintain the play area/playground, however reorganize and redesign the area with walkways, seating, planting.



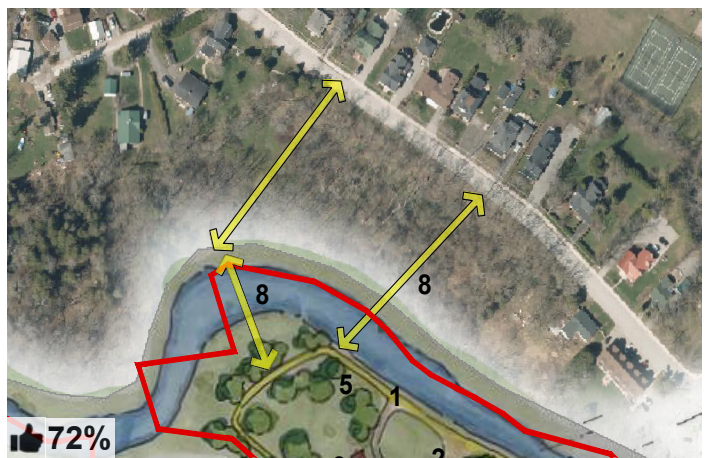
Simcoe Street

Provide a sidewalk on north side of the street.



Harbour Pedestrian Bridge

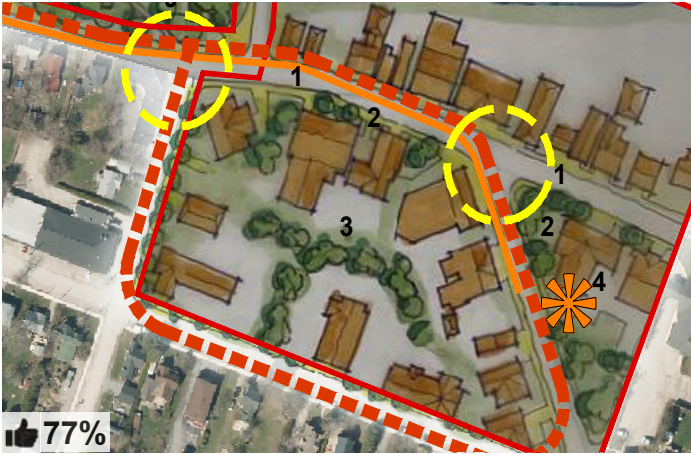
Add a pedestrian bridge (yellow arrow #13 on the drawing) in the Harbour.



Mill Gateway Park Pedestrian Bridge

Add a pedestrian bridge (yellow arrows on the drawing) across the River from Mill Gateway Park to Victoria Avenue.

Components of Option 1



Downtown

Add landscaped areas (#3 on the drawing) to green the parking lot and to allow for drainage.



Trolley

Provide a trolley car (red dashed line on the drawing) for easier access between Downtown and the harbour.

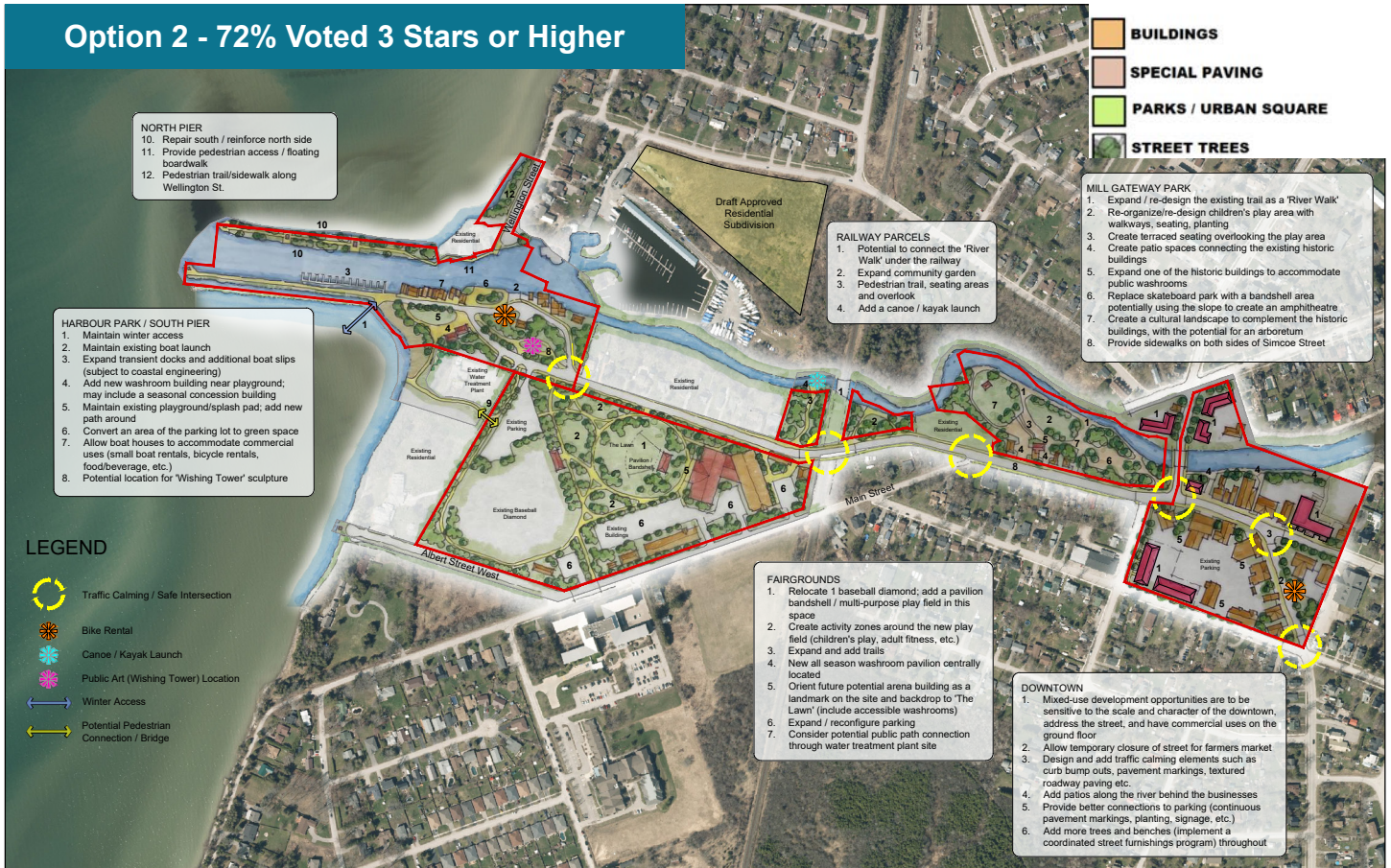


Cycling lane

Identify a cycling lane (orange line on the drawing) along Simcoe Street from Downtown to the harbour.

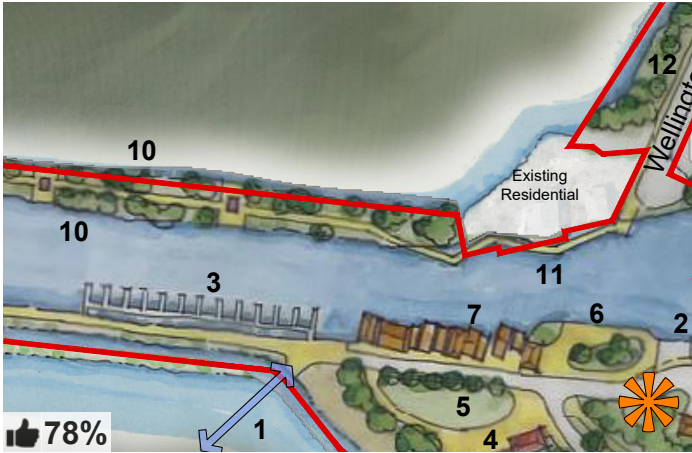
Option 2

Option 2 - 72% Voted 3 Stars or Higher



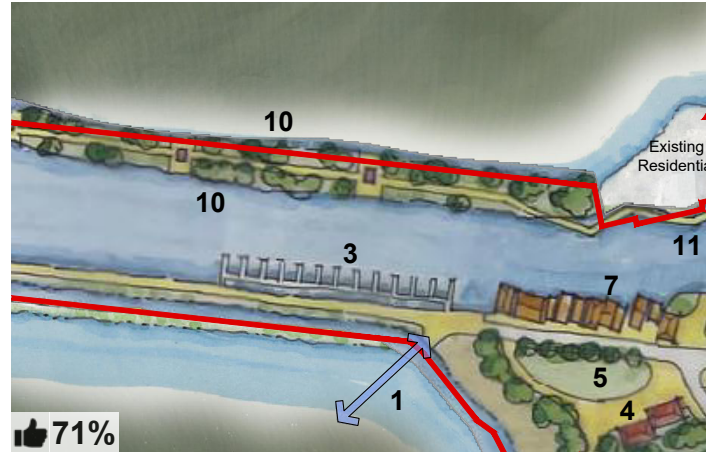
Maintains some of the components, with a focus on a range of passive, active, social and cultural uses. For example, a bandshell in the fairgrounds, a small park beside the boat launch and a riverwalk in Mill Gateway Park would enhance options for users.

Components of Option 2



North Pier

Repair and reinforce the North Pier and provide pedestrian access.



South Pier

Expand the transient docks on the north side of the South Pier (#3 on the drawing).



Boathouses

Allow boathouses on leased land to accommodate commercial uses such as small boat rentals, bicycle rentals, food and beverage.



Vehicle Access and Parking

Convert the Harbour parking area (#6 on the drawing) to a green space with trees and seating

Components of Option 2



Washroom

Build a new washroom (#4 on the drawing) near the waterfront playground and splash pad.



Public Art

Locate the wishing tower public art at #8 (the pink asterisk) in Harbour Park at the top of the hill by the trailhead shelter across from the fairgrounds.



Fairgrounds - Baseball Diamonds

Relocate one baseball diamond and add a pavilion/ bandshell and multi purpose play field in its place (#1 in the fairgrounds).



Mill Gateway Park

Expand one of the historic buildings to accommodate public washrooms (#5 in the Mill Gateway Park).

Components of Option 2



👍 51%

Mill Gateway Park Skateboard

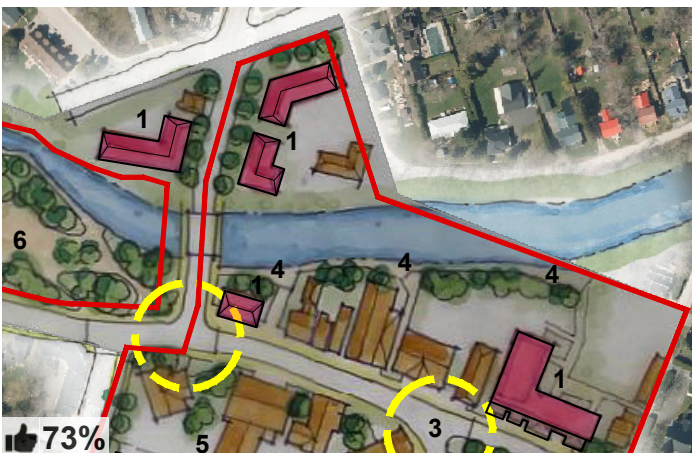
Replace the existing skateboard park with a bandshell and area for outdoor performances. (#6 on Mill Gateway Park).



👍 81%

Mill Gateway Park Terraces

Create terraced seating to overlook the children's play area. (#3 in Mill Gateway Park).



👍 73%

Downtown - Main Street East

Allow for redevelopment of the parcels on the north side of the river. New development with retail uses on the ground floor and residential on upper floors could provide a gateway to Downtown.



👍 51%

Downtown - Mill and Bay Streets

Allow for redevelopment at the corner (#1 on the drawing) for residential uses to enable more people to live Downtown.

Components of Option 2



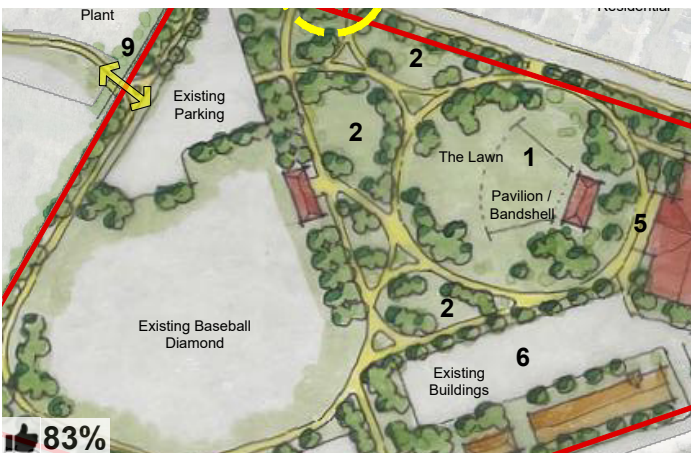
Downtown - River Edge

Allow for patios along the river behind businesses on the north side of Simcoe Street (#4 on the drawing).



Downtown - Streetscape

Add more street trees and seating.

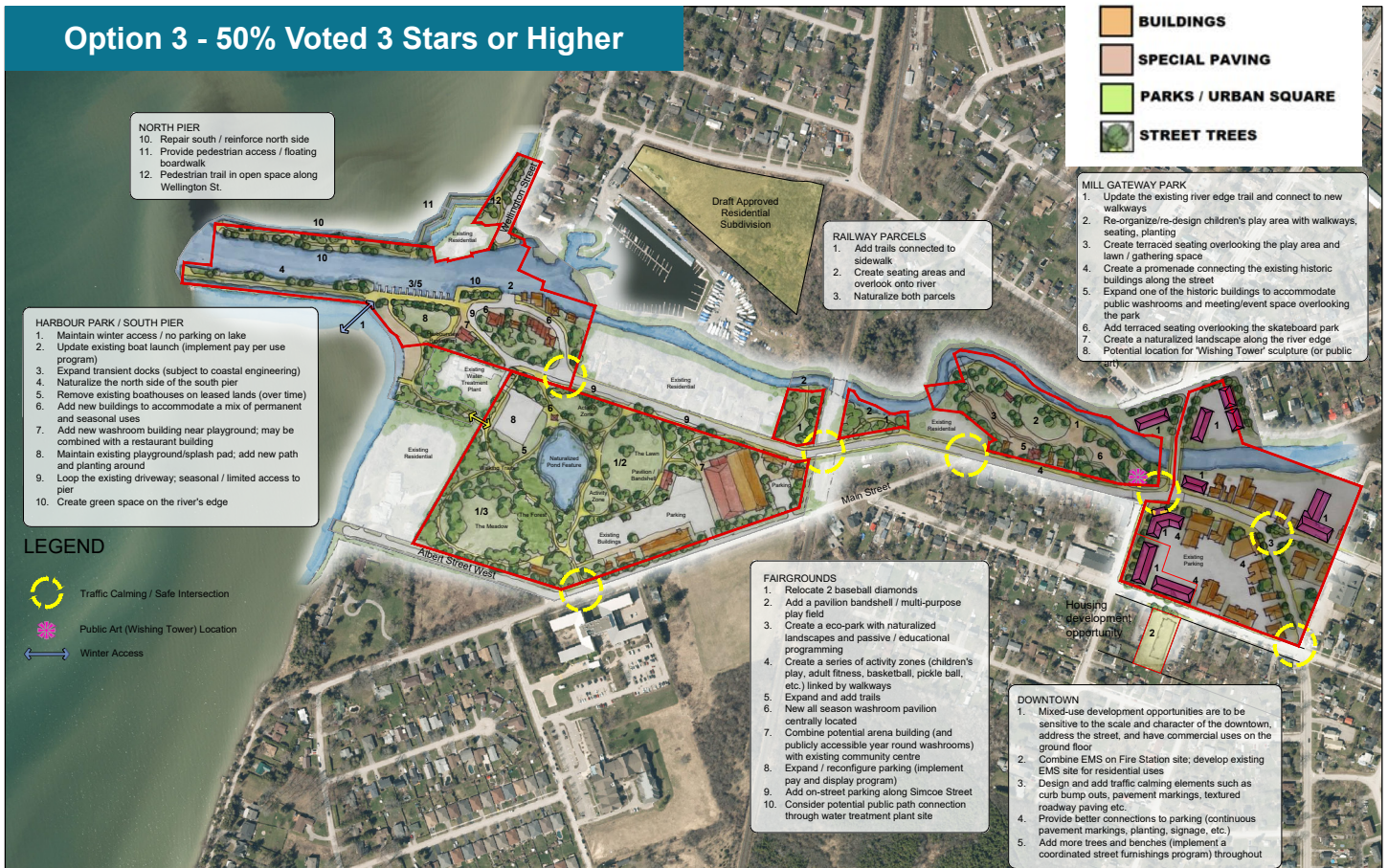


Fairgrounds - Washroom

Build a new all season washroom centrally located (brown rectangle on right edge of baseball diamond)

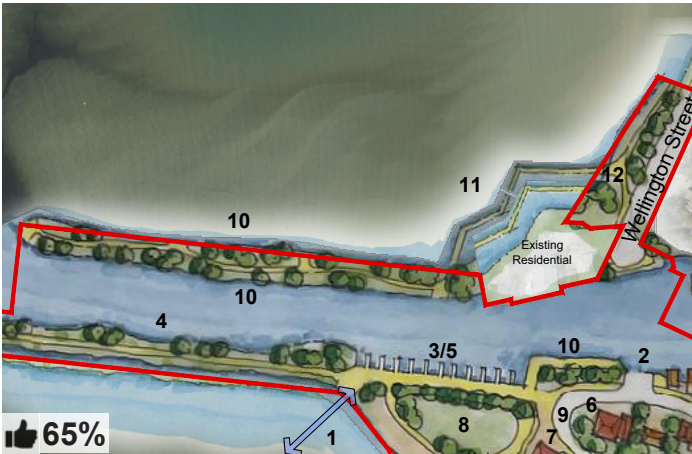
Option 3

Option 3 - 50% Voted 3 Stars or Higher



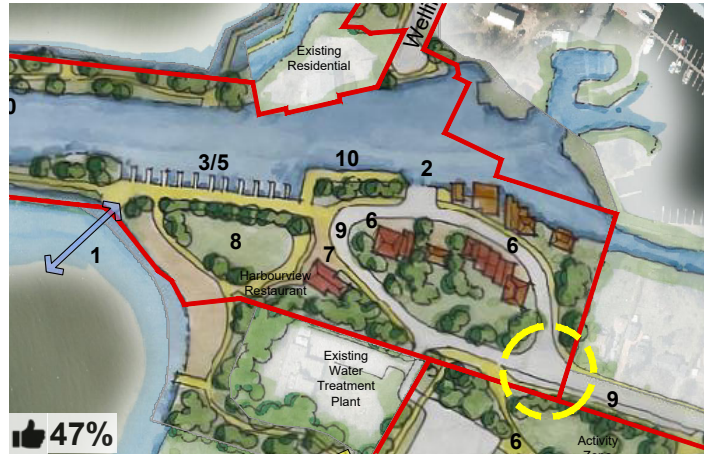
Introduces the highest degree of change with enhancements. Re-imagine the waterfront and fairgrounds as a natural park, and the downtown as pedestrian-focused mixed-use village with opportunities for more housing.

Components of Option 3



North Pier

Repair and reinforce the North Pier and provide a floating boardwalk (#11 on the drawing) to access the pier for pedestrians.



Boathouses

Remove the boathouses (on leased land) over time as leases expire and replace with public access to the water's edge (#10 on the drawing).

- [comment]



Harbour

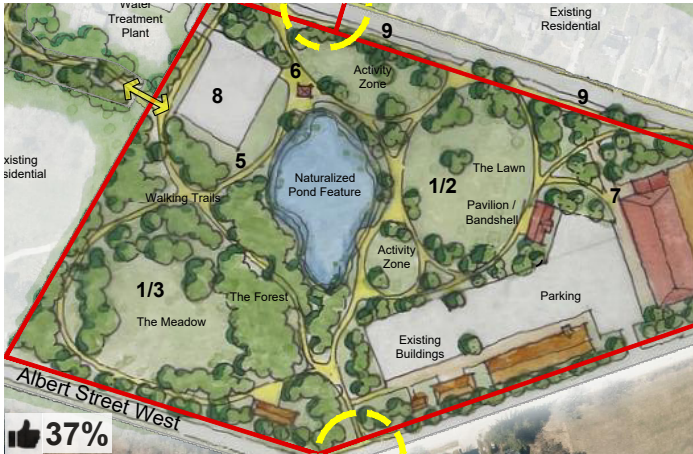
Add new buildings to accommodate a mix of permanent and seasonal uses (#6 in the Harbour Park/South Pier)



Washroom

Build a new washroom at the top of the hill overlooking the playground area. Washroom may be combined with other uses such as a restaurant (#7 on the drawing).

Components of Option 3



Fairgrounds - Baseball Diamonds

Relocate both baseball diamonds and create a multi use recreation and naturalized park, including a pond/water feature.



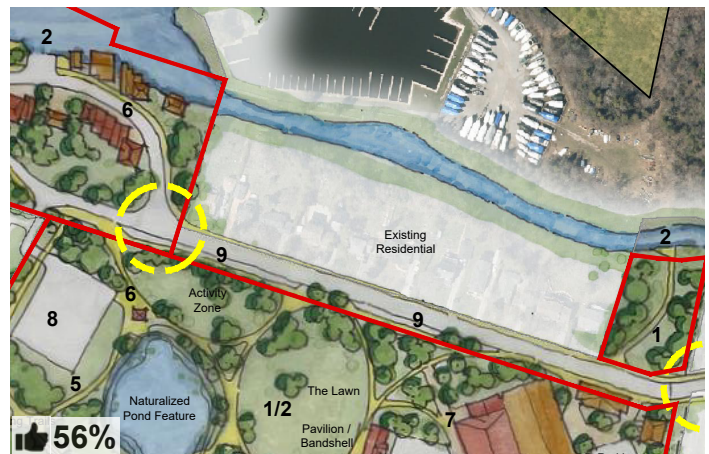
Fairgrounds - Parking

Reconfigure the parking and implement a pay and display parking for visitors.



Fairgrounds - Potential New Arena

Combine a potential new arena with publicly accessible year round washrooms with the existing community centre (#7 on the Fairgrounds)



Simcoe Street

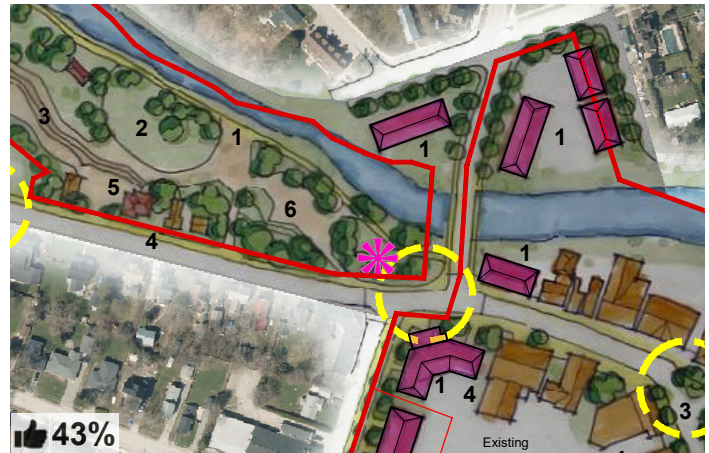
Add public parking on Simcoe Street as lay-by on-street parking on the south side (#9 on the fairgrounds).

Components of Option 3



Parcels on both sides of the Railway

Naturalize both parcels of land and add seating areas to overlook the river.



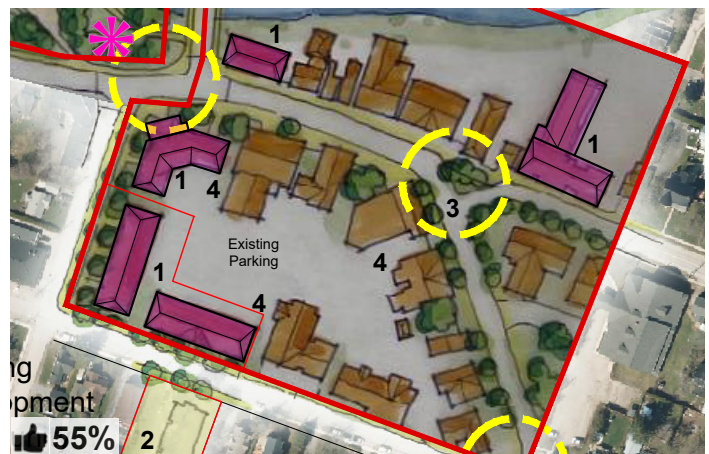
Mill Gateway Park - Public Art

Locate the wishing tower public art at the end of Mill Street in the Park (the pink asterisk on the drawing).



Mill Gateway Park - Skateboard Park

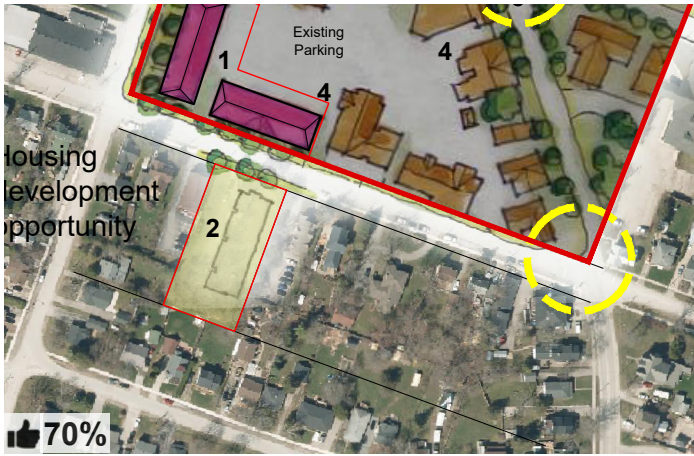
Maintain the skateboard park and add terraced seating overlooking the area (#6 Mill Gateway Park).



Downtown - Mill and Simcoe Streets

Redevelopment of the site of the bank with a building that creates a gateway to Downtown with retail uses on the ground floor and residential uses above to have more people living Downtown.

Components of Option 3



Downtown - Emergency Medical Services and Fire Station

Combine Emergency Medical Services (EMS) on the Fire Station site and develop the EMS site for residential uses (#2 on the drawing)



Downtown - Osborne and Simcoe

Redesign the intersection to enable enhanced landscape and pedestrian environment (#3 on the Downtown on the Three Options to Review page).

Other input

Any Option



Dedicated parking

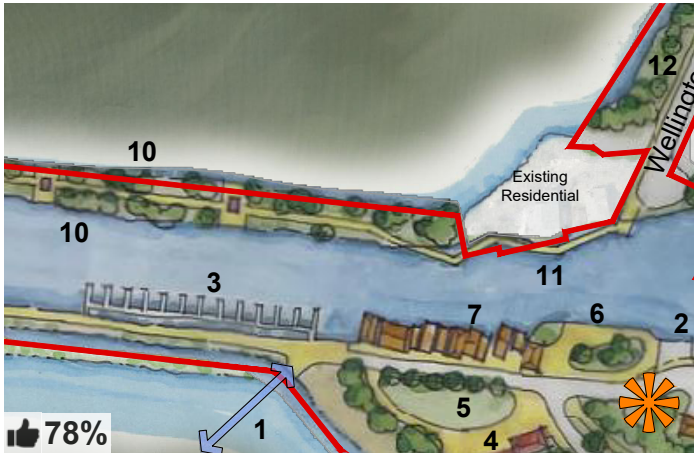
Dedicated parking for boat/snowmobile trailers

Comments were also received through the survey and by email to Township staff. The following summarized input:

- Bridge? Great idea! But is it feasible?
- Yes, update current washroom
- Move winter access to Albert Street to keep vehicle gas/oil leaks out of swim/beach area
- If you remove the existing boathouses nothing is allowed to be built there so why are you offering this suggestion as an option?
- Great ideas: swimming platforms on pier, riverwalk, activity hub/zones at fairgrounds, bandshell at fairgrounds and market space, keep the skatepark; like improvements of playground at mill gateway park; ideal to have commercial use of boathouses, pop up opportunities, yay!
- Please do not construct boardwalk across harbour, nor close downtown for market, no convert parking to greenspace at harbour, already quite reduced in busy months.
- Are you aware that the skate board ramps in the park are well used by children and teens?
- The intersection at Mara and Simcoe Street experience a high volume of traffic, therefore, has this been questioned for seating around that area?. Simcoe Street from Mara to the harbour is very busy and vehicles travelling over the speed limit even aware of the children's park on the North side all year.
- Would sidewalks on the North needing to be cared for especially from Fall to late Spring be at the residents expense?
- There are better locations for a community centre where more space could be available. But it would be great if the community centre could be along Main Street and be joined by a path along the river to the harbour itself.
- It would be great to have one continuous walkway along one or both sides of the river all the way from highway 12 to the harbour.
- Instead of a trolley to take people to the harbour, why not just put up a sign downtown to show people that there is a harbour and a public beach and a map to show them where it is... right now there is nothing to tell you that there is a lake or where it is. A sign costs very little.

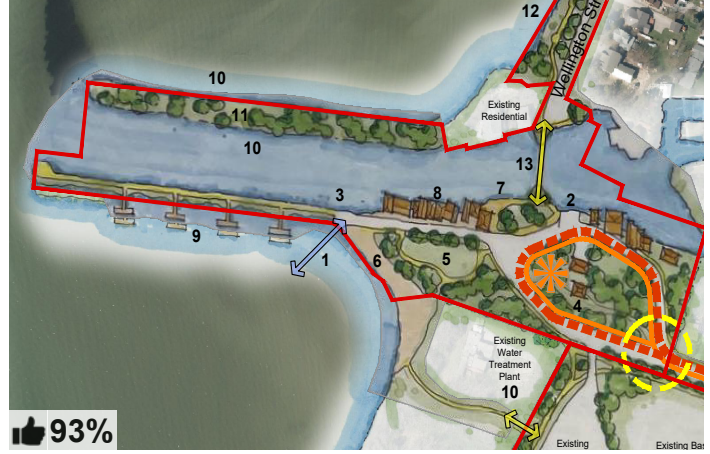
- The beach that is there now is mostly mud. It needs to be improved by adding more sand on a regular basis and having it cleaned on a regular basis. This is essential but not mentioned anywhere in the plans.
- During the time last fall when the sign “Future Location of the Wishing Tower” was located in the upper harbour area, I spent approximately \$250 to order a memorial stone from Beaverton Special Events with the understanding the tower and hence the paving stone would be in that general area. It was specifically my connection to the general location the Wishing Tower was then advertised to be going that led me to order one at all. Had I known the tower, and hence the pavers, would be placed in the Mill Gateway Park or anywhere else in town, I would not have ordered one but would have supported the Wishing Tower with a smaller monetary donation because I support public art, but I would not have purchased a memorial paving stone....
- I bring my case to your attention only because a large number of family members of manor residents walk them in the fairgrounds/ blossom trail/Lion’s Loop areas and I would be surprised if I am the only person who would find somewhere in this general area to be a meaningful place for having some kind of memorial.
- Given that the Wishing Tower project is being funded in part by paving stones, many of which are likely to be memorials, the fairground or upper harbour locations would seem advantageous to the success of the Wishing Tower project overall. Also, in terms of accessibility for manor residents, having something beautiful and inspiring like the Wishing Tower in either the fairgrounds or upper harbour creates one more pleasant destination for them to enjoy outside of the walls of the manor, without any special transportation being needed to get there.
- In fact, all the aspects of the waterfront plan which enhance that area, such as a bandstand in the fairgrounds, development of the boathouses into cafes or tea rooms, or the building of a pedestrian bridge and north shore trails to extend how far one could push a wheelchair without encountering traffic, would all be of great benefit to the wellbeing and quality of life of the residents of Lakeview Manor who are able to go out with assistance, and to the caregivers who take them, and who are constantly seeking simple ways to enrich their loved ones’ lives.

The purpose of the survey was to understand the components of all three options that were most preferred. The following components received ratings above 75% on the survey.



North Pier

Repair and reinforce the North Pier and provide pedestrian access.



South Pier

Provide swimming platforms (#9 on drawing) along the south side of the South Pier.



Boathouses

Allow boathouses on leased land to accommodate commercial uses such as small boat rentals, bicycle rentals, food and beverage.



Vehicle Access and Parking

Maintain vehicle access to harbour as is with one way travel route.



Washroom

Upgrade washroom in its current location.



Public Art

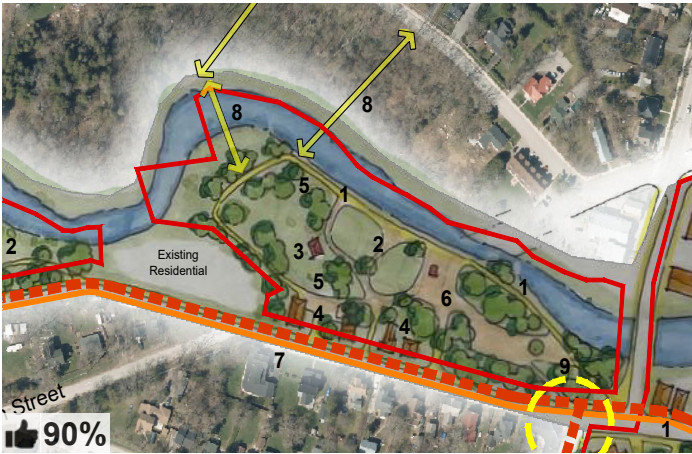
Locate the wishing tower public art at #8 (the pink asterisk) in Harbour Park at the top of the hill by the trailhead shelter across from the fairgrounds.



Fairgrounds - Baseball Diamonds
 Maintain two baseball diamonds in their current location.



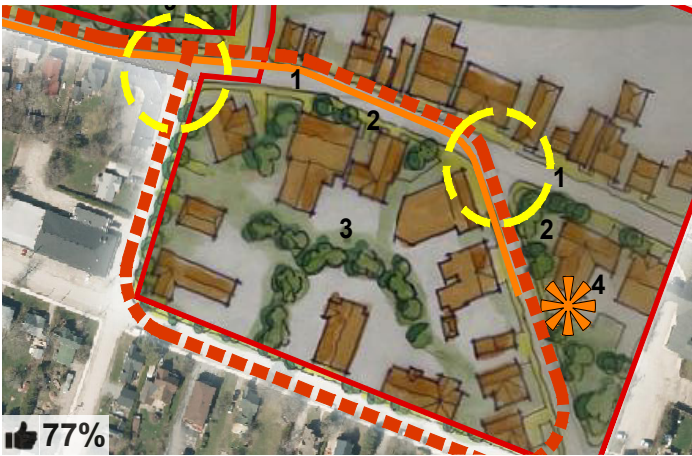
Canoe and Kayak Launch
 Add canoe and kayak launch (blue asterisk on the drawing on page 2) along the river on the land parcel on the south side of the railway.



Mill Gateway Park
 Maintain the play area/playground, however reorganize and redesign the area with walkways, seating, planting.



Simcoe Street
 Provide a sidewalk on north side of the street.



Downtown
 Add landscaped areas (#3 on the drawing) to green the parking lot and to allow for drainage.



Mill Gateway Park Terraces
 Create terraced seating to overlook the children's play area. (#3 in Mill Gateway Park).



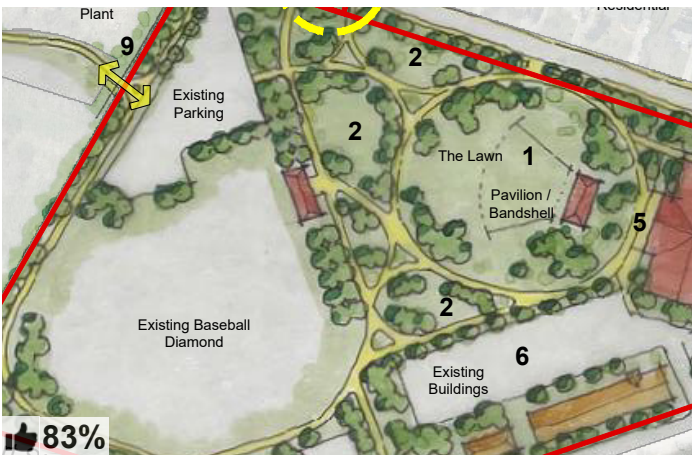
Downtown - River Edge

Allow for patios along the river behind businesses on the north side of Simcoe Street (#4 on the drawing).



Downtown - Streetscape

Add more street trees and seating.



Fairgrounds - Washroom

Build a new all season washroom centrally located (brown rectangle on right edge of baseball diamond)



Parcels on both sides of the Railway

Naturalize both parcels of land and add seating areas to overlook the river.

