



City of London

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

April 2019

Accessibility Advisory Committee





About the Master Plan

Creating a “Game Plan” for Parks, Recreation Programs, Sport Services, and Facilities

- The Master Plan provides an overall vision and direction for making decisions.
- It is based on public input, participation trends and usage, best practices, demographic changes, and growth forecasts.
- The Plan will be used by the City to guide investment in parks, recreation programs, sport services, and facilities over the next ten years and beyond.







Project Scope




- **Recreation Programming**, such as aquatic, sport, wellness, arts/crafts, dance/music, and general interest programs provided by the City and other sectors



- **Recreation and Sport Facilities**, such as community centres, pools, sports fields, playgrounds and more



- **Parks & Civic Spaces**, such as major parks, neighbourhood parks, gardens, and civic squares



- **Investment in the Community**, such as neighbourhood opportunities, public engagement, sport tourism, and more





Project Overview



Phase One

Research and Consultation



Phase Two

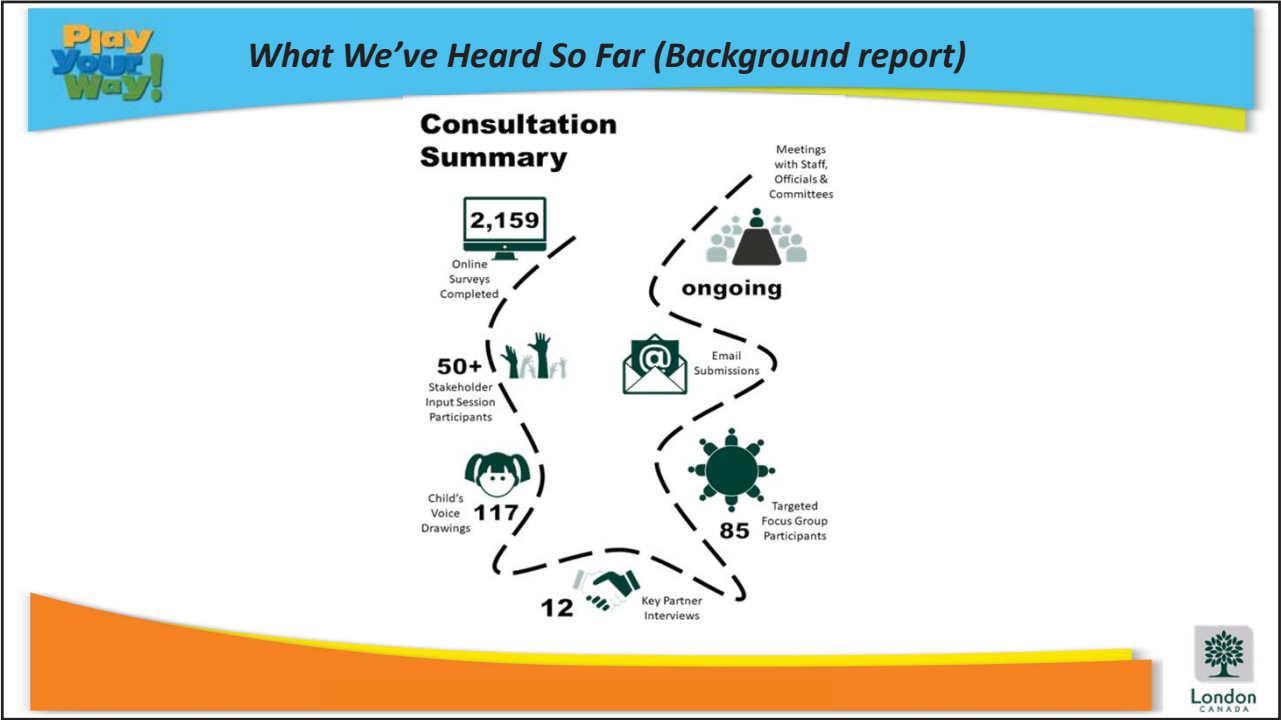
Development of Recommendations and Strategies



Phase Three

Testing the Master Plan and Project Finalization







Our Discussion May/June 2018

Purpose of That Session

To **learn** about your challenges and priorities.


To **share** your experiences with us.

To **discuss** ideas and opportunities to be considered within the Master Plan.

We shared our notes back with you to ensure we had recorded the information correctly.








What the Accessibility Advisory Cttee said..

- Provide more accessible programming through partnerships with other community agencies.
- Be consistent and persistent when providing programming. It may take time to build the clientele and will require advertising throughout the community.
- Ensure that all parks and recreation facilities are included in Facility Accessibility Design Standards (FADS) document. Include FADS in the list of Council-approved initiatives.
- Make sure that accessibility standards are being met at all parks, recreation facilities and trails. Some additional considerations may include:
- Establishing a guideline requiring a minimum level of accessibility at playgrounds (e.g., at least 30-50% of amenities like swings be accessible).





What the Accessibility Advisory Cttee said..

- Providing electric scooter charging stations and adjustable change tables in all facilities.
- Improving accessibility at dog parks by using easier to open gate latches and providing a paved area just inside the gate with shade. Small dog parks should also be open to service dogs.
- Making community events more accessible. For example, offering closed captioning at Labatt Park ball games.
- Providing sensory rooms for the neurodiverse population and providing training for staff about how to better address the needs of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), including programing specifically for individuals with ASD. (from a delegation at the June 28, 2018 meeting)



What the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan says....


- Did we hear you and respond appropriately?
- Did we miss anything?
- Anything else you would like to add?



Play
Your
Way!

VISION

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



Play
Your
Way!

	Goal 1: ACTIVE LIVING	We will support and promote opportunities for active living. This will be achieved through unstructured and structured experiences that encourage regular physical activity and healthy aging.
	Goal 2: INCLUSION & ACCESS	We will remove barriers to participation by adopting a model of “access for all”. This will be achieved by welcoming and including all residents.
	Goal 3: CONNECTING PEOPLE & NATURE	We will strengthen residents’ connections with their neighbourhoods and nature. This will be achieved through public awareness, neighbourhood-driven activities and decision-making, and opportunities to animate and enjoy London’s outdoor spaces and places.
	Goal 4: SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS	We will invest strategically in parks, recreation, and sport infrastructure to support the Master Plan goals. This will be achieved by responding to demonstrated community needs through the thoughtful design, provision, and management of parks, facilities, and spaces.
	Goal 5: RECREATION CAPACITY	We will deliver exceptional parks, recreation, and sport services. This will be achieved through the use of effective and responsive practices, partnerships, innovation, leadership, and accountability at all levels.

Note: The goals of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan are aligned with the Framework for Recreation in Canada (2015).





Active Living

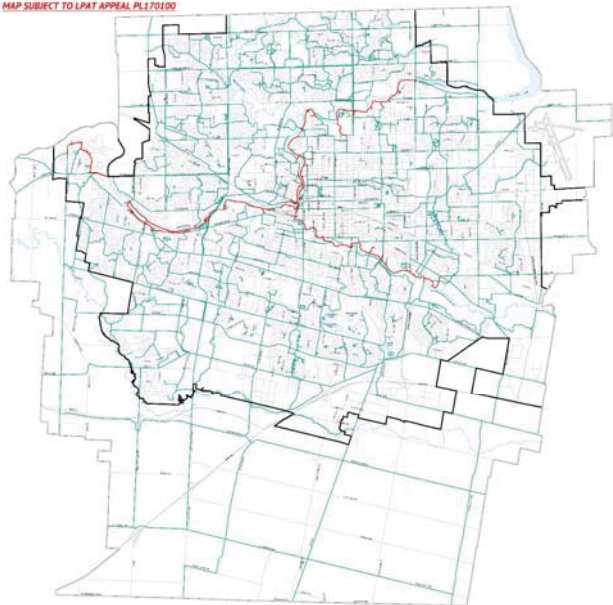
Recommendations:

- Emphasis on physical activity and physical literacy for residents of all ages and abilities through registered and drop-in opportunities
- Expansion of drop in programming – respond to changing demographics & diversity, offering at non-traditional sites etc.
- More family recreation opportunities... to foster lifelong participation
- Working together with other service providers and stakeholders to understand participation rates and gaps



MAP 4 - ACTIVE MOBILITY NETWORK

MAP SUBJECT TO LPAT APPEAL PL170100



LEGEND	
Green line	Active Mobility Network
Red line	Proposed Active Mobility Network
BASE MAP FEATURES	
Blue line	Water
Grey line	Highway
Black line	Other Roads
Blue area	Water



ADOPTED BY COUNCIL ON MAY 25, 2014


APPROVED BY THE PROVINCE ON DECEMBER 16, 2014

THIS MAP MUST BE READ IN CONJUNCTION

WITH THE 2014-2018 PLAN FOR LONDON

While every effort has been made to ensure that this map is accurate, a reader should verify the information shown on this map with the appropriate authorities. The City of London is not responsible for any errors or omissions on this map.







Inclusion and Access

Goal: We will remove barriers to participation by adopting a model of “access for all”. This will be achieved by welcoming and including all residents.

Strategic Directions:


- Work collaboratively with populations that face constraints to participation – such as (but not limited to) Indigenous peoples, newcomers to Canada, residents with low income backgrounds, LGBT+ community, females, and persons with disabilities – to reduce and remove barriers.
- Support diversity and inclusion by evaluating proposals, policies, and actions through an equity and gender identity lens.
- Provide, promote, and enhance subsidy programs that improve affordability for all.
- Increase the range of low- and no-cost programs within the city.
- Promote the use of parks, public spaces, trails, and pathways.
- Implement age-friendly design standards and planning strategies that improve accessibility for all.





Inclusion and Access

- Statement from the Accessibility Plan included in text of section
- Recognition of guidance by the Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Range of services offered to ensure that persons with disabilities can engage in leisure activities
- ...matters relating to barrier-free access and AODA built environment requirements are addressed in “Supportive Environments” section





Inclusion and Access

Recommendation:

- Work with under-represented populations to identify participation rates in parks, recreation, and sport; remove barriers to participation and establish appropriate participation targets.
- Expand programs and services for the special needs population, with a focus on increasing physical activity options for school-aged children with special needs.
- Expand staff training around accessibility, including sensitivity training.



Connecting People and Nature

Recommendations


- Enhancing connections with nature – awareness, marketing, education, programs, Thames access, signage, outdoor play
- Support community development – equity in parks, facility, and service delivery
- Public engagement and communication
- Safe and welcoming spaces within neighbourhoods (indoor and out)



Recommendations

- 





Supportive Environments

Strategic Directions:

- Ensure that public spaces are safe, welcoming, accessible, and maintained in a state of good repair through the implementation of contemporary design standards, AODA requirements, and effective asset management.
- Develop spaces, facilities, and amenities that are flexible and service multiple users
- Respond to changing participation patterns, demographics, emerging activities by adapting public spaces and programs to fit evolving needs and expectations.







Supportive Environments

Recommendations

- Infrastructure – arenas, community centres, aquatics, pools, sport fields, amenities in parks, acquiring land for parks, parks and public space design
- Continue to make facilities and parks more accessible for persons with disabilities, in keeping with AODA requirements. Review the City’s accessibility design standards to ensure that all relevant parks, recreation and sport facilities are included
- Intensification – more multi-functional spaces, expand social and recreational opportunities to serve a diverse population







Supportive Environments

Recommendations

- Conduct accessibility audits on a regular basis. Consideration to assistive technologies and adaptive equipment.
- Design new and redeveloped playgrounds with **accessibility** in mind (including surfacing and components). The standard for City-Wide and District Parks should be fully accessible playgrounds with rubber surfacing. Playgrounds in Neighbourhood Parks should have consideration for partial-accessibility.







Recreation Capacity

Goal: We will deliver exceptional parks, recreation and sport services. This will be achieved through the use of effective and responsive practices, partnerships, innovation, leadership, and accountability at all levels.

Recommendations:

- Collect feedback and act on it
- Evidence informed decision making
- Partnerships
- Collaborations





Stay Involved!

You may still provide input:

1. Any questions or comments to:
dbaxter@london.ca
2. You are encouraged to read through all of the recommendations online and provide comments online:
getinvolved.london.ca/playyourway

