

# ATLANTIS CLEAR WATER

## MEEWASIN TEAM

### PROCESS & DESIGN EVOLUTION

The Meewasin Team, knowing the inner workings of the organization, were very passionate about the potential for the Maple Grove site while also knowing what would and would not work from an operations and budget perspective. After the site tour, the team did a roundtable exercise noting either what spoke to them about the site or any ideas for the design concept.

Continuing the conversation about design ideas, the survey questions were reviewed to gauge the team's opinion. Some options the team were not interested in were a bridge to Yorath Island, an internment facility, sports fields, a daycare, and RVs. The Meewasin Team was also not interested in leaving the site as is but wanted to provide something that was not found anywhere else in the Valley.

The most supported options were trails, interpretive signs, keeping the White House, generating revenue, eco-programming, and camping. Although, there was debate on what types of camping should be allowed. The team generally agreed RVs were not suitable and tenting was most suitable, however, glamping was somewhat controversial.

Some ideas that were discussed that did not make the final plan included a swimming pool or natural swimming pond, beach access, dock facilities, skating on the river, dedicated bike trails, artist's studio, and bringing back the Leisureland train.

Once several design ideas were coming together, the team circled back to develop guiding principles. The Meewasin Team's guiding principles were: **Shared Gathering, Natural Connection, Multilayered Experience, Maintaining Balance, and Revenue Generation**. Using the principles, design ideas were then placed spatially on the base map. With a strong concept developed on day one, the follow-up meetings were used to refine the plan.

### DESIGN THEME

The team's concept for Maple Grove was focused on creating a destination for people to connect with nature and provide opportunity for enhanced nature experiences through trail walks, eco-programming, scenic ceremonies, bird watching, eco-camping, family gathering and more.

## PROGRAM ELEMENTS & DESIGN RATIONALE

### Program Elements:

- Multi-use crusher dust trails throughout site for walking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing
- Day use areas with picnic tables, fire pits or barbeques, trash receptacles
- Outdoor ceremonial spaces available to rent for cultural ceremonies, weddings and other events located near former artist's studio, White House lawn, and wildflower meadow
- Rentable day use shelters for larger groups with picnic tables, fire pits or barbeques, trash receptacles
- Keep existing road with the installation of an admission gate at the entrance to the current trailer park area
- Establish a wildflower meadow in the north half of the furthest south hayfield through volunteer planting programs, mow walking paths throughout
- Establish a food forest of native and non-native edible perennial species through volunteer planting and donor programs, provide tours and harvesting programs
- Interpretive signage throughout the trails, wildflower meadow and food forest
- Offer various eco-programming around invasive species removal, native species planting, clean up campaigns
- 3 group camping sites in trailer park loops, maximum 10 tents, with fire pits, picnic tables and dark sky lighting
- Walk in tent sites along the trails at the south end of the site, each with a fire pit and picnic table, possibility for winter camping
- Yurt camping sites with seasonal temporary yurt structures for easy and accessible camping experiences with basic camping essentials provided
- Temporary washrooms near group camping area, trailer style
- Keep White House as is with minor non-structural renovations for a camp canteen that would provide basic camping essentials, snacks and beverages, and rentals such as paddle boards, rafts, kayaks, snowshoes, cross country skis
- If enough interest is generated, build a permanent event center on upper hayfield near existing road with permanent washrooms and parking lot. This center would be multipurpose used for a variety of events or programming
- Journey to Yorath Island – extending the site to Yorath Island by a zipline and tree walk with viewing towers along the shoreline as a low impact way to experience the natural island

#### Zones of Development:

- Trails & Day Use
- Camping
- Food & Flowers
- Event Space
- Journey to Yorath Island

#### Meewasin Mandates:

**Conserve:** The concept plan aims to leave all undisturbed natural areas as is with a total of 75% of the site being natural. Conservation would be continuous through eco-programs such as invasive species removals and native plantings.

**Develop:** The development of day use areas and overnight camping with various programming creates a destination to connect with nature with the opportunity for enhanced nature experiences

**Educate:** Interpretive signs, eco-programming and volunteer opportunities on-site can assist in educating the public on the uniqueness of the site, while school groups can utilize outdoor event spaces and group camping close to the city

#### Reconciliation:

Previous interest in natural outdoor spaces for Indigenous cultural ceremonies such as sweat lodge ceremonies prompted the creation of outdoor ceremony spaces within the concept plan. Further discussion with Indigenous partners is recommended.

#### Relation to Larger Context & River:

The concept plan indicates Maple Grove as the southwestern trail terminus creating a destination unlike any other site in the surrounding area to stay and enjoy the river valley. Within the concept plan, the trails follow the river with various lookouts with opportunities for wildlife watching, nature photography and scenic views. Rentals of paddleboards, kayaks and rafts provide an opportunity to be on the river allowing for another perspective.

#### The White House:

The team decided to keep the White House where it stands, suggesting minor non-structural renovations such as painting, and adding a ground level patio. Within the concept plan, the White House would be host to the campground office and a camp canteen that provides basic camping supplies, snacks and beverages, and rentals. The operation of the White House would be leased out.

Yorath Island:

In a future phase, a zipline to Yorath Island was proposed with a tree walk above ground to provide low impact and controlled access to a small portion of the island. Otherwise, no access would be permitted to Yorath Island.

## IMPLEMENTATION & OPERATIONS

Phasing:

- Phase 1: Trails
  - Multi-use Trails
  - Day Use Picnic Areas
  - Wildflower Meadow
  - Food Forest
  - Outdoor Ceremony Spaces
- Phase 2: Camping
  - Admission Gate
  - White House Camp Canteen & Office
  - Group Camping
  - Yurt Glamping
  - Walk In Sites
  - Temporary Washrooms
- Phase 3: Event Centre
  - Permanent Event Center
  - Permanent Washrooms
  - Parking Lot
- Phase 4: Journey to Yorath Island
  - Zipline to Yorath
  - Viewing Towers
  - Tree Walk

Operations/Funding Model:

One of the team's guiding principles was a mix of revenue generation to at least cover operating costs, with a larger goal of generating revenue on the site through rentable ceremony or picnic spaces, donor programs within the food forest, and campground site fees. A contract or lease model was discussed for campground operations, camp canteen, equipment rentals, event center catering and zipline operation.

# ATLANTIS CLEAR WATER

## TEAM MEEWASIN

Our concept for the Maple Grove site is focused on creating a destination for people to connect with nature and provide opportunity for enhanced nature experiences through trail walks, day picnics, eco-programming, scenic ceremonies, bird watching, eco-camping and more.

- GUIDING PRINCIPLES**
1. Shared Gathering
  2. Natural Connection
  3. Multilayered Experiences
  4. Maintaining Balance
  5. Revenue Opportunities

- PROGRAM ELEMENTS**
- Multi-Use Trails
  - Gathering Spaces
  - Eco-camping
  - Winter Activity
  - Eco-experiences

**LEGEND**

- Road
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Trails
- Picnic Area
- Parking Lot
- Outdoor Ceremony
- Wildflower Meadow
- Food Forest
- Day Use Picnic Area
- Group Camping
- Walk In Tenting
- Washrooms
- White House
- Event Center
- Viewing Tower

**PHASING**

**PHASE 1**

- 1 New trail connection
- 2 Accessible picnic areas
- 3 Outdoor ceremonial space
- 4 Wildflower meadow
- 5 Food forest

**PHASE 2**

- 6 Day use picnic area
- 7 Walk-in tent camping
- 8 Group Camping
- 9 Washrooms
- 10 White House canteen & rentals

**PHASE 3**

- 11 Indoor event center
- 12 New parking lot

**PHASE 4**

- 13 Zipline & tree walk