



Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park

South End Review

INTRODUCTION

Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas Branch is reviewing future land use and development options for the south end of Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park.

The study area includes the south parking lots, historic water tower, vacant Watertower Inn restaurant, Ukrainian heritage museum and adjacent green space.

ABOUT THE REVIEW

With the assistance of consultant Susan Russell of the McGowan Russell Group, redevelopment options for Winnipeg Beach were identified through discussions with local stakeholders, landowners and park users. Public workshops were organized to review these options and to seek additional ideas.

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

The public workshops were held on June 20th and 23rd, 2007 in Winnipeg and Winnipeg Beach.

Workshop participants were provided with information about park management objectives, current land use, and future development considerations.

The workshops featured informal, round-table discussion groups, where participants talked about the land use issues, the importance of the park, and a variety of development options.

Following each workshop, participants were invited to complete an exit survey.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the public workshops, McGowan Russell has compiled recommendations for the redevelopment of the south end of Winnipeg Beach.

One key recommendation is for the development of a family-oriented serviced campground in the area now occupied by the south parking lots.

The report notes that, *"Restricting the development of the campground to the existing parking areas permits the preservation of existing green space and natural areas, which was identified as a priority during the Workshop Group Discussions."*

Extension of the boardwalk to the south end of the park, construction of a viewing platform on the historic water tower, and the development of a playground, water spray park, water sport area, fishing pier and/or playing fields are among the other recommendations listed in the report.

WATERTOWER INN RESTAURANT BUILDING

The Watertower Inn restaurant building was constructed in 1970 as a training facility for student chefs. It housed a variety of operations over the years, and has been vacant since the mid-1990s.



Although heat has been maintained during the winters, inspections have revealed extensive mould growth, mechanical and electrical systems in complete disrepair, deterioration of the building envelope, and evidence of asbestos insulation.

In 2006, Manitoba Conservation and the Town of Winnipeg Beach invited proposals for the operation of the facility, but retrofit costs made this option prohibitive.

Public workshop exit surveys indicated that the majority of workshop participants strongly agreed, agreed, or were neutral towards the removal of the building.

The building has now been scheduled for demolition. The cement base with electrical, sewer and water connections will be retained and, if possible, incorporated into future site development plans.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Public workshop proceedings, exit survey results and study recommendations are summarized in the Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park Redevelopment Options report prepared by the McGowan Russell Group.

Please note that the Conceptual Redevelopment Plan found in the report is a **preliminary** design concept only, based solely on the results of the current public review.

Details such as access roads, campground boundaries, number of campsites, and other improvements are conceptual and subject to change.

WHAT'S NEXT

Based on the concepts identified in the consultant's report, Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas will prepare detailed design plans and cost estimates for the redevelopment of the south end of Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park. Development options will be prioritized and presented for additional public review and comment.

CONTACT

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Thank you for your interest in Manitoba Parks!