



7. STUDENT CONNECTION CARDS

Capital Pathway

Student instructions

Read the information provided on this card to learn more about the Capital Pathway and its importance. Afterwards, locate the Capital Pathway on the Giant Floor Map and use the coloured ropes to map out some routes you think might be popular.

About

The Capital Pathway is one of the most extensive pathway networks in North America. It includes more than 200 kilometres of off-road, multi-use pathways, extending from Gatineau Park, through Ottawa-Gatineau and into the Greenbelt. It connects the capital's parks, gardens, museums, and attractions.

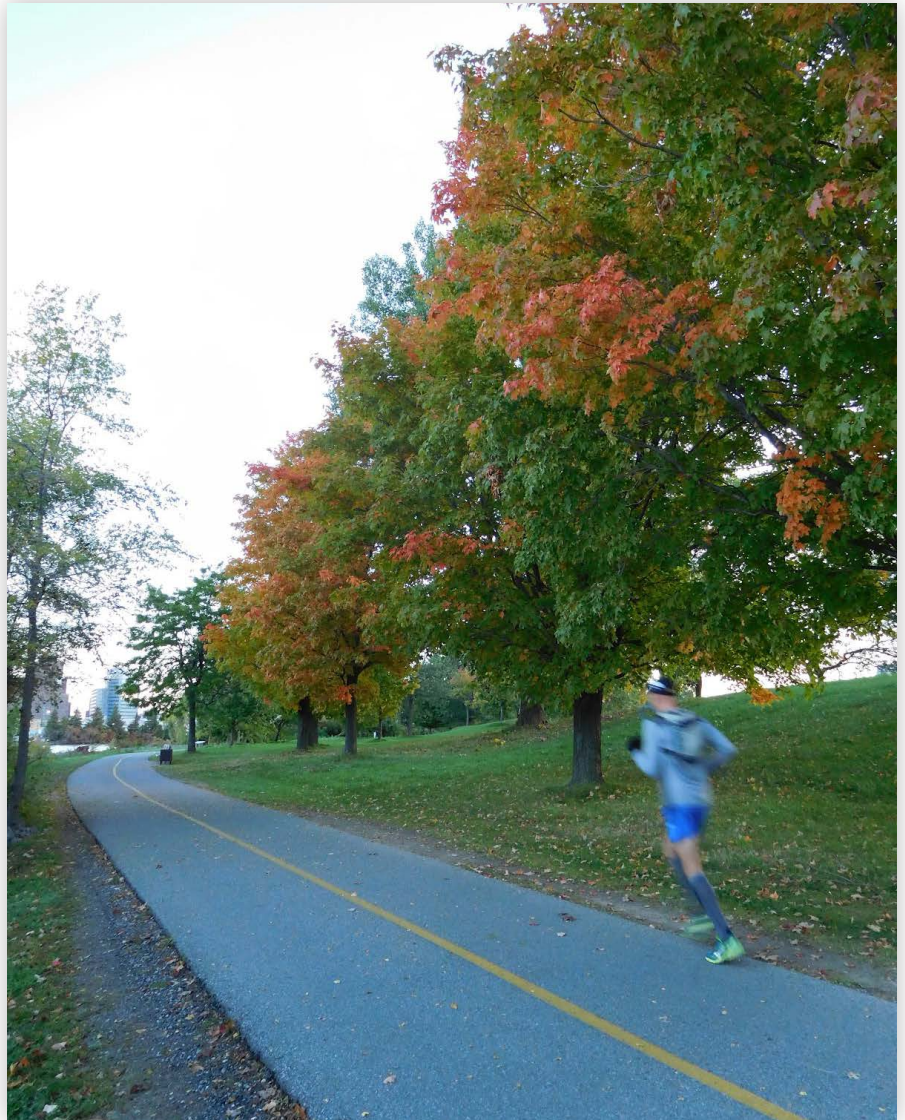
The network forms a series of unique discovery routes, passing through the city centre, the suburbs, the countryside, and wooded areas. It offers a safe and fun way to spend time outdoors, as well as a safe route for commuting.

The Capital Pathway is for everyone: pedestrians, joggers, cyclists, in-line skaters, people with mobility impairments, skiers, snowshoers, and snow bikers.

Capital Pathway Strategic Plan

This document provides a framework for long-term planning and day-to-day management of the multi-use pathway network in the National Capital Region. This 10-year plan presents directions and strategies to make the pathway network the best it can be.

Vision: An exceptional pathway network where all can enjoy invigorating and inspiring experiences in the heart of magnificent capital landscapes.



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7. STUDENT CONNECTION CARDS

Parkways

Student instructions

Read the information provided on this card to learn more about the parkways in the National Capital Region and their importance. Afterwards, locate the parkways on the Giant Floor Map and use the coloured ropes to map them out.

About

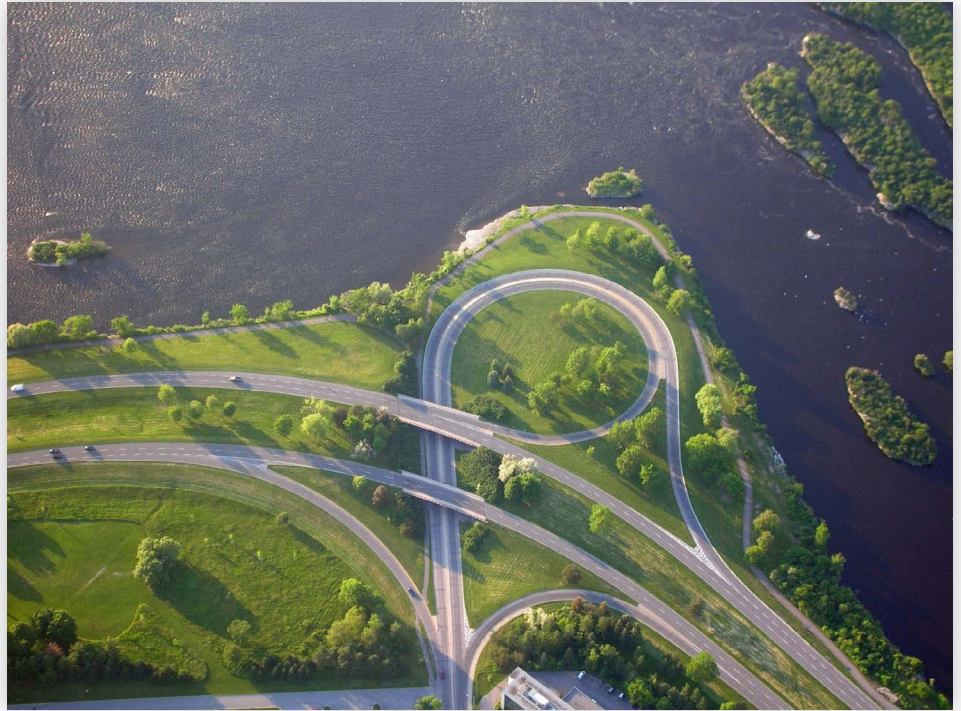
The National Capital Commission's (NCC) scenic parkways are gateways into the National Capital Region. The parkways within the urban area of the capital are located mostly along the banks of the Rideau Canal and the shorelines of the Ottawa River. They frame the beauty of the capital setting and its waterways for public enjoyment. Their signature scenic qualities enhance the journey experience and distinguish them from the local transport network. In some cases, the connectivity of parkways with local streets makes them de facto commuter routes, even if they are meant to be low-density, low-volume, slow-speed scenic routes.

The NCC and its predecessors have been building and managing parkways in the region since 1899. The parkways are cultural landscapes, linking important landmarks within the capital, including Parliament Hill and many national museums and institutions.

The NCC is also responsible for road maintenance and the traffic regulations that apply to the parkways.

Races and public events

The parkways are sometimes used for public events such as running and cycling competitions. Since 1970, the NCC has hosted Sunday Bikedays (now Weekend Bikedays), allowing people to experience the capital's scenic parkways car-free. The program is evolving, as the NCC provides more outdoor space, more often, for people to walk, wheel, bike or run without cars.



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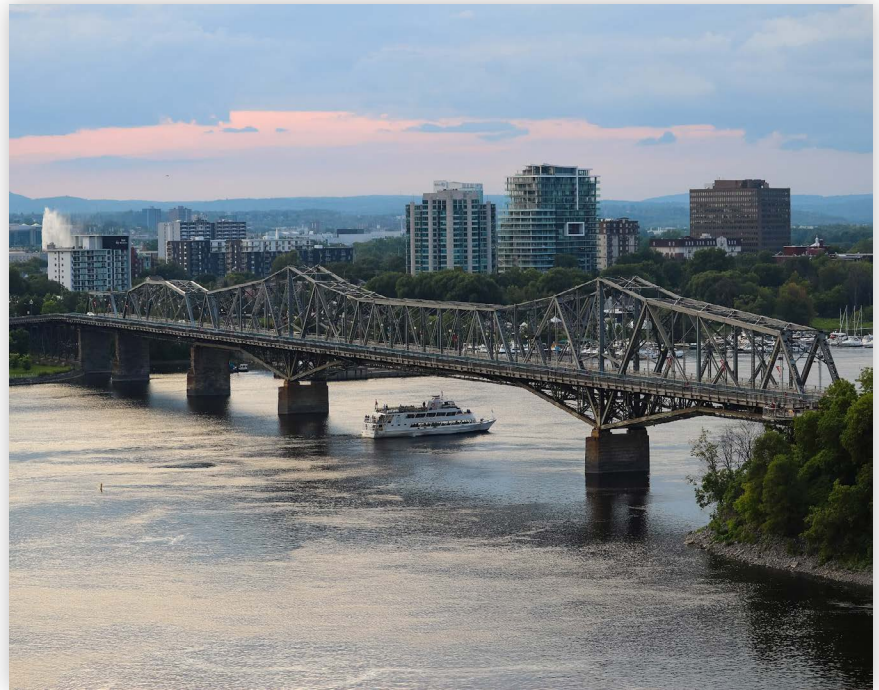
Bridges

Student instructions

Read the information provided on this card to learn more about the interprovincial bridges in the National Capital Region and their importance. Afterwards, locate the main interprovincial bridges on the Giant Floor Map and use the coloured pylons to highlight them.

About

In the National Capital Region, five interprovincial bridges connect the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau. These crossings serve as key transportation routes for cyclists, pedestrians, and motor vehicles. Thousands of people cross the interprovincial bridges daily on foot, on their bikes, in a car or using public transit.



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The National Capital Commission (NCC) is the steward of Portage Bridge and Champlain Bridge. Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) manages and operates the Alexandra Bridge, Chaudières Crossing, and Macdonald-Cartier Bridge.

- **Champlain Bridge**
Built between 1924 and 1928, the bridge carries approximately 22 per cent of all motor vehicle traffic and five per cent of all pedestrians and cyclists across the Ottawa River in the National Capital Region.
- **Portage Bridge**
Built in 1973 and expanded in 1988, the bridge carries an average of 40,000 vehicles per day, and more than 400 cyclists per hour during morning and afternoon commutes.
- **Alexandra Bridge**
Known as the Interprovincial Bridge, this bridge connects Sussex Drive in Ottawa and Des Allumettières Boulevard in Gatineau, linking the Byward Market with the Canadian Museum of History.
- **Chaudières Crossing**
The Chaudière Crossing passes over the Ottawa River and several hydroelectric waterways, uniting Gatineau, Quebec, and Ottawa, Ontario. The Chaudière Crossing is the oldest crossing in the National Capital Region, opening in the 1820s.
- **Macdonald-Cartier Bridge**
The Macdonald-Cartier Bridge was built between 1964 and 1966. It spans the Ottawa River connecting King Edward Avenue in Ottawa to Highway 5 in Gatineau, and is the principal inter-provincial bridge in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Long-term integrated interprovincial crossings plan

The Long-Term Integrated Interprovincial Crossings Plan offers a vision and strategies for the interprovincial transport of people and goods in the National Capital Region. It guides the NCC and partnering agencies in their work to build a more sustainable and equitable transportation system. It looks at the challenges and uncertainties that face transportation in the region, now and in the future, including climate change, active transportation, demographic shifts, societal changes and new technology.

Vision: By 2050, the transportation network to cross the Ottawa River will provide well-connected and sustainable travel options that contribute to a high quality of life and economic prosperity in the National Capital Region. The system of crossings will support equitable mobility and the safe and efficient movement of people and goods, while respecting the region's natural environment and cultural heritage.



7. STUDENT CONNECTION CARDS

Transit system

Student instructions

Read the information provided on this card to learn more about the transit system in the National Capital Region and its importance. Afterwards, locate some main bus routes and O-Train routes using different colours of ropes and map them on the Giant Floor Map.

About

There are two main transit agencies in the National Capital Region: OC Transpo and The Société de transport de l'Outaouais (STO, Gatineau).

Services

OC Transpo (Ottawa)

- **Bus:** Provides services around Ottawa and across into Gatineau. It is estimated that they serve more than 300,000 riders a day and have about 900 vehicles in operation.

There are several types of buses offered around the city, such as rapid, night, local, school, and even event buses.

- The Transitway is Ottawa's Bus Rapid Transit system. It operates on several lines of dedicated busway and provides all-night transit to and from downtown. Four new lines are planned (Baseline, Cumberland, March Road, Barrhaven-to-Limebank)
- **The O-Train:** A light rail transit (LRT) system that functions like a metro, aimed at connecting people to the downtown core and allowing faster travel. It is currently under development and is the largest transportation infrastructure project for the capital since the building of the Rideau Canal.

There are currently two O-Train lines: Line 1, the Confederation Line, and Line 2, the Trillium Line. Current expansions, due to open by 2024-25, will extend line 1 so that it will link Orléans to Algonquin College, and extend Line 2 to Riverside South. Two new lines are also being built: Line 3 to Moodie, and Line 4 to the Airport. Future expansions would see Line 3 reach Stittsville and Line 1 reach Barrhaven.

The Société de transport de l'Outaouais (STO, Gatineau)

- **Bus:** Provides services in Gatineau, Hull, and Aylmer and has some routes connected to downtown Ottawa. There are many stops in this system that allow riders to connect to the nearby OC Transpo system.
- The Rapibus is Gatineau's Bus Rapid Transit system. It operates a line between Labrosse and Taché-UQO stations, with an extension planned to Lorrain.

