

ourWascana: Final Report

Submitted to Wascana Centre Authority
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intelligent futures



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Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of the engagement and visioning component of the Wascana Centre Authority Comprehensive Review project—known publicly as ourWascana. This represents a key transition point for the overall project. The Vision and Descriptions of Success will provide the necessary direction for the ensuing work on organizational review by the Conroy Ross team. In addition, the key trends, measures of success and primary issue highlights provide further information and context for this final work of the Comprehensive Review Project.

These elements are the result of an extensive engagement process that spanned 10 weeks between May and October. During this period, more than 3,300 individuals responded to a range of questions, resulting in over 8,000 ideas. The process was successful in obtaining a wide range of views and ideas on the current state and future hopes for Wascana Centre. While there were many recommendations for changes, the overall theme of the feedback could be summarized as: “Make sure to protect and enhance what is already there.” It is clear that the community places a great value on Wascana Centre and there is no substantial desire to change its overall character.

Vision for Wascana Centre

Wascana Centre is a masterpiece on the prairies, a legacy that is a cornerstone of our capital city and our province—a place welcoming to everyone. It's our Wascana.

Descriptions of Success

Wascana Centre provides a diversity of activity: Wascana Centre provides a wide variety of activities for the community throughout the year. These activities span community celebrations to quiet reflection; structured and unstructured recreation; debate and decision-making; cultural and educational activities; and a variety of social gathering spaces.

Wascana Centre is a beautiful place: Wascana Centre is a beautiful oasis in the city. The design and maintenance of a variety of natural spaces provide opportunities to connect with nature. The buildings and infrastructure complement the park setting, adding to the beauty of the Centre and reflecting the highest design standards.

Wascana Centre has a positive environmental impact: Wascana Centre is a model for environmental sustainability. Through the design, operation and maintenance of natural and built spaces, its environmental impact and ecological health are continually monitored and improved.

Wascana Centre is accessible to everyone: Wascana Centre is a democratic space. It is Regina's back yard, Saskatchewan's Capital and is available to all citizens. The needs of a growing and diverse population are met here and there are no barriers to enjoying all that Wascana Centre has to offer.



Inagural meeting of Wascana Centre Authority, 1962

Section 1: Vision Package

Wascana Comprehensive Review: Vision Package

A Comprehensive Approach to the Future

Looking 50 years into the future is not a simple task. With this in mind, the Comprehensive Review Project for Wascana Centre Authority has a number of key elements. Section 1: The Vision Package is intended to integrate these respective elements into a clear direction for the final element of the Comprehensive Review—the organizational review—and for the future of Wascana Centre overall. Using a variety of sources, including a large reliance on the responses to the engagement questions, this Vision Package includes the following:

Vision Package	Link to Organizational Review
<i>Current Reality</i>	Provides a clear understanding of the starting point moving forward
<i>Trends for the Future</i>	Provides key future-related questions for consideration in the Comprehensive Review Project.
<i>Vision Statement</i>	Provides long-term direction for Wascana Centre.
<i>Descriptions of Success</i>	Provides additional clarity on key elements of the Vision.
<i>Measures of Success</i>	Provides tangible measures of progress towards the Vision.

Elements of the Vision Package and how they relate to the Organizational Review within the Comprehensive Review Project.

Current Reality

- *Purpose:* To provide a realistic snapshot of where Wascana is starting from in 2012.

Trends for the Future

- *Purpose:* To provide a forward-looking frame on the Vision, these trends highlight potential new realities that Wascana will need to address and adapt to in the coming decades.

Vision

- *Purpose:* To paint a picture of the desired future of Wascana Centre.

Descriptions of Success

- *Purpose:* To provide additional clarity and focus on key elements of the Vision.

Measures of Success

- *Purpose:* To provide tangible measures of progress towards achievement of the Vision.

The following graphic highlights the elements of this package, mapping out the next 50 years of Wascana Centre.



Current Reality

Buildings and Infrastructure

As part of the Comprehensive Review Project, Associated Engineering was selected to perform condition assessments of buildings and infrastructure within Wascana Centre. A review of infrastructure (including buildings, roads, pathways, bridges, docks, utilities and other elements) was undertaken.

The updated information regarding this assessment can be found in the Associated Engineering report.

Landscape

Crosby Hanna & Associates (CHA) was retained by Wascana Centre Authority (WCA) to conduct a landscape assessment for all the lands within the Wascana Centre boundary. Items addressed in the audit included: turf, trees, shrub beds, flower beds, soccer/football fields, ball diamonds, crusher dust and wood chip walkways, natural areas, bollards, site furniture, irrigation, art features, two play areas, monuments and memorials.

The updated information regarding this assessment can be found in the Crosby Hanna & Associates report.

What People Love About Wascana Centre Today

One of the three visioning questions asked during the initial phase of engagement was “What do you love about Wascana Centre?” Responses to this question provide an essential understanding of what the community values about Wascana Centre, giving the Comprehensive Review team insights into which elements need to be protected or enhanced as Wascana moves into the future. Key themes of the responses included:

- It is a major community gathering space and helps build a sense of community. Great pride is taken in the park.
- Wascana Centre is seen as a major community asset and something that both attracts and surprises people who are new to the city (both new residents and tourists).
- People love the beauty of Wascana and that it is an oasis of nature within the heart of the city. The access to nature and the feeling of peace and tranquility that the park provides is a huge draw.
- Wascana is viewed as a very accessible and democratic place, both in terms of location and the fact that the major of activities that occur within the park are free. This is seen as a tremendous asset, especially in light of the increasing diversity in the community.
- The extensive pathway system is a huge asset. People appreciated the recent upgrades, like the fact that it is multi-use, and appreciate that it is maintained year-round.
- Some of the park attractions/facilities that are the biggest draws are the lake, the swimming pool and the playgrounds.
- There is a general feeling that the park is safe and well maintained.

These themes are explained in further detail in” Section 3: What We Heard.”

Future Trends

An initial scan of key future trends was conducted during the stakeholder workshops held in early June. In addition to the three visioning questions, representatives from various stakeholder groups in the city were also asked “What trends will impact Wascana Centre in the future?” and “In what ways could these trends impact Wascana Centre?” Given their wide variety of knowledge and experience, stakeholders raised a number of elements to consider when looking ahead to the future of Wascana Centre. This list was expanded during the October phase of engagement. Rather than giving any definitive answers in these areas, the trends exercise was meant as an awareness-builder for the process of developing a Vision and for the Comprehensive Review project overall. Key themes and related questions for Wascana Centre are:

Population

Regina has seen significant growth and change to the population over the past number of years, as has the entire province of Saskatchewan. Given the economic climate in province, this reality is projected to continue. The population growth estimates emerging from the Design Regina project¹ are:

- Low Growth scenario: 210,425 residents by 2035
- Medium Growth scenario: 257,950 residents by 2035
- High Growth scenario: 302,621 residents by 2035

Key questions:

- How can Wascana Centre meet the needs of a growing population?
- What new demands will Wascana Centre face from a population that is increasingly from diverse cultural backgrounds?
- How can Wascana Centre meet the needs of an aging population?
- What are the implications for Wascana Centre of a population that on average is wealthier, but where there is also a growing gap between wealthy and struggling communities?

Urban Growth and Development

With an increase in population comes an increase in urban development. The city is both growing out (new communities at the edge of the city) and up (increased development in the centre of the city).

Key questions:

- What will the expectations be on Wascana Centre to provide recreational space for the central part of Regina that is seeing increased density?
- How can Wascana Centre maintain high levels of access with increased congestion on the surrounding transportation infrastructure?
- How can Wascana Centre be accessible to different populations and geographies in light of urban growth and development?

¹ http://www.designregina.ca/wp-content/uploads/Population_Employment_and_Economic_Analysis_of_Regina_-_2010.pdf

Funding

There is increasing competition for scarce public dollars. This competition is likely to increase over time. In light of this, Wascana will need to understand options for funding and their respective implications.

Key questions:

- How can Wascana Centre maintain or enhance its level of service and infrastructure with a growing population, if public funding decreases over time?
- What are the potential opportunities and impacts of public-private partnerships for Wascana Centre?
- What role could commercial development or activity have in maintaining funding levels for Wascana Centre?
- Could a user-pay model play a role in the future of Wascana Centre?

Economic Development

Regina and Saskatchewan are increasingly competing nationally and internationally for workers. At the same time, there is a desire to diversify economically to avoid boom-bust scenarios. Discussion of economic development increasingly looks at broader issues, such as quality of life. With this in mind, Wascana Centre can potentially play a positive role in the economic future of the city and province.

Key questions:

- How can Wascana Centre act as a positive catalyst for the city in the provincial/national/international competition for workers?
- How can Wascana Centre enhance the tourism industry in Regina?

Lifestyle Changes

Related to demographics and economic development, there is an ongoing shift in lifestyles that will have an impact on Wascana Centre. Increased population, coupled with increasing diversity, will likely lead to a broader range of expectations for Wascana Centre over time.

Key questions:

- What pressures does a larger, more active population put on Wascana Centre?
- How can Wascana Centre address the needs of a population that is becoming increasingly involved in organized athletic and recreational activities such as rowing, triathlon, field sports, etc?
- How can Wascana Centre address the needs of a population that is engaging in unstructured recreation activities such as walking and cycling?
- How can Wascana Centre successfully deal with increasing recreation events, such as fundraising runs?
- How can Wascana Centre address the expectations for cultural infrastructure and programming of a community that is increasingly diverse?
- How will Wascana Centre respond to the ever-increasing presence of information and communication technology in our lives?

Environmental Awareness

From personal choices to government policy, awareness of the environment continues to increase. The benefits of interaction with nature are gaining traction. For example, psychology is studying the very positive effect of nature and natural spaces on cognitive function and immune systems. As a place recognized as a “natural oasis” within the city, Wascana Centre will be expected to show leadership in the realm of environmental stewardship.

Key questions:

- How does Wascana Centre respond to the expectations of a population that is increasingly aware of environmental issues? Possible issues include pesticide use, energy consumption and water quality.
- What are the implications for the quantity and quality of water in Wascana Lake with increased resource and urban development and climate change?
- How can Wascana Centre address the growth of “nature defect disorder”—particularly in younger populations that are used to urban living and are reliant on technology?
- What role can Wascana Centre play in reversing the trend of “nature illiteracy?”

Changing Needs of Wascana Centre Tenants

Wascana Centre tenants—from the cultural to the educational to the governmental—will also need to grapple with similar issues over the coming decades as well. This will only serve to magnify the impact of these trends and to highlight their interconnectedness.

Key questions:

- With the issues identified above, how can Wascana Centre effectively accommodate change and growth among the various tenants in the Centre, as they try to address these issues within their own mandates?

Climate Change

The need to adapt to climate change was brought up in a number of workshops. The results of climate change are likely to have a wide variety of impacts on Wascana Centre. These impacts will need to be understood and plans to adapt over time must be developed.

Key questions:

- How will climate change impact source water quantity and quality?
- What impacts will climate change have on the species of flora and fauna currently in Wascana Centre? What are the impacts on planting and maintenance?
- Will climate change result in an increase in invasive species?

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Descriptions of Success Relationships

None of these Descriptions of Success exist alone. Activities that impact one area will affect the others. With this in mind, all of these elements will need to be considered within the Organizational Review. In this way, the broader impacts of potential interventions over time are considered and accommodated, and are more likely to achieve the long-term Vision for Wascana Centre.

² Note on this version of the vision: Based on discussion with the Strategic Planning Committee, the following revisions were made: "Cornerstone" was added in response to the suggestion that "anchor" be used to make the linkage of Wascana Centre being something that grounds both the city and province. Given the discussion of the connotations of "anchor," "cornerstone" was chosen as a grounding, foundational element that can be built off of. "Prairies" was maintained within the vision, as opposed to "plains" as the former tends to be used much more often in the western Canadian context.

Measures of Success

The following measures of success are related to the various Descriptions of Success. Many of these ideas came from stakeholders during the second round of engagement. These measures are presented for consideration and potential integration as part of a formal evaluation program for the Comprehensive Review Project.

Wascana Centre provides a diversity of activity

- Number of community events
- Number of various recreation facilities provided (playgrounds, playing fields, etc.)
- Track diversity of events – include a breakdown of what they were (multicultural, arts;,recreation;,etc.)
- Number of spots available throughout the year
- Area of green space (a map-based measure)
- Number of recreational users for a variety of different activities
- Census of activity usage, and facility usage year-round
- Quality of events

Wascana Centre is a beautiful place

- Number of trees
- Number of shrubs
- User survey on the aesthetic beauty of Wascana Centre
- Shape, colour, height: Use assessment criteria of the trees from the Crosby Hanna report
- Graffiti incidents
- Use of green space or type of use of green space from different demographics
- The number / length of trails in the park and associated facilities.

Wascana Centre has a positive environmental impact

- Energy/GHG
 - Energy used in Wascana Centre Authority operations
 - GHG emissions from buildings in Wascana Centre
- Water
 - Potable water consumption for landscaping
 - Water quality in Wascana Lake
 - Number of key species in Wascana Centre
 - Is the lake swimmable or not? (Address pollution)
- Flora and fauna
 - Number of provincial designated weeds present; amount of chemical used
 - Number of native plants in the park; health of the soil
 - Number of birds and other species
 - Number of invasive species
 - Monitoring the health of terrestrial and aquatic systems
- Other
 - Vehicle counts / model split
 - Noise / light pollution
 - Existence of an adaptation plan
 - There is a management plan and it is being used
 - Busses are being used within Wascana Centre
 - Have a sustainable plan that is being used to measure development impact
 - Public is aware of all that Wascana has to offer

Wascana Centre is accessible to everyone

- Number of annual visitors
- Number of identified barriers
- Number and type of community events
- Modal split
- Number of accessibility points for persons with disabilities

- Trail usage; invest in trail use counters and monitor 24/7/365
- All facilities and activity sites are accessible for persons with disabilities
- Track visitors for specific facilities; or any facilities that can be implemented with a repeat-visit 'pass', monitor demographic of purchasers and repeat usage
- Quality of events; user survey



Sounding Boards become a backdrop for a musical performance on Canada Day.

Section 2: The Process

Talking to the Community About the Future of Wascana

This section provides an overview of the engagement process of ourWascana—both on the engagement approaches and the content of the feedback. The engagement reached exceptional levels and provided a tremendous array of insights for the process.

Throughout the engagement process, the goal was to provide convenient and appropriate opportunities for community members to share their perspectives on Wascana Centre. Whenever possible, the process focused on providing a highly visible and interactive presence with opportunities for engagement at convenient gathering places within the community.

Engagement by the Numbers

During the ourWascana process, feedback was received from 3,349 individuals, providing more than 8,000 ideas.

Engagement Techniques

Phase 1 - early May to early July

- ourWascana website
- ourWascana Twitter account
- ourWascana Facebook page
- Sounding Boards—feedback boards placed throughout Wascana Centre
 - Broad Street Promenade
 - Douglas Park
 - Wascana Drive (near Wascana Place)
 - Bird Sanctuary
 - Candy Cane Park
 - Wascana Pool
 - University of Regina
 - Wascana Marina
 - Albert Street Promenade
 - Lakeshore Drive, near Legislature
- Stakeholder workshops
 - Six workshops, more than 80 participants representing a variety of community organizations and institutions
- Wascana Centre Authority staff workshops
 - Three maintenance staff workshops
 - One Wascana Place staff workshop
 - One Wascana Centre Authority management workshop
- Attendance at community events
 - I Love Regina Day
 - National Aboriginal Day
 - Bazaar
 - Canada Day
- Postcards for mail-in
- Indoor display and feedback stations located at various locations in Regina
 - Saskatchewan Science Centre
 - Connexus Arts Centre
 - T.C. Douglas building
 - Cornwall Centre
 - Legislature (Saskatchewan Gallery)
- A feedback station at Wascana Place
- Face-to-face workshops
 - Campbell Collegiate (Eco Fair)

- Wascana Rehabilitation Centre (x2)
- Individual meetings with community leaders
 - Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, Kevin Doherty
 - Deputy Minister to the Premier, Doug Moen
 - MLA for Regina, Dewdney, Gene Makowsky
- Province-wide letters to the editor
- Media releases (local and provincial)
- Public service announcements
- Enewsletters
- Media conference launch
- ourWascana photo contest
- Tailored email messages to organizations such as The University of Regina, The City of Regina, a number of Regina businesses and Crown Corporations
- ourWascana bus ads (focused on text responses)
- Wascana neighbours postcard drop

Phase 2 - October 2012

- ourWascana website
- ourWascana Twitter account
- ourWascana Facebook page
- Media advisories (local and provincial)
- Advertisement in Regina Leader Post
- Stakeholder workshops
 - four community stakeholder workshops, 31 participants representing a variety of community organizations and institutions
 - one WCA management workshop
- Open houses
 - two open houses

This diversity of approaches to engagement reflects a key principle of engagement for the process: create multiple entry points into the conversation. This approach resulted in the high levels of feedback that were seen through this process. The infographic on the following page illustrates the highlights of the engagement process.

The ourWascana Story

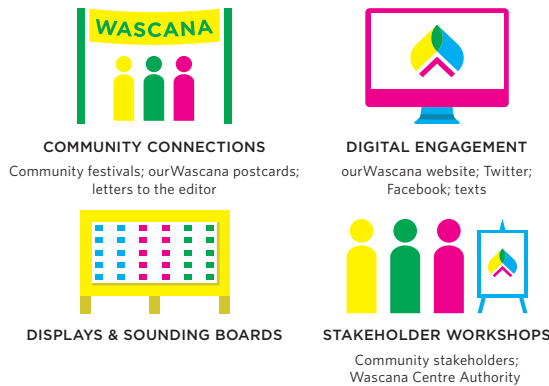
As part of a major review process for Wascana Centre Authority's 50th birthday in 2012, citizens were asked to share their hopes and dreams for Wascana. The ourWascana project was a conversation with the community to set the vision for the next 50 years of Wascana Centre. Wascana Centre has been an important part of the Saskatchewan landscape for the past 50 years. It's a meeting place for people from across the province, a place where they come to celebrate, learn, relax and explore. From weddings to family picnics, and government debates to nature hikes, Wascana Centre means many things to many people.

This infographic highlights the ourWascana conversation that happened in 2012. Thank you to everyone who participated!

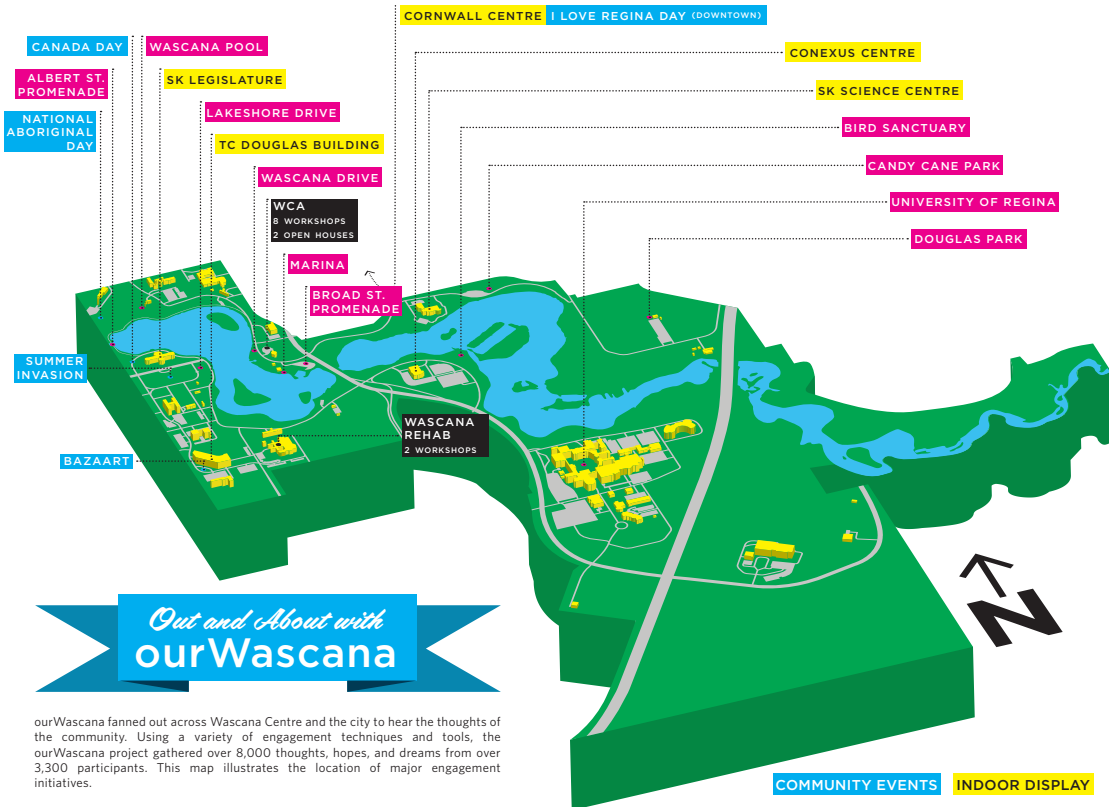
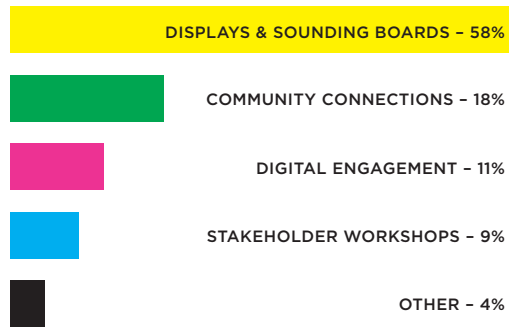
FAST FACTS



ENGAGEMENT CATEGORIES



RESPONSES BY CATEGORY





Section 3: What We Heard

Phase 1 Feedback

The first phase of feedback was centered around three key visioning questions:

- What do you love about Wascana Centre?
- What changes would you like to see in Wascana Centre?
- What are your hopes and dreams for Wascana Centre in the next 50 years?

The intent of these questions was to provide an open-ended opportunity to allow the community to share the ideas and viewpoints that mattered most to them. By using the same three questions throughout the process, consistency of approach was maintained .

The following pages outline what was heard during this phase of engagement.

Key Themes: What do you love about Wascana Centre?

Wascana Centre is loved for a variety of reasons. A unique and diverse area with an exceptional range of uses, Wascana Centre is appreciated in many different ways.

Wascana Centre is seen as a major community asset and something that both attracts and surprises people who are new to the city (new residents and tourists).

"I am not originally from Regina. And when I came here one of the first places I was taken to was Wascana. Do not underestimate the importance of a beautiful park in a great city!"

It is a major gathering space and helps build a sense of community. Great pride is taken in the park.

"I love the fact there are so many events taking place in the park all year long. It is a central meeting place for Regina residents and it is a place we are proud of. The grounds are beautiful with lots of wide open places where people can walk, play, or just enjoy nature. Wascana park is Regina's biggest and best asset!"

"I love that it is a meeting place for the entire city. It is where people come to relax, to exercise, to meet and to enjoy nature."

"It is a central meeting place for Regina residents and it's a place we are proud of."

People love the beauty of Wascana and that it is an oasis of nature within the heart of the city. The access to nature and the feeling of peace and tranquility that the park provides are a huge draw.

"Unbelievable beauty in the middle of the city. The sounds, the views, the colours. Its about the emotions you can experience and the renewal of the soul"

"The feeling that you're in the heart of the city but still in an awesome, beautiful setting. It's a magical place, unrivaled by most cities."

"It is an oasis in the midst of a city, a place of peace, where nature prevails. When I drive or walk through Wascana Centre I slow down internally and mentally, delighting in the trees and grass and even the geese, and the people out strolling beside the lake. Few cities much bigger than Regina have such a wonderful place within the city."

"The fact that we have an open expansive access to nature and an area to find peace and get exercise in the outdoors right in the middle of the city. It is well used and cherished by the people of Regina."

"The green space and the wildlife. It makes the cares fall away."

"I love seeing a different species of bird every time I walk around the lake, especially in the Habitat Area."

Wascana is viewed as a very accessible and democratic place, both in terms of location and that the major of activities within the park are free. This is seen as a tremendous asset, especially in light of the increasing diversity in the community.

"The fact that we have an open expansive access to nature and an area to find peace and get exercise in the outdoors right in the middle of the city. It is well used, and cherished by the people of Regina."

"Accessibility. There are many access points (anyone can get here)."

"Is available to all at little or no cost year round."

The diversity and variety of activities, events and attractions that take place within the park—both organized and spontaneous—are appreciated.

“Diversity of sport and recreation opportunities both structured and spontaneous (e.g. skateboarding, running on track, frisbee in front of Legislature, touch football).”

“Lots of recreational activities are available which do not interfere with others who just want to walk around or sit on the benches.”

“I love the Community Events held throughout the year.”

“Has useful buildings such as the Legislature, RSM, U of R, Science Centre.”

The extensive pathway system is a huge asset. People appreciated the recent upgrades, like the fact that it is multi-use, and value that it is maintained year-round.

“I love the walkways and the way they make their way around the lake without having to go up onto the bridges.”

“The shared paths, walking, running and cycling. Thank you for keeping them clean in winter.”

“The new pathway that allows circumnavigation of the park without having to walk next to traffic!”

“The extensive park amenities (e.g. washrooms, picnic areas and BBQs, drinking fountains) are appreciated.”

“Washroom facilities available, especially year round in the facility near marina.”

“The nice BBQ spots throughout the park. We had many BBQs when I was growing up, many fond memories.”

Some of the park attractions/facilities that are the biggest draws are the lake, the swimming pool and the playgrounds.

“I love the water and its many activities that can be seen on any day.”

“I love the condition of the lake since the 'Big Dig'—we get many compliments from rowers from other provinces on our awesome park.”

“I love the water and its many activities that can be seen on any day.”

“Wascana Pool is my favourite summer destination.”

“So many beautiful playgrounds.”

There is a general feeling that the park is safe and well maintained.

“I love the cleanliness of the park and I love that the citizens help keep it that way. Pride in your park.”

“I love that it is a safe space where my family can walk, run, bike, and play outside.”

Key Themes: What changes would you like to see in Wascana Centre?

There is a desire for some current assets to be upgraded and/or expanded. Multiple mentions were made of the pathway system and the swimming pool, as well as park amenities such as washrooms, picnic areas, drinking fountains, benches, garbage and recycling containers and bag dispensers. Numerous people would like to see year round access to more washroom facilities, and overall they would like better maintenance of existing washrooms.

“More benches, fountains and pathways to make it even more inviting to enjoy spending time out and about in the park.”

“Clean and open washrooms throughout the year, even at least one during the winter.”

“There should be adequate seating and picnic tables and garbage containers and clean, well-maintained bathrooms.”

“New destination swimming pool, as outdoor pool is falling apart.”

“Thinking about NYC, I would like to see a spray park for kids. I also think the pool and change rooms should be renovated or re-built and modeled after the pool in Stanley Park.”

There is an identified need to upgrade and expand park infrastructure, particularly roadways, pathways and parking.

“Maintain and update infrastructure or replace as necessary so facility is available to next generation.”

“As the park ages there have to be upgrades made to maintain the beauty and the safety of the park. The most important change I feel is to improve the infrastructure of the park. The roadways and parking lots really need to be resurfaced.”

“More places to park so you can walk (very hard to get parking spot sometimes). If there is lots of parking available, make signage more prevalent so you can find parking.”

“Better pavement on roads and trails. Some places are very rough for biking and uneven pavement is a risk while out running.”

With respect to the pathways, there is concern that with the growth of the city and the increasing use of the park it could become overly congested. There are numerous mentions of creating separate pathways for walkers and cyclists or building wider pathways in order to enhance safety and decrease congestion.

“Wider paths to accommodate bikes and walkers. Some of the paths are quite narrow.”

“Many more kilometres of trails to bike, run and walk on.”

“Separate bike lanes.”

“Expand pathways to accommodate more people and different use. Why do bikes have to share the same path as people with dogs and kids?”

There is a desire for more commercial development in the park, particularly access to a greater variety of food and beverage options. However, people are concerned that any development should be undertaken in a manner that does not change the overall look and feel of the park. There is

generally a much more nuanced view on new kinds of development than a polarized “development/ no development” discussion.

“More restaurants, coffee places etc. by Marina area. This will be a challenge to develop appropriately.”

“Why not have more amenities, like coffee, and small restaurants. It is way too sterile and is something that needs to be humanized. It is too big to be just a park, and needs zones of more activity.”

“Casual meeting places i.e coffee shops / sandwich shops would encourage more people to the park and with more people a sense of community and safety grows.”

“Any commercial building should be consistent with park (integrate).”

“High quality, seasonal, appropriately maintained and integrated amenities (like food vendors, restaurants/cafes, farmers’ market).”

“It would be great if there were a limited number of services in the park (coffee shops, affordable restaurants, etc.). Obviously these would have to be kept to a fairly small number in carefully chosen locations to not over crowd the park.”

There is a desire for more natural landscaping and less use of pesticides.

“Increased use of native plants instead of exotics and expanses of lawn.”

“Less cultivation, more xeriscaping, more wild/native plants.”

“Reduce use of pesticides and use more natural landscaping techniques, plant native grasses (less labor/resource intensive and healthier).”

“Go pesticide free and advertise it! Wascana Centre could be a leader for others in gardening, plant selection, native species and how to go pesticide free.”

“There is a desire for more lighting on the pathways to improve access and safety.”

“More light on the dark walkways.”

“More lights around the pathways. In summer, it is delightful to spend evenings in the park around the lake and on the pathway. In winter, the dark sections are foreboding and I have seen people slip on unseen icy patches.”

There is a strong desire to limit vehicle traffic within the park. However, this must be undertaken in a way that does not negatively impact accessibility.

“Shut down the road that goes through the south side of the park during the weekends.”

“Have the weekend mornings as restricted traffic in the park to encourage families to enjoy the park and roadways (as they do in Ottawa, etc.).”

“The ability to go for a drive around the lake and take in most areas of the park by a car or motorcycle. I cannot walk very far as I have difficulty walking but still like to get out to the park and the lake. Making the park into a cycling or a walking park would be a big mistake to me and probably most seniors.”

There is a desire for expansion of the current activities/events within the park, particularly in the winter. There is also a desire to expand the activity/event facilities within the park.

"More sports areas: beach volleyball, soccer, basketball courts."

"Are there some ideas for winter programs suitable for Saskatchewan—give new life to the park all year round."

"More free public events that bring people to the centre and build community. There have been great events in the past that seem to have fallen by the wayside (Lanterns Around the Lake, Winter Carnival, etc.) -- bring them back!"

"Some suggestions are to have an outdoor patio area, a concert area where musicians can come and entertain during the summer."

"More structure for permanent events (e.g. staging, electrical, water)."

There is a desire for improved information and signage throughout the park, including marketing/promotional, directional and interpretive signage.

"Would like more control over permanent and portable signage and marketing opportunities."

"Have a bulletin board with everything coming in the park all summer in front of the gardens by the waterfront in front of Parliament Building."

"More interpretive information about birds and wildlife posted in the park."

"Markers for how far you have walked/run could be updated so as to encourage more physical activity for users."

People would like to see enhanced water quality / cleanliness of the lake. There are several mentions of allowing people to swim in the lake again and redeveloping a beach area.

"A lake you could swim in!! (naturally filtered, like the beach in Montreal)."

"Clean water."

Although the wildlife in the park is greatly appreciated, there is extensive negative feedback related to the geese, particularly the size of their population and the amount of droppings they leave.

"Geese should be taken away because they make the park dirty and that is one of the reason why i seldom visit the place."

"If we don't get rid of most of the geese and ducks we will have to clean the lake again. Let's make it a people park."

The desire for improved signage was raised multiple times, especially during stakeholder workshop sessions, where individuals represented organizations that are either in Wascana or have regular events within the Centre.

What are your hopes and dreams for Wascana Centre in the next 50 years?

Summary Word Cloud—What are your hopes and dreams for Wascana Centre in the next 50 years?

Larger words appeared more frequently in the responses. Note: The words “Wascana” “Centre” “Hope” and “Park” were removed from this analysis. These were “filler” words within responses to the questions.

friendly
next
want maybe
trees
people
time
east
go
restaurant
swim
wims
outdoor
enjoy
big
free
environment
space
children
citizens
provide
cleaner
beach
become
maintained
accessible
use
lots
lake
especially
develop
another

What we heard: what are your hopes and dreams for Wascana Centre in the next 50 years?

Larger words appeared more frequently in the responses.

wca
cars
change
great
large
pool
area
remain
activities
swim
beauty
outdoor
enjoy
big
free
environment
arts
space
children
citizens
provide
cleaner
beach
become
maintained
accessible
use
lots
lake
bring
access
years
urban
back
make
water
sustainable
green
good
spaces
trails
way
just
open
grow
paths
please
activity
now
city
development
public
etc
come
walking
nature
recreation
summer
opportunities
dream
like
clean
wildlife
areas
stays
geese
flowers
roads
one
families
get
centre
part
needs
enjoyed
path
safe
always
well
less
bigger
still
natural
commercial
continued
winter
nice
art
ice
bike
better
see
community
generations
traffic
regina
maintain
maintenance
vision
bridge



Key Themes: What are your hopes and dreams for Wascana Centre in the next 50 years?

Generally, there were many responses for this question that would more appropriately fit within the “changes” question. The intent of this question is to look at the big ideas and longer time horizons, whereas the “changes” question can be seen as shorter term options for the current situation. However, when looking out into the long-term future of Wascana Centre, the overall message from the community isn’t one of vast change. Rather, it is a message of protection and enhancement. The community very much appreciates the character of Wascana Centre as it is today and shows little indication that there is a desire for Wascana to be dramatically different in 50 years.

Many feel strongly that Wascana should be something that is maintained and enhanced over the coming decades to ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefits of Wascana Centre.

“My hopes and dreams for Wascana Park in the next 50 years are that it can be kept green and clean for generations to come. I hope my grandchildren and great grandchildren can come and enjoy the park as we can do today.”

“Hope it is available and accessible for my children and grandchildren to use and enjoy as much as I have been able to.”

“Healthy trees, great walking paths, and continued preservation of urban parks that my children can enjoy.”

“That it always remains the green space that makes you stop and say.. this is a beautiful place that I love to enjoy.”

“My hope is that Wascana Centre continues to flourish and become a place for everyone to enjoy and be proud of!”

“That it retains its unique identity and high quality of maintenance and design.”

There was a significant level of support for the incorporation of environmental sustainability and a transition from manicured to more natural spaces into the design and practices of Wascana Centre. This includes increased habitat for wildlife and reduced use of pesticides.

“More of a natural area than a manicured landscape. Expand native prairie area. Use native plants for gardens, etc.”

“I hope the park will continue to be an accessible but primarily a natural space that can offer all of us a moment of refuge from the travails of the city.”

“It ought to remain as natural an area as possible.”

“Increase focus on natural / wildlife components in the park (bird sanctuary as an example).”

“With expansions to the City of Regina, Wascana Centre needs to find its own way of expansion, to be able to help inspire healthy EcoFriendly lifestyles in the future generations of our city. ”

“In the next 50 years I hope Wascana Centre will become a model for sustainable cities to showcase the whole world—especially considering

Saskatchewan as one of the founding members of the global RCE initiative (Regional Center for Education for Sustainable Development)."

Development of Wascana Centre—A Tale of Two Views

A number of respondents used this question to express their desire for the space to be less commercialized and to remain a “pure” park space without much (or any) development. This provides a different perspective than the majority of the discussion within the “changes” question, and highlights a portion of the community that would rather not see development with buildings and more commercial uses.

“Resist temptation to commercialize or develop natural setting.”

“That it remains a centre for people to enjoy spending time without the intrusion of commercial activity.”

On the other side of the discussion there is support for enhancing the user experience in Wascana Centre. As discussed in the “changes” question, the focus is on providing more variety for users of Wascana and to do so in a sensitive way that does not detract from the pastoral experience that many see in Wascana today.

“A lakeview restaurant or coffee shop would be nice. One that is accessible to a wider range of people.”

“The addition of another restaurant to facilitate visitors being able to (enjoy) an informal coffee or snack would benefit the ambience of the park in general.”

With increasing use of Wascana, there is growing potential for user conflict. Many respondents wanted to see an increased place for non-vehicular modes of transportation, whether through new infrastructure or through reduction of access by vehicles.

“For Wascana Centre to be an integral part of a city-wide bike lane system extending throughout the city without having to share roadways with cars”

“No car traffic, or just a single one way lane for cars to make the park more pedestrian friendly and to force cars to slow down. This would also reduce the amount of unnecessary vehicular traffic. We should be encouraging bikes, skateboards, walking and running, in the park, not cars.”

“I would like to see reduced traffic through the parks. Encourage people to get out of their cars to walk, roller blade, picnic, bike, skip, etc.”

As such a well used and loved place, there is generally a recognized need for funding Wascana Centre. This particularly stood out in stakeholder workshop sessions, where individuals represented organizations that regularly deal with the WCA and are more likely to understand funding challenges. While the mechanisms varied—some wanted increased governmental spending, others saw an opportunity for increasing private/community funding—there was essentially uniform support for providing adequate funding to resource Wascana Centre into the future.

“Appropriate funding so that it continues to deliver on its mandate.”

“Hope for increased, stable funding from provincial, federal and municipal government.”

“To still have limited commercial development within the Center's boundaries. That doesn't preclude ice cream or hot dog vendors providing their service(s) to patrons. That the city, and especially the

Province, enact statutes/laws (or whatever) to mandate that they fund the park operations in a way that ensures its long-term sustainability.”

“There may need to be a FEW more commercial sites available to serve the numbers of people and keep them coming on a regular basis. (The Willow is a fabulous restaurant, but only serves about 30 elite diners at a time. A FEW more commercial destinations of varied levels/tastes would offer more services; rents from these locales would help to fund the operations of the Centre.”

“Continued funding for maintenance and enhancement of the park.”

The prominence of the lake obviously has a large impact on Wascana, but a desire for more recreational uses of the lake (particularly swimming) was expressed.

“Beach with swimming and fishing.”

“We are able to swim in the lake.”

“Lake clean enough to SCUBA and swim.”

Summary quotes

The following three quotes capture many of the ideas that have emerged in the “hopes and dreams” question in this initial phase of engagement.

“I sincerely hope that the “powers that be” will continue to realize the importance of such a vital part of Regina. It is a place of historical significance, a place to provide athletic events, and a place to provide recreation. This is a park for all people, of all ages and social status. It provides so much joy to so many. It is a tourist attraction, a highlight of a visit to Regina. Wascana Centre is certainly a legacy well worth preserving for the next 100 plus years.”

“I certainly hope that the park can be maintained in its current beauty and can be enjoyed for years to come! Ensure the park stays safe and clean. Hosting events there is also good and it is interesting to see the wakeboarders in the summer. So maybe the water would be clean enough for people to swim in once again. Again, getting an ice cream in the park would be good but the trucks with the noisy power generator is terrible. Get some other way to have power, set up something better that can be successful for a coffee, ice cream, hot chocolate, or soup and sandwich.”

“I hope that my kids, and my kids' kids will be able to have a picnic in front of the Legislature on Canada Day while waiting for 'Justin Bieber' reunion show. I hope that we have bought the food at the market in the park, all met by riding the in-park transportation system and knowing exactly where to meet because of the great signage.”

Phase 2 Feedback

The second round of engagement for the ourWascana process was considerably more abbreviated than the initial phase. In addition to the challenges of a compressed two-week timeline, the engagement needed to happen in the midst of the municipal election campaign period and the Thanksgiving holiday. Not surprisingly, the level of feedback was much lower than in the initial engagement period from May to July.

Typically, engagement processes see significantly higher levels of response to “blue sky” questions rather than feedback on draft visions, plans, etc. The feedback that was received was extremely thoughtful and constructive, and resulted in the changes that have improved the Vision Package.

Questions during this phase were focused on the draft Vision and Descriptions of Success (DoS), as well as obtaining views on what the challenges and actions related to each DoS might be.

The following pages outline what was heard during the second phase of engagement.

Feedback: Vision

WCA Managers Meeting:

- Like it
- Captures it
- Instills pride
- Masterpiece is good
- 2nd sentence – change. It’s a place that welcomes everyone.
- Could Wascana be misinterpreted since it’s not there?

Online:

- I really don't like the 'masterpiece on the prairie' line. I would argue that sitting on a hill in Grasslands National Park in pristine native prairie would be far more impressive.

Feedback: Accessible Description of Success

WCA Managers Meeting:

Is there anything missing?

- Living room is slangish; playground? backyard? needs to show that it’s comfortable
- “Showcase/showpiece” for Regina and the province
- No barriers/limited barriers
- Safety could be added

Measures

- Number and type of community events
- Modal split

Online:

Is there anything missing?

- Prevent any very noisy activities like rock concerts—these have other venues and do not fit here

Open House Feedback:

Is there anything missing?

- Living Room vs. Backyard

- Emphasis on “All Citizens” (young, old, accessibility issues)

What challenges will we face in attempting to realize this Vision/Description of Success?

- Conflicts of different types of use met by different users
- Taking care that built infrastructure (i.e. the paved path from Broad to Science) doesn't prevent other usages (i.e. groomed ski trails)
- Maintaining the quality of accessibility features of the park (ramps, signage, etc.)
- Separation between different types of trail users
- Parking, public transport (i.e. transit) access to active areas

What policies or actions would help us realize this Description of Success?

- Way finding signage
- Partner with applied science researchers around issues relating to trail design/use
- Develop in-house expertise in trail design, use and maintenance
- For any proposed development / change ask: Will 'X' help or hinder accessibility / democratic use?

What measures could be used or developed to track progress on this Description of Success?

- Number of accessibility points for persons with disabilities
- Invest in trail use counters and monitor 24/7/365
- All facilities and activity sites are accessible for persons with disabilities
- For any facilities that can be implemented with a repeat-visit 'pass', monitor demographic of purchasers and repeat usage
- Quality of events

Stakeholder Workshop Feedback:

Is there anything missing from this Description of Success?

- Link to “provincial capital” concept (Legislature is a draw)
- Signage for those whose first language is not English
- Not so much a “living room” as a “backyard”
- Washroom accessibility
- Security in the evenings (e.g. patrols, “runners” and lighting)
- Successful measure – “gathering place” for all – international visitors, immigrants
- Parking issues re: more space (e.g. BBQs); more spaces to park = more visitors
- Increase scope of WCA to include green space along creek route
- Non use of east side of bridge = a barrier to expanded use (e.g. passive watercraft)
- Wascana Centre ID issue – people know what a “Park” is

Challenges in Realizing this Description of Success	Policies or actions to address this challenge
Maintaining access from all parts of the city, for all citizens	Expanding or growing multi-use pathways More public transport Make access inviting not difficult Lighting and safety issues!
Aging demographic / different abilities	Ensure park is comfortable for most
Safety and security concerns: Drugs Intimidation at night Traffic	Lights Cameras More vigorous patrols / frequent Track police reports / complaints Decreased vandalism

New facilities or services	Prevent commercialization while increasing services Food and drink Water fountains Vendors Control where and who can set up
All season use	Ice for skating Ski trails groomed Winterized bathrooms Winter vendors / not drinks Winter parking place
Revenue sources	Speed cameras Parking enforcement Business licensing fees in park Junk food waste surcharge Look to other cities Tourist attractions Charge clubs that use infrastructure more
Universal design – washrooms	Retro fit to comply Compliance review and document improvements
Signage and wayfinding	Multi language signs Use of symbols Wayfinding signage
Parking	More spaces in key locations – e.g. BBQs Number of stalls and their distribution
Security	More lighting and patrols More activity Reported incidents
Cycling connections	Increase scope of WCA to include green space along creek route
Centre vs. Place vs. Park	Change name to Wascana Park
Funding	Food kiosks More events (large) Revenue
Lack of dedicated space for large events	Speakers corner is under utilized and could be repurposed

What measures could be used or developed to track progress on this Description of Success?

- Spot checks of park use: people, vehicles, activities
- Track access points

Feedback: Aesthetically Beautiful Description of Success

WCA Managers Meeting:

Is there anything missing?

- Aesthetic is a big word
- Unnatural spaces to connect with nature
- “variety of natural spaces” – what is natural?
- Could we drop the word “natural”?
- Don’t like “place” at the end of the last sentence. Centre instead?

Measures

- Assessment of the trees from the Crosby Hanna report

- Shape, colour, height
- Graffiti incidents
- Number of annual visitors?

Online:

Is there anything missing?

- The word 'natural' in the second line is contradictory to the idea that the park is designed and maintained. How about changing 'natural' to 'green' spaces.

What are some key actions that Wascana Centre should take to make this Description of Success a reality?

- More trees and shrubs plus timely pruning
- Goose poop is NOT attractive or healthy—get rid of these from where they don't belong; prevent all hatching or return of young

Open House Feedback:

Is there anything missing from this Description of Success

- When it comes to buildings built in the park they should meet HIGH standards of building design (e.g. LEED)
- An understanding of “natural” space
- Aesthetically beautiful is too vague. Purple loostrife is beautiful – it kills/outcompetes native organisms.
- I would like to see the word “health” as part of the definition of beautiful, healthy buildings, healthy ecosystems, healthy people.

What challenges will we face in attempting to realize this Vision/Description of Success?

- Determining the balance between “natural space” and “buildings and infrastructure”
- Drop the idea of emulating a “British Garden” concept
- Funding is an issue and the funding partners need to step up to the plate
- Are the gardening/lawn care practices safe? i.e., is the Wascana Centre environment toxin free?
- Challenges include educating our youth (and others) about the value of nature.

What policies or actions would help us realize this Description of Success?

- Have an expert design review panel
- Environmental Sustainability Plan, Weed Management Plan
- Support facility and activity that complements natural, active, and outdoor activities year round
- More Government funding for maintenance, basic upkeep, i.e., lawn trees, benches, garbage cans; nothing with commercial identification
- School curriculum needs to include education about sustainability
- Preserve the Federal Bird Sanctuary
- Enough funding for the basics, i.e., having the lines painted on the roads and in the parking lots, improvement in the bathrooms (keeping them clean, more bathrooms open over the winter)
- Not too many more structures, eateries, not too noisy; i.e., no recreational motorized water craft
- Infrastructure needs to be better maintained. The fountains need filtration because they are always dirty. Also, better lighting of fountains at night. The lawns are too dry, more watering of lawns.

What measures could be used or developed to track progress on this Description of Success?

- Use of green space or type of use of green space from different demographics
- The number / length of trails in the park and associated facilities

Stakeholder Workshop Feedback:

Is there anything missing from this Description of Success?

- Marsh area – less activity the better
- Don't want to compromise ecological function
- Add outdoor education
- Sensitivity to the type and intensity of activity
- Marsh does need some activity; bird ID, signage, bird watching, etc.

Challenges in Realizing this Description of Success	Policies or actions to address this challenge
Funding	Foreign government interest Private philanthropy vs. user fees “Expo 70 fund”
Determining needs	Specifics – needs assessment Path policies on sharing with bicycles Safety assessment
Native Species / Non-Native Species	Balance – colour palette
Architectural Quality	Design competitions
Landscape	Elaborate a Master Plan
Coherent Design Fragmented / Incoherent	Need to emphasize the importance of design Design panel of experts
Parking	Safer access for pedestrians and cyclists
Maintenance costs	Volunteering
Water Quality	What are the sources of the problem? Figure it out!!!

Feedback: Diversity Description of Success

WCA Managers Meeting:

Is there anything missing?

- Land vs. water
- Notion of decision-making (government)
- Uncomfortable with the word “provides”; could be facilitating/**provide opportunities**/setting for this
 - Greg – can you do this passively?

Measures

- Are we capable of creating outcome measures?
- Nature of the diversity of the events; include a breakdown of what they were (multicultural, arts, recreation, etc.)
- What about the diversity is important
- Number of spots available throughout the year
- Area of green space, map-based

Online:

Is there anything missing?

- Ability to fish

What are some key actions that Wascana Centre should take to make this Description of Success a reality?

- Provide more programming for youth to engage with the park and make a connection at an early age. So many people who are connected to the park as an adult, seem to have cultivated that relationship as children, either at Candy Cane Park, day/week camps, canoeing with school, etc.

- Maintain existing facilities that are run-down/showing signs of wear and tear; improve walkways and bike paths in all areas of the park, and ensure that paths/sidewalks don't end abruptly, as is the case now. Could we someday actually swim in Wascana Lake? Create a manmade beach area? How fantastic would that be?

Open House Feedback:

What challenges will we face in attempting to realize this Vision/Description of Success?

- Increase in population and conflict of use within Wascana Centre; i.e., Quiet reflection vs. rock concert
- Density of users in a small defined area
- Accommodating the activities of the many
- Climate change may mean less snow in winter. May need to have snow making equipment to keep skiing/ tobogganing
- Dealing with noise especially with increasing numbers of people
- Winter activities need a shelter and warm-up structure to attract usage and increased length of time for an activity
- Creature / people conflict when population increases
- Overuse of site
- Quiet users are overshadowed by loud crowds, balance required

What policies or actions would help us realize this Description of Success?

- Designation of areas for protection / recreational use
- Diverting recreational users to areas of interest in close proximity to the city
- Environmental interpretive centre
- Look at what happens in other large urban parks around the world for ideas
- Any facility should be hosting many types of activities in a multisession-capable manner
- Need for more and better trails, especially around SIAST
- Any facilities constricted should support a wide variety of usage (e.g., sport, arts, recreation, casual) and be extendable to increase or decrease support with ebb and flow of activity interest

What measures could be used or developed to track progress on this Description of Success?

- Number of recreational users for a variety of different activities
- Census of activity usage, and facility usage year-round
- Quality of events

Stakeholder Workshop Feedback:

Is there anything missing from this Description of Success?

- Marsh area – less activity the better
- Don't want to compromise ecological function
- Add outdoor education
- Sensitivity to the type and intensity of activity
- Marsh does need some activity, bird ID; signage, bird watching, etc.

Challenges in Realizing this Description of Success	Policies or actions to address this challenge
Funding	Public / Private Wascana operates like a business Develop lesser-used areas Let people know costs
What do the future generations want (responsive to trends)	
Climate (winter challenges)	Bring Waskimo back Initiate winter events
Population—volunteers for events	Volunteer mentorship

Quality	
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Feedback: Environment Description of Success

WCA Managers Meeting:

Is there anything missing?

- Nothing

Measures

- Insert the trending information – could new measures emerge?
- Water quality – is it there or not? What's the variance threshold vs. expectations.
- Water quantity
- Carbon credit offsetting

Online:

Is there anything missing?

- I would really like to see the use of harsh chemicals in spraying weeds, trees, etc. banned from the park. I have small children that play in the park regularly. I do not want them or anyone else (including pets for that matter) exposed to these chemicals. I would like to see alternative weed control measures taken such as natural alternatives such as corn gluten for weeds or insects that attack other insects. Why couldn't Wascana Authority be an innovative leader for others to follow?

What are some key actions that Wascana Centre should take to make this Description of Success a reality?

- Need to have a manager in the organization who has experience in environmental sustainability who can provide guidance on best practices and oversight. No such expertise on this front exists on the management team at this time.

Open House Feedback:

Is anything missing from this Description of Success?

- Is ecological health part of the definition of environment sustainability? It's more than recycling and green buildings

What challenges will we face in attempting to realize this Vision/Description of Success?

- Increased population and recreational uses
- Climate change
- WCA needs to model environmental sustainability in buildings on its property
- Lack of commitment – lack of training – lack of money
- Lack of adequate government funding
- Activities should take and give back to the in-place environment – no negative (or minimal) impact

What policies or actions would help us realize this Description of Success?

- Planting more native species
- Environmental sustainability plan – weed management
- All new facilities should have a low environmental impact to the park
- Any new facilities should use the lay of the land as much as possible
- Do something constructive with waterfowl display. Enhance or remove it
- www.sustainablesites.org; this initiative has voluntary national (US) guidelines and performance benchmarks for sustainable land design, construction and maintenance. This interdisciplinary approach has been tested over a four to five year period. Similar to LEED.
- LEED for buildings; Developing a team that appreciates and is committed to sustainable action
- Environmental interpretive centre to educate and showcase

What measures could be used or developed to track progress on this Description of Success?

- Monitoring the health of terrestrial and aquatic systems
- Number of provincial designated weeds present – amount of chemical used
- Number of native plants in the park – health of the soil.

Stakeholder Workshop Feedback:

Is there anything missing from this Description of Success?

- Adaptability/adaptation/resilience
- Environmental education and involvement – Wascana should be a “showcase” for this

Challenges in Realizing this Description of Success	Policies or actions to address this challenge
Climate change	Increased planting that is more drought-resistant Reduce number of roads in park / limit access to vehicles sometimes Water at night More nature planting; Example: Riverside dike plantation
Increase commercial activity	Use existing buildings/infrastructure Green building standards
Increased population	Shared use for facilities
Funding shortfalls	Operational efficiency – lighting update, etc. More natural landscape, less maintenance required Citizens park in Bremen, Germany – “Friends of Citizen Park”
Develop it as a “showcase” kind of space → pressure of being the capital	Natural / local landscape
Current thoughts / plans	
Expanded facilities in Wascana	Compostable toilets Green building standards
Increased lighting	Light attenuator – dark sky lighting
Climate change	More naturalization, including native Need an adaptation plan
Invasive species	Need an management plan Include research projects Need an early identification plan
Increase human traffic	Encourage different methods of transportation Park and Ride Provide more pathways Provide more washrooms (composting)
Need to have a sustainable plan	Make and keep to the plan
Lack of funds	Use research projects Use and maintain corporate partnerships User fees (selected) Legacy endowments
Maintaining and strengthening partnerships	Find corporate and individual sponsors for projects
Awareness of Description	Develop education programs Develop an interpretive centre

Measures

- Number of birds and other species
- H₂O usage
- Vehicle counts / model split
- Noise / light pollution
- Invasive species
- Swimmable lake (address pollution)
- Existence of an adaptation plan
- There is a management plan and it is being followed
- People use pathways
- Busses are being used
- Have a sustainable plan that is being used to measure development impact
- There are strong partnerships
- SIAST and U of R are using park for research
- There is a world class educational interpretive centre
- Public is aware of all that Wascana has to offer

Feedback: Anything Else?

From Open Houses:

- Consider establishing a non-profit support organization to the WCA
- Allow sponsorship branding to engage corporations in partnerships to support initiatives and maintenance
- Put resources toward soliciting estate bequeaths, or planned giving. Go after the rich, especially.
- The importance of our ecological heritage is just as important as our built-heritage (definition of culture could include heritage)
- Landscape ecology not mentioned. Wascana Centre is connected as part of a larger ecological corridor.



Section 4: Issue Highlights

Key Issue Highlights

This section highlights some of the key issues and considerations moving forward in the Comprehensive Review Project. While there was a great deal of shared opinion on the future of Wascana, there are some issues that have diverging views. As the discussion in the Comprehensive Review Project proceeds within the project team, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Board and the Partners, an understanding of the varied viewpoints on these issues will help the team understand the context of community opinion.

To Develop or Not Develop

With such a large land mass, a substantial infrastructure deficit and many funding challenges and uncertainties moving into the future, it is understandable that WCA considers development as a potential vehicle for revenue. During the engagement, we heard a wide array of viewpoints on development in Wascana Centre—from completely opposed, to very open to development. If there are any initiatives undertaken to develop in Wascana Centre, there are a few elements that should be considered:

- There will be a portion of the community that will be against any kind of development.
- There will be a significant portion of the community that will not be against development in principle, but there will be two key factors to consider:
 - Scale: There is more appetite for smaller scale development (i.e., a place to get a coffee), particularly within the “park” area that so many community members identify with
 - Design and performance: the community expects that Wascana models leading behavior in environmental sustainability and design. New development(s) should clearly demonstrate this in order to satisfy this expectation.

Natural Versus Green

Much of the community loves Wascana as a “natural oasis” within an urban setting. The lush lawns and manicured spaces that WCA does such a good job of maintaining is seen as a natural piece of the community. Of course, Wascana is an extremely manufactured and human-made creation (thus the concept of “masterpiece” in the Vision). There is a smaller group within the community (such as Friends of Wascana Marsh) that understands natural systems and ecosystem health, which is very different from the lawns and manicured gardens of Wascana. Added to this mix is a part of the community that believes the use of cosmetic pesticides is inappropriate for Wascana Centre.

Moving forward, this varied view on “natural” and “green” is worth considering, particularly in regard to:

- Limiting human activity and access for areas that may have higher ecological function or value, such as the marsh
- Shifting the landscape to more natural/local plantings that require less water and use of pesticides, but which also aren’t as green or vibrant in colour, thus running counter to some people’s views of aesthetic beauty
- The opportunity for learning and education through naturalization. The concept of an environmental education centre was raised many times during the engagement.

Funding

As discussed throughout the ourWascana process, this is the first time the Intelligent Futures team has seen the opinion of increased funding or taxation being raised regularly through the engagement process. While funding partners represented by the Strategic Planning Committee have rightly recognized that this isn’t a simple and easy solution, it is also worth noting. The community sees the community-wide value and benefit in having such a resource and is supportive of public funding for this to ensure its viability in the future.

(Lack of) Understanding of the Centre

Wascana Centre is a land mass, an organization and a set of partners and institutions that much of the community does not fully understand. For many, “Wascana” is the park that surrounds Wascana Lake, and possibly reaches out east, past Broad Street to Douglas Park. The concept of Wascana Centre as a complex, multi-faceted element of the community and province on par with the National Capital Commission in Ottawa is not well established. Ongoing work to expand the community’s understanding of what Wascana Centre is in its entirety will benefit the Comprehensive Review, the implementation thereof and will provide a more realistic context for future issues that Wascana Centre must address.

Bringing it all Together

Throughout all of these issues, the importance of the Descriptions of Success and the solutions that maximize each of these Descriptions will be essential elements in making improvements that meet the expectations of the community. In addition to being a key part of decision-making, the Descriptions of Success can also be an important communication tool for those decisions, acting as a continual and consistent set of touchstones over the coming years. In each of the instances above, solutions that address all of the Descriptions of Success will go a long way toward addressing the concerns expressed by the community itself.