

## **APPENDIX D**

This Appendix contains feedback gathered from Advisory Committees on Draft Goals, Strategic Directions, and Recommendations. Presentation opportunities were offered to all nine Advisory Committees that participated and provided input during the initial engagement initiatives in 2018. Five Committees requested presentations and their feedback is outlined below.

### **ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Summary of comments from sub-committee meeting:

- Access for all is important. The City must provide access to all outdoor spaces and indoor and outdoor facilities and amenities. No exceptions. Concern about access on trails and pathways throughout the city was raised.
- Continue to partner with other organizations within the community to offer programs and services for those with disabilities. The City should continue to test program options for children and youth with disabilities – programs need to be offered consistently and be allowed to grow over time.
- Playground surfacing – the City should commit to providing accessible features and rubberized surfacing in all new and upgraded playgrounds.

Comments provided by email:

- All of the swimming pools both indoor and outdoor need to be assessed for wheelchair access, and then a plan in place to make each one accessible.
- For registration for programs, there is a subsidy for people on OW and ODSP automatically making them eligible for it. Please include in that the children with ACSD. Their families spend a great deal to keep them operating and therefore would automatically qualify for the subsidy too. They do not need to jump through hoops to register their child for a program.

### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

- Specific questions related to programming only.

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION**

- Specific questions related to helmet safety in arenas.

### **CYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Comments provided by email:

Active Living

- You should also commit to reviewing the data collection and design objectives and sharing Program Participation Data on an ongoing basis with the Cycling Advisory Committee.

Inclusion and Access

- In conjunction with London Transit, offer under-represented groups special discounted/free single-use round trip bus tickets to City Parks and Recreation properties.

Connecting People and Nature

- In conjunction with London Cycle Link and CAC, Review, Edit and Translate a "London Newcomers Cyclist Handbook" into Arabic, French and Spanish.
- Enhance and update current 2015 PDF version of the London Pathway Map by leveraging open source approaches such as Open Street Map. <https://www.openstreetmap.org/>Initiate public consultations on Bus Transit routes to and vehicle access and parking standards for City parks, recreation, and sport infrastructure and facilities.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGICAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Comments provided in email:

General Comments

- Where park is used in the Plan, it refers to a definition that contains the word Park Definitions (from Development Charges study definitions provided by staff on October 11, 2018 to the Development Charges Stakeholder Group)
- Neighbourhood Parks are intended to serve as a focal point of a neighbourhood and are

designed to serve the needs of the local neighbourhood by supporting both unorganized and organized activities and programs.

- District Parks are intended to serve groups of neighbourhoods and are designed with an emphasis on facilities for organized sports and unorganized activities.
- Open Space generally buffers and protects natural features and is often linear in nature following tributaries of the Thames River, upland corridors or utility easements.
- Woodland Parks have typically been established and protected for their environmental significance and may have been identified by the City through a previous study or have a development-related Environmental Impact Study (EIS) with recommendations for their protection, management and enhancement.
- Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) are identified as components of the Natural Heritage System and include lands that are to be maintained in their natural state through appropriate management for the purposes for which they have been recognized.
- Sports Parks are designed to accommodate multiple high-end sport fields and service larger areas in the City.
- Thames Valley Parkway (TVP) is the City's multi-use pathway system which generally follows the Thames River. Future extensions of the TVP will occur as lands along the branches of the Thames River come under urban development.
- Urban Parks are relatively small spaces that provide a higher level of design quality and are intended to be focal points within neighbourhoods.
- Civic Spaces are small parcels of municipally owned land in the Downtown core and along older main street areas that are designed to a high standard.
- In this document, a pathway has a surface that is hardened with asphalt or other similar base. A trail does not.
- In this document, passive recreation refers to recreational activities that do not require prepared facilities like sports fields or pavilions. Passive recreational activities place minimal stress on a site's resources; as a result, they can provide ecosystem service benefits and are highly compatible with natural resource protection. (US EPA) The Natural Heritage System refers to Policy 1298 of the London Plan and is shown on Map 5 of the London Plan.

#### Active Living

- A definition of passive and active recreation with examples.
- "non-traditional sites" is completely open ended. Examples would be helpful. Do unstructured activities fall under active recreation which would include a game of pick up soccer or ultimate Frisbee? Does active transportation include bikes including electric bikes? None of these activities should not be permitted in ESAs or Woodland Parks.

#### Inclusion and Access

- We split trails and pathways from E and added a new F in the Strategic Directions section.
- Shorten e) Promote the use of parks and public spaces.
- New f) Promote the use of trails and pathways in a way that protects unique species and habitats.

#### Connecting People and Nature

- If the Goal and Strategic Direction G are changed from parks and places to open spaces and civic spaces, it is therefore made clear that Environmentally Significant Areas and buffers to environmental features are excluded. G
- Add "and sustain ecological features and functions to f so it reads:
- f) Apply effective designs and management strategies such as natural landscapes, native plants, and natural heritage education opportunities that support healthy and sustainable environments, and sustain ecological features and functions.
- If the Goal and Strategic Direction G are changed from parks and places to open spaces and civic spaces, it is therefore made clear that Environmentally Significant Areas and buffers to environmental features are excluded. G
- Add "and sustain ecological features and functions to f so it reads:
- f) Apply effective designs and management strategies such as natural landscapes, native plants, and natural heritage education opportunities that support healthy and sustainable environments, and sustain ecological features and functions.
- Recommend new title Recreational Trails and Pathways outside of Environmentally Significant Areas
- .... Add to end of recommendation.. That ends... and a winter maintenance program in select locations where ecological features and functions are not put at risk
- Add new recommendation: Before trails and pathways are created in Significant Woodlands shown on Map 5 of the London Plan, they must follow a woodland management plan based on an Environmental Impact Study.
- Trails and pathways must not be in ecological buffers as per the City's Environmental Management Guidelines.

- change term "municipal woodlands" to "Woodland Parks". Not sure what enhanced management means. Invasive species? Dogs off leash control? Or does it mean naturalization? Clarity would be helpful.
- Environmental Health and Stewardship - includes the City's ESAs as they are part of the Natural Heritage System. Not sure what this looks like in action and in outcomes. Why not simply say, "signage will be installed in locations where use of the city's natural heritage system and urban forest are greatest to help raise awareness and understanding ...."

#### Supportive Environments

- replace term public spaces with Parks and Civic Places in Strategic Direction
- Spaces is undefined - places may be better if you are referring to buildings
- Waiting until lands that are environmentally significant such as ESAs and Woodlands are taken thru the subdivision process means the city is taking on management well after people have created their own trails and access points to features. This risks the ecological feature and reduces the chance to make people aware at the beginning of the importance of the feature. Waiting to get land for free late in the land use planning process is not good ecological planning. In the next section, C raised the possibility of acquiring land in advance of development. Geez Louise, why not for Woodland Parks and other parts of the Natural Heritage System (ex. Lower Dingman)
- add to end of last strategic direction...city owned parts of the Natural Heritage System instead of open spaces.
- Add EV charging stations to recommendation about major retrofits and new construction projects
- No mountain bike parks should be anywhere near significant ecological features
- instead of referencing "parks and public spaces" refer to them as parks and civic spaces
- You have open space lands (e.g. woodlands, natural areas, etc.) without any clear definition or distinctions. Suggest that when you mean woodlands, say woodlands, when you mean park, say park, when you mean ESA say ESA. Drop the use of natural area as it has no definition in policy. See our suggested definitions at the beginning of this document.
- EEPAC is not aware of any case by case evaluation (C. above) of acquiring natural heritage lands at any other point than late in the subdivision development process.
- Add recommendation: Lands that are part of Environmentally Significant Areas currently in private hands should be considered for early acquisition and management by the City.
- Not sure why One River is included here when the EA has not been completed. It is not clear what is considered an appropriate park type in B for passive recreation when passive recreation is not defined in this document. We recommend that this section clearly exclude Woodland Parks.