



**Future Ready
Case
Study**

Shannon Park Master Planning – Halifax

Project Overview

Shannon Park is a tremendous redevelopment opportunity in the heart of Halifax Regional Municipality's urban core. Previously used to house military personnel and their families, Shannon Park has remained vacant and unused for more than 10 years. WSP was hired as the Lead Planning Consultant to advise the Canada Lands Company (CLC) on all master planning-related matters for future redevelopment of the site.

What innovations and future trend(s) did we consider?

- Growing demand for healthy, public spaces. Increased value of community identity and multi-use neighbourhoods to live/work/play/shop.
- Importance in recognizing cultural history and indigenous populations in a collaborative approach to community design.

How were they considered?

In cities around the world, publically accessible waterfronts are in high demand but few are truly accessible to the public. Post-industrial shorelines are being rehabilitated and developed into privately owned residential or commercial use, with little regard to public accessibility. Shannon Park's conceptual design has boldly restricted all development to be away from the shore line, keeping waterfront access and city skyline views publically accessible. This was recommended by WSP through the project's various public consultation sessions.

Creating a complete community with housing, employment, and recreation opportunities was a driving factor behind our conceptual designs. Mixed-use buildings, public plazas and urban parks are proposed to provide opportunities for public use and gathering. An active transportation trail system has also been integrated in the design which connects Shannon Park to adjacent neighbourhoods.

Shannon Park lands hold historic and intrinsic value; it was originally settled by Nova Scotia's First Nation community who, although no longer living in the area, still own a significant portion of land on the site. By working with the Millbrook First Nation, the concept plan provides integration of CLC and First Nation Land into a cohesive community and identifies opportunities for placemaking and tangible recognition of Shannon Park's original tenants.

How was our approach better?

Our concept design reflects holistic and innovative solutions to the Shannon Park redevelopment that accurately reflects the vision made by the greater community. It delivers complete communities with public space, trail systems, and a well-connected and pedestrian-oriented street network. Shannon Park creates liveable streets that encourage sustainable growth patterns, and gives the area an enhanced community identity that recognizes previous tenants as well as the needs of future residents.

Of significant relevance, the Shannon Park concept plan ensures the entire length of the waterfront will be kept in the public trust, with all private development kept away from the shoreline.

The outcome

Shannon Park's concept design has created the framework and road map for the next steps in land development. Demolition of derelict buildings were completed and the waterfront active transportation trail was unveiled to the public as part of Canada 150 celebrations.

Shannon Park's concept design has resonated with the greater community and is perceived as an area in the city that holds significant opportunities in building Halifax's pursuit of building a world-class and Future Ready city.

For more information:

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