



City of London
Parks and Recreation Master Plan

April 2019

Community Safety & Crime
Prevention 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 Scope

Items out of Scope:

- **Parkland Dedication Policies** (guided by the London Plan and Parkland Conveyance & Levy By-Law)
- **Cycling and Bike Lanes** (addressed in the London Plan and Cycling Master Plan)
- **Environmentally Significant Areas** (guided by the London Plan policies and technical recommendations within individual Conservation Master Plans)
- **Arts, Culture and Heritage** (guided by the Cultural Prosperity Plan and related reports)

Although these items are addressed in other studies, the Master Plan will ensure [alignment](#)



A circular inset image showing a park scene. In the foreground, a large, leafy tree stands on a grassy bank. A paved path leads from the left towards the background. In the background, a large fountain with multiple water jets is visible, set against a backdrop of city buildings under a clear sky. The entire image is framed within a circular border with a green gradient.

Research and Consultation



Development of Recommendations and Strategies



Testing the Master Plan and Project Finalization



City of London Parks and Recreation Master Plan
What We've Heard So Far
 (Summary of Public Input)
 November 2018

City of London Parks and Recreation
 London
 CANADA

mbpc
 Minto + Brown
 planning + strategy

Sutherland
 CONSULTANTS

2017

- Online Surveys Completed: 2,159
- Stakeholder Input Session Participants: 50+
- Child's Voice Drawings: 117

2018

- ongoing
- Email Submissions

2019

- Targeted Focus Group Participants: 85

2020

- Key Partner Interviews: 12





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


- Did we miss anything?
- Is there anything else you would like to add?








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.*






	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

Strategic Direction: Make parks and facilities walkable and accessible by residents through active transportation and connections to public transit.

Recommendations:

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





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.

Recommendations:

- Work with under-represented populations to identify participation rates in parks, recreation, and sport; remove barriers to participation and establish appropriate participation targets.
- Ensure indigenous peoples feel welcomed in programs and community centres
- Expand staff training around accessibility, including sensitivity training.
- Awareness



Connecting People and Nature

Strategic Directions:

- Enhance awareness of community initiatives and promote the personal and community benefits of parks, recreation, and sport.
- Support volunteerism and community engagement.
- Continue to emphasize initiatives focused on strengthening neighbourhoods, animation of public spaces, and unstructured activities.
- Use recreation to help people connect with nature and be stewards of the natural environment.
- Apply effective designs and management strategies that support healthy and sustainable environments
- Support efforts to expand active transportation networks, including trails and pathways within and connecting to parks and open spaces.





Connecting People and Nature

Recommendations

- Education and awareness around naturalization projects, park maintenance, importance of exposure to nature, appreciation of nature (awareness, marketing, signage etc.)
- Enhance Thames shoreline access in keeping with best environmental practices
- Trails & Pathways – support opportunities to be immersed in, experience, respect and value nature, align with Cycling Master Plan and link with Provincial Cycling Routes



Connecting People and Nature

Recommendations

- Enhance management of woodlands and work with stakeholders, encourage stewardship of parks, gardens and other community resources – enhance sustainability
- Promote naturalization
- Management of urban wildlife and invasive species
- Outdoor Play Strategy





Supportive Environments

Recommendations

- Infrastructure – arenas, community centres, aquatics, pools, sport fields, amenities in parks, acquiring land for parks, parks and public space design
- Intensification – more multi-functional spaces, expand social and recreational opportunities to serve a diverse population
- Major retrofits and new construction projects consider climate change, environmental sustainability, and energy conservation
- Consideration of green technologies and low impact development practices by building these items into City budgets.
- Continue to utilize Community Centres as emergency reception centres



Supportive Environments

Recommendations

- Review and revise the City's park design guidelinesupdate standards related to on- and off-street parking, general park lighting, washrooms, gateway features...
- Renewal of Neighbourhood Parks – emphasize projects that promote usage by people of all ages, such as the introduction of shade, seating, pathways, unprogrammed space.
- Engage in coordinated informed response and other integrated strategies aimed at improving the use, public safety, activities, and access of parks.





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



Next Steps!

1. Any questions or comments: dbaxter@london.ca
2. Report with Draft Master Plan to Community and Protective Services Committee in May or June 2019

