Wanderings: Delhi Park Entryway Public Art Request for Proposals

Background

Delhi Park (pronounced Dell-high) is a creek valley landscape located within the Marsh Creek valley watershed and nestled in the centre of the town of Picton, with access points on all sides to different neighbourhoods. It is a designated cultural heritage landscape within a 31 acre municipal park. The park itself is an active transportation route for people, and hosts a wide array of wildlife. Delhi contains connections to Picton Bay (through Marsh Creek Park), Glenwood and Mount Olivet Cemeteries, Picton's main street via the Mary street parking lot entrance, and Nicholas street and Macaulay Village Park.

Marsh Creek's headwaters begin south of Glenwood Cemetery, and run through Delhi Park and into Picton bay, the landscape that the park is on was formed as a glacial plain, and is now a floodplain. Pre-settlement this area was a marsh estuary and an Indigenous portage route, connecting Picton Bay to East Lake and West Lake and out to Lake Ontario. As Marsh Creek meanders through Delhi Park, so do humans, birds, turtles, foxes, and many other creatures. The lands the park is on have a long history with human intervention, around the time of the settlement of the town, the area was used for shipping and industry, Marsh Creek was formed and channeled by humans, and in the late 1800's the park was a landfill. Additionally, the Mary street parking lot was the location of a large school that was in operation from the 1870s to the 1950s. The landfill closed in 1979 and Delhi was instated as a park in 1984.

Much of the park has naturalized areas, with mowing across certain sections to allow for movement and invasive species management. There is a fenced in dog-park area, a community garden, a beloved toboggan hill, and many unmaintained walking paths through the park. In 2022, twenty native trees were planted and are stewarded by the community. The park has a very small playground, and has been identified as a site for future pickleball courts. Many community groups use the park for a wide variety of activities and it has been identified as important for bird migrations, and turtle nesting. Marsh creek receives stormwater drainage from Picton, and it supports a wide variety of animals and across its corridor including deer, fox, coyotes, and many other animals and creatures that are found in the park, and nearby cemetery.

Delhi is a hidden gem, and despite its many entrances, it can sometimes go unseen or unexperienced by visitors and locals. Signage for the park only exists currently at the Lalor/York st entrance, which is the only vehicle entrance to the park. Lighting and seating in the park are minimal.

As a way to honour the history, present and future of Delhi Park, Prince Edward County's Public Art program is undertaking a multi-year series of projects that will reside at the park's entrances. These public art projects will serve to reflect on the rich stories of the land, encourage folks into the park, and celebrate this beloved public space. The overarching theme for all of these projects is "Wanderings".

Under the theme of "Wanderings" the first project will be sited at the Mary St Parking Lot entrance. We are seeking submissions from artists working in any medium with experience creating public artworks. **What would you make to signal the entrance of a vast greenspace?**

The Site

At the edge of a very busy parking lot, and a beloved tobogganing hill, this entrance has a birds-eye-view of the valley bowl of the park, with Marsh Creek, Mount Olivet Cemetery, the enclosed dog park, and the community gardens all within view.

Conditions for the finished work

- As this is the site of a former landfill, no digging is allowed.
- The work should have presence from the front of the parking lot, or is paired with a piece at the roadside.
- This call is not limited to a specific medium, however as the site is in a well-used parking lot, and is used as a toboggan hill, applicants are asked to submit works that won't disrupt any current uses of the space.
- Finished artwork must be structurally sound, safe, and accessible and adhere to the Public Art Content Standards.

Artwork themes to Consider:

- History of the site/area (former school site, former landfill)
- Natural heritage (floodplain, Marsh Creek, trees, water, creatures)
- Active transportation (walking as a means to get somewhere, walking as a means to be somewhere)
- Community uses (Community Gardens, Recreation etc.)
- As this is an ongoing series of projects, we are asking artists to propose artworks that can be in dialogue with future projects

The Site

Aerial view of the possible sites, with locations 1,2, and 3 as the potentials for the proposed artwork, and location 4 as a possible secondary site, (if appropriate) and location 5 showing the view between the locations.

View from the corner of the parking lot looking into Delhi Park. This location is on a hill allowing a birds-eye view of the park

To the right of the above location are these two benches and some cedars

Along the back of the parking lot, at the top of the hill. In the winter this is a popular tobogganing hill.

Secondary site: The view towards the far corner of the parking lot from the sidewalk on Mary Street. The signage is an artist-drawn map of Delhi Park and area.

Secondary site: The view towards Delhi Park from inside the Mary Street parking lot. To the right is a private residence.

Artist Eligibility criteria:

- Experienced with the design and creation of Public Artworks.
- Artist teams are eligible to apply

Budget & Support

The total project budget awarded for this commission is $25,000. The project budget is inclusive of all costs including but not limited to artist fee, assistants, fabrication costs, materials, insurance, HST, permits, equipment rentals, travel, and installation.

Timeline

Call Opens: October 8th 2026
Proposals Due: December 15th , 2026 at 5pm
Artist Selection Notification: February 2027
Contract & Design Development: Spring 2027
Installation: Summer 2027

Payment Schedule

The selected artist will receive a 50% deposit for the creation of the work, the remaining will be paid on project completion.

Application:

Please fill out the application form linked here. Applicants will need to provide the following materials:

- Artist CV (max 3 pages)
- Letter of Intent (max 1 page): Short statement that outlines applicant's public art practice and interest in applying for this call, and which briefly outlines a concept for this work including materials required and any information about how the piece will be secured.
- Portfolio images: relevant examples of the applicant's previous public artworks. (images similar in theme or look to the proposed work are encouraged) 5 images
- Image list: file name, title, date, medium and size.

Selection Process:

Proposals will be reviewed by peer assessors. Applications will be assessed according to artistic merit of the applicant's portfolio and proposed project, qualifications of the applicant, and the feasibility of the proposed project.

Deadline:

Applications are due December 15th , 2026 at 5pm.

Questions:

Reach out to the Public Art Coordinator, Stacey Sproule stacey@countyarts.ca

Resources:

- The Settler's Dream by Tom Cruickshank & Peter John Stokes
- Picton Heritage District Conservation Plan
- Cultural Heritage Master Plan
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Official Plan
- Delhi Park Community Connections Active Transportation Plan
- @friends_delhipark
- @pictoncommunitygardens

This ongoing project will develop alongside improvements being made to the walking paths inside the park, for more info on these improvements please review the Delhi Park Community Connections Active Transportation Plan (VTLA Studio). Using funds from the Public Art Reserve for this first work, we are raising funds for future installs.