



Lachine Canal  
National Historic Site



## Draft management plan for the Lachine Canal National Historic Site of Canada



Parks  
Canada

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Canada



**This document presents the outline of the management plan for the Lachine Canal National Historic Site of Canada.**

## **The Lachine Canal National Historic Site**

A bridge between the city and nature, the Lachine Canal is an exceptional heritage site located in the heart of the city of Montreal. It is part of the five historic canals of Quebec that are managed by Parks Canada. Historically, this structure contributed significantly to the economic, industrial and urban development of the metropolis. Today, in addition to its waterway punctuated by five locks between the Old Port and Lake St-Louis, this site offers a verdant 14.5 kilometre path lined with industrial vestiges. Bordered by a heavily travelled path, the canal attracted more than 1.2 million people in 2016, including some 4,500 recreational boaters.

## **A new management plan**

Management plans are used to establish long-term priorities for the management and operation of historic sites. They are developed in consultation with interested groups and individuals. The last management plan for the Lachine Canal National Historic Site was published in 2004, that is, just after its reopening to pleasure boating. This draft plan proposes a vision, strategies and key objectives for the next 10 to 15 years. Its implementation will be subject to an ongoing dialogue to report on progress and adapt priorities over time.

## **Today's canal**

The development of the Lachine Canal banks at the end of the 1970s resulted in a real estate development that transformed the landscape of the site. Attendance and the number of events also experienced strong growth, requiring renewal of the facilities and the addition of services. The situation today presents challenges in regard to the preservation of historical values and maintenance of property and assets. As a result of federal investments of \$130 million over five years, the Lachine Canal in 2015 underwent a significant rejuvenation of its infrastructure, including masonry walls, locks, bridges, heritage facilities, and the path.

## **Renewal of the historic site**

In 2015, Parks Canada brought together a number of stakeholders to develop an inspiring vision for the renewal of the historic site. This vision is based on the canal's heritage symbols and its urban activities that make it an emblematic Montreal site which combines heritage and innovation. The canal also aspires to become a collective asset that is open to opportunities, encouraging dialogue among the surrounding living environments. The resulting strategies and objectives are summarized below.

## Strategy 1

### **The Lachine Canal: a Montreal emblem**

This is to develop a strong identity for the historic site and give it a distinctive signature based on heritage values that are unique to it. This will enable the canal to become a high-level touristic and cultural destination for local clients as well as for international visitors. In particular, reference is made to the following objectives:

- Involve the Montreal creative community and hold public contests to invite urban projects and initiatives;
- Improve the condition and integrity of the canal's buildings and engineering works;
- Support consultation with stakeholders involved in the layout of the facility.

## Strategy 2

### **A renewed visitor experience**

This strategy focuses on enhancing the visitor experience by responding to the needs of a variety of users and by participating in the revitalization of adjacent living environments. For this purpose, the following factors are considered:

- Enhance the visitor experience and the development of the canal, which would in particular involve the improvement of basic services in all sectors of the canal, an increase in the width of the path and the development of new sections and courses;
- Propose a program of innovative experiences for canal visitors reflecting its history and unique features;
- Add docks and services for recreational boaters and non-motorised craft;
- Establish partnerships for a programming of “four season” activities.

## Strategy 3

### **An important group asset, a development vector for the communities**

This strategy is intended to affirm the public nature of the site, to increase its economic impact and its integration into the communities as well as its appropriation by them which translates into the following objectives:

- A partnership with the communities so that they participate in programming and the expanse of the canal;
- New links with the adjacent neighbourhoods to ensure that the communities benefit from the increased traffic.



## Strategy 4

### **An exceptional window on history and innovation**

This involves making the canal a preferred site for promoting with the public Parks Canada's unique expertise and the vast network of heritage sites managed by the Agency:

- Parks Canada national ceremonies, events and initiatives to be held at the canal;
- Alliances with universities and other partners;
- Interactive screens to welcome visitors and promote the canal.

# A targeted approach for the Peel Basin

The Peel Basin calls for a targeted management approach because of its central location, its visibility and its huge potential for development and heritage dissemination. Parks Canada is striving to make the Basin a signature element and a convergence site for the canal. To do so, the management plan proposes to do the following:

- With the partners, create a common development vision and ensure that it is integrated with the projects surrounding the Peel Basin;
- Make it a true gateway to the canal and maximize the connections with the neighbourhoods that surround it;
- Celebrate its uniqueness by programming activities and experiences focusing on water, the heritage symbols of the site and the surrounding area;
- Create a multi-service focal point in partnership with community, public and private organizations.



# Share your opinion with us!

Parks Canada invites all interested parties, including visitors, residents of the adjacent neighbourhoods, Montrealers, partners and organizations to comment on the proposals contained in this draft management plan.

## How to participate

### 1. By completing the questionnaire:

- Online at [consultationscanal.ca](http://consultationscanal.ca) (until July 1);

### 2. By visiting one of the kiosks installed at the following locations:

- On Thursdays, June 15 and 22, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Lionel-Groulx Metro station;
- On the weekends of June 17-18 and 24-25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Lachine Canal Atwater kiosk (at the southwest corner of Atwater and Saint-Ambroise streets), at Lock No. 1 of the Old Port of Montreal (near the Marché des Éclusiers located at 400 De La Commune Street West) and at the Lachine Visitors' Services Centre (500 Iroquois Road).

### 3. By participating in the public meeting:

- On Monday, June 19, at 7 p.m. at the Château Saint-Ambroise Espace Canal room located at 4020 Saint-Ambroise Street (registration required using the [consultationscanal.ca](http://consultationscanal.ca) site or by phone at 514 375-2724).

For any comments or information about the review of the management plan, please send an e-mail to [UVNQ.communications@pc.gc.ca](mailto:UVNQ.communications@pc.gc.ca) or a letter to 1899 De Périgny Blvd., Chambly (Quebec).

