



Lansdowne Revitalization and Algonquin Interpretation

A consultation package for use by
Algonquin Negotiation Representatives

LANSDOWNE PARK
Select Algonquin Interpretive Elements

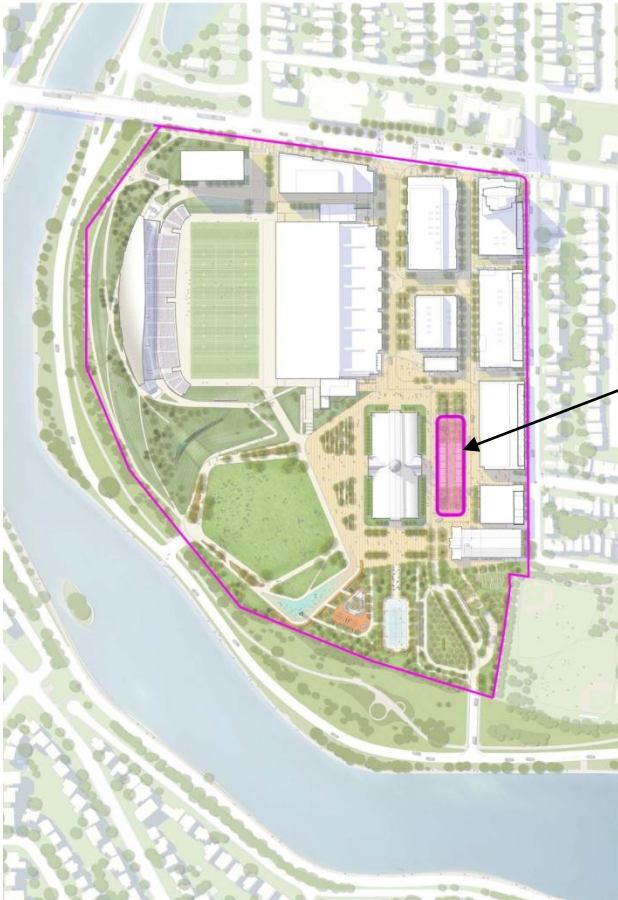
Key Plan



1) ABERDEEN SQUARE PAVING

Incorporate an Abstracted Algonquin Pattern into the Square

Key Plan



Idea and Description

Aberdeen Square is a large public plaza at the heart of the development. Bounded by the historic Aberdeen Pavilion and refurbished Horticulture Building, Aberdeen Square will be the permanent home of the Ottawa Farmer's Market as well as a multi-functional event space.

The redevelopment of Lansdowne represents the permanent return of the Ottawa Valley's long agriculture heritage and history of former agricultural exhibitions to the site. At the same time, contemporary Canadian society is experiencing a renewed respect for local food production.

This, coupled with an understanding of the care and respect paid to food by the Algonquins, spurred the idea that the ground plane of the square could be embellished with a pattern abstracted from typical Algonquin basketry – a fitting 'vessel' for the presence of local food at the centre of the site.

(Should the ground plane be an inappropriate location for this interpretation, it may be possible to instead use a basket-weave pattern or, possibly, a wampum belt pattern, to embellish the tree-guards

or the bench-backs adjacent to the civic demonstration gardens. Should the Aberdeen paving pattern be deemed inappropriate, these alternatives are intended to be explored further.)

Inspirational Images



Local Plan and Reference Images



For Discussion and Feedback:

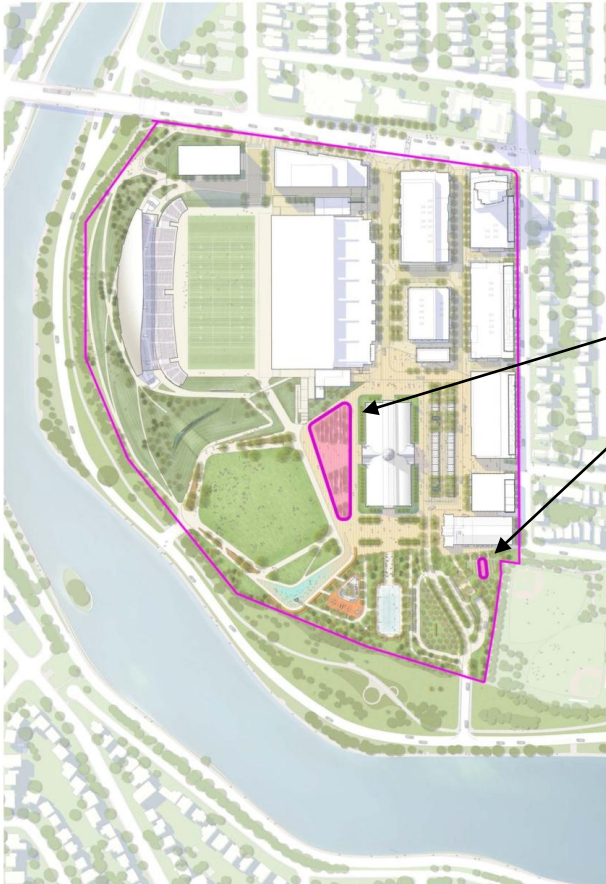
1. Is Aberdeen Square an appropriate location for an Algonquin interpretative element as described?
2. Is a paving pattern reflective of a basket-weave appropriate for Aberdeen Square's feature paving?
3. Is it a concern that this Algonquin interpretative element as described is applied on the ground?

Deadline for final AOO approval on Aberdeen Square paving is mid-March 2013 (ideally), with flexibility to extend to April 1, 2013.

2) ETHNO-BOTANICAL PLANTINGS

Incorporate Key Food, Medicine and Ceremonial Plantings in the Park

Key Plan



Idea and Description

The Civic Demonstration Gardens are intended to showcase urban agriculture as part of the park's educational and interpretive offerings. Possible plantings include culinary gardens representative of Ottawa's diverse cultural spectrum – gardens to demonstrate vegetable varieties especially well-adapted to the local climate. These will offer interactive teaching opportunities to school children and community groups, all of whom will benefit by the teaching kitchen inside the adjacent Horticulture Building.

Precedent/Inspirational Images



Local Plan (Civic Demonstration Gardens)



Idea and Description

As a special feature of this potential array of garden types, an opportunity exists to incorporate an ethno-botanical garden featuring plant species important to the Algonquins for food, medicine, and ceremony. Selection of appropriate species would be guided by feedback, as well as by considerations for local growing conditions and interaction with children in a public park setting.

Reference Images



Local Plan (Great Porch plantings)



Idea and Description

The planted islands of the Great Porch offer an opportunity for an additional layer of ethno-botanical plantings. This area is composed of a series of pathway lined with numerous benches between drifts of medium height perennials and shrubs, and will provide pockets of calm to sit among the plantings and observe the activities of the surrounding park, as well as further explore the featured plants.

Reference Images



For Discussion and Feedback:

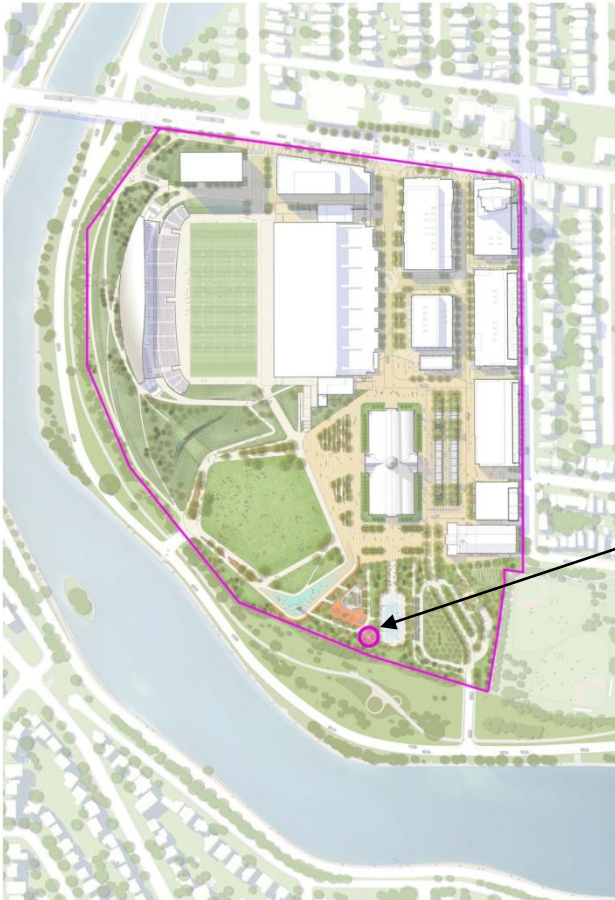
1. Are ethno-botanical plantings an appropriate Algonquin interpretive element?
2. Who could advise on the appropriate selection of plants with Algonquin significance?

Deadline for final AOO approval on ethno-botanical plantings is January 31, 2014.

3) THE TEACHING CIRCLE

Create an Algonquin Teaching Circle adjacent to the Children's Garden

Key Plan



Idea and Description

The Teaching Circle lies to the east of the children's garden and playground and south of the park's central east-west axis. It offers a special location to connect visitors across generations and between cultures. Use and importance of the circle exist in many cultures; it remains here as an opportunity to reflect on the presence of the Algonquins. Lansdowne's history is rich with examples of teaching and exhibition, and numerous elements have been layered into the park planning to highlight this educational perspective alive. The Teaching Circle allows an interface between the park history and that of the Algonquins.

The Circle is comprised of four benches in the form of a circle around a central paving disc. The Circle's benches have the four colours (white, yellow, red and black) embedded, orienting visitors to the four directions. The entrance would be from the East. The benches are circled by a low metal railing and the Teaching Circle is wrapped by a ring of grasses, offering a subtle demarcation of the space within the park. Surrounding the Circle is a feature planting of Seven Trees of significance to the Algonquins. The underside of the benches is illuminated to provide safety level lighting for the space

without intruding on the sense of an enclosed, traditionally fire-lit space. The metal railing may be etched with Algonquin names and symbols to identify the four directions, the seven trees (example of multi-lingual naming: *Wigwasasatik* / *Betula papyrifera* / *Bouleau blanc* / *Paperbark Birch*), and possibly related teachings. Views from the Circle extend in all directions: to the children's garden, the central skating court, the Aberdeen Pavilion and the Rideau Canal.

Precedent/Inspirational Images



Local Plan



Reference Image



(Note that birches are represented until selection of trees is determined.)

For Discussion and Feedback:

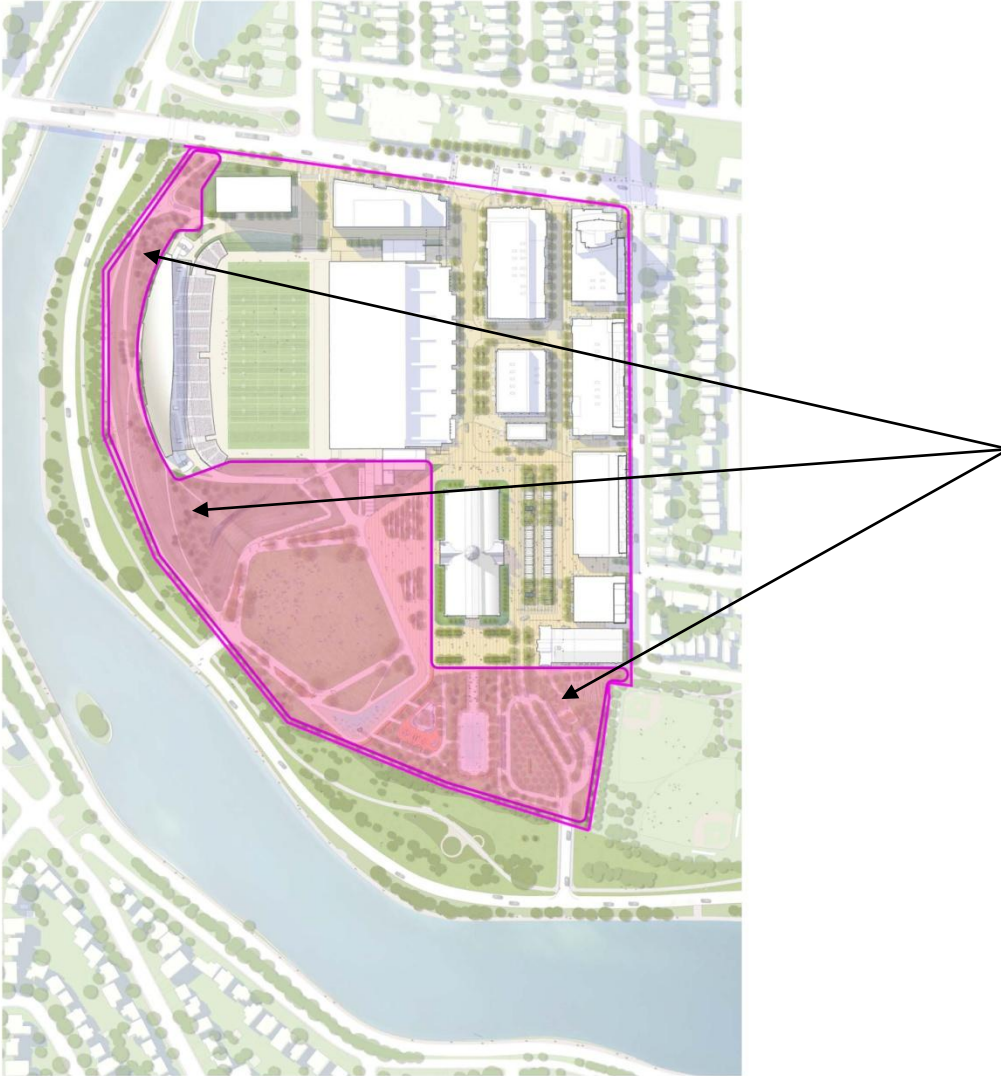
1. Is the idea of the Teaching Circle of interest?
2. Do the proposed details speak appropriately to Algonquin culture?
3. Does the Circle offer an appropriate venue for teaching and storytelling?

Deadline for final AOO approval on the Teaching Circle is January 31, 2014.

4) The Seven Trees

A Feature Grouping of Seven Trees of Significance (and incorporation throughout Park)

Key Plan



Idea and Description

It has been the intention of the park planting design to incorporate species selected from the Eastern Woodlands. A feature planting of the Seven Trees of significance to the Algonquins surrounds the Teaching Circle, and examples of Ethno-botanical species are contemplated for the Civic Demonstrations Gardens and the islands of the Great Porch. Whereas the “urban” spaces of the park (the retail area, Aberdeen Square, etc.) utilise trees specifically chosen for their form and character to fit within an urban setting, the remainder of the park planting is more naturalised and integrated with adjacent landscapes. Within these zones, the Seven Trees will appear again and again, along with selections from the Eastern Woodlands.

Local Plan



Other plantings groups might represent those trees whose materials were used for canoe-building or other specialized uses as further examples of exploration and discovery in the park.

Reference Images





For Discussion and Feedback:

1. What seven trees are the best choices?
2. What are other important tree species we might include in the park plant list?
3. What other groupings of trees were used for special purposes, such as canoe building?

Deadline for final AOO approval on the Seven Trees is September 30, 2013.