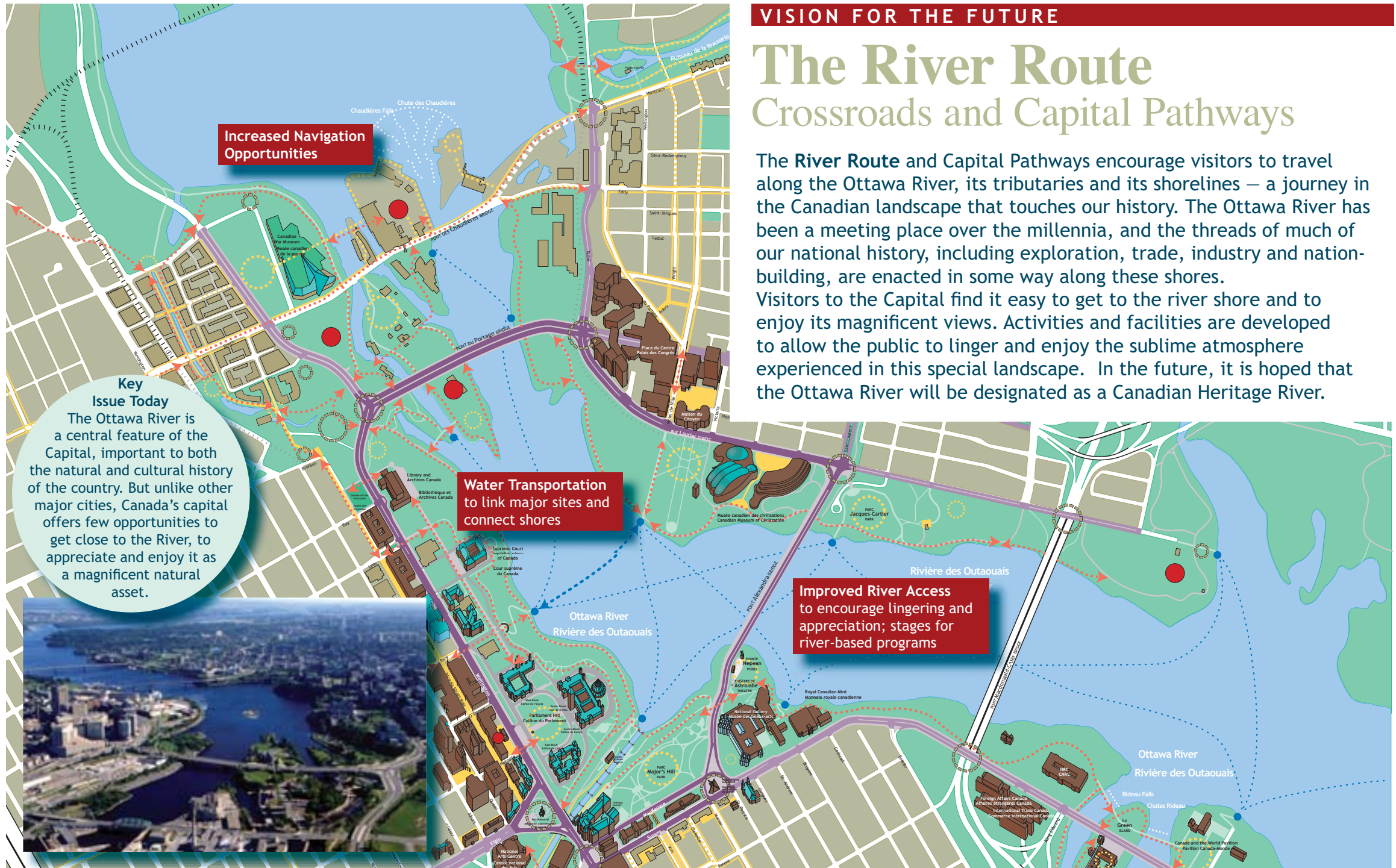


The River Route

Crossroads and Capital Pathways

The **River Route** and Capital Pathways encourage visitors to travel along the Ottawa River, its tributaries and its shorelines – a journey in the Canadian landscape that touches our history. The Ottawa River has been a meeting place over the millennia, and the threads of much of our national history, including exploration, trade, industry and nation-building, are enacted in some way along these shores. Visitors to the Capital find it easy to get to the river shore and to enjoy its magnificent views. Activities and facilities are developed to allow the public to linger and enjoy the sublime atmosphere experienced in this special landscape. In the future, it is hoped that the Ottawa River will be designated as a Canadian Heritage River.



Increased Navigation Opportunities

Water Transportation to link major sites and connect shores

Improved River Access to encourage lingering and appreciation; stages for river-based programs

Key Issue Today
The Ottawa River is a central feature of the Capital, important to both the natural and cultural history of the country. But unlike other major cities, Canada's capital offers few opportunities to get close to the River, to appreciate and enjoy it as a magnificent natural asset.

Artist's concept – looking from the
Quebec shore at the Bank Street
connection to the Ottawa River

*Travelling on the
Ottawa River, we
feel the majesty
of the land
at an ancient
crossroads.*



Future programming along the River Route

- Capital Pathways are more fully developed as routes of exploration for visitors, linking national attractions with the outstanding landscape – especially the Ottawa River.
- Programs take place throughout the four seasons, featuring attractions such as major water-based sporting events and river-themed festivals (regattas, canoe festival, dragon boat races).
- Interpretation communicates the historical significance of the river, especially Aboriginal heritage stories.
- There are wonderful lookouts and amenities, with stops along the way at important attractions such as the War Museum and First Peoples' Centre.
- Visitors use new accessible forms of water-based transportation conveniently linking main sites and attractions.
- Lively interpretation related to ecological and environmental themes attract families and young people.
- Recreational opportunities attract all, from bicycle riders, walkers and paddlers to in-line skaters and other adventure-seekers.
- There are amenities such as cafés where visitors can sit and enjoy the view and the buzz of activities.