

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Community and Protective Services Committee (CPSC) – April 13, 2026



London
CANADA

Project Overview

- The City of London last updated its Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2019.
- Due to recent provincial policy changes, population growth, and community desires for green space, a **“scoped” Master Plan Update** is needed provide direction for the next 15 years.
- The project also includes a **financial planning strategy** to inform the City’s next Multi-Year Budget and 2028 Development Charges Background Study.





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2019 PRMP Goals

Vision:

In London, all residents – regardless of age, ability, culture, gender, income, or where they live – have the opportunity to participate and share in meaningful and accessible parks, recreation, and sport experiences.



The vision and goals are to remain with this update, with a specific **focus on Supportive Environments**.

Project Timeline

- We are currently in Phase 5 of the project and are working to finalize the PRMP Update
- This Phase includes several engagement opportunities to ensure the final plan reflects the community's interests





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“Let’s talk parks” Community Engagement so far

2,210

completed
surveys

60

open house
attendees

+ other
engagement
tactics

Outreach Methods



Get Involved
London Webpage



Billboards, Posters &
Postcards



Email Blasts



Social Media

Engagement Tactics



Community Survey



Advisory Committees



Public Open Houses



Public Agencies



Community Connector
Pop-Ups



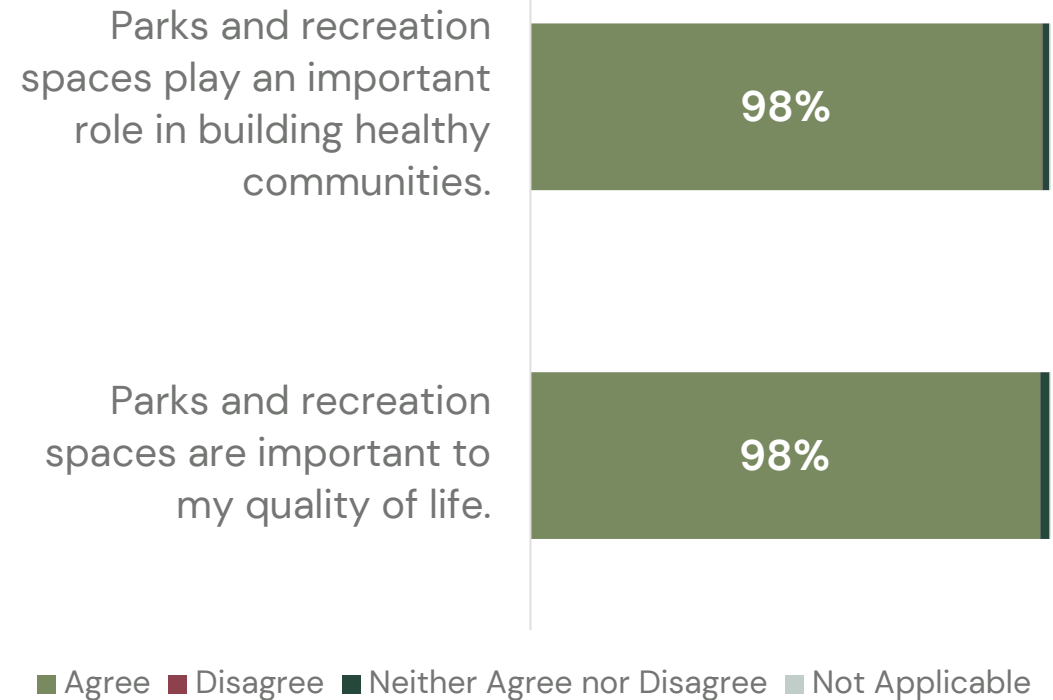
Short Questionnaire

“Let’s talk parks” Highlights

1. Nearly all residents agree that London’s parks, recreation trails, and pathways are **important to their quality of life.**

2. **Perceptions of park safety and inclusion are mixed.** 65% of survey respondents agreed that London’s parks are safe, welcoming and inclusive.
 - Suggested safety/inclusion improvements included increased maintenance, addressing encampments, and increased surveillance/enforcement of by-laws.

Value of Parks & Recreation Spaces

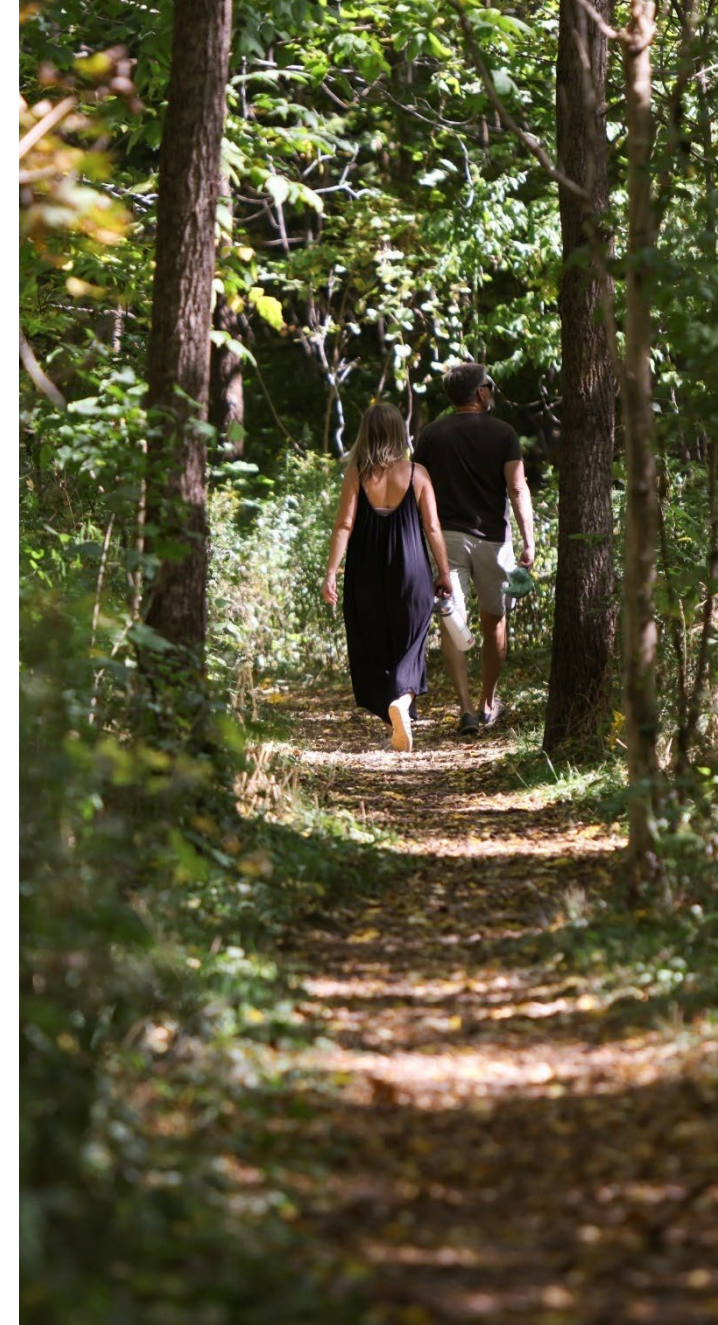


“Let’s talk parks” Highlights

3. **Local or neighbourhood parks** are the most used park type, suggesting residents primarily use parks that are nearby, convenient, and walkable.
4. **Washrooms, drinking fountains, and comfort amenities** had the largest gaps between satisfaction and importance in the survey, indicating they are top priorities for improvement.
5. Residents identified **barriers with accessing washrooms**, such as locked facilities, as well as safety and sanitary concerns. Adding gender neutral and universal washroom facilities to parks was a suggested strategy to improve the inclusivity of these spaces.
6. To support **year-round park use**, users would like to see increased maintenance of paths and access to waste receptacles during the colder months of the year.

“Let’s talk parks” Highlights

7. Improvements are desired to make parks more accessible and inclusive for people of **all ages and abilities**.
 - People are seeking playgrounds with accessible surfaces and structures for people with disabilities, as well as equipment that can entertain young children, teenagers, and adults.
8. Residents expressed support for the **environmental benefits of natural areas and Environmentally Significant Areas** and did not want to see these areas compromised by non-sensitive recreation uses.
9. School Boards and Conservation Authorities lent support for **partnerships that can enhance public access** to parks and green spaces.



Emerging Directions (Draft)

The Master Plan Update will introduce guidelines relevant to **Goal 4 Supportive Environments**. These are organized around the following themes:

- A. **Modernizing Parkland Policies & Standards**
- B. **Designing Inclusive, Sustainable & Adaptable Parks**
- C. **Focusing on our Parks & Recreation Facility Priorities**
- D. **Leveraging Partnerships & Funding Solutions**



A. Modernizing Parkland Policies & Standards

Possible directions include (subject to change):

1. Updating how the City classifies and manages different types of parks to better reflect their roles in the community.
2. Exploring opportunities to maximize parkland acquisition.
3. Continuing to create connected and integrated parks, open space, and pathway networks.



B. Designing Inclusive, Sustainable & Adaptable Parks

Possible directions include (subject to change):

1. Designing parks to serve diverse users and abilities, prioritizing equity and access for underserved communities.
2. Continue pursuing environmental sustainability and climate resilience initiatives in alignment with municipal objectives.
3. Keep engaging communities in park design and stewardship.



C. Focusing on our Parks & Recreation Facility Priorities

Possible directions include (subject to change):

1. Maintaining service levels in pace with population growth, prioritizing geographic gaps and demonstrated demand.
2. Investing in unprogrammed and community-activated park spaces that support wide use by residents of all ages and backgrounds.
3. Planning proactively for emerging and specialized facilities.
4. Expanding recreation facility capacity strategically across the city.



D. Leveraging Partnerships & Funding Solutions

Possible directions include (subject to change):

1. Collaborating with school boards, public agencies, and the private sector to increase public access to parks, open space, and recreation and sport facilities.
2. Maximizing funding tools to keep pace with park and facility renewal and growth-related needs.



Next Steps

1. **April/May**
Public Engagement
 - Get Involved website
 - Open houses and more
2. **July 13**
Final PRMP Update to CPSC



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